

Class 12

Genetic Code

Marshall Nirenberg & Heinrich Matthaei - 1961

1

Main characters involved in the history (approx. in order of appearance)

	Nome	Born-Deceas.	Age in 1961	NPW/area
1	Marshall Nirenberg	1927-2010	34	1968-Med.
2	J. Heinrich Matthaei	1929-	32	
3	Francis Harry Compton Crick	1916-2004	45	1962-Med.
4	James Dewey Watson	1928-	33	1962-Med.
5	George Gamow	1904-1968	57	
6	Har Gobind Khorana	1922-2011	39	1968-Med.
7	Otto Loewi	1873-1961	88	1936-Med.
8	Marianne Grunberg-Manago	1921-2013	40	
9	Christian de Duve	1917-2013	54	1974-Med.
10	Otto Warburg	1883-1970	78	1931-Med.
11	Philip Siekevitz	1918-2009	43	
12	Paul Zamecnik	1912-2009	49	
13	Mahlon Hoagland	1921-2009	40	

2

BACKGROUND

First Ideas about the code

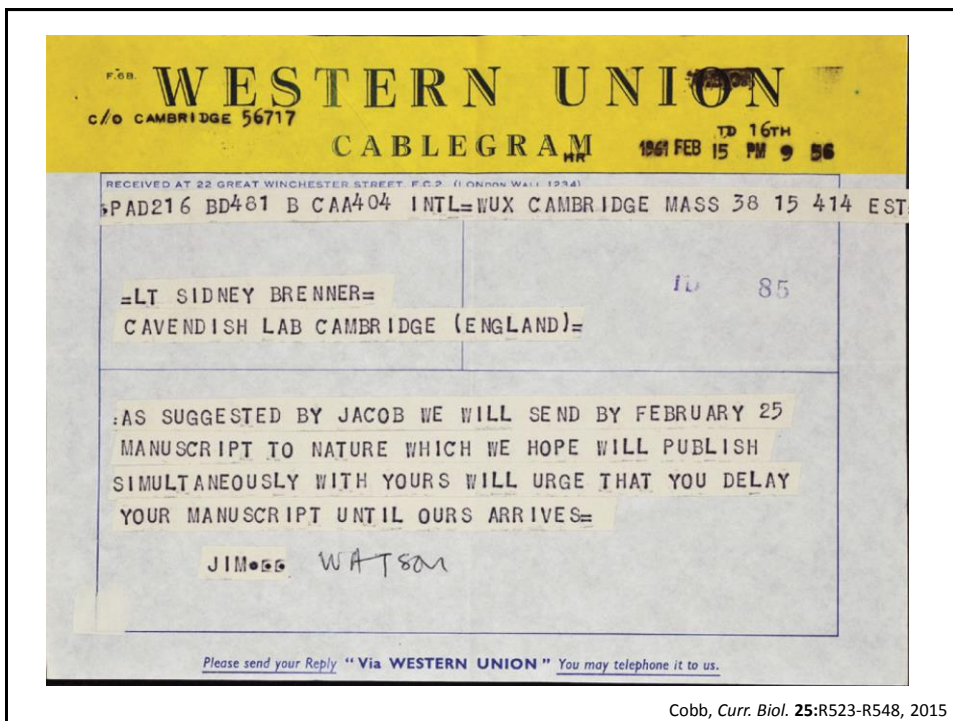
3

In the comparative isolation of Cambridge I must confess that there are times when I have no stomach for decoding.

Francis Crick early 1955

Sydney Brenner coined the term "codon" – the trinucleotide unit that specifies one amino acid.

