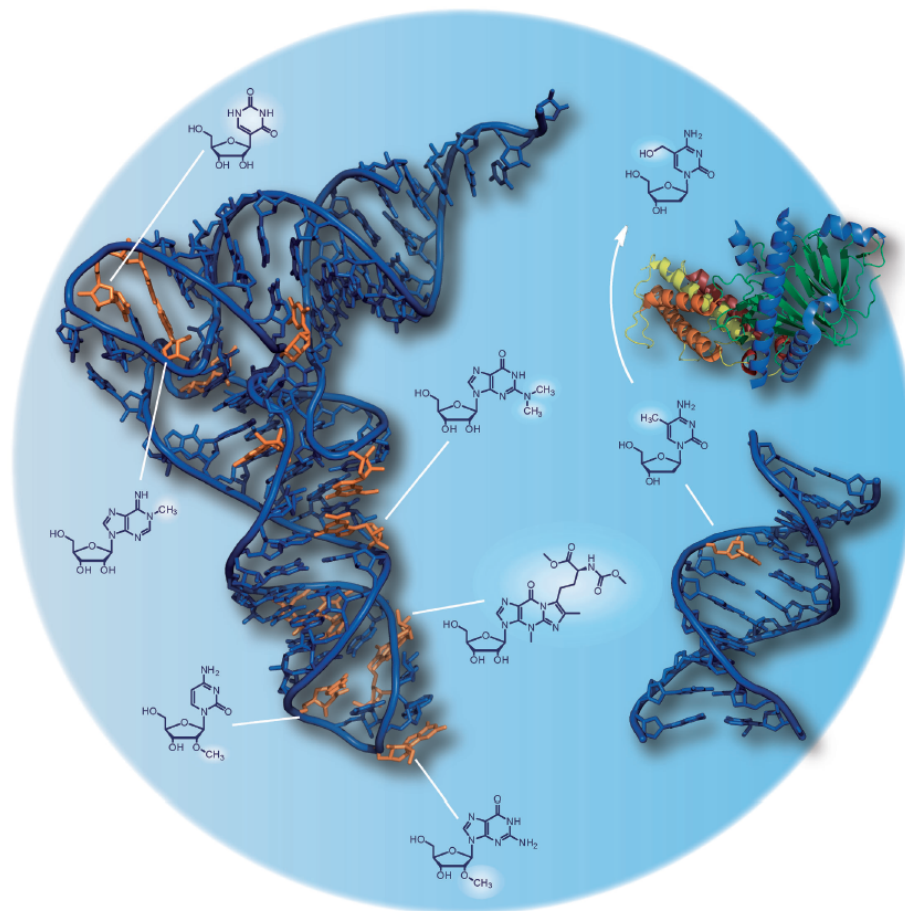


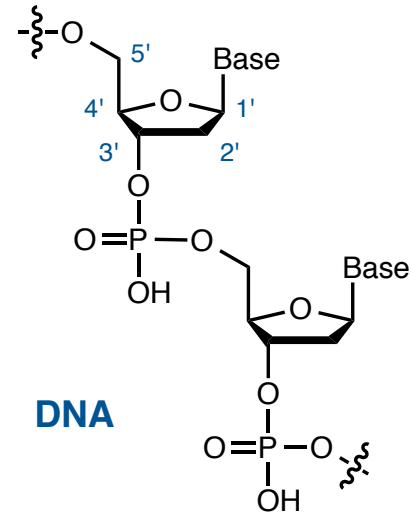
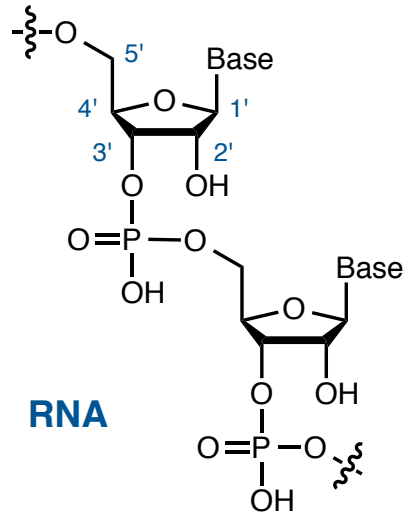
Noncanonical Nucleosides: Pseudouridine and 5-Methyldeoxycytidine



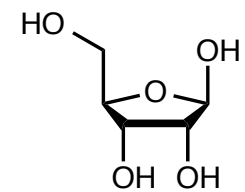
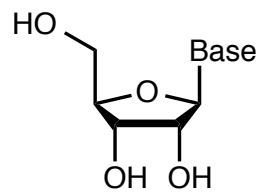
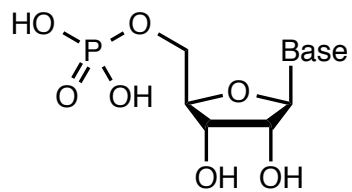
Valerie Shurtleff
MacMillan Group Meeting
September 3, 2015

Nucleic Acids: Genetic Polymers

■ Ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid

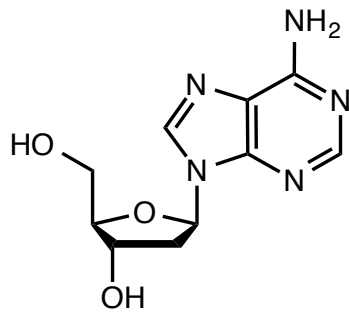


■ Monomeric building blocks

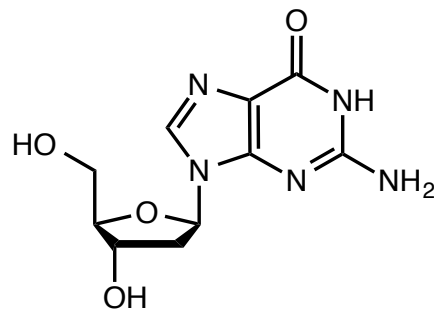


The Canonical Nucleosides

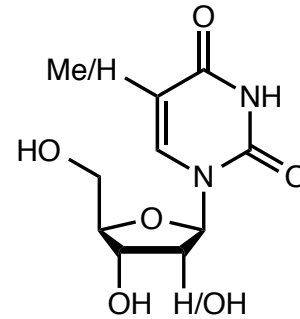
deoxyadenosine



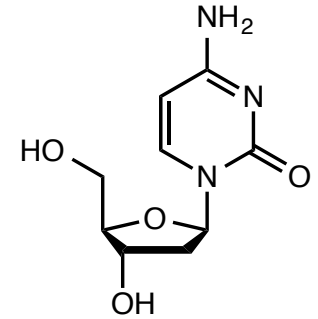
deoxyguanosine



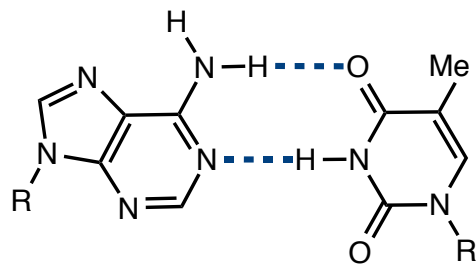
deoxythymidine/uridine



deoxycytidine

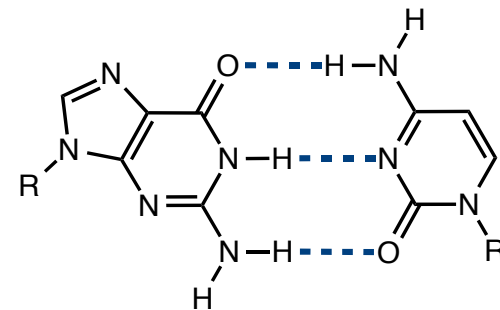


■ Watson–Crick base pairs



A
adenine

T
thymine



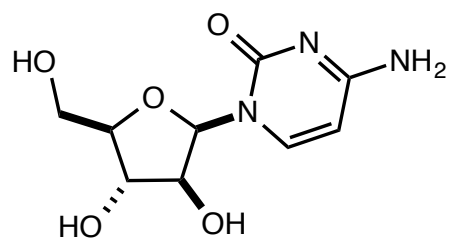
G
guanine

C
cytosine

The Organic Chemist's View of Modified Nucleosides

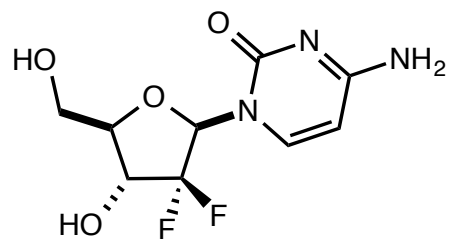
Anticancer Agents

8 approved



cytarabine

Pfizer, 1969

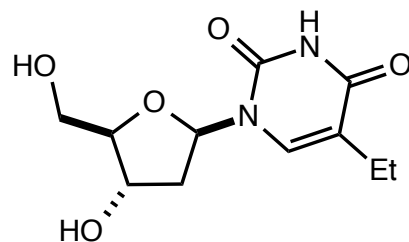


gemcitabine

Lilly, 1996

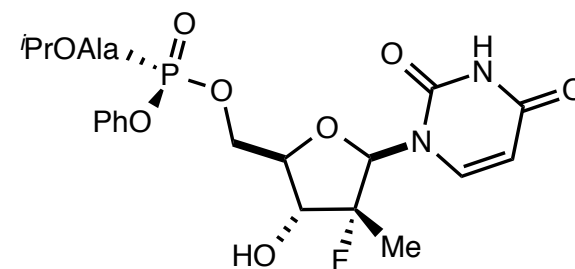
Antiviral Agents

12 approved



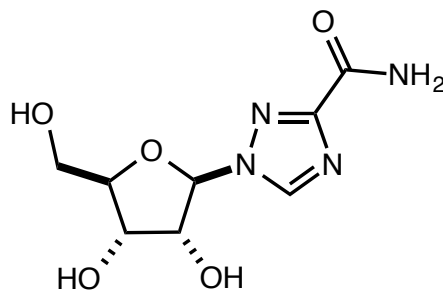
edoxudine

Upjohn, 1969



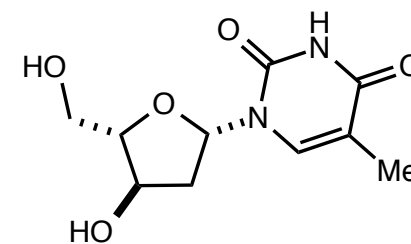
sofosbuvir

Gilead, 2013



ribavirin

ICN, 1980

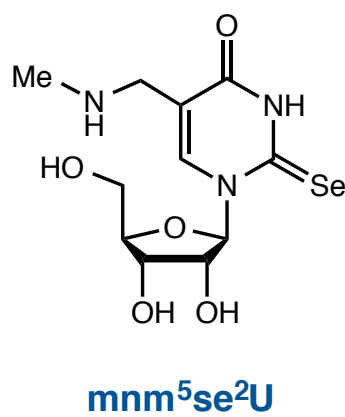
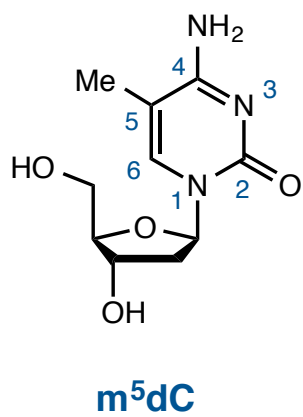
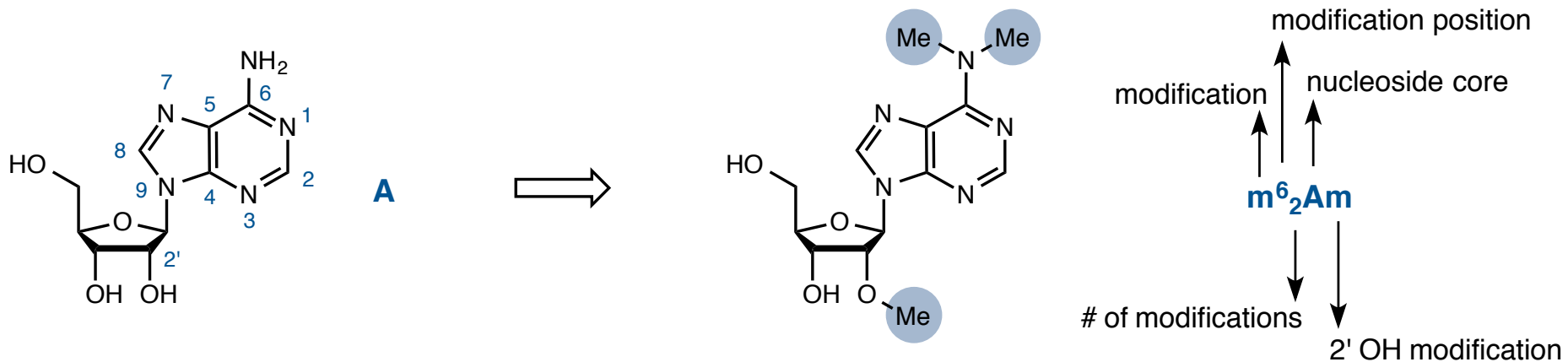


telbivudine

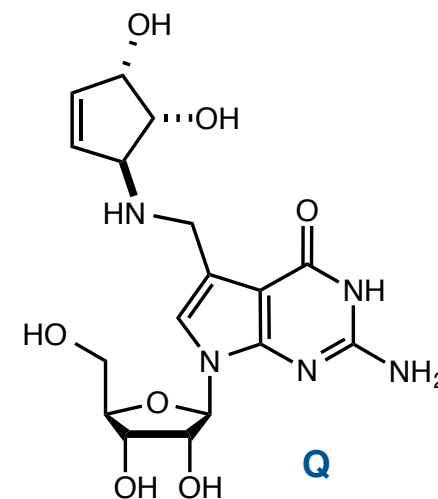
Novartis, 2006

Naturally Occurring Noncanonical Nucleosides

■ Nomenclature for describing nucleoside modifications

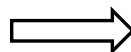


hypermodified nucleosides



Nucleoside Modifications in RNA

many types of RNA with many functions

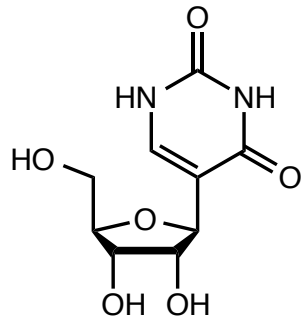


many nucleoside modifications

over 100 modified nucleosides known in RNA

Abbreviation	Full name	Function
tRNA	transfer RNA	mRNA decoding amino acid carrier
mRNA	messenger RNA	protein coding message
rRNA	ribosomal RNA	nucleic acid component of the ribosome
sncRNA	small noncoding RNA	
<i>miRNA</i>	micro RNA	regulating gene expression
<i>piRNA</i>	piwi-interacting RNA	regulating gene expression
<i>siRNA</i>	short interfering RNA	regulating gene expression
<i>snRNA</i>	small nuclear RNA	involved e.g. in intron splicing
<i>snoRNA</i>	small nucleolar RNA	involved in RNA modification
lncRNA	long noncoding RNA	nonprotein coding transcripts with regulatory or unknown function

