

## Calcium Calibration Buffer Kits

**Table 1** Contents and storage

<b>Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1 *zero and 10 mM CaEGTA (2 × 50 mL)* (Cat. no. C-3008MP)</b>			
<b>Material</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Concentration<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Storage<sup>†</sup></b>
Zero Free Calcium Buffer (Component A)	50 mL	10 mM EGTA in 100 mM KCl, 30 mM MOPS, pH 7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2–6°C</li> <li>• DO NOT FREEZE</li> </ul>
39 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component F)		10 mM CaEGTA in 100 mM KCl, 30 mM MOPS, pH 7.2	
<b>Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit *zero to 10 mM CaEGTA, 50 μM fura-2 (11 × 1 mL)* (Cat. no. F-6774)</b>			
<b>Material</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Concentration<sup>§</sup></b>	<b>Storage<sup>†</sup></b>
Zero Free Calcium Buffer (Component A)	1 mL	0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2–6°C</li> <li>• Protect from light</li> <li>• DO NOT FREEZE</li> </ul>
0.017 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component B)		1.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.038 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component C)		2.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.065 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component D)		3.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.100 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component E)		4.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.150 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component F)		5.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.225 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component G)		6.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.351 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component H)		7.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
0.602 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component I)		8.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
1.35 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component J)		9.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
39 μM Free Calcium Buffer (Component K)		10.0 mM CaEGTA and 50 μM fura-2	
Control Buffer, no fura-2 (Component L)		10.0 mM CaEGTA (no fura-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2–6°C</li> <li>• DO NOT FREEZE</li> </ul>

† No preservatives (e.g., sodium azide) have been added to the solutions; we recommend that the kits be used within 3 months of receipt.

‡ Prepared in 18 Mohm deionized water.

§ In 10 mM K<sub>2</sub>EGTA, 100 mM KCl, 30 mM MOPS, pH 7.2; prepared in 18 Mohm deionized water. In addition, each vial contains 15 μm-diameter polystyrene beads in suspension at 16,000 beads per mL to serve as coverslip spacers and focusing aids.

The Calcium Calibration Buffer Kits have been designed to aid in the determination of the dissociation constant ( $K_d$ ) of fluorescent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicators at a chosen temperature, ionic strength, and pH. Using the laboratory fluorometer or quantitative imaging system, you can calculate the  $K_d$  of an ion indicator from a plot generated by scanning the excitation or emission of the indicator in the presence of 11 different  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentrations. Calibration of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator is an essential component of calcium measurements; general reviews of the use of these indicators include those by Takahashi and others,<sup>1</sup> Negulescu and Machen,<sup>2</sup> and Kao.<sup>3</sup>

The **Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1** (Cat. no. C-3008MP) employs a reciprocal dilution method, which minimizes indicator concentration errors. The kit contains 50 mL of 10 mM  $\text{K}_2\text{EGTA}$  and 50 mL of 10 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$ . Both solutions contain 100 mM KCl and 30 mM MOPS, pH 7.2 and are prepared in deionized water (resistance <sup>3</sup>18 Mohm). You can blend these stock solutions to prepare buffers with free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentrations ranging from 0  $\mu\text{M}$  to 39  $\mu\text{M}$  (see Table 3, page 5).

