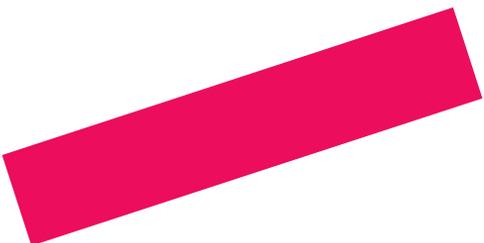


ATBC – Biomoleculen (BMBIO-T)

# Moleculair and Biochemical Techniques

Lesson 1: Electrophoresis



**HAN\_**UNIVERSITY  
OF APPLIED SCIENCES

# Programm Molecular and Biochemical Techniques

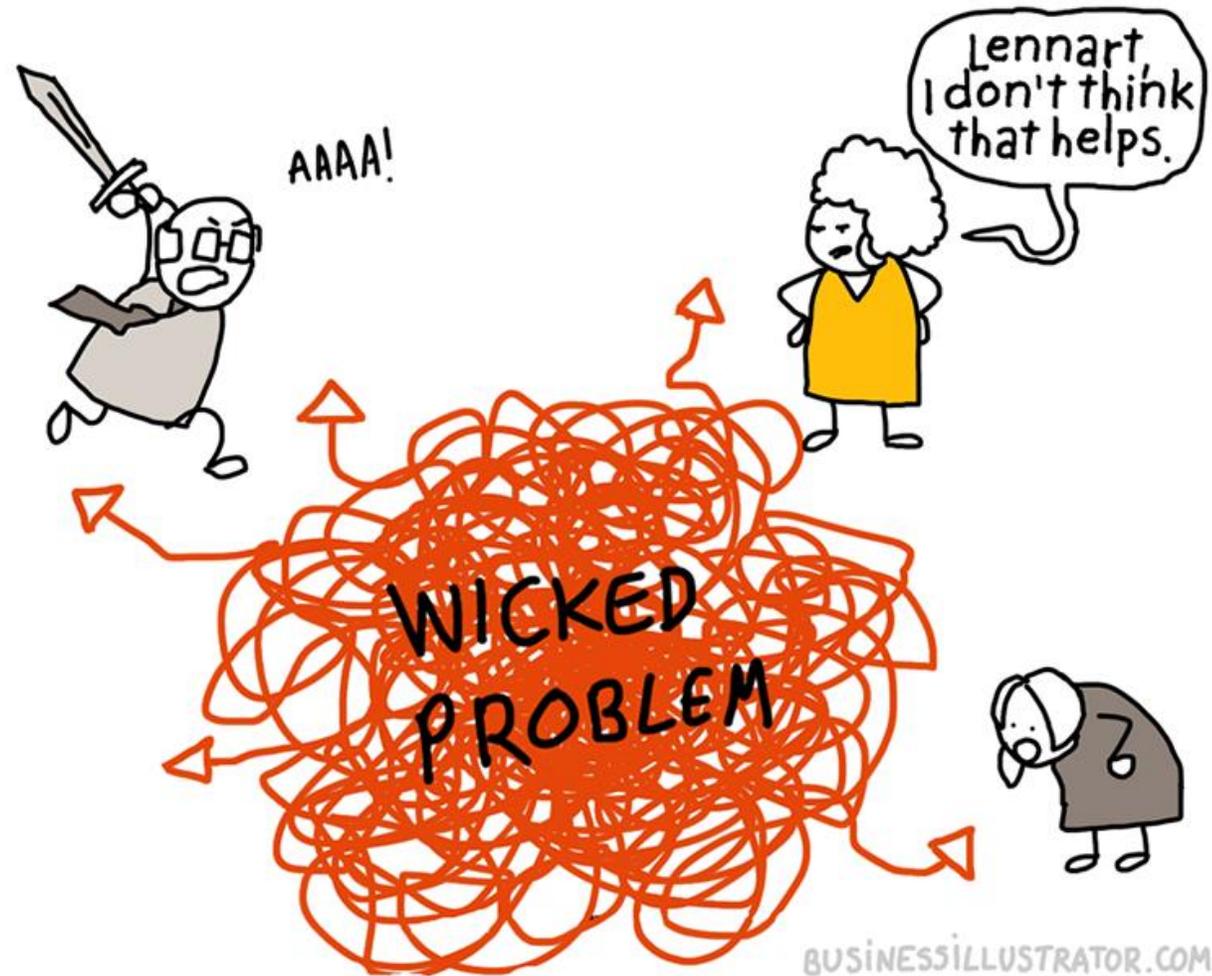
**Lesson 1:** Electrophoresis

**Lesson 2:** Centrifugation

**Lesson 3:** Fluorescence

→ Where and when will we use these techniques in the lab?

# The benefit of knowledge in troubleshooting



# Electrophoresis: what do you remember?

**Lesson 1:** Electrophoresis

**Lesson 2:** Centrifugation

**Lesson 3:** Fluorescence

# In this lesson

Introduction Molecular and Biochemical Techniques

Electrophoresis types

Gel electrophoresis:

- Matrix

- Electric field

- Buffer

- Charged biomolecules

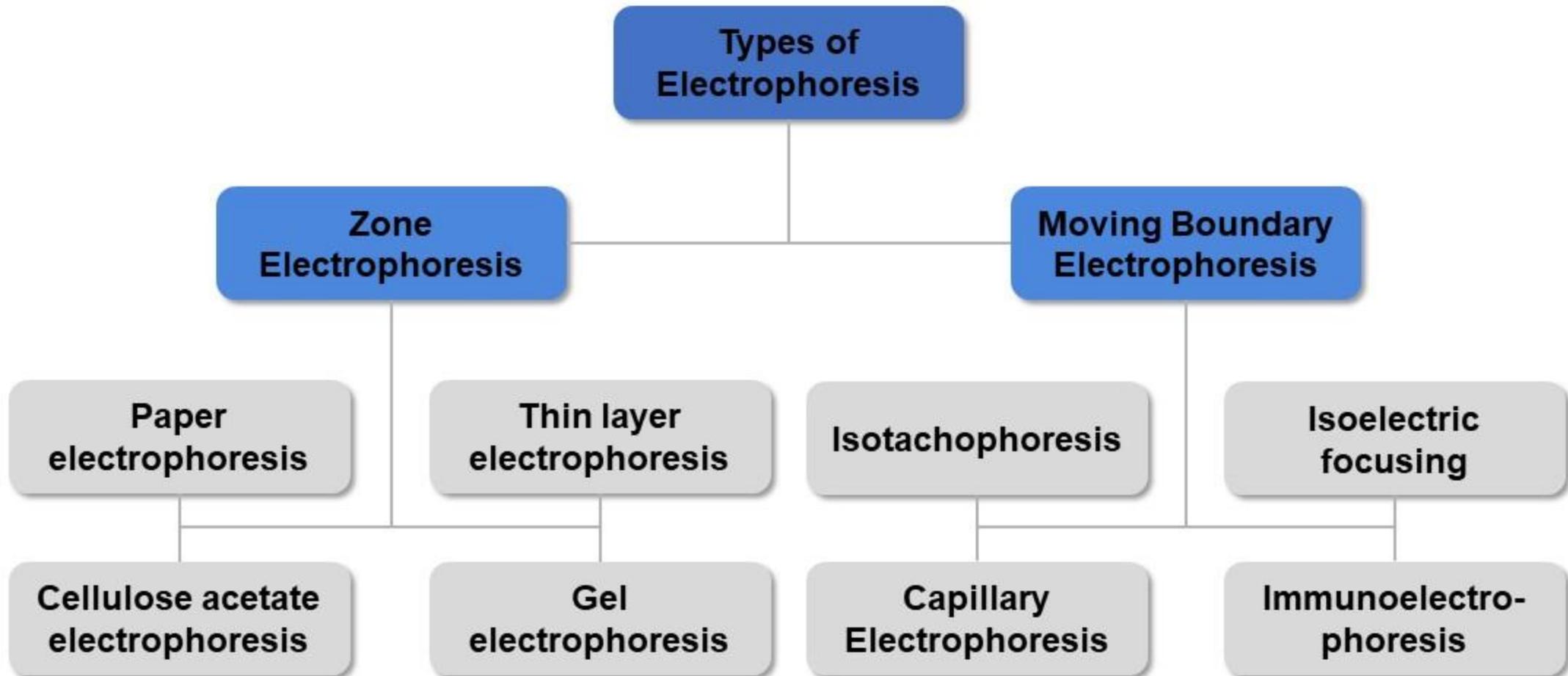
Further analysis: blotting techniques

# Learning goals lesson 1: Electrophoresis

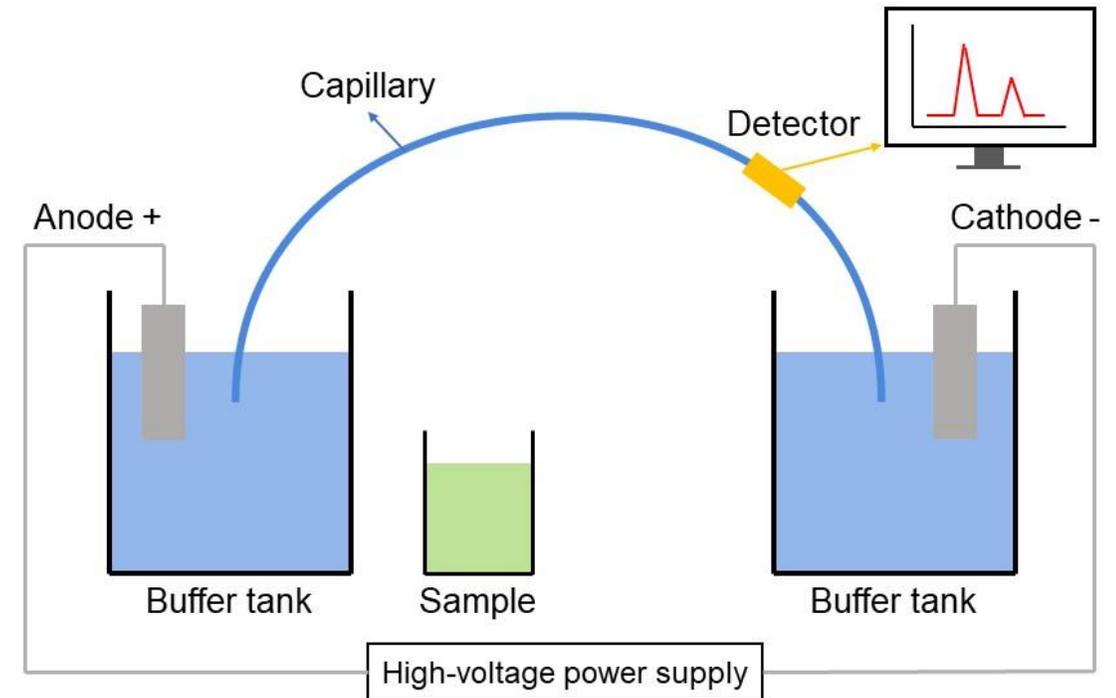
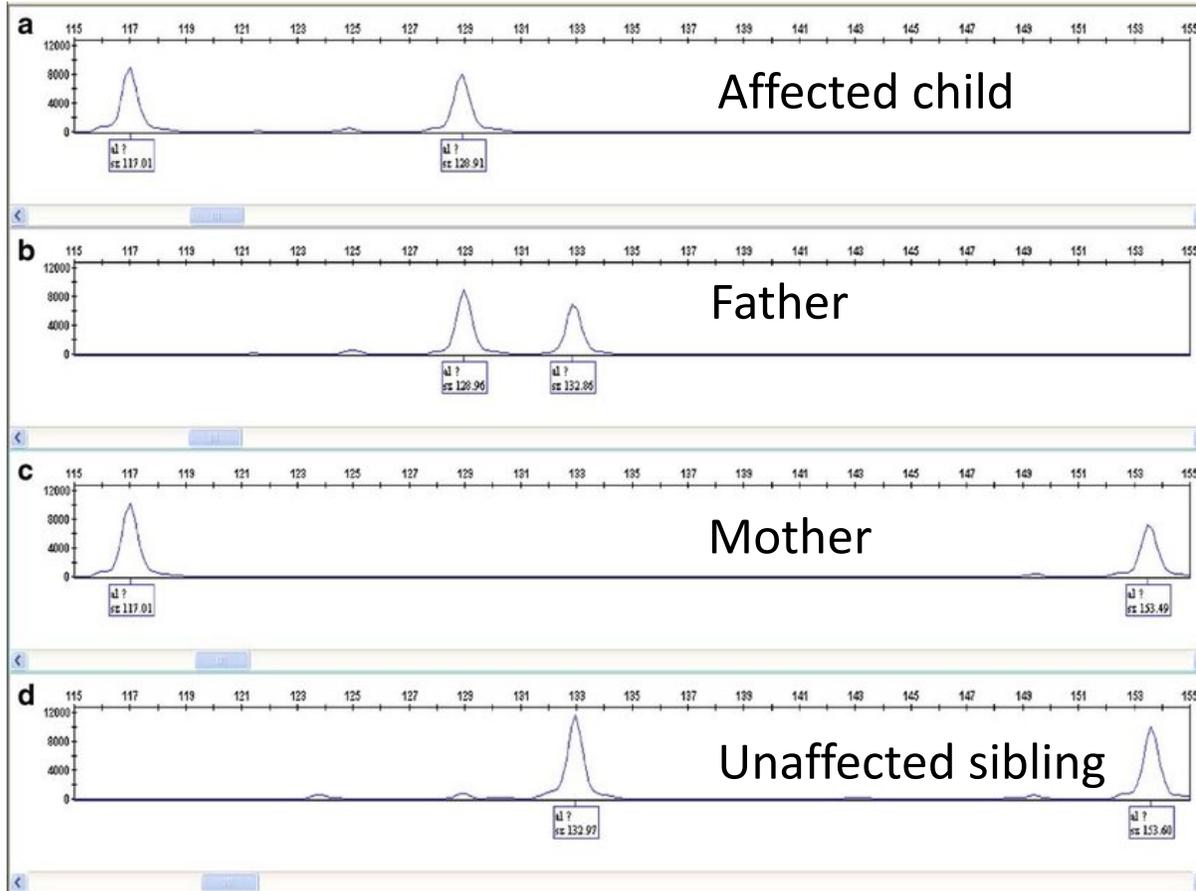
After this lesson students:

- Know the different types of electrophoresis: zone versus moving boundary and can name examples of both types (eg paper electrophoresis, gel electrophoresis, capillary electrophoresis and iso electric focusing).
- Know which components are needed for gel electrophoresis (matrix, electric field, buffer and charged molecules) and are able to explain which factors are important when setting up the experiment.
- Are able to argue how an experiment can be optimized, based on given formula's.
- Are aware of the possible follow up experiment after gel electrophoresis: Southern blot for DNA, Northern blot for RNA and Western blot for Proteins

# There is more than gel electrophoresis only



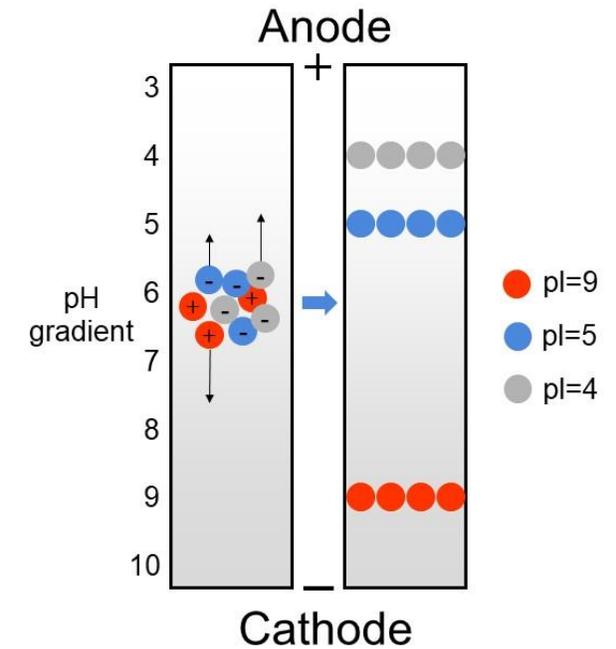
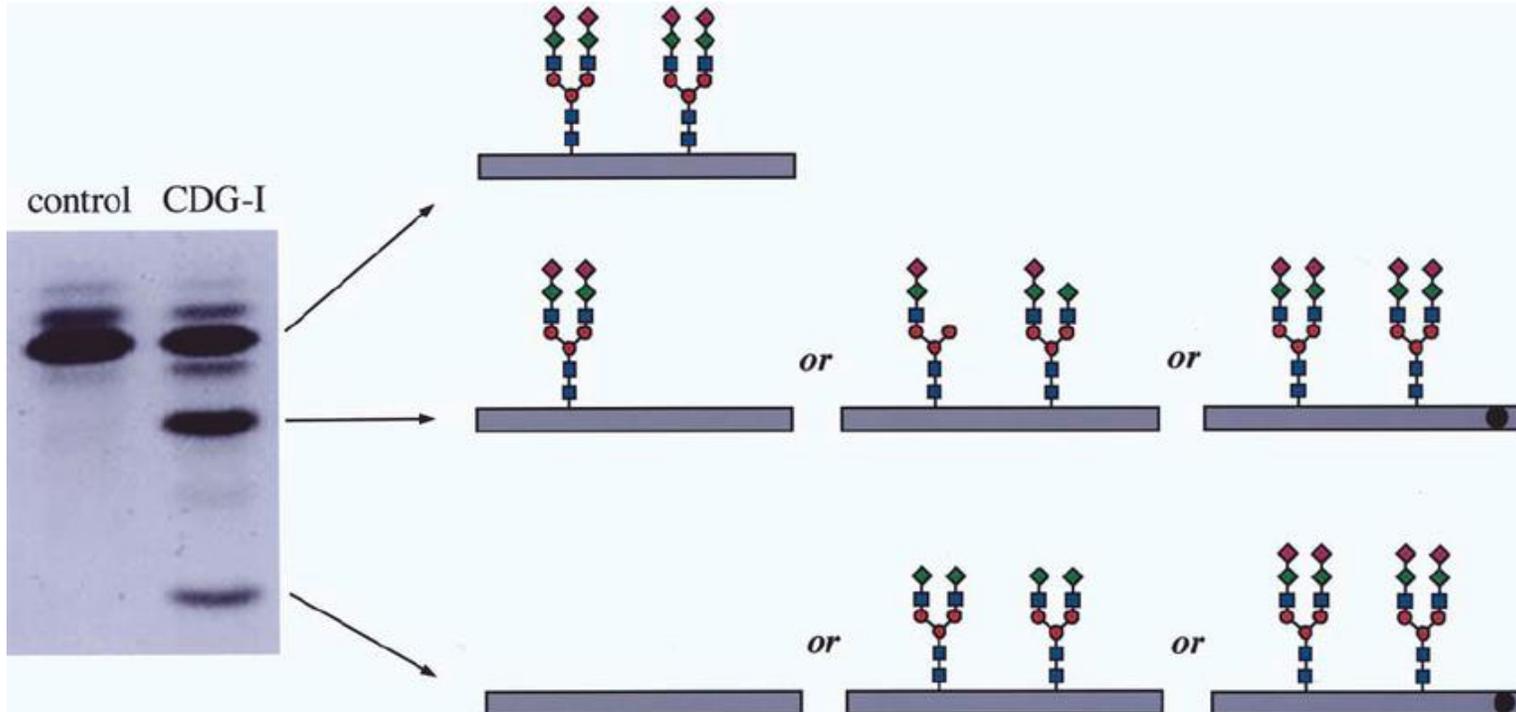
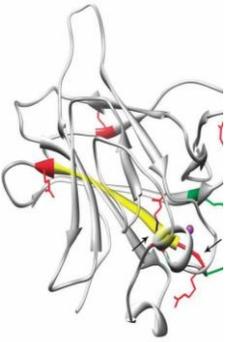
# Moving boundary electrophoresis – example Capillary electrophoresis



