

## The supporting information

### Figure legend of the supporting information

Fig. S1. Identification of the sites of PEGylation. MALDI-TOF/TOF spectra are shown for tryptic digestion of  $\alpha$ -globin (A),  $\beta$ -globin (B), PEGylated  $\alpha$ -globin from Fig. 2b (C) and PEGylated  $\beta$ -globin from Fig. 2c (D), respectively. MS fragmentation is shown for the peptide at  $m/z$  6178.3 Da in Fig. S1C (E) and the peptide at  $m/z$  5957.3 Da in Fig. S1D (F).

Fig. S2. Size exclusion chromatography analysis of the PEGylated Hbs. HbA (a), [Propyl-PEG5K-Val-1( $\alpha$ )]<sub>2</sub>-Hb (b), [Propyl-PEG5K-Val-1( $\beta$ )]<sub>2</sub>-Hb (c) and [Propyl-PEG5K-Val-1( $\alpha$ )]<sub>2</sub>- $\alpha\alpha$ -Hb (d) were loaded on two HR10/30 Superose 12 columns ( $1 \times 31 \text{ cm}^2$ ) at the protein concentration of 31  $\mu\text{M}$  in 100  $\mu\text{l}$  loop. The columns were eluted by PBS buffer, pH 7.4 at a flow rate of 0.5 ml/min.

Fig. S3.  $S_{20,w}$  of the modified Hbs a function of the protein concentration. Sedimentation velocity measurements of HbA (a), [Propyl-Val-1( $\alpha$ )]<sub>2</sub>-Hb (b), [Propyl-PEG5K-Val-1( $\alpha$ )]<sub>2</sub>-Hb (c), [Propyl-PEG5K-Val-1( $\beta$ )]<sub>2</sub>-Hb (d) and [Propyl-PEG5K-Val-1( $\alpha$ )]<sub>2</sub>- $\alpha\alpha$ -Hb (e) were conducted in a Beckman XL-I analytical ultracentrifuge in PBS buffer at pH 7.4, 25 °C and 55,000 rpm. Boundary movement was followed at 405 nm using the centrifuge's absorption optics.

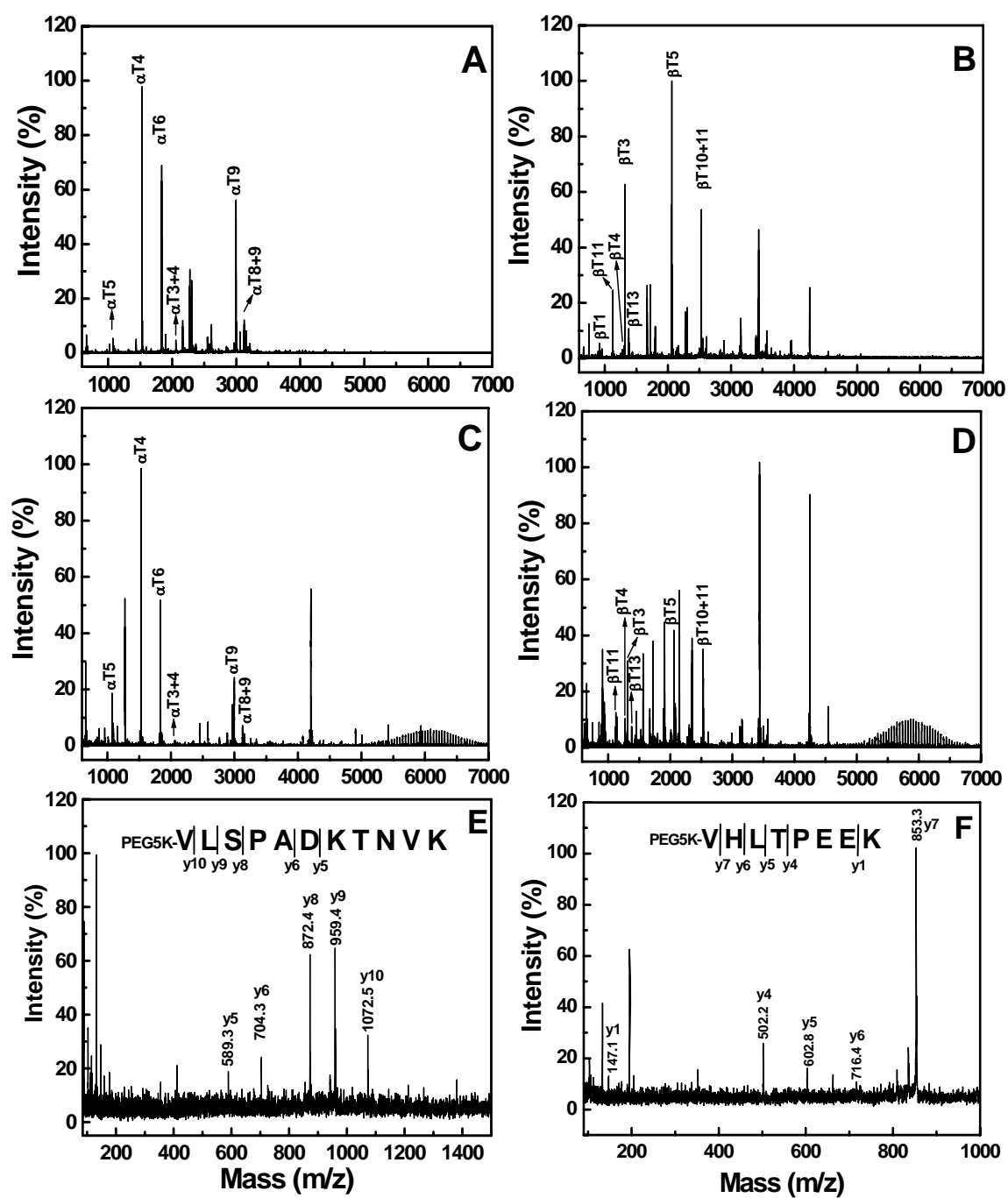
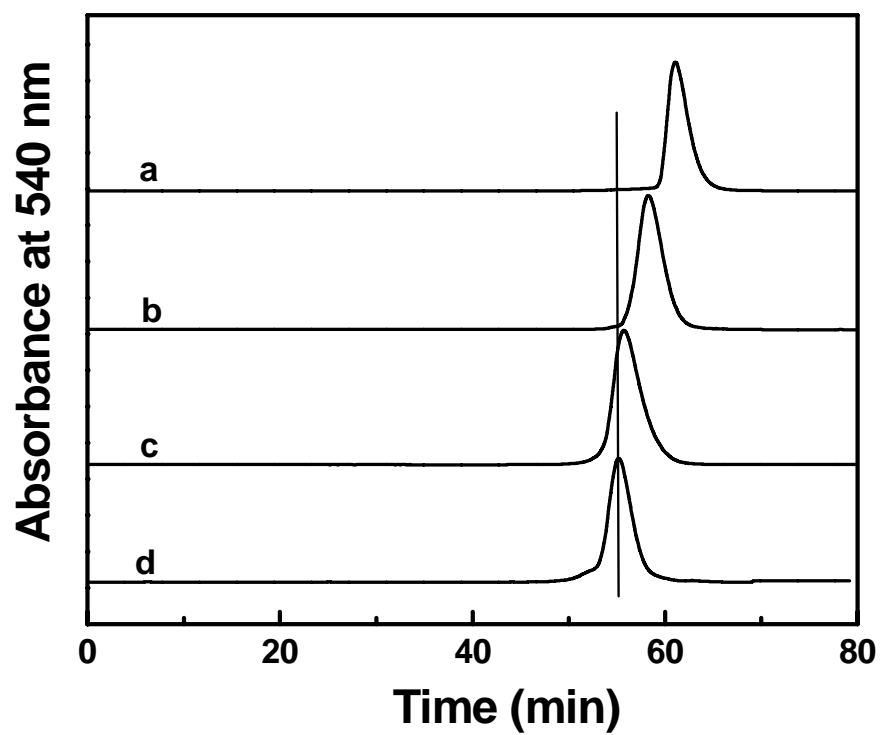


