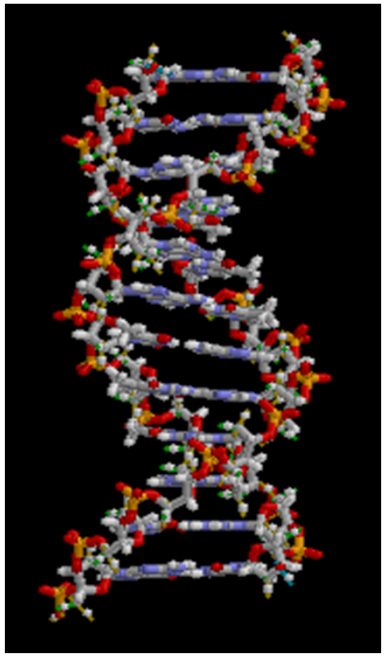
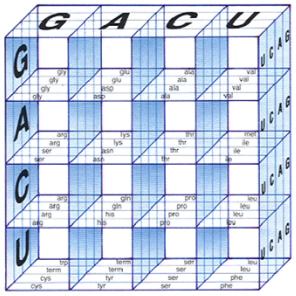
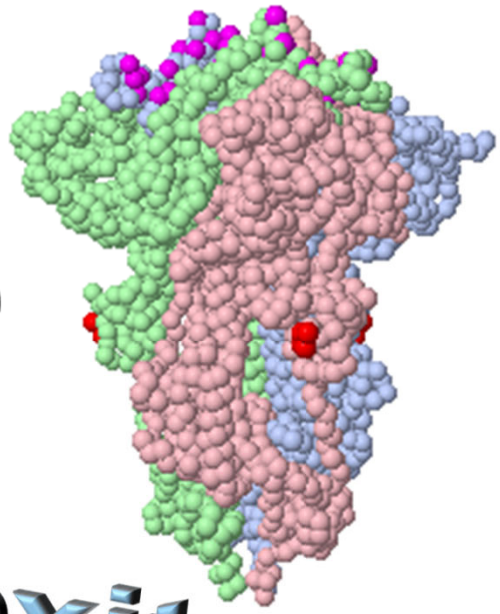
lecture 14: threshold of complexity





Genetic Turing Tape And The threshold of Complexity



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key events coming up

- Labs: 35% (ISE-483)
  - Complete 5 (best 4 graded) assignments based on algorithms presented in class
    - Lab 4 : April 8th
      - Evolutionary Algorithms, (Assignment 4)
        - Delivered by SSIE583 Group 2
        - Due April 15th
    - Lab 5: April 29th
      - Ant Clustering Algorithm, (Assignment 5)
        - Delivered by Group 1
        - Due May 6th
- SSIE – 583 -Presentation and Discussion: 25%
  - Present and lead the discussion of an article related to the class materials
    - Enginet students post/send video or join by Zoom
  - April 25th or April 29th
    - Conrad, M. [1990]. "The geometry of evolution." *Biosystems* **24**: 61-81.
      - Mario Franco
    - Stanley, Kenneth O., Jeff Clune, Joel Lehman, and Risto Miikkulainen. "Designing Neural Networks through Neuroevolution." *Nature Machine Intelligence* **1**, no. 1 (January 2019): 24–35.
      - Jessica Lasebikan
    - Lindgren, K. [1991]."Evolutionary Phenomena in Simple Dynamics." In: *Artificial Life II*. Langton et al (Eds). Addison-wesley, pp. 295-312.
      - Akshay Gangadhar
    - Salahshour, Mohammad. "Interaction between Games Give Rise to the Evolution of Moral Norms of Cooperation." *PLOS Computational Biology* **18**, no. 9 (September 29, 2022): e1010429
      - Srikanth Iyer
    - Discussion by all

bit.ly/atBIC

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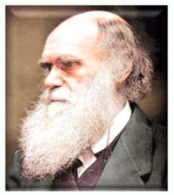
until now

- Class Book
  - Floreano, D. and C. Mattiussi [2008]. *Bio-Inspired Artificial Intelligence: Theories, Methods, and Technologies*. MIT Press. Preface**, Chapters 1 and 4.**
- Lecture notes
  - Chapter 1: What is Life?
  - Chapter 2: The logical Mechanisms of Life
  - Chapter 3: Formalizing and Modeling the World
  - Chapter 4: Self-Organization and Emergent Complex Behavior
  - Chapter 5: Reality is Stranger than Fiction
  - Chapter 6: Von Neumann and Natural Selection
    - posted online @ http://informatics.indiana.edu/rocha/i-bic
- Papers and other materials
  - Optional
    - Nunes de Castro, Leandro [2006]. *Fundamentals of Natural Computing: Basic Concepts, Algorithms, and Applications*. Chapman & Hall.
      - Chapter 2, 7, 8
      - **Chapter 3, sections 3.1 to 3.5**



- Projects
  - Due by **May 8th** in Brightspace, "Final Project Paper" assignment
    - ALIFE 2023
      - Not to submit to actual conference due date (April 3rd , 2024)
      - https://2024.alife.org/
      - 8 pages, author guidelines:
      - https://2024.alife.org/call_paper.html
      - MS Word and Latex/Overleaf templates
    - Preliminary ideas **by March 15**
      - Submit to "Project Idea" assignment in Brightspace.
  - Individual or group
    - With very definite tasks assigned per member of group

ALIFE 2024

Tackle a real problem using bio-inspired algorithms, such as those used in the labs.

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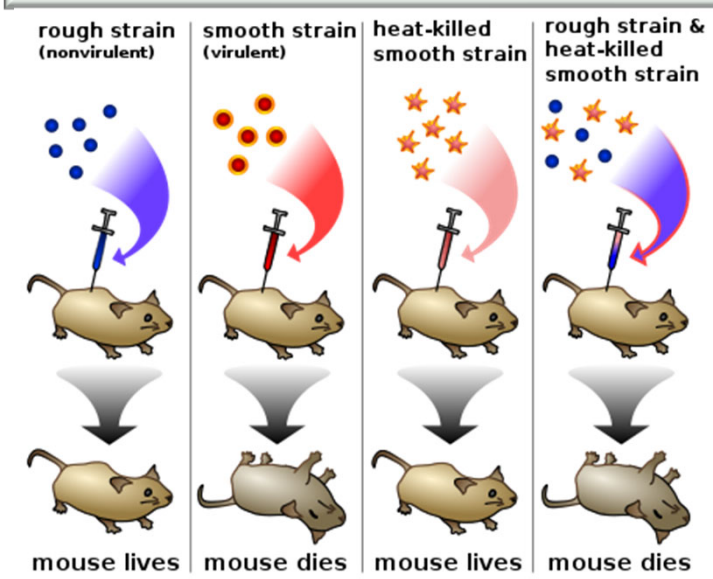
identifying the loci of genetic information

- Frederick Griffith's experiment
  - In 1928: Identified a "transforming principle"
- Avery's experiment
  - Oswald Avery, Colin MacLeod, and Maclyn McCarty
  - 1944: DNA as the loci of "transformation"
    - Chemically knocking off various cellular constituents until trying DNA
    - Considerable resistance in the community accepting this result until the early 1950's (Schrodinger, Delbruck, phage group)



2 different strains of pneumococcus bacteria

initially not well accepted (No auto-catalysis with DNA)

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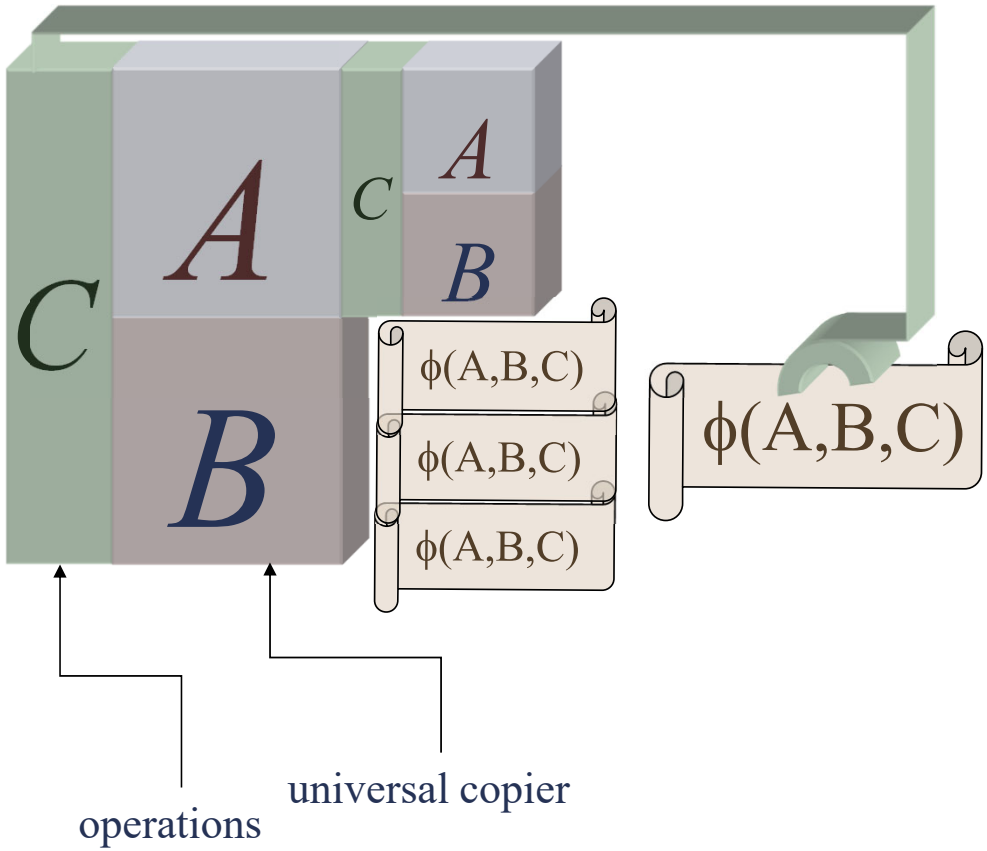
Von Neumann's generalization of Turing's tape