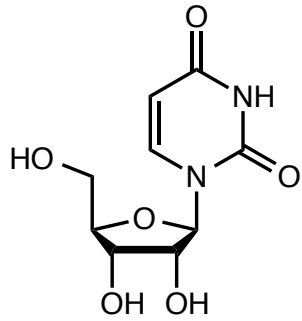
Pseudouridine: a C-Nucleoside Derived from Uridine



pseudouridine (Ψ)

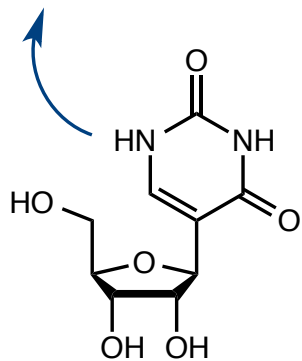
- First modified nucleoside discovered in RNA
- Most prevalent of all natural modified nucleosides
- Present in almost all classes of RNA
- The "fifth nucleoside" in RNA

The Function of Pseudouridine in RNA

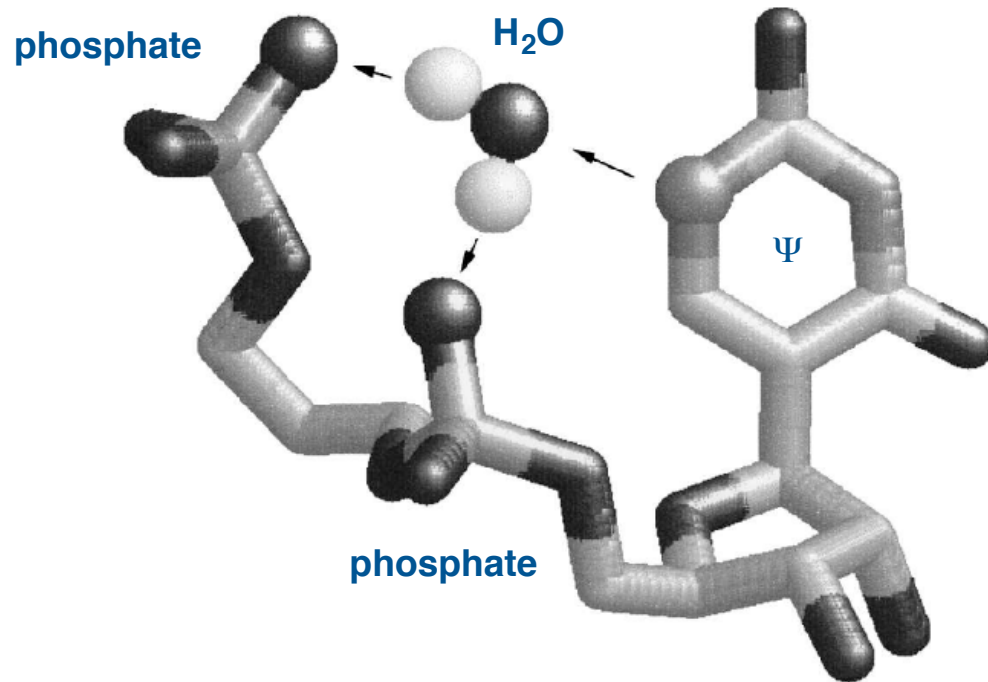


uridine (U)

additional H-bonding site

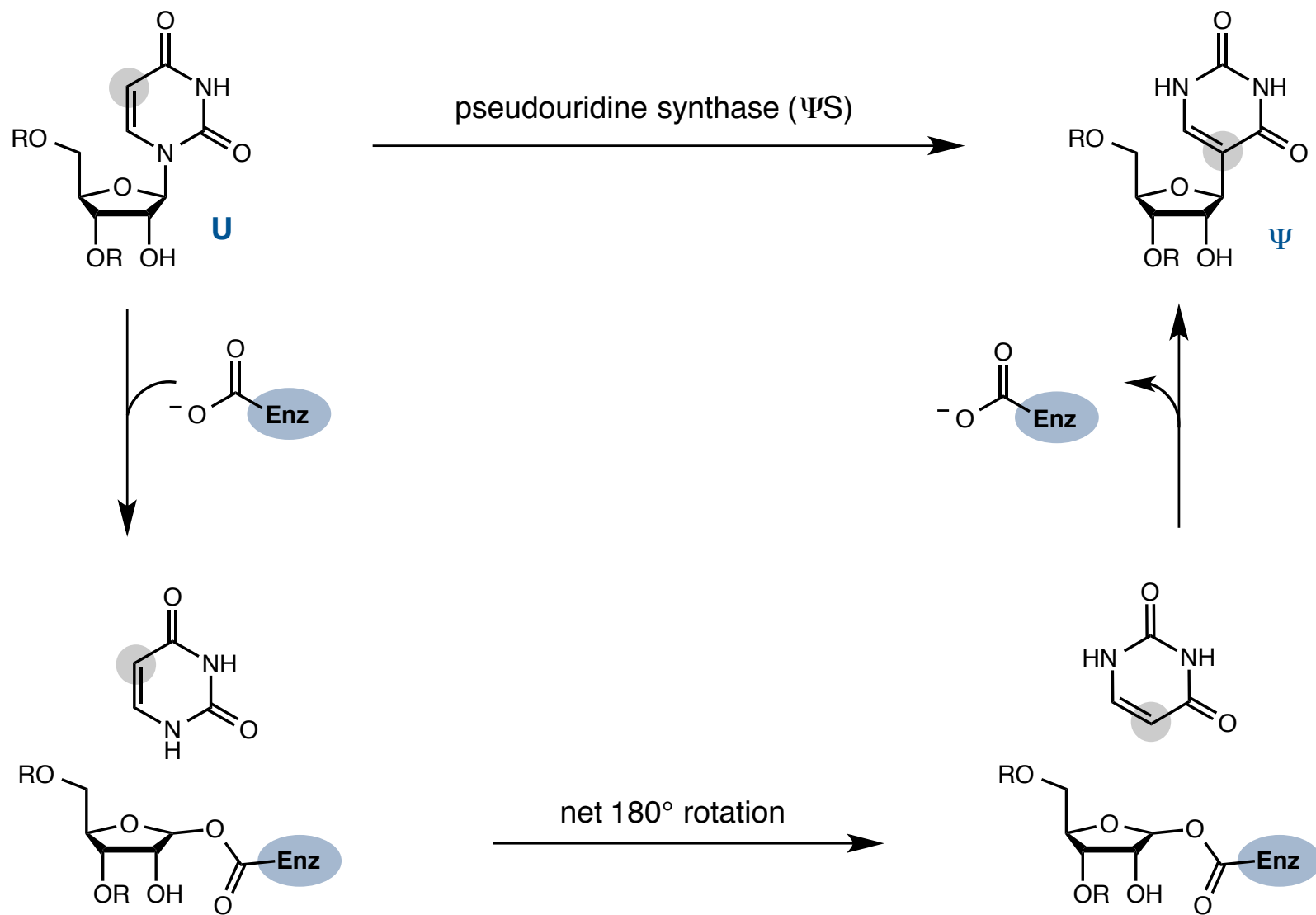


pseudouridine (Ψ)

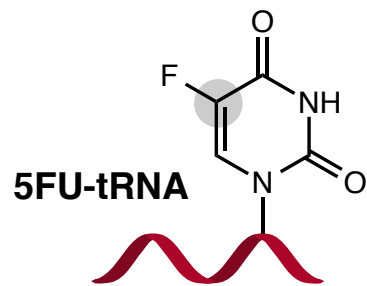
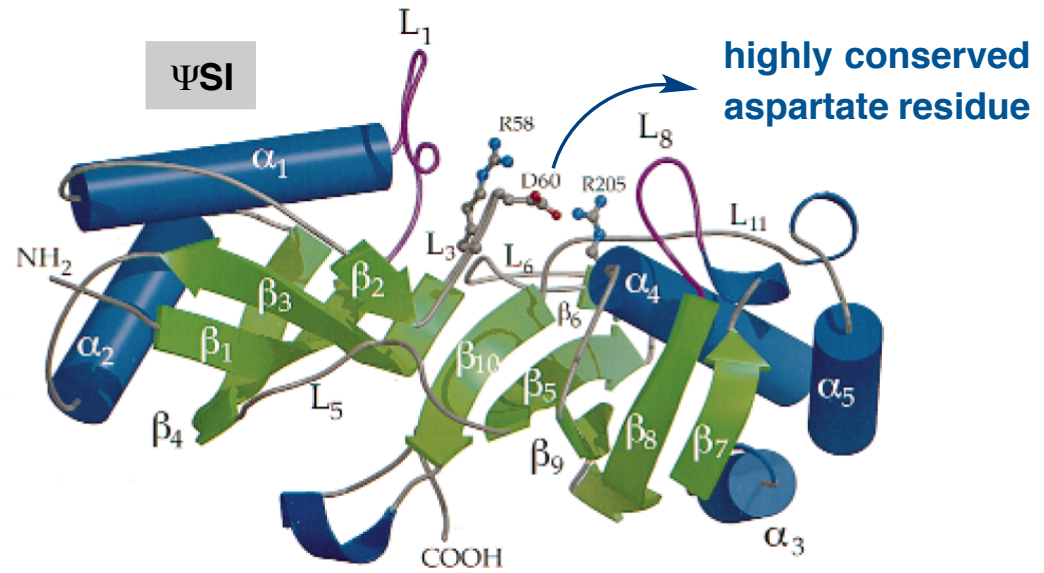
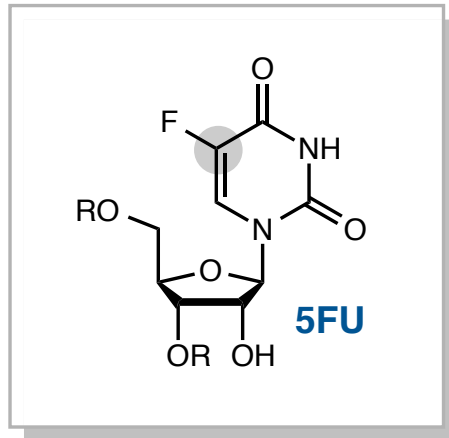


- Unique H-bonding ability – coordination of water
- Ψ can serve to rigidify surrounding structure
- May stabilize complex 3D structure of RNA

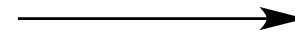
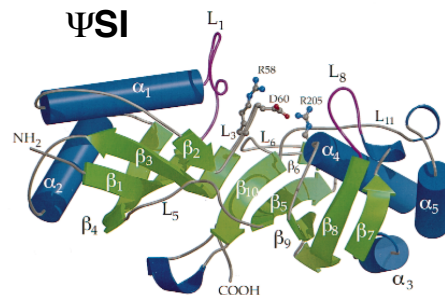
"Acylal Mechanism" for the Biosynthesis of Pseudouridine



Evidence for the "Michael Mechanism"



