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### SI Text

Methods for Gene Deletion and Integration. The methods of seamless chromosomal deletion, gene replacement, and integration were described previously using Red recombinase technology (1). In general, primers "up" and "down" were used to amplify target genes and adjacent regions (200–400 bp upstream and downstream to ORF). Resulting PCR products were cloned into the pCR2.1 TOPO vector. Primers with the designation "1" and "2" ("10" and "20" in some cases) were used to amplify the backbone of the plasmid by inside-out PCR, omitting the coding region of target gene. The PCR fragments were ligated to cat-sacB cassette (amplified from pLOI4162) to create the template for integration (1). After removal of cat-sacB, the self-ligated plasmid contains only the adjacent regions of target region allowing a seamless deletion (1). Plasmids and primers used in strain constructions are listed in Table S1.

Constructions of Plasmids for fucO-ucpA Expression and Chromosomal **Integration.**  $p$ LOI5229 ( $p$ Trc fucO-ucpA). The DNA sequence of  $\hat{f}$ ucO (ribosome-binding site, coding region, and terminator) was cloned previously into pTrc99a (pLOI4319) (2). The whole plasmid of pLOI4319 (2) was amplified by PCR using primers pTrcFucO-UcpA left and pTrcFucO-UcpA right to open the plasmid precisely after fucO stop codon and to create the fragment containing the plasmid backbone and  $\text{fucO}$  ORF. The fragment containing intergenic sequence (AATTGAAGAAGGAATAAGGT) and ucpA ORF was assembled by PCR using Escherichia coli genomic DNA as template and primers pTrcFucO-UcpAORFup and pTrcFucO-UcpAORFdown. Both PCR fragments contain a more than 50-bp identical sequence at each end provided by primers. The two pieces of DNA were joined by CloneEZ PCR Cloning Kit from GenScript to produce pLOI5229. The protein level of FucO produced from pLOI5229 is equal to that from pLOI4319 (∼0.7 U/mg protein) (Fig. S1) (2).

pLOI4857 (cloning wild-type ackA and its adjacent region into pACYC184). The fragment of E. coli ackA ORF and its adjacent region (200 bp upstream and downstream from coding region) was amplified by PCR using primers ackAup200 and ackAdown200. Using primers pACYC-up and pACYC-down, the plasmid backbone of pACYC184 excluding tet ORF (1.2 kb) was also amplified. After phosphorylation, these two DNA fragments were ligated to form plasmid pLOI4857.

pLOI4859 (replacing ackA ORF with fucO-ucpA to create ackA::fucO-ucpA cassette). Primers ackA 1 and ackA 2 were used to amplify the sequence from pLOI4857 precisely excluding the *ackA* ORF by PCR. Primers *ackApAC* up and *ackApAC* down were used to amplify the fucO-ucpA fragment from pLOI5229. The two pieces of DNA were joined by CloneEZ PCR Cloning Kit, designated pLOI4859.

pLOI4869 (reducing the size of pLOI4859). Primers pACY PacI and pACY HindIII were used to amplify the backbone of pACYC184 omitting tet and downstream sequence (1.9 kb). PacI and HindIII sites in primers were added to the two ends of the PCR fragment. Primers HindIII ackA fucO and ackA fucO PacI were used to amplify the fucO-ucpA cassette with flanking ackA' regions using pLOI4859 as a template. These primers included PacI and HindIII sites at the ends. These two PCR products were ligated to create plasmid pLOI4869.

pLOI4870 (adding unique BamHI site and ribosomal-binding region). The full length of plasmid pLOI4869 was amplified by inside-out PCR using primers fucO RBS and fucO BamHI. After phosphorylation and self-ligation, the resulting plasmid was designated pLOI4870. This plasmid contained a promoter-probe cassette consisting of a unique BamH1 site for ligation of Sau3A1 fragments followed by an *adhE* ribosomal-binding site, fucO ORF, an intergenic sequence and ucpA ORF (Fig. S1). This cassette is bordered by sequence homologous to upstream (omitting part of *ackA* native promoter and ribosomal binding site) and downstream sequences to ackA ORF that can be used to guide chromosomal integration (Fig. S1).