as a general principle (system) of **self-replication**

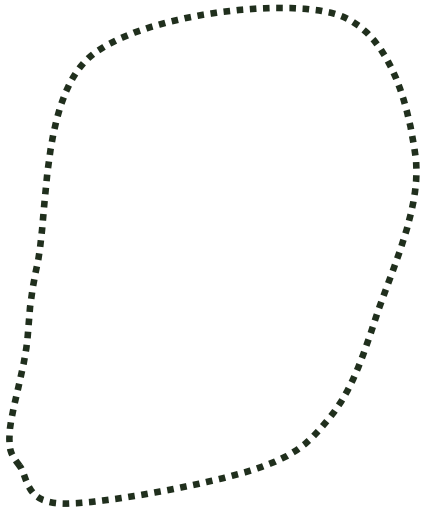


Description is copied **separately**

Construction: decoding/translation (horizontal transmission)

Copy: undecoded/untranslated (vertical Transmission)

code



distinction between *numbers as symbols* and *numbers that do things*.

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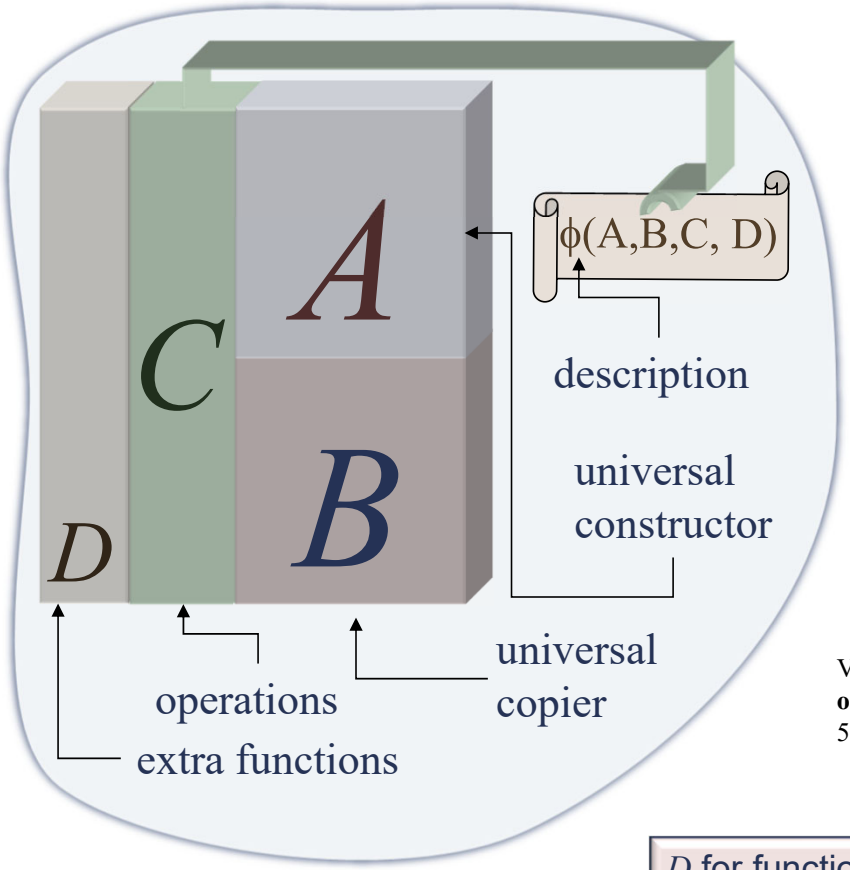
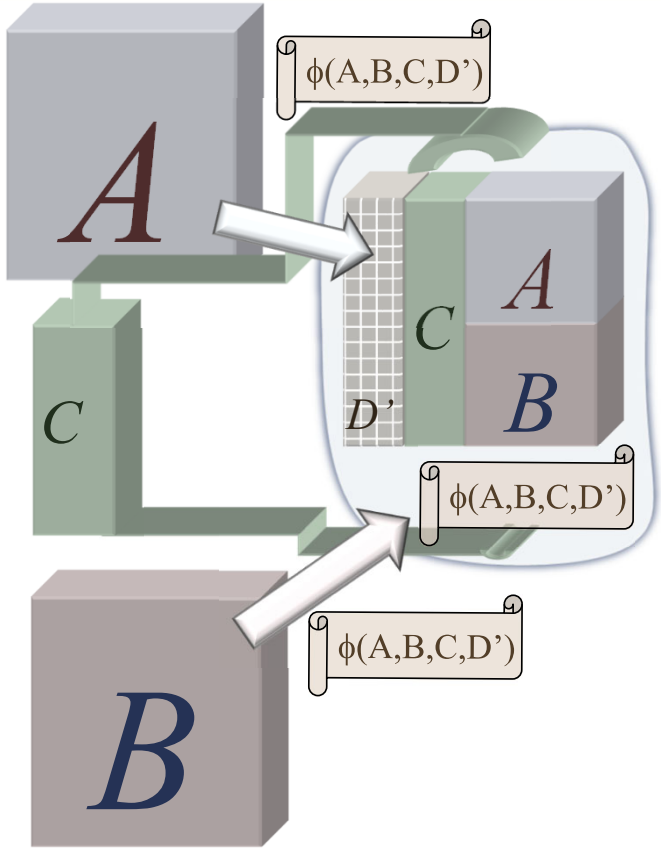
Von Neumann's generalization of Turing's tape

as a general principle (system) of evolution or **open-ended complexity**



Von Neumann, J. [1949]. "**Theory and organization of complicated automata**." 5 lectures at University of Illinois



D for functions not involved in reproduction
Mutations in *D* can be propagated *vertically*
Leads to **open-ended evolution**

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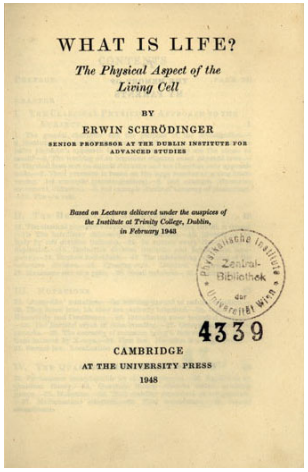
Erwin Schrödinger(1943-1944)


WHAT IS LIFE?

The Physical Aspect of the Living Cell

BY

ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER

SENIOR PROFESSOR AT THE DUBLIN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Based on Lectures delivered under the auspices of the Institute at Trinity College, Dublin, in February 1943

Physikalische Institute Zentral-Bibliothek der Universität Wien

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CAMBRIDGE

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1948

- puzzled by the persistence of living structures
  - Call to understand how life stores and perpetuates order
  - "[…] **chromosomes**[…] contain in some kind of **code-script** the entire pattern of the individual's future development."
    - "complete (double) copy of the code-script."
- **aperiodic crystals as structures that can replicate themselves**
  - "We believe a gene—or perhaps the whole chromosome **fiber**—to be an aperiodic solid."
    - "structure without predictable repetition"
  - DNA is entirely regular
    - Instead of "aperiodicity" we have **encoded information**: separated description/construction

"Turing invented the stored-program computer, and von Neumann showed that the description is separate from the universal constructor. This is not trivial. Physicist Erwin Schrödinger confused the program and the constructor in his 1944 book *What is Life?,* in which he saw chromosomes as "*architect's plan and builder's craft in one*". This is wrong. The code script contains only a description of the executive function, not the function itself." (Sydney Brenner)

Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. "Life's code script." *Nature* **482** (7386): 461-461.

