

# CSE 417: Algorithms and Computational Complexity

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Dynamic Programming, II  
RNA Folding

# Outline

A few (well, ~30) slides on *applications* of dynamic programming in biology (not on exams or anything, but you might enjoy a slightly deeper look at the application of some of the algorithms we study)

Sequence alignment

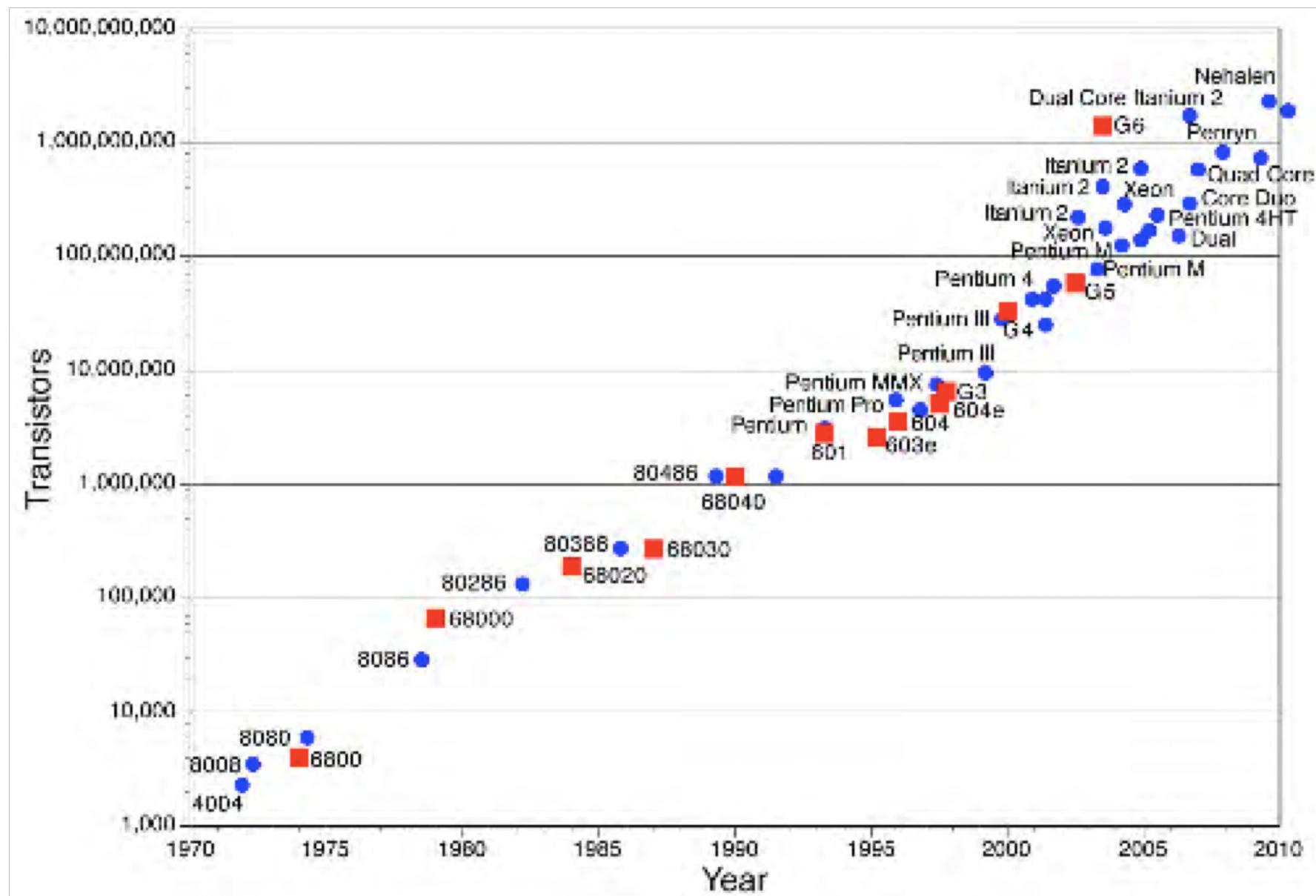
RNA structure

Algorithms for RNA structure

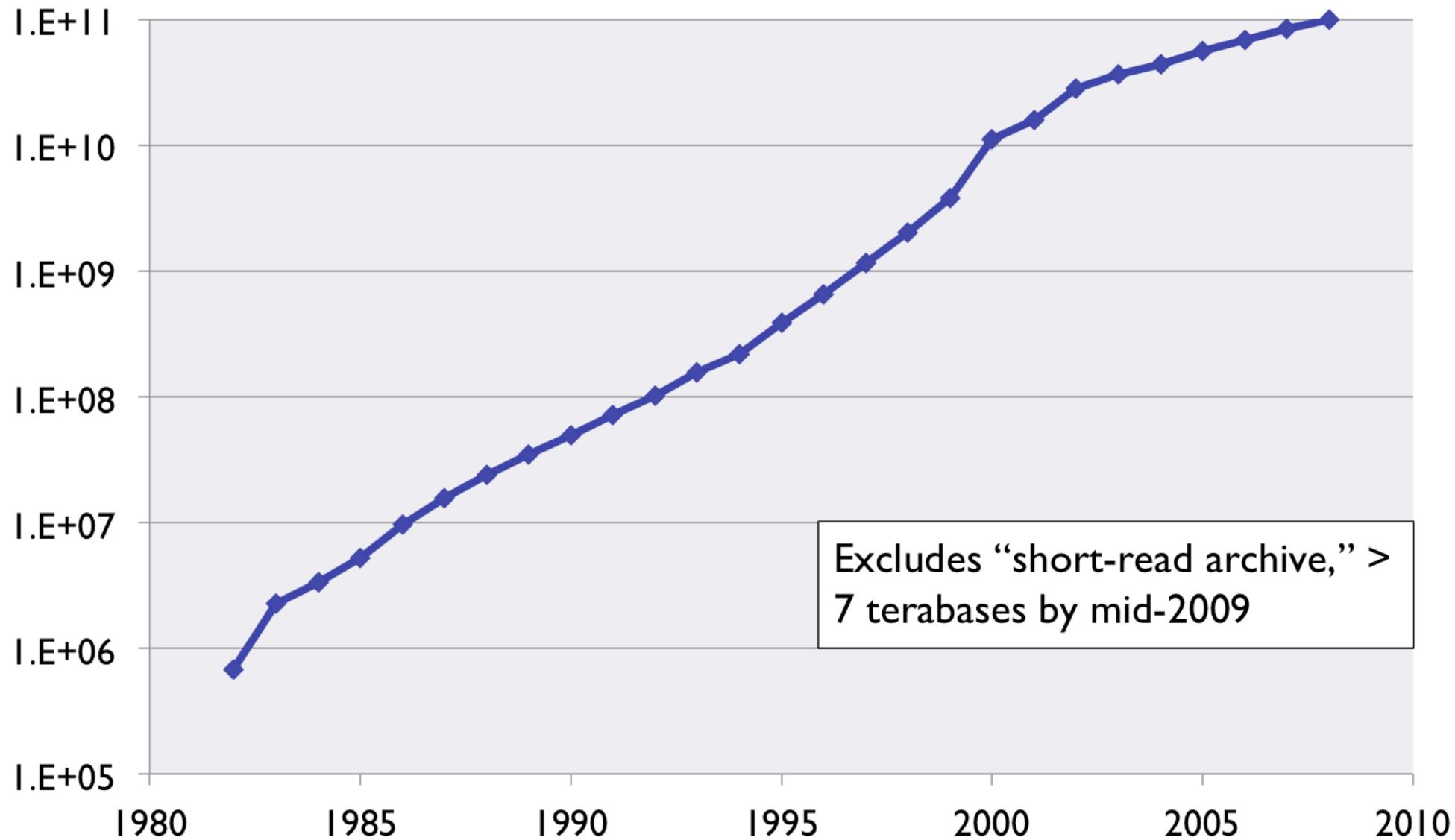
(yes, this part is fodder for hw & exams)

# Application: Sequence Search

# Moore's Law

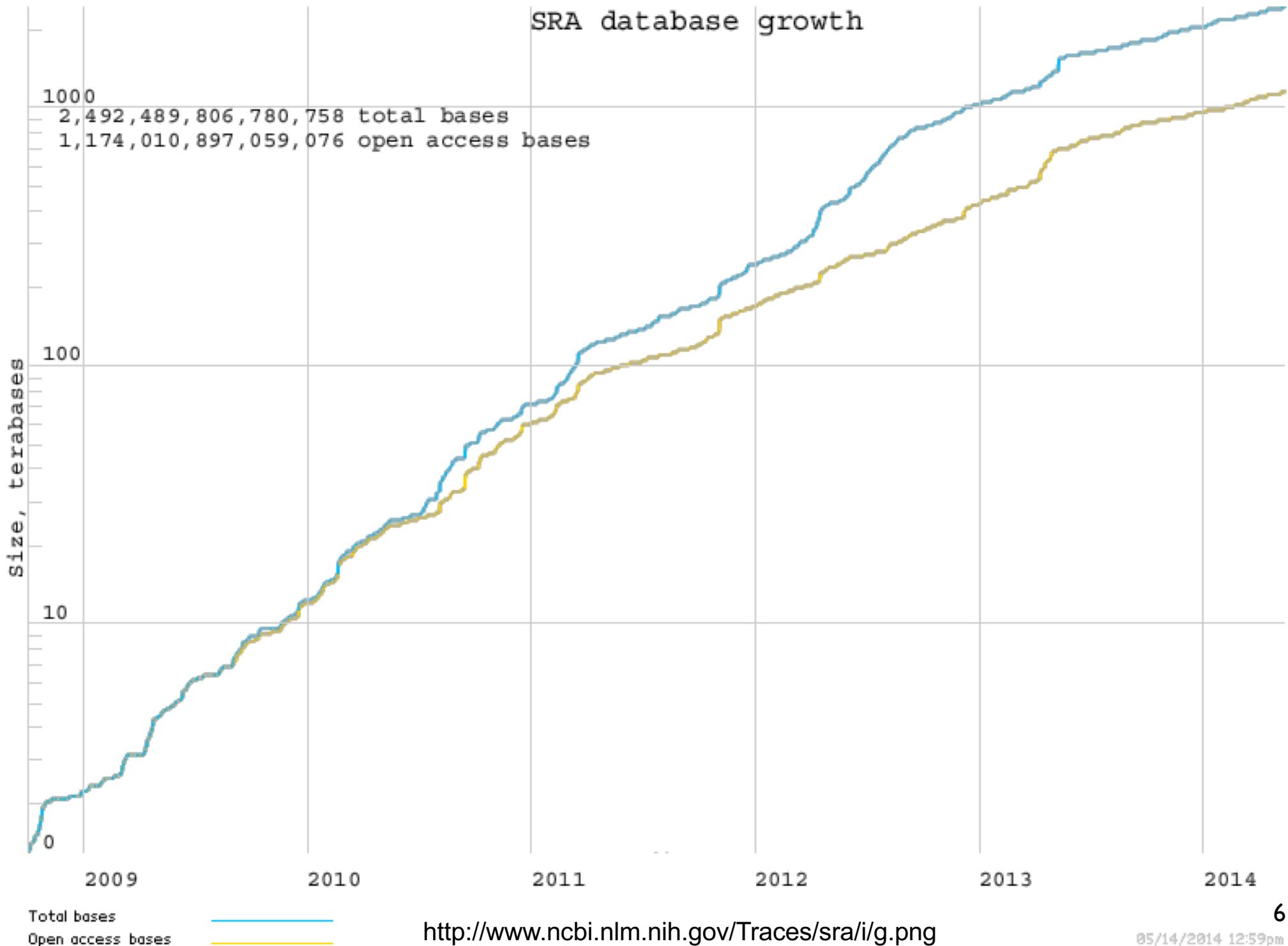


## Growth of GenBank (Base Pairs)

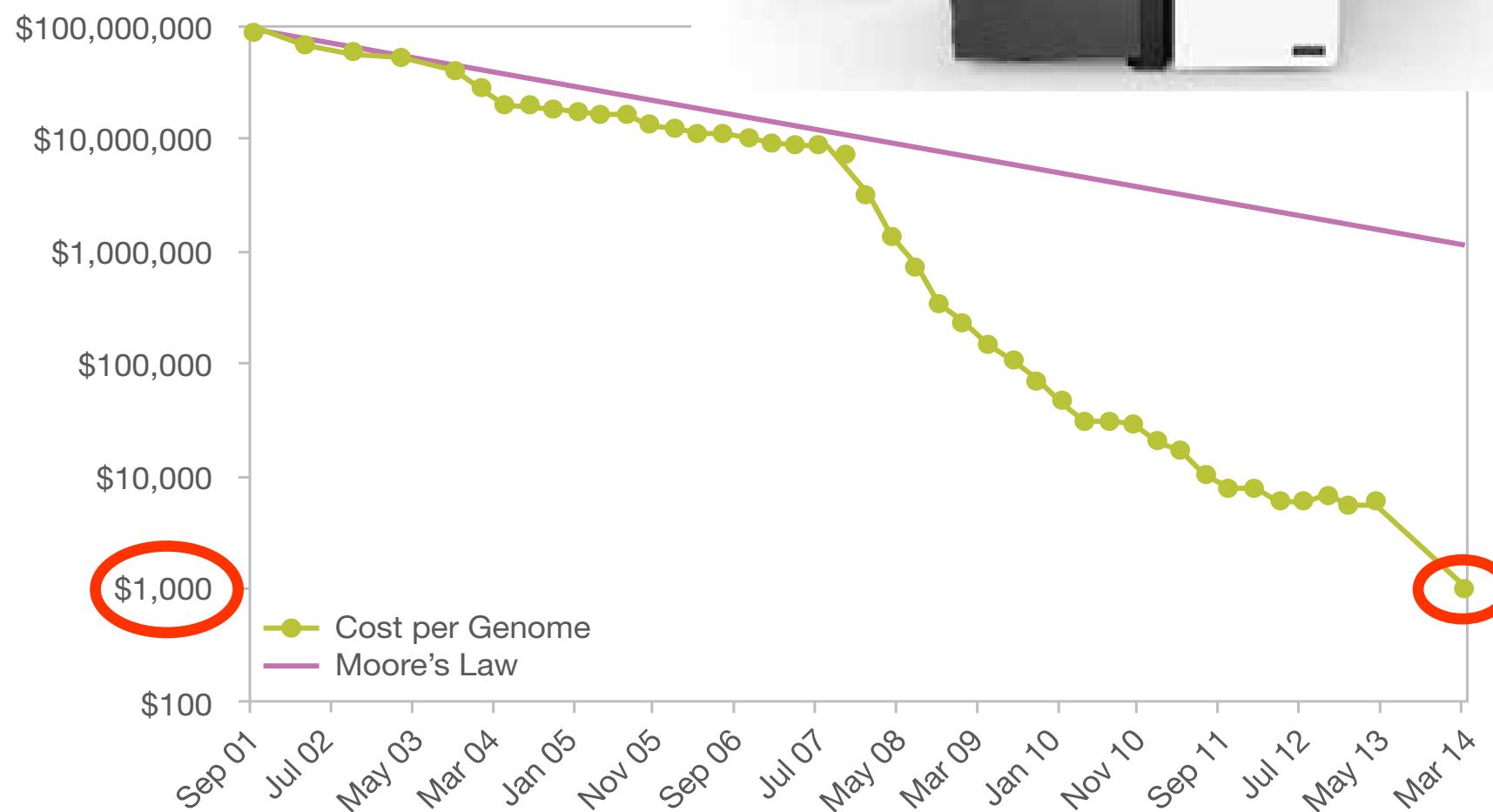


Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/genbankstats.html>

## SRA database growth



# Sequencing Costs Outpace Moore's Law



# A Database Search

go to, e.g., <http://www.uniprot.org/>, “blast” tab, and paste in this:

```
>sp|P15172|MYOD1_HUMAN Myoblast determination protein 1 OS=Homo sapiens GN=MYOD1 PE=1 SV=3
```

```
MELLSPPLRDVDLTAPDGSLCSFATTDDFYDDPCFDSPDLRFFEDLDPRLMHVGALLKPE  
EHSHFPAAVHPAPGAREDEHVRAPSGHHQAGRCLLWACKACKRKTTNADRRKAATMRERR  
RLSKVNEAFETLKRCTSSNPQNQLPKVEILRNAIRYIEGLQALLRDQDAAPPGAAAAYA  
PGPLPPGRGGEHYSGDSDASSPRSNCSDGMMDYSGPPSGARRRN CYEGAYYNEAPSEPRP  
GKSAAVSSLDCISSLVERISTESPAAPALLADVPSESPPRQEAAAPSEGESSIONGDPTQS  
PDAAPQCPAGANPNPIYQVL
```

# A Few seconds Later...

## Graphical overview

Color code for identity 0-  
100% =



Accession	Entry name	0Query hit320	0Match hit (sqrt scale)17392	Name (Organism)
P15172	MYOD1_HUMAN		human	Myoblast determination protein 1 (Homo sapiens)
B2RC72	B2RC72_HUMAN		human	cDNA, FLJ95884, highly similar to Hom... (Homo sapiens)
E2RT59	E2RT59_CANFA		dog	Uncharacterized protein (Canis familiaris)
P49811	MYOD1_PIG		pig	Myoblast determination protein 1 (Sus scrofa)
D2KPI9	D2KPI9_PIG		pig	Myogenic differentiation 1 (Sus scrofa)
F1S9A9	F1S9A9_PIG		pig	Uncharacterized protein (Sus scrofa)
D2I0V4	D2I0V4_AILME		panda	Putative uncharacterized protein (Ailuropoda melanoleuca)
P29331	MYOD1_SHEEP		sheep	Myoblast determination protein 1 (Ovis aries)
D2SP11	D2SP11_BUBBU		water buffalo	Myogenic factor MYOD1 (Bubalus bubalis)
Q0VBX9	Q0VBX9_BOVIN		cow	Myogenic differentiation 1 (Bos taurus)
Q7YS82	MYOD1_BOVIN		cow	Myoblast determination protein 1 (Bos taurus)
Q8C6B1	Q8C6B1_MOUSE		mouse	Myogenic differentiation 1 (Mus musculus)
A0JPK9	A0JPK9_RAT		rat	Myogenic differentiation 1 (Rattus norvegicus)
Q02346	MYOD1_RAT		rat	Myoblast determination protein 1 (Rattus norvegicus)
P10085	MYOD1_MOUSE		mouse	Myoblast determination protein 1 (Mus musculus)
Q6DTY5	Q6DTY5_PIG		pig	Eukaryotic myogenic factor MYF-3 (Sus scrofa)
P21572	MYOD1_COTJA		quail	Myoblast determination protein 1 homolog (Coturnix coturnix japonica)
Q6DV59	Q6DV59_MELGA		turkey	MyoD (Meleagris gallopavo)
P16075	MYOD1_CHICK		chicken	Myoblast determination protein 1 homolog (Gallus gallus)
C5J072	C5J072_CHICK		chicken	Myogenic differentiation 1 (Gallus gallus)
C3U0I1	C3U0I1_ANAPL		duck	Myogenic differentiation 1 (Anas platyrhynchos)
F1NHM3	F1NHM3_CHICK		chicken	Uncharacterized protein (Gallus gallus)
F1NXM5	F1NXM5_CHICK		chicken	Uncharacterized protein (Gallus gallus)
P13904	MYODA_XENLA		frog	Myoblast determination protein 1 homolog A (Xenopus laevis)
Q8AVZ0	Q8AVZ0_XENLA		frog	Myod1-a protein (Xenopus laevis)
Q7T109	Q7T109_XENTR			MyoD protein (Xenopus tropicalis)

...And 100's more...

