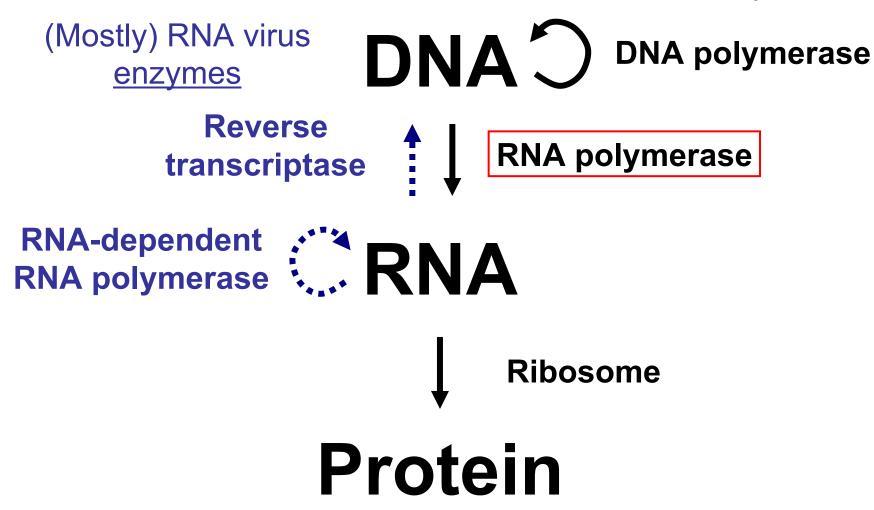
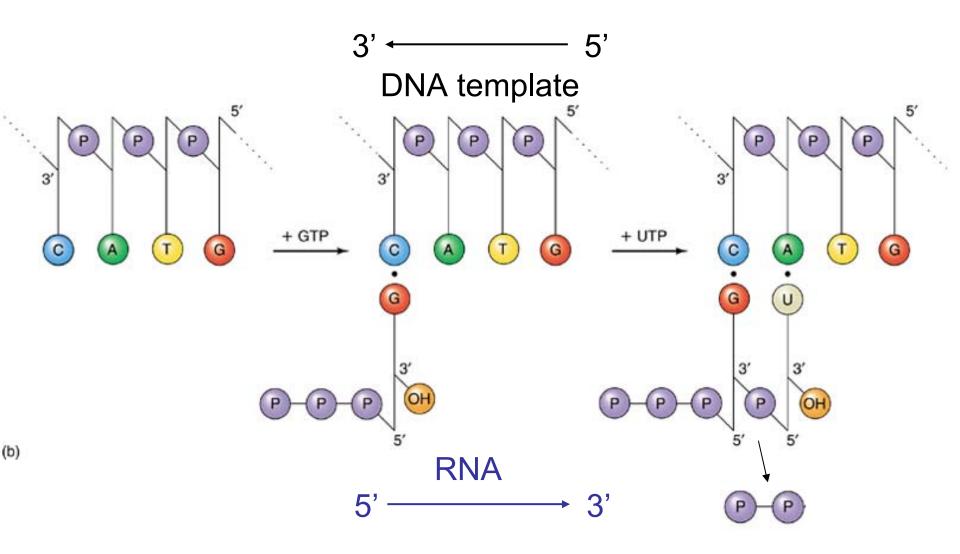
Enzymes in the central dogma

