

# LEGENDplex™

Multi-Analyte Flow Assay Kit

Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 (13-plex) V02

Mix and Match Subpanel

Please read the entire manual before running the assay.

BioLegend.com



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## LEGENDplex™ Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 Mix and Match Subpanel

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## **Chapter 1: KIT DESCRIPTION**

## Introduction

Cytokines are small soluble glycoproteins that act as extracellular signaling molecules and mediate communication between cells. They regulate immunity, inflammation and hematopoiesis as well as cell growth, migration, development and differentiation. Cytokines act in large tightly regulated networks where both the production and action of one cytokine is affected by the behavior of other cytokines. The accurate measurement of the expression profile of cytokines in a sample is critical for in-depth understanding of disease progression and immune responses.

The LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 is a multiplex bead-based assay, using fluorescence—encoded beads suitable for use on various flow cytometers. This panel allows simultaneous quantification of 13 mouse cytokines, including IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-3, IL-7, IL-11, IL-12p40, IL-12p70, IL-23, IL-27, IL-33, IFN- $\beta$ , GM-CSF and TSLP. These assays provide higher detection sensitivities and broader dynamic ranges than traditional ELISA method. The panel has been validated for use on serum, plasma and cell culture supernatants sample.

The Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 is designed to allow flexible customization within the panel. For mix and match within the panel, please visit **www.biolegend.com/legendplex.** 

This assay is for research use only.

## **Principle of the Assay**

BioLegend's LEGENDplex™ assays are bead-based immunoassays using the same basic principle as sandwich immunoassays.

Beads are differentiated by size and internal fluorescence intensities. Each bead set is conjugated with a specific antibody on its surface and serves as the capture beads for that particular analyte. When a selected panel of capture beads is mixed and incubated with a sample containing target analytes specific to the capture antibodies, each analyte will bind to its specific capture beads. After washing, a biotinylated detection antibody cocktail is added, and each detection antibody in the cocktail will bind to its specific analyte bound on the capture beads, thus forming capture bead-analyte-detection antibody sandwiches. Streptavidin-phycoerythrin (SA-PE) is subsequently added, which will bind to the biotinylated detection antibodies, providing fluorescent signal intensities in proportion to the amount of bound analytes.

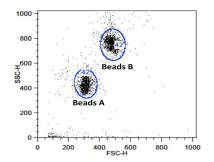
Since the beads are differentiated by size and internal fluorescence intensity on a flow cytometer, analyte-specific populations can be segregated and quantified by the PE fluorescent signal. The concentration of a particular analyte is determined by a standard curve generated in the same assay.

## **Bead Usage**

The Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 includes two sets of beads. Each set has a unique size that can be identified on flow cytometer based on their forward scatter (FSC) and side scatter (SSC) profiles (Beads A and Beads B, Figure 1). Each bead set can be further resolved based on their internal fluorescence intensities. The internal dye can be detected using FL3, FL4, or APC channel, depending on the type of flow cytometer used. The smaller Beads A consists of up to 7 bead populations and the larger Beads B consists of 7 bead populations (Figure 2-3).

Using a total of 13 bead populations (A=6, B=7) distinguished by size and internal fluorescent dye, the Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 VO2 allows simultaneous detection of 13 cytokines in one sample test. Each analyte is associated with a particular bead set as indicated (Figures 2-3 and Table 1).

Figure 1. Beads Differentiated by Size



Beads A = smaller beads

Beads B = larger beads

Figure 2. Beads A Classification by FL4

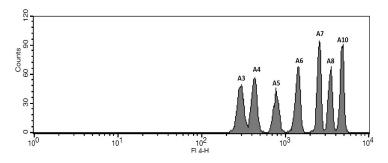


Figure 3. Beads B Classification by FL4

For Beads usage in the panel, please refer to Table 1 below:

Table 1. Panel Targets and Bead ID\*

Target	Bead ID	Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 Cat#741334 or Cat#741335	Top Standard Concentrations (ng/mL)
IL-12p70	A3	٧	
IL-1α	A4	٧	
IL-1β	A5	٧	The top standard
IL-3	A6	٧	concentration of each target may
IL-12p40	A7	٧	vary and may be
IL-23	A10	٧	subject to change from lot to lot.
IL-7	B2	٧	Please refer to
IL-11	В3	٧	the lot-specific
IL-27	B4	٧	Certificate of Analysis for this
IL-33	B5	٧	information.
IFN-β	В6	٧	
GM-CSF	В7	٧	
TSLP	В9	٧	

<sup>\*</sup>Bead ID is used to associate a bead population to a particular analyte when using the LEGENDplex™ data analysis software program. For further information regarding the use of the program please visit biolegend.com/en-us/legendplex.

## **Storage Information**

Recommended storage for all original kit components is between 2°C and 8°C. DO NOT FREEZE Pre-mixed Beads, Detection Antibodies or SA-PE.

- Once the standards have been reconstituted, immediately transfer contents into polypropylene vials. DO NOT STORE RECONSTITUTED STAN-DARDS IN GLASS VIALS.
- Upon reconstitution, leftover standard and Matrix C should be stored at ≤-70°C for use within one month. Avoid multiple (>2) freeze-thaw cycles. Discard any leftover diluted standards.

## **Materials Supplied**

The LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> kit contains reagents for 100 tests listed in the table below. When assayed in duplicate, this is enough for an 8-point standard curve and 40 samples.

Kit Components	Quan- tity	Volume	Part #
Setup Beads: PE Beads	1 vial	1 mL	77842
Setup Beads: Raw Beads	1 vial	1.8 mL	77844
Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 Detection Antibodies V02	1 bottle	3.3 mL	741336
Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 Standard Cocktail, Lyophilized V02	1 vial	lyophilized	741337
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> SA-PE	1 bottle	3.3 mL	77743
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> Matrix C, Lyophilized	1 vial	lyophilized	76077
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> Assay Buffer	1 bottle	25 mL	77562
LEGENDplex™ Wash Buffer, 20X	1 bottle	25 mL	77564
Filter Plate* or V-bottom Plate**	1 plate		76187*or 76883**
Plate Sealers	4 sheets		78101

<sup>\*</sup> For kit with filter plate. \*\* For kit with V-bottom plate. Only one plate is provided for each kit.

