

Transcription & Translation

Transcription

Overview-mRNA structure
Process
RNA Polymerase
Fidelity

Translation

Genetic Code
triplet
deciphering
tRNA
Structure
Anticodon
Acylation (charging)
Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases
Mechanism
Fidelity
Protein Biosynthesis
Overview
Process
Ribosome review
Elongation
Decoding: Fidelity
Peptidyl Transferase
Energy

Lecture 28 (12/1/25)

TODAY

• Reading: Ch26, 960-964; Ch27, 1006-1013, 1018-1024, 1015-1018, 1028-1036

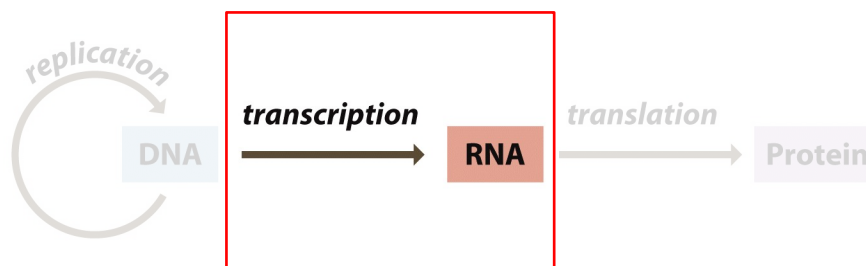
Homework: #28, #29, #30

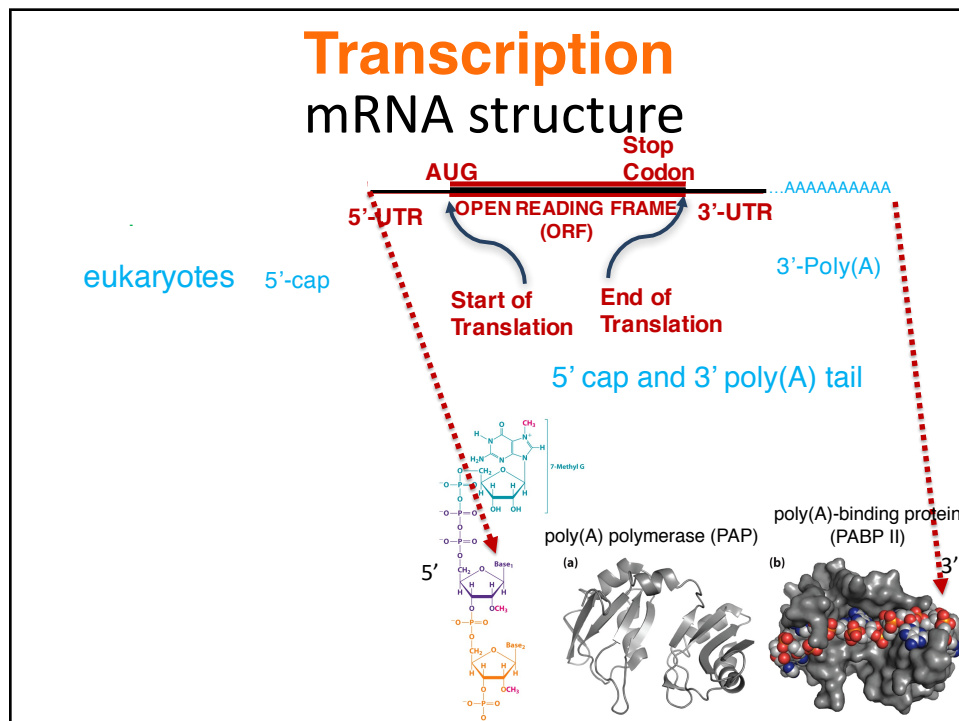
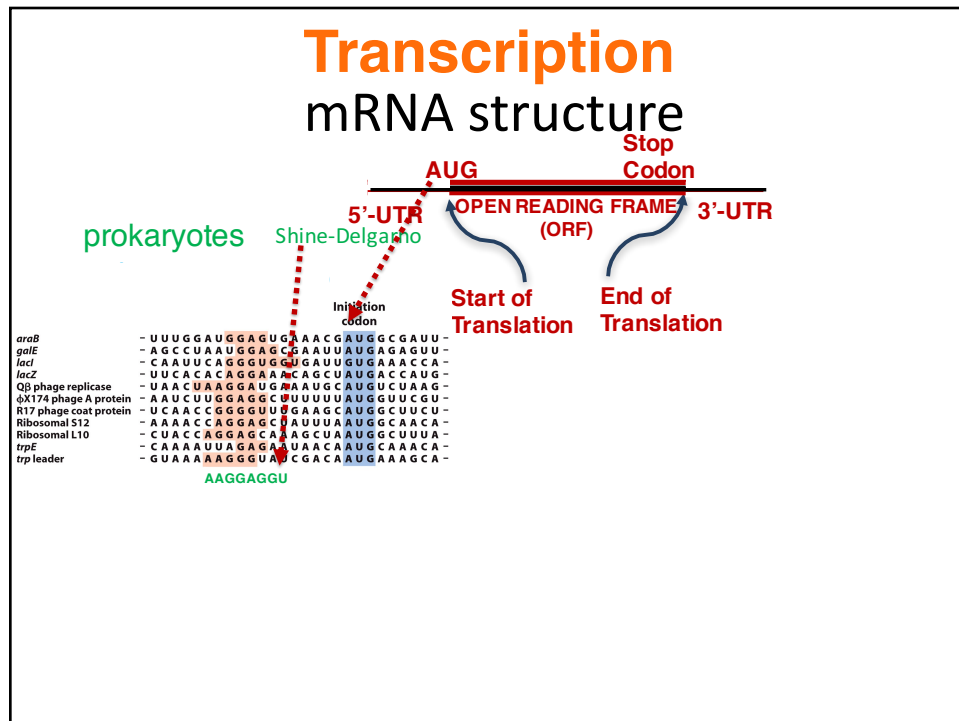
NEXT

• Reading: Ch10; 341-348
• Homework: #31

Transcription

Nucleic acid function: Central Dogma





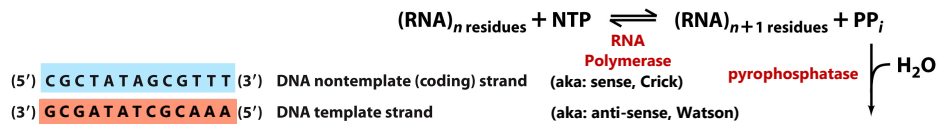
Transcription

Process:

- Initiation
- Elongation
- Termination

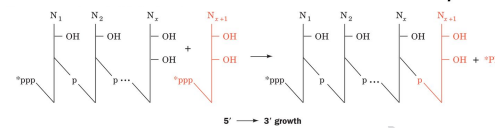
RNA Polymerases need 3 things:

- NTPs
- Template
- Place to start (NO primer needed)

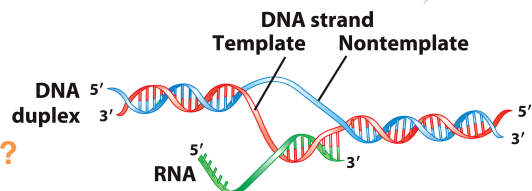


What is the sequence of the newly synthesized RNA strand?

5'-CGCUAUAGCGUUU-3'



Direction of transcription



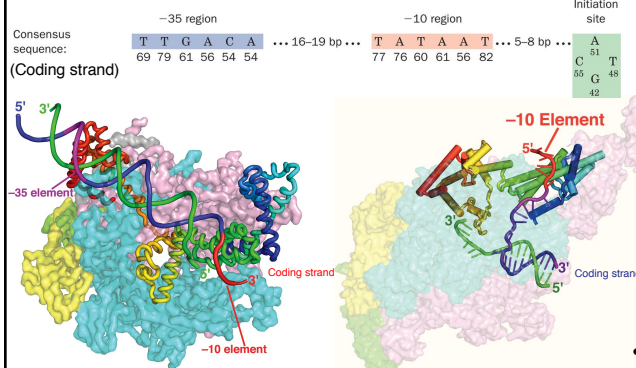
What about a place to start?

