



厦门大学  
生命科学学院  
SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES XIAMEN UNIVERSITY

# MICROBIOLOGY

## Lecture 10

**Bacterial genome replication and expression**

**Regulation of bacterial cellular processes**

**JING YUAN**



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# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 10 Molecular Genetic

### 10.1 Griffith Experiment

# Griffith实验 1928

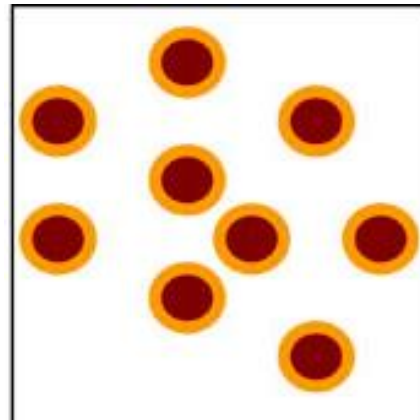
Griffith Frederick (1879 - 1941) 英国细菌学家和流行病学家



# 肺炎球菌(*Diplococcus pneumoniae*)

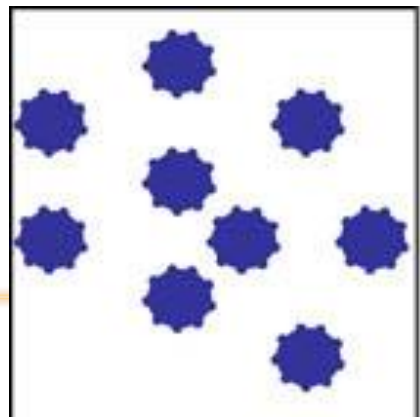
## 光滑型菌株 (Smooth, 简称S型)

- 体外培养时，细胞产生荚膜，细菌菌落光滑；
- 感染人体导致肺炎；
- 感染小鼠导致败血症并且死亡。



## 粗糙型菌株 (Rough, 简称R型)

- 体外培养时，细胞不产生荚膜，菌落粗糙；
- 感染人和小鼠，不发病。



# Griffith实验

**实验一 S 菌株感染小鼠，致死**

**实验二 R 菌株感染小鼠，正常**

**实验三 S 菌株热灭活后感染小鼠，正常**

**实验结果符合预期**

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# Griffith实验

实验一 S 菌株感染小鼠，致死

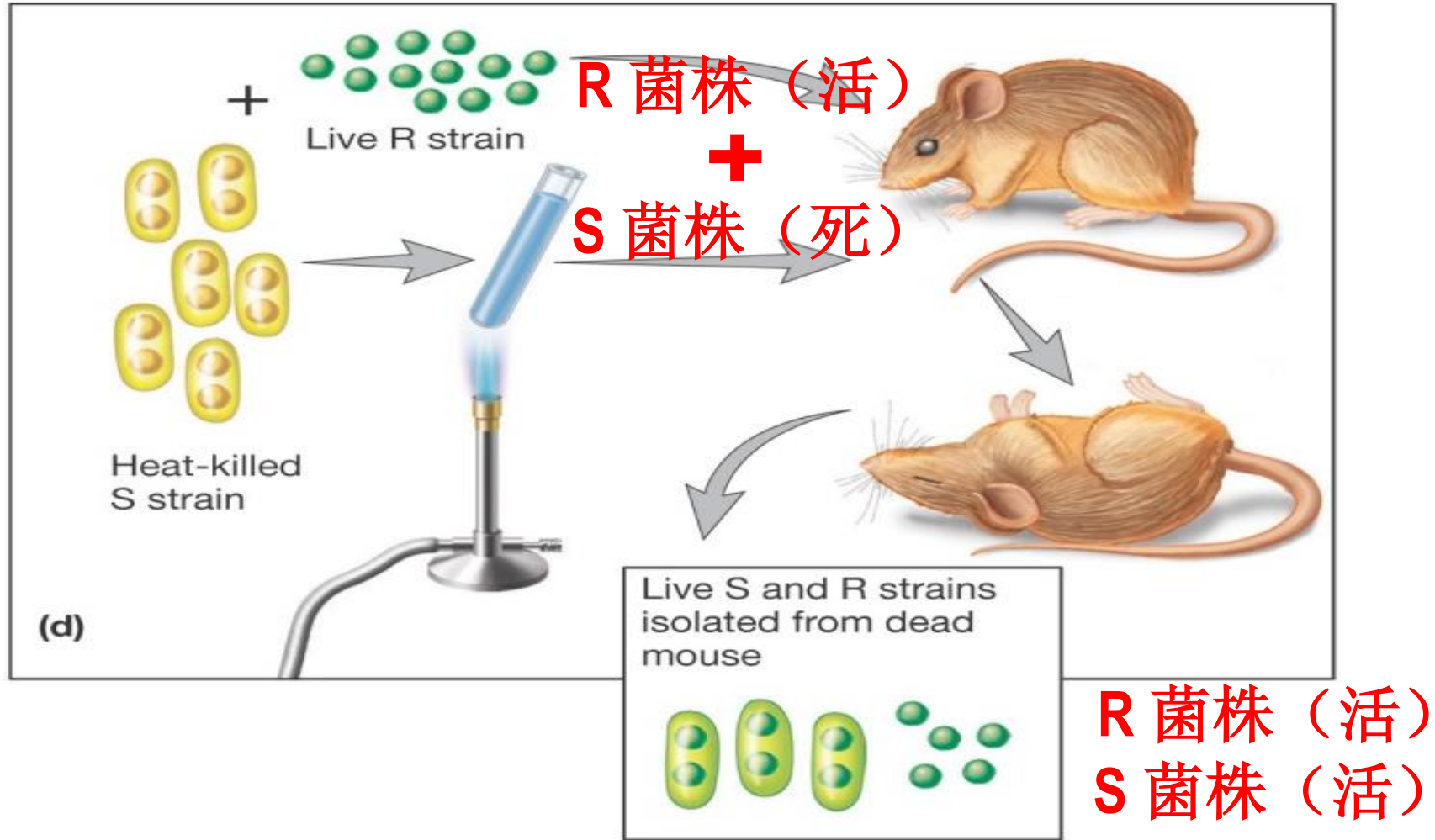
实验二 R 菌株感染小鼠，正常

实验三 S 菌株热灭活后感染小鼠，正常

实验四 S 菌株热灭活 + R 菌株，混合后感染小鼠，什么结果？

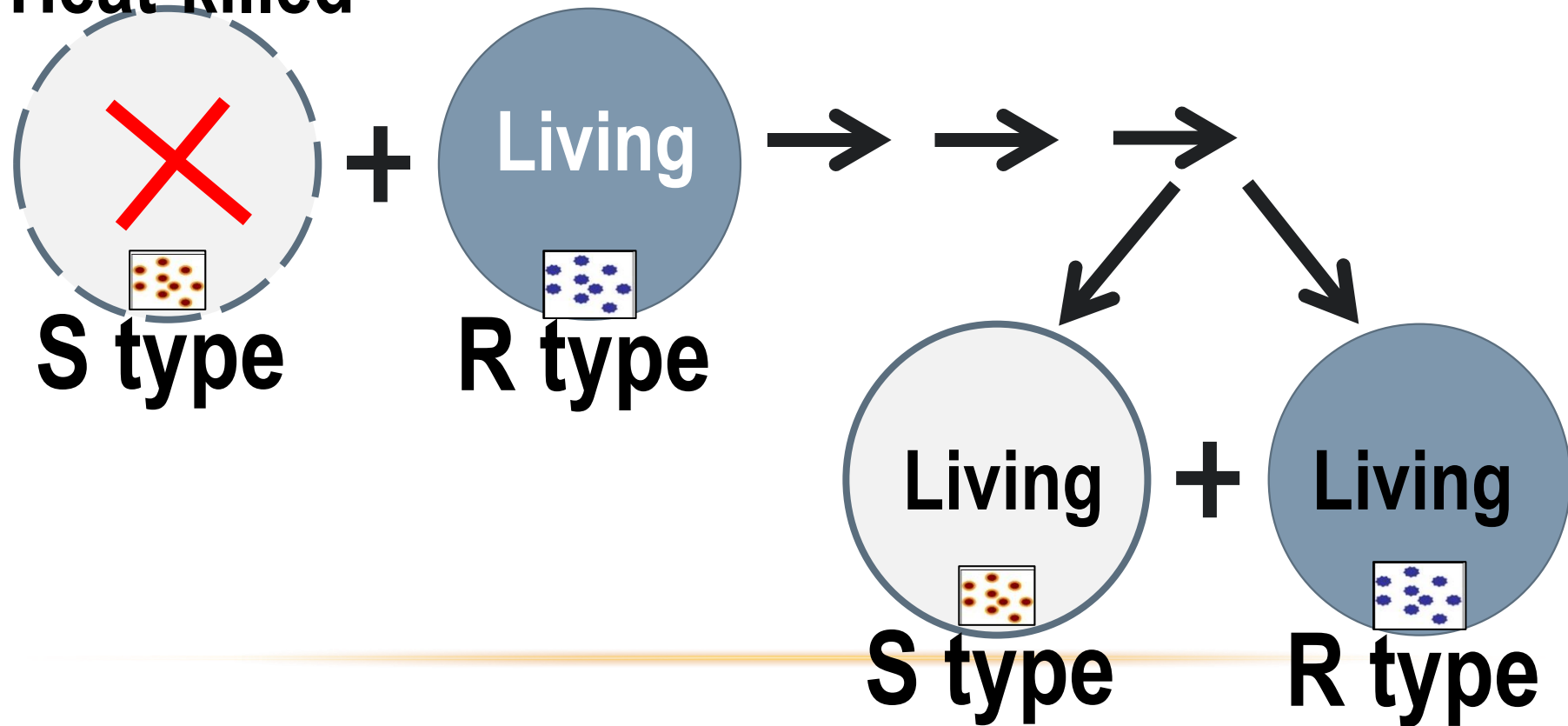
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# 实验四的意外发现：细菌转化



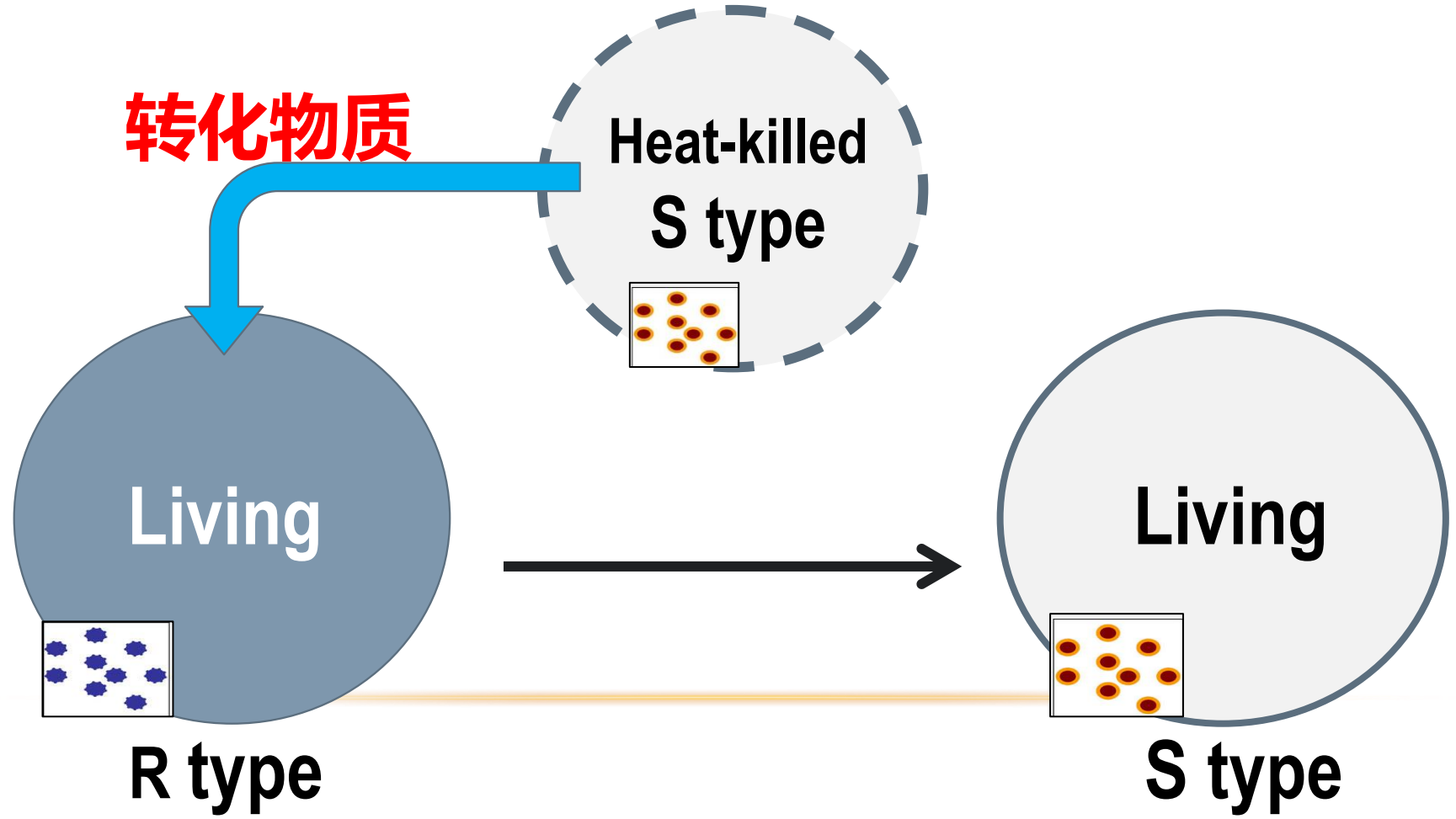
# 细菌转化 ( Transformation )

Heat-killed





# 逻辑推导：肺炎球菌细胞中存在“转化物质”





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# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 10 Molecular Genetic

### 10.2 Avery Experiment

**肺炎球菌中的转化物质具体是什么？**  
**What is the transforming agents in *D. pneumoniae*?**

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# 肺炎球菌转化物质的化学本质研究



年代：1944

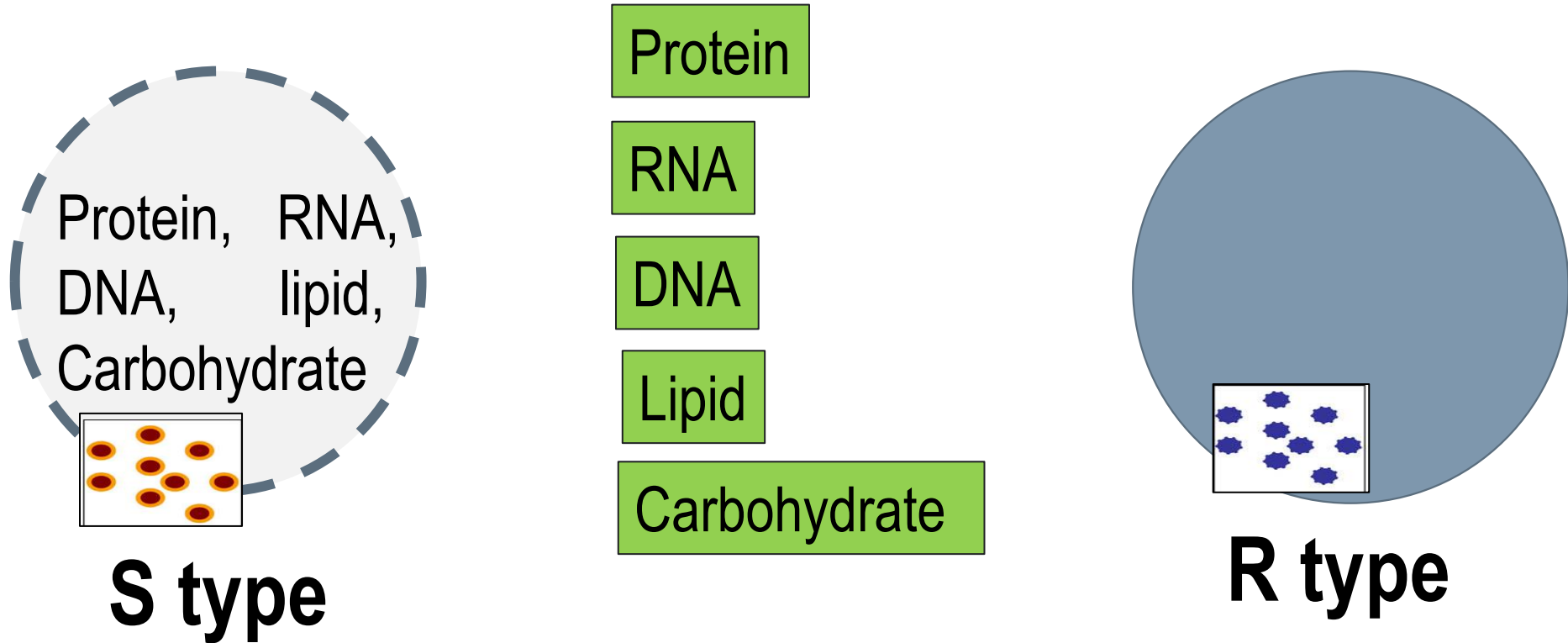
杂志： *J. Experimental Medicine*

作者： Avery, MacLeod, and McCarty

**Oswald Avery**

美国细菌学家 1877---1955

# 如何确定“转化物质”是什么？



**思路：单组分分离，然后验证其转化能力**

# Avery实验之功能获得分析

Killed S-type cell	+ R type cell	→	S type colony
Purified protein	+ R type cell	→	R type colony
Purified lipid	+ R type cell	→	R type colony
Purified RNA	+ R type cell	→	R type colony
Purified DNA	+ R type cell	→	S type colony

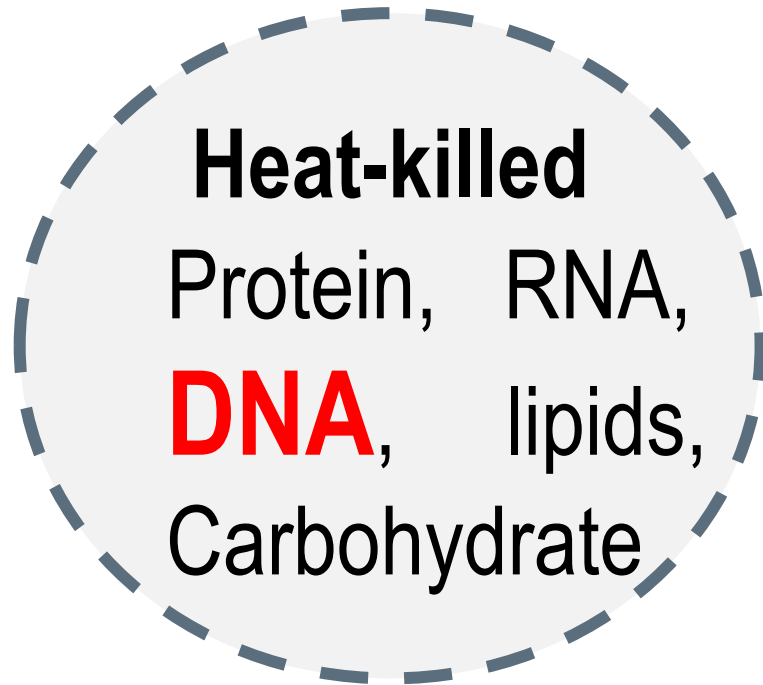
分离纯化的单组分

# Avery实验之功能缺失分析

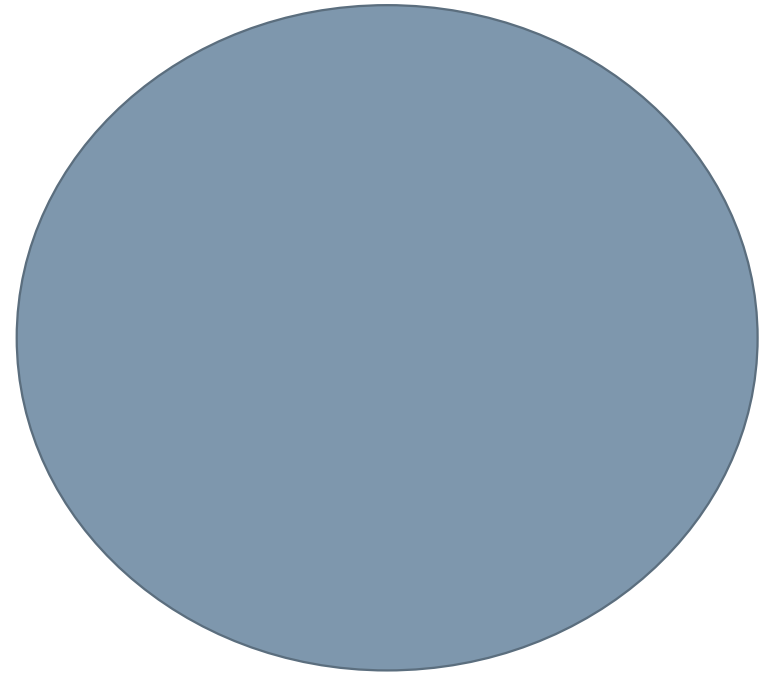
- R type cell + (S cell extract ) → S type colony
- R type cell + (S cell extract + 蛋白酶) → S type colony
- R type cell + (S cell extract + 脂酶) → S type colony
- R type cell + (S cell extract + RNA酶) → S type colony
- R type cell + (S cell extract + DNA酶) → R type colony

细胞提取物      降解酶

# 结论：DNA是肺炎球菌的遗传转化物质



**S type**



**R type**





**1850s 孟德尔发现看不见的因子**

**1928 Griffith发现细菌转化**

**1943 Avery揭示DNA是转化物质**

**1953 Crick/Waston 揭示DNA的双螺旋结构**

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# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 10

### 10.3 Bacterial Gene Classification and Structure

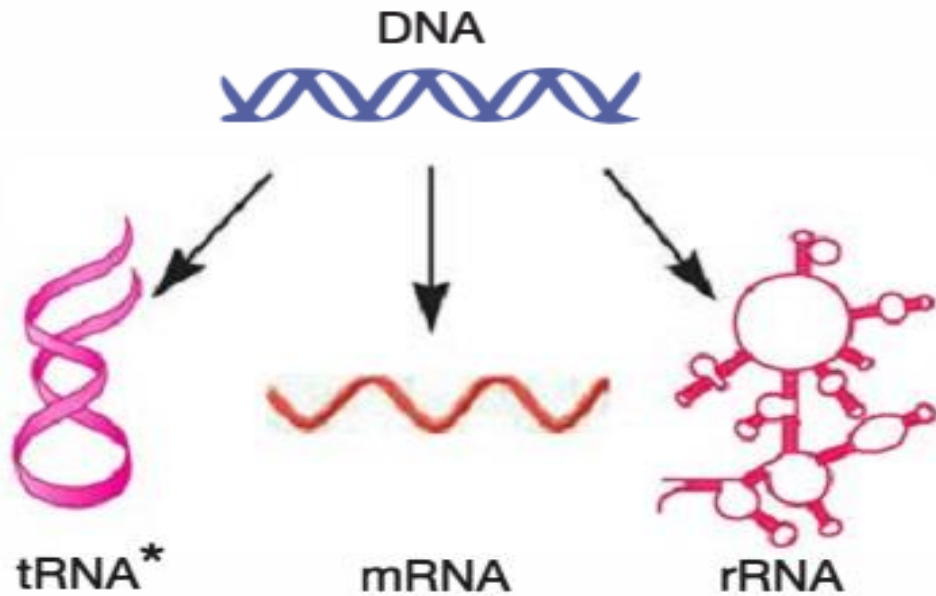
### 细菌基因的分类和结构

# Concept of “Gene”

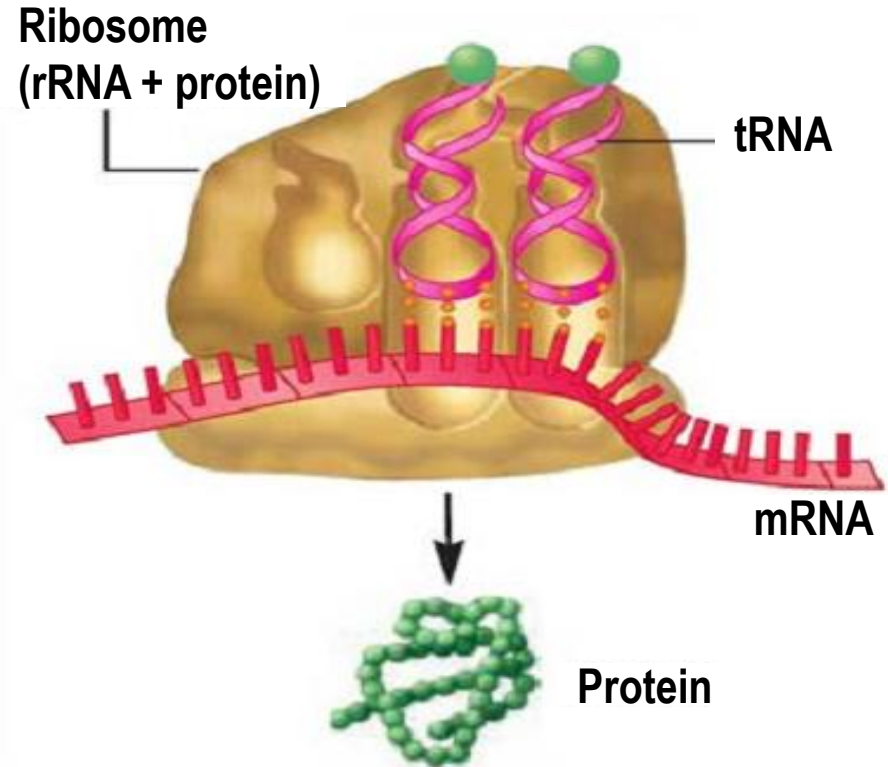
- **One gene -----One protein**
- **One gene -----One polypeptide**

- **Transfer RNA (tRNA) gene**
- **Ribosome RNA (rRNA) gene**

# Transcription



# Translation



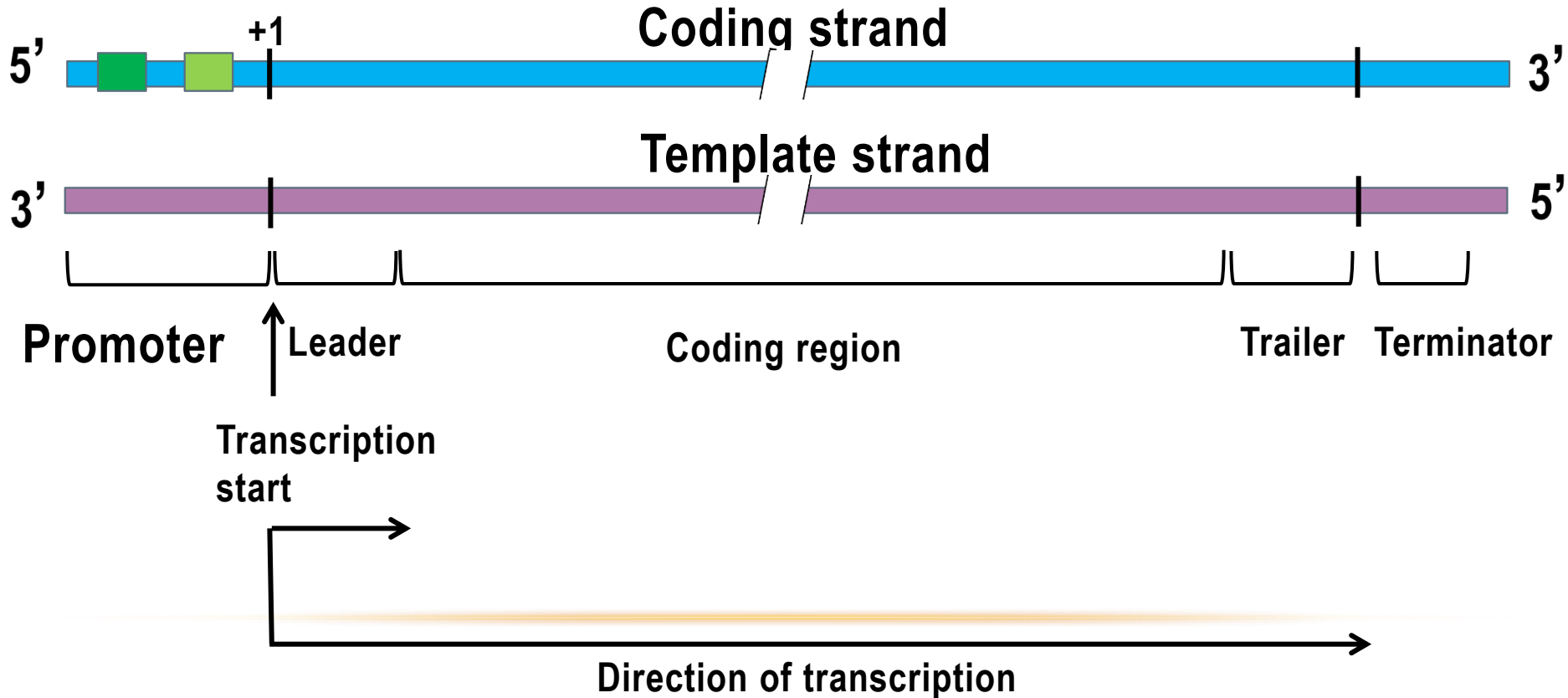
# Concept of “Gene”

