

Physics of Life

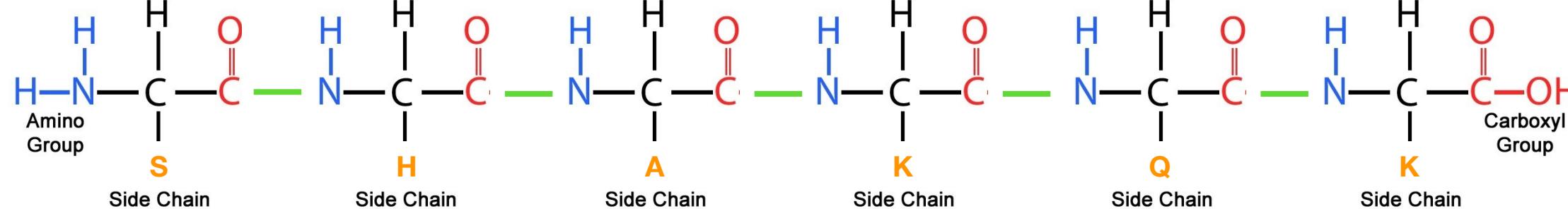
PHYS-468

Protein purification

Amanda Lewis,
LBEM, IPHYS, SB, EPFL

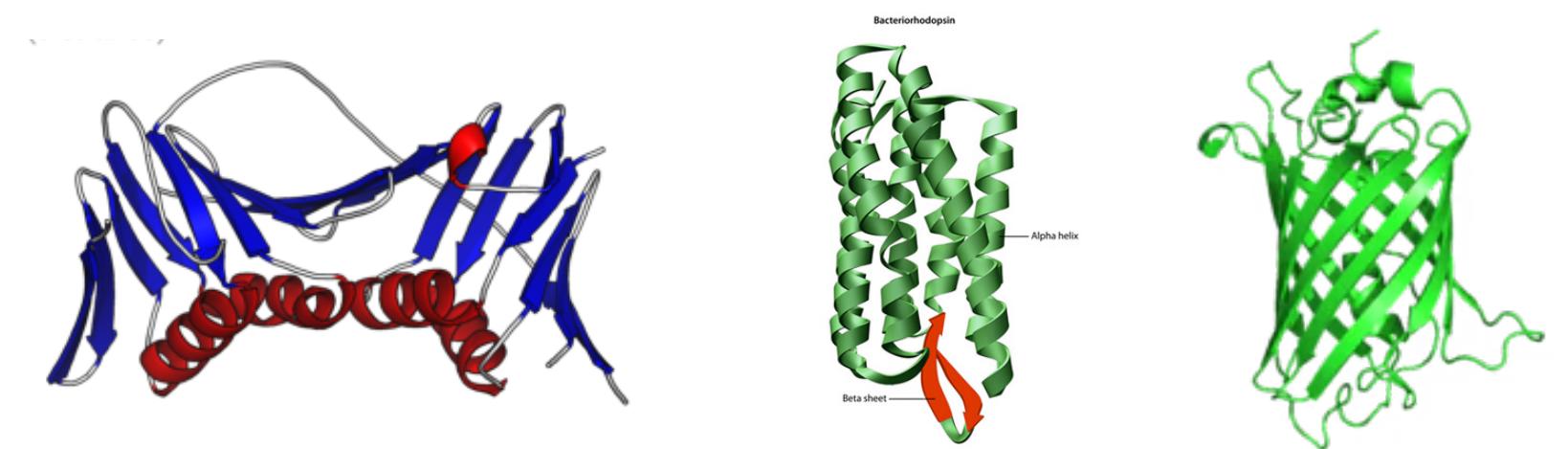
What is a protein?

Primary



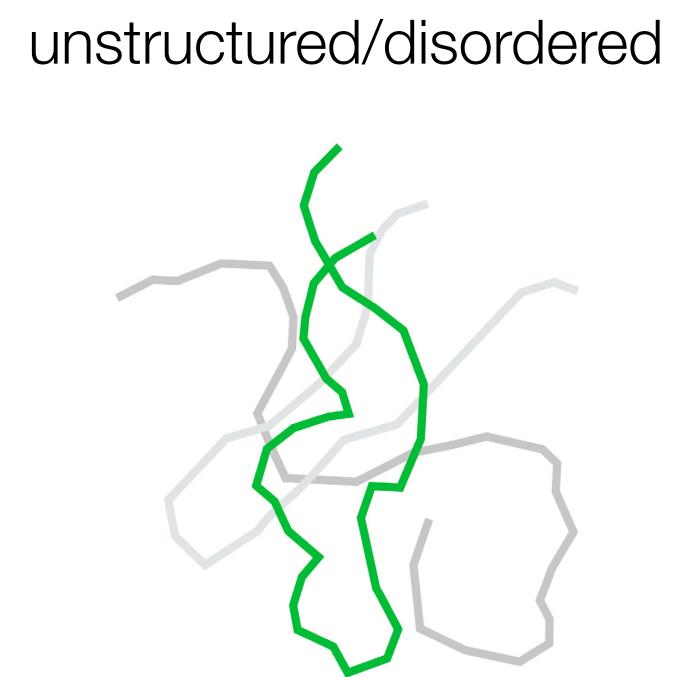
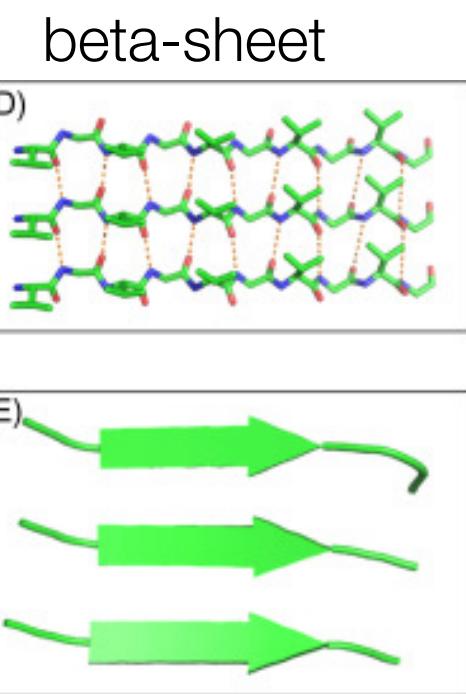
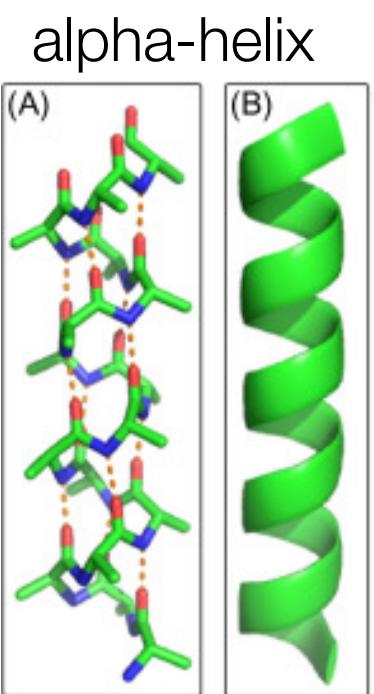
Amino acid sequence
(up to 27,000 amino acids)

Tertiary

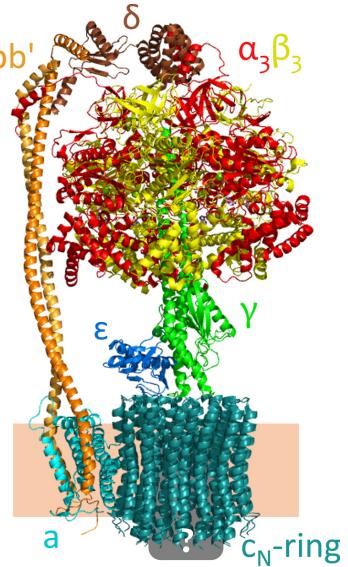
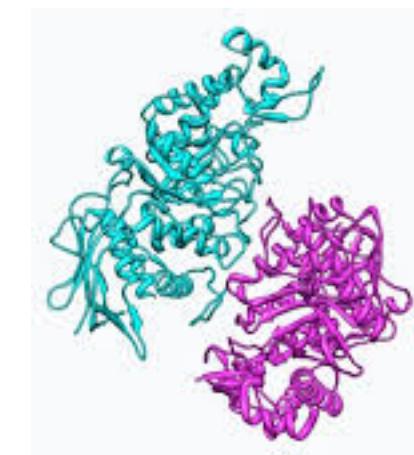
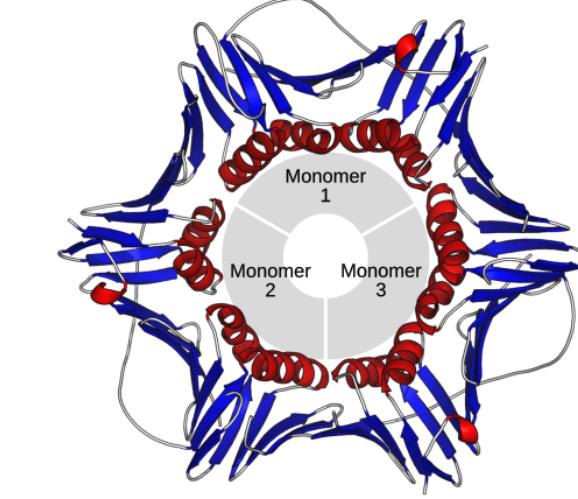


interactions of the side chains
(electrostatic interactions, salt bridges)

Secondary



Quaternary

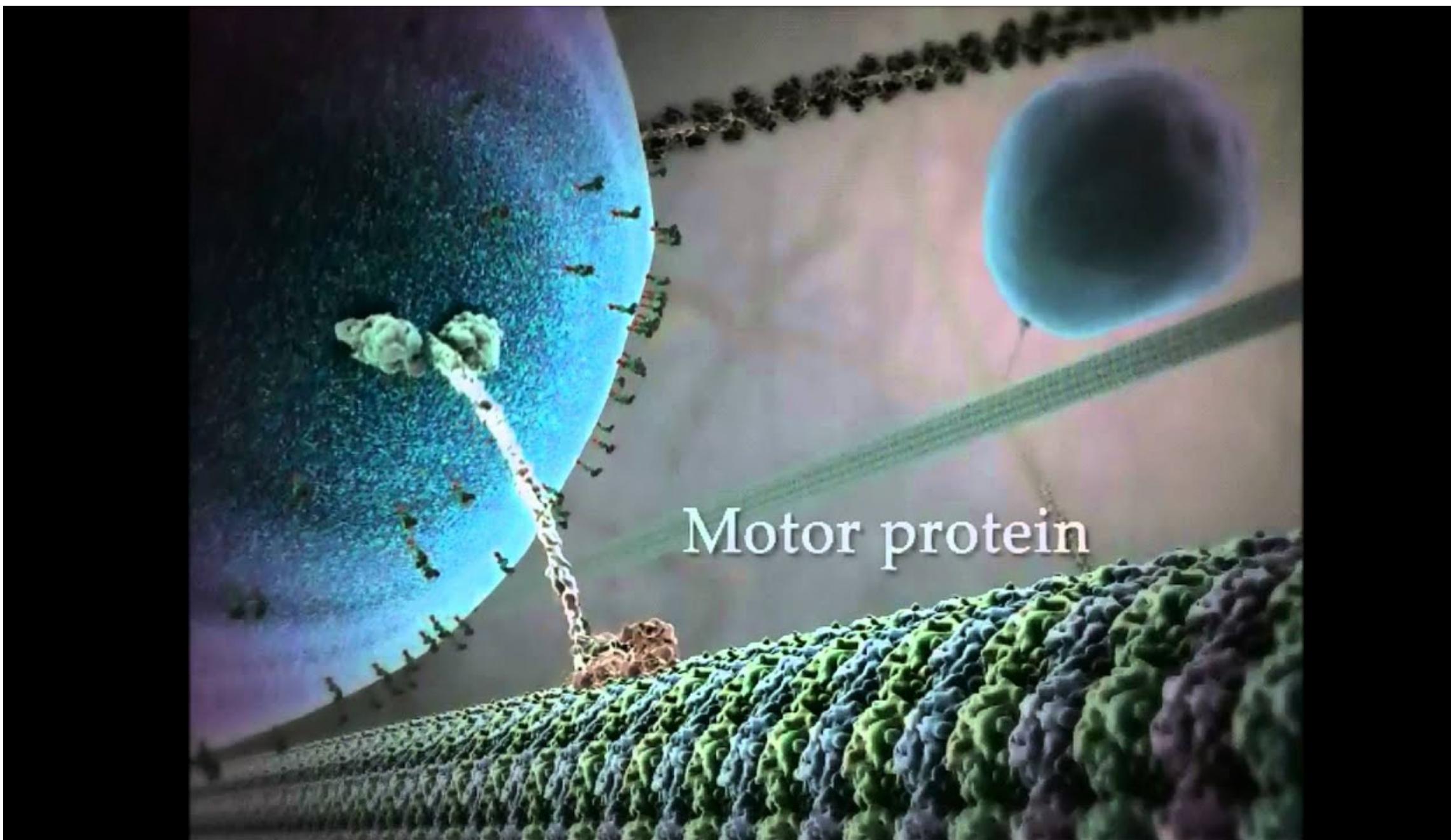


hydrogen bonding of the peptide backbone

multi-protein complexes

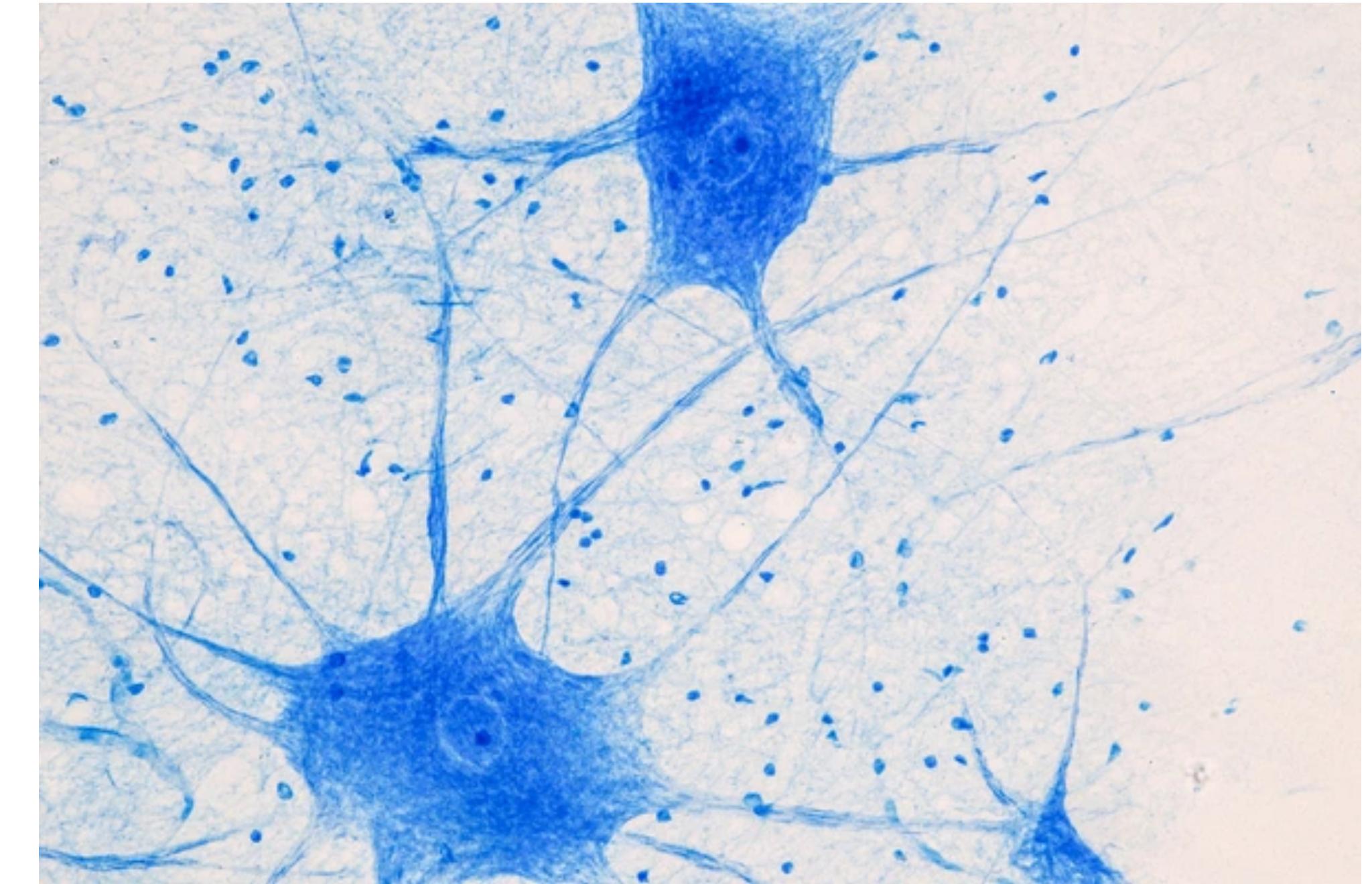
How do we know what proteins do?

Proteins are responsible for everything that happens inside a cell



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-uuk4Pr2i8&t=1s>

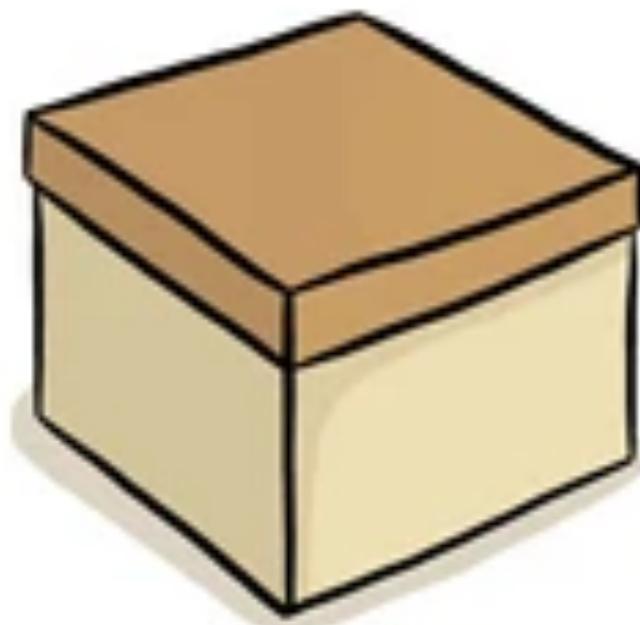
Can't just look under a microscope



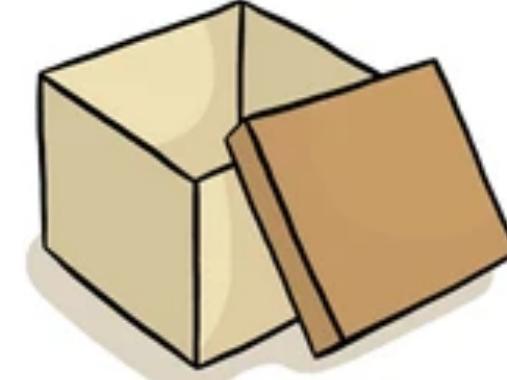
1 cell ~ 20 μm , organelles < 2 μm , protein < 5 nm

How do we know what proteins do?

There is an object
in this box



1. Open the box



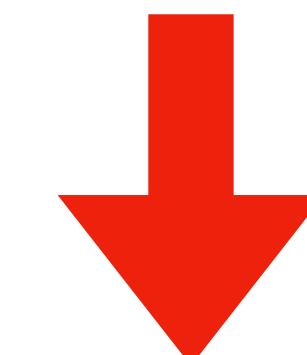
2. Remove the object



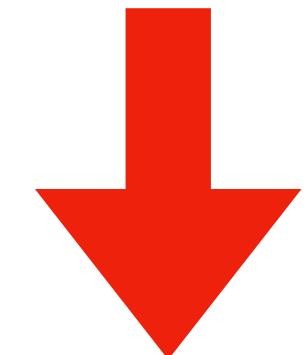
3. Look at it



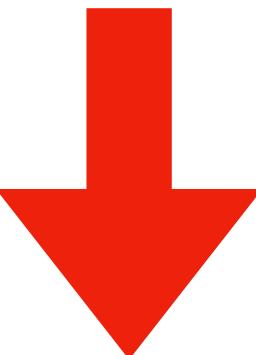
4. manipulate it



Purification



Structural studies



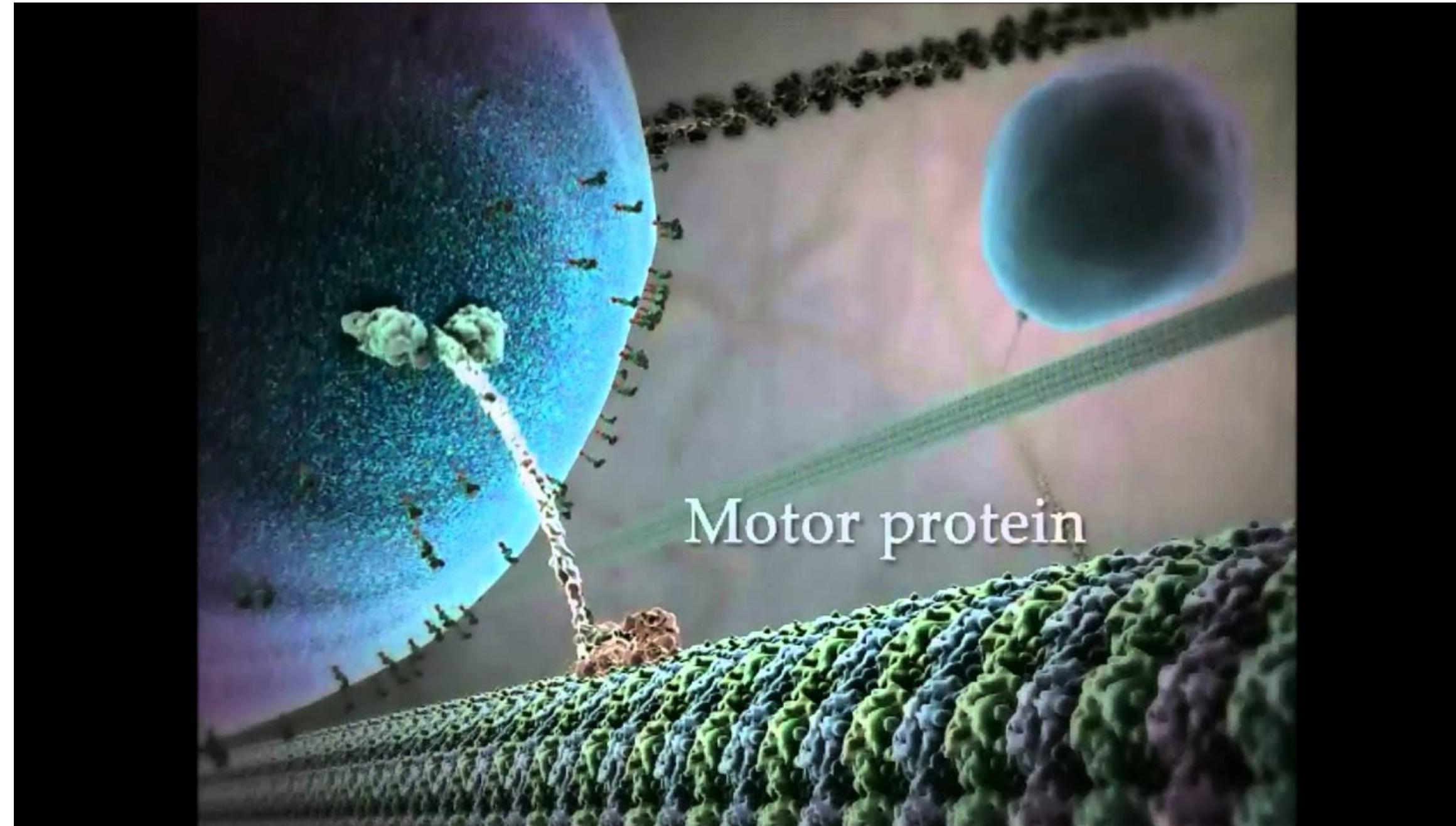
Functional studies

What does it do?

How do we know what proteins do?

Combining structural and functional knowledge

- Protein biochemistry
- Protein mechanics
- Protein biophysics
- Protein dynamics
- Protein structure



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-uuk4Pr2i8&t=1s>

Requires taking them out of the cell to study in detail

Why purify proteins?



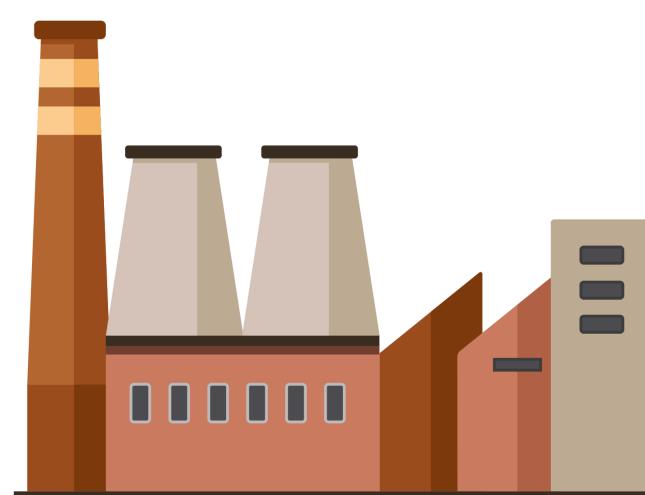
Knowledge

- How do things work?



Biomedicine

- Disease management
- Drug development
- Vaccines
- Diagnostics

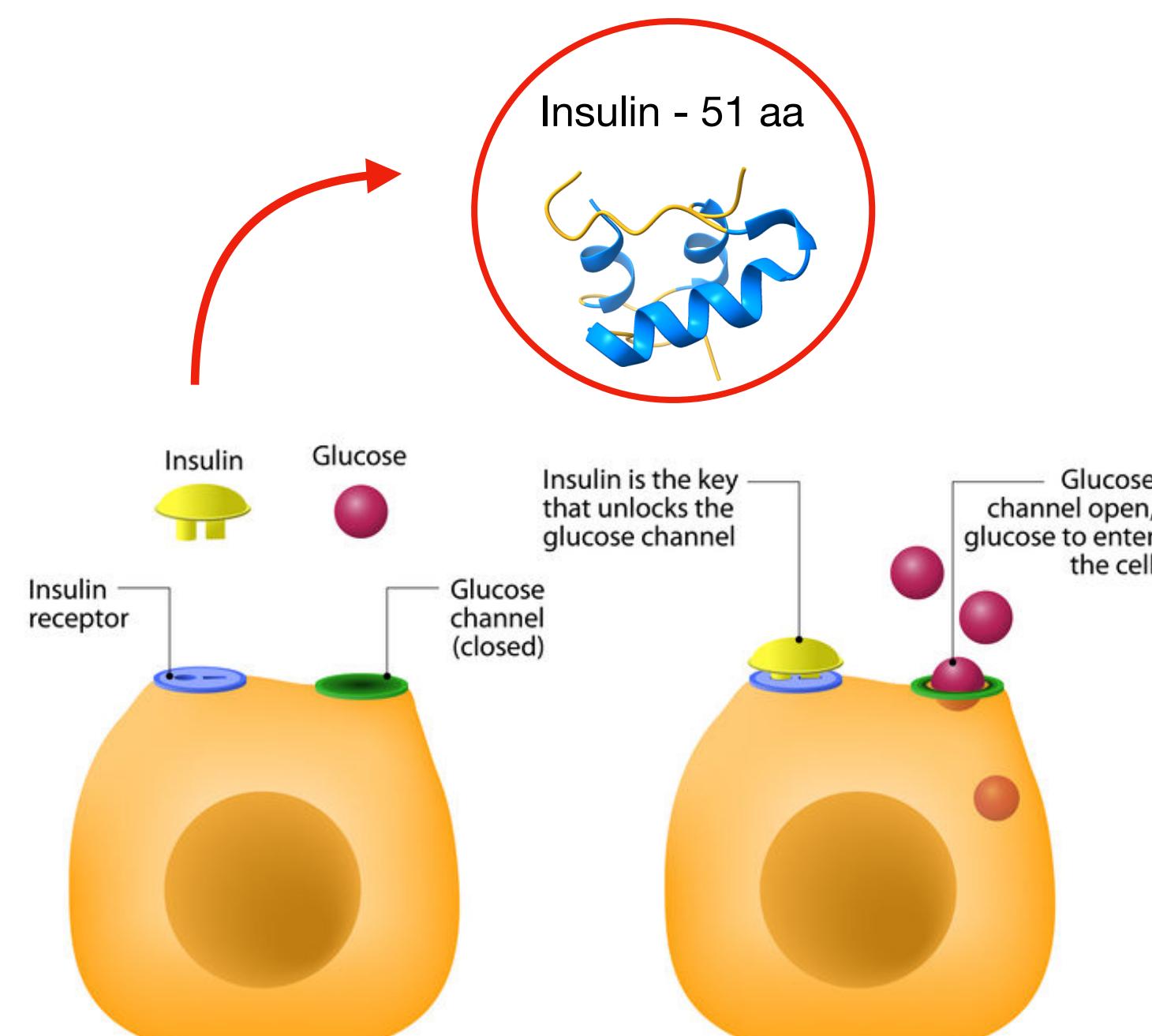


Industrial uses

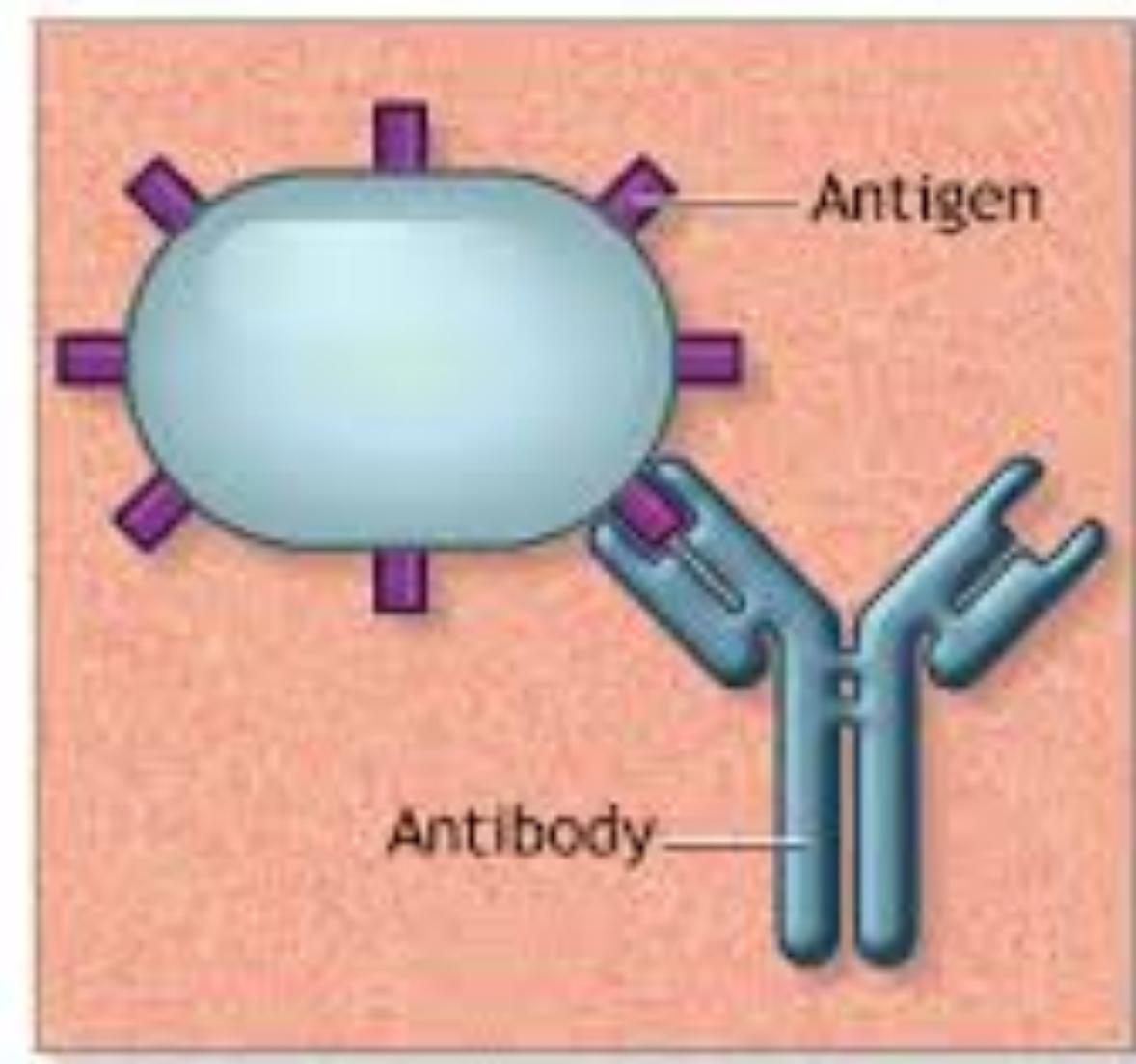
- Enzymes (food processing, textiles biofuels)
- Improving farming practices
- Forensics



Why purify proteins?



Managing diabetes

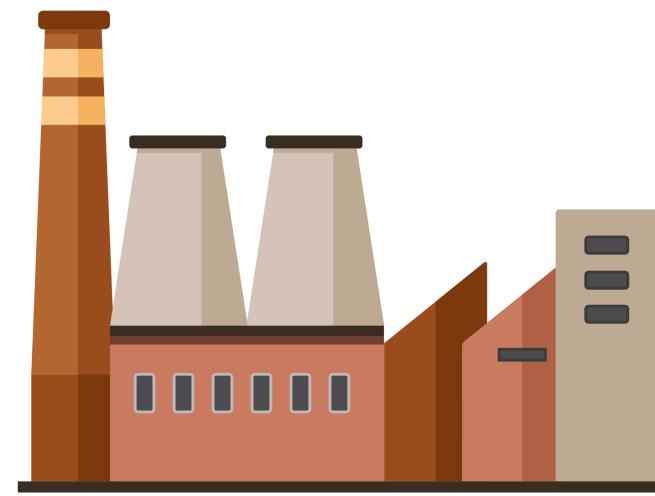


Producing vaccines



Serving as reagents in diagnostic tests

- Disease management
- Drug development
- Vaccines
- Diagnostics



Why purify proteins?

- Enzymes (food processing, textiles biofuels)
- Improving farming practices
- Forensics

Bio-fuels



Crop protection

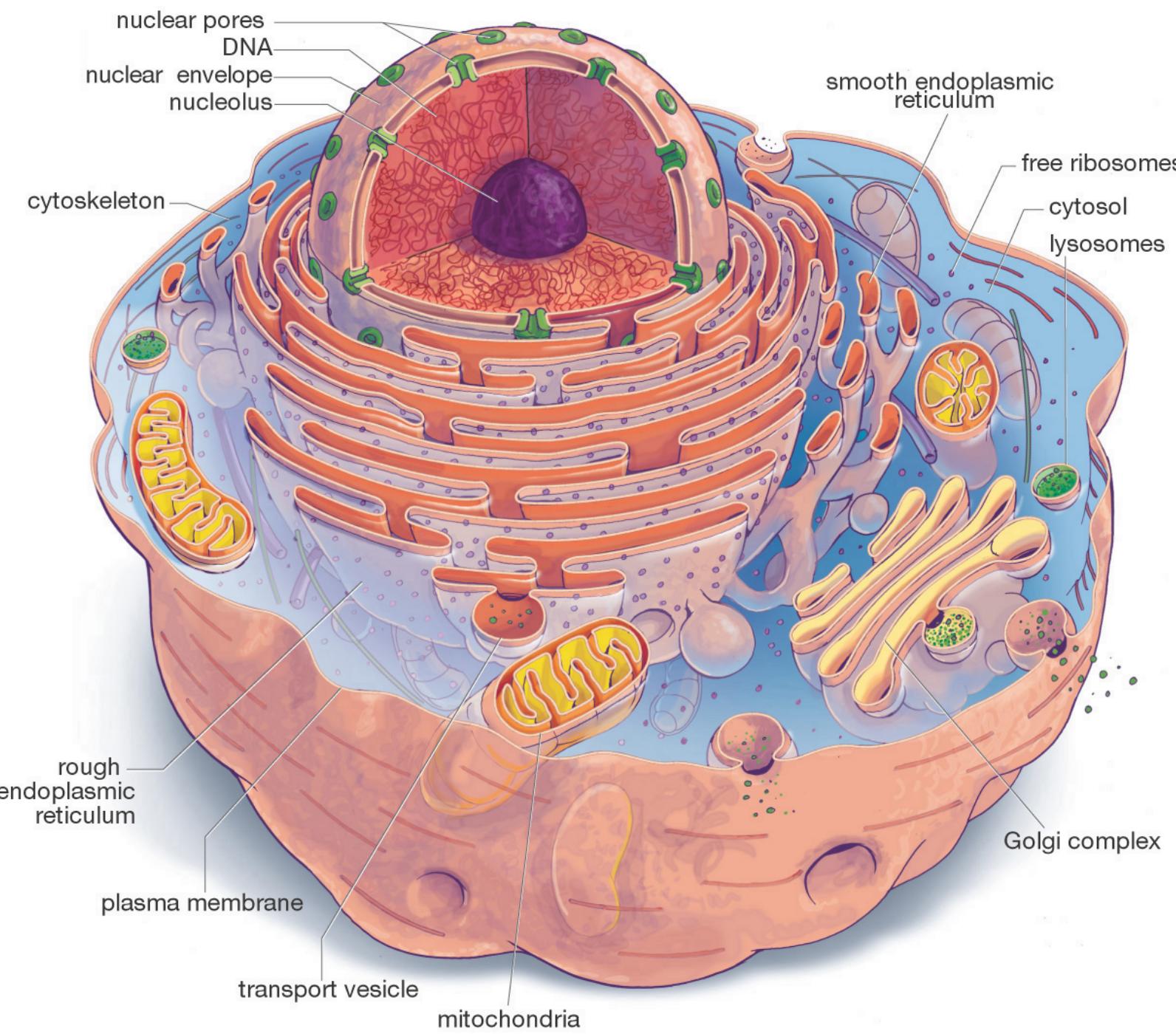


Substance identification

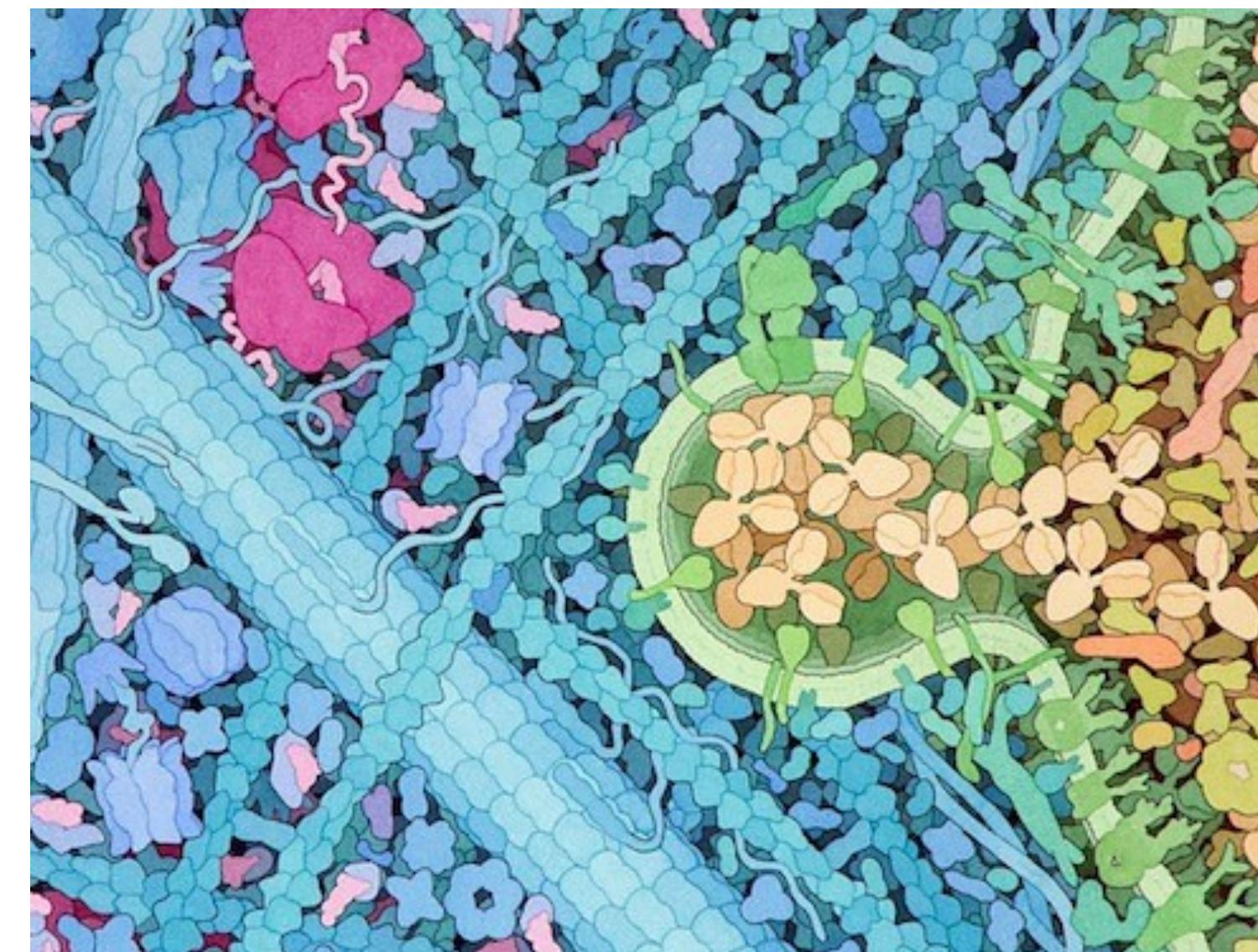


Cells are crowded places

Stylised animal cell



A very crowded environment



In one yeast cell

(Yeast is a eukaryotic cell)

- 42 million protein molecules
- 10,000 different proteins
- Some are plentiful (>500,000 copies)
- Some are very few (10 copies)

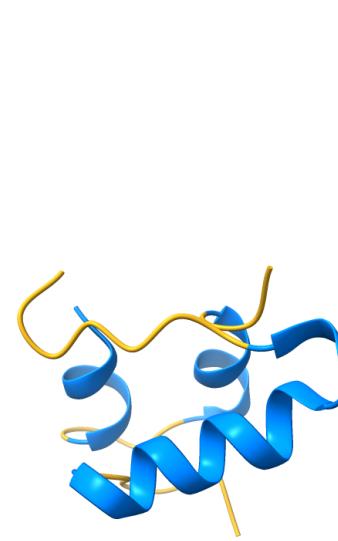


How can you pull out just one protein, especially if its rare?

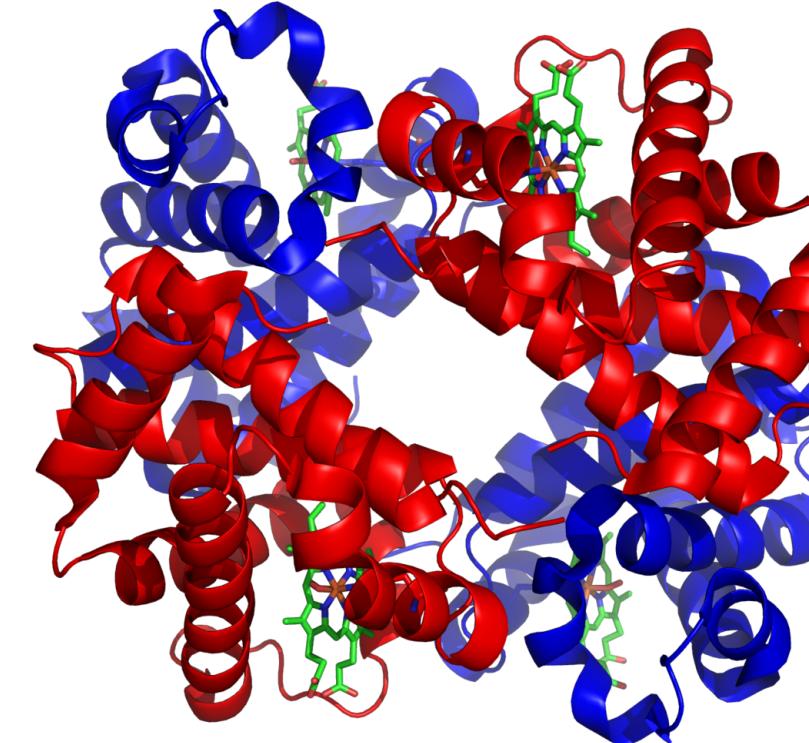
Biophysical properties of proteins

Proteins behave as colloidal particles influenced by hydrophobicity, charge, and size.

Size and shape

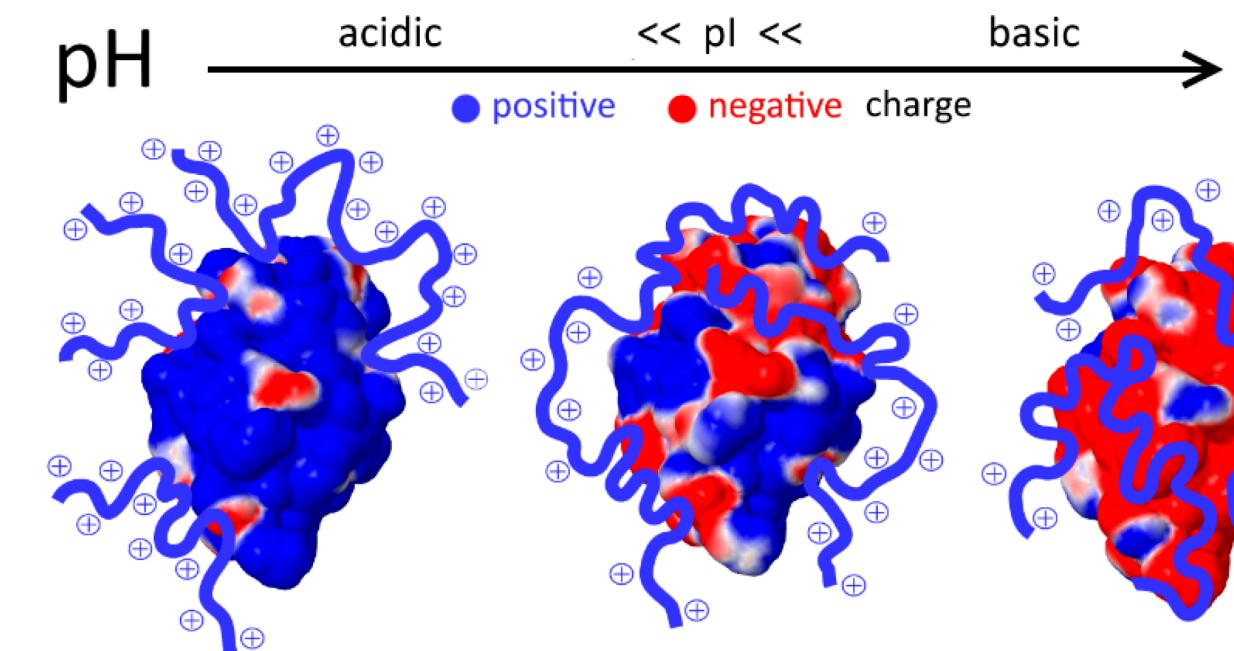


Insulin - 51 aa

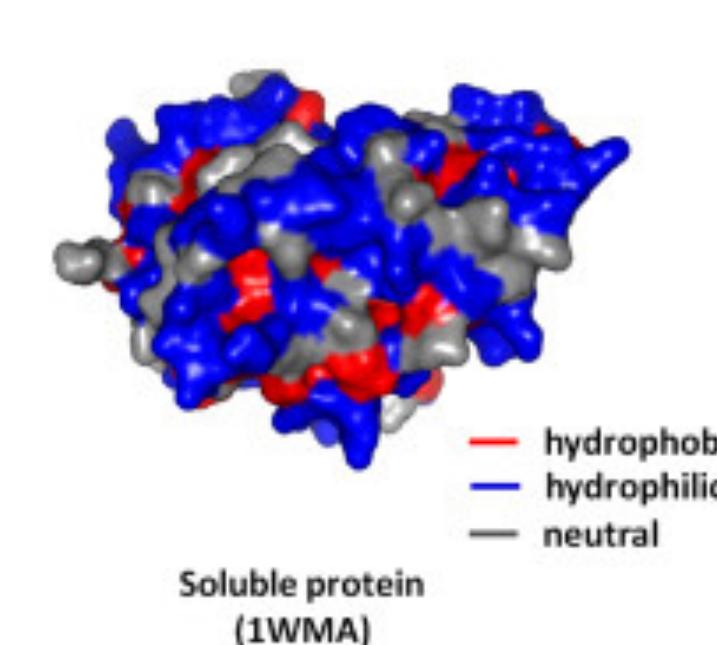


Hemoglobin - 433 aa

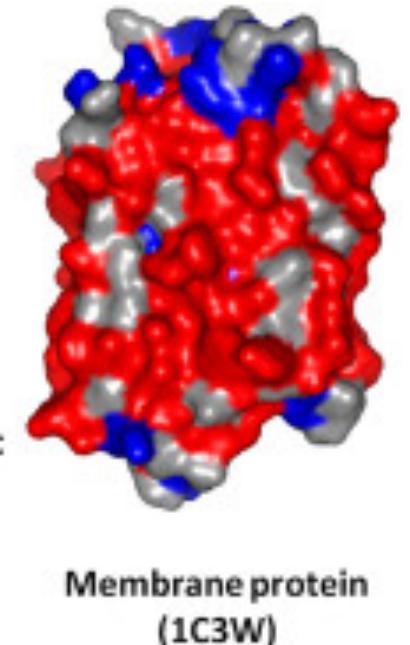
Charge



Hydrophobicity



Soluble protein
(1WMA)

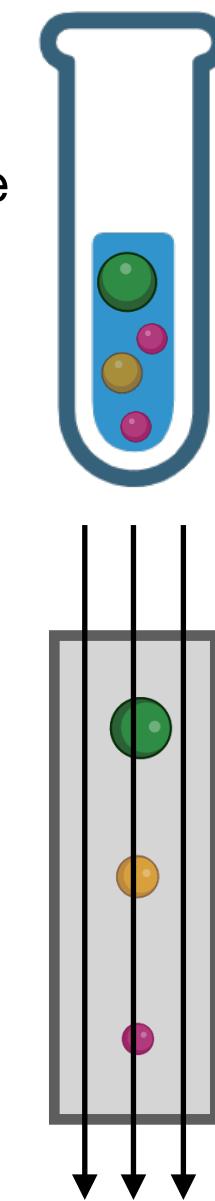


Membrane protein
(1C3W)

Differences can be exploited for protein purification

Purification techniques

Chromatography

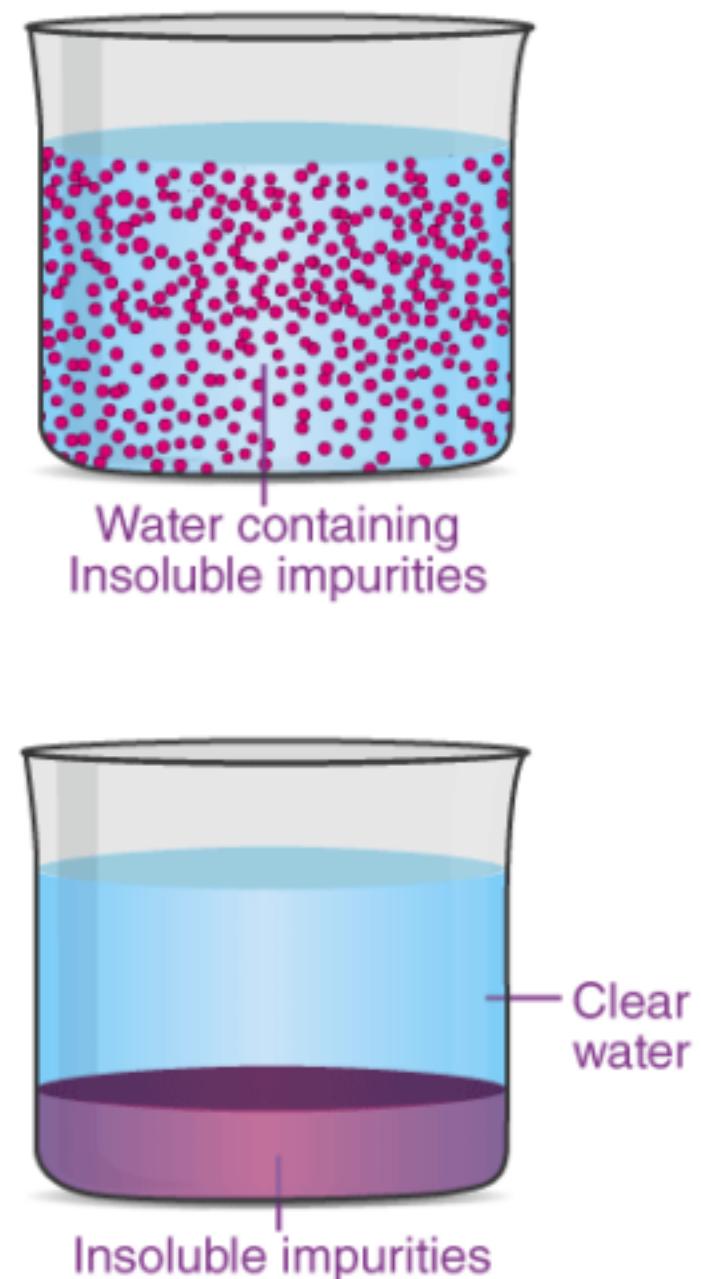


Liquid/mobile phase

Stationary phase

Size/shape/charge

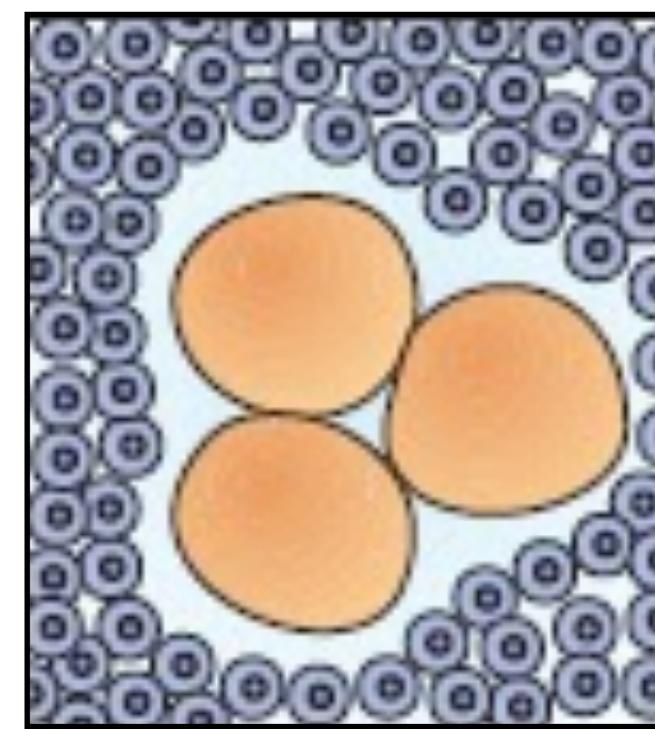
Sedimentation



© F

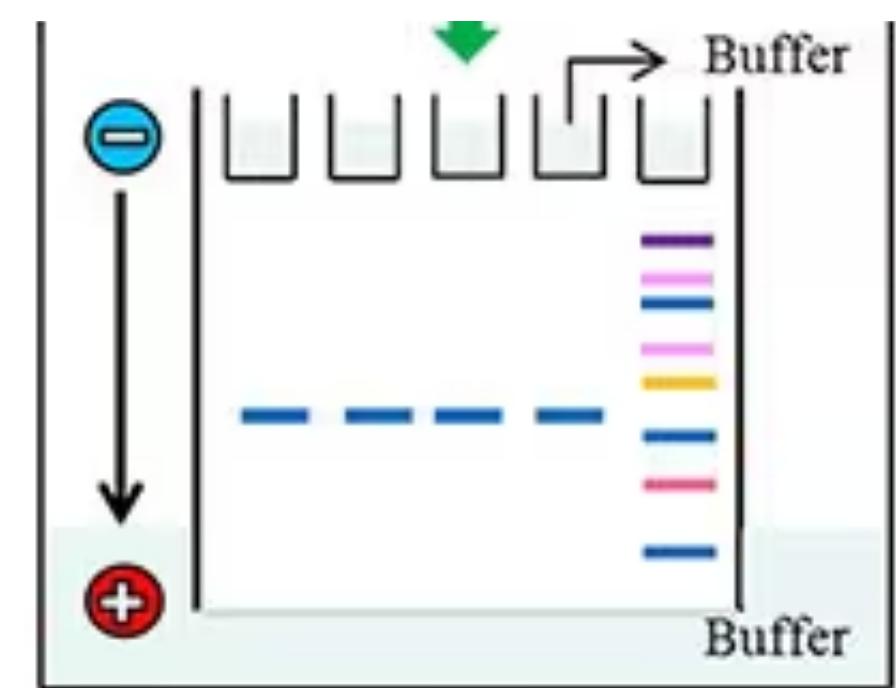
Densities

Precipitation



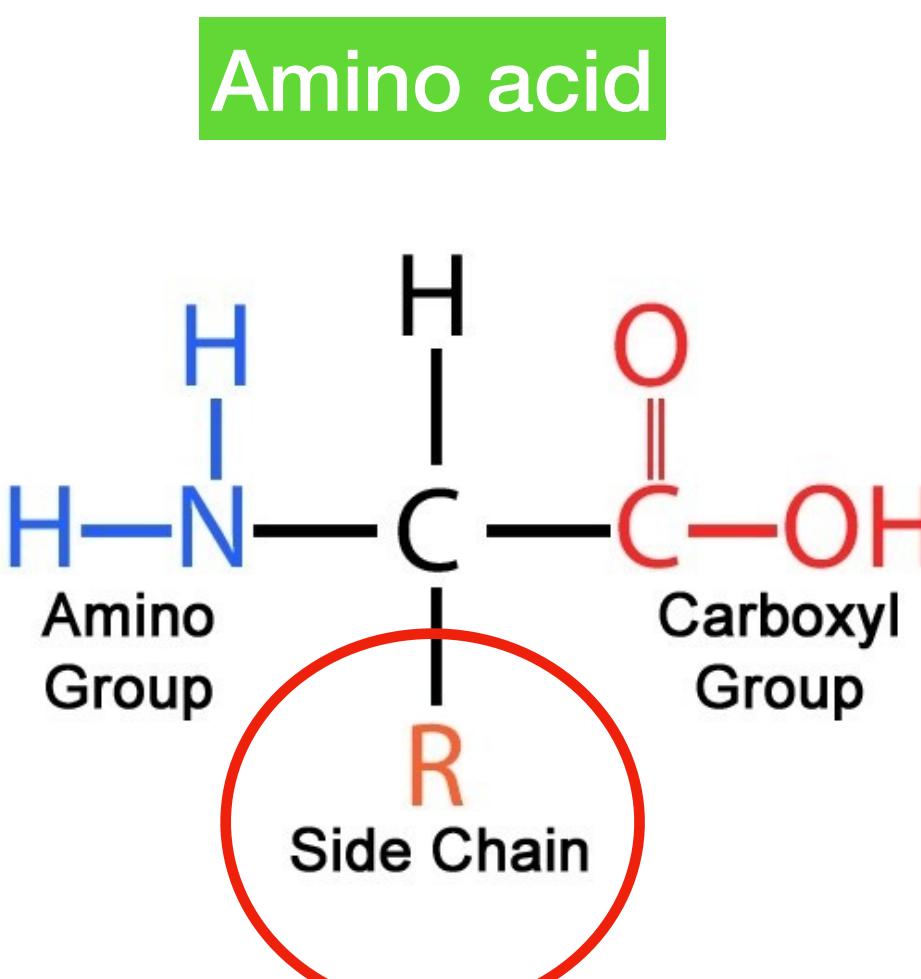
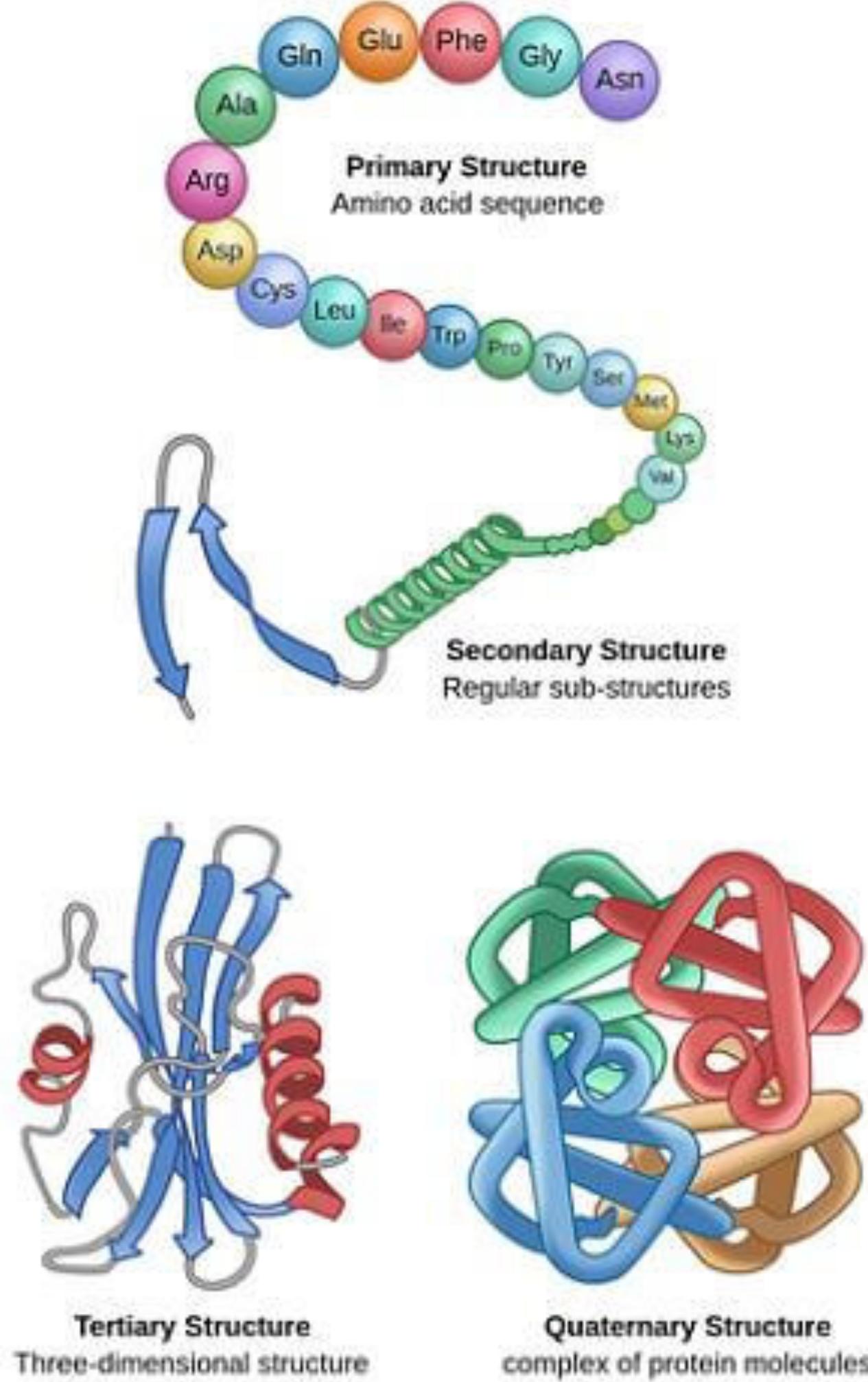
Solubilities

