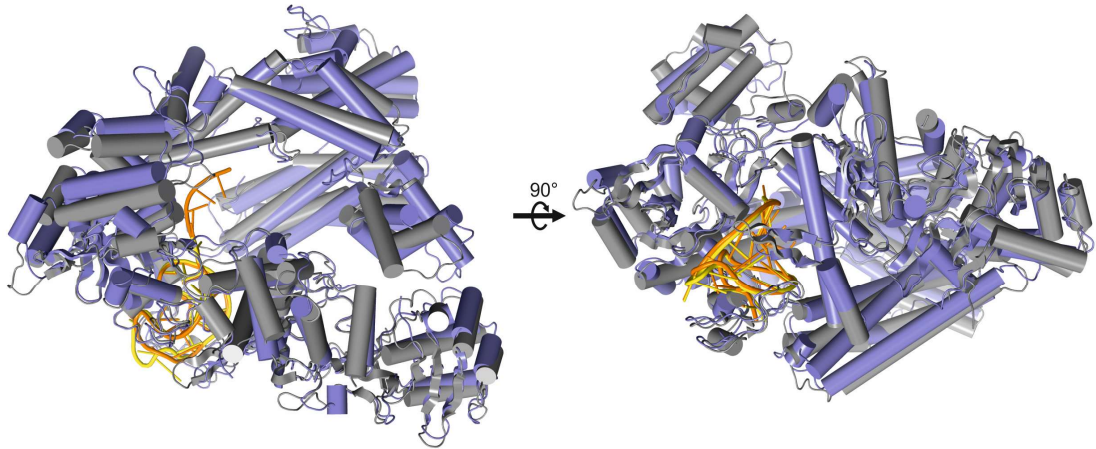


Figure S1. Genomic context and purification details of FnCas12a, Related to Figures 1 and 3. (A) Schematic scaled representation of the genomic context of the *cas12a* (FTN_1397) gene, encoding FnCas12a. Spacers in the CRISPR locus are indicated as grey bars. The sequence of spacer 5 is used as guide sequence for the crRNA1 used throughout this study. (B) Typical size exclusion purification chromatogram of apo-FnCas12a. Size exclusion purification is the last step of the FnCas12a purification process. The retention volume correlates with a molecular weight (MW) of ~160 kDa, indicating that apo-FnCas12a (152 kDa) is monomeric. (C) SDS-PAGE analysis of elution fractions from the size exclusion purification step.

A FnCas12a + crRNA and LbCas12a + crRNA



B FnCas12a + crRNA + DNA and AsCas12a + crRNA + DNA

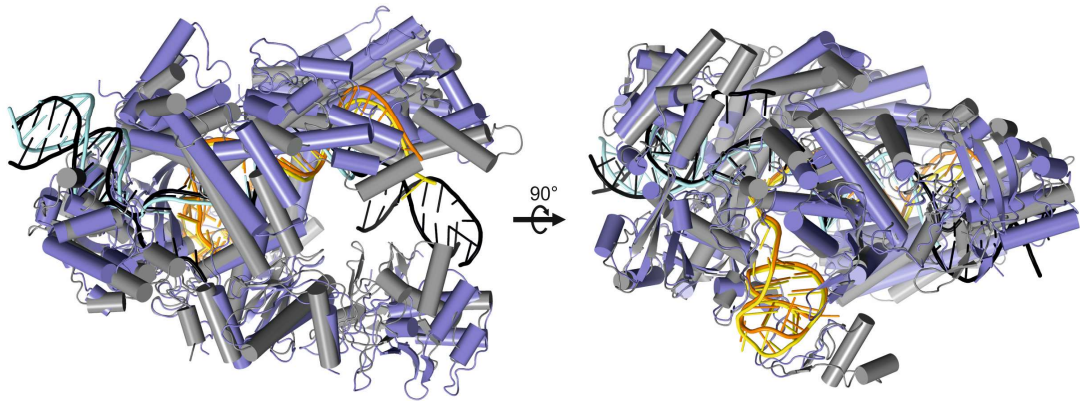


Figure S2. Structural alignments of Cas12a orthologs, Related to Figures 1 and 3.

(A) Structural alignment of the structure of the binary FnCas12a-crRNA complex, aligned to the structure of the binary LbCas12a-crRNA complex (PDB: 5ID6).

(B) Structural alignment of the structure of the ternary FnCas12a-crRNA-DNA complex, aligned to the structure of the ternary AsCas12a-crRNA-DNA complex (PDB accession code: 5B43).

