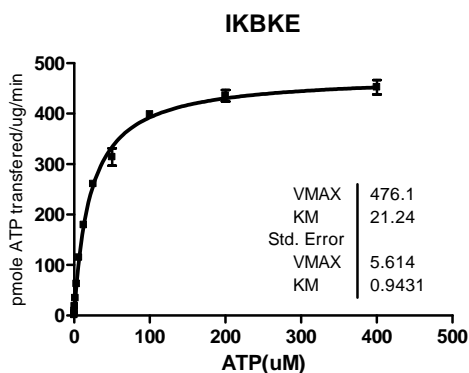


Optimization of a LanthaScreen™ Kinase assay for IKBKE (IKKε)

Overview

This protocol describes how to develop a LanthaScreen™ kinase assay designed to detect inhibitors of IKBKE. In this example, the assay was optimized in two steps:

- Determination of ATP $K_{m,app}$.** This parameter can be estimated in a LanthaScreen™ assay, but in this particular example we used the ATP K_m value that was determined in a radiometric assay using the same substrate that is used in the LanthaScreen assay. In the radiometric assay, an ATP K_m value of approximately 20 μM was determined, with the data shown below:



- Optimization of kinase concentration required for assay at ATP $K_{m,app}$.**

Using the ATP K_m , a kinase titration is performed in order to determine the concentration of kinase required to elicit an approximately 80% change between the minimum and maximum TR-FRET emission ratios at the ATP $K_{m,app}$ concentration of ATP (the EC_{80} value). This is the concentration of kinase that will be used in an assay to determine an IC_{50} value for an inhibitor.

Using the ATP and kinase concentrations determined above, the reaction is then performed in the presence of a dilution series of inhibitor, and the amount of inhibitor required to elicit a 50% change in TR-FRET ratio (the IC_{50}) is determined.

The experiments described in this document can be performed over two days, with steps one and two being performed on the first day, and step three and the inhibitor IC_{50} determination(s) being performed on the second day.

The optimization presented here is designed to maximize sensitivity of the assay towards both ATP-competitive as well as non-ATP competitive inhibitors. If desired, the assay can be performed at higher concentrations of ATP in order to be less sensitive towards ATP-competitive compounds. If such an assay is desired, step 1 is the only step that needs to be performed (at the chosen concentration of ATP) prior to performing the assay in the presence of inhibitors.

The data presented in this document is example data that was generated at Invitrogen. Specific results may vary based upon a variety of factors including the specific activity of the kinase, or the particular plate reader being used. In particular, the Emission Ratio measured can vary greatly between instruments. However, the quality of the data generated should be comparable to the data presented here. If you are reproducing the work presented in this document you should move between the various steps using the values determined in *your* experiments. If you are having trouble reproducing the data presented here, please do not hesitate to contact Invitrogen Technical Services or your Invitrogen representative.

Materials Required

Description	Part Name	Catalog #	Notes
Kinase Reaction Buffer	5X Kinase Buffer Additives: <i>None</i>	PV3189 (4 mL of 5X) <i>n.a.</i>	(1)
Kinase Antibody	IKBKE LanthaScreen™ Tb-IkBα pSer32 Antibody	PV4875 (10 µg) PV3562 (25 µg) PV3563 (1 mg)	(2)
Substrate	Fluorescein-IKK Substrate, 1 mg/ml	PV3507 (1 mg)	(3)
Antibody Dilution Buffer	TR-FRET Dilution Buffer	PV3574 (100 mL)	(4)
500 mM EDTA	Kinase Quench Buffer	P2825 (1 mL)	
10 mM ATP	10 mM ATP	PV3227 (500 µL)	

- (1) The kinase reaction buffer is supplied as a 5x concentrated stock. Prepare a 1x solution from this stock as described below. The 1x kinase reaction buffer is stable at room temperature.
- (2) The antibody is supplied at an approximate concentration of either 0.5 or 1 mg/mL. The molecular weight of the antibody is 150 kD. Thus, the stock concentration of 0.5 mg/mL antibody is 3.35 µM, or 3350 nM, and 1 mg/mL antibody is 6.7 µM, or 6700 nM.
- (3) The molecular weight of the substrate is 1864 g/mole. The concentration of a 1 mg/mL solution is 536 µM.
- (4) The antibody dilution buffer does not contain EDTA. EDTA is added separately, prior to addition of antibody.