## LEGENDplex™ Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 Mix and Match Subpanel

## **Capture Beads for Mix and Match Subpanels:**

Beads Name	Quantity	Volume	Cat#
Mouse IL-12p70 Capture Beads A3, 13X	1	270 μL	741338
Mouse IL-1α Bead A4, 13X	1	270 μL	740135
Mouse IL-1β Bead A5, 13X	1	270 μL	740136
Mouse IL-3 Bead A6, 13X	1	270 μL	740137
Mouse IL-12p40 Bead A7, 13X	1	270 μL	740138
Mouse IL-23 Bead A10, 13X	1	270 μL	740140
Mouse IL-7 Capture Bead B2, 13X	1	270 μL	741339
Mouse IL-11 Capture Bead B3, 13X	1	270 μL	741340
Mouse IL-27 Bead B4, 13X	1	270 μL	740143
Mouse IL-33 Bead B5, 13X	1	270 μL	740144
Mouse IFN-β Bead B6, 13X	1	270 μL	741341
Mouse GM-CSF Bead B7, 13X	1	270 μL	740146
Mouse TSLP Bead B9, 13X	1	270 μL	740147

## **LEGENDplex™ Buffer Set B (Cat#: 740373)**

Component	Quantity	Volume	Part #
Setup Beads: PE Beads	1 vial	1 mL	77842
Setup Beads: Raw Beads	1 vial	1.8 mL	77844
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> SA-PE	1 bottle	3.3 mL	77743
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> Matrix C, Lyophilized	1 vial	lyophilized	76077
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> Assay Buffer	1 bottle	25 mL	77562
LEGENDplex <sup>™</sup> Wash Buffer, 20X	1 bottle	25 mL	77564
Plate Sealers	4 sheets		78101

No plate is included in the Buffer Set. Plate need to be ordered separately. Please order the correct type of plate based on the preferred assay protocol. (Cat# 741395 for Filter Plate and Cat# 741396 for V-bottom Plate)

## Materials to be Provided by the End-User

 A flow cytometer equipped with two lasers (e.g., a 488 nm blue laser or 532 nm green laser and a 633-635 nm red laser) capable of distinguishing 575 nm and 660 nm or a flow cytometer equipped with one laser (e.g., 488 nm blue laser) capable of distinguishing 575 nm and 670 nm.

## Partial list of compatible flow cytometers:

Flow Cytometer	Reporter Channel	Channel Emission	Classification Channel	Channel Emission	Compensa- tion needed?
BD FACSCalibur™	FL2	575 nm	FL4	660 nm	No*
BD Accuri™ C6™	FL2	585 nm	FL4	675 nm	No*
BD FACSCanto, BD FACSCanto™II	PE	575 nm	APC	660 nm	No*
BD™ LSR, LSR II BD LSRFortessa™	PE	575 nm	APC	660 nm	No*
Gallios™	PE	575 nm	APC	660 nm	No*
CytoFLEX	PE	585 nm	APC	660 nm	No*
NovoCyte	PE	572 nm	APC	660 nm	No*
Attune™ NxT	PE	574 nm	APC	670 nm	No*

<sup>\*</sup>Compensation is not required for the specified flow cytometers when set up properly.

For setting up various flow cytometers, please visit: www.biolegend.com/legendplex and click on the Instrument Setup tab.

- Multichannel pipettes capable of dispensing 5 μL to 200 μL
- Reagent reservoirs for multichannel pipette
- Polypropylene microfuge tubes (1.5 mL)
- Laboratory vortex mixer
- Sonicator bath (e.g., Branson Ultrasonic Cleaner model #B200, or equivalent)
- Aluminum foil
- Absorbent pads or paper towels
- Plate shaker (e.g., Lab-Line Instruments model #4625, or equivalent)
- Tabletop centrifuges (e.g., Eppendorf centrifuge 5415 C, or equivalent)
- 1.1 mL polypropylene micro FACS tubes, in 96-tube rack (e.g., National Scientific Supply Co, cat # TN0946-01R, or equivalent)

## LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 Mix and Match Subpanel If the assay is performed in a filter plate;

- A vacuum filtration unit (Millipore MultiScreen ® HTS Vacuum Manifold, cat# MSVMHTS00 or equivalent). Instructions on how to use the vacuum manifold can be found at the supplier's website.
- A vacuum source (mini vacuum pump or line vacuum, e.g., Millipore Vacuum Pump, catalog # WP6111560, or equivalent)
- If needed, additional Filter plate can be ordered from BioLegend (Cat# 740377 or 740378).

## If the assay is performed in a V-bottom plate;

- Centrifuge with a swinging bucket adaptor for microtiter plates (e.g., Beckman Coulter Allegra<sup>TM</sup> 6R Centrifuge with MICROPLUS CARRIER adaptor for GH3.8 and JS4.3 Rotors).
- If needed, additional V-bottom plate can be ordered from BioLegend (Cat# 740379).

## Precautions

- All blood components and biological materials should be handled as potentially hazardous. Follow universal precautions as established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration when handling and disposing of infectious agents.
- Sodium azide has been added to some reagents as a preservative. Although the concentrations are low, sodium azide may react with lead and copper plumbing to form highly explosive metal azides. On disposal, flush with a large volume of water to prevent azide build-up.
- Matrix C for LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> kits contains components of animal origin and should be handled as potentially hazardous.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents from different kits or lots. Reagents from different manufacturers should not be used with this kit.
- Do not use this kit beyond its expiration date.
- SA-PE and Beads are light-sensitive. Minimize light exposure.

## **Chapter 2: ASSAY PREPARATION**

## **Sample Collection and Handling**

## **Preparation of Serum Samples:**

- Allow the blood to clot for at least 30 minutes and centrifuge for 10 minutes at 1.000 x a.
- Remove serum and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at ≤-20°C. Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.
- When using frozen samples, it is recommended that samples are thawed completely, mixed and centrifuged to remove particulates prior to use.