Accession	Entry name	Status	Protein names	Organism	Length
Q7T109	Q7T109_XENTR	★	MyoD protein	Xenopus tropicalis (Western clawed frog) ( <i>Xenopus tropicalis</i> )	288

### Alignment 1 against Q7T109

Some Details from #25

Score	964	E-value	$1.0 \times 10^{-102}$
Identity	64.0%	Positives	74.0%
Query length	320	Match length	288
Position	Q7T109 matches from 1 to 288 (288AA), in the query sequence from 1 to 320 (320AA)		
Graphical			

1	MELLSPPPLRDVDLTAPDGSLCSFATTDDFYDDPCFDSPDLRFFEDLDPRLMHVGALLKPE MELL PPLRD+++T +GSLCSF T DDFYDDPCF++ D+ FFEDLDPRL+HV ALLKPE	60	P15172
1	MELLPPPLRDMEVT--EGSLCSFPTPDDFYDDPCFNTSDMSFFEDLDPRLVHV-ALLKPE	57	Q7T109
61	EHSHFPAAVHPAPGAREDEHVRAPSGHQAGRCLLWACKACKRKTTNADRRKAATMRERR + H EDEHVRAPSGHQAGRCLLWACKACKRKTTNADRRKAATMRERR	120	P15172
58	DPHH-----NEDEHVRAPSGHQAGRCLLWACKACKRKTTNADRRKAATMRERR	106	Q7T109
121	RLSKVNEAFETLKRCTSSNPNQRLPKVEILRNAIRYIEGLQALLRDQDAAPPGAAAAYA RLSKVNEAFETLKRCTS+NPNQRLPKVEILRNAIRYIE LQ+LLR Q+ +FY	180	P15172
107	RLSKVNEAFETLKRCTSTNPNQRLPKVEILRNAIRYIESLQSLLRGQE-----ESFY-	158	Q7T109
181	PGPLPPGRGGEHYSGDASSPRSNCSDGMDYSGPPSGARRRN CYEGAYYNEAPSEPRP P+ EHYSGDASSPRSNCSDGM DYS PP G+RRRN Y+ ++Y+++P+ R	240	P15172
159	--PVL-----EHYSGDASSPRSNCSDGMTDYS-PPCGSRRRN SYDSSFYSDSPNGLRL	210	Q7T109
241	GKSAAVSSLCLSSIVERISTESP AAPALL ADVPSSESPPRQEAAAPSEGES---SGDP GKS+ +SSLCLSSIVERISTESP P + AD SE P +P +GE+ SG	297	P15172
211	GKSSVISSLCLSSIVERISTESP VCPVIPAADSGSEGSP-----CSPLQGETLSESGII	265	Q7T109 <sup>10</sup>

Filter · Overview · Results · Job information · Customize order										« Previous	Page	10	of 10
Alignments	Entry	Entry name	Status	Protein names	Organism	Length	Identity	Score	E-value	Gene names			
...	B3LY60	B3LY60_DROAN	★	GF18746	Drosophila ananassae (Fruit fly)	334	42.0%	344	4.0×10⁻³⁰	GF18746 Dana\GF18746 Dana_GF18746			
...	Q4RGJ6	Q4RGJ6_TETNG	★	Chromosome undetermined SCAF15099, whole genome	Tetraodon nigroviridis (Spotted green pufferfish) (Chelonodon nigroviridis)	126	57.0%	343	5.0×10⁻³⁰	GSTENG00034775001			
...	F1NFS6	F1NFS6_CHICK	★	Uncharacterized protein	Gallus gallus (Chicken)	237	46.0%	343	5.0×10⁻³⁰	Gga.378			
...	Q91151	Q91151_NOTVI	★	Myogenic regulatory factor; transcription factor	Notophthalmus viridescens (Eastern newt) (Triturus viridescens)	219	44.0%	342	6.0×10⁻³⁰	MRF-4			
...	Q29BN7	Q29BN7_DROPS	★	GA10192	Drosophila pseudoobscura pseudoobscura (Fruit fly)	330	42.0%	342	6.0×10⁻³⁰	GA10192 Dpse\GA10192 Dpse_GA10192			
...	B4GP81	B4GP81_DROPE	★	GL13832	Drosophila persimilis (Fruit fly)	330	42.0%	342	6.0×10⁻³⁰	GL13832 Dper\GL13832 Dper_GL13832			
...	Q92020	MYF6_XENLA	★	Myogenic factor 6	Xenopus laevis (African clawed frog)	240	44.0%	340	1.0×10⁻²⁹	myf6 mrf4			
...	B7ZQB0	B7ZQB0_XENLA	★	MRF4a	Xenopus laevis (African clawed frog)	240	44.0%	340	1.0×10⁻²⁹	MRF4			
...	A7UCI1	A7UCI1_XENLA	★	MRF4a	Xenopus laevis (African clawed frog)	240	44.0%	340	1.0×10⁻²⁹	MRF4A MRF4			
...	F7FIX8	F7FIX8_MONDO	★	Uncharacterized protein	Monodelphis domestica (Gray short-tailed opossum)	243	47.0%	339	1.0×10⁻²⁹	MYF6			
...	D9IV56	D9IV56_EPICO	★	Myogenin	Epinephelus coioides (Orange-spotted grouper) (Epinephelus nebulosus)	250	47.0%	338	2.0×10⁻²⁹				
...	Q6SYV5	MYF6_TAKRU	★	Myogenic factor 6	Takifugu rubripes (Japanese pufferfish) (Fugu rubripes)	239	46.0%	337	2.0×10⁻²⁹	myf6 mrf4			
...	G3WJP0	G3WJP0_SARHA	★	Uncharacterized protein	Sarcophilus harrisii (Tasmanian devil) (Sarcophilus laniarius)	243	47.0%	337	2.0×10⁻²⁹	MYF6			
...	G7Y452	G7Y452_CLOSI	★	Transcription factor SUM-1	Clonorchis sinensis (Chinese liver fluke)	946	64.0%	337	2.0×10⁻²⁹	CLF_100742			
...	G4LXJ1	G4LXJ1_SCHMA	★	Myogenic factor, putative	Schistosoma mansoni (Blood fluke)	864	68.0%	337	2.0×10⁻²⁹	Smp_167400			
...	G1EN33	G1EN33_DUGJA	★	Myogenic determinant factor	Dugesia japonica (Planarian)	498	42.0%	336	3.0×10⁻²⁹	MDF			
...	Q8MWP6	Q8MWP6_SCHMD	★	MyoD-like protein	Schmidtea mediterranea (Freshwater planarian flatworm)	466	69.0%	335	4.0×10⁻²⁹				
...	Q6PUV5	MYF6_TETNG	★	Myogenic factor 6	Tetraodon nigroviridis (Spotted green pufferfish) (Chelonodon nigroviridis)	239	45.0%	333	7.0×10⁻²⁹	myf6 mrf4 GSTENG00021536001			
...	Q2PZ12	Q2PZ12_SALSA	★	Myogenin	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	254	55.0%	333	7.0×10⁻²⁹				
...	Q91207	Q91207_ONCMY	★	TMyogenin protein	Oncorhynchus mykiss (Rainbow trout) (Salmo gairdneri)	254	45.0%	332	9.0×10⁻²⁹	TMyogenin			

hits at rank ~ 250 still extremely good matches, even though very distantly related organisms (and rank 1000+...)

# The foregoing search capability is a *huge* deal

the “google” of molecular biology

millions of searches daily

biologists (not just “computational”  
biologists) use this routinely

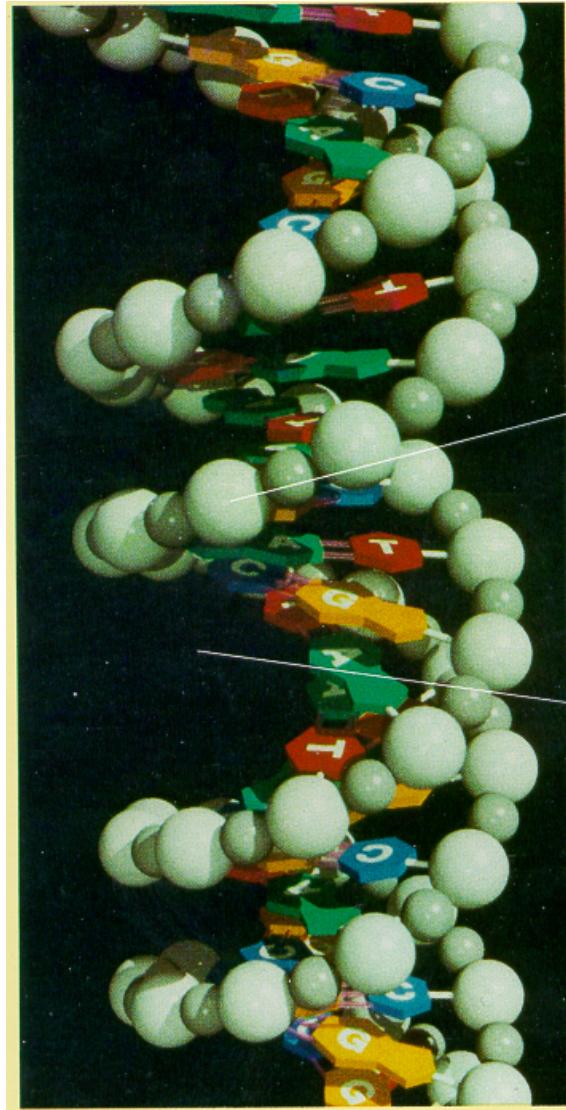
it connects information about *all* living things

(dynamic programming)

Time permitting, more on algorithm later ...

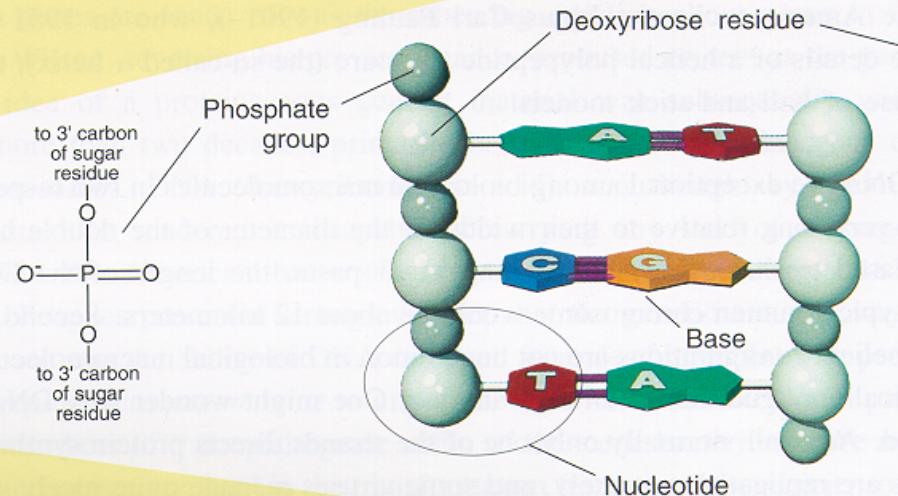
# Application: RNA structure

# The Double Helix



(a) Computer-generated  
Image of DNA  
(by Mel Prueitt)

(b) Uncoiled DNA Fragment



As shown, the two strands coil about each other in a fashion such that all the bases project inward toward the helix axis. The two strands are held together by hydrogen bonds (pink rods) linking each base projecting from one backbone to its so-called complementary base projecting from the other backbone. The base A always bonds to T (A and T are comple-

Shown in (b)  
is an uncoiled fragment of (a  
three complementary base pair.  
chemist's viewpoint, each strand  
a polymer made up of four re-  
called deoxyribonucleotides

# Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

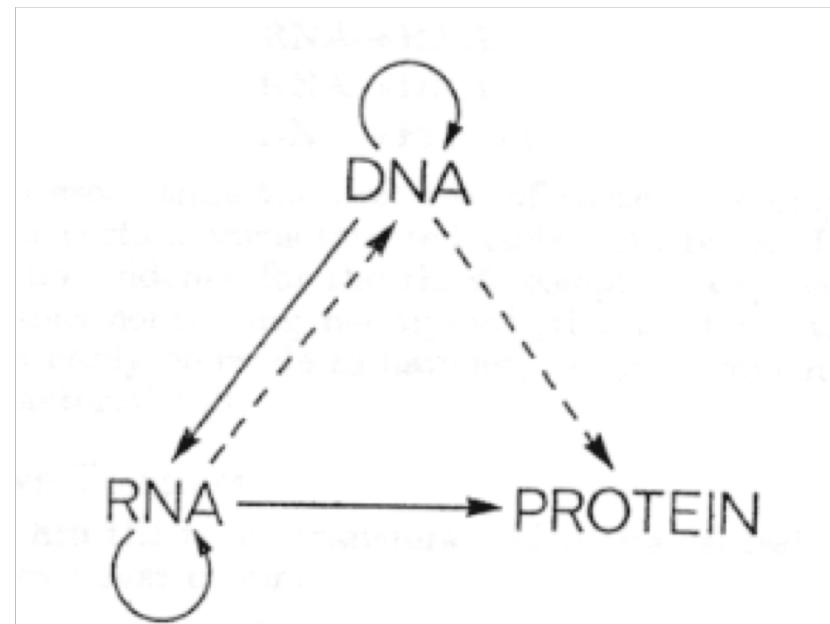
by

FRANCIS CRICK  
MRC Laboratory  
Hills Road,  
Cambridge CB2 2QH

The central dogma of molecular biology deals with the detailed residue-by-residue transfer of sequential information. It states that such information cannot be transferred from protein to either protein or nucleic acid.

"The central dogma, enunciated by Crick in 1958 and the keystone of molecular biology ever since, is likely to prove a considerable over-simplification."

Fig. 2. The arrows show the situation as it seemed in 1958. Solid arrows represent probable transfers, dotted arrows possible transfers. The absent arrows (compare Fig. 1) represent the impossible transfers postulated by the central dogma. They are the three possible arrows starting from protein.



# Non-coding RNA

Messenger RNA - codes for proteins

Non-coding RNA - all the rest

Before, say, mid 1990's, 1-2 dozen known  
(critically important, but narrow roles: e.g., tRNA)

Since mid 90's dramatic discoveries

Regulation, transport, stability/degradation

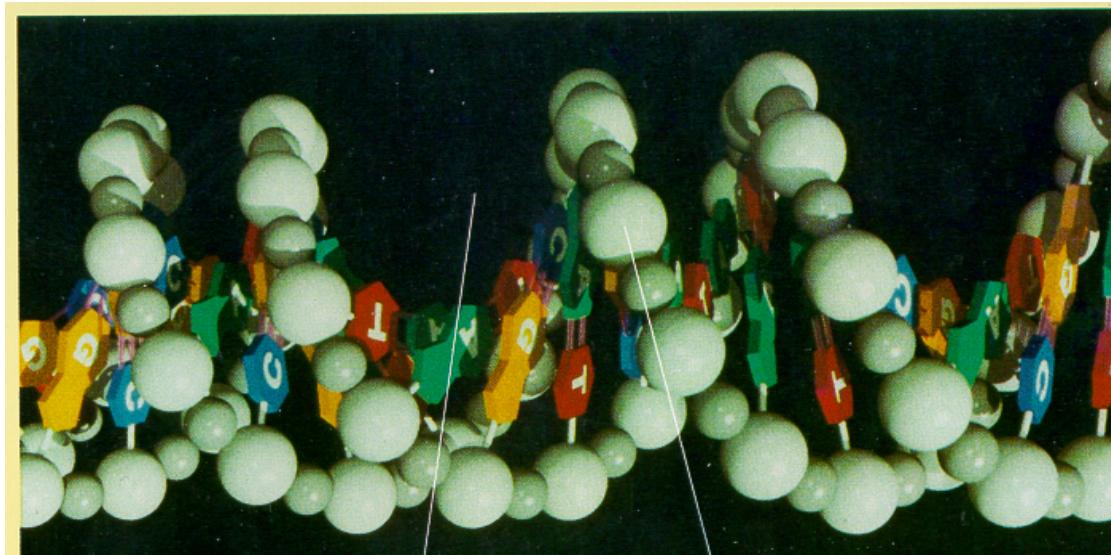
E.g. "miRNA": >1000 in humans; regulate >50% of genes

E.g. "riboswitches": 10000's in bacteria

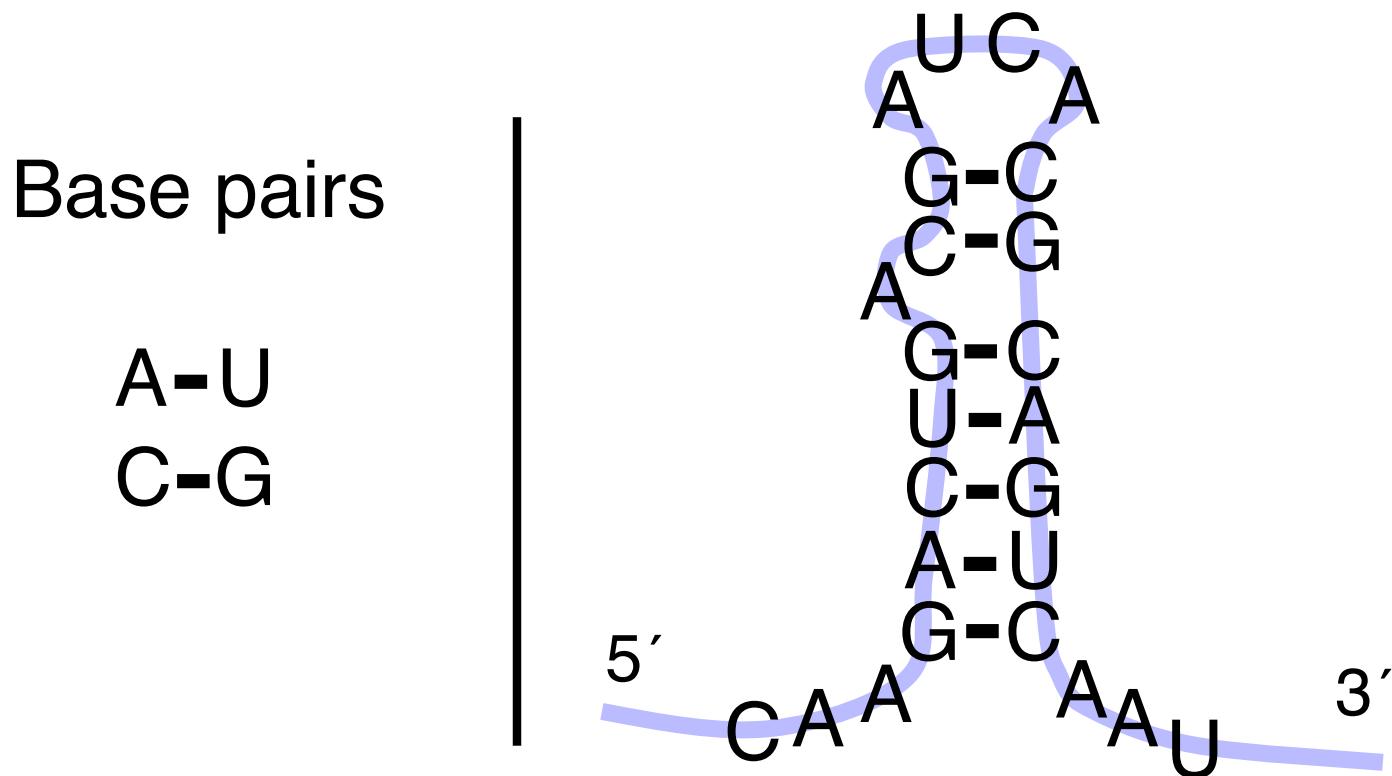
*By some estimates, ncRNA >> mRNA*

# DNA structure: dull

5' ...ACCGCTAGATG...3'  
| | | | | | | | | |  
3' ...TGGCGATCTAC...5'



