



University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Genetic Circuits for Feedback Control of Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid Biosynthesis in Probiotic *Escherichia coli* Nissle 1917

Item Type	article
Authors	Lebovich, Matthew;Lora, Marcos A;Gracia-David, Jared;Andrews, Lauren
DOI	10.3390/metabo14010044
Rights	UMass Amherst Open Access Policy
Download date	2026-03-12 03:43:28
Item License	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/6225

Supplementary Materials for

**Genetic circuits for feedback control of gamma-aminobutyric acid biosynthesis in probiotic
Escherichia coli Nissle 1917**

Matthew Lebovich^{1,2}, Marcos A. Lora¹, Jared Gracia-David^{1,3}, and Lauren B. Andrews^{1,2,3*}

¹ University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Chemical Engineering, Amherst, MA 01003, USA

² University of Massachusetts Amherst, Biotechnology Training Program, Amherst, MA, USA

³ Amherst College, Department of Biology, Amherst, MA 01002, USA

⁴ University of Massachusetts Amherst, Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program, Amherst, MA, USA

* Correspondence: lbandrews@umass.edu

Contents

Figure S1: GABA sensor characterization in production conditions.....	3
Figure S2: GABA production in EcN and EcN $\Delta gabTP$	4
Figure S3: EcN GABA production in different growth vessels	5
Table S1: Genetic part sequences used in this work.....	6
Table S2: Plasmids used in this work	12
Table S3: Hill equation parameters for NOT gates	13
Table S4: Model parameter values used	14
References.....	15

