

DNA structure

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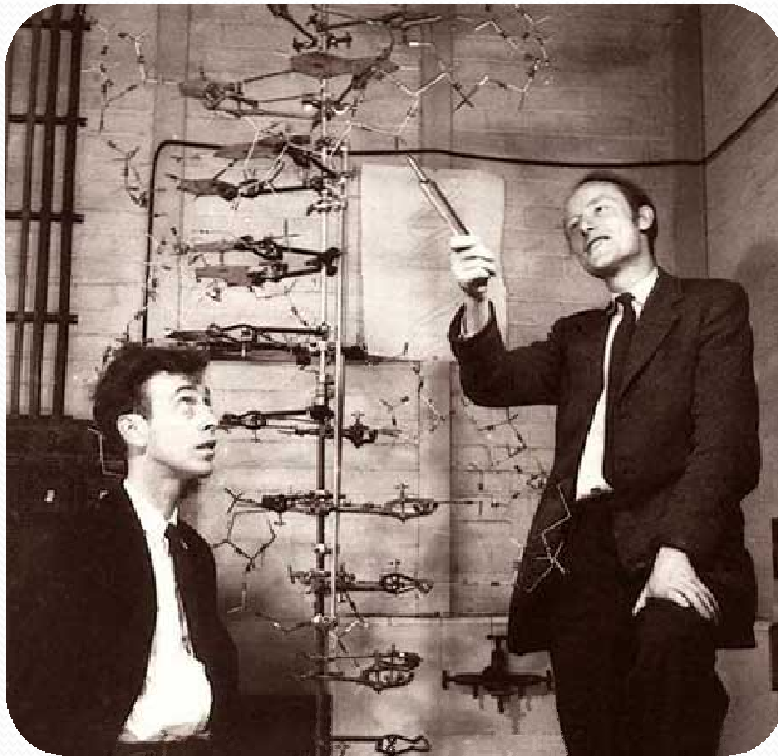
Structural Biology – UPF

Introduction

- DNA
store and transmit
genetic information



A little bit of history



- End of s. XIX, **Friedrich Miescher** isolates for first time DNA in salmon sperm
- 1944 **Avery, MacLeod & McCarty** discovered DNA could transfect from a pathogenic bacteria strain to another non pathogenic.
- Experiment of transfection of E.Coli by Bacteriophage T2. **Hershey & Chase**
- 1953 **Watson & Crick** proposed a structure for DNA after observing a X-ray diffraction image of DNA taken by **R. Franklin** (1952)



DNA

Composition

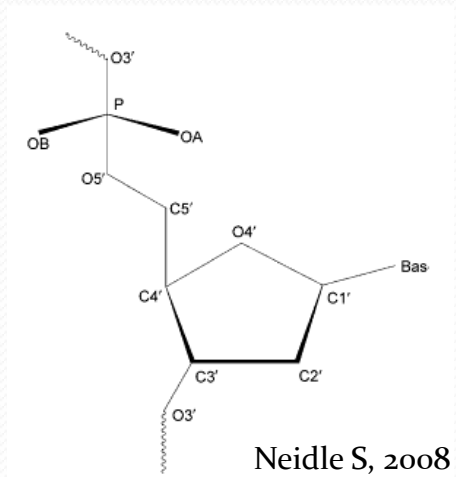
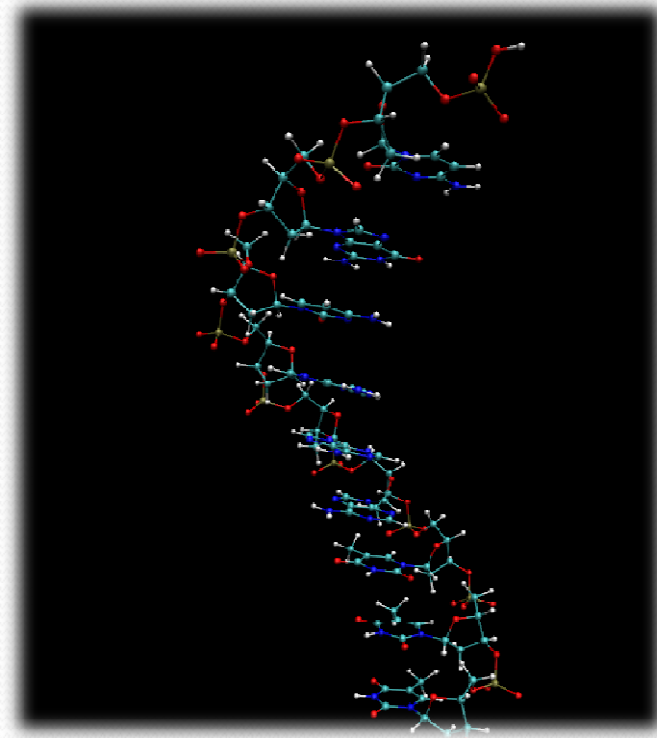
DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid):
macromolecule composed by
a repetition of:

- **Backbone**

- Phosphate group
- Sugar: 2'-deoxyribose

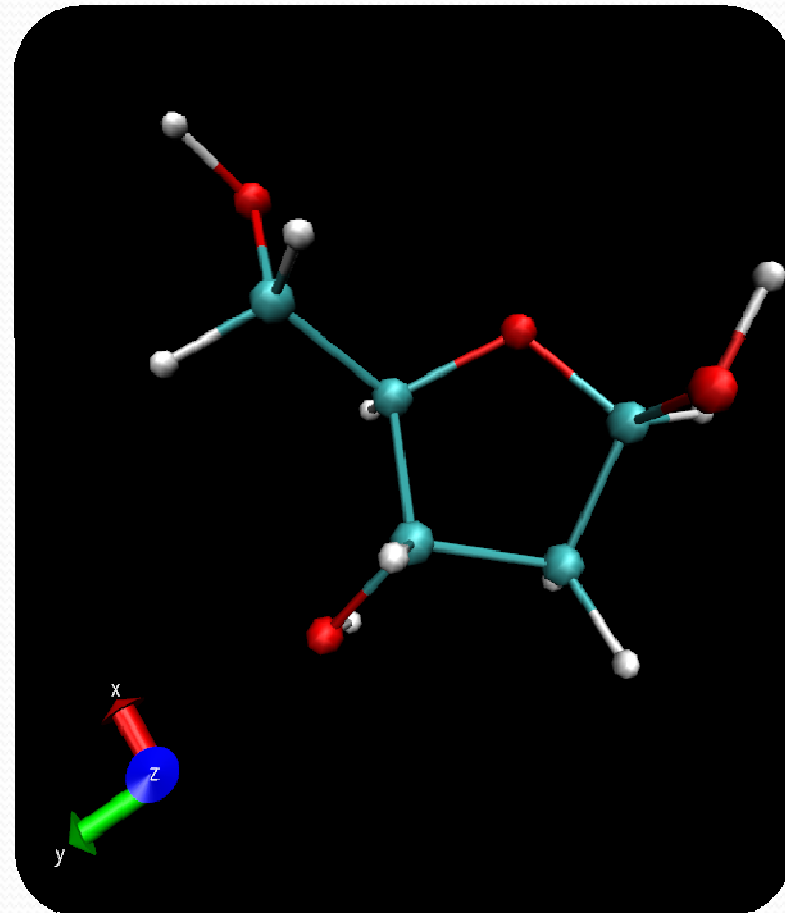
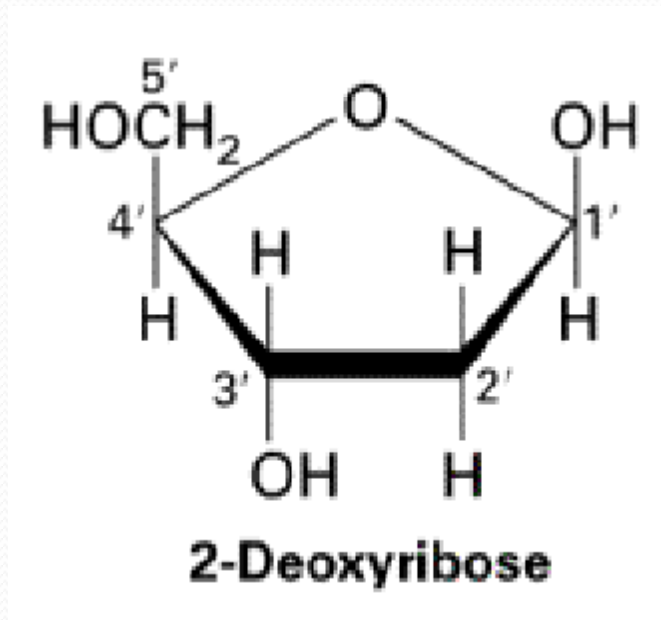
} phosphodiester bond
glycosidic bond

- **Nitrogenous base**



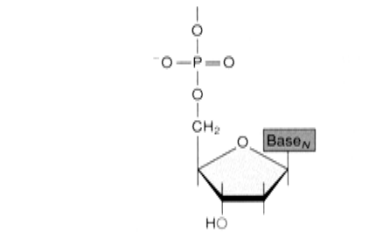
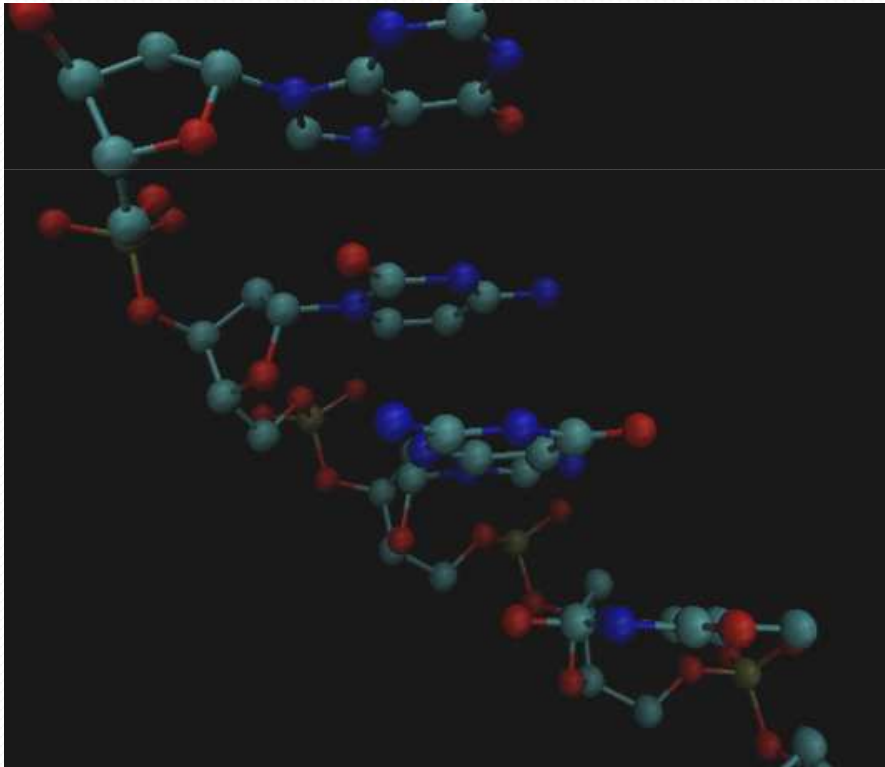
Backbone

- β -D-2-deoxyribose

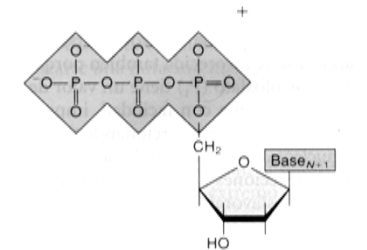


Backbone

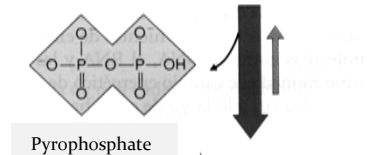
- Phosphate group - Phosphodiester bond



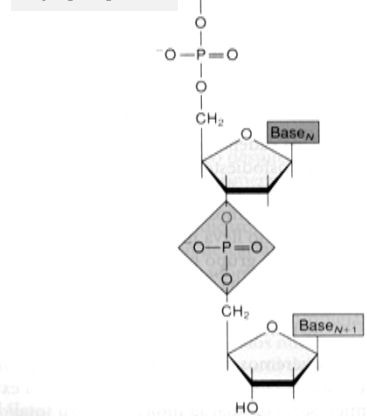
Polynucleotide with N residues



Triphosphate deoxynucleoside



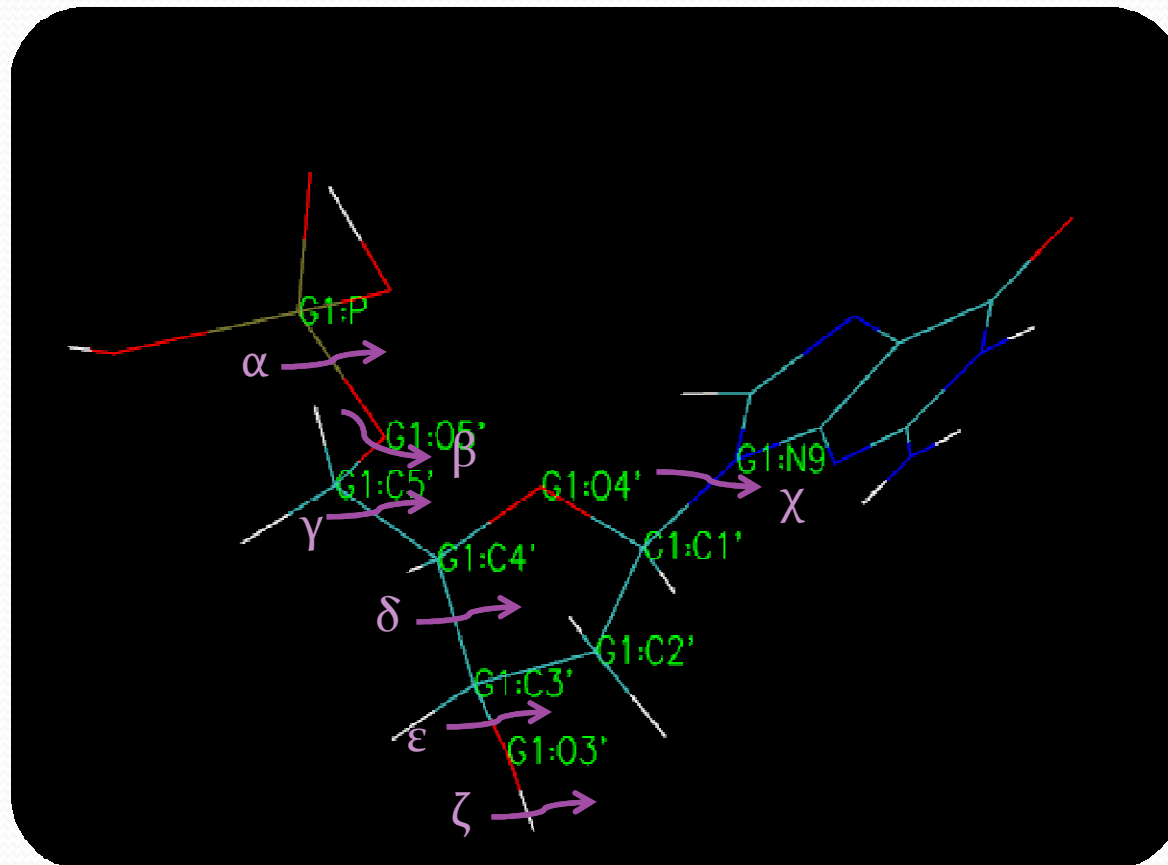
Pyrophosphate



Polynucleotide with N + 1 residues

Backbone

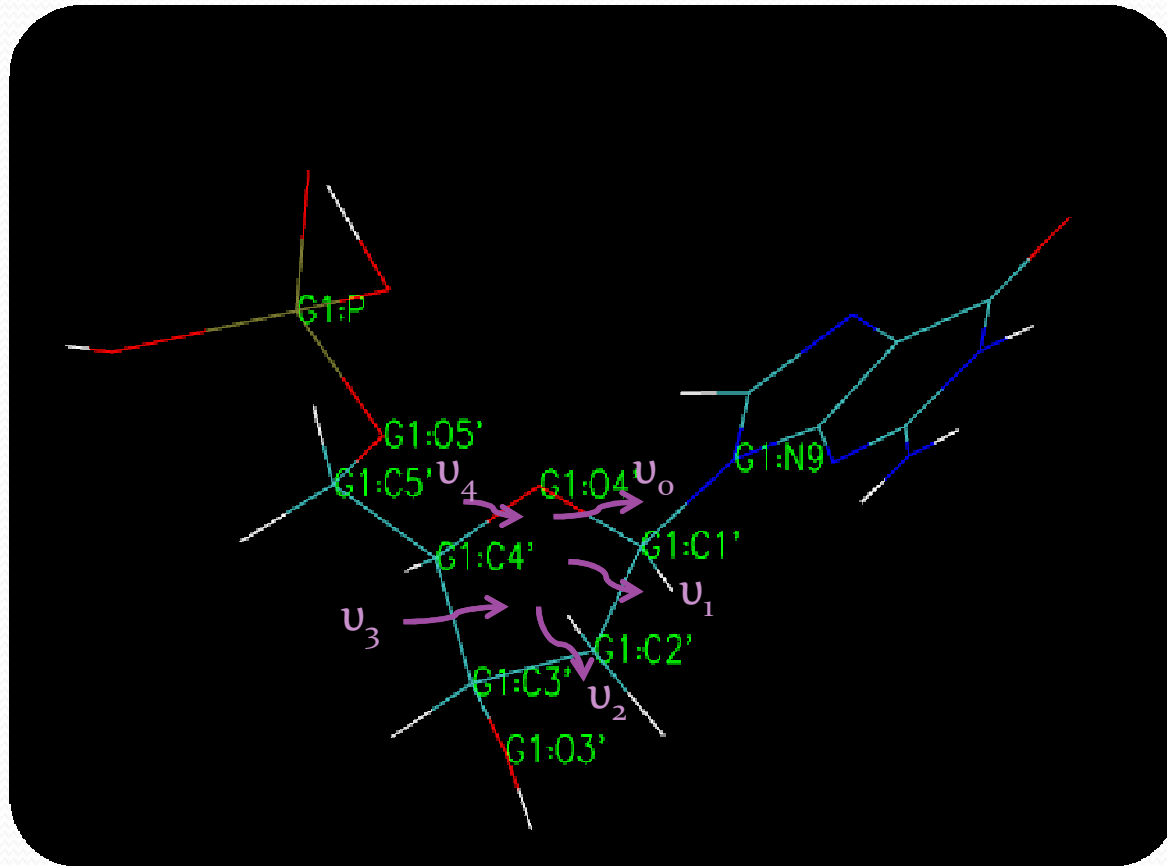
- Rotation



- α O3'-P-O5'-C5'
- β P-O5'-C5'-C4'
- γ O5'-C5'-C4'-C3'
- δ C5'-C4'-C3'-O3'
- ε C4'-C3'-O3'-P
- ζ C3'-O3'-P-O5'
- χ O4'-C1'-N9/N1-C4/C2

Backbone

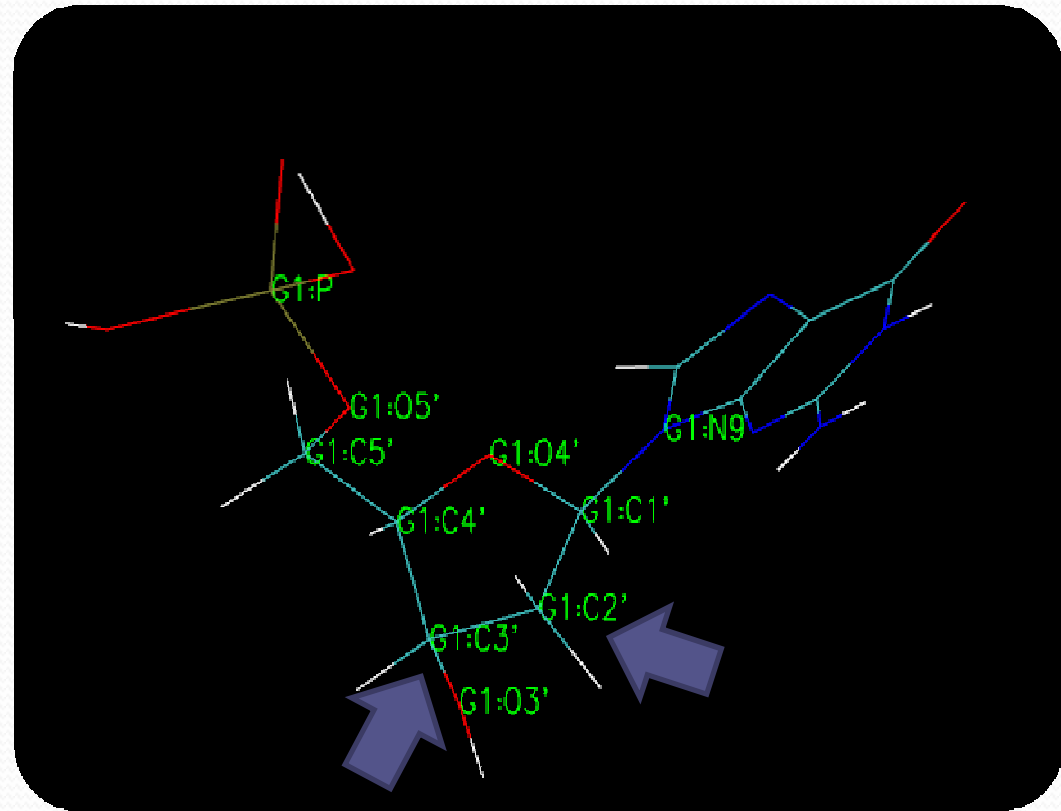
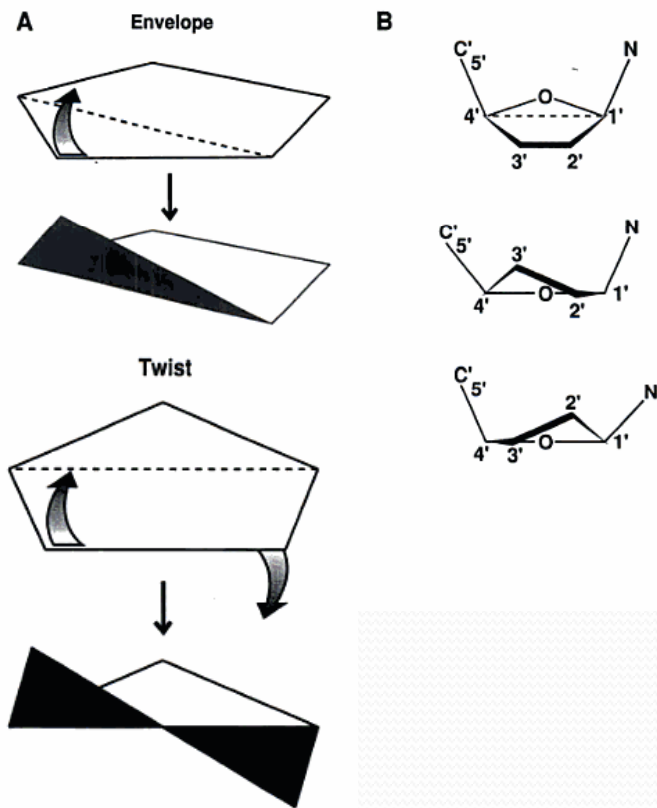
- desoxyribose angles



v_0 : C4'-O4'-C1'-C2'
 v_1 : O4'-C1'-C2'-C3'
 v_2 : C1'-C2'-C3'-C4'
 v_3 : C2'-C3'-C4'-O4'
 v_4 : C3'-C4'-O4'-C1'

Backbone

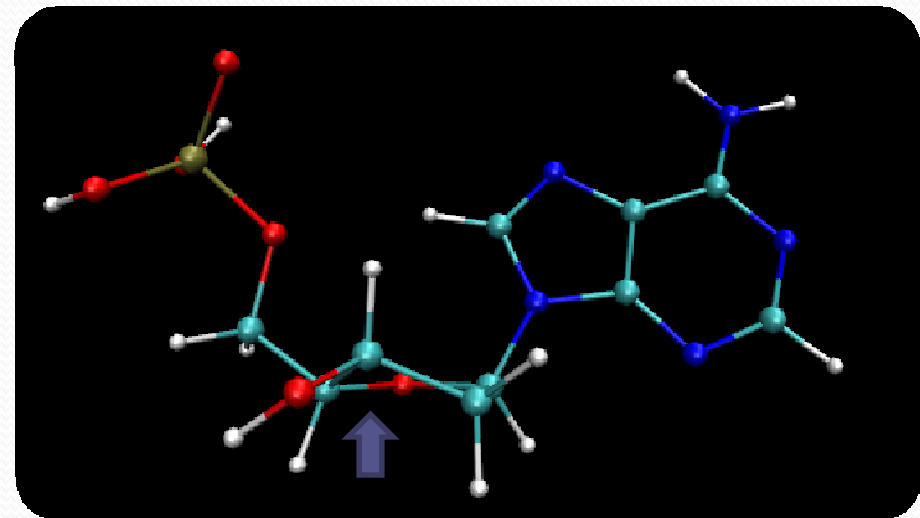
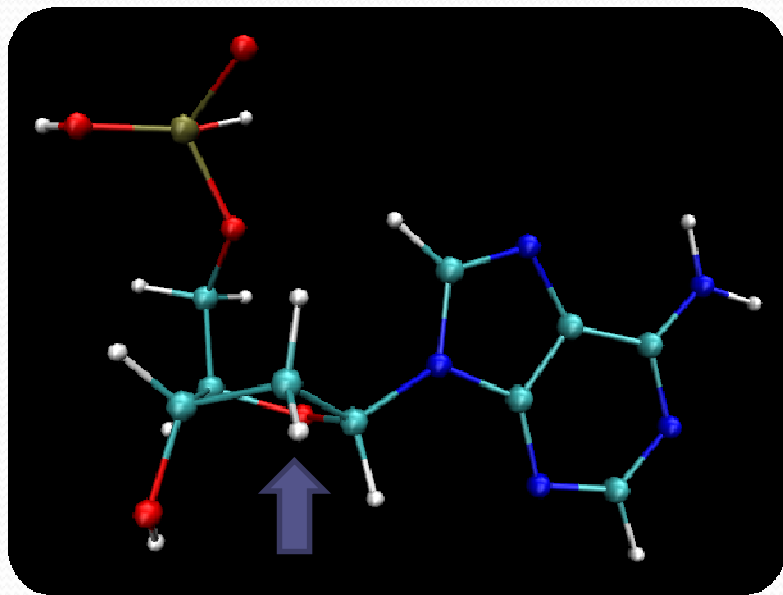
Deoxyribose conformations



