

Protein-protein interaction: Tandem Affinity Purification in bacteria

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1 Protein-protein interaction: Tandem Affinity Purification in bacteria

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- 9 Running head: TAP in bacteria

11 Summary

The discovery of protein-protein interaction networks can lead to the unveiling of protein complex(es) forming cellular machinerie(s) or reveal component proteins of a specific cellular pathway. Deciphering protein-protein interaction networks therefore contributes to a deeper understanding of how cells function. Here we describe the protocol to perform Tandem Affinity Purification (TAP) in bacteria, which enables the identification of the partners of a bait protein under native conditions. This method consists in two sequential steps of affinity purification using two different tags. For that purpose, the bait protein is translationally fused to the TAP tag, which consists of a calmodulin binding peptide (CBP) and two immunoglobulin G (IgG) binding domains of *Staphylococcus aureus* protein A (ProtA) that are separated by the tobacco etch virus (TEV) protease cleavage site. After the first round of purification based on the binding of ProtA to IgG coated beads, TEV protease cleavage releases CBP-tagged bait-protein along with its partners for a second round of purification on calmodulin affinity resin and leaves behind protein contaminants bound to IgG. Creating the TAP-tag translational fusion at the chromosomal locus allows detection of protein interactions occurring in physiological conditions.

Keywords

Protein–protein interaction, Protein complex, Affinity purification, Tandem affinity
 purification (TAP), Calmodulin binding peptide (CBP), Protein A (ProtA), Tobacco etch virus
 (TEV), Escherichia coli, Salmonella

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1. Introduction

At the end of the 1990s, mass spectrometry combined with genome sequencing rendered possible the rapid and systematic identification of all the proteins present in a purified sample. However, a protocol amenable to standardized and systematic purification of protein complexes without any prior knowledge was missing. In 1999, the laboratory of B. Séraphin at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, proposed such a generic procedure for the identification of protein complexes in yeast (1). This permitted the subsequent description of the full interactome of yeast (2, 3). This method has since been used in a variety of organisms. We first described its use in bacteria (4), and soon after this, it was used to obtain the first interactome of Escherichia coli (5). One general principle of the tandem affinity purification (TAP) method involves the use of two successive steps of affinity purification to lower as much as possible the amount of contaminants, together with an elution preserving the interactions (without significantly changing the buffer's chemical properties) between these two steps. Specifically, the original TAP tag consists of two repeats of the immunoglobulin G (IgG) binding domain of Protein A (Prot A) from Staphylococcus aureus and a calmodulin binding peptide (CBP), separated by a TEV protease cleavage site (Fig. 1). However, it must be noted that any combination of affinity tags is potentially usable. Published examples are the GS-TAP (Protein G and Strep tag), the sequential peptide affinity (SPA) tag (CBP and 3Flag), the SF-TAP (Strep-tag II and Flag tag), and the HB tag (6Histidine and Biotin) (see (6) for specific references). The second general principle of the TAP procedure is to use physiological expression of the recombinant tagged protein. This needs to be adapted to each organism of interest. For E. coli and closely

related bacteria, Lambda Red based recombination (7) combined with specific dedicated SPA

and TAP cassettes (8), makes it very easy to introduce the tag at the 3' extremity of the gene on the chromosome to obtain the physiological production of a recombinant protein tagged at its C-terminus (Fig. 2). If more convenient, however, TAP tag translational fusion can also be expressed from a plasmid (Fig. 3).

We present here the TAP protocol that has been successfully used in our institute to purify protein complexes of *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Bacillus subtilis* (4, 9, 10, 11). A detailed protocol for the SPA purification has been published before (12). To isolate a protein complex by TAP, a strain producing a recombinant bait protein tagged with the TAP must be constructed first (Fig. 1, step 1). Then, a soluble extract is prepared from a sufficient volume of bacteria (about 500 mL). The complex is enriched by a first step of affinity chromatography on IgG beads (Fig. 1, step 5). After washes, TEV protease is added, which cleaves the specific site located between the CBP and ProtA domains, resulting in the elution of the specifically bound material (Fig. 1, step 6). This material is purified a second time by affinity of the CBP tag with calmodulin beads (Fig. 1, step 7). After washes, the purified complex is eluted by adding EGTA that chelates the calcium required for the CBP/Calmodulin interaction (Fig. 1, step 8). The totality of the purified material is analyzed on sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE). Bands detected by coomassie blue or silver staining are cut from the gel and analyzed by mass spectrometry.