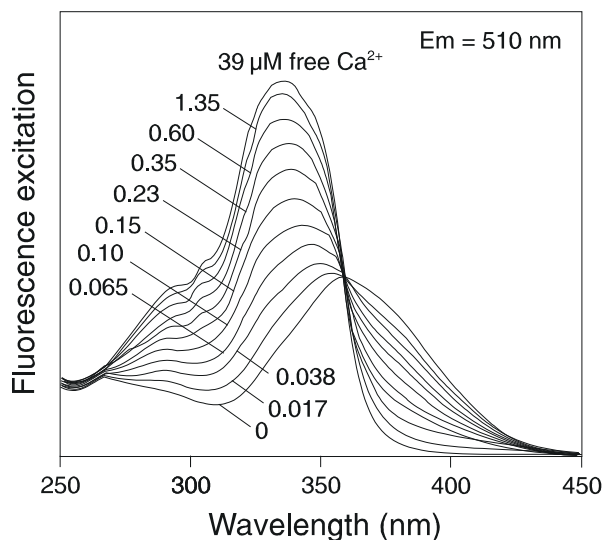
The **Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit** (Cat. no. F-6774) is a convenient kit for fluorescence microscopy. It includes the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  standard solutions of the Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #2 premixed with the fluorescent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator, fura-2, and with polystyrene microspheres to ensure uniform coverslip/slide separation and facilitate microscope focusing. The kit contains 1 mL each of 11 pre-diluted 10 mM  $\text{K}_2\text{EGTA}/\text{CaEGTA}$  buffers containing 0, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$  (free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ranging from 0  $\mu\text{M}$  to 39  $\mu\text{M}$ ). All the solutions contain the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator fura-2 at 50  $\mu\text{M}$  plus 100 mM KCl and 30 mM MOPS, pH 7.2. In addition, 15  $\mu\text{m}$ -diameter polystyrene beads in suspension at 16,000 beads per mL have been added. The beads serve as coverslip spacers and focusing aids. A twelfth buffer, identical to the 10.0 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$  standard but lacking fura-2, serves as a control for background fluorescence.

### Principles

The buffers included in these kits are prepared according to a method described by Dr. Roger Tsien.<sup>5</sup> When the concentrations of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and EGTA are very close to each other, the only free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  available is that which is in equilibrium with EGTA. The  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}}$  is a function of the dissociation constant ( $K_d$ ) of  $\text{CaEGTA}$ . The  $K_d$  of an indicator or chelator, defined as the concentration at which it reaches the half-saturation point, varies with ionic strength, pH, and temperature. Table 3 on page 7 shows the  $K_d$  of EGTA for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in 100 mM KCl at pH values between 6.50 and 8.20 and at two different temperatures.<sup>5</sup> To attain a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and EGTA concentration sufficiently close to each other, carefully generate a solution of the  $\text{CaEGTA}$  complex. This is accomplished by a “pH-metric” method, which makes use of the fact that the ion binding of EGTA causes an acidification of the solution. With this method, the concentrations of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and EGTA can be verified to be within 0.5% of each other. In the protocol for the Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit, the highest  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration is 10 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$ , which gives a  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}}$  of about 39  $\mu\text{M}$ . This  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}}$  is high enough to saturate indicators with  $K_d$  values in the 0.1–1  $\mu\text{M}$  range such as fura-2, indo-1, fluo-4, fluo-3, Fura Red™ and our Calcium Green™-1, Calcium Orange™, and Oregon Green® 488 BAPTA-1 indicators.

A precise set of fluorescence curves can be generated by varying the  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}}$  in the solution while holding the indicator concentration, pH, ionic strength and temperature constant. The most accurate way to accomplish this is with the Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1. Briefly, the protocol for this kit describes the preparation of 2 dilute samples of indicator, 1 sample in 10 mM  $\text{K}_2\text{EGTA}$  (“zero  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sample”) and the other in 10 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$  (“high  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sample”). These 2 samples are then cross-diluted to produce a series of 11 solutions with the amount of total  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  increasing by 1 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$  with each dilution. The  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}}$  in each dilution can be calculated from the  $K_d$  of  $\text{CaEGTA}$ . Although this method requires approximately 1 hour, it gives a clean isosbestic or “cross-over” point with fura-2 or indo-1 (Figure 1, page 3).

**Figure 1** Spectral response of fura-2 in 0–10 mM CaEGTA buffers using Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1 (Cat. no. C-3008MP).



