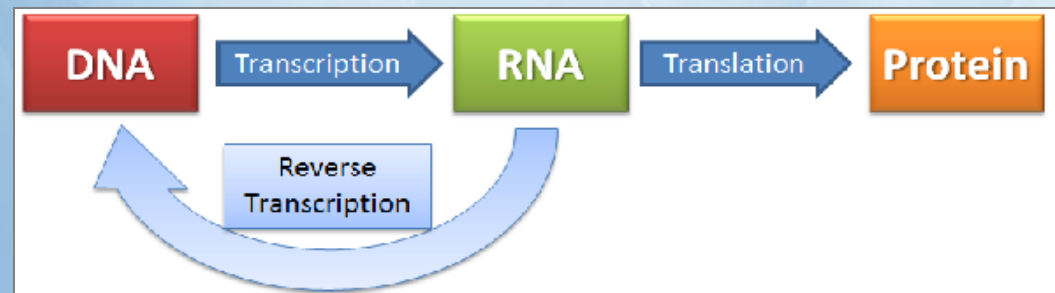
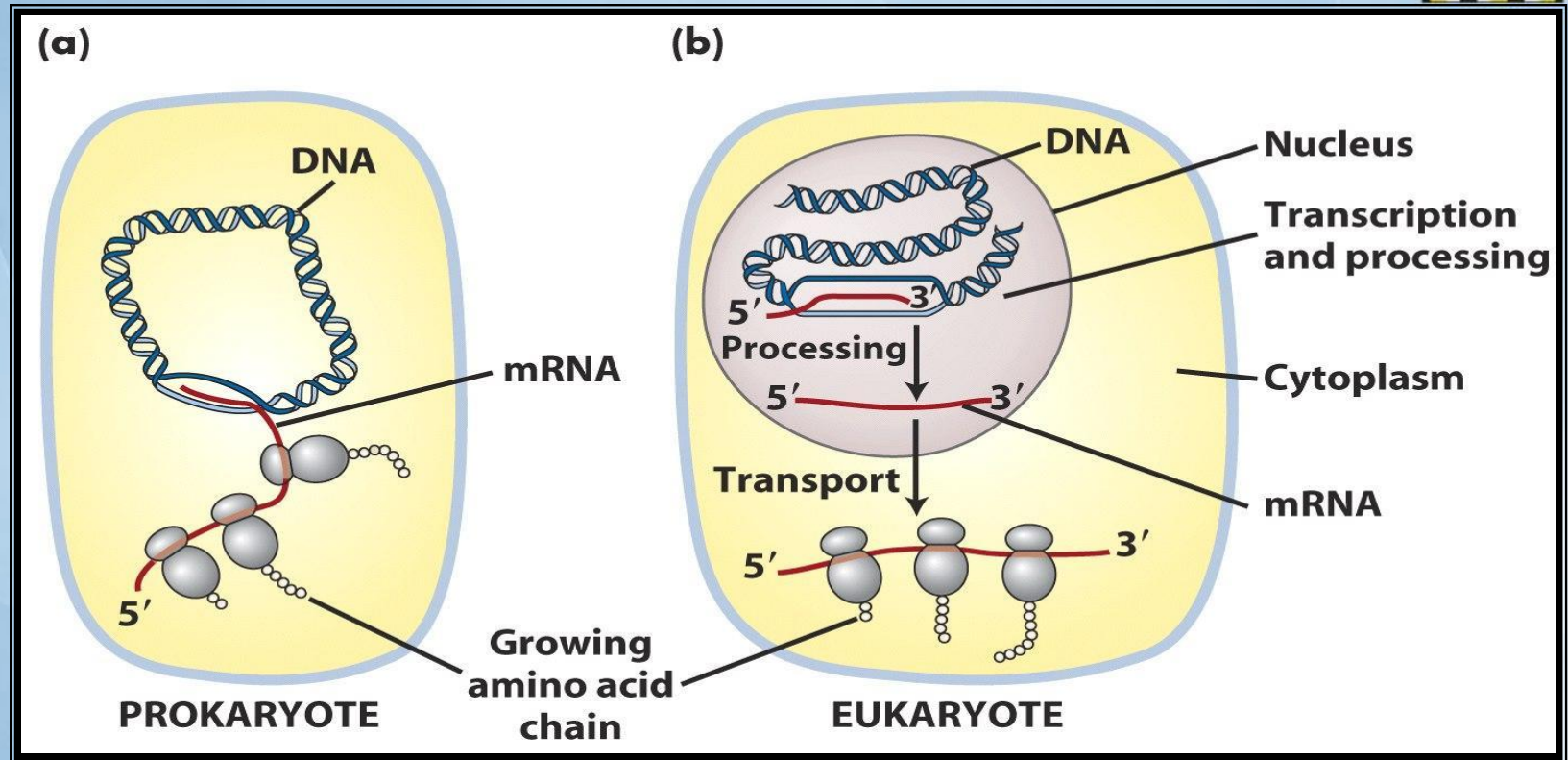


Quantification of Protein

Ameer Effat M Elfarash

Dept. of Genetics
Fac. of Agriculture, Assiut Univ.

aelfarash@aun.edu.eg



Proteins

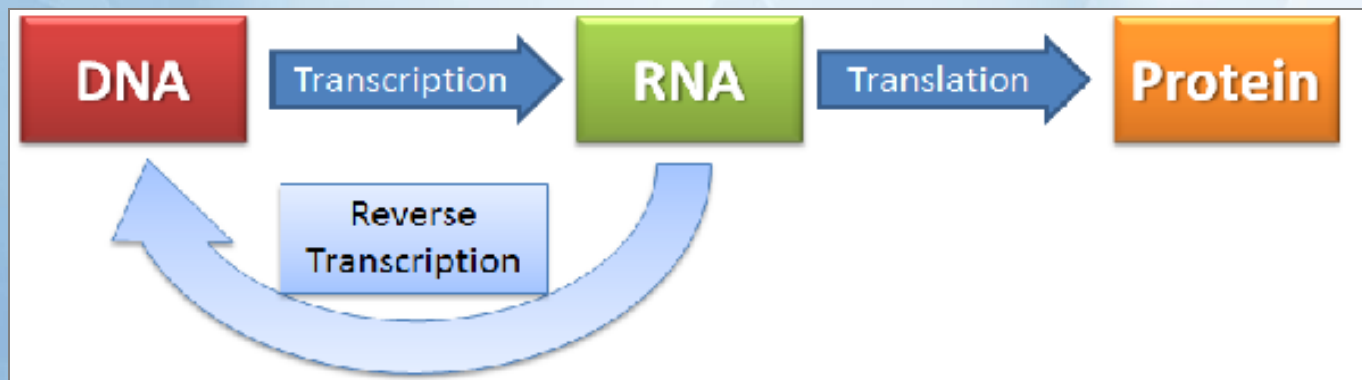
- Make up about 15% of the cell
- Have many functions in the cell
 - Enzymes
 - Structural
 - Transport
 - Motor
 - Storage
 - Signaling
 - Receptors
 - Gene regulation
 - Special functions

Expression analysis

Protein

mRNA

Real-Time PCR
Microarray

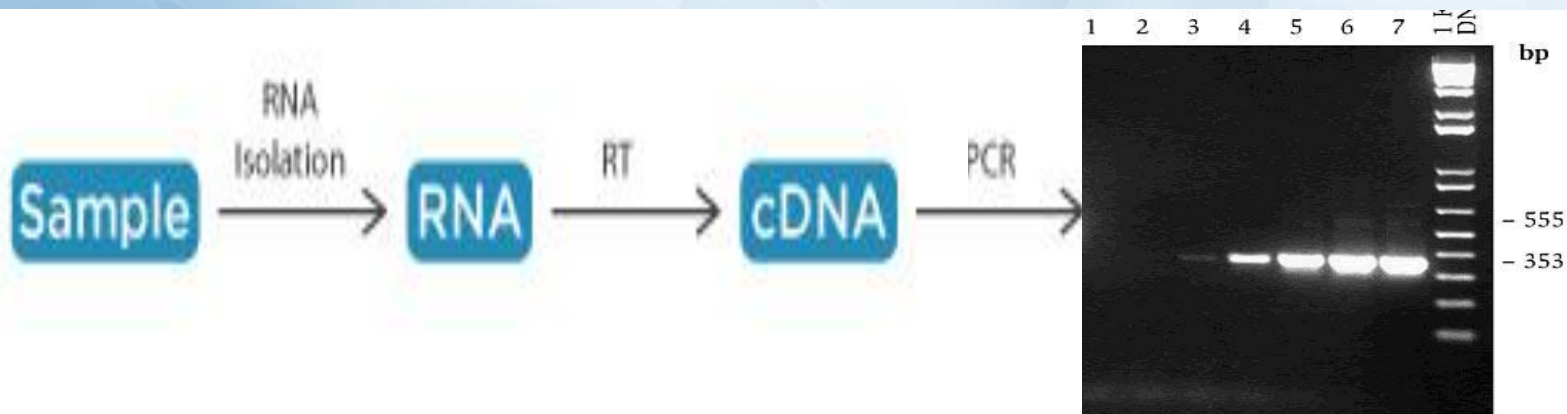
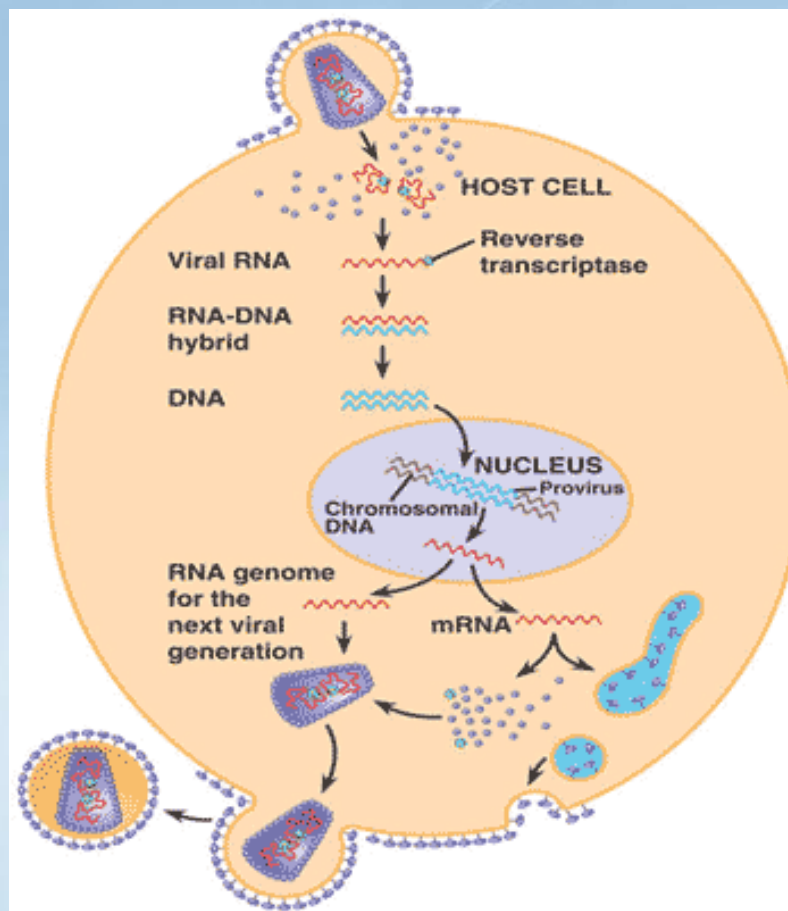


Why RT-PCR?

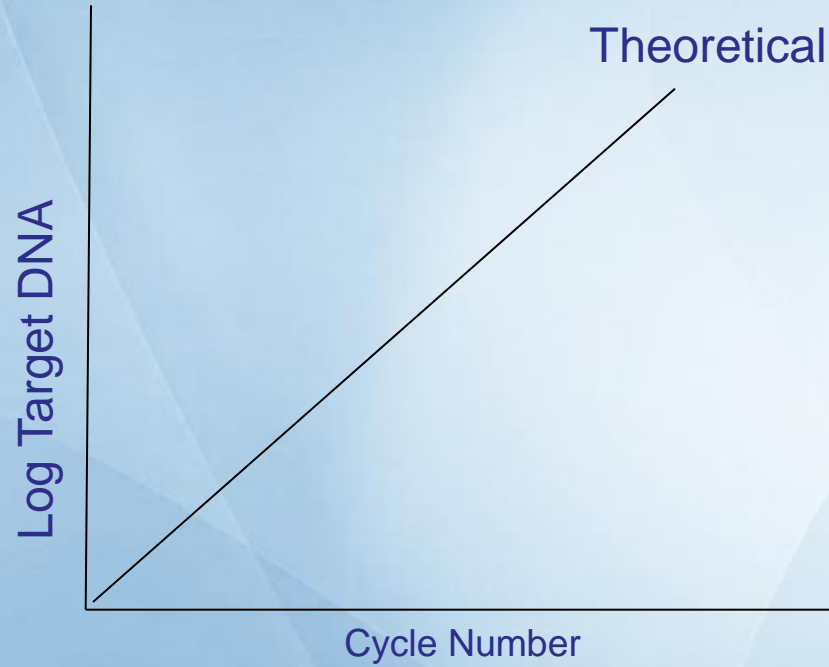


- **Gene expression analysis**
 - Cancer research
 - Drug research
- **Disease diagnosis and management**
 - Viral quantification
- **Food testing**
 - Percent *GMO* food
- **Animal and plant breeding**
 - Gene copy number

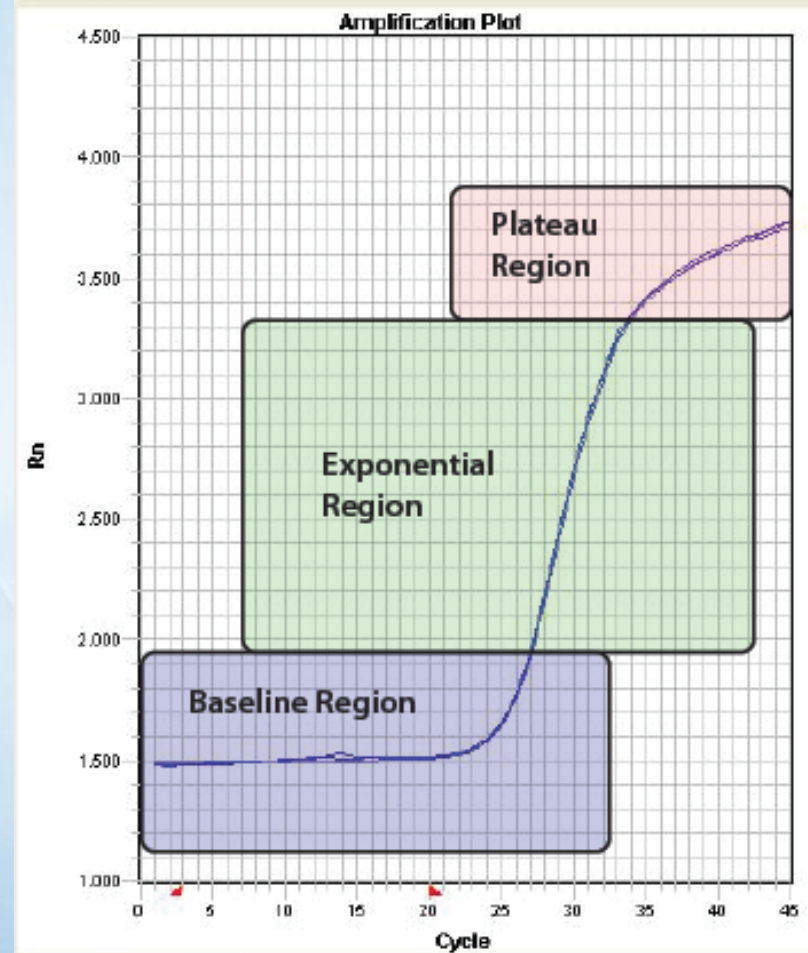
qRT-PCR is used to qualitatively detect gene expression



How does PCR work?



