

## Module 2 overview

### *lecture*

1. Introduction to the module
2. Rational protein design
3. Fluorescence and sensors
4. Protein expression

### *lab*

1. Start-up protein eng.
2. Site-directed mutagenesis
3. DNA amplification
4. Prepare expression system

## **SPRING BREAK**

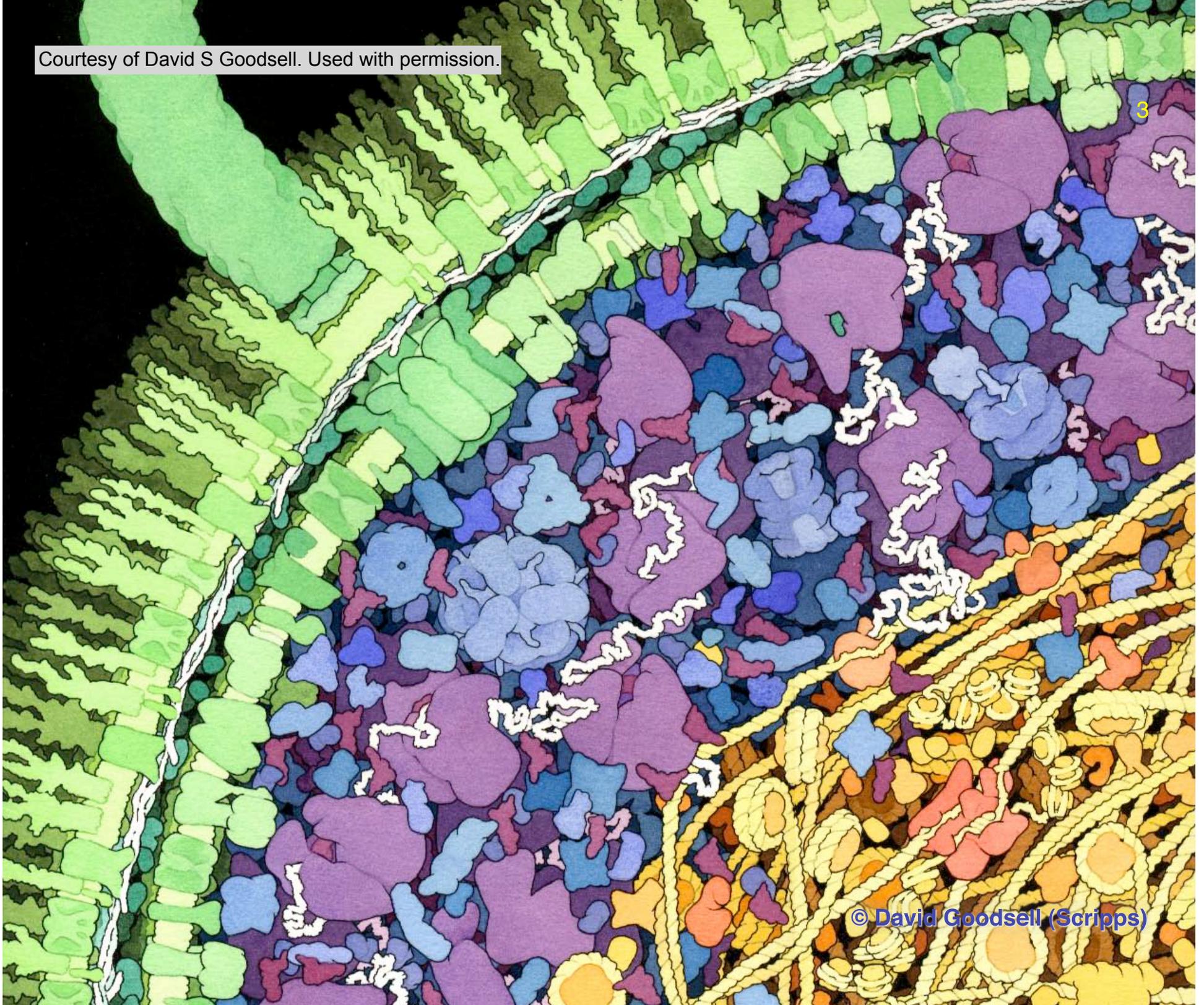
5. Review & gene analysis
6. Purification and protein analysis
7. Binding & affinity measurements
8. High throughput engineering

5. Gene analysis & induction
6. Characterize expression
7. Assay protein behavior
8. Data analysis

## **Lecture 6: Protein purification**

- I. Standard purification methods
  - A. Harvesting and lysis
  - B. Protein separation techniques
  
- II. Assessing purified proteins
  - A. Electrophoresis
  - B. Mass spectrometry
  - C. Protein sequencing and AA analysis

Courtesy of David S Goodsell. Used with permission.



