

Table S2 – Bcd binding strengths

Model <i>Experiment</i>	1A^a <i>pThb3</i>	3A <i>pThb10</i>	3X <i>pThb12</i>	4A <i>pThb11</i>	4X <i>pThb13</i>	3A3X^b <i>hb^{14F}</i>	2x(3X)^c <i>pThb15</i>	3x(3X)^d <i>pThb16</i>
Position of boundary (%EL)	35	35	21	42	23	42	28	30
Sharpness (degrees)	43	54	57	63	64	72	62	63
1st Bcd binding (k_{11} , M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	2.8e7	2.8e7	1.09e7	2.8e7	1.09e7	2.8e7	1.09e7	1.09e7
2nd Bcd (k_{14})		3.6e7	1.67e7	3.6e7	1.67e7	3.6e7	1.67e7	1.67e7
3rd Bcd (k_{17})		4.18e7	1.94e7	4.18e7	1.94e7	4.18e7	3e8	4e8
4th Bcd (k_{20})				4.25e8	1.4e8	1.4e8		
5th Bcd (k_{23})						1.4e8		
6th Bcd (k_{26})						1.4e8		

These values are relative to unbinding rates (k_{12} , k_{15} , k_{18} , k_{21} , k_{24} , k_{27}) of 1/s. The model Bcd gradient was determined by $k_8=3.5\text{e-}3$ and $k_9=2\text{e-}3$, set to match the experimentally measured shape [3], and by a Bcd diffusivity $D_{\text{Bcd}}=20\mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ (embryo-scale value measured in [57]).

^a A strong site, X weak site (see Figure 2A).

^b The core Bcd sites of the proximal promoter, no Hb self-binding.

^c 2 copies of the 3X sequence; the 3rd site of the 3X segment was strengthened to match experimental position.

^d 3 copies of the 3X sequence; the 3rd site of the 3X segment was strengthened to match experimental position.