Unit 2: Molecular Genetics

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Launch Lab

• DNA Extraction Investigation



DNA Structure and Replication

 In 1869, a young Swiss physician named Friedrich Miescher

coined the term "nuclein" to describe a weakly acidic, phosphoruscontaining substance that he had isolated from the nuclei of white blood cells. It later became known as nucleic acid







- In the early 1900s, a Russianborn American biochemist named Phoebus Levene isolated two types of nucleic acid.
- He called them *ribose nucleic acid* (*RNA*) and *deoxyribose nucleic acid* (*DNA*).
- Levene went on to show that chromosomes are made up of a combination of DNA and proteins.







- In 1928, Frederick Griffith, an English medical officer, designed an experiment to study the pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria that were responsible for a pneumonia epidemic in London.
- Griffith set up his experiment using dead Streptococcus pnemoniae bacteria as a control.
- He discovered that the dead pathogenic bacteria had somehow passed on their disease-causing properties to live, nonpathogenic bacteria Griffith called this phenomenon the *transforming principle*, because something from the heat-killed pathogenic bacteria must have transformed the living nonpathogenic bacteria to make them disease-causing.





- In 1944, the team of Oswald Avery, Colin MacLeod, and Maclyn McCarty, conducted a series of experiments and discovered the following:
- When they treated heat-killed pathogenic bacteria with a protein-destroying enzyme, transformation still occurred.
- When they treated heat-killed pathogenic bacteria with a DNA destroying enzyme, transformation did not occur.
- These results provided strong evidence for DNA's role in transformation. Even so, most scientists still were not prepared to view DNA as the likely source of hereditary material. Instead, they thought that DNA might activate genecarrying proteins.



Hershey and Chase: Evidence in Favour of DNA as the Hereditary Material

 Convincing evidence that DNA, not proteins, carried genetic information was finally provided in 1952. The American research team of Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase used a new technology, radioactive labelling, to show that genes are made of DNA.





- This virus attaches to a bacterial cell and injects genetic information into the cell.
- The infected cell manufactures new viruses, and then it bursts.
- The newly released viruses go on to infect other cells.
- To determine whether viral protein or viral DNA was responsible for taking over the genetic machinery of the host cell, Hershey and Chase created two batches of the virus.





- In one batch, they labelled the protein coat using radioactive sulfur.
- In the other batch, they labelled the DNA with radioactive phosphorus.
- The labelled viruses were allowed to infect bacterial cells.
- The cells were then **agitated in a blender** to separate the viral coats from the bacterial cells.
- Each medium was tested for radioactivity.
- The results demonstrated that viral DNA, not viral protein, enters the bacterial cell.



The Structure of DNA and RNA

- After isolating DNA and RNA, Levene determined that both molecules are made up of long chains of individual units he called nucleotides. Levene also determined that nucleic acids are made up of long chains of nucleotides, strung together
- nucleotide repeating unit of nucleic acids; composed of sugar, phosphate, and nitrogenous groups
 NUCLEOTIDE





There are five nitrogenous bases in total:





Chargaff's Rule

Erwin Chargaff found that the nucleotides are not present in equal amounts as Levene said.

 complementary base pairs refers to hydrogen-bonded base pairs (A-T, C-G)

Chargaff's rule in a DNA sample, the amount of adenine is about the same as thymine and the amount of cytosine is about the same as guanine



Organism	A (Adenine)	T (Thymine)	G (Guanine)	C (Cytosine)
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	15.1	14.6	34.9	35.4
Escherichia coli	26.0	23.9	24.9	25.2
Yeast	31.3	32.9	18.7	17.1
Herring	27.8	27.5	22.2	22.6
Rat	28.6	28.4	21.4	21.5
Human	30.9	29.4	19.9	19.8



 The four nitrogenous bases that are found in DNA nucleotides are adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine (T).

