

New Storie About ncRNAs: Antisense Transcripts

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The TBI Seminar, Bled 2006

Outline

Introduction

What is this to do with microRNAs?

Features of Antisense Transcripts (asTC)

Mode of Action: Sense-Antisense Pairs in Plants

Antisense Transcription in the HOX Gene Clusters

HOX Genes

The *hoxa11* Locus

Model for *hoxa11* Antisense Regulation

Summary

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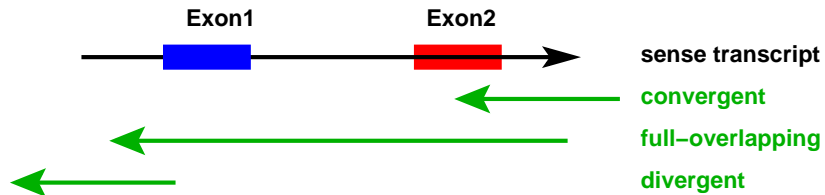
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What Is An asTC

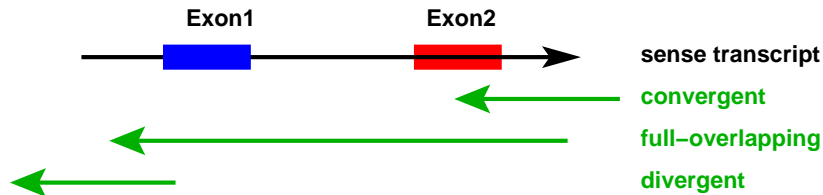


Classes of AS-TC: *cis*



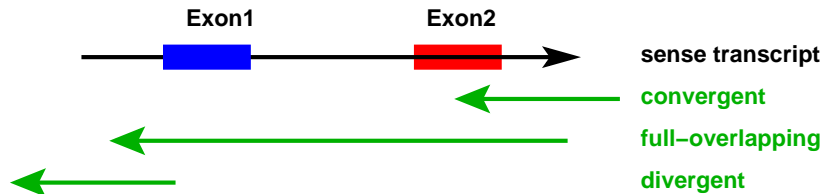
- ▶ convergent
- ▶ full-overlapping
- ▶ divergent

Classes of AS-TC: *cis*



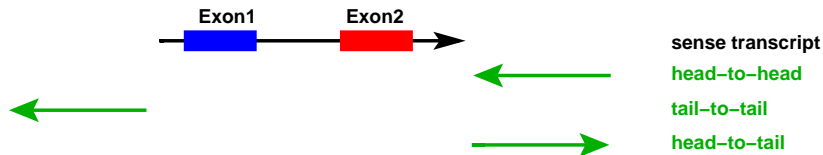
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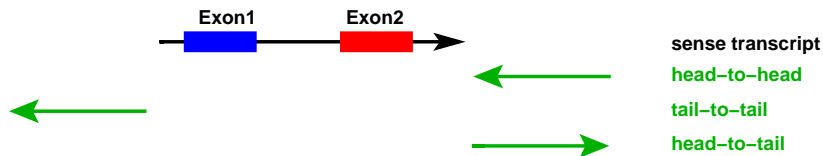
- ▶ convergent
- ▶ full-overlapping
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Classes of AS-TC: *trans*



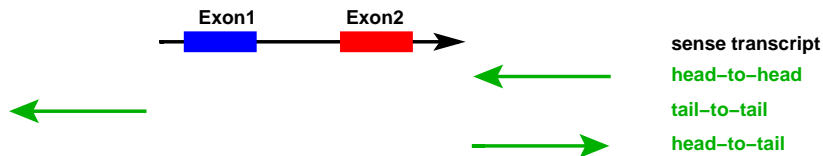
- ▶ head-to-head
- ▶ tail-to-tail
- ▶ head-to-tail

