

Sequences, Structures, and Gene Regulatory Networks

Learning Outcomes

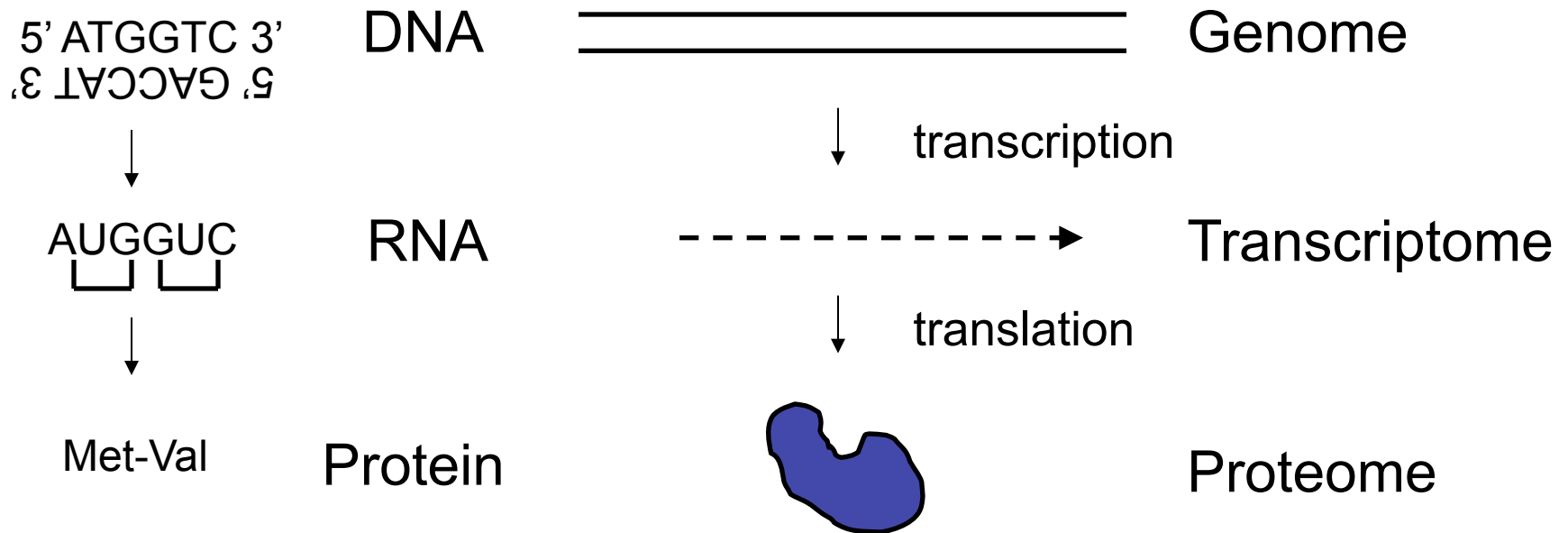
After this class, you will

- Understand gene expression and protein structure in more detail
- Appreciate why biologists like to align sequences, and have a general idea of how the most commonly used algorithm, BLAST, works
- Be able to use your knowledge of biology to help you critique visual representations of alignments and gene regulatory networks

Outline

- Sequences and Structures: The Central Dogma in a little more detail
- Alignment – why is this so important?
What are important features to visualize?
- Gene regulatory networks
- Appendix: Representation of sequences in databases at the NCBI

The Central Dogma of Molecular Biology: Genes Encode Proteins



Prokaryotic and eukaryotic transcription and translation

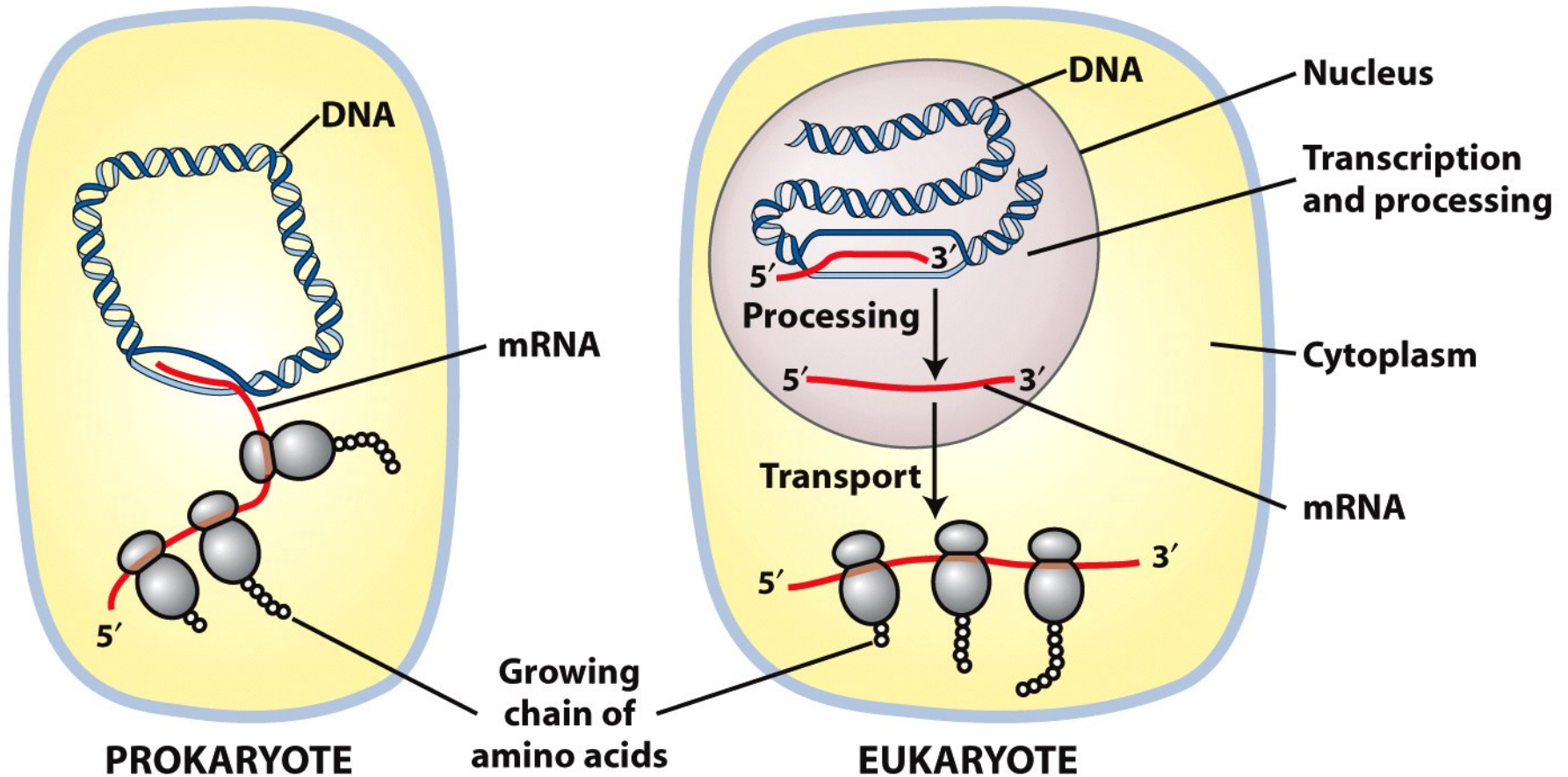
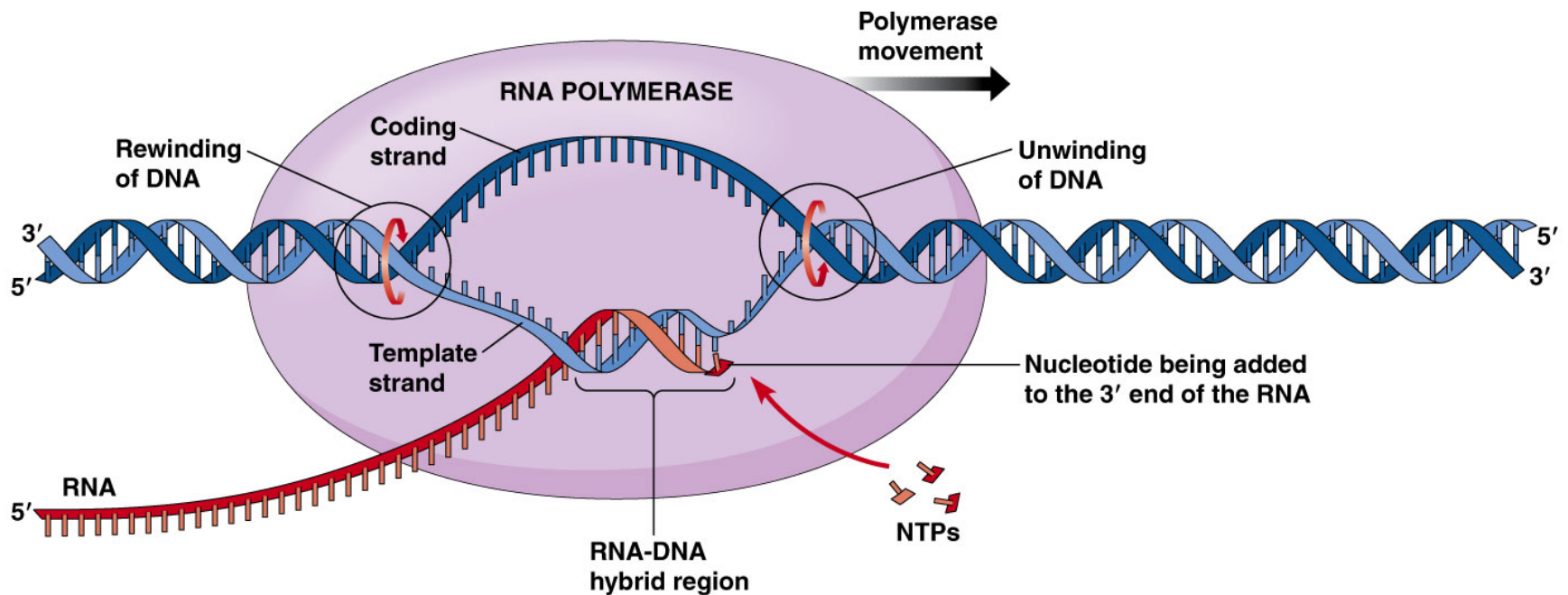
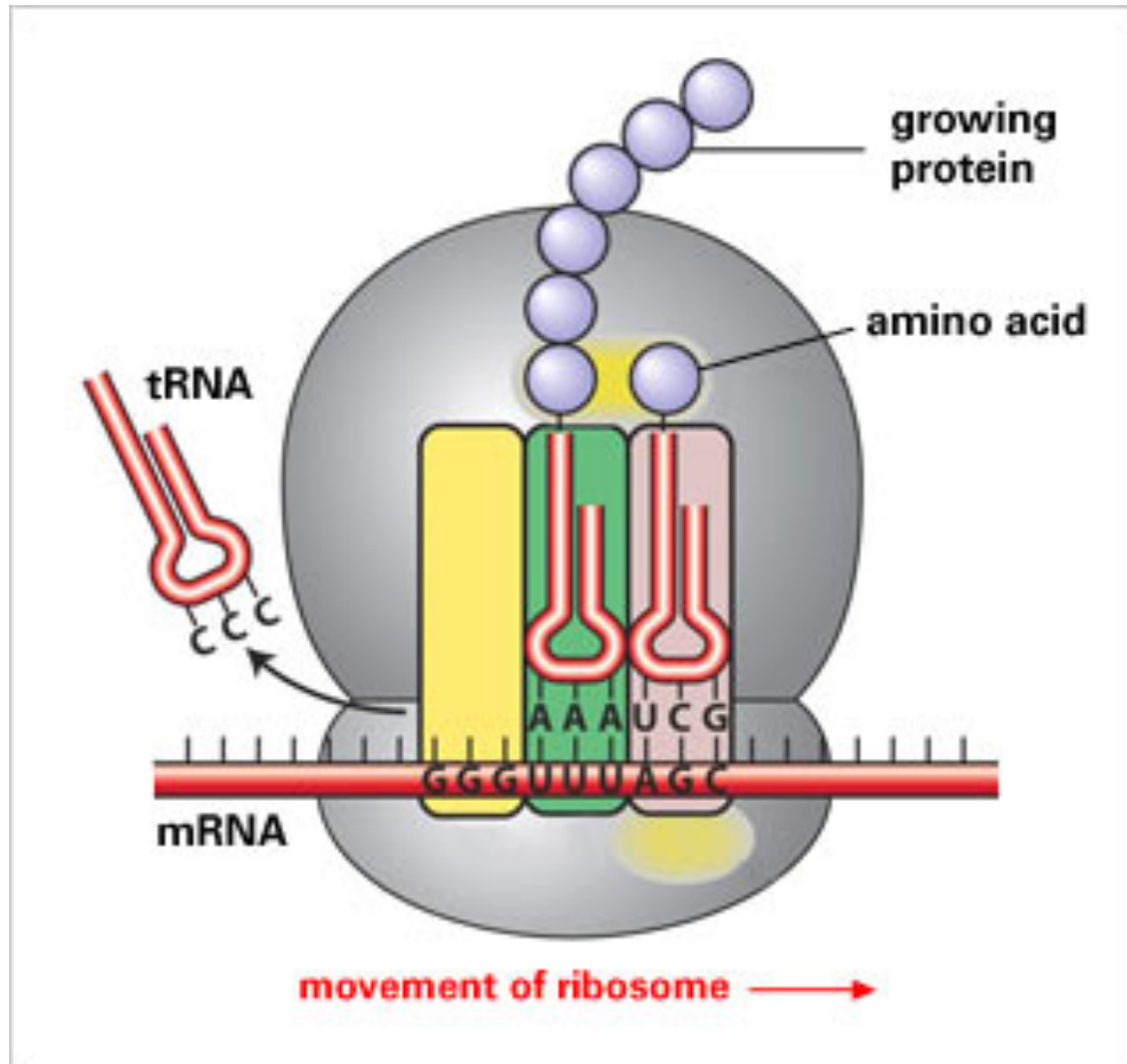


Figure 8-11
Introduction to Genetic Analysis, Ninth Edition
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Transcription is mediated by RNA Polymerase



Translation is mediated by ribosomes

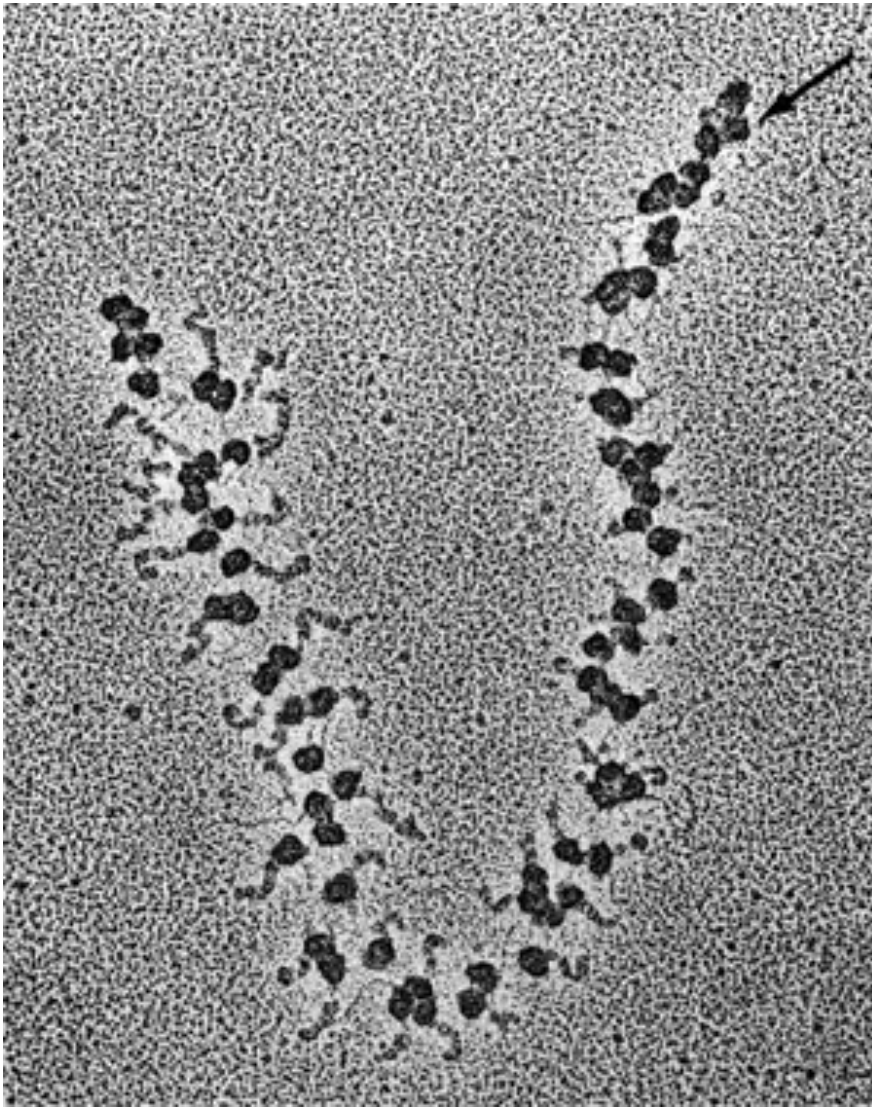


The Genetic Code

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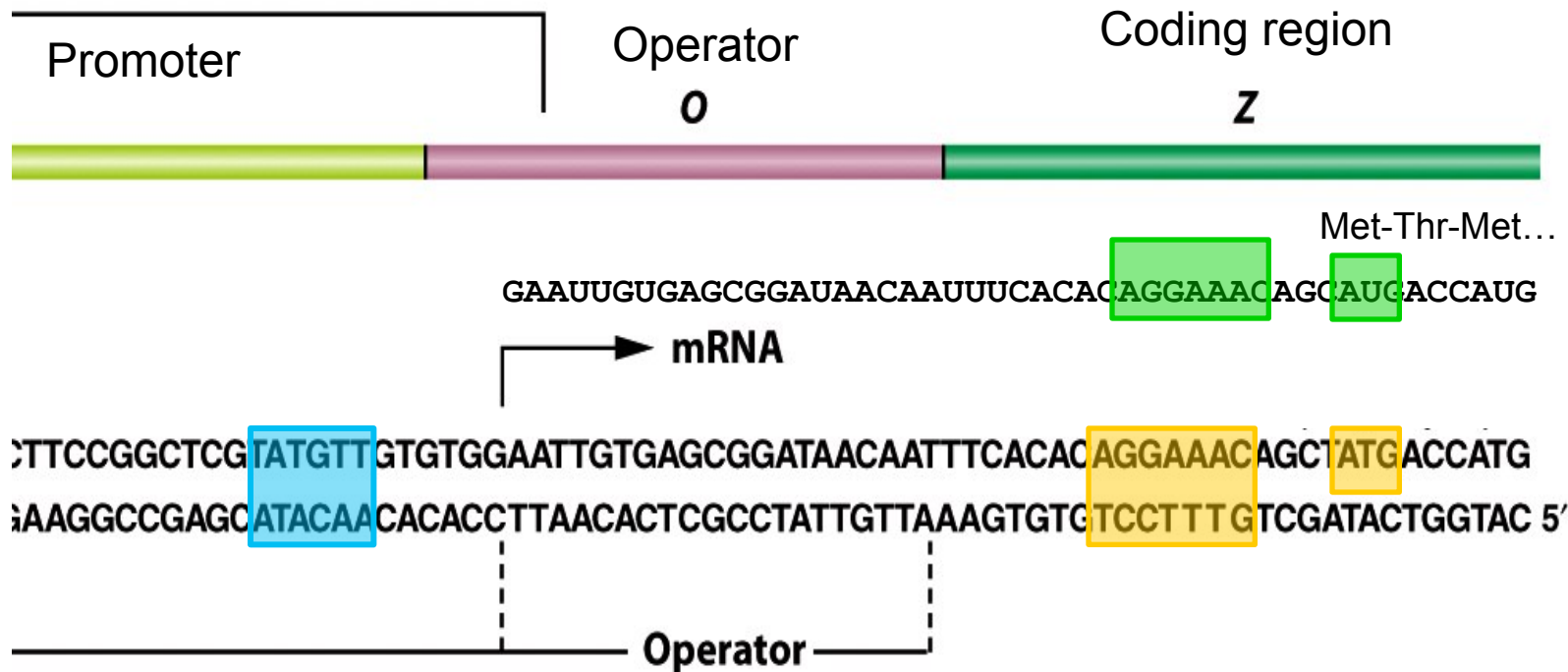
		Second letter					
		U	C	A	G		
First letter	U	UUU } Phe UUC } UUA } Leu UUG }	UCU } UCC } Ser UCA } UCG }	UAU } Tyr UAC } UAA Stop UAG Stop	UGU } Cys UGC } UGA Stop UGG Trp	U	C
	C	CUU } CUC } Leu CUA } CUG }	CCU } CCC } Pro CCA } CCG }	CAU } His CAC } CAA } Gln CAG }	CGU } CGC } Arg CGA } CGG }	U	C
	A	AUU } Ile AUC } AUA } AUG Met	ACU } ACC } Thr ACA } ACG }	AAU } Asn AAC } AAA } Lys AAG }	AGU } Ser AGC } AGA } Arg AGG }	U	C
	G	GUU } Val GUC } GUA } GUG }	GCU } GCC } Ala GCA } GCG }	GAU } Asp GAC } GAA } Glu GAG }	GGU } GGC } Gly GGA } GGG }	U	C
						A	G

