

Supplementary Material

Supplementary Figures and Tables

Supplementary Table 1A. Strains used in this study.

Supplementary Table 1B. Plasmids used in this study.

Supplementary Table 1C. Primers used in this study.

Supplementary Table 2. Summary of single nucleotide variants (SNVs), and insertions and deletions (INDELs). The strain MY1901 shared common mutations with the original strain MG1655 in the laboratory, except the mutation located in the Shine-Dalgarno (SD) sequence of ribosome S10 operon. The evolved strain MY1901 by sub-culturing showed new mutations.

Ref = reference allele; Obs = observed allele.

Supplementary Table 3. Growth rate and the time cost of initiation steps (Tinit) of cells under different nutrient conditions. Growth rates were calculated from the corresponding growth curves that were shown in Supplementary Figure S4. All values are expressed as the mean ± standard deviation of the mean of samples. The initiation time (Tinit) was calculated as described in the Materials and Methods section.

Supplementary Table 4. The translation rates of FusA-LacZ and MsbA-LacZ under different growth rates. The translation rate equals translation rate (aa s⁻¹) /336 (proteins mRNA⁻¹ s⁻¹) (Zarai et al., 2014), as the average length of proteins in *E. coli* is 336 amino acids (Gong et al., 2008). The elongation rate equals elongation rate (aa s⁻¹) /11 (sites s⁻¹) (Zarai et al., 2014), as each ribosome occupies about 11 residues in *E. coli* (10). All values are expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation of the mean of samples.

Supplementary Figure 1 Growth curves of strains MY1901 and its evolved strain. Solid curves are the mean of three independent measurements and error bars represent the standard deviation of the mean of samples. All growth rates shown represent the mean ± standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Supplementary Figure 2 Predicted mRNA structures of the S10 leader. **(A)** RNA folding predicted hairpin structure of S10 leader with wild-type SD and the minimum free energy (MFE) of the thermodynamic ensemble (ΔG). **(B)** RNA folding predicted hairpin structure of S10 leader with mutant SD (SD^*) and the MFE and the ΔG . The boxed region corresponds to the SD sequence.

Supplementary Figure 3 Measurement of translational elongation rates of wild-type and suppressor cells. **(A)** Growth curves of strains in different MOPS medium. The growth rates of MG1655∆*lacZ* and MY1901∆*lacZ*∆*cat* grown in the Glucose + cAA medium were approximately 1.0 h⁻¹ and 0.6 h⁻¹, respectively. The growth rate of MG1655∆*lacZ* grown in Glycerol + NH4Cl medium was approximately 0.6 h⁻¹(Supplementary Table S2). Solid curves are the mean of three independent biological replicates, and error bars represent the standard deviation value. **(B)** Calibration of the time cost of initiation steps by measuring the induction kinetics of the empty $\text{LacZ}\alpha$ fragment. **(C)** The induction curves of the LacZ α fused protein FusA-LacZ α . (D) The Schleif plot of the FusA-LacZ α protein was plotted against the induction time. (E) The induction curves of the LacZ α fused protein MsbA-LacZ α . (F) The Schleif plot of the MsbA-LacZ α protein was plotted against the induction time. Schleif plots were repeated three times with one typical result shown here.

Supplementary Figure 4 Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis of the wild-type strain MG1655 and the suppressor strain MY1901. For SEM, the scale bar is 1.0 μm. For TEM, the scale bar is 500 nM.

Supplementary Figure 5 Fold changes in the expression of the components of transport machinery **(A)** and the heat shock response-related proteins **(B)** in strain MY1901relative to that in strain MG1655 (**Supplementary Data Set 1B** and **E**).

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