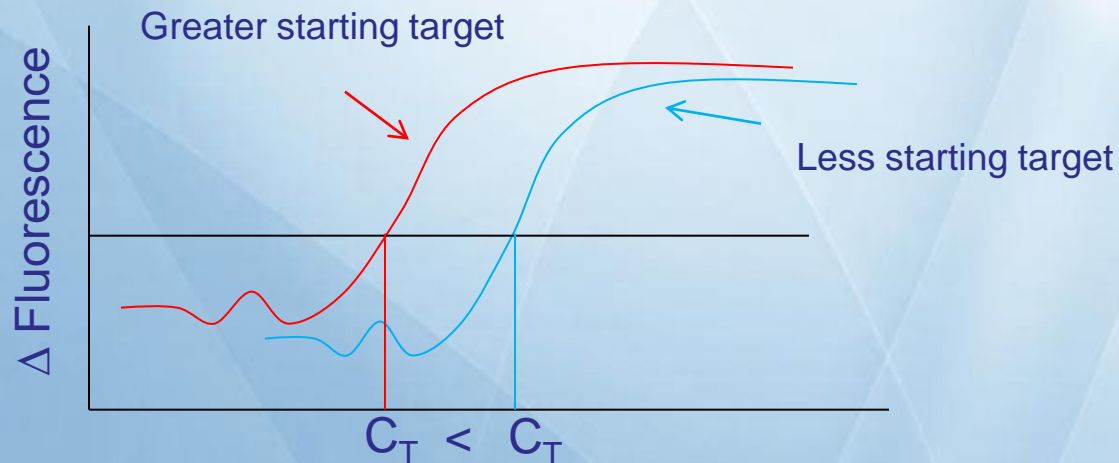
Amplification Plot



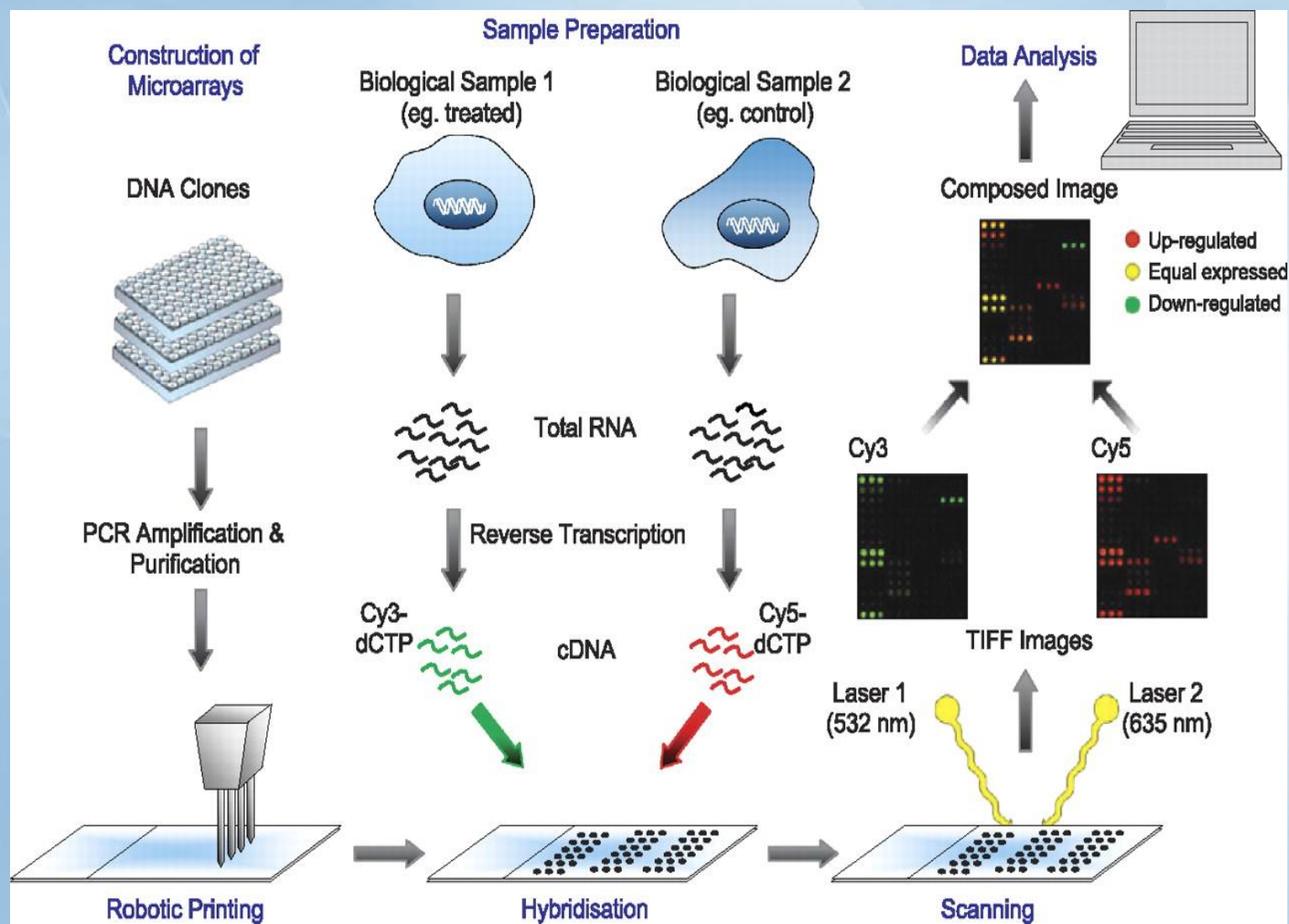
Real-Time PCR



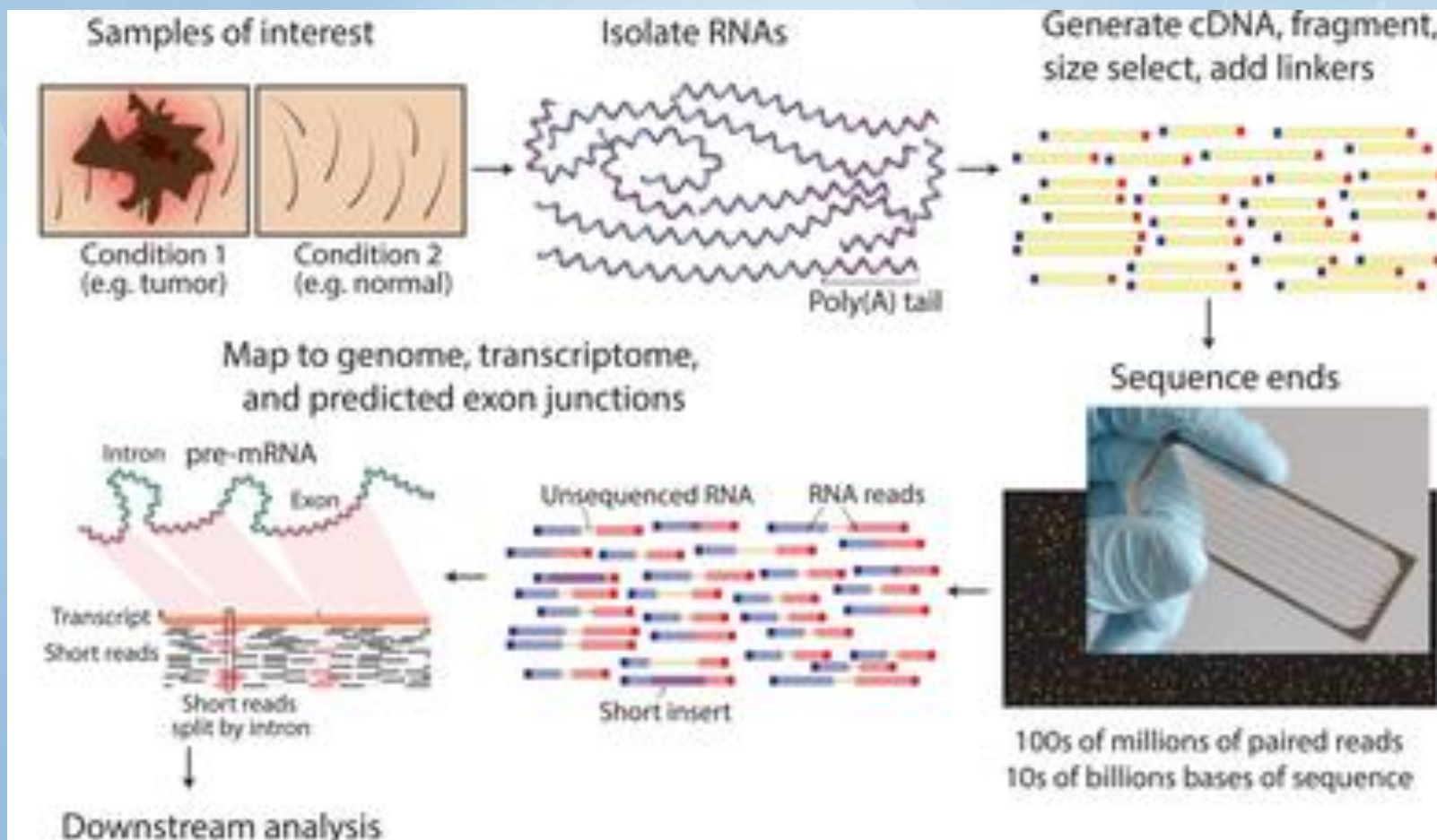
- ▶ Real-Time PCR a specialized technique that allows a PCR reaction to be visualized “in real time” as the reaction progresses.
- ▶ Quantitative PCR relies on the principal that the quantity of target at the start of the reaction is proportional to amount of product produced during the exponential phase



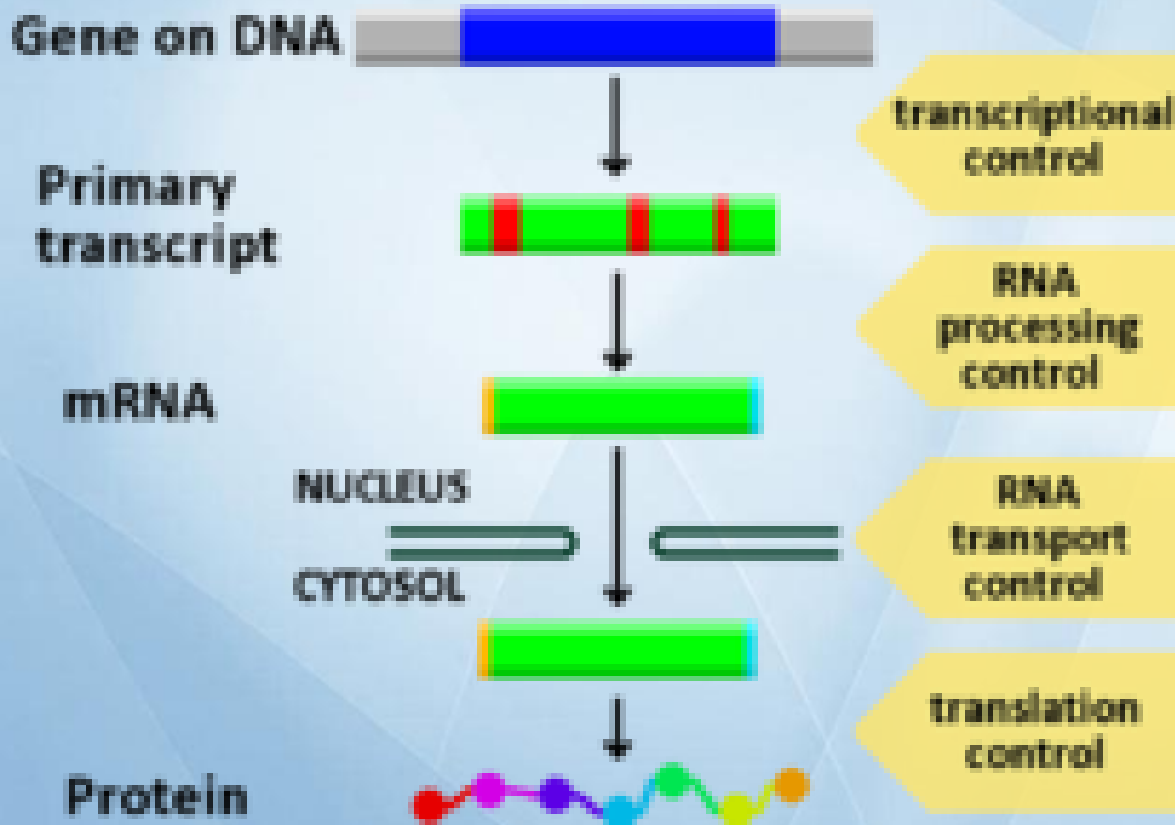
Microarray



RNA sequencing

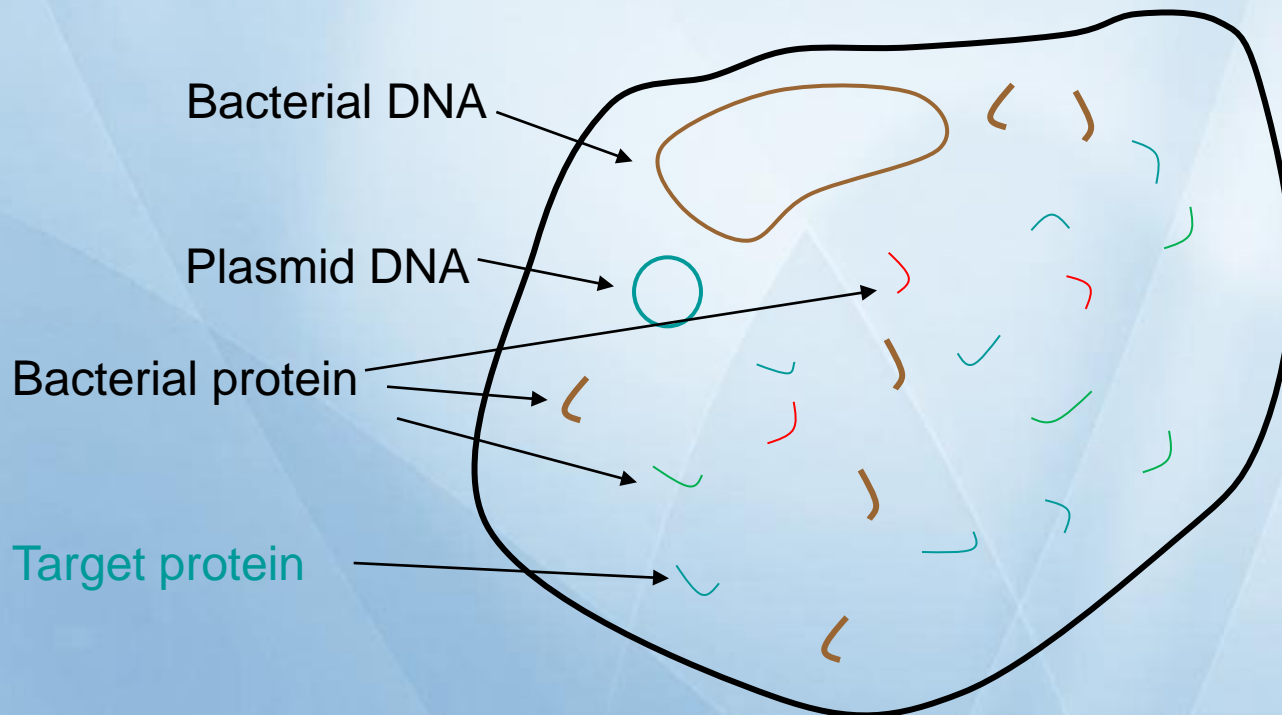


Expression analysis



Protein Quantification

- Most of proteins are colorless
- In most cases, a mixture of several proteins or many proteins



Quantification of Protein

UV absorption

Colorimetric methods

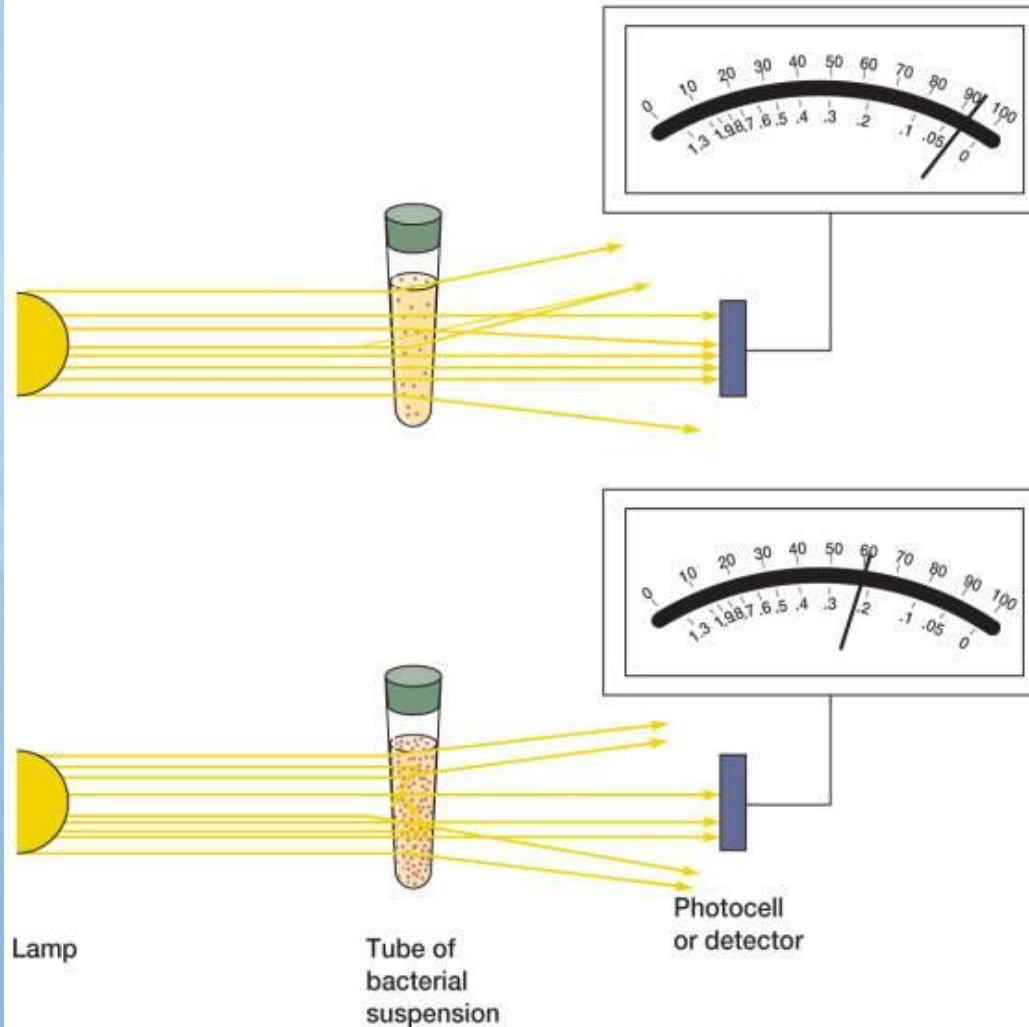
- Biuret
- Lowry
- Bradford

Other Methods

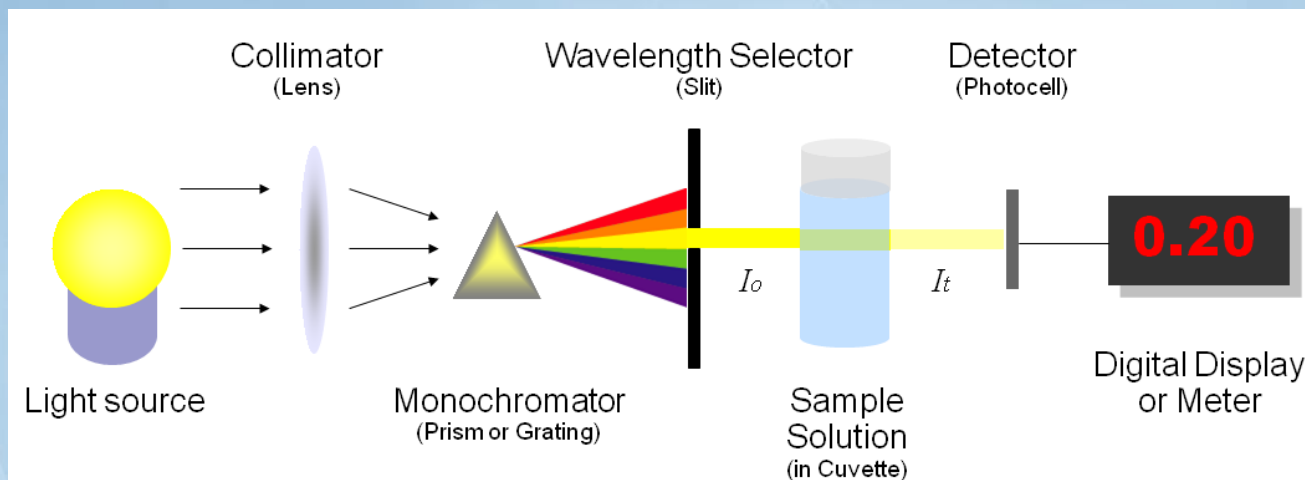
Absorbance

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Spectrophotometer meter



UV Absorption Method



- The amino acids tryptophan, tyrosine and phenylalanine absorb light in the **UV wavelength (280 nm)**
- Since the absorption is proportional to concentration, this is a useful way to quantitate protein concentration (for proteins containing Trp)

Advantages:

1. Rapid
2. Non interference from ammonium sulfate.
3. Non destructive.

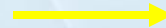
Disadvantages

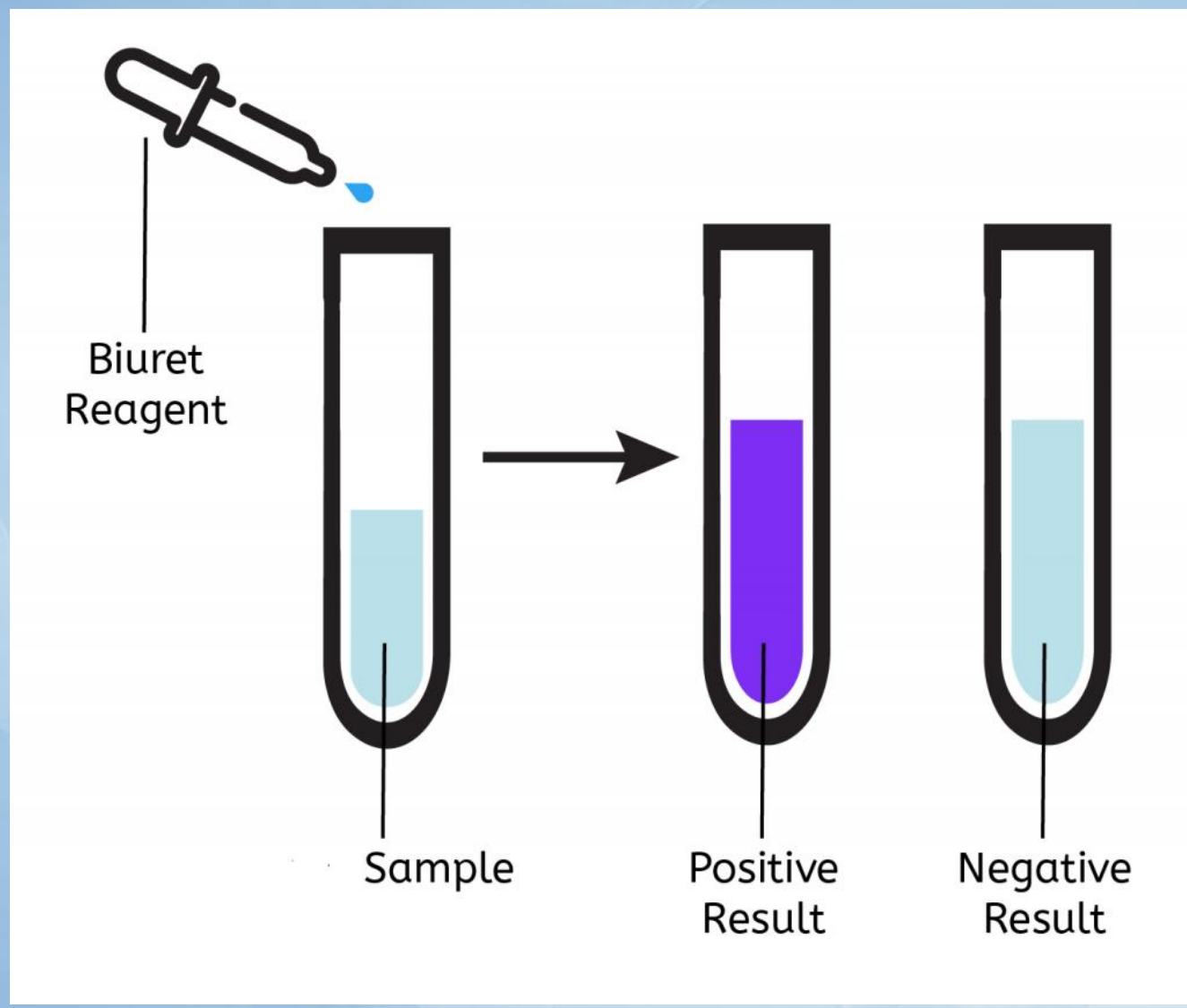
- If some proteins do not contain these amino acids, it will not absorb UV light.
- Turbidity (cloudiness in solution) is a problem.
- Nucleic acids (DNA, RNA) contaminant and phenolic acids will also absorb UV light.

Colorimetric Methods



- we can modify the protein sample with appropriate reagents so as to produce a color reaction and measure protein concentration using a spectrophotometer.





