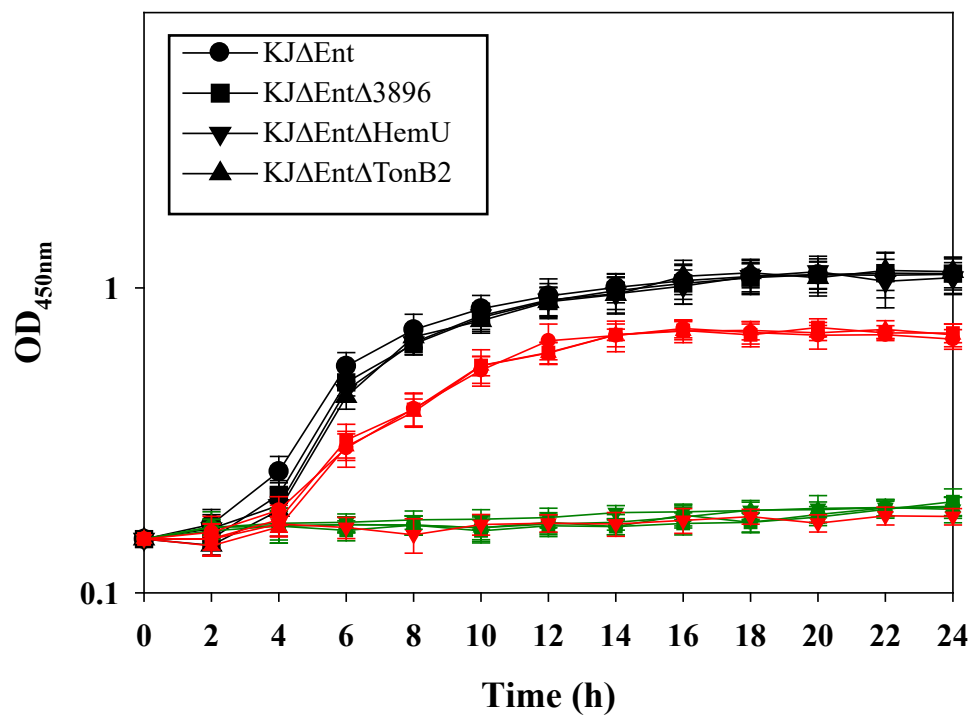
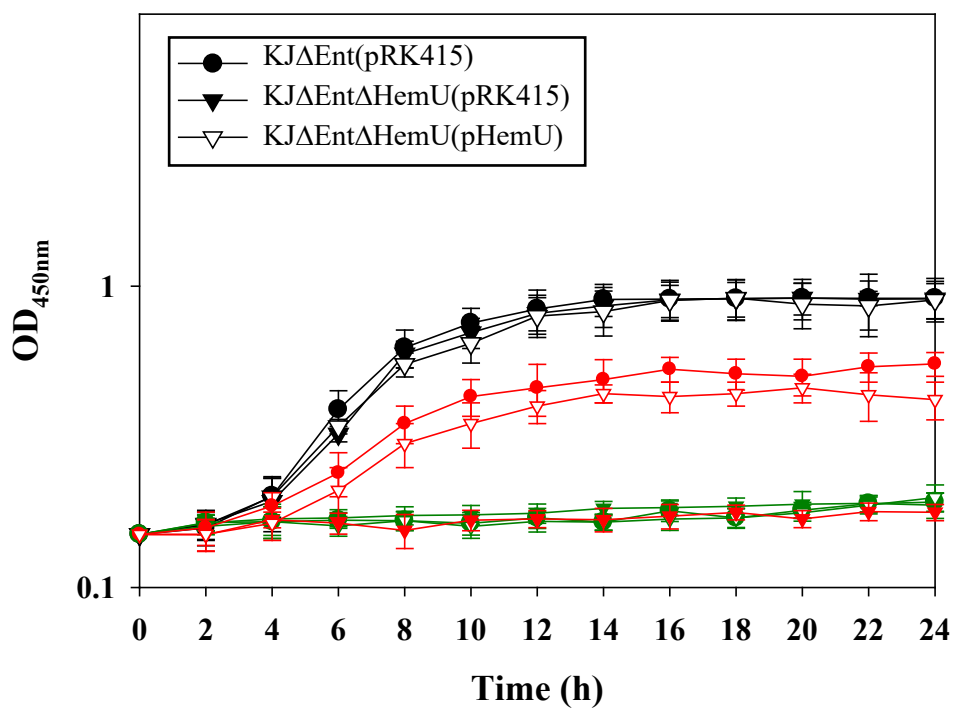


