

CONTROL OF GENE EXPRESSION IN PROKARIOT

Week 10

Regulation of (Protein/Enzyme) Synthesis

Operon Concept & Lac Operon

DNA control enzyme synthesis. Every somatic cell of a species bear some chromosome, but always every cell never produces all enzymes. There must have a controlling system. The control can be exercised by induction or by repression (suppression) and either at the transcription level or at translation level.

Jacob & Monod (1960) proposed a hypothesis to explain the control the enzyme synthesis.

It is known as Operon concept or model.

* Gene cluster, promoter, additional sequence that function together in regulation is called operon. An operon is a group of closely linked structural genes (cistrons) and the associated control genes (operator genes and regulator genes promoter genes) which regulate genetically controlled metabolic activity.

* LAC OPERON

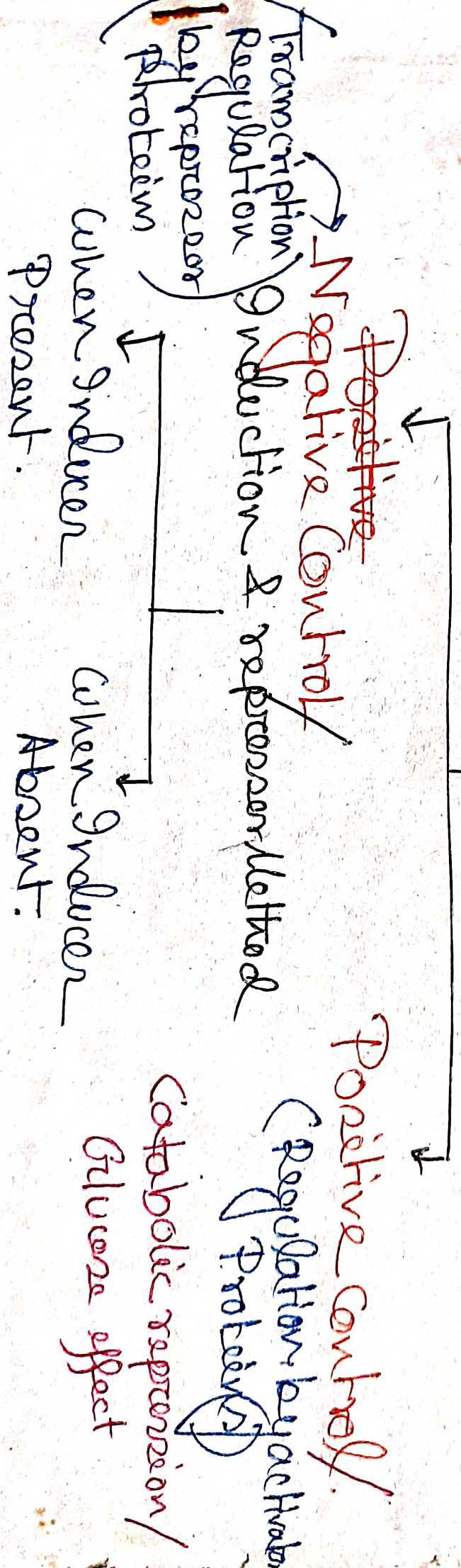
Lac Operon is an operon which associated with lactose metabolism and control the synthesis of β galactosidase enzyme.

1. Negative Control:

Back with (1967), Epstein, Backwith (1968) and Martin (1969) have described the operation of lac operon in *E. coli* in following ways -

@ When Inducer (lactose) Absent: -
In the absence of inducer lactose the regulator gene produces a protein repressor which bind strongly to the operator site and prevents its transcription.

The Control Mechanism of (lac) operon divided into -



~~Positive~~ Negative Control

Positive Control

Regulation by activator proteins
Catabolic repression / Glucose effect

Transcription Regulation by repressor protein

When inducer present

When inducer absent

As a result the structural genes (z, y, a) do not synthesize mRNA and enzyme β galactoxidase is not formed, & hence there is no question of break down of Lactose. *

(b) When Inducer Present: -

ii) When an inducer lactose is introduced in the medium, it enters the cell and gets modified in such a way that it binds to the repressor. The repressor is therefore free and induces the RNA transcription & β galactoxidase is produced which breaks the lactose.

