



# CIRCULAR CODES IN GENES AND GENOMES

- 2013 -

**Prof. Christian MICHEL**

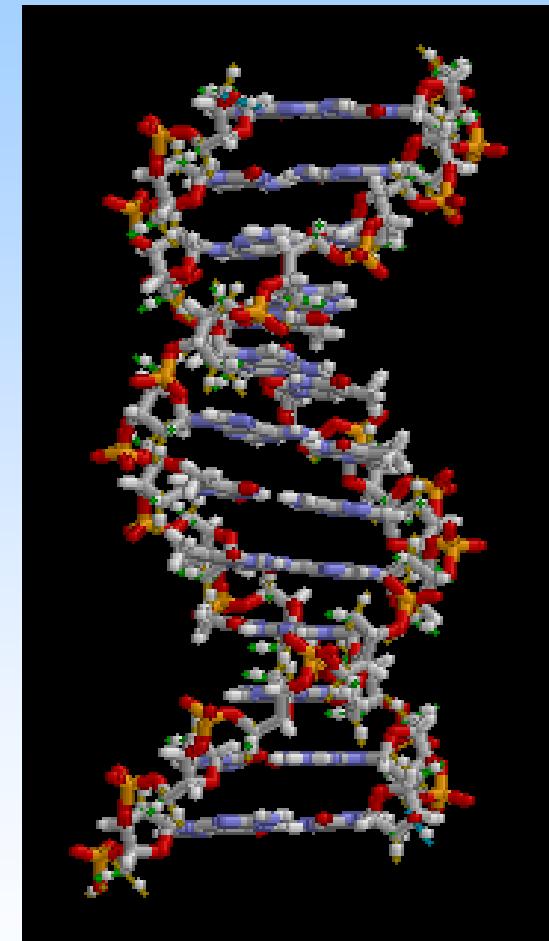
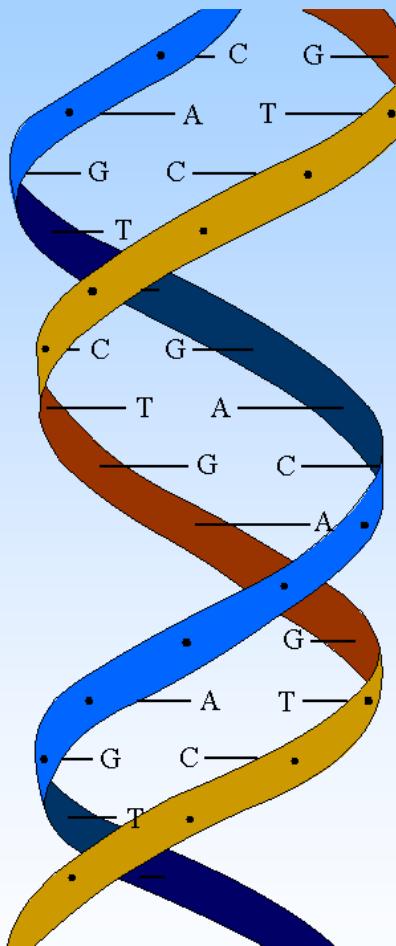
Theoretical Bioinformatics  
ICube  
University of Strasbourg, CNRS  
France

c.michel@unistra.fr  
<http://dpt-info.u-strasbg.fr/~c.michel/>



# Biological recall: DNA

- Alphabet:  $A_4 = \{A, C, G, T\}$
- Double helix
- Complementary pairing  
 $A - T$  and  $C - G$
- Antiparallel



# Biological recall: complementary trinucleotide

Complementary map:  $\mathbf{C}$

Complementary nucleotide

$$\mathbf{C}(A) = T \text{ and } \mathbf{C}(T) = A$$

$$\mathbf{C}(C) = G \text{ and } \mathbf{C}(G) = C$$

Complementary trinucleotide

$$w_0 = I_0 I_1 I_2$$

with  $I_0 I_1 I_2 \in A_4$ , is

$$^3 \quad \mathbf{C}(w_0) = \mathbf{C}(I_2) \mathbf{C}(I_1) \mathbf{C}(I_0)$$

e.g.  $\mathbf{C}(ACG) = CGT$

Extension to a complementary trinucleotide set



# Biological recall: permuted trinucleotide

Permutation map:  $P$

Permuted trinucleotide

$$w_0 = I_0 I_1 I_2$$

with  $I_0 I_1 I_2 \in A_3$ , is

$$P(w_0) = w_1 = I_1 I_2 I_0$$

and

$$P(P(w_0)) = P(w_1) = w_2 = I_2 I_0 I_1$$

e.g.  $P(ACG)=CGA$  and  $P(P(ACG))=P(CGA)=GAC$

Extension to a permuted trinucleotide set

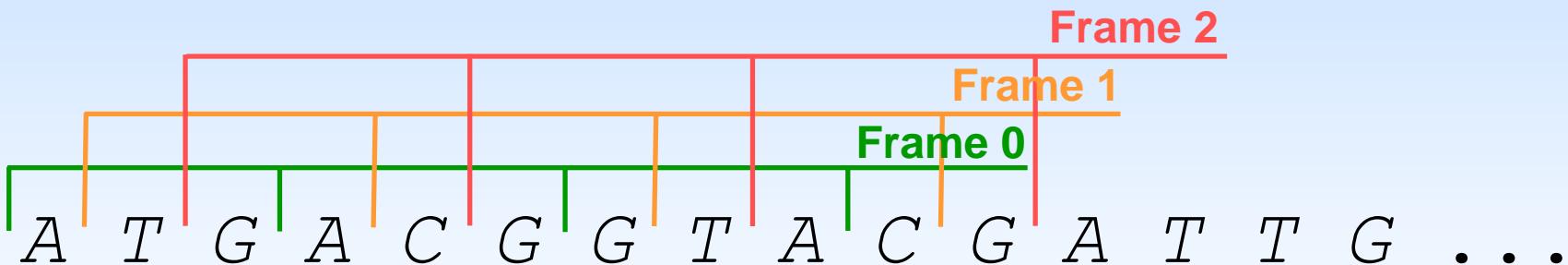


# Biological recall: 3 frames in genes

**Frame 0: Reading frame established by a start codon**  
**{ATG, GTG, TTG}**

**Frame 1: Frame 0 shifted by 1 nucleotide in 5'-3'**

**Frame 2: Frame 0 shifted by 2 nucleotides in 5'-3'**



# Result 1: The distribution of the 64 trinucleotides in the 3 frames of genes (prokaryotes, eukaryotes) are not uniform: 3 sets of trinucleotides are identified

- Trinucleotide frequencies per frame (Arquès, Michel, 1996)
- Correlation functions per frame (Arquès, Michel, 1997)
- Frame permuted trinucleotide frequencies (Frey, Michel, 2003, 2006)
- Covering function (Gonzalez, Giannerini, Rosa, 2011)



# Trinucleotide frequencies per frame

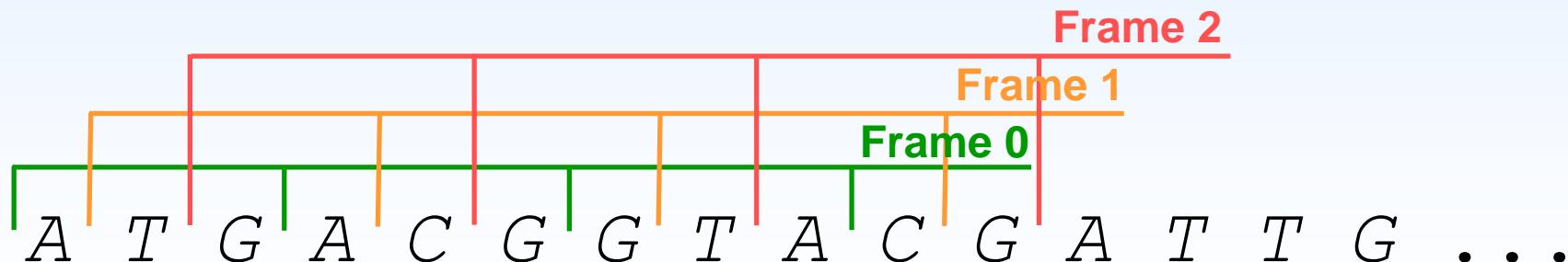
Occurrence frequencies  $P(w^p)$  of the 64 trinucleotide  $w$  in each frame  $p$  in the prokaryotic protein coding genes (13686 sequences, 4708758 trinucleotides)

$w$ in frame $p = 0$	Frequency (%)	$w$ in frame $p = 1$	Frequency (%)	$w$ in frame $p = 2$	Frequency (%)
AAA	3.38	AAA	2.75	AAA	2.44
AAC	2.18	AAC	1.59	AAC	1.38
AAG	1.98	AAG	3.21	AAG	0.81
AAT	2.17	AAT	1.37	AAT	1.69
ACA	1.22	ACA	1.91	ACA	1.11
ACC	2.09	ACC	1.60	ACC	0.79
ACG	1.30	ACG	2.49	ACG	0.68
ACT	1.13	ACT	1.17	ACT	1.09
AGA	0.61	AGA	1.59	AGA	2.47
AGC	1.42	AGC	1.83	AGC	1.71
AGG	0.31	AGG	2.21	AGG	1.45
AGT	0.87	AGT	0.97	AGT	1.26
ATA	0.83	ATA	2.15	ATA	0.66
ATC	2.61	ATC	1.66	ATC	0.82
ATG	2.38	ATG	2.82	ATG	0.41
ATT	2.50	ATT	1.38	ATT	1.50

# Frame 0

# Frame 1

# Frame 2



# Identification of 3 sets of trinucleotides per frame in prokaryotes and eukaryotes

$T_0$  AAA AAC AAT ACC ATC ATT CAG CTC CTG GAA GAC GAG GAT GCC GGC GGT GTA GTC GTT TAC TTC TTT  
 $T_1$  AAG ACA ACG ACT AGC AGG ATA ATG CCA CCC CCG GCG GTG TAG TCA TCC TCG TCT TGC TTA TTG  
 $T_2$  AGA AGT CAA CAC CAT CCT CGA CGC CGG CGT CTA CTT GCA GCT GGA GGG TAA TAT TGA TGG TGT

Three subsets of trinucleotides can be identified:  $T_0 = X_0 \cup \{\text{AAA,TTT}\}$  in frame  $p = 0$ ,  $T_1 = X_1 \cup \{\text{CCC}\}$  in frame  $p = 1$  and  $T_2 = X_2 \cup \{\text{GGG}\}$  in frame  $p = 2$ .



