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INTRODUCTION TO SPECTRAL CYTOMETRY

USING CYTEK® AURORA, AURORA CS, and NORTHERN LIGHTS™ SYSTEMS

Cytek® Biosciences, Inc.
47215 Lakeview Blvd
Fremont, CA 94538

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You can answer polls

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☐ Red

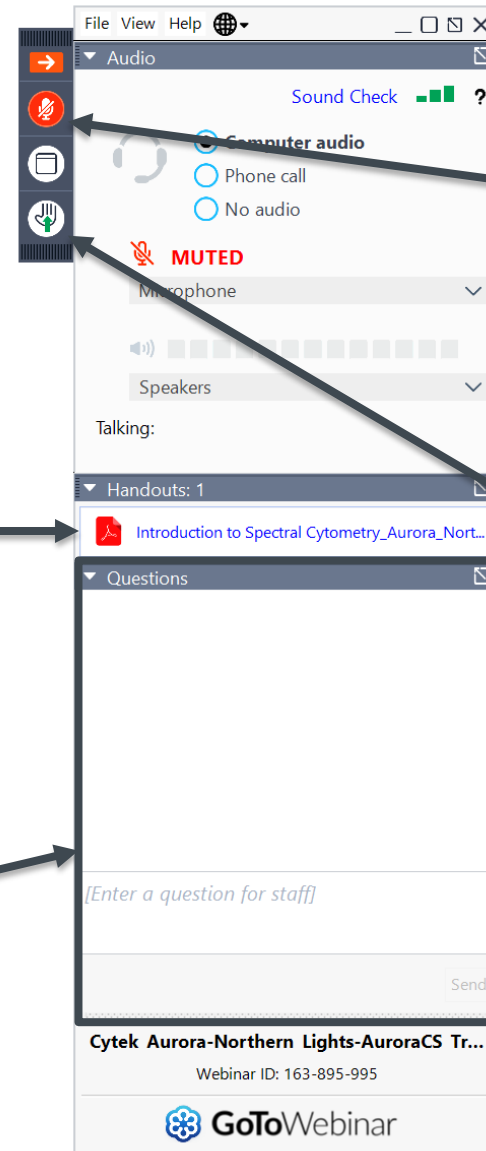
☐ Blue

☐ Green

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Raise your hand if experiencing any issues with GoToWebinar





Course Overview

- 1 Full Spectrum Cytometry Basics
- 2 Full Spectrum Experiment Workflow
- 3 Tips for Planning, Running, and Evaluating Assays
- 4 Working with Optimized Assays



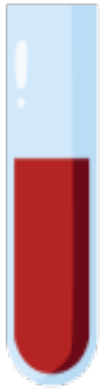
Full Spectrum Cytometry Basics

- Flow Cytometry Fundamentals
- Generating Full Spectrum Signatures
- Benefits of Cytek® Full Spectrum Profiling™ Technology (FSP™)

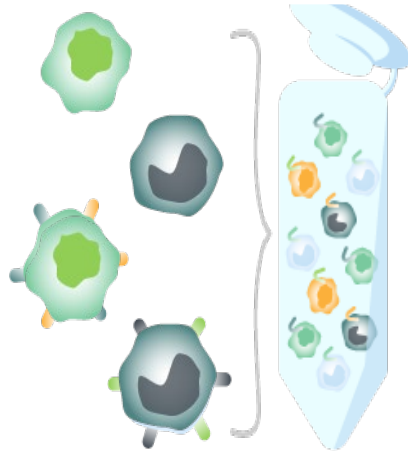


Sample Preparation: Basics

Collect and
prepare samples



Stain cells with
labeled antibodies



1

Collect and prepare single cells in suspension

2

Add fluorescent-tagged antibodies, fluorescent dye(s), and/or utilize a fluorescent protein

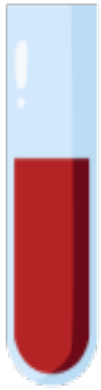
3

Wash and resuspend cells in buffer

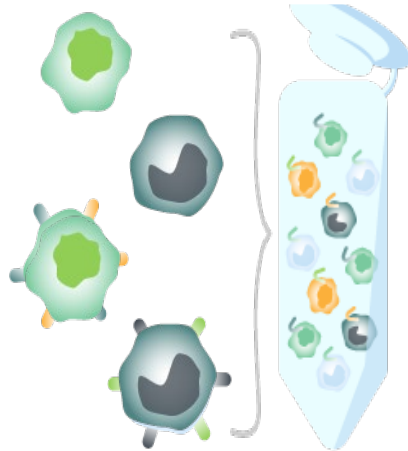


Flow Cytometry: Basics

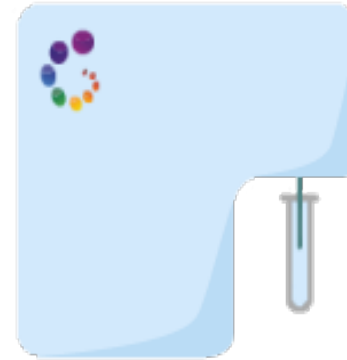
Collect and
prepare samples



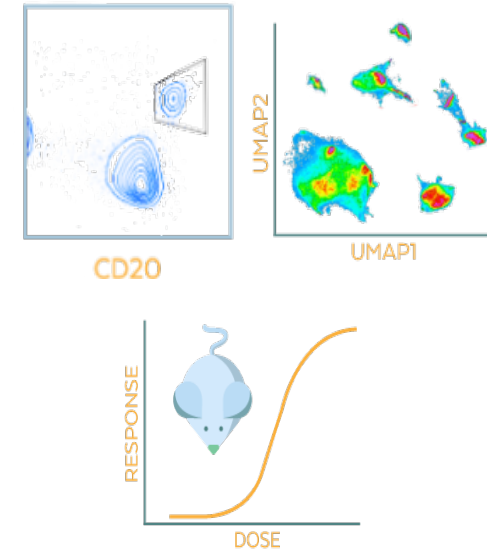
Stain cells with
labeled antibodies



Acquire samples
on a cytometer



Analyze and
interpret results



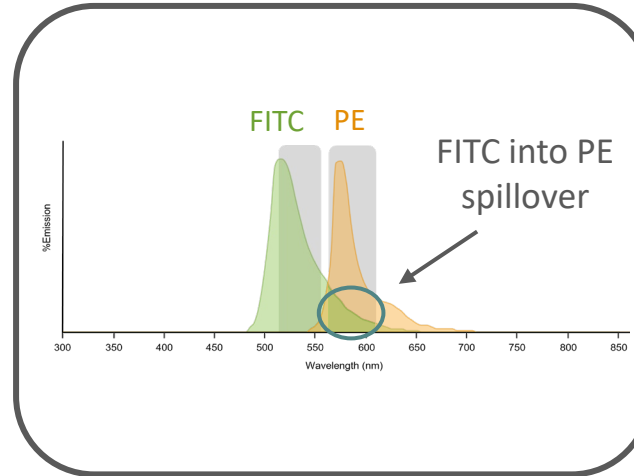


Conventional vs. Full Spectrum: Similarities

Run controls to define fluorescent signal on the cytometer



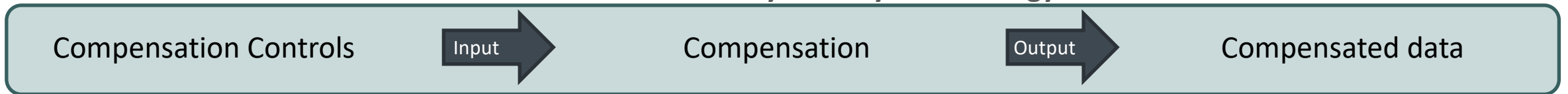
Account for spectral overlap with a mathematical calculation



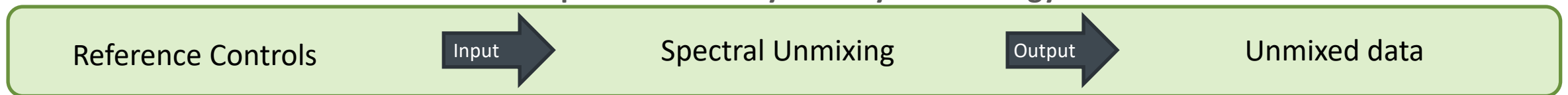
Run multicolor samples with calculation applied



Conventional Flow Cytometry Terminology

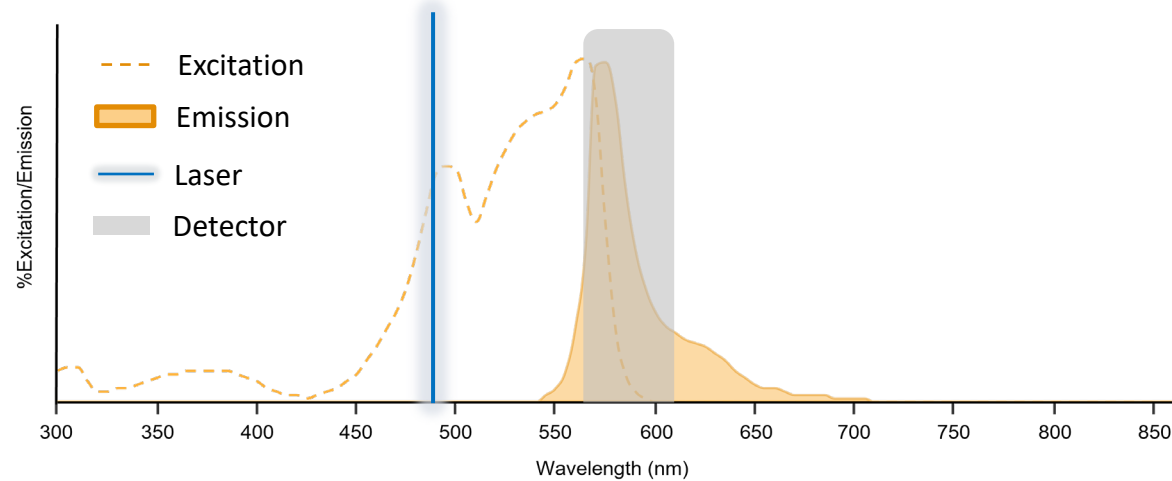


Full Spectrum Flow Cytometry Terminology





What Are We Capturing?



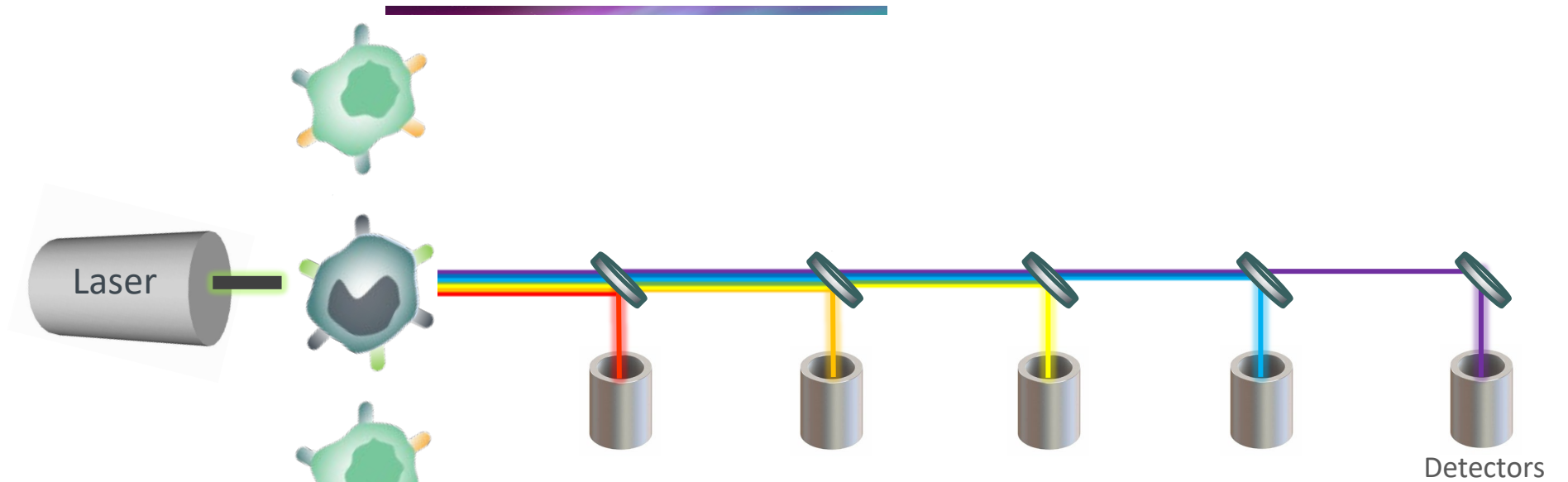
Is this the whole picture?



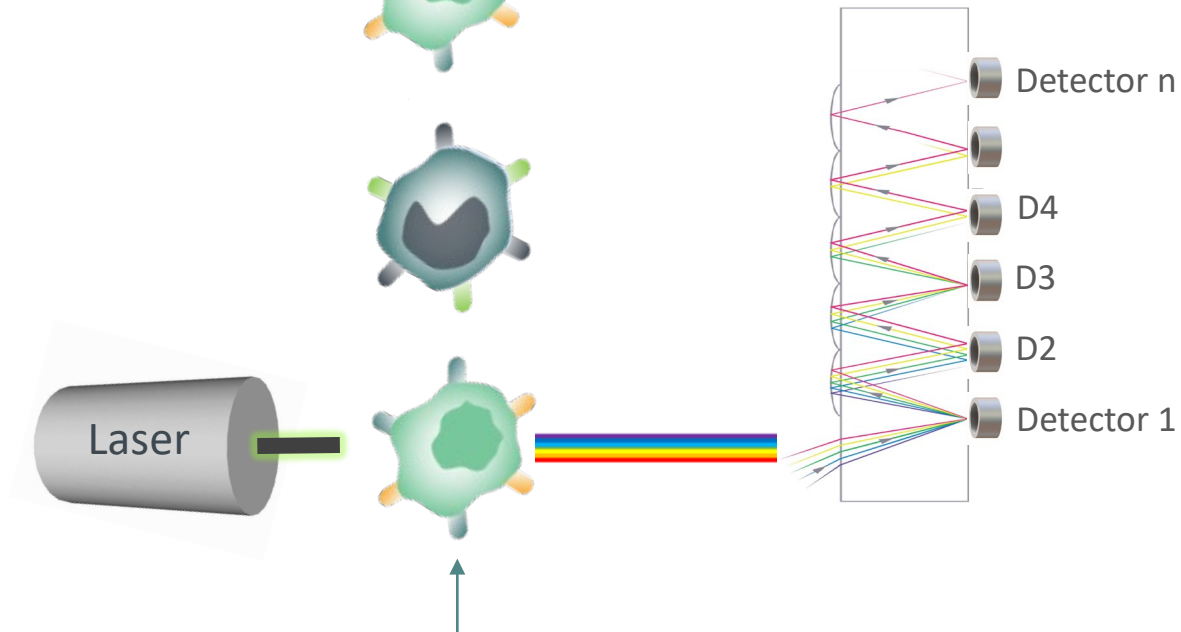


Flow Cytometry Optics

Conventional



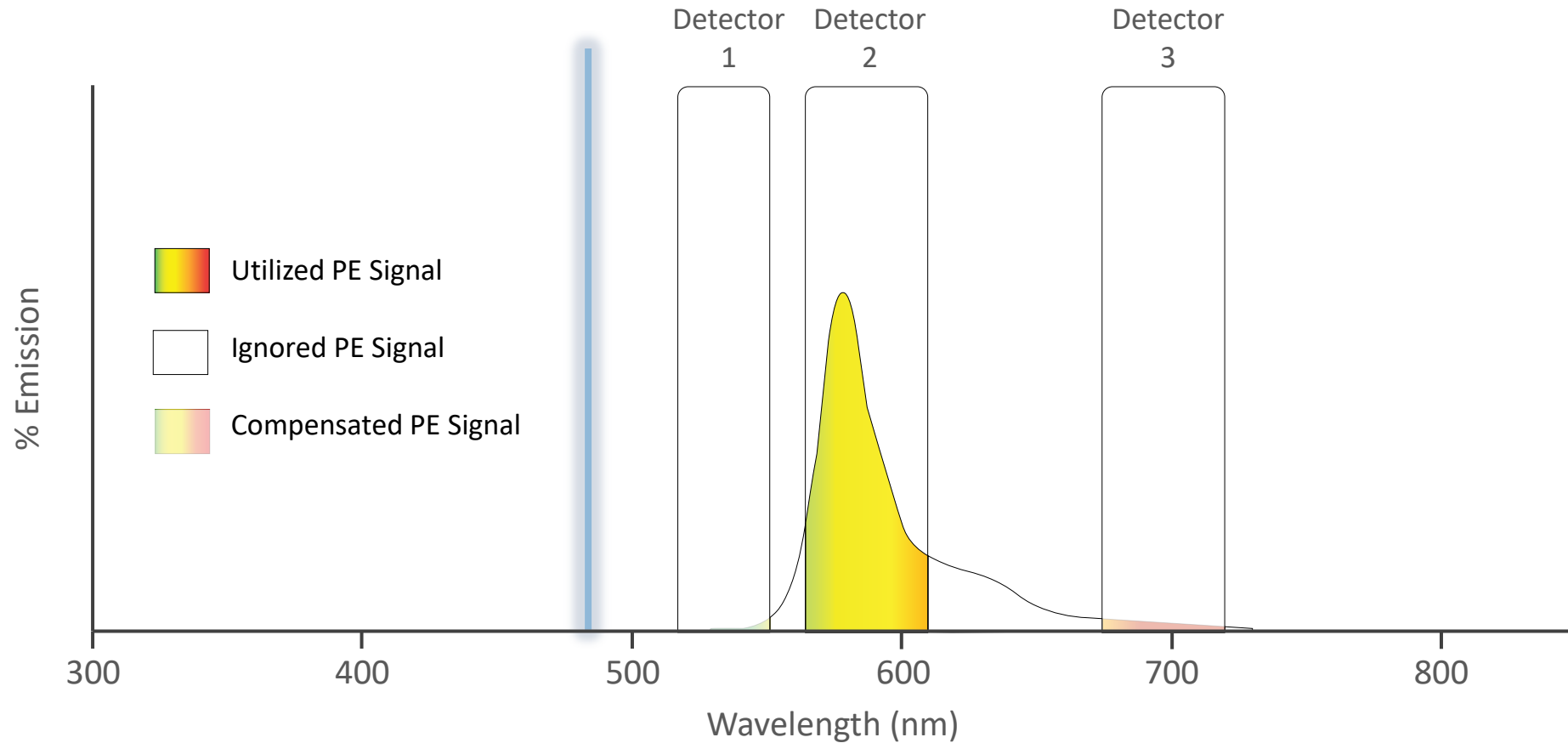
Spectral





Conventional vs. Full Spectrum: Differences

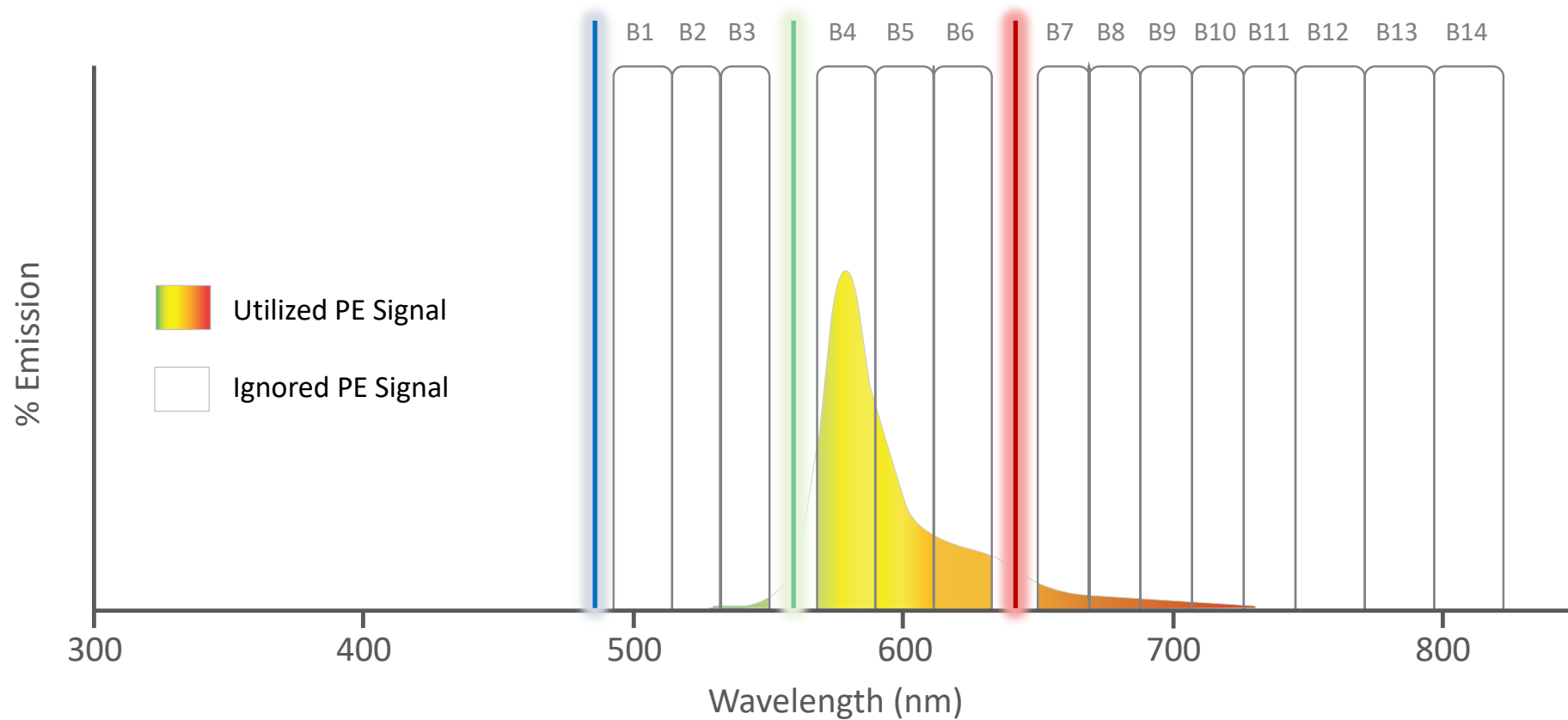
Detecting PE on a conventional cytometer





Conventional vs. Full Spectrum: Differences

Detecting PE on a Cytex[®] System





Interactive Poll #1

What is different about full spectrum cytometry?



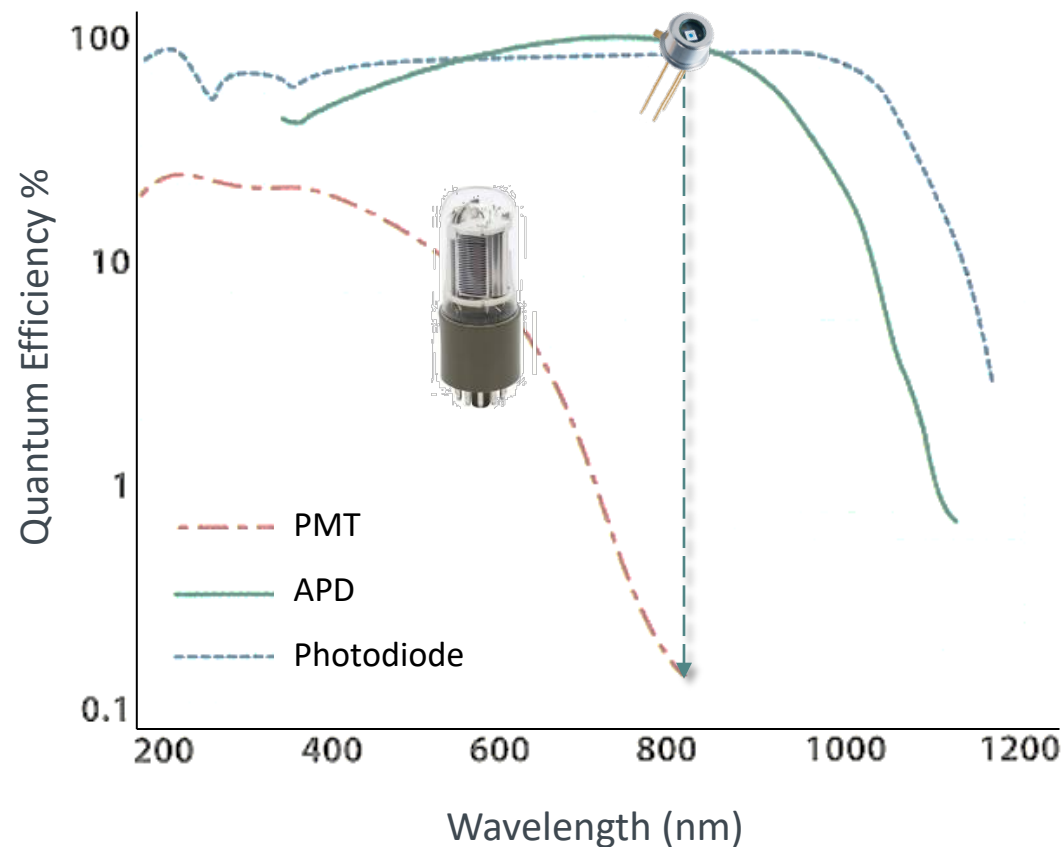
Unique Capabilities of Cytek® Systems

- Achieve better resolution with higher sensitivity detectors
- Define fluorochromes by their full spectrum signatures
- Easier fluorochrome selection
- Extract autofluorescence



Achieve Better Resolution With Higher Sensitivity Detectors

- Cytek® Systems use detectors called Avalanche Photodiodes (APDs), whereas many other cytometers use Photomultiplier Tubes (PMTs)
- Quantum efficiency (QE) is the ability to convert photons to electrons
- APDs have higher QE which translates to better resolution, especially with fluorophores that emit at longer wavelengths