Promoters Transcription

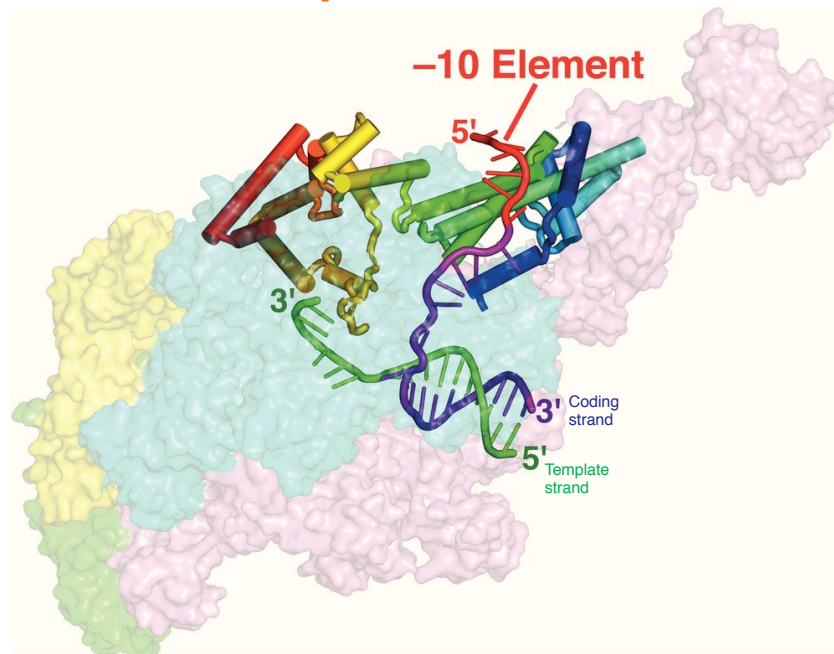
Prokaryotic Transcription – Initiation (a place to start)

Operon	-35 region	-10 region (Pribnow box)	Initiation site (+1)
<i>lac</i>	ACCCGAGGCTTTACACTTTATGCTTCGGCTCGTATGTTGTGTGGAAATTGTGAGCGG		
<i>lacI</i>	CCATCGAATGGCGCAAAACCTTTCGCGGTATGGCATGATAGCGCCCGGAAGAGAGTC		
<i>galP2</i>	ATTTATTCCATGTCACACTTTTCGCATCTTTGTTATGCTATGGTTATTCATACCAT		
<i>araBAD</i>	GGATCCTACCTGACGCTTTTATCGCAACTCTCTACTGTTTCTCCATACCCGTTTTT		
<i>araC</i>	GGCGTGATTATAGACACTTTTGTACGCGTTTTGTCTATGGCTTTGATCCCGCTTTG		
<i>trp</i>	AAATGAGCTCTTACAAATTAATCATCGAACTAGTAACTAGTACGCAAGTTTCACGTA		
<i>bioA</i>	TTCCAAAACTCTTTTGTGTTTAATTGCGGTAGAGCTTTGTAACCTAAATCTTTT		
<i>bioB</i>	CATAATCGACTTGTAAACCAAATTGAAAGATTAGGTTTACAAGCTTACACCGAAT		
<i>tRNA^{Arg}</i>	CAACGTAACACTTTTACGCGGCGCTCATTTGATATGATGCGGCCCGCTTCCCGATA		
<i>rrnD1</i>	CAAAAAAATCTTGTGCAAAAAATTTGGGATCCCTATAATGCGCTCCCTTGAGACGA		
<i>rrnE1</i>	CAATTTTCTATTGCGGCTGCGGAGAACTCCCTATAATGCGCTCCATCGACACGG		
<i>rrnA1</i>	AAAAATAATGCTTGACTCTGTAGCGGAAGGCGTATTATGCACACCCGCGCGCTG		

- RNA pol requires signal to begin transcription
 - **why?**
- σ factor recognizes **promoter** region of a gene/operon (-10 & -35 regions)
 - σ factor-RNA polymerase complex work together to transcribe DNA at specific start sites.
 - Once σ factor interacts with -10 element, the complex unwinds DNA ~2 turns (open complex).
 - Called the "Holoenzyme"

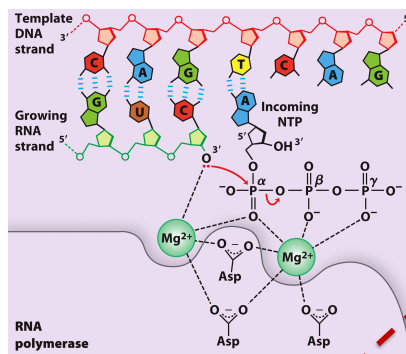


RNAP Complexed With Promoter

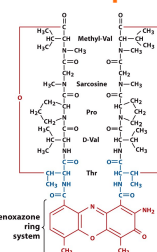
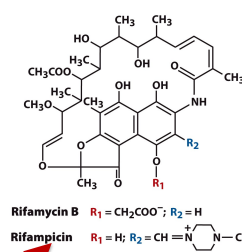


Transcription

Mechanism



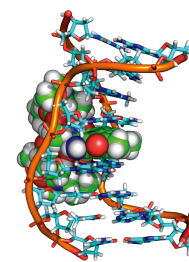
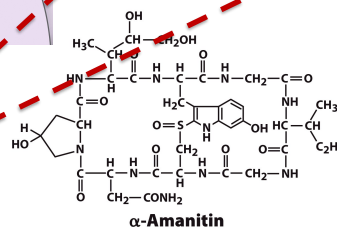
Inhibitors of Transcription



Inhibits elongation at first phosphodiester bond

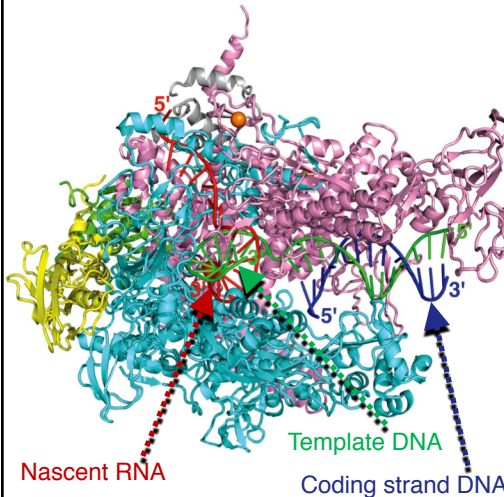
Inhibits elongation by intercalating

Inhibits EUKARYOTIC RNAPs (only I & III)



Transcription

RNA Polymerase Structure RNA pol is a multi-subunit enzyme ($\alpha_2\beta\beta'\omega\sigma$)



These subunits make up the **core complex**:

- two α subunits make non-specific contacts with DNA for positioning
- the β and β' subunits catalyze the addition of ribonucleotides to the growing chain
- the ω subunit acts to stabilize the complex

Subunit	Gene	MW	#	Role
α_2	<i>rpoA</i>	34	2	Non-specific DNA binding
β	<i>rpoB</i>	150	1	Polymerase
β'	<i>rpoC</i>	155	1	Non-specific DNA binding & polymerase
ω	<i>rpoZ</i>	10	1	Zn^{2+} binding
σ	<i>rpoD</i>	70	1	Promoter recognition