## **Preparation of Plasma Samples:**

- Plasma collection should be collected using an anti-coagulant (e.g., EDTA, Heparin, Citrate). Centrifuge for 10 minutes at 1,000 x g within 30 minutes of blood collection.
- Remove plasma and assay immediately, or aliquot and store samples at ≤-20°C. Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.
- When using frozen samples, it is recommended that samples are thawed completely, mixed well and centrifuged to remove particulates.

## **Preparation of Cell Culture Supernatant:**

 Centrifuge the sample to remove debris and assay immediately, or aliquot and store samples at ≤-20°C. Avoid multiple (>2) freeze/thaw cycles.

## **Reagent Preparation**

## **Preparation of Antibody-Immobilized Beads**

- The individual beads (13X) need to be combined with one another and diluted with Assay Buffer to create a 1X working solution of beads prior to use.
- 2. Sonicate each bead vial for 1 minute in a sonicator bath and then vortex for 30 seconds to completely resuspend the beads.
- 3. Calculate and prepare a 1X beads working solution based on the desired number of reactions and plex-size of your assay (i.e. the number of individual bead vials) following the steps described below.
  - A. Total volume ( $\mu$ L) = 30 x (number of reactions)
  - B. Volume needed from each 13X beads vial ( $\mu$ L) = 2.3 x (number of reactions)
  - C. Assay Buffer needed ( $\mu$ L) = A B x (number of individual beads vials to

be mixed)

Note: calculations for total volume include a 20% excess to account for any loss during pipetting

## Example: to prepare 50 reactions for a 5-plex assay

- A. Total volume ( $\mu$ L) = 30 x 50 = 1500  $\mu$ L
- B. Volume per beads vial needed ( $\mu$ L) = 2.3 x 50 = 115  $\mu$ L
- C. Assay Buffer needed ( $\mu$ L) = A B x (number of individual beads vials) = 1500 (115 x 5) = 925  $\mu$ L

Combine 115  $\mu$ L of each beads vial (5 vials) with 925  $\mu$ L of assay buffer to get the desired final volume of 1500  $\mu$ L of 1X working solution of beads.

## **Preparation of Wash Buffer**

- Bring the 20X Wash Buffer to room temperature and mix to bring all salts into solution.
- Dilute 25 mL of 20X Wash Buffer with 475 mL deionized water. Store unused portions between 2°C and 8°C for up to one month.

## Preparation of Matrix C (for Serum or Plasma Samples Only)

 Add 5.0 mL LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup>Assay Buffer to the bottle containing lyophilized Matrix C. Allow at least 15 minutes for complete reconstitution. Vortex to mix well. Leftover reconstituted Matrix C should be stored at ≤-70°C for up to one month.

## **Standard Preparation**

- 1. Prior to use, reconstitute the lyophilized Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 Standard V02 with 250 µL Assay Buffer.
- 2. Mix and allow the vial to sit at room temperature for 10 minutes, and then transfer the standard to an appropriately labeled polypropylene microfuge tube. This will be used as the top standard C7.

Note: The top standard concentrations of analytes in this panel were set at various concentrations, but may be subject to change from lot to lot (please visit biolegend.com/en-us/legendplex to download a lot-specific certificate of analysis).

- 3. Label 6 polypropylene microfuge tubes as C6, C5, C4, C3, C2 and C1, respectively.
- 4. Add 75  $\mu$ L of Assay Buffer to each of the six tubes. Prepare 1:4 dilution of the top standard by transferring 25  $\mu$ L of the top standard C7 to the C6 tube and mix well. This will be the C6 standard.

5. In the same manner, perform serial 1:4 dilutions to obtain C5, C4, C3, C2 and C1 standards (see the table below using 10ng/mL of top standard concentration as an example). Assay Buffer will be used as the 0 pg/mL standard (C0).

Tube/Stan- dard ID	Serial Dilution	Assay Buf- fer to add (μL)	Standard to add	Final Conc. (pg/mL)
C7				10,000
C6	1:4	75	25 μL of C7	2,500
C5	1:16	75	25 μL of C6	625
C4	1:64	75	25 μL of C5	156.3
С3	1:256	75	25 μL of C4	39.1
C2	1:1024	75	25 μL of C3	9.8
C1	1:4096	75 25 μL of C2		2.4
C0		75		0

## **Sample Dilution**

• In general, serum or plasma samples need to be diluted 2-fold with Assay Buffer before testing (e.g. dilute 25  $\mu L$  of sample with 25  $\mu L$  of Assay Buffer).

If further sample dilution is desired, dilution should be done with Matrix C to ensure accurate measurement.

Adding serum or plasma samples without dilution will result in low assay accuracy and possibly, clogging of the filter plate.

 For cell culture supernatant samples, the levels of analyte can vary greatly from sample to sample. While the sample can be tested without dilutions, a preliminary experiment may be required to determine the appropriate dilution factor for samples.

If sample dilution is desired, dilution should be done with corresponding fresh cell culture medium or Assay Buffer to ensure accurate measurement.

## **Chapter 3: ASSAY PROCEDURE**

The LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> assay can be performed in a filter plate, or in a V-bottom plate.

- The in-filter plate assay procedure requires a vacuum filtration unit for washing (see Materials to be Provided by the End-User, page 8). If you have performed bead-based multiplex assays before, your lab may already have the vacuum filtration unit set up.
- If the in-filter plate assay procedure is not possible or if you prefer, the assay can be performed in a V-bottom plate.

## Performing the Assay Using a Filter Plate

- Allow all reagents to warm to room temperature (20-25°C) before use.
- Set the filter plate on an inverted plate cover at all times during assay setup and incubation steps, so that the bottom of the plate does not touch any surface. Touching a surface may cause leakage.
- Keep the plate upright during the entire assay procedure, including the washing steps, to avoid losing beads.
- The plate should be placed in the dark or wrapped with aluminum foil for all incubation steps.
- Standards and samples should be run in duplicate and arranged on the
  plate in a vertical configuration convenient for data acquisition and analysis (as shown in attached PLATE MAP, page 33). Be sure to load standards
  in the first two columns. If an automation device is used for reading, the
  orientation and reading sequence should be carefully planned.
- 1. Pre-wet the plate by adding 100 µL of LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> 1X Wash Buffer to each well and let it sit for 1 minute at room temperature. To remove the excess volume, place the plate on the vacuum manifold and apply vacuum. Do not exceed 10" Hg of vacuum. Vacuum until wells are drained (5-10 seconds). Blot excess Wash Buffer from the bottom of the plate by pressing the plate on a stack of clean paper towels. Place the plate on top of the inverted plate cover.

