MAY 06, 2019

🌐 Calibration Protocol - Fluorescence Standard Curve with Fluorescein

Richard Tennant¹, Paul Rutten¹

¹iGEM Measurement Committee

iGEM Measurement

Tech. support email: pauljrutten@gmail.com

Paul Rutten

The University of Oxford

OPEN ACCESS

DOI:

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.zgkf3uw

External link:

<https://2019.igem.org/Measurement>

Protocol Citation: Richard Tennant, Paul Rutten 2019. Calibration Protocol - Fluorescence Standard Curve with Fluorescein. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.zgkf3uw>

License: This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

Created: Mar 24, 2019

Last Modified: Aug 07, 2019

PROTOCOL integer ID:
21740

ABSTRACT

Plate readers report fluorescence values in arbitrary units that vary widely from instrument to instrument. Therefore absolute fluorescence values cannot be directly compared from one instrument to another. In order to compare fluorescence output of test devices between teams, it is necessary for each team to create a standard fluorescence curve. Although distribution of a known concentration of GFP protein would be an ideal way to standardize the amount of GFP fluorescence in our E. coli cells, the stability of the protein and the high cost of its purification are problematic. We therefore use the small molecule fluorescein, which has similar excitation and emission properties to GFP, but is cost-effective and easy to prepare. (The version of GFP used in the devices, GFP mut3b, has an excitation maximum at 501 nm and an emission maximum at 511 nm; fluorescein has an excitation maximum at 494 nm and an emission maximum at 525nm).

You will prepare a dilution series of fluorescein in four replicates and measure the fluorescence in a 96 well plate in your plate reader. By measuring these in your plate reader, you will generate a standard curve of fluorescence for fluorescein concentration. You will be able to use this to convert your cell based readings to an equivalent fluorescein concentration. Before beginning this protocol, ensure that you are familiar with the GFP settings and measurement modes of your instrument. You will need to know what filters your instrument has for measuring GFP, including information about the bandpass width (530 nm / 30 nm bandpass, 25-30 nm width is recommended), excitation (485 nm is recommended) and emission (520-530 nm is recommended) of this filter.

Note: The iGEM Particle Standard Curve with Microspheres calibration method is a pre-requisite for carrying out this protocol. You will need data from that calibration to analyse the results of this protocol.

ATTACHMENTS

[iGEM Data Analysis](#)
[Template - Fluorescence](#)
[Standard Curve - v1.xlsx](#)

MATERIALS

MATERIALS

✕ 96 well plate **Contributed by users**

✕ PBS **Contributed by users**

✕ Fluorescein **Contributed by users**

STEP MATERIALS

✕ PBS **Contributed by users**

✕ Fluorescein **Contributed by users**

Fluorescein is provided in the iGEM Measurement Kit. The 96-well plate should preferably be black with a clear flat bottom.

BEFORE START INSTRUCTIONS

Read through this entire protocol carefully before you start your experiment and prepare any materials you may need.

Note: The iGEM Particle Standard Curve with Microspheres calibration method is a pre-requisite for carrying out this protocol. You will need data from that calibration to analyse the results of this protocol.

Prepare the fluorescein stock solution

- 1 Spin down fluorescein kit tube to make sure pellet is at the bottom of tube
✕ Fluorescein **Contributed by users**
- 2 Prepare 10x fluorescein stock solution (100 μ M) by resuspending fluorescein in 1mL of 1X PBS

Note

It is important that the fluorescein is properly dissolved. To check this, after the resuspension you should pipette up and down and examine the solution in the pipette tip – if any particulates are visible in the pipette tip continue to mix the solution until they disappear.

- 3 Dilute the 10X fluorescein stock solution with 1X PBS to make a 1X fluorescein solution with concentration 10 μ M: 100 μ L of 10X fluorescein stock into 900 μ L 1X PBS

Prepare the serial dilutions of fluorescein

- 4 Accurate pipetting is essential. Serial dilutions will be performed across columns 1-11. **Column 12 must contain PBS buffer only.** Initially you will setup the plate with the fluorescein stock in column 1 and an equal volume of 1X PBS in columns 2 to 12.

You will perform a serial dilution by consecutively transferring 100 μ L from column to column with good mixing.

- 5 Add 100 μ L of 1X PBS into wells A2, B2, C2, D2....A12, B12, C12, D12
- 6 Add 200 μ L of fluorescein 1X stock solution into A1, B1, C1, D1

- 7** Transfer 100 µl of fluorescein stock solution from A1 into A2

- 8** Mix A2 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A3

- 9** Mix A3 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A4

- 10** Mix A4 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A5

- 11** Mix A5 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A6

- 12** Mix A6 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A7

- 13** Mix A7 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A8

- 14** Mix A8 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A9

- 15 Mix A9 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A10
- 16 Mix A10 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into A11
- 17 Mix A11 by pipetting up and down 3x and transfer 100 µl into liquid waste

Note

Take care not to continue serial dilution into column 12

- 18 Repeat dilution series for rows B, C, D

Measure fluorescence

- 19 Measure fluorescence of all samples in instrument
- 20 Record the data in your notebook
- 21 Import data into this Excel sheet provided (fluorescein standard curve tab):

iGEM Data Analysis Template - Fluorescence Standard Curve - v1.xlsx

Congratulations!

22 You have now completed this calibration protocol