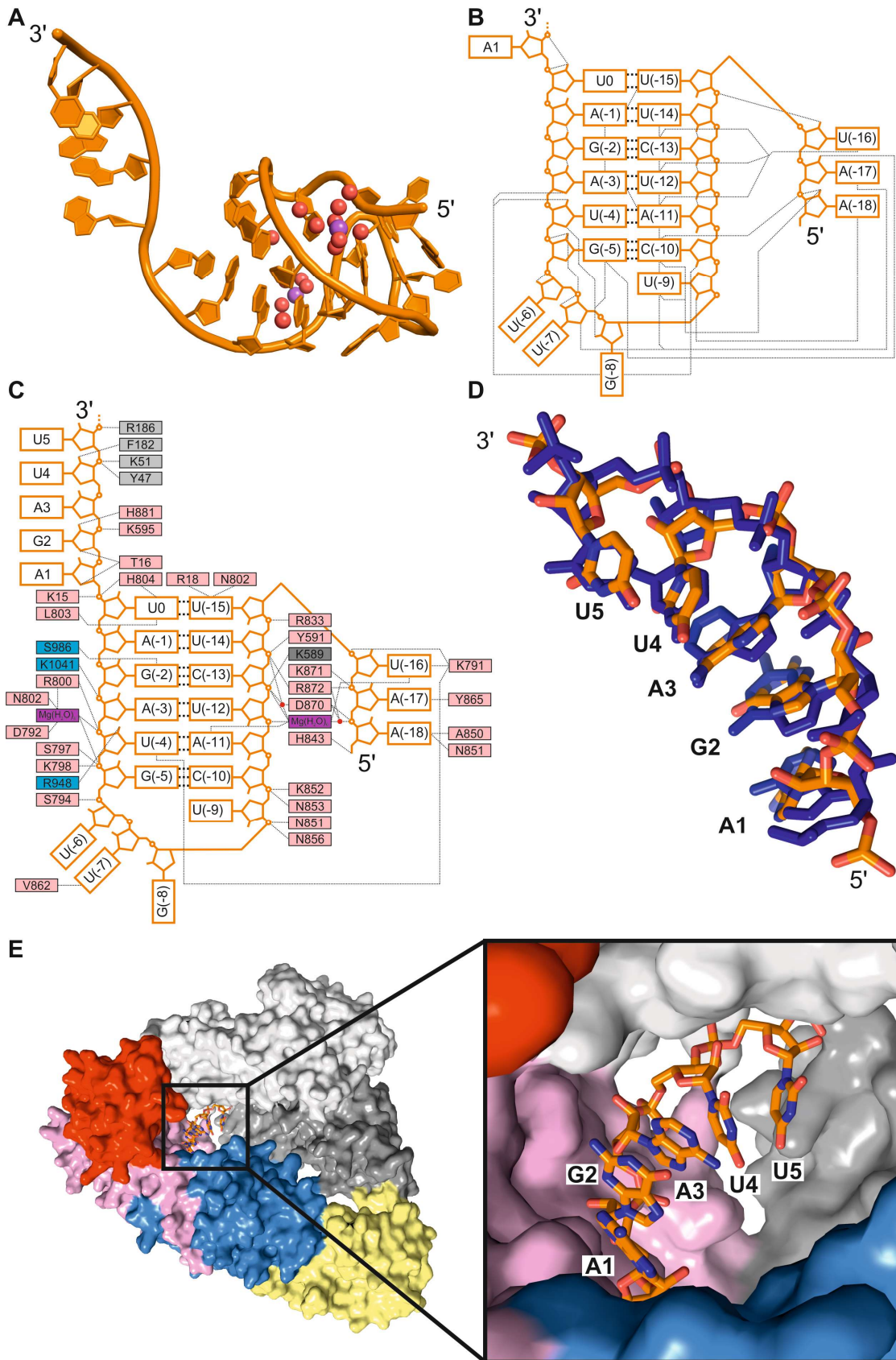


Figure S3. Details of FnCas12a-crRNA binding interactions, Related to Figure 1.

