

# OVERVIEW OF NUCLEIC ACIDS STRUCTURE

Course: Molecular Biology (BIOL 333)

Instructor: Dr. Mahmoud Srour

Textbook:

Watson J, et al. (2014). Molecular Biology of the Gene, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

Chap 2 & 4

## The Central Dogma in Biology

Proposed by F. Crick in 1958

Processes

**Replication**



**Transcription**



**Translation**

**DNA**



**RNA**



**mRNA**

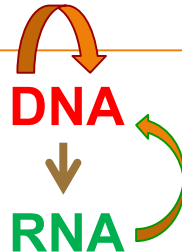


**Protein**



**Function**

Retrovirus





## Purines vs. Pyrimidines

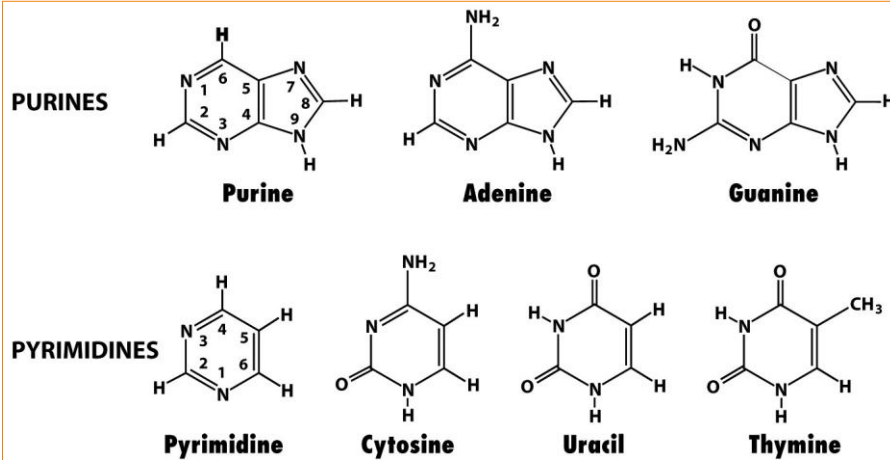
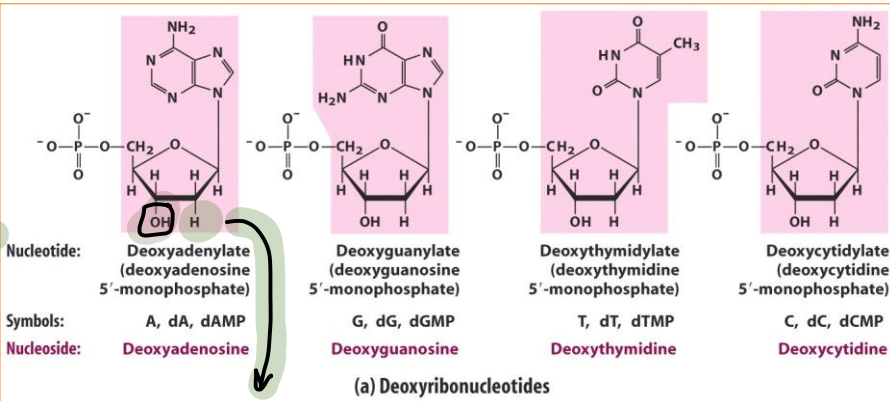


Figure 4-4  
Biochemistry, Sixth Edition  
© 2007 W. H. Freeman and Company

## Deoxynucleotides $\rightarrow$ وحدة في Deoxy



يفتقد لمجموعة هيدروكسيل ( $\text{OH}$ )  
على رقم 2' مما يجعله أكثر استقراراً  
RNA

3-phosphate group

ترتبط بالفوسفات الآخر

STUDENTS-HUB.com

عصر الهوي للصن النوري

RNA  $\leftarrow$  U يوراسيل  
RNA  $\leftarrow$  T يمين  
RNA  $\leftarrow$  A

3 نامرغ ناميا

Uploaded By:

نيوكليوتيد في  
RNA

وتتكون من  
سكر الريبوز

• consist of:-

Nitrogen base ①  
Purine → Pyrimidine

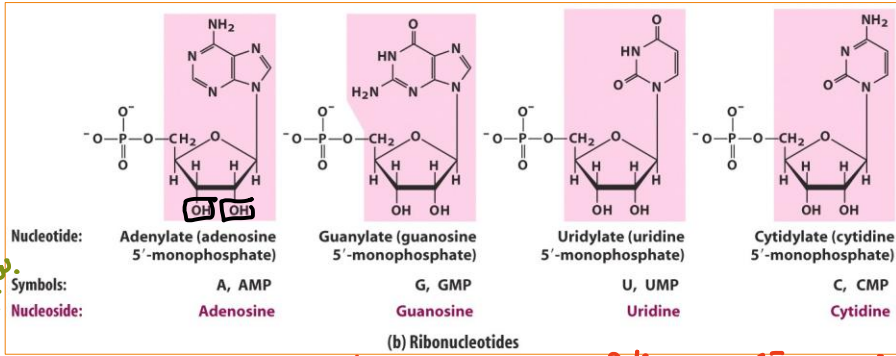
2) Ribose  
سكر خماسي  
يحتوي على  
OH على  
الربون 2

وتمتلك هيدروجين  
بجانبه لتحل استقرار  
والكل في درجة لظلال

3) phosphate group → Adenine nucleotide

Similar to deoxy nucleotides but have  
an OH group at 2' position

## ← Ribonucleotides →



ATP ← تخزن الطاقة ←

mRNA  
rRNA  
tRNA

Some of RNA molecules  
are "Ribozymes"