 RNA has the base uracil (U) instead of thymine





Activity 15.1 DNA Deductions



The Three-Dimensional Structure of DNA

- Early in the 1950s, British scientist Rosalind Franklin used X-ray photography to analyze the structure of DNA.
- Her observations provided crucial new information about the molecular structure of DNA.



- She was able to conclude that DNA has a **helical structure** with two regularly repeating patterns
- From her observations, she concluded that the nitrogenous bases were located on the inside of the helical structure, and the sugar-phosphate backbone was located on the outside





Watson and Crick

 In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick published a two-page paper describing a double helix model. This model soon became accepted as the molecular structure of DNA.





• The discovery of the double helix marked a milestone in the history of science.

 The discovery yielded ground-breaking insights into the genetic code and protein synthesis and helped to produce new and powerful genetic engineering techniques.





• DNA is a thread-like molecule, made up of **two long strands** of nucleotides that are bound together in a spiral shape called a *double helix*. If the helix were unwound, the DNA molecule would look something like a twisted ladder. The "handrails" of the ladder are the **sugar-phosphate backbones** of the two nucleotide strands. The "rungs" are the bases that protrude inward at regular intervals along each strand.





 The two strands are antiparallel, as well. That is, the phosphate bridges run in opposite directions in the two strands. Each end of a double-stranded DNA molecule contains the 5' end of one strand and the 3' end of the complementary strand.



The Structure of RNA vs DNA

- The molecular structure of RNA is similar to the molecular structure of DNA, with three key differences:
- 1.) The sugar component of RNA is ribose rather than deoxyribose.
- 2.) RNA does not have the nucleotide thymine (T). In its place is the nucleotide uracil (U).
- 3.) RNA remains singlestranded, although the single strand can sometimes fold back on itself to produce regions of complementary base pairs.





Genes and the Genome

 chromosome a length of DNA and associated protein; condensed form of genetic material



 gene a functional sub-unit of DNA that directs the production of one or more polypeptides (protein molecules)

 genome the total DNA in an organism's cells



The Human Genome

 In humans, chromosome 4 is about 200,000,000 bases long and has about 800 genes, while chromosome 19 is only 55,000,000 bases long but has almost 1500 genes.

 The total human genome is about 3 billion base pairs, and it includes an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 genes.



DNA Replication (DNA Synthesis)

- replication in genetics, the process of copying DNA
- semi-conservative model each new molecule of DNA contains one strand of the original complementary DNA molecule and one new parent strand. Thus, each new DNA molecule conserves half of the original molecule.
- Four stages of DNA Replication
- 1. Initiation
- 2. Elongation
- 3. Termination
- 4. Proofreading



Initiation

- replication origin nucleotide sequence where DNA replication begins
- helicase enzyme that bind to the DNA at the replication origin.
- The helicases cleave and unravel a segment of the double helix. This opening up of a region of DNA creates two Y-shaped areas at each end of the unwound area.
- The oval-shaped unwound area is called a replication bubble.
- Each Y-shaped end of the bubble is called replication fork





Elongation

- elongation in replication, the process of joining nucleotides to extend a new strand of DNA
- DNA polymerase adds new nucleotides to the 3' OH group of an existing nucleotide strand; dismantles the RNA primer; proofreads base pairing
- Primase synthesizes an RNA primer to begin the elongation process
- First, elongation can only take place in the 5' to 3' direction.
- Second, a short strand of RNA, known as a *primer*, must serve as a starting point for the attachment of new nucleotides.
- Replication occurs in a slightly different way along each strand of the parent DNA.







- One strand is replicated continuously in the 5' to 3' direction. This strand is known as the leading strand.
- The other strand, known as the lagging strand, is replicated in short segments.
- leading strand in replication, the strand made continuously
- lagging strand in replication, the strand made in segments



Figure 15.10 During DNA synthesis, the overall direction of elongation is the same along both strands, but elongation occurs differently. On the leading strand, DNA synthesis takes place along the DNA molecule in the same direction as the movement of the replication fork. On the lagging strand, DNA synthesis proceeds in the opposite direction to the movement of the replication fork. As well, the lagging strand is synthesized in short fragments.