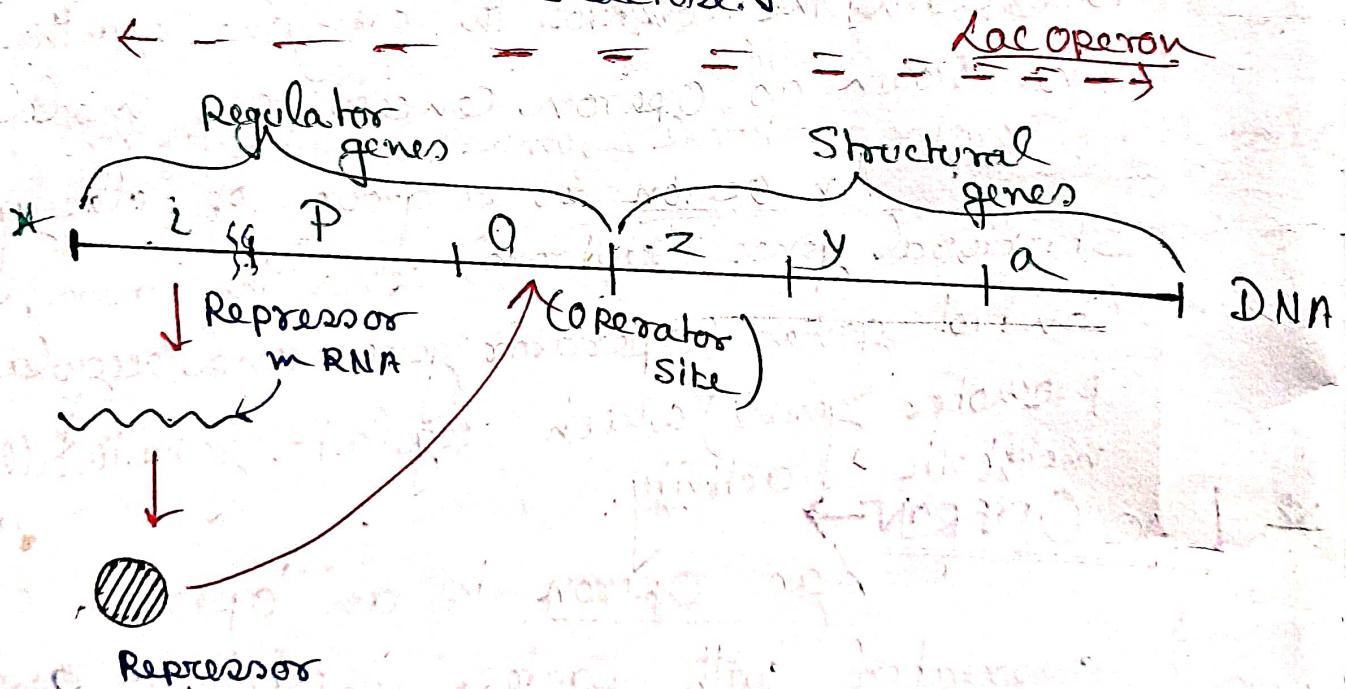