- One gene -----One protein
- One gene -----One polypeptide
- Transfer RNA (tRNA) gene
- Ribosome RNA (rRNA) gene
- **Non-coding RNA genes**

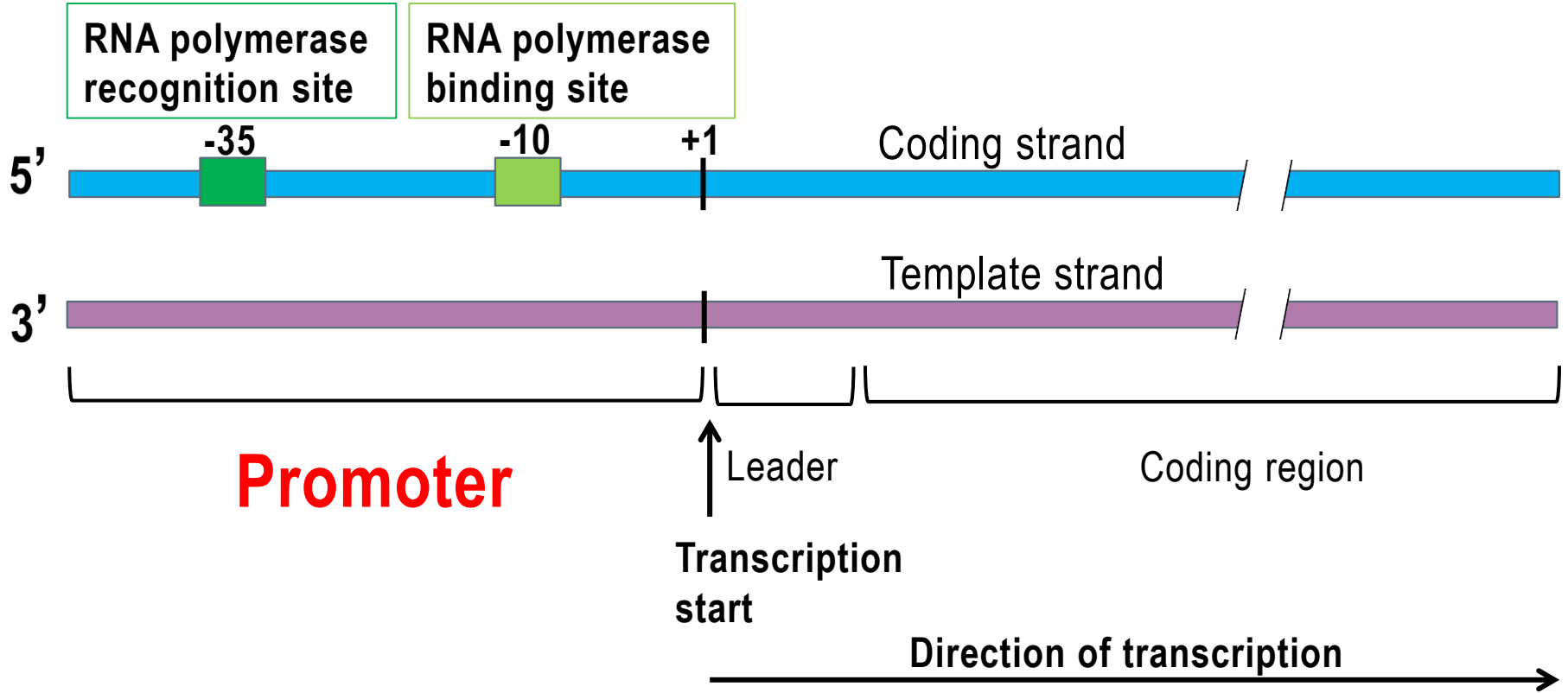
# Gene: The basic unit of genetic information

- **Protein-coding genes**
  - **tRNA and rRNA genes**
  - **Non-coding RNA genes**
-

# A Bacterial Protein-coding Gene Structure



# Promoter

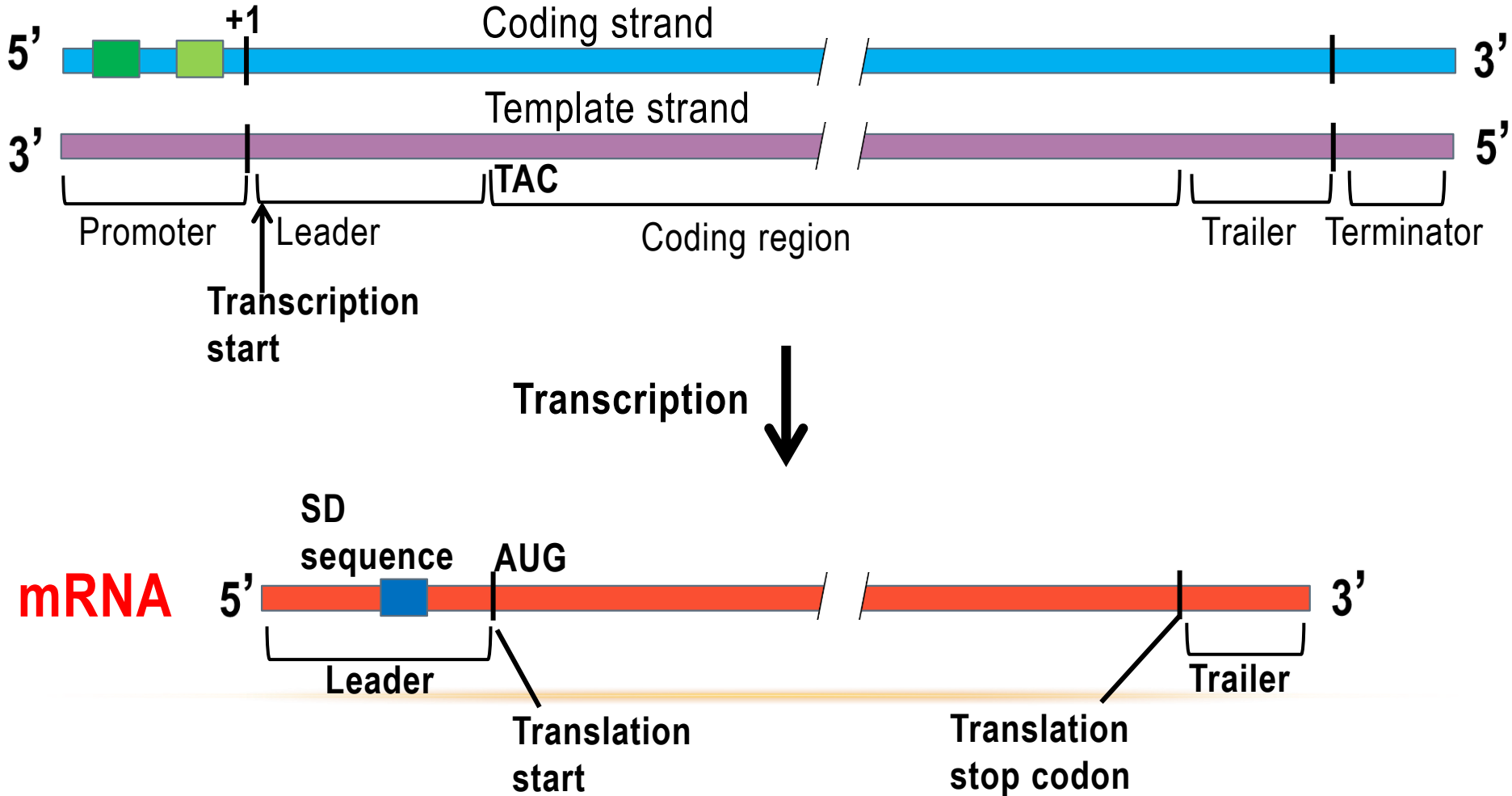




# Gene promoter

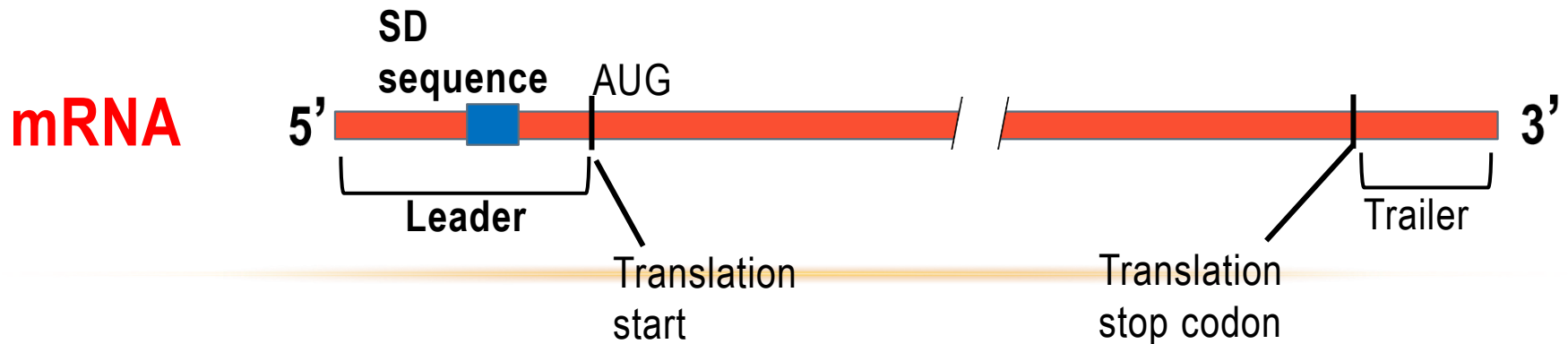
- **Promoter is located upstream of the gene.**
  - **Promoter contains the recognition and binding sites for RNA polymerase.**
  - **Promoter functions to orient the RNA polymerase for transcription.**
-

# A Bacterial Gene and Its mRNA Product



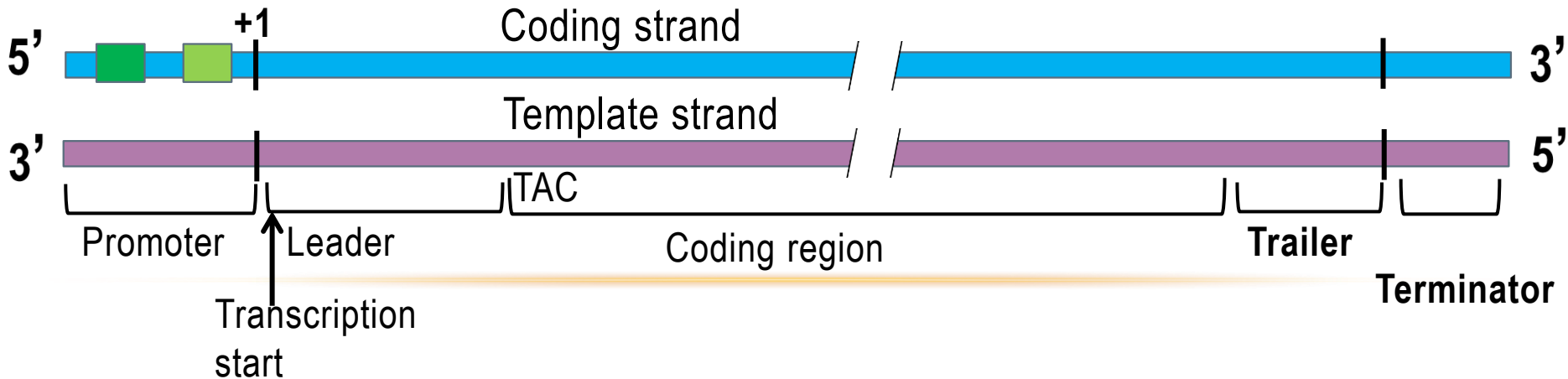
# Gene structure

- **Leader sequence** is transcribed into mRNA, but is not translated into amino acids.
- In bacteria, the leader sequence includes a region called the **Shine-Dalgarno sequence**, which is important for initiation of protein translation.



# Gene structure

- **Trailer** sequence is transcribed but not translated. It contains sequences that prepare the RNA polymerase for release from the DNA template strand.
- **Terminator** is a sequence that signals the RNA polymerase to stop transcription.



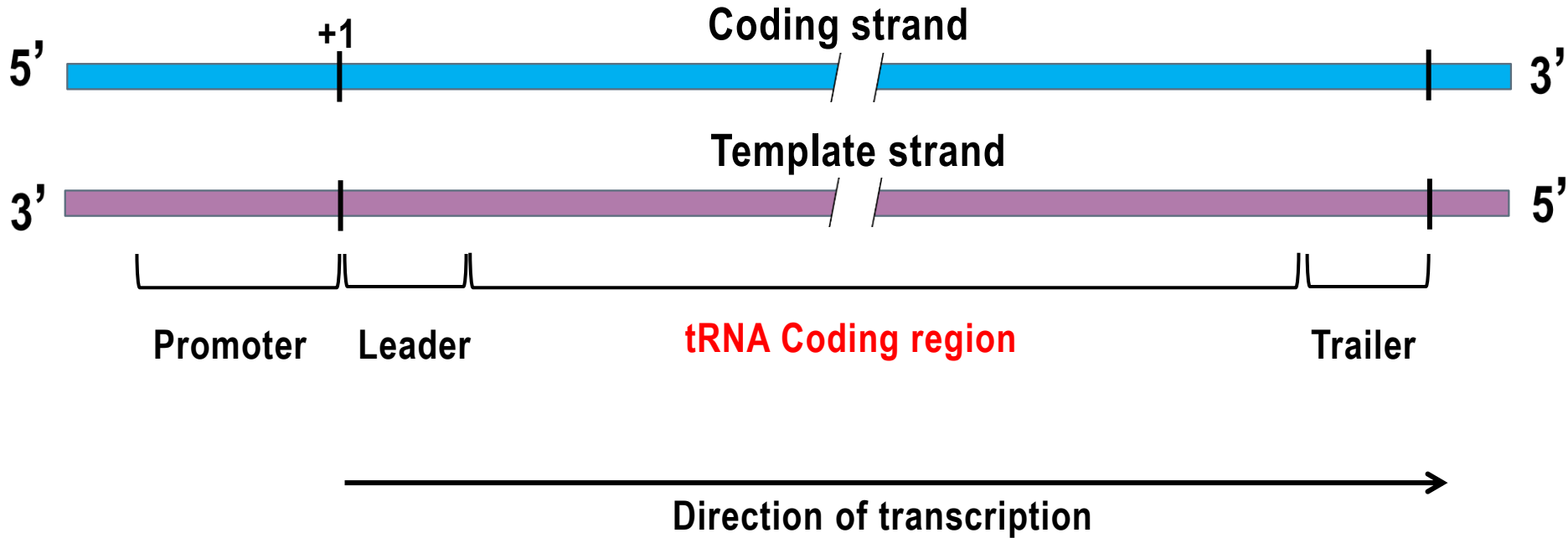
# Coding region

- **Linear sequence of nucleotides with a fixed start point and end point**
  - **Codons are found in DNA coding strand and code for single amino acids**
-

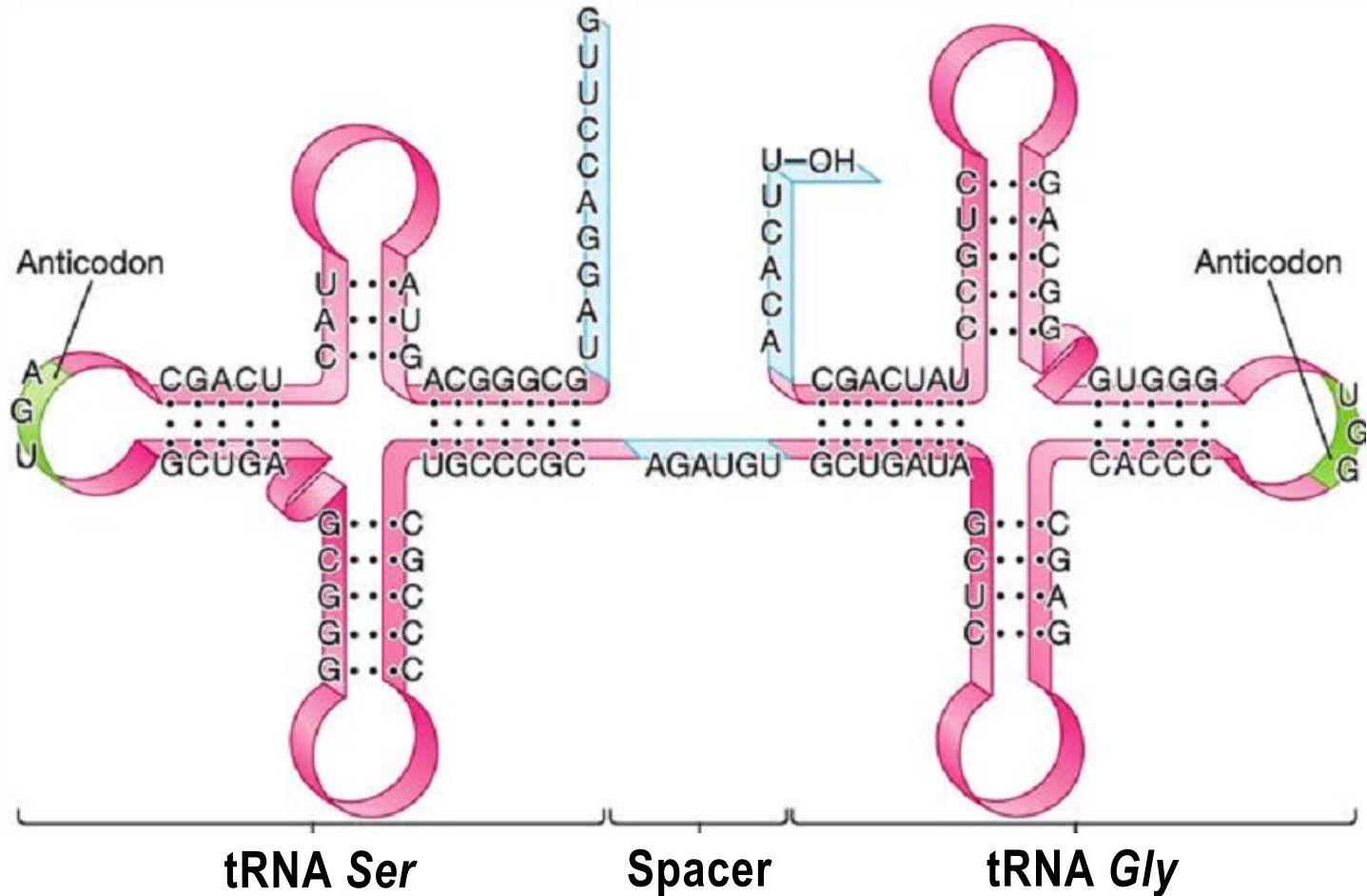
# Gene structure in Bacteria

- **Bacterial and archaea coding information in gene is normally continuous.**
  - **In eukaryotic, genes that code for proteins (exons) are often interrupted by noncoding regions (introns), which must be removed by splicing.**
-

# Bacterial tRNA Gene Structure



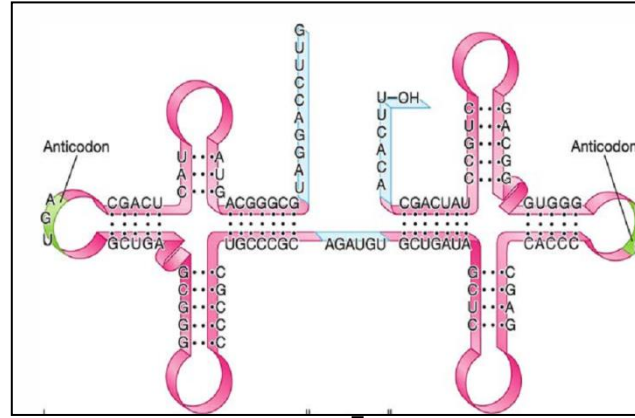
# A tRNA precursor from *E.coli*





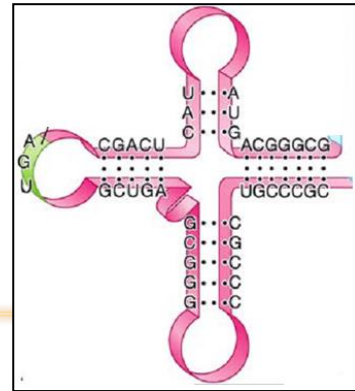
# A tRNA precursor from *E. coli*

tRNA  
precursor



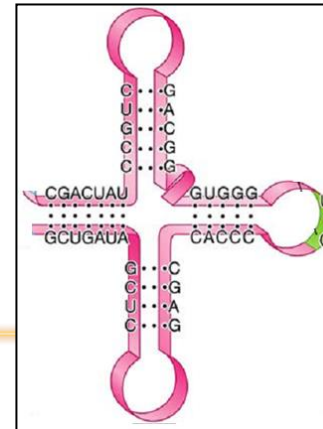
↓ Ribozyme

tRNA



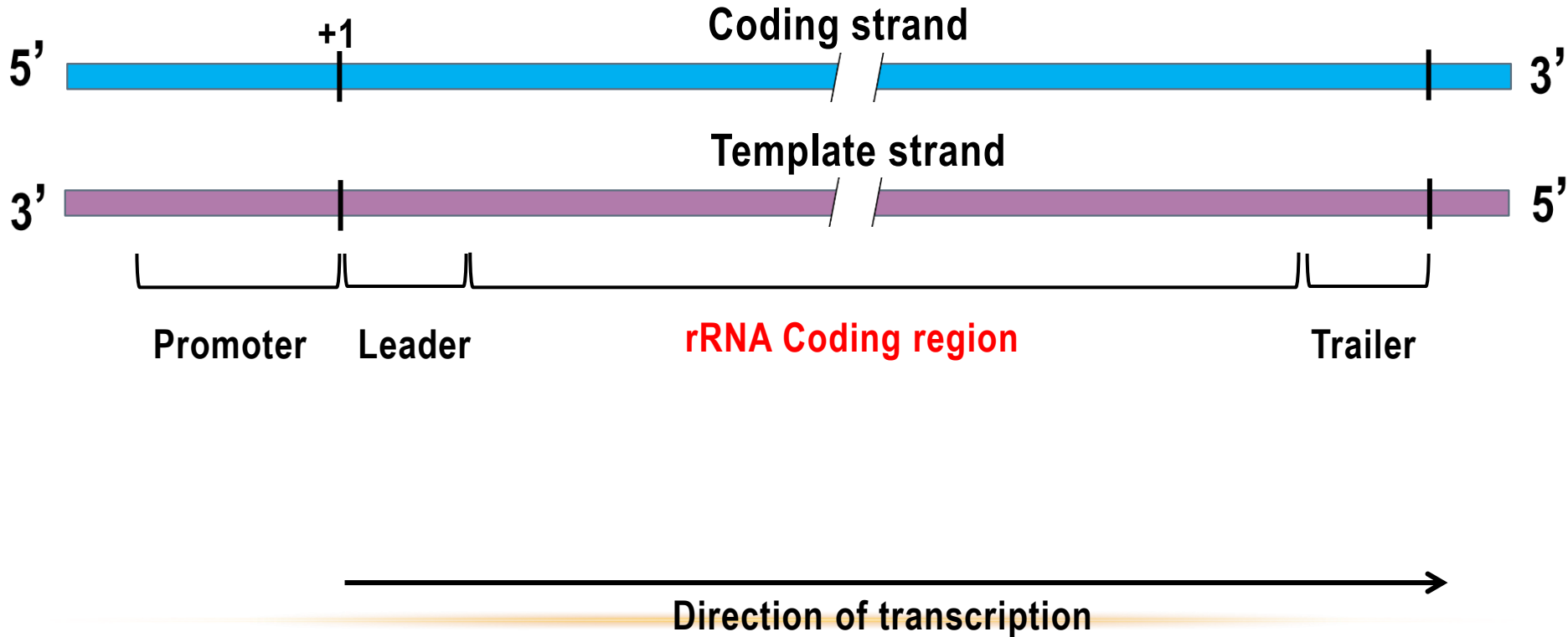
tRNA *Ser*

+

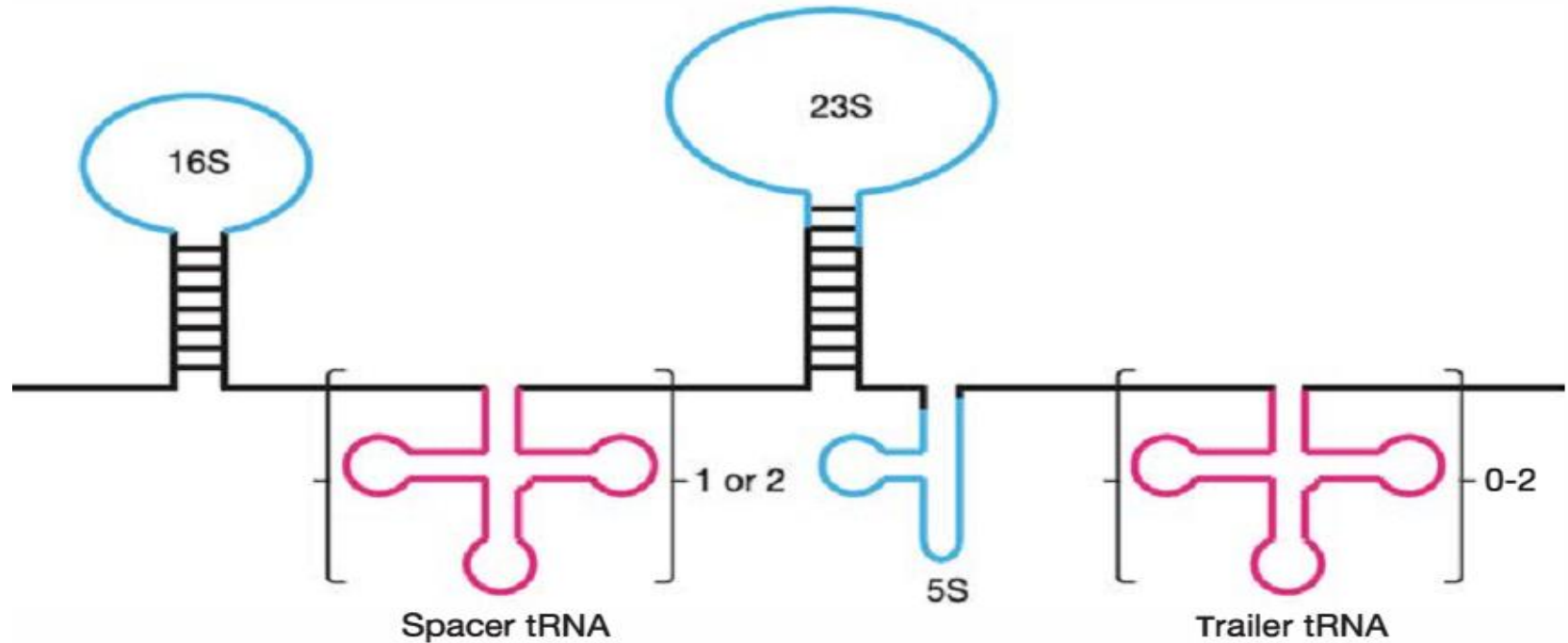


tRNA *Gly*

# Bacterial rRNA Gene Structure

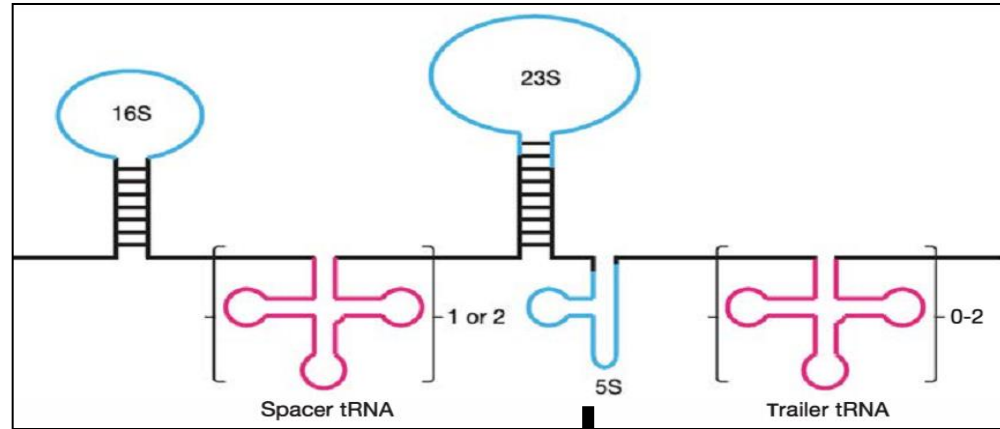


# A rRNA precursor from *E.coli*



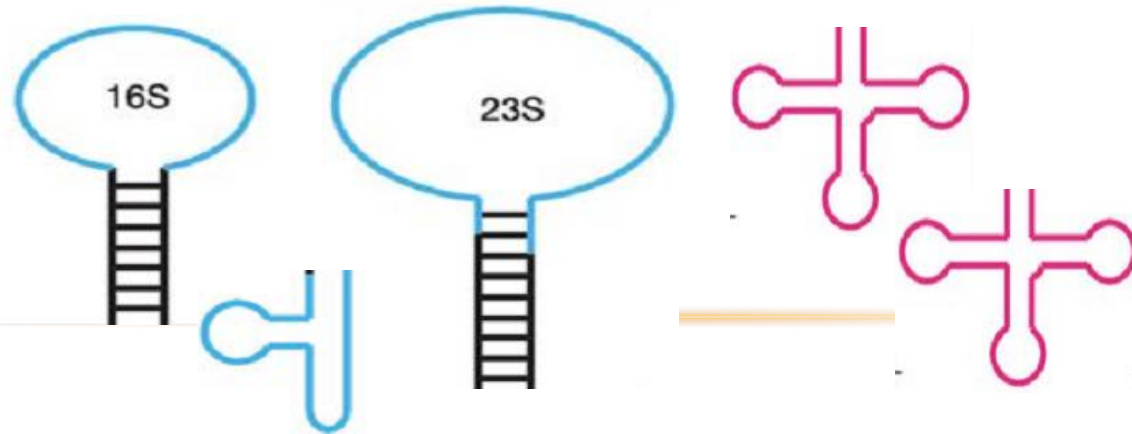
# A rRNA precursor from *E. coli*

rRNA  
precursor



↓ Ribozyme

rRNA  
and  
tRNA



# tRNA and rRNA genes

- **tRNA genes code for more than one single or one type of tRNA molecule.**
  - **rRNA genes (5S, 16S, 23S) are transcribed as single and large precursor.**
  - **Spacers between the coding regions are removed after transcription, via special ribonucleases called ribozymes.**
-



