Molecular Machines



Mikołaj Olejniczak

Molecular machines, which are involved in synthesis, maturation and decay of biological macromolecules



spliceosome



ribosome





exosome

proteasome

RNA structure is organized at three levels:

Primary structure is the sequence of nucleotides in polyribonucleotide chain

Secondary structure is stabilized by Watson-Crick pairs and is organized into structure motifs such as **helices**, **hairpins**, **bulges**, **internal loops**, *helix junctions*

Tertiary structure is formed by nucleotides located distantly in the sequence, such as **pseudoknots, base triples, A-minor motifs**

Complex RNA molecules contain multiple structure elements

RNA molecules form complex 3-dimensional structures



RNA properties essential for the formation of complex spatial structures **Purine or** pyrimidine Phosphate base 5' 4′ 0 Pentose Η)H

Nucleic acid chain is more flexible than that of a protein



RNA molecules contain post-transcriptional modifications



Modified bases in tRNA are essential for Its structure and for accurate decoding of mRNA



More than 70 types of noncanonical basepairs are known



RNA secondary structure motifs



Tertiary contacts in P4-P6 domain of group I intron



Two parallel helical regions stabilized by tertiary contacts

- 1. tetraloop/tetraloop-receptor
- 2. A-minor interactions

tetraloop/tetraloop-receptor



A-minor motif



coaxial stacking in 16S rRNA



Ribosome is a molecular machine, in which RNA is the peptide bond formation catalyst



Translation elongation cycle



A-minor interactions are essential for mRNA decoding







Aminoglycosides trigger conformational change at the decoding site



Puromycine mimics the 3' end of aa-tRNA and inhibits peptidyltransferase activity



Macrolides block the exit tunnel of the 50S subunit



Molecular mimicry:

Release factors (RFs), which recognize nonsense codons to terminate translation, have the shape of tRNA molecules



Youngman et al., Ann Rev Microbiol 2008