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Once we've collected the cells, how do we get the proteins out?

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Three laboratory devices:

- \* Blender
- \* French press
- \* Sonicator

Image of cells undergoing lysis

clockwise from top left:  
[www.biomembranes.nl](http://www.biomembranes.nl)  
[bioinfo.bact.wisc.edu](http://bioinfo.bact.wisc.edu)  
[matcmadison.edu](http://matcmadison.edu)

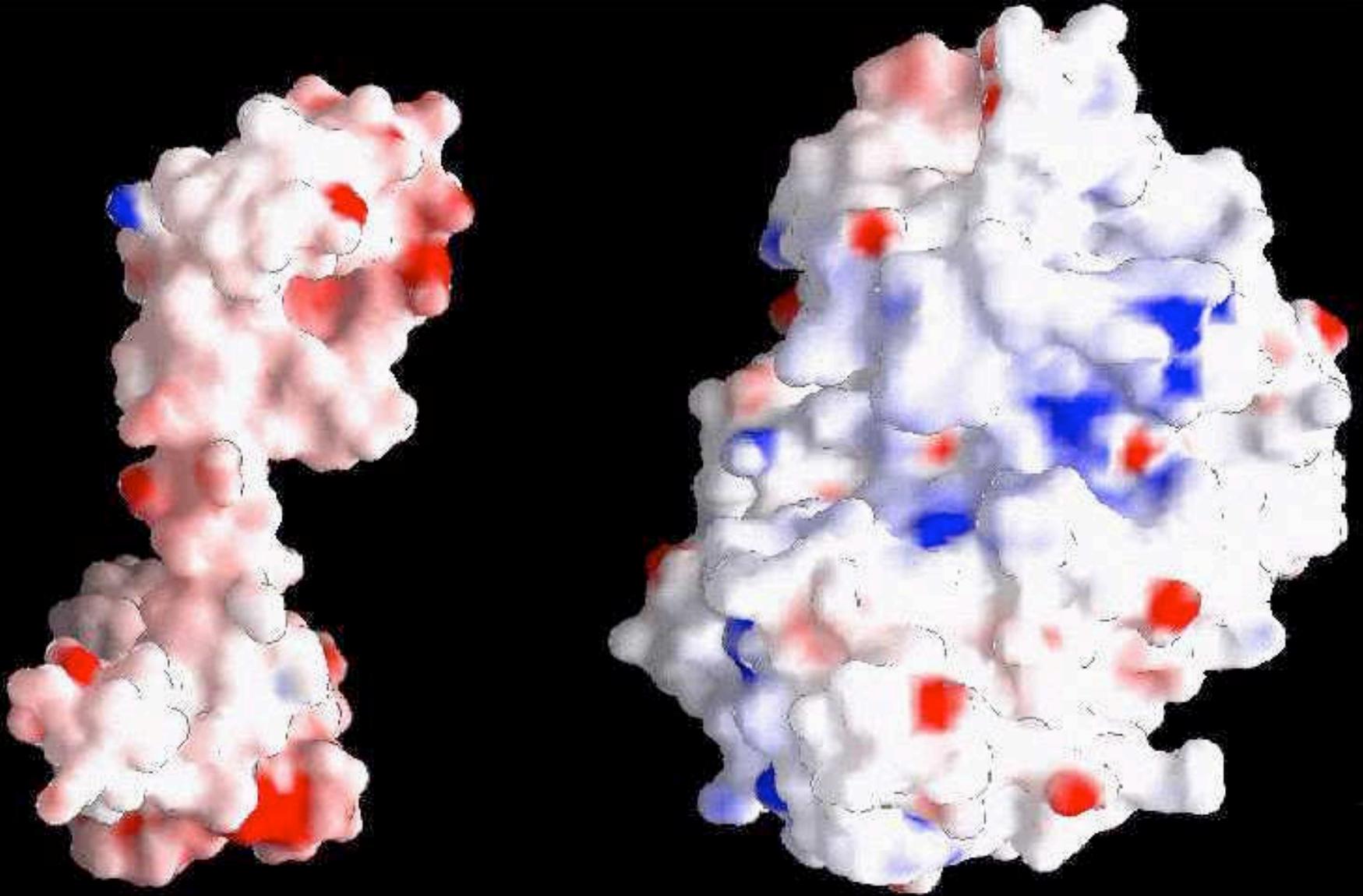
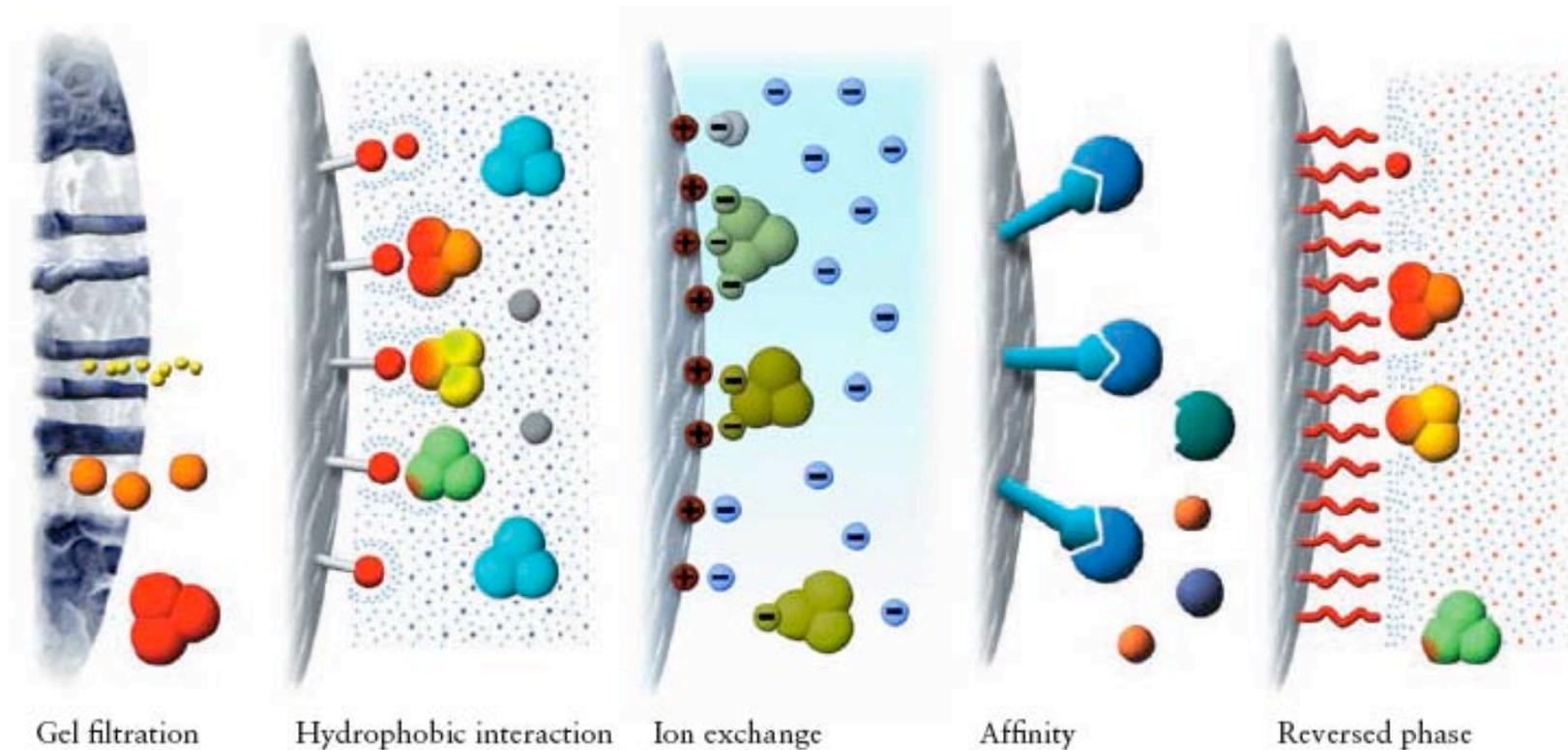


