

Introduction to Molecular Biology

History & DNA Structure (Lecture 5)



Bettina Siebers

Grundlagen der Biochemie

➤ **Metabolismus IV**

1. Gesetzmäßigkeiten von Stoffwechselreaktionen
2. Enzyme, Biokatalysatoren
3. Chemische Prinzipien, Redoxreaktionen
4. Metabolismus
5. Stoffwechsel-Diversität („life style“)
6. Elektronen „carrier“, Energiereiche Verbindungen
7. Transport
8. Metabolismus chemoorganotropher Organismen
 - Aerobe Atmung (Respiration)
 - Fermentation/Gärung**
 - Anaerobe Atmung**
9. **Metabolismus photolithotropher Organismen**
 - Photosynthese**

Atmung/Fermentation

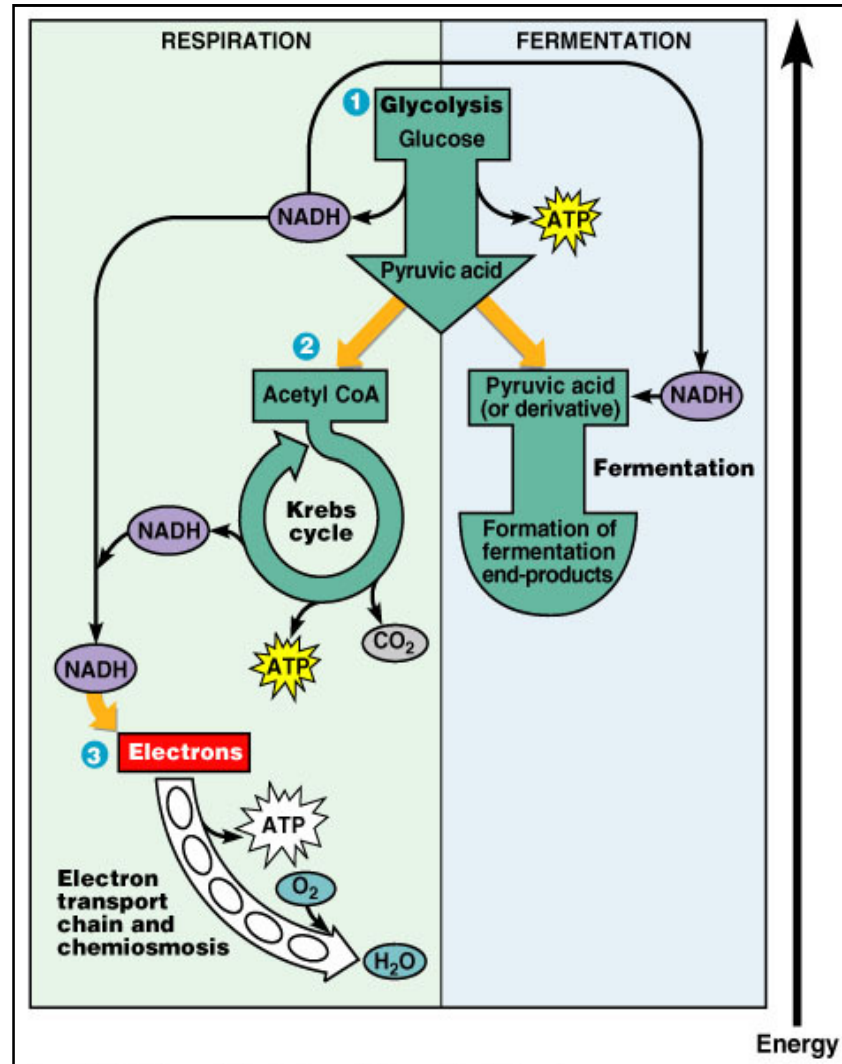


Fig. 5.14 Microbiology: An Introduction (Tortora, Funke, Case)

Fermentation (Gärung)



Energiekonservierung

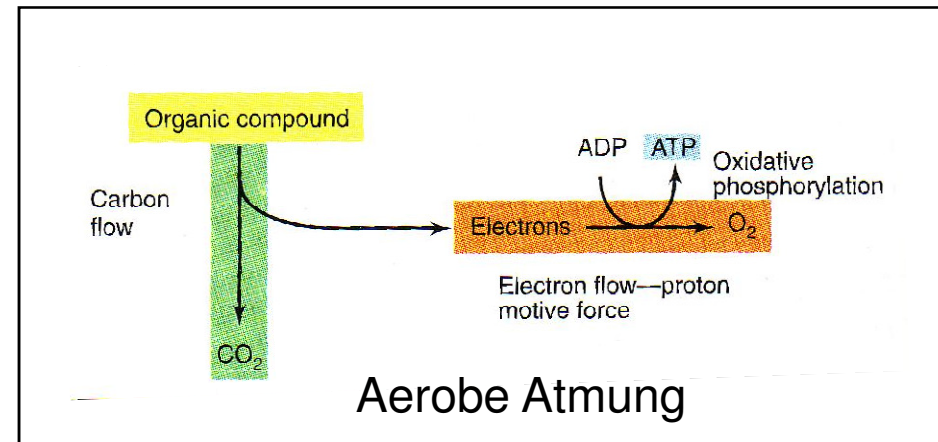
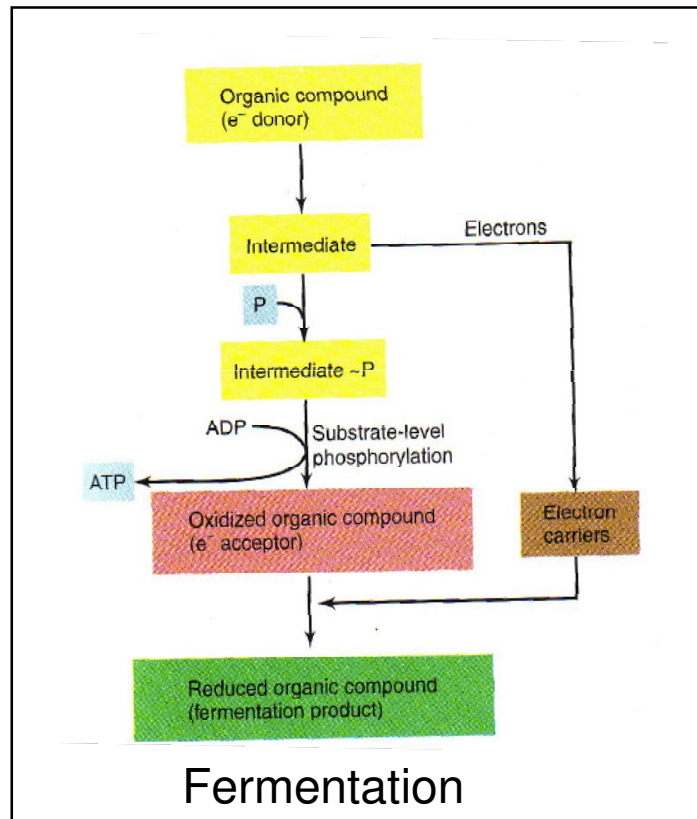
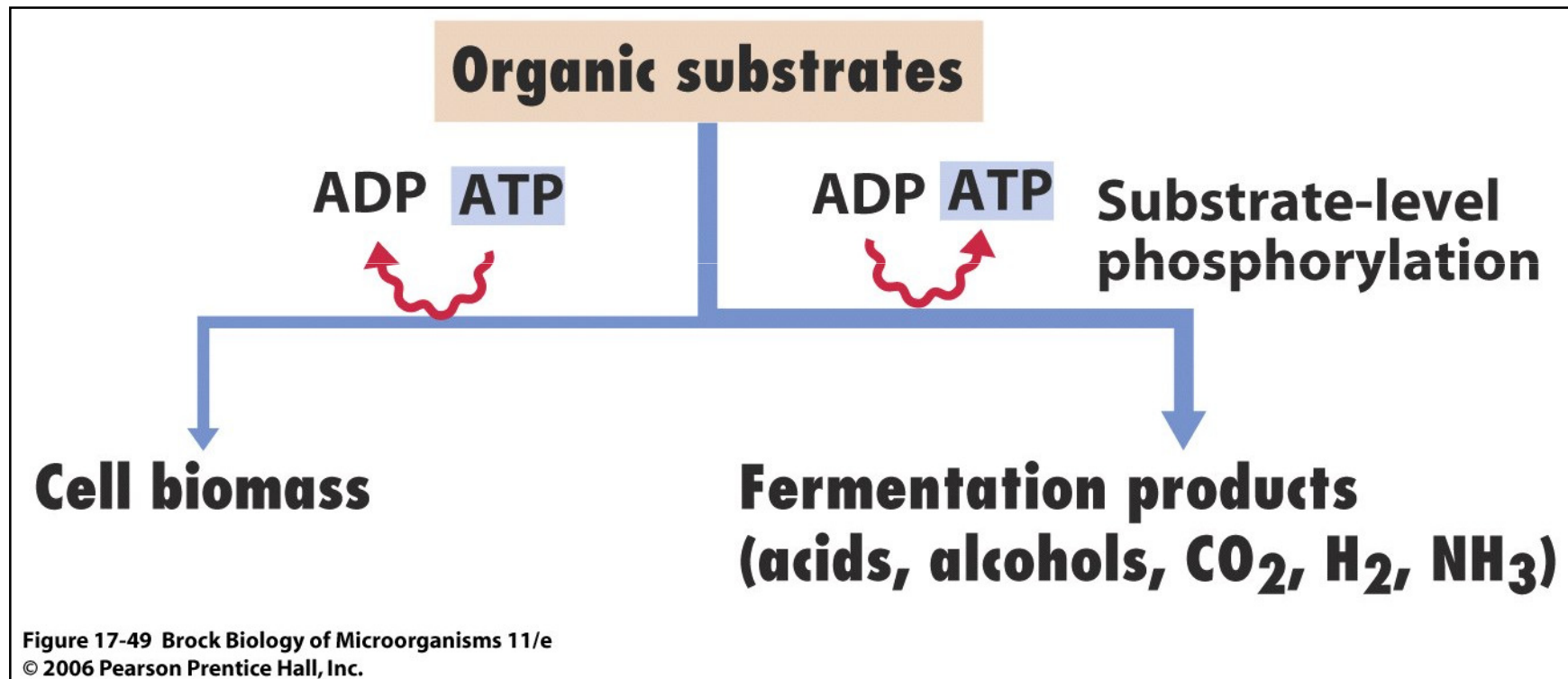


Fig. Kohlenstoff- und Elektronenfluß bei der Fermentation (4.11) und aeroben Atmung (4.13).

Brock Biology of Microorganisms (8th edition) (Madigan et al.)

Fermentation



Substratkettenphosphorylierung

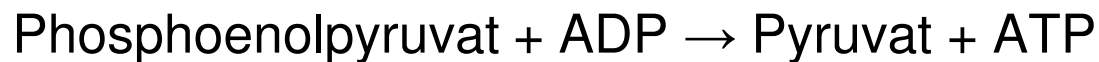
➤ Wichtigsten Enzyme:

- **3-Phosphoglycerat Kinase**



$$\Delta G^{0'} = -20,1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

- **Pyruvat Kinase**



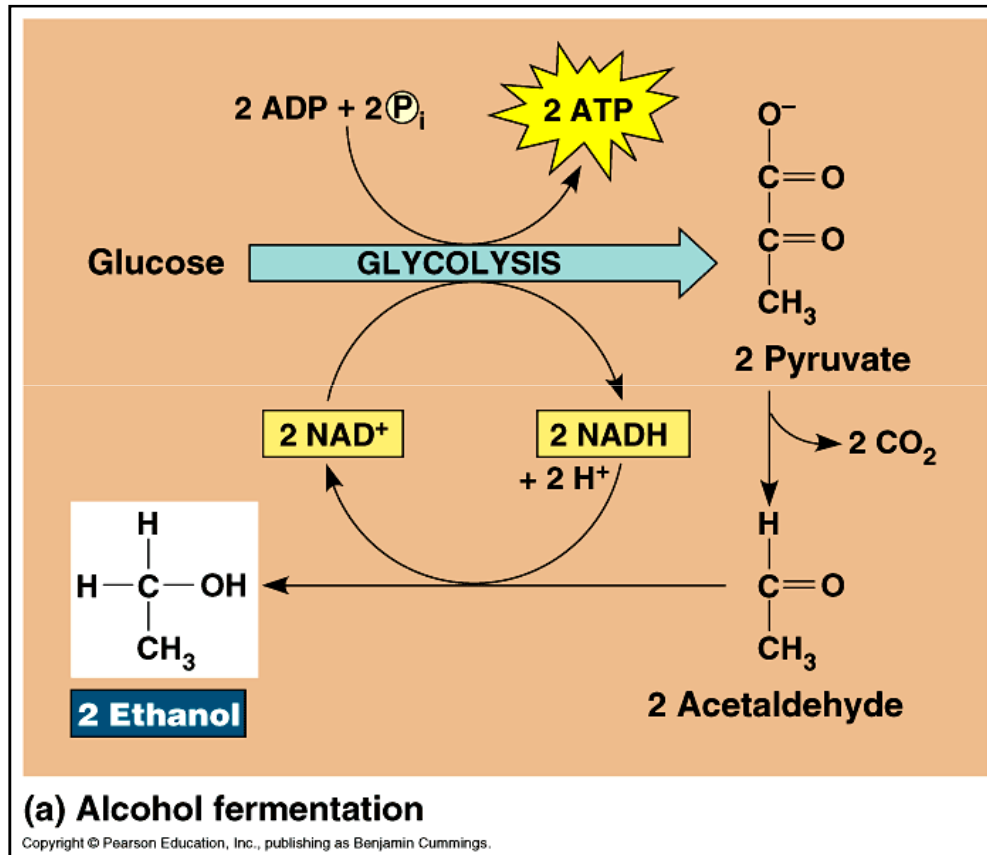
$$\Delta G^{0'} = -19,8 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

- **Acetatkinase**



$$\Delta G^{0'} = -13,0 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

Alkohol Gärung

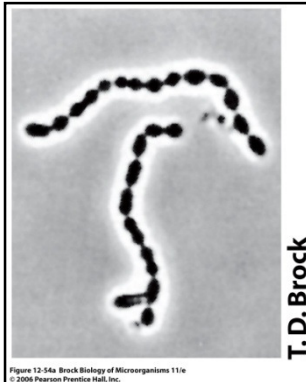


Eukaryonten:
Hefe: EMP Weg

Prokaryonten:
Zymomonas mobilis
KDPG Weg (Pflanzen Säfte,
z.B. Agavenschnaps)

Fig. 9.17 Die Alkohol Gärung.
Biology (6th edition, Campbell & Reece)

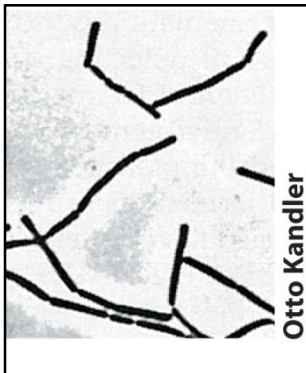
Milchsäuregärung



T. D. Brock

Figure 12-54a Brock Biology of Microorganisms 11/e
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Lactococcus lactis



Otto Kandler

Lactobacillus acidophilus

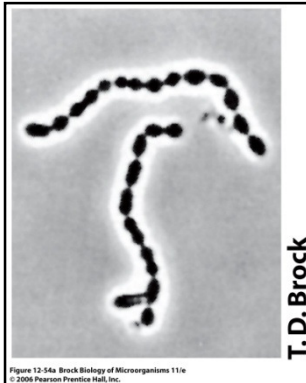
Table 12.23 Differentiation of the principal genera of lactic acid bacteria^a

Cell form and arrangement	Genus/DNA (mol % GC)
Cocci in chains or tetrads	
Homofermentative	<i>Streptococcus</i> (34–46) <i>Enterococcus</i> (38–40) <i>Lactococcus</i> (38–41) <i>Pediococcus</i> (34–42)
Heterofermentative	<i>Leuconostoc</i> (38–41)
Rods, typically in chains	
Homofermentative	<i>Lactobacillus</i> (32–53)
Heterofermentative	<i>Lactobacillus</i> (34–53)

^a Phylogenetically, all organisms are members of the low GC subdivision of the gram-positive *Bacteria*.