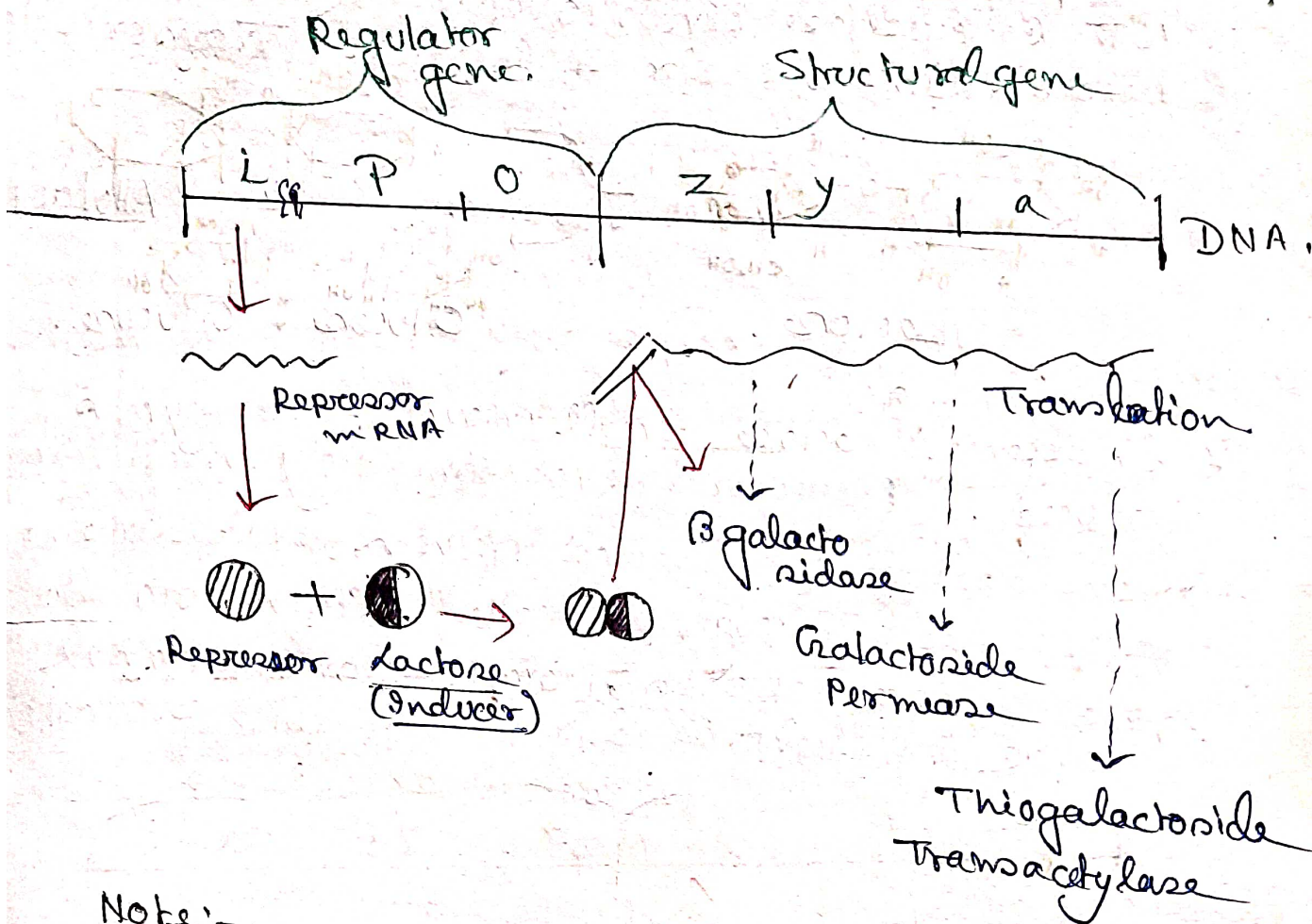