[Some evolutionary thoughts](#)



<http://courses.bio.indiana.edu/L104-Bonner/F09/imagesF09/L23/Ribosomes.html>

Transcription vs. Translation: Lac operon control region



analysis, Ninth Edition
company

Signals are not perfect matches to consensus sequences

RNAP recognizes
sequence in
promoter DNA

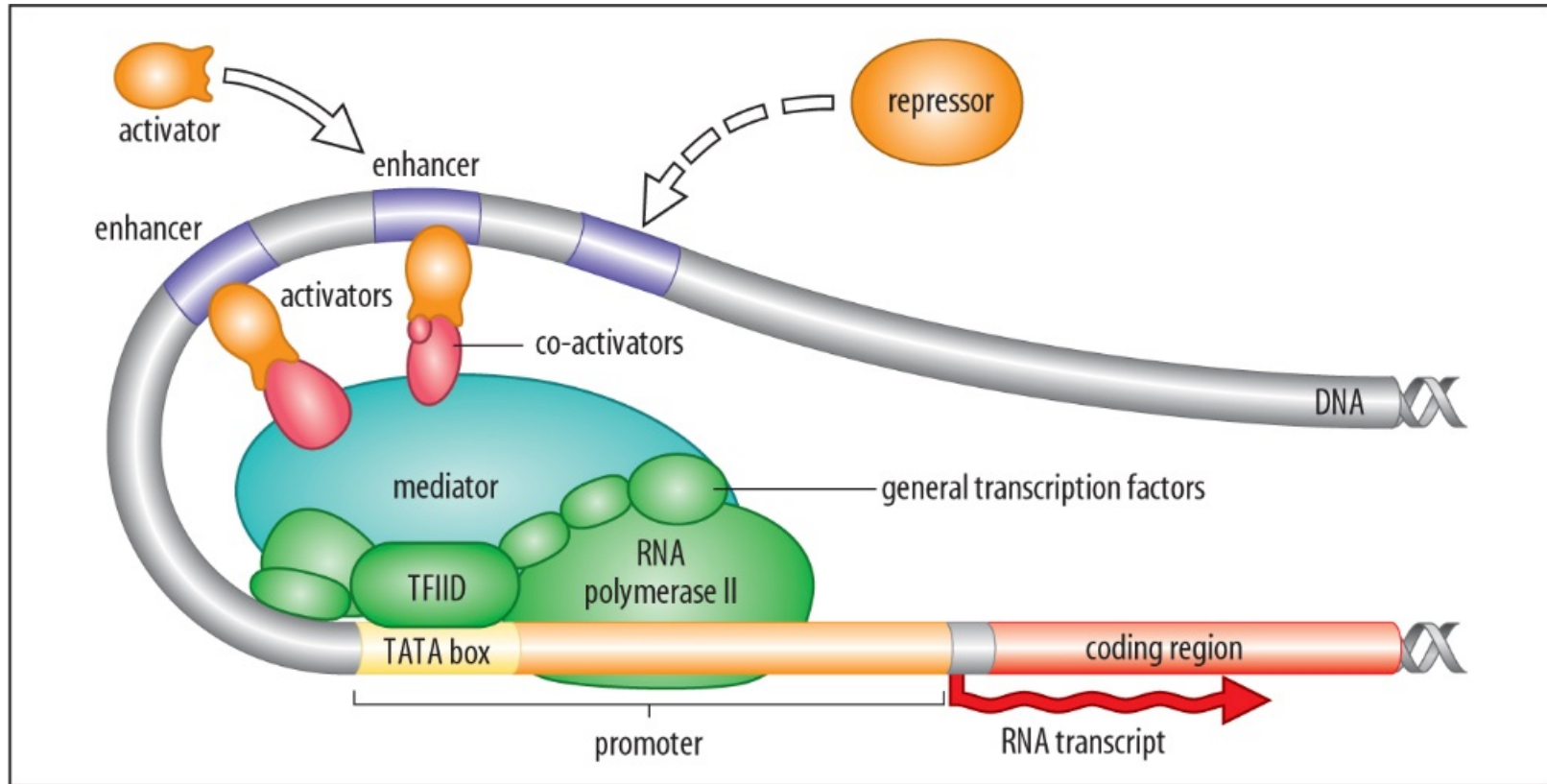
Ribosome
recognizes
signal in RNA

Seen by
computer in
DNA

RNAP does not care about codons; it cannot distinguish coding and non-coding DNA.

1^o transcript == mRNA in bacteria; no splicing, capping, polyA

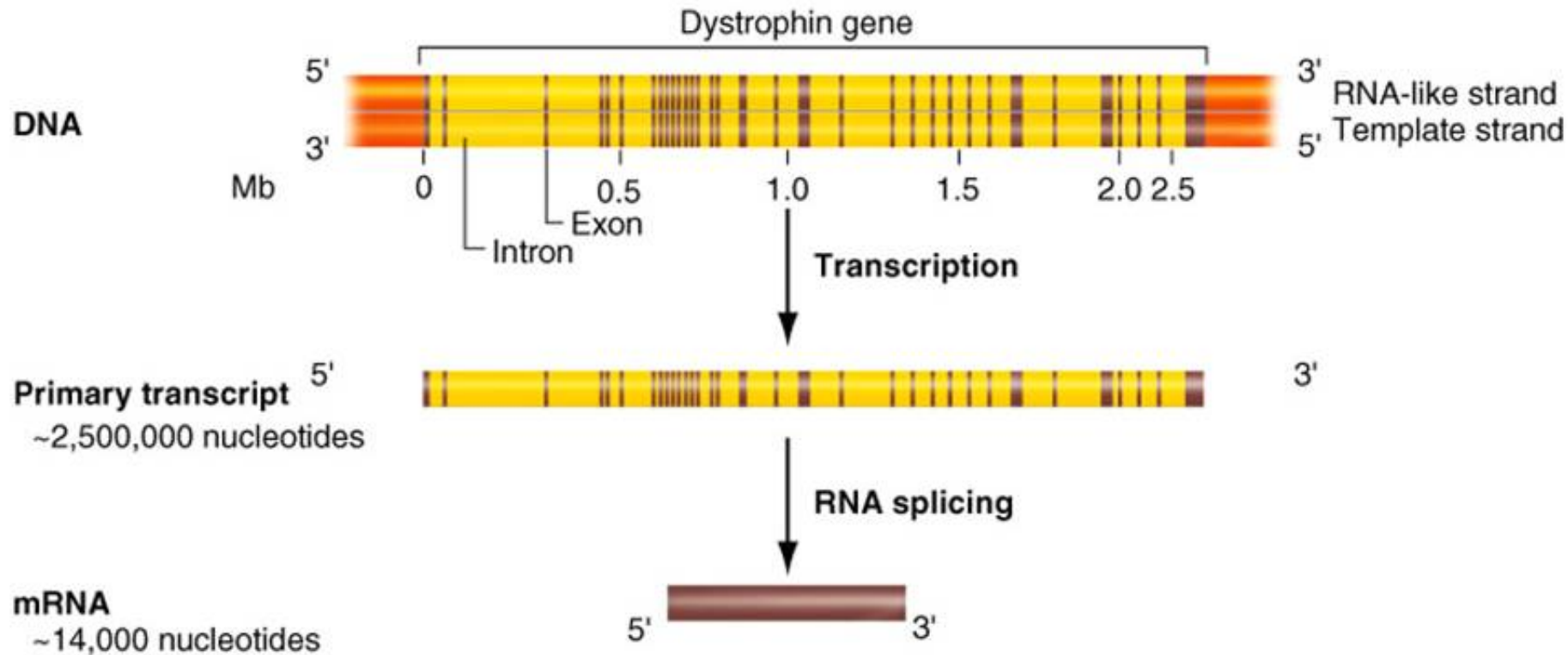
Eukaryotic transcription is complex!



- Basal transcriptional regulators
- Cell type specific enhancers and repressors

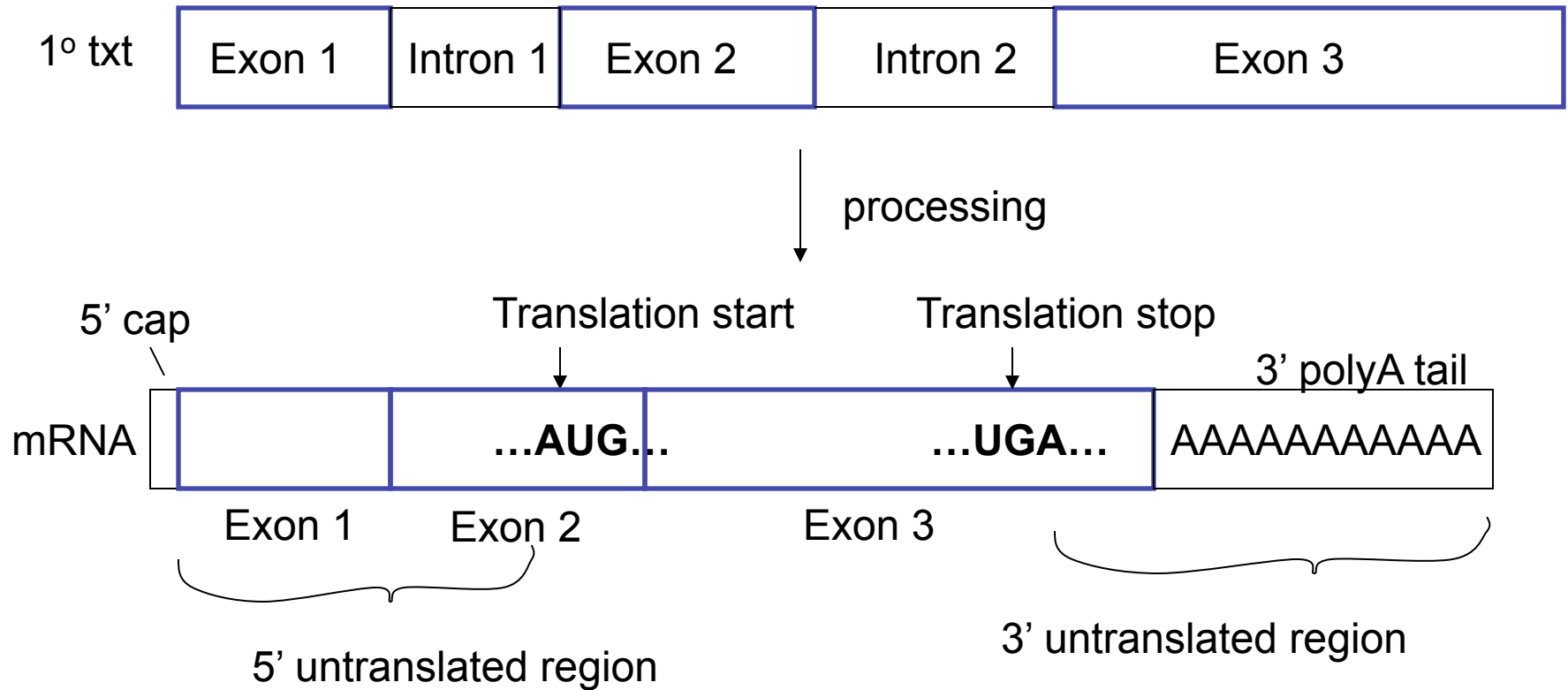
http://www.mun.ca/biology/desmid/brian/BIOL3530/DEVO_10/devo_10.html

RNA processing in more complex eukaryotes



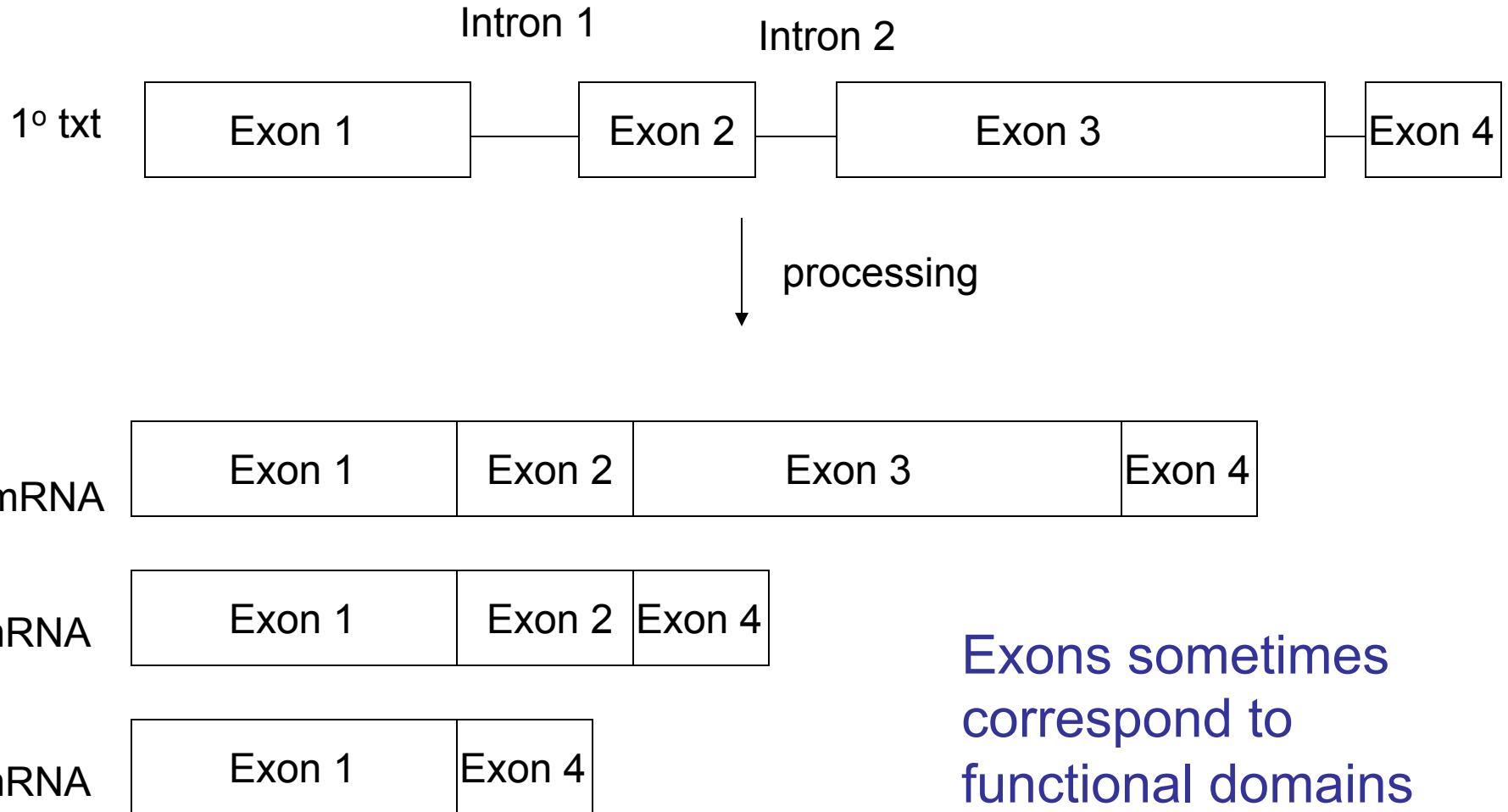
Hartwell et al. Genetics: From Genes to Genomes

Schematic view of processing of mRNA in eukaryotes



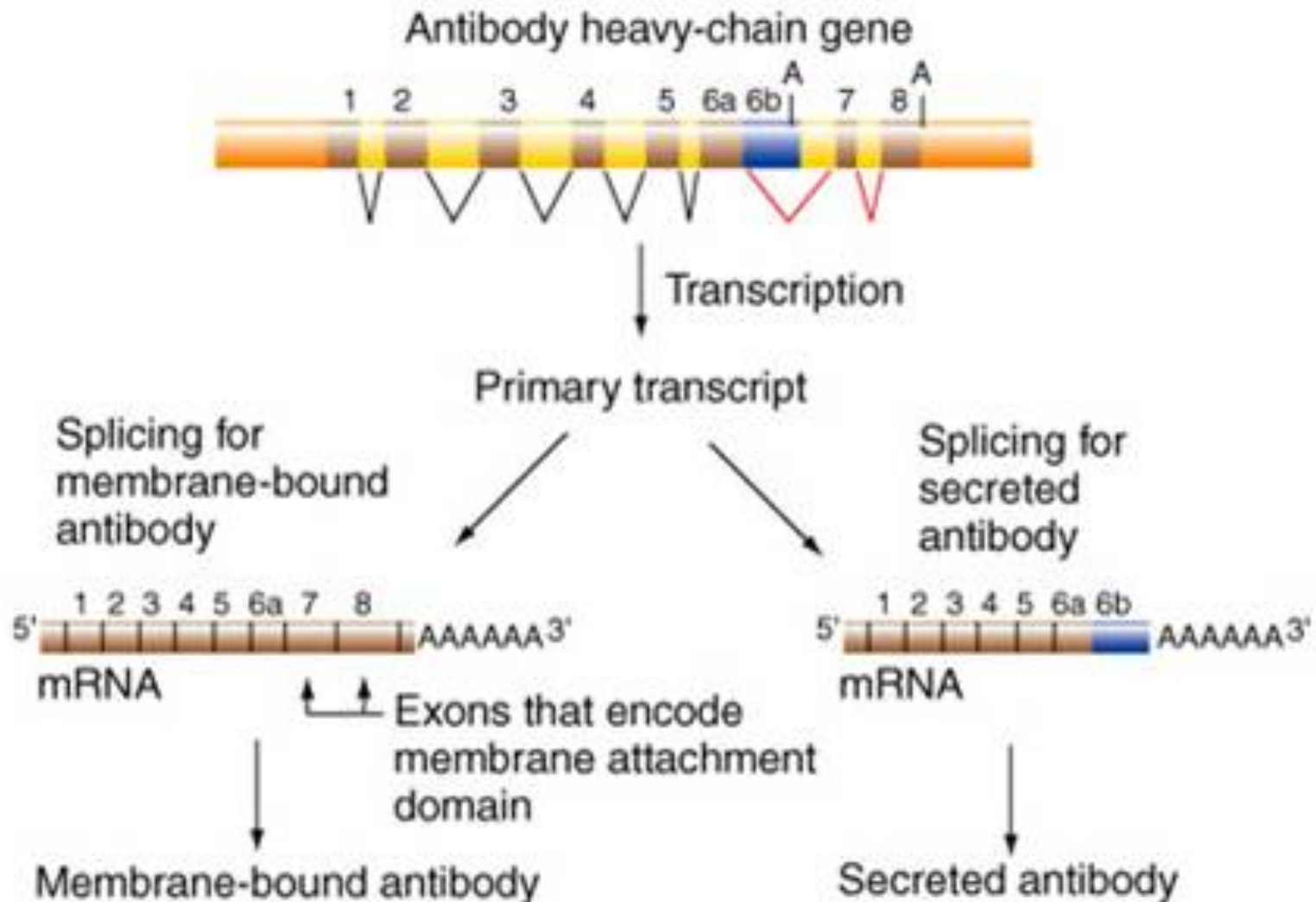
Is the entire transcript translated?

