

## Supplementary Material for

### The hydration and unusual hydrogen bonding in the crystal structure of an RNA duplex containing alternating CG base pairs

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**Supplementary Table 1.** Sugar, backbone and glycosidic torsion angles<sup>§</sup> calculated for the [CGCG(5-FC)G]<sub>2</sub> structures. Each column contains data for strands A, B and K, L from the triclinic form, strands A and B from the rhombohedral form, their average value and standard deviation (*italics*) and the average value and standard deviation for the previously reported 2'-O-Me(CGCGC)<sub>2</sub> structures (PDB id 310d and 1i7j). <sup>6a,b</sup>

Residue	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$\delta$	$\epsilon$	$\zeta$	$\chi$	$\Phi$	P	pucker
C1			64.0	87.5	-153.5	-72.1	-173.2	37.9	2.9	C3'-endo
			59.7	79.8	-152.7	-74.5	-169.0	42.5	9.2	C3'-endo
			78.7	-146.5	-75.3	-162.2	46.1	9.1	C3'-endo	
			53.8	75.2	-149.3	-74.4	-160.6	44.0	12.7	C3'-endo
			89.9	86.3	-135.3	-92.5	-176.6	37.8	12.1	C3'-endo
			55.3	75.5	-154.3	-75.5	-160.3	42.5	10.7	C3'-endo
			64.5±14.7	80.5±5.3	-148.6±7.1	-77.4±7.5	-167.0±7.0	41.8±3.3	5.4±9.2	C3'-endo
			42.5±7.8	87.0±8.9	-147.8±7.9	-76.9±3.7	-162.0±3.7	47.1±4.7	14.6±7.9	C3'-endo
G2	-77.9	-179.7	57.1	78.8	-154.7	-76.7	-159.8	45.7	8.5	C3'-endo
	-65.7	179.6	50.7	76.3	-144.9	-68.2	-165.0	44.8	14.3	C3'-endo
	-63.2	166.4	54.5	80.2	-154.5	-70.7	-168.7	44.6	12.3	C3'-endo
	-65.5	175.6	50.2	79.8	-141.4	-72.2	-158.5	44.1	14.0	C3'-endo
	-65.4	-172.5	47.8	82.4	-145.0	-71.2	-156.5	44.5	359.2	C2'-exo
	-66.9	177.2	56.3	81.2	-144.6	-73.4	-161.8	43.4	9.3	C3'-endo
	-67.4±5.3	177.8±6.9	52.8±3.7	79.8±2.1	-147.5±5.6	72.1±2.9	-161.7±4.5	44.5±0.8	9.6±5.6	C3'-endo
	-67.2±3.2	177.7±1.3	49.2±3.7	83.6±7.6	-144.8±8.7	-73.4±4.1	-165.3±1.4	40.1±8.1	13.5±15.8	C3'-endo
C3	-62.8	169.5	52.8	79.3	-147.6	-61.6	-155.9	45.8	9.8	C3'-endo
	-64.5	168.0	54.5	79.7	-158.9	-76.3	-163.6	44.1	8.8	C3'-endo
	-60.9	174.4	47.0	81.8	-161.7	-74.0	-162.3	46.1	9.1	C3'-endo
