

Nucleic Acids

Why do I care?

Nucleic Acids

Why do I care?

Proteins do everything, right?

Nucleic Acids

Why do I care?

Proteins do everything, right?

revolutions at the turn of the century

opportunities for the 21st century

In the beginning...

DNA

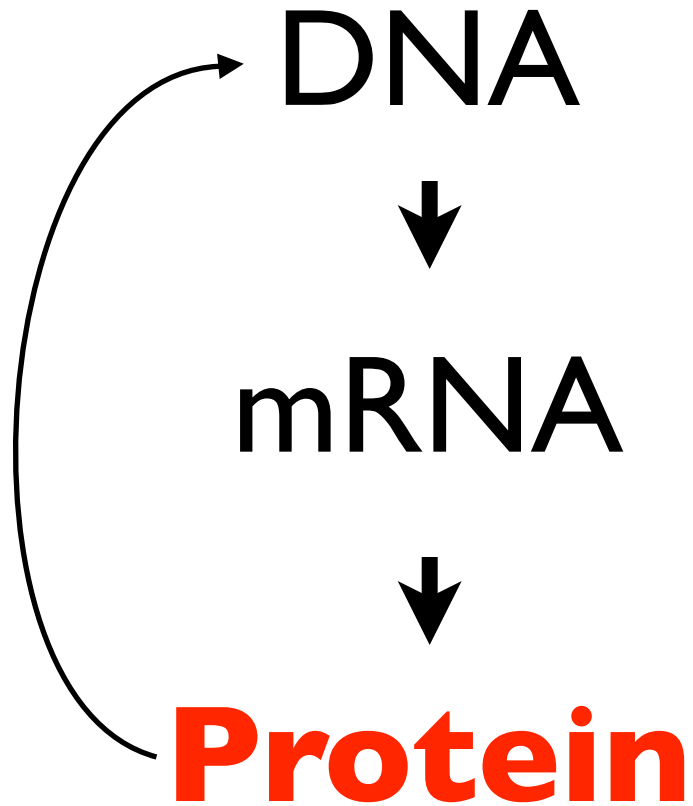


mRNA

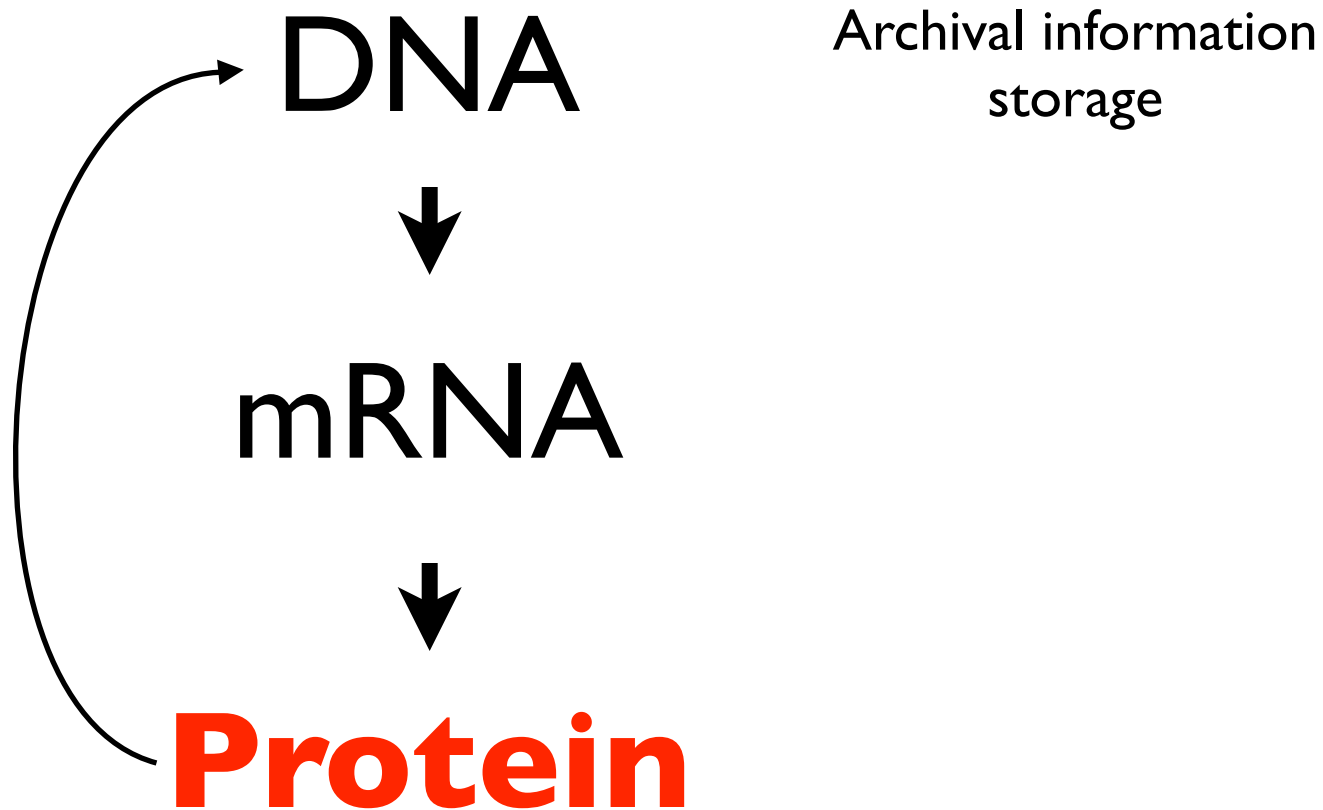


Protein

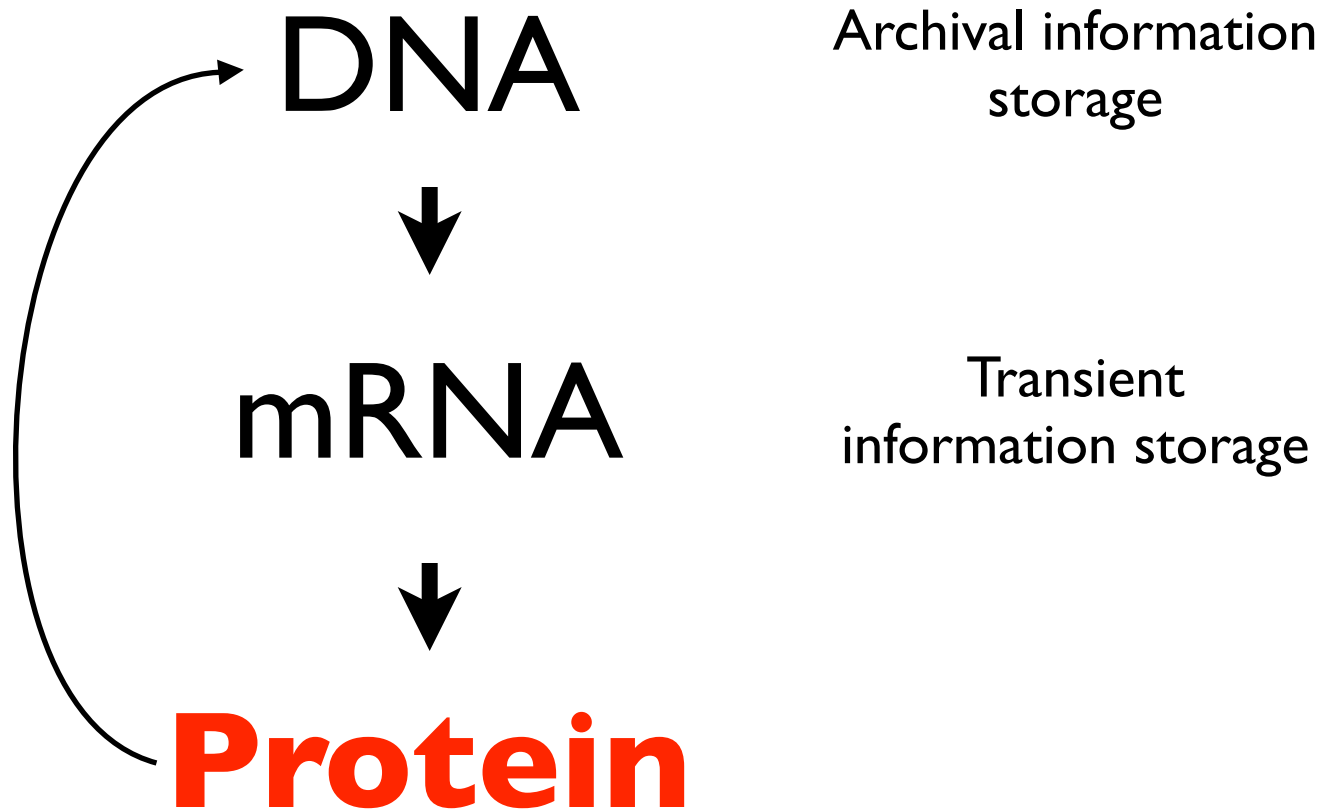
In the beginning...



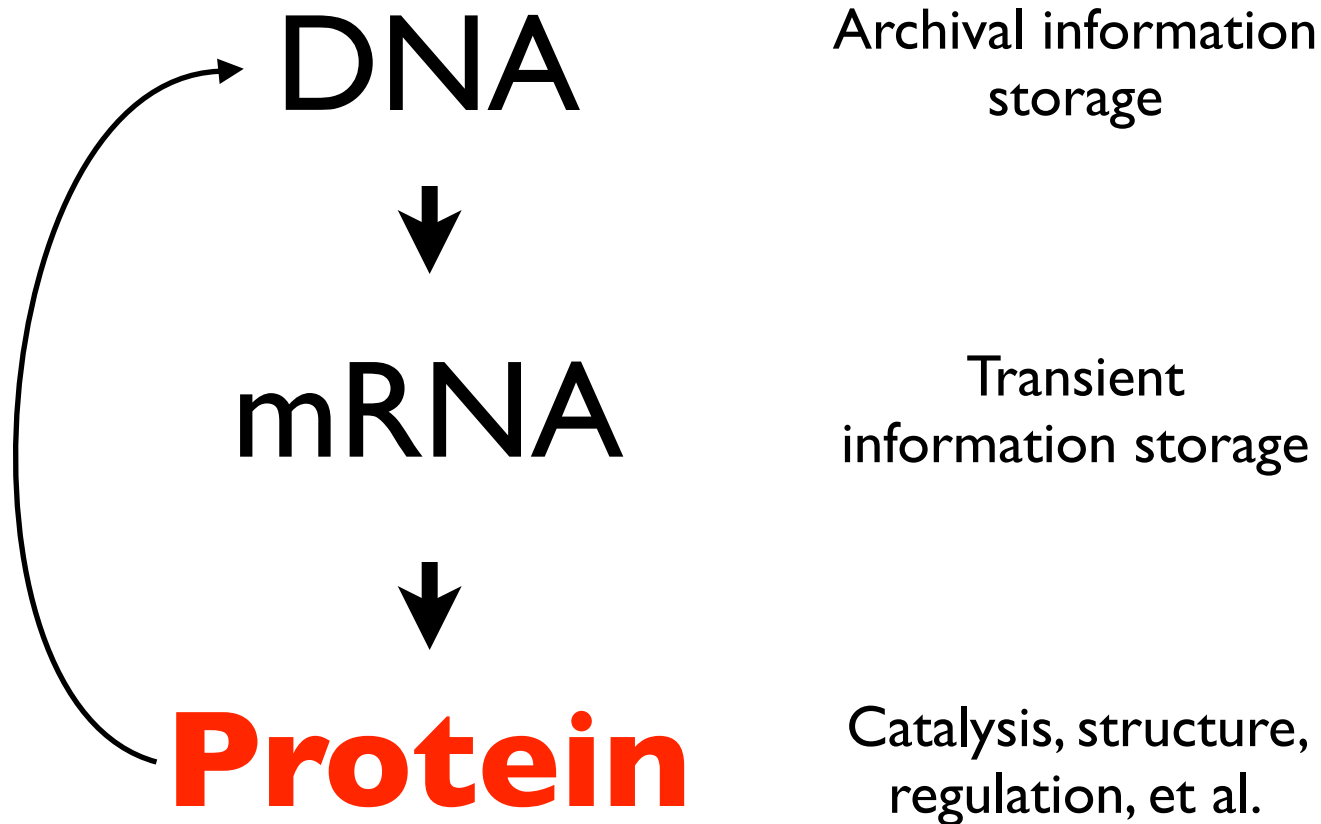
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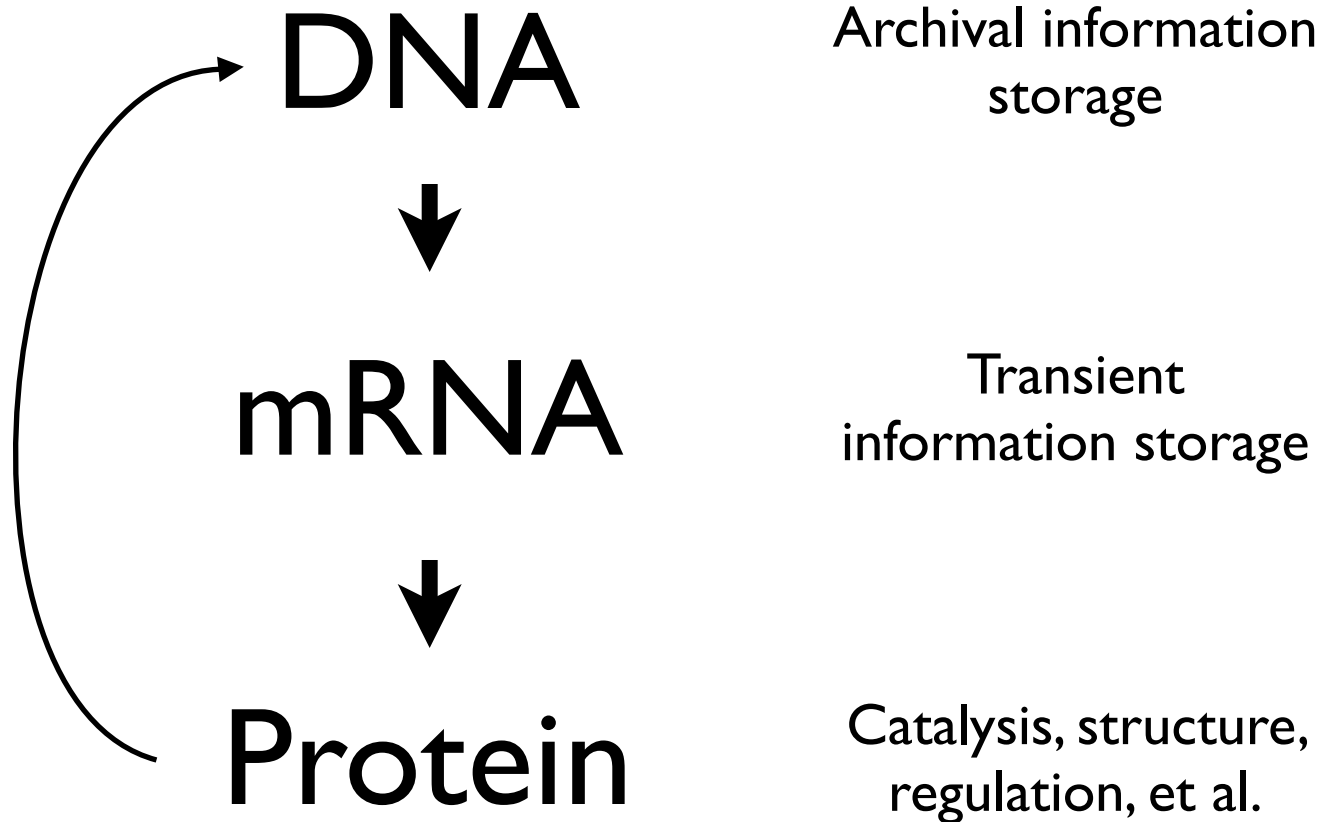
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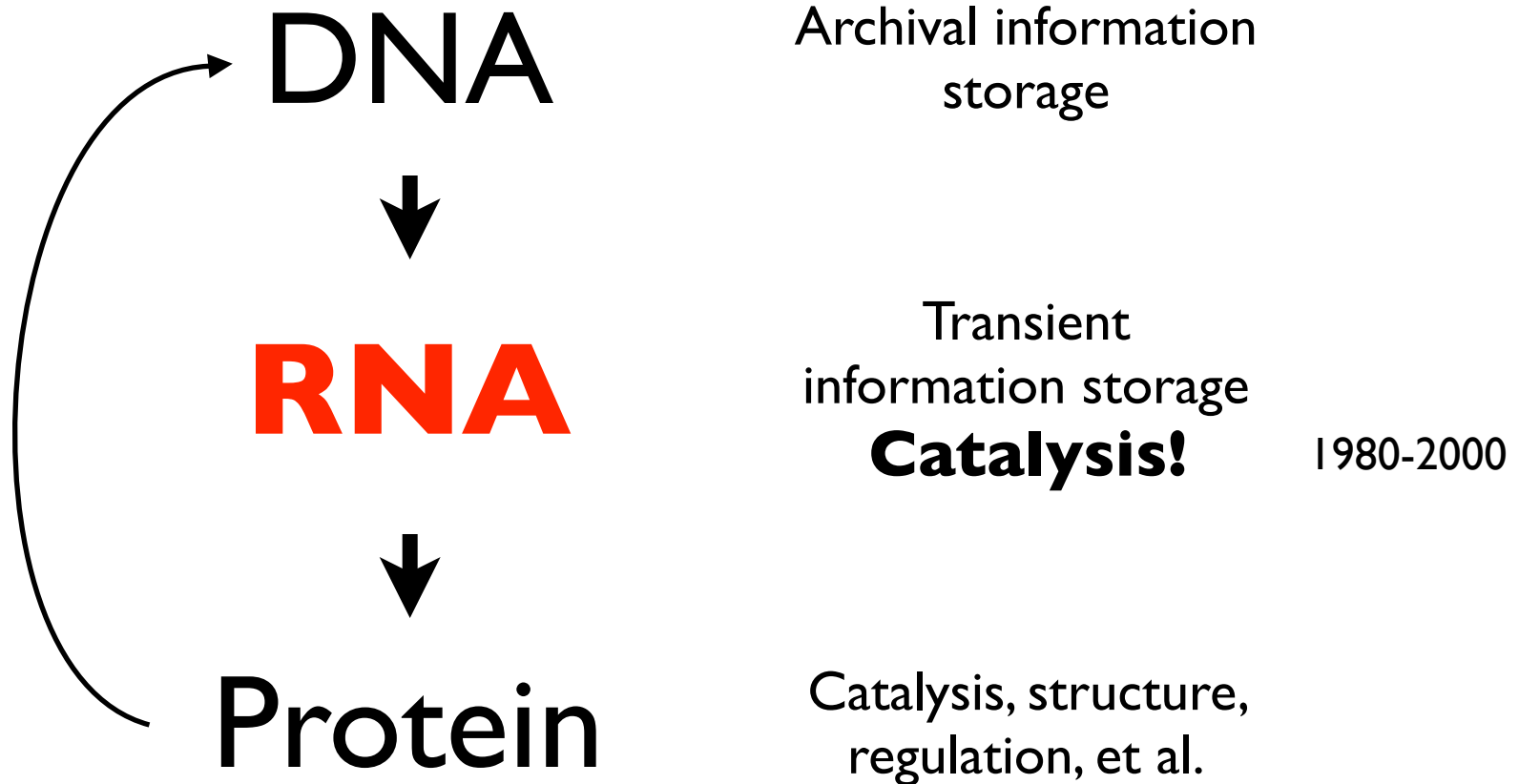
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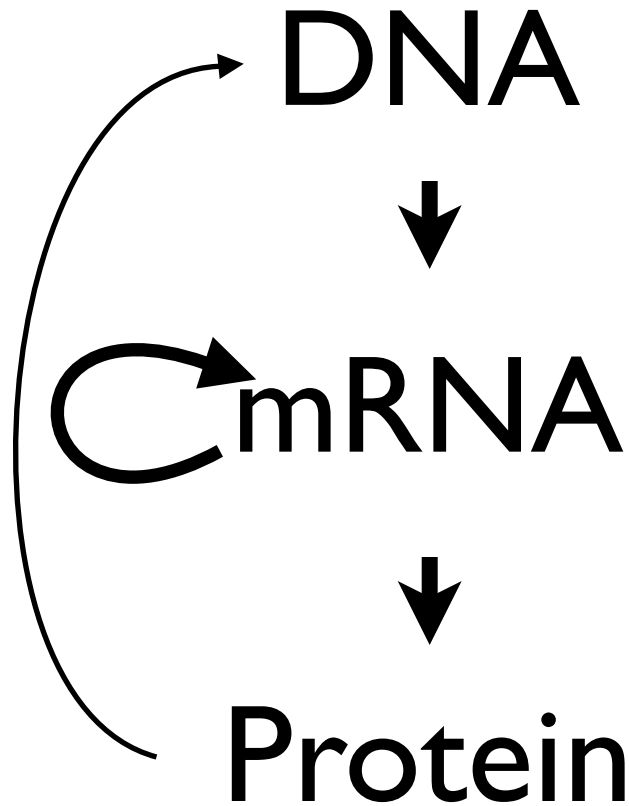
Chicken & Egg?



RNA can do everything



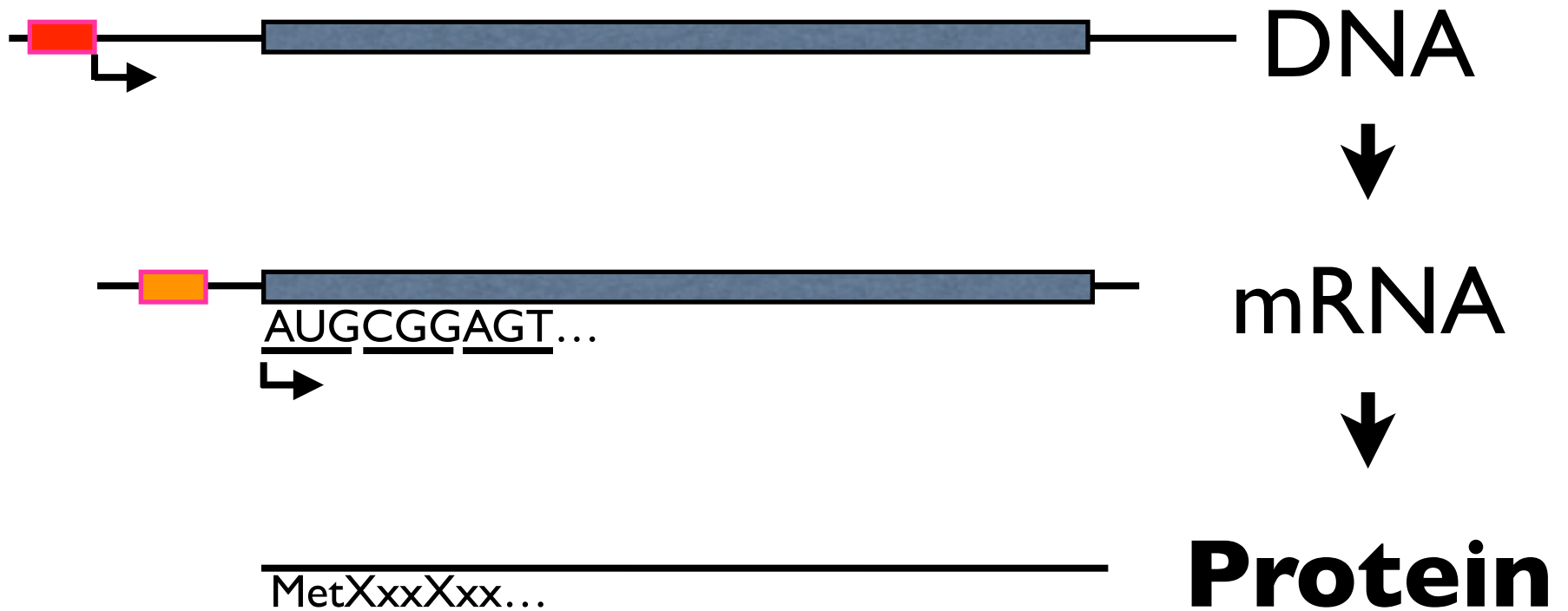
RNA - primordial molecule



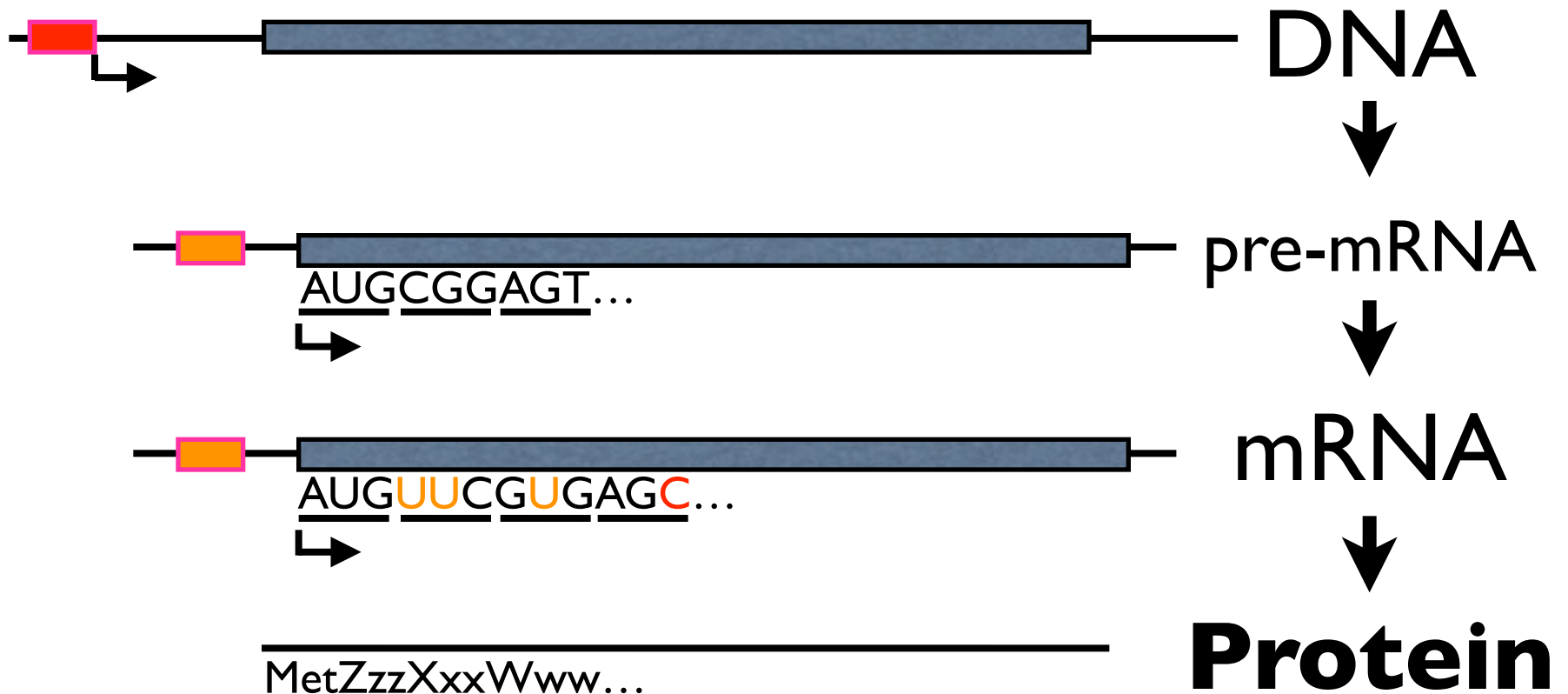
So we accepted that RNA was probably the first, primitive do-everything biomolecule.

But **proteins** came along to supplant everything and make the world, evolutionarily, what it is today. All hail the protein!

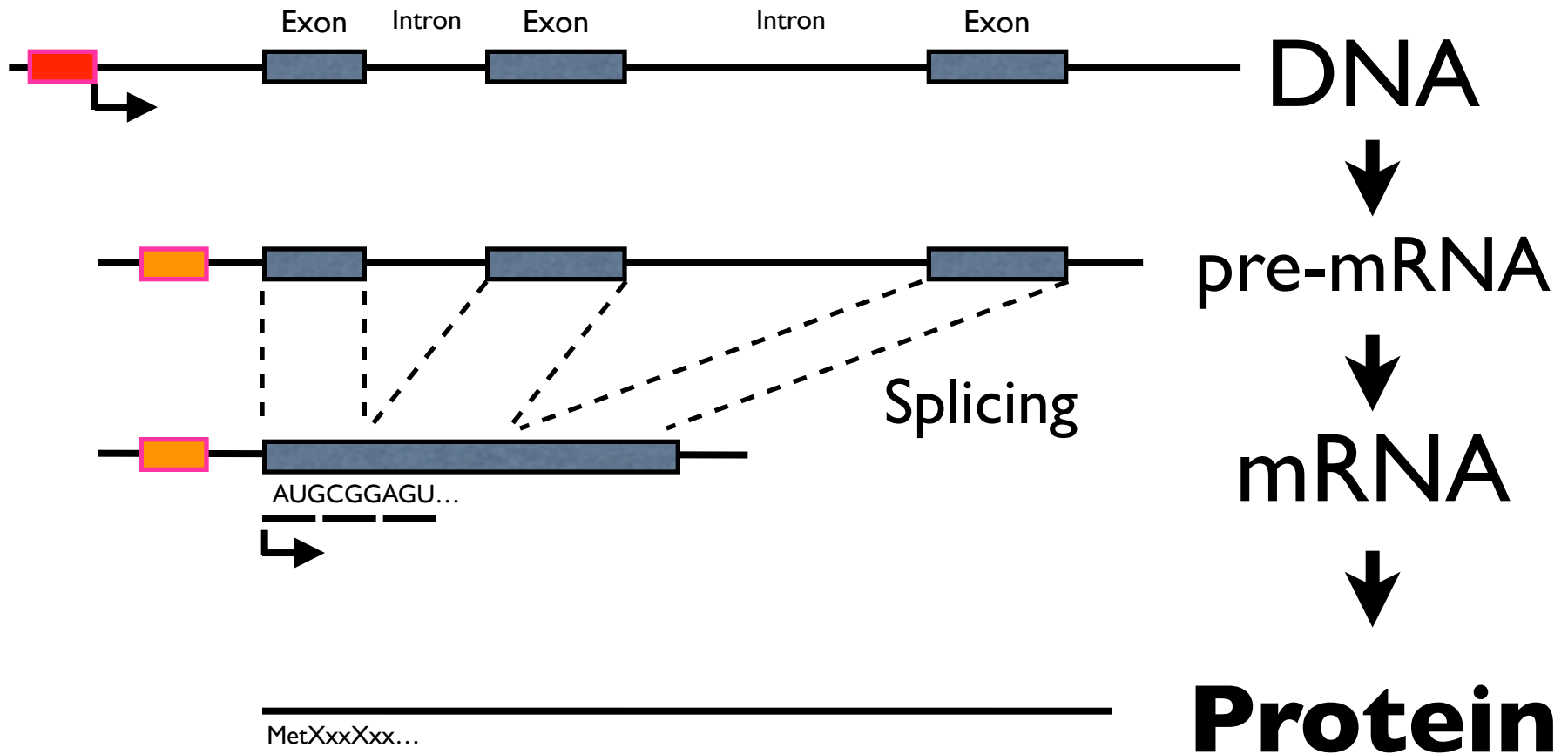
Seems simple...



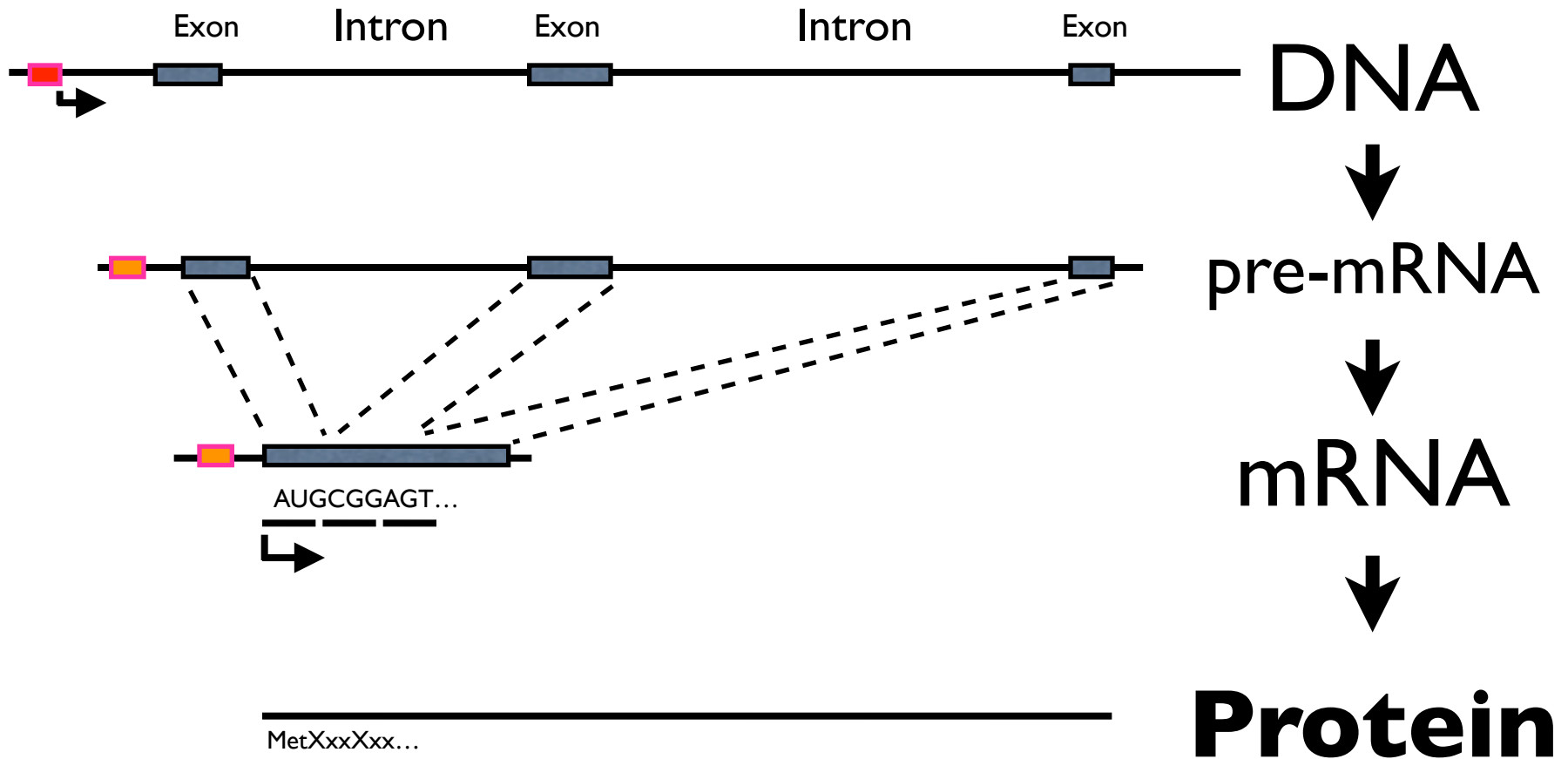
Seems simple?



Even more complicated...

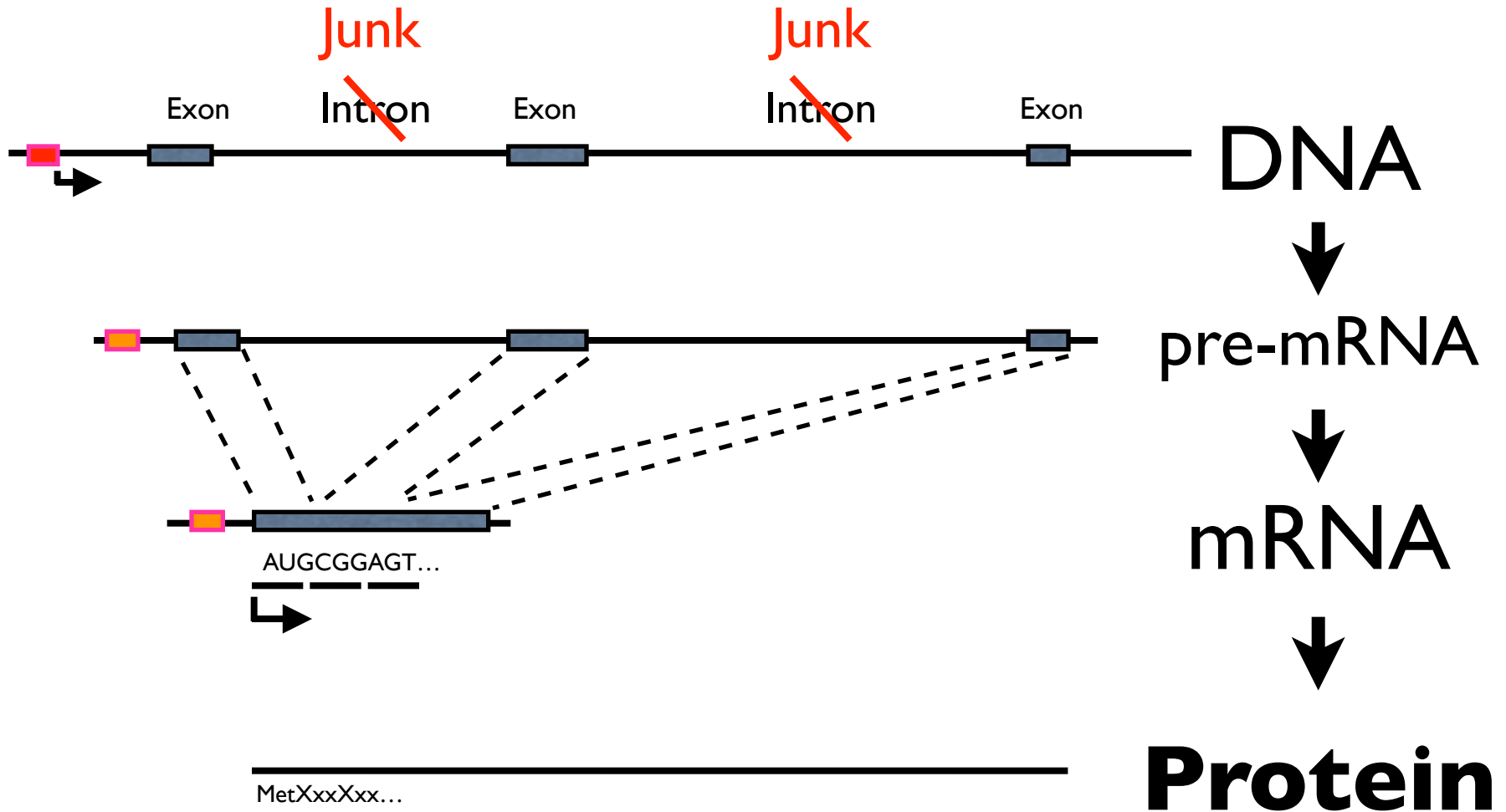


Reality...



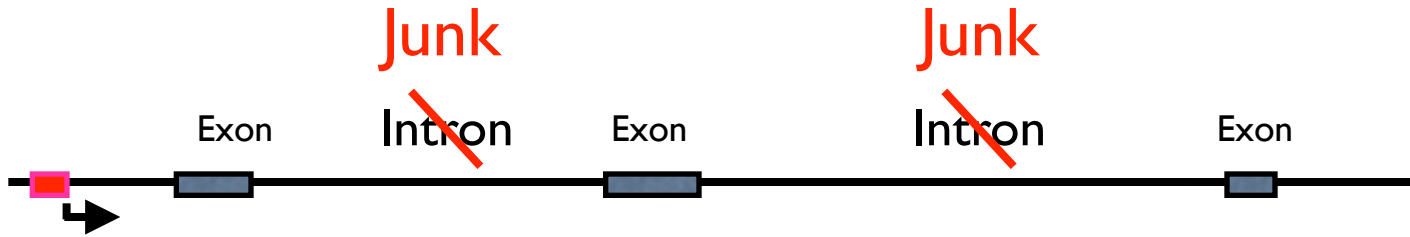
Reality...

and our perception of it



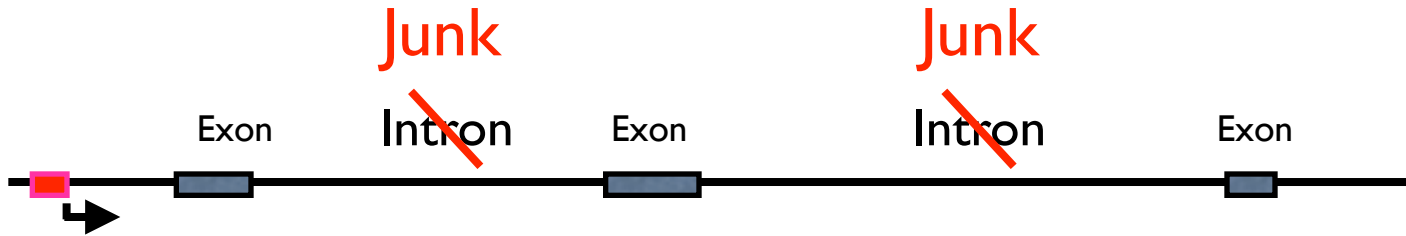
Reality...

and our perception of it



Reality...

and our perception of it



Genome project goals

Identify and characterize the proteins.

What are their structures?

What do they do?

How do they interact?

20th Century View

Kinases

Polymerases

Hydrogenases

Receptors

Oxygenases

Proteases

20th Century View

Kinases

Polymerases

Hydrogenases

Receptors

Oxygenases

Proteases

Nucleic acids → Trash

21st Century News

Genome project

Number of protein-encoding genes in
the human genome: 25,000

21st Century News

Genome project

Number of protein-encoding genes in the human genome: 25,000

Number of protein-encoding genes in the 1,000 cell *C elegans* genome: 19,500

21st Century News

Genome project

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Number of protein-encoding genes in the 1,000 cell *C elegans* genome: 19,500

Number of protein-encoding genes in the corn genome: 40,000

21st Century News

Genome project

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Number of different proteins: $\gg 25,000$

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How? RNA editing and alternative splicing

21st Century News

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How? RNA editing and alternative splicing

Up to 3/4 of all human genes are subject to alternative editing

21st Century News

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How? RNA editing and alternative splicing

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The prevalence of alternative editing appears to increase with an organism's complexity

21st Century News

Genome project

How? RNA editing and alternative splicing

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21st Century News

Genome project

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At least 15% of the gene mutations that produce genetic diseases and cancers do so by effecting pre-mRNA editing

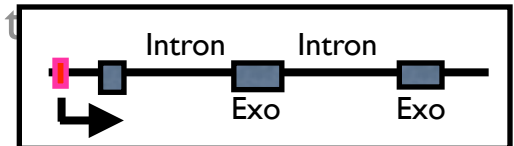
21st Century News

Genome project

How? RNA editing and alternative splicing

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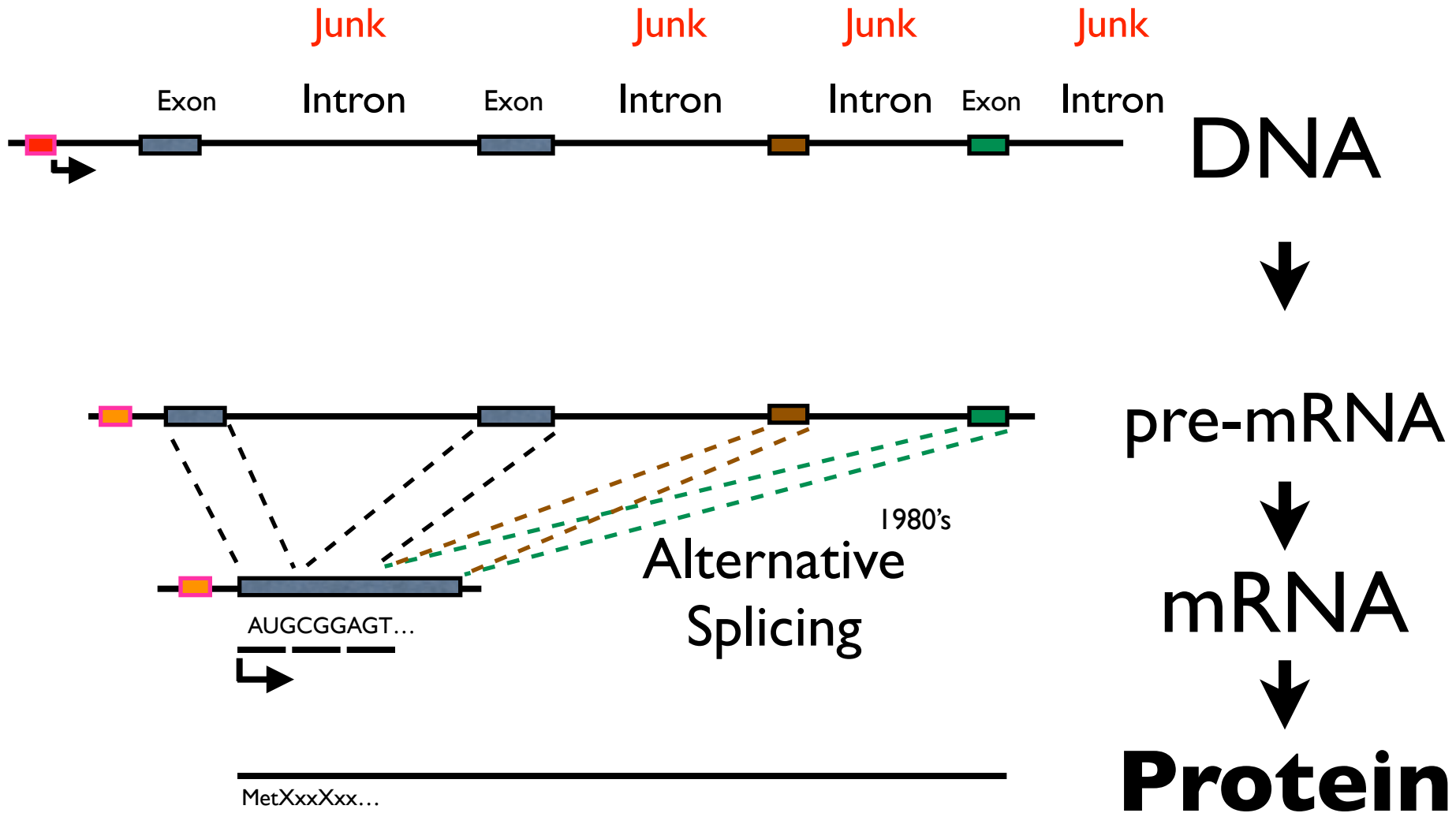
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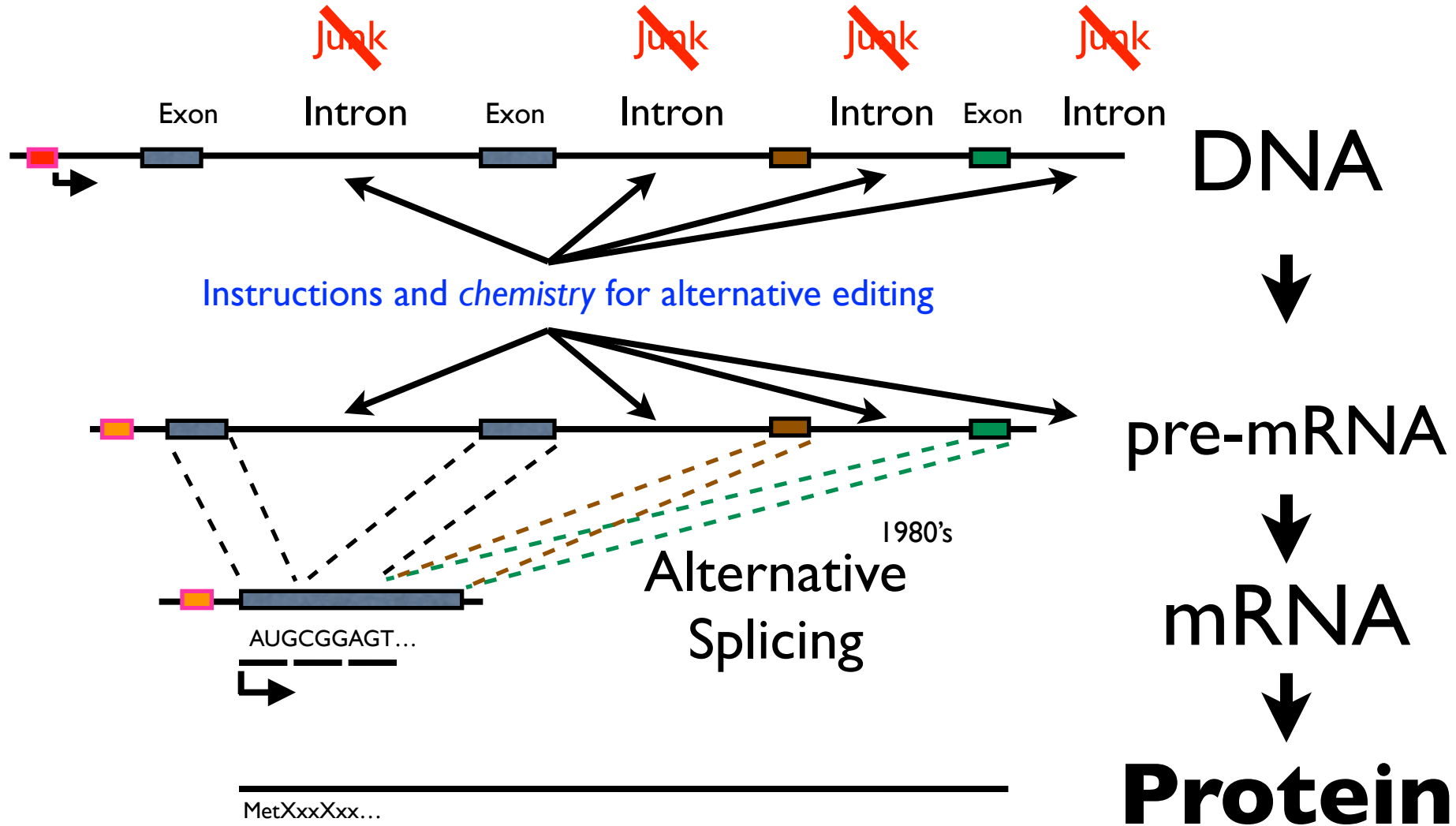
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21st Century News



21st Century News



Back in the lab...