Advantages of Colorimetric Methods

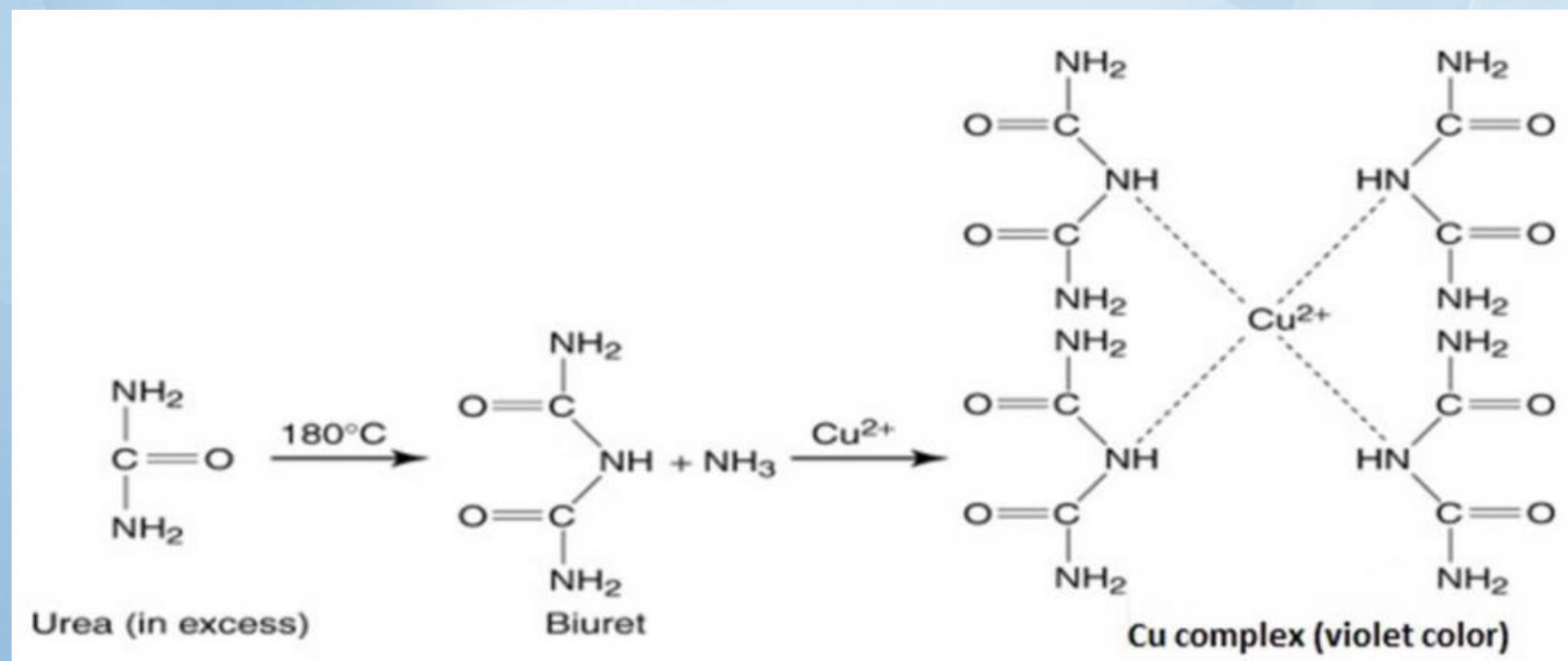
1. Cheap
2. Not contaminating absorbance from nucleic acids!

➤ Biuret

➤ Lowry

➤ Bradford

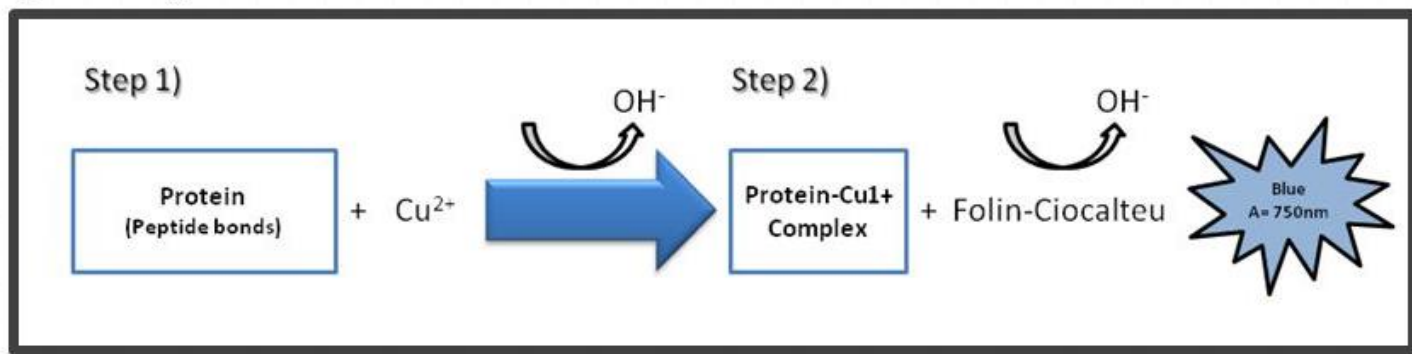
Biuret



Lowry

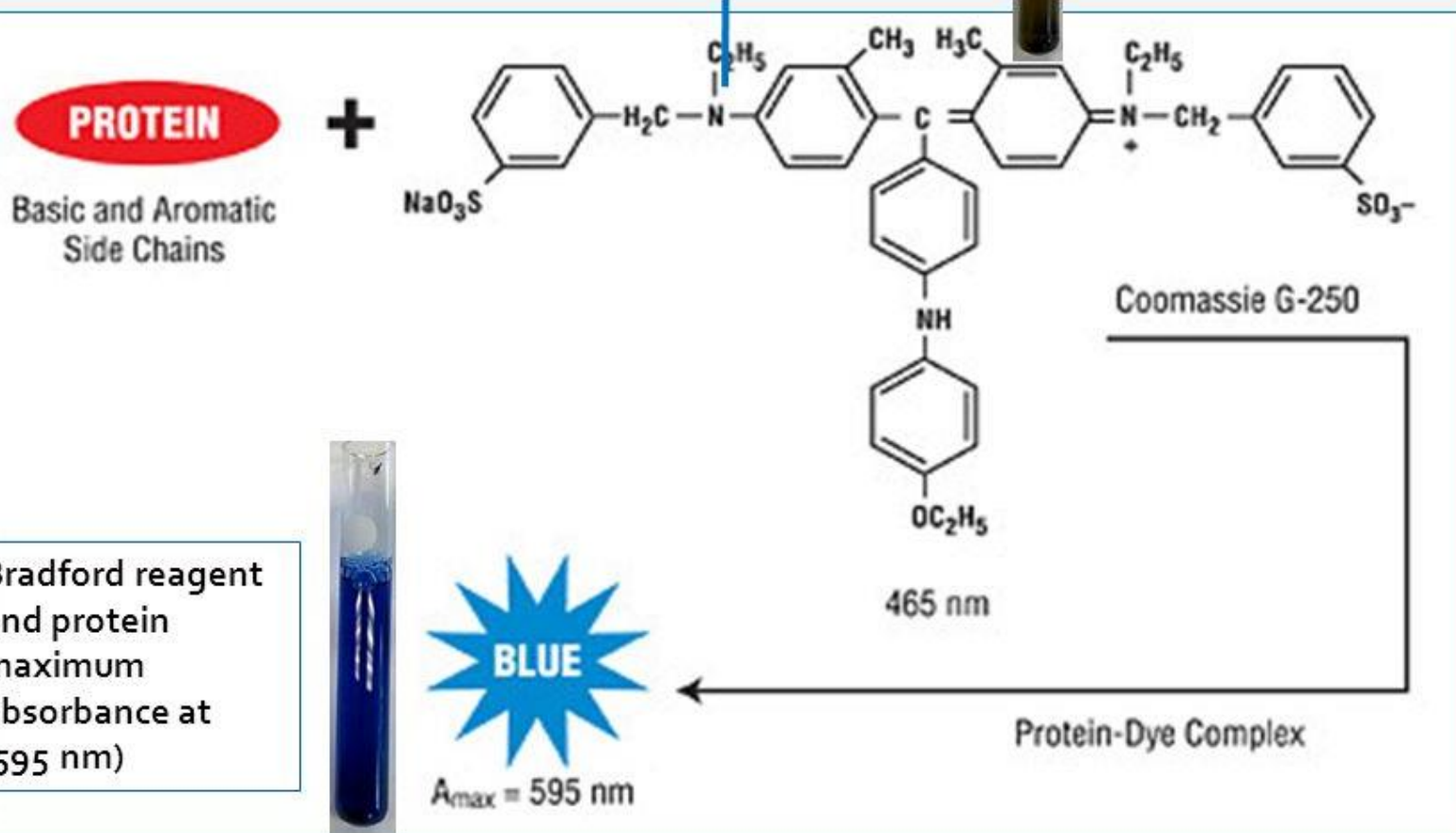
◦ **Is based on two chemical reactions:**

- **The first reaction** is the reduction of copper ions under alkaline conditions, which forms a complex with peptide bonds.
- **The second** is the reduction of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent by the copper-peptide bond complex, which subsequently causes a color change of the solution into blue with an absorption in the range of 650 to 750 nm detectable with a spectrophotometer.

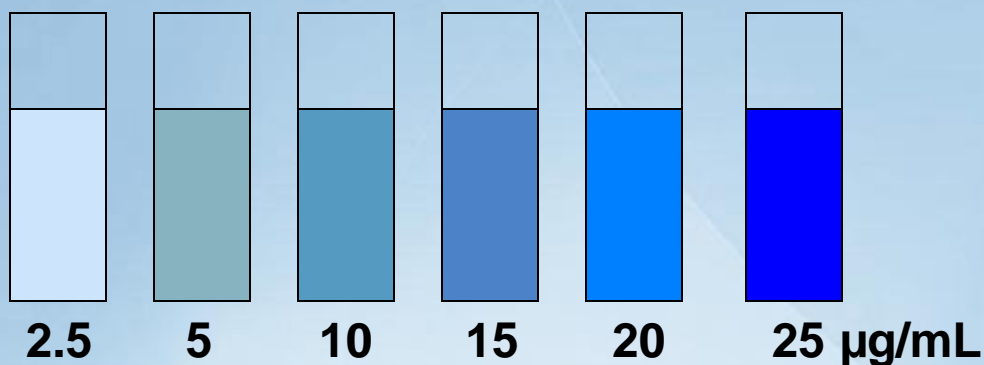


Bradford

Bradford reagent alone –maximum absorbance at (465 nm)

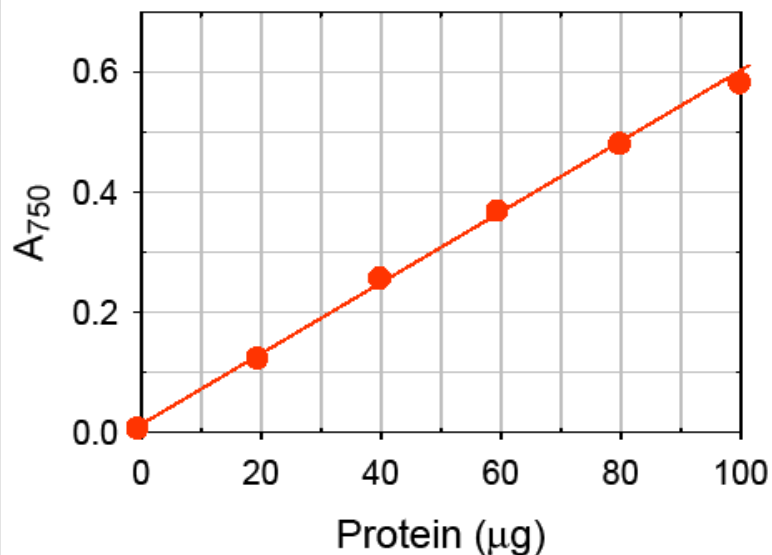


Bradford reagent and protein maximum absorbance at (595 nm)



Standard Curve

Lowry Assay Standard Curve
Protein amount vs. Absorbance

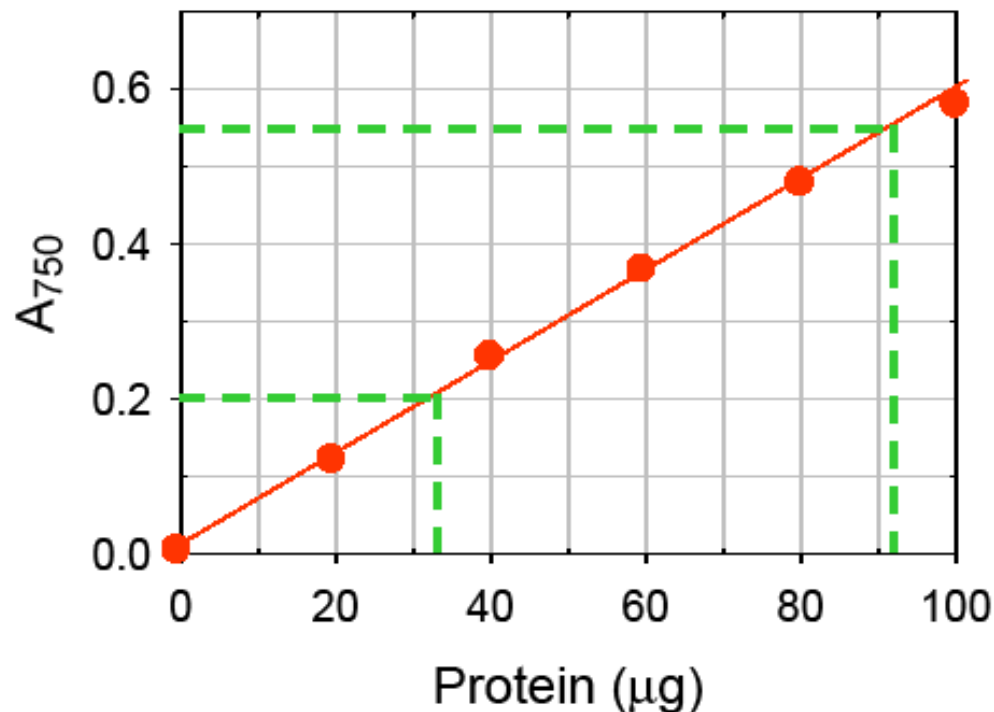


Protein standards:

Protein (μg)	A_{750}
0	0.000
20	0.120
40	0.254
60	0.372
80	0.480
100	0.601

Using Standard Curve

Lowry Assay Standard Curve
Protein amount vs. Absorbance



**Protein
unknowns:**

Protein (μg)	A ₇₅₀
33	0.200
92	0.550

Protein Quantification Methods

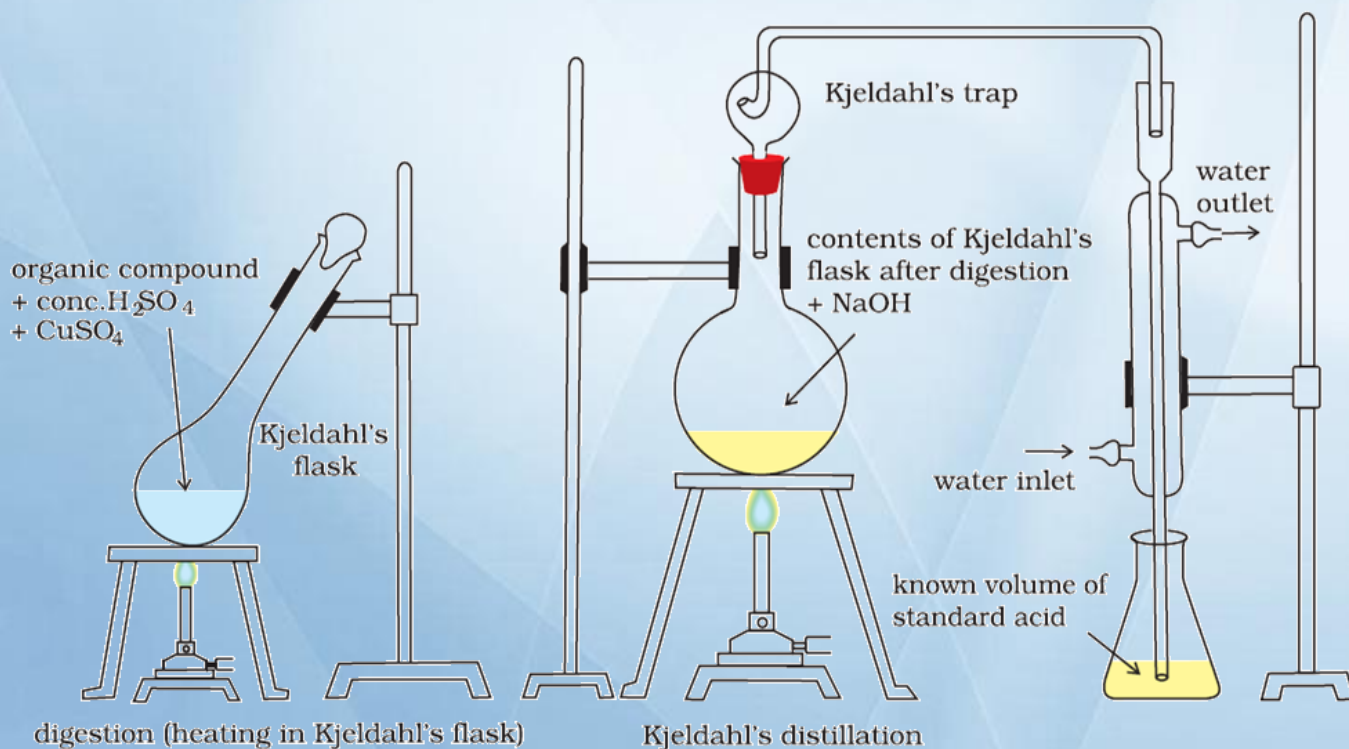
Assay method	Useful range	Comments
BCA method (Biuret)	0.5ug/ml to 1.5mg/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Samples must be read within 10 mins •Not compatible with reducing agents
Bradford assay (dye binding)	1ug/ml to 1.5 mg/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protein precipitates over time •High protein to protein signal variability •Not compatible with detergents
Lowry assay	1ug/ml to 1.5mg/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lengthy, multi-step procedure •Not compatible with detergents, carbohydrates or reducing agents
Absorbance at 280nm	50ng/ml to 2mg/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High protein to protein signal variability •Detection influenced by nucleic acids and other UV absorbing contaminants

Kjeldahl method

PRINCIPLE:

The method consists of three basic steps:

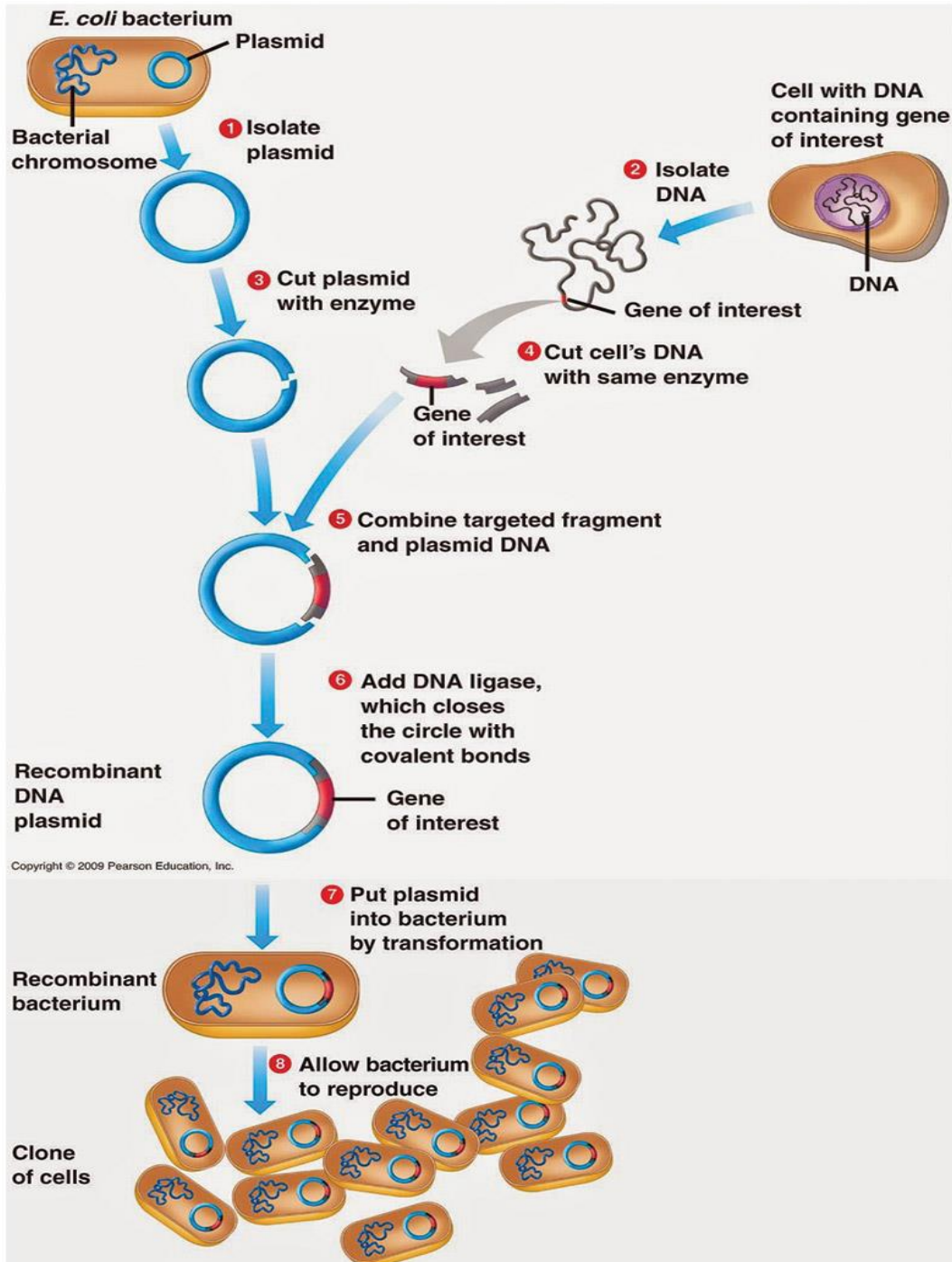
- 1) Digestion of the sample in sulfuric acid with a catalyst, which results in conversion of nitrogen to ammonia;
- 2) Distillation of the ammonia into a trapping solution; and
- 3) Quantification of the ammonia by titration with a standard solution



