

# Nucleic Acid Techniques

What are the techniques used to work with DNA?

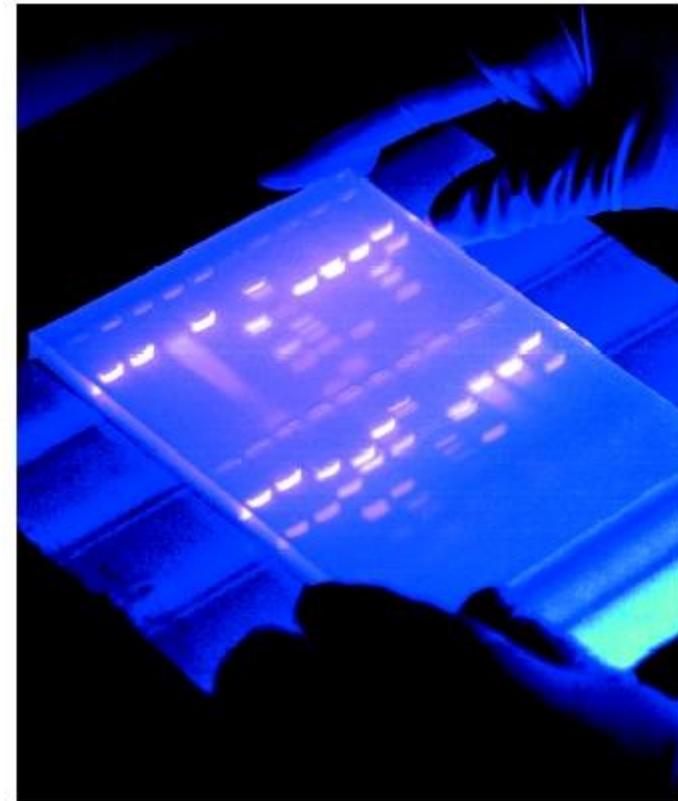
How is DNA cloned?

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How is DNA produced in the lab?

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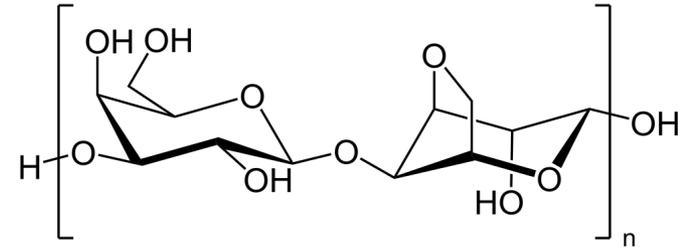
# DNA Gel Electrophoresis

**Electrophoresis** - movement of charged particles \_\_\_\_\_

Gel matrix:

- agarose - a polysaccharide \_\_\_\_\_

In SDS-PAGE, SDS gives all proteins in a sample an overall “-” charge. Proteins move toward “+” ,anode, of electric field.



What is the charge of DNA?

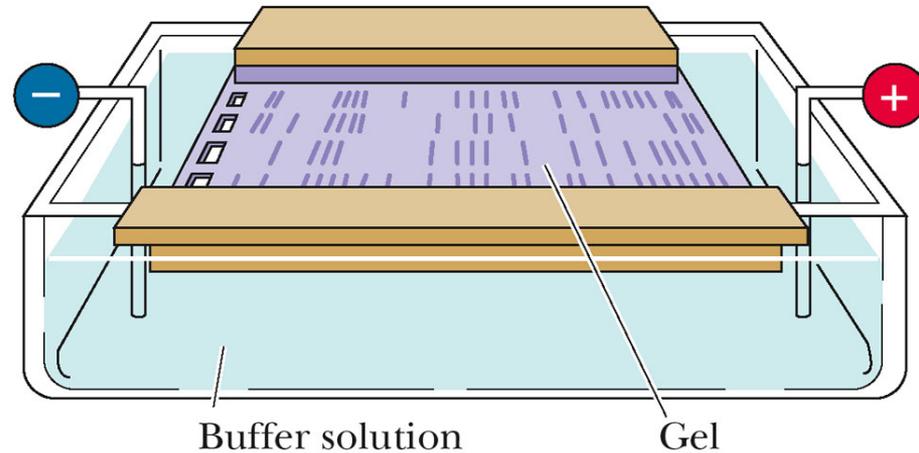
\_\_\_\_\_ in nucleotide

DNA in a sample will move \_\_\_\_\_

DNA in sample is separated by size

- large size moves \_\_\_\_\_

- small size moves \_\_\_\_\_



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# DNA Gel Electrophoresis

How to visualize DNA after gel electrophoresis?