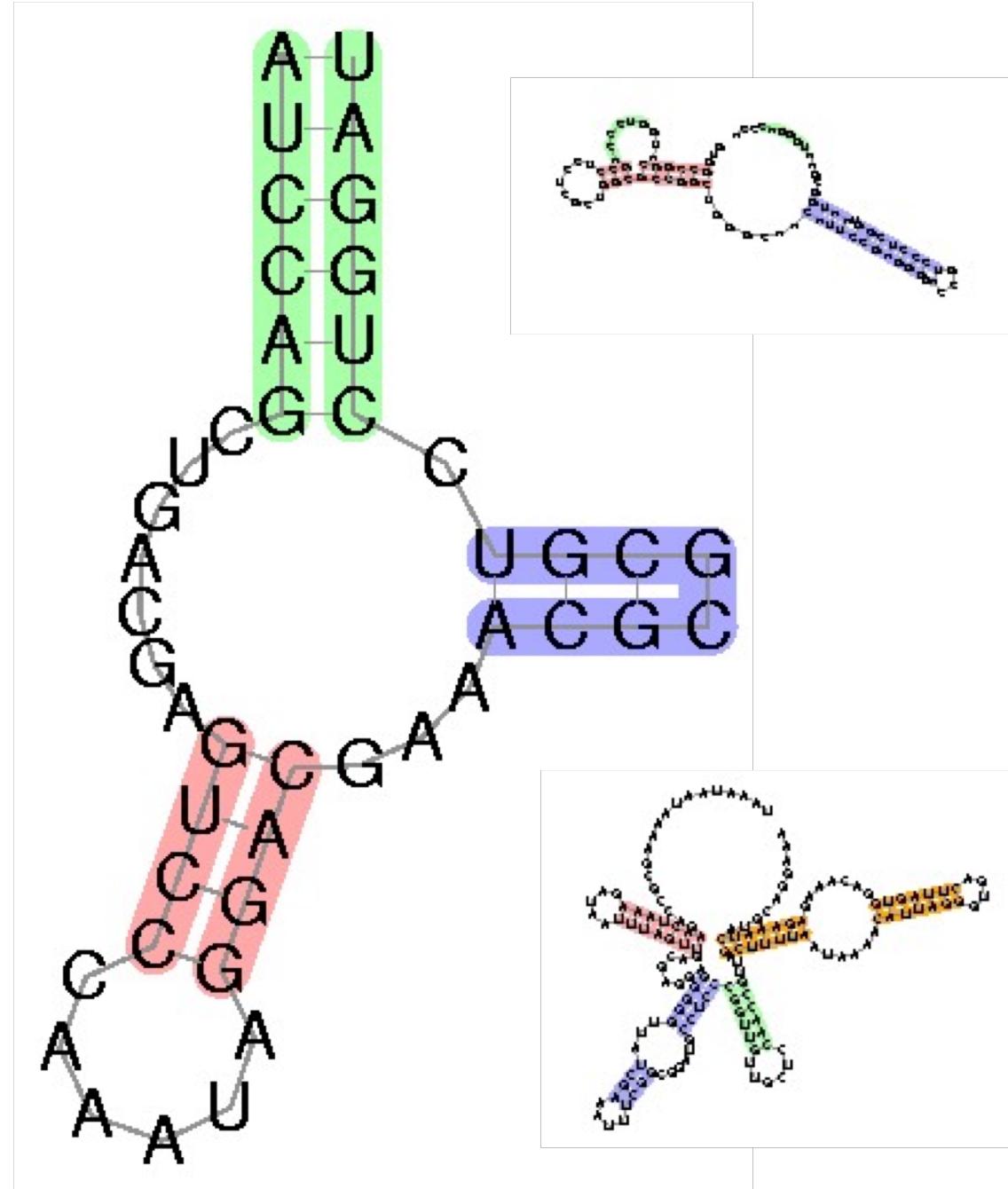
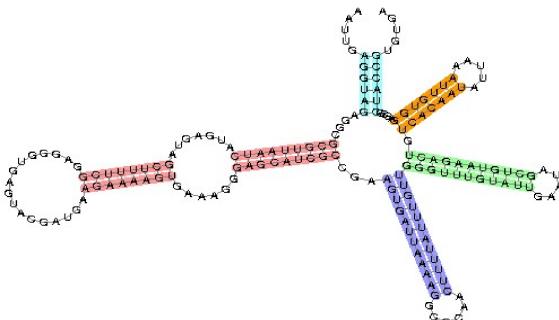
# RNA Secondary Structure: RNA makes helices too



Usually *single* stranded

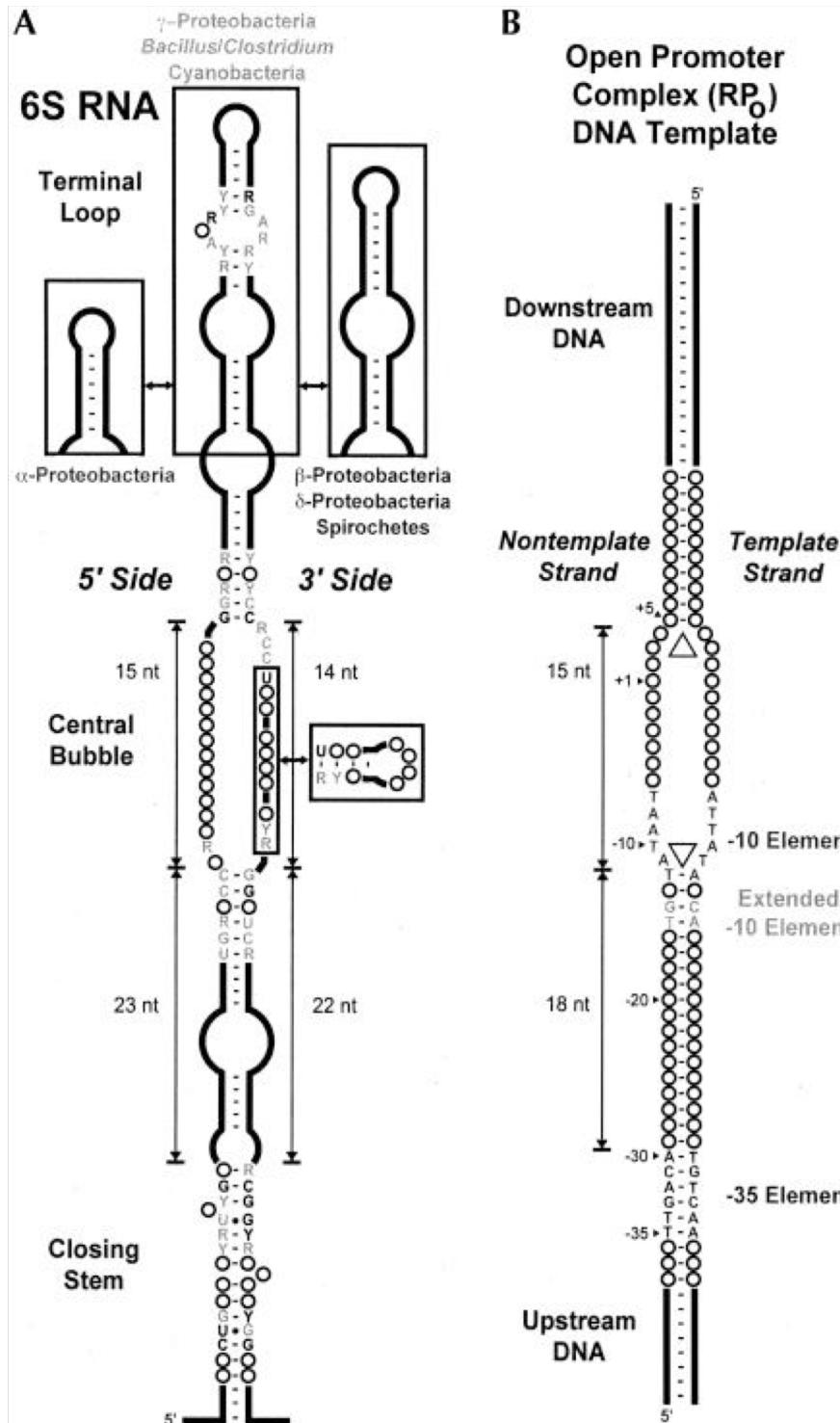
# RNA Secondary Structure:

Not everything,  
but important,  
easier than 3d

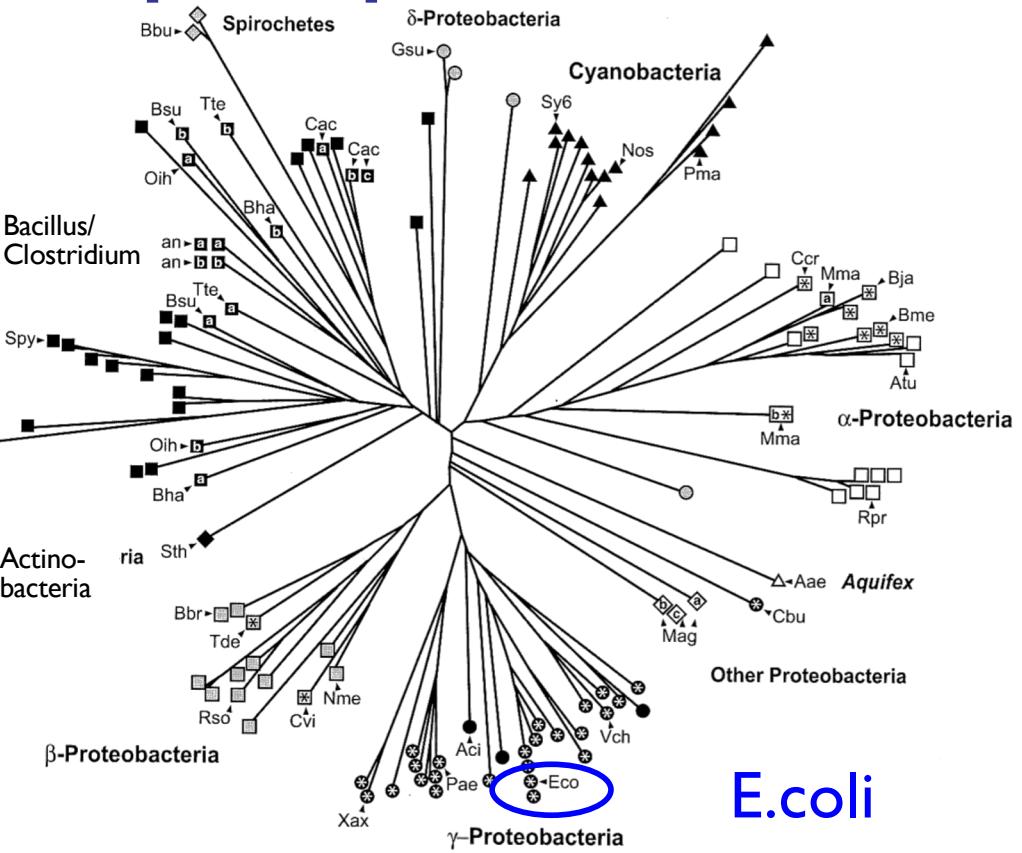


# Why is structure important?

- For protein-coding, similarity in sequence is a powerful tool for finding related sequences
  - e.g. “hemoglobin,” “MyoD” and many others are easily recognized in all animals
- For many non-coding RNAs, *different sequences* can have the *same structure*, and structure is most important for function.
  - So, using structure plus sequence, can find related sequences at much greater evolutionary distances



# 6S mimics an open promoter



Barrick et al. RNA 2005  
Trotocaud et al. NSMB 2005  
Willkomm et al. NAR 2005

*Chloroflexus aurantiacus*

**Chlorflexi**

**δ -Proteobacteria**

(*E. coli*)

γ-Proteobacteria

β-Proteobacteria

α-Proteobacteria

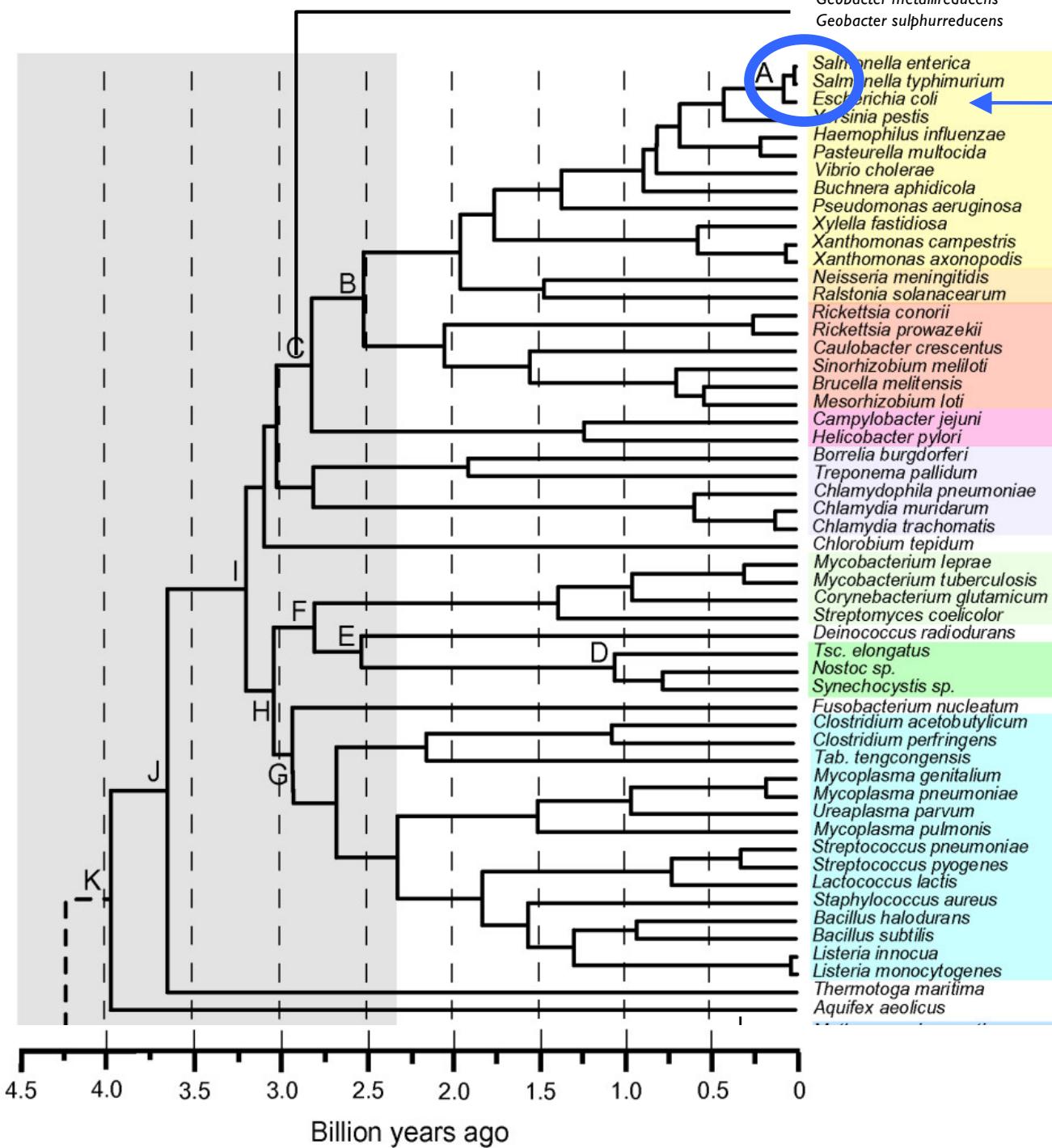
ε-Proteobacteria

Spirochaetes  
Chlamydiae

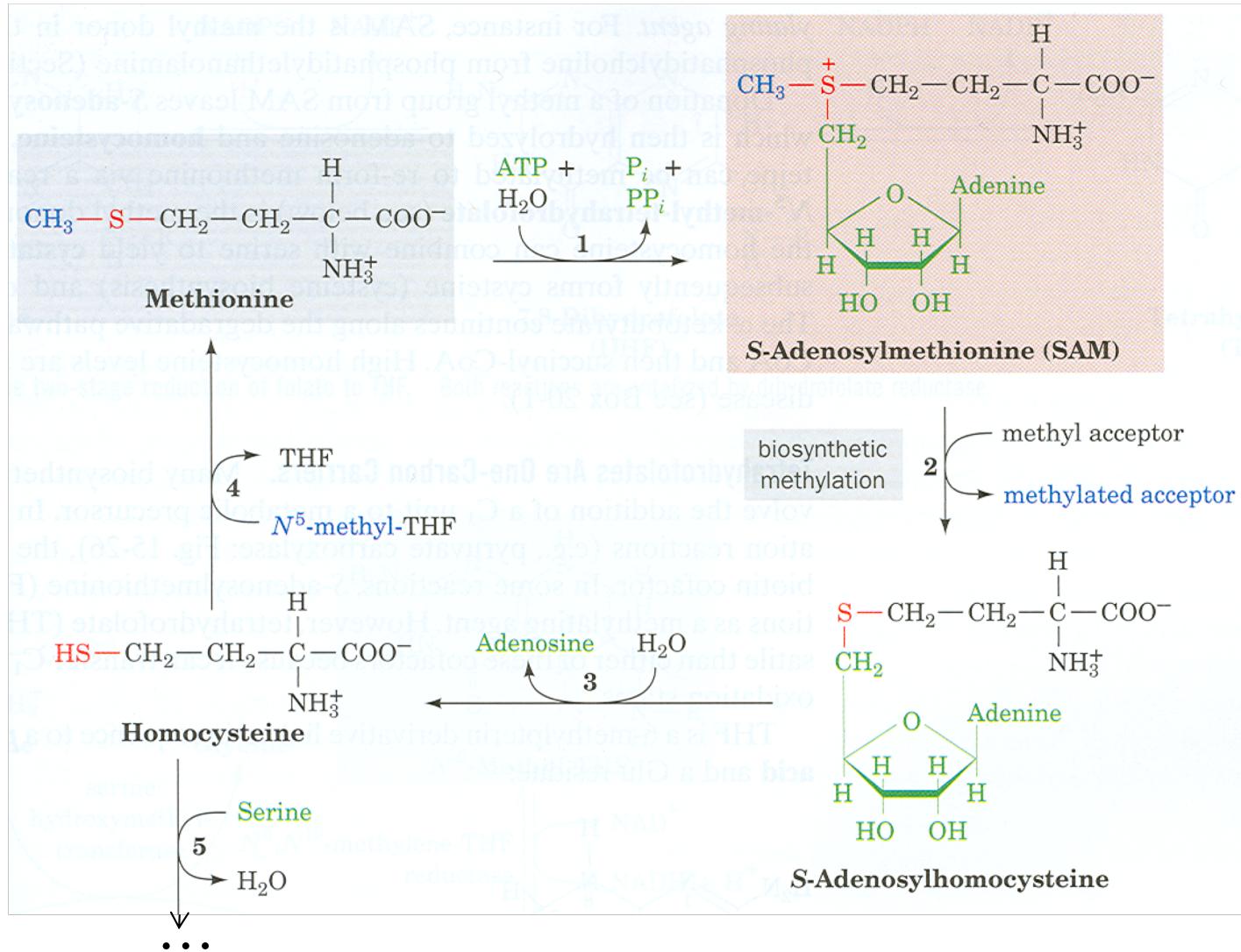
Actinobacteria  
(high GC)

