Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Solid-phase synthesis and structural characterisation of phosphoroselenolate-modified DNA: a backbone analogue which does not impose conformational bias and facilitates SAD X-ray crystallography

Patrick F. Conlon,^a Olga Eguaogie,^a Jordan J. Wilson,^a Jamie S. T. Sweet,^a Julian Steinhoegl,^b Klaudia Englert,^c Oliver G. A. Hancox,^b Christopher J. Law,^d Sarah A. Allman,^b James H. R. Tucker,^c James P. Hall^{b,e*} and Joseph S. Vyle^{a*}

^a School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Queen's University of Belfast, David Keir Building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast BT9 5AG, UK. *E-mail: j.vyle@qub.ac.uk; Tel: +44 (0)28 9097 5485.
^b Reading School of Pharmacy, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AP, UK.
^c School of Chemistry, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK.
^d School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast, 15 Chlorine Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AH, UK.
^e Diamond Light Source, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK. *E-mail: james.hall@reading.ac.uk; Tel: +44 (0) 118 378 4638

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Section A. General Information

CAUTION! Strict safety guidelines are required when handling selenium-containing compounds due to the potential for generating highly toxic materials.^{1,2} Potassium selenocyanate and its adducts must always be handled in a fume hood and wearing the appropriate PPE to avoid exposure to airways, eyes and skin. Contaminated equipment must be treated with aqueous sodium hypochlorite (bleach) to inactivate the selenium species to a less harmful oxidised form.³

Unless further purified (see below), reagents and solvents were of HPLC or analytical grade and used as supplied (Merck / Sigma-Aldrich / Chemgenes or LGC / Link Technologies). Anhydrous acetonitrile used in reactions was diluent grade (LGC / Link Technologies) which was stored under argon over 1 g or 5 g molecular traps (LGC Biosearch). Methyl-protected phosphoramidite derivatives used in the preparation of the corresponding *H*-phosphonates were purchased from LGC / Link Technologies (dA, dC and T) or ChemGenes (dG). Analytical grade dichloromethane used in reactions was dried and distilled from calcium hydride, stored over 3 Å activated molecular sieves for a minimum of 24 h in the absence of light, purged with argon for 30 min and used within 7 days. When used to co-evaporate trityl protected material the anhydrous dichloromethane was deacidified by passing over a plug of activated basic alumina prior to use. HPLC grade methanol >99% (Fischer) was rendered anhydrous following storage over 3 Å activated molecular sieves for at least 48 h prior to use. *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine 99% (TCI) was dried over 3 Å activated molecular sieves for at least 48 h prior to use. Column chromatography was performed using silica (Fluorochem 60 Å, 40 – 63 µm) which had been dried at 150 °C. Mobile phases were prepared using HPLC grade acetone, analytical grade dichloromethane and rendered anhydrous following storage over 3 Å activated molecular sieves for 30 min prior to their use to purify phosphoramidites **5a-d**. Pyridine (Acros 99+% extra pure) was refluxed and distilled from potassium hydroxide immediately prior to use.

TLC analysis was performed using (aluminium backed) Merck Kieselgel 60 F_{254} plates and materials visualised using one or more of the following: UV illumination (254 nm); treatment with 0.1% (w/v) Ellman's reagent (5, 5'-dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid)) in 1:1 (v/v) EtOH : 0.45 M Tris·HCl (pH 8.5) (for P(III)-containing materials); exposure to gaseous HCl (for tritylated materials); and 3% (w/v) phenol in 95:5 (v/v) ethanol : conc. H_2SO_4 followed by heating (for tritylated and sugar-positive materials). Where appropriate, the plates were subsequently heated at high temperature (ca. 100 – 200 °C).

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Ascend 600 MHz at 300K. ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker III-400 MHz or a Bruker Ascend 600 MHz at 300 K with an internal D₂O lock. ⁷⁷Se NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Ascend 600 MHz at 300 K with an internal standard of KSeCN (0.25 M in D₂O, δ_{se} = -329.0).⁴

Mass Spectroscopy

For nucleosides, dinucleotides and dinucleotide phosphoramidites, mass spectrum were recorded using a VG Quattro II Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (Electrospray) or using a Waters Xevo G2-XS QTof Mass Spectrometer (Electrospray). Mass spectrometry was performed by Analytical Services and Environmental Projects (ASEP) at Queen's University Belfast. For oligodeoxynucleotides mass spectrum were recorded using a Waters Xevo G2-XS QTof Liquid Chromatography Instrument : Waters Acquity UPLC H-Class, equipped with Waters UPLC Oligonucleotide BEH C18 column, 2.1 x 50 mm, 1.7 μm particle size, part number: 186002350. Buffering system: 75 mM TEAA in HPLC grade H₂O (A) and 75 mM TEAA in HPLC grade MeCN (B). Method: 100% A - 100% B over 20 min linear gradient, flow rate 0.2 mL/min. Mass Spectrometry conditions: Capillary voltage 3 kV, Sampling Cone Voltage - 60 V, source offset 130 V, source temp - 120 °C, desolvation temp 350 °C, cone gas 20 L/h, desolvation gas 500 L/h using dry nitrogen. Instrument monitors accuracy using Leucine Enkephalin. For oligodeoxynucleotides MALDI-TOF spectra were acquired using an Ultraflex MALDI-TOF (Bruker-Daltonik, Germany) controlled using flex control 3.0 software (Bruker-Daltonik, Germany). The instrument was equipped with a nitrogen laser (λ = 337 nm) set to 32% power and triggered at 25 Hz for a total of 300 shots. Analysis was performed in positive ion reflection mode with reflector voltages of 26.30 kV and 13.75 kV respectively. Detector voltage was set at 1898V and all fragments were isolated as hydrogen adducts [M+H]. Spectra were analysed using Flex analysis 3.0 software (Bruker-Daltonik, Germany) and expressed as m/z. Samples were diluted to a concentration of 200 nmol/L in ultrapure water. Matrix solution (0.5 µL) was transferred to a clean ground steel MALDI sample plate and dried under reduced pressure. This was then overlaid with 0.5 µL of sample and dried under reduced pressure. This process was repeated for the peptide mix used for mass calibration. The 3-hydroxypicolinic acid matrix (3-HPA) was prepared by suspending 3-HPA (50 mg) and diammonium hydrogen citrate (10 mg) in 0.1% (v/v) TFA in 50% (v/v) MeCN : H_2O .

HPLC:

HPLC was performed on a ThermoFisher SpectraSYSTEM modular HPLC system consisting of a P2000 binary gradient pump and UV1000 sample detector. Samples were injected manually via a Rheodyne injection valve. The HPLC was interfaced via an SN4000 controller (Thermo Scientific) to a Windows PC running ChromQuest 5.0 data acquisition software (Thermo Scientific). Buffers were prepared using H₂O purified to 18.2 m Ω by reverse osmosis (Barnstead NANOpure Diamond water purification system), acetonitrile (Aldrich 34851) triethylamine (Aldrich 471283), acetic acid (Aldrich 320099) and CO₂ generated by sublimation of the solid compound.

Analytical HPLC was performed using a Phenomenex Clarity 5µm Oligo-RP (150 x 4.60 mm) column eluting at 1 mL min⁻¹, monitoring at 260 nm using gradients G3, G6, G8.

Preparative HPLC was performed using a Phenomenex Clarity 5µm Oligo-RP (150 x 4.60 mm) column eluting at 1 mL min⁻¹, monitoring at 280 nm using gradients G1, G2, G4, G5, G7.

Triethylammonium acetate (TEAA) buffers were prepared from solutions of acetic acid in H₂O following neutralisation with triethylamine to pH 6.5 and suitable dilution to give final concentrations of: 100 mM TEAA (aq.) (Buffer A); or 100 mM TEAA in 65% (v/v) MeCN : H₂O (Buffer B).

Volatile buffers derived from triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB) used for desalting were prepared following dilution of 1 M stock solutions of TEAB in H_2O prepared by bubbling CO_2 through a sintered frit into a mixture of triethylamine and H_2O at 0 °C to give homogenous solutions with measured pH values below 8.0. Stock solutions were stored at 4 °C and used within two days following suitable dilution to give final concentrations of: 100 mM TEAB (aq.), pH 7.8 (Buffer A); or 100 mM TEAB in 65:35 (v/v) MeCN : H_2O , pH 8.2 (Buffer B).

Gradient G1 (preparative – TEAA buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-11 min, 0-30% Buffer B; 11-35 min, 30-85% Buffer B; 35-40 min, 85% Buffer B; 40-45 min, 85-100% Buffer B; 45-55 min, 100% Buffer B; 55-65 min, 100-0% Buffer B; 65-75 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G2 (preparative – TEAB buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-35 min, 0-35% Buffer B; 35-45 min, 35-100% Buffer B; 45-55 min, 100% Buffer B; 55-65 min, 100-0% Buffer B; 65-75 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G3 (analytical – TEAA buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-11 min, 0-7% Buffer B; 11-40 min, 7-25% Buffer B; 40-45 min, 25-100% Buffer B; 45-50 min, 100% Buffer B; 50-60 min, 100-0% Buffer B; 60-75 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G4 (preparative - TEAA buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-11 min, 0-30% Buffer B; 11-35 min, 30-70% Buffer B; 35-45 min, 70-100% Buffer B; 45-55 min, 100% Buffer B; 55-65 min, 100-0% Buffer B. 65-80 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G5 (preparative – TEAB buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-35 min, 0-50% Buffer B; 35-45 min, 50-100% Buffer B; 45-55 min, 100% Buffer B; 55-65 min, 100-0% Buffer B; 65-75 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G6 (analytical - TEAA buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-11 min, 0-7% Buffer B; 11-45 min, 7-35% Buffer B; 45-50 min, 35-100% Buffer B; 50-55 min, 100% Buffer B; 55-65 min, 100-0% Buffer B; 65-80 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G7 (preparative – TEAA buffers): 0-10 min, 0% Buffer B; 10-11 min, 0-30% Buffer B; 11-36 min, 30-80% Buffer B; 36-45 min, 80-100% Buffer B; 45-50 min, 100% Buffer B; 50-60 min, 100-0% Buffer B. 60-70 min, 0% Buffer B.

Gradient G8 (analytical – TEAA buffers): 0-5 min, 0% Buffer B; 5-35 min, 0-17% Buffer B; 35-40 min, 17-27% Buffer B; 40-48min, 27-100% Buffer B; 48-50 min, 100% Buffer B; 50-60 min, 100-0% Buffer B; 60-70 min, 0% Buffer B.

Section B. Experimental Procedure and Material Characterisation

5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate (2).