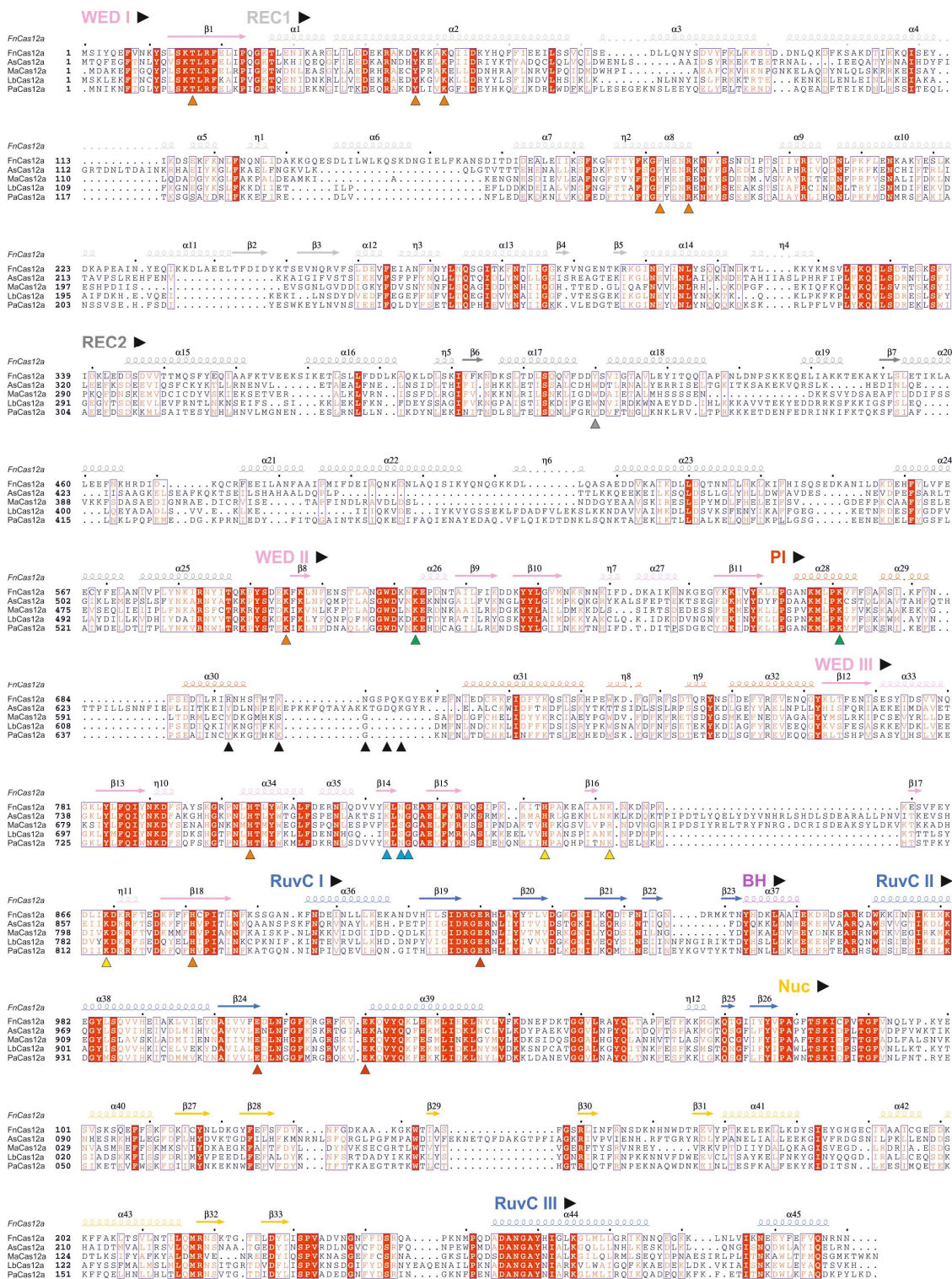
(A) Structure of the crRNA pseudoknot and crRNA seed segment in the binary FnCas12a-crRNA complex. Water molecules are depicted as red spheres. Mg²⁺ ions are depicted as magenta spheres.

(B) Schematic representation of intra-pseudoknot hydrogen bonds. Base pairs are indicated with thick dashed lines, while other hydrogen bonding interactions are indicated with thin dashed lines.

(C) Schematic representation of hydrogen bonding contacts formed between FnCas12a, the crRNA, and the hydrated divalent cations. FnCas12a residues are colored according to their domains (see **Figure 1B**). Base pairs are indicated with thick dashed lines, while other hydrogen bonds are indicated with thin dashed lines. Red circles indicate water-mediated hydrogen bonding. Nucleotides 6–24 of the crRNA are not ordered in the structure.

(D) Structure of the nucleotides 1–5 of the RNA, spanning the crRNA seed sequence, superimposed on a model of the same sequence adopting perfect A-helix geometry.

(E) The crRNA seed sequence is solvent exposed. FnCas12a is shown in surface representation and the crRNA in stick format. The right panel is a close-up view of the seed sequence bases.



- ▲: Involved in crRNA seed sequence ordering
- ▲: Aromatic residue interrupting RNA-DNA heteroduplex
- ▲: Stabilizes the displaced non-target strand in FrnCas12a
- ▲: Involved in PAM base readout
- ▲: Interacts with target strand dT(-1) and dT0 linking phosphate
- ▲: Catalytic residue involved in pre-crRNA processing
- ▲: Catalytic residue involved in DNA cleavage

Figure S4. Multiple sequence alignment of FnCas12a orthologs, Related to Figure 1 and 3.

Clustal Omega (Sievers et al., 2011) was used to generate a Multiple sequence alignment of Cas12a protein sequences of *Francisella novicida* U122 (FnCas12a), *Acidaminococcus sp.* BV3L6 (AsCas12a), *Methanomethylophilus alvus* Mx1201 (MaCas12a), *Lachnospiraceae bacterium* ND2006 (LbCas12a), and *Prevotella albensis* DSM11370 (PaCas12a). The Clustal Omega sequence alignment and the structural information from the structure of the binary FnCas12a-crRNA complex were used as input for ESPrict 3.0 (<http://esprict.ibcp.fr>) (Robert and Gouet, 2014) to align secondary structure features to the sequence alignment. Residues important for specific FnCas12a functions are indicated with colored.