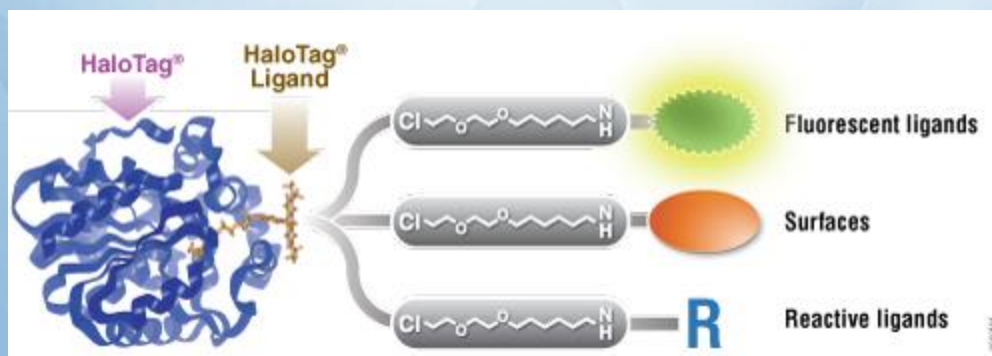
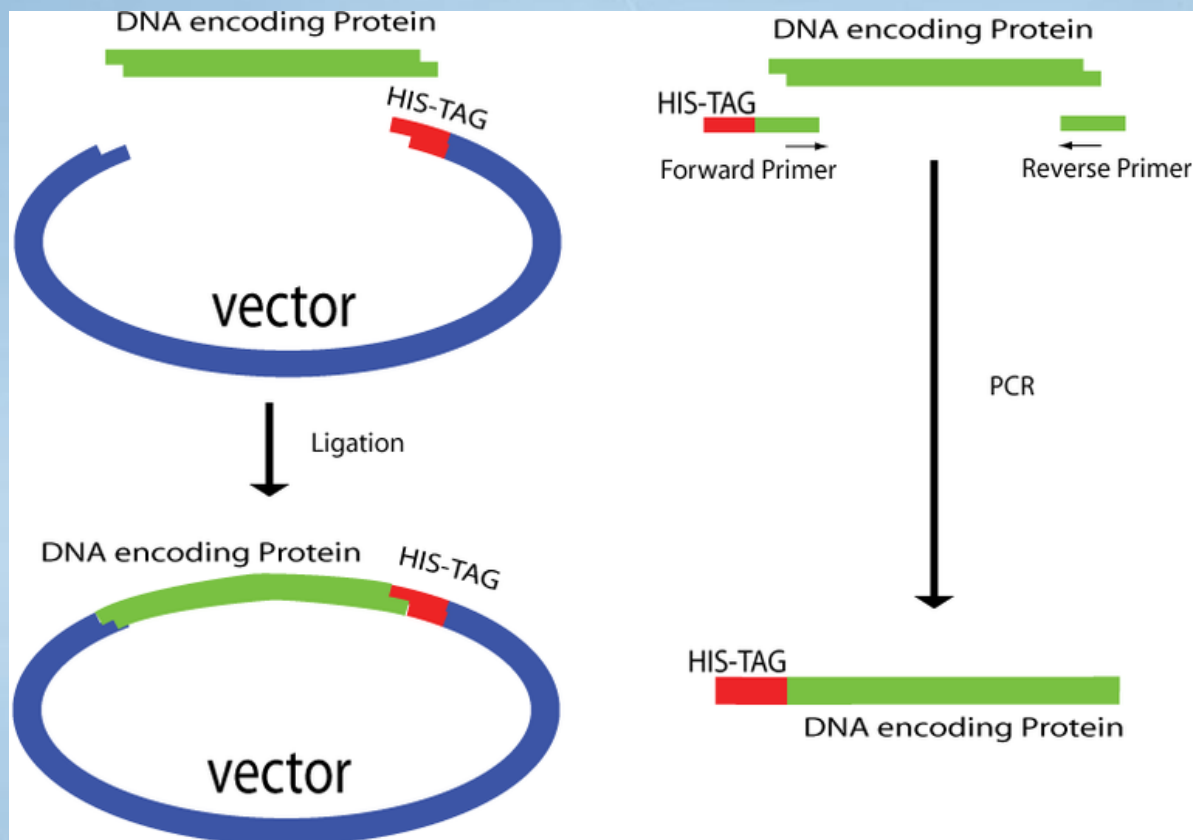
Why purify a protein?

- To study its function, Activity
- For industrial or therapeutic applications
- Study protein regulation and protein interactions
- Produce Antibodies
- Perform structural analysis by X-Ray and Crystallography

Gene cloning

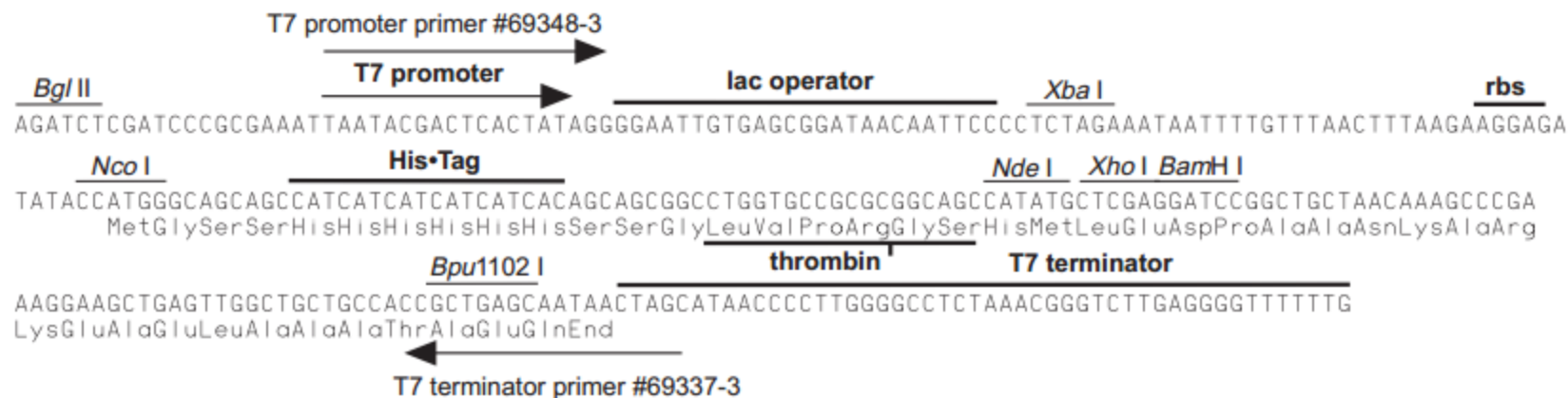
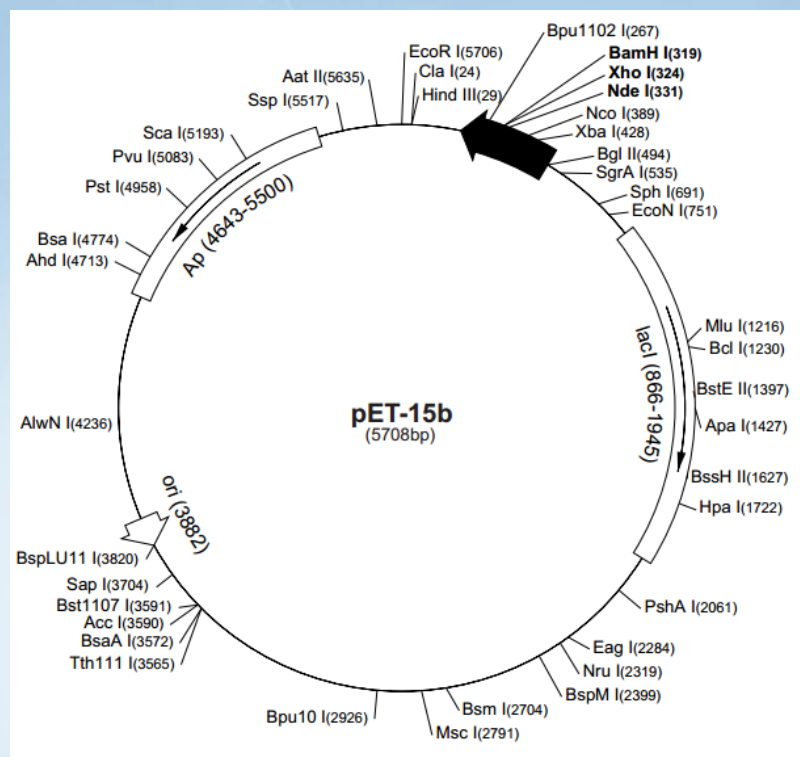
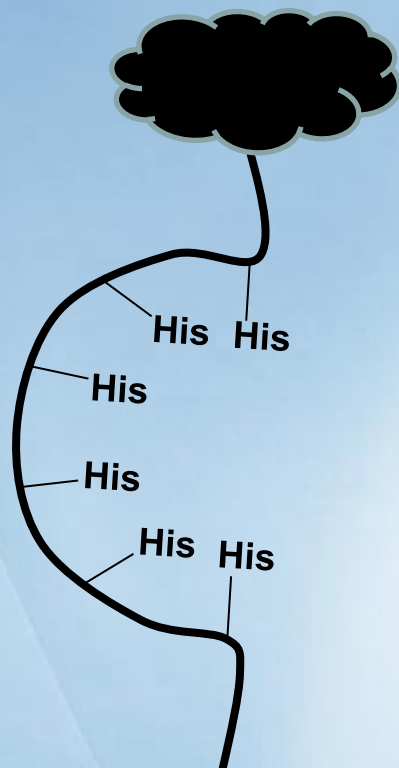


Protein tags

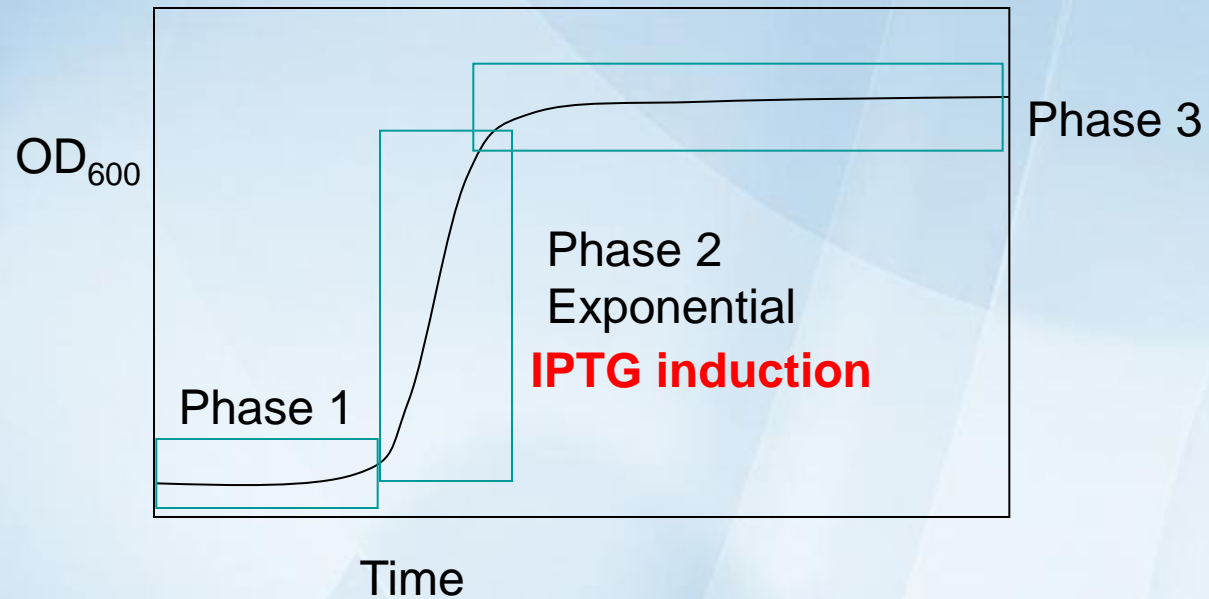
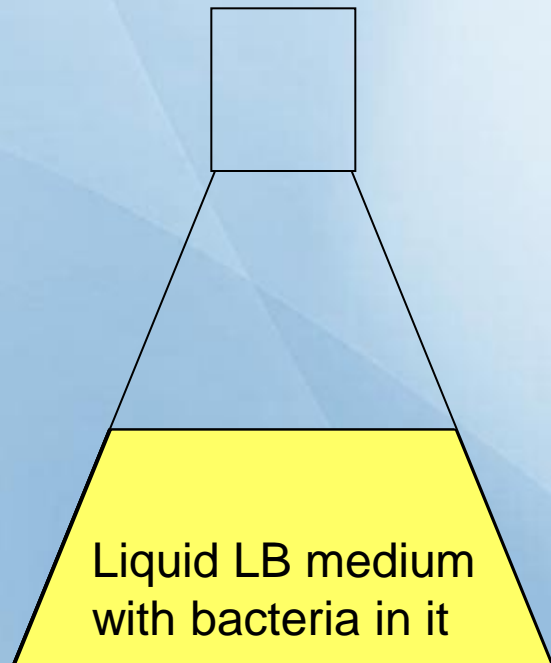


Examples of tags and ligands

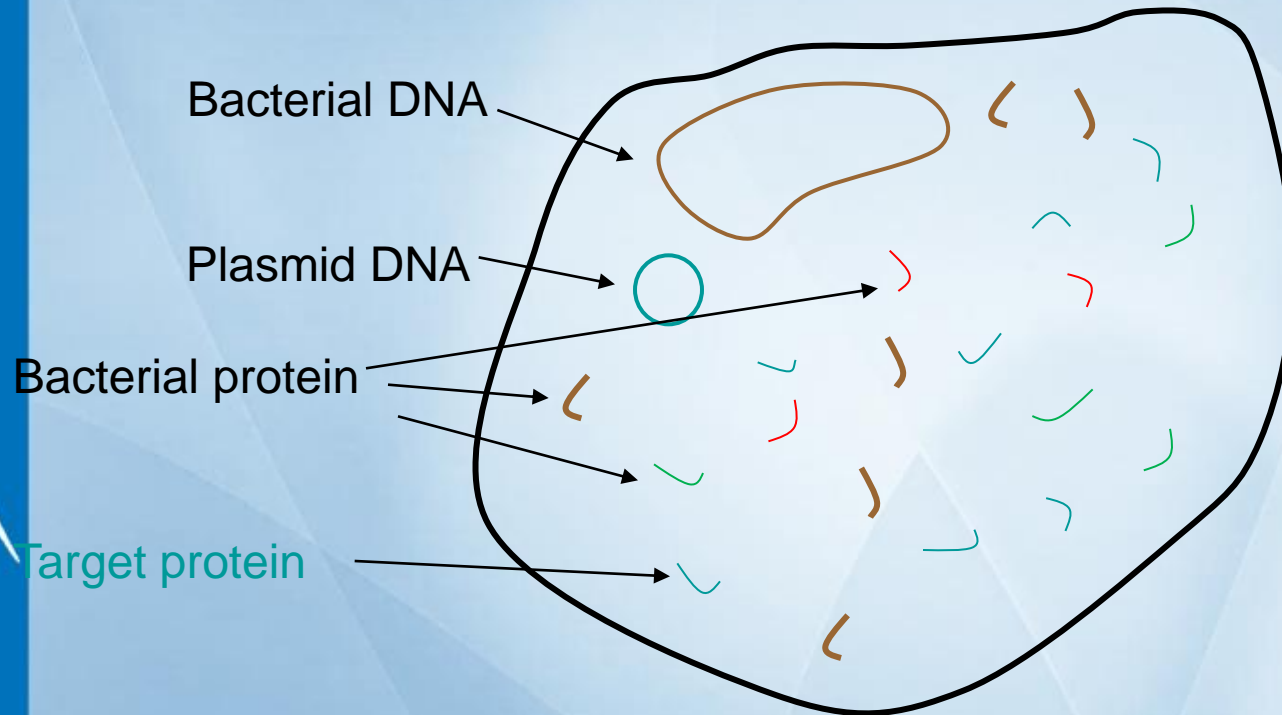
- His-tag
- FLAG™ peptide
- *Strep*-tag
- GST tag
- Maltose binding protein fusion
- Calmodulin binding protein fusion
- Transition metal ion
- Monoclonal antibody
- Biotin
- Glutathione
- Amylose
- Ca^{2+}



Protein Expression

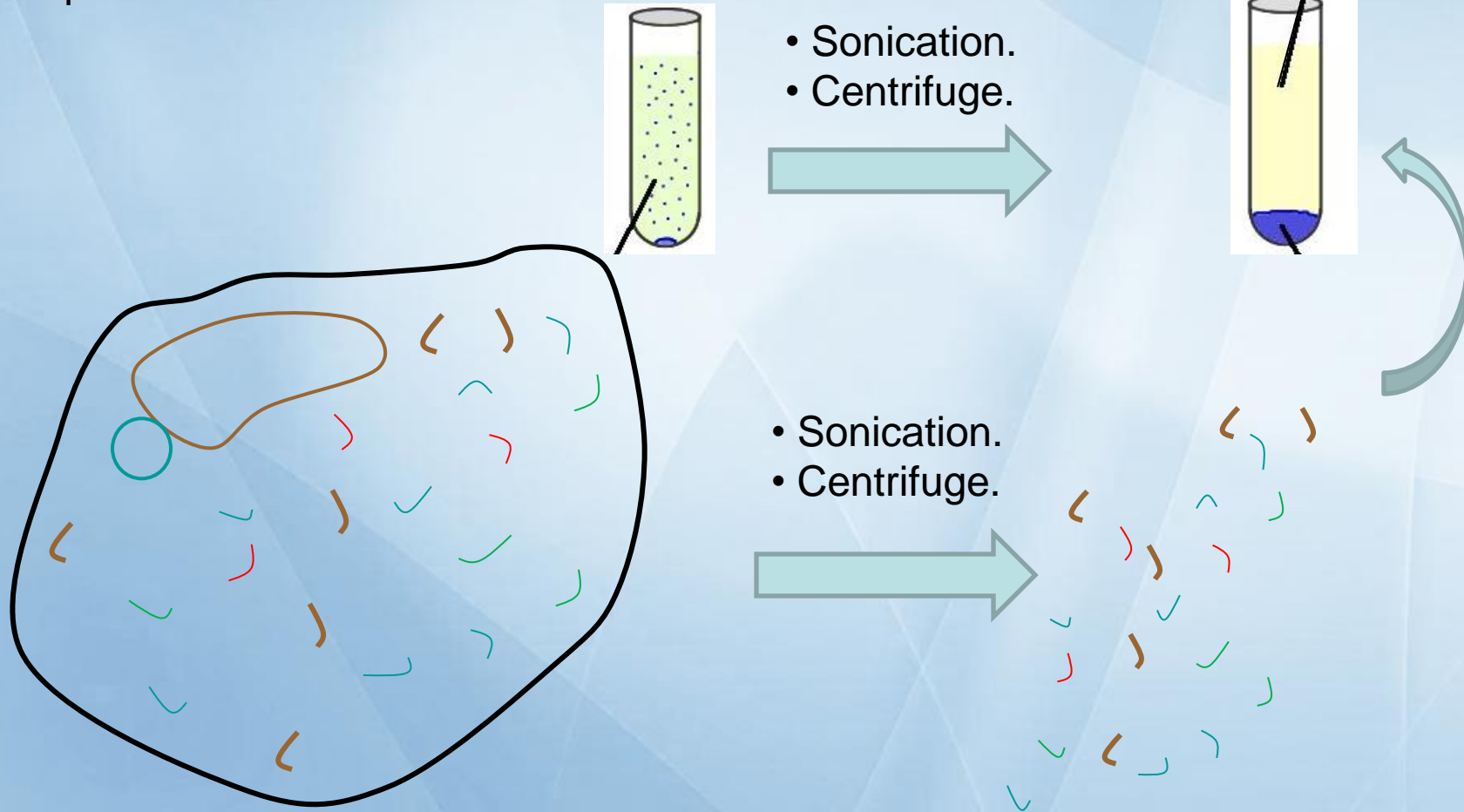


Bacterial Growth



Lysis

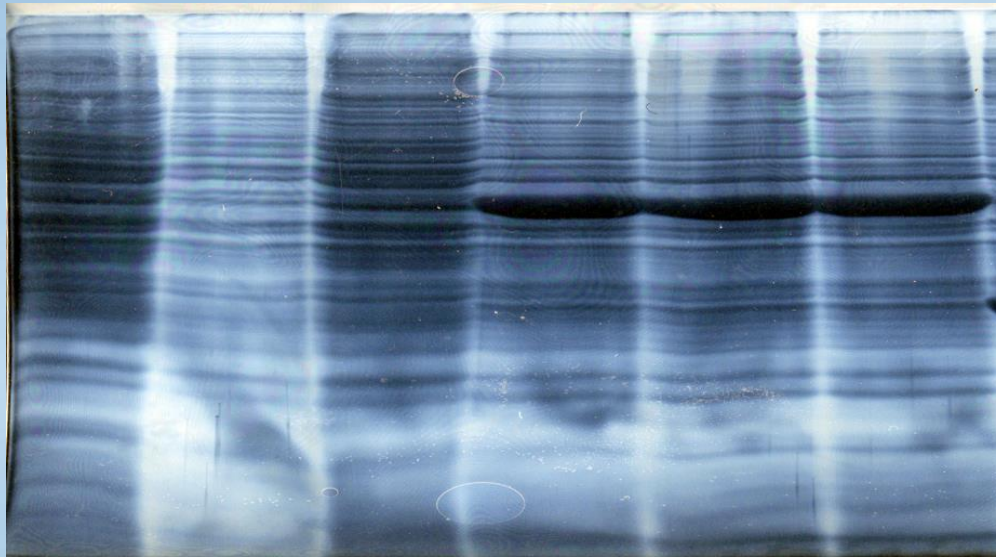
- Pellet is resuspended in the lysis buffer containing, and sonicated to further liberate the protein
- Spin down the denaturing lysis buffer, cell wall and debris will pellet at the bottom and our protein is in the soluble supernatant.