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Can create riboswitches

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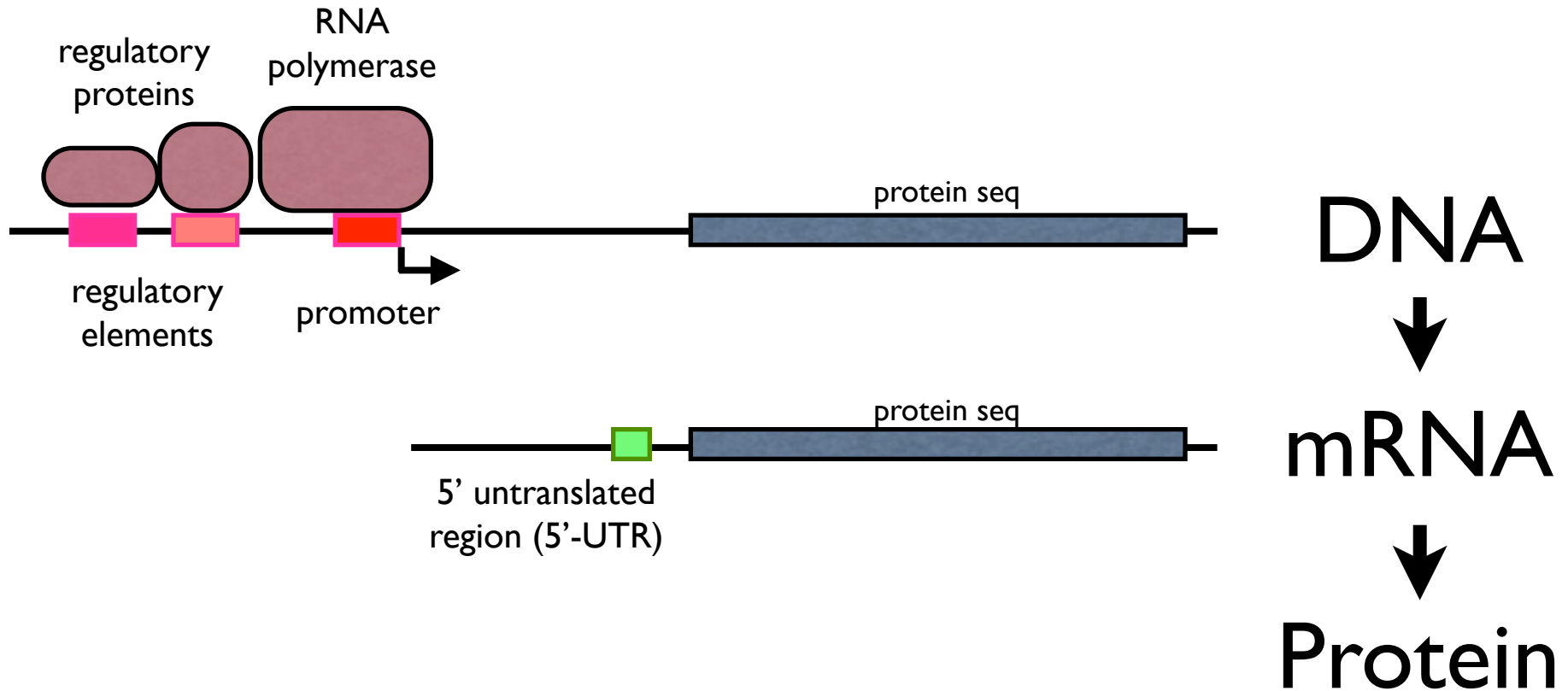
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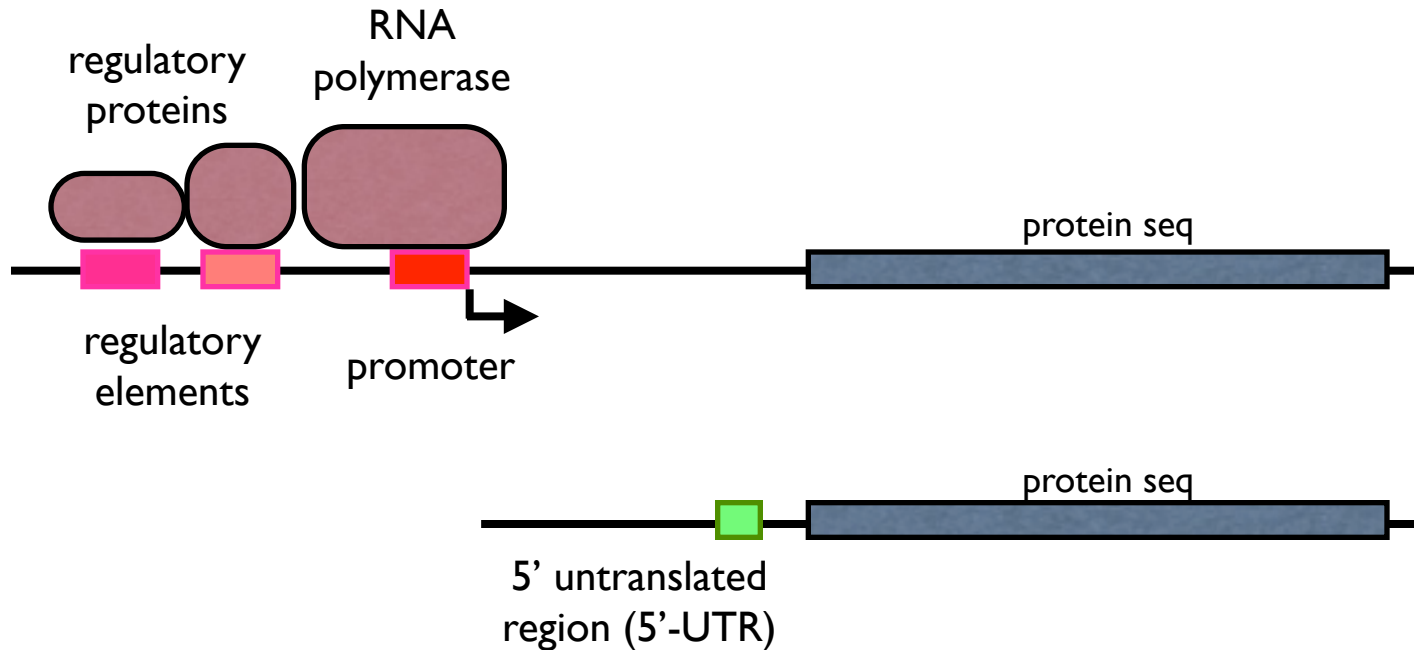
Ron Breaker:

“if it’s so easy for us, I’ll bet nature exploits this”

More gene regulation



More gene regulation



DNA



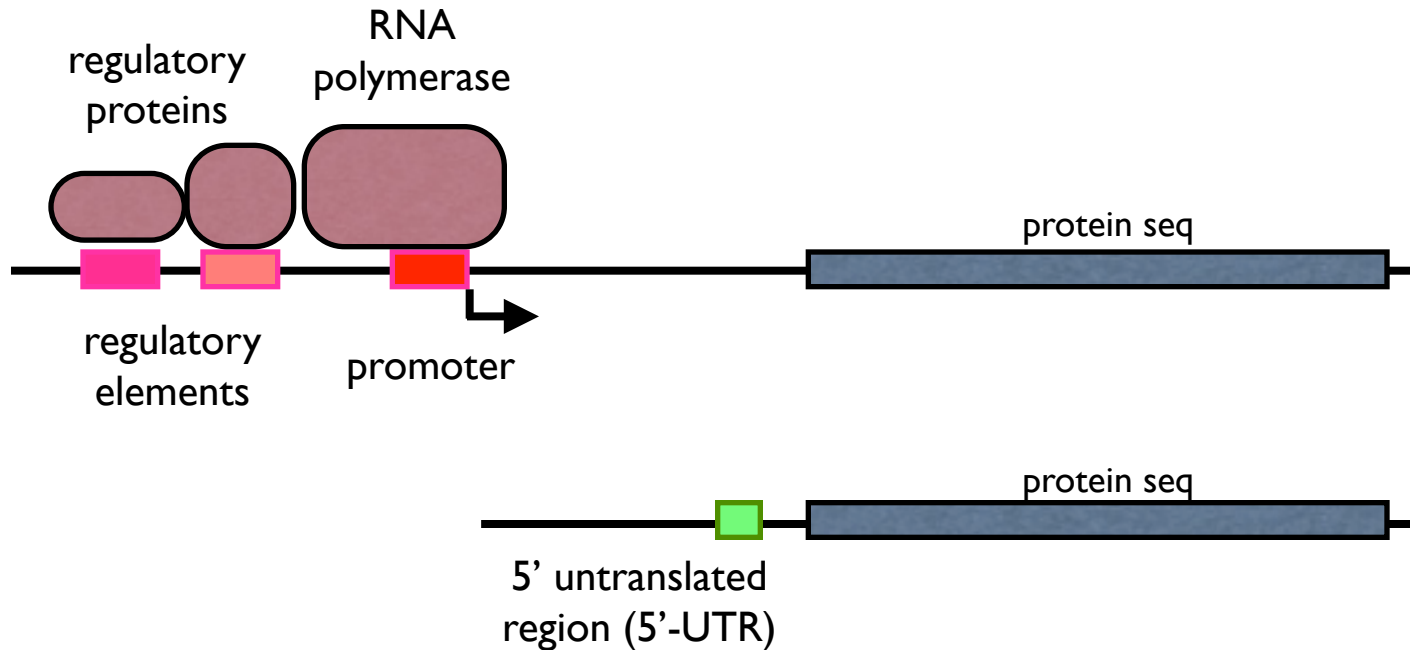
mRNA



Protein

Ron: search for genes with no known protein regulator and which have a highly conserved 5' UTR

More gene regulation



DNA



mRNA

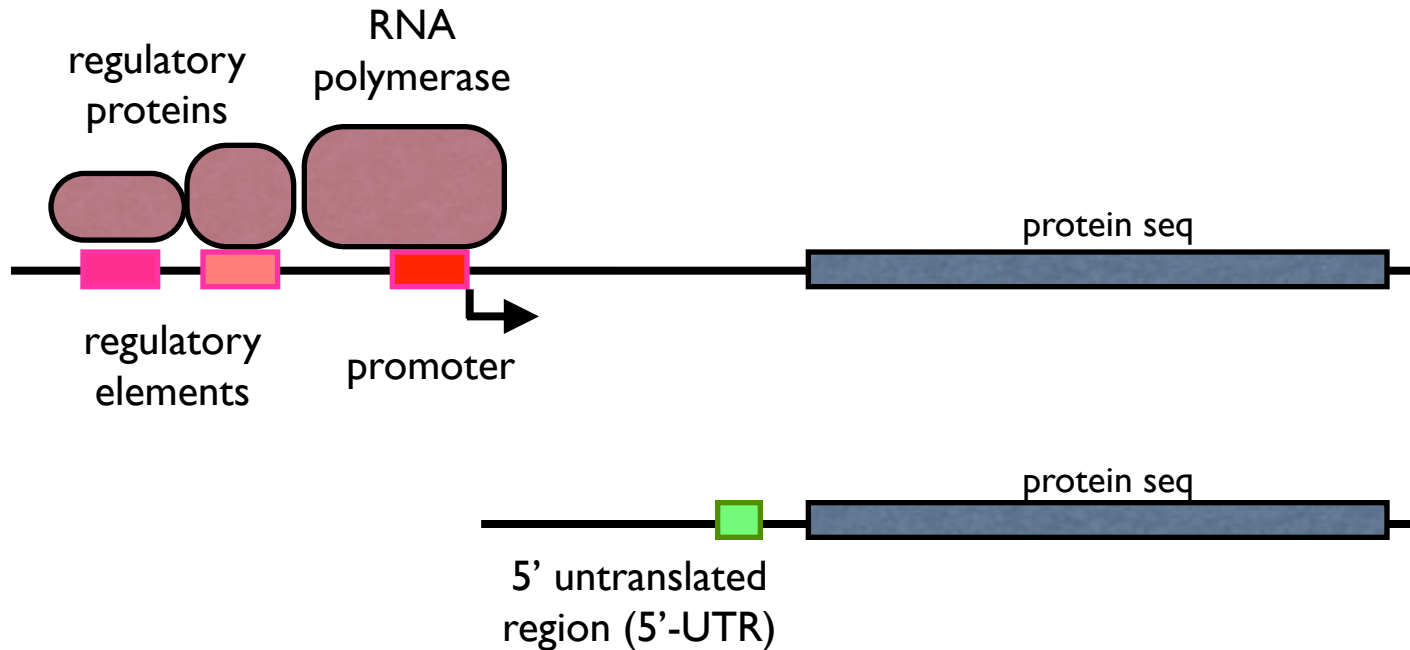


Protein

Ron: search for genes with no known protein regulator and which have a highly conserved 5' UTR

Does RNA from that conserved 5' UTR bind the product or substrate of the encoded enzyme?

More gene regulation



DNA



mRNA



Protein

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One week: a Nature paper!

2004

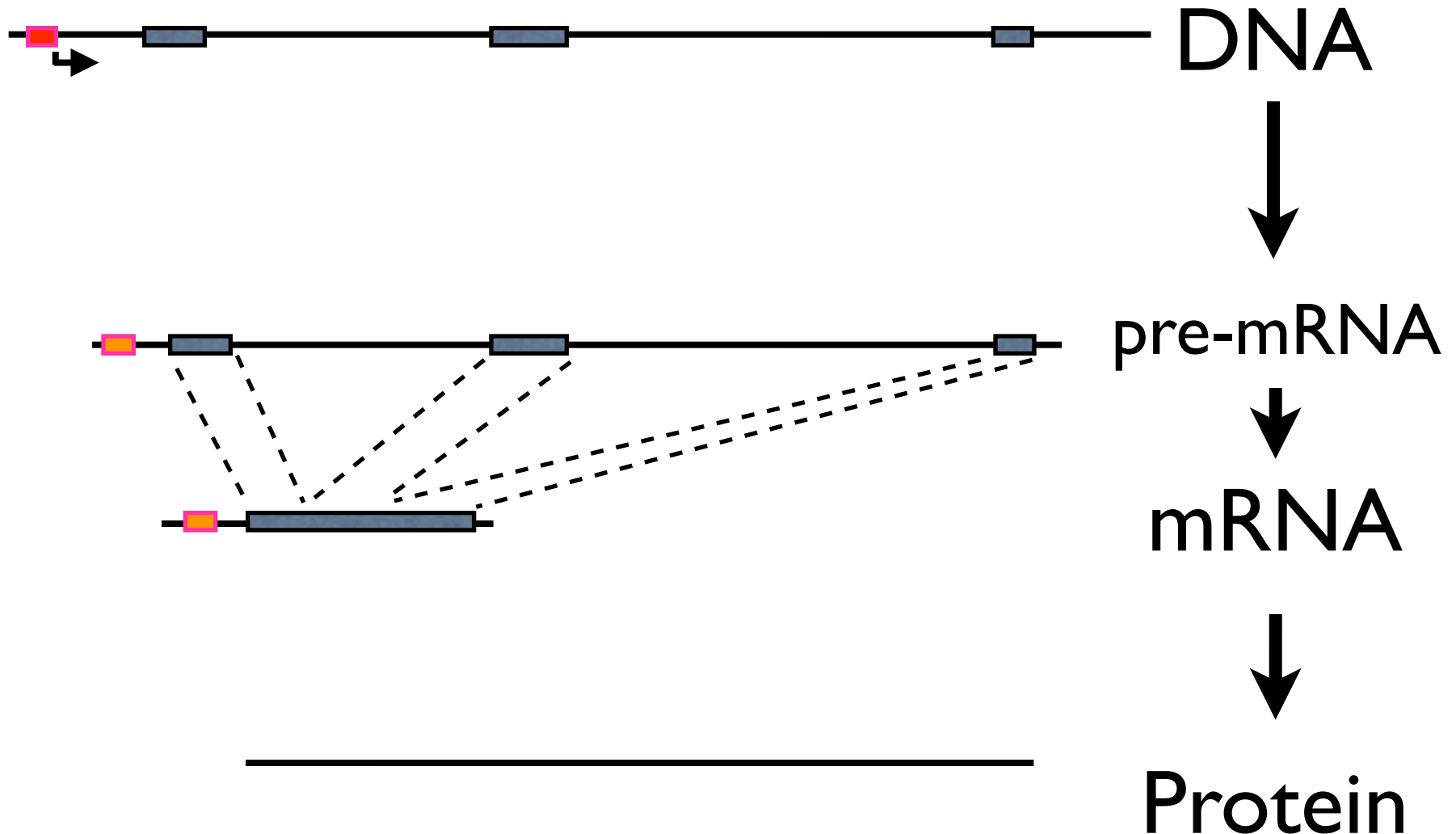
Project Encode (2007)

(More) rewriting of textbooks

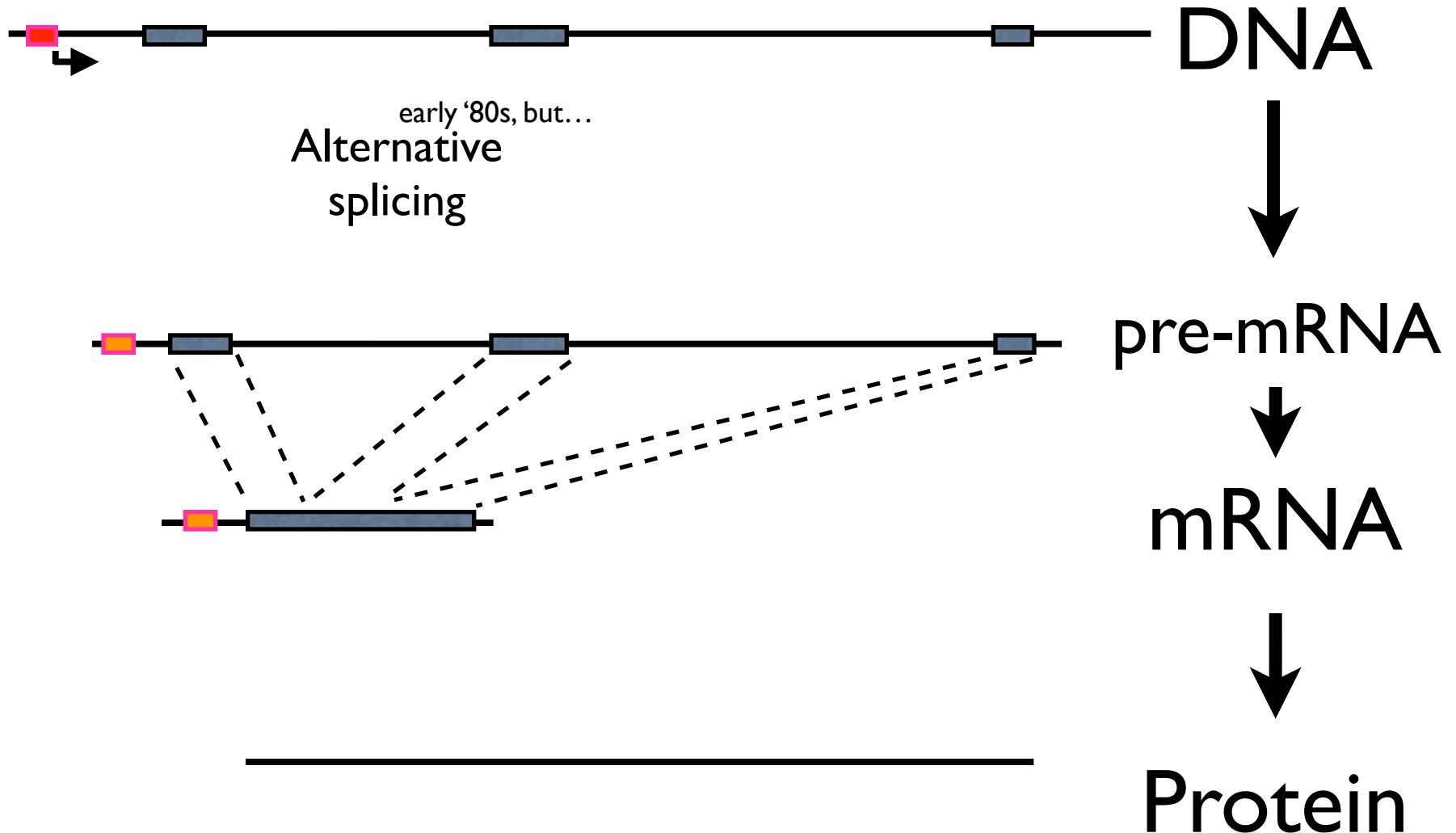
June 2007, published in Nature

- ★ Some regions of DNA far from protein-coding genes (extreme “junk?”) are nevertheless highly conserved
- ★ Most of both strands of the DNA is transcribed (far beyond that required for protein-coding genes)

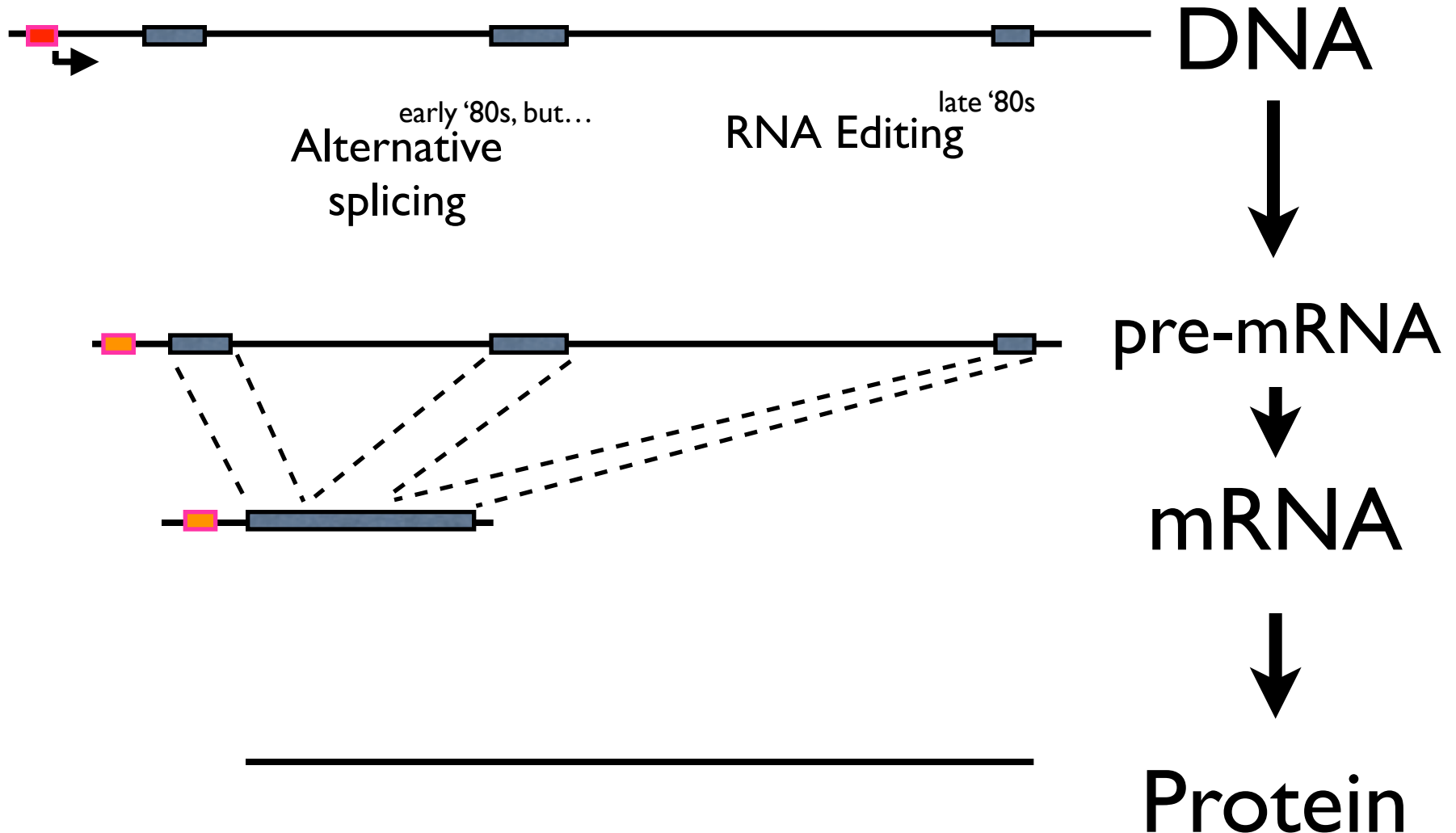
21st Century Opportunities



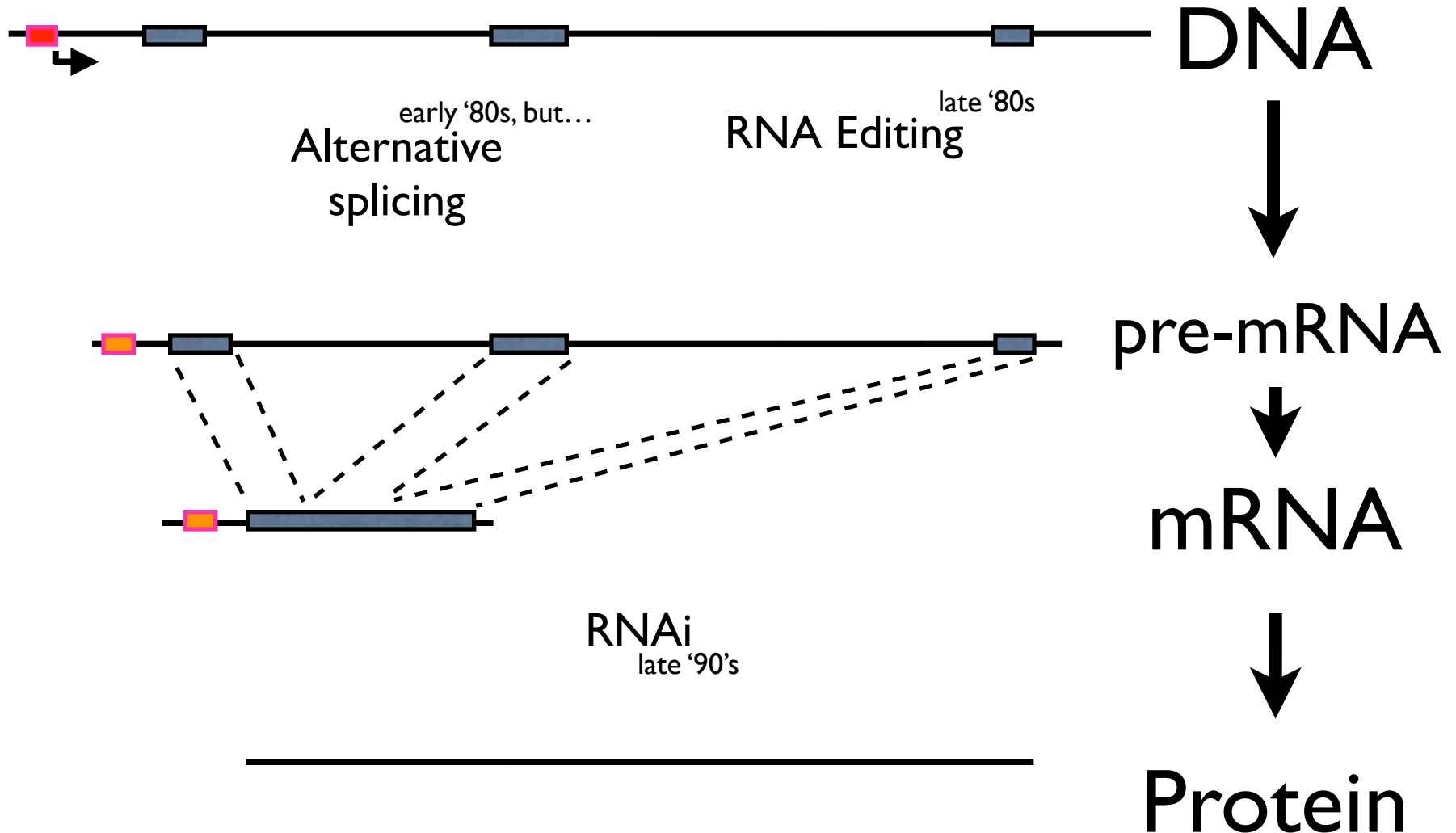
21st Century Opportunities



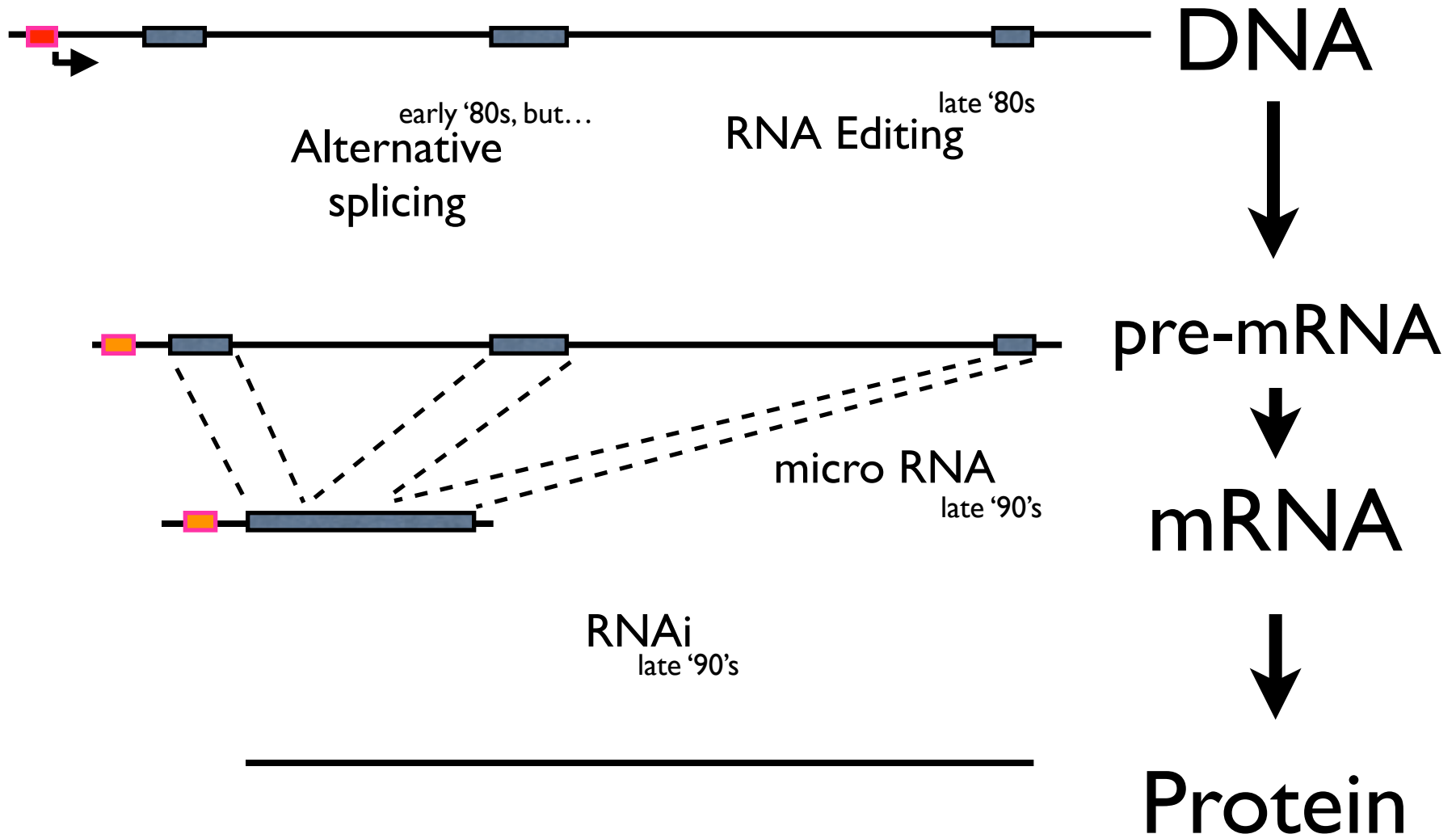
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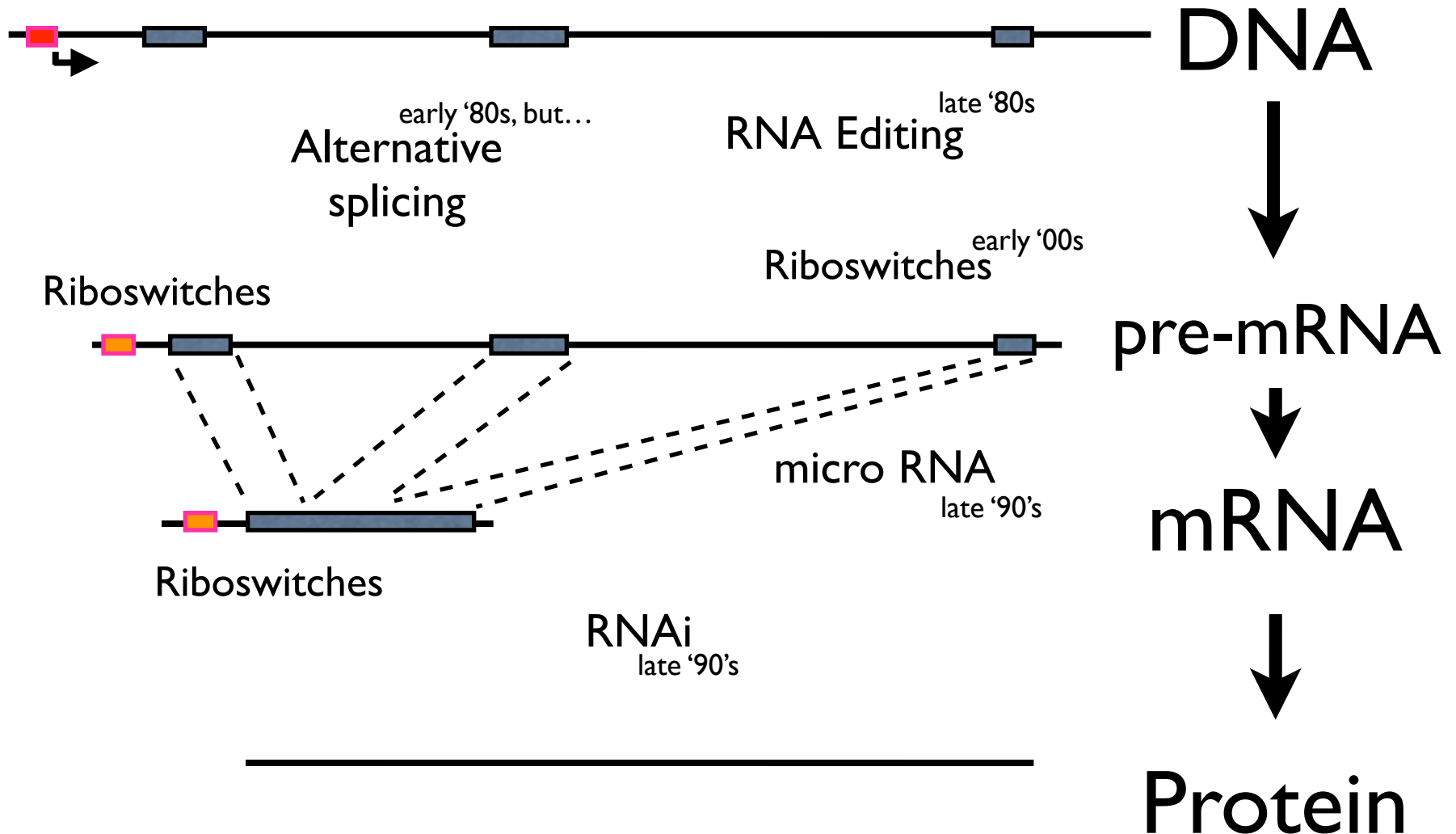
21st Century Opportunities



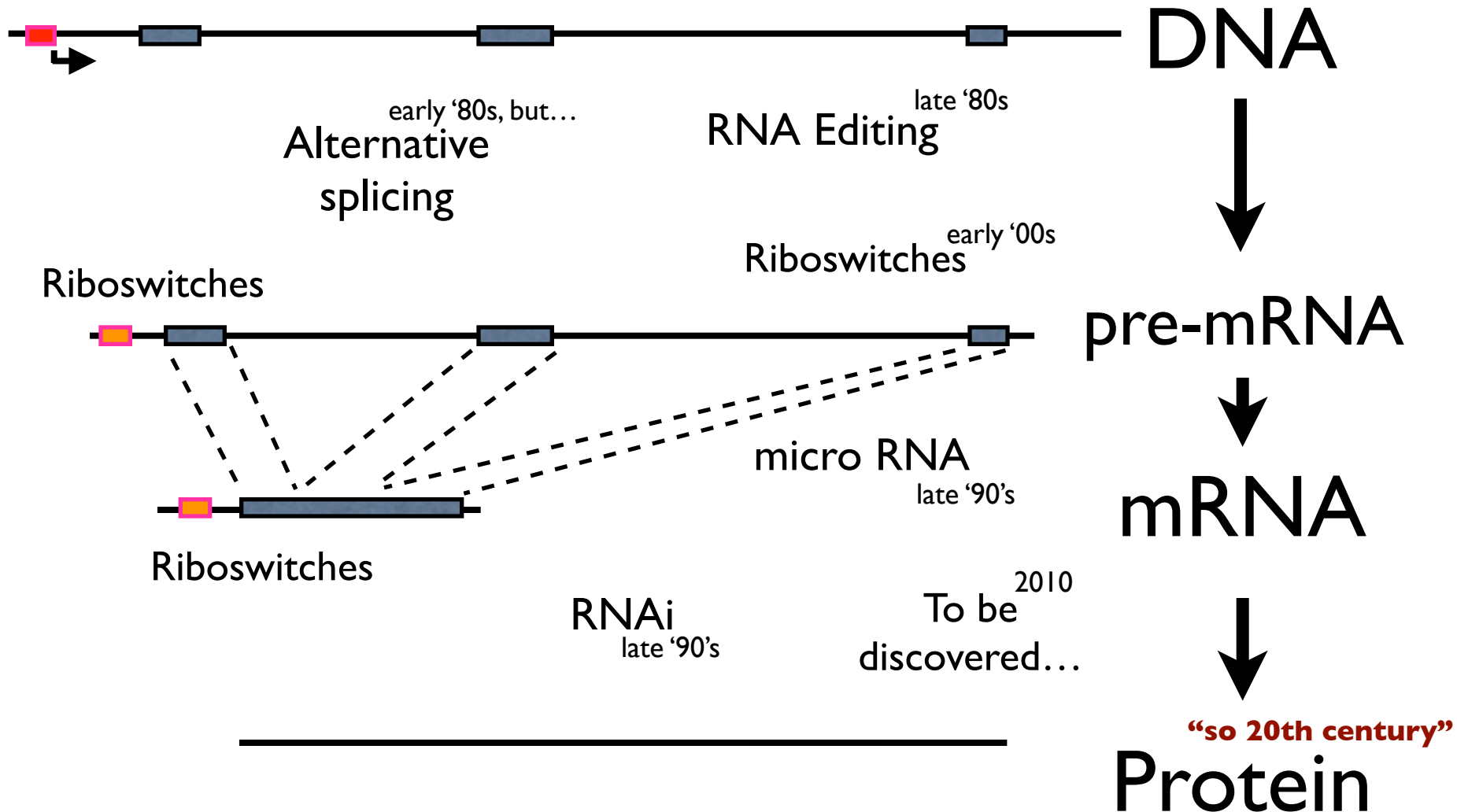
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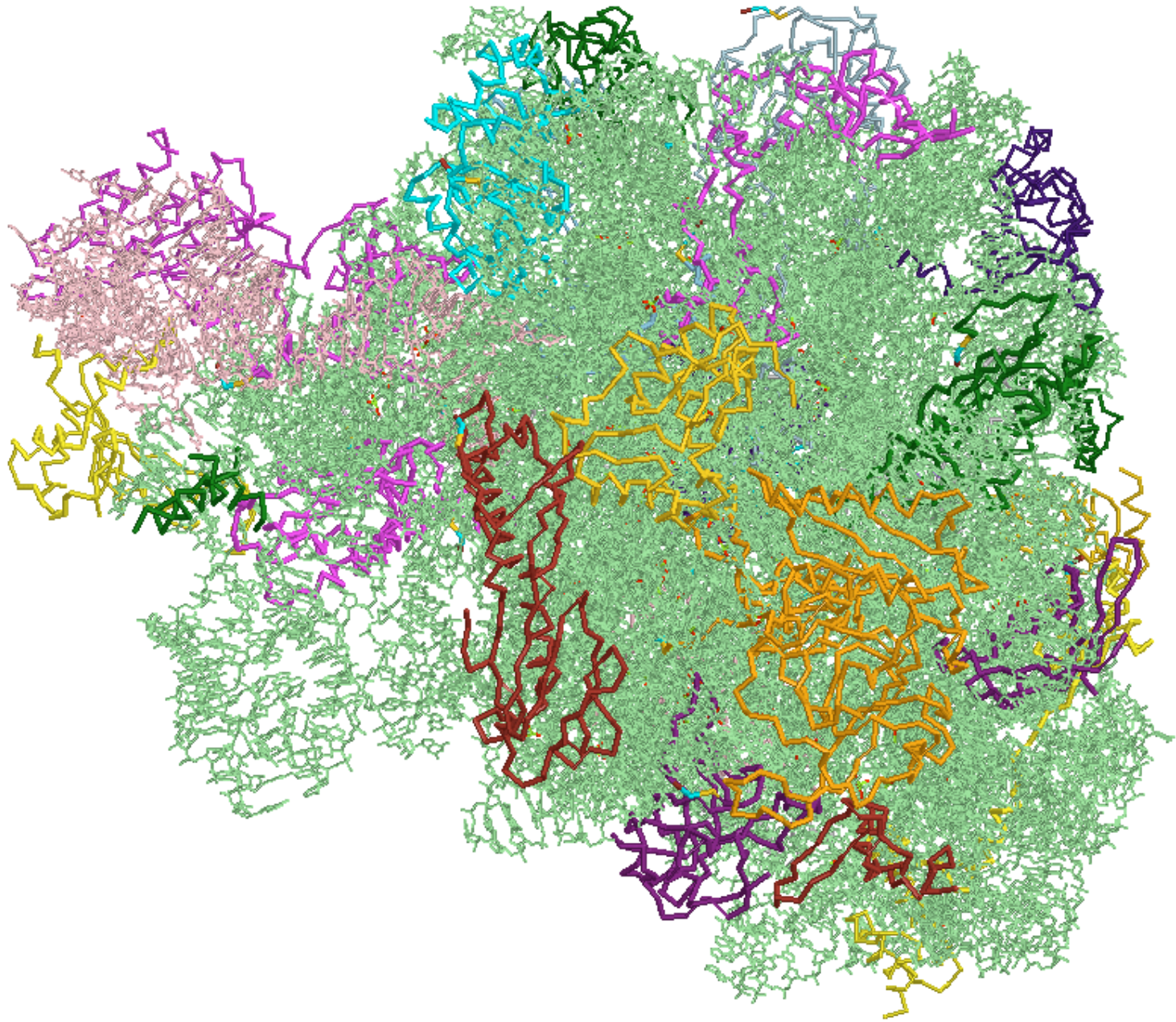
21st Century Opportunities



Large Macromolecular Complexes

Ribosome

An RNA machine with protein cofactors



**What stabilizes protein
structures?**

What stabilizes protein
structures?

What *directs* protein structures?

The DNA Duplex

The DNA Duplex

What stabilizes the duplex?

The DNA Duplex

What stabilizes the duplex?

What *directs* duplex structure?

Which is more stable?
(which has a higher melting temperature?)

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTC

or

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTA

Which is more stable?
(which has a higher melting temperature?)

ACCGCCACCGAAG
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51.6° C

or

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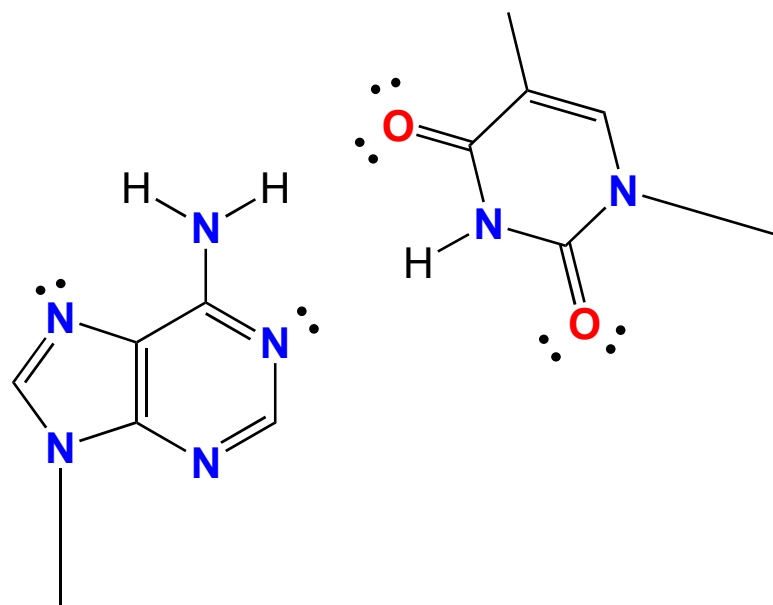
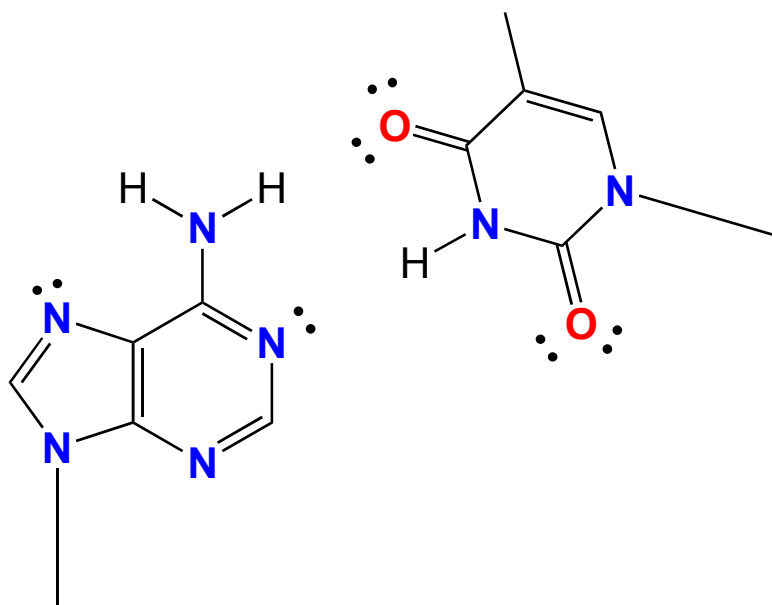
51.6° C

