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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Table S1. ¹H NMR chemical shifts δ_H (p.p.m.) of (CGCGCG)₂ in the Z-RNA form at 303 K in D₂O.

| Residue | H8/H6 | H5 | H1′ | H2′ | H3′ | H4′ | H5′ | H5″ | imino | am | ino |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| C1 | 7.33 | 5.88 | 5.83 | 3.88 | 4.45 | 3.76 | 3.01 | 2.57 | - | 8.28 | 6.29 |
| G2 | 7.84 | - | 5.95 | 4.45 | 5.26 | 4.35 | 4.24 | 4.24 | 13.14 | - | - |
| C3 | 7.25 | 5.27 | 5.85 | 4.00 | 4.61 | 3.93 | 3.88 | 2.51 | - | 8.54 | 5.84 |
| G4 | 7.91 | - | 5.96 | 4.49 | 5.20 | 4.35 | 4.29 | 4.20 | 13.01 | - | - |
| C5 | 7.34 | 5.37 | 5.92 | 4.06 | 4.65 | 3.99 | 3.89 | 2.65 | - | 8.51 | 5.86 |
| G6 | 7.86 | - | 5.90 | 5.11 | 4.79 | 4.32 | 4.24 | 4.22 | 13.04 | - | - |

Table S2. Experimental $J_{1',2'}$, $J_{2',3'}$ and $J_{3',4'}$ coupling constants, sugar pucker parameters ^{a)} and percentage of N conformers for (CGCGCG)₂ in the Z-RNA form.

| Residue | couplin | ng constants | [Hz] ^{b)} | | | 12 final | 12 final structures ^{d)} | | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| | J _{1',2'} | J _{2',3'} | J _{3',4'} | P _N | $\Phi_{\rm N}$ | Ps | $\Phi_{\rm s}$ | % _N | Р | Φ |
| C1 | 8.0 | 4.7 | ≤1.0 | 17 (16) | 31 (6) | 177 (17) | 39 (6) | 2 | 198 (1) | 35 (1) |
| G2 | ≤1.0 | 5.5 | 9.8 | 35 (2) | 40 (2) | - | - | 100 | 48 (2) | 41 (1) |
| C3 | 7.8 | 4.4 | 0.9 | -28 (14) | 36 (4) | 185 (17) | 41 (6) | 2 | 135 (3) | 40 (2) |
| G4 | ≤1.0 | 5.9 | 9.2 | 32 (1) | 35(1) | - | - | 100 | 44 (2) | 36 (2) |
| C5 | 7.8 | 3.9 | 1.4 | -21 (15) | 29 (7) | 184 (22) | 48 (8) | 6 | 162 (3) | 41 (1) |
| G6 | 3.8 | 6.2 | 5.2 | 48 (16) | 27 (9) | 190 (59) | 25 (8) | 68 | 24 (4) | 36 (1) |

^{a)} average values are given with standard deviations in parentheses. $^{b)} \pm 1 \text{Hz}$

^{c)} all five values P_N , P_S , Φ_N , Φ_S , $\%_N$ were fitted to experimental data. Initial values of Φ_N , Φ_S were of 30° and initial $%_N$ was 50%. Initial values of P_N and P_S changed independently from 0° to 360° every 10°. For statistics, only results giving r.m.s.d. values less than 0.5 [Hz] were employed. $^{d)}$ ref (37)

Table S3. Backbone and glycosidic torsion angles^{a)} for 12 conformers representing the refined structure of (CGCGCG)₂ in the Z-RNA form (left column) and 11 reference X-ray Z-DNA structures ^{b)} of $d(CGCGCG)_2$ (*right column*).