Data from Hamamatsu Photonics

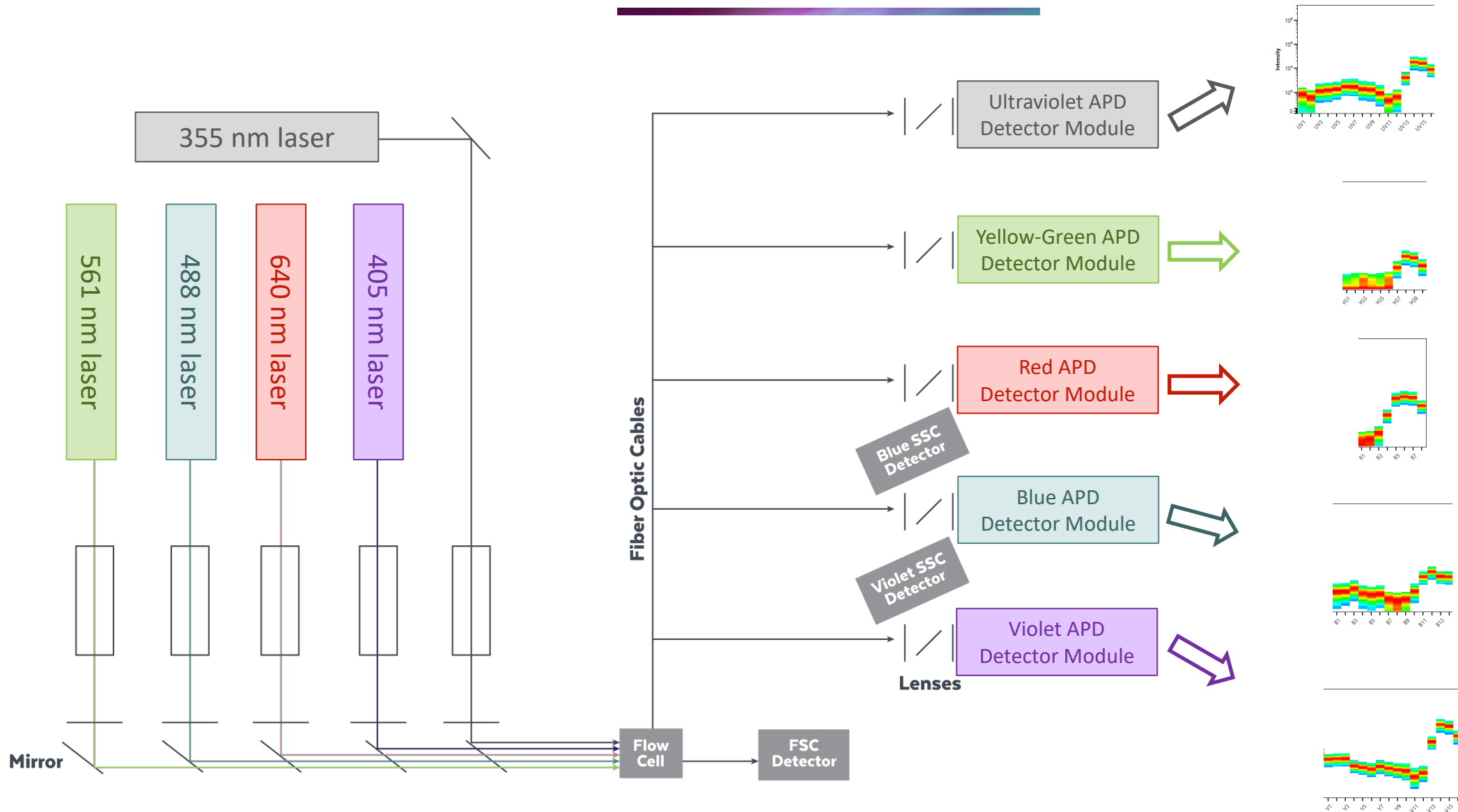
Generating Full Spectrum Signatures

Components of a full spectrum signature

Options for viewing signatures

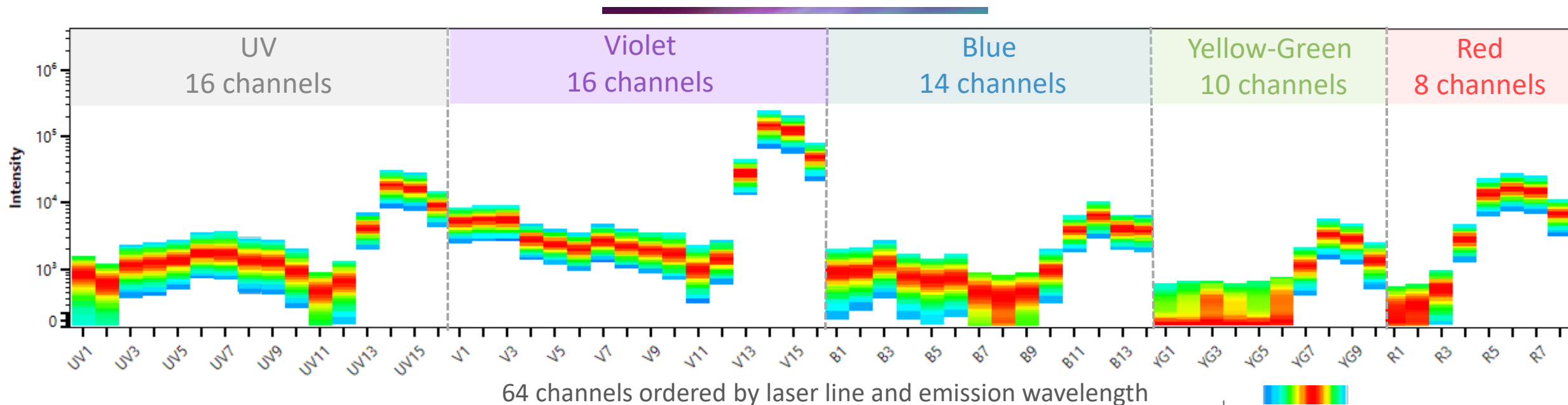


Generating a Full Spectrum Signature

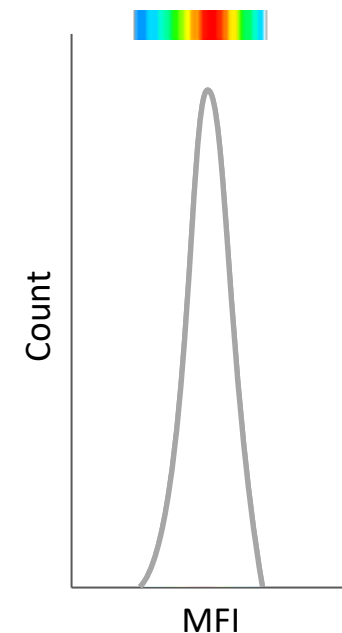




Building a Full Spectrum Signature

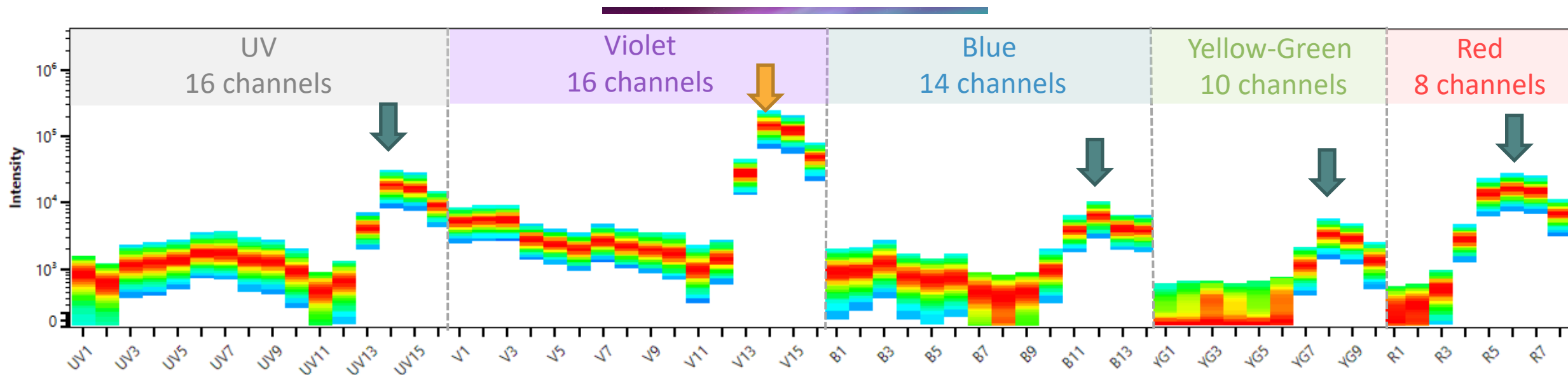


The signals are captured from each of the different modules and stitched together to create a single spectral signature





Building a Full Spectrum Signature

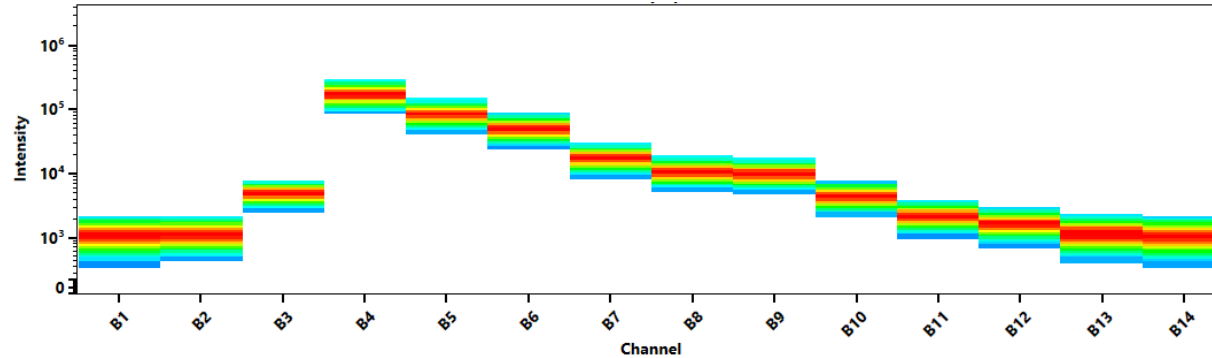


Primary Emission Channel: Captures the overall emission maxima. Occurs in detector array matching the primary excitation laser.

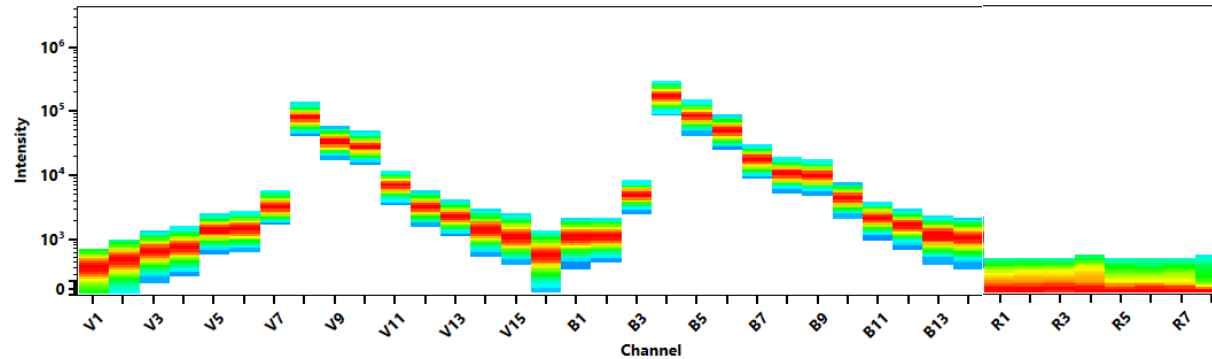
Secondary Emission Channel: Captures any secondary emission maxima. Occurs in detector array(s) matching any secondary excitation laser(s).



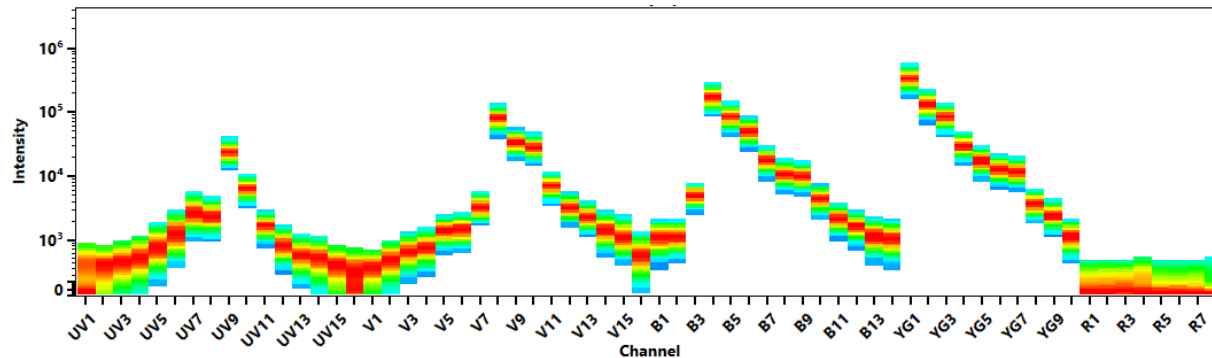
Signatures From Different Configurations



cFluor® BYG575 (PE) – 1 Laser (B) system



cFluor® BYG575 (PE) – 3 Laser (VBR) system



cFluor® BYG575 (PE) – 5 Laser system



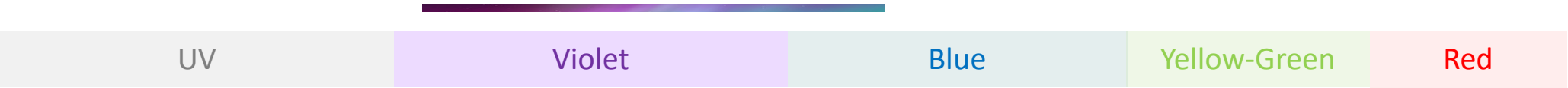
Exercise 1: Reading a Full Spectrum Signature

Goals

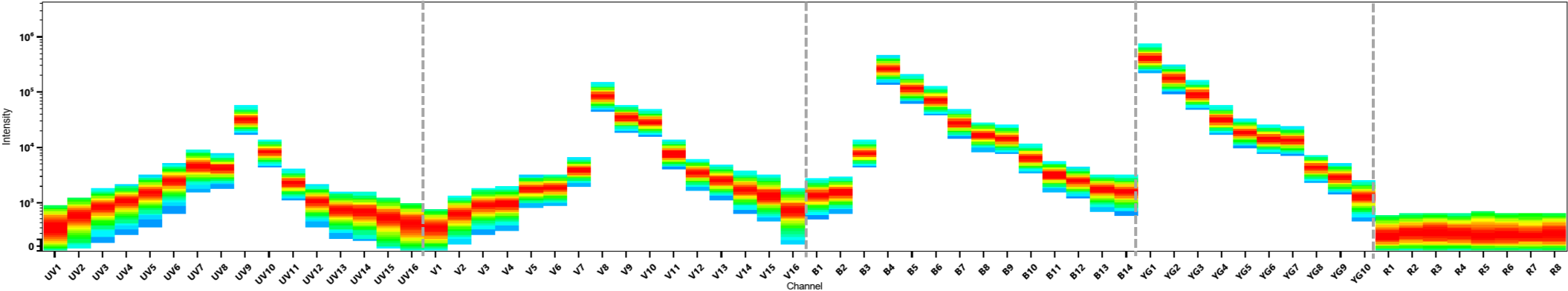
- Identify peak emission channel
- Identify secondary peak emission channels



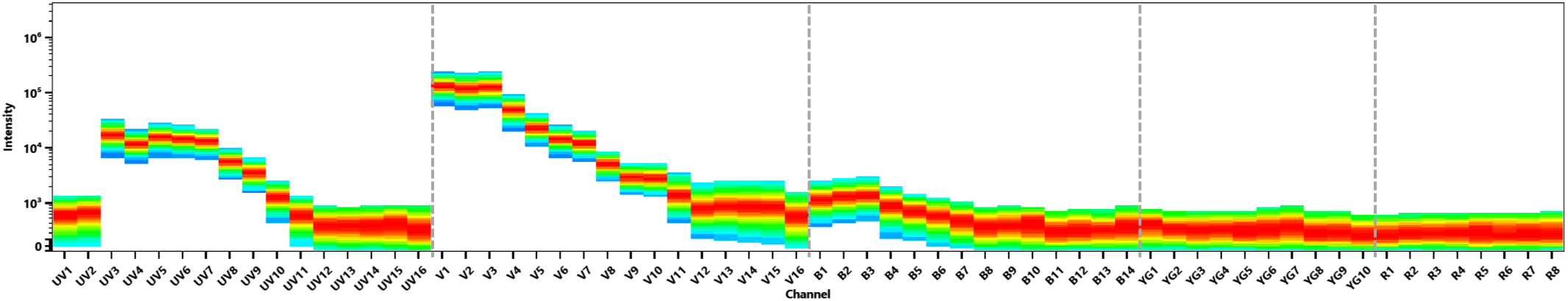
Exercise 1: Full Spectrum Signatures



cFluor[®] BYG575
(PE)

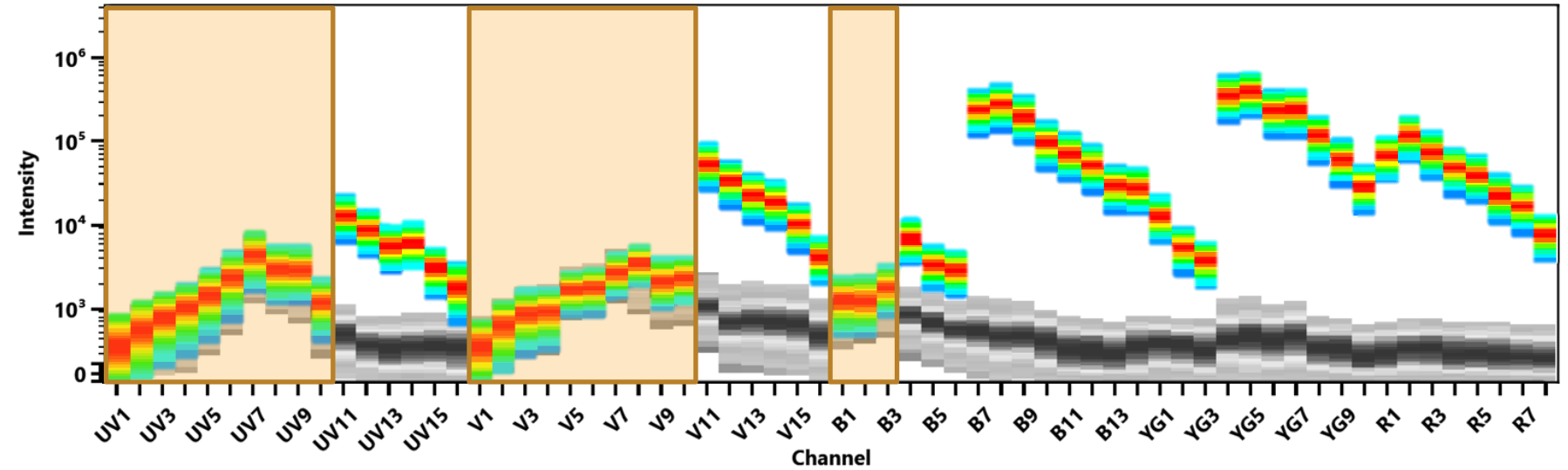
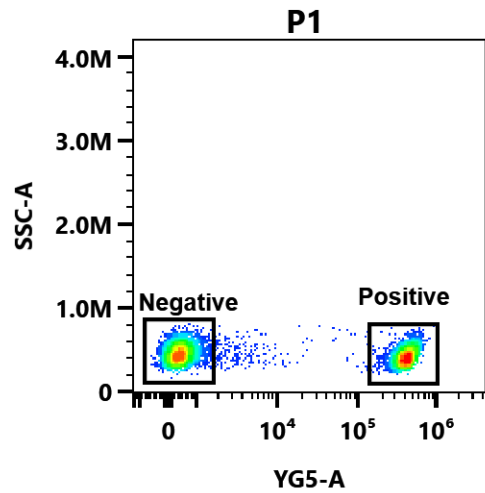


BV421





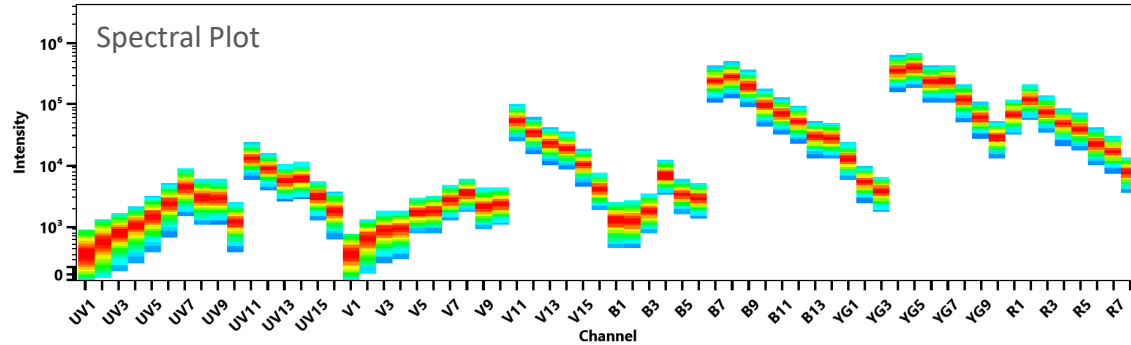
Spectral Plots



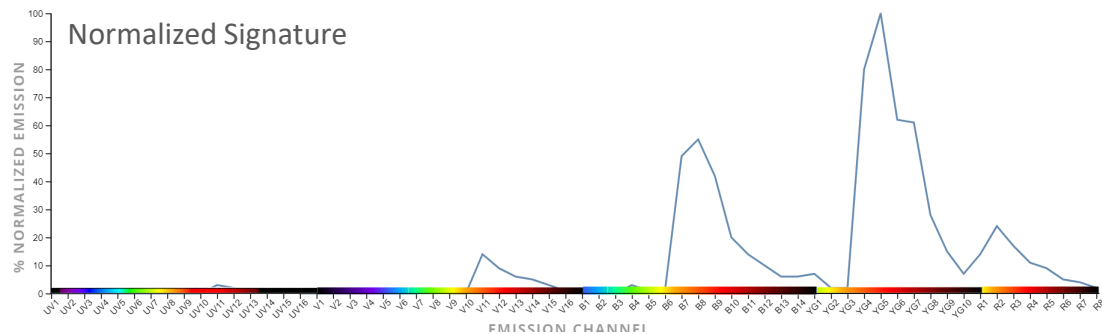
Spectral plots capture both the fluorophore signature
and the autofluorescence signature



Normalized Signatures



Normalized signatures capture the fluorophore signature *without* the autofluorescence signature and can be helpful for comparison



Normalized signatures are created by:

- calculating the median
- subtracting out autofluorescence
- setting the peak emission channel to 100%



Access All Tools in Cytek® Cloud



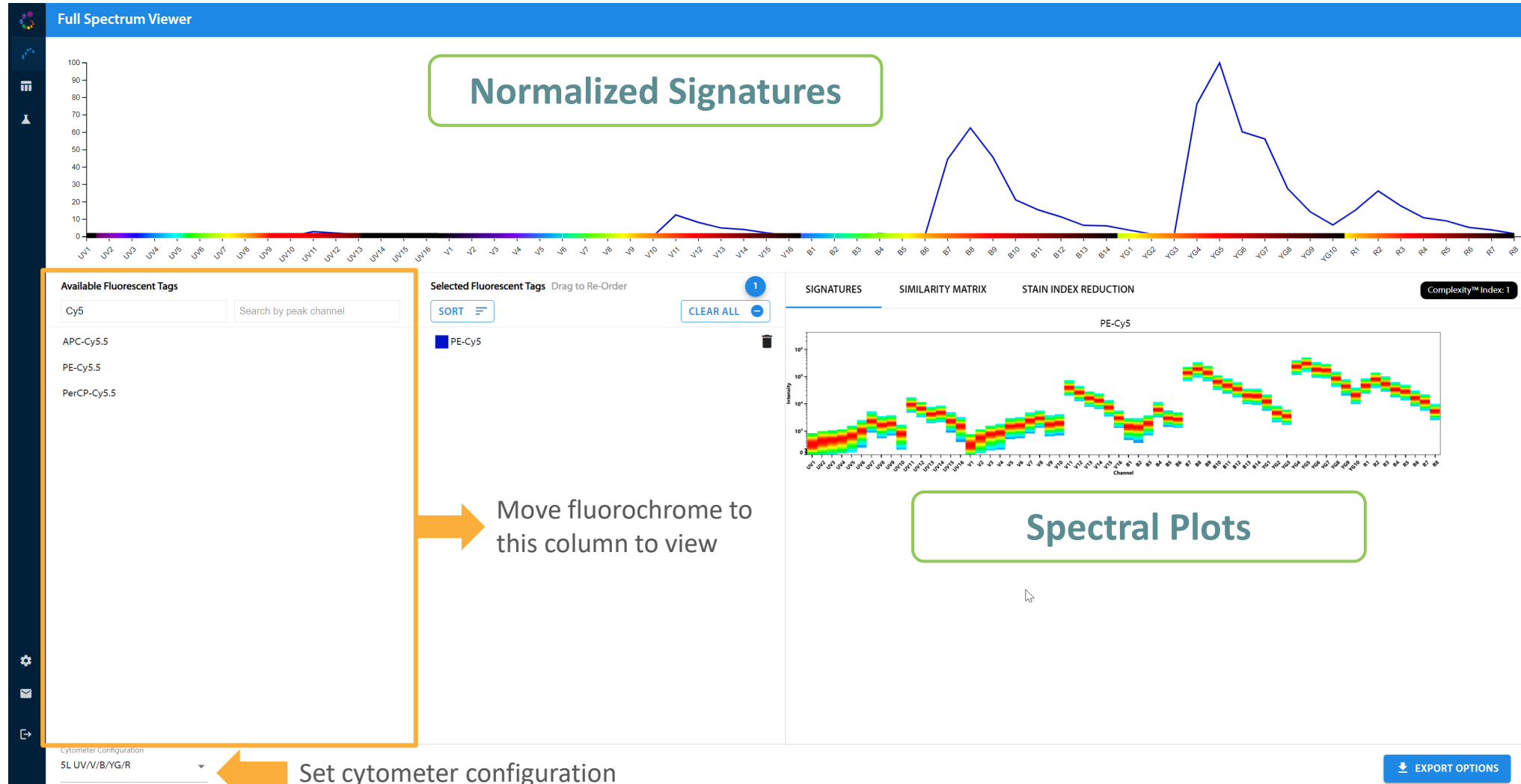
- Three integrated online tools:
 - Full Spectrum Viewer
 - Panel Builder
 - Experiment Builder
- Tailored for each Cytek® instrument configuration (1 to 5 laser)

Sign up for a free account at
<https://cloud.cytekbio.com/>



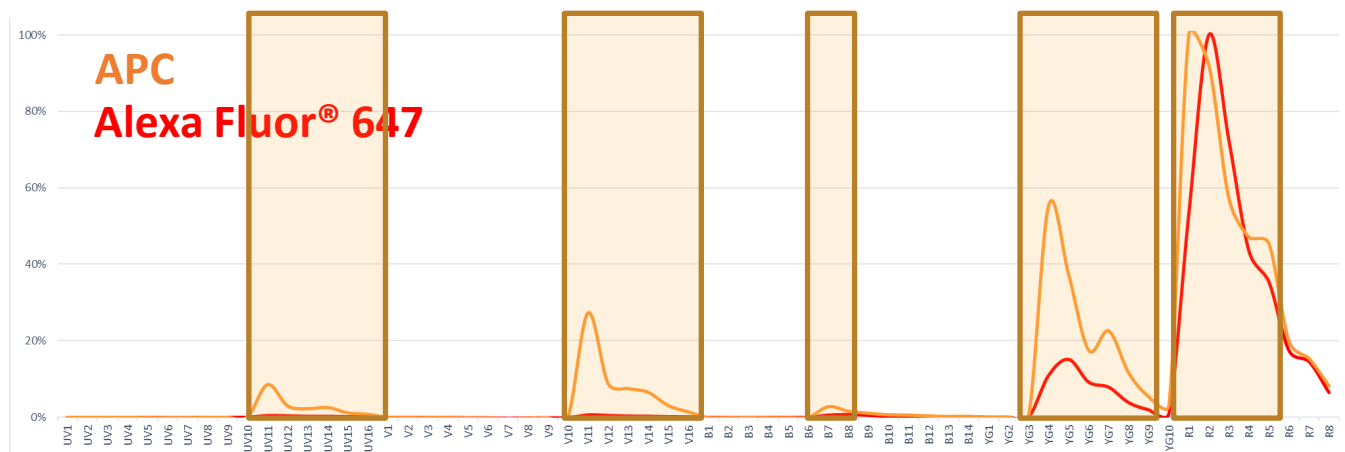
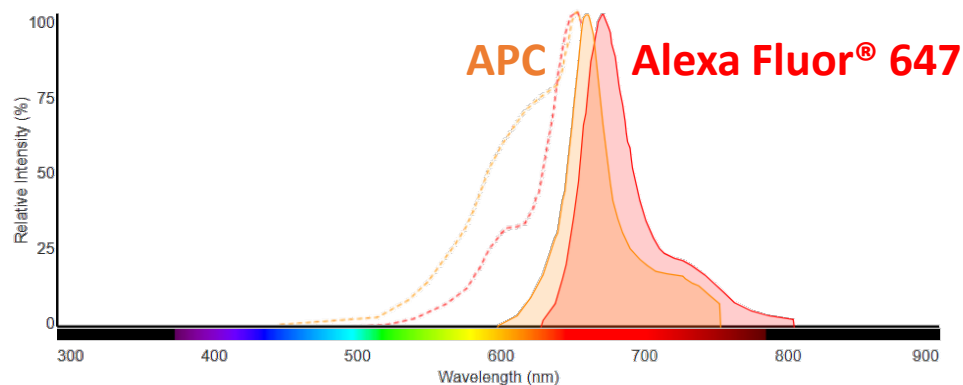
Cytek® Cloud – Full Spectrum Viewer

Signatures can be found in the Full Spectrum Viewer

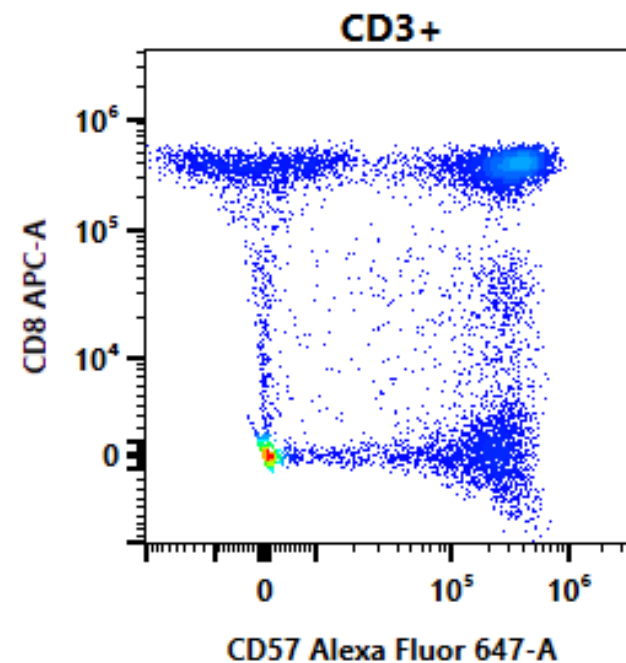




Use of Highly Overlapping Dyes in Panels



Plot gated on singlet lymphocytes

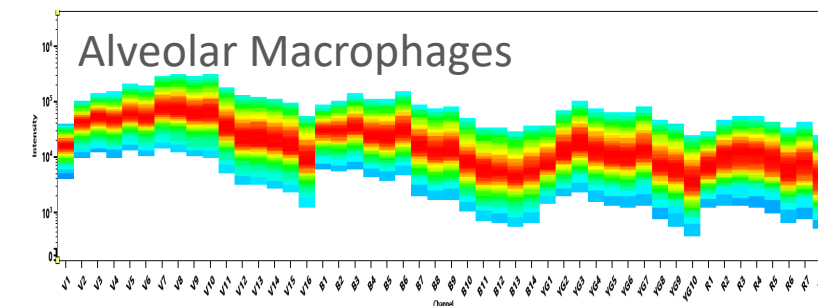
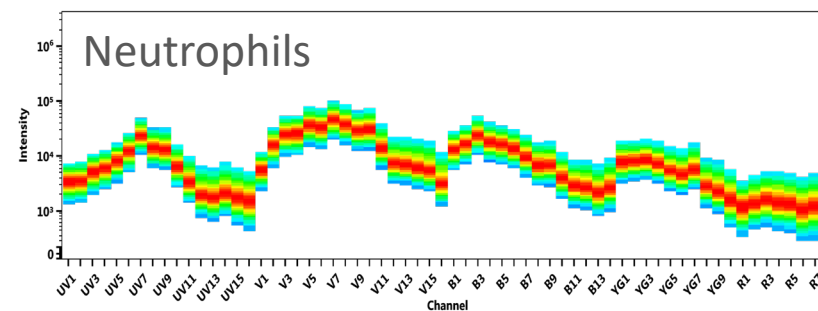
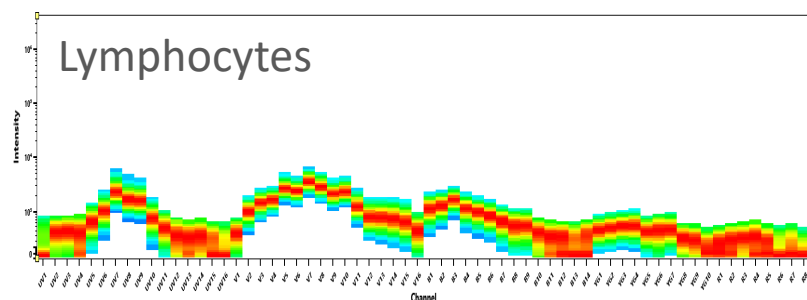
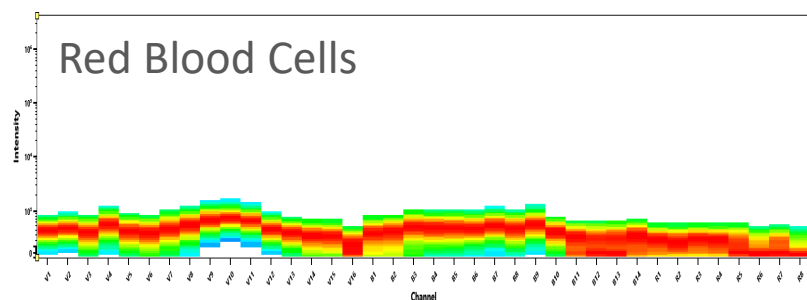


