



Amplification efficiency dynamics and its implications:  
Developing a kinetic-based approach for quantitative  
analysis

R.G. Rutledge



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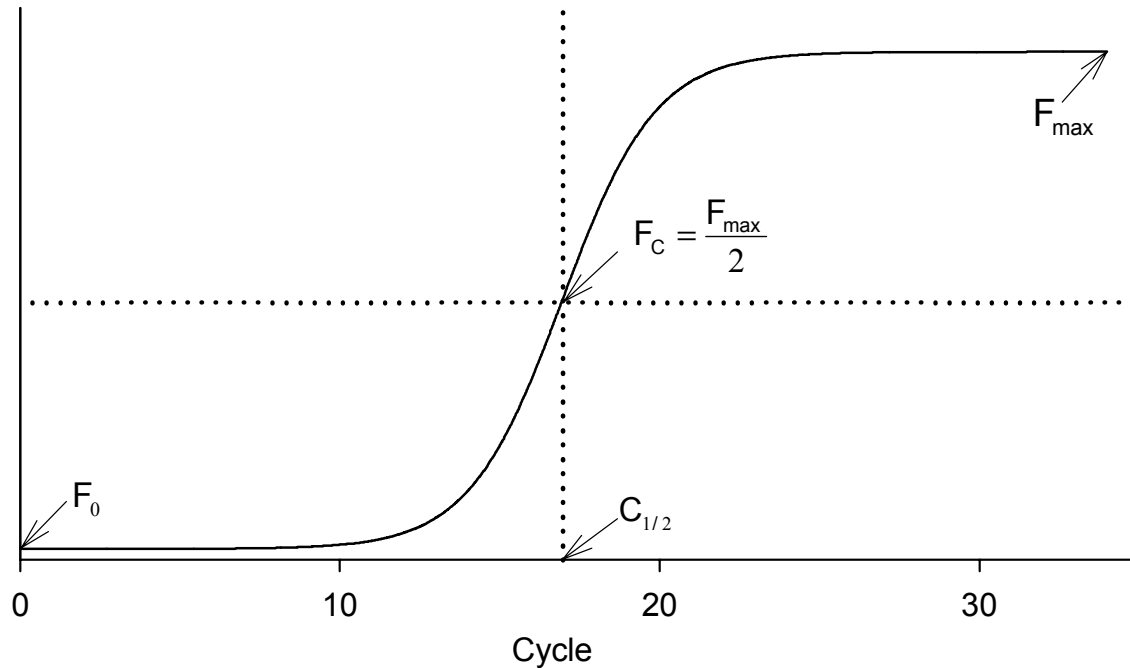
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# Sigmoidal Modeling of PCR Amplification

Classic Boltzmann Sigmoid Function (ca. 1875)

$$F_C = \frac{F_{max}}{1 + e^{-\left(\frac{C - C_{1/2}}{k}\right)}} - F_b$$



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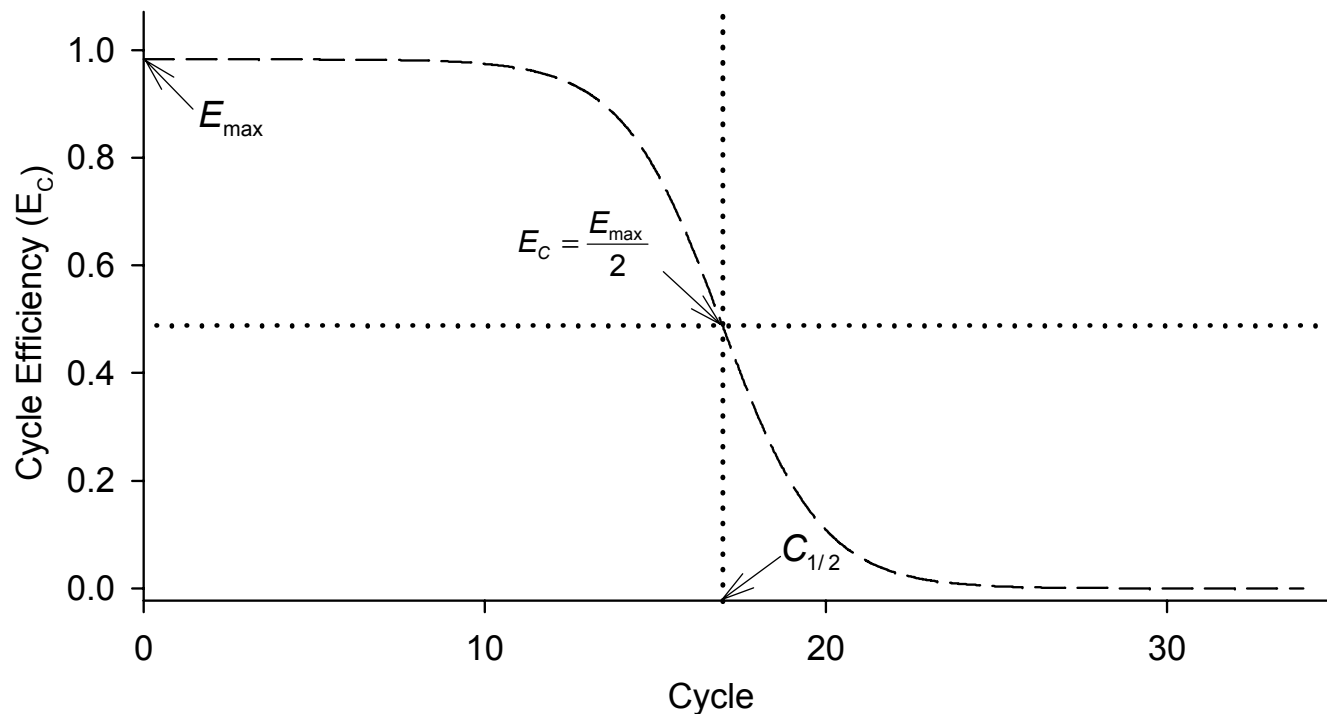
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# Each Cycle has a Unique Amplification Efficiency ( $E_C$ )

