

Real-time PCR

The *BIOS Advanced Methods* series is intended for graduate researchers and advanced undergraduates. Titles in the series are designed to cover current important areas of research in life sciences, and include both background information and detailed protocols. The aim is to give readers sufficient theory, supported by references, to take the given protocols and adapt them to their particular experimental systems.

Of the many techniques that have derived from PCR, real-time PCR has established itself as the most sensitive and specific quantitative PCR method. With the variety of detection chemistries, number of platforms, and analytical methods available, it is at risk of becoming an intimidating method, especially for beginners. *Real-time PCR* provides the basic principles, explains how they are exploited to run a real-time PCR assay, how the assays are run, and where these assays are informative in real life. It does not cover every aspect of real-time PCR, but instead addresses the most practical aspects of the techniques with the emphasis on 'how to do it in the laboratory'. Keeping with the spirit of the *BIOS Advanced Methods* series, chapters are written by leaders in the field and provide experimental protocols as examples of specific assays, which the reader can adapt to their individual needs.



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