Electronic Supplementary Information

## Probing the Ligand Exchange Kinetics of Phenynyl-based Ligands on Colloidal Au Nanoparticles

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**Figure S1.** Ligands used in the study: 2-naphthalenethiol (2-NT); phenylacetylene (PhA); polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP); 1, 1,4-diethynylbenzene; 2, 4-ethynyl-1,1'-biphenyl; 3, 4-nitrophenylacetylene; 4, 4-ethynylanisole; 5, 4-ethynyl-benzoic acid methyl ester; 6, 3-aminophenylacetylene; 7, 4-ethynyl-benzoic acid.

## Chemicals

All chemicals were used as received without further purification. Hydrogen tetrachloroaurate (III) trihydrate (HAuCl<sub>4</sub>, 99.9%, Au 49% on metals basis, Alfa Aesar); sodium citrate tribasic dihydrate (NaC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub>•2H<sub>2</sub>O, 99%, Alfa Aesar); sodium hydroxide (NaOH, 96%, Aladdin); 2-naphthalenethiol (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>S, 98%, Aldrich); polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP, Mw = 40,000, Aldrich); phenylacetylene (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, 96%, Energy); 1,4-diethynylbenzene (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, 97%, J&K); 4-ethynyl-1,1'-biphenyl (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>, 98%, Energy); 4-nitrophenylacetylene (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, 97%, J&K); 4-ethynylanisole (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O, 98%, Macklin); 4-ethynyl-benzoic acid methyl ester (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 97%, Aladdin); 3-aminophenylacetylene (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N, 99%, J&K); 4-ethynyl-benzoic acid (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 96%, Adamas); N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.9%, J&K); deionized water (resistance > 18.2 MΩ•cm<sup>-1</sup>).

## Characterizations

Absorption spectra were collected on a Cary 100 UV-Vis spectrophotometer (VARIAN). TEM images were collected by using Transmission Electron Microscopy operated at 120 kV (FEI-Talos L120C). Raman and SERS spectra were collected from the as-synthesized sample solutions in a quartz cuvette (pathlength = 1.00 cm) on a portable Raman analyzer (Accuman SR-510 Pro) equipped with 785 nm red LED laser. The laser power is 350 mW and the integration time is 3 s.

XPS spectra were collected on Thermo Fisher Scientific X-ray photoelectron spectrometer (K-ALPHA+).



**Figure S2.** (a) TEM image of the as-synthesized 60 nm AuNPs; (b) the size distribution of the AuNPs.



Figure S3. UV-vis spectra of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs.



Figure S4. Schematics illustrating the phase transfer of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs from water to DMF.

The calculation of SERS enhancement factor:

The 1588 cm<sup>-1</sup> Raman peak of PhA, whose intensity is the strongest in both Raman and SERS spectra, was used to calculate the SERS enhancement factor of PhA-AuNPs. The calculation is based on the following equation:

$$EF = (I_{SERS} \times C_{bulk}) / (I_{bulk} \times C_{SERS})$$

Where  $I_{SERS}$  and  $I_{bulk}$  are the Raman intensities of the same 1588 cm<sup>-1</sup> peak for PhA-AuNPs and PhA in DMF solution,  $C_{SERS}$  and  $C_{bulk}$  are the concentrations of PhA on AuNPs (PhA-AuNPs) and PhA in DMF solution.



**Figure S5.** (a) Plot and linear fit of Raman intensity vs PhA concentration in DMF ( $0\sim1.2$  M) for 1588 cm<sup>-1</sup> Raman peak. SERS intensity of (b)  $0.1\sim1$   $\mu$ M, (c)  $0.1\sim10$   $\mu$ M, (d)  $0.1\sim200$   $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs in DMF.

We find that the PhA concentration (0.2 M) is near the linear fit, the corresponding SERS intensity is 913, and the SERS intensity of PhA (1  $\mu$ M) is 4081, the EF is 8.9×10<sup>5</sup>.



Figure S6 (a) Raman spectra of pure DMF. (b) SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs in DMF.(c) SERS intensity of 8.3 μM PhA-AuNPs in DMF. (d) Raman spectra of pure PhA.