	-65.1	167.9	59.8	77.8	-160.6	-74.6	-157.0	44.1	15.5	C3'-endo
	-61.2	166.5	55.2	55.2	-154.3	-66.7	-158.9	50.1	19.2	C3'-endo
	-59.8	172.7	47.2	79.4	-157.9	-69.3	-158.0	48.3	11.6	C3'-endo
	-62.4±2.1	169.8±3.1	52.8±5.0	75.5±10.	-156.8±5.2	-70.4±5.6	-159.3±3.0	46.4±2.4	12.3±4.2	C3'-endo
	-74.7±9.0	172.1±1.3	52.2±7.7	74.0±4.9	-146.6±4.9	-69.2±1.5	-161.7±1.8	40.9±7.2	18.3±7.7	C3'-endo
G4	-88.5	159.1	90.0	71.9	-150.6	-75.6	-155.9	47.8	17.3	C3'-endo
	-67.3	173.1	55.4	78.8	-143.0	-73.7	-160.9	44.9	13.5	C3'-endo
	-59.3	172.1	54.7	78.4	-155.4	-78.0	-161.8	44.1	12.6	C3'-endo
	161.5	-171.2	176.8	85.2	-152.0	-71.4	-178.5	43.3	10.4	C3'-endo
	-73.2	168.6	63.0	78.8	-154.8	-70.6	-161.4	42.1	7.3	C3'-endo
	-68.4	176.4	54.2	77.6	-138.4	-78.7	-164.3	47.5	9.1	C3'-endo
	-56.4±37.9	173.0±9.7	82.4±48.2	78.5±4.2	-149.0±6.8	-74.7±3.4	-163.8±7.7	45.0±2.3	11.7±3.6	C3'-endo
	-70.1±2.9	178.1±1.73	51.4±3.7	77.5±2.1	-145.9±0.7	-71.8±2.3	-162.3±1.2	45.4±2.7	13.6±9.1	C3'-endo
5-FC5	-70.0	173.1	49.8	80.3	-151.2	-64.8	-160.7	46.5	9.9	C3'-endo
	-61.8	171.1	47.6	75.1	-154.6	-69.7	-160.5	44.4	13.0	C3'-endo
	-67.0	172.3	50.4	76.4	-155.4	-74.8	-159.7	46.0	11.8	C3'-endo
	-65.8	177.3	54.8	81.2	-156.3	-74.3	-165.0	45.3	19.0	C3'-endo
	-65.6	171.3	53.8	82.3	-148.1	-69.5	-160.3	47.2	10.3	C3'-endo
	-51.9	169.2	37.6	85.0	-157.9	-71.4	-160.3	50.7	8.4	C3'-endo
	-63.7±6.3	172.4±2.7	49.0±6.2	80.1±3.7	-153.9±3.6	-70.8±3.7	-161.0±1.9	46.7±2.2	12.1±3.7	C3'-endo
	-66.6±1.1	171.9±1.0	51.6±2.0	74.3±3.5	-151.4±3.3	-66.5±2.1	-165.7±2.3	41.9±2.5	11.1±3.4	C3'-endo
G6	-69.9	179.6	57.1	77.9			-160.7	39.3	18.0	C3'-endo
	-60.9	165.7	62.9	89.1			-168.2	35.4	2.5	C3'-endo
	-60.7	165.2	61.5	82.2			-162.8	39.9	19.1	C3'-endo
	-64.5	-179.6	50.4	83.2			-153.2	42.7	12.9	C3'-endo
	-65.9	175.8	53.4	82.2			-160.5	41.0	22.6	C3'-endo
	-58.5	167.3	58.9	66.2			-164.2	47.5	30.3	C3'-endo
	-63.4±4.2	172.3±7.1	57.4±4.8	80.1±7.7			-161.6±5.0	41.0±4.0	17.6±9.4	C3'-endo
	-65.9±2.5	179.5±3.7	56.9±7.5	80.6±10.			-158.3±1.7	40.0±8.5	16.4±3.5	C3'-endo
A-RNA	-68	178	54	82	-153	-71	-158			C3'-endo