Liu and Saint *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **294**, 347-53 (2002)

$$E_C = \frac{1 + e^{-\left(\frac{C-1-C_{1/2}}{k}\right)}}{1 + e^{-\left(\frac{C-C_{1/2}}{k}\right)}} - 1$$



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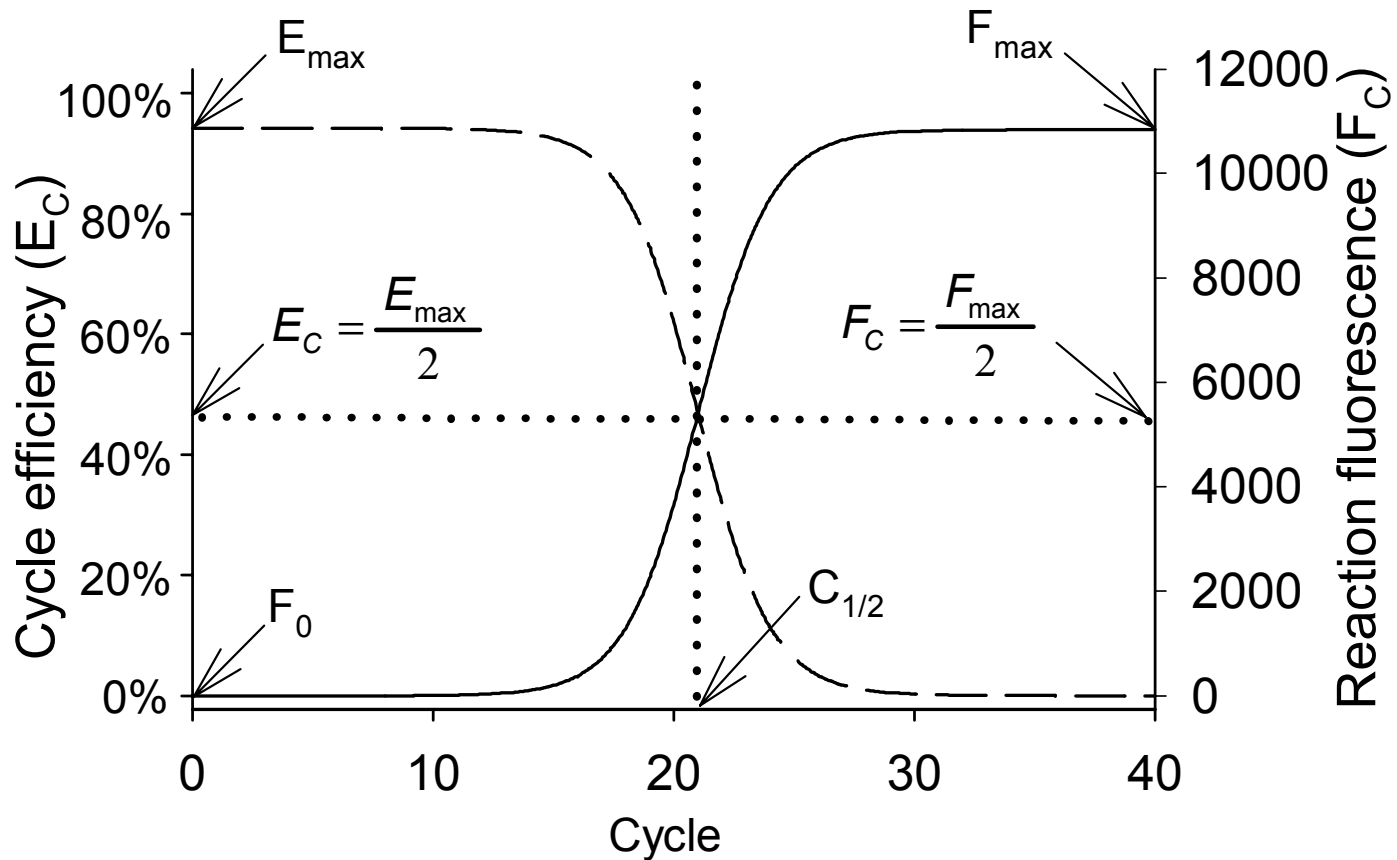


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# Mirror Symmetry Between Amplicon Accumulation and Amplification Rate