Fig. Repression of mRNA synthesis

Case I.

~~Gene II → Inducible ab~~

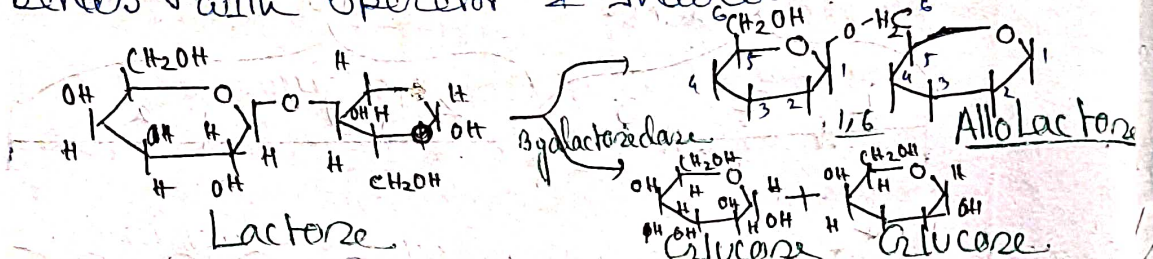


Note:

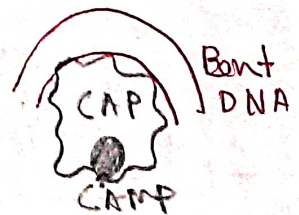
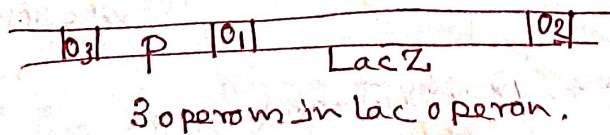
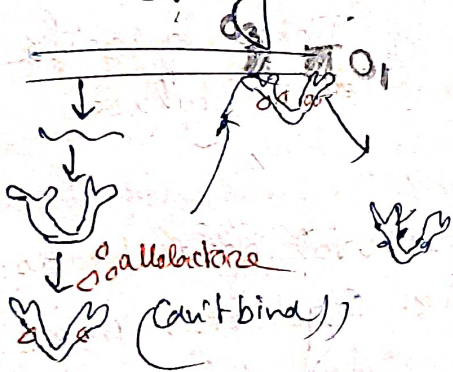
1. The transcription of structural genes leads to the synthesis of 3 enzyme viz. β galactosidase, galactoside permease, Thiogalactoside Transacetylase.
2. These 3 enzymes bring about the metabolism of lactose. β galactosidase splits glucose and galactose. Galactoside permease facilitates the entry of lactose into cell. The function of Thiogalactoside transacetylase is not known.
3. In the lac operon system, the lactose functions as an inducer for the synthesis of 3 enzymes. Hence the lac operon system is called an inducible system. This system is a negative regulation.

⇒ A few molecules of Z, Y, a gene products synth. in uninduced state, providing low level of enzyme activity, this activity is essential for induction of the operon.

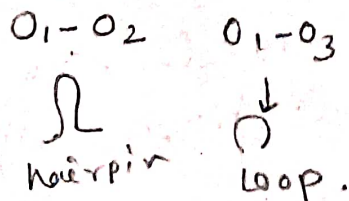
Allolactose, an inducer formed by ~~break~~ reaction with β -galactosidase, binds to repressor & repressor can't bind to operator & induces transcription.



* In absence of lactose small amount of β enzymes produced. (Repressor does not completely inhibit transcription when medium with lactose given small amount transported (through permease) converts to allolactose & ~~all~~ binds to repressor, promotes conformational change & prevent bind repressor with promoter.



Repressor tetramer's one dimer bind with O₁, other binds with O₂ or O₃



Ref - Strydom.

2. Positive Control: - (By Cyclic AMP)

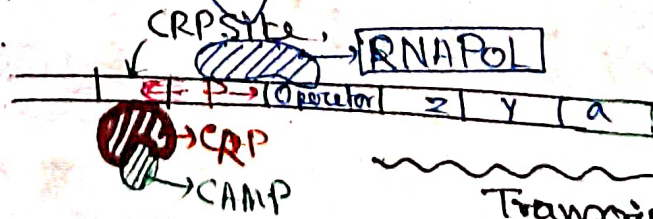
* Diauxic growth
Glucose metabolism
1st than 2nd sugar
(sequential use
of 2^o sugar)

Expression of 'lac' Operon is inhibited when more efficient source of energy (ie. Glucose) present in the medium. Presence of glucose lowers the concentration of intercellular cyclic AMP. (ATP $\xrightarrow{\text{Adenyl cyclase}}$ CAMP)
(Effector molecule) \rightarrow AMP binds with an activator protein Catabolite Activator Protein (CAP) or CAMP receptor Protein (CRP).

