

**Table S8.** Parameter values for detailed *lac* operon simulations.

Parameter	Interpretation	Value	Units
$k_m$	Transcription	0.5808	$s^{-1}$
$k_{mt}$	LacI Transcription	0.000167	$s^{-1}$
$k_{mdeg}$	mRNA degradation	0.00791	$s^{-1}$
$k_{tsnY}$	Translation of LacY	0.0833	$s^{-1}$
$k_{tsnZ}$	Translation of LacZ	0.0500	$s^{-1}$
$k_{deg}$	Protein dilution	0.0002	$s^{-1}$
$k_{lacI}$	LacI dimerization	0.167	$\Omega/(\# \times s)$
$k_{bl}$	LacY-lac <sub>e</sub> binding	$5.00 \times 10^{-05}$	$\Omega/(\# \times s)$
$k_{dl}$	LacY-lac <sub>e</sub> unbinding	5.00	$s^{-1}$
$k_{perm}$	lac <sub>e</sub> import	10.0	$s^{-1}$
$k_{bp}$	LacZ-lac binding	0.000563	$\Omega/(\# \times s)$
$k_{dp}$	LacZ-lac unbinding	383	$s^{-1}$
$k_{dp2}$	lac conversion to alac	1670	$s^{-1}$
$k_{bp2}$	alac conversion to lac	0.00119	$\Omega/(\# \times s)$
$k_{cat}$	lac conversion to product	253	$s^{-1}$
$k_u$	product use and dilution	1.67	$s^{-1}$
$k_{ba}$	alac-LacI <sub>4</sub> binding	$1.67 \times 10^{-06}$	$\Omega^2/(\#^2 \times s)$
$k_{da}$	alac-LacI <sub>4</sub> unbinding	167	$s^{-1}$
$k_{gon}$	Transcription on	0.000450	$s^{-1}$
$k_{goff}$	Transcription off	0.00278	$s^{-1}$
$k_b$	LacI <sub>4</sub> -promoter binding	0.167	$\Omega/(\# \times s)$
$k_d$	LacI <sub>4</sub> -promoter unbinding	0.000244	$s^{-1}$
$k_{b2}$	LacI <sub>4</sub> .alac <sub>2</sub> -promoter binding	0.0167	$\Omega/(\# \times s)$
$k_{d2}$	LacI <sub>4</sub> .alac <sub>2</sub> -promoter unbinding	0.00167	$s^{-1}$
$k_u$	Product utilization	1.67	$s^{-1}$
lac <sub>e</sub> (0)	Extracellular lactose (lac <sub>e</sub> )	835	#