or

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTA

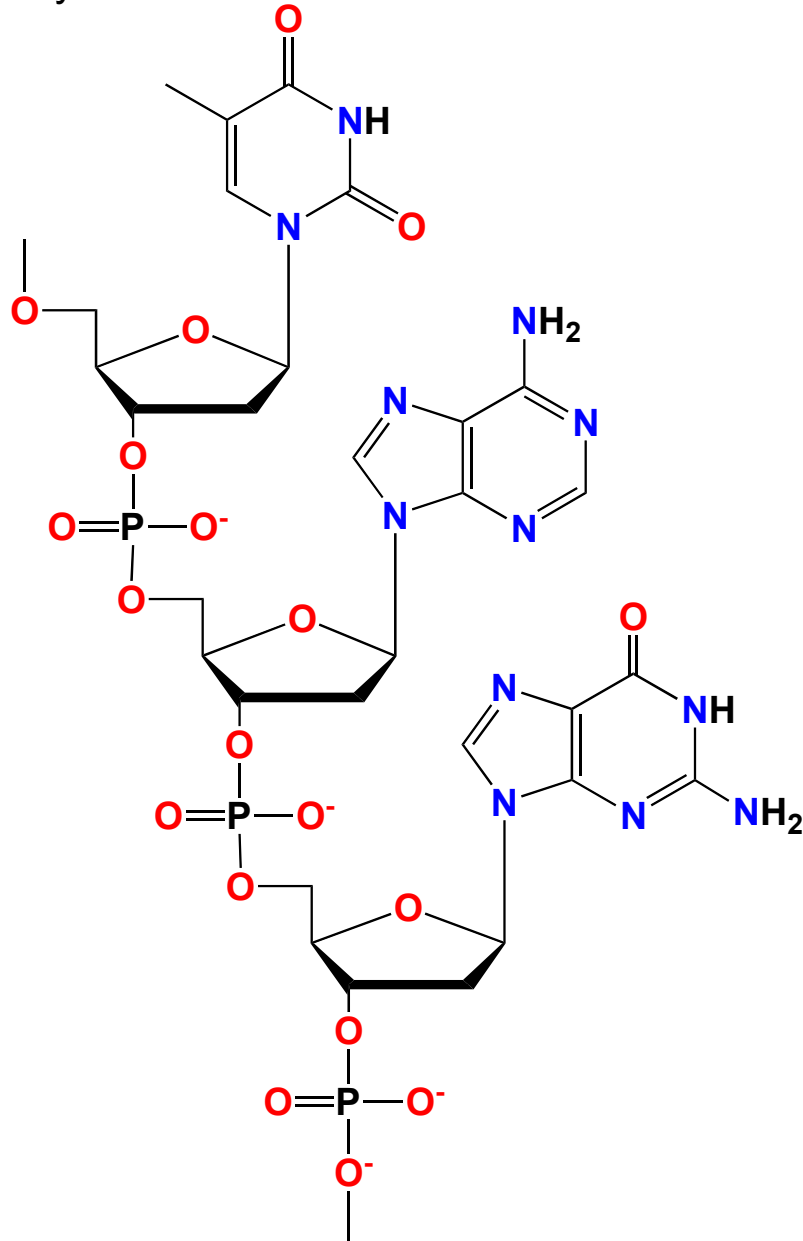
52.5° C

Calculations from <http://www.idtdna.com/analyzer/Applications/OligoAnalyzer/>



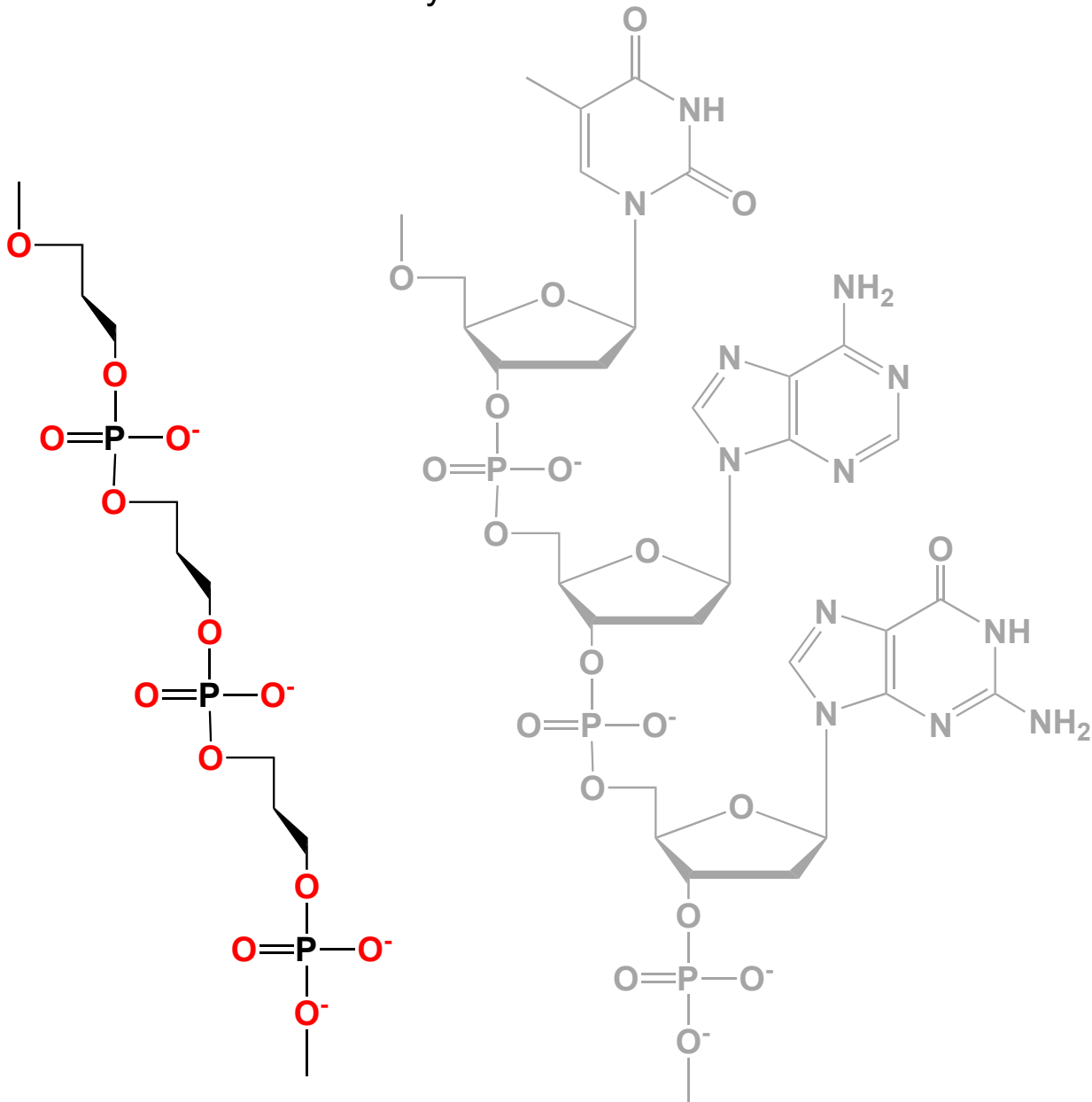
DNA

A look at the Chemistry



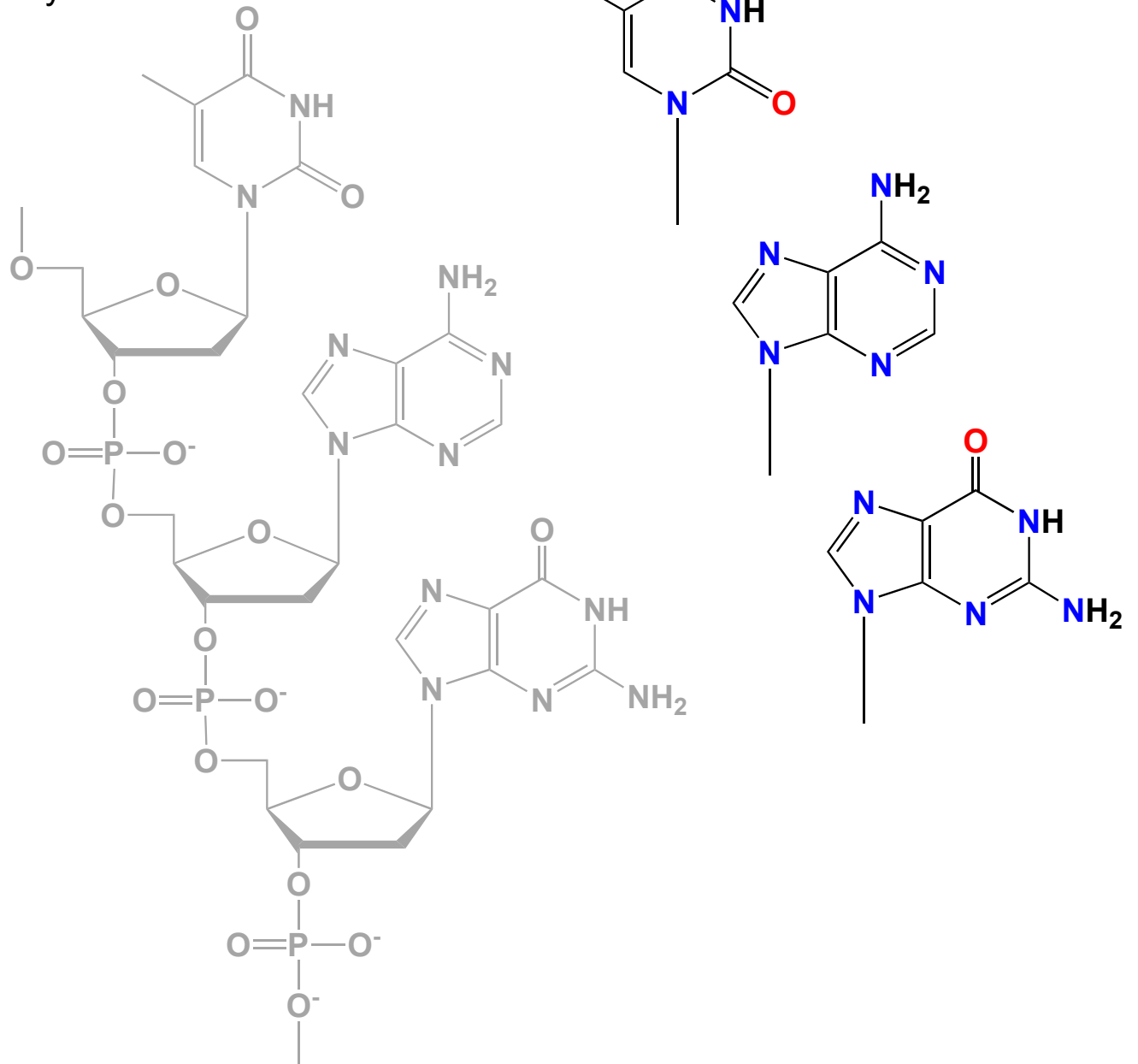
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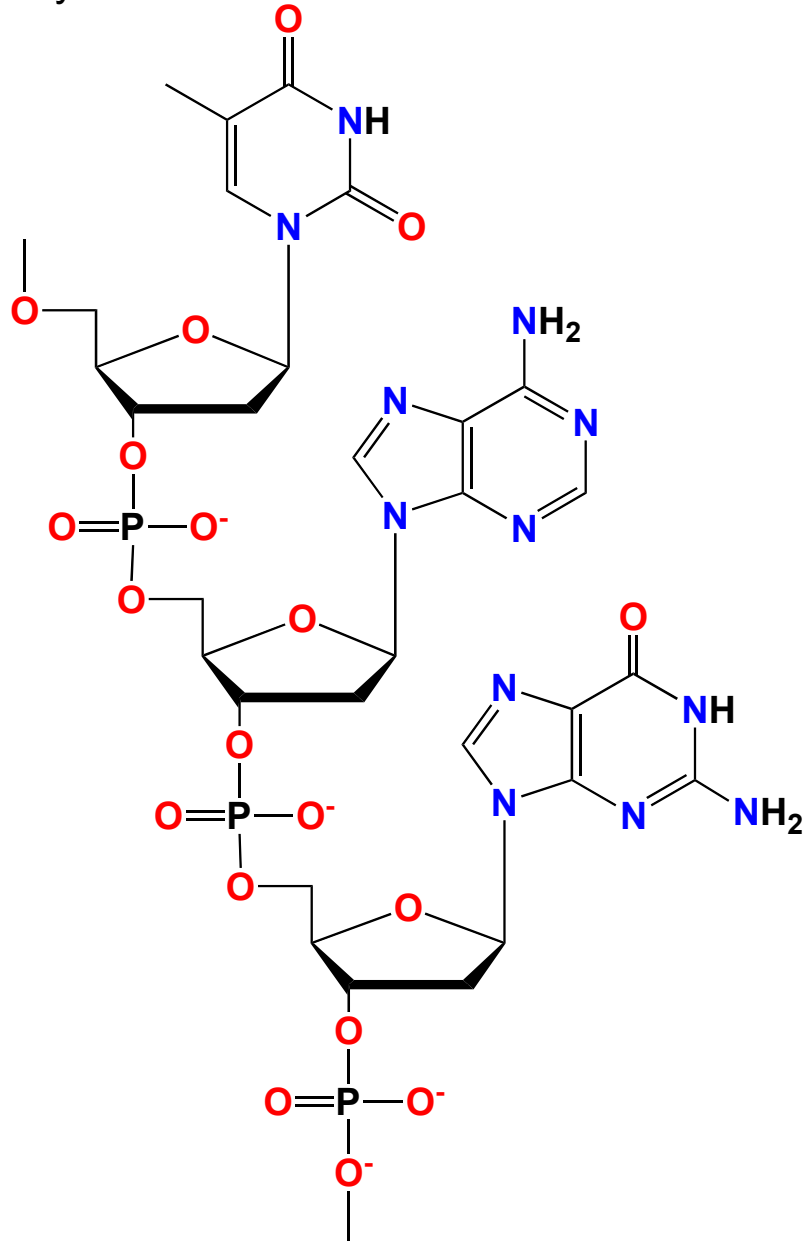
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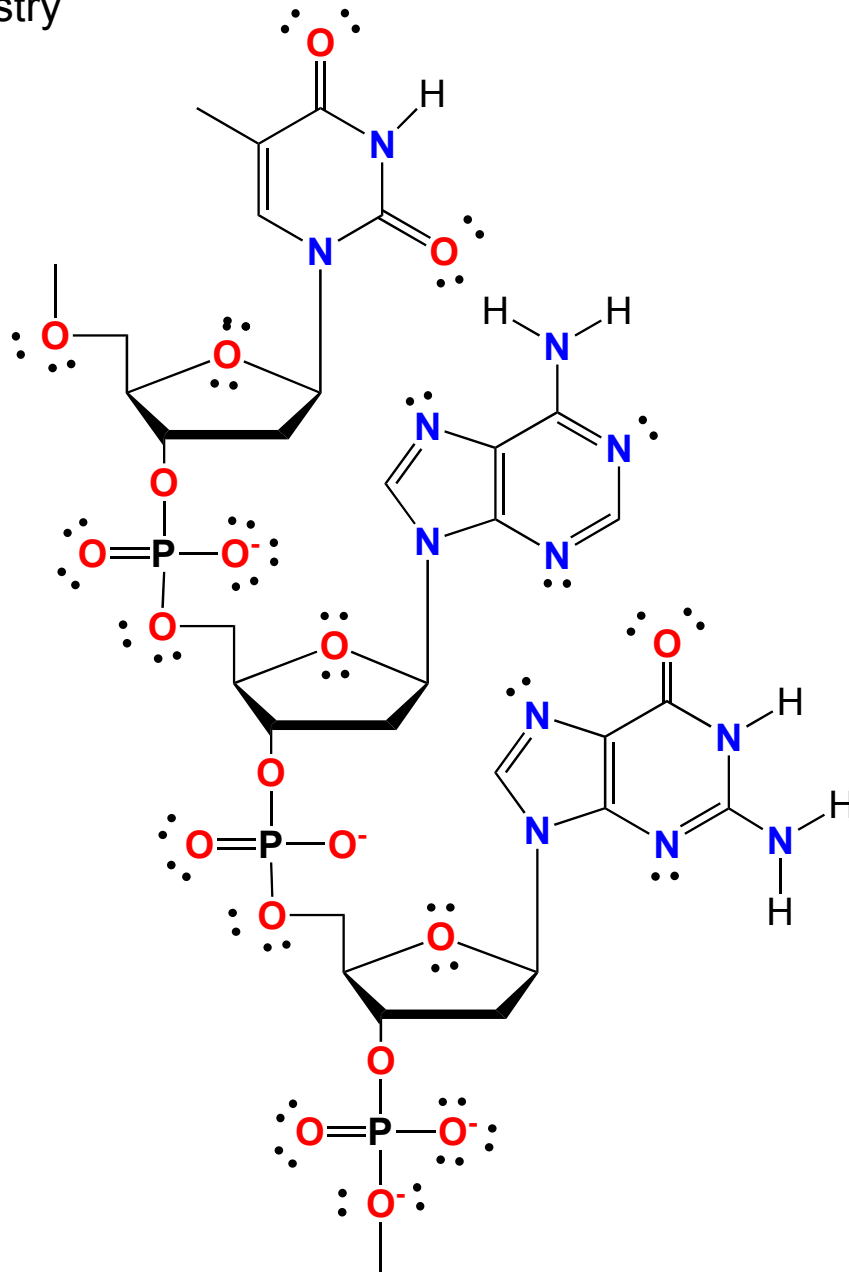
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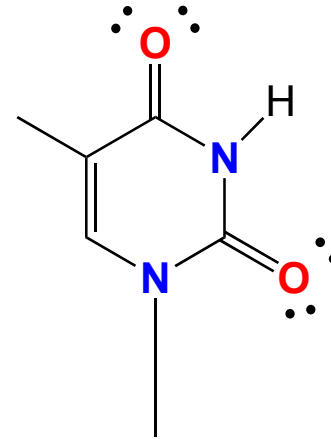
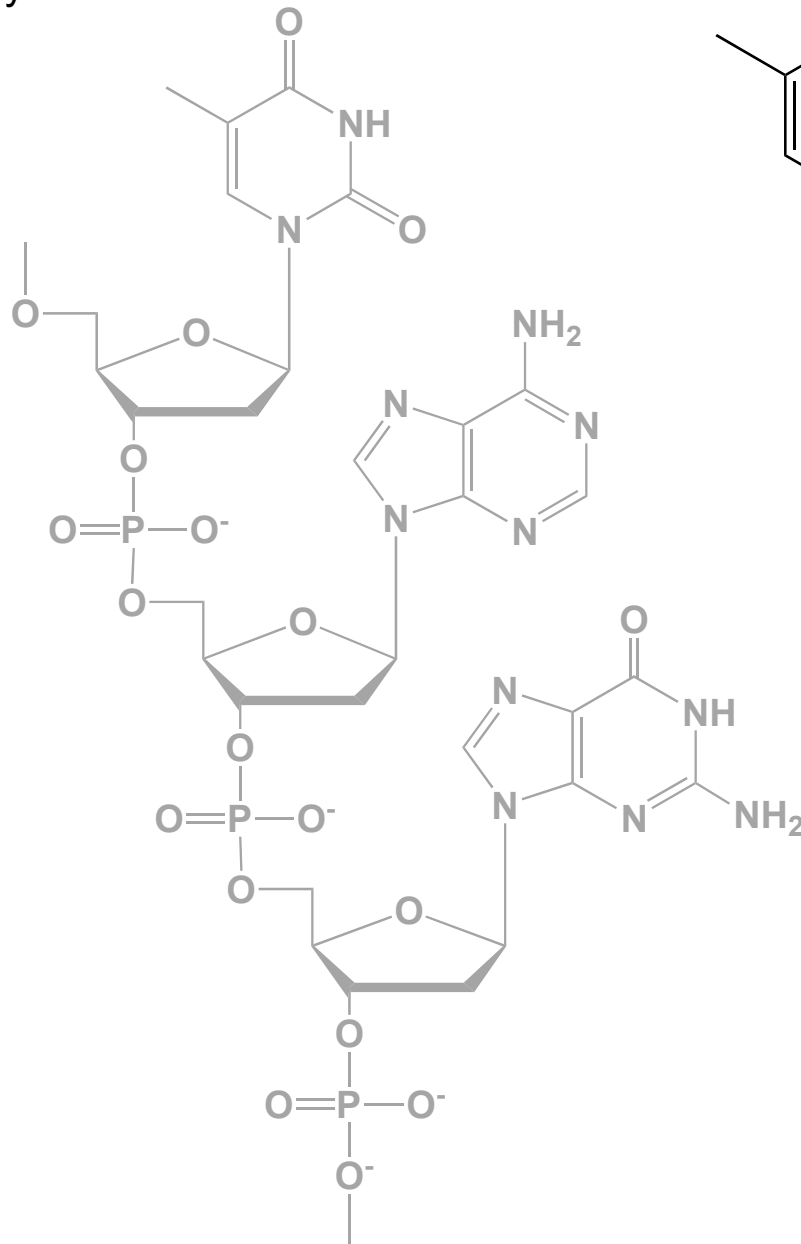
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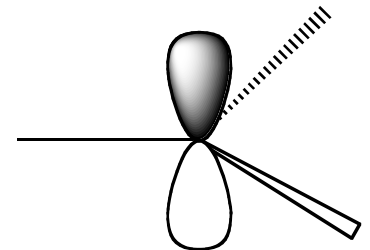
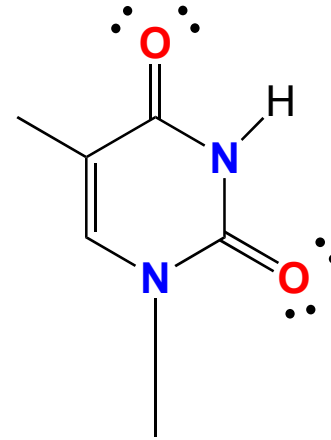
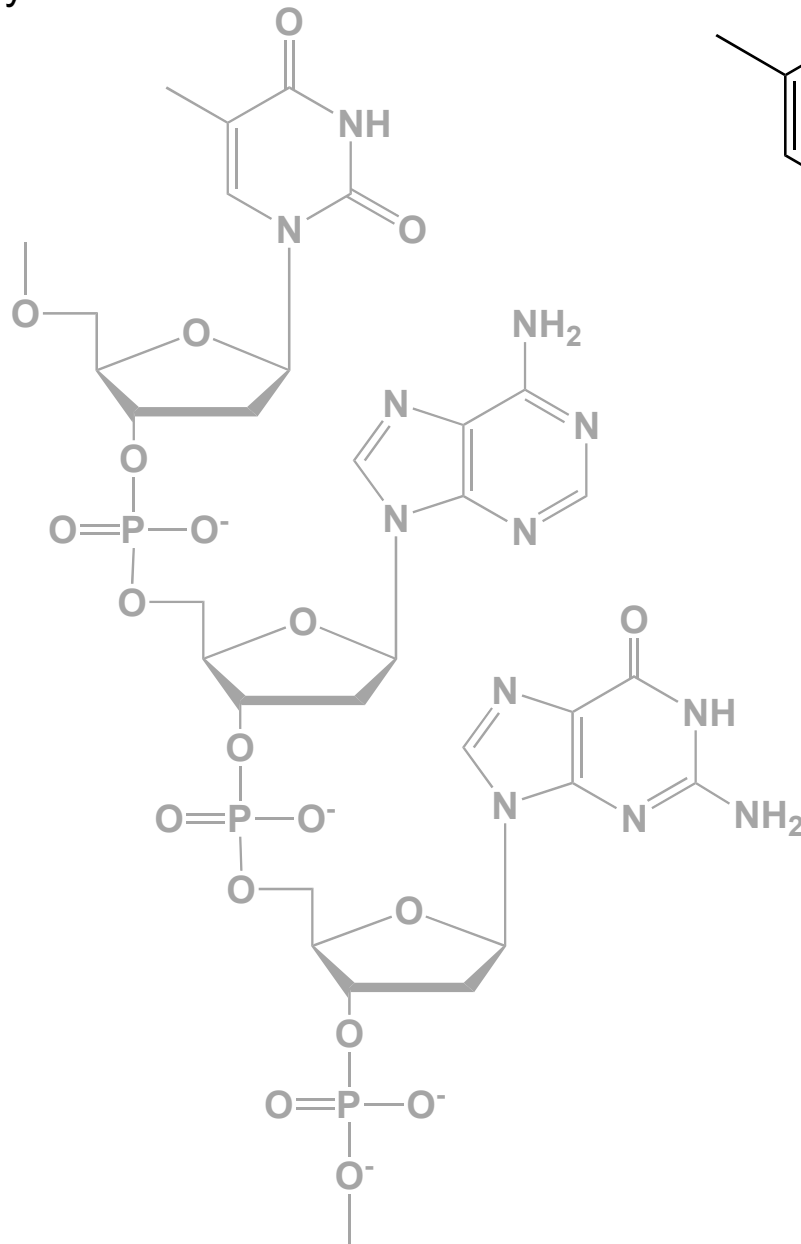
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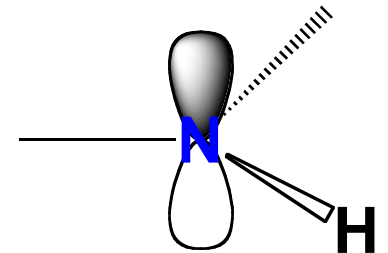
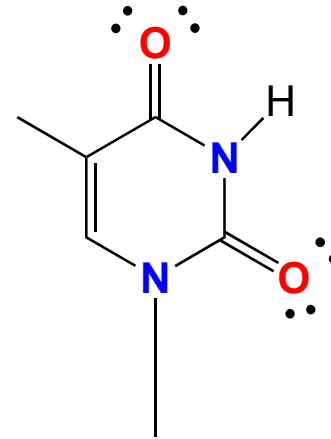
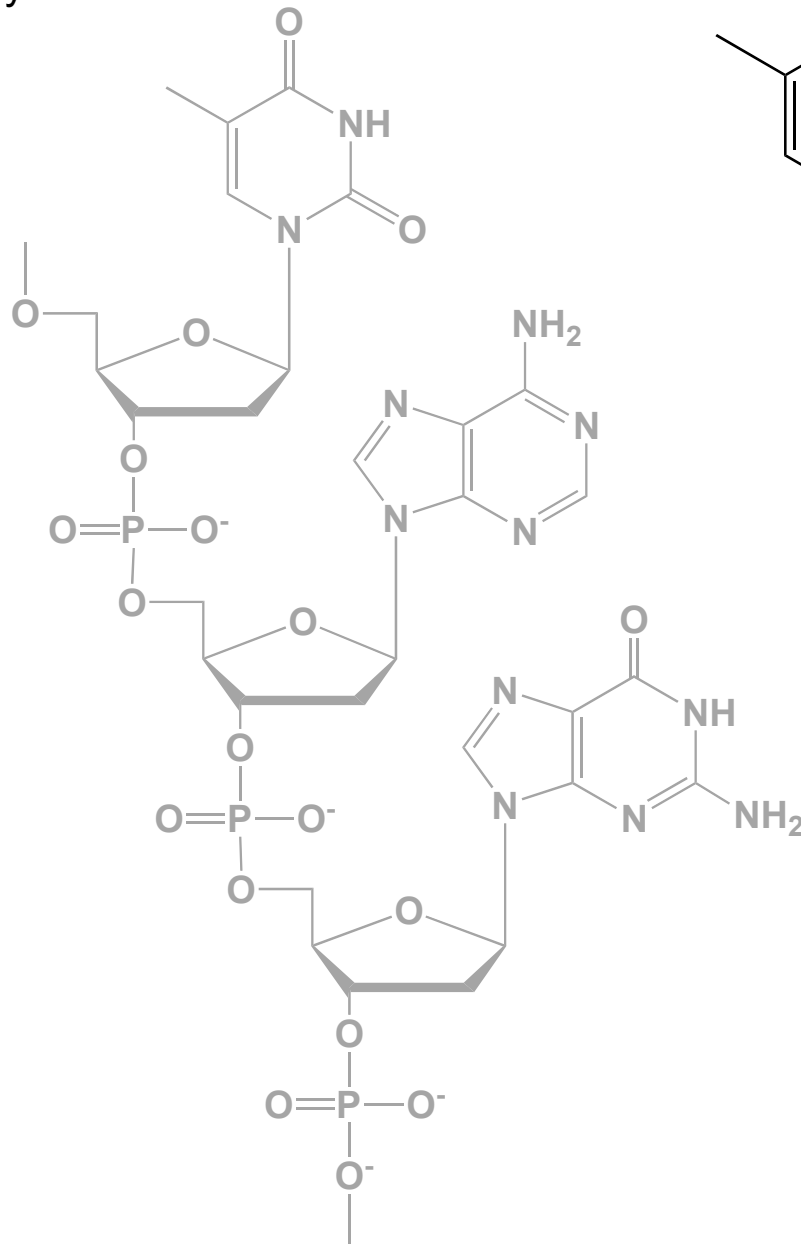
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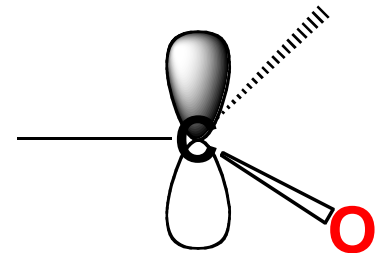
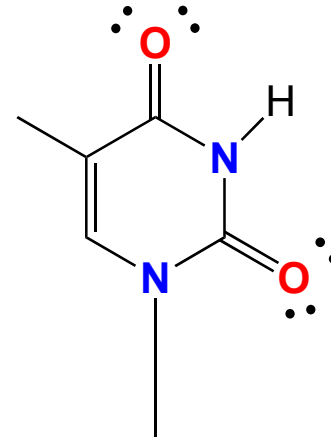
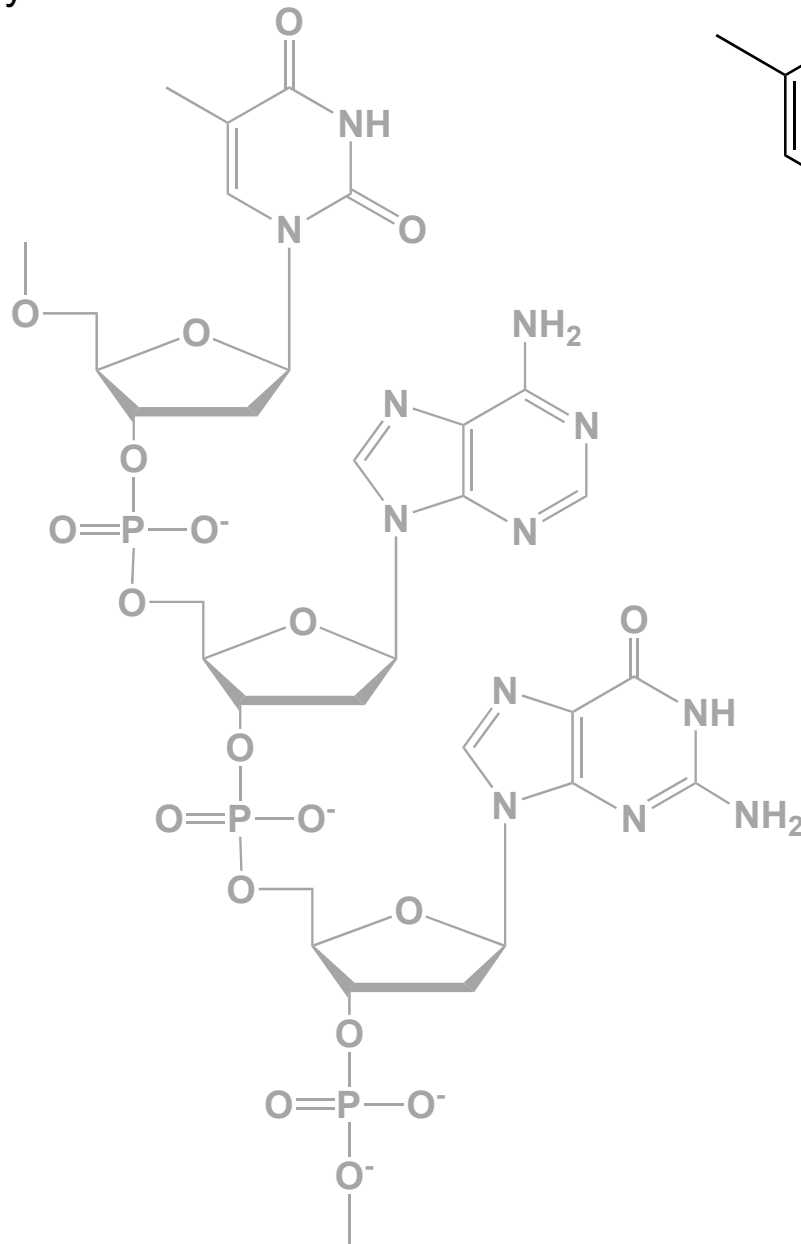
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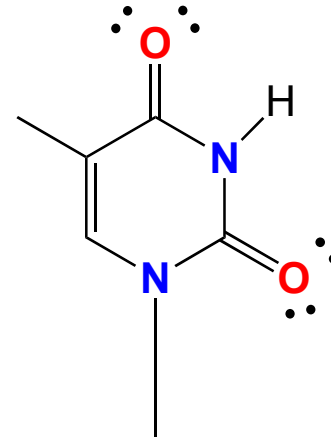
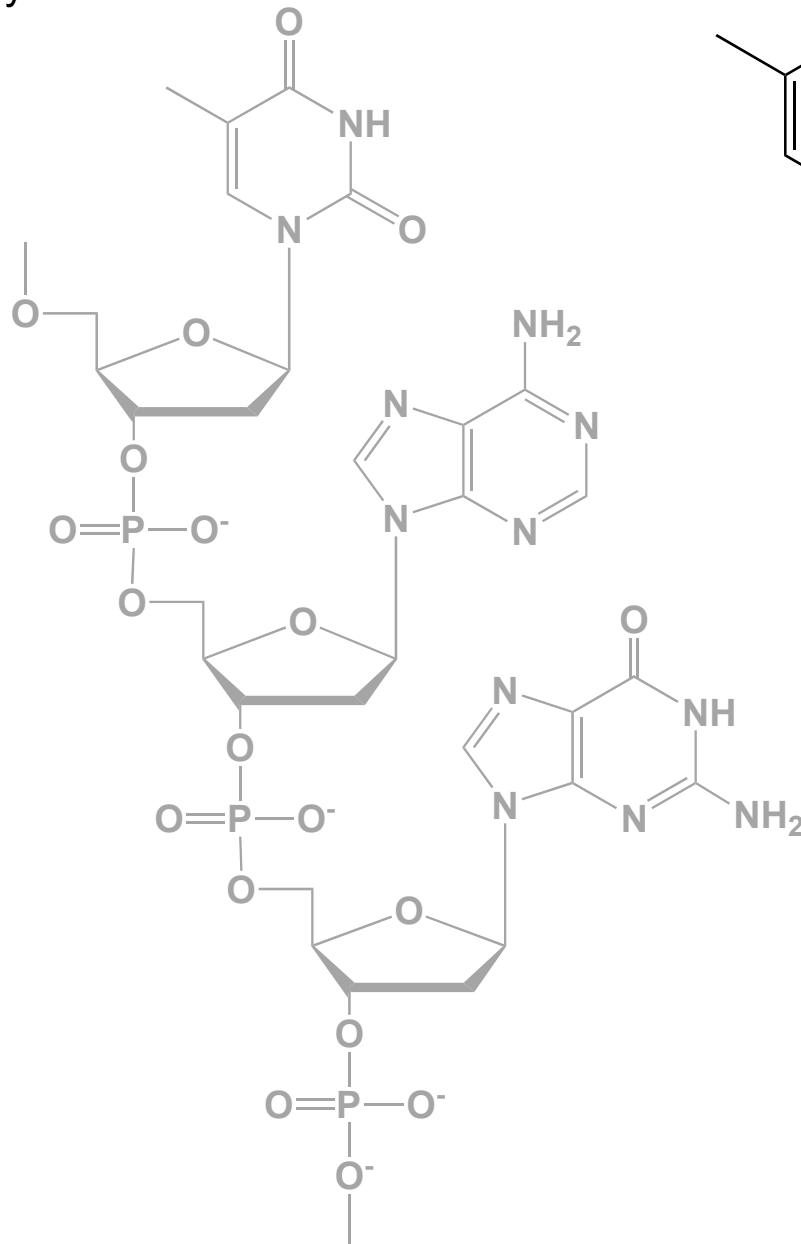
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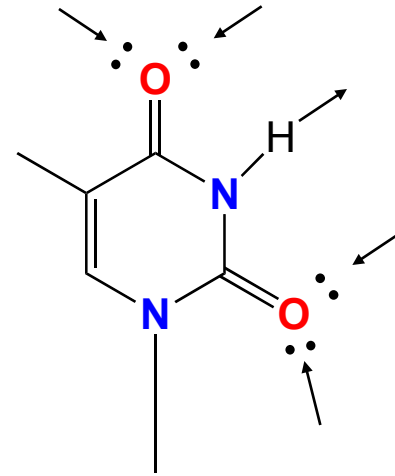
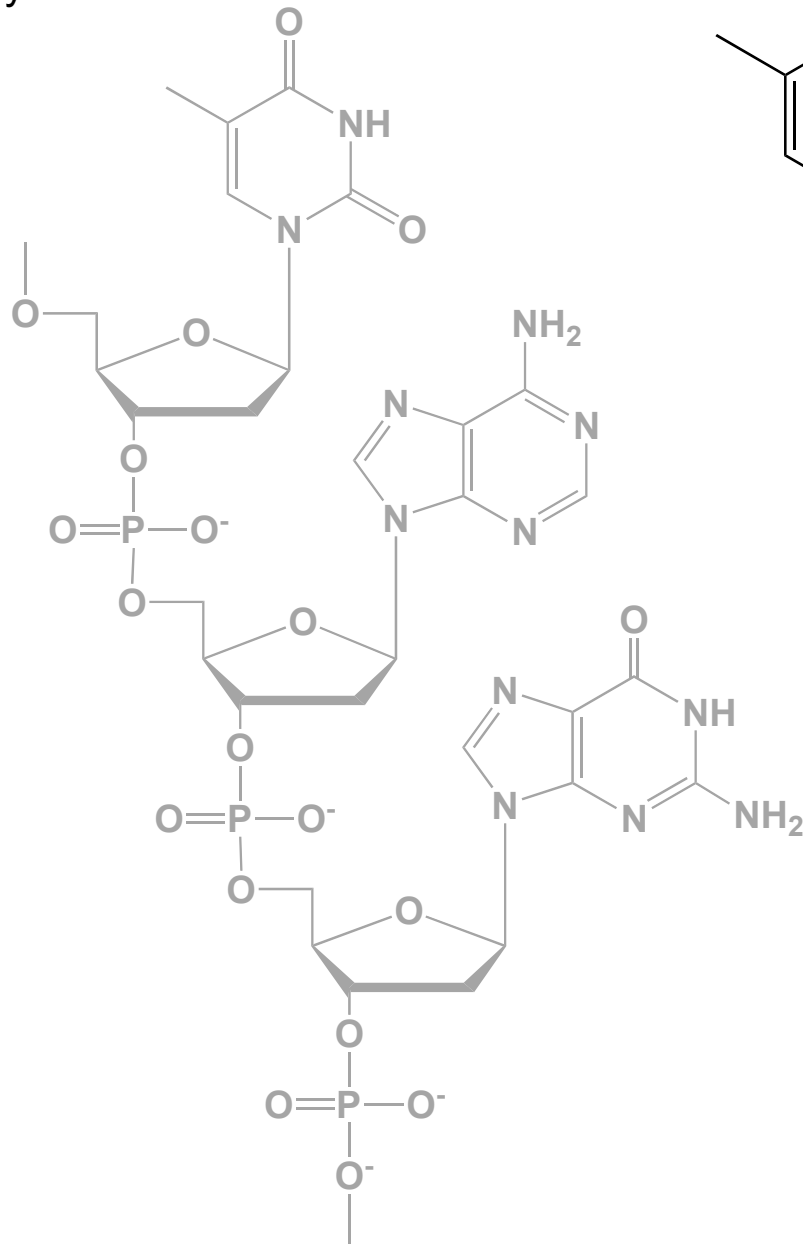
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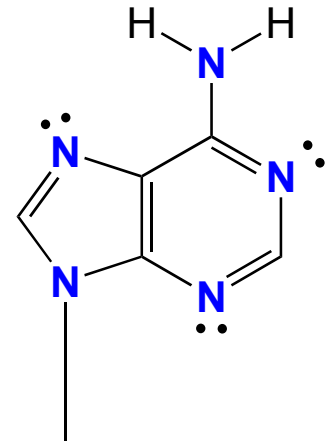
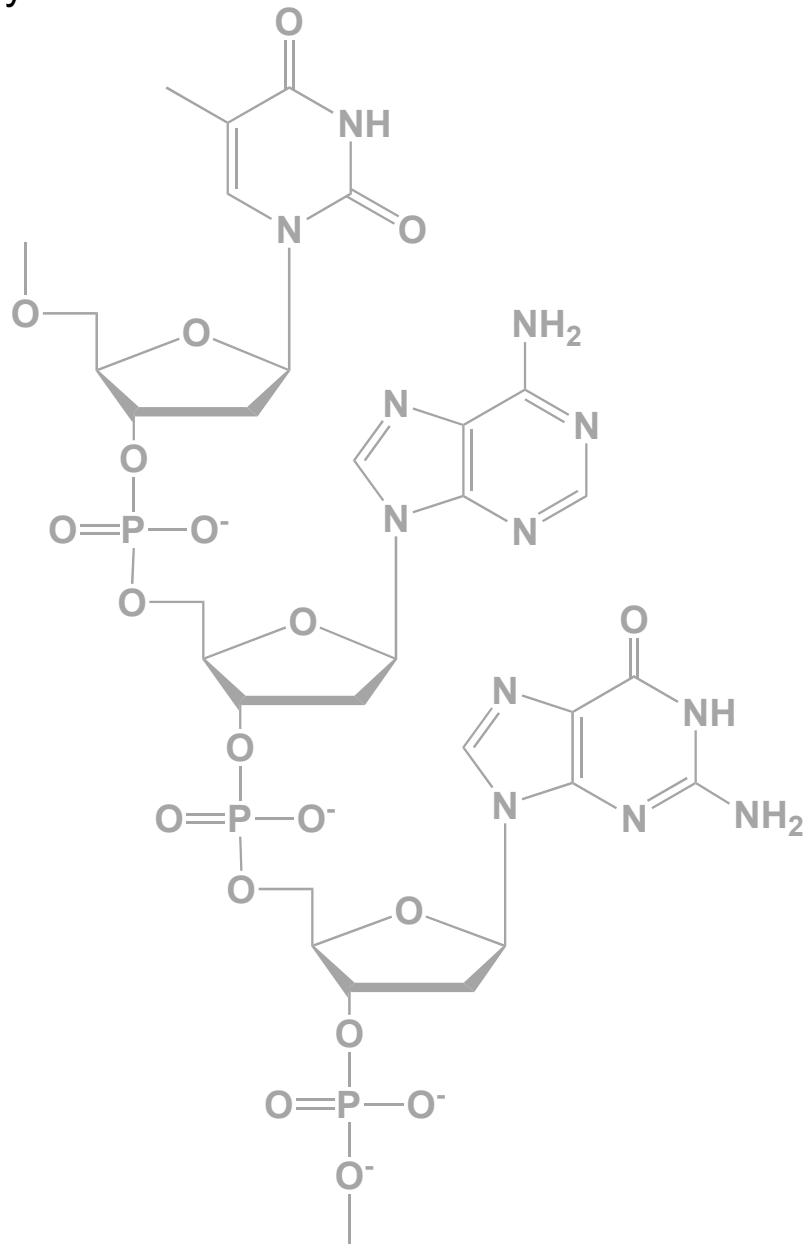
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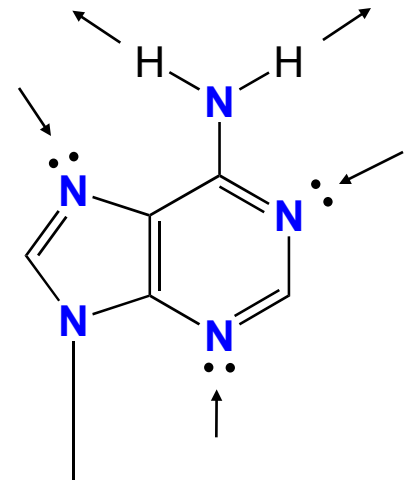
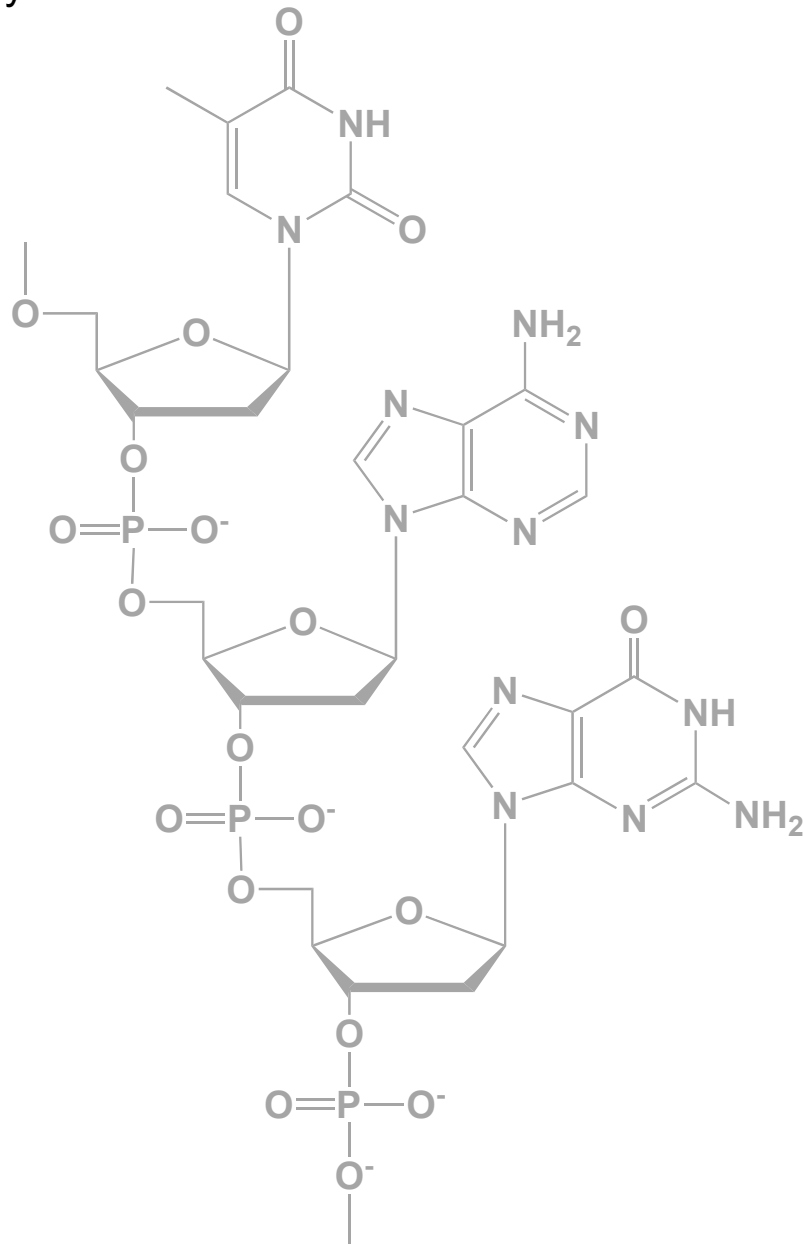
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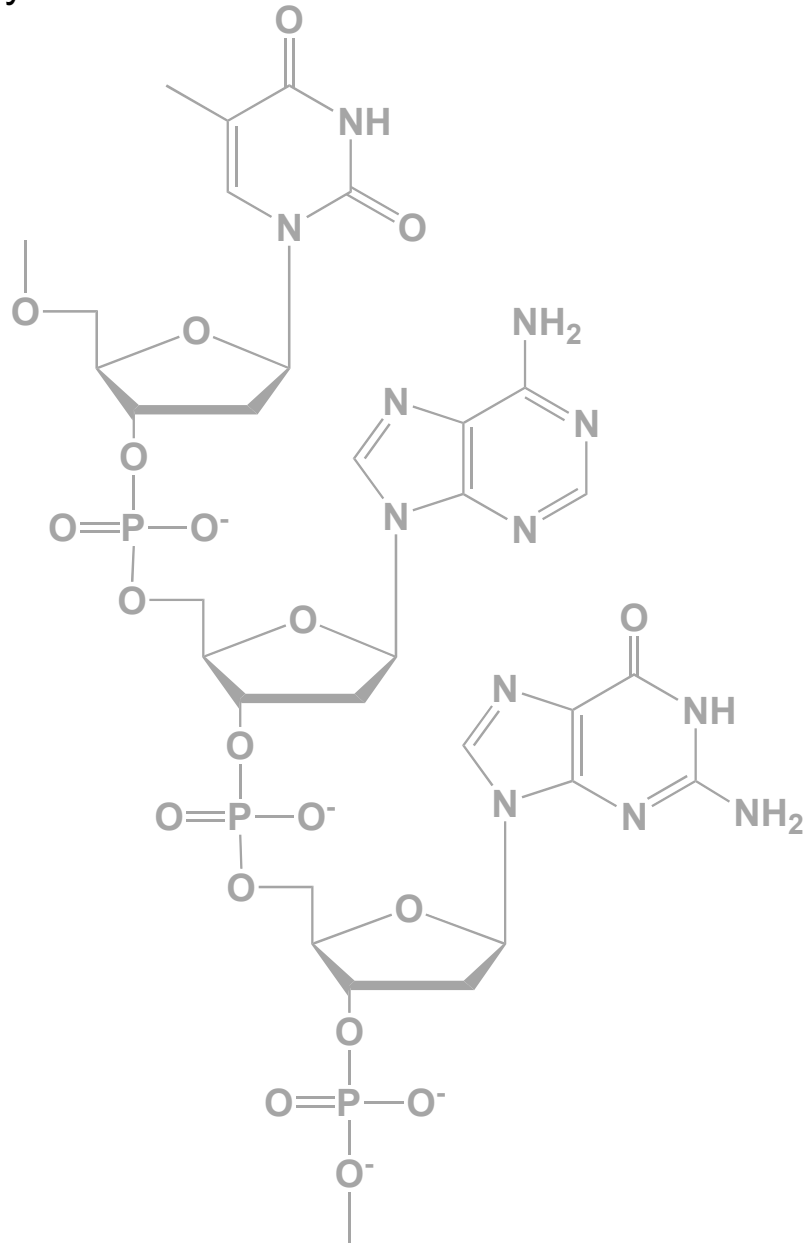
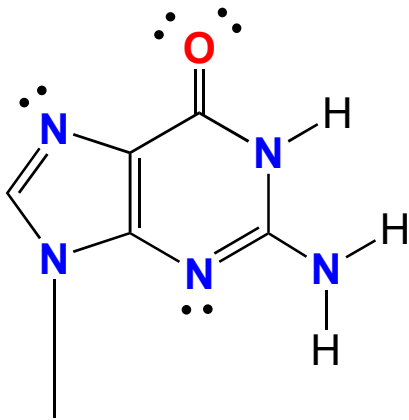
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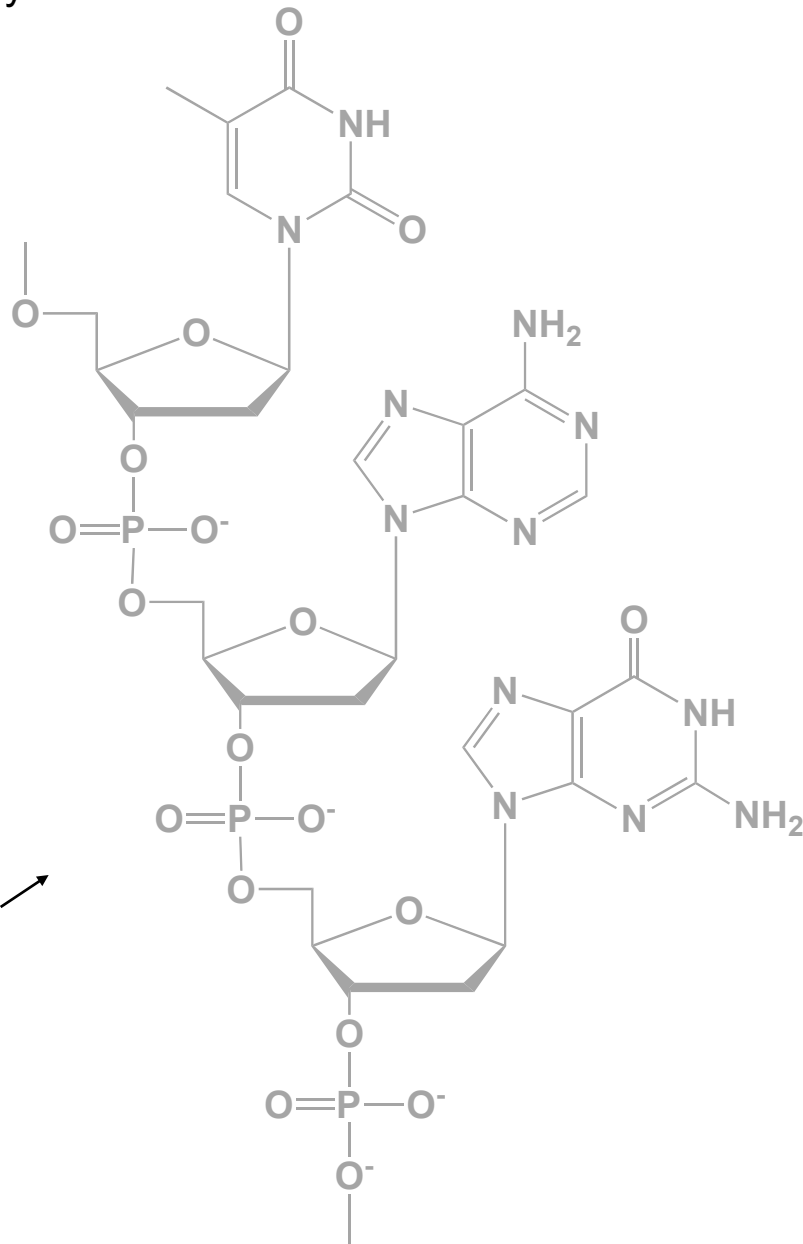
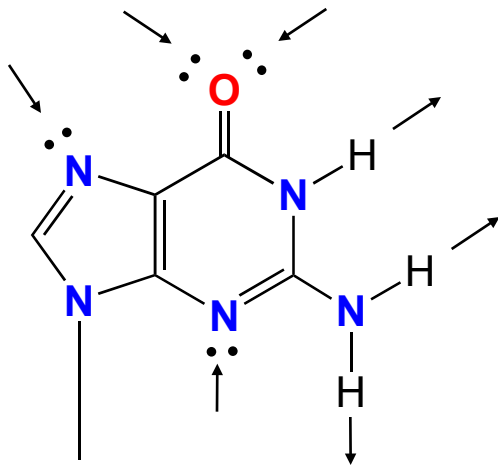
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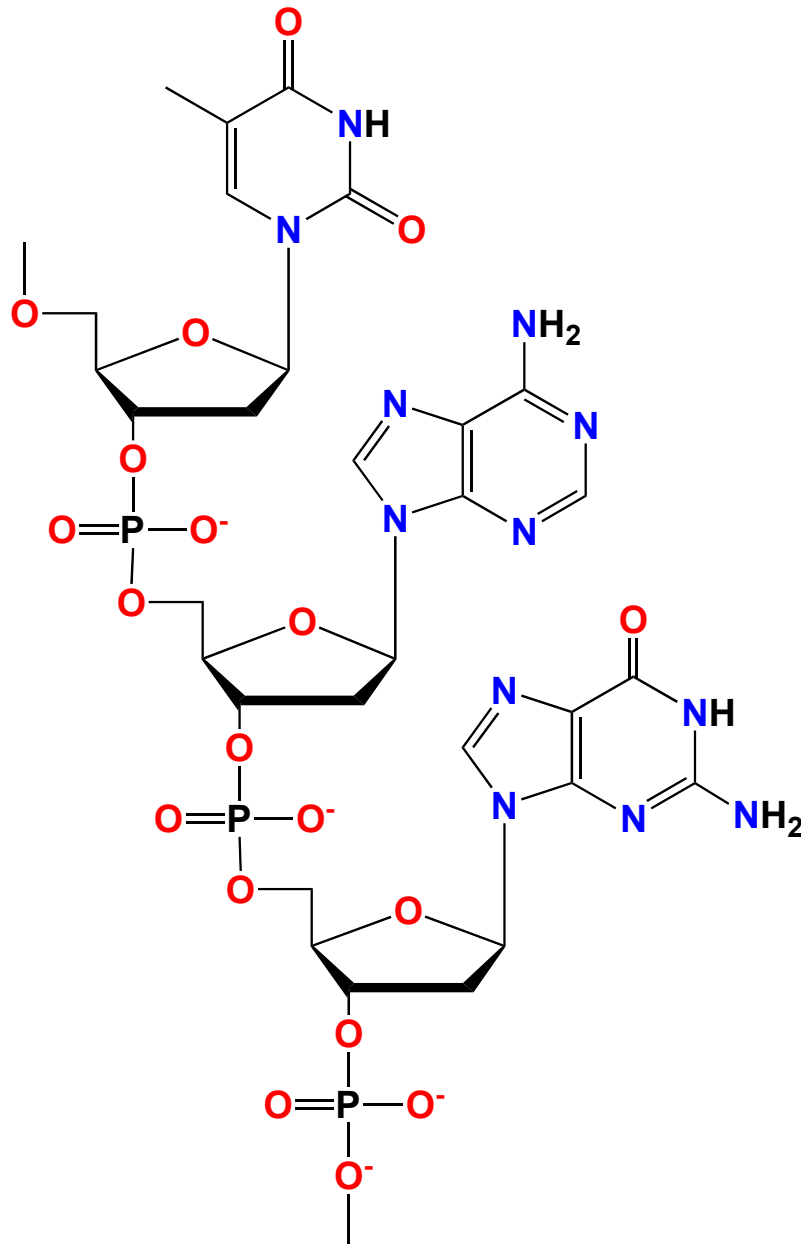


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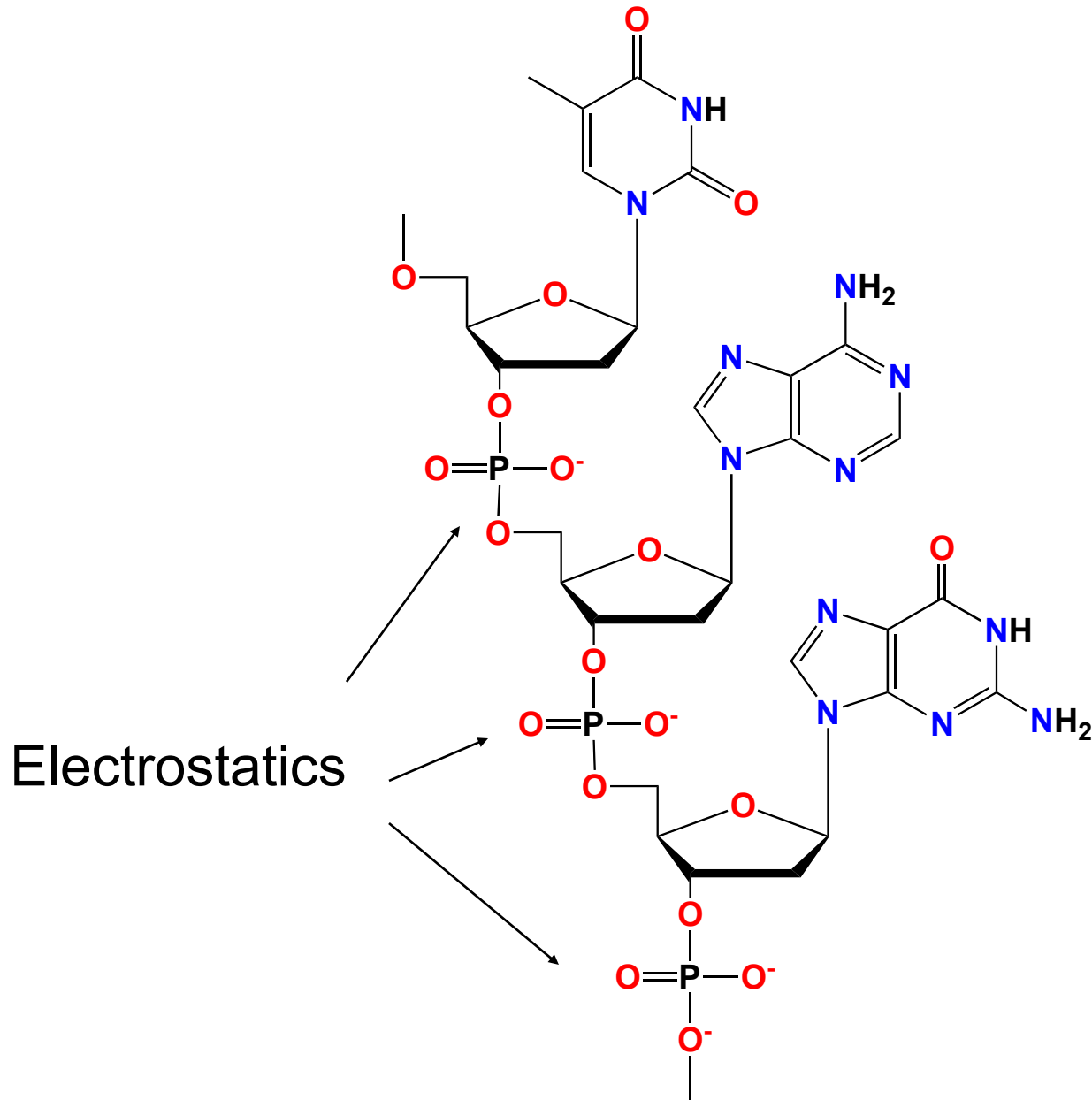
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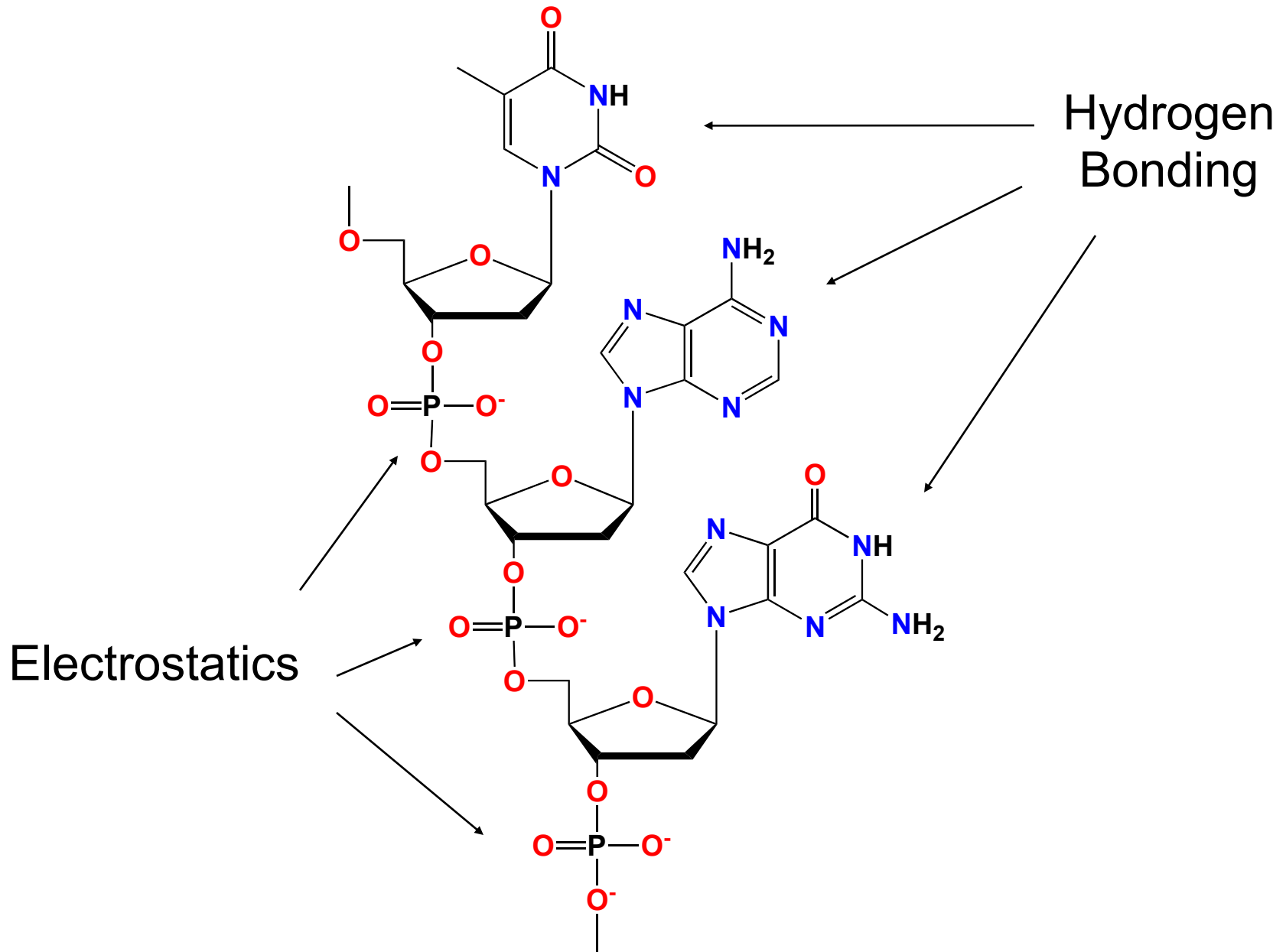
What forces are important?



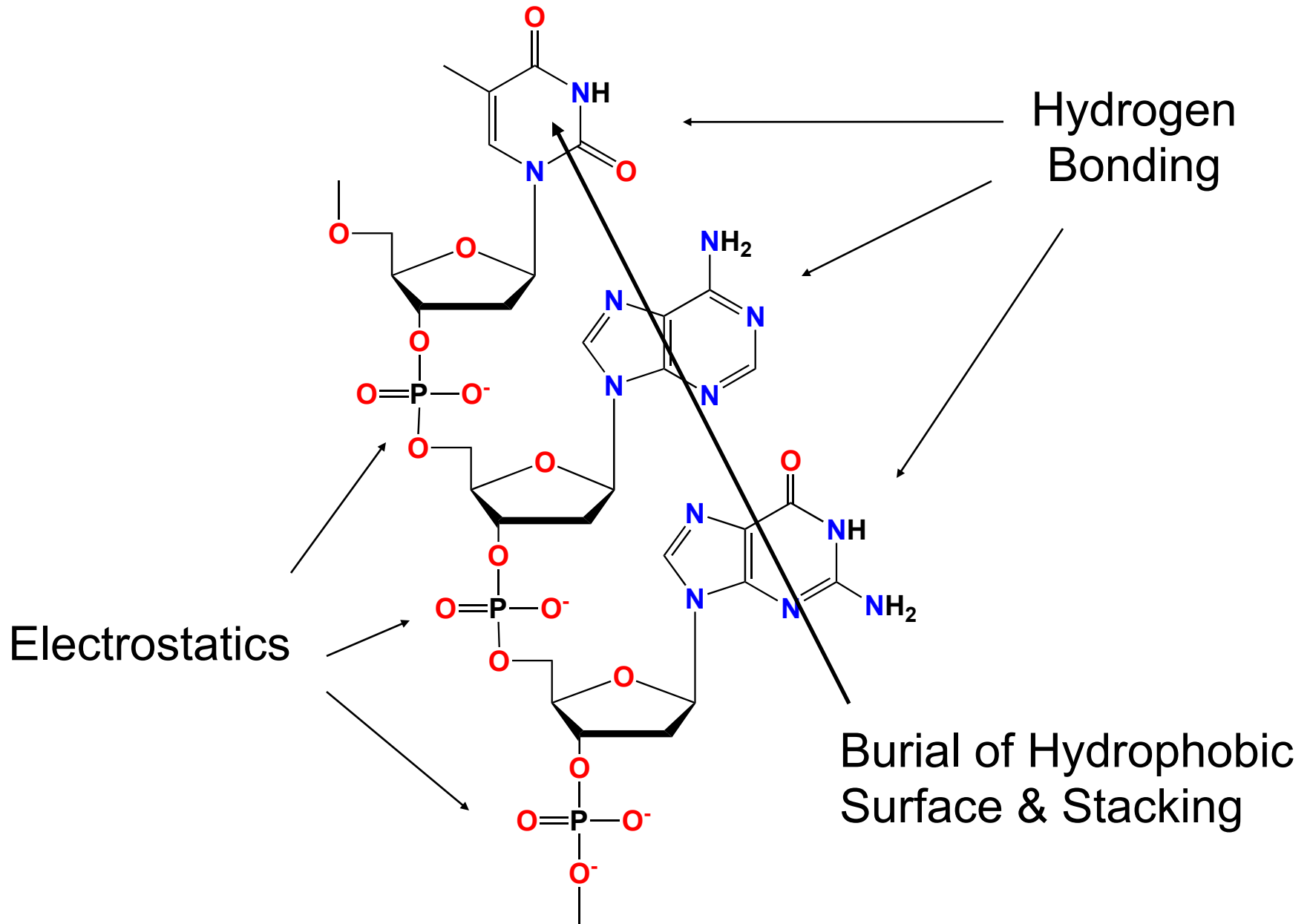
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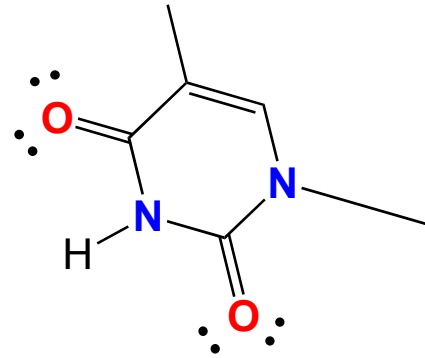
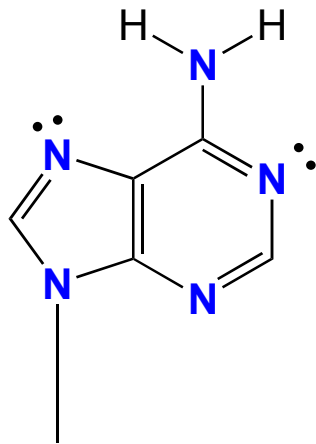
What forces are important?