**Storage and handling**

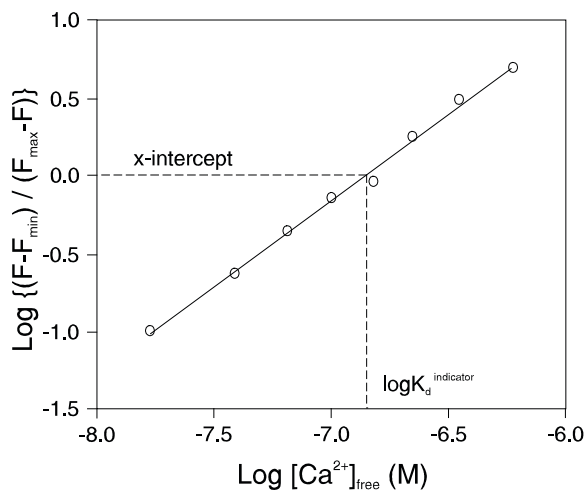
Refrigerate the buffers to retard growth of bacterial contaminants. No preservatives (e.g., sodium azide) have been added to the solutions; therefore, we recommend that the kits be used within 3 months of receipt. Do not freeze the buffers in the Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit, because this may damage the polystyrene microspheres.

When used according to the enclosed protocol, the Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1 (Cat. no. C-3008MP) provides sufficient reagents for 5 complete calibrations using 2.0 mL samples in a fluorometer cuvette. When calibrating imaging equipment, there are enough kit reagents for more complete calibrations because you can use smaller volumes. The Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit (Cat. no. F-6774) provides material sufficient for approximately 200 slides.

**Specifications**

Each lot of the Calcium Calibration Buffer Kits has been tested using a standard lot of fura-2 potassium salt. A representative calibration curve is shown in Figure 2. This response curve will vary with experimental conditions and instrumentation. To avoid artifacts, we have used the highest purity reagents available; the EGTA, MOPS, KCl and MgCl<sub>2</sub> have a stated purity greater than 99%.

**Figure 2** Calibration curve of fura-2 with Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1. As a double log plot, the Ca<sup>2+</sup> response of the indicator is linear with the x-intercept being equal to the log of the apparent K<sub>d</sub><sup>indicator</sup> (145 nM from this data).



## Experimental Protocols for Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1

### Protocol for preparing reciprocal dilutions

- 1.1 Prepare a stock solution of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator (salt form) in any dilute  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ - and EGTA-free buffer at approximately 100–500 times the concentration required for the measurements (typically 0.2–1 mM).
- 1.2 Add a small aliquot of the stock indicator solution to 2 mL of Zero Free Calcium Buffer (Component A, 10 mM  $\text{K}_2\text{EGTA}$ ) to give an indicator concentration of about 1–10  $\mu\text{M}$ . Note that although any sample volume can be used, this example uses a 2 mL sample volume. This is the “zero  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sample.”
- 1.3 Because a greater total volume of the high  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  buffer is required for the complete series of dilutions, prepare a “high  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sample” by diluting exactly 3 times as much dye into 6 mL of 39  $\mu\text{M}$  Free Calcium Buffer (Component B, 10 mM  $\text{CaEGTA}$ ).
- 1.4 Verify that the pH of the 2 solutions are identical and record the pH to the nearest 0.01 units.
- 1.5 For measurements using a fluorometer, add exactly 2 mL of the “zero  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sample” in a cuvette and record the appropriate spectrum. The wavelengths used should be as shown in Table 2, but these may vary with the instrument.