+

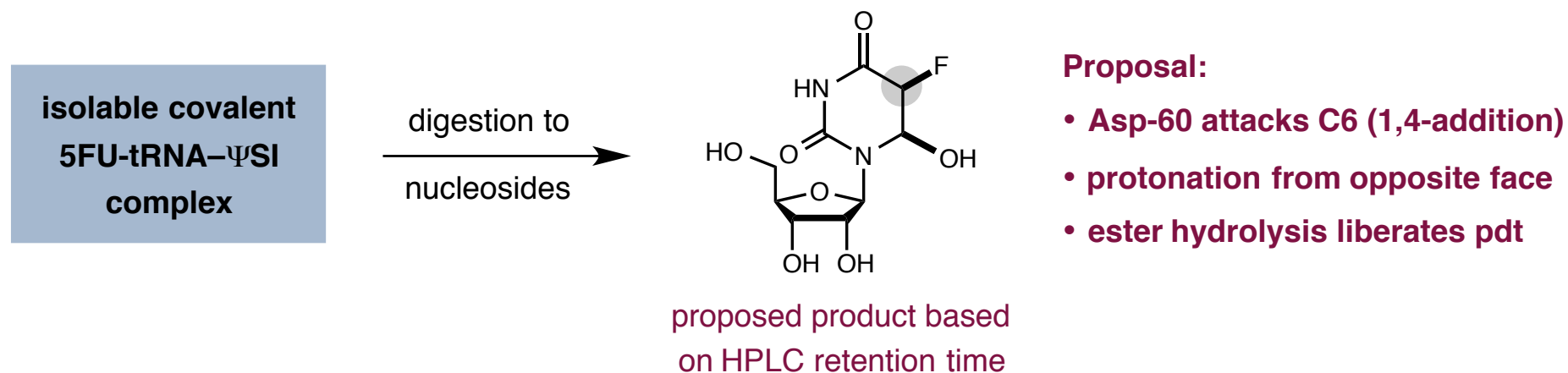
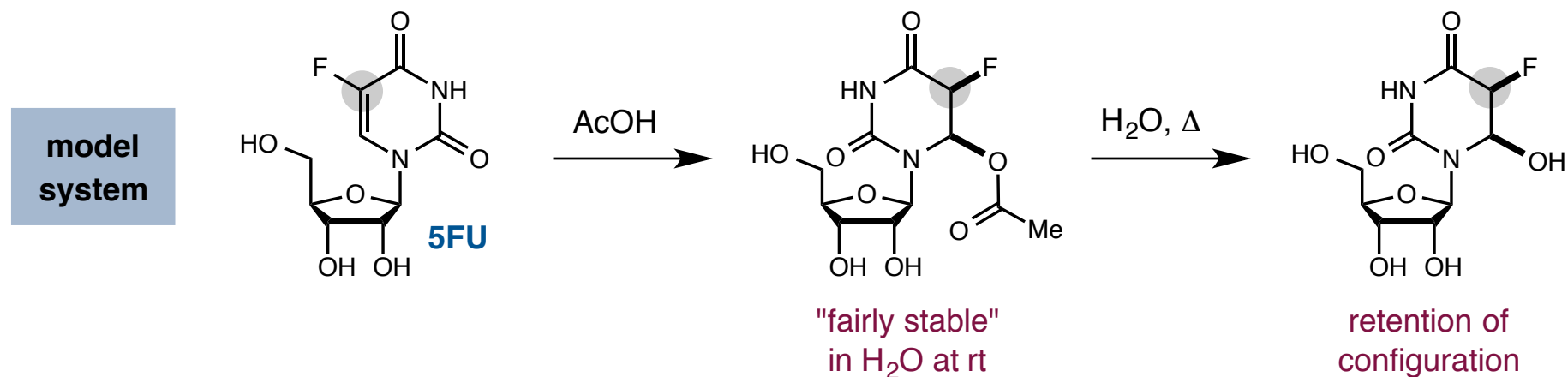


**isolable covalent
5FU-tRNA- Ψ SI
complex**

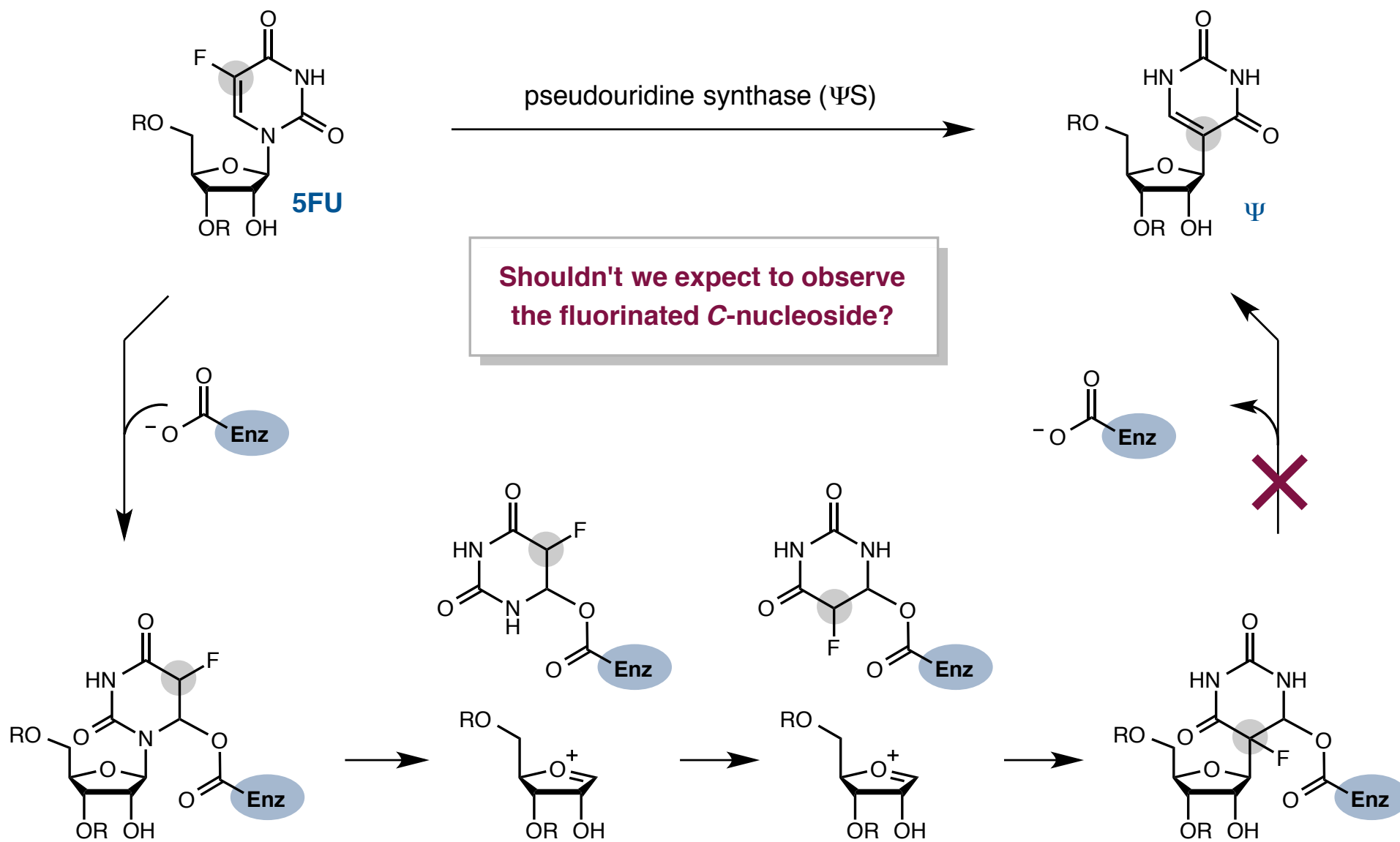
What is the identity of the 5FU-tRNA- Ψ SI covalent complex?

Foster, P. G.; Huang, L.; Santi, D. V.; Stroud, R. M. *Nat. Struct. Biol.* **2000**, *7*, 23.
Gu. X.; Liu, Y.; Santi, D. V. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **1999**, *96*, 14270.

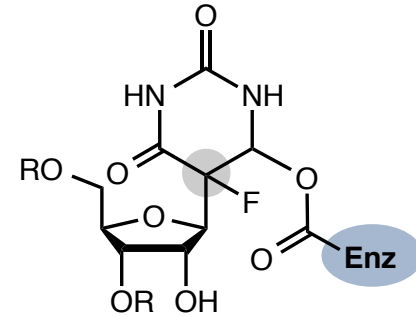
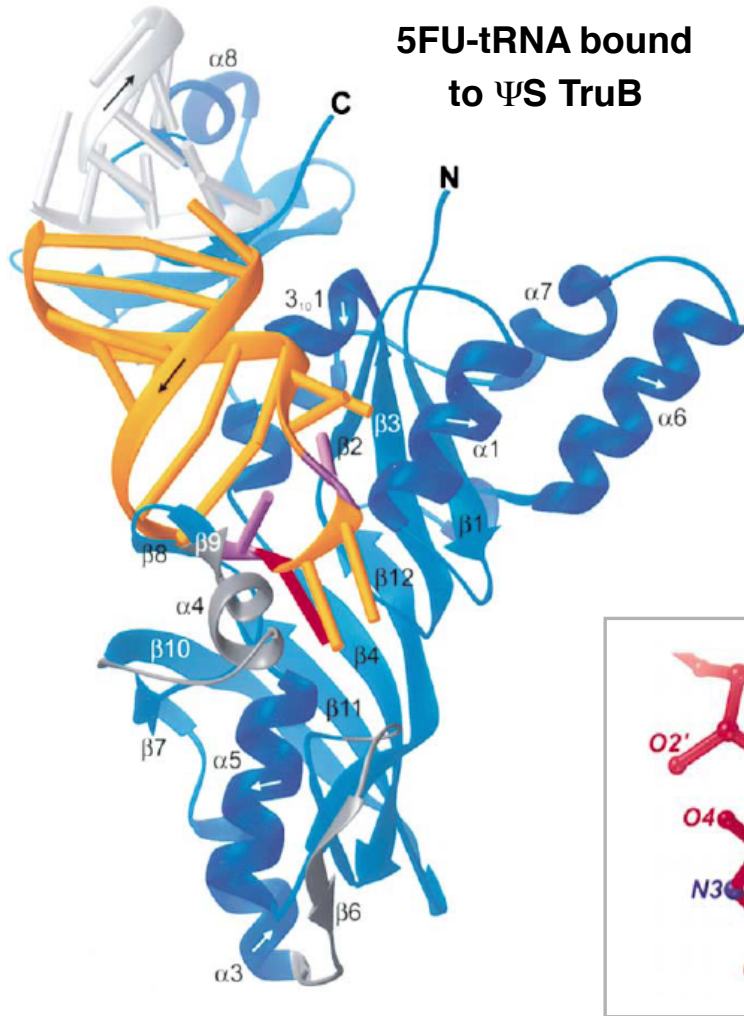
Evidence for the "Michael Mechanism"



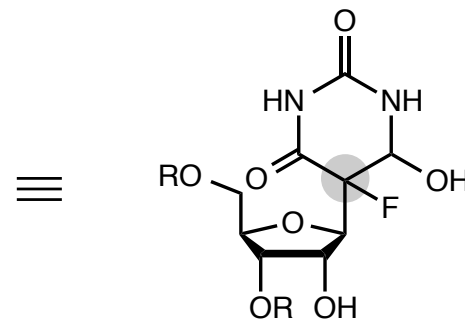
"Michael Mechanism" for the Biosynthesis of Pseudouridine



Rearrangement of 5FU by Pseudouridine Synthesis



ester hydrolysis?

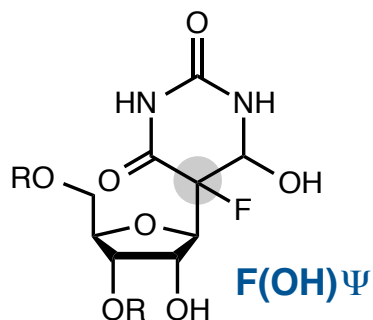


previously proposed product may have been misidentified

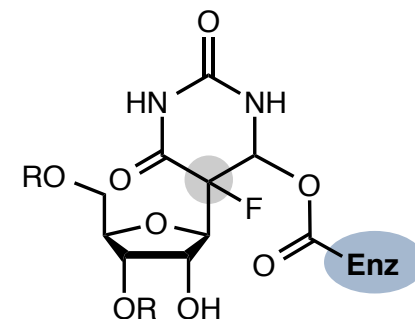
Revisiting the "Michael Mechanism"

formation of F(OH) Ψ consistent with proposed Michael mech.

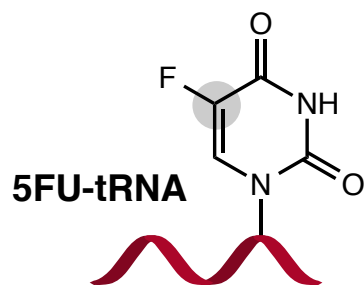
(not definitive proof – multiple pathways can be envisioned)



ester hydrolysis?

