

Engineering DNA

10/08/19

Wrapping up Mod 1

Mod 1 experiments completed!!



- Draft due by 10 pm on Oct. 14
- Comments to be returned on Oct. 21
- Revision due by 10 pm on Oct. 26
- Mini presentation due by 10 pm on Oct. 19
- Blog post due by 10 pm on Oct. 15

Extra Office hours:

- See wiki for regularly scheduled days / times
- Friday, October 11 from 8a – 12p in 16-743c with Bevin
- Saturday, October 12 from 10a – 4:30p in 56-302 with Instructors

Mod 2 assignment overview

- Journal club presentation
 - Communicate the key findings from a peer-reviewed published article
 - Complete individually
- Research article
 - Describe your results and analysis in a written 'formal' document
 - Complete individually



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Don't be this person!

Your biological engineering task in Mod 2:

Increase production of ethanol or acetate in *E. coli* MG1655 by manipulating the fermentation pathway using CRISPR-based editing technology





CRISPRi system involves three key players



1. Target gene

2. psgRNA_[target]

3. pdCas9

Closer look at psgRNA and pdCas9





Prepare confirmation digest to check pdCas9 construct on M2D1

Design gRNA target sequence for psgRNA_[target] construct on M2D2

CRISPRi 'inactive' in absence of inducer



psgRNA_[target] is
expressed constitutively

 sgRNA is continually transcribed

CRISPRi 'blocks' gene expression in presence of inducer



pdCas9 is expressed when inducer aTc added

- when transcribed, associates with psgRNA_[target]
- Cas9 / psgRNA_[target] complex scans DNA for target gene

The central dogma



http://genius.com/Biology-genius-the-central-dogma-annotated

How do we engineer DNA?



1. Amplification



DNA polymerase



- Catalyzes formation of polynucleotide chains
- Requires a primer base-paired to template

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)



How many cycles until the desired product is generated?

splice-bio.com

What are we amplifying?

Primers enable you to specify which region of DNA is amplified by polymerase

- Polymerase requires primer to add bases in sequence
- Why do we need two primers?



2. Digestion



Restriction enzymes

Function as homodimers

- Each dimer cleaves backbone at site of palindromic recognition sequence
- Why are most restriction sites palindromes?





What should we consider when performing a double digest?



DNA ligase

Forms covalent phosphodiester bond between 3' OH acceptor and 5' phosphate donor

- Requires ATP for adenylation of lysine residue in active site of DNA ligase
- AMP then transferred to 5' phosphate of DNA base



What are we ligating?





1. Transformation



- 1. Incubation
- 2. Heat shock
 - DNA taken in by competent cells
- 3. Recovery
- 4. Selection

Why do we transform the ligation product?

2. Purification

- 1. Resuspend cells
- 2. Lyse
- 3. Neutralize
 - Separates chromosomal DNA from plasmid DNA
- 4. Wash
- 5. Resuspend or elute DNA



Why do we purify (mini-prep) the ligation product?

3. Digestion, another one Ncol (450bp) Xbal (500bp) Ncol (550bp) Initially a digest is required to prepare components for cloning Pstl (1250bp) reaction Confirmation digest is used to confirm cloning success Pstl (4250bp) EcoRI (2000bp) • Ideally, will cut once in insert and once in vector Should we digest with Xbal and EcoRI? Pstl? Ncol? pNLL-PCR (6000bp)

In the laboratory...

- 1. Engineer pdCas9 construct
 - *In silico* 'cloning' of dCas9 insert into expression vector
- 2. Confirm pdCas9 construct
 - Actual digestion of pdCas9 to confirm successful cloning of dCas9 insert into expression vector

