

**Table S1: Relative intensities in different cases set production rates.**

Number of Sites (XBcd,YHb)	Protein Concentration (max, in molecules/nucleus) <sup>a</sup>	Transcription rates (s <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>6B,2H</b> <i>WT promoter</i>	<b>7000</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Hb: $k_2=1e-1$ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hb: $k_5=3.1e0$
<b>6B,0H</b> <i>hb<sup>14F</sup></i>	<b>1050</b> ( <i>hb<sup>14F</sup></i> is 15% of WT expression [30]; “Strong” from [34])	$k_{22}, k_{25}=3.6e-1^b$
<b>4B,0H</b> <i>pThb11,13<sup>c</sup></i>	<b>210</b> (“Intermediate” from [34]; 1/5 of “Strong” <sup>d</sup> )	$k_{19}=7.6e-2$
<b>3B,0H</b> <i>pThb10,12</i>	<b>140</b> (“Weak” from [34])	$k_{16}=5.2e-2^{e,f}$
<b>1B,0H</b> <i>pThb3</i>	<b>70</b> (“Very Weak” from [34]; 1/3 of “Intermediate” <sup>d</sup> )	$k_{10}=3.6e-2$

<sup>a</sup> RNA:protein ratio is set by the translation rate constant,  $k_{7A}=4e-1$ . The *hb* protein and mRNA decay constants ( $k_1$  and  $k_{7B}$ , respectively) are  $1.2e-1$ .

<sup>b</sup> Transcription rate set equal for 5 Bcd bound and 6 Bcd bound.

<sup>c</sup> pThb\_ are the lacZ constructs from [34].

<sup>d</sup> Relative expression values from *in vitro* [32].

<sup>e</sup> Production for 2 Bcd bound was interpolated,  $k_{13}=4.4e-2$ .

<sup>f</sup> For the pThb15 (2 times 3B) and pThb16 (3 times 3B) constructs,  $k_{16}$  was raised to  $1.8e-1$ , to match the stated “Strong” expression.