RNA•DNA duplex is in the A-form

It uses the same mechanism for correct W-C bp and fidelity

Therefore, error rate is the same 1/10,000

Rate is ~ 50 base/sec

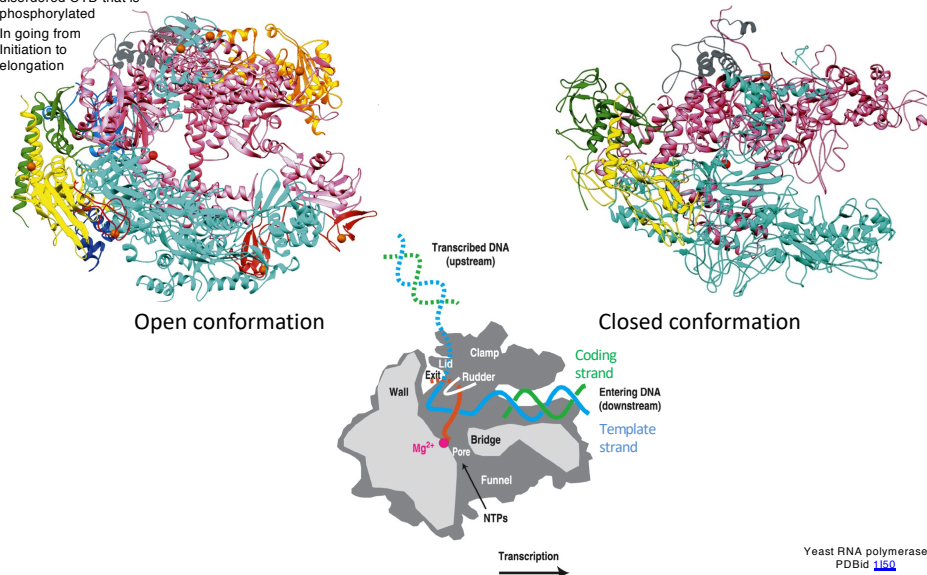
Processivity is ~2000 bp

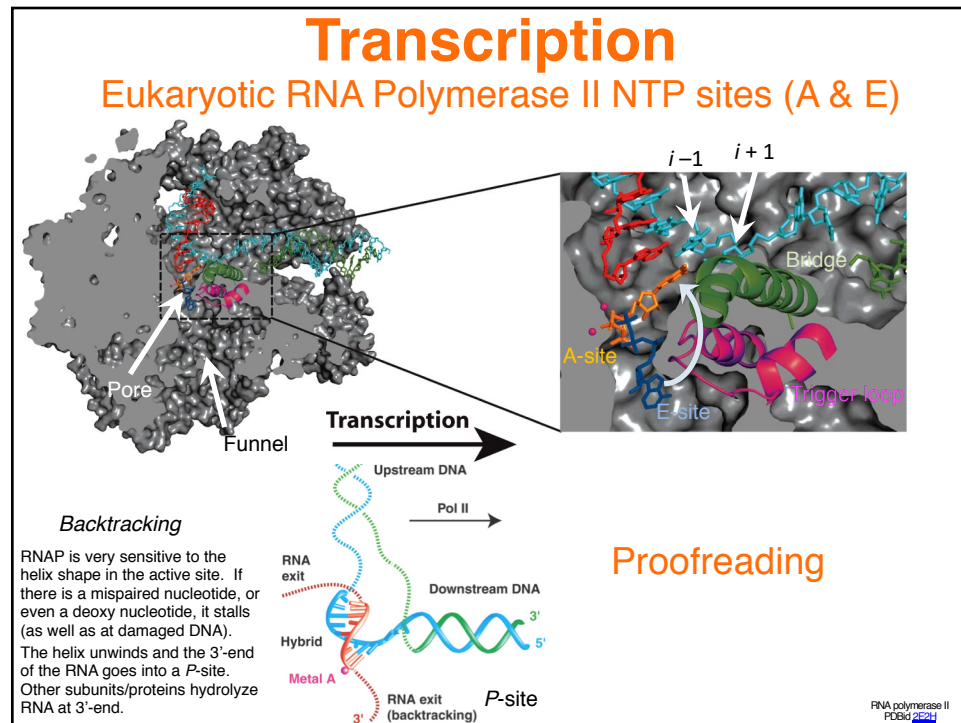
No 3'→5' exonuclease proofreading

Transcription

Eukaryotic RNA Polymerase II Conformations

Also, the β' homolog has a disordered CTD that is phosphorylated
In going from Initiation to elongation





Transcription & Translation

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Nucleic acid function: Central Dogma



TABLE 26-1 Some Noncoding RNAs

Type	Size (nt)	Function
Ribosomal RNA (rRNA)	120–4718	Translation (ribosome structure and catalytic activity)
Transfer RNA (tRNA)	54–100	Delivery of amino acids to ribosomes during translation
Small interfering RNA (siRNA)	20–25	Sequence-specific inactivation of mRNA
Micro RNA (miRNA)	20–25	Sequence-specific inactivation of mRNA
Large intergenic noncoding RNA (lincRNA)	Up to 17,200	Transcriptional control
Small nuclear RNA (snRNA)	60–300	RNA splicing
Small nucleolar RNA (snoRNA)	70–100	Sequence-specific methylation of rRNA

Table 26-1
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Translation: The Genetic Code

Recall: Genetic Code is Degenerate & Nonrandom



TABLE 27-1 The "Standard" Genetic Code*

First position (5' end)	Second position				Third position (3' end)
	U	C	A	G	
U	UUU Phe UUC UUA Leu UUG	UCU Ser UCC UCA UCG	UAU Tyr UAC UAA STOP UAG	UGU Cys UGC UGA STOP UGG Trp	U C A G
C	CUU Leu CUC CUA CUG	CCU Pro CCC CCA CCG	CAU His CAC CAA CAG	CGU Arg CGC CGA CGG	U C A G
A	AUU Ile AUC AUA AUG Met ^b	ACU Thr ACC ACA ACG	AAU Asn AAC AAA AAG Lys	AGU Ser AGC AGA AGG Arg	U C A G
G	GUU Val GUC GUA GUG	GCU Ala GCC GCA GCG	GAU Asp GAC GAA GAG Glu	GGU Gly GGC GGA GGG	U C A G

*Nonpolar amino acid residues are gold, basic residues are blue, acidic residues are red, and polar uncharged residues are purple.
^bAUG forms part of the initiation signal as well as coding for internal Met residues.

Gold = hydrophobic amino acids; pyrimidine at second position

Polar amino acids (blue = basic; red = acidic; purple = uncharged polar) have purine at second position

How was the Triplet code discovered?

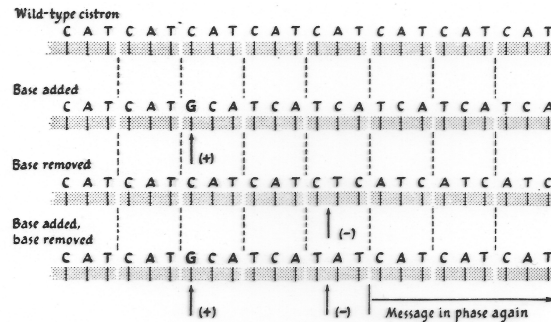
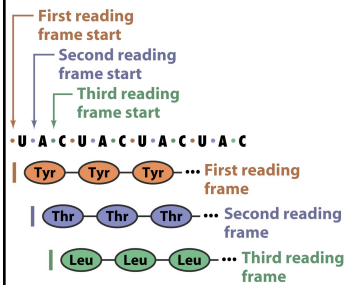
Translation: The Genetic Code

ORFs

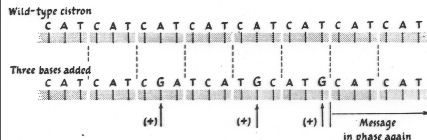
THE ~~X~~IG RED FOX ATE THE EGG

If one base is deleted: THE IGR EDF OXA TET HEE GG

If one base is then inserted: THE IGR EDX FOX ATE THE EGG



Brenner & Crick Experiment:



The regain of function for the triple mutant told Brenner and Crick that it was a triplet code, uninterrupted.

How was the code deciphered?

Translation: The Genetic Code

Key Developments:

1. Chemical synthesis of nucleic acids
2. in vitro protein synthesis

Nirenberg (NIH)

1. First codons used Polynucleotide Phosphorylase ($\text{NDP} \rightleftharpoons \text{RNA} + \text{P}_i$) to make RNA in vitro: poly-A, poly-C, etc.

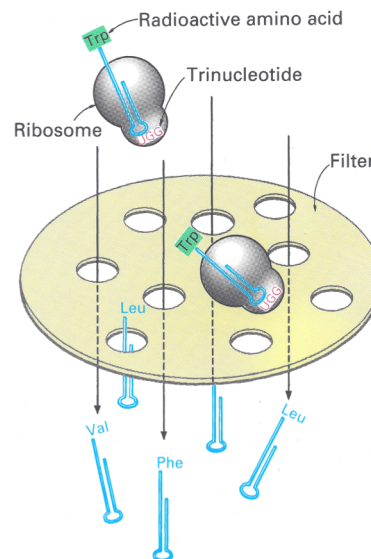
Result:

UUU=Phe, AAA=Lys,
CCC=Pro, GGG=Gly

2. Chemical synthesis of defined triplets.

- Use ribosomes and charged tRNA with different radioactive amino acids
- Mix and filtrate - only those amino acids with correct tRNA to complementary "mRNA" will complex with the ribosome

Result: 50/64 determined



Key Developments:

- ### Khorana (MIT)

- This method was only one able to determine the stop codons.

