

Supporting information for

Anions or cations: Who is in charge of inhibiting the nickel promoted B- to Z-DNA transition?

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Detailed experimental description:

Poly d(GC) was dissolved in 1 mM sodium cacodylate buffer (pH = 7) together with 10mM of either NaCl, NaBF₄, NaNO₃, NaClO₄, Me₄NCl, LiCl, MgCl₂ (5 mM), or no additional salt at all. It was then titrated with a 1 or 10 mM solution of nickel nitrate dissolved in the same buffer. These measurements were accomplished with a Jasco 810 spectrophotometer equipped with a peltier thermostat set to 25° C. After each addition, the solution was heated in an external water bath to 60° C for 5 min, in order to establish the thermodynamic equilibrium, before cooling down to room temperature. The measurements were zeroed using the absorption free range between 310 and 350 nm. Midpoint concentrations were determined by looking at the concentration at which half of the overall CD signal change had occurred..