**Table 2** Spectral parameters for use with fluorescent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicators

Calcium Indicator	Excitation Wavelength	Emission Wavelength	Proper Spectrum
fura-2	scan 300–450 nm	490–520 nm	excitation
indo-1	340–360 nm	scan >360 nm	emission
quin-2	scan >300 nm	480–500 nm	excitation
fluo-3	480–500 nm	scan >500 nm	emission
fluo-4	480–500 nm	scan >500 nm	emission
rhod-2	540–560 nm	scan >560 nm	emission
X-rhod-1	565–585 nm	scan >590 nm	emission
Oregon Green® 488 BAPTA	480–500 nm	scan >500 nm	emission
Calcium Green™	480–500 nm	scan >500 nm	emission
Calcium Orange™	540–560 nm	scan >550 nm	emission
Calcium Crimson™	570–590 nm	scan >590 nm	emission
Fura Red™	480–500 nm	scan >550 nm	emission

- 1.6 Use the initial 0 mM CaEGTA/indicator sample in the cuvette to prepare the next solution by removing 0.2 mL from the sample and replacing this with an equal aliquot (0.2 mL) of the “high Ca<sup>2+</sup> sample.” This brings the CaEGTA concentration to 1 mM and the [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> to about 0.017 μM with no change in the concentration of the dye or of the total EGTA. The equation for determining the volume to remove and replace is:

$$[1] \text{ Volume to remove/replace} = (\text{sample volume}) \times \{(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a})/(\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a})\}$$

**a** = current mM CaEGTA

**b** = desired mM CaEGTA

**c** = mM CaEGTA in “high Ca<sup>2+</sup> sample” (typically 10.0 mM CaEGTA)

For this first dilution from 0 mM to 1 mM CaEGTA in a 2 mL sample, the remove/replace volume is calculated using equation [1] as follows:

$$2 \text{ mL} \times \frac{1 \text{ mM} - 0 \text{ mM}}{10 \text{ mM} - 0 \text{ mM}} = 0.2 \text{ mL}$$

- 1.7 Scan the spectrum again, then remove another aliquot (this time 0.22 mL) and replace it with 0.22 mL of the “high Ca<sup>2+</sup> sample.” The solution is now 2 mM CaEGTA with [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> of about 0.038 μM.
- 1.8 Record the spectrum and prepare the indicator solutions containing 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 mM CaEGTA in the same way, always starting with the solution used for the previous spectrum (Table 3). For the 10 mM CaEGTA spectrum, discard the previous measurement sample and replace it with 2 mL from the “high Ca<sup>2+</sup> sample” (Figure 1, page 3). Do not illuminate the solutions longer than is required to obtain the spectra. The quality of the dilutions and measurements will be obvious for those indicators that undergo excitation shifts (fura-2) or emissions shifts (indo-1) upon Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding. If accurate dilutions have been made, such indicators will display a clean isosbestic point.

**Table 3** Reciprocal dilutions used to arrive at the free [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]\*

CaEGTA	[Ca <sup>2+</sup> ] <sub>free</sub>	Volume to remove/replace using a 2 mL sample
0 mM	0 μM	“zero Ca <sup>2+</sup> sample”
1 mM	0.017 μM	Replace 0.200 mL
2 mM	0.038 μM	Replace 0.222 mL
3 mM	0.065 μM	Replace 0.250 mL
4 mM	0.100 μM	Replace 0.286 mL
5 mM	0.150 μM	Replace 0.333 mL
6 mM	0.225 μM	Replace 0.400 mL
7 mM	0.351 μM	Replace 0.500 mL
8 mM	0.602 μM	Replace 0.667 mL
9 mM	1.35 μM	Replace 1.000 mL
10 mM	39 μM	“high Ca <sup>2+</sup> sample”

\* See *Calculating Free Ca<sup>2+</sup> Concentrations*, next page, for information about the variation of [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> with pH, temperature, and ionic strength.