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Schrodinger vs. Von Neumann

self-replication vs. decoupled, encoded information

Von Neumann, J. [1949]. "**Theory and organization of complicated automata**." 5 lectures at University of Illinois

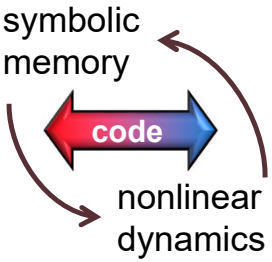
Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. "Life's code script." *Nature* **482** (7386): 461-461.

"Turing invented the stored-program computer, and von Neumann showed that the description is separate from the universal constructor. This is not trivial. Physicist Erwin Schrödinger confused the program and the constructor in his 1944 book *What is Life?,* in which he saw chromosomes as "*architect's plan and builder's craft in one*". This is wrong. The code script contains only a description of the executive function, not the function itself." (Sydney Brenner)

two roles of information
data/program (Turing)
passive/active (Von Neumann)
description/construction-function (Pattee)
genotype/phenotype (Biology)

semiotic closure (semiotic coupling)

fundamental principle of *organized complexity*
Leads to **open-ended evolution**
General principle that includes *Natural Selection*
Von Neumann described this scheme **before** structure of DNA molecule was identified in 1953 by Watson & Crick



Howard Pattee

Pattee, HH [2001] *Biosystems* **60** (1):5-21

Rocha, L.M. & W. Hordijk [2005] *Artificial Life* **11**:189 - 214.
Rocha, L.M. [2001] *Biosystems* **60**: 95-121.
Rocha, L.M. [1996] *Systems Research* **13**: 371-384.

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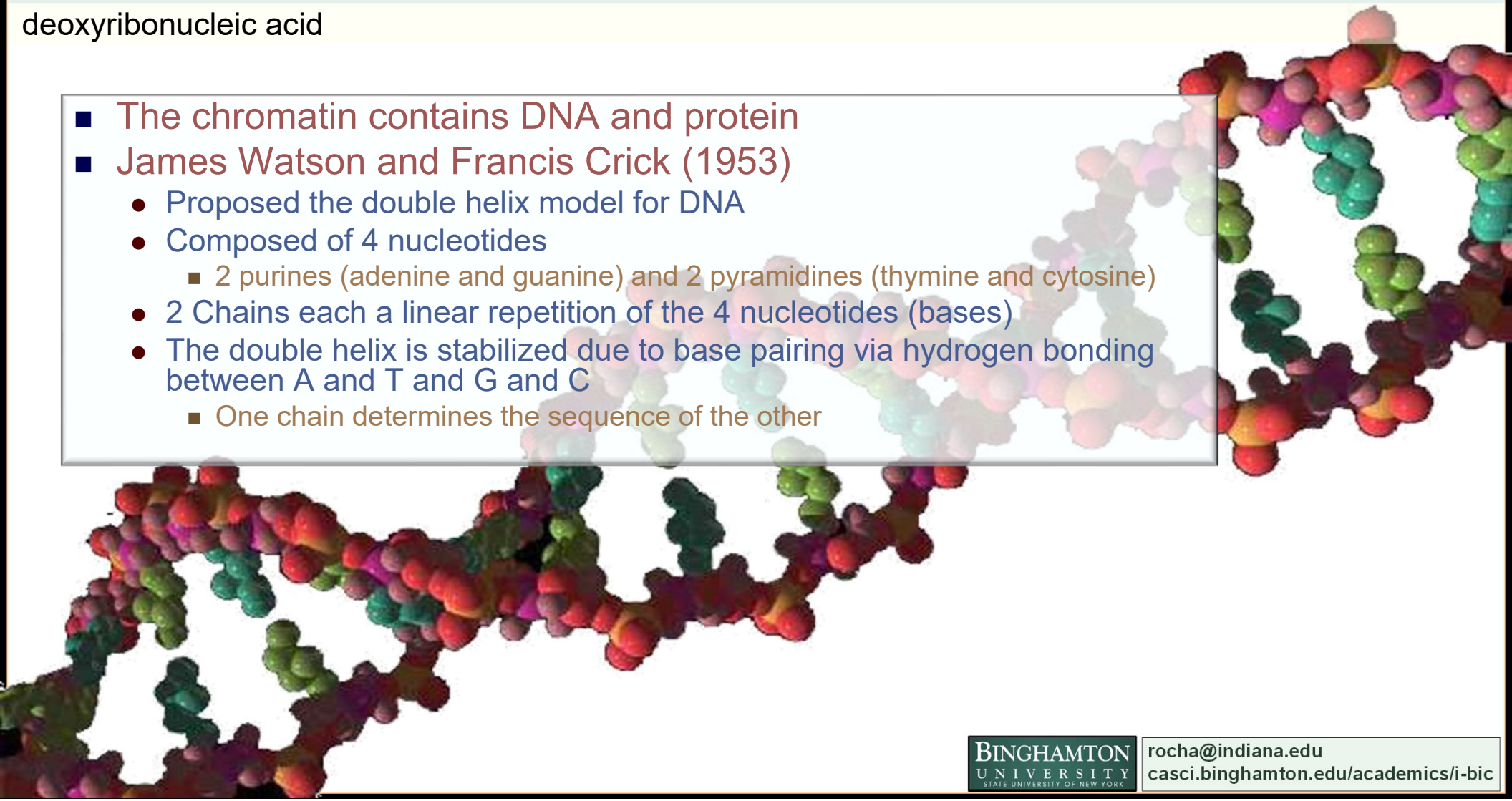
deoxyribonucleic acid

- The chromatin contains DNA and protein
- James Watson and Francis Crick (1953)
  - Proposed the double helix model for DNA
  - Composed of 4 nucleotides
    - 2 purines (adenine and guanine) and 2 pyramidines (thymine and cytosine)
  - 2 Chains each a linear repetition of the 4 nucleotides (bases)
  - The double helix is stabilized due to base pairing via hydrogen bonding between A and T and G and C
    - One chain determines the sequence of the other



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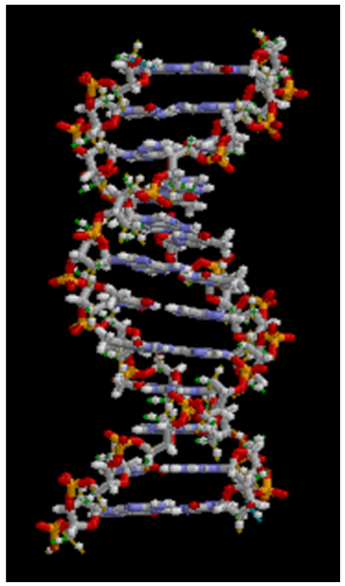
a molecular language system: nucleotide “bases” (the genotype “tape”)



Purine (R) → Adenine (A), Guanine (G)

Nucleotides

Pyrimidine (Y) → Cytosine (C), Thymine (T), Uracil (U)

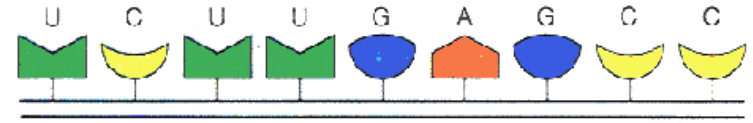
4 Letter Alphabet
DNA: A, G, C, T
RNA: A, G, C, U

Form sequences that can store information

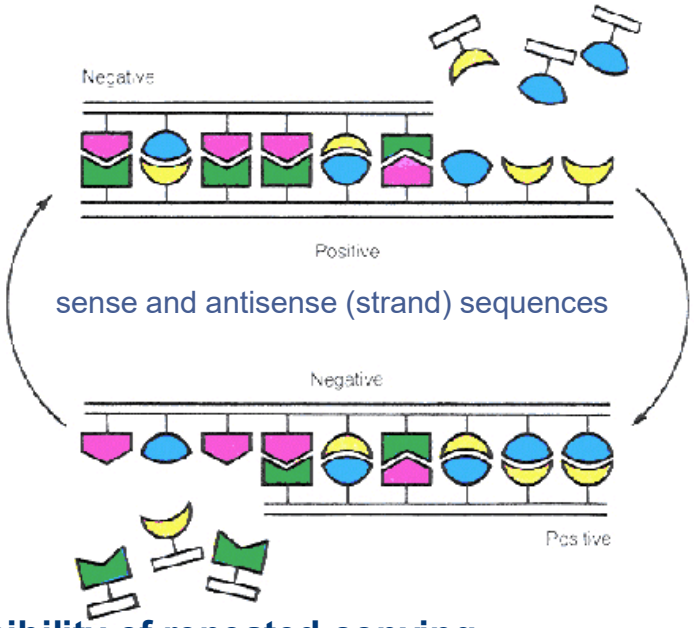
Linear molecules with a phosphate-sugar backbone (deoxyribose and ribose)

Complementary base pairing
(Hydrogen-bonding between purines and pyrimidines)

A-T (U) G-C



Figures from Eigen [1992] . *Steps Towards Life*.