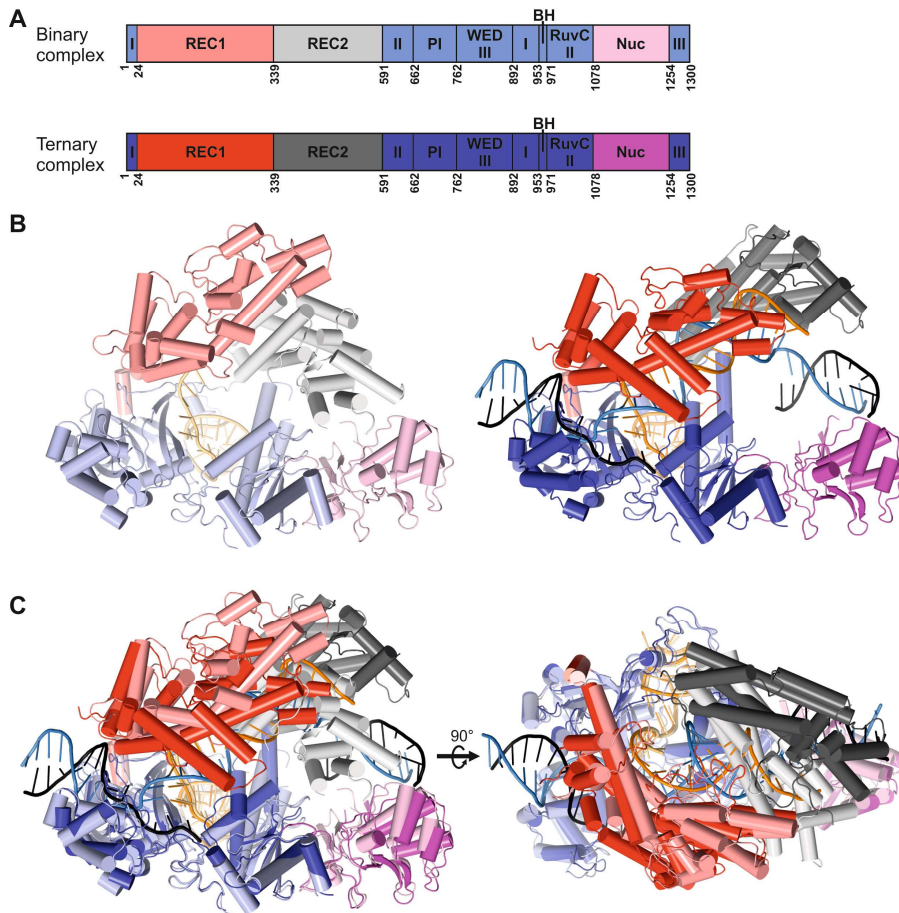


Figure S6. Conformational rearrangements in FnCas12a upon transition from the binary FnCas12a-crRNA to the ternary FnCas12a-crRNA-DNA complex, Related to Figure 1 and 3.

(A) Schematic diagram of FnCas12a domains and their color coding in this figure.

(B) Side-by-side comparison of the binary (left, pale) and ternary (right, bright) complexes.

(C) Superposition of the structures of the binary and ternary complexes. The NUC lobes of both structures were aligned using least-squares alignment in COOT. The WED, PI and RuvC domains within the NUC lobe do not substantially change their conformations, while the Nuc domain rotates by 22° relative to the rest of the NUC lobe. This movement does not appear to affect the position of the putative catalytic residue (Arg1218) in the Nuc domain relative to the RuvC domain catalytic residues Asp917, Glu1006, and Glu1020. No major rearrangements are observed in the crRNA pseudoknot, which is mostly coordinated by the rigid NUC lobe domains. The PAM recognition site is fully formed in the binary complex, and PAM binding results in only a minor narrowing (~ 5 Å) of the PAM binding cleft. Unlike the NUC lobe, the REC lobe undergoes substantial rearrangement upon target binding. The REC1 domain rotates by approximately 27° relative to the NUC lobe, resulting in a small shift of the crRNA nucleotides comprising the seed sequence. The REC2 domain undergoes a rotation of $\sim 50^\circ$ combined with a translation of 6 Å. The restructuring of the REC lobe generates the binding surface for the crRNA-target DNA heteroduplex in the central channel of Cas12a, establishing numerous hydrogen bonding and salt bridge interactions (see **Figure S7**).

