## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## Understanding the indirect DNA read-out specificity of I-CreI Meganuclease

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*Supplementary Figure S1.* Full-length gel from the I-CreI *in vitro* cleavage experiments to validate 5NNN non-cleavable target patterns using labelled duplex DNA targets. Lanes: 1, I-CreI\_D75N\_target; 2, I-CreI\_D75N\_target in the presence of I-CreI\_D75N protein; 3, I-CreI\_3115\_target in the presence of I-CreI\_3115 protein; 4, I-CreI\_3115\_target; 5, I-CreI\_D75N\_target-null (non-cleavable derivative); 6, I-CreI\_D75N\_target-null in the presence of I-CreI\_3115\_target-null (non-cleavable derivative) in the presence of I-CreI\_3115 protein; 8, I-CreI\_3115\_target-null (non-cleavable derivative).



*Supplementary Figure S2.* Thermophoresis data for the I-CreI\_3115/DNAs interactions in the presence of 2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. I-CreI\_3115 and DNA target interaction using complementary labelling schemes, i.e., fluorescently labeled DNA duplex in (a) or fluorescently labeled protein in (b). The upper panel shows the thermophoresis time traces with the discontinuous lines boundary regions used to calculate the observed thermophoresis related to the free- and bound-biomolecule populations. The fluorescence is normalized to a starting value of 1.0. The binding curve data is shown in the middle panel, each point is the average of three experiments and the error bars show the standard deviation. The line is the best fit to a 1:1 binding model. The bottom panel shows residuals between the fit and experimental data.



*Supplementary Figure S3.* DNA structure superimposition of cleavable (blue) and their corresponding non-cleavable (orange) DNA targets in their non-cleavage states including zoom views at the 5NNN region. (a) I-CreI\_D75N\_target vs I-CreI\_D75N\_target-null DNA target. (b) I-CreI\_3115\_target vs I-CreI\_3115\_target vs I-CreI\_3115\_target. The black spheres represent the metal ions and the blue sphere a water molecule.

*Supplementary Table S1. Meganuclease binding affinity for DNA targets measured by microscale thermophoresis.* <sup>a</sup>Cy5-labelled I-CreI-3115 DNA was used at a 25 nM concentration. <sup>b,c</sup>I-CreI\_3115 and I-CreI\_D75N were fluorescently labelled and used at a 25 nM concentration. <sup>d</sup>Numbers in brackets represent the 68.3% confidence interval for the fitted K<sub>DS</sub> calculated by ESP (error-surface projection).

Fluorescent labelled partner	Ligand	K <sub>D</sub> [nM]	CaCl <sub>2</sub> [mM]
I-CreI_3115_target <sup>a</sup>	I-CreI_3115	90 [60, 130] <sup>d</sup>	2
I-CreI_3115_target <sup>a</sup>	I-CreI_3115	110 [70, 160] <sup>d</sup>	10
I-CreI_3115 <sup>b</sup>	I-CreI_3115_target	100 [70, 130] <sup>d</sup>	2
I-CreI_3115 <sup>b</sup>	I-CreI_3115_target	100 [60, 160] <sup>d</sup>	10
I-CreI_3115 <sup>b</sup>	I-CreI_3115_target-null	500 [200, 1200] <sup>d</sup> x 10 <sup>3</sup>	2
I-CreI_3115 <sup>b</sup>	I-CreI_3115_target-null	260 [110, 750] <sup>d</sup> x 10 <sup>3</sup>	10
I-CreI_D75N°	I-CreI_D75N_target	120 [90, 180] <sup>d</sup>	10
I-CreI_D75N°	I-CreI_D75N_target-null	33 [24, 48] <sup>d</sup> x 10 <sup>3</sup>	10