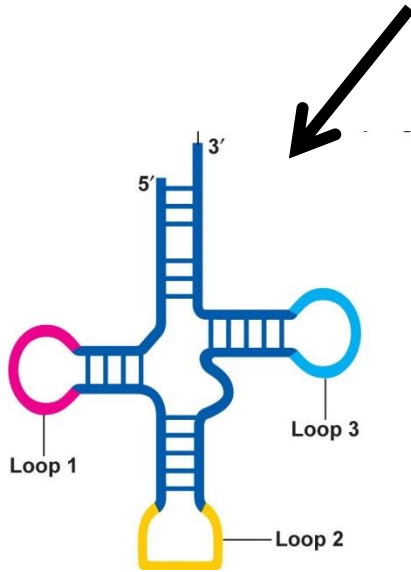
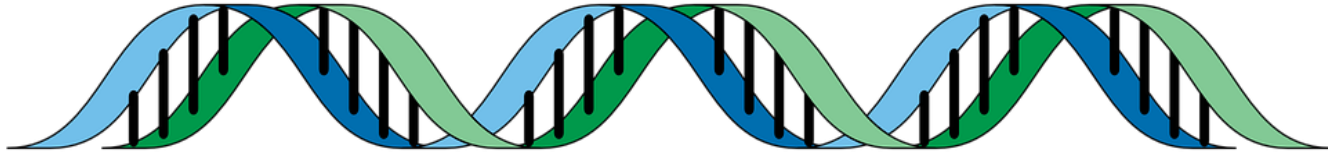
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# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 10

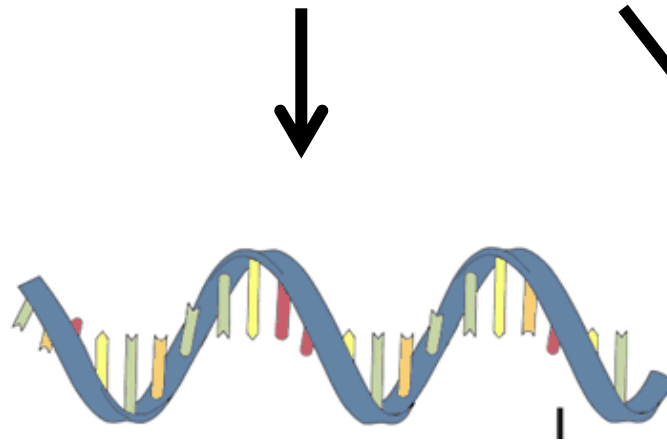
# 10.4 Transcription in Bacteria 细菌基因的转录

# Transcription



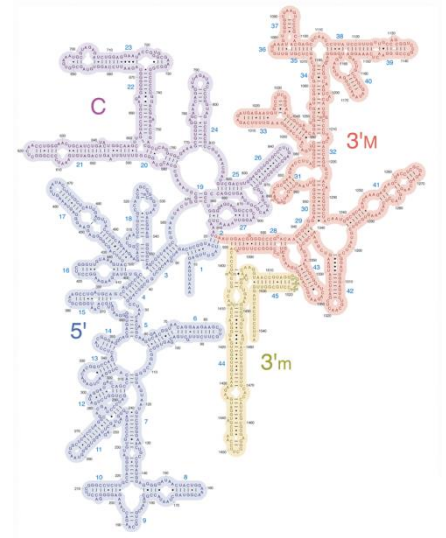
**tRNA**

**transfer RNA**



**mRNA**

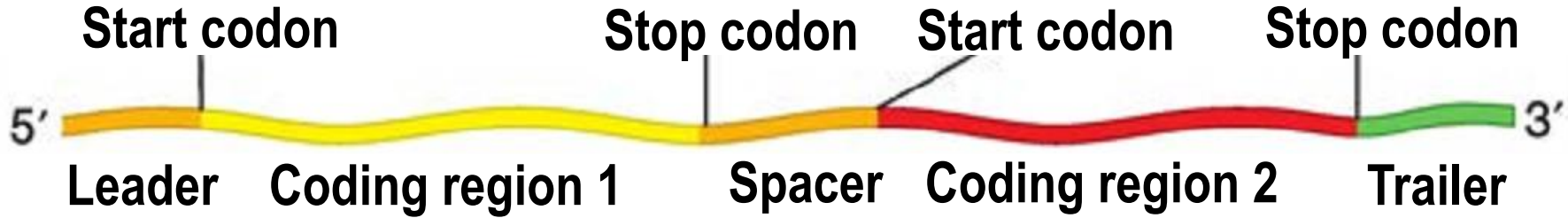
**message RNA**



**rRNA**

**Ribosome RNA**

# Polycistronic mRNA



# Monocistronic mRNA





Article

Operons in C. elegans: Polycistronic mRNA precursors are processed by trans-splicing of SL2 to downstream coding regions

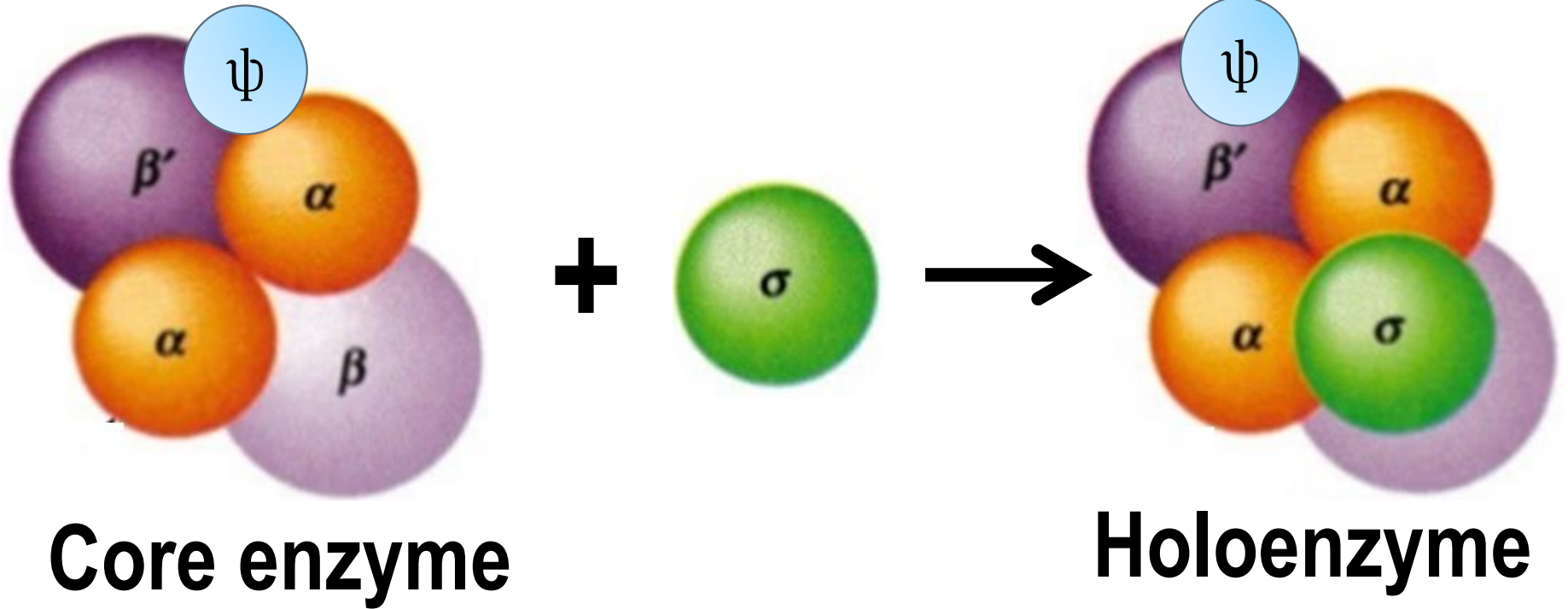
John Spieth, Glenn Brooke, Scott Kuersten, Kristi Lea, Thomas Blumenthal

Department of Biology Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana 47405 USA

Received 25 January 1993, Revised 1 March 1993, Available online 19 April 2004

[Show less](#)

# Bacterial DNA-Dependent RNA Polymerase



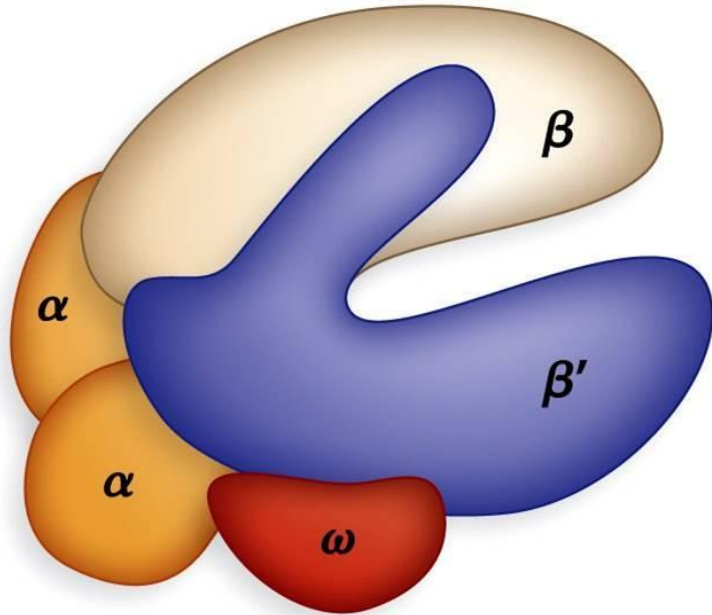
The RNA polymerase core enzyme is composed of five polypeptides (two  $\alpha$  subunits,

# Bacterial DNA-Dependent RNA Polymerase

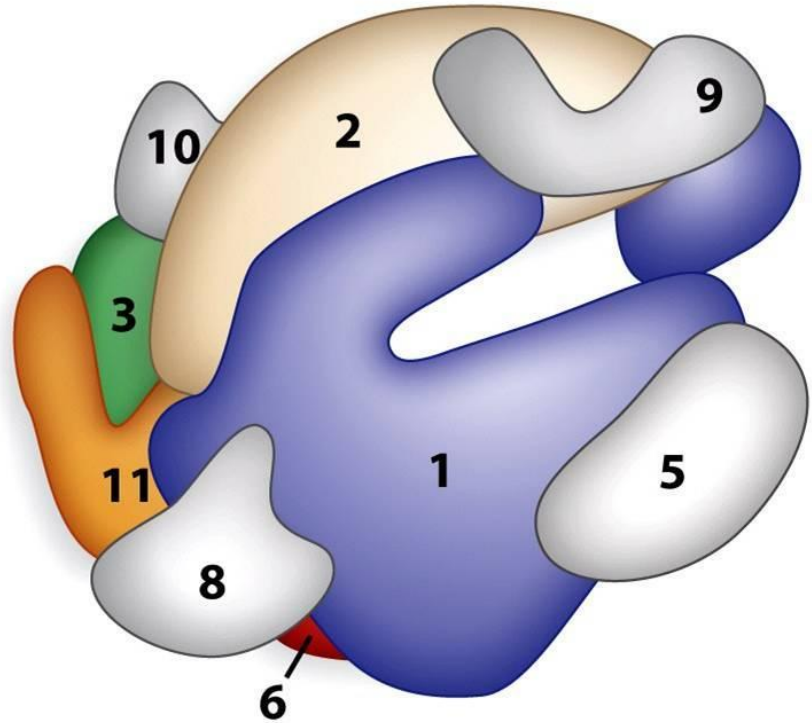
- RNA polymerase core enzyme is composed of five polypeptides and catalyzes RNA synthesis.
  - Sigma factor has no catalytic activity but helps the core enzyme recognize the promoter.
  - Holoenzyme is required for correct initiation of transcription.
-

# Bacterial and Eukaryotic RNA Polymerase

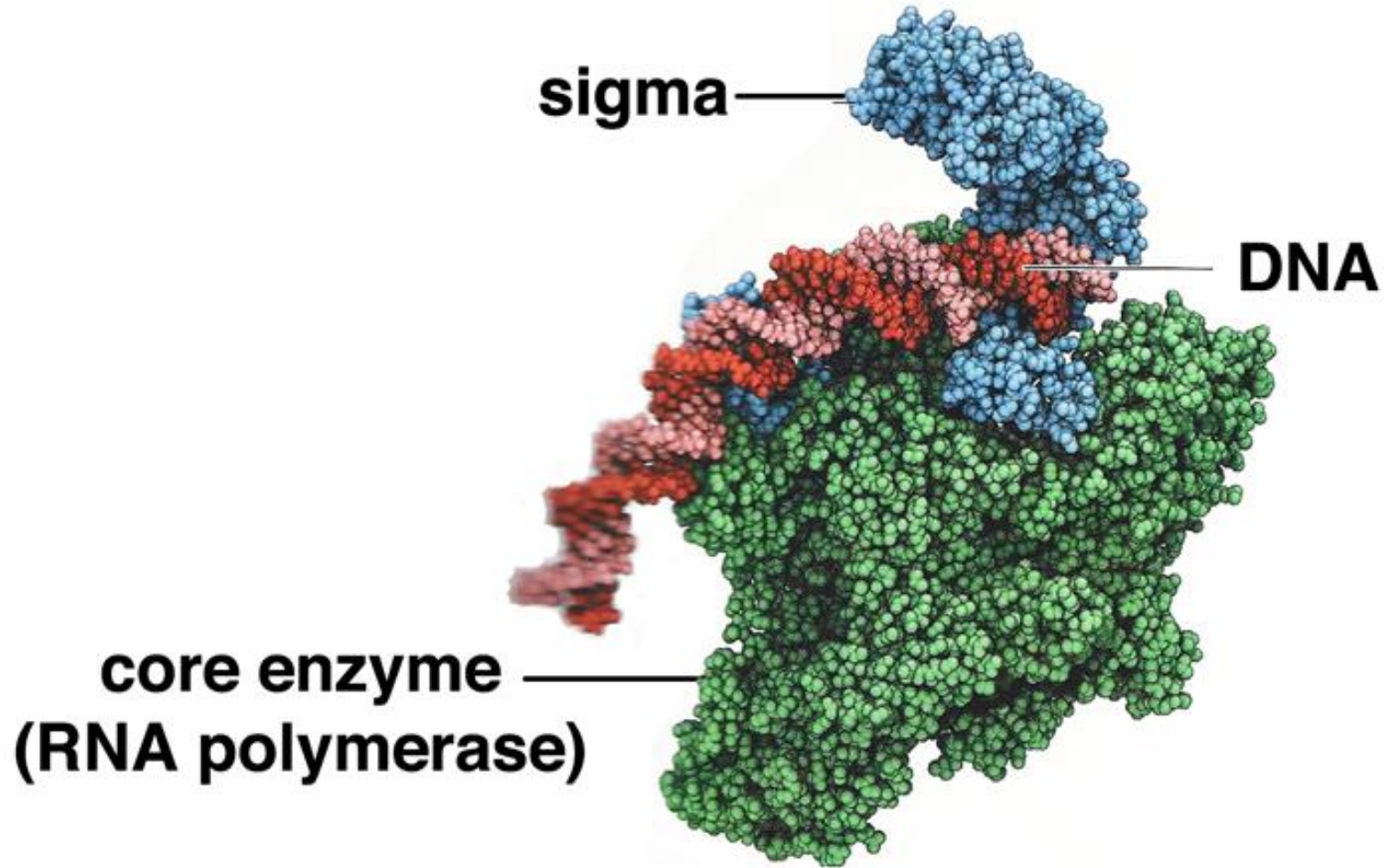
Bacterial RNA polymerase



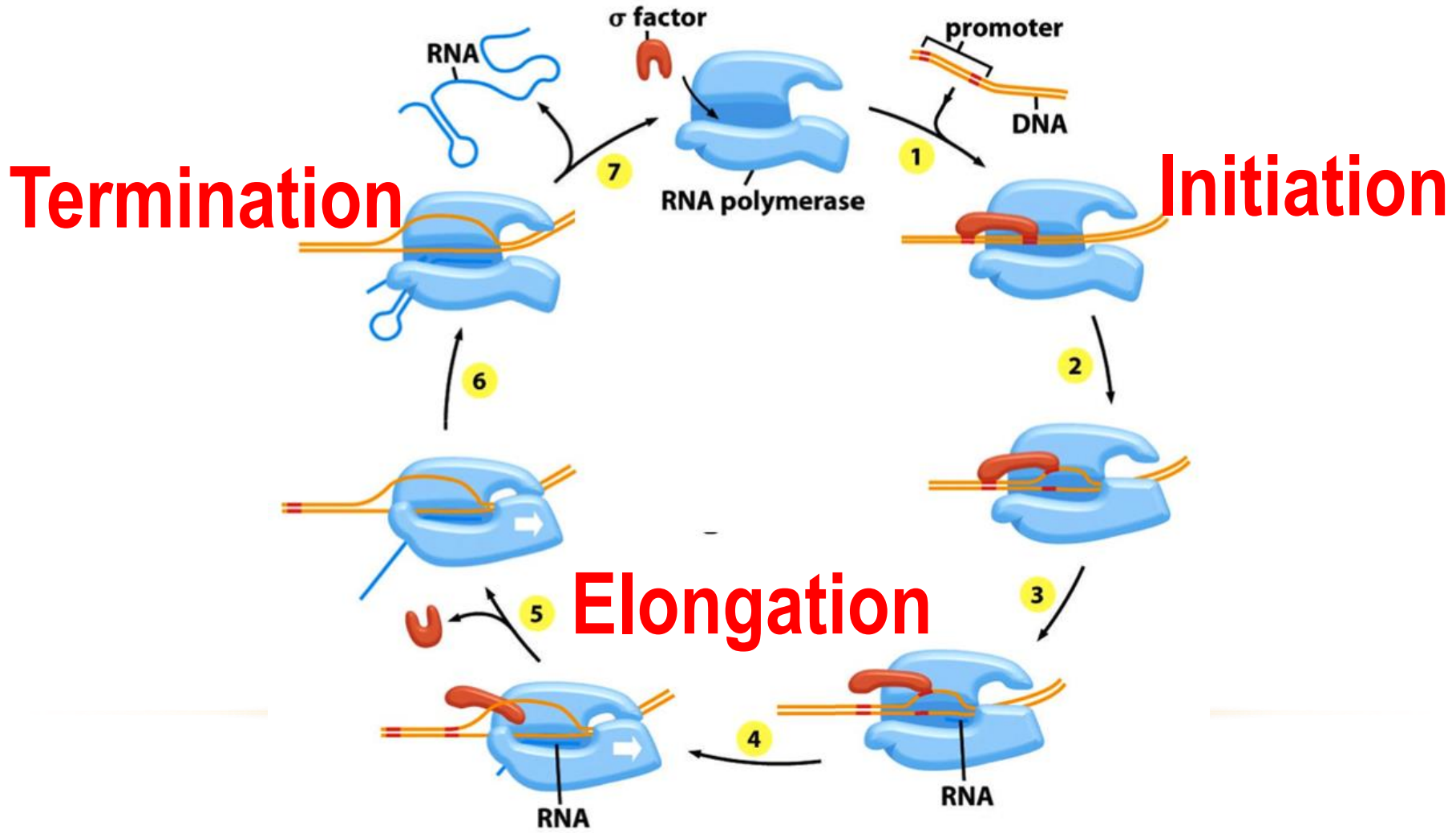
Eukaryotic RNA polymerase II



# Bacterial RNA Polymerase and binding DNA



# The Bacterial Transcription Cycle



ctor



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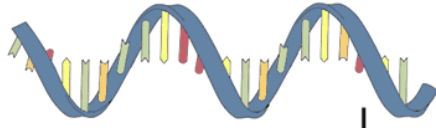
# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 10

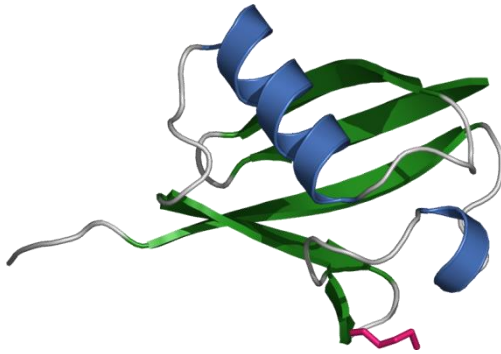
### 10.5 Translation in Bacteria

### 细菌的翻译

mRNA



Protein




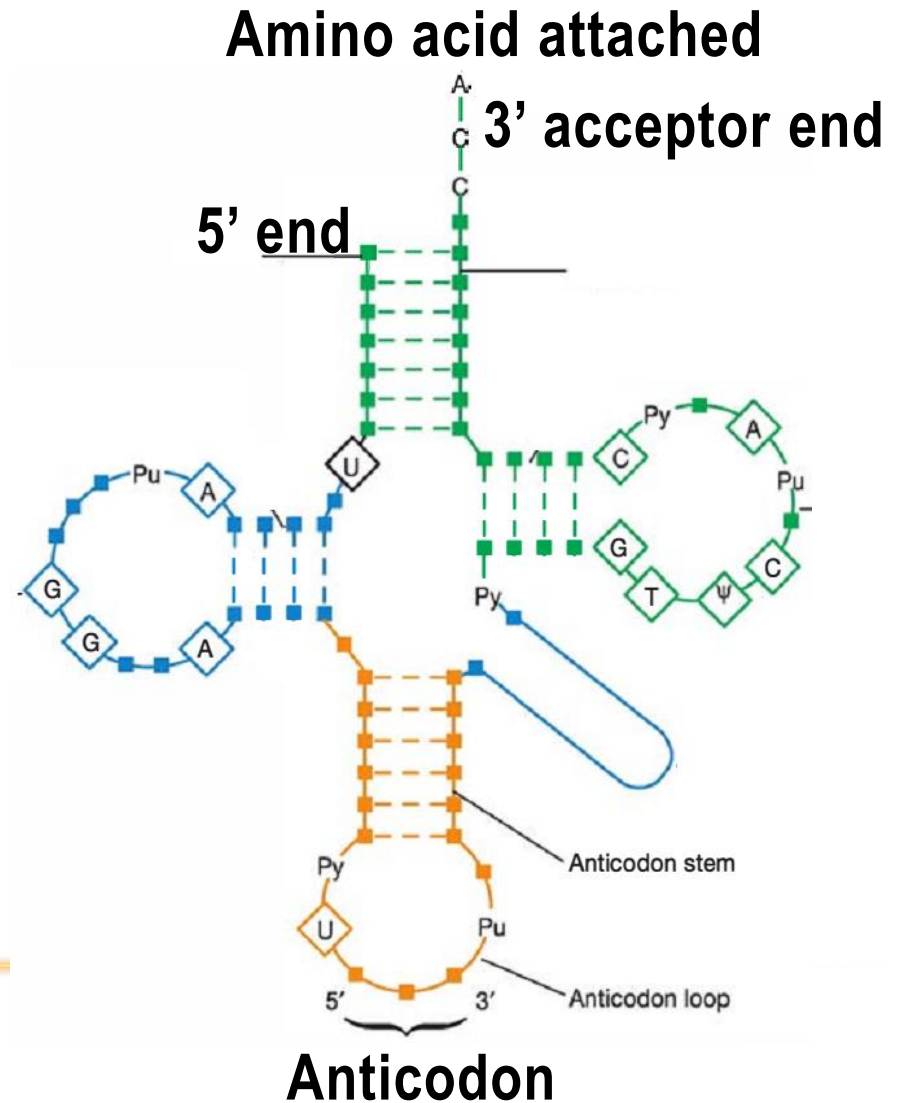
# Translation

- mRNA
- tRNA
- Ribosome

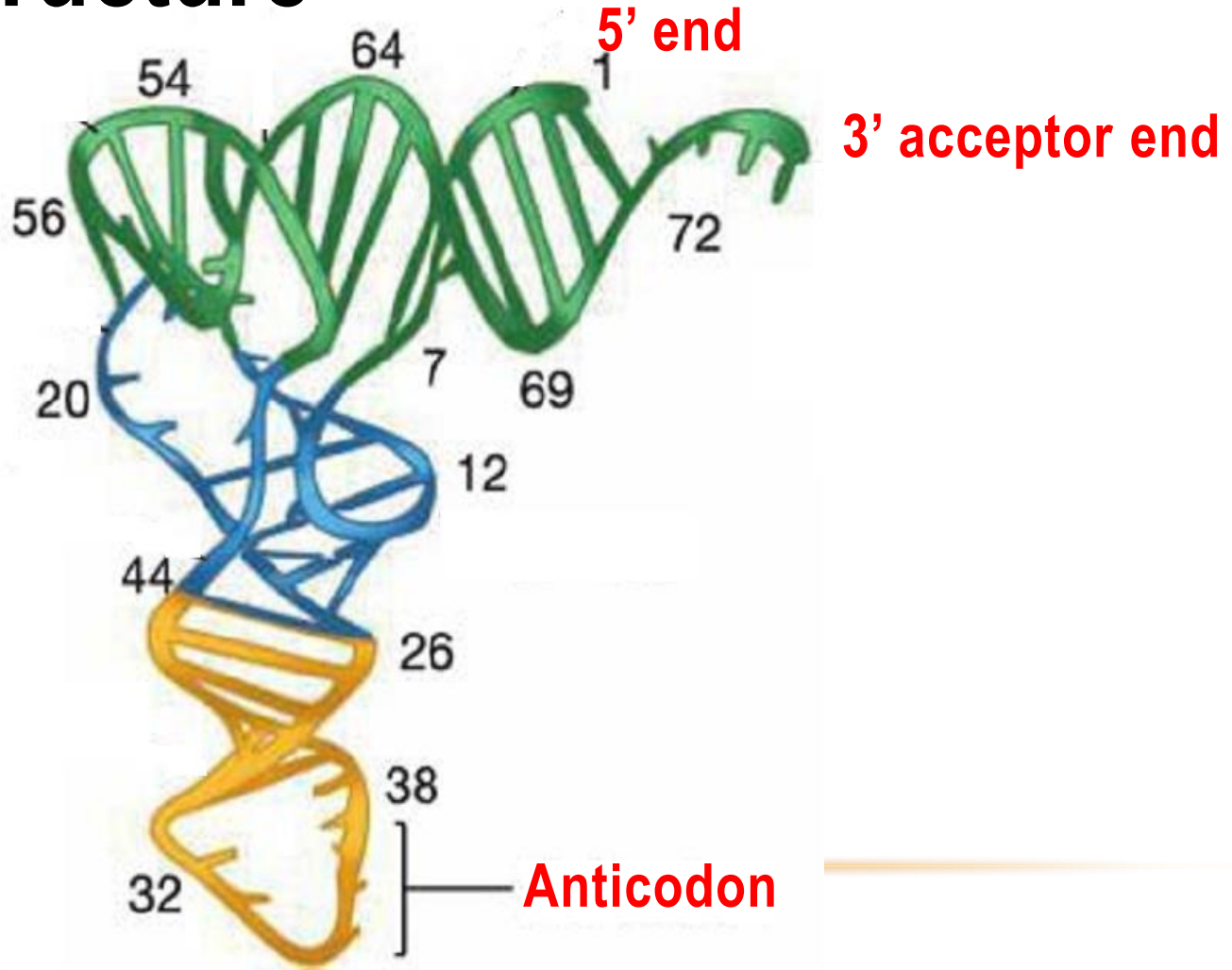


# tRNA structure

- Cloverleaf conformation; 
- In *E. coli*, the 3' end of all tRNAs has the same 5'-C-C-A-3' sequence;
- **Anticodon** is complementary to the mRNA codon.