Expression of protein in *E. coli*

Uninduced

Induced Samples



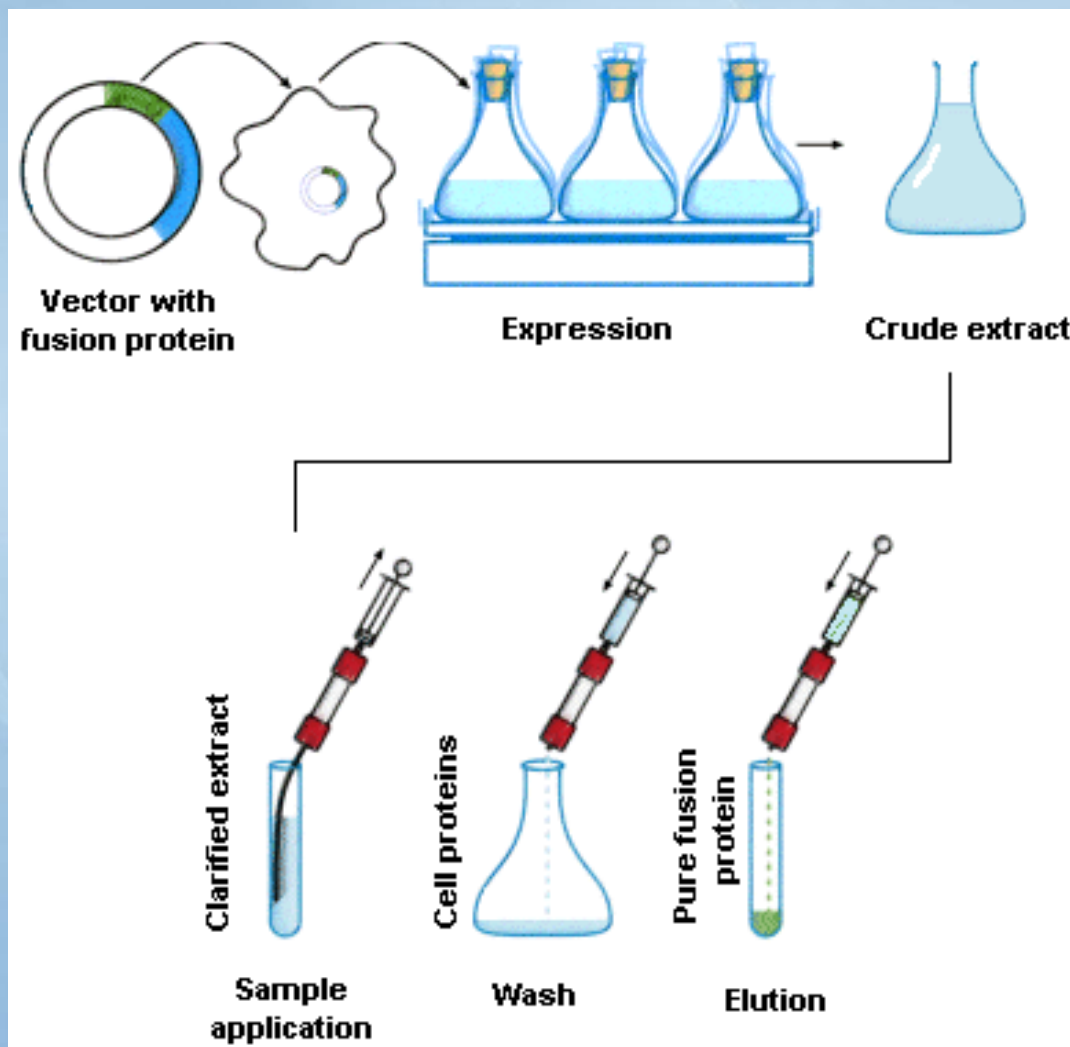
We want to work with pure proteins. How do we purify it from all the other *E. coli* proteins?

Affinity chromatography (AC)

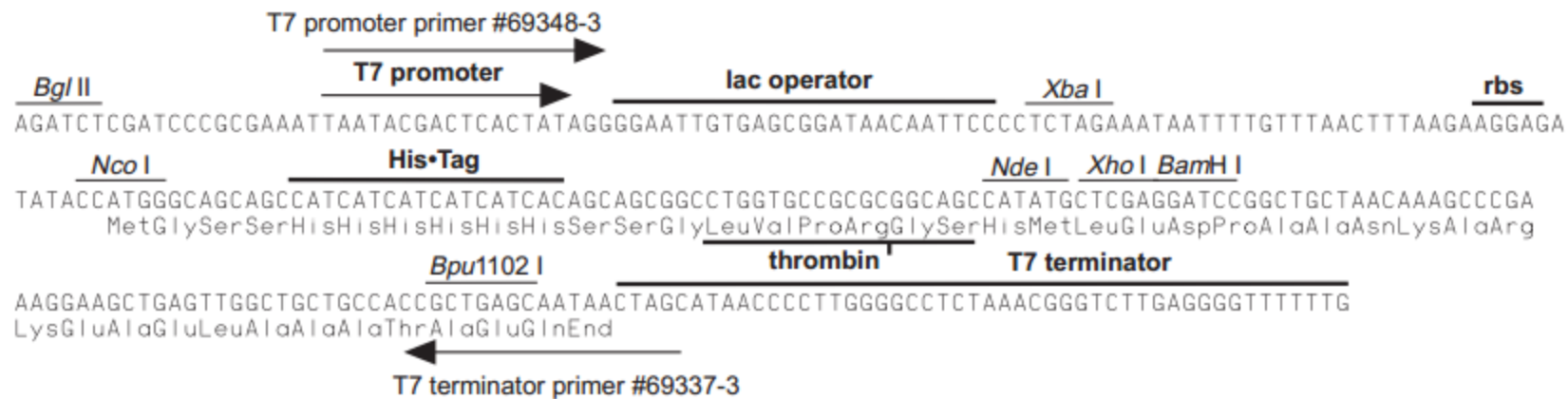
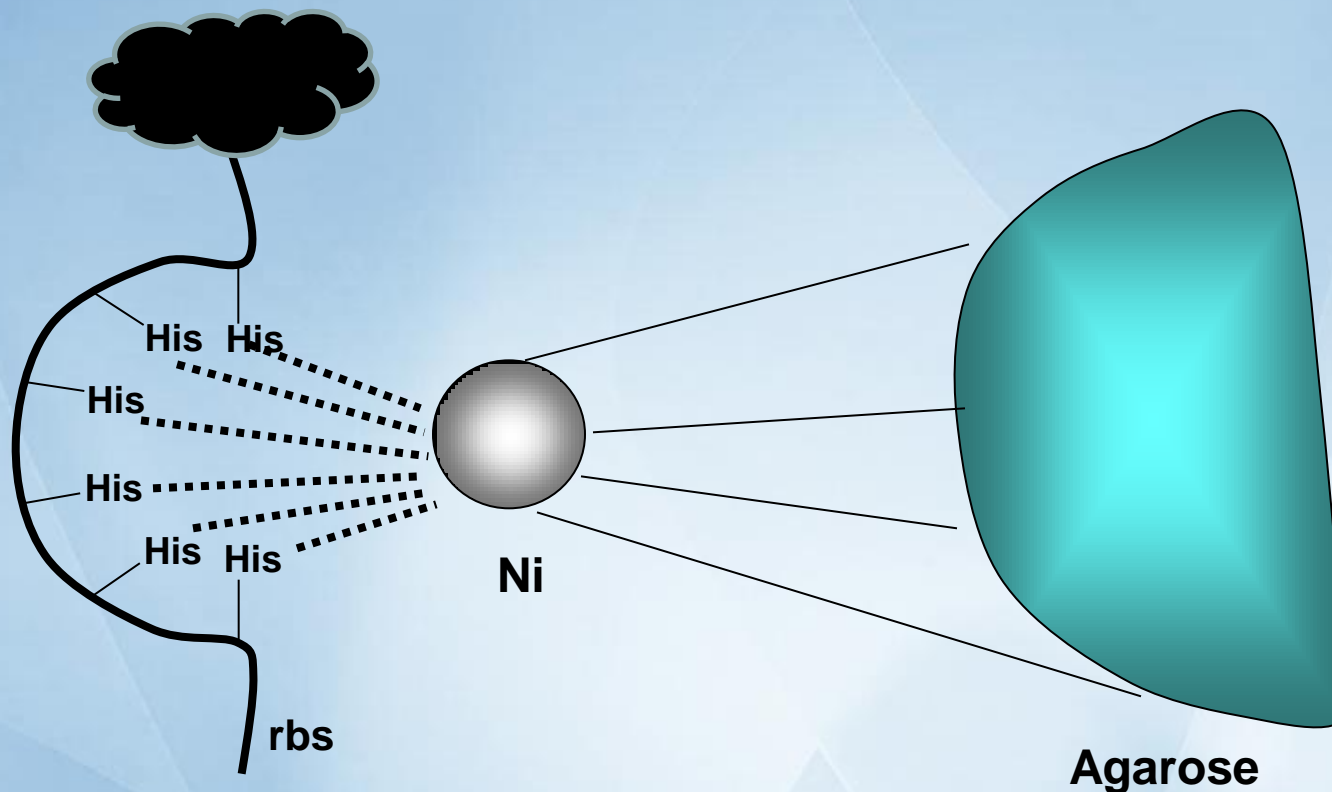
What is AC?

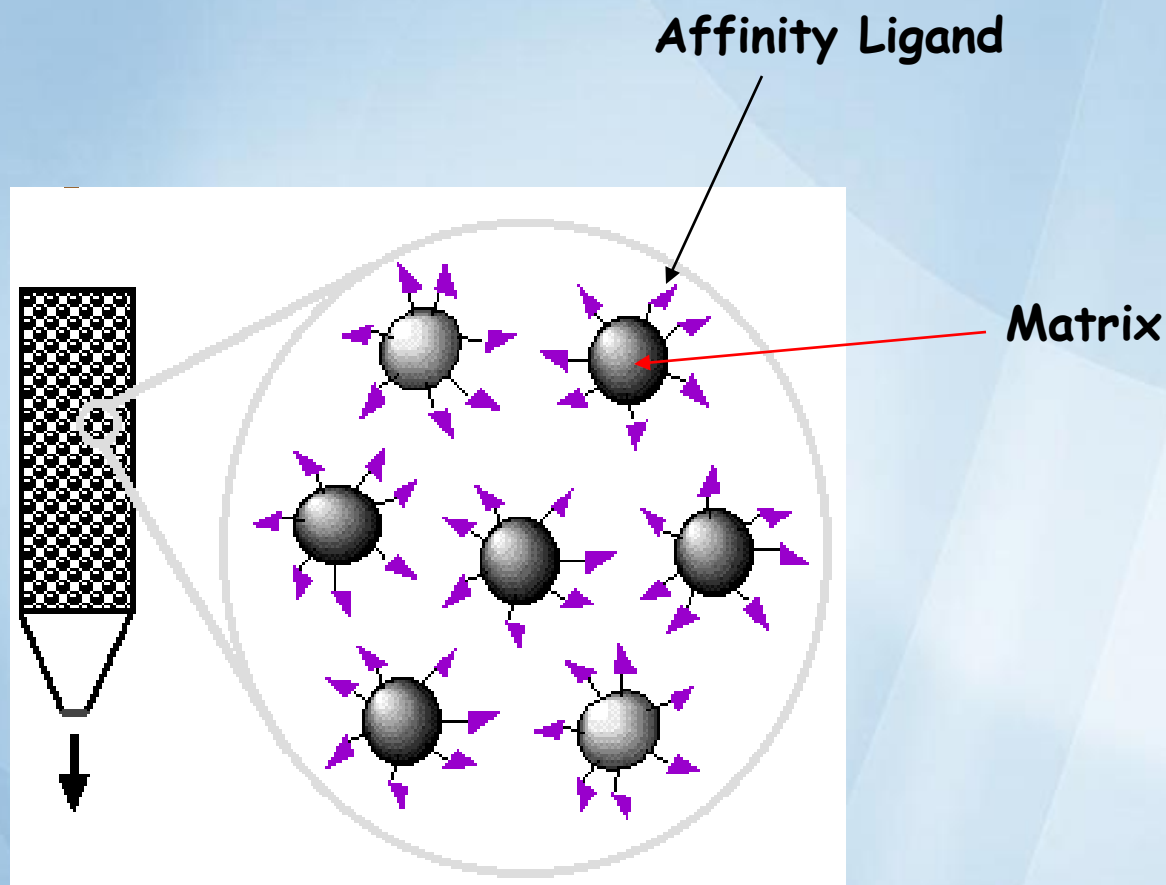
- **AC** is a technique enabling purification of a biomolecule with respect to biological function or individual chemical structure.
- AC is designed to purify a particular molecule from a mixed sample.

Affinity chromatography applied to recombinant proteins

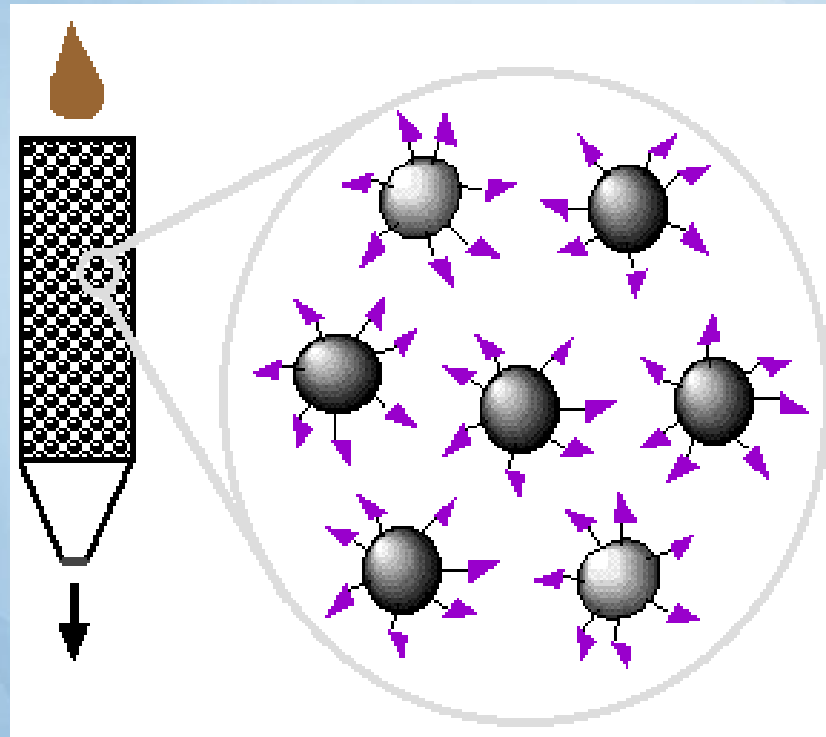


Affinity Chromatography

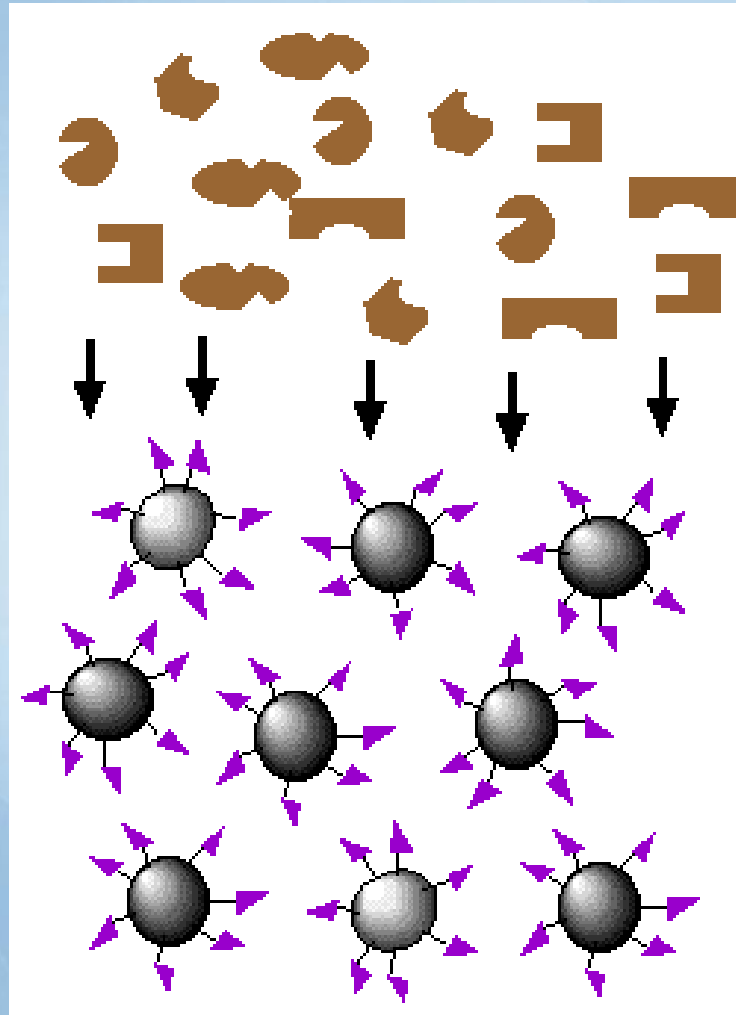




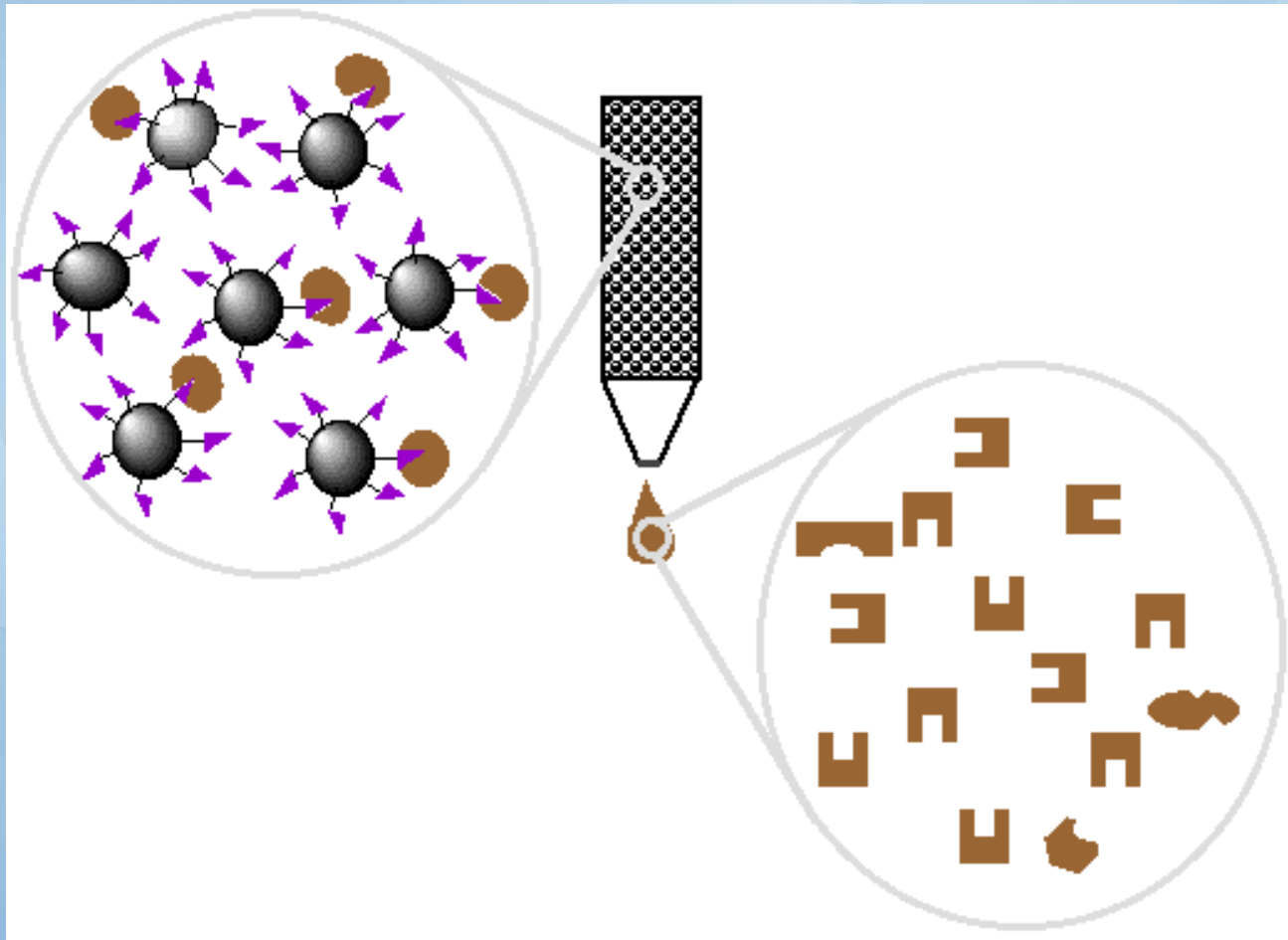
Step 1. Loading affinity column.