# Result 2 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997): **Mathematical properties of $X_0$ , $X_1$ and $X_2$**

## Complementary property **C**

$T_0$  AAA AAC AAT ACC ATC CAG CTC GAA GAC GCC GTA

$T_0$  TTT GTT ATT GGT GAT CTG GAG TTC GTC GGC TAC

$T_1$  AAG ACA ACG ACT AGC AGG ATA ATG CCA CCC CCG GCG GTG TAG TCA TCC TCG TCT TGC TTA TTG

$T_2$  CTT TGT CGT AGT GCT CCT TAT CAT TGG GGG CGG CGC CAC CTA TGA GGA CGA AGA GCA TAA CAA

**C**( $X_0$ ) =  $X_0$  :  $X_0$  is self-complementary

**C**( $X_1$ ) =  $X_2$  and **C**( $X_2$ ) =  $X_1$  :  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are complementary to each other

## Permutation property **P**

$X_0$  AAC AAT ACC ATC ATT CAG CTC CTG GAA GAC GAG GAT GCC GGC GGT GTA GTC GTT TAC TTC

$X_1$  ACA ATA CCA TCA TTA AGC TCC TGC AAG ACG AGG ATG CCG GCG GTG TAG TCG TTG ACT ACT

$X_2$  CAA TAA CAC CAT TAT GCA CCT GCT AGA CGA GGA TGA CGC CGG TGG AGT CGT TGT CTA CTT

**P**( $X_0$ ) =  $X_1$  and **P**( $X_1$ ) =  $X_2$  :  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are deduced from  $X_0$  by permutation



# Result 2 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997): **Mathematical properties of $X_0$ , $X_1$ and $X_2$**

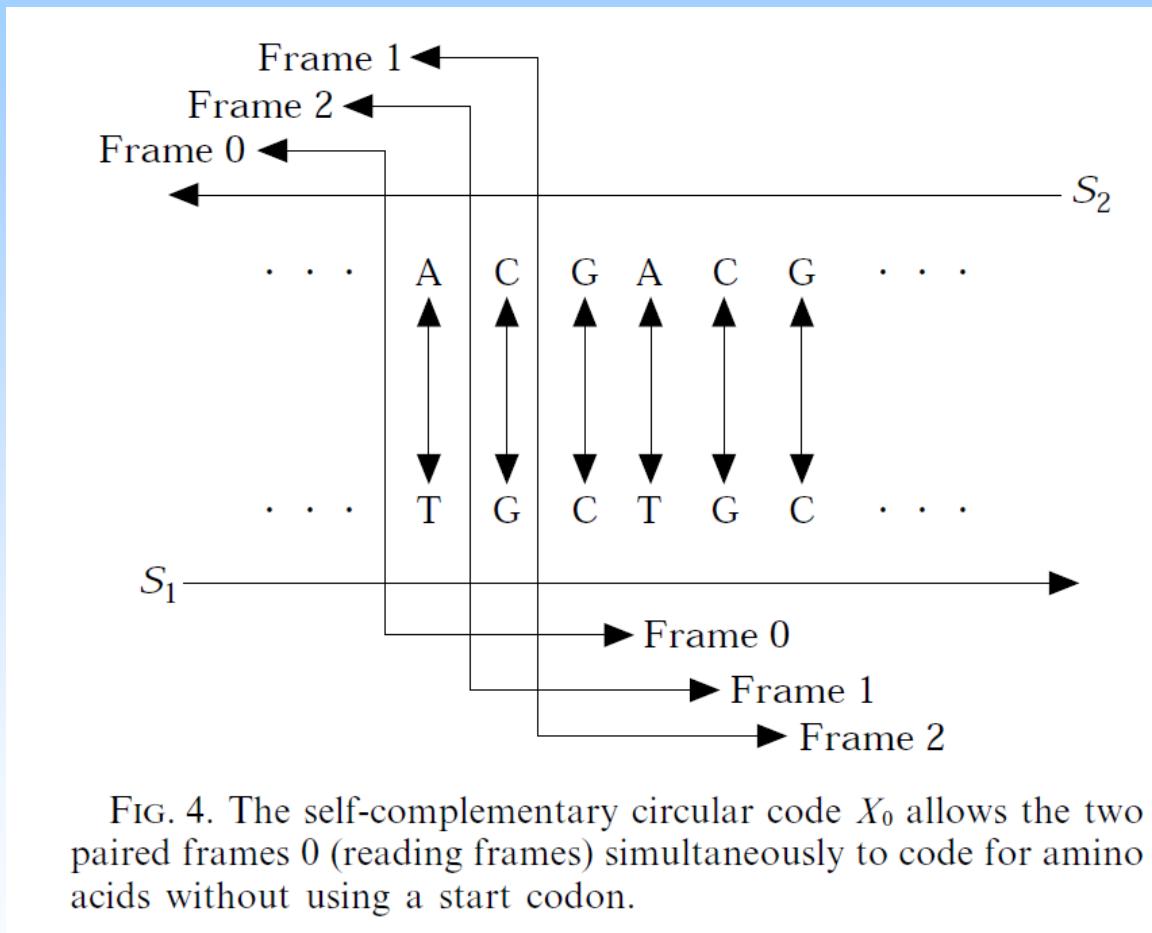


FIG. 4. The self-complementary circular code  $X_0$  allows the two paired frames 0 (reading frames) simultaneously to code for amino acids without using a start codon.

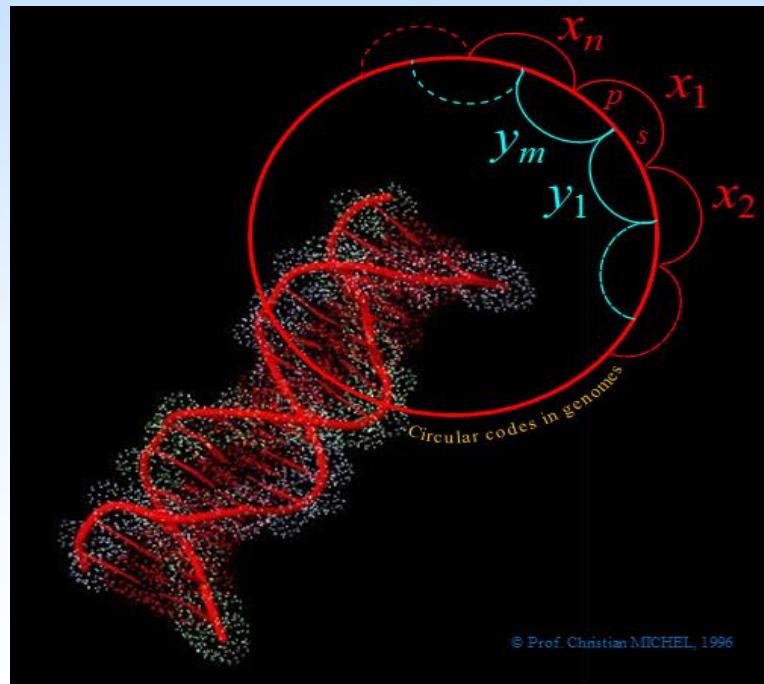


# Result 3 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997): **$X_0$ , $X_1$ and $X_2$ are trinucleotide circular codes**

$X_0$  is able to retrieve the reading frame 0

$X_1$  is able to retrieve the frame 1

$X_2$  is able to retrieve the frame 2



# Code, comma-free code

*Definition 2.1.* Code: a subset  $X$  of  $\mathcal{A}^+$  is a code over  $\mathcal{A}$  if for each  $x_1, \dots, x_n, x'_1, \dots, x'_m \in X$ ,  $n, m \geq 1$ , the condition  $x_1 \cdots x_n = x'_1 \cdots x'_m$  implies  $n = m$  and  $x_i = x'_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

$Y = \{A, GC, AGC\}$  is not a code as  $A \bullet GC = AGC$

$A_4^3 = \{AAA, \dots, TTT\}$  (genetic code) is a code.

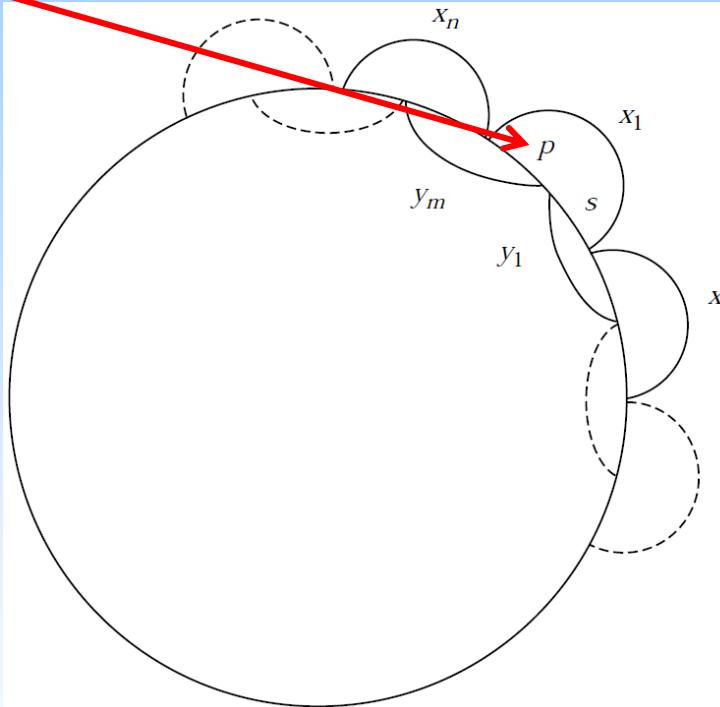
*Definition 2.2.* Trinucleotide comma-free code: a trinucleotide code  $X \subset \mathcal{A}_4^3$  is comma-free if for each  $y \in X$  and  $u, v \in \mathcal{A}_4^*$  such that  $uyv = x_1 \cdots x_n$  with  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , it results that  $u, v \in X^*$ .

$A_4^3$  is not a comma-free code:  $A \bullet CGA \bullet CG = ACG \bullet ACG$



# Circular code

*Definition 2.3.* Trinucleotide circular code: a trinucleotide code  $X \subset \mathcal{A}_4^3$  is circular if for each  $x_1, \dots, x_n, x'_1, \dots, x'_m \in X$ ,  $n, m \geq 1$ ,  $p \in \mathcal{A}_4^*$ ,  $s \in \mathcal{A}_4^+$ , the conditions  $sx_2 \cdots x_n p = x'_1 \cdots x'_m$  and  $x_1 = ps$  imply  $n = m$ ,  $p = \varepsilon$  and  $x_i = x'_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .



*Definition 2.5.* Maximal trinucleotide circular code: a trinucleotide circular code  $X \subset \mathcal{A}_4^3$  is maximal if for each  $x \in \mathcal{A}_4^3$ ,  $x \notin X$ ,  $X \cup \{x\}$  is not a trinucleotide circular code.

For words of length 3 over a 4-letter alphabet (trinucleotides), the maximal length of circular codes is 20 words



# Circular code: proof

- Flower automaton (Lassez, 1976; Berstel, Perrin, 1985; Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997)
- Necklaces  $5LDCN$  (Letter Diletter Continued Necklace) (Pirillo, 2003) and  $nLDCCN$  (Letter Diletter Continued Closed Necklace) with  $n \in \{2,3,4,5\}$  (Michel, Pirillo, 2010)

Result 4 (Lacan, Michel, 2001):

**Proof that the probabilistic model based on the nucleotide frequencies (Koch, Lehmann, 1997) is incomplete for constructing circular codes, in particular it cannot generate  $X_0$**  (cannot generate the trinucleotides  $\alpha\beta\gamma$ ,  $\delta\delta\beta$  and  $\gamma\alpha\delta$ )



# Circular code

The decomposition of any word of a circular code  $Y$  written on a circle is unique

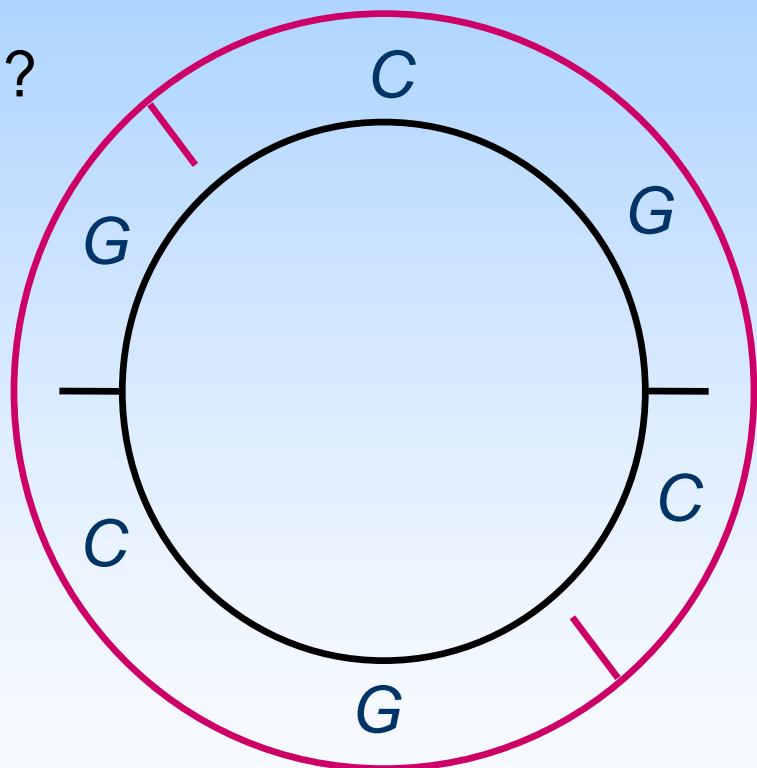
Is  $Y = \{GCG, CGC\}$  a circular code ?