TABLE 8-1 Nucleotide and Nucleic Acid Nomenclature

Base	Nucleoside	Nucleotide	Nucleic acid
<b>Purines</b>			
Adenine	Adenosine	Adenylate	RNA
	Deoxyadenosine	Deoxyadenylate	DNA
Guanine	Guanosine	Guanylate	RNA
	Deoxyguanosine	Deoxyguanylate	DNA
<b>Pyrimidines</b>			
Cytosine	Cytidine	Cytidylate	RNA
	Deoxycytidine	Deoxycytidylate	DNA
Thymine	Thymidine or deoxythymidine	Thymidylate or deoxythymidylate	DNA
Uracil	Uridine	Uridylate	RNA

double ring  
structure

single  
ring structure



Nitrogen base → absorbent on UV

nucleic acid → directionally (5' → 3')

A<sub>260</sub>/A<sub>280</sub>

1.8 - 2.0

pure DNA

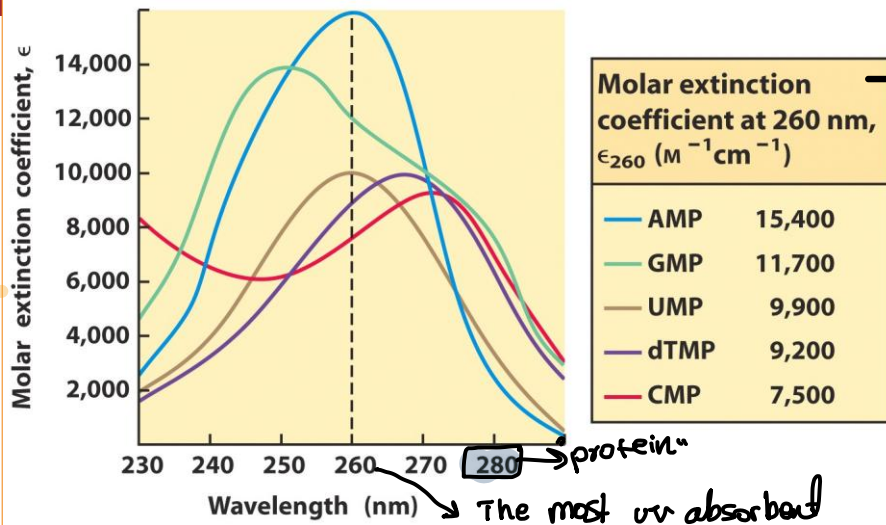
↓  
1.4 DNA have contamination

due to the protein

↳ so it not good to use in lab

↓  
Lipid ملوحة  
فانقل كمانه  
و بتدني الم  
protein

## UV absorption of nucleotides



1ml molecule  
absorbed  
under condition

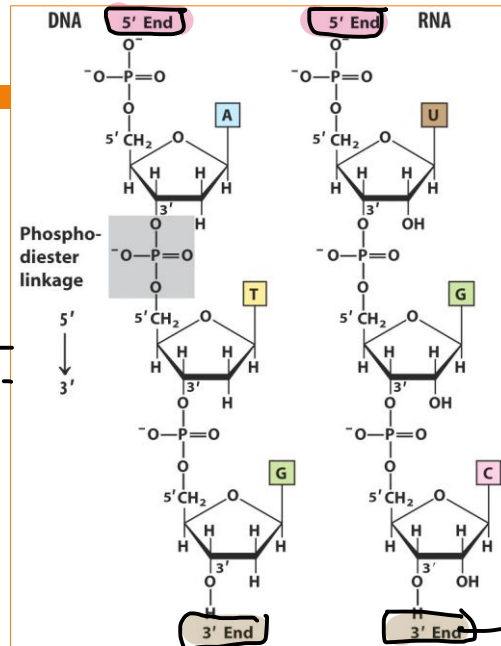
5' end → consist of (-PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>) phosphate group  
فردة

## Nucleic acids: strand orientation

Nuclei tied linked  
together → phosphodiester  
bond  
between the 3' carbon  
of one nucleotide sugar  
and the 5' carbon  
of the next nucleotide

## Nucleic acid strand: Directionality

replication ↓  
transcription ↓  
- as enzyme like  
DNA polymerase  
read 3' → 5' but  
Synthesize the new  
strand 5' → 3'



لها بري  
أبني سلسلة  
جديدة أثناء  
نقلها أو نسخ  
بصفة نوكلية  
جديدة عند طرف 3'

3' end → consist of hydroxyl group (OH)  
حرة على سكو الكفاين

\* RNA → more prone to degradation due to the 2'OH group 2/22/2025  
 أولا وخصايه عينة دم واربعها بعد اقل من ساعة يكون RNA قتل  
 عكس RNA

Why did DNA evolve to be the carrier of genetic information in the cell as opposed to RNA?

more stable, DNA

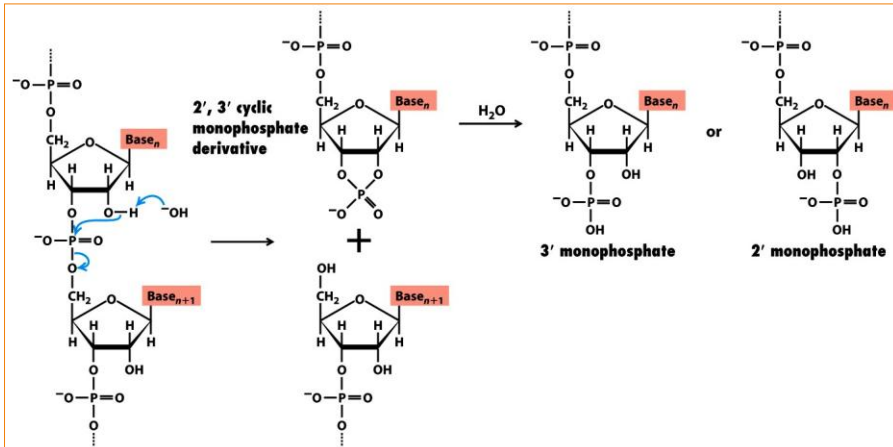


Figure 4-6  
 Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition  
 © 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

A slow (OH<sup>-</sup>) catalyzed hydrolysis of RNA at neutral pH

بـ RNA  
 SS RNA  
 كذا حتى بـ فتي  
 معدة رجله

Chemical directionality of a nucleic acid strand

(5' → 3')

Backbone: S-P-S...