(a) When Glucose Absent: -

CAMP-CRP complex recognized & bind with Lac control region, bound CRP creates conformational change in DNA makes possible RNA polymerase to transcribe lac operon.

CAMP \uparrow
 $\propto \frac{1}{\text{CAMP}}$



(b) When Glucose Present: -

When bacterium expose to glucose, trans port of glucose stimulate signaling pathway cause CAMP decrease, \downarrow because Adenyl cyclase inhibits Adenyl cyclase, so CAMP no longer available to bind to CRP causes transcription rate decrease

Lac operon transcription never exceeds 2!



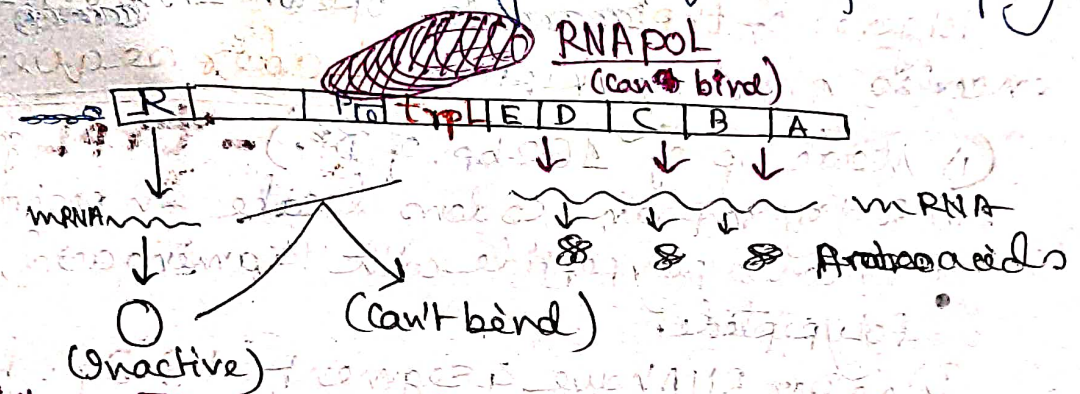
No Transcription occurs.

TRYPTOPHAN OPERON

The trp Operon encodes enzyme needed for biosynthesis of amino acid tryptophan, trp E, D, C, B, A gene encodes enzymes involved tryptophan biosynthesis. trp L & trp R genes regulate operon different ways.

1) When tryptophan Absent:

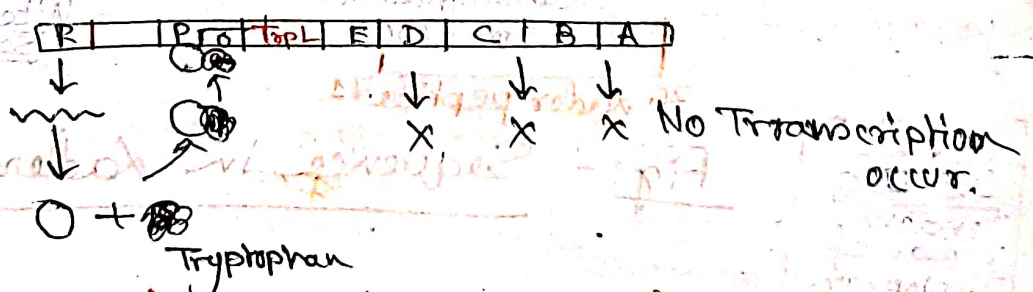
trp R gene encode repressor protein, in low tryptophan concentration can't become active & can't bind operator site. Then RNA polymerase transcribe operon & cell express gene required for trp synthesis.



2) When Tryptophan Present:

In presence of tryptophan in high concentration ~~transcription~~ act as corepressor! bind with trp repressor protein, allow to bind in promoter region & ~~inhibit~~ inhibit ability to RNA POL to transcribe operon & trp operon ~~has~~ turned off. RNA POL (can't bind).

* 2 molecules of tryptophan binds, alters helix-turn-helix of repressor recognition site to fit into adjacent major groove of DNA.



