

Principles and Technical Aspects of PCR Amplification

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Foreword

This book aims to provide an introduction to: (i) the concept of PCR, (ii) PCR technologies, (iii) PCR applications and (iv) PCR quality, with particular emphasis being placed upon PCR applications and techniques relevant to the clinical laboratory. This book will without doubt be useful as a reference work pertaining to technical aspects of PCR for all bio-medical students, research technicians, medics and scientists interested in the PCR technique and its applications *per se*.

Wherever possible, the authors have tried to provide figures, scientific publications, or references to commercially available products, in order to illustrate any particularly important concepts or comments. Indeed, all commercial PCR biotechnology companies offer information about their products on internet sites and in online technical manuals. These online resources will be invaluable for any readers requiring more detailed PCR protocols.

The authors have provided references for many PCR concepts and applications that are directly useful to the clinical laboratory audience. These references provide a starting point for a more detailed investigation into the PCR techniques and concepts mentioned. In particular, further detailed information may be acquired by (i) referring to the reference section of cited publications, and (ii) by referring to other (more recent) publications published by the cited author(s).

Great efforts have been made to include descriptions of the vast majority of PCR applications and technologies that currently exist, though the dynamic nature of the PCR field means that no book can ever be regarded as totally inclusive of all the PCR refinements that have been (and are currently being) developed.

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Finally, the authors would like to wish everyone success in their PCR-related studies!

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Contents

Foreword	v
Chapter 1 The Polymerase Chain Reaction	1
1.1 An Overview of the PCR Process	1
1.2 Before PCR and Beyond	2
Chapter 2 A Brief Comparison Between <i>In Vivo</i> DNA Replication and <i>In Vitro</i> PCR Amplification	9
2.1 Nucleic Acid Targets	9
2.1.1 DNA	9
2.1.2 RNA	11
2.2 Target DNA Strand Separation and Primer Annealing	12
2.3 DNA Dependent DNA Polymerase and Oligonucleotide Primers	13
2.4 Deoxyribonucleotides and Additional Factors	14
Chapter 3 The PCR in Practice	17
3.1 Brief Overview of PCR Requirements	17
3.1.1 The PCR Reaction Mix	17
3.1.2 The PCR Thermocycling Regime	19
3.1.3 Analysis of PCR Amplification Products	22
3.1.4 Miscellaneous Considerations	22
Chapter 4 The Different Types and Varieties of Nucleic Acid Target Molecules	25
4.1 General Features	25
4.2 A Brief Description of <i>In Vivo</i> DNA and RNA Targets	26
4.3 DNA Samples	33
4.3.1 DNA Isolation Procedures	34
4.3.2 Comments on Nucleic Acids in Specific Sample Types	39
4.4 RNA Samples	44
4.4.1 Working Free of RNase Contamination	45

4.4.2	RNA Isolation for RT-PCR	47
4.5	Reverse Transcription and RT-PCR	50
4.5.1	cDNA Synthesis	53
4.5.2	cDNA Synthesis Using RACE	55
4.5.3	RNA Extraction and cDNA Synthesis Controls	57
Chapter 5	PCR Primers	63
5.1	PCR Primer Design and Quality Requirements	64
5.1.1	Different Primer Species	68
5.2	Primer Hybridisation (Annealing)	76
5.3	Thermodynamic Approach of T_m Calculations	78
5.4	Primer Synthesis	81
5.5	Non-radioactive Primer Labelling	83
5.6	The Effect of Mismatches Between PCR Primer and Target	86
5.7	Primer Concentration	87
Chapter 6	Deoxynucleotide Triphosphates and Buffer Components	91
6.1	Factors Affecting the Choice of dNTP Concentration	92
6.2	Modified dNTPs and Their Applications	93
6.3	The PCR Buffer	94
6.3.1	Monovalent Ions	98
6.3.2	Magnesium Ions	99
Chapter 7	Taq and Other Thermostable DNA Polymerases	103
7.1	The Advantages and Disadvantages of Taq over Klenow Fragment DNA Polymerase	104
7.2	Misincorporation of Nucleotides and Fidelity of DNA Synthesis by Taq Polymerase	107
7.3	Taq DNA Polymerase and Its Modifications	110
7.4	Taq Polymerase Unit Definition and Working Concentrations	113
7.5	Other Thermostable Polymerases and Their Applications	113
7.6	Mixtures of Thermostable Polymerases	117
Chapter 8	Important Considerations for Typical, Quantitative and Real-Time PCR Protocols	119
8.1	The Typical PCR Amplification Protocol	119
8.1.1	Denaturation (Melting) of the Template DNA	121
8.1.2	Annealing (Hybridisation) of PCR Primers	122
8.1.3	Calculating the Primer Annealing Temperature (T_m)	124
8.1.4	DNA Chain Extension/Elongation	125