Elongation on the Lagging Strand

• Nucleotides are still added in the 5' to 3' direction on the lagging strand, but the new DNA is synthesized in short segments called Okazaki fragments.

 Okazaki fragment short nucleotide fragments of the lagging strand

 DNA ligase Joins together Okazaki fragments in the lagging strand



Termination

- termination in DNA replication, the completion of new DNA strands and dismantling of the replication machine
- As the replication fork progresses along the replicating chromosome, only a very short region of DNA is found in a single-stranded form.
- As soon as the newly formed strands are complete, they rewind automatically into their chemically stable helix structure. Replication proceeds until the new strands are complete and the two new DNA molecules separate from one another.







Proofreading

- DNA polymerase has an important proofreading function, as well.
- After each nucleotide is added to a new DNA strand, DNA polymerase can recognize whether or not hydrogen bonding is taking place between the new base and its complement on the original strand.

 The absence of hydrogen bonding indicates a mismatch between the bases. When this occurs, DNA polymerase excises the incorrect base from the new strand and adds the correct base using the parent strand as a template.









• Given the Parent DNA sequence ATG – GTA – CGT what is the complementary DNA sequence?

Remember our pairings from earlier A-T C-G

TAC-CAT-GCA



• Given the complementary DNA sequence GCA – AAA – CAC what is the parent DNA sequence?

Remember our pairings from earlier A-T C-G

CGT – TTT - GTG

• Students are expected to engage in an engineering design activity to construct a working model of a short DNA strand (8-10 base pairs). The model should show the molecular structure of DNA and be able to simulate the process of DNA replication (Investigation 15.A, NL Biology, p. 592).





Gene Expression & The Genetic Code

- Proteins consist of a sequence of molecules called amino acids.
- The specific sequence of amino acids determines the chemical properties of each protein.
- A given set of amino acids, arranged in a particular order, could produce the proteins that are responsible for inherited traits
- The genetic code determines how the amino acids are strung together and how the proteins are made.
- The order of the nucleotides in a gene provides the information, written in genetic code, that is necessary to build a protein.





• The genetic code has three important characteristics.

- **1.** The genetic code is *redundant* that is, more than one codon can code for the same amino acid.
- 2. The genetic code is continuous. That is, the genetic code reads as a series of three-letter codons without spaces, punctuation, or overlap. Knowing exactly where to start and stop translation is essential.

• 3. The genetic code is nearly *universal*. Almost all living organisms build proteins with the same genetic code.

		Second	Position			
	U	С	А	G		
U	Phenylalanine Phenylalanine Leucine Leucine	Serine Serine Serine Serine	Tyrosine Tyrosine Stop Stop	Cysteine Cysteine Stop Tryptophan	U C A G	
с	Leucine Leucine Leucine Leucine	Proline Proline Proline Proline	Histidine Histidine Glutamine Glutamine	Arginine Arginine Arginine Arginine	U C A G	sition
A	Isoleucine Isoleucine Isoleucine Methionine	Threonine Threonine Threonine Threonine	Asparagine Asparagine Lysine Lysine	Serine Serine Arginine Arginine	U C A G	Third Pos
G	Valine Valine Valine Valine	Alanine Alanine Alanine Alanine	Aspartic acid Aspartic acid Glutarnic acid Glutarnic acid	Glycine Glycine Glycine Glycine	U C A G	

Protein Synthesis

- The theory that genetic information flows from DNA to RNA to protein is often referred to as the "central dogma" of gene expression.
- Protein Synthesis takes place in two steps.
- 1.) Transcription process of producing RNA from DNA
- 2.) Translation process of producing a polypeptide based on an mRNA sequence



Transcription

- During transcription, the information in a segment of DNA is copied into messenger RNA (mRNA).
- messenger RNA (mRNA) RNA that carries the genetic code from DNA to protein synthesis machinery
- Only one strand of the double-stranded DNA molecule is transcribed.
- This strand is called the *anti-sense*, or *coding*, *strand*. The other strand, which is not transcribed, is called the *sense*, or *non-coding*, *strand*.