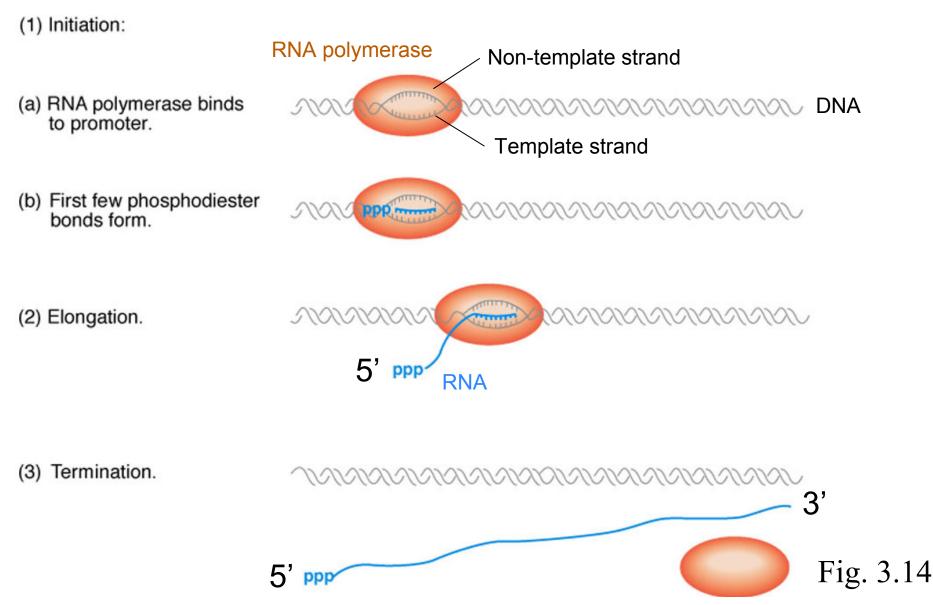
Cellular enzymes



The process of transcription



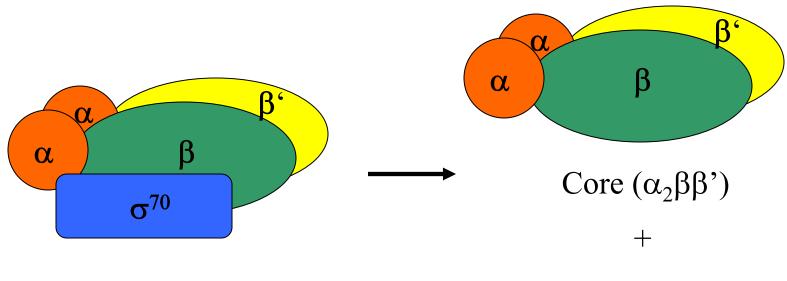
The three steps of transcription: initiation, elongation and termination



