

**Purification of His<sup>6</sup>-tagged proteins produced in the BL21(DE3) *E. coli* strain.  
(also check purification of GST-fusion proteins)**

**Production of His<sup>6</sup>-tagged proteins**

1. BL21(DE3) cells transformed with a pET28a derivative, use kanamycin (20 ug/ml).
  - \*No heat shock when transformed.
  - \*Do not leave colonies at 4°C. Use fresh colonies.
2. Inoculate a single colony in 25 ml LB+kan, culture @25°C O/N
3. Dilute in 750 ml (**s ml**) LB+kan
4. Cultivate at 30°C until an OD<sub>660</sub> of approx. 0.8 (you can start induction at lower OD, at least 0.4)
  - \*Take 1ml culture for an SDS-PAGE sample (**pre-induction sample**). (Screw top tube)
  - \*Spin down cells. Remove supernatant.
  - \*Add 1xSDS-PAGE loading buffer (OD x 300 ul) to the pellet.
  - \*Suspend cells by vortex and boil for 2min
  - \*Vortex again briefly and boil another 3min
  - \*Chill on ice, freeze at -20°C
5. Add IPTG to the culture (final 0.67 mM IPTG) (0.1 ~ 1.0 mM depending on your protein)
6. Cultivate @30°C for 2h (2 h ~5 h depending on you protein)
  - \*Measure OD, and prepare SDS-PAGE sample as described below (**post-induction sample**)
  - \*Take 1ml culture for SDS-PAGE sample. (Screw top tube)
  - \*Spin down cells. Remove supernatant.
  - \*Add 1xSDS-PAGE loading buffer (OD x 300 ul = **t**) to the pellet.
  - \*Suspend cells by vortex and boil for 2min
  - \*Vortex again briefly and boil another 3min
  - \*Chill on ice, freeze at -20°C
7. Collect cells in 500 ml centrifuge tube (use two bottle, 375 ml each)  
(5,000 rpm, 15 min, 4°C)
8. Suspend cells in 25ml of TBS, transfer the content to 50 ml tube
9. Collect cells (3,200 rpm, 15 min, 4°C)
12. Store pellet @-80°C

**Purification of His<sup>6</sup>-tagged protein**

***All the procedures must be performed at 4°C or on ice unless otherwise specified***

1. Add 10 ml (**w ml**) of ice-cold lysis buffer to cell pellet (4°C)  
Add 10 mg of lysozyme, suspend cells, incubate on ice for 30 min.
2. Sonicate cell (4°C)  
With Branson Digital Sonifier: amplitude 20%, processing time 30 sec, ON time 1 sec, OFF time 3 sec. Need to repeat 3 ~ 5 times.  
Keep the tube on ice while sonicating.
  - \*Cell suspension changes its color from white to brown
  - \*Avoid foaming. Put down the sonicator tip well below the buffer surface during sonication.
3. Transfer cell lysate to a 30ml centrifuge tube (4°C)
4. Clarify lysate by centrifugation (JA-17, 15krpm, 30min, 4°C) (**use adaptor if necessary**)
5. During centrifugation, pre-wash Ni-NTA beads
  - a. Take 1 ml (50% slurry, 500 ul bed volume/sample) of beads in 15 ml tube
  - b. Spin down to collect beads, 1000 rpm, 1sec, 4°C (remove supernatant)
  - c. Add 5 ml of lysis buffer, mix gently/thoroughly