Phosphate is ionized at pH ~ 7.0

Oligonucleotides  
 < 50 nts

Polynucleotides > 50 nts

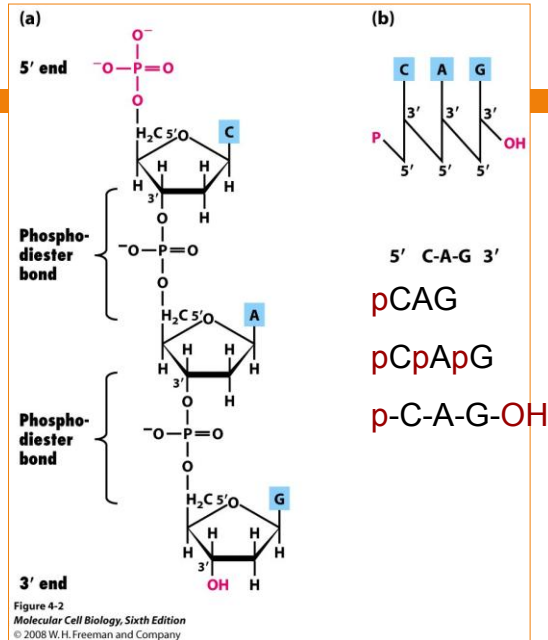
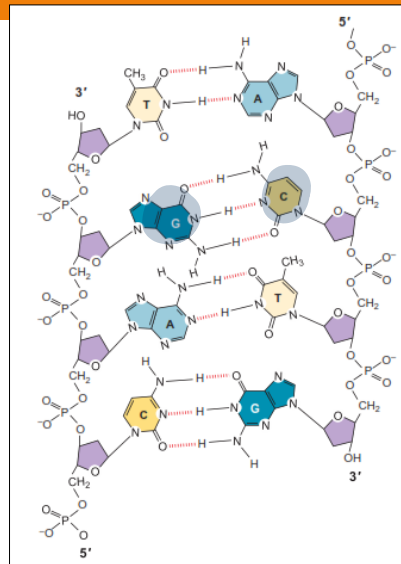


Figure 4-2  
 Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition  
 © 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

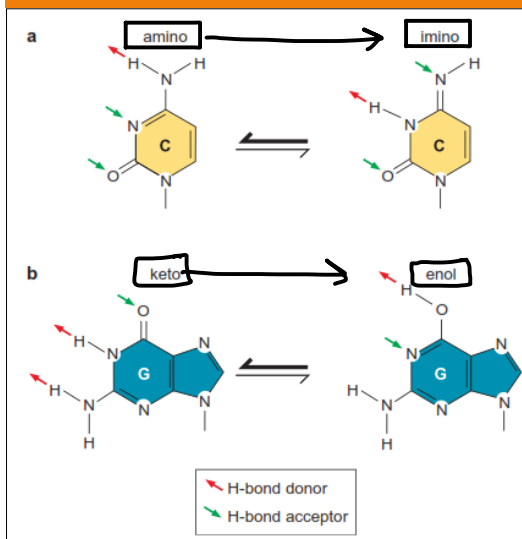
## Watson –Crick model of DNA: hydrogen bonding



→ antiparallel 3' → 5'  
 → complementary  
 G → C  
 "A - T" → 2 hydrogen bond  
 "G - C" → 3 hydrogen bond

Fig 6-3

## Base tautomeres → occur 'spontaneously' "donor → acceptor"



**Cytosine** is usually in the AMINO form & rarely forms the IMINO configuration

**Guanine** is usually in KETO form & is rarely found in the ENOL configuration

Ability to form tautomeres is a frequent source of errors during DNA synthesis

## Discovery of DNA double helix

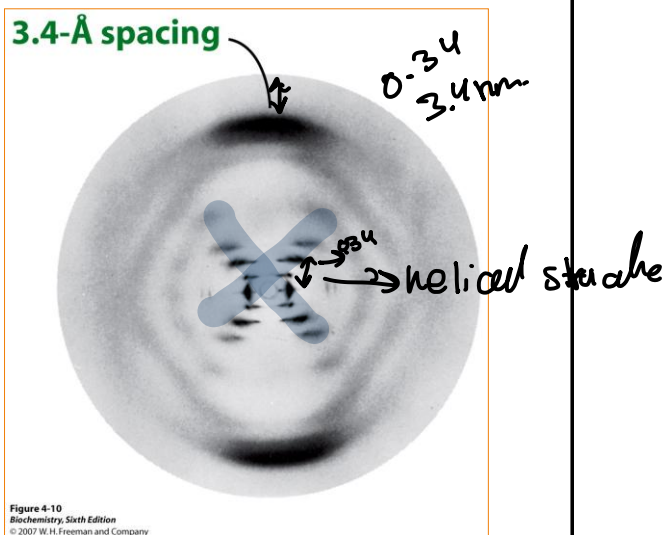
- In 1952, after the Hershey-Chase experiment demonstrated that the genetic material was most likely DNA, a race was on to:
  - ▣ Describe the structure of DNA and
  - ▣ Explain how the structure and properties of DNA can account for its role in heredity