	I-CreI3115:	I-CreI3115:	I-CreI3115:
	I-CreI_ta-3115: Ca <sup>2+</sup>	I-CreI_ta-3115: Mg <sup>2+</sup>	I-CreI_ta-3115: Mn <sup>2+</sup>
PDB code	6FB0	6FB1	6FB2
Data collection			
Space group	P21	P21	P21
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	45.44, 67.67, 83.53	45.10, 66.66, 91.39	44.89, 67.36, 90.87
<b>α</b> , β, γ(°)	90, 96.75, 90	90, 96.80, 90	90, 96.80, 90
Wavelength	0.87	1.00	1.60
Resolution (Å)	37.81-2.15 (2.27-2.15)*	66.66-3.00 (3.15-3.00)*	44.57-2.95 (3.11-2.95)*
R <sub>merge</sub>	0.07 (0.46)	0.08 (0.47)	0.08 (0.50)
<i>Mean</i> $I / \sigma I$	10.5 (3.0)	5.4 (1.6)	9.4 (2.3)
Completeness (%)	100 (99.9)	99.7 (98.4)	97.9 (96.6)
Redundancy	4.2 (4.2)	2.4 (2.4)	3.5 (3.4)
Refinement			
A site metal occupancy	100 (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )
B site metal occupancy	100 (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )
C site metal occupancy	0	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )
Resolution (Å)	33.84-2.15	33.98-3.02	41.99-2.95
No. Reflections	26697	18027	11150
R <sub>work</sub> / R <sub>free</sub>	0.18/0.23	0.21/0.25	0.19/0.23
No. Molecules in a.u.	1	1	1
DNA strands cleaved?	None	Both	Both
No. Ions at a.s.	2	3	3
No. Atoms			
Protein	2486	2486	2486
DNA	978	980	980
Ions	4	3	3
Water	180	15	11
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.013	0.002	0.003
Bond angles (°)	1.154	0.696	0.803

## Supplementary Table S2. Data collection and refinement statistics.

Supplementary Table S2 (Cont.). Crystallographic data collection and refinement statistics.

	I-CreI3115:	I-CreI3115:	I-CreI:
	I-CreI_ta-3115-null: Mg <sup>2+</sup>	I-CreI_ta-3115-null: Mn <sup>2+</sup>	I-CreI_ta: Ca <sup>2+</sup>
PDB code	6FB5	6FB6	4AAG
Data collection			
Space group	P21	P21	P22121
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	45.29, 68.00, 83.03	45.18, 67.99, 83.04	47.47, 71.41, 171.21
<b>α</b> , β, γ(°)	90, 96.55, 90	90, 96.45, 90	90, 90, 90
Wavelength	1.00	1.60	1.00
Resolution (Å)	41.24-2.20 (2.32-2.20)*	44.89-2.60 (2.74-2.60)*	47.47-2.80 (2.95-2.80)*
R <sub>merge</sub>	0.07 (0.25)	0.11 (0.54)	0.09 (0.48)
<i>Mean I / σI</i>	8.9 (3.4)	10.6 (3.3)	5.3 (1.5)
Completeness (%)	99.5 (96.7)	96.1 (95.6)	99.9 (99.7)
Redundancy	3.3 (3.0)	6.8 (6.7)	4.2 (3.9)
Refinement			
A site metal occupancy	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )
B site metal occupancy	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )
C site metal occupancy	0	74 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )	0
Resolution (Å)	37.73-2.20	44.89-2.60	45.74-2.80
No. Reflections	47710	28700	14934
Rwork / Rfree	0.19/0.22	0.19/0.24	0.18/0.25
No. Molecules in a.u.	1	1	1
DNA strands cleaved?	None	Both	None
No. Ions at a.s.	2	3	2
No. Atoms			
Protein	2477	2477	2459
DNA	978	981	977
Ions	4	3	2
Water	127	11	40
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.021	0.003	0.008
Bond angles (°)	0.821	0.780	1.280

Supplementary Table S2 (Cont.). Crystallographic data collection and refinement statistics.