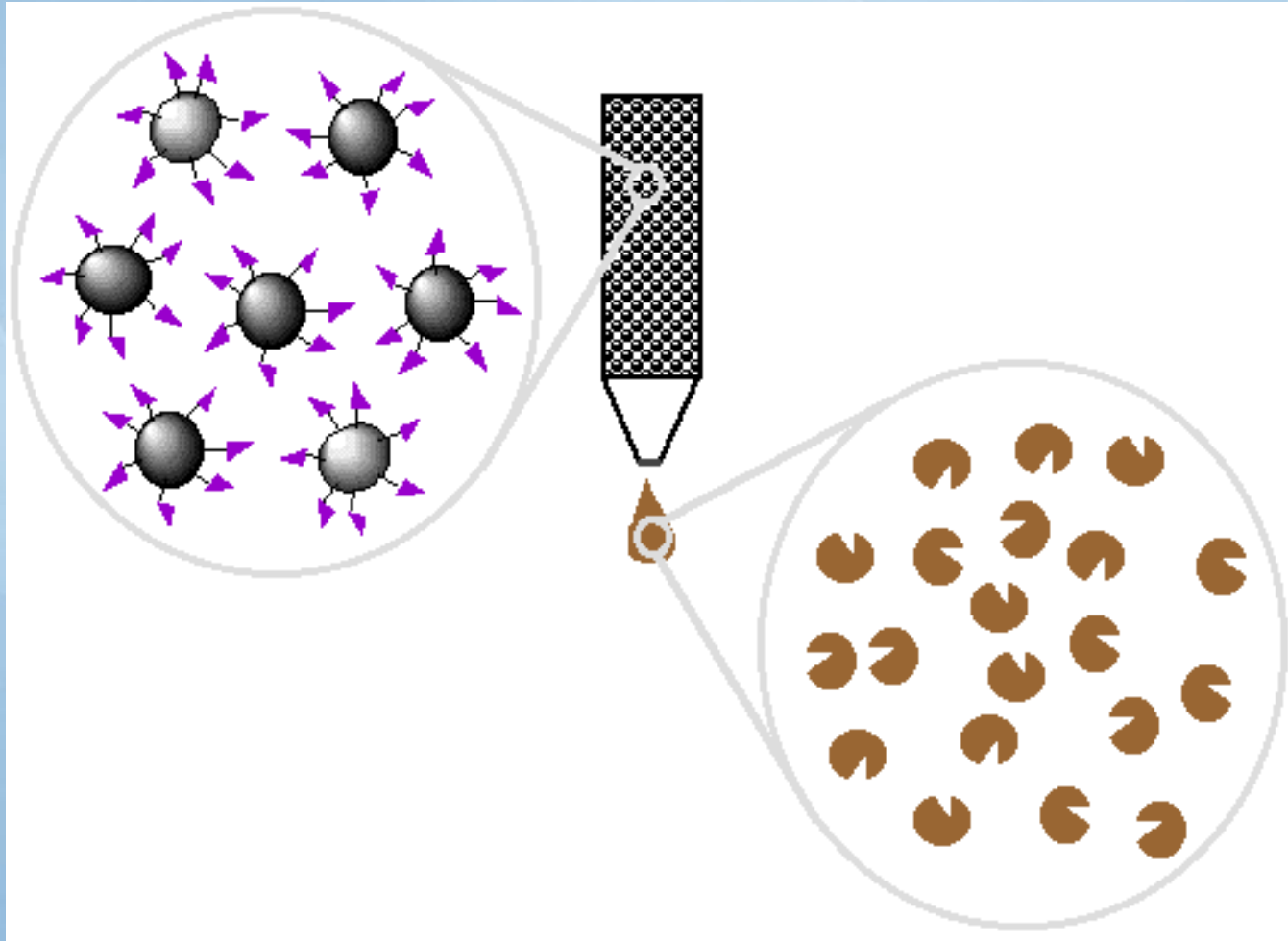
Step 2. Proteins sieve through matrix of affinity beads



Step 5. Wash off proteins that bind loosely.

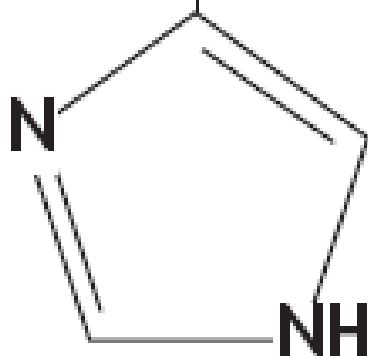


Step 6. Elute proteins that bind tightly to ligand and collect purified protein of interest.



Elution with imidazole

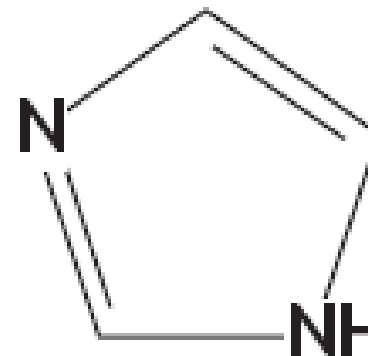
Why imidazole?



Histidine



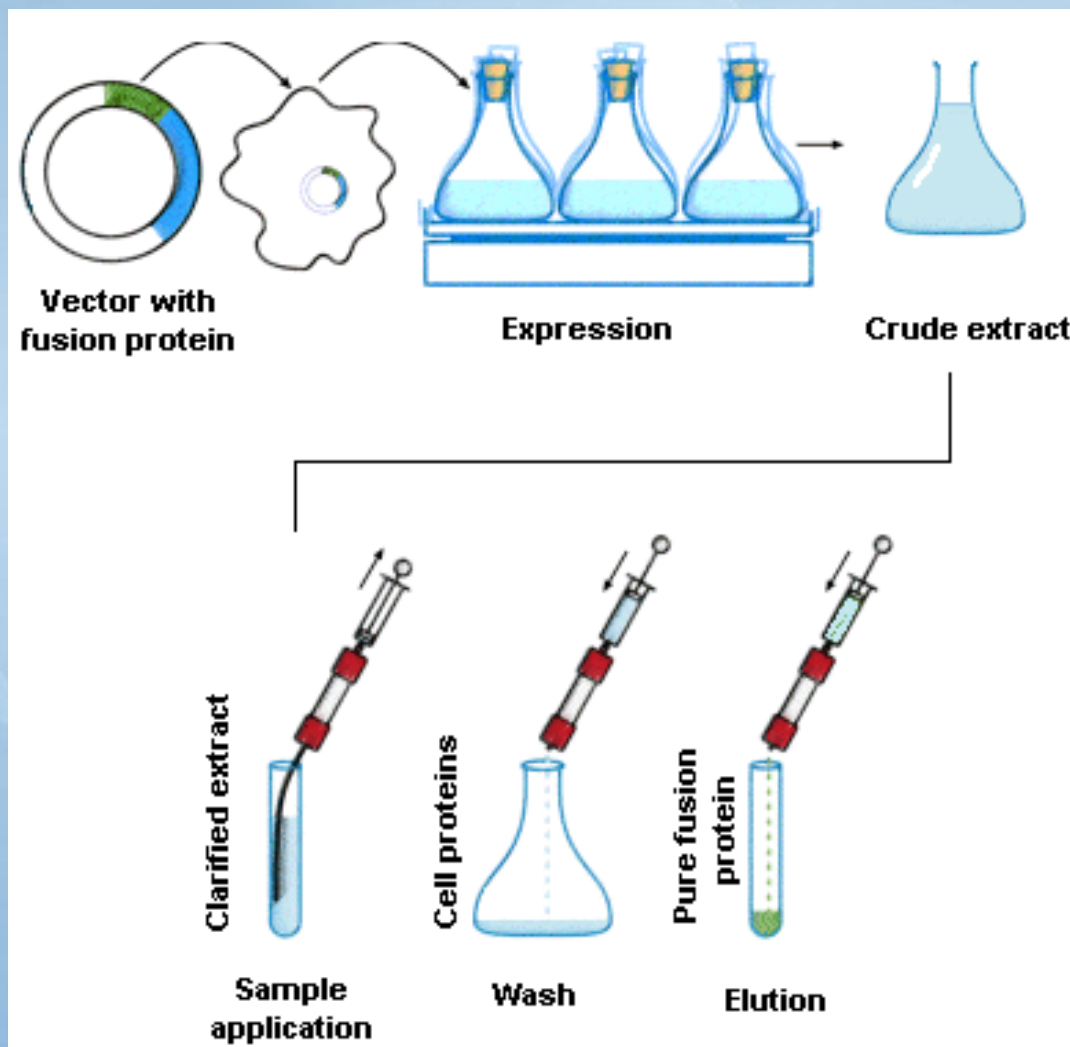
The imidazole ring is part of the structure of histidine



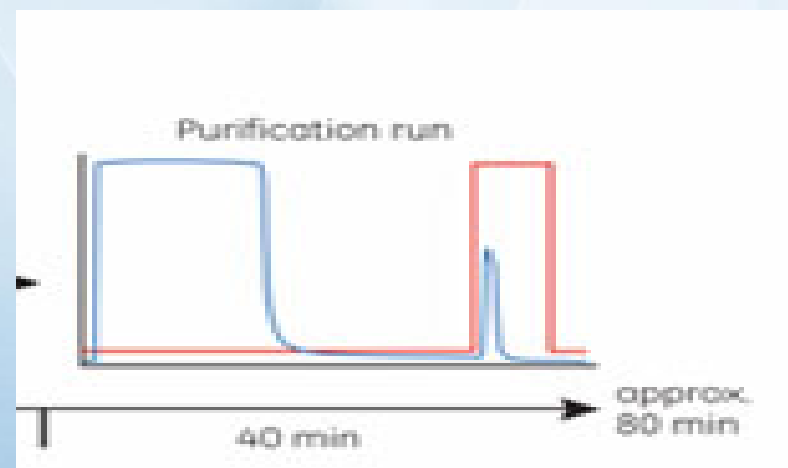
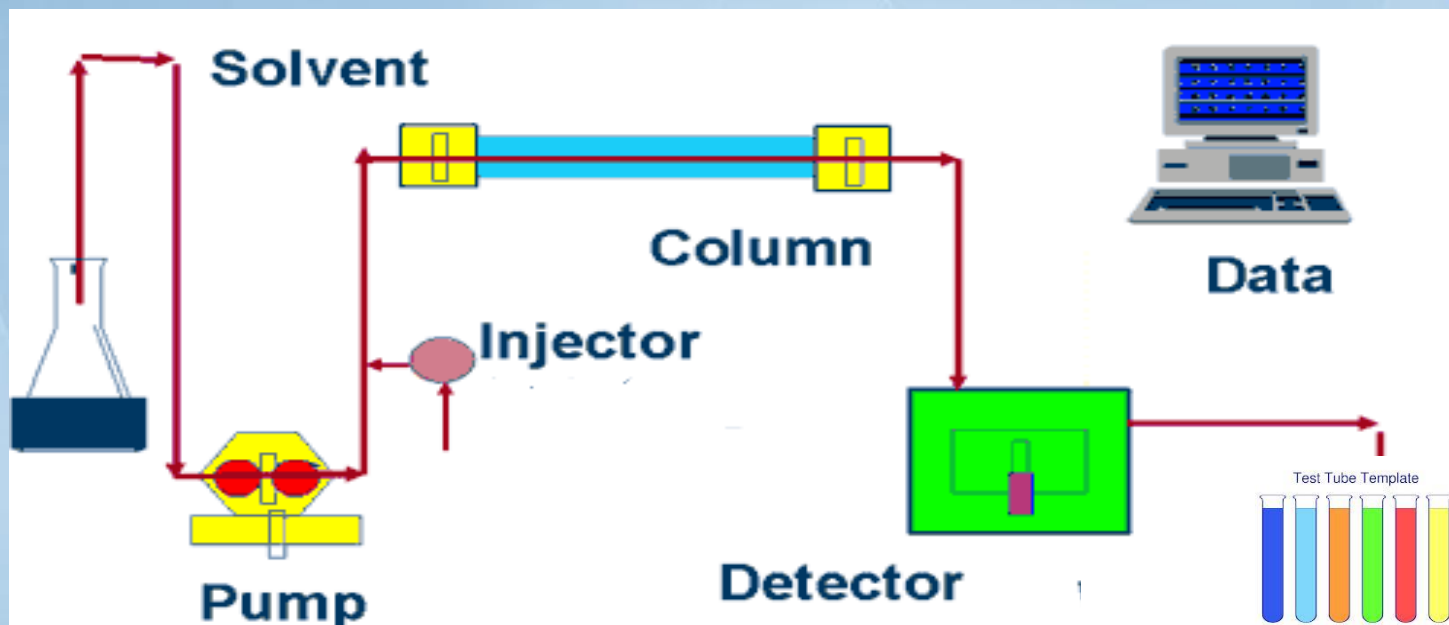
Imidazole



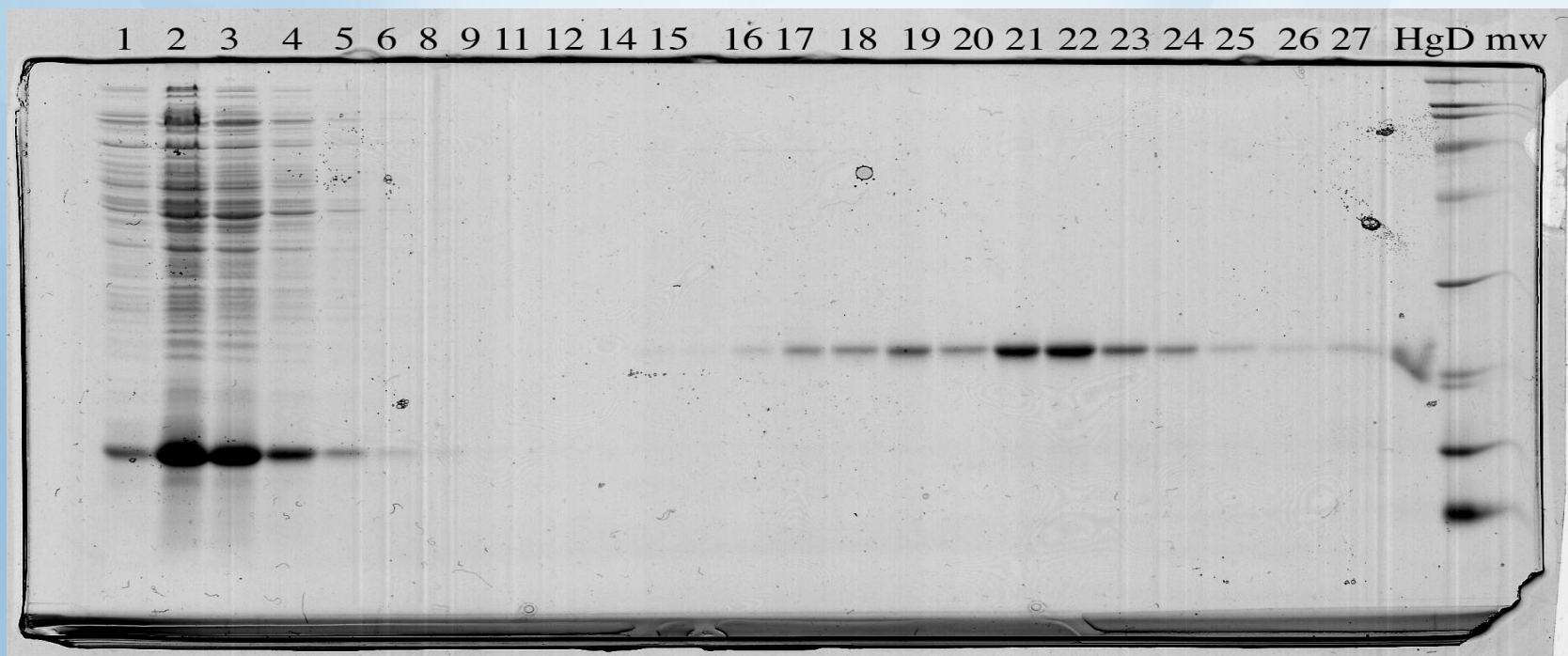
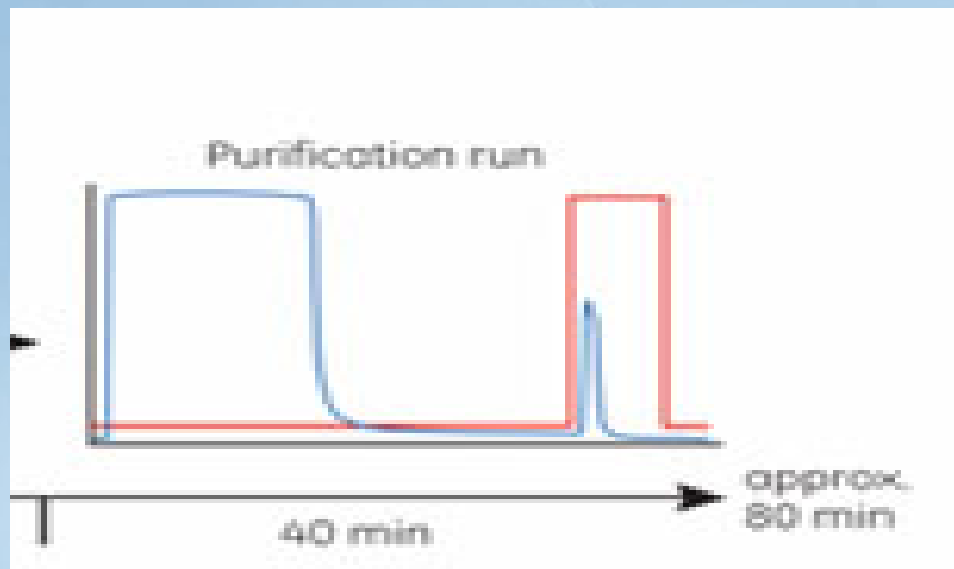
Affinity chromatography applied to recombinant proteins