Requirements for structural information

Possibility of repeated copying

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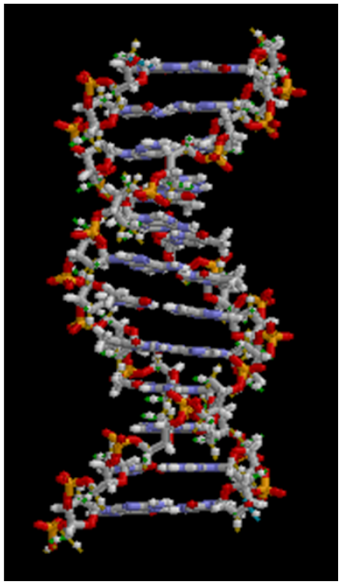

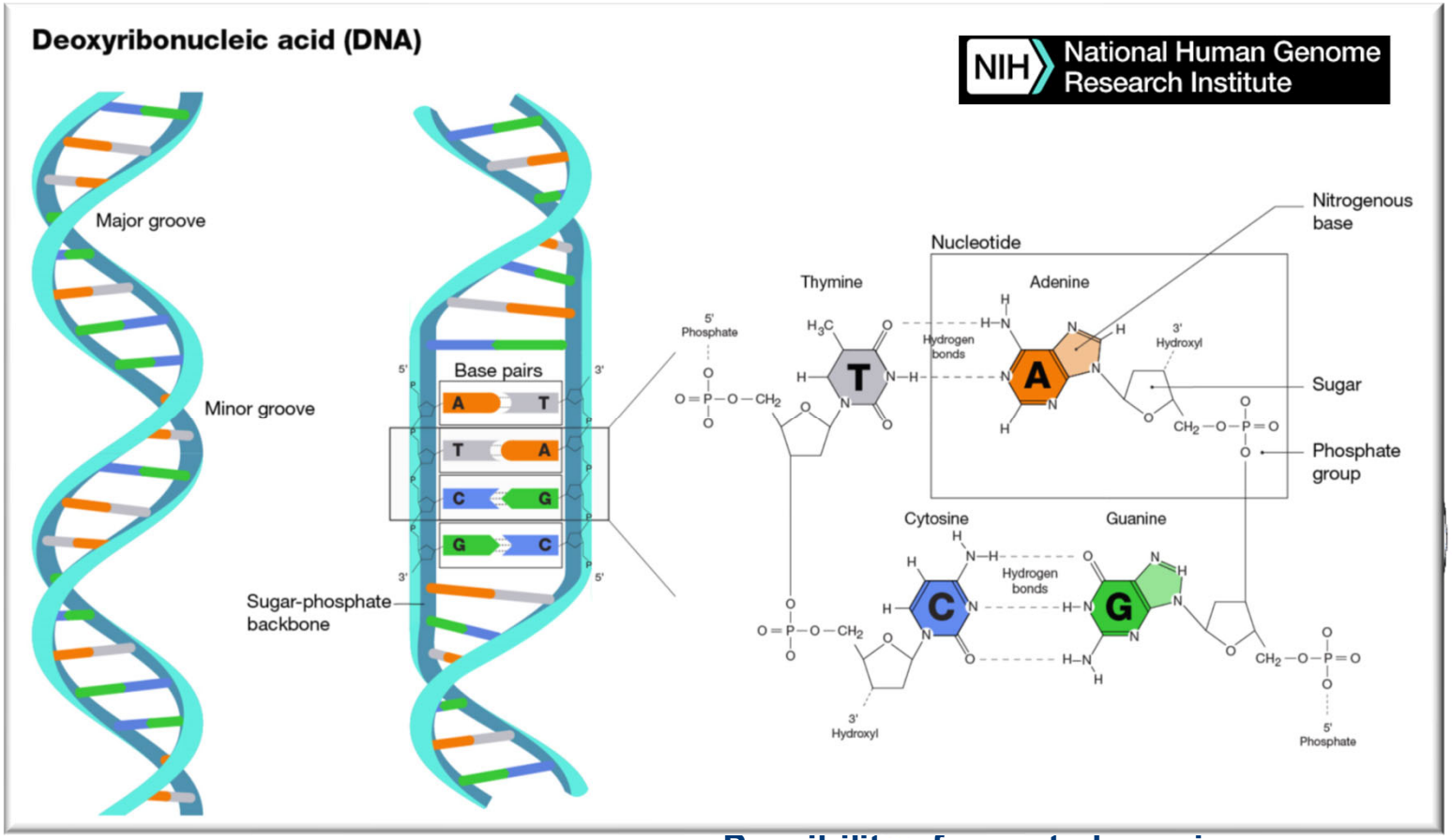

Possibility of repeated copying

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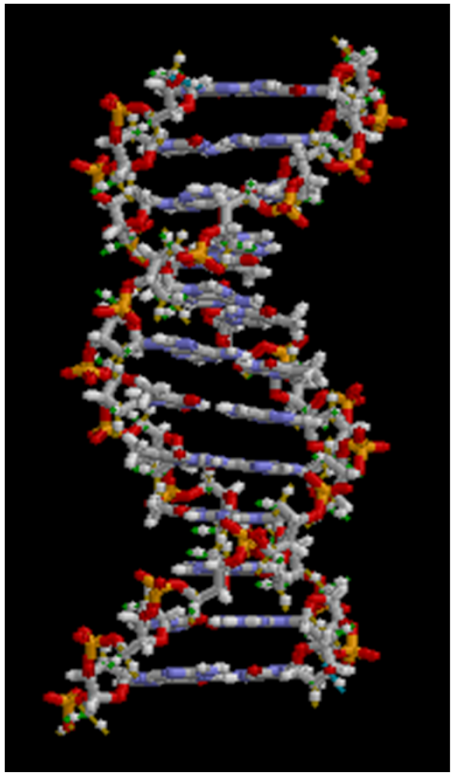
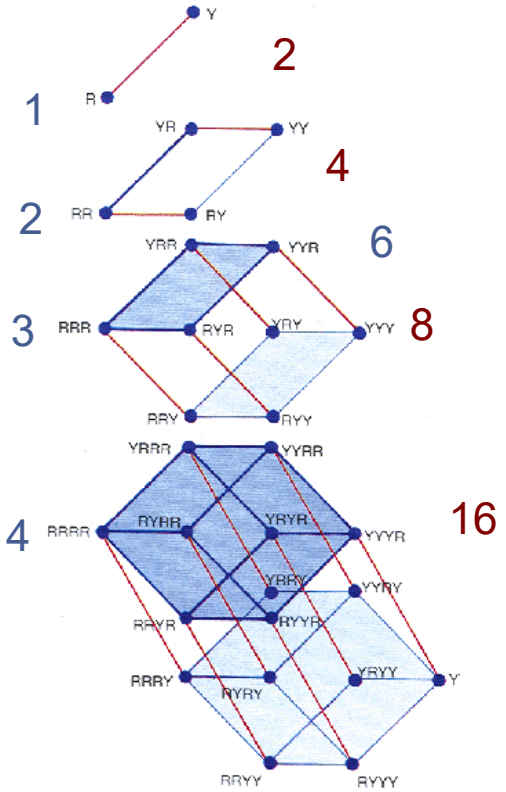
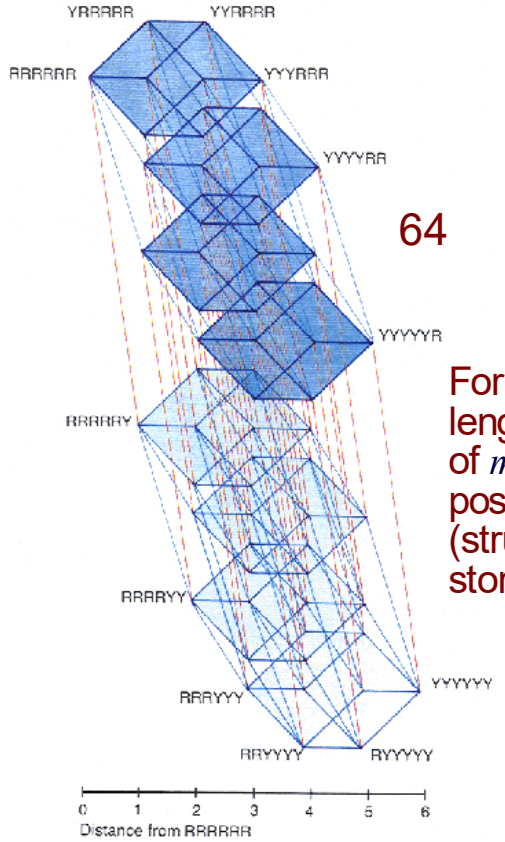
the genotype “tape” encodes an enormous amount of information







For a sequence of length n, composed of m-ary symbols, m^n possible values (structures) can be stored

Figures from Eigen [1992] . *Steps Towards Life*.