Backbone

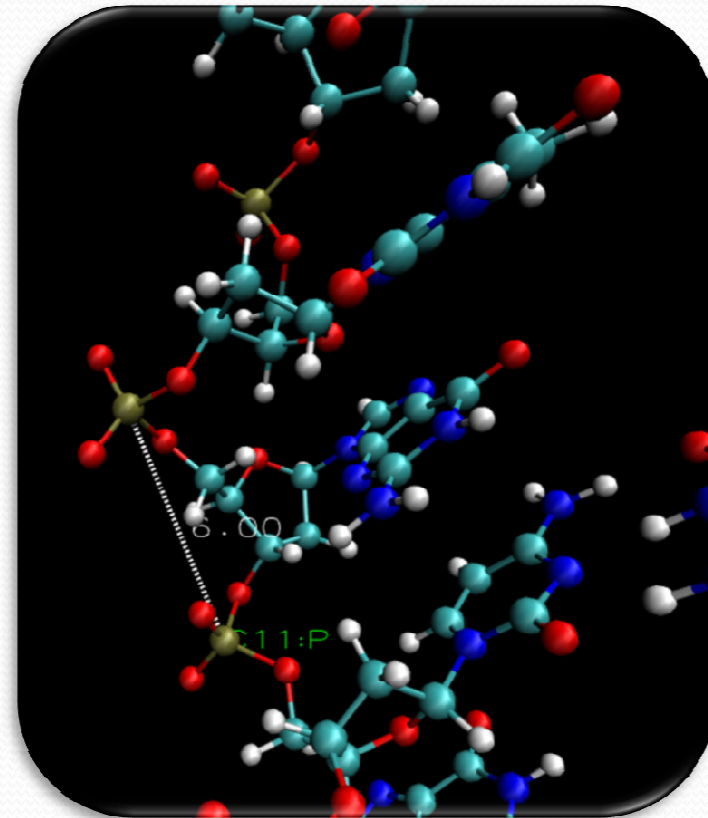
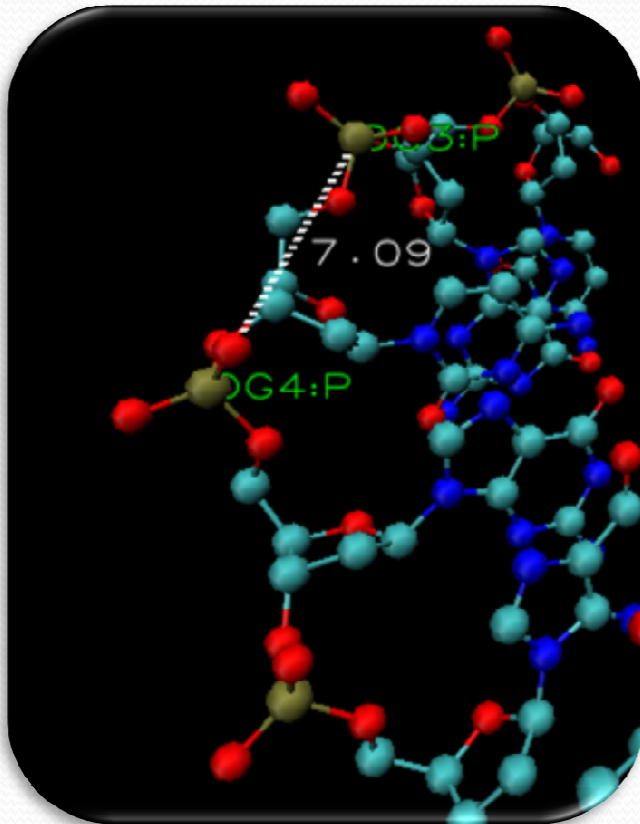
- Ring pucker

C2'endo (B-DNA/Z-DNA C/T) – C3'endo (A-DNA/ Z-DNA A/G)



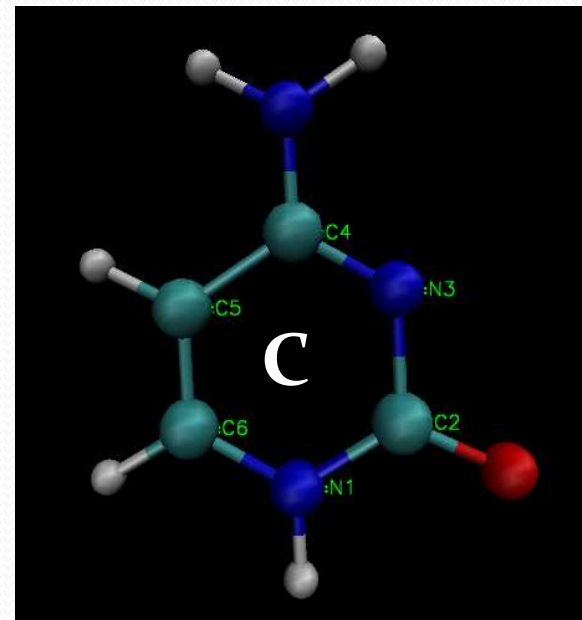
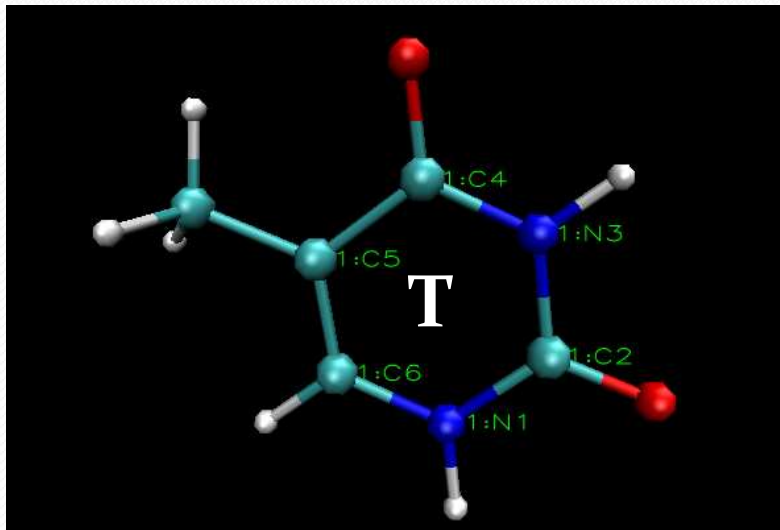
Backbone

- Ring Pucker - distance between P
C2'endo (B-DNA / Z-DNA C/T) – C3'endo (A-DNA / Z-DNA A/G)



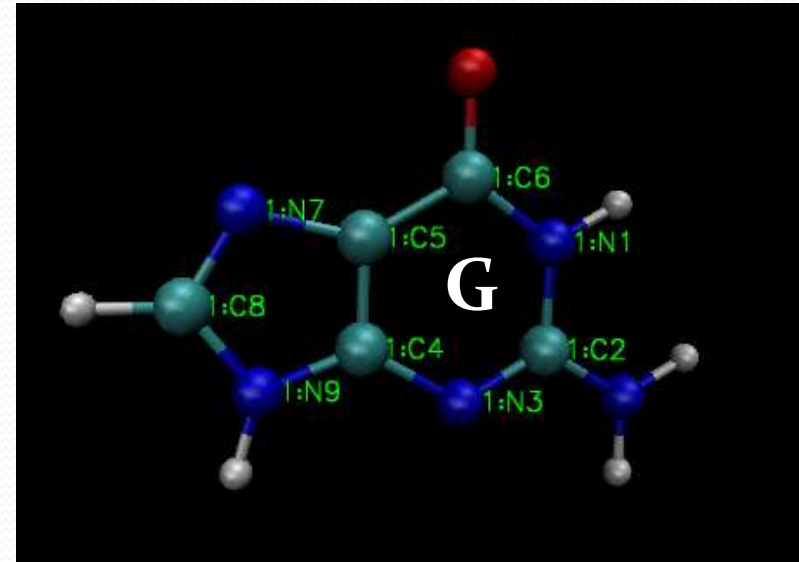
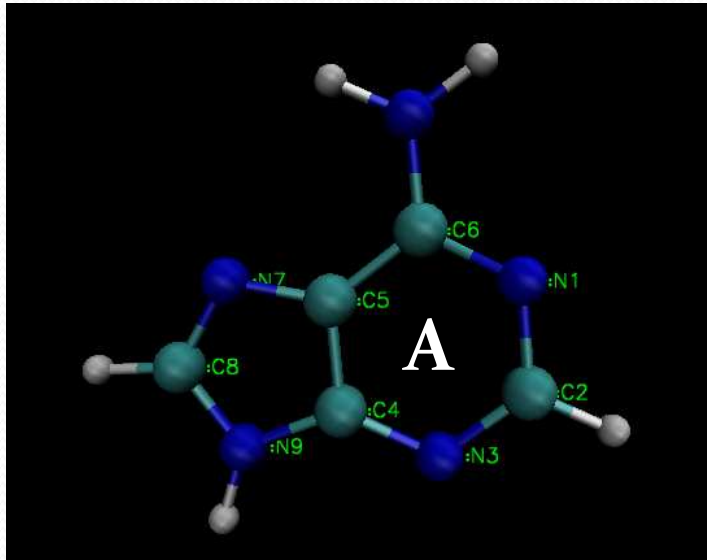
Nitrogenous bases

- Four nitrogenous bases: G C T A
 - Pyrimidine (Y)
 - Thymine (T)
 - Cytosine (C)



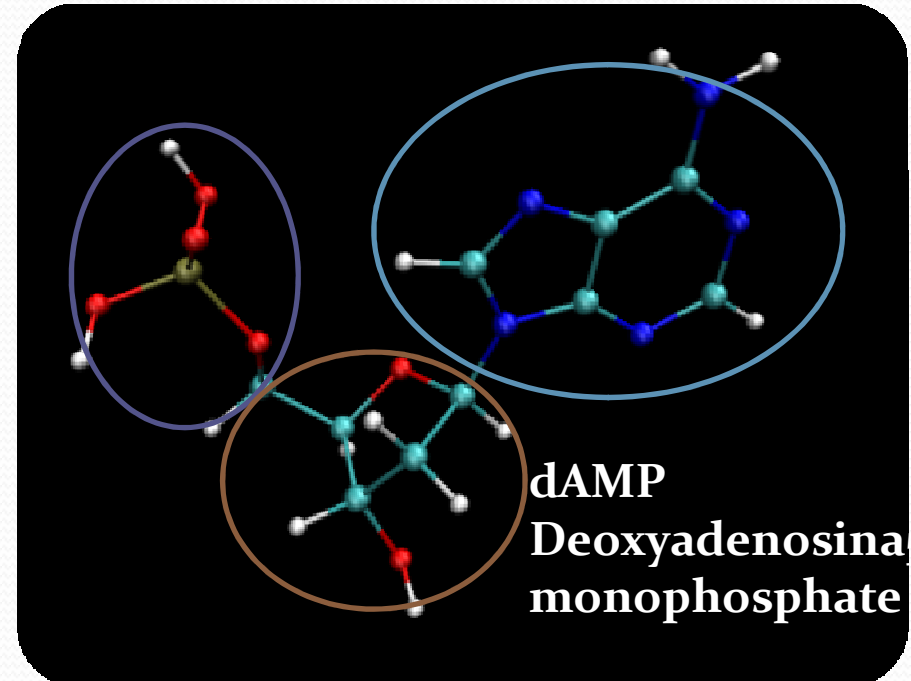
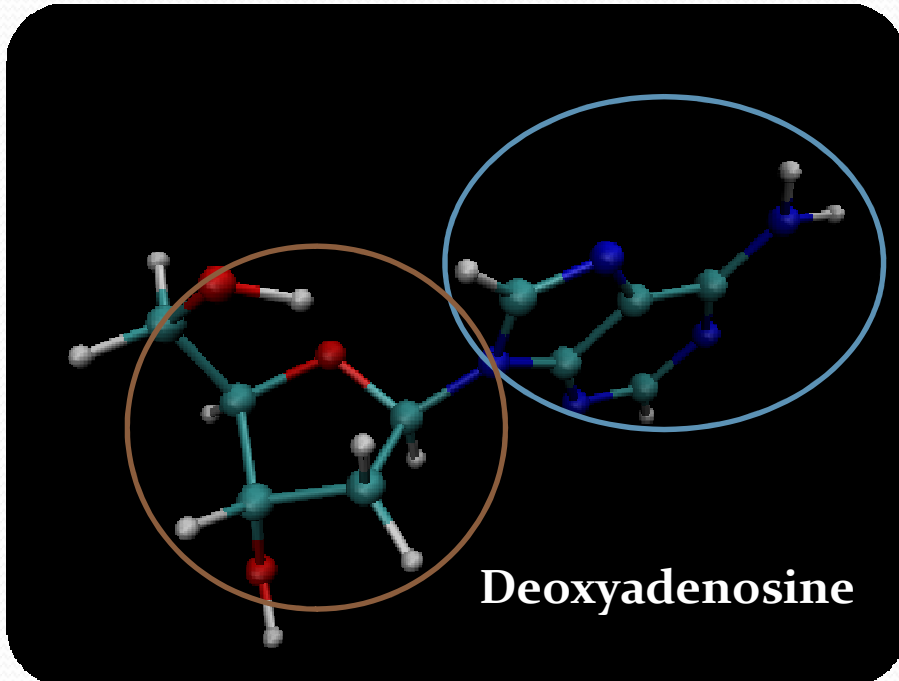
Nitrogenous bases

- Four nitrogenous bases: G C T A
 - Purines (R)
 - Adenine (A)
 - Guanine (G)



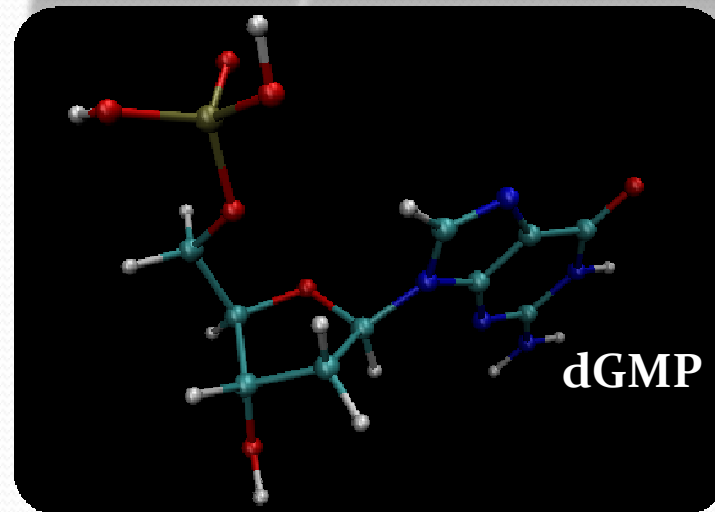
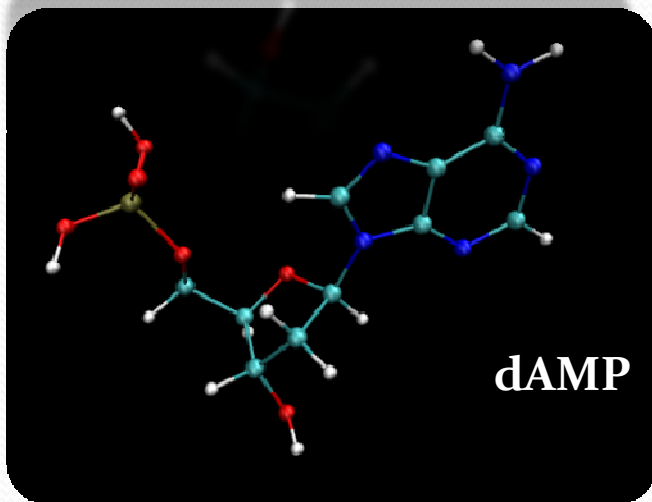
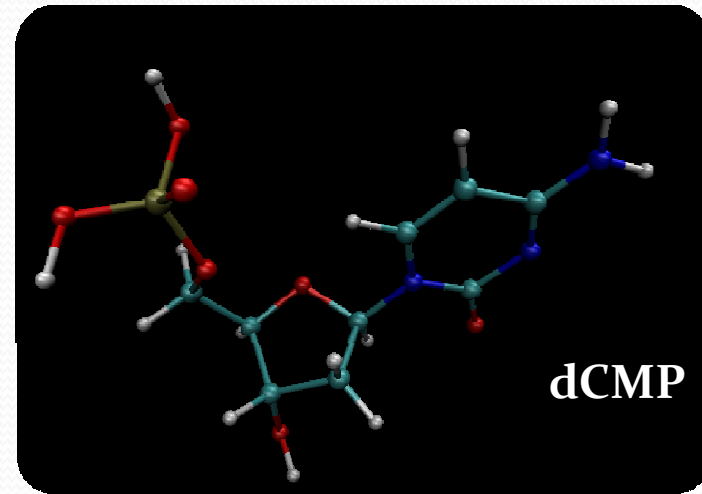
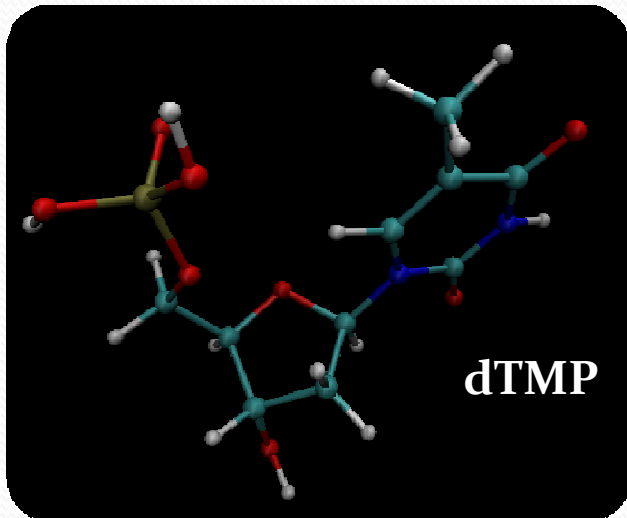
Nitrogenous bases

- Deoxynucleoside – deoxynucleotide



Nitrogenous bases

Deoxynucleotides



Nitrogenous bases

- Properties

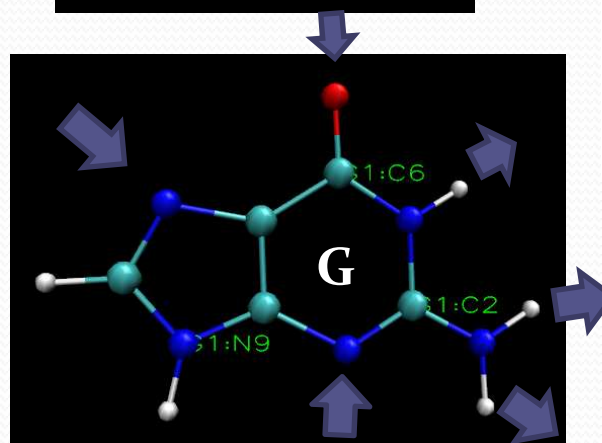
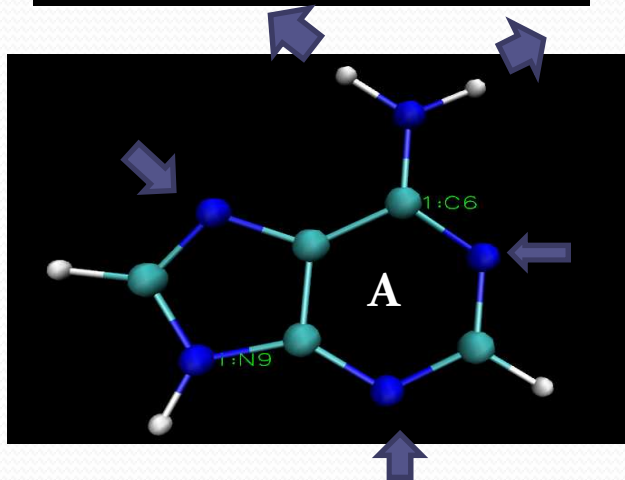
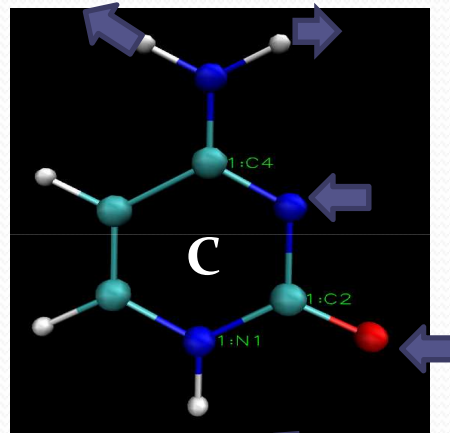
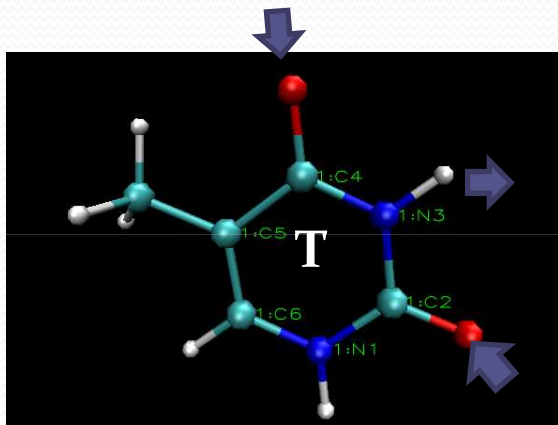


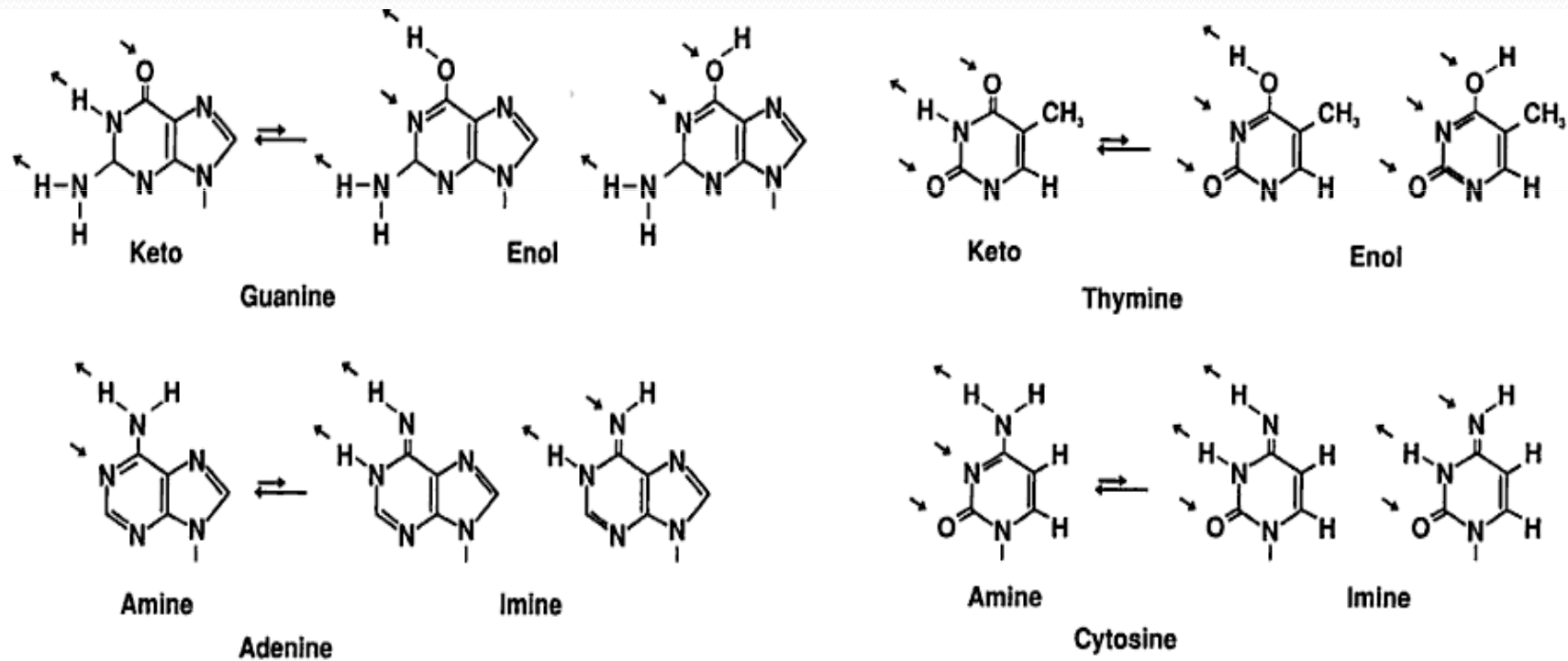
Table 2.1 pK_a values for bases in nucleosid

| Bases (site of protonation) | Nucleoside |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Adenine (N-1) | 3.63 |
| Cytosine (N-3) | 4.11 |
| Guanine (N-7) | 2.20 |
| Guanine (N-1) | 9.50 |
| Thymine (N-3) | 9.80 |
| Uracil (N-3) | 9.25 |

