# Supporting Information

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## Tseng and Prather 10.1073/pnas.1209002109



Fig. S1. Schematic of the butanol biosynthetic pathway (Left), poly(3HB-co-3HV) biosynthetic pathway (in blue), threonine biosynthetic pathway (in green), and designed pentanol biosynthetic pathway (Right). Pentanol synthesis starts from condensation of one acetyl-CoA with one propionyl-CoA, instead of two acetyl-CoA molecules, to establish a five-carbon skeleton.

**Fermentation Products** 

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Fig. S2. Applications of various fermentation products synthesized from recombinant Escherichia coli strains carrying different combinations of pentanol pathway and CoA-activation/removing toolkit enzymes.



Fig. S3. Schematic of trans-2-pentenoate biosynthetic pathway (Upper) and titers of products synthesized by recombinant E. coli grown under various conditions (Lower). All constructs contain ptb-buk and bktB in addition to the genes indicated under each bar. The symbols of C4 and C5 denote crotonate and trans-2-pentenoate, respectively. Ratios of titers from phaB-phaJ1 constructs to titers from hbd-crt constructs are shown in green and ratios of trans-2-pentenoate titers to crotonate titers are shown in pink. Cells were grown in TB supplemented with 10 g/L glucose and 20 mM propionate, and incubated at 30 °C for 24 h. For the ratios of product titers from phaB-phaJ1 constructs to those from hbd-crt, a value larger than 1 suggests that the R-pathway outperforms the S-pathway, which was the case under aerobic conditions. On the other hand, the ratio was close to one under anaerobic conditions, suggesting that the difference between the R- and S-pathway became smaller. For the ratios of tran-2-penenote titers to crotonate titers, the values also dropped when culture condition changes from aerobic to anaerobic. The difference in the two ratios between the R- and S- pathway implicates a correlation between oxygen availability and R- and S-pathway activities, to explain which, a hypothesis is proposed in Fig. S4.



Fig. S4. Schematic representation of correlations between dissolved oxygen and various variables (cofactor ratios, ATP, and observed product ratios). The results of trans-2-pentenoate synthesis from glucose and glycerol under aerobic, microaerobic, and anaerobic culture conditions suggest that there may exist a correlation between oxygen availability and R- and S-pathway activities, to explain which a hypothesis was proposed. As generally known, the NADPH/NADP<sup>+</sup> ratio is positively correlated with DOT (dissolved oxygen tension) but the NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> ratio is inversely correlated with DOT, so we would expect the NADPHdependent R-pathway to outperform the NADH-dependent S-pathway under aerobic conditions, resulting in larger crotonate ratios (R-pathway to S-pathway) and trans-2-pentenoate ratios (R-pathway to S-pathway) (Fig. S3). Under anaerobic conditions, the trend of cofactor ratios reverses, and the difference in performance between the two pathways should become smaller, which is consistent with our observations. In addition, we suspected that the activation of propionate is also affected by DOT as its activation by Ptb-Buk requires ATP, the amount of which is positively correlated with DOT. Thus, a larger propionyl-CoA pool could be expected under the aerobic conditions, thus favoring the condensation reaction of acetyl-CoA with propionyl-CoA, and consequently resulting in larger trans-2-pentenoate to crotonate ratios (Fig. S3). These observations gave insights into optimization of culture conditions, motivating us to profile various headspace to culture volume ratios for production of butanol (Fig. S8).



Fig. S5. Schematic diagram of pentanol synthesis from valerate and titers of substrates consumed and products synthesized by recombinant E. coli. Two activators, including Ptb-Buk and Pct, and two feed concentrations of valerate, were compared. The adhE<sub>opt</sub> gene was overexpressed in all constructs. Stains using Pct as the CoA-activator were found to consume more valerate and produce more pentanol compared with stains using Ptb-Buk as CoA-activator. Pentanol titers were further boosted when the valerate substrate concentration was increased from 10 mM to 20 mM. Overall, the results suggest that the AdhE enzyme, expressed from the codon-optimized  $adhE_{opt}$  was able to catalyze the reaction of valeryl-CoA to pentanol.

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Fig. S6. Schematic diagram of pentanol synthesis from trans-2-pentenoate and titers of products resulting from the feeding of trans-2-pentenoate. All relevant products coming from trans-2-petenoate are shown. Genes of ptb-buk, bcd-etfAB, and adhE<sub>opt</sub> were overexpressed. Two formate dehydrogenases (encoded by fdh1 with codon-optimization) from Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Candida boidinii were overexpressed to increase NADH availability. The effect of supplementation with 1 g/L formate was also compared. To quantify the effect of overexpression of fdh1, one number was assigned to each product based on its relative redox state, for example, "2" for pentenol synthesized from trans-2-pentenoyl-CoA requires 2 mol of NADH, and "−1" for propionate synthesized from trans-2-pentenoyl-CoA generates 1 mol of NADH. Next, we calculated the total NADH used for product formation, which is the summation of products of multiplying the relative redox value by the product titer. The calculated total NADH used for product formation is shown within each of the bottom three plots. Clearly, the overexpression of fdh1 with supplementation of formate increased the NADH availability within the cells as the total NADH used for product formation increased from 2.7 in the no-fdh1 control to 11.4 and 9.8 in cells expressing S. cerevisiae fdh1 and C. boidinii fdh1, respectively. Additionally, the observation of production of valerate and pentanol in the bcd-etfAB containing strain suggest that the Bcd enzyme used in the bottom pentanol pathway can transform trans-2-pentenoyl-CoA, a five-carbon substrate, to valeryl-CoA.