Growth-Based Screen for Surrogate Promoters to Express the fucOucpA Cassette. E. coli genomic DNA was completely digested with Sau3AI and ligated into BamHI-treated pLOI4870 to create a plasmid library containing varied sequences between ackA upstream sequences  $(ackA')$  and the ribosomal binding site of  $fucO$ (Fig. S1). More than 10,000 colonies were pooled and used to prepare a master library of plasmid DNA. The plasmid library of surrogate promoters was transformed into XW092 (LY180 ΔyqhD) with selection on AM1–xylose plates containing 12 mM furfural and 40 mg/L chloramphenicol. Plates were incubated under argon. Large colonies (176 clones) were isolated from more than 10,000 transformants. These were further screened using a Bio-Screen C growth curve analyzer (BioScreen). Control strains XW092(pACYC184) and XW092(pLOI4870) and clones with a large colony phenotype were inoculated in a 100-well honeycomb plate containing 400 μL of AM1 xylose medium with 40 mg/L chloramphenicol. Optical density was measured at 30-min intervals with 10-s shaking immediately before each reading. After incubation for 16 h, these seed cultures were diluted to an initial optical density of 0.1 and inoculated again in AM1 media containing 12 mM furfural and 40 mg/L chloramphenicol. Growth curves were monitored. The single clone with the highest furfural resistance was selected and designated pLOI5237 (Fig. S1 B and C). XW092(pLOI5237) also showed much stronger NADH-linked furfural reductase activities (∼0.7 U/mg protein) (Fig. S1D) and the enhanced putative FucO and UcpA bands (Fig. S1E) compared with XW092(pLOI4870).

The promoter fragment in pLOI5237 (1.6 kb) was composed of 10 independent Sau3AI fragments (Fig. S1B), each from a different region of the E. coli genome. It does not have any known promoter and any complete gene. Approximately 1 kb of upstream sequence containing eight of these fragments was deleted by digestion with BamH1-AatII (self-ligation to create pLOI5259) (Fig. S1B), with no decline in furfural tolerance (Fig. S1C) or furfural reductase activity (Fig. S1D). Analysis of this sequence with the Web-based program Neural Network Promoter Prediction 2.2 (www.fruitfl[y.org/seq\\_tools/promoter.html\)](http://www.fruitfly.org/seq_tools/promoter.html) and BPROM [\(http://](http://linux1.softberry.com/berry.phtml) [linux1.softberry.com/berry.phtml\)](http://linux1.softberry.com/berry.phtml) both predicted a promoter in an internal segment of the yadC coding region near the center of this fragment (Fig. S1B).

Sequences of Promoter Fragments from pLOI5237 and pLOI5259 (Subclone). The predicted promoter region (BPROM and Neural Network Promoter Prediction) is underlined and bold. The sequences of *ackA'* upstream and partial fucO ORF (downstream) are italicized and underlined.

Promoter Fragment (1.6 kb) from pLOI5237. TACTTGAGTCGT-CAAATTCATATACATTATGCCATTGGCTGAAAATTACGC-AAAATGGCATAGACTCAAGATATTTCTTCCATCATGCAA-AAAAAATTTGCAGTGCATGATGTTAATCATAAATGTCGG-TGTCATCATGCGCTACGCTCTATGGCTCCCTGACGTTTT-TTTAGCCAGG(ackA′ upstream sequence)