Alternative splicing



Exons sometimes correspond to functional domains of proteins

Different splice forms can function very differently in the cell



The Genetic Code

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		Second letter					
		U	C	A	G		
First letter	U	UUU } Phe UUC } UUA } Leu UUG }	UCU } UCC } Ser UCA } UCG }	UAU } Tyr UAC } UAA Stop UAG Stop	UGU } Cys UGC } UGA Stop UGG Trp	U	C
	C	CUU } CUC } Leu CUA } CUG }	CCU } CCC } Pro CCA } CCG }	CAU } His CAC } CAA } Gln CAG }	CGU } CGC } Arg CGA } CGG }	U	C
	A	AUU } Ile AUC } AUA } AUG Met	ACU } ACC } Thr ACA } ACG }	AAU } Asn AAC } AAA } Lys AAG }	AGU } Ser AGC } AGA } Arg AGG }	U	C
	G	GUU } GUC } Val GUA } GUG }	GCU } GCC } Ala GCA } GCG }	GAU } Asp GAC } GAA } Glu GAG }	GGU } GGC } Gly GGA } GGG }	U	C
						A	G

Amino acids fall into different classes

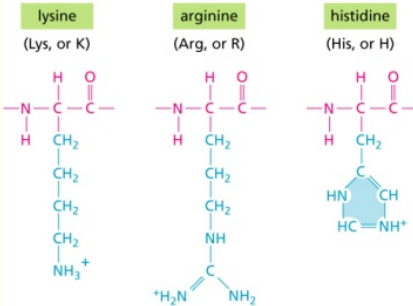
Hydrophobic:

Nonpolar side chains often found in protein core, transmembrane regions

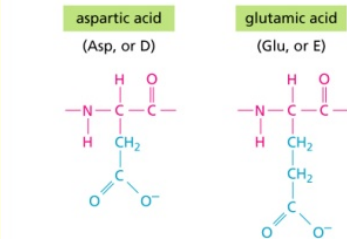
Hydrophilic:

Polar and charged side chains often found nearer protein surface, interact with water

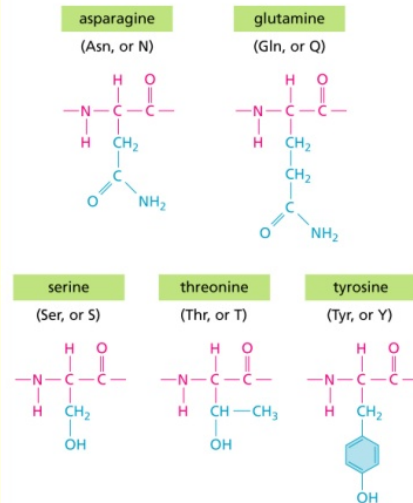
BASIC SIDE CHAINS



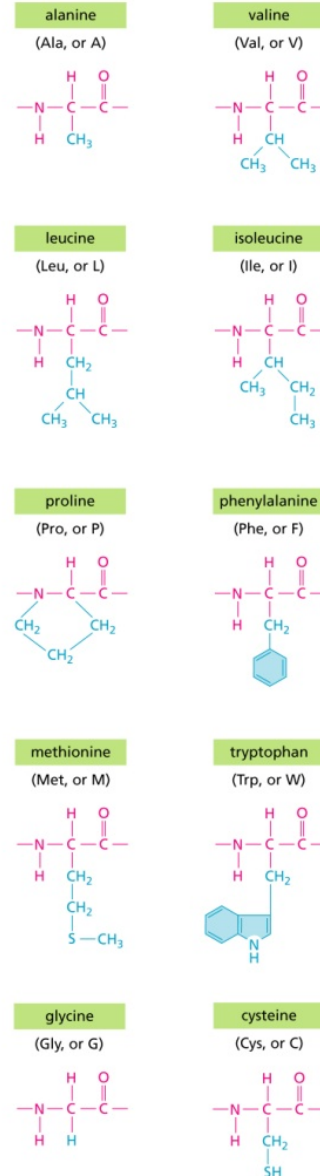
ACIDIC SIDE CHAINS



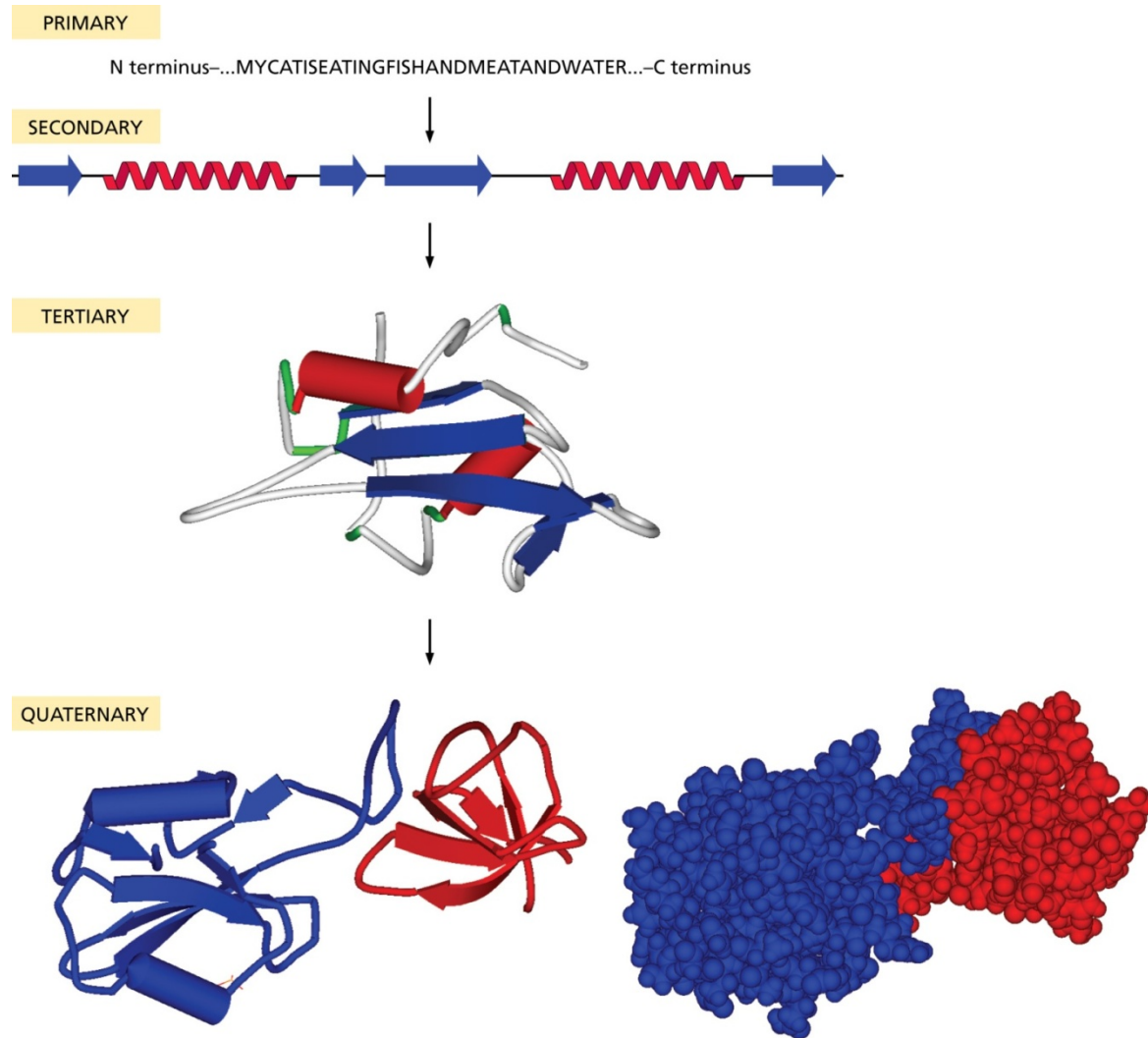
UNCHARGED POLAR SIDE CHAINS



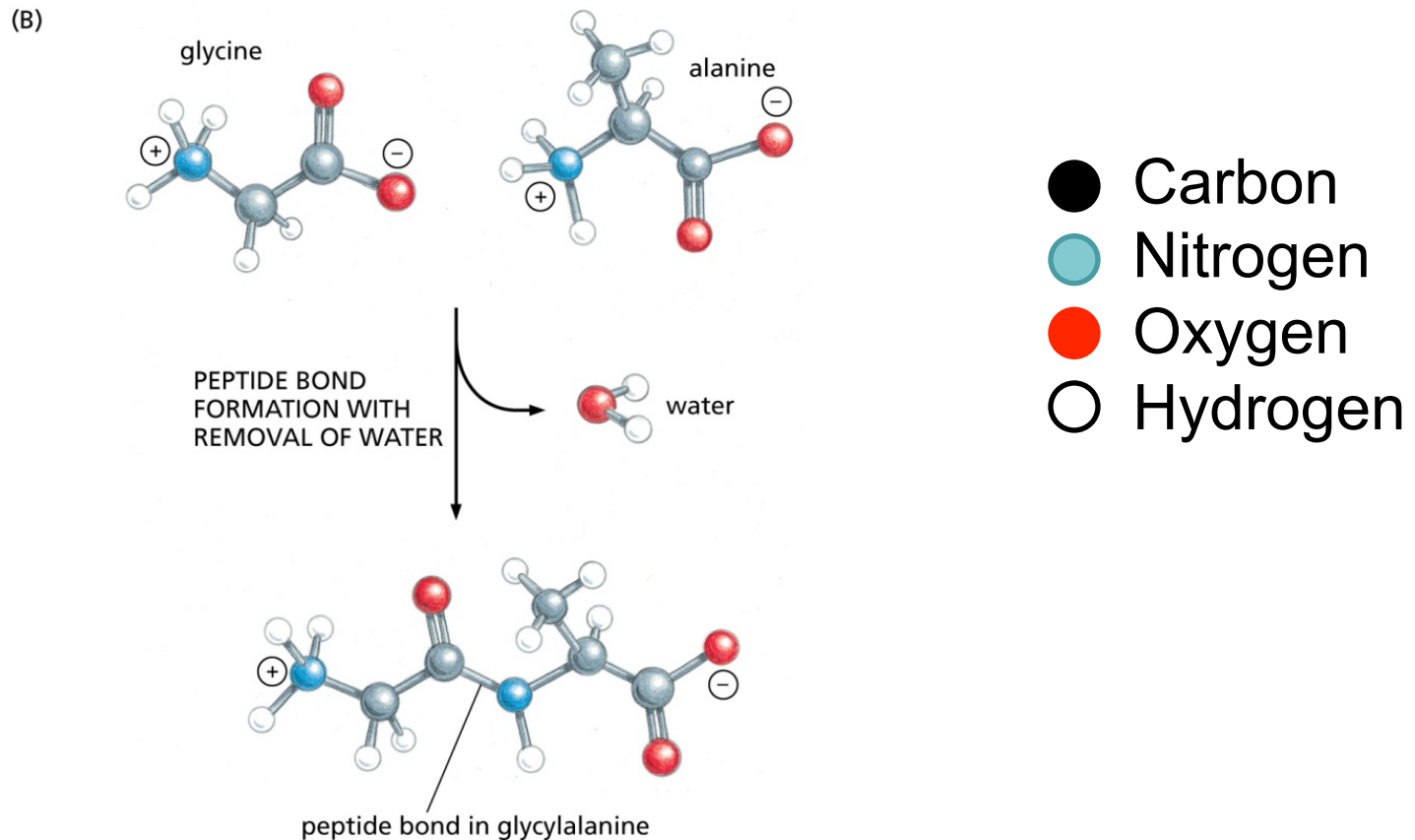
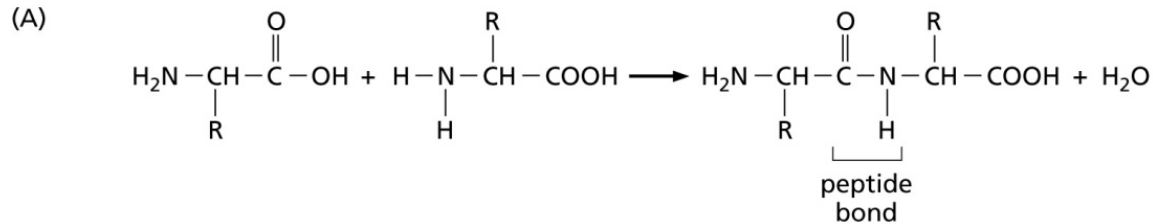
NONPOLAR SIDE CHAINS



Four levels of protein structure

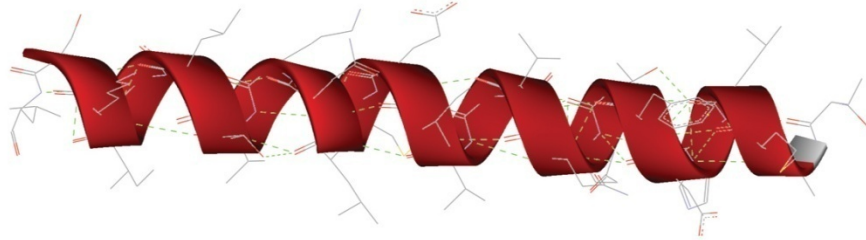


Making a polypeptide chain: primary structure



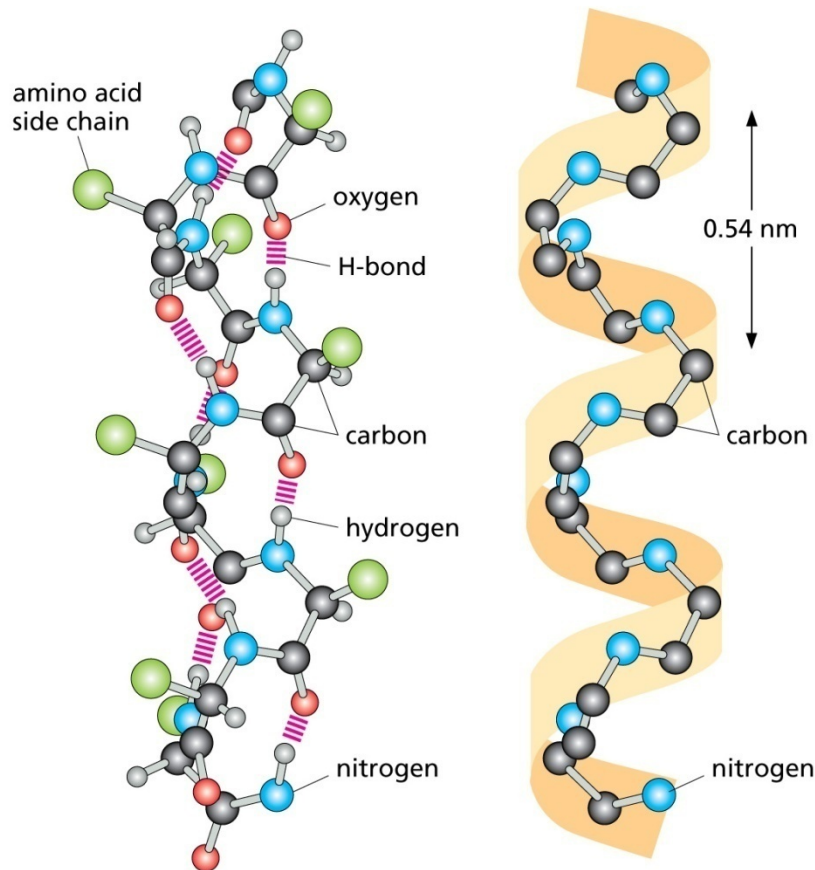
Secondary structure: α -helices

(A)



Ala, Glu, Leu, Met
'like' α -helices

(B)

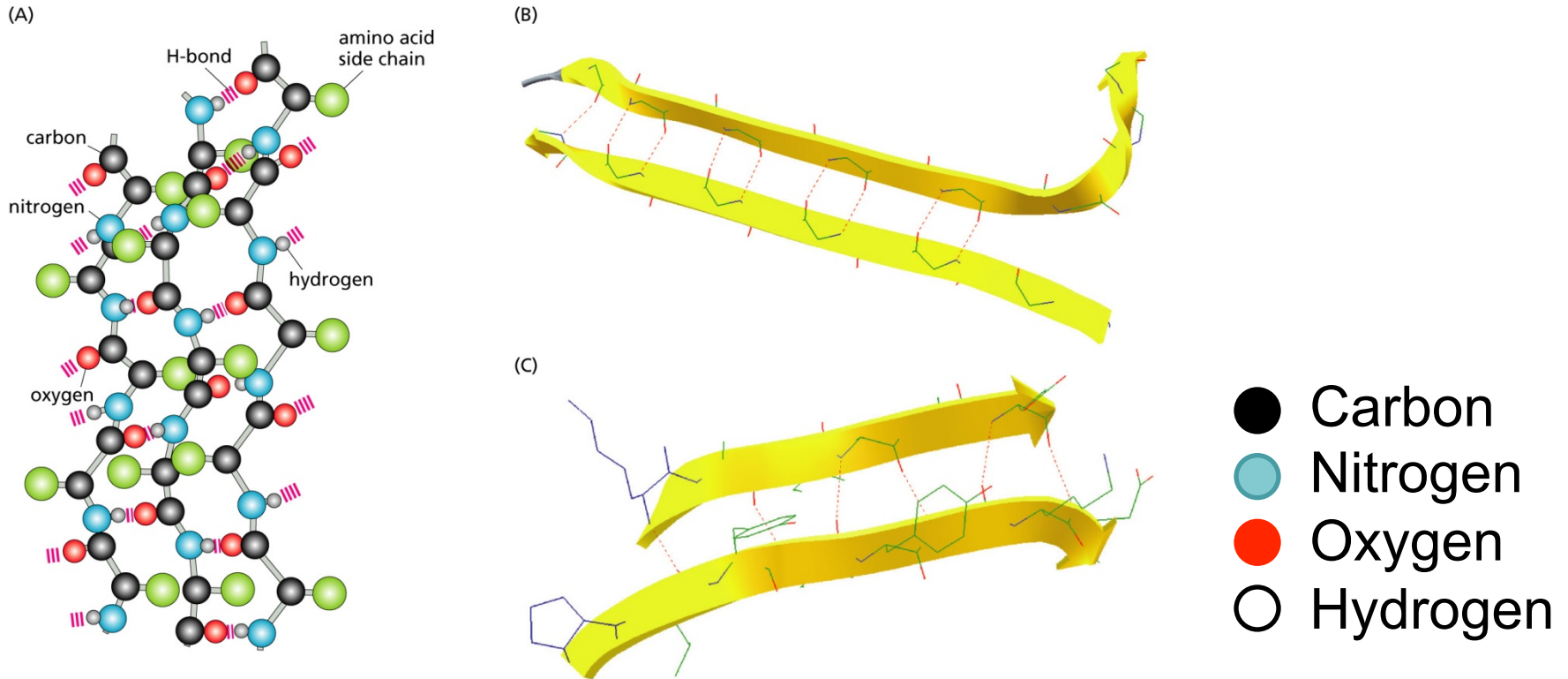


Pro rarely found in
helices

Gly, Tyr, also poor
helix formers

- Carbon
- Nitrogen
- Oxygen
- Hydrogen

Secondary structure: β -strands

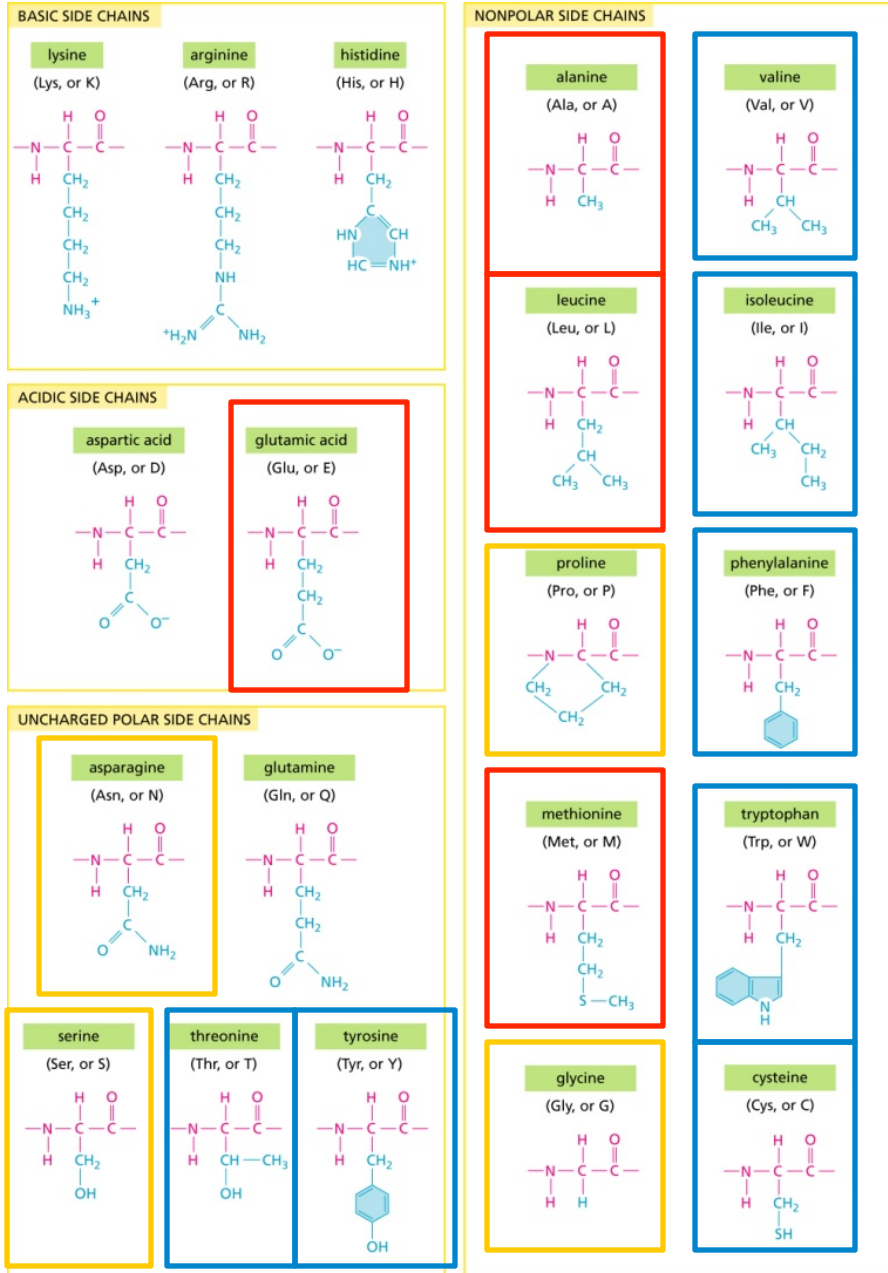


Val, Ile, Tyr, Cys, Trp, Phe, Thr 'like' β -strands

Amino acids fall into different classes

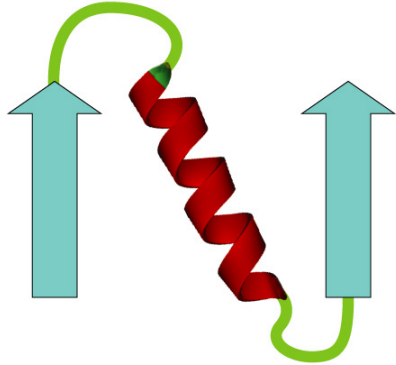
- α -helix formers
- β -strand formers
- Turn segments