## X-ray diffraction pattern of DNA

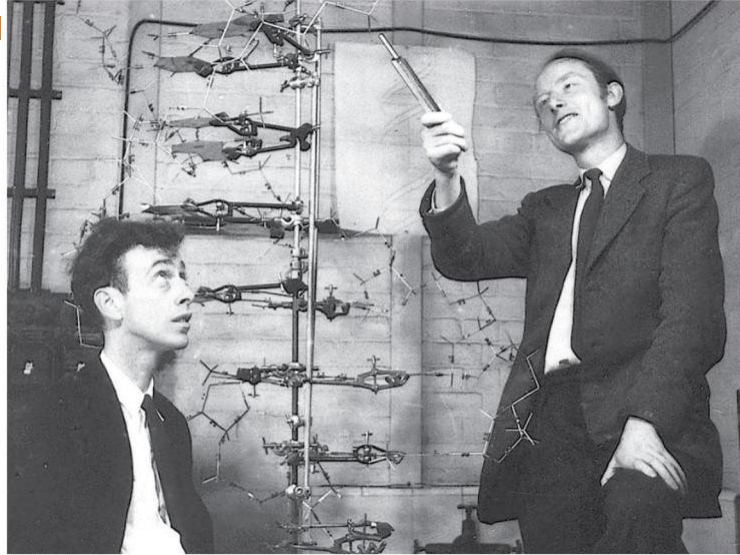
by Rosalind Franklin & Maurice Wilkins

X-ray diffraction pattern of DNA: reveals a helical structure with two periodicities of 0.34 & 3.4 nm

3.4-Å spacing



## Watson & Crick & DNA double helix



© 2012 Pearson Education, Inc.

## Watson & Crick & structure of DNA

- In 1953, James D. Watson and Francis Crick deduced the secondary structure of DNA, using
  1. X-ray crystallography data of DNA from the work of Rosalind Franklin & Maurice Wilkins, early 1950s
  2. Chargaff's rules/observations:  $A=T$  &  $G=C$ ,  
 $A+G=T+C$ ,

## DNA is a double Helix: Watson-Crick model

- Watson and Crick reported that DNA consisted of two polynucleotide strands wrapped into a double helix:
- The sugar-phosphate backbone is on the outside.
- The nitrogenous bases are perpendicular to the backbone in the interior.
- Specific pairs of bases give the helix a uniform shape.
  - ▣ A pairs with T, forming two hydrogen bonds, and
  - ▣ G pairs with C, forming three hydrogen bonds

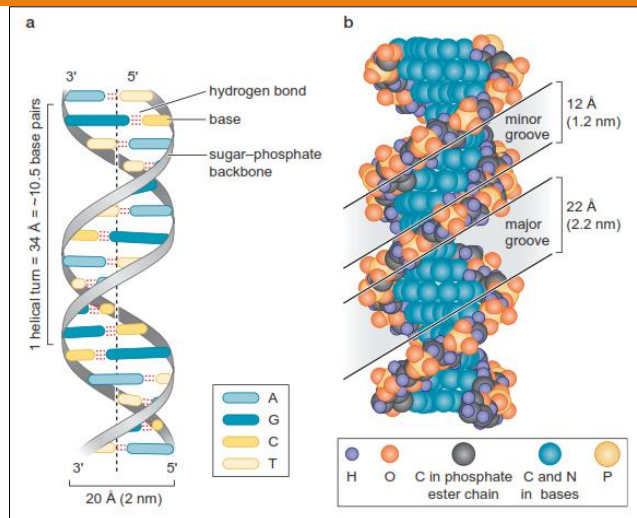
## Watson-Crick model (*continued*)

- Right-handed double helix,
- Antiparallel & complementary strands,
- Nts are 0.34 nm apart and 10nt/turn (3.4nm)

## W-C model of DNA: a double helix of two complementary antiparallel strands



## The Double helix has Minor & major grooves



$10^{-10} \text{ m}$   
nm  $10^{-9} \text{ m}$

protein interaction major groove ← عشان ايه بين G و C  
الهبة كل قنيد

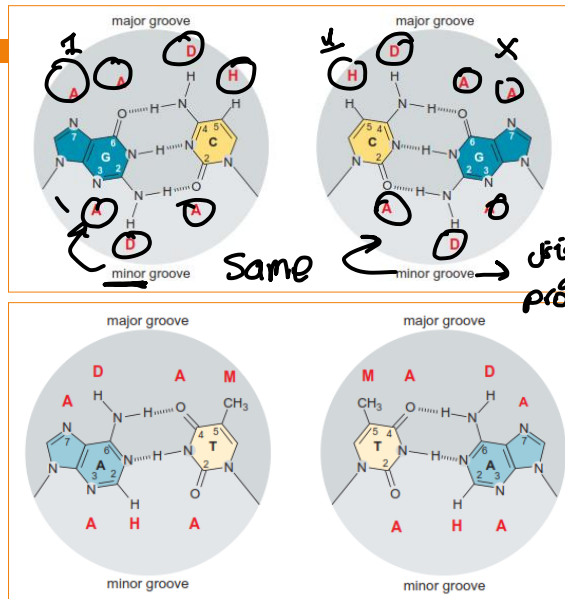
## The Major groove is rich in chemical information