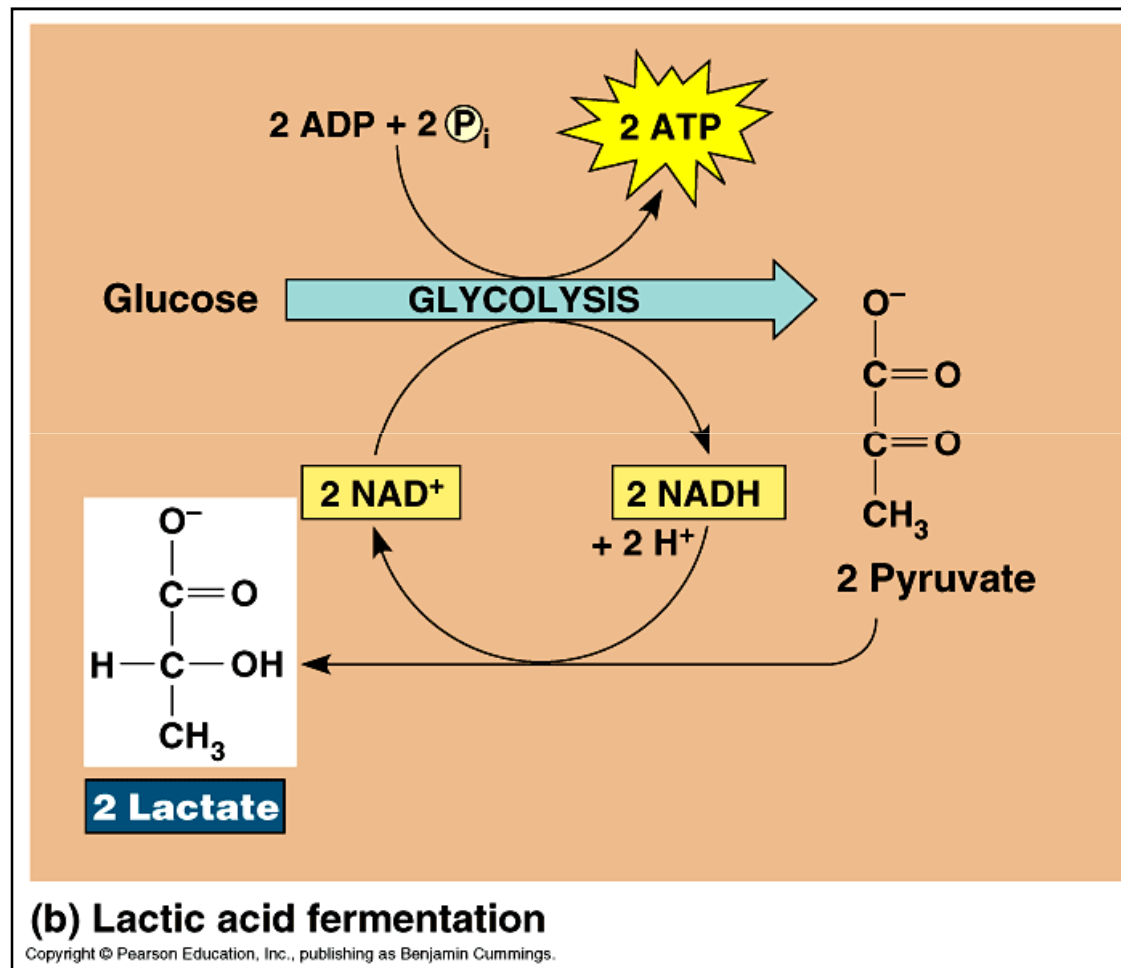
Table 12-23 Brock Biology of Microorganisms 11/e
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Homofermentative Milchsäuregärung

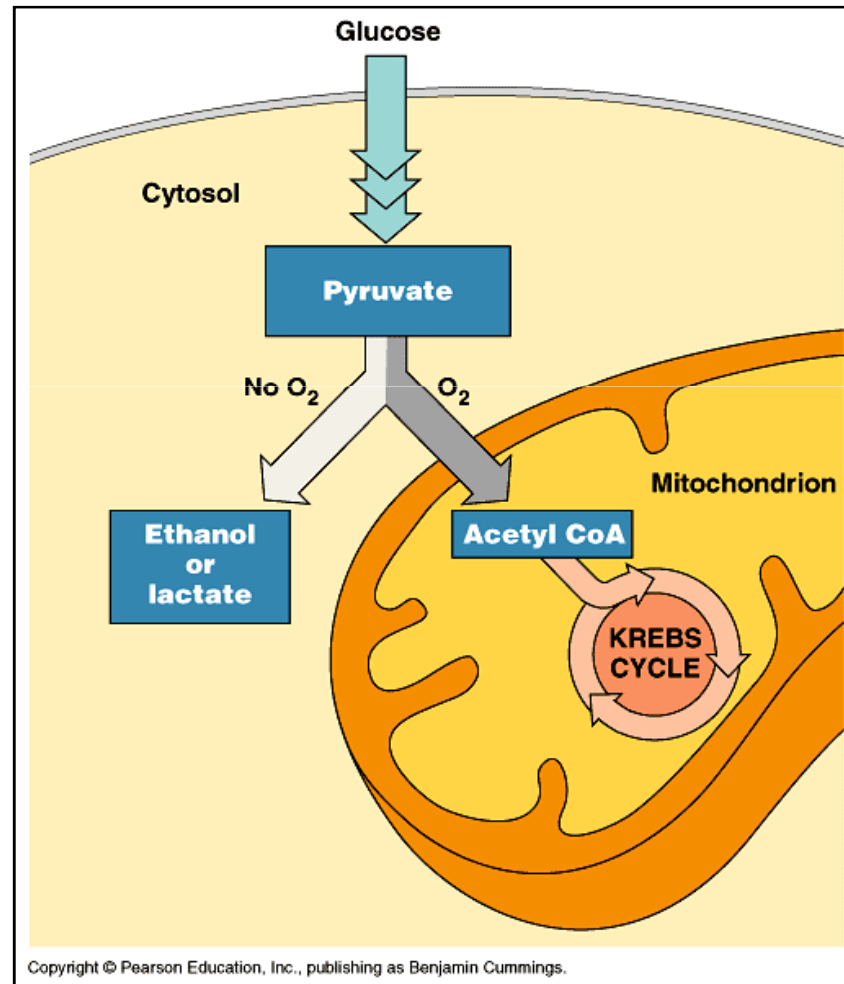


T. D. Brock

Lactococcus lactis



Metabolismus in An- und Abwesenheit von Sauerstoff



Verbreitete Fermentationen

Table 17.7 Examples of common bacterial fermentations and some of the organisms carrying them out

Type	Overall reaction ^a	Organisms
Alcoholic	Hexose \rightarrow 2 Ethanol + 2 CO ₂	Yeast <i>Zymomonas</i>
Homolactic	Hexose \rightarrow 2 Lactate ⁻ + 2 H ⁺	<i>Streptococcus</i> Some <i>Lactobacillus</i>
Heterolactic	Hexose \rightarrow Lactate ⁻ + Ethanol + CO ₂ + H ⁺	<i>Leuconostoc</i> Some <i>Lactobacillus</i>
Propionic acid	Lactate ⁻ \rightarrow Propionate ⁻ + Acetate ⁻ + CO ₂	<i>Propionibacterium</i> <i>Clostridium propionicum</i>
Mixed acid	Hexose \rightarrow Ethanol + 2, 3-Butanediol + Succinate ²⁻ + Lactate ⁻ + Acetate ⁻ + Formate ⁻ + H ₂ + CO ₂	Enteric bacteria ^b <i>Escherichia</i> <i>Salmonella</i> <i>Shigella</i> <i>Klebsiella</i> <i>Enterobacter</i>
Butyric acid	Hexose \rightarrow Butyrate ⁻ + Acetate ⁻ + H ₂ + CO ₂	<i>Clostridium butyricum</i>
Butanol	Hexose \rightarrow Butanol + Acetate ⁻ + Acetone + Ethanol + H ₂ + CO ₂	<i>Clostridium acetobutylicum</i>
Caproate	Ethanol + Acetate ⁻ + CO ₂ \rightarrow Caproate ⁻ + Butyrate ⁻ + H ₂	<i>Clostridium kluyveri</i>
Homoacetogenic	Fructose \rightarrow 3 Acetate ⁻ + 3 H ⁺ + 2 H ₂ O 4 H ₂ + 2 CO ₂ + H ⁺ \rightarrow Acetate ⁻ +	<i>Clostridium aceticum</i> <i>Acetobacterium</i>
Methanogenic	Acetate ⁻ + H ₂ O \rightarrow CH ₄ + HCO ₃ ⁻	<i>Methanosaeta</i> <i>Methanosarcina</i>

^a Reactions are intended as an overview of the process and are not necessarily balanced.

^b Not all organisms produce all products. In particular, butanediol production is limited to only certain enteric bacteria.

(3) Anaerobe Atmung



Sumpfbiete



Verdauungstrakt von Wiederkäuern

Nitratammonifikation (*E. coli*)

- **Enterobacteriaceae** (Bsp: *E. coli*)
- **fakultativ anaerobe** Bakterien (anaerob Fermentation)
- nur **Reduktion von Nitrat zu Nitrit** (Nitratreduktase A)

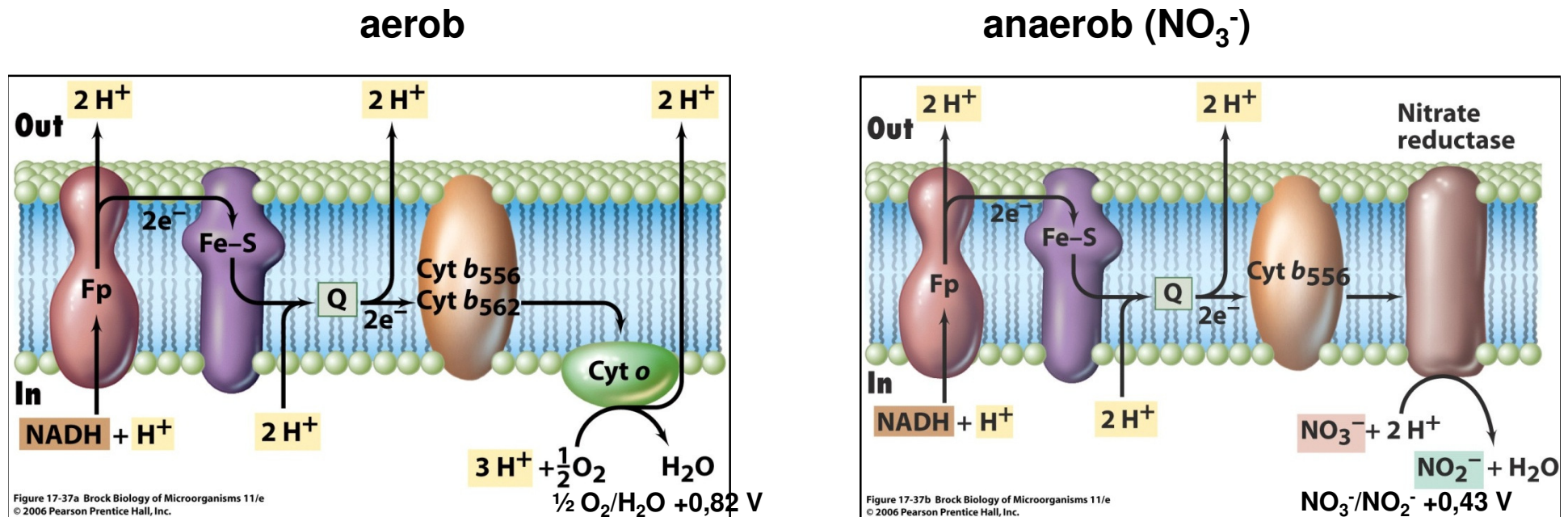


Fig. 17.37 Vergleich aerobe und Nitrat Atmung.

Brock Biology of Microorganisms (10th edition) (Madigan et al.)

Chemische Prinzipien

Beispiel Zellatmung

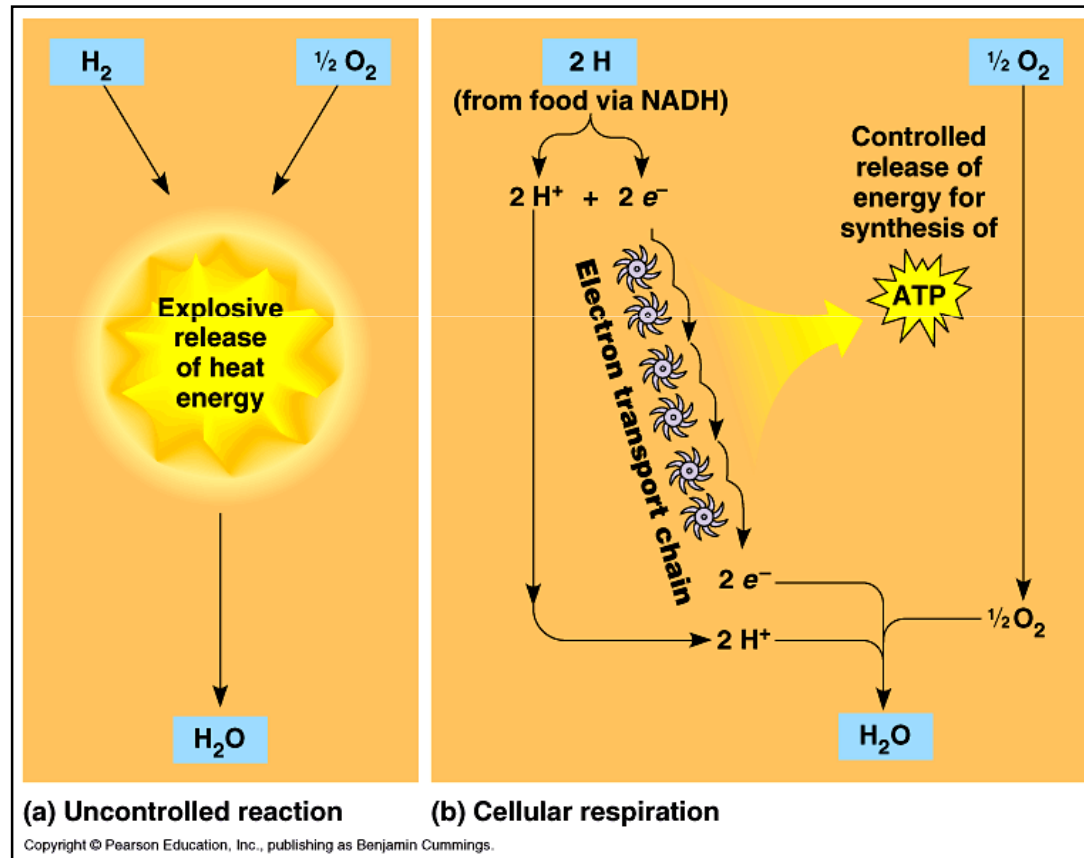
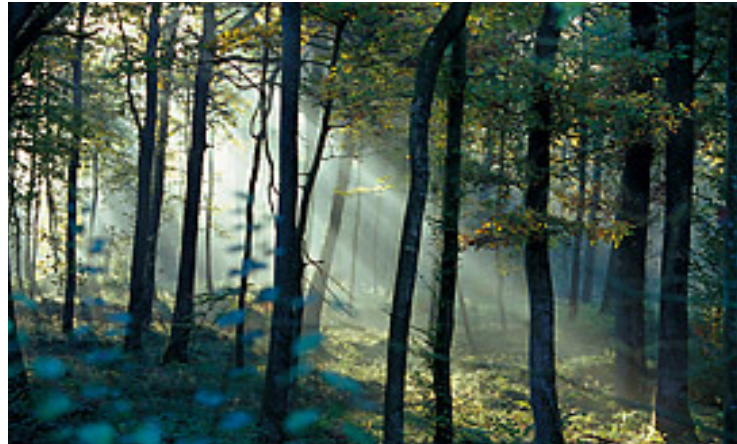


Fig. 9.5 Biology (6th edition, Campbell & Reece)

Phototrophe Organismen



Photosynthese



Oxygene Photosynthese (O₂-Produktion)



$$\Delta G_0' = +2872 \text{ kJ/mol Hexose}$$

Aerobe Respiration



Glucose

$$\Delta G_0' = -2870 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

Der Licht-Sammelkomplex (Reaktionszentrum und Antennen-Pigmente)

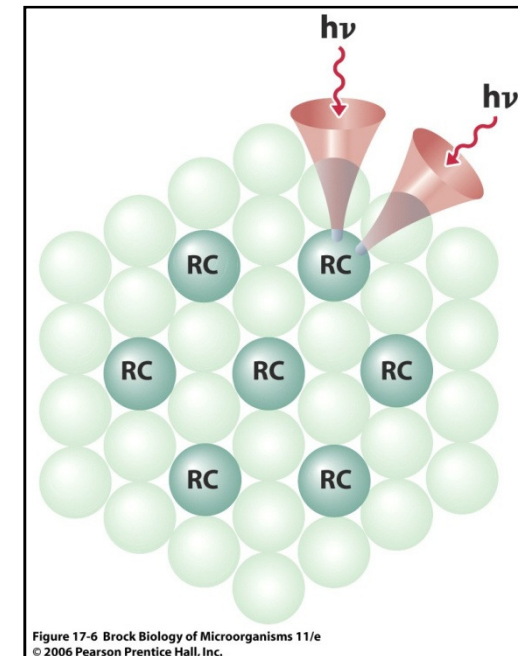
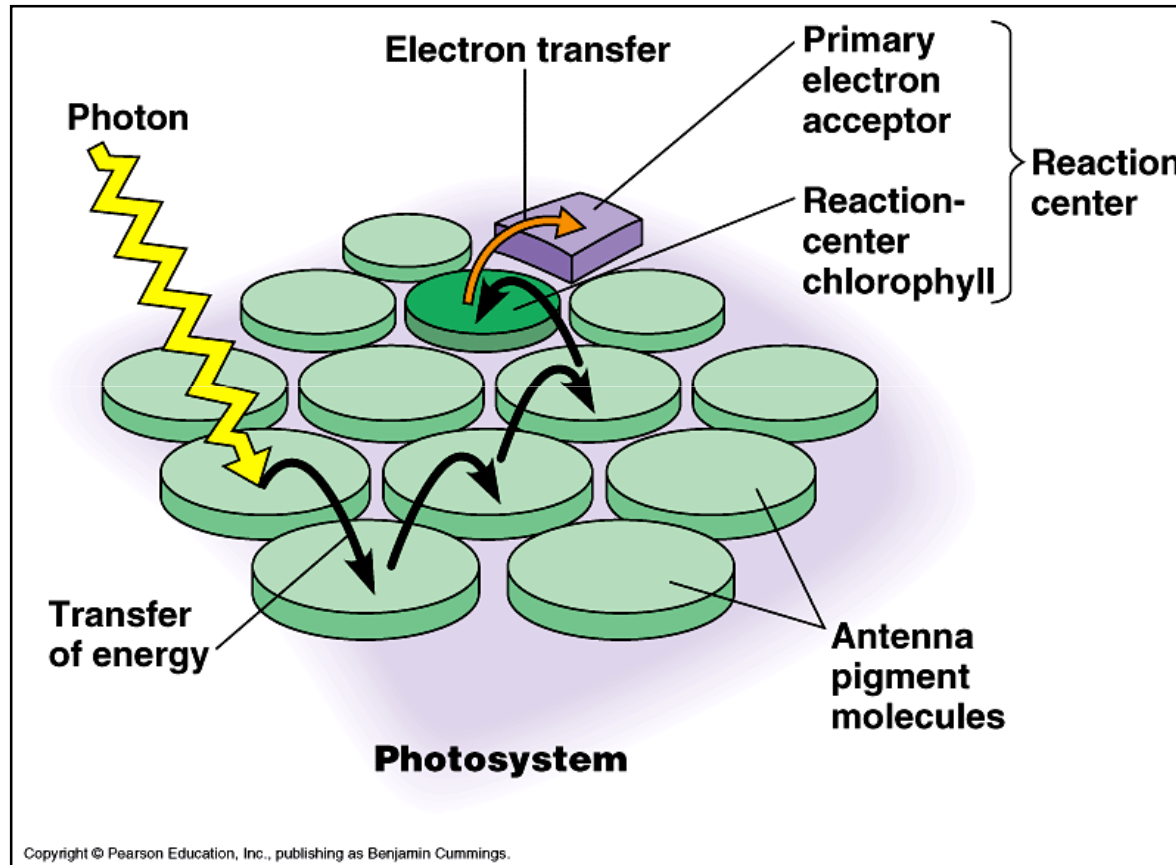


Fig. 10.11 Biology (6th edition, Campbell & Reece)