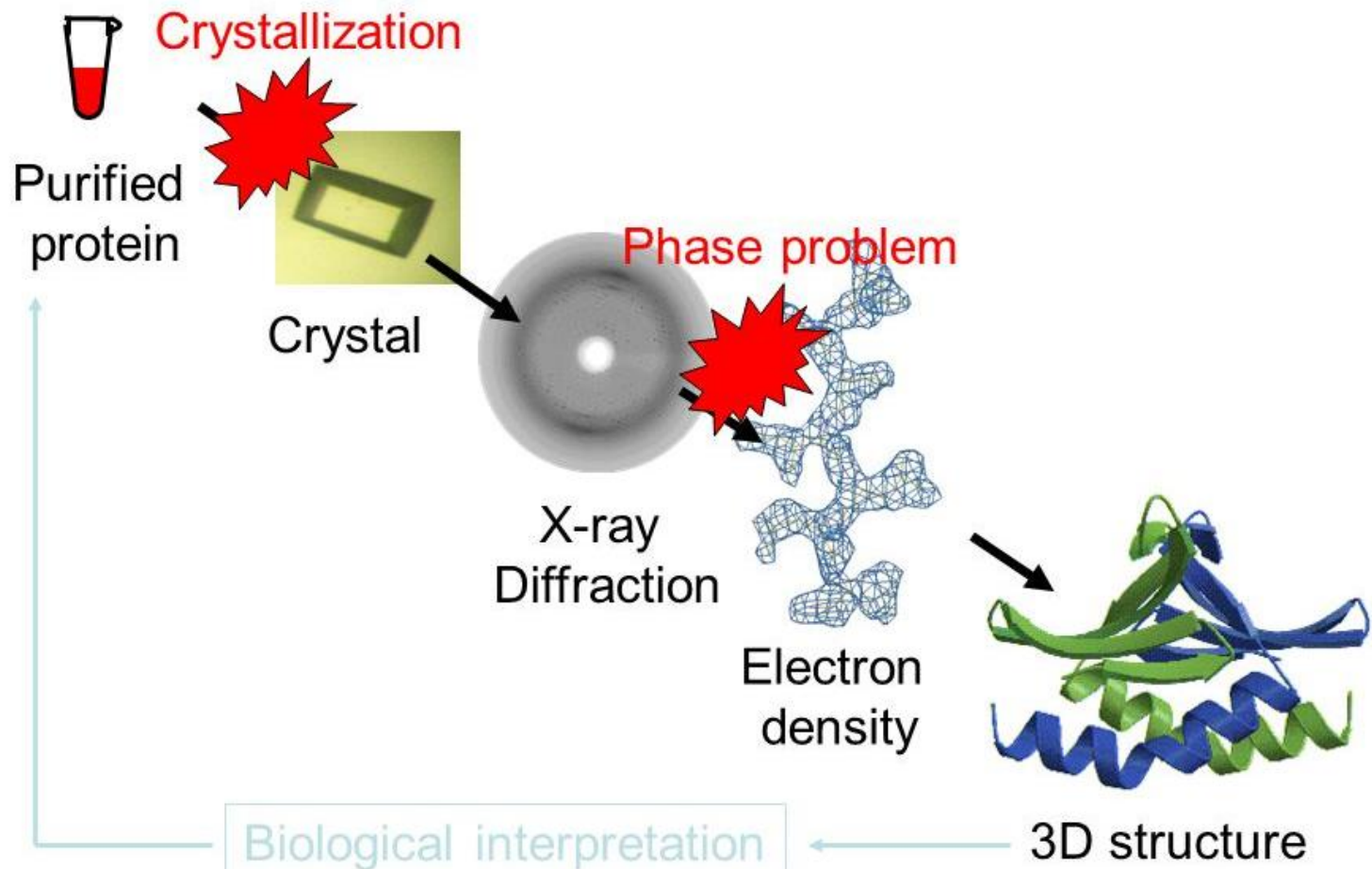
IMAC System



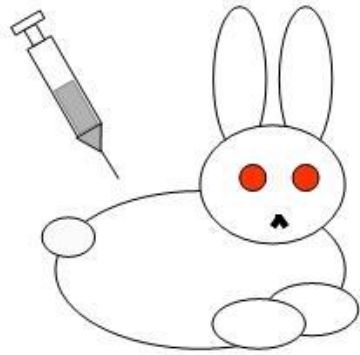
Purity test



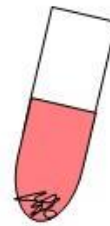
Protein structures



Produce Antibodies

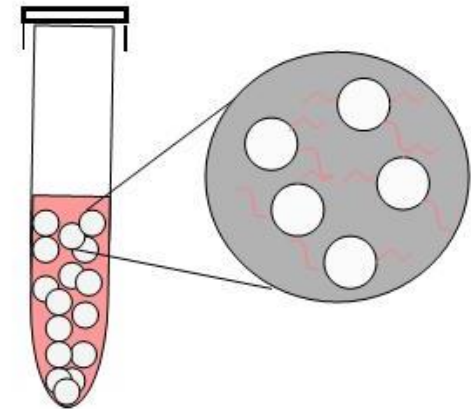


A solution containing a specific antigen is injected into a rabbit; the rabbit is immunized.



serum

Antiserum is taken from the rabbit; the supernatant contains the antibodies of interest.



Antibodies are incubated with sepharose beads that is conjugated to the original antigen.

Tools used for protein analysis



Electrophoresis

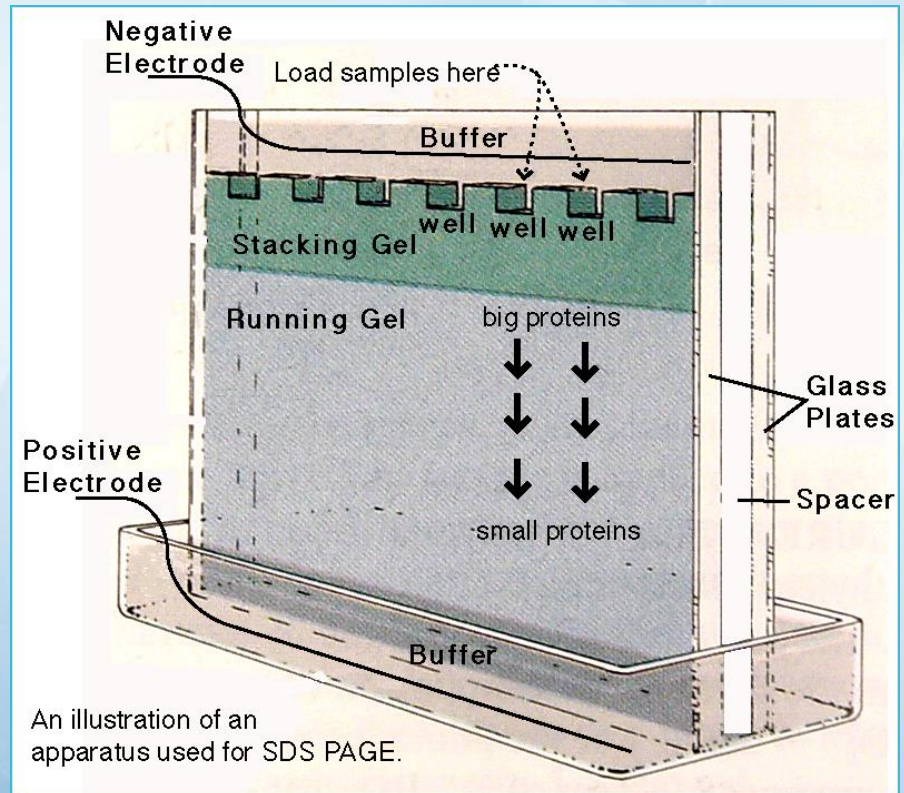
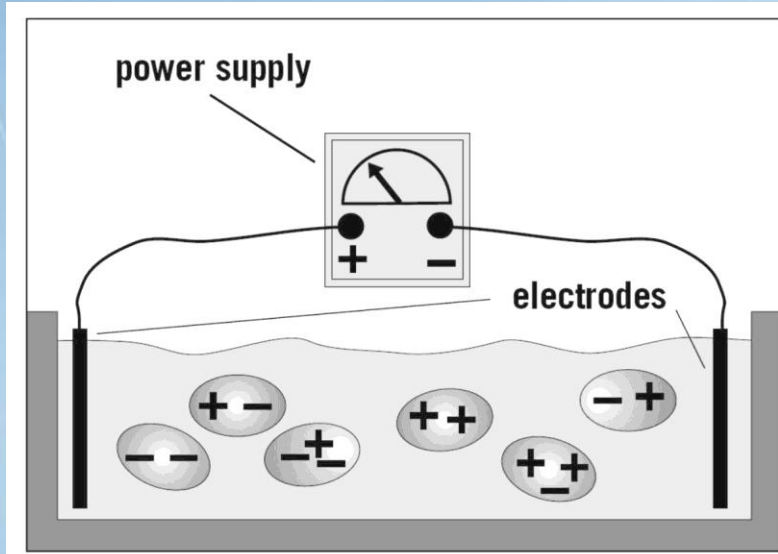
1. Native PAGE
2. Native Gradient PAGE
3. Urea PAGE
4. SDS PAGE
5. SDS Gradient PAGE
6. IEF
7. 2D PAGE
8. Western Blot

Without Electrophoresis

1. Cloning
2. Site-directed mutagenesis
3. protein tags
4. Protein structures
5. Proteomics
6. Protein Sequencing
7. Protein-protein interactions

SDS PAGE

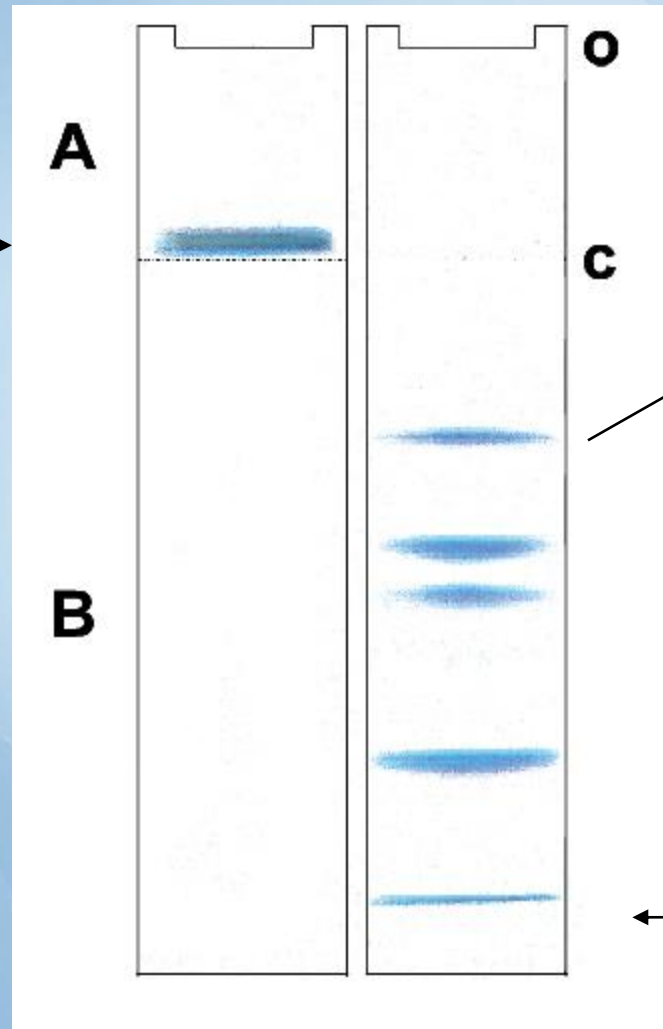
Proteins move in the electric field. Their relative speed depends on the charge, size, and shape of the protein



An illustration of an apparatus used for SDS PAGE.

Movement of Proteins on an SDS Gel

Stacking of proteins at top of gel at start



Protein Migration

Highest
Molecular
Wt. protein

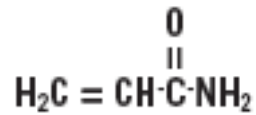
Distribution of
proteins in a
charged field

+

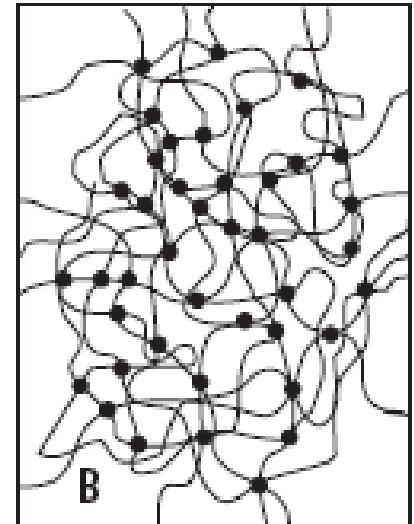
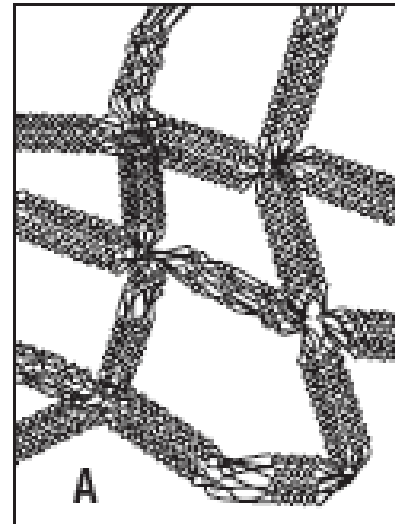
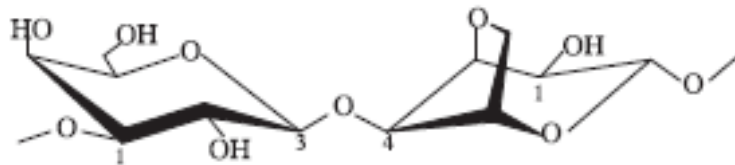
Low weight
molecular dye

Gels

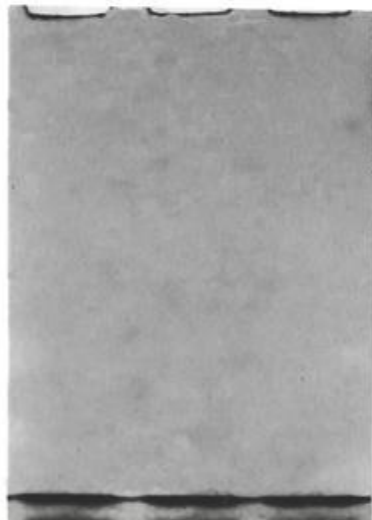
acrylamide



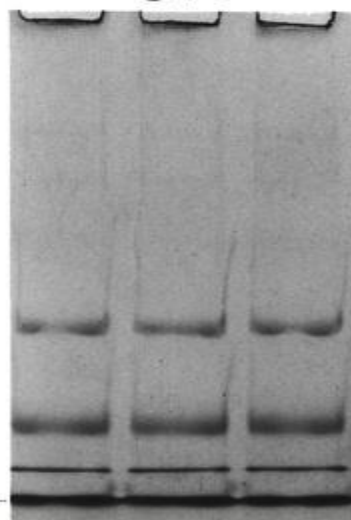
agarose



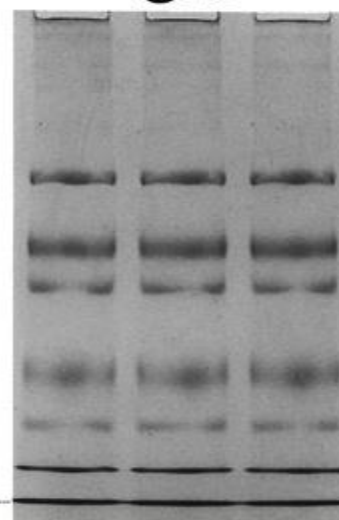
3%



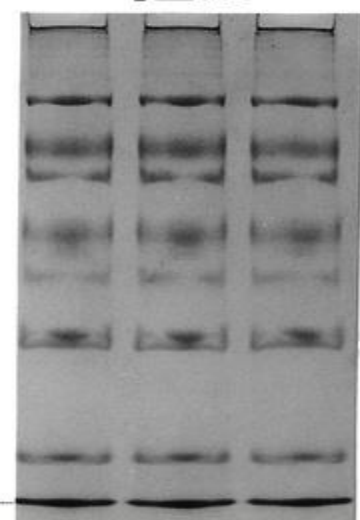
6%



9%



12%




Protein visualization on gels

Common stains:

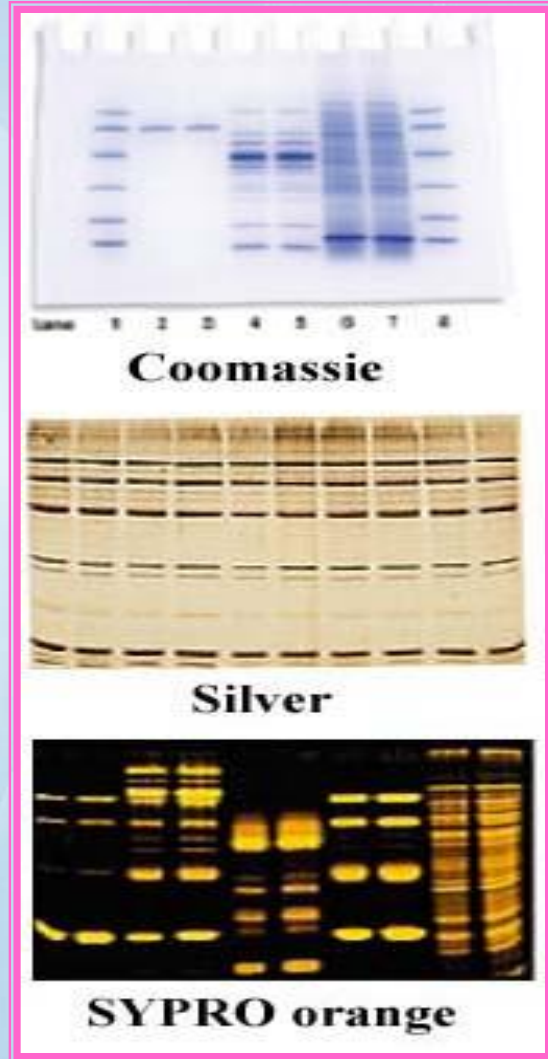
 **Coomassie Blue** in a fixative solution. Stain from a few hours to overnight. Destaining 4-12 hrs.

* It provides a reasonably permanent record

– **Silver stain.** complex process, excellent, long-lasting record, sensitive.

 **SYPRO (fluorescent)** staining is similar to Coomassie Blue in complexity, except the Destaining takes about 30 min.

* It fades with time after a few hours

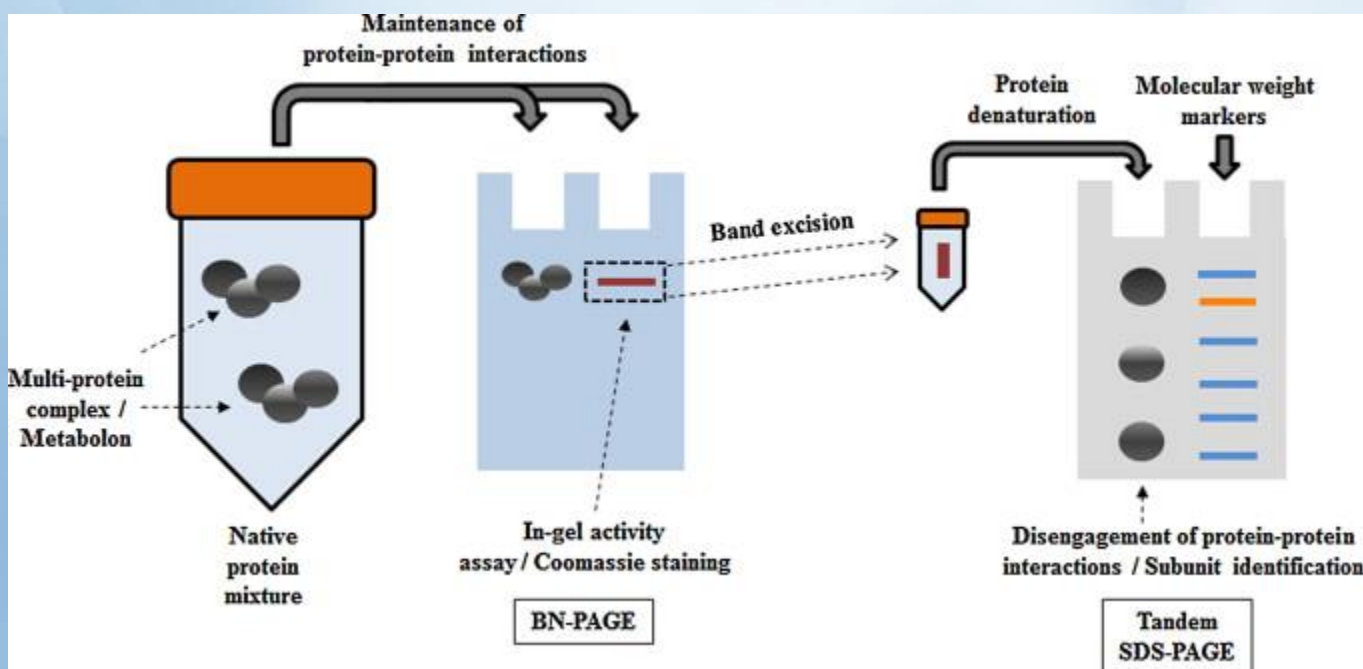
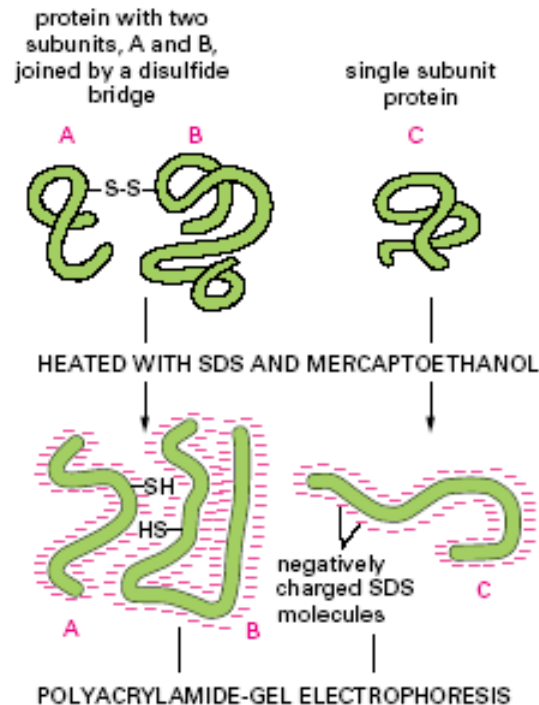