Base Pairing

(Donors matched to Acceptors)

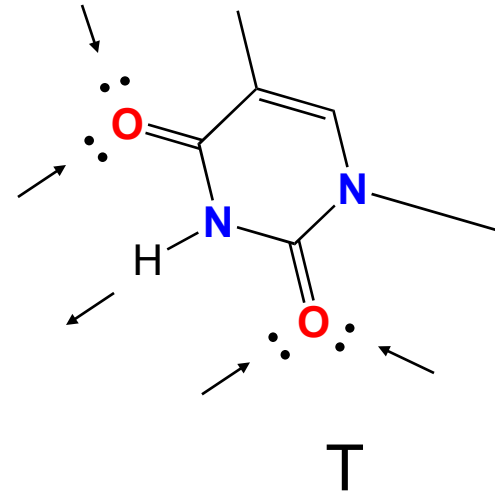
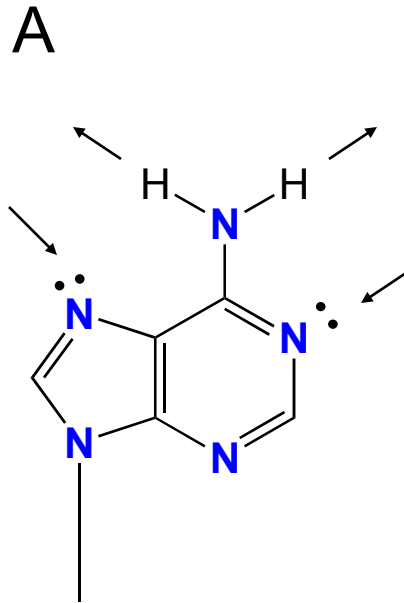
A



T

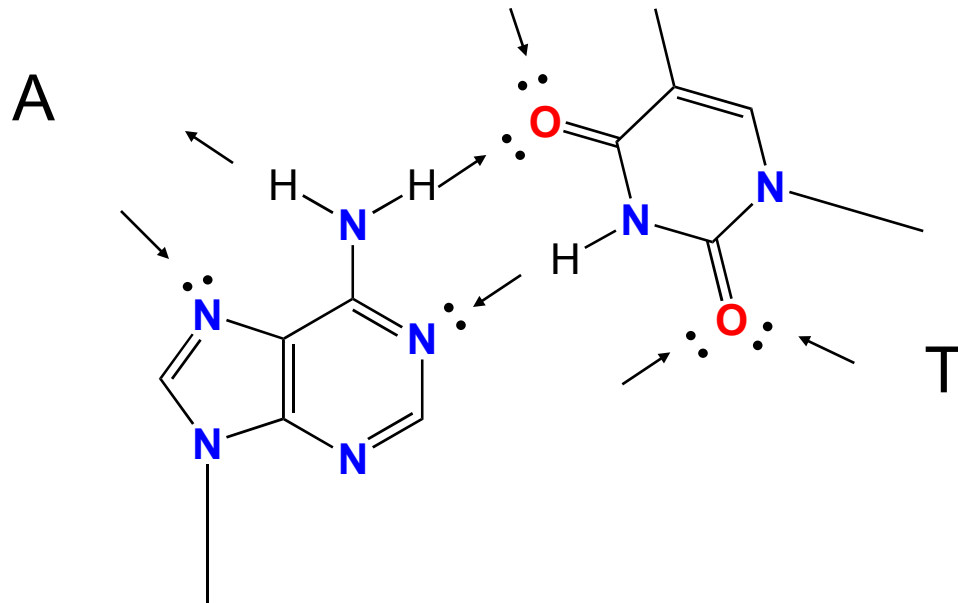
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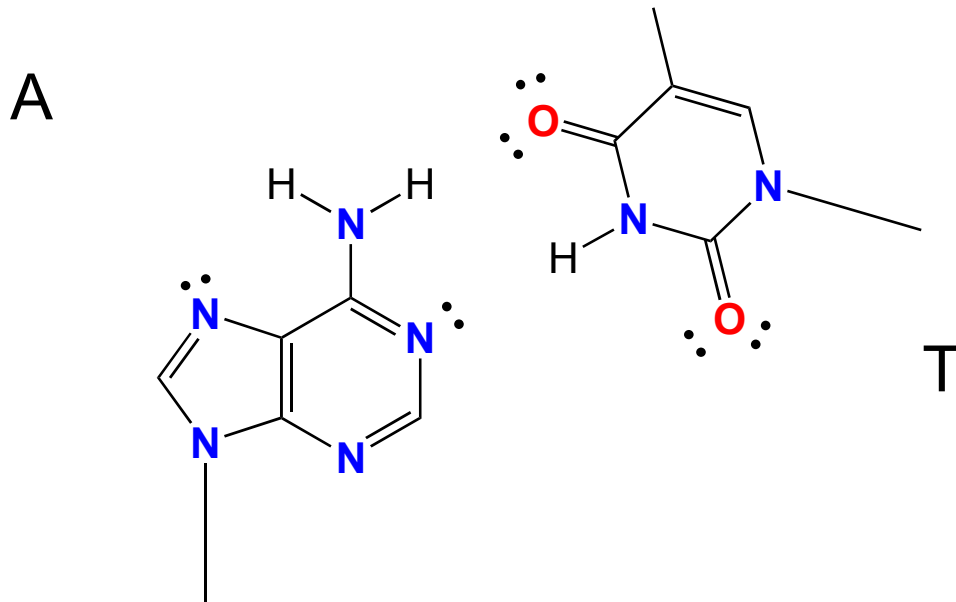
Base Pairing

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Base Pairing

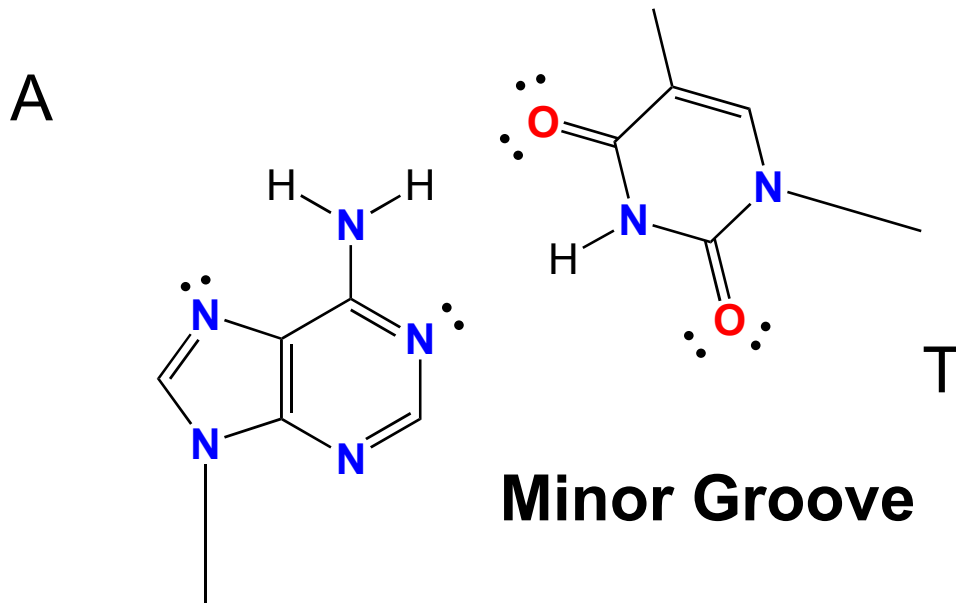
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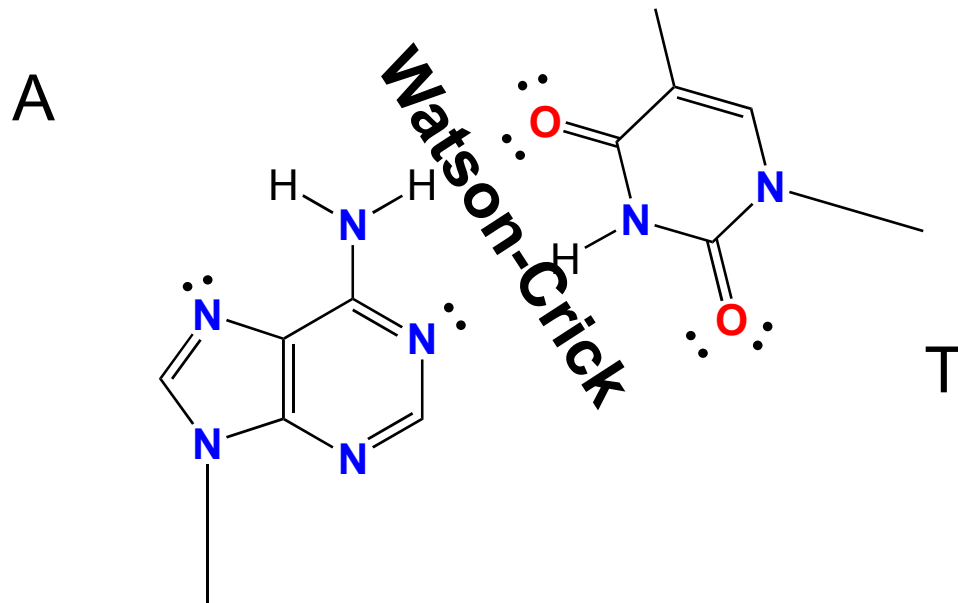
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Major Groove



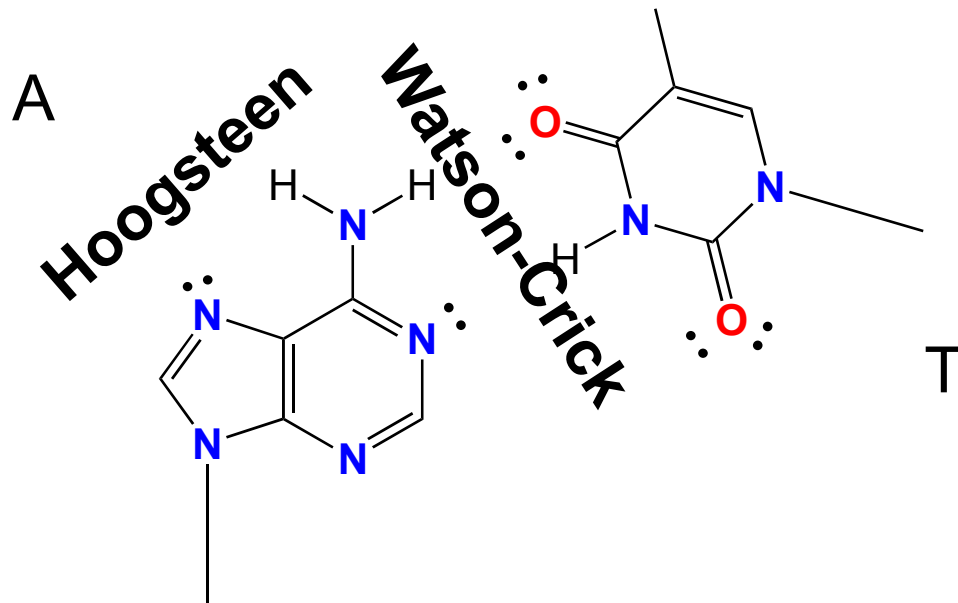
Base Pairing

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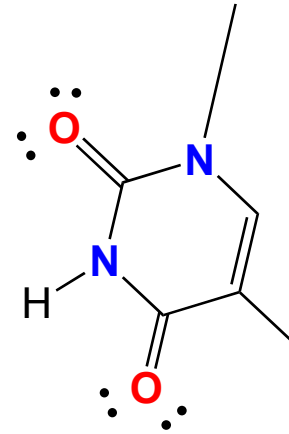
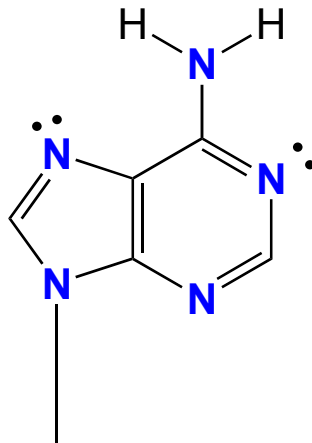
(Donors matched to Acceptors)



Base Pairing

(Donors matched to Acceptors)

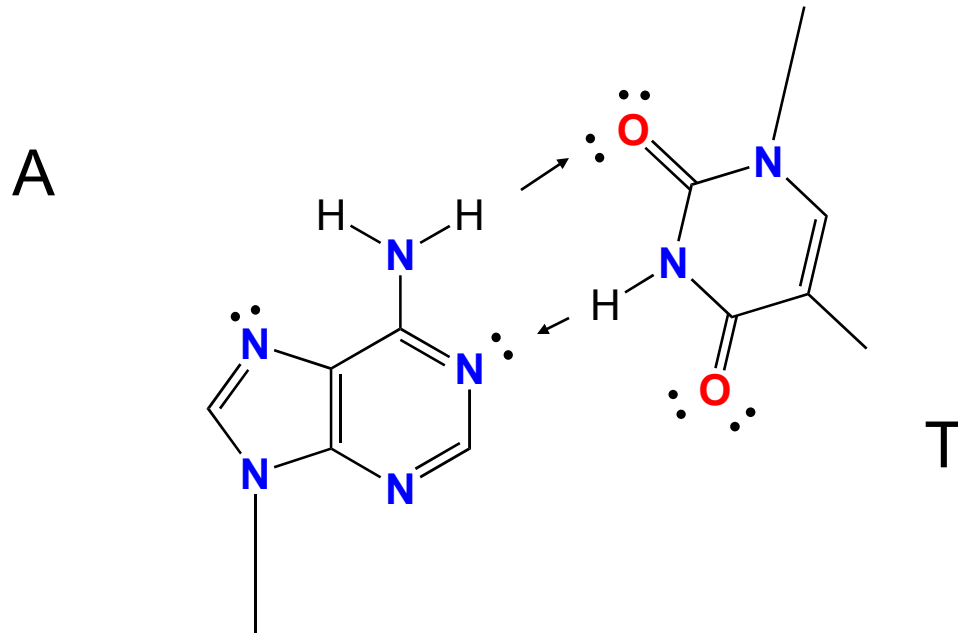
A



T

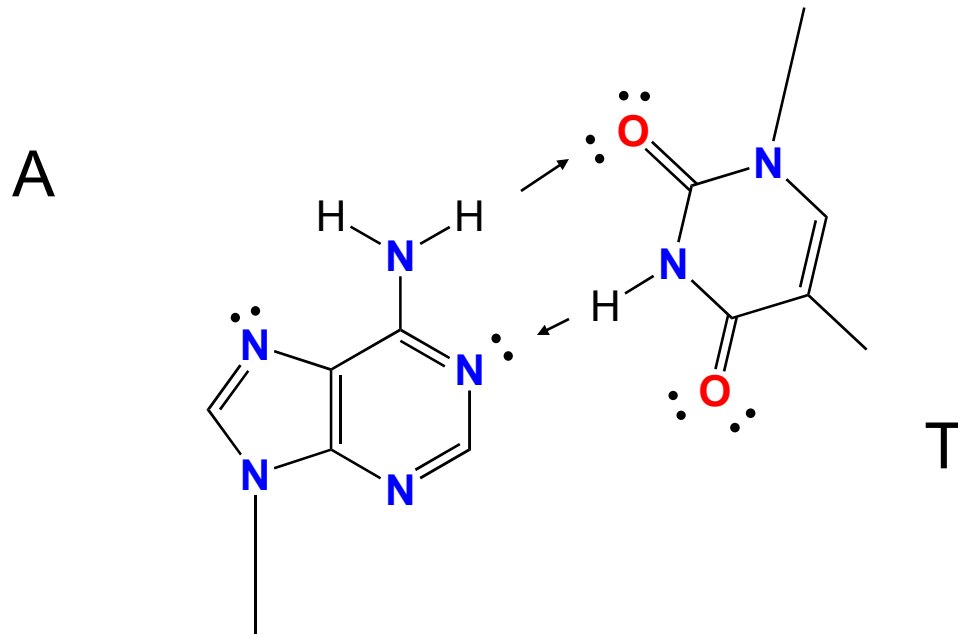
Base Pairing

(Donors matched to Acceptors)



Base Pairing

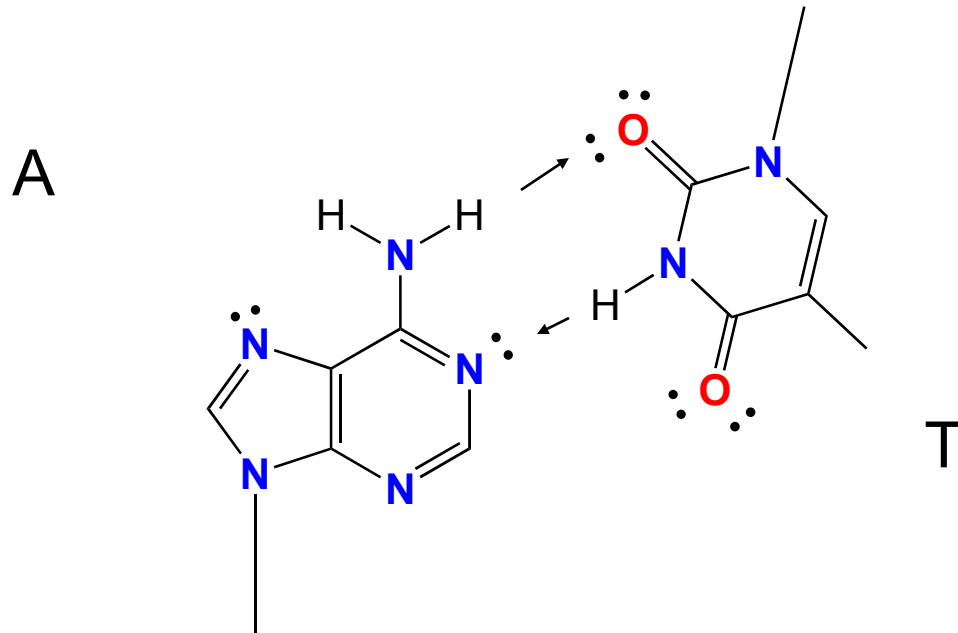
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Good base pairing

Base Pairing

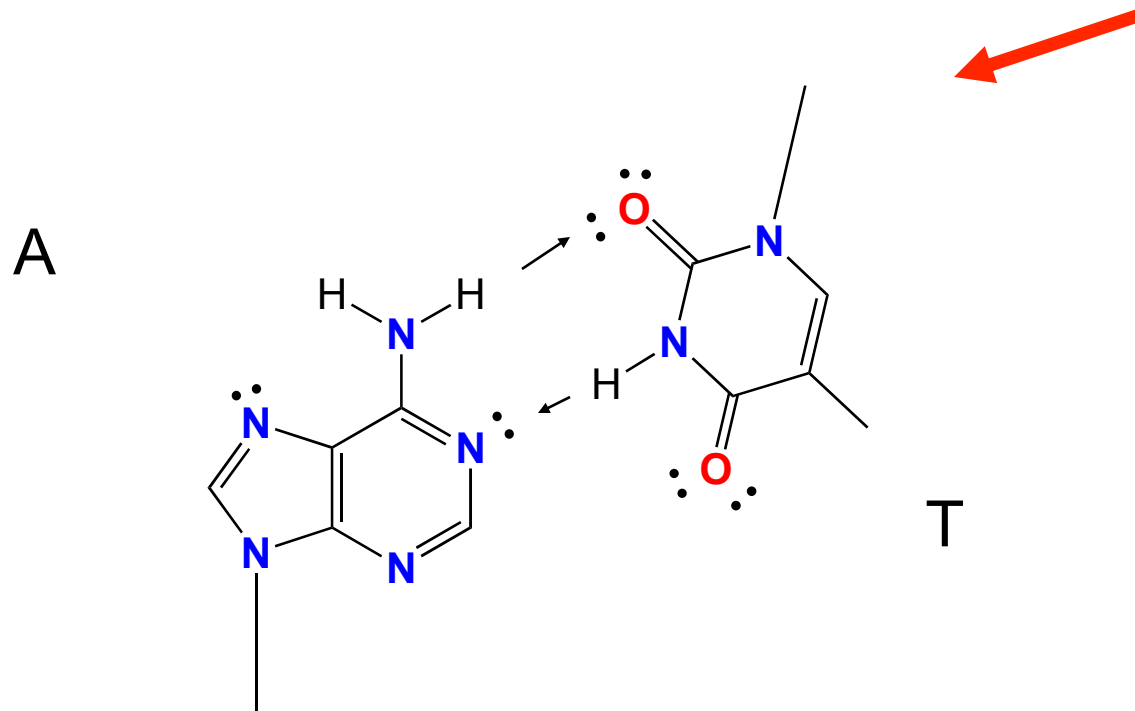
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Good base pairing
Watson-Crick facing

Base Pairing

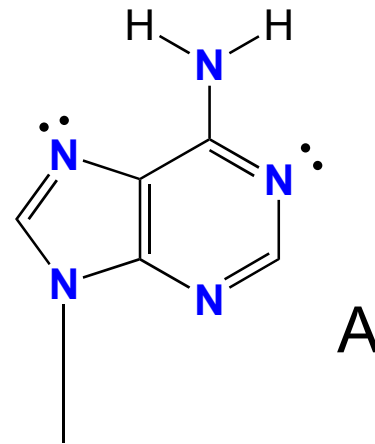
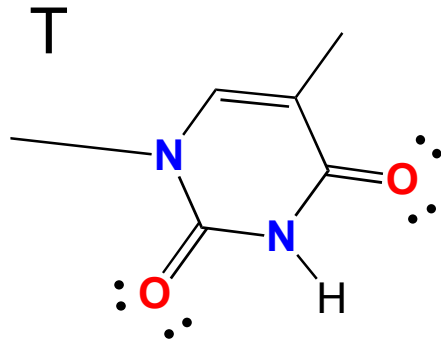
(Donors matched to Acceptors)



Good base pairing
Watson-Crick facing
but *Anti-Watson-Crick* orientation

Base Pairing

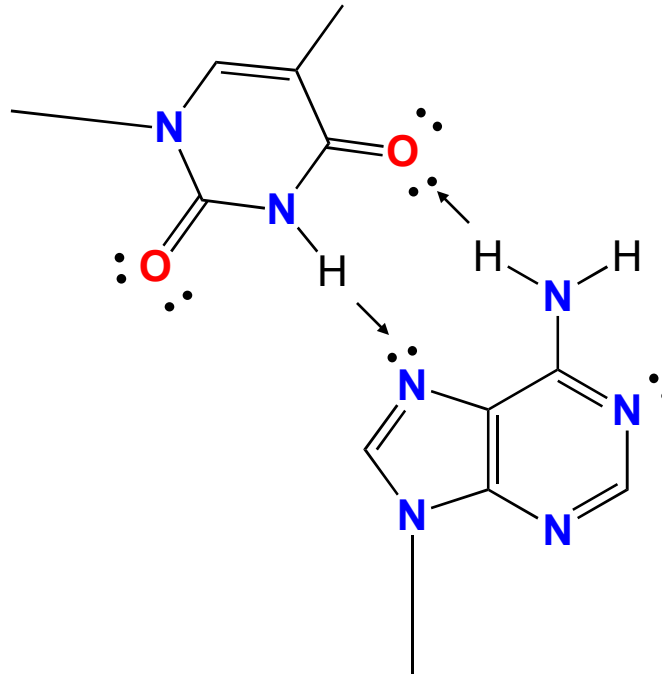
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Base Pairing

(Donors matched to Acceptors)

T

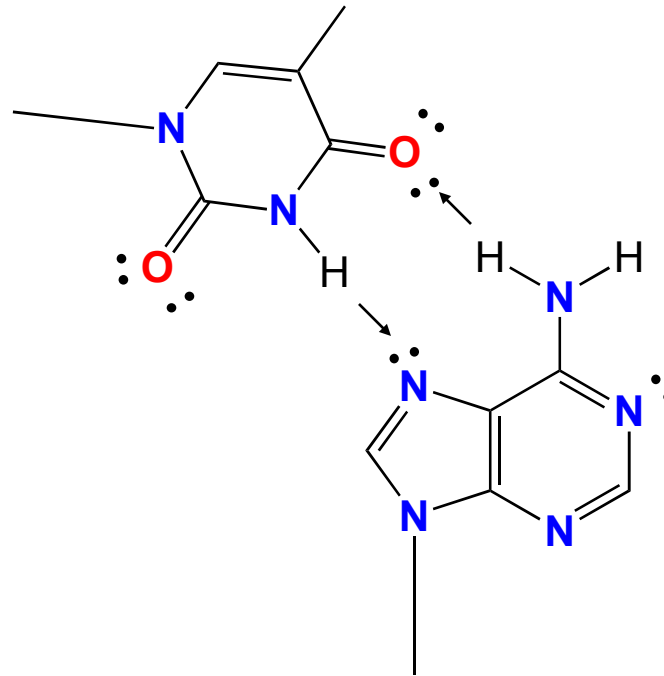


A

Base Pairing

(Donors matched to Acceptors)

T



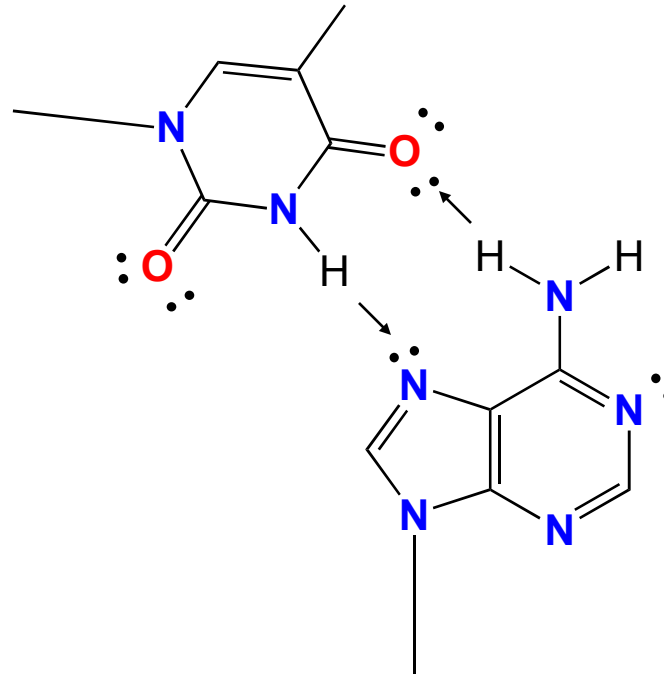
A

Good base pairing

Base Pairing

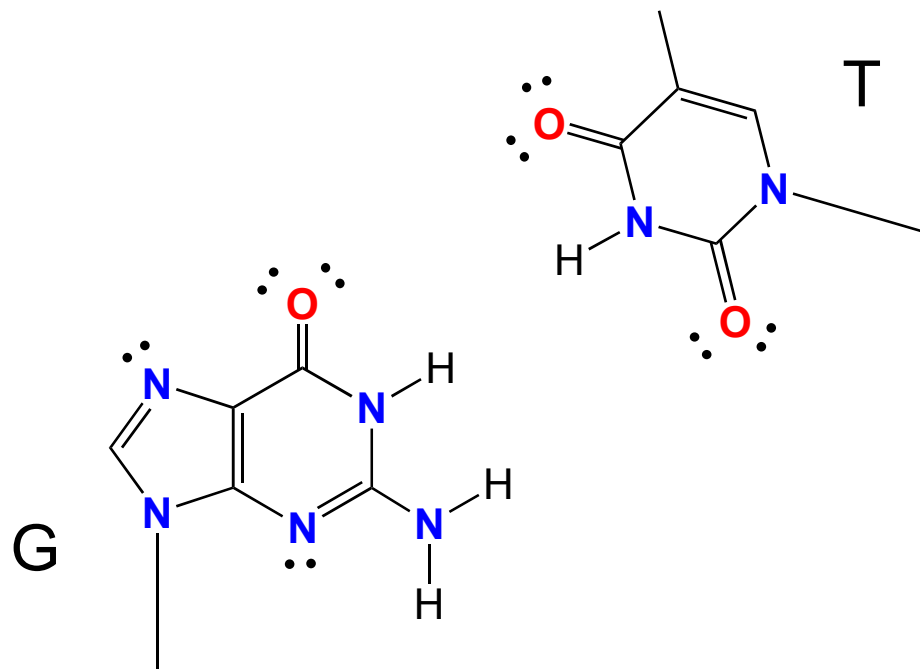
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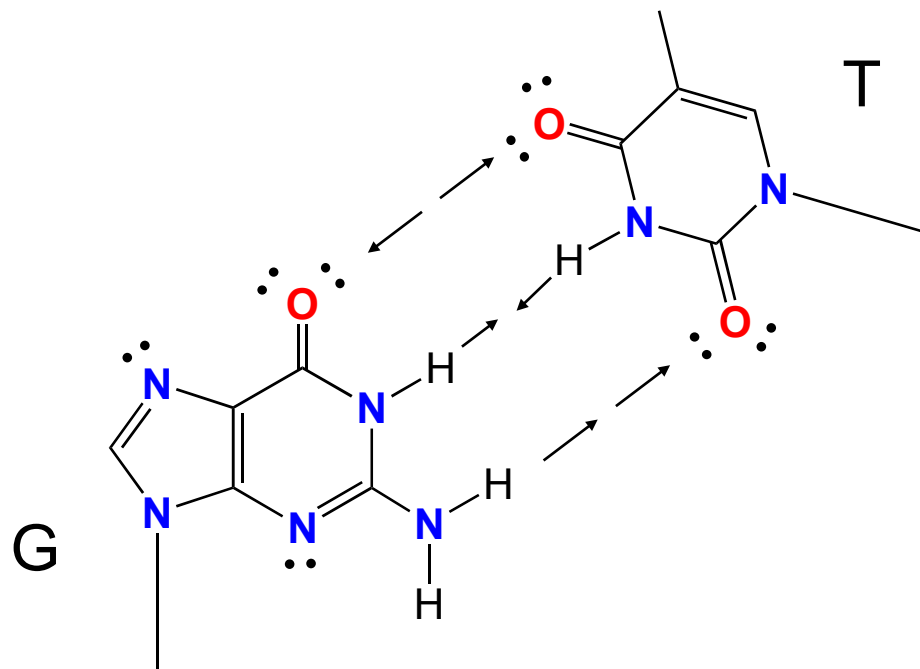
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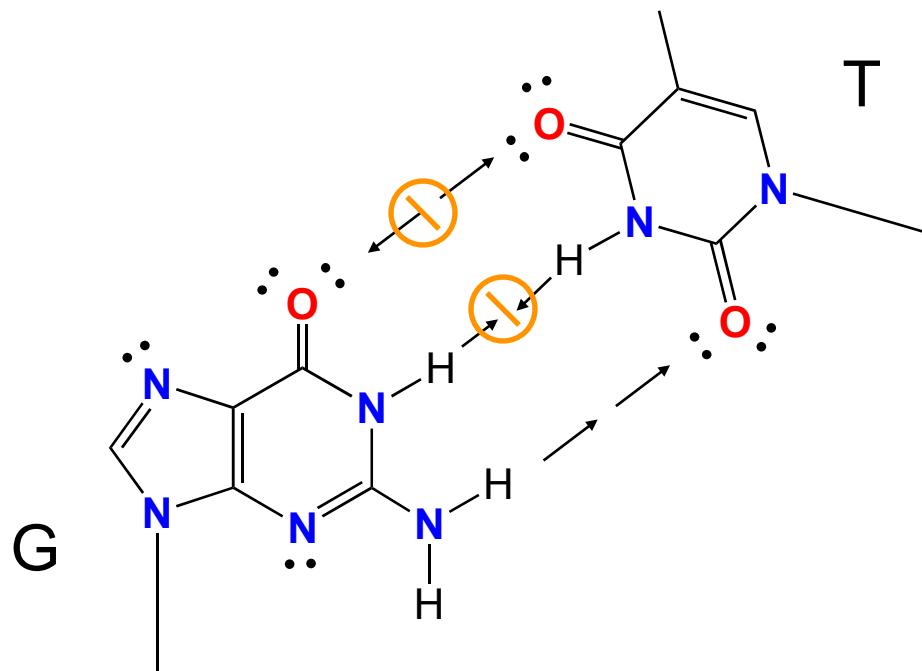


A

Good base pairing
WC-Hoogsteen facing

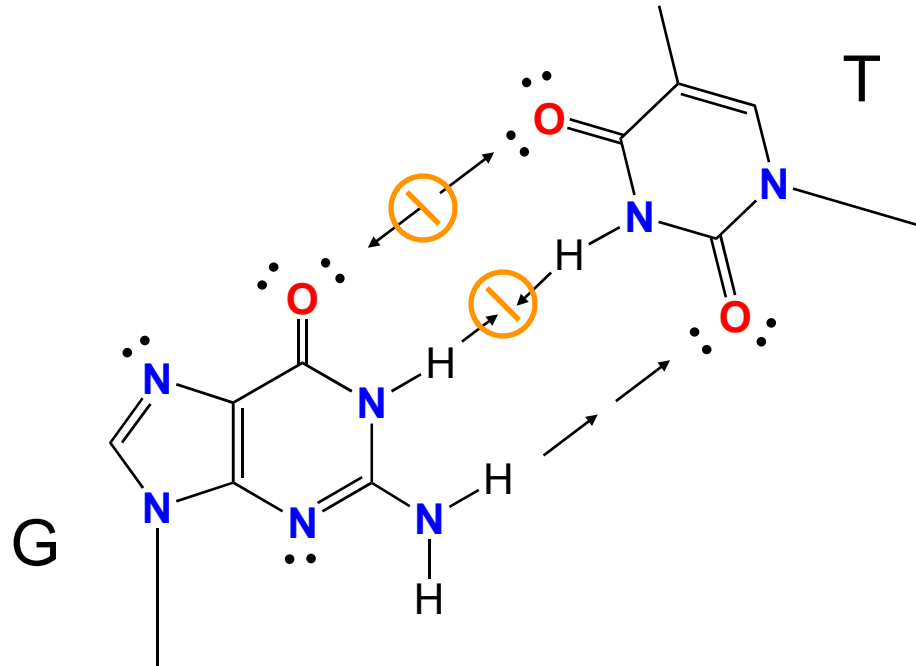


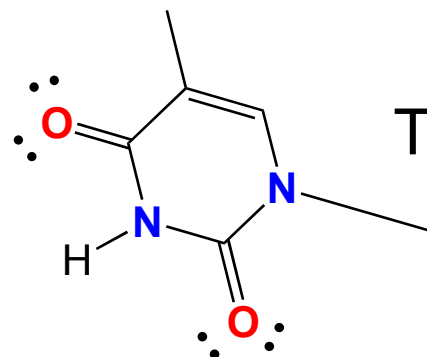
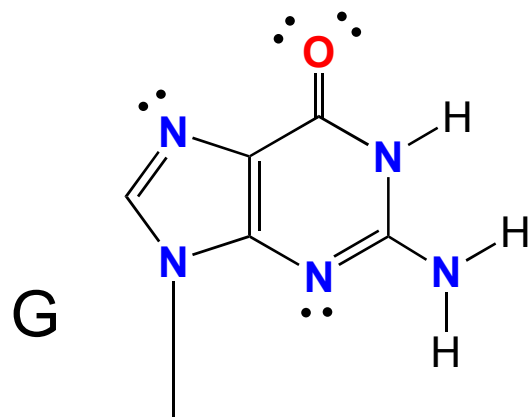


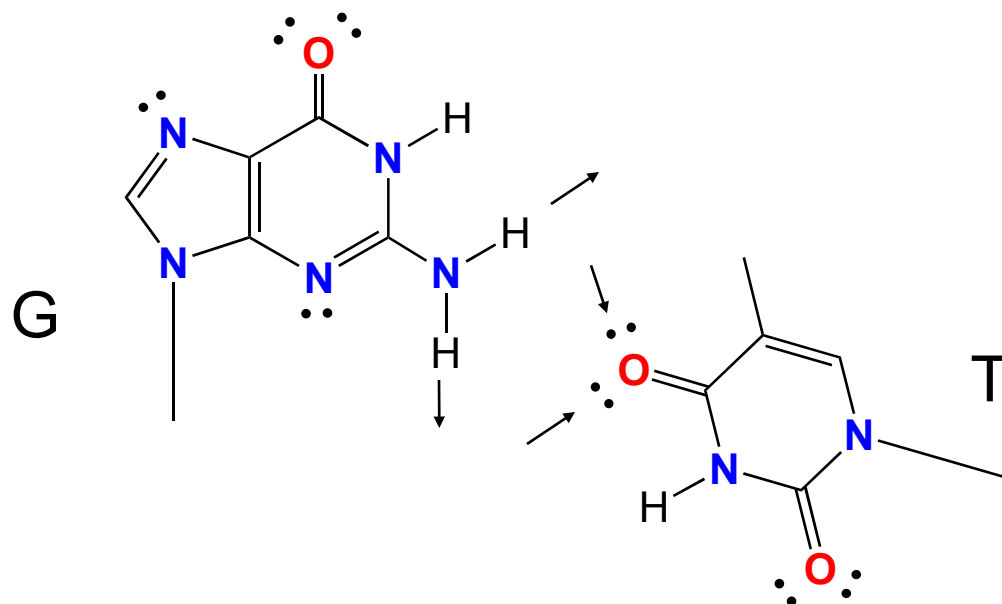


Bad Base Pairing

(Donors *not* matched to Acceptors)

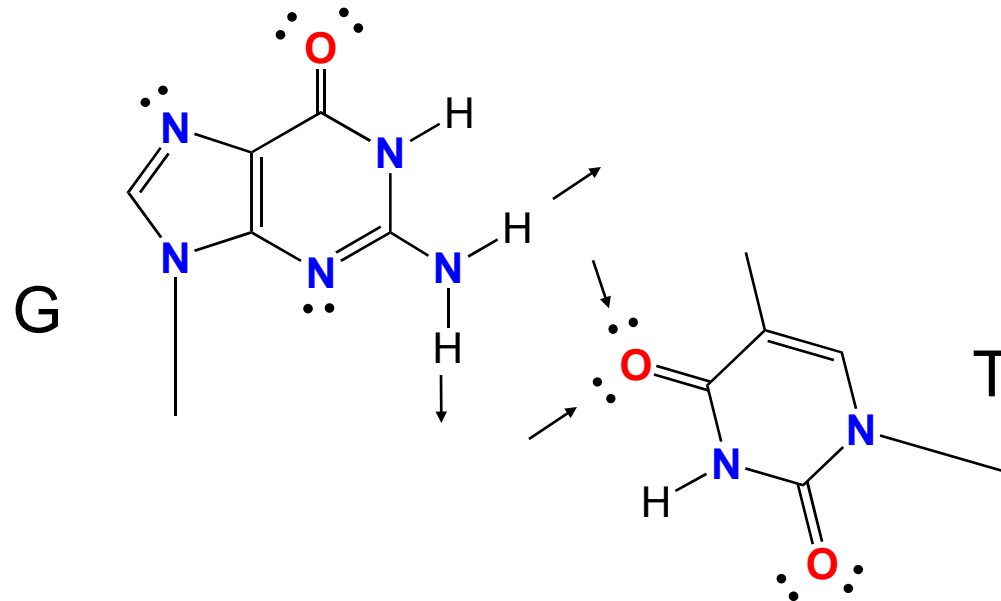




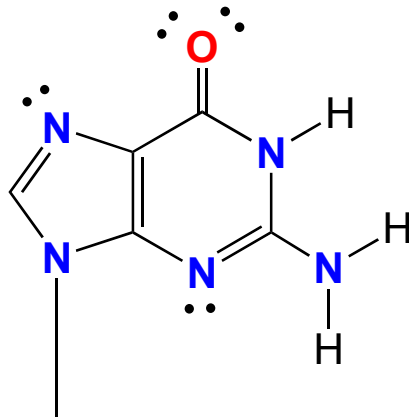


Bad Base Pairing

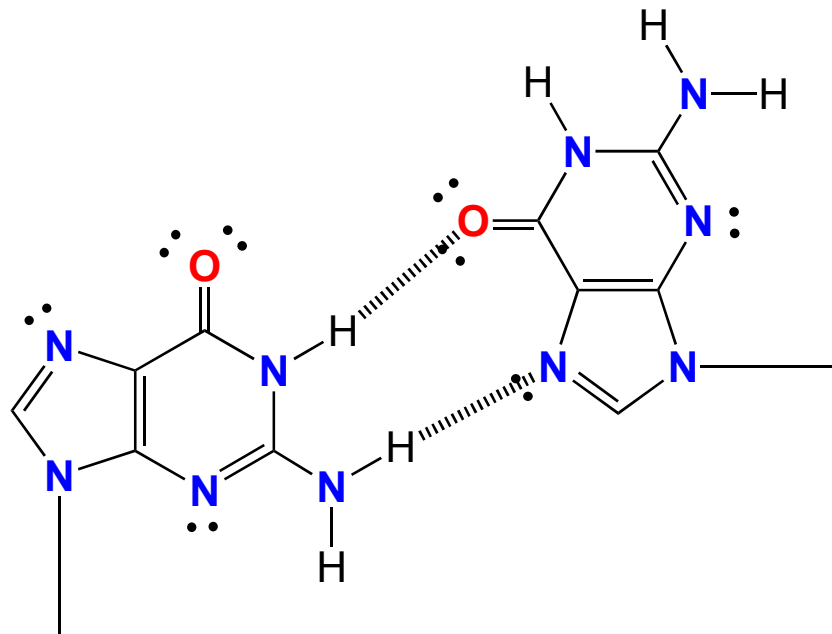
(Donors to Acceptors with *terrible angles*)



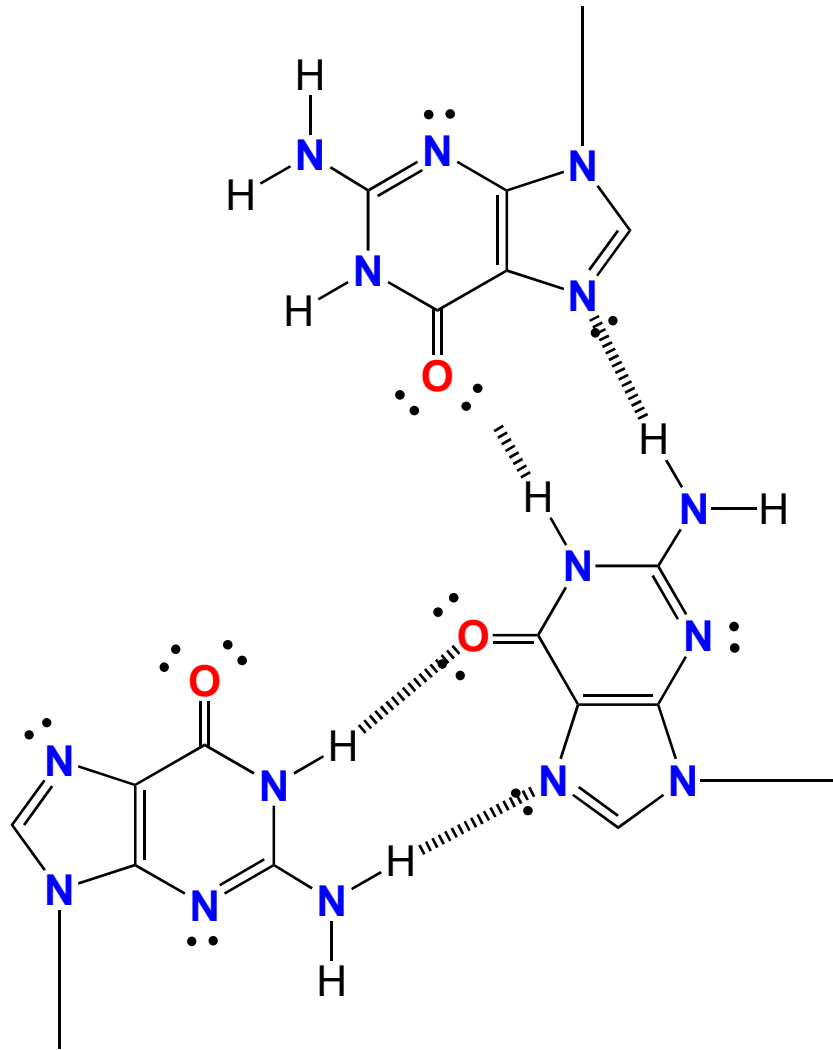
Wild (but good) Base Pairing



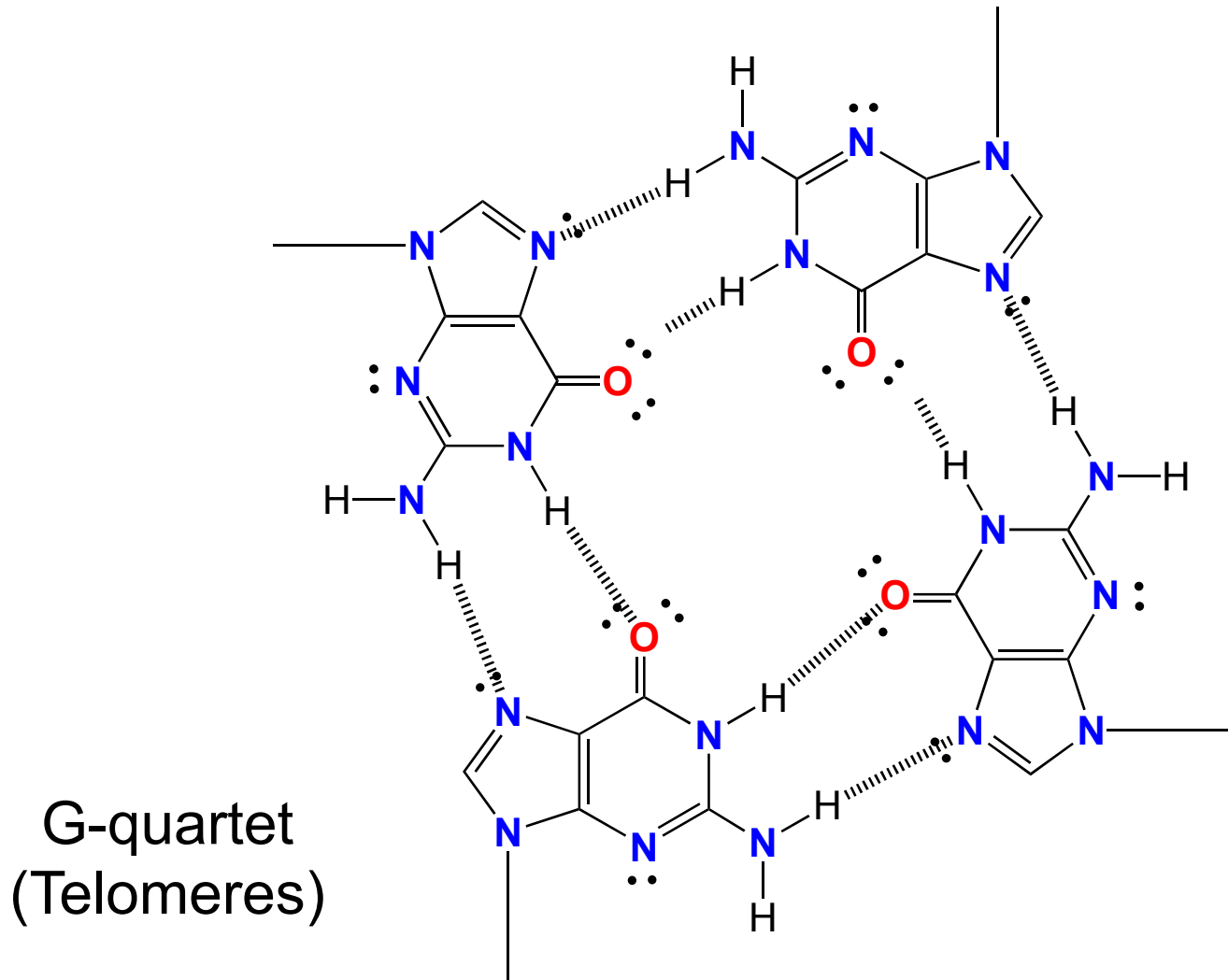
Wild (but good) Base Pairing



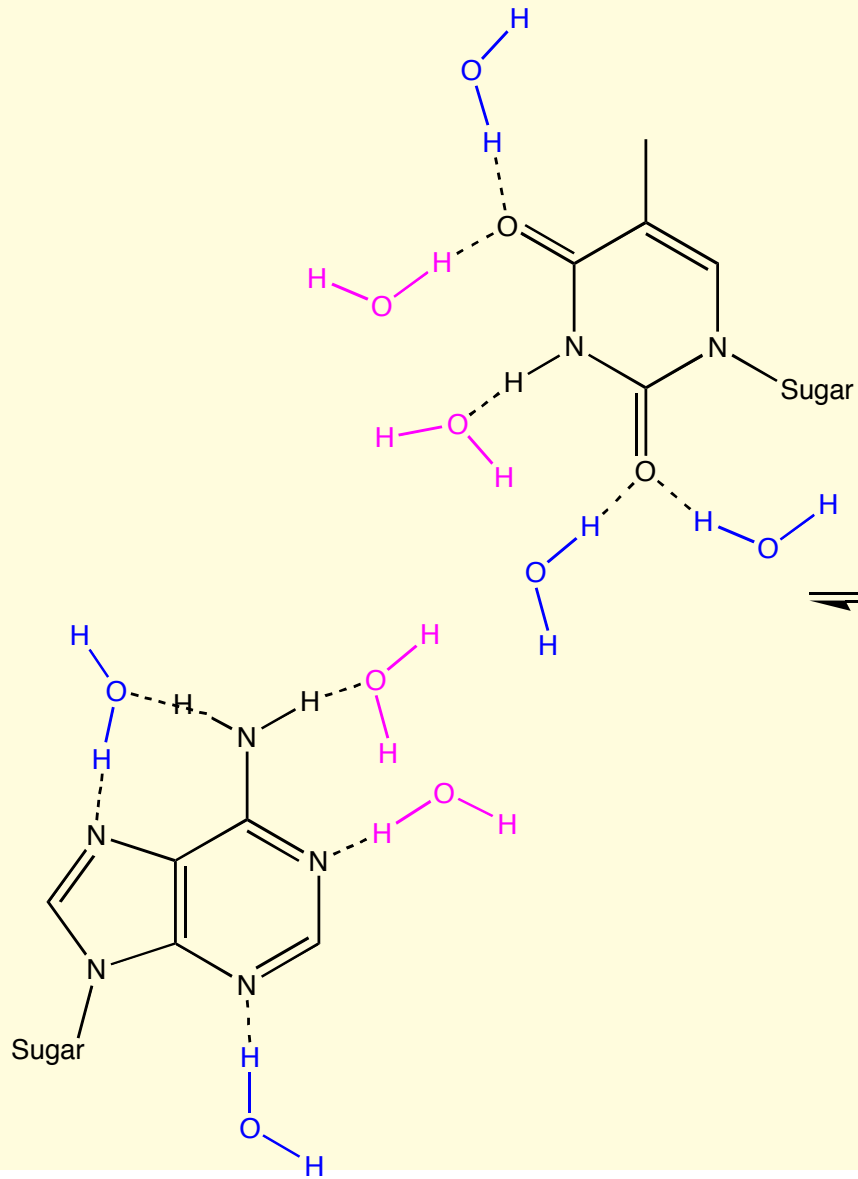
Wild (but good) Base Pairing



Wild (but good) Base Pairing

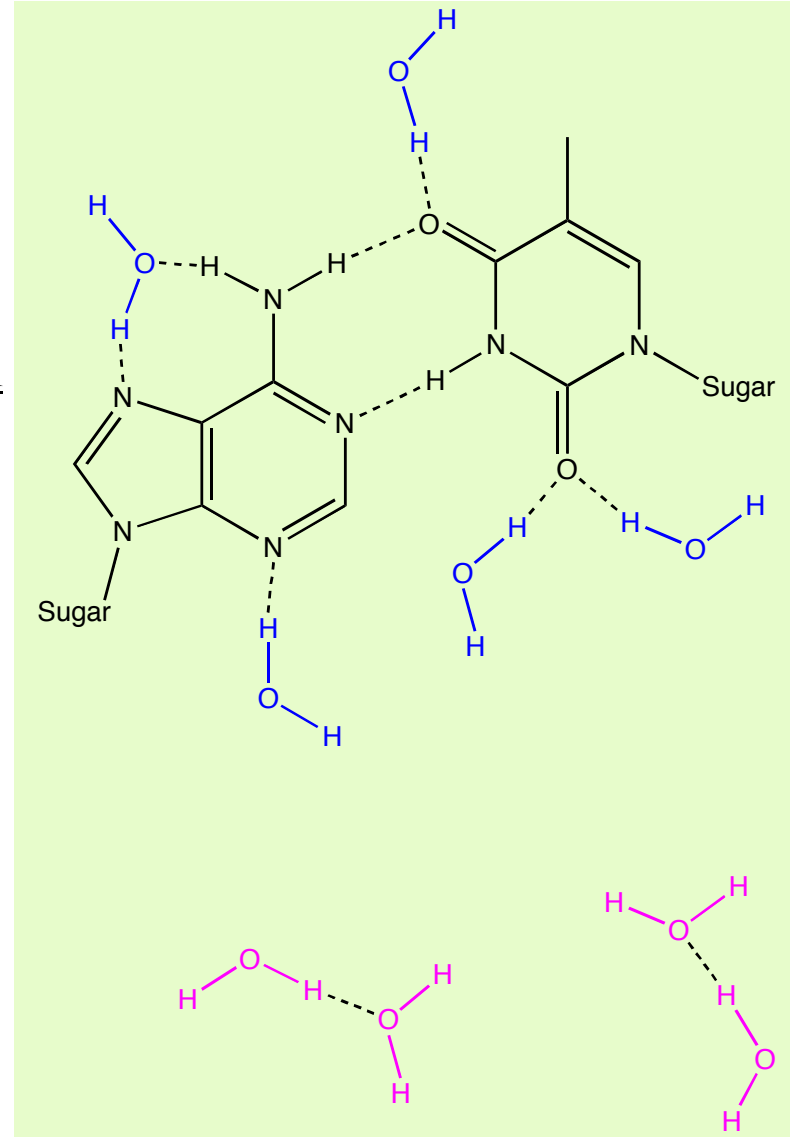


AT Base Pair



Ten H-Bonds

Ten H-Bonds



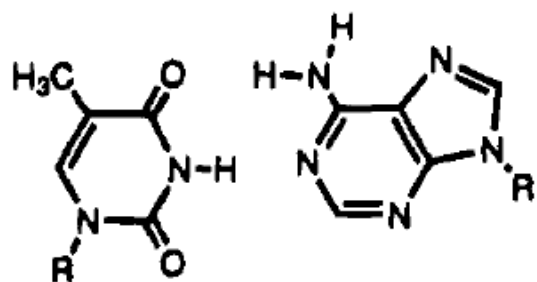
How important are H-bonds in DNA?