Gly, Tyr, and especially Pro are poor α -helix formers

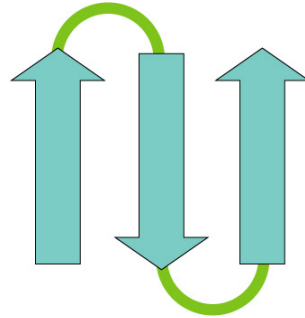


Supersecondary structure

(A)



(B)



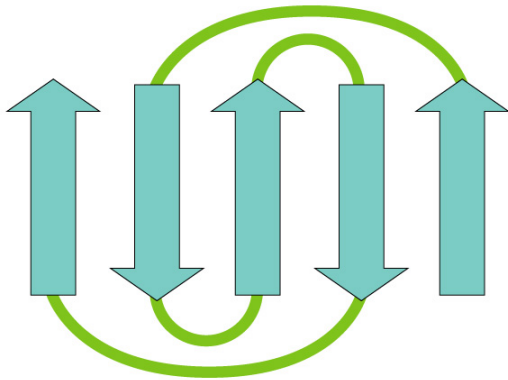
A) $\beta\alpha\beta$ repeat

B) β meander

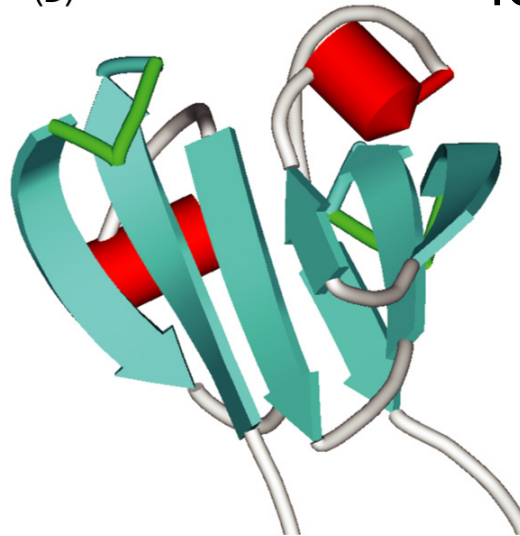
C) Greek Key

D) Greek Key, β -crystallin

(C)

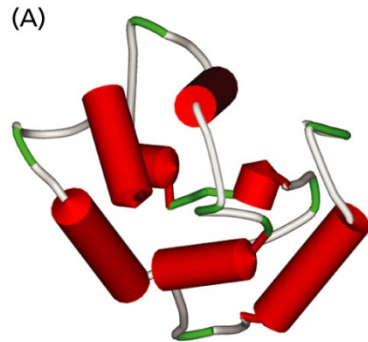


(D)

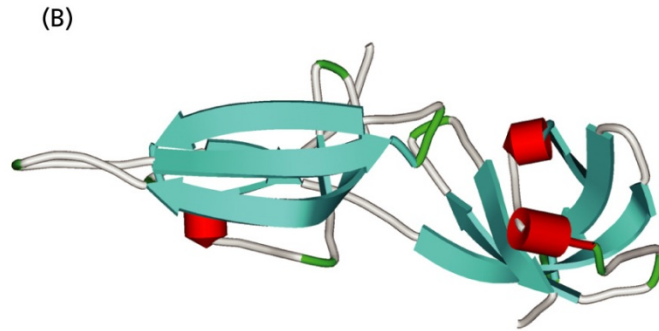


‘only’ 2,000 fold families
for 35,000 structures

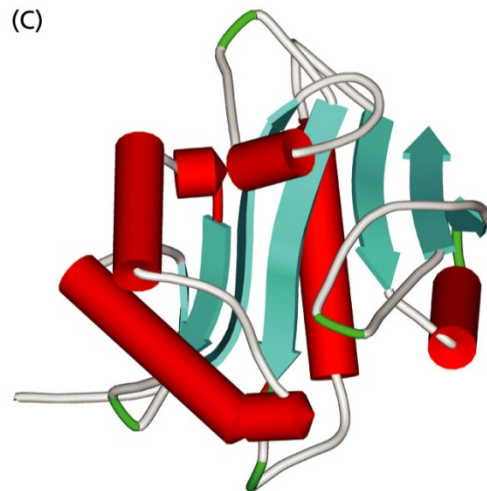
Prediction Examples: Known Structures



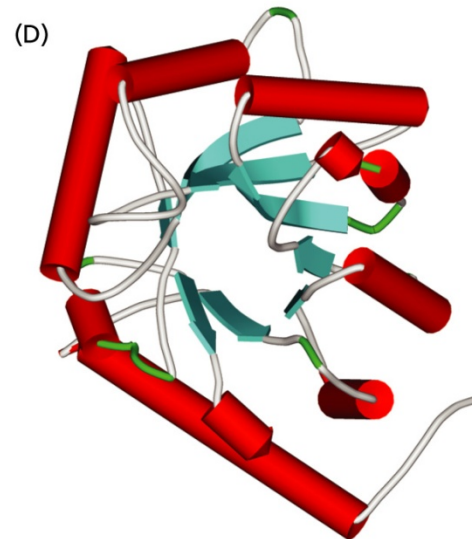
1B8C



1BKB



1CJW



1CT5

Knowledge based

α helix / β sheet

Neural net

X-ray:

GOR IV:

GOR V:

PredS:

PredM:

Zpred:

PROF:

NNSSP:

PHD:

PSIPRED:

Jnet:

X-ray:

GOR IV:

GOR V:

PredS:

PredM:

Zpred:

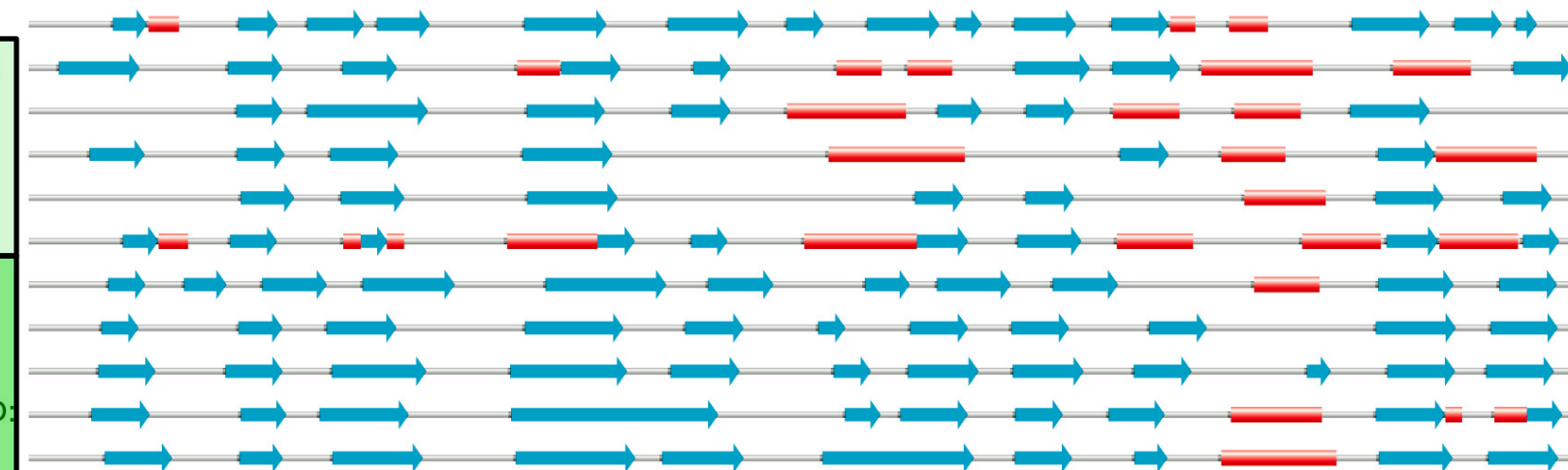
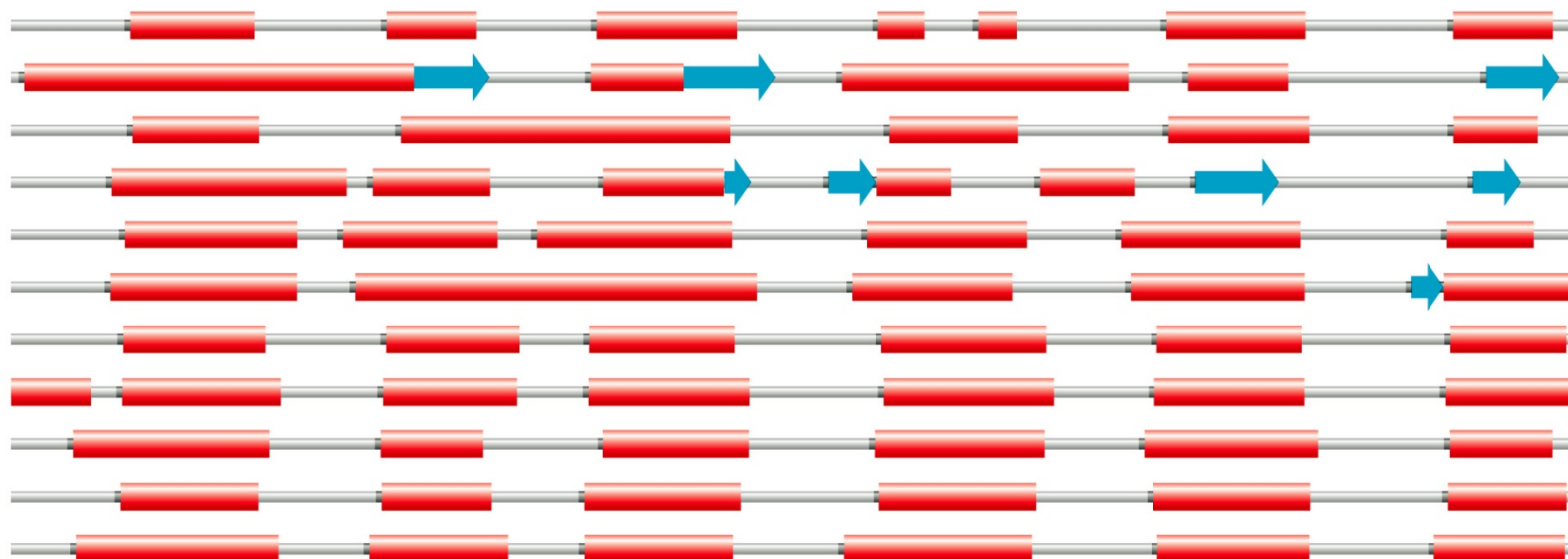
PROF:

NNSSP:

PHD:

PSIPRED:

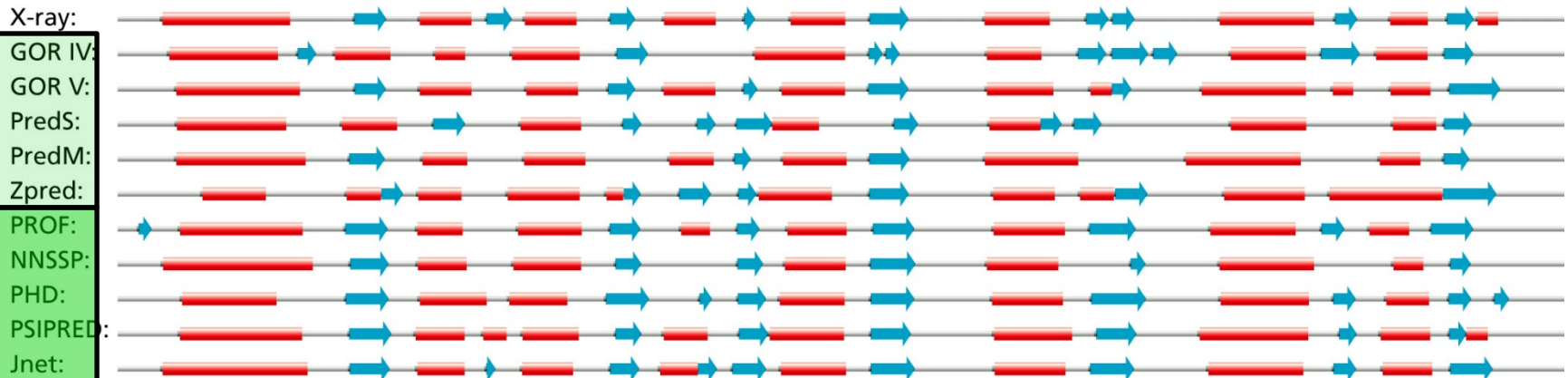
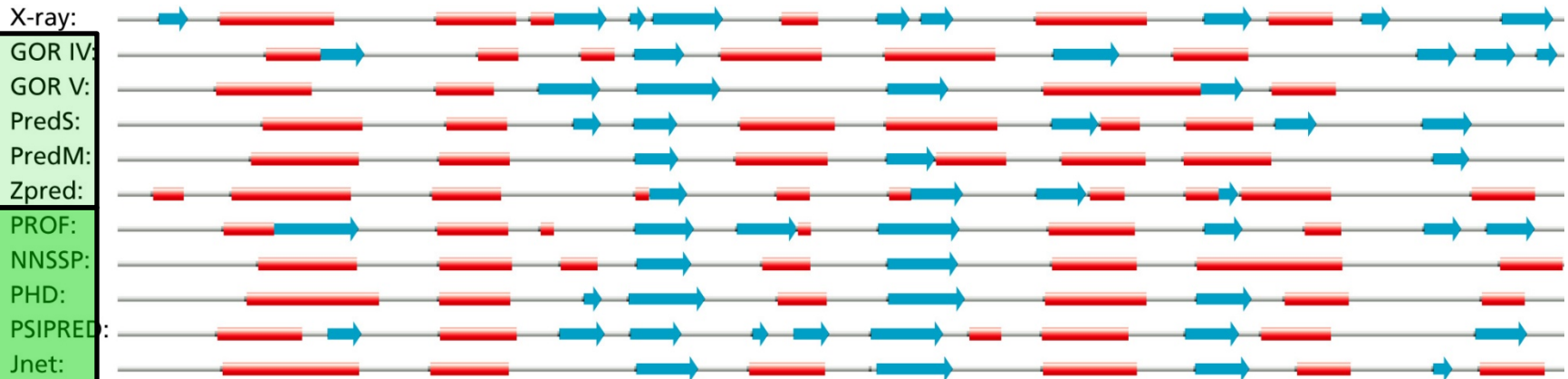
Jnet:



$\alpha + \beta$ and α / β fold

Knowledge based

Neural net



Some evolutionary thoughts

- Mutations occur at random in _____
- Are all mutations bad? [The Genetic Code](#)
- Are some more likely to affect protein function than others? [Amino acids](#)
- Which ones might be selected against?
- Which ones might be selected for?
- How does this relate to sequence alignment?

Alignments

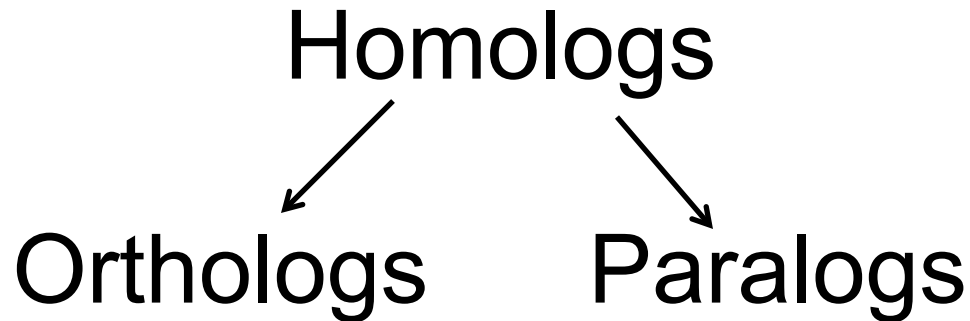
Outline

- Why align sequences?
- Principles of alignments
- Performing alignments
- Scoring alignments:
substitution matrices

Why align sequences?

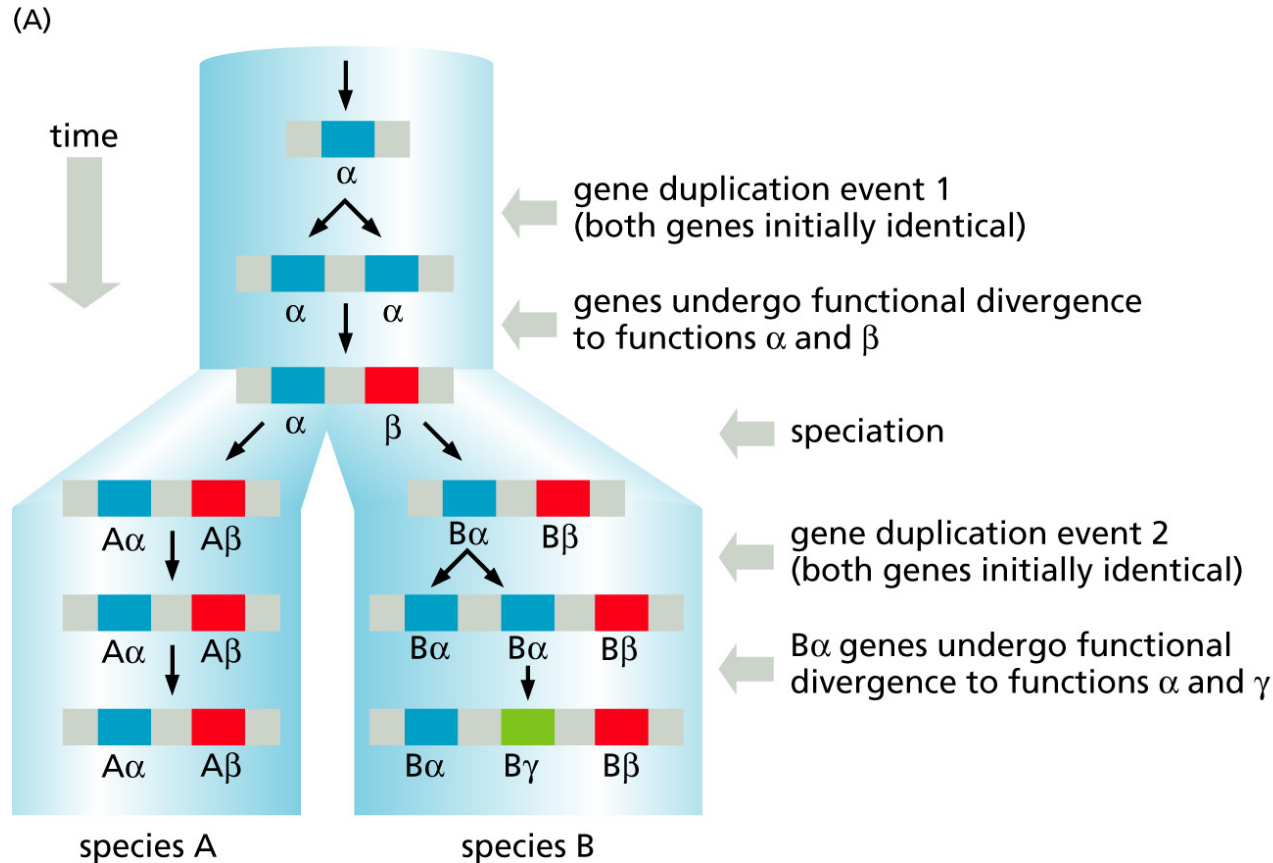
- To determine whether sequences are **homologous**: this is, they are derived from a common ancestor sequence
- Are two sequences so similar that we can conclude they are homologous; or is the similarity just due to chance?
- Databases are so large now that lots of surprising things may occur by chance

Homologs, orthologs, paralogs



- Homologs: Two genes with a common ancestor
- Orthologs: Homologous genes arising through **speciation**
- Paralogs: Homologous genes arising through **duplication**

Orthologs vs. paralogs



All 5 genes are homologs.

