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Translation n. plural: translations [ˈtrænzlɑːʃjən] Definition: a biological process wherein the genetic code from a strand of mRNA is "translated" into amino acids Translation, in general, is the conversion of something into another form, such as a word from one language to another. But what is translation in biology? In biology, translation is a step in protein biosynthesis where a genetic code from a strand of mRNA is decoded to produce a particular sequence of amino acids. In both prokaryotes and eukaryotes, it takes place on the ribosomes. In eukaryotes, though, it occurs on the ribosomes that are attached to the surface of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) so that the newly-formed protein after translation would undergo further maturation inside the ER and then be labeled in the Golgi apparatus for transport within or outside the cell. The steps of translation are basically the same for both prokaryotes and eukaryotes. These steps are initiation, translation elongation, and translation termination. What is mRNA and what is it's role in protein synthesis? The answers are explained by our Expert. Read them here: What does mRNA do in protein synthesis? Join our Forum now! Translation Definition Translation steps: initiation, elongation, and termination. This illustration shows how translation proceeds in a eukaryotic cell. The genetic code in the mRNA from the nucleus is translated into a specific sequence of amino acids through the action of tRNAs and ribosomes. Biology definition: Translation is the process of translating (converting) the transcript (genetic information) from the mRNA into a specific sequence of amino acids in the growing chain of a polypeptide. The three general steps of translation are initiation, translation elongation, and translation termination. During initiation, the ribosome binds to the mRNA and then the tRNA attaches to the start codon of the transcript. This is followed by translation elongation wherein a specific order of amino acids is brought to the ribosomal site by the tRNAs according to the sequence of codons in the mRNA transcript. The amino acids are joined in a chain by a peptide bond. The stop codon in the transcript signifies that the termination phase is reached. Eventually, translation stops, and the newly formed protein undergoes maturation (e.g. protein folding or post-translational modifications). Etymology: The term translation comes from the Latin translation, meaning "a carrying over." The amino acids are translated into amino acids in a specific sequence of a polypeptide chain. After translation, the newly-created polypeptide further undergoes protein maturation, e.g. post-translational modifications and protein folding. See the table below for the comparison between transcription and translation. Transcription Translation Definition The process of creating a copy of DNA into mRNA The process of translating mRNA transcript to amino acid Steps (1) Initiation (2) Promoter escape (3) Elongation (4) Termination (1) Initiation (2) Elongation (3) Termination Location In prokaryotes, in the cytoplasm In eukaryotes, in the nucleus In prokaryotes and eukaryotes, in the cytoplasm where ribosomes are located Enzymes RNA polymerase Ribosome Products mRNA Polypeptide or protein Function The first step of gene expression mRNA synthesis The second step of gene expression Peptide or protein synthesis Data summarized by Maria Victoria Gonzaga for Biology Online Which comes first? Translation or the transcription of the code? Share your views here: What does mRNA do in protein synthesis? Join our Forum now! mRNA, tRNA, and rRNA Three RNAs are involved in biological translations. They are mRNA (messenger RNA), tRNA (transfer RNA), and rRNA (ribosomal RNA). mRNA is the RNA produced from transcription. It is comprised of a 5' cap, 5'UTR region, coding region, 3'UTR region, and poly(A) tail. The copy of a DNA segment for gene expression is located in its coding region. It begins with a start codon at 5' end and a stop codon at the 3' end. tRNA is the RNA that transfers the specific amino acid to the ribosome to be added to the growing chain of amino acids. It has two major sites: one is the anticodon arm containing the anticodon and the other is the acceptor stem, which is the site for the amino acid. tRNA with amino acid is called aminoacyl-tRNA. The -COOH of the amino acid attacks to the 3'-OH of the adenine in the CCA tail by