## **GENETIC RECOMBINATION**



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Genetic recombination:

1.Homologous Recombination

2. Site-Specific Recombination

3. DNA Transposition

## Homologous Recombination at the Molecular Level

#### **DNA BREAKS ARE COMMON AND INITIATE RECOMBINATION**



### **Recombination repair DNA breaks by retrieving sequence** information from undamaged DNA

#### **Double-Strand Breaks are Efficiently Repaired**



Figure 5-51 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

## HOMOLOGOUS RECOMBINATION MODELS



### Strand invasion (strand exchange) is a key step in

homologous recombination



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## **Resolving Holliday junctions is a** key step (final step) to finishing genetic exchange



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"patch" or noncrossover products

no reassortment

в

ň.

"splice" or crossover products

reassortment of flanking genes

B

R

в

ñ

# The double-strand break-repair model describes many recombination events





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### HOMOLOGOUS RECOMBINATION PROTEIN MACHINARIES

TABLE 10.1 Probaryotic and Eukaryotic Eactors That Catalyza Pacambination Stone

TABLE TO-T Flokaryout and Lukaryout ractors mat Cataryze Recombination steps				
Recombination Step	E. coli Protein Catalyst	Eukaryotic Protein Catalyst		
Pairing homologous DNAs and strand invasion	RecA protein	Rad51 Dcm1 (in meiosis)		
Introduction of DSB	None	Spo11 (in meiosis)		
		HO (for mating-type switching)		
Processing DNA breaks to generate single strands for invasion	RecBCD helicase/nuclease	MRX protein (also called Rad50/58/60 nuclease)		
Assembly of strand- exchange proteins	RecBCD and RecFOR	Rad52 and Rad59		
Holliday junction recognition and branch migration	RuvAB complex	Unknown		
Resolution of Holliday junctions	RuvC	Perhaps Rad51c- XRCC3 complex and others		

# The RecBCD helicase/nuclease processes broken DNA molecules for recombination



<u> $\chi$ -site 5'</u>-GCTGGTGG-<u>3'</u>.

### **Structure of RecBCD**



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### **Chi sites control RecBCD (GCTGGTGG)**



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# **RecA protein assembles on single-stranded DNA and promotes strand invasion**



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#### **Three views of the RecA filament**



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#### **Polarity of RecA assembly**

3'

3'

active filament formation

to coat 3' end of ssDNA

fast 5'-+3'

3



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## Newly based-paired partners are established within RecA



### **RecA homologs are present in all organism**

Human Rad51

RecA



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Rad A of Archaea

## Branch migration can either enlarge heteroduplex regions or release newly synthesized DNA as a single strand



#### Structure of RuvA and model of RuvAB bound to Holliday junction



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Figure 5-63. Molecular Biology of the Cell, 4th Edition.

#### **Enzyme-catalyzed double branch migration at a Holliday junction.**

In *E. coli*, a tetramer of the RuvA protein (*green*) and two hexamers of the RuvB protein (*pale gray*) bind to the open form of the junction. The RuvB protein uses the energy of ATP hydrolysis to move the crossover point rapidly along the paired DNA helices, extending the heteroduplex region as shown. There is evidence that similar proteins perform this function in vertebrate cells. (Image courtesy of P. Artymiuk; modified from S.C. West, *Cell* 94:699–701, 1998.)

# **RuvC cleaves specific strands at the Holliday junction to finish recombination**



Figure 5-59 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

## Structure of RuvC and model of RuvC dimer bound to Holliday junction



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## How to resolve a recombination intermediate with two Holliday junctions



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HOMOLOGOUS RECOMBINATION IN EUKARYOTES Homologous recombination has additional functions in eukaryotes

It is required to pair homologous chromosomes in preparation for the first nuclear division and for segregation during meiosis



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## Meiotic recombination between homologous chromatids



### Meiotic recombination also frequently gives rise to crossing over between genes on the two homologous parental chromosomes



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meiosis produces haploid cells with chromosomes that have crossed over

site of gene

site of





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## Programmed generation of double-stranded DNA breaks occurs during meiosis



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MRX protein processes the cleaved DNA ends for assembly of the RecA-like strand exchange proteins (DMC1, Rad51)

### **DMC1 specifically functions in meiotic recombination**



Many proteins function together to promote meiotic recombination (Rad51, DMC1, Rad51 paralogs, Rad52, Rad54)



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## **Site-Specific recombination & Transposition**



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## **Conservative site-specific recombination**



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### **Three types of CSSR**





## Recombination by a serine recombinase



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Covalent-intermediate mechanism used by the serine and tyrosine recombinases.



protein-DNA covalent intermediate

## Recombination by a tyrosine recombinase



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## Mechanism of Site specific recombination by Cre Recombinase



first-strand

cleavage

Recombination sites involved in  $\lambda$  integration and excision showing the important sequence elements.





Figure 5-80. Molecular Biology of the Cell, 4th Edition.

## The life cycle of bacteriophage lambda.

The double-stranded DNA lambda genome contains 50,000 nucleotide pairs and encodes 50-60 different proteins. When the lambda DNA enters the cell, the ends join to form a circular DNA molecule. This bacteriophage can multiply in *E. coli* by a lytic pathway, which destroys the cell, or it can enter a latent prophage state. Damage to a cell carrying a lambda prophage induces the prophage to exit from the host chromosome and shift to lytic growth (green arrows). Both the entrance of the lambda DNA to, and its exit from, the bacterial chromosome are accomplished by a conservative site-specific recombination event, catalyzed by the lambda integrase enzyme (see Figure 5–80).



Figure 5-81 part 2 of 2. Molecular Biology of the Cell, 4th Edition.