Fluorochromes with highly overlapping emission spectra can be used effectively on co-expressed markers



FSP™ Technology Easily Defines Autofluorescence

Autofluorescence is the native emission of light that comes from cellular components observed in unstained cells

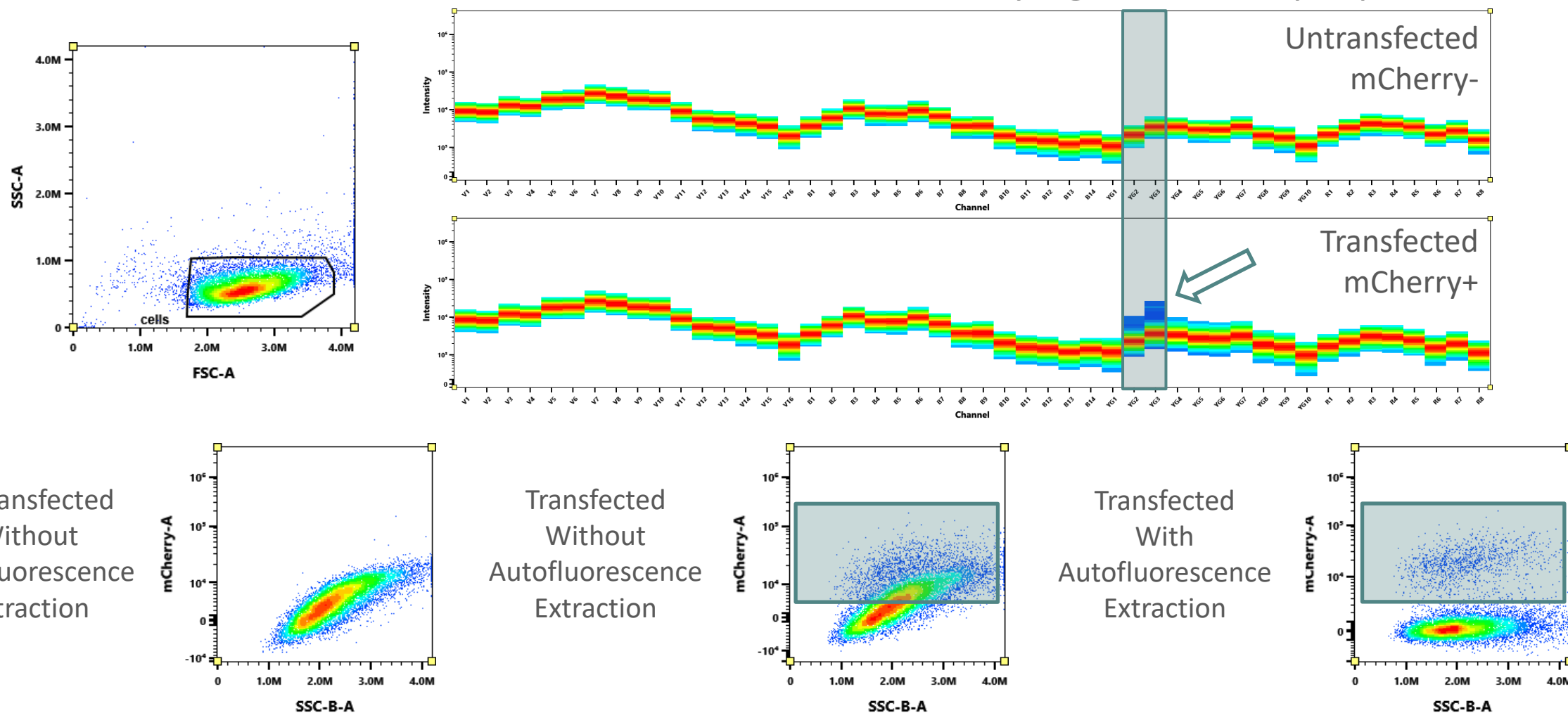


Cytek® Full Spectrum Profiling™ Technology can extract autofluorescence and potentially improve marker resolution



Benefits of Autofluorescence Extraction

HeLa human cells were transfected with a vector carrying an mCherry reporter



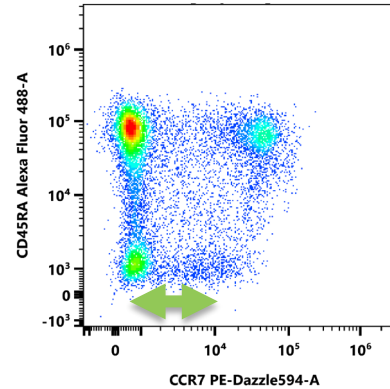
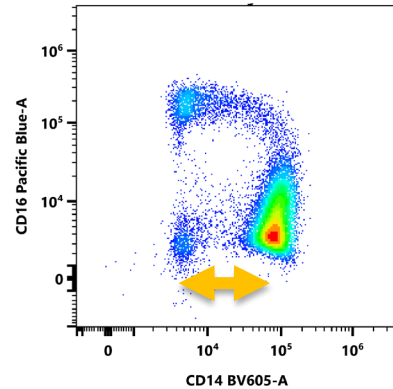


Autofluorescence Extraction Benefits Are Assay-Dependent

PBMCs stained with a 16-color assay

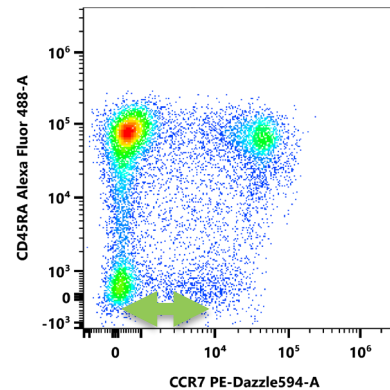
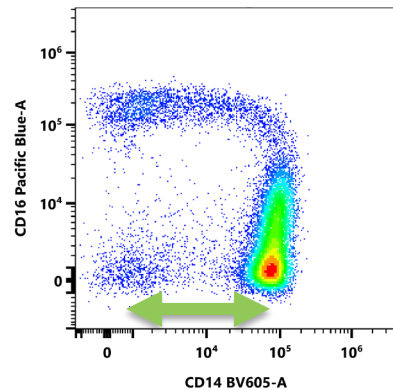
Software setup:

Without
Autofluorescence
Extraction



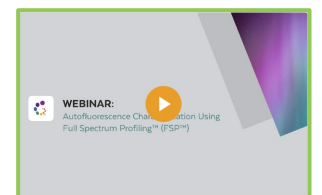
Unmixing Model: Spectral Unmixing

With
Autofluorescence
Extraction



Unmixing Model: Spectral Unmixing With AF Extraction

Dyes emitting in high AF regions have improved resolution
Dyes emitting in low AF regions are impacted





Interactive Poll #2

Benefits of Full Spectrum Profiling™ Technology (FSP™) include:



Full Spectrum Experiment Workflow

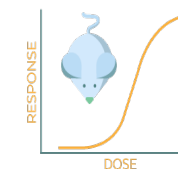
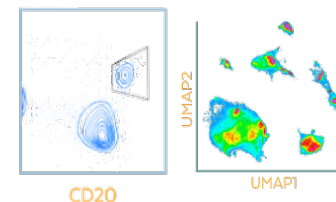
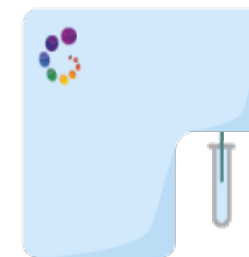
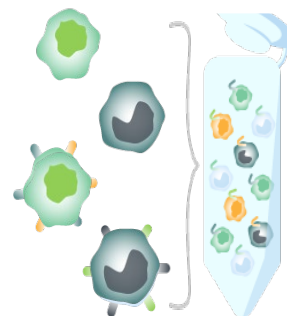
Let's review...

Collect and
prepare samples

Stain cells with
labeled antibodies

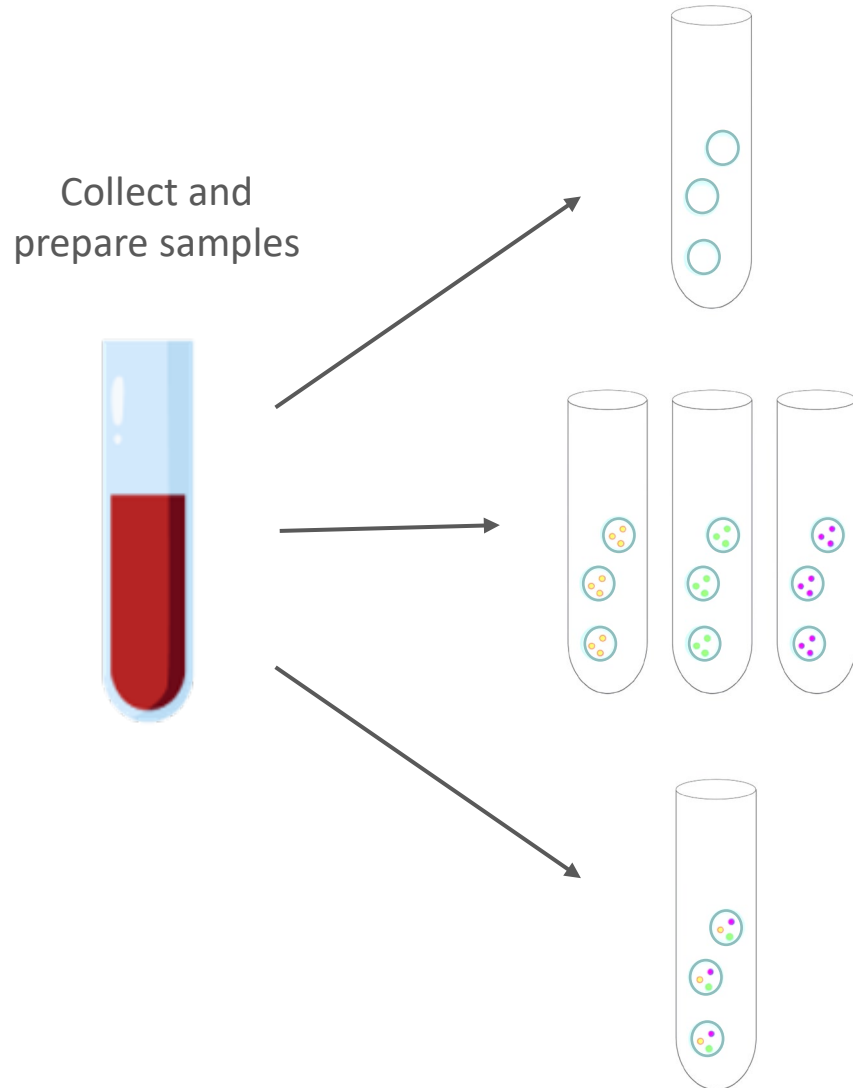
Acquire samples
on a cytometer

Analyze and
interpret results





What Samples Need to Be Prepared?



Unstained Control

- No added fluorophores (fluorescent proteins, etc.)
- Must match cell type with multicolor assay (may need multiple!)

Reference Control

- Need one control for each fluorochrome present in the multicolor assay
- Defines a ***single*** fluorophore
- Not required to match cell type with multicolor

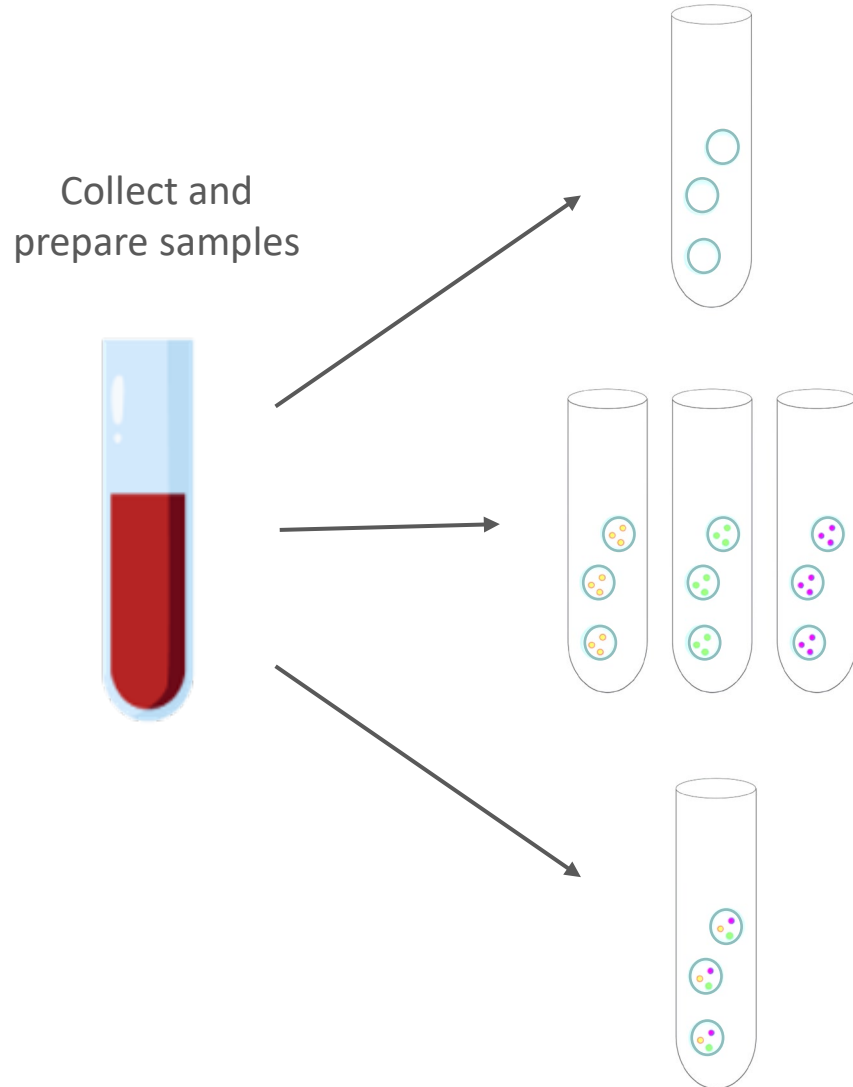
Multicolor Assay

- Contains all fluorophores in one tube/well

Additional experimental controls may be prepared depending on the assay



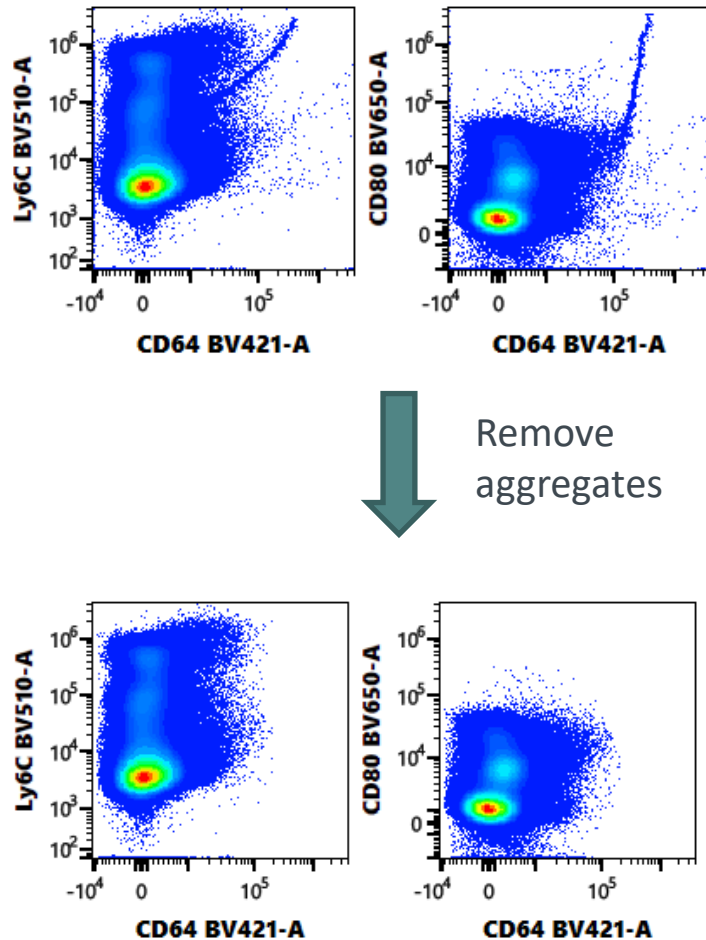
What Samples Need to Be Prepared?



- Prepare single cells in suspension
- All unstained and reference controls should be prepared using the same buffers and staining protocol as the multicolor



Tips for Staining Samples



1

Resuspend single cells in blocking agents

- FACS buffer with BSA or FBS, Fc Block, monocyte blocker, etc.

2

Prepare antibody cocktail

- Centrifuge antibodies at maximum speed (10,000-14,000xg for 5 minutes at 4°C) to remove aggregates
- Include Brilliant Stain Buffer/Super Bright Stain Buffer if the panel contains more than one polymer dye (BV, BUV, BB etc.)*

**do not add buffer to beads or unstained cells, only antibody cocktail*

3

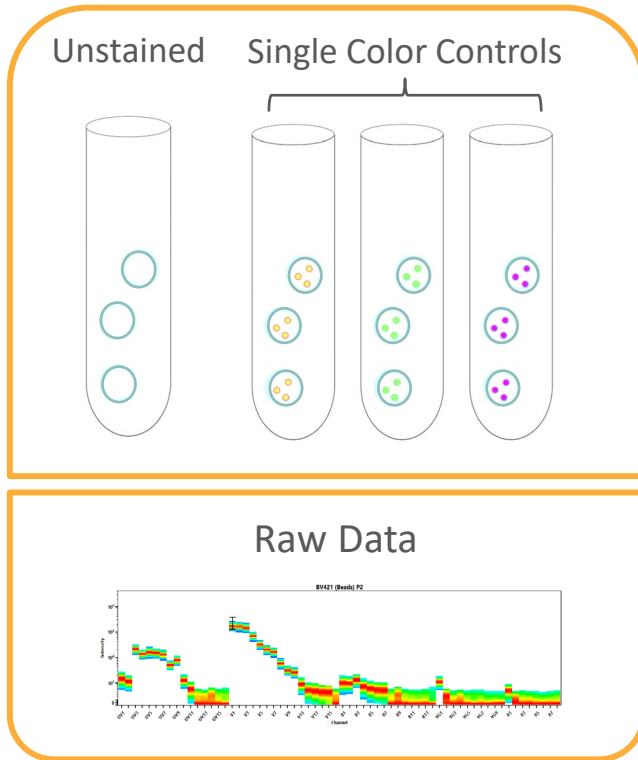
Protect fluorophores from light exposure

Optimize protocol for your own assay

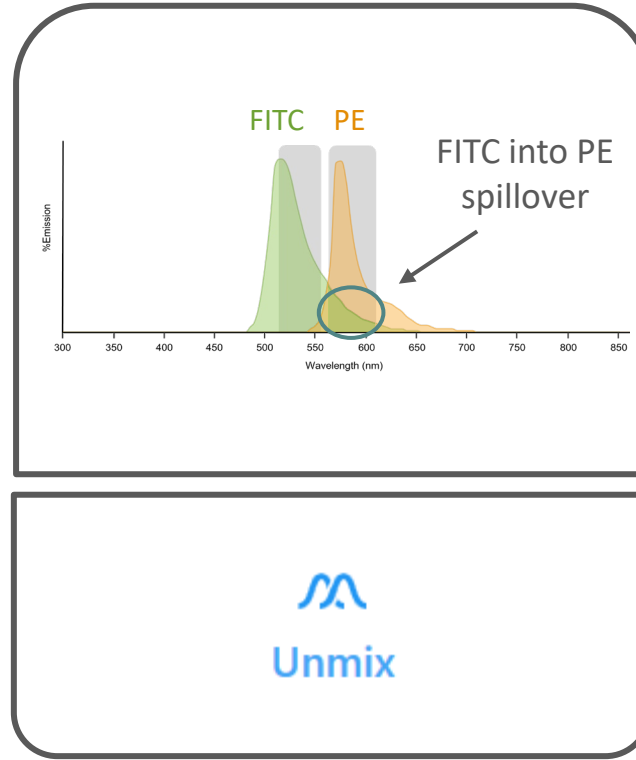


Acquisition Overview

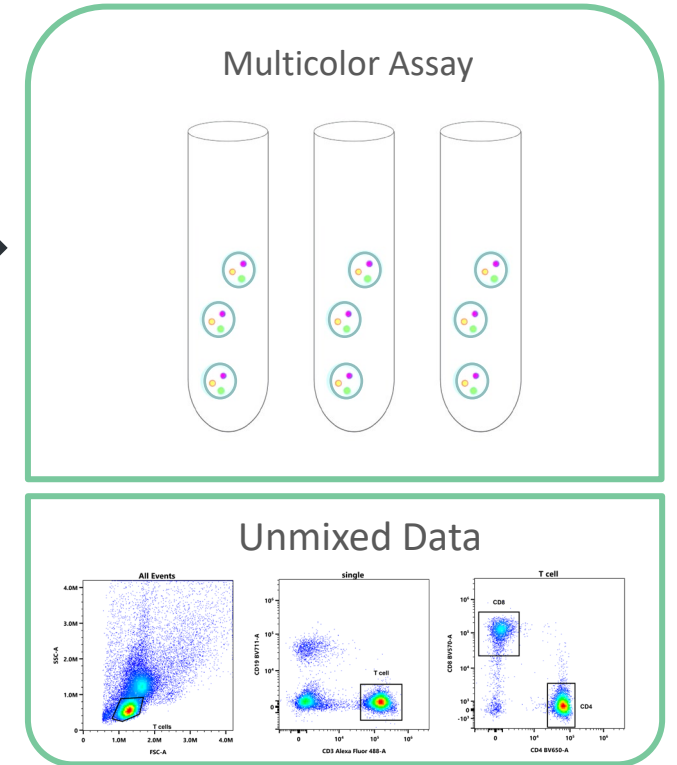
Run compensation/reference controls



Calculate compensation/unmixing



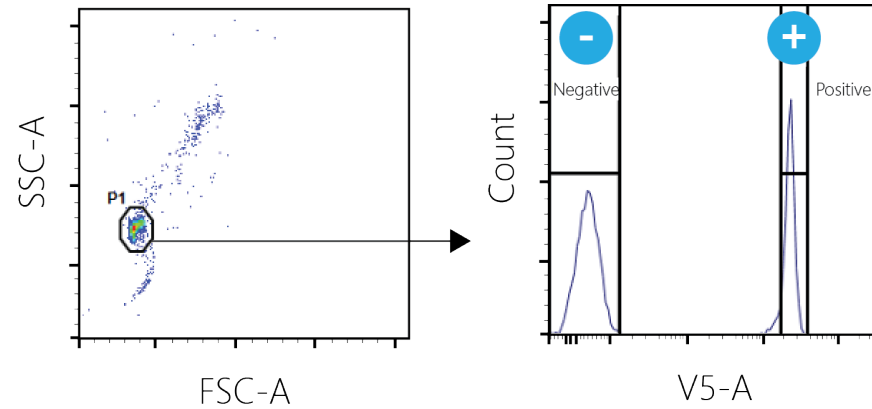
Run multicolor samples with compensation/unmixing applied



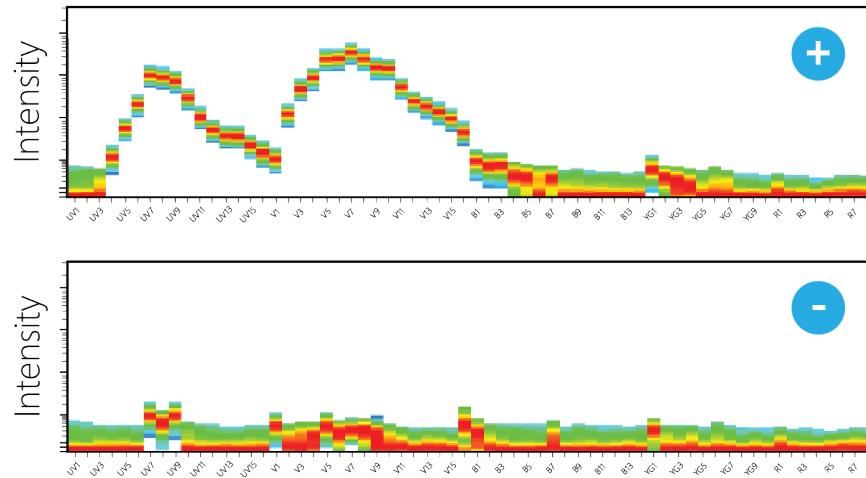
Unmixing converts raw data to unmixed data



Setting Up Spectral Unmixing in SpectroFlo[®] Software

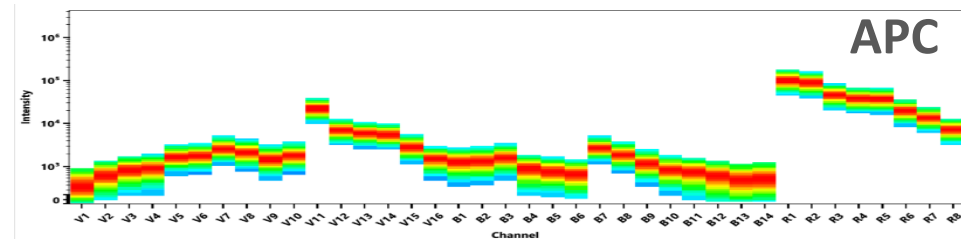
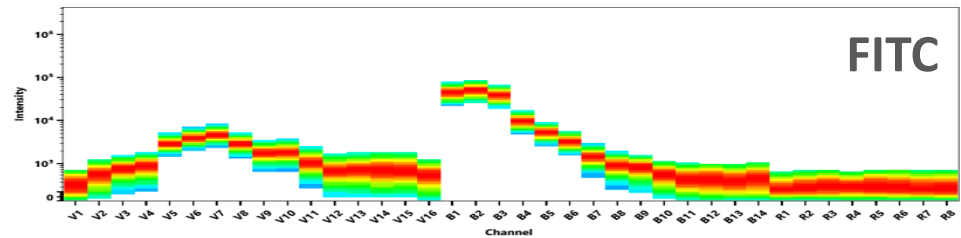
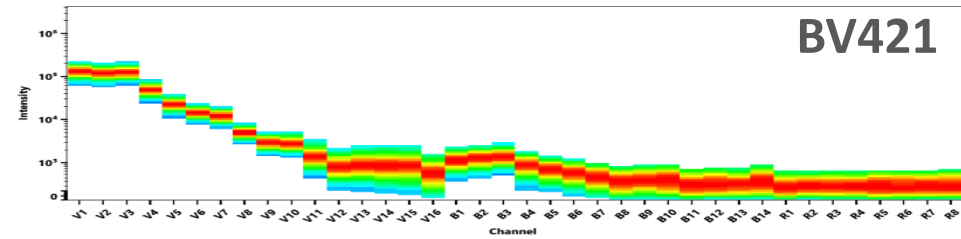
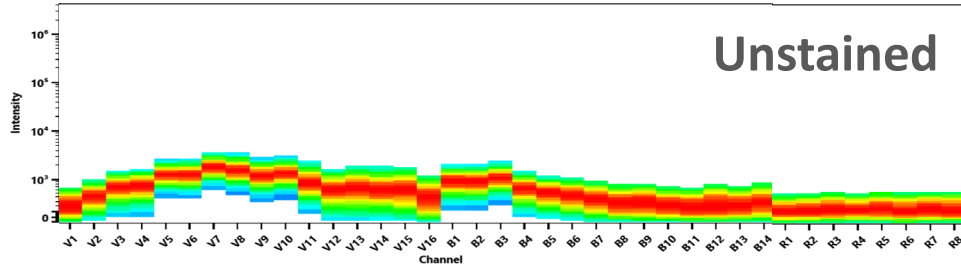


- 1 Set P1 gate on population expressing marker
- 2 Set positive and negative gates





Setting Up Spectral Unmixing in SpectroFlo® Software



1 Set P1 gate on population expressing marker

2 Set positive and negative gates

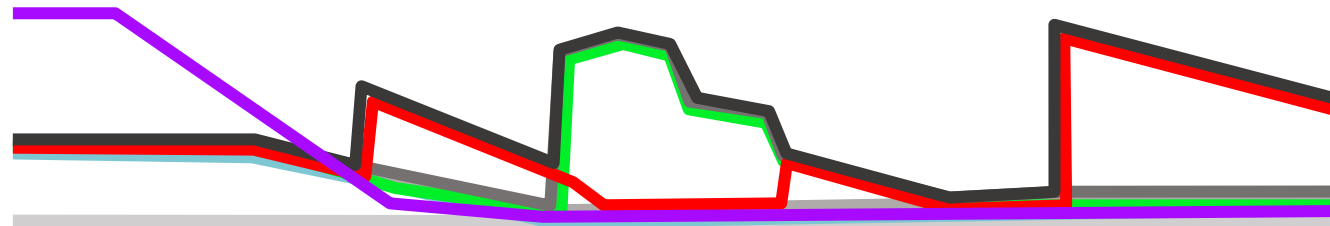
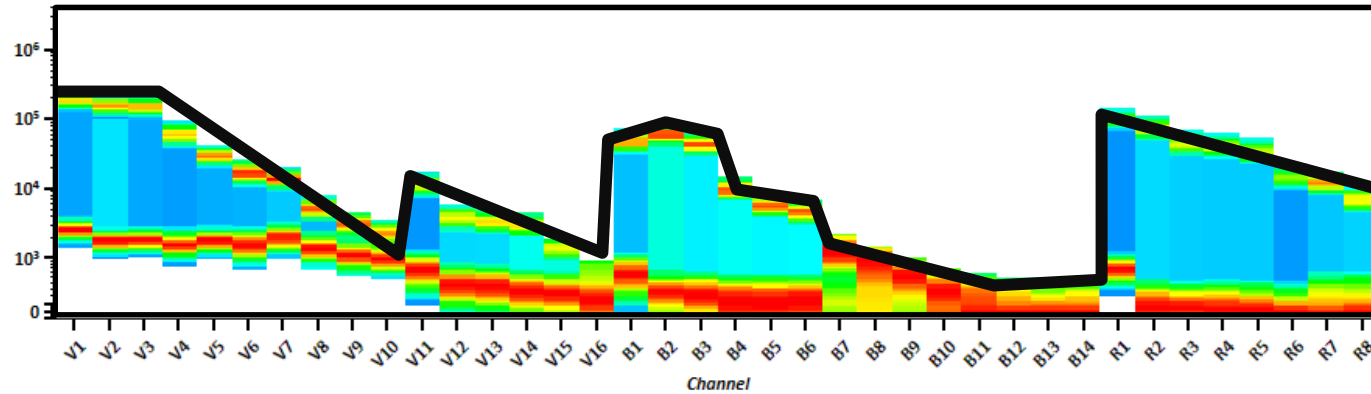
3 Confirm signatures meet expectations

4 Click unmix



Spectral Unmixing - Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

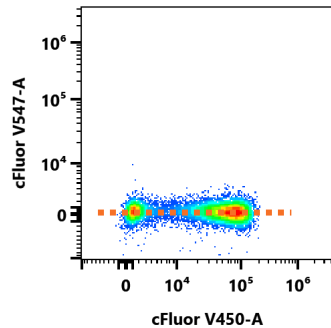
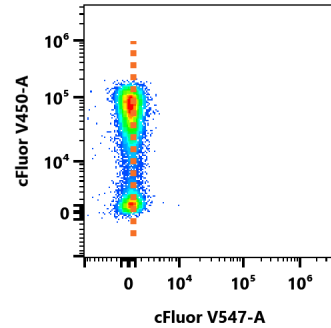
The spectral unmixing algorithm uses the provided controls to calculate the contribution of each fluorophore in the multicolor assay.