STEMART. (n.d.). *Electrophoresis Technology*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://www.ste-mart.com/electrophoresis-technology.htm>

Bick, S.L., Bick, D.P., Wells, B.E. *et al.* Preimplantation HLA haplotyping using tri-, tetra-, and pentanucleotide short tandem repeats for HLA matching. *J Assist Reprod Genet* **25**, 323–331 (2008). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10815-008-9233-2>

# Moving boundary electrophoresis – example Iso Electric Focussing

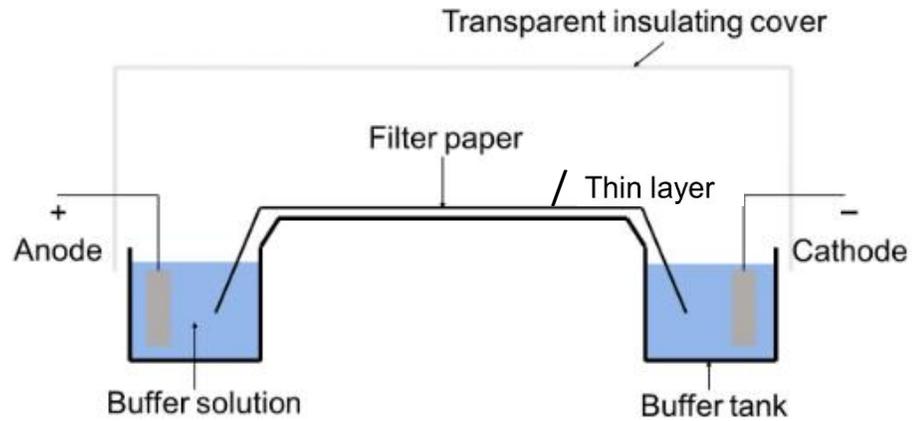


STEMART. (n.d.). *Electrophoresis Technology*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://www.ste-mart.com/electrophoresis-technology.htm>

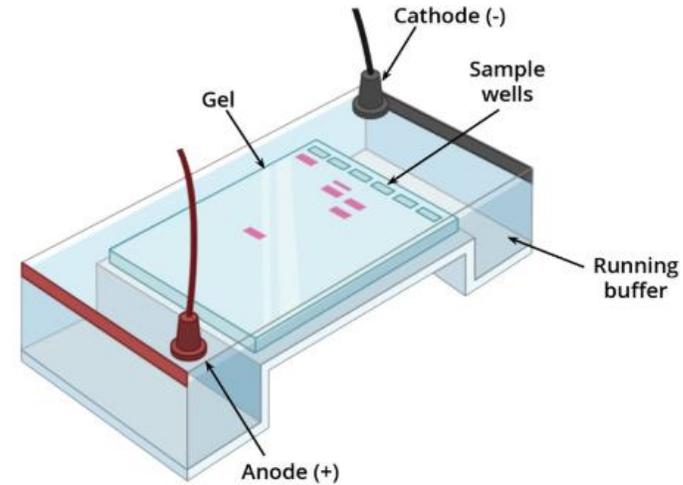
Marquardt, T., Denecke, J. Congenital disorders of glycosylation: review of their molecular bases, clinical presentations and specific therapies. *Eur J Pediatr* **162**, 359–379 (2003).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00431-002-1136-0>

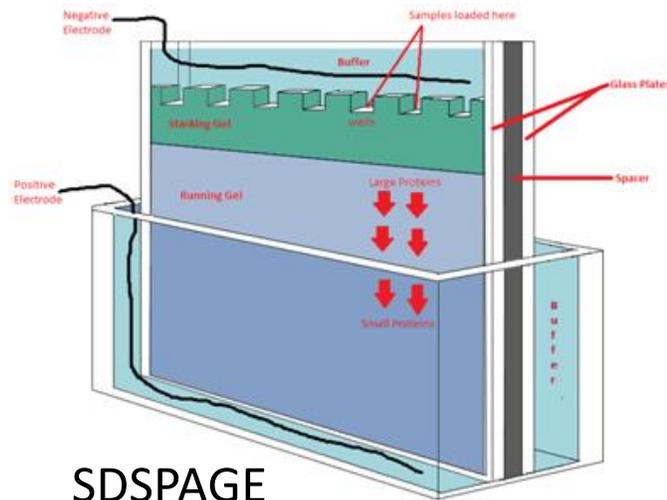
# Zone electrophoresis – examples



Paper electrophoresis  
Thin layer electrophoresis



Agarose gel electrophoresis



SDSPAGE

STEMART. (n.d.). *Electrophoresis Technology*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://www.ste-mart.com/electrophoresis-technology.htm>

Skendrick Laboratories. (n.d.). *How does 1D gel electrophoresis work?* Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://kendricklabs.com/1d-method/>

# Electrophoresis: separating molecules based on a property under the influence of an electric field

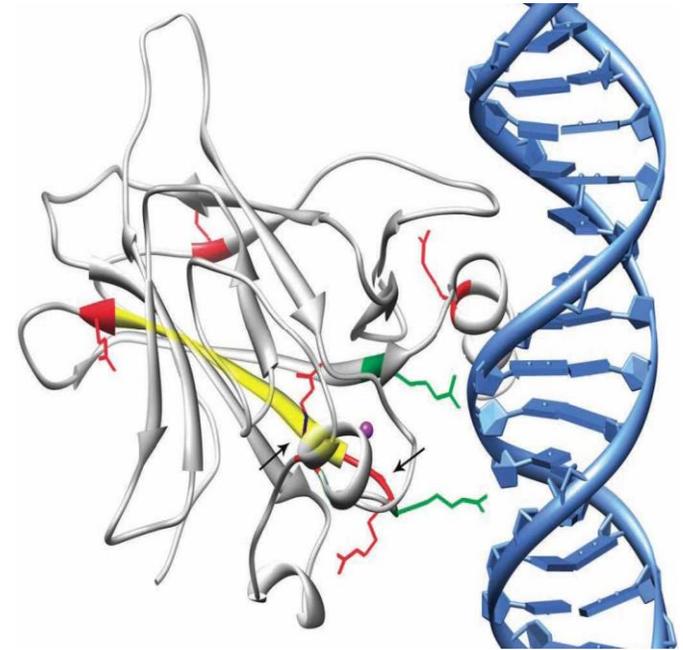
Necessary for (gel) electrophoresis:

- ✓ Matrix: polyacrylamide (SDSpage) or agarose
- ✓ Electric field
- ✓ Buffer, electrolyte
- ✓ Charged biomolecules