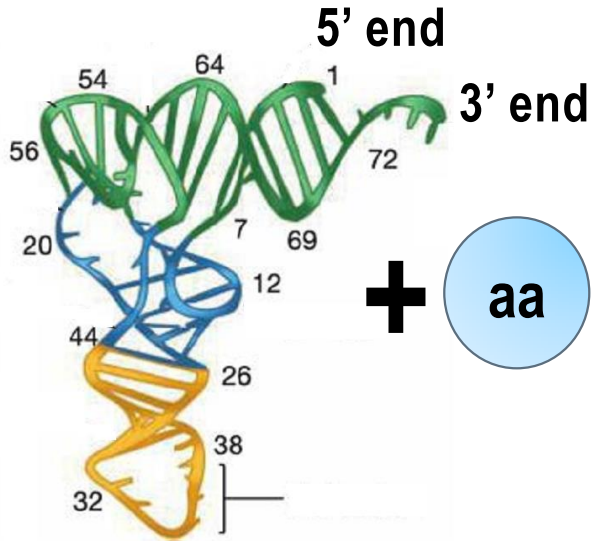


# tRNA structure

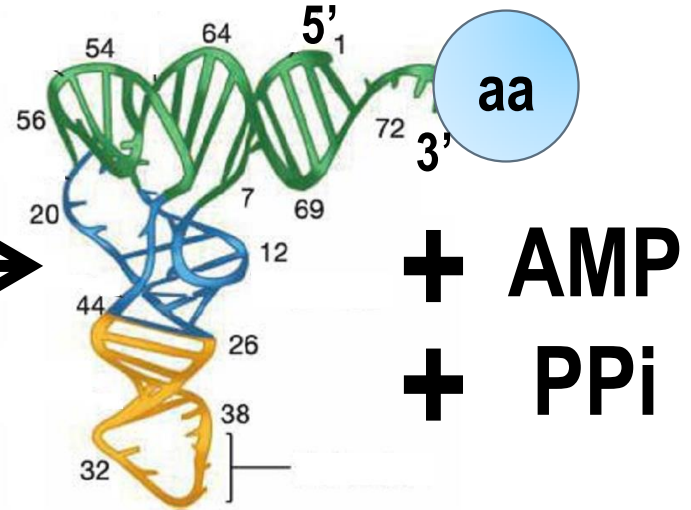


# Amino Acid Activation

tRNA



Aminoacyl-tRNA



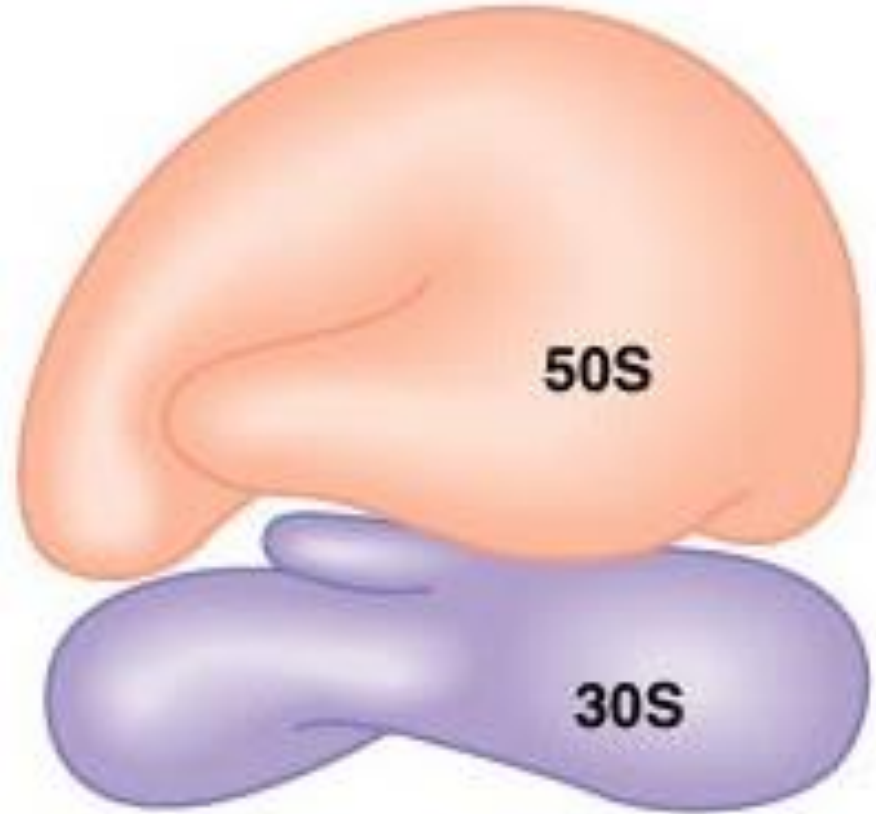
Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases

氨酰tRNA合成酶

# Ribosome: Translation machine

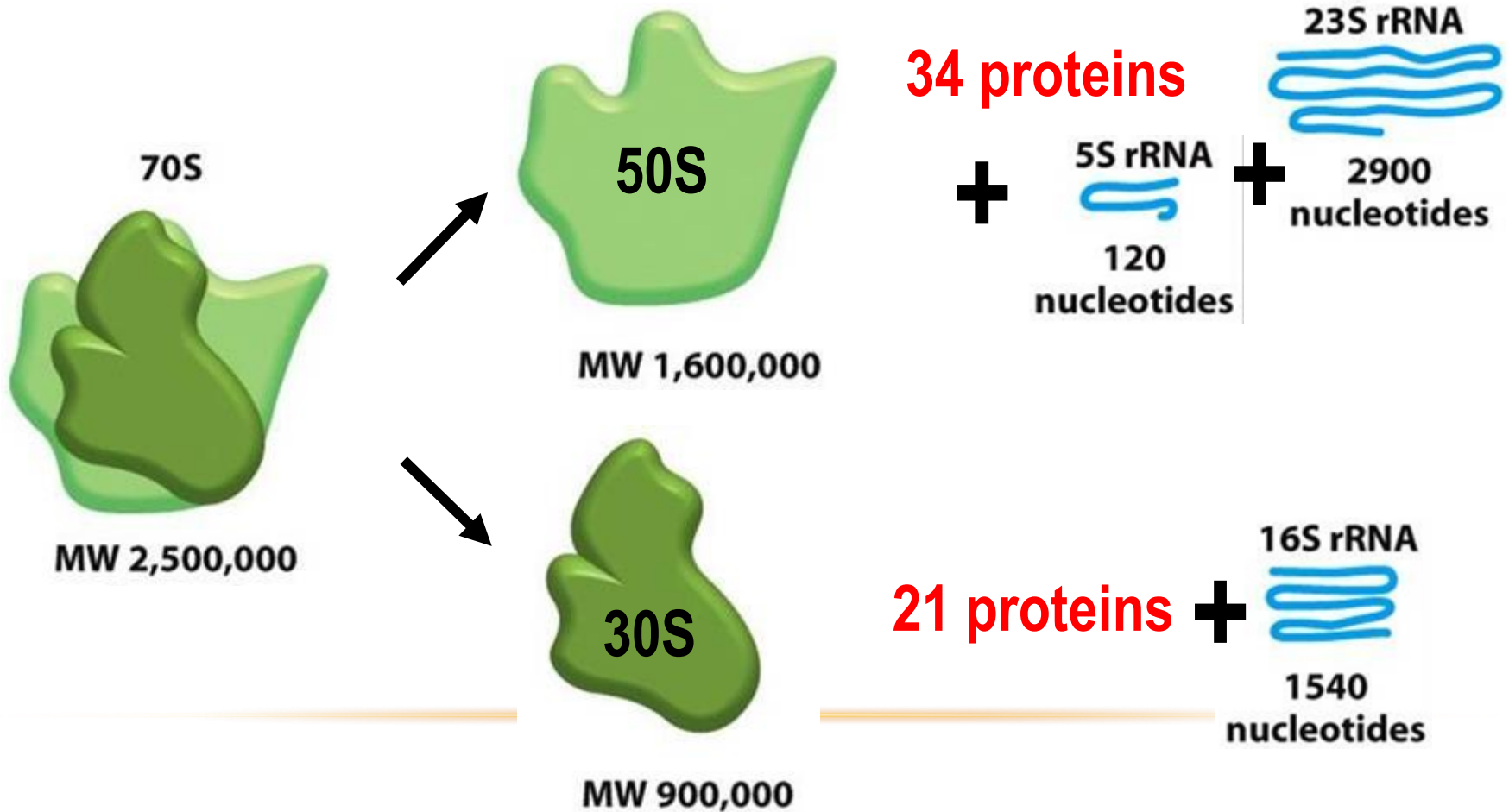
50S subunit (Large)

30S subunit (Small)

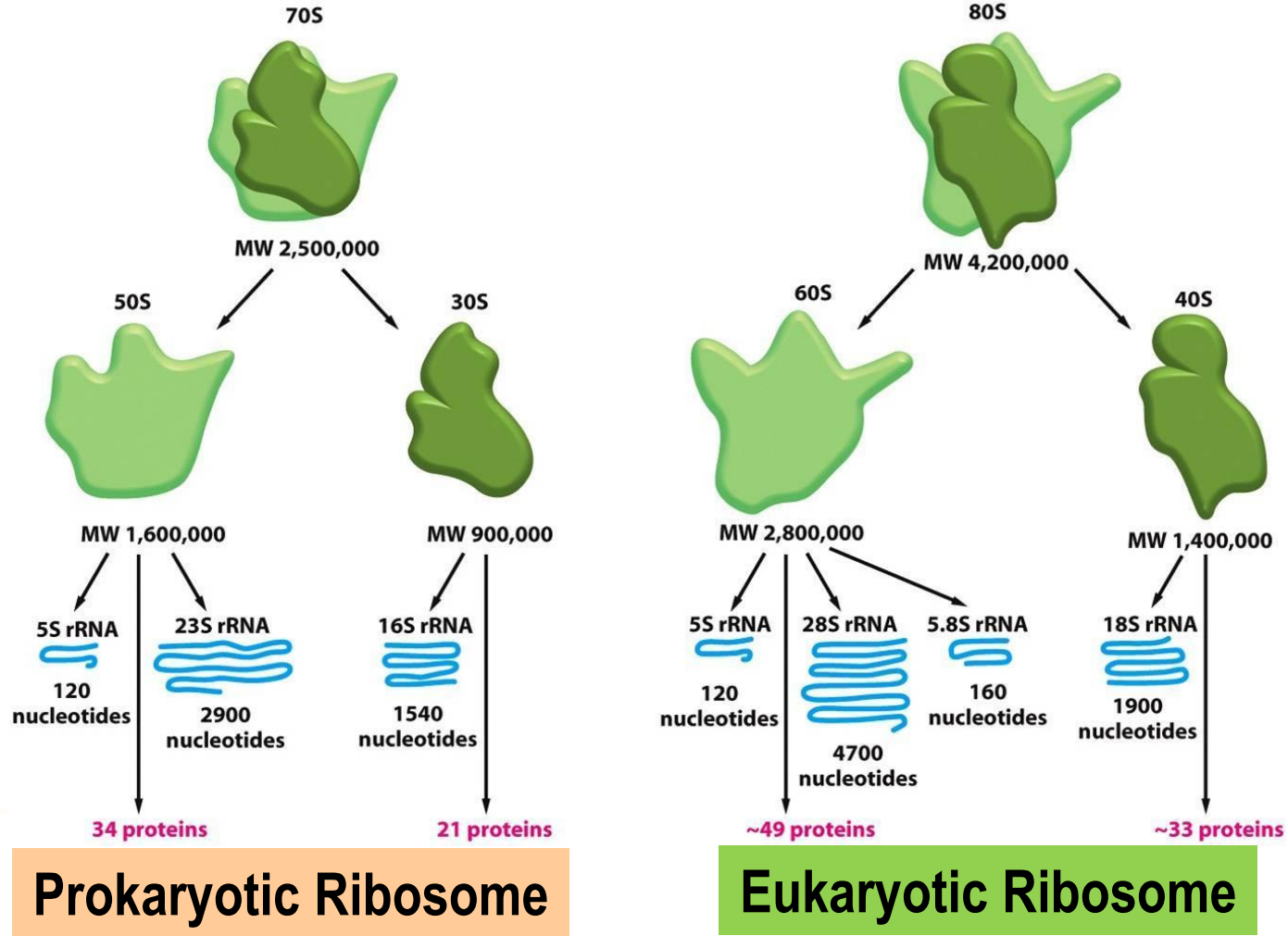


Protein/ribosome RNA complex

# Prokaryotic Ribosome



# Ribosome in Evolution



# Translation

- mRNA
- Aminoacyl-tRNA
- Ribosome

**Initiation**



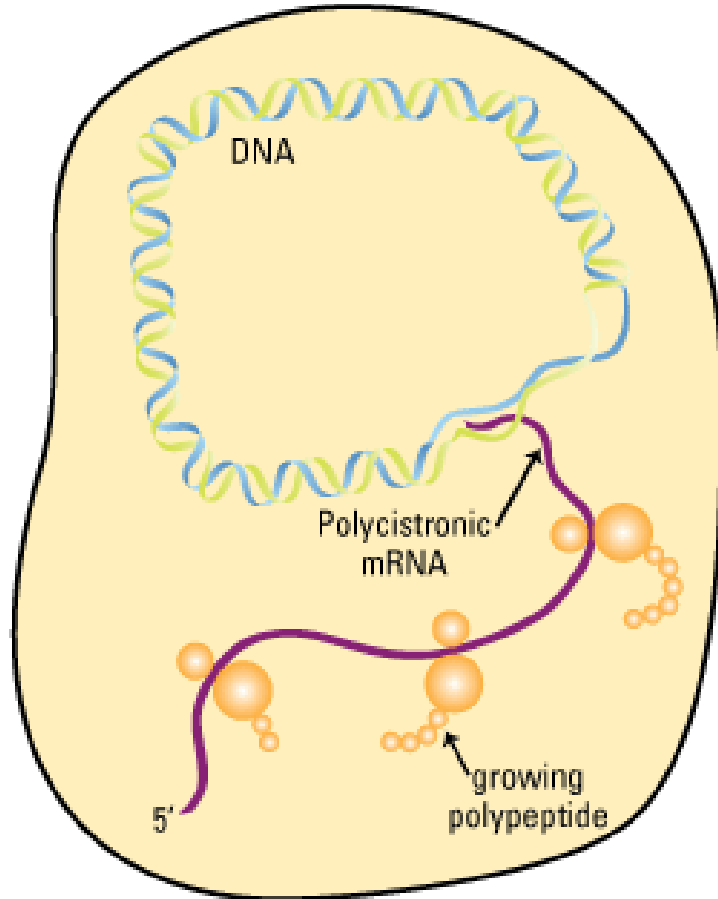
**Elongation**



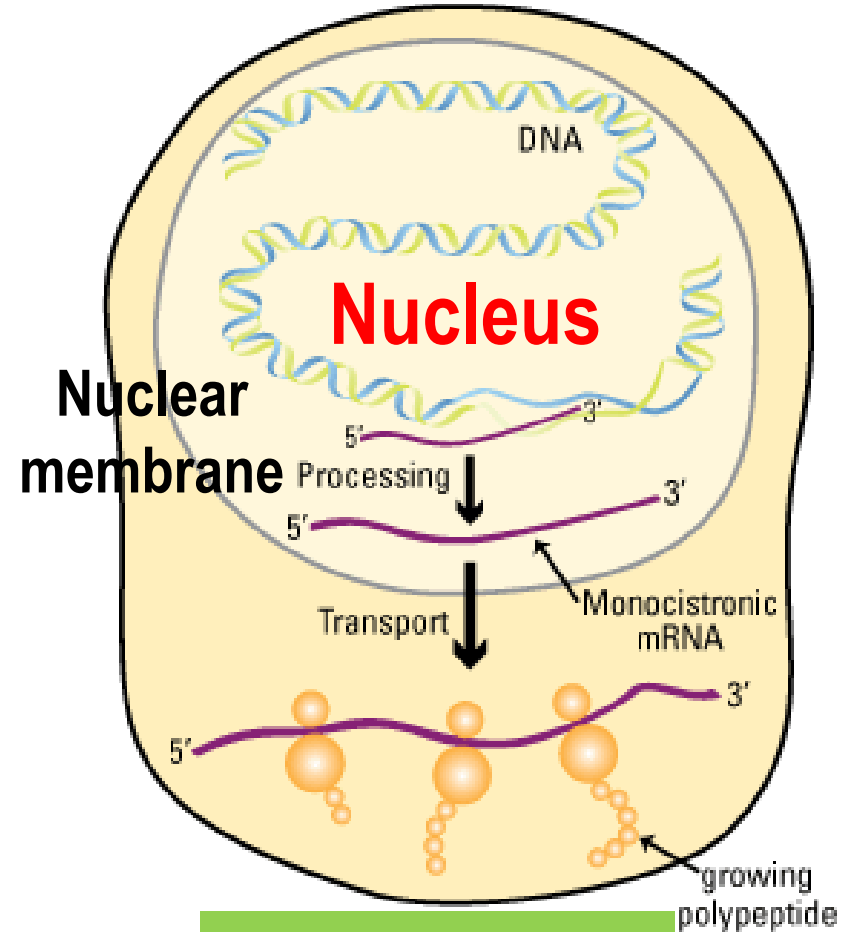
**Termination**

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# No Nucleus Structure in Bacteria



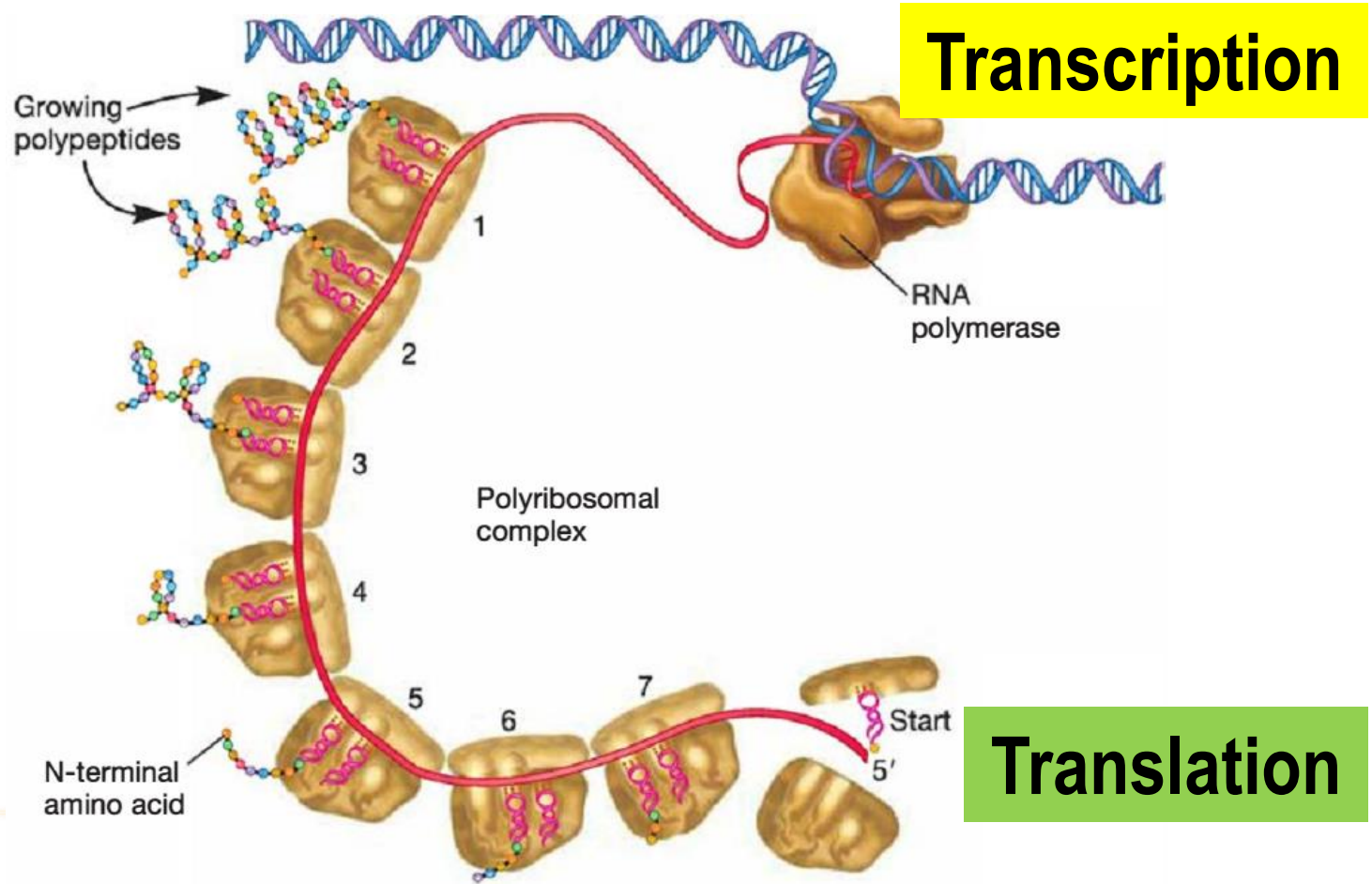
**Prokaryotic cell**



**Eukaryotic cell**



# Coupled Transcription and Translation in Bacteria



# Rapid Protein Synthesis in Bacterial

- In *E. coli*, synthesis occurs at a rate of at least 900 amino acids added per minute;
  - Translation in Eukaryotic is slower, about 100 amino acids residues per minute.
-



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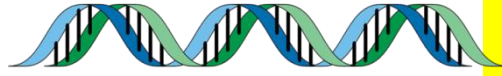
# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 11

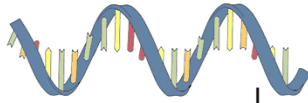
### 11.1 Regulation levels of Gene Expression 基因表达的不同水平调控

# Regulation of gene expression

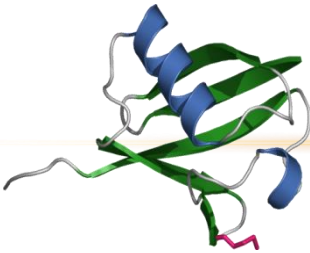
DNA



mRNA



Protein



- Transcription initiation
- Transcription elongation
- Transcription termination

- Translation initiation
- Translation elongation

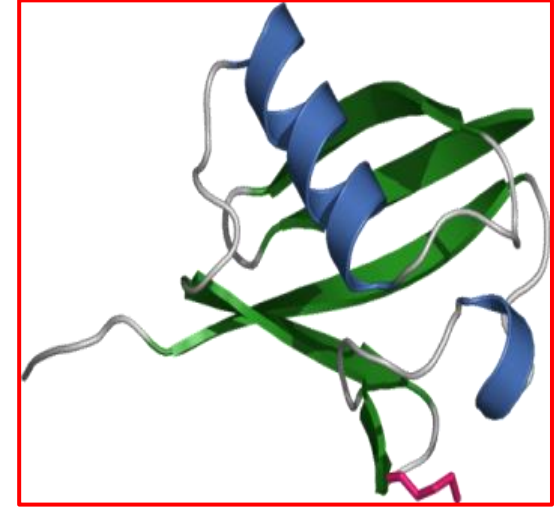
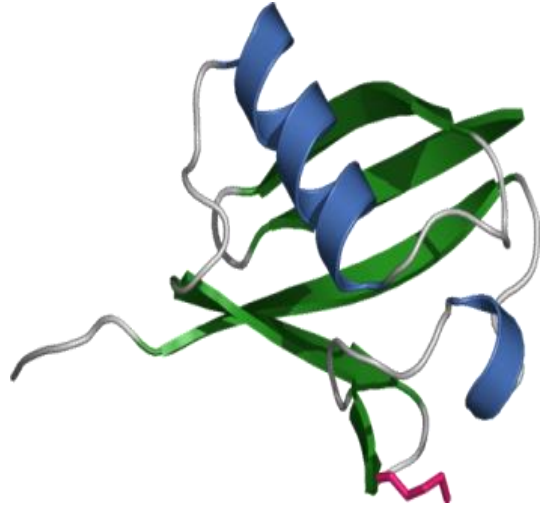
# Transcription Regulation

- **Genetic regulatory proteins** can bind to the DNA and control whether or not transcription.
- **Attenuation:** Transcription can terminate very early after it has begun due to the formation of a transcriptional terminator.
- **Binding of a metabolite to a Riboswitch** in mRNA can cause premature termination of transcription.

# Translation Regulation

- **Translational repressor proteins** can bind to the mRNA and prevent translation from starting.
- **Antisense RNA** can bind to mRNA and control whether or not translation begins.
- **Binding of a metabolite to a riboswitch** in mRNA can block translation.