**Figure S7. (a)** Raman spectra of 200 mM pure PhA in DMF. (b) SERS intensity of 200 mM PhA-AuNPs in DMF.



**Figure S8.** Normalized traces of SERS intensity at 2013 cm<sup>-1</sup> during the incubation of citrate-AuNPs with 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA in DMF for the same three samples.



**Figure S9.** Normalized traces of SERS intensity at 2013 cm<sup>-1</sup> during the incubation of citrate-AuNPs with PhA in DMF for the different concentration samples.



**Figure S10.** (a) SERS intensity of citrate-AuNPs after 3 h incubation with 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA ligand without (black) and with (purple) Ar gas bubbling. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a.



**Figure S11.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of citrate-AuNPs incubated with 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA under Ar atmosphere in a cuvette which was sealed in a glove box. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Intensity traces of the peak in b.



Figure S12. (a) Raman spectra of pure DMF (black), pure THF (red); SERS intensity of 60 nm

citrate-AuNPs (blue), PhA-AuNPs (purple) in THF. (b) Raman spectra of pure Si (black), 1 mM PhA (red) on Si; SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (blue), PhA-AuNPs (purple) on Si. (c) Raman spectra of pure Al foil (black), 1 mM PhA (red) on Al foil; SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (blue), PhA-AuNPs on Al foil. (d) Raman spectra of pure quartz plate (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), PhA-AuNPs (purple) on quartz plate.



**Figure S13.** (a) Raman spectra of pure Si (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), PhA-AuNPs (purple) on Si. (b) Raman spectra of pure Al foil (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), PhA-AuNPs on Al foil.



Figure S14. UV-vis spectra of AuNPs in DMF before and after 2-NT exchange PhA.



Figure S15. UV-vis spectra of AuNPs in DMF before and after PhA exchange 2-NT.



Figure S16. (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 2-NT in DMF at room temperature. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c)

Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 2-NT in DMF at 60°C.



**Figure S17.** (a) The SERS intensity reduction 20 times of citrate-AuNPs incubated with 2-NT in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) The SERS intensity of 0.41  $\mu$ M 2-NT-AuNPs incubated with 20 mM PhA in DMF.



Figure S18. UV-vis spectra of AuNPs in DMF before and after PVP exchange PhA.



Figure S19. UV-vis spectra of AuNPs in DMF before and after PhA exchange PVP.



**Figure S20.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 2.5 mM PVP in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Intensity traces of the peak in b.



**Figure S21.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PVP-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M PhA in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Intensity traces of the peak in b.



**Figure S22.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 1 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 1-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) PhA in DMF.



**Figure S23.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 2 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 2-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) PhA in DMF.



**Figure S24.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 3 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 3-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) PhA in DMF.



**Figure S25.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 4 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 4-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) PhA in DMF.



**Figure S26.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 5 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 5-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) PhA in DMF.



**Figure S27.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 6 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 6-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M PhA in DMF.



**Figure S28.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M PhA-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 7 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 7-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M PhA in DMF.



**Figure S29.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 2-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 1 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 1-AuNPs incubated with 82  $\mu$ M 2 in DMF.



**Figure S30.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 3-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 1 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 1-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 3 in DMF.



**Figure S31.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 4-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 1 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 1-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 4 in DMF.



**Figure S32.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 3-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 2 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (b) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 2-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 3 in DMF.



**Figure S33.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 4-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 2 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (c) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 2-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 4 in DMF.



**Figure S34.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 4-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 3 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 3-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 4 in DMF.



**Figure S35.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 5-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 3 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 3-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 5 in DMF.



**Figure S36.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 5-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 4 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (d) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 4-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 5 in DMF.



**Figure S37.** (a) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 7-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M 6 in DMF. (b) Expansion of the framed region in a. (c) Expansion of the framed region in d. (c) Temporal evolution of the SERS intensity of 8.3  $\mu$ M 6-AuNPs incubated with 8.2  $\mu$ M (red) and 82  $\mu$ M (purple) 7 in DMF.



