










**Table SI.** Terminus DNA end configuration of the NHEJ substrates employed in the study.

NHEJ substrate type	Restriction Enzyme(s)	Terminus sequence		
1) blunt ends	<i>EcoRV</i>	5'...GAT 3'...CTA	ATC...3' TAG...5'	
2) cohesive 5'-PSS	<i>EcoRI</i>	5'...G 3'...CTTAA	AATTC...3' G...5'	
3) non-matching 5'-PSS	<i>NotI-EcoRI</i>	5'...C 3'...GCCGG	AATTC...3' G...5'	
4) blunt end + 5'-PSS	<i>BamHI-EcoRV</i>	5'...G 3'...CCTAG	ATC...3' TAG...5'	
5) cohesive 3'-PSS	<i>PstI</i>	5'...CTGCA 3'...G	G...3' ACGTC...5'	
6) non-matching 3'-PSS	<i>SacI-KpnI</i>	5'...GAGCT 3'...C	C...3' CATGG...5'	
7) blunt end + 3'-PSS	<i>SacI-SmaI</i>	5'...GAGCT 3'...C	GGG...3' CCC...5'	
8) 5'-PSS + 3'-PSS	<i>PstI-XhoI</i>	5'...CTGCA 3'...G	TCGAG...3' C...5'	
9) non-matching 3'-PSS	<i>PstI-KpnI</i>	5'...CTGCA 3'...G	C...3' CATGG...5'	

The single-cut digestion provided linear DNA molecules bearing blunt (1) or matching 4 nt protruding single strand ends (PSS) (cohesive 5'(2)- and 3'- PSS(5)). Cleavage at two different restriction site generated substrates with either non cohesive ends (non-matching 5' (3)- and 3'-PSS (6 and 9)) or ends with different polarity (blunt ends + 5'(4)- or 3'- PSS (7) and 5'-PSS + 3'-PSS (8)).