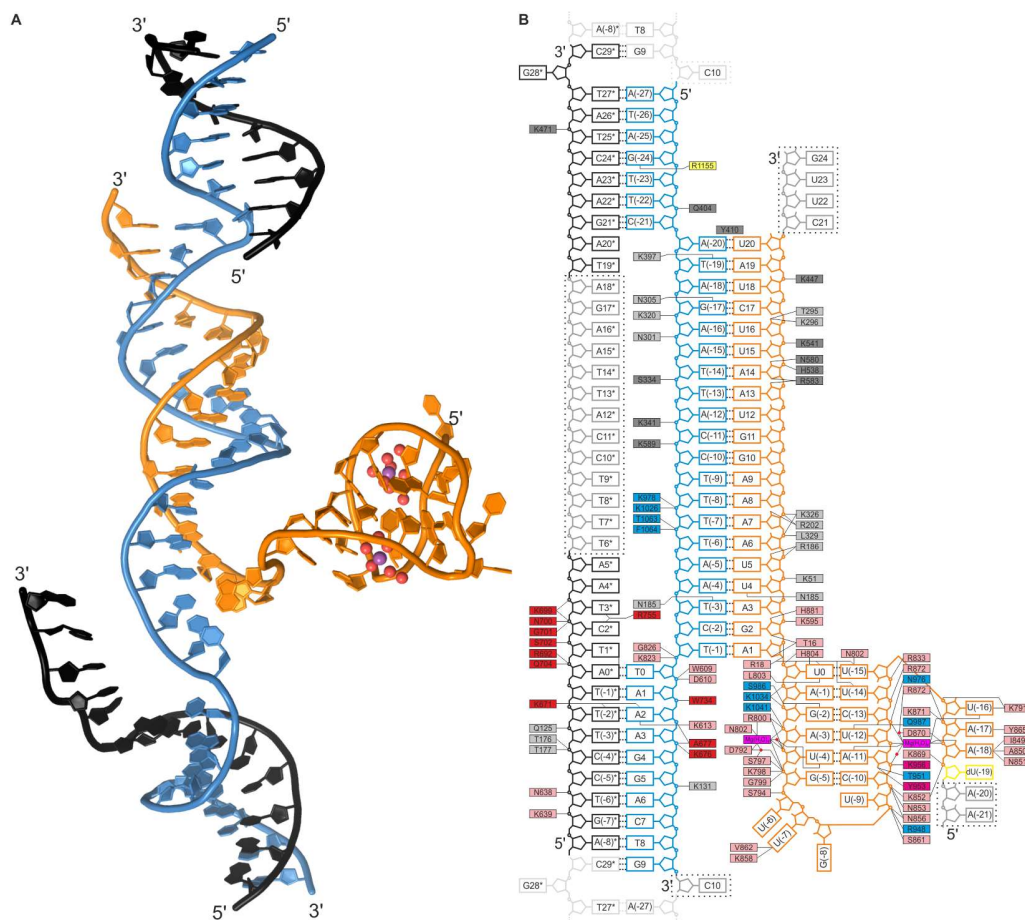


Figure S7. Details of FnCas12a-crRNA-DNA interactions, Related to Figure 3 and 4.

(A) Structure of nucleic acids in the structure of FnCas12a-crRNA complex bound to a dsDNA target. Water molecules are depicted as red spheres, while Mg^{2+} ions are depicted as magenta spheres.

(B) Schematic representation of hydrogen bonding interactions between FnCas12a, nucleic acids, and divalent cations in the ternary structure. FnCas12a residues are colored according to their domains (see **Figure 1B**). Nucleotides colored in dark grey are not ordered in the structure, while light grey nucleotides represent crystal-contact forming residues in symmetry-related molecules. Base pairs are indicated with thick dashed lines, while other hydrogen bonds are indicated with thin dashed lines. Red circles indicate water-mediated hydrogen bonding. Intra-crRNA pseudoknot hydrogen bonds in the crRNA are not displayed for clarity.