# Posttranslational Regulation



**Nonfunctional  
protein/enzyme**

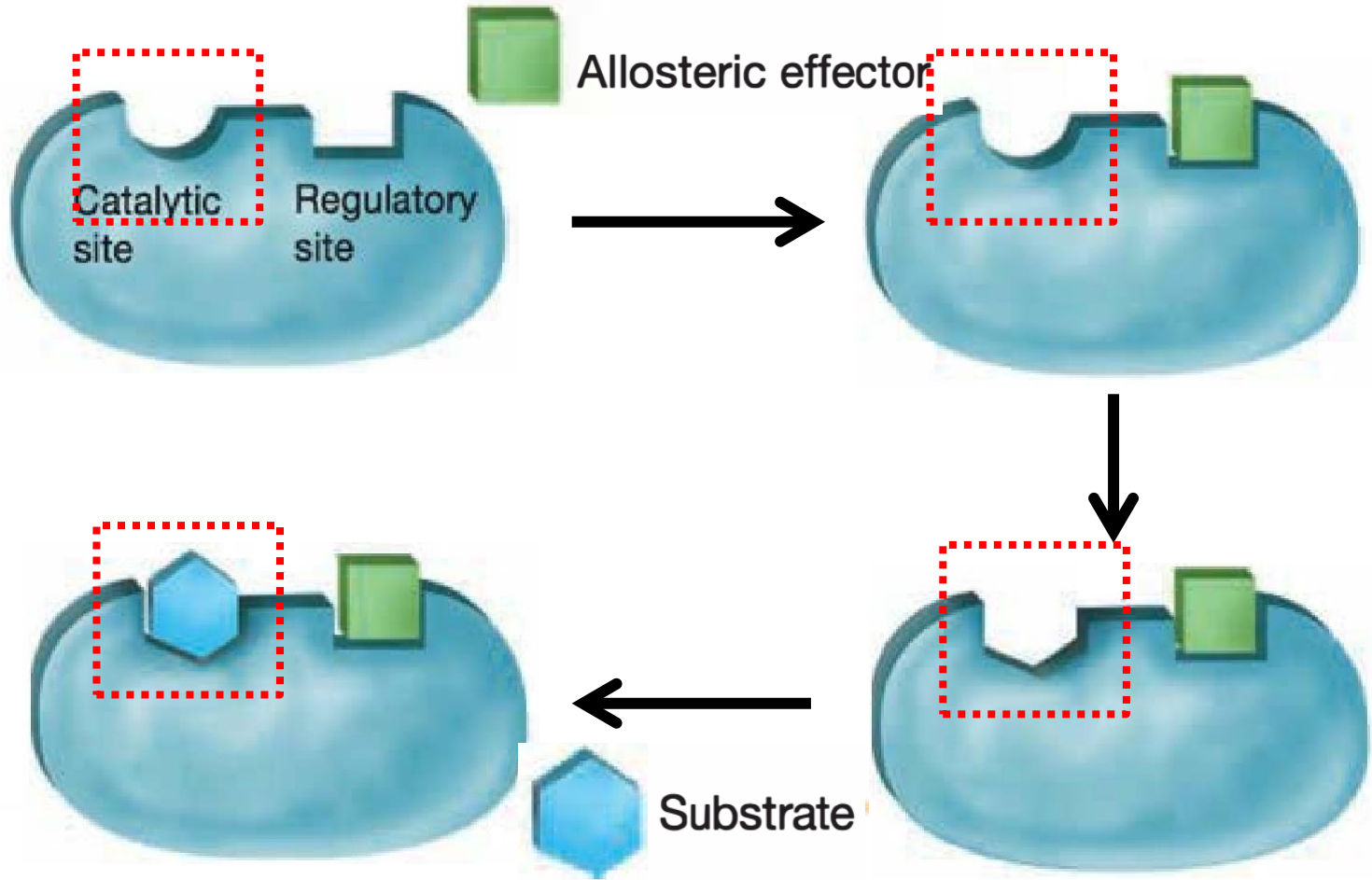
**Functional  
protein/enzyme**

# Posttranslational Regulation

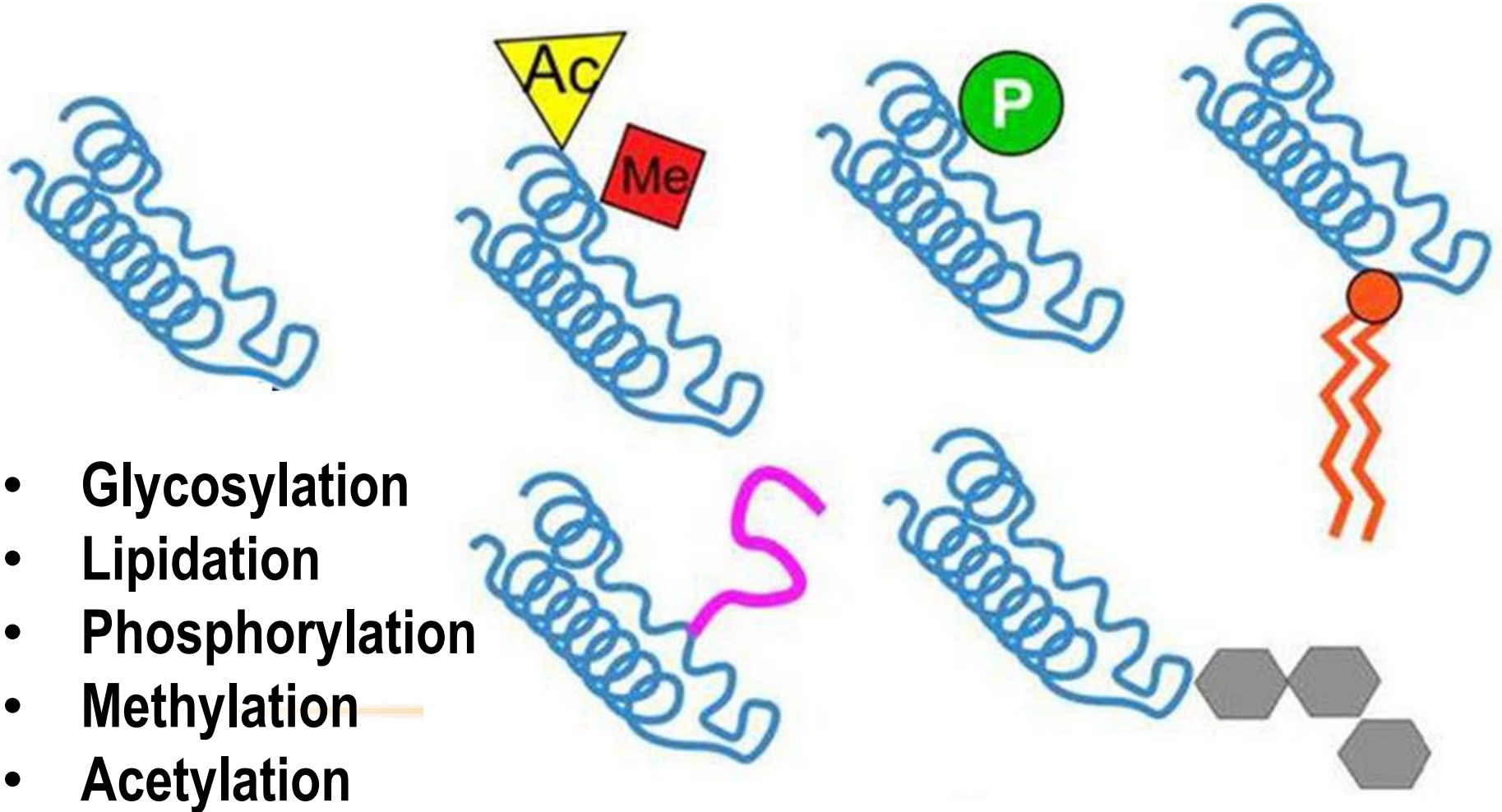
- **Allosteric Regulation:** small molecules can bind (noncovalently) to a protein and affect its function.
  - **Covalent Modification:** the structure and function of a protein can be altered by covalent changes to the protein.
-



# Allosteric Regulation



# Covalent Modification





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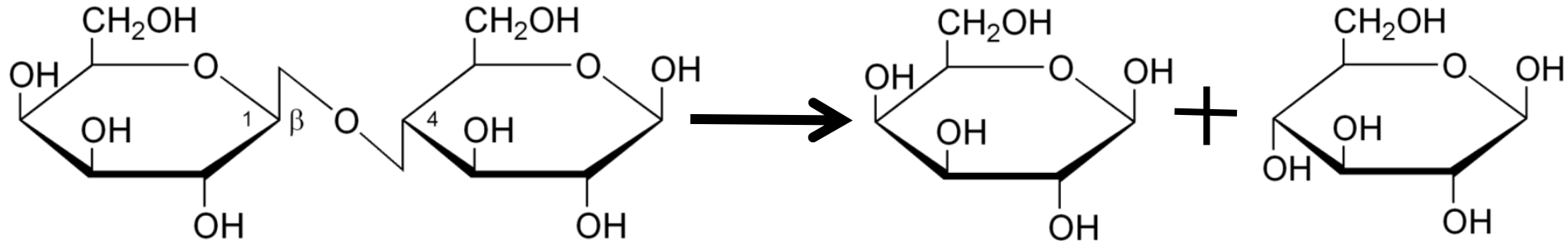
## Chapter 11

### 11.2 Regulation of Transcription Initiation I 转录起始的调控 一

# Regulation of gene expression

- Constitutive genes: express continuously
  - Regulated genes: express only needed
-

# Only Lactose available and catabolism needed, galactosidase expresses in Bacteria



Lactose  
乳糖

D-galactose  
半乳糖

D-glucose  
葡萄糖

$\beta$ -galactosidase  
半乳糖苷酶

↓  
ATP

# Observing in bacteria cell:

Galactosidase molecules

**If Lactose lack**

**< 3**

**If Lactose exist**

**about 3,000**

# Regulatory Decision in Bacteria

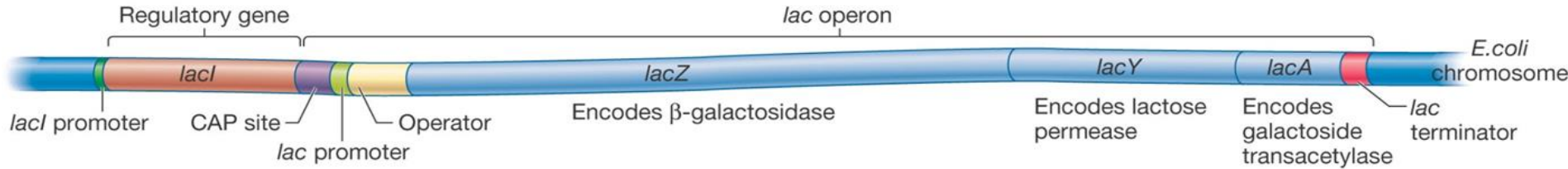
- **When No Lactose in the environment**  
**No expression of Lactose catabolism enzymes**
  - **When Lactose present in the environment**  
**Expression of Lactose catabolism enzymes**
-

# Operon 操纵子

- In bacteria, an operon is a functioning unit of genomic DNA containing a cluster of **structural genes** under the control of a **regulatory DNA** including **promoter** and **operator**.
- Its expression is regulated as a single unit.
- Lactose Operon ( 乳糖操纵子 )



# Lactose Operon



1. Regulator- gene that codes for Repressor(阻遏蛋白)
2. Regulatory DNA- composed of promoter and operator
3. Structural gene cluster- made of three genes each coding for an enzyme needed to catabolize lactose
  - $\beta$ -galactosidase – hydrolyze lactose
  - Permease – take lactose across cell membrane
  - $\beta$ -galactosidase transacetylase –function unknown

# 细胞外乳糖

Lactose  $H^+$  Lactose permease

Cytoplasm

# 细胞内乳糖

$\beta$ -galactosidase side reaction

# 异乳糖

Allolactose

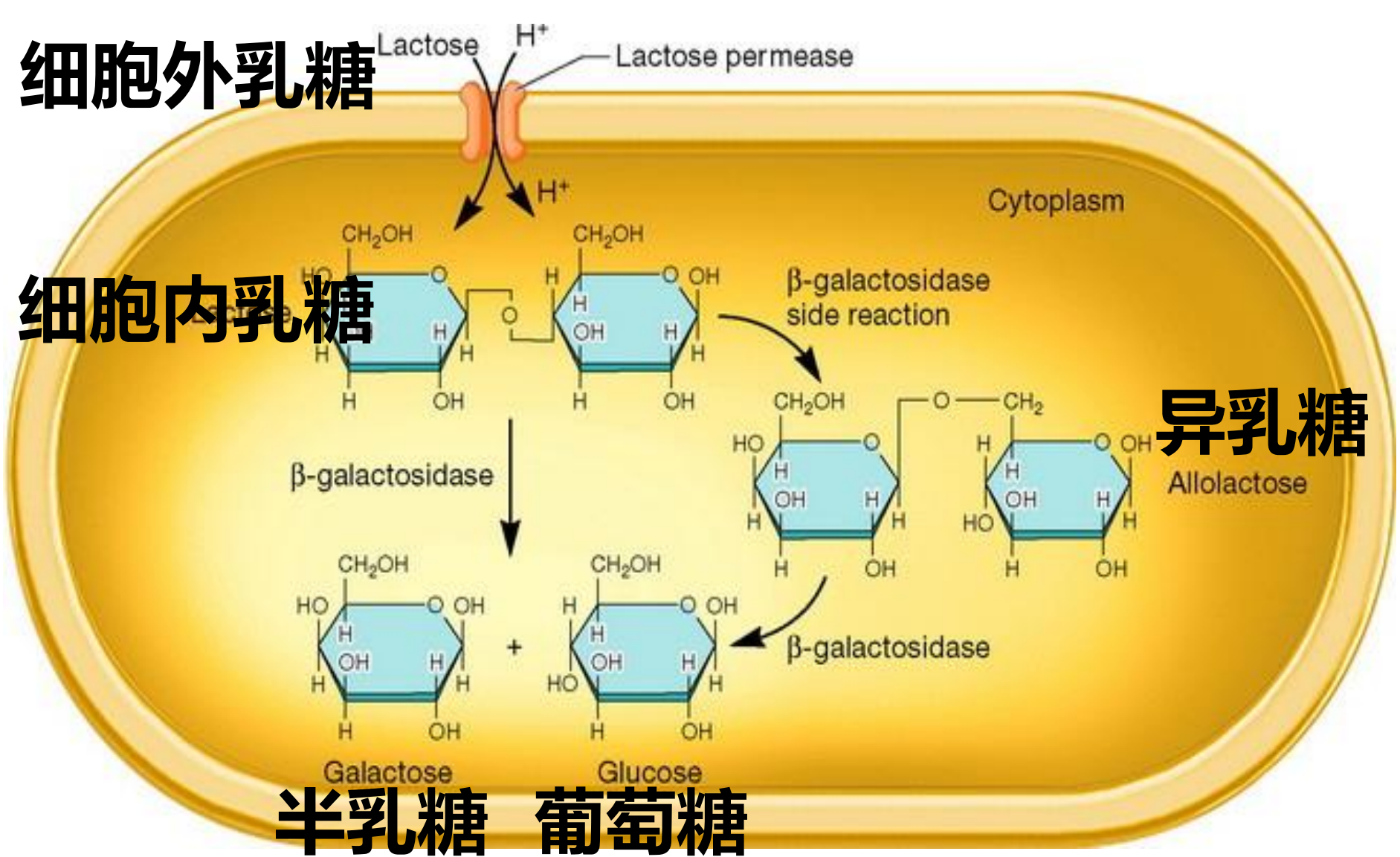
$\beta$ -galactosidase

$\beta$ -galactosidase

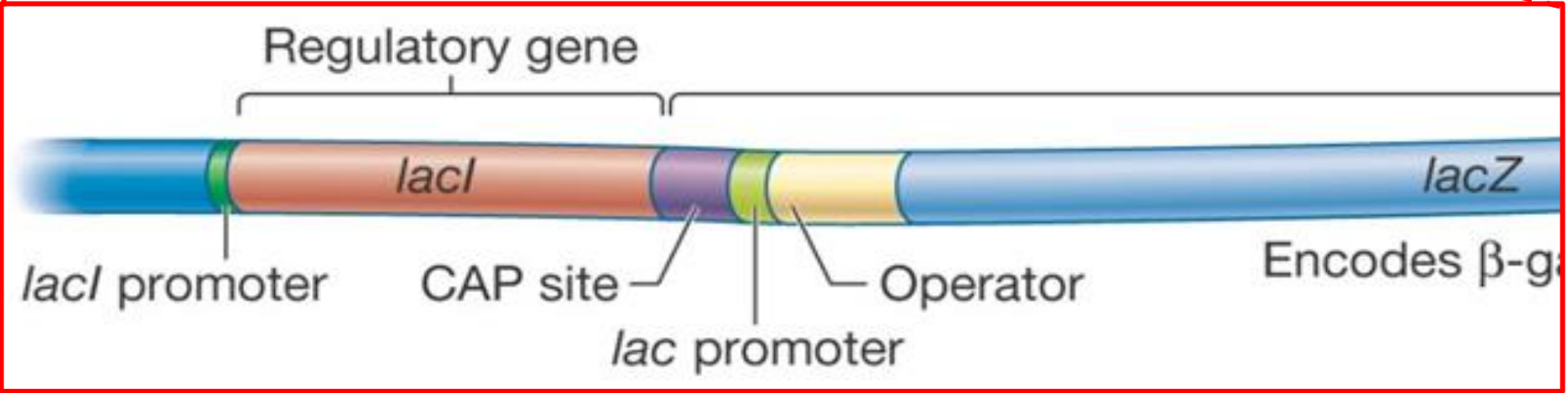
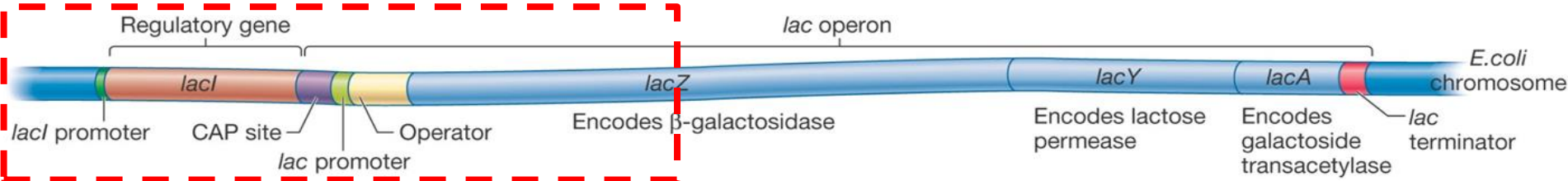
Galactose

Glucose

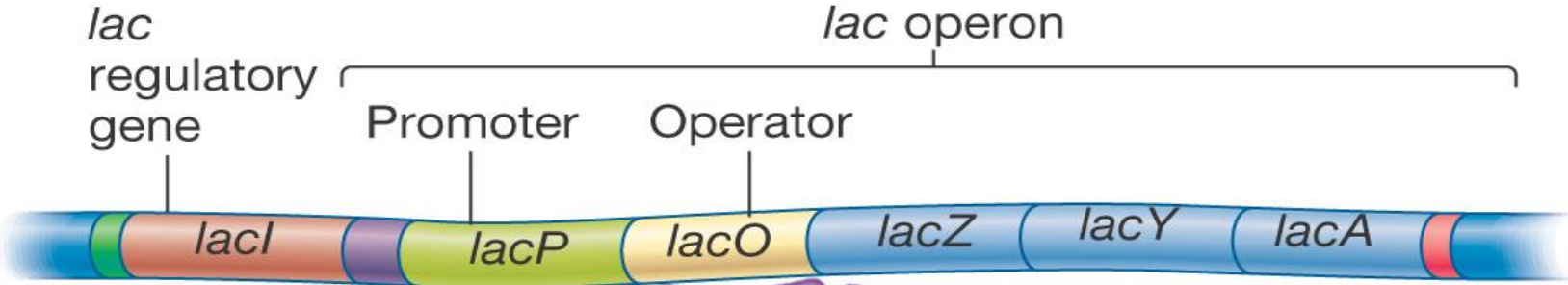
# 半乳糖 葡萄糖



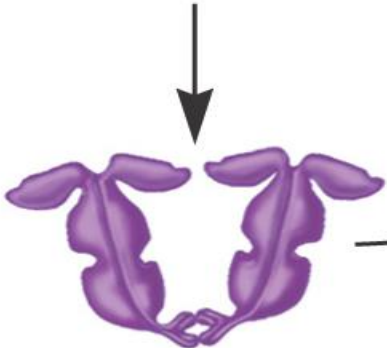
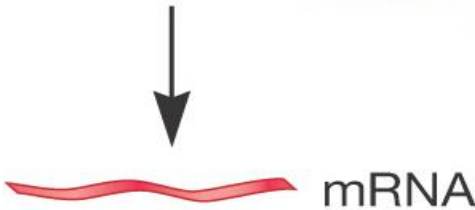
# Lactose Operon Structure



# When No Lactose in the environment



**No transcription**



*lac* repressor binds to the operator and inhibits transcription.

**Lac repressor (active)**

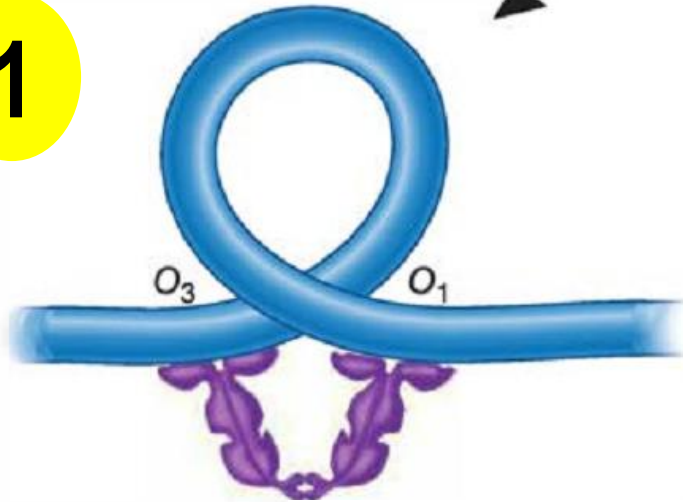
# DNA loop forming caused by repressor binding



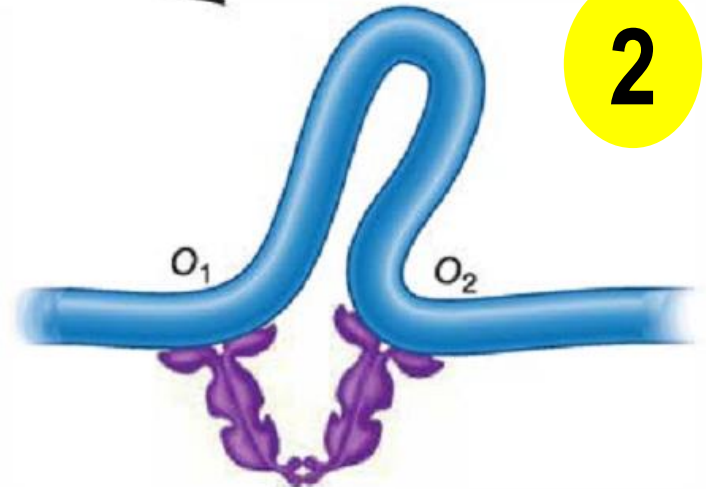
Binding of *lac* repressor

OR

1



2



Lac repressor (active)

# Regulatory Decision in Bacteria

- When No Lactose in the environment

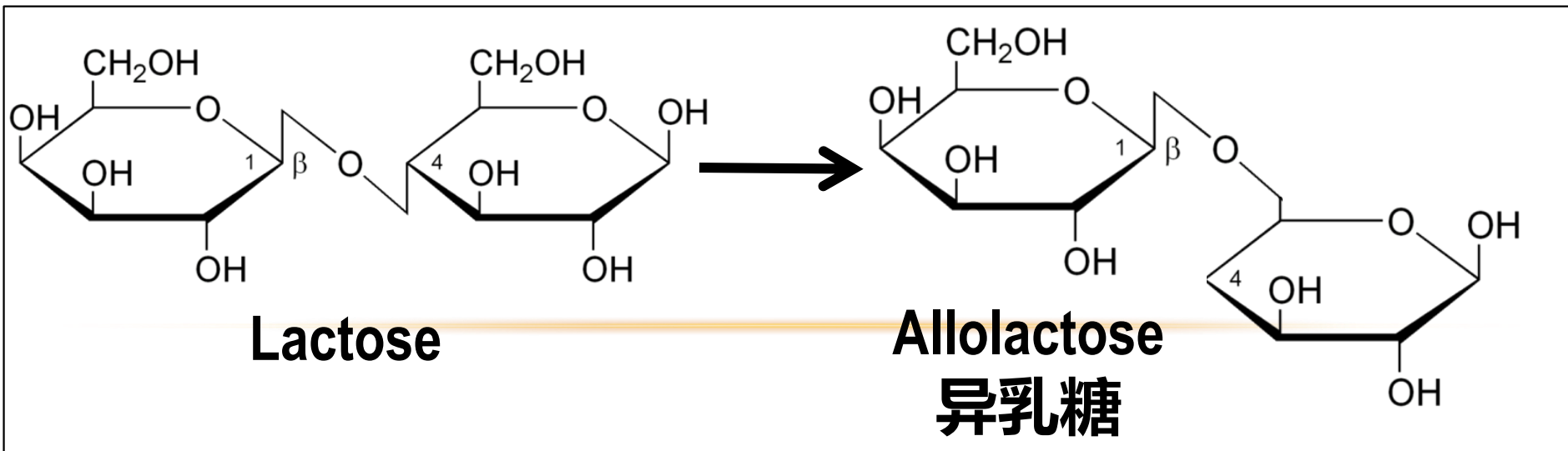
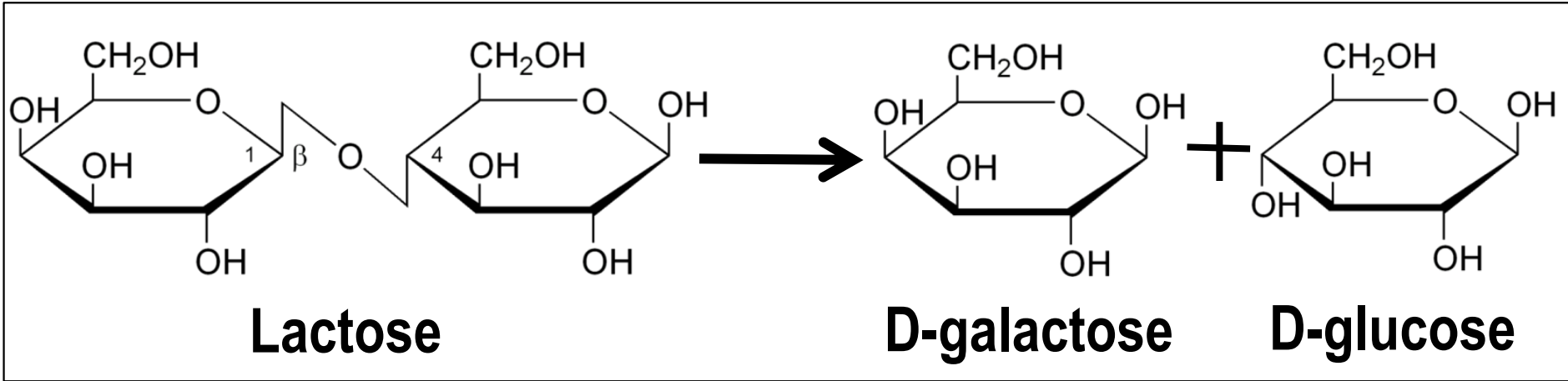
No transcription of Lactose Operon

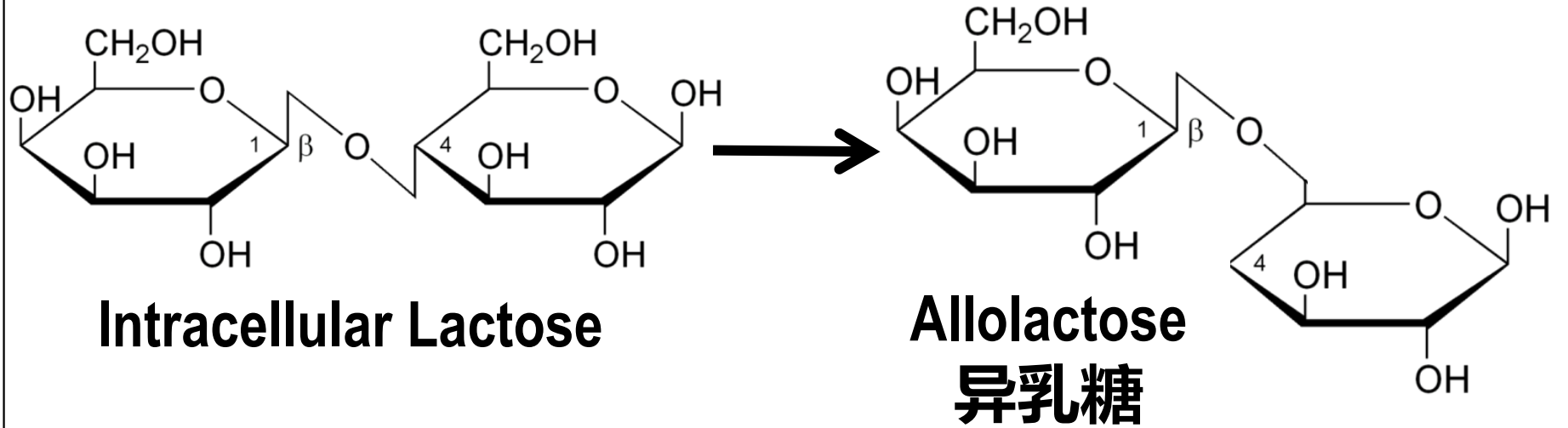
- **When Lactose present in the environment**

**Transcription of Lactose Operon**

---

# $\beta$ -galactosidase 半乳糖苷酶





**Allolactose acts as the inducer of lac operon by inactivate repressor protein**



# When Lactose present in the environment



RNA polymerase



mRNA

Active repressor



Inactive repressor



Allolactose

Transcription

Polycistronic mRNA



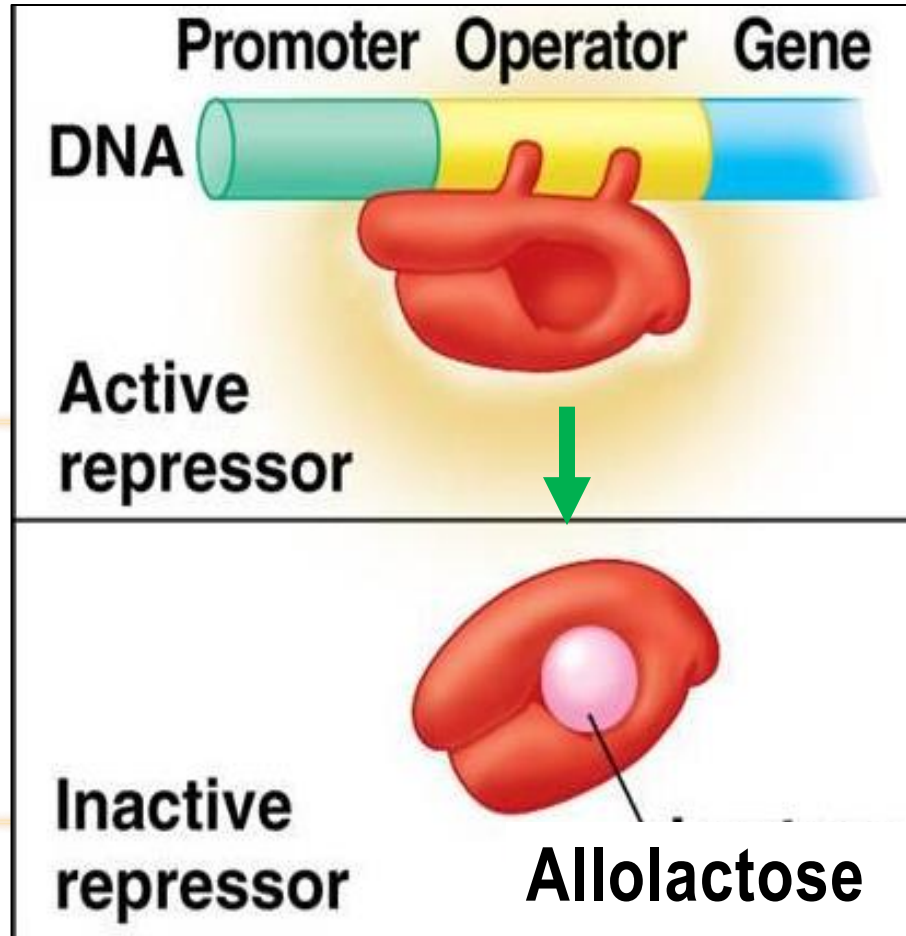
$\beta$ -galactosidase

Lactose permease

Galactoside transacetylase

The binding of allolactose prevents the *lac* repressor from binding to the operator site.

