Table of contents

Introduction _____ ***17***

References _____ 25

Justification and objectives _____ ***33***

Chapter 1: Probing the operability regime of a minimal ribocomputing cell. _____ ***35***

1.1. Introduction _____ 37

1.2. Results _____ 39

1.2.1. Analog behavior of the system _____ 39

1.2.2. Environmental robustness of the system _____ 42

1.2.3. Genetic burden of the system _____ 44

1.2.4. Evolutionary stability of the system _____ 46

1.3. Discussion _____ 49

1.4. Materials and Methods _____ 50

1.4.1. Strain, plasmids, and reagents _____ 50

1.4.2. Preparation of cultures for characterization _____ 51

1.4.3. Fluorescence quantification _____ 51

1.4.4. Empirical model to predict the response _____ 52

1.4.5. Different environmental conditions _____ 52

1.4.6. Growth rate curves _____ 53

1.4.7. Experimental evolution _____ 53

1.4.8. Sequencing of the genetic circuit _____ 53

1.4.9. Statistical analysis _____ 54

1.5. References _____ 55

Chapter 2: Bacterial population control with macroscopic HKUST crystals. _____ 59

2.1. Introduction _____ 61

2.2. Results _____ 63

2.3. Discussion _____ 75

2.4. Materials and Methods _____ 77

2.4.1. Material preparation. _____ 77

2.4.2. Chloramphenicol loading into material. _____ 78

2.4.3. Measurement of copper release from material. _____ 79

2.4.4. Bacterial strain and precultures. _____ 80

2.4.5. Measurement of bacterial growth in liquid medium. _ 80

2.4.6. Measurement of bacterial growth in solid medium. __ 81

2.4.7. Statistical analysis _____ 82

2.5. References _____ 83

Chapter 3: Evolutionary canalization mediated by altered expression of the GroEL chaperone. __ 87

3.1. Introduction _____ 89

3.2. Results _____ 92

3.2.1. Experimental evolution under strong bottlenecks: clonal evolution. 92

3.2.2. Determining changes in biological fitness: growth rates. 95

3.2.3. Determining changes in GroEL expression: qPCR __ 98

3.2.4. Experimental evolution under soft bottleneck (1%), population evolution. _____ 99

3.2.5. Mutational dynamics of GroEL clients and non-clients 101

3.3. Discussion _____ 102

3.4. Materials and methods _____ 104

3.4.1. Bacterial Lines _____ 104

3.4.2. Evolution Experiment _____ 105

3.4.3. Growth Rate and Fitness Measurements _____ 106

3.4.4. GroEL Measurement and Quantification by qPCR _ 107

3.4.5. Deep Sequencing and DNAseq Data Analysis _____ 107

3.4.6. Phenotypic arrays _____ 109

3.4.7. Statistical analysis _____ 109

3.5. References _____ 111

General discussion*_____ *119

References _____ 125

Conclusions*_____ *129

Acknowledgments*_____ *131