Use of repeat polynucleotides for determining the genetic code. The polynucleotides were used as messengers in vitro in conjunction with a protein-synthesizing system from *E. coli*. The polypeptide chains produced were isolated and analyzed, and their composition defined the coding properties of the contributing triplets. (Adapted from Khorana G: Harvey Lect 62:79, 1968)

Transcription

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Genetic Code

triplet

deciphering

tRNA

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Anticodon

Acylation (charging)

Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases

Mechanism

Fidelity

Protein Biosynthesis

Overview

Process

Ribosome review

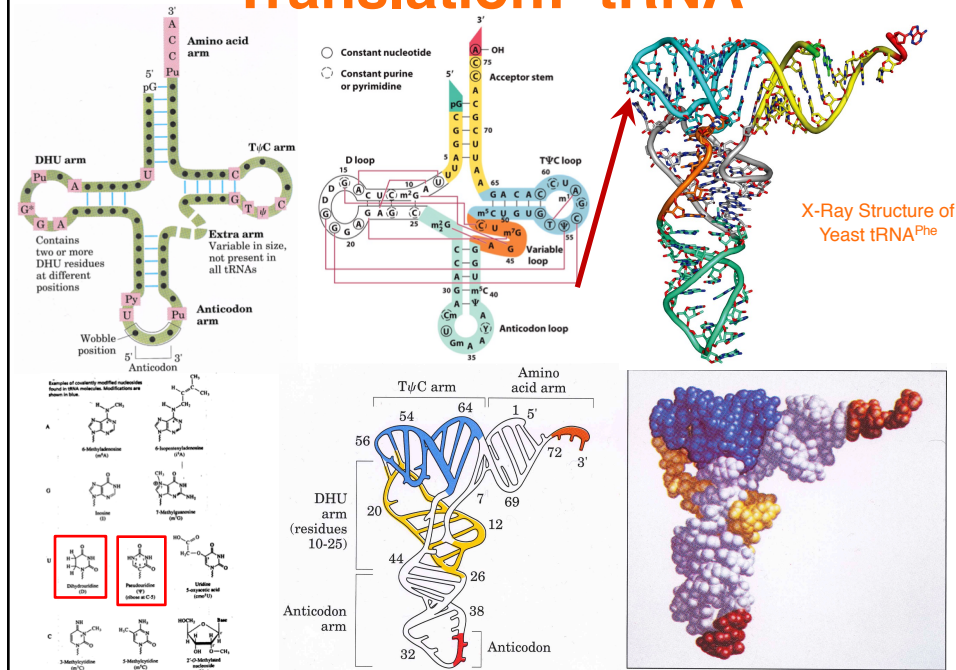
Elongation

Decoding: Fidelity

Peptidyl Transferase

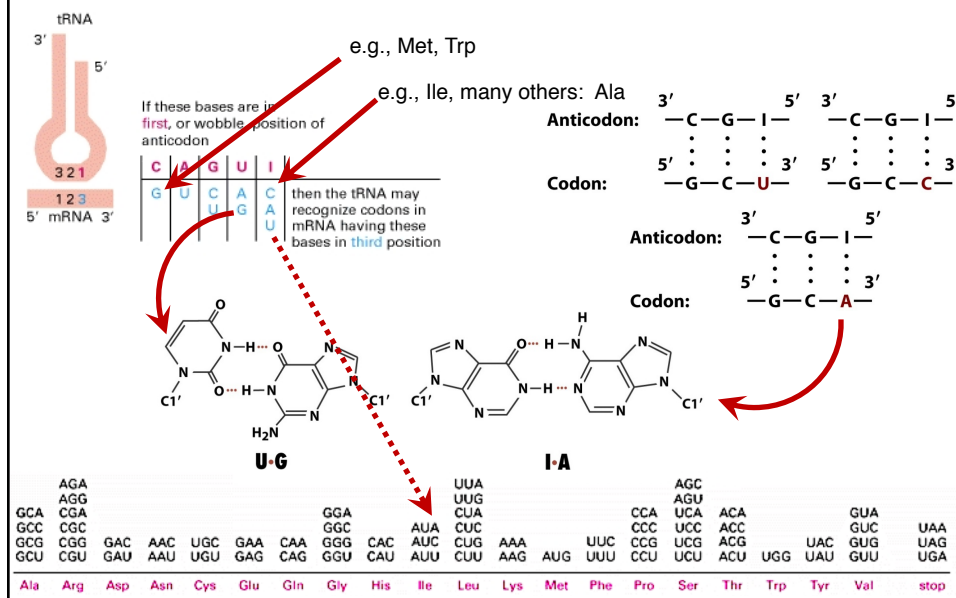
Energy

Translation: tRNA



Translation: tRNA

tRNA anticodon-codon interactions



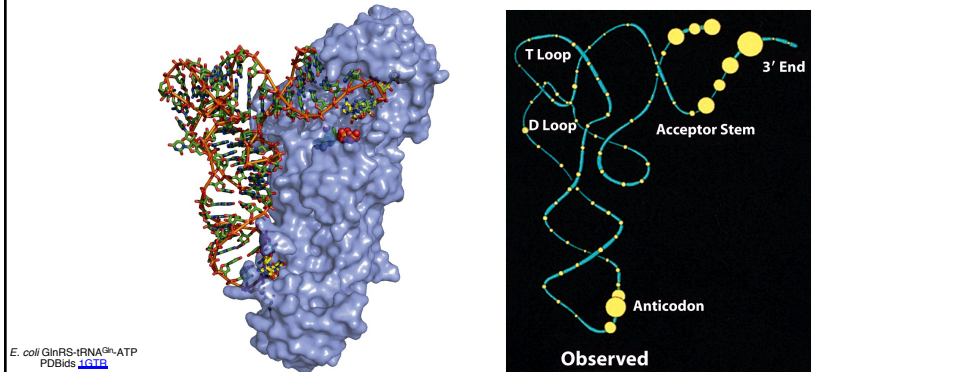
Translation: tRNA

Acylation = Charging of tRNA

THE KEY ENZYMES FOR THIS ARE THE
Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases

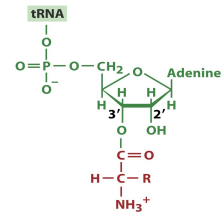
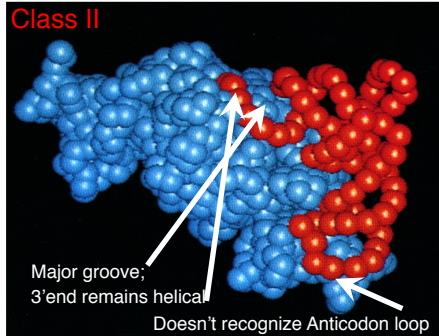
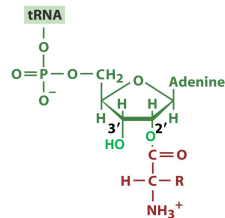
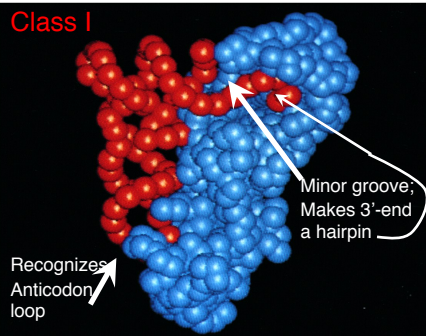
Guardians of the CODE

How do they recognize the correct tRNA?



Translation: tRNA

Class I and II Aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases



Classes of Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases

Amino Acids

Class I	Arg	Leu
	Cys	Met
	Gln	Trp
	Glu	Tyr
	Ile	Val
Class II	Ala	Lys
	Asn	Pro
	Asp	Phe
	Gly	Ser
	His	Thr

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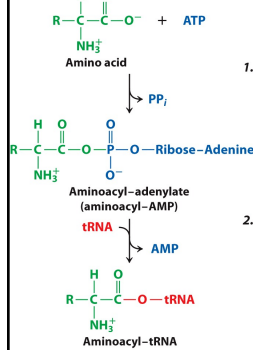
Translation: tRNA

Aminoacylation: 2 steps

2 step reaction:

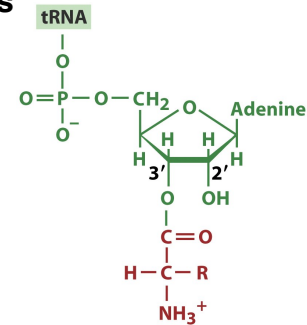
- 1) A.A. + ATP \rightarrow AA-AMP + PP_i
 - 2) AA-AMP + tRNA \rightarrow AA-tRNA + AMP
- (AA-tRNA is shown at right = "charged" tRNA)

Again, just like with DNA and RNA synthesis, subsequent hydrolysis of pyrophosphate provides driving force for reaction



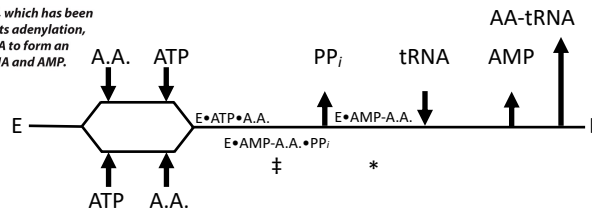
1. The amino acid reacts with ATP to form an aminoacyl-adenylate (aminoacyl-AMP). The subsequent hydrolysis of the PP_i product makes this step irreversible in vivo.