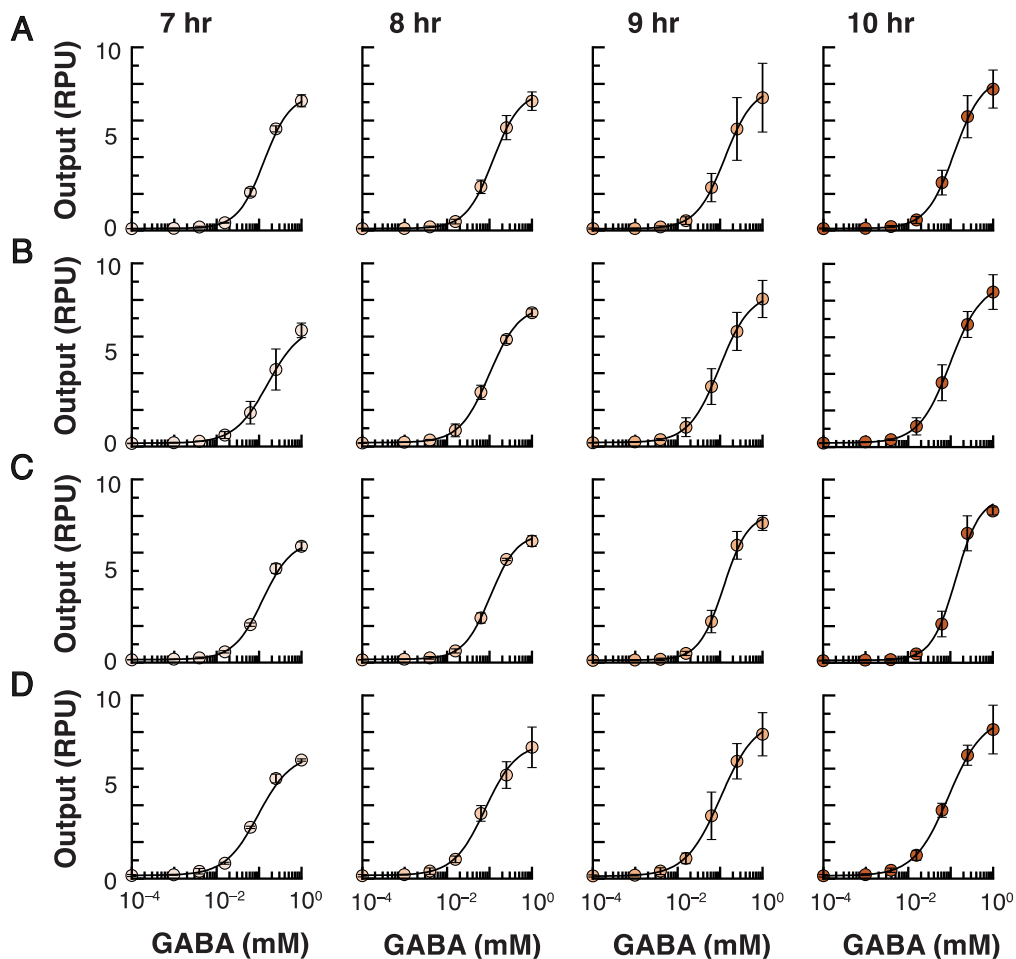


Figure S1: GABA sensor characterization in production conditions. The GABA sensor characterization plasmid pML3009 was induced with exogenous GABA at each concentration and grown in the following strains and vessels. **(A)** EcN $\Delta gabTP$ pML3009 grown in flasks, **(B)** EcN pML3009 grown in flasks, **(C)** EcN pML3009 grown in culture tubes, and **(D)** EcN pML3009 grown in a 96-well microtiter plate. All cultures were inoculated at $OD_{600} = 5.0 \times 10^{-5}$. Single cell fluorescence was measured via flow cytometry (Methods). The markers represent the average of the median fluorescence measured on 3 separate days. The error bars are one standard deviation. The fitted response function for each is shown (solid line).

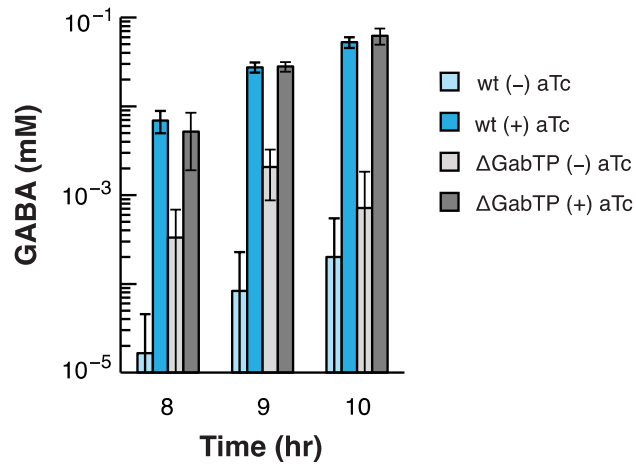


Figure S2: GABA production in EcN and EcN Δ gabTP. For the data of the GABA production assays in Figure 2D, the output of the GABA biosensor was converted to GABA concentration using the corresponding fitted sensor response function (Figure S1). The bars represent the mean value from the 3 experiments and the error bars represent the standard deviation.

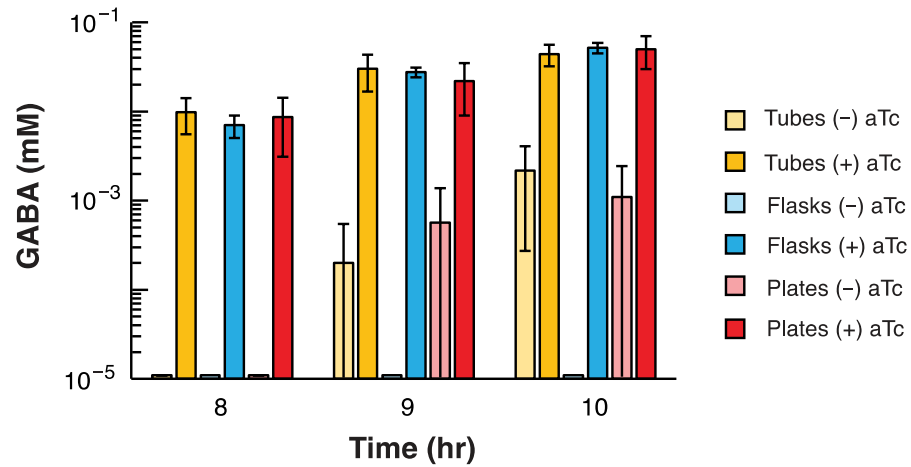


Figure S3: EcN GABA production in different growth vessels. For the data of the GABA production assays in Figure 2F, the output of the GABA biosensor was converted to GABA concentration using the corresponding fitted sensor response function (Figure S1). The bars represent the mean value from the 3 experiments and the error bars represent the standard deviation. Values of 0 mM are displayed as 0.000011 mM on the plot.