Electrophoresis

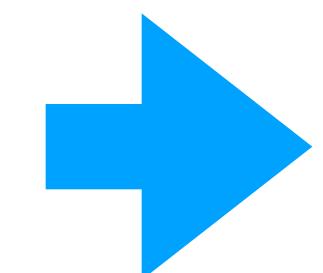


Size/charge - using a current

Proteins are made of amino acids



21 different side-chains



Twenty-One Amino Acids		
⊕ Positive ⊖ Negative • Side chain charge at physiological pH 7.4		
A. Amino Acids with Electrically Charged Side Chains		
Positive Arginine (Arg) R Histidine (His) H Lysine (Lys) K 	Negative Aspartic Acid (Asp) D Glutamic Acid (Glu) E 	
B. Amino Acids with Polar Uncharged Side Chains		
Serine (Ser) S Threonine (Thr) T Asparagine (Asn) N Glutamine (Gln) Q 	C. Special Cases	D. Amino Acids with Hydrophobic Side Chain
 	 	Alanine (Ala) A Isoleucine (Ile) I Leucine (Leu) L Methionine (Met) M Phenylalanine (Phe) F Tryptophan (Trp) W Tyrosine (Tyr) Y Valine (Val) V

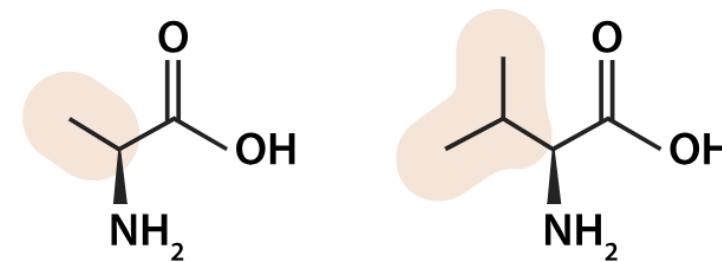
pKa Data: CRC Handbook of Chemistry, v.2010

Dan Cojocari, Department of Medical Biophysics, University of Toronto, 2010

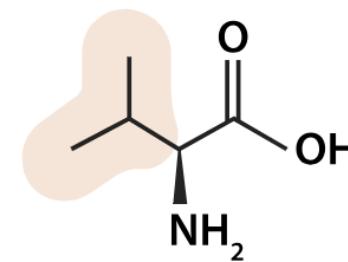
Amino acids have different properties

* special cases

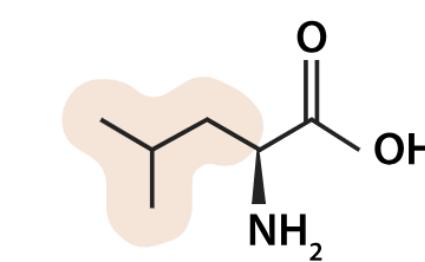
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic



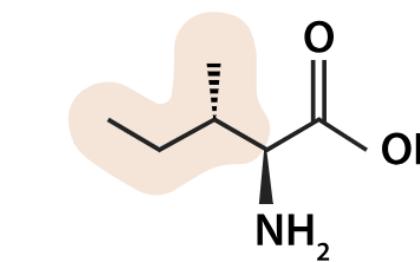
Alanine (Ala, A)



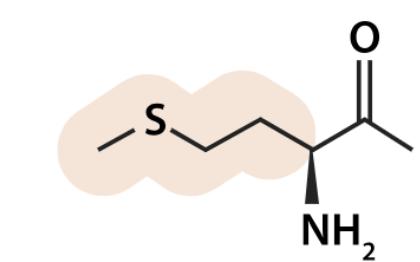
Valine (Val, V)



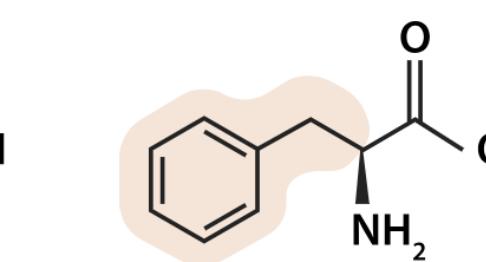
Leucine (Leu, L)



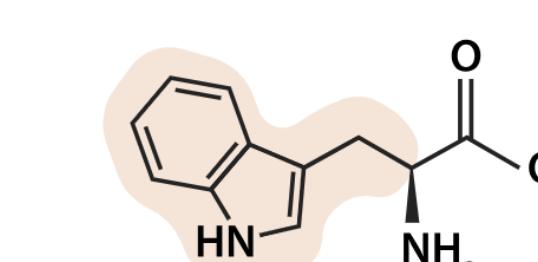
Isoleucine (Ile, I)



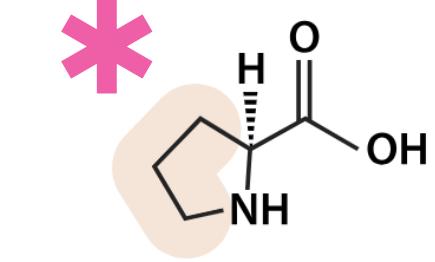
Methionine (Met, M)



Phenylalanine (Phe, F)



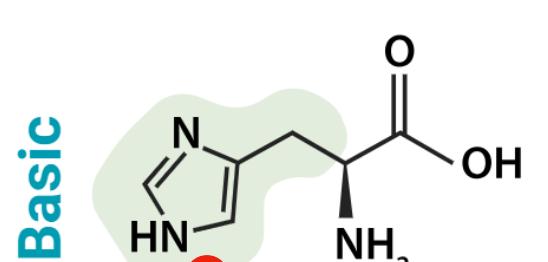
Tryptophan (Trp, W)



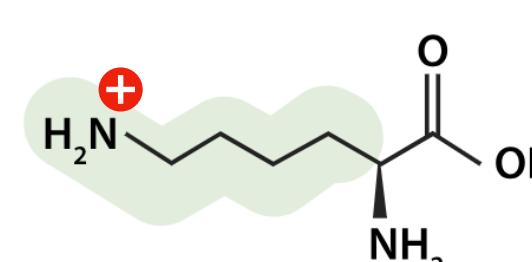
Proline (Pro, P)

- Its amino N is locked inside a ring
- Imposes constraint (phi angle) in the peptide bond
- Induces bends in a protein structure

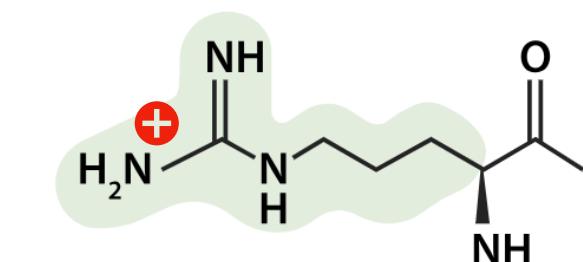
Electrically charged side chains



Histidine (His, H)

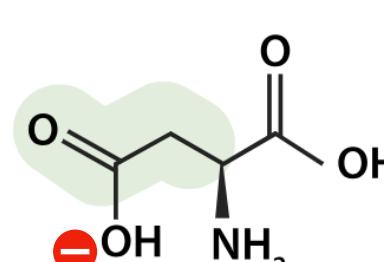


Lysine (Lys, K)

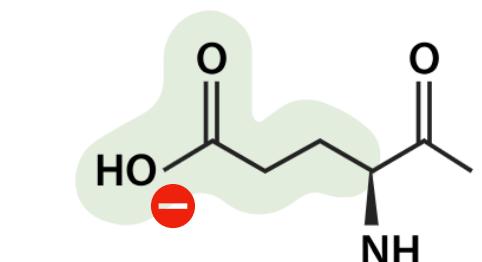


Arginine (Arg, R)

Basic



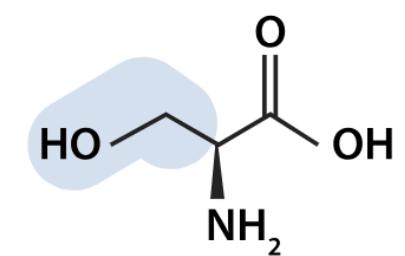
Aspartic Acid (Asp, D)



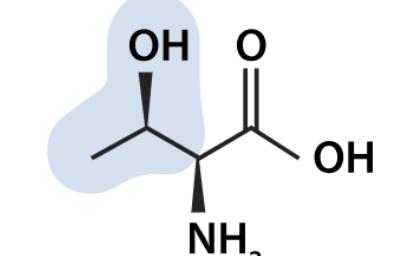
Glutamic Acid (Glu, E)

Acidic

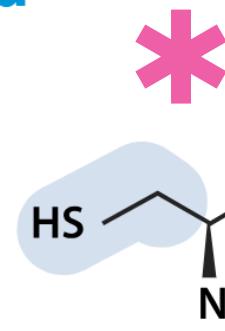
Polar side chains, uncharged



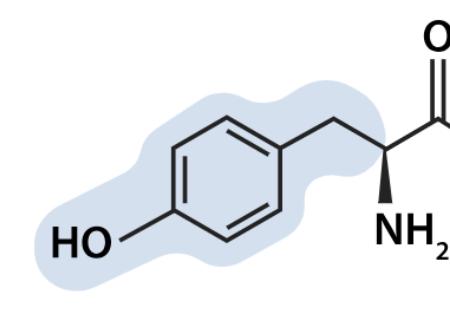
Serine (Ser, S)



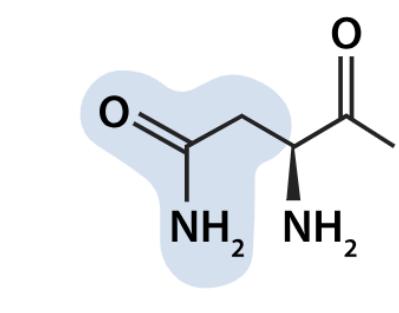
Threonine (Thr, T)



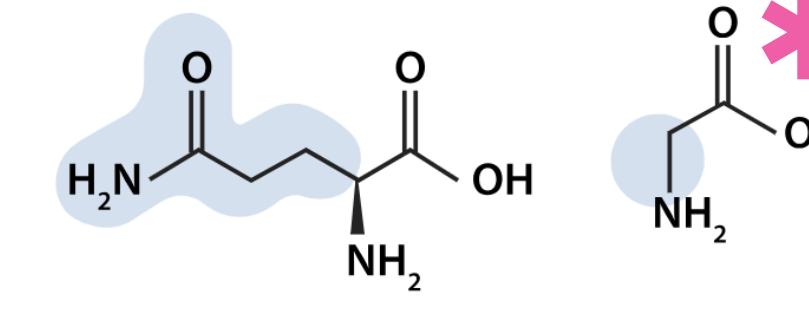
Cysteine (Cys, C)



Tyrosine (Tyr, Y)



Asparagine (Asn, N)



Glutamine (Gln, Q)



Glycine (Gly, G)

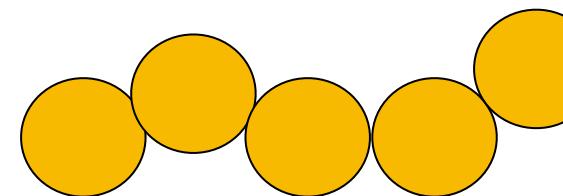
- The smallest amino acid
- Enables compaction in a protein

- Forms di-sulfide bond
- stabilises protein structure

Combination of amino acids will determine the biophysical properties of a protein

Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic

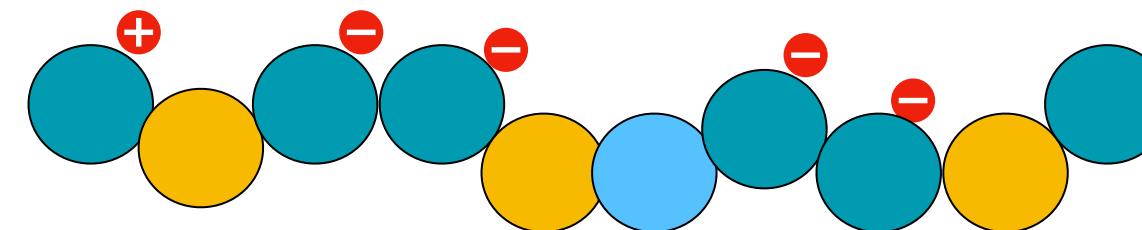
All non-polar amino acids?



= hydrophobic protein

Electrically charged side chains

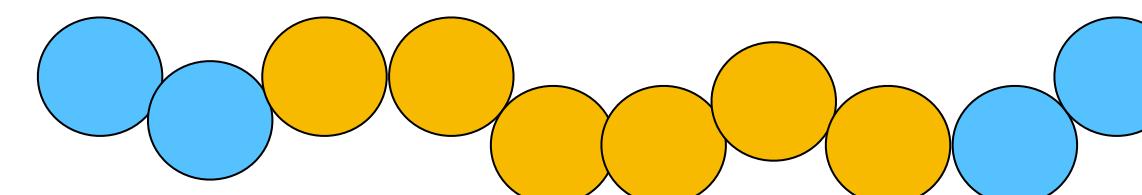
Mostly negatively charged amino acids?



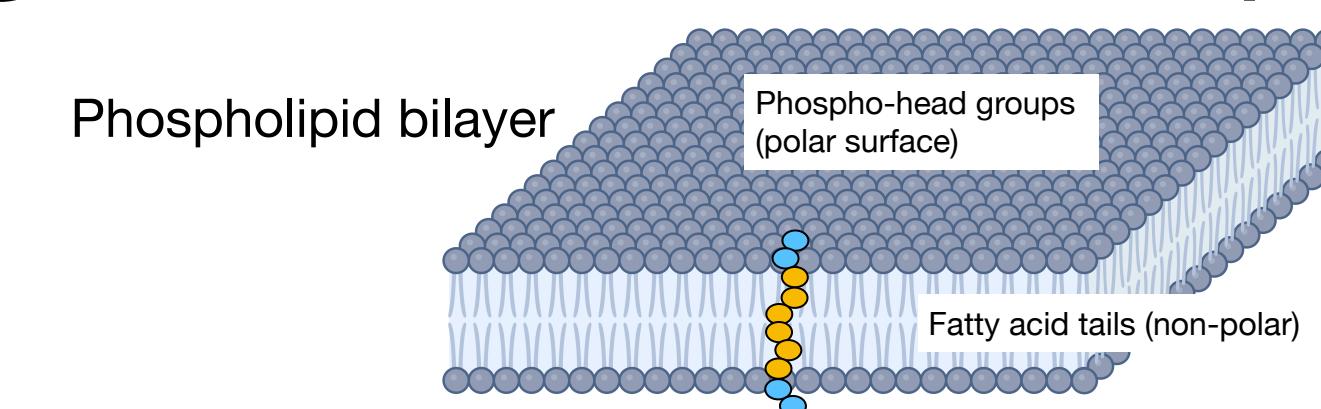
= negatively charged protein

Polar side chains, uncharged

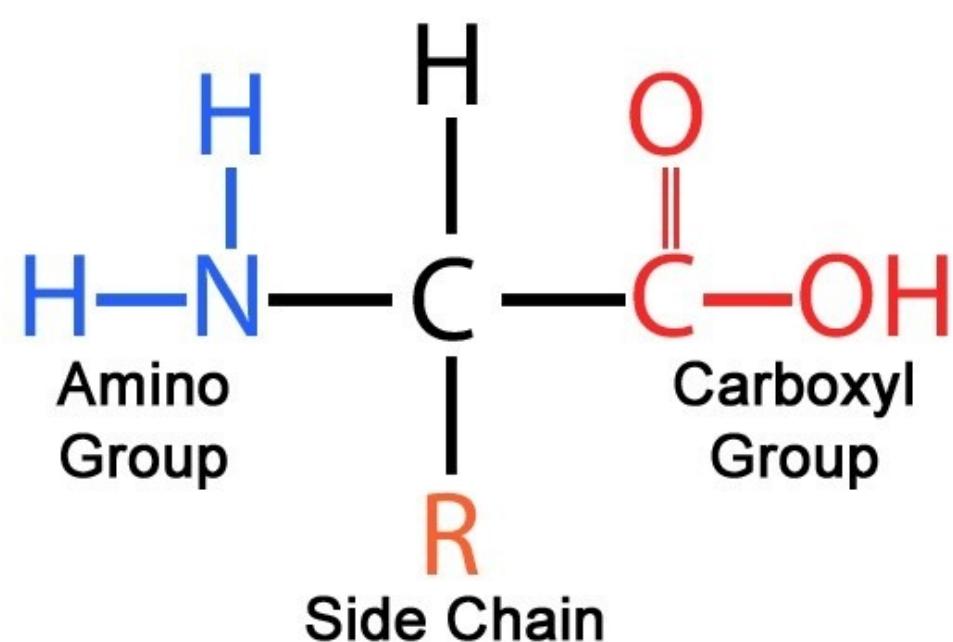
Polar ends, non-polar middle?



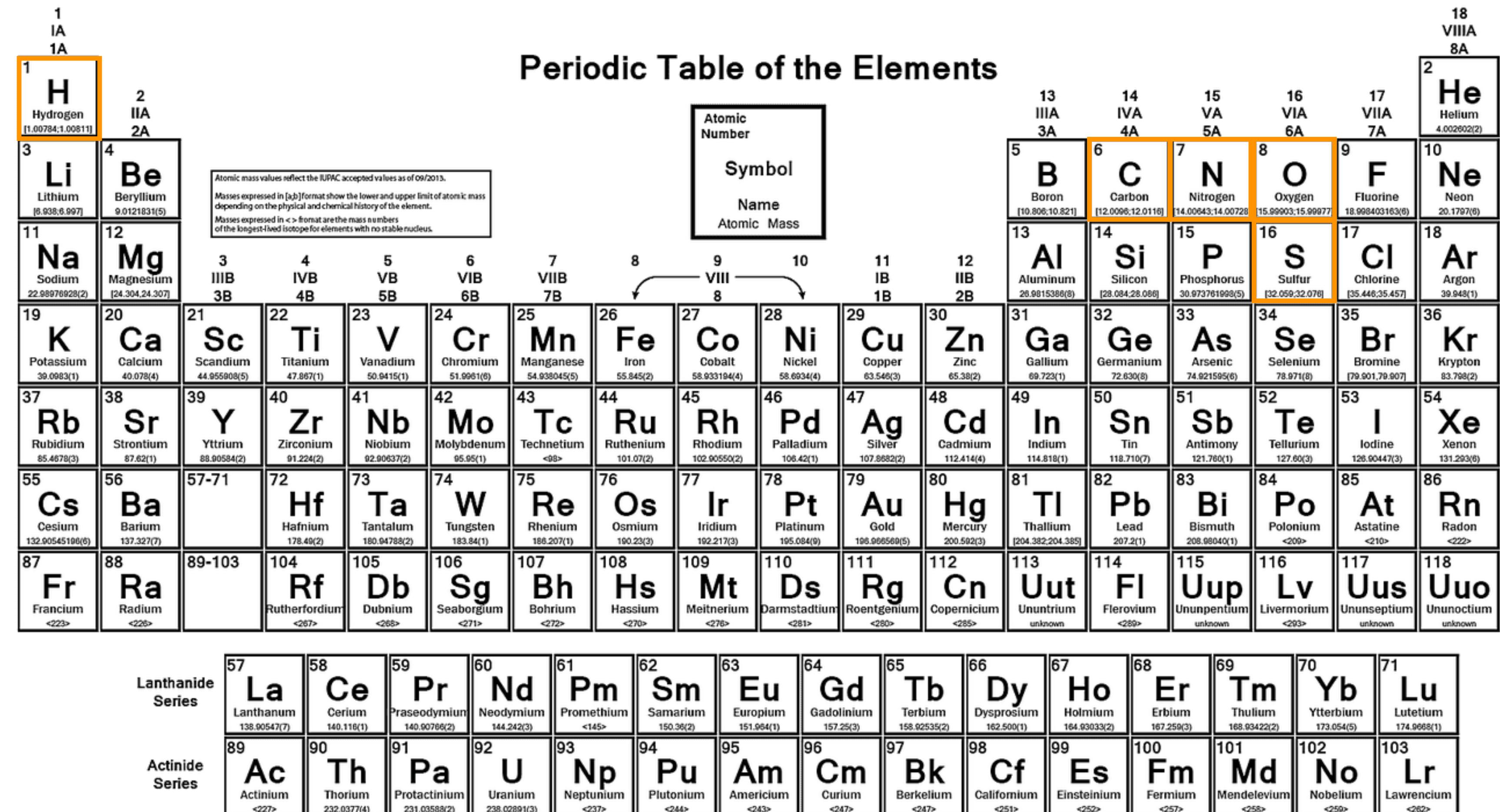
= transmembrane protein



Protein size



Periodic Table of the Elements



The table displays the following information for each element:

- Atomic Number**: The element's position in the periodic table.
- Symbol**: The standard one- or two-letter symbol for the element.
- Name**: The name of the element.
- Atomic Mass**: The element's atomic mass, expressed in atomic mass units (amu).

Elements highlighted in orange (Rows 1-3):

- Period 1 (Row 1):** Hydrogen (H)
- Period 2 (Row 2):** Helium (He), Boron (B), Carbon (C), Nitrogen (N), Oxygen (O), Fluorine (F), Neon (Ne)
- Period 3 (Row 3):** Sodium (Na), Magnesium (Mg), Aluminum (Al), Silicon (Si), Phosphorus (P), Sulfur (S), Chlorine (Cl), Argon (Ar)

Series:

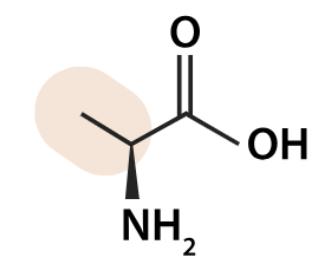
- Lanthanide Series**: Elements 57-71 (La-Lu)
- Actinide Series**: Elements 89-103 (Ac-Lr)

Each element has a mass

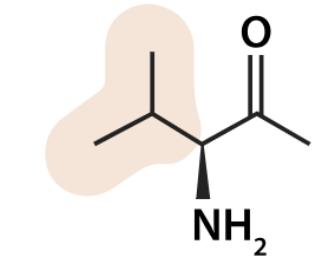
Atomic mass = molecular weight (MW) = g/mol = dalton

Protein size

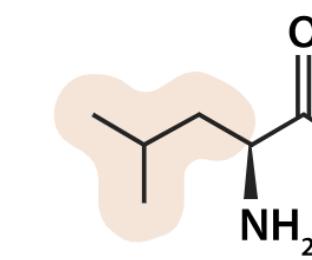
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic



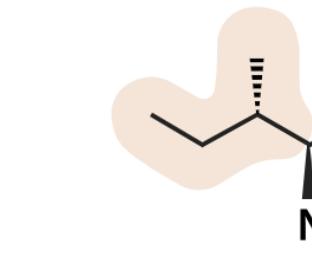
Alanine (Ala, A)
MW: 89,09



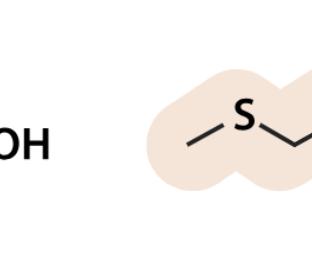
Valine (Val, V)
MW: 117,15



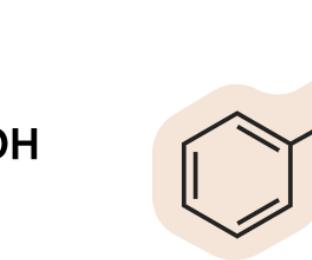
Leucin (Leu, L)
MW: 131,17



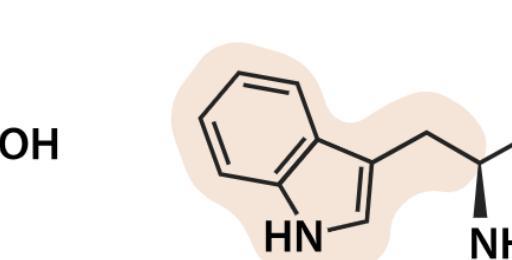
Isoleucine (Ile, I)
MW: 131,17



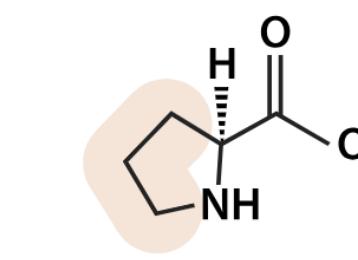
Methionine (Met, M)
MW: 149,21



Phenylalanine (Phe, F)
MW: 165,19

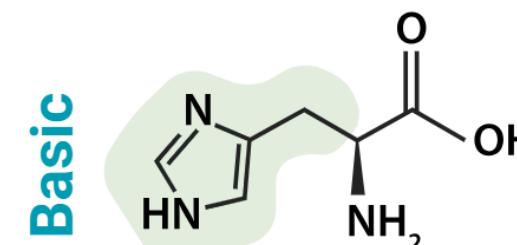


Tryptophan (Trp, W)
MW: 204,23



Proline (Pro, P)
MW: 115,13

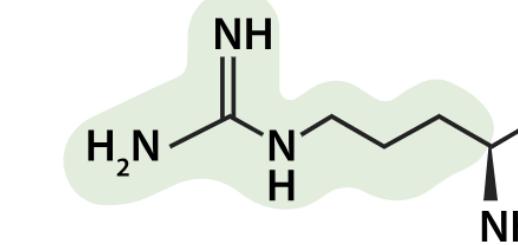
Electrically charged side chains



Histidine (His, H)
MW: 155,16

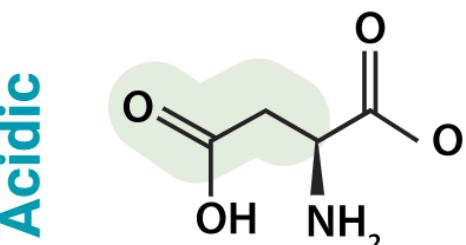


Lysine (Lys, K)
MW: 146,19

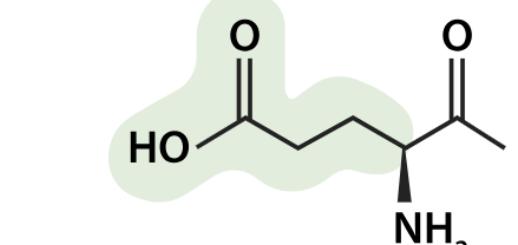


Arginine (Arg, R)
MW: 174,20

Basic



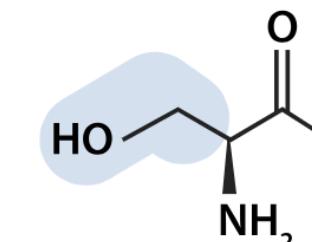
Aspartic Acid (Asp, D)
MW: 133,1



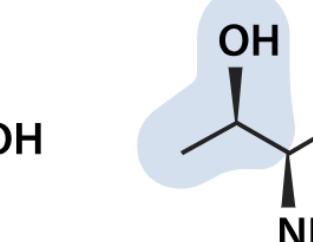
Glutamic Acid (Glu, E)
MW: 147,13

Acidic

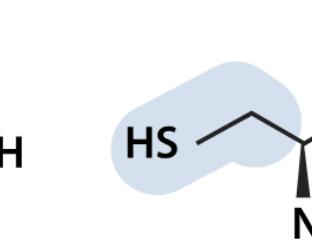
Polar side chains, uncharged



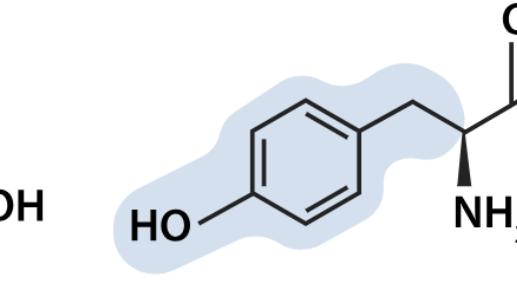
Serine (Ser, S)
MW: 105,09



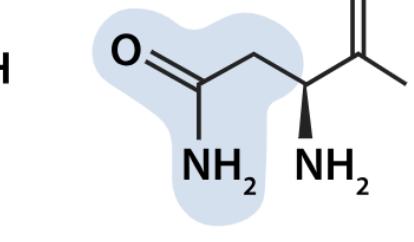
Threonine (Thr, T)
MW: 119,12



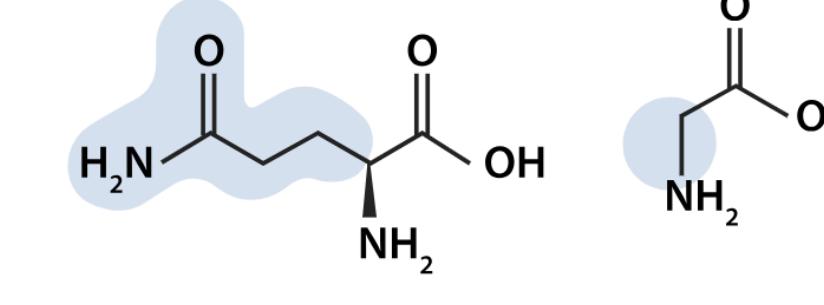
Cysteine (Cys, C)
MW: 121,16



Tyrosine (Tyr, Y)
MW: 181,19



Asparagine (Asn, N)
MW: 132,12



Glutamine (Gln, Q)
MW: 146,15



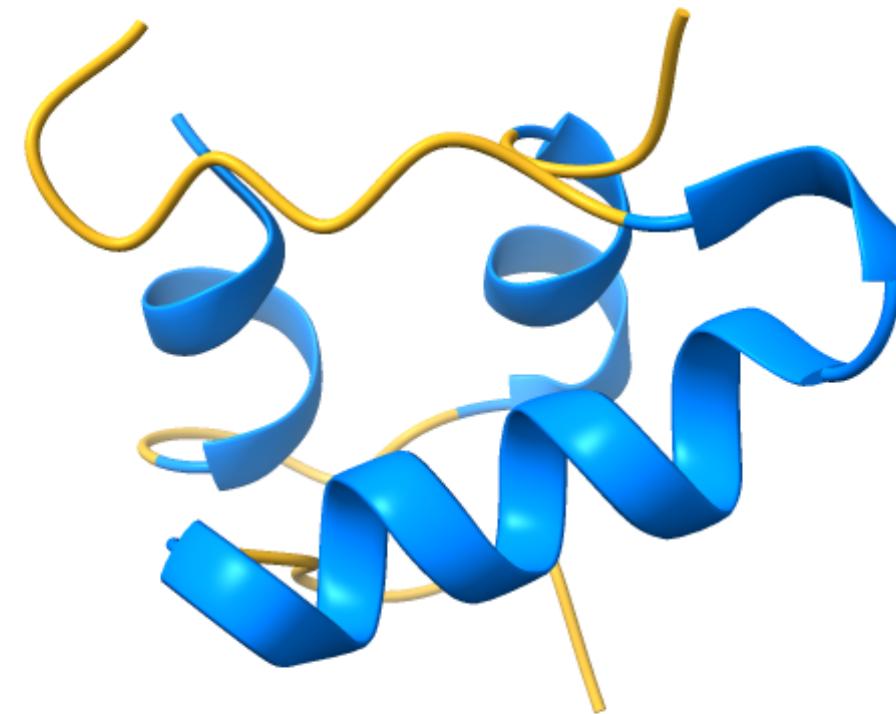
Glycine (Gly, G)
MW: 75,07

Each amino acid has a different mass

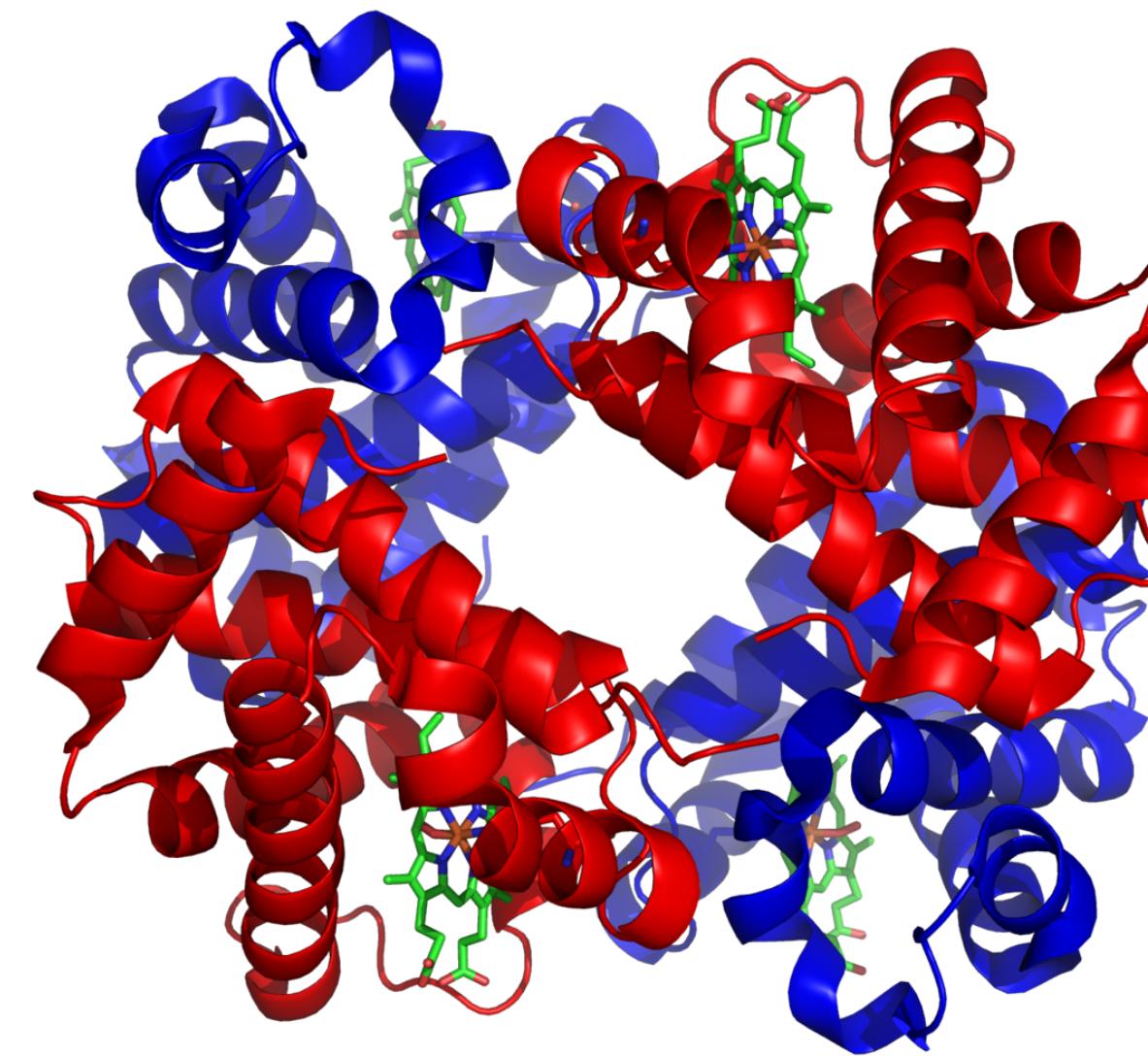
molecular weight (MW) = g/mol = dalton

Protein size

Insulin - 51 aa
5.8 kDa



Hemoglobin - 433 aa → Up to 27,000 aa!
64.5 kDa



Each protein has a different size and mass

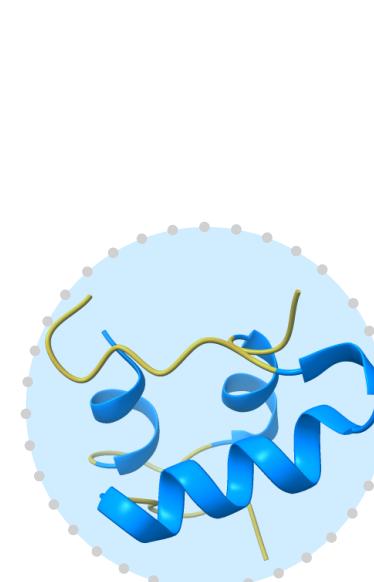
molecular weight (MW) = g/mol = dalton

Protein shape

Variations in protein structure means that proteins have different shapes

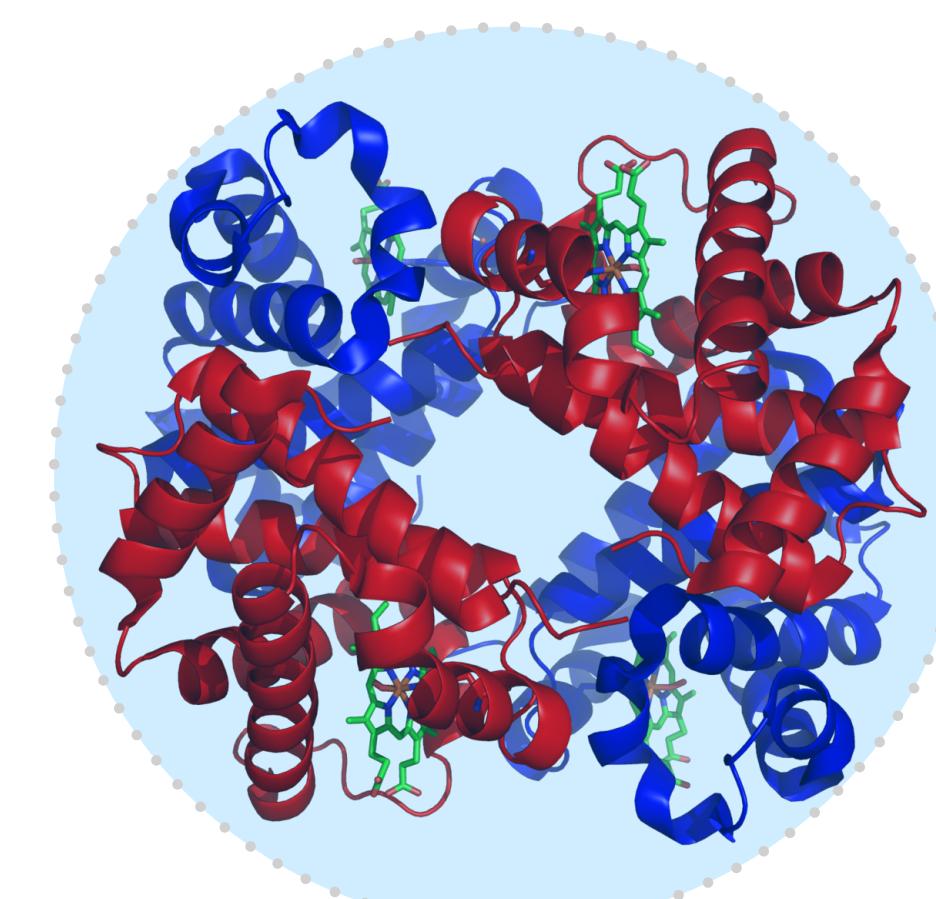
Different shapes will interact with the surrounding liquid differently (hydrodynamics)

Insulin - 51 aa



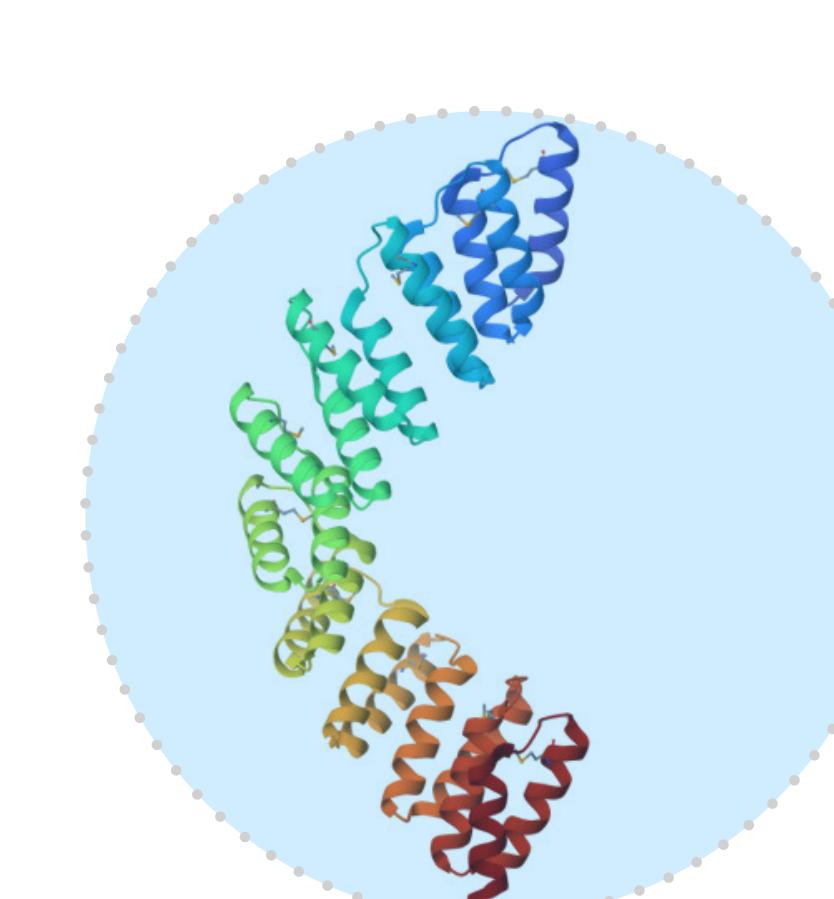
small and compact

Hemoglobin - 433 aa



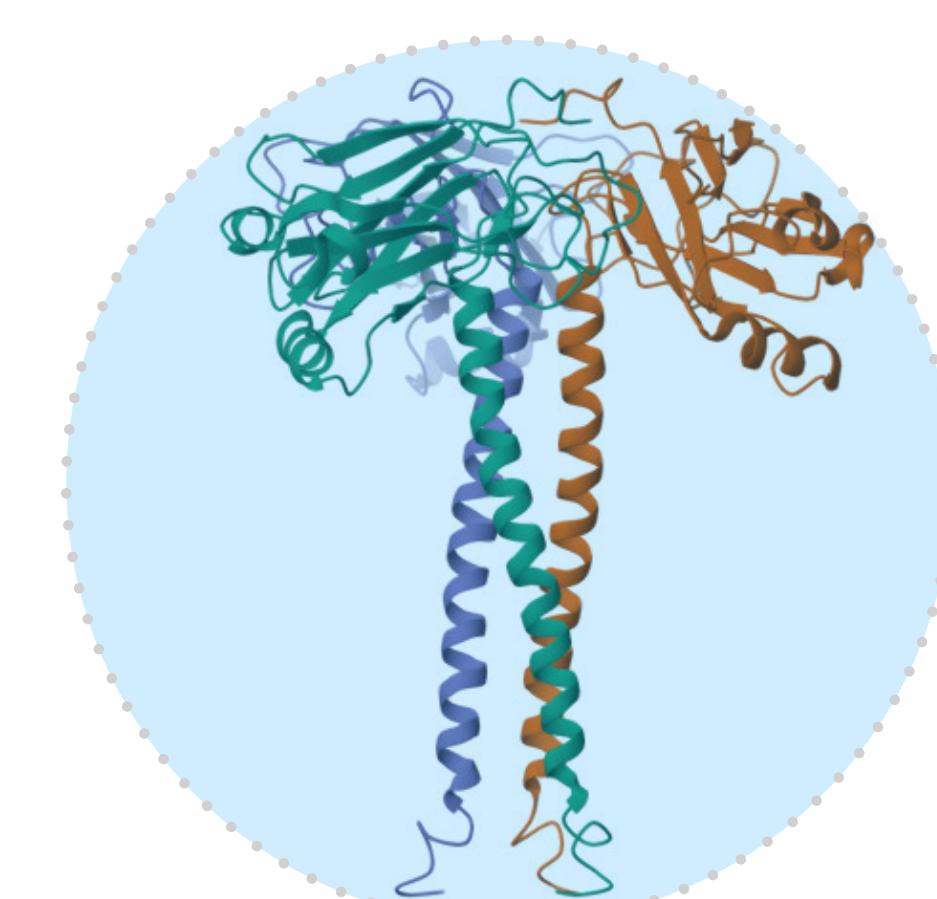
large and compact

PPR protein- 350 aa



elongated

WD40/TRAF protein - 410 aa



Compact region + elongated region

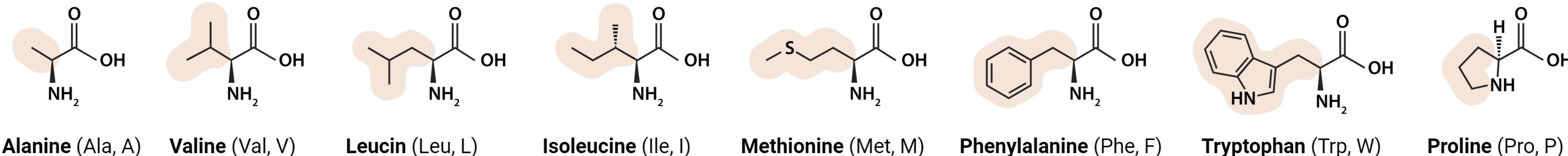
Combination of size and shape

Hydrodynamic radius

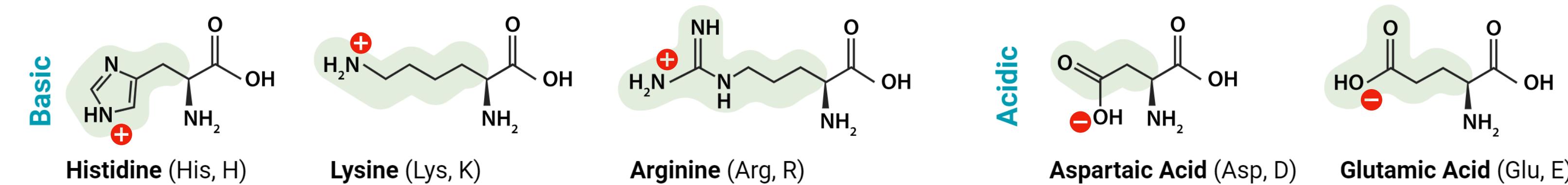
- The radius of a sphere with the same hydrodynamic properties
- Experimentally determined by Stokes Law

Protein charge

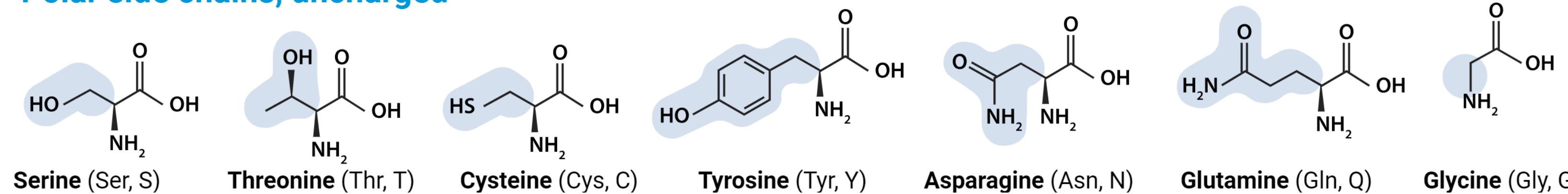
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic



Electrically charged side chains

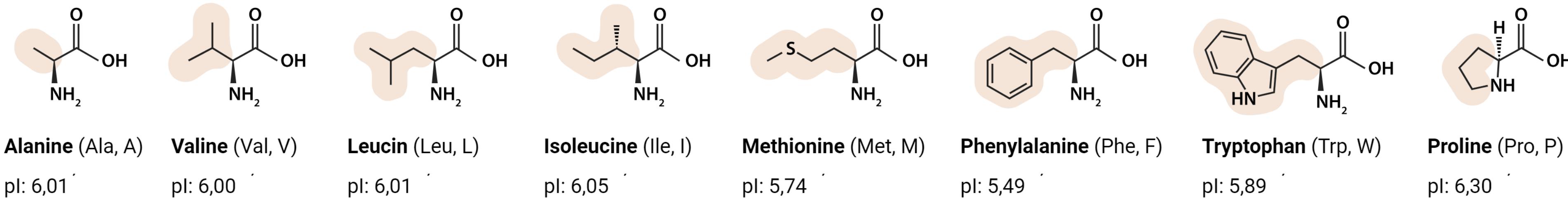


Polar side chains, uncharged

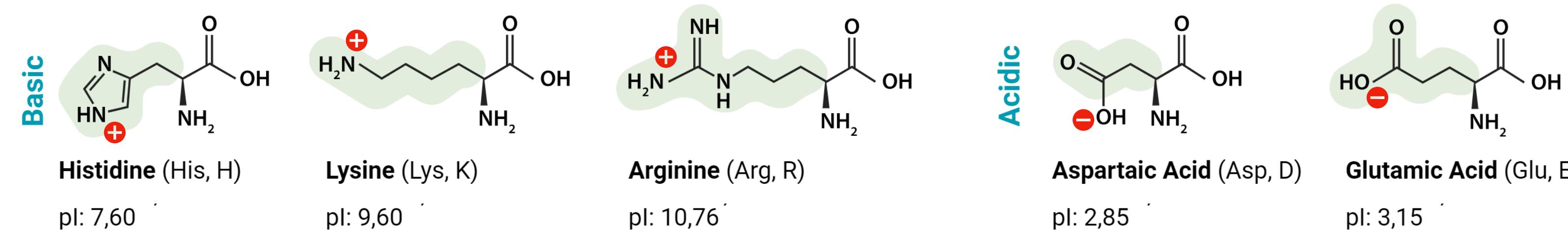


Protein charge

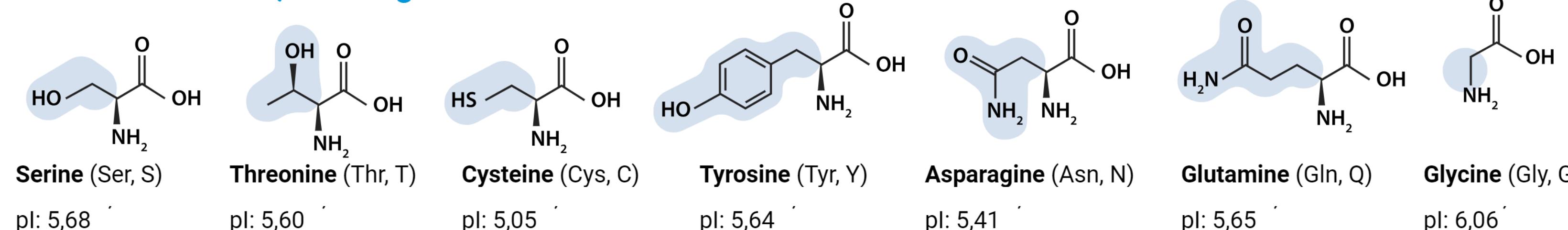
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic



Electrically charged side chains

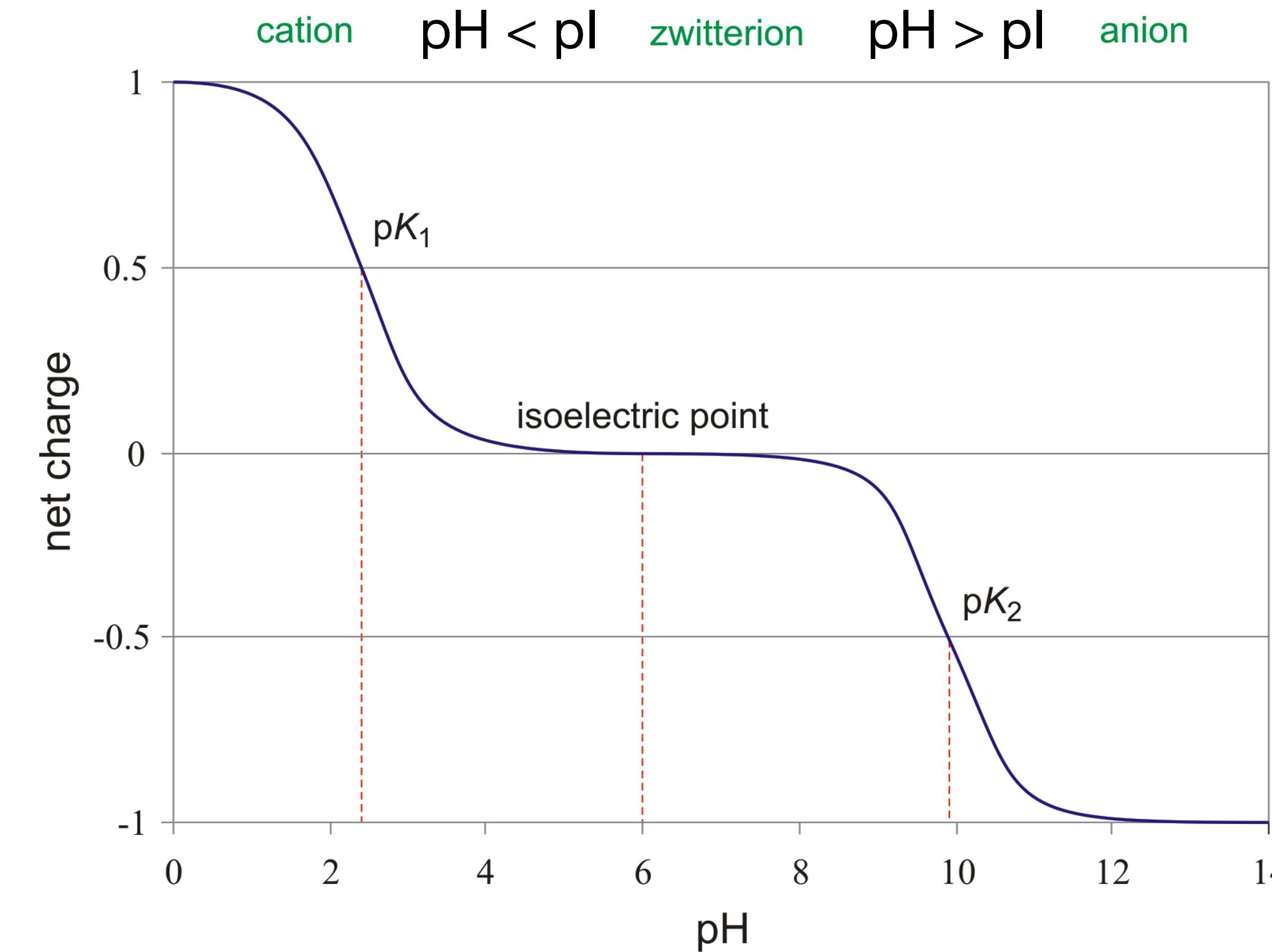
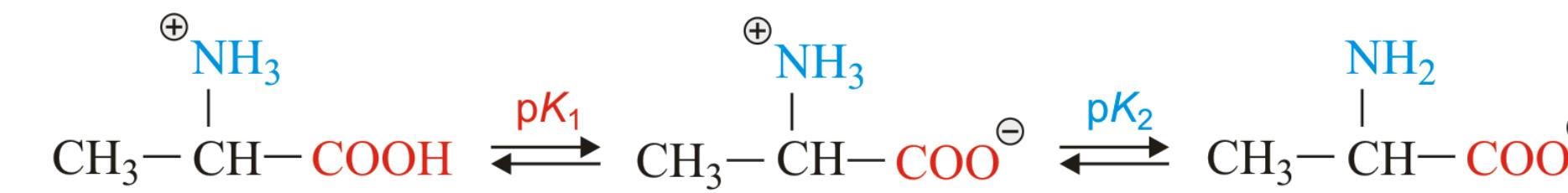


Polar side chains, uncharged



Each amino acid has a different level of acidity (charge), expressed as pl

Isoelectric point (pI)

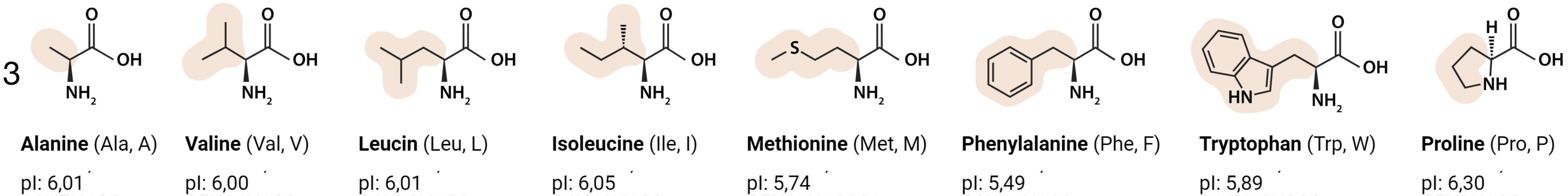


The pH at which the net charge is 0

Protein charge

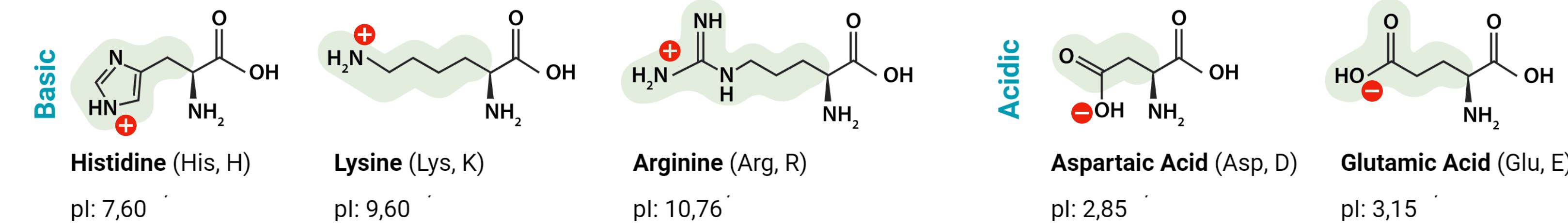
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic

pI's between 5.5-6.3



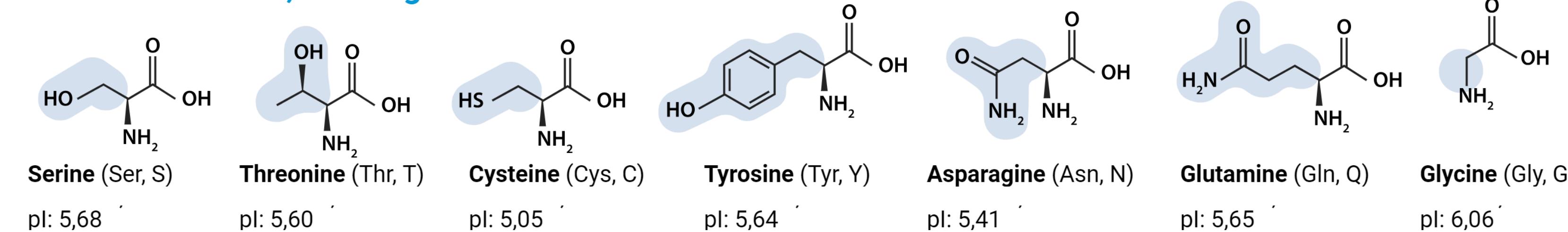
Electrically charged side chains

Extreme pI's



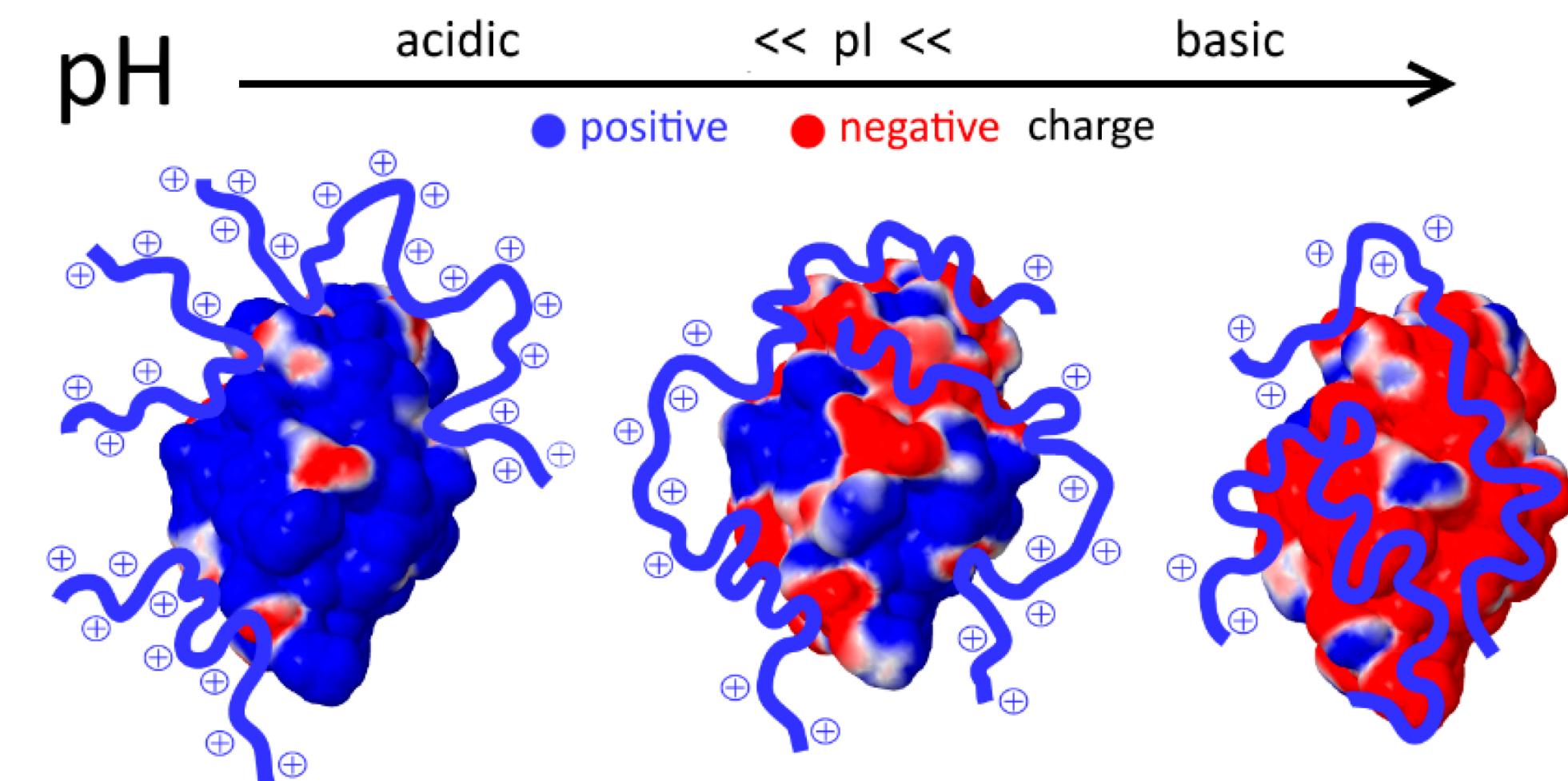
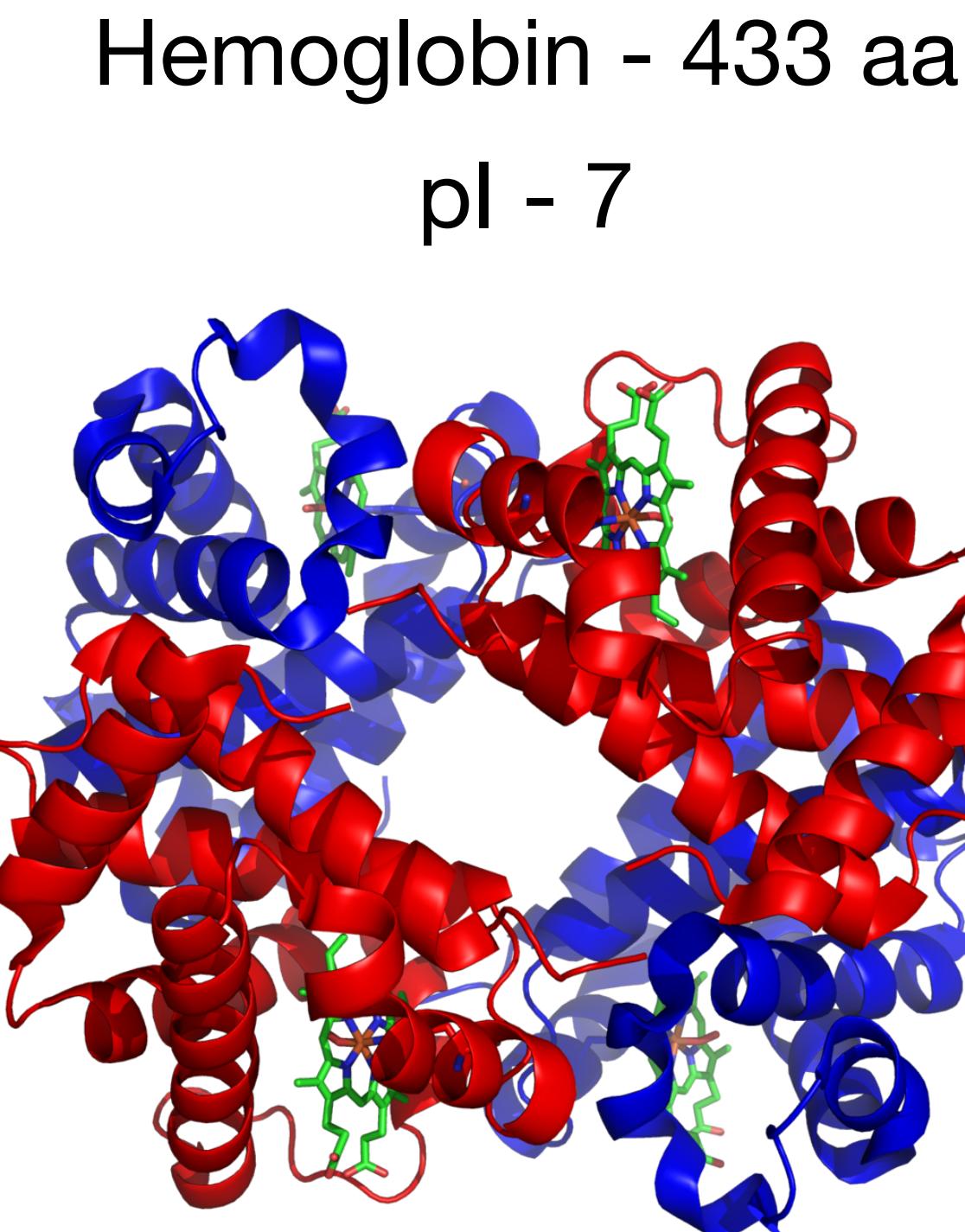
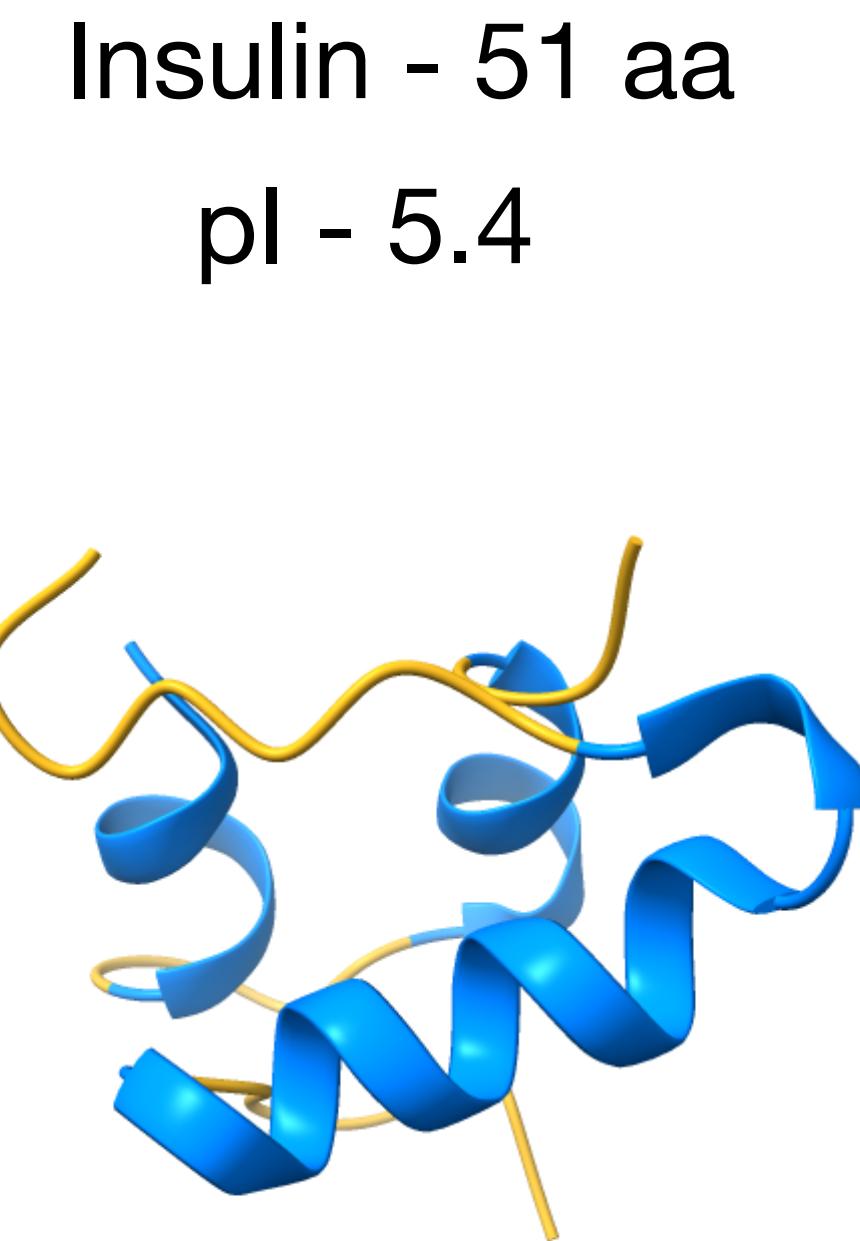
Polar side chains, uncharged

pI between 5 - 6



At physiological pH (pH 7.4), most amino acids will exist as anion's (negatively charged)

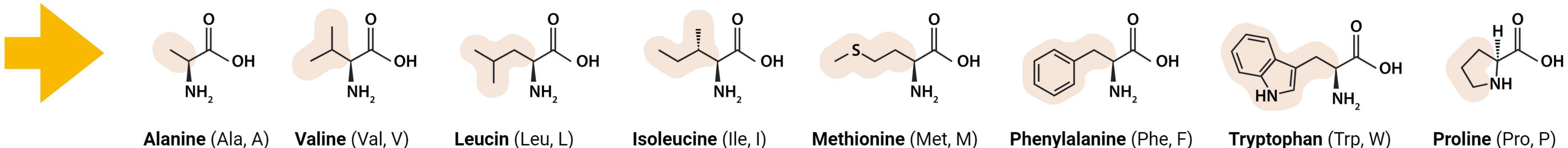
Protein charge



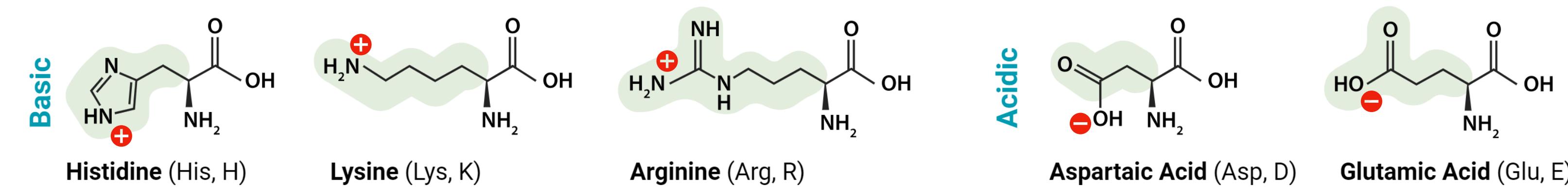
Each protein has a different net charge (pI)

Hydrophobicity

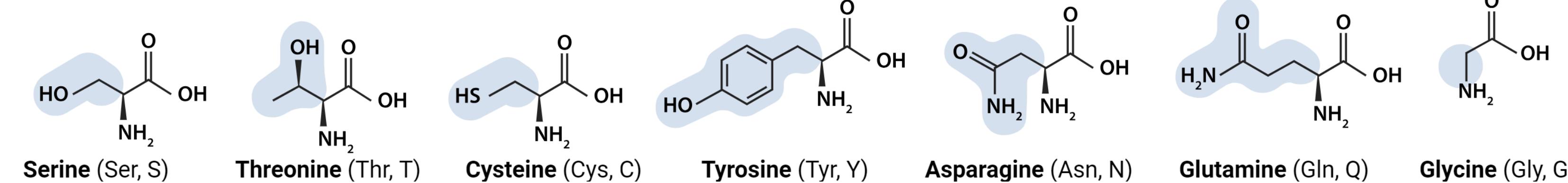
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic



Electrically charged side chains

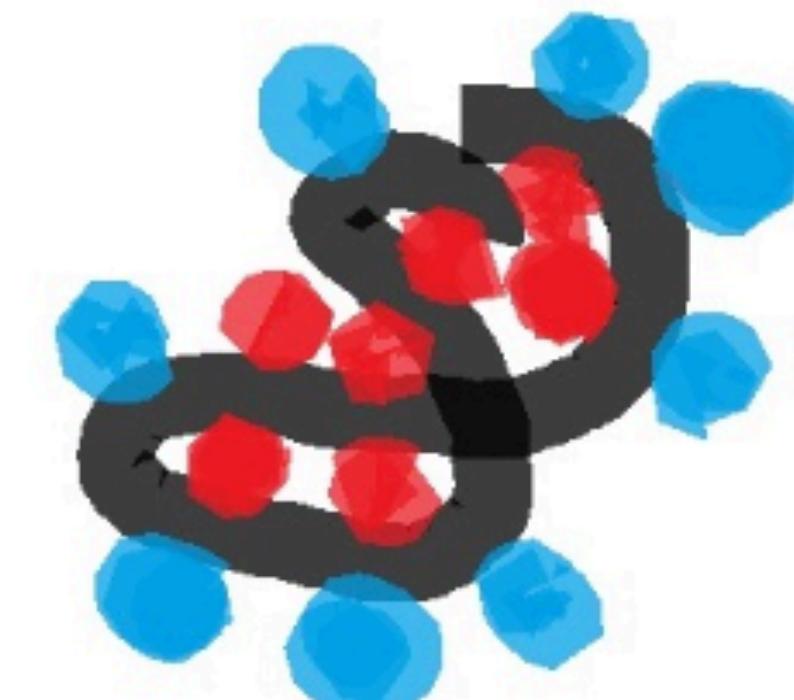
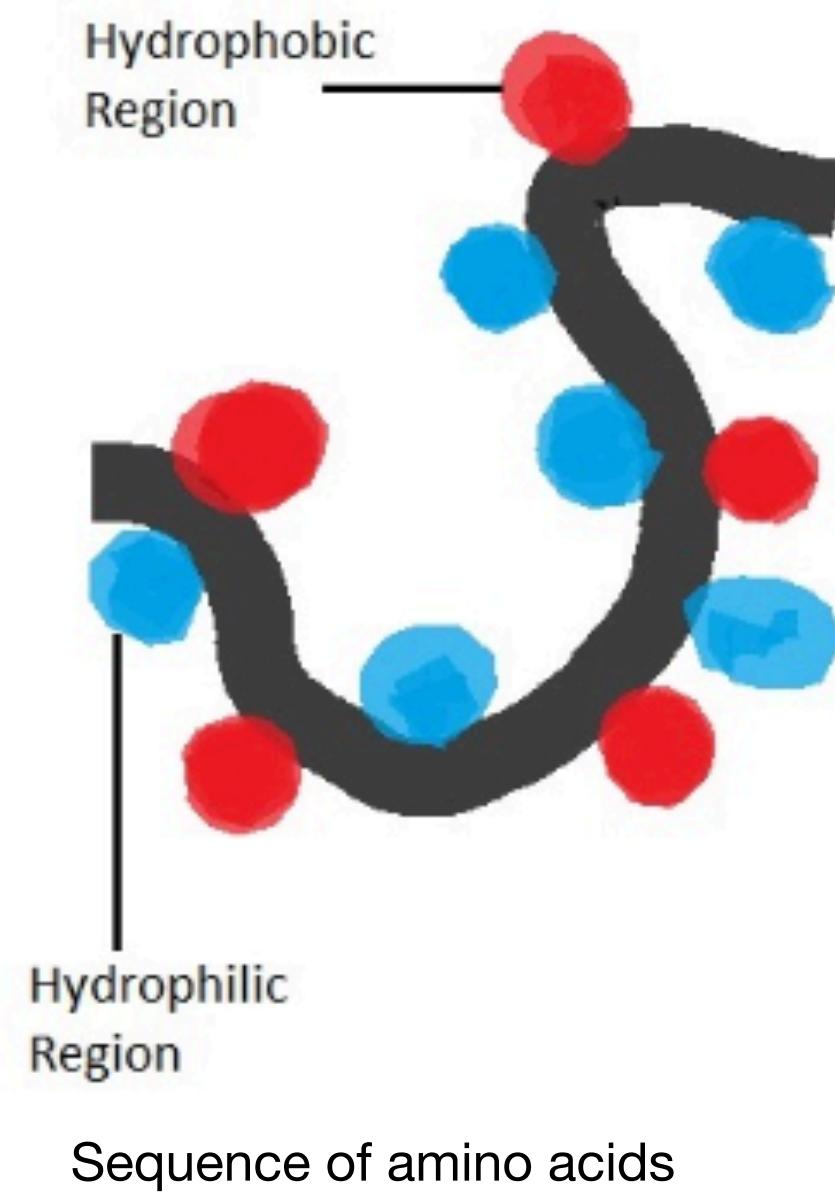


Polar side chains, uncharged



Each amino acid has a different hydrophobicities

Hydrophobicity

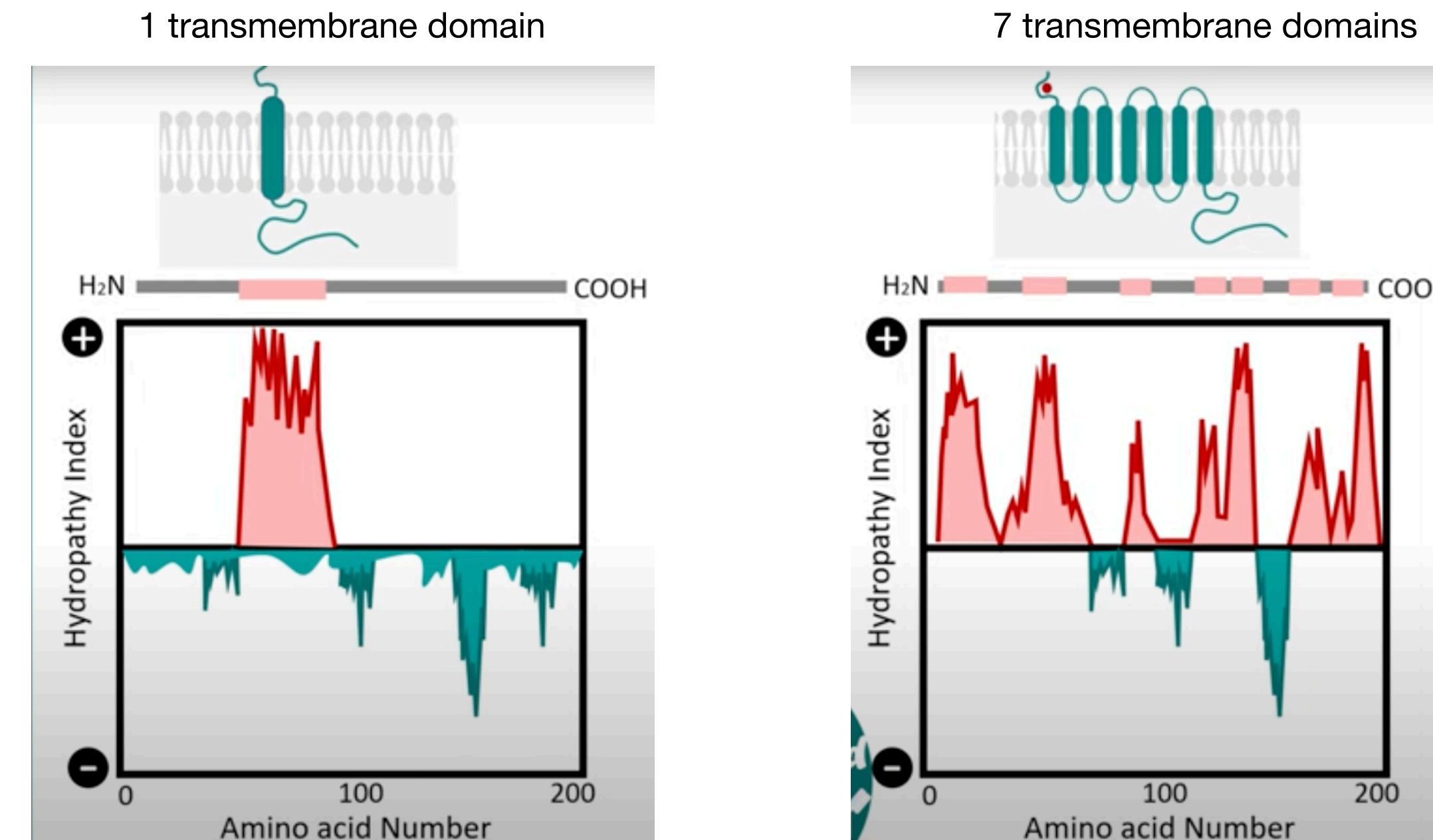


Hydrophobic aa tend to be on the inside, protected by the hydrophilic regions

Hydrophobicity drives protein folding

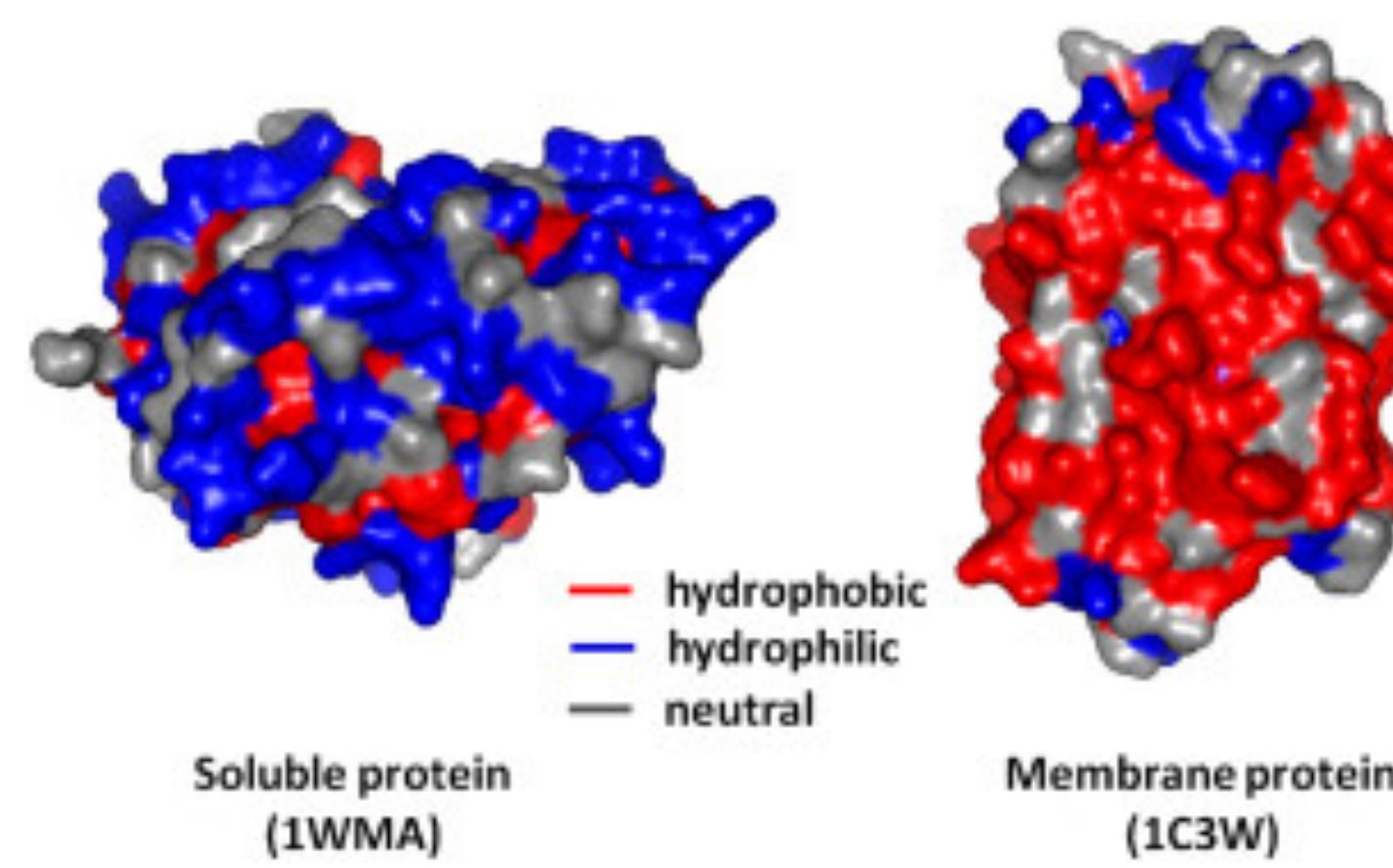
Hydropophobicity

Hyrophobicity of a protein can be predicted from the aa sequence and displayed in a hydropathy plot.

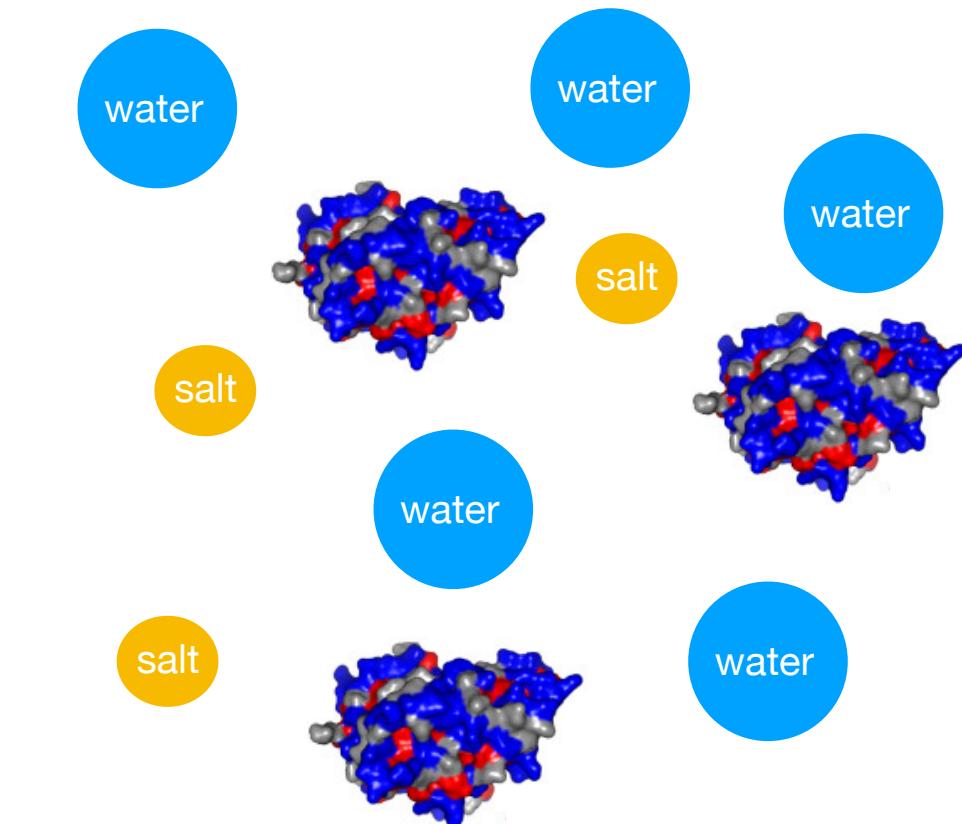


Can be used to predict transmembrane domains in a protein

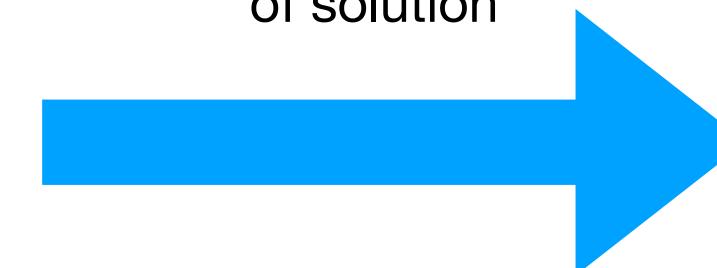
Hydrophobicity



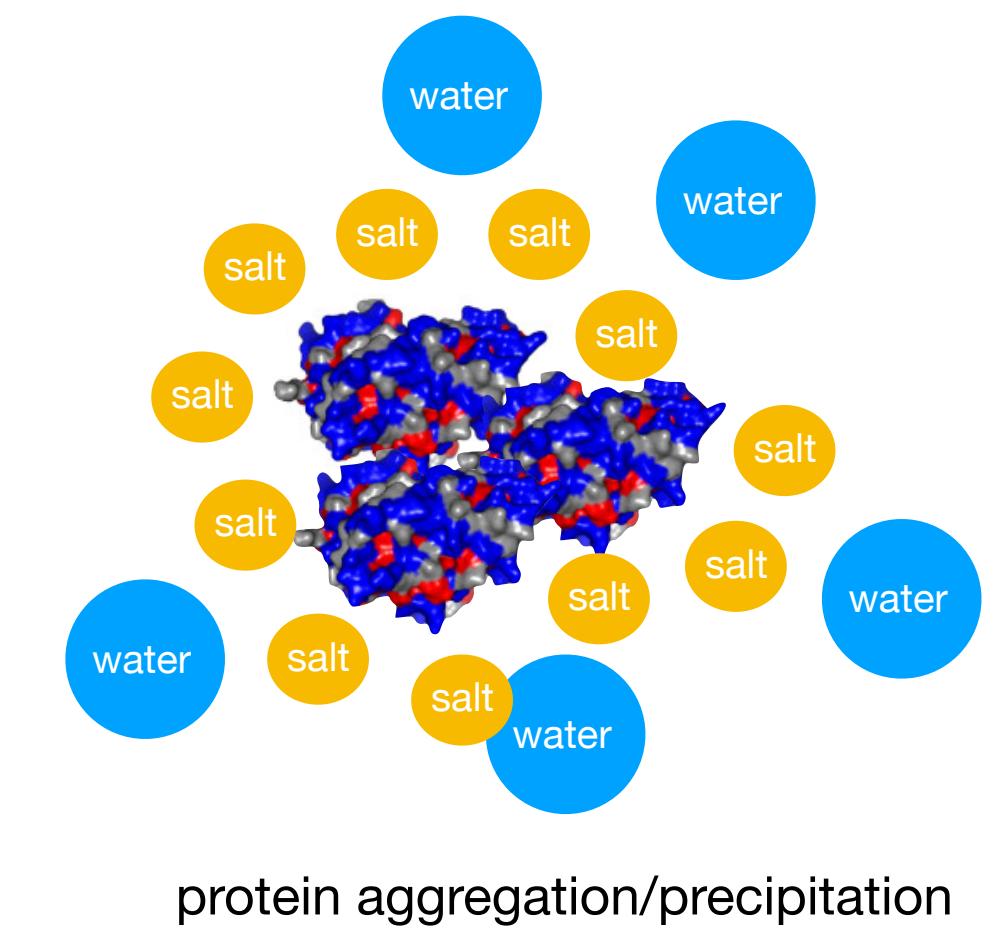
Protein soluble in solution



Change in ionic strength
of solution



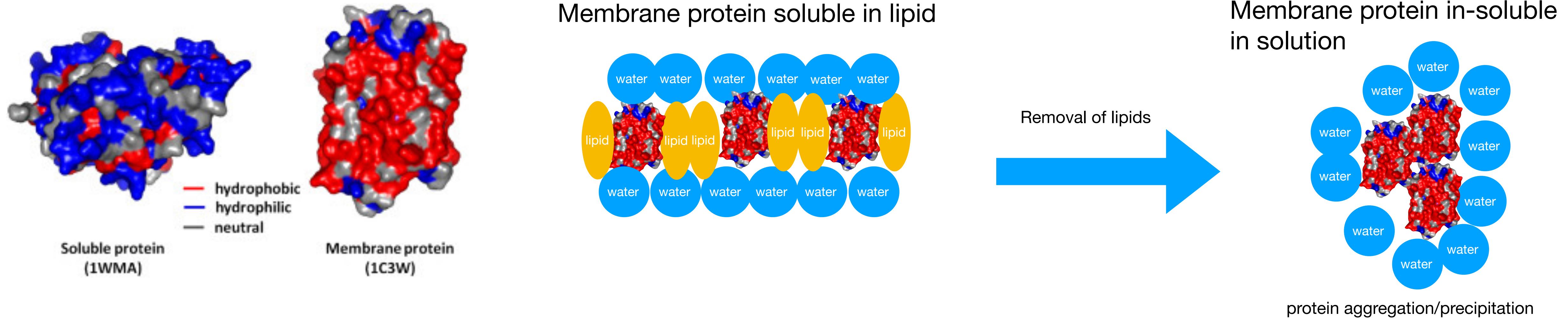
Protein in-soluble in solution



Proteins have different surface hydrophobicity profile

Hydrophobicity profile of a protein can drive its solubility in a given solution

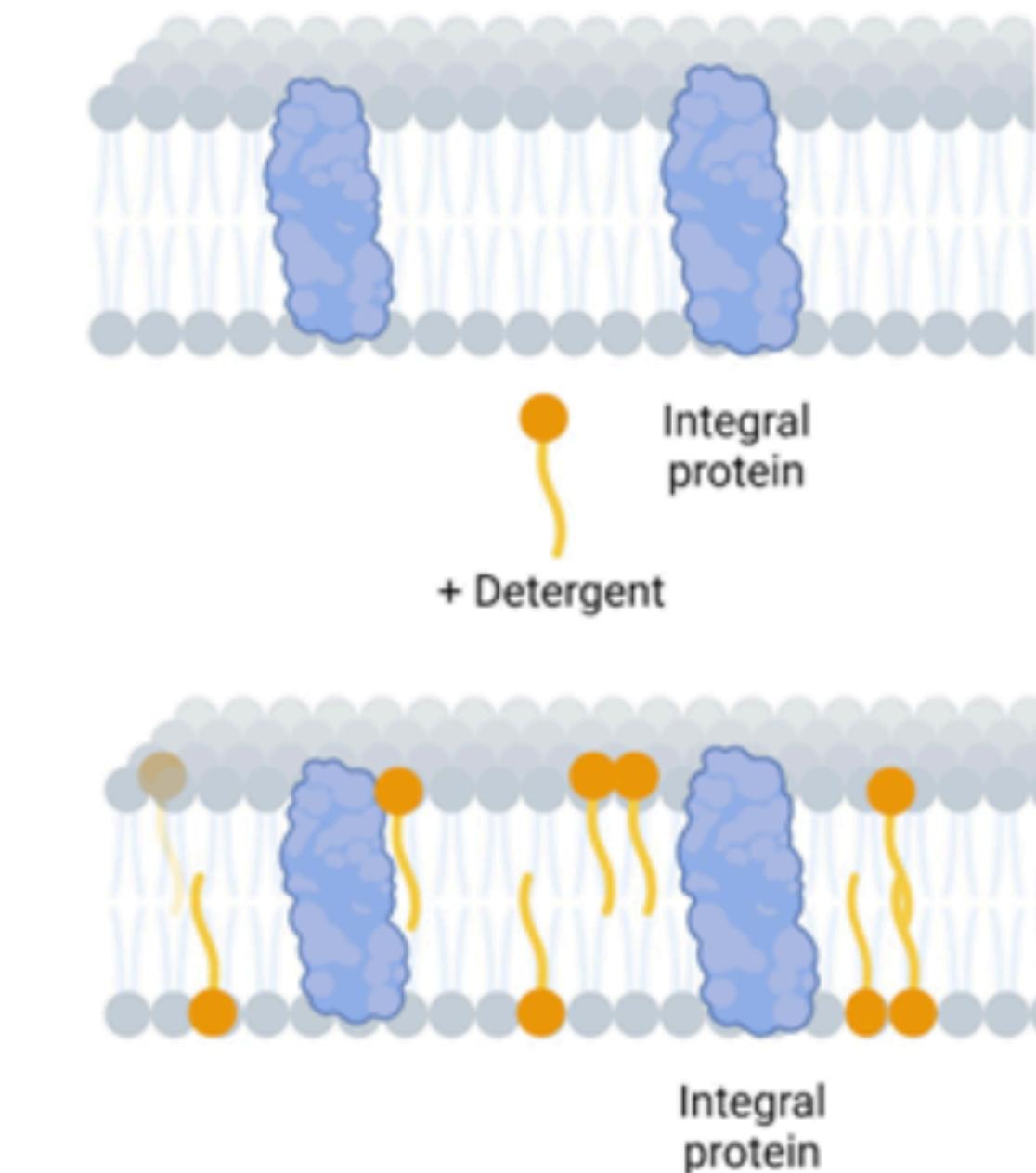
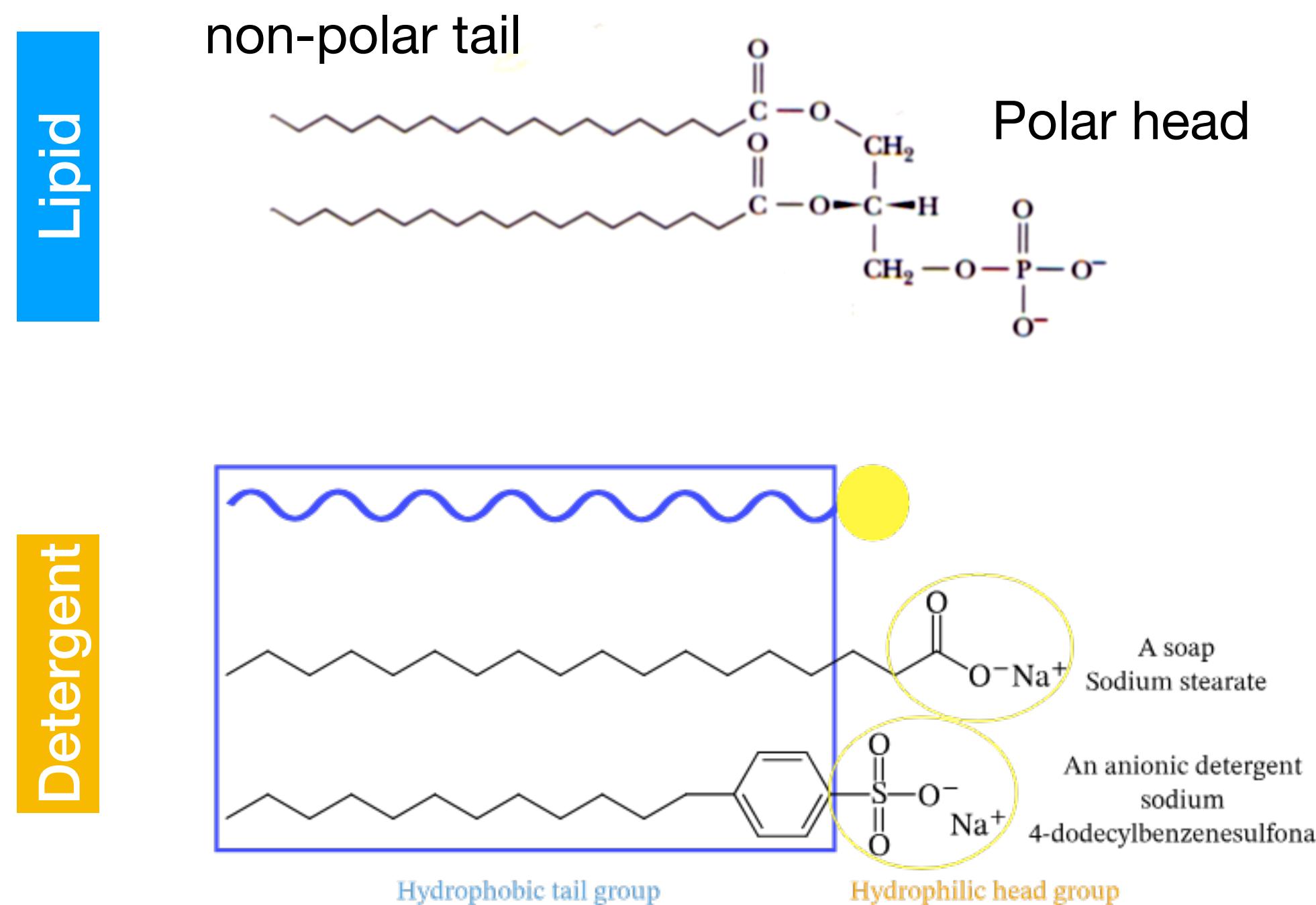
Membrane proteins



Membrane proteins will aggregate in solution, without the presence of lipids

Detergents

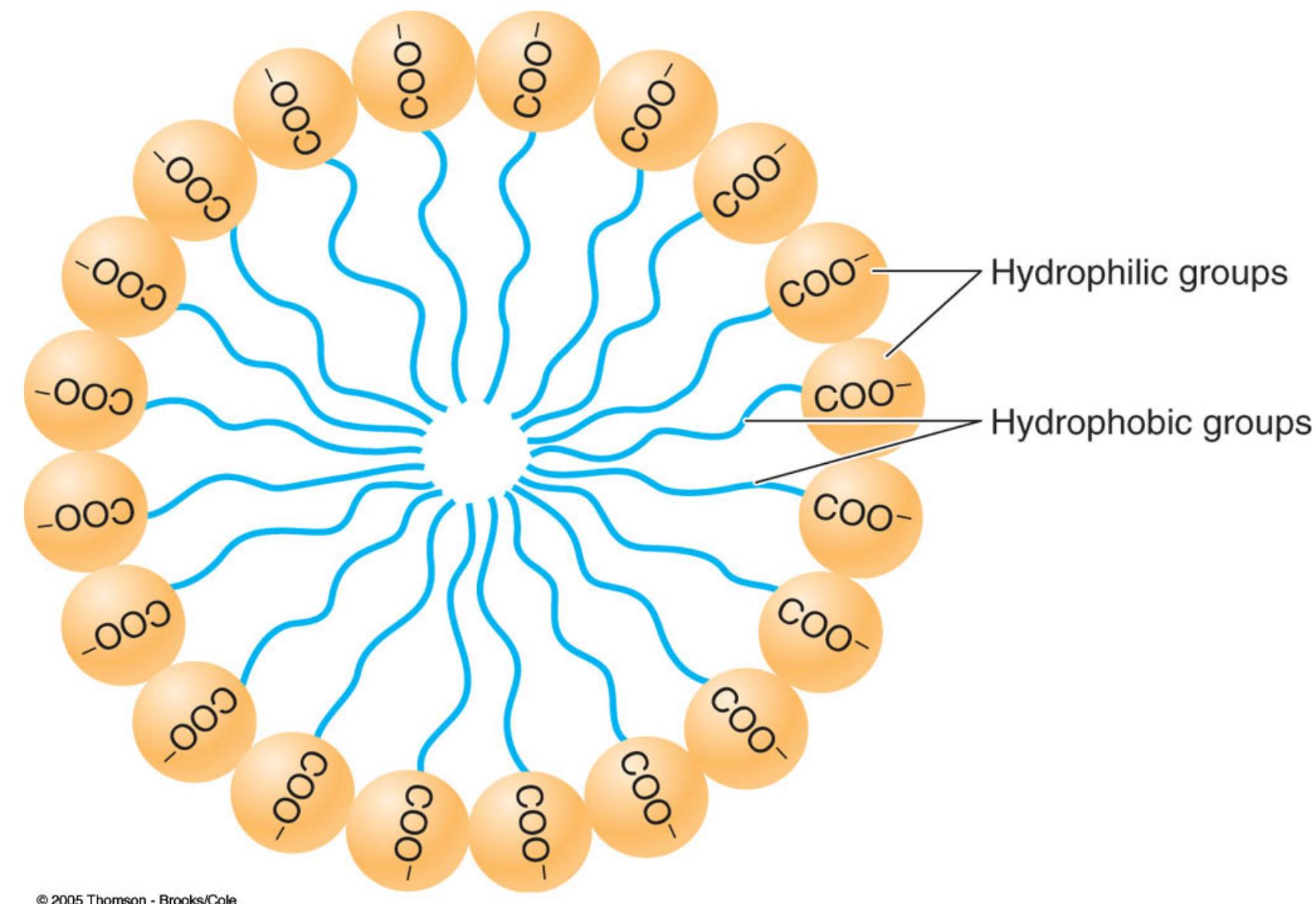
Detergents have a similar structure to lipids and can easily insert into the lipid membrane



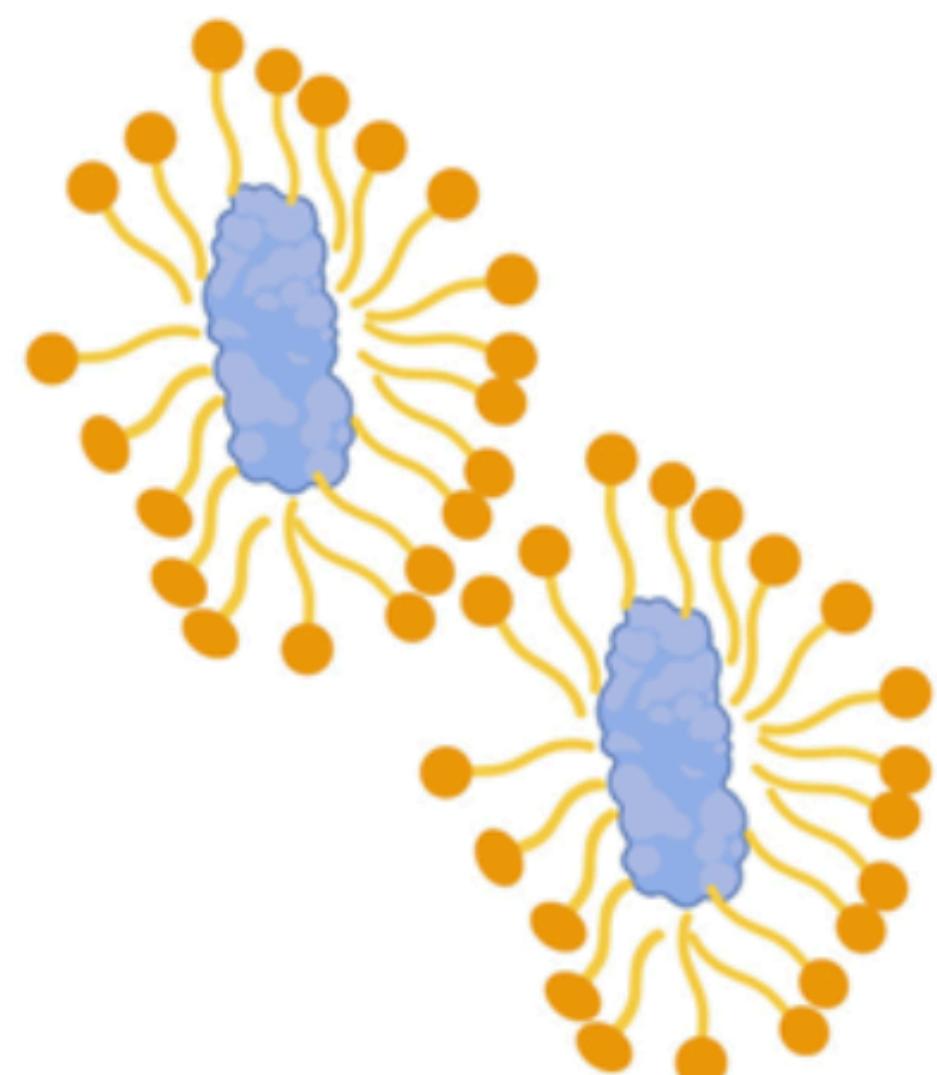
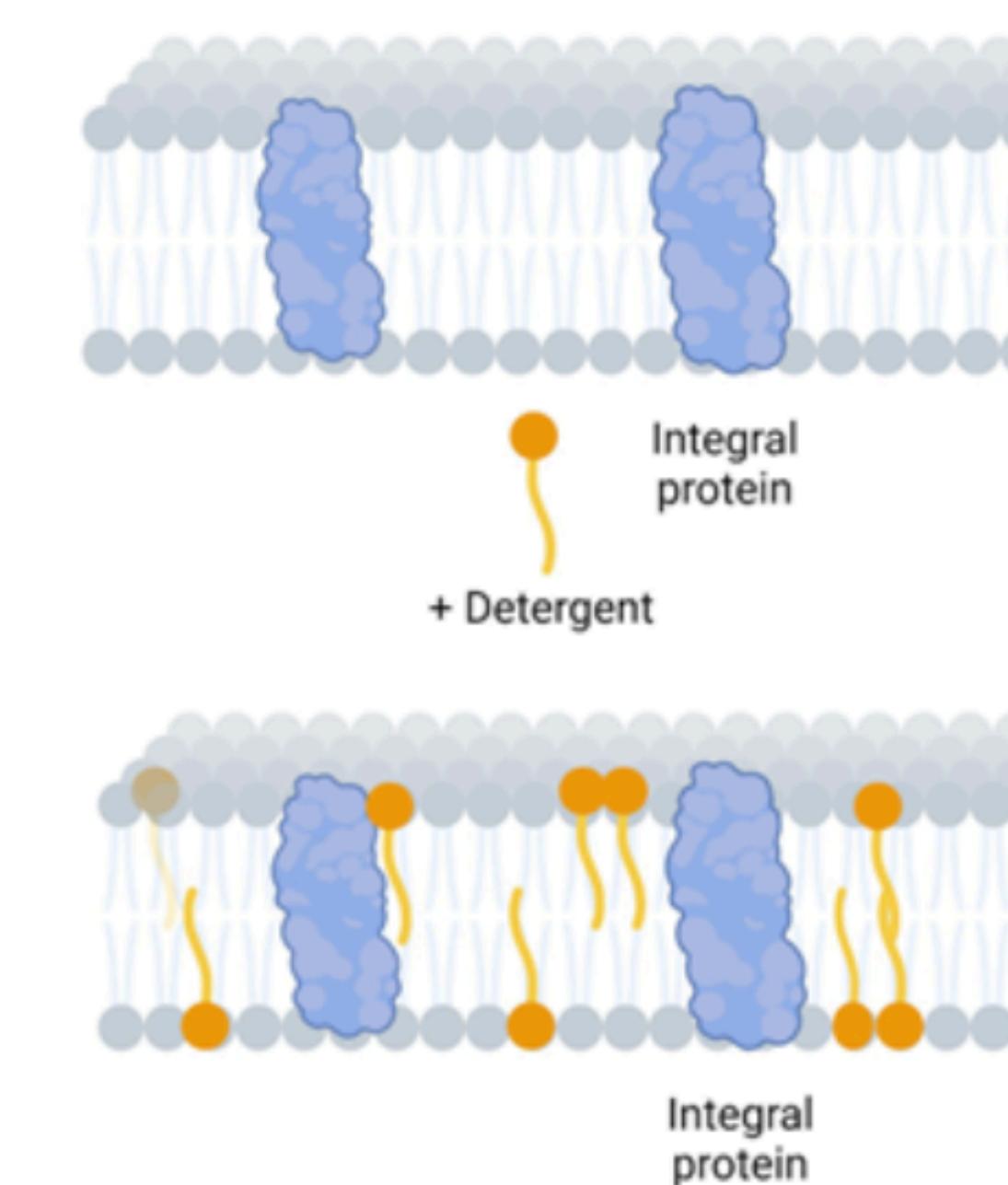
The insertion of the detergents destabilises the lipid membrane structure