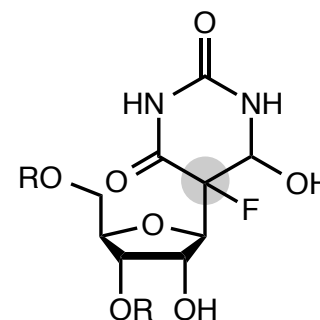


expected products from ester hydrolysis

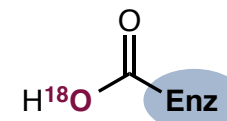


1. incubation with TruB
in 50% ^{18}O H₂ buffer

2. digestion



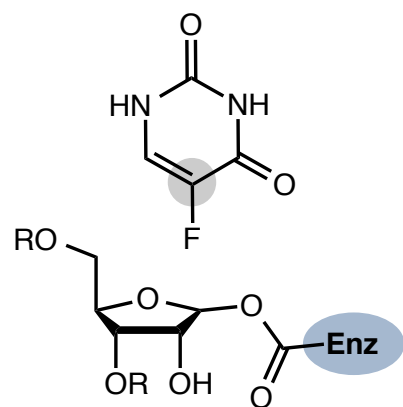
^{18}O content reflects
buffer content



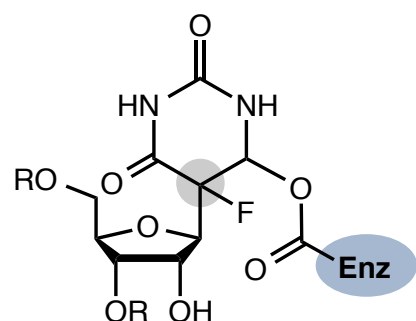
not observed

Possible Pathways for Formation of Observed Rearrangement Product

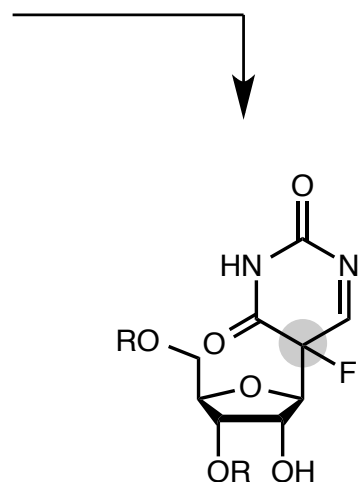
both mechanisms are consistent with data



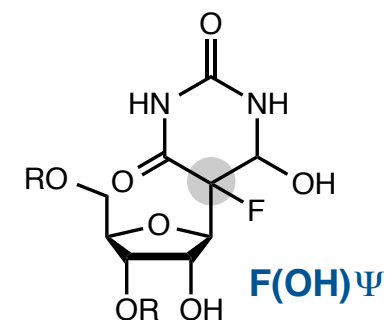
via acylal mechanism



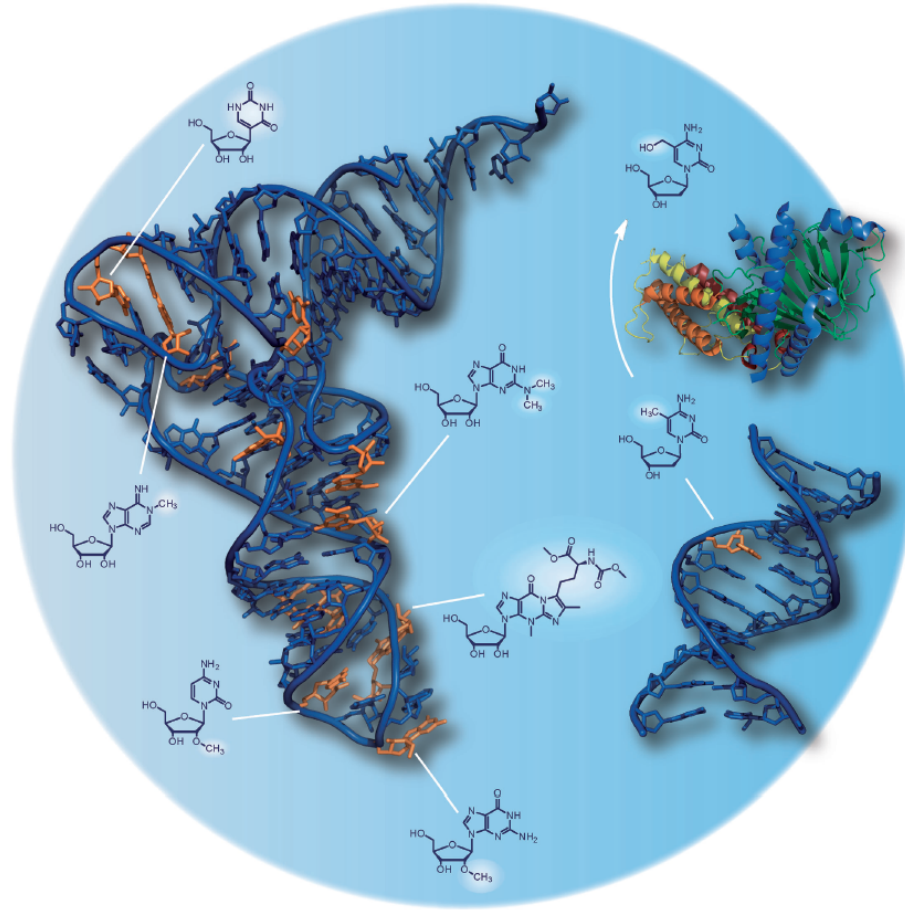
via Michael mechanism



product release and hydration in solution

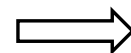


Asp60-mediated hydration
(general base catalysis)

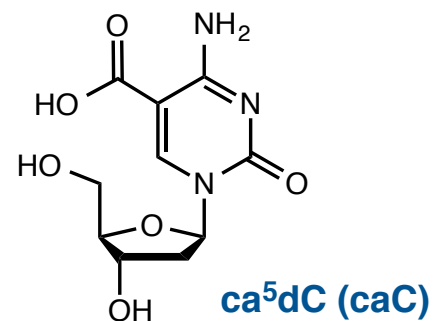
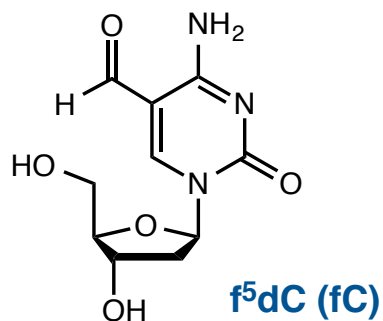
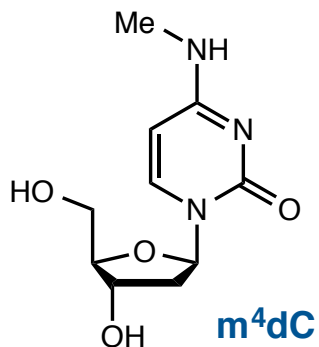
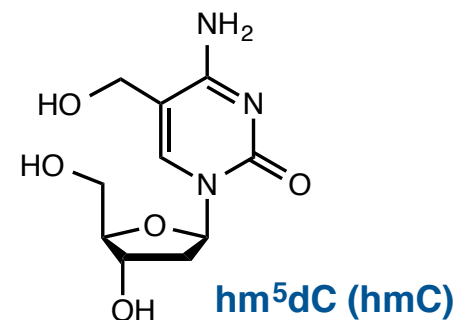
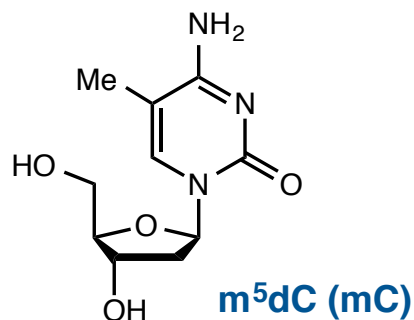
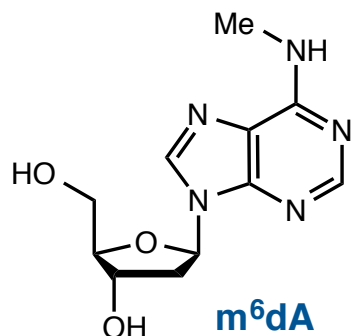