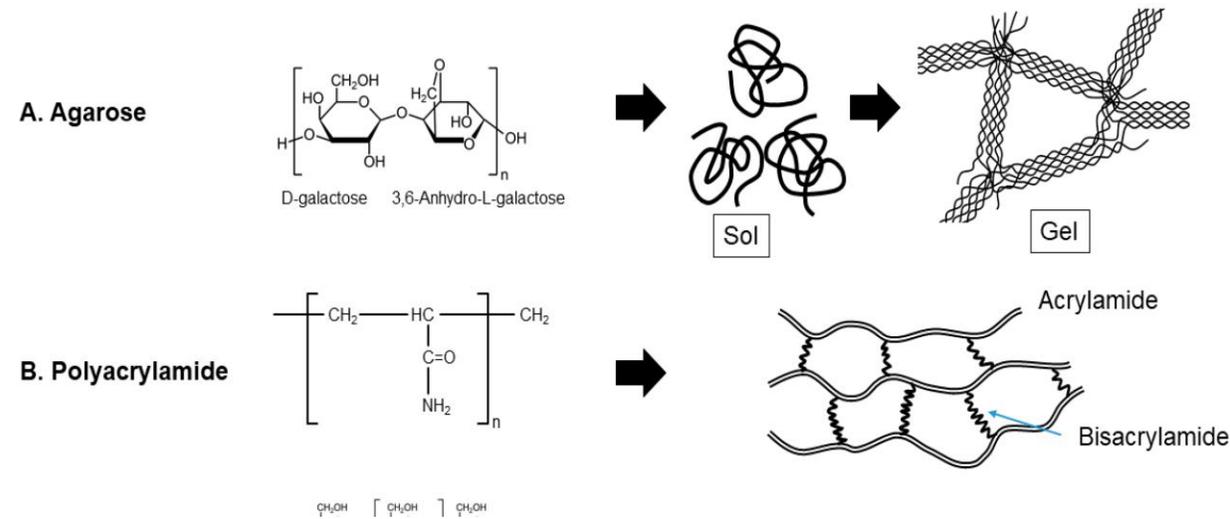
Charged molecules depends on:

- pH value
- Size
- Effective charge – other bound ions can shield the charge of the biomolecule!



# Gel electrophoresis: what matrix do you use?

Agarose	Polyacrylamide
Poly saccharide extracted from sea weed	Cross-linked polymer of acrylamide
Gel casted horizontally	Gel casted vertically
Non-toxic	Potent neuro toxic
Separate large molecules	Separate small molecules
Commonly used for DNA separations	Commonly used for DNA or protein separations
Staining before or pouring the gel	Staining after pouring the gel



Arakawa, T., Nakagawa, M., Sakuma, C., Tomioka, Y., Kurosawa, Y., & Akuta, T. (2024). Polysaccharide as a Separation Medium for Gel Electrophoresis. *Polysaccharides*, 5(3), 380-398.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/polysaccharides5030024>



**This course we will use agarose gel for DNA separation and Polyacrylamide (SDSPAGE) for protein separation**

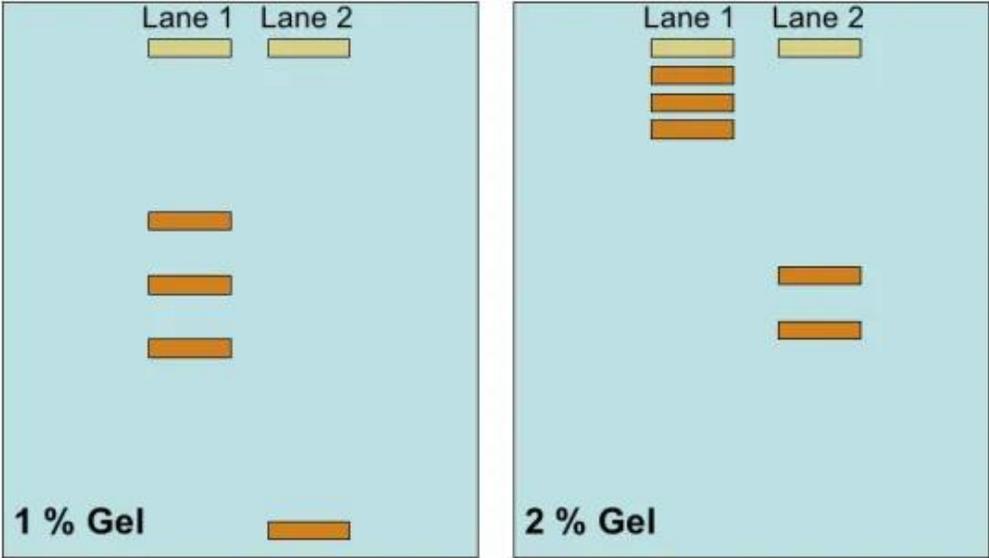


# Agarose Gel electrophoresis: separate DNA fragments by size

**Matrix** is a network of polymers with pores  
→ Size of the pores depends on the concentration of the used gel

Percent Agarose Gel (w/v)	DNA Size Resolution(kb = 1000)
0.5%	1 kb to 30 kb
0.7%	800 bp to 12 kb
1.0%	500 bp to 10 kb
1.2%	400 bp to 7 kb
1.5%	200 bp to 3 kb
2.0%	50 bp to 2 kb

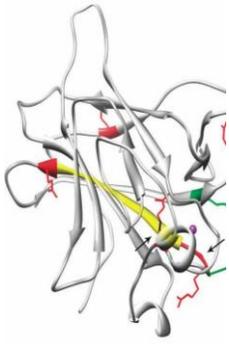
**Table 1: Correct Agarose Gel Concentration for Resolving DNA Fragments**



**Figure 1: Comparing Resolution of 1 % Gel and 2 % Agarose Gel.**

Lane 1 shows the separation of nicked, supercoiled and linear DNA of a 6 kb fragment. Lane 2 shows separation of 425 bp and 450 bp PCR fragments. The 1 % gel could not resolve the two PCR fragments. They appear as a single band. Gel purification would not eliminate either band. The PCR fragment would produce a mixed sequencing result.

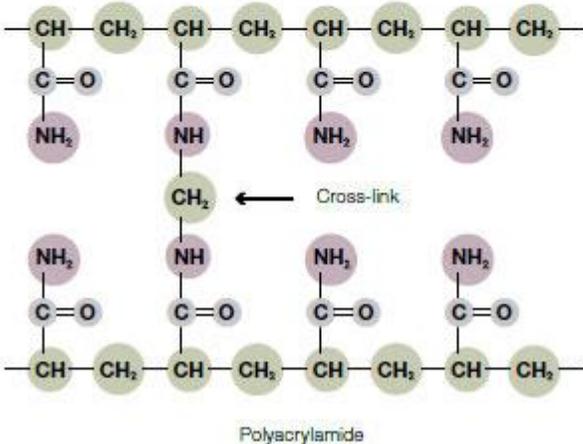
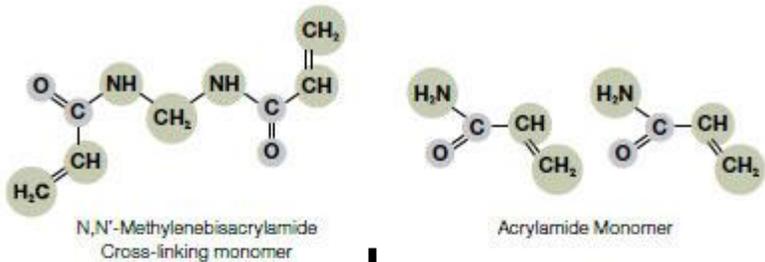
agctsequencing. (February 14,2012). *DNA sequencing and Fragment analysis*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://agctsequencing.wordpress.com/2012/02/14/dna-fragments-resolve-better-on-correct-percent-agarose-gel/>



# Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (PAGE): separate proteins by size

**Matrix** is a network of polymers with pores

→ Size of the pores depends on the concentration of the used gel



$$\%T = \frac{\text{g acrylamide} + \text{g cross-linker}}{\text{Total volume, ml}} \times 100$$

$$\%C = \frac{\text{g cross-linker}}{\text{g acrylamide} + \text{g cross-linker}} \times 100$$

%T = Total monomer concentration

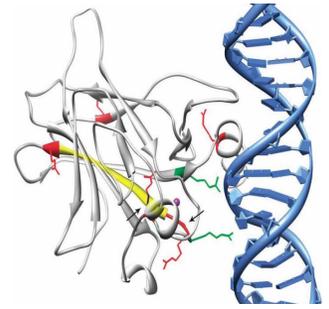
%C = Crosslinker concentration



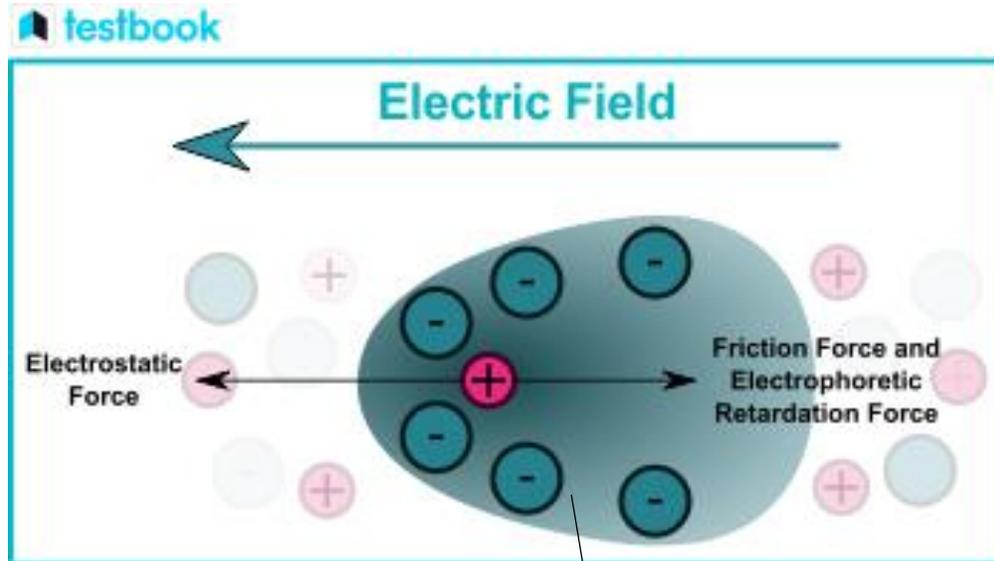
**This course: % T = 40%**

**Acrylamide:Crosslinker = 29:1 → %C = 3.33%**

	7.5%	10%	12%
200	200	200	200
116	116	116	116
97.4	97.4	97.4	97.4
		66	66
66			45
		45	31
45		31	21.5
31		21.5	14.4