Detergents

Detergents can also form micelles



When the detergent concentration is high enough, it displaces the lipids and forms a micelle around the membrane protein

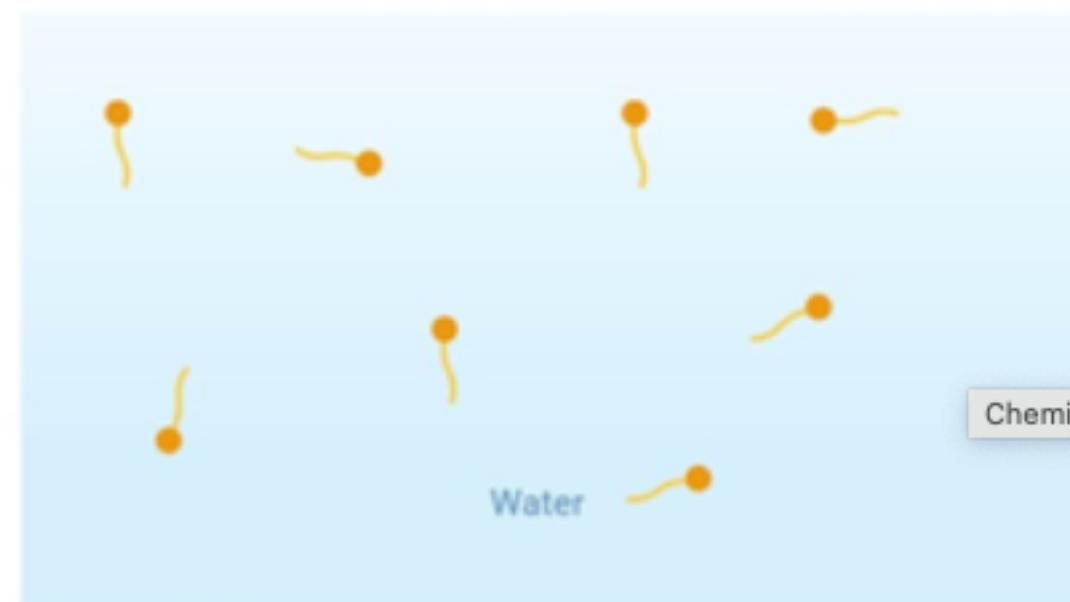


= critical micellar concentration (CMC)

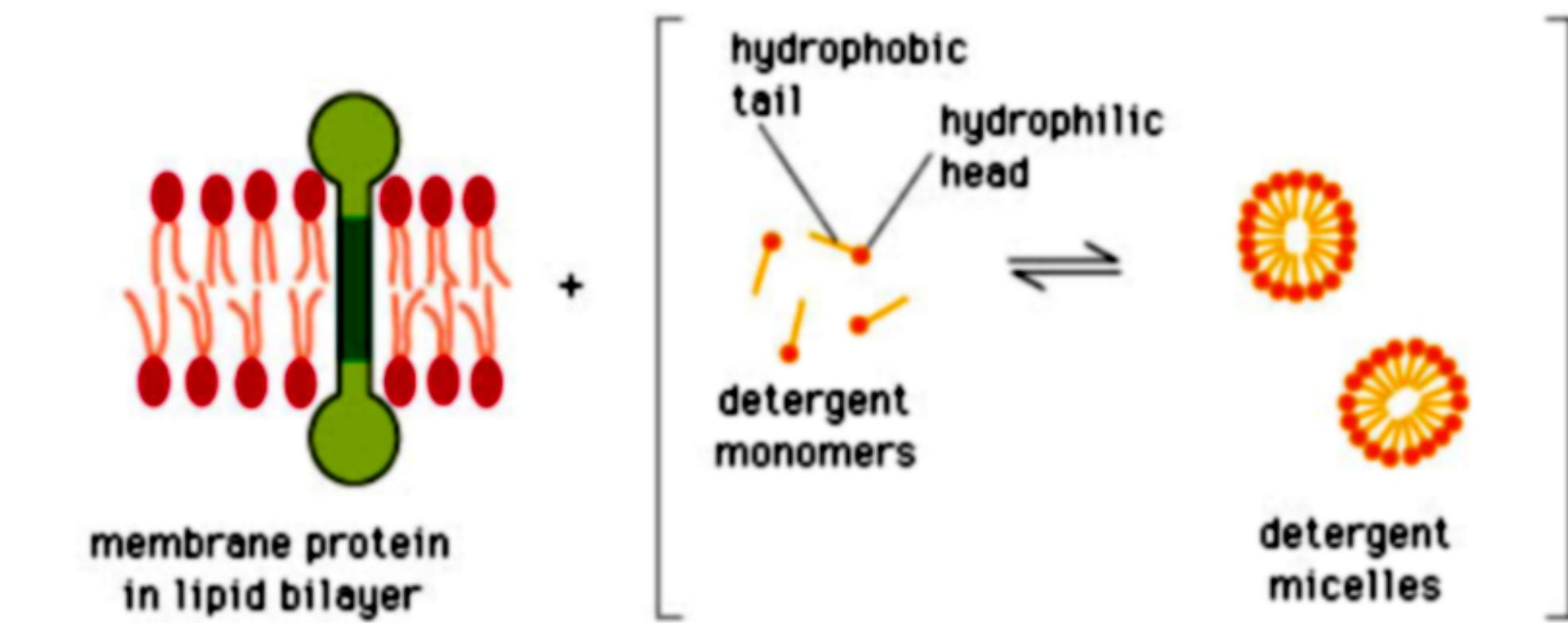
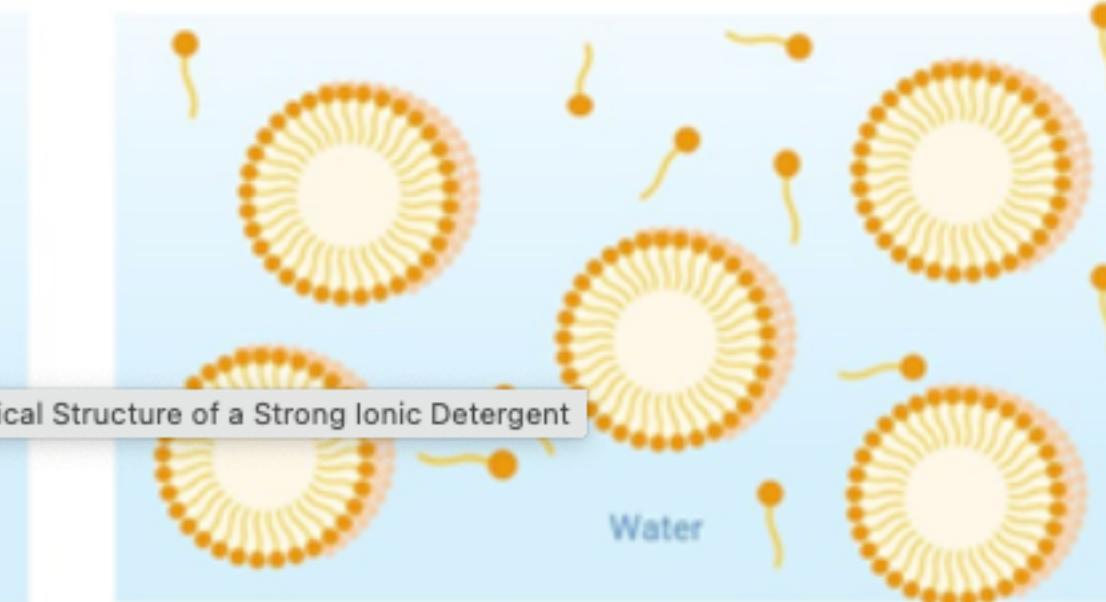
Critical micelle concentration

The concentration at which a detergent forms a micelle

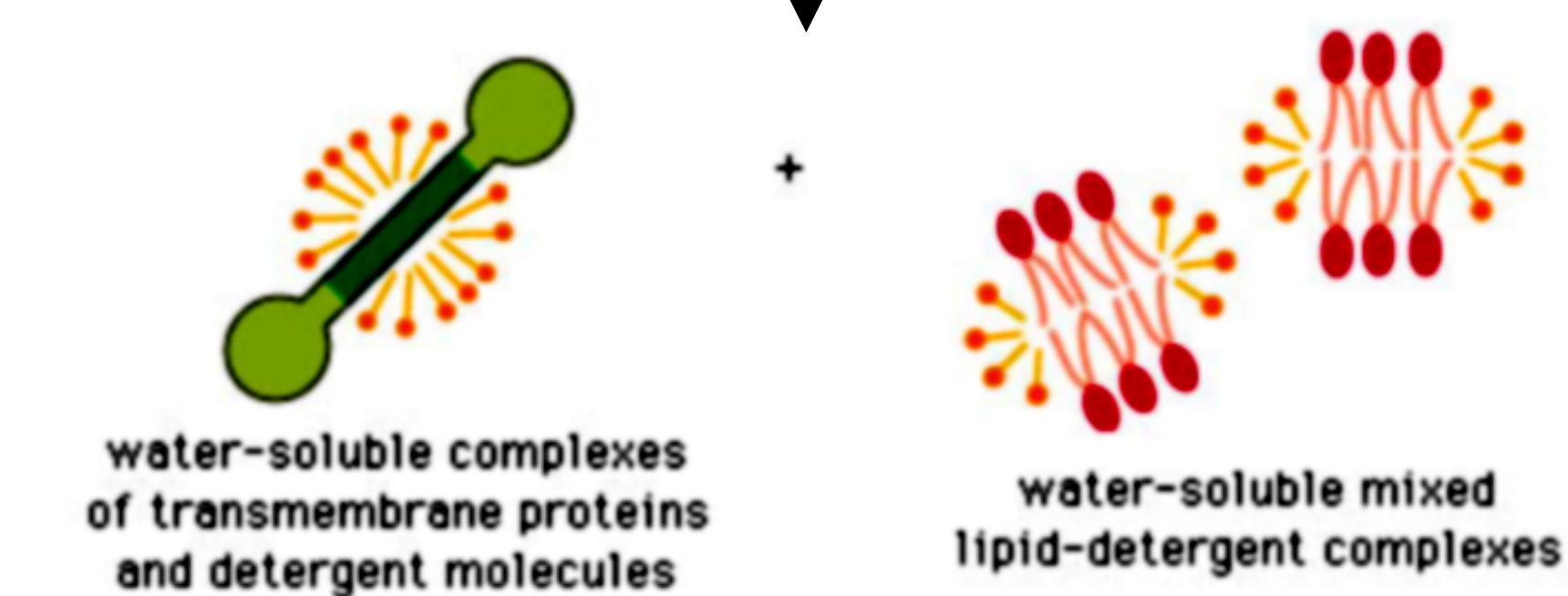
below CMC



above CMC

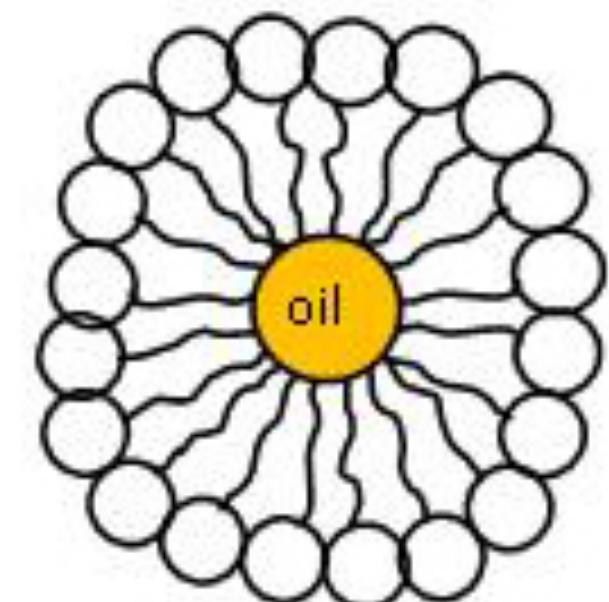


If $[\text{detergent}] > \text{cmc}$:



Detergents

Same mechanism for shampoo, dishwashing liquid and soap



Name	Abreviation	M.W. (anhydrous)	CMC (mM)	CMC (%)	Aggregation No.	Average Micellar Weight (Da)
Non-ionic detergents						
APO-10		218.3	4.6	0.100	131	28,000
APO-12		246.4	0.568	0.013	2232	500,000
Big CHAP		878.1	2.9	0.25	10	8,800
Big CHAP, Deoxy		862.1	1.1-1.4	0.12	8-16	10,500
BRIJ® 35	Brij-35	627	0.09	0.0056	40	49,000
C ₁₂ E ₅		406.6	0.064	0.002	-	-
C ₁₂ E ₆		450.7	0.087	0.0039	-	-
C ₁₂ E ₈	C ₁₂ E ₈	538.8	0.11	0.0059	123	66,000
C ₁₂ E ₉	C ₁₂ E ₉	582.8	0.08	0.0046	-	83,000
Cyclohexyl- <i>n</i> -ethyl- β -D-maltoside		452.5	120	5.43	-	-
Cyclohexyl- <i>n</i> -hexyl- β -D-maltoside		508.6	0.56	0.0284	63	32,000
Cyclohexyl- <i>n</i> -methyl- β -D-maltoside		438.5	340	14.909	-	-
7-Cyclohexyl-1-heptyl- β -D-maltoside	Cymal-7	522.5	0.19	0.00992	150	78,300
<i>n</i> -Decanoylsucrose		496.6	2.5	0.124	-	-
<i>n</i> -Decyl- β -D-maltopyranoside	DM	482.6	1.6	0.087	69	-
<i>n</i> -Decyl- β -D-thiomaltoside	DTM	498.6	0.9	0.0448	-	-
Digitonin		1229.3	<0.5		60	74,000
<i>n</i> -Dodecanoylsucrose		524.6	0.3	0.0157	-	-
<i>n</i> -Dodecyl- β -D-glucopyranoside		348.5	0.19	0.0066	200	70,000
<i>n</i> -Dodecyl- β -D-maltoside	DDM	510.6	0.1-0.6	0.009	98	50,000
Dodecyl-trimethyl-ammonium chloride	DTAC	264	17.0	0.488	50	13,200
<i>n</i> -Heptyl- β -D-glucopyranoside		278.3	70	1.9	-	-
<i>n</i> -Heptyl- β -D-thioglucopyranoside	HTG	294.4	79	2.325	-	-
<i>n</i> -Nonyl- β -D-glucopyranoside	NG	306.4	6.5	0.2	133	-
Methyl 6-O-(<i>N</i> -heptylcarbamoyl)- α -D-glucopyranoside	Hecameg	335.4	19.5	0.654		
Nonidet P-40 (octylphenoxy polyethoxyethanol), now IGEPAL CA-630	Nonidet P-40	558.7	0.25	0.014	149	90,000
NP-40 (nonylphenoxy polyethoxyethanol)	NP-40	603.0	0.05-0.3	0.05-0.3	100-155	76,600
<i>n</i> -Octanoyl- β -D-glucosylamine	NOGA	305.4	80	2.443	-	-
<i>n</i> -Octanoylsucrose		468.5	24.4	1.143	-	-
<i>n</i> -Octyl- β -D-glucopyranoside	OG	292.4	10-21	0.3-0.6	84	25,000
<i>n</i> -Octyl- β -D-maltopyranoside		454.5	19.5	0.89	84	38,000
<i>n</i> -Octyl- β -D-thioglucopyranoside	OTG	308.4	9	0.277	-	-
<i>n</i> -Octylpolyoxyethylene	Octyl-POE	174.3	6.6	0.115		

Name	Abreviation	M.W. (anhydrous)	CMC (mM)	CMC (%)	Aggregation No.	Average Micellar Weight (Da)
Ionic Detergents						
TRITON® X-100	TX-100	625	0.01-0.016	0.015	100-155	80,000
TWEEN® 20	Tween 20	1228	0.059	0.0072	-	-
TWEEN® 80	Tween 80	1310	0.012	0.00157	60	79,000
<i>n</i> -Undecyl- β -D-maltoside	UDM	496.6	0.59	0.0292	-	-
Zwitterionic Detergents						
Amphipol A8-35			9-10	-	20	-
Cetyltrimethylammonium Bromide	CTAB	364.5	1.0	0.0364	170	62,000
Cholic Acid, Sodium Salt	Cholate	430.6	9-15	2.0	900	
Deoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt, Na-deoxycholate	DOC	414.6	4-8	0.24	22	1600-4100
Lauroylsarcosine, Sodium Salt		293.4	14.57	0.427	2.0	600
Taurocholic Acid, Sodium Salt		537.7	3-11	4	2100	
ZWITTERGENT® 3-08 Detergent		279.6	330	10.9	-	-
ZWITTERGENT® 3-10 Detergent		307.6	25-40	1.2	41	12,500
ZWITTERGENT® 3-12 Detergent		335.6	2-4	0.094	55	18,500
ZWITTERGENT® 3-14 Detergent		363.6	0.1-0.4	0.007	83	30,000
ZWITTERGENT® 3-16 Detergent		391.6	0.01-0.06	0.0011	155	60,000

- Many different types of detergents (based on their different structures)
- Each one has a different CMC
- Will interact differently with any given protein depending on the biophysical properties of both (charge/hydrophobicity)

The biophysical properties of a protein determine how it moves through solution

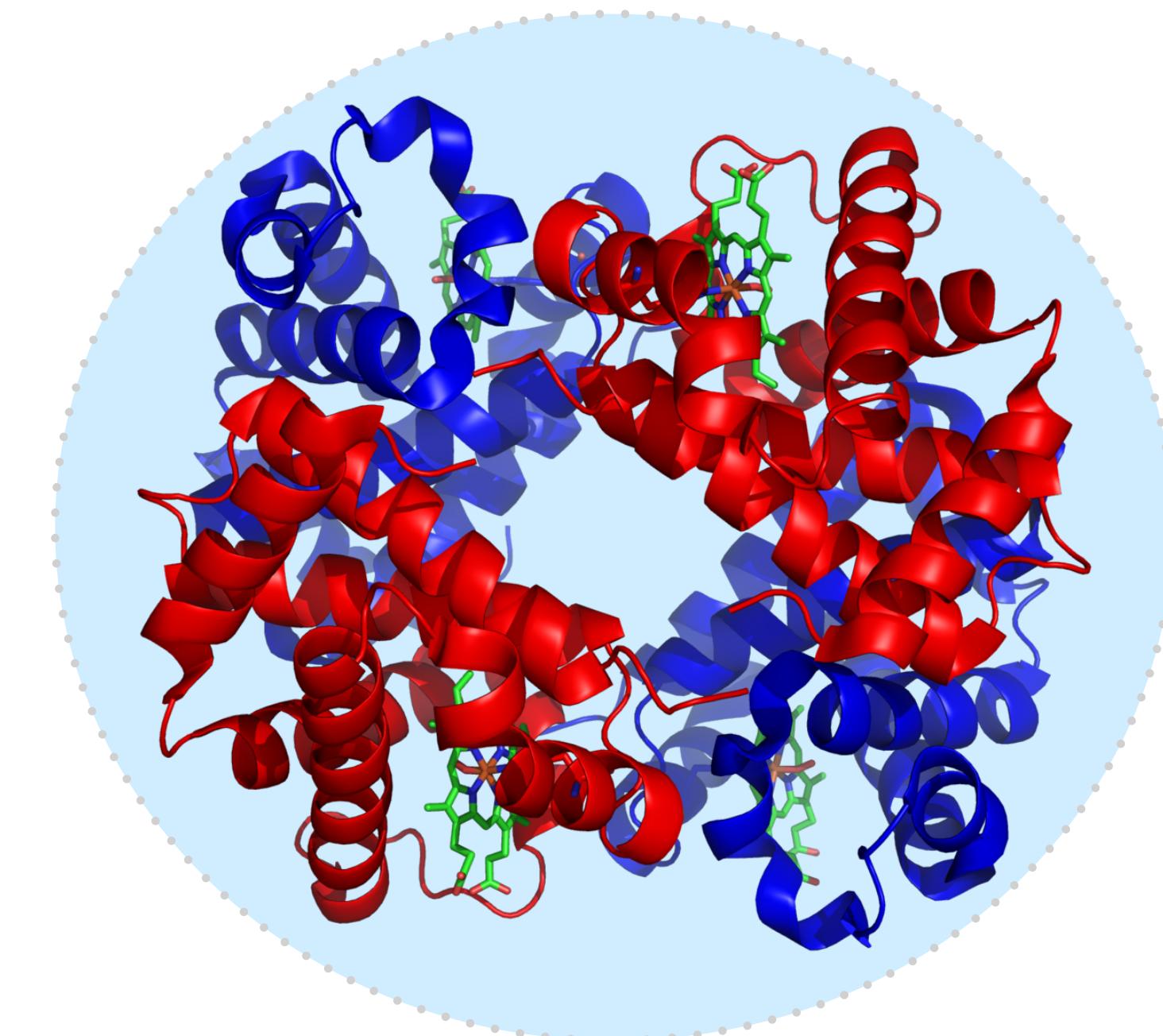
Size (molecular weight)

Charge (pI)

Shape (hydrodynamic radius)

Solubility (hydrophobicity)

Hemoglobin - 433 aa



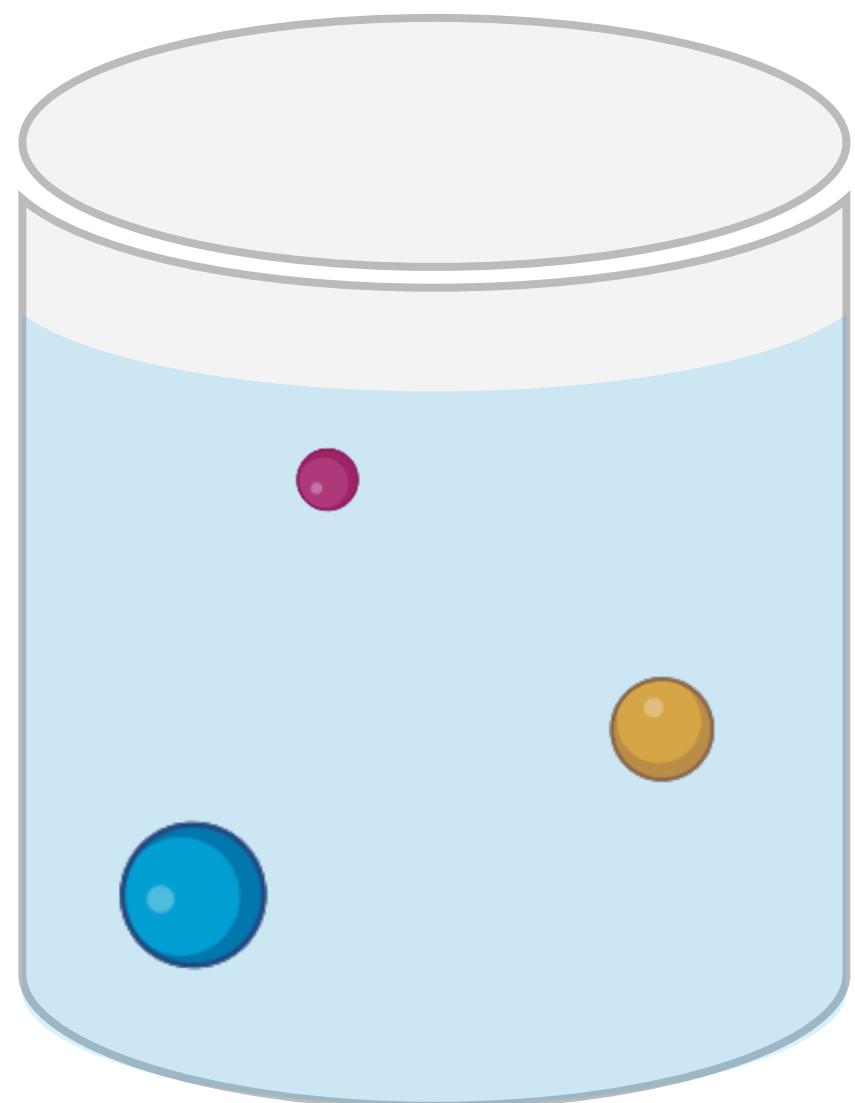
64.5 kDa
pI - 7

- Differences in behaviour can then be exploited for purification techniques
- Differences in behaviour can be described by diffusion behaviour and Stokes Law

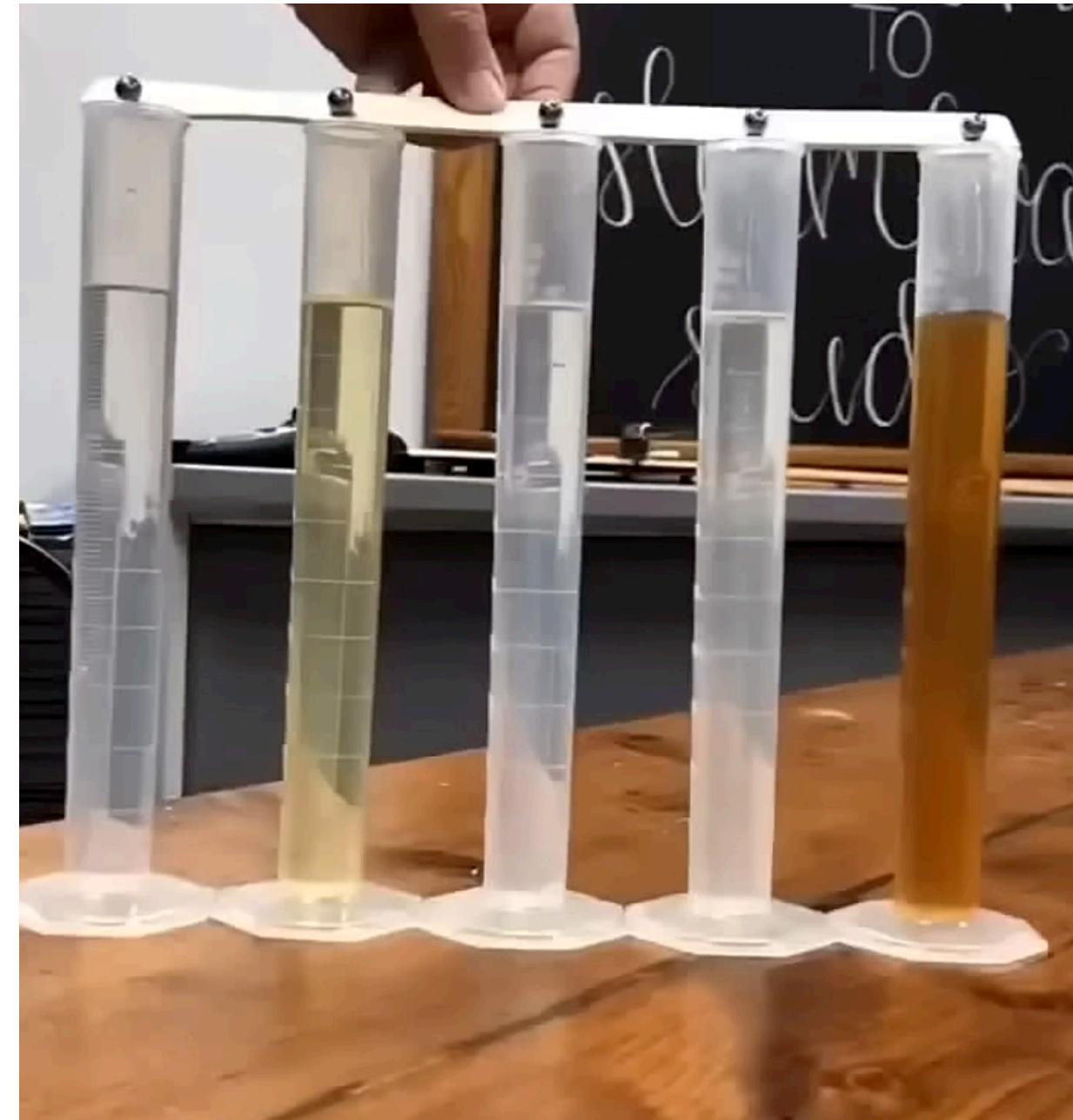
Stokes law

Determines how fast spherical objects fall through a liquid

Size/mass



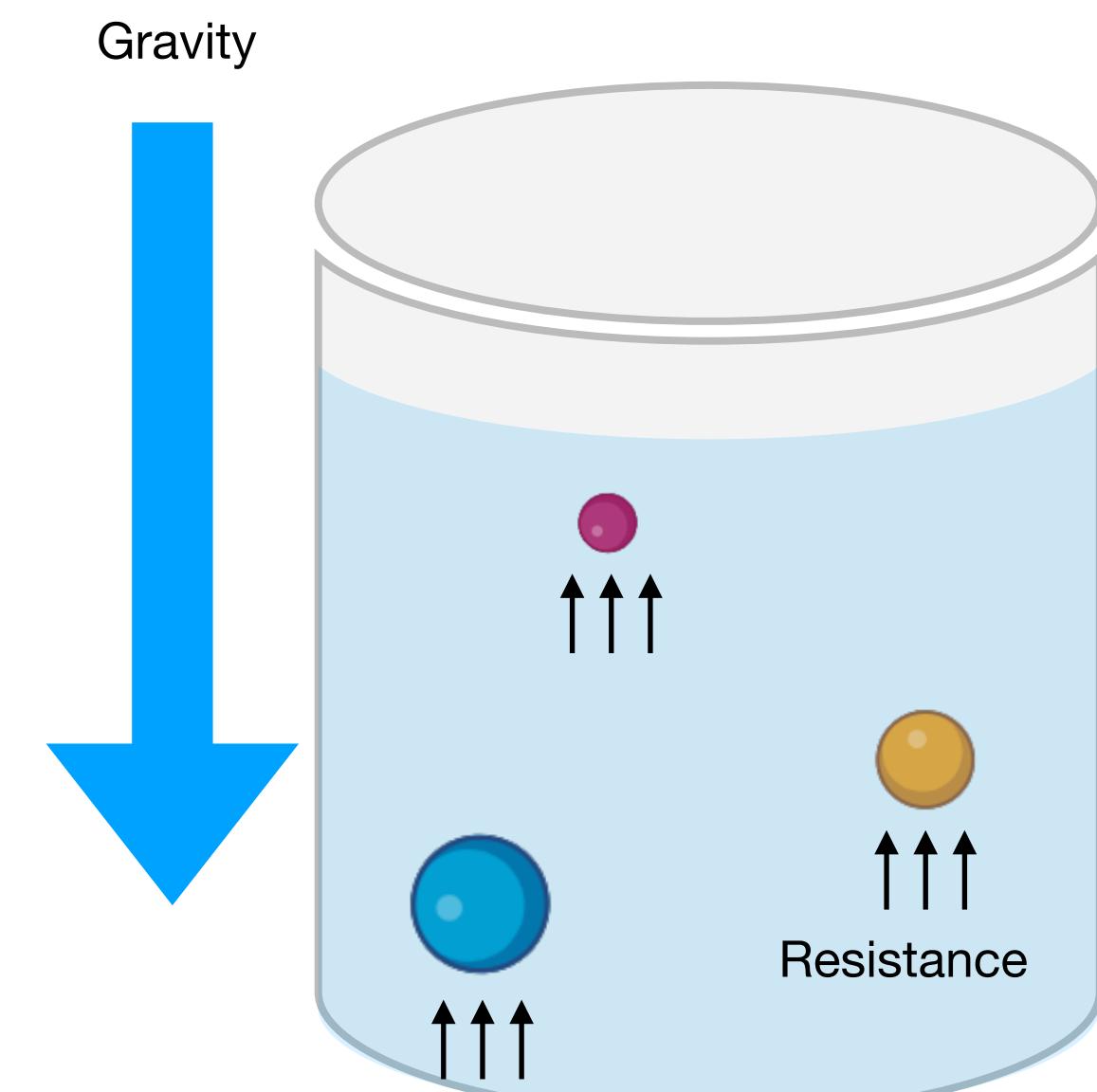
Viscosity of the liquid



Bigger/heavier objects push through fluid more easily

Thicker fluids slow things down

Drag force



Gravity helps, but fluid resistance pushes back

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/sDFiWcvNCiI>

Stokes law

Determines how fast spherical objects fall through a liquid

The force resisting motion
(drag force) can be calculated:

$$F_d = 6\pi\eta rv$$

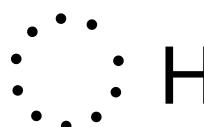
Where:

η = fluid viscosity (Pa.s)

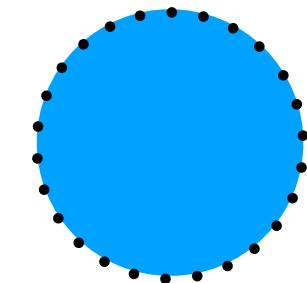
r = radius of the sphere (m)

v = velocity of the sphere (m/s)

Proteins are not always spherical

protein  Hydrodynamic radius (r_H)

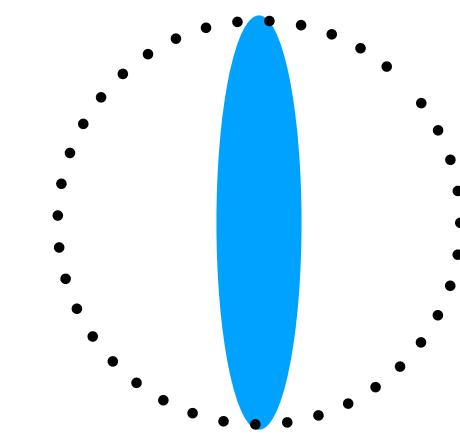
Compact protein



r_H = actual radius

- Protein moves according to Stokes law

Elongated protein

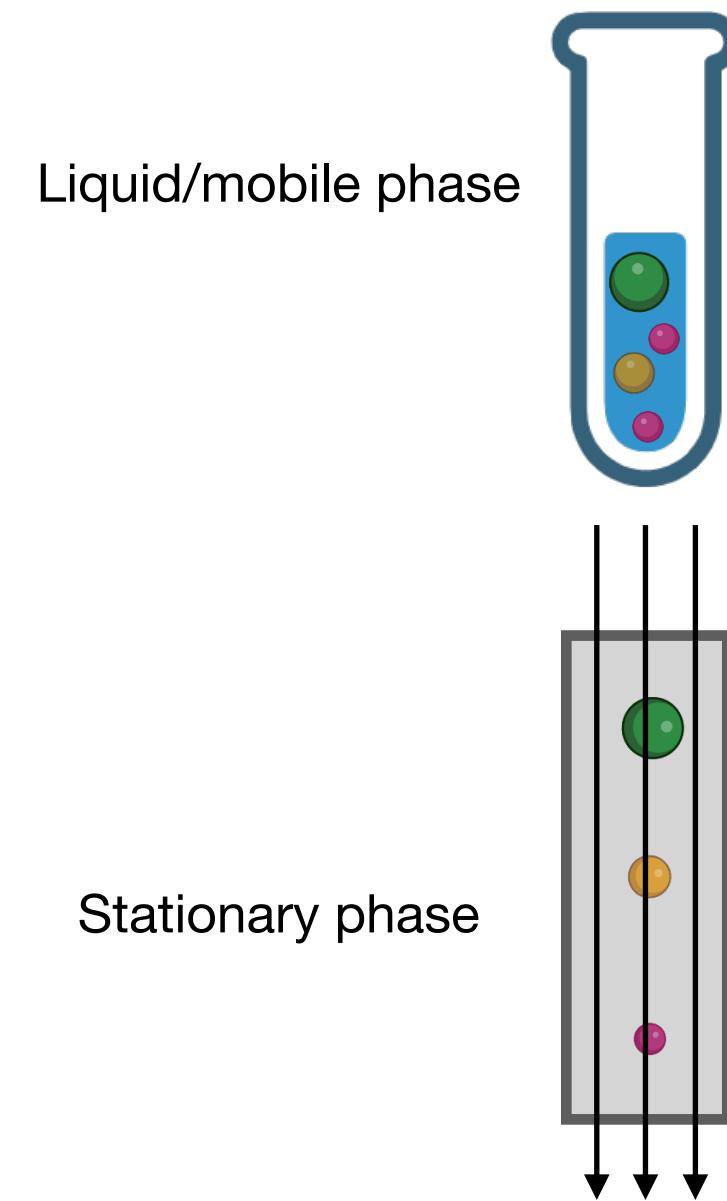


$r_H >$ actual radius

- Protein is subject to an increased drag force
- moves slower than expected for its size

Purification techniques

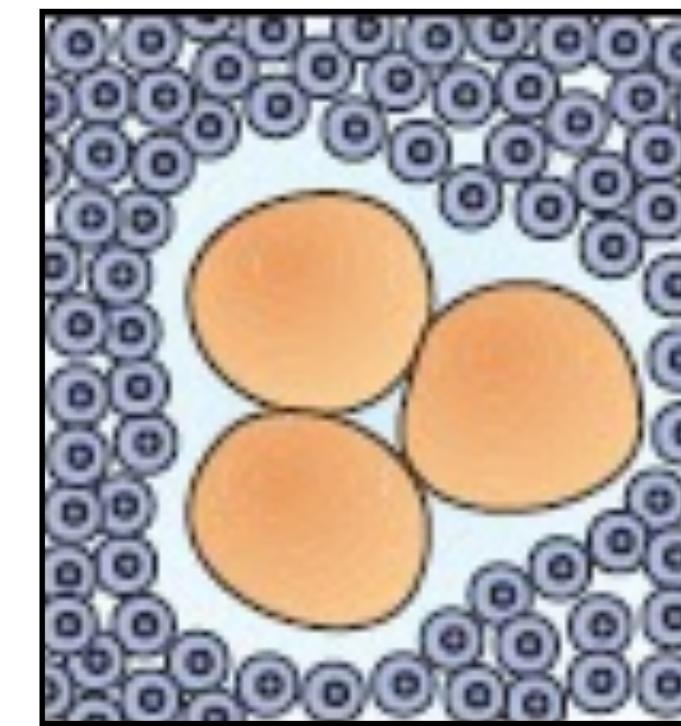
Chromatography



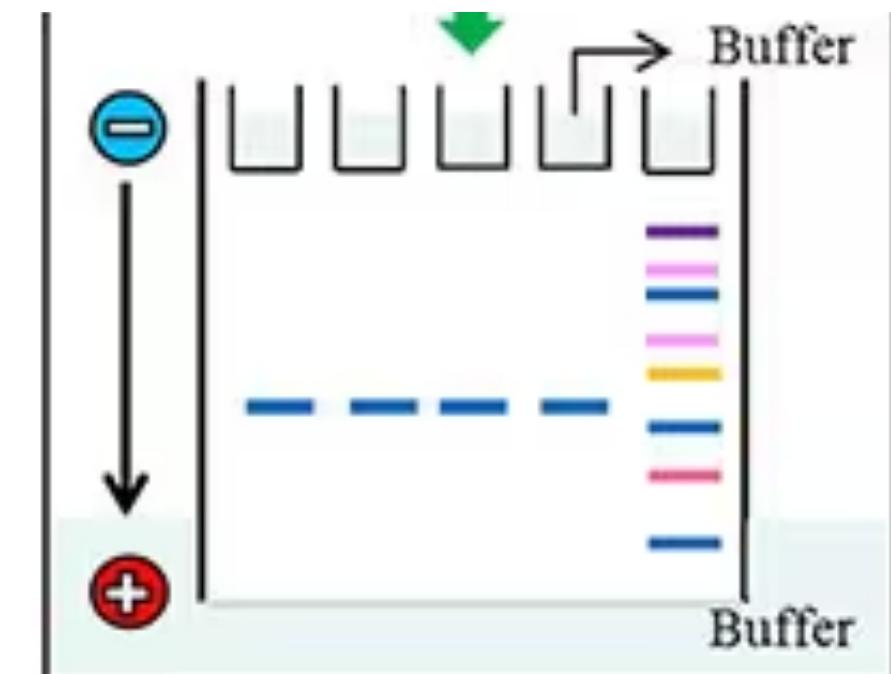
Centrifugation



Precipitation



Electrophoresis



Size/shape/charge

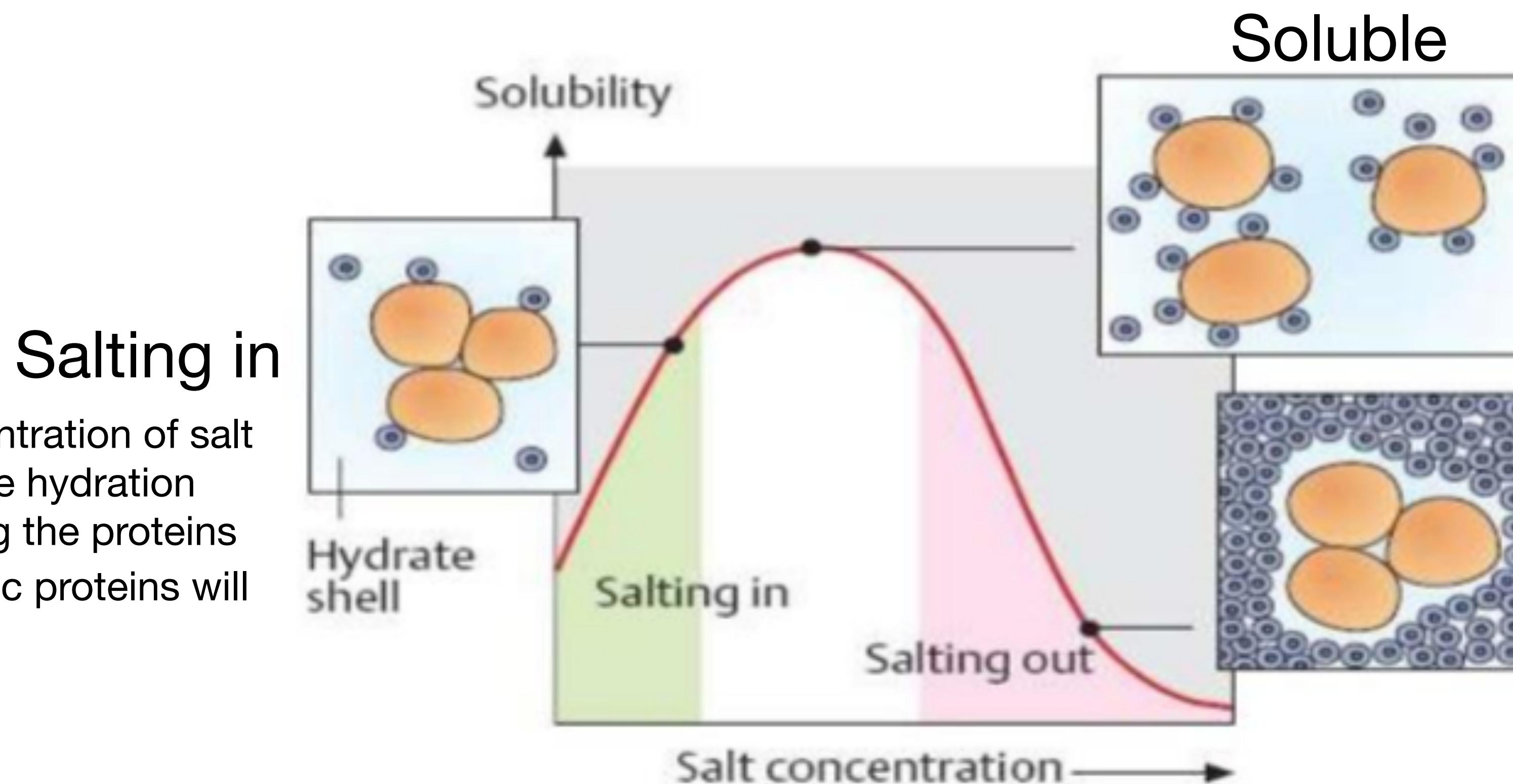
Densities

Solubilities

Size/charge - using a current

Precipitation (salting out)

exploits the solubility of a protein using salt



Salting in

- Low concentration of salt increase the hydration surrounding the proteins
- hydrophobic proteins will precipitate

Soluble

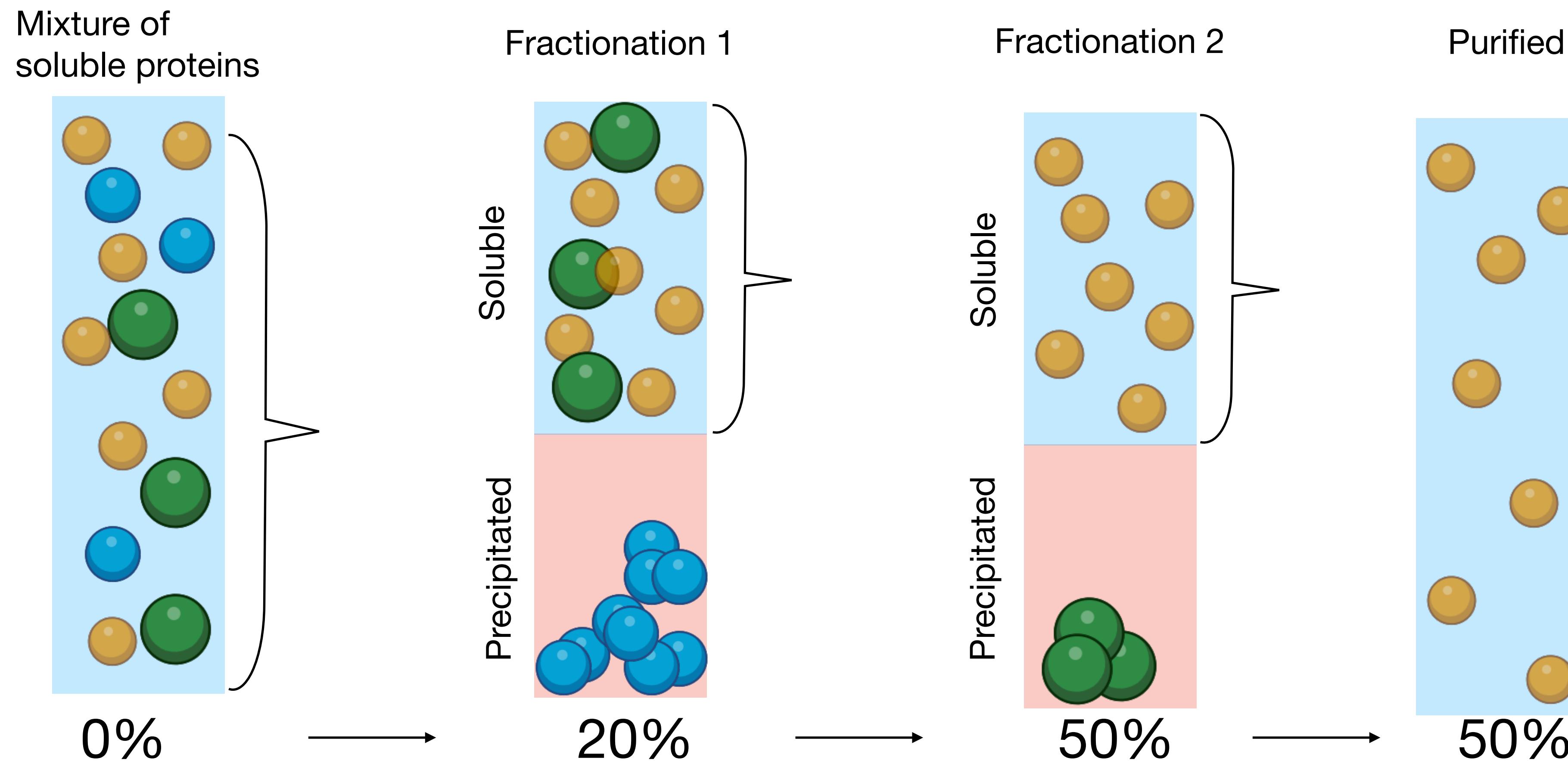
Salt stabilises the protein molecules in solution by decreasing the electrostatic energy between the protein molecules

Salting out

- High concentration of salt competes with the water molecules needed to solvate the proteins.
- the solvation sphere is removed from the protein
- hydrophilic proteins will precipitate out of solution

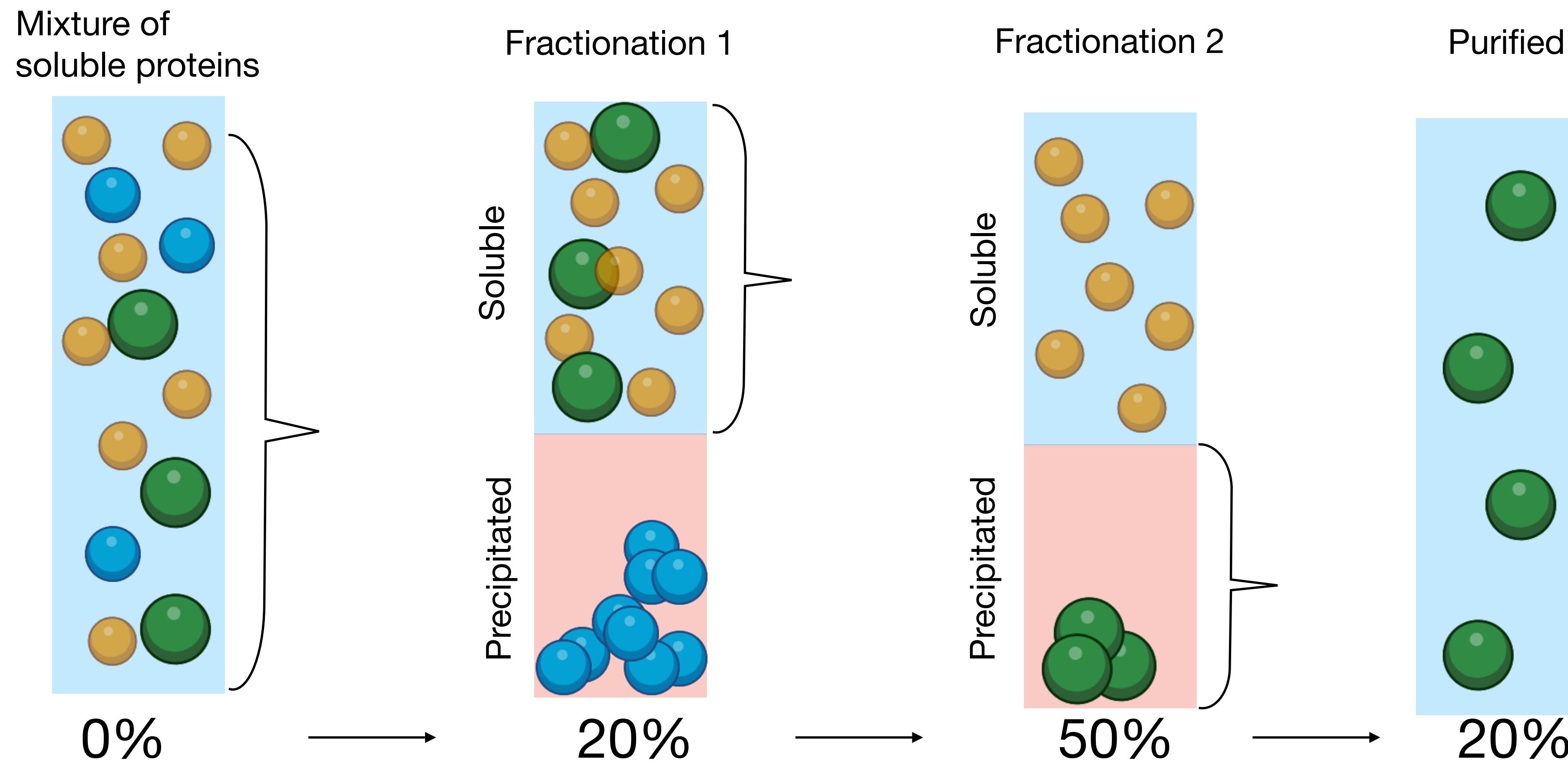
The salt concentration needed to precipitate out a protein depends on the charge (pI) and hydrophobicity of the protein

Precipitation (salting out)



The salt concentration needed to precipitate out a protein depends on the charge (pI) and hydrophobicity of the protein

Precipitation (salting out)

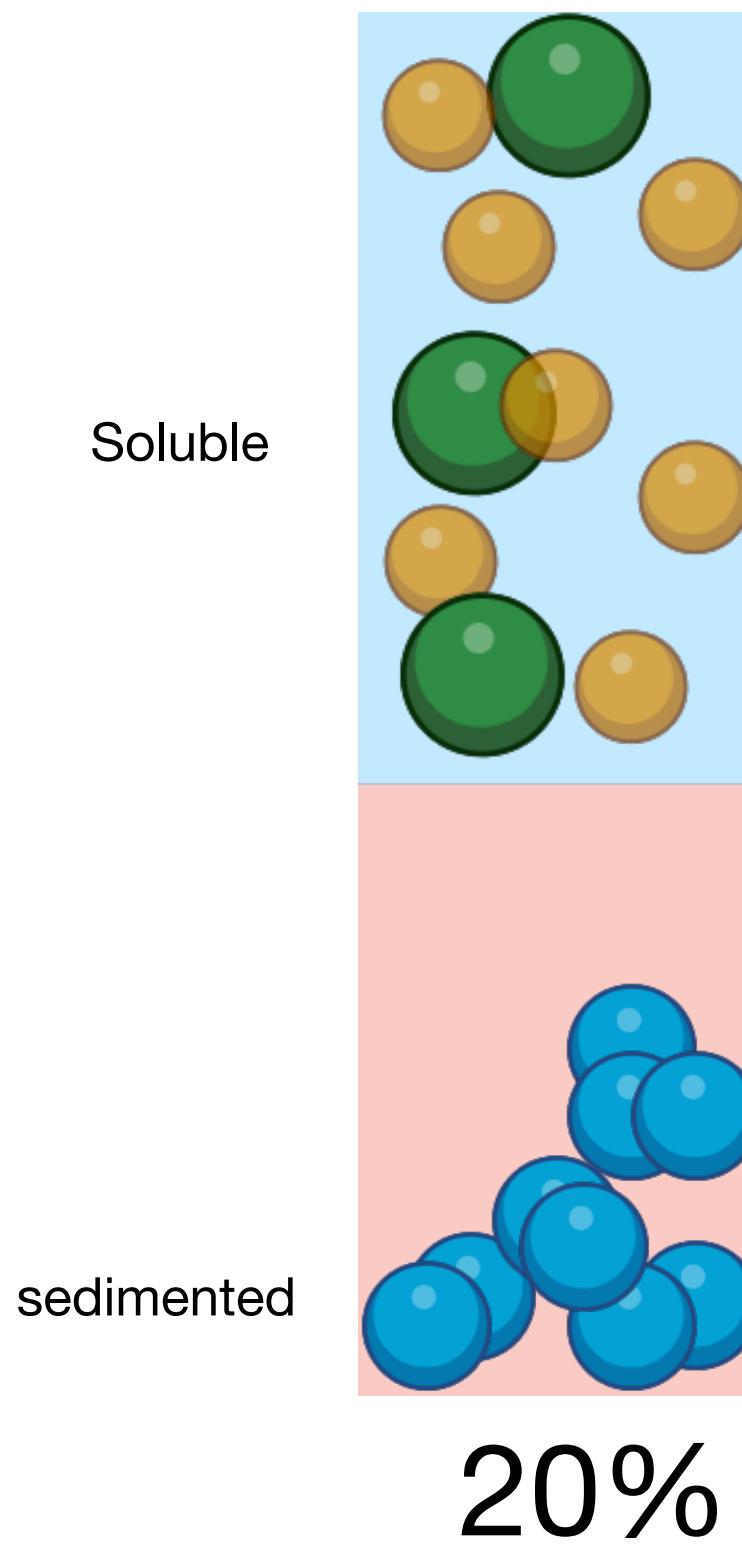


Precipitation can be reversible by reducing salt concentration again

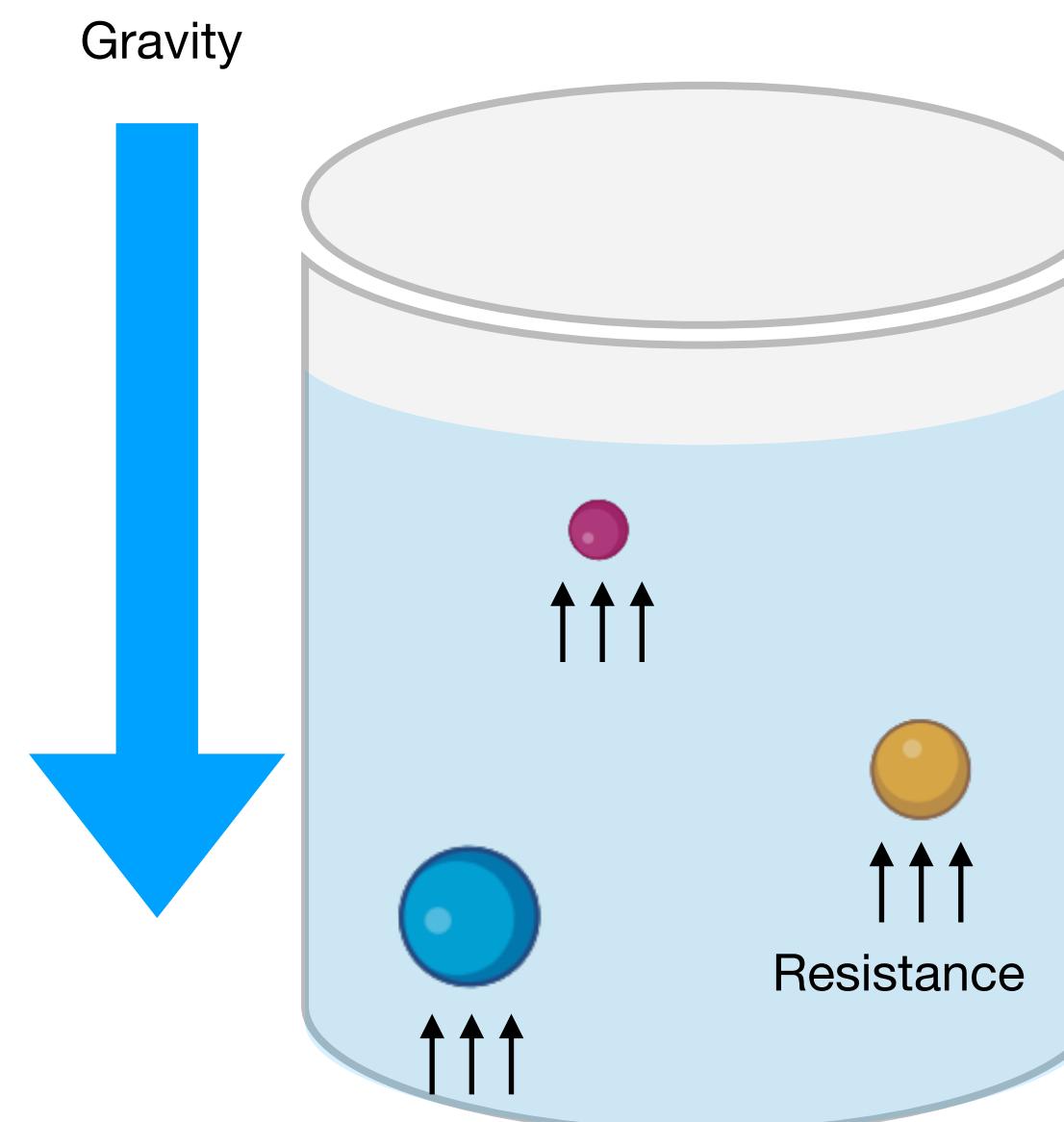
Sedimentation

Precipitated proteins will separate naturally due to the process of sedimentation