2 decompositions:

$$w = GCG \bullet CGC$$

$$w = CGC \bullet GCG$$

$Y$  is not a circular code



$Y = \{GGC, CGG\}$  is a circular code



# Circular code

$$X_0 = \{AAC, AAT, ACC, ATC, ATT, CAG, CTC, CTG, GAA, GAC, GAG, GAT, GCC, GGC, GGT, GTA, GTC, GTT, TAC, TTC\}$$

Generation of a word from the circular code  $X_0$



# Circular code

$$X_0 = \{AAC, AAT, ACC, ATC, ATT, CAG, CTC, CTG, GAA, GAC  
GAG, GAT, GCC, GGC, GGT, GTA, GTC, GTT, TAC, TTC\}$$

- Generation of a word from the circular code  $X_0$   
...GAA, GAG, GTA, GTA, ACC, ACC, AAT, AAT, GTC, CTC, TAC, TTC, ACC, ATC...
- Then, the trinucleotides in frame 1 **mainly** belong to  $X_1$   
...G, AAG, AGG, TAG,  $\textcolor{blue}{TAA}$ , CCA, ATG,  $\textcolor{magenta}{TAC}$ , TCT, ACT, TCA, CCA, TC...  
 $\in X_2$                                     $\in X_0$
- Then, the trinucleotides in frame 2 **mainly** belong to  $X_2$   
...GA, AGA, GGT, AGT, AAC, CAA, TGT,  $\textcolor{brown}{ACT}$ , CTA, CTT, CAC, CAT, C...  
 $\in X_0$                                     $\in X_0$                                     $\in X_1$

In frame 1: 75.4 % of  $X_1$ , 11.9 % of  $X_0$  and 12.7 % of  $X_2$

In frame 2: 75.4 % of  $X_2$ , 11.9 % of  $X_0$  and 12.7 % of  $X_1$

In a comma-free code  $Y_0$ , the trinucleotides of  $Y_0$  do not occur in the shifted frames 1 and 2



Result 5 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997):

**$X_0$  is a  $C^3$  self-complementary trinucleotide circular code**

- $X_0$ ,  $X_1 = P(X_0)$  and  $X_2 = P(X_1)$  are maximal (20) trinucleotide circular codes
- $C(X_0) = X_0$ ,  $C(X_1) = X_2$  and  $C(X_2) = X_1$

Remark: if  $X_0$  is a circular code then  $X_1 = P(X_0)$  and  $X_2 = P(X_1)$  are not necessarily circular codes



# Result 6 (Michel, Pirillo, Pirillo, 2008): Growth function of comma-free codes

$l$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nb( $l$ )	60	1656	25608	244008	1530060	6638340	20708460	47742654	82816632	109358220
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
110895036	87031844	53227980	25473732	9519912	2743080	591864	90420	8760	408	

# Result 7 (Michel, Pirillo, Pirillo, 2008): Growth function of $C^3$ self-complementary comma-free codes

$l$	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Nb( $l$ )	28	182	424	498	340	144	36	4	0	0

# Result 8 (Michel, Pirillo, 2010): Growth function of circular codes

$l$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nb( $l$ )	60	1,704	30,432	382,164	3,568,212	25,507,512	141,639,780	614,568,102	2,086,742,208	5,542,646,244
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
11,503,061,124	18,615,667,124	23,403,485,556	22,700,634,924	16,787,523,072	9,279,022,320	3,708,717,048	1,012,099,740	168,726,792	12,964,440	



# Result 9 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997): **Classes of maximal (20) circular codes**

Number of potential circular codes:  **$3^{20} = 3\ 486\ 784\ 401$**

Number of circular codes: **12 964 440**

Number of C<sup>3</sup> codes: **221 544**

Number of C<sup>3</sup> self-complementary codes: **216**

Occurrence probability of  $X_0$  in genes:  $216 / 3^{20} = \mathbf{6.2 \times 10^{-8}}$



Result 10 (Michel, Pirillo, 2011; Michel, Pirillo, Pirillo, 2012):

# Hierarchy of maximal (20) circular codes

$I^2$	$I^3C$	$I^3$	$I^4C$	$I^4$	$I^5C$	$I^5$
408	2,760	297,072	550,032	5,116,728	5,940,648	12,964,440

$$I^2 \subset I^3 C \subset I^3 \subset I^4 C \subset I^4 \subset I^5 C \subset I^5$$



# Result 11 (Bussoli, Michel, Pirillo, 2011, 2012): **Self-complementary maximal (20) circular codes**

**Proposition 7.** *A trinucleotide circular code  $X_0$  having 20 elements is self-complementary if and only if  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are complement of each other.*

**Proposition 8.** *If a trinucleotide circular code  $X_0$  having 20 elements is self-complementary then either*

1)  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are both circular codes

or

2)  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are not circular codes



Result 12 (Benard, Michel, 2013):

**Transversion II on the three positions of any subset of trinucleotides of the circular code  $X_0$  yields no circular code**

*Definition 32.* The transversion II evolution genetic map  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}$ :  
 $\mathcal{A}_4^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_4^+$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}(A) &= C, & \mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}(C) &= A, \\ \mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}(G) &= T, & \mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}(T) &= G.\end{aligned}\tag{11}$$

$\mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}^{1,2,3}$  is the transversion II on the three positions of  $x$

Number  $c(\mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}^{1,2,3}(l))$  of circular codes

For  $l = 1, \dots, 19$

$$c(\mathcal{V}_{\text{II}}^{1,2,3}(l)) = 0$$



Result 13 (Benard, Michel, 2013):

**Transversion I on the 2nd position of any subset of trinucleotides of the circular code  $X_0$  yields to circular codes which are always  $C^3$**

*Definition 28.* The transversion I evolution genetic map  $\mathcal{V}_I$ :  $\mathcal{A}_4^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_4^+$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V}_I(A) &= T, & \mathcal{V}_I(C) &= G, \\ \mathcal{V}_I(G) &= C, & \mathcal{V}_I(T) &= A.\end{aligned}\tag{10}$$



# Result 14 (Michel, Pirillo, 2013): Dinucleotide circular codes

**Proposition 29.** Let  $(i, j, h, k)$  be a permutation of  $(A, C, G, T)$ . If

$$X = \{ij, ih, ik, jh, jk, hk\}, \quad (1)$$

then  $X$  is a dinucleotide circular code.

**Proposition 36.** There are 24 maximum dinucleotide circular codes.



# Result 15 (Michel, Pirillo, 2013):

## List of the 24 dinucleotide circular codes

Symbol	Dinucleotide circular code	$\mathcal{C}$	$\mathcal{P}$	$\mathcal{PC}$
$X_1$	{AC, AG, AT, CG, CT, GT}	$\mathcal{C}(X_1) = X_1$	$\mathcal{P}(X_1) = X_{24}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_1)) = X_{24}$
$X_2$	{AC, AG, AT, CG, CT, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_2) = X_{13}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_2) = X_{23}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_2)) = X_{12}$
$X_3$	{AC, AG, AT, CG, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_3) = X_{17}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_3) = X_{22}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_3)) = X_8$
$X_4$	{AC, AG, AT, CT, GC, GT}	$\mathcal{C}(X_4) = X_4$	$\mathcal{P}(X_4) = X_{21}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_4)) = X_{21}$
$X_5$	{AC, AG, AT, GC, GT, TC}	$\mathcal{C}(X_5) = X_9$	$\mathcal{P}(X_5) = X_{20}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_5)) = X_{16}$
$X_6$	{AC, AG, AT, GC, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_6) = X_{18}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_6) = X_{19}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_6)) = X_7$
$X_7$	{AC, AG, CG, TA, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_7) = X_{19}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_7) = X_{18}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_7)) = X_6$
$X_8$	{AC, AG, GC, TA, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_8) = X_{22}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_8) = X_{17}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_8)) = X_3$
$X_9$	{AC, AT, CT, GA, GC, GT}	$\mathcal{C}(X_9) = X_5$	$\mathcal{P}(X_9) = X_{16}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_9)) = X_{20}$
$X_{10}$	{AC, AT, GA, GC, GT, TC}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{10}) = X_{10}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{10}) = X_{15}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{10})) = X_{15}$
$X_{11}$	{AC, GA, GC, GT, TA, TC}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{11}) = X_{11}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{11}) = X_{14}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{11})) = X_{14}$
$X_{12}$	{AC, GA, GC, TA, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{12}) = X_{23}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{12}) = X_{13}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{12})) = X_2$
$X_{13}$	{AG, AT, CA, CG, CT, GT}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{13}) = X_2$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{13}) = X_{12}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{13})) = X_{23}$
$X_{14}$	{AG, AT, CA, CG, CT, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{14}) = X_{14}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{14}) = X_{11}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{14})) = X_{11}$
$X_{15}$	{AG, CA, CG, CT, TA, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{15}) = X_{15}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{15}) = X_{10}$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{15})) = X_{10}$
$X_{16}$	{AG, CA, CG, TA, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{16}) = X_{20}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{16}) = X_9$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{16})) = X_5$
$X_{17}$	{AT, CA, CG, CT, GA, GT}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{17}) = X_3$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{17}) = X_8$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{17})) = X_{22}$
$X_{18}$	{AT, CA, CT, GA, GC, GT}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{18}) = X_6$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{18}) = X_7$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{18})) = X_{19}$
$X_{19}$	{CA, CG, CT, GA, GT, TA}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{19}) = X_7$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{19}) = X_6$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{19})) = X_{18}$
$X_{20}$	{CA, CG, CT, GA, TA, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{20}) = X_{16}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{20}) = X_5$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{20})) = X_9$
$X_{21}$	{CA, CG, GA, TA, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{21}) = X_{21}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{21}) = X_4$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{21})) = X_4$
$X_{22}$	{CA, CT, GA, GC, GT, TA}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{22}) = X_8$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{22}) = X_3$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{22})) = X_{17}$
$X_{23}$	{CA, GA, GC, GT, TA, TC}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{23}) = X_{12}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{23}) = X_2$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{23})) = X_{13}$
$X_{24}$	{CA, GA, GC, TA, TC, TG}	$\mathcal{C}(X_{24}) = X_{24}$	$\mathcal{P}(X_{24}) = X_1$	$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}(X_{24})) = X_1$



## Result 16 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997): The circular code $X_0$ codes 12 amino acids

$X_0 = \{AAC, AAT, ACC, ATC, ATT, CAG, CTC, CTG, GAA, GAC  
GAG, GAT, GCC, GGC, GGT, GTA, GTC, GTT, TAC, TTC\}$

$X_0$  codes 12 amino acids: {Ala, Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Gly, Ile, Leu, Phe, Thr, Tyr, Val}

## Result 17 (Michel, Pirillo, 2013):

None circular code among the 12,964,440 ones codes 20 or 19 amino acids.