Blackburn GM, 2006

Nitrogenous bases

- Tautomers

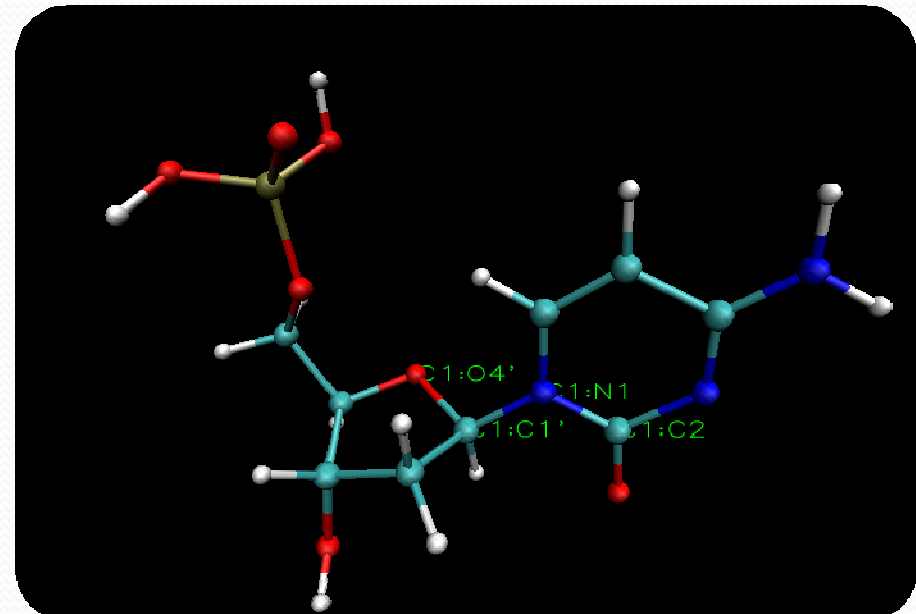
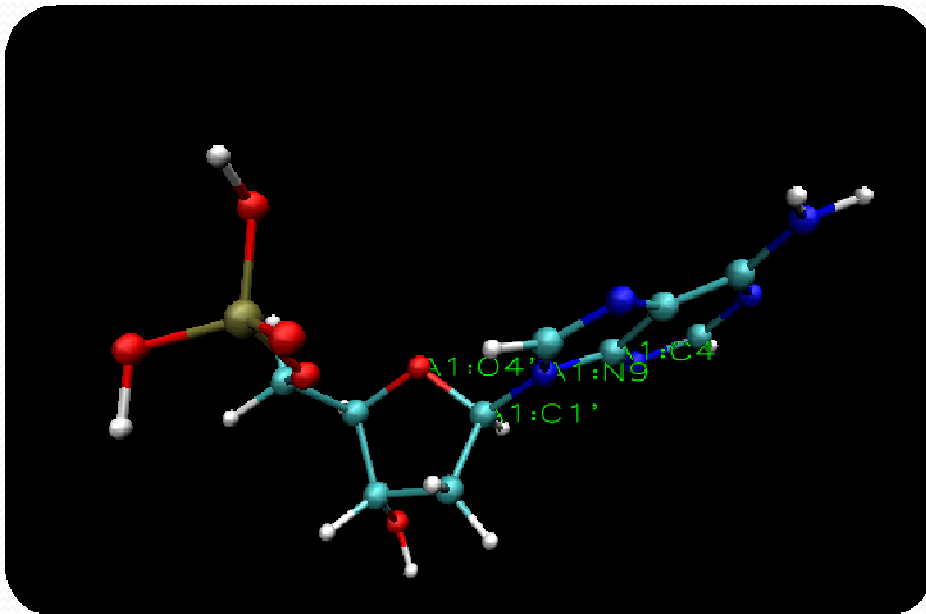


Nitrogenous bases

- β Glycosidic bond

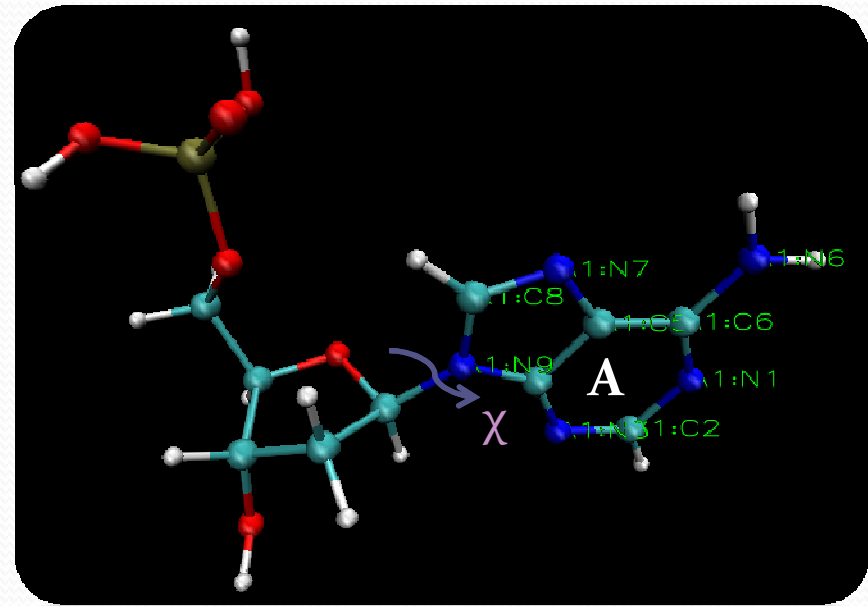
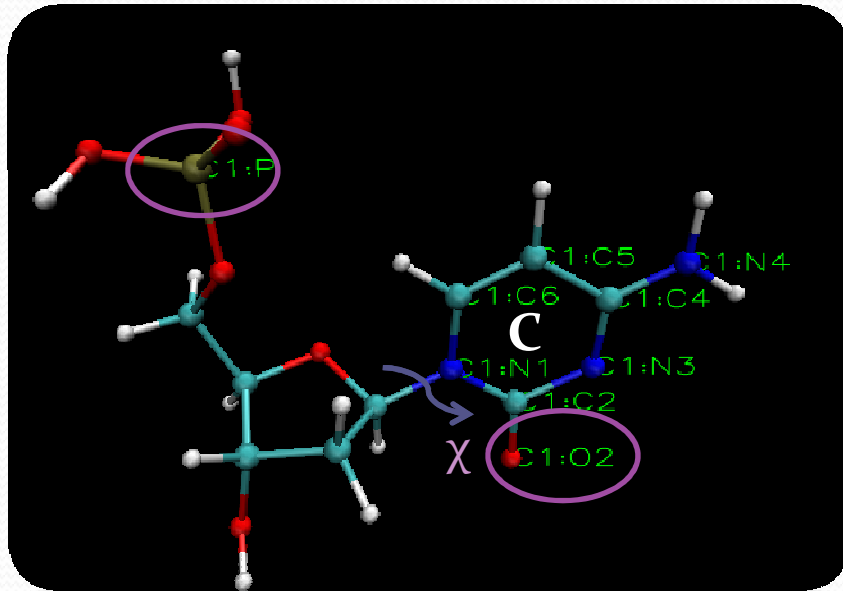
Purines: O4'-C1'-N9-C4

Pyrimidines O4'-C1'-N1-C2



Nitrogenous bases

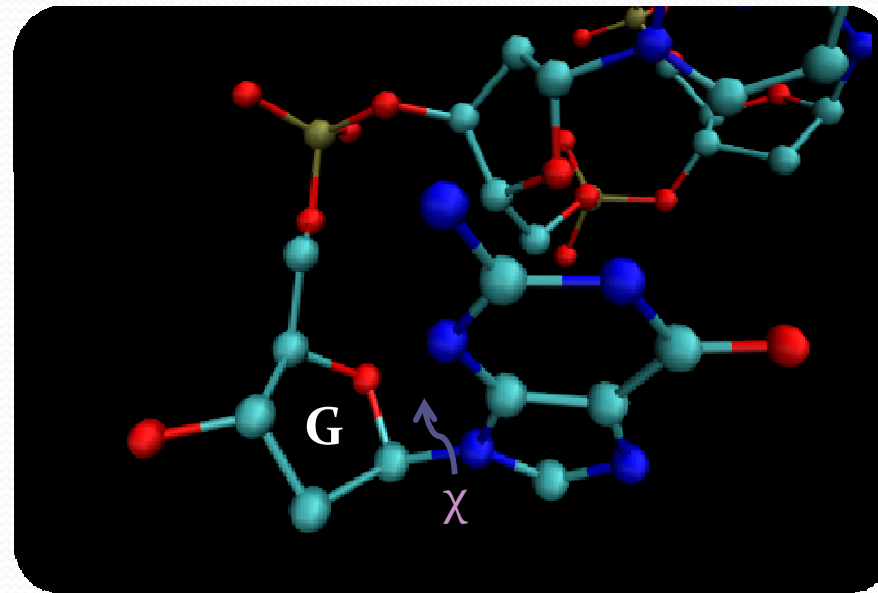
- Anti (B-DNA/A-DNA/Z-DNA pyrimidine) $-120^\circ > \chi > 180^\circ$



Nitrogenous bases

- Syn conformation (Z-DNA purine)

$$0^\circ < \chi < 90^\circ$$

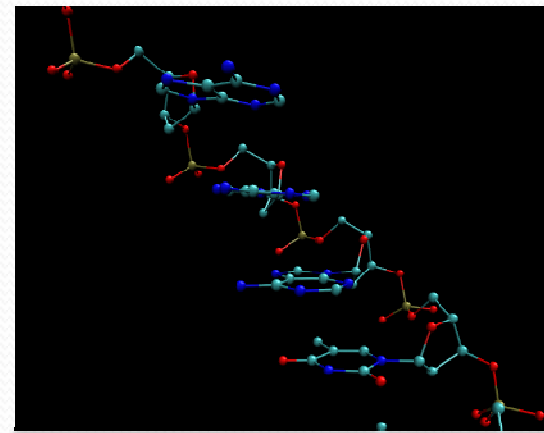
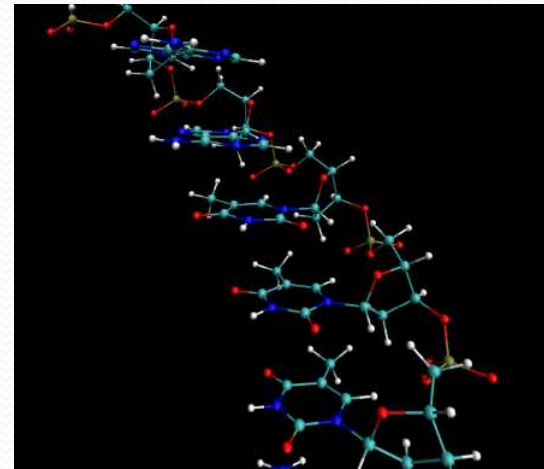
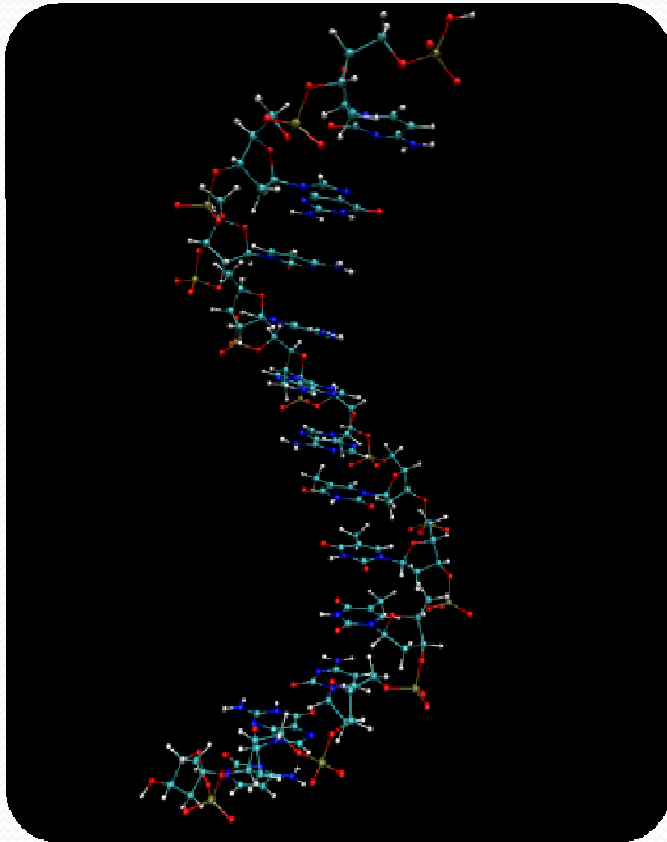




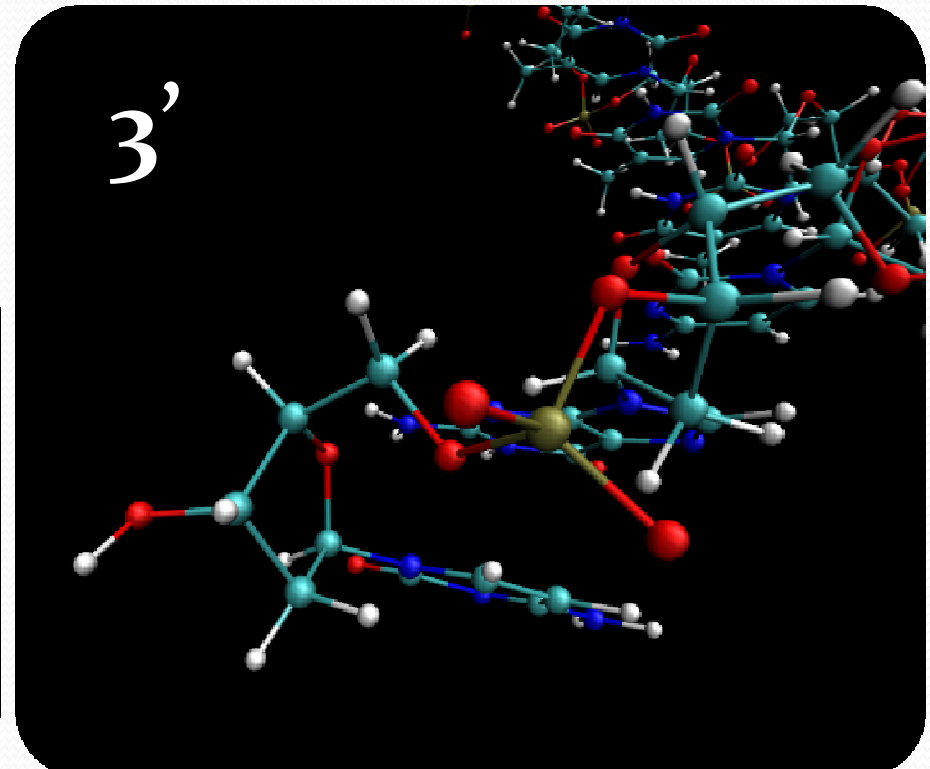
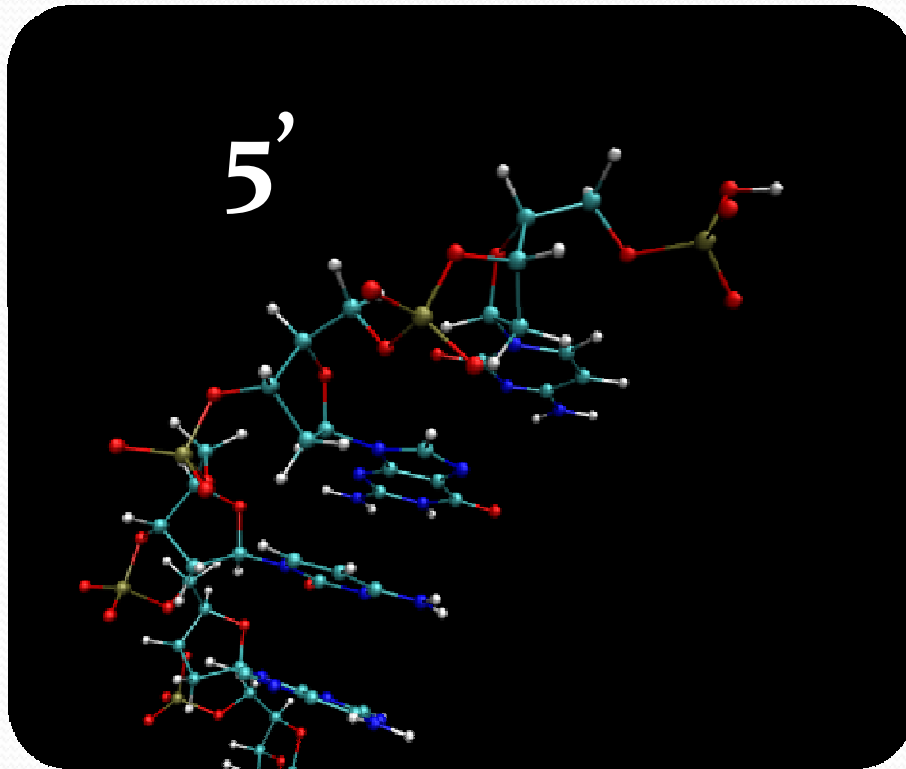
PRIMARY STRUCTURE

Primary structure

Single strand



Primary structure

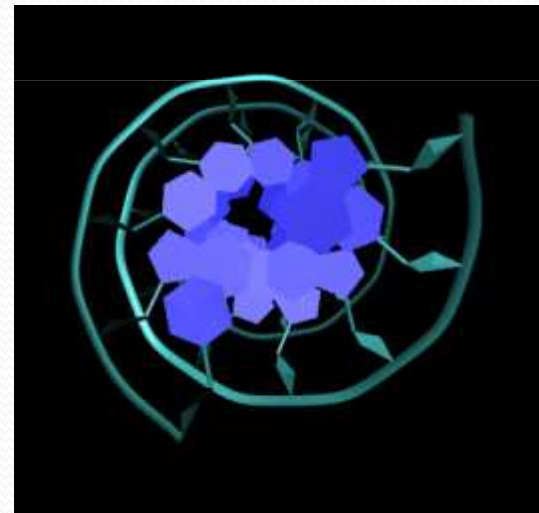
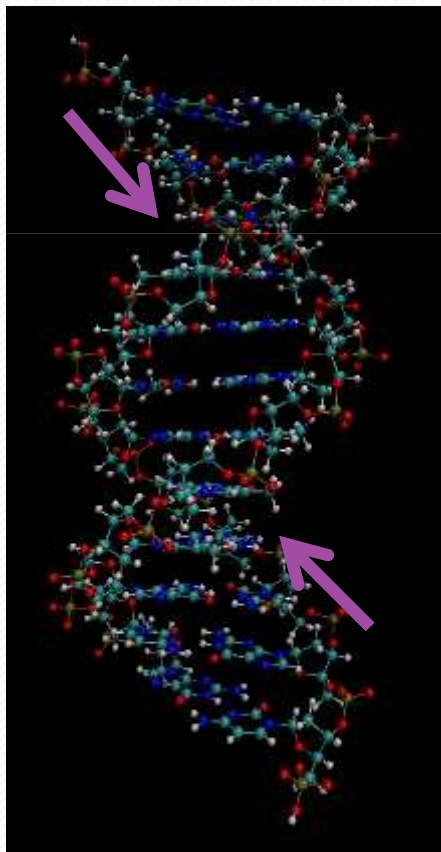




SECONDARY STRUCTURE

Secondary structure

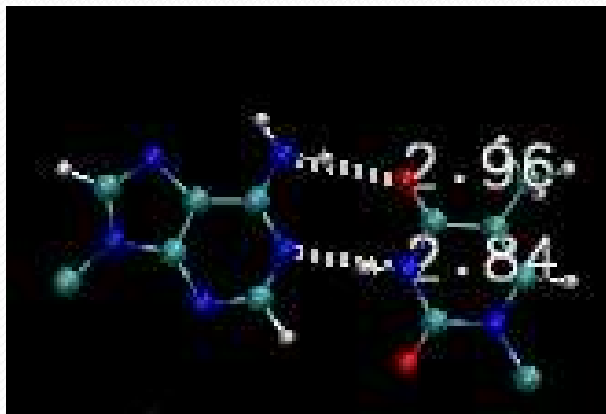
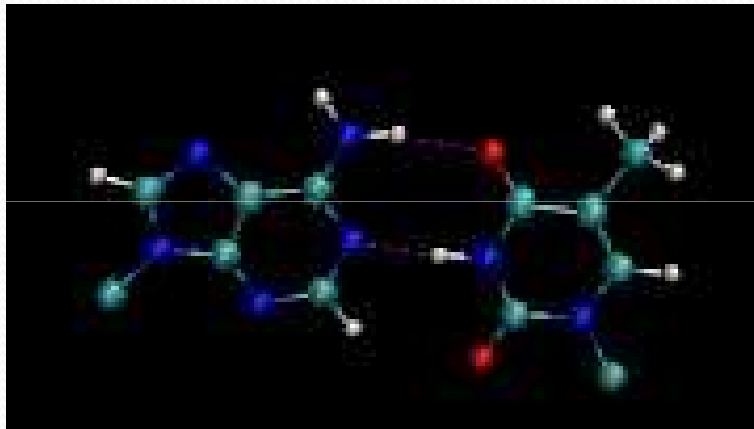
- Watson and Crick double helix model



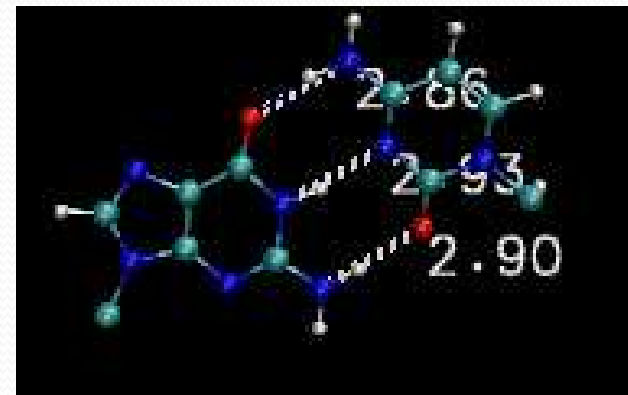
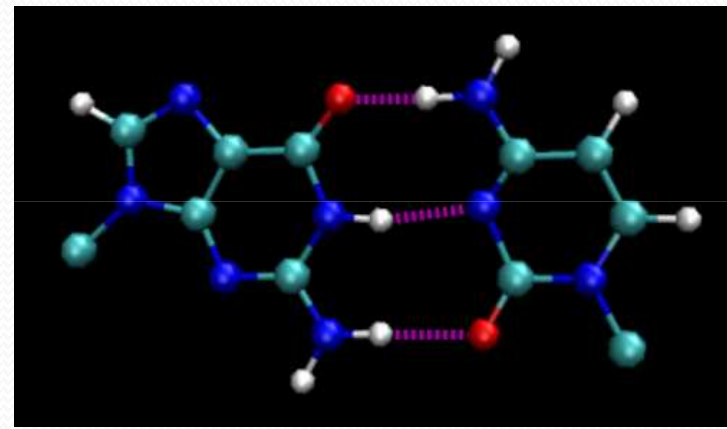
Secondary structure

Base Pairing Watson & Crick

A·T



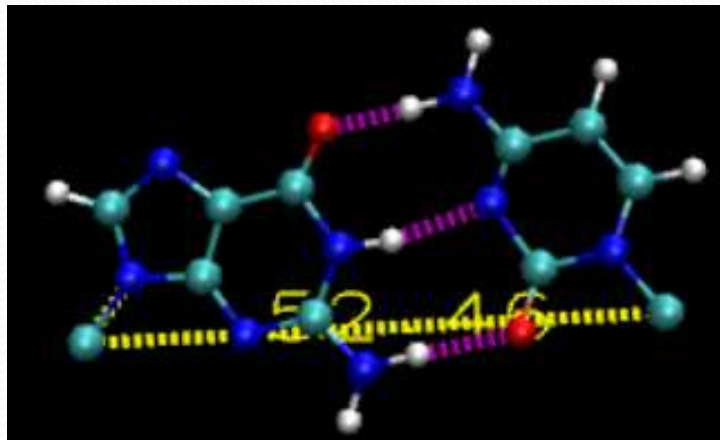
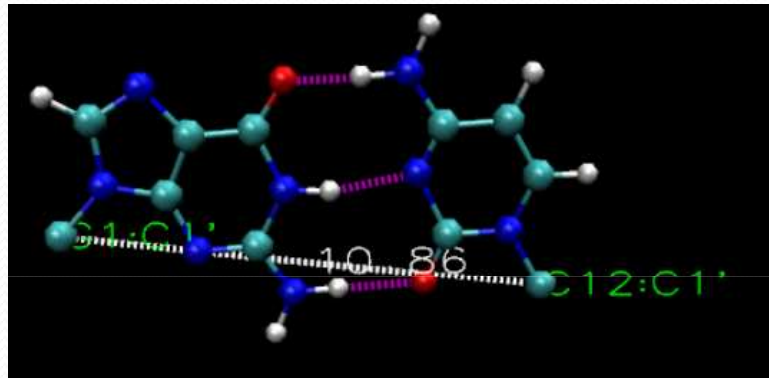
G·C



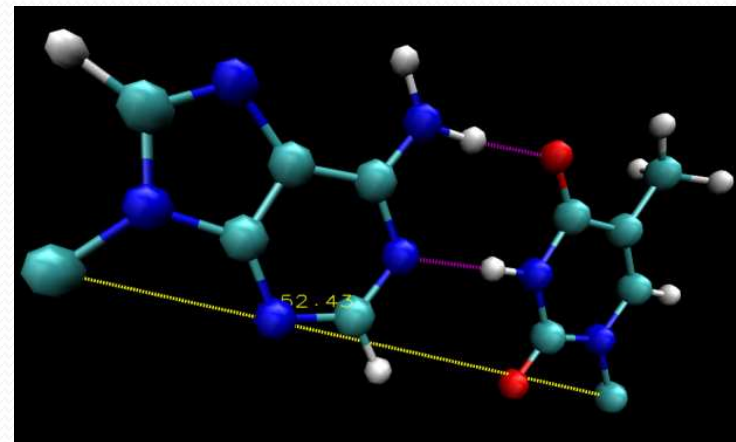
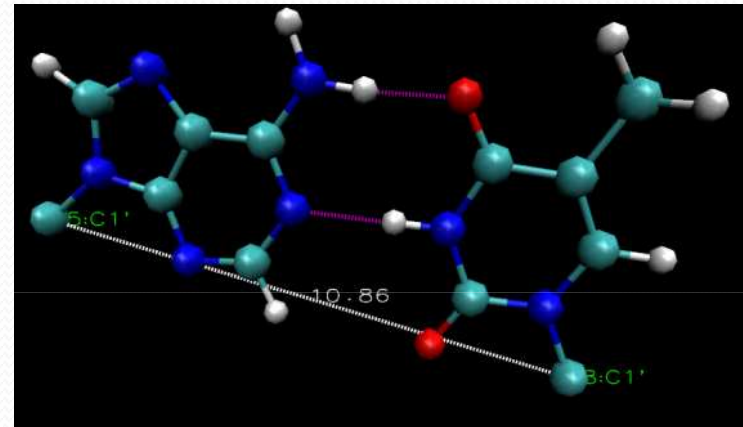
Secondary structure