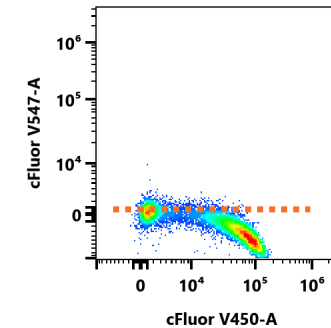
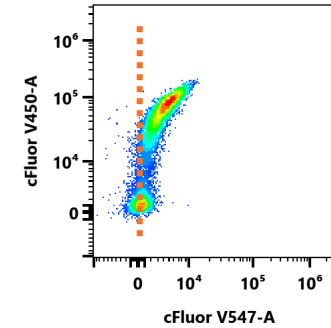
We can think of this as extracting or deconvoluting each component until we have nothing left.



Spectral Unmixing Applied to Data



MFI of the positive matches the MFI of the negative



MFI of the positive DOES NOT match the MFI of the negative

Unmixing/compensation errors can be either above or below the negative MFI

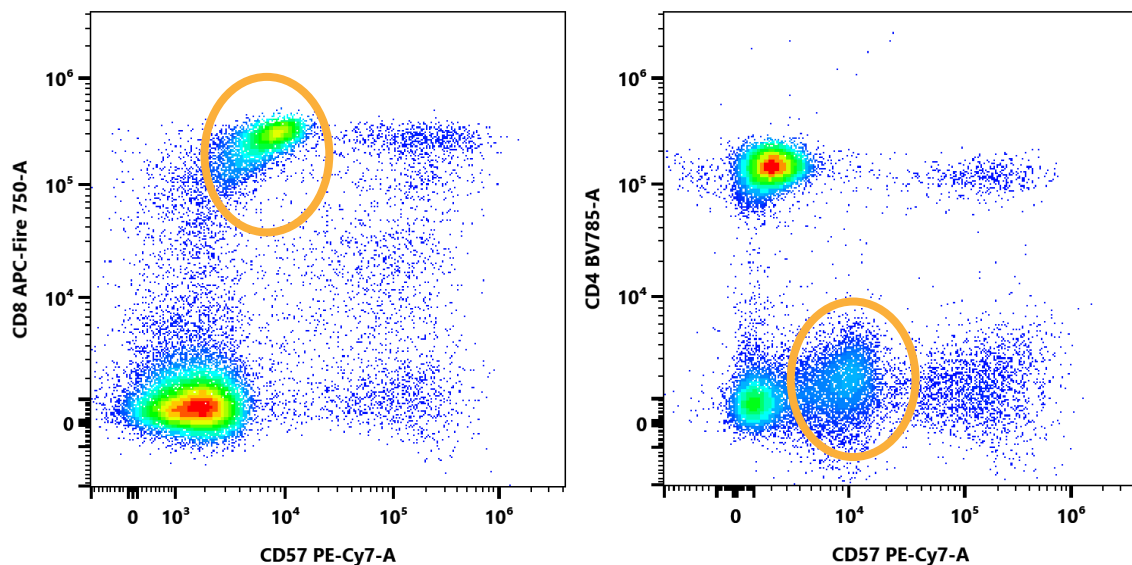


Unmixing/Compensation Errors Lead to Wrong Conclusions

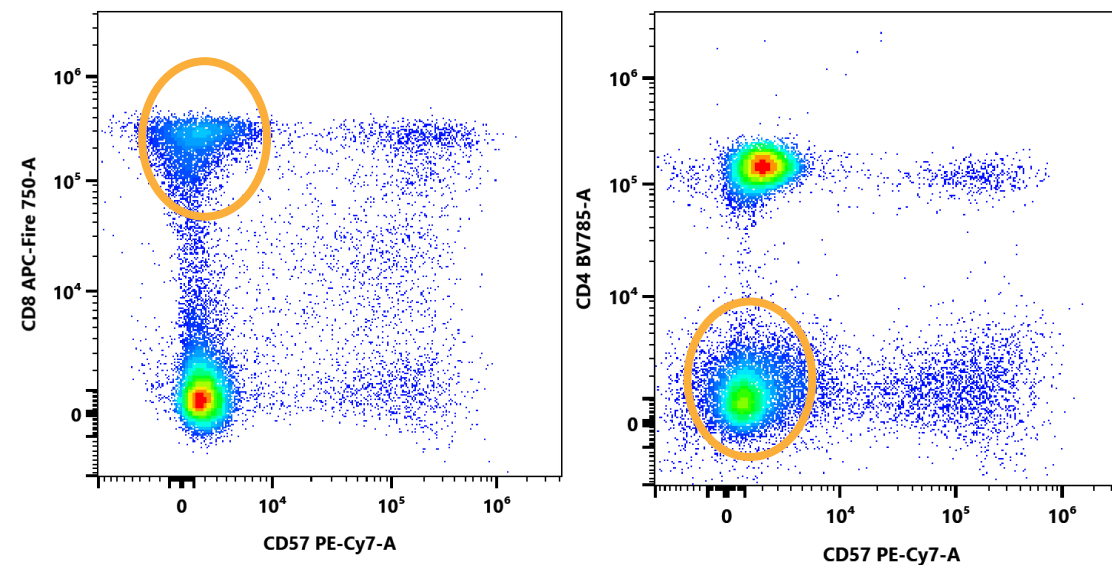
Impacts data accuracy and result interpretation: false populations!



Data WITH Unmixing/Compensation Error



Correct Unmixing/Compensation

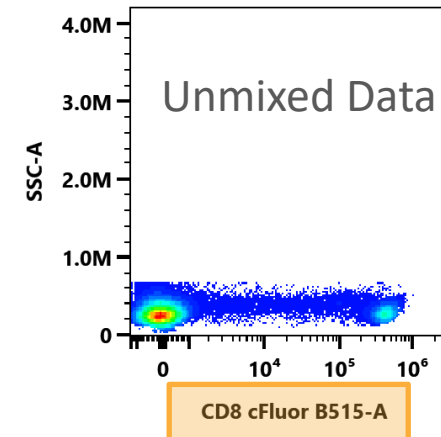
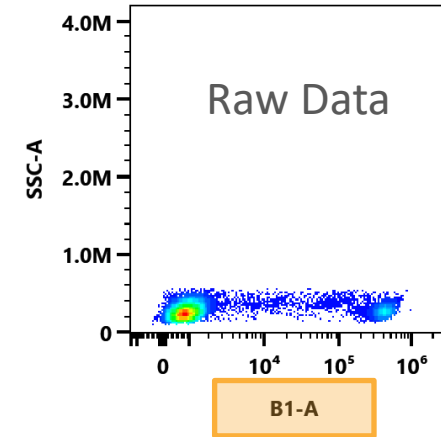




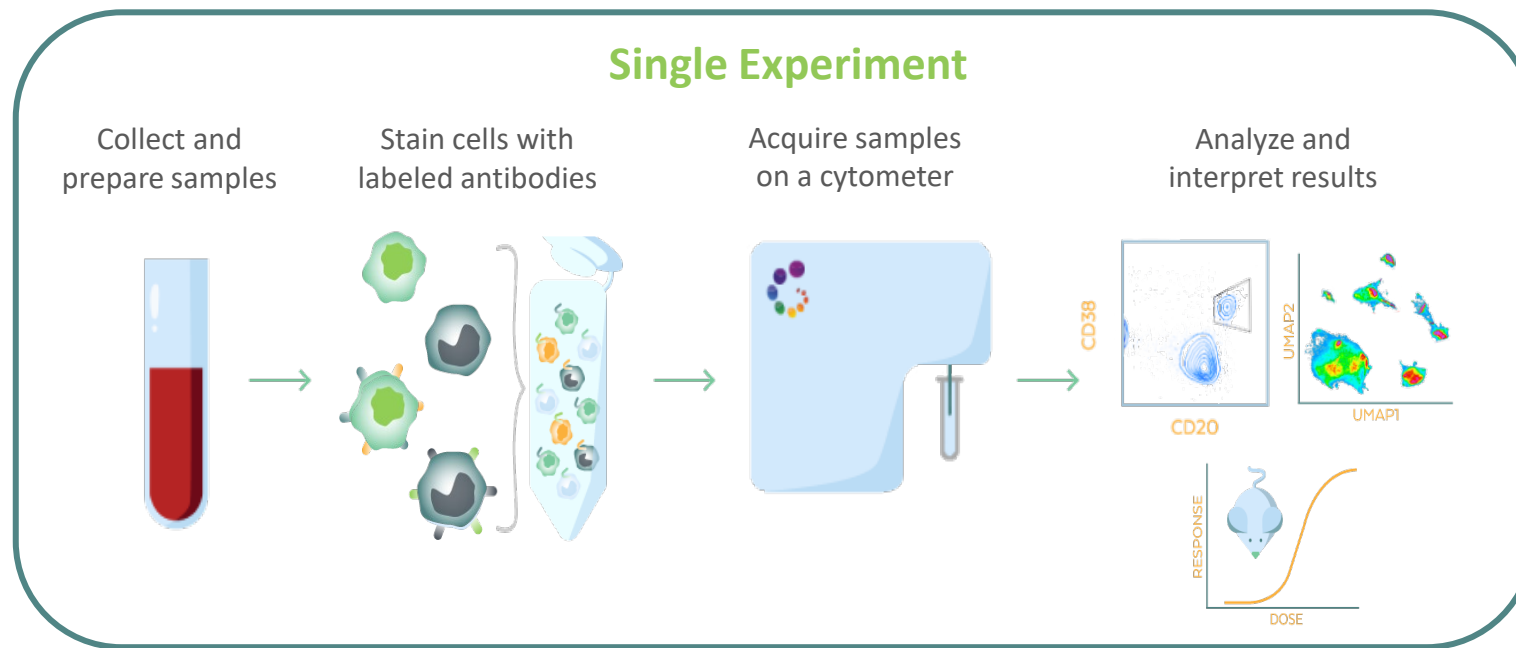
Options for Analyzing Data

- Can analyze **raw data** when:
 - Only one fluorophore analyzed
 - Fluorophores in panel have no spectral overlap
- Analyze **unmixed data** when:
 - Multiple fluorophores in panel with spectral overlap

Any third party applications that accept FCS files can be used for analyzing data from Cytek® Systems



Developing an Assay to Answer a Scientific Question



Is my assay ready to answer my scientific question?

Three components to assay development:

Plan Your Assay

Run Your Assay

Evaluate Your Assay



Plan Your Assay

Build Your Panel

- Cytek® Tools for panel design

Select Appropriate Reference Controls

- How controls impact unmixing quality



Cytek® Panel Design Videos

SpectroLearn

<https://cytekbio.com/blogs/spectrolearn>

Educational Portal

SpectroLearn™

Cytek® SpectroLearn™ is our new educational portal where you can find content that will cover all things spectral cytometry.

SPECTROLEARN™

FSP™ Panel Design Series

The Cytek® FSP™ Panel Design Series covers a range of topics that will help you learn fundamentals of flow cytometry. This series will dive deep into Full Spectrum Profiling™ Technology (FSP™) so that you can get the most out of your Cytek® Aurora, Northern Lights™ and Aurora CS systems.

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Videos

PANEL DESIGN PRACTICES
Step 1: Marker Expression and Co-Expression

Flow Cytometry Panel Design Best Practices
Step 1: Marker Expression and Co-Expression

Watch

PANEL DESIGN PRACTICES
Step 2: Fluorochrome Selection

Flow Cytometry Panel Design Best Practices
Step 2: Fluorochrome Selection

Watch

PANEL DESIGN PRACTICES
Step 3: Spillover-Spreading Error

Flow Cytometry Panel Design Best Practices
Step 3: Spillover-Spreading Error

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PANEL DESIGN PRACTICES
Step 4: Designing a Panel

Flow Cytometry Panel Design Best Practices
Step 4: Designing a Panel

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PANEL DESIGN PRACTICES
Step 5: Evaluate Panel Performance

Flow Cytometry Panel Design Best Practices
Step 5: Evaluate Panel Performance

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Webinars

<https://cytekbio.com/blogs/videos>

WEBINAR:
Building Panels for Flow Cytometry:
Key Steps for Success

Building Panels for Flow Cytometry: Key Steps for Success

Click here to view this webinar led by Laura Johnston, where she covers the fundamentals of panel design, using examples in each step to demonstrate how to apply best practices of panel design to generate a...

Watch

WEBINAR:
Debunking Antibody Titration Myths

Webinar: Debunking Antibody Titration Myths

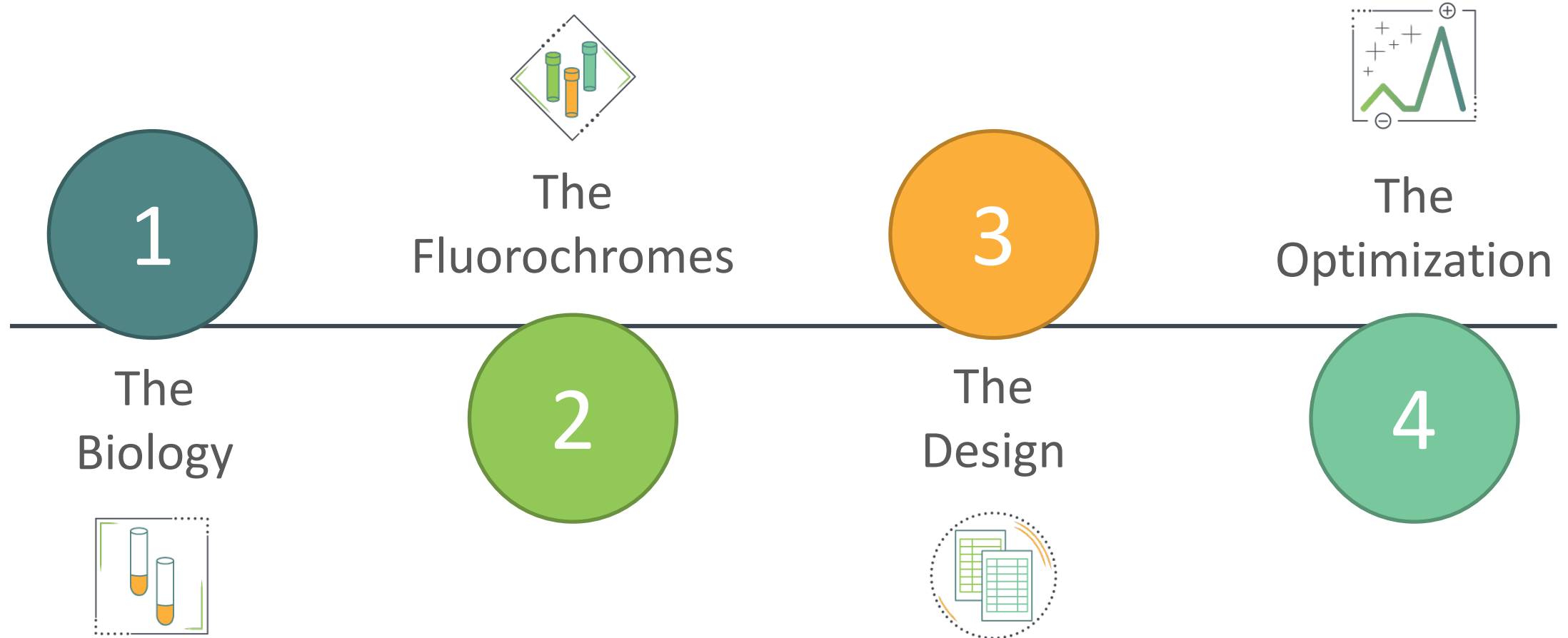
Click here to watch this webinar, led by Diana Bonilla Escobar, PhD as she covers the fundamentals of antibody titrations, a critical step in the development and optimization of multicolor flow cytometry assays.

Watch



Panel Design Methods Apply to All Cytometers

Panel Design Should be An Informed Process





Tools for Panel Design



The
Fluorochromes



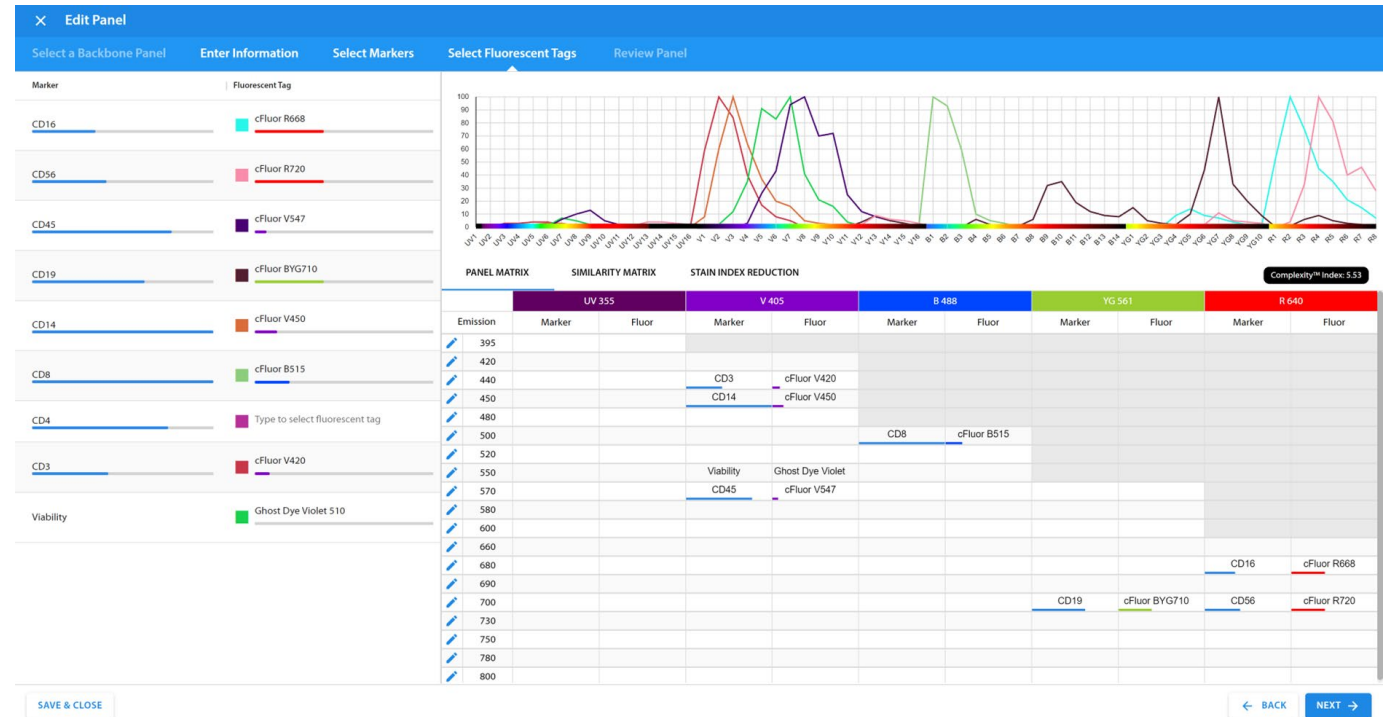
The
Design





Cytek® Cloud – Panel Builder

- Combines all full spectrum design tools in one place
- Options to:
 - Build custom panels from scratch
 - Modify pre-designed panels
 - Enter a previous panel from another cytometer





Cytek® Cloud – Panel Builder

×

Edit Panel

Select a Backbone Panel

Enter Info

Marker

Fluor

CD16

CD56

CD45

CD19

CD14

CD8

CD4

CD3

Viability

SAVE & CLOSE

BUV395

BUV496

BV421

Super Bright 436

cFluor V420

cFluor V450

violetFluor 450

cFluor V505

violetFluor 500

cFluor V547

Super Bright 600

cFluor V420

Ghost Dye Violet 510

Select Fluorescent Tags

Review Panel

100

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

UV1

UV2

UV3

UV4

UV5

UV6

UV7

UV8

UV9

UV10

UV11

UV12

UV13

UV14

UV15

UV16

V1

V2

V3

V4

V5

V6

V7

V8

V9

V10

V11

V12

V13

V14

V15

V16

B1

B2

B3

B4

B5

B6

B7

B8

B9

B10

B11

B12

B13

B14

YG1

YG2

YG3

YG4

YG5

YG6

YG7

YG8

YG9

YG10

R1

R2

R3

R4

R5

R6

R7

R8

PANEL MATRIX

SIMILARITY MATRIX

STAIN INDEX REDUCTION

Complexity™ Index: 5.53

	UV 355		V 405		B 488		YG 561		R 640	
Emission	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor
395										
420										
440			CD3	cFluor V420						
450			CD14	cFluor V450						
480										
500					CD8	cFluor B515				
520										
550			Viability	Ghost Dye Violet						
570			CD45	cFluor V547						
580										
600										
660										
680									CD16	cFluor R668
690										
700							CD19	cFluor BYG710	CD56	cFluor R720
730										
750										
780										
800										

← BACK

NEXT →



Cytek® Cloud – Panel Builder





Cytek® Cloud – Panel Builder

×

Edit Panel

Select a Backbone Panel

Enter Information

Select Markers

Select Fluorescent Tags

Review Panel

Marker

Fluorescent Tag

CD16

cFluor R668

CD56

cFluor R720

CD45

cFluor V547

CD19

cFluor BYG710

CD14

cFluor V450

CD8

cFluor B515

CD4

Type to select fluorescent tag

CD3

cFluor V420

Viability

Ghost Dye Violet 510

SAVE & CLOSE

Panel Matrix

Panel Matrix

Similarity Matrix

Stain Index Reduction

Complexity™ Index: 5.53

	UV 355		V 405		B 488		YG 561		R 640	
Emission	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor	Marker	Fluor
395										
420										
440			CD3	cFluor V420						
450			CD14	cFluor V450						
480										
500					CD8	cFluor B515				
520										
550			Viability	Ghost Dye Violet						
570			CD45	cFluor V547						
580										
600										
660										
680									CD16	cFluor R668
690										
700							CD19	cFluor BYG710	CD56	cFluor R720
730										
750										
780										
800										

← BACK

NEXT →

The colored bar below the fluor indicates the exciting laser and fluor brightness



Cytek® Cloud – Panel Builder

×

Edit Panel

Select a Backbone Panel

Enter Information

Select Markers

Select Fluorescent Tags

Review Panel

Marker

Fluorescent Tag

CD16

CD56

CD45

CD19

CD14

CD8

CD4

CD3

Viability

cFluor BYG710

cFluor V450

cFluor B515

Type to select fluorescent tag

cFluor V420

Ghost Dye Violet 510

SAVE & CLOSE

Use **Similarity™** Index to measure degree of uniqueness between two dyes

Use **Complexity™** Index to assess all dyes used in the panel

PANEL MATRIX

SIMILARITY MATRIX

STAIN INDEX REDUCTION

Double click the similarity panel to expand.

cFluor V420	1							
cFluor V450	0.87	1						
Ghost Dye Violet 510	0.22	0.44	1					
cFluor V547	0.06	0.17	0.73	1				
cFluor B515	0	0	0.02	0.01	1			
cFluor BYG710	0	0	0.01	0.02	0.01	1		
cFluor R668	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	1	
cFluor R720	0	0	0	0.01	0	0.18	0.53	1

Complexity™ Index: 5.53

Complexity Index

FULL MATRIX

Complexity™ Index: 5.53

← BACK

NEXT →



Cytek® Cloud – Panel Builder

×

Edit Panel

Select a Backbone Panel

Enter Information

Select Markers

Select Fluorescent Tags

Review Panel

Marker

Fluorescent Tag

CD16

cFluor R668

CD56

cFluor R720

CD45

cFluor V547

CD19

cFluor BYG710

CD14

cFluor V450

CD8

cFluor B515

CD4

CD3

Viability

SAVE & CLOSE

Use **Stain Index Reduction (SIR)** to assess potential areas of spread

PANEL MATRIX

SIMILARITY MATRIX

STAIN INDEX REDUCTION

Complexity™ Index: 5.53

Double click the stain index reduction matrix to expand.

SHOW #

	cFluor V420	cFluor V450	Ghost Dye Violet 510	cFluor V547	cFluor B515	cFluor BYG710	cFluor R668	cFluor R720
cFluor V420								
cFluor V450								
Ghost Dye Violet 510								
cFluor V547								
cFluor B515								
cFluor BYG710								
cFluor R668								
cFluor R720								

SpectroLearn | Cytek Biosciences

PANEL DESIGN BEST PRACTICES:
Step 2: Fluorochrome Selection

Flow Cytometry Panel Design Best Practices
Step 2: Fluorochrome Selection

Watch

← BACK

NEXT →



Interactive Poll #3

Where can I find more information from Cytek® on panel design?