# *lac* operon



- **Lactose Operon**

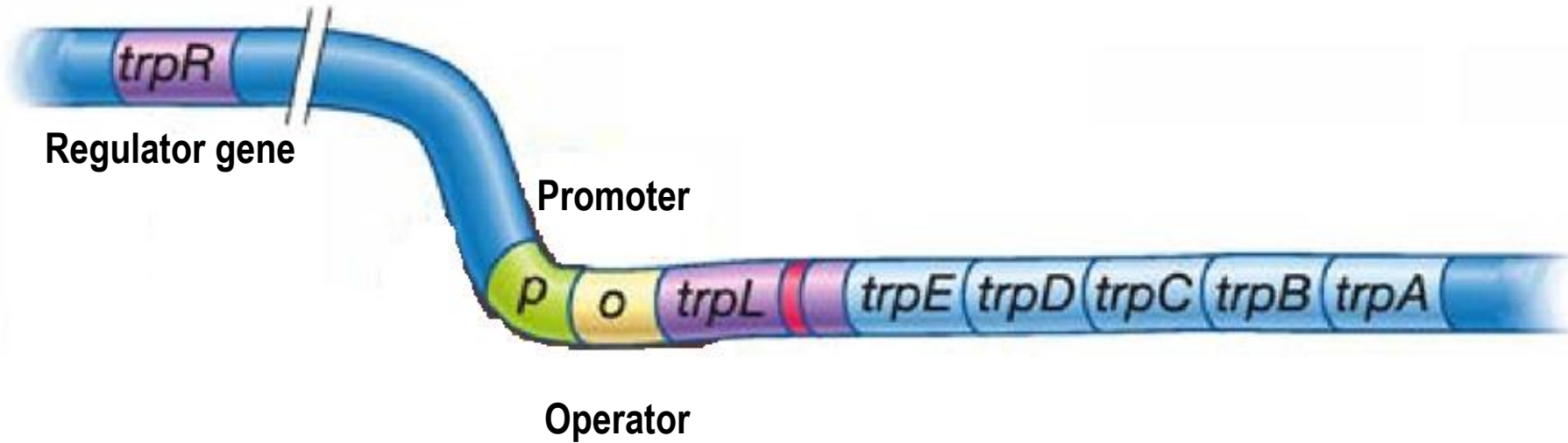
Gene encoding enzyme for catabolism

- **Tryptophan Operon 色氨酸**

Gene encoding enzyme for synthesizing

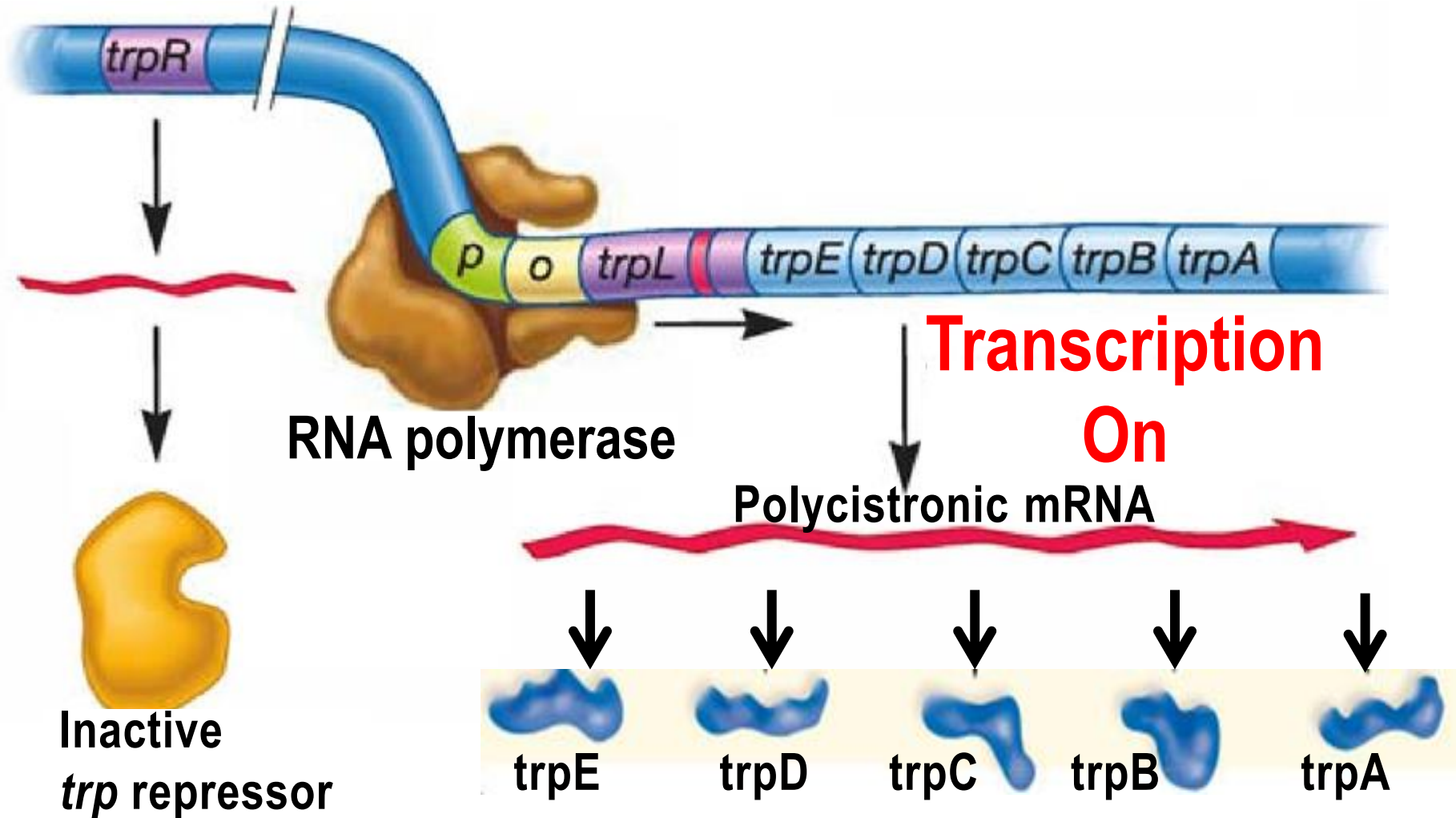
---

# Tryptophan Operon



1. Regulator- gene encoding Repressor ( 阻遏蛋白 )
2. Regulatory DNA- composed of promoter and operator
3. Structural gene cluster- made of five genes each coding for an enzyme needed to synthesize tryptophan

# When No/Low Trp in the bacterial cell



# When High/Excess Trp in the cell



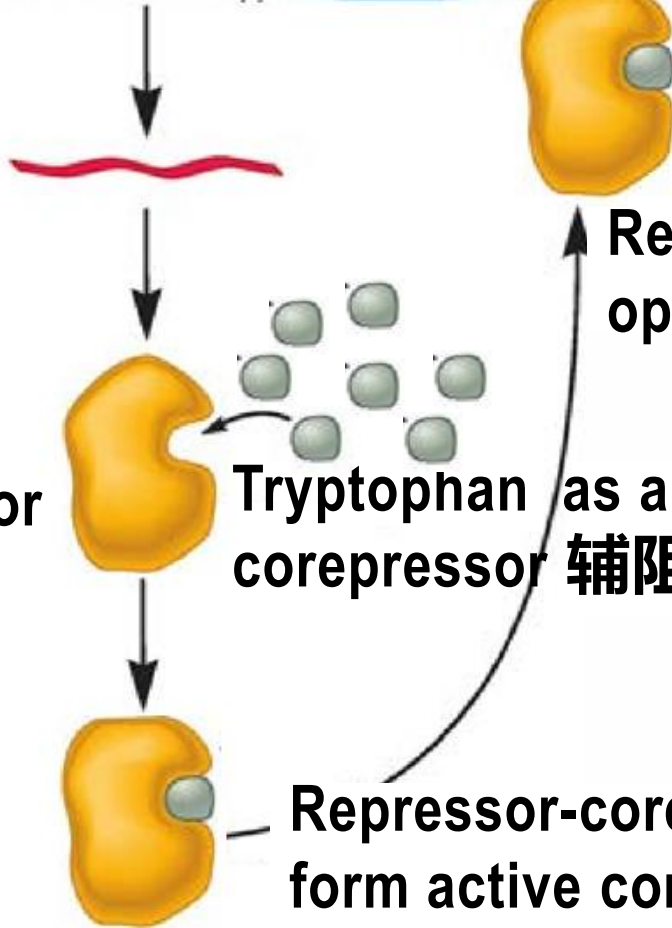
**Transcription Off**

Repressor-corepressor bind to operator and block transcription

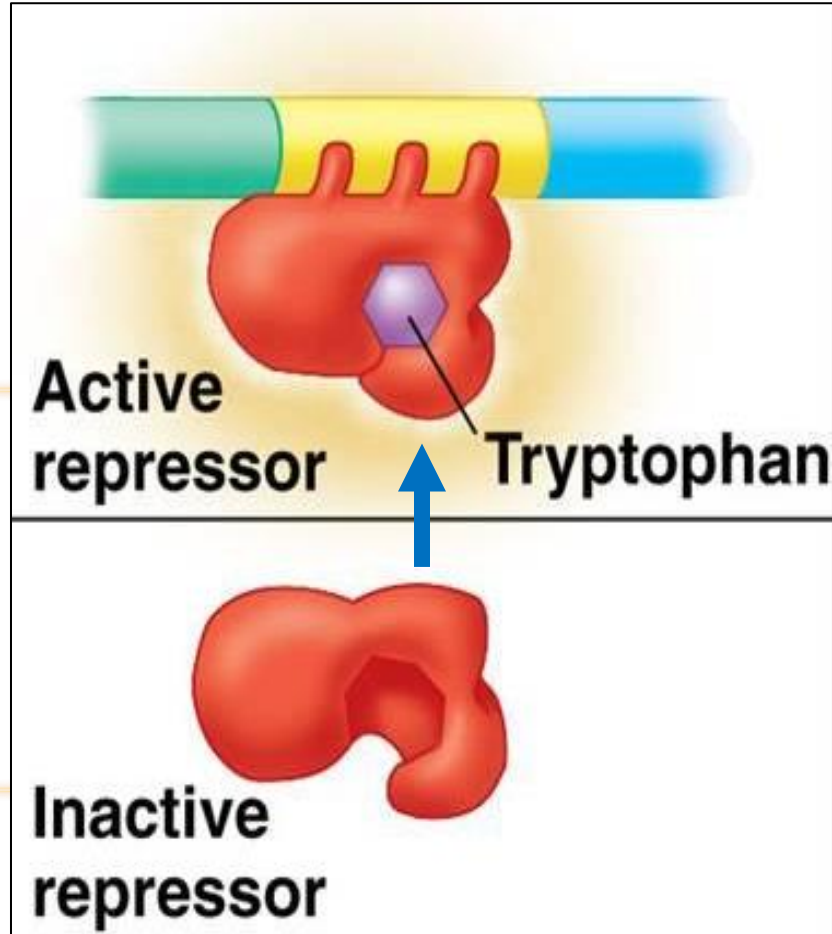
Inactive repressor

Tryptophan as a corepressor 辅阻遏物

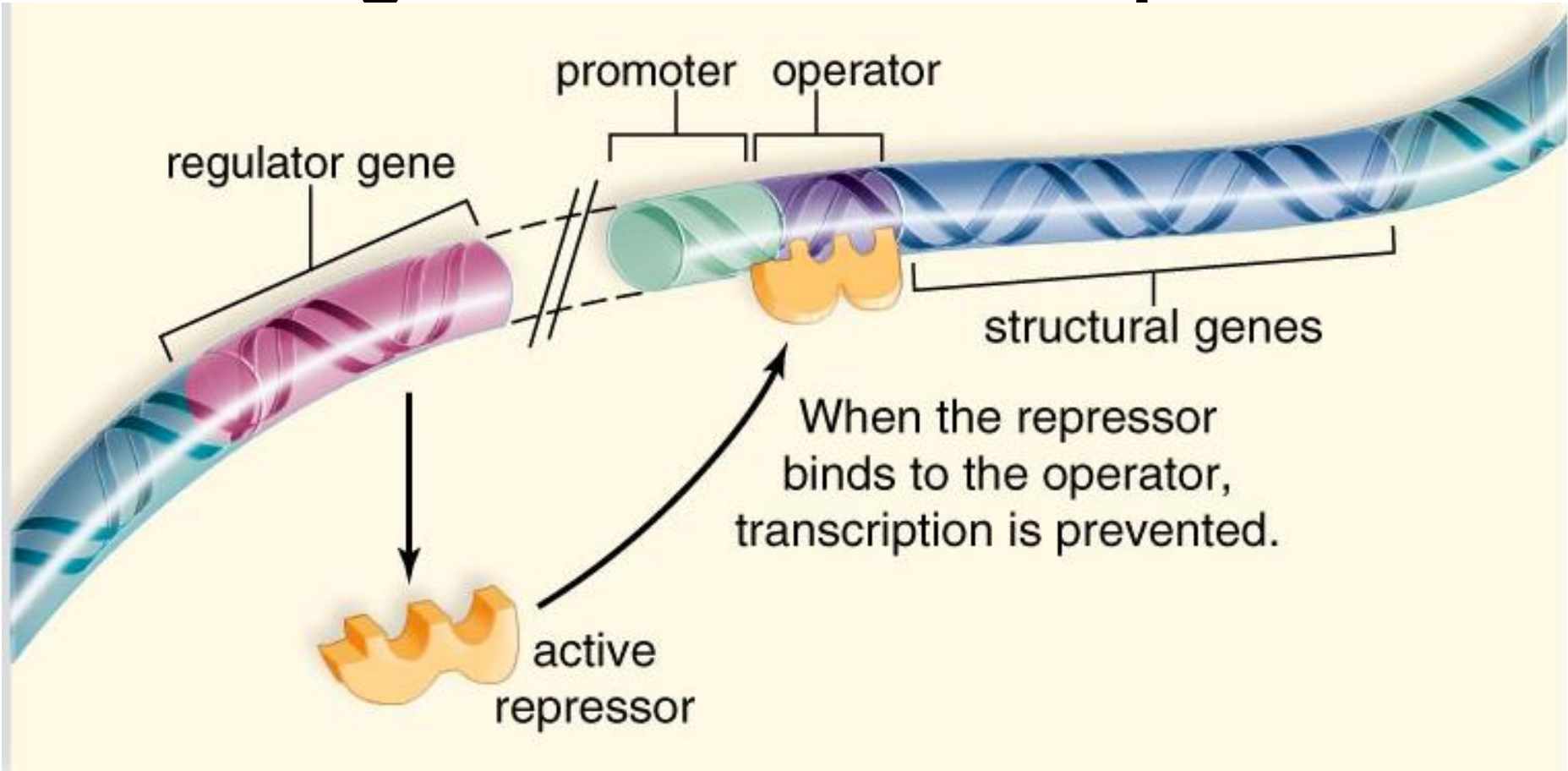
Repressor-corepressor form active complex



# *trp* operon



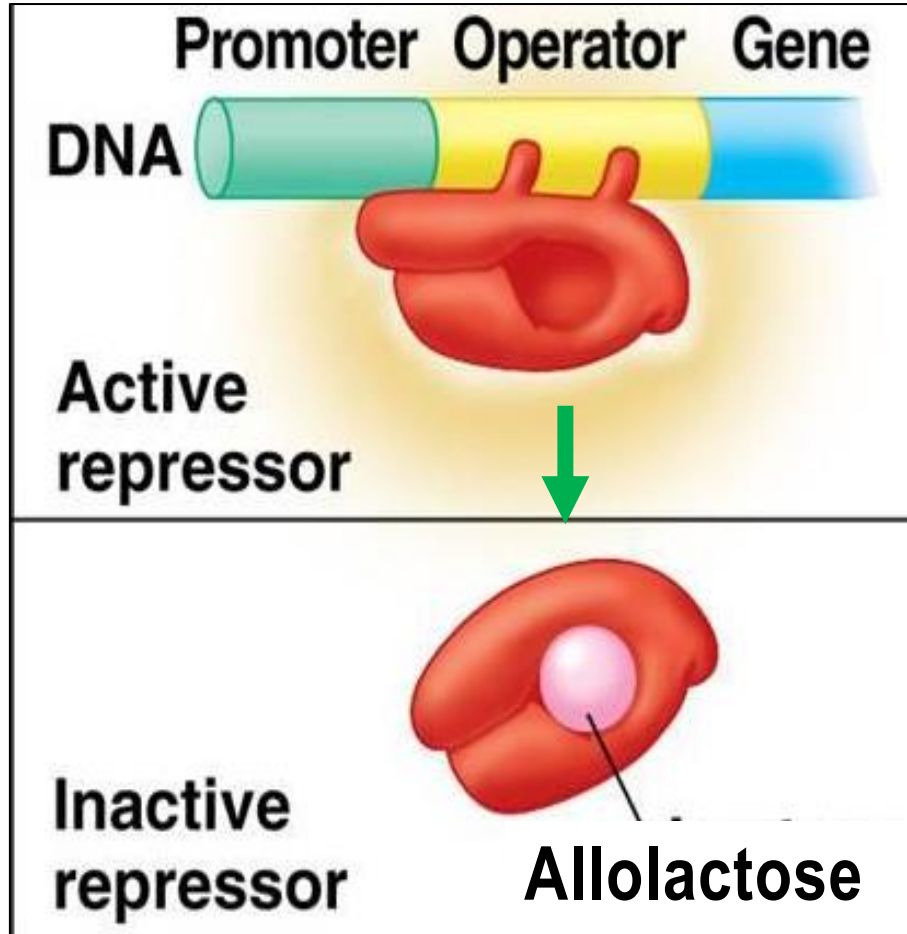
# Repressor-mediated Negative Regulation of Transcription





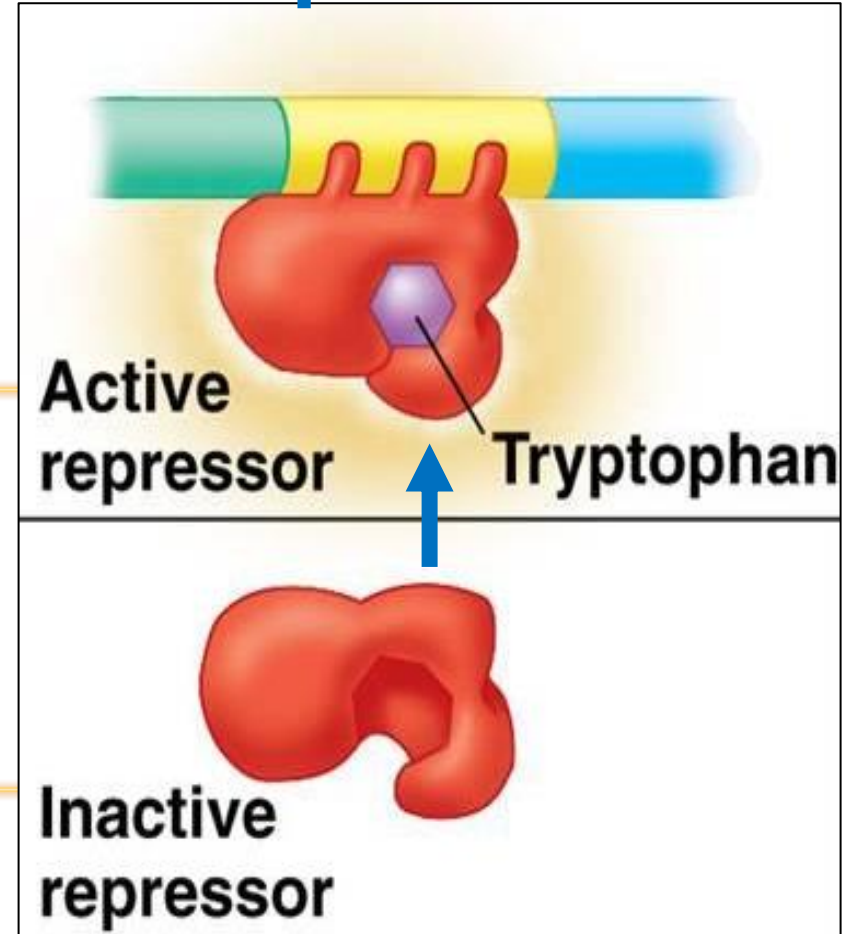
# *lac* operon

## Inducible



# *trp* operon

## Repressible





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## Chapter 11

### 11.3 Regulation of transcription initiation II 转录起始的调控 二

**Negative  
regulation**

**Inducible: Lactose operon**

**Repressible: Tryptophan operon**

**Positive  
regulation**

**?**

## Negative regulation

Inducible: Lactose operon

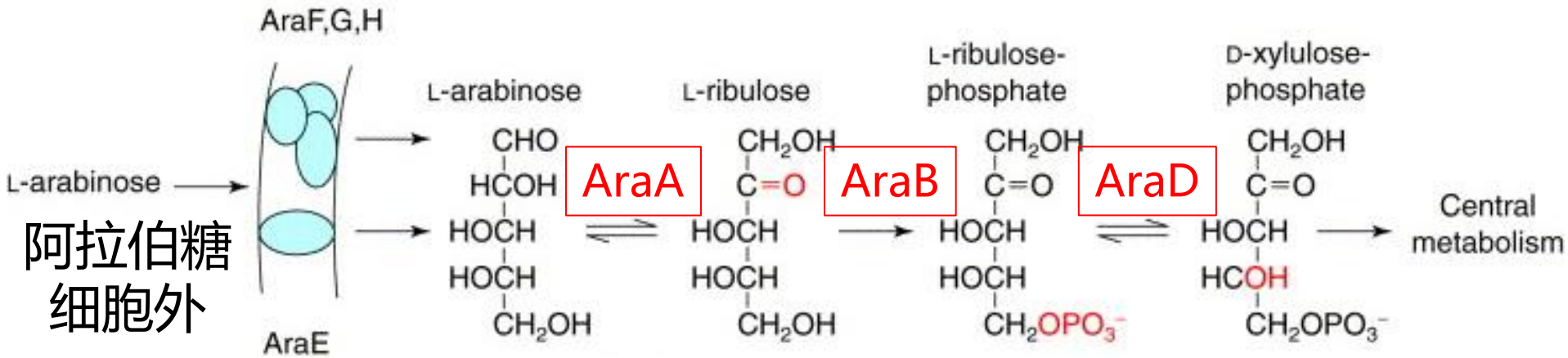
Repressible: Tryptophan operon

## Positive regulation

**Arabinose operon 阿拉伯糖**

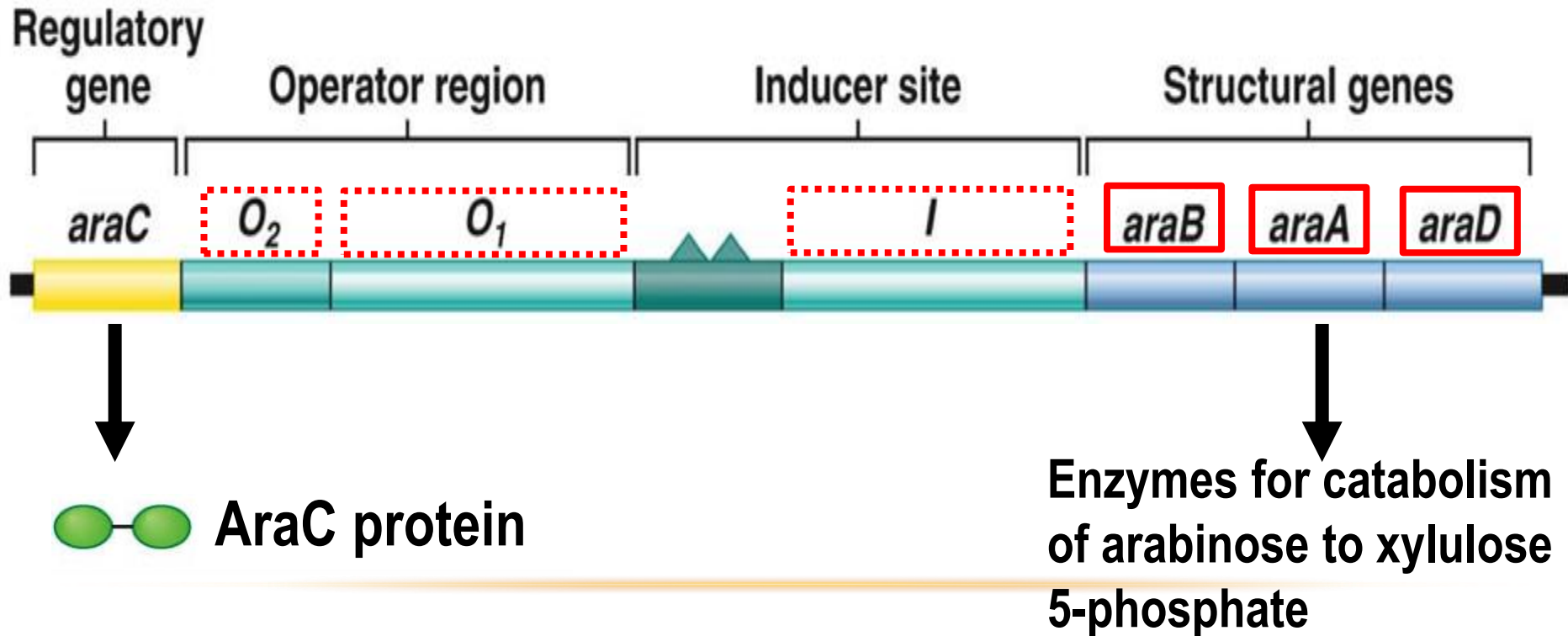
The *ara* operon encodes enzymes needed for catabolism of arabinose.