For measuring cell culture supernatant samples, load the plate as shown in the table below (in the order from left to right):

	Assay Buffer	Matrix C	Standard	Sample*
Standard Wells	25 μL		25 μL	
Sample Wells	25 μL			25 μL

For measuring serum or plasma samples, load the plate as shown in the table below (in the order from left to right):

	Assay Buffer	Matrix C	Standard	Sample*
Standard Wells		25 μL	25 μL	
Sample Wells	25 μL			25 μL

<sup>\*</sup>See Sample Dilution

- 2. Vortex mixed beads bottle for 30 seconds. Add 25 uL of mixed beads to each well. The volume should be 75 µL in each well after beads addition. (Note: During addition of the beads, shake mixed beads bottle intermittently to avoid bead settling).
- 3. Seal the plate with a plate sealer. To avoid plate leaking, do not apply positive pressure to the sealer when sealing the plate. Wrap the entire plate, including the inverted plate cover, with aluminum foil. Place the plate on a plate shaker, secure it and shake at approximate 500 rpm for 2 hours at room temperature.
- **Do not invert the plate!** Place the plate on the vacuum manifold and apply 4. vacuum as before in Step 1. Add 200 µL of 1X Wash Buffer to each well. Remove Wash Buffer by vacuum filtration. Blot excess Wash Buffer from the bottom of the plate with an absorbent pad or paper towels. Repeat this washing step once more.
- 5. Add 25 µL of Detection Antibodies to each well.
- 6. Seal the plate with a fresh plate sealer. Wrap the entire plate, including the inverted plate cover, with aluminum foil. Place the plate on a plate shaker and shake at approximately 500 rpm for 1 hour at room temperature.
- 7. Do not vacuum! Add 25 µL of SA-PE to each well directly.
- Seal the plate with a fresh plate sealer. Wrap the entire plate, including the 8. inverted plate cover, with aluminum foil. Place the plate on a plate shaker and shake at approximate 500 rpm for 30 minutes at room temperature.
- 9. Repeat step 4 above.
- 10. Add 150 μL of 1X Wash Buffer to each well. Resuspend the beads on a plate shaker for 1 minute.
- 11. Read samples on a flow cytometer, preferably within the same day of the assay (Note: Prolonged sample storage can lead to reduced signal)

If the flow cytometer is equipped with an autosampler, read the plate directly using the autosampler. Please be sure to program the autosampler to resuspend beads in the well immediately before taking samples. The probe height may need to be adjusted when using an autosampler.

If an autosampler is not available, the samples can be transferred from the filter plate to micro FACS (or FACS) tubes and read manually.

Assay Procedure Summary for Filter Plate Add 100 µL 1X Wash Buffer to filter plate wells

# Vacuum to remove excess buffer Add to the plate: 25 µL Assay Buffer or Matrix to standard wells (Refer to Assay Procedure) 25 µL Assay Buffer to sample wells 25 µL Assay Buffer to sample wells 25 µL sample to sample wells 25 µL sample to sample wells 25 µL mixed beads to all wells Wash 2 times using vacuum filtration unit Add 25 µL Detection Antibodies Incubate 1 hr, RT, shaking Biotinylated Detection Antibody

Wash 2 times using vacuum filtration unit Add 150  $\mu$ L of 1x Wash Buffer Read on a flow cytometer

Without washing, add 25 µL SA-PE Incubate 30 min, RT, shaking

## Performing the Assay Using a V-bottom Plate

- Allow all reagents to warm to room temperature (20-25°C) before use.
- Keep the plate upright during the entire assay procedure, including the washing steps, to avoid losing beads.
- The plate should be placed in the dark or wrapped with aluminum foil for all incubation steps.
- Standards and samples should be run in duplicate and arranged on the
  plate in a vertical configuration convenient for data acquisition and analysis
  (as shown in attached PLATE MAP, page 33). Be sure to load standards in
  the first two columns. If an automation device is used for reading, the orientation and reading sequence should be carefully planned.
- For measuring cell culture supernatant samples, load the plate as shown in the table below (in the order from left to right):

	Assay Buffer	Matrix C	Standard	Sample*
Standard Wells	25 μL		25 μL	
Sample Wells	25 μL			25 μL

**For measuring serum or plasma samples,** load the plate as shown in the table below (in the order from left to right):

	Assay Buffer	Matrix C	Standard	Sample*
Standard Wells		25 μL	25 μL	
Sample Wells	25 μL			25 μL

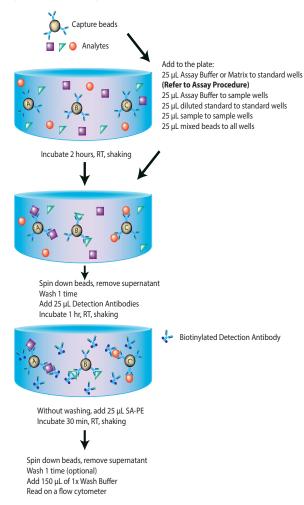
<sup>\*</sup>See Sample Dilution

- 2. Vortex mixed beads for 30 seconds. Add 25  $\mu$ L of mixed beads to each well. The total volume should be 75  $\mu$ L in each well after beads addition. (Note: During beads addition, shake mixed beads bottle intermittently to avoid bead settling).
- 3. Seal the plate with a plate sealer. Cover the entire plate with aluminum foil to protect the plate from light. Shake at 800 rpm on a plate shaker for 2 hours at room temperature (Depending on the shaker, the speed may need to be adjusted. The optimal speed is one that is high enough to keep beads in suspension during incubation, but not too high so it causes spill from the wells).
- 4. Centrifuge the plate at 1050 rpm (~250 g) for 5 minutes, using a swinging bucket rotor (G.H 3.8) with microplate adaptor (Please refer to Materials to be Provided by the End-User, page 7). Do not use excessive centrifugation speed as it may make it harder to resuspend beads in later steps. Make sure the timer of the centrifuge works properly and standby to make sure the centrifuge reaches preset speed.