Image from Rekha, N., and N. Srinivasan. *BMC Structural Biology* 2 (2003): 4.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6807/3/4>

Courtesy of the authors, © 2003 Rekha and Srinivasan.

## Separation techniques



Gel filtration

Hydrophobic interaction

Ion exchange

Affinity

Reversed phase

**most common,  
in addition to  
affinity**

**e.g. Ni-NTA**

Source: GE Healthcare *Gel Filtration Principles and Methods* handbook.

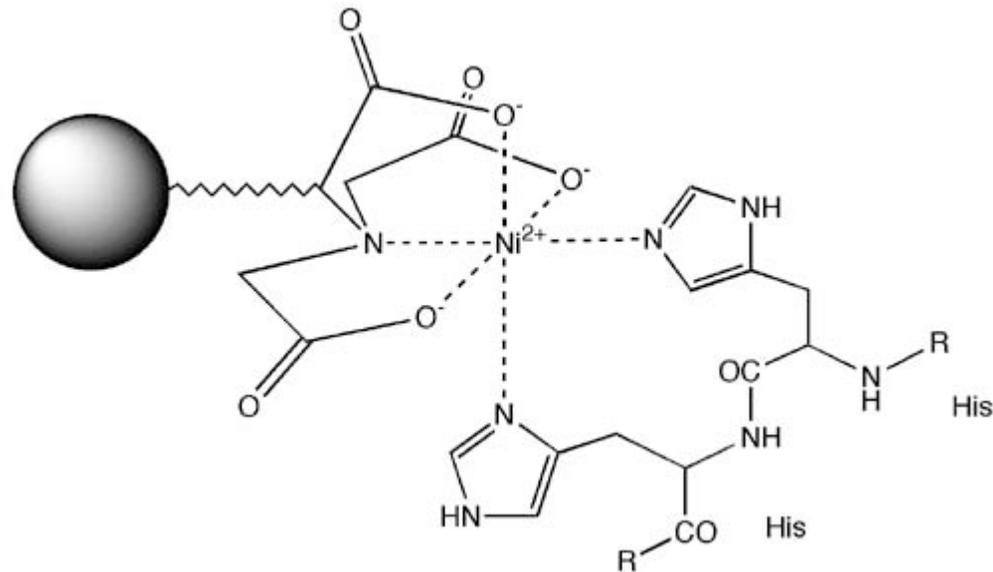
[http://www.gelifesciences.com/aprix/upp00919.nsf/Content/LD\\_153206006-R350?OpenDocument&hometitle=search](http://www.gelifesciences.com/aprix/upp00919.nsf/Content/LD_153206006-R350?OpenDocument&hometitle=search)

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## Nickel affinity purification with Ni-NTA agarose



Many other tags can be used for protein purification:

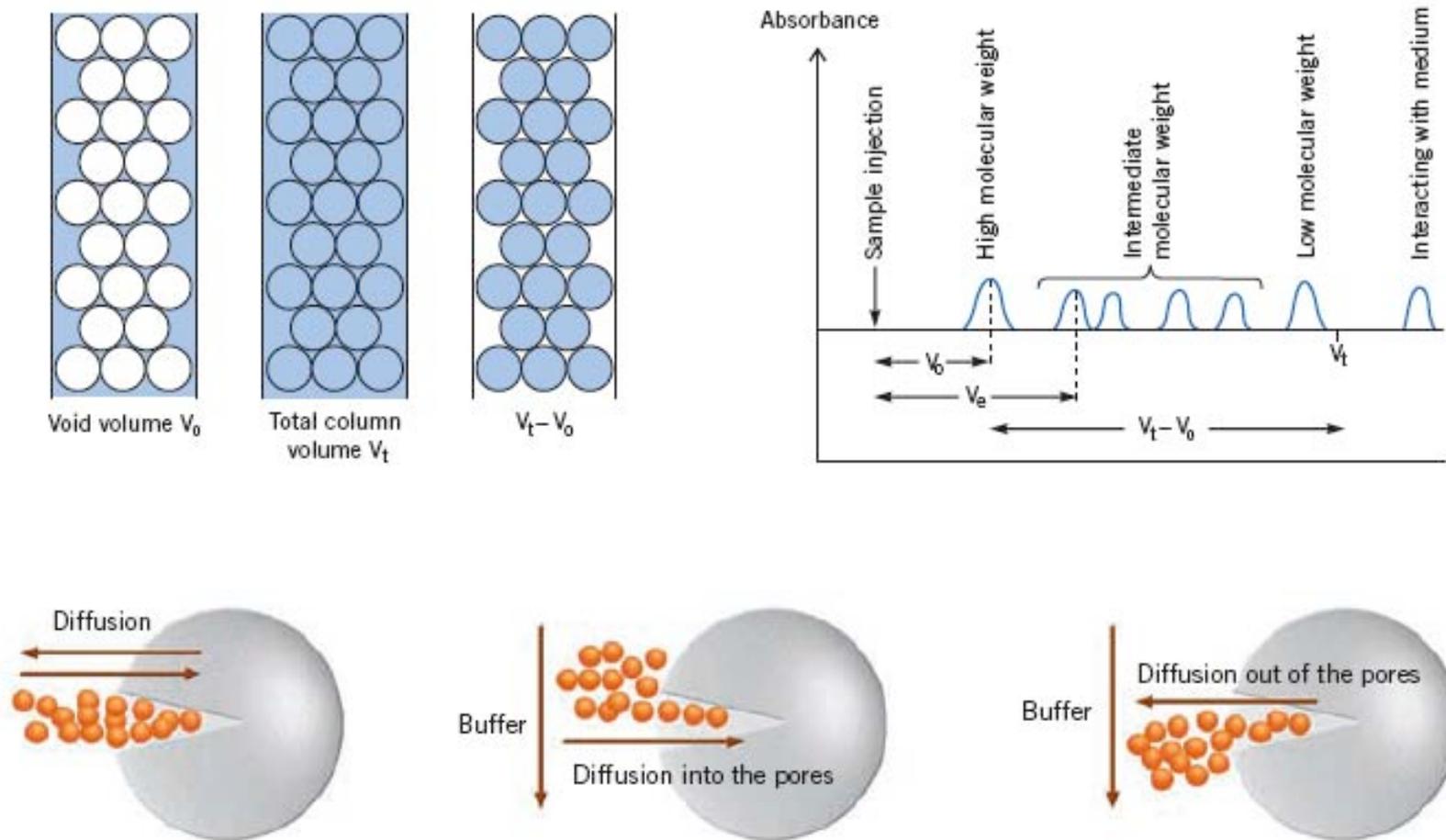
<i>tag</i>	<i>residues</i>	<i>matrix</i>	<i>elution condition</i>
poly-His	~6	Ni-NTA	imidazole, low pH
FLAG	8	anti-FLAG antibody	low pH, 2-5 mM EDTA
c-myc	11	anti-myc antibody	low pH
strep-tag	8	modified streptavidin	2.5 mM desthiobiotin
CBP	26	calmodulin	EGTA, EDTA
GST	211	glutathione	reduced glutathione
MBP	396	amylose	10 mM maltose