a covalent bond. Another type of tRNA is the peptidyl tRNA, which is a tRNA carrying the growing peptide chain. rRNA is the rRNA component of the ribosome. The ribosome is a cytoplasmic structure in cells of prokaryotes and eukaryotes. The ribosome of prokaryotes is the 70S whereas the ribosome of eukaryotes is 80S. Both 70S and 80S are made up of a large subunit and a small subunit. The large subunit serves as a ribozyme catalyzing the peptide bond formation between two amino acids. In contrast to tRNA and mRNA that carry genetic information, rRNA does not. Nevertheless, it has three binding sites for RNA: A, P, and E sites. The A (aminoacyl) site is where aminoacyl-tRNA docks. The P (peptidyl) site is where peptidyl-tRNA binds. The E (exit) site is where the tRNA leaves the ribosome. Codon Definition (Biology) RNA codon amino acid chart. Codon, in biology, refers to the set of three adjacent nucleotides in mRNA. It is also called a triplet. It complementary base pair with the anticodon of aminoacyl-tRNA. Examples: Guanine-Cytosine-Cytosine (GCC) is the codon for the amino acid alanine. Guanine-Uracil-Uracil (GUU) codes for valine. Cytosine-Uracil-Adenine (CUA) codes for leucine. Uracil-Adenine-Adenine (UAA) is a stop codon. Anticodon Definition (Biology) Anticodon refers to the sequence of three adjacent nucleotides located on tRNA. It complementary-base -pairs with the codon of mRNA. For example, the anticodon for glycine is CCC (Cytosine-Cytosine-Cytosine) that binds to the codon GGG (Guanine-Guanine-Guanine) of mRNA. Translation steps Prior to initiation, a pre-translation step occurs. Called bio-activation, the amino acid binds to the corresponding tRNA by a covalent bond. Step 1: Initiation Translation initiation is the first major step of translation wherein the genetic code carried by mRNA is decoded to produce the specific sequence of amino acids in a polypeptide chain. The small subunit of the ribosome binds to the 5' end of mRNA as facilitated by initiation factors (IF). The first tRNA attaches to the initiation or start codon. An initiation codon is the codon specified usually by AUG in mRNA. It is recognized by formylmethionyl-tRNA (fMet) in prokaryotes and by methionyl-tRNA in eukaryotes. Step 2: Translation elongation After initiation is transcription elongation. This is when the next aminoacyl-tRNA in line binds to the ribosome along with GTP and elongation factor (EF). The ribosome then translocates to the next mRNA codon resulting in the elongation of the amino acid chain. Step 3: Translation termination The last step is translation termination. This is when a peptidyl tRNA encounters a stop codon (e.g. UAA, UAG, or UGA). A stop codon does not code for any amino acid but serves as a termination signal of translation. When the termination codon is reached, the newly produced protein goes through maturation through protein folding or post-translational modifications. Prokaryotic vs. Eukaryotic Translations The major steps of translation in prokaryotes and eukaryotes are the same (i.e. initiation, elongation, translocation, and termination) and in both cells occurs on the ribosome. Translation in prokaryotes, though, occurs on 70S-type of ribosomes whereas translation in eukaryotes occurs on 80S-type of ribosomes. Because prokaryotes lack membrane-bound organelles, their mRNA transcript is synthesized in the cytoplasm. In eukaryotes, mRNA is synthesized in the nucleus and then released into the cytoplasm where ribosomes are located. In eukaryotes, the growing chain of amino acids is released into the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum via the ribosome attached to it. Translation in prokaryotes Translation in eukaryotes mRNA transcript from DNA is synthesized in the cytoplasm mRNA transcript from DNA is synthesized in the nucleus mRNA is polycistronic mRNA is monocistronic Translation occurs in 70S ribosome Translation occurs in 80S ribosome Major steps: (1) Initiation (2) Elongation (3) Termination Major steps: (1) Initiation (2) Elongation (3) Termination Translation initiation mechanism is cap-independent Translation initiation mechanism is cap-dependent or cap-dependent First tRNA is Met-tRNA First tRNA is Met-tRNA Initiation factors: IF1, IF2, IF3 Initiation factors: eIF1, eIF2, eIF3, eIF4, eIF5A, eIF5B, eIF6, eIF7, eIF8, eIF9, eIF10, eIF11, eIF12, eIF13, eIF14, eIF15, eIF16, eIF17, eIF18, eIF19, eIF20, eIF21, eIF22, eIF23, eIF24, eIF25, eIF26, eIF27, eIF28, eIF29, eIF30, eIF31, eIF32, eIF33, eIF34, eIF35, eIF36, eIF37, eIF38, eIF39, eIF40, eIF41, eIF42, eIF43, eIF44, eIF45, eIF46, eIF47, eIF48, eIF49, eIF50, eIF51, eIF52, eIF53, eIF54, eIF55, 