1. Native PAGE
2. Native Gradient PAGE
3. SDS PAGE
4. SDS Gradient PAGE
5. IEF
6. 2D PAGE
7. Western Blot

Native PAGE



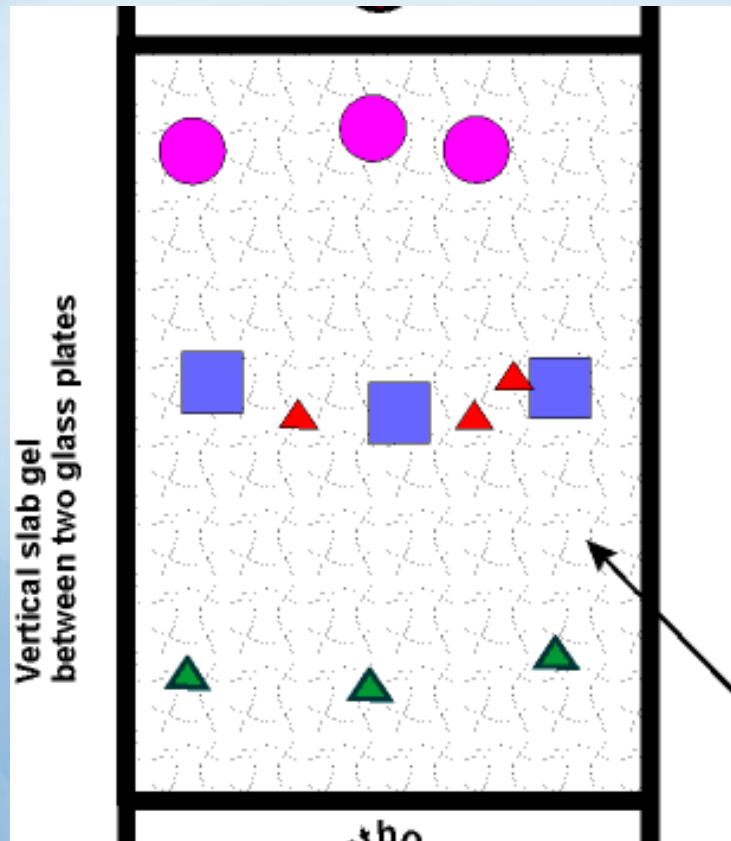
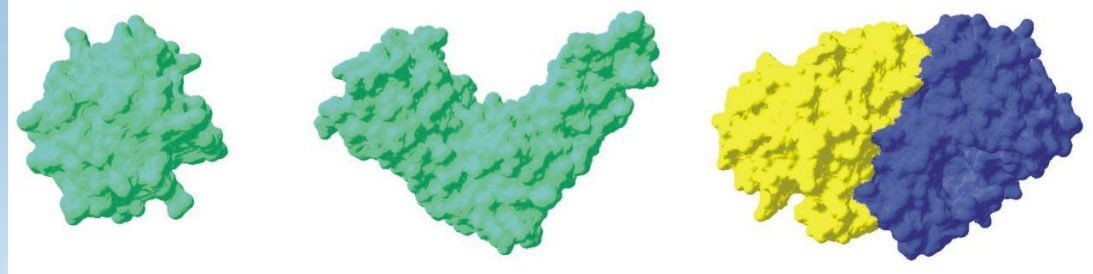
Non-denatured protein



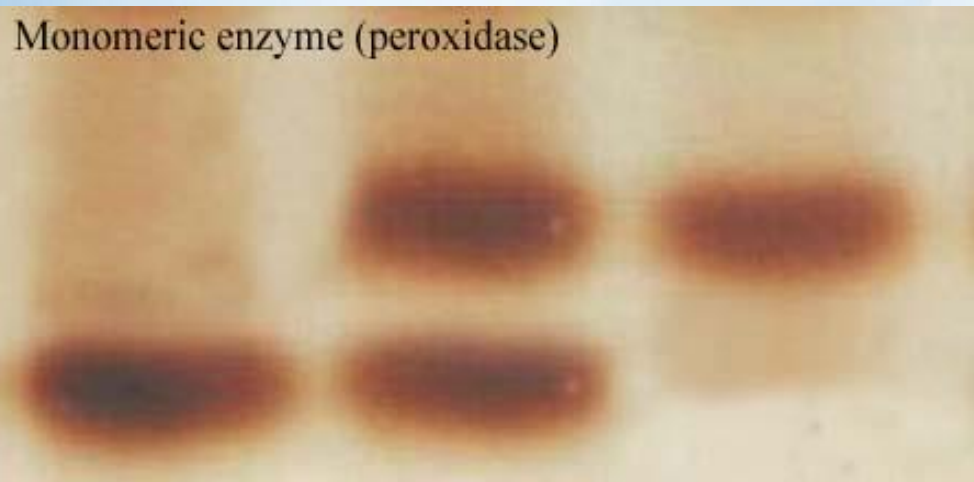
Native PAGE

Separates by

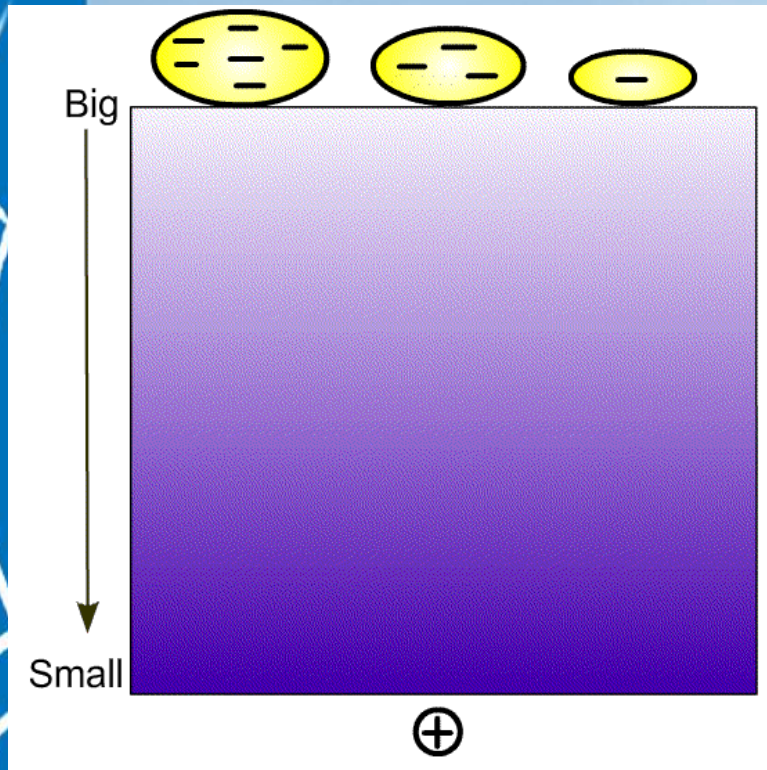
- charge
- size
- shape



- reaction with specific activity stains (depending on enzyme).
- substrates + cofactors + stain + buffer
- **colored** bands such as Est, Prx, Mdh ...
- **Colorless** bands (white bands on a dark background, negatively stained) such as SOD.

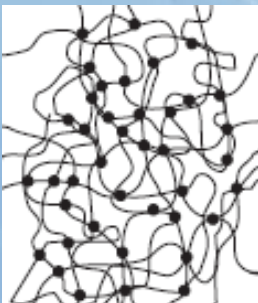


Native gradient PAGE

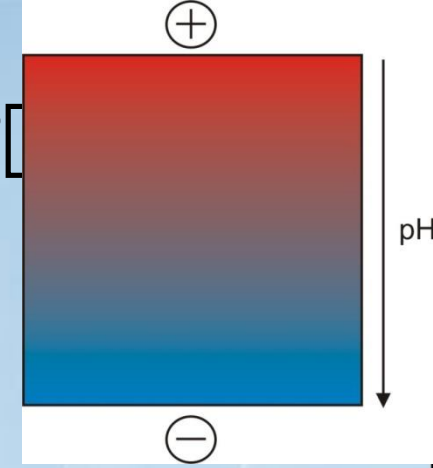


Separate native proteins by size - proteins stop moving when they reach a certain gel density (but this may take a very long time ...)

A great technique to study protein oligomerization!



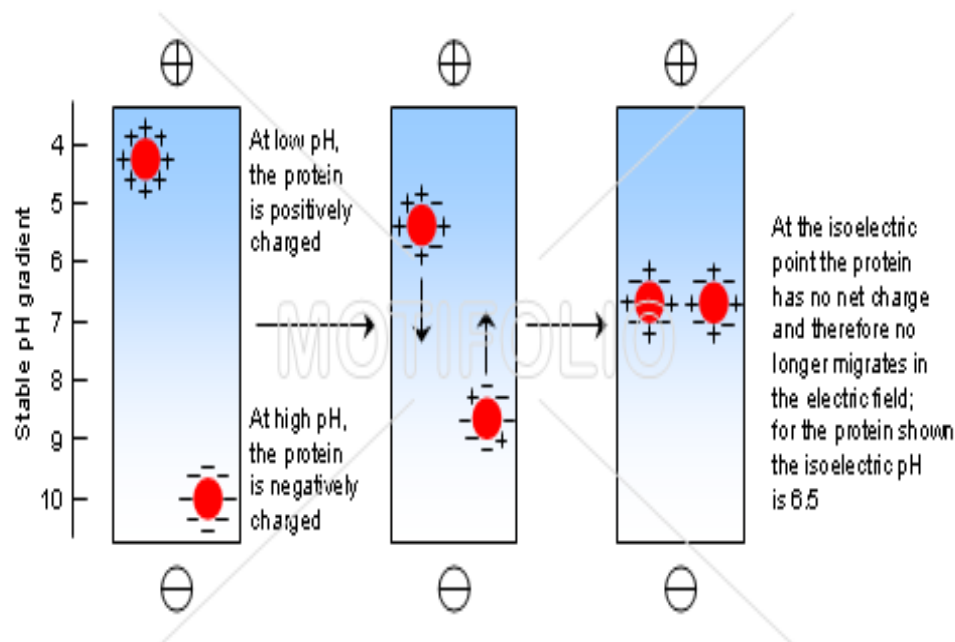
What is Isoelectric focusing?



- Gel is prepared with pH gradient
- Separates proteins by their isoelectric points (pI)
- Each protein has own $pI = pH$ at which the protein has equal amount of positive and negative charges (the net charge is zero)
- Charge on the protein changes as it migrates across pH
- When it gets to pI, has no charge and stops

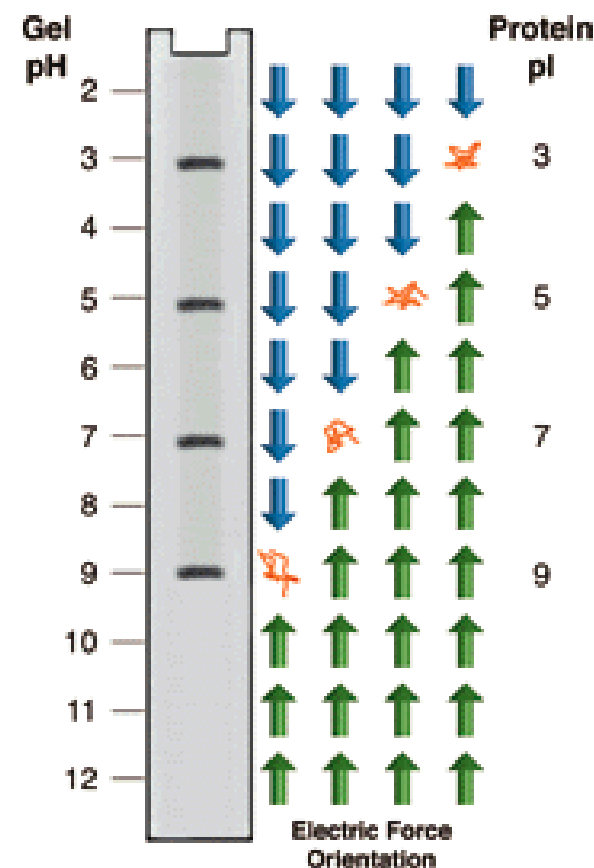


Separation of protein molecules by isoelectric focusing



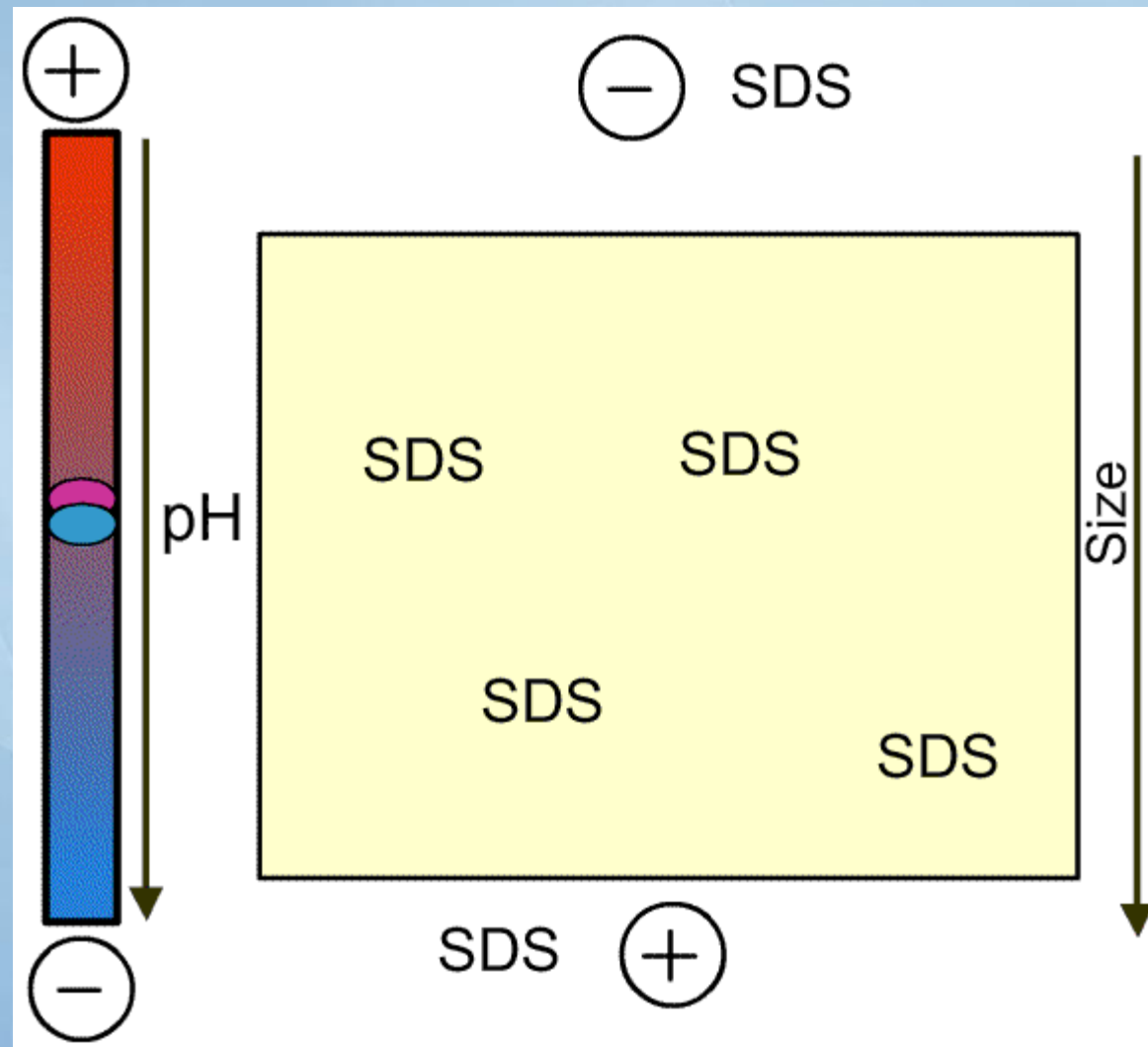
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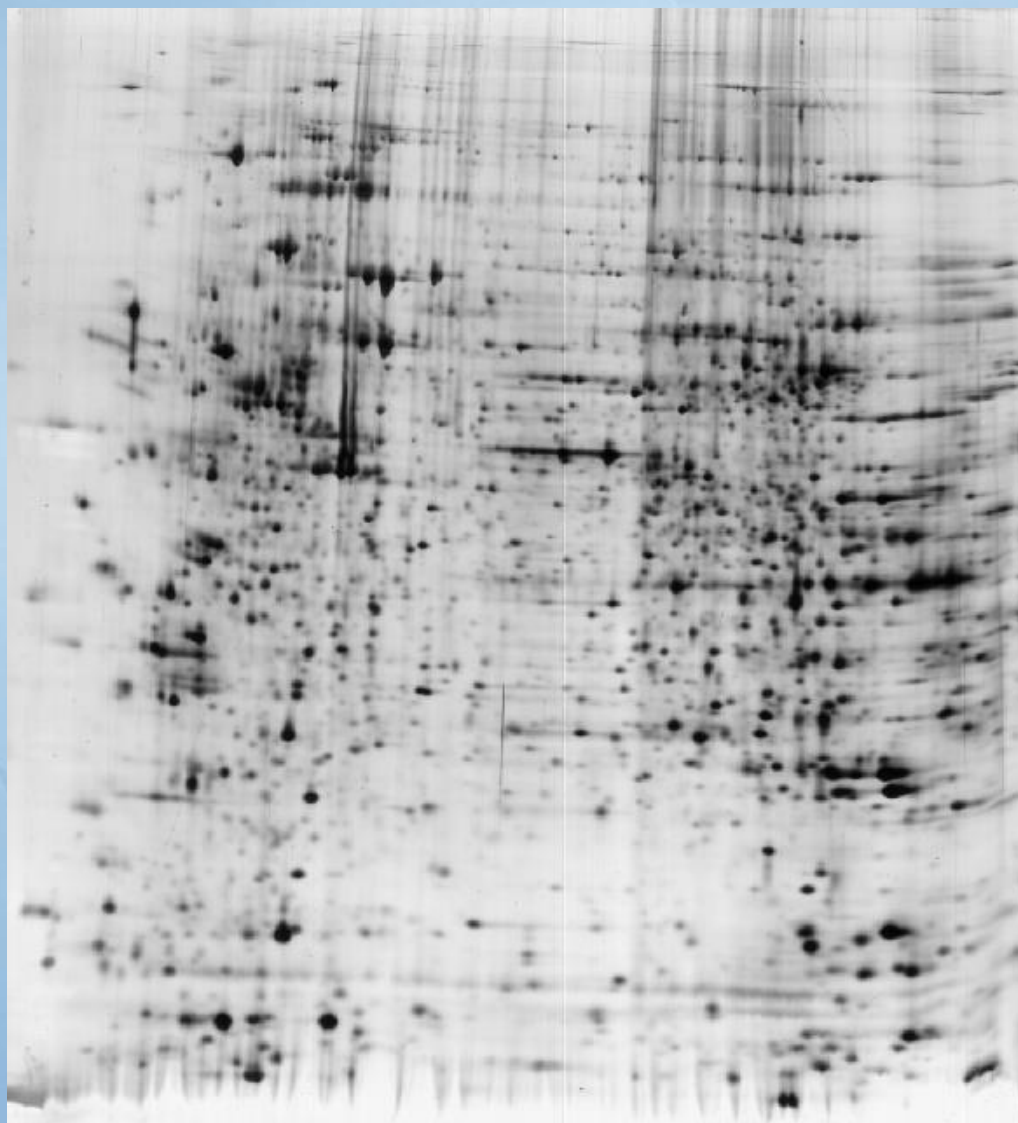


- PI of proteins can be theoretically predicted. Therefore, IEF can also be used for protein identification.

2D PAGE



2D PAGE



Western Blot Analysis

- Identifies protein through antibody interaction
- Run proteins on denatured gel (SDS-PAGE)
- Transfer (blot) proteins onto membrane
- Probe the membrane with primary antibody
- Add secondary antibody (this antibody is linked to an enzyme)
- Substrate is added and color appears