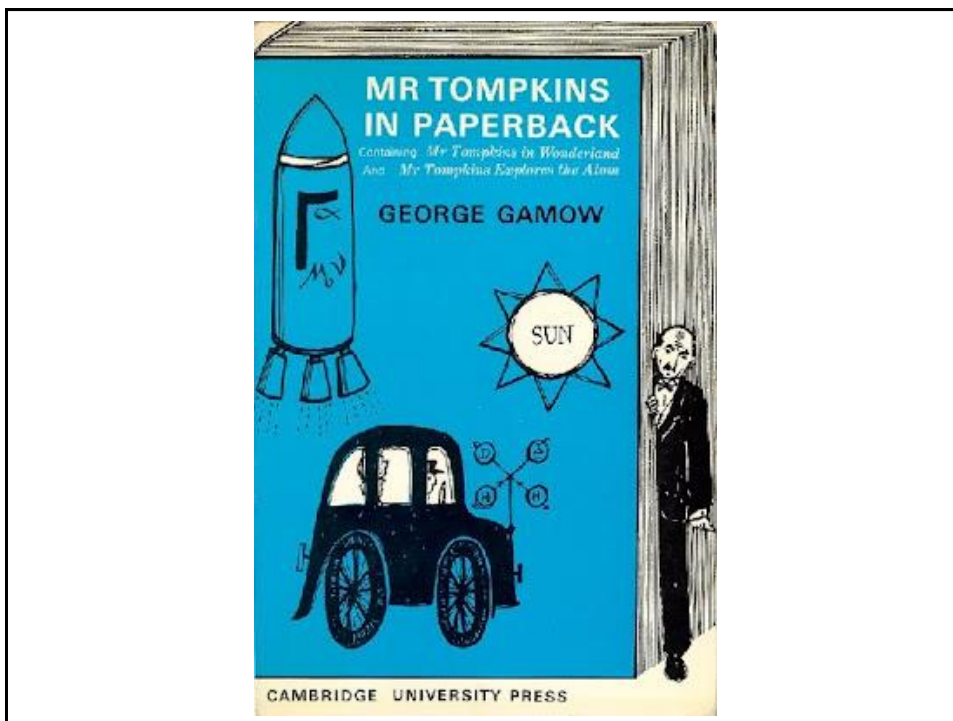
4



5

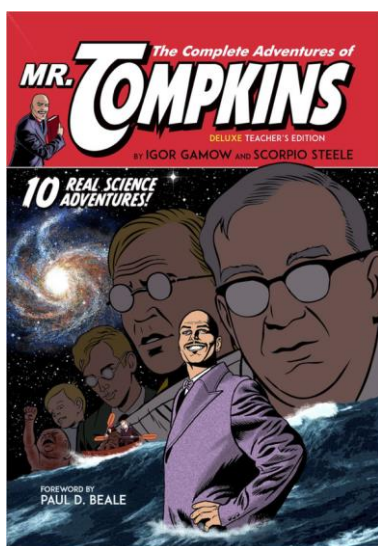


6

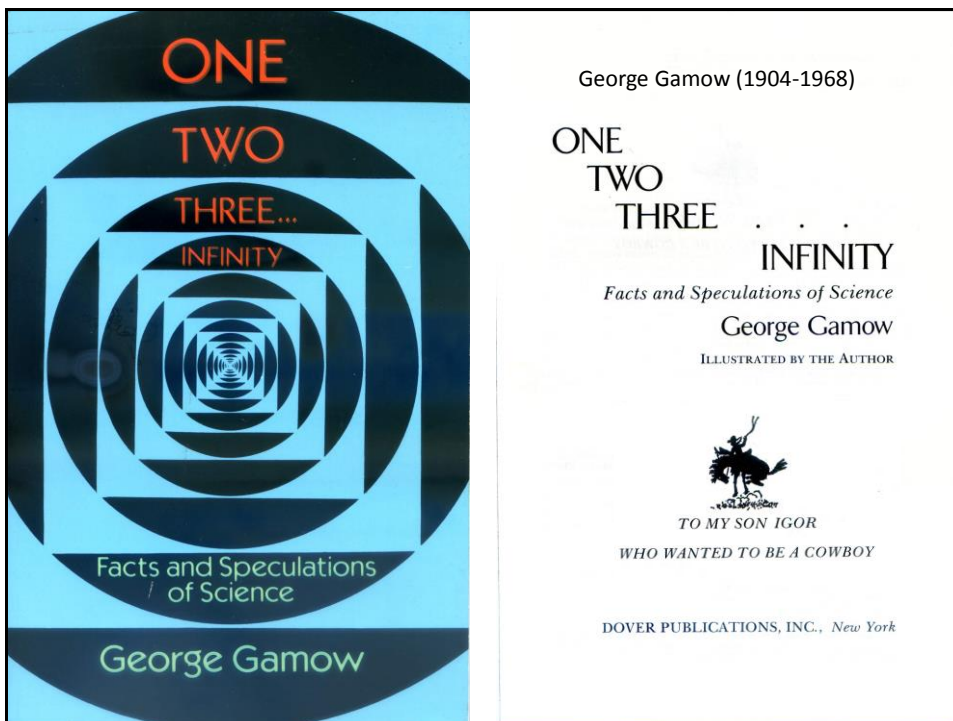


7

<https://bit.ly/3UBtlmN>

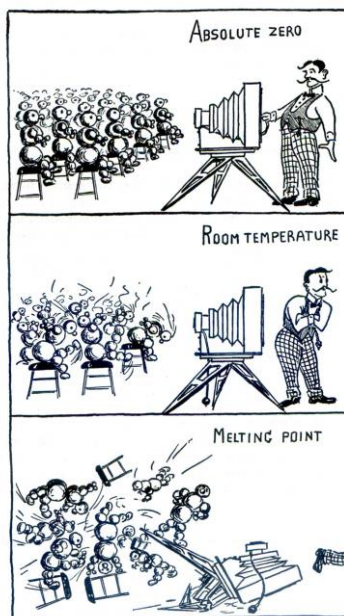


8

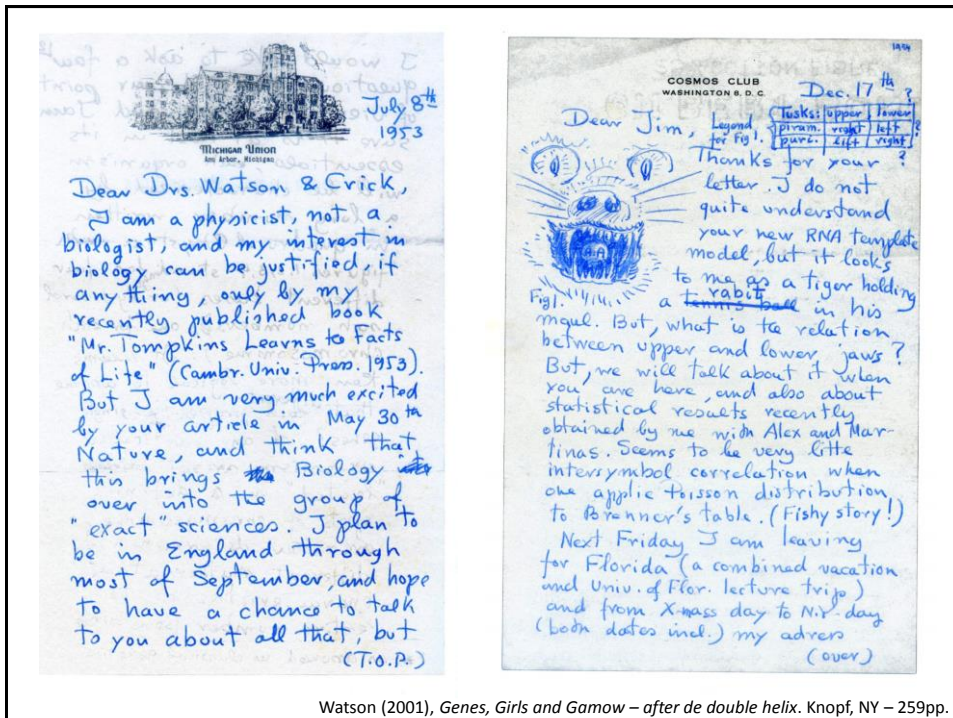


9

One of the 128 drawings that illustrate the book "1, 2, 3... infinity", by G. Gamow



10



Watson (2001), *Genes, Girls and Gamow – after de double helix*. Knopf, NY – 259pp.

11

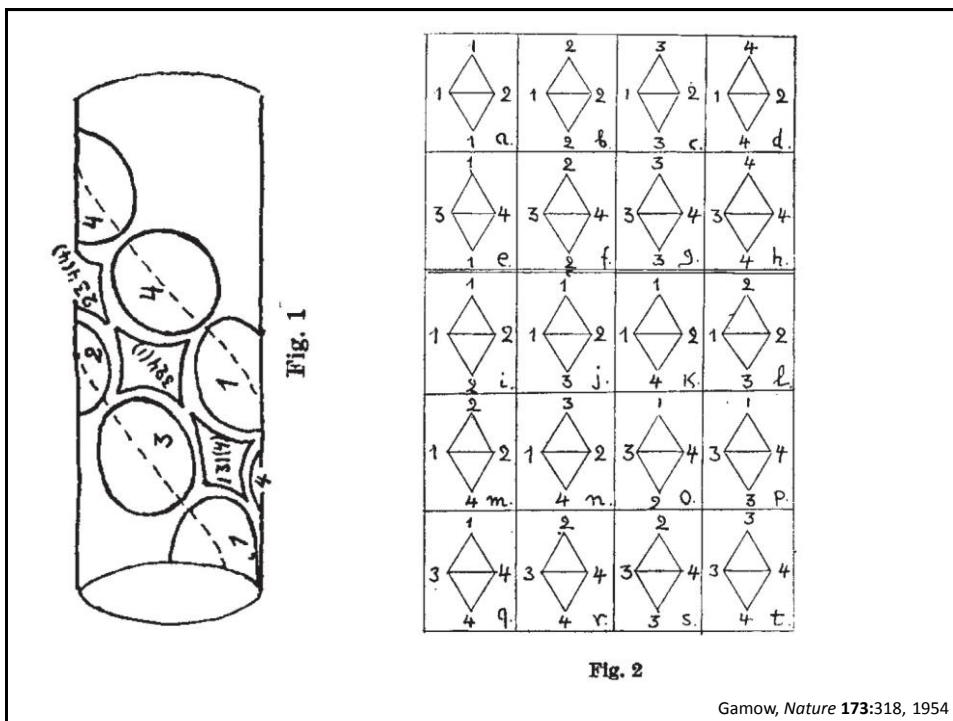
Hypothesis of George Gamow for the coding of proteins in DNA

Possible Relation between Deoxyribonucleic Acid and Protein Structures

IN a communication in *Nature* of May 30, p. 964, J. D. Watson and F. H. C. Crick showed that the molecule of deoxyribonucleic acid, which can be considered as a chromosome fibre, consists of two parallel chains formed by only four different kinds of nucleotides. These are either (1) adenine, or (2) thymine, or (3) guanine, or (4) cytosine with sugar and phosphate molecules attached to them. Thus the hereditary properties of any given organism could be characterized by a long number written in a four-digital system. On the other hand, the enzymes (proteins), the composition of which must be completely determined by the deoxyribonucleic acid

Gamow, *Nature* 173:318, 1954

12

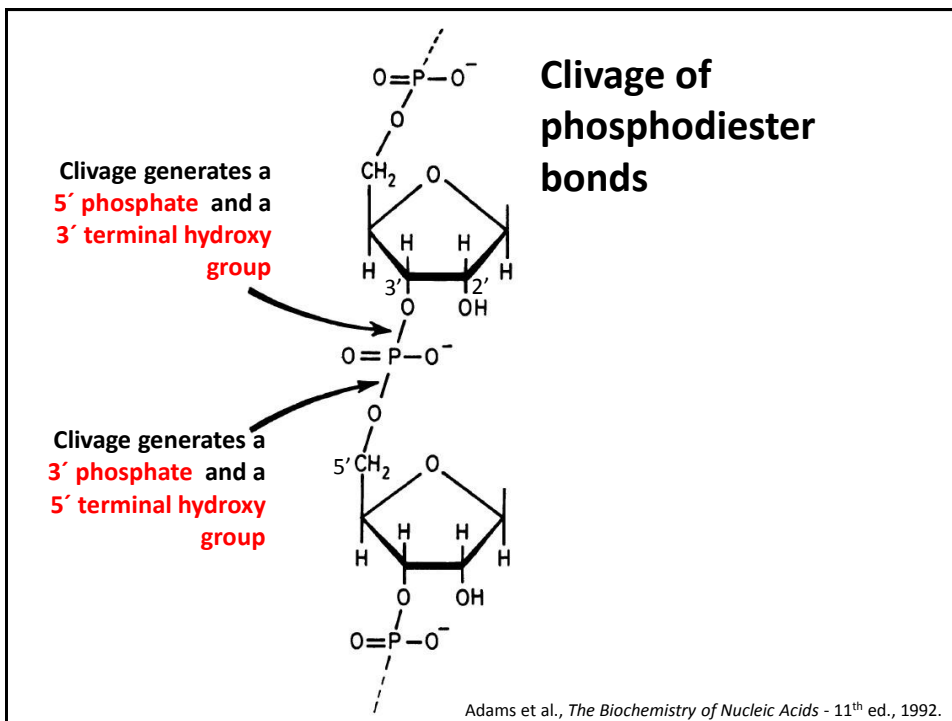


13

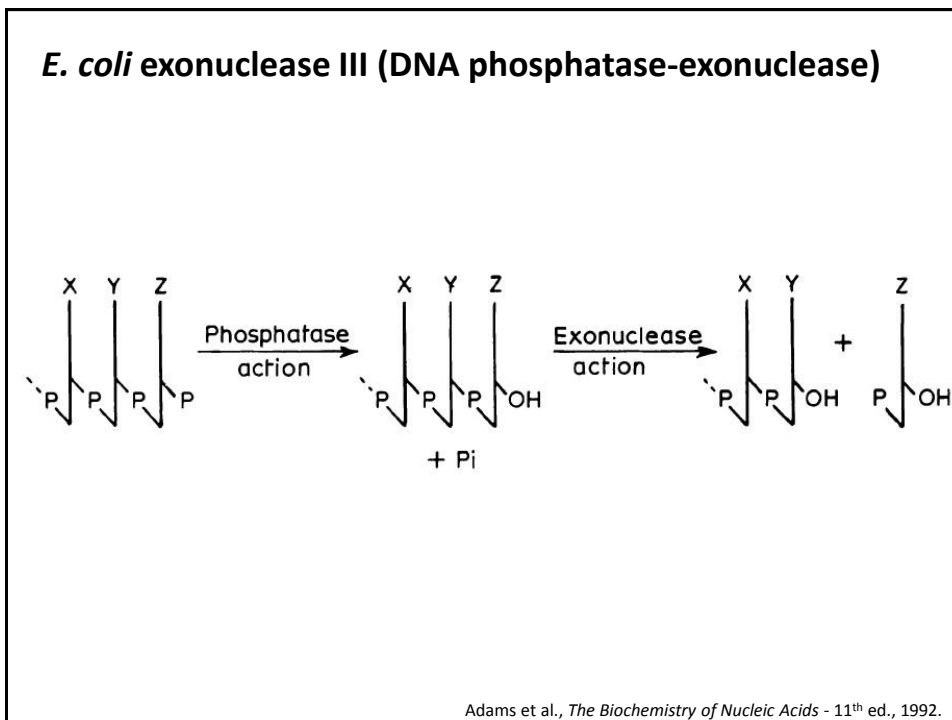
BACKGROUND

A pinch of chemistry

14

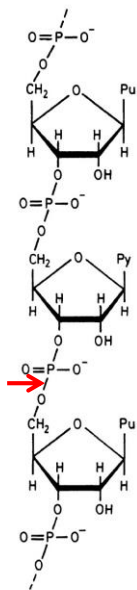


15



16

Action of pancreatic RNase on RNA



Adams et al., *The Biochemistry of Nucleic Acids* - 11th ed., 1992.