# Particles in an **electric field** are exposed to an electric force



Negatively charged biomolecule

Electrostatic force

$$F_e = E \cdot Q$$

Friction force

$$F_f = f \cdot v$$

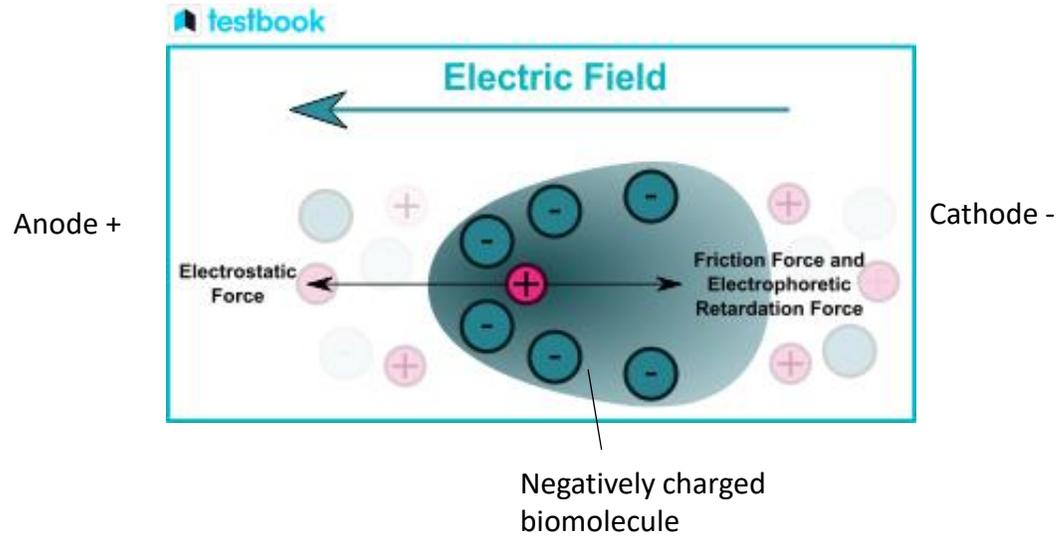
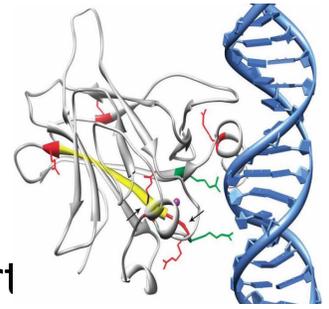
*E = electric field strength*

*Q = charge of biomolecule*

*f = friction coefficient*

*v = migration velocity*

# Particles in an electric field are exposed to an electric force



Motion starts with acceleration, after short time there will be an uniformly motion:

$$F_e = F_f$$

$$\text{So: } Q \cdot E = f \cdot v \quad \text{Or: } v = Q \cdot E / f$$

For a spherical partical:

$$f = 6 \cdot \pi \cdot \eta \cdot r_p$$

So migration velocity:

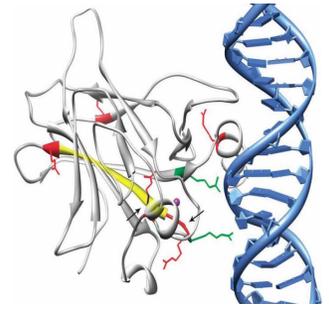
$$v = EQ / 6\pi\eta r$$

*Mobility:*

$$\mu = v/E \rightarrow = Q/6\pi\eta r$$

*E = electric field strenght*  
*Q = charge of biomolecule*  
*f = friction coefficient*  
*v = migration velocity*

*η = viscosity solution*  
*r<sub>p</sub> = radius particle*



## Migration velocity: $v = EQ / 6\pi\eta r$ (m/s)

Migration velocity depends on:

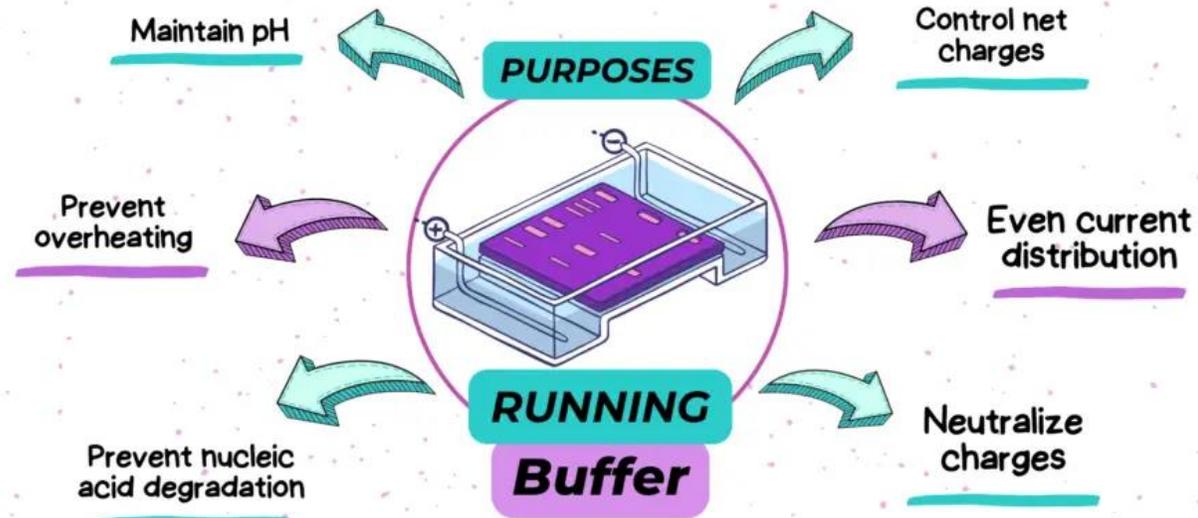
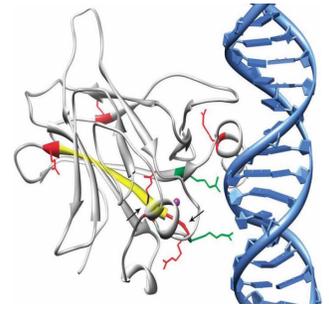
- ✓ Charge of biomolecule  $Q$  (C)
- ✓ Electric field strength  $E$  (V/m)
- ✓ Installed electric potential difference  $U$  (V)
- ✓ Distance between electrodes  $x$  (mm)
- ✓ Viscosity of solution  $\eta$
- ✓ Size of particle  $r$  (mm)
- ✓ Friction coefficient  $f$  (N.s/m)



**How to use this knowledge in troubleshooting?**

**Mix of 2 DNA fragments sizes 300bp and 320bp show up as 1 band on agarose gel  
Which variable can I adjust to make them separate?**

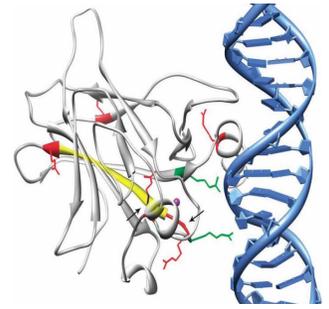
# What is the function of a **running buffer** in electrophoresis?



What will happen when water is used to pour or run the gel?

What will happen when a (to) low concentration buffer is used to pour or run the gel?