Under a gentle stream of argon, a microwaveable test tube (10 mL) was sequentially charged, in quick succession, with 5'-O-tosylthymidine (396 mg, 1.0 mmol), potassium selenocyanate (216 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 eq), anhydrous MeCN (3 mL) and a stir bar. The tube was sealed, and the suspension was stirred to achieve homogeneity and then subject to microwave irradiation (sealed vessel, 100 °C, 20 W, 1.5 h). The reaction mixture was extracted from the vessel in methanol (10

mL) and stored at -20 °C under inert conditions. This was repeated a total of twenty times (over 4 days), the extractates were then combined and stirred at ambient temperature during addition of benzyl bromide (1.40 mL, 11.8 mmol, 0.59 eq). After 60 min complete consumption of excess potassium selenocyanate was observed by tlc and the quenched reaction mixture was reduced in vacuo. After the volume had been reduced by half, silica gel (40 g) was added and residual solvent removed. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography eluting with a gradient of 5–15% (v/v) methanol in DCM. Fractions containing pure **2** were combined and reduced in vacuo to yield a cream, electrostatically-charged amorphous solid (4.94 g, 75%). Characterisation consistent with the literature.⁵

DMTrdA^{PAc}pSedT (4a).



To a stirred solution of 5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-*N*⁶-phenoxyacetyl-2'-deoxyadenosine-3'-[methyl-(*N*,*N*-diisopropyl)]-phosphoramidite (3.00 g, 3.53 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (30 mL) at ambient temperature, under argon, was added 5-(ethylthio)-1*H*-tetrazole (1.84 g, 14.12 mmol, 4.0 eq) in one portion. After 30 min, H₂O (1 mL) was added and stirring continued for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (300 mL) and washed with satd. aqueous sodium carbonate (3 x 200 mL) and brine (90 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and solvents removed in vacuo to yield a white foamy solid of 5'-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-*N*⁶-phenoxyacetyl-2'-deoxyadenosine-3'-*O*-(methyl)-*H*-phosphonate (**3a**, 2.70 g, 100%). This was stored under argon at -20 °C. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) $\delta_{\rm p}$ = 9.72 and 9.67. Within 24 h, to a stirred solution of

H-phosphonate **3a** (2.70 g, 3.53 mmol, 1.5 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (25 mL) under argon was added a solution of 5'deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate (**2**, 0.775 g, 2.35 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (1.36 mL, 11.75 mmol, 5.0 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (25 mL) (this required gentle heat and sonication to effect dissolution) at ambient temperature and in the absence of light. These conditions were maintained for 45 min. The reaction mixture was concentrated to a viscous oil under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in the minimum volume of 1% (v/v) MeOH in DCM (10 mL) containing 0.1% (v/v) pyridine and purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluting with 1-5% (v/v) MeOH in DCM with 0.1% (v/v) pyridine. Fractions containing pure product (as a mixture of diastereoisomers) were combined, concentrated to a viscous oil in vacuo and diluted in a minimum volume of DCM (ca. 10 mL) and 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane added until the first appearance of turbidity. Following addition of DCM (ca. 0.2 mL), pure product was precipitated from vigorously-stirred 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*hexane (300 mL) at 0 °C and the fine powder isolated following filtration through an S4 sintered funnel and washed with ice cold 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane (2 x 100 mL) to give **4a** as a cream amorphous solid (2.39 g, 95%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ_H = 11.34, 11.34 (1H, 2 x s, T-N³<u>H</u>), 10.96 (1H, s, A-N⁶<u>H</u>), 8.62, 8.61 (1H, 2 x s, A-H2), 8.53, 8.52 (1H, 2 x s, A-H8), 7.47 (1H, m, T-H6), 7.30-7.35 (4H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.17-7.25 (7H, m, 5 x DMTr-<u>H</u>, 2 x PAc-<u>H</u>), 6.96-6.99 (3H, m, PAc-<u>H</u>), 6.79-6.83 (4H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.49-6.52 (1H, m, A-H1'), 6.18-6.21 (1H, m, T-H1'), 5.49, 5.49 (1H, 2 x d, ³J_{HH} = 6, 6 Hz, 3'-O<u>H</u>), 5.34-5.37 (1H, m, A-H3'), 5.04, 5.04 (2H, 2 x s, Pac C<u>H</u>₂), 4.33-4.39 (1H, m A-H4'), 4.17-4.20 (1H, m, T-H4'), 3.92-3.95 (1H, m, T-H3'), 3.71-3.74 (9H, m, 2 x Ar-OC<u>H</u>₃, POC<u>H</u>₃), 3.18-3.33 (4H, m, A-H5',H5'', T-H5',H5''), 3.09-3.16(1H, m, A-H2') 2.70-2.76 (1H, m, A-H2''), 2.24-2.28 (1H, m, T-H2') and 2.07-2.11 (1H, m, T-H2''), 1.76, 1.76 (3H, 2 x s, T-C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (for reference see Figure S13).

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, DCM, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 22.19 (¹J_{PSe} = 485 Hz), and 22.02 (¹J_{PSe} = 489 Hz).

⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert) δ_{Se} = 95.77 (d, ¹ J_{SeP} = 488 Hz) and 95.02 (d, ¹ J_{SeP} = 489 Hz).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₅₀H₅₁N₇O₁₃P⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 1068.2455, found: 1068.2449.

DMTrdC^{Ac}pSedT (4b).



To a stirred solution of 5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-N⁴-acetyl-2'-deoxycytidine-3'-O-[methyl-(*N*,*N*-diisopropyl)]-phosphoramidite (3.00 g, 4.10 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (30 mL) at ambient temperature, under argon, was added 5-(ethylthio)-1*H*-tetrazole (2.13 g, 16.40 mmol, 4.0 eq) in one portion. After 30 min, H₂O (1 mL) was added and stirring continued for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (300 mL) and washed with satd. aqueous sodium carbonate (3 x 200 mL) and brine (90 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and solvents removed in vacuo to yield a yellow foamy solid of 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-*N*⁴-acetyl-2'-deoxycytidine-3'-O-(methyl)-*H*phosphonate (**3b**, 2.66 g, 100%). This was stored under argon at -20 °C. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 9.74 and 9.62. Within 24 h, to a solution of *H*-phosphonate

3b (2.33 g, 3.59 mmol, 1.5 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (25 mL) under argon was added a solution of 5'-deoxythymidine-5'selenocyanate (**2**, 0.792 g, 2.39 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (1.38 mL, 12.0 mmol, 5.0 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (25 mL) (requires gentle heat and sonication to effect dissolution) at ambient temperature and in the absence of light. These conditions were maintained for 60 min. The reaction mixture was concentrated to a viscous oil under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in the minimum volume of 1% (v/v) MeOH in DCM (10 mL) containing 0.1% (v/v) pyridine and purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluting with 1-7% (v/v) MeOH in DCM with 0.1% (v/v) pyridine. Fractions containing pure product (as a mixture of diastereoisomers) were combined, concentrated to a viscous oil in vacuo and diluted in a minimum volume of DCM (ca. 10 mL) and 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane added until the first appearance of turbidity. Following addition of DCM (ca. 0.2 mL), pure product was precipitated from vigorously-stirred 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane (300 mL) at 0 °C and the fine powder isolated following filtration through an S4 sintered funnel and washed with ice cold 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane (2 x 100 mL) to give **4b** as a cream amorphous solid (2.20 g, 96%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ_{H} = 11.31, 11.31 (1H, 2 x s, T-N³<u>H</u>), 10.92, 10.91 (1H, 2 x s, C-N⁴<u>H</u>) 8.09 (1H, d, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.6 Hz, C-H6), 7.46, 7.46 (1H, m, T-H6), 7.36-7.38 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.30-7.32 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.21-7.26 (5H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.09, 7.09 (1H, 2 x d, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, C-H5), 6.88-6.90 (4H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.11-6.19 (2H, m, T-H1', C-H1'), 5.46, 5.46 (1H, 2 x d, ³*J*_{HH} = 4.5, 4.5 Hz, 3'-O<u>H</u>), 5.04-5.07 (1H, m, C-H3'), 4.27-4.31 (1H, m, C-H4'), 4.15-4.18 (1H, m, T-H4'), 3.89-3.92 (1H, m, T-H3'), 3.74 (6H, m, 2 x Ar-OC<u>H₃</u>), 3.67-3.70 (3H, m, POC<u>H₃</u>), 3.05-3.19 (2H m, T-H5', H5''), 2.68-2.72 (1H, m, C-H5'), 2.52-2.53 (2H, C-H2', H2''), 2.37-2.42 (1H, m, C-H5''), 2.23-2.28 (1H, m, T-H2') and 2.07-2.10 (4H, m, C(O)C<u>H₃</u>, T-H2''), 1.77, 1.77 (3H, 2 x s, T-C<u>H₃</u>). ¹³C NMR (for reference see **Figure S18**).

³¹P NMR (243 MHz, DCM, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 22.14 (¹J_{PSe} = 487 Hz) and 22.06 (¹J_{PSe} = 488 Hz).

⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆ with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert) δ_{se} = 96.45 (d, ¹*J*_{SeP} = 488 Hz) and 94.34 (d, ¹*J*_{SeP} = 484 Hz).

HRMS m/z: C₄₃H₄₇N₅O₁₃P⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 952.2073, found: 952.2078.

MMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (4c).



To a stirred solution of 5'-(4-methoxytrityl)- N^2 -isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine-3'-O-[methyl-(N,N-diisopropyl)]-phosphoramidite (2.00 g, 2.59 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20 mL) at ambient temperature, under argon, was added 5-(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (1.35 g, 10.36 mmol, 4.0 eq) in one portion. After 30 min, H₂O (0.7 mL) was added and stirring maintained for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL) and washed with satd. aqueous sodium carbonate (3 x 100 mL) and brine (50 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and solvents removed in vacuo to yield a white amorphous solid of 5'-O-(4-methoxytrityl)- N^2 -isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine-3'-O-(methyl)-H-

phosphonate (**3c**, 1.75 g, 98%). This was stored under argon at -20 °C. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 10.44 and 10.31. Within 24 h, to a solution of *H*-phosphonate **3c** (1.34 g, 1.95 mmol, 1.5 eq) in 1:1 (v/v) anhydrous MeCN / anhydrous DCM (40 mL) under argon was added a solution of 5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate (**2**, 0.430 g, 1.30 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (752 µL, 6.50 mmol, 5.0 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (15 mL) (requires gentle heat and sonication to effect dissolution) at ambient temperature and in the absence of light. These conditions were maintained for 45 min by which time the solution had went clear. The reaction mixture was concentrated to a viscous oil under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in the minimum volume of 1% (v/v) MeOH in DCM (10 mL) containing 0.1% (v/v) pyridine and purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluting with 1-6 % (v/v) MeOH in DCM with 0.1% (v/v) pyridine. Fractions containing pure product (as a mixture of diastereoisomers) were combined, concentrated to a viscous oil in vacuo and diluted in a minimum volume of DCM (ca. 0.2 mL), pure product was precipitated from vigorously-stirred 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane (300 mL) at 0 °C and the fine powder isolated following filtration through an S4 sintered furnel and washed with ice cold 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/n-hexane (2 x 100 mL) to give **4c** as a cream amorphous solid (1.07 g, 83%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ_{H} = 12.06 (1H, s, G-N¹<u>H</u>), 11.61, 11.56 (1H, 2 x s, G-N²<u>H</u>), 11.32 (1H, s, T-N³<u>H</u>), 8.11 (1H, s, G-H8), 7.46 (1H, m, T-H6), 7.34-7.37 (4H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.19-7.29 (8H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.82-6.85 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.26-6.28 (1H, m, G-H1'), 6.16-6.18 (1H, m, T-H1'), 5.47 (1H, br s, 3'-O<u>H</u>), 5.16-5.17 (1H, m, G-H3'), 4.22-4.28 (1H, m, G-H4'), 4.16 (1H, m, T-H4'), 3.88-3.92 (1H, m, T-H3'), 3.69-3.73 (6H, m, Ar-OC<u>H3</u>, POC<u>H3</u>), 3.06-3.31 (4H, m, G-H5', H5'', T-H5', H5''), 3.00-3.05 (1H, m, G-H2'), 2.65-2.77 (2H, m, T-H2', G-H2''), 2.23-2.28 (1H, m, T-H2''), 2.07-2.11 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>(CH₃)₂), 1.76, 1.76 (3H, 2 x s, T-C<u>H3</u>), 1.13 (6H, br d, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, CH(C<u>H3</u>)₂).