Nicht-Zyklische Photophosphorylierung

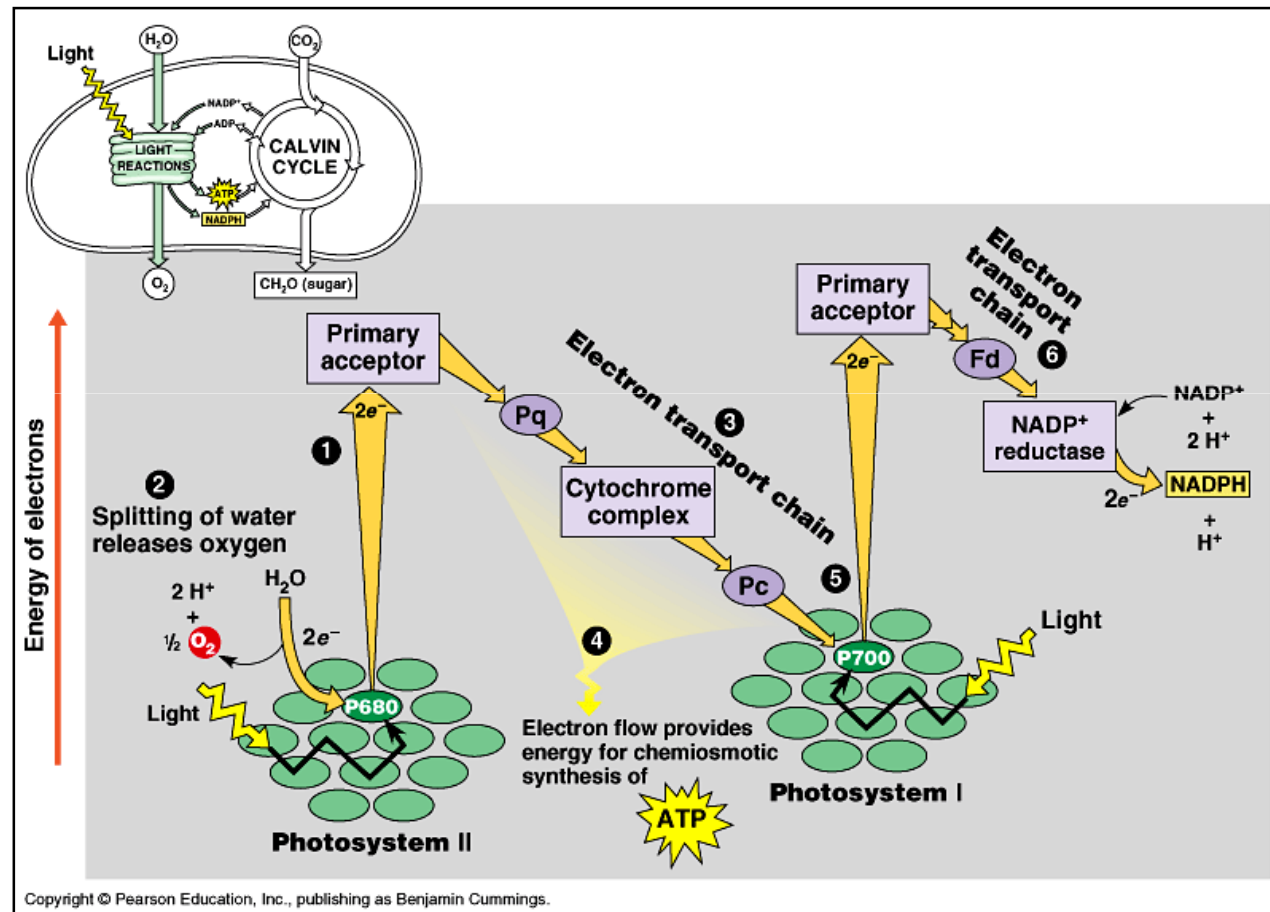


Fig. 10.12 Biology (6th edition, Campbell & Reece)

Photosynthese

Licht- und Dunkel-Reaktion

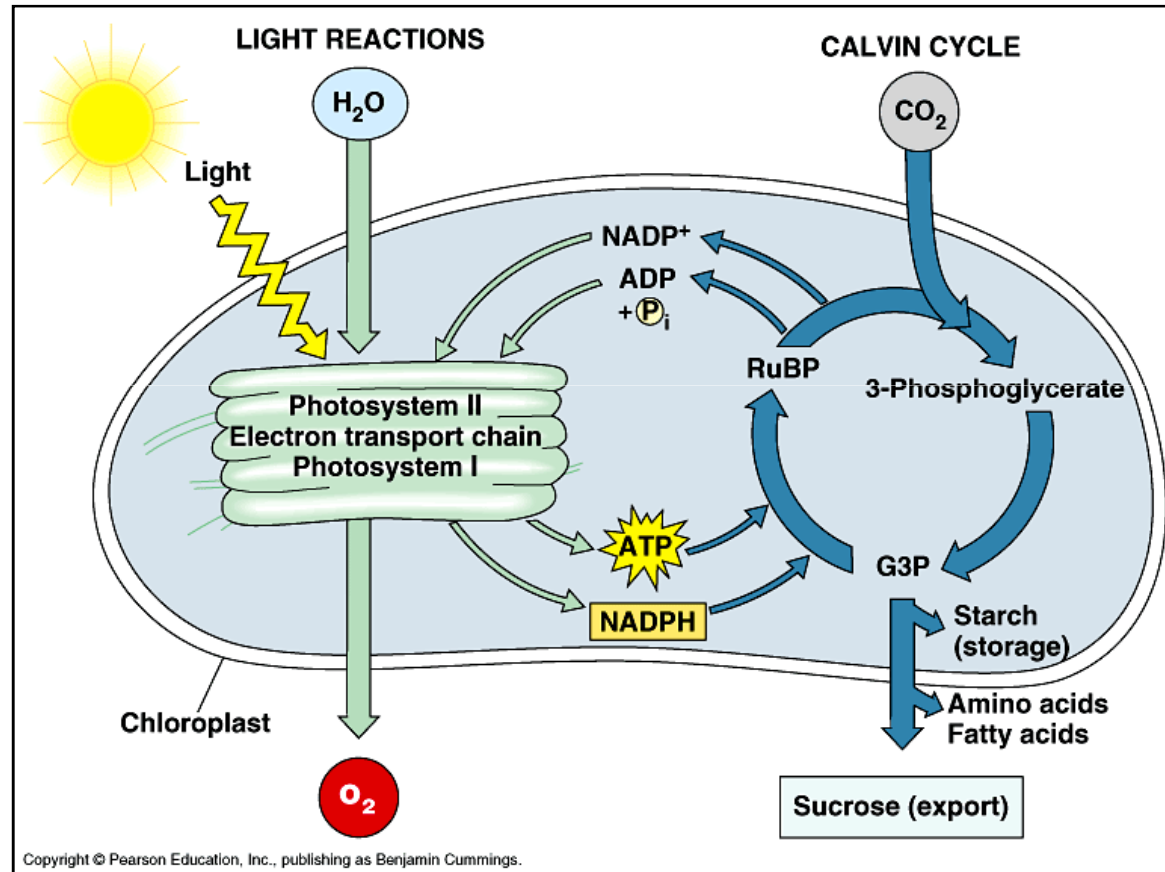


Fig. 10.20 Biology (6th edition, Campbell & Reece)

Energiefluss und „Recycling“ im Ecosystem

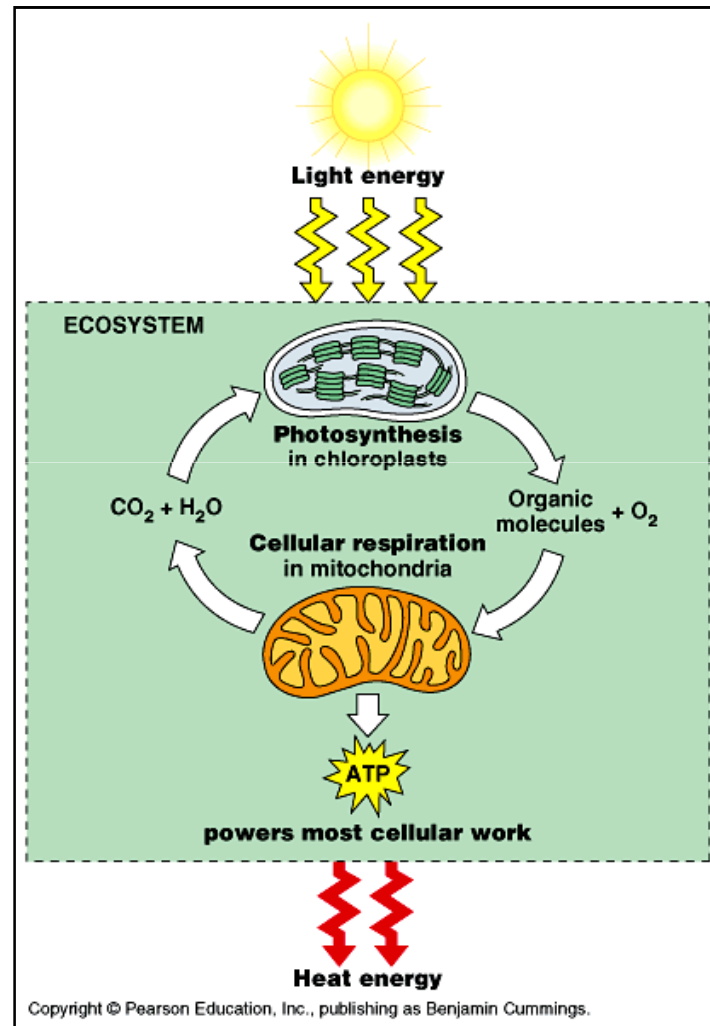


Fig. 9.1 Biology (6th edition, Campbell & Reece)

Einige Fragen....



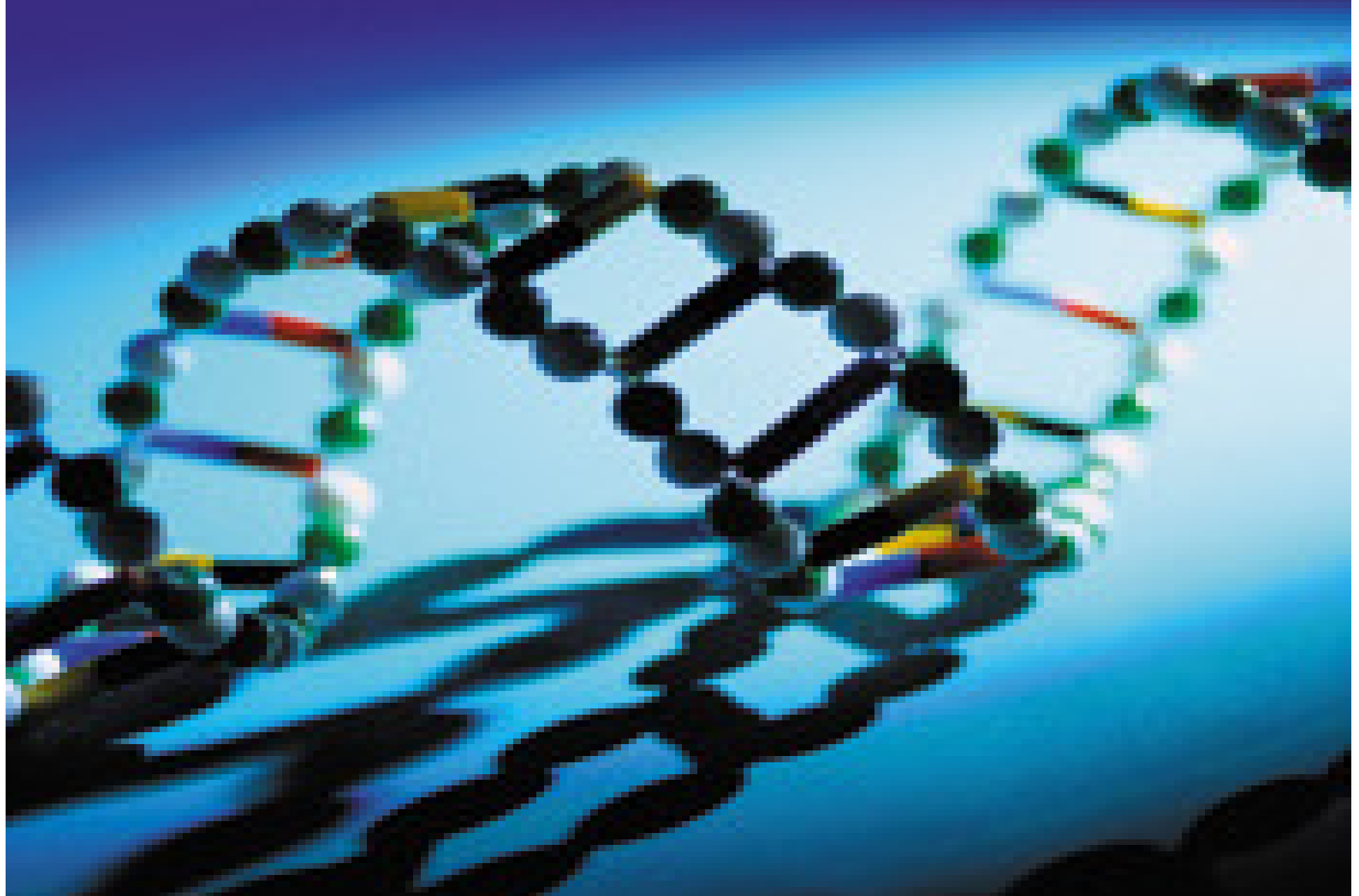
- 17) Welche beiden basalen Mechanismen der Energiekonservierung kennen sie? Geben sie jeweils ein Beispiel.
- 18) Beschreiben sie die Vorgänge/Prozesse bei der aeroben Atmung.
- 19) Welche beiden Phasen der Glykolyse unterscheidet man? Nennen sie die Redoxreaktionen und die Energie-liefernden Reaktionen der Glykolyse. Wie ist die Energiebilanz?
- 20) Bei welchen Reaktionen der aeroben Atmung wird CO_2 freigesetzt?
- 21) Kann im Zitronensäurezyklus Energie über Substratketten-Phosphorylierung gewonnen werden? Nennen sie das/die beteiligte/n Enzym/e. Was sind die Redox-Reaktionen des Zitronensäurezyklus?
- 22) Beschreiben sie die wichtigsten Regulationsmechanismen (Kontrolle) bei der aeroben Atmung.
- 23) Beschreiben sie den Aufbau, Prinzip & Funktion der Atmungskette.
- 24) Durch welche Versuche kann man die Kopplung von e^- Transport und Phosphorylierung zeigen? Wie wirkt 2,4-Dinitrophenol?
- 25) Beschreiben sie Aufbau, Funktion und Mechanismus der ATP Synthase? Mit welchem Experiment konnte man die Rotation der γ Untereinheit zeigen?

Einige Fragen....



- 26) Welche Möglichkeiten der Energiekonservierung gibt es unter anaeroben Bedingungen?
- 27) Was verstehen sie unter Gärung/Fermentation? Was ist das zugrunde liegende Prinzip?
- 28) Beschreiben sie das Prinzip der anaeroben Atmung. Geben sie ein Beispiel.
- 29) Wie sind die Licht- und die Dunkelreaktion der Photosynthese miteinander gekoppelt?
- 30) Beschreiben sie die Vorgänge bei der Lichtreaktion in Cyanobakterien/Pflanzen (oxygenen Photosynthese). Was sind die Produkte der Lichtreaktion? Was passiert bei der zyklischen Photophosphorylierung? Welche Produkte entstehen hier? Was hat dies mit dem Calvin Zyklus zu tun?
- 31) Vergleichen sie die Vorgänge bei der aeroben Atmung und Photosynthese (Chemiosmose).
- 32) Beschreiben sie die Vorgänge bei der Dunkelreaktion. Was sind die Schlüsselreaktionen des Calvin-Zyklus?

History & DNA Structure



What is Molecular Biology?

- Broad definition: **Attempt to understand biological phenomena in molecular terms.** (Difference to biochemistry?)
- More restrictive definition: **The study of gene structure and function at the molecular level.**
- Molecular biology developed of the disciplines of genetics and biochemistry.

Genetics and Molecular Biology

- **Genetics**: study of the mechanisms by which traits are passed from one organism to another and how they are expressed.
- **Molecular genetics**: study of genetics at the molecular level.
- **Molecular biology**: study of the molecular mechanisms by which cells function, including the study of **biological information flow**.

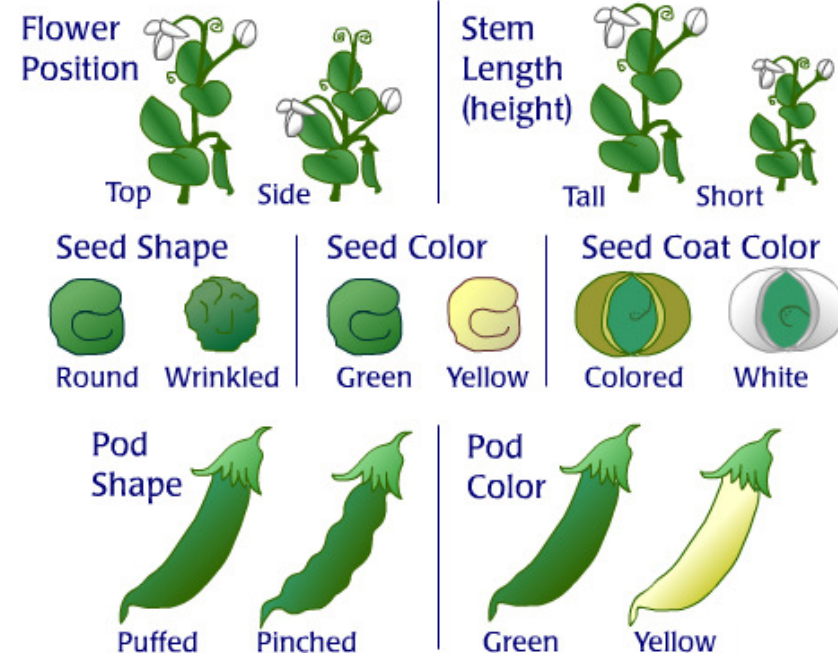
History

Origin of Genetics

- **1865, Gregor Mendel**, Augustinian monk
- used pea plants to study how characteristics are passed from parent to offspring
- molecular nature of genes unknown, **Transmission Genetics**