# Electrophoresis buffers

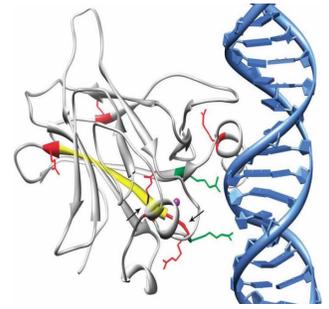


Buffer	pH	Properties
Barbitone	Around 8.0	Serum protein separation Poor resolution Weak buffer
Phosphate	Around 7.0	Enzyme separation Low buffering capacity High conductivity
Tris-borateEDTA (TBE)	Around 8.0	Nucleic acid separation Good resolution High buffering capacity Low conductivity
<b>Tris-acetateEDTA (TAE)</b>	<b>Around 8.0</b>	<b>Nucleic acid separation Good resolution High buffering capacity Low conductivity</b>
Tris-glycine	>8.0	Protein separation High buffering capacity Low conductivity



**This course:**  
**TAE for agarosegel electrophoresis**  
**Tris-glycine for SDSPAGE**

# The effect of **heat** in electrophoresis



Power → Heat development

Joules first Law: 'the joule effect'

$$Q = I^2 \cdot R \cdot t$$

*Q = heat expressed (Joule)*

*I = Electrical current (Ampere)*

*R = Resistance (Ohms)*

*t = time (seconds)*

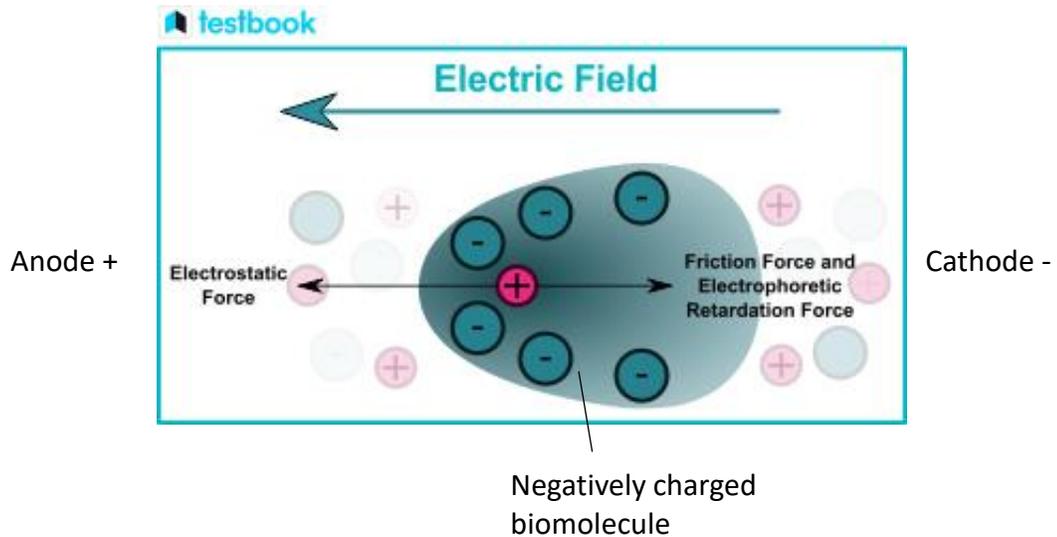
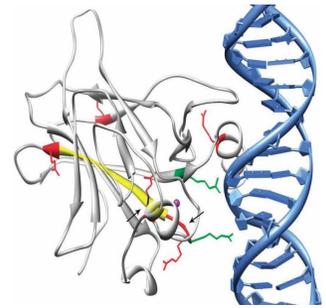


- Solution evaporates → buffer concentration changes, pH and ion concentration changes
- Diffusion of bands
- Viscosity changes → mobility changes
- Proteins denaturates



**Increasing voltage to speed up your experiment has its limit!**

# Electro-endosmosis: smiling and frowning



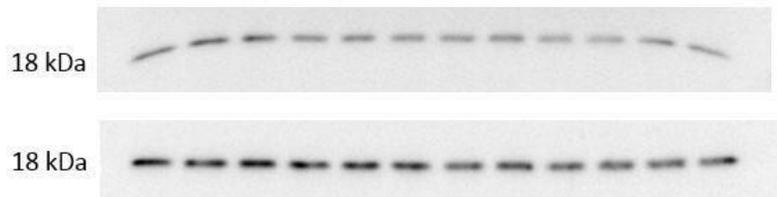
Matrix may have a negative charge at the surface



+ charged buffer ions will move to the - pole (counter current)



Weakly charged biomolecules are hindered, looks like these molecules move to the - pole



**Do not add your ladder in the outside lanes**

# Electrophoresis: separating molecules based on a property under the influence of an electric field

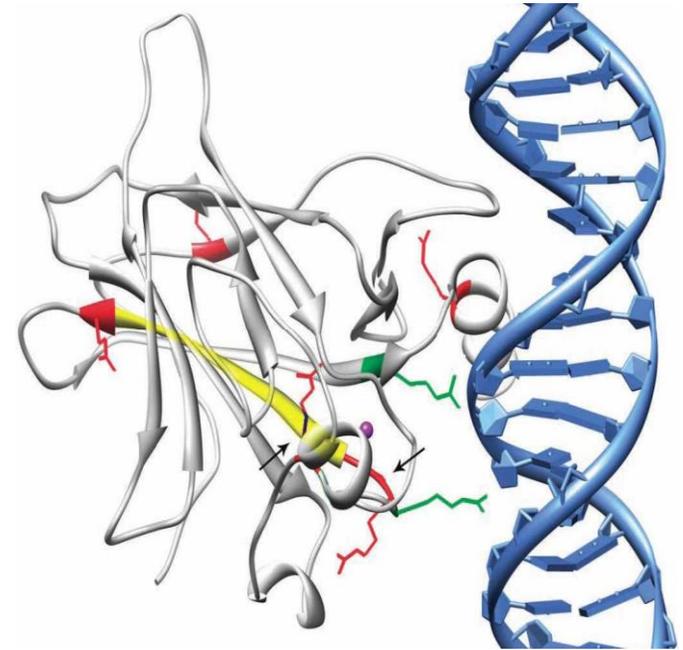
Necessary for (gel) electrophoresis:

- ✓ Matrix: polyacrylamide (SDSpage) or agarose
- ✓ Electric field
- ✓ Buffer, electrolyte
- ✓ **Charged biomolecules**

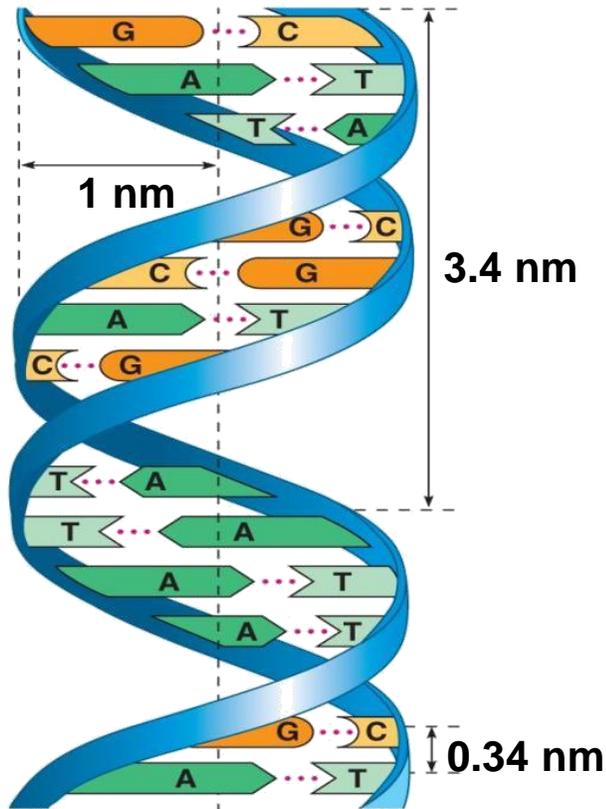


Charged molecules depends on:

- pH value
- Size
- Effective charge – other bound ions can shield the charge of the biomolecule!

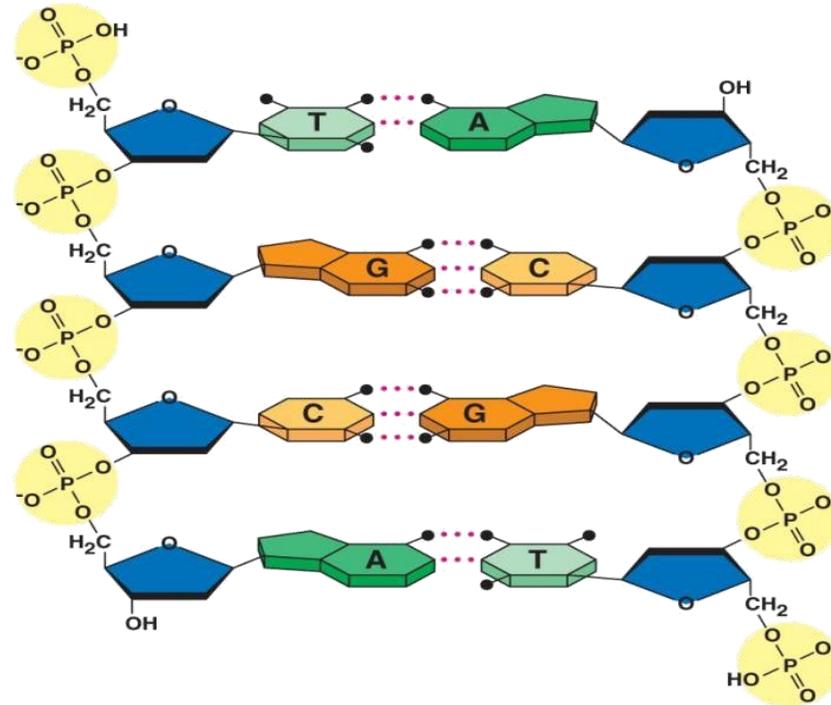


# Agarose Gel electrophoresis: DNA is negatively charged



(a) Key features of DNA structure

Copyright © 2008 Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Pearson Benjamin Cummings.

