

Table of contents

0 Abbreviations.....	1
1.1. Ribosome: A protein synthesis factory	3
1.1.1. Initiation	5
1.1.2. Elongation	6
1.1.2.1. General description	6
1.1.2.2. Models for the elongation cycle	7
1.1.3. Termination	8
1.1.3.1. General description	8
1.1.3.2. How is termination achieved?	9
1.1.3.3. Recycling.....	10
1.2. Translational errors and two tRNAs on the ribosome.....	12
1.3. Mechanism of genetic expression of RF2 protein: an autoregulatory mechanism	13
2.1 Materials.....	15
2.1.1 Chemicals and enzymes-Suppliers	15
2.2. Buffers.....	18
2.2.1 Buffers and Electrophoresis solutions	18
2.2.2 Buffers for Microbiological and Molecular methods.....	21
2.2.3 Buffers for the functional studies and ribosome preparation	23
2.3 Analytical methods.....	26
2.3.1 Determination of ribosome and nucleic acid concentrations	26
2.3.2 Conversion factors for the quantification of DNA and RNA.....	26
2.3.3 Radioactivity measurements.....	27
2.3.4 Cold TCA precipitation for the quantitative determination of aminoacylated tRNA	27
2.3.5 Agarose gel electrophoresis of DNA and RNA	28
2.3.6 Specific activity determination of labelled [32 P]-tRNA	29
2.3.7 Western blot of tRNA-free S-100 fraction	29
2.4 Working with DNA.....	30
2.4.1 Preparation of <i>E. coli</i> competent cells for electroporation	30
2.4.2. Cloning strategies	31
2.4.3. Restriction with <i>EcoRI</i> and <i>BamHI</i>	31
2.4.4. Digestion with alkaline phosphatase	32
2.4.5. Synthesis of dsDNA and ligation to a linearized plasmid	32
2.4.6. Annealing and DNA filling reaction	32
2.4.7. Ligation to linearized plasmid.	32
2.4.8. Transformation.....	33
2.4.9. Phenol/Chloroform extraction	33
2.4.10. Nucleic acid Precipitation by Ethanol or Isopropanol	34
2.4.11. Plasmid isolation-mini-prep.....	34
2.4.12. Plasmid preparation (maxi prep).....	34
2.5. Working with RNA	35
2.5.1. Transcription.....	35
2.5.1.1. Run-off transcription with T7 polymerase.....	35
2.5.1.2. PAGE purification of in vitro mRNA transcript.....	36
2.5.1.3. Separation at the single nucleotide level (sequencing gel)	37
2.5.1.4. Gel filtration for the separation of RNA preparations from low molecular weight contaminants.....	38
2.5.1.5. List of messengers (mRNAs) constructed in this study	39