Cyanobacteria

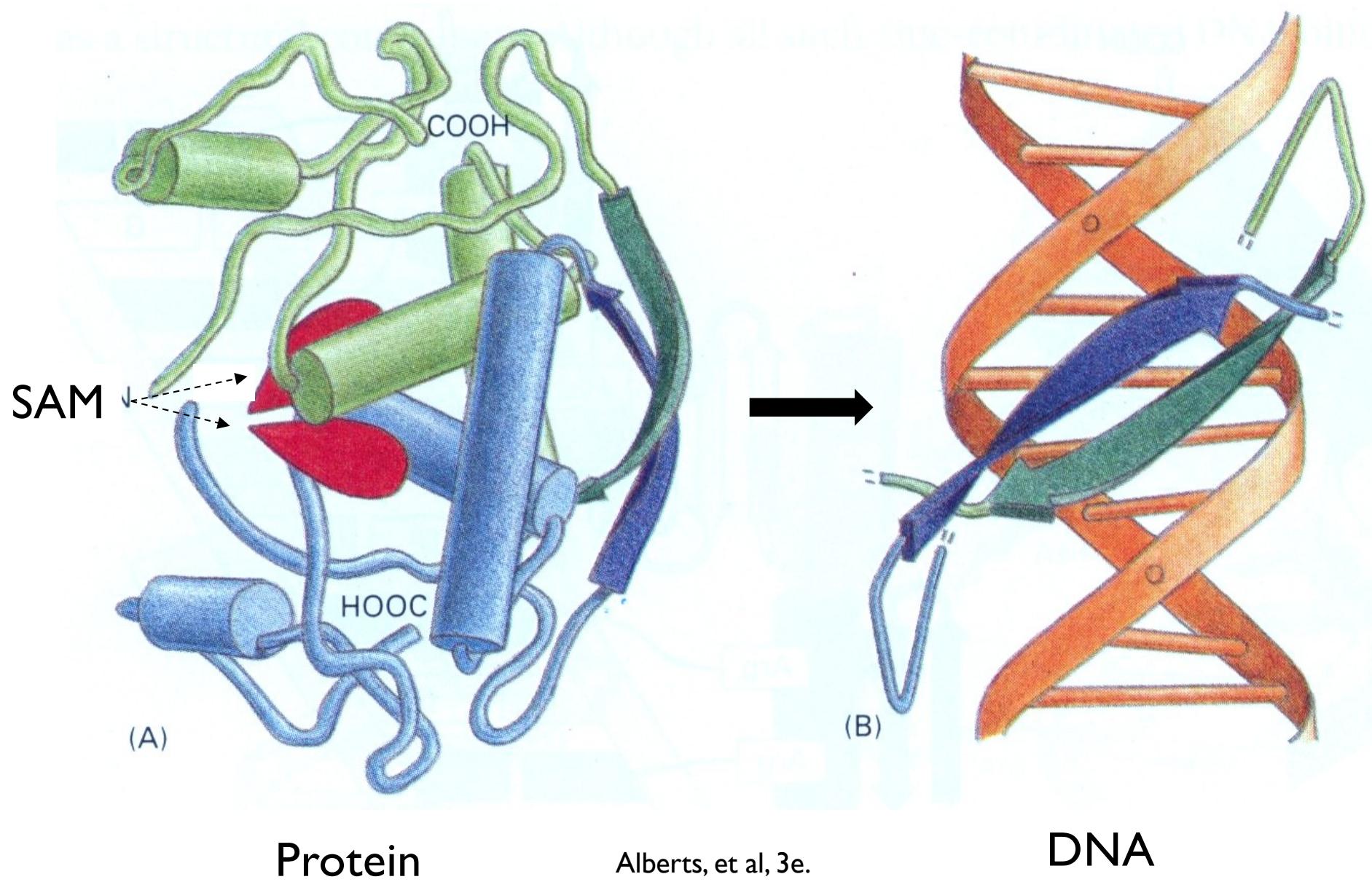
Firmicutes  
(low GC)



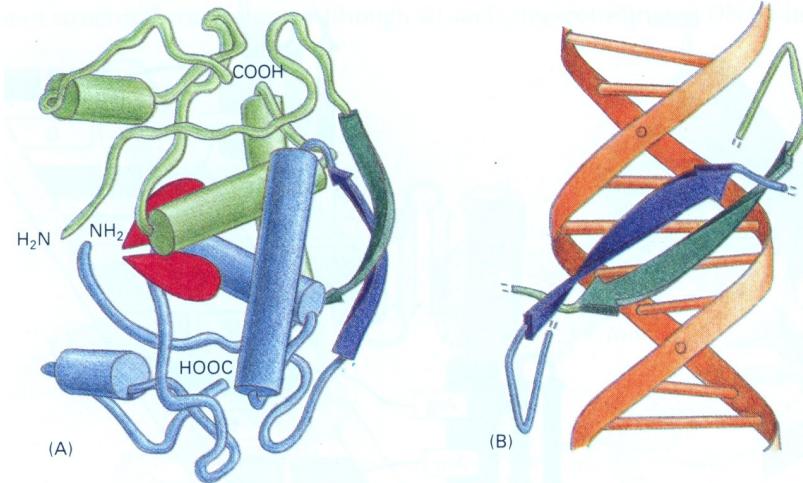
# In Bacteria: A typical biosynthetic cycle around a critical metabolite (“SAM”)



# Gene Regulation: The MET Repressor



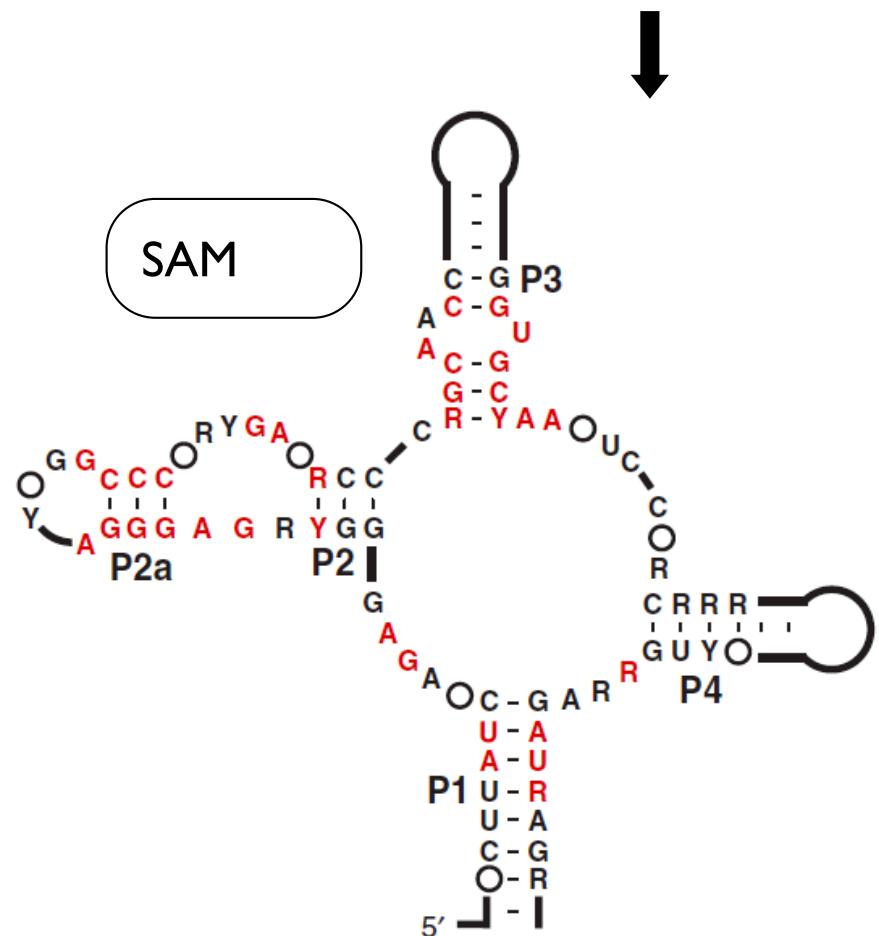
Alberts, et al, 3e.



Not the only way!

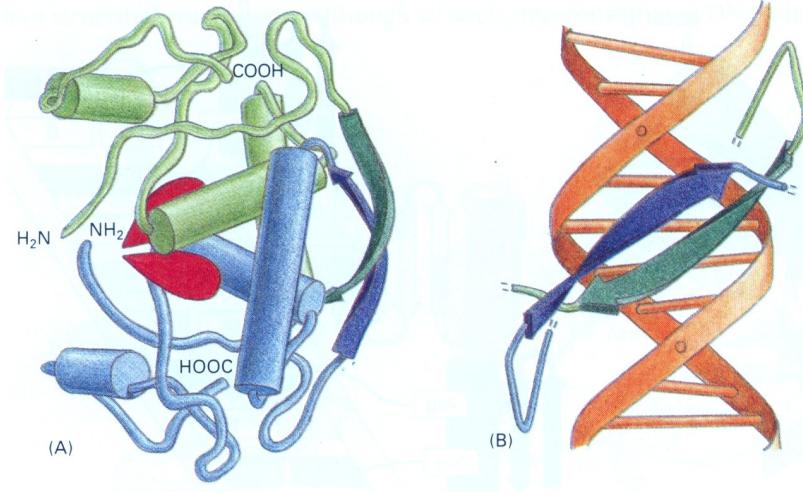
Protein  
way

Riboswitch  
alternative



Grundy & Henkin, Mol. Microbiol 1998  
Epshtein, et al., PNAS 2003  
Winkler et al., Nat. Struct. Biol. 2003

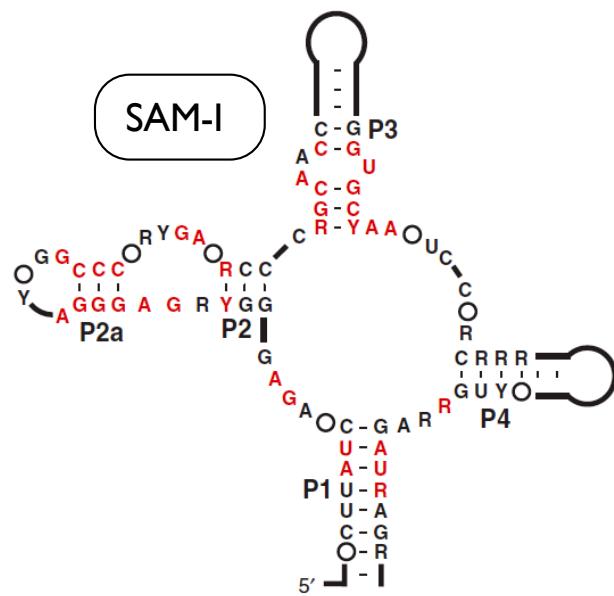
Alberts, et al, 3e.



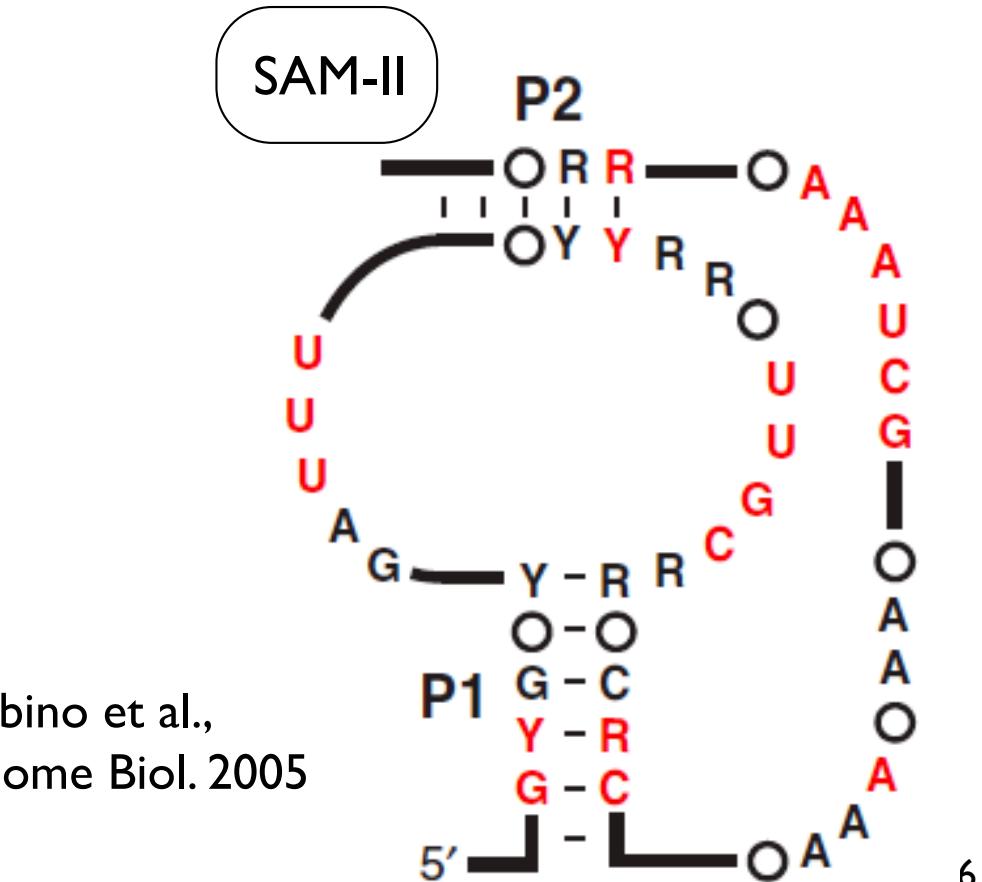
# Not the only way!

Protein  
way

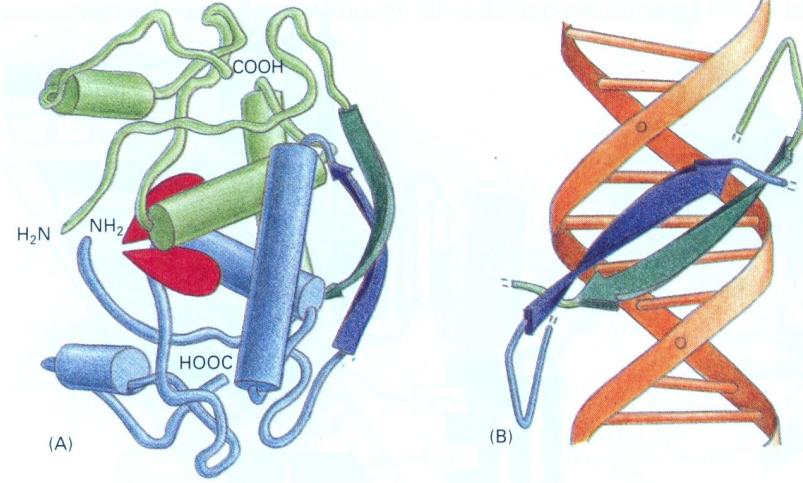
Riboswitch  
alternatives



Corbino et al.,  
Genome Biol. 2005



Grundy, Epshteyn, Winkler  
et al., 1998, 2003



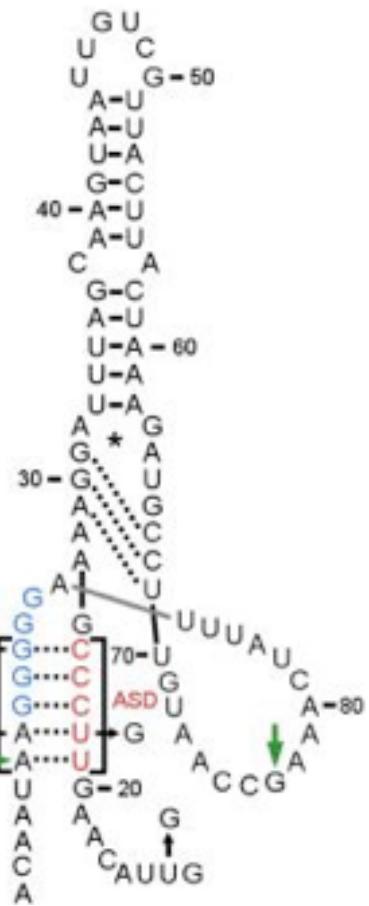
Not the only way!