Tags may be chosen because they

- interfere minimally with protein structure/function
- improve recombinant protein expression or solubility
- offer most convenient purification methods

All tags may be cleaved from expressed proteins using specific proteases, if desired.

# Gel filtration (size exclusion chromatography) principle



Source: GE Healthcare *Gel Filtration Principles and Methods* handbook.

[http://www.gelifesciences.com/aptrix/upp00919.nsf/Content/LD\\_153206006-R350?OpenDocument&hometitle=search](http://www.gelifesciences.com/aptrix/upp00919.nsf/Content/LD_153206006-R350?OpenDocument&hometitle=search)

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## Quantification of purified proteins

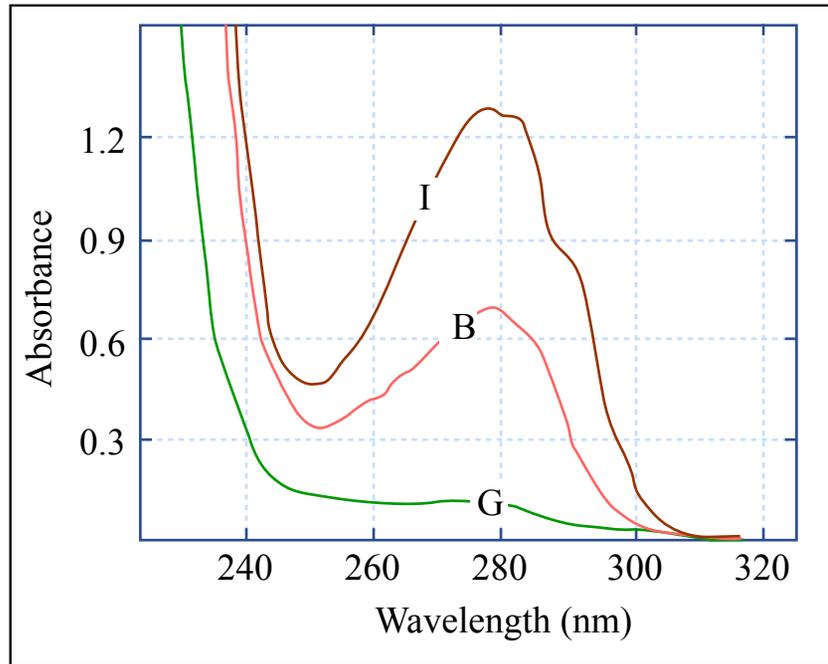


Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.