Table S1: Genetic part sequences used in this work

Part Name	Type	DNA Sequence	Source
P _{AmtR}	Promoter	cttgccaaccaaattgattcggttaccattgacagtttctatcgatctata gataatgctagc	(22)
P _{BM3RI}	Promoter	Aatccgcgtgataggtctgattcggttaccattgacggaatgaacgttc attccgataatgctagc	(22)
P _{IcaRA}	Promoter	gtcaactcataagattctgattcggttaccattgacaattcacctaccttc gtaggttaggtgt	(22)
P _{PhIF}	Promoter	cgacgtacggtggaatctgattcggttaccattgacatgatacgaac gtaccgtatcgtaaggt	(22)
P _{Gab105}	Promoter	ataccatcaaaaagttataattggtactttacggcataccaagtctagg tactatgctagc	(25)
P _{Tet}	Promoter	Tactccaccgttgctttttccctatcagtgatagagattgacatccct atcagtgatagagataatgagcac	
A1	RBS	aatgtccctaataatcagcaaagagggtactag	(21)
B1	RBS	ctatggactatgttttaactactag	(21)
B2	RBS	ctatggactatgttttcaagacgaaaaactactag	(21)
I1	RBS	attgctatggactatgttcaagtgagaactactag	(21)
P1	RBS	ctatggactatgttgaaagggagaaactactag	(21)
P2	RBS	ggagctatggactatgttgaaaggctgaaactactag	(21)
<i>amtR</i>	Gene	atggcaggcgcagttggtcgtccgcgtcgtagtcaccgcgtcgtgc aggtaaaaatccgcgtgaagaattctggatgcaagcgcagaactgtt taccggtcagggtttgaaccaccagtacctcagattgcagatgc agttggtatcgtcaggcaagcctgtattatcatttccgagcaaaaccg aaatctttctgacctgctgaaaagcaccgttgaaccgagcaccgttct ggcagaagatctgagcaccctggatgcaggtccggaatgcgtctgt gggcaattgttgaagcgaagttcgtctgctgctgagcaccaaaatgga atgttggtcgtctgtatcagctgccgattgttgtagcgaagaattgca gaatatcatagccagcgtgaagcactgaccaatgttttctgatctgg caaccgaaattgttggtgatgatccgcgtgcagaactgccgttcatatt	(22)