<sup>§</sup> P  $\alpha$  O5'  $\beta$  C5'  $\gamma$  C4'  $\delta$  C3'  $\varepsilon$  O3'

**Supplementary Table 2.** Helical parameters for  $[CGCG(5\text{-FC})G]_2$  structures, for duplexes A/B and K/L from the triclinic form, duplex A/B from the rhombohedral form and the values (*italics*) for the previously reported 2'-O-Me( $CGCGCG$ )<sub>2</sub> structures (PDB ids 310d and 1i7j). <sup>a,b</sup> The parameters were calculated with the program 3DNA. <sup>26</sup>

Local base-pair parameters

bp	Shear	Stretch	Stagger	Buckle (°)	Propeller (°)	Opening (°)
1 C-G	0.08	-0.22	0.06	-3.42	-8.99	1.72
	0.24	-0.16	-0.01	5.91	-8.08	0.10
	0.01	-0.22	0.02	9.01	-18.27	1.85
	<i>0.21</i>	<i>0.08</i>	<i>-0.11</i>	<i>7.21</i>	<i>-14.14</i>	<i>-0.79</i>
	<i>0.03</i>	<i>-0.07</i>	<i>-0.06</i>	<i>9.03</i>	<i>-16.36</i>	<i>-2.31</i>
2 G-C	-0.28	-0.14	0.11	-4.04	-10.16	1.14
	-0.11	-0.15	0.19	1.79	-13.01	1.41
	-1.14	-0.06	0.25	-0.33	-14.26	6.18
	<i>-0.13</i>	<i>0.04</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>3.19</i>	<i>-12.47</i>	<i>0.23</i>
	<i>-0.18</i>	<i>-0.14</i>	<i>0.27</i>	<i>6.93</i>	<i>-13.36</i>	<i>-0.44</i>
3 C-G	0.17	-0.14	0.09	-0.76	-9.91	-2.02
	0.26	-0.20	0.03	0.65	-10.75	0.45
	0.18	-0.19	0.09	3.69	-17.99	-1.65
	<i>0.18</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>-0.09</i>	<i>2.48</i>	<i>-14.10</i>	<i>-1.67</i>
	<i>0.19</i>	<i>-0.15</i>	<i>-0.07</i>	<i>3.68</i>	<i>-15.82</i>	<i>-1.23</i>
4 G-C	-0.28	-0.14	0.15	-0.30	-10.33	-1.20
	-0.17	-0.11	0.05	-2.12	-10.53	0.10
	-0.08	-0.14	0.02	-3.83	-13.58	-1.68
	<i>-0.18</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>-1.10</i>	<i>-13.05</i>	<i>-1.70</i>
	<i>-0.15</i>	<i>-0.18</i>	<i>-0.04</i>	<i>-3.04</i>	<i>-15.39</i>	<i>-1.54</i>
5 FC-G	0.22	-0.22	0.04	0.99	-13.20	-2.69
	0.16	-0.11	-0.02	2.87	-14.72	-0.38
	0.21	-0.26	0.15	-3.41	-15.20	-1.10
	0.28	0.05	0.03	-3.51	-12.62	0.27
	<i>0.15</i>	<i>-0.14</i>	<i>0.12</i>	<i>-5.49</i>	<i>-14.40</i>	<i>-1.41</i>
6 G-C	-0.05	-0.13	-0.06	-3.03	-7.49	-1.14
	-0.08	-0.15	0.08	-2.63	-15.12	-0.34
	-0.09	-0.13	0.02	-9.76	-14.00	-1.98
	<i>0.06</i>	<i>0.08</i>	<i>-0.08</i>	<i>-6.86</i>	<i>-15.80</i>	<i>-1.78</i>
	<i>-0.04</i>	<i>-0.12</i>	<i>-0.01</i>	<i>-8.04</i>	<i>-17.14</i>	<i>-3.63</i>
Ave., st.dev.	-0.02±0.22	-0.16±0.04	0.06±0.07	-1.76±2.02	-10.01±1.88	-0.70±1.76
	0.05±0.19	-0.15±0.03	0.05±0.08	1.08±3.20	-12.03±2.73	0.22±0.66
	-0.15±0.50	-0.17±0.07	0.09±0.09	-0.77±6.53	-15.55±2.07	0.27±3.22
	0.07±0.19	0.05±0.03	-0.03±0.06	0.24±5.07	-13.70±1.25	-0.91±0.97
	-0.00±0.16	-0.13±0.04	0.03±0.14	0.51±7.01	-15.41±1.37	-1.76±1.09