Ethidium Bromide (EtBr)

A small molecule that “stains” nucleic acids by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Under ultraviolet light EtBr will \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

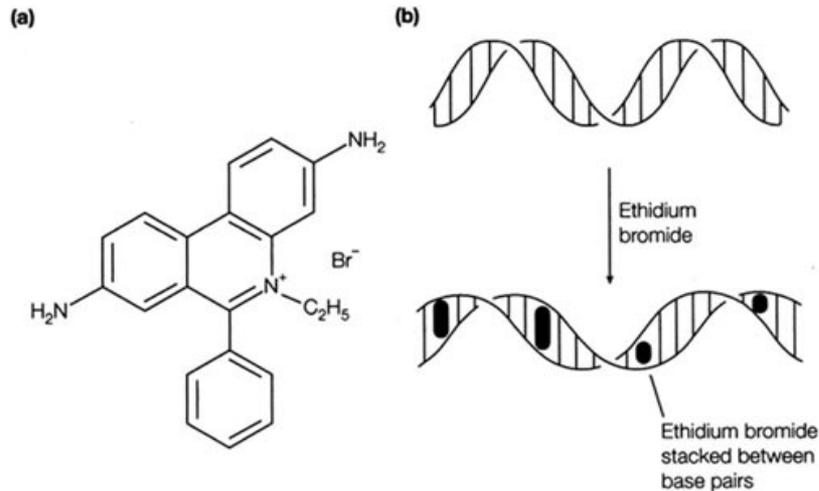
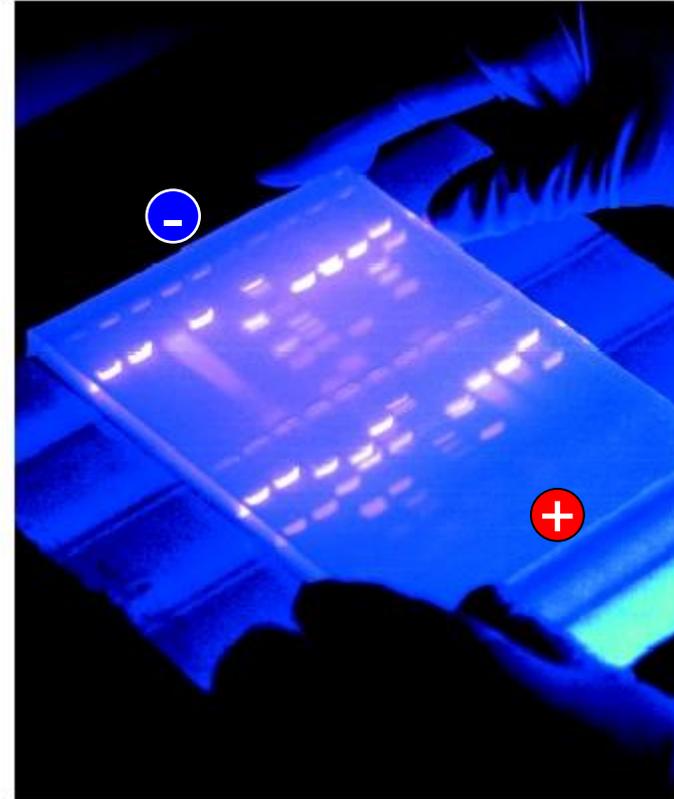


Fig. 3. (a) Ethidium bromide; (b) the process of intercalation, illustrating the lengthening and untwisting of the DNA helix.