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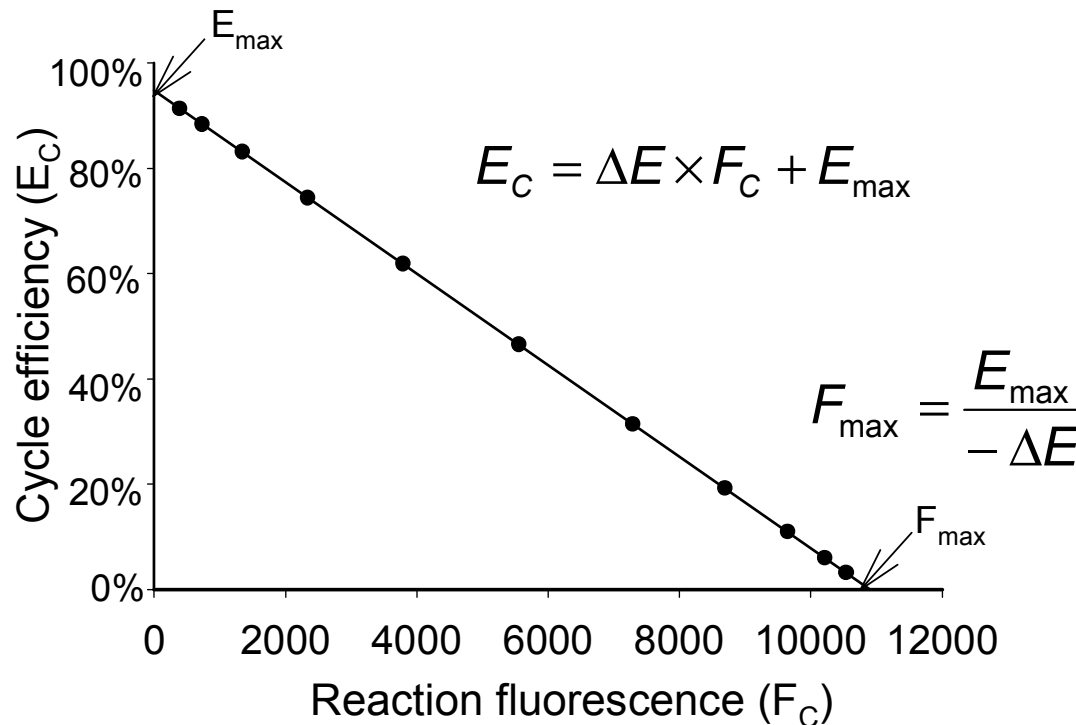
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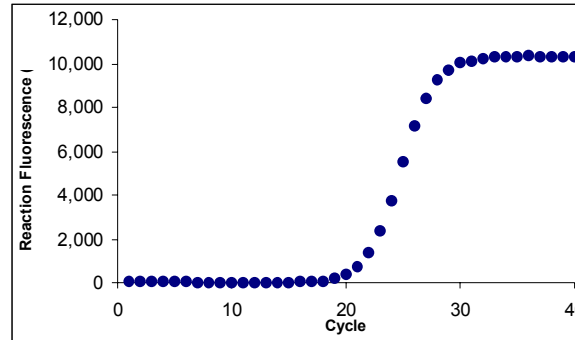
# Linearity between Amplification Rate and Amplicon Accumulation

Kinetic analysis via linear regression analysis:  
“Linear Regression of Efficiency” or LRE Analysis



# Application to Experimental Data

Cycle	F <sub>c</sub>
1	79
2	70
3	59
4	48
5	42
6	38
7	22
8	26
9	-1
10	0
11	0
12	2
13	-1
14	2
15	4
16	44
17	43
18	73
19	192
20	385
21	741
22	1,351
23	2,336
24	3,770
25	5,501
26	7,151
27	8,424
28	9,234
29	9,726
30	10,013
31	10,095
32	10,223
33	10,314
34	10,275
35	10,304
36	10,338
37	10,276
38	10,288
39	10,322
40	10,279



Five optical reads per cycle

F<sub>C</sub> readings from four replicated amplifications were averaged

NO curve smoothing (running average)

Classic definition of amplification efficiency

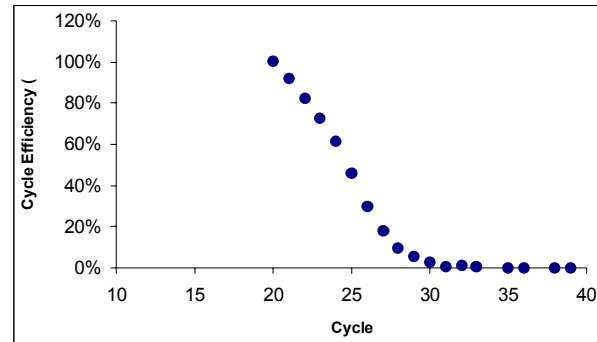
$$E_C = \frac{F_C}{F_{C-1}} - 1$$



# Ratio-derived Estimation of Cycle Efficiency

Cycle	F <sub>c</sub>	E <sub>c</sub>
1	79	
2	70	
3	59	
4	48	
5	42	
6	38	
7	22	
8	26	
9	-1	
10	0	
11	0	
12	2	
13	-1	
14	2	
15	4	58.62%
16	44	1091.30%
17	43	-1.46%
18	73	68.89%
19	192	163.05%
20	385	100.75%
21	741	92.29%
22	1,351	82.33%
23	2,336	72.90%
24	3,770	61.43%
25	5,501	45.91%
26	7,151	29.99%
27	8,424	17.80%
28	9,234	9.62%
29	9,726	5.32%
30	10,013	2.96%
31	10,095	0.82%
32	10,223	1.27%
33	10,314	0.88%
34	10,275	-0.38%
35	10,304	0.29%
36	10,338	0.33%
37	10,276	-0.60%
38	10,288	0.12%
39	10,322	0.33%
40	10,279	-0.41%