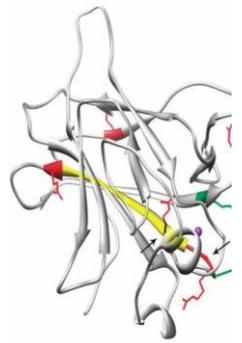


(b) Partial chemical structure



Since all DNA molecules have the same amount of charge per mass we are able to separate DNA fragments based on size only

Campbell, N.A. et al. (2013). *Biology*. (10<sup>th</sup> edition). San Francisco: Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. Figure 16.7

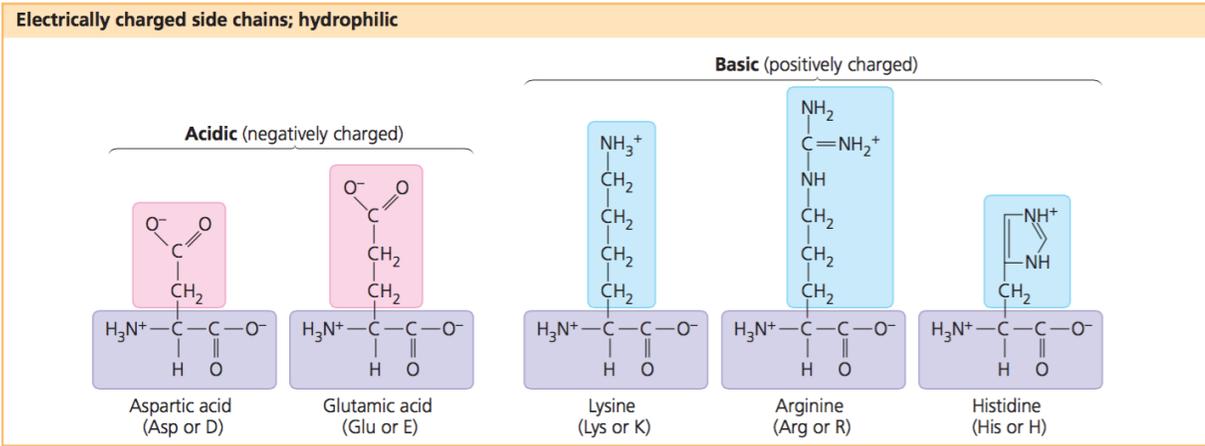


# SDSPAGE: the **charge** of proteins is variable

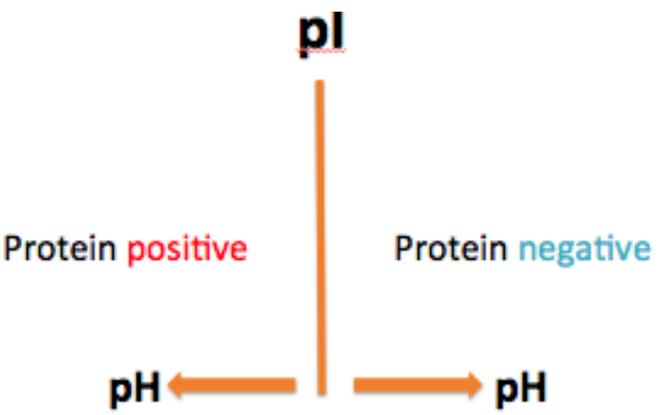
The charge of a protein depends on:

1) Charged side chains

2) Iso electric point/ pH



Campbell, N.A. et al. (2013). *Biology*. (10<sup>th</sup> edition). San Francisco: Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. Figure 5.14

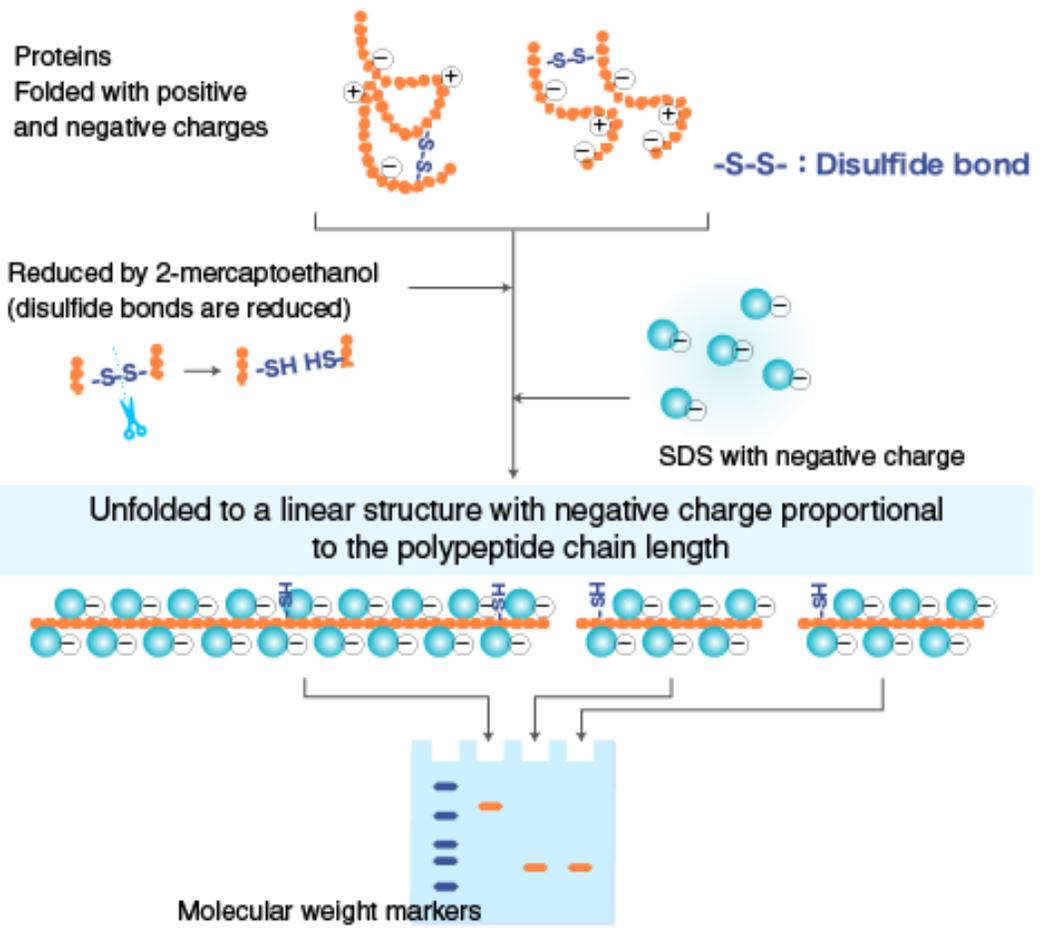
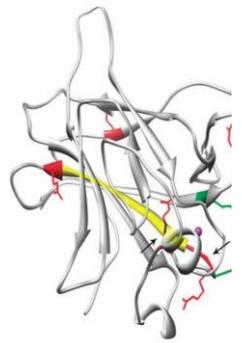


**AND: folding has an effect on migration velocity as well!**



How to make sure we separate on size only, and not on other properties?

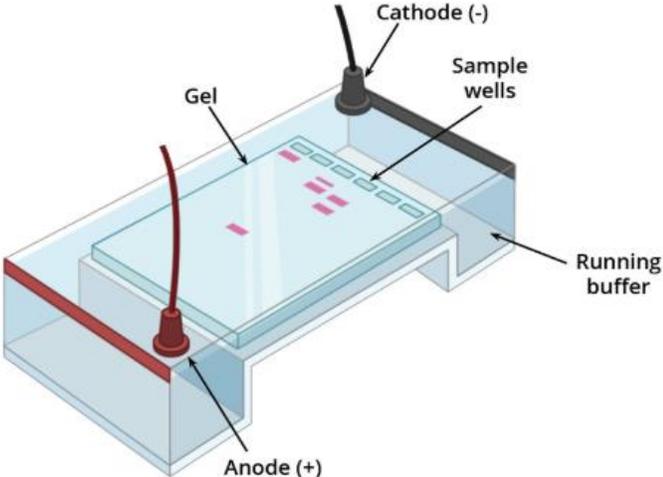
# SDSPAGE: difference in charge is masked by SDS