This is the basic TAP procedure. Note that the procedure can be amenable to adaptation or improvements depending on the specific needs. For example, the extensive washes and the duration of the procedure only allows for the recovery of relatively stable complexes. For the detection of more transient or unstable interactions, a cross-linking procedure can be applied before purification (13-15). This might be helpful also for the purification of membrane complexes, where modifications have to be made in the protocol for solubilization of the membranes (3). Finally, it is possible to play with the two tags to gain

information on the organization of the complexes. Indeed, in some cases, one bait protein might participate in the formation of several types of complexes. To purify one specific type of complex, it is therefore possible to put the two tags on two distinct proteins that are both members of the desired type of complex (split tag method (9, 16)). Alternatively, it is possible to perform the subtraction method that consists in eliminating the unwanted complex(es) during the first purification step by leaving it, for example, on IgG beads thanks to a partner protein of the bait that belongs to the unwanted complex and bears a noncleavable ProtA tag. The desired complex, made of untagged partner proteins, will elute with the bait after TEV protease cleavage (16, 17).

To our knowledge, the TAP procedure has not been used very much for the characterization of secretion systems in bacteria, certainly owing to the difficulty of working with integral envelope components. However, we used it successfully to reveal a protein-protein interaction involved in the post-translational maturation of the translocon of *Salmonella* T3SS (10). And the TAP procedure has proved to be powerful in identifying the target of effectors of *Yersinia* T3SS (18, 19), *Legionella* T4SS (14, 20) or *Pseudomonas* T6SS in eukaryotic host cells *(21)*. In addition, as mentioned earlier, it is amenable to several improvements that might make it possible to identify unsuspected partners of the secretion machineries in the bacterium.

101 2. Materials

- 2.1. Creation of a TAP-tag translational fusion and verification of production of hybrid
- protein by western blot
- 1. Bacterial strain with translational fusion between protein of interest and TAP tag at
- chromosomal locus (see Note 1)
- 2. Alternatively, translational fusion between protein of interest and TAP tag on an
- appropriate plasmid (see Note 2)
- 3. Yeast extract and tryptone media (2YT): 16 g yeast extract, 10 g tryptone, 10 g NaCl, make
- up to 1 L with distilled water. Autoclave and store at room temperature.
- 4. Lysogeny broth (LB): 5 g yeast extract, 10 g bactotryptone, 10 g NaCl, make up to 1 L with
- distilled water. Autoclave and store at room temperature.
- 5. Minigel caster system and SDS PAGE apparatus
- 113 6. Transblot apparatus for western blot

- 7. Peroxidase Anti-Peroxidase antibody (PAP) (Sigma).
- 2.2 Protein cytoplasmic extractPBS): 8 g NaCl, 0.2 g KCl, 0.2 g KH₂PO₄, 2.9 g Na₂HPO₄,
- make up to 1 L with distilled water. Autoclave and store at room temperature.
- 2. 10 % Nonidet P-40 (NP-40 or Igepal): Mix 10 mL NP-40 to 90 mL of distilled water, pass
- through a 0.2 µm filter and store at room temperature (see Note 3).
- 3. Protein A binding buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40.
- Approximately 50 mL will be required per sample per experiment. Prepare 500 mL