Preparing the 1x Kinase Reaction Buffer

Prepare a 1x solution of kinase reaction buffer from the 5x Kinase Buffer stock (listed above) by adding 4 mL of 5x stock to 16 mL H₂O to make 20 mL of 1x kinase reaction buffer.

General Assay Conditions

Kinase reactions are performed in a 10 µL volume in low-volume 384-well plates. Typically, Corning model 3676 (black) or 3673 (white) plates are used. The concentration of substrate in the assay is 400 nM, and the 1x kinase reaction buffer consists of 50 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 0.01% BRIJ-35, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 1 mM EGTA, plus any additional additives that may be required for a specific kinase. Kinase reactions are allowed to proceed for 1 hour at room temperature before a 10 µL preparation of EDTA (20 mM) and Tb-labeled antibody (4 nM) in TR-FRET dilution buffer are added. The final concentration of antibody in the assay well is 2 nM, and the final concentration of EDTA is 10 mM. The plate is allowed to incubate at room temperature for at least 30 minutes before being read on a plate reader configured for LanthaScreen™ TR-FRET.

Plate Readers

The data presented in this document were generated using a BMG Pherastar plate reader using the LanthaScreen™ filter block available from BMG. The assay can be performed on a variety of plate readers including those from Tecan (Ultra, Safire², and InfiniTE F500), Molecular Devices (Analyst and M5), and Perkin Elmer (EnVision, Victor, and ViewLux). Visit www.invitrogen.com/Lanthascreen or contact Invitrogen Discovery Sciences technical support at 800-955-6288 (select option 3 and enter 40266), or email tech_support@invitrogen.com for more information on performing LanthaScreen™ assays on your particular instrument.

Example Protocols

The following example protocols describe the various steps using 16-point dilutions of the variable reagent (kinase, ATP, or inhibitor) in triplicate.

Step 1: Titration of Kinase at ATP $K_{m,app}$

- (1.1) In an appropriate tube or vial, prepare 40 μL of kinase in kinase reaction buffer at 2 times the highest concentration of kinase to be tested. In this example, 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ (40000 ng/mL) was the desired highest concentration of kinase to be tested, and the stock concentration of kinase was 320 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$.

Calculation:

Kinase: Stock = 320 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ 1x = 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ 2x = 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$

			<u>[Initial]</u>			<u>[Final 2x]</u>
Kinase:	10 μL	*	320 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$	=	40 μL	* 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$
Buffer:	30 μL kinase reaction buffer					

Procedure:

Add 10 μL of 320 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ kinase to 30 μL kinase reaction buffer.

Keep the diluted kinase on ice until needed.

- (1.2) In a low-volume 384-well plate, fill each well in columns 1–3, rows 2 through 16 (B through P) with 5 μL of kinase reaction buffer. Place 10 μL of the kinase solution as prepared above in the top well of each column, and then perform a 2-fold serial dilution down the plate by removing 5 μL of kinase from the top well, adding this to the well below, mixing, and repeating with the next well below. Discard 5 μL of solution from the bottom well such that each well contains 5 μL of kinase solution.
- (1.3) In an appropriate container, prepare 1 mL of a solution of substrate and ATP in kinase reaction buffer at 2 times the final concentration of each reagent desired in the assay.

If a 1000 μL solution is prepared in a plastic reagent reservoir (trough), then the next addition step can be performed with a multichannel pipette.

Calculations:

Substrate: Stock = 536 μM 1x = 0.4 μM 2x = 0.8 μM

ATP: Stock = 10 mM 1x = 20 μM 2x = 40 μM

			<u>[Initial]</u>			<u>[Final 2x]</u>
Substrate:	0.75 μL	*	536 μM	=	500 μL	* 0.8 μM
ATP:	2 μL	*	10 mM	=	500 μL	* 40 μM
Buffer:	497.25 μL kinase reaction buffer					

Procedure:

Add 0.75 μL of 536 μM substrate and 2 μL of 10 mM ATP to 497.25 μL kinase reaction buffer.

- (1.4) Start the kinase reaction by adding 5 μL of the substrate + ATP solution prepared in step 3.3 to each well of the assay plate.
- (1.5) Cover the assay plate and allow reaction to proceed for 1 hour at room temperature.
- (1.6) Prior to completion of the kinase reaction, prepare 1 mL of a solution of EDTA and Tb-labeled antibody at 2 times the desired final concentrations of each reagent in TR-FRET dilution buffer. The antibody is stable in EDTA for several hours, but because it is sensitive to high concentrations of EDTA we recommend first adding the concentrated EDTA to the dilution buffer, mixing the solution well, and then adding the antibody before mixing further.