E. coli promoter



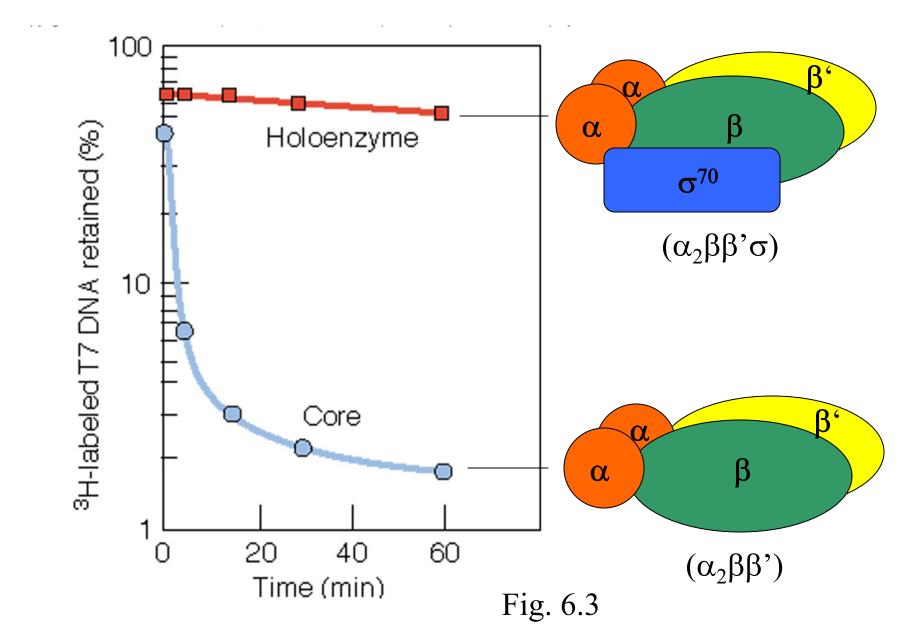
E. coli RNA polymerase



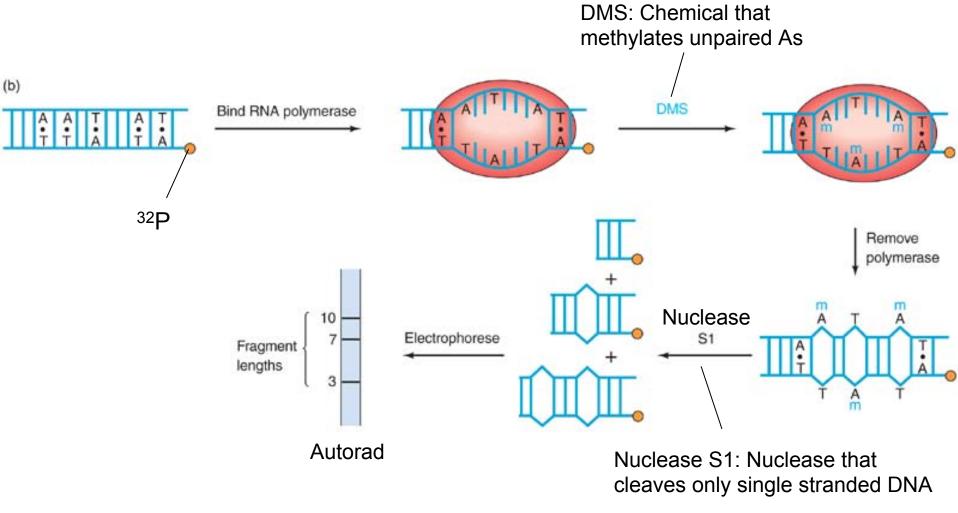
Holo-enzyme ($\alpha_2\beta\beta'\sigma$)



Sigma factor is needed for promoter binding

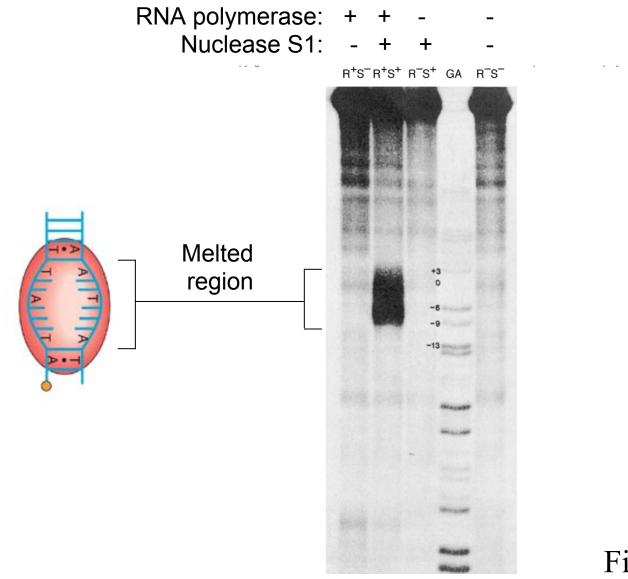


Experiment to test whether the RNA polymerase melts the region around the transcription start site

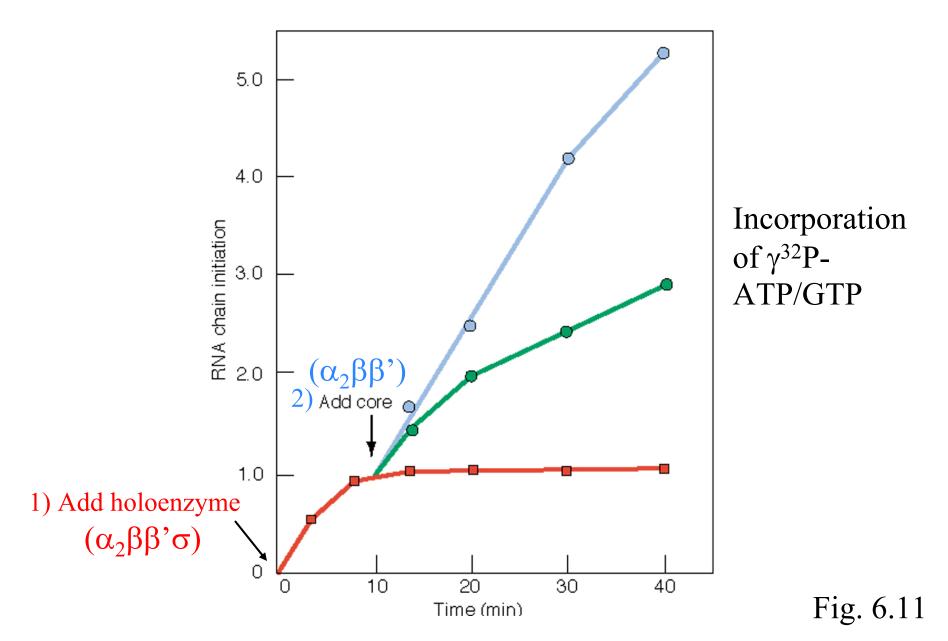


Technique: see DNase/DMS footprinting (Weaver Ch. 5, p. 116-119)