$$E_C = \frac{F_C}{F_{C-1}} - 1$$



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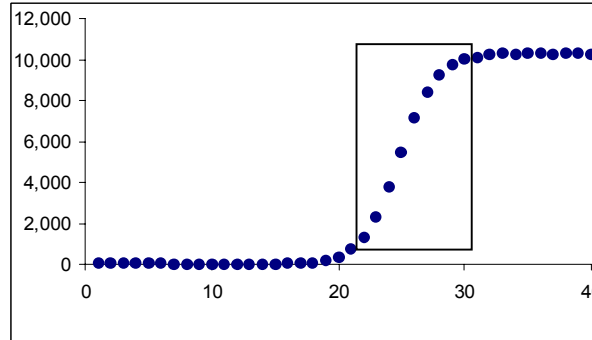
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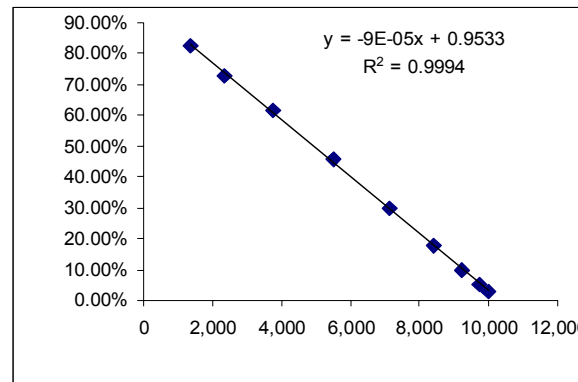
# Kinetic Analysis via Linear Regression (LRE Analysis)

Cycle	Fc	Ec
1	79	
2	70	
3	59	
4	48	
5	42	
6	38	
7	22	
8	26	
9	-1	
10	0	
11	0	
12	2	
13	-1	
14	2	
15	4	58.62%
16	44	1091.30%
17	43	-1.46%
18	73	68.89%
19	192	163.05%
20	385	100.75%
21	741	92.29%
22	1,351	82.33%
23	2,336	72.90%
24	3,770	61.43%
25	5,501	45.91%
26	7,151	29.99%
27	8,424	17.80%
28	9,234	9.62%
29	9,726	5.32%
30	10,013	2.96%
31	10,095	0.82%
32	10,223	1.27%
33	10,314	0.88%
34	10,275	-0.38%
35	10,304	0.29%
36	10,338	0.33%
37	10,276	-0.60%
38	10,288	0.12%
39	10,322	0.33%
40	10,279	-0.41%

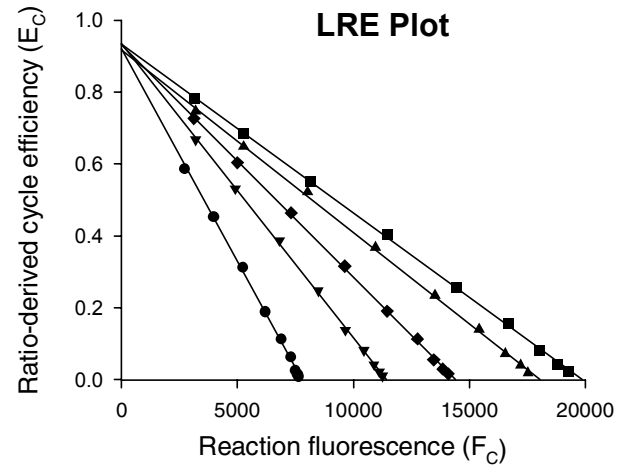
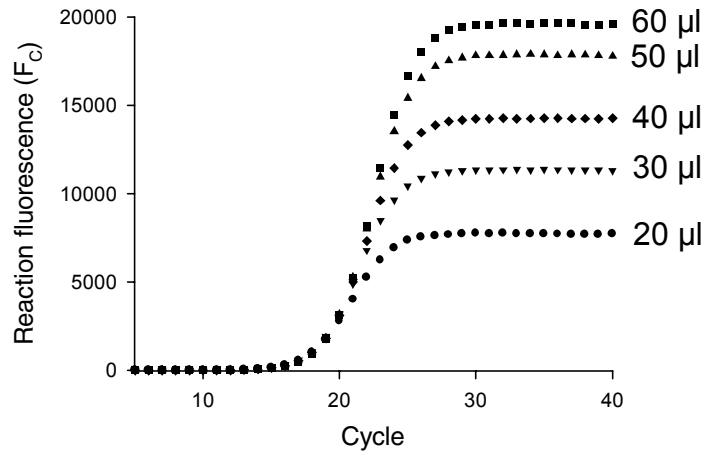


**r2:** 0.9994  
**ΔE:** -9.21E-05  
**E<sub>max</sub>:** 95.33%  
**F<sub>max</sub>:** 10,349

$$F_{\max} = \frac{E_{\max}}{-\Delta E}$$



# Reaction Volume is a Determinant of $F_{\max}$



Vol. ( $\mu\text{l}$ )	$r^2$	$E_{\max}$	$\Delta E$	$F_{\max}$
20	0.9984	92.2%	$-1.18 \times 10^{-4}$	7,810
30	0.9995	93.5%	$-8.19 \times 10^{-5}$	11,400
40	0.9996	93.1%	$-6.47 \times 10^{-5}$	14,400
50	0.9994	91.8%	$-5.09 \times 10^{-5}$	18,000
60	0.9996	93.4%	$-4.70 \times 10^{-5}$	19,900