¹³C NMR (for reference see Figure S23).

³¹P NMR (243 MHz, DCM, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 22.47 (¹J_{PSe} = 491 Hz) and 22.08 (¹J_{PSe} = 490 Hz).

⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert) δ_{se} = 96.61 (d, ¹J_{SeP} = 494 Hz) and 94.59 (d, ¹J_{SeP} = 489 Hz).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₄₅H₄₉N₇O₁₂P⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 990.2342, found: 990.2343.

DMTrTpSedT (4d).



To a stirred solution of 5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine-3'-O-[methyl-(N,N-diisopropyl)]phosphoramidite (2.00 g, 2.83 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) at ambient temperature, under argon, was added 5-(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (1.47 g, 11.32 mmol, 4.0 eq). After 30 min, H₂O (0.7 mL) was added and stirring maintained for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (200 mL) and washed with satd. aqueous sodium carbonate (3 x 120 mL) and brine (50 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvents removed in vacuo to produce a white foamy solid of 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine-3'-O-(methyl)-H-phosphonate (**3d**, 1.73 g, 98%). This was stored under argon at -20 °C. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 10.07 and

10.04. Within 24 h, to a solution of H-phosphonate 3d (1.11 g, 1.79 mmol, 1.5 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (7 mL) under argon was added a solution of 5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate (2, 0.396 g, 1.19 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (688 µL, 5.95 mmol, 5.0 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (15 mL) (requires gentle heat and sonication to effect dissolution) at ambient temperature and in the absence of light. These conditions were maintained for 45 min. The reaction mixture was concentrated to a viscous oil under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in the minimum volume of 1% (v/v) MeOH in DCM (10 mL) containing 0.1% (v/v) pyridine and purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluting with 1-4 % (v/v) MeOH in DCM with 0.1% (v/v) pyridine. Fractions containing pure product (as a mixture of diastereoisomers) were combined, concentrated to a viscous oil in vacuo and diluted in a minimum volume of DCM (ca. 10 mL) and 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/n-hexane added until the first appearance of turbidity. Following addition of DCM (ca. 0.2 mL), pure product was precipitated from vigorously-stirred 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/n-hexane (300 mL) at 0 °C and the fine powder isolated following filtration through an S4 sintered funnel and washed with ice cold 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/n-hexane (2 x 100 mL) to give 4d as a cream amorphous solid (1.08 g, 97%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 11.38 (1H, s, T-N³<u>H</u>) 11.31 (1H, s, T-N³<u>H</u>'), 7.49 (1H, m, T-H6), 7.44-7.45 (1H, m, T-H6'), 7.37-7.39 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.30-7.32 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.21-7.26 (5H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.87-6.90 (4H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.15-6.22 (2H, m, H1'), 5.45 (1H, d, ³/_{HH} = 4.4 Hz, 3'-O<u>H</u>), 5.14-5.16 (1H, m, H3'), 4.14-4.20 (2H, m, H4', H4'') 3.87-3.90 (1H, m, H3''), 3.73 (6H, m, Ar-OC<u>H₃</u>), 3.66-3.70 (3H, m, POC<u>H₃</u>), 3.28-3.30 (1H, m, H5'), 3.23-3.26 (1H, m, H5''), 3.04-3.20 (2H, m, H5'', H5''), 2.52 (2H, m, H2', H2"), 2.21-2.27 (1H, m, H2'), 2.05-2.10 (1H, m, H2"), 1.76, 1.75 (3H, 2 x s, OCH₃'), 1.48, 1.48 (3H, 2 x s, OCH₃). ¹³C NMR (for reference see Figure S28).

³¹P NMR (243 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 22.29 (¹J_{PSe} = 486 Hz) and 22.27 (¹J_{PSe} = 487 Hz).

⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert) δ_{se} = 94.68 (d, ¹ J_{SeP} = 483 Hz) and 92.32 (d, ¹ J_{SeP} = 483 Hz).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₄₂H₄₆N₄O₁₃P⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 925.1964, found: 925.1956.

DMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (4e).



To a stirred solution of 5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)- N^2 -isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine-3'-O-[methyl-(N,N-diisopropyl)]-phosphoramidite (2.00 g, 2.49 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (20 mL) at ambient temperature, under argon, was added 5-(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (1.30 g, 9.98 mmol, 4.0 eq) in one portion. After 30 min, H₂O (0.7 mL) was added and stirring continued for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (200 mL) and washed with satd. aqueous sodium carbonate (3 x 150 mL) and brine (60 mL). The first two sodium carbonate washes were combined and back extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 200 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvents removed in

vacuo to yield a cream foamy solid of 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine-3'-O-(methyl)-Hphosphonate (**3e**, 1.75 g, 98%). This was stored under argon at -20 °C. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 9.98 and 9.80. Within 24 h, to a solution of H-phosphonate **3e** (1.39 g, 1.95 mmol, 1.5 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (15 mL) and anhydrous DCM (20 mL) under argon was added a solution of 5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate (**2**, 0.430 g, 1.30 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (752 µL, 6.50 mmol, 5.0 eq) in anhydrous MeCN (15 mL) at ambient temperature and in the absence of light. These conditions were maintained for 45 min. The reaction mixture was concentrated to a viscous oil under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in the minimum volume of 1% (v/v) MeOH in DCM (10 mL) containing 0.1% (v/v) pyridine and purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluting with 1-6 % (v/v) MeOH in DCM with 0.1% (v/v) pyridine. Fractions containing pure product (as a mixture of diastereoisomers) were combined, concentrated to a viscous oil in vacuo and diluted in a minimum volume of DCM (ca. 10 mL) and 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane added until the first appearance of turbidity. Following addition of DCM (ca. 0.2 mL), pure product was precipitated from vigorously-stirred 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*hexane (300 mL) at 0 °C and the fine powder isolated following filtration through an S4 sintered fung 1 and washed with ice cold 50% (v/v) diethyl ether/*n*-hexane (2 x 100 mL) to give **4e** as a cream amorphous solid (0.935 g, 71%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ_{H} = 12.07 (1H, s, G-N¹<u>H</u>), 11.59, 11.65 (1H, 2 x s, G-N²<u>H</u>), 11.35 (1H, s, T-N³<u>H</u>), 8.13 (1H, s, G-H8) 7.47 (1H, m, T-H6), 7.33-7.35 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.25-7.27 (2H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 7.19-7.22 (5H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.80-6.85 (4H, m, DMTr-<u>H</u>), 6.26-6.28 (1H, m, G-H1'), 6.17-6.19 (1H, m, T-H1'), 5.48-5.49 (1H, d, ³*J*_{HH} = 4.4 Hz, 3'-O<u>H</u>), 5.15-5.18 (1H, m, G-H3'), 4.21-4.29 (1H, m, G-H4'), 4.15-4.18 (1H, m, T-H4'), 3.89-3.92 (1H, m, T-H3'), 3.70-3.73 (9H, m, 2 x Ar-OC<u>H</u>₃, POC<u>H</u>₃), 3.07-3.32 (4H, m, G-H5', H5'', T-H5', H5''), 3.00-3.05 (1H, m, G-H2'), 2.65-2.78 (2H, m, T-H2', G-H2''), 2.23-2.28 (1H, m, T-H2''), 2.07-2.11 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>(CH₃)₂), 1.77, 1.76 (3H, 2 x s, T-C<u>H</u>₃), 1.14 (6H, br d, ³*J*_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, CH(C<u>H</u>₃)₂).

¹³C NMR (for reference see Figure S33).

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, DCM, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 21.87 (¹J_{PSe} = 495 Hz) and 21.51 (¹J_{PSe} = 493 Hz).

⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert) δ_{Se} = 97.50 (d, ¹ J_{SeP} = 493 Hz) and 95.41 (d, ¹ J_{SeP} = 496 Hz).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₄₆H₅₁N₇O₁₃P⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 1020.2448, found: 1020.2449.

DMTrdA^{PAc}pSedT-Phosphoramidite (5a).



DMTrdA^{PAc}*p*SedT (**4a**, 535 mg, 0.5 mmol) was co-evaporated with anhydrous, deacidified DCM (3 x 5 mL). The solids were dissolved in anhydrous DCM (5 mL) and anhydrous *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (260 μ L, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 eq). The solution was stirred at room temperature under argon during dropwise addition of 2-cyanoethyl-*N*,*N*-diisopropylchlorophosphoramidite (223 μ L, 1 mmol, 2.0 eq) over 3 min. These conditions were maintained for a further 45 min and the reaction quenched following addition of anhydrous MeOH (30 μ L, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 eq) and stirring for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (20 mL), washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. The organics were filtered and reduced under vacuum to give a white foamy solid. This was dissolved in the minimum anhydrous DCM containing 0.5% (v/v) Et₃N and purified via silica gel column chromatography using isocratic elution with anhydrous / degassed 1:1 (v/v) acetone:DCM containing 0.5% Et₃N (v/v). Fractions containing pure product were

combined and reduced in vacuo to afford a yellow viscous oil. Pure **5a** was isolated following precipitation from 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / n-hexane (100 mL), filtration of the finely-divided solids through an S4 sintered funnel and washing with icecold 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / n-hexane (2 x 50 mL) under a gentle stream of argon. The product was obtained as an electrostatic amorphous white solid after drying in vacuo (470 mg, 74%).

³¹P NMR (243 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 149.20, 149.13, 149.07, 149.02 and 22.04 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 485 Hz), 21.93 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 487 Hz) 21.88 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 485 Hz), 21.74 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 485 Hz).

¹H NMR (for reference see Figure S38).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₅₉H₆₈N₉O₁₄P₂⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 1268.3526, found: 1268.3528.

DMTrdC^{Ac}pSedT-Phosphoramidite (5b).