J. Am. Chem. Soc., Vol. 117, No. 7, 1995 1867

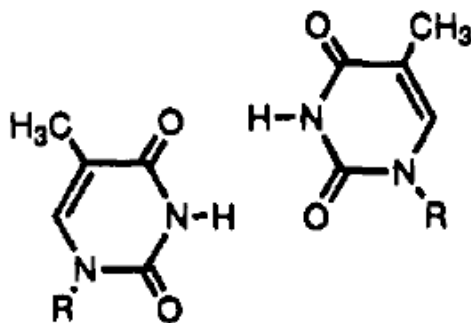
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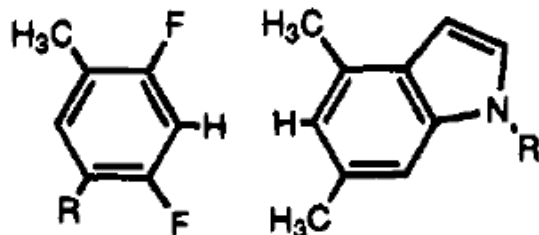
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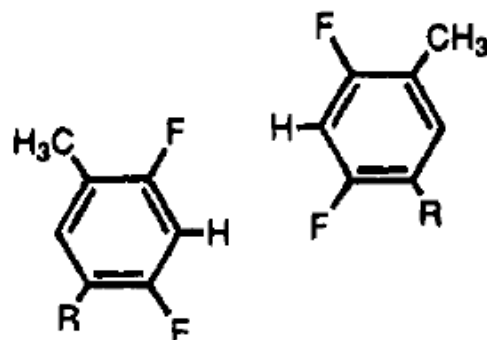
T - A



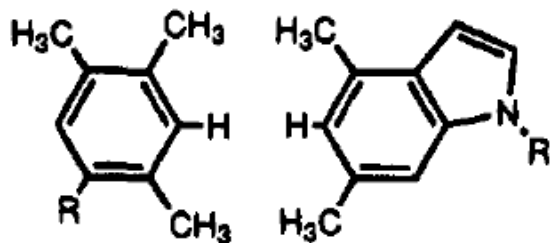
T - T



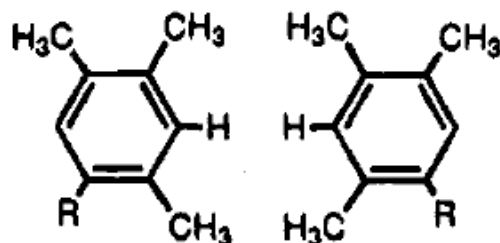
F · D



F · F



B · D



B · B

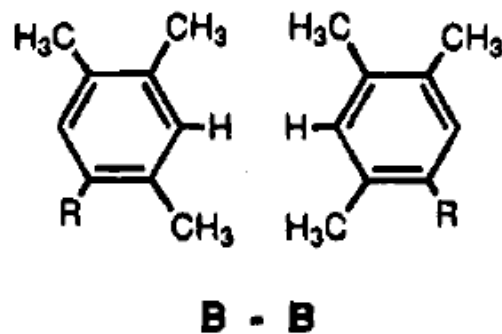
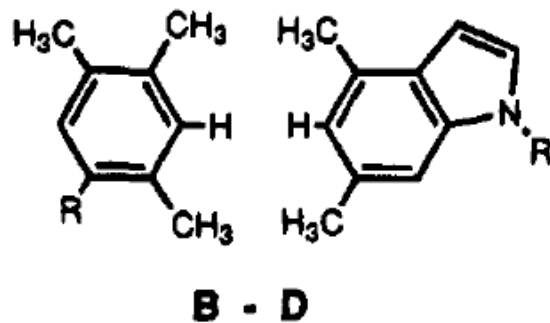
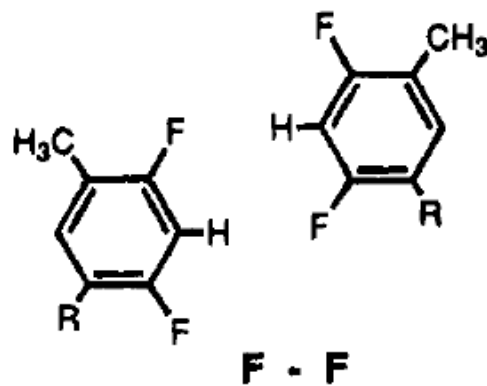
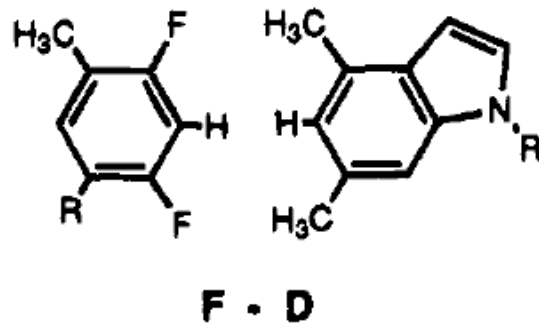
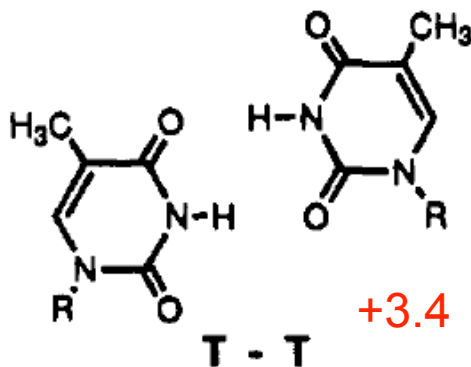
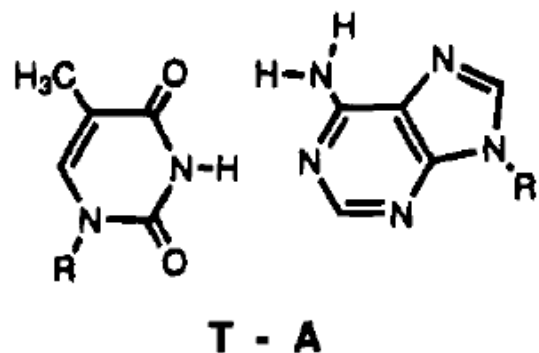
How important are H-bonds in DNA?

J. Am. Chem. Soc., Vol. 117, No. 7, 1995 1867

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5'-CTTTTC D TTTCTT 3'-GAAAA G AAAGAA	23.0	8.0
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5'-CTTTTC D TTTCTT 3'-GAAAA G AAAGAA	22.9	7.8
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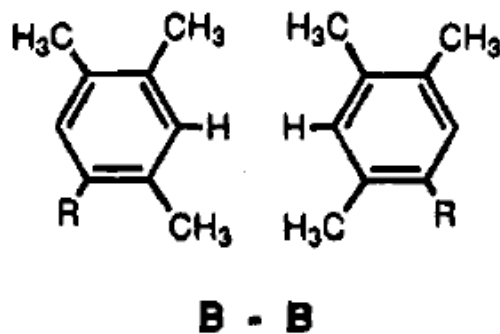
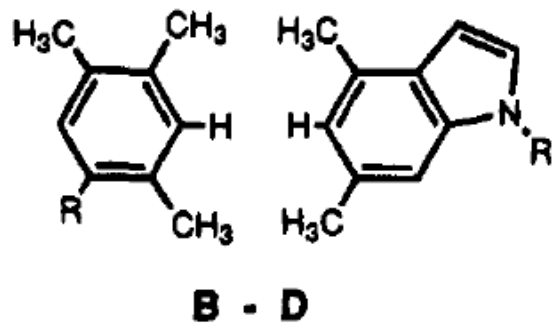
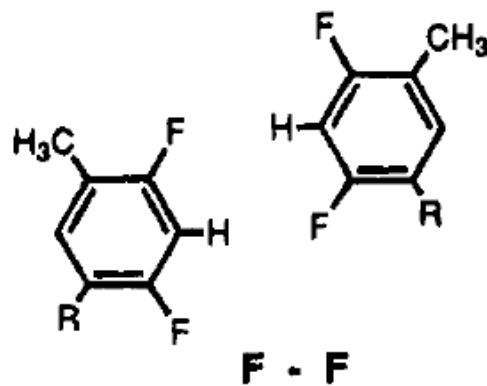
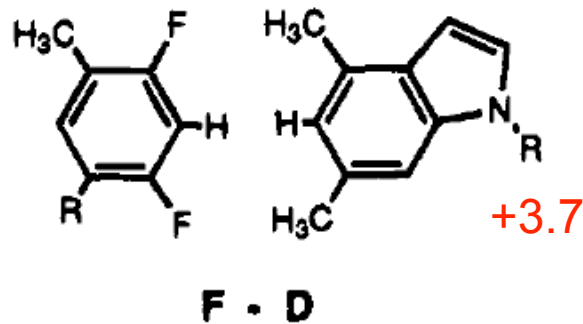
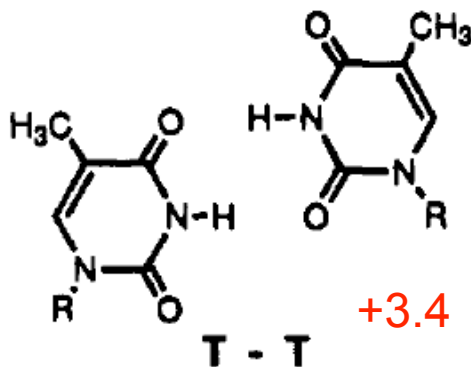
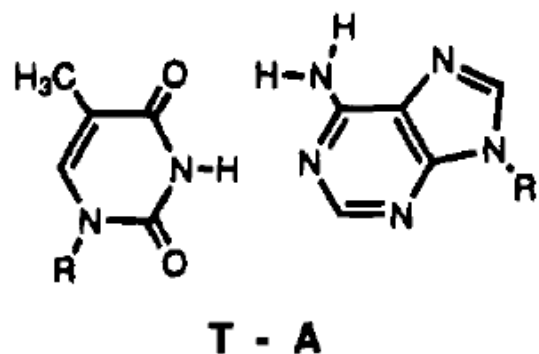
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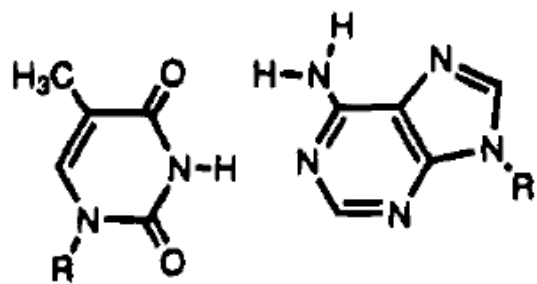
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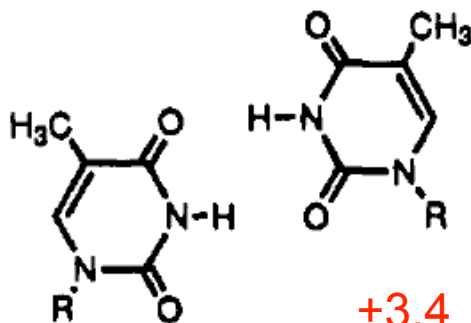
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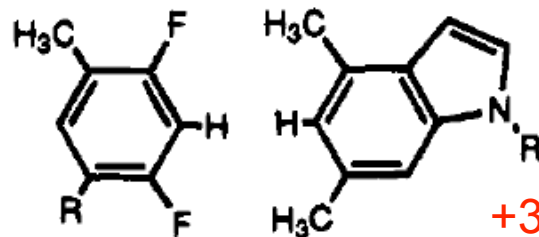


T - A



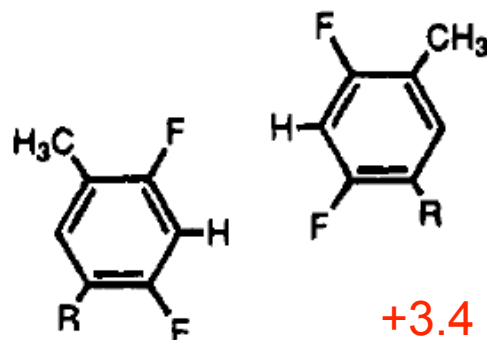
T - T

+3.4



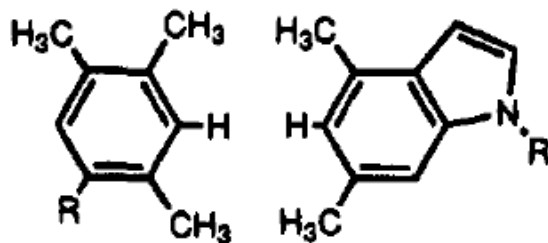
F - D

+3.7

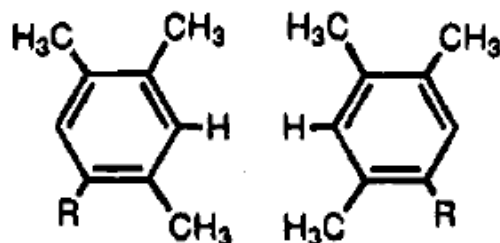


F - F

+3.4



B - D



B - B

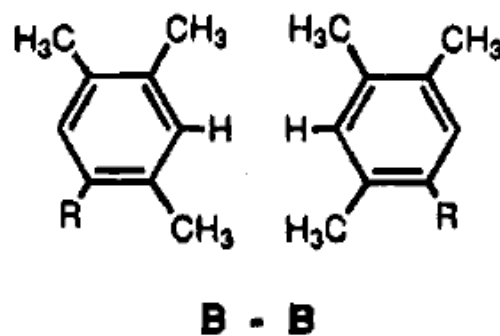
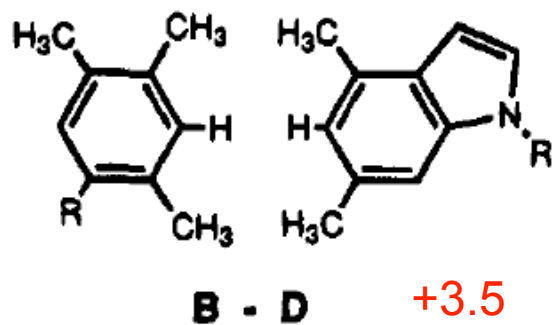
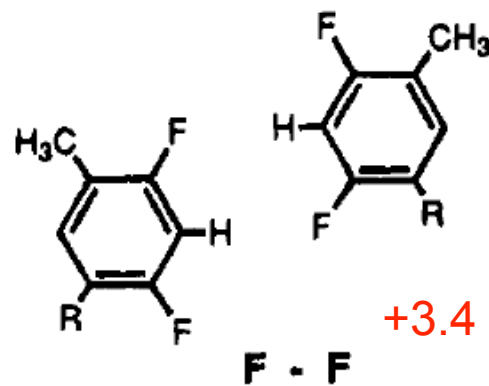
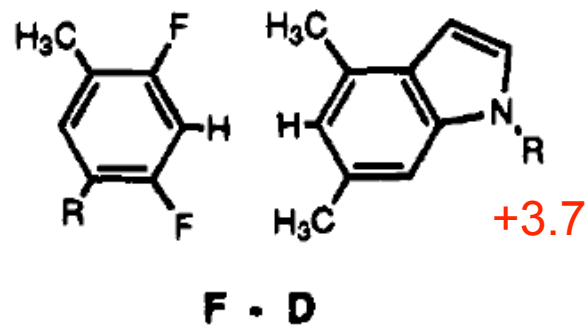
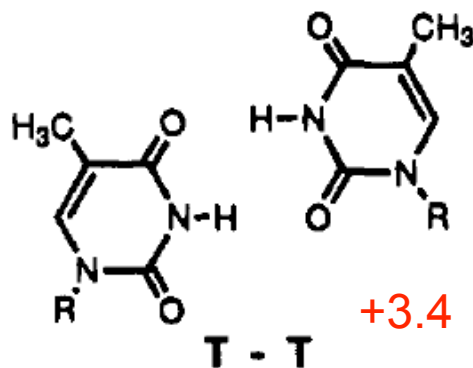
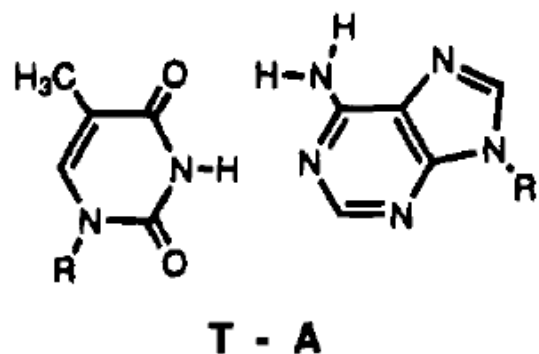
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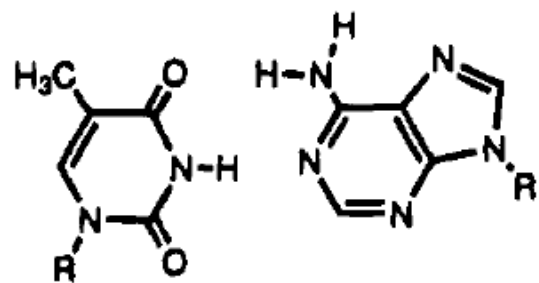
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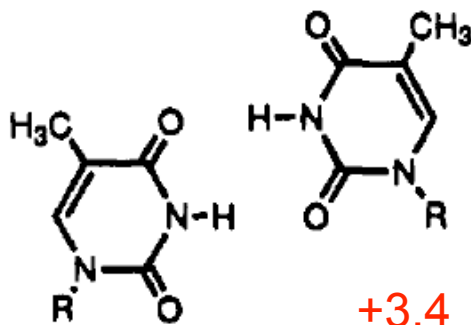
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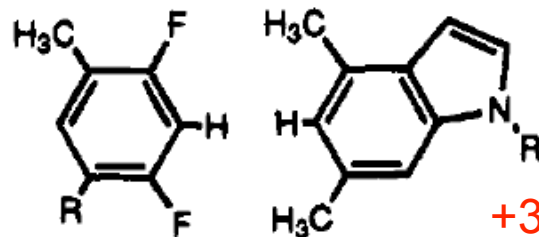


T - A



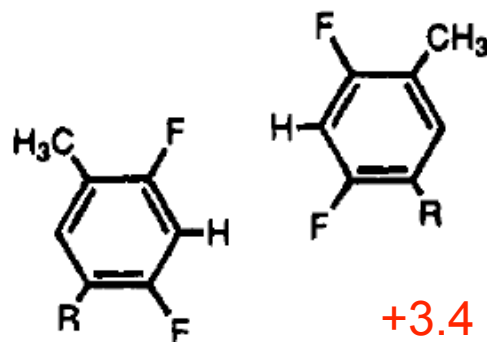
T - T

+3.4



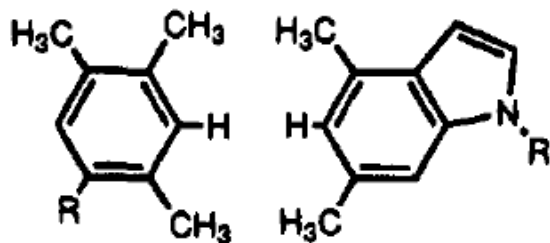
F - D

+3.7



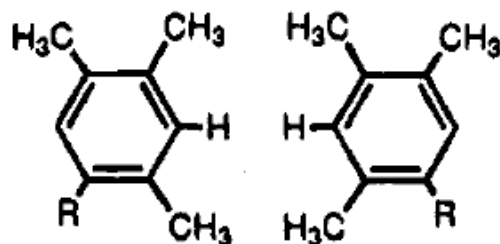
F - F

+3.4



B - D

+3.5



B - B

+3.0

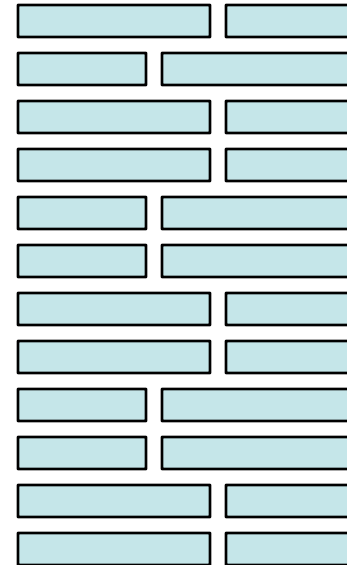
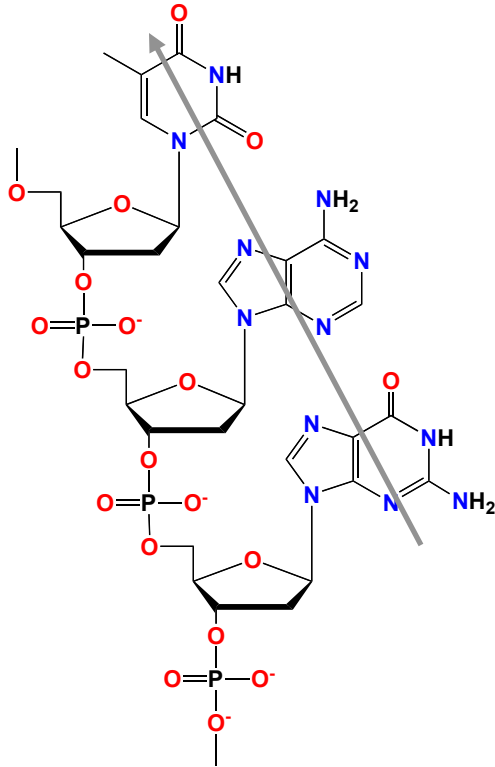
J. Am. Chem. Soc., Vol. 117, No. 7, 1995 1867

Table 1. Free Energies and Melting Temperatures for Dodecamer Duplexes Containing a Variable T-X, F-X, B-X, or D-X Base Pair (X = A, T, C, G)

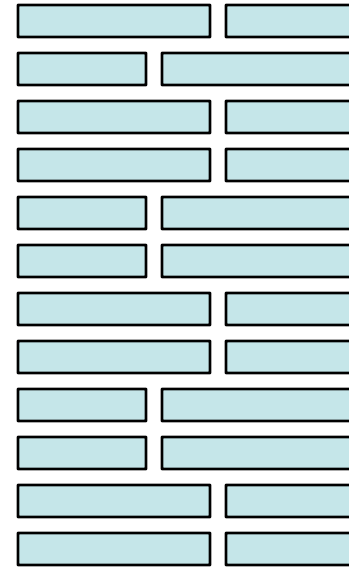
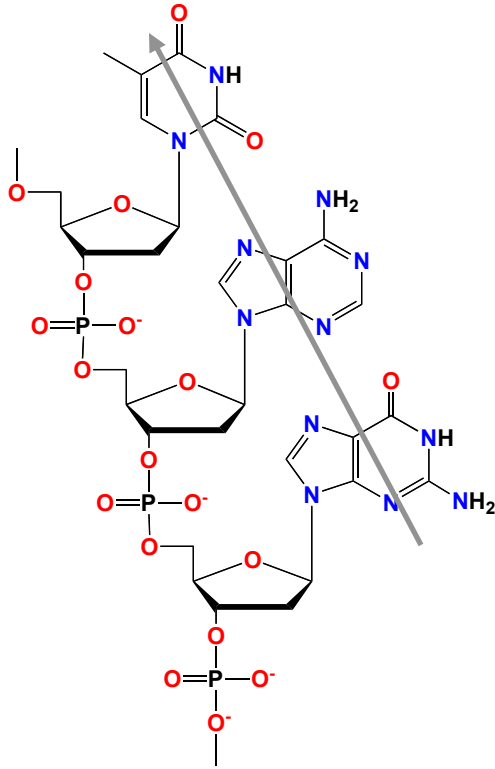
duplex	T_m (°C) ^a	$-\Delta G^\circ_{25}$ (kcal)
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGAAAGAA	39.4	12.3
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGCAAGAA	26.4	8.7
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAGAA	30.7	9.3
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAAGAA	27.1	8.9
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGAAAGAA	21.4	7.4
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGCAAGAA	25.0	8.2
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAGAA	23.0	8.0
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAAGAA	20.2	7.3
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGAAAGAA	21.0	7.5
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGCAAGAA	22.9	7.8
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAGAA	20.1	7.6
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAAGAA	20.3	6.7
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGAAAGAA	20.8	7.4
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGCAAGAA	22.2	7.6
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAGAA	19.7	7.4
5'-CTTTTCTTTCTT 3'-GAAAAGTAAAGAA	17.6	6.9

^a Conditions: 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM Na · PIPES, pH 7.0, 1.6 μ M each strand.

Burial of hydrophobic surface drives helix formation (hydrophobic core / stacking interactions)

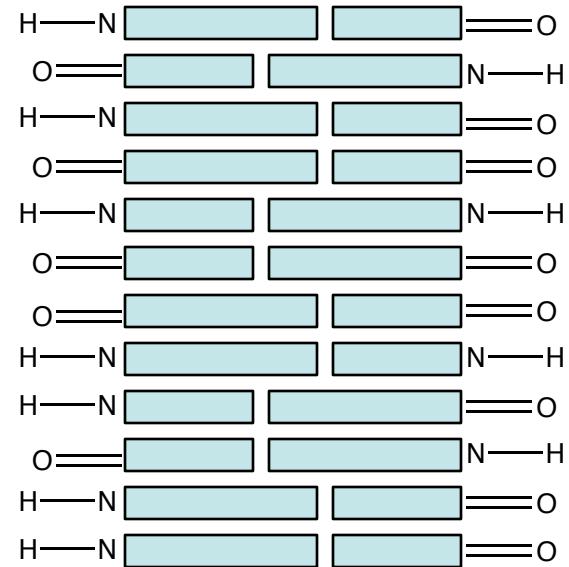
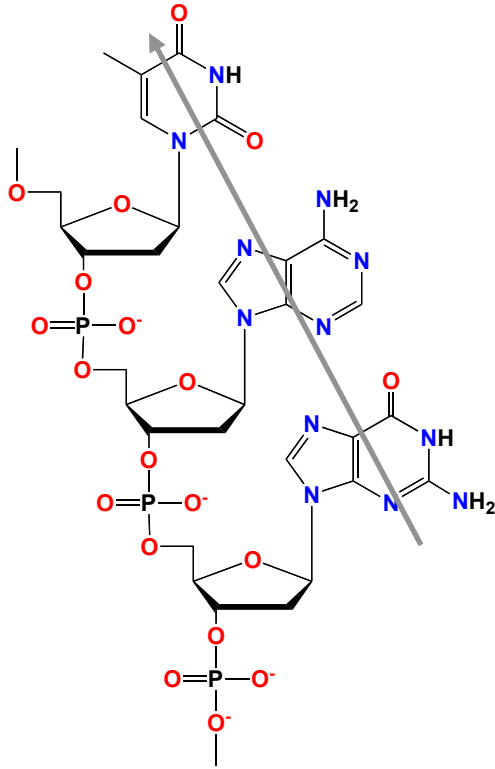


Burial of hydrophobic surface drives helix formation (hydrophobic core / stacking interactions)



Flat faces are nonpolar

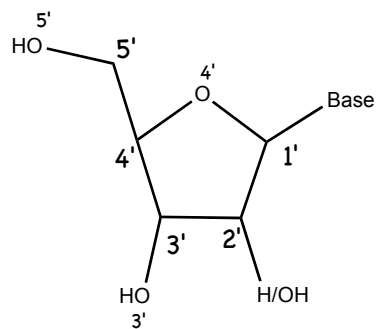
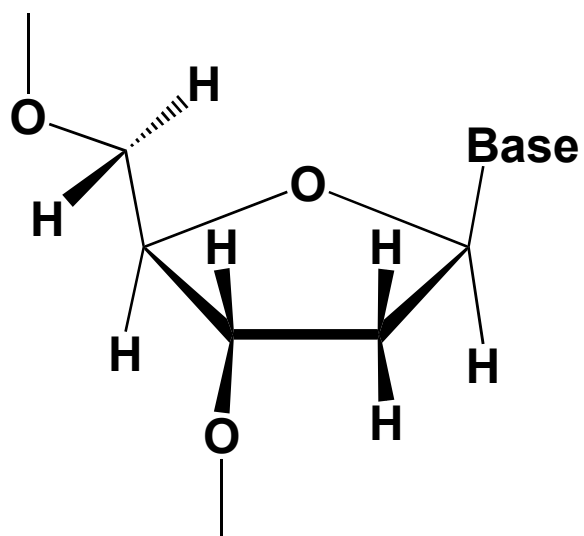
Burial of hydrophobic surface drives helix formation (hydrophobic core / stacking interactions)



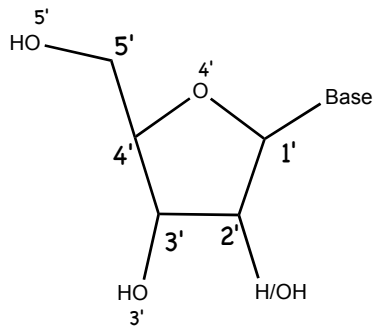
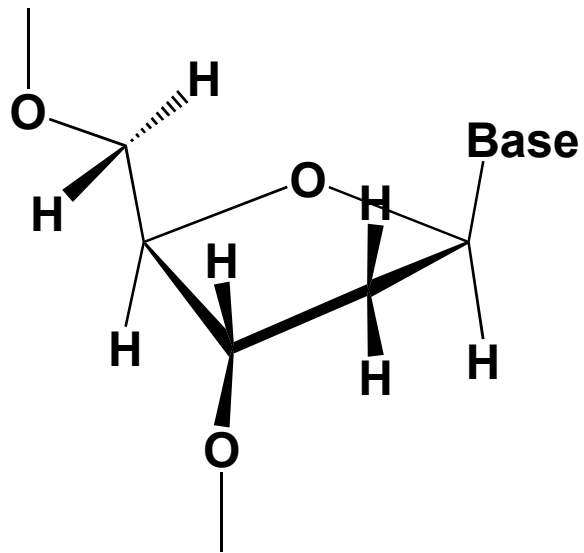
Flat faces are nonpolar
Edges are very polar (can H-bond)

Other chemical constraints

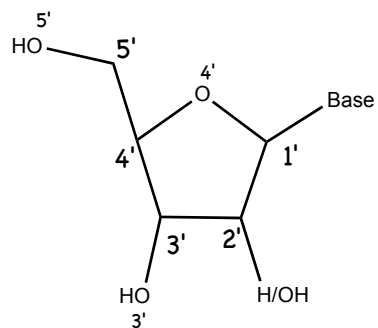
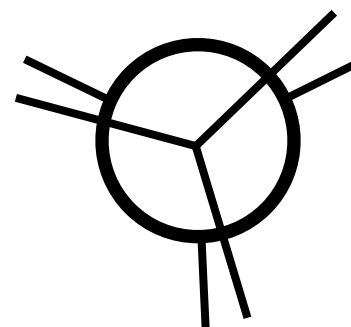
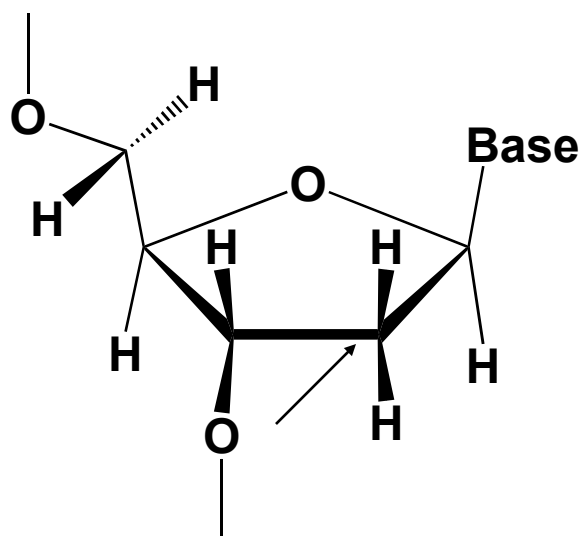
Furanose Sugar Ring



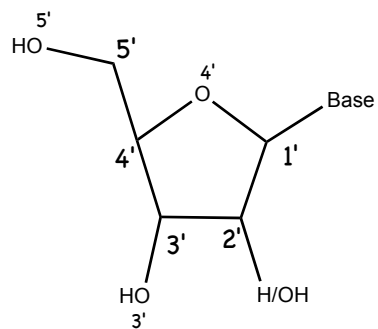
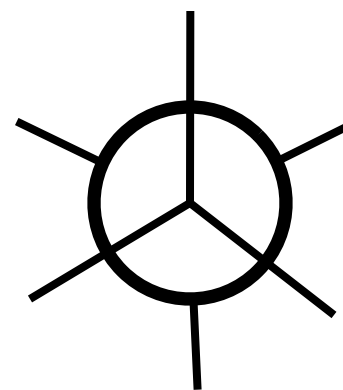
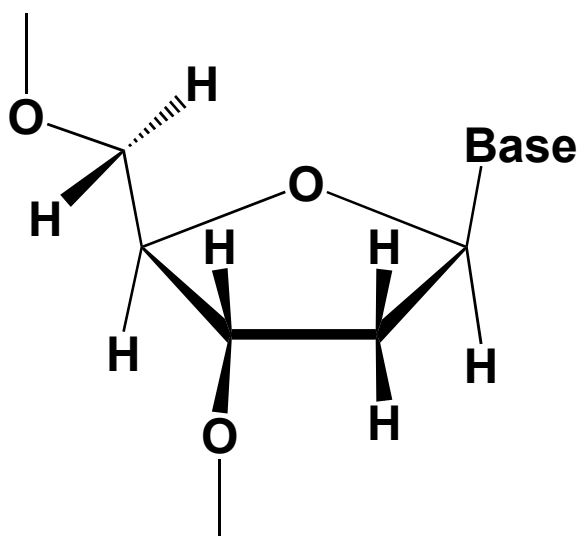
Furanose Sugar Ring



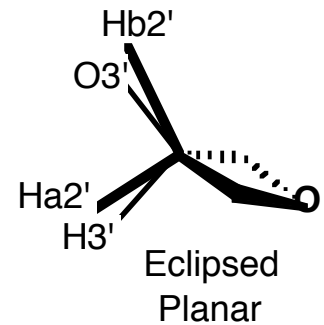
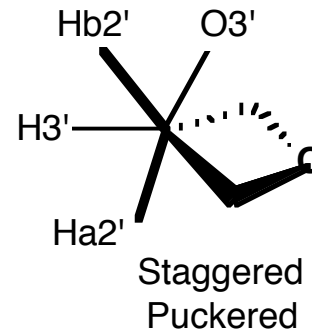
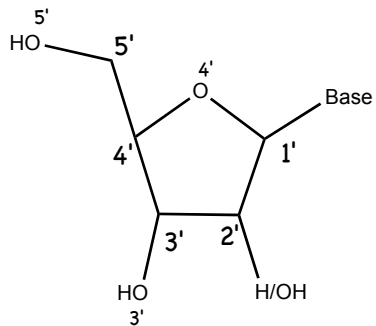
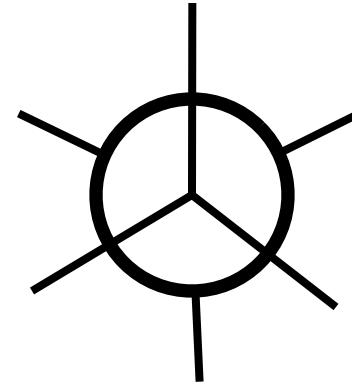
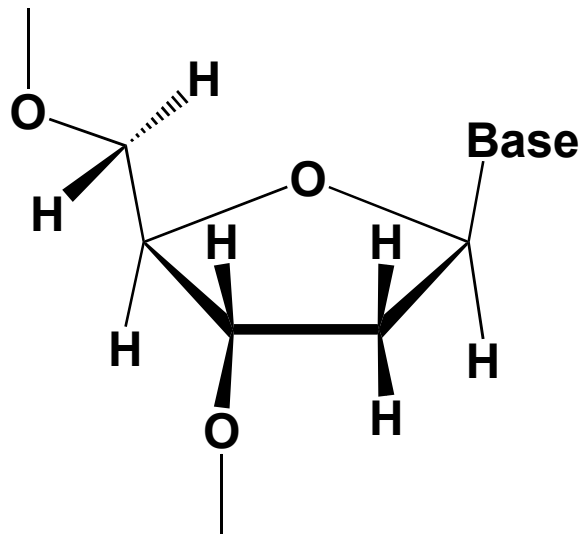
Furanose Sugar Ring



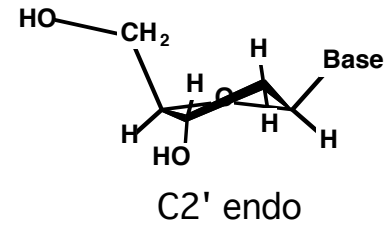
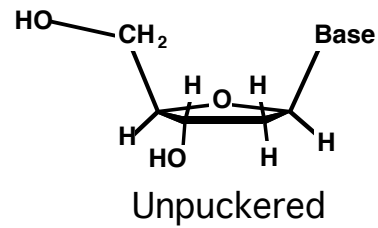
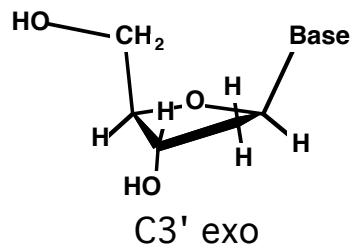
Furanose Sugar Ring



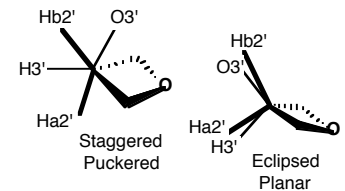
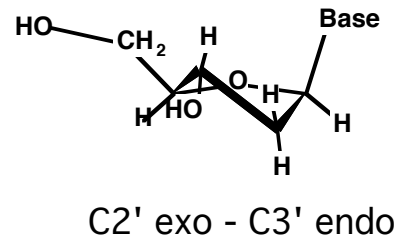
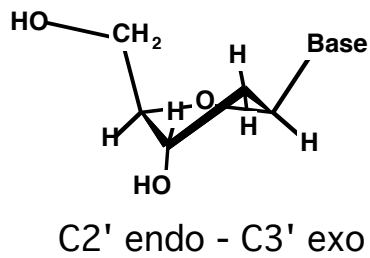
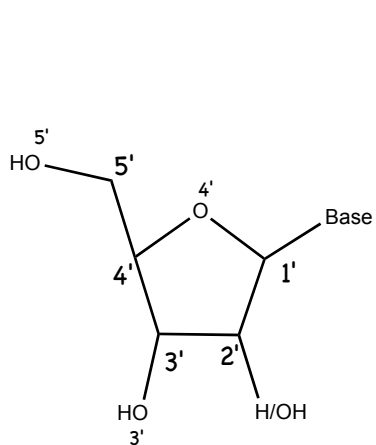
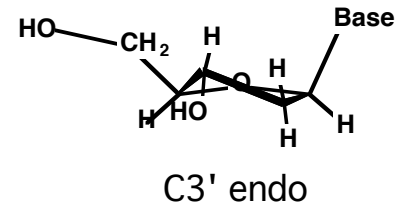
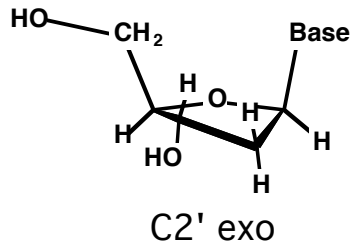
Furanose Sugar Ring



Furanose Sugar Ring



↑ endo
↓ exo



Replication by human DNA polymerase- ϵ occurs by Hoogsteen base-pairing

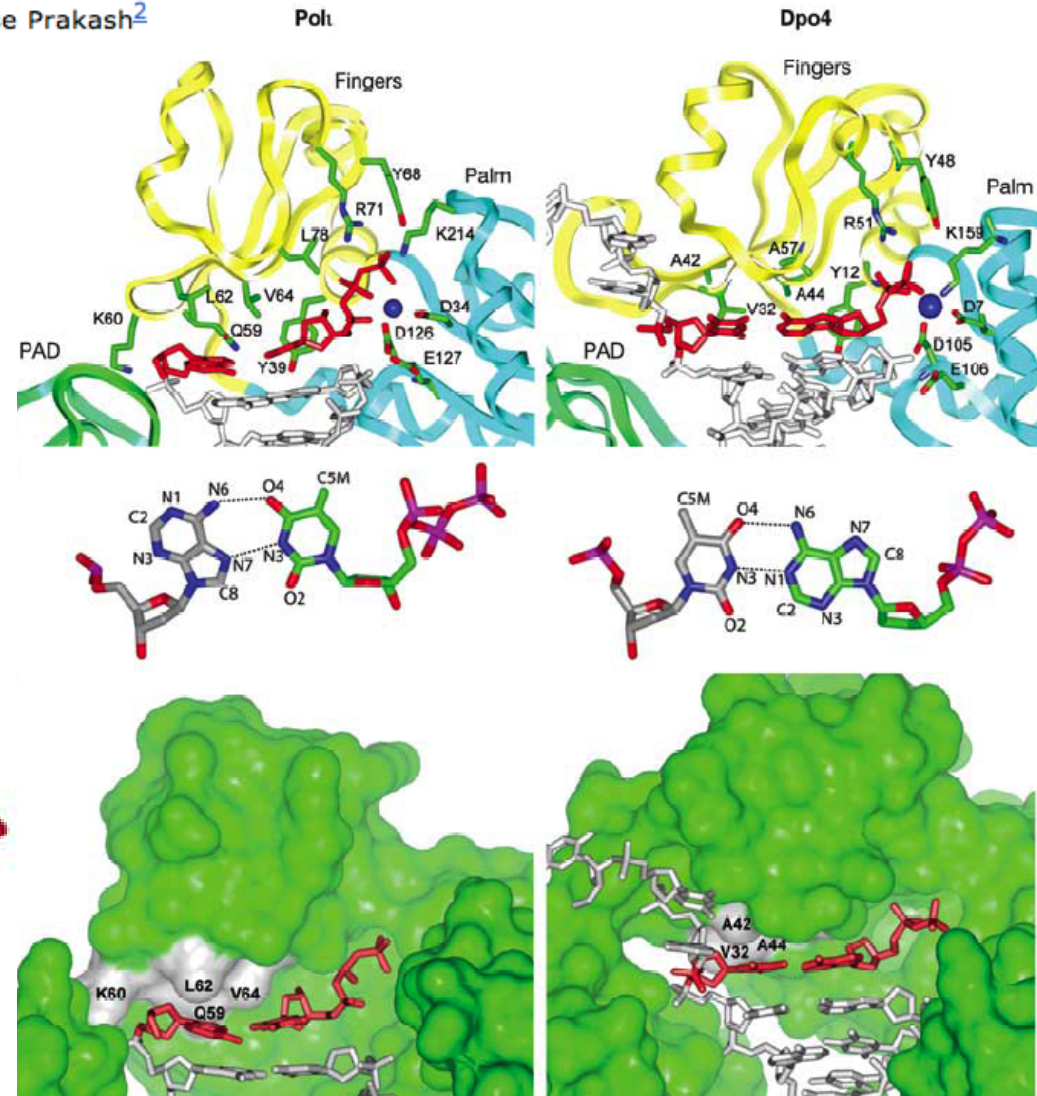
Deepak T. Nair¹, Robert E. Johnson², Satya Prakash², Louise Prakash²
and Aneel K. Aggarwal¹

A crystal structure from from July 2004 shows that an error correcting (and error-prone) DNA polymerase uses Hoogsteen-WC base pairing to recognize the incoming substrate dNTP.

This supports biochemical studies that had been suggesting such a pairing.

This polymerase is good at bypassing lesions in the DNA (eg, damaged Watson-Crick face of G).

Hoogsteen vindicated



Replication by human DNA polymerase- ϵ occurs by Hoogsteen base-pairing

Deepak T. Nair¹, Robert E. Johnson², Satya Prakash², Louise Prakash²
and Aneel K. Aggarwal¹

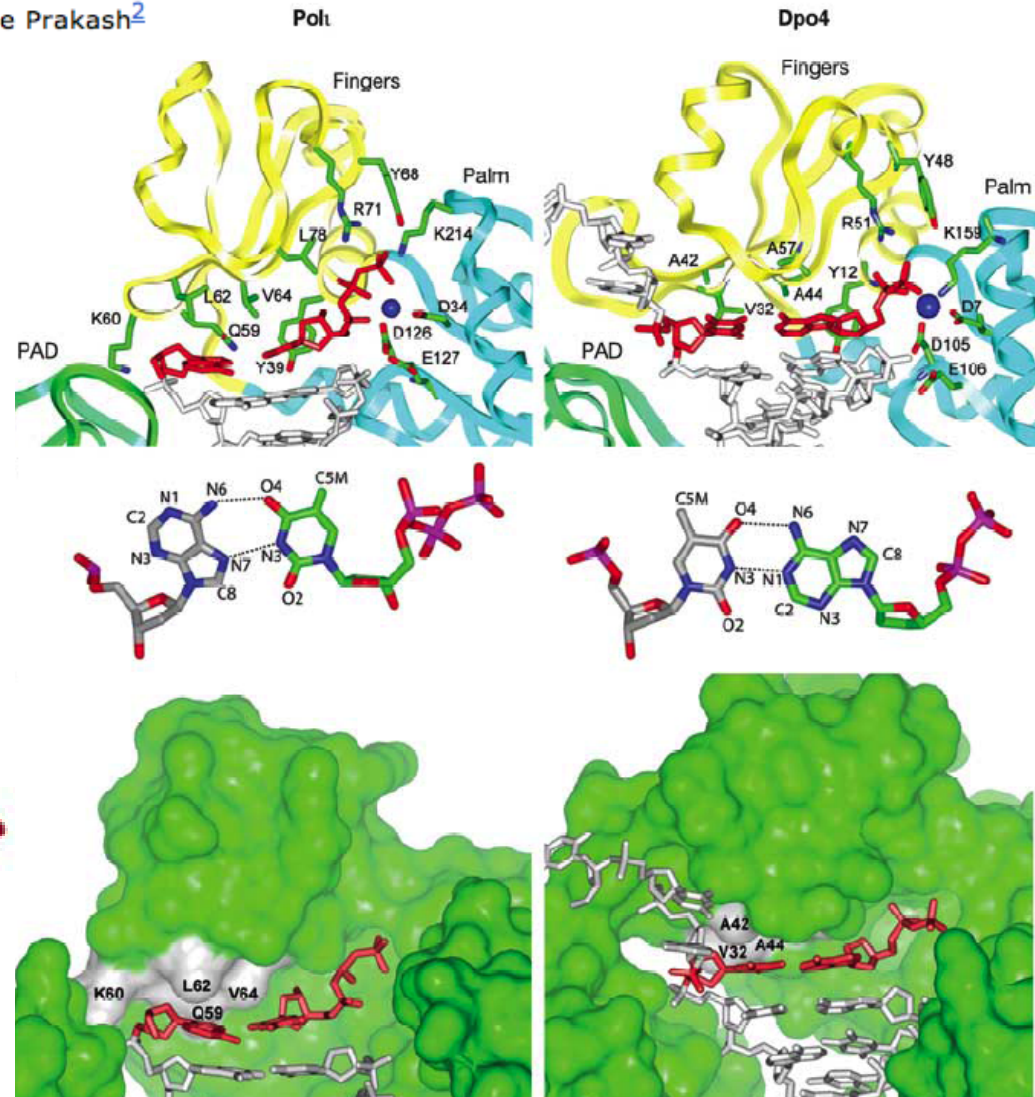
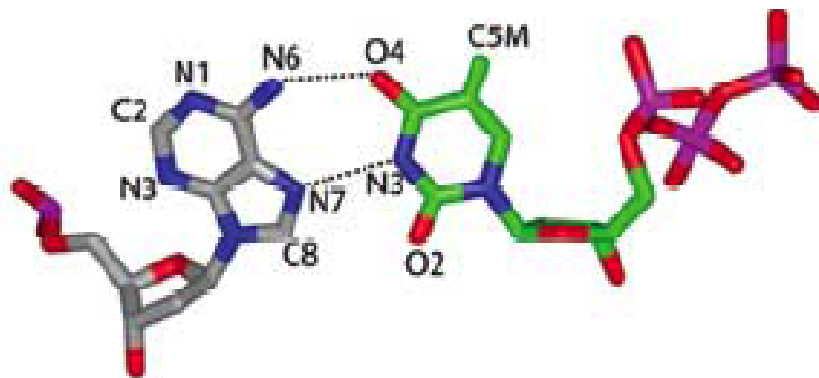
A crystal structure from from July 2004 shows that an error correcting (and error-prone) DNA polymerase uses Hoogsteen-WC base pairing to recognize the incoming substrate dNTP.

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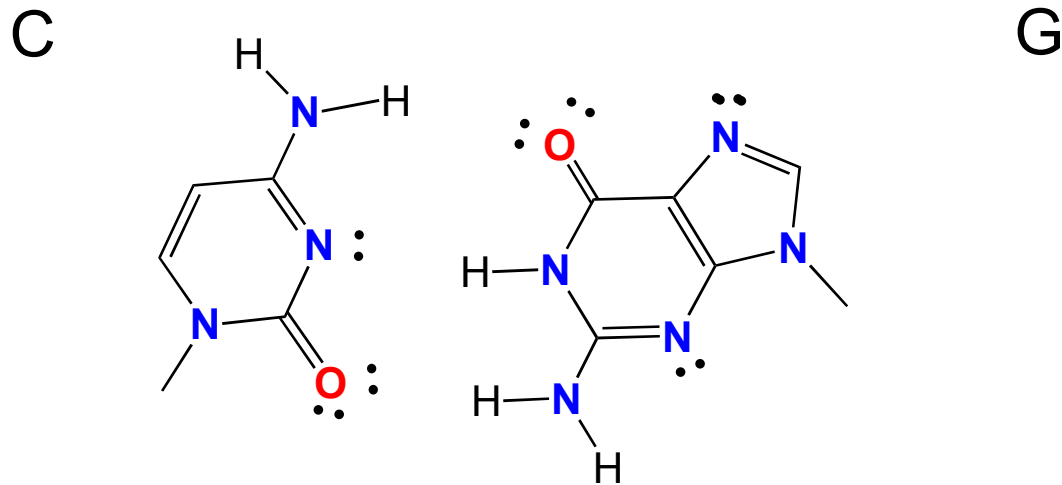
This polymerase is good at bypassing lesions in the DNA (eg, damaged Watson-Crick face of G).

Hoogsteen vindicated

But... perhaps not...

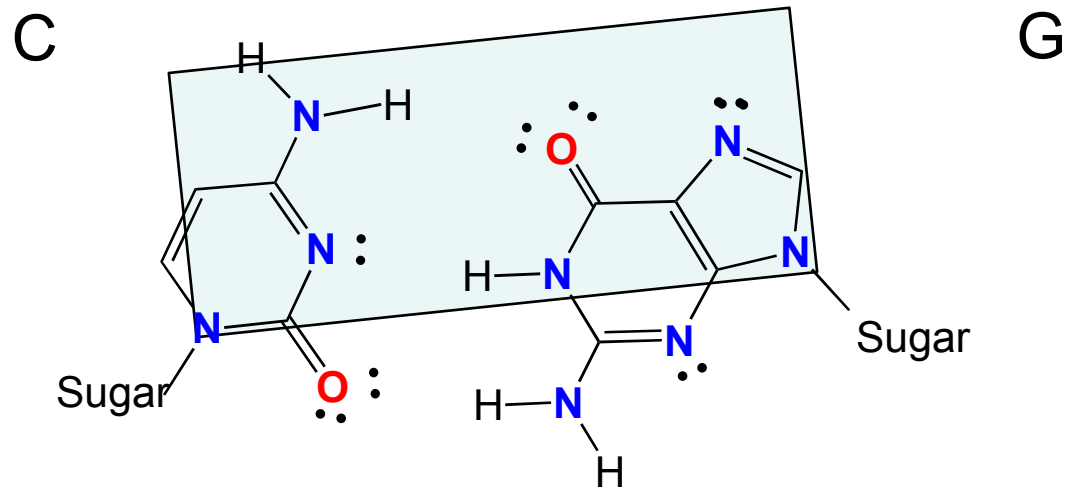


Why is Watson-Crick so good?



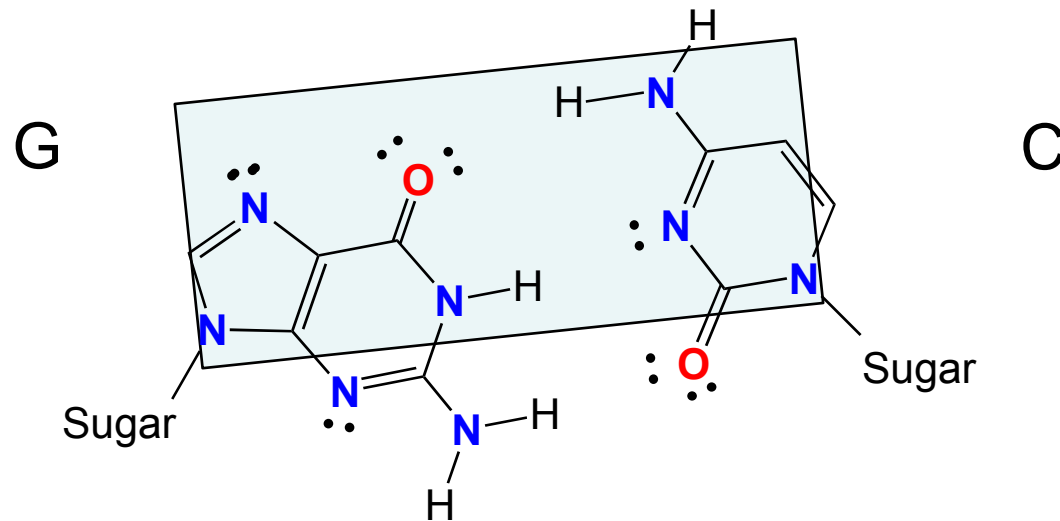
All four WC base pairs
are
isosteric

Why is Watson-Crick so good?



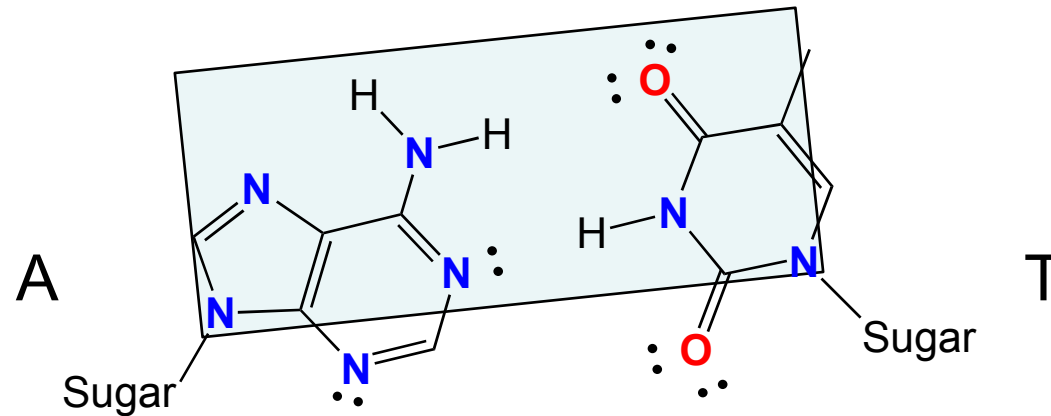
All four WC base pairs
are
isosteric

Why is Watson-Crick so good?