# Arabinose Metabolism in Bacteria



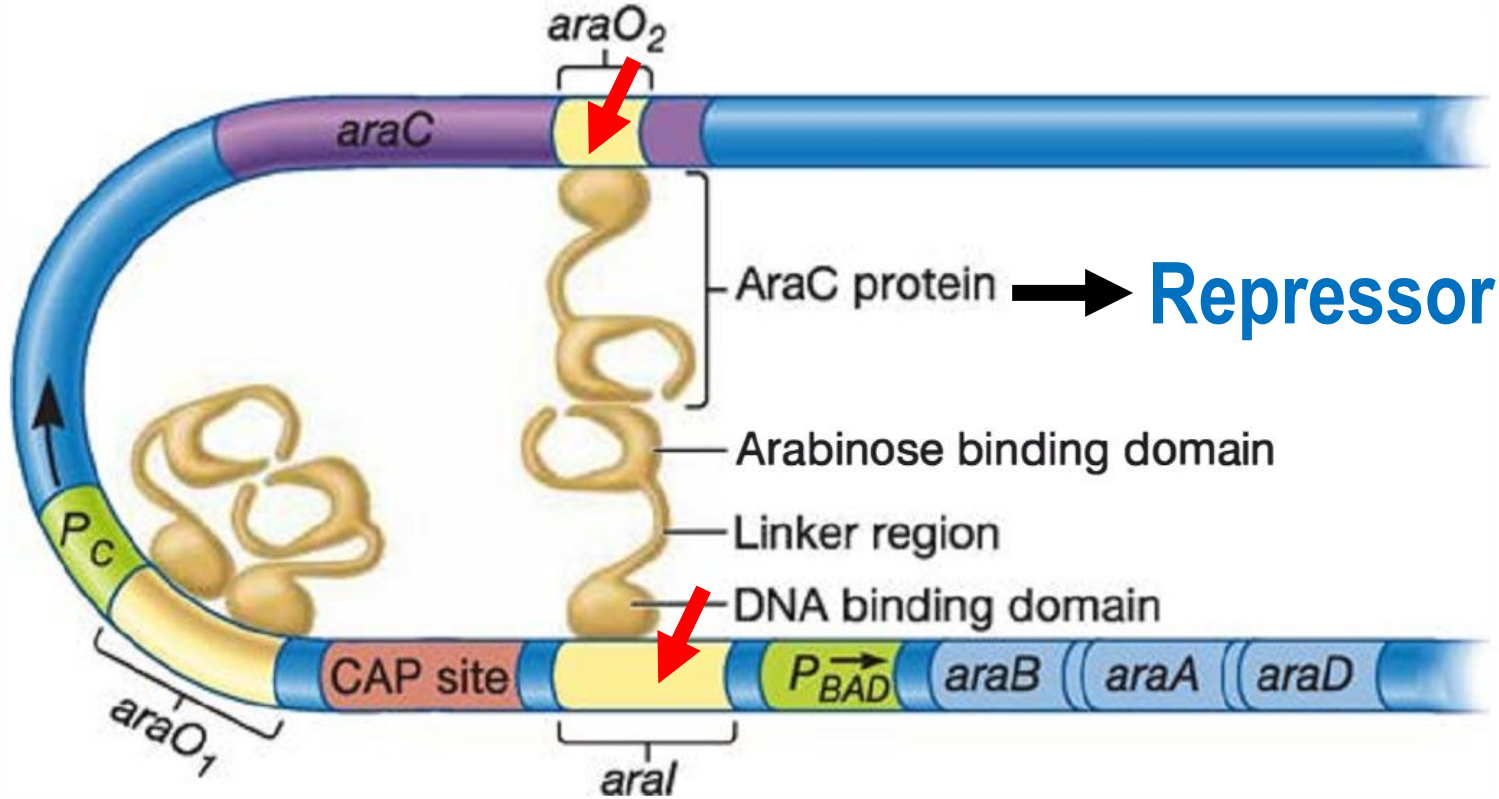
阿拉伯糖 → 核酮糖 → 磷酸核酮糖 → 磷酸木酮糖

# Arabinose Operon



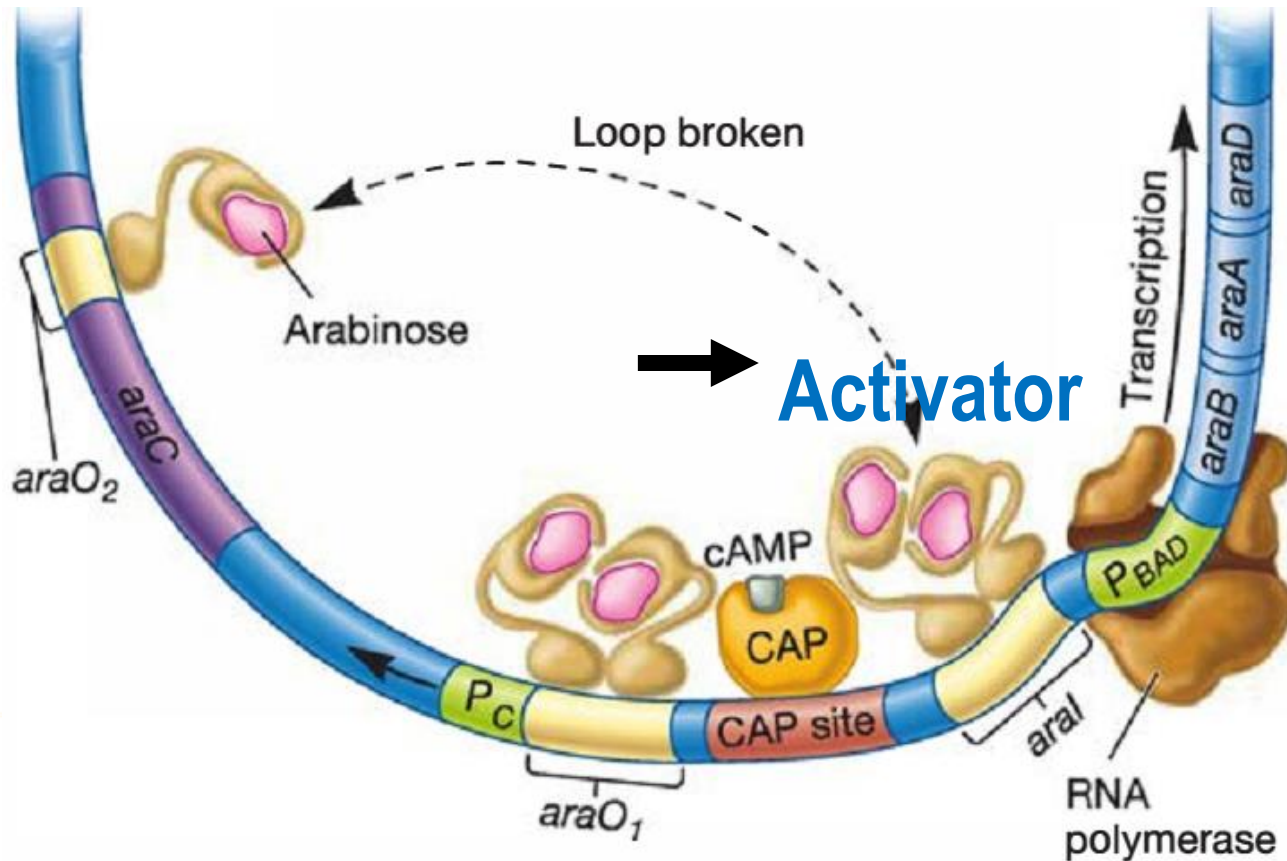
# Operon inhibited in the absence of Arabinose

**Negative control**-monomers of AraC protein bind to **O<sub>2</sub>** and **I** looping out the intervening sequence(210bp) & blocking access to the promoter by RNA polymerase



# Operon activated in the presence of Arabinose

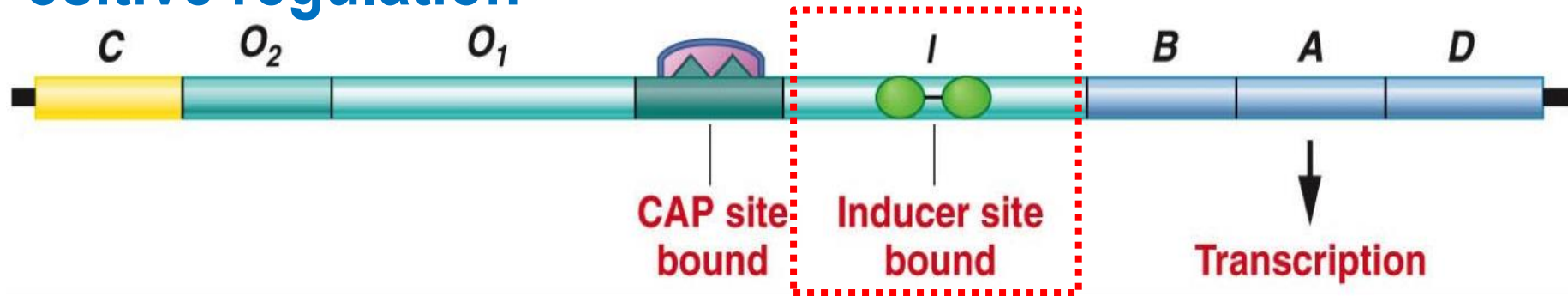
**Positive control**-Arabinose binds AraC to change conformation, forms AraC dimer and activate operon transcription





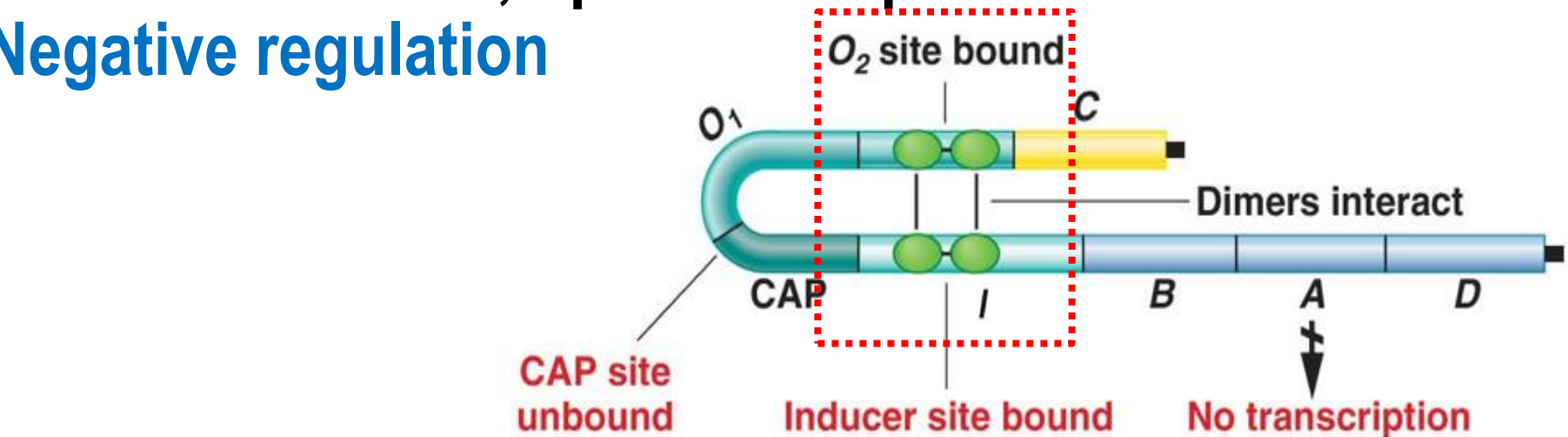
Arabinose present; operon is induced.

## Positive regulation



Arabinose absent; operon is repressed.

## Negative regulation



# Arabinose Operon

**Arabinose absent**

**Arabinose present**

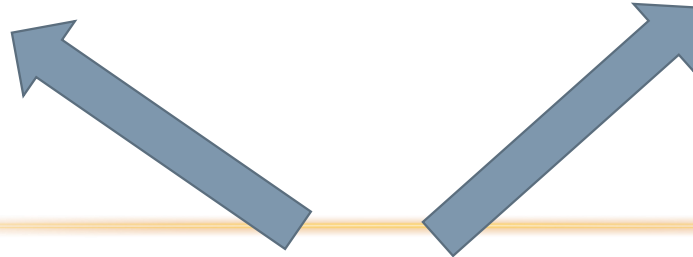
**Negative  
regulation**

**Positive  
regulation**

**Monomer  
as repressor**

**Dimer/arabinose  
as activator**

**AraC protein**



负调控

Negative  
regulation

**Inducible: Lactose operon**

**Repressible: Tryptophan operon**

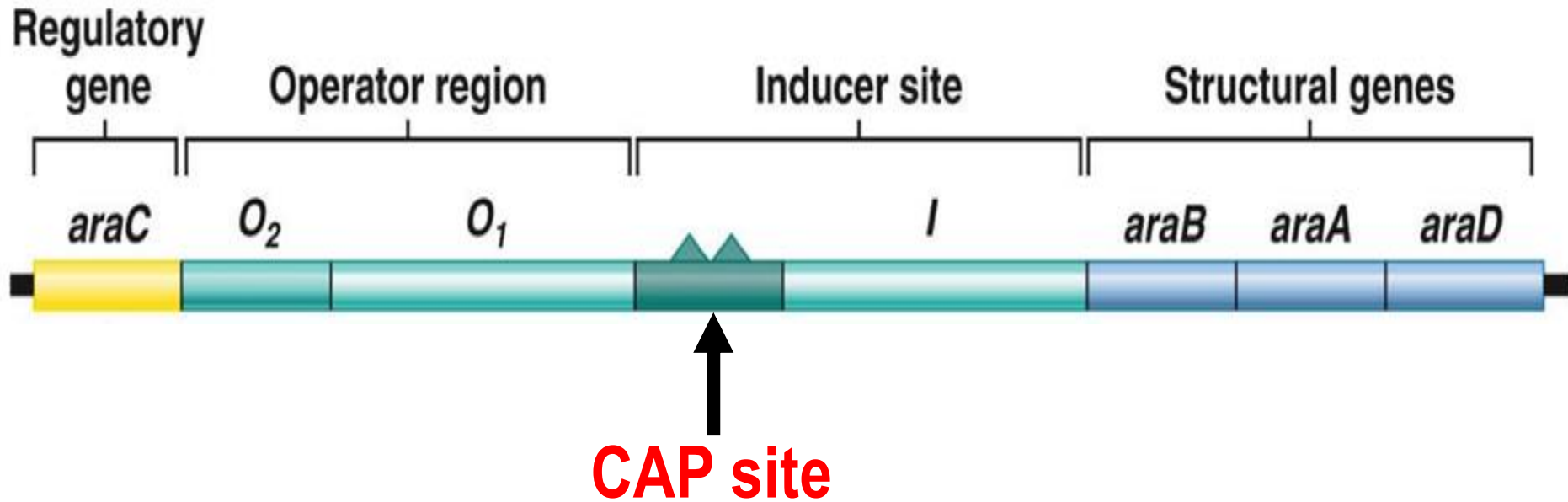
正调控

Positive  
regulation

**Arabinose operon**

**CAP site in Catabolism operons**

# CAP site for positive regulation in bacteria Operon





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# MICROBIOLOGY

## Chapter 11

### 11.6 Regulating Complex Cellular Processes 复杂细胞过程的调控

# Carbon source for *E.coli*

Polysaccharide



Monosaccharide



Glycolysis

---

# Carbon Catabolism in *E.coli*

- Constitutive genes: enzyme for glucose catabolism
- Regulated genes: enzyme for catabolism of other carbon source
  - Arabinose(*ara*)
  - Lactose(*lac*)
  - Maltose(*mal*)
  - Galactose(*gal*)

# Carbon Catabolism in *E.coli*

**If Glucose present, Use Glucose first**

---



# **✗ Catabolite Repression**

**Polysaccharide**



**Monosaccharide**

**Glucose**

**Glycolytic pathways**

**If Glucose present, Use Glucose first**

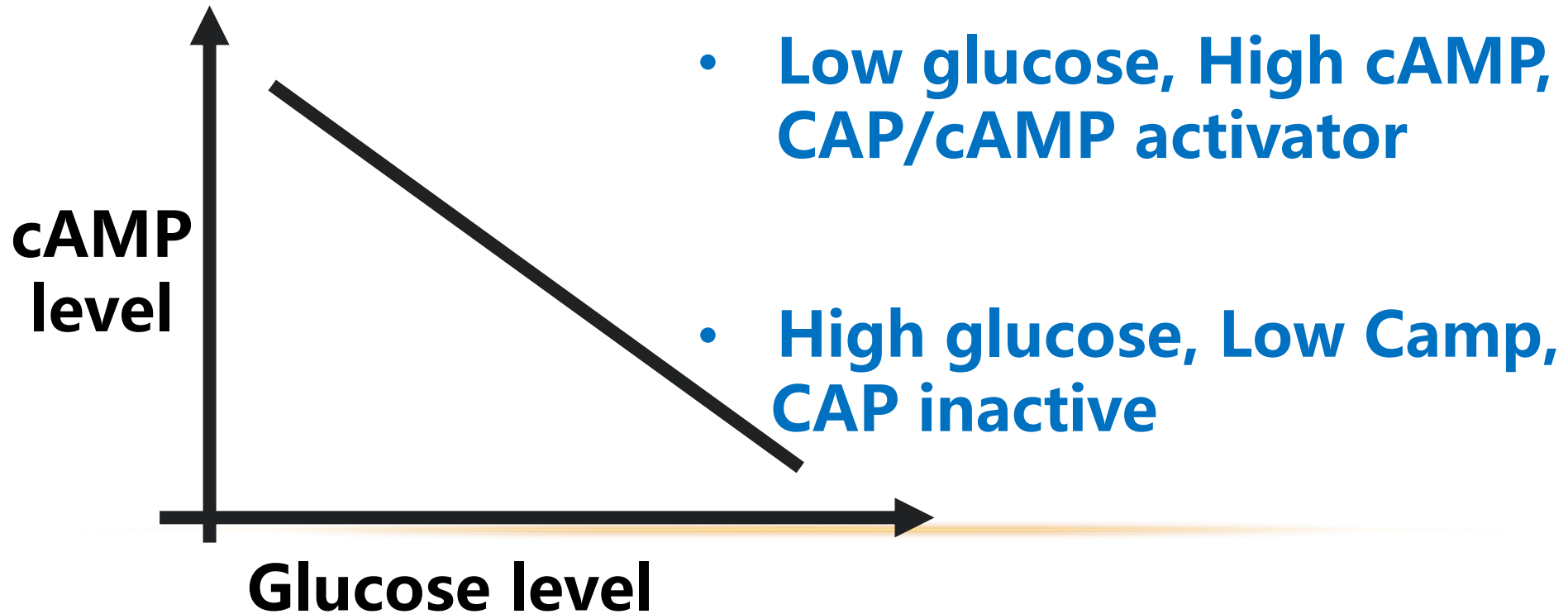
# Catabolite Repression

- The operons that encode enzymes required for the catabolism of carbon sources that must first be modified before entering glycolysis.
  - The expression of these catabolite operons is coordinately repressed when glucose is plentiful.
-

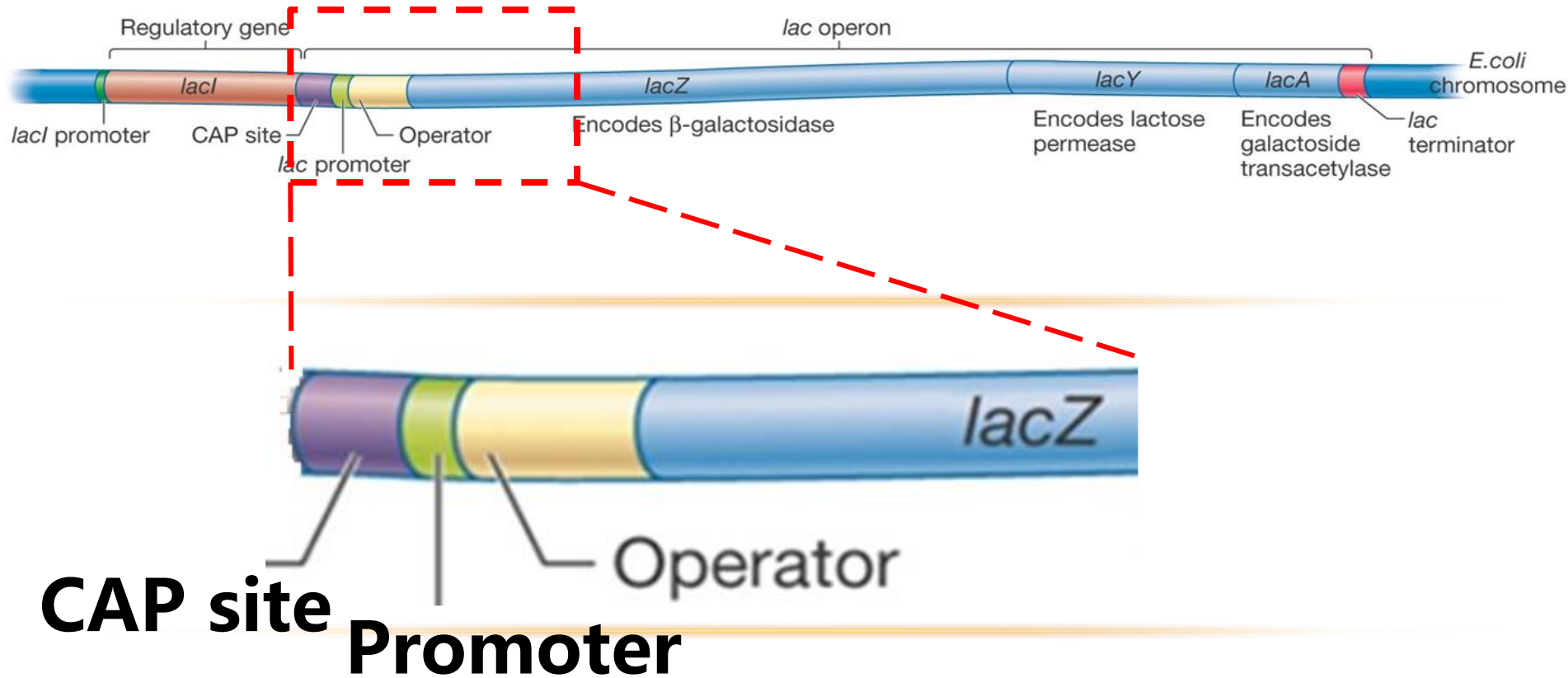
# Catabolite Activator Protein (CAP)

- Also named cAMP receptor protein (CRP)
- CAP is active when the cAMP is bound and binding
- CAP is inactive when it is free of cAMP.

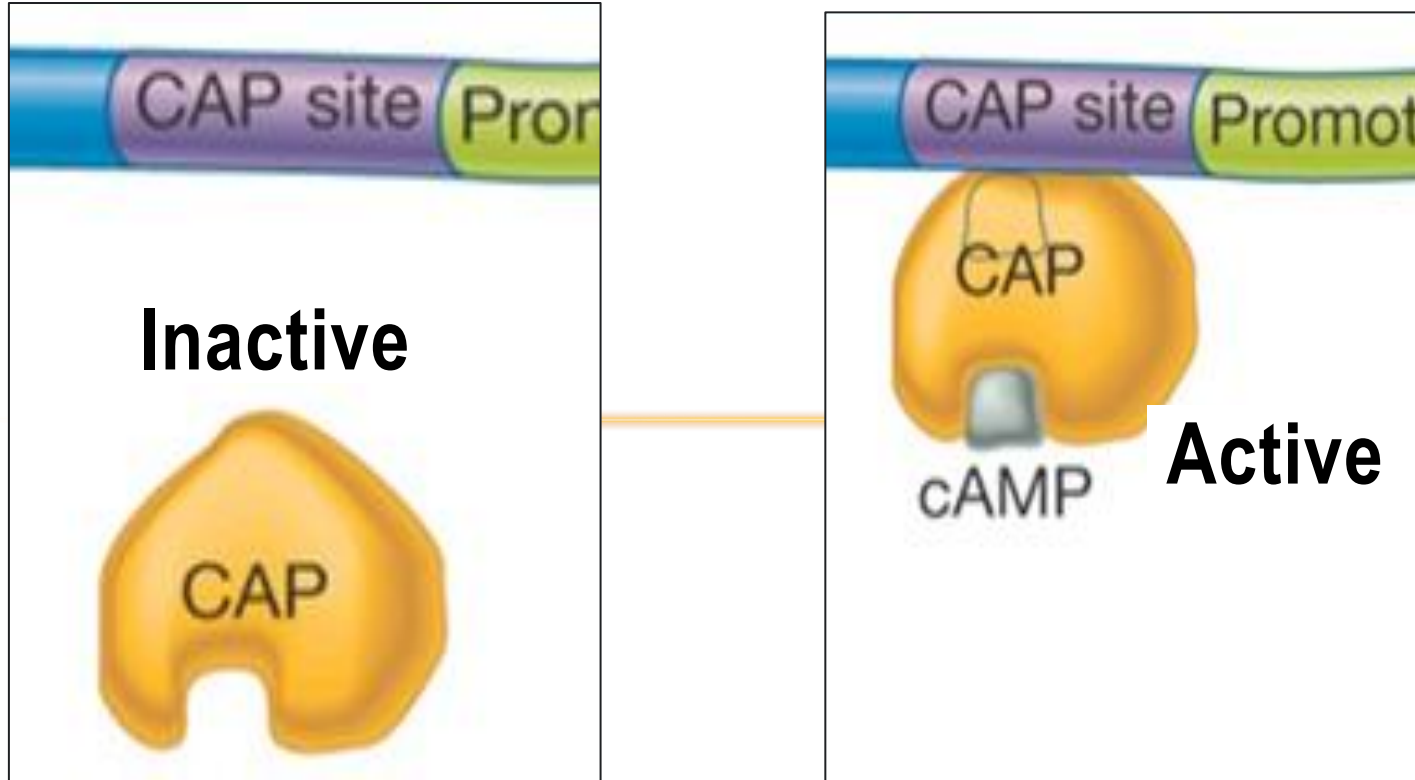
# The level of cAMP varies inversely with that of glucose



# CAP recognition site in all catabolite operons



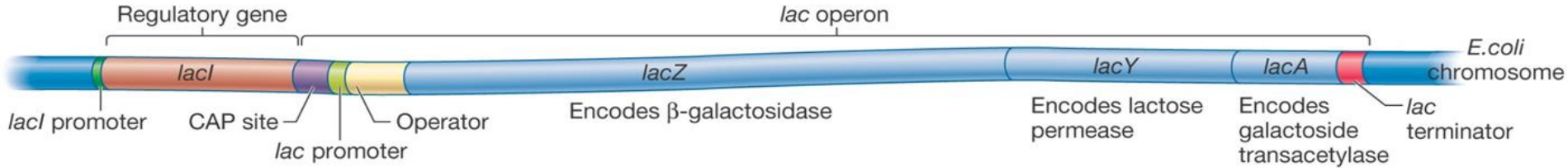
# CAP Site for CAP/cAMP activator binding



High Glucose: Low cAMP

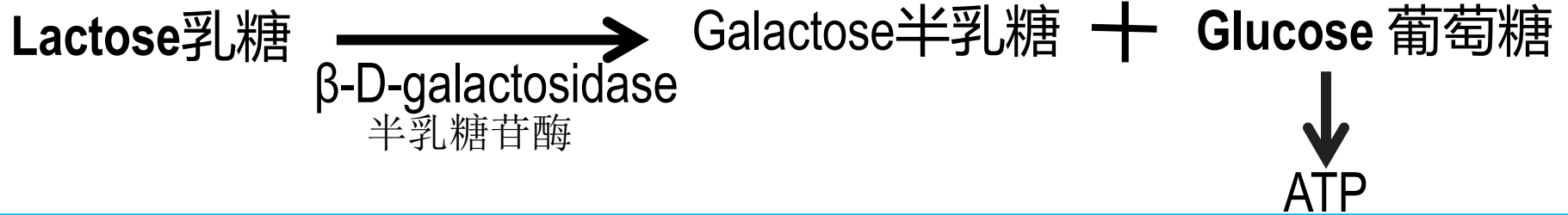
Low Glucose: High cAMP

# Dual regulation in Lactose Operon



- **Regulatory protein specific to each operon**
- **CAP for positive regulation in all catabolite operons**

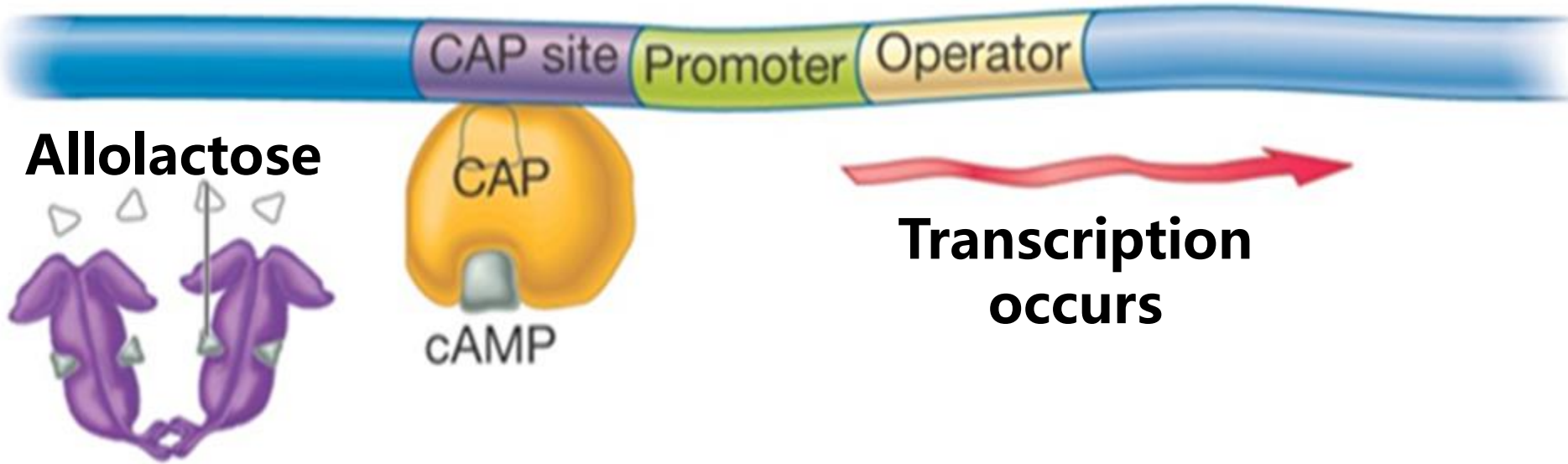
# Regulation of *Lac* Operon in different nutrient environment



1. Only Lactose; No Glucose
2. Lactose and Glucose
3. Neither Lactose Nor Glucose
4. No Lactose; Only Glucose



# 1. Only Lactose present; No Glucose



**Inactive  
Repressor**

- **No repression**
- **Positive regulation**
- **Maximum transcription activity**