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- 5. Immediately after centrifugation, dump the supernatant into a sink by quickly inverting and flicking the plate in one continuous and forceful motion. Do not worry about losing beads even if the pellet is not visible. The beads will stay in the tip of the well nicely. Blot the plate on a stack of clean paper towel and drain the remaining liquid from the well as much as possible. Be careful not to disturb the bead pellet.
  - Alternatively, removal of the supernatant may be completed using a multichannel pipette set at 75  $\mu$ L. Try to remove as much liquid as possible without removing any beads. Be sure to change pipette tips between each row or column.
- 6. Wash the plate by dispensing 200  $\mu$ L of 1X Wash Buffer into each well and incubate for one minute. Repeat step 4 and 5 above. A second wash is optional, but may help reduce background.
- 7. Add 25 µL of Detection Antibodies to each well.
- 8. Seal the plate with a new plate sealer. Cover the entire plate with aluminum foil to protect the plate from light. Shake at 800 rpm on a plate shaker for 1 hour at room temperature.
- **9. Do not wash the plate!** Add 25 μL of SA-PE to each well directly.
- 10. Seal the plate with a new plate sealer. Wrap the entire plate with aluminum foil and shake the plate on a plate shaker at approximate 800 rpm for 30 minutes at room temperature.
- 11. Repeat step 4, and 5.
- 12. Wash the plate by dispensing 200  $\mu$ L of 1X Wash Buffer into each well and incubate for one minute. Repeat step 4 and 5 above. This washing step is optional but helps to reduce the background.
- 13. Add 150  $\mu L$  of 1X Wash Buffer to each well. Resuspend the beads by pipetting.
- 14. Read samples on a flow cytometer, preferably within the same day of the assay (Note: Prolonged sample storage can lead to reduced signal).
  - If the flow cytometer is equipped with an autosampler, the samples can be read directly. Please be sure to program the autosampler to resuspend beads in the well immediately before taking samples. The probe height may need to be adjusted when using an autosampler.
  - If an autosampler is not available, the samples can be transferred from the plate to micro FACS (or FACS) tubes and read manually.

## **Assay Procedure Summary for V-bottom Plate**



## **Chapter 4: FLOW CYTOMETER SETUP**

In order to generate reliable data, the flow cytometer must be set up properly before data acquisition.

The setup instructions have been removed from this manual and uploaded onto our website to save paper.

To access the setup instructions, please visit: www.biolegend.com/legendplex and click on the Instrument Setup tab.

## Chapter 5: DATA ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS

## **Data Acquisition**

- Before reading samples, make sure that the flow cytometer is set up properly.
- Create a new template or open an existing template (for details on how to create a cytometer-specific template, please refer to the Flow Cytometer Setup Guide).
- 3. Vortex each sample for 5 seconds before analysis.
- 4. Set the flow rate to low. Set the number of beads to be acquired to about 300 per analyte (e.g., acquire 2,400 beads for a 8-plex assay or 4,000 beads for a 13-plex assay). Do not set to acquire total events as samples may contain large amounts of debris. Instead, create a large gate to include both Beads A and Beads B (gate A+B) and set to acquire the number of events in gate A + B. This will exlude the majority of the debris.

Note: Do not acquire too few or too many beads. Too few beads acquired may result in high CVs and too many beads acquired may result in slow data analysis later.

5. Read samples.

When reading samples, set the flow cytometer to setup mode first and wait until bead population is stabilized before recording or switching to acquisition mode.

To simplify data analysis using the LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Data Analysis Software, read samples in the same order as shown on the PLATE MAP attached at the end of the manual. For an in-plate assay, read column by column (A1, B1, C1...A2, B2, C2...).

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When naming data files, try to use simple names with a consecutive numbering for easy data analysis (e.g. for standards, C0.001, C0.002, C1.003, C1.004, C2.005, C2.006, C3.007, C3.008, ... C7.015, C7.016; for samples, S1.017, S1.018, S2.019, S2.020, S3.021, S3.022...)

Store all FCS files in the same folder for each assay. If running multiple assays, create a separate folder for each assay.

6. Proceed to data analysis using LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Data Analysis Software when data acquisition is completed.

## **Data Analysis**

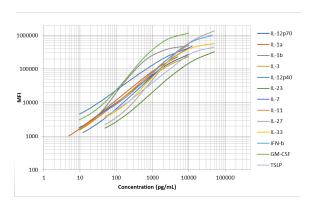
The assay FCS files should be analyzed using BioLegend's LEGENDplex™
data analysis software. The program is offered free of charge with the purchase of any LEGENDplex™ assay. For further information regarding access to, and use of the program please visit biolegend.com/en-us/legendplex.

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## **Chapter 6: ASSAY CHARACTERIZATION**

## **Standard Curve**

This standard curve was generated using the LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 for demonstration purposes only. A standard curve must be run with each assay.



## **Assay Sensitivity**

The assay sensitivity is the theoretical limit of detection calculated using the LEGENDplex $^{\mathbb{M}}$  Data Analysis Software by applying a 5-parameter curve fitting algorithm. Assay Sensitivity presented here is  $\leq$ Mean LOD + 2xST-DEV LOD.

Analyte	LOD in Assay Buffer (pg/mL) (n=19)	LOD in Matrix (pg/ mL) (n=19)
Mouse IL-12p70	2.9	4.4
Mouse IL-1α	1.3	1.9
Mouse IL-1β	4.0	6.0
Mouse IL-3	0.5	0.6
Mouse IL-12p40	1.2	0.9
Mouse IL-23	11.5	18.4
Mouse IL-7	4.3	11.9
Mouse IL-11	2.6	3.3
Mouse IL-27	42.0	42.1
Mouse IL-33	8.2	14.5
Mouse IFN-β	7.9	6.2

Mouse GM-CSF	8.9	10.7
Mouse TSLP	6.2	4.8

## **Cross-Reactivity**

The following recombinant proteins were tested at 50 ng/mL using the LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02. IL-12p40 pair can also detect the p40 subunit in IL-12p70 and IL-23. No or negligible unintended cross-reactivity was found for all other analytes.