Base Pairing Watson & Crick

G·C



A·T

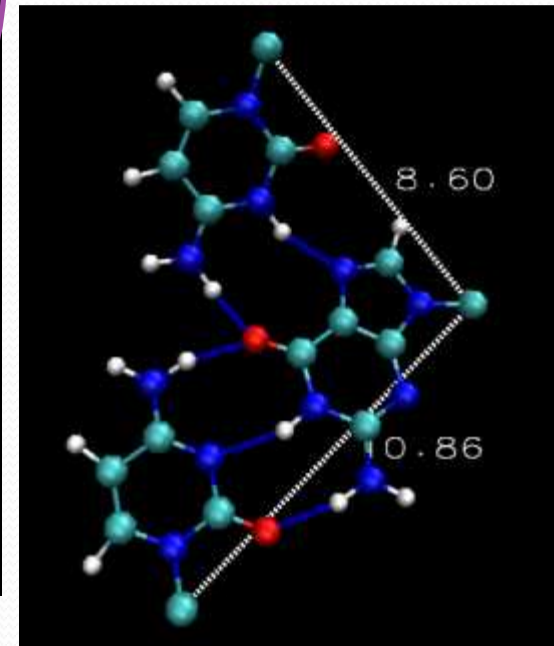
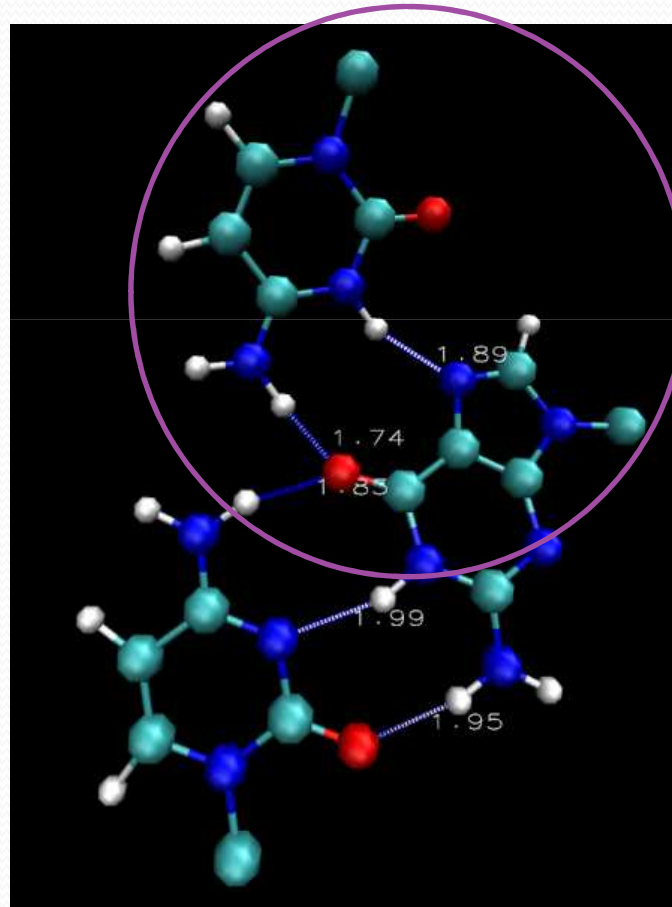
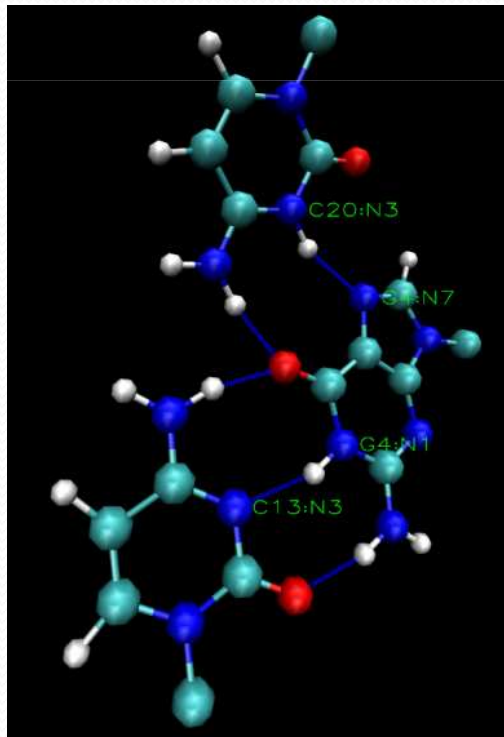


Secondary structure

Hoogsteen base pairing

- C⁺*G.C

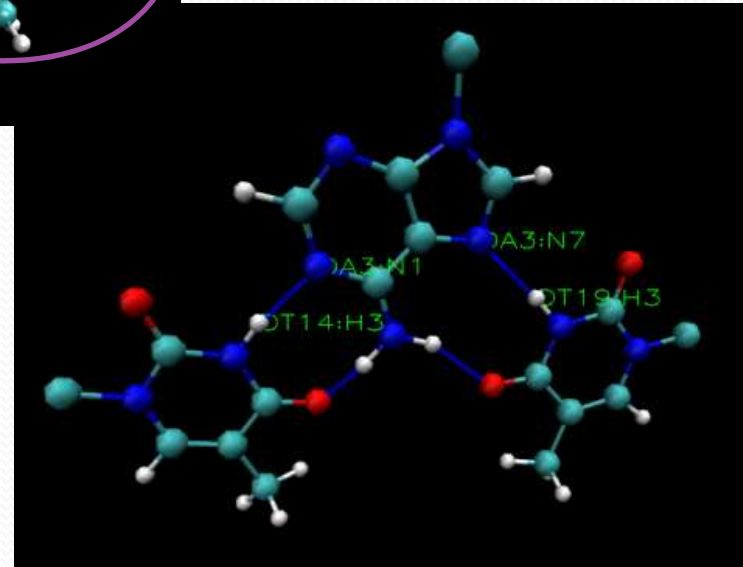
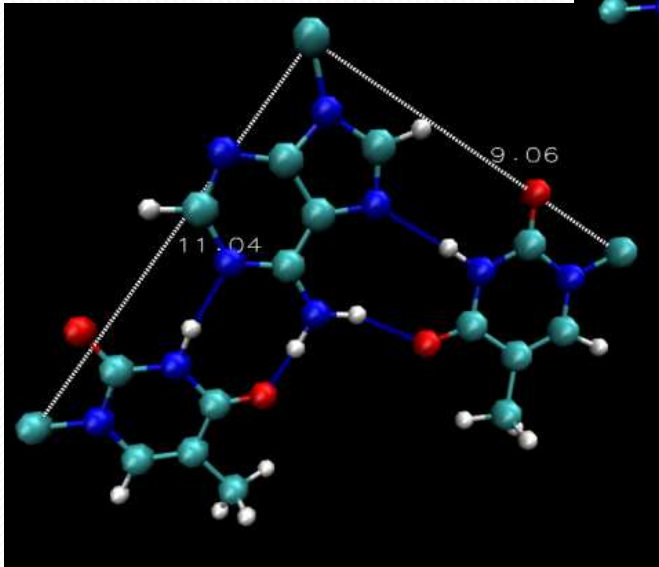
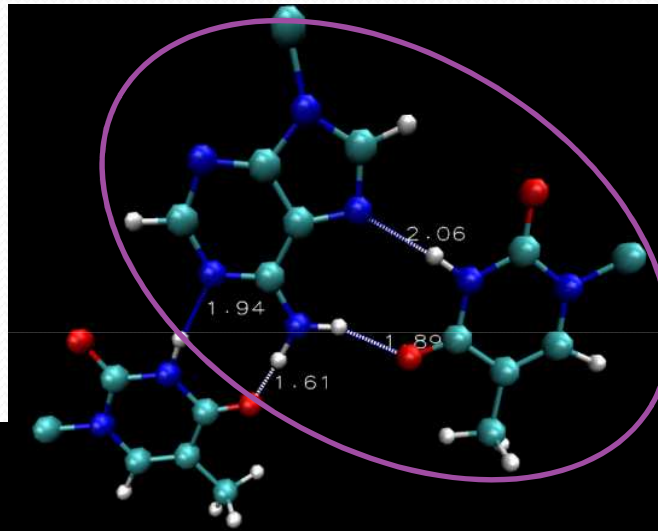
Triple helix



Secondary structure

Hoogsteen base pairing

- T·A*⁺T
- Triple helix



Secondary structure

- Base pair stacking

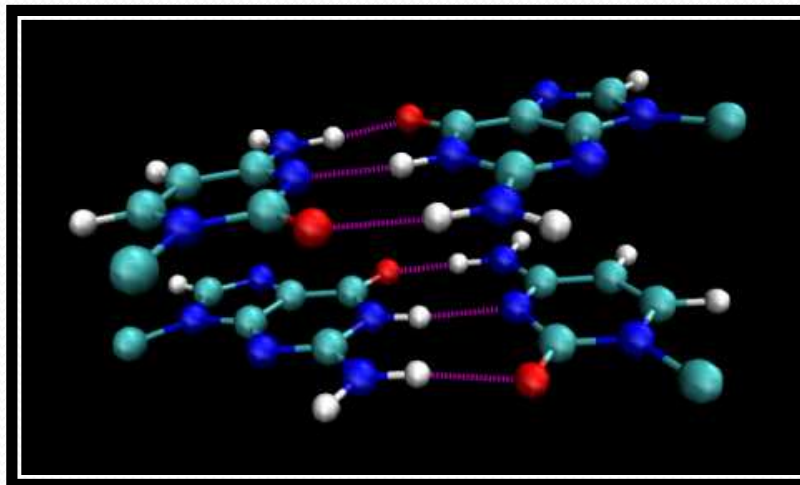
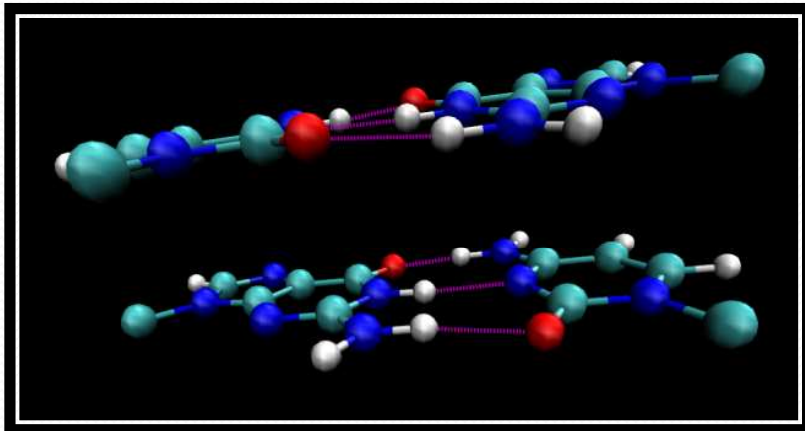


Table 1.2
Base Pair Stacking Energies

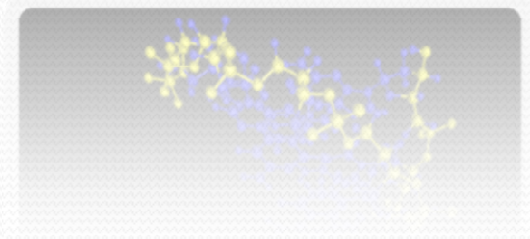
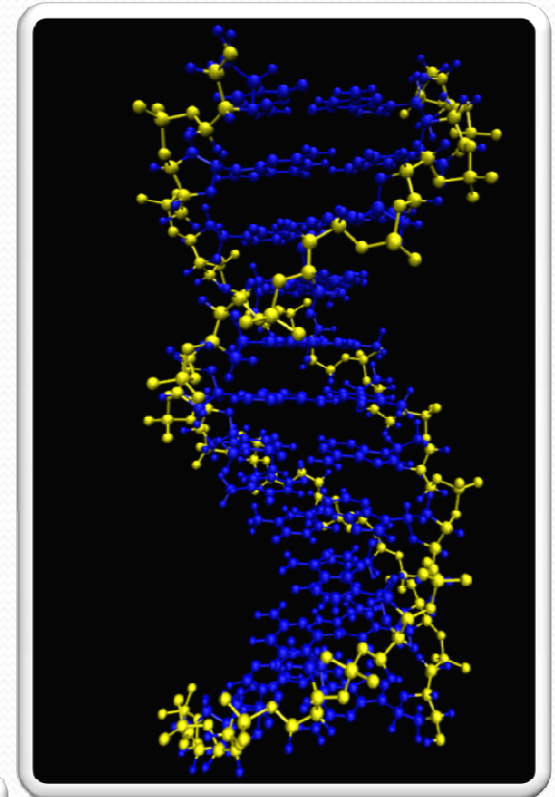
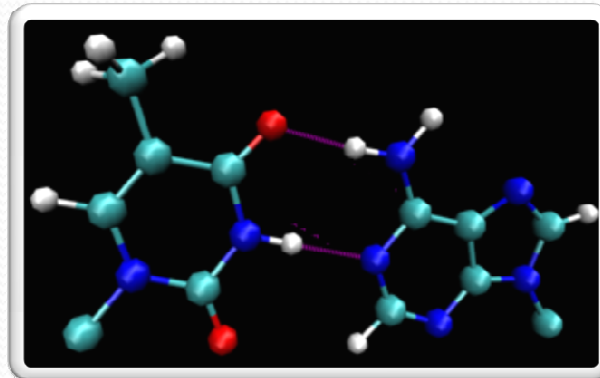
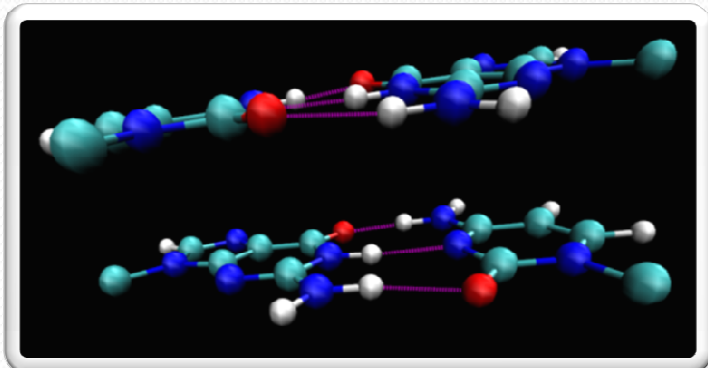
| Dinucleotide base pairs | Stacking energies (kcal/mol/stacked pair) ^a |
|-------------------------|---|
| (GC) - (GC) | -14.59 |
| (AC) - (GT) | -10.51 |
| (TC) - (GA) | - 9.81 |
| (CG) - (CG) | - 9.69 |
| (GG) - (CC) | - 8.26 |
| (AT) - (AT) | - 6.57 |
| (TG) - (CA) | - 6.57 |
| (AG) - (CT) | - 6.78 |
| (AA) - (TT) | - 5.37 |
| (TA) - (TA) | - 3.82 |

^aData from Ornstein *et al.* (1978).

Sinden RR, 1994

Secondary structure

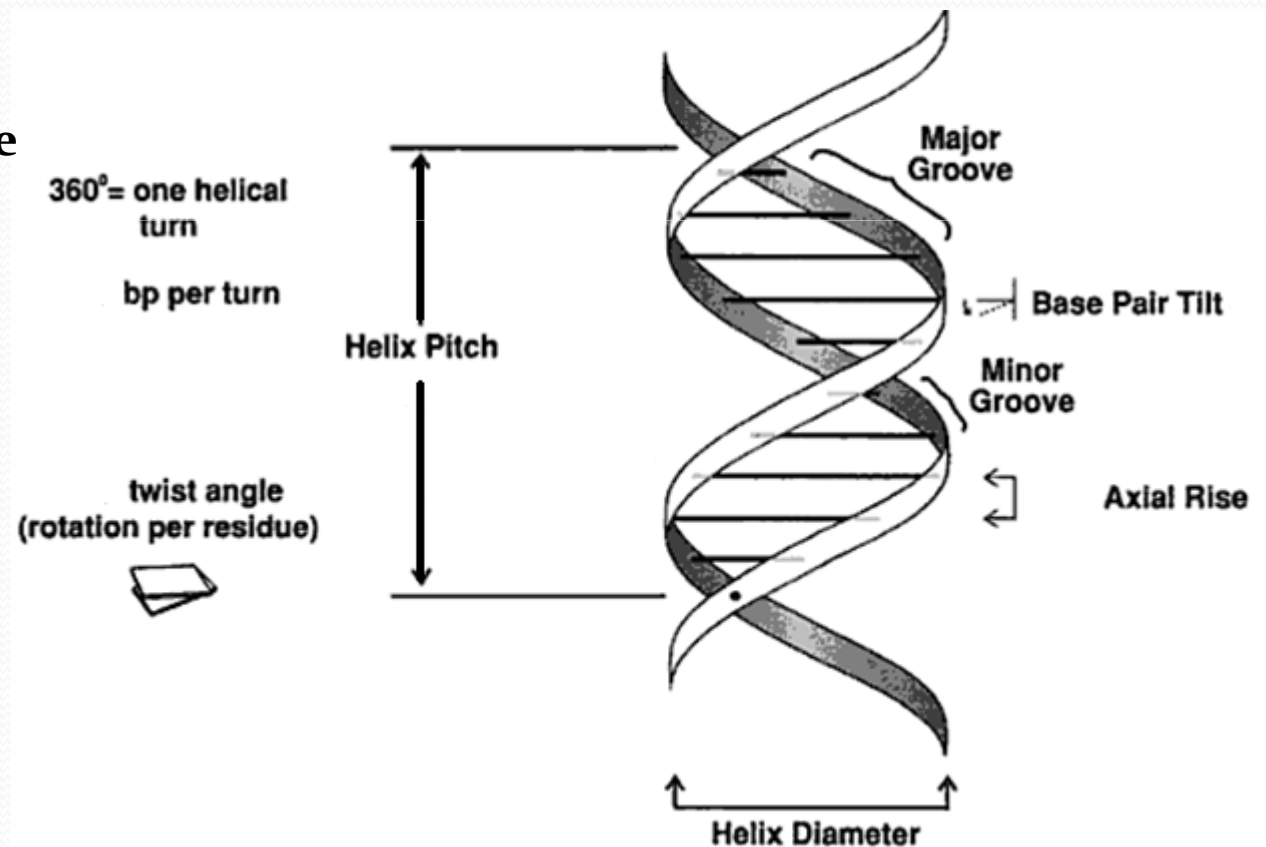
- Stability
 - Hydrogen bonds between bases
 - Base pair stacking



Secondary structure

- Conformational Parameters

- Major/minor groove
- Helix sense
- Residues per turn
- Axial rise
- Helix pitch
- Helix diameter
- Base pair tilt





DNA FORMS



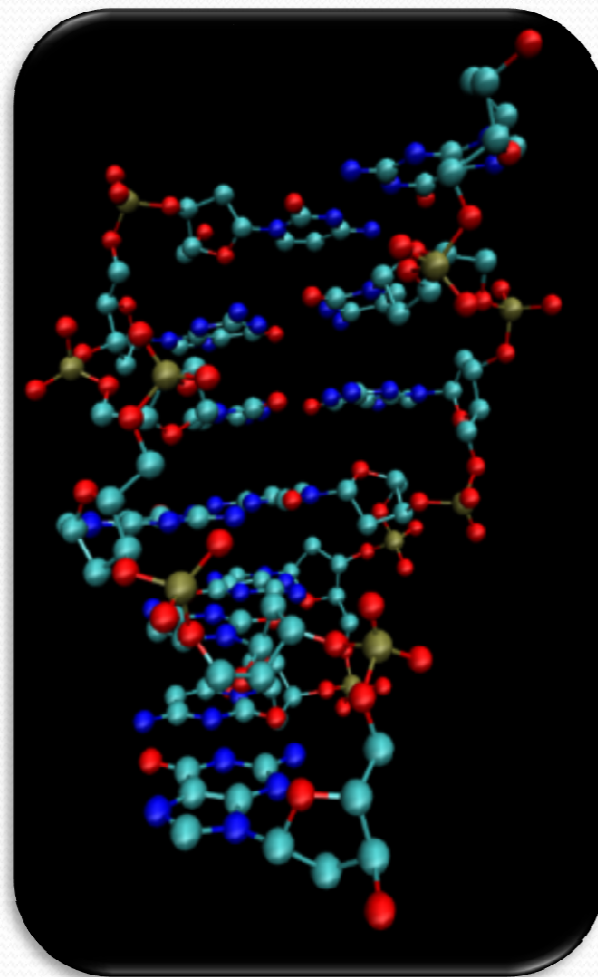
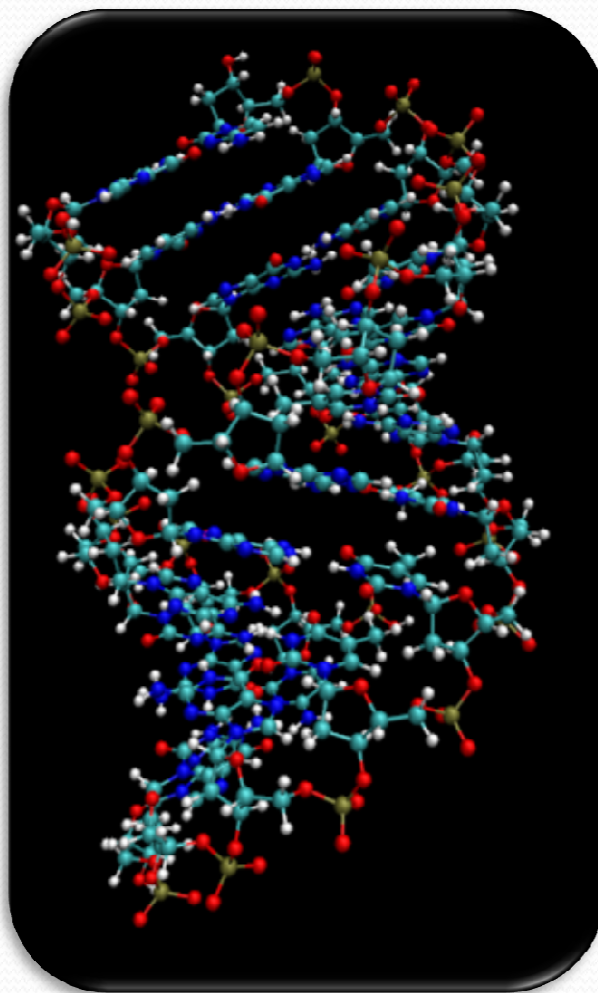
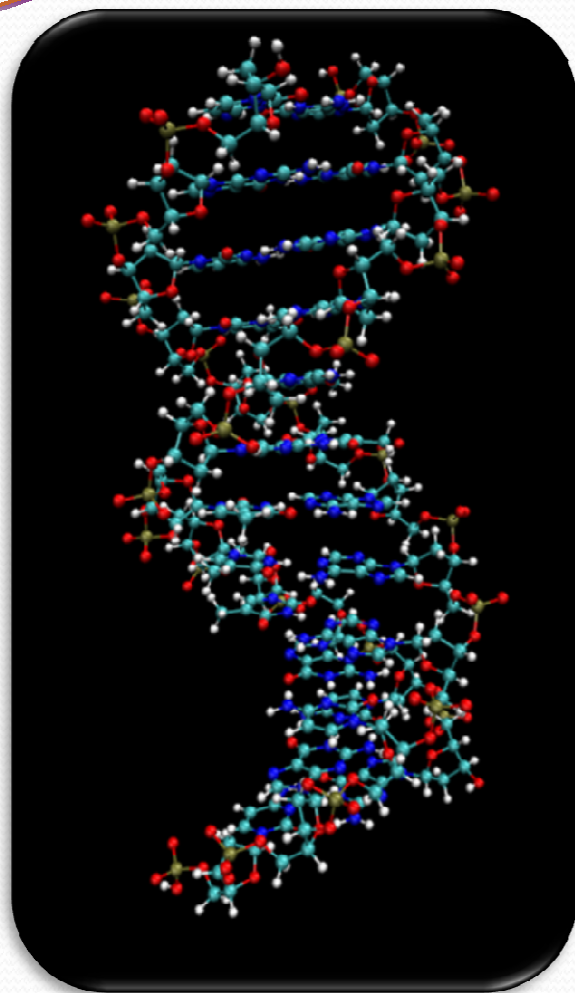
✓ **Canonical forms:**

DNA duplexes:

- **A-DNA**
- **B-DNA**
- **Z-DNA**

✓ **Non-canonical forms:**

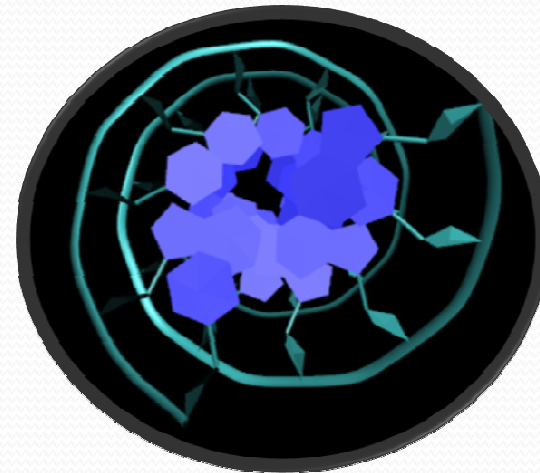
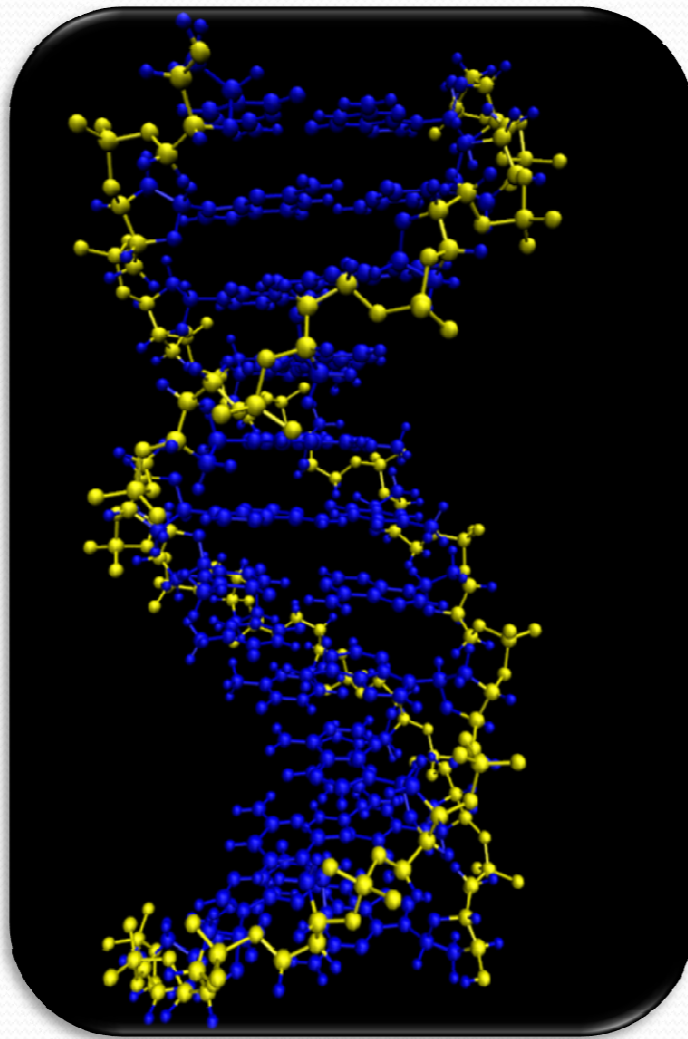
- **Triplexes**
- **Quadruplexes**