Calculations:

EDTA: Stock = 500 mM 1x = 10 mM 2x = 20 mM
 Antibody: Stock = 6700 nM 1x = 2 nM 2x = 4 nM

			[Initial]			[Final 2x]
EDTA:	40 μ L	*	500 mM	=	1000 μ L	* 20 mM
Antibody:	0.6 μ L	*	6700 nM	=	1000 μ L	* 4 nM
Buffer:	959.4 μ L TR-FRET Dilution Buffer					

Procedure:

Add 40 μ L of 500 mM EDTA and 0.6 μ L of 6700 nM antibody to 959.4 μ L TR-FRET Dilution Buffer.

Note:

These calculations are made assuming that the stock concentration of antibody is 1 mg/mL. If the stock concentration is 0.5 mg/mL, then twice the indicated volume of antibody (1.2 μ L) should be used to make the solution.

- (1.7) Add 10 μ L of the Tb-antibody + EDTA solution prepared in step 3.6 to each well of the assay plate and mix briefly, either by pipette or on a plate shaker.
- (1.8) Cover the assay plate and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature before reading on an appropriate plate reader.
- (1.9) Plot the resulting TR-FRET emission ratio against the concentration of ATP, and fit the data to a sigmoidal dose-response curve with a variable slope. Calculate the EC₈₀ concentration from the curve. The following equation can be used with GraphPad™ Prism® software:

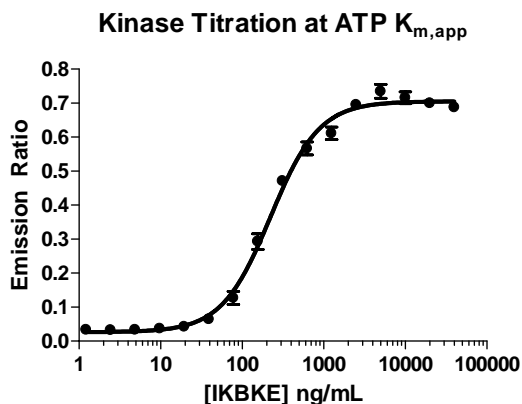
$$F=80$$

$$\log EC_{50} = \log ECF - (1/\text{HillSlope}) * \log(F/(100-F))$$

$$Y = \text{Bottom} + (\text{Top} - \text{Bottom}) / (1 + 10^{-(\text{LogEC}_{50} - X) * \text{HillSlope}})$$

Alternatively, the amount of kinase needed to elicit an 80% change in TR-FRET response may be estimated from a visual inspection of the curve. It is important that the reactions performed to determine the IC₅₀ value of an inhibitor be performed at or below the EC₈₀ concentration of the kinase determined from this graph.

Figure 1: Example of Kinase Titration at ATP K_m



The EC₈₀ value determined from the example data was 578 ng/mL kinase. Based on this result, 500 ng/mL kinase was used to determine inhibitor IC₅₀ values when performing the assay at 20 μ M ATP.

Step 2: Determination of Inhibitor IC₅₀ Value.

(2.1) The general procedure for determining an inhibitor IC₅₀ value is as follows:

