**Data Analysis Problem**

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to accompany

*The Cell: A Molecular Approach,* Eighth Edition

Geoffrey M. Cooper

**4.5 Analysis of a Clone of a Human cDNA Library Coding for a Lysosomal Enzyme**

This Data Analysis Problem does not appear in the textbook.

**Source:** Pohlmann, R., C. Krentler, B. Schmidt, W. Schröder, G. Lorkowski, J. Culley, G. Mersmann, C. Geier, A. Waheed, S. Gottschalk, K.-H. Grzeschik, A. Hasilik, K. von Figura. 1988. Human lysosomal acid phosphatase: cloning, expression and chromosomal assignment. *EMBO J.* 7: 2343–2350.

**Corresponding chapter(s) in the textbook:** Chapter 4

**Review the following terms before working on the problem:** hepatoma, cDNA library, λ phage, expression vector, N- and C-terminus, lysosomes, acid phosphatase, SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), Coomassie blue staining, Western blot analysis

**Experiment**

A human hepatoma cDNA library was constructed in a λ bacteriophage expression vector. The vector contains the *lacZ* gene from the *E. coli* lactose operon that codes for the -galactosidase enzyme. cDNAs of the library are ligated into the distal end of *lacZ*. The fusion genes are transcribed into fusion mRNAs consisting of *lac Z* sequences and cDNA sequences in their 5′-end and 3′-end regions, respectively. cDNAs in this vector are thus expressed as fusion proteins: the N-terminus is the β-galactosidase enzyme, while the C-terminus is coded by the cDNA inserted into the vector as shown in Figure A. *E.coli* cell cultures were infected with the empty vector (samples 1 and 3; see Figure B) or with a recombinant λ phage containing the cDNA of a human lysosomal acid phosphatase (samples 2 and 4). Cell extracts were prepared, subjected to SDS-PAGE, and the gels were either stained with Coomassie blue (samples 1 and 2) or subjected to Western blot analysis using an anti-phosphatase antibody (samples 3 and 4). (M, marker proteins of known molecular mass.)

**Figures**

**(A)**



**(B)**



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**Questions**

1. Is the β-gal enzyme that is expressed in the control cells (samples 1 and 3) from the phage DNA, from the *E. coli* genome, or both?

2. Is the coding region of acid phosphatase in frame with the β-gal gene in the vector?

3. What would the Western blot look like if anti-β-gal antibody had been used?