Noncanonical Nucleosides in DNA

DNA: carrier of genetic information, critical but limited function



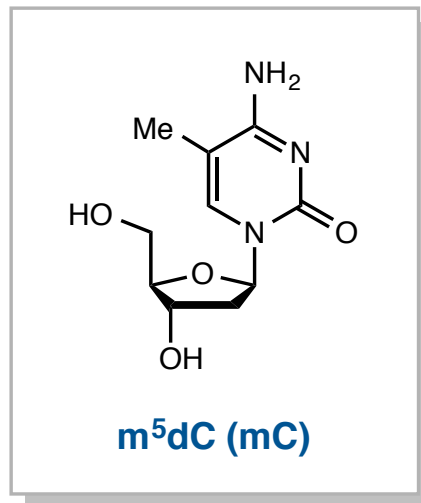
few modifications observed



various functions

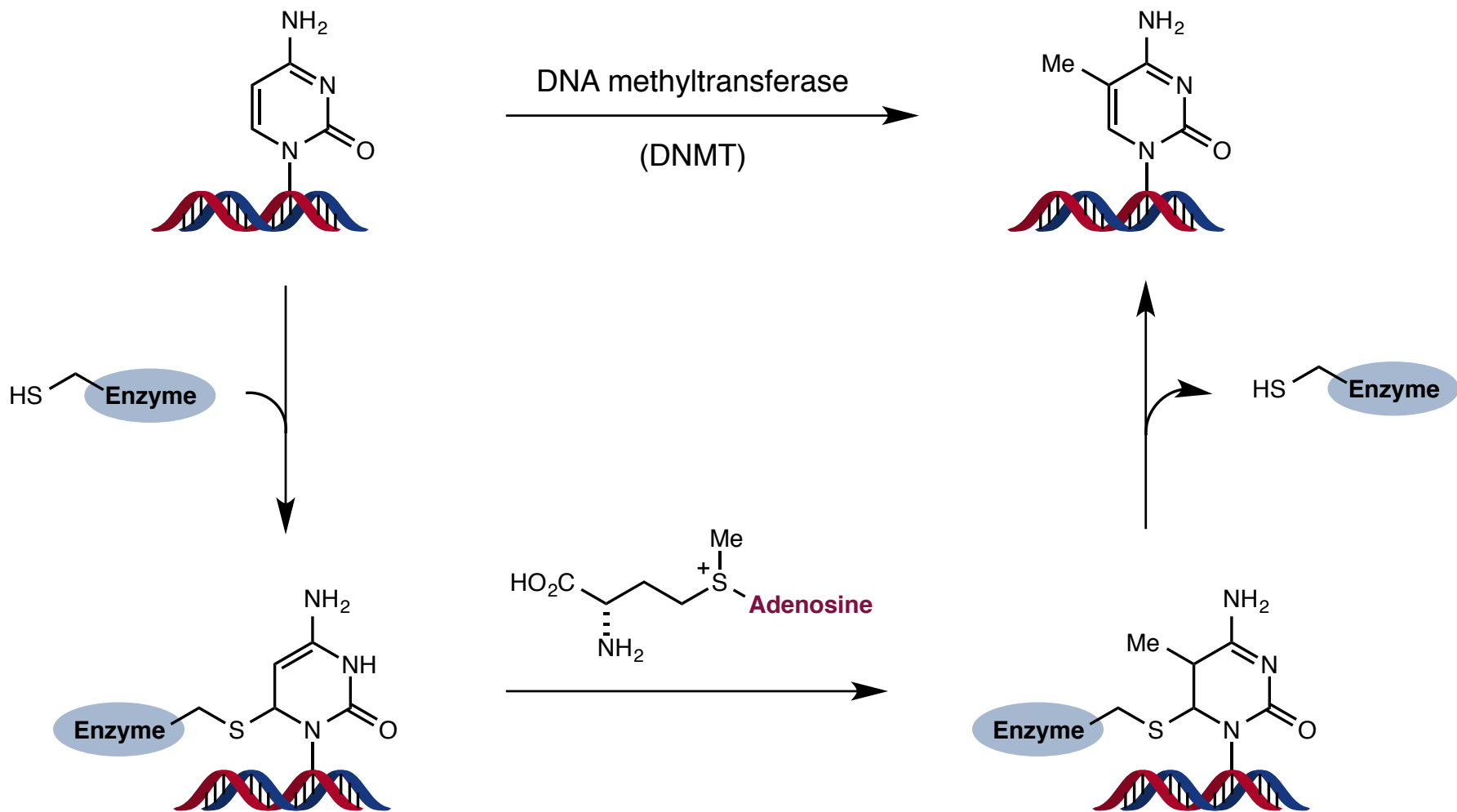
epigenetic bases

Importance of 5-Methyldeoxycytidine

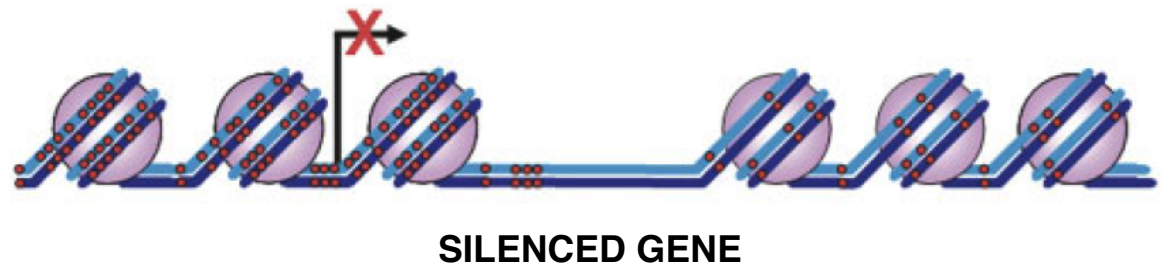
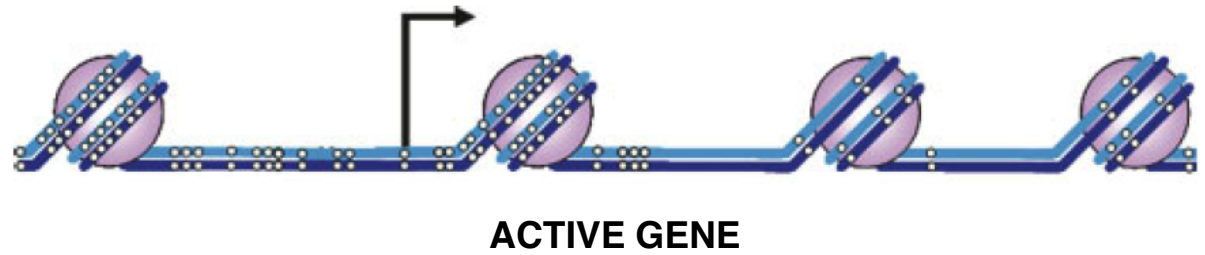
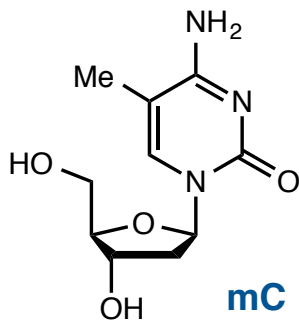
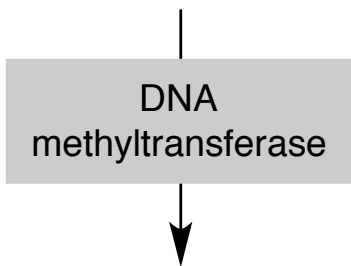
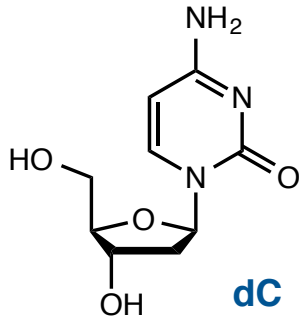


- Some plants: up to 25% methylated cytosine
- Human genome: ~5% methylated cytosine (up to 70% at CpG sites, often associated with promoter regions)

Biosynthesis of 5-Methyldeoxycytidine



5-Methyldeoxycytidine and Epigenetics



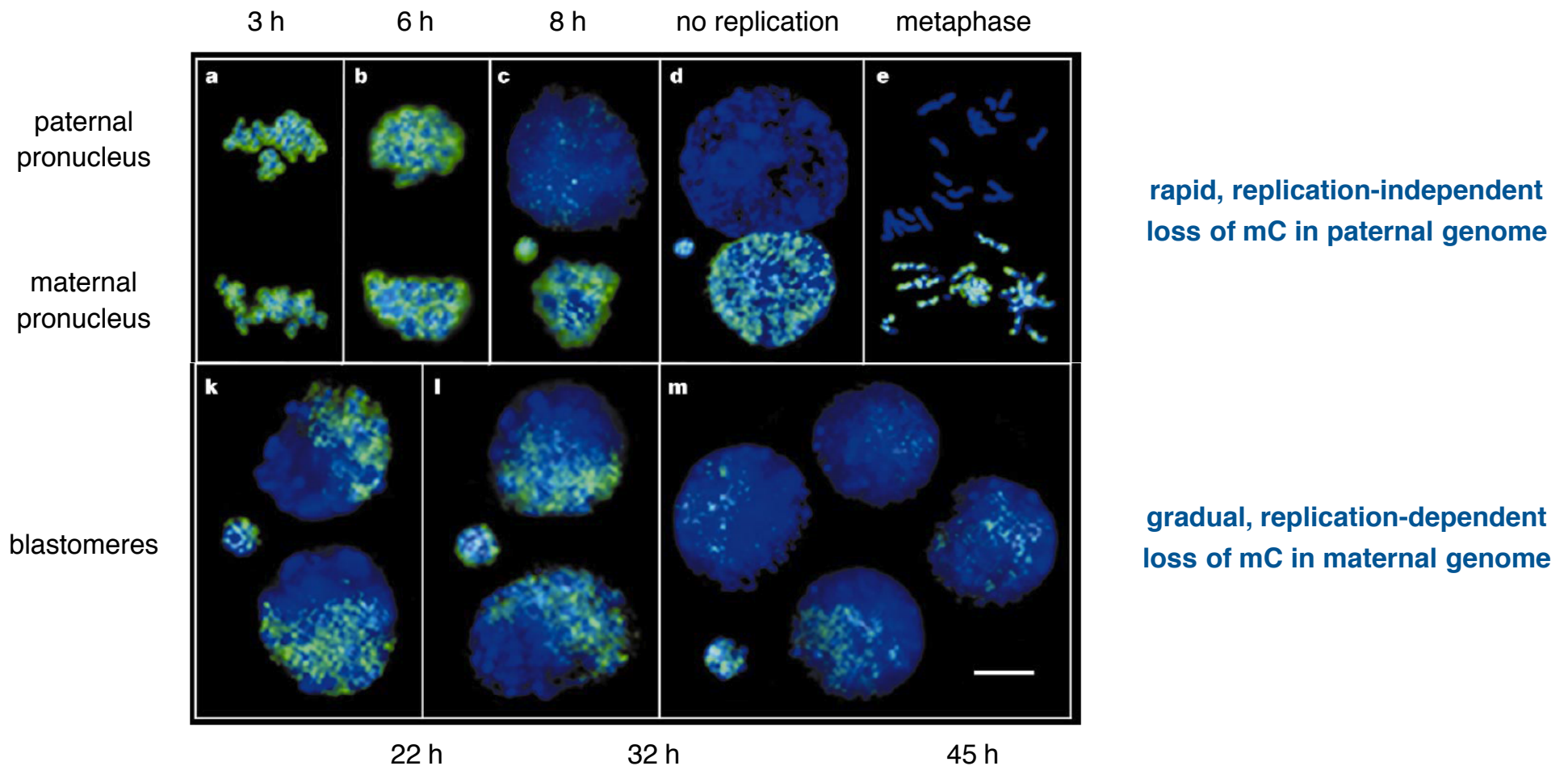
epigenetic modification, can be inherited by daughter cells

blocks binding of transcription factors
and/or induces chromatin remodeling

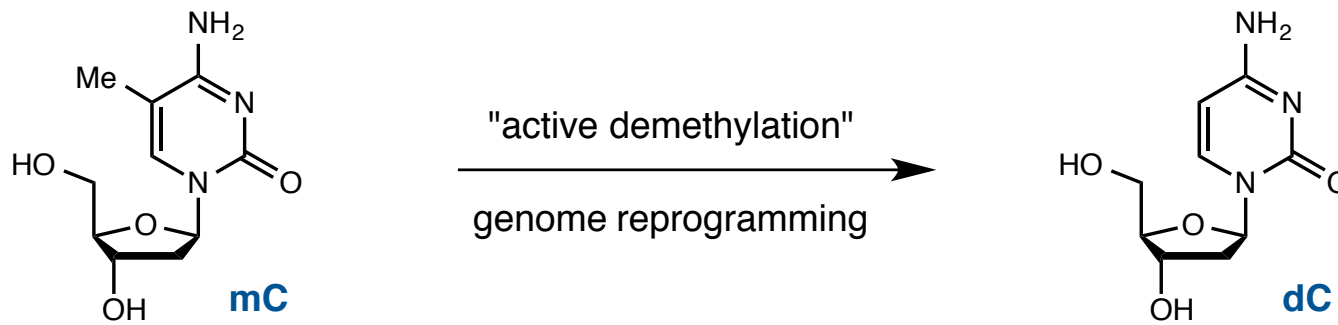
5-Methyldeoxycytidine and Epigenetics

- Dramatic "genome reprogramming" events happen after fertilization and during development

examination of mouse zygote/proembryo after fertilization (anti-mC antibody stain, green)



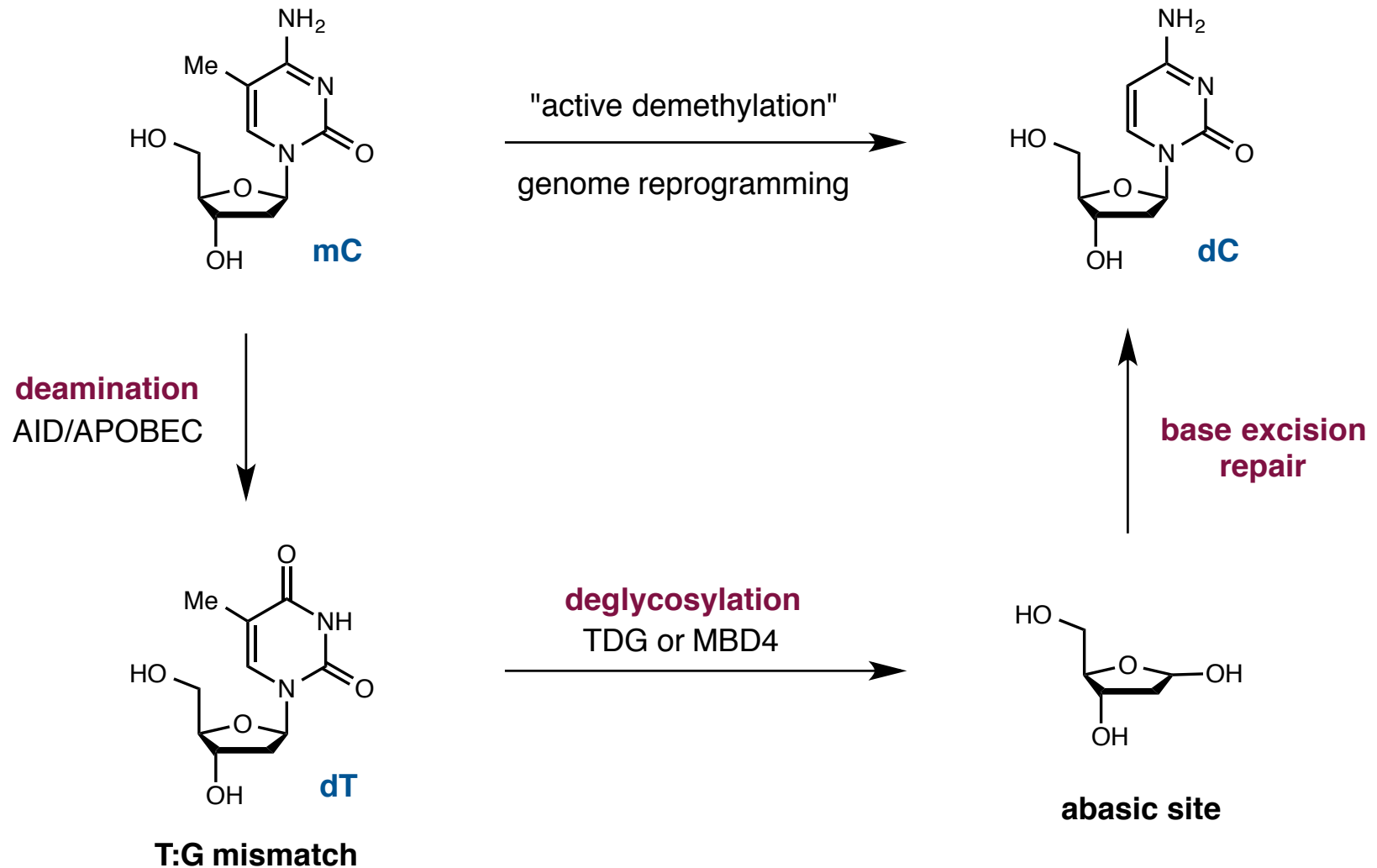
The Role of the Epigenetic Bases



What is the mechanism of "active demethylation?"