 RNA polymerase main enzyme involved in formation of RNA from DNA

 Codon set of three bases that code for an amino acid







Translation

- For a cell to create the proteins it needs, it must translate the codons along a stretch of mRNA into amino acid sequences.
- This process requires both a chemical translator and a set of cellular protein synthesis equipment.
- Once the mRNA reaches the cytoplasm, the translator and protein synthesis equipment work together to assemble the proteins.

t-RNA









 transfer RNA (tRNA) works with mRNA in translation by delivering correct amino acid

 anticodon base triplet on tRNA complementary to mRNA codon

 ribosomal RNA (rRNA) RNA associated with ribosomes



Translation follows a cycle of four steps:

- 1.) The first tRNA molecule, carrying the amino acid **methionine**, base-pairs with the first exposed mRNA codon—the **start codon**,
- 2. A second loaded tRNA molecule arrives at the codon adjacent to the first tRNA.
- 3. Enzymes catalyze the formation of a chemical bond that joins the amino acid carried by the first tRNA to the amino acid carried by the second tRNA. At the same time, the amino acid chain is transferred from the first tRNA to the second tRNA.
- 4. The ribosome moves a distance of one codon along the mRNA strand. The first tRNA molecule detaches from the mRNA and **picks up another amino acid**. The second tRNA now holds a growing amino acid chain. A third tRNA molecule arrives at the newly exposed codon next to the second tRNA, and the cycle repeats. The translation cycle continues until a **stop codon** is reached.









Types of Codon Tables

CODON TABLES USE mRNA ONLY!

Start from the middle and work your way out

RNA codon table								
	2nd position							
1st position	U	C A		G	3rd position			
U	Phe Phe Leu Leu	Ser Ser Ser Ser	Tyr Tyr stop stop	Cys Cys stop Trp	U C A G			
С	Leu Leu Leu	Pro Pro Pro Pro	His His Gln Gln	Arg Arg Arg Arg	U C A G			
Α	lle lle Met	Thr Thr Thr Thr	Asn Asn Lys Lys	Ser Ser Arg Arg	U C A G			
G	Val Val Val Val	Ala Ala Ala Ala	Asp Asp Glu Glu	Gly Gly Gly Gly	U C A G			
Amino Acids								
Ala: A	Janine (GIn: Glutamine	Leu: Leucine	Ser Ser	ine			

Arg: Arginine Asn: Asparagine Asp:Aspartic acid Cys:Cysteine

Glu: Glutamic acid

Gly: Glycine His' Histidine Ile: Isoleucine

Lys: Lysine Thr: Threonine Met: Methionine Trp: Tryptophane Phe: Phenylalanine Tyr: Tyrosisne Pro: Proline Val: Valine

Phe Gly Leu (F) (G) Glu (L) Ser (E) Asp GUCAGUCAGUC (S) (D) Tyr A -A/G (Y) GU Ala G U (A) Α С G Α Cys (C) Val G U (\mathcal{N}) G A Trp (W) G 3 G U G U Arg (R) A C C Leu Α AG C (L) U Ser (S) Α С U G ACA Lys (K) Α UG Ú. G Pro G/A/r (P) Asn c/u (N) GACUGACUGY His Thr (H) Gln (T) (Q) Met lle Arg (R) (I) Start 3 Stop



 Do not forget that mRNA and tRNA do not have thymine

- DNA has A T G C
- A T
- G C
- RNA has A U G C
- A U • G – C



• What amino acid does the CODON sequence AGC code?

> Codon means that it is mRNA already transcribed, so we just go to our table and find the translation.

Serine



• What amino acid does the DNA sequence ATG code?

Since this is DNA we have to transcribe our mRNA first before we translate it.