2. The amino acid, which has been "activated" by its adenylation, reacts with tRNA to form an aminoacyl-tRNA and AMP.



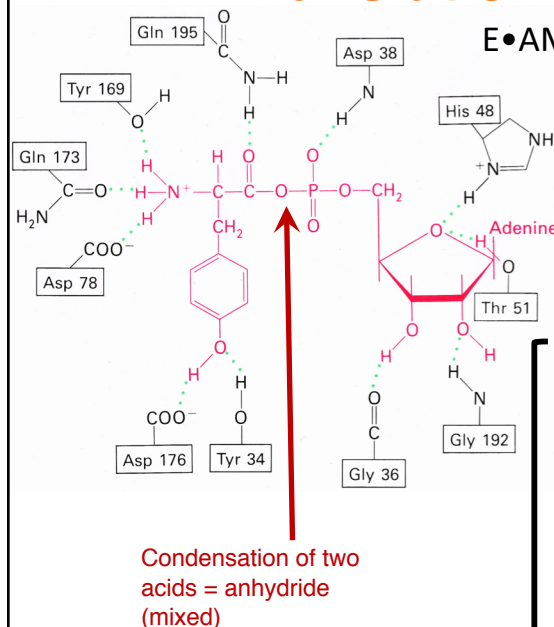
Aminoacyl-tRNA

First ½ reaction is sequential random bi uni



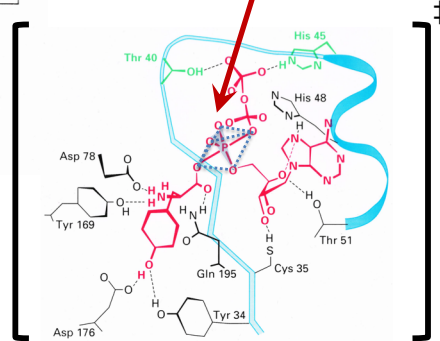
Translation: tRNA

E•AMP-Tyr

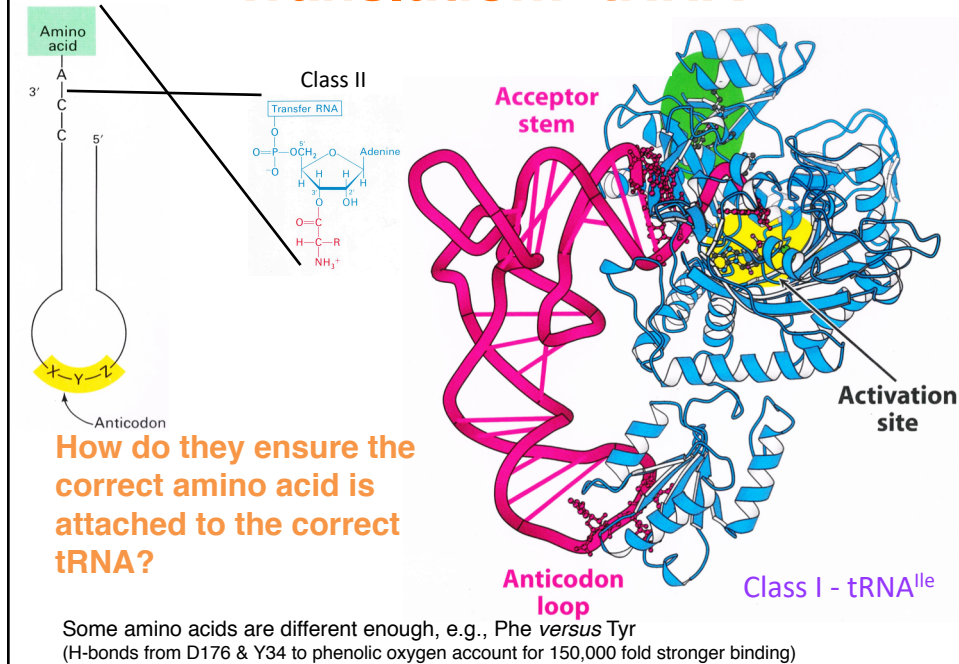


This bi-pyrimidal shape has 180° angle between axial oxygens, which were 109.5° in ATP.

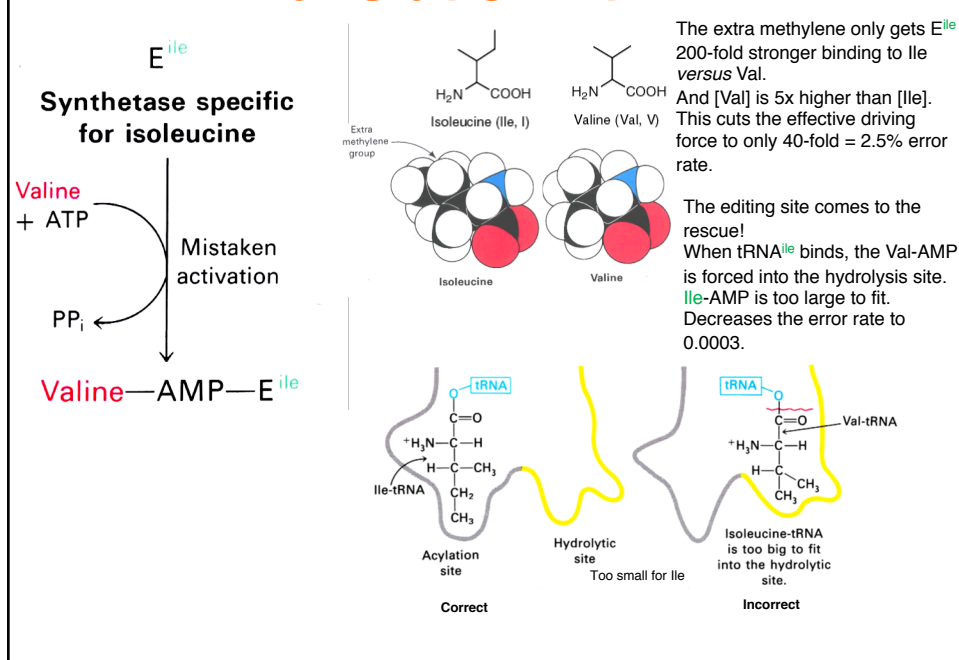
[E•AMP~Tyr~PP_i][‡]