		accatgagcgttattgaaatgcgtcgaatgatggtaaaattccgagtc cgctgagcgcagatagcctgccggaaaccgcaattatgctggcagat gcaagcctggcagttctgggtgcaccgctgcctgcagatcgtgtgaa aaaaccctggaactgattaacaggcagatgcaaataa	
<i>bm3RI</i>	Gene	atggaaagcaccggaccaaacagaaagcaatttttagcgaagcct gctgctgtttgcagaacgtggtttgatgcaaccaccatgccgatgatt gcagaaaatgcaaaagttggtgcaggcaccattatcgtatttcaaaa acaagaaaagcctgggaacgaactgttcagcagcatgtaaatgaatt tctgcagtgtattgaaagcggctgcaaatgaacgtgatggtatcgt gatggctttcatcacattttgaaggatggtgacctttacaaaaatcat ccgctgcactgggtttatcaaacccatagccaggcacctttctga ccgaagaaagcctgctggcatatcagaaactggtgaattgtgtgca cctttttcgtgaaggtcagaaacaggggtgattcgtaatctgccgga aatgcactgattgcaattctgtttggcagctttatggaagtgtatgaat gatcgagaacgattatctgagcctgaccgatgaactgctgaccggtgt tgaagaaagcctgtgggcagcactgagccgtcagagctaa	(22)
<i>icaRA</i>	Gene	gtgaaagacaaaattatcgataacgccatcacctgttttagcgaaaaa ggttatgacggcaccaccctggatgatattgcaaaaagcgtgaacatc aaaaaagccagcctgtattatcatttgatagcaaaaaagcattctacg agcagagcgttaaatgctgtttcattatctgaacaacatcatcatgatg aaccagaacaaaagcaactatagcatcgtatgcctgtatcagttctgt ttgagttcatcttgatcagaggaacgctatattcgtatgatgttcagct gagcaacacaccggaagaattttcaggtaacatttatggccagatcca ggatctgaatcagagcctgagcaaagaaatcgccaaattctatgacg aaagcaaaatcaaaatgaccaaaaggacttcagaatctgattctgc gtttctggaaagctggtatctgaaagccagctttagccagaaatttgg gcagttgaagaaagcaaaagccagtttaagatgaggtttatagcctg ctgaacatctttctgaagaataa	(22)
<i>phlF</i>	Gene	atggcacgtaccccagcctgtagcagcattggtagcctgcgtagtcc gcatacccataaagcaattctgaccagcaccattgaaatcctgaaaga atgtggtatagcggctgtagcattgaaagcgtgacgctgcgcccgg gcaagcaaacgaccattatcgttgggtggaccaataaagcagcact gattgccgaagtgtatgaaaatgaaagcgaacaggtgcgtaaatcc ggatctgggtagctttaaagccgatctggattttctgctgcgtaatctgt ggaaagttggcgtgaaaccatttgggtgaagcatttcgtgtgtattg cagaagcacagctggaccctgcaaccctgaccagctgaaagatca gtttatggaacgctgctgtagatgccgaaaaaactggtgaaaatgc cattagcaatggtgaactgccgaaagataccaatcgtgaactgctgct ggatattgttttgggtttgtgtatcgcctgctgaccgaacagctgac cgttgaacaggatattgaagaatttacctctgctgattaatggtgtttg tccgggtacacagcgttaa	(22)

<i>gabR</i>	Gene	atggatatacagattacactcgcgttcagaacaagccgattatatcta tcagcaaatttatcaaaagctgaaaaaagaaatcctcagccgcaatct gctgccgactcgaaggttccctccaagcgggagctggctgaaaaac tcaaggtcagcgtaaattcagtgaattcagcctatcagcagctgctgg ctgaggggtattgtacgccattgaacgaaagggtttctctgaggga actagacatgtttccgagggagcaccctccatttgcactgccggat gacctaaaagagattcacatcgaccagagcattggatcgttttcac acatgagttccgatacagaccattttccgatcaaaagctggttccgctg cgagcaaaaagcggcctcccgtcataccgcacgctcggcgatgt cacatccgcaaggatataatgaagtgagagcggccattacgaggctc atttccctgacgaggggtgtaaaatgcaggccggaacaaatgatcata ggggcaggcacacaggtgctcatgcagctgtgactgagcttttacc aaggaagccgtgatgcgatggaggagcctggctacaggcgcgatgt atcagctttgaagaatgccgaaaacaagtaaagacgatcatgctgg atgaaaaaggcatgctgattgctgaaatcaccagacagcagccagat gtgctggtgaccaccccgtcgcacagtttccgctccggaacgattatg cctgtatccagaagaattcagctgctgaaactgggcagccgaggagcc gcgccgatatacattgaggacgattatgatagtgaattcacatatgatg tagacagtattccggcgtgcaaagcctcgaccgtttcaaaatgcat ctatatgggaacctttcaaaagtccttctccccggcttacggatcagct atatggtgtgcccctgagctgtgagggcatacaaacagcggggc tatgatctgcagacttgcctcactcacacagctcacctgcaggaat ttatcagctctggtgaatatcagaagcatataaaaaaatgaagcagc attataaagaaaagagagaacgcctgatcaccgctttagaagcagag ttcagcggagagggtaccgtaaaaggggcaaatgcggggctgcattt tgttaccgaattgataccaggcgcaccgaacaagacatcctgtcaca tgctgccgggctgcagcttgaatattcggaatgagccgatttaacttg aaggaaaacaagcggcaaacgggcaggcctgctctcattatcggctt tgcacggctgaaggaagaagatattcaggaggggtgagcggcttt tcaaagcgggttacggacataaaaaaatccccgttacaggggattga	(36)
<i>eYFP</i>	Gene	atggtgagcaagggcgaggagctgttaccgggggtgtgcccaccc tggtcagctggacggcgacgtaaaccggccacaagttcagcgtgtc cggcgagggcgagggcgtatgccacctacggcaagctgacctgaa gttcatctgcaccacaggcaagctgcccgtgccctggcccacctcg tgaccacctcggctacggcctgcaatgcttcccggctaccccgacc acatgaagctgcacgacttctcaagtccgcatgcccgaaggctac gtccaggagcgcaccatcttctcaaggacgacggcaactacaagac ccgcgccgaggtgaagttcagggcgacaccctggtgaaccgcatc gagctgaaggcatcacttcaaggaggacggcaacatctggggc acaagctggagtacaactacaacagccacaacgtctatatcatggcc gacaagcagaagaacggcatcaaggtgaacttaagatccgccaca acatcgaggacggcagcgtgcagctcggcaccactaccagcaga	(37)