A: hydrogen bond acceptor

D: hydrogen bond donor

H: non-polar hydrogens

M: methyl groups



double → rotation

Single → rotation

## The double helix exist in multiple conformations

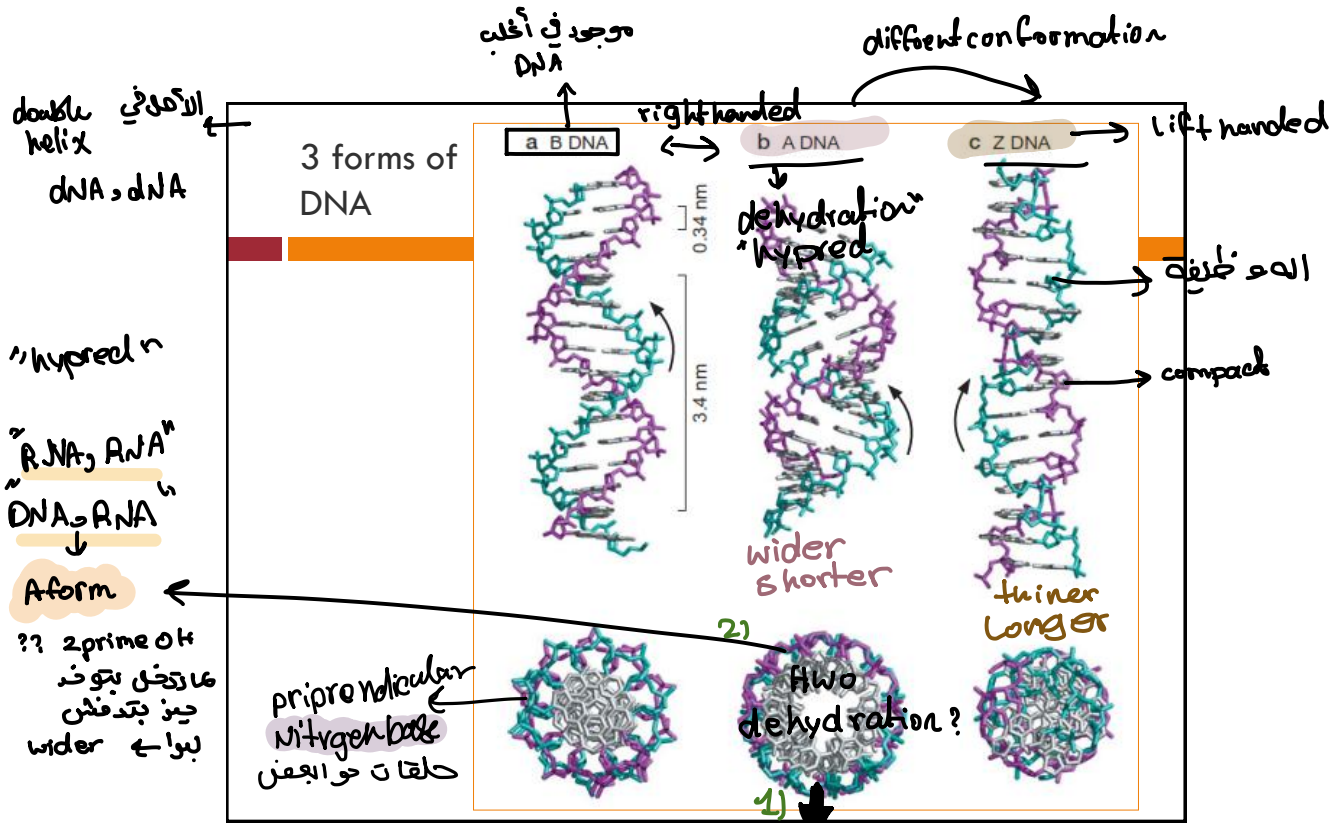
يعني يكون موجود في شكل بناء على ظرف غير ثابت ← dehydration ← بتغير

- DNA is flexible
- Considerable rotation is possible around a number of bonds in the S-P backbone
- Thermal fluctuations can produce bending, stretching and unpairing (denaturation or melting) of the strands
- Significant deviation in conformation from W-C model exist

can make different conformation

البنية مختلفة  
من نفس molecule  
لتخدها بناء على  
physiological  
environment  
كبر روابط  
↓  
configuration  
عكس تتطلب كبر  
روابط





"Sault"

غير في

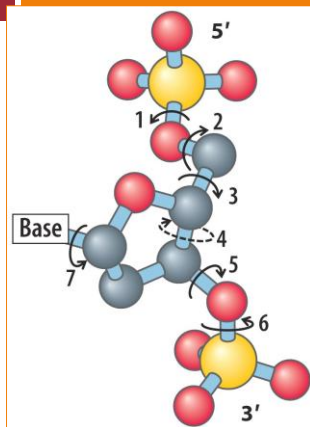
جزئيات الحية قلت

وتلحقها سالت

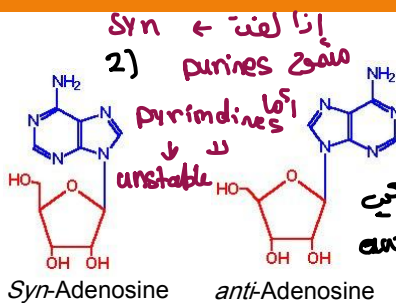
"wider"

add alcohol + added salt alter that

## Structural variation in DNA



Rotation around different bonds in DNA

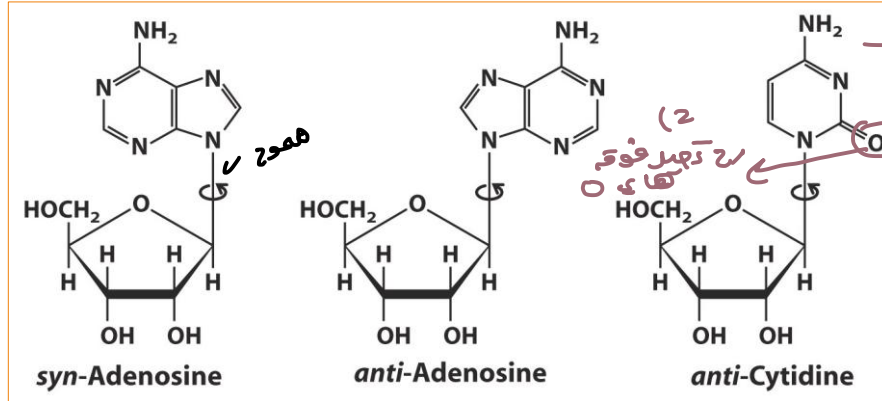


Purines occur in anti or syn conformation.