Which are orthologs, and which are paralogs?

Which are most likely to function similarly?

Why align sequences?

- To determine whether sequences are **homologous**: this is, they are derived from a common ancestor.
- We hope that **orthologs** will have similar functions.
- Therefore, we make alignments to understand more about how proteins function.
- Alignments also allow us to infer how closely related proteins are
 - Important application: evolution / transmission of disease (e.g. flu, malaria)

Principles of Alignment

- There are almost always multiple ways to align two sequences
- Which way is best? Is the alignment due to more than just chance?
- Need a way to score

Principles of Alignment

THISISSEQUENCE

THATSEQUENCE

THISISSEQUENCE	THISISSEQUENCE
THAT--- SEQUENCE	TH--- ATSEQUENCE

THISISA-SEQUENCE
TH-----ATSEQUENCE

Which one is best?

Scoring alignments

- Simplest score: % identity
- Number of matches/length of match

THISISSEQUENCE **THISIS**SEQUENCE

THAT---SEQUENCE **TH---**SEQUENCE

10/15 = 66.7%

10/15 = 66.7%

THISA-SEQUENCE

TH-----SEQUENCE

11/16 = 68.8%

Is the third alignment the best?

Inserting gaps in alignments

- Gaps in alignment presumably due to insertion or deletion in one sequence during evolution
- Too many gaps => meaningless alignment
- Gap penalty
- Gap extension penalty (lower)
- Penalties should be adjusted based on whether you are looking for highly related (high penalty) or more distant sequences (low penalty)
- Gap penalty may depend on residue opposite gap (e.g. tryptophan – large penalty), but typically this is ignored

Identity is not always satisfactory:

Substitution matrices

- Use real data to derive scoring matrix
- Genuine matches need not be identical
- How likely is it that an amino acid at a particular position substituted for another amino acid at that position during evolution?
- Substitutions of amino acids with similar physicochemical properties (e.g. size, charge, hydrophobicity) are more likely to conserve function

Amino acids fall into different classes

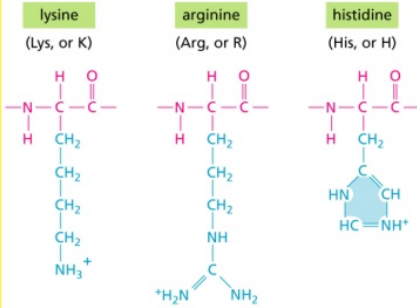
 α -helix formers

 β -strand formers

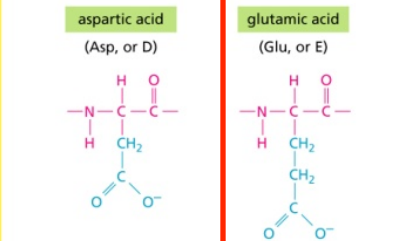
 Turn segments

Gly, Tyr, and especially Pro are poor α -helix formers

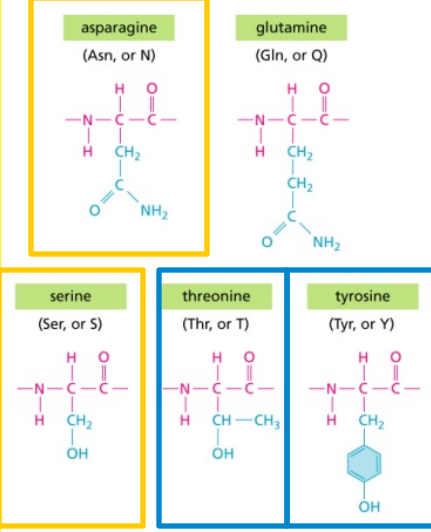
BASIC SIDE CHAINS



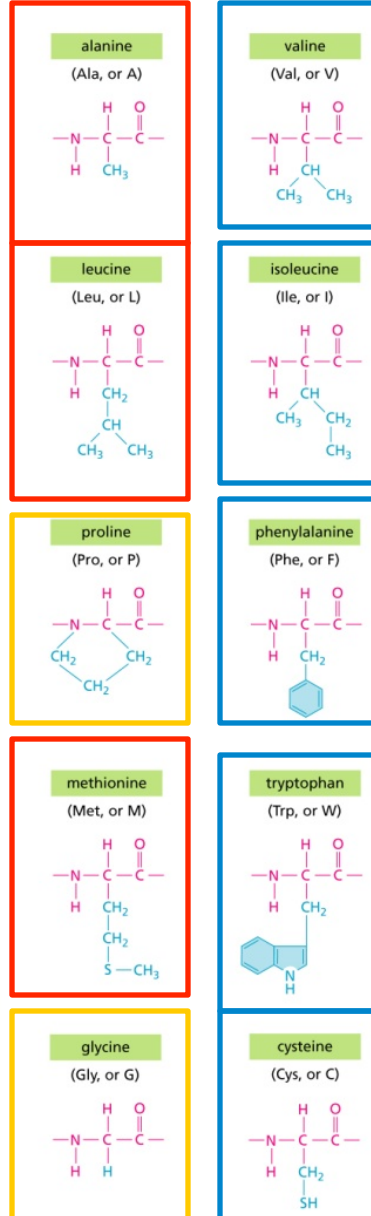
ACIDIC SIDE CHAINS



UNCHARGED POLAR SIDE CHAINS



NONPOLAR SIDE CHAINS



PAM120 Substitution Matrix

(B)

C	9																			
S	-1	3																		
T	-3	2	4																	
P	-3	1	-1	6																
A	-3	1	1	1	3															
G	-5	1	-1	-2	1	5														
N	-5	1	0	-2	0	0	4													
D	-7	0	-1	-2	0	0	2	5												
E	-7	-1	-2	-1	0	-1	1	3	5											
Q	-7	-2	-2	0	-1	-3	0	1	2	6										
H	-4	-2	-3	-1	-3	-4	2	0	-1	3	7									
R	-4	-1	-2	-1	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	1	1	6								
K	-7	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	1	-1	-1	0	-2	2	5							
M	-6	-2	-1	-3	-2	-4	-3	-4	-4	-1	-4	-1	0	8						
I	-3	-2	0	-3	-1	-4	-2	-3	-3	-3	-4	-2	-2	1	6					
L	-7	-4	-3	-3	-3	-5	-4	-5	-4	-2	-3	-4	-4	3	1	5				
V	-2	-2	0	-2	0	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-4	1	3	1	5			
F	-6	-3	-4	-5	-4	-5	-4	-7	-6	-6	-2	-4	-6	-1	0	0	-3	8		
Y	-1	-3	-3	-6	-4	-6	-2	-5	-4	-5	-1	-6	-6	-4	-2	-3	-3	4	8	
W	-8	-2	-6	-7	-7	-8	-5	-8	-8	-6	-5	1	-5	-7	-7	-5	-8	-1	-1	12
	C	S	T	P	A	G	N	D	E	Q	H	R	K	M	I	L	V	F	Y	W

Red: polar or acidic

Blue: basic

Green: larger nonpolar

Orange: large, aromatic

You will see different groupings!

Yellow: small and polar

White: small and nonpolar/hydrophobic

Red: polar or acidic

Blue: basic

Green: larger nonpolar/hydrophobic

Orange: large, aromatic

You will see different types of amino acid groupings!

Score the alignment:

CSTPEDWLIV

CTNCDEWDI

BLAST

- Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
- Most widely used local alignment algorithm

BLAST basics

- Starts with short 'words' in the query sequence (default length 3 for proteins, 11 for nucleotides)
- Finds matches in target sequence (using a substitution matrix for proteins, score of match must be above a threshold; for nucleotides, exact match)
- When match is found (two nearby words for proteins), BLAST tries to extend forward and backward to make alignment
- Continues extension until negative scores make the score drop by a critical amount

How do we know an alignment is significant?

- Expect value (E value): ‘the number of times that an alignment as good or better than that found by BLAST would be expected to occur by chance, given the **size of the database searched**’ --From BLAST QuickStart tutorial

$$E = Kmne^{-\lambda S}$$

- S is the score
- Sometimes better to search smaller databases
 - m,n are the lengths of the sequences being compared
 - When comparing to a large database, consider m=query length, n= total length of all sequences in database
- Default E value = 10
- Typically don't consider matches with $E > 0.001$
- Often see E values like 10^{-36}

How do we know an alignment is significant?

- Expect value (E value): ‘the number of times that an alignment as good or better than that found by BLAST would be expected to occur by chance, given the **size of the database searched**’ --From BLAST QuickStart tutorial

$$E = Kmne^{-\lambda S}$$

- The parameters K and λ can be thought of simply as natural scales for the search space size and the scoring system respectively
- For details: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/tutorial/Altschul-1.html#head2>

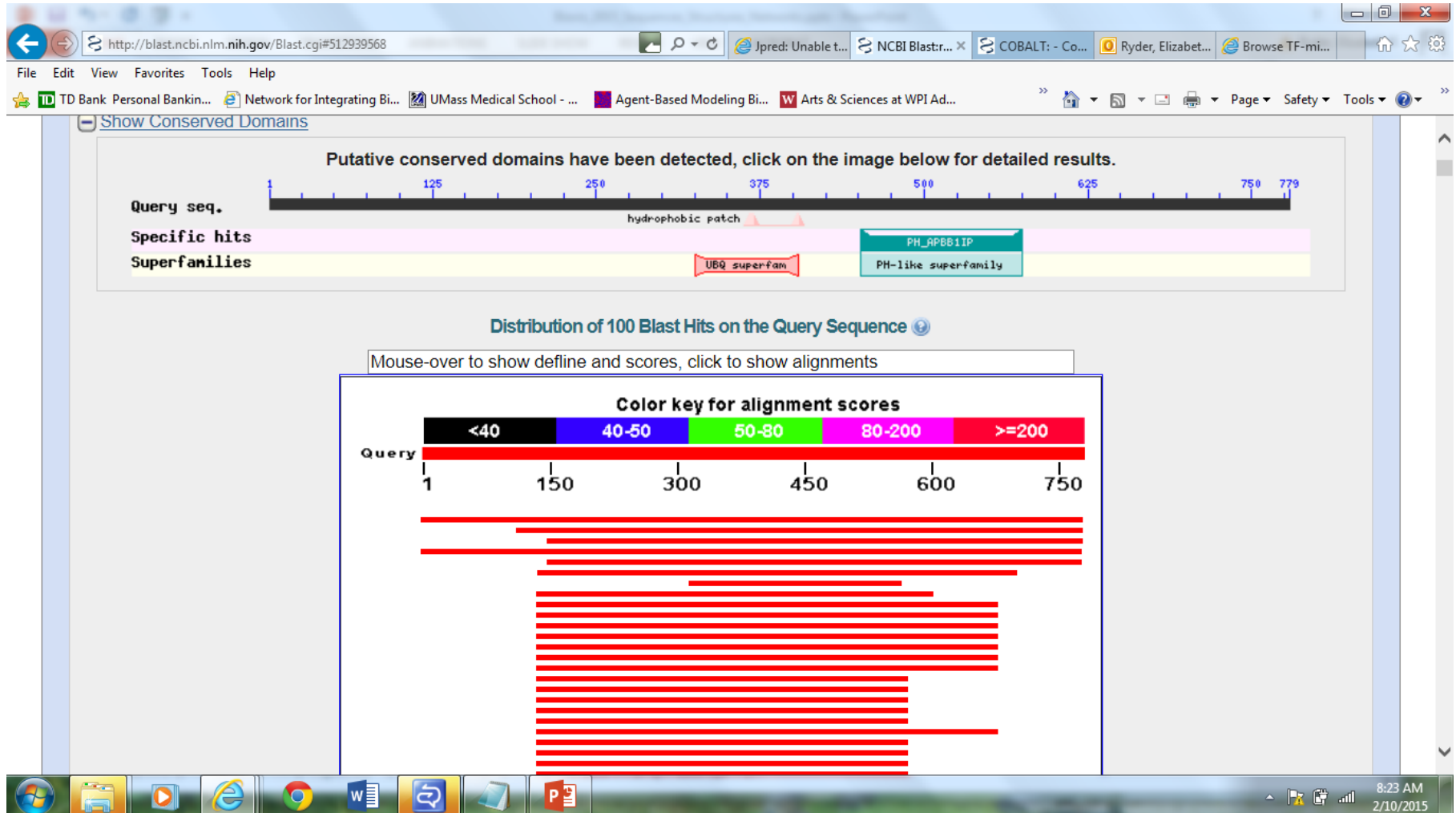
A word about nucleotides

- Why do we typically align proteins and not nucleotide sequences?
- Possible to align nucleotides, but more difficult
 - Only 4 bases
 - Matches more likely to occur by chance
 - Amino acids more conserved over evolution (genetic code is degenerate; DNA less conserved)
- Use protein sequence when available
- Scoring matrices much simpler – e.g. BLASTn uses +2 for a match, -3 for a mismatch
- When would we have to align nucleotides?

Alignment example

- We'll try aligning the *C. elegans* protein MIG-10 to the Refseq database
- See if we can decide whether there are homologs of MIG-10 in other species
- Initially, we'll judge by % identity, % coverage, and E value
- [DM0C32V6014](#) (Expires on 02-11 20:02PM)

BLAST Output



An individual alignment

http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi?aln=Hdr_154800474

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

TD Bank Personal Bankin... Network for Integrating Bi... UMass Medical School - ... Agent-Based Modeling Bi... Arts & Sciences at WPI Ad...

Download GenPept Graphics

amyloid beta A4 precursor protein-binding family B member 1-interacting protein [Gallus gallus]
Sequence ID: [ref|NP_001006357.2](#) Length: 659 Number of Matches: 1

Range 1: 157 to 431 GenPept Graphics

	Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps
	240 bits(613)	3e-65	Compositional matrix adjust.	119/283(42%)	167/283(59%)	8/283(2%)
Query	303		AKAQKIRQALEKMKAKVTKIFVKFFVEDGEALQLLIDERWTVADTLKQLAEKNHIALME			362
			AKA KI+ ALEK+KEAK+ K+ VK + D L++DER D L L EK H			
Sbjct	157		AKADKIKLAEKLKEAKIKKLVLVVKVHMYDNSTKSLMVDERQVTRDVLNLFETHCDSCSV			216
Query	363		DHCIVEEYPPELYIKRVYEDHEKVVENIQMWVQDSPNKLYFMRRPDKYAFISRPPELYLLTP			422
			D C+ E YPEL I+R +EDHE VVE + W +DS NK+ F+ + +KYA P+ + L			
Sbjct	217		DWCLYEVPPELQIERFFEDHENVVEVLSDWTRDSENKVLFLKKEKYALFKNPQNFYLAN			276
Query	423		KTSDHMEIPSGDQWTIDVKQKFVSEYFHREPVVPEMEGFLYLKSDGRKSWKKHYFVLRP			482
			K + + + K+ + E F V+ PE+EG LYLK DG+KSWK+ YF+LR			
Sbjct	277		KGKNESK-----EMNDKSKEALLEESFCGASVIVPELEGALYLKEDGKKSWKRRYFLLRA			331
Query	483		SGLYYAPKSKKPTTKDLTCLMNLHNSQVYTIGIGWEKKYKSPTPWCISIKLTALQMKRSQF			542
			SG+YY PK K T++DL C + + VY G + KYK+PT C +K +Q K SQ+			
Sbjct	332		SGIYYVPKGKTKTSRDLTCFIQFENMNVYGSQHKVKYKAPTDCFCVLKHPQIQ-KESQY			390
Query	543		IKYICAEDEMTFKKWLVALRIAKNGAELLENYERACQIRRETL			585
			IKY+C +D T +W+ +RIAK G L +NY+ C +++ L			
Sbjct	391		IKYLCCDDRATLHQWVTGIRIAKYGKTLYDNYK--CAVKKAGL			431

Download GenPept Graphics

Next Previous Descriptions

PREDICTED: amyloid beta A4 precursor protein-binding family B member 1-interacting protein [Mesitornis unicolor]

8:26 AM 2/10/2015

Related Information

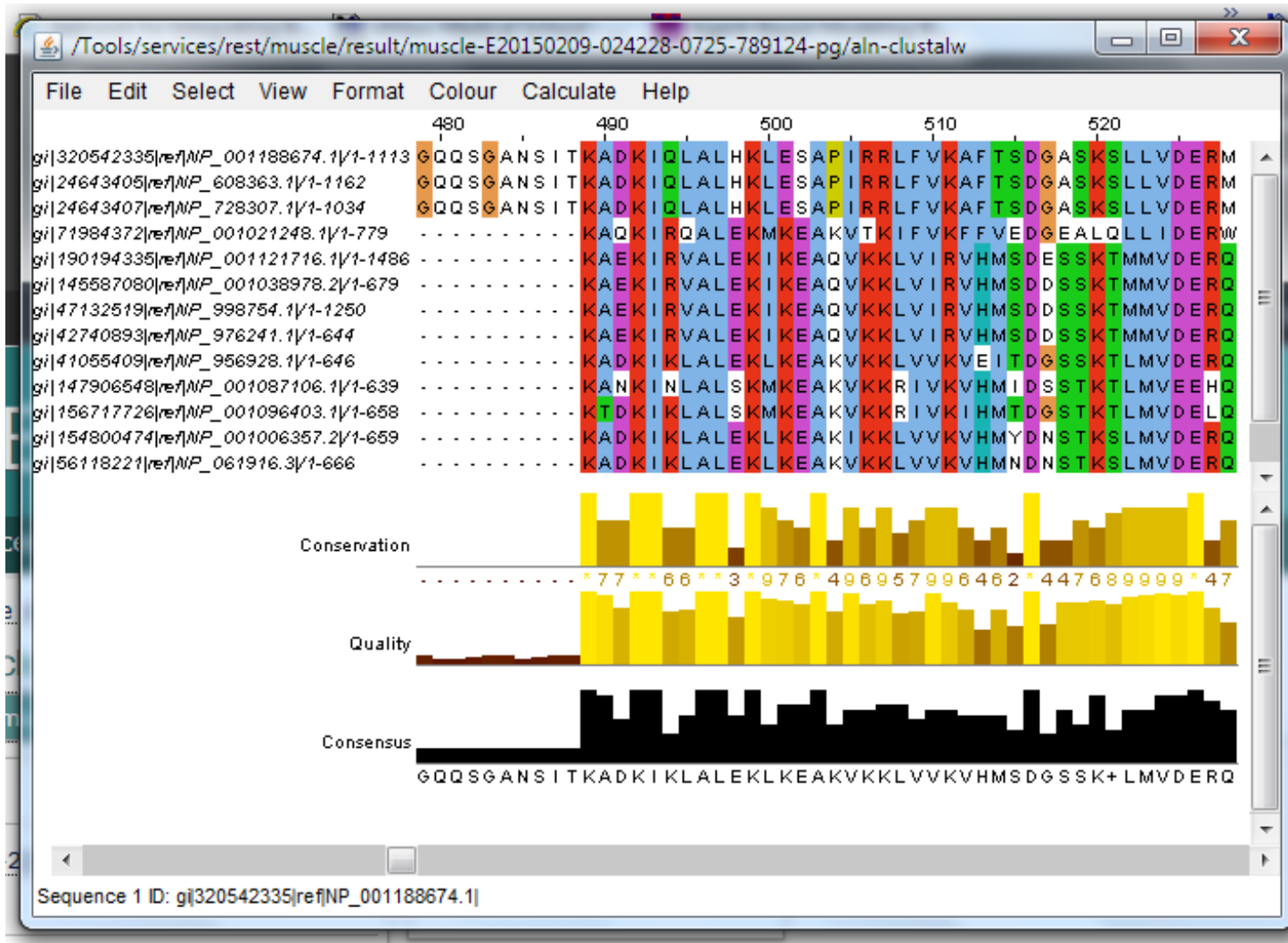
- [Gene](#) - associated gene details
- [UniGene](#) - clustered expressed sequence tags
- [Map Viewer](#) - aligned genomic context

Multiple alignment: COBALT Output (NCBI)