use Beer-Lambert law:

$$A_{280} = \epsilon_{280} c l$$

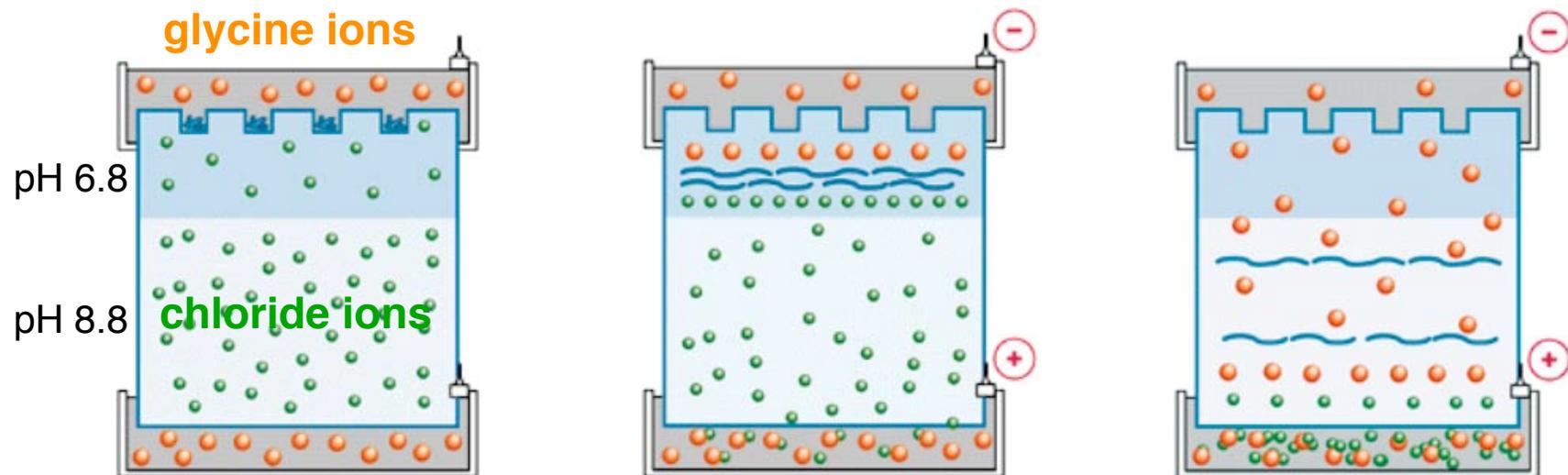
$\epsilon_{280}$  is the extinction coefficient; it can be determined rigorously, or estimated:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{280} &\sim n_W \times 5500 \\ &\quad + n_Y \times 1490 \\ &\quad + n_C \times 125 \end{aligned}$$

## Assessing proteins for identity and purity

Most standard technique is sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE):

- basis is the tendency of proteins to unfold in SDS and bind a fixed amount SDS per protein (1.4 g/g)
- negative charge of SDS overwhelms protein charges
- proteins have same charge to mass ratio, but are differentially retarded by the separation gel
- stacking layer “focuses” proteins before separation layer

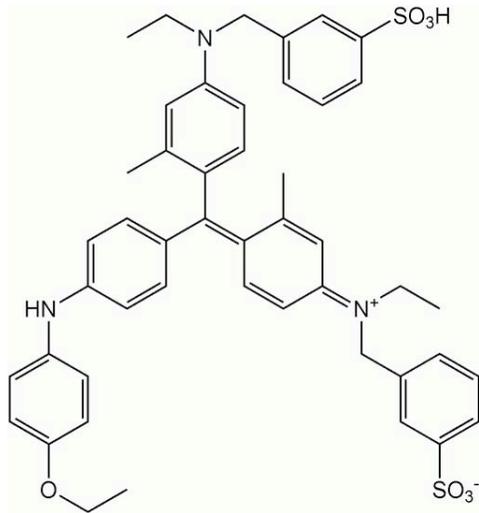


Source: "Multiphasic Buffer Systems" ([http://nationaldiagnostics.com/article\\_info.php/articles\\_id/10](http://nationaldiagnostics.com/article_info.php/articles_id/10)).