**Proposition 2.** *The following set Y of 20 trinucleotides*

$Y = \{ACG, ACT, AGA, AGG, AGT, ATA, ATC, CAA, CAC, CAG,  
CCT, GCC, GCG, GCT, GGT, TCG, TCT, TGA, TGT, TTA\}$

*is a circular code (maximal).*

**Proposition 3.** *The trinucleotide circular code Y (Proposition 2) has a permuted set  $\mathcal{P}^2(Y)$  of 20 trinucleotides*

$\mathcal{P}^2(Y) = \{AAG, AAT, ACA, ATG, ATT, CAT, CCA, CGC, GAC, GAG,  
GCA, GGC, GTC, TAC, TAG, TCC, TGC, TGG, TTC, TTG\}$

*which is not circular and codes the 20 amino acids in the variant nuclear codes 6 and 15.*



# Result 18 (Arquès, Michel, 1996, 1997):

## The comma-free code $RNY = \{RRY, RYY\}$ deduced from $X_0$

$X_0 = \{AAC, AAT, ACC, ATC, ATT, CAG, CTC, CTG, GAA, GAC, GAG, GAT, GCC, GGC, GGT, GTA, GTC, GTT, TAC, TTC\}$

$X_1 = \{AAG, ACA, ACG, ACT, AGC, AGG, ATA, ATG, CCA, CCG, GCG, GTG, TAG, TCA, TCC, TCG, TCT, TGC, TTA, TTG\}$

$X_2 = \{AGA, AGT, CAA, CAC, CAT, CCT, CGA, CGC, CGG, CGT, CTA, CTT, GCA, GCT, GGA, TAA, TAT, TGA, TGG, TGT\}.$

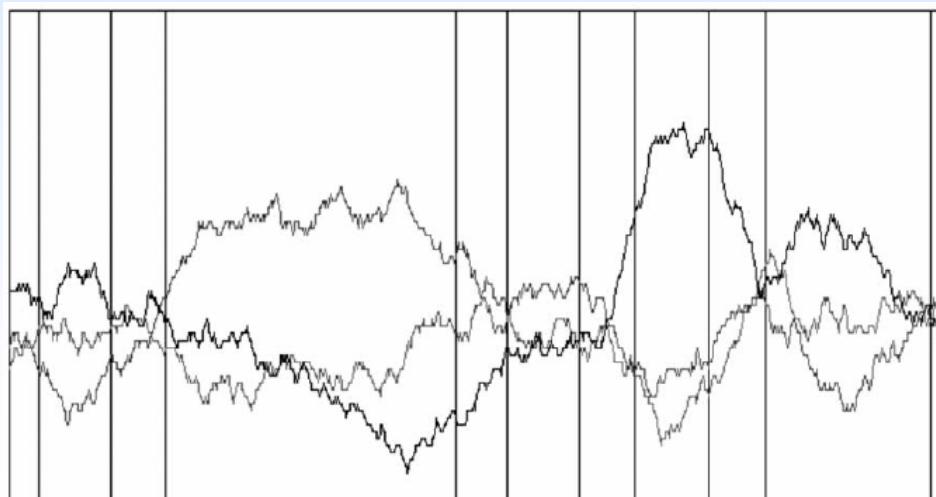
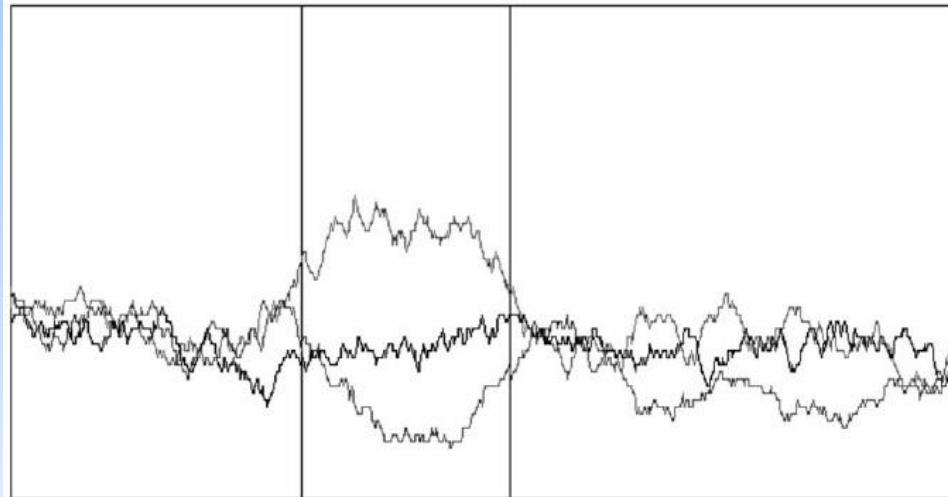
*The eight R/Y trinucleotides ( $R =$  purine = A or G,  $Y =$  pyrimidine = C or T) are associated with the 64 A/C/G/T trinucleotides by considering their frame ( $T_0, T_1, T_2$ )*

RRR	RRY	RYR	RYY	YRR	YRY	YYR	YYY
AAA <sup>0</sup>	AAC <sup>0</sup>	ACA <sup>1</sup>	ACC <sup>0</sup>	CAA <sup>2</sup>	CAC <sup>2</sup>	CCA <sup>1</sup>	CCC <sup>1</sup>
AAG <sup>1</sup>	AAT <sup>0</sup>	ACG <sup>1</sup>	ACT <sup>1</sup>	CAG <sup>0</sup>	CAT <sup>2</sup>	CCG <sup>1</sup>	CCT <sup>2</sup>
AGA <sup>2</sup>	AGC <sup>1</sup>	ATA <sup>1</sup>	ATC <sup>0</sup>	CGA <sup>2</sup>	CGC <sup>2</sup>	CTA <sup>2</sup>	CTC <sup>0</sup>
AGG <sup>1</sup>	AGT <sup>2</sup>	ATG <sup>1</sup>	ATT <sup>0</sup>	CGG <sup>2</sup>	CGT <sup>2</sup>	CTG <sup>0</sup>	CTT <sup>2</sup>
GAA <sup>0</sup>	GAC <sup>0</sup>	GCA <sup>2</sup>	GCC <sup>0</sup>	TAA <sup>2</sup>	TAC <sup>0</sup>	TCA <sup>1</sup>	TCC <sup>1</sup>
GAG <sup>0</sup>	GAT <sup>0</sup>	GCG <sup>1</sup>	GCT <sup>2</sup>	TAG <sup>1</sup>	TAT <sup>2</sup>	TCG <sup>1</sup>	TCT <sup>1</sup>
GGA <sup>2</sup>	GGC <sup>0</sup>	GTA <sup>0</sup>	GTC <sup>0</sup>	TGA <sup>2</sup>	TGC <sup>1</sup>	TTA <sup>1</sup>	TTC <sup>0</sup>
GGG <sup>2</sup>	GGT <sup>0</sup>	GTG <sup>1</sup>	GTT <sup>0</sup>	TGG <sup>2</sup>	TGT <sup>2</sup>	TTG <sup>1</sup>	TTT <sup>0</sup>
0, 1, 2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0, 1, 2



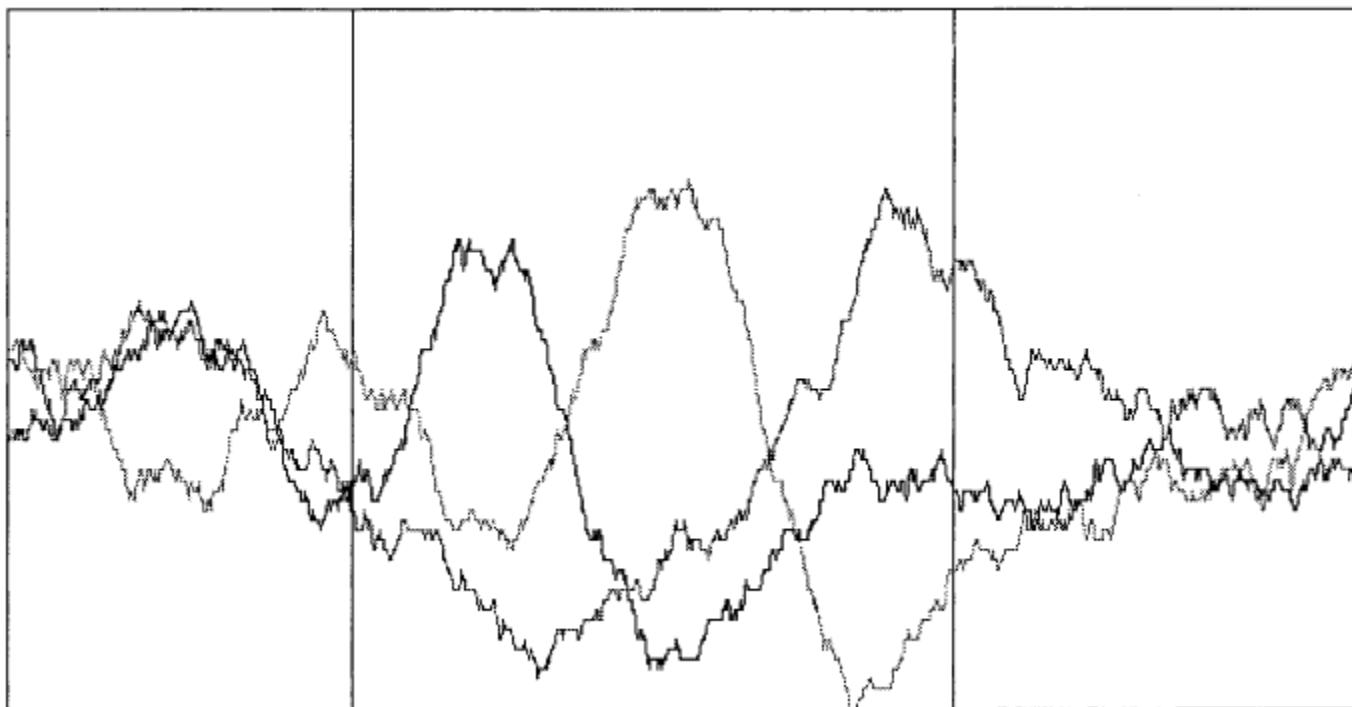
Result 19 (Arquès, Lacan, Michel, 2002):