Fig. S7. Comparison of the two Ter enzymes from Treponema denticola and Euglena gracilis on pentanol synthesis. The Ter<sub>Td</sub> enzyme obviously outperformed the Ter<sub>Eq</sub> enzyme in converting trans-2-pentenoyl-CoA to valeryl-CoA, resulting in more valerate and pentanol despite its incapability of catalyzing hexanoyl-CoA, a C6 substrate, based on a reported in vitro enzyme assay result (1). The fdh1<sub>sc</sub> gene was overexpressed in both strains along with supplementation of 1 g/L formate.

1. Tucci S, Martin W (2007) A novel prokaryotic trans-2-enoyl-CoA reductase from the spirochete Treponema denticola. FEBS Lett 581(8):1561–1566.



Fig. S8. Butanol synthesis from glucose via newly constructed pentanol pathways. This figure shows butanol titers, specific titers, and cell densities from cultures of recombinant E. coli containing the pentanol pathways. Cells were grown under various culture conditions with different ratios of headspace to culture volume for 48 h. Two routes, including the hbd-crt route (Upper, strain Pal5) and the phaB-phaJ1 (Lower, strain Pal6) route, were compared. In general, strains containing either R- or S- pentanol biosynthetic pathway produced butanol, achieving the highest butanol specific titers at a headspace to culture volume ratio of 4.





Although ethanol represents an initial success as a biofuel because of its high production yield and efficiency, it does not compare favorably to gasoline. Ethanol has a lower energy density (∼34% less energy per unit volume than gasoline, resulting in a 34% reduction in miles per gallon), a low vapor pressure, and a high hygroscopicity, possibly leading to corrosion in pipelines and engines. Furthermore, ethanol raises the vapor pressure of the mixture when blended to gasoline, although this is partially offset by an increase in octane number. In contrast, advanced biofuels, including butanol, isobutanol, and pentanol, have better physical-chemical properties, such as higher energy densities, low hygroscopicities as well as lower vapor pressure for gasoline blends. Although the octane number of l-butanol is slightly less than gasoline, branched-chain isomers, such as isobutanol, have higher octane numbers, allowing for more flexibility in fuel design. Furthermore, as carbon length increases, the amount of air needed to combust unit amount of fuel also increases. Because standard gasoline engines can only adjust the air-fuel ratio to accommodate variations in the fuel within certain limits, the closer to 14.6 the air-fuel ratio of the fuels, the better the engine's efficiency. Therefore, long-chain alcohols are preferable fuel alternatives. Perry's handbook (1) and [www2.dupont.com/BioFuel/en\\_US/index.html.](http://www2.dupont.com/BioFuel/en_US/index.html.)

1. Perry R, Green D (2007) Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook (McGraw-Hill, New York).

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### Table S2. List of strains and plasmids used in this work

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#### Table S2. Cont.

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1. Fischer CR, Tseng HC, Tai M, Prather KL, Stephanopoulos G (2010) Assessment of heterologous butyrate and butanol pathway activity by measurement of intracellular pathway<br>intermediates in recombinant *Escherichia coli. A* 

2. Tseng H-C, Martin CH, Nielsen DR, Prather KLJ (2009) Metabolic engineering of Escherichia coli for the enhanced production of (R)- and (S)-3-hydroxybutyrate. Appl Environ Microbiol 75(10):3137–3145.

3. Nielsen DR, et al. (2009) Engineering alternative butanol production platforms in heterologous bacteria. Metab Eng 11(4-5):262–273.

4. Martin CH (2010) Development of metabolic pathways for the biosynthesis of hydroxyacids and lactones. PhD dissertation (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA). Available at<http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/57867>.

5. Tseng HC, Harwell CL, Martin CH, Prather KL (2010) Biosynthesis of chiral 3-hydroxyvalerate from single propionate-unrelated carbon sources in metabolically engineered E. coli. Microb Cell Fact 9:96.

### Table S3. List of DNA oligonucleotides used in this work

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Restriction sites used for cloning are underlined. Primer names correspond to the name of the gene that the primer amplifies, whether the primer is the forward primer (FP) or reverse primer (RP) of that gene, and the restriction site incorporated into the primer sequence for cloning.