Canonical forms

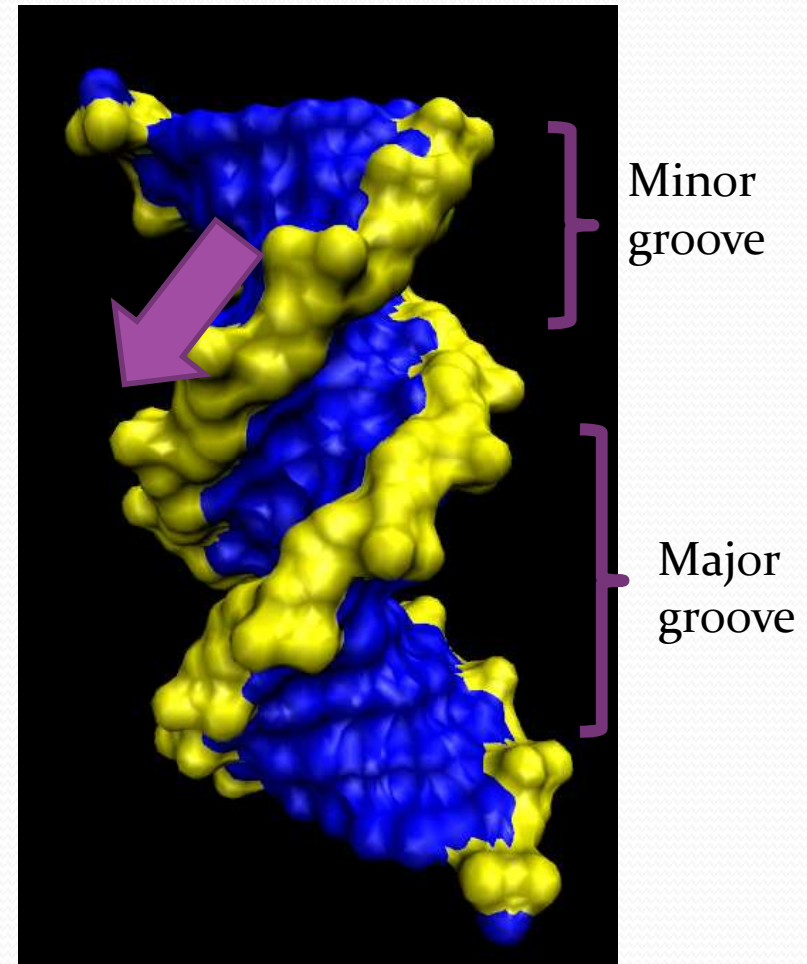
| Structural parameter | A-DNA | B-DNA | Z-DNA |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed | Right-handed | Left-handed |
| Major groove | Narrow and deep | Wide and deep | Flattened |
| Minor groove | Wide and shallow | Narrow and deep | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 23 | 20 | 18 |
| Sugar pucker | C3'-endo | C2'-endo | C2'-endo at C C3'-endo at G |
| Glycosidic bond | anti | anti | Anti at C, syn at G |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 28,2 | 34 | 45 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 11 | 10,4 | 12 (6 dimers) |
| Axial rise(Å) | 2,9 | 3,3 | 3,7 |
| Tilt (°) | 19 | -6 | -9 |
| Rotation per residue (=360°/n) | 33° | 36° | 60° per dimer 30° per residue |
| Repeat unit (base pairs) | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Phosphate conformation (α/ζ)(°) | -88/-44 | -40/-98 | -146/80 at C 60/-58 at G |

B-DNA



B-DNA

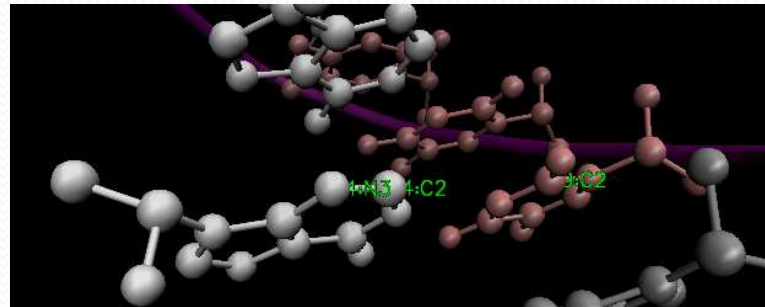
| Structural parameter | B-DNA |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Wide and deep |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 20 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 34 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 10,4 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,3 |
| Tilt (°) | -6 |



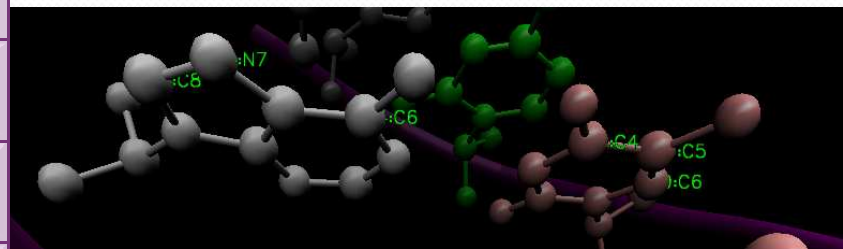
PDB: 2HKB

B-DNA

| Structural parameter | B-DNA |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Wide and deep |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 20 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 34 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 10,4 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,3 |
| Tilt (°) | -6 |



Minor groove

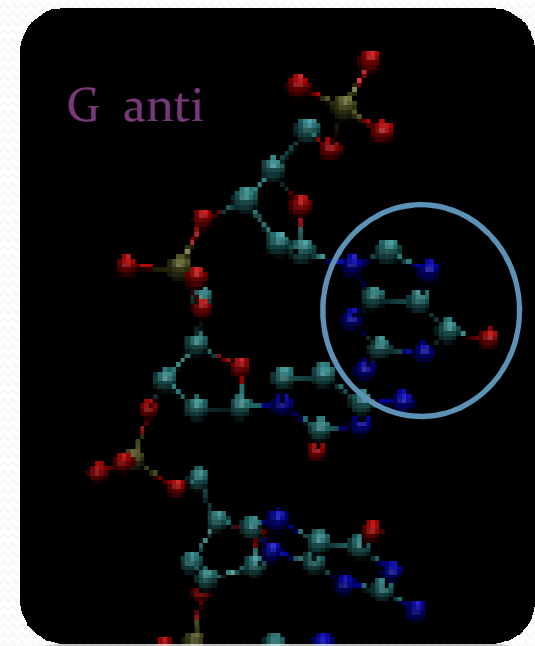
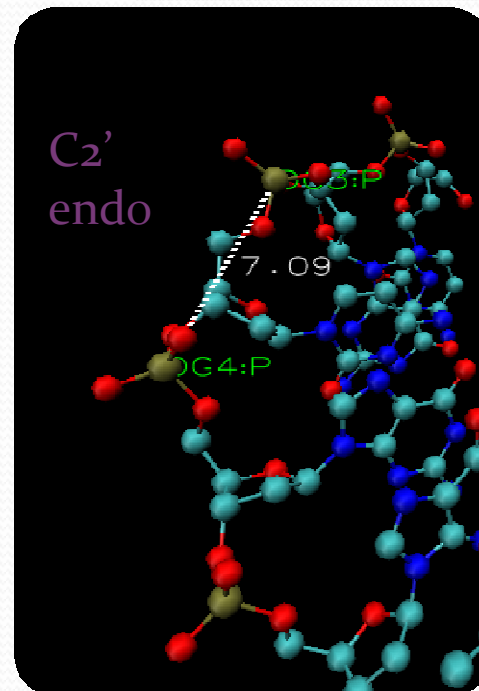
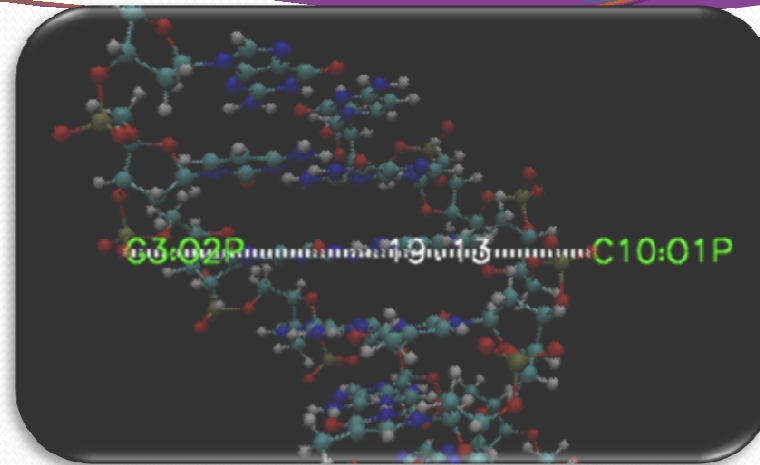


Major groove

PDB: 2HKB

B-DNA

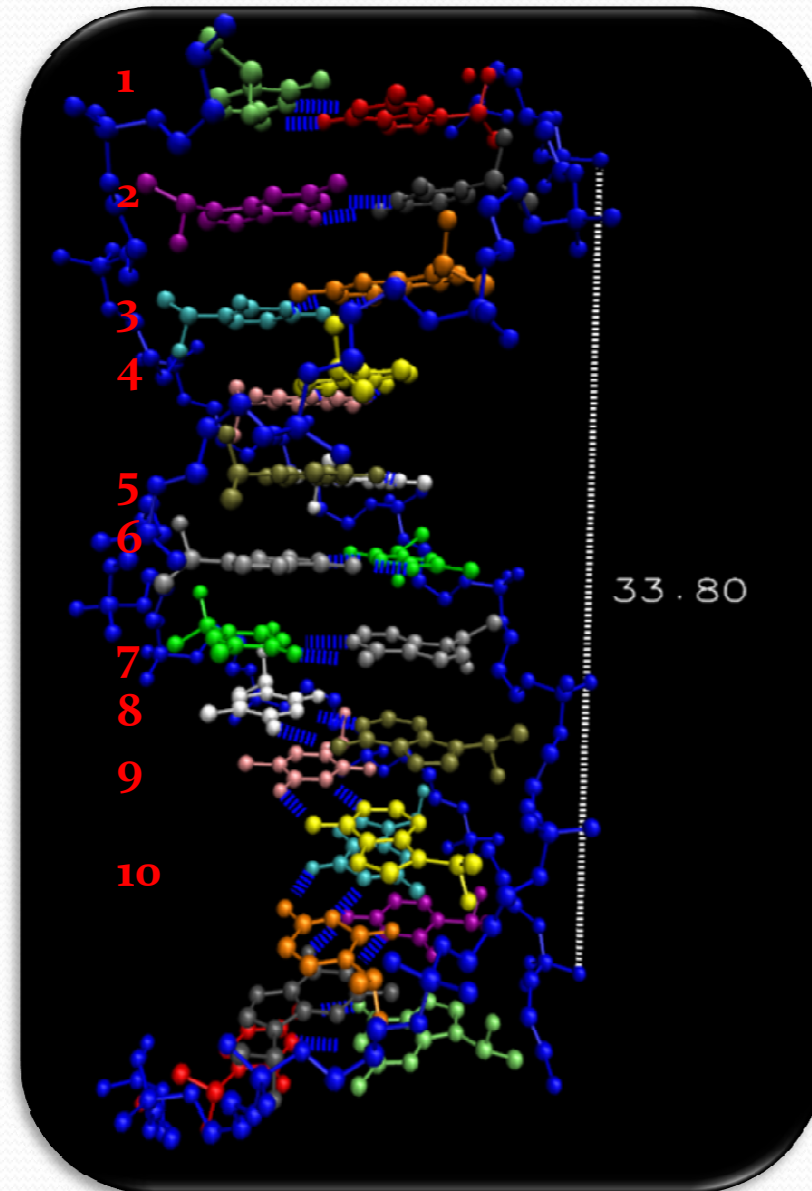
| Structural parameter | B-DNA |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Wide and deep |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 20 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 34 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 10,4 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,3 |
| Tilt (°) | -6 |



PDB: 2HKB

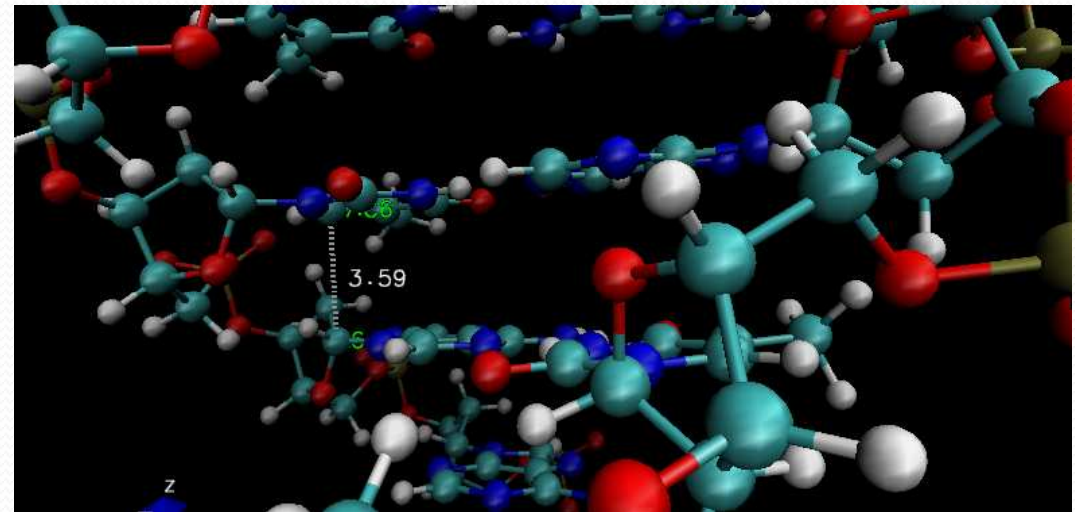
B-DNA

| Structural parameter | B-DNA |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Wide and deep |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 20 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 34 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 10,4 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,3 |
| Tilt (°) | -6 |



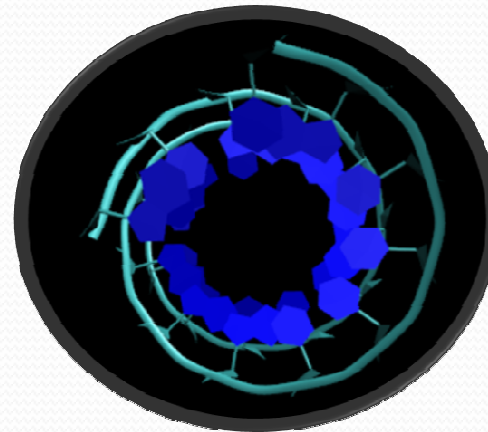
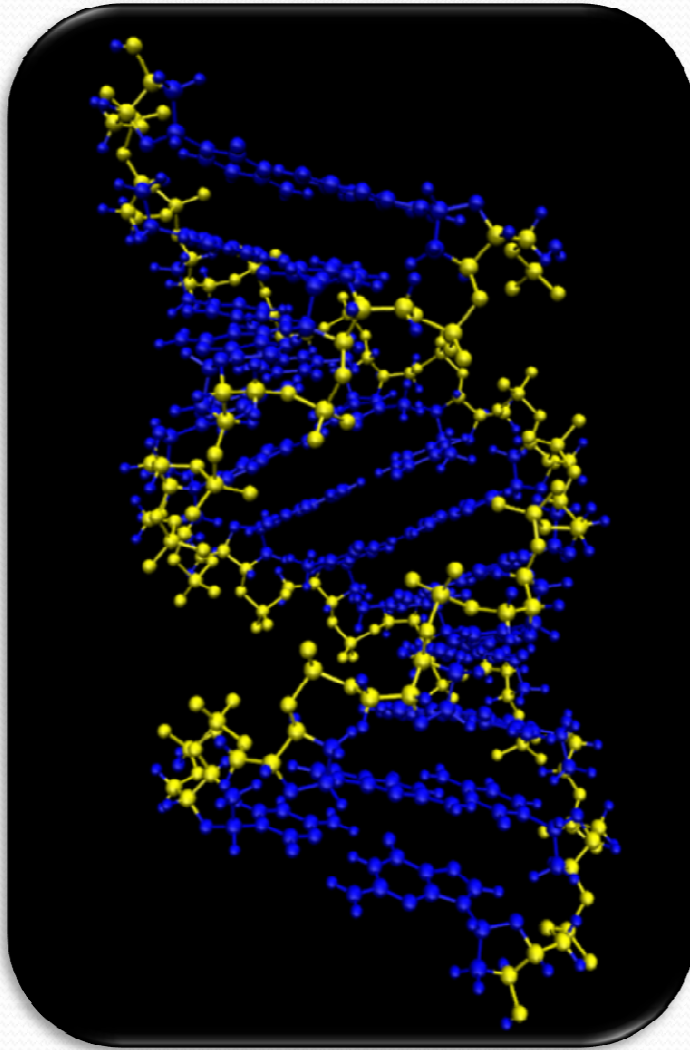
B-DNA

| Structural parameter | B-DNA |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Wide and deep |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 20 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 34 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 10,4 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,3 |
| Tilt (°) | -6 |



PDB: 2HKB

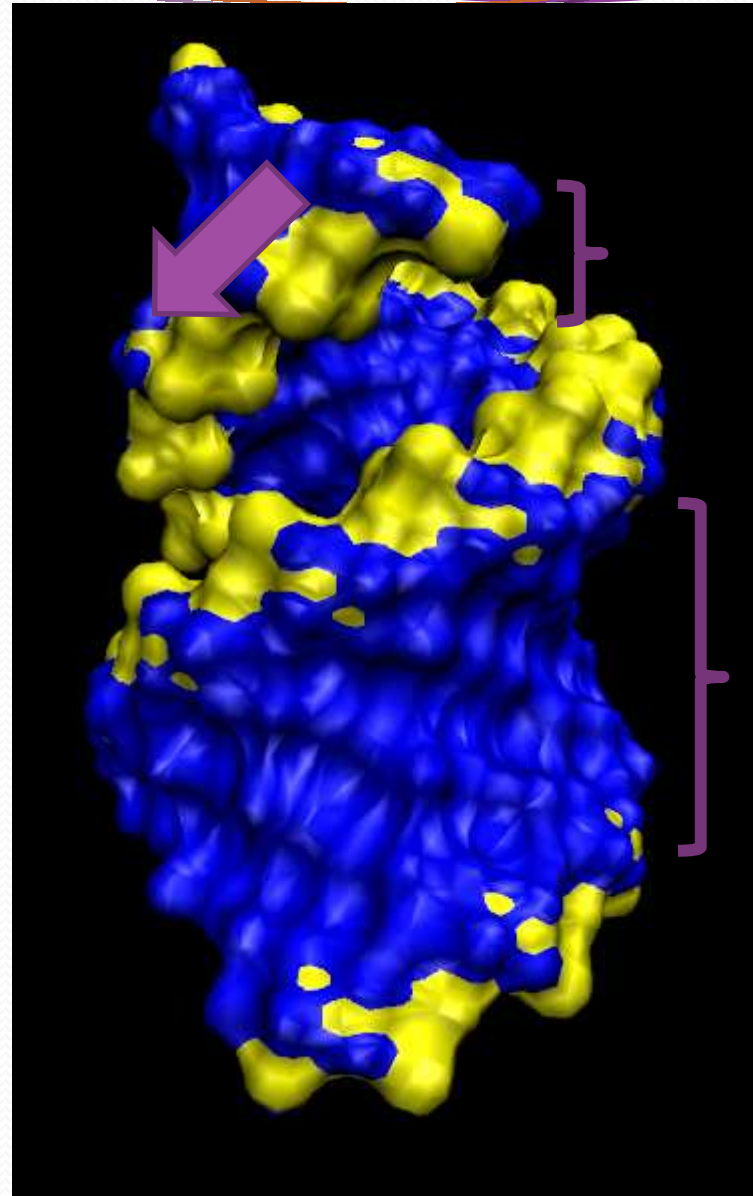
A-DNA



PDB: 115D

A-DNA

| Structural parameter | A-DNA |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Narrow and deep |
| Minor groove | Wide and shallow |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 23 |
| Sugar pucker | C3'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 28,2 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 11 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 2,9 |
| Tilt (°) | 19 |



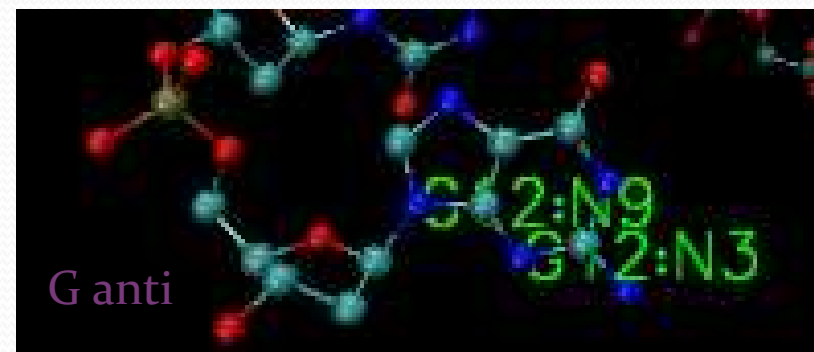
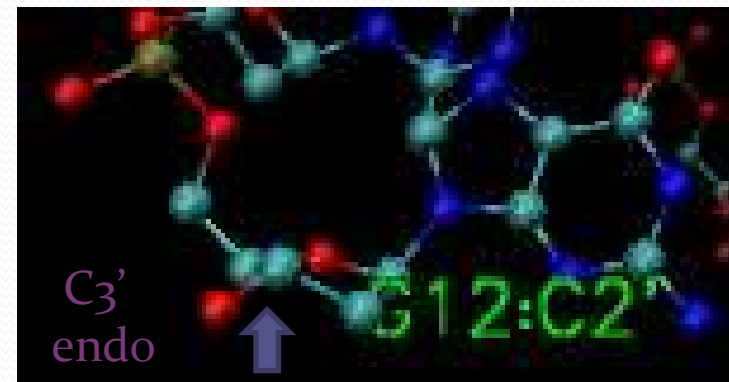
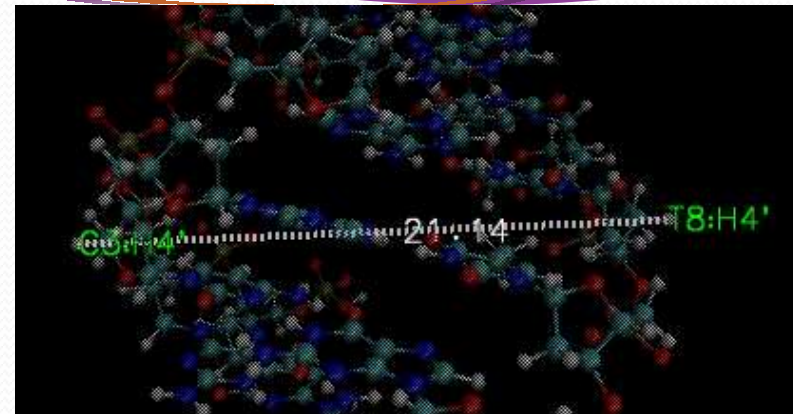
Minor groove

Major groove

PDB: 115D

A-DNA

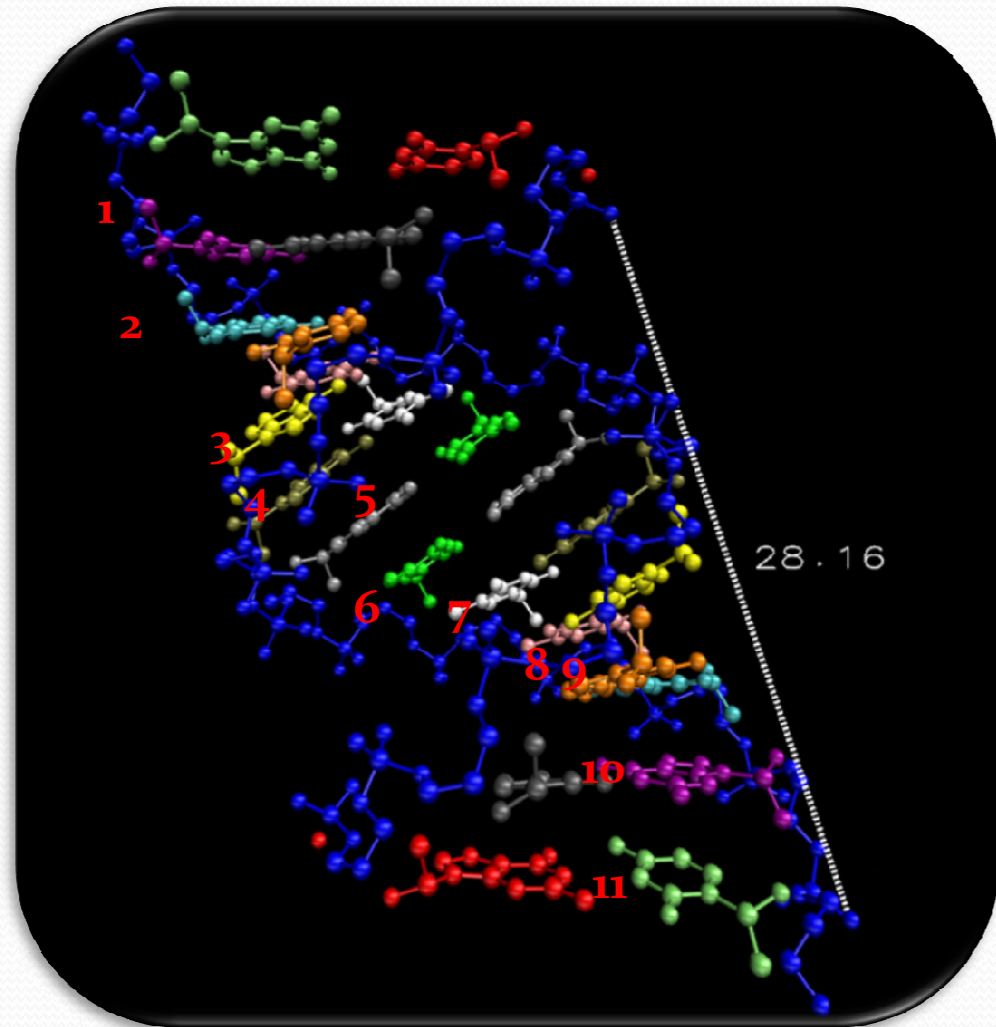
| Structural parameter | A-DNA |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Narrow and deep |
| Minor groove | Wide and shallow |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 23 |
| Sugar pucker | C3'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 28,2 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 11 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 2,9 |
| Tilt (°) | 19 |