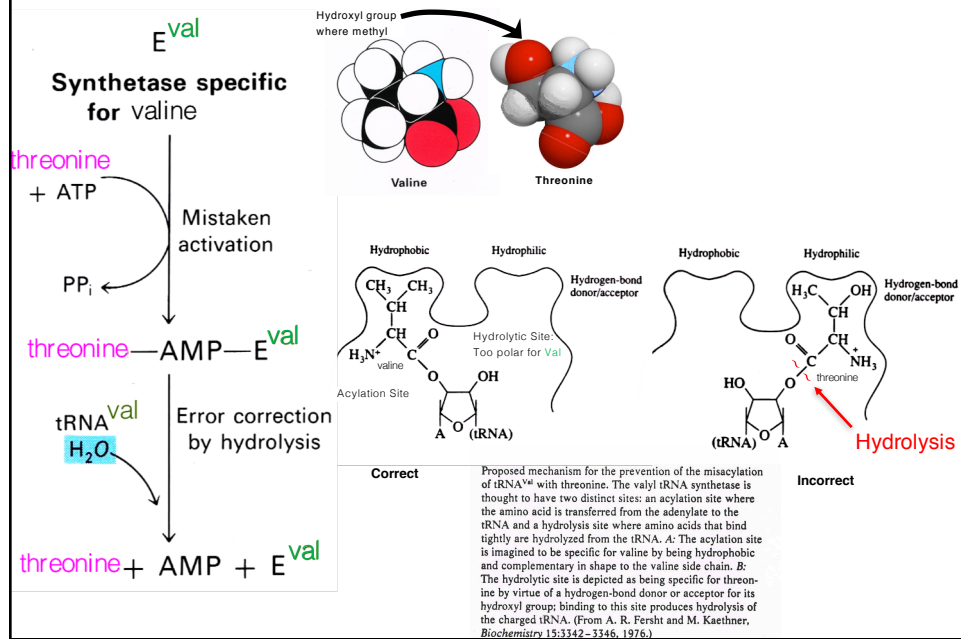
Translation: tRNA



Translation: tRNA



Translation: tRNA



Transcription & Translation

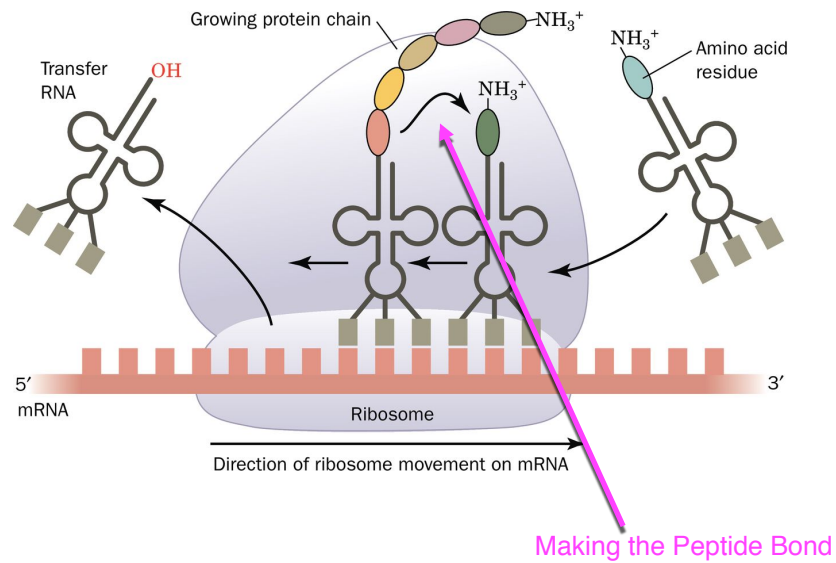
Transcription

- Overview
- Process
- RNA Polymerase
- Fidelity

Translation

- Genetic Code
 - triplet
 - decyphering
- tRNA
 - Structure
 - Anticodon
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 - Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases
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 - Peptidyl Transferase
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Translation: Protein Biosynthesis



Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Process:

•Initiation

•Elongation

1. Decoding
2. Peptidyl Transferase
3. Translocation

•Termination

Fidelity

Making the Peptide Bond

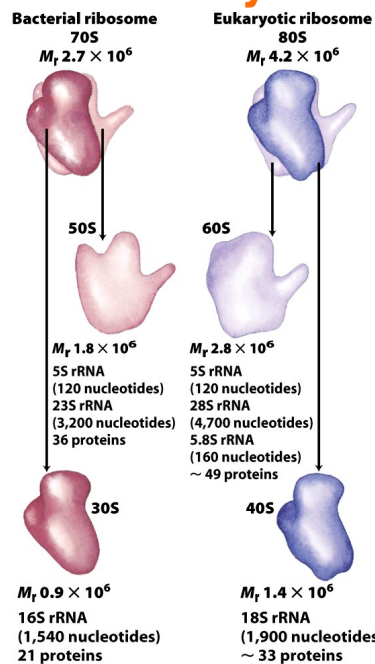
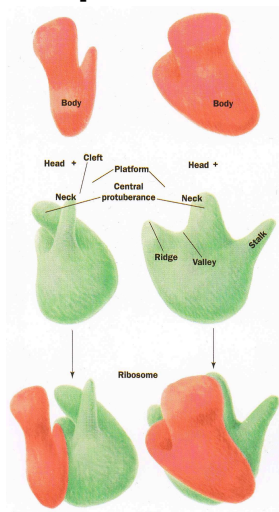
Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Antibiotic inhibitors of protein synthesis

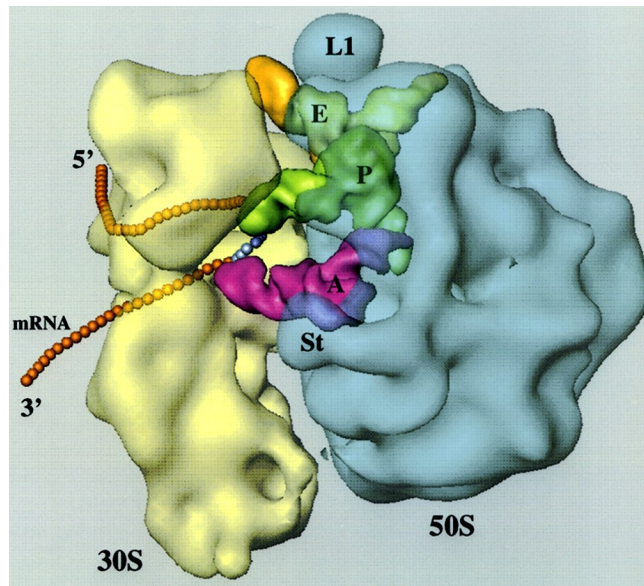
<i>Antibiotic</i>	<i>Action</i>
Streptomycin and other aminoglycosides	Inhibit initiation and cause misreading of mRNA (prokaryotes)
Tetracycline	Binds to the 30S subunit and inhibits binding of aminoacyl-tRNAs (prokaryotes)
Chloramphenicol	Inhibits the peptidyl transferase activity of the 50S ribosomal subunit (prokaryotes)
Cycloheximide	Inhibits the peptidyl transferase activity of the 60S ribosomal subunit (eukaryotes)
Erythromycin	Binds to the 50S subunit and inhibits translocation (prokaryotes)
Puromycin	Causes premature chain termination by acting as an analog of aminoacyl-tRNA (prokaryotes and eukaryotes)

Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Ribosome: RNA-protein complex



Translation: Protein Biosynthesis



Process Overview:

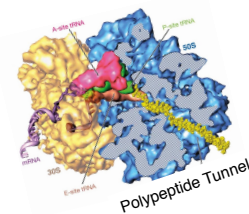
- mRNA read in 5'→3' direction
- protein synthesized from N-terminus to C-terminus
- protein chain elongation occurs by transferring new AA to C-terminus of growing chain

Ribosome has 3 tRNA binding sites:

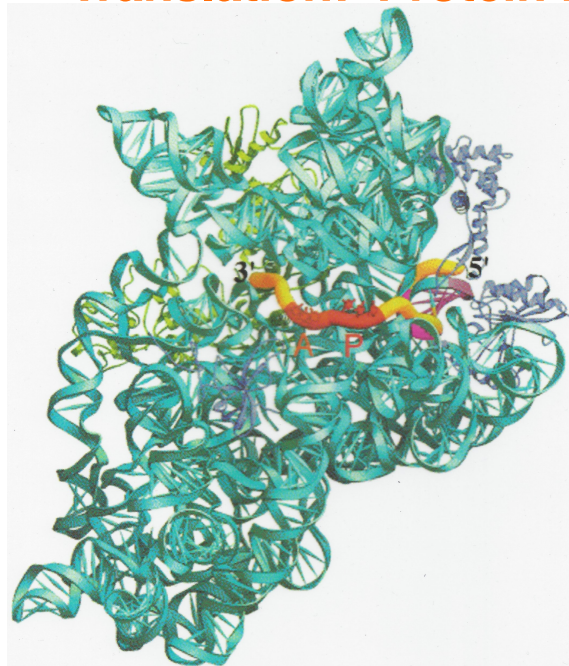
A-site – amino acyl tRNA binding site

P-site – peptidyl-tRNA binding site

E-site – exit site, deacylated tRNA



Translation: Protein Biosynthesis



Process Overview:

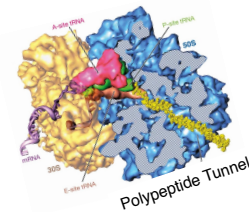
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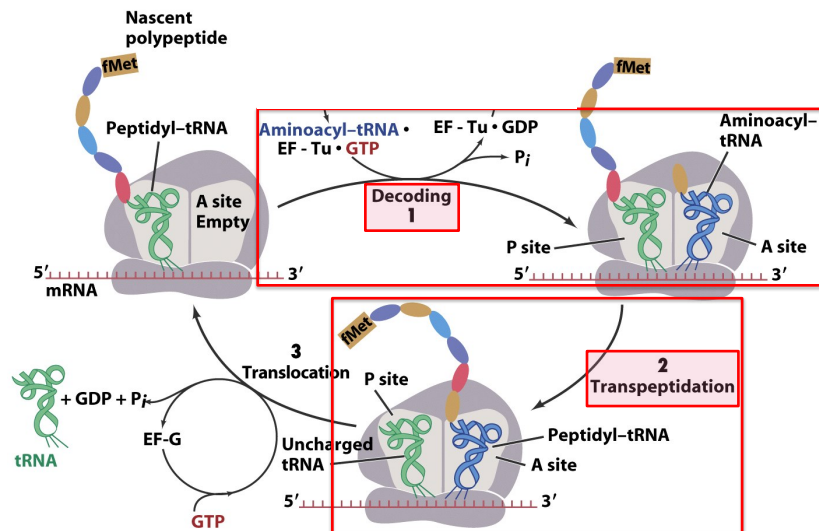
P-site – peptidyl-tRNA binding site