DMTrdC^{Ac}*p*SedT (**4b**, 476 mg, 0.5 mmol) was co-evaporated with anhydrous, deacidified DCM (3 x 5 mL). The solids were dissolved in anhydrous DCM (5 mL) and anhydrous *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (260 μ L, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 eq). The solution was stirred at room temperature under argon during dropwise addition of 2-cyanoethyl-*N*,*N*-diisopropylchlorophosphoramidite (223 μ L, 1 mmol, 2.0 eq) over 3 min. These conditions were maintained for a further 45 min and the reaction quenched following addition of anhydrous MeOH (30 μ L, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 eq) and stirring for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (20 mL), washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. The organics were filtered and reduced under vacuum to give an off-white foamy solid. This was dissolved in the minimum anhydrous DCM containing 0.5% (v/v) Et₃N and purified via silica gel column chromatography using isocratic elution with anhydrous / degassed 1:1 (v/v) acetone:DCM containing 0.5% Et₃N (v/v). Fractions containing pure

product were combined and reduced in vacuo to afford a yellow viscous oil. Pure **5b** was isolated following precipitation from 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / *n*-hexane (100 mL), filtration of the finely-divided solids through an S4 sintered funnel and washing with ice-cold 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / *n*-hexane (2 x 50 mL) under a gentle stream of argon. The product was obtained as an electrostatic amorphous white solid after drying in vacuo (458 mg, 79%).

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 149.27, 149.19 (2P), 149.14 and 21.95 (¹J_{PSe} = 486 Hz), 21.93 (¹J_{PSe} = 484 Hz), 21.79 (¹J_{PSe} = 484 Hz), 21.74 (¹J_{PSe} = 485 Hz).

¹H NMR (for reference see Figure S41).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₅₂H₆₄N₇O₁₄P₂⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 1152.3152, found: 1152.3158.

MMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT-Phosphoramidite (5c).



MMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (**4d**, 495 mg, 0.5 mmol) was co-evaporated with anhydrous, deacidified DCM (3 x 5 mL). The solids were dissolved in anhydrous DCM (5 mL) and anhydrous *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (260 μ L, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 eq) The solution was stirred at room temperature under argon during dropwise addition of 2-cyanoethyl-*N*,*N*-diisopropylchlorophosphoramidite (223 μ L, 1 mmol, 2.0 eq) over 3 min. These conditions were maintained for a further 45 min and the reaction quenched following addition of anhydrous MeOH (30 μ L, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 eq) and stirring for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (20 mL), washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. The organics were filtered and reduced under vacuum to give an off-white foamy solid. This was dissolved in in the minimum anhydrous DCM containing 0.5% (v/v) Et₃N and

purified via silica gel column chromatography using isocratic elution with anhydrous / degassed 1:1 (v/v) acetone:DCM containing 0.5% Et₃N (v/v). Fractions containing pure product were combined and reduced in vacuo to afford a yellow viscous oil. Pure **5c** was isolated following precipitation from 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / *n*-hexane (100 mL), filtration of the finely-divided solids through an S4 sintered funnel and washing with ice-cold 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / *n*-hexane (2 x 50 mL) under a gentle stream of argon. The product was obtained as an electrostatic amorphous white solid after drying in vacuo (475 mg, 80%).

³¹P NMR (243 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 149.23, 149.14, 149.10, 148.96 and 22.26 (¹J_{PSe} = 489 Hz) 22.17 (¹J_{PSe} = 489 Hz), 21.67 (¹J_{PSe} = 488 Hz), 21.56 (¹J_{PSe} = 487 Hz).

¹H NMR (for reference see Figure S44).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₅₄H₆₆N₉O₁₃P₂⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 1190.3421, found: 1190.3422.

DMTrTpSedT-Phosphoramidite (5d).



DMTrT*p*SedT (**4e**, 555 mg, 0.6 mmol) was co-evaporated with anhydrous, deacidified DCM (3 x 5 mL). The solids were dissolved in anhydrous DCM (5 mL) and anhydrous *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (313 μ L, 1.8 mmol, 3.0 eq). The solution was stirred at room temperature under argon during dropwise addition of 2-cyanoethyl-*N*,*N*-diisopropylchlorophosphoramidite (266 μ L, 1.2 mmol, 2.0 eq) over 3 min. These conditions were maintained for a further 60 min and the reaction quenched following addition of anhydrous MeOH (36 μ L, 0.9 mmol, 1.5 eq) and stirring for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (20 mL), washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. The organics were filtered and reduced under vacuum to give an off-white foamy solid. This was dissolved in the minimum anhydrous DCM containing 0.5% (v/v) Et₃N and purified via silica gel column chromatography using isocratic elution with anhydrous /

degassed 1:1 (v/v) acetone:DCM containing 0.5% Et₃N (v/v). Fractions containing pure product were combined and reduced in vacuo to afford a yellow viscous oil. Pure **5d** was isolated following precipitation from 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / *n*-hexane (100 mL), filtration of the finely-divided solids through an S4 sintered funnel and washing with ice-cold 1:1 (v/v) diethyl ether / *n*-hexane (2 x 50 mL) under a gentle stream of argon. The product was obtained as an electrostatic amorphous white solid after drying in vacuo. (585 mg, 86%).

³¹P NMR (243 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 149.20, 149.13 (2P), 149.06, 22.19 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 486 Hz), 22.06 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 483 Hz), 21.96 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 486 Hz), 21.91 (¹*J*_{PSe} = 483 Hz).

¹H NMR (for reference see Figure S47).

HRMS *m*/*z*: C₅₁H₆₃N₆O₁₄P₂⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 1125.3043, found: 1125.3035.

5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate-3'-O-succinate (6).



To a stirred solution of 5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate (2) (100 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DMAP (30 mg, 0.24 mmol, 0.8 eq) in anhydrous pyridine (3 mL) under argon at ambient temperature was added succinic anhydride (30 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 eq) portion wise over 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred under these conditions overnight in the absence of light. Once complete, the reaction mixture was reduced in vacuo to afford a brown gum. Residual pyridine was removed via co-evaporation with toluene (3 x 5mL). The gum was redissolved in a mixture of $1:1 (v/v) CHCl_3 / MeCN (10 mL)$, diluted further with EtOAc (60 mL) and washed with ice cold 10% (w/v) citric acid (aq) (2 x 10 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and reduced in vacuo to an

orange foam. (87 mg, 67%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ_{H} = 12.25 (1H, s, C(O)O<u>H</u>), 11.37 (1H, s, N<u>H</u>), 7.57 (1H, s, H6), 6.14-6.19 (1H, m, H1'), 5.21-5.25 (1H, m, H3'), 4.14-4.21 (1H, m, H4'), 3.33-3.46 (2H, m, H5', H5''), 2.51-2.59 (5H, m, H2', (C<u>H</u>₂)₂), 2.25-2.29 (1H, m, H2''). 1.79 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>₃).

⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert) δ_{se} = 289.20 (diselenide), 187.12 (**6**). HRMS m/z: C₁₅H₁₆N₃O₇⁸⁰Se [M-H]⁻ calcd: 430.0154, found: 430.0193.

5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate-functionalised CPG (7).



To a stirred solution of 5'-deoxythymidine-5'-selenocyanate-3'-O-succinate (**6**) (77 mg, 0.18 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (2 mL) was added 4-nitrophenol (25 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1 eq) and *N*,*N*'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) (92 mg, 0.45 mmol, 2.5 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h under argon and in the absence of light during which precipitation of *N*,*N*'-dicyclohexyl urea was observed. The reaction mixture was filtered, the solids washed with anhydrous DCM (2 x 1 mL) and the combined organics added to a suspension of Amino SynBase 500/110 CPG (500 mg) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL), followed by addition of Et₃N (100 μ L, 0.7 mmol, 4 eq). The suspension was shaken on an orbital shaker at room temperature under argon for 5 h. The CPG was isolated following filtration, washed with DMF (3 x 2 mL), MeOH (3 x 2 mL) and Et₂O (3 x 2 mL).

ninhydrin positive material was then capped with a solution of acetic anhydride (100 µL) and DMAP (5 mg) in anhydrous pyridine (3 mL) for 30 min at room temperature under argon. Following this treatment, the CPG gave a negative ninhydrin reaction. The CPG loading was determined following a test reaction as follows. Selenocyanate-functionalised CPG **7** (30 mg) was washed with anhydrous MeCN (3 x 2 mL) and to this material was added a solution of 5'-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine-3'-*O*-(2-cyanoethyl)-*H*-phosphonate⁶ in anhydrous MeCN (0.1 M, 1 mL). This suspension was shaken at room temperature for 1 h, filtered and the support washed with DMF (3 x 2 mL), MeOH (3 x 2 mL) and Et₂O (3 x 2 mL). Trityl loading = 39 µmol g⁻¹. (Determined by HClO₄ assay of DMTr cation).

Oligodeoxynucleotide synthesis:

Modified oligodeoxynucleotides were synthesised trityl-on using the manual syringe method on 1 μ mol scale in duplicate (ODN 1, ODN 2, ODN 3, ODN 4, ODN 5) or on a 1.75 μ mol scale (ODN 7). Modified oligodeoxynucleotide ODN 6 was synthesised trityl-on under automated conditions using a MerMade 4 DNA synthesiser on 1 μ mol scale.

Prior to use, dimer phosphoramidites (**5a-d**) were co-evaporated with anhydrous diluent grade MeCN (3 x 5 mL), dissolved in the same solvent to give a final concentration of 0.1 M and the solution filtered under argon through a Whatman syringe filter (13 mm, 0.45 µm PTFE filter).

Native oligodeoxynucleotides were purchased (HPLC-purified) from ATDBio Ltd or prepared trityl-on using a MerMade 4 DNA synthesiser under standard automated solid-phase synthesis conditions (1 μ mol scale), purified using RP-HPLC and detritylated in 80% (v/v) acetic acid (aq).

d(TSeTTSeTT) (ODN 1)

ODN 1 was prepared from a standard T-succinylate-CPG (Synbase 500 Å / 110 S) (Link Technologies, 39 μ mol g⁻¹) using the following synthesis cycle:

- 1. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 2. Deblock (3 x 2 mL, 3% (w/v) TCA/DCM)
- 3. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 4. Couple (200 µL 0.1 M dimer phosphoramidite 5d + 300 µL 0.3 M BTT both in MeCN, 5 min)
- 5. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- Cap (500 μL Cap Mix A (9:1 (v/v) THF/acetic anhydride), 500 μL Cap Mix B (10% (m/v) methylimidazole in 8:1 (v/v) THF/pyridine), 45 s (only after first dimer coupling))
- 7. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 8. Oxidise (500 μ L 0.02 M I₂ in 0.4% (v/v) pyridine/THF), 45 s
- 9. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 10. Wash (1 x 1 mL, 10% (v/v) pyridine/MeCN)
- 11. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)