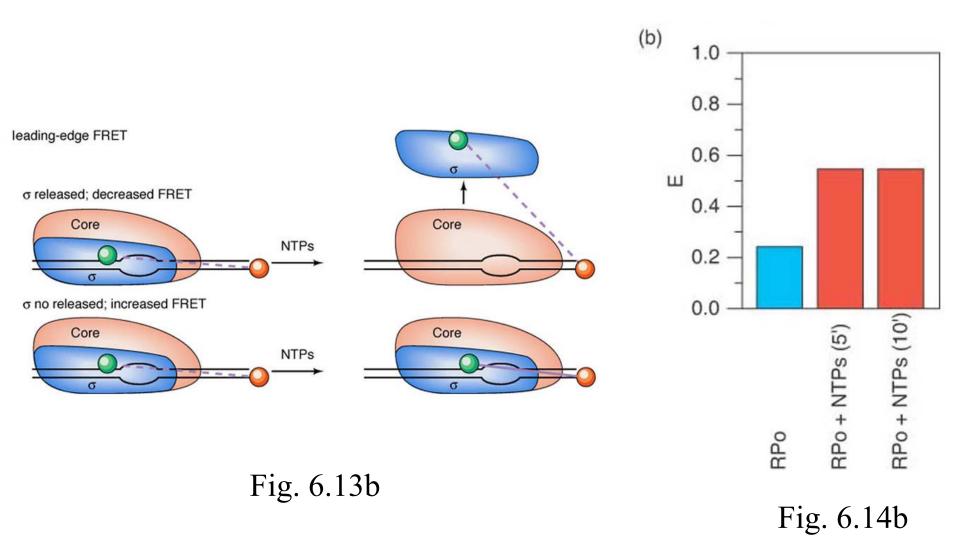
Evidence that the RNA polymerase melts the region around the transcription start site



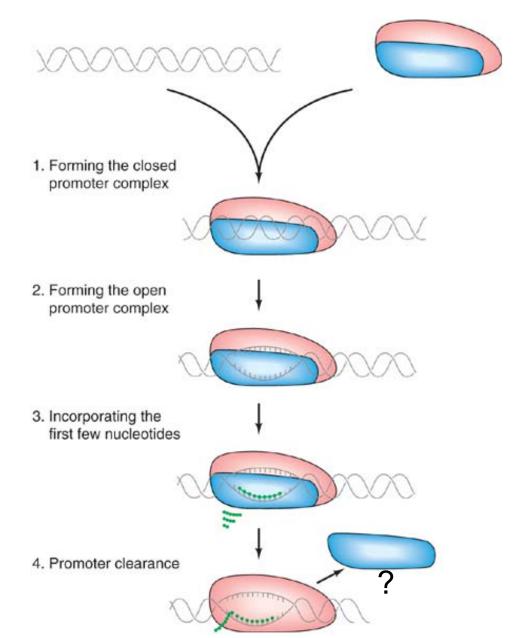
Evidence that the sigma subunit is reused



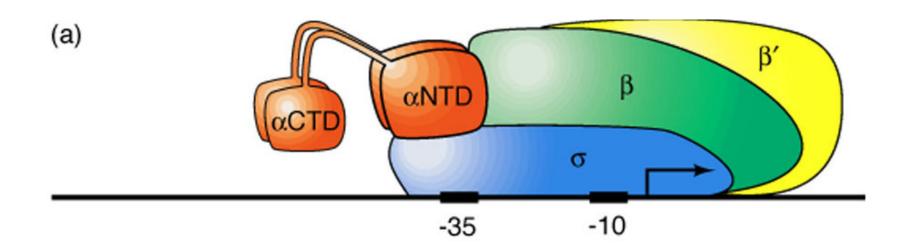
Evidence that sigma stays bound during transcription elongation

