

Cytek Aurora User Guide



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The Cytek Aurora is a powerful flow cytometry system designed to provide researchers with advanced capabilities for analyzing and sorting cells in a variety of biological contexts. This user guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the Cytek Aurora system, detailing its features, functionalities, and best practices for optimal use. From initial setup to data analysis, this guide is intended for both novice and experienced users, ensuring that all can maximize the benefits of this innovative technology.

Overview of the Cytek Aurora System

The Cytek Aurora is distinguished by its unique spectral flow cytometry capabilities, allowing for the simultaneous detection of multiple fluorescent markers. This system leverages a combination of innovative technologies and sophisticated software to deliver high-resolution data, making it suitable for a wide range of applications including immunology, cell biology, and cancer research.

Key Features

1. **Spectral Detection:** Unlike traditional flow cytometers that use fixed filters, the Aurora employs spectral detection, enabling the collection of full fluorescence spectra from each particle.
2. **High-Throughput Capability:** The system is designed for high sample throughput, making it ideal for large-scale studies and clinical applications.
3. **User-Friendly Interface:** With an intuitive software platform, users can easily set up experiments, analyze data, and generate reports.
4. **Flexible Configuration:** The Aurora can be customized with various lasers and detectors to suit specific experimental needs.

Applications of Cytex Aurora

The Cytex Aurora can be utilized in various fields, including but not limited to:

- Immunophenotyping: Characterizing immune cell populations by analyzing surface markers.
- Cell Cycle Analysis: Assessing the distribution of cells across different phases of the cell cycle.
- Apoptosis Studies: Investigating programmed cell death through markers like Annexin V and propidium iodide.
- Stem Cell Research: Profiling stem cell markers to study pluripotency and differentiation.

Setup and Configuration

The successful operation of the Cytex Aurora begins with proper setup and configuration. Below are the steps to ensure that the system is ready for use.

Initial Setup

1. Unpacking the System: Carefully unpack the system components, ensuring that all parts are included as per the manufacturer's checklist.
2. Placement: Position the Aurora in a stable environment with adequate ventilation and away from direct sunlight.
3. Power Connection: Connect the system to a reliable power source and ensure that the voltage matches the specifications outlined in the user manual.

Software Installation

1. Installing the Cytobank Software: Follow the on-screen instructions to install the software that comes with the system.
2. Licensing: Activate the software using the provided license key.
3. Updates: Regularly check for software updates to ensure access to the latest features and improvements.

System Calibration

Calibration is critical for obtaining accurate and reliable results. Follow these steps:

1. Calibration Beads: Use the provided calibration beads to set up the system.

2. Settings Adjustment: Adjust the settings based on the specific requirements of your experiment, including laser power and detector sensitivity.
3. Daily Calibration: Perform daily calibration before starting experiments to ensure optimal performance.

Sample Preparation

Proper sample preparation is essential for successful flow cytometry analysis. Here are key steps to consider:

Choosing the Right Samples

- Cell Type: Ensure that the cells are suitable for flow cytometry analysis.
- Viability: Assess the viability of cells prior to staining, as dead cells can affect results.

Staining Protocols

1. Antibody Selection: Choose appropriate fluorescently labeled antibodies based on the markers of interest.
2. Staining Procedure:
 - Incubate cells with antibodies according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Use a washing step to remove unbound antibodies.
3. Fixation: If required, fix the cells using a suitable fixative that preserves fluorescence.

Sample Dilution

- Optimize the concentration of cells to avoid clumping, which can interfere with data acquisition.
- Typical dilution ranges are between 1×10^6 to 5×10^7 cells/mL, depending on the specific experiment.

Running an Experiment

Once the setup and sample preparation are complete, users can proceed to run experiments. Here are the steps to follow:

Loading Samples

1. Sample Injection: Use the automated sample injection system to load samples into the cytometer.
2. Priming: Prime the system with sheath fluid to remove any air bubbles.

Data Acquisition Settings

1. Select Parameters: Choose the parameters for data acquisition, including the number of events to be collected and the duration of the run.
2. Run Control: Monitor the run in real-time using the software interface to ensure proper function.

Data Collection

- Collect a sufficient number of events (typically 10,000 - 100,000) for statistical validity.
- Pause the run if needed to troubleshoot any issues that arise.

Data Analysis

After data acquisition, the next step is analysis. The Cytex Aurora system is equipped with robust software for this purpose.

Data Processing Steps

1. Compensation: Apply compensation for spectral overlap among fluorescent markers.
2. Gating Strategies:
 - Define gates based on the population of interest (e.g., live cells, specific cell types).
 - Use scatter plots and histograms to visualize the data and refine gates.
3. Statistical Analysis: Utilize built-in analysis tools to generate statistics and visual representations of your data.

Reporting Results

- Generate reports directly from the analysis software.
- Include visualizations, statistical analyses, and interpretation of results.

Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Regular maintenance is crucial to ensure the longevity and performance of the Cytex Aurora system.

Routine Maintenance

1. **Cleaning:** Regularly clean the sample chamber and fluidics system to prevent contamination and ensure accurate results.
2. **Fluid Replacement:** Replace sheath fluid and waste containers as necessary to maintain optimal performance.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

- **Low Signal:** Check laser alignment and ensure that the correct filter settings are applied.
- **High Background Noise:** Assess sample preparation protocols and ensure proper washing steps were followed.
- **Software Errors:** Restart the software and, if issues persist, consult the user manual or technical support.

Conclusion

The Cytex Aurora represents a significant advancement in flow cytometry technology, offering unparalleled flexibility and sensitivity for a wide range of applications. By following the guidelines outlined in this user guide, researchers can ensure that they utilize the system effectively, yielding high-quality data for their studies. Whether you are a seasoned flow cytometry expert or a newcomer to the field, the Cytex Aurora system opens new possibilities for cellular analysis. By adhering to best practices in setup, sample preparation, data acquisition, and analysis, you can maximize the potential of this powerful tool in your research endeavors.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary function of the Cytex Aurora?

The Cytex Aurora is a flow cytometer designed for high-parameter analysis of cells, enabling researchers to analyze multiple markers simultaneously with high precision.

Where can I find the user guide for the Cytex Aurora?

The user guide for the Cytex Aurora can typically be found on the manufacturer's official website under the support or resources section, or directly from the documentation provided with the instrument.

What are the key features highlighted in the Cytex Aurora user guide?

The user guide highlights features such as advanced spectral flow cytometry, customizable panel design, user-friendly software interface, and real-time data acquisition capabilities.

How do I set up the Cytex Aurora for first-time use?

The user guide provides a step-by-step setup process, including unboxing, installing software, calibrating the system, and running the initial performance checks.

What troubleshooting tips are included in the Cytex Aurora user guide?

Common troubleshooting tips include checking the fluidics system for clogs, ensuring proper calibration, adjusting the PMT settings for optimal detection, and consulting the error log for specific issues.

Can the Cytex Aurora user guide help in designing multi-color panels?

Yes, the user guide includes guidelines and best practices for designing multi-color panels, including considerations for spectral overlap and compensation techniques.

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