## Calculating free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations

Because the [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> value is very small in the calibration buffers, it is necessary to calculate it for each solution. Multiply the K<sub>d</sub> of EGTA for Ca<sup>2+</sup> (at the relevant pH, ionic strength, and temperature) by the molar ratio of CaEGTA to K<sub>2</sub>EGTA in the particular solution. For example, the first dilution brings the [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> from essentially zero to about 0.017 μM by removing 200 μL of 10 mM K<sub>2</sub>EGTA and replacing it with the same volume of 10 mM CaEGTA. The [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> is calculated from the K<sub>d</sub> of EGTA for Ca<sup>2+</sup> using equation [2]:

$$[2] \quad [Ca^{2+}]_{free} = K_d^{EGTA} \times \frac{[CaEGTA]}{[K_2EGTA]}$$

The ratio of CaEGTA to K<sub>2</sub>EGTA in the 1 mM CaEGTA solution is 1:9 or 0.11. This value is multiplied by the K<sub>d</sub><sup>EGTA</sup> at the pH, ionic strength, and temperature at which the measurement is made (Table 4, page 7). Using the reagents provided in our kits (pH 7.2 with an ionic strength of 100 mM KCl) at 20°C, the K<sub>d</sub><sup>EGTA</sup> is 150.5 × 10<sup>-9</sup> M. Therefore, for the 1 mM CaEGTA solution (with 9 mM K<sub>2</sub>EGTA also present), the [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> is:

$$\begin{aligned} [Ca^{2+}]_{free} &= (150.5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ M}) \times 0.11 \\ &= 1.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M} \\ &= 0.0167 \text{ } \mu\text{M} \end{aligned}$$

The values for [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> at 20°C in solutions with pH 7.20 and ionic strength of 100 mM KCl are tabulated in Table 3 (page 5). The Ca<sup>2+</sup> affinity of EGTA, which has been used to buffer the Ca<sup>2+</sup> in these solutions, is very dependent on the pH, ionic strength, and temperature of the solution. As Table 4 (page 7) indicates, a change in pH of 0.05 units can alter K<sub>d</sub><sup>EGTA</sup> by up to 20%. If your measurement is made under conditions of pH, temperature, or ionic strength that vary substantially from those represented in Table 4 (page 7), it is essential to make corrections to get the correct value for the K<sub>d</sub><sup>EGTA</sup> for Ca<sup>2+</sup>. A review by Bers and coworkers<sup>6</sup> in Volume 40 of the *Methods in Cell Biology* series describes methods for performing these corrections. The impact of K<sub>d</sub><sup>EGTA</sup> corrections on Ca<sup>2+</sup> measurements using fura-2 has been described by Groden and coworkers.<sup>7</sup>

## Plotting the data

After you have recorded the spectra, plot the excitation or emission at a single wavelength against [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> to give a calibration curve that you can use to determine the [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> of an unknown solution. Similarly, for ratioable indicators such as fura-2 or indo-1, you can plot the ratio of the absorption, excitation, or emission at two wavelengths against [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub>. Ratio measurements reduce artifacts due to differences in indicator concentration, photobleaching, and path length because these factors tend to have a similar effect on the intensities at both wavelengths and they cancel in the ratio of intensities. Calculations of K<sub>d</sub><sup>Indicator</sup> are slightly more complicated when using ratio techniques.<sup>4</sup>

Raw spectral data and the accompanying data analysis obtained with the Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1 and fura-2 are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, respectively (see page 3). The data is plotted as the log of the [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>free</sub> (x-axis) versus the log {(F - F<sub>min</sub>)/(F<sub>max</sub> - F)} (y-axis). This double log plot gives an x-intercept that is the log of the K<sub>d</sub><sup>Indicator</sup> expressed in moles/liter. In the example, the x-intercept is -6.84. The inverse log of this number is 145 × 10<sup>-9</sup> M (145 nM). The slope of the plot is 1.0, which reflects the 1:1 binding of each fura-2 with a single Ca<sup>2+</sup> ion. The first dilution (from “zero” Ca<sup>2+</sup> to 0.017 μM) has the greatest error due to contaminating ions from glassware, reagents, etc., and may sometimes be unreliable.

A convenient utility for plotting and analysis of calcium calibration data is available at [www.invitrogen.com](http://www.invitrogen.com). Select the **Research Tools > KD Calculator** option from the **Support** drop-down menu and follow the on-screen instructions.