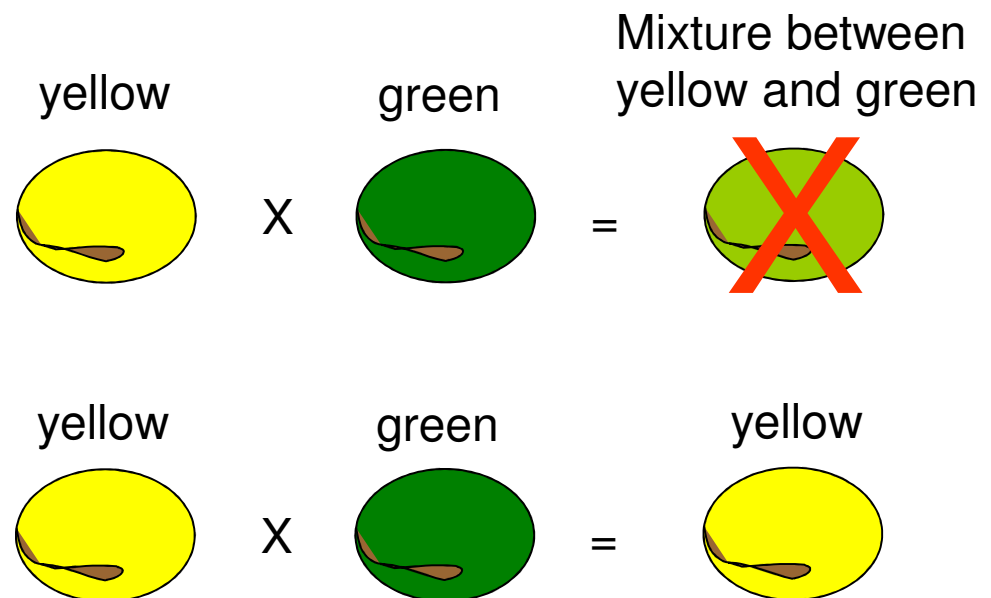
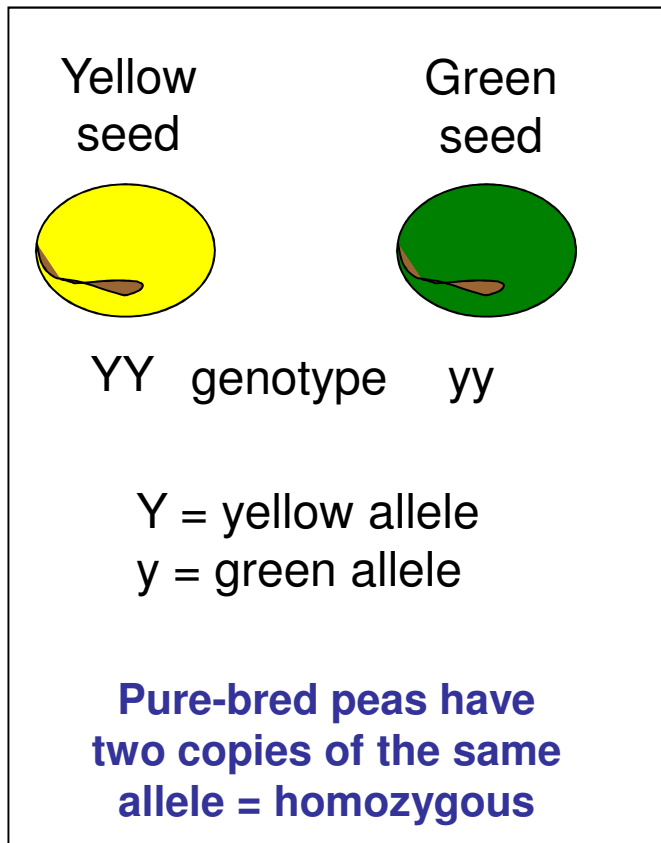


Phenotype = appearance, what can be seen ?

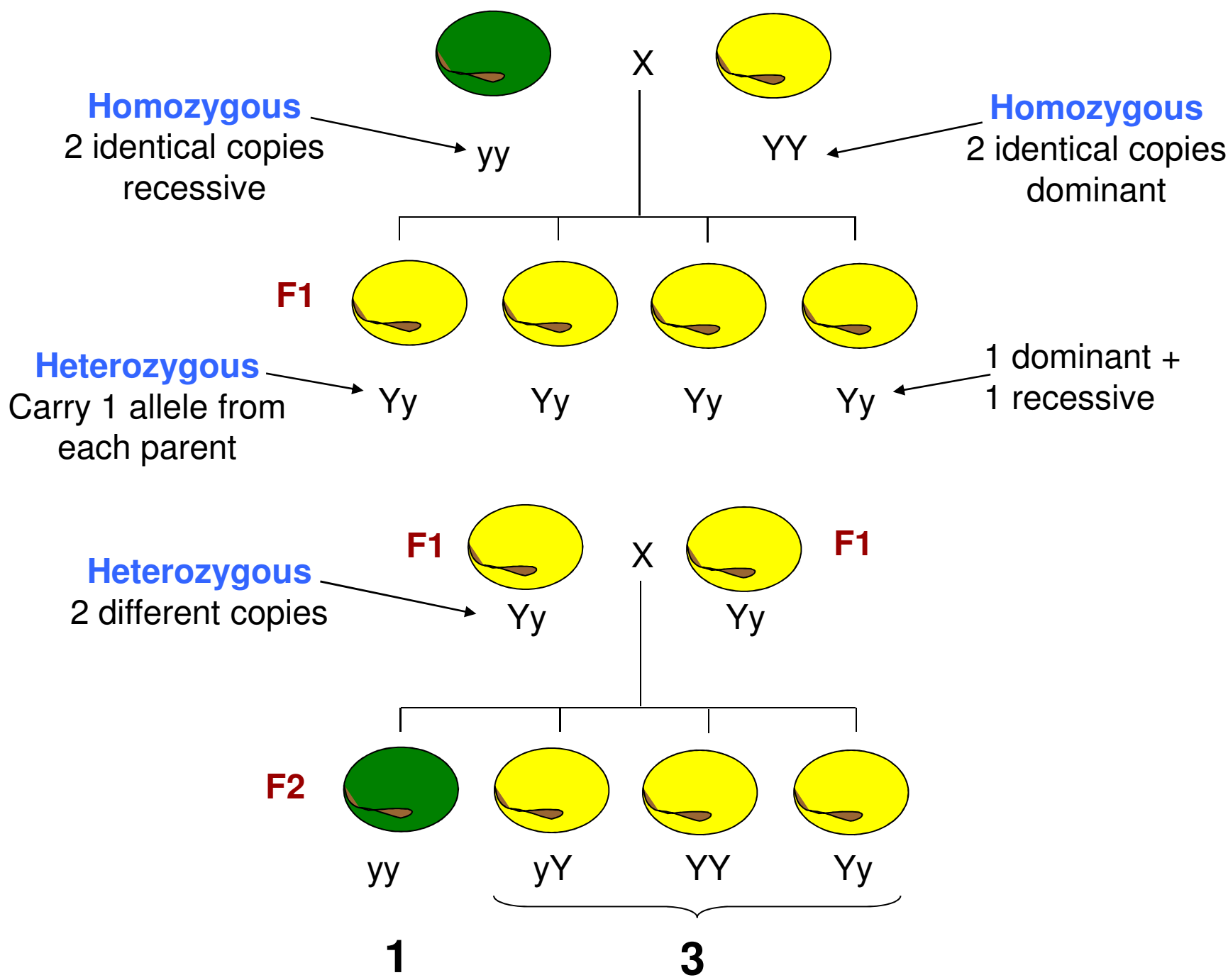


Mendel's Law of Inheritance

- A single characteristic is encoded by 2 alternative forms of genes, called **alleles**
- Parents are **diploid**, sex cell (gametes) are **haploid**

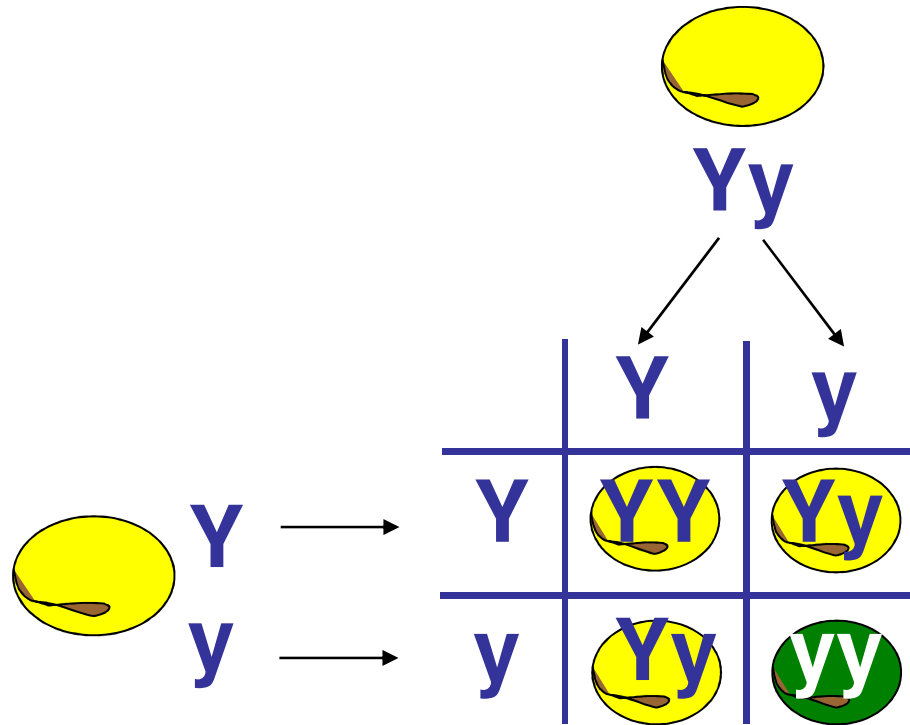


The allele coding for yellow seeds is **DOMINANT**
The allele coding for green seeds is **RECESSIVE**



Mendel's Law of Inheritance

Genetic inheritance follows rules



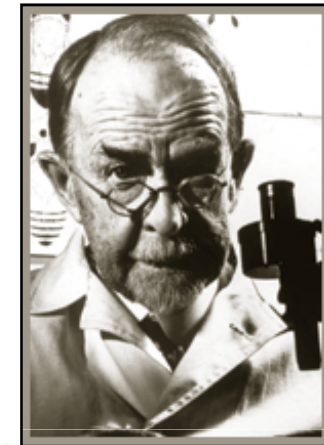
3:1



Punnett square

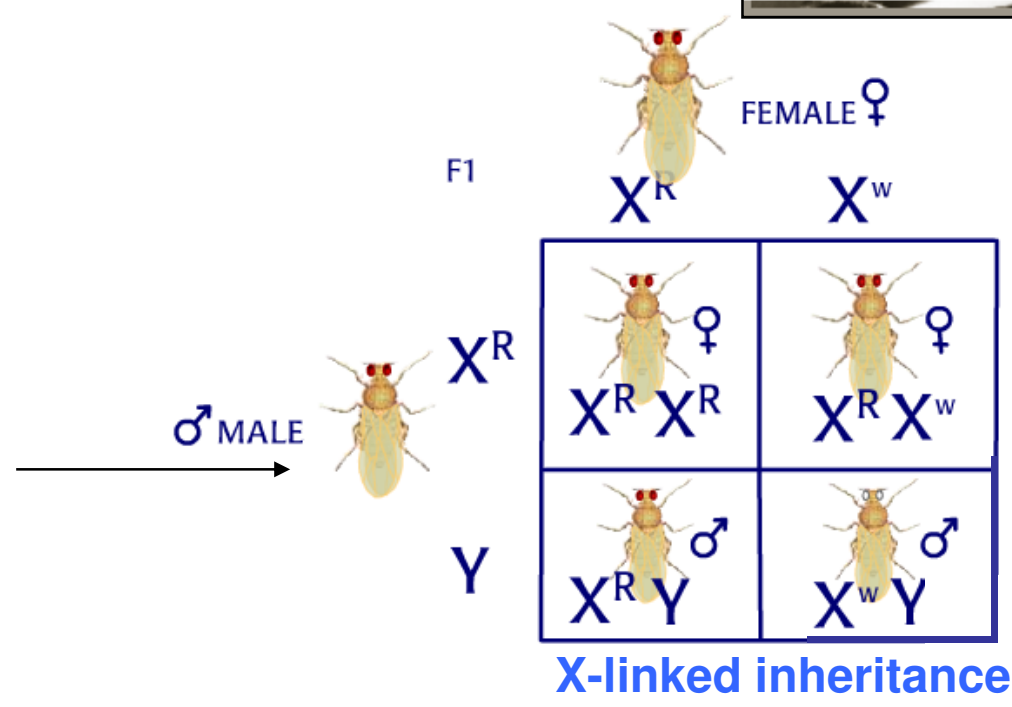
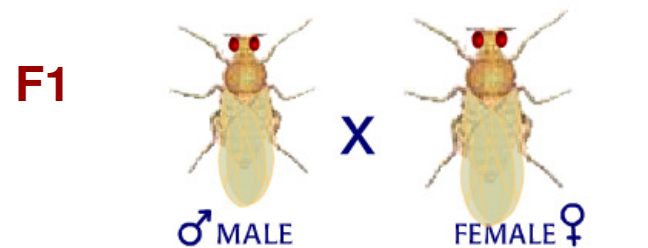
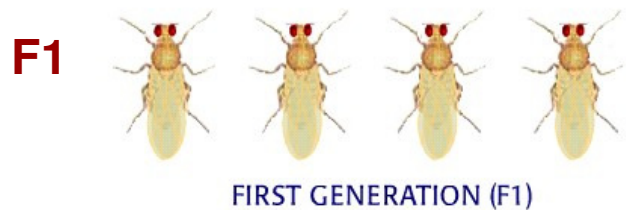
Chromosome Theory of Inheritance

Drosophila melanogaster (fruit flies)

- **1910, Thomas Hunt Morgan**, geneticist
- **Sex-linked inheritance** (autosomes, sex chromosome)
- **Genetic recombination** and mapping

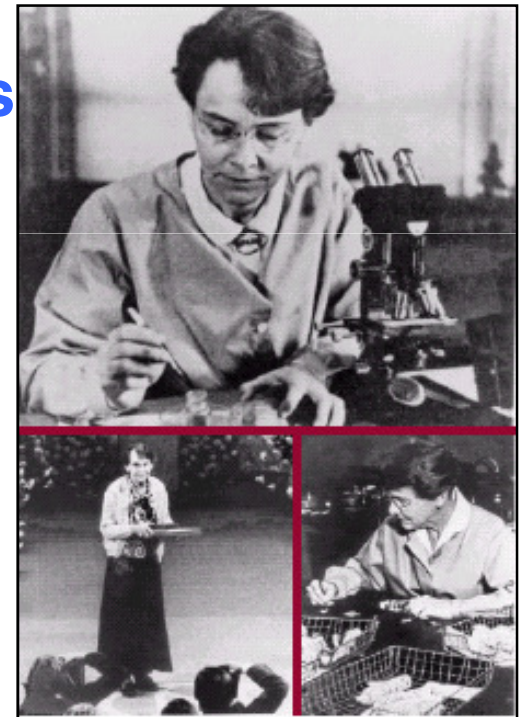


white eyed (recessive) male  X  red eyed (dominant) female



Physical Evidence for Recombination

- **1931, Barbara McClintock** and **Harriet Creighton**
- **Maize** (corn, physical –microscope- and genetic detection of **recombination**)
- **1951**, discovery of **mobile genetic elements**
“jumping genes theory”
- **1983, Nobel Prize in Physiology**

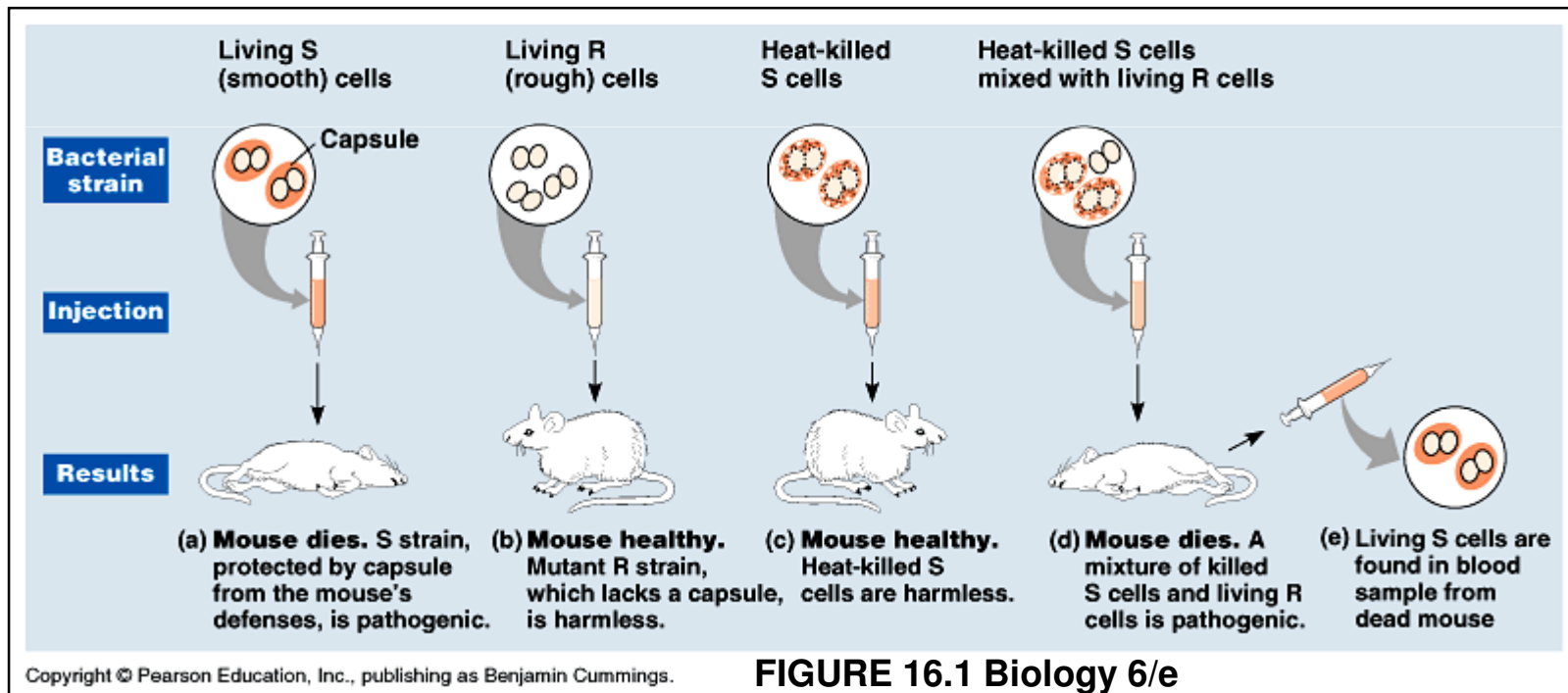


Barbara McClintock

1902-1992

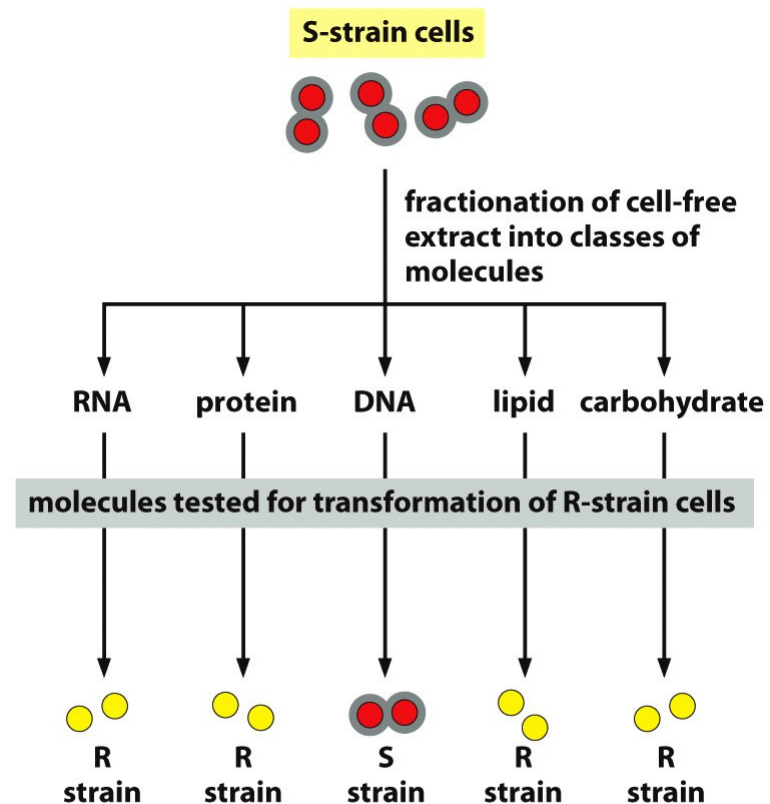
DNA as the Genetic Material

- **1869, Friedrich Miescher**, discovered a mixture of compounds “**nuclein**” in the the cell nucleus (DNA, RNA and protein)
- **1928, Frederick Griffith**, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, **transformation** „some chemical component“



DNA as the Genetic Material

- 1944, Oswald Avery, Maclyn McCarty & Colin MacLeod
„DNA not RNA or protein“



CONCLUSION: The molecule that carries the heritable information is DNA.