	I-CreI:	I-CreI:	I-CreI:
	I-CreI_ta: Mg <sup>2+</sup>	I-CreI_ta: Mn <sup>2+</sup>	I-CreI_ta-null: Mg <sup>2+</sup>
PDB code	4AAB	6FB7	6FB8
Data collection			
Space group	P22 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>	P22 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>	P43
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	46.81, 70.93, 171.51	49.02, 71.50, 169.15	79.48, 79.48, 125.76
<b>α</b> , β, γ(°)	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 90
Wavelength	1.00	1.60	1.00
Resolution (Å)	44.51-2.50 (2.64-2.50)*	49.02-2.69 (2.83-2.69)*	27.44-2.45 (2.58-2.45)*
R <sub>merge</sub>	0.07 (0.41)	0.10 (0.55)	0.11 (0.64)
Mean I / $\sigma I$	9.9 (1.9)	15.1 (3.7)	8.4 (2.1)
Completeness (%)	99.9 (100)	97.1 (93.5)	100.0 (99.9)
Redundancy	4.8 (4.9)	8.8 (8.6)	6.1 (6.0)
Refinement			
A site metal occupancy	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )
B site metal occupancy	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )
C site metal occupancy	100 (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )	0
Resolution (Å)	34.82-2.50	49.02-2.69	27.42-2.45
No. Reflections	20614	30910	56079
Rwork / Rfree	0.17/0.22	0.17/0.21	0.19/0.22
No. Molecules in a.u.	1	1	1
DNA strands cleaved?	Both	Both	None
No. Ions at a.s.	3	3	2
No. Atoms			
Protein	2472	2472	2495
DNA	979	979	978
Ions	3	3	4
Water	122	22	87
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.007	0.009	0.010
Bond angles (°)	1.234	0.992	1.263

	I-CreI:
	I-CreI_ta-null: Mn <sup>2+</sup>
PDB code	6FB9
Data collection	
Space group	P43
Cell dimensions	
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	79.73, 79.73, 126.25
<b>α</b> , β, γ(°)	90, 90, 90
Wavelength	1.80
Resolution (Å)	49.49-2.95 (3.11-2.95)*
R <sub>merge</sub>	0.08 (0.56)
Mean I / $\sigma I$	12.4 (2.3)
Completeness (%)	98.6 (97.6)
Redundancy	3.8 (3.7)
Refinement	
A site metal occupancy	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )
B site metal occupancy	100 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )
C site metal occupancy	46 (Mn <sup>2+</sup> )
Resolution (Å)	42.05-2.95
No. Reflections	32279
R <sub>work</sub> / R <sub>free</sub>	0.17/0.20
No. Molecules in a.u.	1
DNA strands cleaved?	Both
No. Ions at a.s.	3
No. Atoms	
Protein	2487
DNA	980
Ions	5
Water	22
R.m.s. deviations	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.010
Bond angles (°)	1.287

**Supplementary Table S2 (Cont.).** Crystallographic data collection and refinement statistics.

**Supplementary Table S3.** Oligonucleotide sequences sampled as I-CreI DNA target (labelled at 5' for in vitro cleavage assays / MST experiments and not labelled for crystallization experiments). Bold letters represent oligonucleotide changes derived from their corresponding wild-type DNA sequence.

Number	DNA target	Sequence
1	I-CreI D75N wild-type	5'-TCAAAACGTCGTACGACGTTTTGA-3'
2	I-CreI D75N null	5'-TCAAAACTGCGTACGACGTTTTGA-3'
3	I-CreI 3115 wild-type	5'-TCAGACTTCTCCACAGGAGTCAGA-3'
4	I-CreI 3115 null	5'-TCAGACTTGTCCACAGGAGTCAGA-3'

*Supplementary Table S4. Summary of crystallographic data.* In light green are the structures utilized in the molecular dynamics simulations.

Structure	Metal Concentration	Number	Cleaved
I-CreI_D75N: I-CreI_D75N_target	Ca <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	2	No
I-CreI_D75N: I-CreI_D75N_target	Mn <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	3	Yes
I-CreI_D75N: I-CreI_D75N_target	Mg <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	3	Yes
I-CreI_D75N: I-CreI_D75N_target-null	Mn <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	3	Yes
I-CreI_D75N: I-CreI_D75N_target-null	Mg <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	2	No
I-CreI_3115: I-CreI_3115_target	Ca <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	2	No
I-CreI_3115: I-CreI_3115_target	Mn <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	3	Yes
I-CreI_3115: I-CreI_3115_target	Mg <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	3	Yes
I-CreI_3115: I-CreI_3115_target-null	Mn <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	3	Yes
I-CreI_3115: I-CreI_3115_target-null	Mg <sup>2+</sup> [2 mM]	2	No