IL-2	IL-4	IL-5	IL-6	IL-9	IL-10	IL-13
IL-15	IL-17A	IL-17F	IL-21	IFN-γ	TNF-α	MIP-3α
RANTES	Eotaxin	TARC	MCP-1	MDC	MIG	MIP-1α
MIP-1β	KC	LIX	BLC	IP-10	IL-1α	IL-1β
IL-3	IL-7	IL-11	IL-12p40	IL-12p70	IFN-β	IL-23
IL-27	IL-33	TSLP	GM-CSF			

## **Accuracy (Spike Recovery)**

For testing spike recovery in cell culture medium, DMEM and PRMI with 10% FCS was spiked with target proteins at three different levels within the assay range. The spiked samples were then assayed, and the measured concentrations were compared with the expected values.

For testing spike recovery in serum (n=8) and plasma (n=24), 2 pooled mouse serum samples from four different strains and six pooled mouse plasma samples from two different strains were first diluted 2-fold with Assay Buffer and spiked with target proteins at three different levels within the assay range. The spiked samples were then assayed, and the measured concentrations were compared with the expected values.

Analyte	% of Recovery in Cell Culture Medium	% of Recovery in Serum	% of Recovery in Plasma
Mouse IL-12p70	98%	95%	82%
Mouse IL-1α	104%	82%	70%
Mouse IL-1β	95%	84%	84%
Mouse IL-3	101%	96%	83%
Mouse IL-12p40	101%	91%	93%

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Mouse IL-23	97%	131%	122%
Mouse IL-7	103%	112%	81%
Mouse IL-11	102%	71%	69%
Mouse IL-27	98%	116%	96%
Mouse IL-33	102%	161%	143%
Mouse IFN-β	100%	73%	68%
Mouse GM-CSF	100%	84%	74%
Mouse TSLP	95%	95%	89%

## **Linearity of Dilution**

For testing linearity of dilution in cell culture medium, DMEM and RPMI with 10% FCS was spiked with known concentrations of target proteins. The spiked samples were serially diluted 1:2, 1:4, 1:8 with assay buffer and assayed. The measured concentrations of serially diluted samples were compared with that of the spiked samples.

For testing linearity of dilution in serum (n=8) and plasma (n=24), 2 pooled mouse serum samples from four different strains and six pooled mouse plasma samples from two different strains were first diluted 2-fold with Assay Buffer and were spiked with known concentrations of target proteins. The spiked samples were serially diluted 1:2, 1:4, 1:8 with Matrix C and assayed. The measured concentrations of serially diluted samples were compared with that of the spiked samples.

Analyte	Linearity in Cell Culture Medium	Linearity in Serum	Linearity in Plasma
Mouse IL-12p70	116%	103%	107%
Mouse IL-1α	116%	124%	124%
Mouse IL-1β	107%	112%	101%
Mouse IL-3	113%	107%	112%
Mouse IL-12p40	104%	134%	121%
Mouse IL-23	122%	89%	77%
Mouse IL-7	120%	106%	103%
Mouse IL-11	114%	137%	124%
Mouse IL-27	112%	102%	100%
Mouse IL-33	80%	72%	77%

Mouse IFN-β	112%	113%	108%
Mouse GM-CSF	116%	109%	110%
Mouse TSLP	116%	108%	106%

## **Intra-Assay Precision**

Two samples with different concentrations of target proteins were analyzed in one assay with 16 replicates for each sample. The intra-assay precision was calculated as below.

Analyte	Sample	Mean (pg/mL)	STDEV	%CV
Mouse	Sample 1	517.1	20.4	4%
IL-12p70	Sample 2	80.4	3.7	5%
Mouse IL-1α	Sample 1	245.1	7.0	3%
iviouse it-1α	Sample 2	50.3	1.8	4%
Mayor II 10	Sample 1	481.6	11.4	2%
Mouse IL-1β	Sample 2	95.5	2.4	3%
Maa II 2	Sample 1	452.5	14.1	3%
Mouse IL-3	Sample 2	90.3	3.3	4%
Mouse	Sample 1	507.8	19.6	4%
IL-12p40	Sample 2	85.8	2.8	3%
Ma II. 22	Sample 1	1751.5	64.6	4%
Mouse IL-23	Sample 2	272.8	9.3	3%
	Sample 1	610.3	17.5	3%
Mouse IL-7	Sample 2	95.5	4.2	4%
NA II. 44	Sample 1	75.0	3.0	4%
Mouse IL-11	Sample 2	21.9	1.5	7%
NA 11 27	Sample 1	2343.2	68.3	3%
Mouse IL-27	Sample 2	420.2	18.1	4%
Ma II. 22	Sample 1	2409.4	66.8	3%
Mouse IL-33	Sample 2	539.4	15.4	3%
Mayor IFN C	Sample 1	1843.8	62.0	3%
Mouse IFN-β	Sample 2	351.8	11.1	3%

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Mouse GM-CSF	Sample 1	381.7	7.7	2%
	Sample 2	74.5	2.0	3%
Mouse TSLP	Sample 1	2390.2	72.9	3%
	Sample 2	488.4	23.0	5%

## **Inter-Assay Precision**

Two samples with different concentrations of target proteins were analyzed in ten independent assays with 4 replicates for each sample. The inter-assay precision was calculated as below.