Following completion of the second synthetic cycle, the two CPG-bound pentamers were separately treated at room temperature with either 1:2:2 (v/v/v) thiophenol/triethylamine/dioxane (1 mL) over 30 min or 0.2 M sodium diethyldithiocarbamate in anhydrous MeCN (1 mL) over 30 min. The demethylated materials were then washed with acetonitrile (3 x 2 mL), dried and the CPG transferred to screw-capped vials with 1 mL AMA (1:1 (v/v) 35% (w/v) NH₃ (aq) : 40% (w/v) MeNH₂ (aq)). The reaction mixtures were stored at ambient temperature for 2 h, the CPG removed by filtration using a Corning Co-star centrifuge tube filter (2 mL volume, 0.45 μ m cellulose acetate filter) at 13,000 rpm, washed with water (2 x 1 mL) reduced in vacuo and analysed by RP-HPLC. The chromatographic profiles from the crude thiophenol and NaDEC-treated tritylated oligomers were essentially identical and were therefore combined and purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G1. Fractions containing pure material were pooled, reduced in vacuo to ca. 50 μ L and to this solution was added 80% (v/v) aqueous acetic acid (1 mL) and stored at ambient temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with absolute ethanol (1 volume) and reduced in vacuo by half. This procedure was repeated but subsequently evaporated to dryness and the residues suspended in TEAB buffer A (1 mL) and centrifuge (10 min, 13,000 rpm). The solution of detritylated oligomer **ODN 1** was subject to desalting by RP-HPLC using buffers derived from volatile salts (gradient G2) and subsequent

co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 μ L). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G3. t_R = 34.91 min. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, 40% (v/v) D₂O / H₂O) δ_p = 10.56 (¹J_{PSe} = 393 Hz), 10.48 (¹J_{PSe} = 390 Hz), -1.19 and -1.25. ESI mass spec is available in **Table 1.**

ODN 2, **ODN 3**, **ODN 4** And **ODN 5** were prepared from the appropriate support-bound 8-mers which were commercially sourced from LGC Biosearch and had been prepared from the appropriate nucleoside-glycolate-CPG using ultramild-synthesis reagents. The synthesis cycle above was adapted as follows:

- Step 4. Coupling of dimer phosphoramidites 5a (ODN 2), 5b (ODN 3) or 5c (ODN 4) were performed using a double addition: 200 μL 0.1 M phosphoramidite + 300 μL 0.3 M BTT (both in MeCN) 2 x 7.5 min; 5d (ODN 5) was coupled as described for ODN 1
- Steps 6, 7, 9 and 10 (capping and downstream washings) were omitted

Post-synthesis, NaDEC was used to effect demethylation and subsequent processing was performed as described for **ODN 1** except that the oligomer sequence **ODN 4** which contained a 5'-terminal 2'-deoxyguanine residue (MMT- and isobutyryl protected) was subject to extended deprotection times using AMA (3 h) and aqueous acetic acid (1.5 h).

d(ASeTCCCGGGAT) (ODN 2).

ODN 2 was prepared from synthesis columns containing 5'-DMTr-d[(C^{Ac})₃(G^{iPrPac})₃ A^{Pac} T]-3'-CPG. The DMTr-ON oligomer was purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G4. Post detritylation the oligomer was desalted by RP-HPLC using gradient G5 followed by co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 µL). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G6. t_R = 35.30 min. MALDI-TOF and ESI mass spec are available in **Table 1** and **2** respectively.

d(CSeTCCCGGGAG) (ODN 3).

ODN 3 was prepared from synthesis columns containing 5'-DMTr-d[$(C^{Ac})_3(G^{iPrPac})_3A^{Pac}G^{iPrPac}]$ -3'-CPG. The DMTr-ON oligomer was purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G4. Post detritylation the oligomer was desalted by RP-HPLC using gradient G5 followed by co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 µL). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G6. t_R = 34.11 min. MALDI-TOF and ESI mass spec are available in **Table 1** and **2** respectively.

d(GSeTCCCGGGAC) (ODN 4).

ODN 4 was prepared from synthesis columns containing 5'-DMTr-d[(C^{Ac})₃(G^{IPrPac})₃ $A^{Pac}C^{Ac}$]-3'-CPG. The DMTr-ON oligomer was purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G4. Post detritylation the oligomer was desalted by RP-HPLC using gradient G5 followed by co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 µL). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G6. t_R = 34.56 min. MALDI-TOF and ESI mass spec are available in **Table 1** and **2** respectively.

d(TSeTCCCGGGAA) (ODN 5).

ODN 5 was prepared from synthesis columns containing 5'-DMTr-d[$(C^{Ac})_3(G^{iPrP})_3(A^{Pac})_2$]-3'-CPG. The DMTr-ON oligomer was purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G4. Post detritylation the oligomer was desalted by RP-HPLC using gradient G5 followed by co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 µL). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G6. t_R = 36.34 min. MALDI-TOF and ESI mass spec are available in **Table 1** and **2** respectively.

d(CGCGAASeTTCGCG) (ODN 6).

ODN 6 was prepared from iBu-dG SynBase CPG 500/110 S employing native (cyanoethyl-protected) monomer phosphoramidites (step 4a), or dimer phosphoramidite **5a** (step 4b) using the following synthesis cycle:

- 1. Wash (3 x 275 μL, MeCN)
- 2. Deblock (3 x 220 µL, 3% (w/v) TCA/DCM, 3 x 60 s)
- 3. Wash (3 x 275 µL, MeCN)
- 4a. Couple (80 μL 0.1M phosphoramidite, 100 μL 0.3 M BTT, 2 x 60 s)
- 4b. Couple (80 μ L 0.1M dimer phosphoramidite **5a**, 100 μ L 0.3 M BTT, 2 x 7.5 min)
- 5. Wash (3 x 275 µL, MeCN)
- Cap (125 μL Cap Mix A (9:1 (v/v) THF/acetic anhydride), 125 μL Cap Mix B (10% (m/v) methylimidazole in 8:1 (v/v) THF/pyridine), 60 s)
- 7. Wash (3 x 275 μL, MeCN)
- 8. Oxidise (200 μL 0.02 M I_2 in 0.4% (v/v) pyridine/THF, 60 s)
- 9. Wash (3 x 275 μL, MeCN)
- 10. Wash (275 µL, 60 s 10% (v/v) pyridine/MeCN)

See trityl log for respective coupling efficiencies (**Figure S 1**). Post synthesis the sequence was treated with a 1 mL, 150 mM DTT solution (1:1 (v/v) EtOH/H₂O) for 1 h at ambient temperature in a screw cap vial. The CPG was filtered and washed with anhydrous MeCN (3 x 2 mL). This was followed by AMA deprotection (3 h). The DMTr-ON oligomer was purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G7. Detritylation was effected using 80% (v/v) aqueous acetic acid (1 mL) and storage at ambient temperature for 1 hr. Desalting was achieved by RP-HPLC using gradient G5 followed by co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 μ L). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G6. Initial attempts resolved two peaks. The analytical chromatogram was repeated at 52 °C to resolve one peak. t_R = 29.60 min. ESI mass spec is available in **Table 2**.



Figure S 1. Trityl log for the synthesis of ODN 6.

d(CCCSeT) (ODN 7).

To a stirred solution of 5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)- N^4 -acetyl-2'-deoxycytidine-3'-O-[cyanoethyl-(N,N-diisopropyl)]phosphoramidite (Ac-dC-(CE) phosphoramidite) (500 mg, 0.65 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (5 mL) at ambient temperature, under argon, was added 5-(ethylthio)-1H-tetrazole (337 mg, 2.6 mmol, 4.0 eq) in one portion. After 30 min, H₂O (122 µL) was added and stirring continued for a further 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with satd. aqueous sodium carbonate (3 x 150 mL) and brine (60 mL). The first two sodium carbonate washes were combined and back extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvents removed in vacuo to yield a cream foamy solid of 5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)- N^4 -acetyl-2'-deoxygcytidine-3'-O-(cyanoethyl)-Hphosphonate (**3f**, 454 mg, 94%). This was stored under argon at -20 °C and used within 24 h. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, MeCN, D₂O external lock) δ_p = 8.11 and 8.06.

ODN 7 was prepared from selenocyanate-functionalised CPG **7** (45 mg, 1.75 μ mol, 39 μ mol g⁻¹) using the manual syringe method. After washing the CPG with MeCN (3 x 2 mL), a solution of 5'-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-*N*⁴-acetyl-2'-deoxycytidine-3'-*O*-(2-cyanoethyl)-*H*-phosphonate **3f** (0.1 M, 1 mL) in anhydrous MeCN was passed through the DNA synthesis column for 1 h. Addition of native (cyanoethyl-protected) monomer phosphoramidites was performed by adopting the following synthesis cycle:

- 1. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 2. Deblock (3 x 2 mL, 3% (w/v) TCA/DCM)
- 3. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 4. Couple (200 μL 0.1 M Ac-dC-(CE) phosphoramidite + 300 μL, 0.3 M BTT, both in MeCN, 5 min)
- 5. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- Cap (500 μL Cap Mix A (9:1 (v/v) THF/acetic anhydride), 500 μL Cap Mix B (10% (m/v) methylimidazole in 8:1 (v/v) THF/pyridine), 45 s (only after first phosphoramidite coupling))
- 7. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 8. Oxidise (500 μ L 0.02 M I₂ in 0.4% (v/v) pyridine/THF), 45 s
- 9. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)
- 10. Wash (1 x 1 mL, 10% (v/v) pyridine/MeCN)
- 11. Wash (3 x 2 mL, MeCN)

Post synthesis processing was carried out as described for **ODN 1**, but, omitting the demethylation step. The DMTr-ON oligomer was purified by RP-HPLC using gradient G1. Post detritylation the oligomer was desalted by RP-HPLC using gradient G2 followed by co-evaporation with H₂O (6 x 500 µL). Analytical RP-HPLC performed using gradient G3. t_R = 31.30 min. ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, 40% (v/v) D₂O / H₂O) δ_p = 11.20 (¹J_{PSe} = 396 Hz), -0.96 and -0.99. ESI mass spec is available in **Table 2**

Oligodeoxynucleotide Characterisation:

Table 1. MALDI-TOF

Oligodeoxynucleotide	Calculated (⁸⁰ Se)	Found
ODN 2	3091.480	3091.778
ODN 3	3092.475	3092.794
ODN 4	3092.475	3092.756
ODN 5	3091.480	3091.808

Table 2. ESI

Oligodeoxynucleotide	Calculated (⁸⁰ Se)	Found
ODN 1	1585.112	1585.070
ODN 2	3090.472	3090.370
ODN 3	3091.468	3091.365
ODN 4	3091.468	3091.351
ODN 5	3090.472	3090.360
ODN 6	3709.573	3708.450
ODN 7	1172.143	1172.144

Enzyme Digest

Solutions containing 2 OD^{260nm} units of either **ODN 5** (d(TSeTCCCGGGAA)) or its native congener (d(TTCCCGGGAA)) in 100 mM Tris HCl buffer (pH 8), and 100 mM NaCl were heated at 95 °C for 3 min and snap cooled on ice. To these solutions were then added 4.2 μ L MgCl₂ (1 M stock soln, final concentration = 14 mM) followed by 10 μ L of a freshly prepared solution of snake venom (Sigma - V7000, 1 mg/mL aqueous stock soln, final concentration = 33 μ g/mL) (total end volume of digest = 300 μ L). After vortex mixing, digestions were incubated at 37 °C for 8 h. From each digest, an aliquot (150 μ L) was removed and quenched following heating at 95 °C for 3 min. The reaction mixture was then analysed by RP-HPLC using gradient G8. (**Figures S2-4**).





S 2.