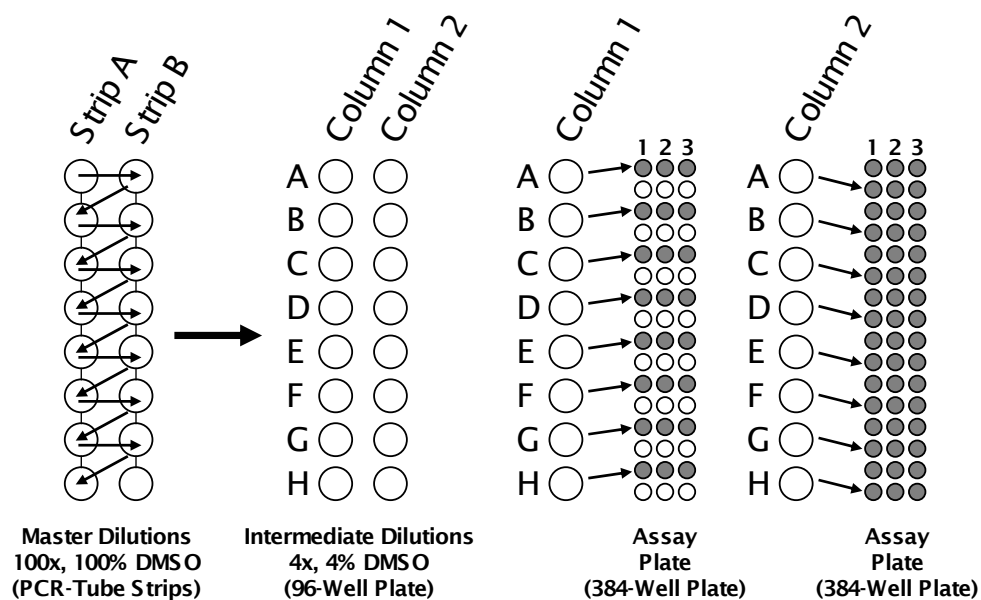
1. Add 2.5 μL of inhibitor in 4% DMSO at 4-fold the final assay concentration to triplicate assay wells.
2. To start the reaction, add 2.5 μL of kinase at 4-fold the final assay concentration, followed by 5 μL of substrate + ATP at 2-fold the final reaction concentrations.
3. The remainder of the protocol is similar to previous steps.

(2.2) A dilution series of inhibitor in 100% DMSO is first prepared at 100 times the concentrations to be assayed. By performing the initial dilutions in 100% DMSO, solubility problems associated with dilutions into aqueous buffer can be minimized.

This “master” dilution series of inhibitor can be prepared in two separate 8-tube PCR strips, and stored at -20° or -80° for use in future experiments. The dilutions are “staggered” between strips as shown in the left side of Figure 4:

1. Add 50 μL of DMSO to tubes 2–8 of strip A, and all tubes of strip B.
2. Add 100 μL of inhibitor in DMSO, at 100-fold the highest concentration to be tested in the experiment, to tube 1 of strip A.
3. Transfer 50 μL of inhibitor from tube 1 of strip A to tube 1 of strip B.
4. After mixing, transfer 50 μL from tube 1 of strip B to tube 2 of strip A.
5. This process is repeated for all but the final tube of strip B, which contains only DMSO (no inhibitor).

Figure 4: Preparing a Dilution Series of Inhibitor



(2.3) From the master dilutions of inhibitor in 100% DMSO, intermediate dilutions are then prepared in two columns of a 96-well plate. The 96-well plate is used only as a convenient vessel for preparing the intermediate dilutions.

1. First, place 96 μL of kinase reaction buffer into all wells of two columns of a 96-well plate.
2. Then, transfer 4 μL of the master inhibitor stock from strip A into column 1 of the 96 well plate, and 4 μL of the master inhibitor stock from strip B into column 2 of the 96-well plate.

3. Mix the solutions well, either with a plate shaker or by mixing with a 20 μL multichannel pipette.
 4. Using an 8-channel pipette, add 2.5 μL of inhibitor from the intermediate dilution in the 96-well plate to the 384-well assay plate as shown in figure 4. Use column 1 of the intermediate stock to fill rows A, C, E, etc. of the 384-well assay plate, and column 2 to fill the alternating rows B, D, F, etc.
- (2.4) Using the stock concentration of kinase, prepare a 1 mL solution of kinase in kinase reaction buffer at 4x the final desired reaction concentration of the kinase. From Step 3, 500 ng/mL kinase was determined to be the concentration required for the assay.

Calculation:

Kinase: Stock = 320 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ 1x = 500 ng/mL 4x = 2000 ng/mL

	<u>[Initial]</u>			<u>[Final 4x]</u>
Kinase:	6.25 μL	*	320 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	= 1000 μL * 2000 ng/mL
Buffer:	993.75 μL kinase reaction buffer			

Procedure:

Add 6.25 μL of 320 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ kinase to 993.75 μL kinase reaction buffer .

- (2.5) Add 2.5 μL of the kinase solution prepared in step 4.4 to each well of the assay plate.
- (2.6) In an appropriate container, prepare 1 mL of a solution of substrate and ATP in kinase reaction buffer at 2 times the final concentration of each reagent desired in the assay.

If a 1000 μL solution is prepared in a plastic reagent reservoir (trough), then the next addition step can be performed using a multichannel pipette.