# How to clone a gene?

Steps:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with gene of interest  
many methods for this
2. cut DNA with \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ plasmid vector
4. express gene on plasmid vector in \_\_\_\_\_

**Restriction endonuclease** - an enzyme that hydrolyzes (breaks, “cuts”) the

\_\_\_\_\_

cut DNA at \_\_\_\_\_

cut sites are **palindromic** - \_\_\_\_\_

Named after organism from which they were isolated

# Restriction endonuclease

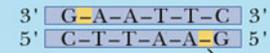
*EcoRI* - isolated from bacteria *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)

- recognizes sequence

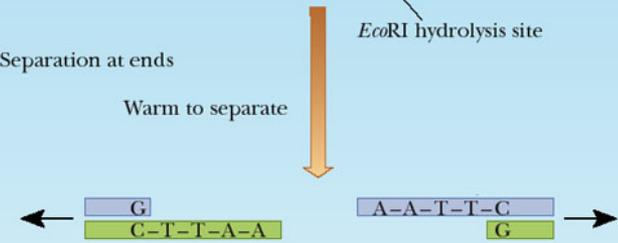


What's wrong with this?

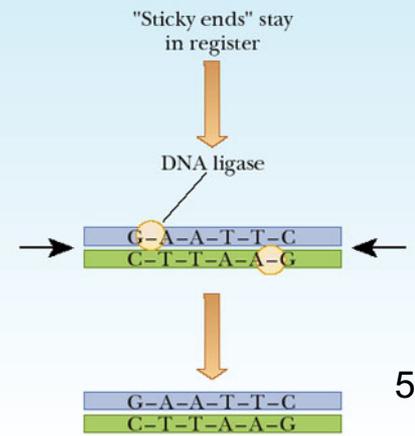
*EcoRI* hydrolysis breaks DNA strand between G and A bases



(a) Separation at ends



(b) Resealing by DNA ligase



- Cutting DNA with restriction enzyme

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

DNA ligase - enzyme that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

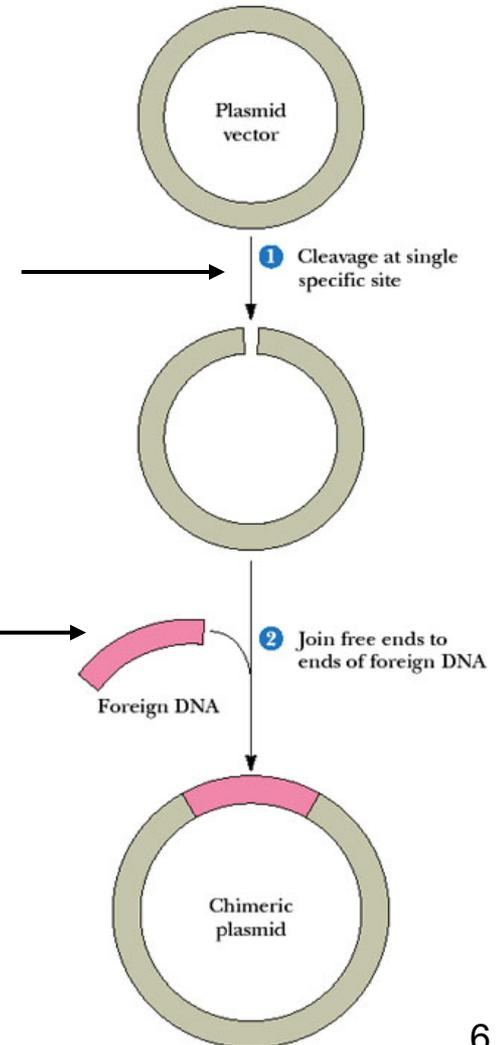
# Plasmid Vectors

**Plasmid** - a small, circular DNA molecule \_\_\_\_\_  
- contains site for \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

Cut plasmid with restriction enzyme to produce \_\_\_\_\_

Cut gene with restriction enzyme to produce compatible “sticky ends”

Add cut plasmid, cut gene, and DNA ligase





# Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Method for amplification of \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- obtain millions to hundreds of millions of DNA molecules