UV Thermal Denaturation Studies

ODN 2-6 along with their native analogues were diluted in sodium phosphate buffer (10 mM, pH 7) and NaCl (100 mM) to a final concentration of 10 μ M ssDNA and a final volume of 600 μ L. The sequences were annealed by heating to 90 °C for 3 min and allowed to slowly cool to room temperature. UV spectra were recorded on an Agilent technologies Cary 100/300 UV-vis spectrophotometer equipped with a 6 x 6 multicell block Peltier cuvette holder and a thermoelectric temperature controller. For the measurement the instrument was programmed to heat from 10-70 °C (**ODN 2-5**) or 10-90 °C (**ODN 6**) with a temperature change rate of 0.5 °C per minute in a 1 cm pathlength cuvette. UV absorbance was monitored at 260 nm and recorded at 0.5-min intervals. Melting temperatures (T_m) were determined by the maximum of the first derivative averaged over two runs (**ODN 2-5**). T_m for **ODN 6** was determined as the midpoint of the normalised absorbance and averaged (T_m) over two runs.

CD Spectroscopy Studies

ODN 2-6 along with their native analogues were diluted in sodium phosphate buffer (10 mM, pH 7) and NaCl (100 mM) to a final concentration of 10 μ M ssDNA and final volume of 600 μ L. The sequences were annealed by heating to 90 °C and slowly cooling to room temperature. CD spectra were recorded at 10 °C between 220 and 350 nm with 1 nm wavelength increments in a 1 cm pathlength cuvette on a Chirascan spectrophotometer at Diamond Light Source.











Crystallisation, X-ray data processing and refinement

The crystallisation solution contained 1 μ L of 2 mM oligonucleotide and 6 μ L of a solution containing 10% (v/v) 2-methyl-2,4pentanediol, 40 mM Na-cacodylate pH 6, 12 mM spermine *tetra*-HCl, 80 mM NaCl and 20 mM BaCl₂. This was equilibrated against 100 μ L of 35% (v/v) 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol. Crystals grew in approximately 1-2 weeks and were grown using the sitting-drop method at 291 K.

Data were collected on beamline I03 at Diamond Light Source. 3600 images were collected, using a 0.1° oscillation and 0.05 s exposure time. The data were collected just above the Se-edge, to facilitate anomalous phasing, using a wavelength of 0.9596 Å. The data was processed using xia2⁷ with DIALS⁸ and the structure solved using Phenix.autosol⁹, with the anomalous signal of Se. It was subsequently found that the crystal suffered radiation damage, so the dataset was cut to use the first 600 images. The model was built using Coot¹⁰ and refined with Phenix.refine, to give a final R_{factor} of 0.18 and R_{free} of 0.23. The structure was initially refined in spacegroup *P* 6₁22 but, following analysis with Phenix.xtriage, it became apparent that the crystal was a near-perfect twin with true symmetry in a lower space group. This was assigned as *P* 3₁21 following attempted model building and refinement in all possible lower symmetry spacegroups. The twin law applied during refinement was -h,-k,l and the crystal possessed merohedral twinning with a twin fraction of 0.47. Full data processing and refinement statistics can be found in **Table 3**.

The asymmetric unit of the structure contains two DNA strands (in an A-DNA double helix), two Na⁺, one Cl⁻, two Ba²⁺ bifurcated to guanine bases, 64 water molecules and one spermine molecule bound between the phosphate backbones (Figure S 10.)



Figure S 10. Two views of the asymmetric unit (A) along the side of the phosphate backbone and (B) into the major groove. The two strands are coloured with carbon atoms in either yellow or green, to aid clarity. The carbon atoms of the spermine molecule are coloured magenta. All other atoms are coloured according to type with Na⁺ black, Ba²⁺ silver, Cl⁻ yellow, nitrogen blue, hydrogen white, oxygen red and the phosphate backbone is drawn as an orange strand. Water molecules are drawn as red spheres.



Figure S 11: A least-squares superimposition of the phosphoroselenoate-modified dinucleotide step in the structure reported here (**6S7D**, **carbon atoms in yellow and green**) with the analogous step from a previously reported structure¹¹ with an RMSD of 0.37 Å (carbon atoms in magenta and cyan). Other atoms are coloured according to type with oxygen in red, phosphorus in orange, nitrogen in blue, carbon in white and selenium as a grey sphere.

Table 3: Crystallographic data processing and refinement statistics

Data processing	
Space group	P3 ₁ 21
Resolution, Å	25.57-1.45 (1.47-1.45)
R _{merge}	0.050 (0.556)
R _{meas}	0.060 (0.674)
R _{pim}	0.032 (0.375)
Total number of observations	37183 (1630)
Total number of unique observations	12548 (625)
Ι/σΙ	12.5 (1.3)
CC _{1/2}	0.998 (0.741)
Completeness, %	98.4 (98.7)
Multiplicity	3.0 (2.9)
Refinement	
No. Reflections	12530
R _{work} /R _{free}	0.18/0.23
No. Atoms	
DNA	630
Ligands	45
Water	64
Average B-factors	
DNA	25.84
Ligands	39.96
Water	29.77
RMSD	
Bond Lengths, Å	0.009
Bond Angles, °	0.936
PDB ID	6S7D

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S 15. DMTrdA^{PAc}pSedT (4a). ⁷⁷Se{¹H} NMR

(114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D_2O Insert)

With expansion to show Se-P couplings



S 16. DMTrdA^{PAc}pSedT (4a). ES Mass spec









S 20. DMTrdC^{Ac}pSedT (4b). ⁷⁷Se{¹H} NMR

(114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert)

With expansion to show Se-P couplings



S 21. DMTrdC^{Ac}pSedT (4b). ES Mass spec









S 25. MMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (4c). ⁷⁷Se{¹H} NMR

(114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D₂O Insert)

With expansion to show Se-P couplings



S 26. MMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (4c). ES Mass spec


















S 35. DMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (4e). ⁷⁷Se{¹H} NMR

(114 MHz, DMSO- d_6 with external 0.25M KSeCN / D_2O Insert)

With expansion to show Se-P couplings



200 150 100 50 0 -50 -350 -400 -500 -150 -200 -250 -300 -100 -450 Chemical Shift (ppm)

S 36. DMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT (4e). ES Mass spec





-10 Chemical Shift (ppm)



S 39. DMTrdA^{PAc}pSedT-Phosphoramidite (5a). ES Mass spec







S 42. DMTrdC^{Ac}pSedT-Phosphoramidite (5b). ES Mass spec





170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Chemical Shift (ppm)



S 45. MMTrdG^{iBu}pSedT-Phosphoramidite (5c). ES Mass spec





















S 53. d(TSeTTSeTT) (ODN 1) RP-HPLC



S 54. d(TSeTTSeT) (ODN 1) ES Mass spec





S 55. d(ASeTCCCGGGAT) (ODN 2) RP-HPLC



S 56. d(ASeTCCCGGGAT) (ODN 2) ES Mass spec







S 57. d(CSeTCCCGGGAG) (ODN 3) RP-HPLC



S 58. d(CSeTCCCGGGAG) (ODN 3) ES Mass spec







S 59. d(GSeTCCCGGGAC) (ODN 4) RP-HPLC



S 60. d(GSeTCCCGGGAC) (ODN 4) ES Mass spec







S 61. d(TSeTCCCGGGAA) (ODN 5) RP-HPLC



S 62. d(TSeTCCCGGGAA) (ODN 5) ES Mass spec







S 63. d(CGCGAASeTTCGCG) (ODN 6) 52 °C RP-HPLC



S 64. d(CGCGAASeTTCGCG) (ODN 6) ES Mass spec









S 66. d(CCCSeT) (ODN 7) RP-HPLC



S 67. d(CCCSeT) (ODN 7) ES Mass spec





596 5597

595 5603

597.0609 11744

603.0458 605.5541 402 1883

607.5519 609.0565

ASEP_26JUN18_014 (0.131) Is (1.00,1.00) C37H50N11O22P3Se 585.5679 3248542711808

585.5683

584.5695

584.0701 15407

586.0692 1425957584896

586.0703

586,5698

586.5690 983017717760

588.8336:258

584 5685

584.0698 724848869376

%

100-

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576 578 580

576.8584 582.5762;1155

ASEP_26JUN18_014 11 (0.131)

1: TOF MS ES-3.25e12

DF ***

7.67e4

____ m/z

1: TOF MS ES-

615.5201 216 619.2592

613.5251
Structural analysis for ODN 4

3DNA v2.4.3-2019apr06, created and maintained by xiangjun@x3dna.org									
1. The list of the parameters given below correspond to the 5' to 3' direction of strand I and 3' to 5' direction of strand II.									
2. All angular parameters, except for the phase angle of sugar pseudo- rotation, are measured in degrees in the range of [-180, +180], and all displacements are measured in Angstrom units.									
File name: GSeT5_7symmAssign_refine_32_3DNA_9.pdb Date and time: Tue Jul 16 11:45:39 2019									
Number of base-pairs: 10 Number of atoms: 735 ************************************									

RMSD of the bases (for WC bp, + for isolated bp, x for helix change)									
Strand I Strand II Helix 1 $(0.021) \dots > A: \dots 1_{-1}: [.DG]G - \cdots - C[.DC]: \dots 10_{:}B < \dots (0.003)$ 2 $(0.023) \dots > A: \dots 2_{-1}: [.DT]T - \cdots - A[.DA]: \dots 9_{-1}:B < \dots (0.005)$ 3 $(0.003) \dots > A: \dots 3_{-1}: [.DC]C - \cdots - G[.DG]: \dots 8_{-1}:B < \dots (0.003)$ 4 $(0.002) \dots > A: \dots 4_{-1}: [.DC]C - \cdots - G[.DG]: \dots 7_{-1}:B < \dots (0.004)$ 5 $(0.003) \dots > A: \dots 5_{-1}: [.DC]C - \cdots - G[.DG]: \dots 6_{-1}:B < \dots (0.004)$ 6 $(0.004) \dots > A: \dots 6_{-1}: [.DG]G - \cdots - C[.DC]: \dots 5_{-1}:B < \dots (0.003)$ 7 $(0.004) \dots > A: \dots 7_{-1}: [.DG]G - \cdots - C[.DC]: \dots 4_{-1}:B < \dots (0.003)$ 8 $(0.004) \dots > A: \dots 8_{-1}: [.DG]G - \cdots - C[.DC]: \dots 3_{-1}:B < \dots (0.003)$ 9 $(0.005) \dots > A: \dots 9_{-1}: [.DA]A - \cdots - T[.DT]: \dots 2_{-1}:B < \dots (0.005)$ 10 $(0.003) \dots > A: \dots 10_{-1}: [.DC]C - \cdots - G[.DG]: \dots 1_{-1}:B < \dots (0.018)$									
Detailed H-bond information: atom-name pair and length [O N] 1 GC [3] O6 - N4 2.94 N1 - N3 2.99 N2 - O2 2.97 2 TA [2] N3 - N1 3.15 O4 - N6 3.44 3 CG [3] O2 - N2 2.59 N3 - N1 2.77 N4 - O6 2.91 4 CG [3] O2 - N2 2.71 N3 - N1 2.75 N4 - O6 2.72 5 CG [3] O2 - N2 2.64 N3 - N1 2.78 N4 - O6 2.86 6 GC [3] O6 - N4 2.95 N1 - N3 2.77 N2 - O2 2.67 7 GC [3] O6 - N4 2.74 N1 - N3 2.66 N2 - O2 2.52 8 GC [3] O6 - N4 2.85 N1 - N3 2.69 N2 - O2 2.60 9 AT [2] N6 - O4 3.21 N1 - N3 3.21 10 CG [3] O2 - N2 2.81 N3 - N1 3.18 N4 - O6 3.47 									
bases. Polygons projected in the mean plane of the designed base-pair step.									