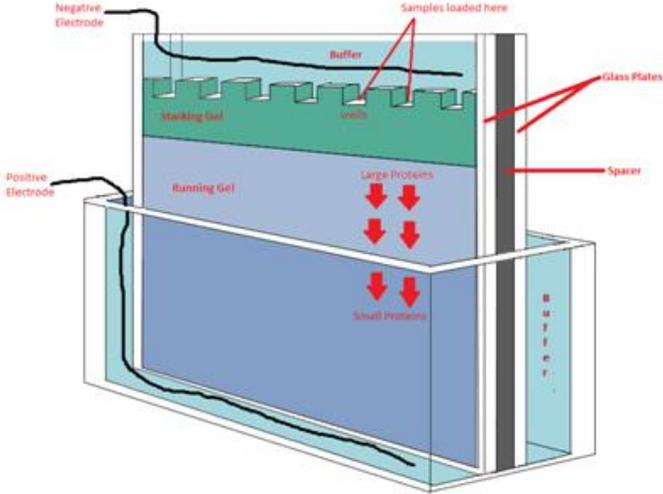
- Disrupt hydrofobic and H bonds with ureum
- Disrupt disulfide bonds with  $\beta$ -mercapthoethanol
- Mask difference in charge with Sodiumdodecylsulfaat (SDS)

MBL Life science. (n.d.). *SDS-PAGE*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://ruo.mbl.co.jp/bio/e/support/method/sds-page.html/>

# Gel electrophoresis: further analysis on a blot



Agarose gel electrophoresis

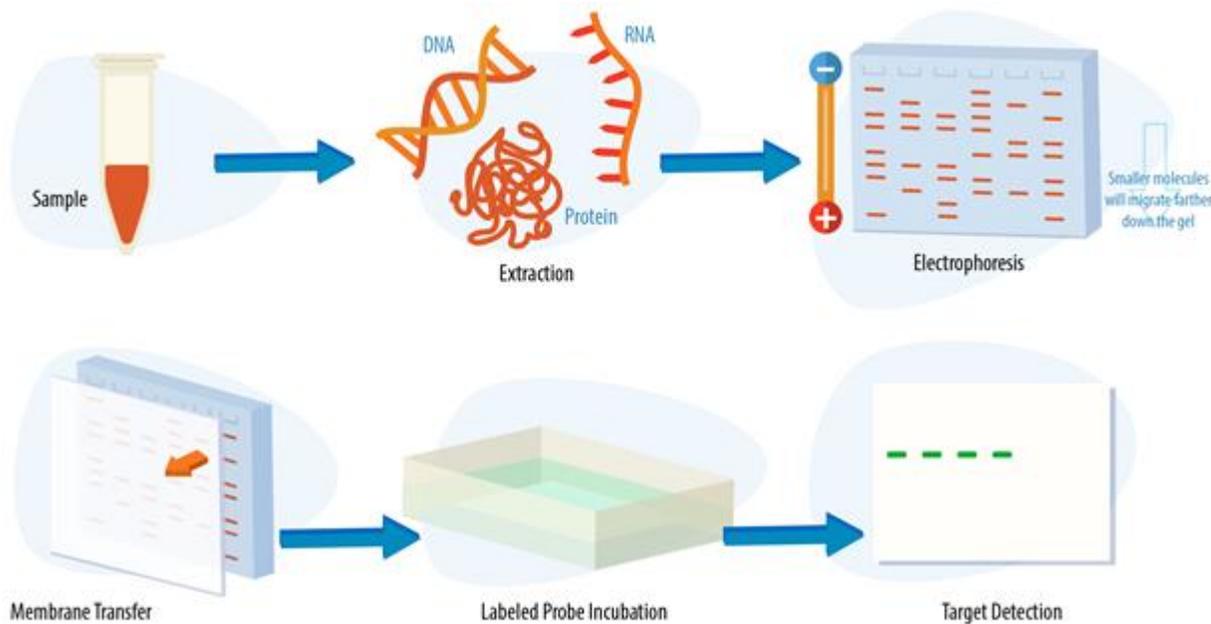
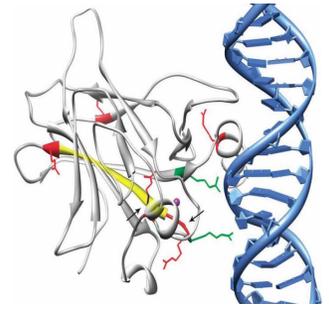


SDSPAGE



Blotting techniques

# Blotting techniques



Separation by size



Transfer biomolecules to a solid support



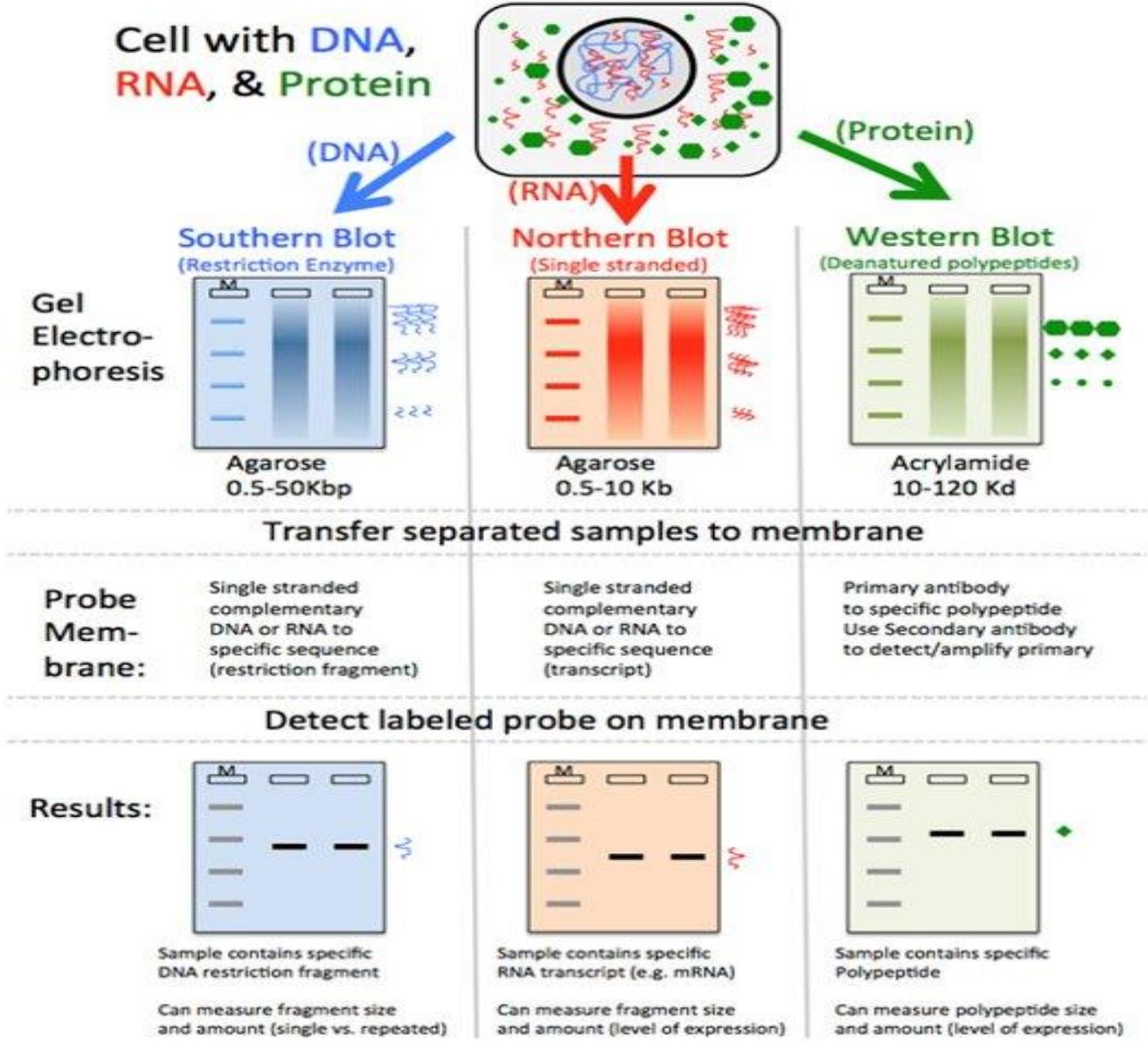
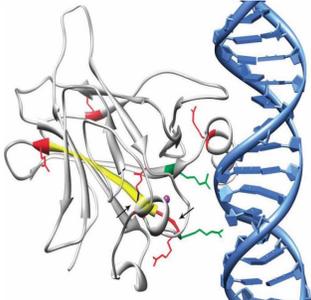
Mark target molecule specifically

Lab Manager. (2019, September). *Blotting techniques*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://www.labmanager.com/southern-vs-northern-vs-western-blotting-techniques-854>



What could be the aim of a Blot after gel electrophoresis?

# Blotting techniques



Biology exams 4U. (n.d.). *Southern blotting principle procedure and application*. Retrieved January 17, 2025, from <https://www.biologyexams4u.com/2013/12/southern-blotting-principle-procedure.html#.WKGON9IzWUK>

# Learning goals lesson 1: Electrophoresis

After this lesson students:

- Know the different types of electrophoresis: zone versus moving boundary and can name examples of both types (eg paper electrophoresis, gel electrophoresis, capillary electrophoresis and iso electric focusing).
- Know which components are needed for gel electrophoresis (matrix, electric field, buffer and charged molecules) and is able to explain which factors are important when setting up the experiment.
- Are able to argue how an experiment can be optimized, based on given formula's.
- Are aware of the possible follow up experiment after gel electrophoresis: Southern blot for DNA, Northern blot for RNA and Western blot for Proteins