PDB: 115D

A-DNA

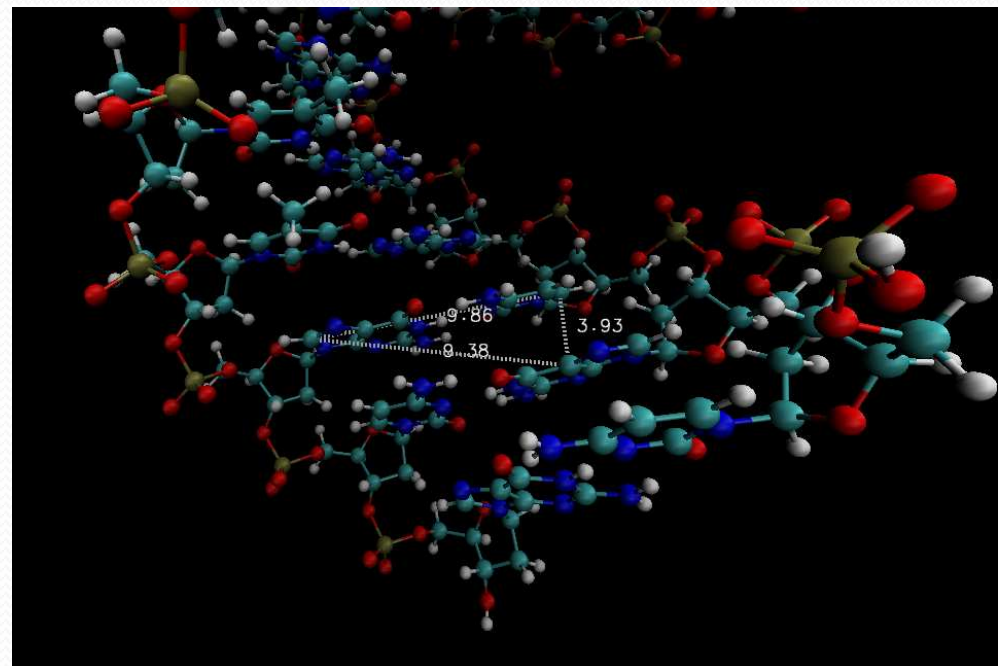
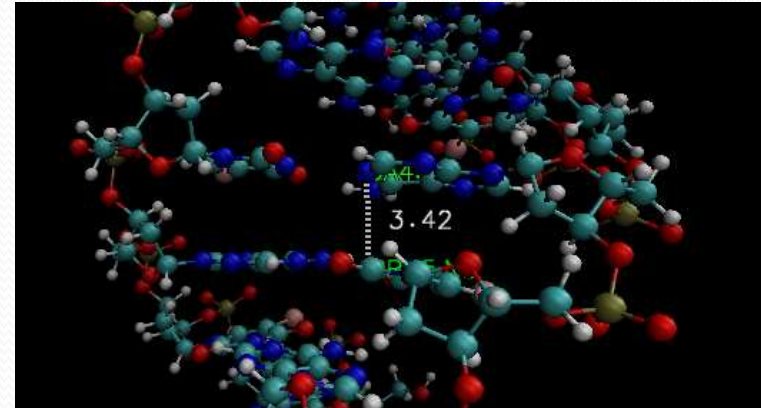
| Structural parameter | A-DNA |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Narrow and deep |
| Minor groove | Wide and shallow |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 23 |
| Sugar pucker | C3'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 28,2 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 11 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 2,9 |
| Tilt (°) | 19 |



PDB: 115D

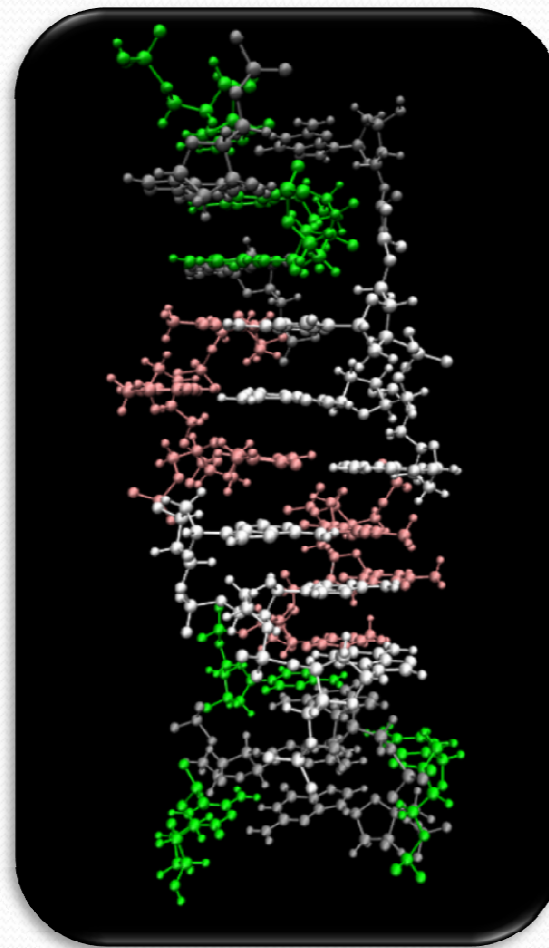
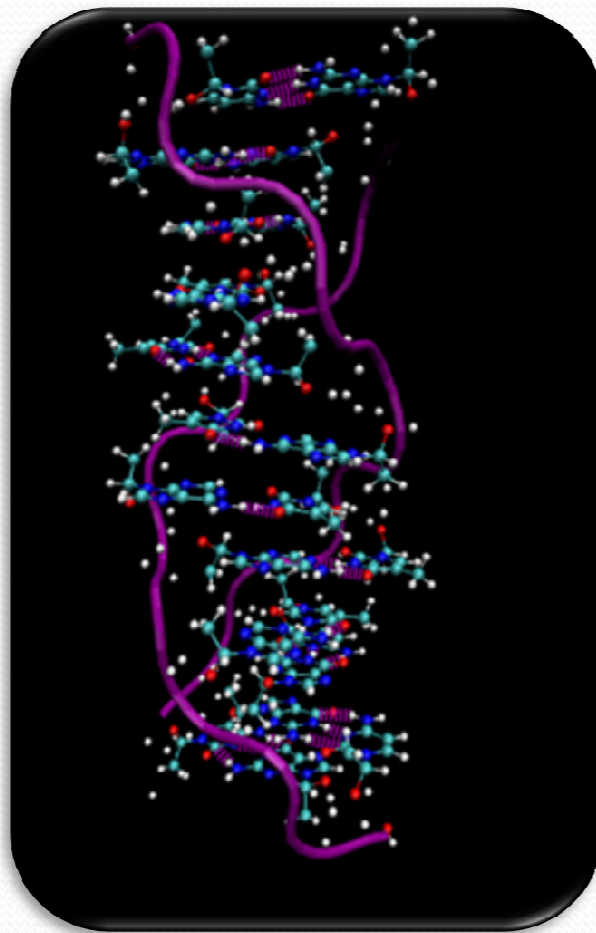
A-DNA

| Structural parameter | A-DNA |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Helical sense | Right-handed |
| Major groove | Narrow and deep |
| Minor groove | Wide and shallow |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 23 |
| Sugar pucker | C3'-endo |
| Glycosidic bond | anti |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 28,2 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 11 |
| Axial rise(Å) | 2,9 |
| Tilt (°) | 19 |



PDB: 115D

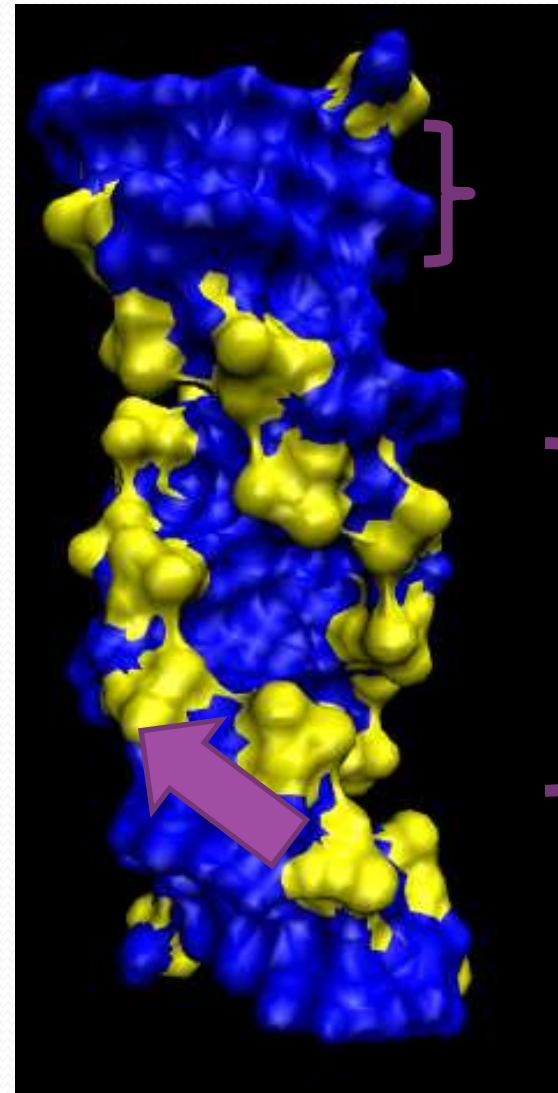
Z-DNA



PDB: 1DCG

Z-DNA

| Structural parameter | Z-DNA |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helical sense | Left-handed |
| Major groove | Flattened |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 18 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo at C C3'-endo at G |
| Glycosidic bond | Anti at C, syn at G |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 45 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 12 (6 dímers) |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,7 |
| Tilt (°) | -9 |



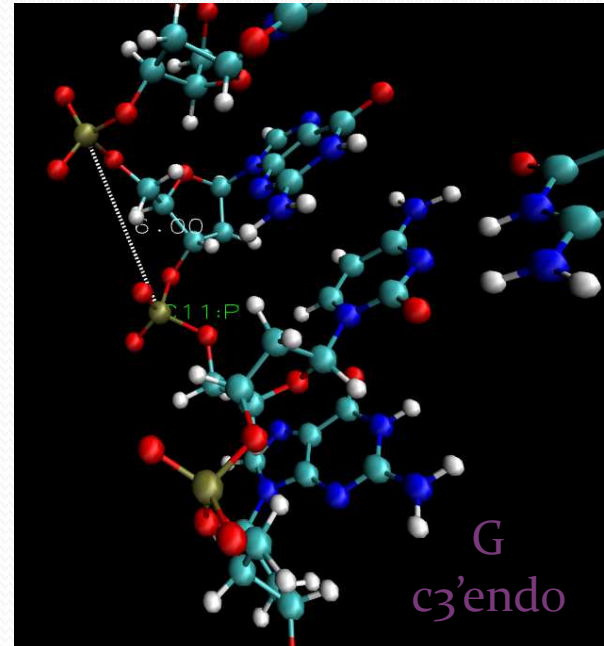
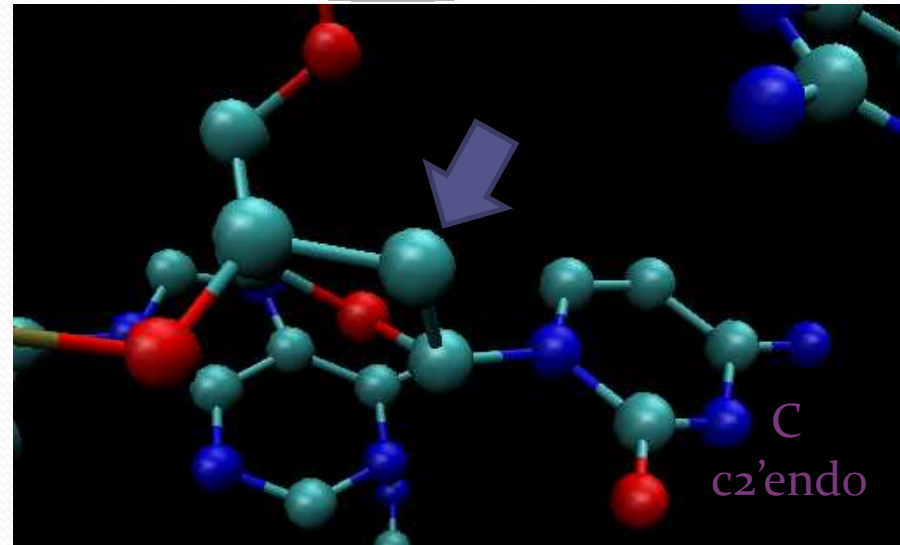
Minor groove

Major groove

PDB: 1DCG

Z-DNA

| Structural parameter | Z-DNA |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helical sense | Left-handed |
| Major groove | Flattened |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 18 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo at C C3'-endo at G |
| Glycosidic bond | Anti at C, syn at G |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 45 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 12 (6 dimers) |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,7 |
| Tilt (°) | -9 |

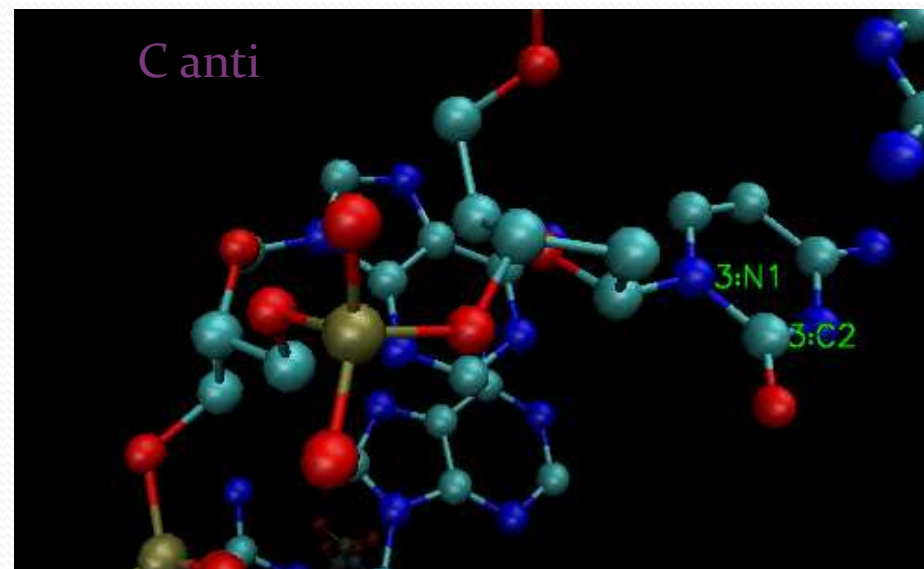
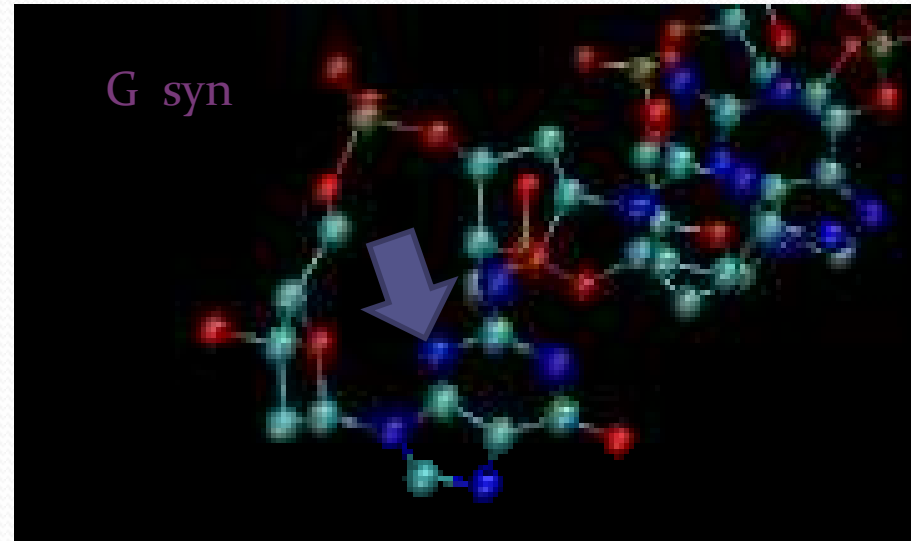


PDB: 1DCG

Z-DNA

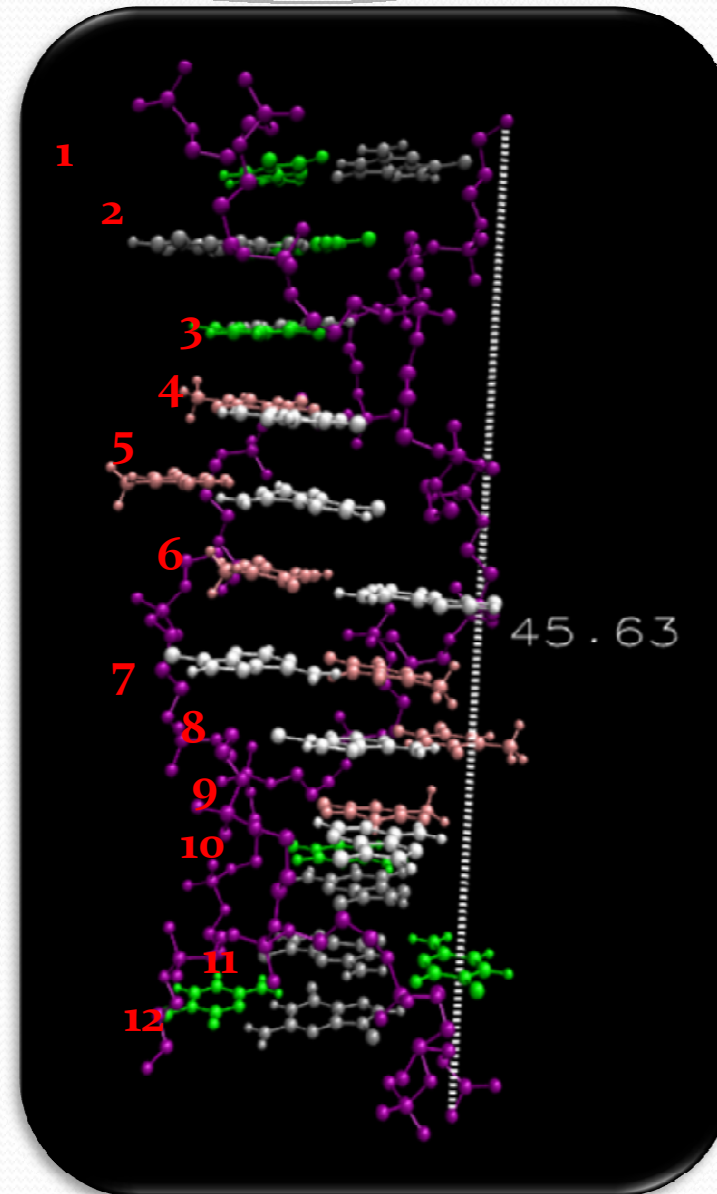
| Structural parameter | Z-DNA |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helical sense | Left-handed |
| Major groove | Flattened |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 18 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo at C C3'-endo at G |
| Glycosidic bond | Anti at C, syn at G |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 45 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 12 (6 dimers) |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,7 |
| Tilt (°) | -9 |

PDB: 1DCG



Z-DNA

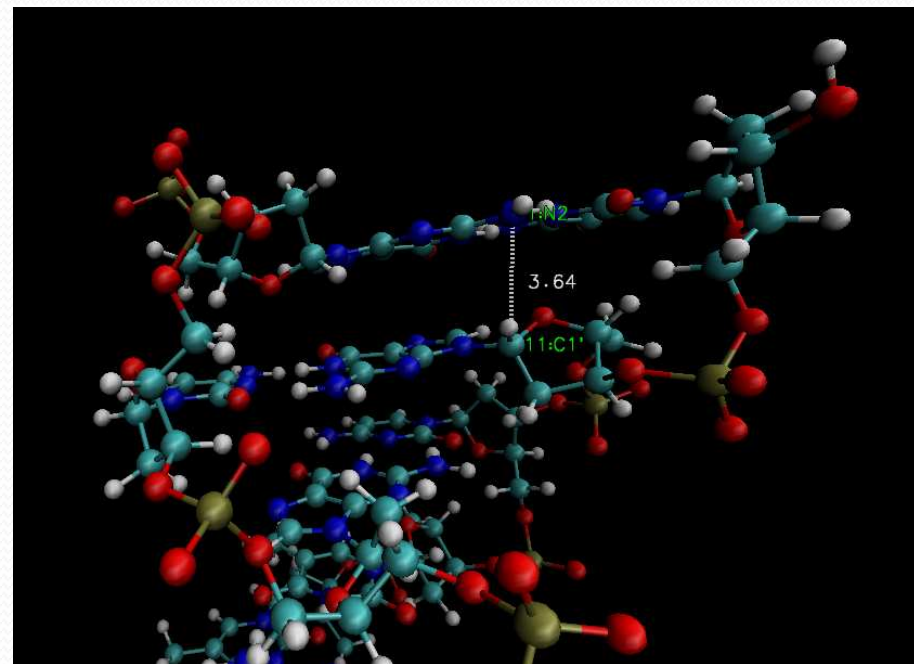
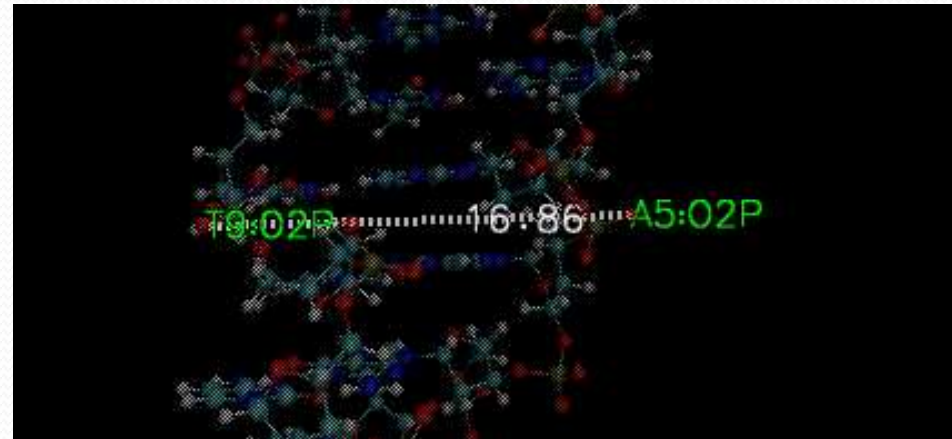
| Structural parameter | Z-DNA |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helical sense | Left-handed |
| Major groove | Flattened |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 18 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo at C C3'-endo at G |
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| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 12 (6 dimers) |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,7 |
| Tilt (°) | -9 |



PDB: 1DCG

Z-DNA

| Structural parameter | Z-DNA |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helical sense | Left-handed |
| Major groove | Flattened |
| Minor groove | Narrow and deep |
| Helical diameter (Å) | 18 |
| Sugar pucker | C2'-endo at C C3'-endo at G |
| Glycosidic bond | Anti at C, syn at G |
| Helical pitch (Å) | 45 |
| Base pairs/ turn (n) | 12 (6 dimers) |
| Axial rise(Å) | 3,7 |
| Tilt (°) | -9 |