		acacccaatcggcgacggccccgtgctgctgcccacaaccacta ccttagctaccagtccgcctgagcaaaagacccaacgagaagcgc gatcacatggctctgctggagttcgtgaccgccgcccggatcactctc ggcatggacgagctgtacaagtaa	
<i>lacI</i>	Gene	atgaaaccagtaacgttatac gatgtcgcagagtatgccggtgtctctt atcagaccgtttcccgcgtggtgaaccaggccagccacgtttctgca aaacgcgggaaaaagtggaaagcggcgatggcgggagctgaattacat tccaaccgcgtggcacaacaactggcgggcaaacagctggtgctg attggcgttgccacctccagtctggccctgcacgcgccgtcgcaaat gtcgcggcgattaatctcgcgccgatcaactgggtgccagcgtggt ggtgtcgatggtagaacgaagcggcgtcgaagcctgtaaagcggcg gtgcacaatcttctcgcgcaacgcgtcagtgggctgatcattaactatc cgctggatgaccaggatgccattgtgtggaagctgcctgcactaatg ttccggcgttattcttgatgtctctgaccagaccccatcaacagtatta tttctccatgaggacggtacgcgactgggcgtggagcatctggctg cattgggtcaccagcaaatcgcgctgtagcgggcccattaagtctgt ctcggcgcgtctcgcgtctggctggctggcataaatatctactcgcaat caaattcagccgatagcggaaacgggaaggcgactggagtgccatgt ccggtttcaacaacccatgcaaatgctgaatgaggcatcgttcca ctgcgatgctggttccaacgatcagatggcgtggcgcaatgcgc gccattaccgagtcgggctgcgcgttggtgcggatctcggtagtg ggatacagcagataccgaagatagctcatgttatatcccgccgtaacc accatcaaacaggattttgcctgctggggcaaacagcgtggaccg cttgcgcaactctcaggccaggcggtaagggcaatcagctggt gccagtctactggtgaaaagaaaaaccaccctggcggccaatac caaaccgctctcccgcgctggccgattcattaatgcagctggca cgacaggttcccactggaaagcgggcagtga	(22)
<i>tetR</i>	Gene	atgtccagattagataaaagttaaagtattaacagcgcattagagctgc ttaatgaggtcggaaatcgaaggttaacaacccgtaaactgcccaga agctaggtgtagagcagcctacattgtattggcatgtaaaaaataagc gggctttgctcgcagccttagccattgagatgtagatagccaccatac tacttttgccctttagaaggggaaagctggcaagatttttacgtaata acgctaaaagtttagatgtgctttactaagtcacgcgatggagcaaa agtacatttaggtacacggcctacagaaaaacagtatgaaactctcga aatcaattagccttttatgccaacaaggttttcactagagaatgcatt atatgcactcagcgtgtggggcattttactttagggtgcgtattggaag atcaagagcatcaagtcgctaaagaagaaagggaacacactactact gatagtatccgccattattacgacaagctatcgaattatttgatcaca aggtgcagagccagccttcttattcggcctgaattgatcatatgcgga ttagaaaaacaacttaaatgtgaaagtgggtcctaa	(22)