Protein  
way

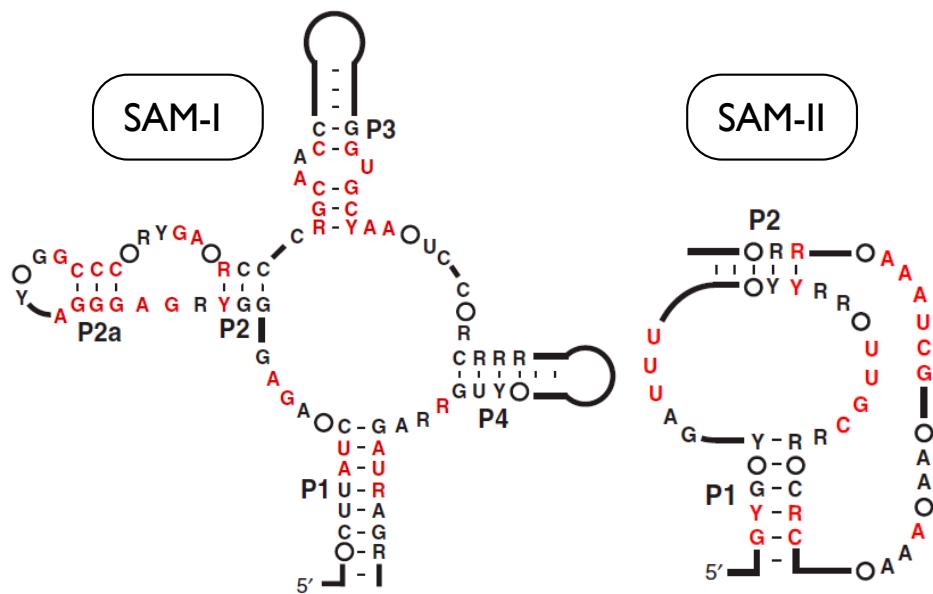
Riboswitch  
alternatives



SAM-III

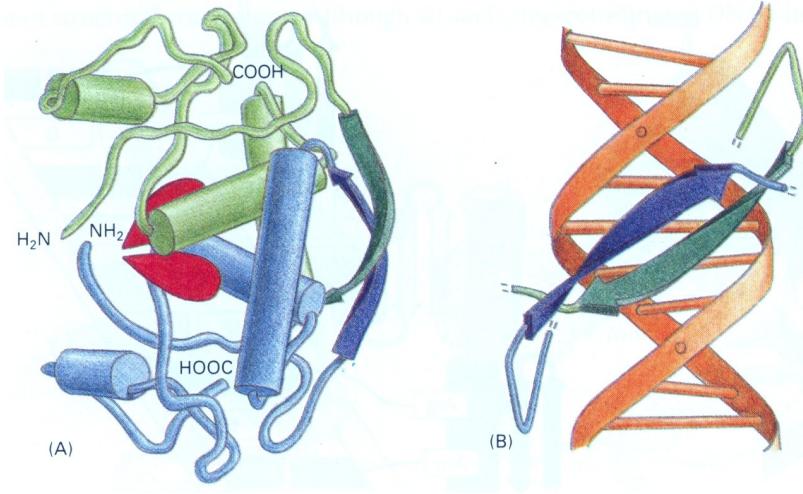


Fuchs et al.,  
NSMB 2006



Grundy, Epshtain, Winkler  
et al., 1998, 2003

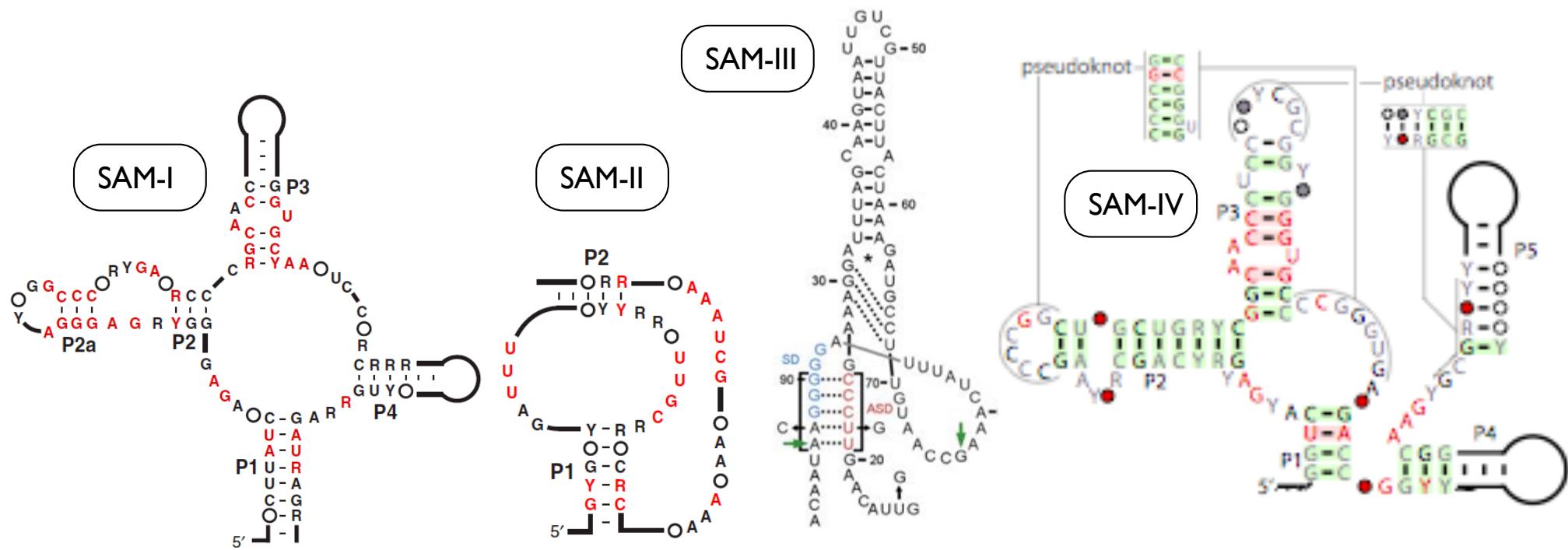
Corbino et al.,  
Genome Biol. 2005



# Not the only way!

Protein  
way

Riboswitch  
alternatives

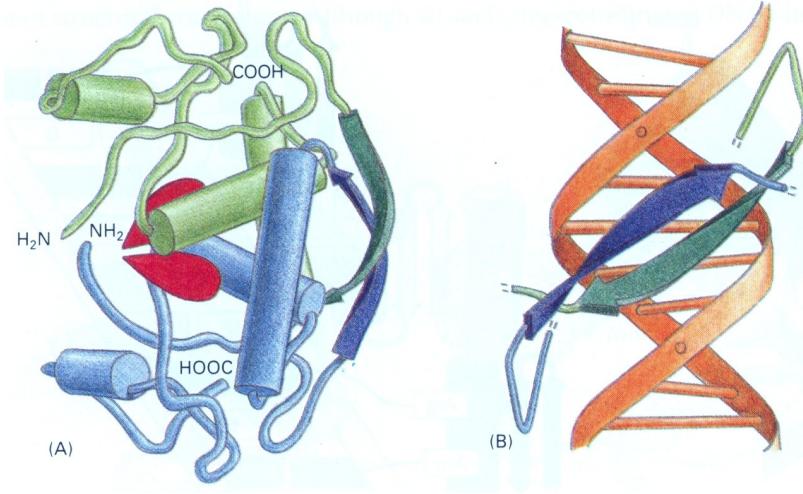


Grundy, Epshtain, Winkler  
et al., 1998, 2003

Corbino et al.,  
Genome Biol. 2005

Fuchs et al.,  
NSMB 2006

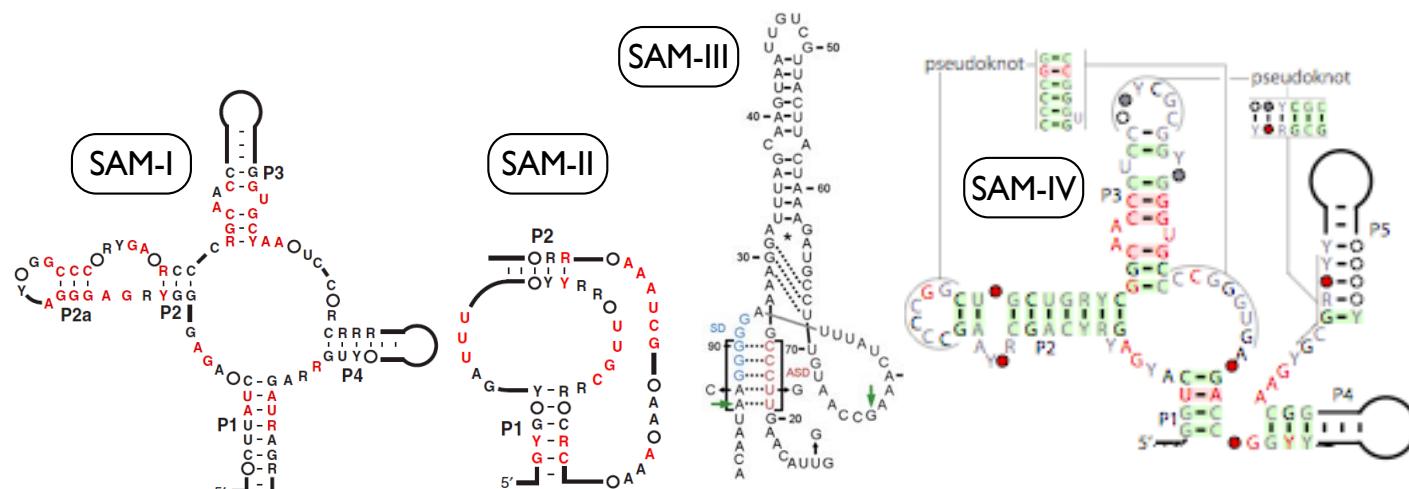
Weinberg et al.,  
RNA 2008



# Not the only way!

Protein  
way

Riboswitch  
alternatives

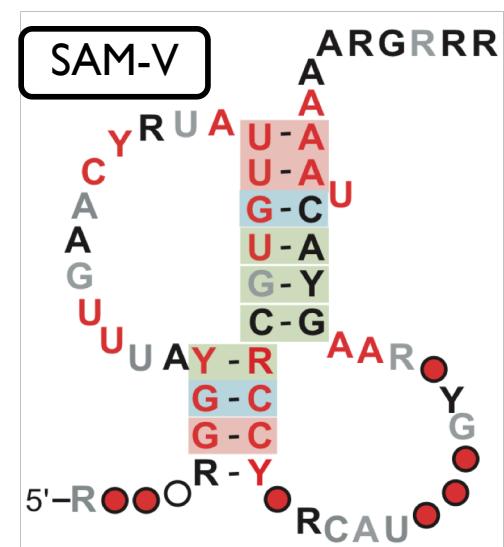


Grundy, Epshteyn,  
Winkler  
et al., 1998, 2003

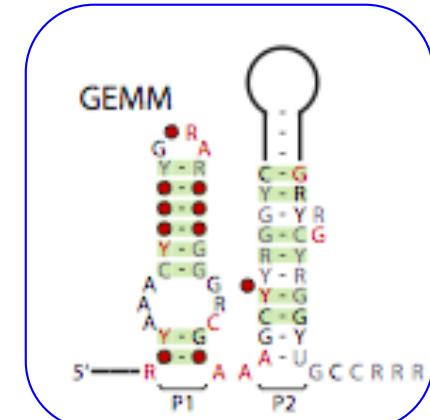
Corbino et  
al.,  
Genome Biol.  
2005

Fuchs et  
al.,  
NSMB  
2006

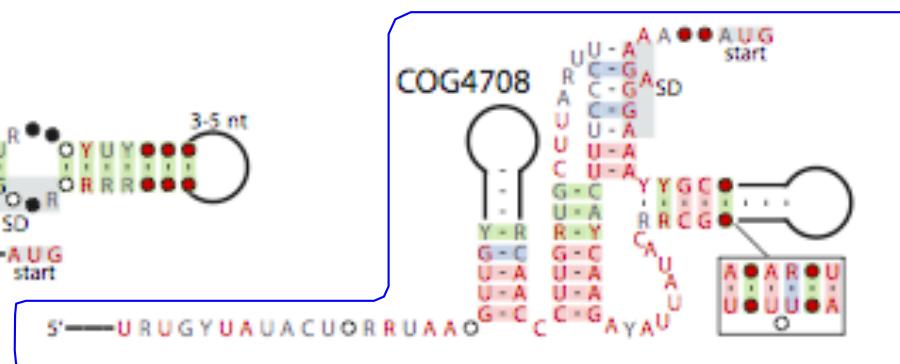
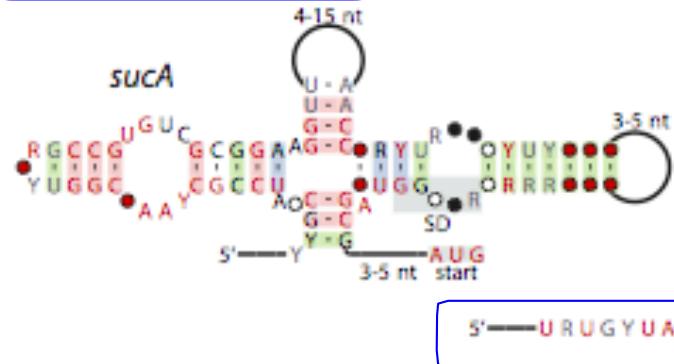
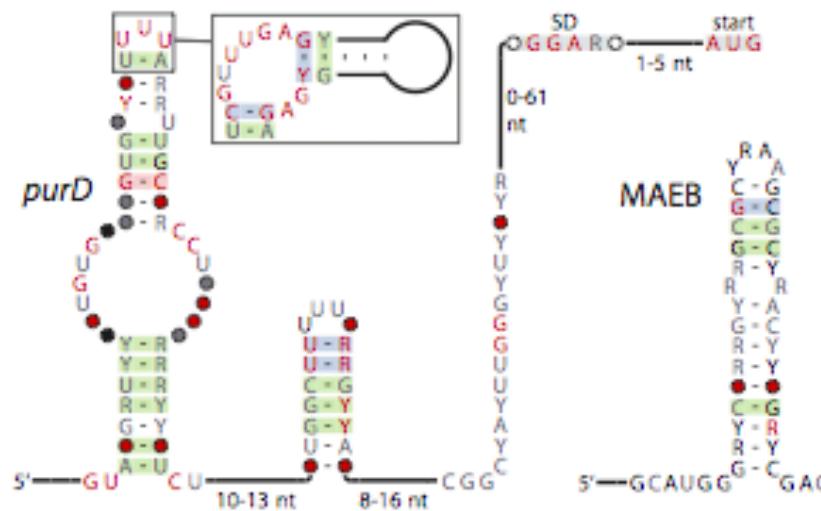
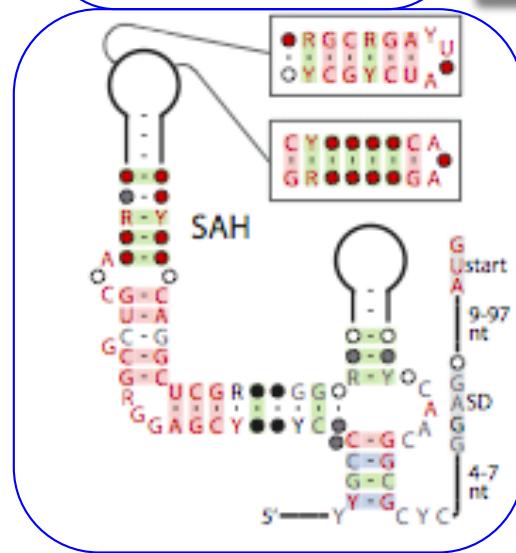
Weinberg  
et al.,  
RNA 2008



Meyer, et al., BMC  
Genomics 2009

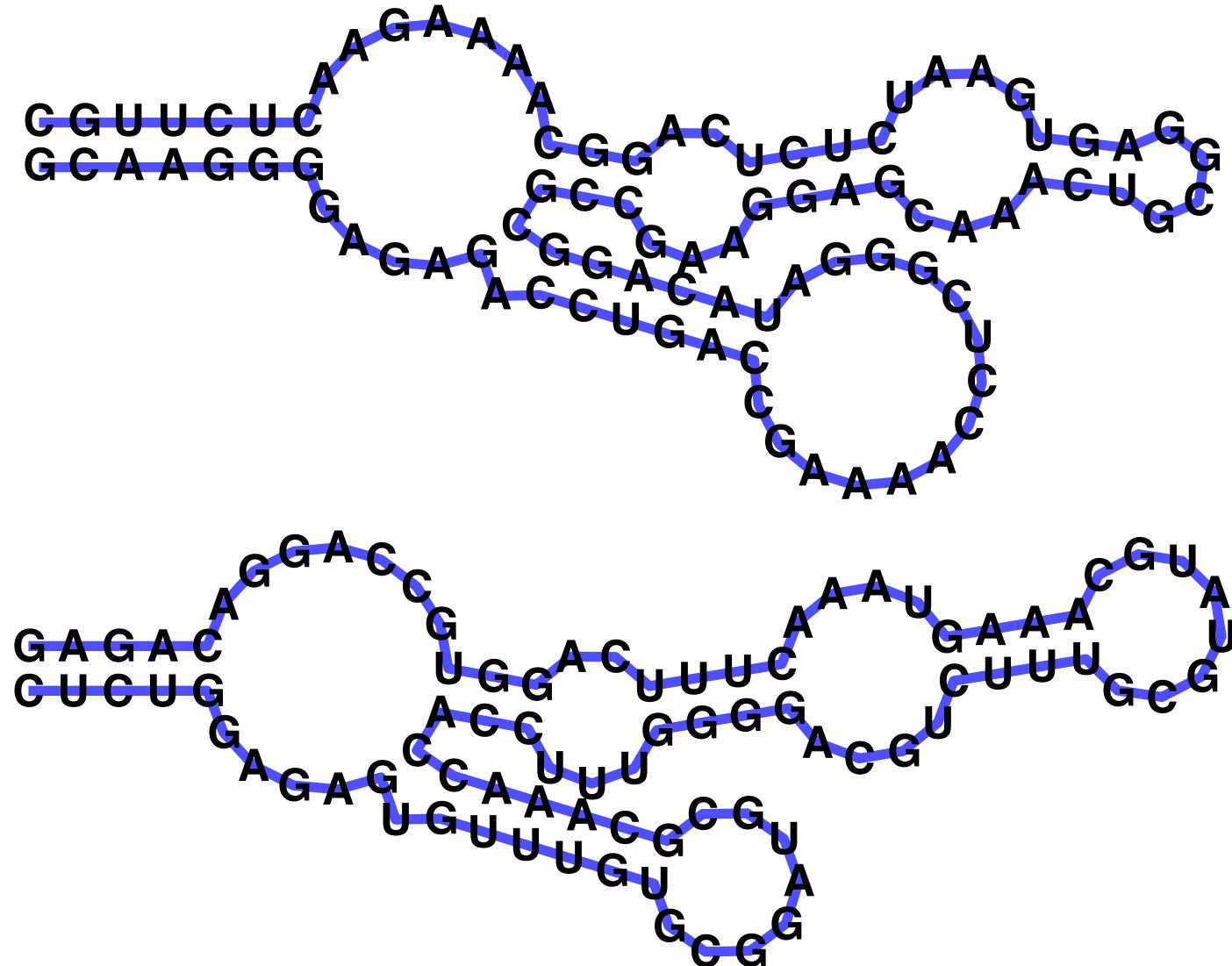


And many other examples. Widespread, deeply conserved, structurally sophisticated, functionally diverse, biologically important uses for ncRNA throughout prokaryotic world.



boxed = confirmed riboswitch (+2 more)

# Why is RNA hard to deal with?



A: Structure often more important than sequence

# Origin of Life?

Life needs

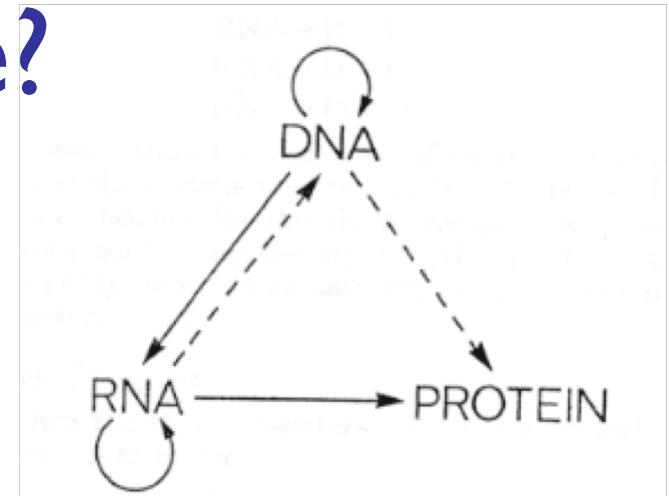
information carrier: DNA

molecular machines, like enzymes: Protein

making proteins needs DNA + RNA + proteins

making (duplicating) DNA needs proteins

Horrible circularities! How could it have arisen in an abiotic environment?



