Abstract Submitted for the DAMOP06 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Analysis of Electric Properties of DNA Nucleotides¹ R. ZIKIC, X.-G. ZHANG, P.S. KRSTIC, J.C. WELLS, M. FUENTES-CABRERA, ORNL — Calculation of the quantum tunnelling conductance through the DNA nucleotides between gold nanoelectrodes and analysis of the corresponding molecular spectra reveals that the tunneling conductance at low electric bias can be separated into two simple and approximately independent factors. The first is an exponential factor due to the potential barrier between the molecule and the electrode. The second factor is different for each molecule, but follows a universal form that can be expressed in terms of the bending angle of the DNA base relative to the sugar-phosphate group. This factor is also oscillatory indicating interference and resonance effects inside the molecule. Distinguishable conductances of Adenine (A), Cytosine (C), Guanine (G), and Thymine (T) are correlated to their differences in geometric dimensions.

¹We acknowledge supports from National Human Genome Research Institute of the NIH under grant No. 1 R21 HG003578-01, also from the user project at the CNMS sponsored at ORNL by the DSUF, US DOE.

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Date submitted: 23 Feb 2006 Electronic form version 1.4