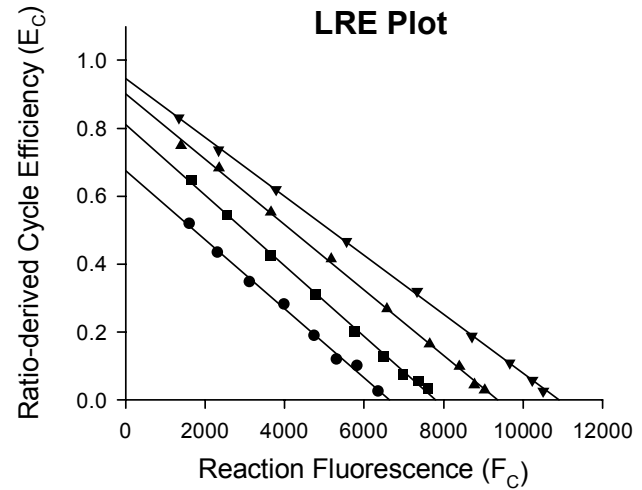
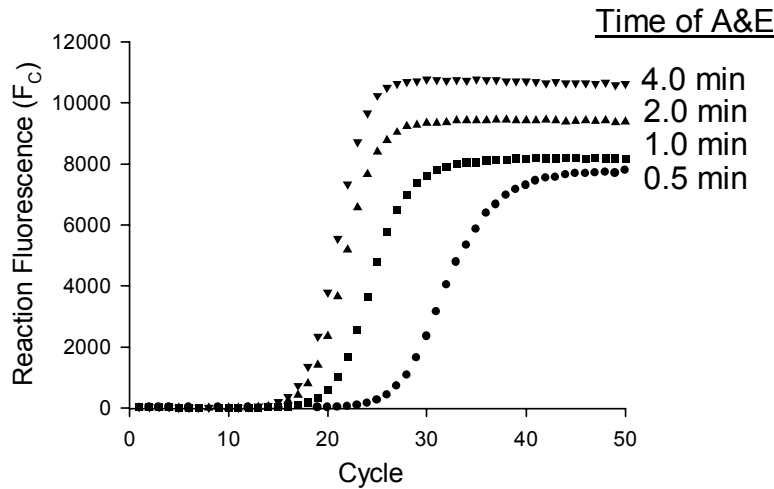
Average: 92.8%

SD: +/-0.8%

$$F_{\max} = \frac{E_{\max}}{-\Delta E}$$



# Time of Annealing and Elongation is a Determination of $E_{\max}$



A&E (min)	$r^2$	$E_{\max}$	$\Delta E$	$F_{\max}$
4.0	0.9996	94.7%	$-8.69 \times 10^{-5}$	10,800
2.0	0.9988	90.1%	$-9.63 \times 10^{-5}$	9,360
1.0	0.9981	81.0%	$-1.04 \times 10^{-4}$	7,790
0.5	0.9892	65.7%	$-9.28 \times 10^{-5}$	6,840
Average:			$-9.50 \times 10^{-5}$	
CV:			+/-7.8%	

$$F_{\max} = \frac{E_{\max}}{-\Delta E}$$



# Kinetic-based Sigmoidal Modeling of PCR Amplification

Derivations based upon the Classic Boltzmann Sigmoid Function

$$F_C = \frac{F_{max}}{1 + e^{-\left(\frac{C - C_{1/2}}{k}\right)}} - F_b$$

Target quantity in FU  $\longrightarrow F_0 = \frac{F_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{F_{max}}{F_C} - 1\right)(E_{max} + 1)^C}$

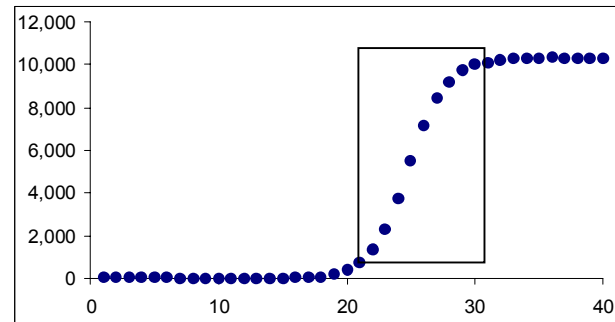
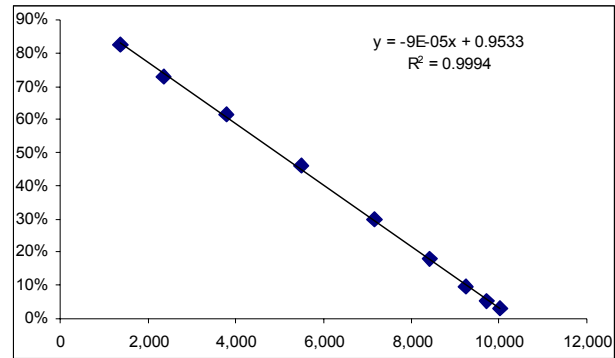
Predicted reaction fluorescence  $\longrightarrow F_C = \frac{F_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{F_{max}}{F_0} - 1\right)(E_{max} + 1)^{-C}}$