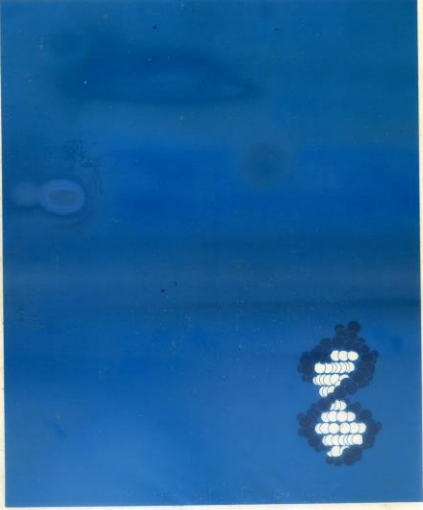
17

BACKGROUND


The code in 1965

18

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE GENE



JAMES D. WATSON



Dr. J. D. Watson is a member of the Biology Department of Harvard University. Born in Chicago in 1928, he received his B.S. degree from the University of Chicago in 1947 and the Ph.D. degree in 1950 from Indiana University. In 1950-1951 he did postdoctoral research in Copenhagen, moving in 1951-1953 to the Cavendish Laboratory of Cambridge University. It was here that he met Francis Crick and began a collaboration which resulted, in the spring of 1953, in the elucidation of the double helical structure of DNA. From 1953-1955, while he was a senior research fellow in Biology at the California Institute of Technology, he worked on the structure of RNA. He joined the Biology Faculty of Harvard University in 1956, becoming a Professor in 1961. His principal research interests include the mechanism of protein synthesis and the replication of viruses.

Dr. Watson is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1962, together with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology.

OTHER BENJAMIN TITLES

THE MITOCHONDRION A. L. LEHNINGER 288 pages	The Johns Hopkins University clothbound
THE BIOSYNTHESIS OF MACROMOLECULES V. M. INGRAM 223 pages	Massachusetts Institute of Technology paperbound and clothbound
TETRAPYRROLE BIOSYNTHESIS AND ITS REGULATION J. LASCELLES 144 pages	Oxford University clothbound
BIOENERGETICS A. L. LEHNINGER 264 pages	The Johns Hopkins University paperbound and clothbound

W. A. BENJAMIN, INC. NEW YORK

19

J. D. WATSON
Harvard University

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE GENE

to S. E. LURIA (1912-1991)

1965

W. A. BENJAMIN, INC. New York Amsterdam

20

TABLE 13-1 *The 64 possible three-letter codons*

AAA	AAG	AAC	AAU
AGA	AGG	AGC	AGU
ACA	ACG	ACC	ACU
AUA	AUG	AUC	AUU
GAA	GAG	GAC	GAU
GGA	GGG	GGC	GGU
GCA	GCG	GCC	GCU
GUA	GUG	GUC	GUU
CAA	CAG	CAC	CAU
CGA	CGG	CGC	CGU
CCA	CCG	CCC	CCU
CUA	CUG	CUC	CUU
UAA	UAG	UAC	UAU
UGA	UGG	UGC	UGU
UCA	UCG	UCC	UCU
UUA	UUG	UUC	UUU

Watson (1965) *Molecular Biology of the Gene* – 1a. Edição - Benjamin

21

POLY U CODES FOR POLYPHENYLALANINE

Poly U was the first synthetic polyribonucleotide discovered to have mRNA activity. None of its bases are normally hydrogen bonded in solution, and it binds well to free ribosomes. It selects phenylalanine sRNA molecules exclusively, thereby forming a polypeptide chain containing only phenylalanine (polyphenylalanine). Thus we know that a codon for phenylalanine is composed of a group of three uridylic acid residues (UUU) (the group number 3 comes from the genetic experiments described in Chapter 9). Similarly, we are able tentatively to assign (CCC) as a proline codon and (AAA) as a lysine codon on the basis of analogous experiments with poly C and poly A. Unfortunately, the guanine residues in poly G firmly hydrogen bond to each other and form multistranded triple helices that do not bond to ribosomes. Thus this type of experiment cannot tell us whether (GGG) is a functional codon.

Watson (1965) *Molecular Biology of the Gene* – 1a. Edição - Benjamin

22

374

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE GENE

TABLE 13-5 The genetic code as of May, 1965^a

First position (5' end)	Second position				Third position (3' end)
	U	C	A	G	
U	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	U
	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	C
	<u>Leu</u>	Ser	<u>Nonsense</u>		A
	<u>Leu</u>	Ser	<u>Nonsense</u>	Try	G
C	Leu	Pro	His	<u>Arg</u>	U
	Leu	Pro	His	<u>Arg</u>	C
		Pro	GluN	<u>Arg</u>	A
		Pro	GluN	<u>Arg</u>	G
A	<u>Ileu</u>	<u>Thr</u>	<u>AspN</u>	<u>Ser</u>	U
	<u>Ileu</u>	<u>Thr</u>	<u>AspN</u>	<u>Ser</u>	C
	<u>Ileu</u>	<u>Thr</u>	Lys	Arg	A
	<u>Meth</u>	<u>Thr</u>	Lys	Arg	G
G	Val	Ala	Asp	<u>Gly</u>	U
	Val	Ala	Asp	<u>Gly</u>	C
	Val	Ala	Glu	<u>Gly</u>	A
	Val	Ala	Glu	<u>Gly</u>	G

^a The nucleotide order within nonunderlined codons is firmly established. Codons underlined are given on a tentative basis.

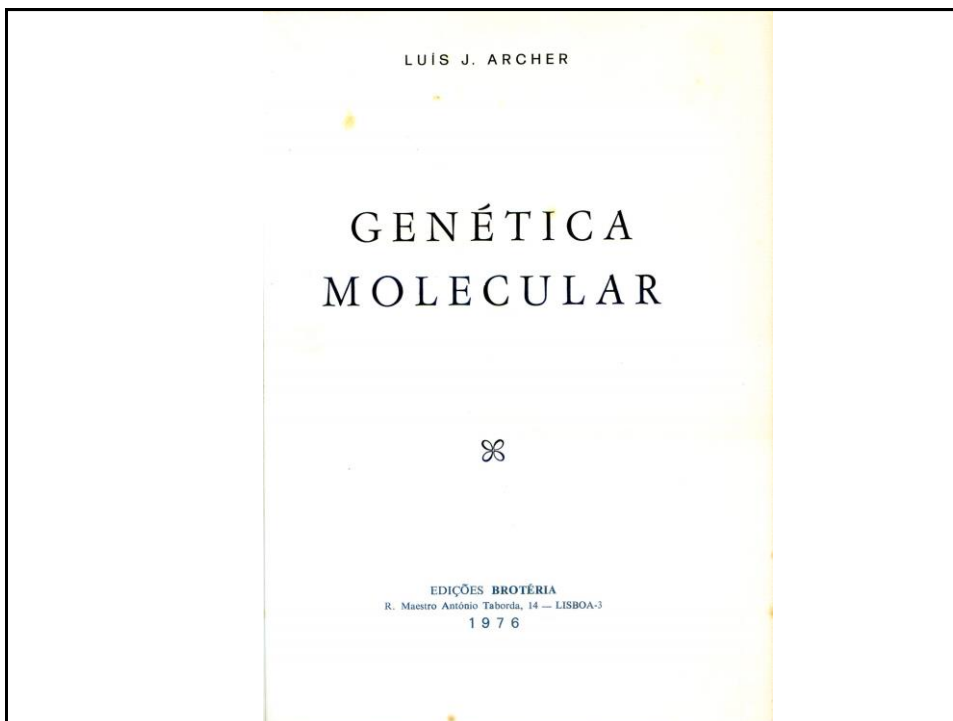
Watson (1965) *Molecular Biology of the Gene* – 1a. Edição - Benjamin

23

BACKGROUND

The Code in 1976

24



25

CAPÍTULO VI

O CÓDIGO INFORMATIVO

Mesmo depois de se conhecer, nas suas linhas gerais, o mecanismo pelo qual o DNA se transcreve e traduz, ainda era pouco mais que um sonho a pretensão de decifrar em termos químicos o código exacto segundo o qual cada aminoácido é arquivado no DNA.

Entre os anos 60 e 70 esse sonho tornou-se realidade, e vamos percorrer sumariamente o fascinante processo científico que conduziu à revelação do mais íntimo segredo do DNA.

1. O codão é um triplete não-sobreposto e não-irgulado

a) São 20 os aminoácidos que, em combinações e proporções diferentes, entram na constituição das proteínas dos seres vivos. Por outro lado, são 4 as bases do DNA e do RNA. O número de arranjos completos das 4 bases tomadas duas a duas seria apenas 16 (insuficiente, portanto, para a codificação específica dos aminoácidos). O número de arranjos completos das 4 bases, tomadas 3 a 3, é de 64 (mais que suficiente para os aminoácidos existentes). Estas considerações foram as primeiras a sugerir que a unidade de codificação, ou **codão**, seja formada por 3 nucleotídeos («triplete»).

b) A hipótese do código **sobreposto** («overlapping code») admitia que na série de bases os tripletes poderiam ser, tal como vai indicado,

A	B	C	D	E	F

ABC, BCD, CDE, etc.

Se assim fosse,

- deveria verificar-se uma frequente associação dos aminoácidos que se encontram lado a lado nas proteínas, e isso não se verifica.
- a alteração de uma base deveria alterar mais do que um aminoácido. Isto também não se verifica. Conhecem-se, há muito, vários

7

Archer (1976) Genética Molecular – Edições Brotéria - Lisboa

QUADRO VIII

O CÓDIGO GENÉTICO

SEGUNDA BASE

		U	C	A	G	
P R I M E I R A B A S E	U	UUU } fen UUC } UUA } leu UUG } —	UCU } UCC } ser UCA } UCG } —	UAU } UAC } tir UAA } — UAG } —	UGU } cis UGC } UGA } — UGG } trp	U C A G
	C	CUU } CUC } leu CUA } CUG } —	CCU } CCC } pro CCA } CCG } —	CAU } his CAC } CAA } gln CAG } —	CGU } CGC } arg CGA } CGG } —	U C A G
	A	AUU } AUC } ile AUA } AUG : met	ACU } ACC } tre ACA } ACG } —	AAU } asn AAC } AAA } lis AAG } —	AGU } ser AGC } AGA } arg AGG } —	U C A G
	G	GUU } GUC } val GUA } GUG } —	GCU } GCC } ala GCA } GCG } —	GAU } asp GAC } GAA } glu GAG } —	GGU } GGC } gli GGA } GGG } —	U C A G

26

BACKGROUND

Har Gobind Khorana

“We must be modest except in our aims”

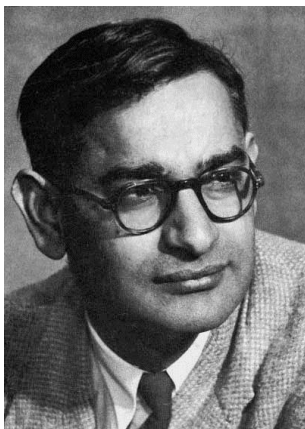
Otto Loewi cited by Khorana

27

Har Gobind Khorana (1922-2011)

هار گوبند خورانا

NPW 1968



Master in Chemistry at the University of Punjab in Lahore

Doctorate fellowship (PhD) in organic chemistry at the University of Liverpool, England.