# Origin of Life?

RNA can carry information, too

RNA double helix; RNA-directed RNA polymerase

RNA can form complex structures

RNA enzymes exist (ribozymes)

RNA can control, do logic (riboswitches)

The “RNA world” hypothesis:  
1st life was RNA-based

## 6.5 RNA Secondary Structure

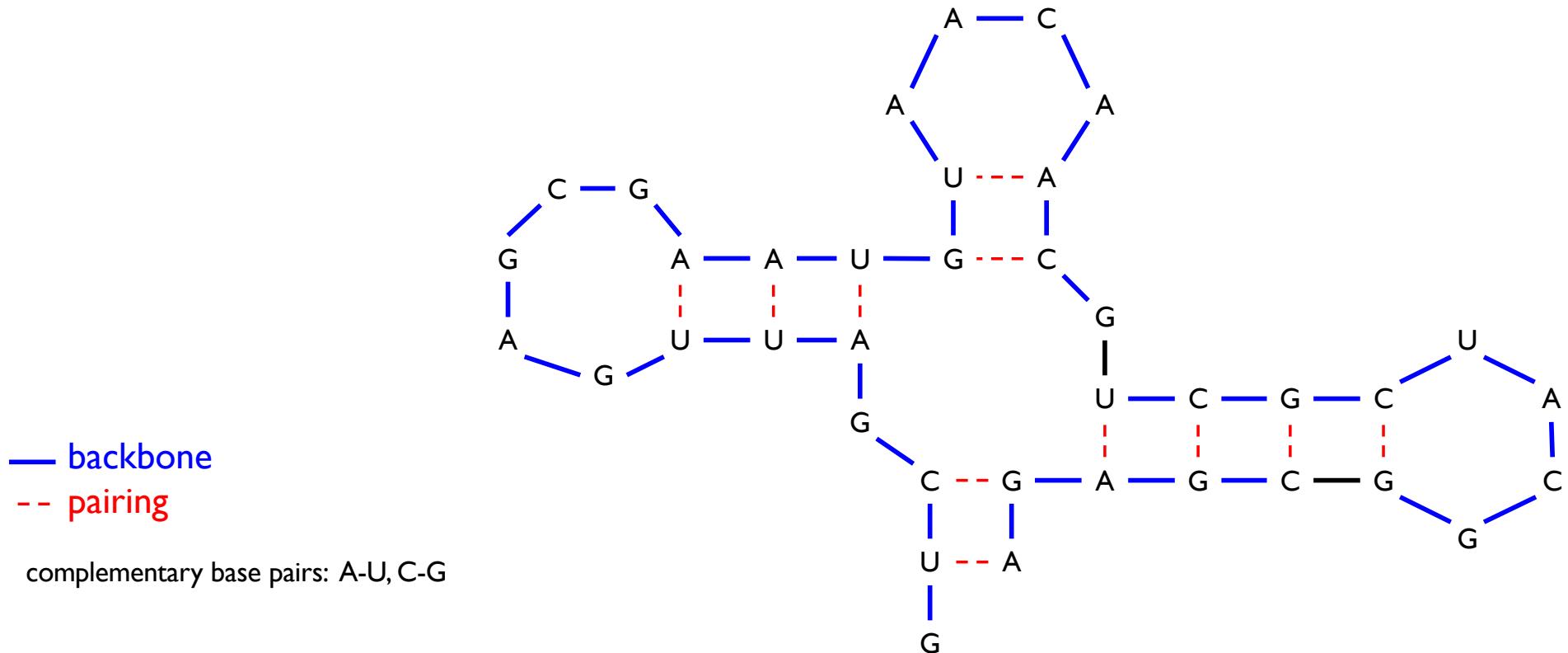
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Nussinov's Algorithm – core technology  
for RNA structure prediction

# RNA Secondary Structure

RNA. String  $B = b_1b_2\dots b_n$  over alphabet { A, C, G, U }.

Secondary structure. RNA is usually single-stranded, and tends to loop back and form base pairs with itself. This structure is essential for understanding molecular behavior.



Ex: GUCGAUUGAGCGAAUGUAACAAACGUGGCUACGGCGAGA

# RNA Secondary Structure (somewhat oversimplified)

Secondary structure. A set of pairs  $S = \{ (b_i, b_j) \}$  that satisfy:

- [Watson-Crick.]
  - $S$  is a *matching*, i.e. each base pairs with at most one other, and
  - each pair in  $S$  is a Watson-Crick pair: A-U, U-A, C-G, or G-C.
- [No sharp turns.] The ends of each pair are separated by at least 4 intervening bases. If  $(b_i, b_j) \in S$ , then  $i < j - 4$ .
- [Non-crossing.] If  $(b_i, b_j)$  and  $(b_k, b_l)$  are two pairs in  $S$ , then we cannot have  $i < k < j < l$ . (Violation of this is called a *pseudoknot*.)

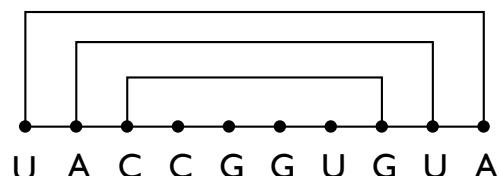
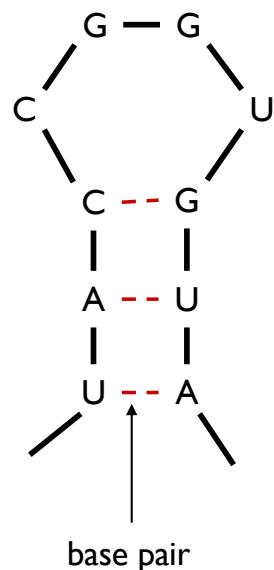
Free energy. Usual hypothesis is that an RNA molecule will form the structure with the optimum total free energy.

approximated by maximizing number of base pairs

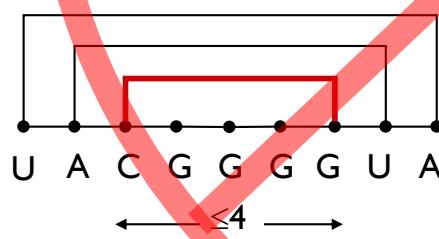
Goal. Given an RNA molecule  $B = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$ , find a secondary structure  $S$  that maximizes the number of base pairs.

# RNA Secondary Structure: Examples

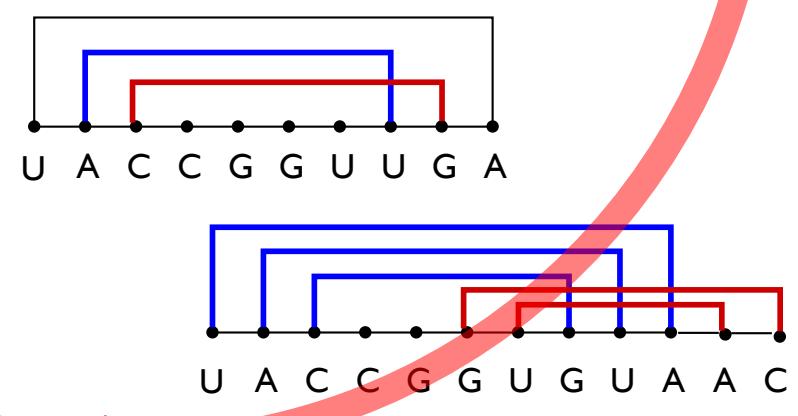
Examples.



ok



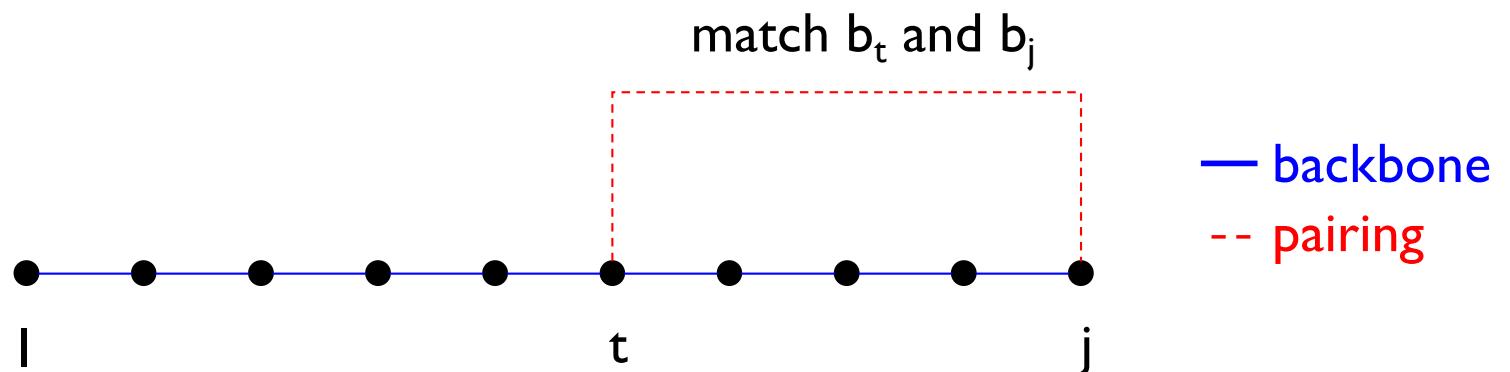
sharp turn



crossing

# RNA Secondary Structure: Subproblems

First attempt.  $\text{OPT}[j]$  = maximum number of base pairs in a secondary structure of the substring  $b_1b_2\dots b_j$ .



Difficulty. Results in two sub-problems.

- Finding secondary structure in:  $b_1b_2\dots b_{t-1}$ .  $\leftarrow \text{OPT}(t-1)$
- Finding secondary structure in:  $b_{t+1}b_{t+2}\dots b_{j-1}$ .  $\leftarrow$  not “ $\text{OPT}$ ” of anything;  
need more flexible set of sub-problems

# Dynamic Programming Over Intervals: (R. Nussinov's algorithm)

Notation.  $\text{OPT}[i, j]$  = maximum number of base pairs in a secondary structure of the substring  $b_i b_{i+1} \dots b_j$ .

- Case 1. If  $i \geq j - 4$ .

$\text{OPT}[i, j] = 0$  by no-sharp turns condition.

- Case 2. Base  $b_j$  is not involved in a pair.

$\text{OPT}[i, j] = \text{OPT}[i, j-1]$

- Case 3. Base  $b_j$  pairs with  $b_t$  for some  $i \leq t < j - 4$ .  
non-crossing constraint decouples resulting sub-problems

$$\text{OPT}[i, j] = 1 + \max_t \{ \text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1] \}$$

↑  
take max over  $t$  such that  $i \leq t < j-4$  and  
 $b_t$  and  $b_j$  are Watson-Crick complements

**Key point:**  
Either last base  
is unpaired  
(case 1,2) or  
paired (case 3)

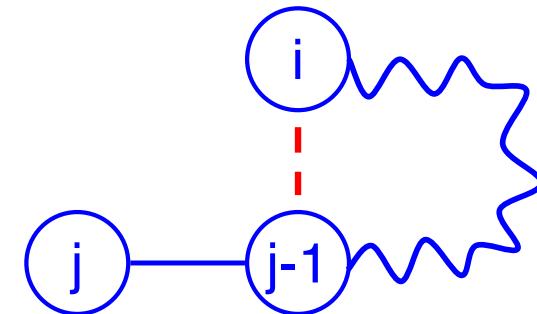
Remark. Core idea in CKY algorithm for context-free parsing

# “Optimal pairing of $b_i \dots b_j$ ”

Two possibilities:

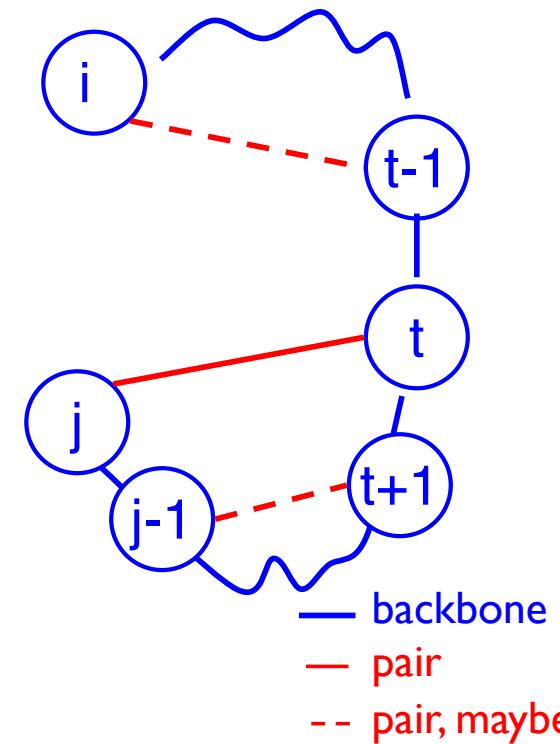
$j$  Unpaired:

Find best pairing of  $b_i \dots b_{j-1}$



$j$  Paired (with some  $t$ ):

Find best  $b_i \dots b_{t-1} +$   
best  $b_{t+1} \dots b_{j-1}$  plus |



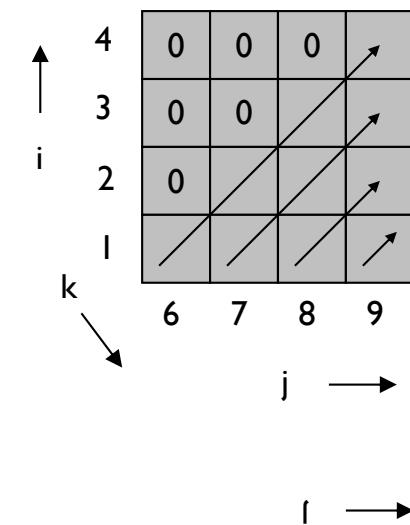
Why is it slow?

Why do pseudoknots matter?

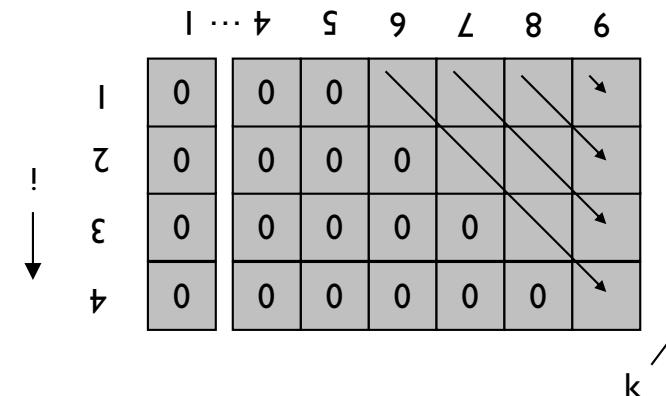
# Bottom Up Dynamic Programming Over Intervals

- Q. What order to solve the sub-problems?  
A. One way—do shortest intervals first:

```
RNA ( $b_1, \dots, b_n$ ) {  
Interval length →     for k = 5, 6, ..., n-1  
Start position →        for i = 1, 2, ..., n-k  
End position →              j = i + k  
                        Compute OPT[i, j]  
                        ↑  
                        using recurrence  
                        return OPT[1, n]  
}
```



Running time.  $O(n^3)$ .



book

slides

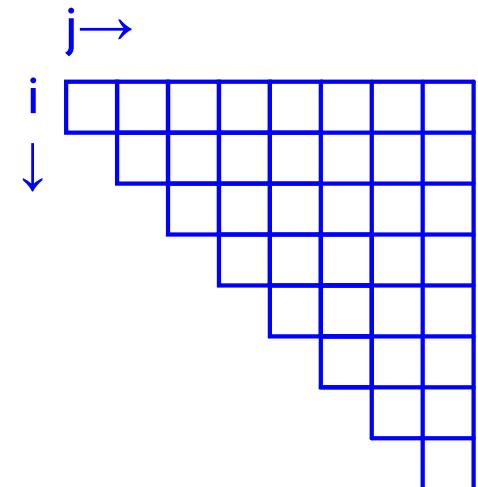
# Nussinov: Max Pairing

$\text{Opt}[i,j] = \# \text{ pairs in optimal pairing of } b_i \dots b_j$

$\text{Opt}[i,j] = 0$  for all  $i, j$  with  $i \geq j-4$ ; otherwise

$\text{Opt}[i,j] = \max \text{ of:}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Opt}[i,j-1] \\ \max \{ \text{Opt}[i,t-1] + 1 + \text{Opt}[t+1,j-1] \mid \\ i \leq t < j-4 \text{ and } b_t - b_j \text{ may pair} \} \end{array} \right.$$