Classes of AS-TC: *trans*



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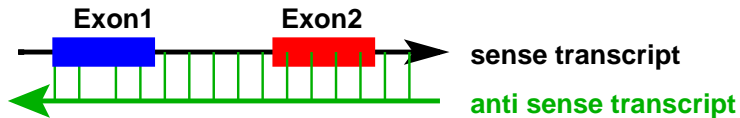
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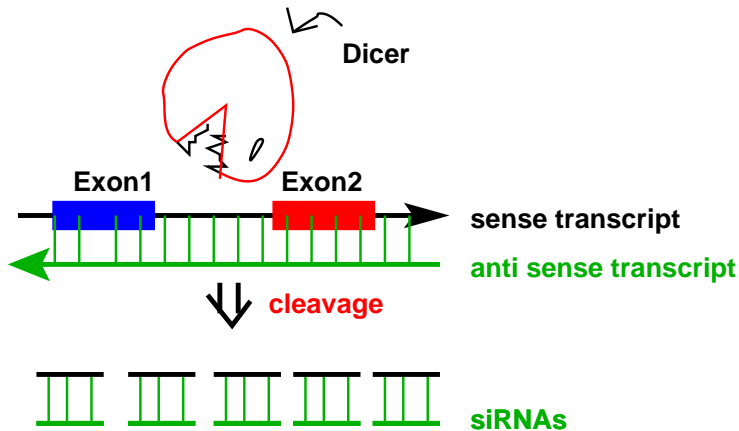
Perfect Duplexes



Again: is there some connection to microRNAs?

possibly maybe.

Degradation of S-AS Duplex



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What are hox genes?

- ▶ **transcription factors**
- ▶ embryonic development
- ▶ antero-posterior axis
- ▶ organized in clusters

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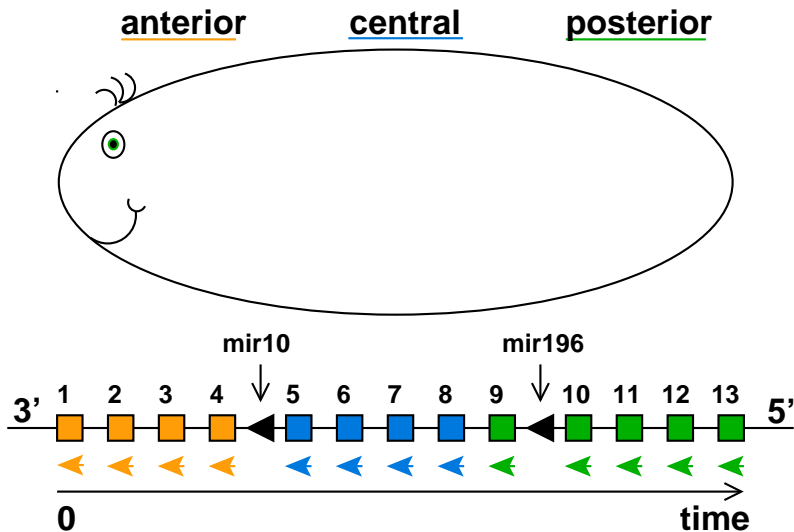
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Genomic Organisation of HOX Genes



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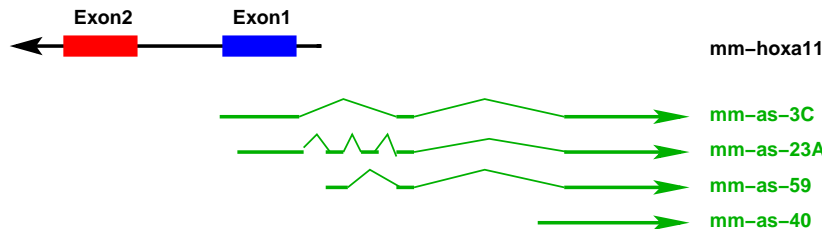
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HoxA11 asTC: head-to-head