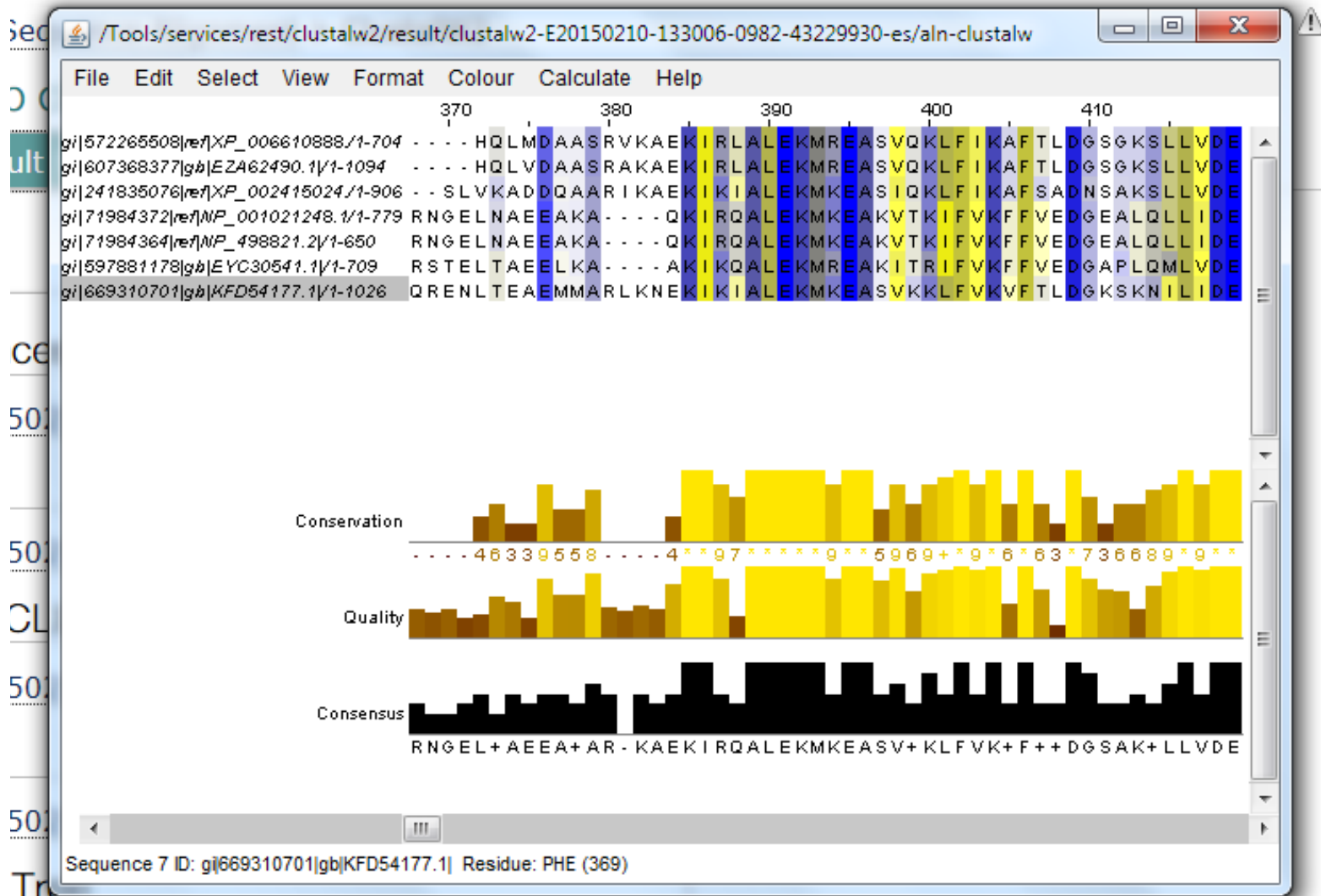
The screenshot displays the NCBI COBALT web interface for a multiple sequence alignment. The browser address bar shows the URL: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/tools/cobalt/cobalt.cgi?CMD=Get&cobaltRID=DM1CN5JF211>. The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. The main content area shows a list of sequences with their accession numbers, positions, and aligned residues. The sequences are grouped into three blocks, each starting with a checkmark icon. The first block contains sequences NP_001038978, NP_001021248, XP_002641939, XP_006610888, NP_001121716, XP_004033136, NP_001006357, and NP_001038978. The second block contains sequences NP_001021248, XP_002641939, XP_006610888, NP_001121716, XP_004033136, NP_001006357, and NP_001038978. The third block contains sequences NP_001021248, XP_002641939, XP_006610888, NP_001121716, XP_004033136, NP_001006357, and NP_001038978. The aligned residues are shown in a color-coded format, with gaps represented by dashes. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system clock indicating 8:22 AM on 2/10/2015.

Accession	Position	Sequence	Position
NP_001038978	152	SLDDITAELEQASLSMDEAAQQ-	226
NP_001021248	281	----DSLNTPSPTQVSPRNGELNAEEAKAQKIRQALEKMKAEKVTKIFVKFFVEDGEALQLLIDERWTVADTLKQLAEKN	356
XP_002641939	152	----DSLNTPSPTQVSPRTGELNAEEAKSLKIRQALEKMKAEKIKMLVKFFVEDGQPLQMLIDERWTVADTMKQLAEKN	227
XP_006610888	163	-hKPPQTAMHTGPQQQSHQLMDAASRVKAEKIRLAEKMKREASVQKLFKAFTLDGSGKSLVDEGMSVAHVCRLLADKN	241
NP_001121716	244	--RGQENETQSQNQSTSTEEQAAKAKAEKIRVALEKIKEAQVKKLVIRVHMSDESSKTMVDERQTVRQVLDLSDKS	321
XP_004033136	227	vtRPQELDLT--HQGQPITEEEQAAKLKAEKIRVALEKIKEAQVKKLVIRVHMSDDSSKTMVDERQTVRQVLDNLMDKS	304
NP_001006357	139	-----PPPPPEPLSQEEQEARAKADKIKLAEKLEKAEKIKLVVKVHMYDNSTKSLMVDERQVTRDVLNLFECT	210
NP_001038978	227	vtRPQELDLT--HQGQPITEEEQAAKLKAEKIRVALEKIKEAQVKKLVIRVHMSDDSSKTMVDERQTVRQVLDNLMDKS	305
NP_001021248	357	HIALMEDHCIVEEYPPELYIKRVYEDHEKVVENIQMWVQDSQNK-LYFMRRPDKYAFISRPPELYLLT---PKTSDHMEIPS	432
XP_002641939	228	HIALMEDHCIVEEYPPELYIKRVYEDHEKVVENITMWVQDSQNK-LYFMRRPDKYTFISRPPELYLLT---PKTSDHMEIPP	303
XP_006610888	242	HVPMDPKWTVEHLPLDFMERVYEDHELLVENLLWTRDSQNK-LLFVERPEKTQLFLTPEFFLLG-----LSDRS	311
NP_001121716	322	HCGYSPDWALVETIPELQMERIFEDHENLVENLLNWTDRSQNK-LMFIERIEKYALFKNPQNYLL---GRKETSEMADR	397
XP_004033136	305	HCGYSLDWSLVETVSELQMERIFEDHENLVENLLNWTDRSQNK-LIFMERIEKYALFKNPQNYLL---GKKETAEMADR	380
NP_001006357	211	HCDCSDVWCLEVEYPELQIERFFEDHENVEVLSDWTDRSENKvLFL-EKKEKYALFKNPQNFYLANKGKNESEKEMNDKS	289
NP_001038978	306	HCGYSLDWSLVETISELQMERIFEDHENLVENLLNWTDRSQNK-LIFMERIEKYALFKNPQNYLL---GKKETAEMADR	381
NP_001021248	433	[8] KQKFVSEYFHREPVPVPEMEGFLYLKSDGRKSWKKHYFVLRPSGLYYAPKSKKPTTKDLTCLMNLHNSQVYTIGIGWE	517
XP_002641939	304	[8] KQKFVHDYFNREPVPVPEMEGFLYLKSDGRKSWKKHYFVLRPSGLYYAPKSKKPTTKDLTCLMNLHNSQVYTIGIGWE	388
XP_006610888	312	[8] RNILLEEFSSSNVGVPEVEGPLYLKSDSKGKWKRYHFLRASGLYYWPKKARTARDLVCLATFDVNQIYYIGIGWK	396
NP_001121716	398	KEALLEECFCGSSSVVPEIEGVWLKDDGKSKWKRYHFLRASGIYVFKGKAKASRDLCFLQLDHVNYYGQDYR	474
XP_004033136	381	KEVLEECFCGSSSVVPEIEGVWLKDDGKSKWKRYHFLRASGIYVFKGKAKVSRDLVCFQLQDHVNYYGQDYR	457
NP_001006357	290	KEALLEESFCGASVIVPELEGALYLKDDGKSKWKRYHFLRASGIYVFKGKTTSRDLMLCFIQFENMNYYGSQHK	366
NP_001038978	382	KEVLEECFCGSSSVVPEIEGVWLKDDGKSKWKRYHFLRASGIYVFKGKAKVSRDLVCFQLQDHVNYYGQDYR	458

MIG-10 in Jalview (from EBI)



Jalview colored by conservation



Gene regulatory networks

How is gene expression controlled?

Prokaryotic and eukaryotic transcription and translation

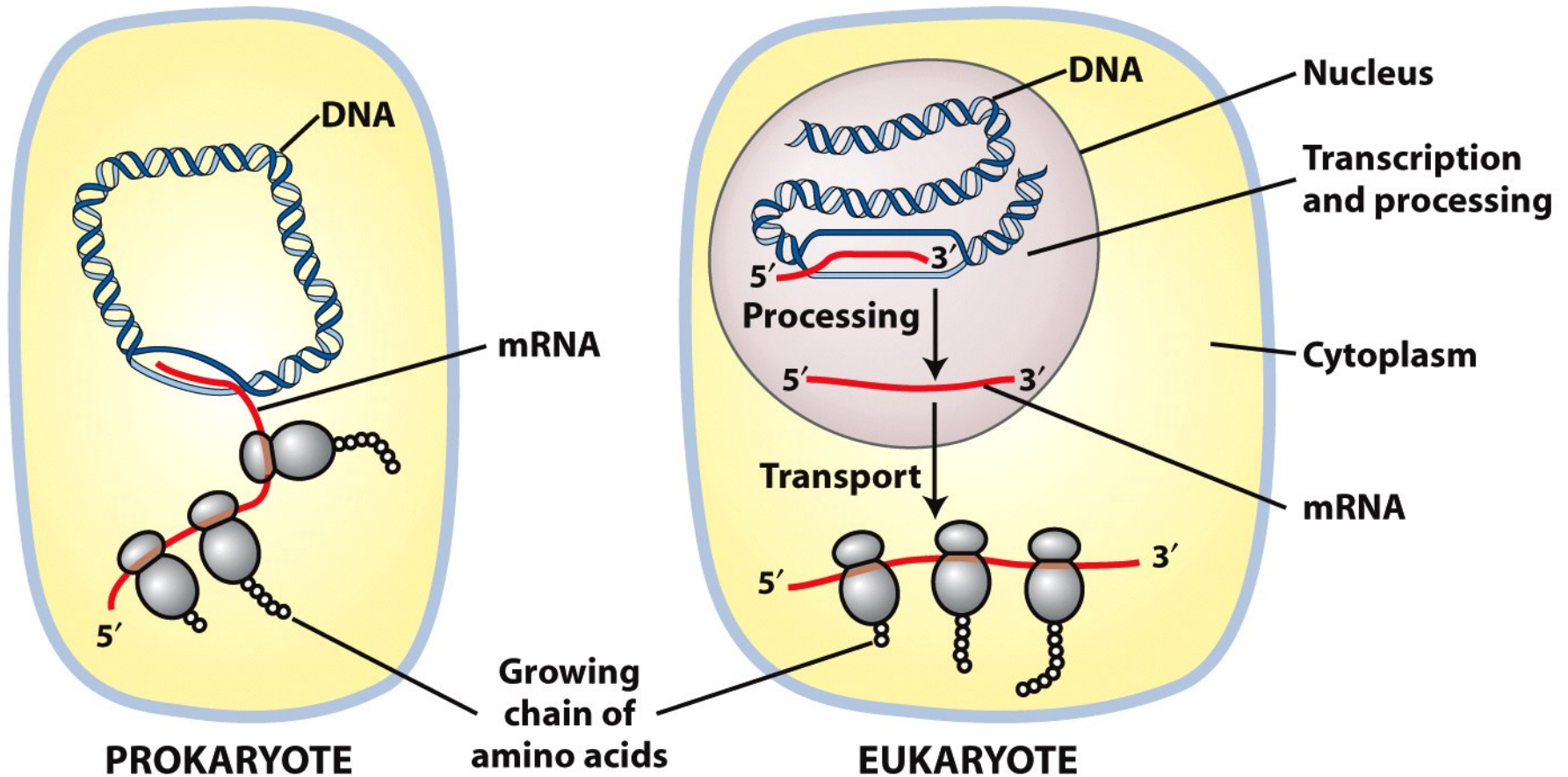
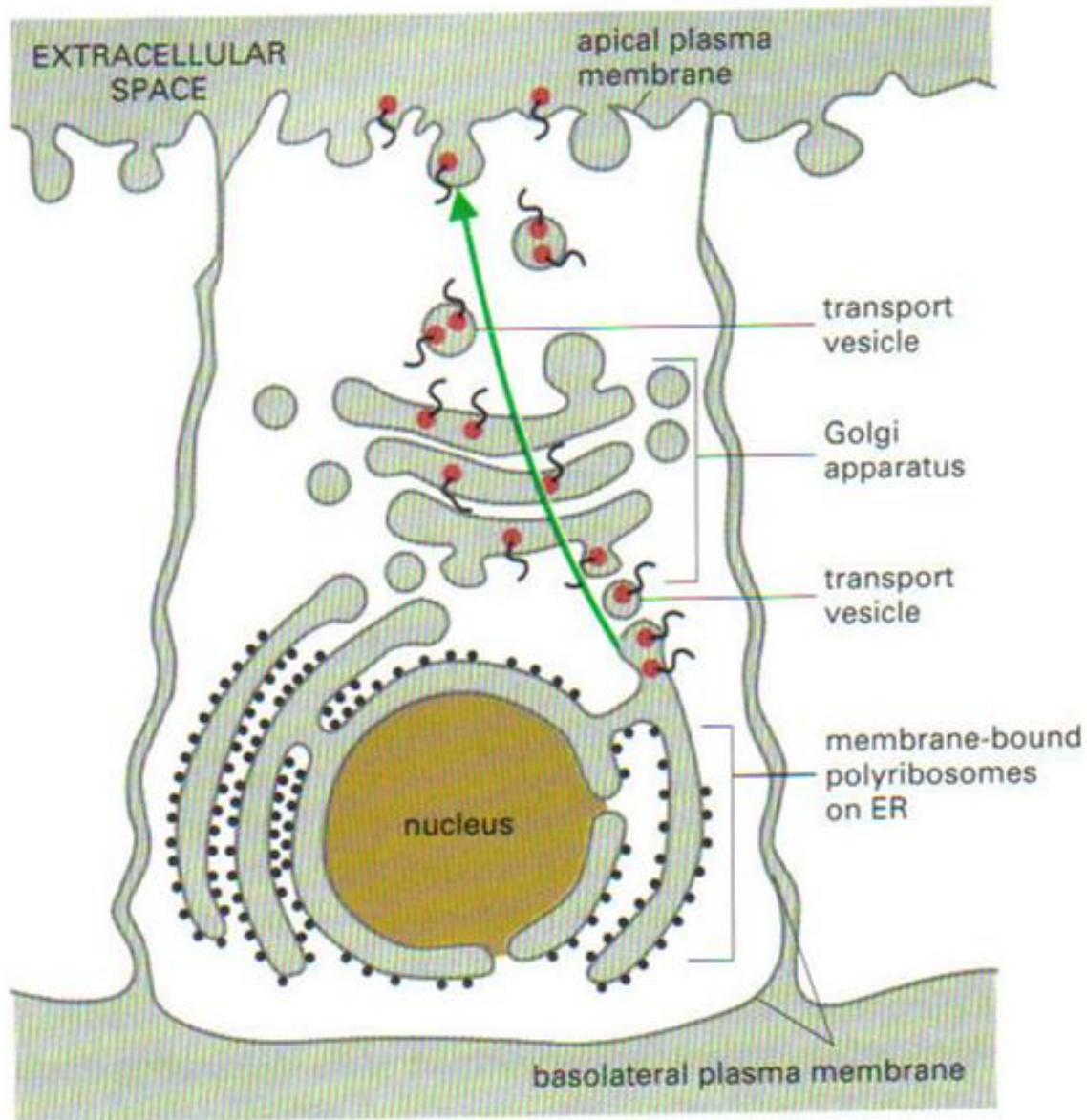


Figure 8-11
Introduction to Genetic Analysis, Ninth Edition
© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

Topology of glycosylation

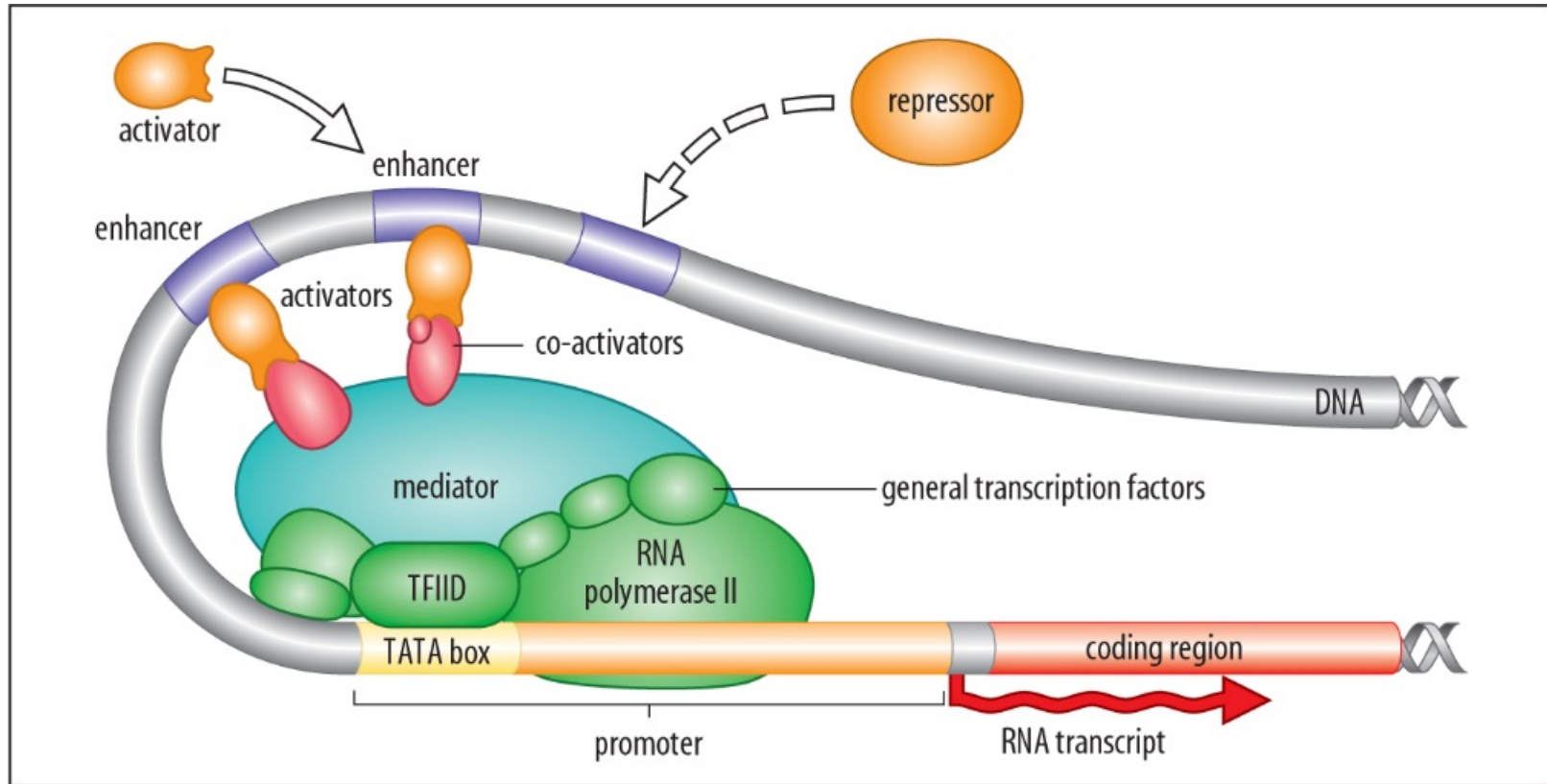


Σ membrane protein

- N-linked oligosaccharide added in ER

Glycosylation and phosphorylation occur in different cellular compartments...