- 122 containing 5 mL of 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8, 15 mL of 5 M NaCl, 5 mL of 10% NP-40 and
- 123 475 mL of distilled water. Store at 4°C.
- 4. 0.1 M phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF): Dissolve 87.1 mg PMSF in 5 mL
- isopropanol. Prepare 1 mL aliquots and store at -20°C (see Note 4)
- 126 5. Liquid nitrogen
- 127 6. Sonicator, French press or Cell disruptor
- 7. Centrifuge tubes and rotor compatible with spinning volumes of 250 mL, 10 mL and
- 50 mL, at approximately 5, 000xg and 25, 000xg, respectively.
- 130 2.3. Tandem Affinity purification
- 131 1. IgG sepharose 6 fast flow (GE Healthcare).
- 2. Protein A binding buffer: see subheading 2.2
- 3. 0.5 M EDTA ($C_{10}H_{14}N_2Na_2O_8$. $2H_2O$): Dissolve 18.6 g of EDTA in 80 mL of distilled
- water, make up to 100 mL with distilled water once the pH has been adjusted to 8 with
- 135 10 N NaOH (see Note 5). Autoclave and store at room temperature.
- 4. TEV cleavage buffer : 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40,
- 137 0.5 mM EDTA, 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) (see Note 6)
- 138 5. AcTEVTM protease (Invitrogen)
- 6. Calmodulin binding buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40,
- 140 1 mM magnesium acetate, 1 mM imidazole, 2 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM β-mercaptoethanol.
- Approximately 40 mL will be required per sample per experiment. Prepare 500 mL
- 142 containing 5 mL of 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8, 15 mL of 5M NaCl, 5 mL of 10% NP-40, 500 μl

- 143 1 M magnesium acetate, 500 μl 1 M imidazole, 1 mL 1 M CaCl₂, 348.5 μl
- 144 14.3 M β-mercaptoethanol (see Note 7) and 473 mL of distilled water. Store at 4°C.
- 7. 1 M CaCl₂: Dissolve 11.1 g to 100 mL distilled water. Autoclave and store at room
- temperature.
- 147 8. Calmodulin affinity resin (Agilent).
- 9. 1 M EGTA: Dissolve 19 g in 40 mL distilled water, make up to 50 mL with distilled water
- once the pH has been adjusted to 8 with 10 N NaOH (see Note 5), 0.2 µm filter and store at
- 150 4°C.
- 151 10. Calmodulin elution buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40,
- 152 1 mM magnesium acetate, 1 mM imidazole, 2 mM EGTA, 10 mM β-mercaptoethanol.
- Approximately 1 mL will be required per sample per experiment. Prepare 100 mL containing
- 154 1 mL of 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8, 3 mL 5M NaCl, 1 mL 10% NP-40, 100 μl
- 155 1 M magnesium acetate, 100 μl 1 M imidazole, 200 μl 1 M EGTA, 69,7 μl
- 156 14.3 M β-mercaptoethanol (see **Note 7**) and 94.5 mL of distilled water. Store at 4°C.
- 11. Disposable chromatography columns of 10 mL with narrow bottom, for example, Poly-
- prep chromatography column from Biorad
- 159 12. Rotating wheel
- 160 13. Centrifuge tubes and rotor compatible with spinning volumes of 10 mL at approximately
- 161 25, 000xg.

163 2.4. Trichloroacetic Acid Precipitation

164 1. 16 mg/mL sodium deoxycholate: Dissolve 160 mg of sodium deoxycholate in 10 mL water. 165 Pass through a 0.2 µm filter and store at room temperature. 166 2. Liquid trichloroacetic acid (TCA) (stock is 100 %) 167 3. TCA washing buffer: Mix 70 mL acetone, 20 mL ethanol, 5 mL 1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8 and 168 5 mL of distilled water. Store at 4°C. 169 4. SDS PAGE Loading buffer 170 171 172 3. Methods 173 A translational fusion between the protein of interest and TAP tag, either at the chromosomal 174 locus or on an appropriate plasmid must be constructed (see Note 1 and 2). Translational 175 fusion at the chromosomal locus will allow a physiological expression, while constructing the 176 translational fusion on a plasmid may be more amenable. 177 178 3.1. Verification of expression of TAP-tag translational fusion by western blot 179 1. Prepare a cytoplasmic or a crude protein extract (see Note 8) 180 2. Load 10 µg of protein extract (or proteins corresponding to a bacterial sample of 181 0.3 OD₆₀₀ unit) on a SDS-PAGE and proceed to transfer and western blot to verify production 182 of hybrid protein (see Note 9). 183 Perform a one step western blot using PAP antibody (see Note 10) and using an 3.

appropriate substrate to detect horseradish peroxidase activity (see Note 11)

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186	3.2	Protein	cvtor	olasmic	extract