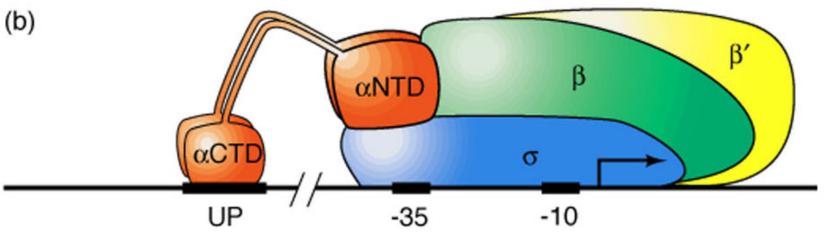


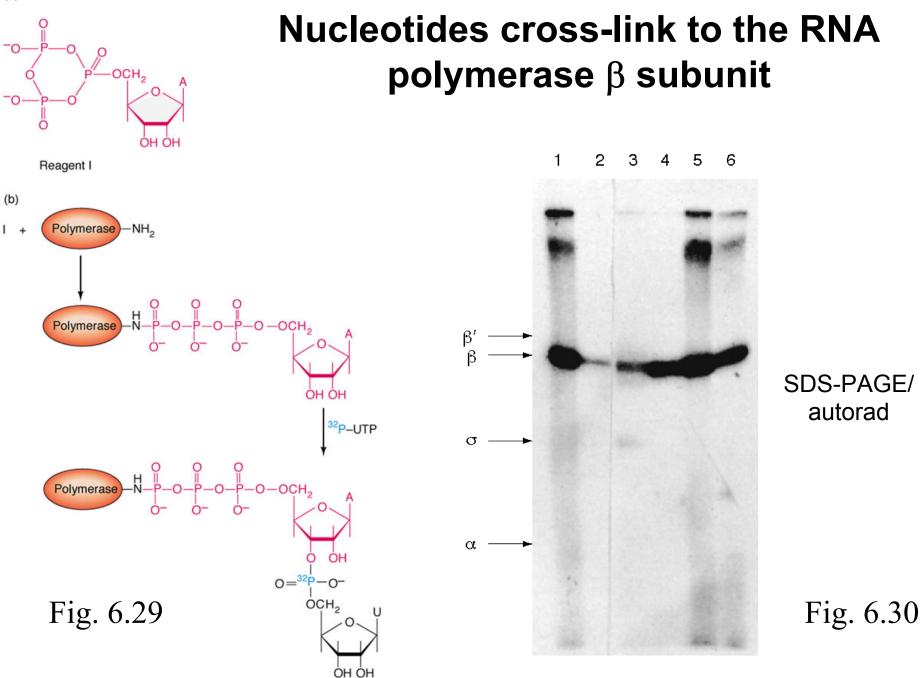
The steps of transcription initiation in bacteria

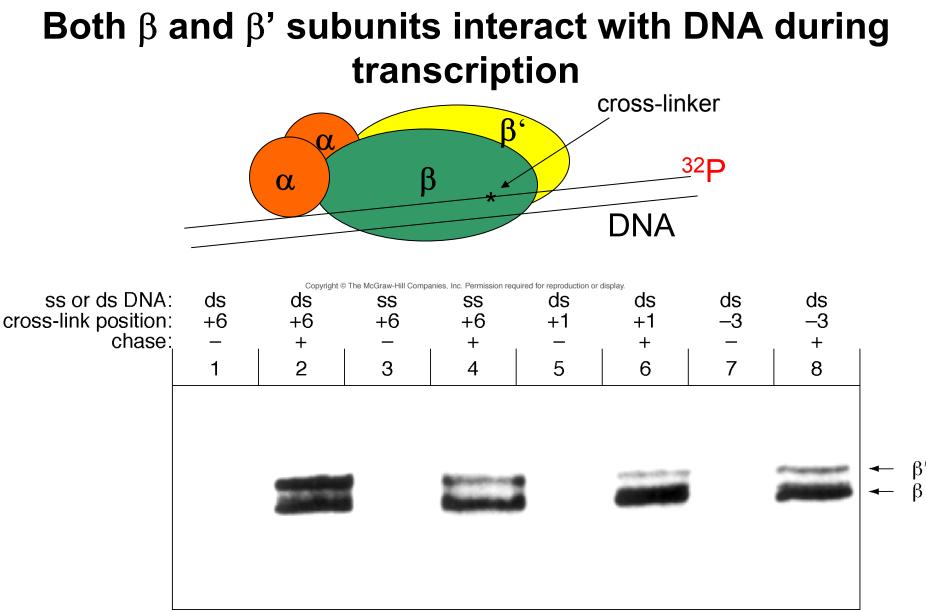


The alpha subunit of RNA polymerase can bind upstream (UP) elements in strong promoters

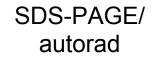








(Source: Nudler et al., Transcription processivity: Protein-DNA interactions holding together the elongation complex. Science 273 (12 July 1996) f. 5c, p. 214. @ AAAS.)



