

Relative Promoter Unit Measurement Using FACS

1. Streak the cells with following construct on a new plate

construct	plasmid	strain
BBa_E0240	pSB3K3	DH10B
BBa_I20260	pSB3K3	DH10B
P_{kdpF} [-15, T>G] - BBa_E0240	pSB3K3	DH10B

* BBa_E0240 = BBa-B0032 - BBa_E0040 - BBa_B0015

- Inoculate a colony from each plate in 2 mL of K115 minimal medium. Incubate at 37°C.
- Prepare the stock of media of specific K⁺ concentration and then aliquot 1 mL into Corning® 96 well storage system storage block, 2 mL, V-bottom.
- Wash the cell three times with 2 mL 0.8% NaCl solution. After washing, resuspend the cells in fresh K0 medium and dilute all samples to the same optical density.
- Take out 25 µL of washed cells to mix with K minimal medium of different K concentration in the 96-well storage block.
- Incubate the culture in 37°C until it reaches the mid-exponential phase. (OD₆₀₀ ≈ 0.4)
- Take out 200 µL of the culture from the storage block, measure and record the OD₅₉₅ value.
 - Take samples every 15 minutes for 30 mins in total. In between sampling, keep incubating the cells in 37°C while shaking.
- Mix the measured sample with 200 µL of fixation solution.
- Per cell GFP intensity is then measured by fluorescence-activated cell sorting using Becton Dickinson FACSAria IIIu.

Data Processing for Relative Promoter Unit Measurement

RPU is calculated according to the following equation:

$$RPU = \frac{[G]_{cell,\phi}}{[G]_{cell,J23101}} * \frac{\mu_{\phi}}{\mu_{J23101}} = \frac{[F]_{cell,\phi}}{[F]_{cell,J23101}} * \frac{\mu_{\phi}}{\mu_{J23101}}$$

$[F]_{cell,\phi}$ stands for the background fluorescence (BBa_E0240) subtracted geometric mean of per cell GFP intensity. μ stands for the growth rate approximated by the slope of blank-corrected optical density over time. ϕ

refers to the experimental construct while J23101 refers to BBa_J32101 with GFP.

References:

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V. Laermann, E Cudic, K IpschullK, ..., K Altendorl. (2013). The sensor kinase KdpD of *Escherichia coli* senses external K⁺. *Molecular Microbiology*, 88(6), 1194-1204. doi: 10.1111/mmi.12251