Values in parentheses measure the overlap of base ring atoms only. Those outside parentheses include exocyclic atoms on the ring. Intra- and inter-strand overlap is designated according to the following diagram:

i2 3' 5'j2 /|\ | I | Strand | | || | | | | | \|/ i1 5' 3'j1 step i1-i2 i1-j2 j1-j2 sum

 step
 i1-i2
 i1-j2
 j1-i2
 j1-j2
 sum

 1 GT/AC
 7.20(2.51)
 0.00(0.00)
 0.00(0.00)
 4.23(2.60)
 11.42(5.11)

2 TC/GA 2.20(0.46) 0.00(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 4.79(1.94) 6.98(2.41) 3 CC/GG 0.00(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 0.82(0.00) 3.05(1.53) 3.86(1.53) 4 CC/GG 0.09(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 0.17(0.00) 4.31(3.16) 4.58(3.16) 5 CG/CG 0.02(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 4.52(1.66) 0.01(0.00) 4.55(1.66) 6 GG/CC 4.04(2.65) 0.00(0.00) 0.63(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 4.67(2.65) 7 GG/CC 3.93(2.49) 0.00(0.00) 0.85(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 4.78(2.49) 8 GA/TC 3.95(1.87) 0.00(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 0.51(0.00) 4.46(1.88) 9 AC/GT 5.96(4.39) 0.00(0.00) 0.00(0.00) 7.11(2.23) 13.07(6.62) Origin (Ox, Oy, Oz) and mean normal vector (Nx, Ny, Nz) of each base-pair in the coordinate system of the given structure bp Ох Oy Oz Nx Ny Nz 1 G-C 25.035 -9.032 16.616 -0.728 0.426 -0.537 2 T-A 22.950 -7.082 15.648 -0.669 0.438 -0.601 3 C-G 21.429 -5.222 13.742 -0.626 0.440 -0.644 4 C-G 20.556 -2.104 11.148 -0.591 0.317 -0.741 5 C-G 19.933 -0.383 8.217 -0.507 0.194 -0.840 6 G-C 19.332 -0.339 4.506 -0.570 -0.090 -0.817 18.401 -2.488 1.448 -0.615 -0.220 -0.758 7 G-C 16.822 -5.666 -0.483 -0.652 -0.401 -0.643 8 G-C 9 A-T 15.091 -7.759 -2.236 -0.720 -0.290 -0.631 10 C-G 12.006 -8.574 -2.704 -0.793 -0.246 -0.557 ************* Local base-pair parameters Shear Stretch Stagger Buckle Propeller Opening bp -0.46 -0.10 -0.25 -15.11 -11.07 -1.54 1 G-C 2 T-A -0.82 0.19 0.09 1.36 -12.16 4.08 0.42 -0.24 -0.26 13.22 -14.21 3.28 3 C-G 4 C-G -0.23 -0.24 -0.11 3.54 -9.42 -0.98 5 C-G 0.24 -0.28 -0.61 6.34 -10.01 3.20 6 G-C -0.37 -0.26 0.03 -7.68 -20.80 2.29 -0.15 -0.35 0.15 -11.70 -12.52 7 G-C 0.28 8 G-C -0.64 -0.39 -0.29 -15.53 -20.35 3.30 9 A-T 0.21 0.17 0.55 -10.13 -5.58 -2.93 10 C-G 1.03 -0.01 0.28 11.61 1.22 7.66 ave. -0.08 -0.15 -0.04 -2.41 -11.49 1.86 s.d. 0.56 0.21 0.33 10.92 6.47 3.16 ****** Local base-pair step parameters Shift Slide Rise Tilt Roll Twist step 1 GT/AC 0.07 -0.97 2.85 -2.61 4.36 27.62 2 TC/GA 0.35 -0.59 2.99 -0.05 3.45 40.88 3 CC/GG -0.11 -2.19 3.52 -3.75 8.40 24.42 4 CC/GG -0.32 -1.47 3.11 3.08 9.80 34.12 5 CG/CG -0.01 -1.52 3.44 -2.18 16.63 30.13 6 GG/CC 0.65 -1.88 3.30 1.35 8.49 32.94 7 GG/CC 0.74 -2.12 3.36 7.80 9.74 24.79 -6.04 8 GA/TC -0.33 -1.07 3.03 4.45 39.76 9 AC/GT 0.98 -1.19 2.83 2.72 5.87 31.44 ave. 0.23 -1.44 3.16 0.04 7.91 31.79 s.d. 0.48 0.54 0.25 4.21 4.06 5.88 ******* Local base-pair helical parameters step X-disp Y-disp h-Rise Incl. Tip h-Twist 1 GT/AC -2.88 -0.66 2.65 9.04 5.40 28.08 4.92 0.08 41.02 2 TC/GA -1.18 -0.51 2.93 3 CC/GG -7.09 -0.76 2.62 19.02 8.49 26.07 4 CC/GG -3.67 0.92 2.57 16.25 -5.10 35.59 5 CG/CG -5.02 -0.30 2.30 29.31 3.83 34.39 6 GG/CC -4.48 -0.91 2.77 14.66 -2.33 34.02

7 GG/C0	C -6.6	5 0.23	2.49	21.07	7 -16.8	8 27.71	
8 GA/TO	-2.00	0 -0.15	2.92	6.48	8.79	40.43	
9 AC/G1	г -3.05	5 -1.35	2.65	10.70) -4.95	32.08	
~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~~	~~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~~	~~~~~
ave.	-4.00	-0.39	2.65	14.60	-0.30	33.26	
s.d.	2.00	0.67	0.20 7	7.80	8.17 5	5.36	
******	******	******	*****	*****	*****	*******	******

The 'simple' parameters are intuitive for non-Watson-Crick base pairs and associated base-pair steps (where the above corresponding 3DNA parameters often appear cryptic). Note that they are for structural *description* only, not to be fed into the 'rebuild' program. See URL http://x3dna.org/highlights/details-on-the-simple-base-pair-parameters and related blogposts on the 3DNA home page for details.

This structure contains 0 non-Watson-Crick (with leading *) base pair(s)

Simple base-pair parameters based on RC8YC6 vectors										
bp	Shear	Stretch	Stagge	er Buckl	e Propel	ler Openin	g			
1 G-C	-0.46	-0.08	-0.25	-15.49	-10.54	-1.54				
2 T-A	-0.80	0.26	0.09	0.31	-12.23	4.06				
3 C-G	0.43	-0.23	-0.26	13.65	-13.79	3.27				
4 C-G	-0.23	-0.24	-0.11	3.27	-9.51	-0.98				
5 C-G	0.25	-0.28	-0.61	6.52	-9.90	3.19				
6 G-C	-0.38	-0.25	0.03	-8.30	-20.56	2.26				
7 G-C	-0.15	-0.35	0.15	-11.77	-12.46	0.28				
8 G-C	-0.66	-0.35	-0.29	-16.53	-19.54	3.28				
9 A-T	0.20	0.18	0.55	-9.98	-5.85	-2.94				
10 C-G	1.03	0.10	0.28	11.43	2.37	7.70				
~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~		4 0 0	~~~~~			
ave.	-0.08	-0.12	-0.04	-2.69	-11.20	1.86				
s.a.	0.56	0.23	0.33	11.15	6.53	3.10				
Simple ha	se-nair	sten nara	meters	based (on conse	cutive C1'-	C1' vectors			
sten	Shi	ft Slide	Rise	Tilt	Roll	Twist				
1 GT/A	C 0.0	1 -0.98	3 2.8	5 -2.3	5 4.51	30.12				
2 TC/G	A 0.3	4 -0.60	2.9	9 0.03	3 3.45	34.30				
3 CC/G	G -0.0)9 -2.2	0 3.5	2 -3.8	1 8.3	8 27.57				
4 CC/G	G -0.3	32 -1.4	7 3.1	1 3.0	7 9.80) 31.67				
5 CG/C	G -0.0)2 -1.5	2 3.4	4 -2.1	.0 16.6	64 33.14				
6 GG/C	C 0.6	51 -1.8	9 3.3	0 1.5	2 8.46	5 31.76				
7 GG/C	C 0.6	68 -2.1	4 3.3	6 8.0	9 9.50) 27.11				
8 GA/T	C -0.3	4 -1.0	6 3.0	3 -5.9	8 4.54	4 35.59				
9 AC/G	T 1.0	5 -1.13	3 2.83	3 2.3	5 6.03	26.98				
~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~~	~~~~~~			
ave.	0.21	-1.44	3.16	0.09	7.92	30.92				
s.d.	0.48	0.55	0.25	4.23	4.02	3.19				
******	*****	*****	*****	******	*****	*****	*********			
Structure	classific	ation:								
This is a ri	ght-han	ded nuc	leic acid	structu	re ******	*****	****			
						) _l				
lambda: v	irtual ar	ngle betv	veen CI	-YN1 O	r CI -RNS	e giycosiaid	bonds and the			
base-	pair C1	-C1 line								
C1'-C1'- d	istanco	hotwoon	C1' at a	ms for a	ach has	o-nair				
RNIQ_VNI1	distance	o hotwo		VN1 ato	ms for a	c pail ach hase-n	air			
RC8-VC6.	distance	hotwoo	$n RC8_V$	C6 ator	ns for ea	ch hase-p	ir			
	anstante			C0 0101	115 101 64	un base-pa				

bp	lambda(I)	lambda(II)	C1'-C1'	RN9-YN1	RC8-YC6
1 G-C	53.2	53.8	10.7	9.0	9.8
2 T-A	53.8	60.2	10.7	9.1	10.2
3 C-G	55.9	53.9	10.4	8.7	9.7
4 C-G	50.5	55.4	10.7	8.9	9.8

5 C-G	55.4	54.5	10.5	8.8		9.7
6 G-C	53.4	54.7	10.5	8.8		9.7
7 G-C	54.1	53.4	10.4	8.7	9.6	
8 G-C	52.5	56.5	10.3	8.6	9.6	
9 A-T	54.4	52.2	11.0	9.2	10.1	
10 C-G	62.0	52.9	10.5	8.9	10.0	
******	******	*****	******	*****	****	*****

Classification of each dinucleotide step in a right-handed nucleic acid

structure: A-like; B-like; TA-like, or other cases.

	step	Хр	Yp	Zp	ХрН	YpH	ZpH	Form	
	1 GT/AC	-1.50	9.16	1.61	-4.33	8.80	3.06	A	
	2 TC/GA	-1.87	8.69	1.90	-2.98	8.51	2.59	A	
	3 CC/GG	-1.90	8.72	2.39	-8.72	7.51	5.00	A	
	4 CC/GG	-1.55	8.36	2.37	-5.06	7.43	4.50	A	
	5 CG/CG	-1.73	8.37	2.33	-6.52	6.27	6.00	A	
	6 GG/CC	-1.86	8.55	2.41	-6.12	7.71	4.40	A	
	7 GG/CC	-2.03	8.77	2.11	-8.16	7.51	4.79	A	
	8 GA/TC	-1.66	8.46	2.37	-3.61	8.16	3.20	A	
	9 AC/GT	-1.53	9.01	2.36	-4.44	8.44	3.94	A	
1	*******	*****	*****	****	*****	*****	*****	******	**

Minor and major groove widths: direct P-P distances and refined P-P distances which take into account the directions of the sugar-phosphate backbones

(Subtract 5.8 Angstrom from the values to take account of the vdw radii of the phosphate groups, and for comparison with FreeHelix and Curves.)