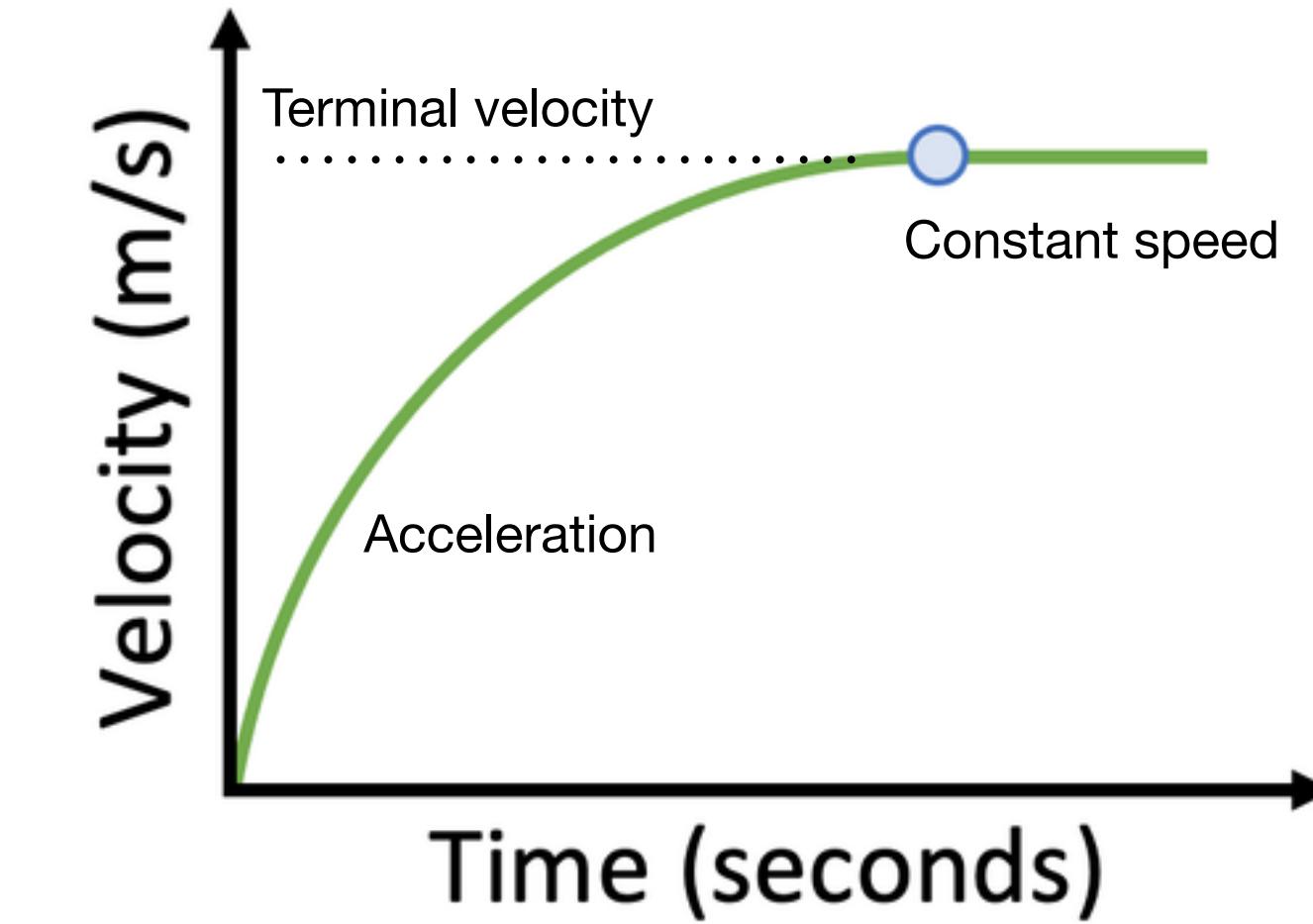
Fractionation 1



Stokes Law



Terminal velocity



Force of gravity = force of resistance

Sedimentation velocity

Using Stokes' Law, the velocity at which molecules settle (terminal velocity) is:

$$v_s = \frac{2r^2(\rho_p - \rho_m)g}{9\eta}$$

$$v_s = \frac{2(5 \times 10^{-8})^2(1.3 - 1.0)(9.81)}{9(1 \times 10^{-3})}$$

Where:

η = fluid viscosity (Pa.s)

r = radius of the sphere (m)

v = velocity of the sphere (m/s)

ρ_p = density of protein (g/cm³)

ρ_m = density of the medium (g/cm³)

g = gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s²)

cytosol ~1 mPa.s (1 x 10⁻³ m)

small protein: 50 nm = (5 x 10⁻⁸ m)

1.3 g/cm³

1.0 g/cm³

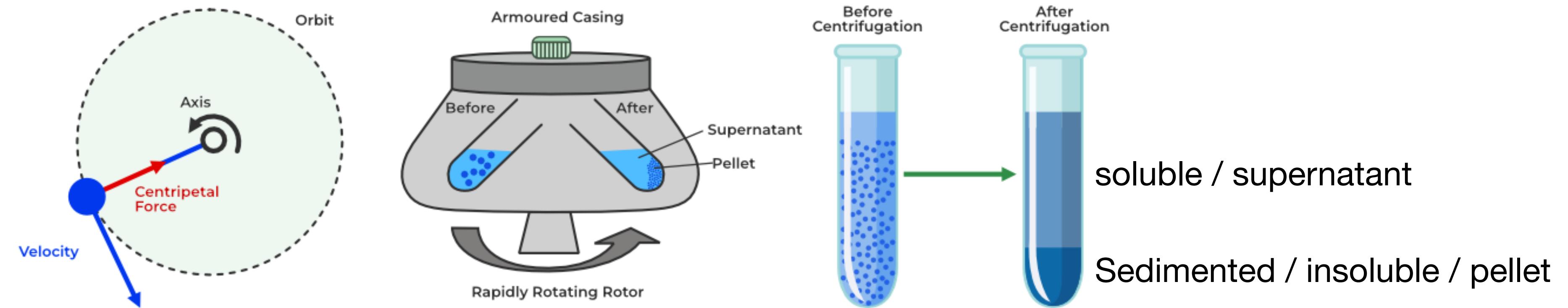
$v_s = 5.4 \times 10^{-9}$ m/s

= 5.4 nm/s

This is really slow!

Centrifugation

Increases the force of gravity and speeds up the sedimentation



Relative Centrifugal Force

$$RCF = \frac{\omega^2 r}{g}$$

Where:

r = radius of rotation (distance from centre of rotor to the sample, in cm or m)

ω = angular velocity (radians per second)

g = acceleration due to gravity (9.81 m/s²)

Centrifugation

In the terminal velocity calculation, gravity is replaced by centrifugal acceleration

$$v_s = \frac{2r^2(\rho_p - \rho_m) a_c}{9\eta} \longrightarrow a_c = \text{centrifugal acceleration} = \omega^2 r$$

Where:

η = fluid viscosity (Pa.s)

r = radius of the sphere (m)

v = velocity of the sphere (m/s)

ρ_p = density of protein (g/cm³)

ρ_m = density of the medium (g/cm³)

~~g = gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s²)~~

Where:

r = radius of rotation (distance from centre of rotor to the sample, in cm or m)

ω = angular velocity (radians per second)

and where $\omega = 2\pi \times (\text{rpm}/60)$

rpm = revolutions per minute (speed of centrifuge)

$$\text{Relative centrifugal force} = \frac{11.18 \times r \times (\text{RPM})^2}{1000}$$

For a centrifuge running at 100,000 rpm, RCF = 800,000 $\times g$

The extra maths...

Centrifugal acceleration (a_c) is given by:

$$a_c = \omega^2 r$$

where:

- ω = angular velocity in radians per second.
- r = rotational radius (distance from the center of the rotor to the sample, in cm).

The angular velocity is:

$$\omega = 2\pi \times \frac{RPM}{60}$$

So the acceleration can be rewritten as:

$$a_c = \left(2\pi \times \frac{RPM}{60}\right)^2 \times r$$

Simplifying:

$$a_c = \frac{4\pi^2 \times (RPM)^2 \times r}{3600}$$

which in SI units (with $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ converted to cm/s^2) gives:

$$RCF = \frac{4\pi^2}{3600 \times 9.81} \times r \times (RPM)^2$$

Since:

$$\frac{4\pi^2}{3600 \times 9.81} \approx 11.18 \times 10^{-3}$$

we get the **final equation**:

$$RCF = \frac{11.18 \times r \times (RPM)^2}{1000}$$

Sedimentation velocity + centrifugation

Using Stokes' Law, the velocity at which molecules settle (terminal velocity) is:

$$v_s = \frac{2r^2(\rho_p - \rho_m)g}{9\eta}$$

Where:

η = fluid viscosity (Pa.s)

r = radius of the sphere (m)

v = velocity of the sphere (m/s)

ρ_p = density of protein (g/cm³)

ρ_m = density of the medium (g/cm³)

g = gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s²)

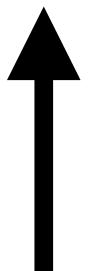
cytosol ~1 mPa.s (1 x 10⁻³ m)

small protein: 50 nm = 5 x 10⁻⁸ m

1.3 g/cm³

1.0 g/cm³

$$v_s = \frac{2(5 \times 10^{-8})^2(1.3 - 1.0)(9.81)}{9(1 \times 10^{-3})}$$



X 800,000

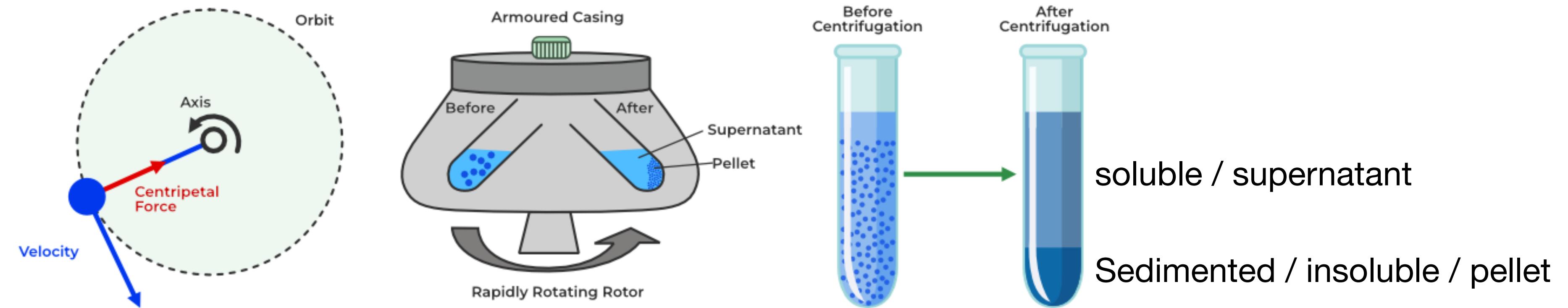
$$\begin{aligned} v_s &= 5.4 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m/s} \\ &= 5.4 \text{ nm/s} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_s &= 13.08 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m/s} \\ &= 1308 \text{ nm/s} \end{aligned}$$

This is much faster!

Centrifugation

Increases the force of gravity and speeds up the sedimentation



Relative Centrifugal Force

$$RCF = \frac{\omega^2 r}{g}$$

Where:

r = radius of rotation (distance from centre of rotor to the sample, in cm or m)

ω = angular velocity (radians per second)

g = acceleration due to gravity (9.81 m/s²)

Centrifugation

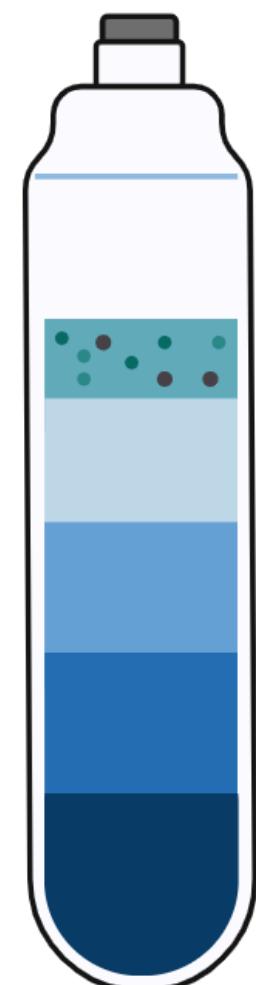
exploits the different densities of proteins (and other cellular material)

Differential



Removes cellular debris

Density gradient



Separates protein mixtures

Ultracentrifugation



Analytical and preparative

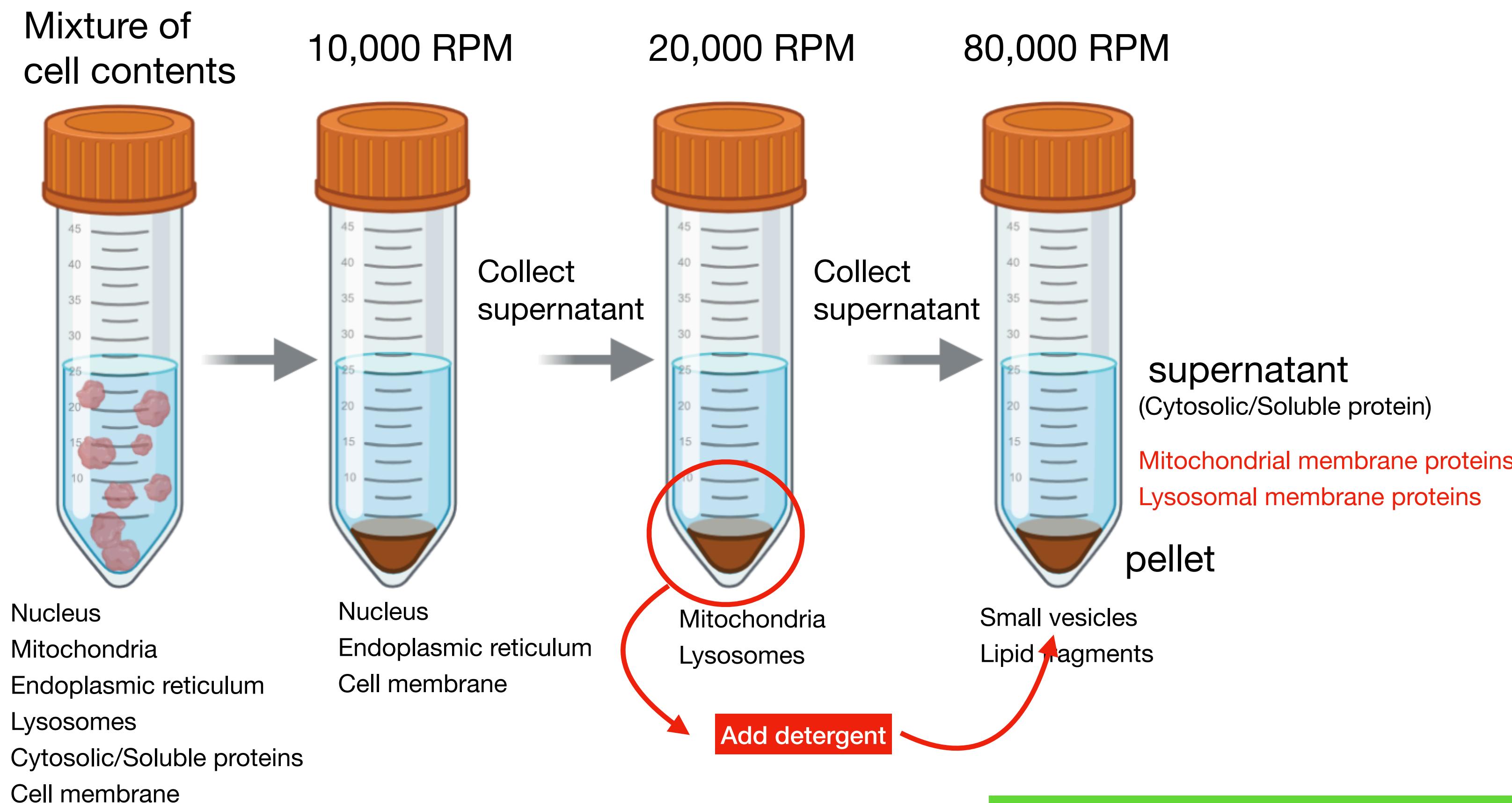
Differential centrifugation

Separation of cellular contents



- **Mechanically**
 - Grinding (mortar and pestle)
 - Sonication (vibrations)
 - Homogenisation (Shearing forces)
 - Freeze-thaw (expansion of water)

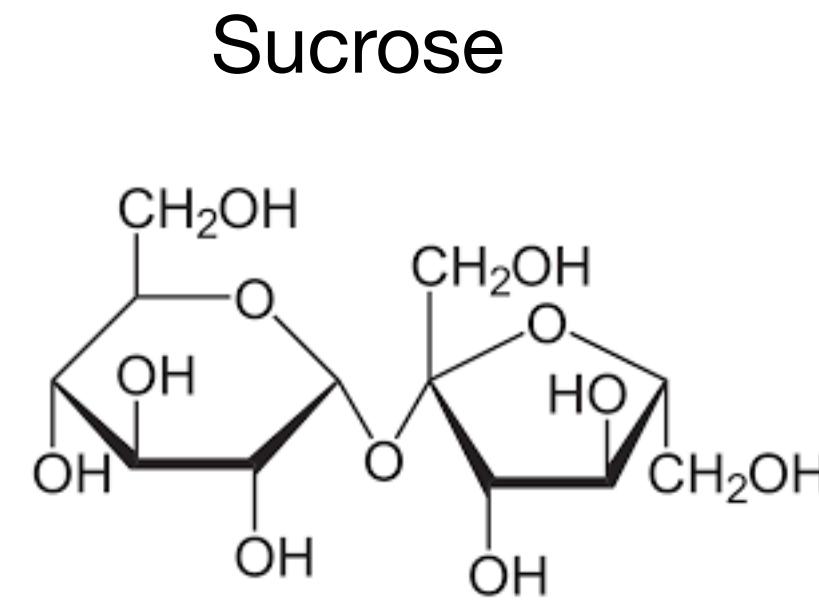
- **Chemically**
 - Enzymes
 - Chemicals



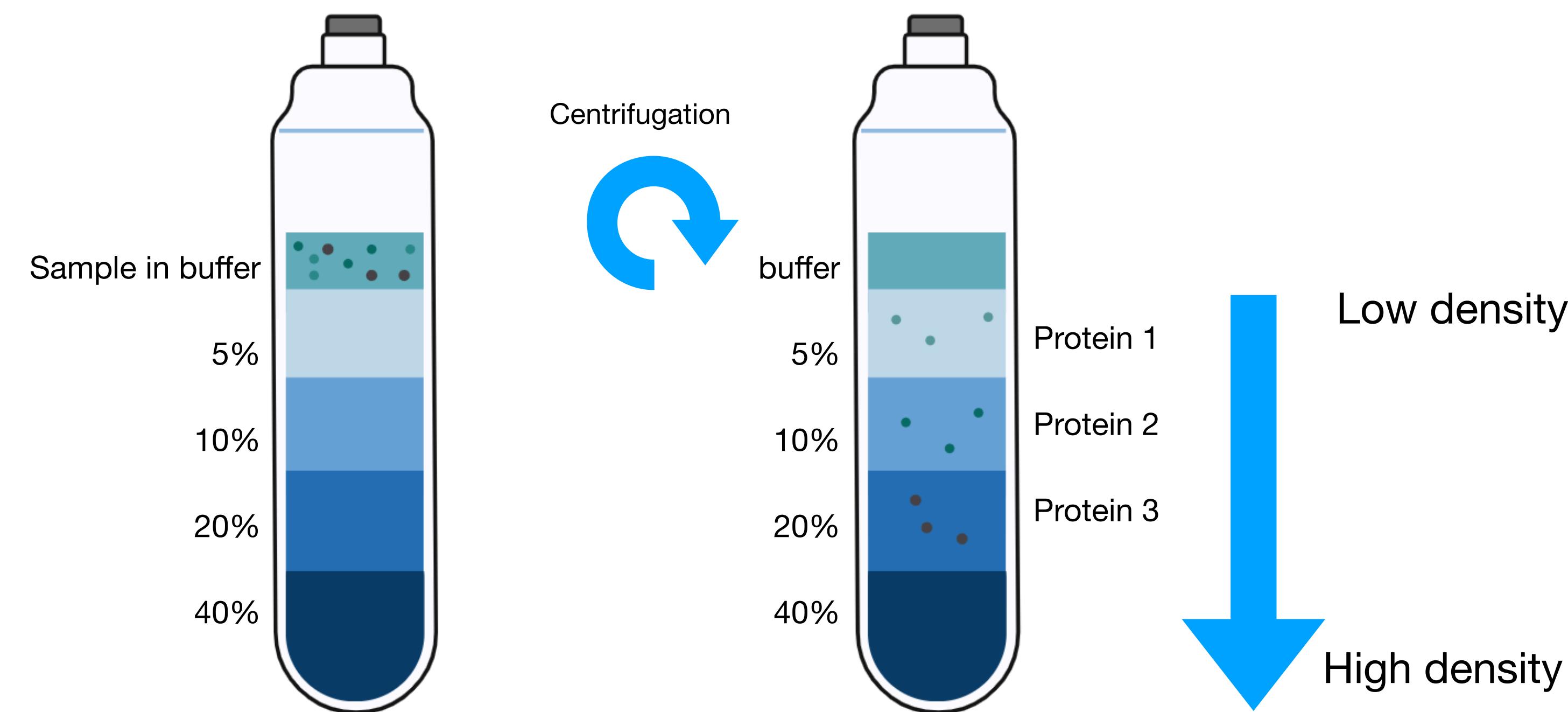
First step in most purification protocols

Density Centrifugation

Separates proteins, most commonly using sucrose gradients



- Makes a stable density gradient at different concentrations
- Biologically compatible (non-toxic, non-reactive, gentle for proteins)
- High viscosity ensures a stable gradient without mixing during centrifugation
- Sucrose is easy to remove from proteins



Sucrose provides resistance that slows down particles as they move helping them to separate based on their density

Ultracentrifugation

Spins at speeds up to 100,000 - 1,000,000 x g

Preparative



- **Differential**
- **Density gradient**

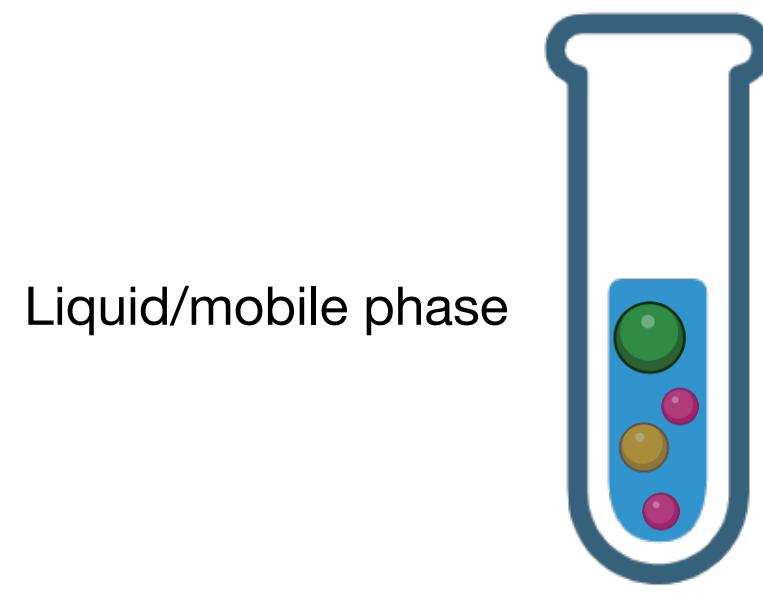
Analytical

Coupled to a detector

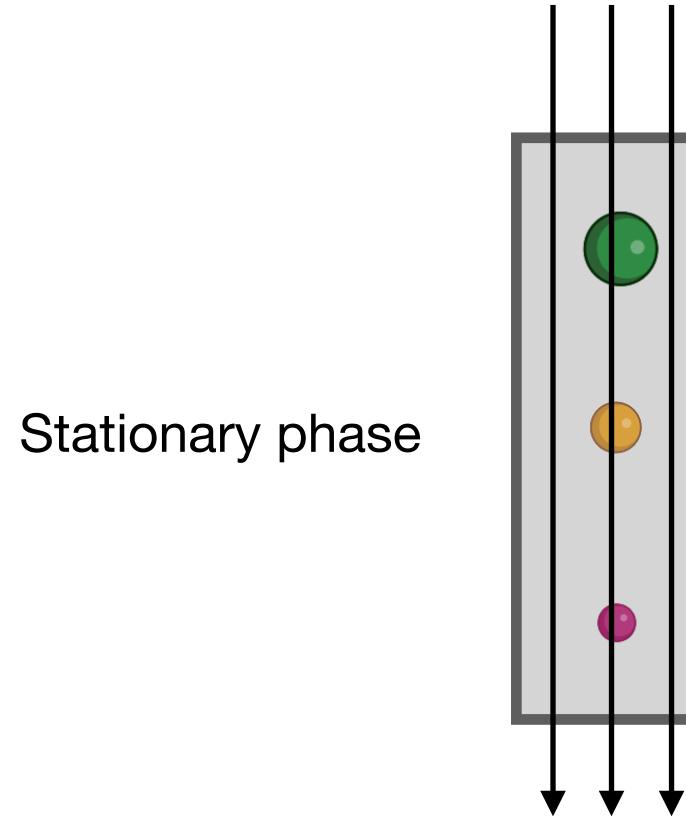
- **Shape:** How spherical is my protein?
- **Diameter:** What's the size of my particle?
- **Mass:** What's the molecular weight of my protein or complex in solution?
- **Stoichiometry:** How many subunits comprise my protein?
- **Purity:** Are there other particles in my sample?
- **Formulation:** How does my protein behave in this buffer?
- **Heterogeneity:** Is my protein bound to other molecules, and what's the configuration of the complex?
- **Aggregation:** Is my protein still in a usable form? Should I expect an immune response with my drug formulation?
- **Association:** Does my protein associate and/or dissociate with other proteins?
- **Conformation:** Does the conformation of my protein change upon binding to a ligand?

Chromatography

The separation of a mixture into its components

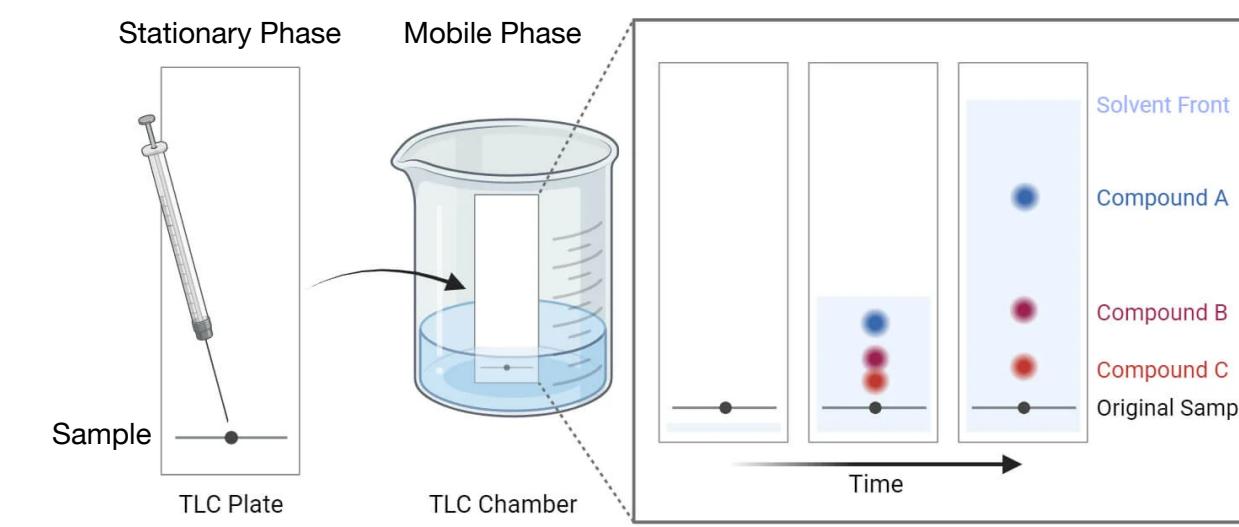


Paper/Thin layer

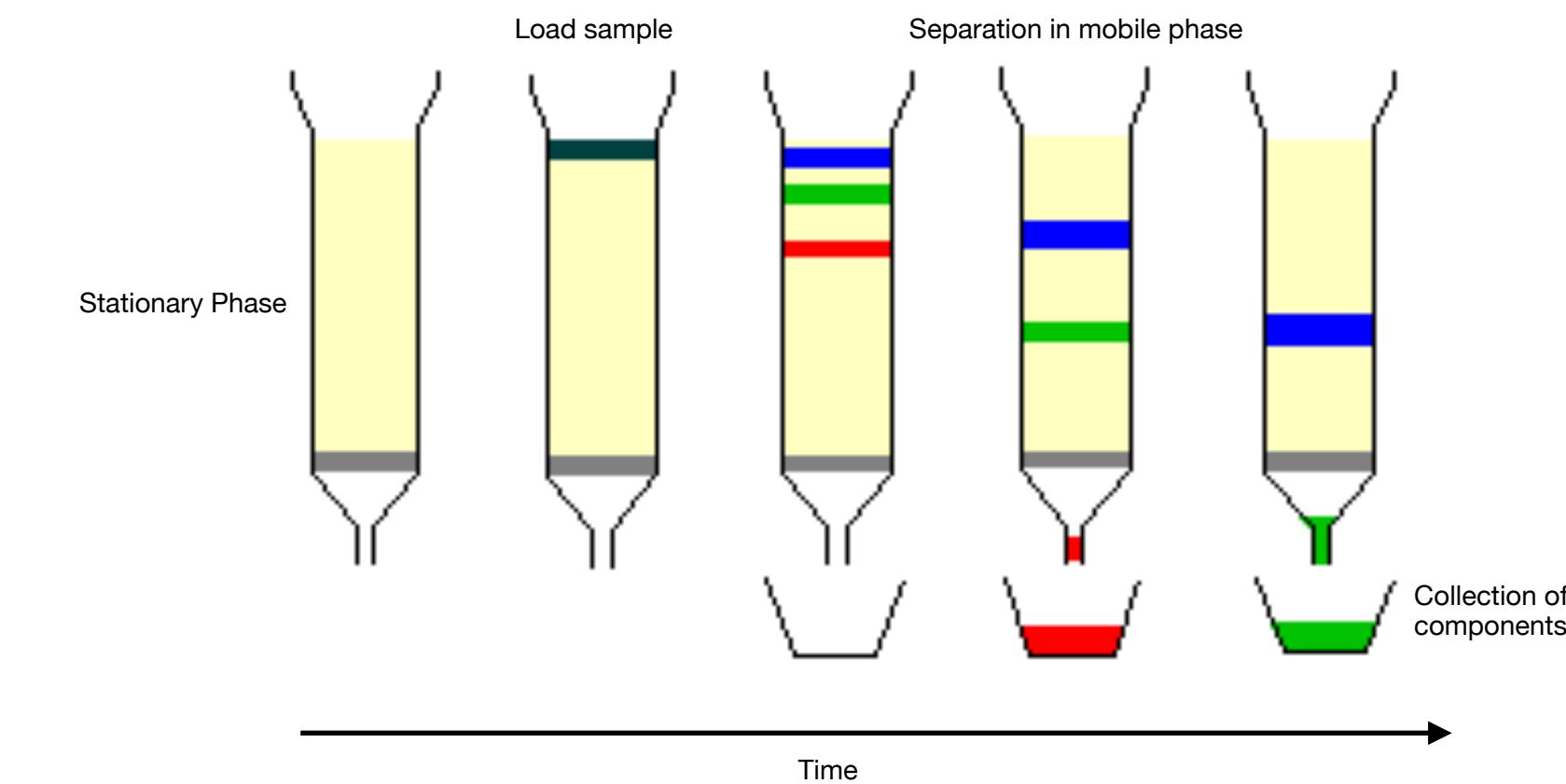


Detection

Column

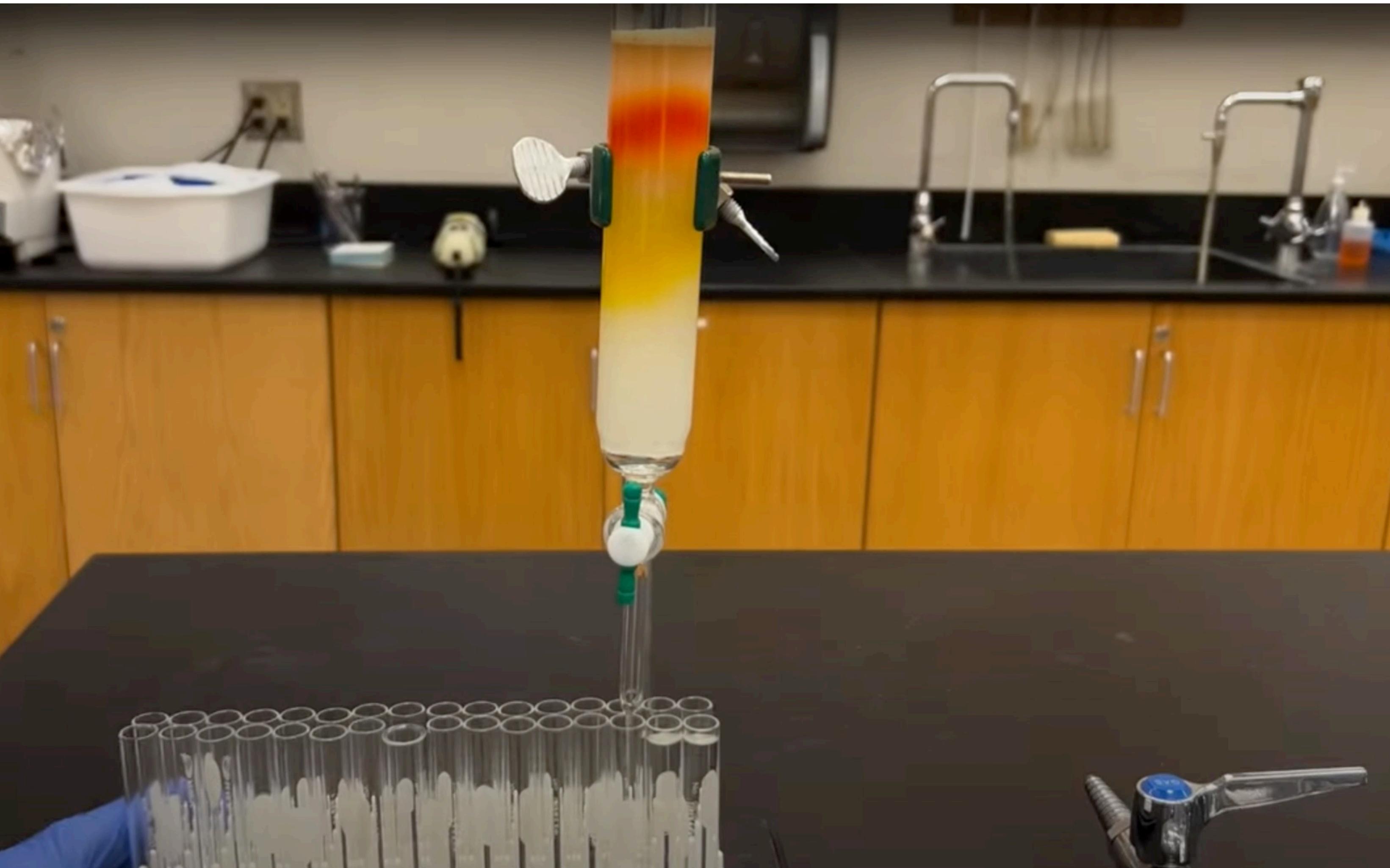


- compound identification
- chemical analysis



- purification

Manual chromatography



An automated chromatography system

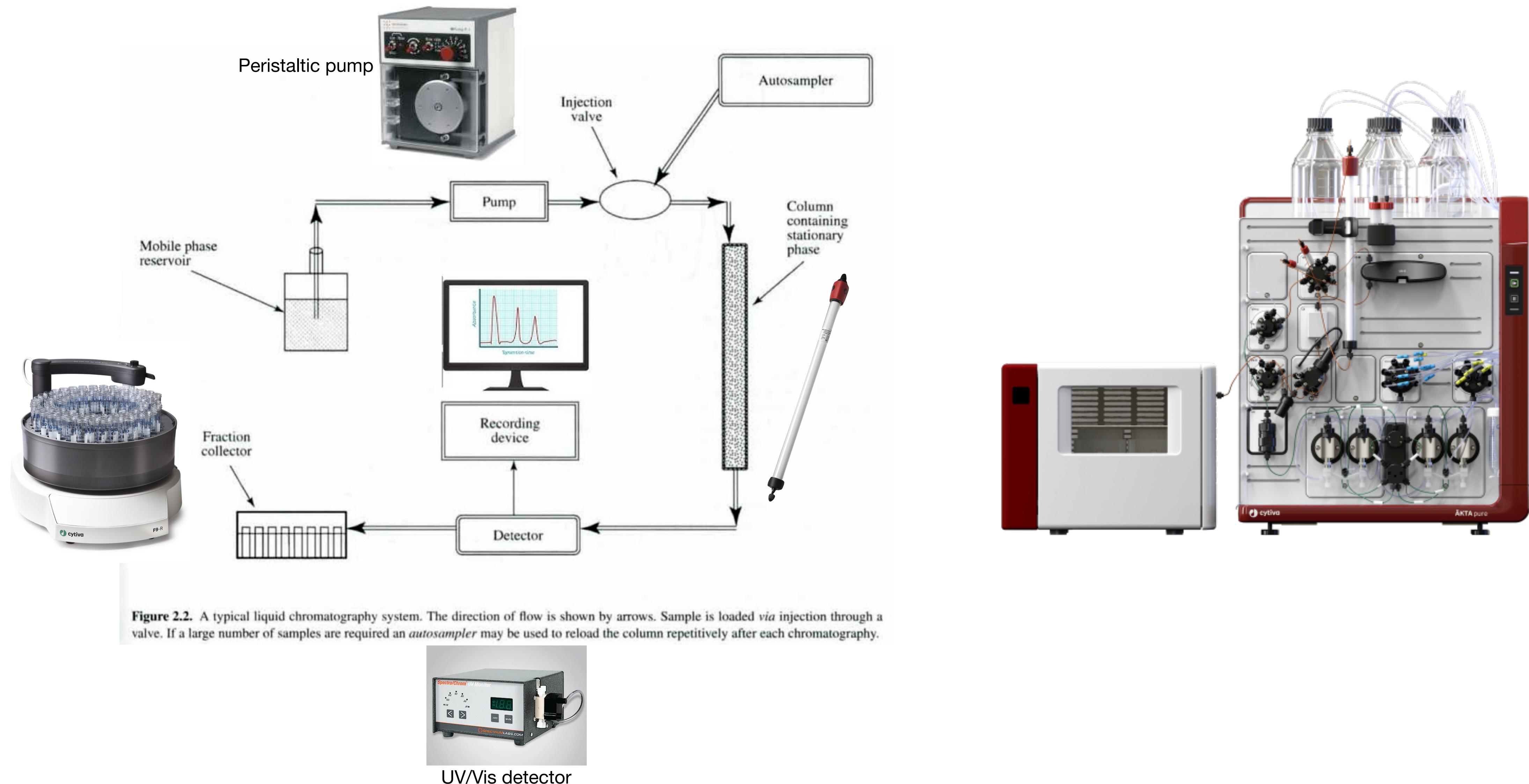
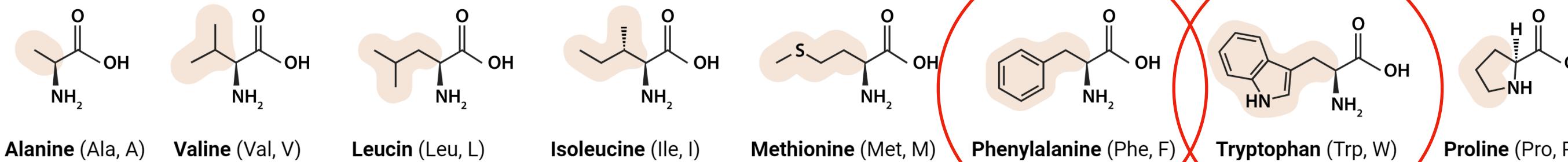


Figure 2.2. A typical liquid chromatography system. The direction of flow is shown by arrows. Sample is loaded *via* injection through a valve. If a large number of samples are required an *autosampler* may be used to reload the column repetitively after each chromatography.

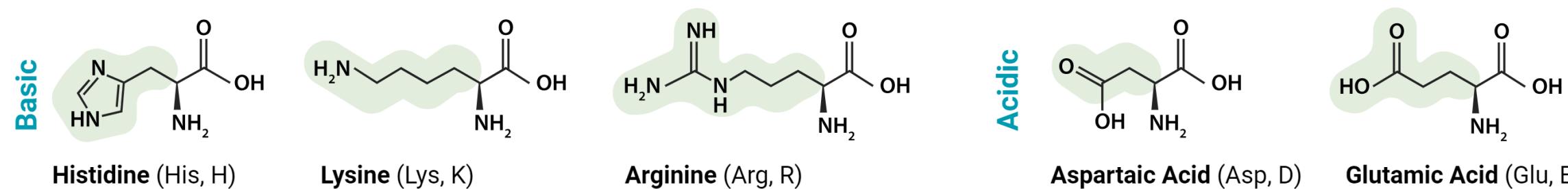
Detection

Proteins absorb at 280 nm due to the presence of aromatic amino acids

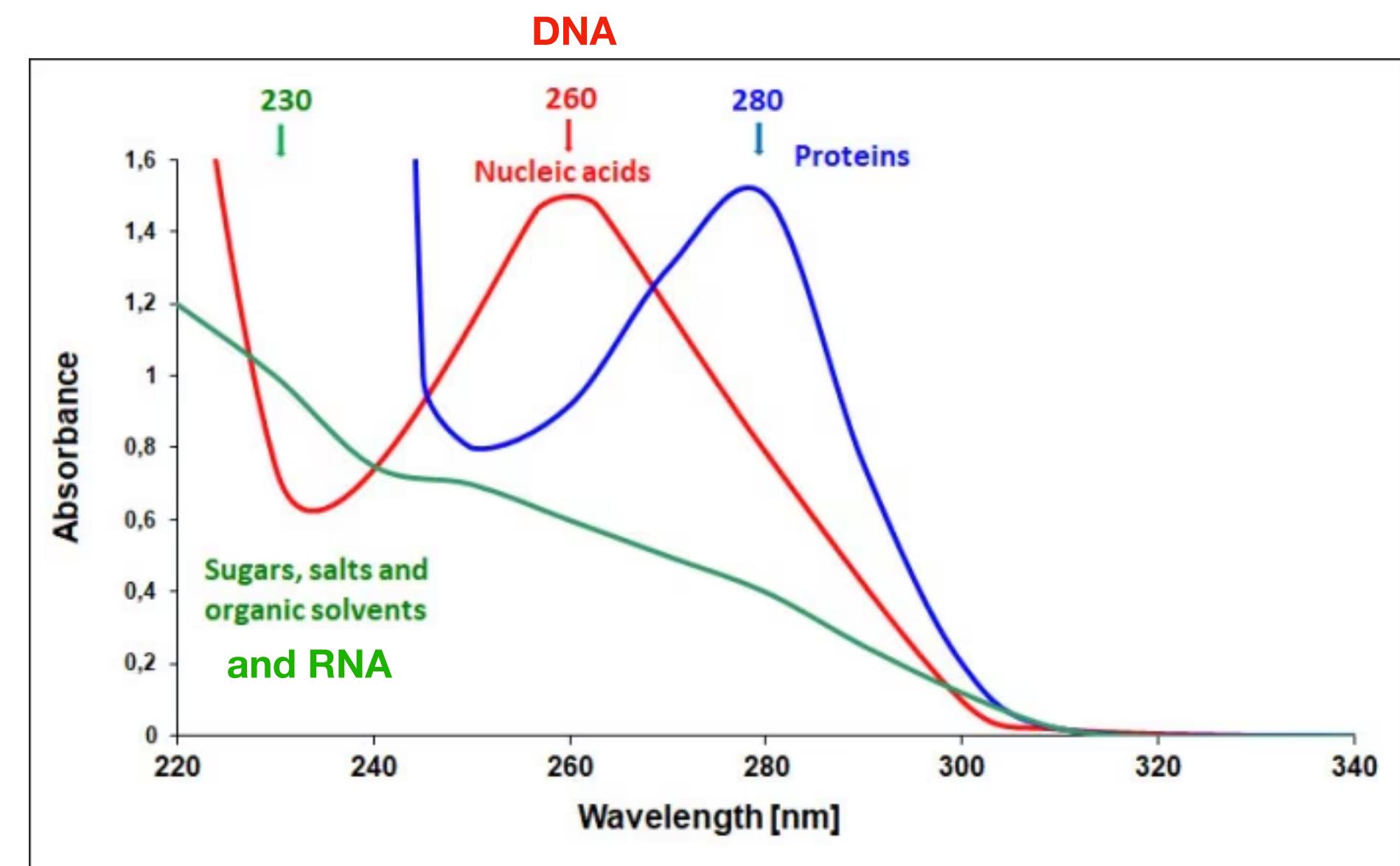
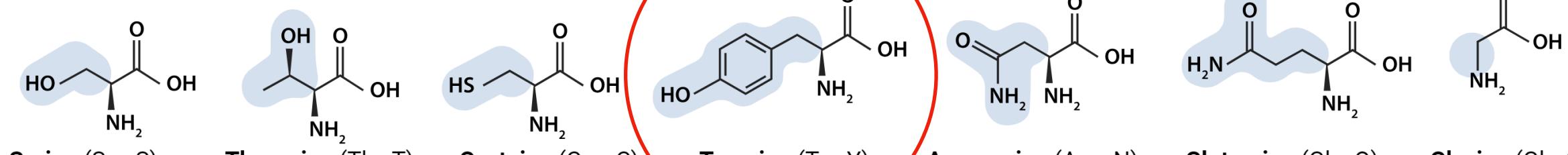
Non-polar side chains, uncharged, hydrophobic



Electrically charged side chains



Polar side chains, uncharged

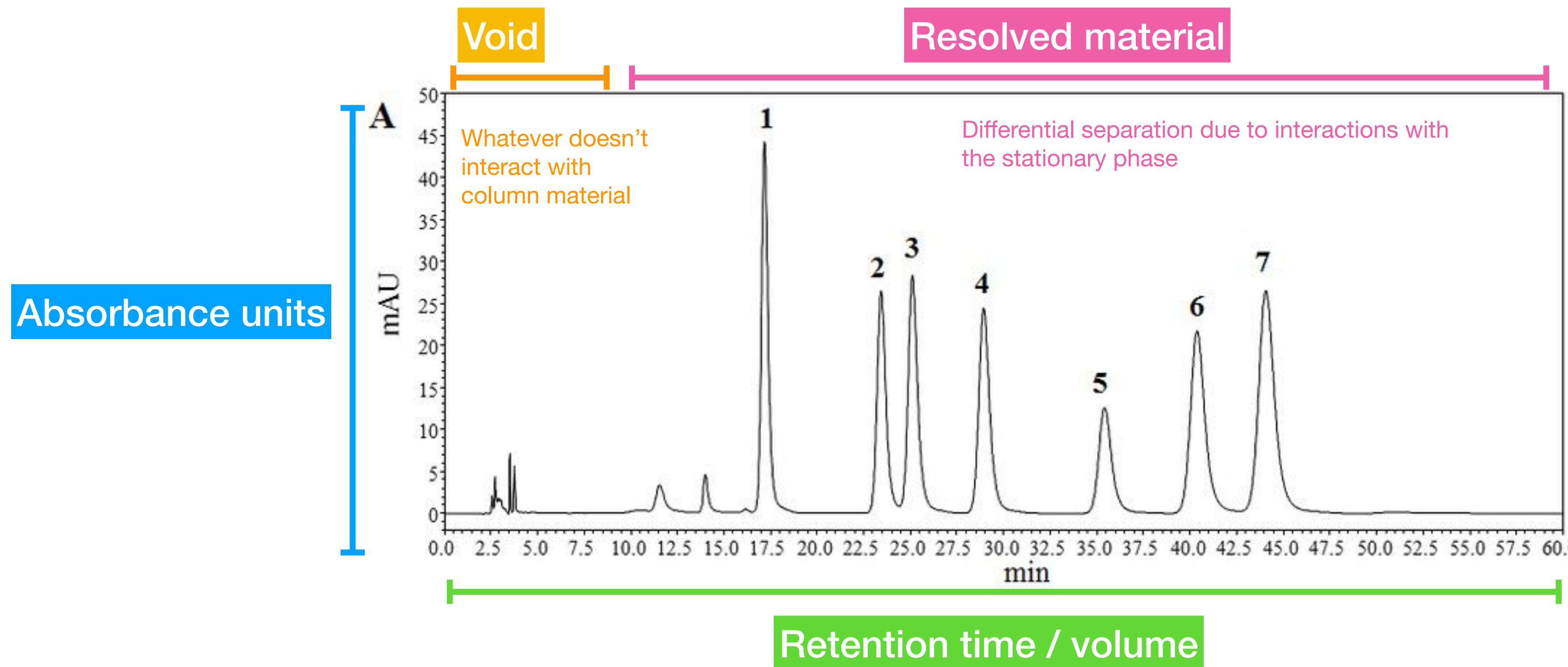


280/260 = ratio of protein:nucleic acid

260/230 = ratio of DNA:RNA

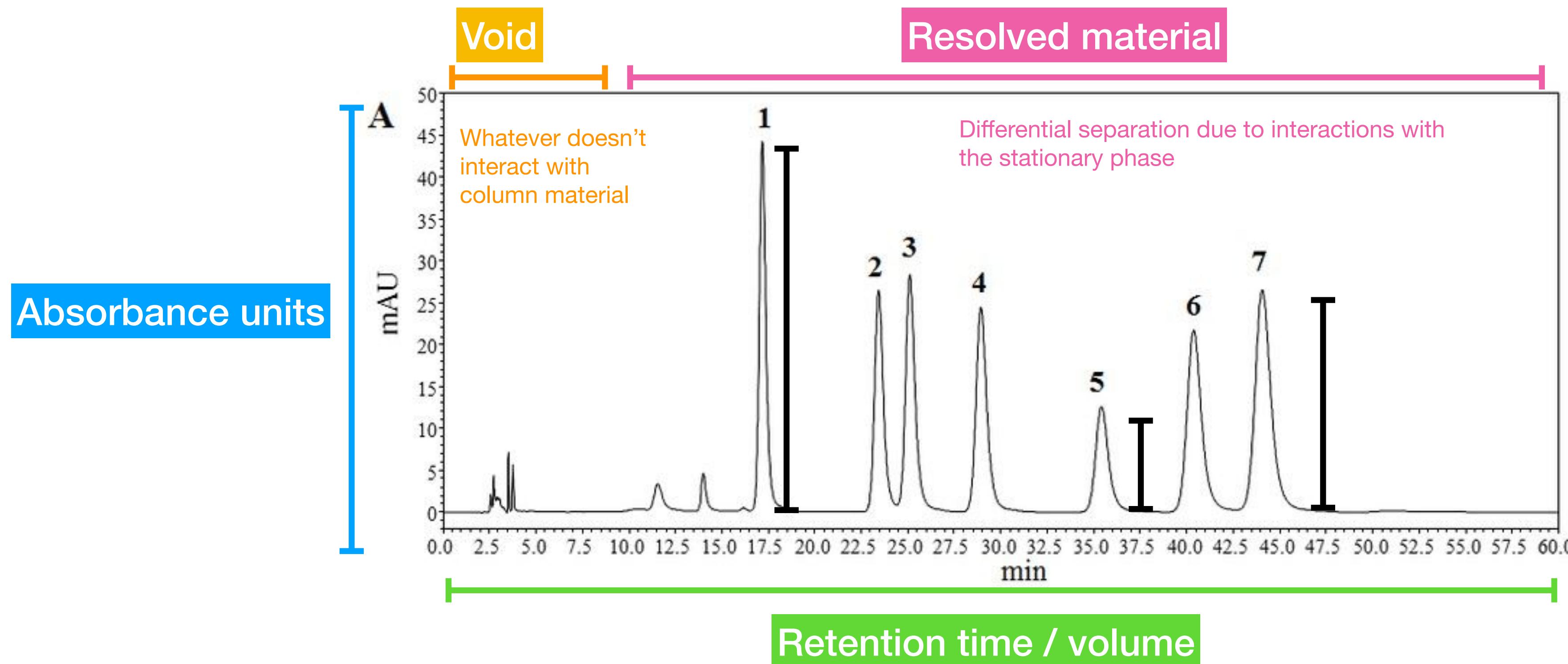
Chromatogram

Protein elution from the column can be simply monitored by A280 nm



Chromatogram

Protein concentration can be also be calculated from its A280 nm



Peak height (A)
is proportional
to protein
concentration

Protein concentration

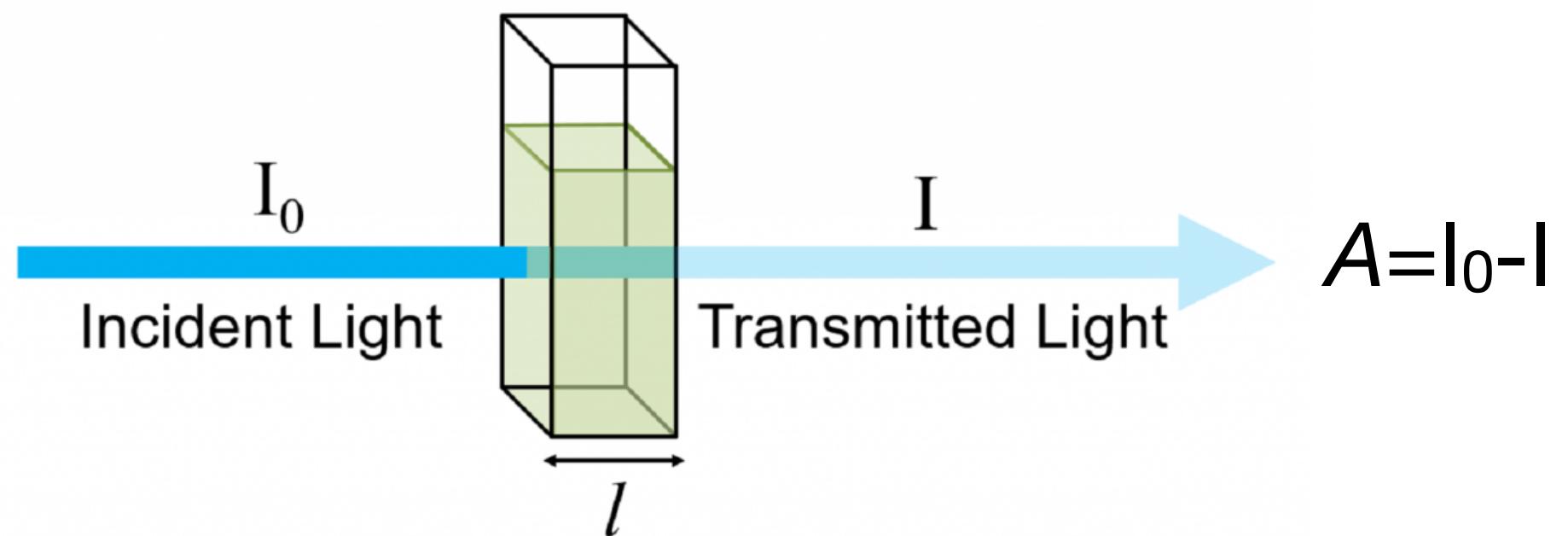
Beer Lambert Law

The absorbance of a material is directly proportional to its concentration in solution and the path length through which the light travels.