**Table 4** Dissociation constants of EGTA for Ca<sup>2+</sup> in 0.1 M KCl\*

pH	K <sub>d</sub> <sup>EGTA</sup> (nM)	
	20°C	37°C
6.50	3728	2646
6.60	2354	1672
6.70	1487	1057
6.75	1182	841
6.80	940	669
6.85	747	532
6.90	594	423
6.95	472	337
7.00	376	268
7.05	299	213
7.10	238	170.0
7.15	189.1	135.4
7.20	150.5	107.9
7.25	119.8	86.0
7.30	95.4	68.6
7.35	76.0	54.7
7.40	60.5	43.7
7.45	48.2	34.9
7.50	38.5	27.9
7.60	24.5	17.88
7.70	15.61	11.49
7.80	9.99	7.42
7.90	6.41	4.82
8.00	4.13	3.15
8.10	2.68	2.08
8.20	1.75	1.39

\* Data from reference 5.

## Experimental Protocols for Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit

---

The Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit provides 11  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  standard buffers premixed with 50  $\mu\text{M}$  fura-2. A control buffer (lacking fura-2) is also included. Each buffer also contains a dilute suspension of 15- $\mu\text{m}$  polystyrene microspheres to ensure uniform coverslip/slide separation and to facilitate microscope focusing. The kit is used to calibrate  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  measurements based on fura-2 fluorescence in digital-imaging or photometric fluorescence microscopes. With fura-2 as a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  indicator, you may collect data:

- as the simple fluorescence emission at 510 nm with excitation at 340 nm or
- as a ratio of emission intensities — the emission intensity at 510 nm from 340 nm excitation divided by the emission intensity at 510 nm from 380 nm excitation (see Figure 1, page 3).

The ratiometric method (*Plotting the Data*, page 6) reduces artifacts that are especially problematic in microscopy applications.

### Protocol for fluorescence microscopy

- 2.1 Prepare a slide with each buffer solution. Shake or vortex-mix each vial vigorously immediately before sampling.
- 2.2 Pipet 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of each calibration solution onto clean, dry microscope slides. Cover the droplets with 18  $\times$  18-mm coverslips. Seal the edges of the coverslips with melted paraffin or other nonfluorescent sealing material.

**Note:** Even high-quality microscope slides and coverslips may require special cleaning prior to use to avoid spurious background fluorescence. It may be prudent to analyze the control buffer first before proceeding with the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  buffers containing fura-2. High background readings may indicate light scattering in the slide preparation or fluorescence from the sealing material or immersion oil. You may add protein (e.g., bovine serum albumin) to the calibrating solutions to approximate the intracellular constituents and viscosity and to reduce slide to slide variations. Protein addition, however, affects the apparent  $K_d$  of the fura-2 for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .

- 2.2 Acquire image or photometric data, exciting the sample at 340 nm and 380 nm and measuring emission at 510 nm. Prior to taking these measurements, use transmitted light (brightfield, phase contrast, or interference microscopy) to locate a 15- $\mu\text{m}$  polystyrene microsphere in the field of view and focus up and down through the bead to find the point where the diameter appears largest. After focusing in this plane, carefully move the slide on the stage to find a view without visible beads. Use this field for the fluorescence measurements.

**Note:** The control buffer, the zero free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  buffer, and the 39  $\mu\text{M}$  free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  buffer each contribute significantly in the calculations that follow. For these buffers, we recommend taking the average of 3 determinations. For the other buffers, single determinations at 340 nm and at 380 nm are usually adequate for generating the standard curve.

- 2.3 Correct each emission intensity for background fluorescence. Subtract the control buffer fluorescence value (or mean value) obtained with 340 nm excitation from each 340 nm-excitation value, and subtract the control buffer fluorescence value obtained with 380 nm excitation from each 380 nm-excitation value.
- 2.4 Calculate the ratios. Divide the *corrected* intensity with 340 nm excitation by the corresponding *corrected* intensity with 380 nm excitation.