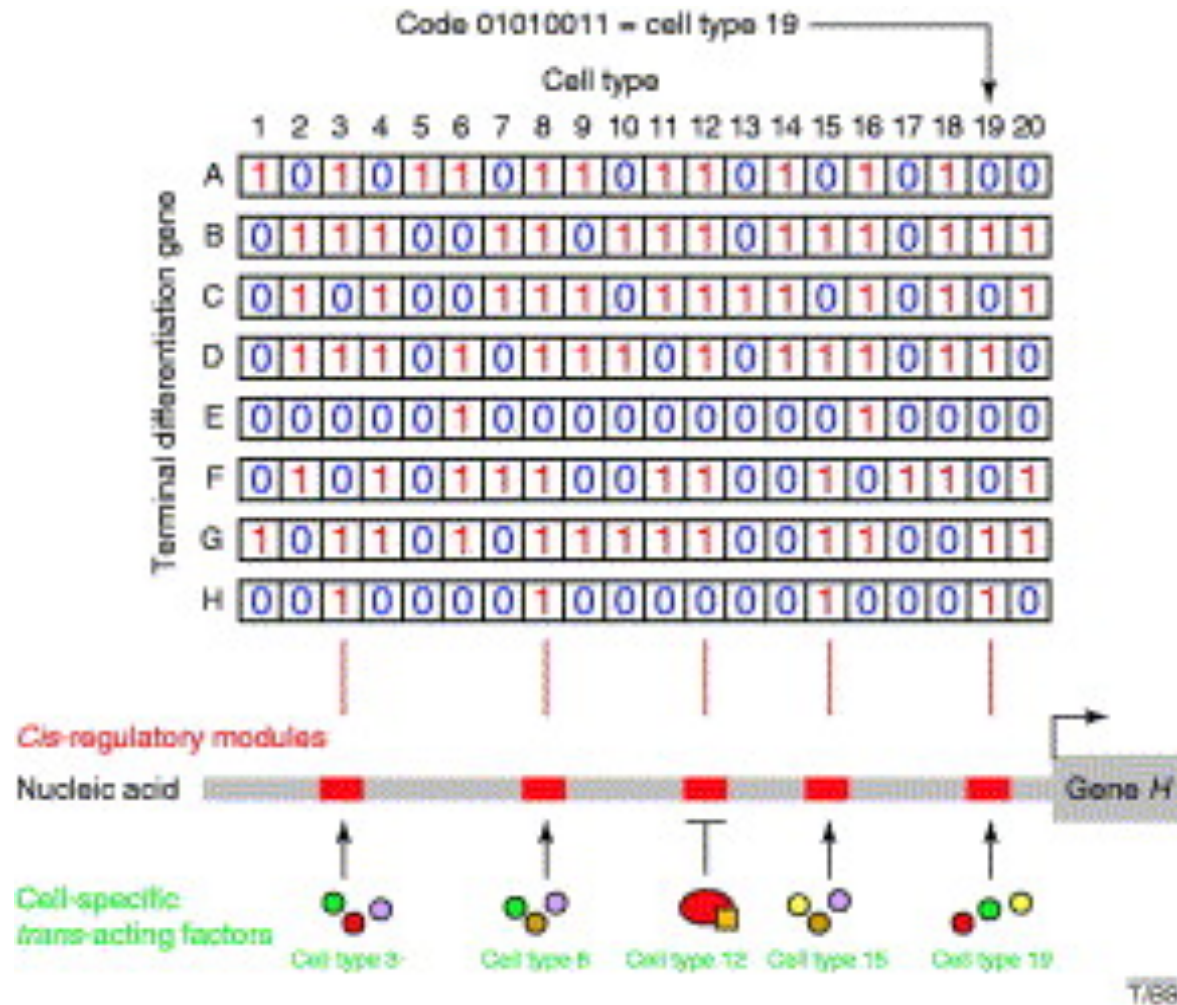
Eukaryotic transcription is complex!



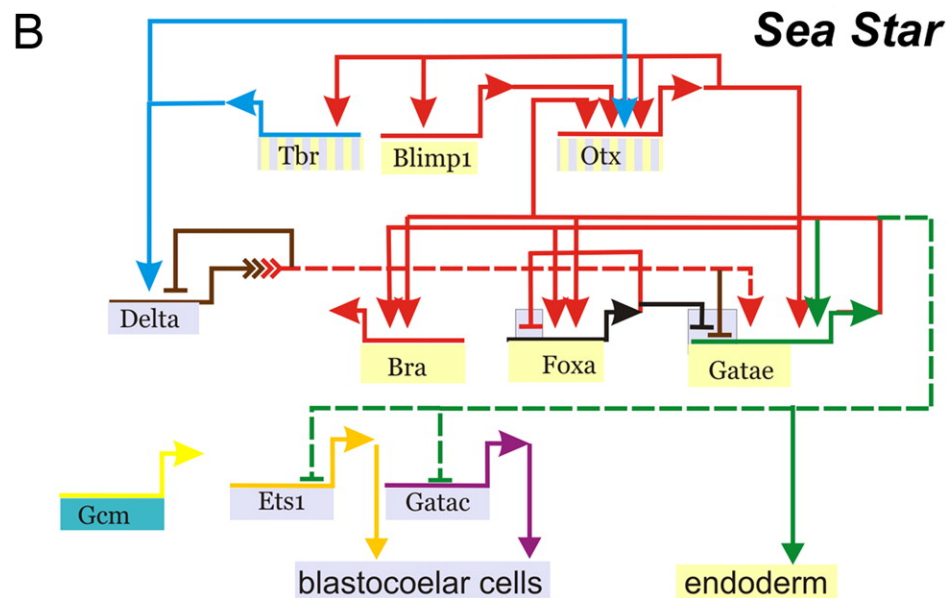
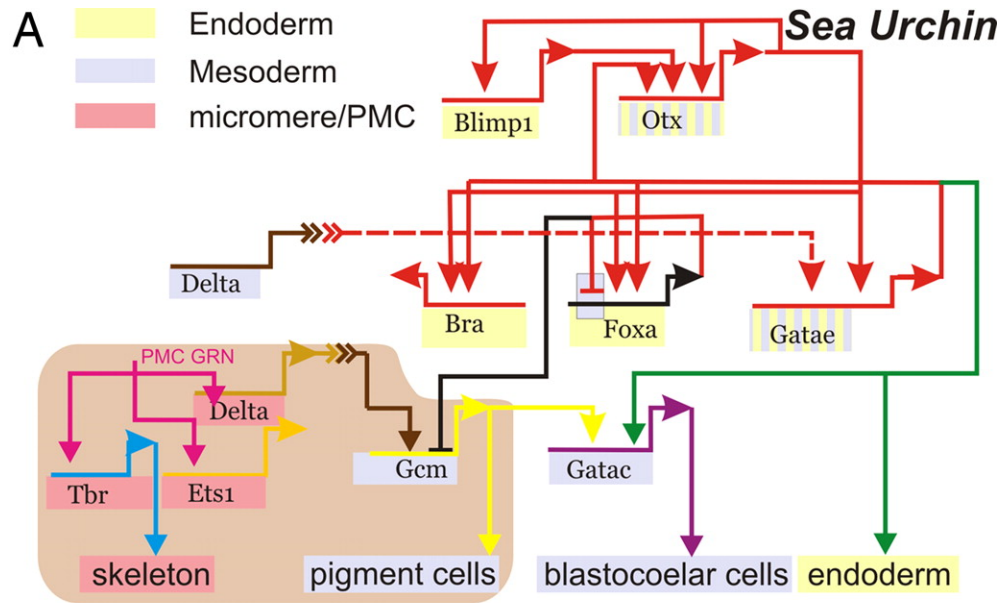
- Basal transcriptional regulators
- Cell type specific enhancers and repressors

http://www.mun.ca/biology/desmid/brian/BIOL3530/DEVO_10/devo_10.html

'Gene batteries'



Terminal differentiation genes expressed by different cell types

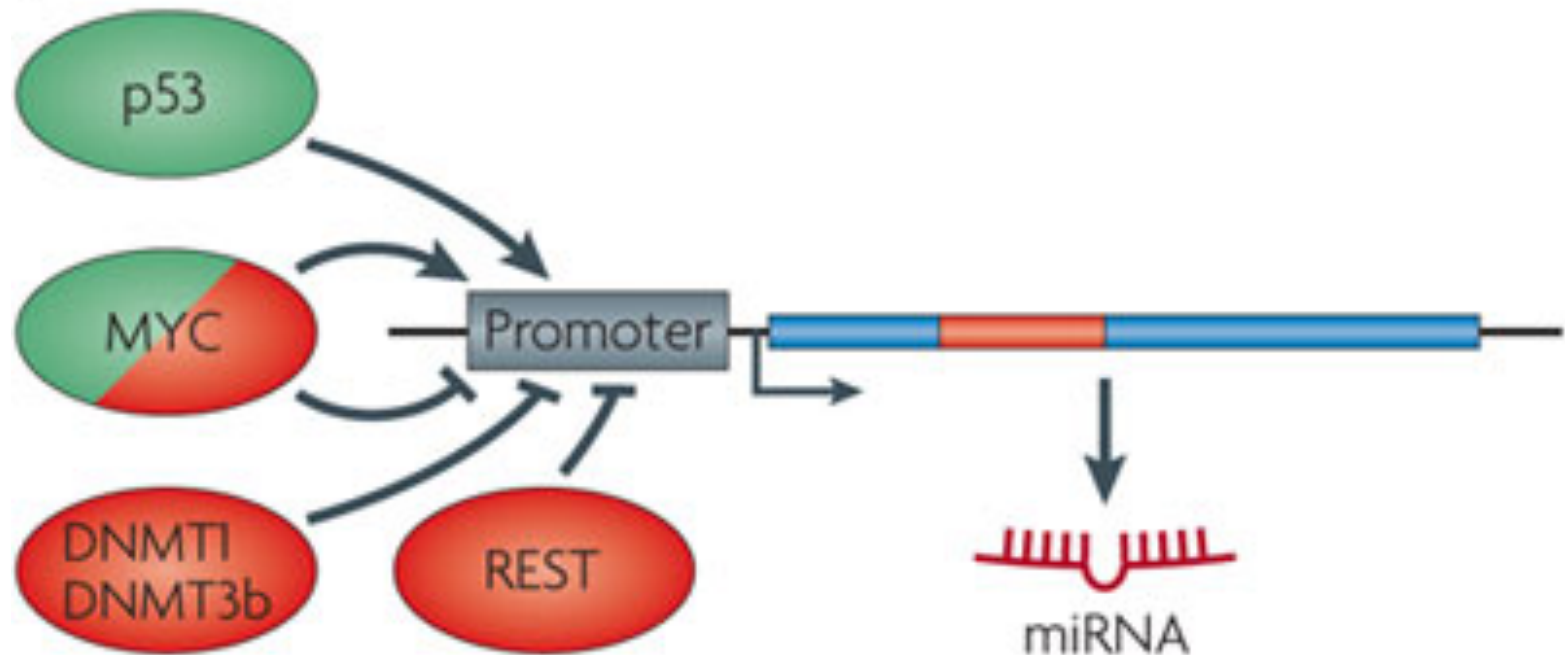


GRN: Sea urchin vs. Sea star

- All genes except Delta are transcription factors
- Arrows: + regulation
- T's: - regulation
- Colors: ???

Micro RNA (miRNA) genes are regulated similarly to protein-encoding genes

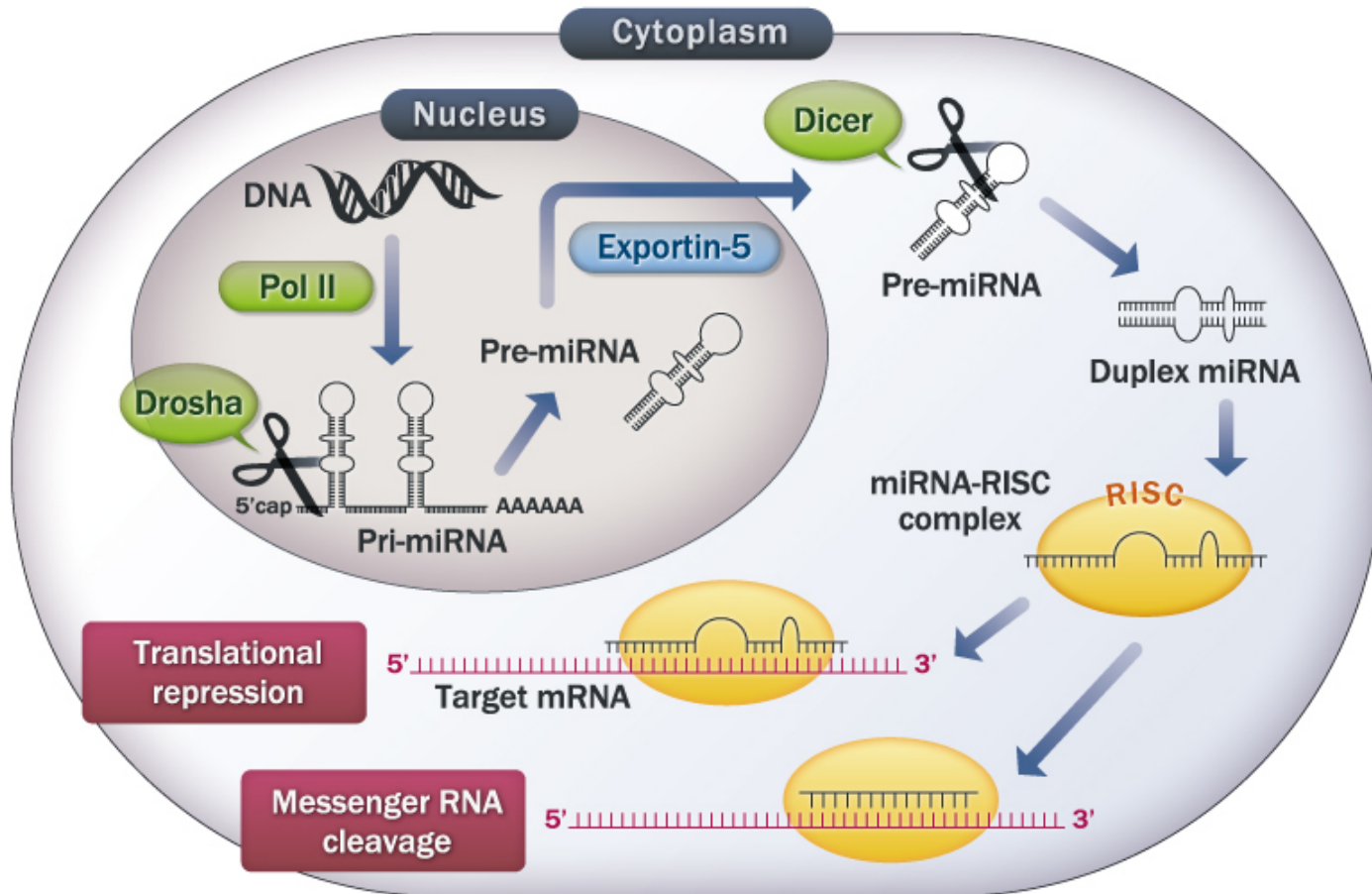
a



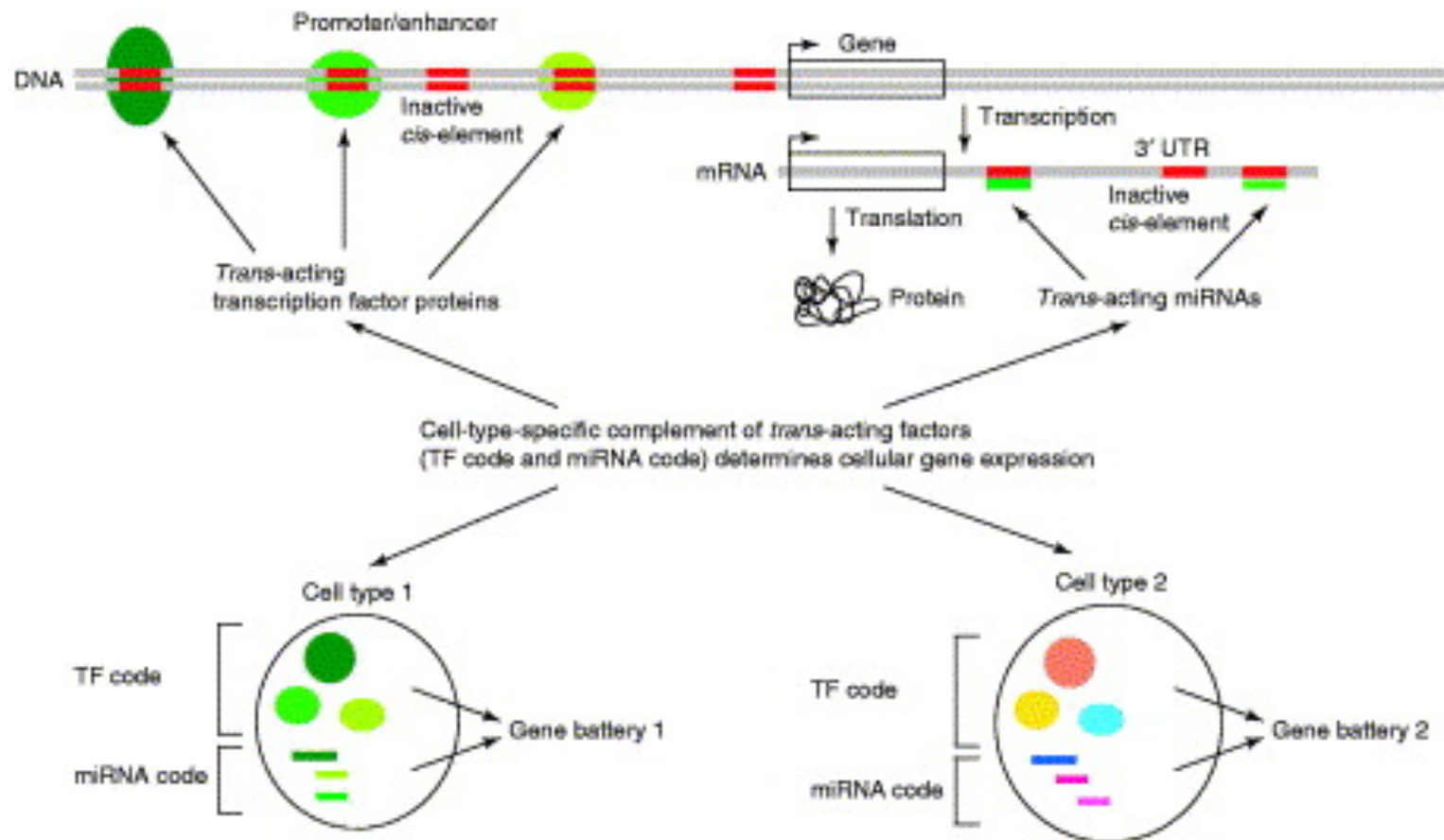
Jacek Krol, Inga Loedige & Witold Filipowicz
Nature Reviews Genetics 11, 597-610 (September 2010)
doi:10.1038/nrg2843