Possible Mechanisms of DNA Demethylation

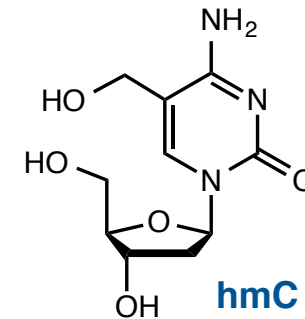
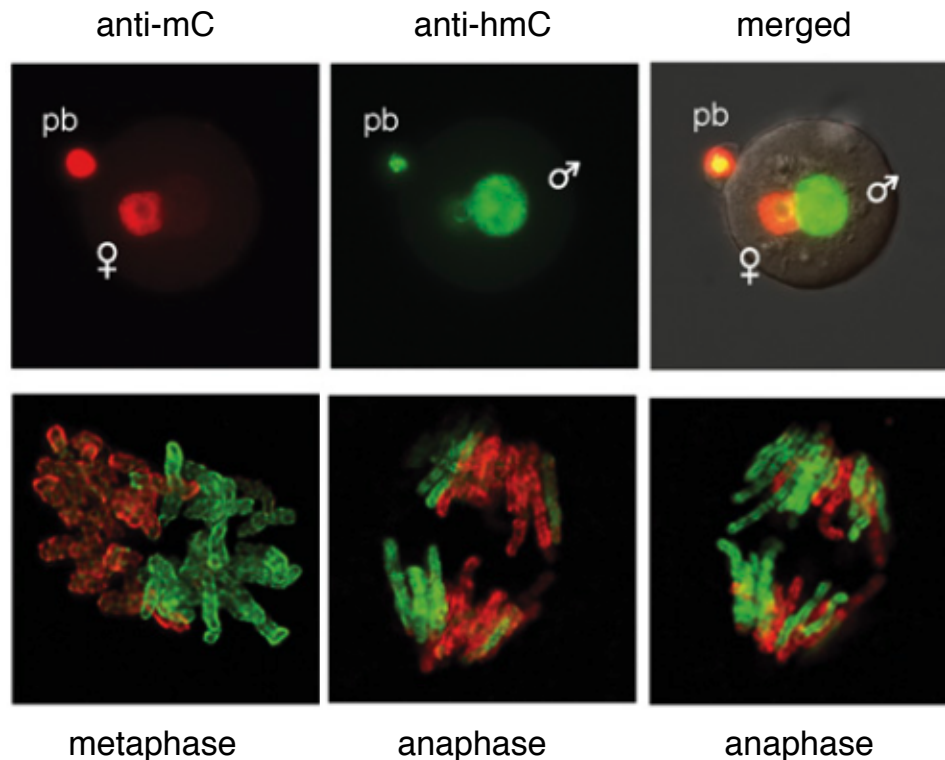
■ Possible mechanism: deamination and mismatch repair



5-Methyldeoxycytidine and Epigenetics

- Dramatic "genome reprogramming" events happen after fertilization and during development

examination of mouse zygote/proembryo using anti-mC and anti-hmC antibodies

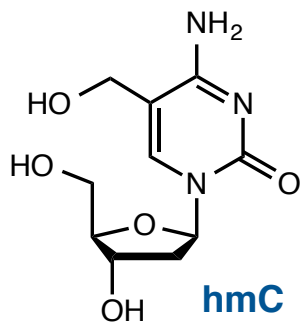
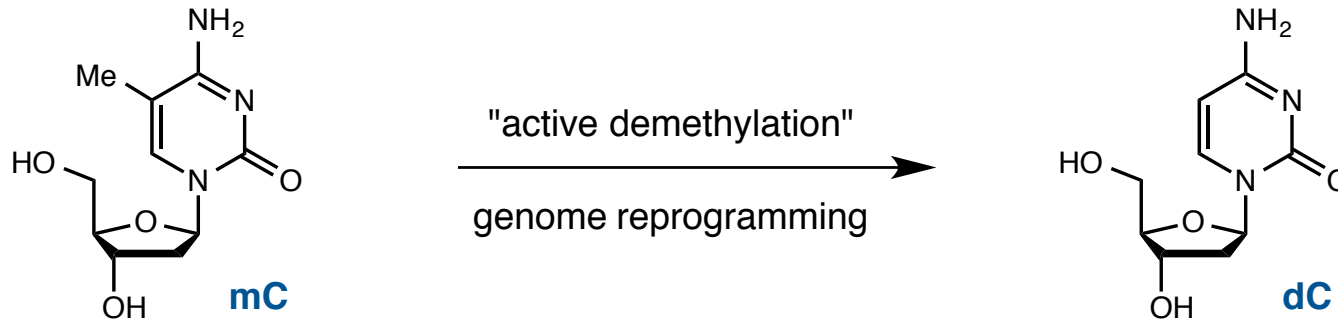


- high levels of hmC in paternal genome
- anti-mC antibodies do not recognize hmC
- hmC persists through cell division

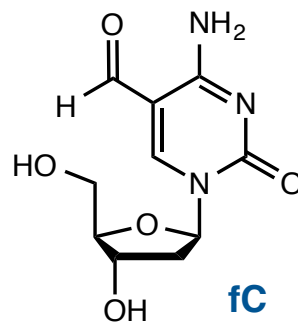
depletion of mC signal in previous studies may be due to oxidation of mC to hmC (not genome-wide demethylation)

Possible Mechanisms of DNA Demethylation

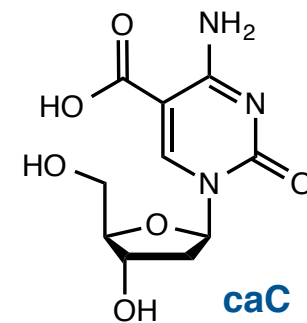
■ Recent discoveries suggest other possible mechanisms for demethylation



initial detection, 1972
renewed interest, 2009



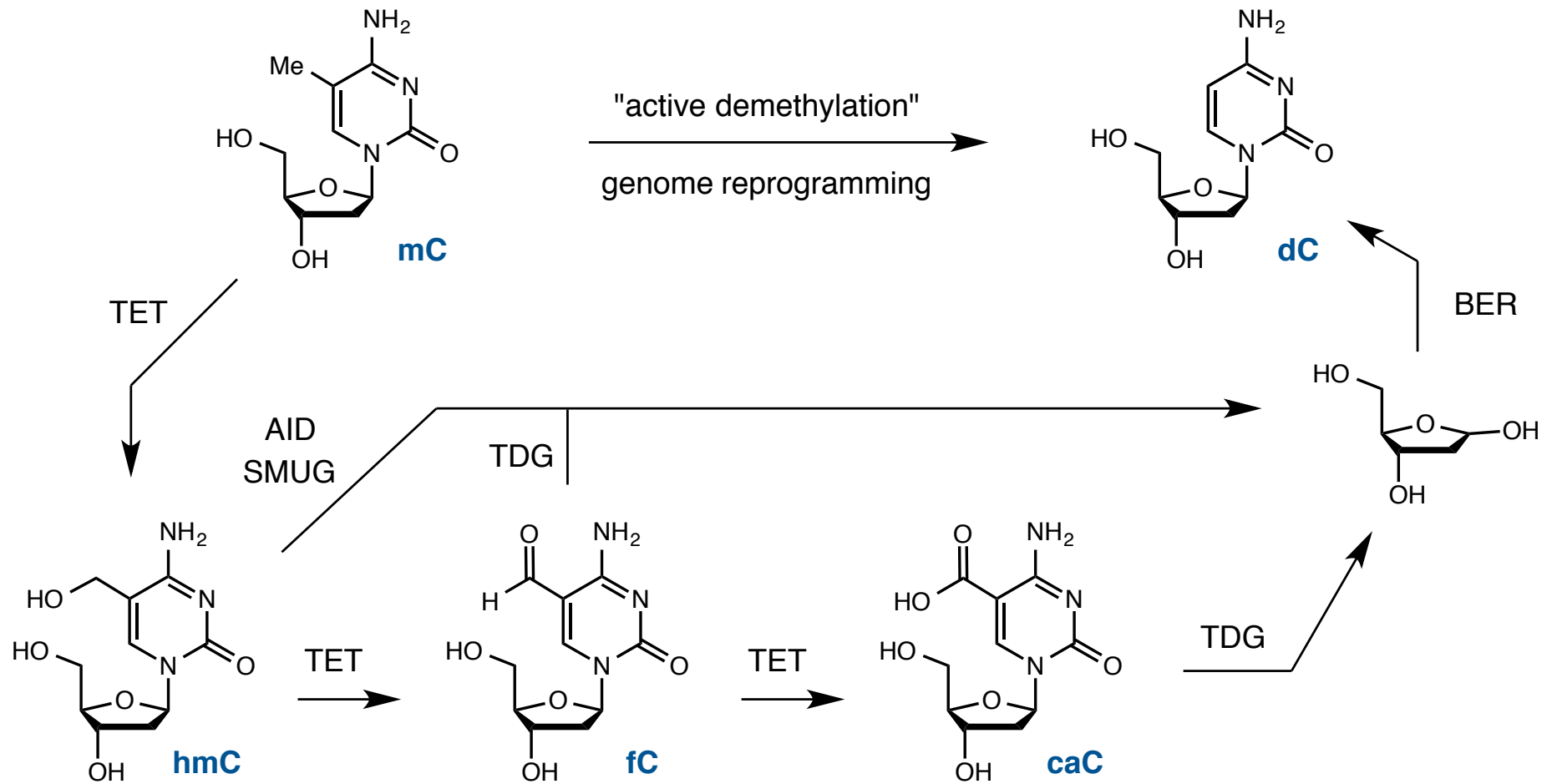
initial detection, 2011



initial detection, 2011

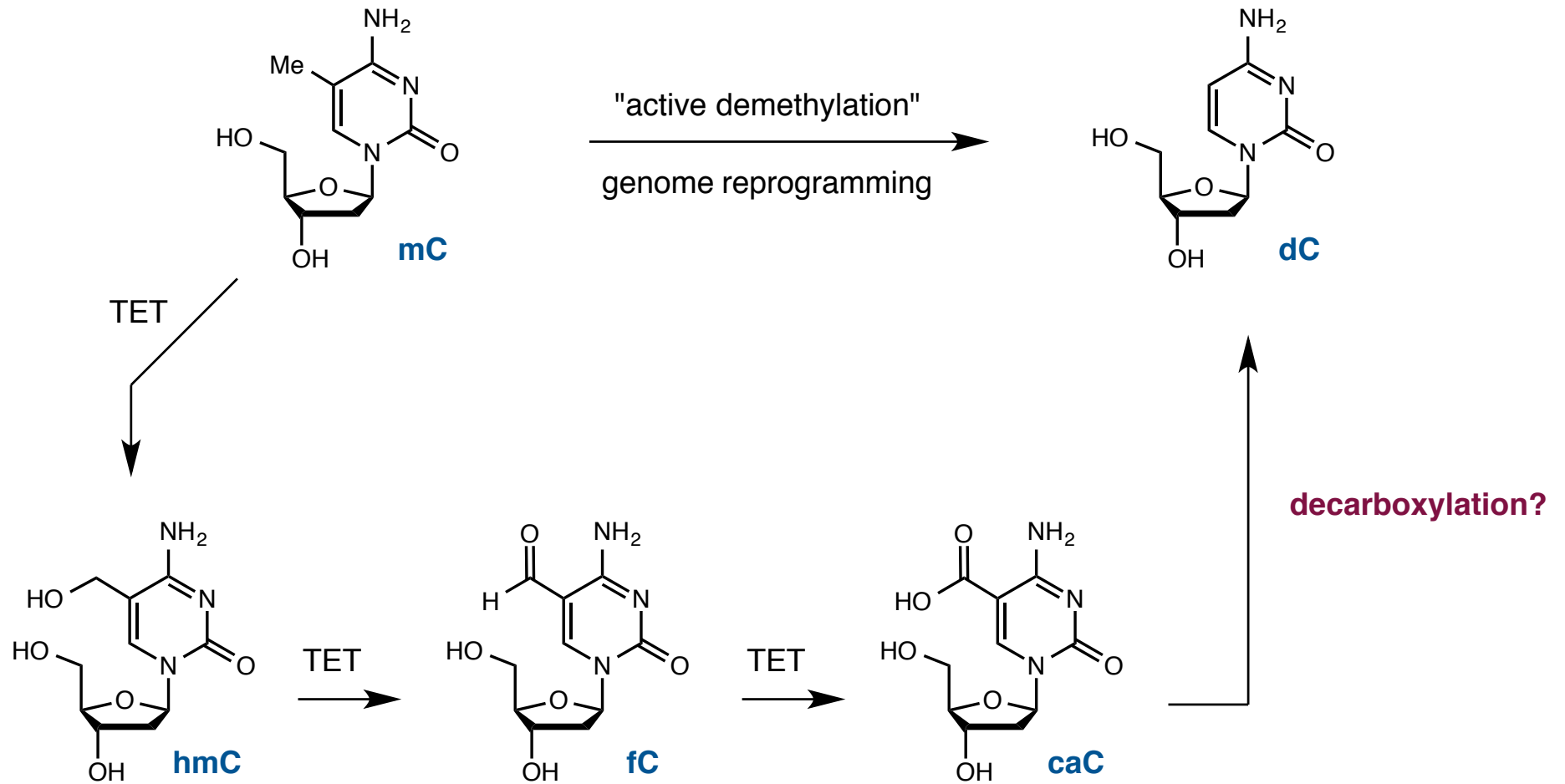
Possible Mechanisms of DNA Demethylation