- d. repeat steps: b, c, b, c and b
6. After centrifugation, save (**w x 1/s**) **ml** of supernatant for SDS-PAGE sample (**sup sample, 4°C**)
7. Transfer supernatant to the 15ml conical tube containing pre-washed Ni-NTA beads (50% slurry in lysis buffer) (4°C). Do not vortex. Do not pipette up and down. Mix by inversion.
8. Rotate for 1h at 4°C
9. During the step 8:
- \*Suspend pellet in 10 ml (**w ml**) of lysis buffer. Save (**w x 1/s = u; 14 ul if the original culture is 750 ml**) **ml** for SDS-PAGE sample (**pellet sample, 4°C**)
  - \*Prepare sup & pellet samples: sample must contains same concentration of proteins as pre- and post-induction sample
  - \*Add (**u x 0.5**) **ml** of 3XSDS-PAGE loading buffer.
  - \*Add (**t- 1.5u**) ul of 1XSDS-PAGE loading buffer (**total t ul**)
  - \*Suspend by vortex, and boil for 5min
  - \*on ice, then -20°C.
10. Load the lysate-Ni-NTA mixture into a column with the bottom outlet capped (in the cold room). Remove the bottom cap and collect flow-through.
- \*Save flow-through for SDS-PAGE analysis
  - \*Add (**u x 0.5**) **ml** of 3XSDS-PAGE loading buffer.
  - \*Add (**t- 1.5u**) ul of 1XSDS-PAGE loading buffer (**total t ul**)
  - \*Suspend by vortex, and boil for 5min
  - \*on ice, then -20°C
11. Wash Ni-NTA with 5 ml of wash buffer; collect fractions for SDS-PAGE analysis. Do twice, but pool two washes in the same tube.
- \*Save the wash for SDS-PAGE analysis
  - \*Add (**u x 0.5**) **ml** of 3XSDS-PAGE loading buffer.
  - \*Add (**t- 1.5u**) ul of 1XSDS-PAGE loading buffer (**total t ul**)
  - \*Suspend by vortex, and boil for 5min
  - \*on ice, then -20°C
12. Elute the protein 4 times with 500 ul of elution buffer
- \*Prepare SDS-PAGE sample with each fraction (5 fractions)
  - \*30 ul fraction + 15 ul 1x SDS-PAGE loading buffer
  - \*Suspend by vortex, and boil for 5min
  - \*on ice, then -20°C
  - \*Store the rest of protein solution at 4°C (O/N) or -80°C (longer storage)  
(make 100 ul aliquots from each fraction)

### **SDS-PAGE analysis of purified proteins**

Load 15 ul from each step/fraction

## Reagents

### Lysis buffer (prepare the amount you need)

|  | Stock soln |  |  |  |
|--|------------|--|--|--|
| 50 mM NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> | 1M         |  |  |  |
| 300mM NaCl                             | 5M         |  |  |  |
| 10% Glycerol                           | 60%        |  |  |  |
| 0.25% Tween 20                         | 20%        |  |  |  |
| 10 mM Imidazole                        | 1M         |  |  |  |
| 10 mM beta-Mercaptoethanol**           | 14M        |  |  |  |
| 1 mM PMSF**                            | 1M         |  |  |  |
| Total                                  |            |  |  |  |

**\*\*add before use**

**##Adjust pH to 8.0 using NaOH**

### Wash buffer (prepare the amount you need)

|  | Stock soln |  |  |  |
|--|------------|--|--|--|
| 50 mM NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> | 1M         |  |  |  |
| 300mM NaCl                             | 5M         |  |  |  |
| 10% Glycerol                           | 60%        |  |  |  |
| 0.25% Tween 20                         | 20%        |  |  |  |
| 20 mM Imidazole                        | 1M         |  |  |  |
| 10 mM beta-Mercaptoethanol**           | 14M        |  |  |  |
| 1 mM PMSF**                            | 1M         |  |  |  |
| Total                                  |            |  |  |  |

**\*\*add before use**

**##Adjust pH to 8.0 using NaOH**

### Elution buffer (prepare the amount you need)

|  | Stock soln |  |  |  |
|--|------------|--|--|--|
| 50 mM NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> | 1M         |  |  |  |
| 300mM NaCl                             | 5M         |  |  |  |
| 10% Glycerol                           | 60%        |  |  |  |
| 0.25% Tween 20                         | 20%        |  |  |  |
| 250 mM Imidazole                       | 1M         |  |  |  |
| 10 mM beta-Mercaptoethanol**           | 14M        |  |  |  |
| 1 mM PMSF**                            | 1M         |  |  |  |
| Total                                  |            |  |  |  |

**\*\*add before use**

**##Adjust pH to 8.0 using NaOH**

### Lysozyme (powder)