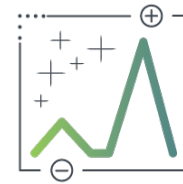


How to Determine if a Panel Is Successful

A panel is successful if we can resolve all populations and markers of interest

Steps for Assay Optimization

- 1 Optimize individual reagents
 - Select best clone, fluorophore, and antibody concentration (titer) for optimal single color resolution
- 2 Optimize reference controls
 - Achieve accurate unmixing in multicolor sample
- 3 Optimize multicolor staining
 - Confirm all populations and markers are resolved in multicolor sample



The
Optimization

4

See additional resources on antibody titration and assay optimization on cytekbio.com

Select Appropriate Reference controls

How controls impact unmixing quality



Factors to Consider When Selecting Controls

Compensation and Reference Controls should account for:

- Fluorescence intensity
- Accuracy of fluorophore signature – must match multicolor
- Collecting enough events to appropriately define the fluorophore

Two approaches for selecting controls:

- 1 Use a control that matches the multicolor (cell type, reagent, etc.)
- 2 Use a different sample type or reagent while still considering selection factors



Selecting the Best Controls for Successful Unmixing

Compensation and Reference Controls should account for:

- Fluorescence intensity
- Accuracy of fluorophore signature – must match multicolor
- Collecting enough events to appropriately define the fluorophore

Guidelines for Best Controls



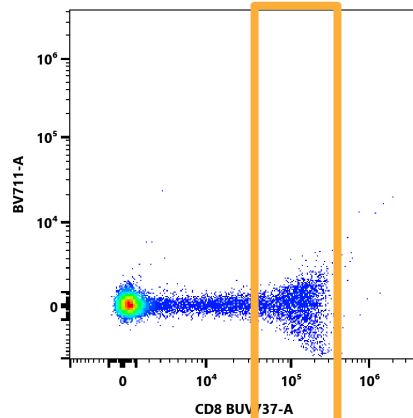
1

Must be as-bright or brighter than the multicolor sample with positive and negative particles clearly separated

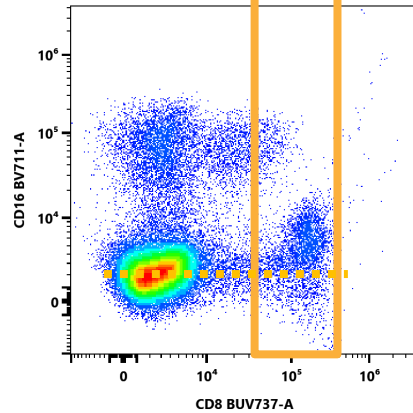


1 Fluorescence Intensity Affects Unmixing

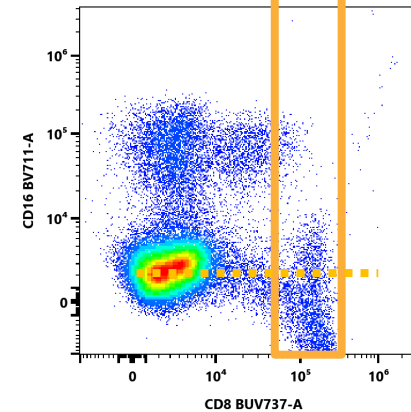
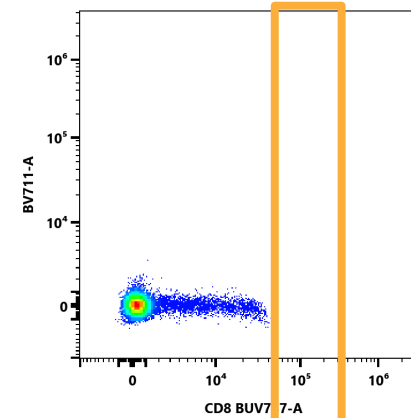
Reference
Control



Multicolor
Sample



Reference has **same** fluorescence intensity as multicolor



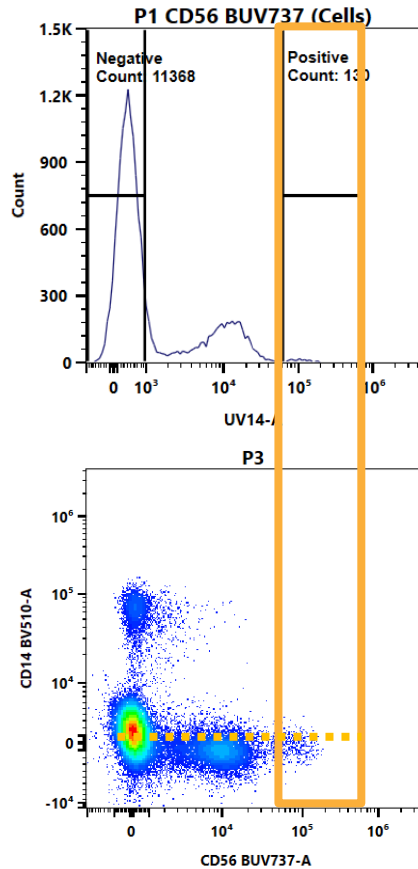
Reference has **lower** fluorescence intensity than multicolor



1

Reference Control Gating Affects Unmixing

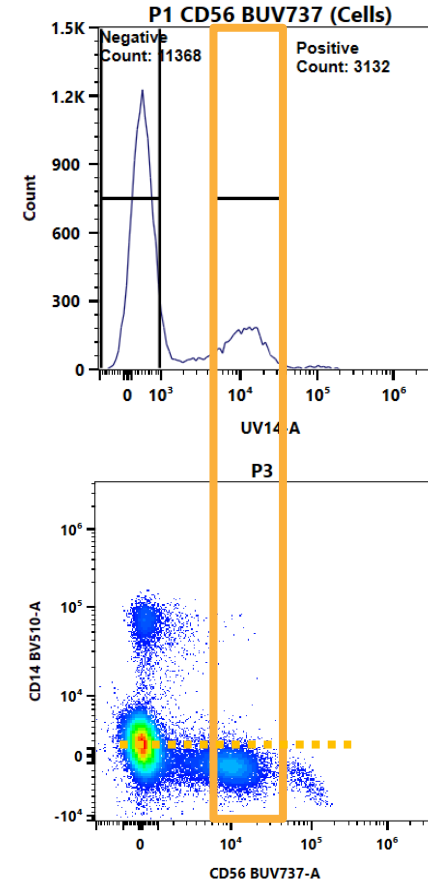
Reference
Control



Multicolor
Sample



Gating captures population with
same brightness as multicolor



Gating captures population
dimmer than multicolor

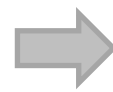


Selecting the Best Controls for Successful Unmixing

Compensation and Reference Controls should account for:

- Fluorescence intensity
- Accuracy of fluorophore signature – must match multicolor
- Collecting enough events to appropriately define the fluorophore

Guidelines for Best Controls



1

Must be as-bright or brighter than the multicolor sample with positive and negative particles clearly separated



2

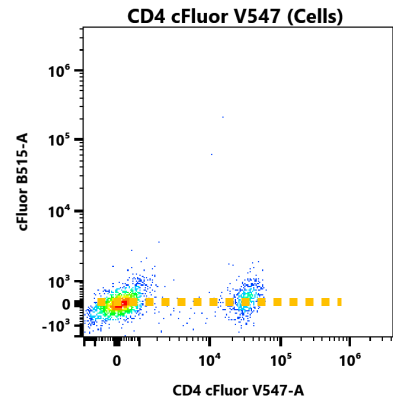
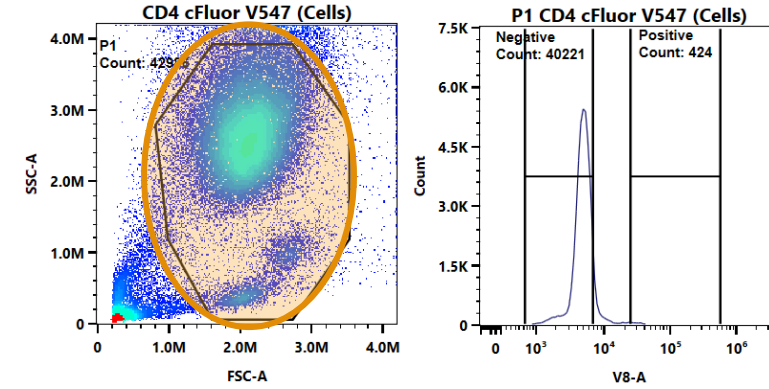
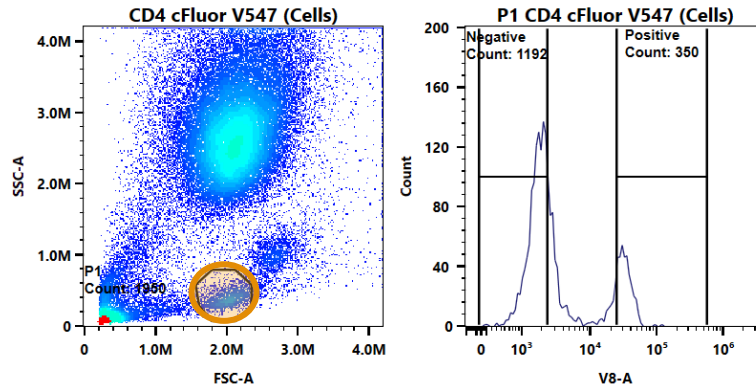
Negative and positive particles must have IDENTICAL autofluorescence characteristics

3

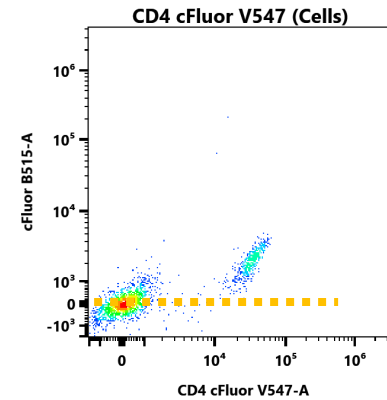
Fluorescence spectrum of reference control needs to be accurate and IDENTICAL to the one in the multicolor samples



2 Negative Signatures Affect Unmixing



Positive and negative autofluorescence match

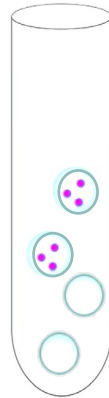
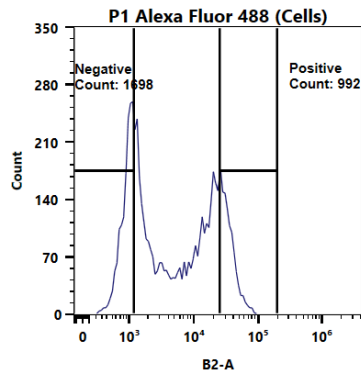


Positive and negative autofluorescence do not match



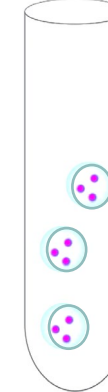
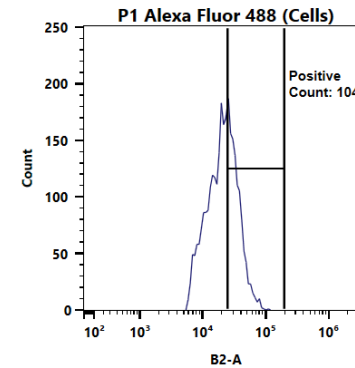
What Are Internal vs. Universal Negative Controls?

Internal negative is found in the same tube as the positive population

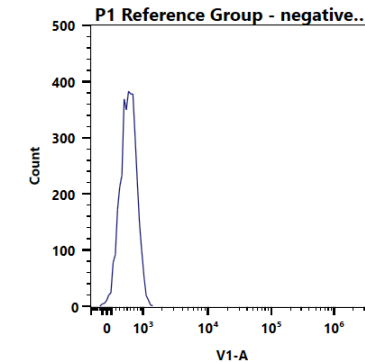


Internal negative in reference control

Universal negative is needed when reference control does not contain a negative



Reference control



Universal negative



Exercise 2:

Assigning Negative Controls

Goals

- Identify appropriate negative control
- Identify appropriate unstained control



Exercise 2: Assigning Negative Controls

Bone marrow cells stained with:

- CD4 BV421
- CD45 FITC
- CD19 PE-Cy7

I do not have enough bone marrow sample for controls, I'll use PBMCs instead

Define Fluorescence Signature		
Reference Control	Particle type	Universal or Internal Negative?
CD4 BV421	PBMCs	
CD45 FITC (all cells +)	PBMCs	
CD19 PE-Cy7	PBMCs	

Define Autofluorescence of Multicolor		
Unstained control		

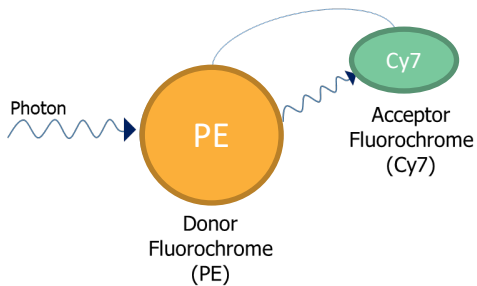


3

Fluorescence Spectrum Affects Unmixing

Factors That Can Alter Fluorescence Spectrum

Lot Variation in Tandem Dyes



Guideline

Stain controls and samples with the same reagent lot

Using Compensation Beads



Guideline

Experimentally determine if spectrum from beads is accurate for unmixing

Staining/Fixation Conditions

Staining Considerations

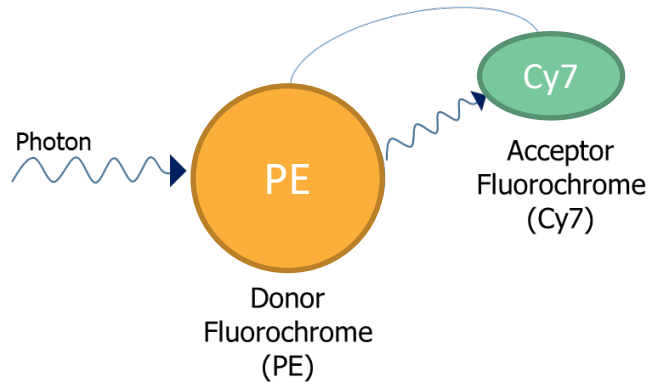
- Stain Buffers
- Fixatives
- Temperature
- Time

Guideline

Prepare all controls and samples using the same protocol



What Is a Tandem Dye?



Tandem Dyes

- Two covalently attached fluorescent molecules
- The donor-acceptor pair behaves like a fluorophore with the excitation properties of the donor and the emission properties of the acceptor

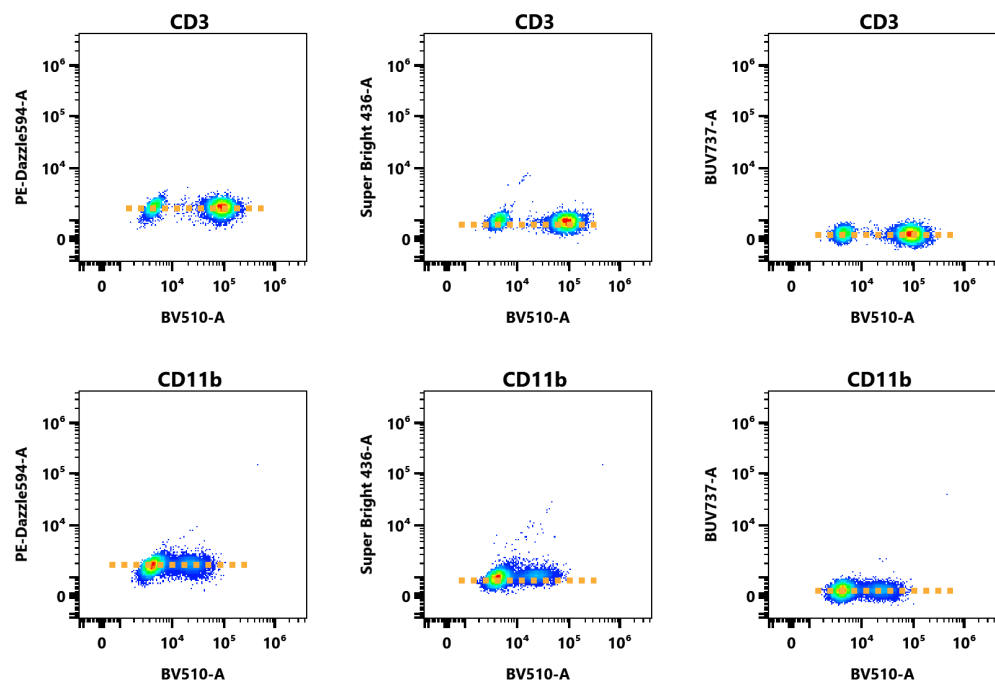
Base dye	Tandem from base dye
cFluor BYG575 (PE)	PE-Cy5.5 cFluor BYG610, BYG667 (PE-Cy5), BYG710, BYG750, BYG781 (PE-Cy7)
cFluor R659 (APC)	APC-R700, APC-Cy7, APC-H7, cFluor R780 (APC-Fire 750), cFluor R840
BV421	BV570, BV605, BV650, BV711, BV750, BV785
BV480/BV510	



Reference Control Signatures and Tandem Dye Variation

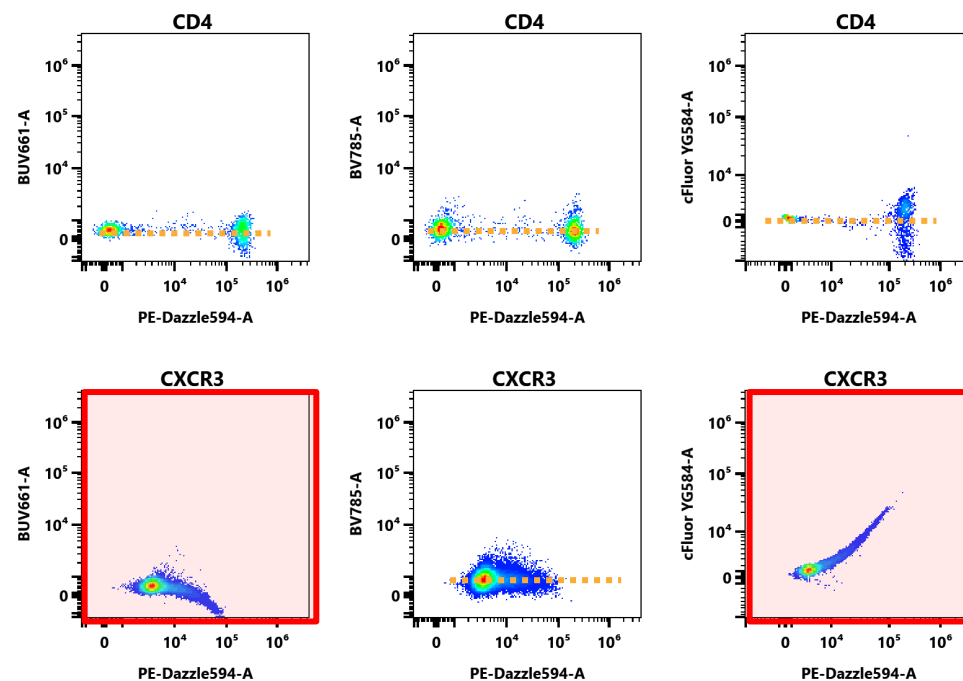
Inaccurate Unmixing Results When Signatures Do Not Match

CD3 BV510 used to unmix CD11b BV510 (base dye)



Correct unmixing for both conjugates

CD4 PE-Dazzle594 used to unmix CXCR3 PE-Dazzle594 (tandem dye)



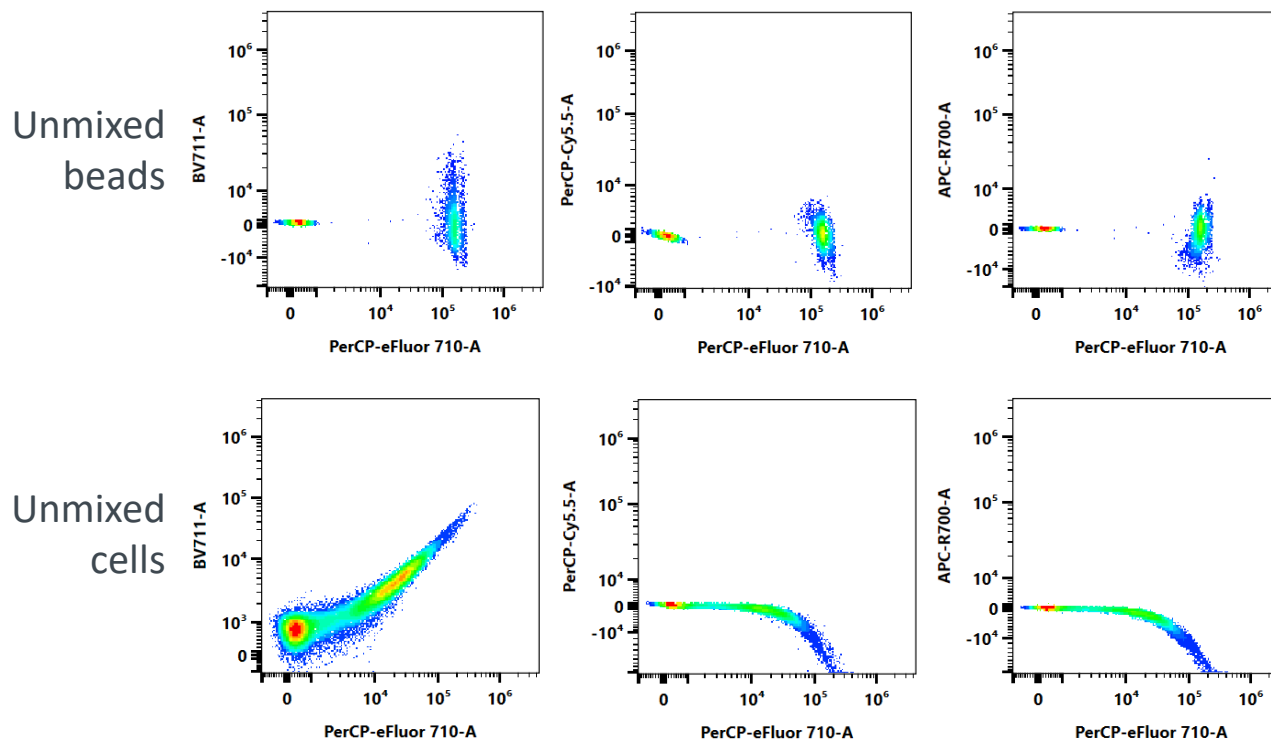
CD4 PE-Dazzle594 cannot unmix CXCR3 PE-Dazzle594 because of spectral mismatch



Comparison of Beads vs. Cells As Reference Controls

Inaccurate Unmixing Results When Signatures Do Not Match

Beads used for unmixing



Best Practice: Optimal controls should be experimentally determined for each assay

In Cytek's 40-color panel OMIP-069, 29 out of 40 reference controls were made using beads



Selecting the Best Controls for Successful Unmixing

Compensation and Reference Controls should account for:

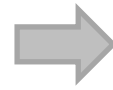
- Fluorescence intensity
- Accuracy of fluorophore signature – must match multicolor
- Collecting enough events to appropriately define the fluorophore

Guidelines for Best Controls



1

Must be as-bright or brighter than the multicolor sample with positive and negative particles clearly separated



2

Negative and positive particles must have IDENTICAL autofluorescence characteristics



3

Fluorescence spectrum of reference control needs to be accurate and IDENTICAL to the one in the multicolor samples

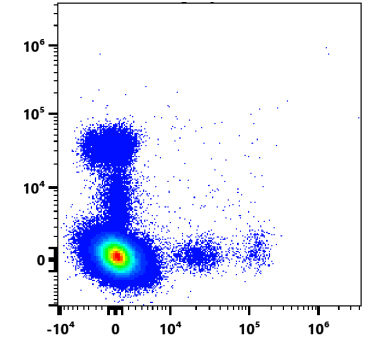
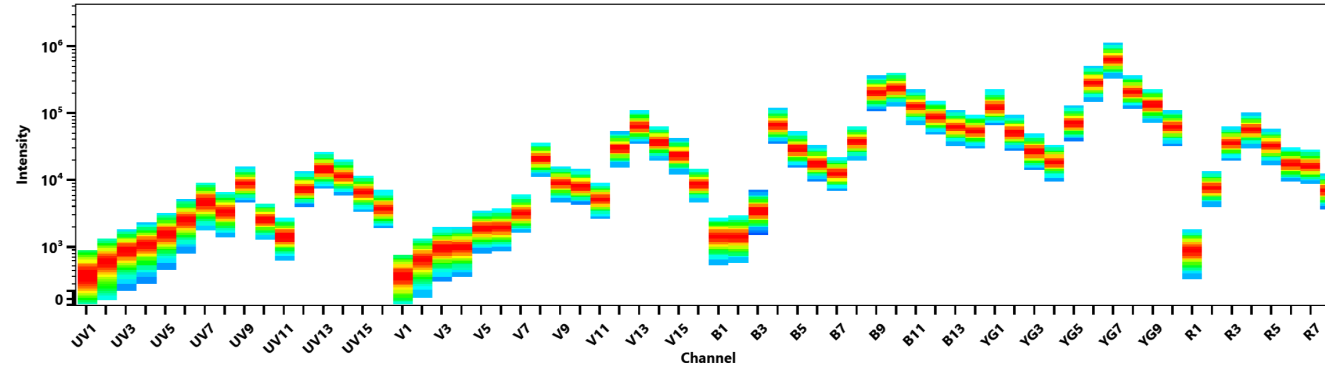
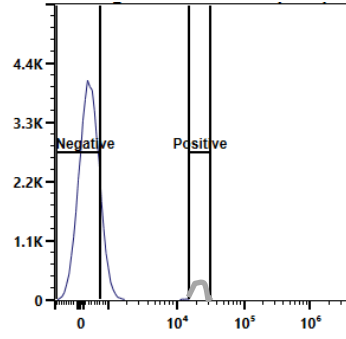
4

Sufficient events in both positive and negative populations

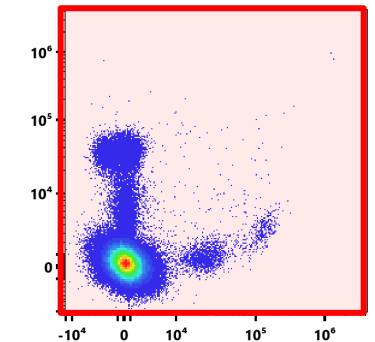
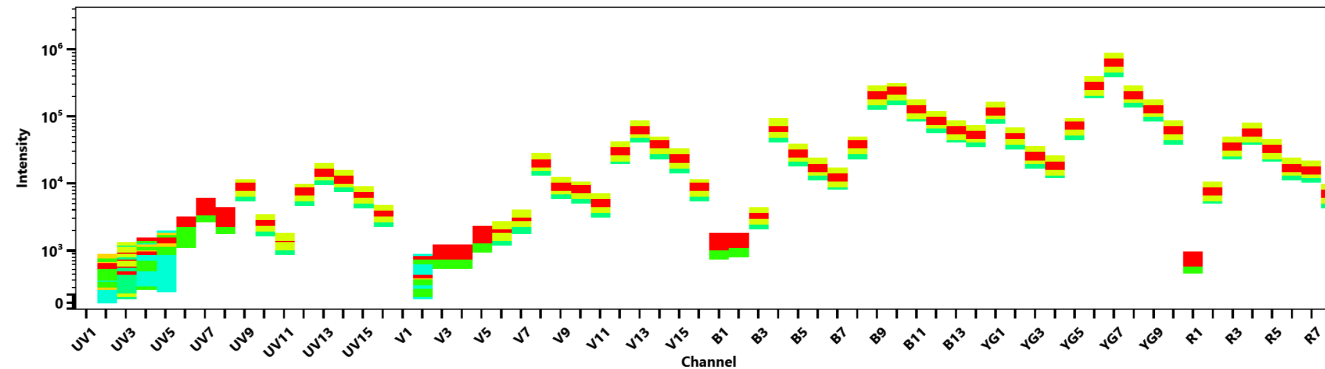
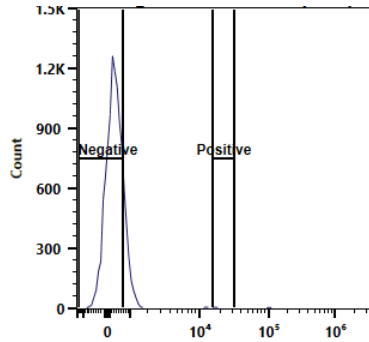


4 Event Count Affects Unmixing

Sufficient Events



Insufficient Events





Reference Controls: Making Good Choices

Any alternative cells or beads can be used to calculate unmixing as long as **ALL** guidelines are followed.

I don't have enough cells to stain controls...What can I do?

Alternative Cells

Select another tissue that expresses the marker

Beads

Stain with same reagent (same lot). Beware of possible signature mismatch

The marker is dim...What can I do?

Alternative Cells

Select another tissue that expresses the marker

Beads

Stain with same reagent (same lot). Beware of possible signature mismatch

Alternative Reagents

Only for non-tandem dyes: Use a highly expressed marker in a distinct population (CD3, B220, etc.)
Alternative reagents are not recommended for tandem dyes.

[SpectroLearn™](#) | [Cytek Biosciences](#)



Best Practice: Optimal controls should be experimentally determined for each assay



Interactive Poll #4

True/False: The guidelines for compensation and reference controls are the same



Exercise 3: Reference Control Selection

Goals

- Identify most appropriate reagent for controls
- Understand considerations for experimental condition



Exercise 3: Reference Control Selection

Tissue: Isolated T Cells

Which reagents need to stay lot-matched, and which can be swapped for any marker?

Marker	Fluor	Control Stained With	Level of Expression	Experimental Condition?
CD3	APC			
CD4	PE-Cy7			
CD45	cFluor® BYG610			
IFNγ	BV480			
Viability	LIVE DEAD Blue			

*if changing reagent for any bright stain think about level of expression & cell type



Exercise 4: Staining Protocol

Goals

- Apply staining protocol to controls



Exercise 4: FoxP3 Reference Control Staining Protocol

Protocol	Multicolor Cells	Beads for Surface Antibodies	Beads for FoxP3 IC Antibody
1. Stain Buffer Wash	✓		
2. Add Surface Abs and Incubate	✓		
3. Stain Buffer Wash	✓		
4. Fix and Permeabilize	✓		
5. Perm Wash	✓		
6. Add IC Ab and Incubate	✓		
7. Perm Wash/resuspend in final volume	✓		



Run Your Assay

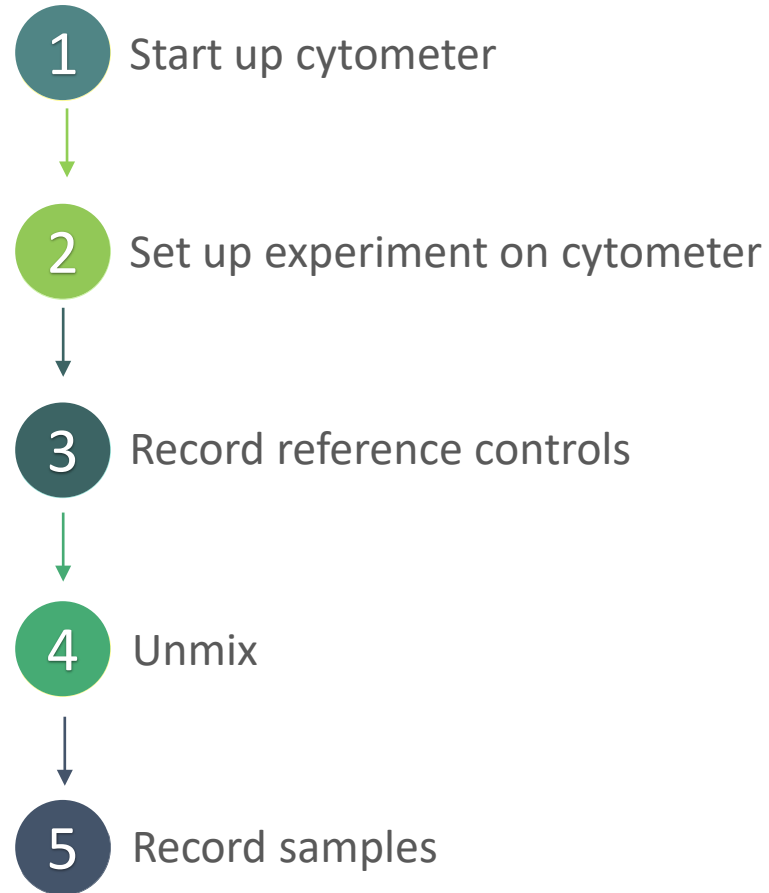
Overview of Experiment Workflow

- Use Cytek® Cloud and SpectroFlo® Software to create experiments



Acquisition Workflow – The Big Picture

Workflow for New Experiment



Cytek Biosciences

@cytekbiosciences

More about this channel >

[Video Tutorials on YouTube](#)

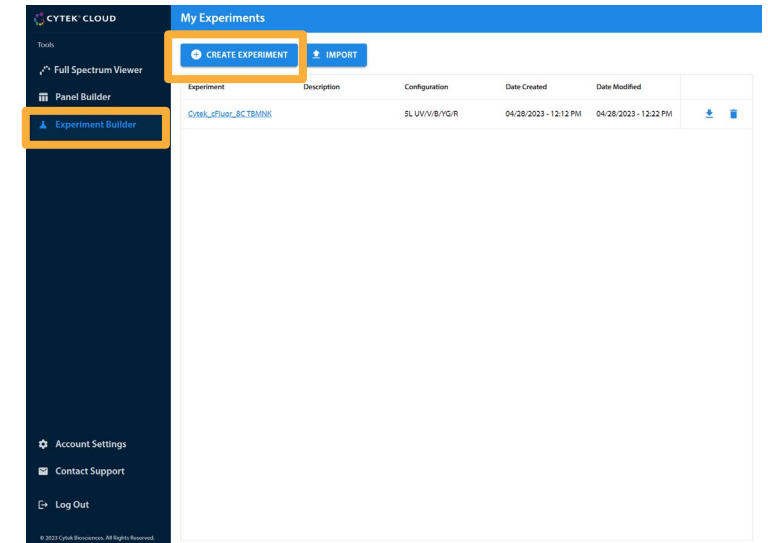


Interactive Poll #5

At what point in the workflow can unmixing be calculated?