2.5.1.6. List of primers for the construction of the mRNA	40
2.5.2. <i>tRNAs</i>	41
2.5.2.1. Analytical tRNA aminoacylation.....	41
2.5.2.2. Analytical enzymatic deacylation of aminoacyl-tRNA	42
2.5.2.3. Preparative tRNA aminoacylation and subsequent actylation.....	42
2.5.2.4. Preparative deacylation of aminoacyl-tRNA remaining in the N-acetylaminoacyl-tRNA fraction	44
2.5.2.5. Reversed-Phase HPLC purification of aminoacyl-tRNA and acetylaminoacyl-tRNA	45
2.5.2.6. Preparation of N-formyl-methionyl-tRNA ^{fMet} (E. coli).....	46
2.5.2.6.1. Preparation of the formyl donor	46
2.5.2.6.2. Synthesis and purification of fMet-tRNA ^{fMet}	47
2.5.2.7. Isolation and purification of Asp-tRNA ^{Asp}	47
2.5.2.8. Labelling of deacylated tRNA with γ -[³² P]-ATP	49
2.5.2.8.1. Dephosphorylation of tRNA with alkaline phosphates.....	49
2.5.2.8.2. [⁵ '] Phosphorylation with [γ - ³² P]-ATP	50
2.6. Preparative Methods.....	51
2.6.1. Large-scale cultures of <i>Escherichia coli</i>	51
2.6.2. Isolation of 70S ribosomes from <i>Escherichia coli</i>	51
2.6.3. Preparative isolation of 30S and 50S subunits	52
2.6.4. Preparation of Re-associated 70S.....	54
2.6.4.1. Quality and functionality determination of the ribosomes preparation	55
2.6.4.2. Analytical sucrose gradient centrifugation.....	55
2.6.4.3. Integrity of rRNA-1D tube gel analysis	56
2.6.5. Preparation of the S-100 fraction from <i>Escherichia coli</i>	57
2.6.5.1. Preparation of S-100 tRNA-free	57
2.6.6. High Salt Wash Protein (HSWP) Preparation.....	58
2.6.6.1. HSWP tRNA free Preparation.....	59
2.7. In vitro systems	59
2.7.1. Estimation of the functional competence of ribosome preparations.....	59
2.7.1.1. Poly(U)-dependent poly(Phe) synthesis.....	59
2.7.1.2. Determination of the AcPhe-tRNA ^{Phe} binding.....	60
2.7.2. Watanabe assay: site specific binding of tRNA to ribosomes, translocation and puromycin reaction	60
2.7.2.1. First step: P site binding or P _i complex formation	61
2.7.2.2. Second step: A site binding and/or PRE complex formation.....	62
2.7.2.3. Third step: Translocation reaction	62
2.7.2.4. Fourth step: puromycin reaction	63
2.7.5. In vitro translation system for the RF2 model-mRNAs (translational reaction) ...	64
2.7.6. Di-peptide formation	65
2.7.7. RNase assay.....	66
2.8. Computational analysis: Secondary structure prediction of synthetic RNA and estimation of its ΔG° of formation.....	67
3.1. Pre-requisites for the analysis of RF2 frameshifting mechanism	68
3.1.1. Development of a novel method for the detection of mRNA degradation: RNase Assay.....	68
3.1.2. In vitro translation system for RF2 mRNA expression.....	70
3.1.2.1. MFold secondary structure prediction of the designed mRNAs	71
3.1.2.2. Purity of mRNAs.....	74

3.1.2.3. Translational control experiments with the newly designed mRNAs.....	75
3.1.3 Does S-100 tRNA free fraction contains RF2?	76
3.1.3.1. Purity of Release Factors	77
3.1.4. tRNA bulk minus tRNA Tyrosine ($tRNA^{bulk-Tyr}$)	78
3.2 Characterisation of the in vitro translation system for the RF2 mRNA model.....	79
3.2.1 Binding assay	79
3.2.2 Translational assays.....	81
3.2.2.1 Translation of the (UUC) ₁₂ sequence	81
3.2.2.2 Ribosomal Active Fraction.....	82
3.2.2.3 Translation of the heteropolymeric part of the mRNA constructs	84
Nitrocellulose filtration	85
TCA precipitation	85
3.3 Analysis of the frameshift window	88
3.4 Protein synthesis termination. An effective in vitro system	91
3.5 Kinetic evaluation of the frameshifting mechanism	93
3.6 The effects of SD on the E site tRNA, termination process and frameshifting	95
3.7 Location of Shine-Dalgarno sequence. Effect on frameshifting.....	96
3.8 Di-peptide formation	99
3.9.1 Di-peptide formation on non-programmed ribosomes?	99
3.9.2 Di-peptide formation in the presence of RF2: Pi versus POST complex.....	103
3.10 Translocation efficiency	106
4.1 RNase method	108
4.2 In vitro translation system.....	109
4.3 Di-peptide formation.....	114
4.4 RF2 and the release of deacylated tRNA from the E site.....	115
4.5 Frameshifting mechanism in translation of the RF2 mRNA.....	116