# Multiple Determinations of Target Quantity ( $F_0$ )

Cycle	Fc		
1	79		
2	70		
3	59		
4	48		
5	42		
6	38	r2:	0.9994
7	22	ΔE:	9.21E-05
8	26	E <sub>max</sub> :	95.33%
9	-1	F <sub>max</sub> :	10349
10	0		
11	0	Av. F <sub>0</sub> :	6.19E-04
12	2	CV:	2.95%
13	-1		
14	2		
		E <sub>c</sub>	F <sub>0</sub>
15	4	58.62%	1.60E-04
16	44	1091.30%	9.80E-04
17	43	-1.46%	4.95E-04
18	73	68.89%	4.29E-04
19	192	163.05%	5.84E-04
20	385	100.75%	6.12E-04
21	741	92.29%	6.25E-04
22	1,351	82.33%	6.23E-04
23	2,336	72.90%	6.19E-04
24	3,770	61.43%	6.23E-04
25	5,501	45.91%	6.32E-04
26	7,151	29.99%	6.37E-04
27	8,424	17.80%	6.38E-04
28	9,234	9.62%	6.19E-04
29	9,726	5.32%	5.97E-04
30	10,013	2.96%	5.84E-04
31	10,095	0.82%	3.99E-04
32	10,223	1.27%	4.17E-04
33	10,314	0.88%	7.60E-04
34	10,275	-0.38%	1.86E-04
35	10,304	0.29%	1.57E-04
36	10,338	0.33%	3.26E-04
37	10,276	-0.60%	2.52E-05
38	10,288	0.12%	1.55E-05
39	10,322	0.33%	1.76E-05
40	10,279	-0.41%	3.57E-06

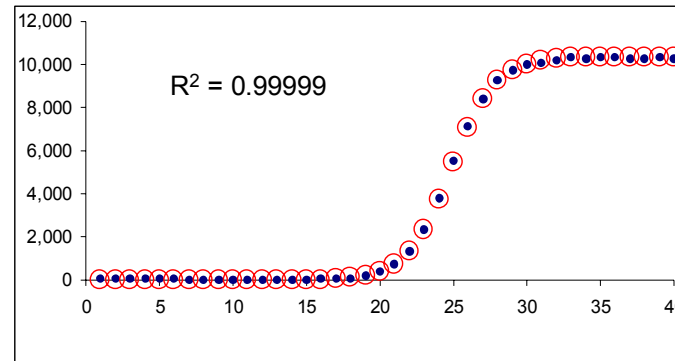
$$F_0 = \frac{F_{max}}{1 + \left( \frac{F_{max}}{F_C} - 1 \right) (E_{max} + 1)^C}$$



# Correlation of Predicted to Actual Reaction Fluorescence

Cycle	Fc	pFc		
1	79	0		
2	70	0		
3	59	0		
4	48	0		
5	42	0		
6	38	0		
7	22	0		
8	26	0		
9	-1	0		
10	0	1		
11	0	1		
12	2	2		
13	-1	4		
14	2	7		
	<b>Ec</b>	<b>Fo</b>		
15	4	58.62%	1.60E-04	14
16	44	1091.30%	9.80E-04	28
17	43	-1.46%	4.95E-04	54
18	73	68.89%	4.29E-04	105
19	192	163.05%	5.84E-04	203
20	385	100.75%	6.12E-04	389
21	741	92.29%	6.25E-04	734
22	1,351	82.33%	6.23E-04	1,344
23	2,336	72.90%	6.19E-04	2,336
24	3,770	61.43%	6.23E-04	3,754
25	5,501	45.91%	6.32E-04	5,449
26	7,151	29.99%	6.37E-04	7,087
27	8,424	17.80%	6.38E-04	8,375
28	9,234	9.62%	6.19E-04	9,235
29	9,726	5.32%	5.97E-04	9,747
30	10,013	2.96%	5.84E-04	10,032
31	10,095	0.82%	3.99E-04	10,184
32	10,223	1.27%	4.17E-04	10,264
33	10,314	0.88%	7.60E-04	10,305
34	10,275	-0.38%	1.86E-04	10,327
35	10,304	0.29%	1.57E-04	10,338
36	10,338	0.33%	3.26E-04	10,343
37	10,276	-0.60%	2.52E-05	10,346
38	10,288	0.12%	1.55E-05	10,348
39	10,322	0.33%	1.76E-05	10,348
40	10,279	-0.41%	3.57E-06	10,349

$$F_C = \frac{F_{max}}{1 + \left( \frac{F_{max}}{F_0} - 1 \right) (E_{max} + 1)^{-C}}$$