**Figure S38.** (a) Raman spectra of pure ethanol (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), 2-NT-AuNPs (purple) in ethanol. (b) Raman spectra of pure THF (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), 2-NT-AuNPs (purple) in THF. (c) Raman spectra of pure Si (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), 2-NT-AuNPs (purple) on Si. (d) Raman spectra of pure Al foil (black); SERS intensity of 60 nm citrate-AuNPs (red), 2-NT-AuNPs (red), 2-NT-AuNPs (purple) on Al foil.



Figure S39. Raman spectra of pure 2-NT powder.

Ligand exchange	Raman shift (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Before	After	Degree
1 ex. PhA (1:1)	997	5461	1428	74%
PhA ex. 1 (1:1)	1985	25131	20215	20%
PhA ex. 1 (10:1)	1985	25131	15566	38%
2 ex. PhA (1:1)	997	5482	3000	45%
PhA ex. 2 (1:1)	1597	13032	10365	20%
PhA ex. 2 (10:1)	1597	13032	7608	42%
3 ex. PhA (1:1)	997	5572	0	100%
PhA ex. 3 (1:1)	1333	43171	12250	72%
PhA ex. 3 (10:1)	1333	43171	12250	72%
4 ex. PhA (1:1)	997	5876	2605	56%
PhA ex. 4 (1:1)	1165	6617	5142	22%
PhA ex. 4 (10:1)	1165	6617	3790	43%
5 ex. PhA (1:1)	997	5489	2030	63%
PhA ex. 5 (1:1)	1274	1583	976	38%
PhA ex. 5 (10:1)	1274	1583	431	73%
6 ex. PhA (1:1)	1588	6263	1812	71%
PhA ex. 6 (1:1)	1155	1307	0	100%
7 ex. PhA (1:1)	1588	6526	5626	14%
PhA ex. 7 (1:1)	1594	990	0	100%

Table S1. Phenynyl ligands (1-7) mutual exchange PhA.

Ligand exchange	Raman shift (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Before	After	Degree
1 ex. 2 (1:1)	1284	5937	2510	58%
1 ex. 2 (10:1)	1284	5937	1118	81%
2 ex. 1 (10:1)	1988	31532	17364	45%
1 ex. 3 (1:1)	1333	54670	17560	68%
1 ex. 3 (10:1)	1333	54670	7829	86%
3 ex. 1 (1:1)	1988	24025	23034	4%
3 ex. 1 (10:1)	1988	24025	11162	54%
1 ex. 4 (1:1)	1288	1181	221	81%
1 ex. 4 (10:1)	1288	1181	28	98%
4 ex. 1 (1:1)	1988	32062	30302	5%
4 ex. 1 (10:1)	1988	32062	16670	48%
2 ex. 3 (1:1)	1333	43121	21544	50%
2 ex. 3 (10:1)	1333	43121	13140	70%
3 ex. 2 (1:1)	1178	7729	4589	41%
3 ex. 2 (10:1)	1178	7729	2504	68%
2 ex. 4 (1:1)	1205	3650	1960	46%
2 ex. 4 (10:1)	1205	3650	1201	67%
4 ex. 2 (1:1)	1284	6000	4605	23%
4 ex. 2 (10:1)	1284	6000	2466	59%
3 ex. 4 (1:1)	1168	8319	3311	60%
3 ex. 4 (10:1)	1168	8319	1782	79%
4 ex. 3 (1:1)	1333	52724	23049	56%
4 ex. 3 (10:1)	1333	52724	13123	75%
3 ex. 5 (1:1)	1717	1760	240	86%
3 ex. 5 (10:1)	1717	1760	48	97%
5 ex. 3 (1:1)	1581	20015	7109	64%
5 ex. 3 (10:1)	1581	20015	4393	78%
4 ex. 5 (1:1)	1717	1364	708	48%
4 ex. 5 (10:1)	1717	1364	320	77%
5 ex. 4 (1:1)	2005	6556	3377	48%
5 ex. 4 (10:1)	2005	6556	1631	75%
6 ex. 7 (1:1)	1594	1774	0	100%
7 ex. 6 (1:1)	997	2201	1369	38%
7 ex. 6 (10:1)	997	2201	1211	45%

 Table S2. Phenynyl ligands (1-7) mutual exchange each other.