ATCCACGTTTTGTATTAGCAAACGTCAAACTCTCAT-CGCTGACAGAACTCACCGCAAAAGACCTTCTCGGTTA-ATGACCAGGGGCAGTGATCGTCTCATGGCCTTGCCAT-GGTGTTCTCTATGTTGCTGGCGGCGATTATCTGGAAC-CTGGGTACCTGGTACTTTGGTTTACCTGCATCCAGCTC-TCATACGCTGATTGGCGCGATCGCTTCTAAAGCAGCC-CGCATGCGTTCCATCGTCGTTCCTGCGCCAGAAGCGCA-AAATGATCGGCCAGCCCACCAGGAAGCCCAGCGAGTA-AATTAAGCCGTCATAGCCGGAGGTAAACACCAGCGCG-GAGATCTCATTTTTAACCGCGTCAATCAGCATTGAAG-AGTCCTGGCTTAAGTCATAGCCCGGCGGATTAACCAC-CTGCATTTCCAGTTCAATACCGAGGGTAAAAGGTTCA-GAAACATGAAAATCGGGTAATGGCATAGGTTTCTCTT-AAGTTGGCGTTTTCTATTCAGTATAGAAGTCGGAGCG-GCTGGGCGAGATGCGGAAGTTCTGGAATGTTTCTTTT-TTTGGTGATGGTGACTGAAGCAATTTGGCTACTTTTG-CAATGTGACAAGTTATGGCACGGCTGGCTGGTGGCG-AAGAATTTTGACGATTGAGGCATGCAGAAAAAAAAC-GGGTTCAGCTTTCAGTTGATCCTCCCAGAACTTTGCT-CTGGGGGGATACGGTCCCCGCTGTTCCCCGTCGCTTA-ATCTGCATTATGCCGCGTAACTATGGCGCGGCGTTTA-AGTTTCCTTGCCGATAGCGGCGGCTGGCAGCGTTGGT-TCTTTGCCGGTATTGCGATTGGTATTAGCGTGATCAA-ATTCCGCTGGCGGTTATCTCTGGCCCAACGTTTGCGA-AAGAACTGGCGGCAGGTTTACCTACAGCTATTTCGCT-GGCCTCGACCGATCAGGAATGCCCAGTGTTGTATTCA-GACGTCCACGTGACTTATTAAAGATCTTTACTGCGGC-TATACTCCTGCGACGCTAATTGAGCAGCTTTTTGGTA-AGATTGATCAAAAATGGAGAGAAACGGGGCCGAATG-GCGATGCTACTGTCATATTCAGATATGCAACAAGTAC-AAATAATTTAGTTTTCTACAAACCGACGCAGCTTGGA-CCTACAGGTGTAAAATTACAGTGGAGTCAGTTAGATA-CCGCTTCTGGTGGTGGTTTTCTTTATTGCAACAGAAG-TGATAGCACAAGTGGTAGCGCAATGCGTATTGAAAAT-GCAATGGTTGACTCAGGTAAAATGTATGGCTCCCATAAAT-

1. Jantama K, et al. (2008) Eliminating side products and increasing succinate yields in engineered strains of Escherichia coli C. Biotechnol Bioeng 101(5):881–893.

TATTTAATACATCAGTTCCTGGTTTGTATTACACATTATTA-ATTTCAAACATGTGGTCAGCTTACGGTACCGTAACTA-ACGTTAGTTCACCTGGGATATACATTGGTGACTCTGC-AGAACAATATTTTTCGTGGTATAATCCAAGCGAAGAC-GTGTTATATTGGAGTTGCAATAATGCGAATAGCACCC-GTAAATACTGGGCTGTAGGTGGTATTTATCAGACCCT-TACAATTGAATTCTATACAGATACAAACTTTGATCCAT-ATCAGGAGAGCATTATGATGGCTAACAGAATGATTCTG-AACG...(fucO downstream ORF)

Subcloned Promoter Fragment (0.6 kb) from pLOI5259. GTCGTCA-AATTCATATACATTATGCCATTGGCTGAAAATTACGCAA-AATGGCATAGACTCAAGATATTTCTTCCATCATGCAAAA-AAAATTTGCAGTGCATGATGTTAATCATAAATGTCGGTG-TCATCATGCGCTACGCTCTATGGCTCCCTGACGTTTTTT-TAGCCAGG(ackA′ upstream sequence)

ACCACGTGACTTATTAAAGATCTTTACTGCGGCTAT-ACTCCTGCGACGCTAATTGAGCAGCTTTTTGGTAAGA-TTGATCAAAAATGGAGAGAAACGGGGCCGAATGGCG-ATGCTACTGTCATATTCAGATATGCAACAAGTACAAA-TAATTTAGTTTTCTACAAACCGACGCAGCTTGGACCTA-CAGGTGTAAAATTACAGTGGAGTCAGTTAGATACCGC-TTCTGGTGGTGGTTTTCTTTATTGCAACAGAAGTGAT-AGCACAAGTGGTAGCGCAATGCGTATTGAAAATGCAA-TGGTTGACTCAGGTAAAATGTATGGCTCCCATAAATTATT-TAATACATCAGTTCCTGGTTTGTATTACACATTATTAATT-TCAAACATGTGGTCAGCTTACGGTACCGTAACTAACG-TTAGTTCACCTGGGATATACATTGGTGACTCTGCAGAA-CAATATTTTTCGTGGTATAATCCAAGCGAAGACGTGT-TATATTGGAGTTGCAATAATGCGAATAGCACCCGTAA-ATACTGGGCTGTAGGTGGTATTTATCAGACCCTTACA-ATTGAATTCTATACAGATACAAACTTTGATCCATATCA-GGAGAGCATTATGATGGCTAACAGAATGATTCTGAACG... (fucO ORF)

