

**Title: Supplementary Data 1**

**Description:** Number of pairwise sequences with N mismatches in the diverse dataset.

**Title: Supplementary Data 2**

**Description:** Performance of MLDE predictions on Sg5 and Sg8 on-target activities with SpCas9.

**Title: Supplementary Data 3**

**Description:** Performance of MLDE prediction on Sg5 off-target activities with SpCas9.

**Title: Supplementary Data 4**

**Description:** Performance of MLDE prediction on SpCas9's activity at NGN PAMs.

**Title: Supplementary Data 5**

**Description:** Amino acid residues selected for mutagenesis in this study.

**Title: Supplementary Data 6**

**Description:** Experimental enrichment scores determined for each KKH-SaCas9 variant with indicated sgRNAs.

**Title: Supplementary Data 7**

**Description:** Performance of MLDE predictions on KKH-saCas9's on-target activity with three sgRNAs.

**Title: Supplementary Data 8**

**Description:** Resource efficiency of identifying top-performing variants with or without applying machine learning.

**Title: Supplementary Data 9**

**Description:** List of constructs used in this work.

**Title: Supplementary Data 10**

**Description:** List of guide RNA protospacer sequences used in this study.

**Supplementary Data 11**

**Description:** List of primers and PCR conditions used for T7E1 assay.