

Double helix structure of DNA discovered in 1953 by James D Watson, Francis Crick and Rosalind Franklin.

Erwin Chargaff discovered the 1:1 ratio between purine and pyrimidine. (Chargaff's rule)

• Nucleotide

- Each nucleotide contains one pentose sugar, one phosphate and a nitrogenous base.
- Sugar can be ribose or deoxyribose depending on the O/OH group attached to the 2' carbon
- Purine nitrogenous base have two rings (A, G), pyrimidine have one ring (C, T, U)
- Phosphoester/diester covalent bond between phosphate and C3/C5 of the pentose sugar
- Glycosidic bond between C1 on pentose and N1(Pyrimidine)/N9(Purine) on nitrogenous base
- Nucleotide = phosphate + pentose + base, nucleoside = pentose + base

• DNA configuration

- Linear sequence of nucleotides joined by phosphodiester bonds
- Sugar and phosphate act as repeating unit
- Nitrogenous base is the side group
- Held together by hydrogen bonds and Van der Waal forces
- Complementary base pairing: A-T (3 H-bond), C-G (2 H-bond)
- Antiparallel structure: 5'-3', 3'-5'
- Each helical turn contains 10.5 bp, vertical rise of 34Å (3.4nm), each base pair approx 3.4Å, diameter of 20Å (2nm)
- Nitrogenous base stacked up with hydrophobic interaction
- Major groove and Minor groove with vertical height of 13Å and 9Å.

• Alternative DNA configurations

|                        | B-DNA              | A-DNA            | Z-DNA                   |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Formation condition    | Normal             | Dehydrated       | Salt/stress/methylation |
| Helix direction        | Right              | Right            | Left                    |
| Major Groove           | Wide and deep      | Narrow and deep  | Flat                    |
| Minor Groove           | Narrow and shallow | Wide and shallow | Narrow and deep         |
| Bp vertical rise       | 3.4Å               | 2.6Å             | 3.7Å                    |
| Bp per turn            | 10.5               | 11               | 12                      |
| Vertical rise per turn | 34Å                | 28.6Å            | 44.4Å                   |
| Central core           | solid              | hollow           | solid                   |
| Diameter               | 20Å                | 26Å              | 18Å                     |

DNA packaging:

- In eukaryotes DNA are organised with protein histones. Eukaryotic chromatin fibre is 50% chromosome 50% histone
- Euchromatin: decondensed DNA, transcriptionally active, lightly stained. Abundant during interphase
- Heterochromatin: condensed DNA, transcriptionally inactive, darkly stained. Found in pole of nucleus during interphase, centromeres and telomeres.
- Histone: 2\*H2A + 2\*H2B + 2\*H3 + 2\*H4. H3 and H4.
  - Rich in positive amino acid arginine and lysine, attract negative DNA
  - 1.8 turns of DNA (147 bps) around the histone octamer, with 20~60bp linker sequence, left handed.
  - 11nm diameter
  - H2A and H2B expose C and N terminal tail, H3 and H4 expose N terminal only.

- H1 linker protein binds to linker sequence, interact with histone protein allow condensation

- Chromatin organisation and diameter

- DNA - ~ 3nm
- Nucleosome - 11nm
- Nuclear filament ~30nm
- Stretched out chromosome ~300nm
- Mitotic chromosome ~1400nm

Who discovered structure what year

1:1 ratio \_\_\_\_ rule

Difference b/w ribose & deoxy

Glycosidic bond between

Phosphodiester bond between

Purine vs pyrimidine

Forces holding DNA

Number of H-bonds for pairs

Three types of DNA

- Environment
- Handedness
- Diameter
- Major Groove (exact data for B)
- Minor Groove
- Bp per turn
- Rise per nucleotide
- Rise per turn
- Central core

DNA packaging

Euchromatin vs heterochromatin

Histone composition, tails

How is chromatin compacted

Diameter of different compositions.