Figure S1



**Figure S2**

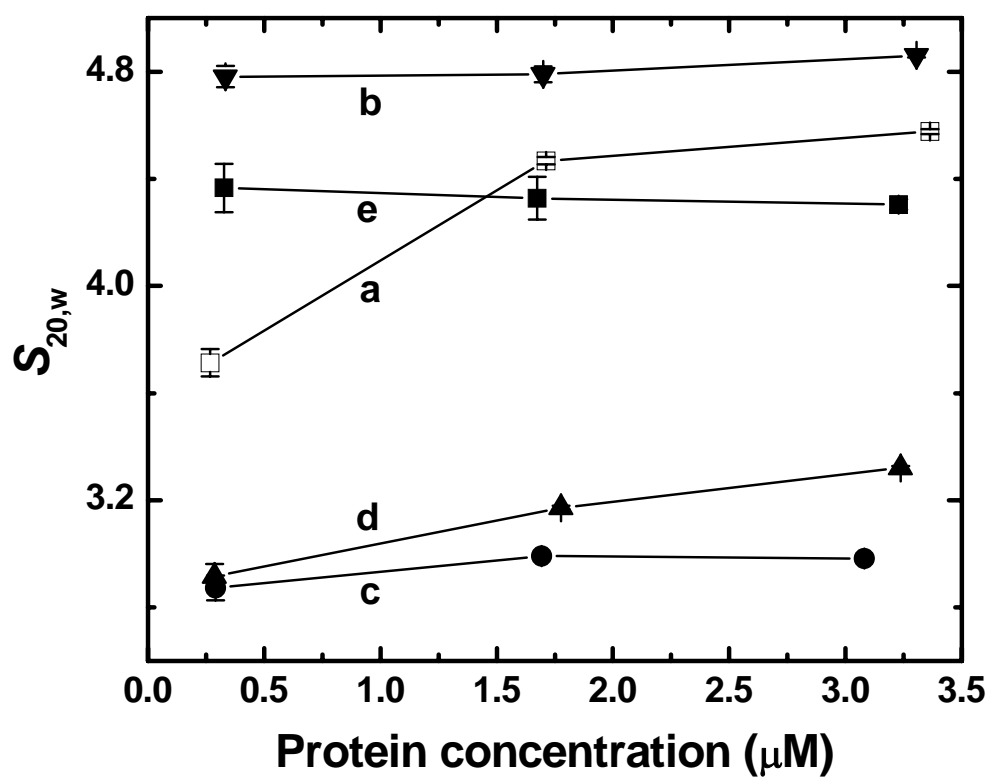


Figure S3