Option 3: Select “Create Experiment” in the **Experiment Builder** to start from scratch



Fluorophores will be transferred to Experiment Builder



Cytek® Cloud – Experiment Builder

1

Fluorescent Tags

Add fluorophores to the experiment

2

Groups

Add and organize tubes/plate(s)

3

Markers

Add labels to fluorophores

4

Acquisition

Add stopping parameters for recording files

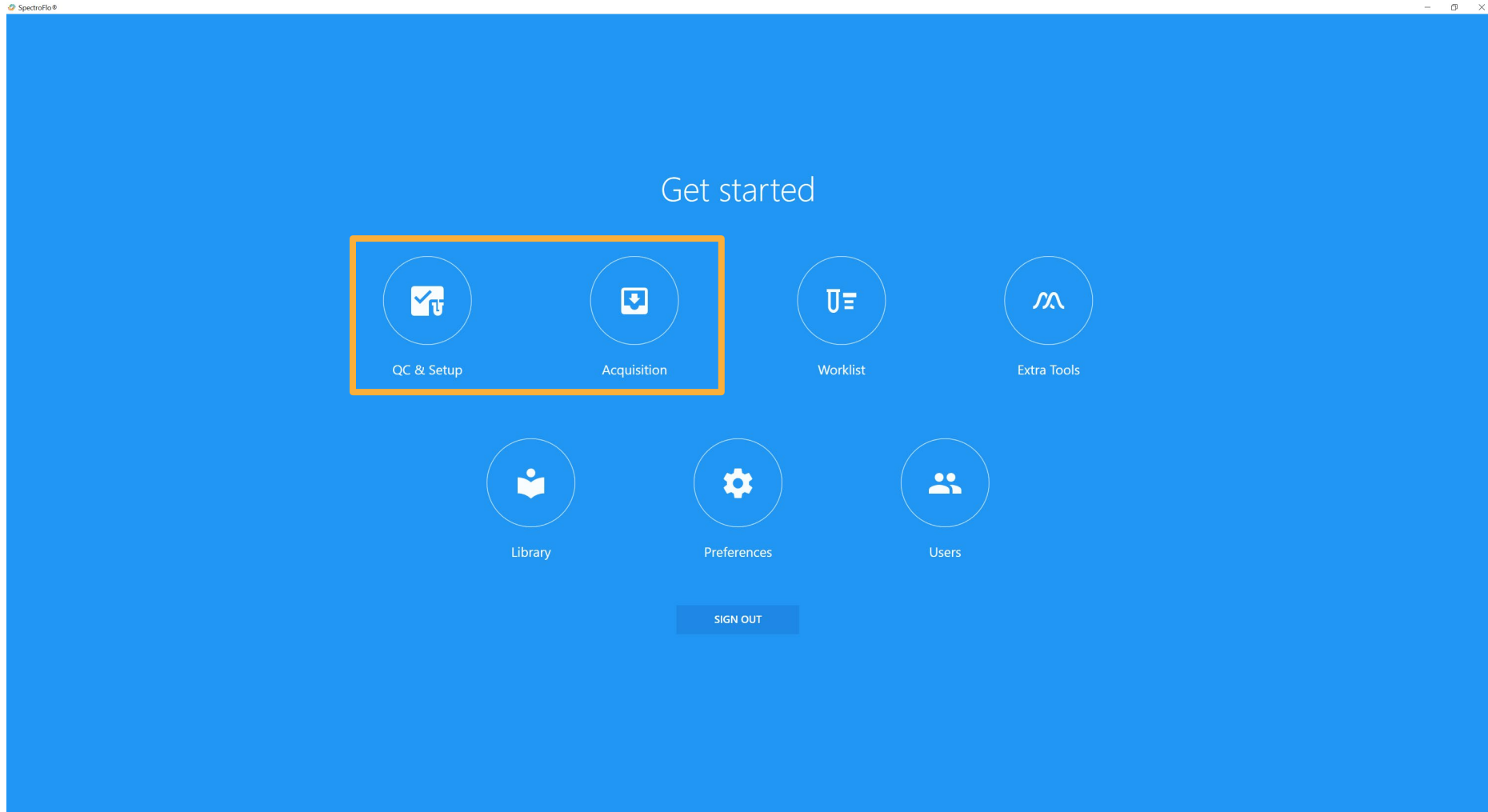
Edit Experiment						
Fluorescent Tags Groups Markers Acquisition						
Import Worksheet						
Name	Worksheet	Stopping Gate	Events to Record	Storage Gate	Stopping Time (sec)	Stopping Volume (ul)
✓ Cytel_cFluor_BC TBMNK	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	1-10,000,000	All Events	10000	150
✓ Reference Group	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	1-10,000,000	All Events	10000	150
Unstained (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150
CD3 cFluor V420 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	10000	All Events	10000	150
CD14 cFluor V450 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	10000	All Events	10000	150
CD45 cFluor V547 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	20000	All Events	10000	150
CD8 cFluor B515 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	20000	All Events	10000	150
CD19 cFluor BV2710 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	20000	All Events	10000	150
CD16 cFluor R668 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	20000	All Events	10000	150
CD56 cFluor R720 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	30000	All Events	10000	150
CD4 cFluor R780 (Cells)	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	20000	All Events	10000	150
✓ Samples	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150
Donor A	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150
Donor B	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150
Donor C	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150
Donor D	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150
Donor E	Default Raw Worksheet (Raw)	P1	500000	All Events	10000	150

Any information entered in the Experiment Builder can be changed anytime, even after importing to the cytometer workstation



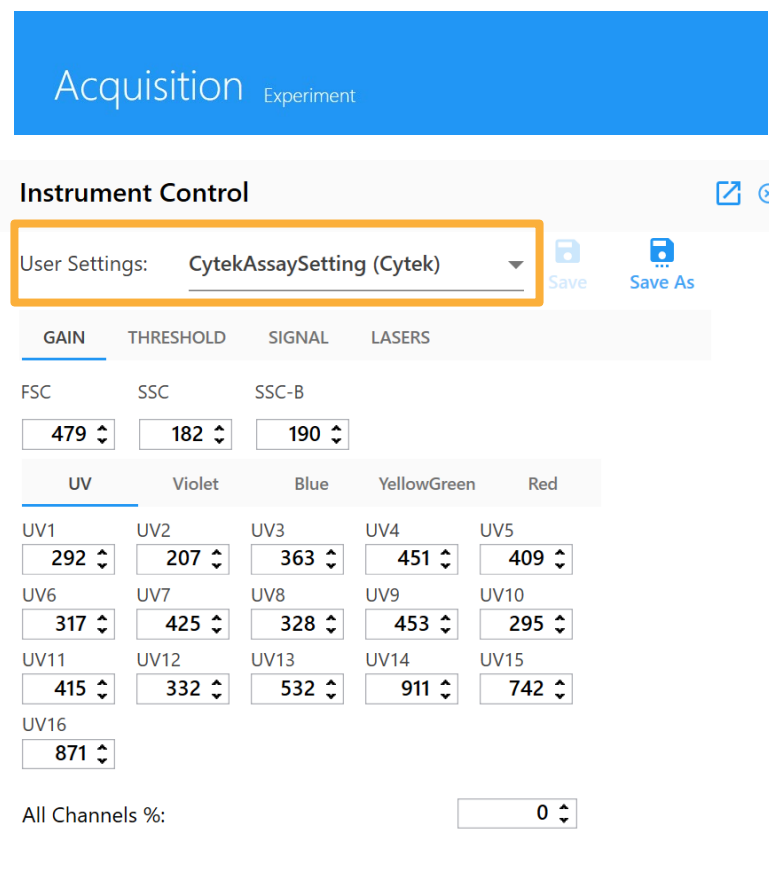
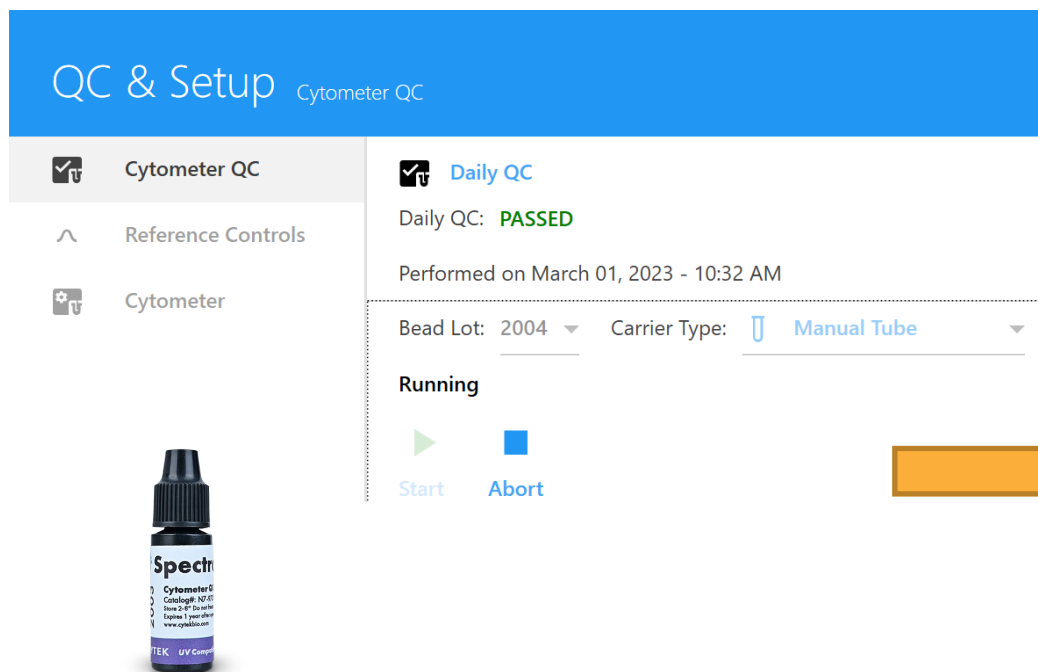
SpectroFlo® Software

SpectroFlo® Software was designed to be intuitive and user-friendly





SpectroFlo[®] Software – Run Daily QC



- Run Daily QC to track cytometer performance
- Gains in CytekAssaySetting (CAS) will be automatically updated
- Complete every day the instrument is used

Daily QC promotes consistent assay performance day-to-day

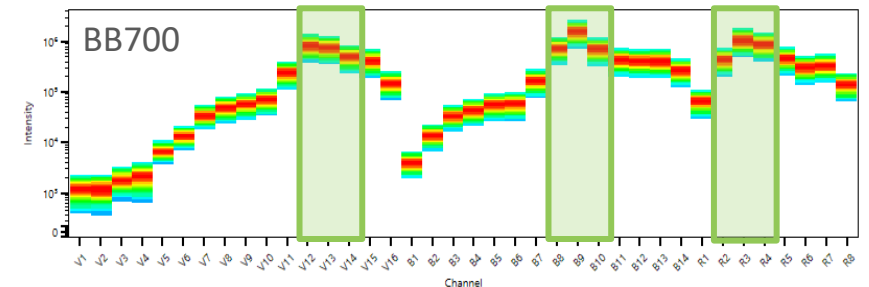
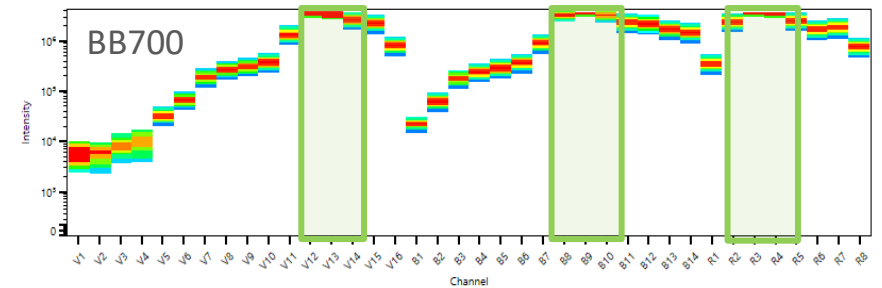


What Is CAS?

- Settings established on biological sample performance to:
 - Preserve spectral characteristics of each dye
 - Provide optimal resolution of each fluorochrome

CAS is useful for most applications

- When would CAS not be used?
 - If signals are off scale using CAS - lower all gains proportionally*



**For future experiments, consider adjusting antibody concentration or panel design*



Interactive Poll #6

CAS provide an optimal set of detector gains to use with most flow cytometry applications



SpectroFlo® Software – Set Up Experiment

SpectroFlo® (Admin)

Acquisition Experiment

QC & Setup Acquisition Extra Tools Library Preferences Users Help Sign Out

Select an experiment

- Default
- New
- Template
- Import
- My Experiments

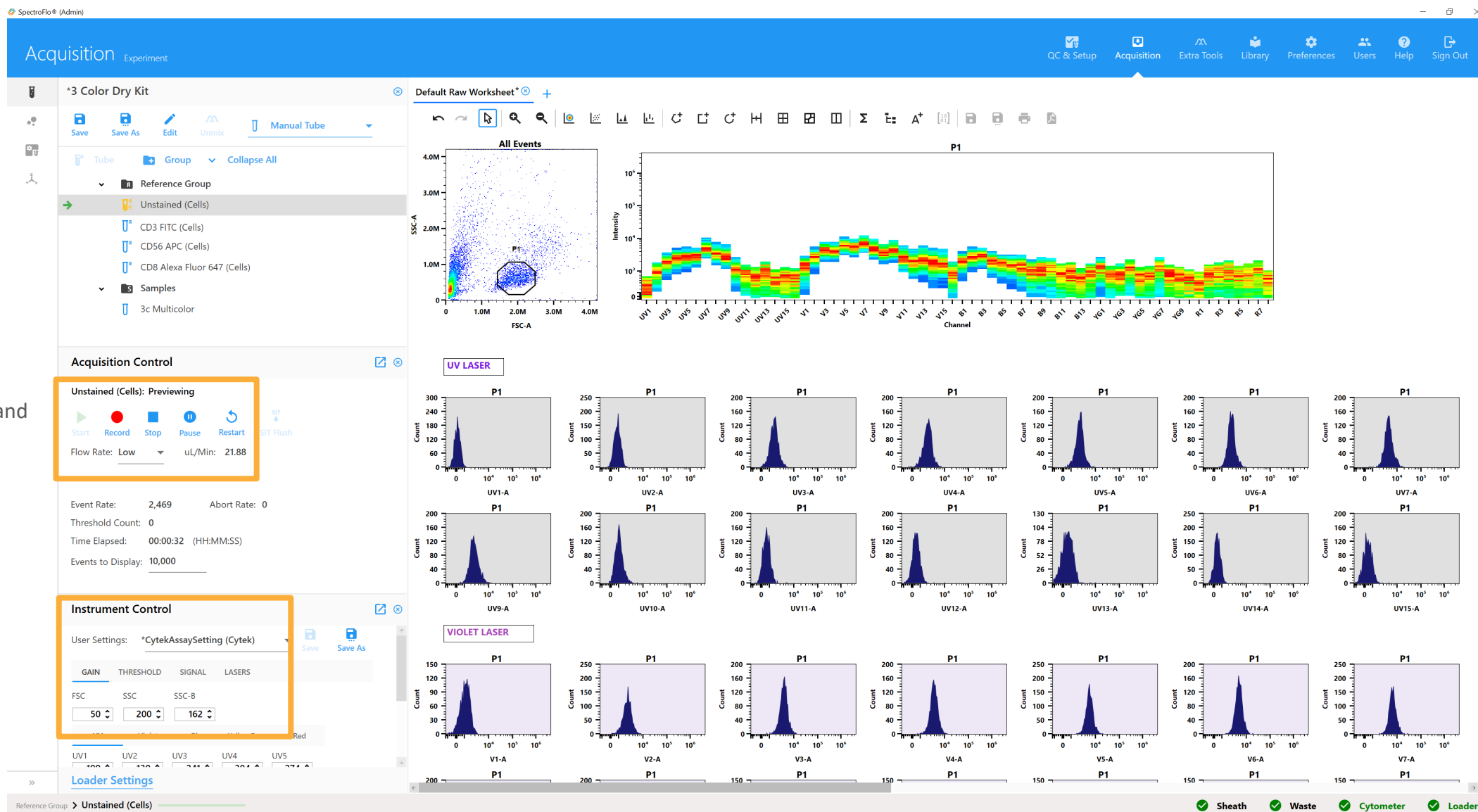
Import the experiment file from Cytex® Cloud

>>

✓ Sheath ✓ Waste ✓ Cytometer ✓ Loader



SpectroFlo® Software – Record Reference Controls



Set flow rate and
start/record

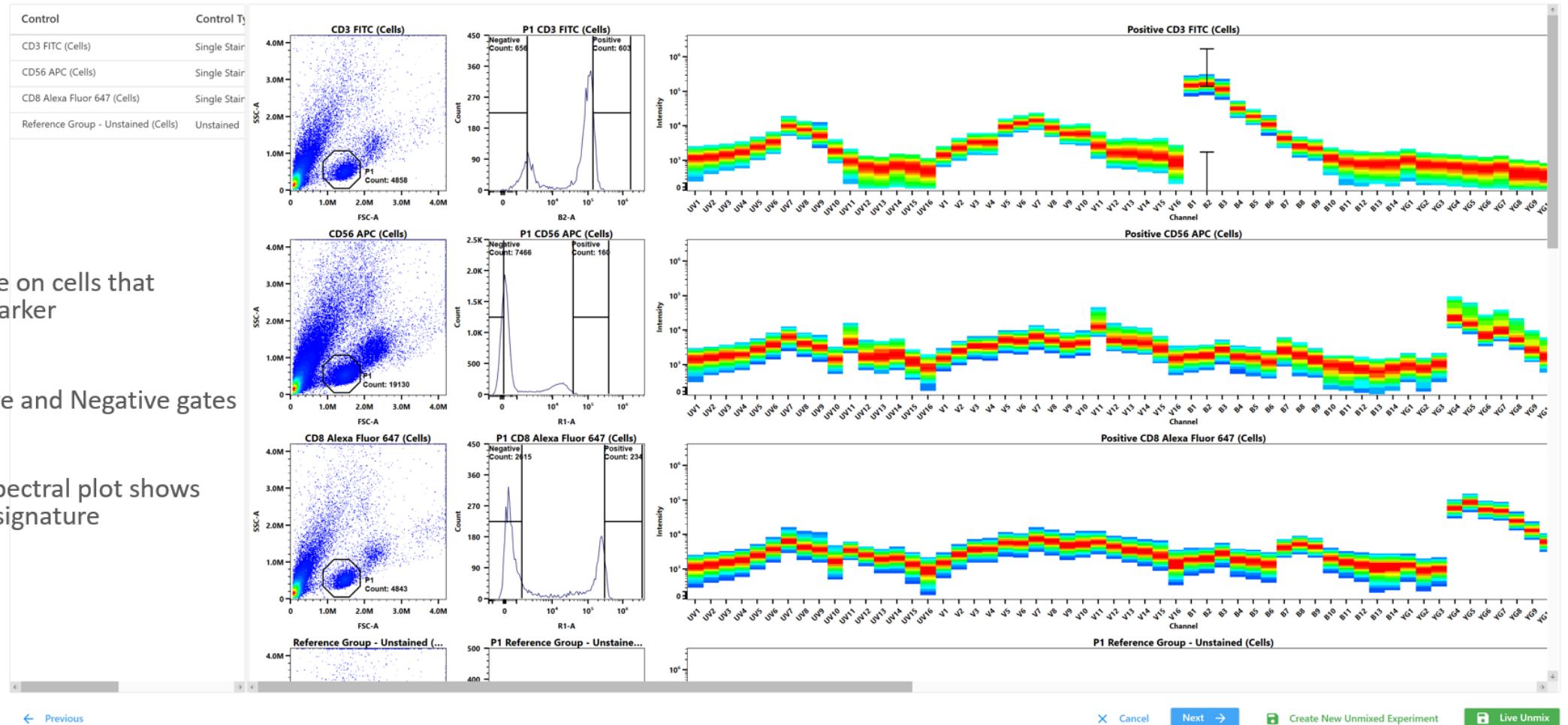
Adjust FSC and
SSC or select
saved settings



SpectroFlo® Software – Unmix

Unmix Experiment

Select Controls Identify Positive/Negative Populations QC Controls





Evaluate Your Assay

- QC Controls before calculating unmixing
- Check accuracy after calculating unmixing
- Assess resolution of populations

Evaluate Unmixing

How to assess control quality *before* unmixing

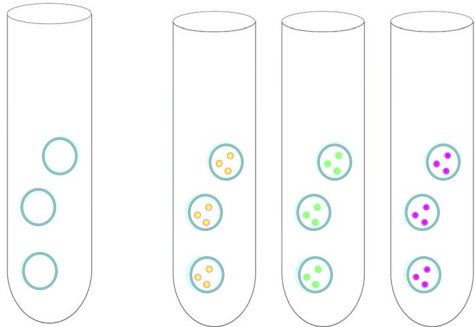
How to assess data quality *after* unmixing



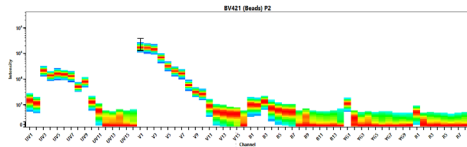
Unmixing Workflow

Run compensation/reference controls

Unstained Single Color Controls

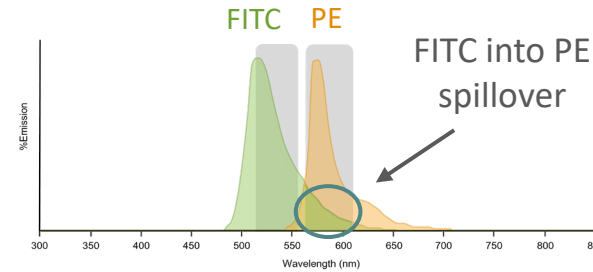


Raw Data



Check that the INPUT is good before calculating unmixing

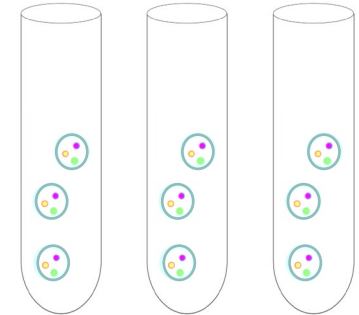
Calculate compensation/unmixing



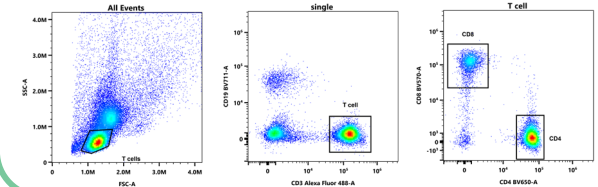
Output

Run multicolor samples with compensation/unmixing applied

Multicolor Assay



Unmixed Data

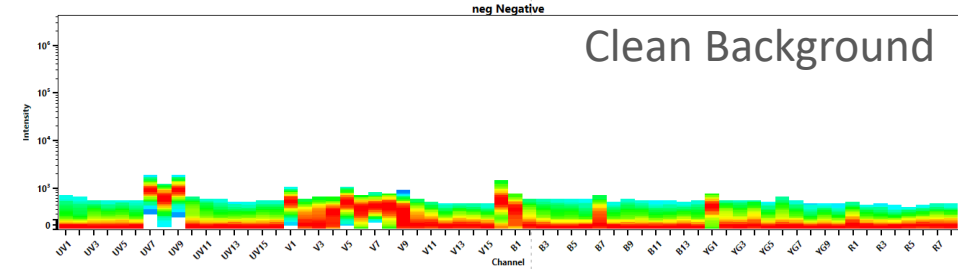
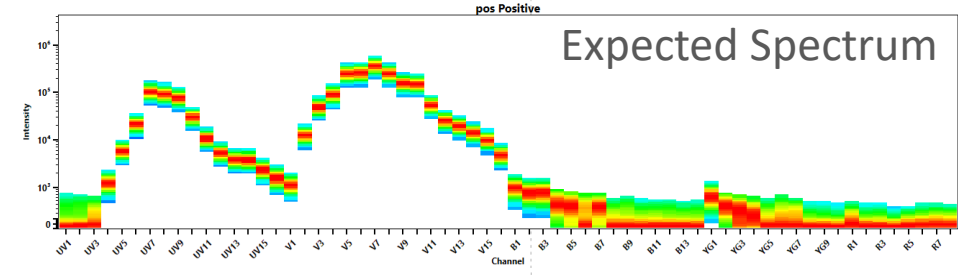
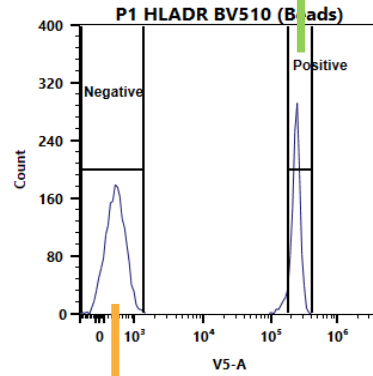
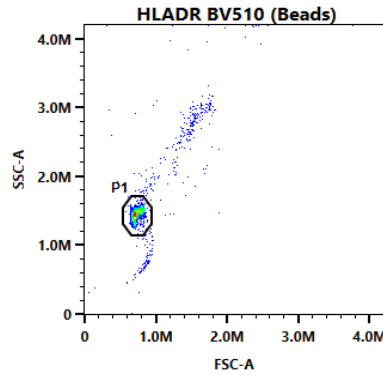


Check that the OUTPUT is good after calculating unmixing

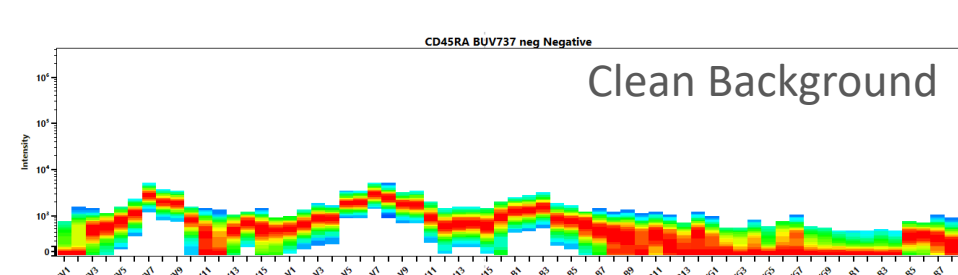
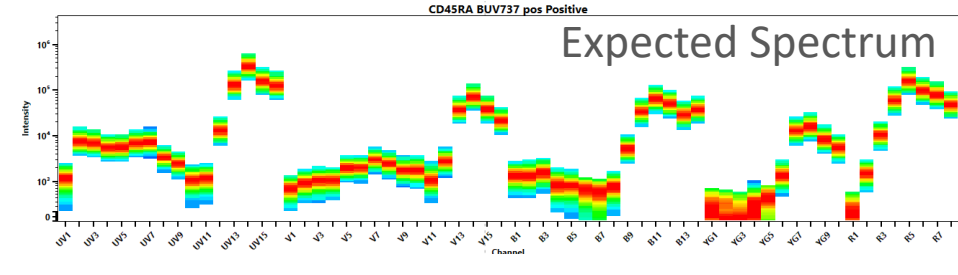
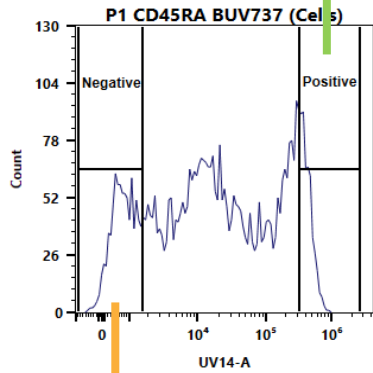
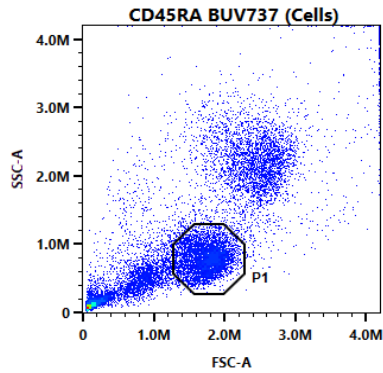