<i>kanR</i>	Gene	atgagccatattcaacgggaaacgtcttgctccaggccgcgattaat ccaacatggatgctgatttatatgggtataaatgggctcgcgataatg cgggcaatcaggtgcgacaatctatcgattgtatgggaagccccgatg cgccagagttgttctgaaacatggcaaaggtagcgttgccaatgatg tacagatgagatggtcagactaaactggctgacggaatttatgcctct ccgaccatcaagcattttatccgtactcctgatgatgcatggttactcac cactgcgatccccgggaaaacagcattccaggtattagaagaatatacc tgattcaggtgaaaatattggtgatgcgctggcagtgcttctgcgccgg ttgattcgattcctgtttgtaattgcttttaacagcgatcgctatttcg tctcgtcagggcgaatcacgaatgaataacggtttggttgatgcgagt gattttgatgacgagcgtaatggctggcctgttgaacaagtctggaaa gaaatgcataagcttttgccattctaccggattcagtcgctactatgg tgatttctacttgataacctattttgacgaggggaaattaataggtgt attgatgttgacgagtcggaatcgagaccgataccaggatcttgcc atcctatggaactgcctcggtagttttctcttattacagaaaaggctt ttcaaaaatatggtattgataatcctgatatgaataaattgcagttcatt gatgctcgatgagttttctaa	(33)
BydvJ	Insulator	gggtgtctcaagtgctgacttgatgagtcgaaaggacgaa acaccctctacaaataattttgttaa	(21)
ElvJ	Insulator	gccccatagggtggtgtgtaccaccctgatgagtcgaaaggacga aatggggcctctacaaataattttgttaa	(21)
SarJ	Insulator	gactgtcgggatgtgtatccgacctgacgatggccaaaagggcc gaaacagtcctctacaaataattttgttaa	(21)
RiboJ53	Insulator	gcggtcaacgcatgtgctttgcttctgatgagacagtgatgctgaaa ccgcctctacaaataattttgttaa	(21)
RiboJ64	Insulator	aggagtcaattaatgtgcttttaattctgatgagacggtgacgtcga ctcctctacaaataattttgttaa	(21)
L3S2P55	Terminator	ctcggtagcaaaagacgaacaataagacgctgaaaagcgtcttttctg tttggtcc	(38)
L3S2P24	Terminator	ctcggtagcaaaatccagaaaagacacccgaaagggtgttttctg gggtcc	(38)
ECK120015170	Terminator	acaatttgcgaaaaacccgcttcggcgggttttttatagctaaaa	(38)
L3S2P11	Terminator	ctcggtagcaaaatccagaaaagacgcttctgagcgtcttttctg tggtcc	(38)
ECK120033737	Terminator	ggaaacacagaaaaagcccgcacctgacagtgcgggcttttttct gaccaaagg	(38)

L3S2P11	Terminator	ctcggtaccaaattccagaaaagagacgctttcgagcgtctttttcgttt tgggcc	(38)
ECK120033737	Terminator	ggaaacacagaaaaagcccgcacctgacagtgcgggctttttttc gaccaaagg	(38)
L3S3P21	Terminator	ccaattattgaaggcctccctaacggggggcctttttgttctggtctc cc	(38)
L3S3P51	Terminator	aaaaaaaaaacacctaacgggtgtttttgttctggtctccc	(38)

Table S2: Plasmids used in this work

Plasmid Name	Description	Source
pAN1717	RPU strain expressing YFP under control of J23101 on a backbone expressing <i>lacI</i> , <i>tetR</i> , <i>kanR</i> and the p15a ori	(21)
pML3001	Plasmid backbone containing <i>gabR</i> , <i>lacI</i> and <i>tetR</i> as well as the resistance gene <i>kanR</i> and the p15a ori.	(25)
pML3009	Plasmid expressing YFP under the control of P _{Gab} on the pML3001 backbone	(25)
pML3021	Open loop GABA production circuit. P _{Gab} -YFP, P _{Tet} -GadB	This work
pML3030	Feedback circuit using the IcaRA I1 NOT gate on the pML3001 backbone	This work
pML3031	Feedback circuit using the AmtR A1 NOT gate on the pML3001 backbone	This work
pML3032	Feedback circuit using the PhlF P1 NOT gate on the pML3001 backbone	This work
pML3033	Feedback circuit using the PhlF P2 NOT gate on the pML3001 backbone	This work
pML3034	Feedback circuit using the BM3RI B1 NOT gate on the pML3001 backbone	This work
pML3035	Feedback circuit using the BM3RI B2 NOT gate on the pML3001 backbone	This work