- 187 1. Day 1 Inoculate 10 mL of 2YT media with a bacterial colony and grow overnight at
- 188 37°C with shaking (see Note 8).
- Day 2 Dilute culture 100 fold in 500 mL LB and grow 5h30 at 37°C with shaking
- 190 until $OD_{600} \approx 2-3$.
- 191 3. Pellet bacteria by centrifugation 20 min 5000xg at 4°C.
- Wash once with cold PBS, transfer to 50 mL centrifuge tubes, centrifuge again for 10
- min 5000xg at 4°C, discard supernatant and freeze bacterial pellets with liquid nitrogen.
- Maintain frozen bacterial pellet at -80°C until you are ready to prepare cytosolic protein
- extract and proceed to Tandem Affinity Purification.
- 196 5. Day 3 Resuspend frozen bacterial pellets with 10 mL of Protein A binding buffer
- 197 containing 0.5 mM PMSF (see Note 4).
- 198 6. Use sonication, French Press or Cell disruptor to break bacterial cells (see Note 12).
- 7. Centrifuge for 30 min 25,000xg at 4°C and save supernatant, which is the cytoplasmic
- 200 protein extract.

202 <u>3.3 Tandem Affinity Purification</u>

- From here, carry out all procedures with gloves to avoid contamination of your sample(s)
- with keratine.

- 205 1. Put 200 μl of IgG sepharose beads in a disposable chromatography column and wash
- by gravity with 5 mL of Protein A binding buffer.
- 207 2. Binding of Protein A tag to IgG sepharose beads. After washing the beads, close the
- bottom of the chromatography column and, using a pipette, transfer 9 mL of the cytoplasmic
- protein extract. Close the top of the column and put on a wheel for 2 hours at 4°C.
- 210 3. Remove first the top plug of the column and then the bottom one. Leave the unbound
- 211 material flow by gravity and discard.
- Wash three times the IgG beads with 10 mL of Protein A binding buffer.
- 5. TEV protease cleavage. Close bottom of column, fill it with 1 mL of TEV cleavage
- buffer and 100 units of AcTEVTM protease. Close top of column and put on wheel at room
- temperature for 1 h.
- 216 6. Remove top and bottom plugs and <u>recover</u> elution fraction by gravity. Add additional
- 217 200 μL of TEV cleavage buffer in column to recover as much material as possible from the
- sides of column.
- 7. Add 3 mL calmodulin binding buffer and 3 μl of 1M CaCl₂ (see Note 13) to elution
- 220 fraction.
- 8. Binding by the CBP tag part on calmodulin affinity resin. Put 200 μl of calmodulin
- affinity resin in a new disposable chromatography column, wash it with 5 mL of Calmodulin
- binding buffer. Then, close bottom of column.
- 224 9. Add the 4.2 mL of the elution fraction (obtained at steps 6 and 7). Close top of column
- and put on wheel for 1 hour at 4°C.

- 226 10. Remove first the top plug of the column and then the bottom one. Leave unbound
- 227 material to flow by gravity and discard.
- 228 11. Wash three times calmodulin affinity resin with 10 mL calmodulin binding buffer.
- 229 12. Elution. Elute with five times 200 μL of Calmodulin elution Buffer.
- 230 13. Pool fraction 2, 3 and 4 and proceed to TCA precipitation of elution fraction 1, pooled
- fractions 2, 3 and 4, and fraction 5.

- 233 <u>3.4 TCA precipitation</u>
- 1. To each of the eluted protein samples, add 1/100th of 16 mg/mL sodium deoxycholate.
- Vortex and leave on ice 30 min.
- 236 2. Add TCA to 10% final. Vortex and leave on ice 30 min.
- 237 3. Centrifuge 15 min 15,000xg at 4°C.
- 238 4. Wash twice with TCA washing buffer.
- 239 5. Leave pellets to dry on bench and resuspend in 20 μL protein loading buffer 1x.

- 241 <u>3.5 Analysis by SDS-PAGE and mass spectrometry</u>
- 1. Load totality of samples on SDS-PAGE (see **Note 14**) and stain with Coomassie Blue.
- 243 2. Unstain and then rinse with distilled water.
- 244 3. Cuts bands to identify partner proteins by mass spectrometry (see Note 15).

4. Notes

267

experiment.