■ Possible mechanism: deglycosylation of oxidized intermediates



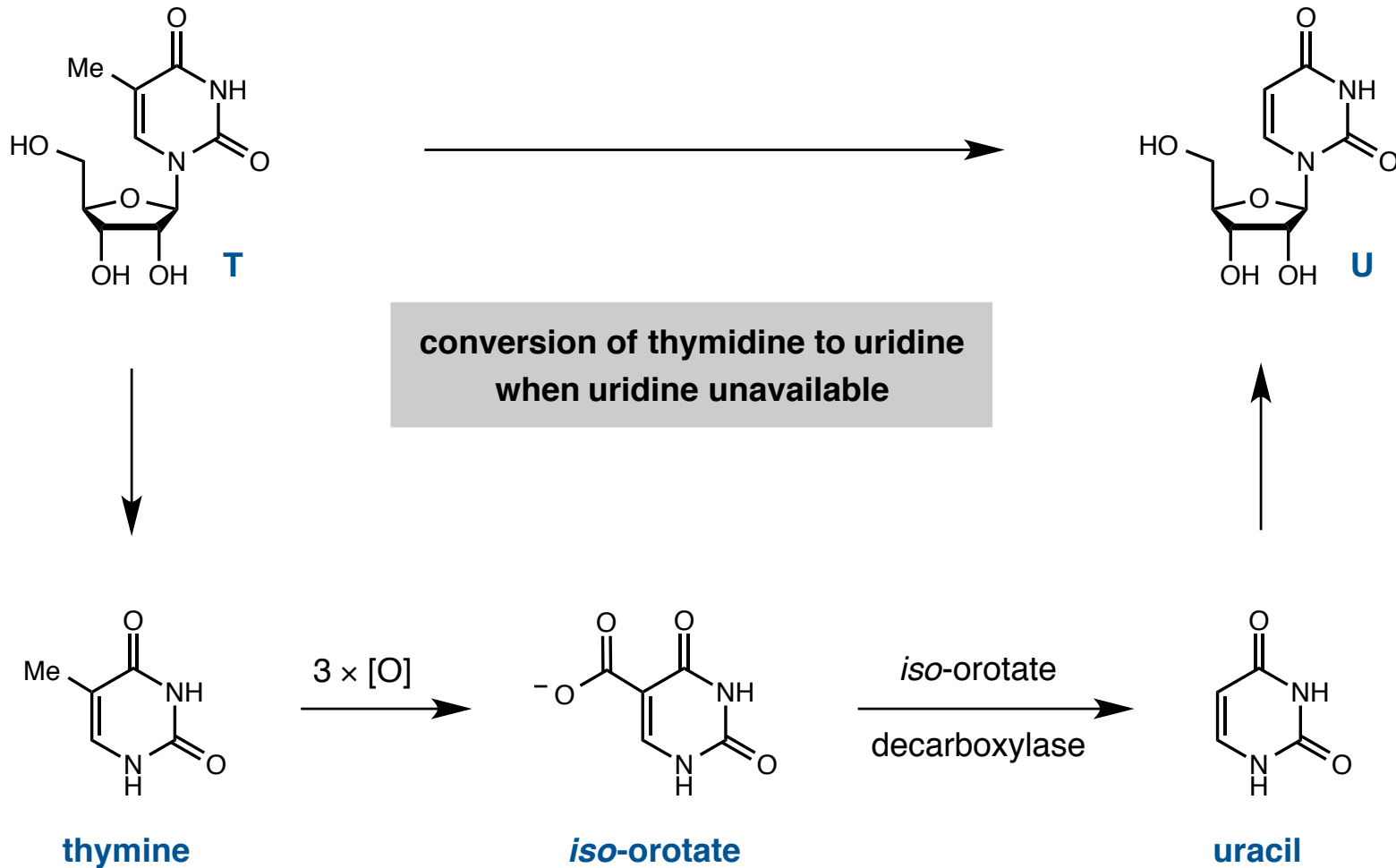
Possible Mechanisms of DNA Demethylation

■ Possible mechanism: decarboxylation



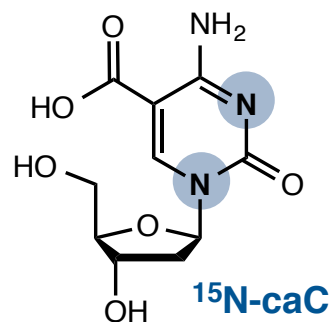
Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism

- Fungal thymidine salvage pathway proceeds through oxidation/decarboxylation



Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism

■ Demethylation of 5-methylcytidine with nuclear extract from mouse embryonic stem cells

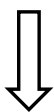


5' - CCTTTCC -- GAAGGGACGTTGAC **caC**GGATGCYC - 3'
 3' - GGAAAGG **caC**TTCCCTGCAACTG -- GCCTACGAG - 5' D1

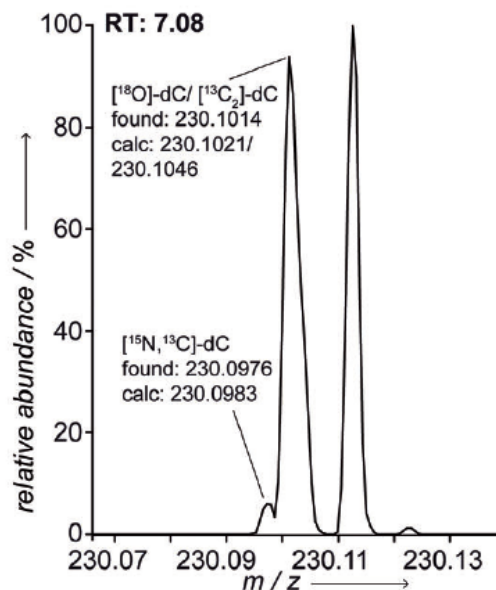
incubation with mESC nuclear extract
 re-isolation of the DNA duplex D1 using magnetic beads
 total digest of D1

[¹⁵N₂]-caC [¹⁵N₂]-dC Y dA dT dG dC

no incubation
with mESC



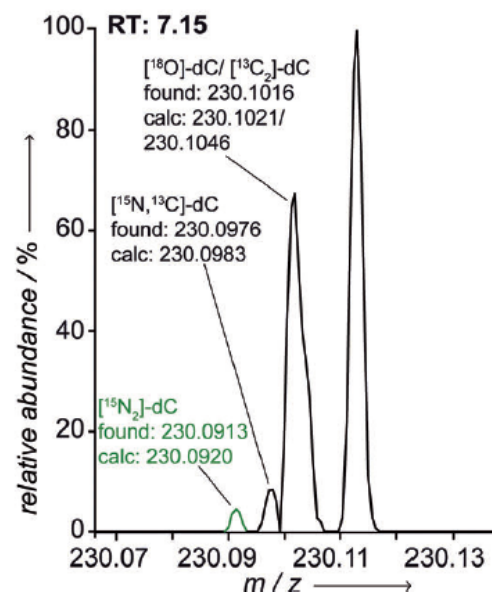
no ¹⁵N-dC observed,
no decarboxylation
in absence of extract



after incubation
with mESC

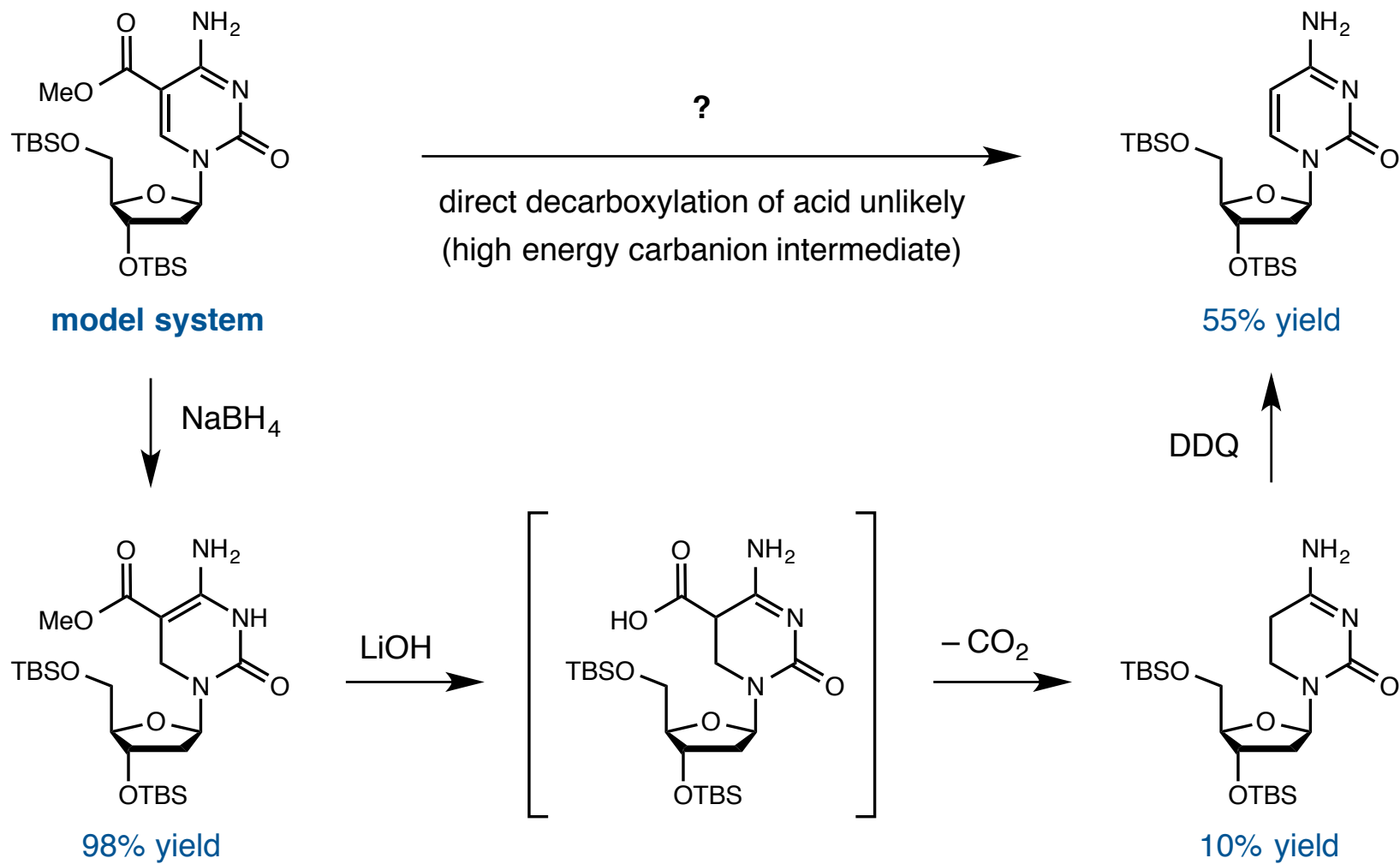


¹⁵N-dC observed,
decarboxylation of
caC is possible



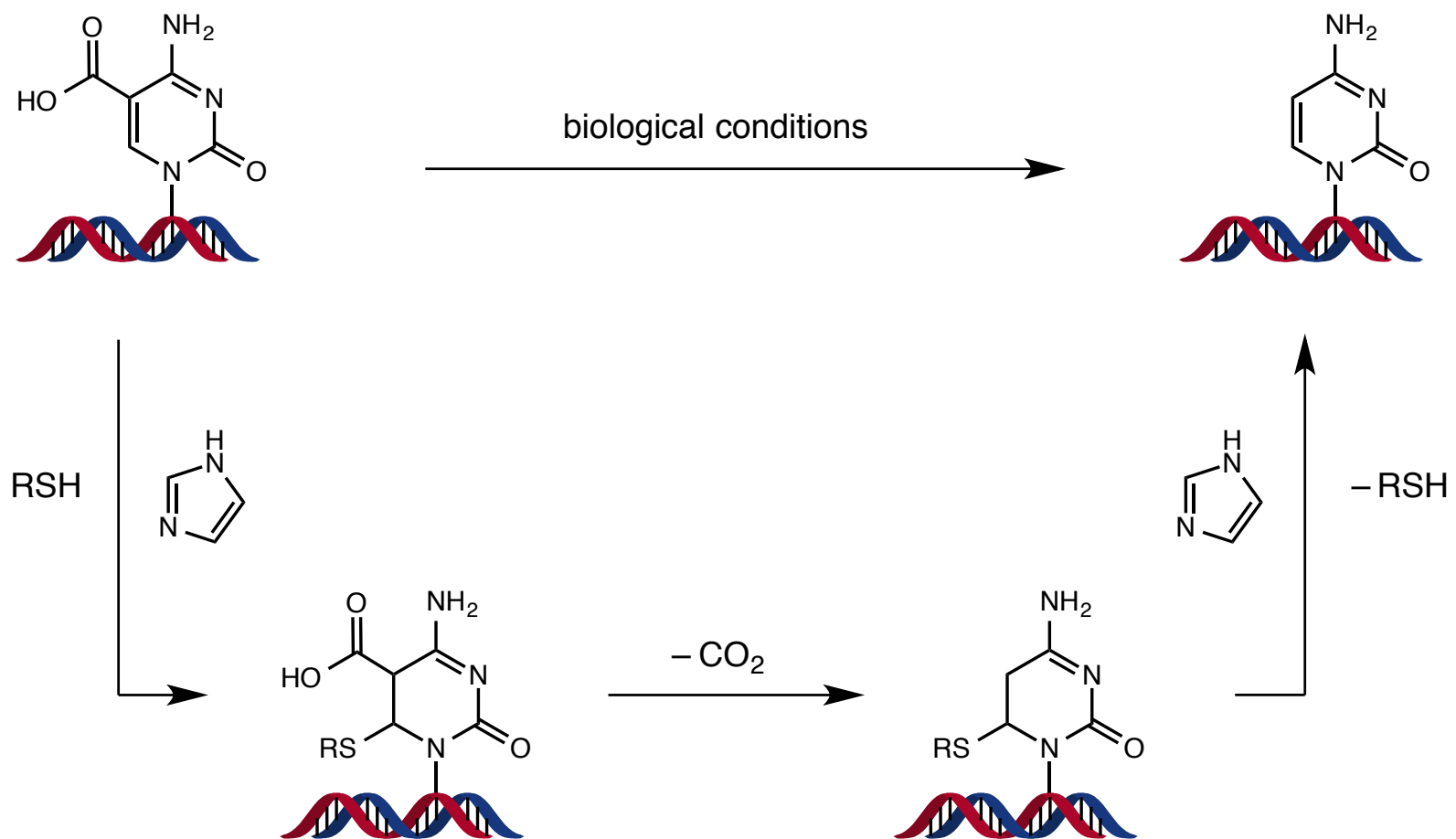
Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism

■ How would the decarboxylation occur on a molecular level?