$$A = \varepsilon cl$$

A	Absorbance
ε	Molar absorption coefficient
c	Molar concentration
l	optical path length

$M^{-1}cm^{-1}$
 M (g/L)
cm



A = absorbance at A280 (peak height)

l = path length (determined by detector)

ε = molar absorption coefficient of the protein

$$\text{Protein Concentration (g/L)} = \frac{A}{\varepsilon l}$$

$$\varepsilon (\text{protein}) = (nW * 5500) + (nY * 1490) + (nC * 125)$$

W = tryptophan, Y = tyrosine, C = cysteine

Multi-angle laser light scattering (MALLS)

Viscotec Tetra Detector Array



Detector array consists of

- **Refractometer (refractive index RI)**
 - Refr. index increment dn/dc [ml/g] (yields concentration)
- **Viscometer (differential pressure DP)**
 - Intrinsic viscosity IV [dl/g] (deciliters per gram; yields shape)
 - Hydrodynamic radius Rh [nm] (yields size)
- **Light Scattering (90° and 7°)**
 - Mass M_w [g/mole] (yields mass, shape)
- **Absorption (280nm)**
 - Absorption coefficient dA/dc [ml/g] (yields concentration)

$$RI.sig \simeq C \cdot \frac{dn}{dc}$$

dn/dc is the refractive index increment. It quantifies how much the refractive index of a solution varies for a given increment in concentration c , expressed as g/mL

$$Visc.sig \simeq C \cdot IV$$

$$LS.sig \simeq C \cdot \left(\frac{dn}{dc} \right)^2 \cdot M_w$$

$$UV.sig \simeq C \cdot \frac{dA}{dc}$$

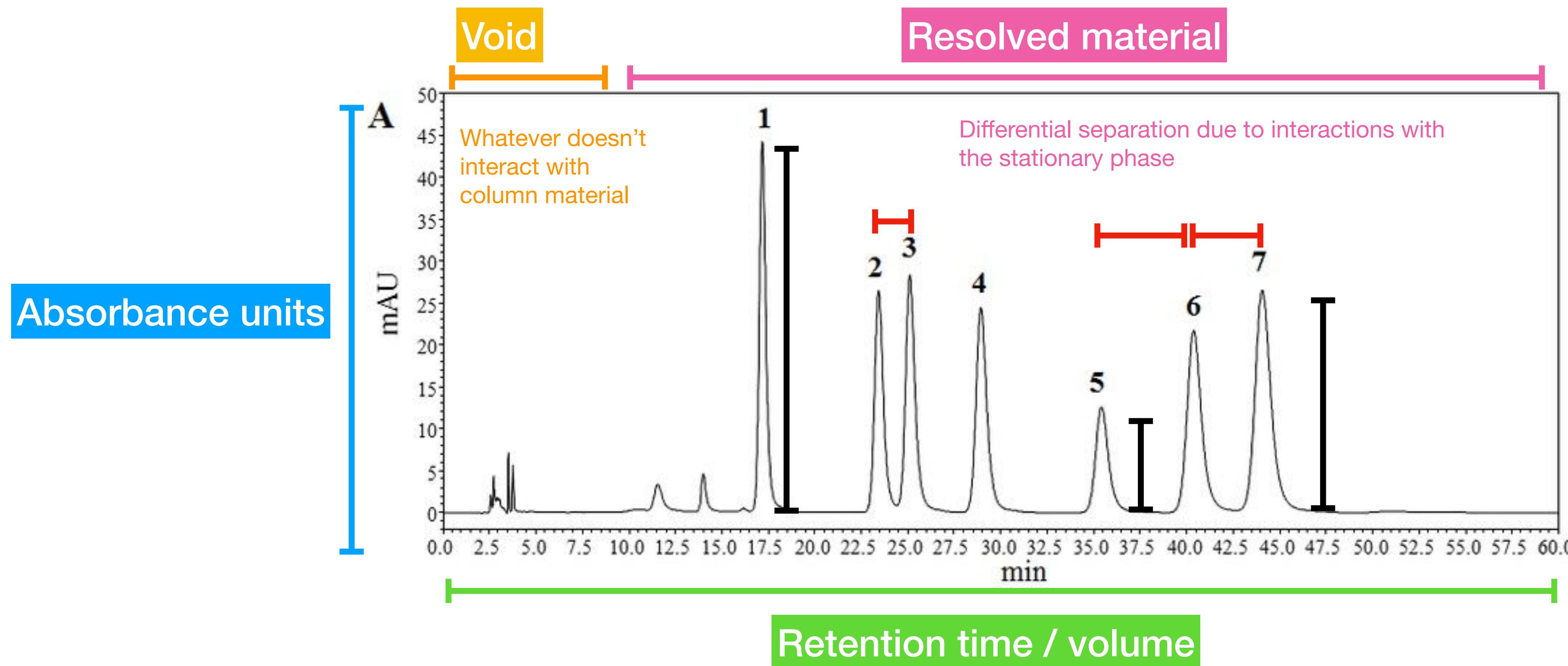


Upon analysis

- **Absolute molecular weight**
- **Radius, Intrinsic viscosity (shape)**
- **% binding partners**
- **concentration**
- **dn/dc**

Chromatogram

Protein concentration can be also be calculated from its A280 nm



Peak height is proportional to protein concentration

Distance between peaks determines resolution

Resolution of chromatography

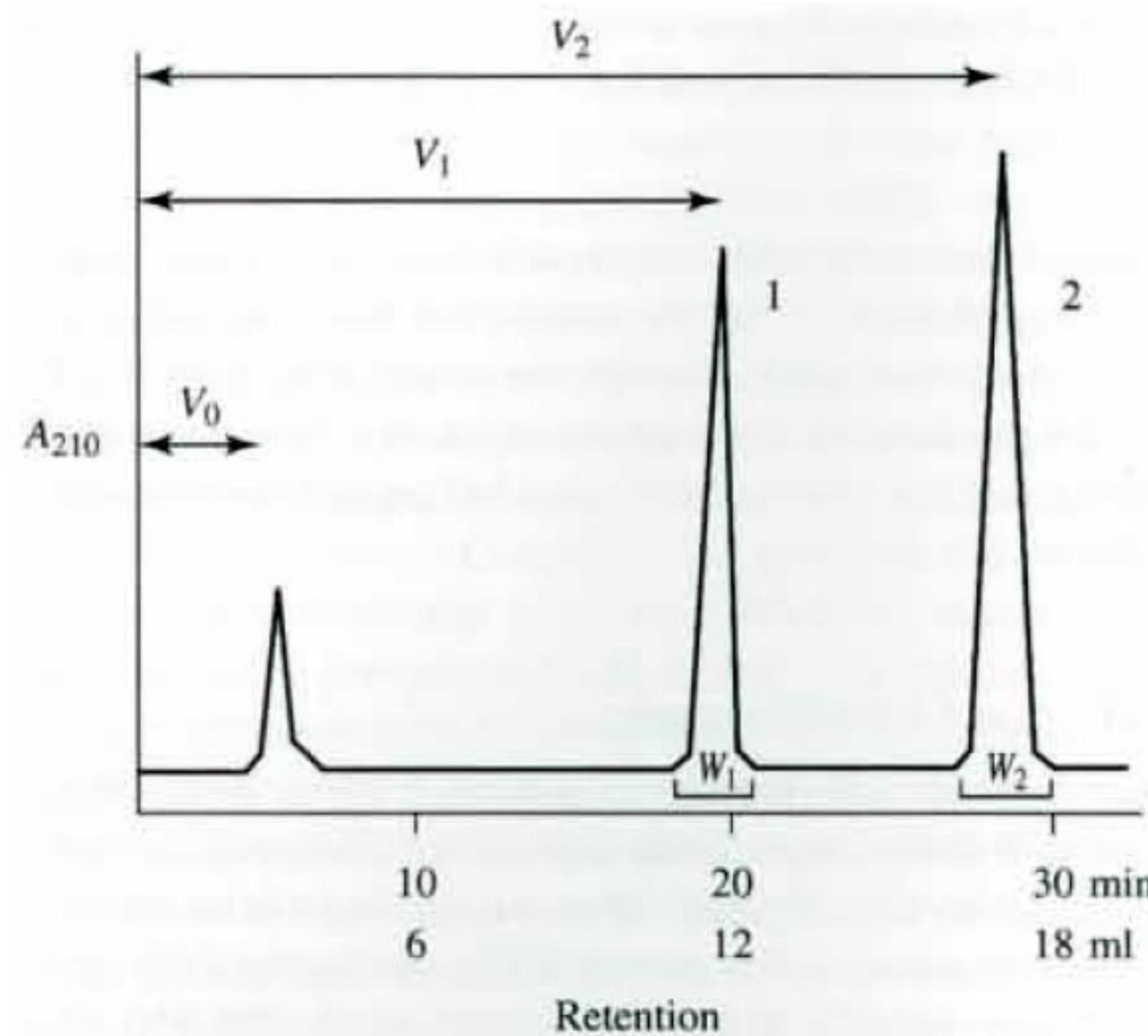


Figure 2.4. Retention in column chromatography. A typical chromatography trace showing the separation of two components; 1 and 2. The retention volumes of the components are shown by V_1 and V_2 , respectively, while the base peak widths are denoted by W_1 and W_2 . The void volume is denoted by V_0 .

$$V_R = f * t_R$$

V_R = retention volume

f = flow rate

t_R = retention time

$$R.F. = \frac{V_{sample}}{V_{mobile\ phase}}$$

$R.F.$ = retardation factor

$V_{mobile\ phase} = V_0$

$$R = \frac{V_2 - V_1}{(W_1 + W_2)/2}$$

R = resolution

W = width at base of peak

Peak broadening



Peak broadening

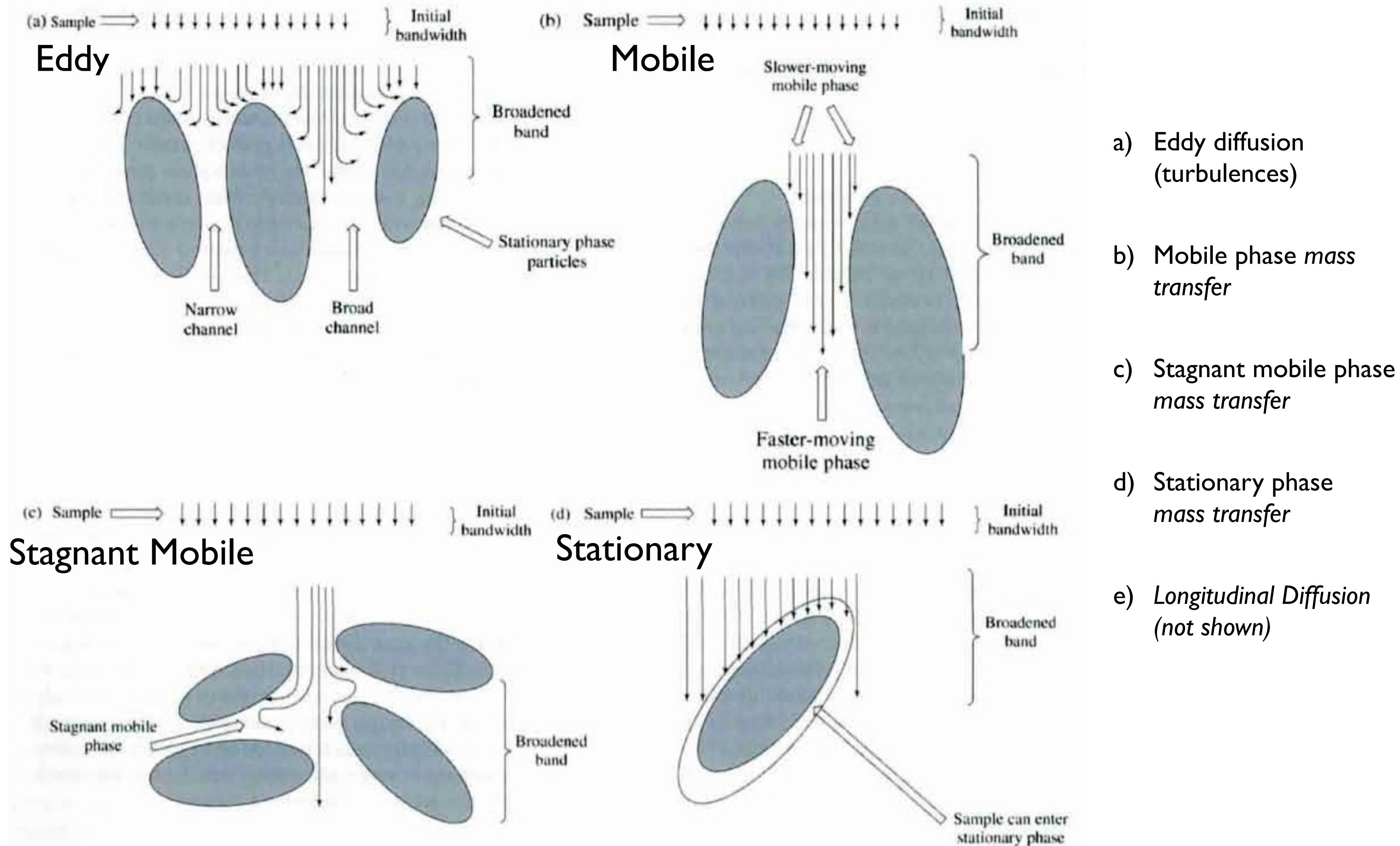
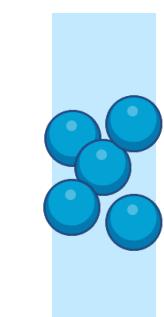
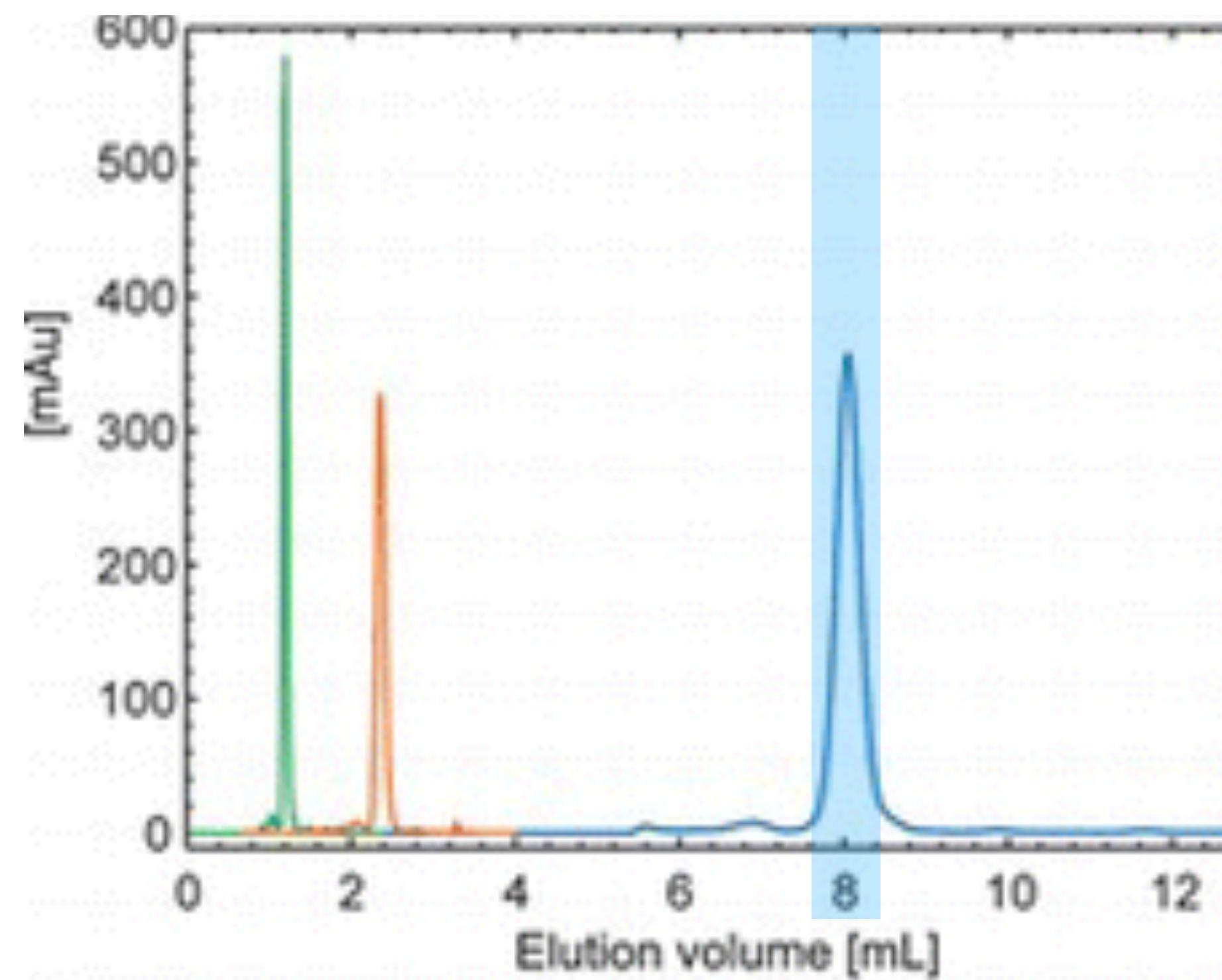


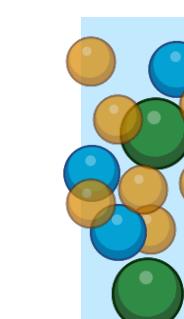
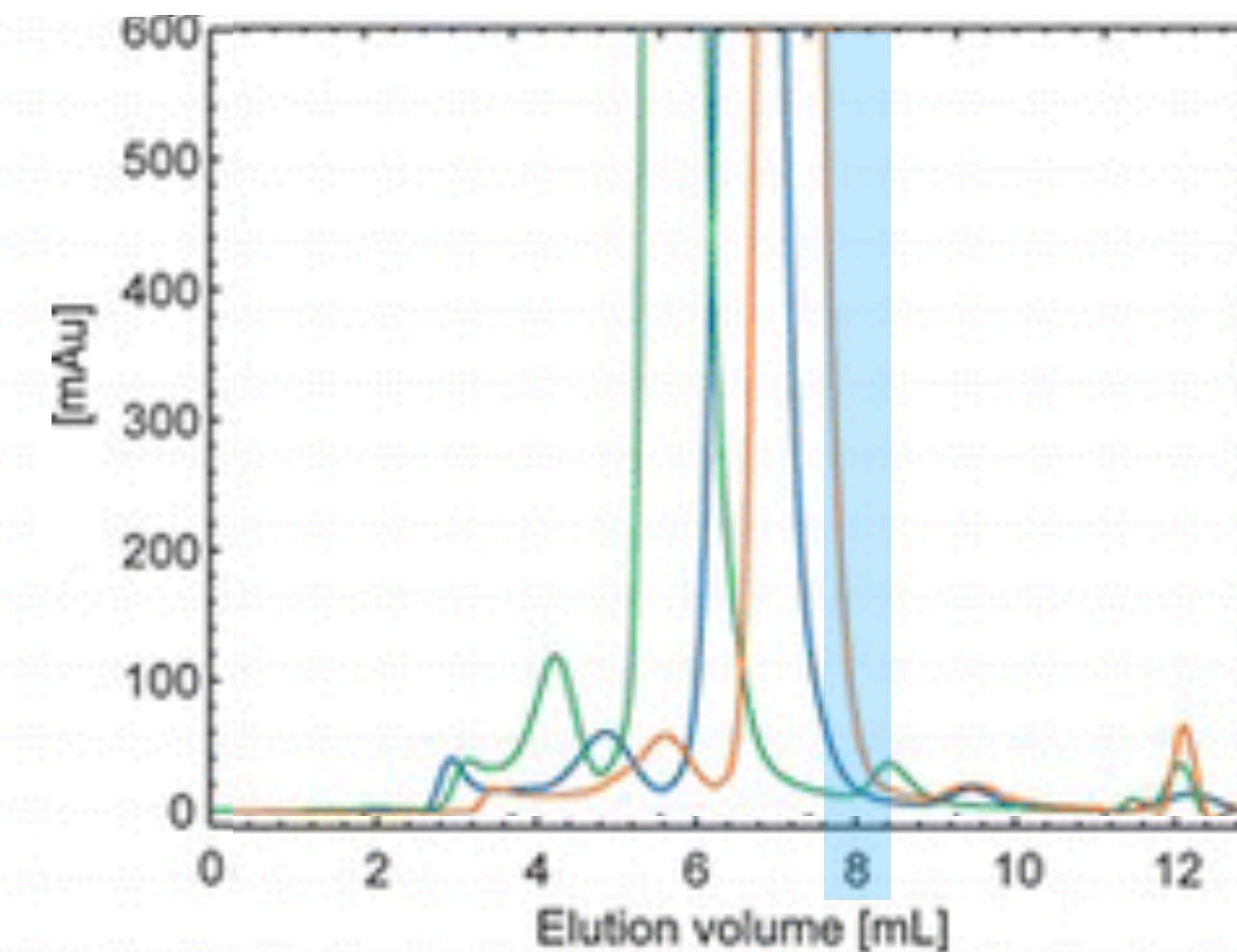
Figure 2.5. Physical causes of band broadening. (a) Eddy diffusion, (b) Mobile phase mass transfer, (c) Stagnant mobile phase mass transfer, (d) Stationary phase mass transfer. All of these may simultaneously contribute to broadening of the comparatively narrow initial bandwidth of applied sample.

Resolution of chromatography

Well resolved

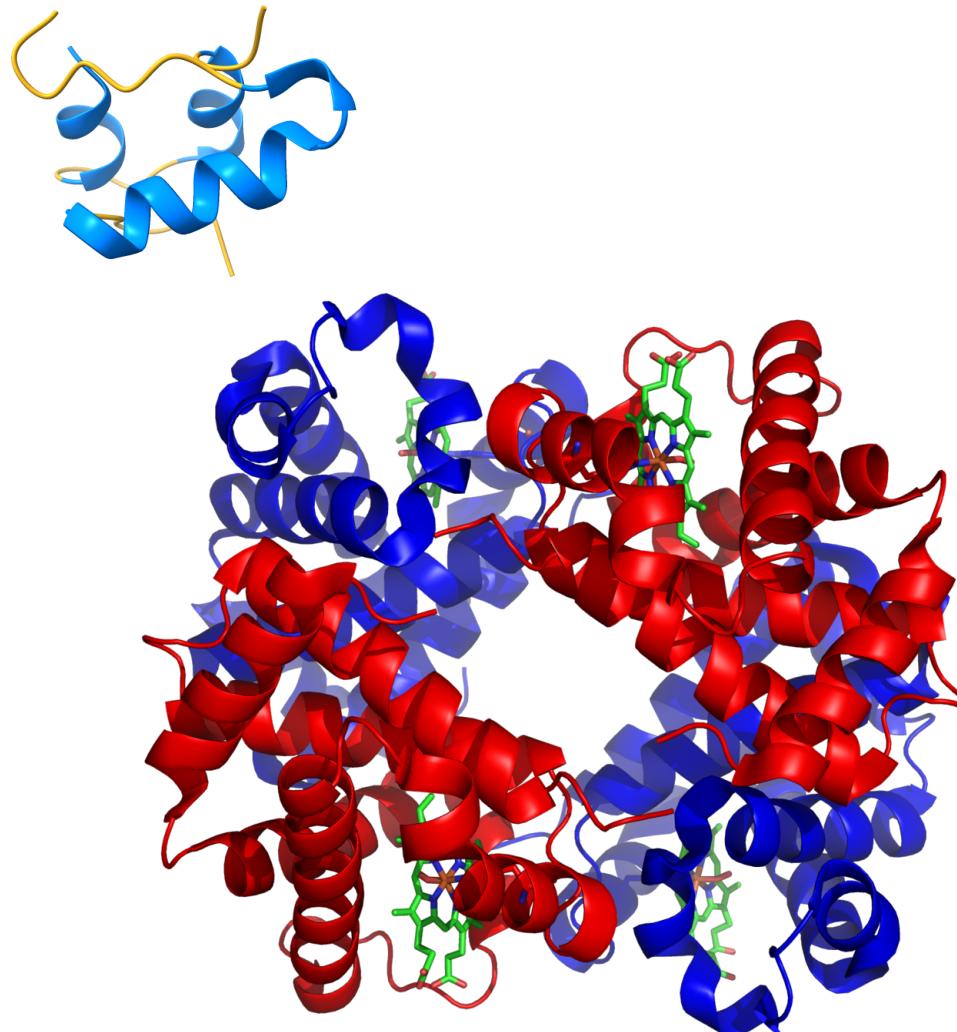


Poorly resolved



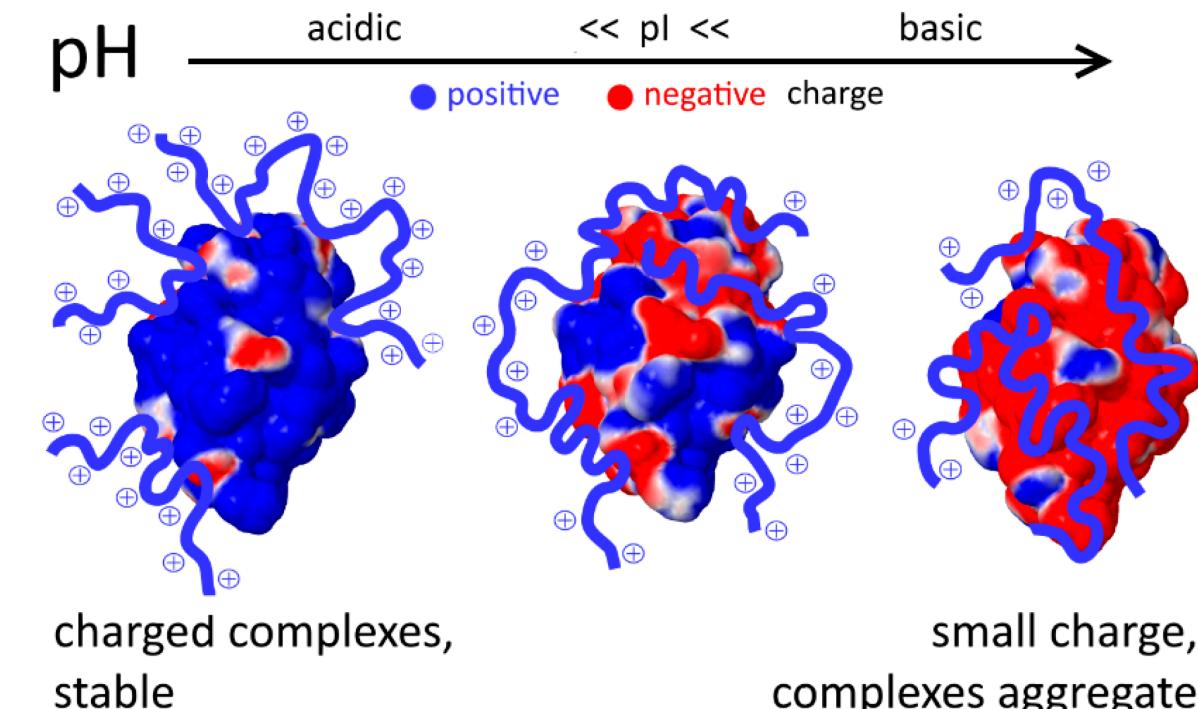
Types of chromatography

Size-exclusion
Chromatography
(SEC)



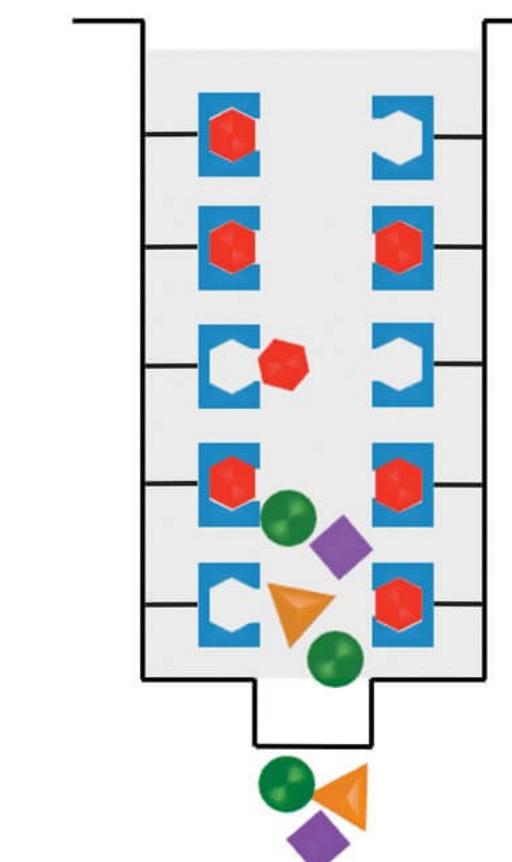
Hydrodynamic radius

Ion-Exchange Chromatography
(IEX)



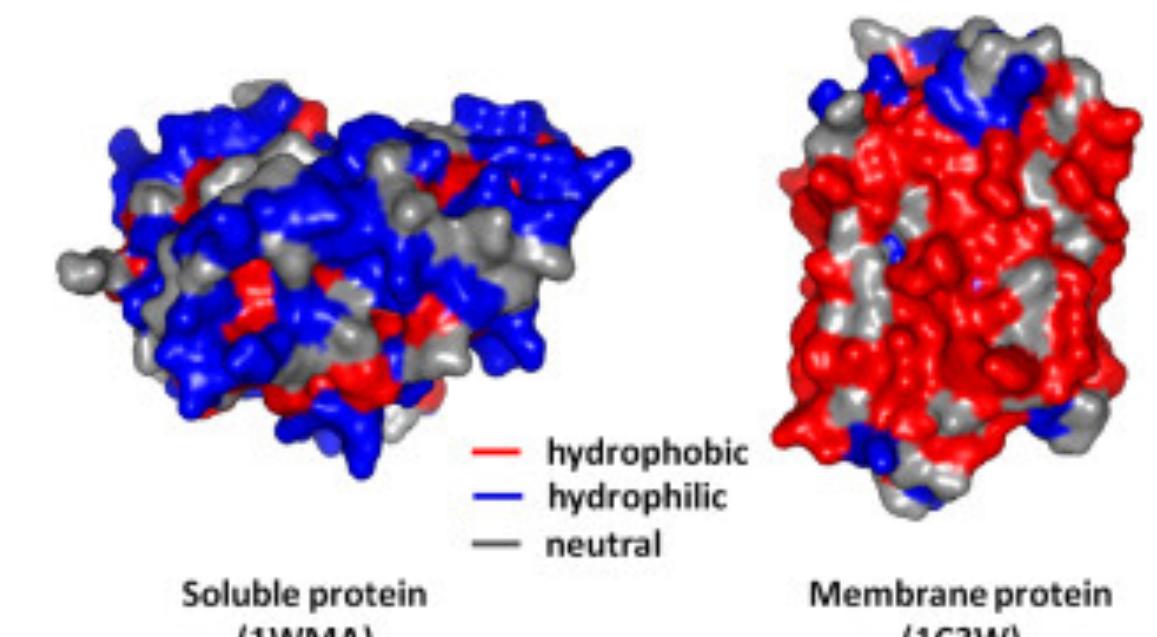
Charge

Affinity chromatography
(IMAC)



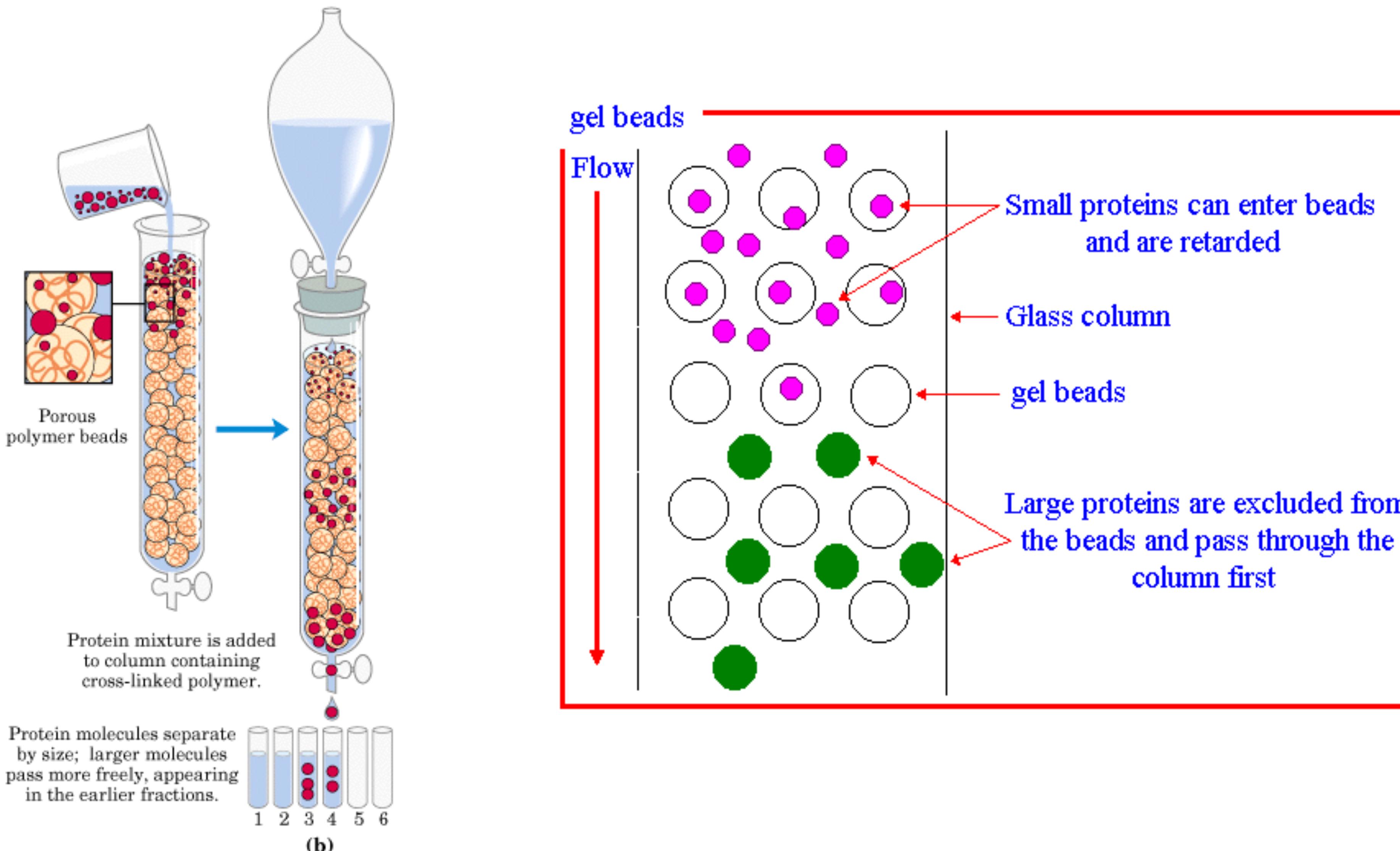
binding interactions

Hydrophobic interaction
chromatography
(HIC)

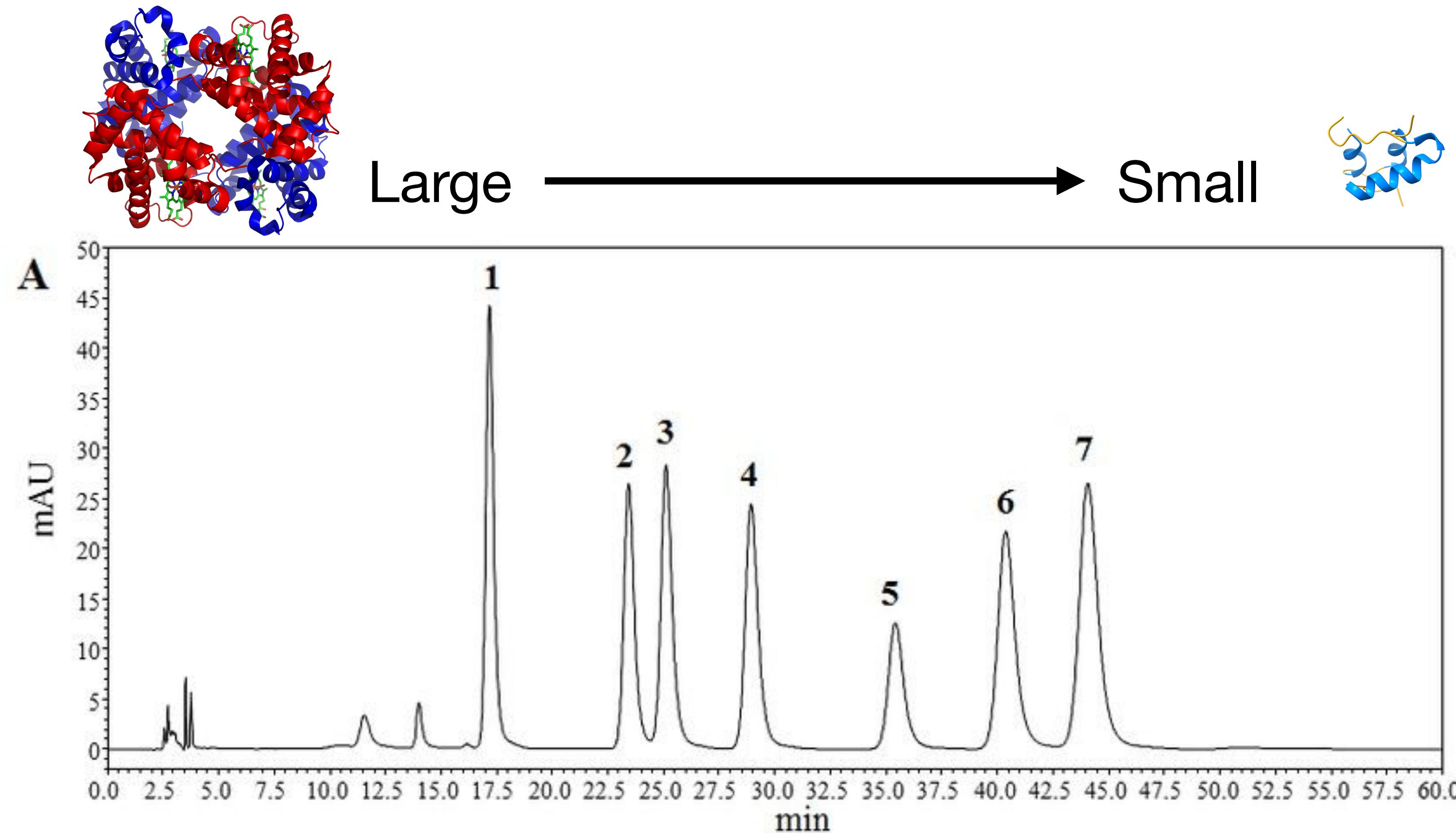


Hydrophobic effects

Size exclusion (gel filtration)



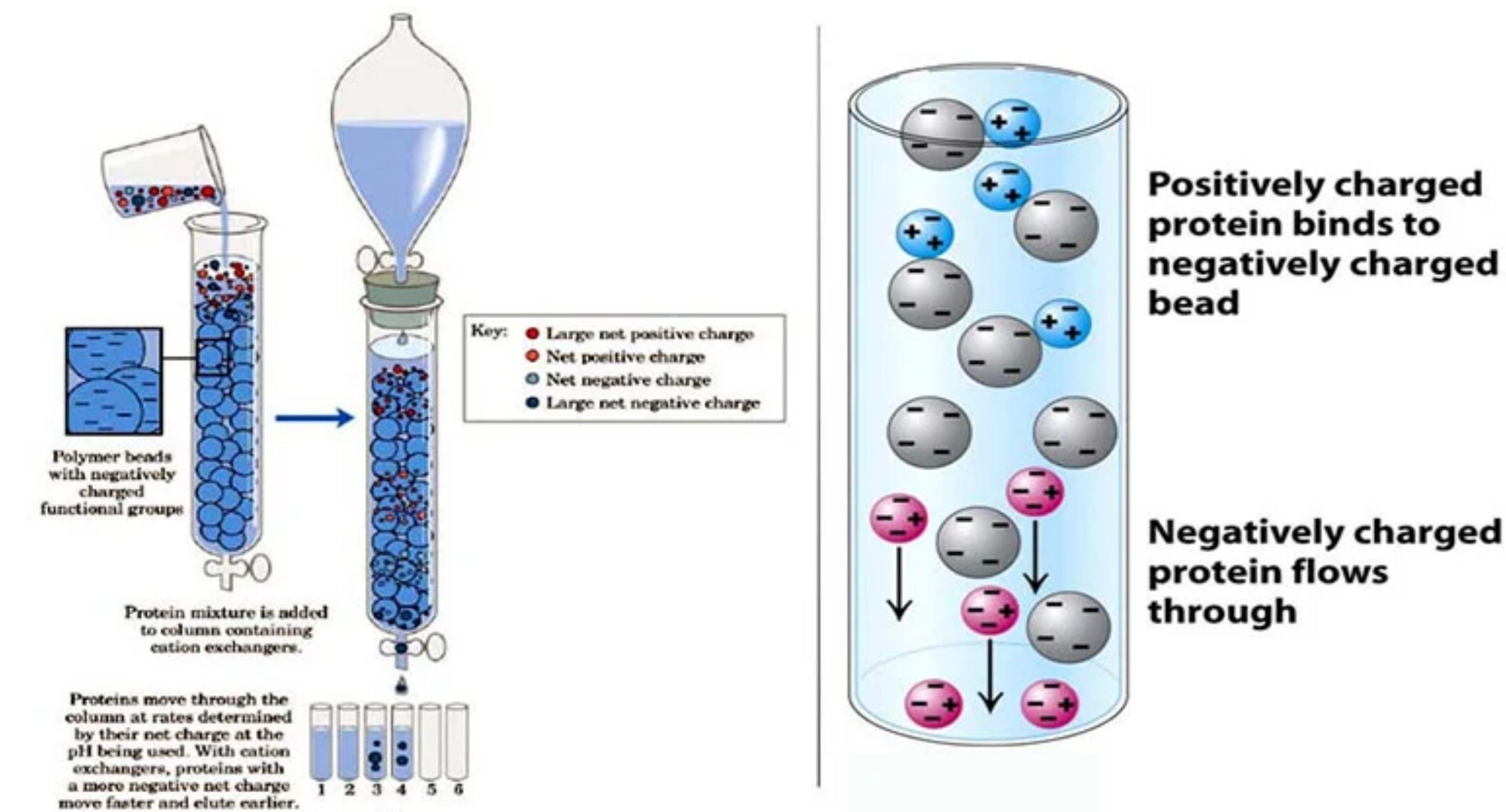
Size exclusion (gel filtration) chromatography



Larger proteins elute faster as they are less easily retained by the porous beads

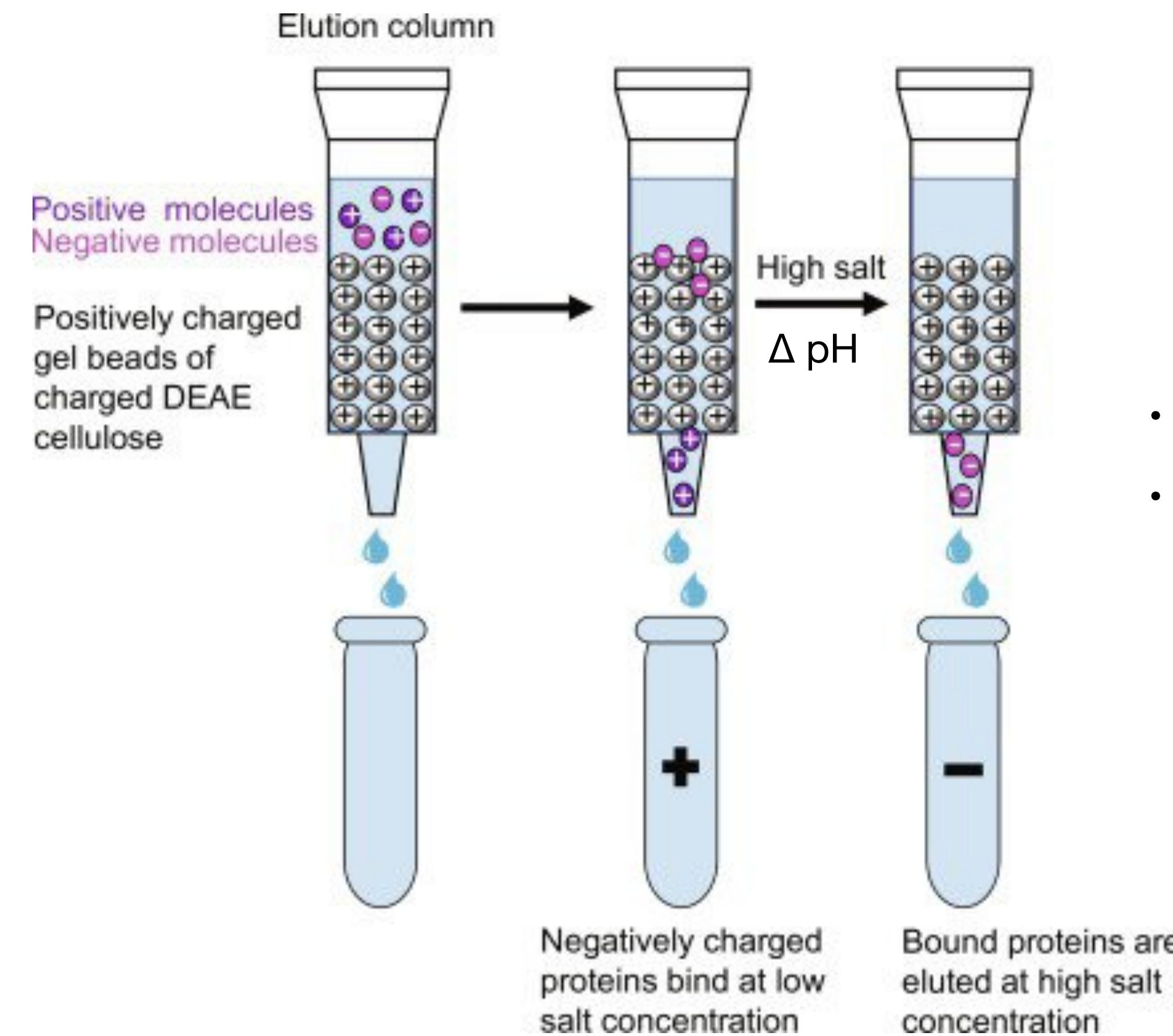
Ion-exchange

pH > pl proteins will have a net -ve charge so bind to an anion exchange column (+ve) beads.



How do you remove the bound proteins?

Ion-exchange



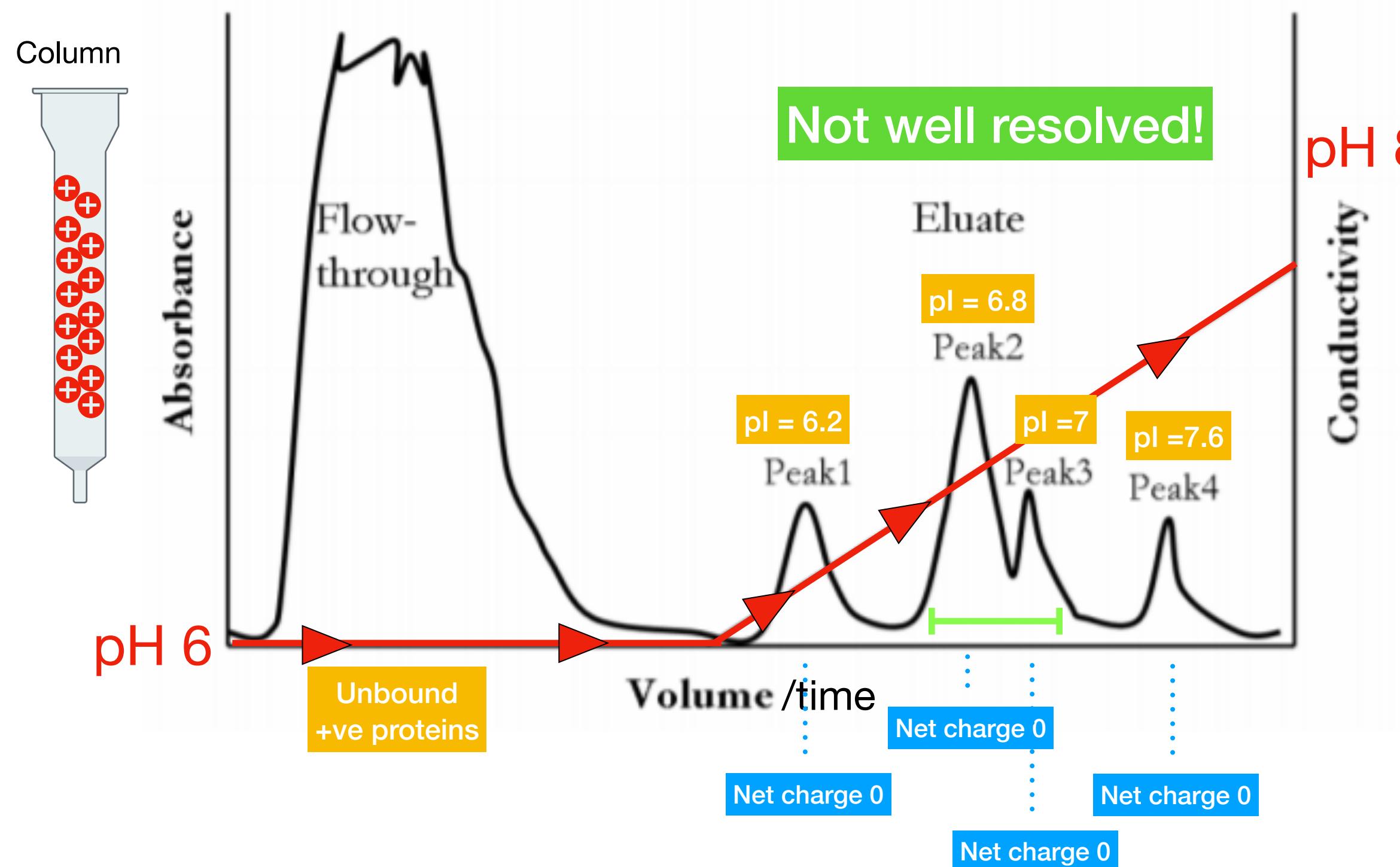
- pH will change the net charge of the protein allowing elution
- High salt carries a stronger charge so will kick off weaker interactions

Changing ionic strength (salt) or pH of the buffer will elute the bound proteins

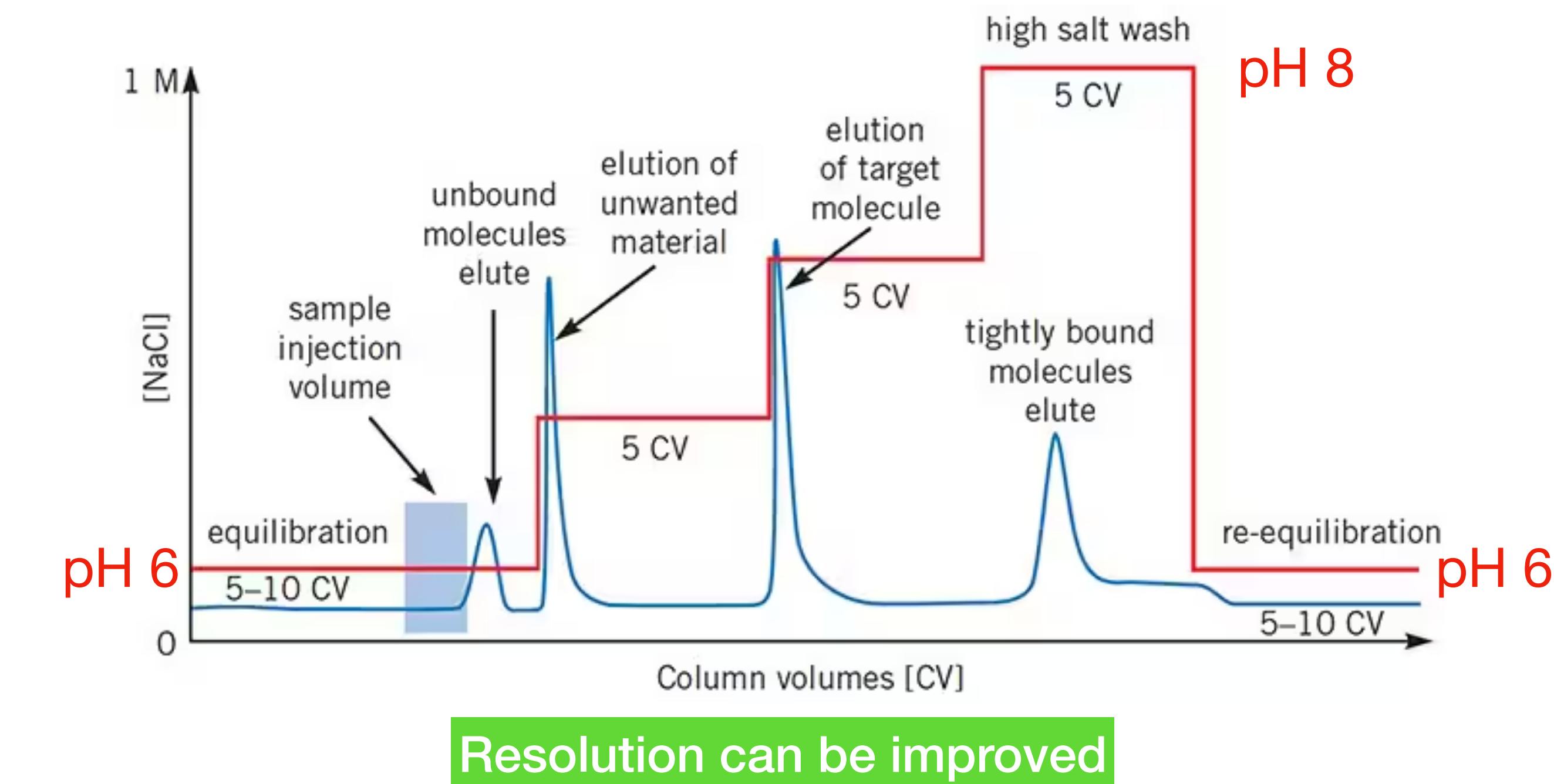
Ion-exchange chromatography (IEX)

Protein of interest has pI of 6.8
At pH 6.8 protein is neutral
At $pH < 6.8$ protein is +ve
At $pH > 6.8$ protein is -ve

Gradient elution

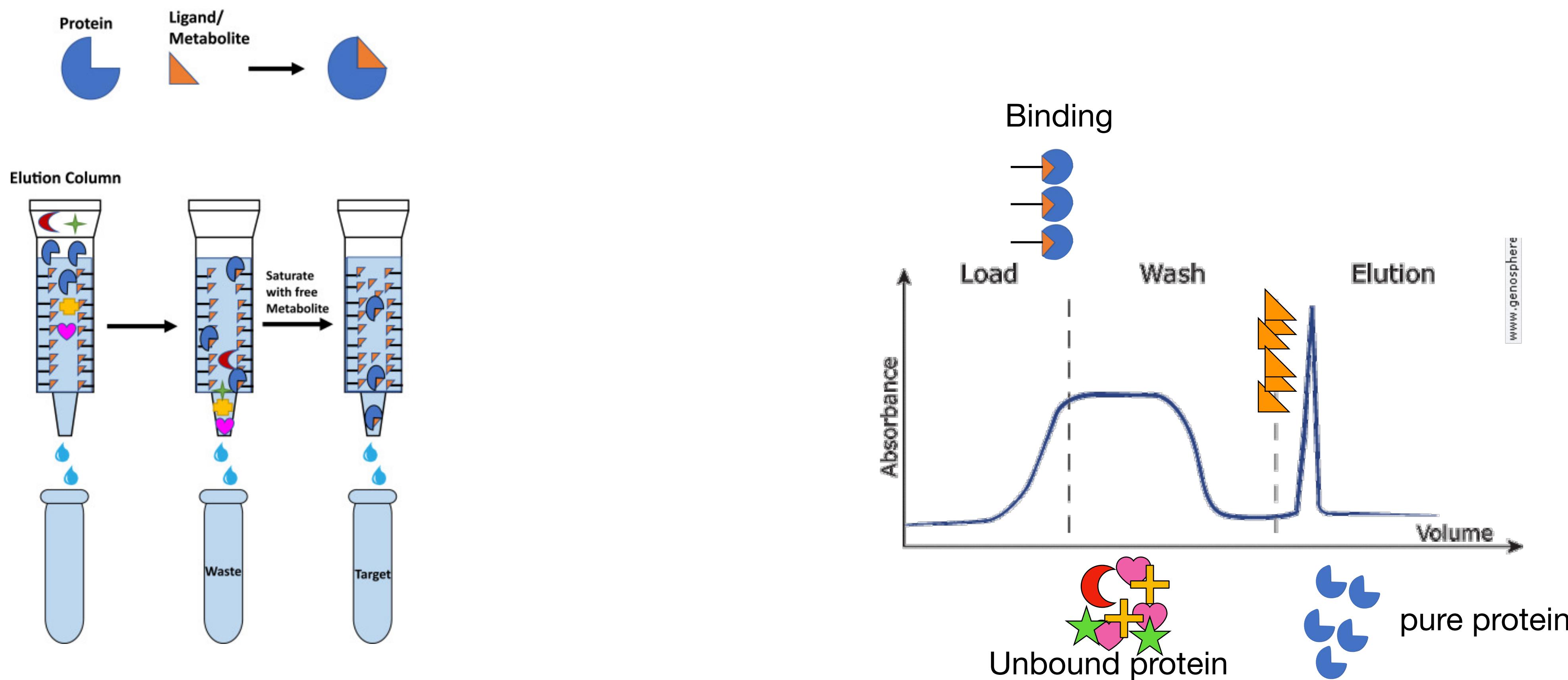


Step-wise elution



As the pH increases, the proteins will elute when their charge weakens

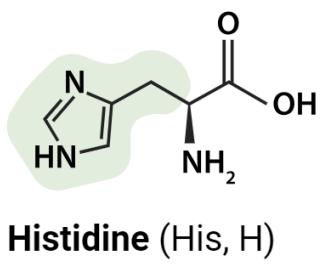
Affinity chromatography



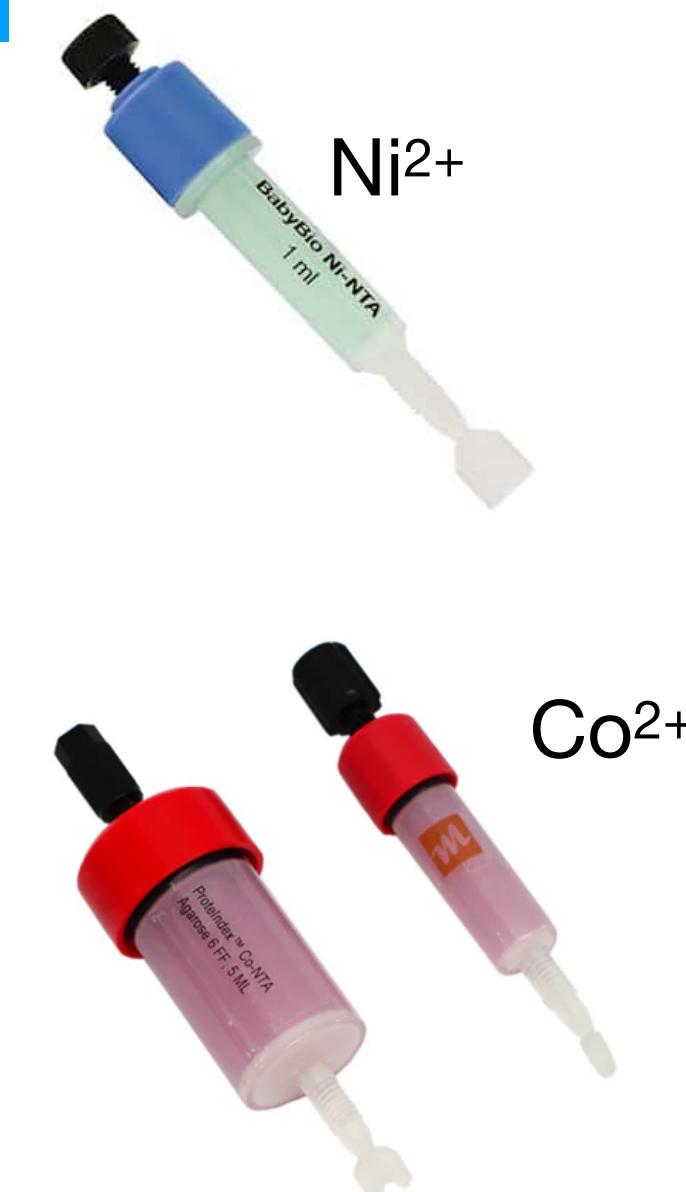
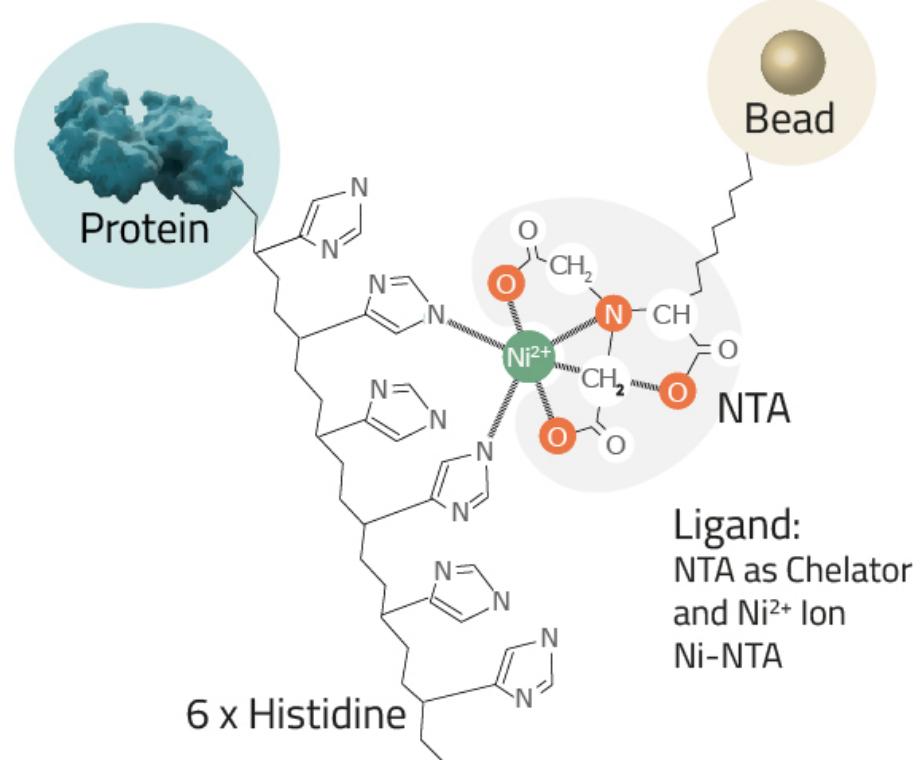
What if a protein has no natural ligand?