Analyte	Sample	Mean (pg/mL)	STDEV	%CV
Mouse	Sample 1	496.1	41.3	8%
IL-12p70	Sample 2	125.7	9.9	8%
Mayor II 1s	Sample 1	339.4	23.1	7%
Mouse IL-1α	Sample 2	85.4	6.7	8%
Mausa II 10	Sample 1	664.7	45.6	7%
Mouse IL-1β	Sample 2	159.7	11.1	7%
Mayor II 2	Sample 1	613.9	48.7	8%
Mouse IL-3	Sample 2	150.8	12.0	8%
Mouse	Sample 1	541.0	43.9	8%
IL-12p40	Sample 2	132.9	11.8	9%
	Sample 1	2389.6	222.2	9%
Mouse IL-23	Sample 2	565.2	56.3	10%
N.4 II . 7	Sample 1	620.4	54.2	9%
Mouse IL-7	Sample 2	156.1	16.6	11%
NA 11	Sample 1	545.5	58.1	11%
Mouse IL-11	Sample 2	127.0	18.5	15%
27	Sample 1	2941.9	351.5	12%
Mouse IL-27	Sample 2	623.0	72.1	12%
May 22	Sample 1	2990.9	227.0	8%
Mouse IL-33	Sample 2	733.9	54.5	7%
NATURE IENI C	Sample 1	2566.9	233.9	9%
Mouse IFN-β	Sample 2	613.4	58.9	10%

Manuar CNA CCE	Sample 1	605.9	44.1	7%
Mouse GM-CSF	Sample 2	150.5	12.6	8%
Mouse TSLP	Sample 1	3510.9	370.8	11%
	Sample 2	871.5	98.9	11%

## **Biological Samples**

### Serum

Pooled normal mouse serum samples representing 4 different strains were tested for endogenous levels of the cytokines. The concentrations (all in pg/mL) measured are shown below:

Analyte	BALB/c	C57BL/6	CD-1	Swiss Webster
Mouse IL-12p70	ND	4.0	ND	ND
Mouse IL-1α	15.8	20.6	8.5	22.0
Mouse IL-1β	13.2	8.3	ND	2.6
Mouse IL-3	2.8	3.8	1.8	0.6
Mouse IL-12p40	121.8	111.1	111.4	118.5
Mouse IL-23	126.7	20.4	12.2	ND
Mouse IL-7	57.0	15.4	ND	1.8
Mouse IL-11	9.4	11.0	ND	5.3
Mouse IL-27	96.9	56.9	37.9	30.6
Mouse IL-33	17.6	6.9	21.2	34.3
Mouse IFN-β	9.3	14.6	1.8	4.1
Mouse GM-CSF	13.9	9.2	ND	10.2
Mouse TSLP	24.7	6.8	ND	ND

ND = Non-detectable

## Plasma

Pooled normal mouse plasma samples representing 4 different strains were tested for endogenous levels of the cytokines. The concentrations (all in pg/mL) measured are shown below:

Analyte	BALB/c	C57BL/6	CD-1	Swiss Webster
Mouse IL-12p70	5.9	8.9	3.1	ND

Mouse IL-1α	14.9	14.9	25.1	13.8
Mouse IL-1β	14.1	8.9	ND	1.9
Mouse IL-3	3.6	8.8	4.4	0.8
Mouse IL-12p40	207.7	451.6	267.0	207.4
Mouse IL-23	122.9	37.7	16.3	ND
Mouse IL-7	62.8	29.9	20.1	2.0
Mouse IL-11	15.8	33.6	9.8	8.2
Mouse IL-27	151.1	79.0	71.4	66.6
Mouse IL-33	17.2	12.9	ND	ND
Mouse IFN-β	19.5	17.2	13.4	7.3
Mouse GM-CSF	18.0	7.3	7.9	17.9
Mouse TSLP	9.1	9.3	8.6	ND

## **Cell Culture Supernatant**

Mouse RAW 264.7 macrophage cells ( $1x10^6$  cells/mL) were cultured under various conditions (LPS, 1  $\mu$ g/mL; GM-CSF, 100 ng/mL; IFN- $\gamma$ , 100 ng/mL). Supernatants were collected after 72 hours and assayed with the LEG-ENDplex<sup>™</sup> Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 V02 kit. The results (all in pg/mL) are summarized below.

Analyte	Control	LPS	LPS + IFNγ	LPS + GM-CSF
Mouse IL-12p70	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IL-1α	0.4	3275.9	70.0	4139.8
Mouse IL-1β	ND	18.1	ND	20.5
Mouse IL-3	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IL-12p40	ND	49.4	ND	50.6
Mouse IL-23	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IL-7	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IL-11	4.2	18.9	ND	26.0
Mouse IL-27	ND	6239.0	125.3	2375.3
Mouse IL-33	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IFN-β	ND	56.1	206.9	34.8
Mouse GM-CSF	ND	502.2	1.2	10000.0
Mouse TSLP	ND	ND	ND	ND

## ND = Non-detectable

Mouse splenocyte cells ( $1x10^6$  cells/mL) were cultured under various conditions (LPS, 1  $\mu$ g/mL; CD3, 1  $\mu$ g/mL plate-coated; CD28, 1  $\mu$ g/mL soluble). Supernatants were collected after 72 hours and assayed with the LEGENDplex<sup>™</sup> Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 VO2 kit. The results (all in pg/mL) are summarized below.

Analyte	Control	LPS	CD3 + CD28
Mouse IL-12p70	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IL-1α	4.4	227.8	75.9
Mouse IL-1β	ND	3.5	7.0
Mouse IL-3	133.6	657.0	2556.0
Mouse IL-12p40	29.3	103.9	31.0
Mouse IL-23	2.0	2.2	2.8
Mouse IL-7	ND	ND	2.7
Mouse IL-11	0.7	0.8	9.3
Mouse IL-27	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IL-33	ND	ND	ND
Mouse IFN-β	ND	ND	3.9
Mouse GM-CSF	21.7	71.7	6032.6
Mouse TSLP	ND	ND	3.5

ND = Non-detectable

Lungs from one BALB/c mouse were chopped into 1-2 mm pieces and seeded into RPMI, 10% fetal bovine serum, 10 µg/mL Concanavalin A. The heart from the same mouse was chopped into 1-2 mm pieces and seeded into RPMI with 10% fetal bovine serum. The cell culture supernatant was removed after three days and assayed with the LEGENDplex™ Mouse Cytokine Panel 2 VO2 kit. The results (all in pg/mL) are summarized below.