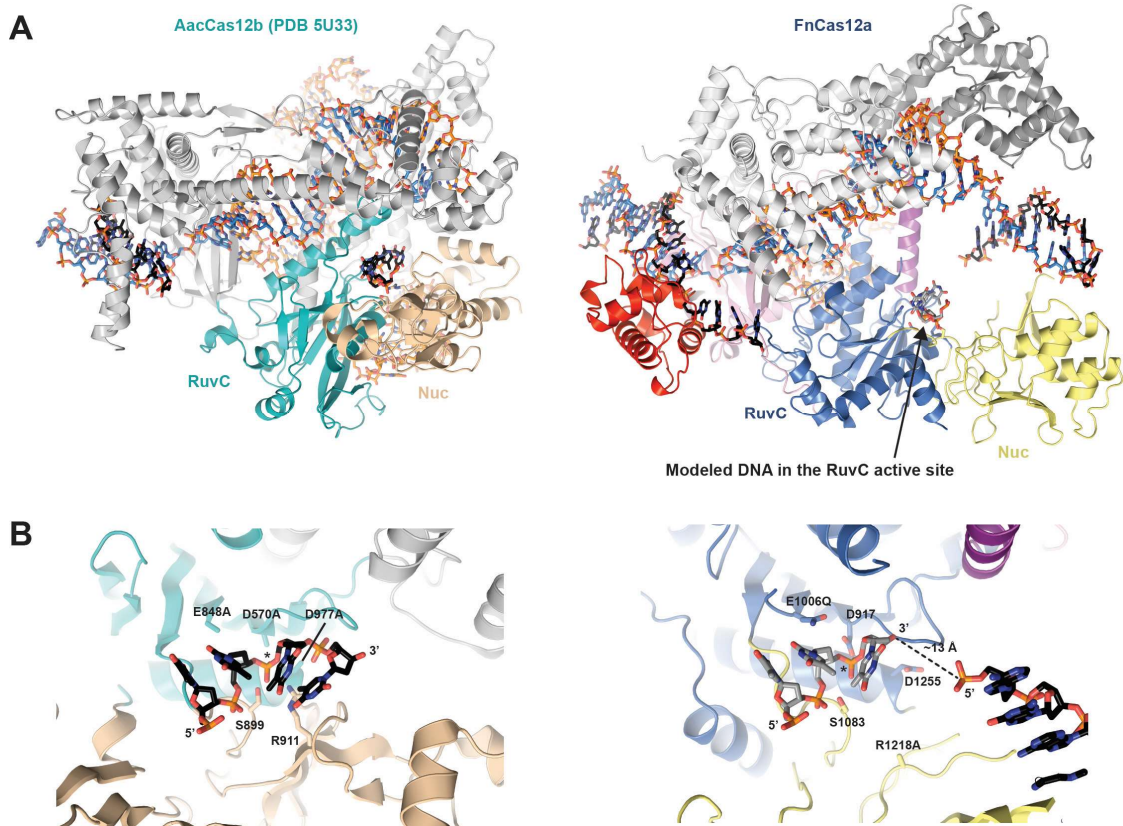


Figure S8. A modeled non-target strand in the RuvC catalytic site of FnCas12a, Related to Figure 5.

(A) Structures of AacCas12b (left panel, PDB accession code: 5U33) and the FnCas12a R-loop structure with three modeled non-target strand nucleotides bound in the RuvC catalytic site (right panel; the modeled DNA fragment is colored grey).

(B) RuvC catalytic site residues of AacCas12b (left panel) and FnCas12a (right panel) are located in the vicinity of the (modeled) scissile phosphate (indicated with an *). Dashed line indicates the distance between the 3' end of the modeled DNA and the 5' phosphate group of nucleotide A20 in the non-target strand in the PAM-distal DNA duplex.

Table S1. Oligonucleotides used in this study, Related to Figure 1-5.

	Oligo	Sequence (5'-3')	Description
TS/NTS oligonucleotides	oDS047	<u>AAT</u> TCTAATAATTTAAGATTAAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGA GATCTGAGCTTA	Target insert FW
	oDS048	AGCT <u>T</u> AAGCTCAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATC TTAAATTATTAG	Target insert RV
	oDS074	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATT AGAA	TS
	oDS079	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTAAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGA TCTG	NTS
	oDS141	AGTCCTTTATCTAATTTTCCATTAAGATAGAACTATGC	NTS Crystal
	oDS142	ATAGTTCATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAAGGACTGC	TS Crystal
EMSA	oDS205	Cy5-ATCTTAAA	-4-4
	oDS206	Cy5-TTTAATCT	1-8
	oDS207	Cy5-CTTTTAAT	3-10
	oDS209	Cy5-AATTACCT	9-16
	oDS210	Cy5-ATAGAATT	13-20
	oDS211	Cy5-CAAGATAG	17-24
Synthetic crRNA	crRNA1	AAUUUCUACUGUUGUAGAUAGAUUAAAAGGUAAUUCUAUCUUG	crRNA
	Pre-crRNA1	AAUAAUUUCUACUGUUGUAGAUAGAUUAAAAGGUAAUUCUAUC UUG	Pre-crRNA
	Pre-crRNAX	AAdUAAUUUCUACUGUUGUAGAUAGAUUAAAAGGUAAUUCUAU CUUG	Mimic pre-crRNA
	Cy5-pre-crRNA	Cy5-UUUAAAUAUUUCUACUGUUGUAGAU	Truncated pre-crRNA 5' Cy5
	crRNA λ	AAUUUCUACUGUUGUAGAUAGUGAUAGUGGAAUGCCAUGUGGG	crRNA
Labeled DNA targets	oDS073	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATT AGAA-ATTO532	TS 3' ATTO532
	oDS078	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTAAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGA TCTG-ATTO532	NTS 3' ATTO532
	oDS203	Cy5-CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAA TTATTAGAA	TS 5' Cy5
	oDS204	Cy5-TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTAAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGT TGAGATCTG	NTS 5' Cy5
	oDS270	Cy5-ACTCAATTTTGACAGCCACATGGCATTCCACTTAT CACTAAAGGCATCCTTCCACGT	λ TS 5' Cy5
	oDS271	Cy5-ACGTGGAAGGATGCCTTTAGTGATAAGTGAATGCCA TGTGGGCTGTCAAAATTGAGT	λ NTS 5' Cy5
	oDS272	ACTCAATTTTGACAGCCACATGGCATTCCACTTATCACTAAA GGCATCCTTCCACGT-ATTO532	λ TS 3' ATTO532
	oDS273	ACGTGGAAGGATGCCTTTAGTGATAAGTGAATGCCATGTGGG CTGTCAA AATTGAGT-ATTO532	λ NTS 3' ATTO532
	Exonuclease III experiments	TS λ *	ATTO532-ACTCAATTTTGACAGCCACATGGCATTCCACTT ATCACTAAAGGCATCCTTCCACGT
NTS λ *		ATTO532-ACGTGGAAGGATGCCTTTAGTGATAAGTGAAT GCCATGTGGGCTGTCAAAATTGAGT	λ NTS 5' ATTO532
TS λ		ACTCAATTTTGACAGCCACATGGCATTCCACTTATCACTAAA GGCATCCTTCCACGT	λ TS
NTS λ		ACGTGGAAGGATGCCTTTAGTGATAAGTGAATGCCATGTGGG CTGTCAA AATTGAGT	λ NTS