Known Functions of Hoxa11

- ▶ during embryogenesis:
differentiation of limbs
- ▶ during embryogenesis:
differentiation of Müllerian duct
⇒ uterus development
- ▶ during female reproductive cycle:
differentiation of endometrium
⇒ embedding of egg

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downregulation of *hoxa11as* → upregulation of *hoxa11*
- ▶ antisense-TC only conserved in placentaria, but not marsupialia

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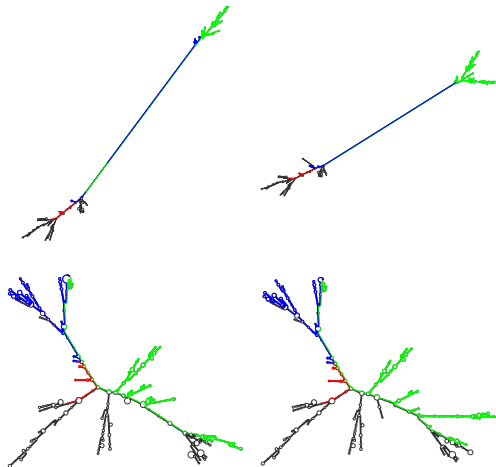
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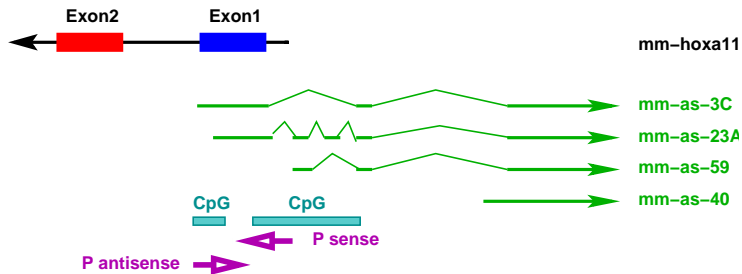
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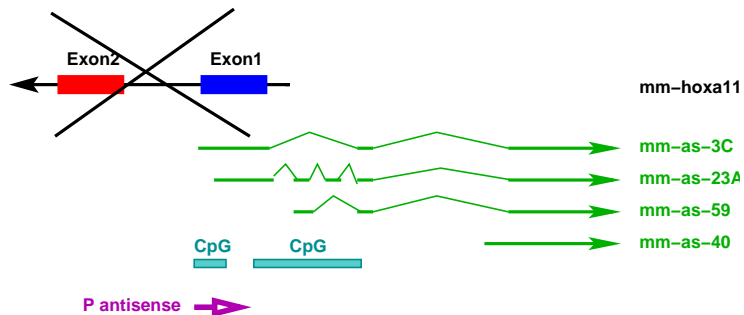
No Interaction with *hoxa11*?



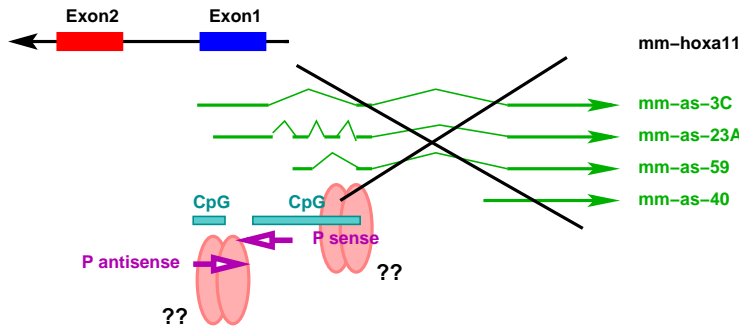
Predicted: Bidirectional Promoter



Default: Hoxa11AS Transcription?



Progesterone Induced: Hoxa11 Transcription?



Summary

- ▶ regulation of gene expression
- ▶ most are ncRNAs
- ▶ asTC in plants: PTGS
- ▶ asTC in *hoxa11* locus: unknown mode of interaction
- ▶ possible scenario: bidirectional promoter?

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