Types of affinity chromatography

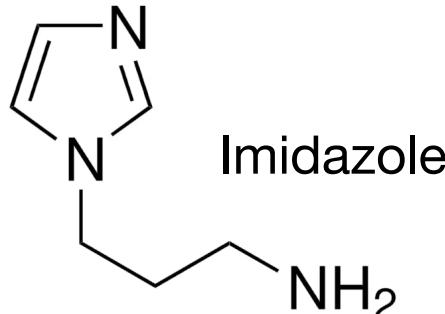
Normally utilised with genetically engineered affinity tags



His-tag



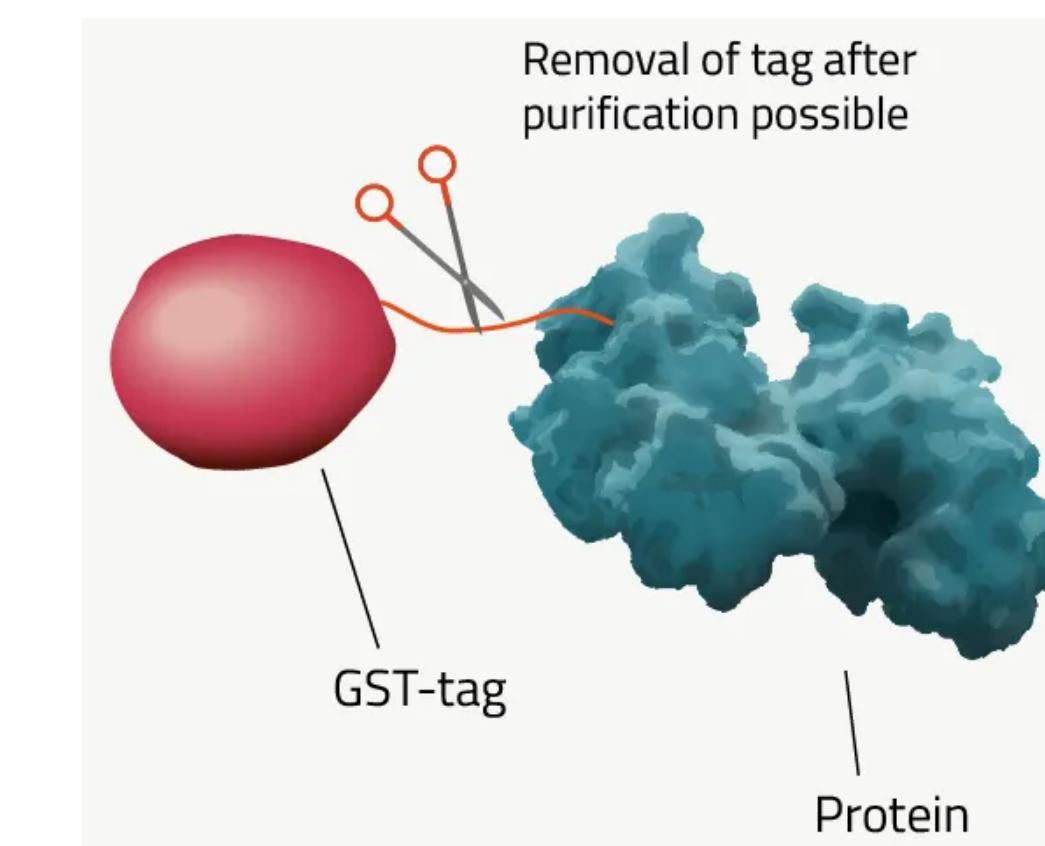
Elution with high concentration of Imidazole



Immobilised metal affinity chromatography (IMAC)

GST-tag

glutathion-S transferase
26 kDa



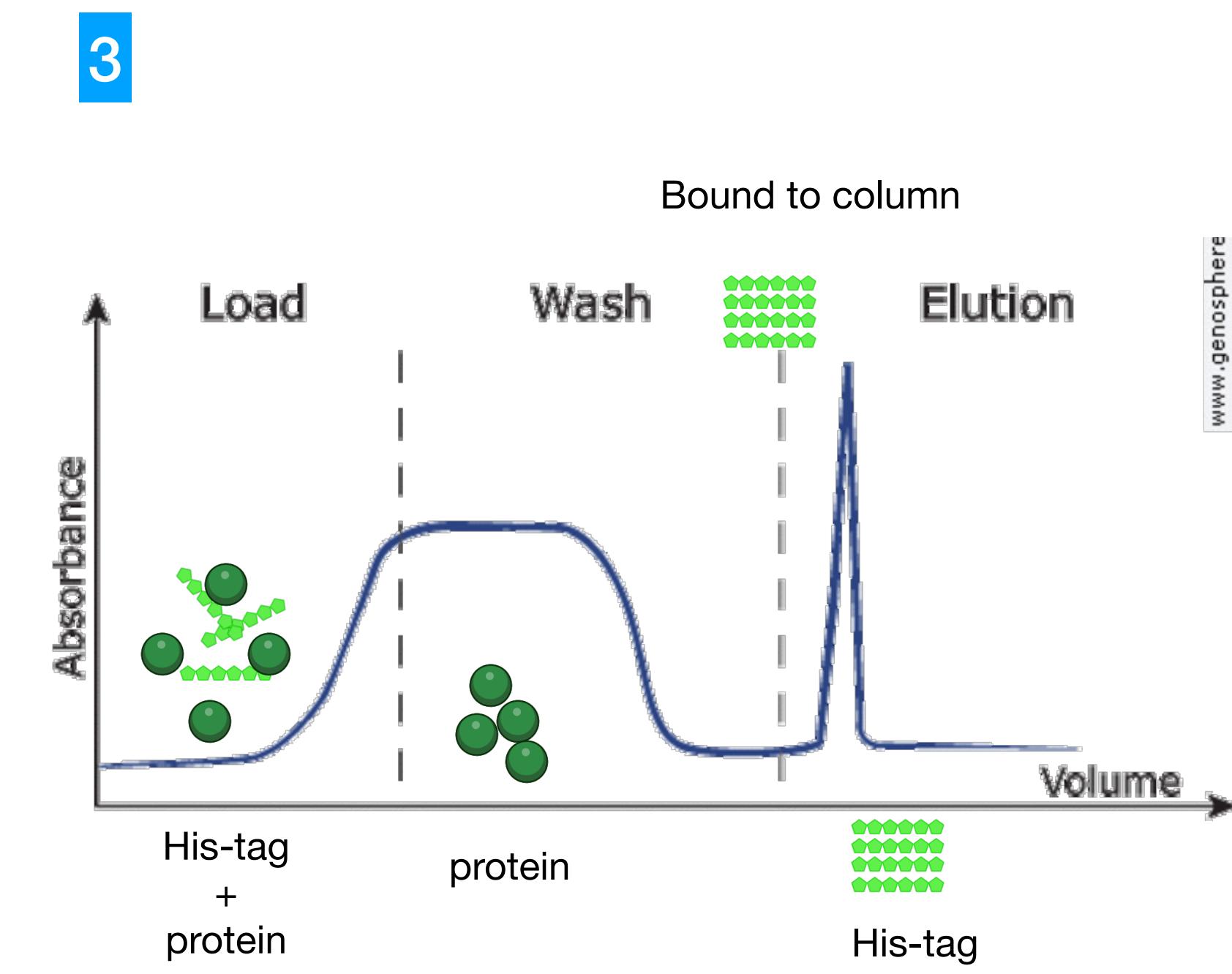
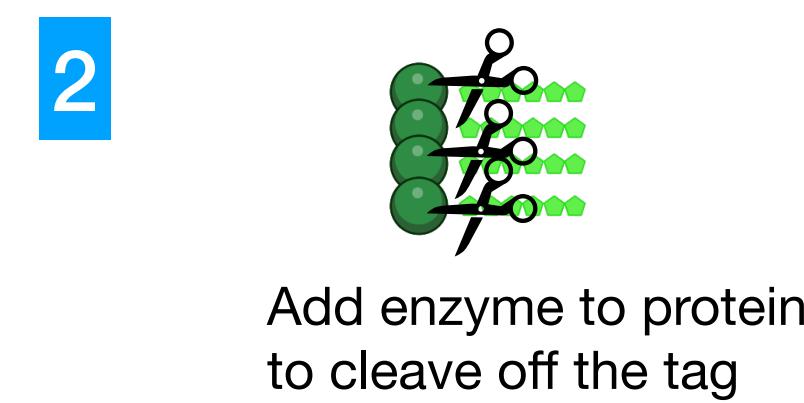
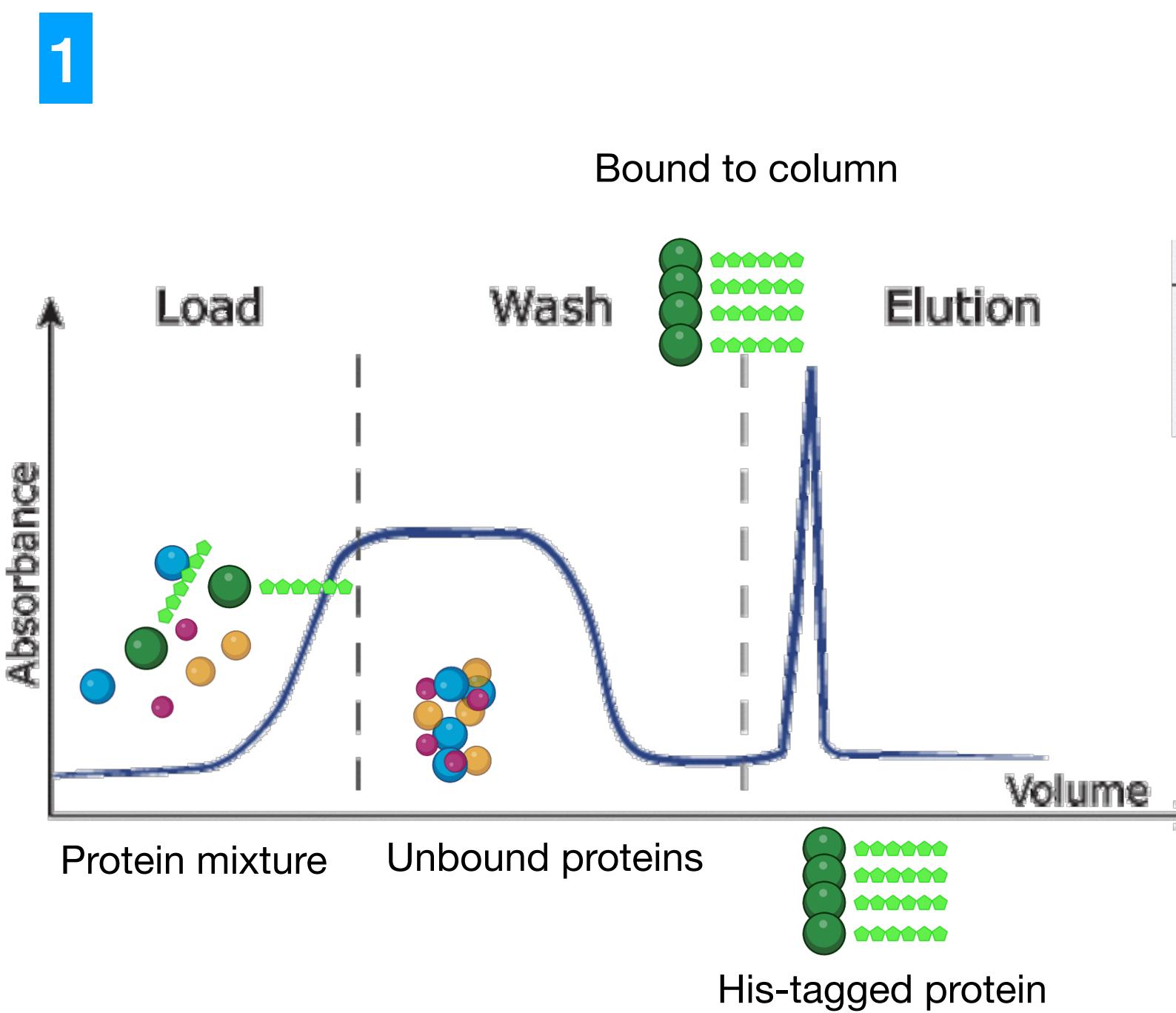
Column = glutathione
Elution = reduced glutathione

MBP-tag

Maltose binding protein
42 kDa

Column = amylose
Elution = maltose

Tag removal = affinity column, twice

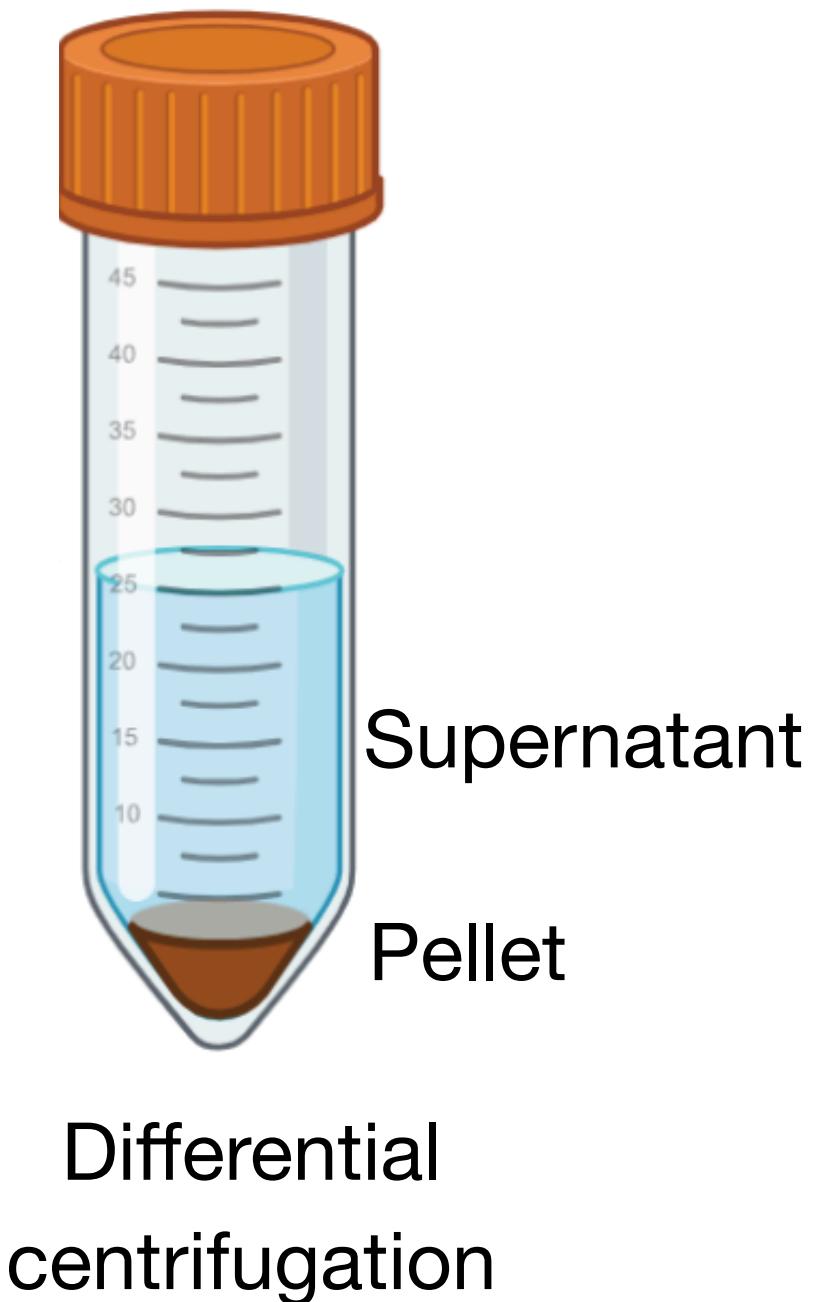


Steps of protein purification

1. Cell lysis



2. Removal of cellular debris

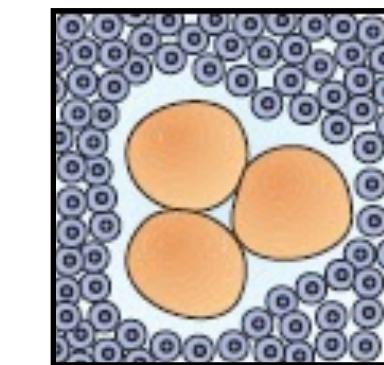


3. Purification of proteins

centrifugation



precipitation



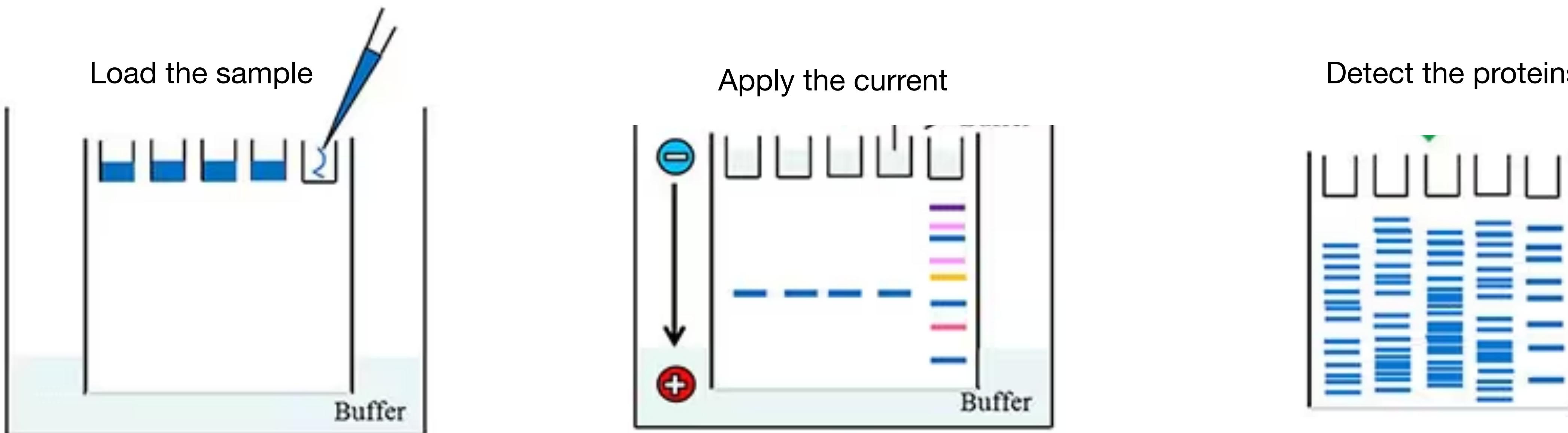
chromatography



How can we assess the purity of the sample?

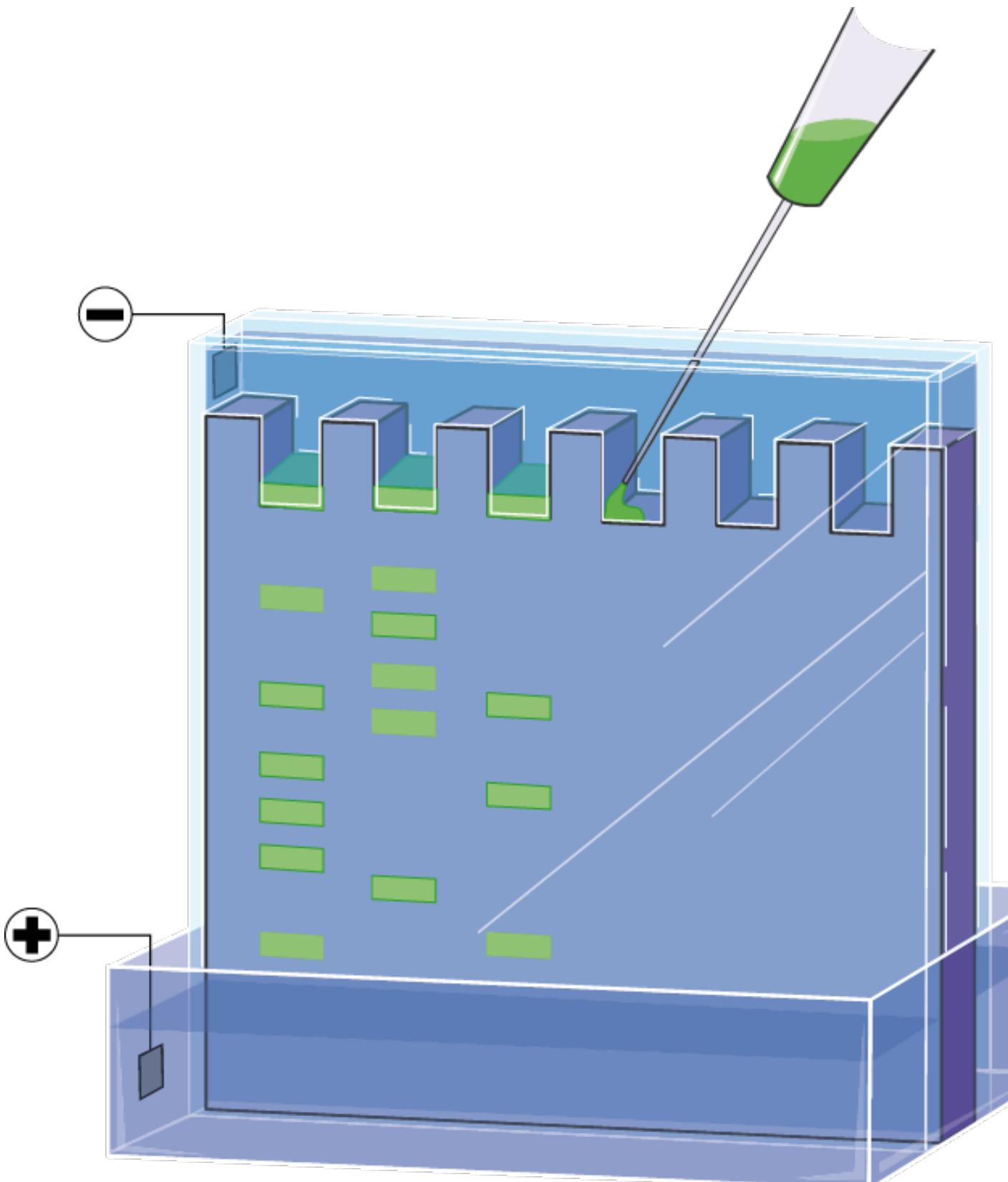
(gel) Electrophoresis

Uses a current to move proteins through a gel or matrix



(gel) Electrophoresis

Uses a current to move molecules through a gel or matrix



The **electrophoretic mobility** (μ) of a protein in an electric field is calculated using:

$$\mu = \frac{v}{E}$$

where:

- μ = electrophoretic mobility ($\text{m}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{s}$)
- v = velocity of the protein (m/s)
- E = electric field strength (V/m)

$$v = \frac{d}{t}$$

Where:
 d = distance travelled by the protein (m)
 t = time taken (s)

$$E = \frac{V}{L}$$

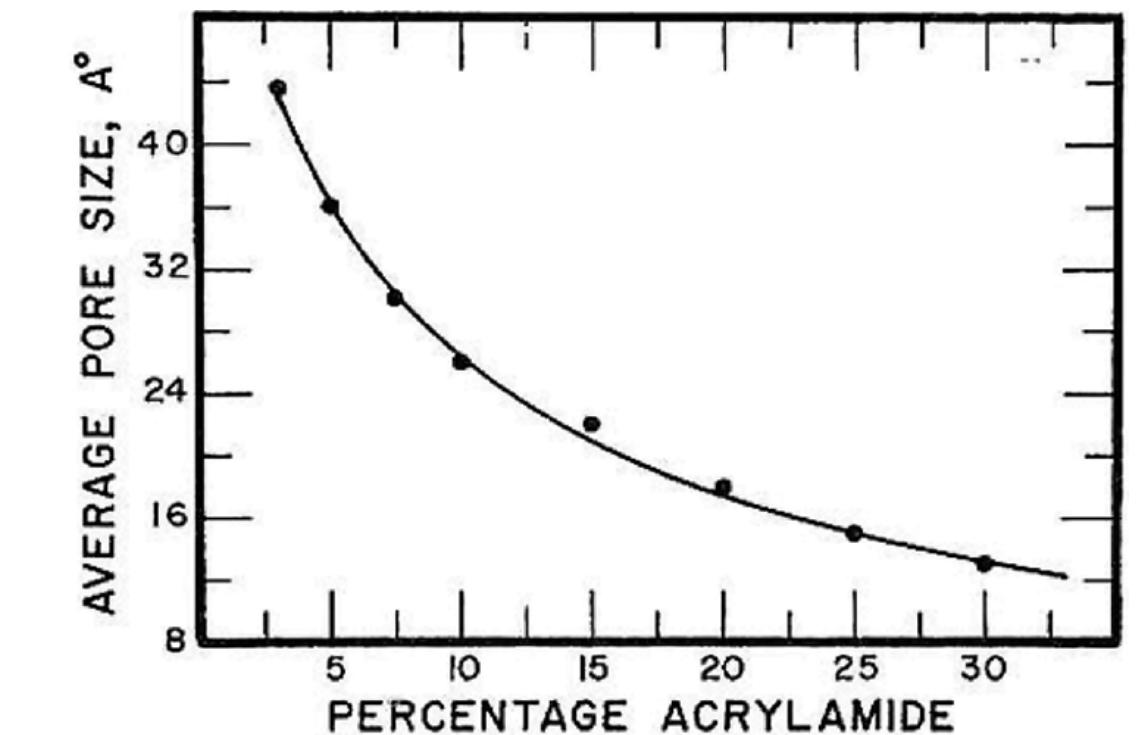
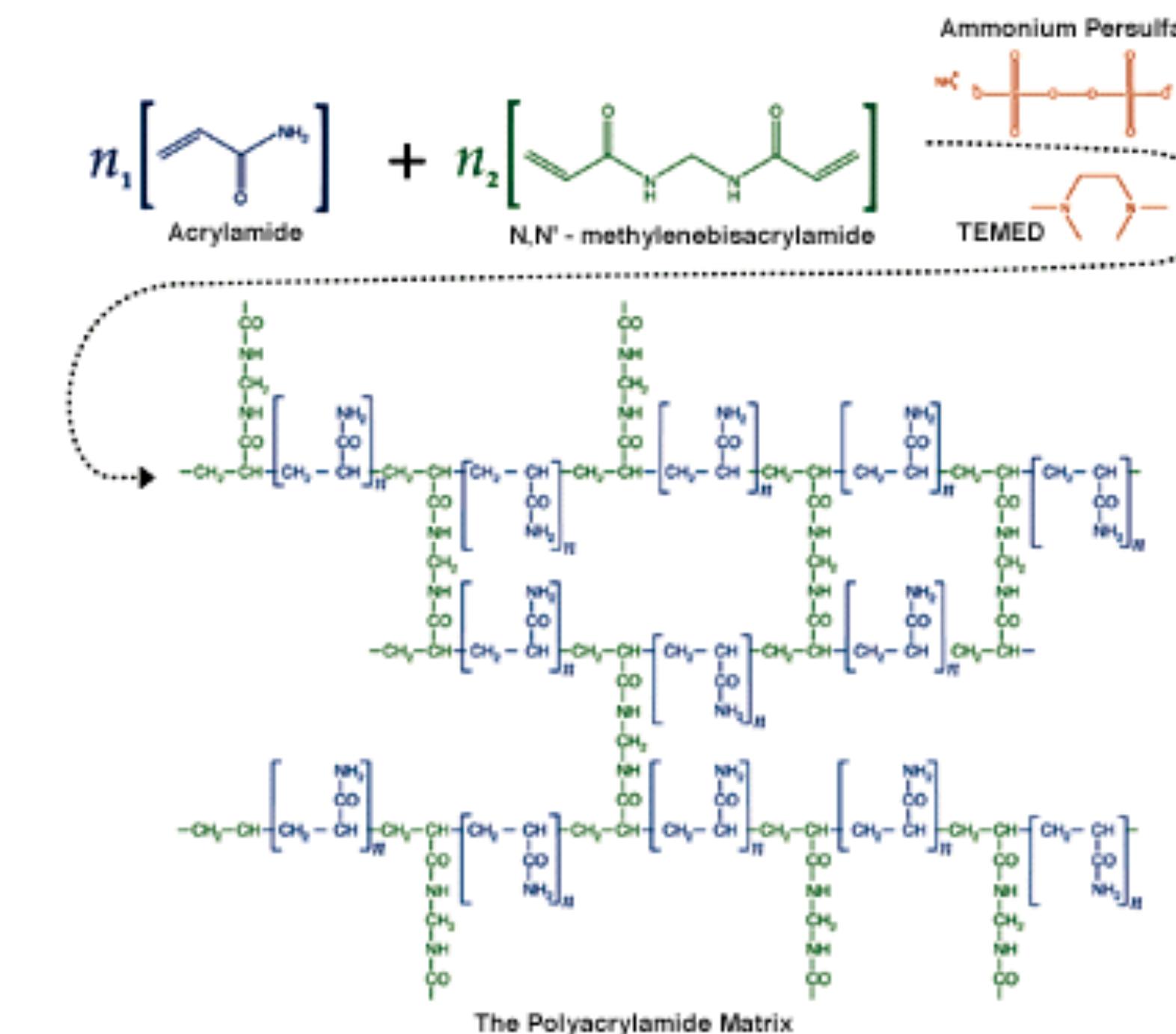
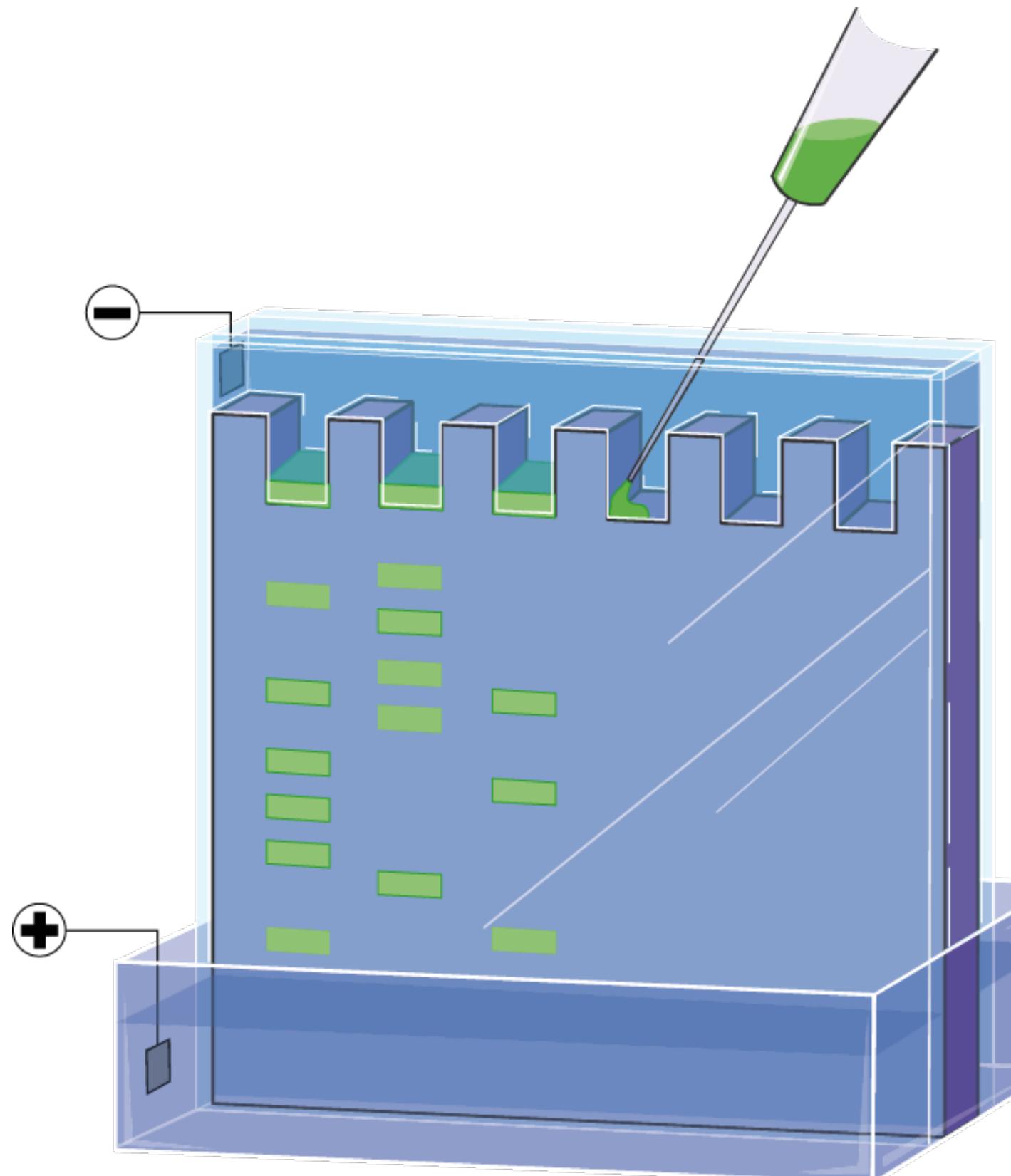
Where:
 V = applied voltage (V)
 L = distance between the electrodes (m)

$$\mu = \frac{(d/t)}{(V/L)}$$

- Pores in the gel allow smaller molecules to move faster than large ones
- separates molecules based on size and charge

(gel) Electrophoresis

Gel is made of polyacrylamide

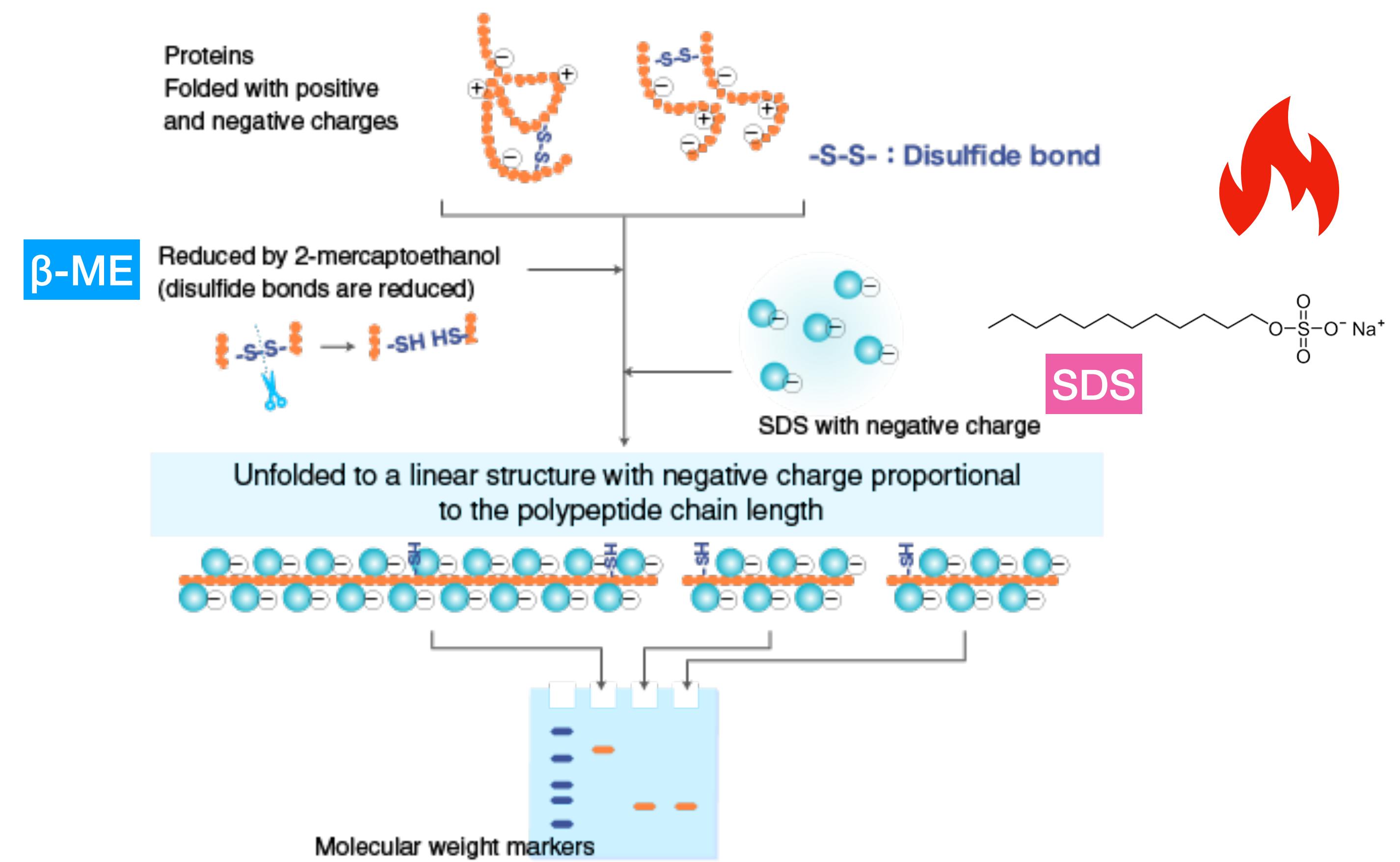
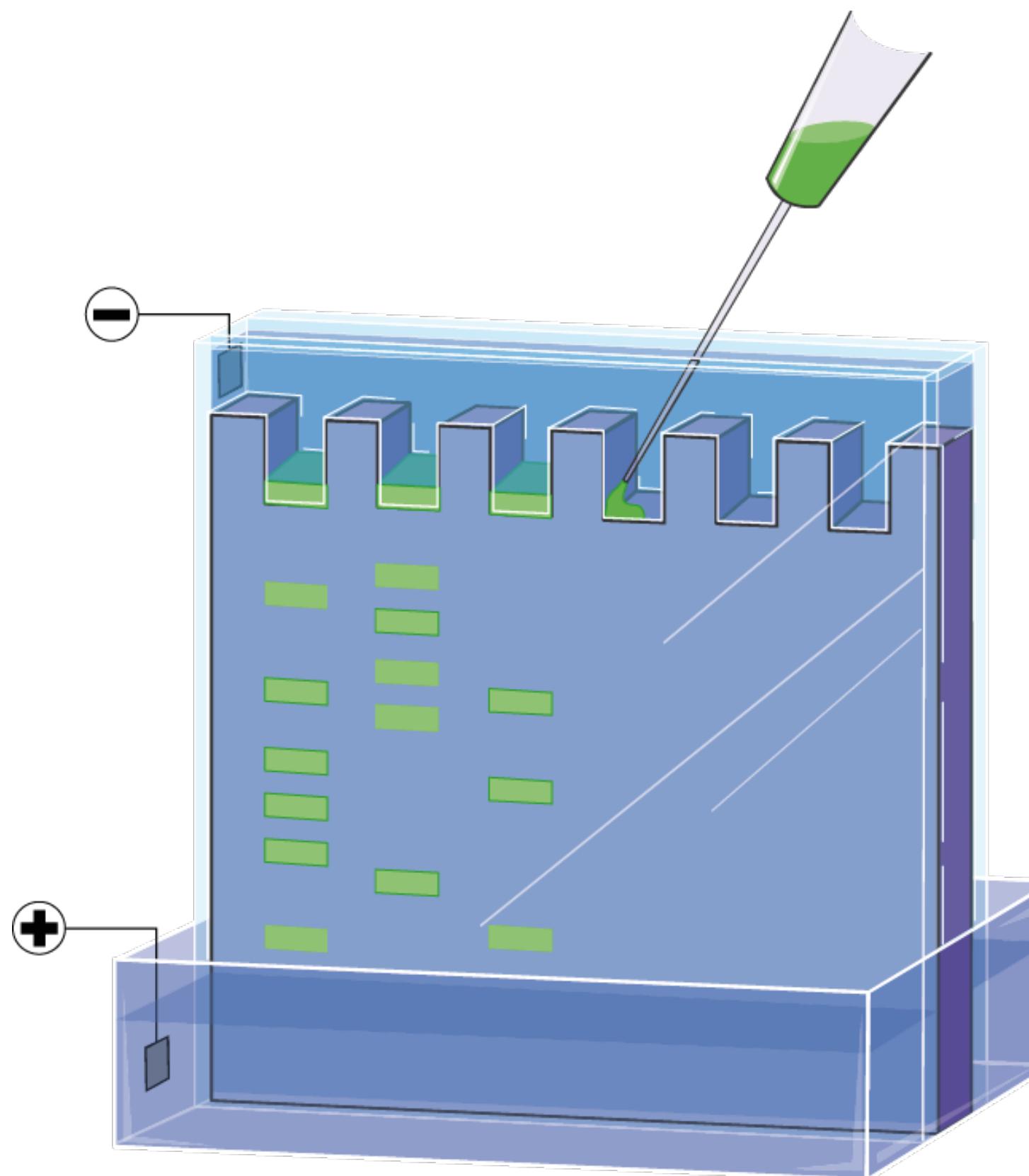


Cross-linking creates a gel with pores

Pore size depends on % acrylamide

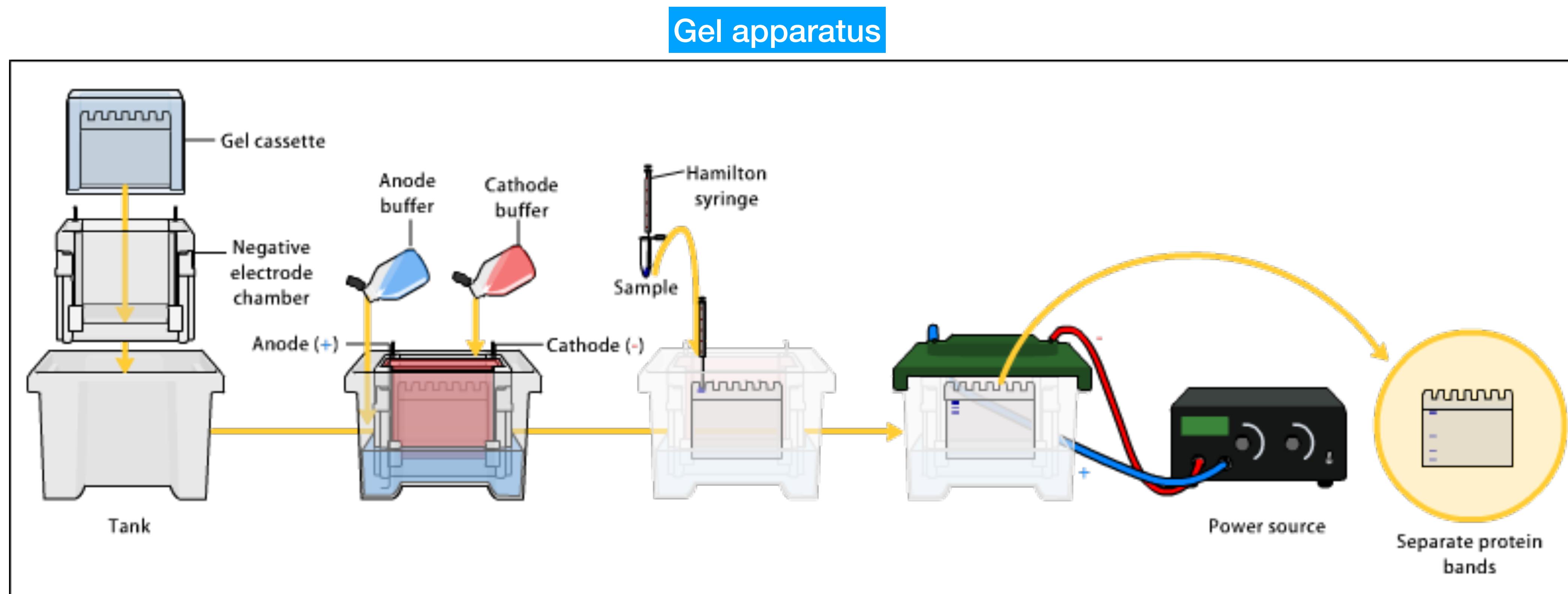
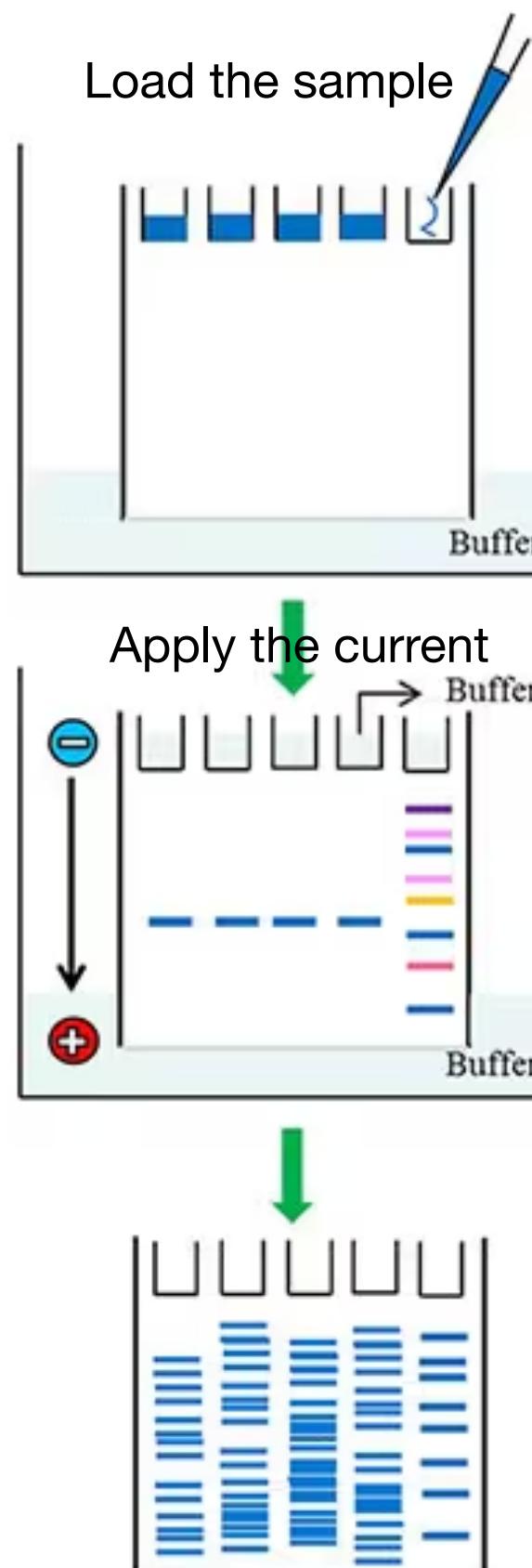
(gel) Electrophoresis

Sodium dodecyl-sulfate (SDS) makes all the proteins negatively charged



SDS-PAGE

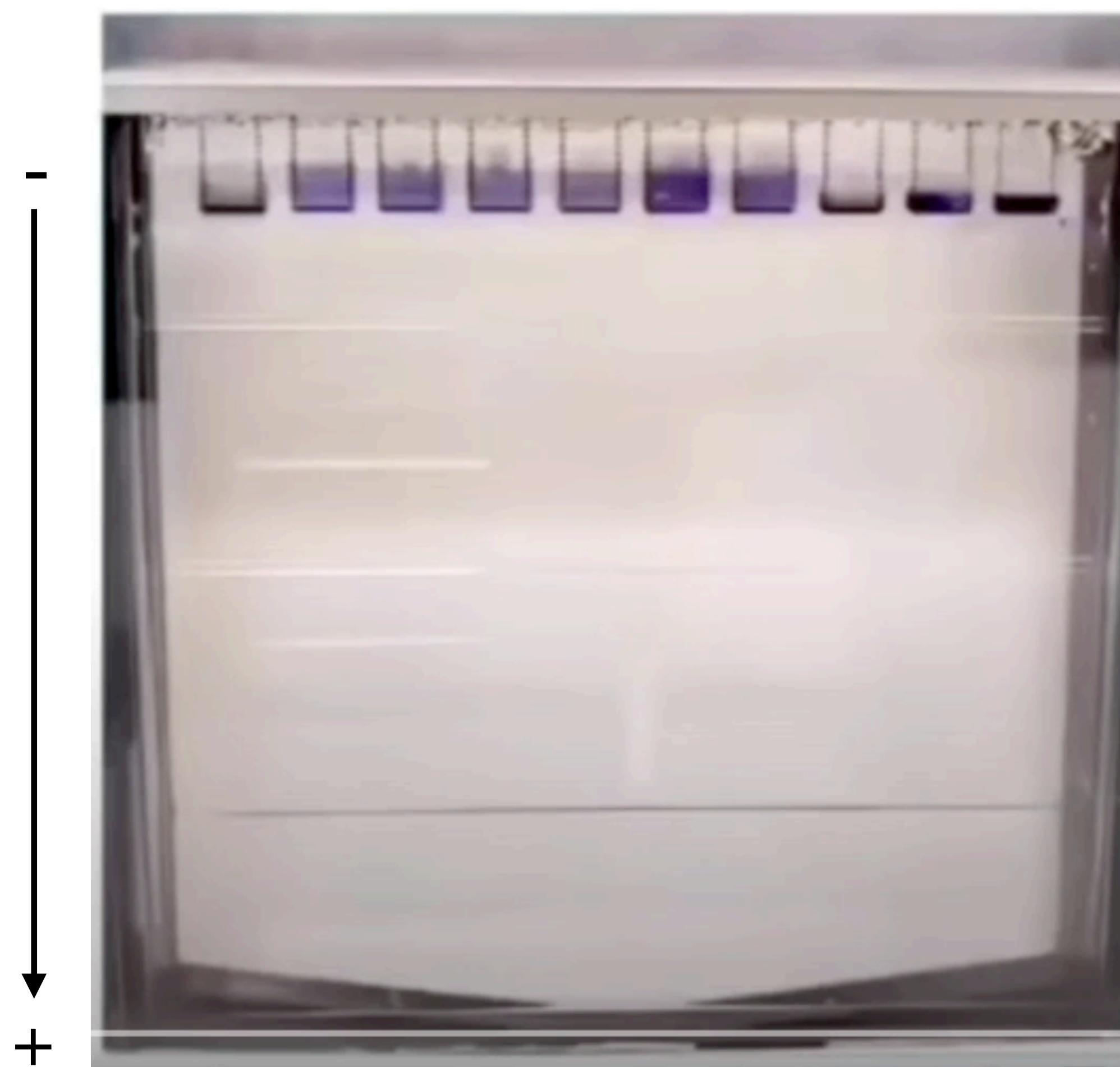
Sodium dodecyl-sulfate - polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis



Detect the proteins

SDS-PAGE

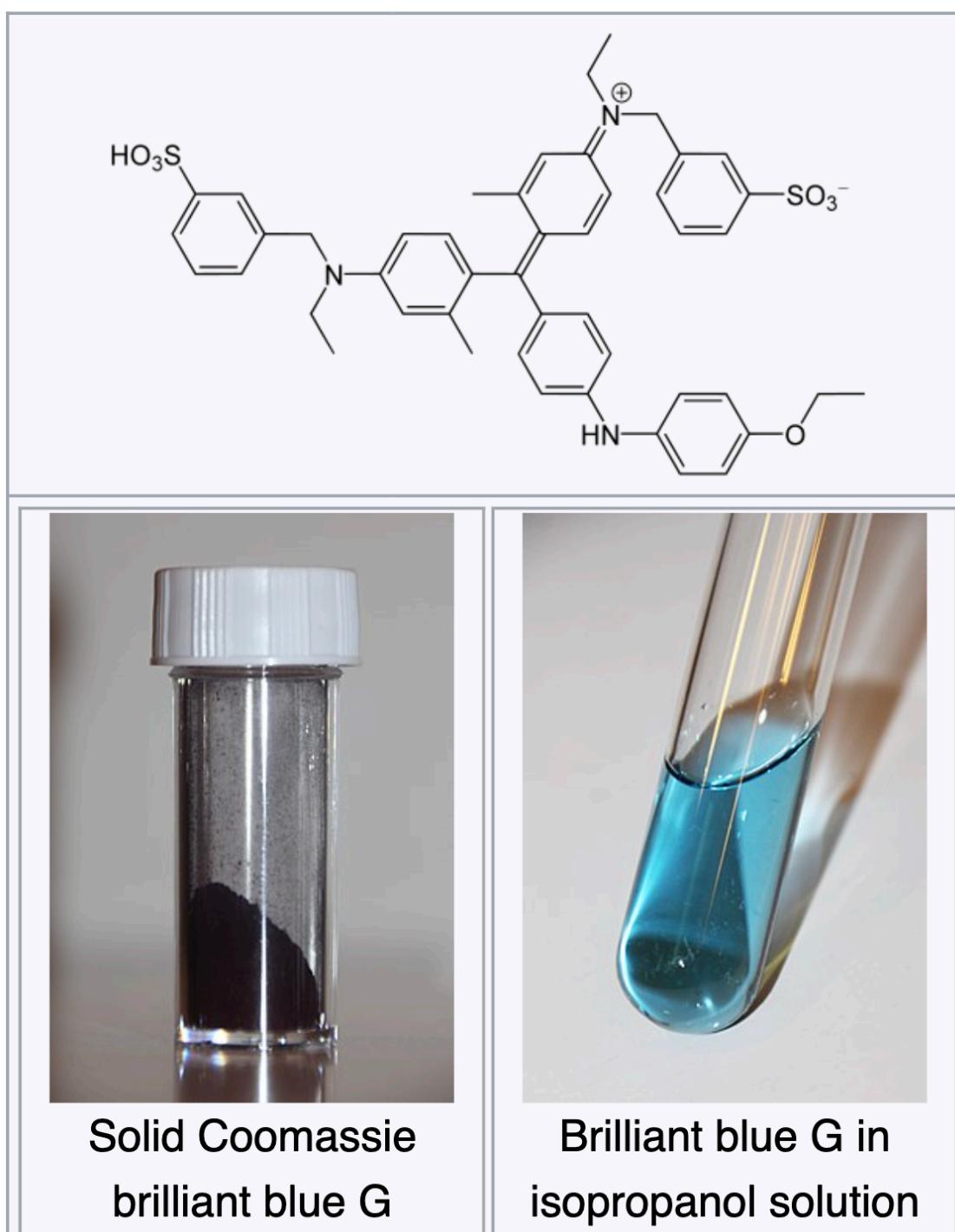
Sodium dodecyl-sulfate - polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis



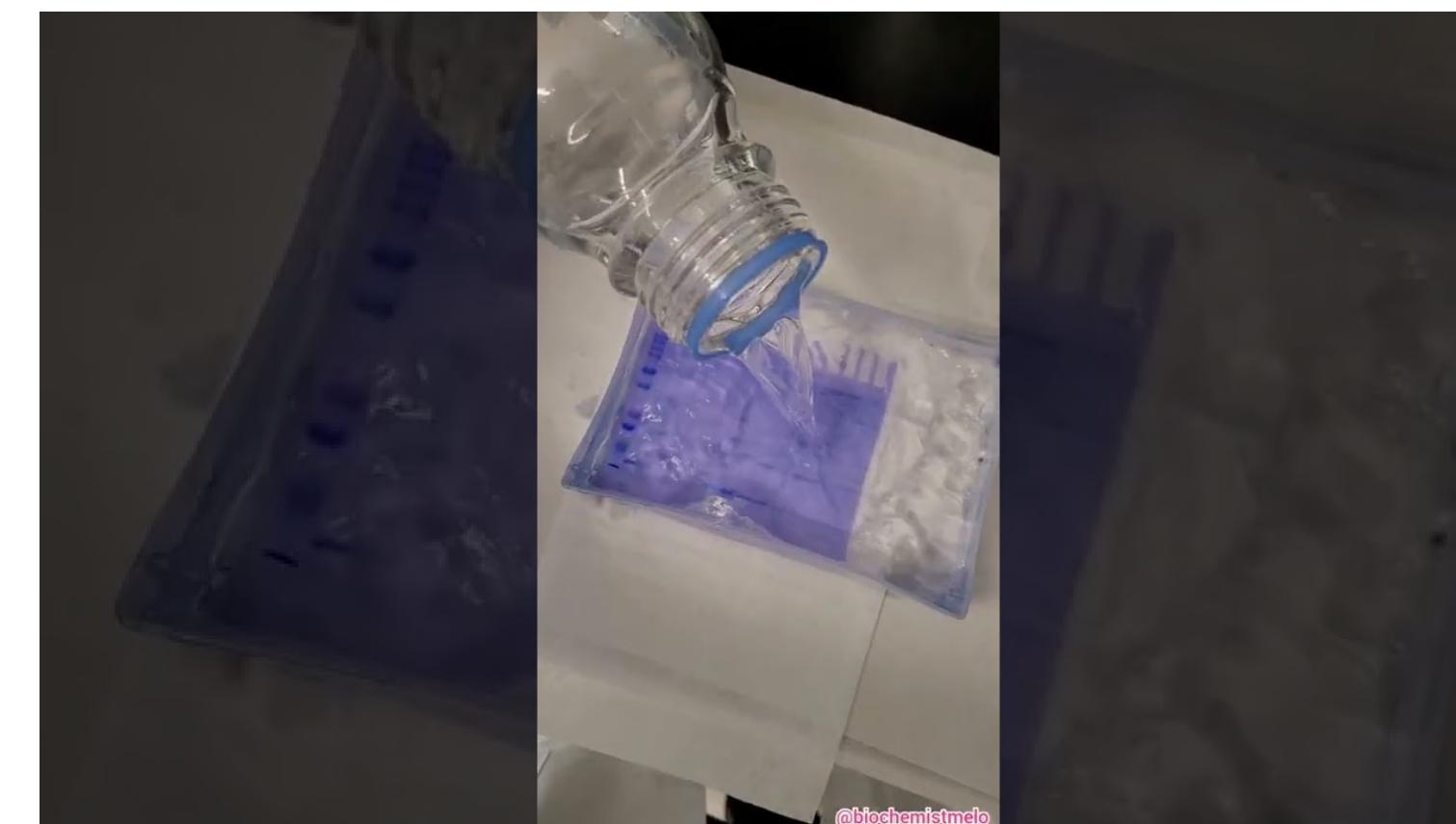
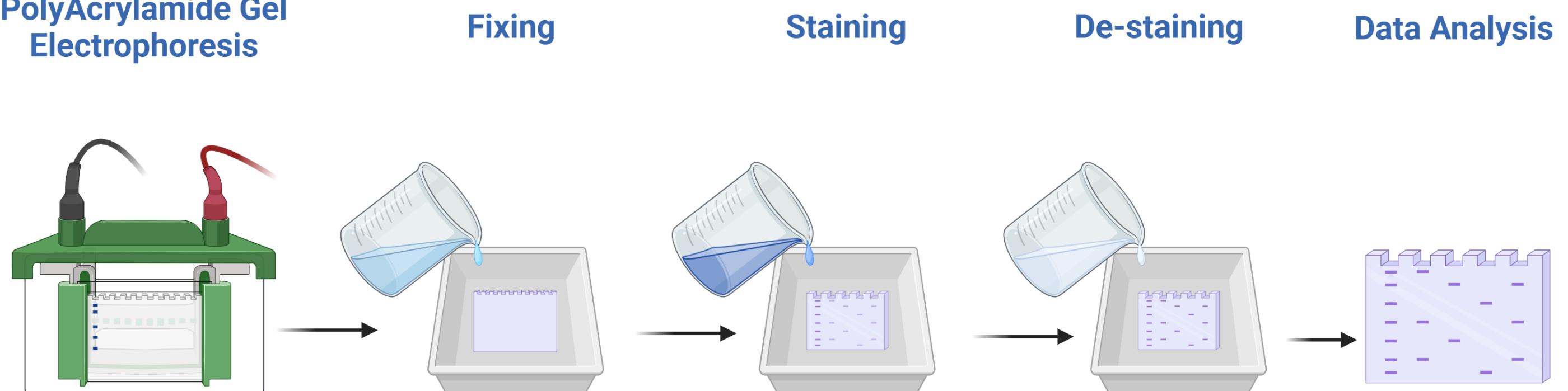
SDS-PAGE -visualization

Sodium dodecyl-sulfate - polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

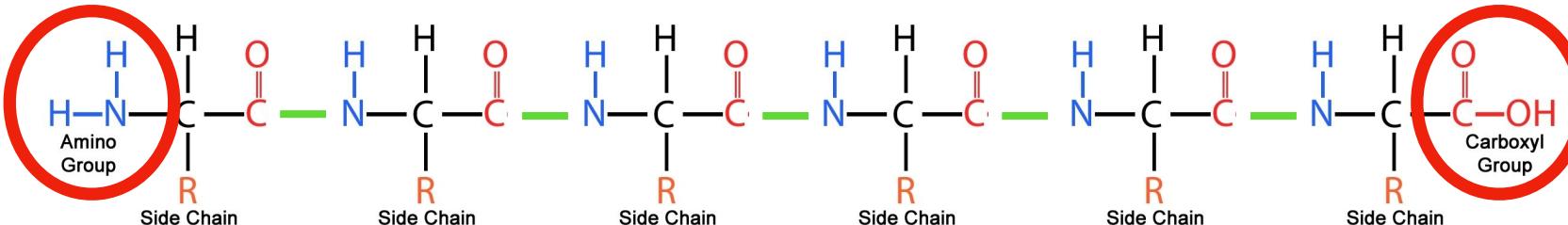
Coomassie brilliant blue G-250



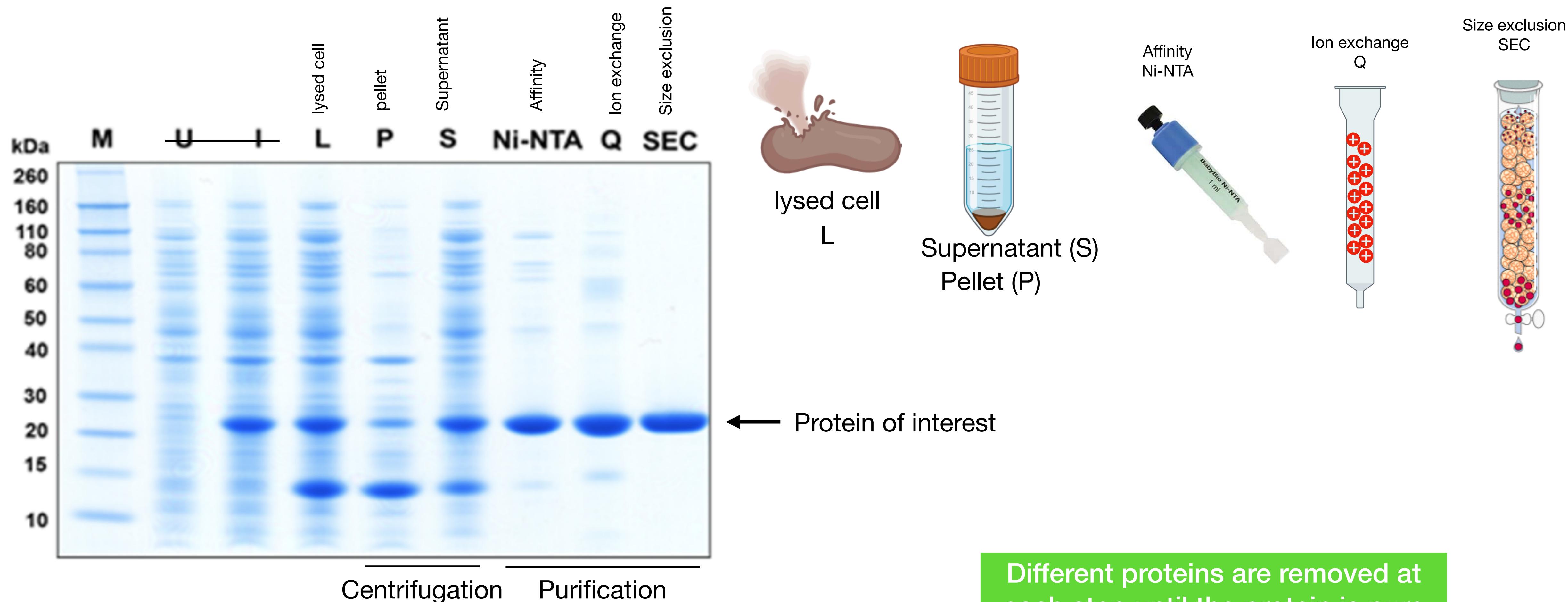
PolyAcrylamide Gel Electrophoresis



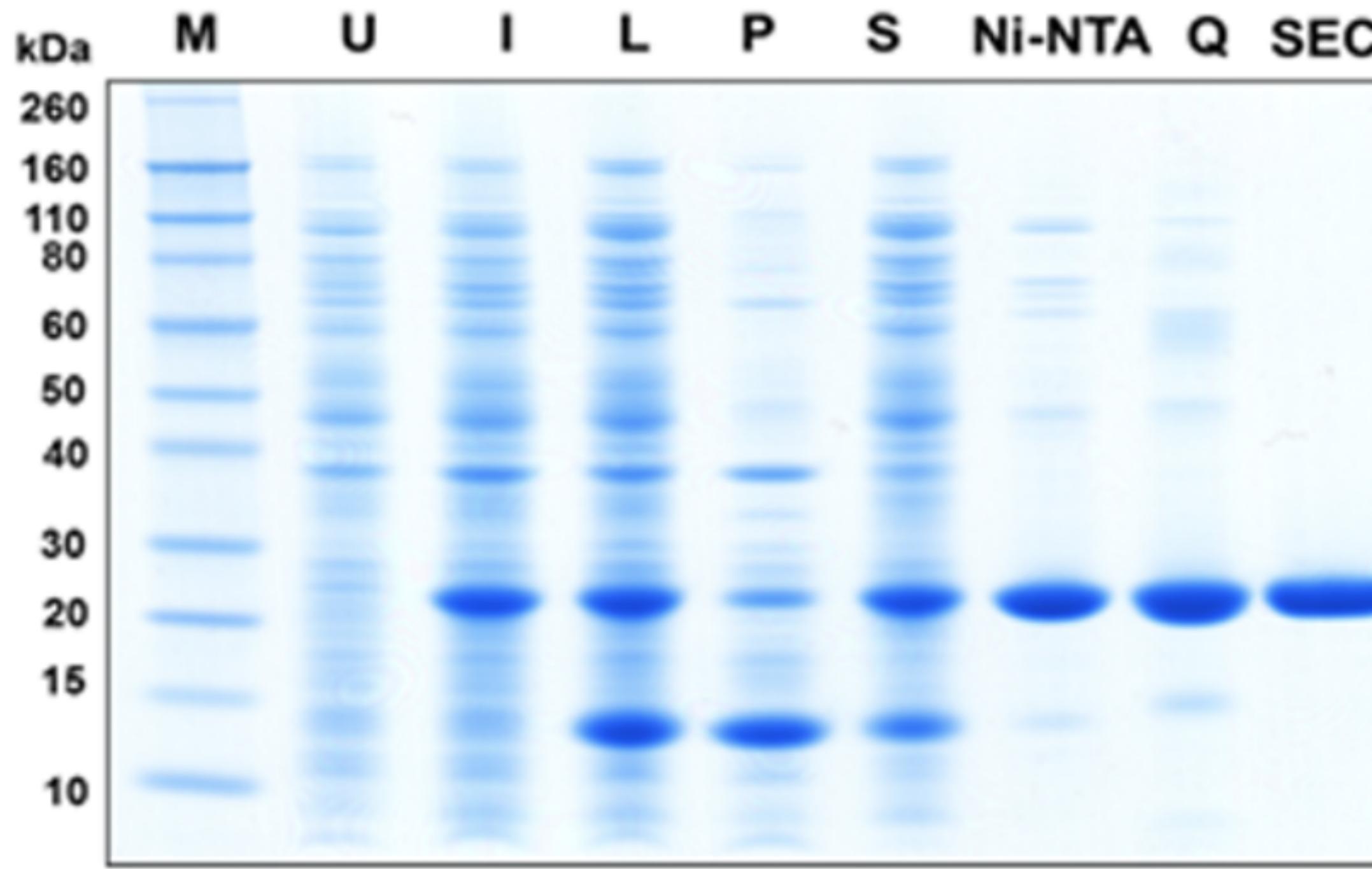
Protein



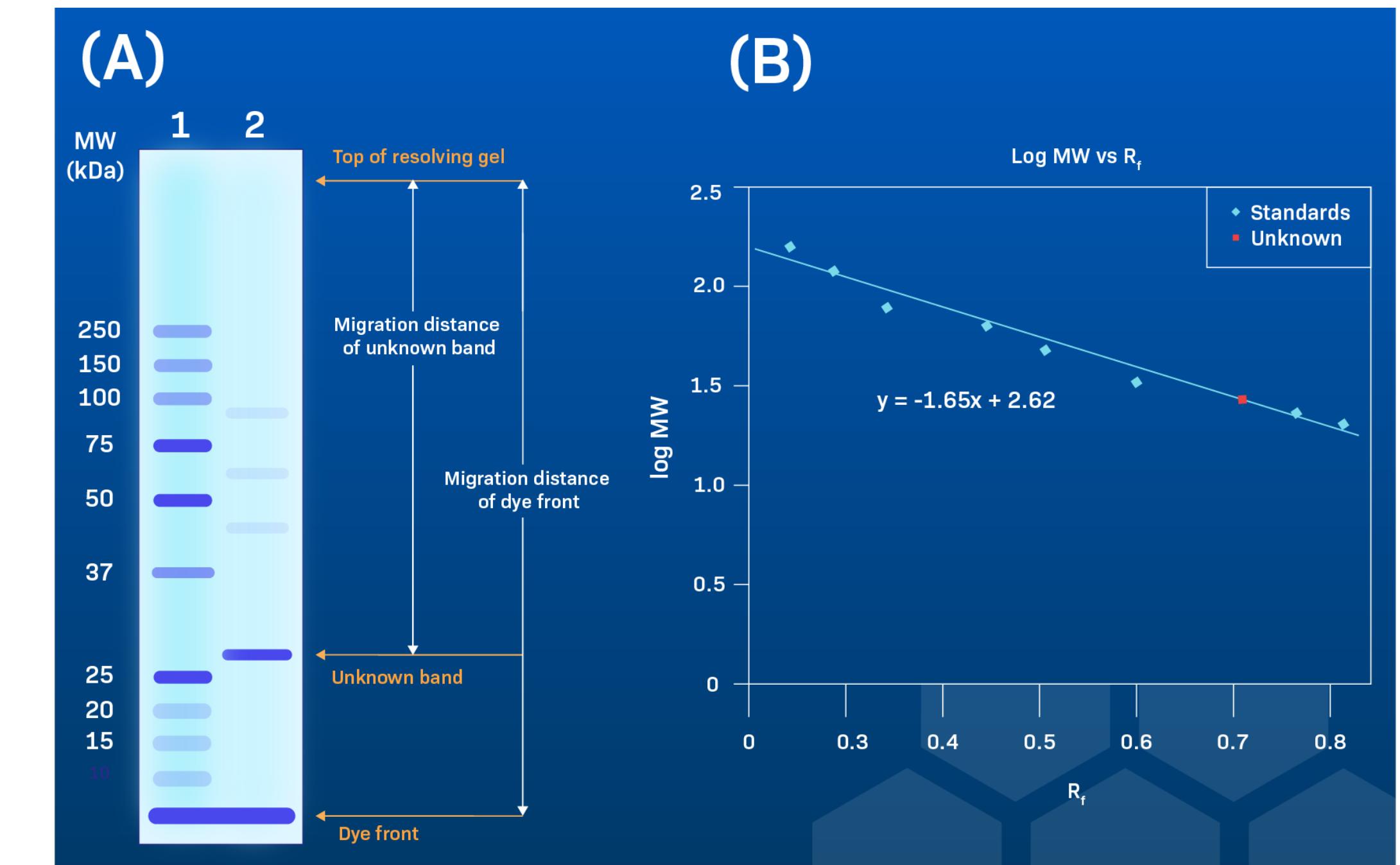
Visualising protein purification



Molecular weight determination



molecular weight (MW) marker

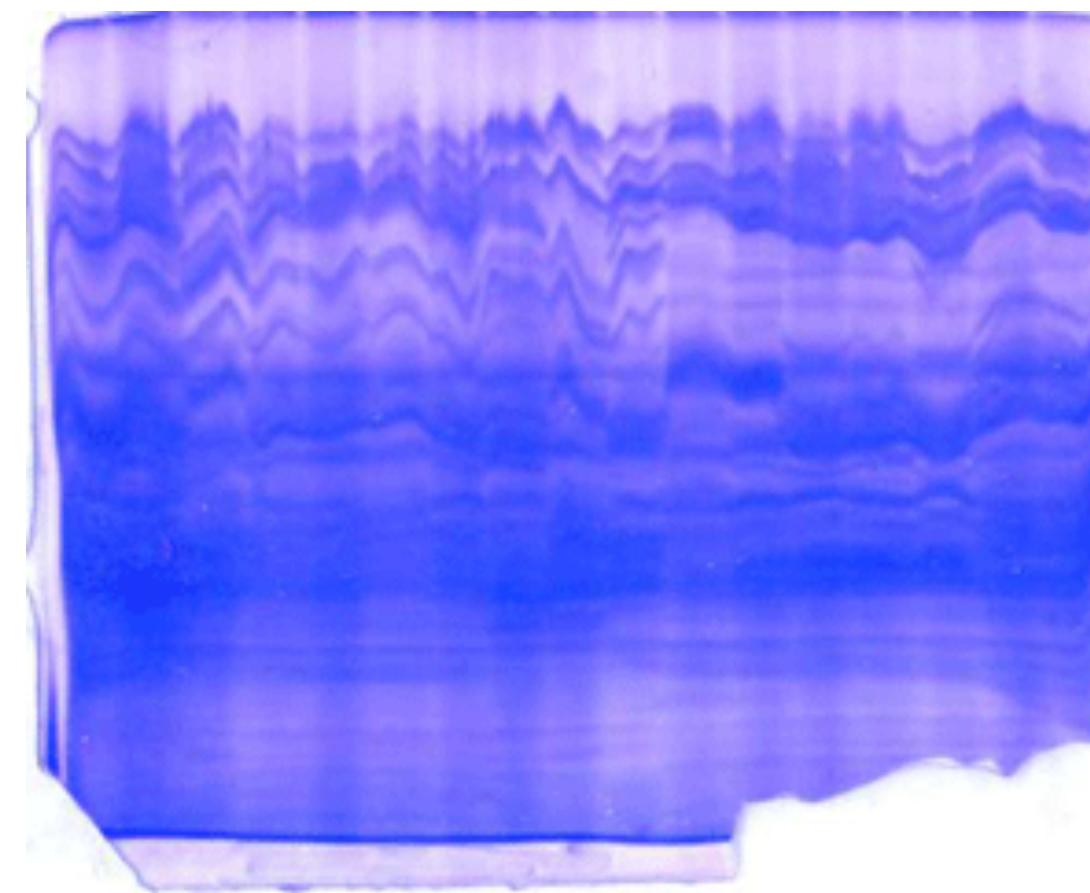


Protein ladder - mixture of purified proteins of known MW

Migration distance of each band in the protein ladder used to calculate MW of sample

SDS-PAGE - hall of shame

Overheating



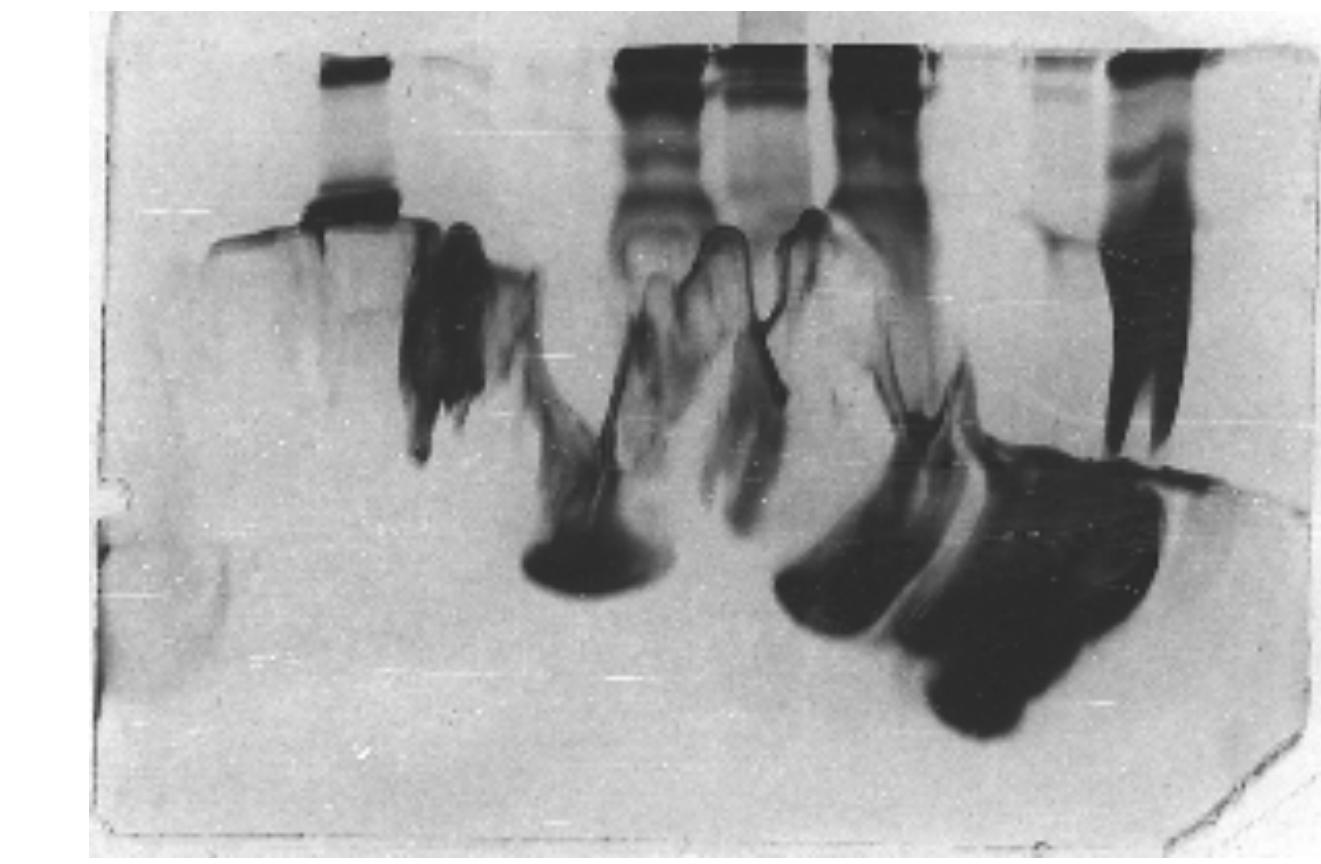
Voltage too high

Incorrect mixing



Acrylamide % too high

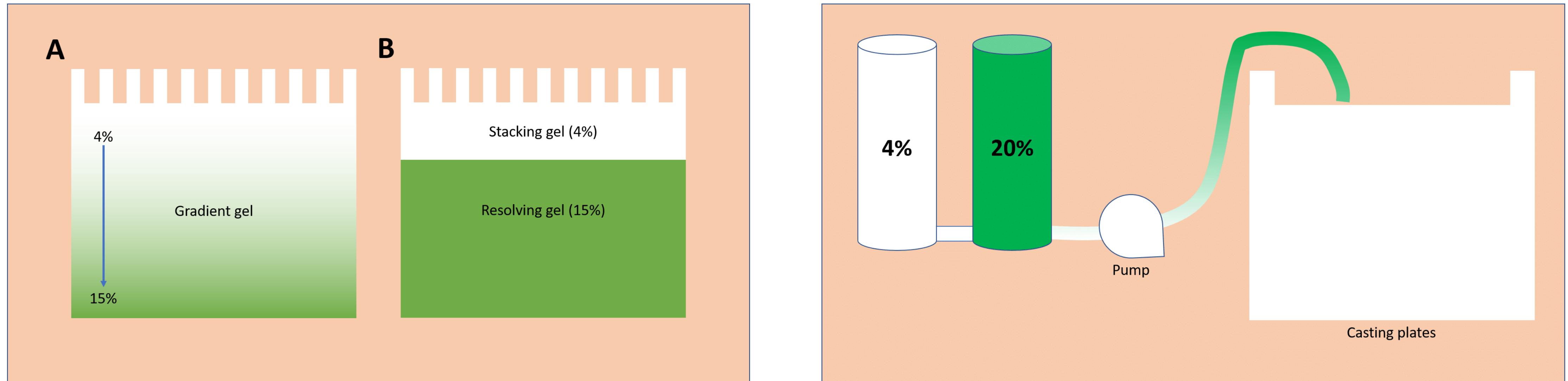
Incorrect mixing



Protein overloading

SDS-PAGE

Single % vs gradient gels



Advantages of a gradient gel

- You have a nicer looking gel with sharper bands
- You can resolve a broader range of protein sizes on one gel (so a big protein and a small one)
- You can better separate similar-sized proteins.

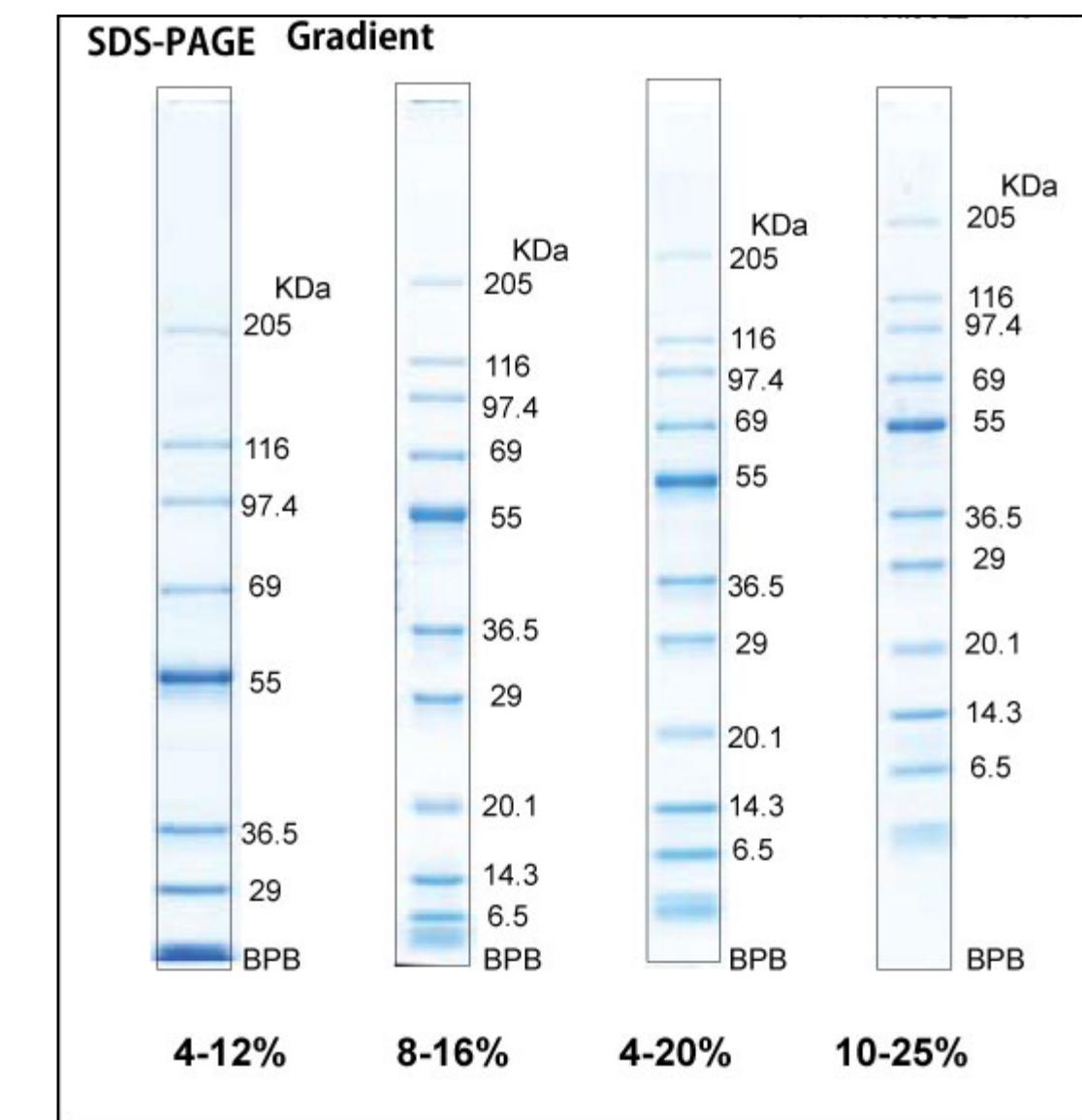
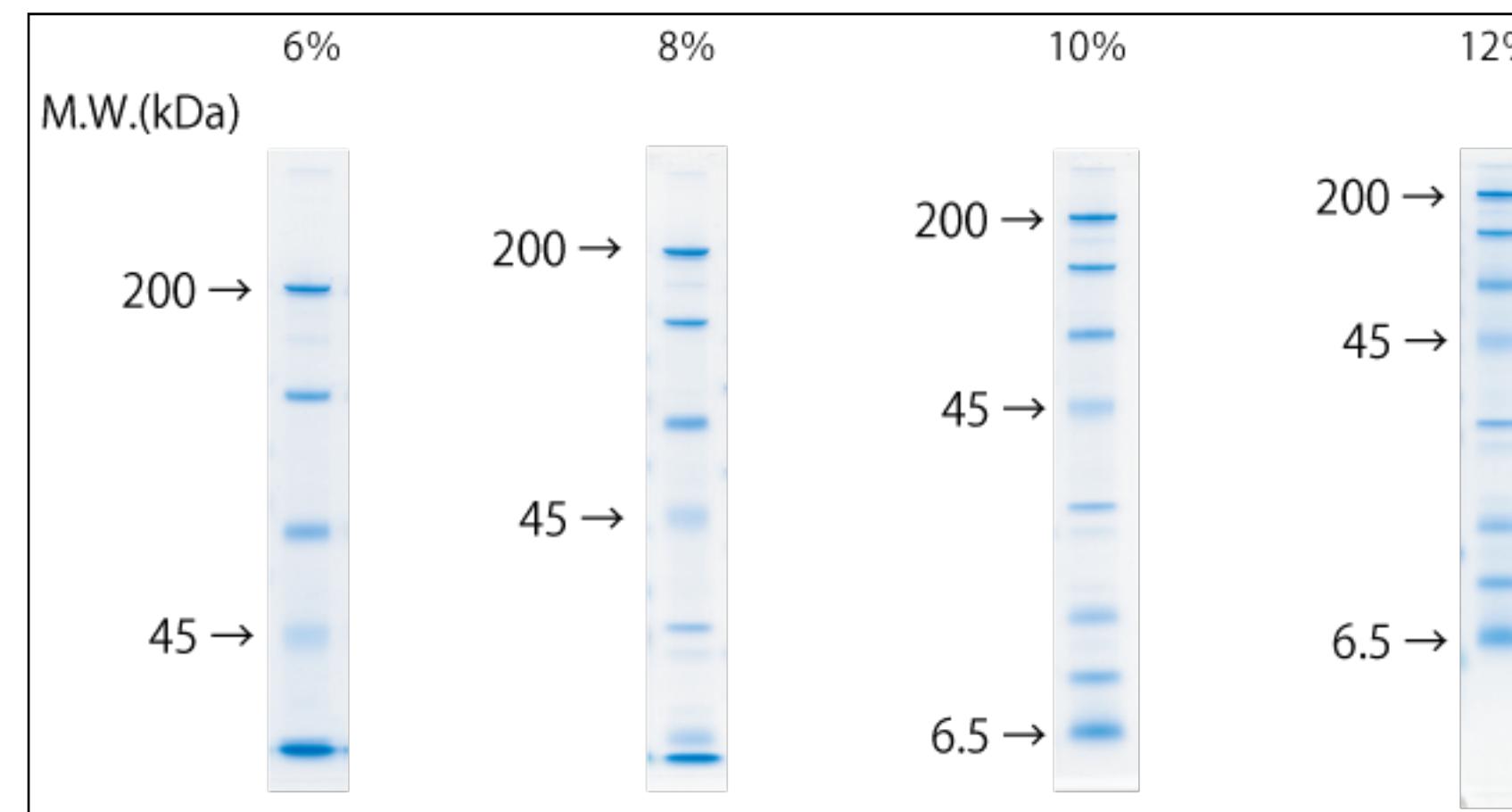
SDS-PAGE

Single % vs gradient gels

Table 1: Protein sizes resolved by different gel percentages

PROTEIN SIZE	GEL PERCENTAGE
4-40 kDa	Up to 20%
12-45 kDa	15%
10-70 kDa	12.5%
15-100 kDa	10%
50-200 kDa	8%
>200 kDa	4-6%

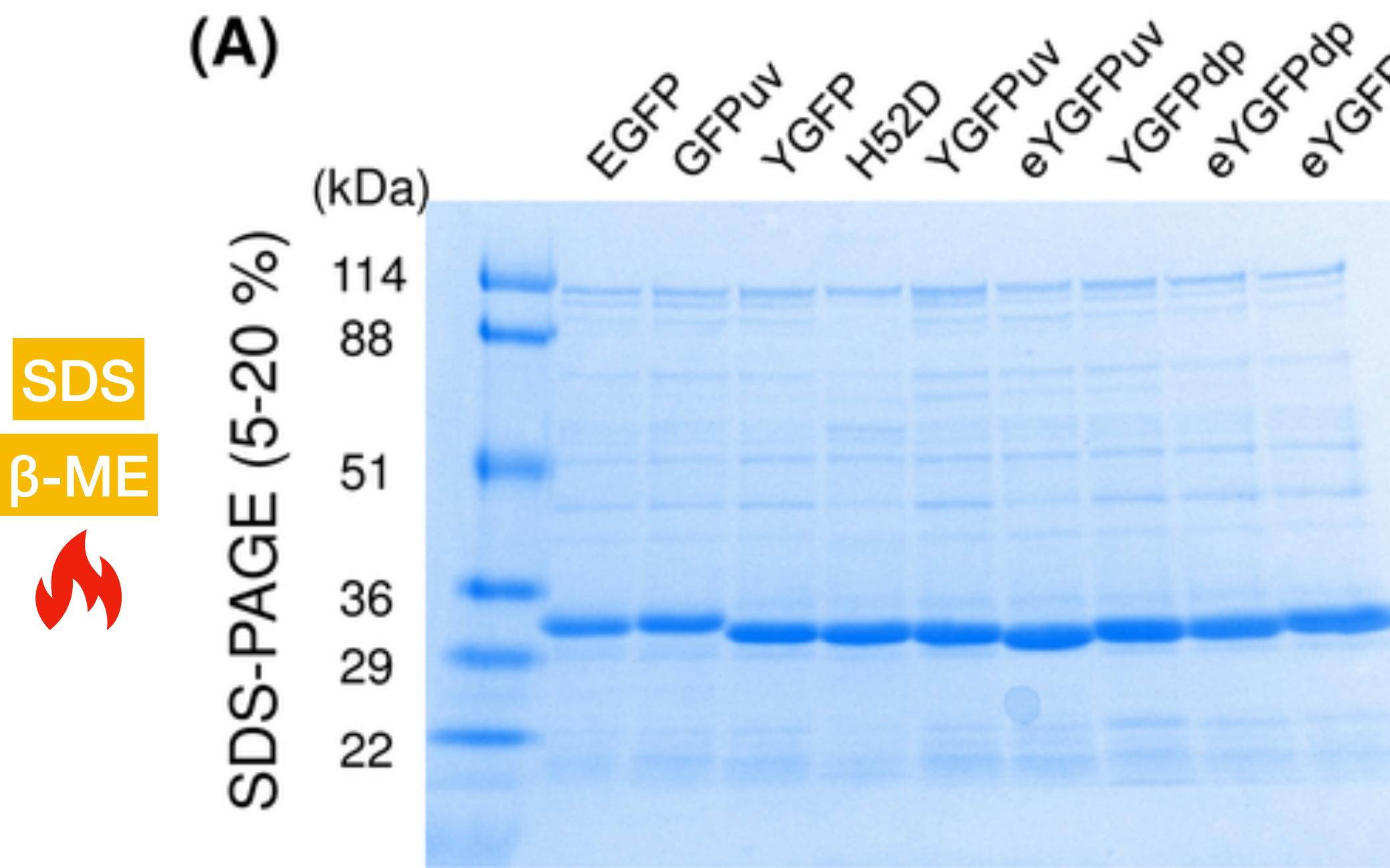
Range of protein sizes	Low / High acrylamide percentages	Application
4 – 250 kDa	4% / 20%	Discovery work; you are looking for everything under the sun
10 – 100 kDa	8% / 15%	A more targeted approach, but you want to avoid multiple gels
50 – 75 kDa	10% / 12.5%	You are trying to resolve similarly sized proteins



native-PAGE

polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

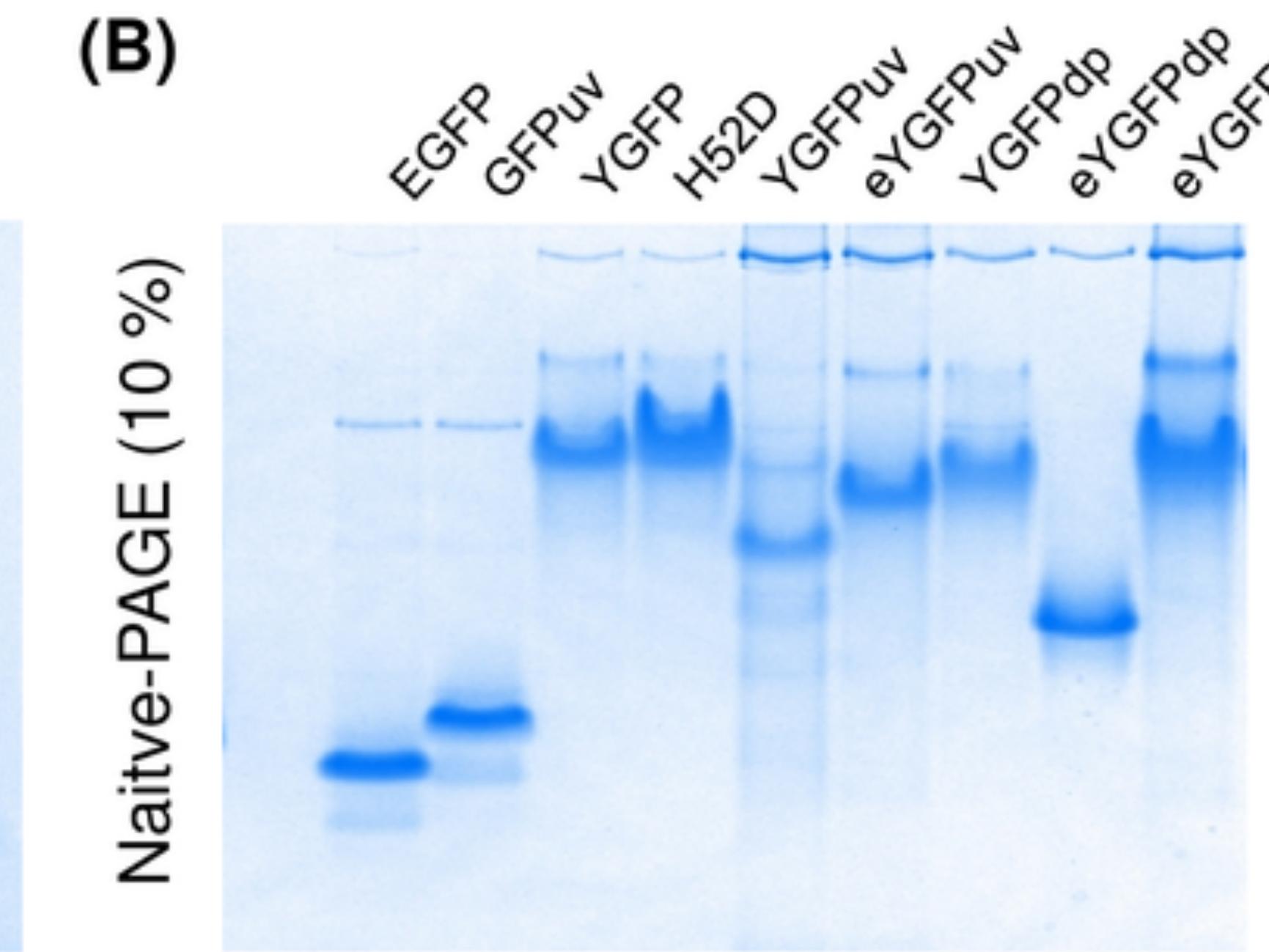
Denaturing



Protein complexes will be separated

- Separation based on size (MW)
- Protein identification

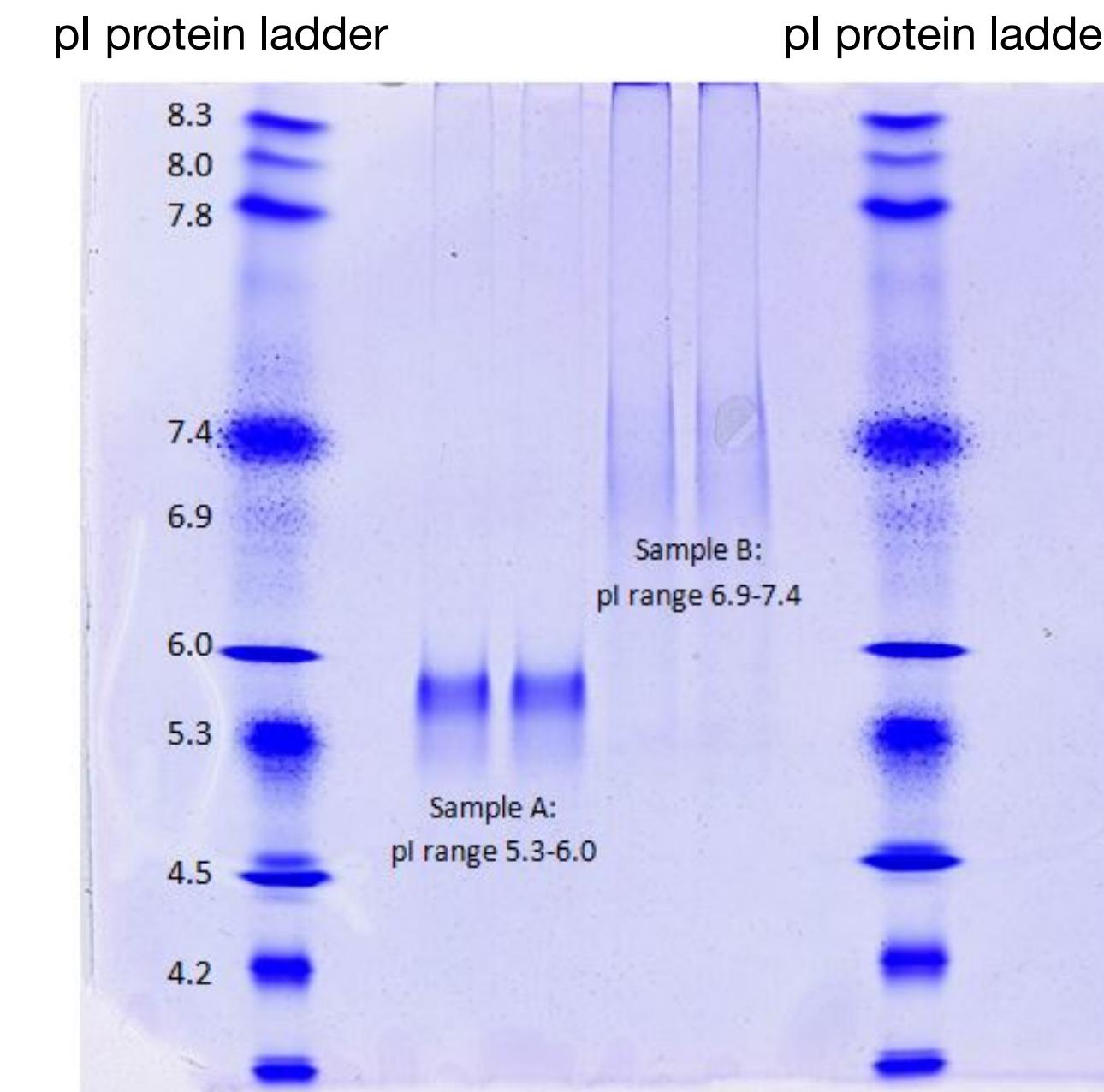
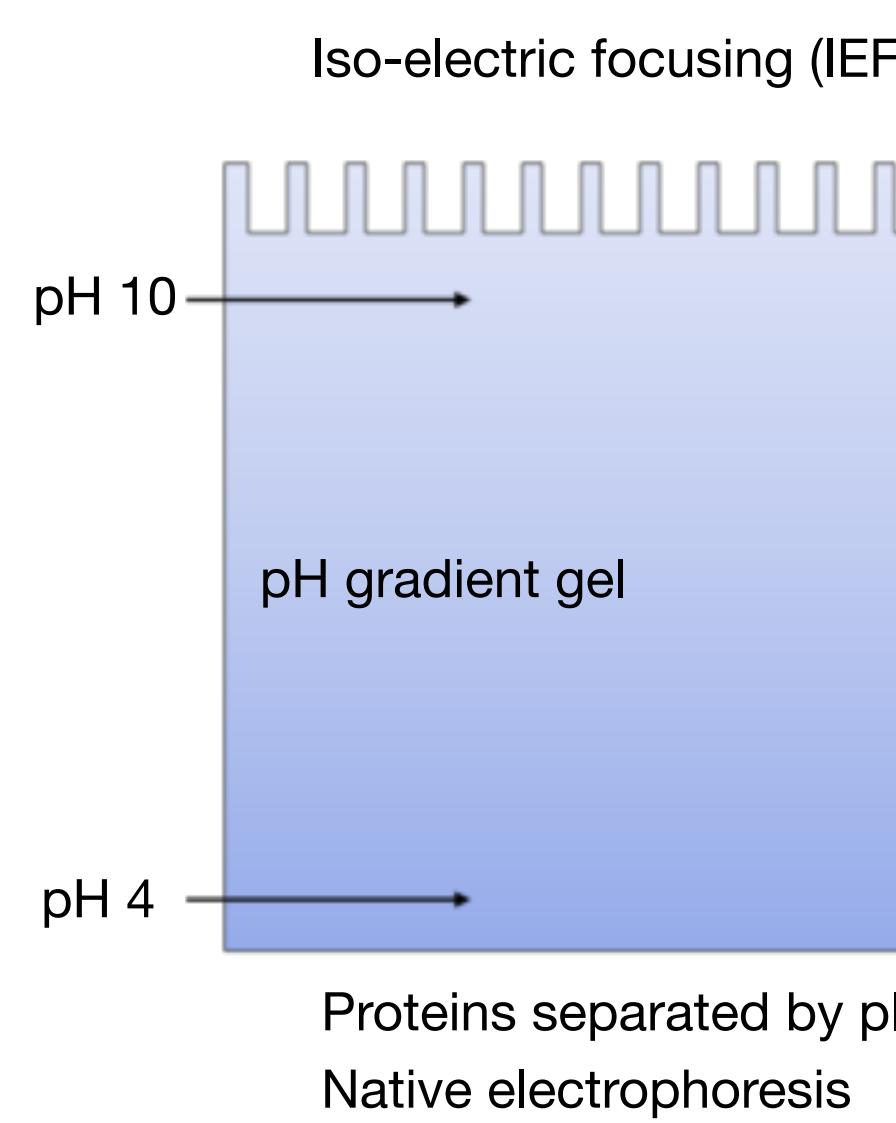
non-Denaturing



Protein complexes will stay together.

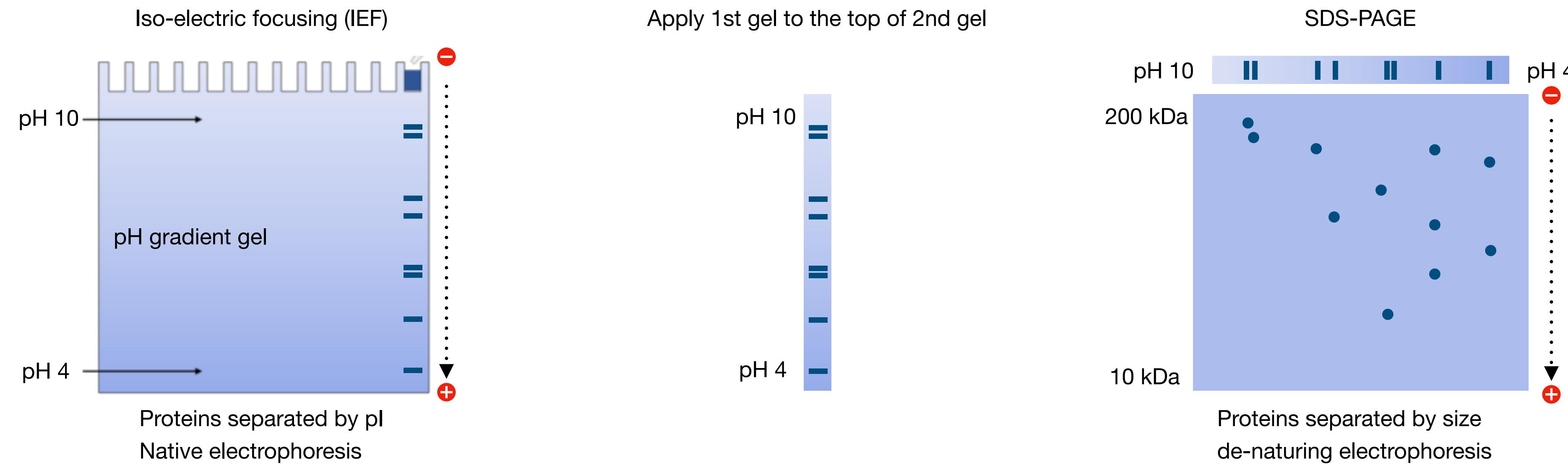
- Separation based on charge, shape and size (H_R)
- Protein characterization

Iso-electric focusing (IEF)



Protein ladder - mixture of purified proteins of known pl
Migration distance of each band in the protein ladder used to calculate pl of sample

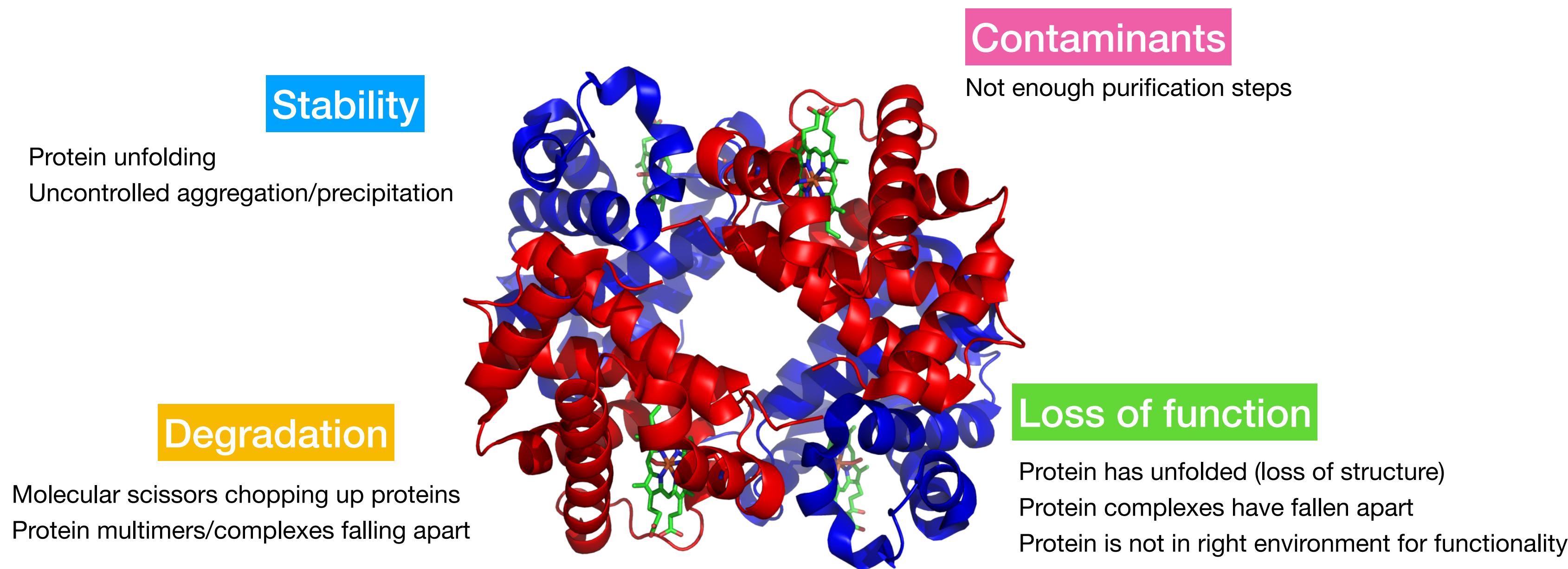
2D-electrophoresis



- Characterization/analysis of complex protein mixtures

Challenges of protein purification

Proteins should be purified in their native state so they are functional



number and type of purification steps, a well as purification buffers (pH and salt) need to be highly optimised for each protein