Original DNA: ATG

Complementary mRNA Sequence: UAC

Now we use the mRNA table

Tyrosisne



• What amino acid does the ANTICODON sequence AUU code?

Since this is tRNA we have to figure out our mRNA first before we translate it.

Original tRNA: AUU

Complementary mRNA Sequence: UAA

Now we use the mRNA table





- If the polypeptide sequence, phenylalanine - isoleucine threonine, were produced through transcription, what mRNA sequence was present originally
- (A) AAA UAA UGG
- (B) AAG UAU AAU
- (C) UUC AUG ACA
- (D) UUU AUU ACC

To do this question we have to first look at the mRNA sequences that created those amino acids and make a list This means that B or D could be right, so we now have to check isoleucine

mRNA for isoleucine are AUU AUC

D has to be right

RNA cod	on table					
	2nd position					
1st position	U	С	Α	G	3rd position	
U	Phe Phe Leu Leu	Ser Ser Ser Ser	Tyr Tyr stop stop	Cys Cys stop Trp	U C A G	
С	Leu Leu Leu Leu	Pro Pro Pro Pro	His His Gln Gln	Arg Arg Arg	U C A G	
A	lle lle lle Met	Thr Thr Thr Thr Thr	Asn Asn Lys Lys	Ser Ser Arg Arg	U C A G	
G	Val Val Val Val	Ala Ala Ala Ala	Asp Asp Glu Glu	y G G G G G G G G G G G G G	U C A G	
Ala: A Arg: A Asn: A Asp:A	Manine Arginine Asparagine Aspartic acid	GIn: Glutamine Glu: Glutamic acid Gly: Glycine His: Histidine	Leu: Leucine Lys: Lysine Met: Methioni Phe: Phenyla	Ser: Ser Thr: Thr ne Trp: Tryp lanine Tyr: Tyrc	ine eonine otophane osisne	

lle: Isoleucine

Pro: Proline

Val: Valine

Cys:Cysteine

mRNA for phenylalanine are

- Using the codon table, which **DNA** sequence was used as a template to produce the polypeptide sequence glycine isoleucine - phenylalanine?
- (A) CCC TAG AAC
- (B) CCG TAA AAG
- (C) GGA TAC AAT
- (D) GGC TAT AAA

To do this question we have to first look at the mRNA sequences that created those amino acids and convert them to DNA

This means that A or B could be right, so we now have to check isoleucine

CCA

CCG

CCT

CCC

mRNA and DNA for isoleucine are AUU = TAA AUC = TAG AUA = TAT

A has to be right

	RNA cod	on table					
mRNA for	2nd position						
glycine are GGU	1st position	U	С	Α	G	3rd position	
GGC GGA GGG	U	Phe Phe Leu Leu	Ser Ser Ser Ser	Tyr Tyr stop stop	Cys Cys stop Trp	U C A G	
DNA for glycine are CCA	С	Leu Leu Leu Leu	Pro Pro Pro Pro	His His Gln Gln	Arg Arg Arg Arg	U C A G	
CCG CCT CCC	A	lle lle lle Met	Thr Thr Thr Thr	Asn Asn Lys Lys	Ser Ser Arg Arg	U C A G	
r	G	Val Val Val Val	Ala Ala Ala	Asp Asp Glu Glu	Gly Gly Gly Gly	U C A G	
		Amino Acids					
nt	Ala: A Arg: A Asn: / Asp:A Cys:C	lanine (Arginine (Asparagine (Spartic acid H Cysteine I	GIn: Glutamine Glu: Glutamic acio Gly: Glycine His: Histidine Ie: Isoleucine	Leu: Leucine Lys: Lysine Met: Methioni Phe: Phenyla Pro: Proline	Ser: Ser Thr: Thr ne Trp: Try lanine Tyr: Tyr Val: Vali	ine eonine otophane osisne ne	



• Complete Activities 15.2 and 15.3 (*NL Biology*, pp. 597-98).



INVESTIGATION

• Simulating Protein Synthesis p 600



• Exit Card #10