Nucleotide mismatched in dsDNA targets are colored red. Nucleotides used for cloning are underlined.
Cy5: Fluorescent label Cyanine 5. ATTO532: Fluorescent label ATTO532.

Table S1 (continued). Oligonucleotides used in this study, Related to Figure 1-5.

Oligo	Sequence (5'-3')	Description
oDS171	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATC <u>A</u> TAAATTATTAGAA	pDS074 FW
oDS172	TTCTAATAATTTA <u>T</u> GATTAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS074 RV
oDS173	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAAT <u>G</u> TAAATTATTAGAA	pDS075 FW
oDS174	TTCTAATAATTTAA <u>C</u> ATTAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS075 RV
oDS175	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAA <u>A</u> CTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS076 FW
oDS176	TTCTAATAATTTAAG <u>T</u> TAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS076 RV
oDS177	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTTA <u>T</u> TCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS077 FW
oDS178	TTCTAATAATTTAAGA <u>A</u> TAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS077 RV
oDS179	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTTT <u>T</u> ATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS078 FW
oDS180	TTCTAATAATTTAAGAT <u>A</u> AAAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS078 RV
oDS181	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTT <u>A</u> AATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS079 FW
oDS182	TTCTAATAATTTAAGAT <u>T</u> AAAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS079 RV
oDS183	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTTT <u>G</u> TTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS080 FW
oDS184	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAACGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS080 RV
oDS185	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAA <u>A</u> TACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS081 FW
oDS186	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTA <u>T</u> TTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS081 RV
oDS187	CAGATCTCAACAAGAT <u>T</u> GAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS082 FW
oDS188	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAAT <u>C</u> AATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS082 RV
oDS189	CAGATCTCAACAAG <u>A</u> AGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS083 FW
oDS190	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCT <u>T</u> TCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS083 RV
oDS191	CAGATCTCAACAAG <u>T</u> TAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS084 FW
oDS192	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTA <u>A</u> CTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS084 RV
oDS193	CAGATCTCAACA <u>C</u> ATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS085 FW
oDS194	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTAT <u>G</u> TTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS085 RV
oDS195	CAGATCTCAACA <u>T</u> GATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS086 FW
oDS196	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTATC <u>A</u> TGTTGAGATCTG	pDS086 RV
oDS197	CAGATCTCAAC <u>T</u> AGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS087 FW
oDS198	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTATCT <u>A</u> GTTGAGATCTG	pDS087 RV
oDS199	CAGATCTCA <u>G</u> AAGATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS088 FW
oDS200	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTATCTT <u>C</u> TTGAGATCTG	pDS088 RV
oDS201	CAGATCTCAAGTTCATAGAATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS089 FW
oDS202	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTATGA <u>A</u> CTTGAGATCTG	pDS089 RV
oDS251	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCTT <u>A</u> TAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS103 FW
oDS252	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>T</u> AAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS103 RV
oDS253	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTACCT <u>A</u> TTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS104 FW
oDS254	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> TAGGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS104 RV
oDS255	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATTAC <u>C</u> ATTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS105 FW
oDS256	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AA <u>T</u> GGTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS105 RV
oDS257	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATT <u>G</u> CTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS106 FW
oDS258	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGCTAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS106 RV
oDS259	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAATT <u>T</u> CCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS107 FW
oDS260	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGAATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS107 RV
oDS261	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGAAT <u>A</u> ACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS108 FW
oDS262	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGT <u>T</u> ATTCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS108 RV
oDS263	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAGA <u>T</u> TACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS109 FW
oDS264	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAATCTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS109 RV
oDS265	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAG <u>T</u> ATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS110 FW
oDS266	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAAT <u>A</u> CTATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS110 RV
oDS267	CAGATCTCAACAAGATAC <u>A</u> ATTACCTTTTAATCTTAAATTATTAGAA	pDS111 FW
oDS268	TTCTAATAATTTAAGATTA <u>A</u> AAAGGTAAT <u>G</u> TATCTTGTTGAGATCTG	pDS111 RV

Nucleotide mismatched in dsDNA targets are colored red. Nucleotides used for cloning are underlined.
 Cy5: Fluorescent label Cyanine 5. ATTO532: Fluorescent label ATTO532.

Table S1 (continued). Oligonucleotides used in this study, Related to Figure 1-5.