PDB: 1DCG



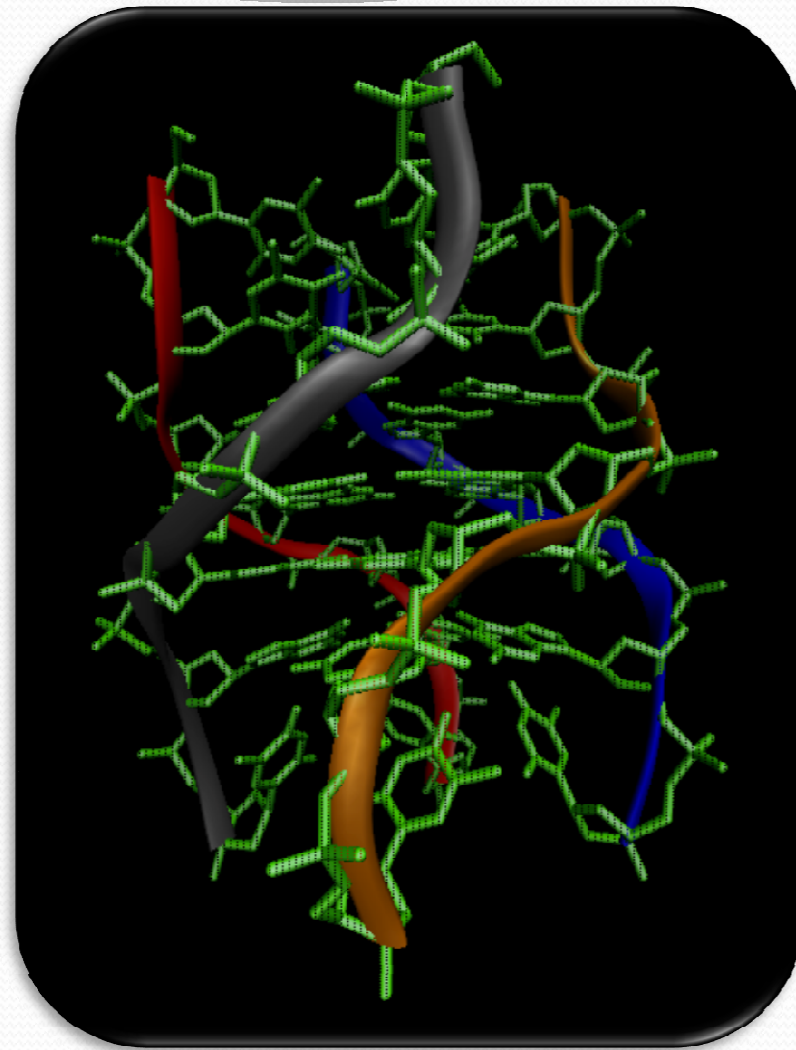
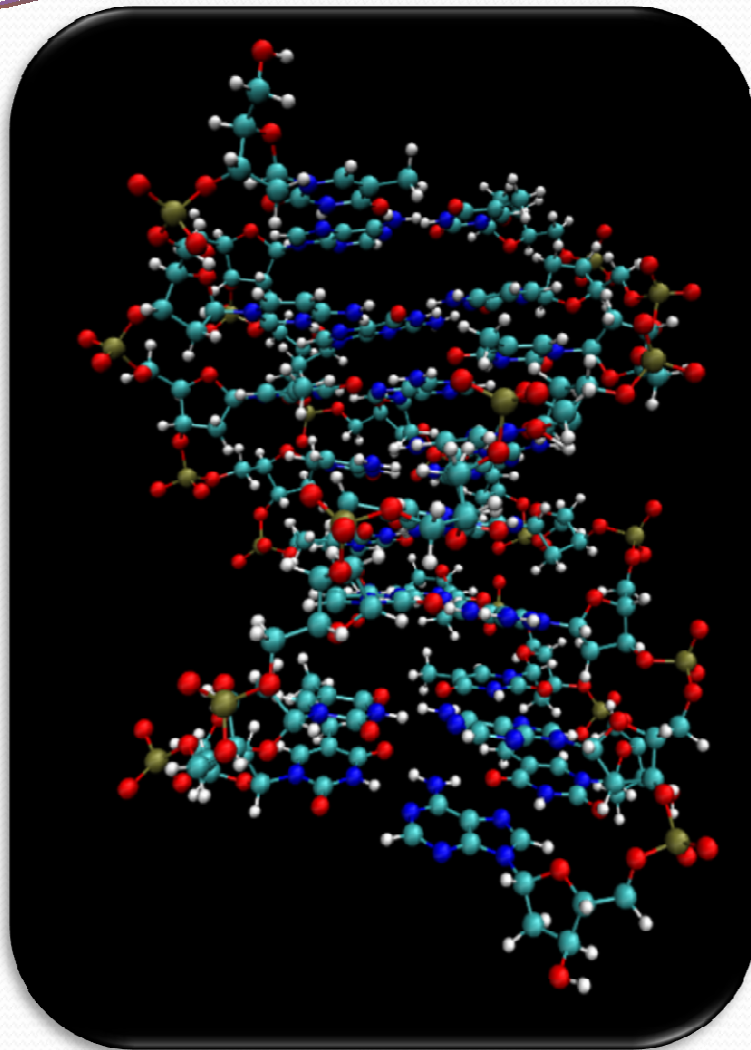
✓ Canonical forms:

DNA duplexes:

- A-DNA
- B-DNA
- Z-DNA

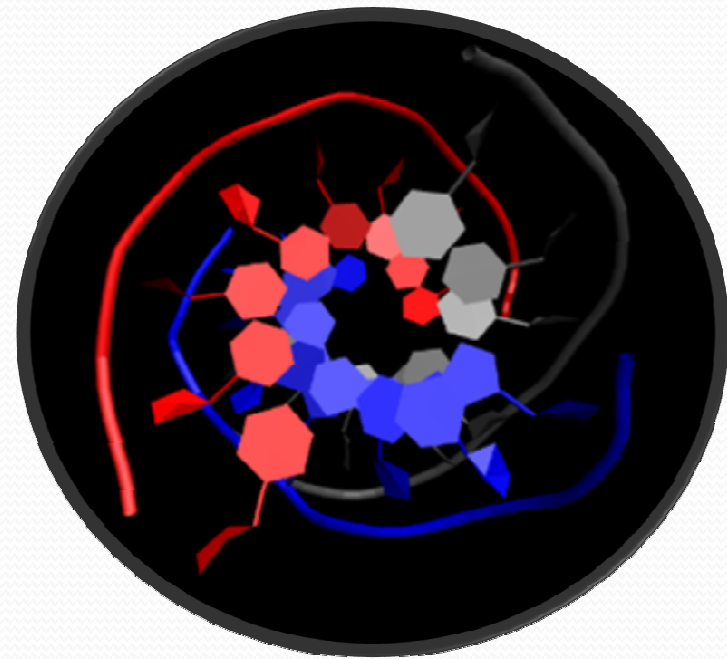
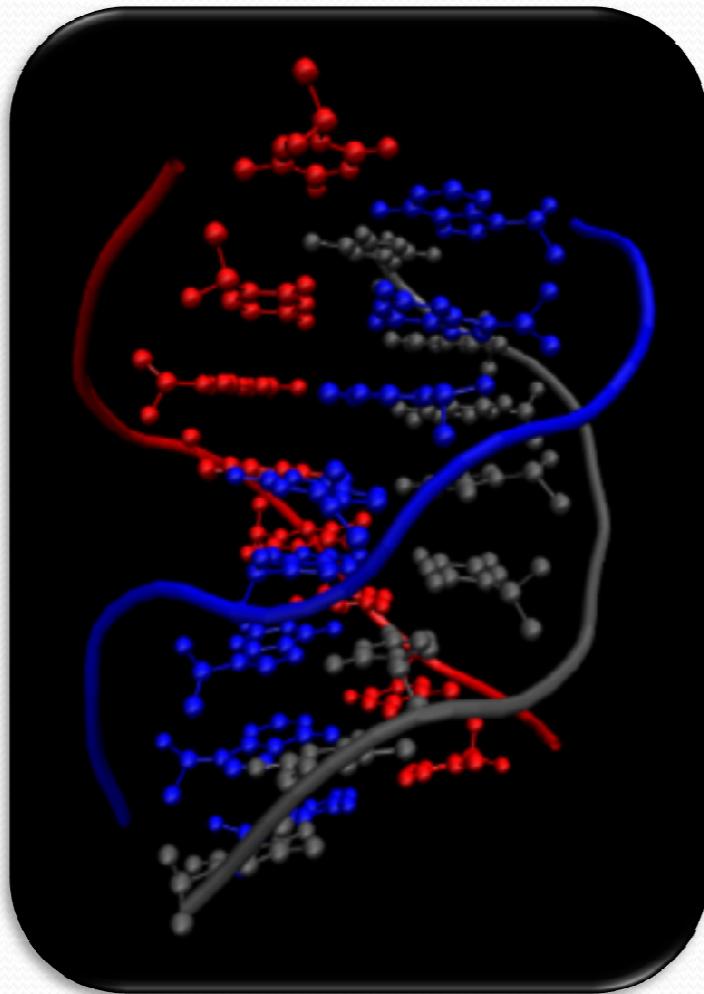
✓ **Non-canonical forms:**

- **Triplexes**
- **Quadruplexes**



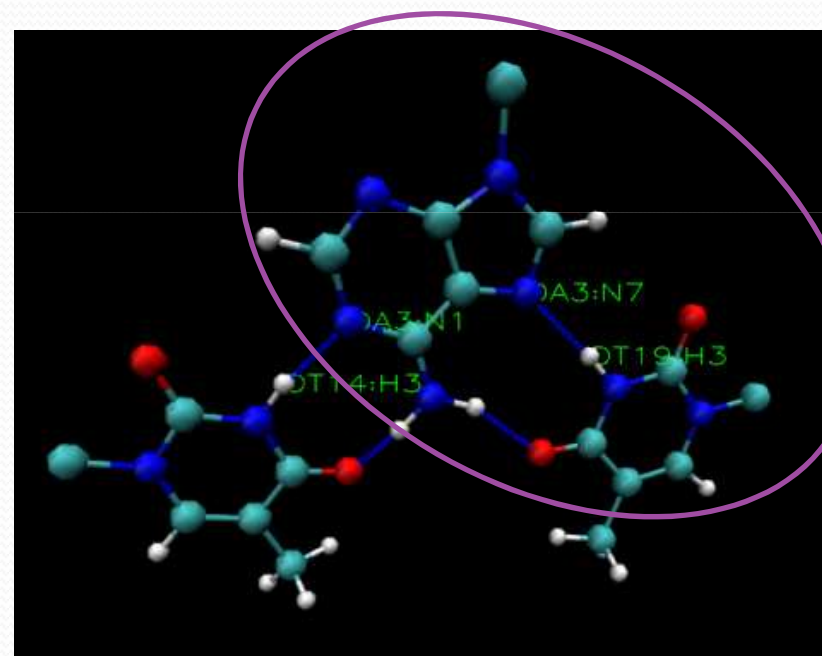
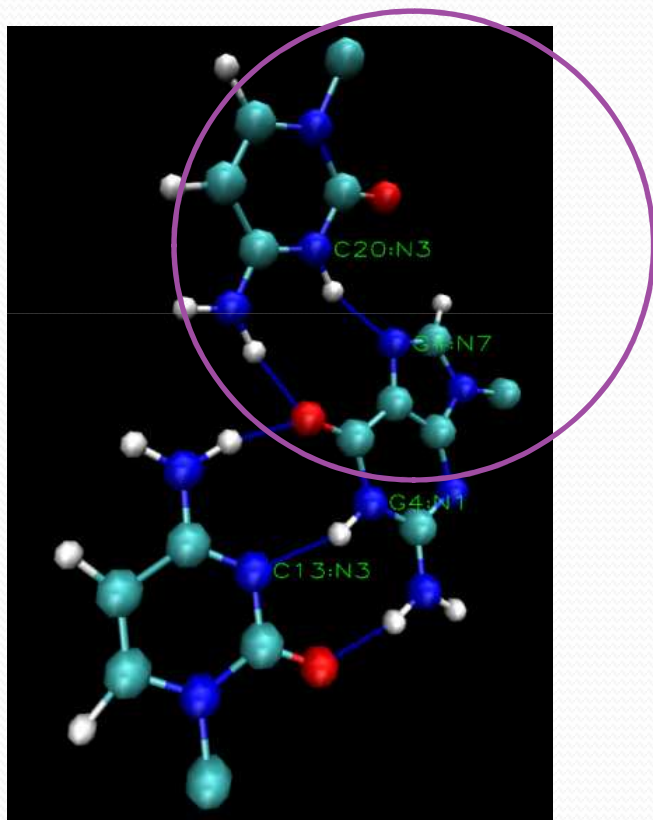
Non-canonical forms

Triplexes



PDB: 1D3X

Triplexes – Hoogsteen base pair

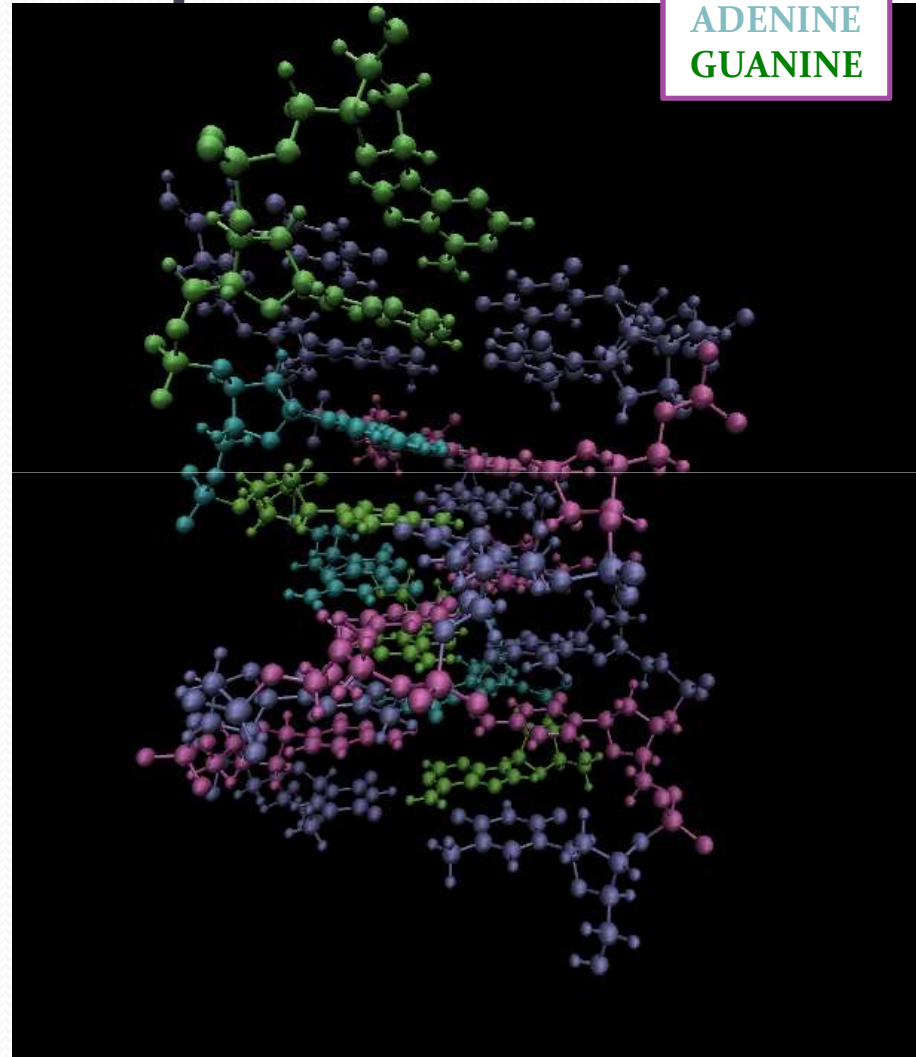


PDB: 1D3X

Classification of triplexes

THYMINE
CYTOSINE
ADENINE
GUANINE

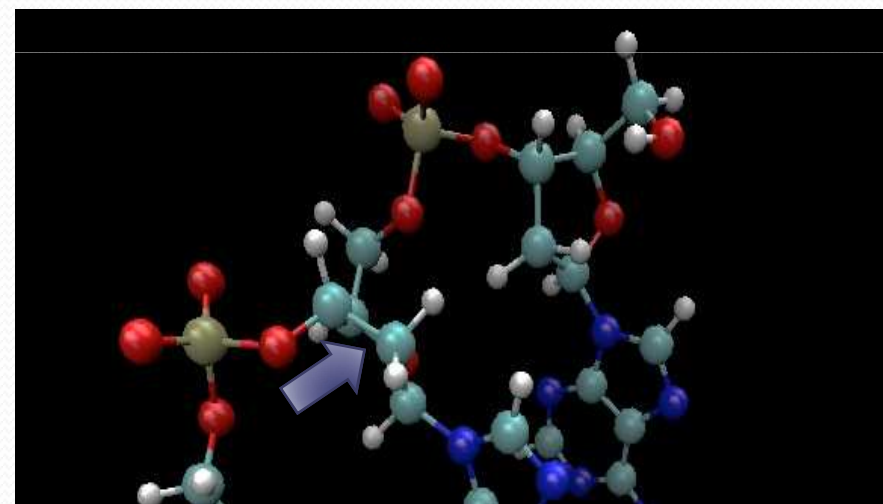
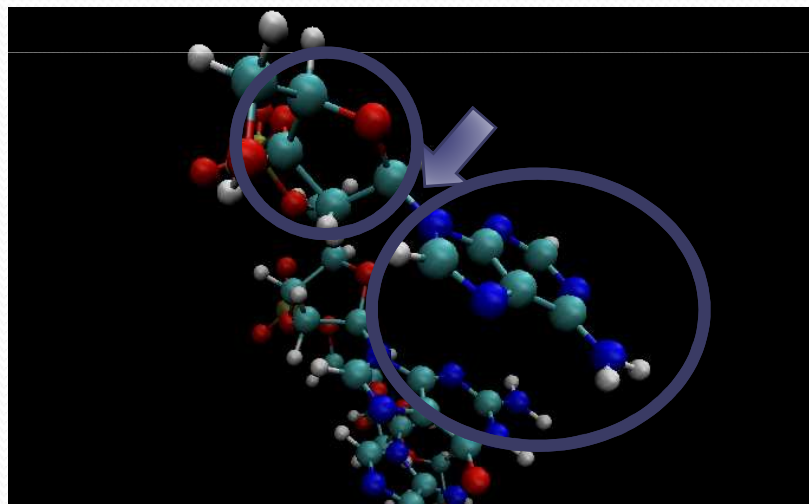
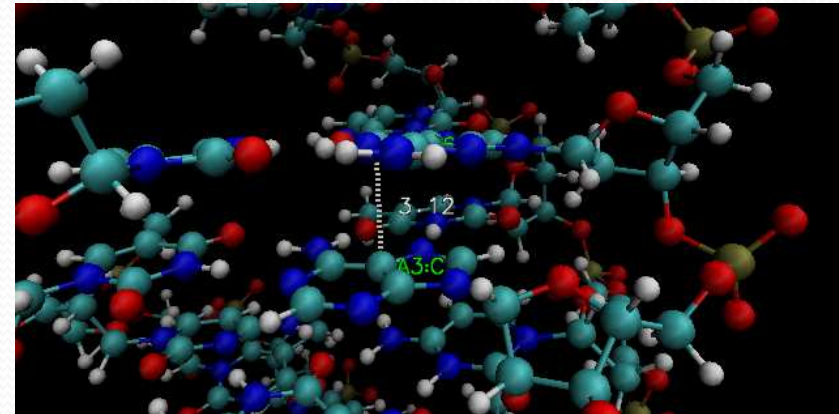
- YR*Y or YR*R
- Built from DNA, RNA or both.
- Intramolecular or intermolecular.
- Orientation



PDB: 1D3X

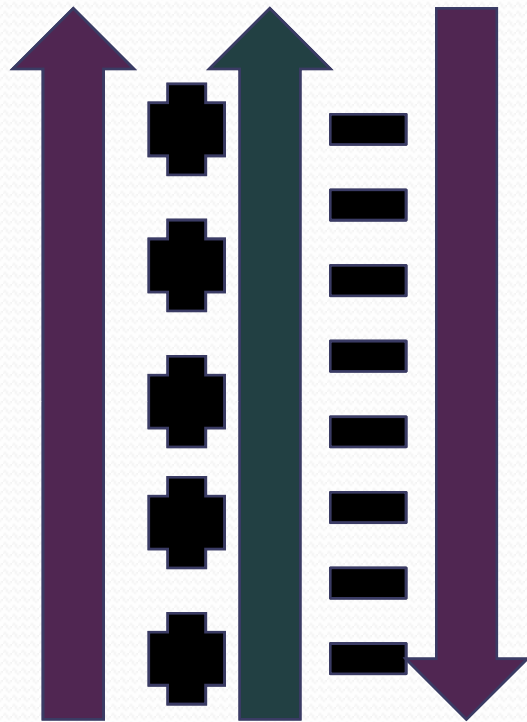
Triplexes

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Axial Rise | 3,4 nm |
| Glycosidic bond | Anti |
| Sugar pucker | C2' endo |

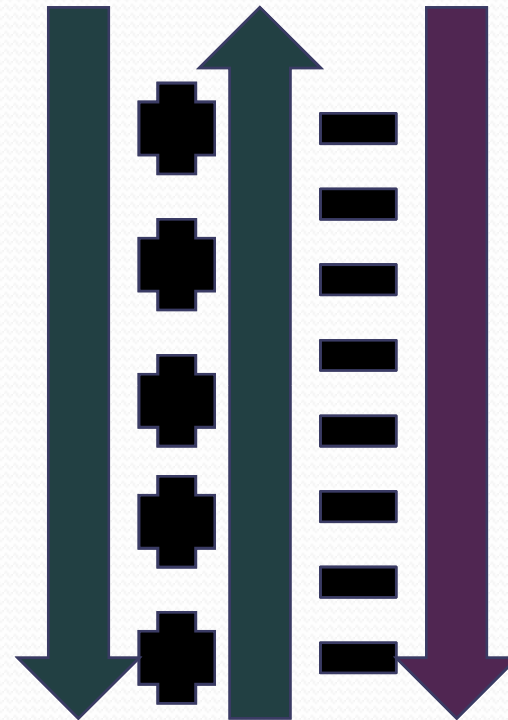


PDB: 1D3X

PARALLEL MOTIF



ANTIPARALLEL MOTIF



Hogsteen



Watson-Crick



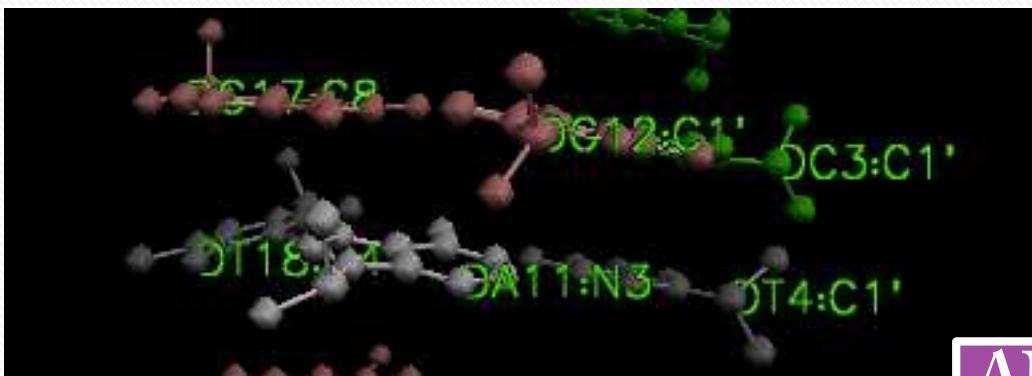
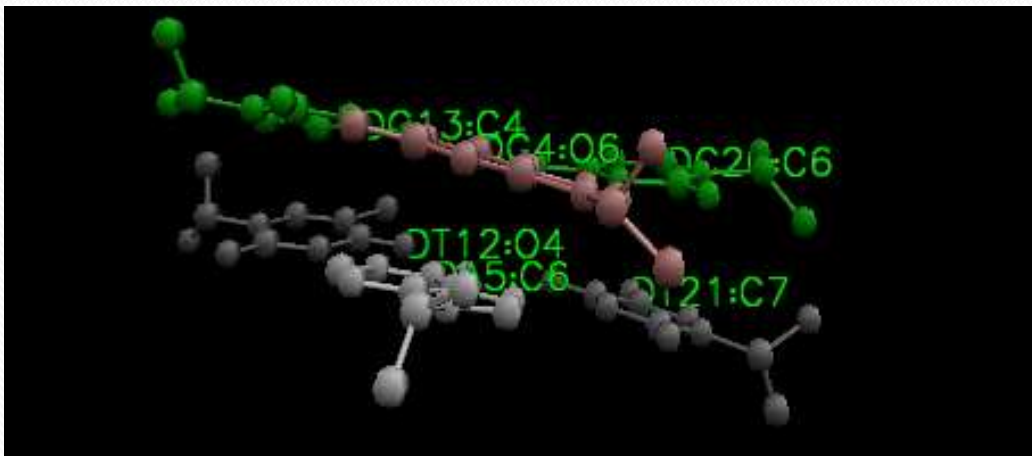
Homopyrimidine strand (T+C)



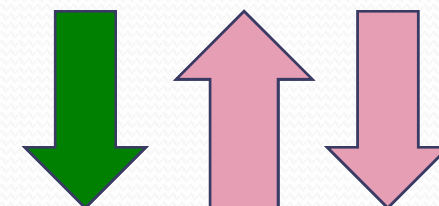
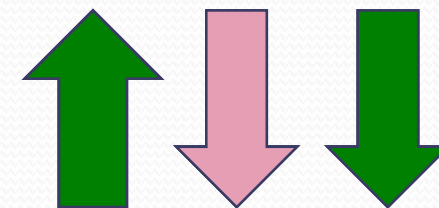
Homopurine strand (A+G)

PARALLEL TRIPLEX (YR*Y)