#### DNA inversion by the Hin recombinase of Salmonella





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Recombinase	Function	
Serine family		
Salmonella Hin invertase	Inverts a chromosomal region to flip a gene promoter by recognizing <i>hix</i> sites. Allows expression of two distinct surface antigens.	
Transposon Tn3 and γδ resolvases	Promotes a DNA deletion reaction to resolve the DNA fusion event that results from replicative transposition. Recombination sites are called <i>res</i> sites.	
Tyrosine family		
Bacteriophage λ integrase	Promotes DNA integration and excision of the λ genome into, and out of, a specific sequence on the <i>E. coli</i> chromosome. Recombination sites are called <i>att</i> sites.	
Phage P1 Cre	Promotes circularization of the phage DNA during infection by recognizing sites (called <i>lox</i> sites) on the phage DNA.	
Escherichia coli XerC and XerD	Promotes several DNA deletion reactions that convert dimeric circular DNA molecules into monomers. Recognizes both plasmid-borne sites ( <i>cer</i> ) and chromosomal sites ( <i>dif</i> ).	
Yeast FLP	Inverts a region of the yeast 2 µ plasmid to allow for a DNA amplification reaction called rolling circle replication. Recombination sites are called <i>frt</i> sites.	

#### TABLE 12-1 Recombinases by Family and by Function

## **Transposition**

# Some genetic elements move to new chromosomal locations by transposition



Genetic organization of the three classes of transposable elements.



b virus-like retrotransposons/retroviruses



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#### Table 5–3 Three Major Classes of Transposable Elements

CLASS DESCRIPTION AND STRUCTURE	SPECIALIZED ENZYMES REQUIRED FOR MOVEMENT	MODE OF MOVEMENT	EXAMPLES
DNA-only transposons			
short inverted repeats at each end	transposase	moves as DNA, either by cut-and-paste or replicative pathways	P element ( <i>Drosophila</i> ) Ac-Ds (maize) Tn3 and Tn10 ( <i>E. coli</i> ) Tam3 (snapdragon)
Retroviral-like retrotransposons			
directly repeated long terminal repeats (LTRs) at each end	reverse transcriptase and integrase	moves via an RNA intermediate produced by a promoter in the LTR	Copia ( <i>Drosophila</i> ) Ty1 (yeast) THE1 (human) Bs1 (maize)
Nonretroviral retrotransposons			
Poly A at 3' end of RNA transcript; 5' end is often truncated	reverse transcriptase and endonuclease	moves via an RNA intermediate that is often produced from a neighboring promoter	F element ( <i>Drosophila</i> ) L1 (human) Cin4 (maize)

These elements range in length from 1000 to about 12,000 nucleotide pairs. Each family contains many members, only a few of which are listed here. In addition to transposable elements, some viruses can move in and out of host cell chromosomes by transpositional mechanisms. These viruses are related to the first two classes of transposons.

Table 5-3 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

### The cut-and-paste mechanism of transposition (DNA transposons)



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#### **Replicative transposition (DNA transposons)**



#### **Chemical step of DNA strand transfer**



Similarities of catalytic domains of transposases and integrases.



Three mechanisms for cleaving the nontransferred strand.



#### Virus-like retrotransposons



#### Some virus use a transposition mechanism to move themselves into host cell chromosomes



Figure 5-71 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

#### target site cleavage, d **RNA–DNA** hybrid formation а LINE DNA ORF1 ORF2 2444D 3'UTR 5'UTR TARA 5 transcription 3' b 3'UTR LINE CONA 5'UTR LINE mRNA 5' synthesis of first cDNA strand е translation ORF1 and binding to **ORF2** proteins LINE mRNA RNA degradation and = 3' 5' 44.6 second-strand synthesis +target 5' AAAA DNA joining and repair DNA 3' binding to target DNA 5 AAAA 3 TIT LINE DNA 1 AAL 5' **4444** Copyright © 2008 Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Pearson Benjamin Cu

#### **Poly-A retrotransposon**

V(D)J Recombination



Overview of the process of V(D)J recombination.



Recombination signal sequences recognized in V(D)J recombination.



The V(D)J recombination pathway: cleavages occur by a mechanism similar to transposon excision.



Туре	Structural Features	Mechanism of Movement	Examples
DNA-mediated transposition			
Bacterial replicative transposons	Terminal inverted repeats that flank antibiotic-resistance and transposase genes	Copying of element DNA accompanying each round of insertion into a new target site	Tn3, γδ, phage Mu
Bacterial cut-and-paste transposons	Terminal inverted repeats that flank antibiotic- resistance and transposase genes	Excision of DNA from old target site and insertion into new site	Tn5, Tn10, Tn7, IS911, Tn917
Eukaryotic transposons	Inverted repeats that flank coding region with introns	Excision of DNA from old target site and insertion into new site	P elements ( <i>Drosophila</i> ), <i>hAT</i> family elements, Tc1/Mariner elements
<b>RNA-mediated transposition</b>			
Virus-like retrotransposons	~250- to 600-bp direct terminal repeats (LTRs) flanking genes for reverse transcriptase, integrase, and retrovirus-like Gag protein	Transcription into RNA from promoter in left LTR by RNA polymerase II followed by reverse transcription and insertion at target site	Ty elements (yeast), Copia elements (Drosophila)
Poly-A retrotransposons	3' A-T-rich sequence and 5' UTR flank genes encoding an RNA-binding protein and reverse transcriptase	Transcription into RNA from internal promoter; target- primed reverse transcription initiated by endonuclease cleavage	F and G elements ( <i>Drosophila</i> ), LINE and SINE elements (mammals), <i>Alu</i> sequences (humans)

#### TABLE 11-2 Major Types of Transposable Elements

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