DNA as the Genetic Material

➤ 1952 Alfred Hershey & Martha Chase (Bacteriophage T2)

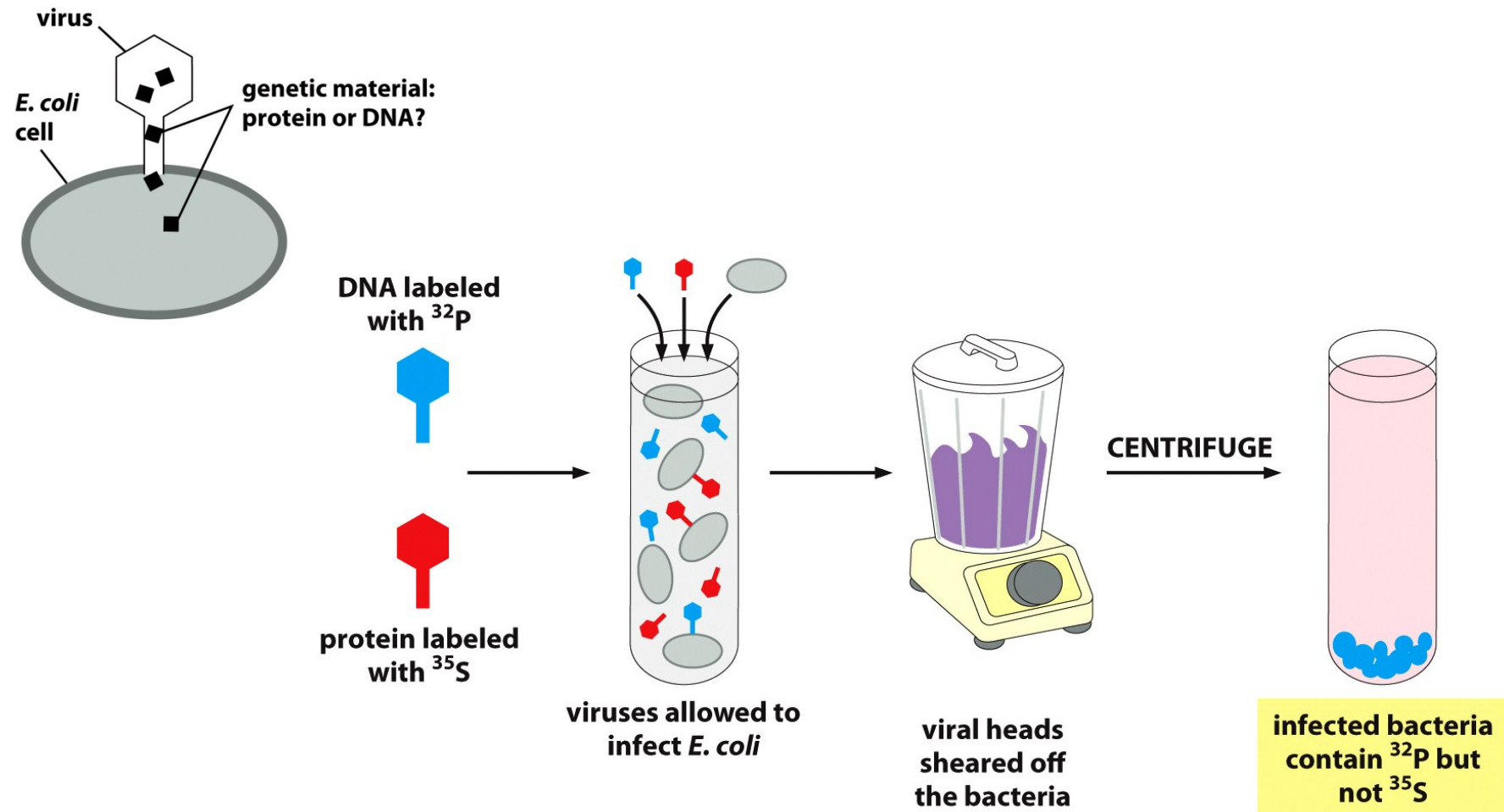
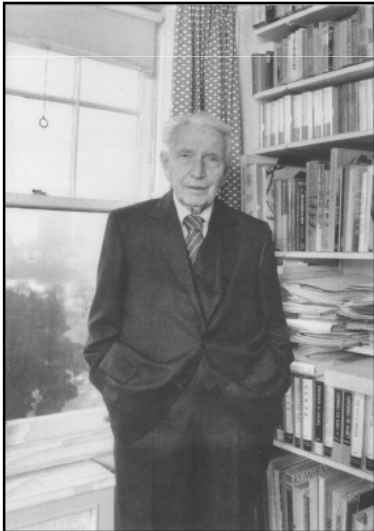


Figure 5-5a, b *Essential Cell Biology* (© Garland Science 2010)

DNA as a double helix

- **1947 Chargaff, A=T, G=C equalities** (Chargaff's rule)
- **1950s Crick, Watson, Wilkins & Franklin, double helix**



**Erwin
Chargaff**



**Francis
Crick**



**James
Watson**

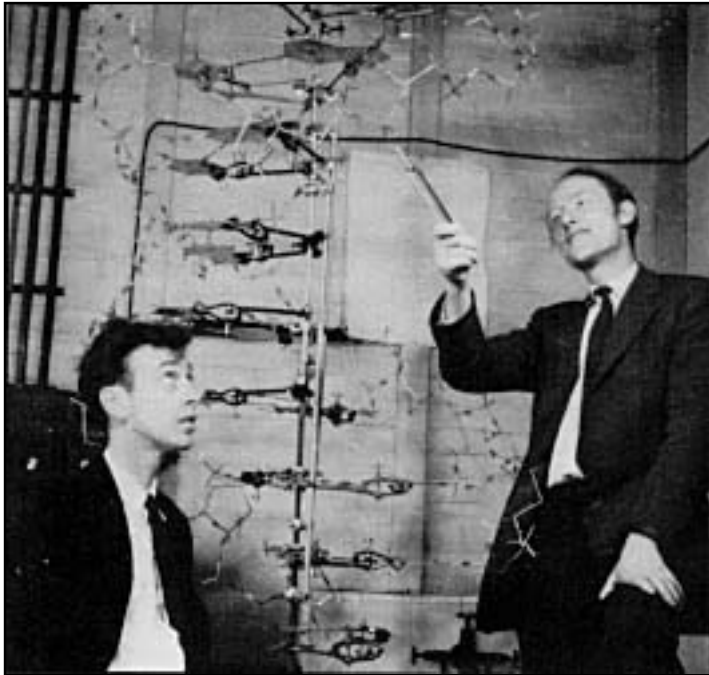


**Maurice
Wilkins**



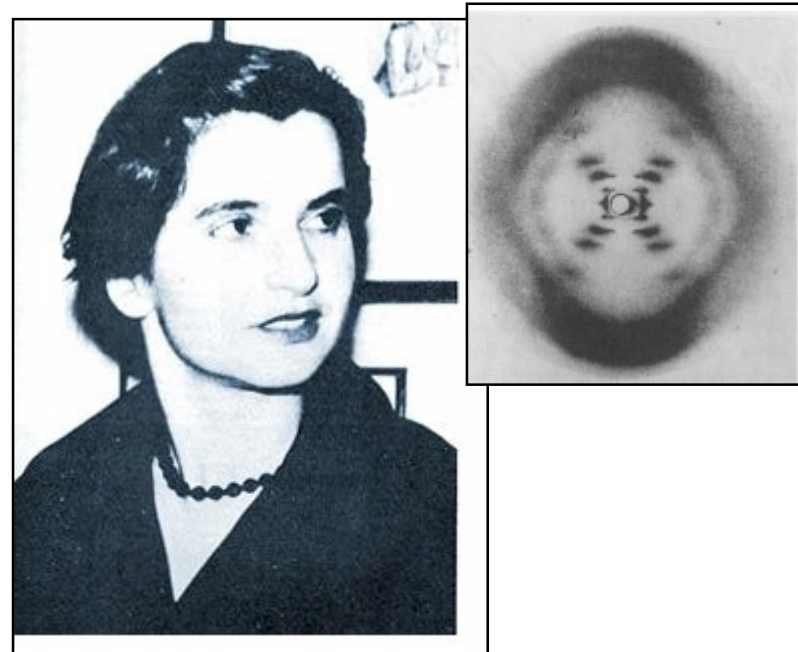
**Rosalind
Franklin**

DNA as a double helix



Watson and Crick (1953)

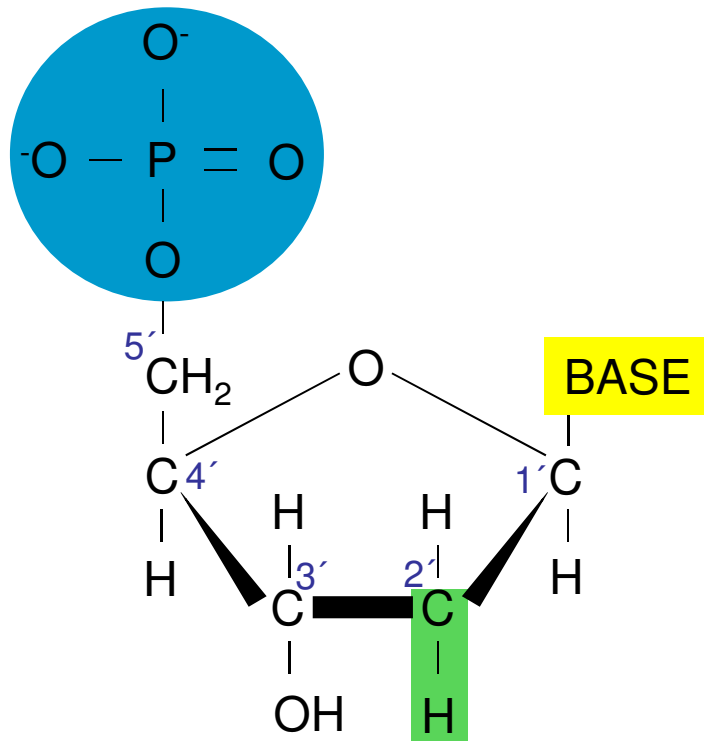
**Nobelpreis 1962
(Watson, Crick & Wilkins)**



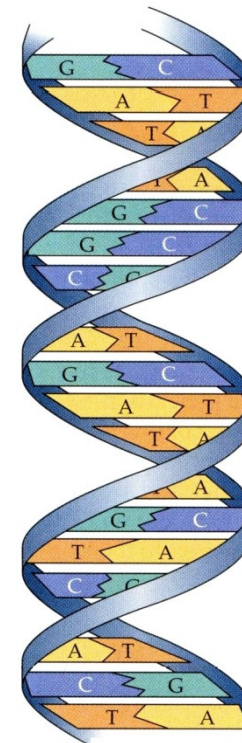
**Rosalind Franklin
& Maurice Wilkins
-Röntgenbeugungsbilder**

Origin of Molecular genetics

- 1944: DNA is the genetic material



- 1953: DNA is in the form of a double helix



How Molecular Biology has changed Biology

➤ **Molecular Taxonomy**

Bacteria are now organised at the genetic level.

➤ **Molecular Ecology**

Previously < 1% of bacteria in environmental samples could be analysed. Now 85 – 95%.

➤ **Medicine**

Study of the genes encoding disease and disorder related proteins.

➤ **Genetic engineering „Biotechnology“**

➤ **Pharmaceutical industry**

➤ **Food industry + Agriculture**

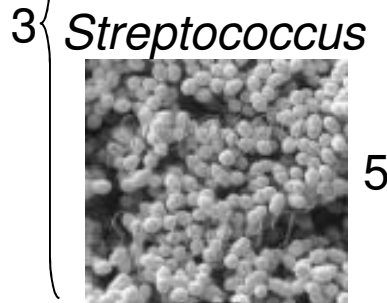
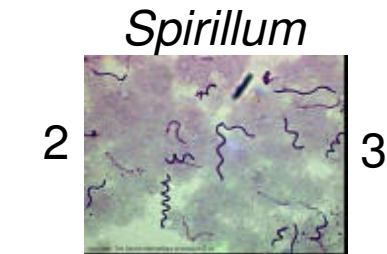
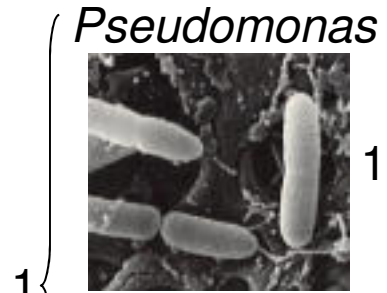
➤ **Cosmetic industry**

Comparative Morphology based Taxonomy

Compares shape

Groups bacteria based
on their morphology

Underestimates
diversity



Molecular based Taxonomy

Compares a well conserved
gene (16S)

Groups bacteria based on
their genetic similarity

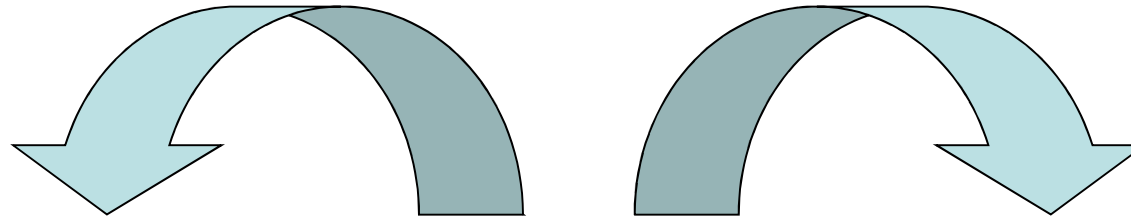
More accurate estimate of
diversity

Microbial Ecology

Investigation of microbial populations in environmental samples

Classical methods

Molecular Methods

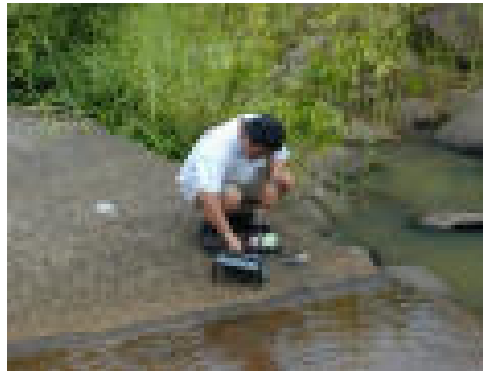


Environmental sample



Depend on cultivation of bacteria

Less than 1% of bacteria in environmental samples can be cultivated



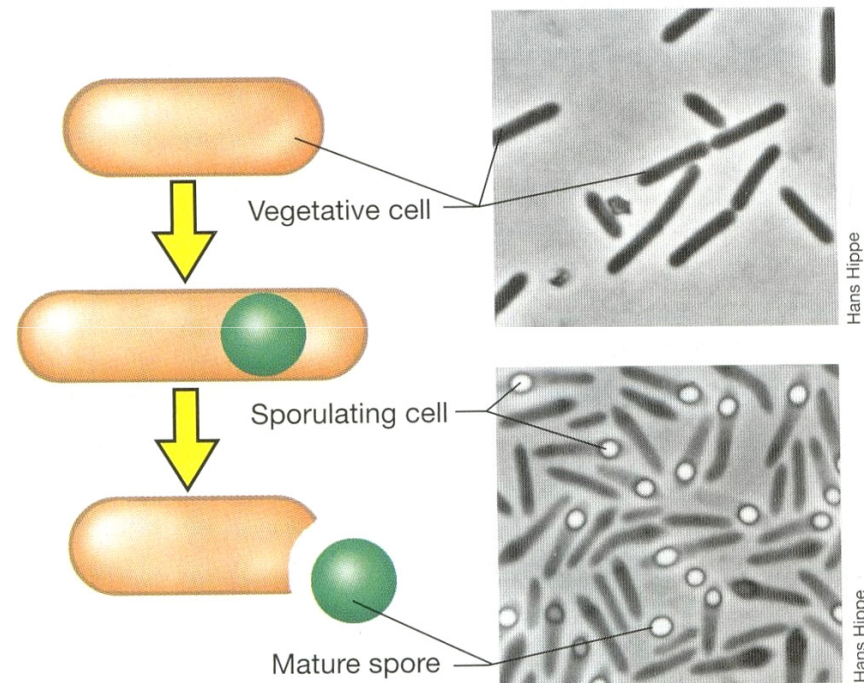
Analyse the microbial population using the DNA / RNA present

Cultivation independent

Find 85 - 95% of bacteria present in sample

Differentiation

- Some procaryotes can differentiate – form spores.



- This occurs when expression of genes is altered in response to an environmental signal.
- Gene expression is regulated.

Information Processing

Information macromolecules

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)

Ribonucleic acid (RNA)

Proteins

Gene:

- Functional unit of genetic information
- Information in a gene is present as the **sequence of bases** in the DNA
- DNA specifies the sequence of a protein through the **intermediary** of RNA (**mRNA**)
- Genes encode proteins, tRNA or rRNA.