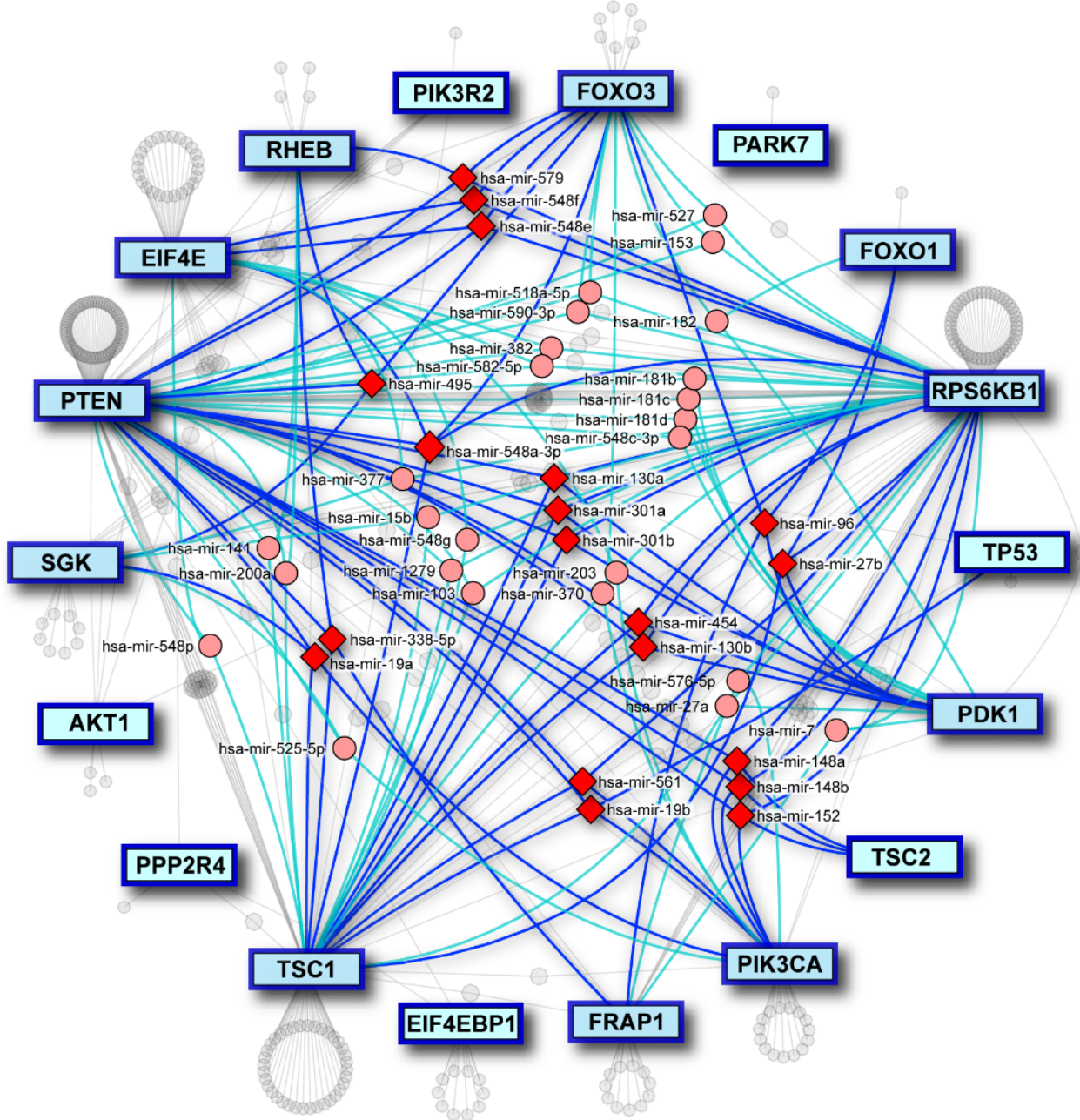
miRNA regulates mRNA

Biosynthetic pathway of microRNA



Common logic: transcription factors and miRNA



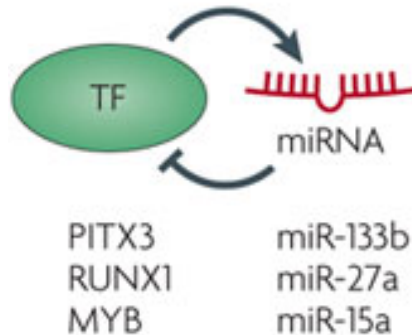


Regulation of oncogenes and tumor suppressors by miRNA

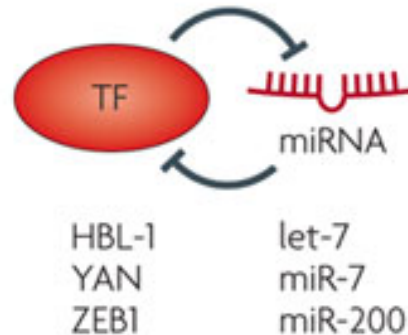
Regulatory circuits

b

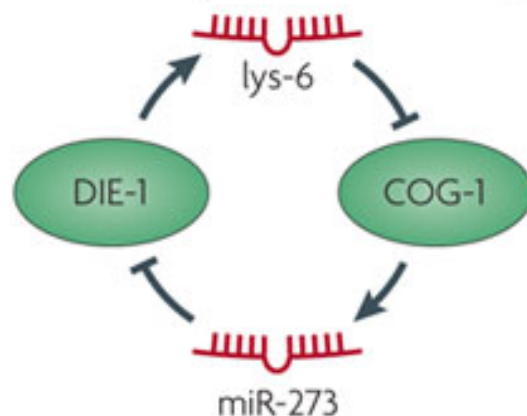
Unilateral negative feedback loops



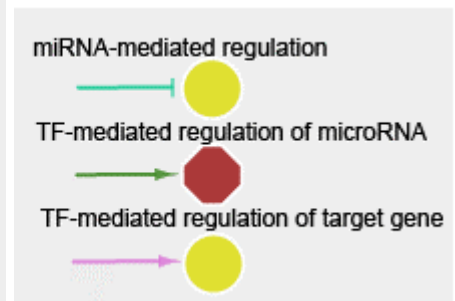
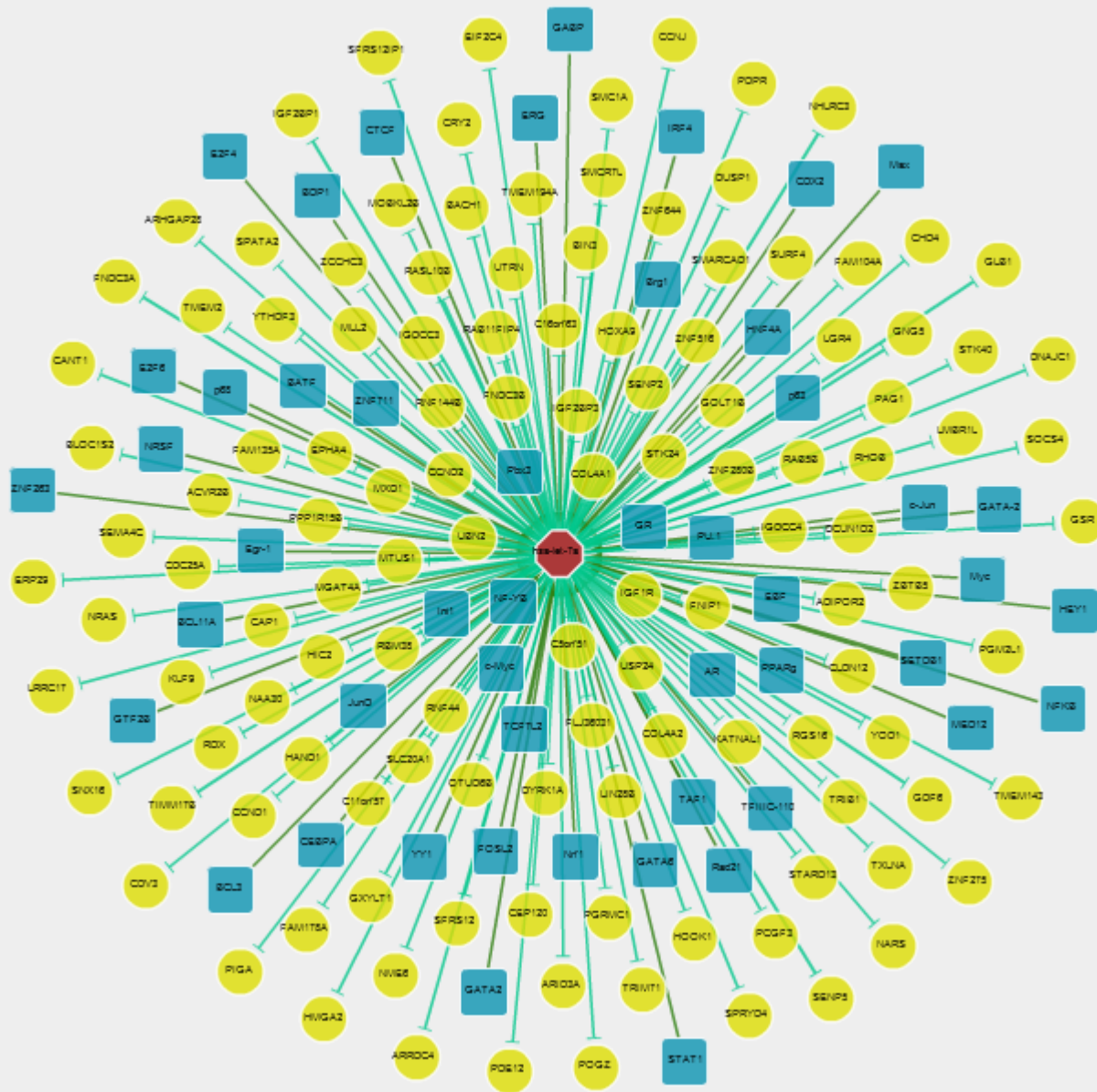
Reciprocal negative feedback loops



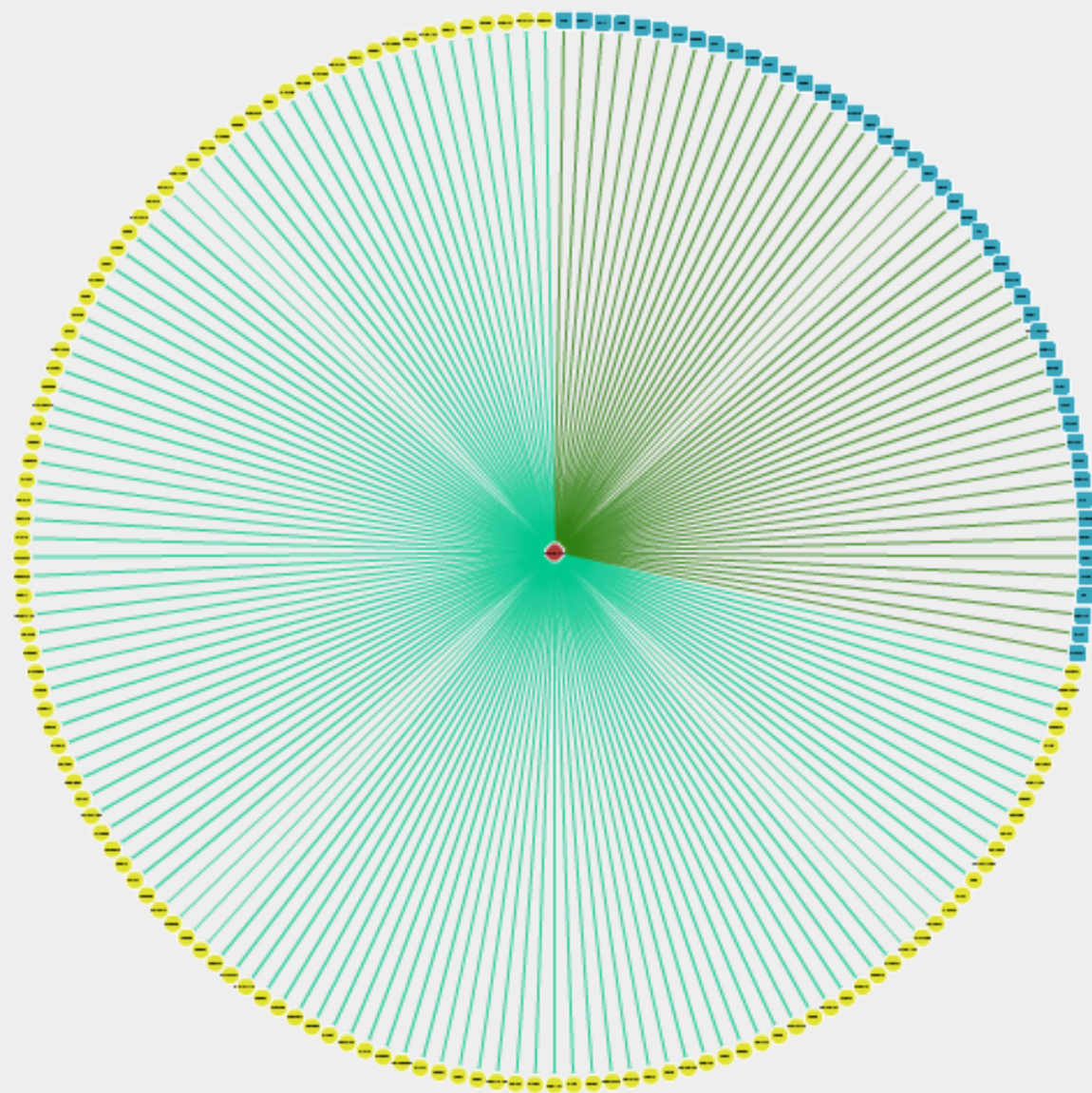
Double-negative feedback loop



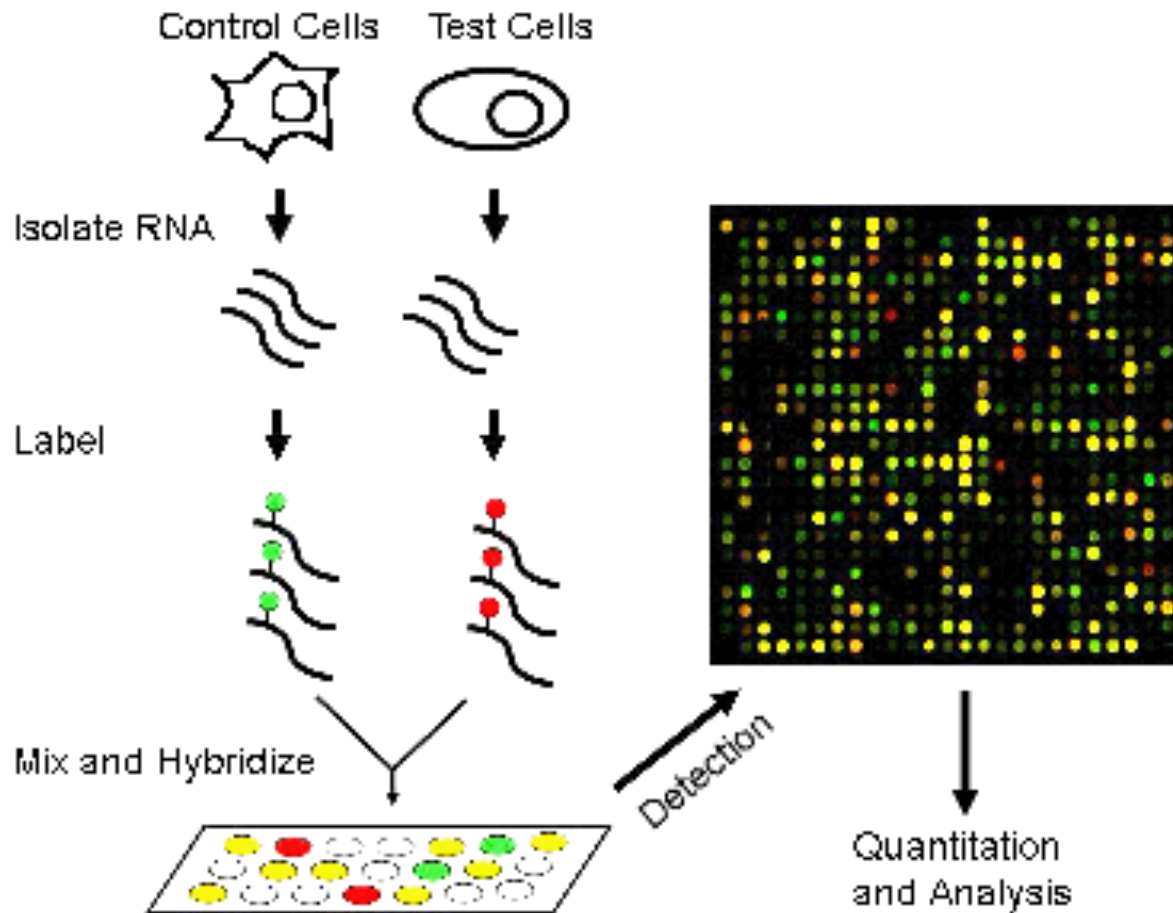
- Transcription factors can be + or –
- miRNA typically negative regulator
- Regulatory circuits typically contain both



<http://deepbase.sysu.edu.cn/chipbase/tfmiRtargetNetworks>

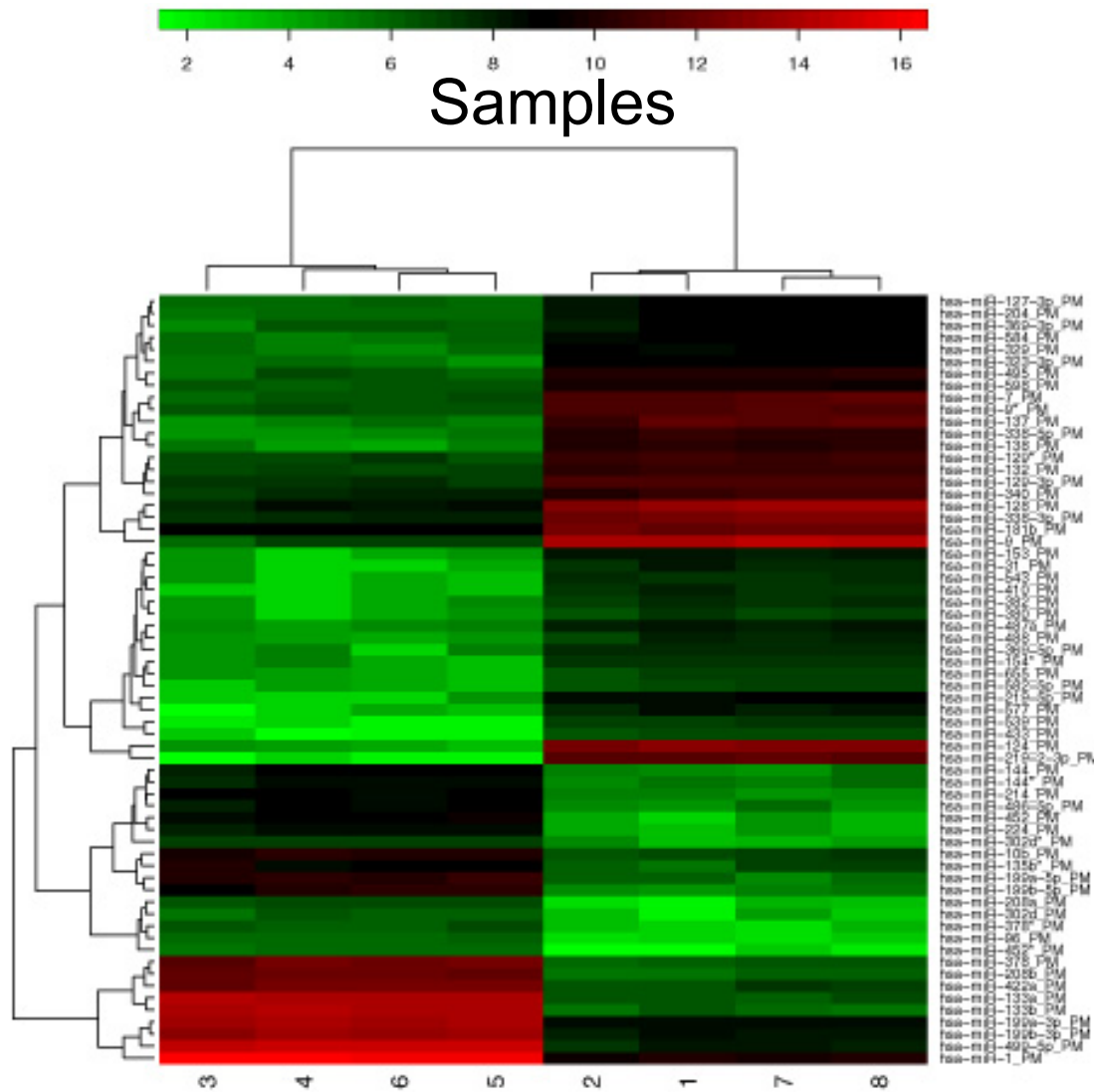


A microarray experiment



Data are variable!

- <http://azcc.arizona.edu/research/shared-resources/gsr/services>



Genes (mRNAs)

What are the trees telling you?

Appendix:

Databases and web sites

- DNA repositories
 - Genbank; NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information)
 - EMBL-bank; EMBL-EBI (European Molecular Biology Laboratory-European Bioinformatics Institute)
 - DDBJ (DNA Data Bank of Japan)

A few important websites

- NCBI
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>
 - Multiple databases, tools
- EMBL-EBI
 - <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/>
 - Alignment tools in particular
- ExPASy (Expert Protein Analysis System – Swiss)
 - <http://expasy.org/>
 - Multiple tools, especially useful for secondary structure prediction

A sampling of NCBI Databases

- Nucleotides (Genbank entries)
- Gene (Refseq; annotated model organisms)
- Unigene (expression data)
- Homologene
- OMIM (Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man)
- Cn3D (3D structure info)
- CD (conserved domains)
- dbEST (expressed sequence tags)

Accession numbers vs. gi numbers

- Accession numbers
 - Unique, stable
 - AB123456.2 ← Version 2
 - New version made whenever any change is made to a sequence; old version info is retained
- gi (GenInfo) numbers
 - Assigned sequentially to each nucleotide sequence processed by Genbank
 - 12345678
 - New number whenever any change is made to a sequence; no relationship to old number
 - old number info is retained
- gi and Accession numbers are incremented in parallel

Refseq database

- Highly annotated entries from subset of organisms
- From the NCBI Glossary
 - [RefSeq](#) is the [NCBI](#) database of reference sequences; a curated, non-redundant set including genomic [DNA contigs](#), [mRNAs](#) and proteins for known genes, and entire chromosomes
- Accession numbers start with two letters and an underscore
 - NM_123456.2 mRNA (version 2)
 - NP_123456.3 protein
 - NT_123456.4 contig
 - NC_000003.7 chromosome
 - XM_ or XP_ entries are ‘models’ predicted from sequence; no experimental evidence of existence

Some useful links

- NCBI Education pages
 - Glossary <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21106/>
 - Tutorials <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/education/>
- Tour of various NCBI databases and tools
- GenBank sample record explaining info in all fields
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Sitemap/samplerecord.html#ModificationsDateB>
- Entrez nucleotide and protein FAQs
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK49541/>
- The NCBI handbook
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21101/>