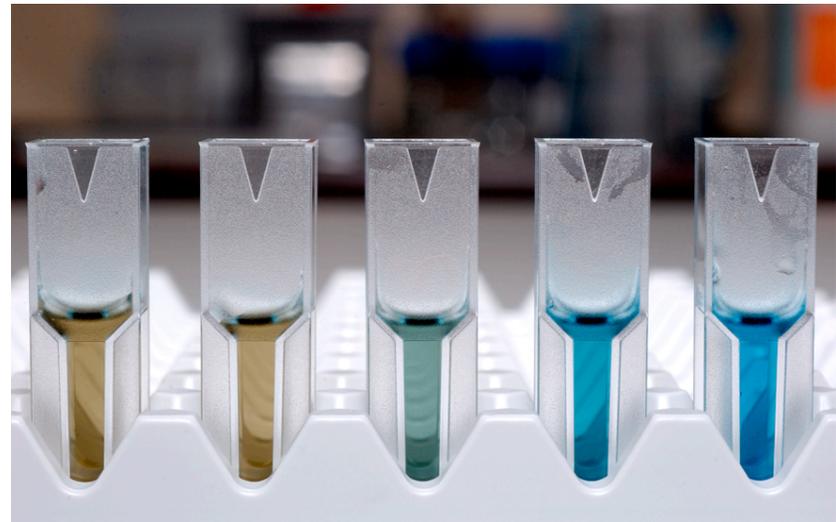
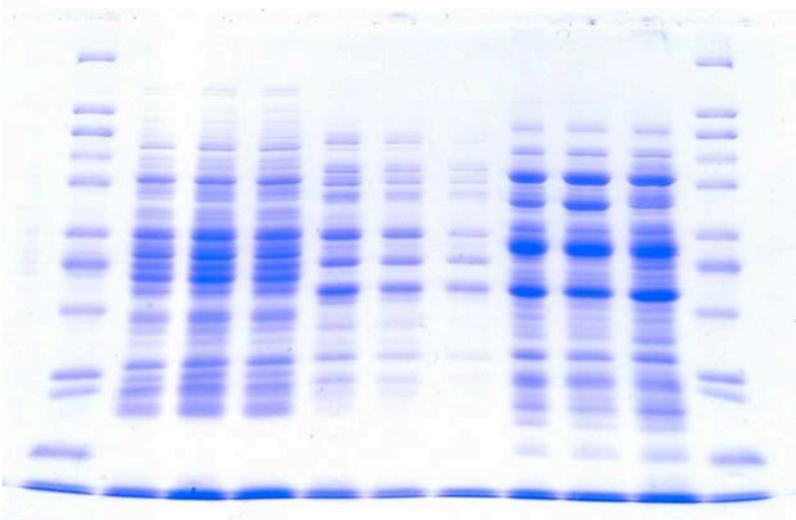
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## Coomassie brilliant blue staining



- binds proteins primarily via aromatic residues and arginine
- undergoes absorbance shift from 465 nm (brownish) to 595 nm (blue)
- basis for Bradford Assay; can be used to quantify proteins over ~3 kD



<http://www.euroforum.org/media/gallery/embl.php>

Courtesy of EMBL. Used with permission.

SDS-PAGE gives an approximate MW and purity estimate, but how can we be sure the protein we've purified is the correct one?

- activity assay if one is available
- knowledge of exact mass (mass spectrometry)
- N-term. sequencing and AA analysis, if necessary