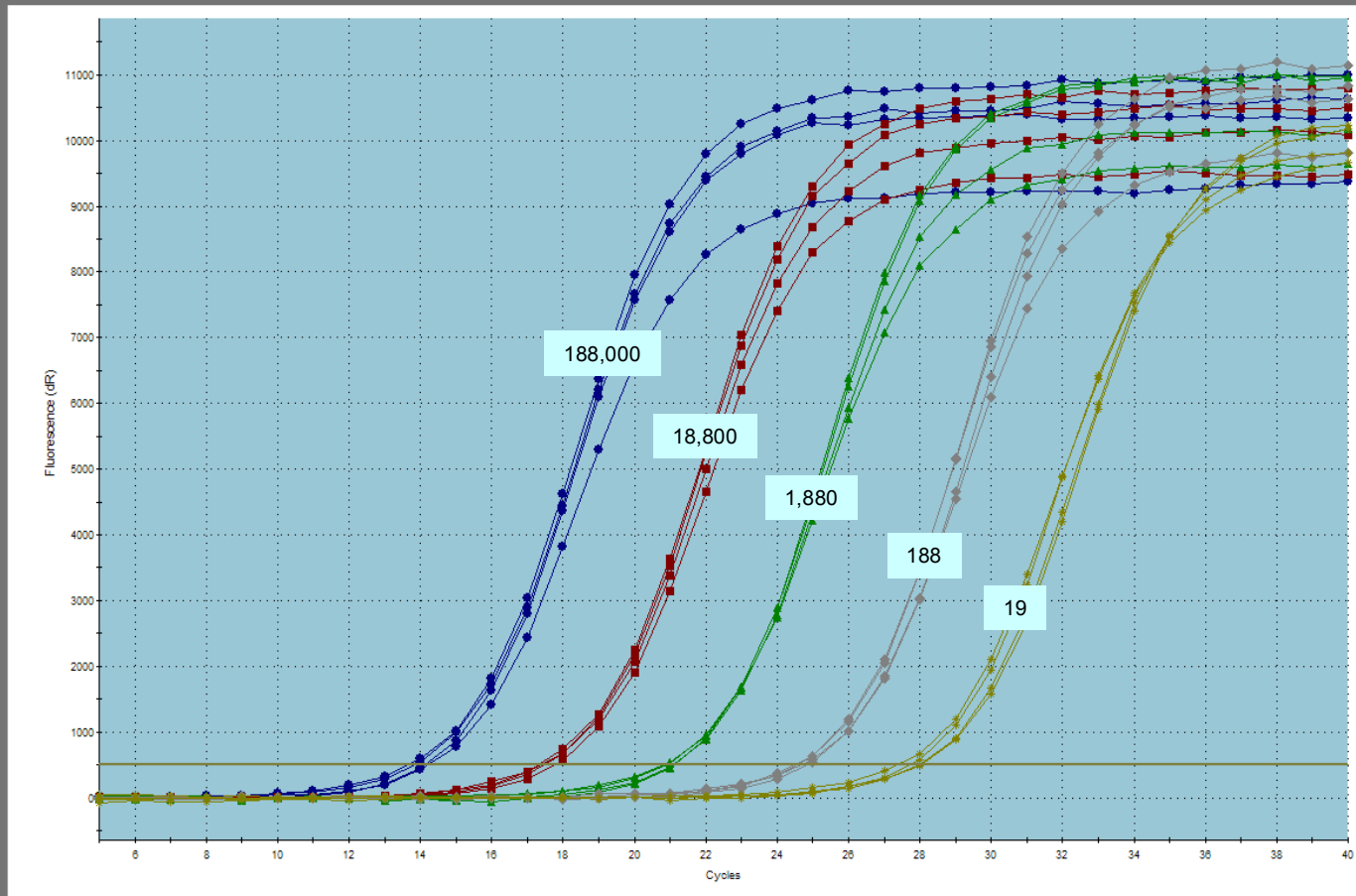
$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum (F_C - F_P)^2}{\sum (F_C - F_{av})^2}$$



# Lambda Genomic DNA 10 Fold Dilution Series

*LamK7K12 10pg to 1fg Lambda gDNA*

Amplification Plots



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Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany

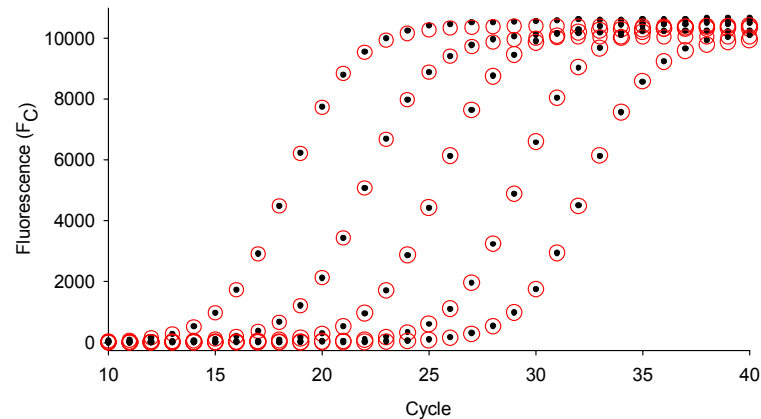


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# Quantitative Precision of Kinetic-based Sigmoidal Modeling



# Lambda Genomes	$R^2$	$E_{max}$	$\Delta E$	$F_0$	CV	$N_0$	% of Predicted
188,000	0.99996	95.6%	$-9.51 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.30 \times 10^{-2}$	-/+1.50%	206,000	109.9%
18,800	0.99999	95.3%	$-9.49 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.10 \times 10^{-3}$	-/+0.45%	19,900	106.2%
1,880	0.99999	94.9%	$-9.25 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.41 \times 10^{-4}$	-/+0.61%	2,110	112.7%
188	0.99999	95.7%	$-9.23 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.22 \times 10^{-5}$	-/+0.80%	155	82.4%
19	0.99997	96.1%	$-9.86 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.73 \times 10^{-6}$	-/+1.39%	18	95.4%
Average:	0.99998	95.5%	$-9.47 \times 10^{-5}$		-/+0.95%		101.3%
SD/CV:	+/-0.00001	+/-0.5%	+/-2.7%				+/-12.4%