E-site – exit site, deacylated tRNA



Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Elongation



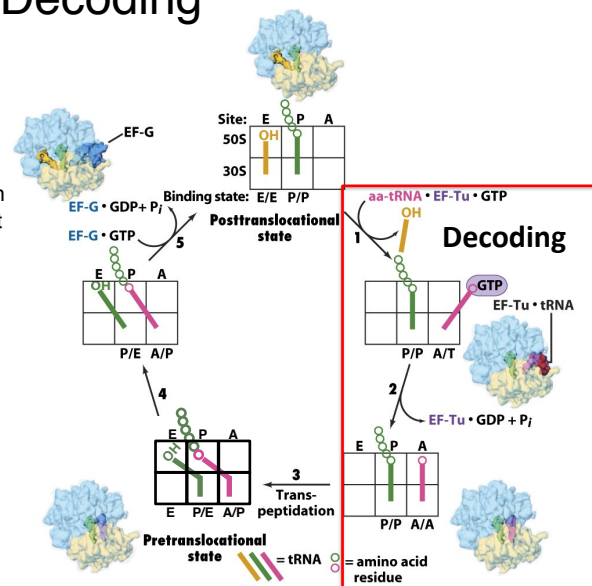
Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

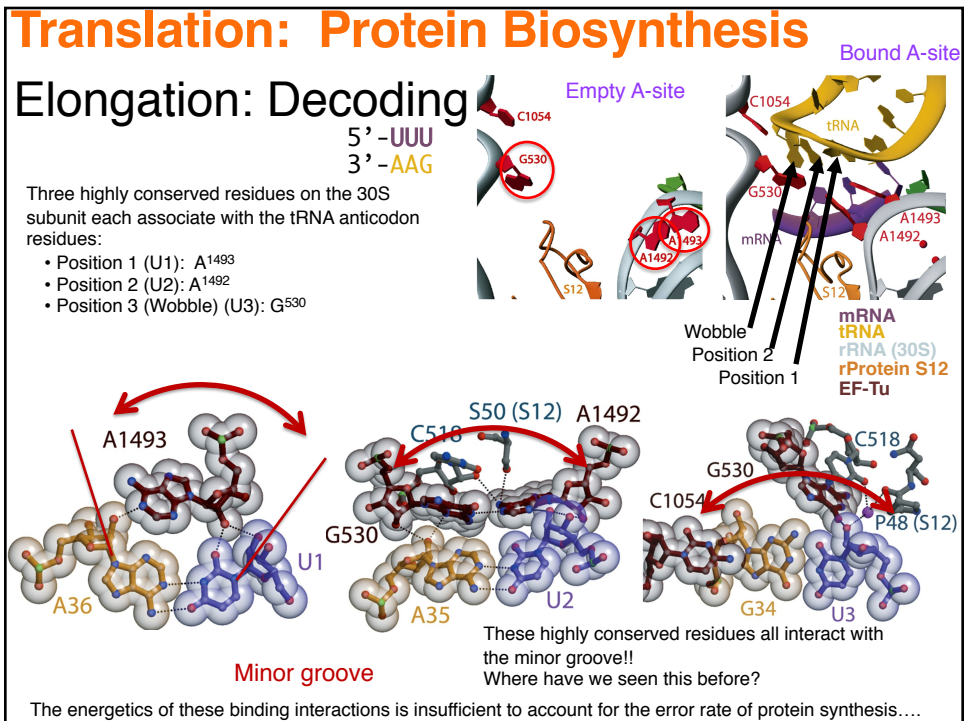
Elongation: Decoding

EF-Tu:

- Most abundant protein
- Binds to AA-tRNA (not free tRNA)
- Anti-codon end is free to bind to 30S-mRNA.

Kinetic proofreading:
GTP hydrolysis





Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Elongation: Fidelity

How does the EF-Tu•GTP•AA-tRNA•mRNA•Ribosome Complex examine this codon-anticodon interaction via a second method?

(much like DNA polymerases and aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases)

It uses a complex of EF-Tu•GDP•AA-tRNA•mRNA•Ribosome to test the codon-anticodon interaction via a conformational change that stresses this interaction.

- EF-Tu•GTP•AA-tRNA binds the A-site with a strained anticodon stem-loop
- Anticodon-codon interactions in the A-site induce EF-Tu's hydrolysis of GTP to GDP. GTP hydrolysis is FASTER for cognate tRNA.
- This results in EF-Tu release from the complex as EF-Tu•GDP
- Once the EF-Tu is gone, the AA-tRNA relaxes, swings its acceptor stem into the A-site on the 50S, pivoting at the codon-anticodon interaction
- Non-cognate tRNAs do not survive this pivot and fall out most of the time

THEREFORE, GTP HYDROLYSIS IS KEY:

1. In its slowness, time is allowed for optimal cognate codon-anticodon interactions
2. In its hydrolysis, initiated by these interactions, the process achieves a second test of the fitness by being "hinged" at the codon-anticodon during the pivoting.

Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Frequency of inserting an incorrect amino acid	Probability of synthesizing an error-free protein		
	Number of amino acid residues		
	100	300	1000
10^{-2}	0.366	0.049	0.000
10^{-3}	0.905	0.741	0.368
10^{-4}	0.990	0.970	0.905
10^{-5}	0.999	0.997	0.990