Ref: M. A. El Hassan and C. R. Calladine (1998). "Two Distinct Modes of Protein-induced Bending in DNA." J. Mol. Biol., v282, pp331-343.

	Mino	r Groove	Major Groove			
	P-P	Refined	P-P	Refined		
1 GT/AC						
2 TC/GA						
3 CC/GG	16.9		17.9			
4 CC/GG	17.0	15.6	17.1	11.3		
5 CG/CG	17.2	15.9	16.4	10.4		
6 GG/CC	16.9	15.5	16.7	11.2		
7 GG/CC	16.7		17.4			
8 GA/TC						
9 AC/GT						

Global linear helical axis defined by equivalent C1' and RN9/YN1 atom pairs

Deviation from regular linear helix: 2.55(0.44) Helix: -0.7261 0.0437 -0.6862 HETATM 9998 XS X X 999 27.423 -5.520 14.526 HETATM 9999 XE X X 999 10.836 -4.522 -1.149 Average and standard deviation of helix radius: P: 9.51(0.62), O4': 9.10(0.59), C1': 8.52(0.56)

Global parameters based on C1'-C1' vectors:

disp.: displacement of the middle C1'-C1' point from the helix angle: inclination between C1'-C1' vector and helix (subtracted from 90) twist: helical twist angle between consecutive C1'-C1' vectors rise: helical rise by projection of the vector connecting consecutive

C1'-C1' middle points onto the helical axis

bp	disp.	angle	twist	rise
1 G-C	7.22	15.20	31.53	2.78
2 T-A	6.86	19.43	36.51	2.48
3 C-G	6.11	18.42	28.92	2.13
4 C-G	6.23	14.22	32.87	2.63

5 C-0	5 7.3	6 11.	09 34.7	2 2.	73						
6 G-0	C 7.4	8 8.9	94 32.6	52 2.4	48						
7 G-0	6.5	5 14.	74 28.7	76 2.	21						
8 G-0	6.1	.8 19.	43 37.9	95 2.	15						
9 A-T	7.0	7 19.	16 28.3	3.1	25						
10 C-	G 7.	37 17	.53								
****	*****	*****	******	*****	******	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	******
Main c	hain a	nd chi to	orsion an	gles:							
		0.01/: 4		-1							
Note: a	alpha:	03'(1-1	)-P-05'-C	5							
	beta:	P-05-0	.5 -C4								
8	gamma		.5 -U4 -U3	5							
(	ueita:	C5-C4	-03-03	1)							
	epsilon	. C4 -C3		-1) ='(;,1)							
4	zela.	C3 -03 ·	-F(I+1)-0.	) (I+T)							
chi	for nu	imidine	s(V)· ∩/'	C1'-N1							
ciii c	hi for r	nnines	B)· O4'-C	1'_NIQ_C	-C2 A						
Ľ		Junics	NJ. 04 C		-						
Strand	I										
base	alpha	beta	gamma	delta	epsilon	zeta	chi				
1 G			156.5	108.8	-116.7	-59.3	-163.8				
2 T	-68.7	140.9	66.4	71.3	-143.6	-65.6	-163.5				
3 C	-70.7	165.6	59.7	81.8	-139.9	-93.5	-152.5				
4 C	80.4	-143.5	-124.4	95.5	-127.7	-76.2	-173.5				
5 C	-65.6	169.5	48.0	81.3	-151.8	-71.4	-157.0				
6 G	-70.3	171.3	58.6	78.3	-130.1	-89.0	-167.8				
7 G	81.1	-150.9	-114.7	101.1	-138.6	-72.7	-167.2				
8 G	102.2	-160.2	-137.3	88.3	-147.4	-72.0	-167.3				
9 A	-58.6	177.6	45.3	88.5	-148.9	-59.8	-159.5				
10 C	-68.1	178.0	49.6	81.1			-144.0				
<b>c</b> . 1											
Strand	"				.,						
pase	aipna		gamma d	ieita ep	osilon ze	eta ch					
10	-63.9	1/1.4	55.9 8	5.8		14:	5.5				
2 A 2 C	-56.8	172.4	41.9 8	8.2 -15 0 7 ▲⊓	9.6 -68.	3 -146	.3				
36	-68.5	1/3.1	00.9 /	ŏ./ -15 ¤ ∩ ₁-	3.2 -80.	2 -16/	./				
/	-n / U	100 /1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		ID 8	-				

 4 G
 -67.9
 166.4
 61.5
 78.0
 -152.3
 -68.6
 -168.5

 5 G
 -70.1
 176.6
 49.1
 78.3
 -148.4
 -70.9
 -161.6

 6 C
 -69.5
 -178.7
 49.9
 80.3
 -147.5
 -69.8
 -157.3

 7 C
 -71.8
 173.8
 60.8
 79.2
 -157.9
 -71.2
 -163.4

 8 C
 -75.5
 178.4
 52.3
 81.6
 -159.6
 -69.1
 -147.4

 9 T
 -57.3
 131.9
 61.2
 78.3
 -149.1
 -64.1
 -167.6

 10 G
 --- --- 153.5
 110.7
 -119.5
 -84.0
 -162.5

Sugar conformational parameters:

Note: v0: C4'-O4'-C1'-C2' v1: O4'-C1'-C2'-C3' v2: C1'-C2'-C3'-C4' v3: C2'-C3'-C4'-O4' v4: C3'-C4'-O4'-C1'

tm: the amplitude of puckerP: the phase angle of pseudorotation

## Strand I

 base
 v0
 v1
 v2
 v3
 v4
 tm
 P
 Puckering

 1 G
 21.7
 -30.2
 26.4
 -14.8
 -4.1
 29.6
 33.1
 C2'-exo

 2 T
 0.6
 -25.6
 38.4
 -39.5
 24.9
 40.4
 17.9
 C3'-endo

 3 C
 -6.0
 -17.6
 33.0
 -37.2
 27.5
 37.2
 27.6
 C3'-endo

 4 C
 18.5
 -32.3
 33.0
 -23.0
 3.0
 34.0
 346.3
 C2'-exo

 5 C
 2.4
 -25.8
 38.1
 -37.5
 22.3
 39.4
 15.1
 C3'-endo

 6 G
 3.8
 -28.7
 41.2
 -39.8
 22.8
 42.3
 13.4
 C3'-endo

 7 G
 23.8
 -33.9
 30.7
 -17.6
 -3.7
 33.8
 35.1
 C2'-exo

 8 G
 12.5
 -31.3
 37.1
 -30.5
 11.5
 37.1
 359.1
 C2'-exo

 9 A
 8.1
 -27.0
 34.4
 -30.4
 14.2
 34.6
 5.2
 C3'-endo

 10 C
 -3.8
 -20.1
 34.9
 -37.9
 26.4
 38.2
 24.1
 C3'-endo

Strand II

base	v0	v1	v2	v3	v4	tm	Р	Puckering
1 C	-1.8	-19.2	31.6	-33.3	22.3	34.0	21.4	C3'-endo
2 A	12.5	-31.3	37.0	-30.6	11.6	37.0	359.2	C2'-exo
3 G	-6.8	-18.7	35.4	-40.2	29.7	40.1	28.0	C3'-endo
4 G	1.5	-27.1	40.8	-40.8	24.8	42.6	16.4	C3'-endo
5 G	1.7	-26.9	40.5	-40.4	24.5	42.2	16.2	C3'-endo
6 C	2.9	-27.0	39.4	-38.5	22.6	40.7	14.4	C3'-endo
7 C	-5.7	-19.4	35.6	-39.8	28.8	39.9	26.6	C3'-endo
8 C	-0.8	-22.8	36.3	-37.5	24.3	38.6	19.6	C3'-endo
9 T	1.9	-24.6	36.3	-35.7	21.7	37.7	15.4	C3'-endo
10 G	19.6	5 -28.3	25.9	9 -15.0	-2.7	28.4	336.0	C2'-exo
*****	****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	****	******

Same strand P--P and C1'--C1' virtual bond distances

	Strand I Strand		and II			
step	PP	C1'C1'	step	PP	C1'C1'	
1 G/T		5.30	1 C/A	5.84	5.10	
2 T/C	6.99	5.18	2 A/G	6.06	5.69	
3 C/C	5.86	5.14	3 G/G	6.03	5.57	
4 C/C	6.23	5.86	4 G/G	5.59	5.26	
5 C/G	5.77	5.42	5 G/C	5.54	5.61	
6 G/G	5.53	5.57	6 C/C	6.03	5.70	
7 G/G	6.29	5.43	7 C/C	5.88	5.40	
8 G/A	6.59	5.59	8 C/T	7.11	5.44	
9 A/C	5.71	5.44	9 T/G		5.46	
******	*****	*******	******	*****	******	******

Helix radius (radial displacement of P, O4', and C1' atoms in local helix frame of each dimer)

	Strand I		Strand II			
step	Р	04'	C1'	Р	04'	C1'
1 GT/AC	9.90	8.02	7.38	9.77	8.66	7.88
2 TC/GA	8.82	7.06	6.17	9.23	7.83	6.88
3 CC/GG	10.68	10.54	10.30	12.35	11.80	11.35
4 CC/GG	9.81	9.40	8.70	8.17	8.08	7.48
5 CG/CG	8.51	9.20	8.77	9.58	9.68	9.18
6 GG/CC	9.78	8.75	8.30	9.92	9.72	9.07
7 GG/CC	12.90	11.10	10.72	9.29	10.05	9.65
8 GA/TC	8.58	7.73	6.91	9.30	7.85	7.02
9 AC/GT	8.40	7.23	6.62	10.71	9.64	8.81
*******	******	*****	*****	*****	*****	******

Position (Px, Py, Pz) and local helical axis vector (Hx, Hy, Hz) for each dinucleotide step

step	Px	Ру	Pz	Hx	Hy	Hz
1 GT/AC	25.93	-6.85	14.40	-0.73	0.27	-0.63
2 TC/GA	22.87	-6.54	13.77	-0.67	0.37	-0.65
3 CC/GG	23.51	-7.38	7.13	-0.84	0.17	-0.52
4 CC/GG	21.84	-3.87	7.80	-0.72	0.06	-0.69
5 CG/CG	18.75	-5.08	6.45	-0.86	0.15	-0.48
6 GG/CC	16.76	-4.22	5.59	-0.76	-0.04	-0.65
7 GG/CC	15.21	-6.27	6.06	-0.90	-0.08	-0.42
8 GA/TC	14.43	-6.31	-0.33	-0.59	-0.27	-0.76
9 AC/GT	12.66	-5.14	-1.91	-0.73	-0.09	-0.68