# Another Computation Order

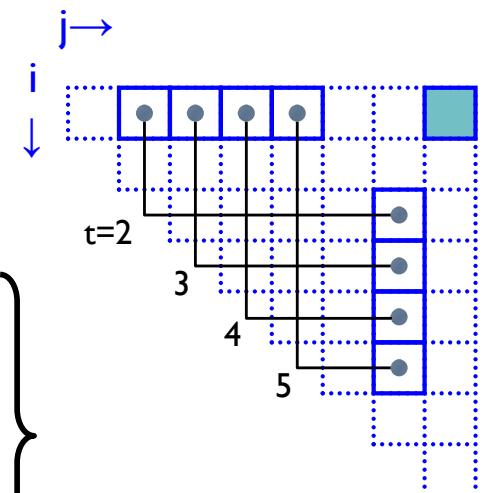
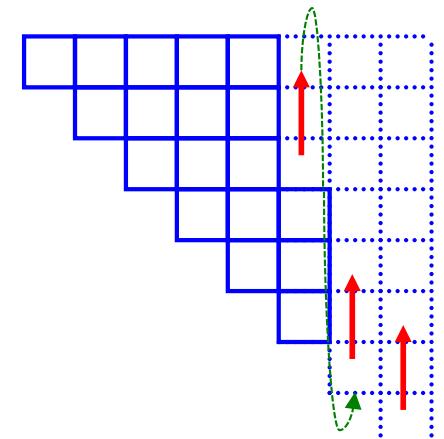
$\text{Opt}[i, j] = \text{optimal } \# \text{ pairs in } b_i \dots b_j$

```
→ for(j = 1 to n)  
    → for(i = j downto 1)  
        Opt[i, j] = 0 if i ≥ j-4 else:
```

max of:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Opt}[i, j-1] \\ \max \{ \text{Opt}[i, t-1] + 1 + \text{Opt}[t+1, j-1] \mid \\ \quad i \leq t < j-4 \text{ and } b_t - b_j \text{ may pair} \} \end{array} \right\}$$

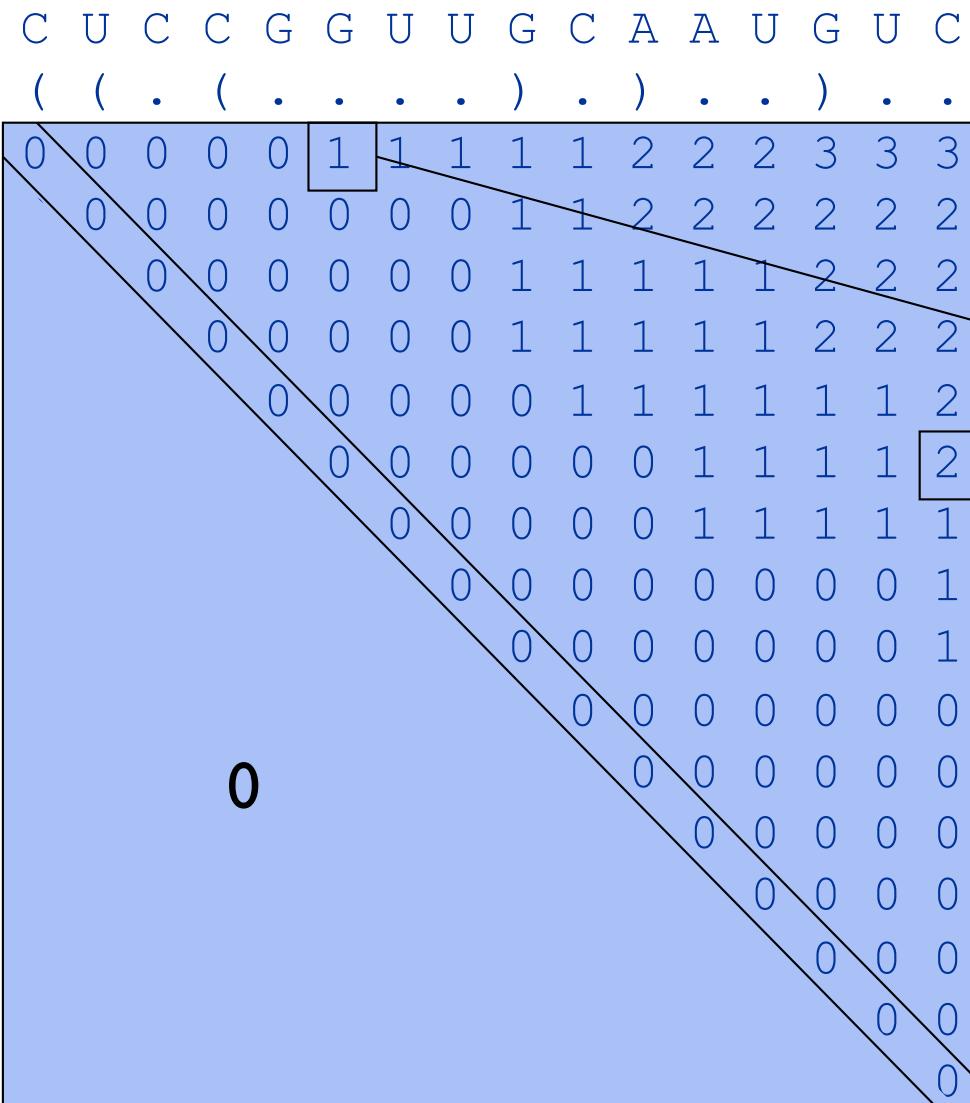
Time:  $O(n^3)$



# Which Pairs?

Usual dynamic programming “trace-back” tells you *which* base pairs are in the optimal solution, not just how many

Details? : homework



$n = 16$

E.g.:  
 $\text{OPT}[1,6] = 1:$

CUCCGG  
(.....)

E.g.:  
 $\text{OPT}[6,16] = 2:$

GUUGCAAUGUC  
((.....)....)

(Examples here and below assume 1-based indexing)

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2,18] = ?$

G	G	G	A	A	A	A	C	C	C	A	A	A	G	G	G	U	U	U
(	(	(	.	.	.	.	)	)	)	(	(	(	.	.	.	)	)	)
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	6
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

n= 20

Case I:

$2 \geq 18-4$ ? no.

Case 2:

$B_{18}$  unpaired?

Always a possibility;  
then  $\text{OPT}[2,18] \geq 3$

GGAAAACCCAAAGGGGU  
((....)) (....) ....

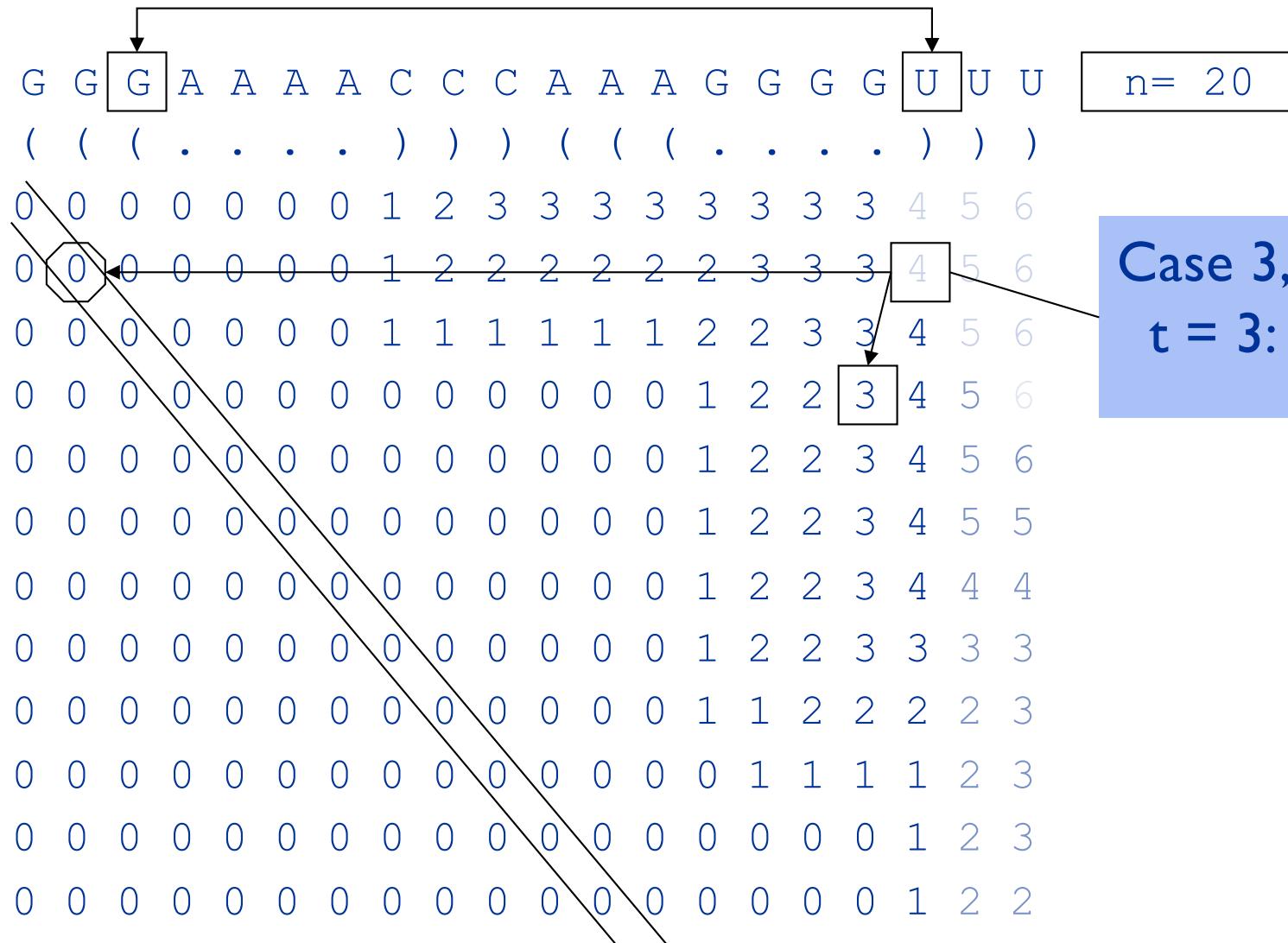
$$\text{OPT}(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2, 18] = ?$



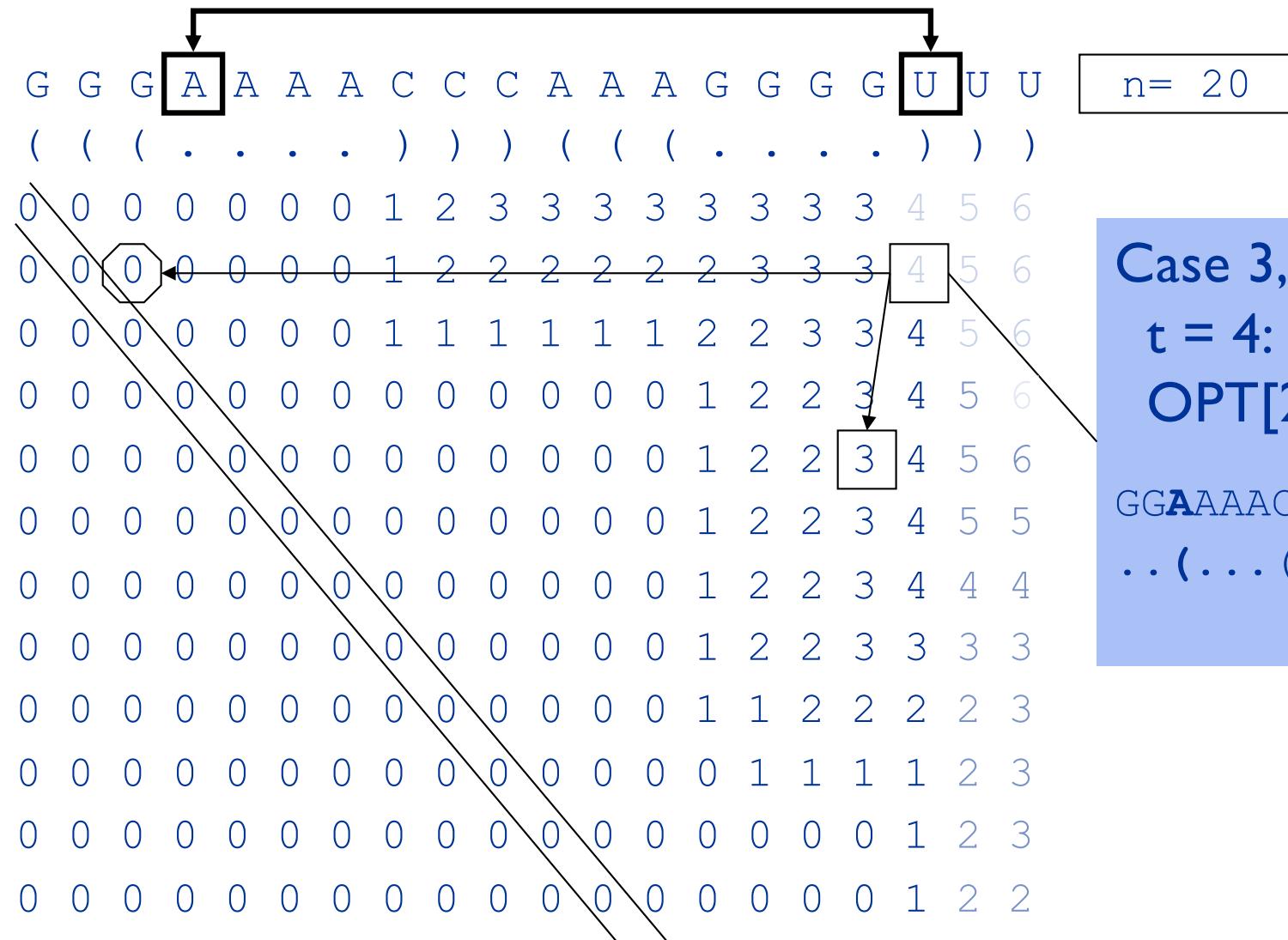
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# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2, 18] = ?$



$$\text{OPT}(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2, 18] = ?$



**Case 3,  $2 \leq t < 18 - 4$ :**  
 $t = 4$ : yes pair  
 $\text{OPT}[2, 18] \geq 1 + 0 + 3$

GG**A**AAACCCAAAGGGG**U**  
...((...((....))))

$$\text{OPT}(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2,18] = ?$



Case 3,  $2 \leq t < 18-4$ :  
 $t = 5$ : yes pair  
 $\text{OPT}[2,18] \geq 1 + 0 + 3$

GGA**A**AAACCCAAAGGGGG**U**  
 ....(....((....)))

$$\text{OPT}(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2,18] = ?$

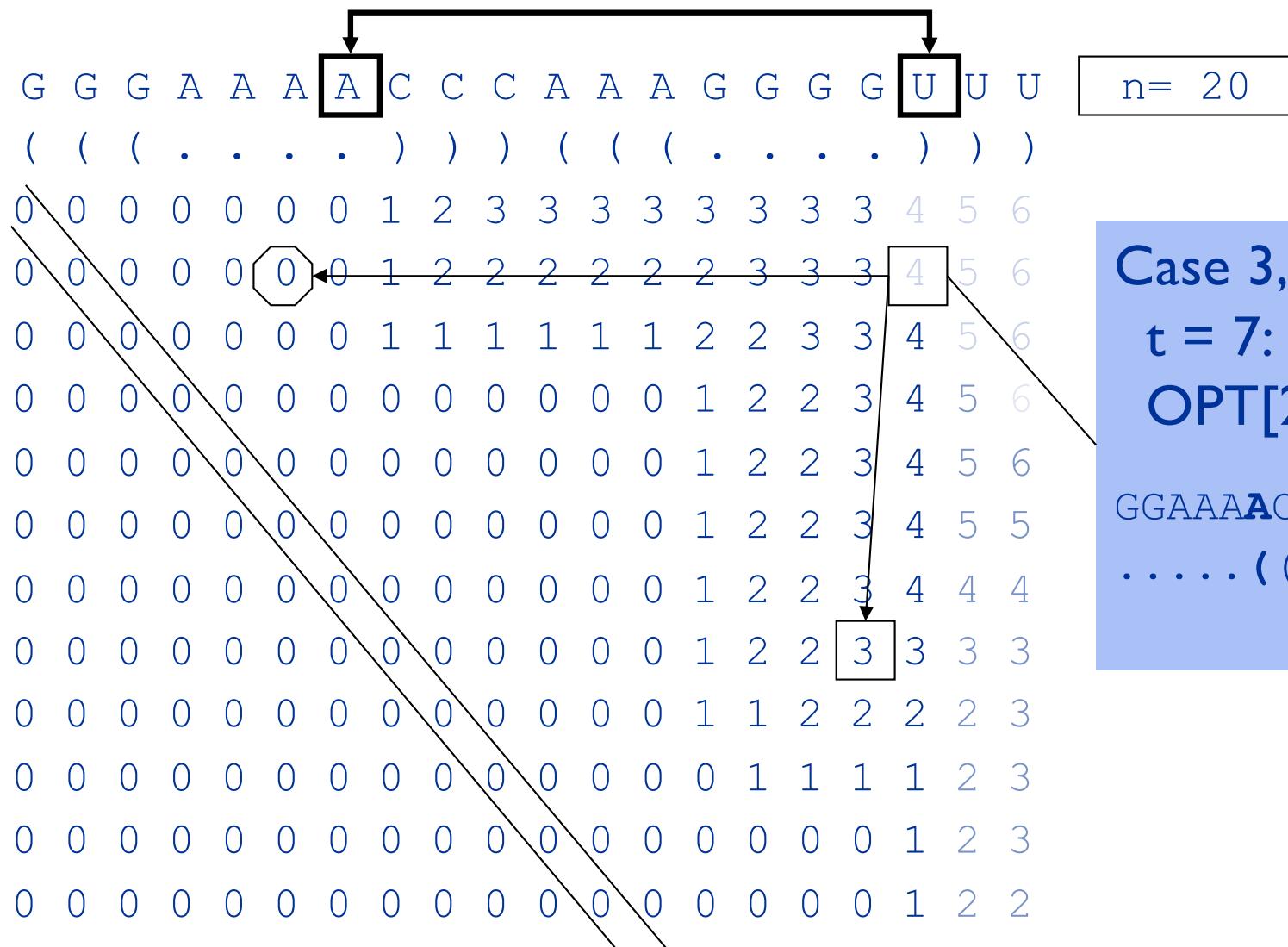


Case 3,  $2 \leq t < 18-4$ :  
 $t = 6$ : yes pair  
 $\text{OPT}[2,18] \geq 1 + 0 + 3$

GGAAACCCAAAGGGGU  
 ....((....)))

$$\text{OPT}(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2,18] = ?$



Case 3,  $2 \leq t < 18-4$ :  
 $t = 7$ : yes pair  
 $\text{OPT}[2,18] \geq 1 + 0 + 3$