## Identification of genes in genomes with statistical functions based on the circular code $X_0$

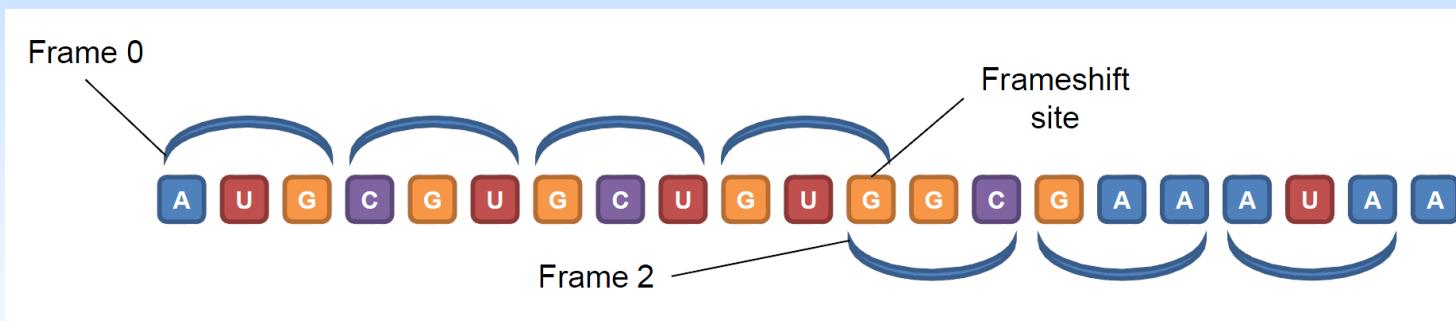
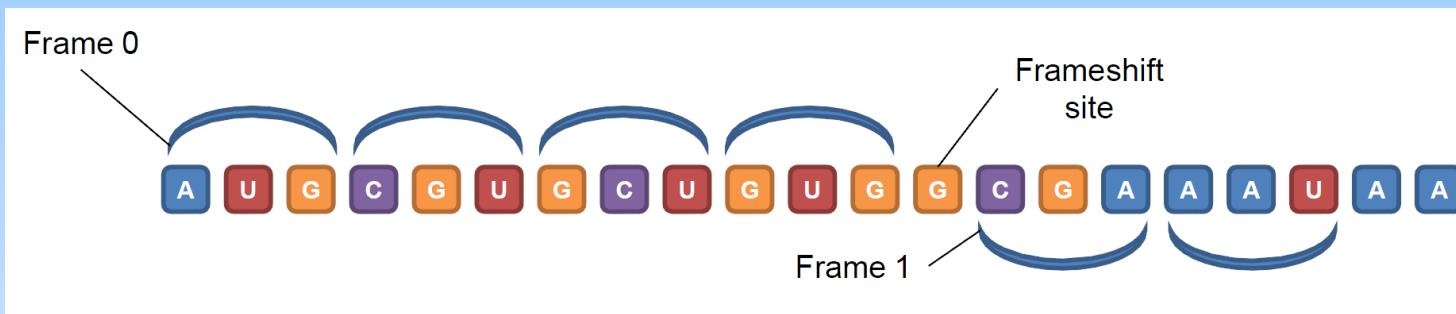


Result 19 (Arquès, Lacan, Michel, 2002):

## Identification of genes in genomes with statistical functions based on the circular code $X_0$

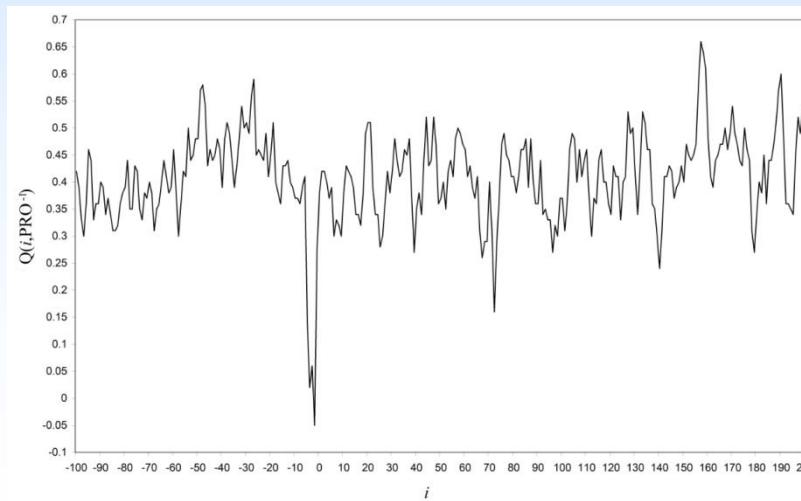
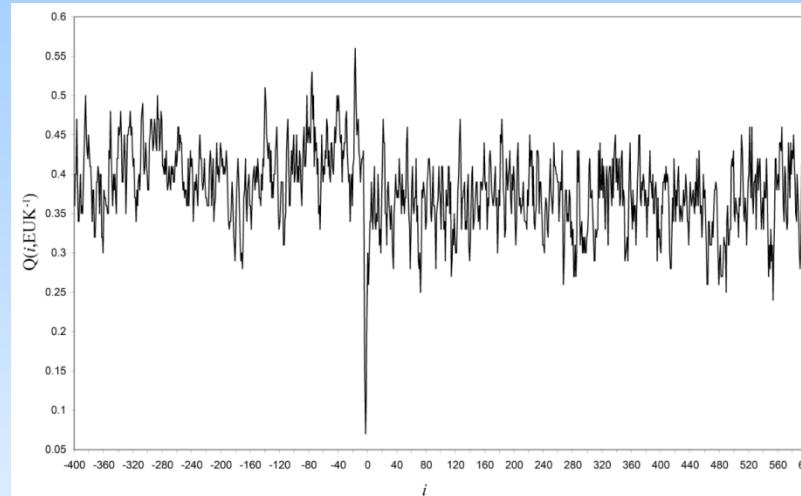


# Frameshift genes

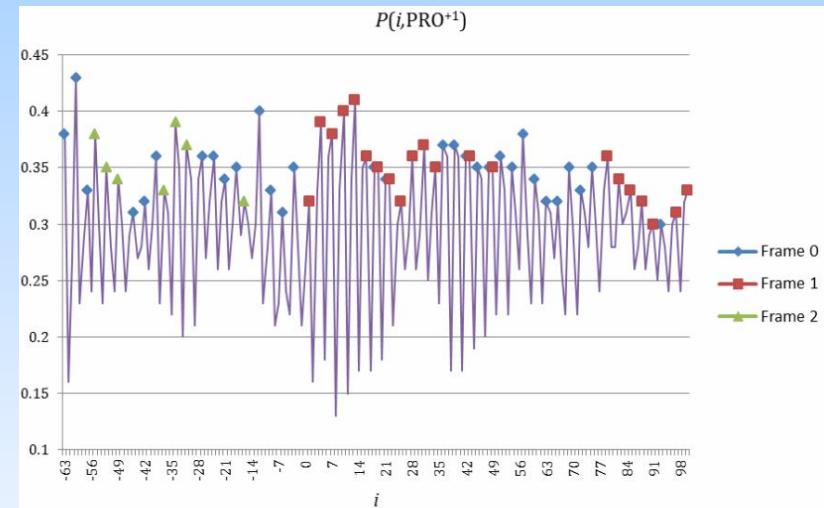
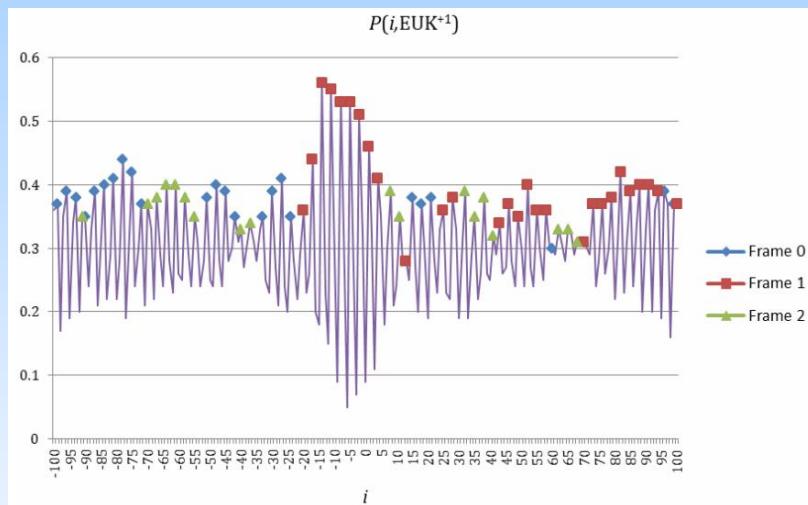


Result 20 (Ahmed, Frey, Michel, 2007):

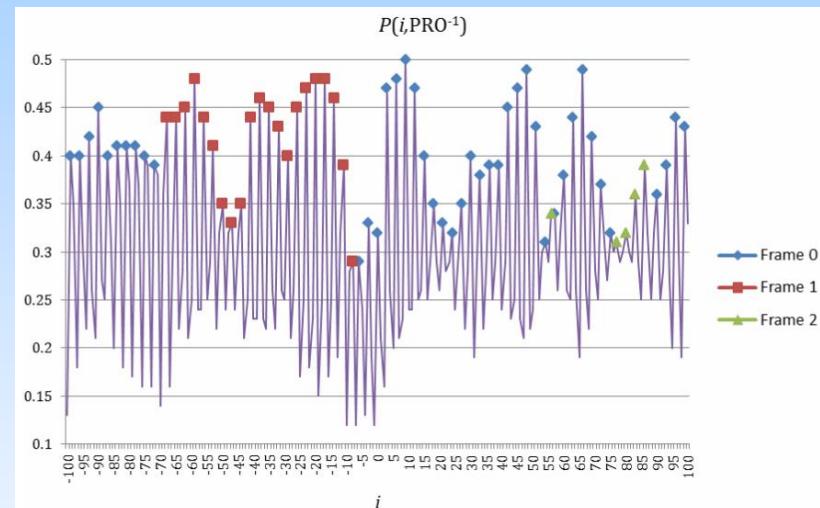
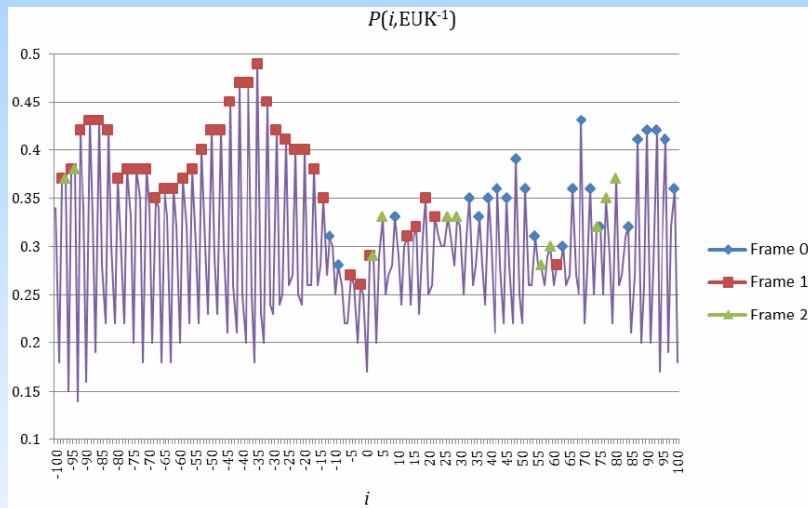
## Loss of the signal of the circular code $X_0$ at the frameshift site of frameshift genes



# Result 21 (Ahmed, Michel, 2011): Shift of the signal of the circular code $X_0$ at the frameshift site of frameshift genes +1