Local base-pair step parameters

Step	Shift (Å)	Slide (Å)	Rise (Å)	Tilt	Roll	Twist
1 CG/(5-FC)G	-0.63	-1.88	3.16	-0.12	7.66	29.71
	0.45	-1.64	3.28	-2.09	9.30	30.29
	-0.68	-1.90	3.36	-4.44	9.48	33.56
	<i>-0.54</i>	<i>-1.93</i>	<i>3.39</i>	<i>-4.33</i>	<i>15.45</i>	<i>30.53</i>
	<i>-0.37</i>	<i>-1.82</i>	<i>3.13</i>	<i>-7.43</i>	<i>15.00</i>	<i>32.30</i>
2 G(5-FC)/GC	-0.46	-1.30	3.24	0.47	6.97	33.21
	0.25	-1.96	3.27	1.92	0.22	34.98
	-0.20	-1.30	3.15	0.89	6.47	33.76
	<i>-0.41</i>	<i>-1.41</i>	<i>3.44</i>	<i>-0.85</i>	<i>10.27</i>	<i>33.55</i>
	<i>-0.58</i>	<i>-1.42</i>	<i>3.29</i>	<i>0.45</i>	<i>10.37</i>	<i>34.92</i>
3 CG/CG	0.97	-1.80	3.13	0.86	11.41	27.28
	-0.63	-2.25	3.24	-0.80	9.09	23.60
	0.15	-1.59	3.31	1.55	13.87	30.80
	<i>-0.04</i>	<i>-1.84</i>	<i>3.34</i>	<i>-1.01</i>	<i>18.06</i>	<i>29.29</i>
	<i>-0.02</i>	<i>-1.67</i>	<i>3.23</i>	<i>-0.41</i>	<i>19.90</i>	<i>30.77</i>
4 GC/G(5-FC)	-0.61	-1.42	3.23	-0.68	4.66	35.54
	-0.75	-1.34	3.20	-2.04	5.30	32.20
	-0.03	-1.37	3.22	0.52	3.95	35.39
	<i>0.43</i>	<i>-1.40</i>	<i>3.48</i>	<i>1.56</i>	<i>10.36</i>	<i>34.67</i>
	<i>0.54</i>	<i>-1.41</i>	<i>3.28</i>	<i>1.11</i>	<i>10.49</i>	<i>34.37</i>
5 (5-FC)G/CG	0.65	-1.91	3.27	1.80	9.52	31.74
	0.37	-1.54	3.24	0.15	16.75	30.75
	0.49	-1.63	3.27	4.44	12.04	32.15
	0.42	-1.96	3.34	4.05	16.27	31.80
	0.39	-1.82	3.16	5.84	15.42	32.31
Ave., st. dev.	-0.02±0.77	-1.66±0.28	3.21±0.06	0.47±0.95	8.04±2.56	31.49±3.17
	-0.06±0.58	-1.75±0.36	3.25±0.03	-0.57±1.68	8.13±6.07	30.36±4.20
	-0.06±0.43	-1.56±0.24	3.26±0.08	0.59±3.21	9.16±4.03	33.13±1.74
	<i>-0.03±0.45</i>	<i>-1.71±0.28</i>	<i>3.40±0.06</i>	<i>-0.12±3.13</i>	<i>14.08±3.57</i>	<i>31.97±2.19</i>
	<i>-0.01±0.48</i>	<i>-1.63±0.20</i>	<i>3.22±0.07</i>	<i>-0.09±4.76</i>	<i>14.24±3.97</i>	<i>32.93±1.69</i>

Local base-pair helical parameters

Step	X-disp	Y-disp	h-Rise	Incl.	Tip	h-Twist
1 CG/(5-FC)G	-4.91	1.18	2.61	14.63	0.22	30.66
	-4.59	1.18	2.63	17.27	3.88	31.72
	-4.51	0.49	2.80	15.94	7.47	35.11
	-5.46	0.30	2.24	27.11	7.61	34.40
	-4.72	-0.29	2.14	24.99	12.37	36.28
2 G(5-FC)/GC	-3.29	0.87	2.91	12.02	-0.81	33.92
	-3.28	-0.13	3.27	0.36	-3.19	35.03
	-3.13	0.47	2.85	11.01	-1.51	34.37
	-3.88	0.55	2.90	17.29	1.43	35.06
	-3.64	0.99	2.77	16.83	-0.73	36.38
3 CG/CG	-5.61	-1.74	2.24	22.95	-1.73	29.54
	-7.44	1.24	2.25	21.23	1.87	25.28
	-4.80	-0.03	2.40	24.60	-2.74	33.75
	-5.59	-0.06	1.92	32.15	1.80	34.32
	-5.00	-0.02	1.85	33.47	0.69	36.51
4 GC/G(5-FC)	-2.96	0.90	3.04	7.59	1.10	35.84
	-3.25	1.00	2.99	9.46	3.65	32.68
	-2.79	0.12	3.06	6.47	-0.85	35.60
	-3.72	-0.47	2.97	16.91	-2.55	36.18
	-3.71	-0.73	2.76	17.26	-1.82	35.91
5 (5-FC)G(CG)	-4.83	-0.86	2.63	16.92	-3.20	33.15
	-4.81	-0.60	2.15	29.05	-0.26	34.92
	-4.47	-0.18	2.55	20.73	-7.64	34.56
	-5.28	-0.16	2.16	27.44	-6.83	35.85
	-4.80	0.09	2.14	25.72	-9.74	36.17
Ave., st. dev.	-4.32±1.14	0.07±1.29	2.69±0.31	14.82±5.72	-0.88±1.68	32.62±2.53
	-4.67±1.71	0.06±1.03	2.66±0.48	15.47±11.01	1.19±2.96	31.93±3.98
	-3.94±0.91	0.17±0.30	2.73±0.26	15.75±7.28	-1.05±5.46	34.68±0.71
	-4.79±0.91	0.03±0.40	2.44±0.47	24.18±6.76	0.29±5.38	35.16±0.84
	-4.37±0.65	0.01±0.63	2.33±0.41	23.65±6.89	0.16±7.94	36.25±0.23