## 2. Both Lactose and Glucose Present



**Allolactose**



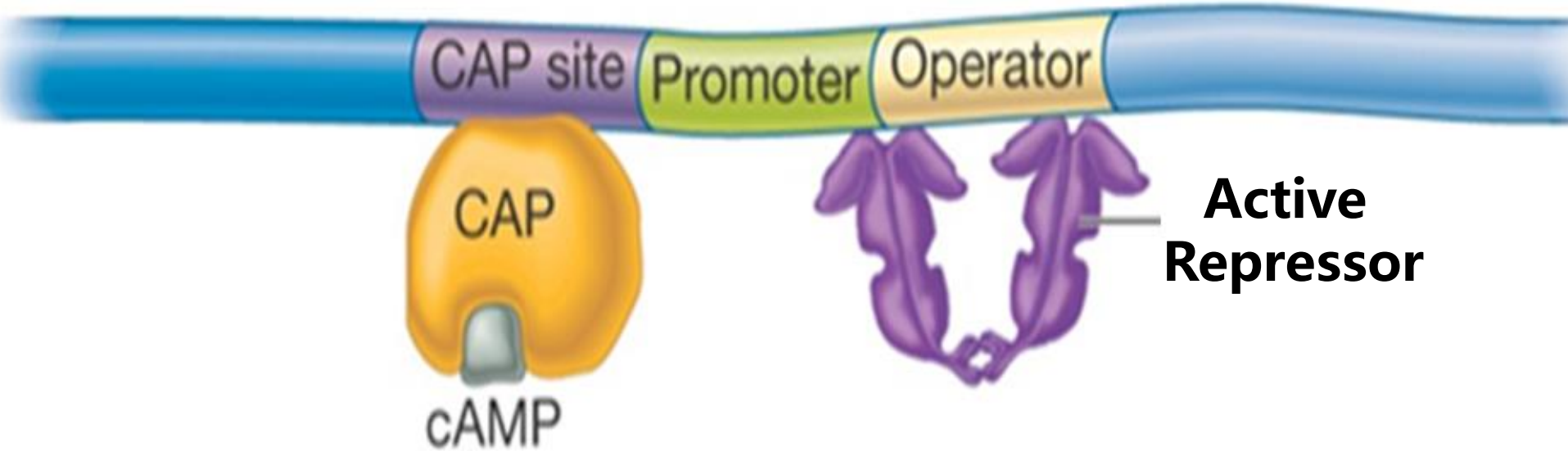
**Inactive  
Repressor**



**Inactive**

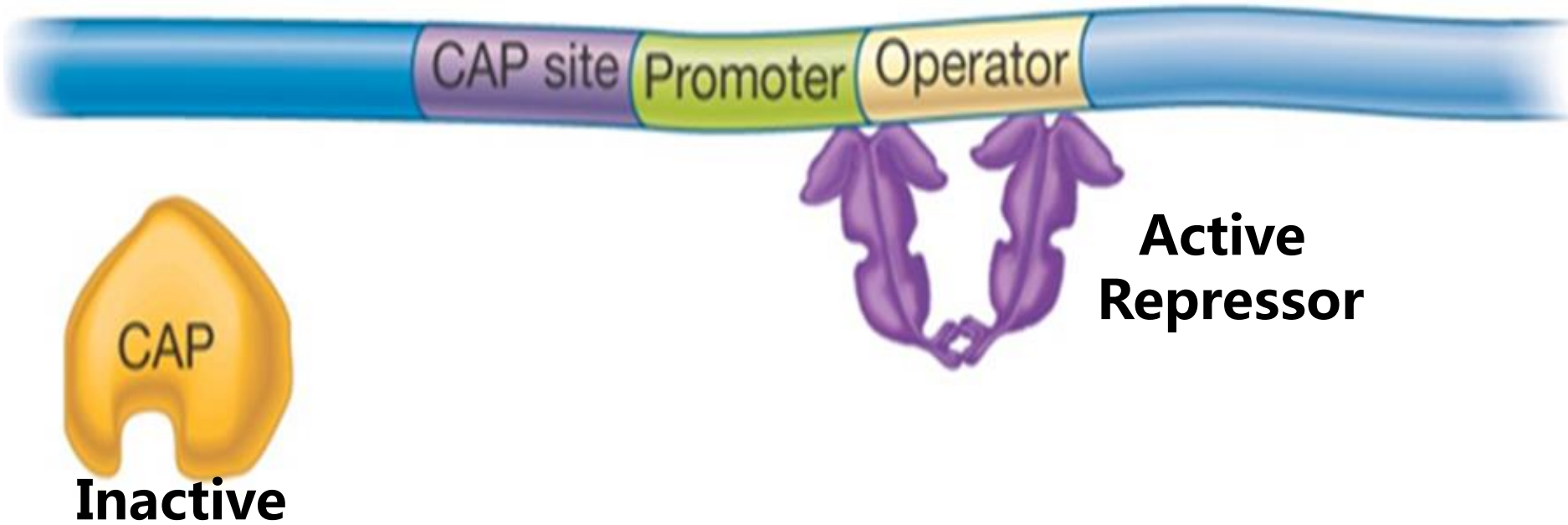
- **No repression**
- **No positive regulation**
- **Low Transcription activity**

### 3. Neither Lactose Nor Glucose Present



- **Repression**
- **Positive regulation**
- **Transcription blocked**

# 4. No Lactose; Only Glucose Present



- **Repression**
- **No positive regulation**
- **Minimum activity of transcription**

## Negative regulation

- **Repression by repressor**
- **Attenuation by attenuator**
- **Riboswitch**

## Positive regulation

- **Activator in *Ara* operon**
- **Active CAP/cAMP as activator in all catabolite operons**

# Inducible Vs Repressible Operon

- Inducible operon is turned ON by substrate.

*Lac* operon - enzymes needed to catabolize the nutrient/lactose are produced when needed.

- Repressible operon is turned OFF by the product synthesized;

*Trp* operon – enzymes used to synthesize Try stop being produced when they are not needed

# Regulatory “Decision”

## Catabolic enzyme

Substrate of pathway present?

Yes

Preferred carbon and energy source present?

No

Synthesize enzymes

Yes

Don't Synthesize enzymes

No

## Biosynthetic enzyme

End product of pathway present?

Yes

No

Synthesize enzymes



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## Chapter 11

### 11.7 Riboswitch and antisense RNA 核糖开关和反义RNA



# Regulation Of Gene Expression

## □ Transcription

- Regulation Of Transcription initiation
  - Operon 操纵子
- Regulation Of Transcription elongation
  - Riboswith 核糖开关

## □ Translation

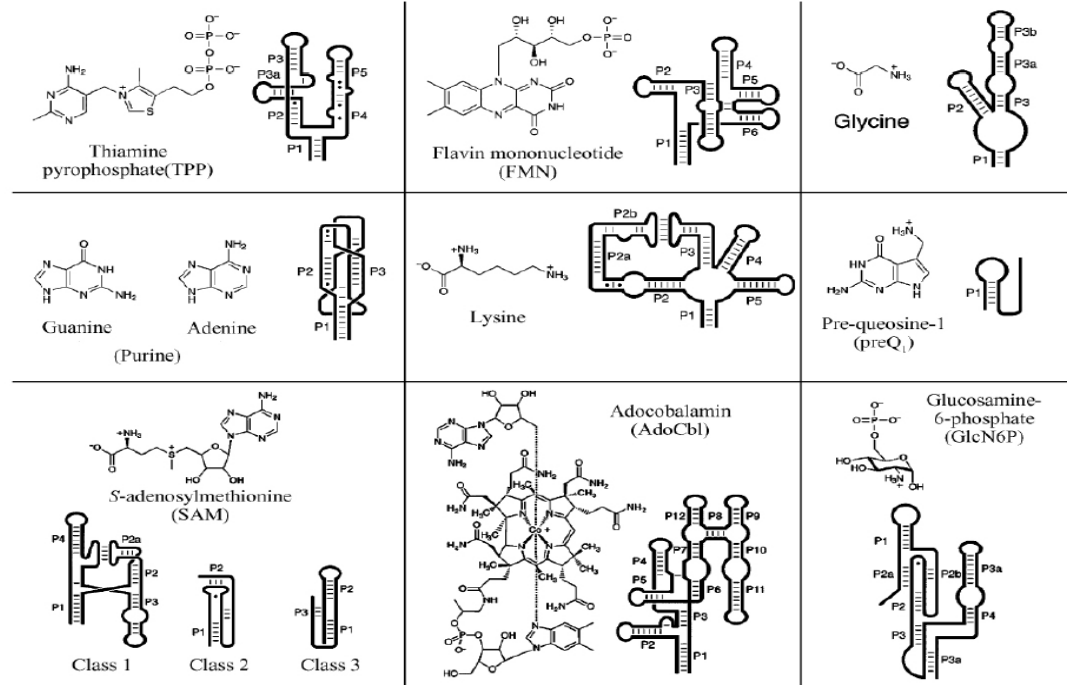
- Riboswith; antisense RNA

# Riboswitch 核糖开关

- Regulatory sequences in the leader of an mRNA both sense and respond to environmental conditions by either prematurely **terminating transcription** or **blocking translation**.
- Folding pattern altered in response to mRNA binding of an effector molecule.
- Folding of mRNA leader sequence determines whether transcription will continue or be terminated

# Riboswitches Bind Specific Metabolites

- amino acids,
- vitamins,
- glucosamine-6-phosphate,
- S-adenosylmethionine,
- thiamine pyrophosphate,
- ions
- flavin mononucleotide (FMN)



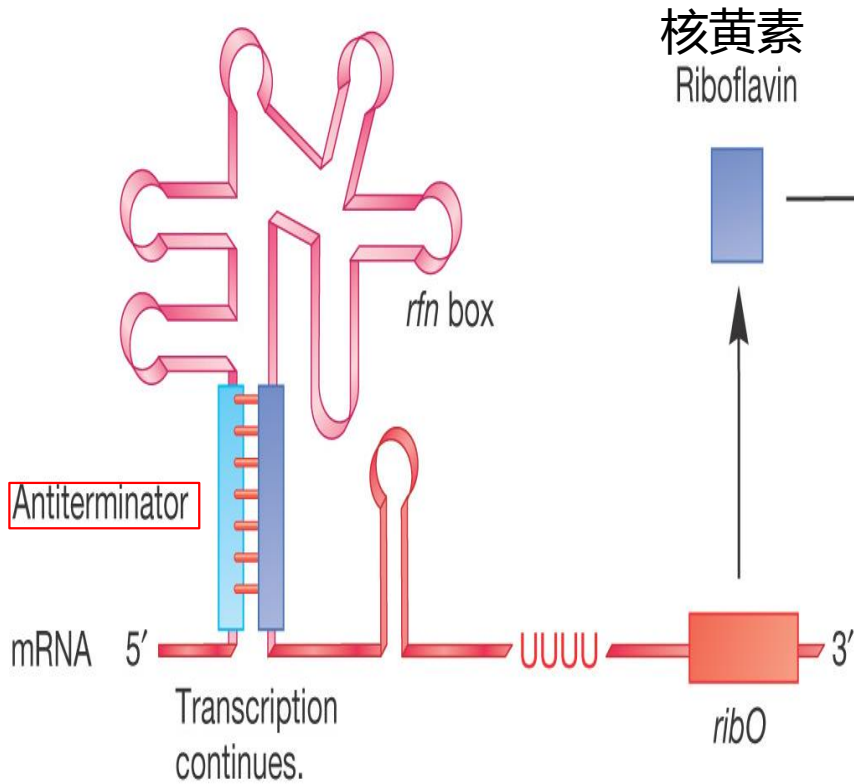
# Riboswitches in bacteria

**Table 13.1** Regulation of Gene Expression by Riboswitches

<i>System</i>	<i>Microbe(s)</i>	<i>Target genes encode:</i>	<i>Effector and Regulatory Response</i>
T box	Many gram-positive bacteria	Amino acid biosynthetic enzymes	Uncharged tRNA; anticodon base pairs to 5' end of mRNA, preventing formation of transcriptional terminator
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> element	<i>E. coli</i>	Cobalamine biosynthetic enzymes	Adenosylcobalamine (AdoCbl) binds to <i>btuB</i> mRNA and blocks translation
THI box	<i>Rhizobium etli</i> <i>E. coli</i> <i>B. subtilis</i>	Thiamine (Vitamin B <sub>1</sub> ) biosynthetic and transport proteins	Thiamine pyrophosphate (TPP) causes either premature transcriptional termination ( <i>R. etli</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> ) or blocks ribosome binding ( <i>E. coli</i> )
RFN-element	<i>B. subtilis</i>	Riboflavin biosynthetic enzymes <b>核黄素合成</b>	Flavin mononucleotide (FMN) causes premature transcriptional termination
S box	Low G + C gram-positive bacteria	Methionine biosynthetic enzymes	S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) causes premature transcriptional termination

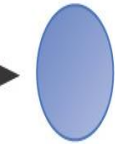
# The riboflavin (*rib*) biosynthetic operon in *Bacillus subtilis* 枯草芽孢杆菌

Gene expression on

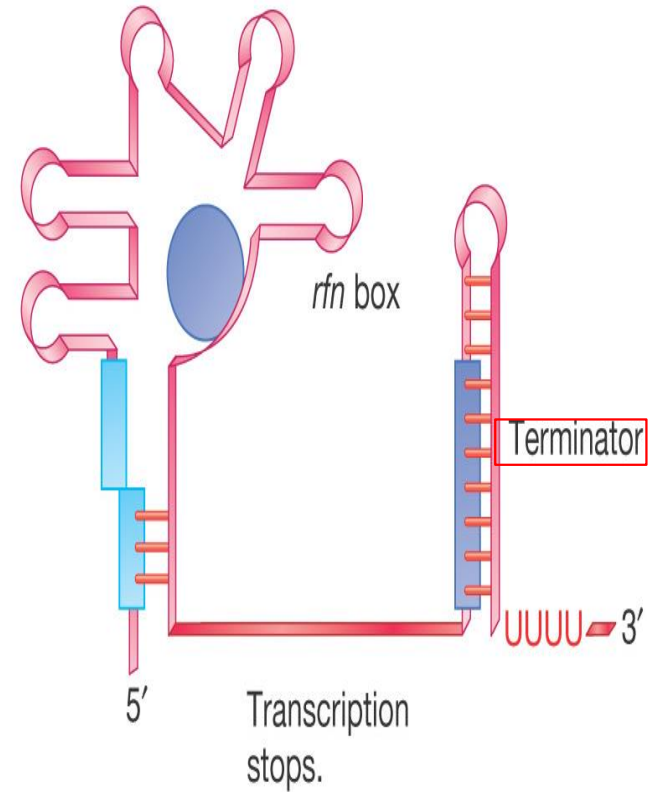


核黄素  
Riboflavin

黄素单核苷酸  
FMN (Metabolite)



Gene expression off



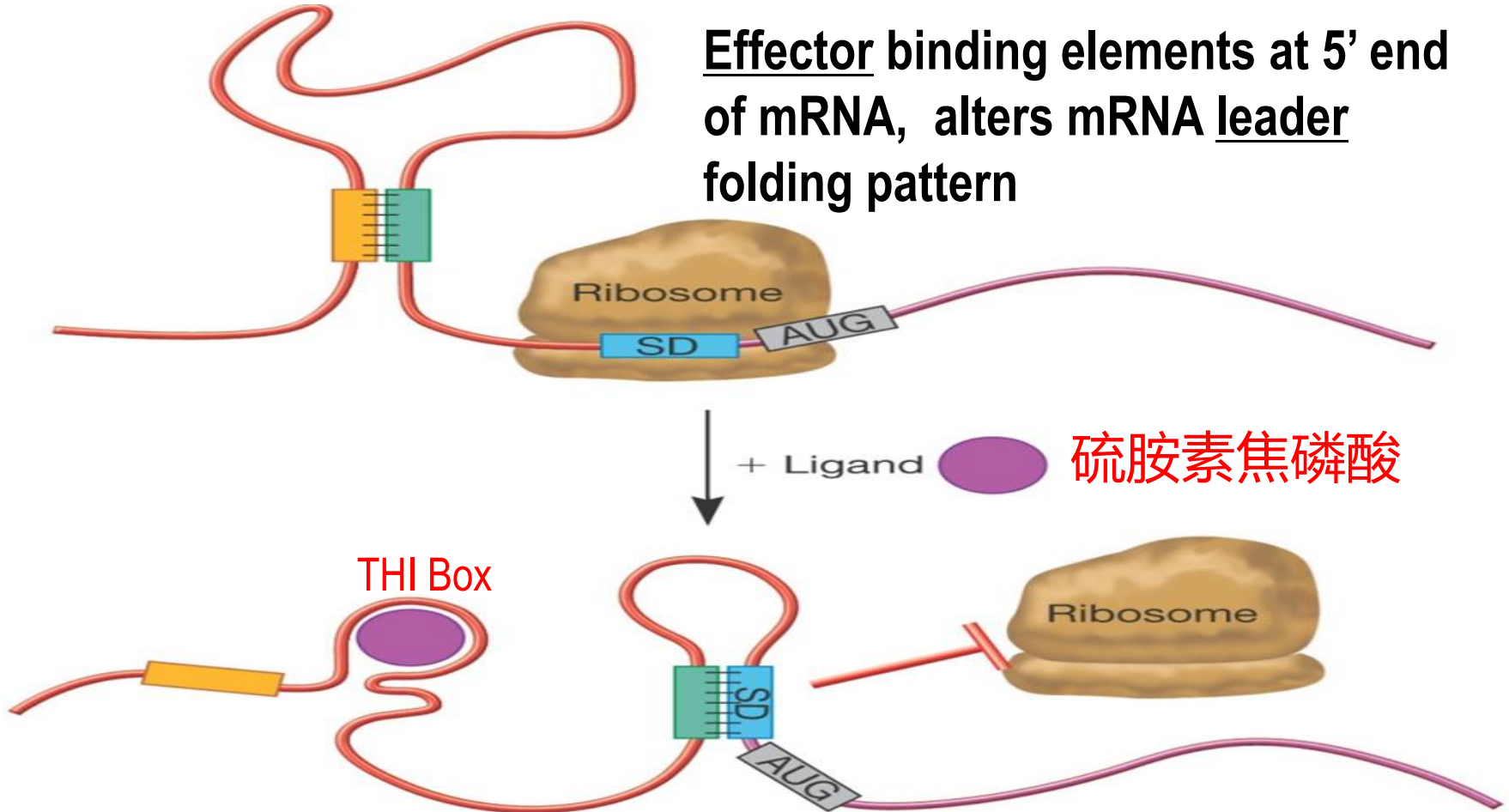
# Riboswitches in bacteria

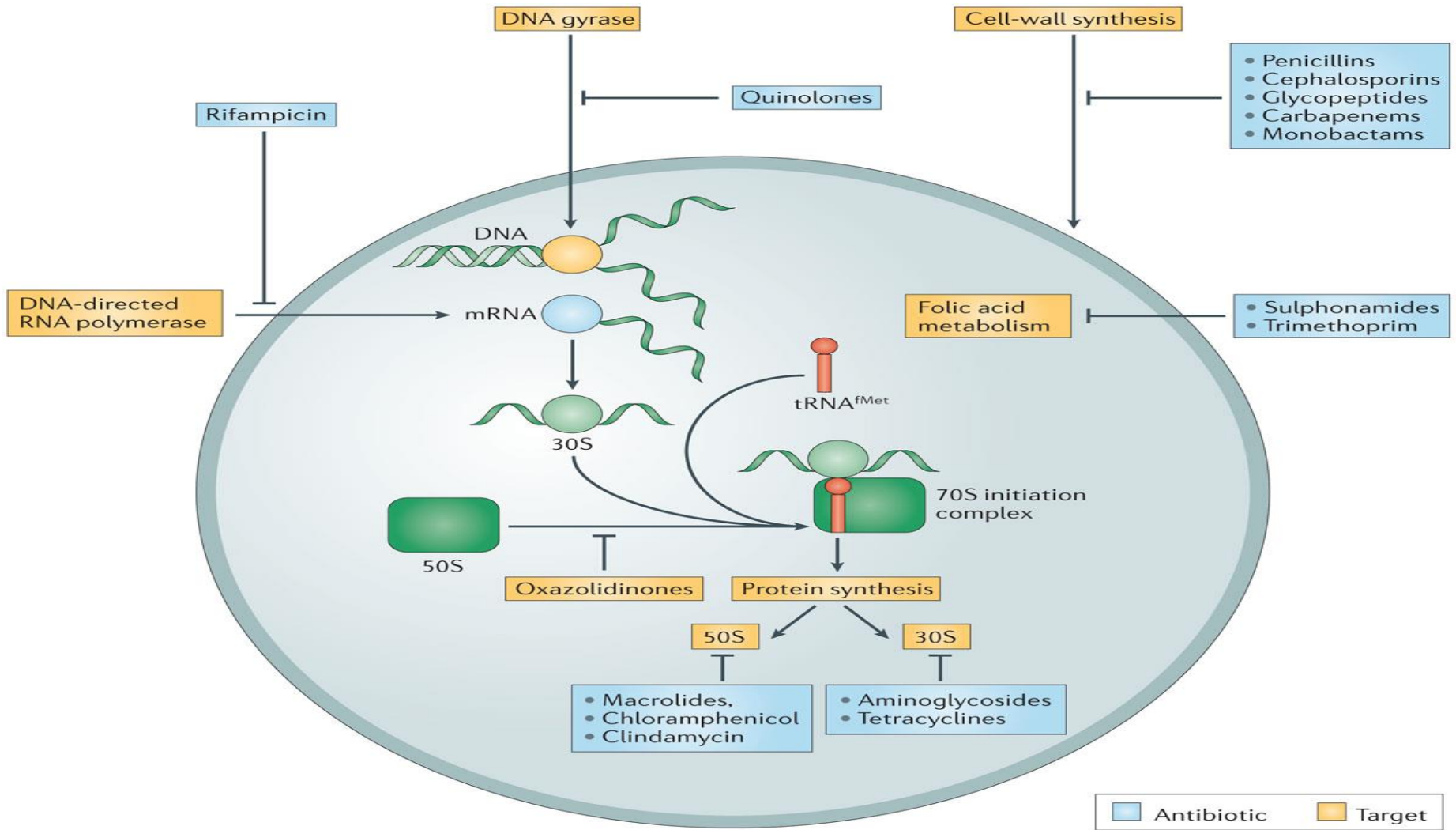
**Table 13.1** Regulation of Gene Expression by Riboswitches

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Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> element	<i>E. coli</i>	Cobalamine biosynthetic enzymes	Adenosylcobalamine (AdoCbl) binds to <i>btuB</i> mRNA and blocks translation
THI box	<i>Rhizobium etli</i> <i>E. coli</i> <i>B. subtilis</i>	Thiamine (Vitamin B <sub>1</sub> ) biosynthetic and transport proteins 硫胺素合成	Thiamine pyrophosphate (TPP) causes either premature transcriptional termination ( <i>R. etli</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> ) or <u>blocks ribosome binding</u> ( <i>E. coli</i> )
RFN-element	<i>B. subtilis</i>	Riboflavin biosynthetic enzymes	Flavin mononucleotide (FMN) causes premature transcriptional termination
S box	Low G + C gram-positive bacteria	Methionine biosynthetic enzymes	S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) causes premature transcriptional termination

# Blocking translation Initiation by a Riboswitch

Effector binding elements at 5' end of mRNA, alters mRNA leader folding pattern





# Target for antibiotic development



# Riboswitches as novel antibiotic target

ARTICLE

2015 Oct 29

doi:10.1038/nature15542

## Selective small-molecule inhibition of an RNA structural element

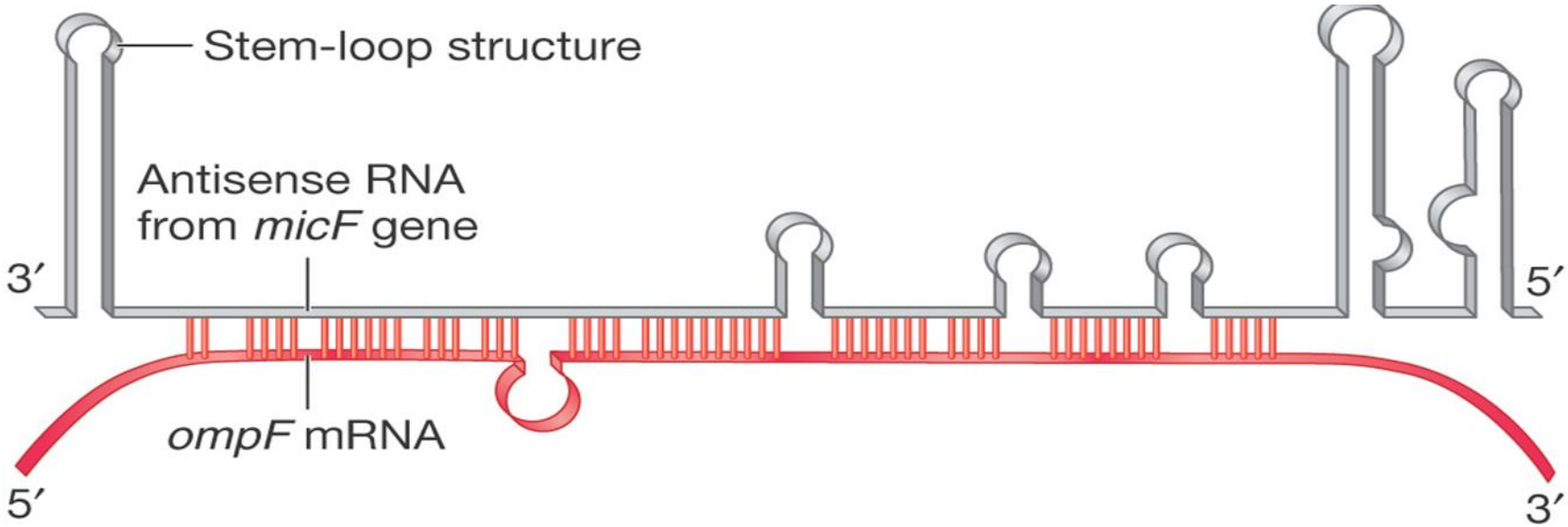
John A. Howe<sup>1\*</sup>, Hao Wang<sup>1\*</sup>, Thierry O. Fischmann<sup>1\*</sup>, Carl J. Balibar<sup>1</sup>, Li Xiao<sup>1</sup>, Andrew M. Galgoci<sup>1</sup>, Juliana C. Malinverni<sup>1</sup>, Todd Mayhood<sup>1</sup>, Artjohn Villafania<sup>1</sup>, Ali Nahvi<sup>2</sup>, Nicholas Murgolo<sup>1</sup>, Christopher M. Barbieri<sup>1</sup>, Paul A. Mann<sup>1</sup>, Donna Carr<sup>1</sup>, Ellen Xia<sup>1</sup>, Paul Zuck<sup>3</sup>, Dan Riley<sup>3</sup>, Ronald E. Painter<sup>1</sup>, Scott S. Walker<sup>1</sup>, Brad Sherborne<sup>1</sup>, Reynalda de Jesus<sup>1</sup>, Weidong Pan<sup>1</sup>, Michael A. Plotkin<sup>1</sup>, Jin Wu<sup>1</sup>, Diane Rindgen<sup>1</sup>, John Cummings<sup>1</sup>, Charles G. Garlisi<sup>1</sup>, Rumin Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Payal R. Sheth<sup>1</sup>, Charles J. Gill<sup>1</sup>, Haifeng Tang<sup>1</sup> & Terry Roemer<sup>1</sup>

Riboswitches are non-coding RNA structures located in messenger RNAs that bind endogenous ligands, such as a specific metabolite or ion, to regulate gene expression. As such, riboswitches serve as a novel, yet largely unexploited, class of emerging drug targets. Demonstrating this potential, however, has proven difficult and is restricted to structurally similar antimetabolites and semi-synthetic analogues of their cognate ligand, thus greatly restricting the chemical space and selectivity sought for such inhibitors. Here we report the discovery and characterization of ribocil, a highly selective chemical modulator of bacterial riboflavin riboswitches, which was identified in a phenotypic screen and acts as a structurally distinct synthetic mimic of the natural ligand, flavin mononucleotide, to repress riboswitch-mediated *ribB* gene expression and inhibit bacterial cell growth. Our findings indicate that non-coding RNA structural elements may be more broadly targeted by synthetic small molecules than previously expected.

# Regulation of translation by small RNA molecules Key

- **small (sRNAs) or noncoding (ncRNAs) RNAs**
    - **Do not function as mRNA, tRNA, or rRNA**
    - **May inhibit or enhance translation**
    - **Antisense RNAs are complementary to mRNA and function as translation blocker by base pairing**
-

# Translation repression by “ant sense RNA”



## Antisense RNA medicines