* Difference Between lac Operon & trp Operon:

- (i) In trp Operon it acts as corepressor rather than inducer in lac Operon.
- (ii) trp operon encodes bio synthetic enzyme whereas lac Operon encodes degradative enzyme.
- (iii) CRR - CAMP complex not required for trp Operon.

* Attenuation:-

The other mechanism of regulatory mechanism of trp discovered by Yanofsky. This mechanism mediated by trpL gene & the mechanism called Attenuation.

It is a process only occurs in bacteria because of coupling of transcription & translation. A 28 base pair of DNA that terminate transcription, called Attenuator.

1st gene of trp operon is trpL gene made up of with leader sequence →

- (i) Made up of 162 bp. of BP.) - **trpL gene**.
- (ii) 2 tryptophan codons locate in position 10, 11.
- (iii) Encodes polypeptide with 14 amino acid, leader polypeptide.
- (iv) Leader RNA have 4 segment (1, 2, 3, 4) forming either b.P 1,2 or 3,4 or 2,3 of stem loop structure

* presence of which region in 4 act as intrinsic terminator

The 3,4 stem loop is unique it can act as a transcriptional terminator.

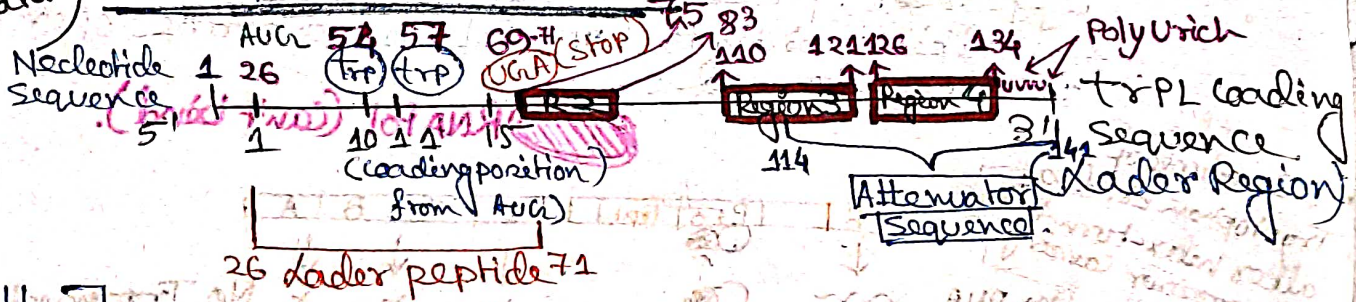


Fig:- Sequence in leader region

10, 11
UGA UGA
Tandem repeat of Tryptophan Codones.

* Conditions in favour of formation 3-4 stem loop ultimately depends on translation of trpL gene. There are three possible scenarios —

1. When NO Translation occurs: — / When mRNA free

When mRNA free or in other words transcription not coupled with translation then region 1 hydrogen bonds with region 2 and 3 left hydrogen bond with 3. Terminator stem loop forms.