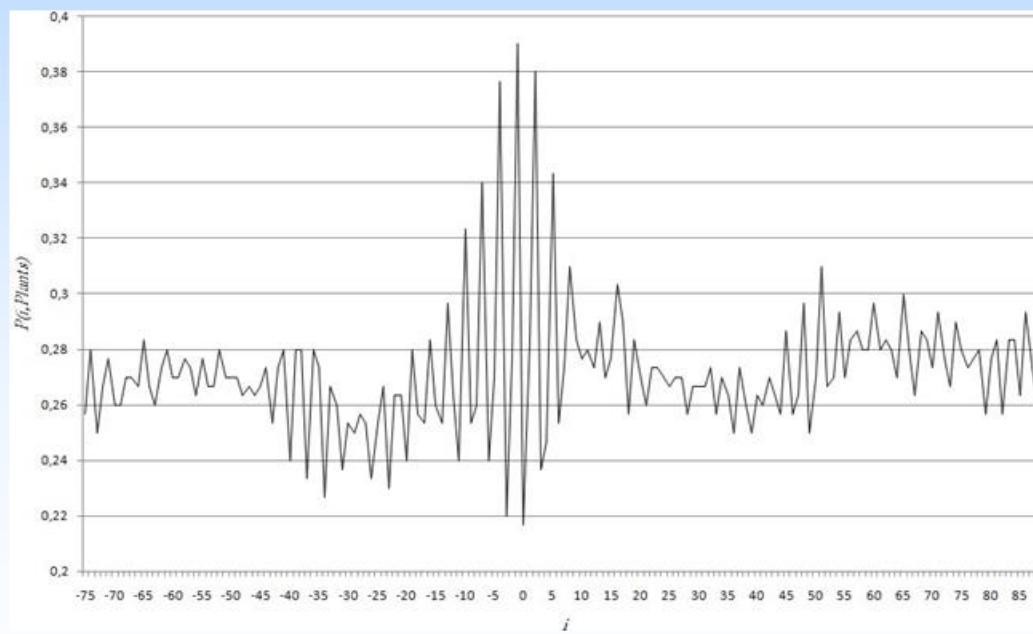
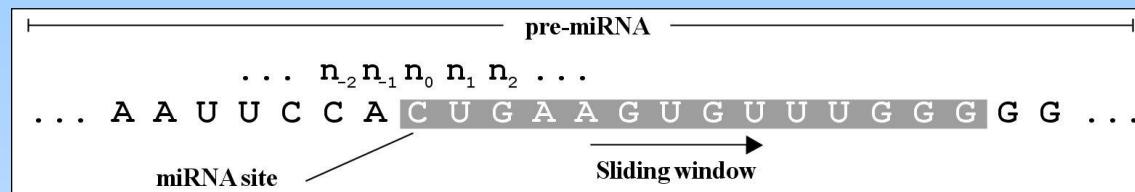
# Result 21 (Ahmed, Michel, 2011): Shift of the signal of the circular code $X_0$ at the frameshift site of frameshift genes -1



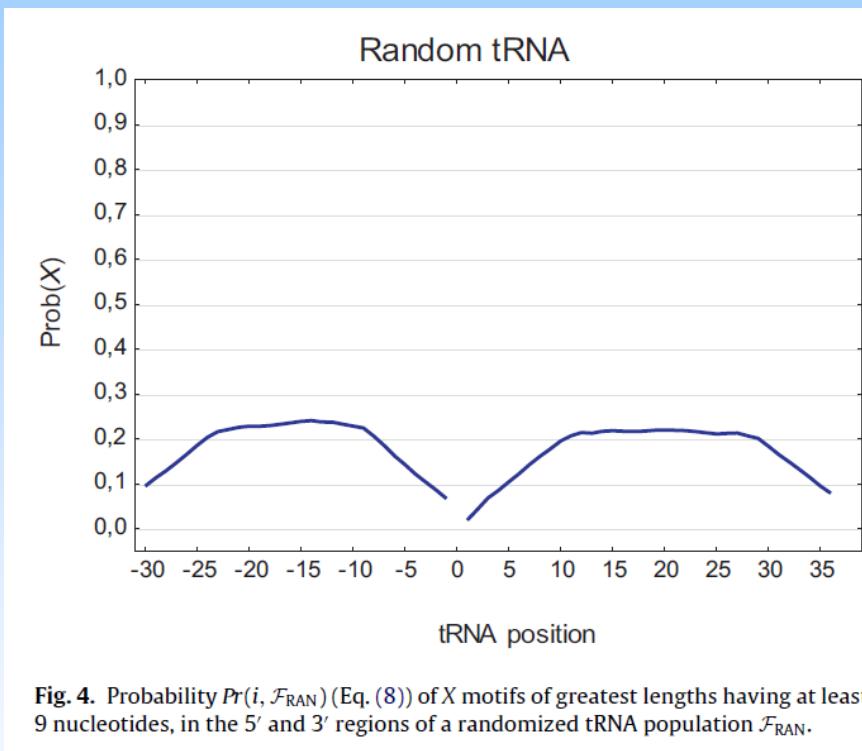
Statistical tests based on the circular code  $X_0$  can be used to describe frameshift genes (Seligmann, 2012)



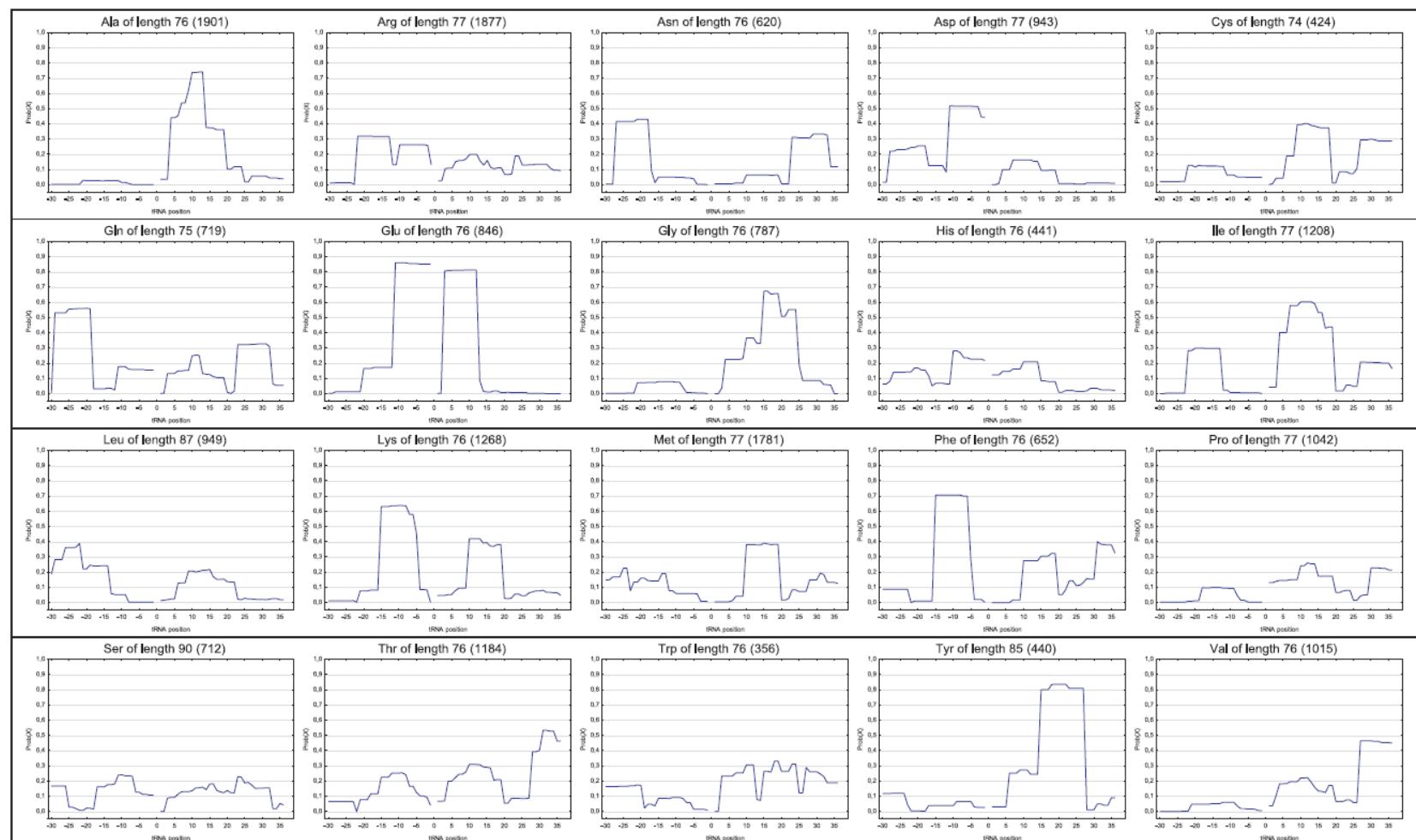
# Result 22 (Ahmed, Michel, 2008): Signal of the circular code $X_0$ in the plant miRNAs



# Result 23 (Michel, 2013): $X_0$ circular code motifs in transfer RNAs



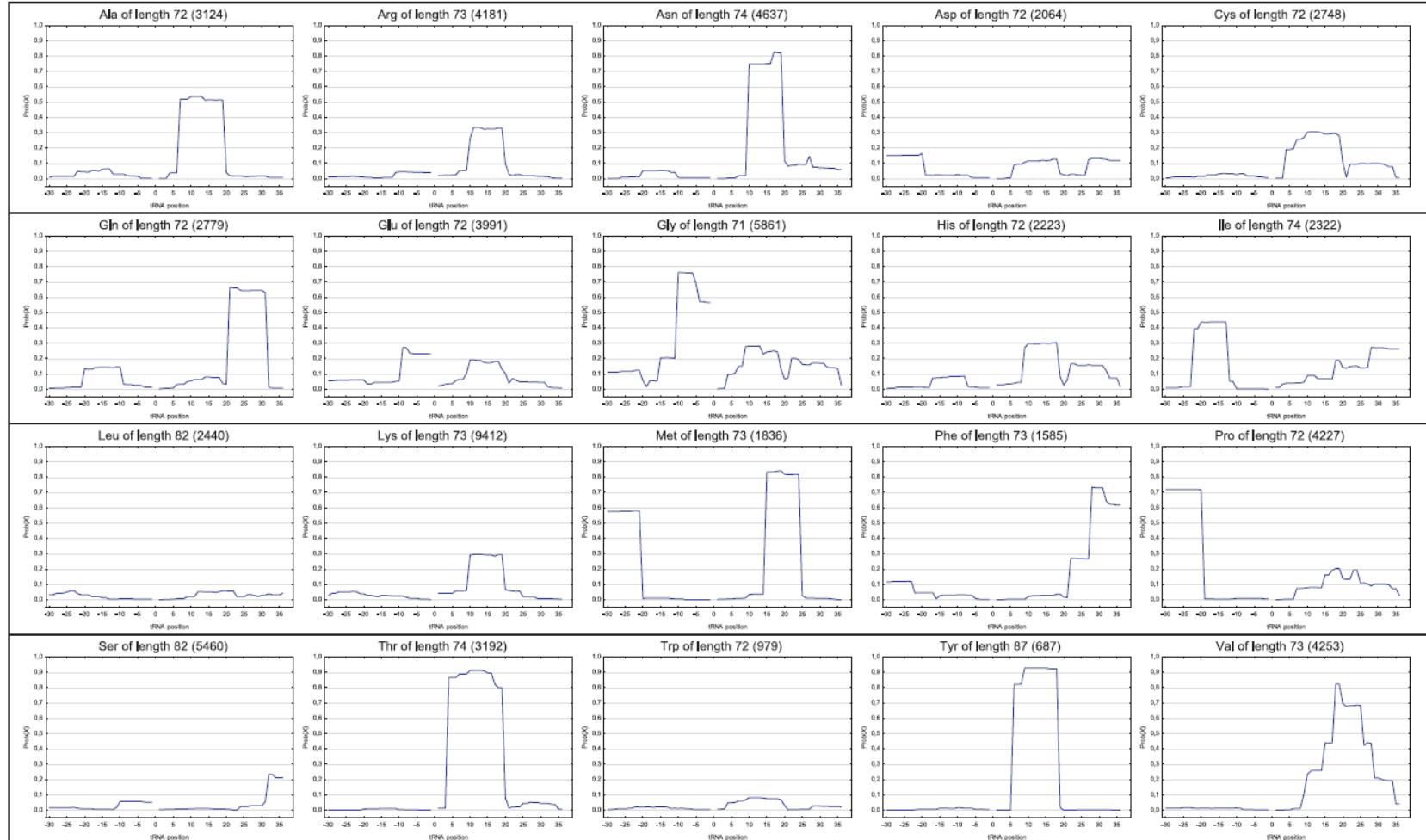
# Result 23 (Michel, 2013): $X_0$ circular code motifs in tRNAs of prokaryotes



**Fig. 5.** Probability  $Pr(i, \mathcal{F}_{\text{PRO}}^1)$  (Eq. (8)) of  $X$  motifs of greatest lengths having at least 9 nucleotides, in the 5' and 3' regions of the tRNA population of prokaryotes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRO}}^1$  constituted of the 20 isoaccepting tRNAs having a unique length according to the maximum number of data. The number of isoaccepting tRNAs is in parenthesis.