Doctor degree obtained in 1948

Works at the ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule) in Zurich - group of Vladimir Prelog (NPW 1975)

Finds the little known paper published by Fritz Zetzsche about the carbodiimides -> will latter use the method for the synthesis of nucleotide cofactors and ATP.

28

A year later runs out of money Zurich.

Fails at concourse in India and obtains a three year fellowship with Alexander Todd, University of Cambridge.

Is introduced to the results obtained by Sanger, Perutz, Kendrew and falls in love with Molecular Biology.

1952 - begins an independent career as non-academic researcher at the "British Columbia Research Council" in Vancouver, Canada. Synthesizes ATP and nucleotide cofactors

1960-1970. Moves to the Institute for Enzyme Research at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Shows that CUCUCU codes for a polypeptide with Leucine (CUC) and Serine (UCU).

Synthesizes the gene for tRNA_{Ala} with the regulatory regions and shows that it functions inside a bacterial cell.

Leaves Madison and goes to the MIT where he works with bacteriorhodopsin.

29

H. Gobind Khorana F. Crick M. Grunberg-Manago



Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on the Genetic Code - 1966

30

Marshall Nirenberg

H. Gobind Khorana



2009

31

Chemical synthesis of dinucleotides - Khorana

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **80**:6212–6222, 1958

[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CHEMISTRY DIVISION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RESEARCH COUNCIL.]

Studies on Polynucleotides. I. A New and General Method for the Chemical Synthesis of the C_{5'}-C_{3'} Internucleotidic Linkage. Syntheses of Deoxyribo-dinucleotides¹

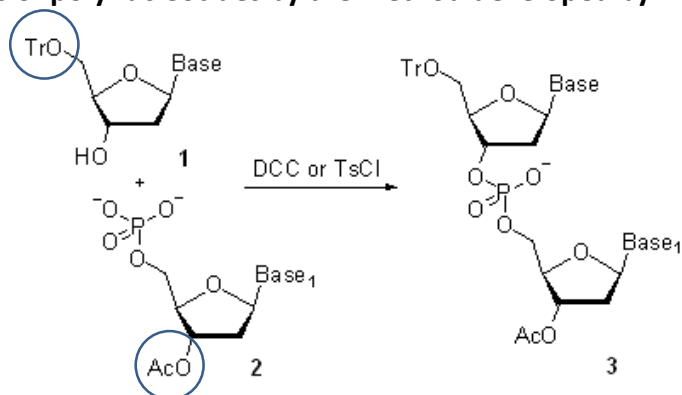
BY P. T. GILHAM AND H. G. KHORANA

RECEIVED APRIL 14, 1958

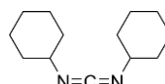
A new method has been developed for the specific synthesis of the naturally-occurring (C_{5'}-C_{3'}) internucleotidic linkage; it involves reaction of a suitably protected deoxynucleotide with a second protected deoxy-nucleoside or -nucleotide in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide or *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride. By this approach the three dinucleoside phosphates VIIa, VIIb and VIIc have been prepared in good yield. Procedures are described for the synthesis of deoxyribo-dinucleotides bearing 5'- or 3'-phosphoryl end-groups; these are illustrated by the synthesis of the two isomeric dithymidine dinucleotides (XII and XIV), and a mixed dinucleotide (XVI) containing the nucleosides, deoxyadenosine and thymidine. The results of enzymic and acidic degradative experiments are recorded and these provide additional characterization of the synthetic compounds. Some general observations on the scope and mechanism of this method of "phosphodiester" synthesis also are included.

32

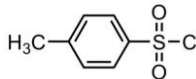
Synthesis of polynucleotides by the method developed by Khorana



DCC = N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide



TsCl = 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride

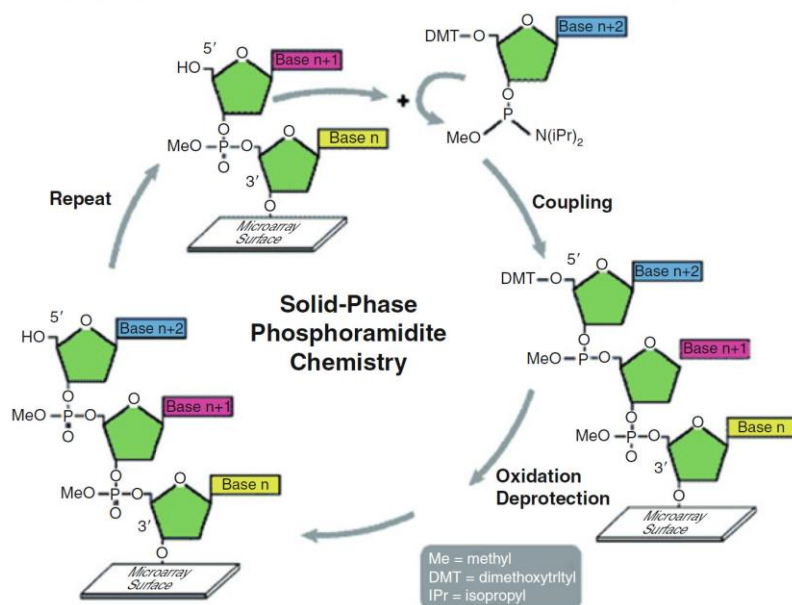


Same strategy that was already used for the synthesis of peptides in 1958

Gilham & Khorana, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* **80**:6212-6222, 1958.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligonucleotide_synthesis

33

Synthesis of oligonucleotides today



34

J. Mol. Biol. (1971) **56**, 341–361

Studies on Polynucleotides

XCVI.† Repair Replication of Short Synthetic DNA's as catalyzed by DNA Polymerases

K. KLEPPE,† E. OHTSUKA,§ R. KLEPPE,† I. MOLINEUX ||
AND H. G. KHORANA ||

*Institute for Enzyme Research of the University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisc. 53706, U.S.A.*

(Received 20 July 1970)

35

The principles for extensive synthesis of the duplexed tRNA genes which emerge from the present work are the following. The DNA duplex would be denatured to form single strands. This denaturation step would be carried out in the presence of a sufficiently large excess of the two appropriate primers. Upon cooling, one would hope to obtain two structures, each containing the full length of the template strand appropriately complexed with the primer. DNA polymerase will be added to complete the process of repair replication. Two molecules of the original duplex should result. The whole cycle could be repeated, there being added every time a fresh dose of the enzyme. It is however, possible that upon cooling after denaturation of the DNA duplex, renaturation to form the original duplex would predominate over the template-primer complex formation. If this tendency could not be circumvented by adjusting the concentrations of the primers, clearly one would have to resort to the separation of the strands and then carry out repair replication. After every cycle of repair replication, the process of strand separation would have to be repeated. Experiments based on these lines of thought are in progress.

36

Journal of Molecular Biology
Volume 72, Issue 2, Pages 259-492 (28 December 1972) Articles 1 - 13

Download PDFs Export All access types

CIII. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Original Research Article
 Pages 259-277
 H.G. Khorana, K.L. Agnew, H. Büchi, M.H. Caruthers, N.K. Gupta, K. Köppe, A. Kumar, E. Ohtsuka, U.L. Rajbhandary, J.H. van de Sande, V. Sparamella, T. Terao, H. Weber, T. Yamada
 Abstract PDF (816 K)

CIV. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Chemical synthesis of an icosa-deoxyribonucleotide corresponding to the nucleotide sequence 21 to 40. Original Research Article
 Pages 279-289
 H. Weber, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (2507 K)

CV. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Chemical synthesis of an icosa-deoxyribonucleotide corresponding to the nucleotide sequence 31 to 50. Original Research Article
 Pages 291-298
 H. Büchi, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (2707 K)

CVI. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Synthesis of two nonanucleotides and a heptanucleotide corresponding to nucleotide sequences 22 to 30, 41 to 49 and 28 to 34. Original Research Article
 Pages 299-307
 A. Kumar, E. Ohtsuka, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1375 K)

CVII. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Synthesis of a dodeca-deoxyribonucleotide and a hexa-deoxyribonucleotide corresponding to the nucleotide sequences 1 to 12. Original Research Article
 Pages 309-327
 E. Ohtsuka, A. Kumar, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1305 K)

CVIII. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Synthesis of an undeca-deoxyribonucleotide, a decada-deoxyribonucleotide and an octa-deoxyribonucleotide corresponding to the nucleotide sequences 7 to 27. Original Research Article
 Pages 329-348
 A. Kumar, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1402 K)

CIX. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Synthesis of a dodeca-deoxyribonucleotide and a decada-deoxyribonucleotide corresponding to the nucleotide sequence 46 to 65. Original Research Article
 Pages 351-373
 K.L. Agnew, A. Kumar, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1435 K)

CX. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Synthesis of three decada-deoxyribonucleotides corresponding to the nucleotide sequence 51 to 70. Original Research Article
 Pages 375-405
 M.H. Caruthers, J.H. van de Sande, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (2167 K)

CXI. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer ribonucleic acid from yeast. Synthesis of a dodeca-deoxyribonucleotide and a hepta-deoxyribonucleotide corresponding to the nucleotide sequence 66 to 77. Original Research Article
 Pages 407-428
 M.H. Caruthers, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1404 K)

CXII. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer RNA from yeast. Enzymic joining of the chemically synthesized polydeoxyribonucleotides to form the DNA duplex representing nucleotide sequence 1 to 20. Original Research Article
 Pages 429-444
 V. Sparamella, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1261 K)

CXIII. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer RNA from yeast. Enzymic joining of the chemically synthesized segments to form the DNA duplex corresponding to nucleotide sequence 17 to 50. Original Research Article
 Pages 445-458
 V. Sparamella, K. Köppe, T. Terao, N.K. Gupta, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (830 K)

CXIV. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer RNA from yeast. Enzymic joining of the chemically synthesized segments to form the DNA duplex corresponding to nucleotide sequence 46 to 77. Original Research Article
 Pages 459-474
 J.H. van de Sande, M.H. Caruthers, V. Sparamella, T. Yamada, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1171 K)

CXV. Total synthesis of the structural gene for an alanine transfer RNA from yeast. Enzymic joining to form the total DNA duplex. Original Research Article
 Pages 475-492
 M.H. Caruthers, K. Köppe, J.H. van de Sande, V. Sparamella, K.L. Agnew, H. Büchi, N.K. Gupta, A. Kumar, E. Ohtsuka, U.L. Rajbhandary, T. Terao, H. Weber, T. Yamada, H.G. Khorana
 Abstract PDF (1049 K)

Articles 1 - 13

Issue nr 2 of vol. 72 (1972) of JMB had
13 papers by Khorana's group on the
synthesis of tRNA_{Ala}

37

THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY
Vol. 240, No. 5, May 1965
Printed in U.S.A.