Information macromolecules

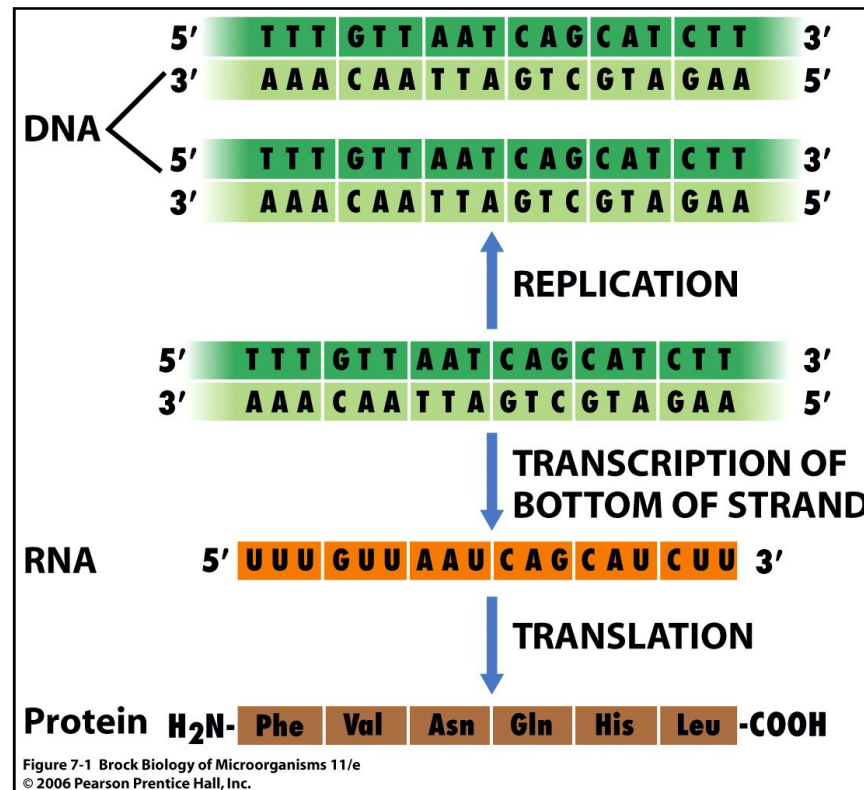
DNA, RNA and protein composition of *E. coli*

Macromolecule	Percentage Total dry weight of cell	Number of molecules per cell
DNA	3.1	1
RNA	20.5	
23S rRNA		18700
16S rRNA		18700
5S rRNA		18700
transfer RNA		205000
messenger RNA		1380
Protein	55.0	2360000

Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

Information flow

DNA → RNA → Protein (except viruses)



Steps in information flow

➤ Replication

- Making a copy of the DNA template.

➤ Transcription

- Transfer of information from the DNA template to RNA (mRNA).
- In most cases only one strand of DNA is transcribed.

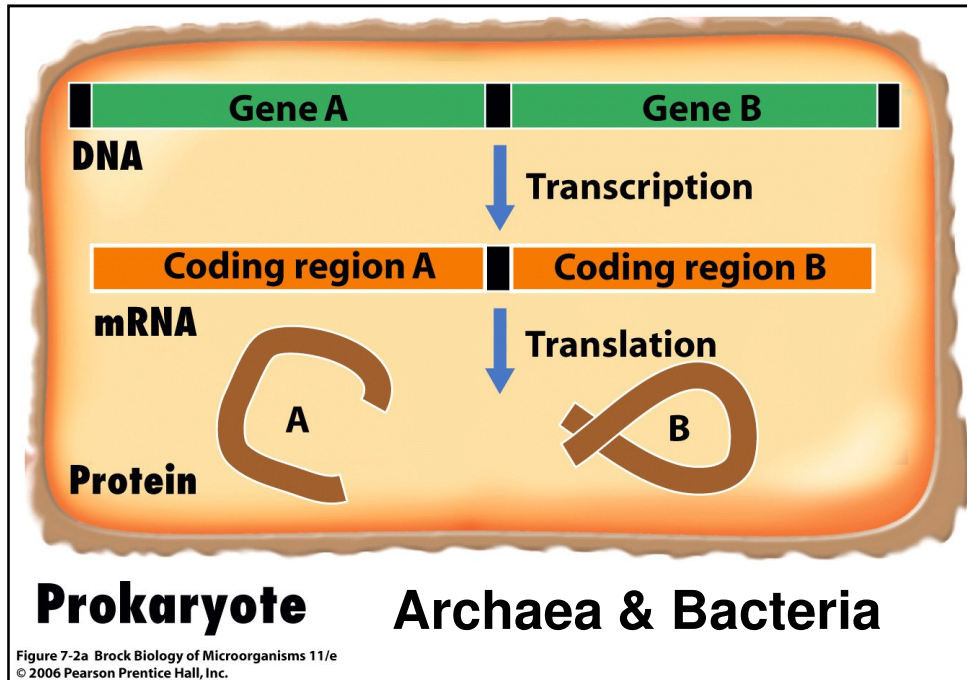
➤ Translation

- Synthesis of proteins using the mRNA as template.
- 3 bases on mRNA encode a single amino acid; each triplet of bases is called a **codon**.
- Translation occurs by means of a protein-synthesizing system consisting of ribosomes, tRNA and some enzymes.

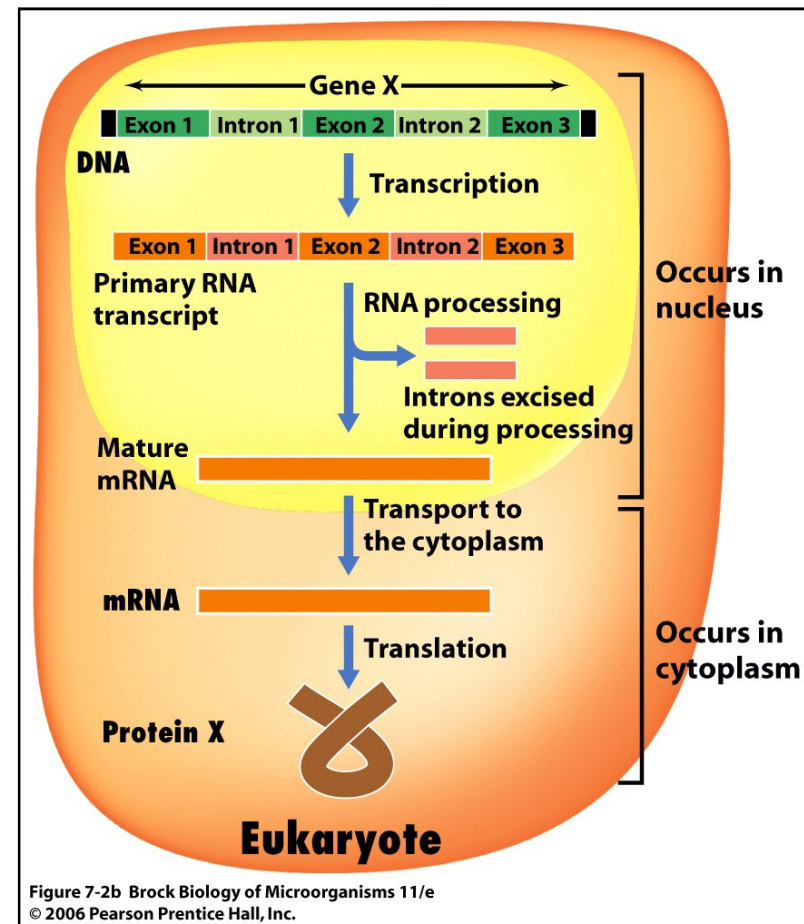
Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

- Transfer of sequence information from nucleic acid to protein is **unidirectional**.
- The sequence of the protein never specifies the sequence of the nucleic acids.
- This is true for all forms of life on Earth.

Contrast in information transfer



- Polycistronic transcript

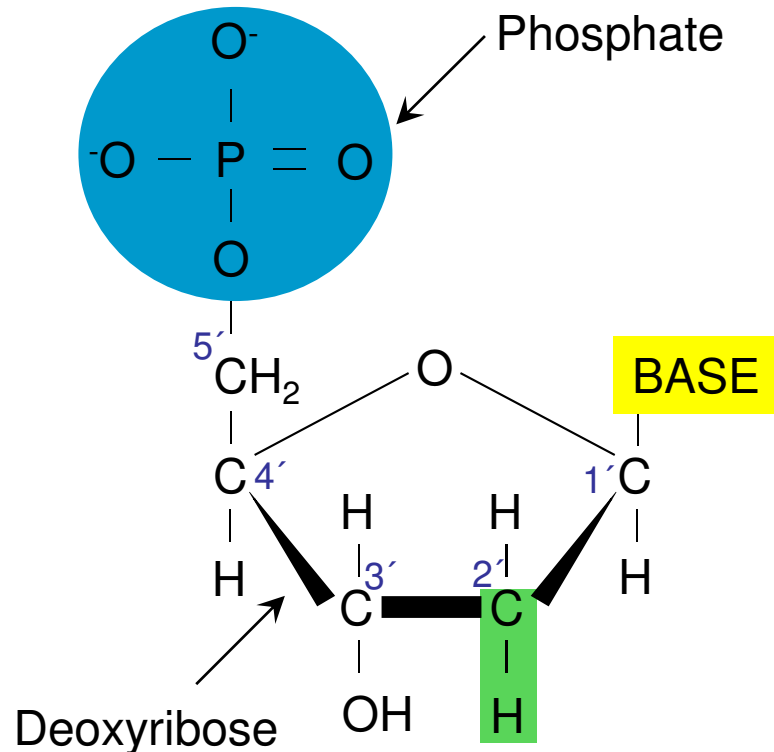


- Nucleus
- RNA processing (exons & introns)
- Local separation

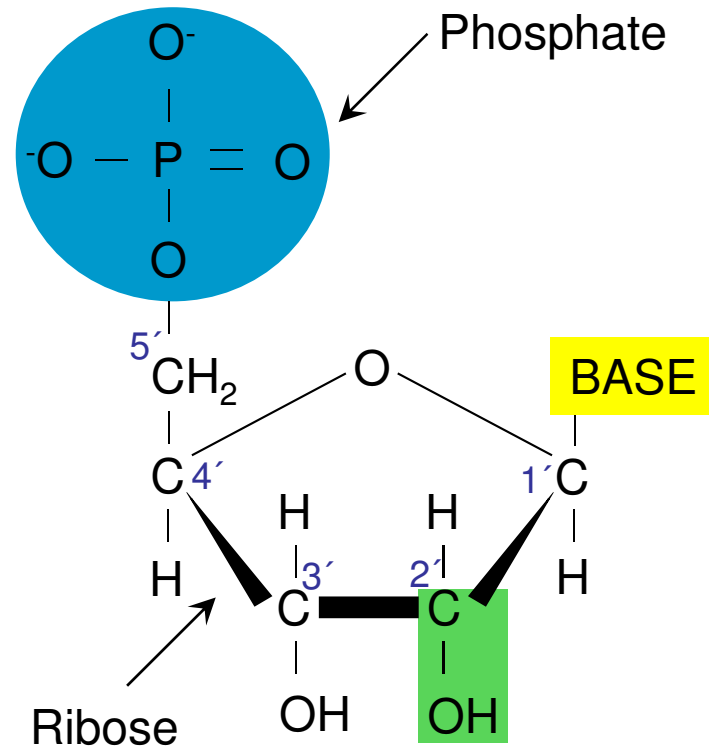
Nucleic Acids

Nucleic Acids

- Nucleic acids are macromolecules “**polynucleotides**” consisting of monomers called **nucleotides**.
 - Five-carbon sugar (ribose (RNA), deoxyribose (DNA))
 - Nitrogen base
 - Molecule of phosphate (PO_4^{3-})

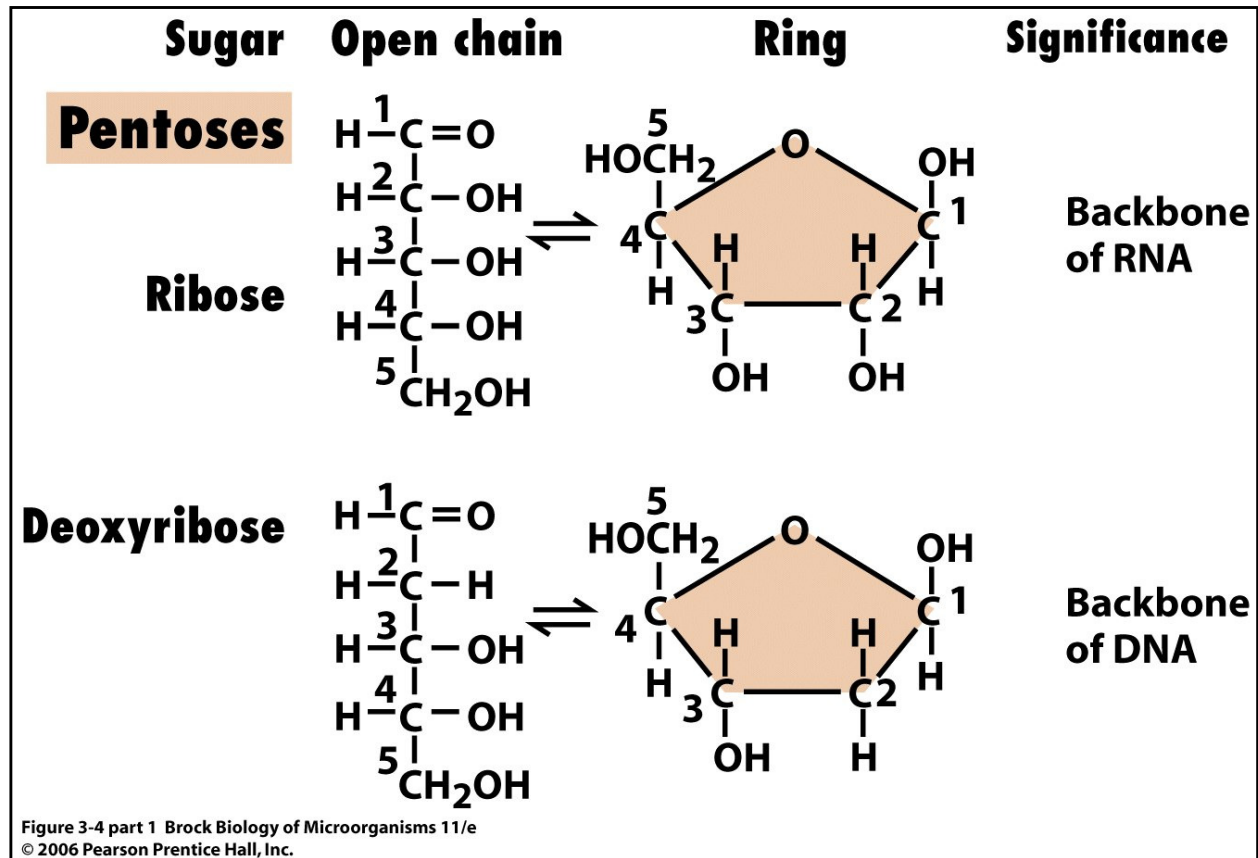


Nucleotide of DNA



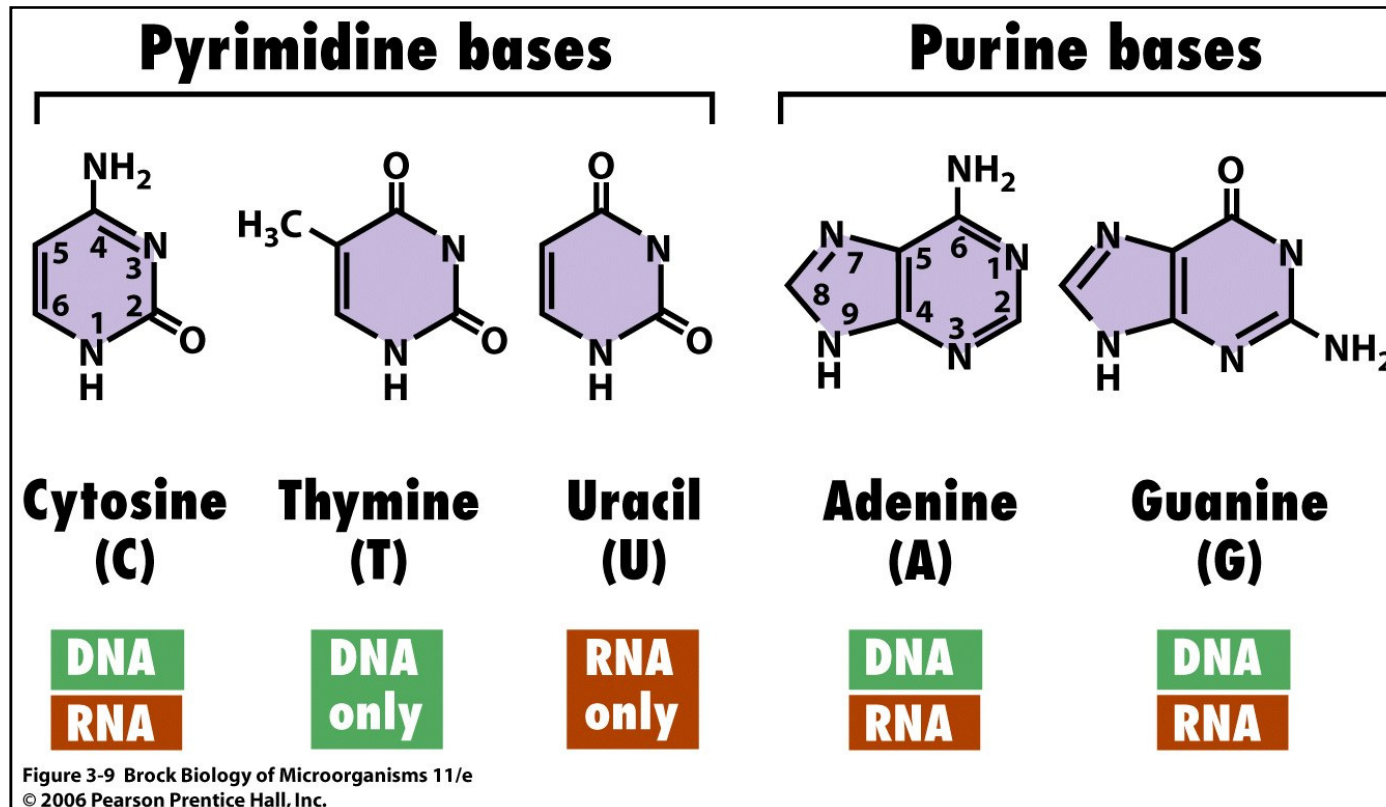
Nucleotide of RNA

Carbohydrates



Bases

- **Nucleotides** (sugar, base and phosphate)
 - Glycoside linkage between carbon atom (C1) and nitrogen atom (N1, pyrimidine base, N9 purine base)
- **Nucleoside** (sugar and base, without phosphate)