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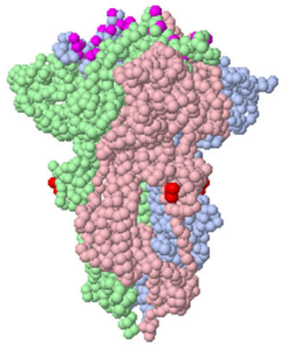
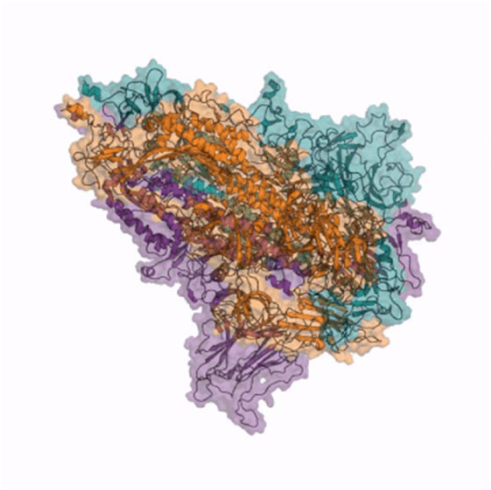
functional products that build up (self-organize) the phenotype





Polypeptide chains of aminoacids

Primary Structure

Folding

3-dimensional structure

Secondary and tertiary bonds

- In proteins, it is the 3-dimensional structure that dictates function
  - The specificity of enzymes to recognize and react on substrates
- The functioning of the cell is mostly performed by proteins
  - Though there are also ribozymes

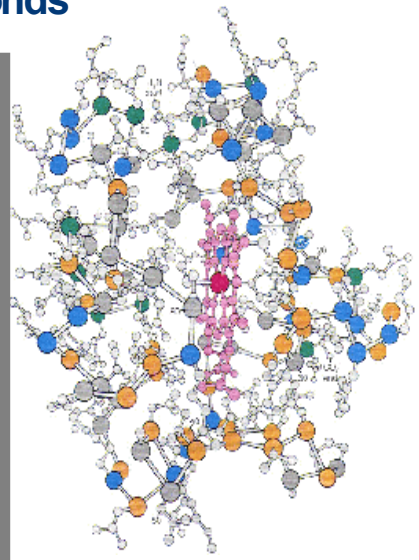


Table 1.4. Amino acid codes

Ala	A	Alanine
Arg	R	Arginine
Asn	N	Asparagine
Asp	D	Aspartic acid
Cys	C	Cysteine
Gln	Q	Glutamine
Glu	E	Glutamic acid
Gly	G	Glycine
His	H	Histidine
Ile	I	Isoleucine
Leu	L	Leucine
Lys	K	Lysine
Met	M	Methionine
Phe	F	Phenylalanine
Pro	P	Proline
Ser	S	Serine
Thr	T	Threonine
Trp	W	Tryptophan
Tyr	Y	Tyrosine
Val	V	Valine
Asx	B	Asn or Asp
Glx	Z	Gln or Glu
Sec	U	Selenocysteine
Unk	X	Unknown

Figures from Eigen [1992] . *Steps Towards Life*.

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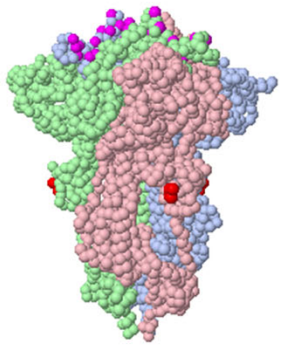
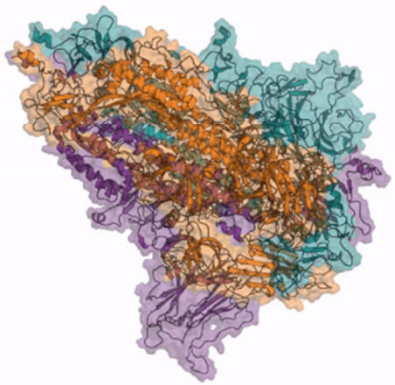
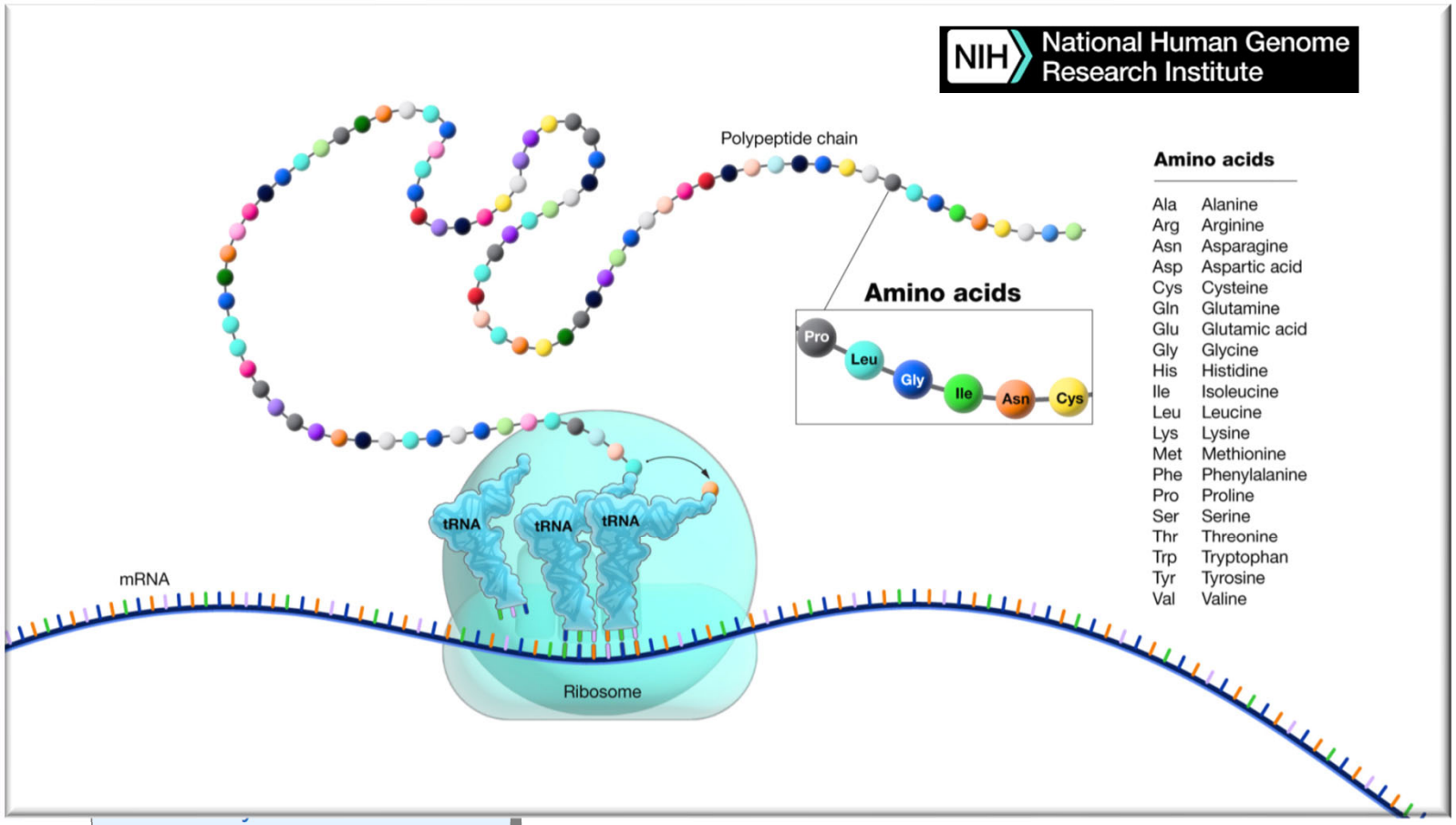
functional products that build up (self-organize) the phenotype