# $C_t$ -derived Amplification Efficiency vs. LRE-derived $E_{max}$

# of Lambda Genomes (No)	Log(No)	Av. Ct
188,000	5.274	13.95
18,800	4.274	17.48
1,880	3.274	20.99
188	2.274	24.63
19	1.274	27.78

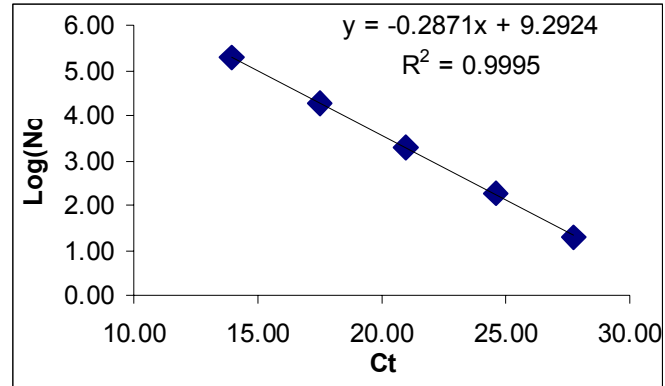
**r2:** 0.9995

**Nt:** 1.96E+09

**Es:** 93.7%

**Emax:** 95.5%

**Difference:** 1.83%



$$N_t = 10^{\text{Intercept}}$$

$$E_s = 10^{-\text{Slope} - 1}$$

$E_{max}$  closely correlates to a slope-derived amplification efficiency via  $C_t$



# Correlation to $C_t$ -based Quantification via $F_0$

$$F_0 = \frac{F_t}{(E + 1)^{C_t}}$$

**F<sub>t</sub>:** 500

**E<sub>max</sub>:** 95.5%

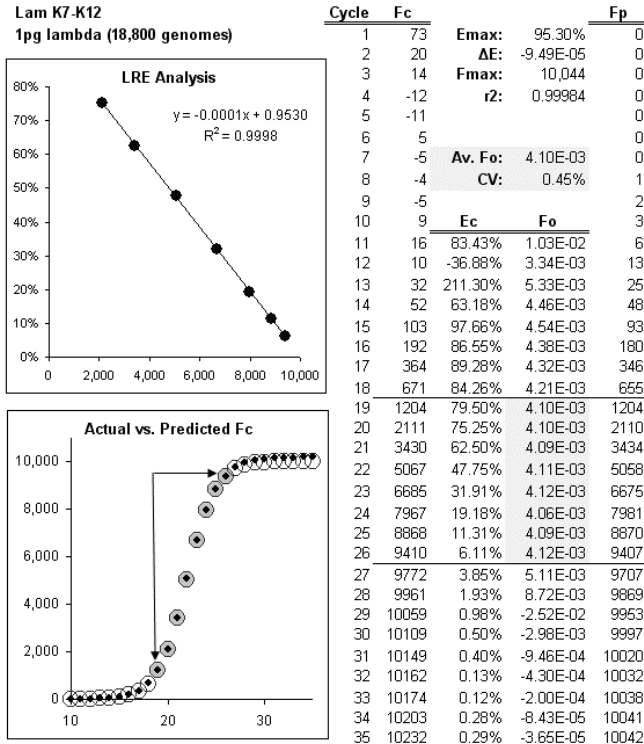
# Lambda Genomes	Av. Ct	Ct-Fo (FU)	LRE-Fo (FU)	Ct vs. LRE
188,000	13.95	4.35E-02	4.30E-02	1.27%
18,000	17.48	4.07E-03	4.10E-03	-0.70%
1,800	20.99	3.88E-04	4.41E-04	-12.08%
188	24.63	3.37E-05	3.22E-05	4.58%
19	27.78	4.09E-06	3.73E-06	9.63%
<b>Average:</b>				0.54%
<b>SD:</b>				8.07%

LRE-based quantification correlates closely to  $C_t$  quantification



# Computational Simplicity and Amiability to Automation

Modeling based upon the fluorescence data generated by an individual amplification reaction



$$E_C = \frac{F_C}{F_{C-1}} - 1$$

$$E_C = \Delta E \times F_C + E_{\max}$$

$$F_{\max} = \frac{E_{\max}}{-\Delta E}$$

$$F_0 = \frac{F_{\max}}{1 + \left( \frac{F_{\max}}{F_C} - 1 \right) (E_{\max} + 1)^C}$$

$$F_C = \frac{F_{\max}}{1 + \left( \frac{F_{\max}}{F_0} - 1 \right) (E_{\max} + 1)^{-C}}$$

- Kinetic-based sigmoidal modeling is a five step process
  1. Estimation of cycle efficiency ( $E_C$ )
  2. Linear regression analysis (LRE) generating values for  $E_{\max}$  and  $\Delta E$
  3.  $F_{\max}$  calculation
  4. Calculation of an average  $F_0$  based upon multiple cycles and  $F_C$
  5. Calculating predicted  $F_C$