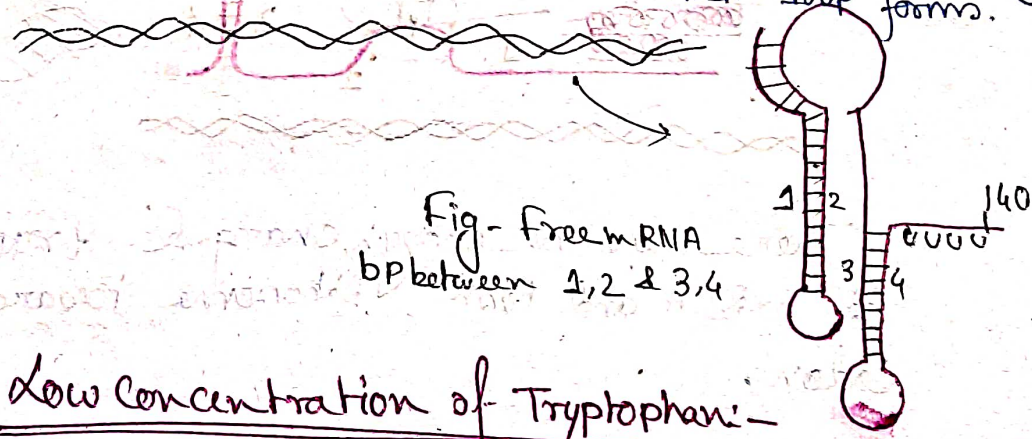
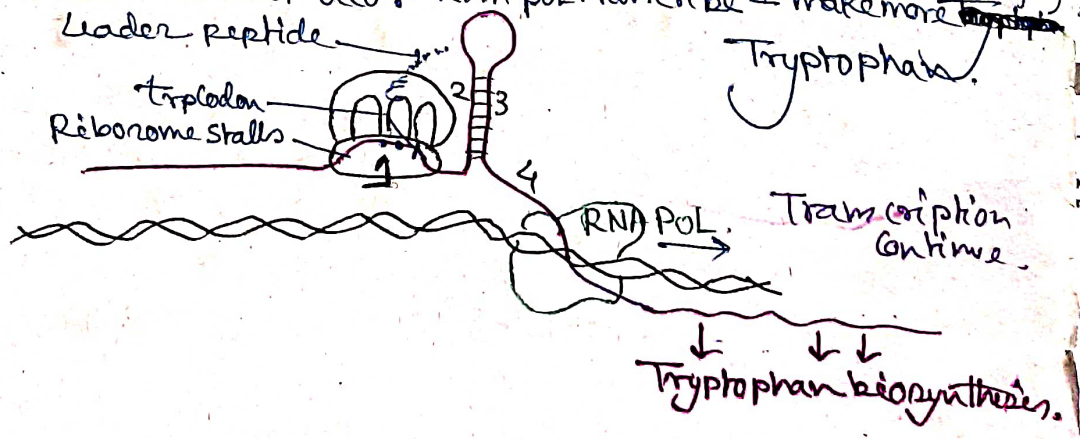


Fig - free mRNA
bp between 1, 2 & 3, 4

2. Low Concentration of Tryptophan: —

When Tryptophan conc. low cell can't make sufficient amount of charged tRNA^{trp}. Ribosome pauses at trp codons in trpL gene (waiting for charged tRNA^{trp}). In the position (10, 11) ribosome shields region 1 & as for it 2 & 3 region formed hair pin loop. (3-4 structure can't form) Termination does not occur RNA pol transcribe & make more ~~trp~~ tryptophan.

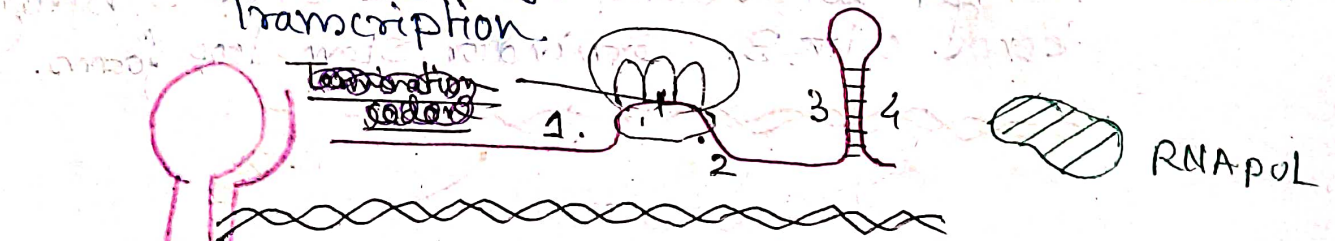


3. High Tryptophan concentration:

presence of high level of Tryptophan

Transcription of Ribosome progress to ~~STOP~~ codon where ribosome pause.

Preventing region 2 form hydrogen bond with either region 1 and 3. Then 3 hydrogen bond with region 4 and terminate Transcription.



There must be enough charged tRNA to be in RNA and Push Ribosome towards Termination Codon.

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