Pyrimidines occur only in anti conformation.

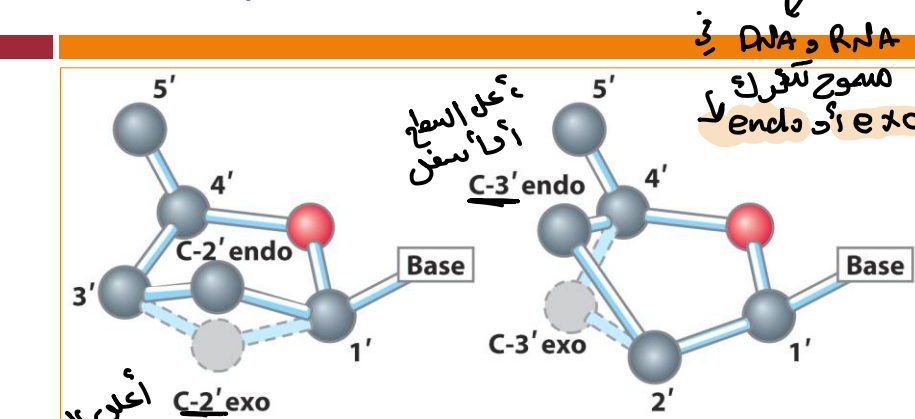
وراءه  
 Stick of purin  $\rightarrow$  syn معوية  
 في حالة hilex بتغير

## Structural variation in DNA



في حينه purines N و O ← كبيرة فديتي تناظر  
 A G

## Different puckered Conformations of Ribose



Exo: opposite; Endo: same plane.

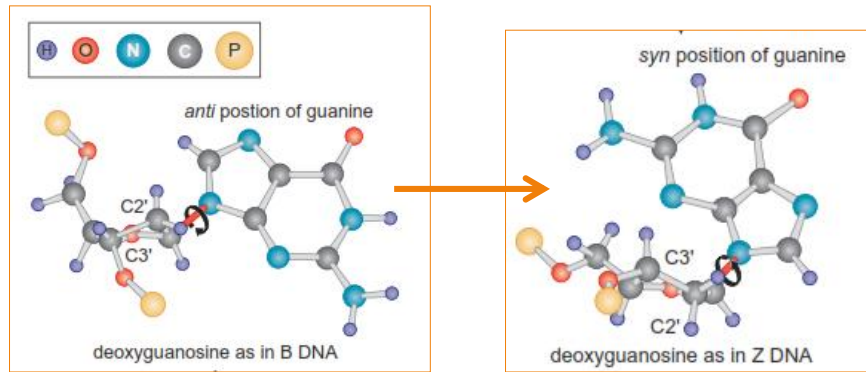


Fig 6-13

TABLE 4-2 A Comparison of the Structural Properties of A, B, and Z DNAs as Derived from Single-Crystal X-Ray Analysis

	Helix Type		
	A	B	Z
Overall proportions	Short and broad	Longer and thinner	Elongated and slim
Rise per base pair	2.3 Å	3.32 Å	3.8 Å
Helix-packing diameter	25.5 Å	23.7 Å	18.4 Å
Helix rotation sense	Right-handed	Right-handed	Left-handed
Base pairs per helix repeat	1	1	2
Base pairs per turn of helix	~11	~10	12 → 12 longer
Rotation per base pair	33.6°	35.9°	-60° per 2 bp
Pitch per turn of helix	24.6 Å	33.2 Å	45.6 Å
Tilt of base normals to helix axis	+19°	-1.2°	-9°
Base-pair mean propeller twist	+18°	+16°	~0°
Helix axis location	Major groove	Through base pairs	Minor groove
Major-groove proportions	Extremely narrow but very deep	Wide and of intermediate depth	Flattened out on helix surface
Minor-groove proportions	Very broad but shallow	Narrow and of intermediate depth	Extremely narrow but very deep
Glycosyl-bond conformation	<i>anti</i>	<i>anti</i>	<i>anti</i> at C, <i>syn</i> at G

Adapted, with permission, from Dickerson R.E. et al. 1982. *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 47: 14. © Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