1965

Nucleotide Sequences in the Yeast Alanine Transfer Ribonucleic Acid*

ROBERT W. HOLLEY, GEORGE A. EVERETT, JAMES T. MADISON, AND ADA ZAMIR

From the United States Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory, Soil and Water Conservation Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Biochemistry, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

(Received for publication, November 27, 1964)

The purification of the yeast alanine-, tyrosine-, and valine-transfer ribonucleic acids by countercurrent distribution has been described (1), and preliminary data have been reported on the oligonucleotide compositions of these RNAs (2, 3). The present paper summarizes results of attempts to account quantitatively for all of the fragments obtained by digestion of the alanine-RNA with pancreatic RNase and with Taka-Diastase RNase T1. Results of the analyses of these two digests are consistent, one with the other, and indicate that the alanine-RNA is composed of 77 nucleotides, including nine unusual nucleotides.

The column was then eluted with a continuous gradient produced from 240 ml of 0.04 M, 238 ml of 0.20 M, and 228 ml of 1.0 M ammonium carbonate in three chambers of a Varigrad (4). Fractions of approximately 3.4 ml were collected. A flow rate of approximately 10 ml per hour was obtained by placing the Varigrad 20 feet (6 meters) above the top of the column.

Chromatography of Pancreatic RNase Digest on DEAE-cellulose in 7 M Urea (5)—DEAE-cellulose (Carl Schleicher and Schuell, No. 70, standard) was washed thoroughly with 7 M urea and with sodium acetate in 7 M urea. A column (0.35 × 30 cm) was packed by gravity from a suspension of the DEAE-cellulose

38

J. Mol. Biol. (1972) **72**, 209–217

Studies on Polynucleotides†
**CIII.‡ Total Synthesis of the Structural Gene for an Alanine
 Transfer Ribonucleic Acid from Yeast**

H. G. KHORANA^a, K. L. AGARWAL^a, H. BÜCHT^b, M. H. CARUTHERS^a,
 N. K. GUPTA^c, K. KLEPPE^d, A. KUMAR^e, E. OHTSUKA^f,
 U. L. RAJBHANDARY^g, J. H. VAN DE SANDE^g, V. SGARAMELLA^g,
 T. TERAOKA^h, H. WEBERⁱ AND T. YAMADA^j

*Institute for Enzyme Research of the University of Wisconsin and the
 Departments of Biology and Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of
 Technology, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, U.S.A.*

(Received 9 December 1971)

A plan for the total synthesis of the DNA duplex, 77 nucleotide units long, corresponding in sequence to the major yeast alanine transfer RNA, is formulated. The plan involves: (a) the chemical synthesis of 15 polydeoxynucleotide segments ranging in length from five to 20 nucleotide units and (b) ligase-catalyzed covalent joining of several segments to form three parts of the duplex, followed by joining of the three parts to construct the entire duplex. Twelve accompanying papers describe the experimental realization of this objective.

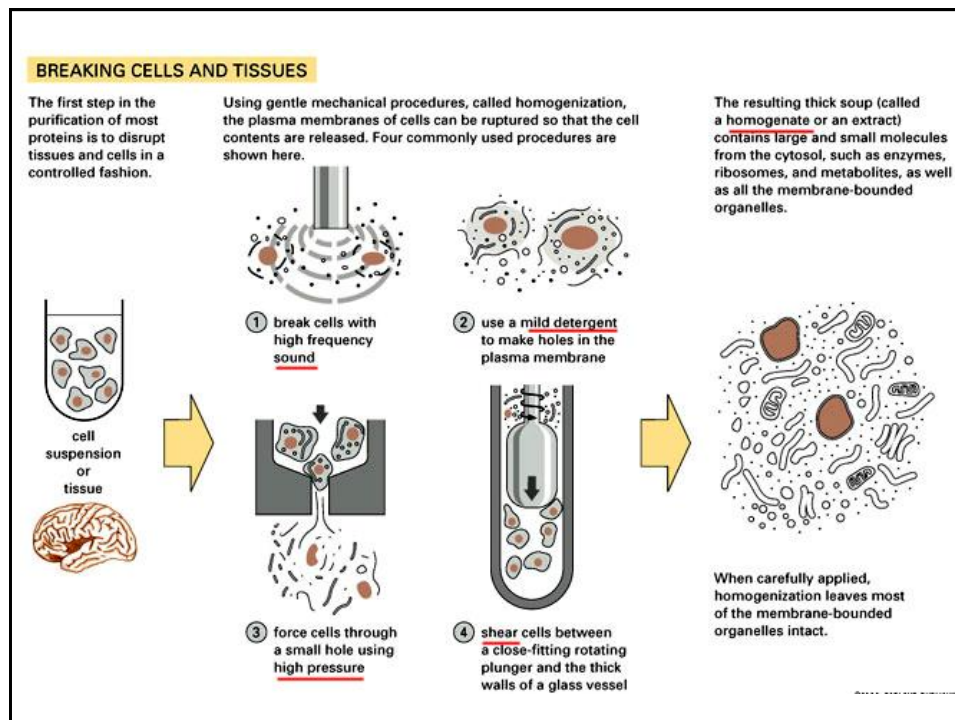
39

**COFFEE
 BREAK**

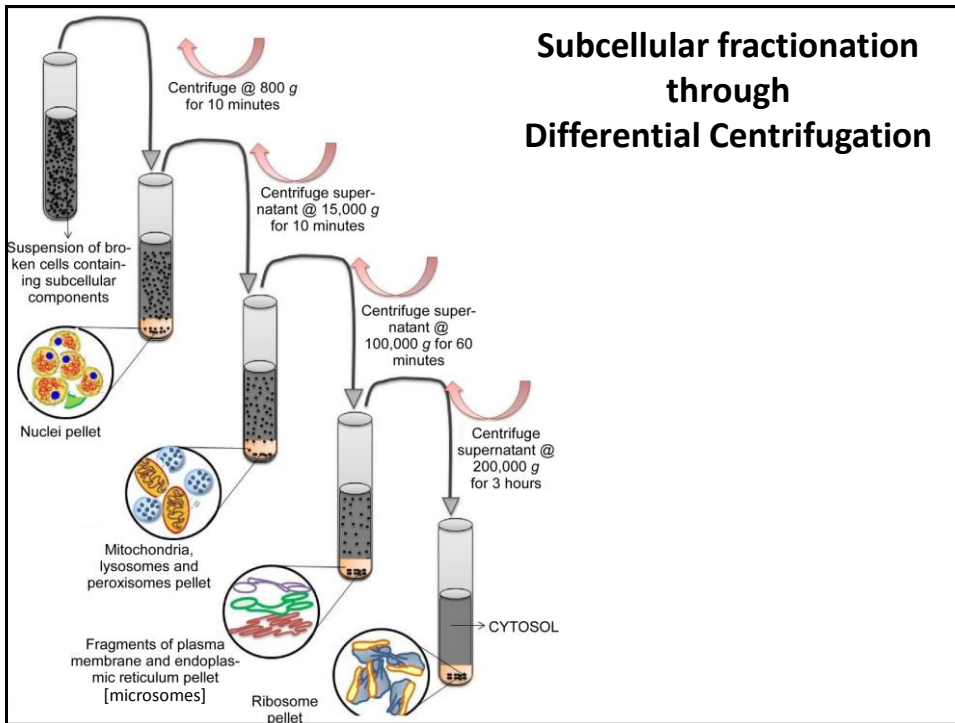
40

FRACIONAMENTO CELULAR (MONTANDO O CENÁRIO)