Analyte	Heart	Lungs
Mouse IL-12p70	ND	ND
Mouse IL-1α	0.6	184.3
Mouse IL-1β	ND	ND

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Mouse IL-3	ND	126.8
Mouse IL-12p40	4.1	81.0
Mouse IL-23	20.1	ND
Mouse IL-7	ND	2.1
Mouse IL-11	1342.5	6355.6
Mouse IL-27	ND	ND
Mouse IL-33	ND	77.7
Mouse IFN-β	ND	22.4
Mouse GM-CSF	313.9	1861.3
Mouse TSLP	24.7	30.1

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Bead population shifting upward or downward during acquisition	The strong PE signal from high concentration samples or standards may spill over to classification Channel (e.g., FL3/FL4/APC) and mess up the bead separation.	Optimize instrument settings using Kit Setup Beads, and make appropriate com- pensation between channels.
	Vacuum pressure is insufficient or vacuum manifold does not seal properly.	Increase vacuum pressure such that 0.2 mL buffer can be suctioned in 3-5 seconds. Clean the vacuum manifold and make sure no debris on the manifold. Press down the plate on the manifold to make a good seal.
		Centrifuge samples just prior to assay setup and use supernatant. If high lipid content is present, remove lipid layer after centrifugation. Sample may need dilution if too viscous.
Filter plate will		If some wells are still clogged during washing, try the following:
not vacuum or some wells clogged	Samples have insoluble particles or sample is too viscous (e.g., serum	1). Add buffer to all the wells, pipette up and down the clogged wells and vacuum again.
	and plasma samples)	2). Use a piece of clean wipe, wipe the under side of the clogged wells and vacuum again.
		3). Take a thin needle (e.g., insulin needle), while holding the plate upward, poke the little hole under each of the clogged wells and vacuum again. Do not poke too hard or too deep as it may damage the filter and cause leaking.
	Filter plate was used without pre-wet.	Pre-wet plate with wash buffer before running the assay.

	Beads inappropriately prepared	Sonicate bead vials and vortex just prior to addition. Agitate mixed beads intermittently in reservoir while pipetting this into the plate.
Insufficient bead count or slow reading	Samples cause bead aggregation due to particulate matter or viscosity	Centrifuge samples just prior to assay setup and use supernatant. If high lipid content is present, remove lipid layer after centrifugation. Sample may need dilution if too viscous.
Slow reading	Beads were lost during washing for in-tube assay	Make sure beads are spun down by visually check the pellet (beads are in light blue or blue color). Be very careful when removing supernatant during washing.
	Probe might be par- tially clogged	Sample probe may need to be cleaned, or if needed, probe should be removed and sonicated.
	Vacuum pressure set too high	Adjust vacuum pressure such that 0.2 mL buffer can be suctioned in 3-5 seconds. Do not exceed 10" Hg of vacuum.
Plate leaked	Plate set directly on table or absorbent tow- els during incubations or reagent additions	Set plate on plate holder or raised edge so bottom of filter is not touching any surface.
. 100 00100	Liquid present on the under side of the plate after vacuum	After washing, press down plate firmly on a stack of clean paper towels to dry the underside of the plate.
	Pipette touching and damaged plate filter during additions	Pipette to the side of wells.
High Back-	Background wells were contaminated	Avoid cross-well contamination by changing tips between pipetting when performing the assay using a multichannel pipette.
ground	Insufficient washes	The background may be due to non-specific binding of SA-PE. Increase number of washes.
Debris (FSC/ SSC) during sample acquisi- tion	Debris or platelet may exist in sample solution	Centrifuge samples before analyzing samples. Remove platelet as much as possible.

	Bead aggregation	Sonicate and vortex the Beads prior to use.
Variation be-	Multichannel pipette may not be calibrated or inconsistent Pipet- ting	Calibrate Pipette. Ensure good pipetting practice. Prime pipette before use may help.
tween Duplicate samples	Plate washing was not uniform	Make sure all reagents are vacuumed out completely in all wash steps.
	Samples may contain particulate matter	Centrifuge samples just prior to assay setup and use supernatant. If high lipid content is present, remove lipid layer after centrifugation. Sample may need dilution if too viscous.
Low or poor standard curve	The standard was in- correctly reconstituted, stored or diluted	Follow the protocol to reconstitute, store and dilute standard. Double check your calculation.
signal	Wrong or short incubation time	Ensure the time of all incubations was appropriate.
Signals too high, standard curves satu-	PMT value for FL2/PE set too high	Make sure the PMT setting for the reporter channel is appropriate
rated	Plate incubation time was too long	Use shorter incubation time.
	Samples contain no or below detectable levels of analyte	Make sure the experiment to generate the samples worked. Use proper positive controls.
Sample read- ings are out of range	Sample concentrations higher than highest standard point.	Dilute samples and analyze again.
	Standard curve was saturated at higher end of curve.	Make sure the PMT setting for the reporter channel is appropriate. Use shorter incubation time if incubation time was too long
Missed bead populations during reading, or distribution	Sample may cause some beads to aggregate.	Centrifuge samples just prior to assay setup and use supernatant. If high lipid content is present, remove lipid layer after centrifugation. Sample may need dilution if too viscous.
is unequal	Bead populations are not mixed properly	Make sure all bead populations are mixed and in similar numbers.

# PLATE MAP (for in-plate assay)

						•	•		•			
	1	2	3	4	2	9	7	8	6	10	11	12
∢	8	C4	Sample1	Sample5	Sample 9	Sample 13	Sample 17	Sample 21	Sample 25	Sample 29	Sample 33	Sample 37
В	9	C4	Sample1	Sample5	Sample 9	Sample 13	Sample 17	Sample 21	Sample 25	Sample 29	Sample 33	Sample 37
v	บ	CS	Sample2	Sample6	Sample 10	Sample 14	Sample 18	Sample 22	Sample 26	Sample 30	Sample 34	Sample 38
D	77	C5	Sample2	Sample6	Sample 10	Sample 14	Sample 18	Sample 22	Sample 26	Sample 30	Sample 34	Sample 38
ш	2	90	Sample3	Sample7	Sample 11	Sample 15	Sample 19	Sample 23	Sample 27	Sample 31	Sample 35	Sample 39
ш	23	CG	Sample3	Sample7	Sample 11	Sample 15	Sample 19	Sample 23	Sample 27	Sample 31	Sample 35	Sample 39
פ	ខ	C7	Sample4	Sample8	Sample 12	Sample 16	Sample 20	Sample 24	Sample 28	Sample 32	Sample 36	Sample 40
I	ខ	C7	Sample4	Sample8	Sample 12	Sample 16	Sample 20	Sample 24	Sample 28	Sample 32	Sample 36	Sample 40



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