Examples of Good Reference Controls

Bead
Control



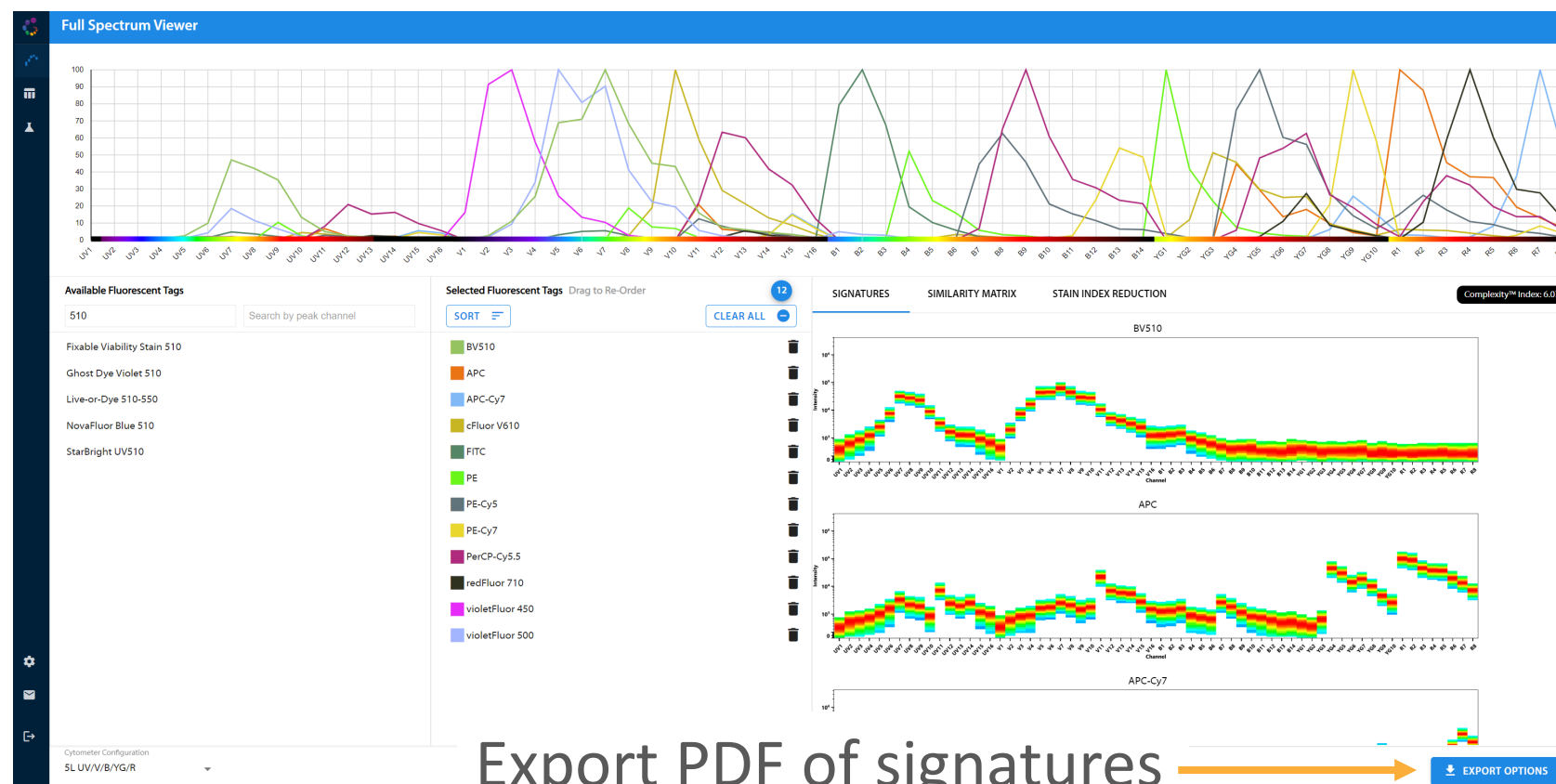
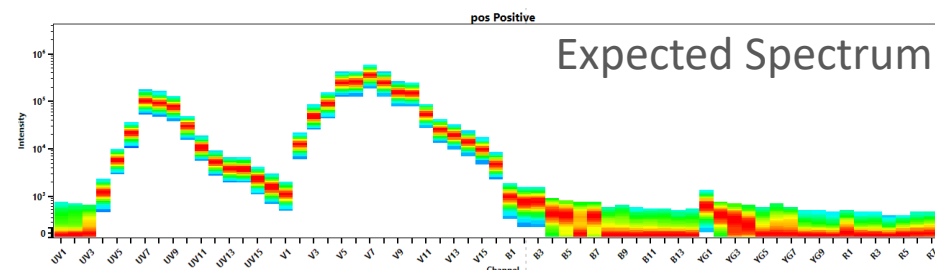
Cell
Control





Examples of Good Reference Controls

Use Cytek® Cloud to help determine if signatures are expected





Exercise 5: Reference Control QC

Goals

- Determine if the observed signature matches the expected signature



Exercise 5: Reference Control 1

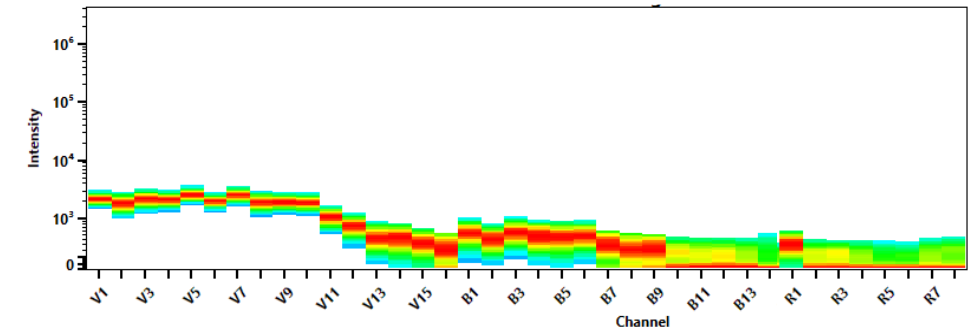
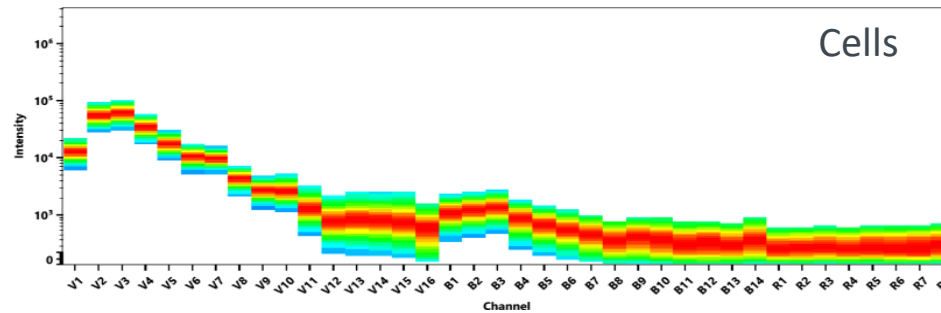
Does the observed positive signature match the expected positive signature?

Does the observed negative signature match the expected negative signature?

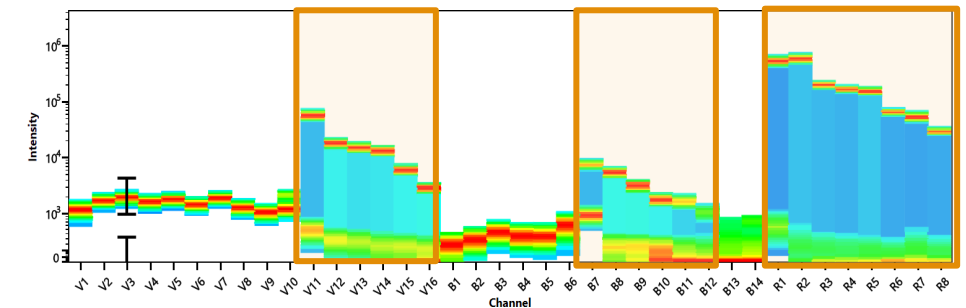
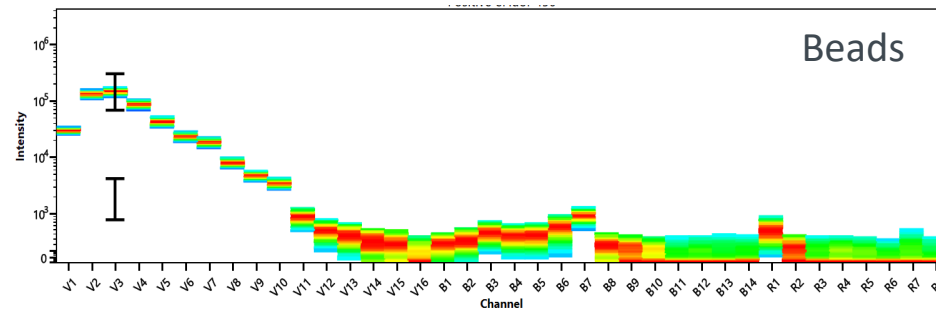
eFluor 450 Positive

eFluor 450 Negative

Expected



Observed

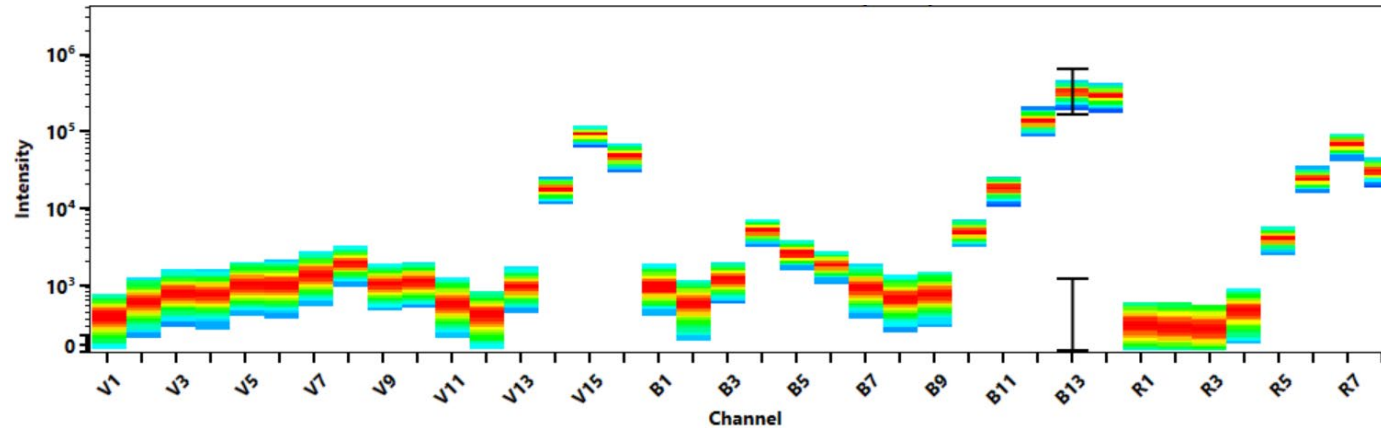




Exercise 5: Reference Control 2

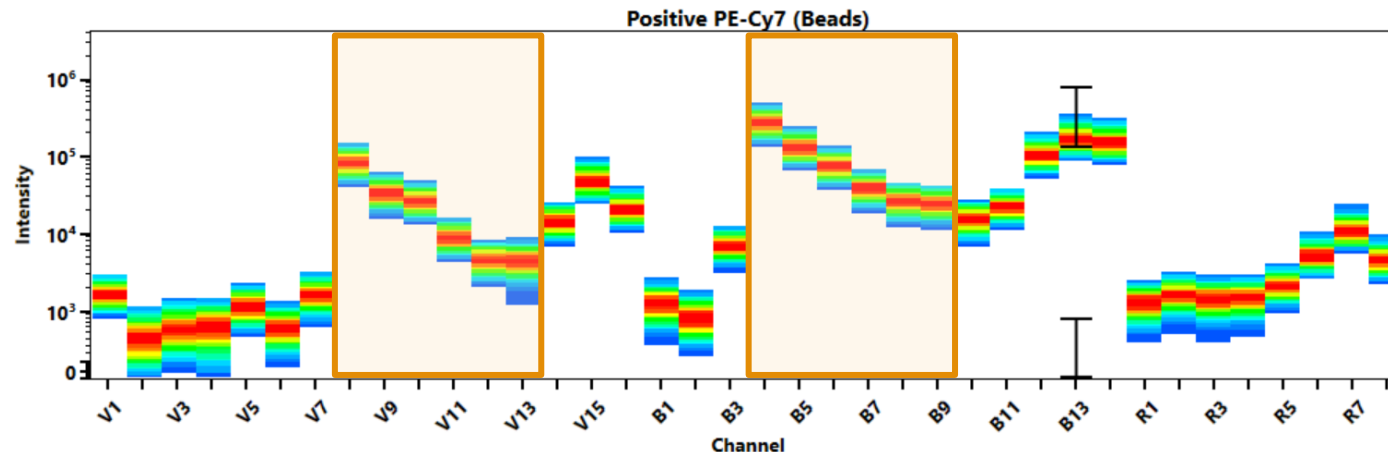
Does the observed PE-Cy7 signature match the expected PE-Cy7 signature?

Expected



PE	1	
PE-Cy7	0.01	1
	PE	PE-Cy7

Observed



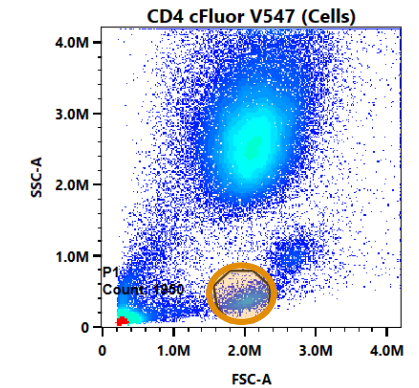
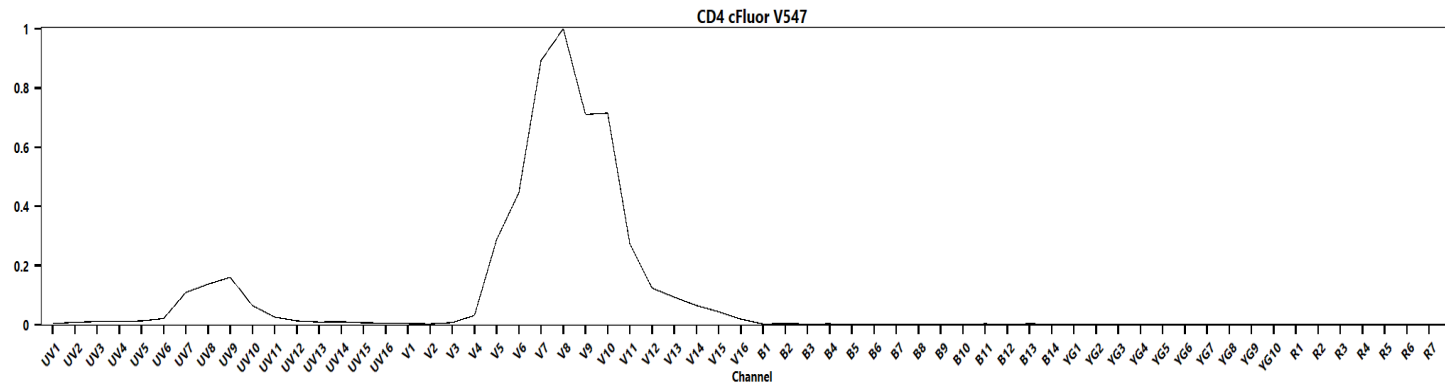
PE	1	
PE-Cy7	0.82	1
	PE	PE-Cy7



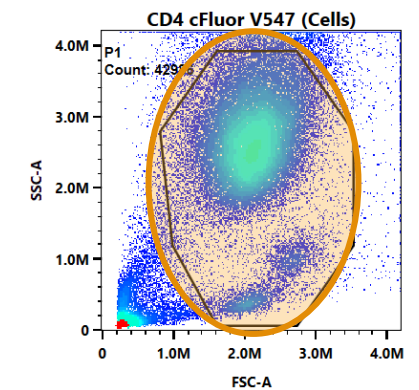
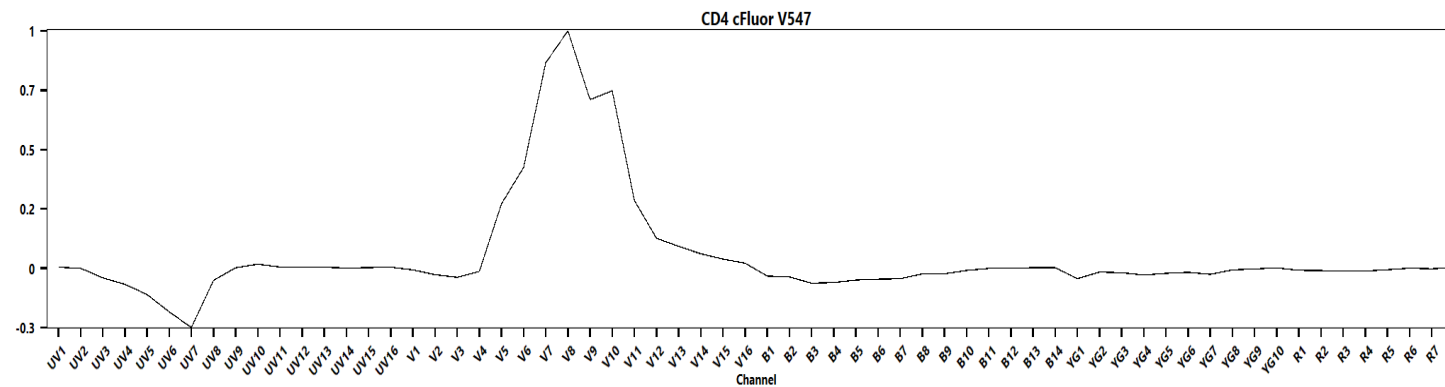
Exercise 5: Reference Control 3

Does the observed cFluor v547 signature match the expected cFluor v547 signature?

Expected



Observed





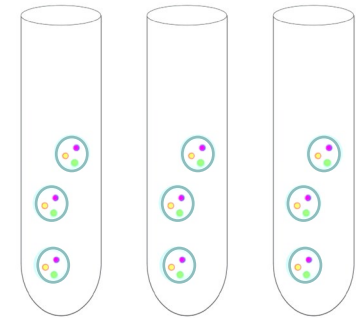
How to Determine if Unmixing Is Accurate

Check for accurate unmixing or compensation in three places:

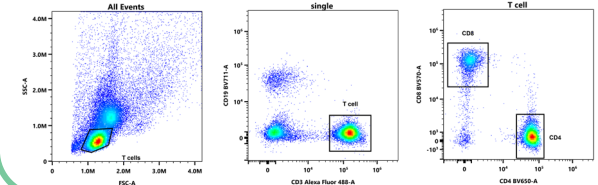
- 1 Unstained cells
- 2 Single stained cells
- 3 Multicolor cells

Run multicolor samples with compensation/unmixing applied

Multicolor Assay



Unmixed Data

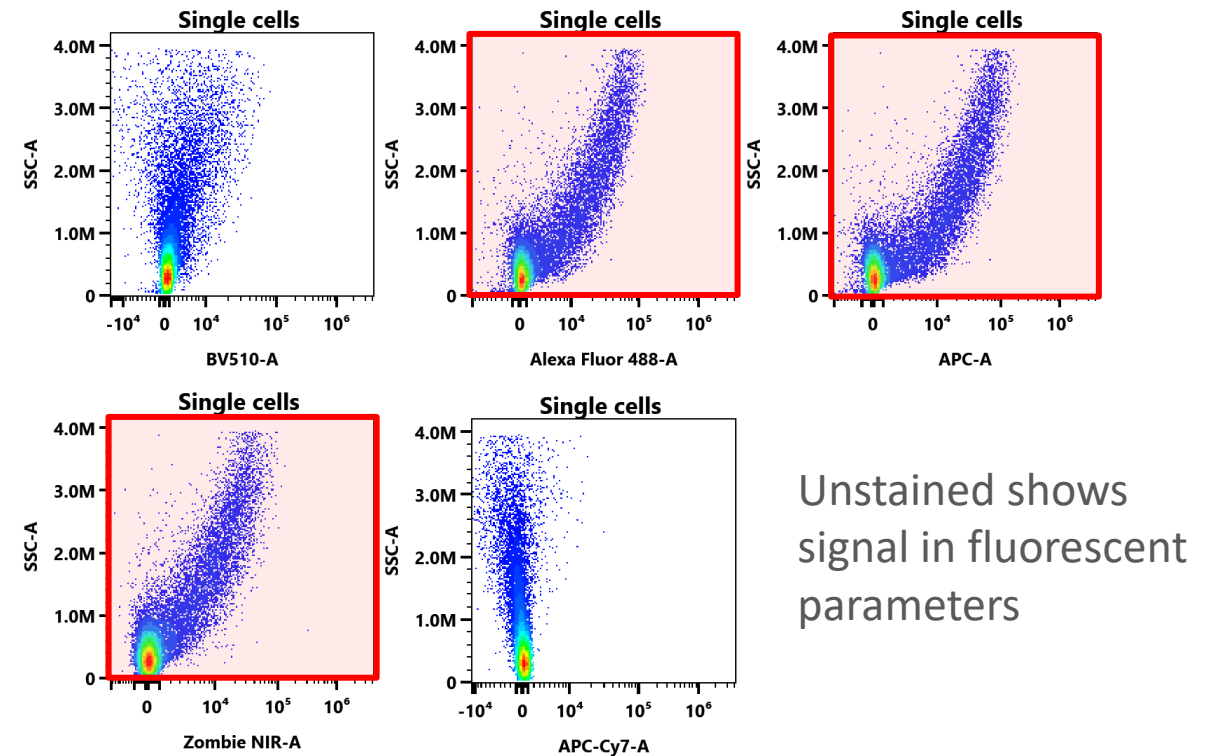
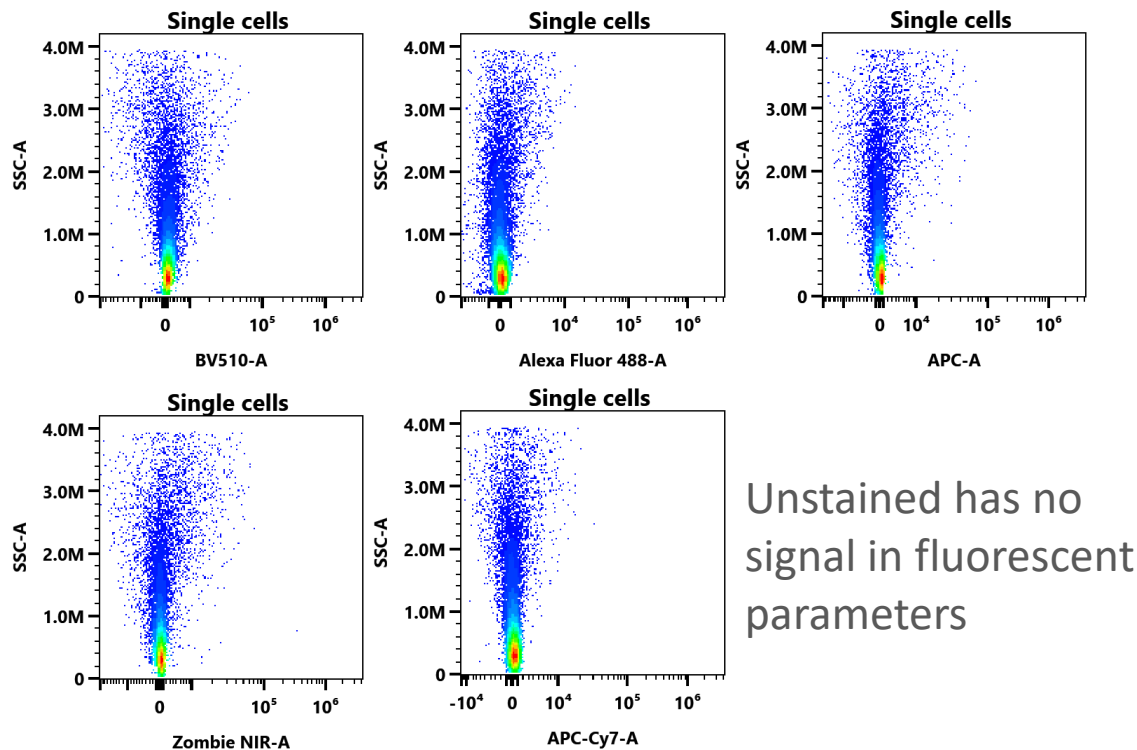


Check that the OUTPUT is good after calculating unmixing



How to Determine if Unmixing Is Accurate

1 After unmixing, check if the unstained has signal in fluorescent parameters

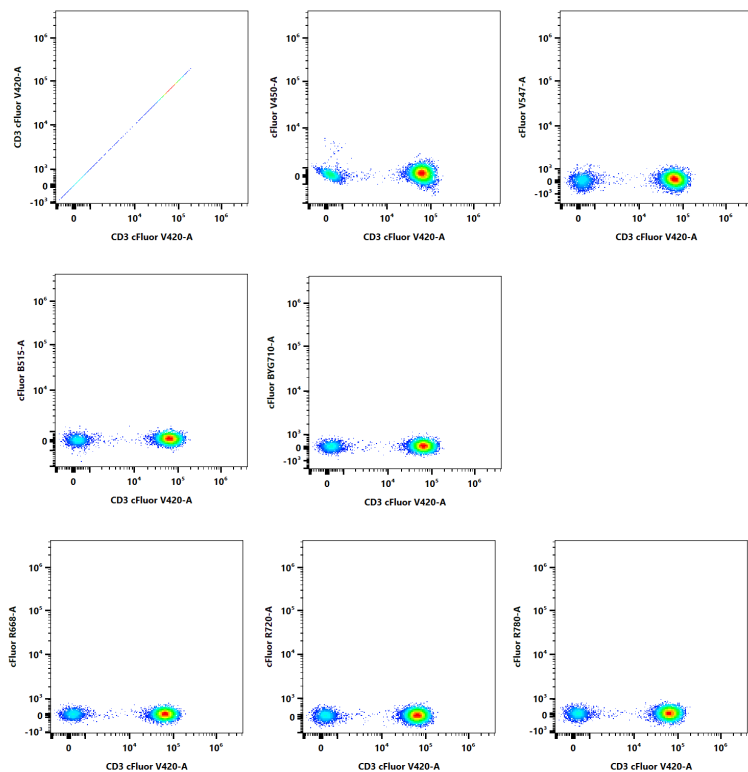




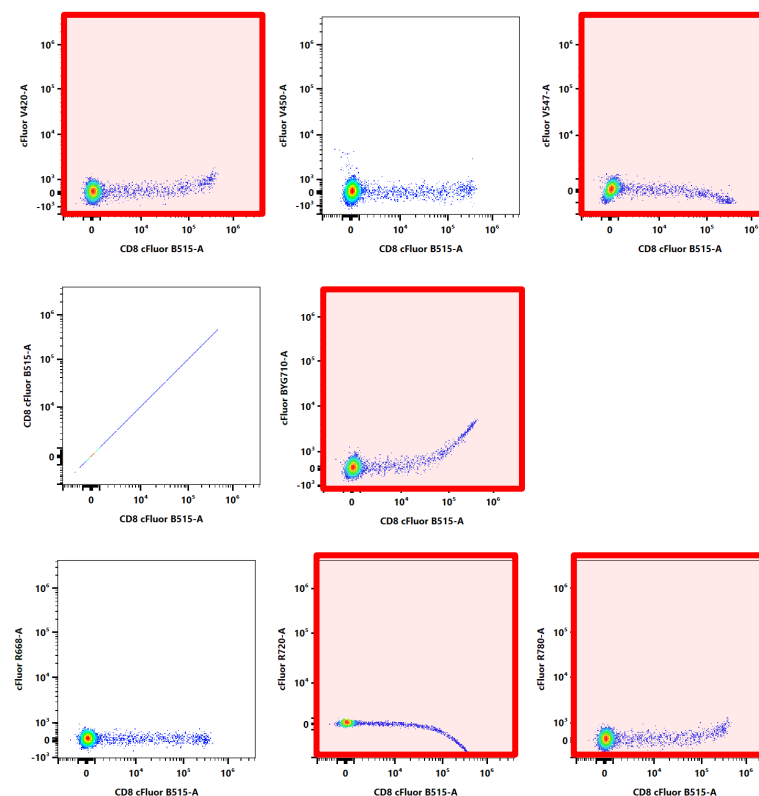
How to Determine if Unmixing Is Accurate

2 Check single stained cells against all other colors

Good Unmixing/Compensation



Bad Unmixing/Compensation



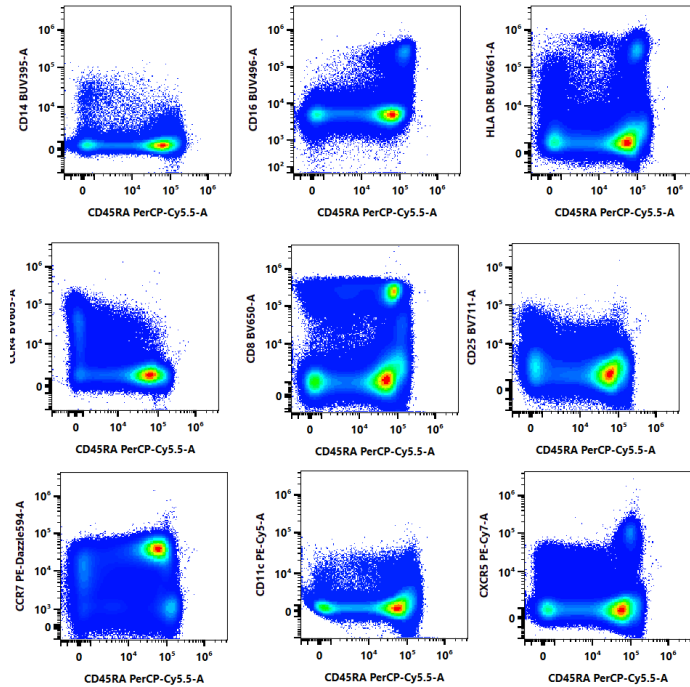


How to Determine if Unmixing Is Accurate

3 Check multicolor NxN permutations

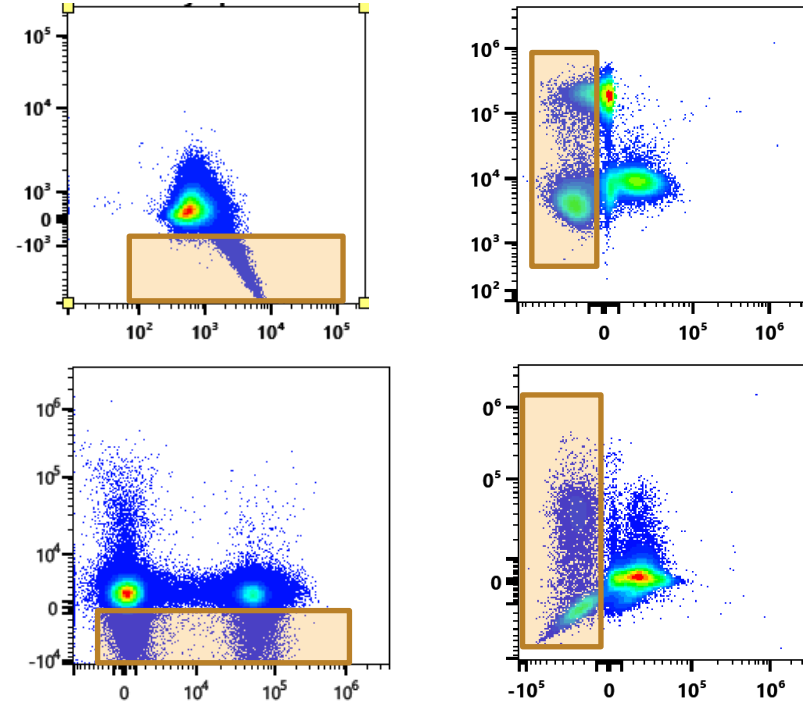
Good Unmixing/Compensation

No extreme negatives



Bad Unmixing/Compensation

Extremely negative populations



QC reference controls and ask your FAS/
technicalsupport@cytekbio.com for help



Assay Optimization

Plan Your Assay

- Design panel
- Titrate reagents
- Select reference controls

Run Your Assay

- Set up experiment
- Record reference controls
- Unmix

Evaluate Your Assay

- Optimize individual reagents
- Achieve accurate unmixing
- Resolve all populations

Is my assay ready to answer my scientific question?