## Plotting the data

You can use the data collected with the Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration Kit to generate a standard curve, which can then be used to convert fura-2 fluorescence measurements obtained from experimental samples into estimates of free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration. The analysis of fluorescence data taken at a single excitation wavelength (340 nm) was described above. The analysis of data taken at 2 excitation wavelengths (340 nm and 380 nm; ratiometric analysis) is described here.

The interrelationship of the free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration and the fluorescence emission intensity ratio is described by equation [3]:

$$[3] \quad [\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}} = K_d^{\text{EGTA}} \times \frac{[R - R_{\text{min}}]}{[R_{\text{max}} - R]} \times \frac{F_{\text{max}}^{380}}{F_{\text{min}}^{380}}$$

R is the ratio of 510 nm emission intensity with excitation at 340 nm, to 510 nm emission intensity with excitation at 380 nm;  $R_{\text{min}}$  is the ratio at zero free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ;  $R_{\text{max}}$  is the ratio at saturating  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (e.g., 39  $\mu\text{M}$ );  $F_{\text{max}}^{380}$  is the fluorescence intensity with excitation at 380 nm, for zero free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ; and  $F_{\text{min}}^{380}$  is the fluorescence intensity at saturating free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .<sup>4</sup>

You can calculate the free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  for any experimental sample from the corresponding R value. The plot of the log of  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{free}}$  (x-axis) versus the log of  $\{(R - R_{\text{min}})/(R_{\text{max}} - R) \times (F_{\text{max}}^{380}/F_{\text{min}}^{380})\}$  yields a straight line, the x-intercept of which is the log of  $K_d$ . An empirical value for  $K_d$  can be determined from the fura-2-containing  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  standards.

A convenient utility for plotting and analysis of calcium calibration data is available at [www.invitrogen.com](http://www.invitrogen.com). Select the **Research Tools > KD Calculator** option from the **Support** drop-down menu and follow the on-screen instructions.

The inclusion of 15- $\mu\text{m}$  polystyrene microspheres in the calcium calibration buffers facilitates the preparation of more uniform thin films; however, it should not be assumed that the path length of these preparations is identical. Using equation [3] requires that solutions with zero and saturating  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  contain the same fura-2 concentration and are of equal path length (i.e., the  $F_{\text{max}}^{380}/F_{\text{min}}^{380}$  term depends on the assumption that  $F_{\text{max}}^{380}$  and  $F_{\text{min}}^{380}$  are measurements from equivalent samples). More accurate estimation of intracellular  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$  may be accomplished simply by comparing the background-corrected 340/380 fluorescence ratio within cells with a titration curve in which the background-corrected 340/380 fluorescence ratio (y-axis) is plotted against  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$  (x-axis).

## References

---

1. *Physiol Rev* 79, 1089 (1999);
2. *Methods Enzymol* 192, 38 (1990);
3. *Methods Cell Biol* 40, 155 (1994);
4. *J Biol Chem* 260, 3440 (1985);
5. *Methods Enzymol* 172, 230 (1989);
6. *Methods Cell Biol* 40, 3 (1994);
7. *Cell Calcium* 12, 279 (1991);
8. *Cell Calcium* 11, 85 (1990);
9. *Cell Calcium* 11, 63 (1990).

## Product List Current prices may be obtained at [www.invitrogen.com](http://www.invitrogen.com) or from our Customer Service Department.

Cat. no.	Product Name	Unit Size
C-3008MP	Calcium Calibration Buffer Kit #1 *zero and 10 mM CaEGTA (2 x 50 mL)* .....	1 kit
F-6774	Fura-2 Calcium Imaging Calibration *zero to 10 mM CaEGTA, 50 µM fura-2 (11 x 1 mL)* .....	1 kit

## Contact Information

### Corporate Headquarters

5791 Van Allen Way  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
USA  
Phone: +1 760 603 7200  
Fax: +1 760 602 6500  
Email: [techsupport@lifetech.com](mailto:techsupport@lifetech.com)