247	1. A C-terminal TAP tag translational fusion can be introduced at the chromosomal locus
248	using the λred recombination system (7). To prepare the appropriate polymerase chain
249	reaction (PCR) product, use pJL72 plasmid as template (this latter harbors a cassette made of
250	the TAP tag and the kanamycin resistance gene, Fig. 2A) (8), design a forward primer that
251	contains, in the 5'-end, the 45 nucleotides that are immediately upstream the stop codon of the
252	gene of interest, followed by the sequence 5'-TCCATGGAAAAGAGAAG-3' (this sequence
253	will hybrid to the CBP tag, Fig. 2B) and design a reverse primer that contains at its 5'-end the
254	reverse complement 45 nucleotides that are immediately downstream the stop codon of the
255	gene of interest, followed by the sequence 5'-CATATGAATATCCTCCTTAG-3' (Fig. 2A).
256	2. Alternatively, the sequence corresponding to the open reading frame of the gene of interest
257	can be cloned in the plasmid pEB587 (17) (Fig. 3A), which allows a N-terminal TAP tag
258	translational fusion (Fig. 3B) under the control of the arabinose inducible promoter P_{BAD} .
259	3. Gently agitate the solution for complete dissolution of NP-40 if necessary.
260	4. PMSF cristallizes at -20°C, so heat the PMSF aliquot to 37°C to redissolve the PMSF
261	before use. We use PMSF as generic protease inhibitor but protease inhibitor cocktail can be
262	used as well.
263	5. EDTA and EGTA may not be soluble until pH had been adjusted to 8 with 10 N NaOH.
264	6. Add DTT to the volume of buffer you will need when starting the experiment. DTT is
265	necessary for TEV activity.
266	7. Add β-mercaptoethanol to the volume of buffer you will need when starting the

- 8. Also plan to prepare a protein extract of an untagged strain as negative control of the
- experiment. Or, use a strain that produce a TAP tag but uncoupled from the bait protein as
- 270 negative control.
- 9. Translational TAP tag fusion adds 20 kDa to the mass of the protein of interest; 3 kDa
- 272 corresponds to the CBP tag and 15 kDa to the Protein A tag.
- 273 10. Immunoglobulins will bind the protein A fragment of TAP tag.
- 274 11. In our experience, the detection of the tagged protein in crude extracts using this PAP
- antibody is mandatory for a successful TAP purification.
- 276 12. French Press or Cell disruptor might be more gentle to preserve protein complexes.
- 277 13. Addition of extra CaCl₂ is required to quench EDTA that was previously necessary for
- TEV protease activity.
- 279 14. Usually a 12% SDS-PAGE allows visualization of low and high molecular weight
- proteins. Alternatively, proteins can just be sandwiched in the stacking gel and all together
- analyzed by mass spectrometry. Plan a biological triplicate for the sample of interest and its
- 282 negative control.
- 283 15. Use one blade per band if proteins have been separated through the running gel.

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346					
347	Figure Captions				
348	Fig. 1. Guidelines for overall TAP procedure				
349	Fig 2. Creation of a C-terminal TAP-tag translational fusion at chromosomal locus				
350	Scheme of the TAP-tag translational fusion at the chromosomal locus (A) and corresponding				
351	nucleotidic and protein TAP-tag sequences (B). CBP sequence is in clear purple; uppercases				
352	at the beginning of the nucleotidic CBP sequence correspond to the primer sequence				

mentioned in subheading 3.1, TEV protease cleavage site is in yellow and Protein A sequence is in dark purple with stop codon in red.