NO

I CAN NOT resolve all populations of interest

Further assay optimization required



Assay Optimization

Plan Your Assay

- Design panel
- Titrate reagents
- Select reference controls

Run Your Assay

- Set up experiment
- Record reference controls
- Unmix

Evaluate Your Assay

- Optimize individual reagents
- Achieve accurate unmixing
- Resolve all populations

Is my assay ready to answer my scientific question?



YES

I CAN resolve all populations of interest

Proceed to optimized workflows



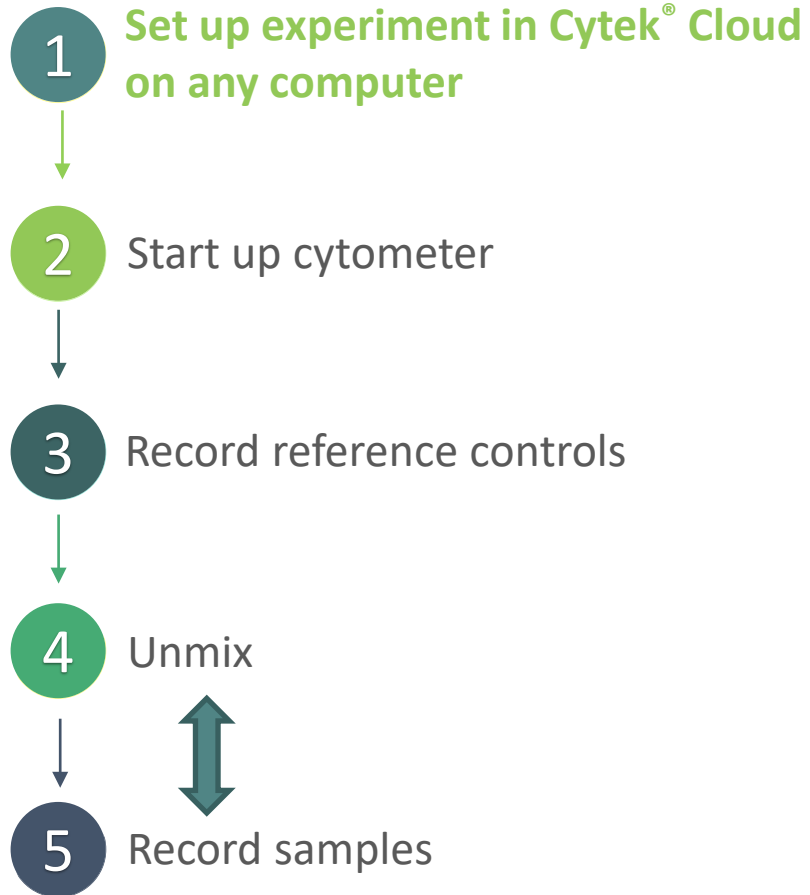
Working With Optimized Assays

- Acquisition Workflow for Optimized panels
- Storing and Reusing Reference Controls
- Pre-Optimized Kits

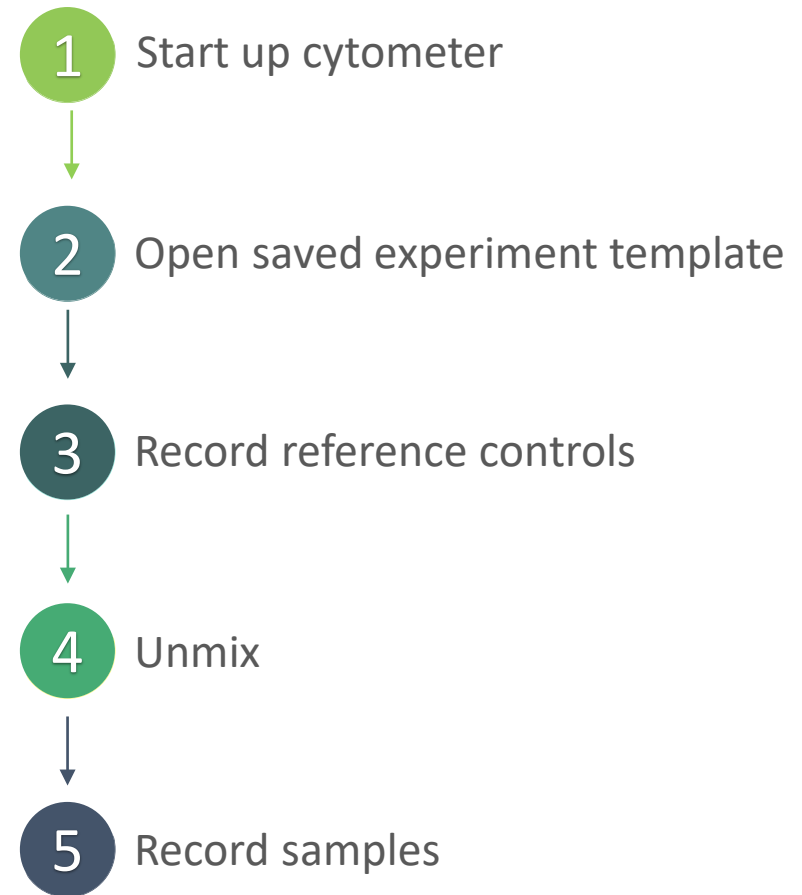


Acquisition Workflow – The Big Picture

Workflow for New Experiment



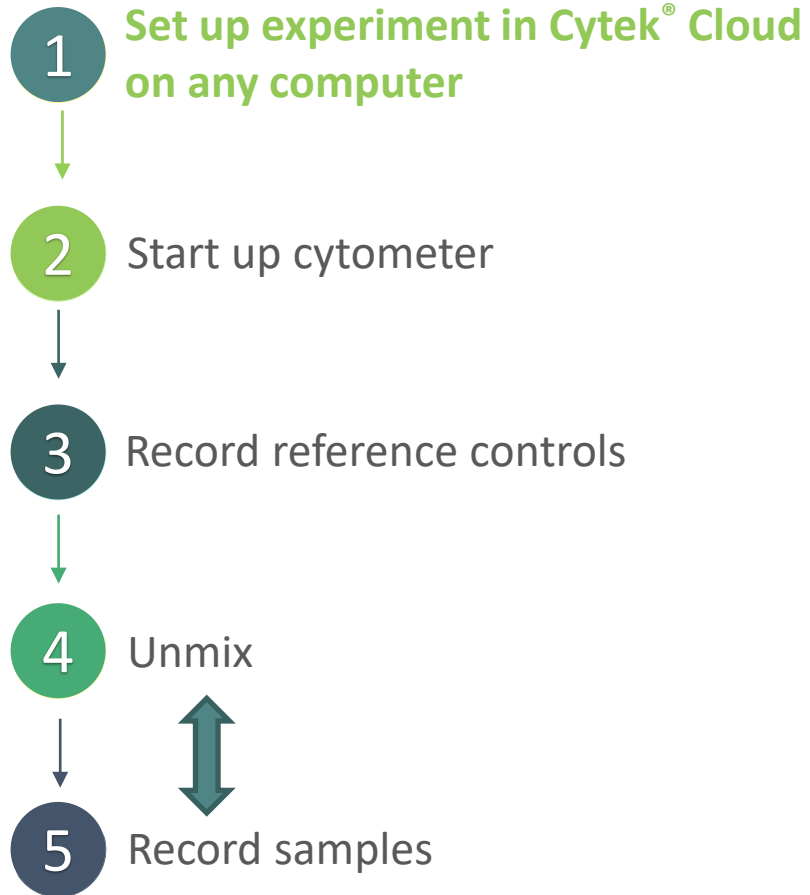
Workflow for Optimized Assays



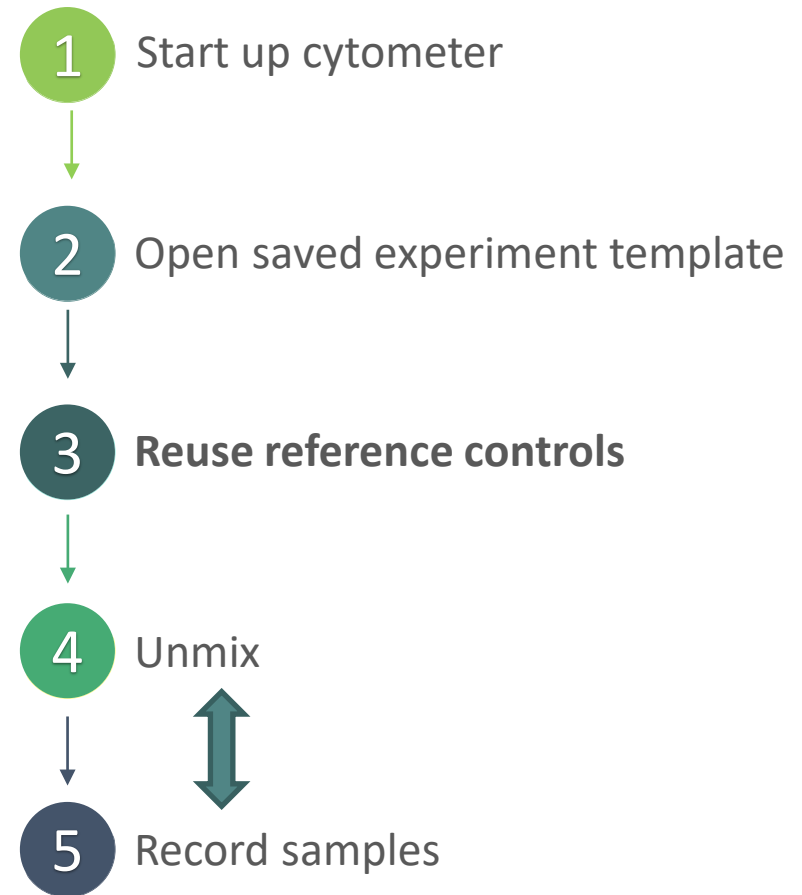


Acquisition Workflow – The Big Picture

Workflow for Initial Setup



Workflow for Optimized Assays





Running an Optimized Assay

Assay Development

Plan Your Assay

- Design panel
- Titrate reagents
- Select reference controls

Run Your Assay

- Set up experiment
- Record reference controls
- Unmix

Evaluate Your Assay

- Optimize individual reagents
- Achieve accurate unmixing
- Resolve all populations

Optimized Workflow

Run Your Assay

Can Reuse:

- Experiment templates
- Worksheet templates
- Reference controls and Unmixing

Evaluate Your Assay

Is my assay performing as expected?

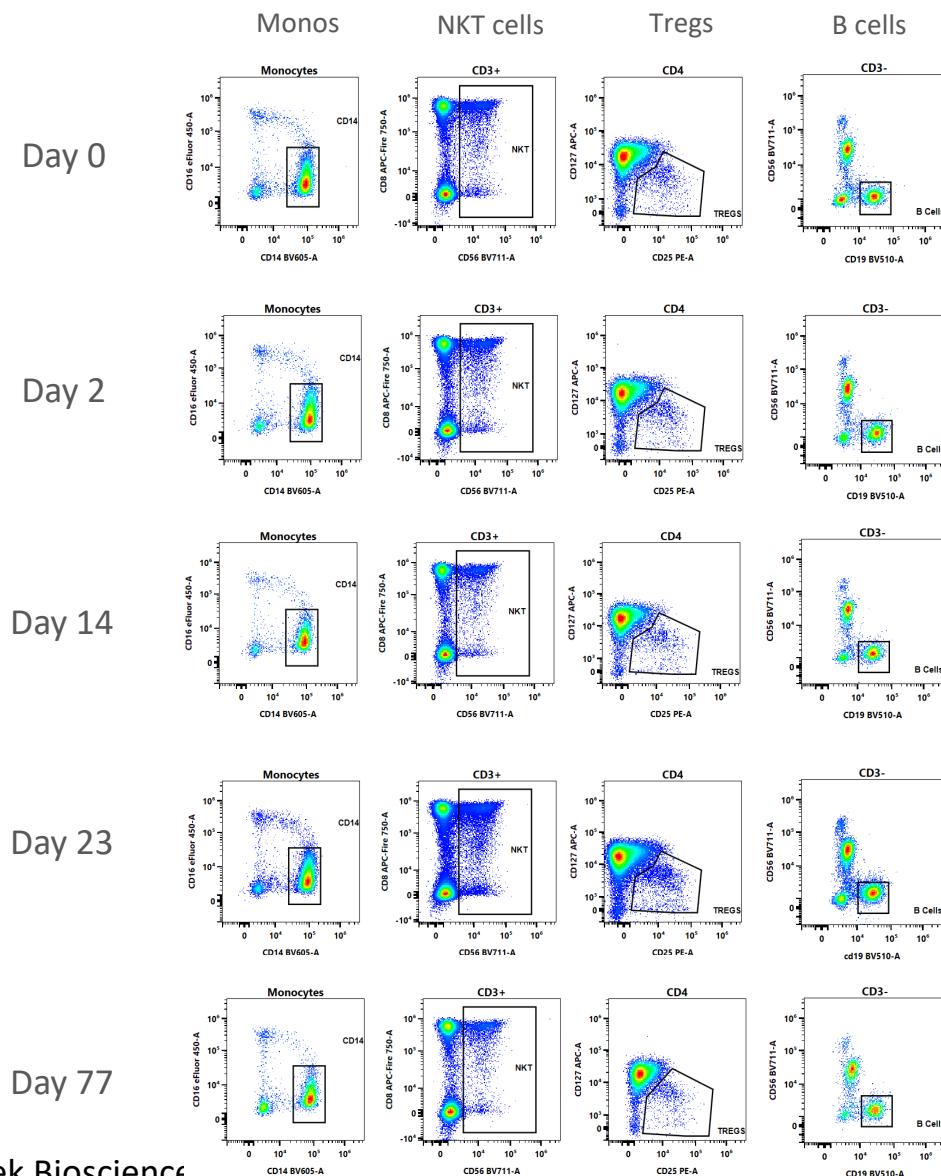
- Is unmixing accurate?
- Are populations resolved?
- Are populations biologically appropriate?

Storing and Reusing Reference Controls

Why and when can we reuse reference controls?



Reusing Reference Controls Across Time at CAS



Unmixing is successful because every FCS file is linked to the most recent QC

Benefits of reusing reference controls

- Useful when high level of consistency in the unmixing results is needed
- Save sample
- Save time



Criteria to Reuse Reference Controls

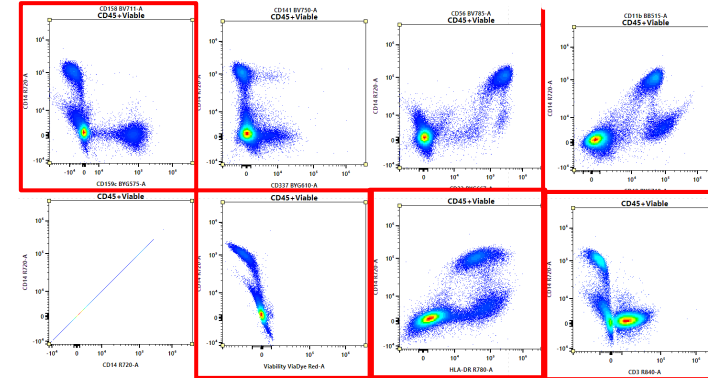
Hardware perspective

- Daily QC completed and passing

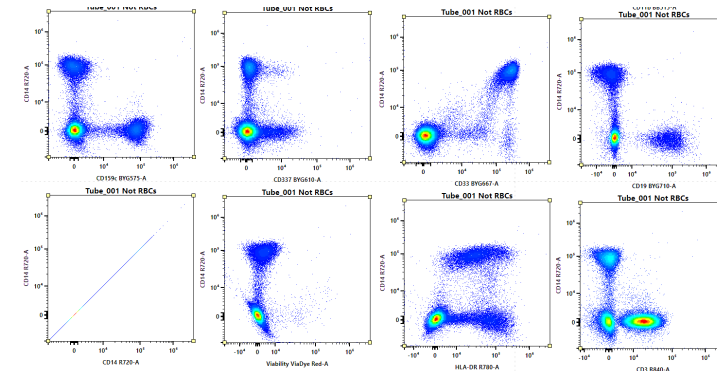
Assay Perspective

- Confirm stored reference controls follow best practices and accurately unmix samples
- Staining is consistent for multiple experiments

Incorrectly reusing controls



Correctly reusing controls

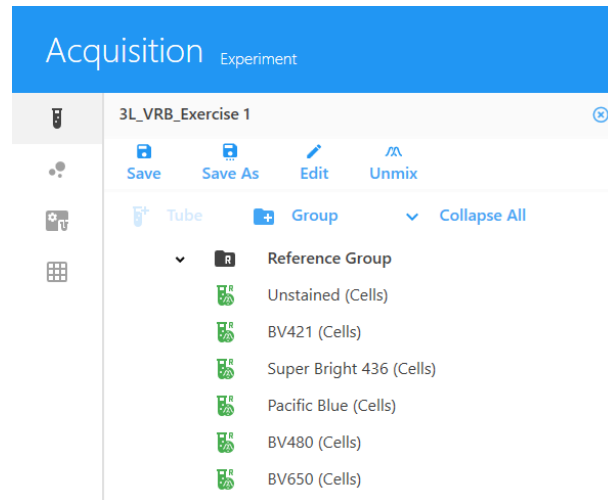




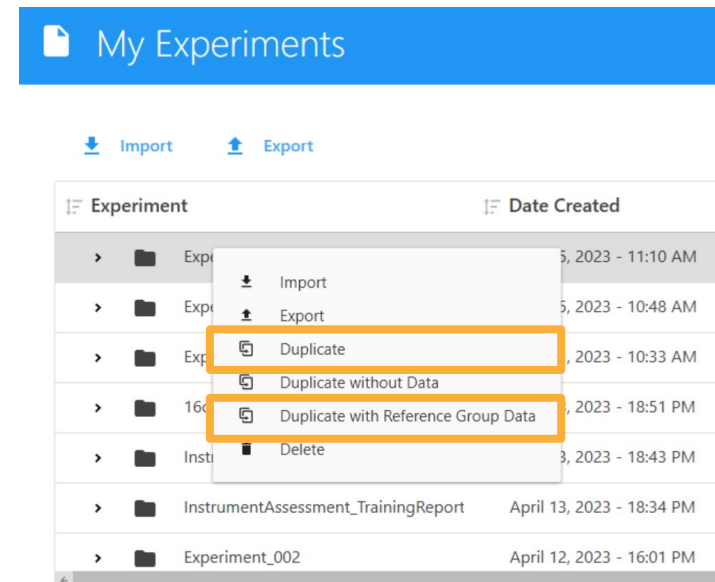
Which Workflow Is Best for You?

	Option 1:	Option 2:
Module used to record FCS file	Acquisition	
Each FCS file normalized to daily QC	Yes	
Can adjust gate setup for calculating unmixing	Flexible – change anytime	
QC Reference Control to confirm it is high quality	Can be performed AFTER storage	

To Store:



To Reuse:





Which Workflow Is Best for You?

	Option 1:	Option 2:
Module used to record FCS file		QC & Setup
Each FCS file normalized to daily QC		Yes
Can adjust gate setup for calculating unmixing		Locked – set when file is recorded
QC Reference Control to confirm it is high quality		Must be performed BEFORE storage

To Store:

QC & SetupReference Controls

☒ Cytometer QC

☒ Reference Controls

☒ Cytometer

Update Reference Controls

New Reference Controls

Import

Export

Benchmark

To Reuse:

Unmix Experiment

Select ControlsIdentify Positive/Negative PopulationsQC Controls

UNSTAINED CONTROLS

☐ Use Control from Library

☒ Use Control from Experiment

Reference Group - Unstained (Cells)

Name	Control Type
Reference Group - Unstained (Cells)	Cells

STAINED CONTROLS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> From Library	Fluorescent Tag	Control	Unstained	Generic
<input type="checkbox"/>	cFluor BYG667	cFluor BYG667 (Cells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	cFluor B690	cFluor B690 (Cells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	cFluor R659	cFluor R659 (Cells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cFluor V420	cFluor V420 (Cells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cFluor B515	cFluor B515 (Cells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

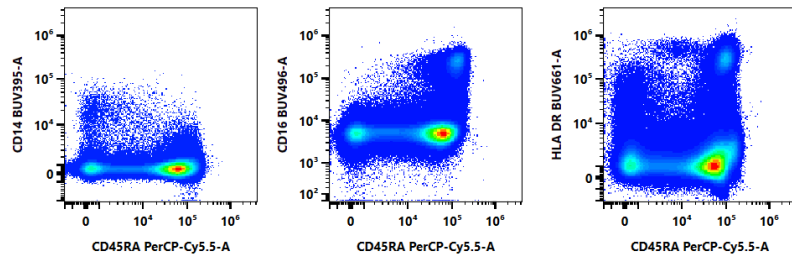


How to Determine if Stored Controls Are Good

3 Check multicolor NxN permutations

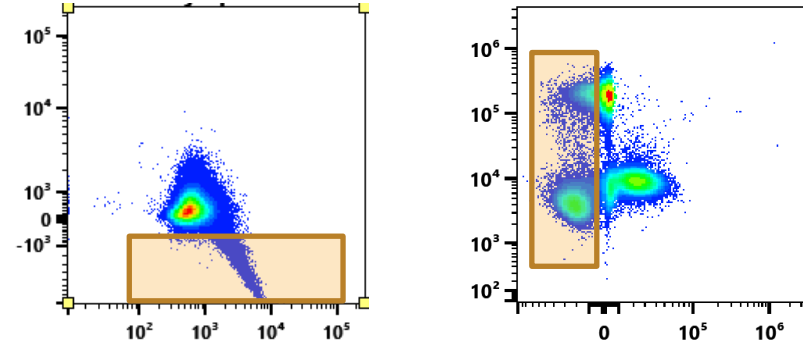
Good Unmixing/Compensation

No extreme negatives



Bad Unmixing/Compensation

Extremely negative populations



Factors that can impact accuracy of stored controls:

- Repair by Field Service Engineer
- New lot of tandem dye
- Storage and handling of reagents
- Time

If you are unsure, ask your FAS



Interactive Poll #7

When is it appropriate to reuse controls?



Cytek® Pre-Optimized Kits

- Pre-optimized kits streamline:
 - Panel design and optimization
 - Reagent titration
 - Selection of optimal reference controls
 - SpectroFlo® software setup with pre-made experiment and analysis templates



[Reagents for Full Spectrum Cytometry](#)

Optimized Workflow

Plan Your Assay

Run Your Assay

Set Up:

- Import pre-made templates
- Record reference controls and unmix

Evaluate Your Assay

Is my assay performing as expected?

- Is my unmixing accurate?
- Can I resolve my populations?
- Do the results make biological sense?



Summary

Full spectrum Signatures

- Use Cytek® tools to identify and QC

Full Spectrum Experiment Workflow

- Same as conventional cytometers

Plan, Run and Evaluate Your Assay

- Be thoughtful in selecting reference controls
- CytekAssaySetting is useful for most applications
- Check unmixing accuracy after each experiment
- Optimize your assay, then answer the scientific question

Working With Optimized Assays

- Evaluate that the assay is performing as expected
- Can use stored reference controls
- Cytek® pre-optimized kits are an easy place to start



Cytek® Resources

Plan Your Assay

- Cytek® Cloud
- SpectroLearn™ Educational Portal
- Webinars on CytekBio.com
- Cytek® Pre-Optimized Kits

Run Your Assay

- Cytek® Cloud
- SpectroFlo® User Guide
- SpectroFlo® Software Tutorials

Evaluate Your Assay

- Webinars on CytekBio.com
- Publications on assay optimization

TechnicalSupport@cytekbio.com



Follow-up Email

Check your email after this session for:

- Five-minute post-training survey
- Links to resources
- Recording of the lecture



FCS Express Complimentary License

Cytek® offers a complimentary 6-month FCS Express license with the purchase of any Aurora or Northern Lights™ system

After hands-on training, follow email instructions to claim license

Create **Cytek® Cloud** account using institutional email

Click on **Software Partners**

Click **Redeem License**

Enter cytometer serial number

Copy **FCS Express** Claim Code and Serial Number

Create **FCS Express** account at www.denovosoftware.com

Activate license on **De Novo Software** website using Claim Code

<https://cloud.cytekbio.com/>

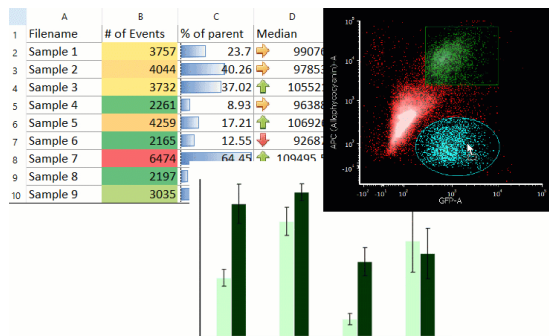


NOTE: Must redeem license within 2 months



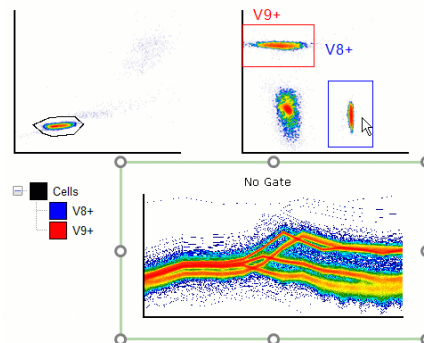
FCS Express Key Features for Cytel Aurora Users

Integrated Spreadsheets and Graphing



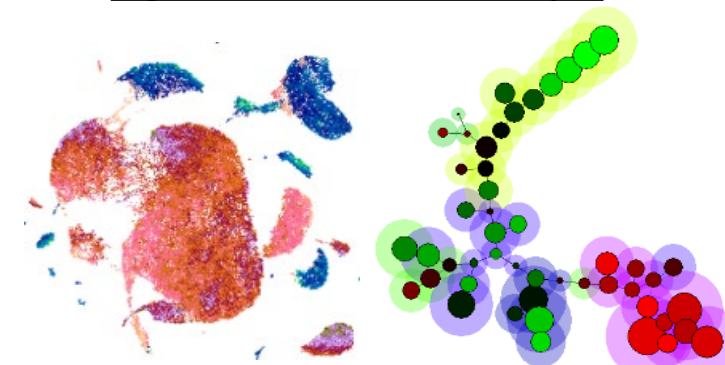
Integrated spreadsheets and graphing tools that link directly to gates. Real-time updating

Gate and Visualize on Spectral Graphs



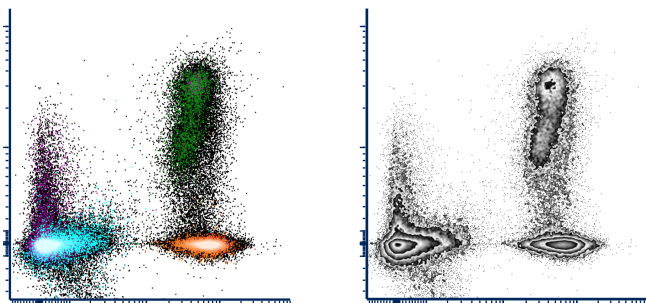
Analyze raw and unmixed data in the same layout. Apply individual gates to spectral plots.

High-Dimensional Data Analysis



Easy to use Pipelines to perform HDDR directly in the software – no plugins needed

Presentation & Publication-ready Graphics



Additional FCS Express Resources

Free one-on-one training

- Contact support@denovosoftware.com to schedule a free intro training session
- Get help getting started or making the switch to FCS Express today!

Cytel and FCS Express resources page

- Visit denovosoftware.com/cytel
- Access tips/tricks, applications examples, short videos, tutorials, and more...

Additional features/versions available for GxP, CFR Part 11 Compliance, and IVD

- Visit denovosoftware.com/cfrpart11
- Contact support@denovosoftware.com for more information or a special trial



Questions?



Contact Support

technicalsupport@cytekbio.com

Cytek® Biosciences, Inc.

47215 Lakeview Blvd

Fremont, CA 94538

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