### European Headquarters

Inchinnan Business Park  
3 Fountain Drive  
Paisley PA4 9RF  
UK  
Phone: +44 141 814 6100  
Toll-Free Phone: 0800 269 210  
Toll-Free Tech: 0800 838 380  
Fax: +44 141 814 6260  
Tech Fax: +44 141 814 6117  
Email: [euroinfo@invitrogen.com](mailto:euroinfo@invitrogen.com)  
Email Tech: [eurotech@invitrogen.com](mailto:eurotech@invitrogen.com)

### Japanese Headquarters

LOOP-X Bldg. 6F  
3-9-15, Kaigan  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0022  
Japan  
Phone: +81 3 5730 6509  
Fax: +81 3 5730 6519  
Email: [jpinfo@invitrogen.com](mailto:jpinfo@invitrogen.com)

Additional international offices are listed at [www.invitrogen.com](http://www.invitrogen.com)

These high-quality reagents and materials must be used by, or directly under the supervision of, a technically qualified individual experienced in handling potentially hazardous chemicals. Read the Safety Data Sheet provided for each product; other regulatory considerations may apply.

### Web Resources

Visit the Invitrogen website at [www.invitrogen.com](http://www.invitrogen.com) for:

- Technical resources, including manuals, vector maps and sequences, application notes, Meds, FAQs, formulations, citations, handbooks, etc.
- Complete technical support contact information
- Access to the Invitrogen Online Catalog
- Additional product information and special offers

### SDS

Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are available at [www.invitrogen.com/sds](http://www.invitrogen.com/sds).

### Certificate of Analysis

The Certificate of Analysis provides detailed quality control and product qualification information for each product. Certificates of Analysis are available on our website. Go to [www.invitrogen.com/support](http://www.invitrogen.com/support) and search for the Certificate of Analysis by product lot number, which is printed on the product packaging (tube, pouch, or box).

### Limited Warranty

Invitrogen (a part of Life Technologies Corporation) is committed to providing our customers with high-quality goods and services. Our goal is to ensure that every customer is 100% satisfied with our products and our service. If you should have any questions or concerns about an Invitrogen product or service, contact our Technical Support Representatives.

All Invitrogen products are warranted to perform according to specifications stated on the certificate of analysis. The Company will replace, free of charge, any product that does not meet those specifications. This warranty limits the Company's liability to only the price of the product. No warranty is granted for products beyond their listed expiration date. No warranty is applicable unless all product components are stored in accordance with instructions. The Company reserves the right to select the method(s) used to analyze a product unless the Company agrees to a specified method in writing prior to acceptance of the order.

Invitrogen makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of its publications, but realizes that the occasional typographical or other error is inevitable. Therefore the Company makes no warranty of any kind regarding the contents of any publications or documentation. If you discover an error in any of our publications, please report it to our Technical Support Representatives.

Life Technologies Corporation shall have no responsibility or liability for any special, incidental, indirect or consequential loss or damage whatsoever. The above limited warranty is sole and exclusive. No other warranty is made, whether expressed or implied, including any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

### Limited Use Label License No. 358: Research Use Only

The purchase of this product conveys to the purchaser the limited, non-transferable right to use the purchased amount of the product only to perform internal research for the sole benefit of the purchaser. No right to resell this product or any of its components is conveyed expressly, by implication, or by estoppel. This product is for internal research purposes only and is not for use in commercial services of any kind, including, without limitation, reporting the results of purchaser's activities for a fee or other form of consideration. For information on obtaining additional rights, please contact [outlicensing@lifetech.com](mailto:outlicensing@lifetech.com) or Out Licensing, Life Technologies Corporation, 5791 Van Allen Way, Carlsbad, California 92008.

The trademarks mentioned herein are the property of Life Technologies Corporation or their respective owners.

©2011 Life Technologies Corporation. All rights reserved.

**For research use only. Not intended for any animal or human therapeutic or diagnostic use.**