Model of the transition from closed (RPc) to open (RPo) promoter complex

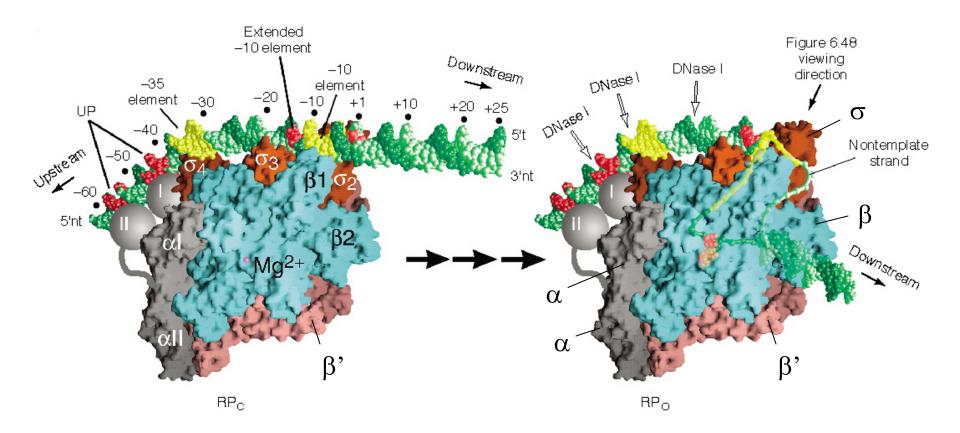


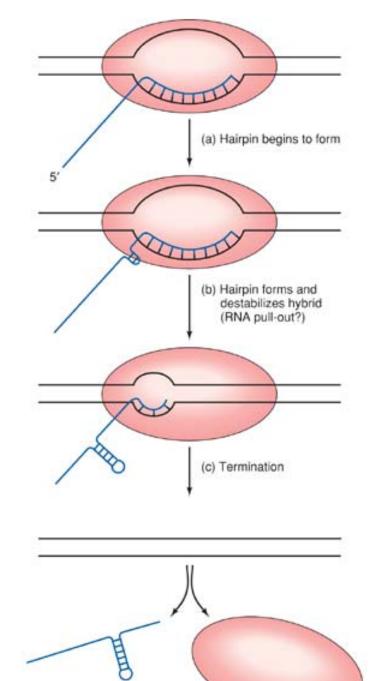
Fig. 6.43a

Model for Rhoindependent (simple) transcription termination in bacteria

RNA 3'end of simple terminator:

1000000 3'

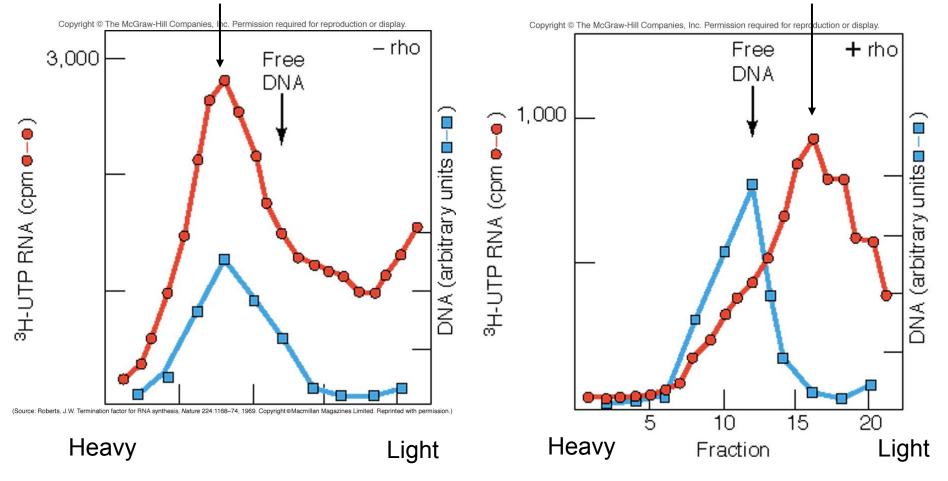
5'



Some terminators depend on the protein Rho

DNA:RNA

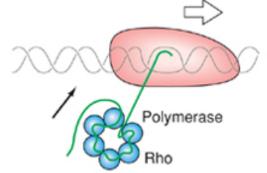
Free RNA



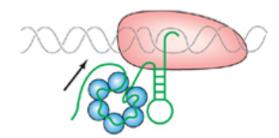
DNA/RNA separated in CsCI density gradients

Model for Rhodependent transcription termination in bacteria

(a) Rho binds to transcript at rho loading site and pursues polymerase.



(b) Hairpin forms; polymerase pauses; rho catches up.



(c) Rho helicase releases transcript and causes termination.