| Res. | α | | β | | γ | | δ | | 3 | | ζ | | χ | |
|------|---------|---------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| C1 | - | - | - | - | 46(2) | 39(38) | 153(1) | 143(6) | -68(1) | -93(4) | 76(2) | 75(5) | -151(2) | -150(5) |
| G2 | 49(4) | 65(5) | -163(2) | -172(3) | -175(3) | 177(3) | 81(1) | 95(7) | -104(1) | $-117(7)^{c}$ | -55(2) | $-64(17)^{c}$ | 60(2) | 62(5) |
| | | | | | | | | | | $-161(5)^{d}$ | | $59(8)^{d}$ | | |
| C3 | -145(2) | $-150(9)^{c}$ | 175(4) | $-132(15)^{c}$ | 71(1) | 54(4) | 127(2) | 147(4) | -72(1) | -95(5) | 76(2) | 75(4) | -159(2) | -156(4) |
| | | $165(5)^{d}$ | | $155(6)^{d}$ | | | | | | | | | | |
| G4 | 69(3) | 66(5) | -159(1) | -174(6) | 172(1) | 179(3) | 86(2) | 95(5) | -105(1) | $-123(9)^{c}$ | -65(3) | $-55(16)^{c}$ | 61(1) | 60(6) |
| | | | | | | | | | | $-176(4)^{d}$ | | $67(5)^{d}$ | | |
| C5 | -134(4) | $-155(8)^{c}$ | -158(3) | $-133(12)^{c}$ | 54(4) | 49(7) | 146(1) | 141(5) | -83(4) | -95(4) | 71(1) | 70(7) | -141(2) | -155(6) |
| | | $169(3)^{d}$ | | $163(5)^{d}$ | | | | | | | | | | |
| G6 | 62(2) | 79(7) | -165(1) | -179(5) | -173(1) | 176(3) | 84(1) | 148(5) | - | - | - | - | 47(2) | 76(3) |

^{a)} $P \cong O5' \stackrel{\beta}{=} C5' \stackrel{\gamma}{=} C4' \stackrel{\delta}{=} C3' \stackrel{\epsilon}{=} O3' \stackrel{\zeta}{=} P$; average values with standard deviations in parentheses are given

^{b)} PDB ID: 131D, 1D39, 1D48, 1DCG, 1DJ6, 110T, 11CK, 292D, 293D, 2DCG, 336D.

^{c)}GpC step typical of the Z_I -DNA form

^{d)} GpC step typical of the Z_{II}-DNA form

Table S4. Lower (*left column*) and upper (*right column*) limits [^o] for the initial torsion angle restraints used in the structure determination (CYANA) of (CGCGCG)₂ in the Z-RNA form

| Residue | β | | γ | | χ | | ν_1 | | v_2 | | δ | | 3 | |
|----------|-----|-----|----|----|------|------|---------|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| C1 (C7 | 132 | 228 | 40 | 70 | -200 | -120 | 17 | 50 | -50 | -23 | 127 | 168 | 188 | 292 |
| G2 (G8 | 165 | 195 | na | na | 26 | 106 | -18 | -8 | 27 | 39 | 75 | 85 | 188 | 292 |
| C3 (C9 | 132 | 228 | 40 | 70 | -200 | -120 | 17 | 50 | -50 | -23 | 127 | 168 | 188 | 292 |
| G4 (G10) | 165 | 195 | na | na | 26 | 106 | -16 | -7 | 23 | 35 | 80 | 90 | 188 | 292 |
| C5 (C11) | 132 | 228 | 40 | 70 | -200 | -120 | 16 | 50 | -50 | -26 | 127 | 170 | 188 | 292 |
| G6 (G12) | 165 | 195 | na | na | 26 | 106 | -18 | 44 | -29 | 39 | 75 | 123 | - | - |

Fig. S1. ¹H NMR spectra of (CGCGCG)₂ at 0M (right-handed form) (*bottom*) and 6M NaClO₄ (left-handed form) (*top*).



Fig. S2. Applied protocol for the structure determination (CYANA) of the (CGCGCG)₂ in Z-RNA form. At the structure calculation stage, the TAD algorithm was implemented to a new subroutine *ndrs.cya* which allows for automatic <u>NOE distance restraints selection</u>.