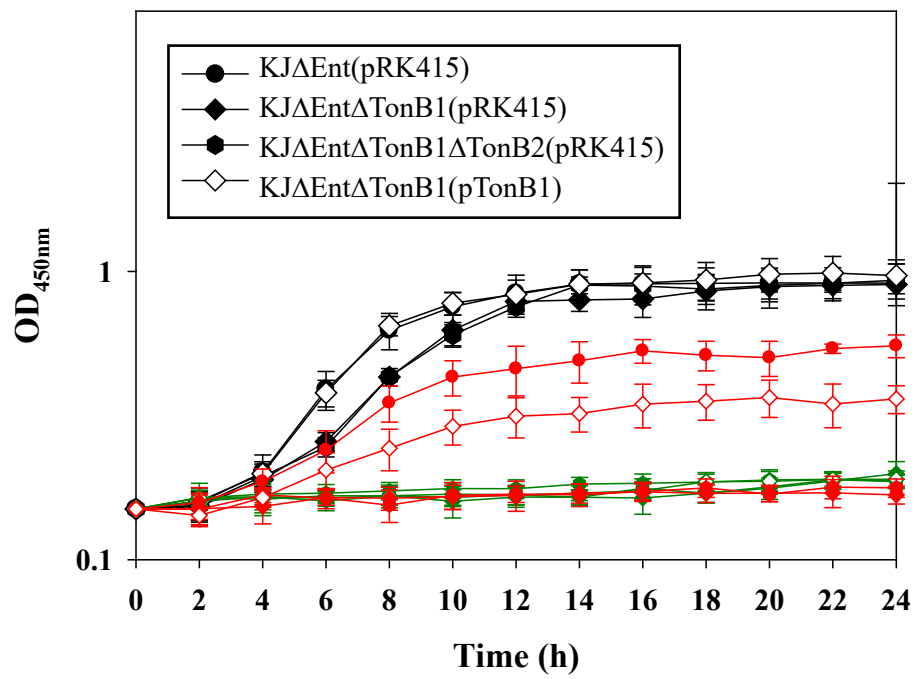
(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

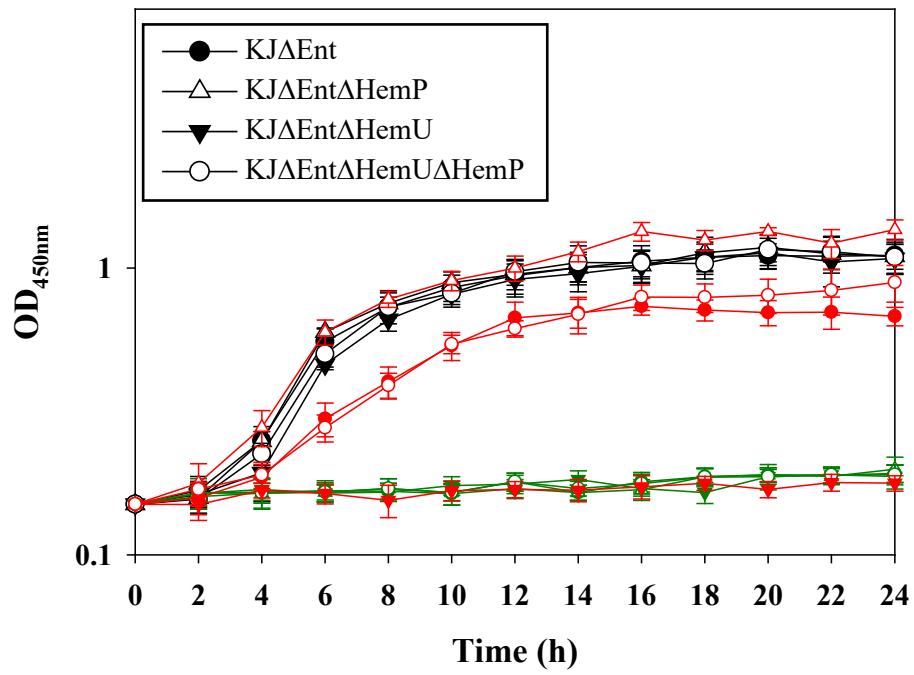


Fig. S1. Growth curve of parental strain KJΔEnt, its derived mutants, and complementation strains under iron-replete (LA), iron-depleted (LA + DIP), and iron-depleted with hemin as sole iron source (LA + DIP + hemin). An overnight bacterial culture was inoculated to the LB broth as indicated at an initial OD_{450 nm} of 0.15. Bacterial growth was monitored by recording the OD_{450 nm} for 24 h at intervals of 2 h. For complementation test, the complemented gene was cloned in plasmid pRK415. Black, green, and red symbols and lines indicate LB, LB plus DIP, and LB plus DIP and hemin, respectively. DIP, 50 µg/mL; hemin, 150 µM. (A) Role of *smlt3896-hemU-exbB2-exbD2-tonB2* operon in hemin utilization. (B) Role of *hemU* in hemin utilization. (C) Role of *tonB1* and *tonB2* in hemin utilization. (D) Role of *hemP* and *hemU* in hemin utilization.