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eEF5B, eIF6 Elongation factors: EF-Tu and EF-Ts Elongation factors: eEF1, RF2, RF3 Release factors on termination: eRF1 Relatively slower: 6 amino acids per second Summarized by Maria Victoria Gonzaga for Biology Online Got questions about translation? Or an opinion about mRNA and protein synthesis? Join us and participate in our Forum: What does mRNA do in protein synthesis? We'd be happy to hear your thoughts! NOTE IT! Unorthodox Ways of Translating Proteins Within the seemingly straightforward standard steps of initiation, elongation, and termination that the translation machinery takes are the off-track nonconventional routes that it treads. Such unorthodox steps appear to help generate an even more so unique protein products, plausibly with new function. It's as if reading a sentence differently to discover a whole new different context. As a matter of fact, such mechanisms are employed by certain bacteria and viruses in order to evade the host's immune system while unraveling novel avenues for replication and pathogenesis. Here are some mechanisms that help create a set of diverse protein products that may have a potential new use or function, all from just a single mRNA: Frameshifting: when the ribosome shifts the reading frame as it reads the mRNA sequence, such as by +1 (one base forward) or -1 (one base backward), leading to the production of protein isoforms. It helps make various proteins from the same genetic instructions by reading the genes differently. This mechanism is employed by the HIV virus to synthesize the viral enzymes reverse transcriptase and integrase. Readthrough (Stop Codon Suppression): when a stop codon doesn't stop the translation. Translations still continues resulting in longer or larger protein. Ribosomal hopping or bypassing: when the ribosome skips a portion of the reading frame, resulting in a protein with a different amino acid sequence/ composition/intermolecular interactions. Nonconventional protein translation. Image prepared by Maria Victoria Gonzaga for Biology Online Try to answer the quiz below to check what you have learned so far about translation. References Central Dogma of Biology. (2014). Retrieved from Csbjsu.edu website: 20and%20ociety/cent_dogma/olcentdogma.html Translation: DNA to mRNA to Protein Learn Science at Scitable. (2013). Retrieved from Nature.com website: Transcription and translation. (2017, April 26). Retrieved from Uq.edu.au website: Transcription / Translation. (2019). Retrieved from lupui.edu website: Protein Synthesis. (2019). Retrieved from Elmhurst.edu website: Research Guides: BSCI 1510L Literature and Stats Guide: The genetic code and the Central Dogma of Molecular Biology. (2018). Retrieved from Vanderbilt.edu website: Chapter 13 Lecture Notes: DNA Function. (n.d.). Retrieved from: lrunyenj/bio554/lectnotes/Chapter13.pdf DNA and RNA - Computational Medicine Center. (2009). Retrieved from Jefferson.edu website: © Biology Online. Content provided and moderated by Biology Online Editors Transcrip Name: _____ Date: _____ Per: _____ Transcription - Translation Practice Worksheet Fill in with the mRNA strand, then translate to the amino acid sequence #1 DNA: A T G G G A G A G A T T C A T G A TRANSLATION Protein (amino acid sequence): T G T TRANSCRIPTION mRNA: #2 A C T DNA: A C C C T C T A A T A C T TRANSCRIPTION mRNA: Protein (amino acid sequence): #3 DNA: A T G T G A C A G T T T G C A A T mRNA: Protein (amino acids): TRANSLATION A G A A G G C T TRANSCRIPTION TRANSLATION A G C C G T T C #4 T DNA: A C A A A C G T mRNA: Protein (amino acids): #5 DNA: T A C C G C T mRNA: Protein (amino acids): T A T C T T C G G A T T C G C A T T TRANSCRIPTION TRANSLATION C C G C G T C G A TRANSCRIPTION TRANSLATION C A A T A C C A C T Answer Key Name: _____ Date: _____ Per: _____ Transcription - Translation Practice Worksheet Fill in with the mRNA strand, then translate to the amino acid sequence #1 DNA: A T G G G A G A G A T mRNA: U A C C C T A C T G T C A T G A TRANSCRIPTION C U C U A A U G A C A G U A C U TRANSLATION Protein (amino acid sequence): Tyr - Pro - Ser - Asn - Asp - Ser - Thr #2 T DNA: A C C C T C T A A T G A C A G T TRANSCRIPTION mRNA: A U G G G G A G A U U A C U G U C A C T A U G A TRANSLATION Protein (amino acid sequence): Met - Gly - Arg - Leu - Leu - Ser - Stop #3 DNA: A T G T T T G C A A T mRNA: U A C A A A C Protein (amino acids): A G A A G G C T A A G G T T C TRANSCRIPTION G U U A U C U U C TRANSLATION Tyr - Lys - Arg - Tyr - Leu - Arg - Ile - Arg - Lys C G A U U C G C A A G #4 T DNA: A C A A A C G T mRNA: A U G U U G C T A T C T T C C G A T T C G C A T T TRANSCRIPTION A A U A G A A G C G U A A G C G U A A TRANSLATION Protein (amino acids): Met - Phe - Ala - Ile - Glu - Gly - Stop - no more decoding! #5 DNA: T A C C G C T mRNA: A U G C G C C C G C G T C C A C A A T A C C A C T TRANSCRIPTION A G Protein (amino acids): G C G G C A G C TRANSLATION Met - Pro - Arg - Arg - Gln - Leu - Leu - Trp - Stop U G U U A U G G U G A I. The Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

2. The Central Dogma of Molecular Biology Describes the flow of genetic information from DNA to RNA to Proteins DNA

4. DNA Replication Step 1: Initiation Helicase unwinds DNA forming a " replication fork "

Multiple replication forks along a DNA molecule create replication bubbles 5. DNA Replication Step 2: Elongation—Adding New Nucleotides RNA Primase adds a complimentary RNA primer to each template strand as a starting point for replication DNA Polymerase reads the template strand (3' to 5') and adds new complimentary nucleotides (5' to 3') DNA synthesized in the direction of the replication fork is called the leading strand 6. DNA Replication DNA polymerase can only add new nucleotides in the 5' to 3' direction Because of the antiparallel nature of DNA, replication occurs in two directions An RNA primer is laid down on the other strand, and new nucleotides are added 5' to 3' moving away from the replication fork. This is the lagging strand and the segment of DNA produced is called an Okazaki fragment 7. DNA Replication The DNA unwinds some more and the leading strand is extended by DNA polymerase adding more DNA nucleotides. Thus, the leading strand is synthesized continuously. 8. DNA Replication On the top template strand, a new RNA primer is synthesized by primase near the replication fork DNA polymerase adds new DNA. This produces the second Okazaki fragment. Thus, the lagging strand is synthesized discontinuously 9. DNA Replication Step 3: Termination A different type of DNA polymerase removes the RNA primer and replaces it with DNA DNA ligase joins the two Okazaki fragments with phosphodiester bonds to produce a continuous chain Each new DNA molecule is reformed by helicase. Each molecule is identical 10. DNA Replication Summary and Other Facts: Leading Strand: 1 primer, 5' to 3' continuous Lagging Strand: multiple primers, 5' to 3' discontinuous In humans, DNA polymerase adds 50 nucleotides/second DNA polymerase can proofread its own work and does excision repair 1 in 10,000 bases are in error After proofreading, rate of mutation is 1 in 10,000,000 11. DNA Replication Check out these animations and reviews: DNA replication animation Meselson and Stahl experiment that showed DNA replication is semi-conservative BioCoach Biosynthesis of DNA practice BioCoach adding new DNA practice BioCoach enzymes and molecules of replication practice DNA structure and replication self-quiz 12. RNA Synthesis: Transcription RNA is an important type of nucleic acid that plays several roles in the production of protein RNA is necessary to carry the instructions of the DNA out of the nucleus and to the ribosomes 13. RNA Synthesis: Transcription The genome of any organism contains all the information for making that organism. The information is encoded in various types of genes that are transcribed into 4 types of RNA: mRNA - Messenger RNA: Encodes amino acid sequence of a polypeptide tRNA - Transfer RNA: Brings amino acids to ribosomes during translation rRNA - Ribosomal RNA: With ribosomal proteins, makes up the ribosomes, the organelles that translate the mRNA snRNA - Small nuclear RNA: With proteins, forms complexes that are used in RNA processing in eukaryotes 14. RNA Synthesis: Transcription Messenger RNA carries the actual code that specifies the amino acid sequence in a polypeptide (protein) Making mRNA starts with a protein encoding gene on a template strand of DNA 15. RNA Synthesis: Transcription Step 1: Initiation RNA Polymerase binds to a promoter which is a region of bases that signals the beginning of a gene RNA Polymerase is bound to the TATA box of the promoter by transcription factors The double helix unwinds and is ready to be transcribed 16. RNA Synthesis: Transcription Step 2: Elongation RNA Polymerase