Oligo	Sequence (5'-3')	Description
oDS094	CATATTCTGAGCATTGCTCGTGGTGAACGTCATC	D917A FW
oDS095	GATGACGTTCCACCACGAGCAATGCTCAGAATATG	D917A RV
oDS096	GCAATTGTAGTTTTTTGCGGATCTGAATTTTGGG	E1006A FW
oDS097	CCCAAAATTCAGATCCGCAAAAACACTACAATTGC	E1006A RV
oDS098	GCCGCAGGATGCAGCTGCTAATGGTGCATATC	D1255A FW
oDS099	GATATGCACCATTAGCAGCTGCATCCTGCGGC	D1255A RV
oDS144	GAGCATTGATCGTGGTGCACGTCATCTGGCATA	E920A FW
oDS145	GTATGCCAGATGACGTGCACCACGATCAATGCTC	E920A RV
oDS146	GTGGGAGATTCAAGGTCGCGAAGCAAGTATATCAGAAG	E1020A FW
oDS147	CTTCTGATATACTTGCTTCGCGACCTTGAATCTCCCAC	E1020A RV
oDS153	GCAATTGTAGTTTTTTGAGGATCTGAATTTTGGG	E1006Q FW
oDS154	CCCAAAATTCAGATCCTGAAAAACTACAATTGC	E1006Q RV
oDS157	CCATACTGCAAATGGCAAACAGCAAACAGGTACC	R1218A FW
oDS158	GGTACCTGTTTTGCTGTTTGCCATTTGCAGTATGG	R1218A RV
oDS216	GCCGCAGGATGCAGCTGCTAATGGTGCATATC	D1255A FW
oDS217	GATATGCACCATTAGCAGCTGCATCCTGCGGC	D1255A RV
oDS218	GCCGCAGGATGCAAACGCTAATGGTGCATATC	D1255N FW
oDS219	GATATGCACCATTAGCGTTTGCACTCCTGCGGC	D1255N RV
oDS220	CAGGTACCGAGCTGGCTTATTTAATTAGCCCG	D1227A FW
oDS221	CGGGCTAATTAATAAGCCAGCTCGGTACCTG	D1227A RV
oDS222	CAAAACAGGTACCGAGCTGAACTATTTAATTAGCCCGGTCG	D1227N FW
oDS223	CGACCGGCTAATTAATAAGTTTACGCTCGGTACCTGTTTTG	D1227N RV
oDS226	CAAAAAATGGTAGCCCGGCGAAAGGGTATGAAAAATTTG	Q704A FW
oDS227	CAAAATTTTTCATACCCTTTTCGCCGGGCTACCATTTTTTTG	Q704A RV
oDS228	CCGAGCGAAGATATTTTACGTATTGCTAATCATTCGACAC	R692A FW
oDS229	GTGTGCAATGATTAGCAATACGTAAAAATATCTTCGCTCGG	R692A RV
oDS230	GCTGGTGGTGGTCCGCGAGAAAGGGTATGAAAAATTTG	PI deletion
oDS231	ATGTGTCGAATGATTACGAATACG	PI deletion
oDS245	GTCCCGGCAGGTTTTACCGCCAAAATTTGTCCGGTCACC	S1083A FW
oDS246	GGTGACCGGACAAAATTTTGGCGGTAAAACCTGCCGGGAC	S1083A RV
oDS247	GAGGATCTGAATTTTGGGGCTAAACGTGGGAGATTCAAG	F1012A FW
oDS248	CTTGAATCTCCCAGTTTTAGCCCCAAAATTCAGATCCTC	F1012A RV

Nucleotide mismatched in dsDNA targets are colored red. Nucleotides used for cloning are underlined.
 Cy5: Fluorescent label Cyanine 5. ATTO532: Fluorescent label ATTO532.

Table S2. Plasmids used in this study, Related to Figures 1 and 3.

Plasmid	Description	Restriction sites used	Primers	Source
pRARE	<i>E. coli</i> Rosetta™ (DE3) plasmid, encodes rare tRNAs, Cam ^R	-	-	EMD Millipore
pML-1B	T7 RNA polymerase based expression vector, Kan ^R	-	-	Macrolab, AddGene
pDS015	<i>F. novicida cas12a</i> with N-term. His-tag and TEV cleavage site in pML-1B. Expression vector for FnCas12a.	SspI and Ligase Independent cloning	oDS027 oDS028	This study
pDS054 pDS066-pDS073 pDS090-pDS101	Like pDS015, with introduced mutations, for expression of <i>F. novicida cas12a</i> mutants	Site Directed Mutagenesis or inverse PCR	See Table S1	This study
pUC19	High copy number cloning vector, Amp ^R	-	-	New England Biolabs
pDS027	Target sequence in pUC19 vector	EcoRI HindIII	oDS047 oDS048	This study
pDS074-088	Like pDS027, but with introduced mutations	Site Directed Mutagenesis	oDS171- oDS202	This study
pDS103-pDS111	Like pDS027, but with introduced mutations	Site Directed Mutagenesis	oDS251- oDS268	This study