Supplementary information

Synthesis and properties of 2'O-neopentyl modified oligonucleotides

^{a,b}Gérald Mathis, ^cStéphane Bourg, ^aSamia Aci-Sèche, ^bJean-Christophe Truffert, and ^{*a}Ulysse Asseline

^aCentre de Biophysique Moléculaire, UPR 4301CNRS, conventionnée avec l'Université Orléans, Rue Charles Sadron - 45071 Orléans Cedex 02, France ^bNucleoSyn Pépinières d'entreprises – Centre Innovation 16, Rue Léonard de Vinci 45074 Orleans

^bNucleoSyn Pépinières d'entreprises – Centre Innovation 16, Rue Léonard de Vinci 45074 Orleans Cedex 2, France

^cInstitut de Chimie Organique et Analytique, Université d'Orléans, UMR 7311 CNRS, rue de Chartres, 45067 Orléans cedex 2, France

^{*a} E-mail: ulysse.asseline@cnrs-orleans.fr Fax : +33-2-38-63-15-17

| ^{1H} NMR, ^{13C} NMR and ^{31P} NMR spectra | |
|--|---------|
| Compound 13 | S2-S3 |
| Compound 15 | S4-S5 |
| Compound 16 | S6-S7 |
| Compound 17 | S8-S9 |
| Compound 18 | S10-S11 |

Reversed-phase HPLC and MS analyses of modified oligonucleotides 4-7

| Compound | 4 | S14-S15 |
|----------|---|---------|
| Compound | 5 | S16-S17 |
| Compound | 6 | S18-S19 |
| Compound | 7 | S20-S21 |

Molecular dynamics simulations

| Fig 6 | S20 |
|--------------|-----|
| Fig 7 | S21 |
| Fig 8 | S22 |

2,2'-anhydrouridine 13



¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of **13**



^{13}C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6) of 13



1-Trimethylsilyloxy-2,2-dimethypropane 15



¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **15**



$^{\rm 13}C$ NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl_3) of $\, {\rm 15}$



2'-O-Neopentyluridine 16



¹H-NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of **16**



$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6) of 16



5'-O-Dimethoxytrityl-2'-O-neopentyluridine 17



^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl_3) of $\boldsymbol{17}$



$^{\rm 13}\text{C}$ NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl_3) of 17



5'-O-Dimethoxytrityl-3'-O-(2-cyanoethyl-N,N'-diisopropylphosphoramidite)-2'-Oneopentyluridine 18



¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **18**







³¹P NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of **18**



Sequence 4: ^{5'}d(UnTG TTA CCA GTT TTA GT)^{3'}

RP-HPLC chromatogram of ON 4



MS analysis

MW = 5253.5 g.mol⁻¹ for $C_{176}H_{222}O_{107}N_{54}P_{16}$

Mass spectrum (MALDI-TOF) of ON 4



MS calcd for [M+H]⁺ 5254.5 Da, found 5255.1 Da. C stand for calibrating ONs

Sequence 5: $5'd(TTG TTA CCA GUnT TTA GT)^{3'}$

RP-HPLC chromatogram of ON 5



MS analysis

MW = 5253.5 g.mol⁻¹ for $C_{176}H_{222}O_{107}N_{54}P_{16}$



Mass spectrum (MALDI-TOF) of ON 5

MS calcd for $[M+H]^+$ 5398.7 Da, found 5399.1 Da.

Sequence 6: ^{5'}d(TTG TTA CCA GUnUn UnTA GT)^{3'}



RP-HPLC chromatogram of ON 6

MS analysis

MW = 5397.7 g.mol⁻¹ for $C_{180}H_{238}O_{109}N_{54}P_{16}$



Mass spectrum (MALDI-TOF) of ON 6

MS calcd for $[M+H]^+$ 5398.7 Da, found 5398.7 Da.

Sequence 7: $5^{\circ}d(TTG TU_nA CCA GU_nT TU_nA GT)^{3^{\circ}}$



RP-HPLC spectrum of ON 7

MS Analysis

MW = 5397.7 g.mol⁻¹ for $C_{180}H_{238}O_{109}N_{54}P_{16}$



Mass spectrum (MALDI-TOF) of ON 7

MS calcd for $[M+H]^+$ 5398.7 Da, found 5399.1 Da.



Fig 6. Heat maps of the variation of the sugar pucker conformation of each paired residue during the simulation: **a)** DNA/DNA duplex and **b)** DNA/RNA duplex, containing a single modified nucleoside Un. The numbering of the base-pairs for the unmodified DNA/DNA duplex is shown below and used for all the duplexes.

 $\begin{array}{c} 1----- \ 4------ \ 10------- \ 16------ \ 20-----23 \\ d-^{5'} TACACTAAAACTGGTAACAACTC^{3'} \\ & {}^3 \ TGATTTTGACCATTGTT^{5'} \\ & 40----- \ 34------ \ 28------24 \end{array}$



Fig 7 Heat maps of the minor groove width evolution of each base pair during the simulation for **a**) the unmodified DNA/DNA duplex, **b**) the DNA/DNA duplex containing three noncontiguous modified nucleoside Un, **c**) the unmodified DNA/RNA duplex and **d**) the DNA/RNA duplex containing three noncontiguous modified nucleoside Un. The deep-blue bands on the top and the bottom of the graph mean that the minor groove width of the first two base pairs and of the last three base pairs cannot be measured.



Fig 8 Definition of the Ω torsion angle used to evaluate the positioning of the neopentyl group into the minor groove.