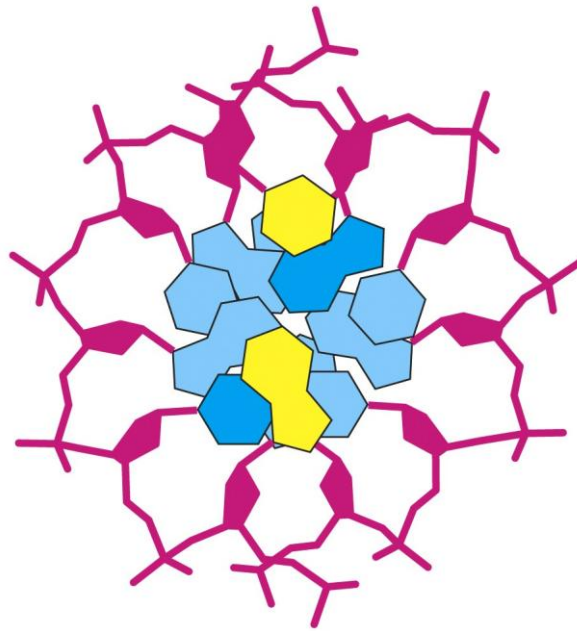


Figure 4-13  
Biochemistry, Sixth Edition  
© 2007 W.H. Freeman and Company

Q

## DNA can occur in different 3D forms

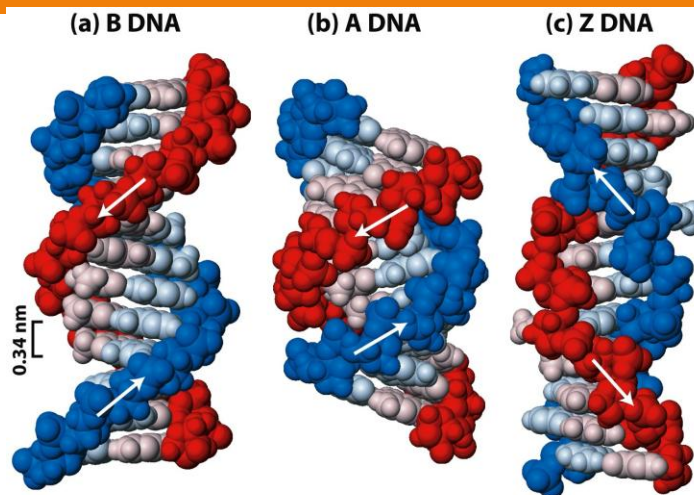
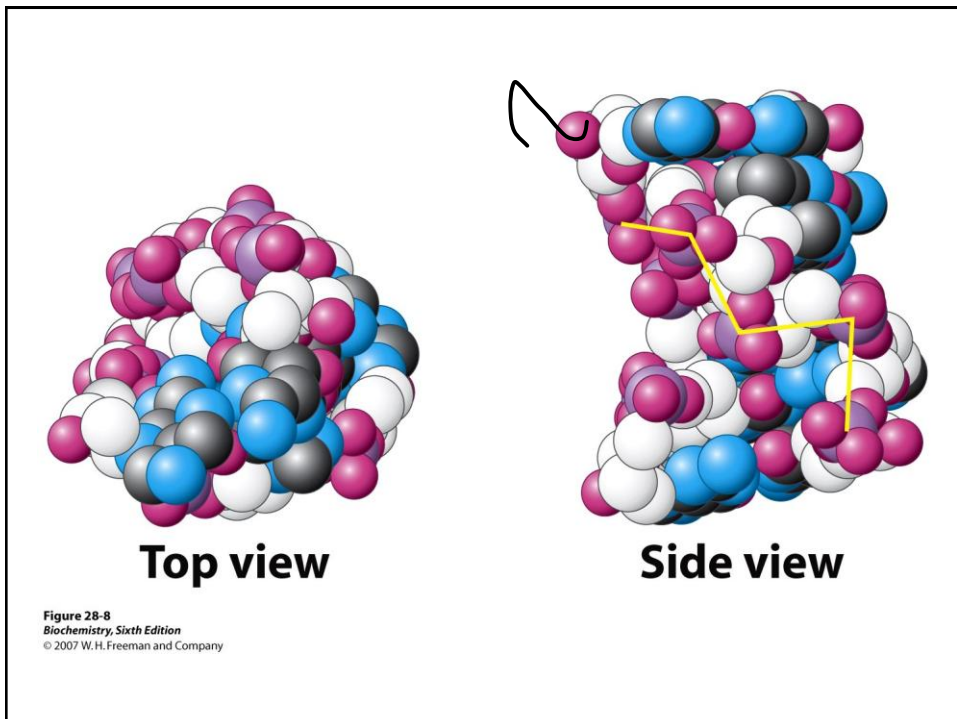
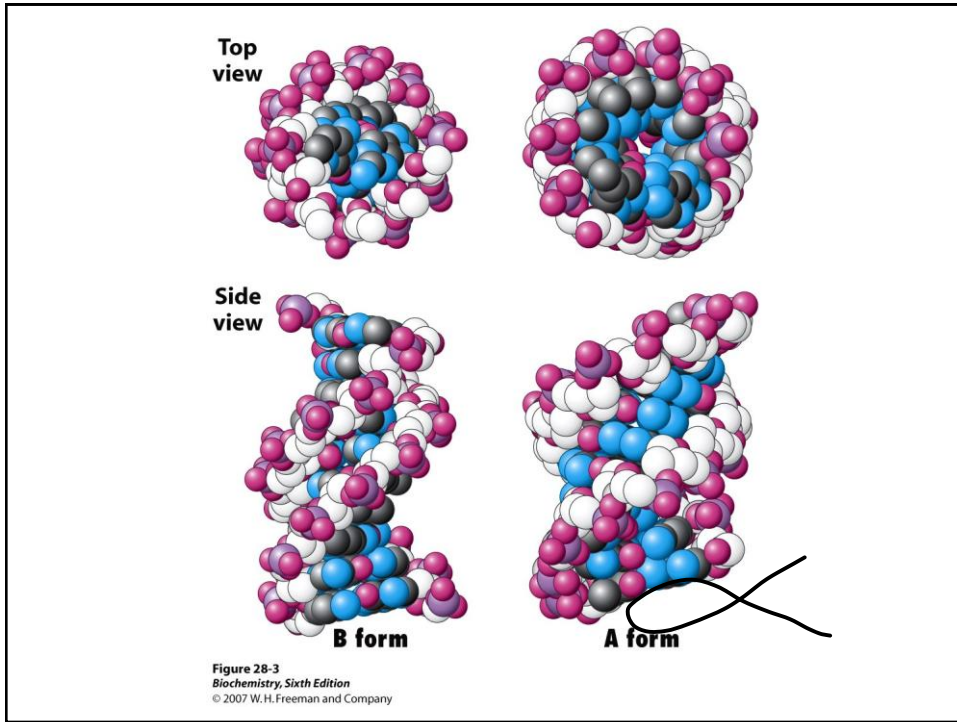