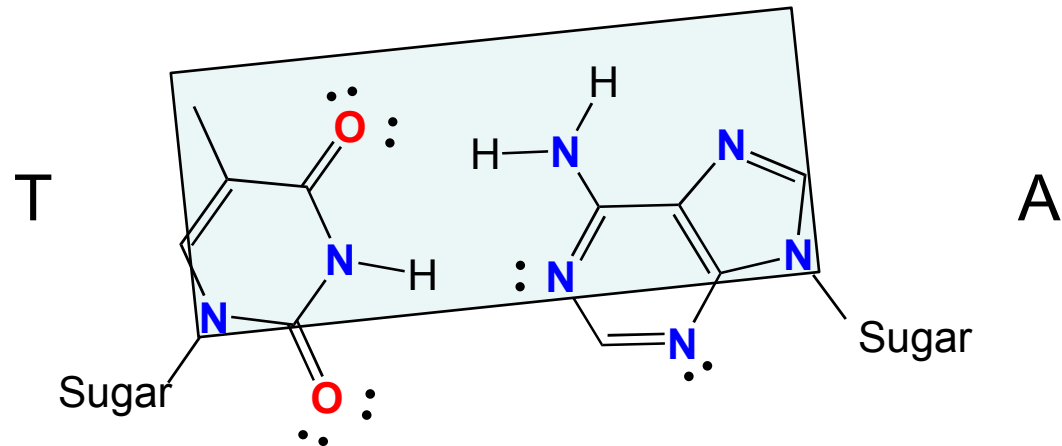
All four WC base pairs
are
isosteric

Why is Watson-Crick so good?

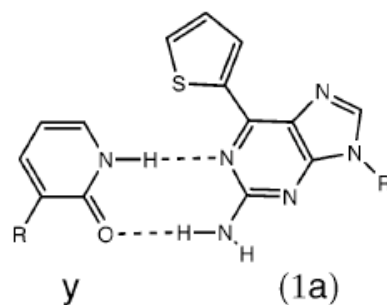
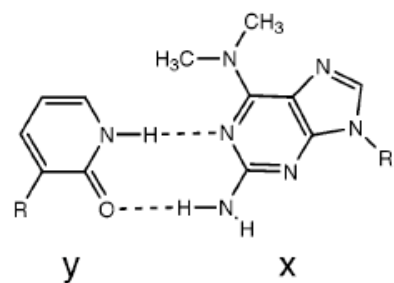
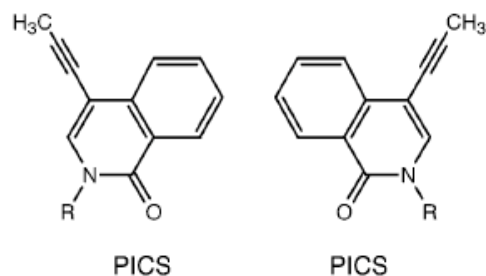
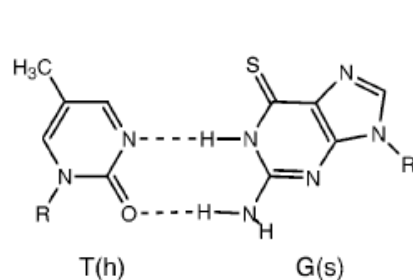
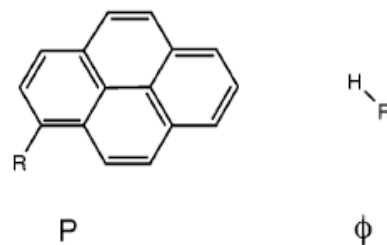
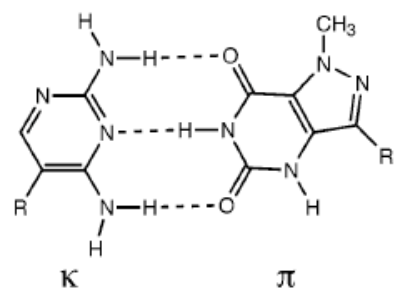
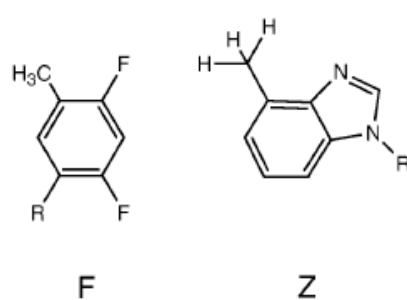
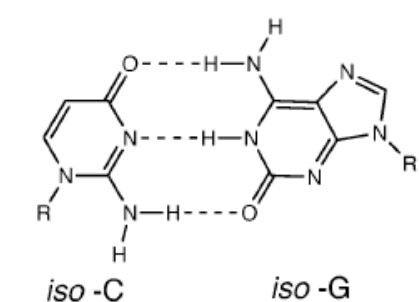


All four WC base pairs
are
isosteric

Why is Watson-Crick so good?



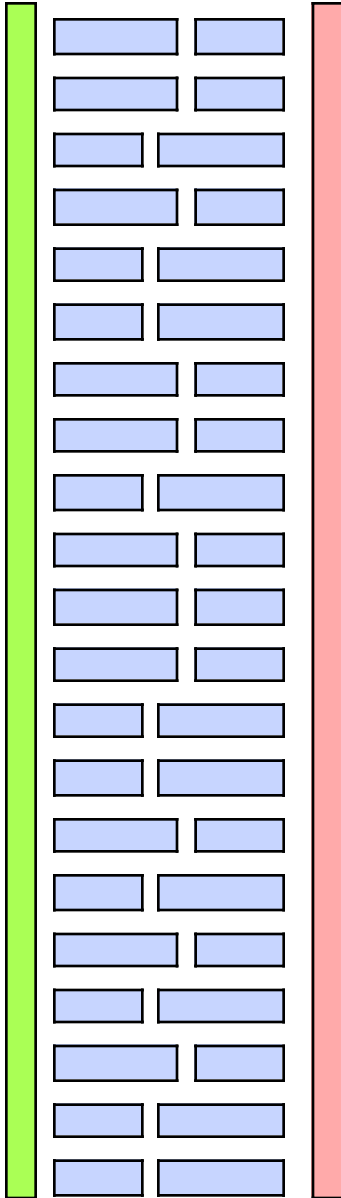
All four WC base pairs
are
isosteric



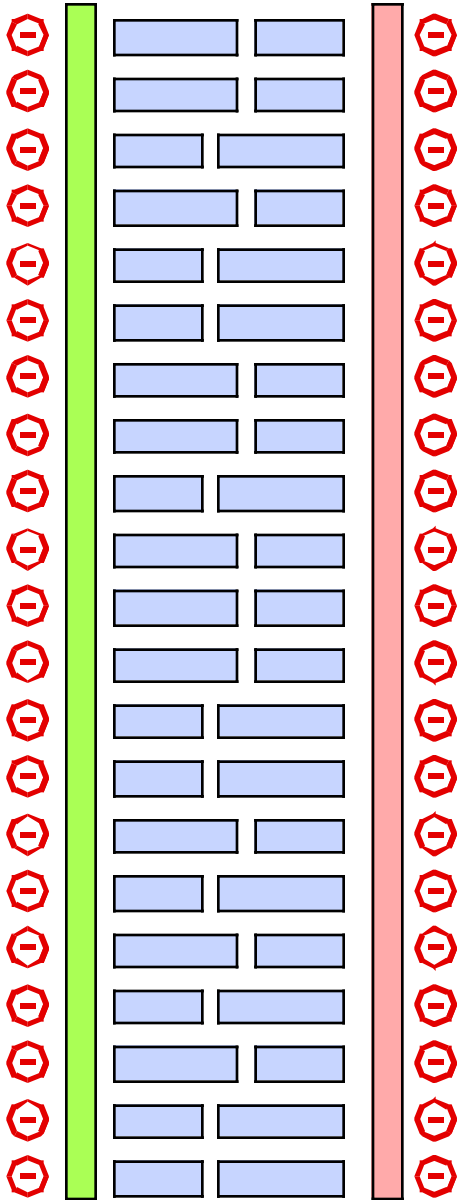
Bases that
polymerases like

FIGURE 7. Examples of DNA base replacements designed to form stable pairs and/or to be replicated selectively by DNA polymerase enzymes.^{17,23,24,49,54,55}

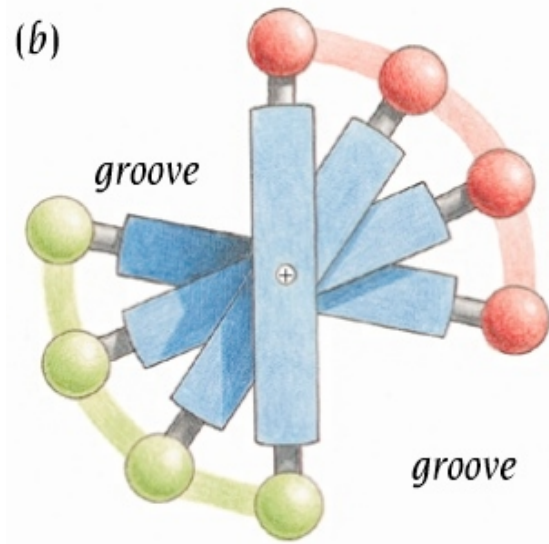
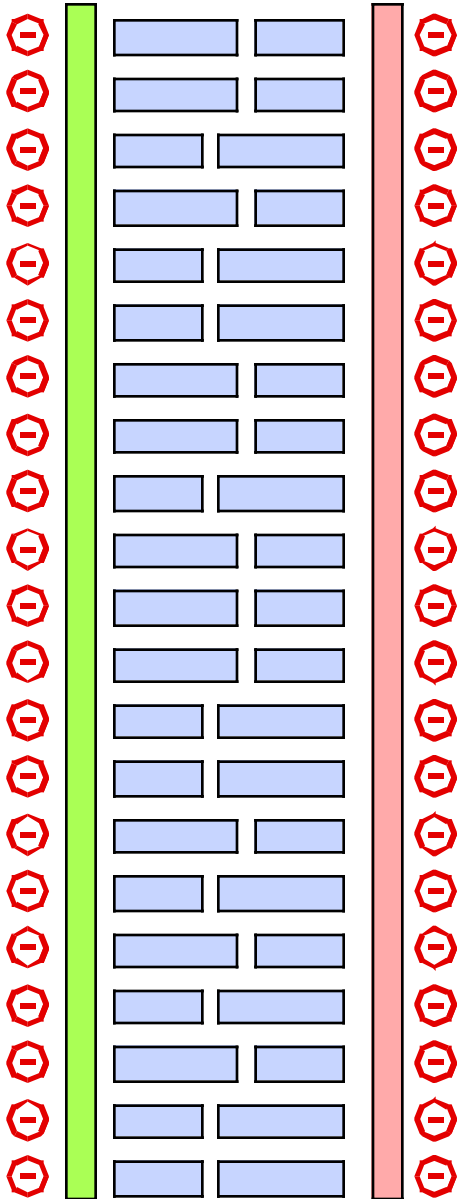
Why *a helix*?



Why *a helix*?

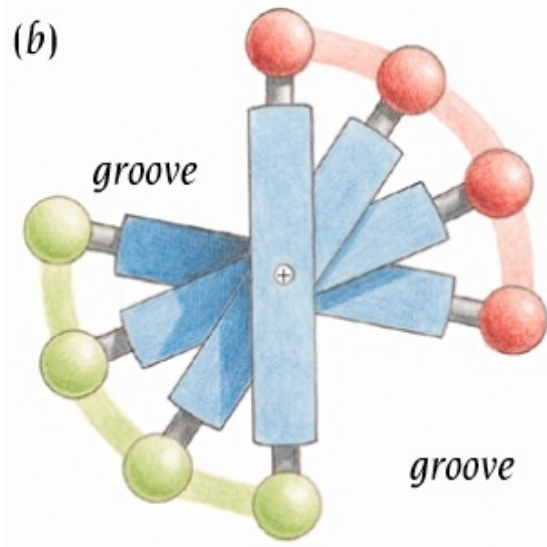
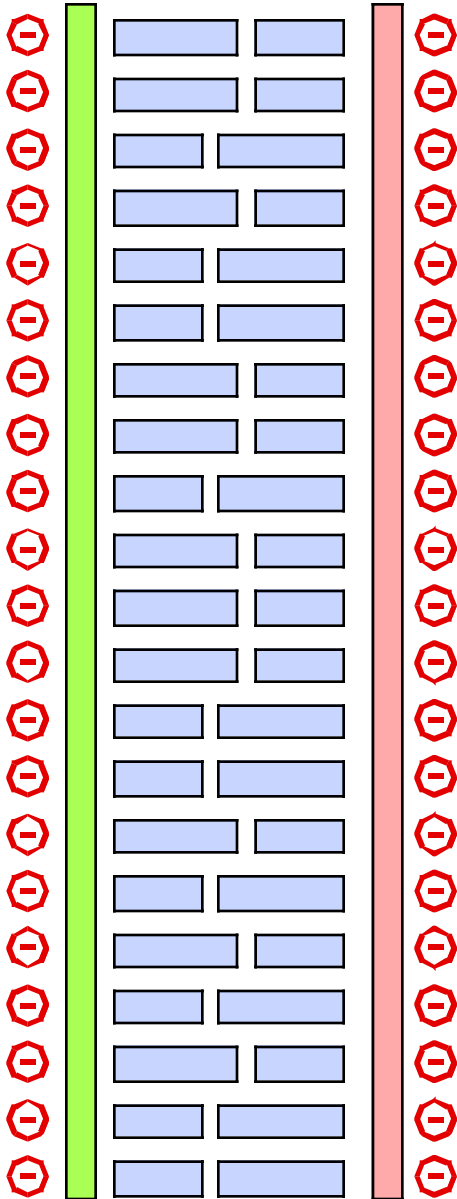


Why *a helix*?

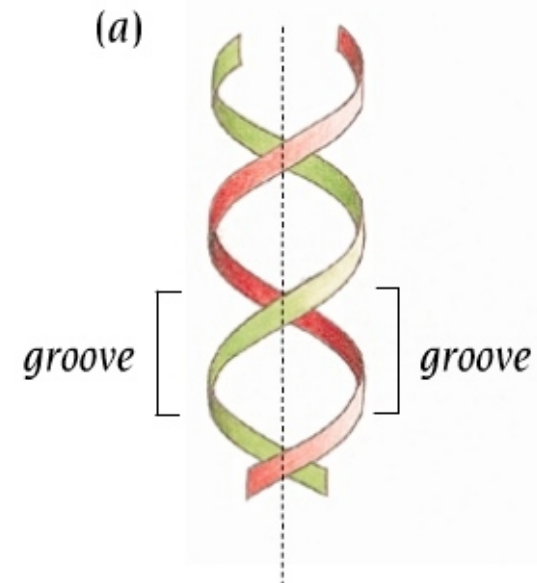


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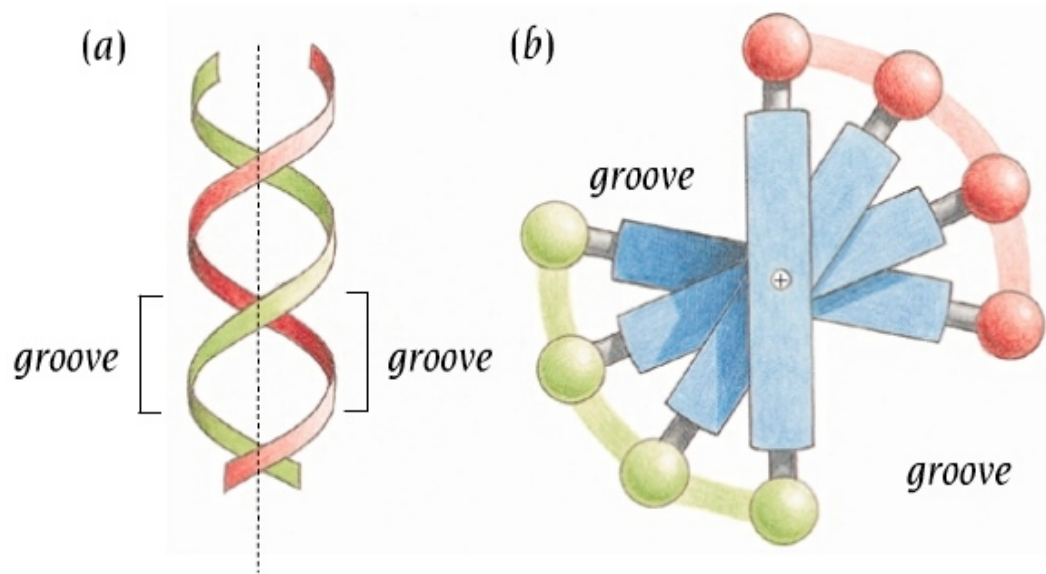
Why *a helix*?



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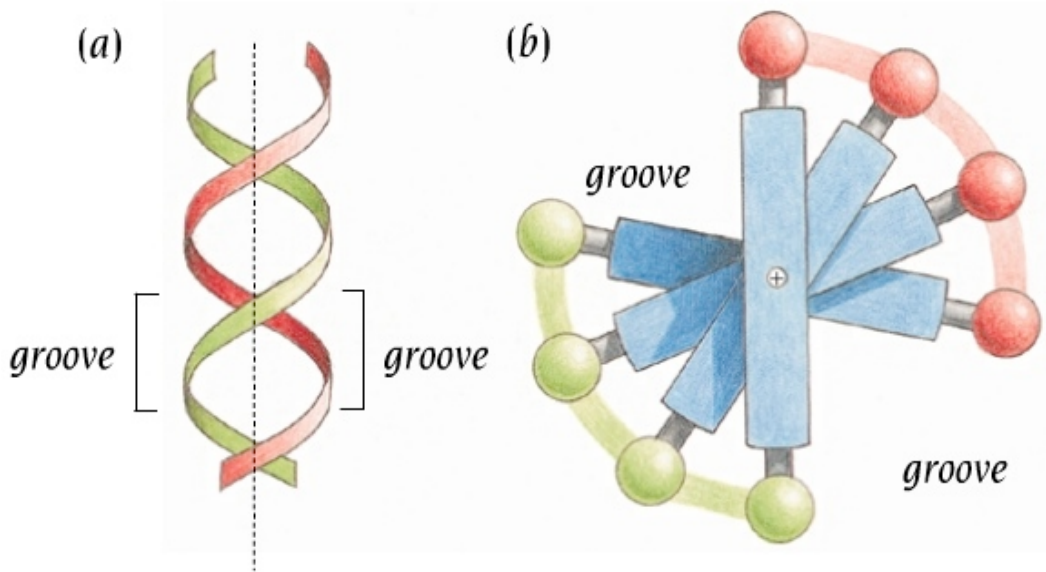


Why *major* and *minor* grooves?

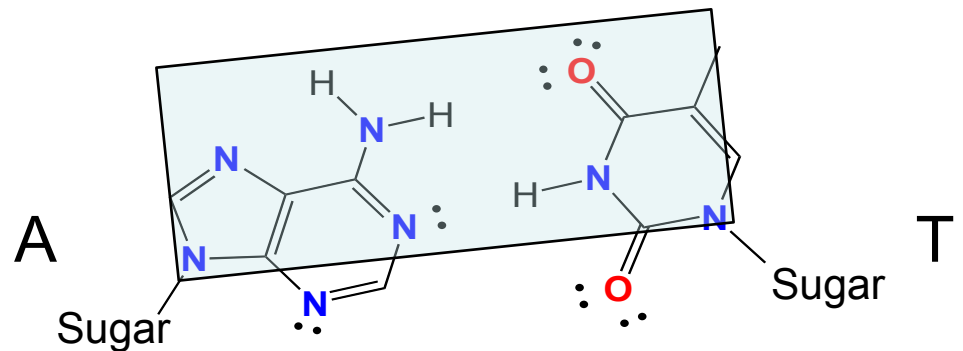


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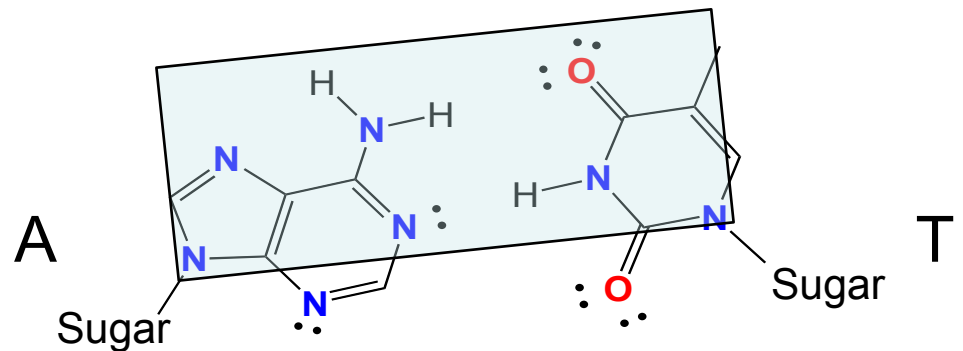
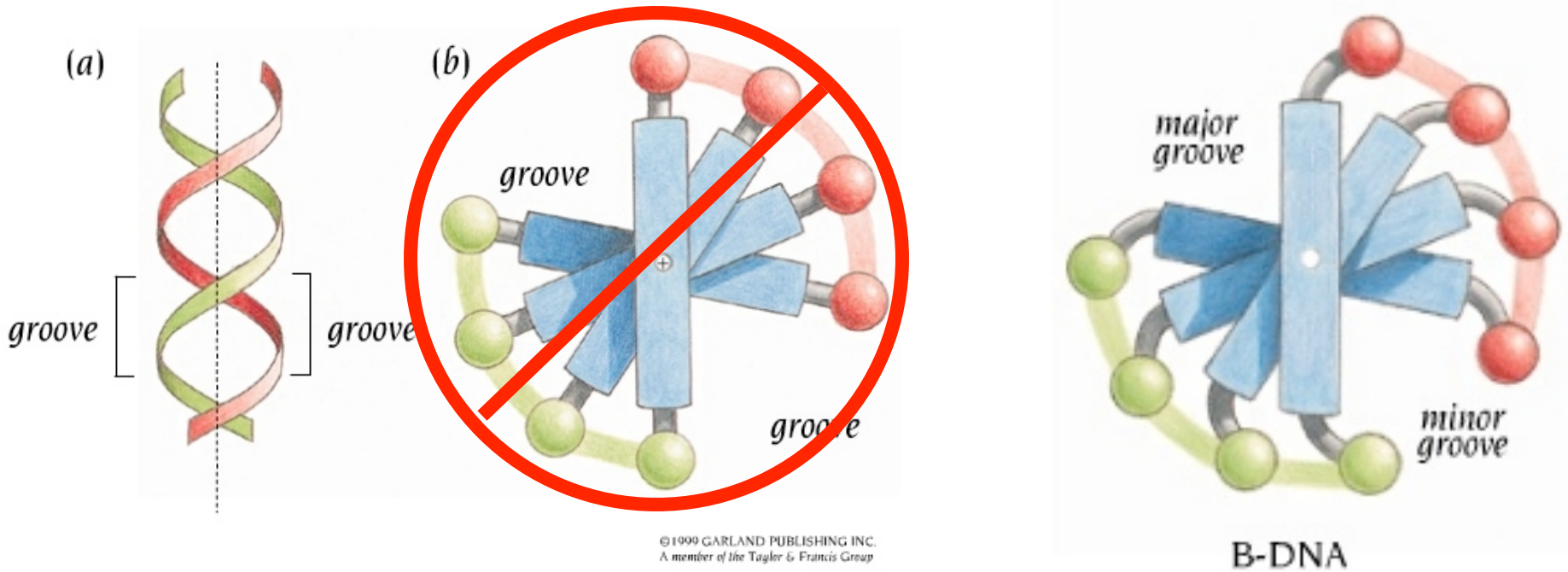
Why *major* and *minor* grooves?



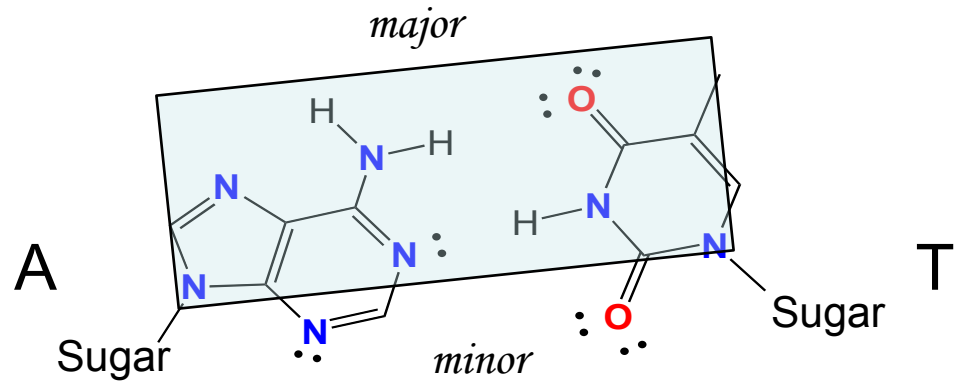
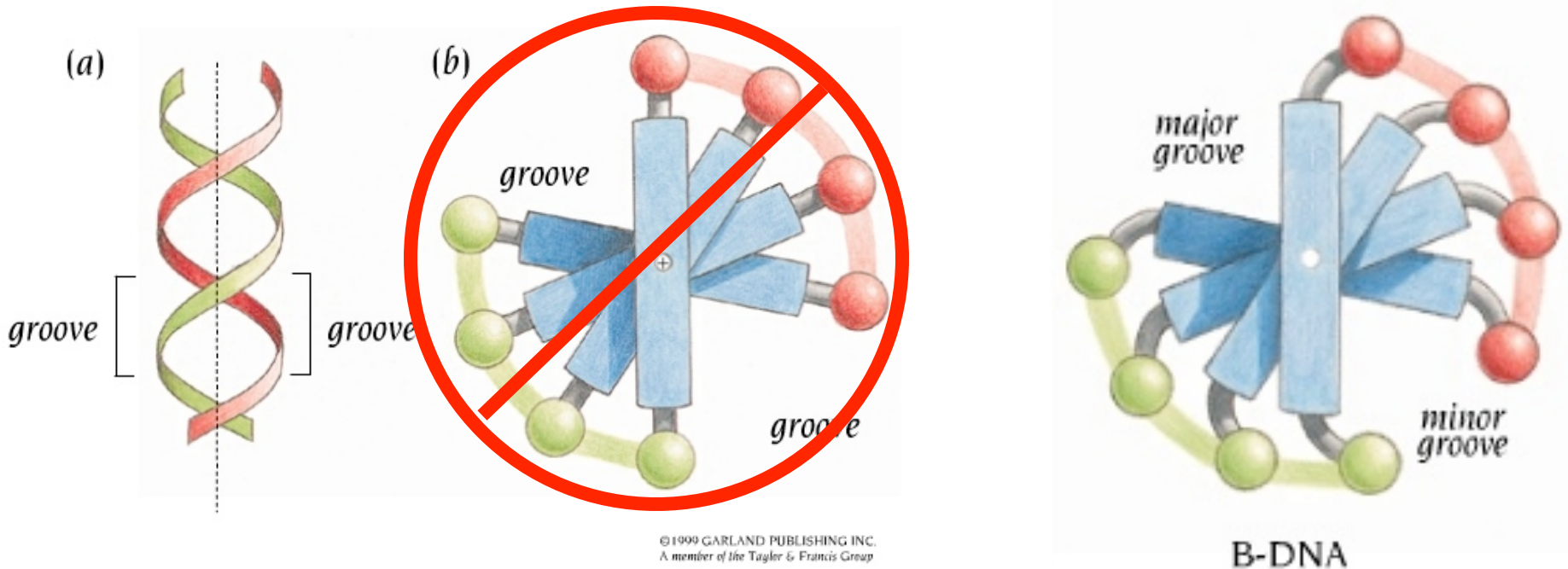
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Why *major* and *minor* grooves?

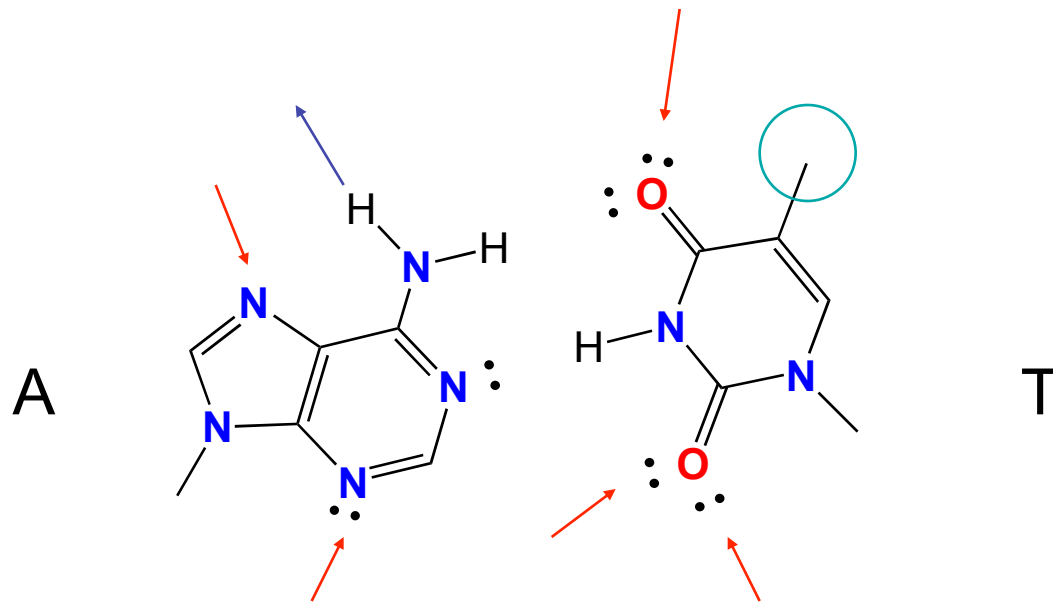


Why *major* and *minor* grooves?



Why is the major groove so good?

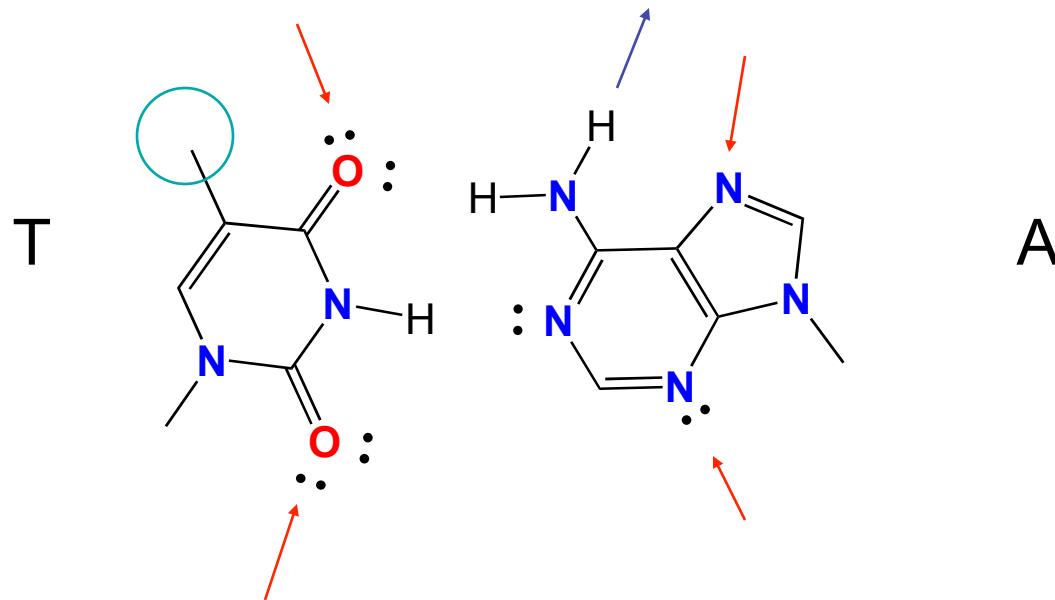
Major Groove



Minor Groove

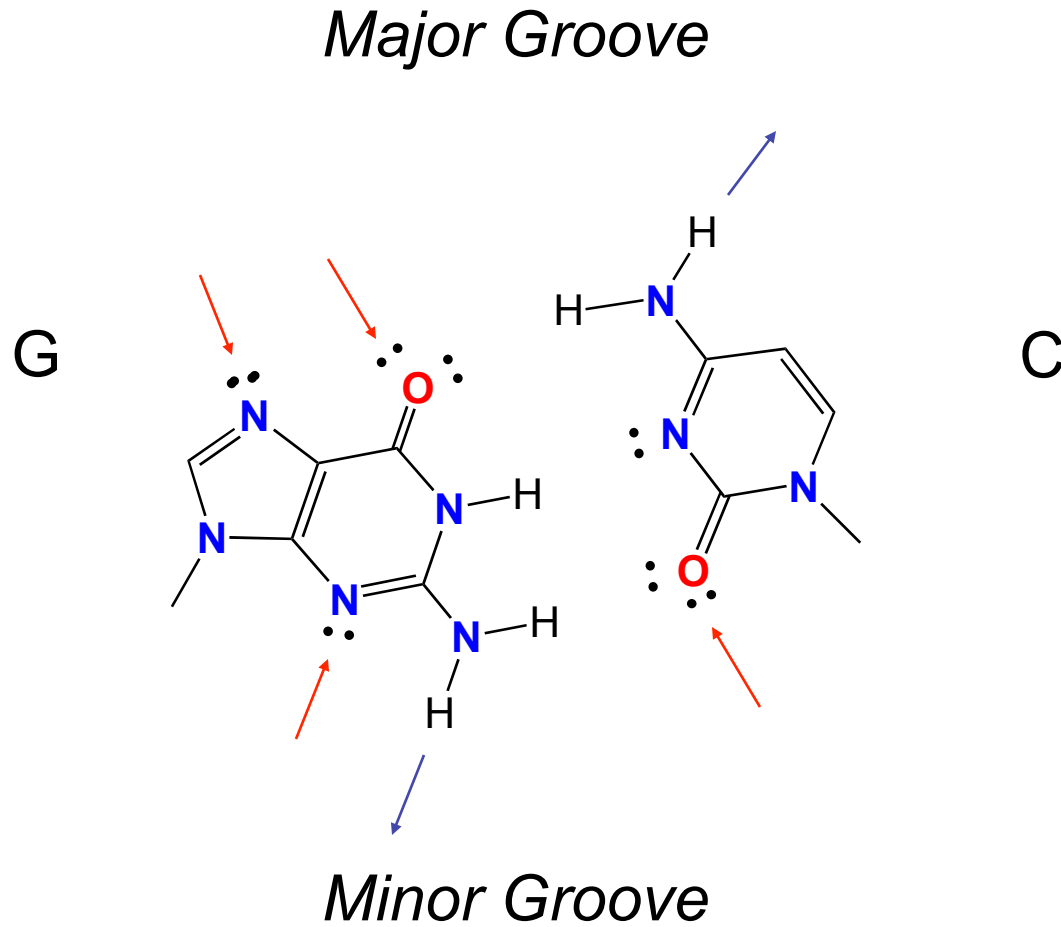
Why is the major groove so good?

Major Groove



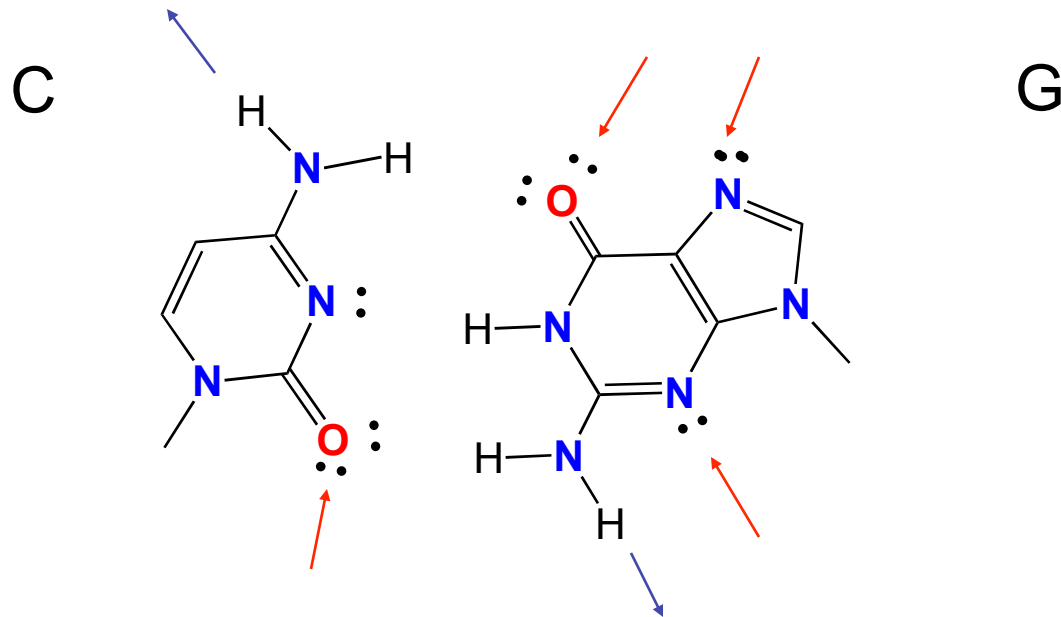
Minor Groove

Why is the major groove so good?



Why is the major groove so good?

Major Groove



Minor Groove

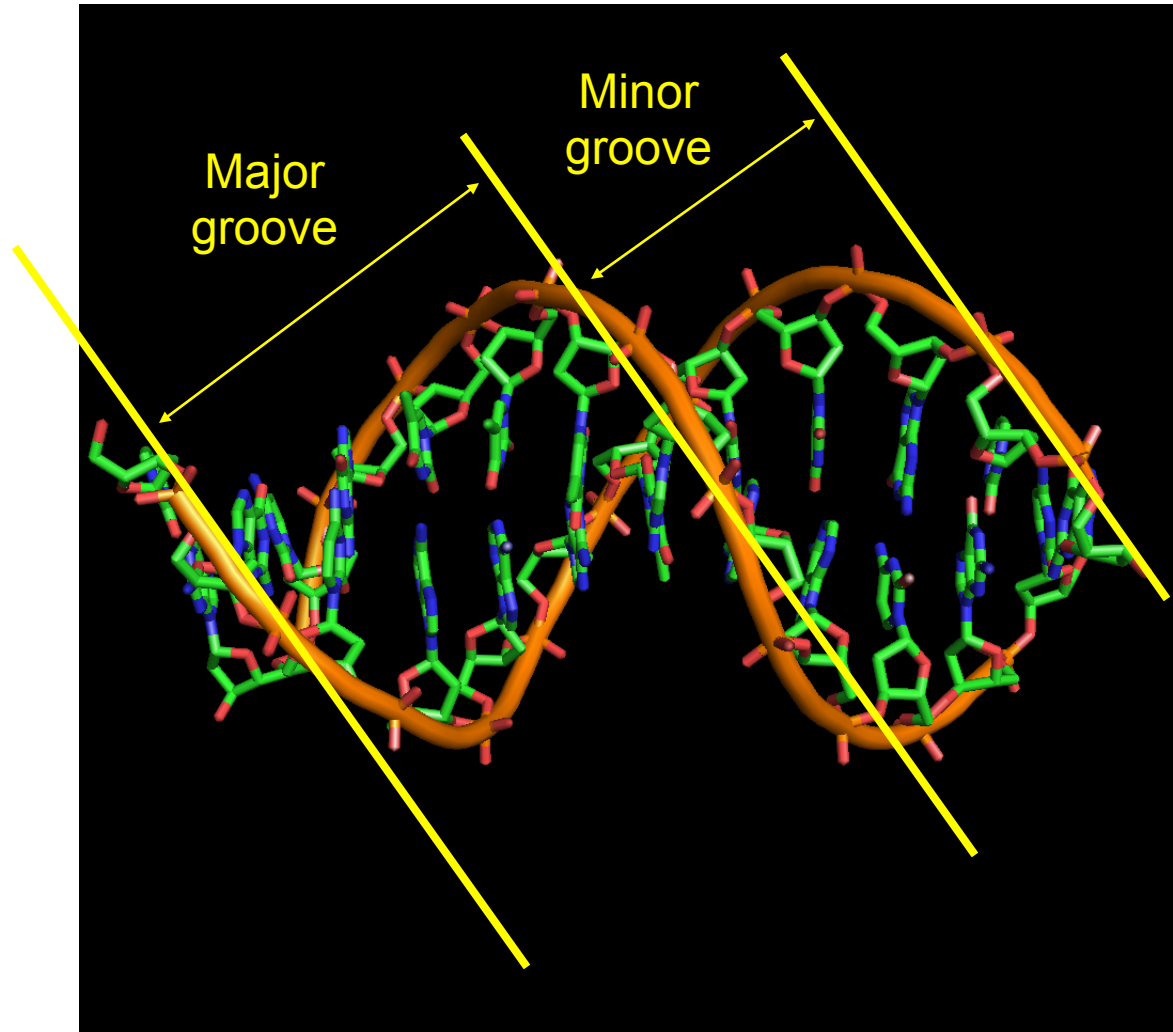
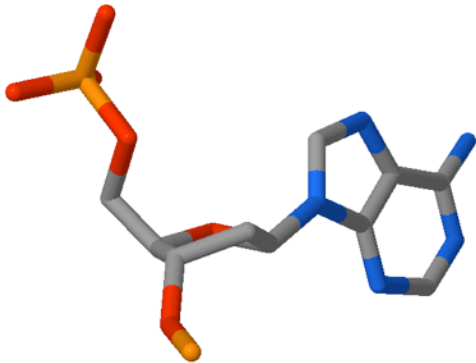
B-form DNA

B-form

Residues per turn = 10
Twist per base pair = 36°
Rise per pair = 3.4\AA
c2'-endo

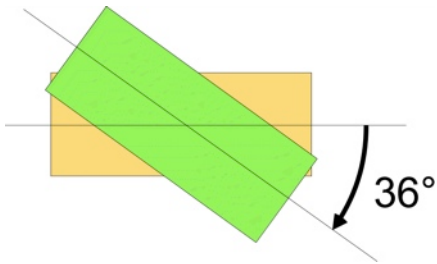
Minor groove width = 5.7\AA
Major groove width = 11.7\AA

Minor groove depth = 7.5\AA
Major groove depth = 8.8\AA



B-form DNA

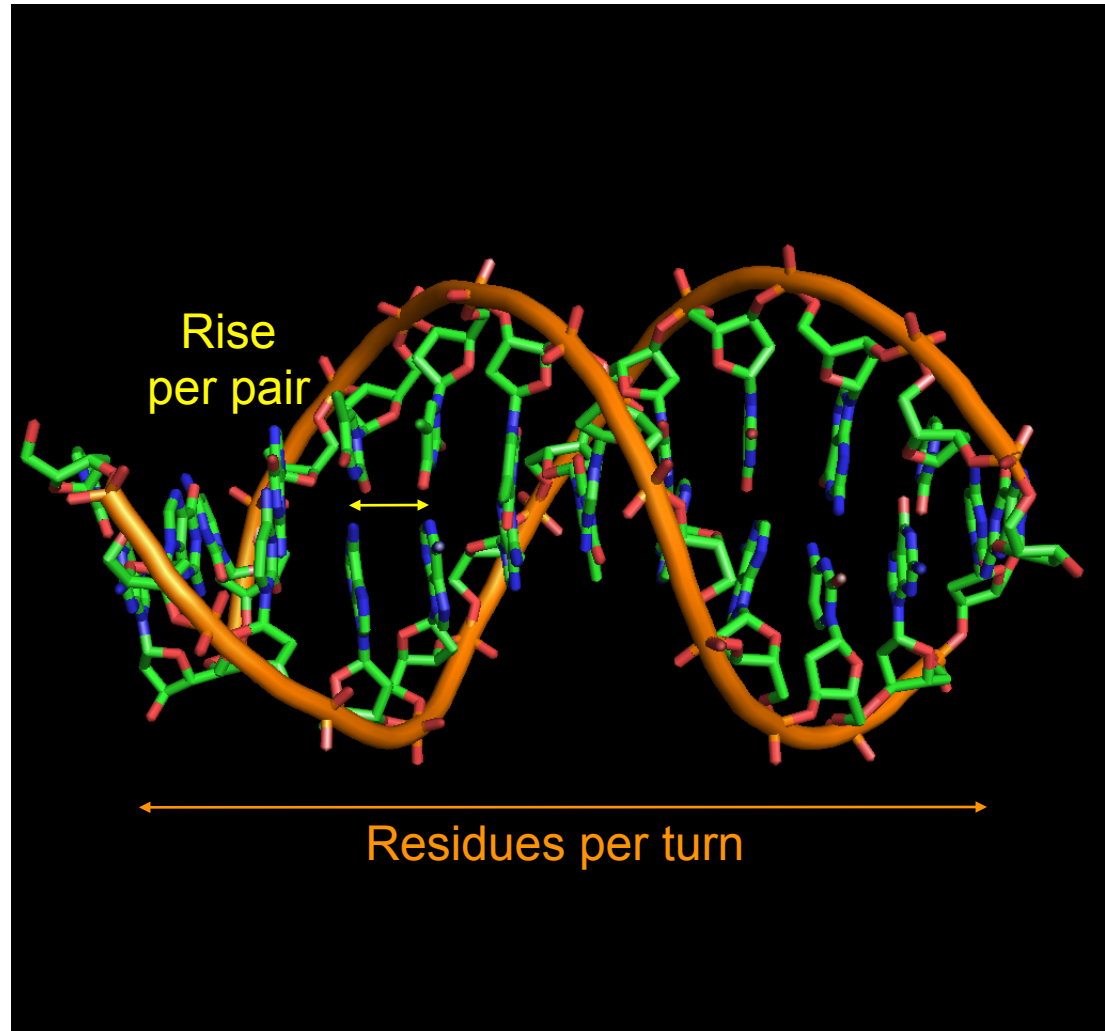
Residues per turn = 10
Twist per base pair = 36°



Rise per pair = 3.4\AA
c2'-endo

Minor groove width = 5.7\AA
Major groove width = 11.7\AA

Minor groove depth = 7.5\AA
Major groove depth = 8.8\AA

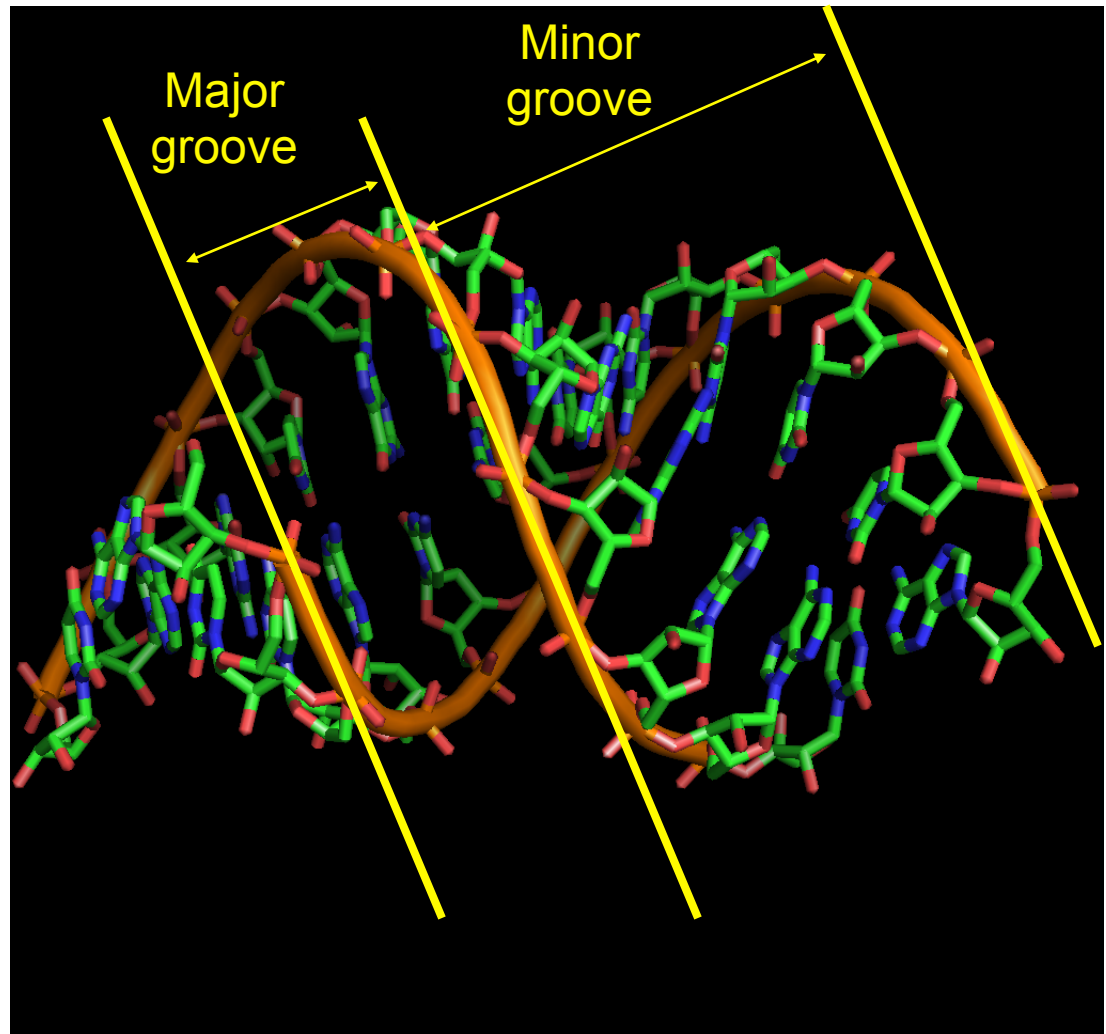
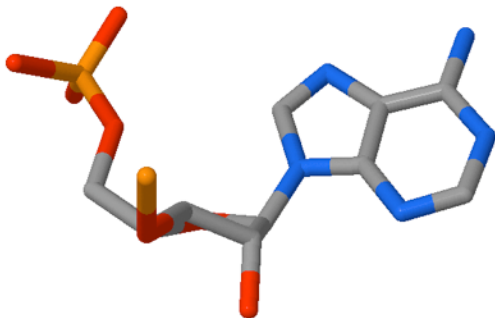


A-form RNA

Residues per turn = 11
Twist per base pair = 33°
Rise per pair = 2.9\AA
c3'-endo

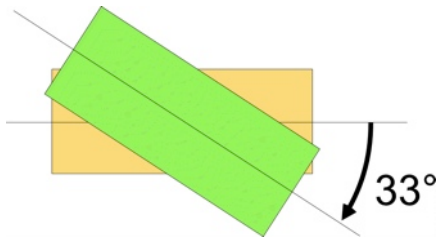
Minor groove width = 11\AA
Major groove width = 2.7\AA

Minor groove depth = 2.8\AA
Major groove depth = 13.5\AA



A-form RNA

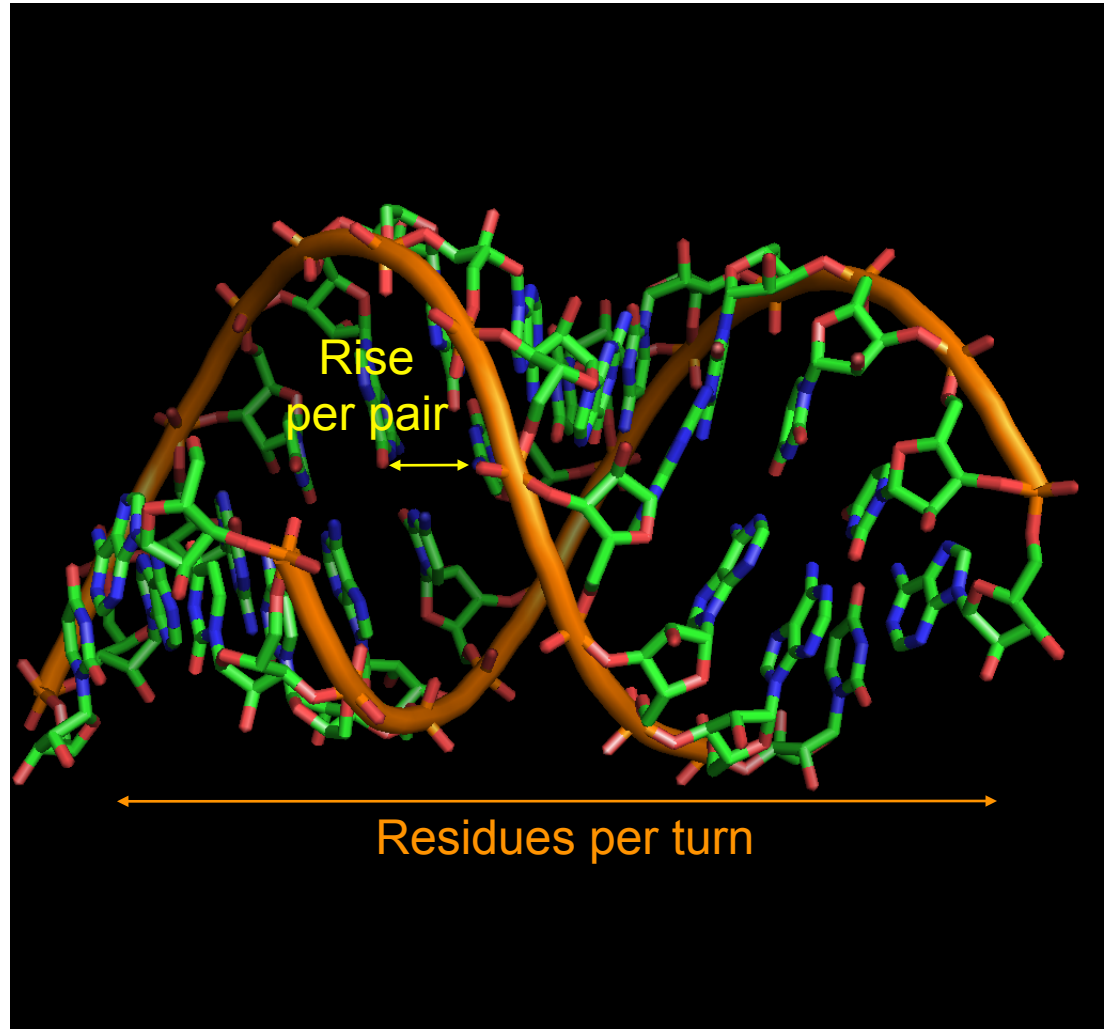
Residues per turn = 11
Twist per base pair = 33°