DNA polymerase must be able to \_\_\_\_\_ after being heated to 95°C (203°F)

Utilizes DNA polymerases from bacteria that \_\_\_\_\_

- *Thermus aquaticus*
- Taq DNA polymerase
- first found in the hot springs and geysers of Yellowstone Nat'l Park (50 - 80°C, 122 - 176°F)
- subsequently found near deep-sea thermal vents, over 100°C (212°C)
- purified DNA polymerase termed "Taq polymerase"



*Thermus aquaticus*



# Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

- Kary Mullis - “inventor” of PCR
- came up with idea to use DNA polymerase from *Thermus aquaticus*, 1983
  - awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1993



# Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Requires:

DNA polymerase (*Taq*)

primer - short (15 - 30 bases) \_\_\_\_\_ used as base for *Taq* polymerase to synthesize

template - \_\_\_\_\_

Nucleotides - dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP

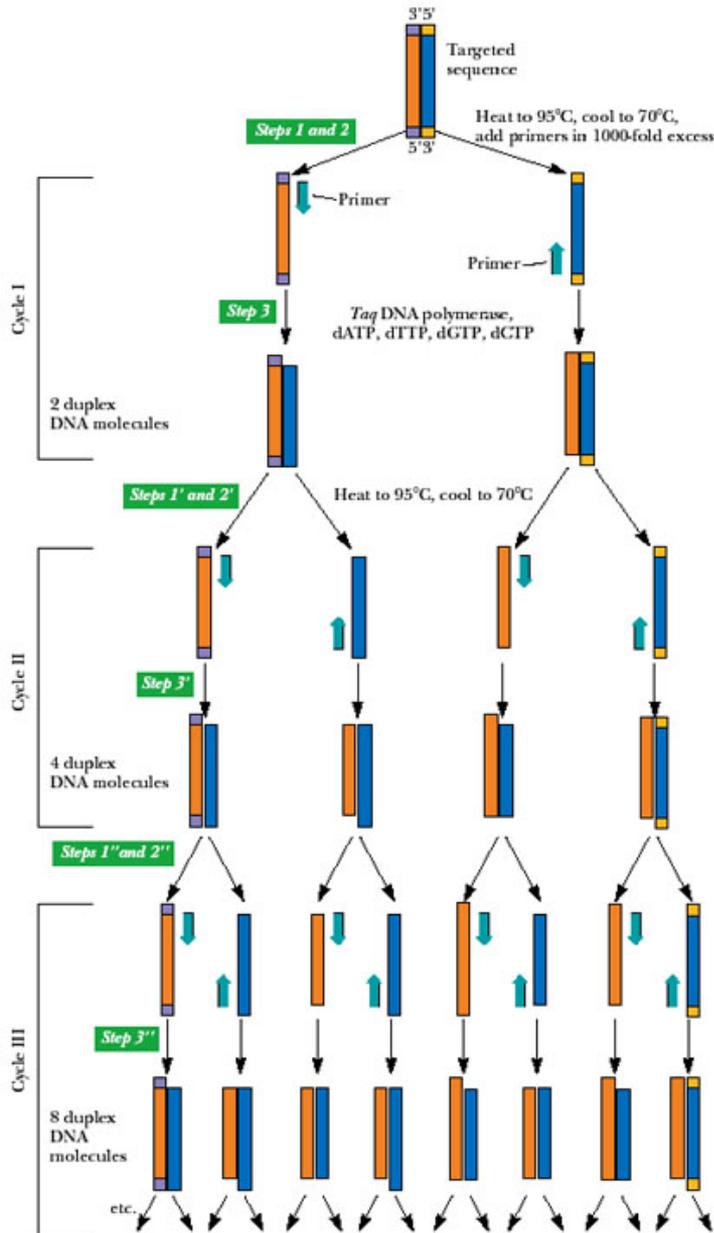
cycle:

1. heat to 95°C, \_\_\_\_\_

2. cool to 55°C, \_\_\_\_\_

3. heat to 70°C, \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KoLnIwoZKU>



thermal cycler