Jmol





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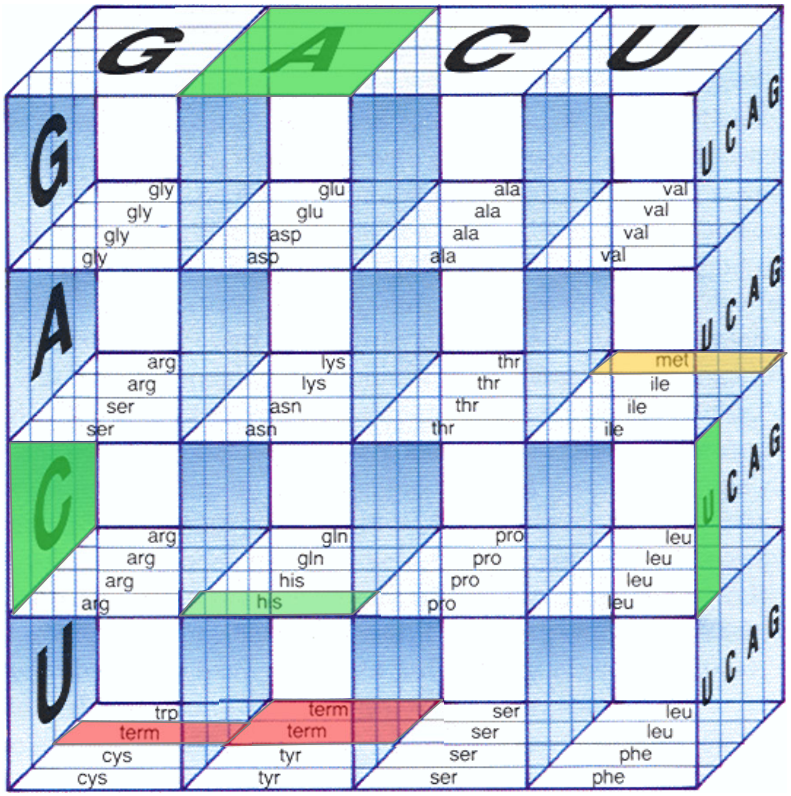
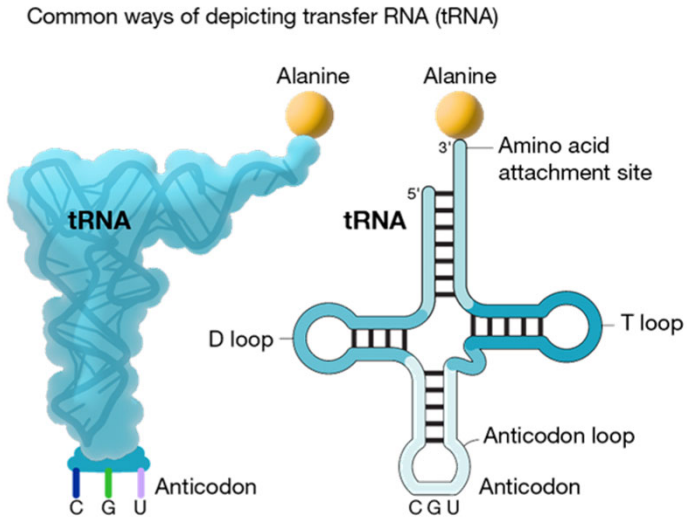
between genotype and phenotype

Triplets of 3 Nucleotides can define 64 possible codons, but only 20 amino acids are used (redundancy)



Figures from Eigen [1992] . *Steps Towards Life*.

- The genetic code maps information stored in the genome into functional proteins
  - Triplet combinations of nucleotides into amino acids



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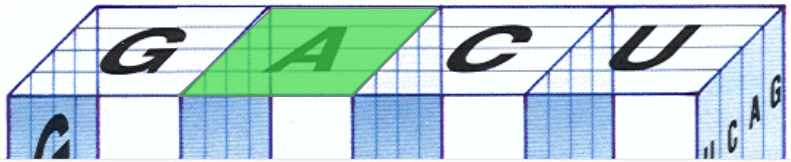

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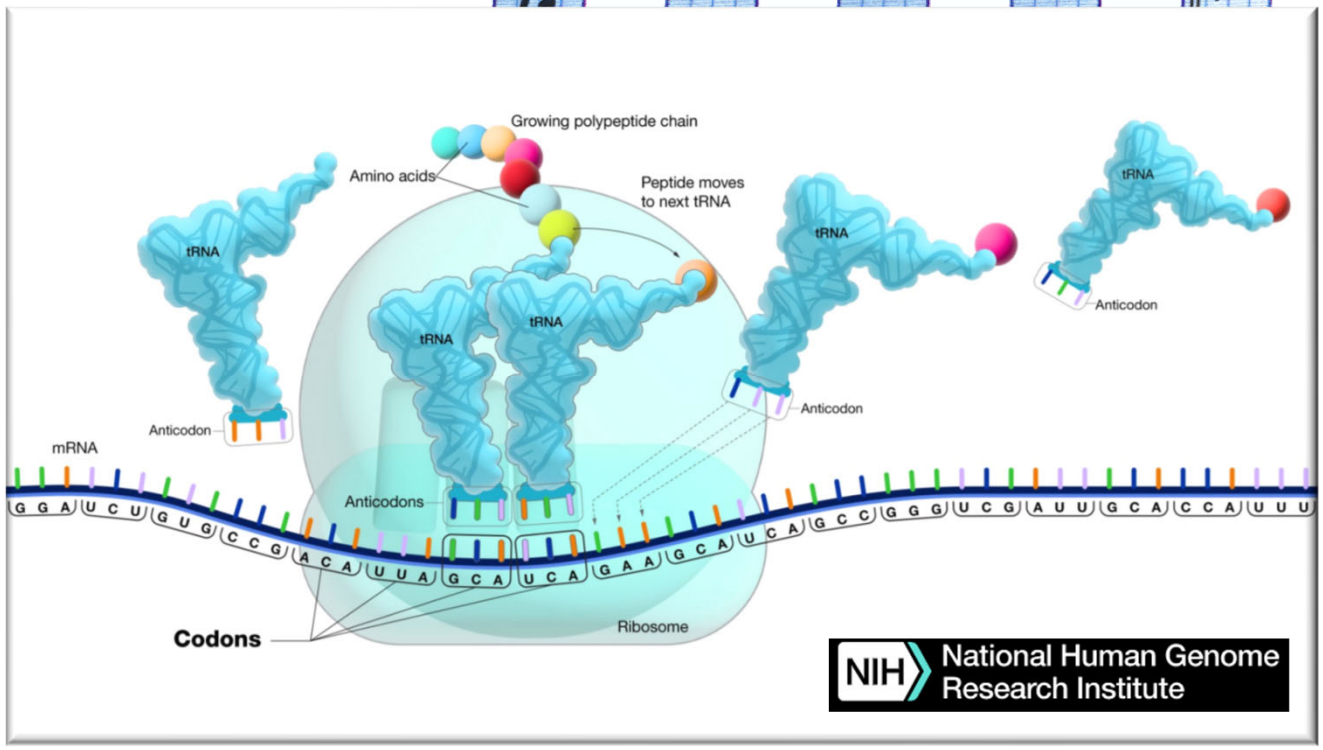

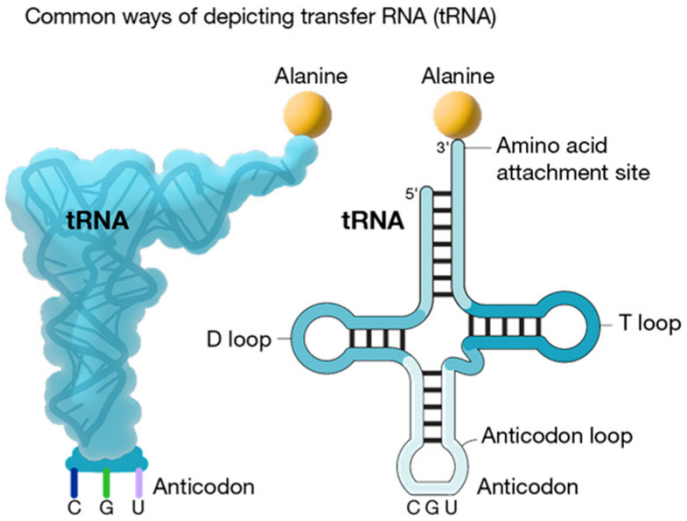

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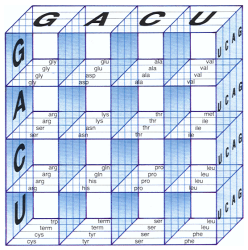
semiotic closure: genetic information at work

genotype/phenotype



C

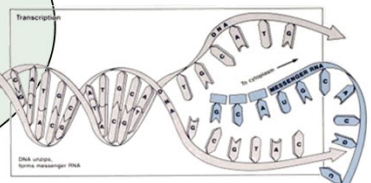
syntax

Genotype

DNA

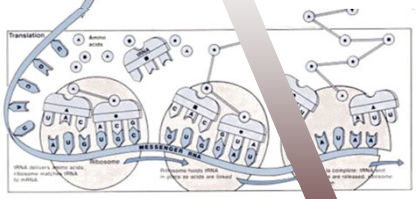
Memory

transcription



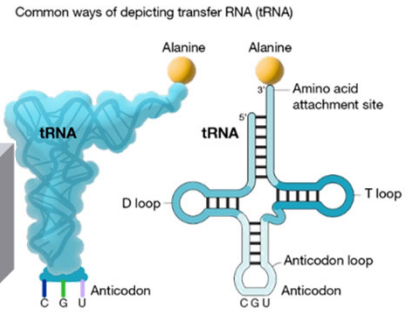
RNA

translation



code

A



semantics

C

replication

B

Inherited variation

selection

amino acid chains

Development, regulation

pragmatics

Germ cell line

D

environmental ramifications

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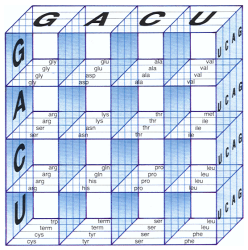
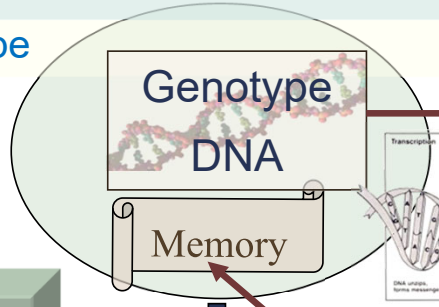
semiotic closure: genetic information at work