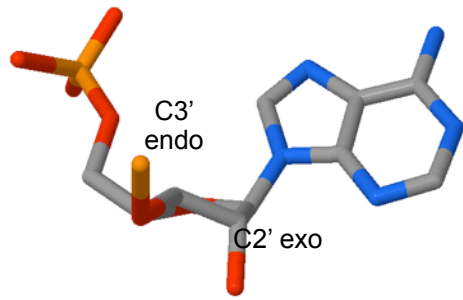
Rise per pair = 2.9\AA
c3'-endo

Minor groove width = 11\AA
Major groove width = 2.7\AA

Minor groove depth = 2.8\AA
Major groove depth = 13.5\AA



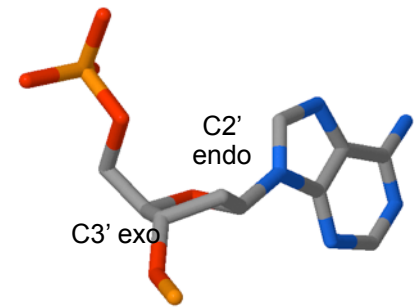
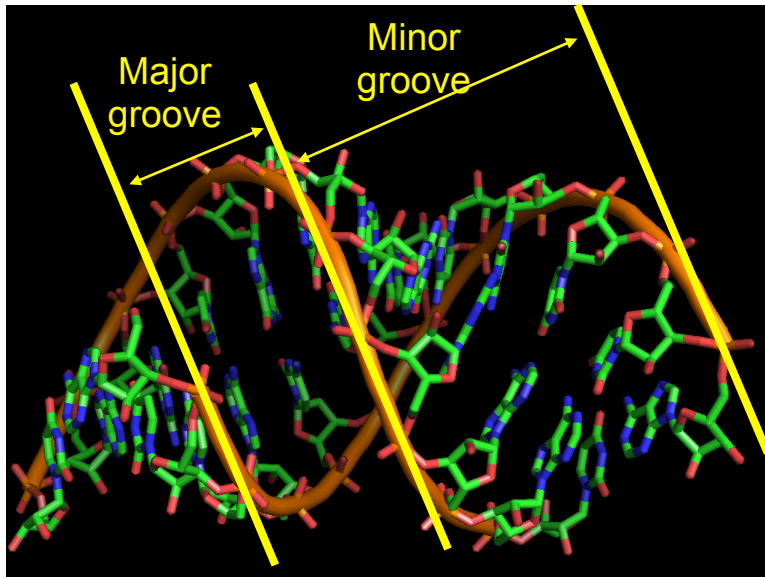
Compare



A-form (RNA)

Minor groove width = 11\AA
Major groove width = 2.7\AA

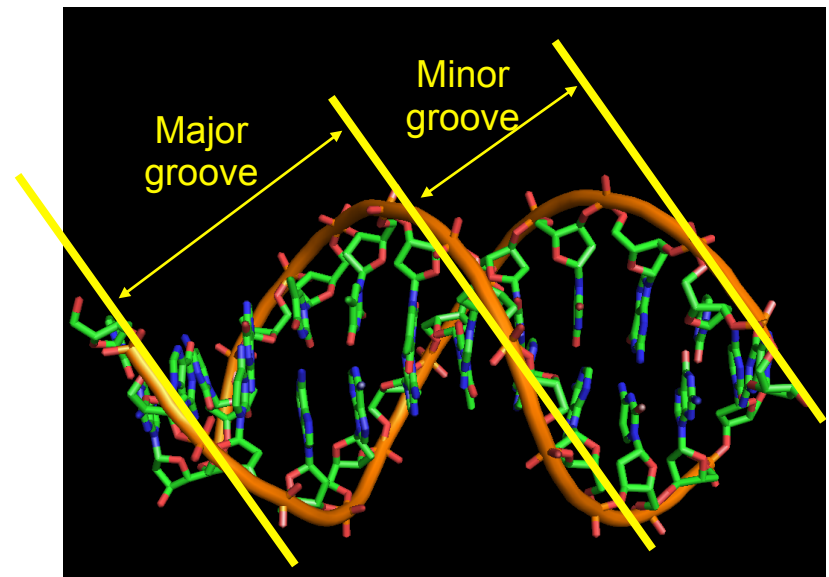
Minor groove depth = 2.8\AA
Major groove depth = 13.5\AA



B-form (DNA)

Minor groove width = 5.7\AA
Major groove width = 11.7\AA

Minor groove depth = 7.5\AA
Major groove depth = 8.8\AA



Z-DNA

Residues per turn = 12

Twist per base pair = -9° / -51°

Rise per pair = 3.7\AA

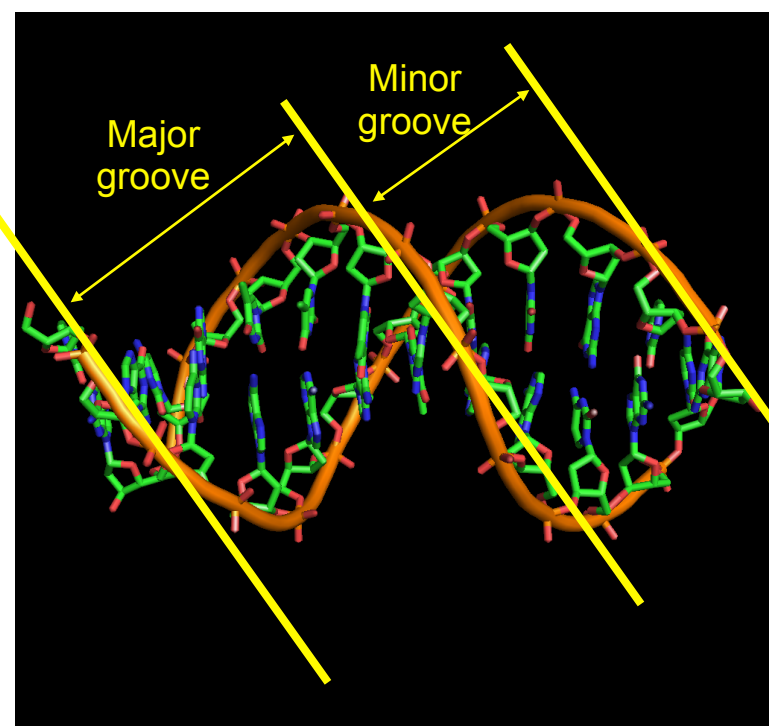
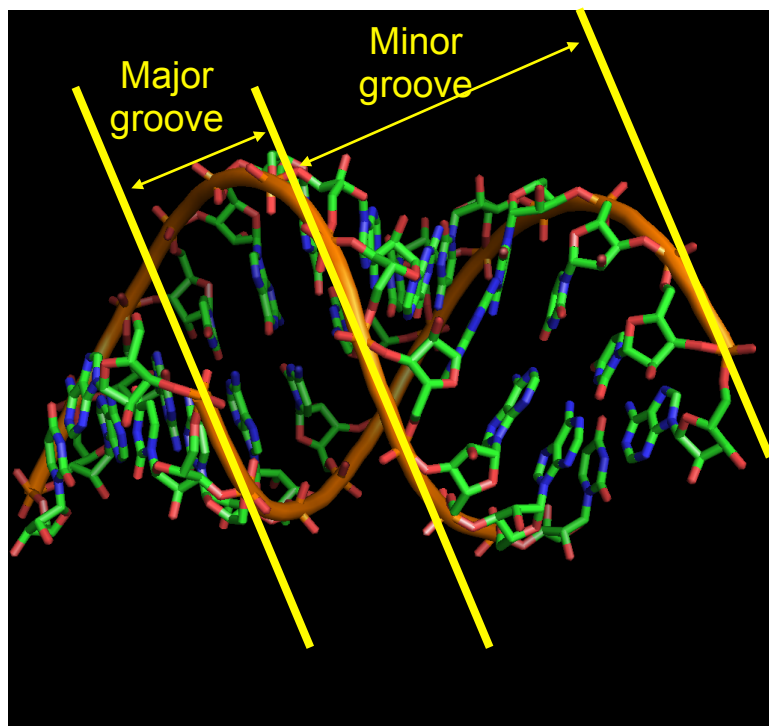
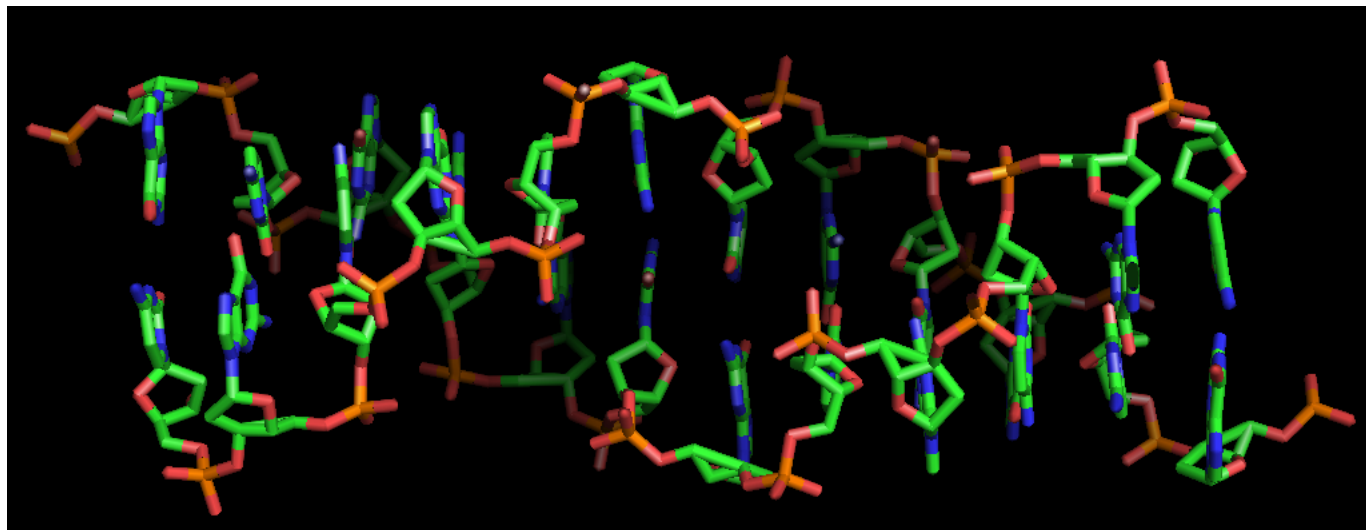
c3'-endo(syn) / c2'-endo

Minor groove width = 2.0\AA

Major groove width = 8.8\AA

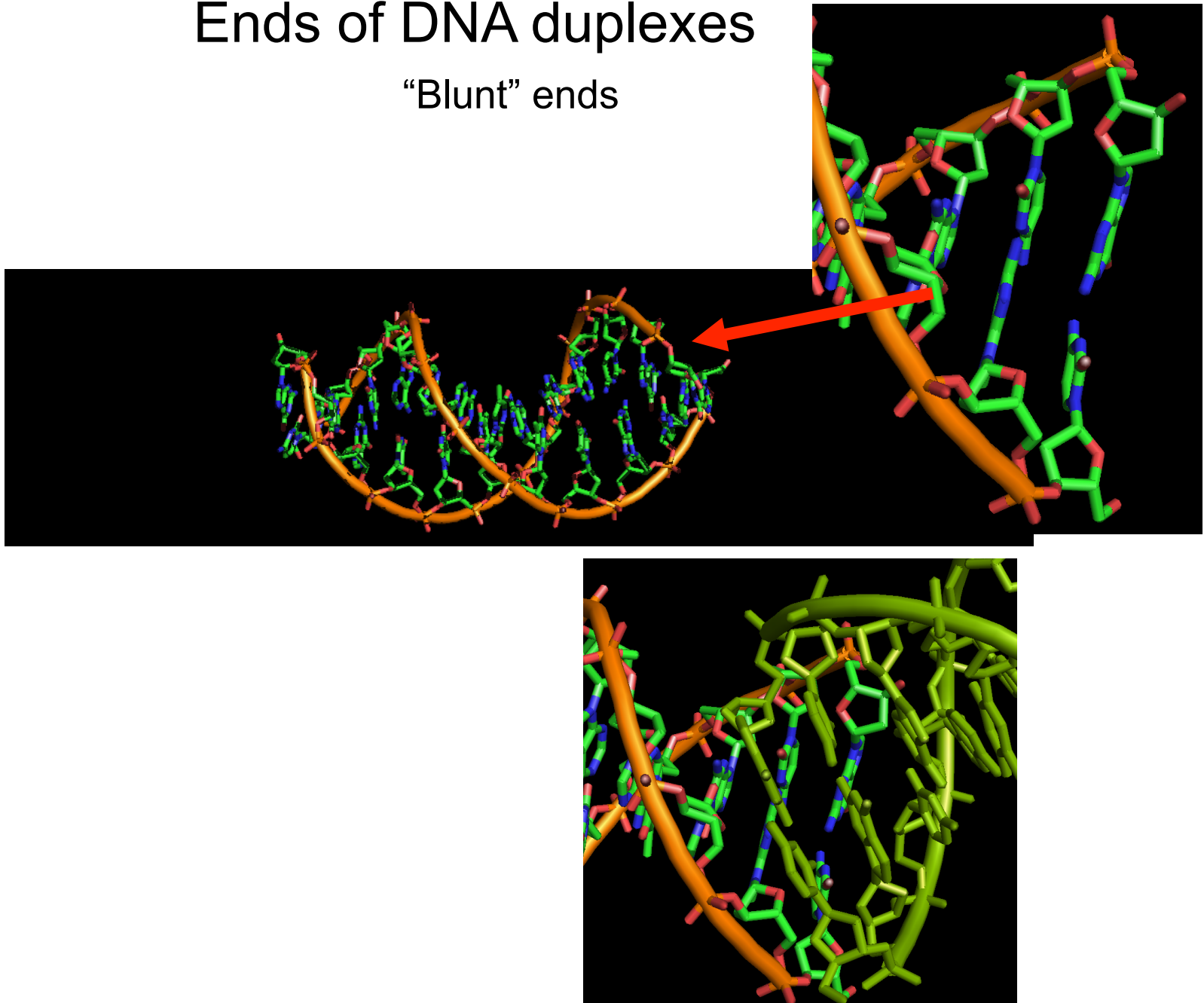
Minor groove depth = 13.8\AA

Major groove depth = 3.7\AA



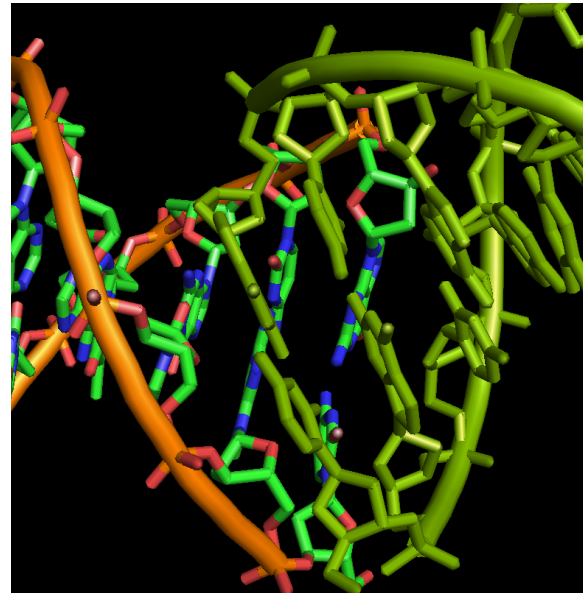
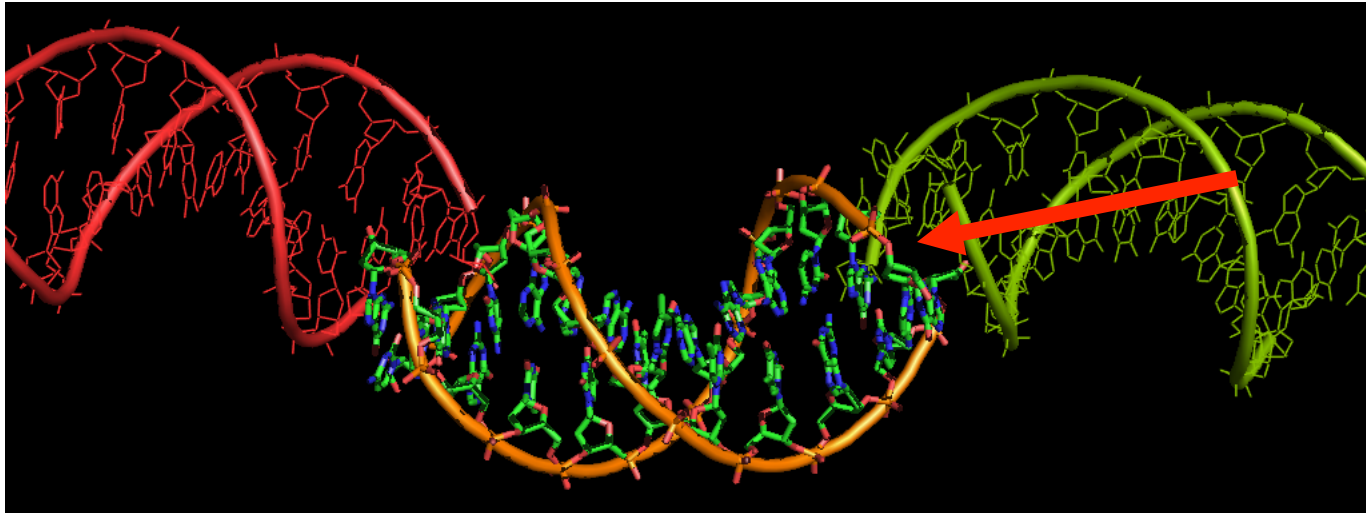
Ends of DNA duplexes

“Blunt” ends

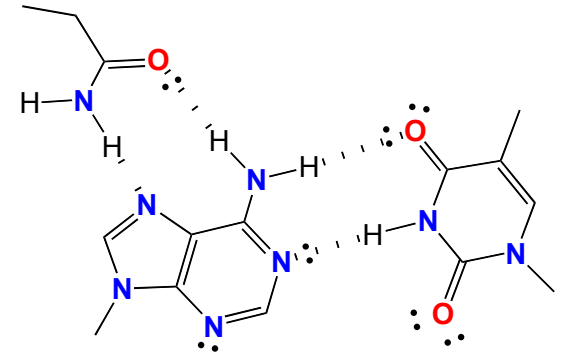
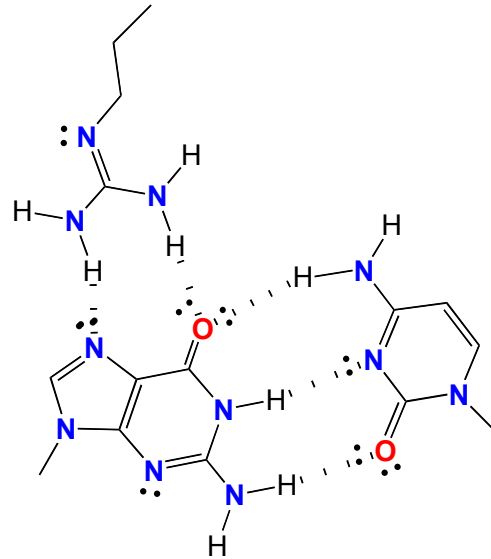


Ends of DNA duplexes

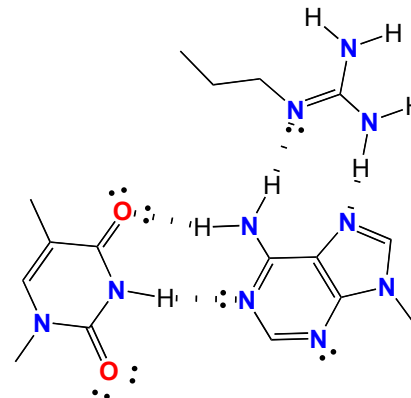
“Blunt” ends



Protein - Nucleic Acid Interactions



Major Groove
Interactions



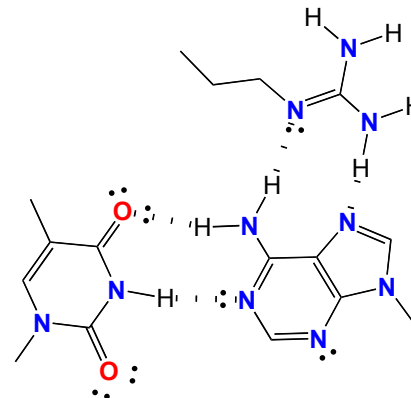
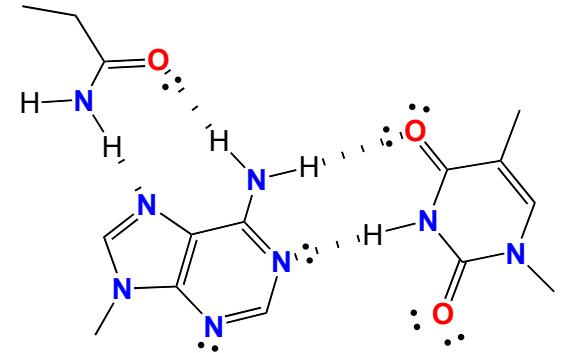
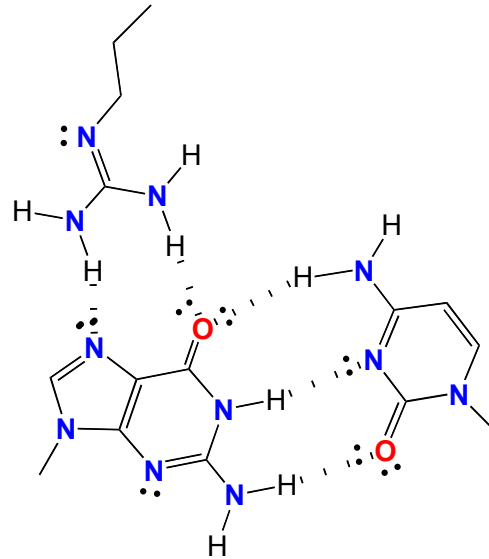
Protein - Nucleic Acid Interactions

Gln

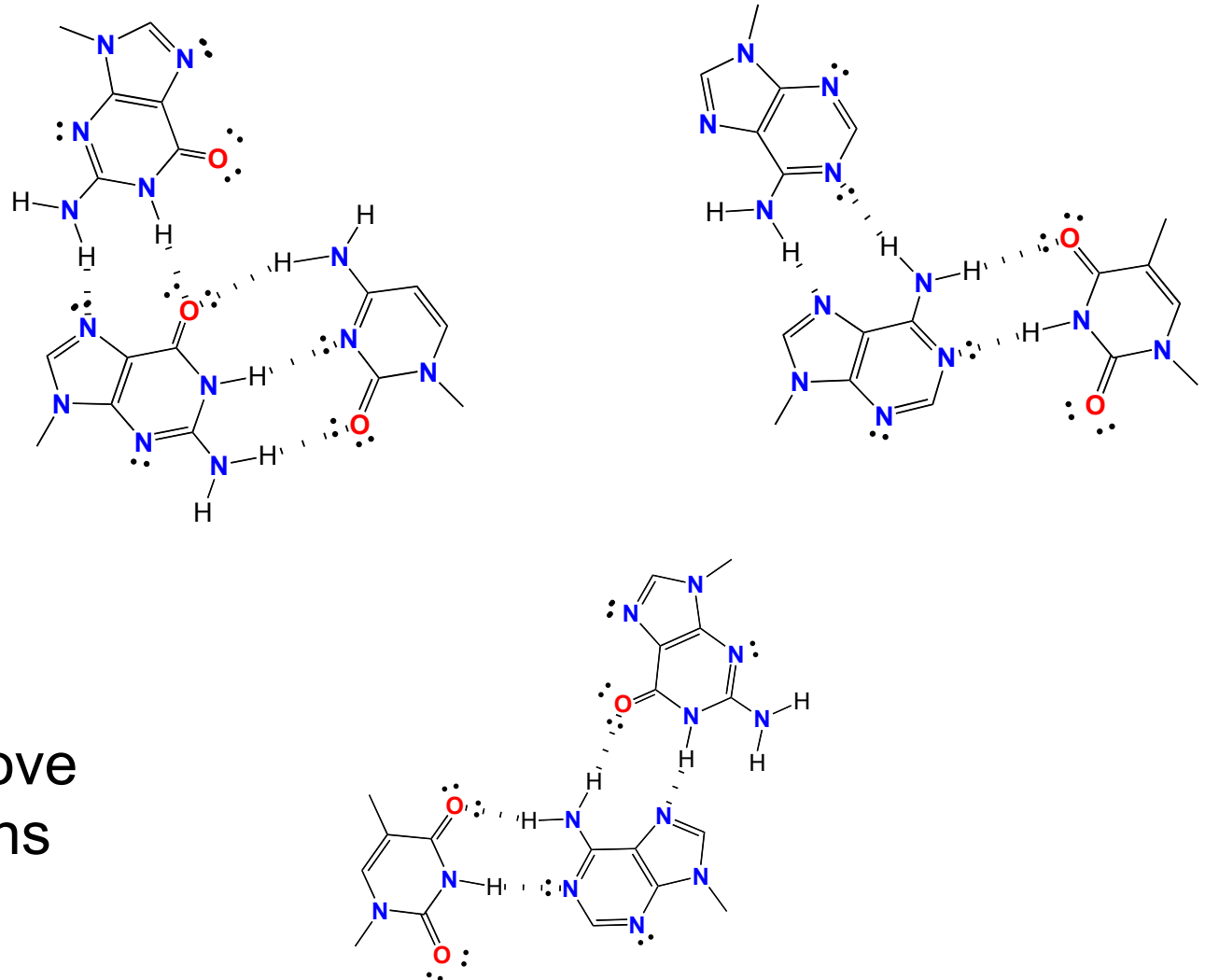
Asn

Arg

Major Groove
Interactions



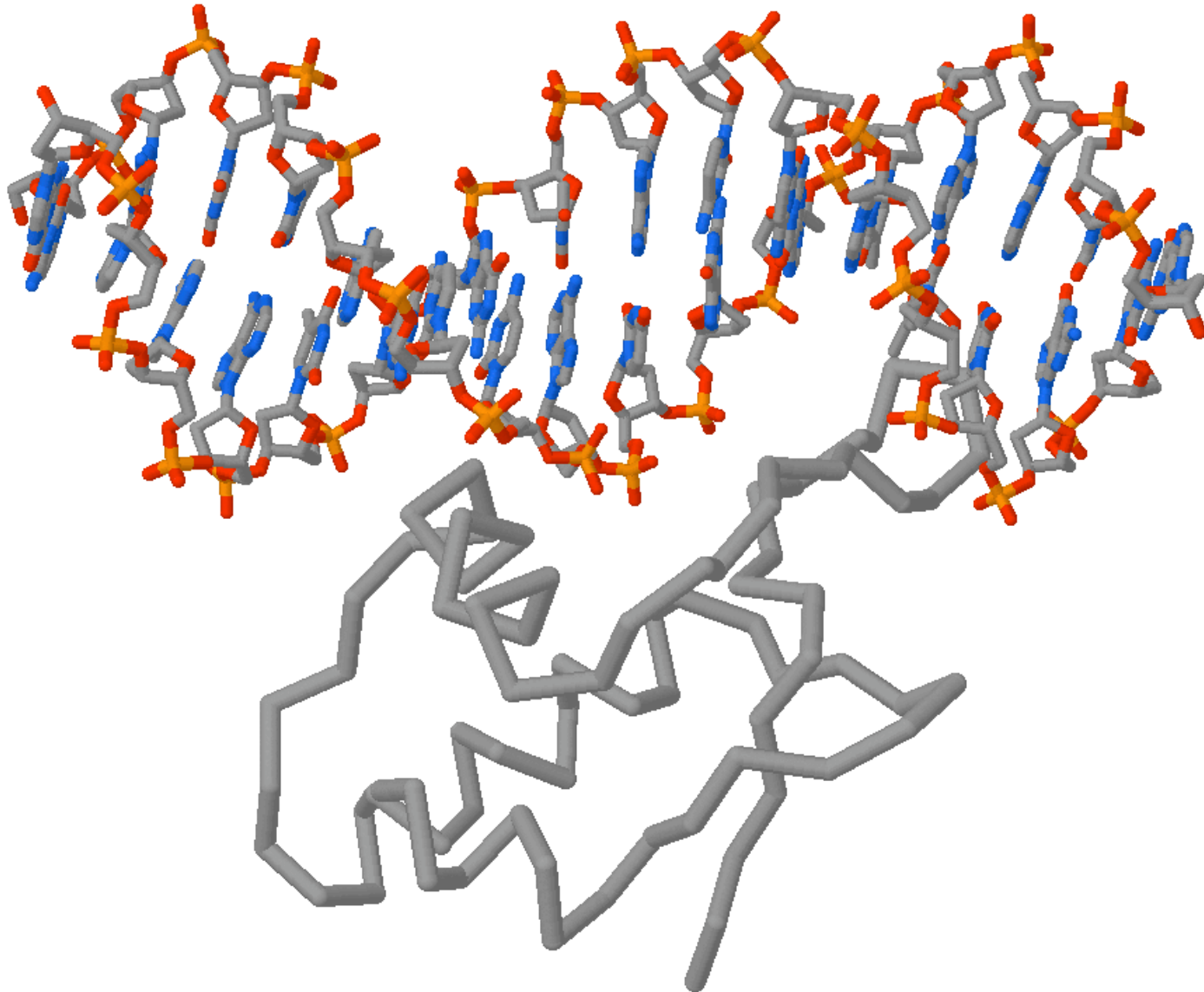
Nucleic Acid “Triples / Platforms”



Major Groove
Interactions

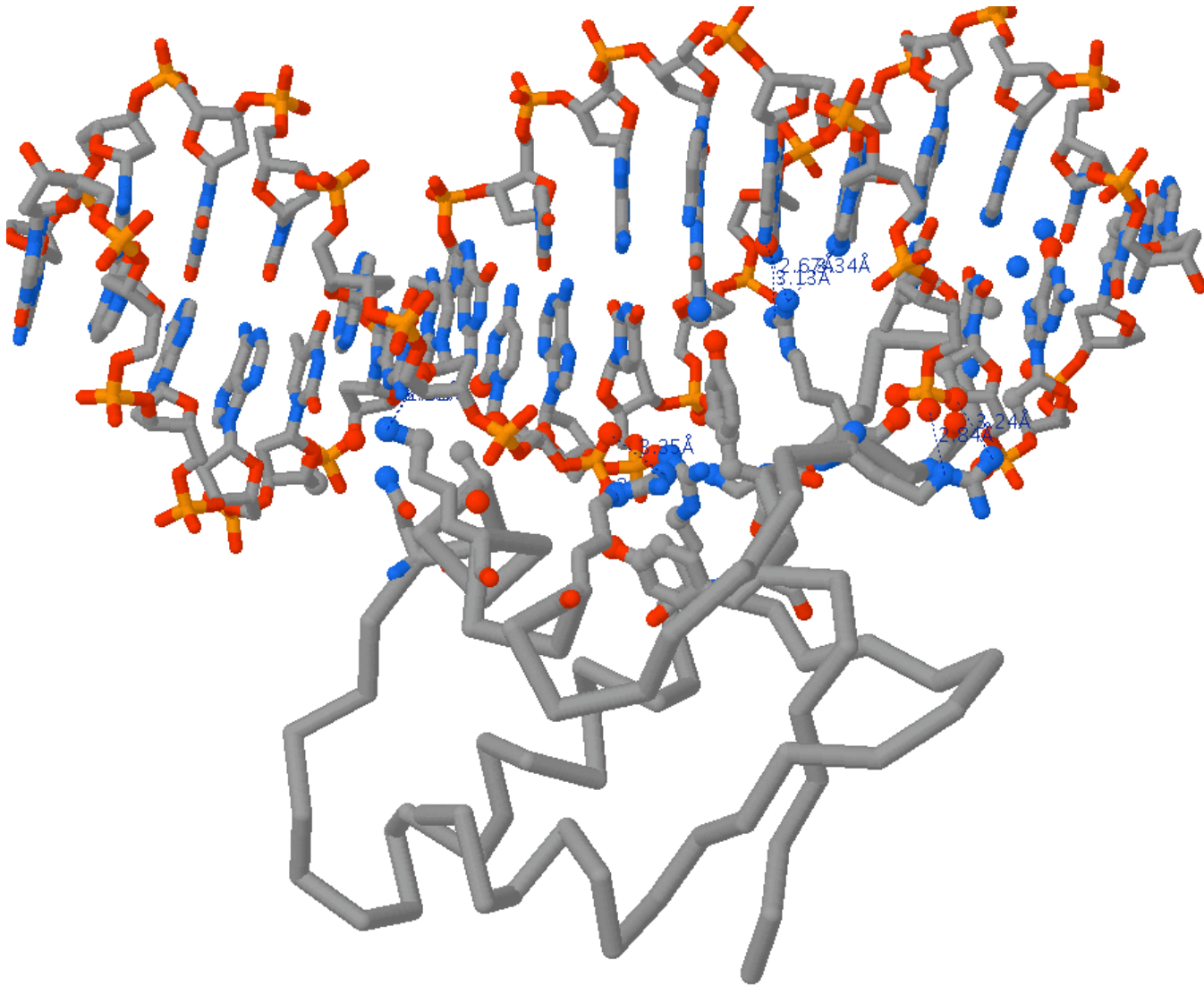
Winged Helix DNA Binding Domain

Classic helix-turn-helix



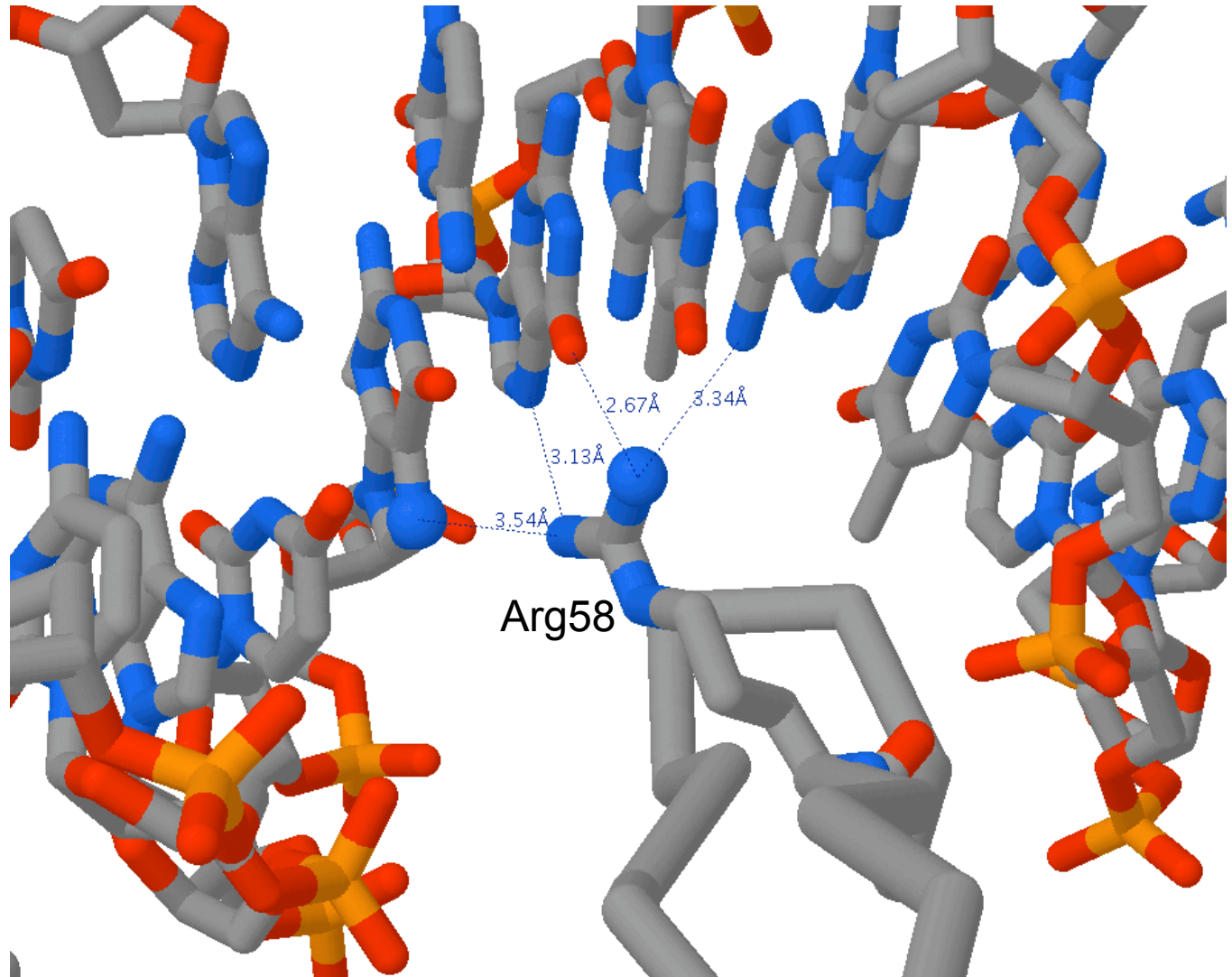
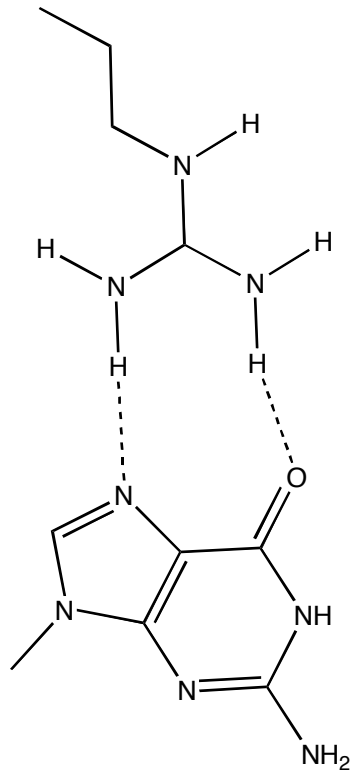
Winged Helix DNA Binding Domain

Classic helix-turn-helix



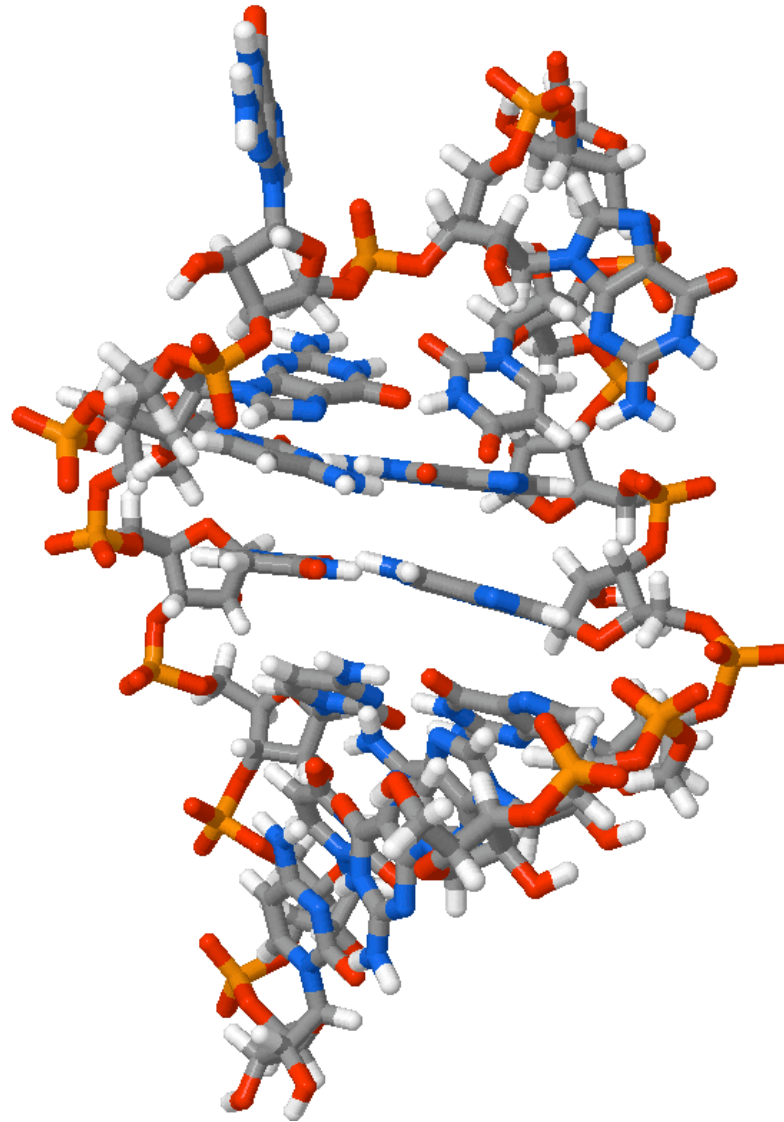
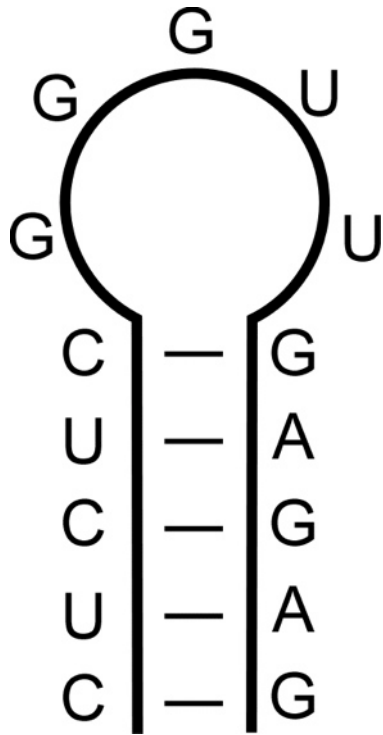
Winged Helix DNA Binding Domain

Classic helix-turn-helix

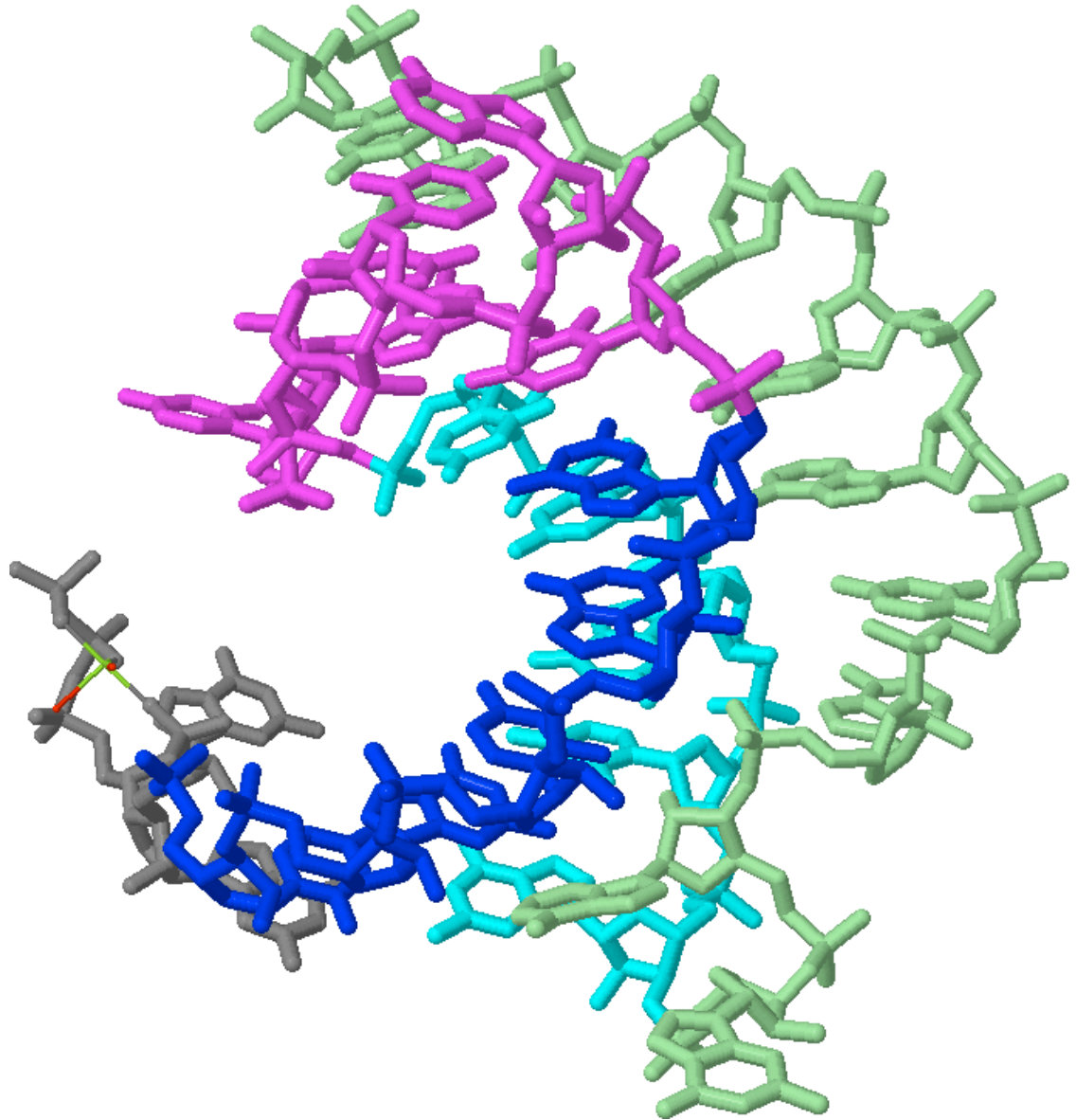
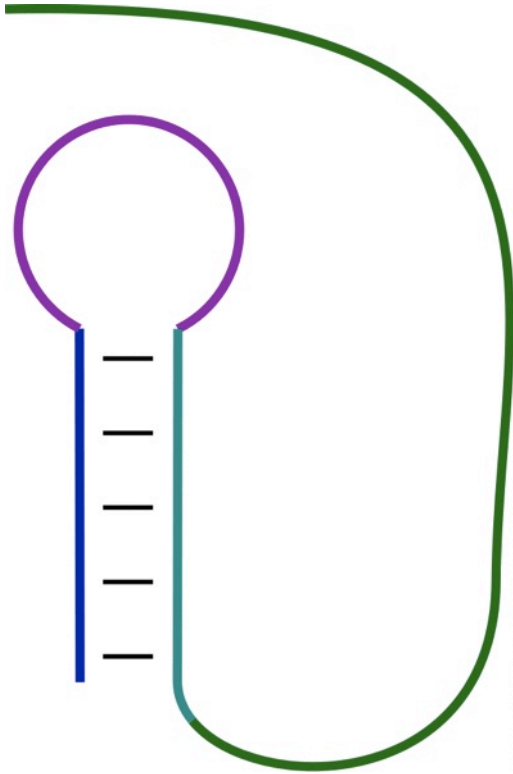


Hrfx1 bound to its X-box binding site

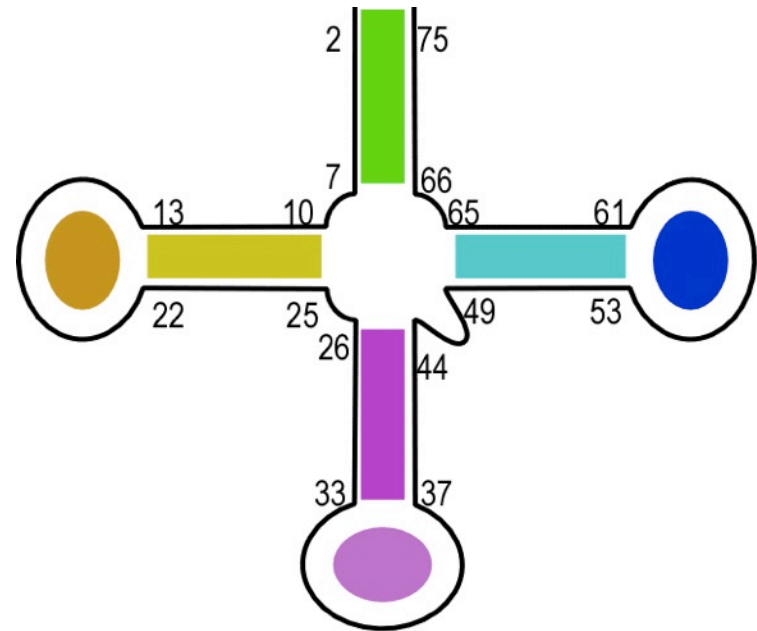
Simple Structure - Hairpin



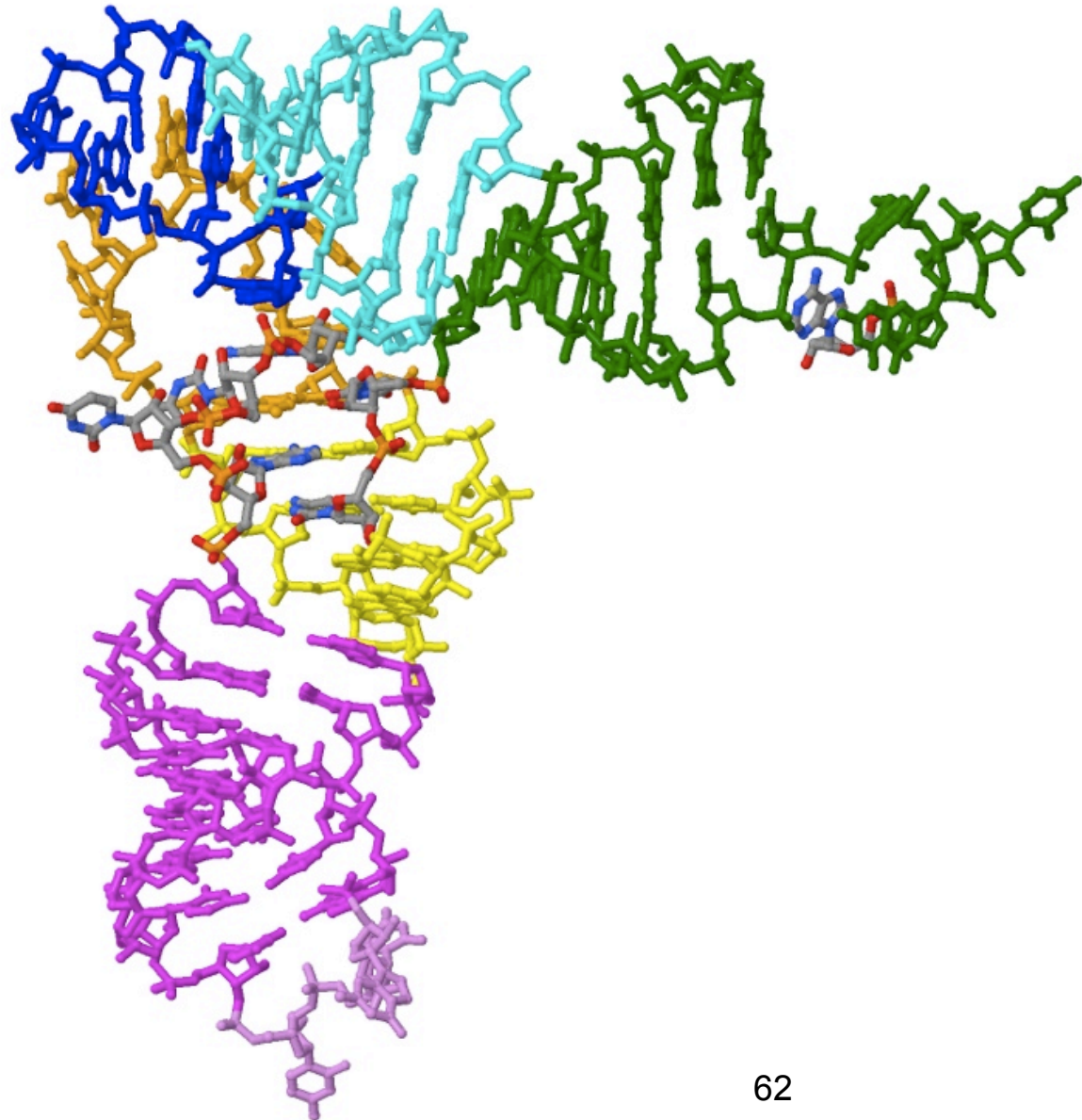
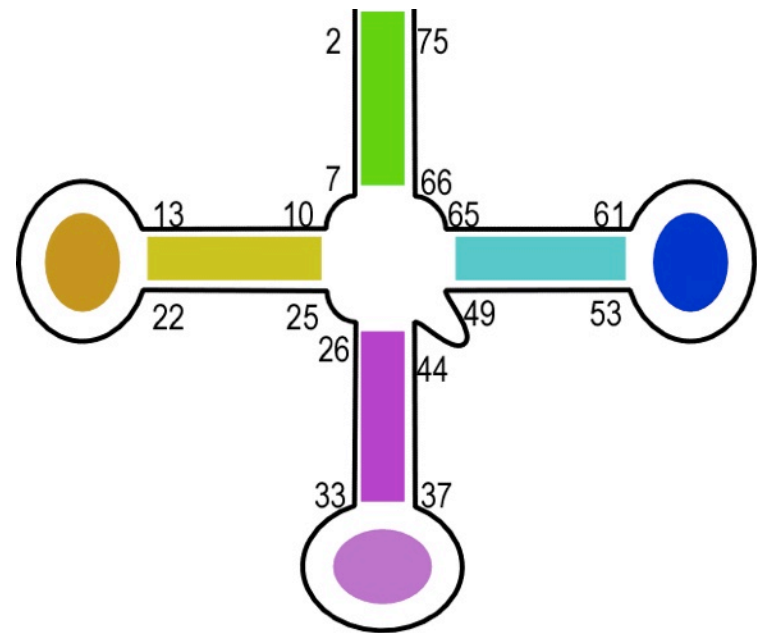
Classic Structure - Pseudoknot