moves along the protein encoding gene adding new RNA nucleotides in the 5' to 3' direction and complimentary to the DNA template Works at up to 60 nucleotides/second 17. RNA Synthesis: Transcription Step 3: Termination RNA Polymerase reaches the terminator region of the protein encoding gene All the enzymes and factors are released The product of these 3 steps is called immature or pre-mRNA 18. RNA Processing Most eukaryotic protein encoding genes contain non-coding segments called introns , which break up the amino acid coding sequence into segments called exons RNA Processing includes modification and splicing 19. RNA Processing Modification At the 5' end, a cap is added consisting of a modified GTP (guanosine triphosphate). This occurs at the beginning of transcription. The 5' cap is used as a recognition signal for ribosomes to bind to the mRNA At the 3' end, a poly(A) tail of 150 or more adenine nucleotides is added. The tail plays a role in the stability of the mRNA 20. RNA Processing Splicing (Intron Removal) The intron loops out as snRNPs (small nuclear ribonucleoprotein particles) bind to form the spliceosome The intron is excised, and the exons are then spliced together Results in mature mRNA 21. RNA Synthesis: Transcription Check out these animations and reviews: Transcription animation Transcription BioCoach practice Transcription self-quiz 22. Protein Synthesis: Translation The language of nucleic acids in translated into the language of proteins Nucleic acids have a 4 letter language Proteins have a 20 letter language 23. Protein Synthesis: Translation The Genetic Code If 3 RNA bases code for 1 amino acid, RNA could code for 4 3 = 64 amino acids. More than enough coding capacity for 20 amino acids Code is redundant for most amino acids 26. Protein Synthesis: Translation Ribosomes Made of rRNA and protein 2 subunits (large and small) form a 3D groove 2 major sites: P site --holds the growing polypeptide A site --new amino acids enter here 27. Protein Synthesis: Translation Transfer RNA (tRNA) Carries amino acids to the ribosome During tRNA charging each tRNA picks up an amino acid from the INP 3 base anticodon pairs with the mRNA codon 30. Protein Synthesis: Translation Step 1: Initiation 5' G-cap of mRNA binds to ribosome Start codon AUG and anticodon with Methionine bind a P site A site is open and ready to receive new tRNAs 31. Protein Synthesis: Translation Step 2: Elongation Adding New Amino Acids Codon recognition Peptide bond formation Translocation : ribosome moves along mRNA, aminoacyl tRNA shifts from A site to P site 33. Protein Synthesis: Translation Check out the following links and animations for review: Animation of translation Transcribe and translate a gene tRNA Charging Initiation Review Elongation Review Termination Review Translation BioCoach Practice Translation Self-Quiz 34. Translation, Polypeptides, and Mutations Normally, the genetic code is translated and the correct protein is formed from a long chain of amino acids. Translation of codons is dependent on the reading frame , or a grouping of codons in a gene transcript. AAU GCG GAC UAC GGC AAC GCC 35. Translation, Polypeptides, and Mutations Mutations: Any change in the nucleotide sequence of DNA Mutations can involve large sections of chromosomes or single base pairs Mutations can change the reading frame of a gene transcript CTT GCA GGA CAT GCA mRNA CCU GAA CGU CCU GUA CGU AA. PRO GLU ARG PRO VAL ARG Changes in one or a few bases is called a Point Mutation 2 Types: Substitution or Insertion/Deletions 38. Translation, Polypeptides, and Mutations Deletion or insertion mutations are most disruptive because they change the reading frame, causing a frame shift Substitution mutations have varied impact on amino acid sequences. Substitutions of 1 st or 2 nd base in codon almost always changes the amino acid Substitution of 3 rd base in codon does not always change the amino acid 39. Translation, Polypeptides, and Mutations What causes mutations? Errors in DNA Replication Errors in chromosome crossover in meiosis Mutagens Mutagens are physical or chemical factors that cause mutations UV Radiation and X-Rays Chemicals like DDT 40. Translation, Polypeptides, and Mutations Many mutations are harmful and cause the organism to die or function incorrectly. Some mutations are beneficial and help the organism to survive. (Peppered Moths) If mutations are present in gametes , they can be passed on to offspring. This is the driving force of Natural Selection.