genotype/phenotype

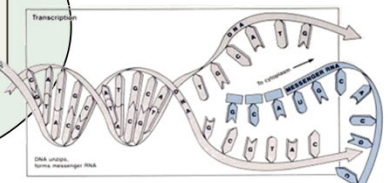




C

syntax

transcription

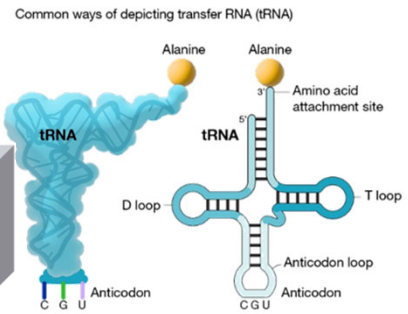


RNA

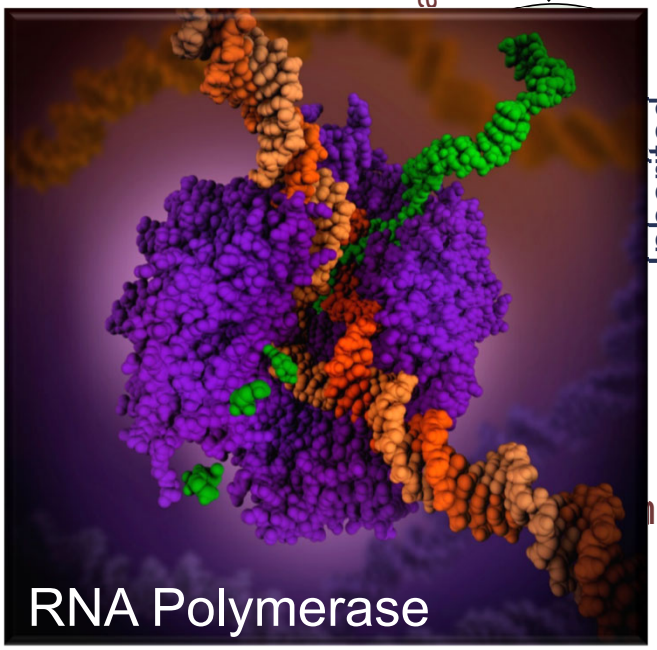
translation

code

A



semantics



Inherited variation

ramifications

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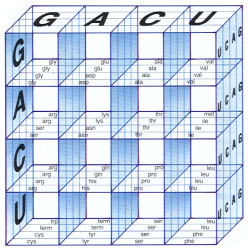


Genotype

DNA

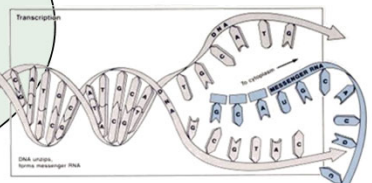
Memory

C

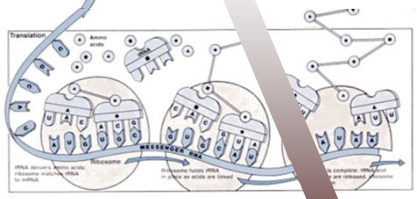
syntax

transcription

RNA

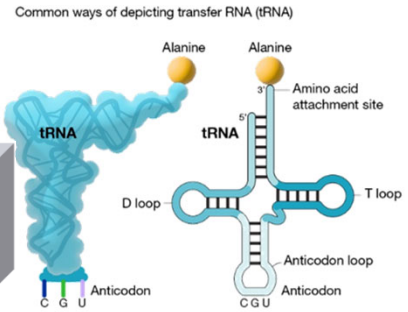


translation



code

A



semantics

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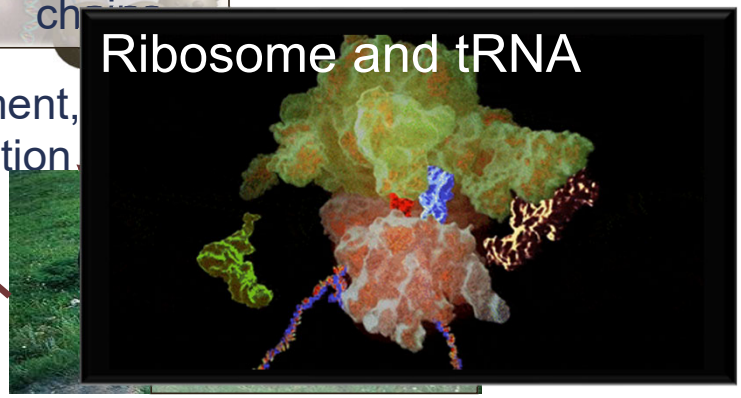

Germ cell line

D

environmental ramifications

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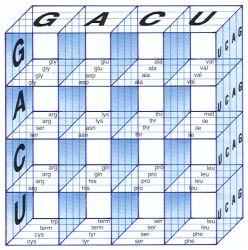
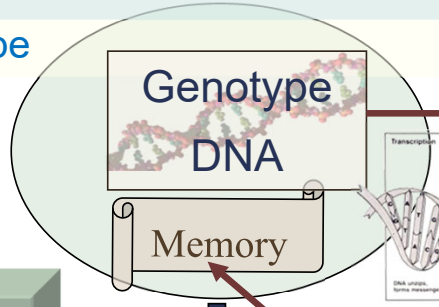
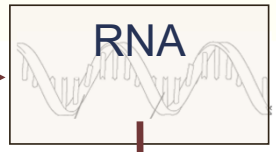