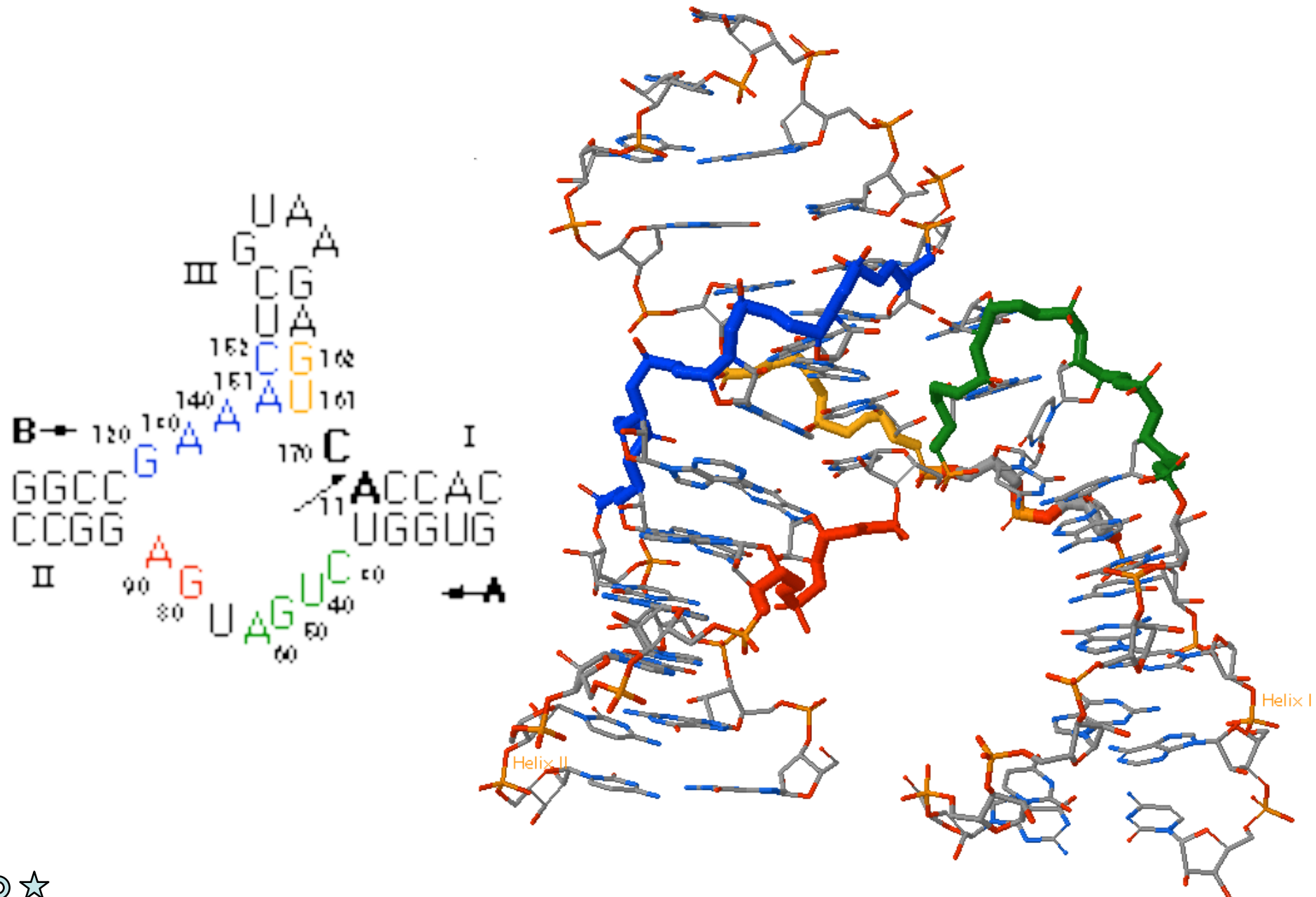
tRNA



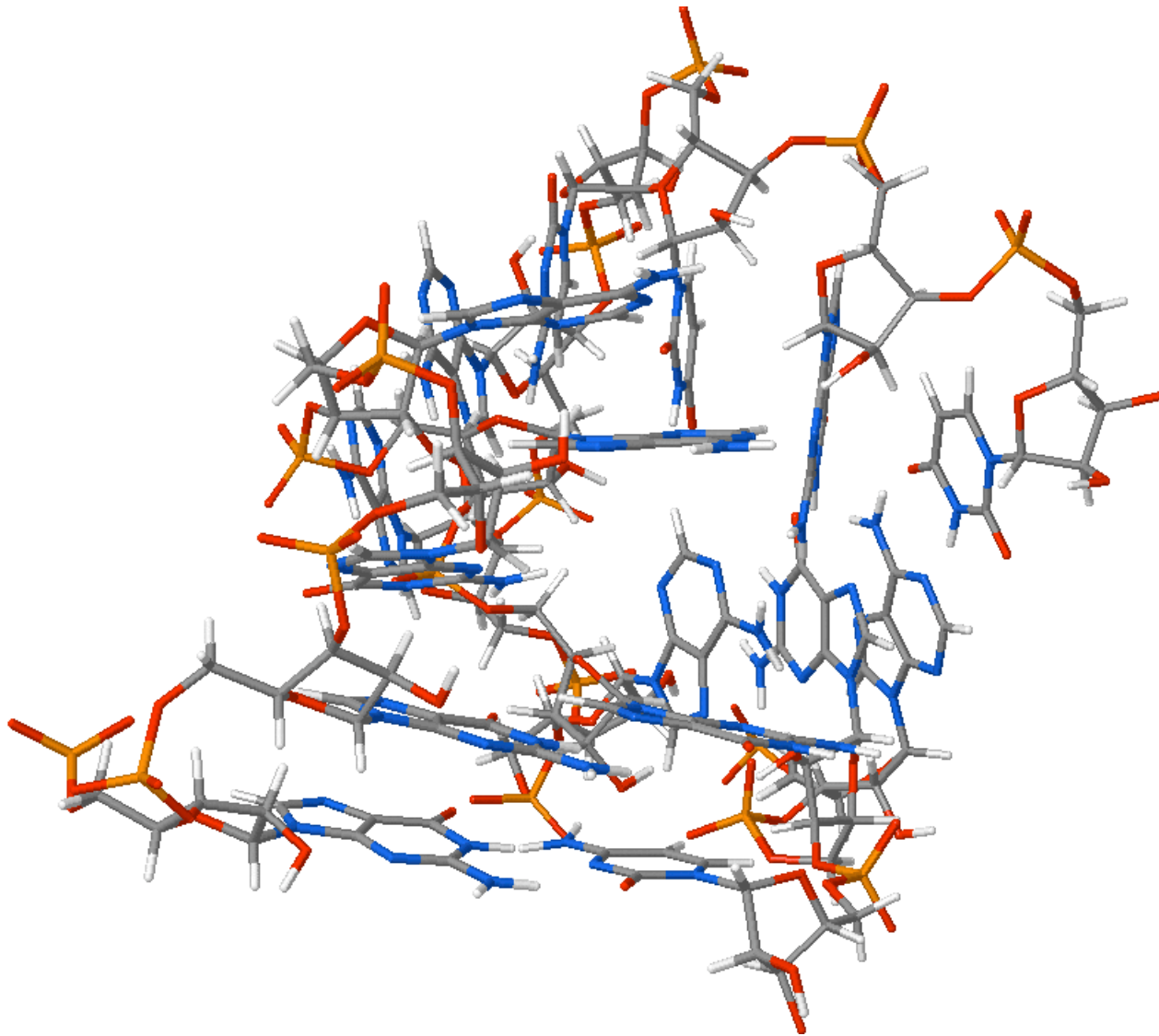
tRNA



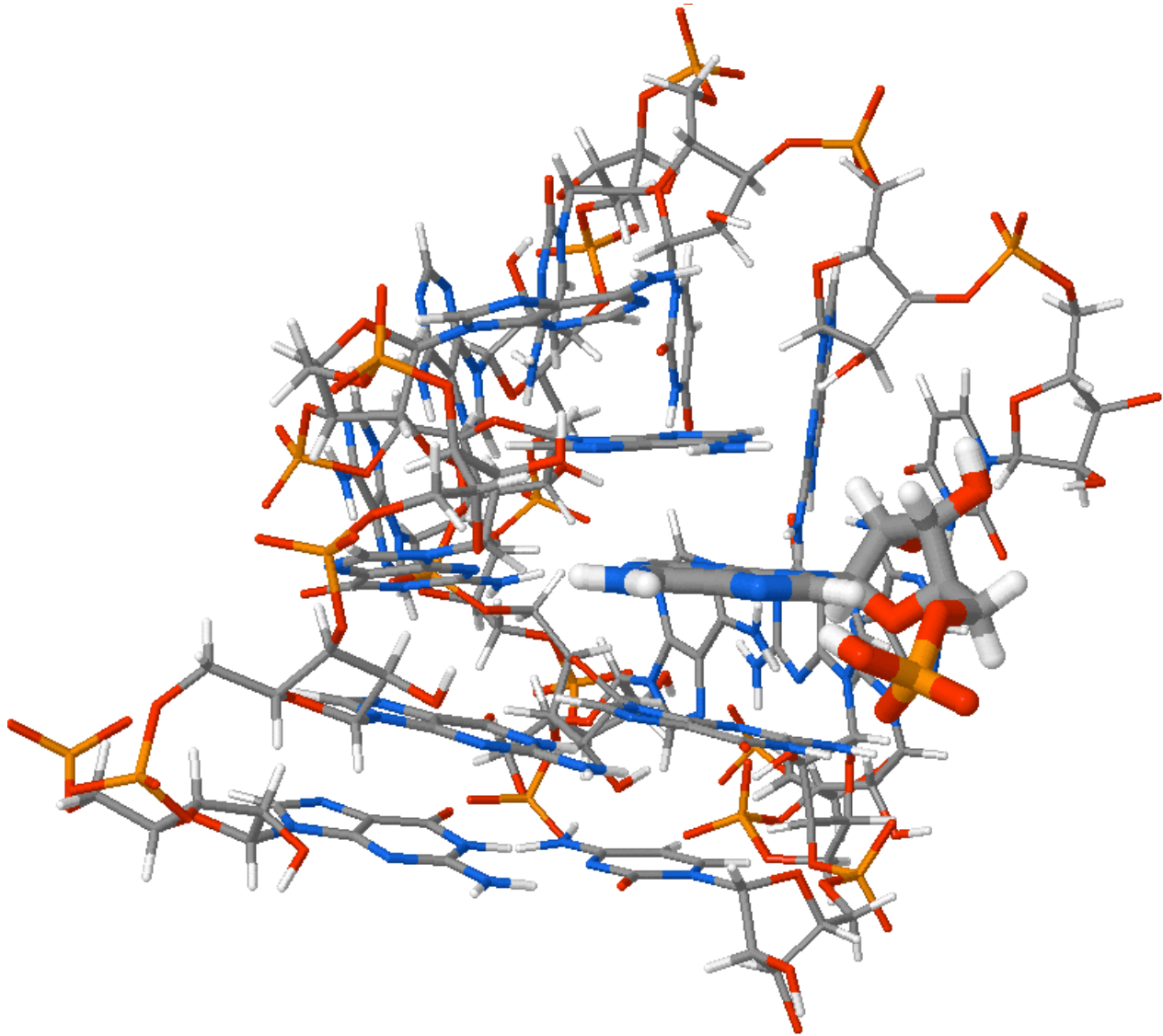
Hammerhead Ribozyme



AMP Aptamer



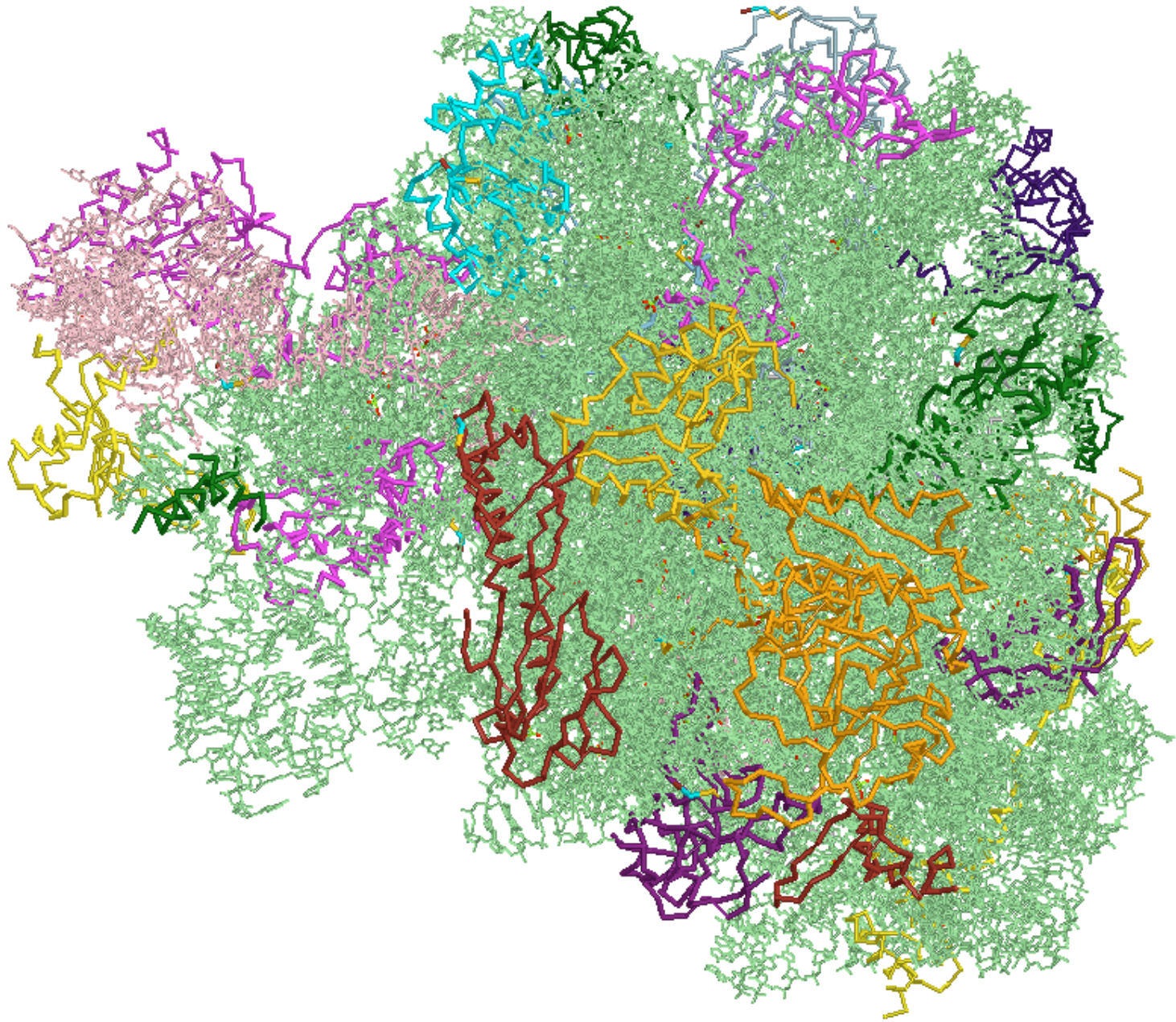
AMP Aptamer



RNA

Ribosome

An RNA machine with protein cofactors



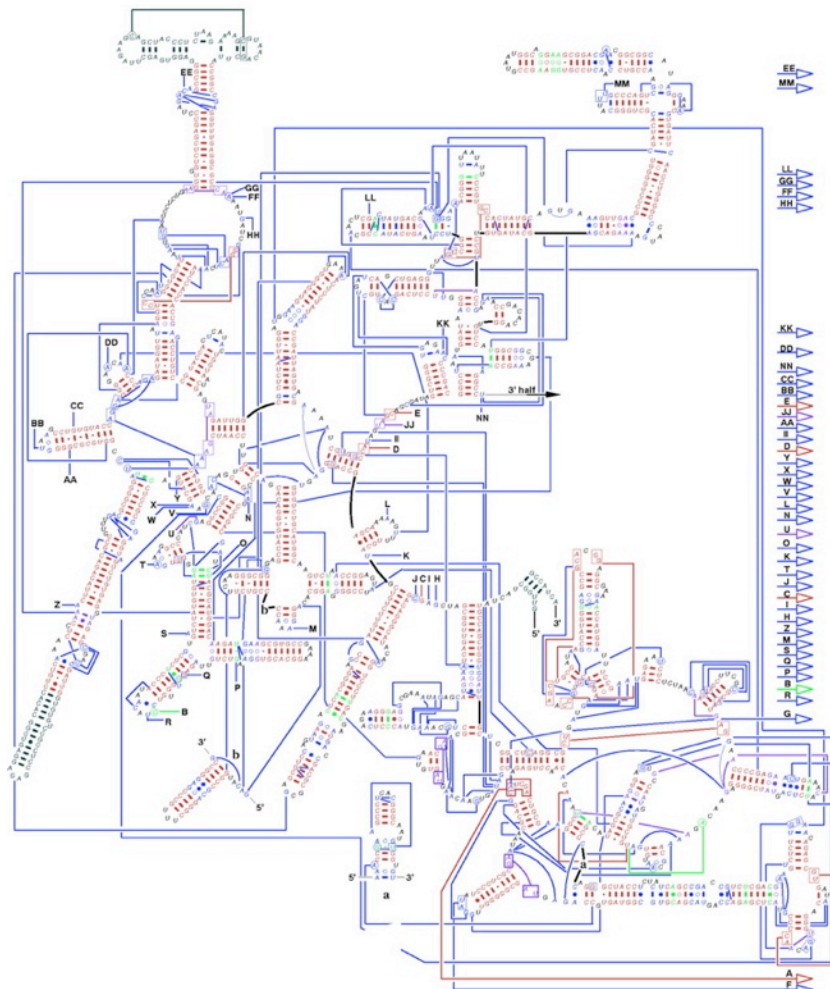
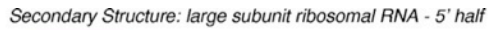
Ribosome - Secondary Structure

Science 289(5481), 905 - 920, 2000

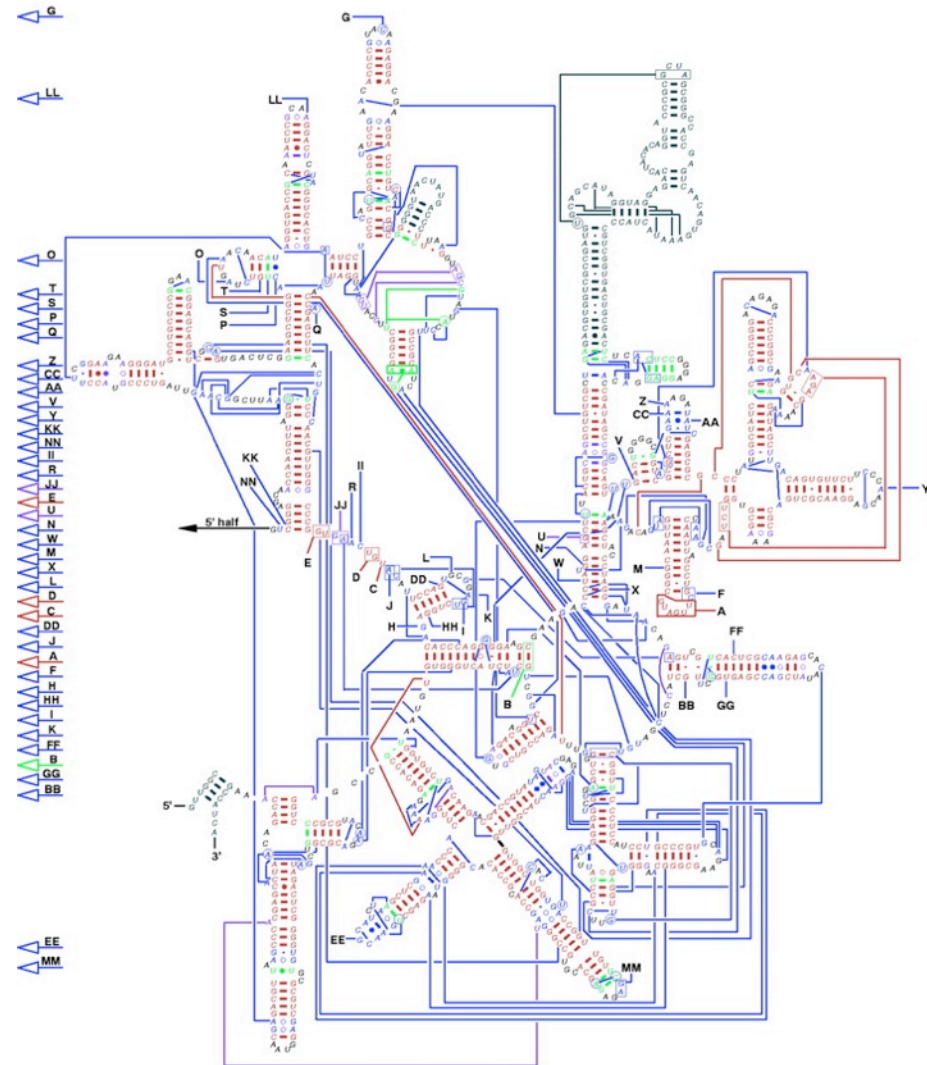
The Complete Atomic Structure of the Large Ribosomal Subunit at 2.4 Å Resolution

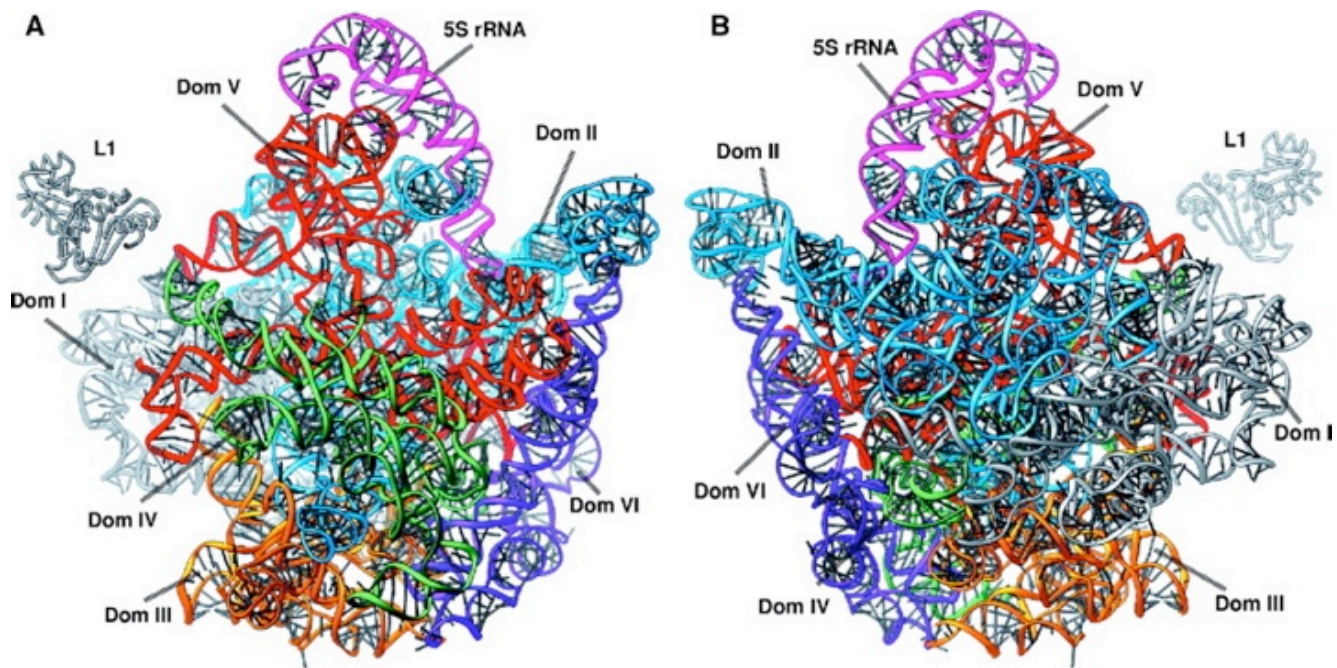
Ban, Nissen, Hansen, Moore, & Steitz

Secondary Structure: large subunit ribosomal RNA - 3' half

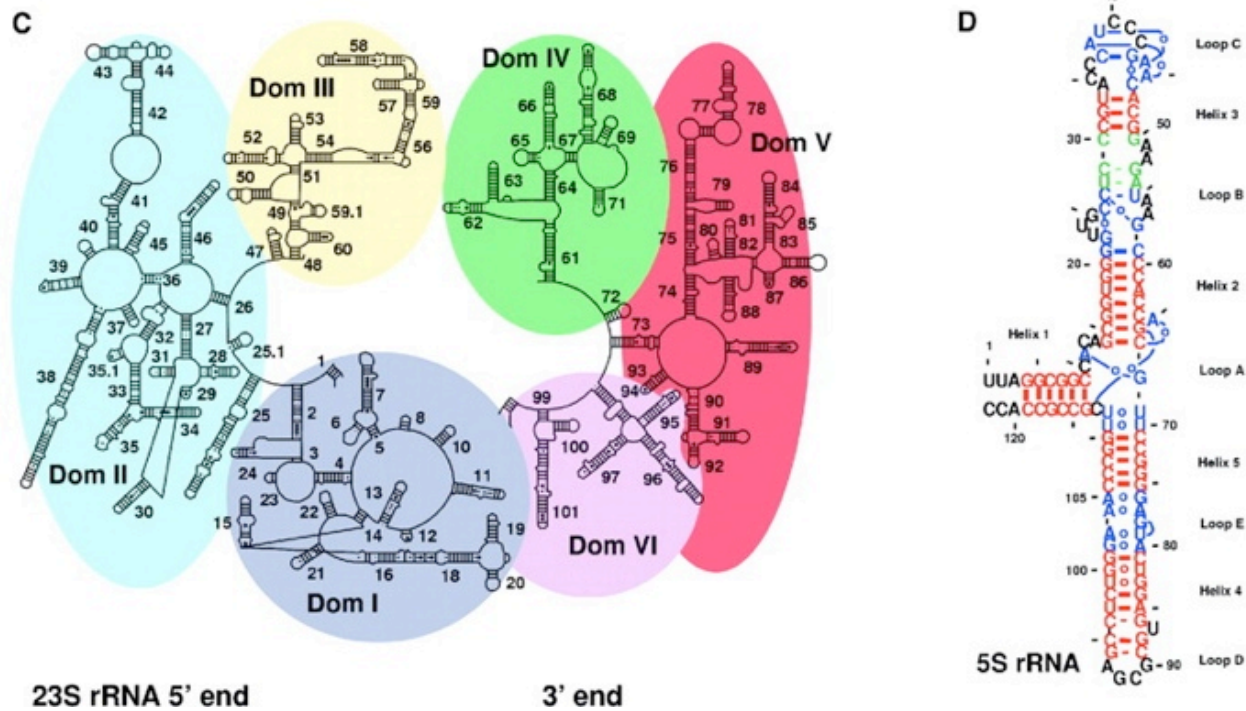


Secondary Structure: large subunit ribosomal RNA - 3' half

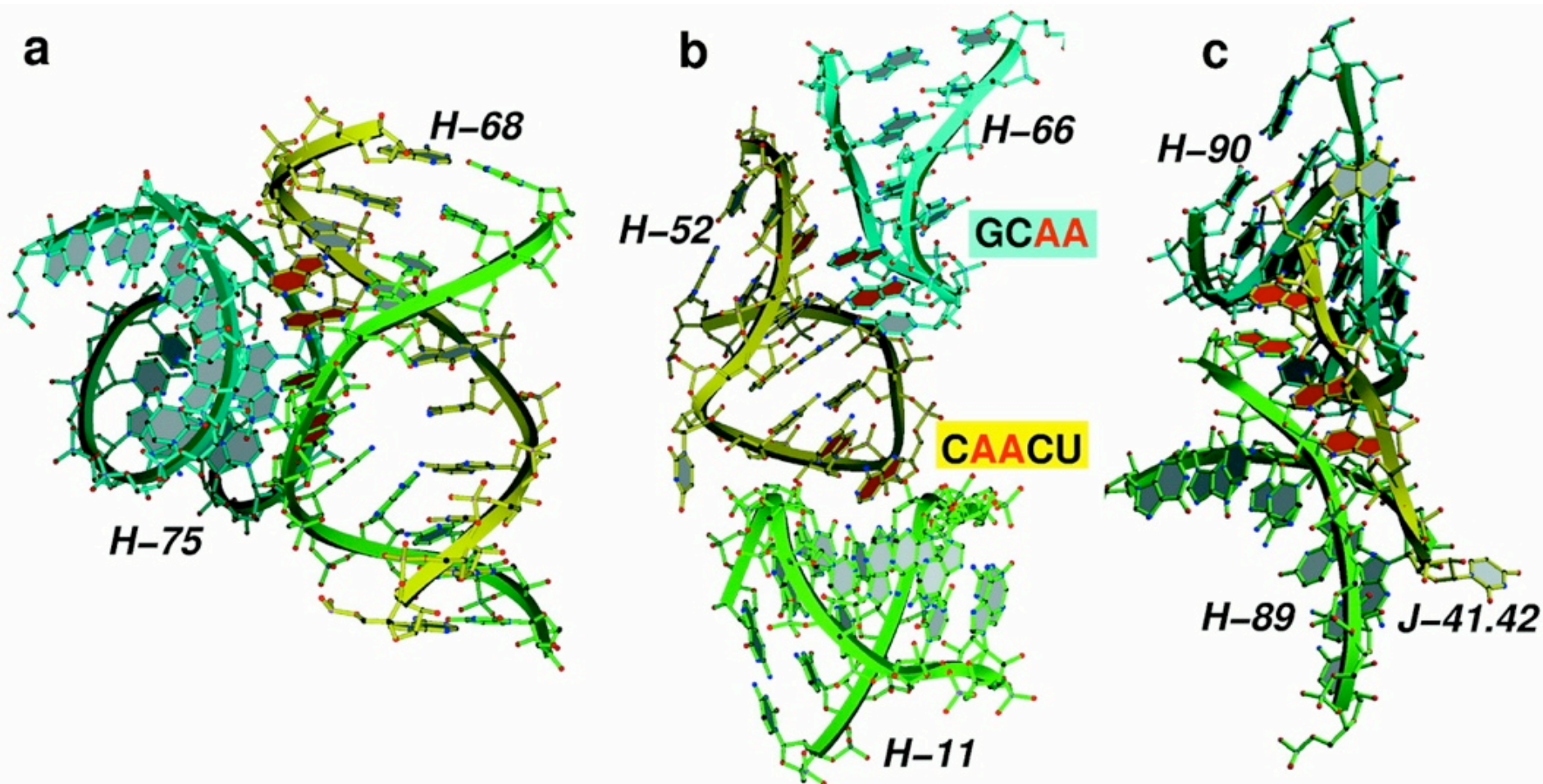


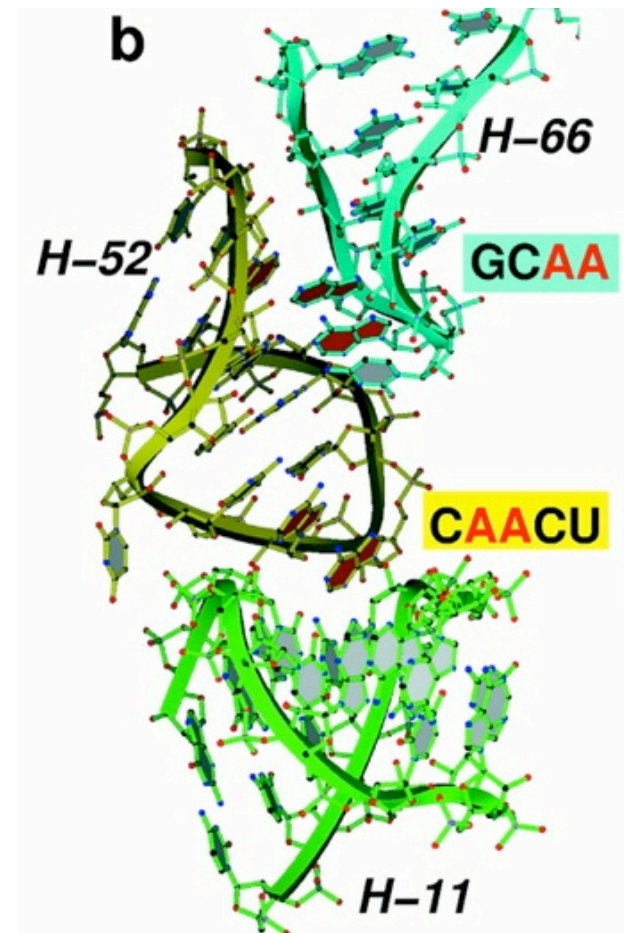
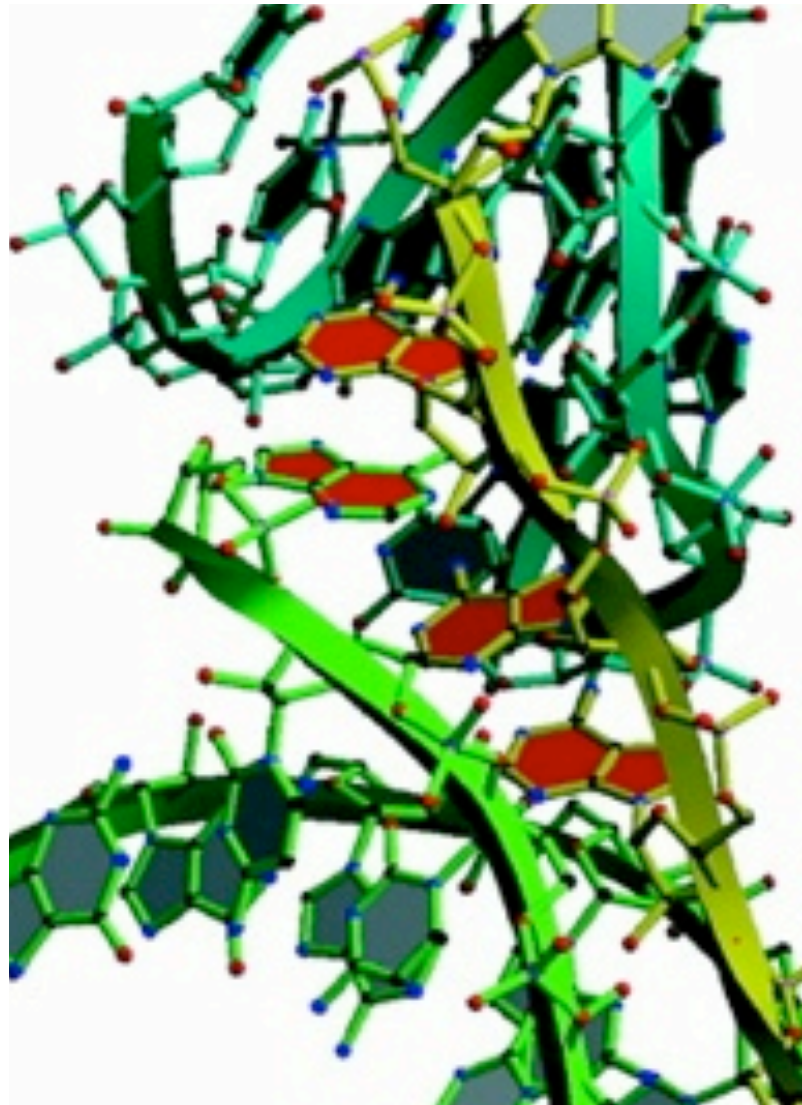


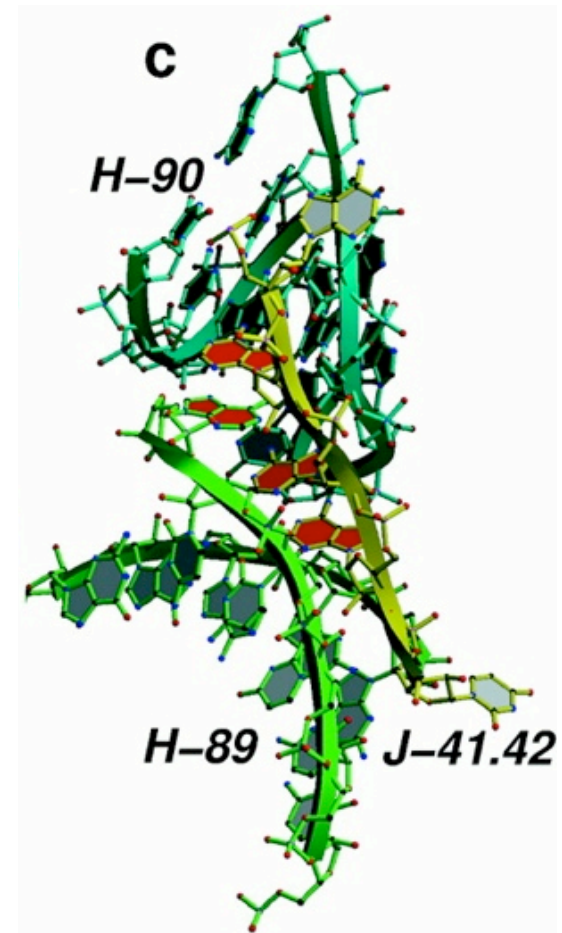
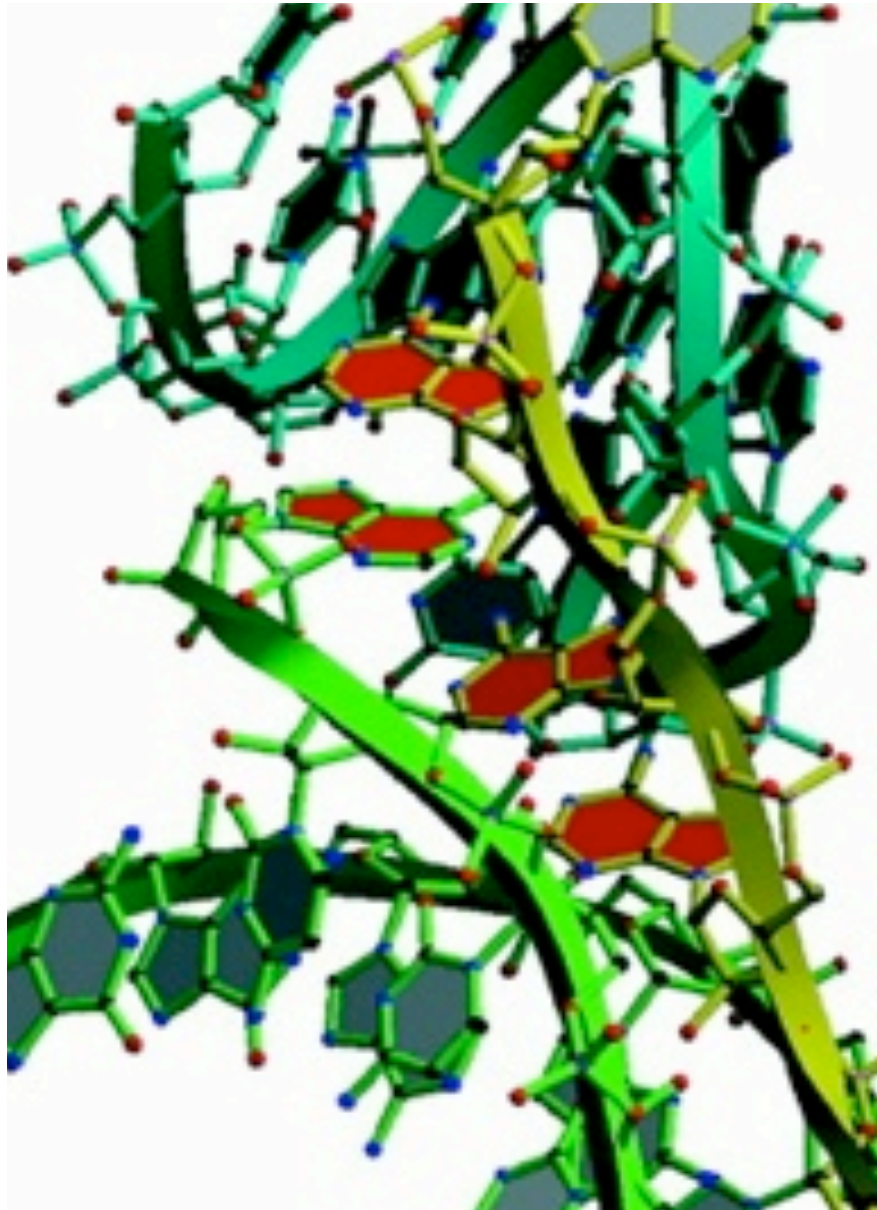
Science 289(5481), 905 - 920, 2000

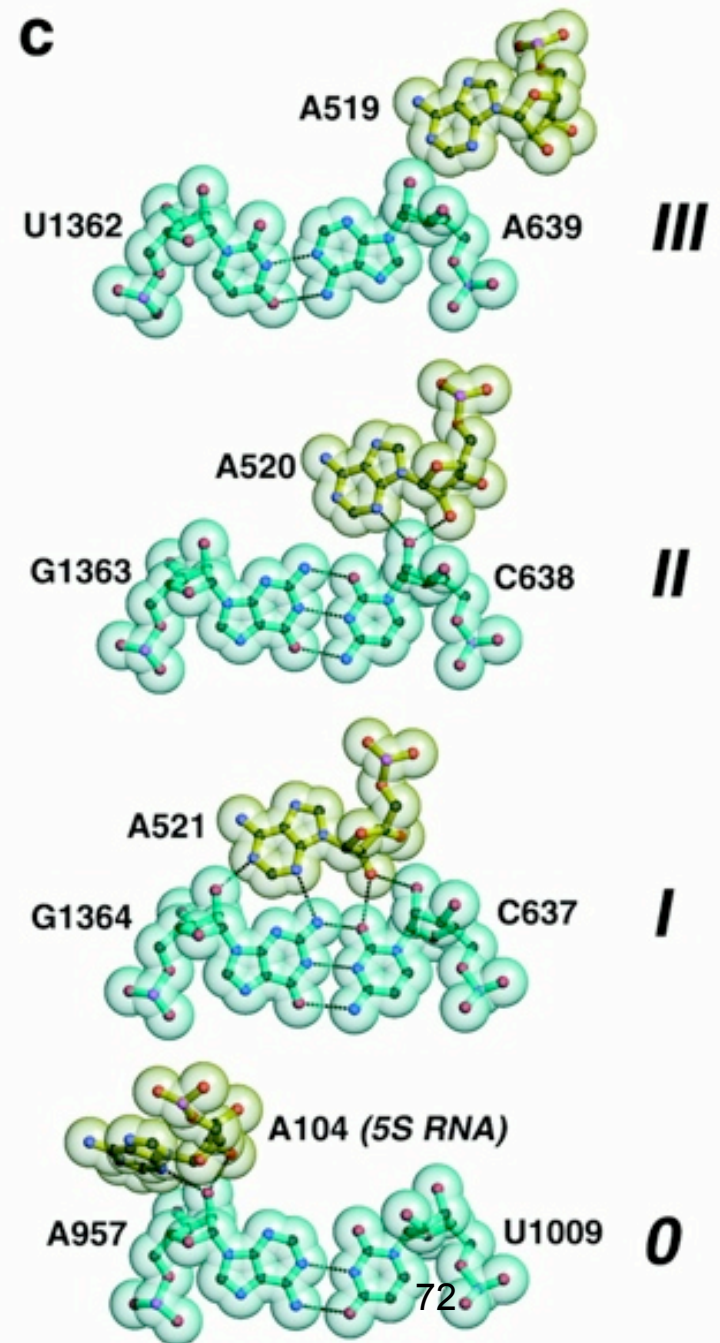
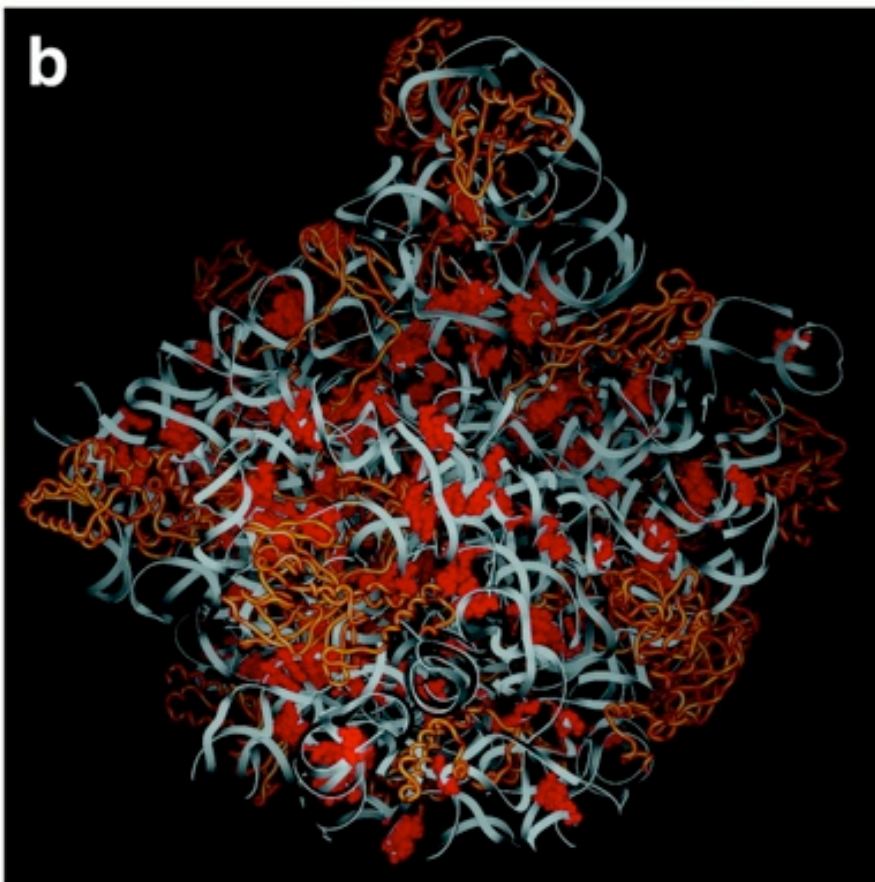
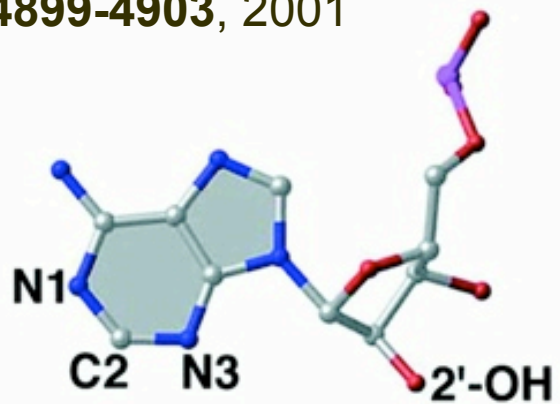


The Ribosome: a wealth of RNA structure





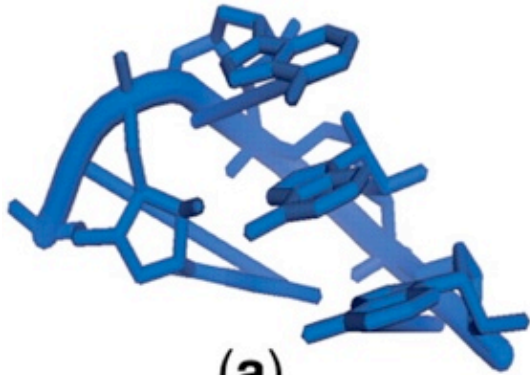




Structural Motifs

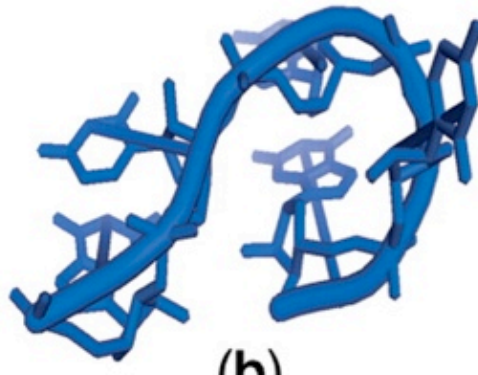
Nucleic Acids Research, 2009, Vol. 37, No. 4 e29

Tetraloop



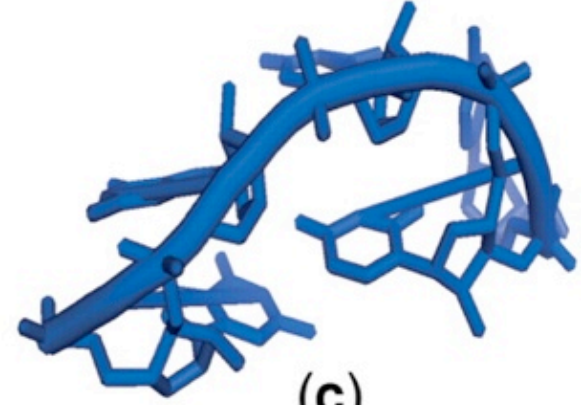
(a)

π -turn

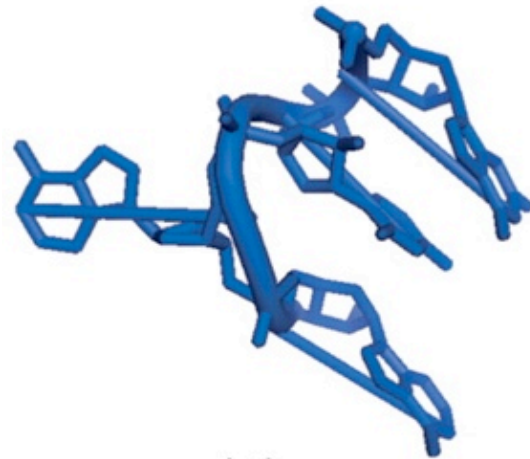


(b)

Ω -turn

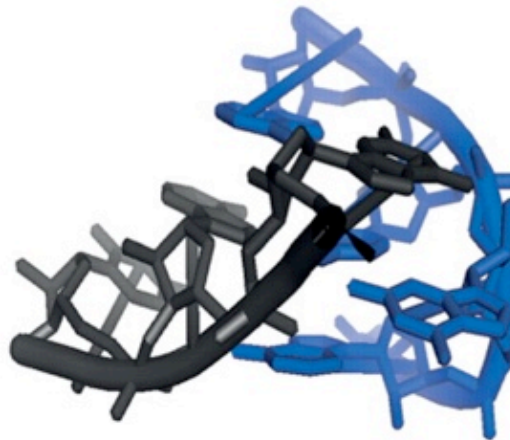


(c)



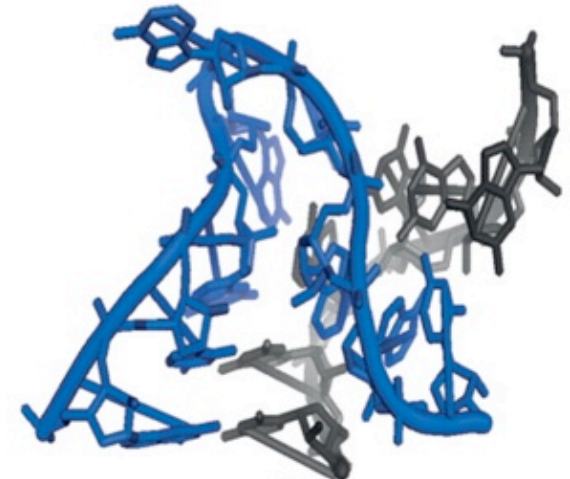
(d)

S2-motif



(e)

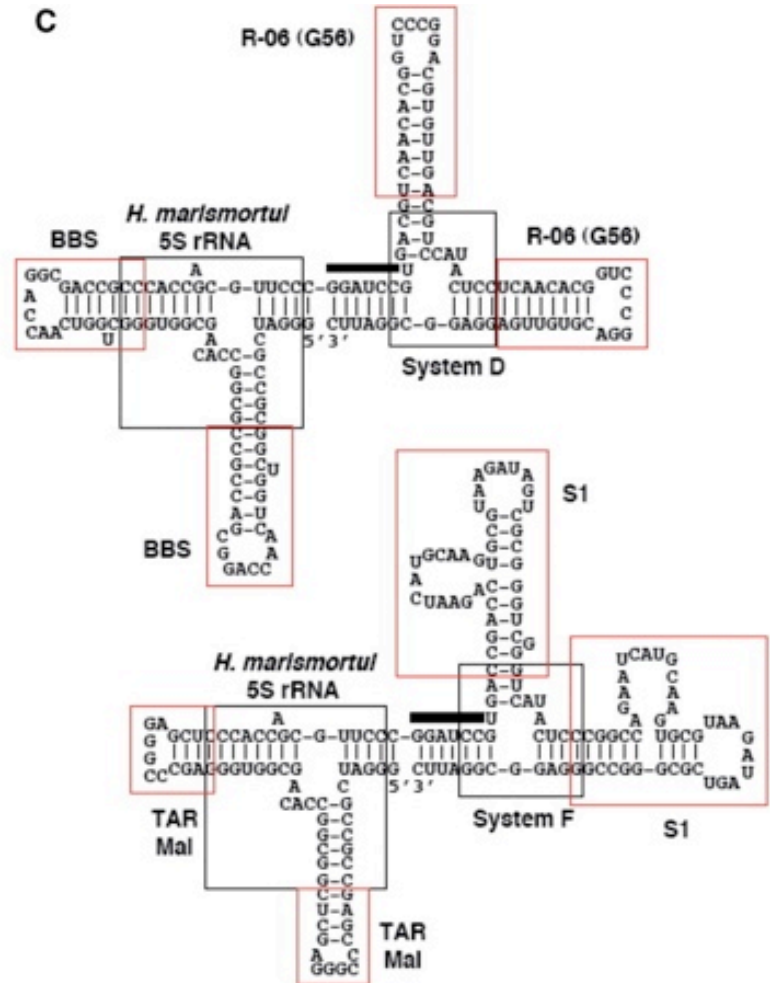
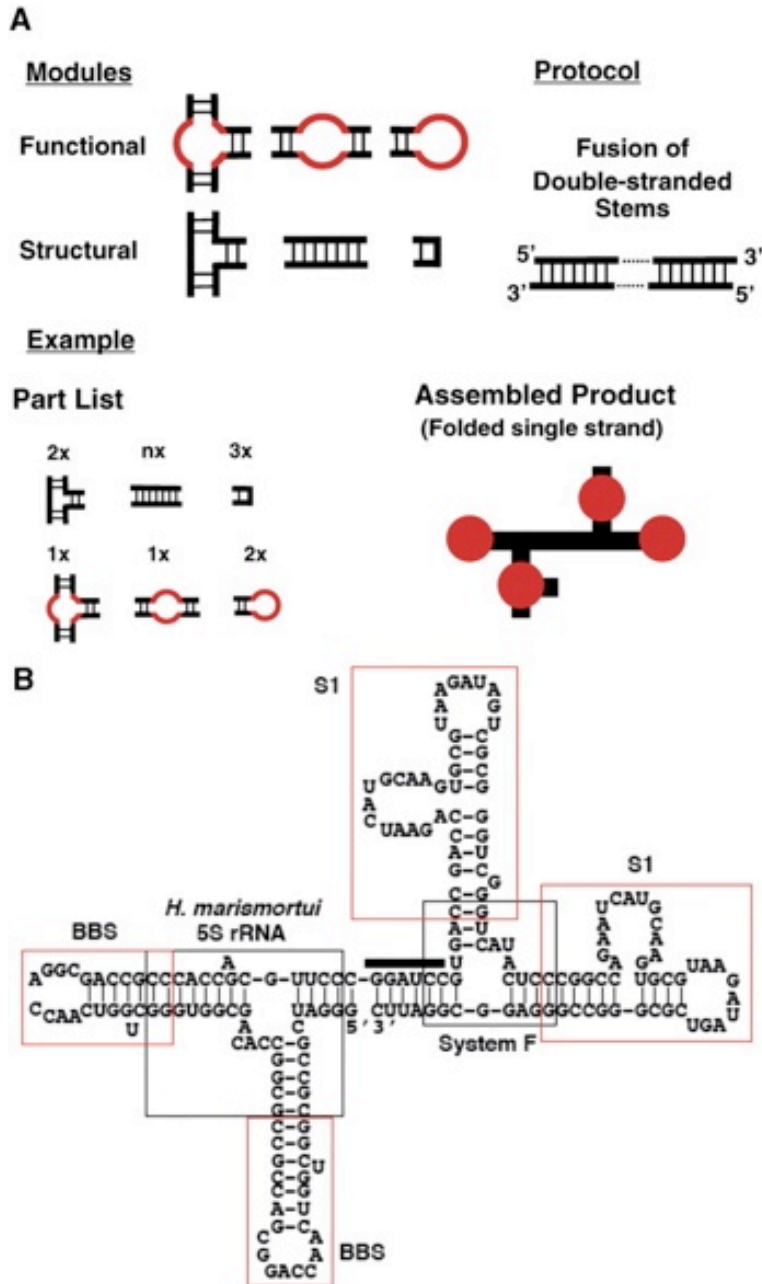
E-loop



(f)

kink-turn

Where to from here? Modular Construction



Xu and Shi, "Composite RNA aptamers as functional mimics of proteins"

Nucleic Acids Research 2009 37(9):e71

Which is more stable?
(which has a higher melting temperature?)

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTC

or

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTA

Which is more stable?
(which has a higher melting temperature?)

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTC

51.6° C

or

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTA

Which is more stable?
(which has a higher melting temperature?)

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTC

51.6° C

or

ACCGCCACCGAAG
TGGCGGTGGCTTA

52.5° C

Calculations from <http://www.idtdna.com/analyzer/Applications/OligoAnalyzer/>