Base pairing

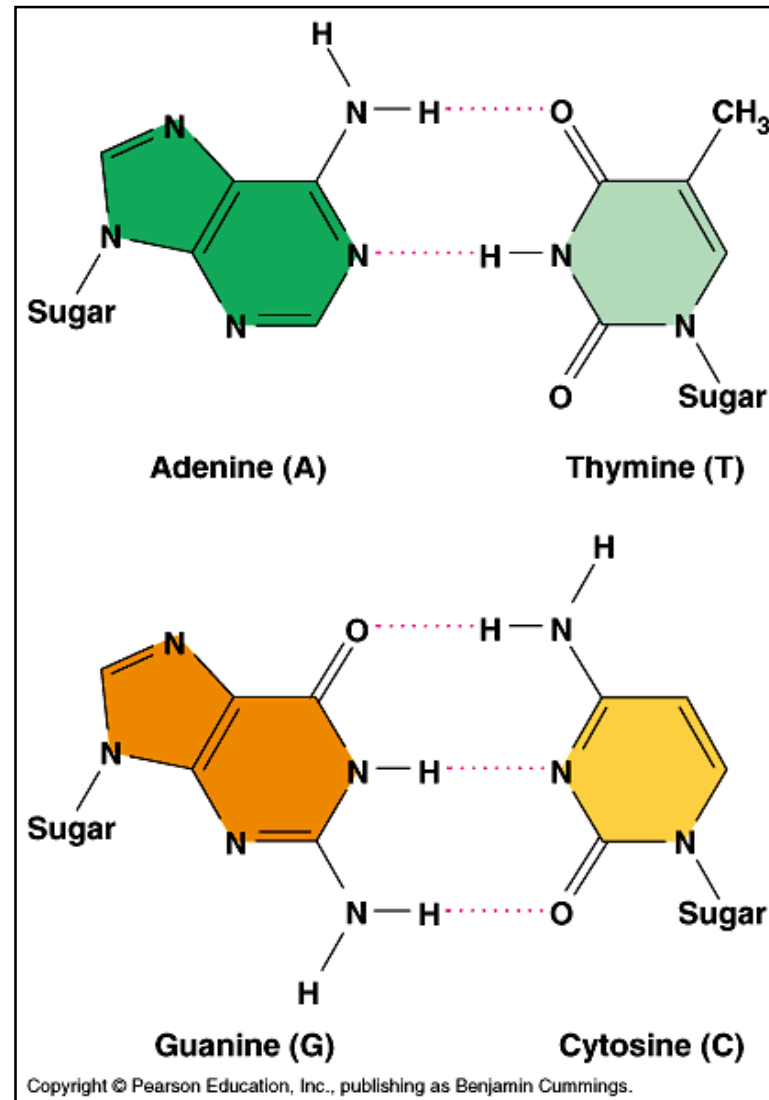
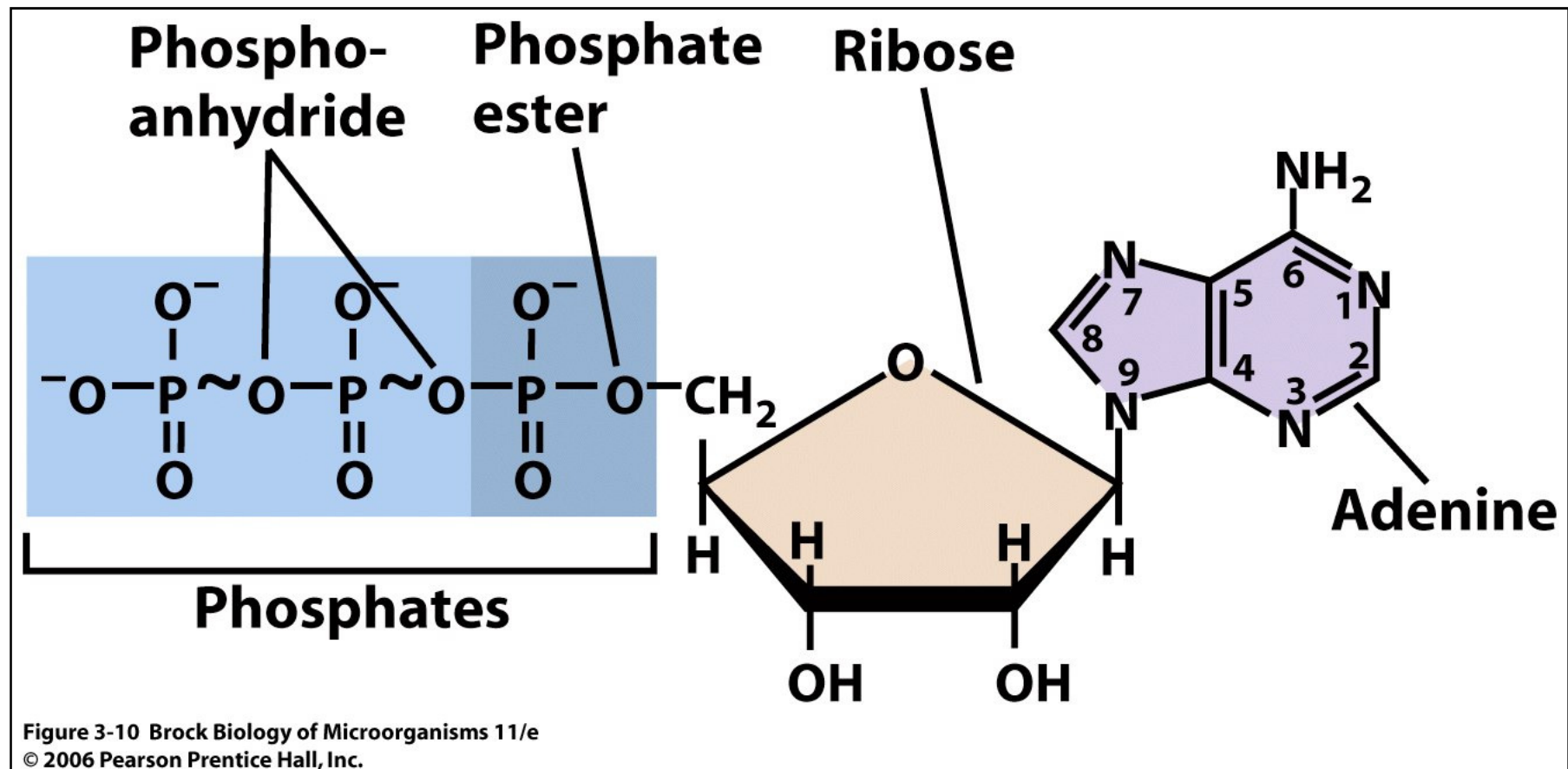


FIGURE 16.6 Biology 6/e

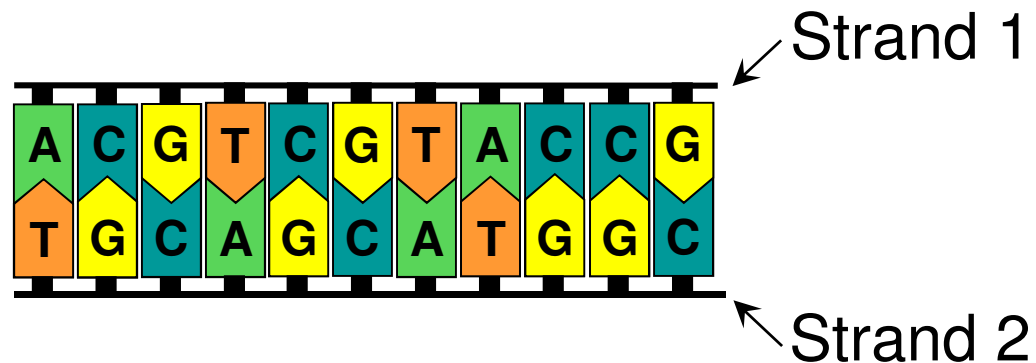
Nucleotides: ATP

- **Adenosine triphosphate** (ATP)
- Sources of **chemical energy** in the cell



Complementation

- In all cellular chromosomes, DNA exists as two polynucleotide strands that are not identical in base sequence, but instead are **complementary**.



DNA Structure

- Nucleotides covalently linked from C3 to C5 (sugar) via phosphate
- **Phosphodiester bond**
- **Sugar-phosphate backbone**

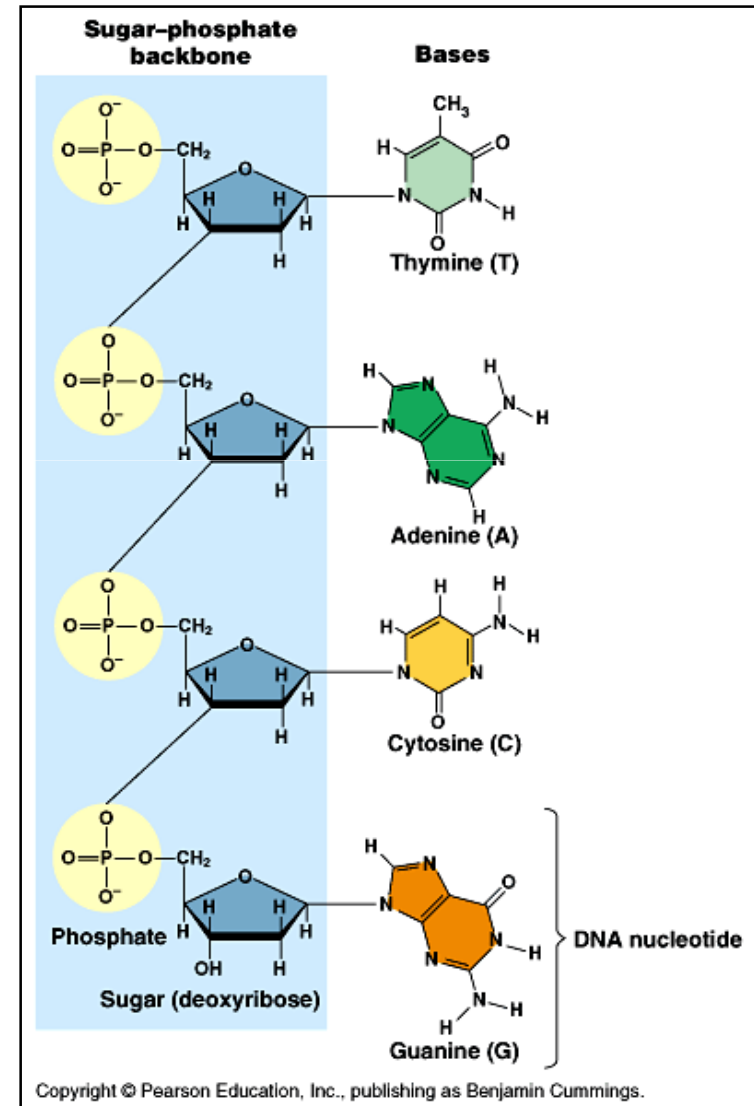
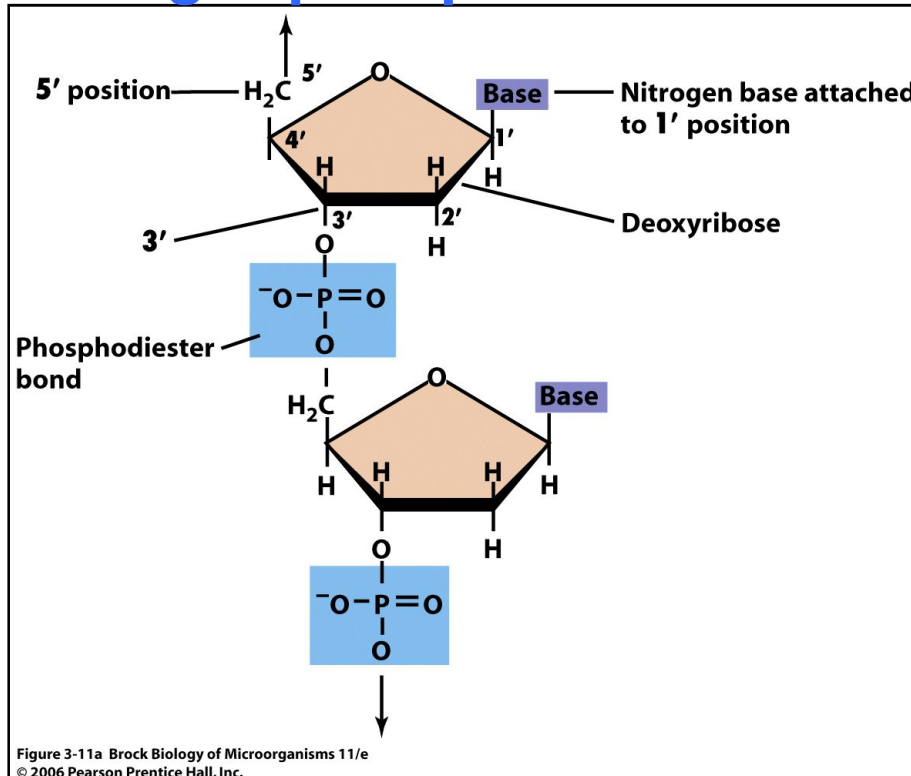
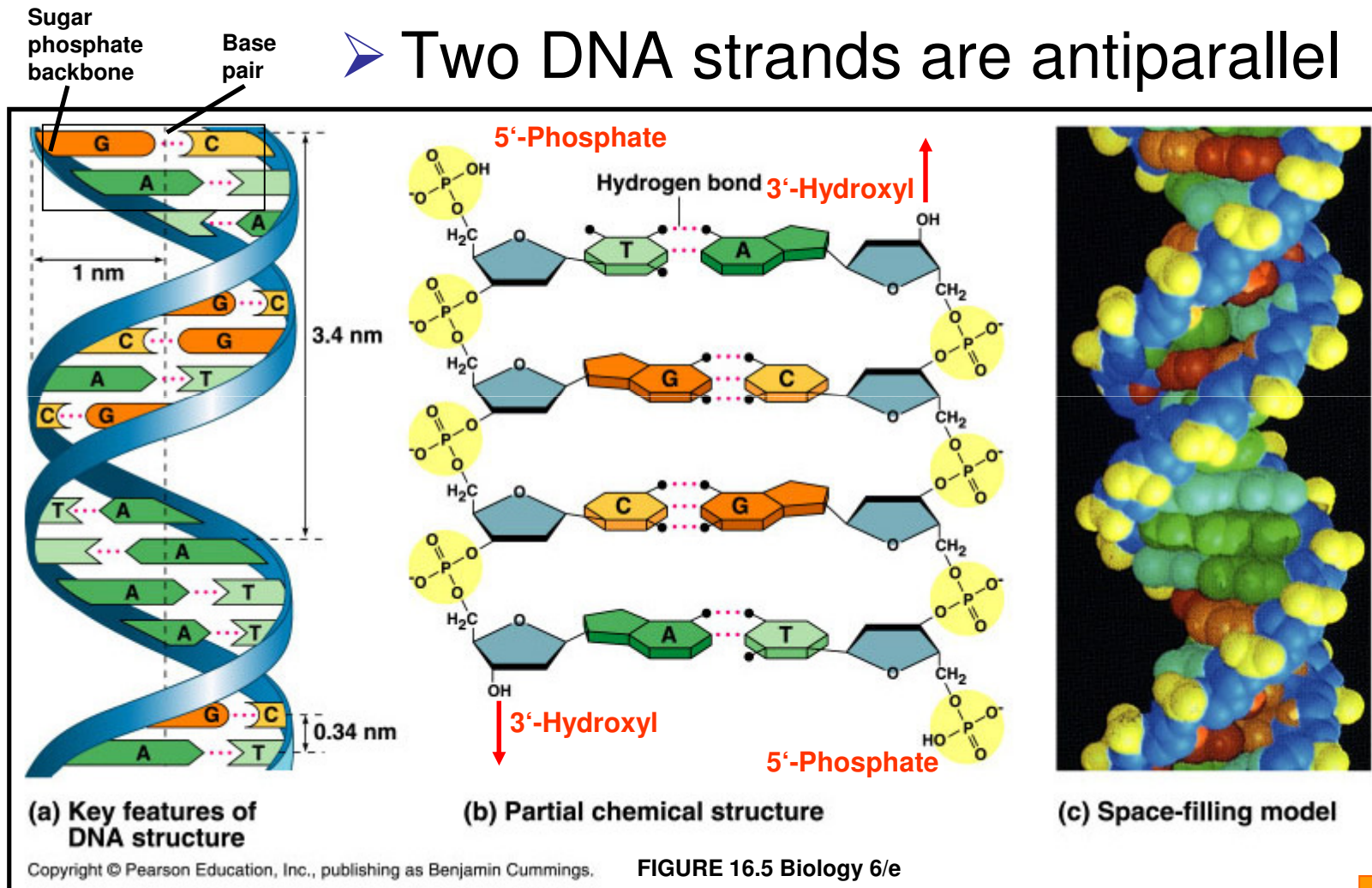