$$p = (1 - \epsilon)^n$$

p is the probability of an error-free protein

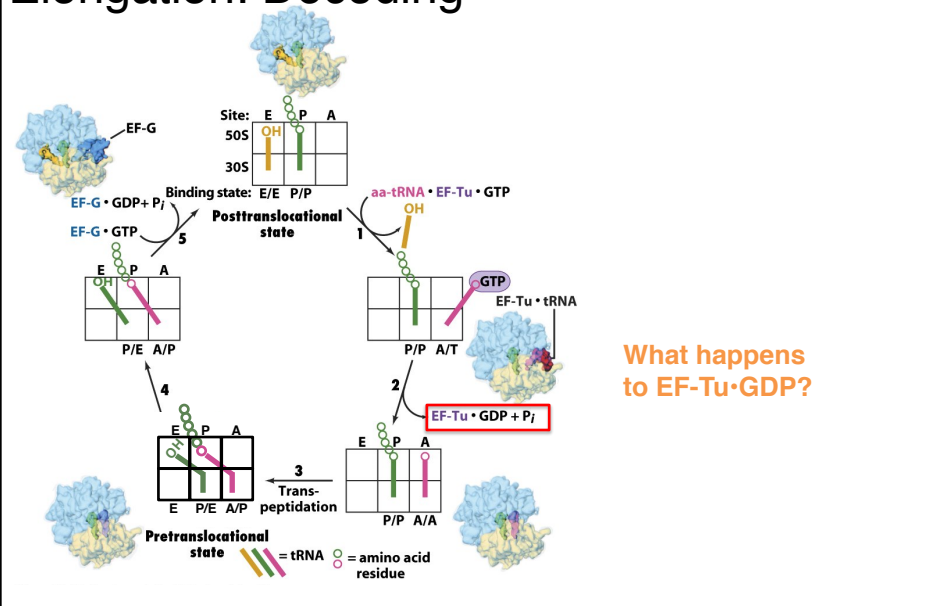
ϵ is the error rate

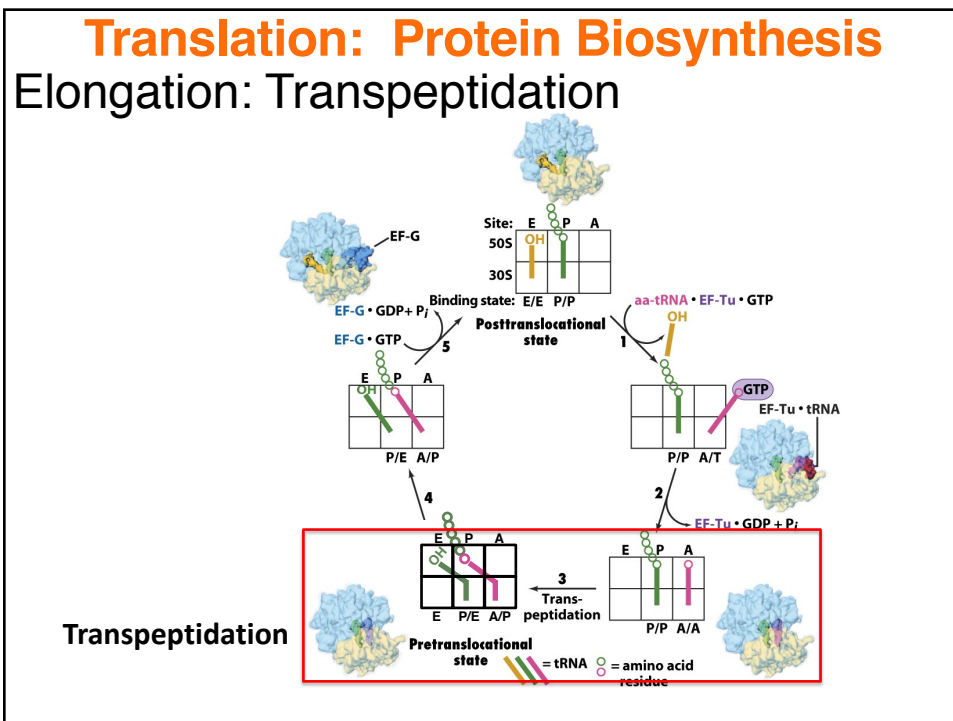
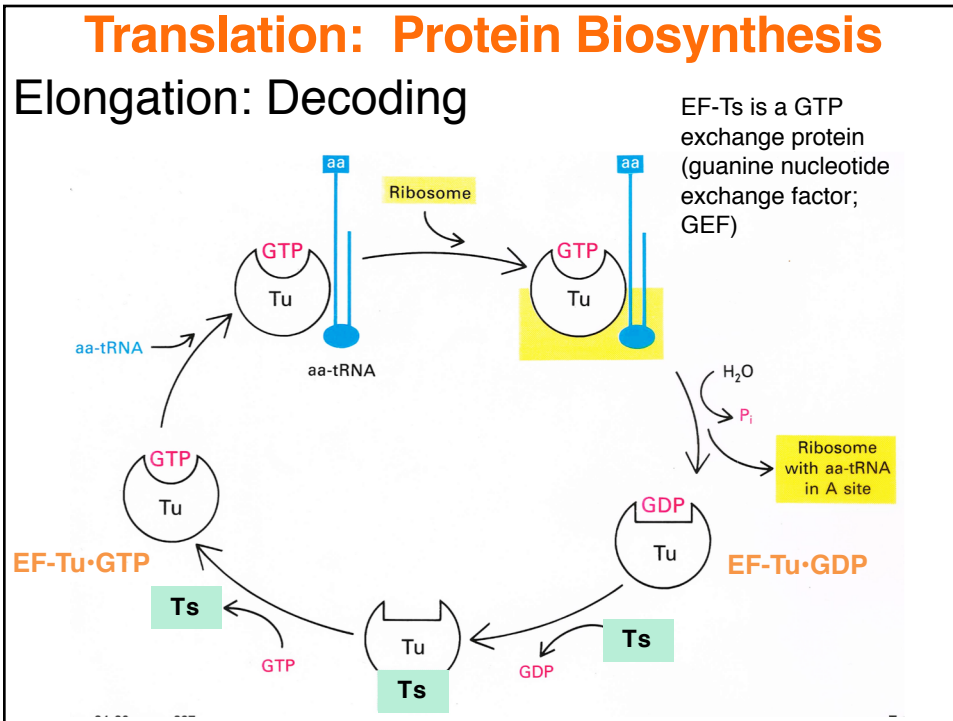
n is the length of the protein

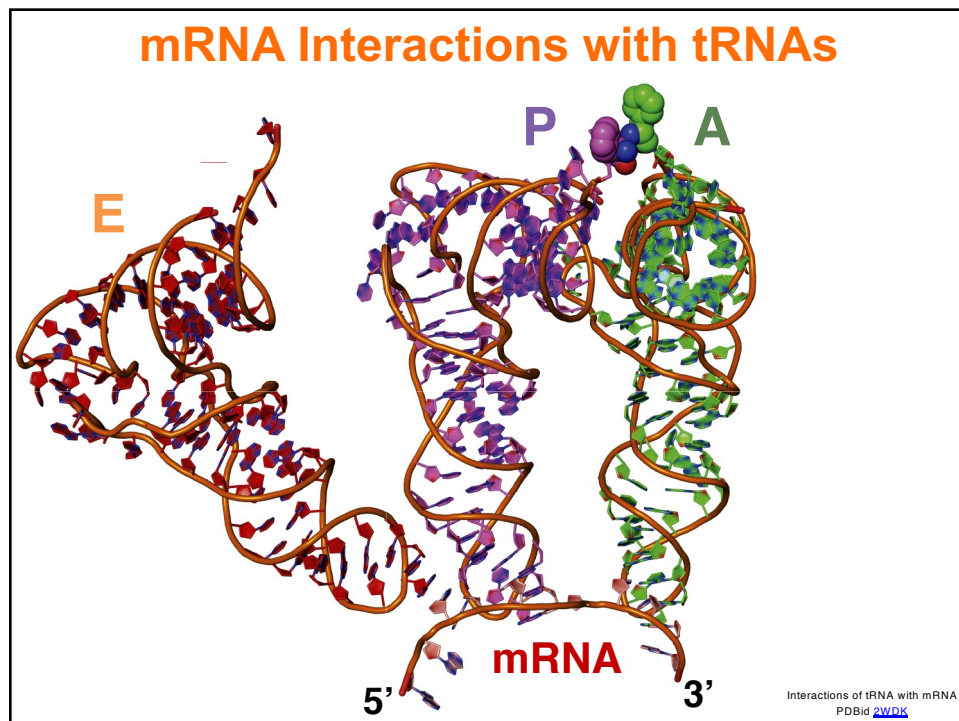
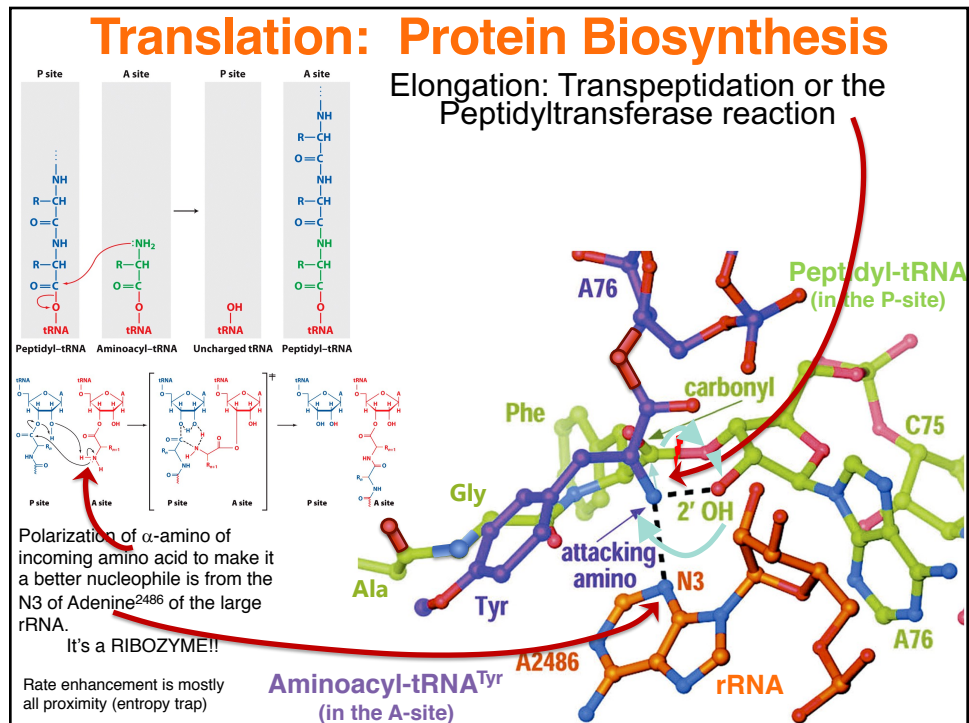
Each of the 2 selection mechanisms (EF-Tu GTPase and conf. change) have a 1% error rate ($\epsilon = 10^{-2}$). Combined $\epsilon = 10^{-4}$.

Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

Elongation: Decoding







Translation: Protein Biosynthesis

ENERGY REQUIREMENTS:

- 2 ATP equivalents for every base in the 3-base codon of the mRNA = 6
(mRNA synthesis (transcription))
 - 2 ATP equivalents for every AA-tRNA = 2
(tRNA charging)
 - 1 ATP equivalent for binding with EF-Tu = 1
 - 1 ATP equivalent for translocation with EF-G = 1
- = 10 total ATPs
for every
residue