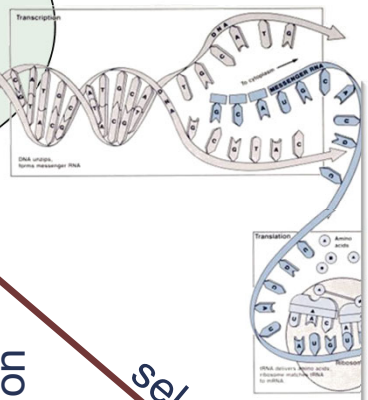


C

syntax

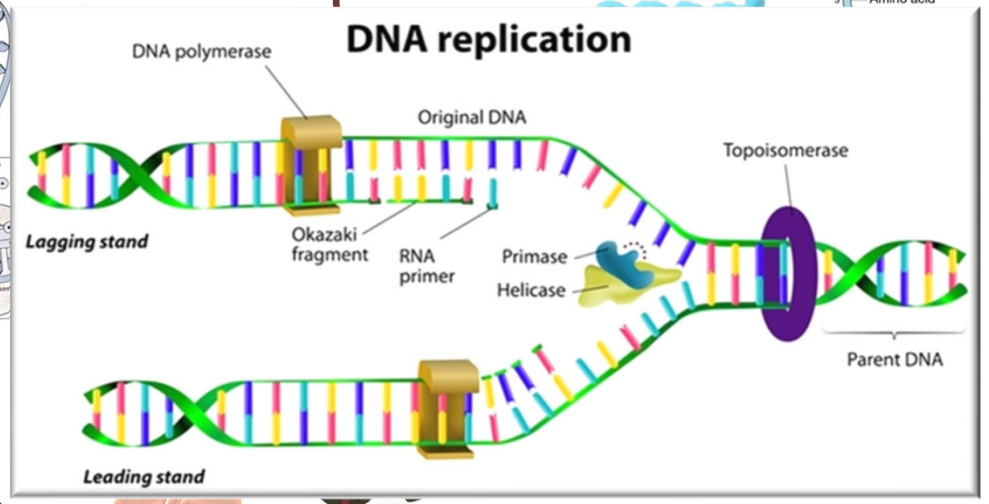
transcription



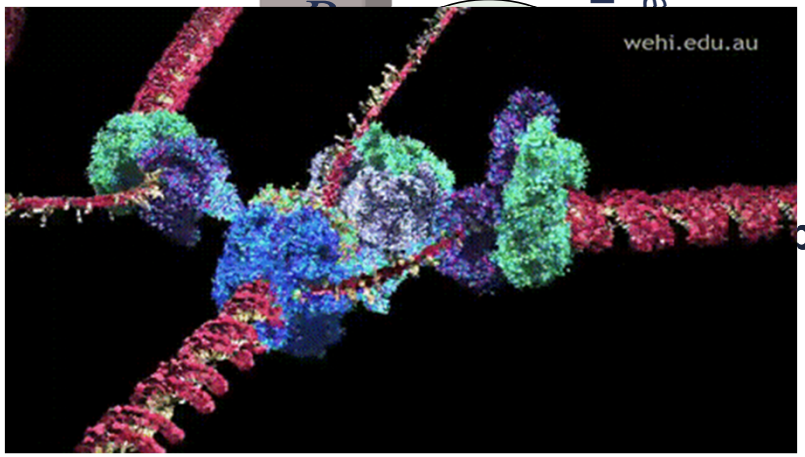


C

replication



selection



pragmatics

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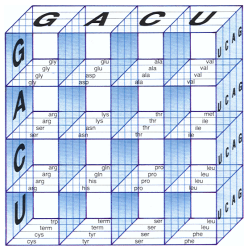
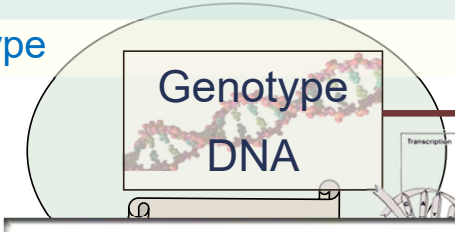
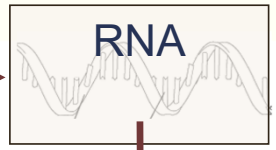


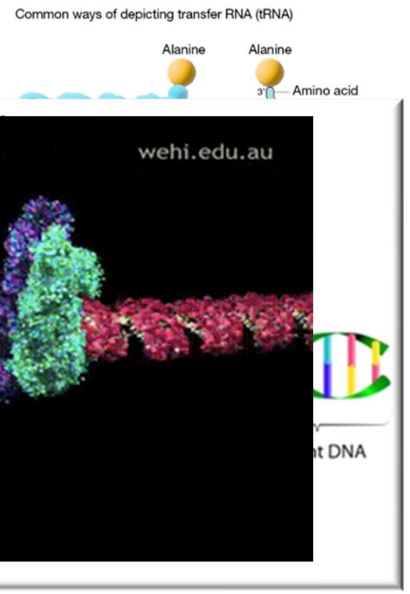


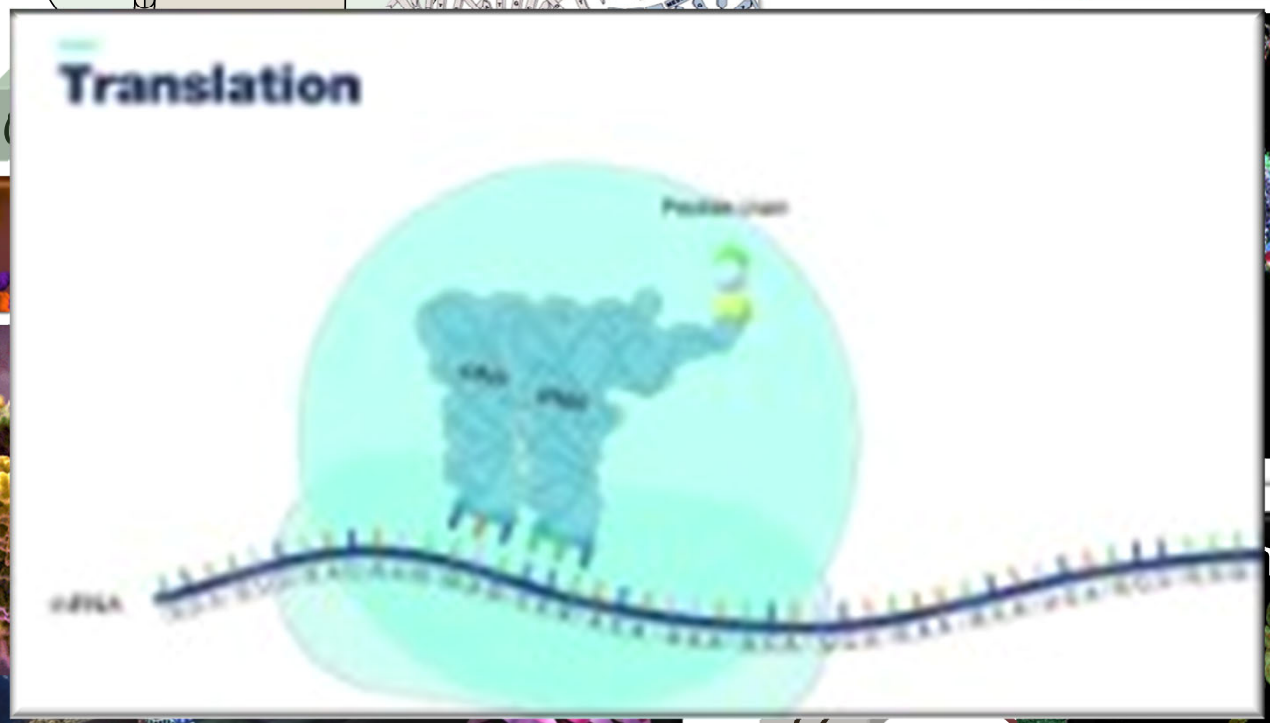
C

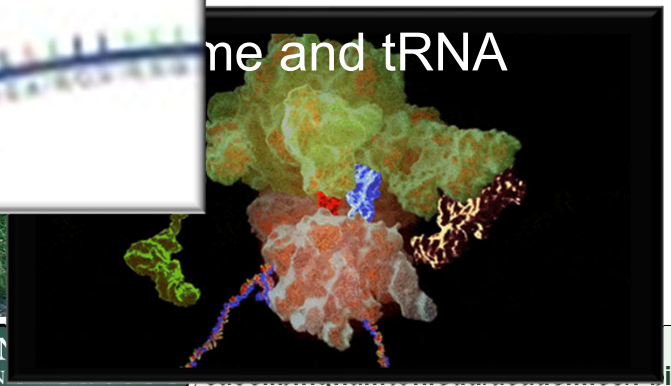
syntax

transcription









RNA

environmental
ramifications

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importance of the “external tape”

in biology

- The “information turn”
  - Unlike Schrödinger, Turing and Von Neumann had no direct effect on molecular biology
  - But the “external tape” separated from the constructor (semiotic closure) has become an unavoidable **principle of organization of biocomplexity**
  - A new synthesis?
    - In 1971 Brenner: “in the next twenty-five years we are going to have to teach biologists another language still, […] where a science like physics works in terms of laws, or a science like molecular biology, to now, is stated in terms of mechanisms, maybe now what one has to begin to think of is algorithms. Recipes. Procedures.”

“The concept of the gene as a symbolic representation of the organism — a ***code script*** — is a fundamental feature of the living world and must form the kernel of biological theory. […] at the core of everything are the tapes containing the descriptions to build these special Turing machines.” (Sydney Brenner)

Brenner, Sydney. [2012]. “Life’s code script.” *Nature* **482** (7386): 461-461.

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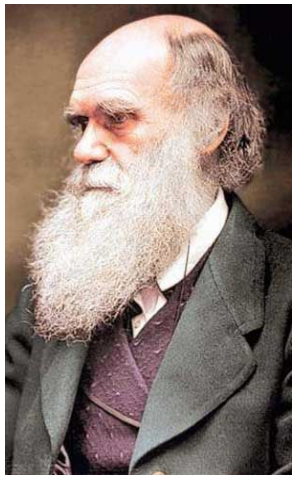
fundamental principle of organisms as *cybernetic mechanisms*



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readings

- Class Book
  - Floreano, D. and C. Mattiussi [2008]. *Bio-Inspired Artificial Intelligence: Theories, Methods, and Technologies*. MIT Press.
    - **Chapters 1 and 4.**
- Lecture notes
  - Chapter 1: What is Life?
  - Chapter 2: The logical Mechanisms of Life
  - Chapter 3: Formalizing and Modeling the World
  - Chapter 4: Self-Organization and Emergent Complex Behavior
  - Chapter 5: Reality is Stranger than Fiction
  - Chapter 6: Von Neumann and Natural Selection
    - posted online @ http://informatics.indiana.edu/rocha/i-bic
- Papers and other materials
  - Optional
    - Nunes de Castro, Leandro [2006]. *Fundamentals of Natural Computing: Basic Concepts, Algorithms, and Applications*. Chapman & Hall.
      - Chapter 2, 7, 8
      - **Chapter 3, sections 3.1 to 3.5**
    - Flake's [1998], *The Computational Beauty of Life*. MIT Press.
      - Chapters 10, 11, 14 – Dynamics, Attractors and chaos