41



42



43

Otto Warburg manometric apparatus for metabolic analysis

Otto Warburg

1931

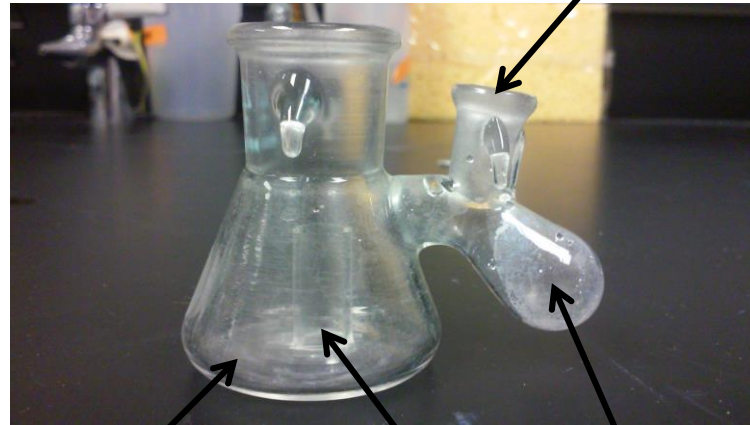
1970

Different manometric arrangements

Sample Flask

44

Warburg flask



Substrate(s), etc. added here to start reaction

Tissue sample or subcellular fraction to be tested

CO₂ trap

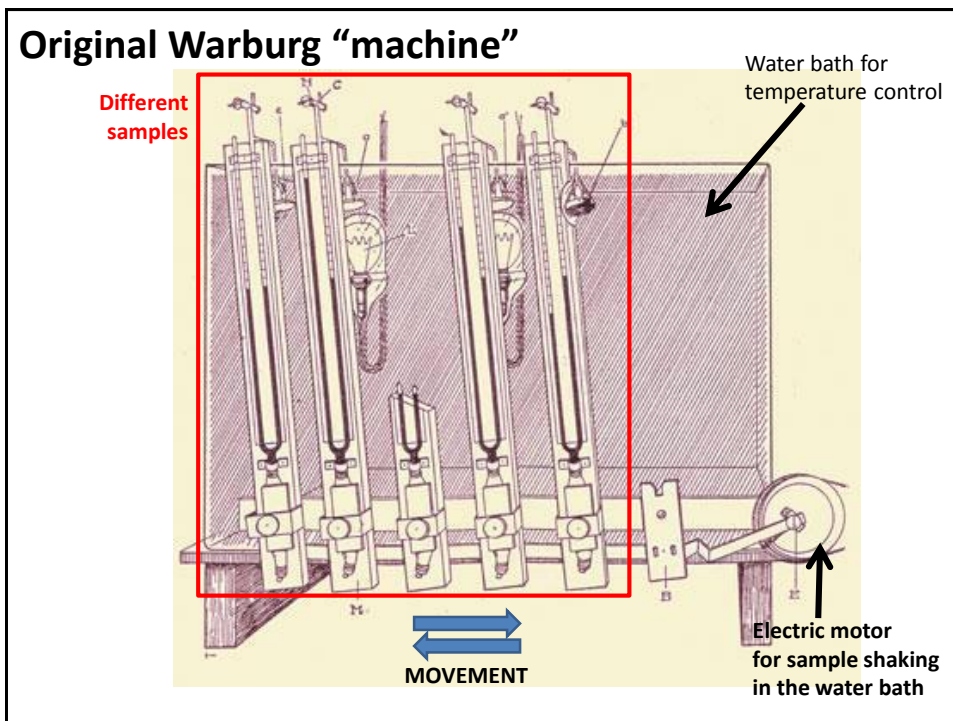
Additional trap

45

Stand for mounting the manometers



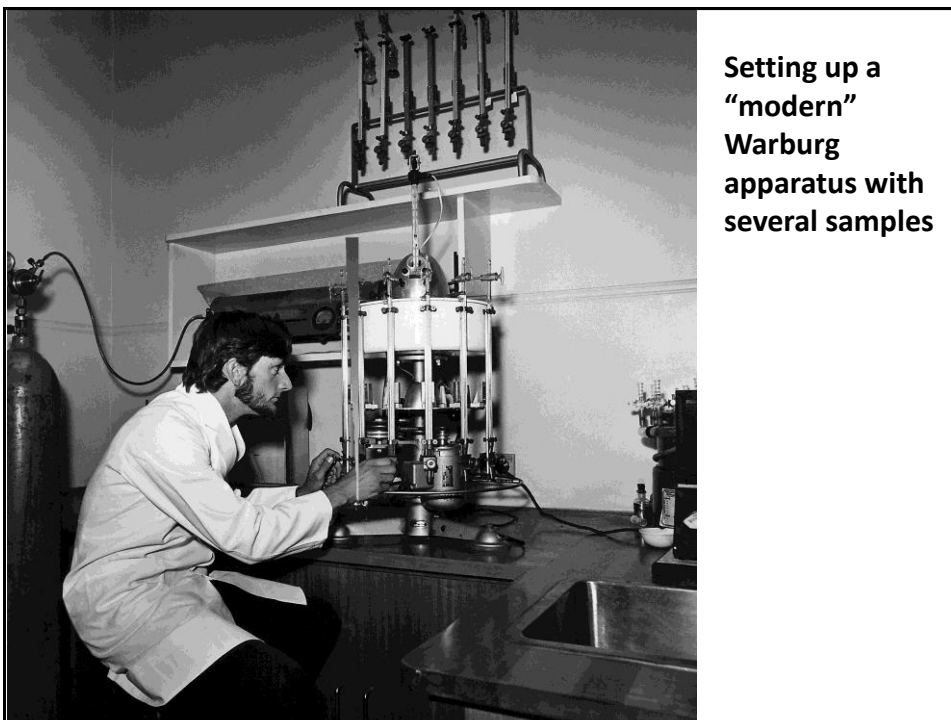
46



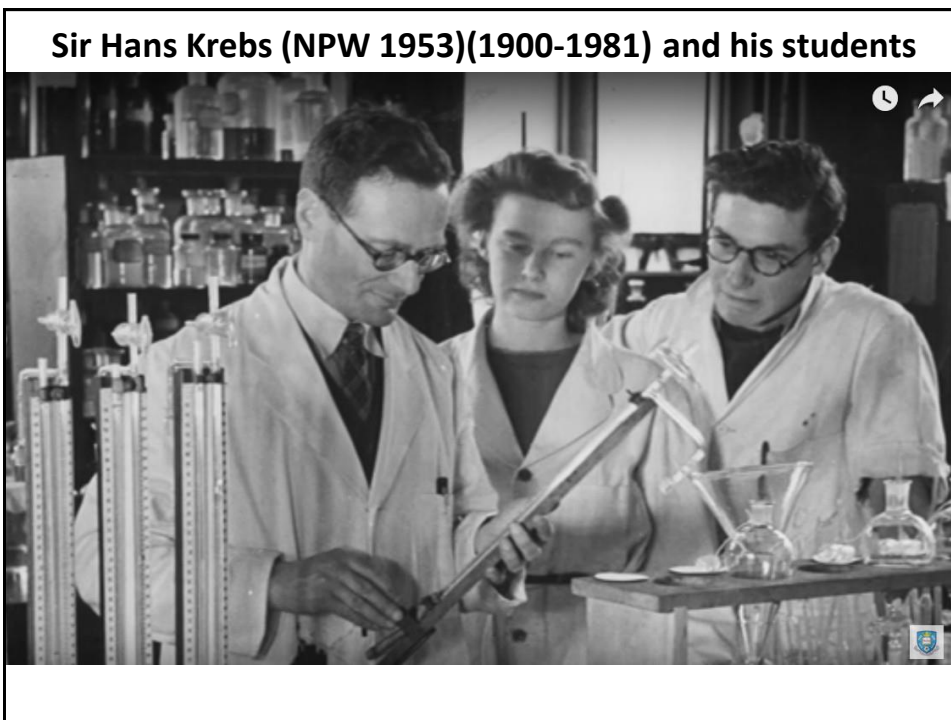
47



48



49



Some movies in YouTube about the Warburg apparatus setup and use

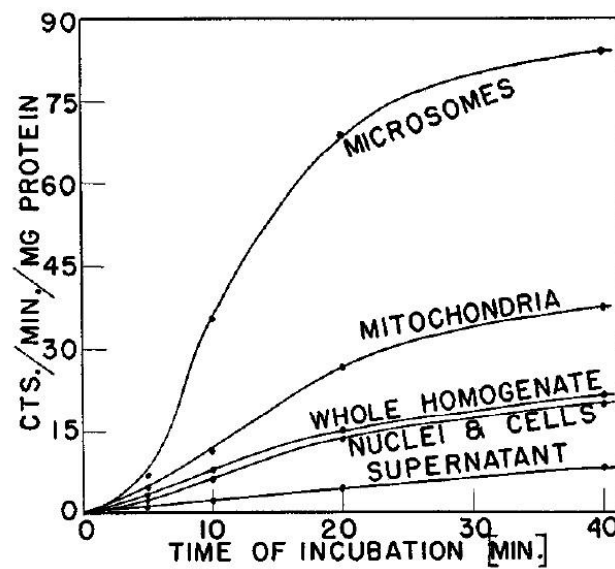
Warburg Manometer setup

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-HYbZwN43o>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI41djHlh_o

51

Incorporation of radioactive alanine into the proteins of the various fractions of a rat liver homogenate (1952)




Siekevitz J. Biol. Chem. 195:549-565, 1952

52

Relation between metabolism of phosphorylated compounds (ATP-like) and protein synthesis

RAT LIVER



Fraction	Protein per 100 mg. wet weight tissue	Per cent weight	O ₂ per hr.	QO ₂	PO ₄ esterified per 5 min.	α-Keto-glutarate disappearing per 60 min.	C.p.m. per mg. protein	
							Minus α-keto-glutarate	Plus α-keto-glutarate
Homogenate.....	17.6	100	37.3	24	3.6	19.1	1.4	10.8*
Nuclei + cells.....	3.3	18	1.6	5	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.9
Mitochondria.....	2.5	15	7.3	36	3.4	4.0	0.9	1.3
Mixed fraction.....	2.2	14	1.1	6	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.1
Microsomes.....	1.5	12	0.1	1	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.0
Supernatant.....	7.8	40	1.2	1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4
Mitochondria + microsomes.....	4.0	24	13.8	39	3.0	6.6	1.1	4.2
“ + supernatant.....	10.3	55	17.1	19	4.6	7.9	1.0	6.6
“ + microsomes + supernatant.....	11.8	64	20.8	20	8.5	10.7	0.8	9.8
All fractions.....	17.3	98	38.9	25	3.4	18.8	0.8	10.5

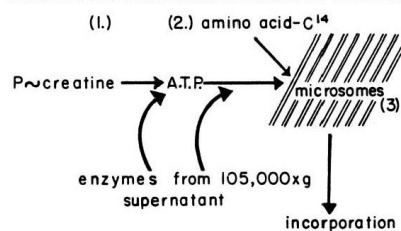
* 0.012 μM of L-alanine per gm. of protein per 80 minutes.