Figure 4-4  
Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition  
© 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company





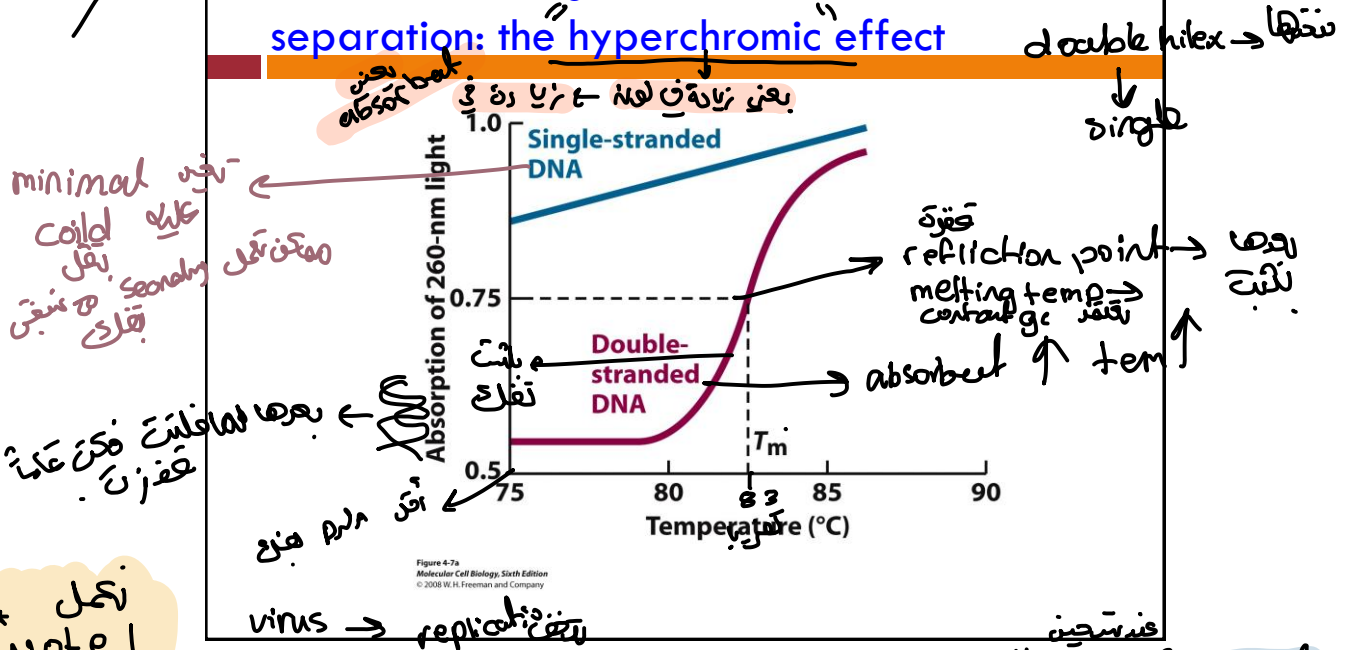
مما زادنا تذبذب temp

$G \equiv C \%$  → contribution more than  $A = T$  مختلفا يرا بطين

مثنى في نفس M temp

$G \equiv C \%$  تعتمد على Contrast

## DNA can undergo reversible strand separation: the "hyperchromic" effect



\* نعمل Note ↓  
أندفحة

"Melting temperature specific species"

absorb ↑ temp ↑

double stranded → single stranded  
تثبت → تفكك

## DNA can undergo reversible strand separation: $T_m$ is affected by GC content ↑ temp ↑

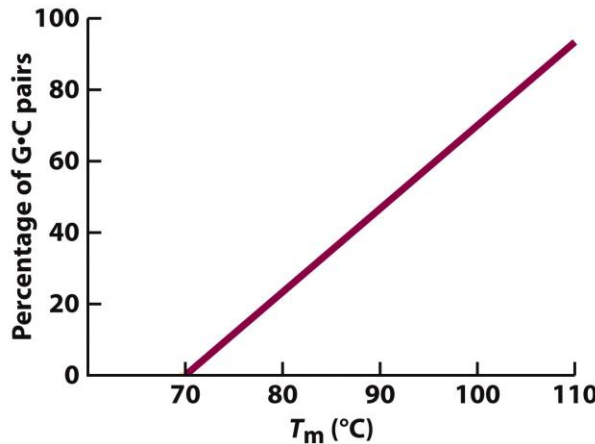


Figure 4-7b  
Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition  
© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

absorbent <sup>تقيح عن</sup> DNA <sup>الأساسي</sup> Nitrogen base  $\rightarrow$

Double strand  
Nitrogen bases  
يأتي مضمرة  
في الوسط

Exposed "Single"  $\rightarrow$  absorbent. من لما قوت لـ  
يعني حذرة عن تحمل absorbent أكلها ن

يتطاع على DNA و RNA

\* شش ممكن bacterial  $\rightarrow$  PNA

عن حارة أقل من "75 - 70"

Single  $\rightarrow$  minimal  
لأنه كان لا تقع، جفته أو عامل  
structure

فأنا مدته فتبال تغير قليل  
لأنه من عامل double strand

coiling قلت  
تغير قليل