2. Wang X, et al. (2011) Increased furfural tolerance due to overexpression of NADHdependent oxidoreductase FucO in Escherichia coli strains engineered for the production of ethanol and lactate. Appl Environ Microbiol 77(15):5132–5140.



Fig. S1. Isolation and characterization of the surrogate promoter for chromosomal expression of fucO-ucpA cassette. (A) Promoter–probe plasmid pLOI4870 was used to isolate Sau3A1 fragments that serve as surrogate promoters for expression of fucO-ucpA. Two rounds of the growth-based screen were used in AM1 medium containing furfural. (B) Isolation and identification of promoter fragment by sequencing pLOI5237 and pLOI5259. A putative promoter (boxed region) was predicted within this fragment using BPROM and Neural Network Promoter Prediction. (C) Growth of strains containing furfural-resistance plasmids expressing the fucO-ucpA cassette. Tube cultures ( $n = 3$ ) were grown for 48 h in AM1 medium containing 50 g/L xylose, 20 mg/L chloramphenicol, and 12.5 or 15 mM furfural as described previously (2). (D) The NADH-linked furfural reductase activity in plasmid strains containing fucO-ucpA cassettes. (E) SDS/PAGE of cytoplasmic extracts from strains harboring fucO-ucpA cassettes. Arrows indicate the predicted size of FucO (molecular mass, 40.5 kDa; thick band) and UcpA (molecular mass, 27.8 kDa; not easily seen).



media containing 50 g/L xylose with 10 mM (A) or 12.5 mM (B) furfural, 100 mM 3(N-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid (MOPS), and 50 mM KHCO<sub>3</sub>. Data represent averages of at least three experiments with SDs.



**Furfural (mM)** Fig. S3. Effect of plasmid-expressed fucO and ucpA on furfural tolerance of XW120 (XW055, ΔyqhD ackA::PyadC′fucO-ucpA) during succinate production from xylose. Tube cultures (n = 3) were grown for 48 h in AM1 medium containing 50 g/L xylose, 100 mM MOPS, 50 mM KHCO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 mM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside, and 12.5 mg/L ampicillin with varying concentrations of furfural. Only plasmid pTrc fucO improved the furfural tolerance of strain XW120.



Fig. S4. Comparison of furfural resistance between strains XW055 and LY180. Cell mass was measured from tube cultures ( $n = 3$ ) grown for 48 h in AM1 minimal media containing 50 g/L xylose with varied concentrations of furfural (additional 100 mM MOPS and 50 mM KHCO3 included for XW055). Data represent averages of at least three experiments with SDs. Cultures were inoculated to an initial density of 22 mg dry cell weight (dcw) per liter.

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# Table S1. Strains, plasmids, and primers

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## Table S1. Cont.

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NEB, New England Biolabs.

1. Miller EN, et al. (2009) Silencing of NADPH-dependent oxidoreductase genes (yqhD and dkgA) in furfural-resistant ethanologenic Escherichia coli. Appl Environ Microbiol 75(13): 4315–4323.

2. Jantama K, et al. (2008) Eliminating side products and increasing succinate yields in engineered strains of *Escherichia coli C. Biotechnol Bioeng* 101(5):881–893.<br>3. Wang X, et al. (2011) Increased furfural tolerance d and lactate. Appl Environ Microbiol 77(15):5132–5140.

4. Wang X, Miller EN, Yomano LP, Shanmugam KT, Ingram LO (2012) Increased furan tolerance in Escherichia coli due to a cryptic ucpA gene. Appl Environ Microbiol 78(7):2452-2455.