Siekevitz *J. Biol. Chem.* **195**:549-565, 1952

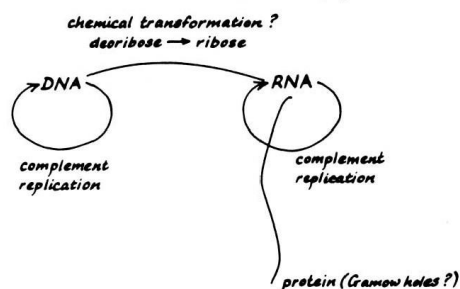
53

Biochemical and molecular biological sketches for protein synthesis

ZAMECNIK'S BIOCHEMICAL FLOW FOR PROTEIN SYNTHESIS, 1953



WATSON'S FLOW OF INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 1954



Darden & Craver, *Stud. Hist. Phil. & Biomed. Sci.* **33**:1-28, 2002

54

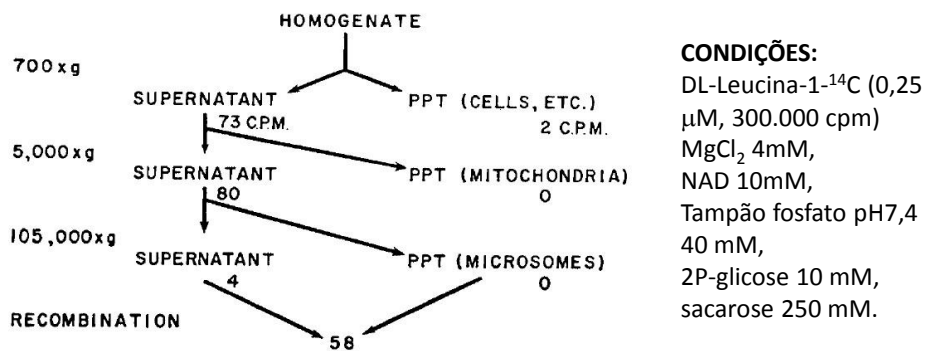
Mahlon Hoagland & Paul Zamecnik, ca. 1984



Pederson, *FASEB J.* 19:1583-1584, 2005

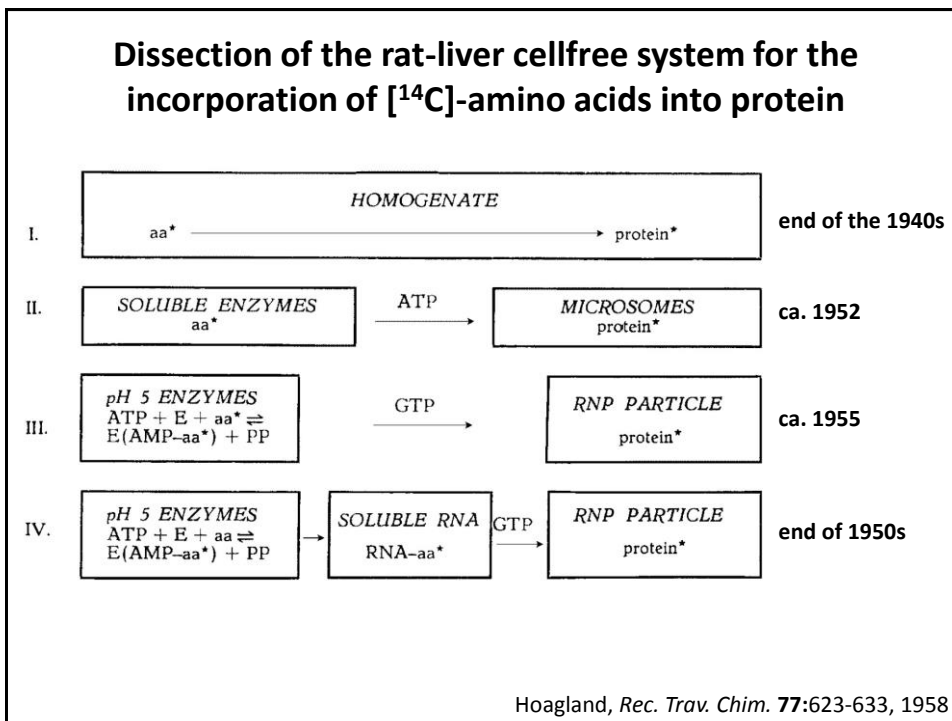
55

Fracionamento e recombinação do extrato de fígado de rato



Zamecnik & Keller, *JBC* 209:337-354, 1954 – *cit. in*
 Rheinberger in *Protein Synthesis and Ribosome Structure* (Niehaus & Wilson, eds.), p.1-51, 2004

56



57

NIRENBERG et al.

58

Marshall Nirenberg

1927 – is born on April 10th in NYC

1941 – Rheumatic fever ->
moves to Orlando, FL

1948 - BS (Zoology and Chemistry)

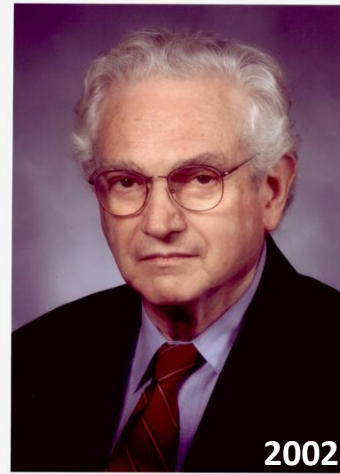
1952 - MS (Zoology)

1957 - PhD (Biological Chemistry)

1959-60 - Postdoc

1961 - Describes the experiment with poly U in Moscow at the International Congress of Biochemistry (August) (Nirenberg & Matthaei)

1963-66 - Completes the genetic code



59

1965-69 – Go to study neurobiology

1967 – begins the study of neuroblastoma.

1968 – receives the Nobel Prize with RW Holey e HG Khorana

1969 - publishes his first paper on neurobiology with Philip Nelson.

1973 – Studies the efect of morphine in the Nervous System

1976 - Begins the work with receptors of nerve cells in retina of chicks.

2010 - dies on January 15

60

President Arthur Costa E Silva
 Palacio Da Alvorada
 Brasilia

Dear Mister President:

The recent decision of your government to remove a number of Brazil's leading scientists and scholars from their University positions is a matter of grave concern to us. We feel that to deprive Brazil of the benefit of the intellectual and scientific leadership provided by such internationally eminent scientists as Profs. Isaias Raw, Alberto Carvalho da Silva and Helio Lourenco deOliveira among others, will cause inestimable damage to the progress of science and education in Brazil. Moreover, the anti-intellectual image of the government, created by this unfortunate action, is certain to have serious repercussions among scientists in the world community, whose sympathy and cooperation is essential to the continued technological development of Brazil.

We appeal to you to look personally into this matter in order that these scholars are returned to their institutions and encouraged to pursue their work in a climate of intellectual freedom.

Marshall Nirenberg
 H. Matthaei

<http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/access/KKBBFR.pdf#xaml=http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/pdfhighlight?uid=KKBBFR&query=%28Isaias%20Raw%29>

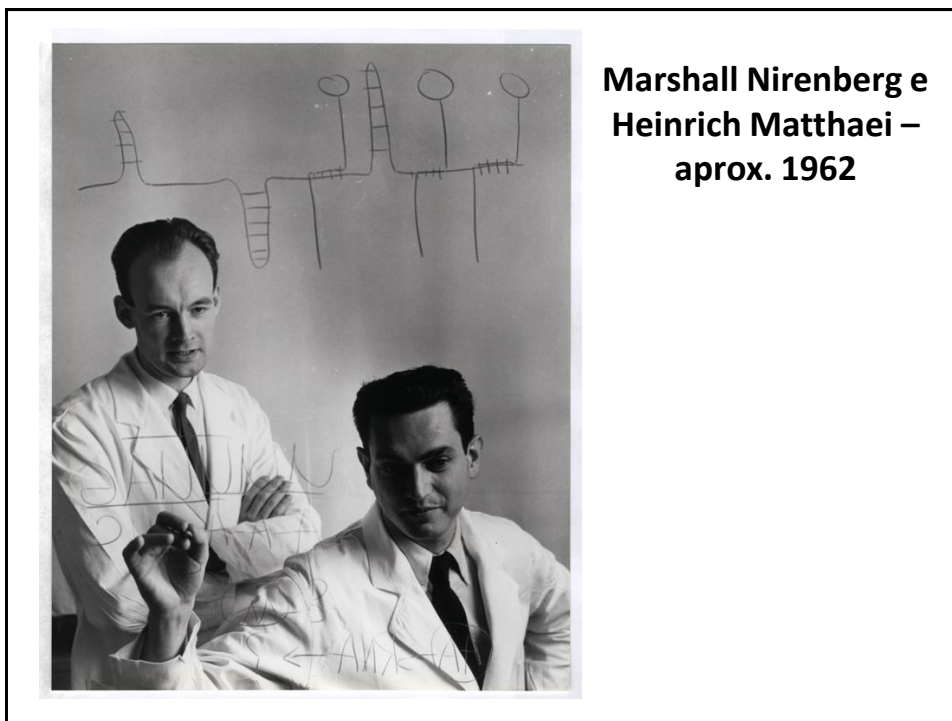
61



Marshall Nirenberg e Heinrich Matthaei – aprox. 1961

Primeiro pos-doc de Nirenberg
 com quem publicou o famoso
 experimento do poli-U

62



**Marshall Nirenberg e
Heinrich Matthaei –
aprox. 1962**

63

Moscow Talk - original 1965

We have obtained a stable, cell-free *E. coli* system which incorporates C^{14} ~~amino acids~~ into protein at a rapid rate, and which has many characteristics of protein-synthesis. Conditions have been found which demonstrate a novel characteristic of this system; that is, a requirement for ~~soluble~~ ^{messenger or transfer RNA} RNA, needed even in the presence of excess soluble RNA and ribosomes. Naturally occurring RNA's ^{such as E. coli messenger RNA and P. luteus RNA, and duck} synthetic polynucleotide, were active in this system.

The synthetic polynucleotide appears to contain the code for the synthesis of a protein containing only one amino acid.

First slide, please. Each reaction mixture contains these constituents in micromoles per milliliter. The enzyme extract consisted of *E. coli* ribosomes and 100,000 x g supernatant solution. Complete details are presented in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 4 (1961).