FIGURE 16.3 Biology 6/e

The DNA double helix

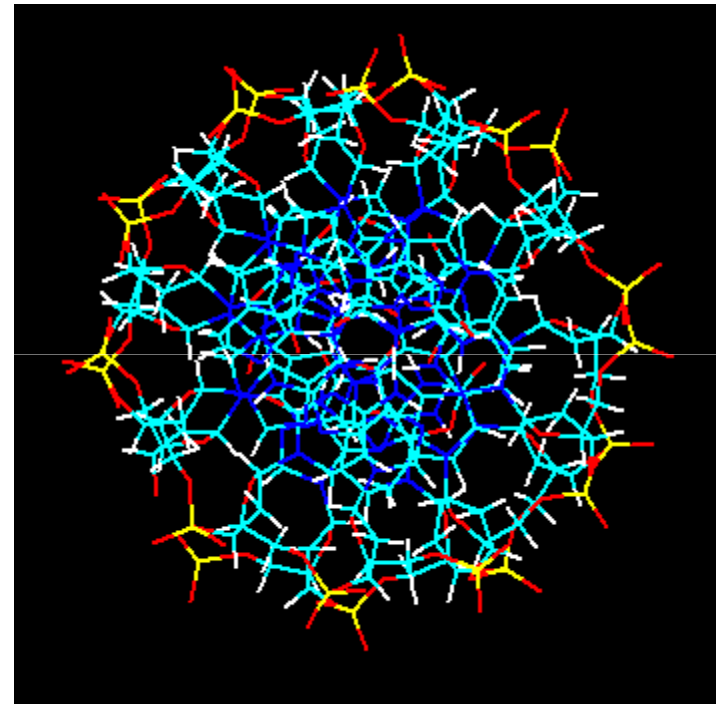
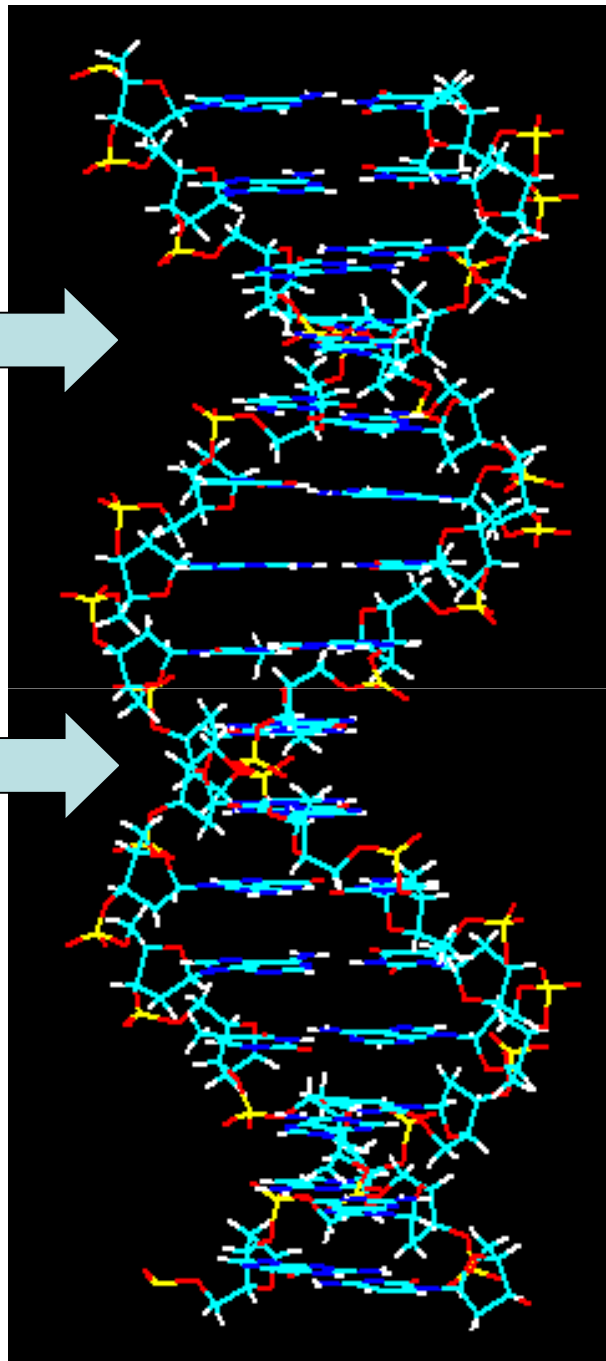
➤ Two DNA strands are antiparallel



major groove



minor groove



Properties of single-stranded DNA & RNA

Sequence with only primary structure



Sequence with primary and secondary structure

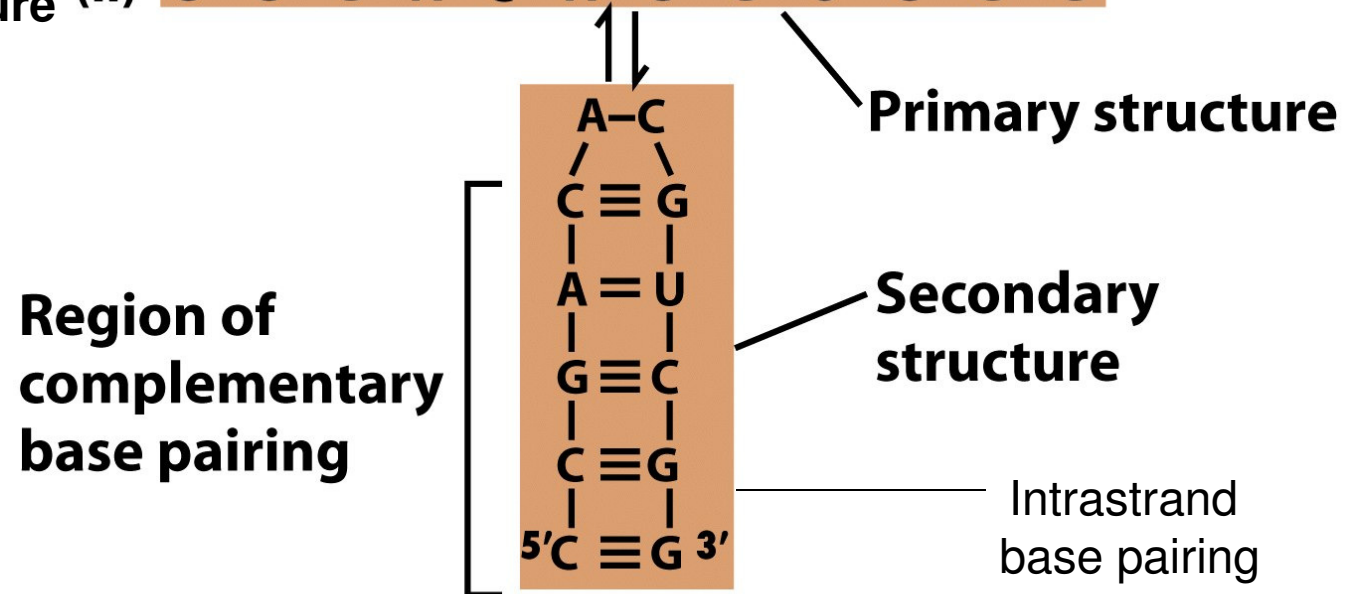
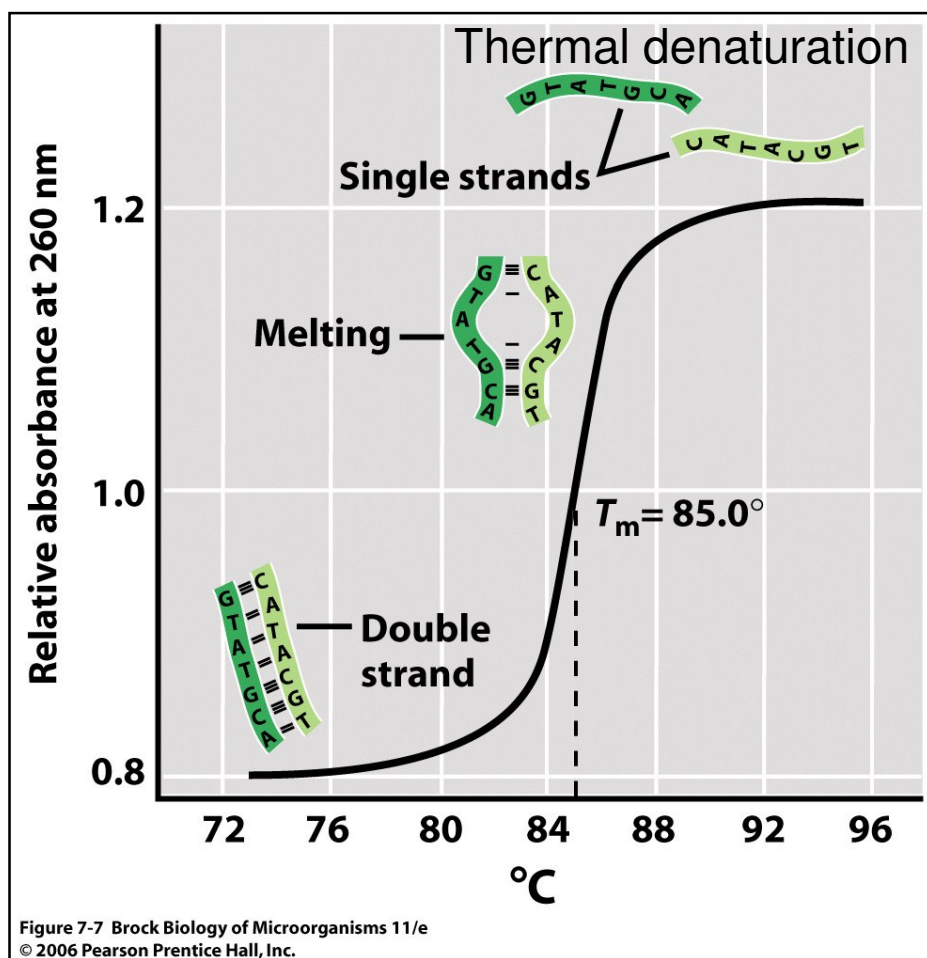


Figure 3-11c Brock Biology of Microorganisms 11/e
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Some nucleic acid sequences influence the secondary structure of the DNA or RNA molecule

Properties of double-stranded DNA

- The effect of temperature on DNA structure



The melting temperature of DNA is determined by the GC content.

Higher GC content requiring higher temperatures.

GC content

Organism

Procaryotes

Bacteria

Archaea

Eucaryotes

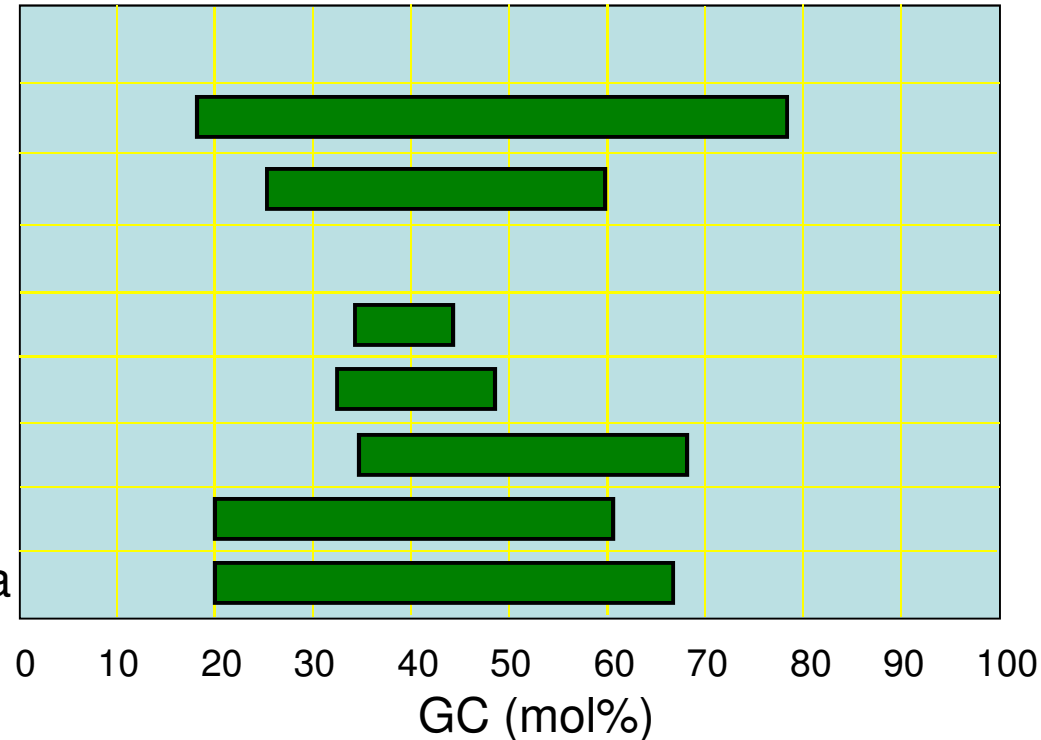
Animals

Plants

Algae

Fungi

Protozoa



- GC content is one of the characteristics analysed in taxonomy.
- Two related organisms have similar GC content.

Size of DNA molecules

The size of DNA molecules is often expressed as the number of thousands of nucleotide bases per molecule.

- A DNA molecule with 1000 bases contains 1 **kilobase** of DNA.
- If DNA is **double stranded**, size is expressed as **kilobase pairs**.
- For example, *E. coli* has about **4600 kilobase pairs** (**4.6 megabase pairs**) in its chromosome.

Chromosomes and other genetic elements

- **Genome:** total complement of genes in a cell or virus
- **Chromosome:** main genetic element in prokaryotes and eukaryotes
- **Non-chromosomal genetic elements:**
 - Viruses** (single- or double stranded DNA or RNA molecule)
 - Plasmids** (mostly double-stranded circular extrachromosomal DNA; self replicating)
 - Mitochondrion/chloroplast** (eukaryotic cell organelles, small chromosome, also complete machinery for protein synthesis)
 - Transposable elements** (molecules of DNA, move from one site of the chromosome to another, prokaryotes & eukaryotes, three types in prokaryotes (insertion sequences, transposon and some special viruses))
















Genetic elements

Table 7.1 Kinds of genetic elements		
Organism	Element	Description
Prokaryote	Chromosome	Extremely long, usually circular, double-stranded DNA molecule
	Plasmid	Typically a relatively short, usually circular, double-stranded DNA molecule, which is extrachromosomal
Eukaryote	Chromosome	Extremely long, linear, double-stranded DNA molecule
	Plasmid ^a	Typically a relatively short circular or linear double-stranded DNA molecule, which is extrachromosomal
All Organisms	Transposable elements	Double-stranded DNA molecule always found within another DNA molecule
Mitochondrion or chloroplast	Chromosome	Intermediate-length DNA molecules, usually circular
Virus	Genome	Single- or double-stranded DNA or RNA molecule

^aPlasmids are uncommon in eukaryotes.

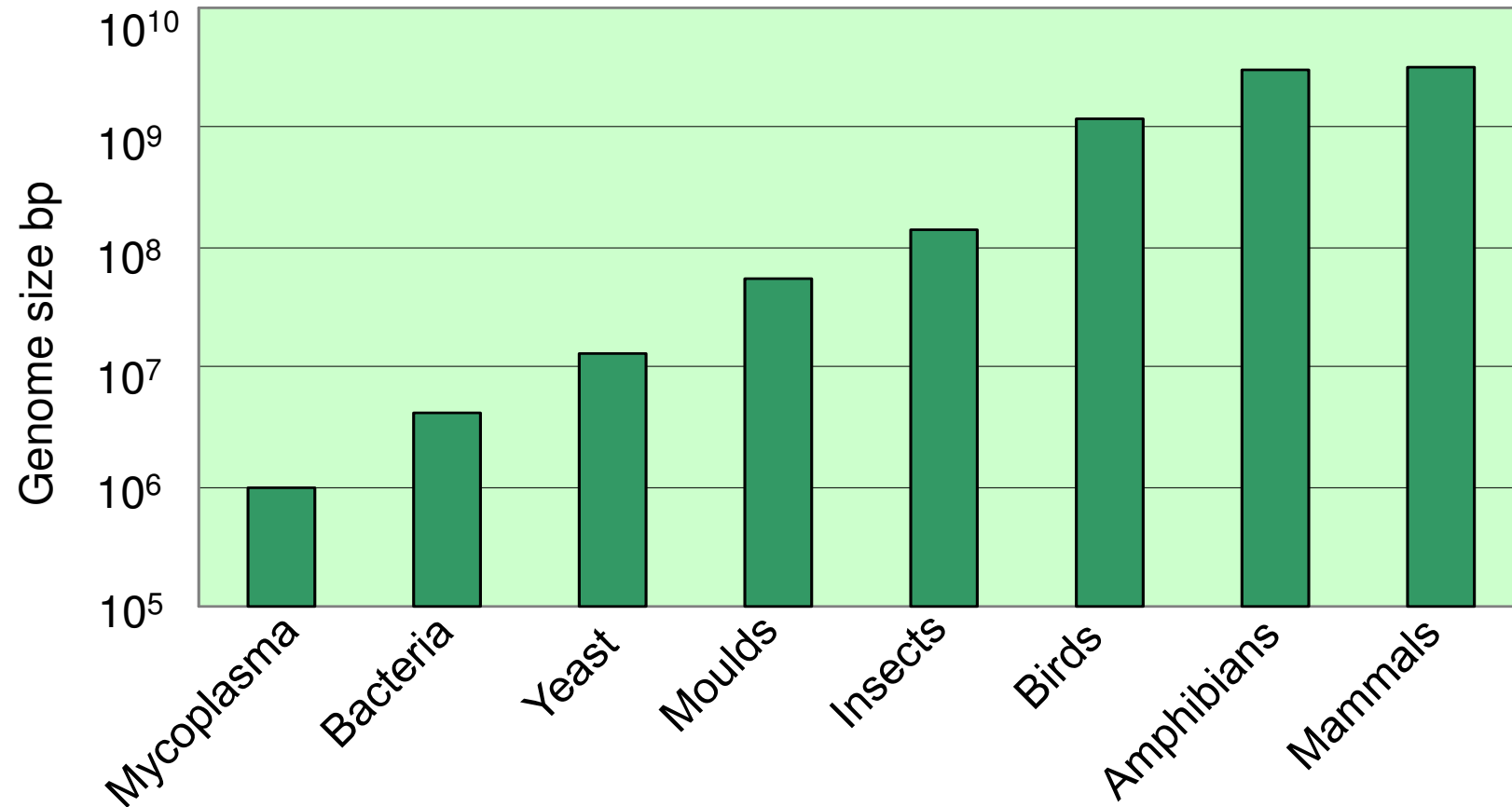
Table 7-1 Brock Biology of Microorganisms 11/e
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Sizes, shapes and numbers of chromosomes in selected microorganisms from each domain of life.

Organism	Comments	Size (Mb)	Chromosome	
			Number	Geometry
Bacteria				
<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i>	Smallest known circular genome	0.58	1	
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	Causes Lymes disease	0.91	1	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	Gram-negative	1.83	1	
<i>Rhodobacter sphaeroides</i>	Gram-negative, phototrophic	4.00	2	
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Gram-positive, genetic model	4.21	1	
<i>Escherichia coli</i> K-12	Gram-negative, genetic model	4.64	1	
<i>Streptomyces coelicolor</i>	Actinomycete, produces antibiotics	8.66	1	
Archaea				
<i>Methanococcus jannaschii</i>	Methanogen which grows at high temperature	1.66	1	
<i>Pyrococcus abyssi</i>	Grows at high temperature	1.77	1	
<i>Halobacterium</i> sp. NRC1	Grows in high salt	2.57	3	
<i>Sulfolobus solfataricus</i>	Grows at high temperature and high acidity	2.99	1	
Eukarya				
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	Flagellated protozoan	12.00	4	
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	yeast	12.06	16	
<i>Dictyostelium discoideum</i>	Cellular slime mould	34.0	6	
<i>Tetrahymena thermophila</i>	Ciliated protozoan	210.0	5	

Brock: Table 7.2

Minimum genome size



Genome = complete set of genes from an organism

Length of DNA molecules

- Size of DNA expressed as the **number of kilobases or kilobase pairs** is an measurement of length.
- **Each base** takes **0.34 nm** in length of the helix.
- Each **turn** of the helix takes **10 bases = 3.4 nm**.

- *E. coli* has **4.6 megabases = 1.56 mm**, approximately **500x longer than an *E. coli* cell!**