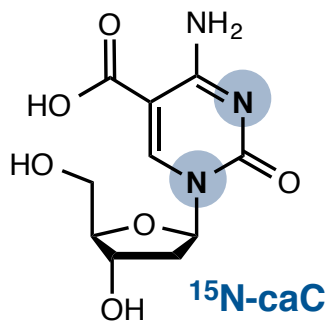


Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism

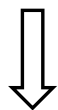
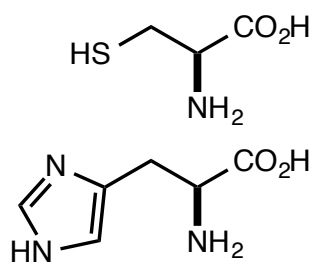
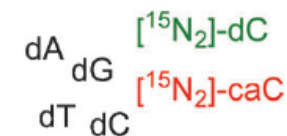
■ But nature doesn't use NaBH_4 or DDQ...



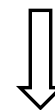
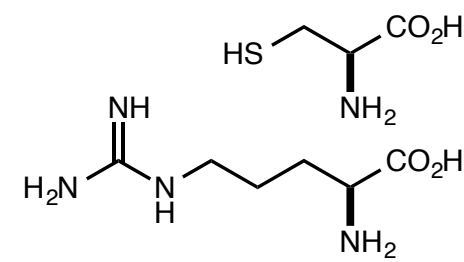
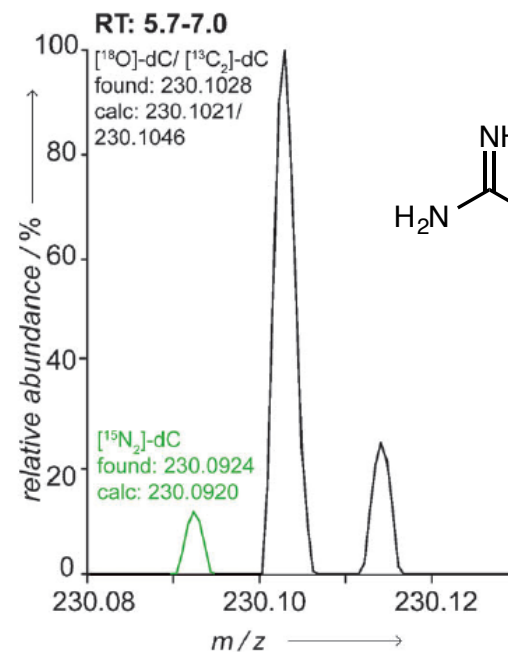
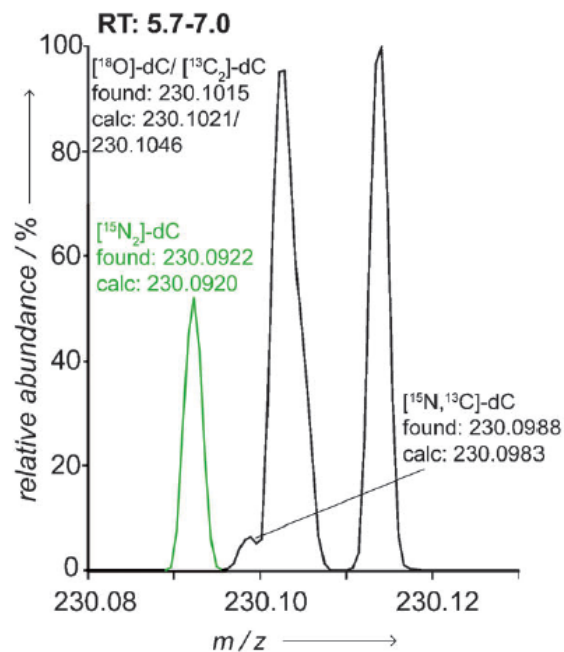
Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism



addition of amino acids



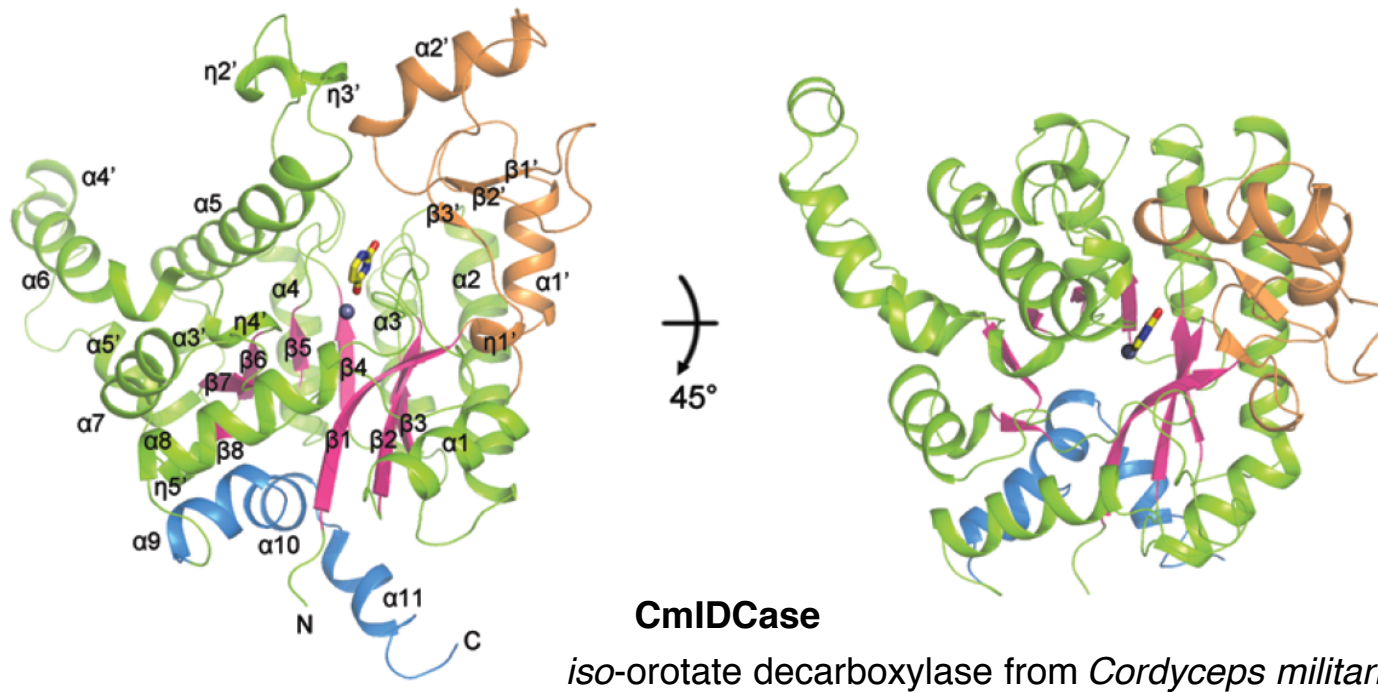
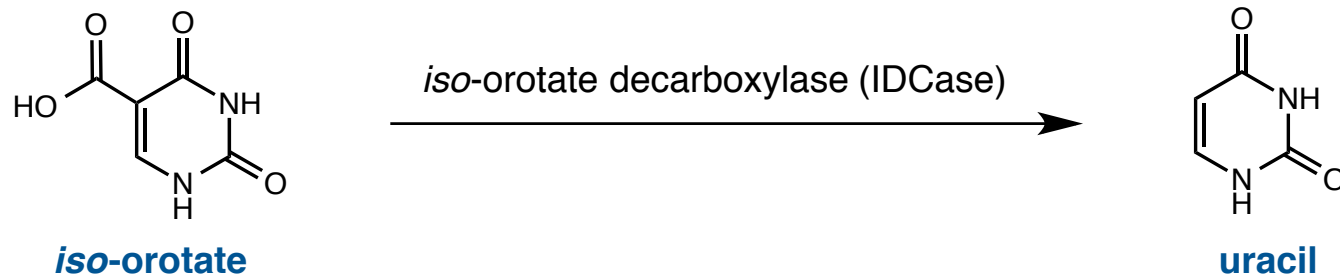
**decarboxylation
observed**



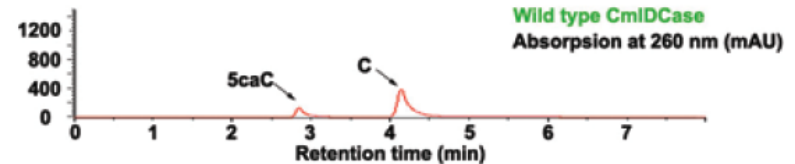
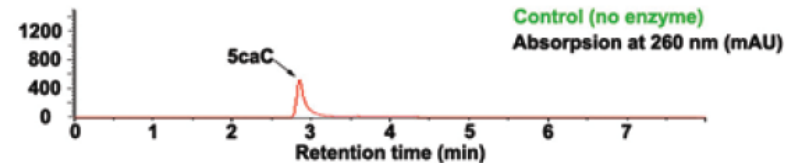
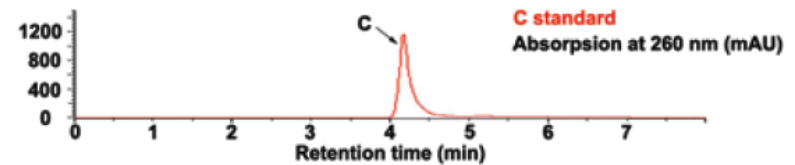
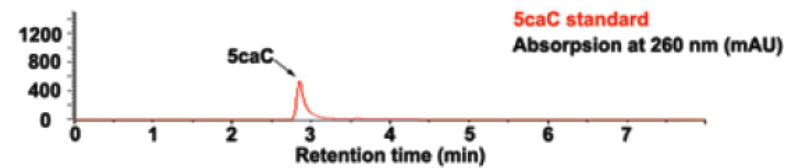
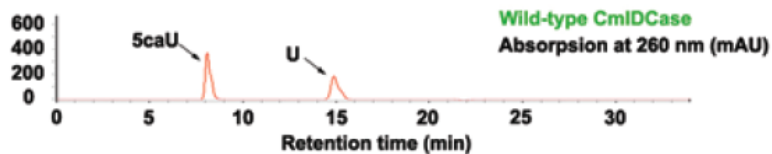
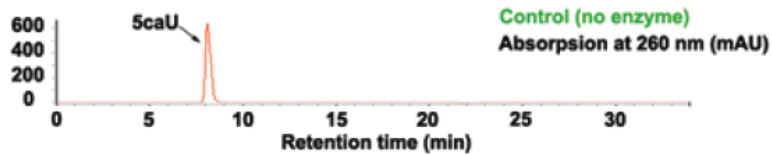
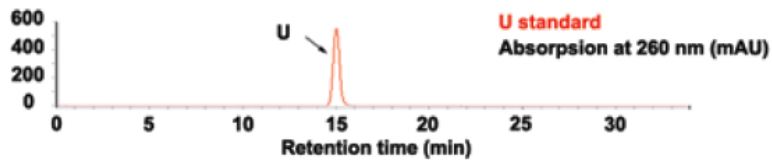
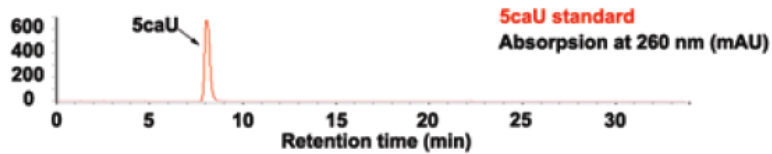
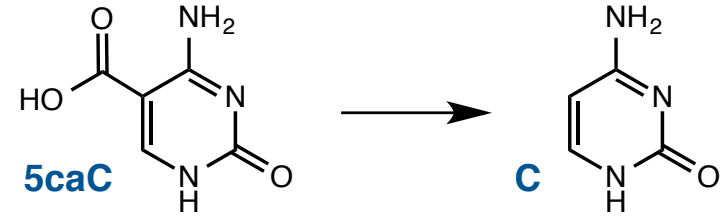
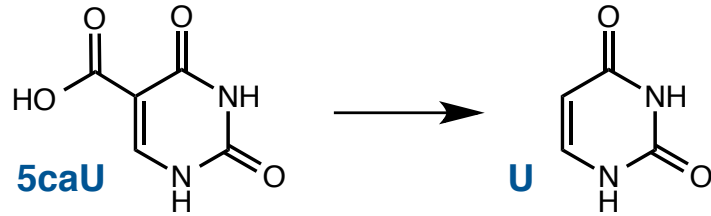
**decarboxylation
observed**

Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism

■ Recall: decarboxylation of *iso*-orotate in thymidine salvage pathway



Evidence for the Feasibility of a Decarboxylative Mechanism



A naturally occurring decarboxylase is capable of converting caC to C.