Table S3: Hill equation parameters for NOT gates

Repressor	RBS	y_{min}	y_{max}	K	n
AmtR	A1	0.032	2.597	0.209	1.881
BM3R1	B1	0.012	0.336	0.178	3.437
BM3R1	B2	0.005	0.517	0.317	2.865
IcaRA	I1	0.187	1.847	0.066	3.772
PhlF	P1	0.003	3.550	0.175	3.924
PhlF	P2	0.015	5.306	0.843	4.880

All parameters are from a prior study (23).

Table S4: Model parameter values used

Parameter	Value	Units
α_B	1.0	[GadB]/([RNA]*min)
γ	0.025	1/min
β_B	0.10	1/min
β_{μ_G}	20.0	1/min
ξ	0.025	[mRNA]/(min*RPU)
k	0.25	1/min
S	35.0	g/L
β_G	3.0	g/(L*min)
α_{μ_G}	3.0	RPU/min
$y_{min\mu_G}$	0.04	RPU
$y_{max\mu_G}$	4.59	RPU
K_{μ_G}	16.23	g/L
n_{μ_G}	0.90	unitless

Parameters γ and ξ are based on a prior study (33).

Parameters $y_{min\mu_G}$, $y_{max\mu_G}$, K_{μ_G} , and n_{μ_G} are based on a prior study (25).

References Cited in Supplementary Materials

- (21) Nielsen, A. A. K.; Der, B. S.; Shin, J.; Vaidyanathan, P.; Paralanov, V.; Strychalski, E. A.; Ross, D.; Densmore, D.; Voigt, C. A. Genetic Circuit Design Automation. *Science* 2016, 352, aac7341. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aac7341>.
- (22) Stanton, B. C.; Nielsen, A. A. K.; Tamsir, A.; Clancy, K.; Peterson, T.; Voigt, C. A. Genomic Mining of Prokaryotic Repressors for Orthogonal Logic Gates. *Nat. Chem. Biol.* 2014, 10 (2), 99–105. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nchembio.1411>.
- (23) Lebovich, M.; Zeng, M.; Andrews, L. B. Algorithmic Programming of Sequential Logic and Genetic Circuits for Recording Biochemical Concentration in a Probiotic Bacterium. *ACS Synth. Biol.* 2023, 12 (9), 2632–2649. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acssynbio.3c00232>.
- (25) Lebovich, M.; Andrews, L. Surveying the Genetic Design Space for Transcription Factor-Based Metabolite Biosensors: Synthetic Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid and Propionate Biosensors in *E. coli* Nissle 1917. *Front. Bioeng. Biotechnol.* 2022, 10, 1227. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbioe.2022.938056>.
- (33) Andrews, L. B.; Nielsen, A. A. K.; Voigt, C. A. Cellular Checkpoint Control Using Programmable Sequential Logic. *Science* 2018, 361, eaap8987. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aap8987>.
- (36) Belitsky, B. R.; Sonenshein, A. L. GabR, a Member of a Novel Protein Family, Regulates the Utilization of γ -Aminobutyrate in *Bacillus subtilis*. *Mol. Microbiol.* 2002, 45 (2), 569–583. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2958.2002.03036.x>.
- (37) Cormack, B. P.; Valdivia, R. H.; Falkow, S. FACS-Optimized Mutants of the Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP). *Gene* 1996, 173 (1), 33–38. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119\(95\)00685-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-1119(95)00685-0).
- (38) Chen, Y.-J.; Liu, P.; Nielsen, A. A. K.; Brophy, J. A. N.; Clancy, K.; Peterson, T.; Voigt, C. A. Characterization of 582 Natural and Synthetic Terminators and Quantification of Their Design Constraints. *Nat. Methods* 2013, 10 (7), 659–664. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.2515>.