Calculations:

Substrate: Stock = 536 μM 1x = 0.4 μM 2x = 0.8 μM
 ATP: Stock = 10 mM 1x = 20 μM 2x = 40 μM

		<u>[Initial]</u>			<u>[Final 2x]</u>
Substrate:	1.49 μL	*	536 μM	= 1000 μL	* 0.8 μM
ATP:	4 μL	*	10 mM	= 1000 μL	* 40 μM
Buffer:	994.51 μL kinase reaction buffer				

Procedure:

Add 1.49 μL of 536 μM substrate and 4 μL of 10 mM ATP to 994.51 μL kinase reaction buffer.

- (2.7) Start the kinase reaction by adding 5 μL of the substrate + ATP solution prepared in step 4.6 to each well of the assay plate and mix briefly, either by pipette or on a plate shaker.
- (2.8) Cover the assay plate and allow reaction to proceed for 1 hour at room temperature.
- (2.9) Prior to completion of the assay, prepare 1 mL of a solution of EDTA and Tb-labeled antibody at 2 times the desired final concentrations of each reagent in TR-FRET dilution buffer. The antibody is stable in EDTA for several hours, but because it is sensitive to high concentrations of EDTA, we recommend first adding the concentrated EDTA to the dilution buffer, mixing the solution well, and then adding the antibody before mixing further.

Calculations:

EDTA: Stock = 500 mM 1x = 10 mM 2x = 20 mM
Antibody: Stock = 6700 nM 1x = 2 nM 2x = 4 nM

			<u>[Initial]</u>			<u>[Final 2x]</u>
EDTA:	40 μ L	*	500 mM	=	1000 μ L	* 20 mM
Antibody:	0.6 μ L	*	6700 nM	=	1000 μ L	* 4 nM
Buffer:	959.4 μ L TR-FRET Dilution Buffer					

Procedure:

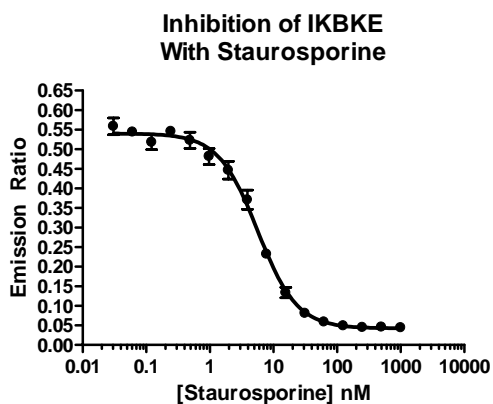
Add 40 μ L of 500 mM EDTA and 0.6 μ L of 6700 nM antibody to 959.4 μ L TR-FRET Dilution Buffer

Note:

These calculations are made assuming that the stock concentration of antibody is 1 mg/mL. If the stock concentration is 0.5 mg/mL, then twice the indicated volume of antibody (1.2 μ L) should be used to make the solution.

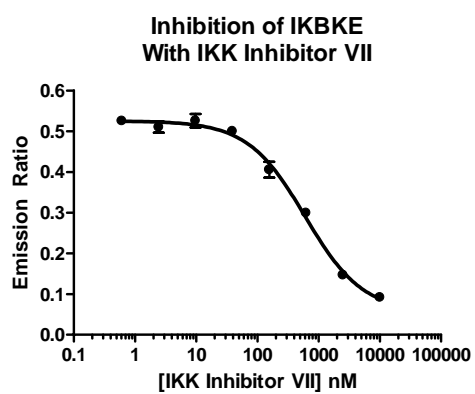
- (2.10) Add 10 μ L of the Tb-antibody + EDTA solution prepared in step 2.9 to each well of the assay plate.
- (2.11) Cover the assay plate and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature before reading on an appropriate plate reader.
- (2.12) Plot the resulting TR-FRET emission ratio against the concentration of inhibitor, and fit the data to a sigmoidal dose-response curve with a variable slope. Calculate the EC₅₀ concentration from the curve. This is equal to the IC₅₀ value for the inhibitor.

Figure 2: Example of an IC₅₀ Calculation Curve



The IC₅₀ value for staurosporine determined from the example data was 5.7 nM.

Figure 3: Example of an IC₅₀ Calculation Curve



The IC₅₀ value for IKK Inhibitor VII (Calbiochem) determined from the example data was 604 nM.