# Result 23 (Michel, 2013): $X_0$ circular code motifs in tRNAs of eukaryotes

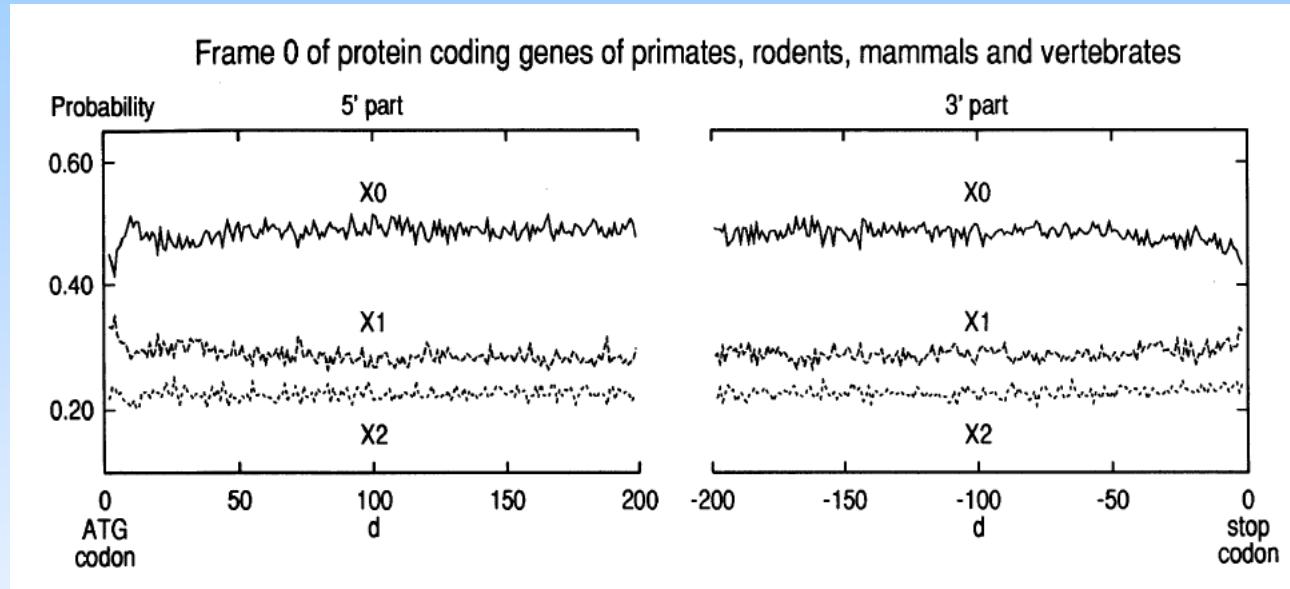


**Fig. 6.** Probability  $Pr(i, \mathcal{F}_{\text{EUK}}^1)$  (Eq. (8)) of  $X$  motifs of greatest lengths having at least 9 nucleotides, in the 5' and 3' regions of the tRNA population of eukaryotes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{EUK}}^1$  constituted of the 20 isoaccepting tRNAs having a unique length according to the maximum number of data. The number of isoaccepting tRNAs is in parenthesis.



Result 24 (Arquès, Fallot, Marsan, Michel, 1999;  
Bahi, Michel, 2008):

## Asymmetry between the circular codes $X_1$ and $X_2$ in genes



Gene population  $\mathcal{F}_{G( PRMV )}$  of primates, rodents, mammals and vertebrates (17072 genes)

$$\Pr(X, \mathcal{F}_{G( PRMV )}) = 48.5\% > \Pr(X_1, \mathcal{F}_{G( PRMV )}) = 29.0\% > \Pr(X_2, \mathcal{F}_{G( PRMV )}) = 22.5\%$$

Gene population  $\mathcal{F}_{G( PRO )}$  of 175 complete genomes of prokaryotes (487,758 genes, 454 Mb)

$$\Pr(X, \mathcal{F}_{G( PRO )}) = 48.8\% > \Pr(X_1, \mathcal{F}_{G( PRO )}) = 28.0\% > \Pr(X_2, \mathcal{F}_{G( PRO )}) = 23.2\%$$



Result 25 (Michel, 2013):

## Asymmetry between the circular codes $X_1$ and $X_2$ in the 3' regions of tRNAs of prokaryotes and eukaryotes

3' regions of the tRNA population of prokaryotes  $\mathcal{F}_{3'PRO}^2$  (30046 tRNAs)

$$\Pr(X, \mathcal{F}_{3'PRO}^2) = 43.8\% > \Pr(X_1, \mathcal{F}_{3'PRO}^2) = 34.7\% > \Pr(X_2, \mathcal{F}_{3'PRO}^2) = 21.5\%$$

3' regions of the tRNA population of eukaryotes  $\mathcal{F}_{3'EUK}^2$  (84687 tRNAs)

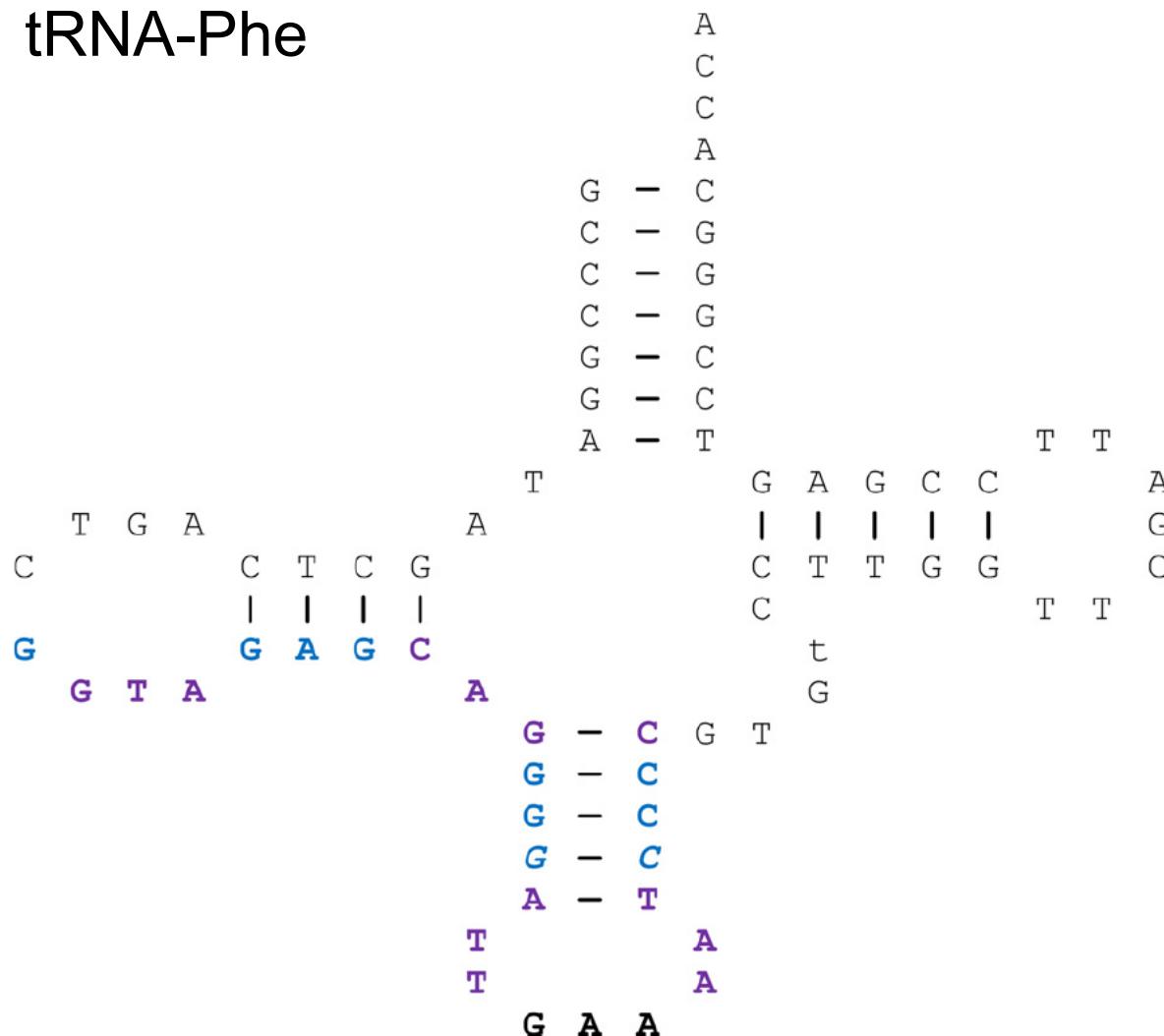
$$\Pr(X, \mathcal{F}_{3'EUK}^2) = 46.4\% > \Pr(X_1, \mathcal{F}_{3'EUK}^2) = 32.5\% > \Pr(X_2, \mathcal{F}_{3'EUK}^2) = 21.1\%$$



Result 26 (Michel, 2012):