GGAAA**A**CCCAAAGGGG**U**  
 $\dots \dots (((((\dots))))))$

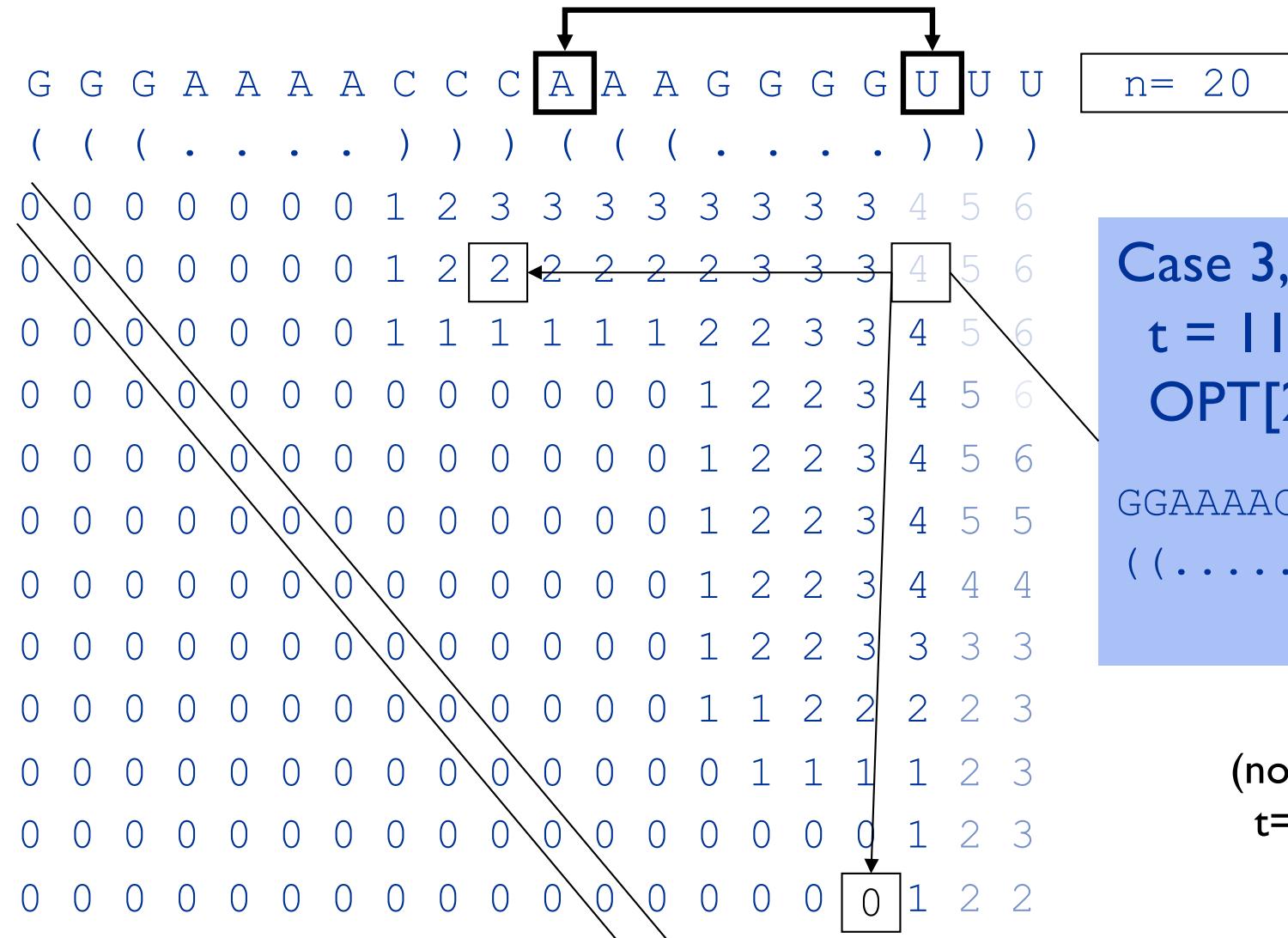
$$\text{OPT}(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i,j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i,t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1,j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2, 18] = ?$



$$\text{OPT}(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j - 1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t - 1] + \text{OPT}[t + 1, j - 1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Computing one cell: $\text{OPT}[2,18] = ?$

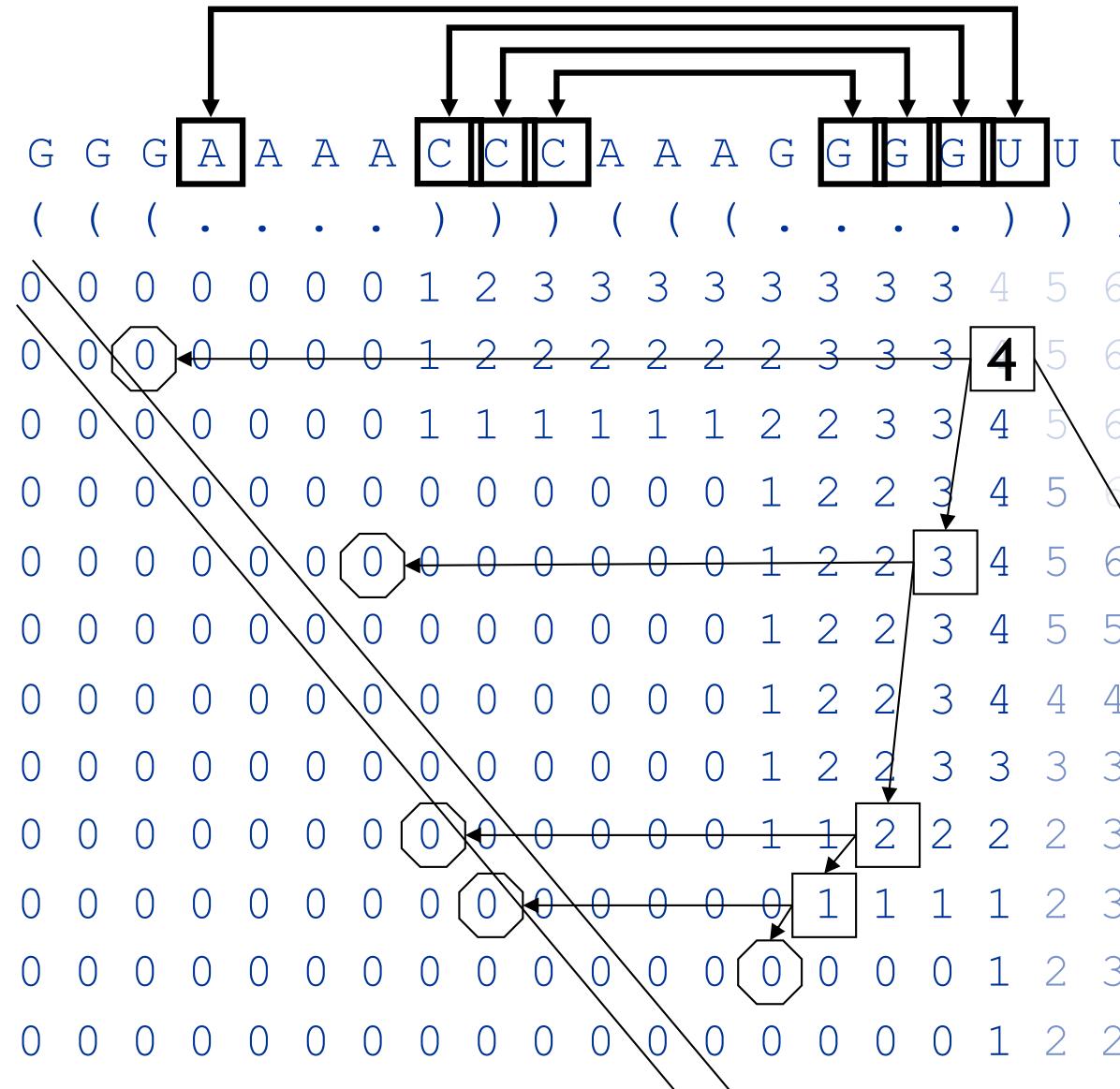


Case 3,  $2 \leq t < 18-4$ :  
 $t = 11$ : yes pair  
 $\text{OPT}[2,18] \geq 1+2+0$

GGAAAACCC**A**AAGGGGG**U**  
 ((.....)) (.....)

(not shown:  
 $t=9, 10, 12, 13$ )

$$\text{OPT}(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Computing one cell:  
 $\text{OPT}[2, 18] = 4$   
 $n = 20$

Overall, Max = 4  
several ways, e.g.:

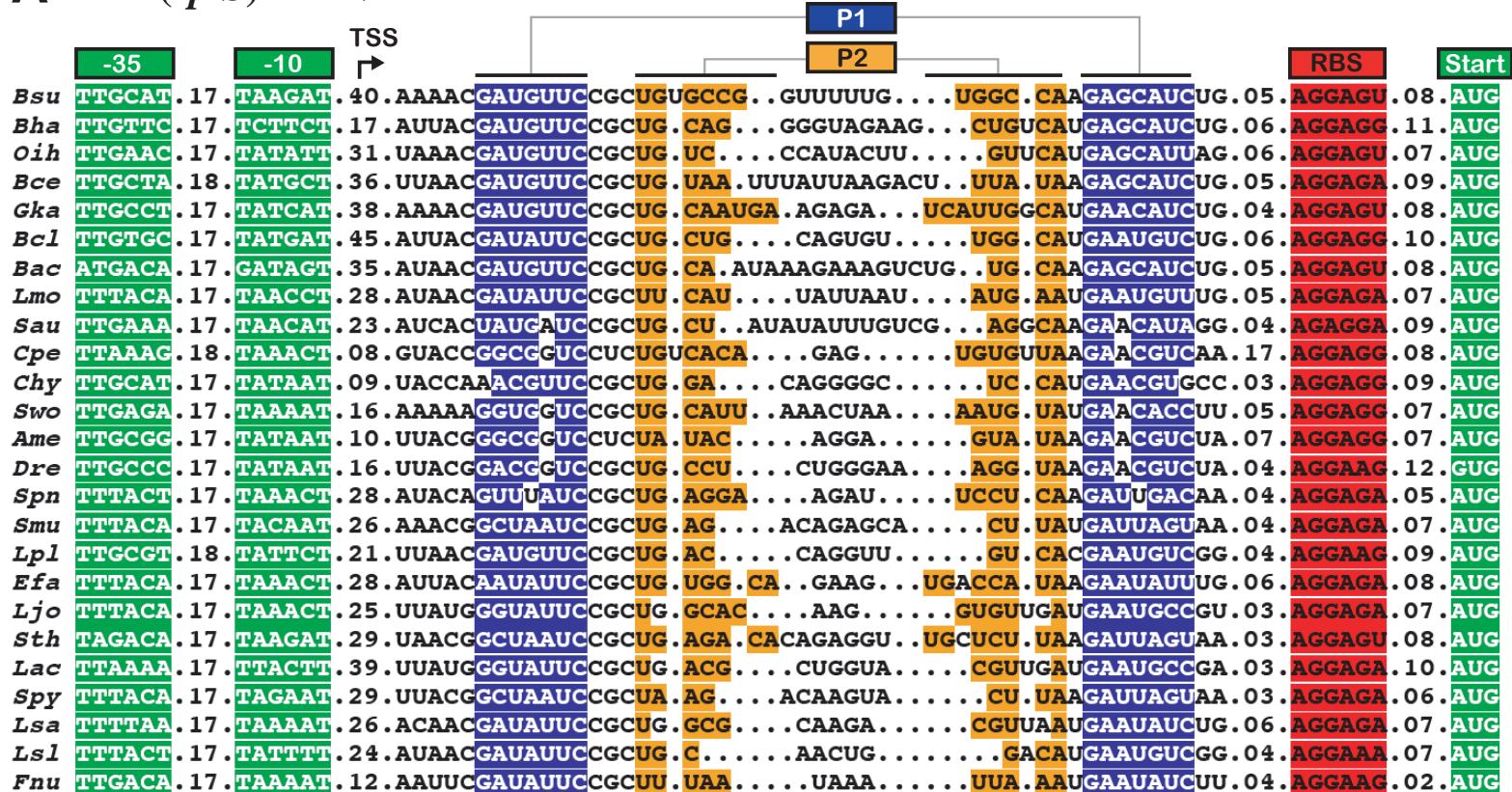
GGAAAACCCAAAGGGGU  
... (....((.....)))

tree shows trace back:  
square = case 3  
octagon = case 1

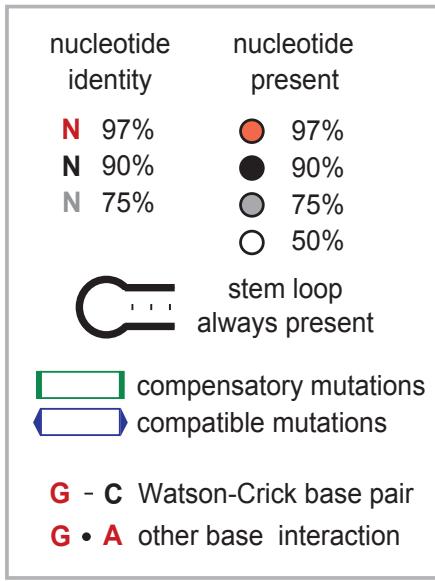
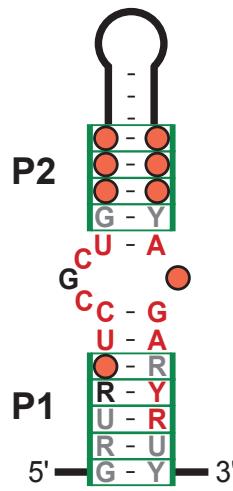
$$\text{OPT}(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \geq j - 4 \\ \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{OPT}[i, j-1] \\ 1 + \max_t (\text{OPT}[i, t-1] + \text{OPT}[t+1, j-1]) \end{array} \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Example: Ribosomal Autoregulation: Excess L19 represses L19 (RF00556; 555-559 similar)

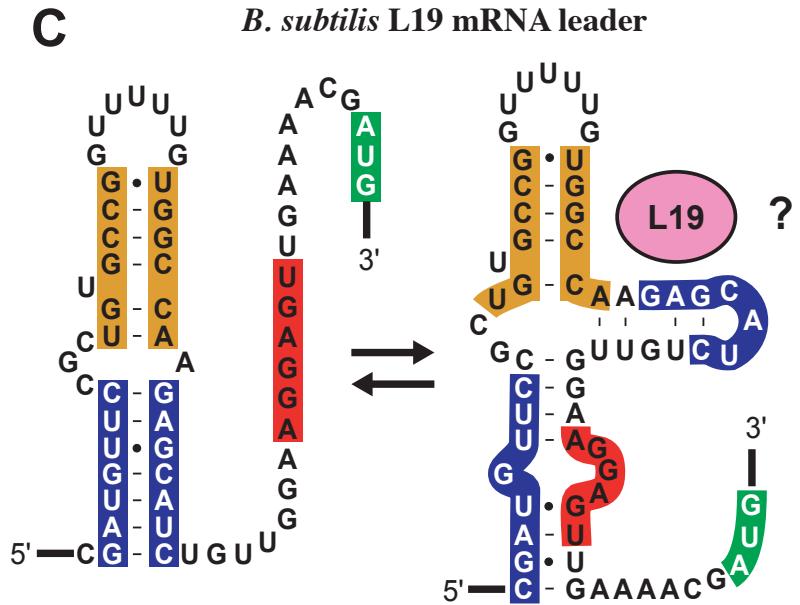
## A L19 (*rplS*) mRNA leader



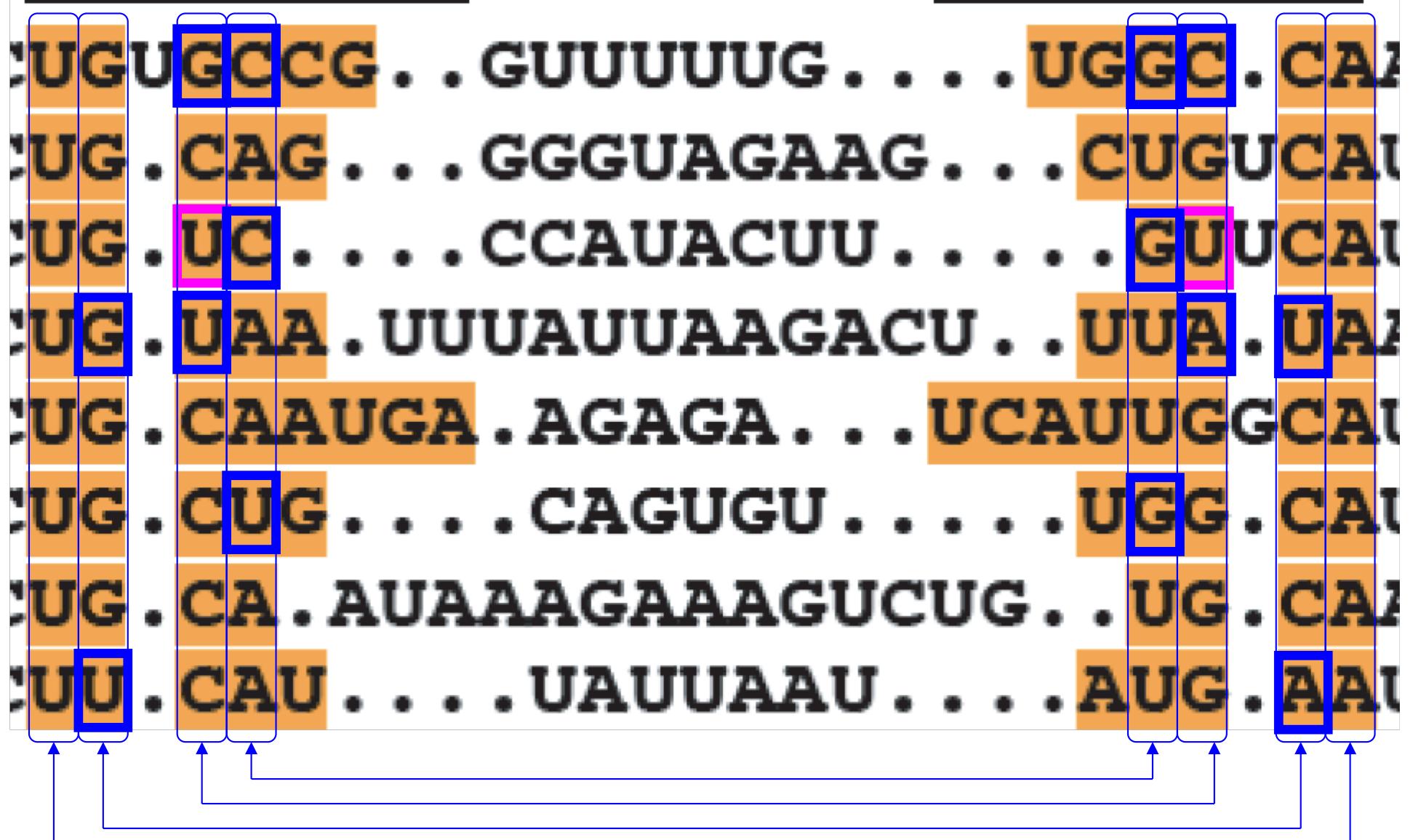
## B



## C



P2



Covariation is strong evidence for base pairing

# Summary

RNA has important roles

Beyond mRNA; many unexpected recent discoveries

Structure is critical to function

True of other molecules, too

RNA secondary structure prediction is a key tool

Dynamic programming—useful accuracy,  $O(n^3)$  time:

Binary choice again: last base is paired or not

Optimal substructure again: given last pair, optimally fold inside & outside separately

Tabulate again: best folding of all substrings.