PDB: 1D3X



Pyrimidine
Purine

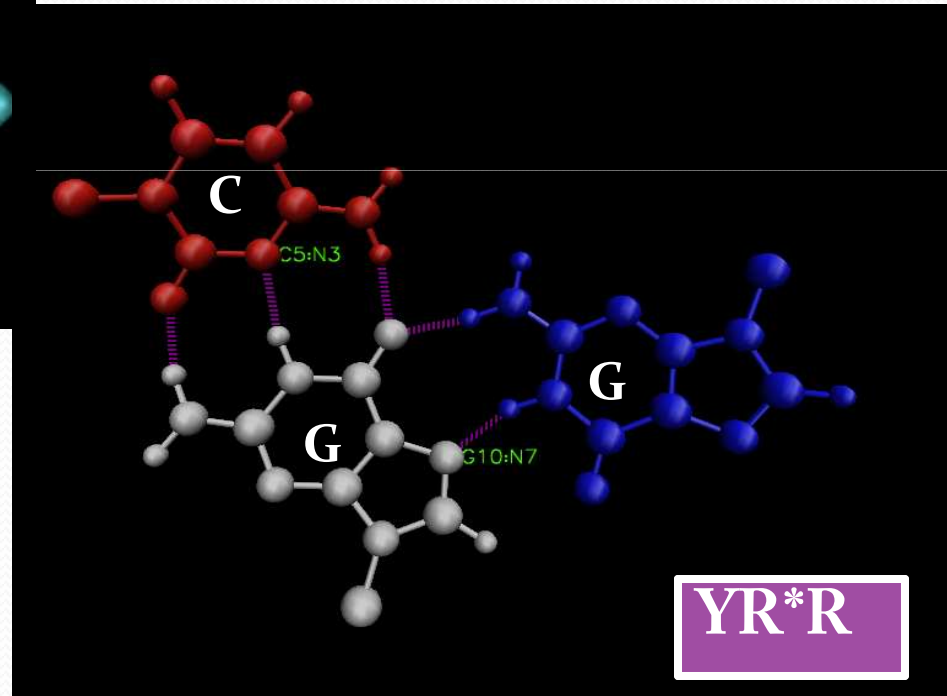
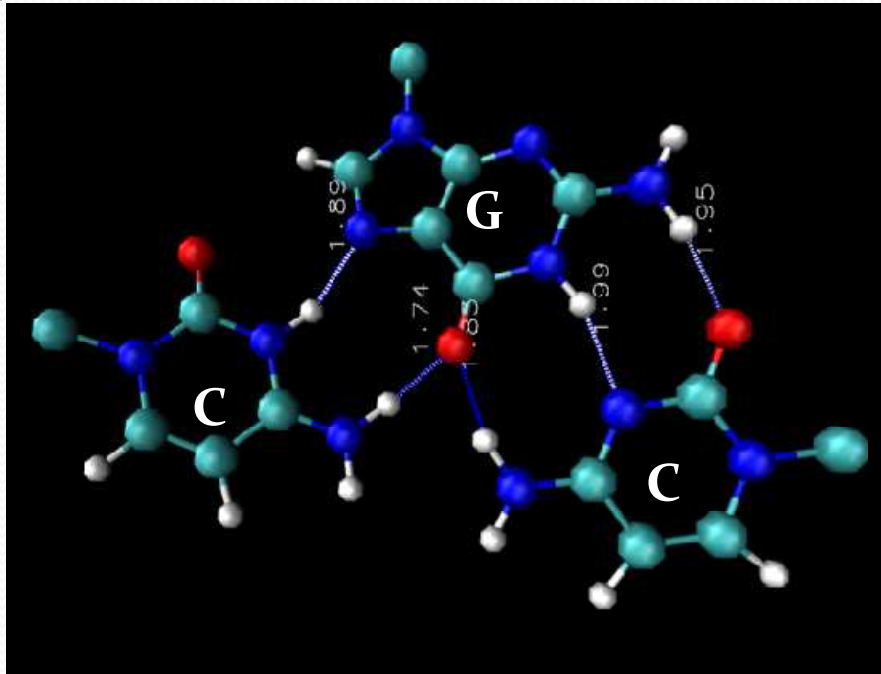


ANTI-PARALLEL TRIPLEX (YR*R)

PDB: 134D

YR*Y

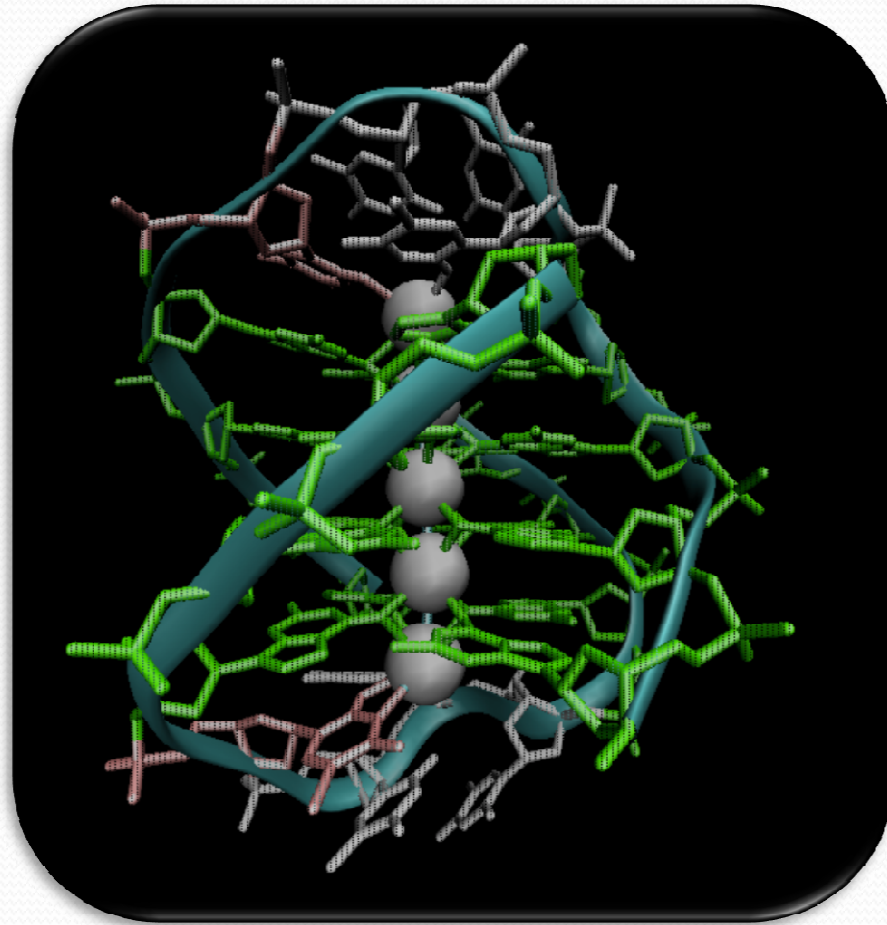
PDB: 1D3X



YR*R

PDB: 134D

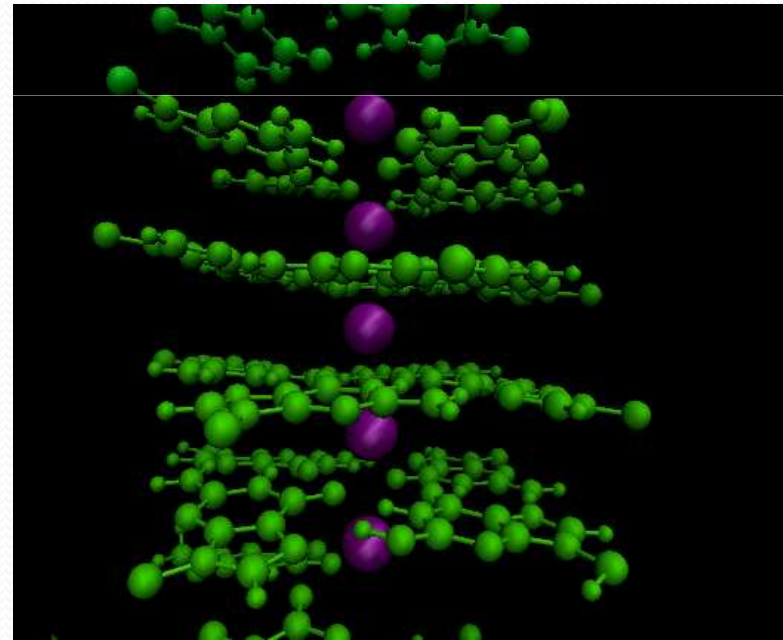
Quadruplexes



PDB: 1JPQ

G-QUADRUPLEX STRUCTURES

- A G-quadruplex is a DNA secondary structure that consists of multiple vertically stacked guanine tetrads.
- Identified in:
 - Eukaryotic telomeres
 - Non-telomeric genomic regions
 - Gene promoters
 - Recombination sites
 - DNA tandem repeats

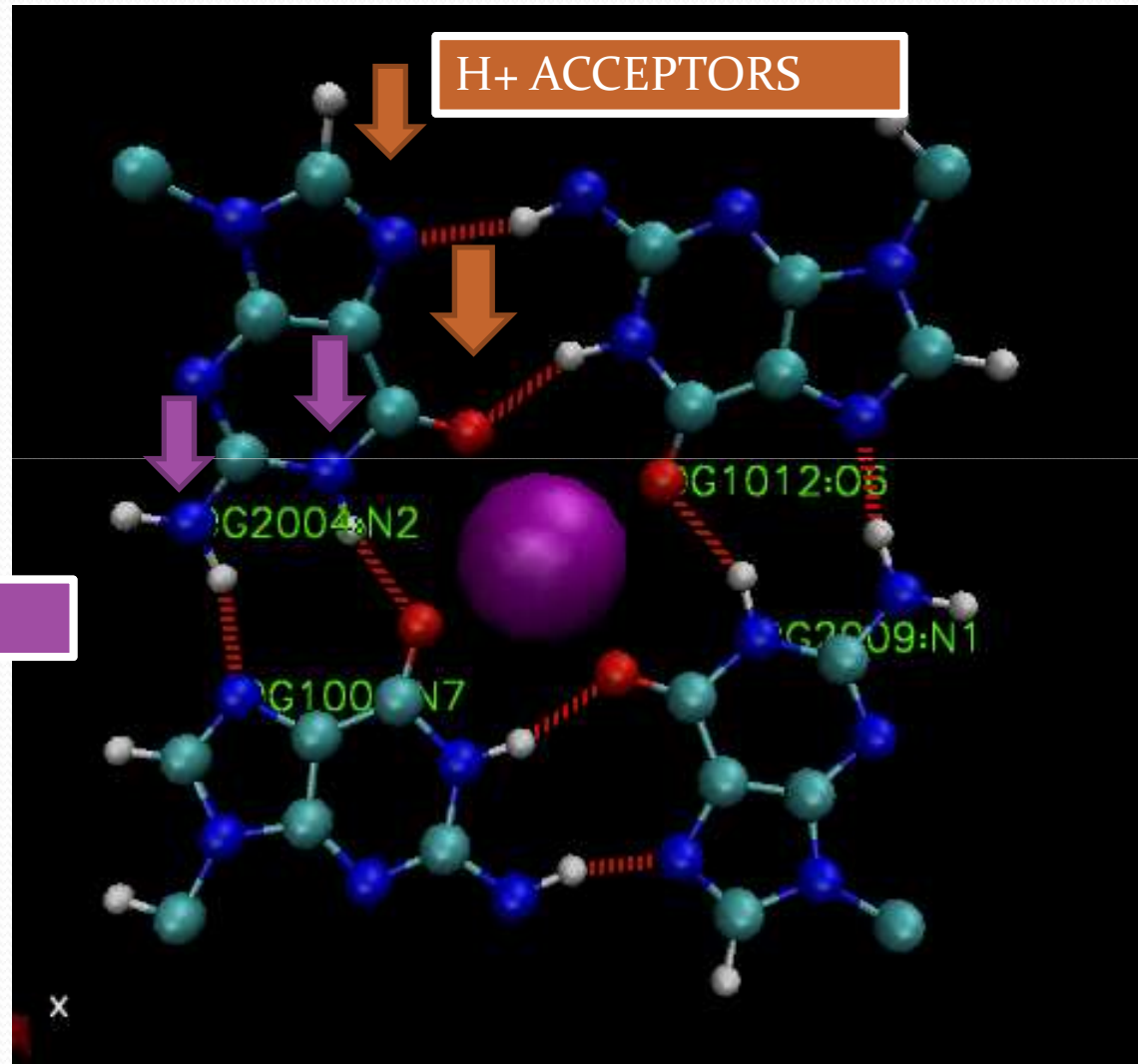


PDB: 1JPQ

G-TETRADE:

- 4 guanines
- monovalent cation

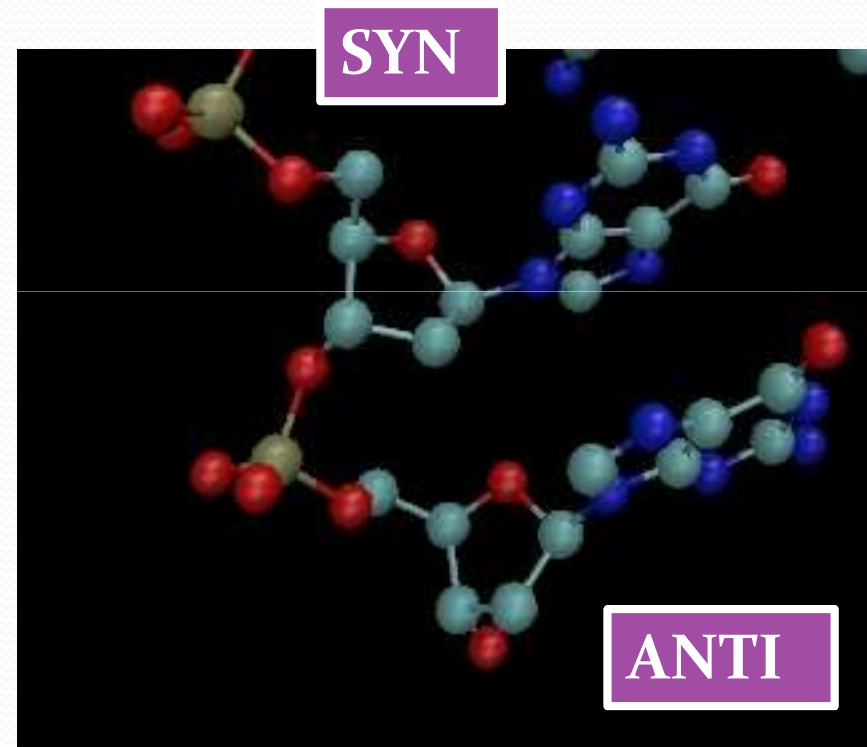
H⁺ DONORS



PDB: 1JPQ

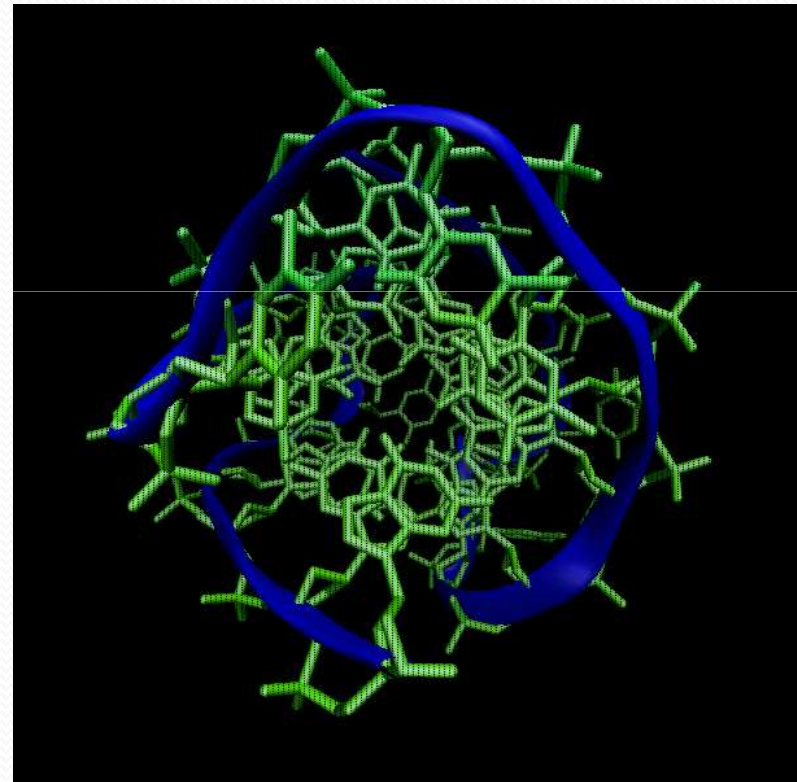
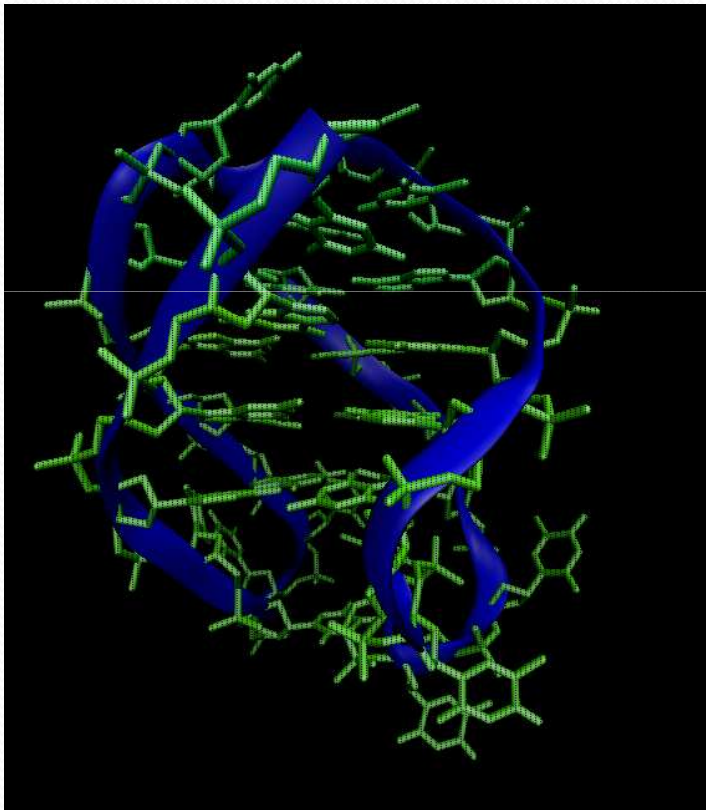
G-quadruplexes classification

- Number of strands
- Orientation
- Conformation
- Loop



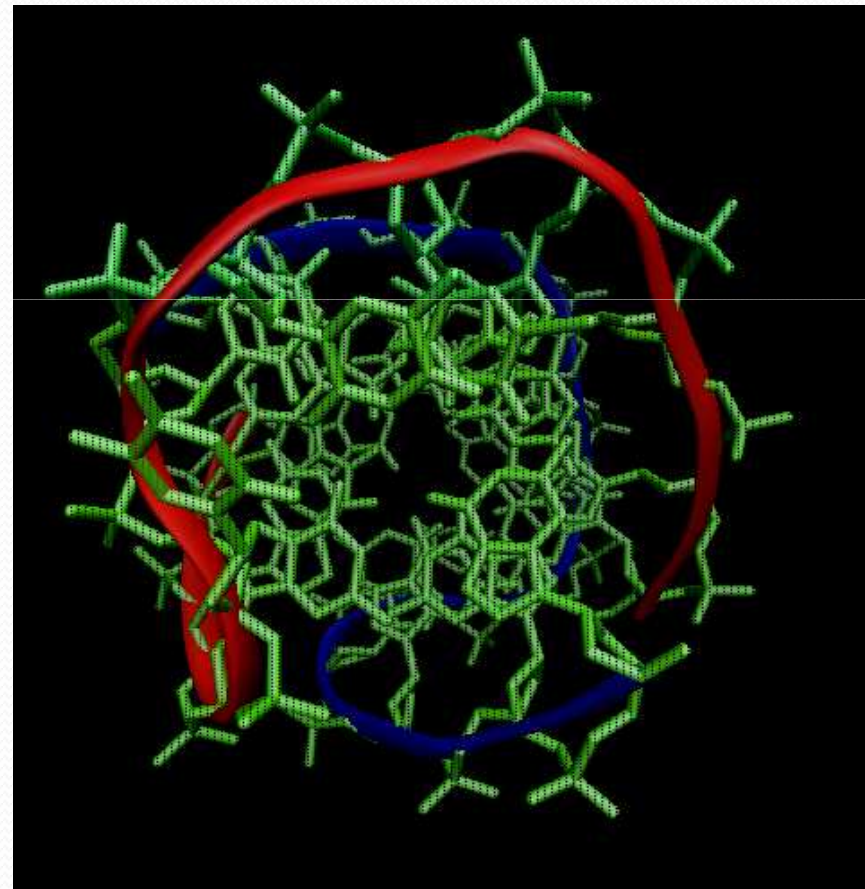
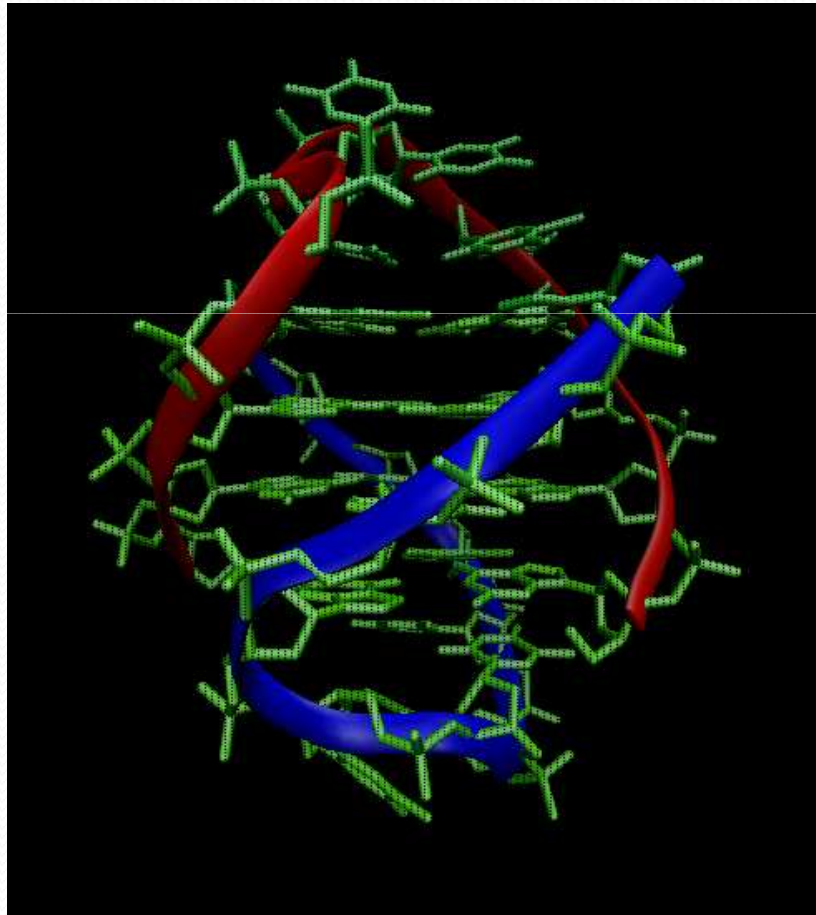
PDB: 1JPQ

Unimolecular quadruplex structure



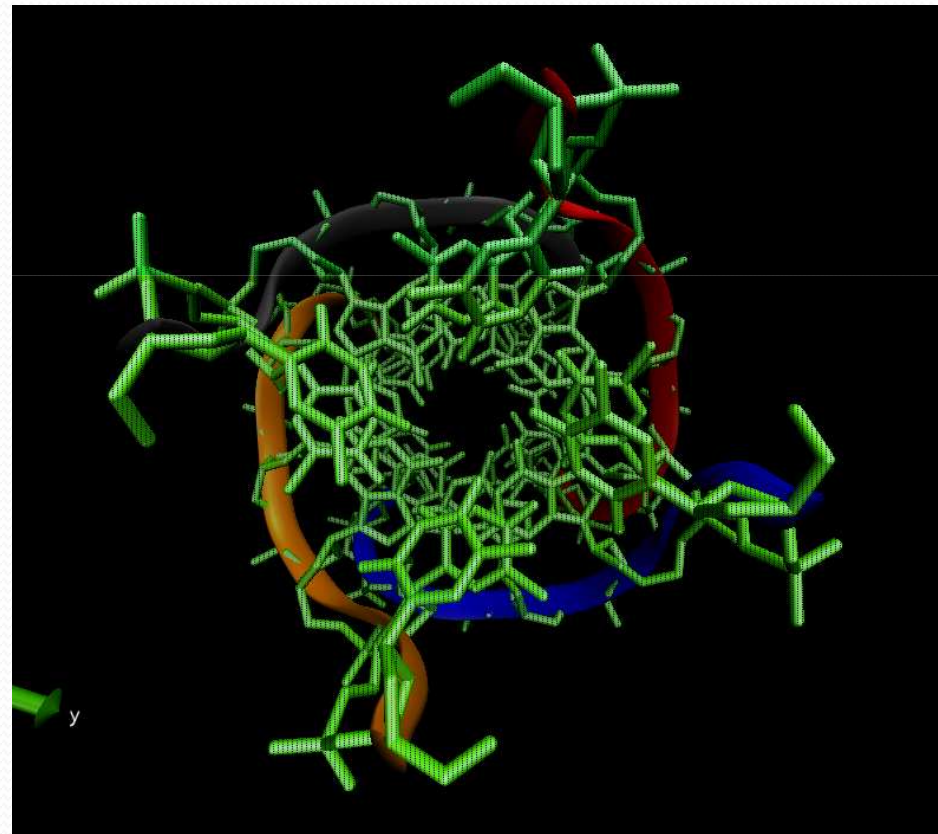
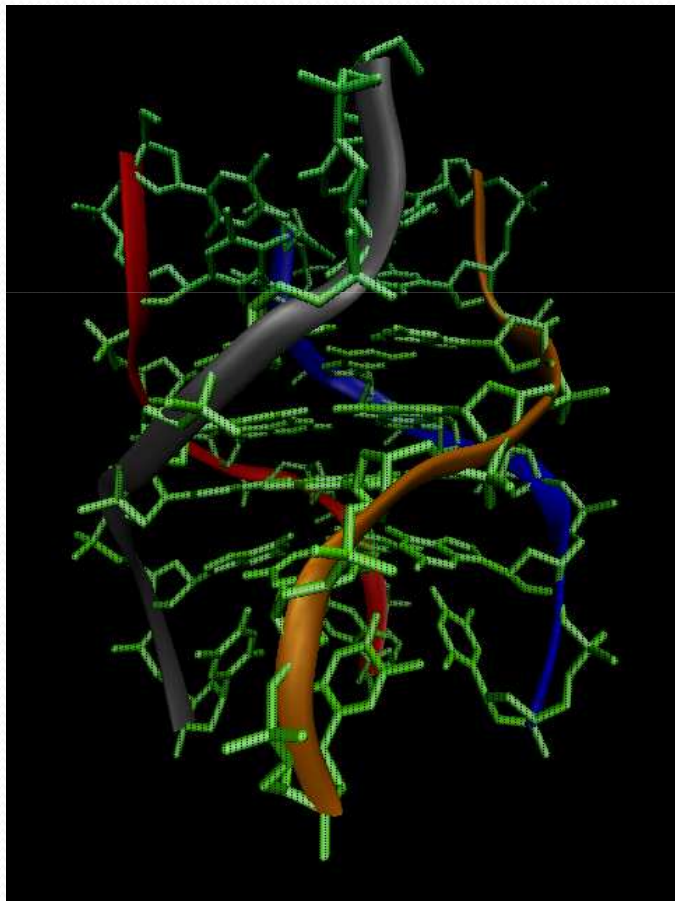
PDB: 201d

Bimolecular quadruplex structure



PDB: 1JPQ

Tetramolecular quadruplex structure



PDB: 139B



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Thank you for your attention