Fig 3. Creation of a plasmidic N-terminal TAP-tag translational fusion

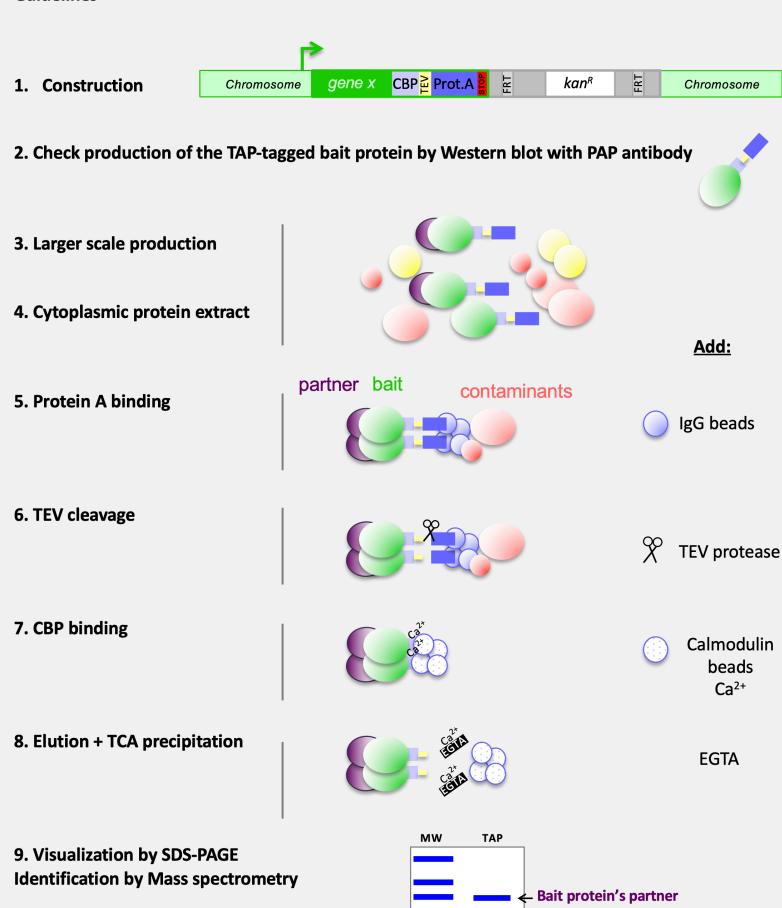
Map of plasmid pEB587 used to create a N-terminal TAP-tag translational fusion under the control of the P_{BAD} arabinose inducible promoter (A) and the corresponding nucleotidic and protein TAP-tag sequences (B). Protein A sequence is in dark purple, TEV protease cleavage site is in yellow, CBP sequence is in clear purple, the multicloning site is underlined and

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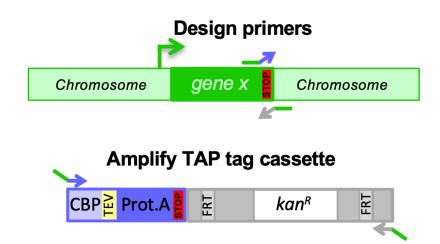
restrition enzyme sites are indicated.

Guidelines



← CBP-tagged-bait protein

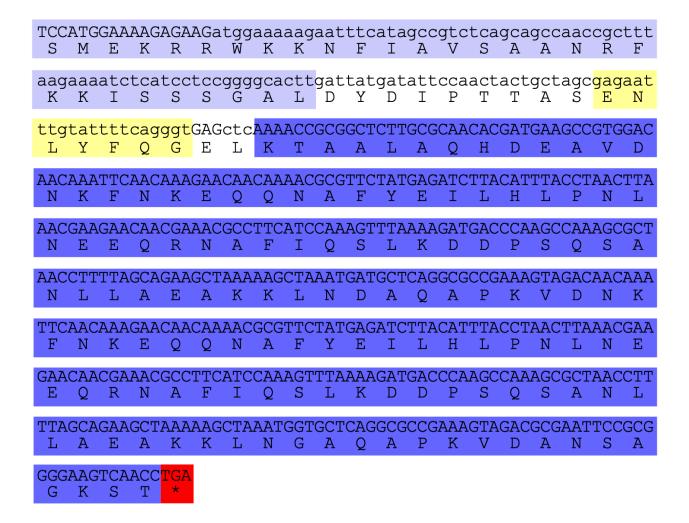
a

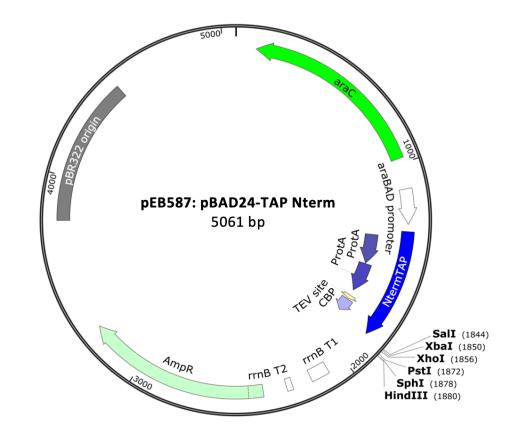


Recombine at chromosomal locus with λ Red system



b





b

