

**9**

9. A method as in claim 7, wherein:

the third reagent and the second reagent both comprise nucleic acids having sequences that are not complementary to each other; and

the analyte comprises a nucleic acid having a sequence with portions that are complementary to the sequences of the third reagent and the second reagent, respectively.

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10. A method as in claim 4, wherein the silane coupling agent comprises a mixture of an alkylsilane and a silane functionalized for forming a covalent bond with protein, the functionalized silane being selected from the group consisting of heterobifunctional cross-linking agents and homobifunctional cross-linking agents.

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