## A possible translation code based on the circular code $X_0$

tRNA-Phe



## Result 26 (Michel, 2012):

# A possible translation code based on the circular code $X_0$

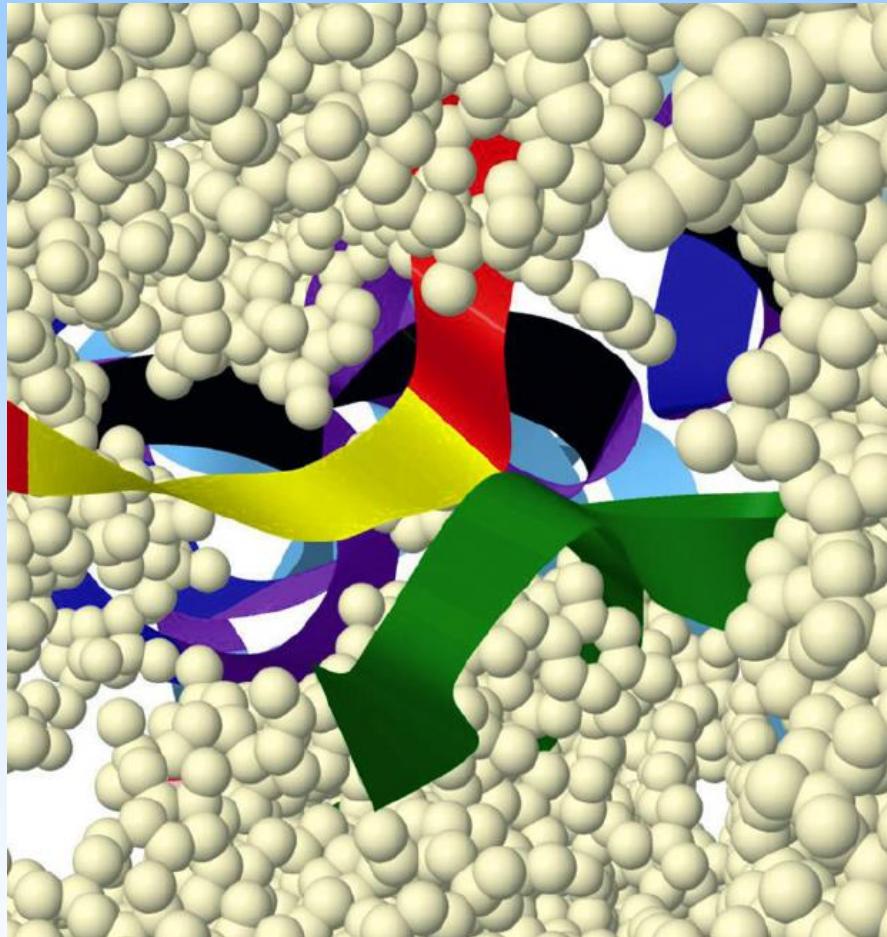
```
1   TTGGAGAGTTGATCCTGGCTCAGGGTGAACGCTGGCGGTGCCTAAGACATGCAAGTCGTGCGGGCCGCGGGTTTA
81  CTCCGTGGTCAGCGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGGGTGACCTACCCGAAGAGGGGACAACCCGGGAAACTCGGGC
161 TAATCCCCATGTGGACCCGCCCTGGGGTGTGTCCTAAAGGGCTTGCCTGGATGGGCCCGTCCCCTACAGC
241 TAGTTGGTGGGTAATGGCCACCAAGGCACGACGGTAGCCGCTGAGAGGATGGCCGGCACAGGGGACTGAGAC
321 ACGGGCCCCACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTTAGGAATCTCCGCAATGGGCGCAAGCCTGACGGAGCGACGCCCTTGGA
401 GGAAGAACCCCTTCGGGGTGTAAACTCTGAACCCGGGACAAACCCCGACGAGGGACTGACGGTACCGGGTAATAG
481 CGCCGGCCAACTCCGTGCCAGCAGCCGGTAATACGGAGGGCGCGAGCCTTACCCGGATCCTGGCGTAAAGGGCGT
561 GTAGGCGGCCTGGGCGTCCCCTGTGAAAGACCACGGCTCAACCGTGGGGAGCGTGGGATACGCTCAGGCTAGACGGTG
641 GGAGAGGGTGGTGGATTCCGGAGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGAGATACCGGAGGAACGCCATGGCGAAGGCAGCCACCT
721 GGTCCACCGTGACGCTGAGCGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGCAAACCGGATTAGATACCGGTAGTCCACGCCCTAAACGAT
801 GCGCGCTAGGTCTCTGGTCTCCTGGGGCCGAAAGCTAACGCTTAAGCGCGCCCTGGGAGTACGGCCGCAAGGCTG
881 AAACTCAAAGGAATTGACGGGGGCCGACAAGCGGTGGAGCATGTGGTTAATTGAGCAACCGAAGAACCTTACCA
961 GGCCTTGACATGCTAGGGAACCCGGGTGAAAGCCTGGGGTGCCTGGGAGGCCCTAGCACAGGTGCTGCATGCCG
1041 TCGTCAGCTCGTGCCGTGAGGTGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCACGAGCGCAACCCCGCCGTAGTGCAGCGGTTGCC
1121 GGGCACTCTAACGGACTGCCCGCAAAGCGGGAGGAAGGAGGGAGACGTCTGGTACGCTGGCCTTACGCCCTGGG
1201 CGACACACGTGCTACAATGCCACTACAAAGCGATGCCACCCGGCAACGGGAGCTAATGCCAAAAGGTGGGCCAGTT
1281 CGGATTGGGTCTGCAACCCGACCCATGAAGCCGGAATCGCTAGTAATCGCGGATCAGCCATGCCCGGTGAATACGTT
1361 CCCGGGCCTTGTACACACCGCCGTACGCCATGGGAGCGGGCTCTACCCGAAGTCGCCGGAGCCTACGGGCAGGCC
1441 GAGGGTAGGGCCCGTACTGGGCGAAGTCGTAACAAGTAGCTGTACCGGAAGGTGCGGCTGGATCACCTCCTT 1516
```

## 16S rRNA



Result 26 (Michel, 2012):

## A possible translation code based on the circular code $X_0$

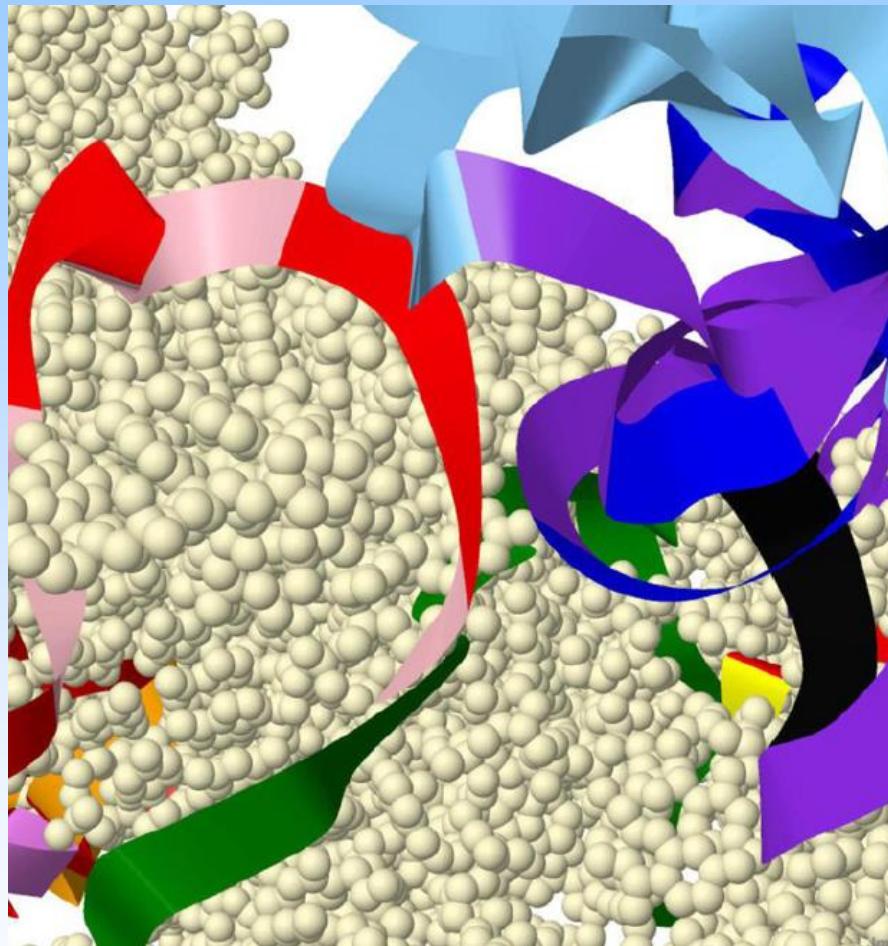


**Fig. 7.** Spatial relation of the mRNA X motifs (green), the A-tRNA (lightcyan) X motif  $m_{tRNA-Phe}(18, 43, 26)$  (blue and blueviolet with the anticodon in black) and the rRNA X motif  $m_{16S rRNA-2}(1189, 1206, 18)$  (red and yellow). The remaining rRNA (lemonchiffon) is outside the neighborhood of these X motifs.



Result 26 (Michel, 2012):

## A possible translation code based on the circular code $X_0$

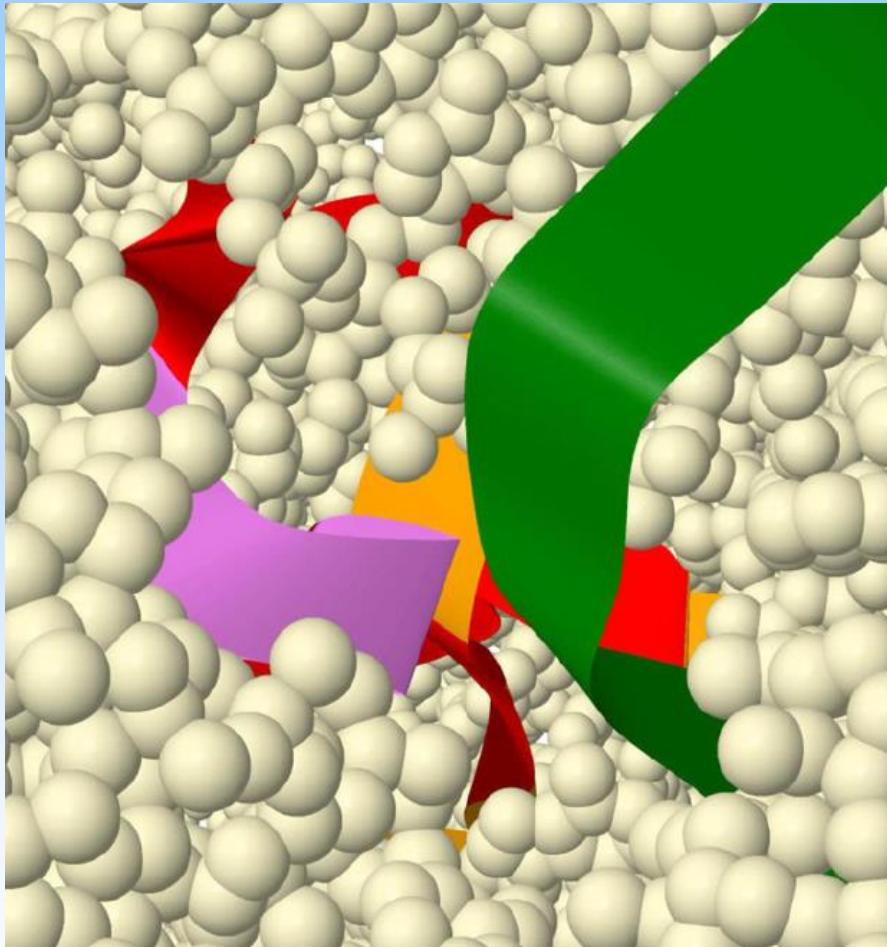


**Fig. 8.** Spatial relation of the mRNA X motifs (green), the E-tRNA (lightskyblue) X motif  $m_{tRNA-Phe}(18, 43, 26)$  (blue and blueviolet with the anticodon in black) and the rRNA X motif  $m_{16S rRNA-1}(694, 713, 20)$  (red and pink). The remaining rRNA (lemonchiffon) is outside the neighborhood of these X motifs.



Result 26 (Michel, 2012):

## A possible translation code based on the circular code $X_0$



**Fig. 9.** Spatial relation of the mRNA X motifs (green) and the two rRNA X motifs  $m_{16S\text{rRNA-}3}(559, 574, 16)$  (red and orange) and  $m_{16S\text{rRNA-}4}(813, 827, 15)$  (red and violet). The remaining rRNA (lemonchiffon) is outside the neighborhood of these X motifs.



# References

<http://dpt-info.u-strasbg.fr/~c.michel/>