In slide No. 2, counts per minute per milligram protein is plotted against time and minutes. In the absence of added DNAase, valine was rapidly incorporated into protein. At the end of 90 minutes

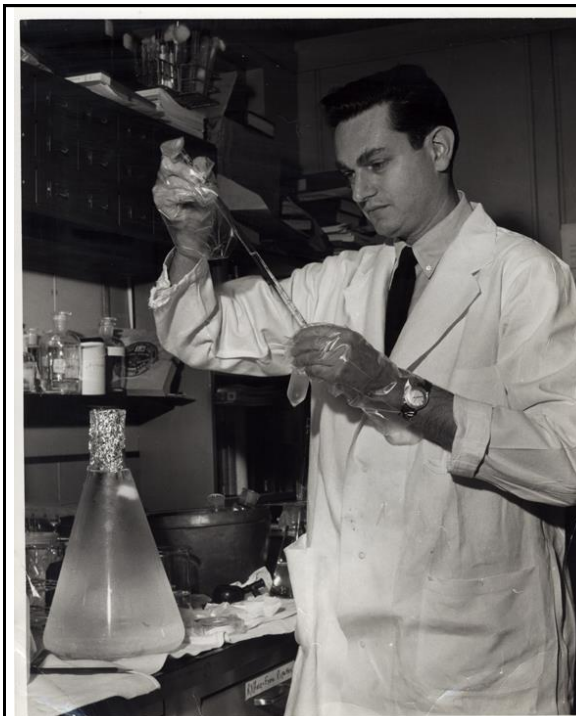
**Apresentação de
Nirenberg em
Moscou (Agosto de
1961) sobre a
incorporação de ^{14}C -
Phe num sistema
"cell-free" com poli-U**

64

Apresentação de Nirenberg em Moscou (Agosto de 1961) sobre a incorporação de ^{14}C -Phe num sistema "cell-free" com poli-U

puromycin, chloramphenicol and RNAase. Addition of poly-U resulted
and it appears to be polyphenylalanine.
in the incorporation of phenylalanine alone into a protein resembling
These results are in press & will be published shortly in the Journal of the National Academy of Sciences.
polyphenylalanine. Poly-U appears to function as a synthetic template,
 or messenger RNA. in this system. *One or more amino acid*
residues, then, appear to be the code for polyphenylalanine.

65

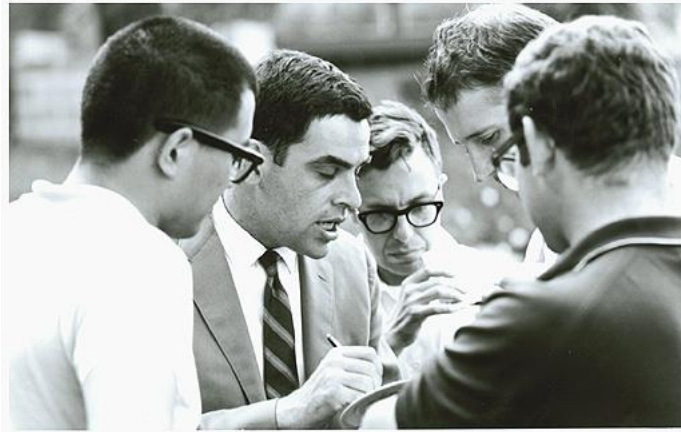


Marshall Nirenberg
no laboratório –
aprox. 1962

66

CSH Symposium on protein synthesis

1966



Courtesy of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Archives. Noncommercial, educational use only.

Phil Leder discussing with colleagues

http://www.dnaftb.org/images/22/16501_leder2.jpg

67

**Declaration of Marshall Nirenberg about
the code deciphering**

<http://www.dnaftb.org/22/av.html>

68

Codon usage table of *E. coli* based on all ORFs of the genome

CODON USAGE IN *E. COLI* GENES¹

	Codon	Amino acid ²	% ³	Ratio ⁴	Codon	Amino acid	%	Ratio	Codon	Amino acid	%	Ratio	Codon	Amino acid	%	Ratio	
U	UUU	Phe (F)	1.9	0.51	UCU	Ser (S)	1.1	0.19	UAU	Tyr (Y)	1.6	0.53	UGU	Cys (C)	0.4	0.43	U
	UUC	Phe (F)	1.8	0.49	UCC	Ser (S)	1.0	0.17	UAC	Tyr (Y)	1.4	0.47	UGC	Cys (C)	0.6	0.57	C
	UUA	Leu (L)	1.0	0.11	UCA	Ser (S)	0.7	0.12	UAA	STOP	0.2	0.62	UGA	STOP	0.1	0.30	A
	UUG	Leu (L)	1.1	0.11	UCG	Ser (S)	0.8	0.13	UAG	STOP	0.03	0.09	UGG	Trp (W)	1.4	1.00	G
C	CUU	Leu (L)	1.0	0.10	CCU	Pro (P)	0.7	0.16	CAU	His (H)	1.2	0.52	CGU	Arg (R)	2.4	0.42	U
	CUC	Leu (L)	0.9	0.10	CCC	Pro (P)	0.4	0.10	CAC	His (H)	1.1	0.48	CGC	Arg (R)	2.2	0.37	C
	CUA	Leu (L)	0.3	0.03	CCA	Pro (P)	0.8	0.20	CAA	Gln (Q)	1.3	0.31	CGA	Arg (R)	0.3	0.05	A
	CUG	Leu (L)	5.2	0.55	CCG	Pro (P)	2.4	0.55	CAG	Gln (Q)	2.9	0.69	CGG	Arg (R)	0.5	0.08	G
A	AUU	Ile (I)	2.7	0.47	ACU	Thr (T)	1.2	0.21	AAU	Asn (N)	1.6	0.39	AGU	Ser (S)	0.7	0.13	U
	AUC	Ile (I)	2.7	0.46	ACC	Thr (T)	2.4	0.43	AAC	Asn (N)	2.6	0.61	AGC	Ser (S)	1.5	0.27	C
	AUA	Ile (I)	0.4	0.07	ACA	Thr (T)	0.1	0.30	AAA	Lys (K)	3.8	0.76	AGA	Arg (R)	0.2	0.04	A
	AUG	Met (M)	2.6	1.00	ACG	Thr (T)	1.3	0.23	AAG	Lys (K)	1.2	0.24	AGG	Arg (R)	0.2	0.03	G
G	GUU	Val (V)	2.0	0.29	GCU	Ala (A)	1.8	0.19	GAU	Asp (D)	3.3	0.59	GGU	Gly (G)	2.8	0.38	U
	GUC	Val (V)	1.4	0.20	GCC	Ala (A)	2.3	0.25	GAC	Asp (D)	2.3	0.41	GGC	Gly (G)	3.0	0.40	C
	GUA	Val (V)	1.2	0.17	GCA	Ala (A)	2.1	0.22	GAA	Glu (E)	4.4	0.70	GGA	Gly (G)	0.7	0.09	A
	GUG	Val (V)	2.4	0.34	GCG	Ala (A)	3.2	0.34	GAG	Glu (E)	1.9	0.30	GGG	Gly (G)	0.9	0.13	G
	U				C				A				G				

69

Codon usage table of *E. coli* based on all ORFs of the genome

CODON USAGE IN *E. COLI* GENES¹

	Codon	Amino acid ²	% ³	Ratio ⁴	Codon	Amino acid	%	Ratio	Codon	Amino acid	%	Ratio	Codon	Amino acid	%	Ratio	
U	UUU	Phe (F)	1.9	0.51	UCU	Ser (S)	1.1	0.19	UAU	Tyr (Y)	1.6	0.53	UGU	Cys (C)	0.4	0.43	U
	UUC	Phe (F)	1.8	0.49	UCC	Ser (S)	1.0	0.17	UAC	Tyr (Y)	1.4	0.47	UGC	Cys (C)	0.6	0.57	C
	UUA	Leu (L)	1.0	0.11	UCA	Ser (S)	0.7	0.12	UAA	STOP	0.2	0.62	UGA	STOP	0.1	0.30	A
	UUG	Leu (L)	1.1	0.11	UCG	Ser (S)	0.8	0.13	UAG	STOP	0.03	0.09	UGG	Trp (W)	1.4	1.00	G
C	CUU	Leu (L)	1.0	0.10	CCU	Pro (P)	0.7	0.16	CAU	His (H)	1.2	0.52	CGU	Arg (R)	2.4	0.42	U
	CUC	Leu (L)	0.9	0.10	CCC	Pro (P)	0.4	0.10	CAC	His (H)	1.1	0.48	CGC	Arg (R)	2.2	0.37	C
	CUA	Leu (L)	0.3	0.03	CCA	Pro (P)	0.8	0.20	CAA	Gln (Q)	1.3	0.31	CGA	Arg (R)	0.3	0.05	A
	CUG	Leu (L)	5.2	0.55	CCG	Pro (P)	2.4	0.55	CAG	Gln (Q)	2.9	0.69	CGG	Arg (R)	0.5	0.08	G
A	AUU	Ile (I)	2.7	0.47	ACU	Thr (T)	1.2	0.21	AAU	Asn (N)	1.6	0.39	AGU	Ser (S)	0.7	0.13	U
	AUC	Ile (I)	2.7	0.46	ACC	Thr (T)	2.4	0.43	AAC	Asn (N)	2.6	0.61	AGC	Ser (S)	1.5	0.27	C
	AUA	Ile (I)	0.4	0.07	ACA	Thr (T)	0.1	0.30	AAA	Lys (K)	3.8	0.76	AGA	Arg (R)	0.2	0.04	A
	AUG	Met (M)	2.6	1.00	ACG	Thr (T)	1.3	0.23	AAG	Lys (K)	1.2	0.24	AGG	Arg (R)	0.2	0.03	G
G	GUU	Val (V)	2.0	0.29	GCU	Ala (A)	1.8	0.19	GAU	Asp (D)	3.3	0.59	GGU	Gly (G)	2.8	0.38	U
	GUC	Val (V)	1.4	0.20	GCC	Ala (A)	2.3	0.25	GAC	Asp (D)	2.3	0.41	GGC	Gly (G)	3.0	0.40	C
	GUA	Val (V)	1.2	0.17	GCA	Ala (A)	2.1	0.22	GAA	Glu (E)	4.4	0.70	GGA	Gly (G)	0.7	0.09	A
	GUG	Val (V)	2.4	0.34	GCG	Ala (A)	3.2	0.34	GAG	Glu (E)	1.9	0.30	GGG	Gly (G)	0.9	0.13	G
	U				C				A				G				

70

Nirenberg Lab – 1968



<https://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/JBCCQ>