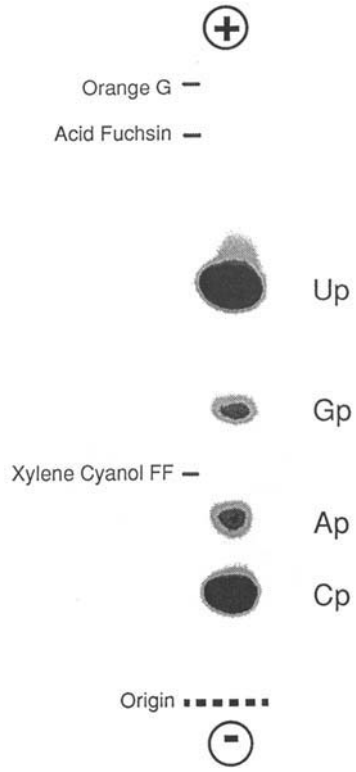

Fig. 1. Separation of ^{32}P-labeled ribonucleoside monophosphates after electrophoresis on Whatman 3MM paper at pH 3.5. The position of the dye markers is indicated on the left.

the same mobility; the xylene cyanol (blue) migrates about half the distance (**Fig. 1**).

7. Autoradiograph the paper overnight.
8. The nature of the labeled nucleotide can be deduced by comparing its mobility with that of the dye markers (**Fig. 1**).

4. Notes

1. The most important rule when working with RNA is that it is essential to take all possible steps to avoid the degradative activity of RNases. If care is not taken, the enzymatic activity can be introduced into an experiment not only from the method of preparation, but also from a number of outside sources. Disposable plasticware (yellow tips, and so on) should be sterilized before use and should not be left exposed to the air. The hands of laboratory workers are a major source of contamination by RNases; investigators should wear disposable gloves at all times