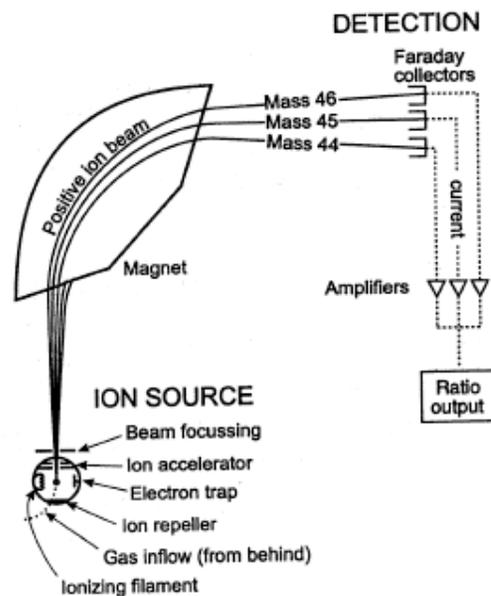
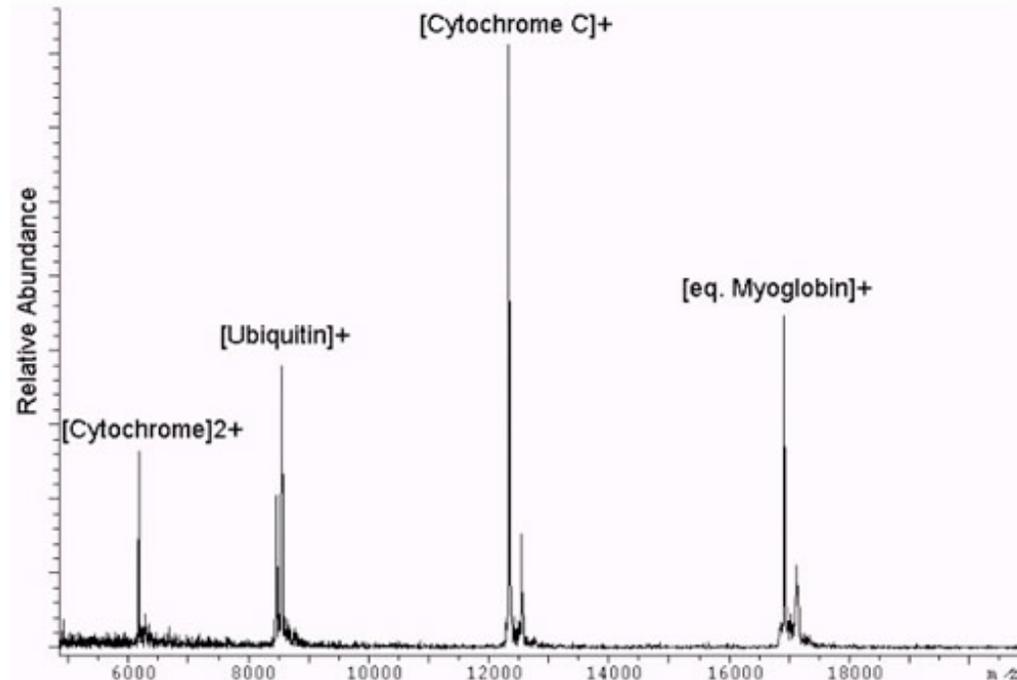
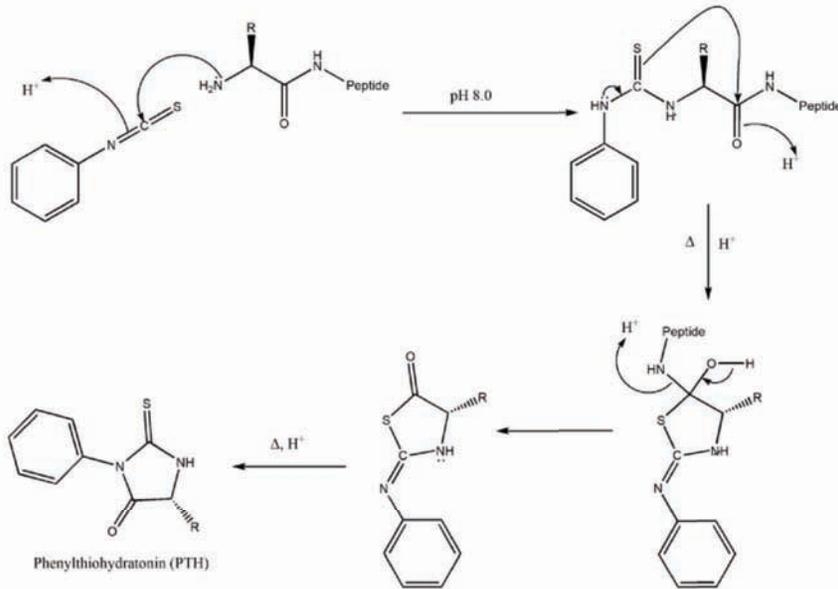


Image: public domain (USGS)



Source: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/facilities/mspec/instr/maldi-tof-introa.html>  
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## N-terminal sequencing (Edman degradation)

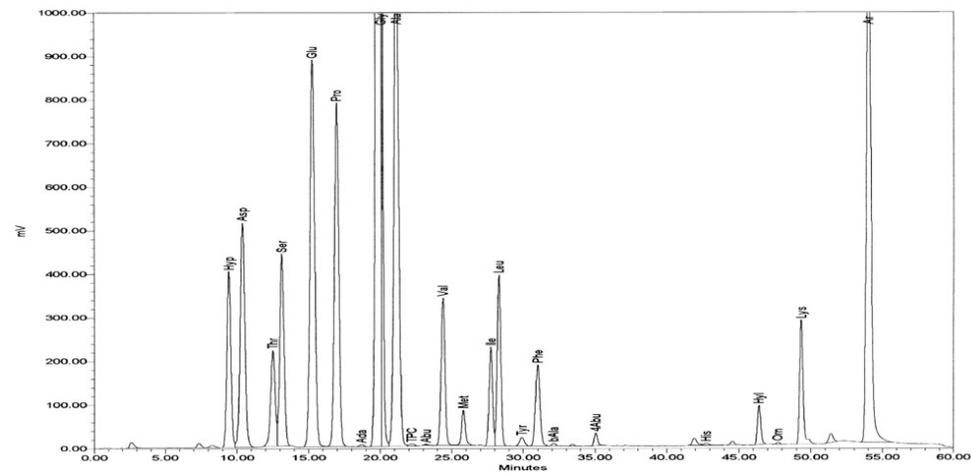


- products identified by chromatography or electrophoresis
- typically  $\sim 5$  cycles practical for routine N-term. sequencing

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edman\\_degradation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edman_degradation)  
public domain image

## Amino acid analysis

- HCl digestion to digest peptide bonds
- HPLC to quantify AA components



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