

Understanding DNA

The Molecule and How it Works

深入理解DNA

DNA分子以及它是如何工作的 (第三版)

Chris R.Calladine, Horace R.Drew, Ben F.Luisi, Andrew A.Travers



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Third Edition

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本书作者在序言中对本书所适合的读者群和每章的内容都有详细的介绍,这里只想对国内的读者说一些话。

生物学学习很重要的一个基本点,就是要懂得区分什么是进化选择的结果,什么是被选择出的生命物质运动的结果。这后一个问题,可以 DNA 有双螺旋结构为例。DNA 为什么会有双螺旋的三维结构,我们可以很明确地回答说,这是两个序列互补的 DNA 分子在水溶液中相互作用的结果,可以用试管中的实验来证实,原则上也可以用物理化学的基础理论来解释。而前一个问题则涉及到漫长的生物进化的历史过程,由于历史的环境条件已经改变,我们基本上只能回答"是什么",而很难回答"为什么"的问题。例如,所有的有机体,或生物体,都以细胞为基本的复制单位。至于为什么所有的生物体都要以细胞为基本的复制单位,是否还有其他的可能,在人类目前的知识水平上,则是很难回答的问题。我们只能说,这是在进化的历史过程中形成的,由简单的结构通过分工合作组装成复杂的具有更多更高级功能的结构,这是生物进化的足迹。

对于细胞如何复制自己,生物进化选择了按蓝图复制的方式。这张蓝图就是每个细 胞都有的 DNA 分子。这种选择引起的一个基本问题是,如何在直径约为 10 微米的细 胞中安置直径约为两个纳米,长度约数毫米甚至数厘米的细长的 DNA 分子,既要保证 这些 DNA 分子不被细胞内随处可见的酶类或其他具"腐蚀性"的分子所破坏,又要保 证在需要的时候方便地"读出"存储在 DNA 分子中的信息。为此,DNA 分子都是以 互补序列的形式成对地出现在细胞中——生物进化的又一个选择——这些序列互补的 DNA 分子在化学作用力的控制下形成双螺旋,把碱基保护起来:互补的碱基通过氢键 配对,成对的碱基通过碱基环平面间的相互作用而层层堆积,层层堆积的配对碱基在糖 基-磷酸链的制约下形成不同的双螺旋,双螺旋是这些不同相互作用力平衡的结果;这 些超螺旋再盘绕在组蛋白上并进一步装配成染色体。在遗传信息读出的时候,则应该有 相应的解旋过程。包含着众多大分子的细胞液当然不利于染色体和复制酶旋转,拖着长 长的 RNA 尾巴的转录酶如果因沿着 DNA 双螺旋移动而旋转起来,后果将是非常严重 的: 钓过鱼或织过毛衣的朋友都知道,解开打结的鱼线或毛线是多令人烦恼。所以,染 色体、复制酶和转录酶都基本上不移动,双螺旋的解旋也是局部的。解旋首先发生在有 较多 TA 配对的地方。这些地方配对力较弱,双螺旋也容易发生弯曲。当 DNA 双螺旋 穿过复制酶或转录酶时,后面的螺旋会越来越紧,这会阻碍复制或转录的继续讲行。细 胞解决这个问题的方法是配置"拓扑酶"。拓扑酶在双螺旋因缠得太紧而有较大应力的 地方,把 DNA 双链切断,重新联接,以释放扭缠太紧产生的应力。这个在钓鱼人或毛 衣专家看来最愚蠢的办法,在细胞中却是用得很好。

了解了上述基本点和基本事实,就不难理解为什么要有这么一本专门讲述 DNA 分子结构的教科书。多细胞生物的各种复杂的器官都是由高度分化的细胞组成的。在每一个个体中的各种细胞,不论它们是多么的不同,不管是覆盖我们身体的外皮细胞,还是

负责思维的脑细胞,甚至是引起疾病的癌细胞,都包含相同的 DNA 分子。不同的细胞要接收来自环境和其他细胞的信息以决定自己的发育进程。正是这个进程的失控,才产生了具有异常分裂能力的癌变细胞。直接控制发育进程的就是控制细胞生长的什么阶段表达什么基因的各种调控蛋白,其作用取决于其与特定 DNA 序列的结合。显然,在基因组测序已经自动化的今天,基因表达的调控,什么基因,在哪些细胞内,在什么时间,以何种强度表达,就成了主要问题。这个问题涉及到生物学和生命科学的各个分支,深入了解 DNA 分子结构是了解调控蛋白与特定 DNA 序列结合的基础。

对于原先从事物理学或化学研究的研究者,本书是进入生物学的入门教材之一。通过本书他们可以从已经熟悉的概念——分子开始,逐步了解遗传信息的存储、复制和转录的分子机制。不仅如此,他们还可以了解到,在热力学平衡态下形成的分子结构,如何构成了生物体复杂结构的基础。细胞内各种功能性的复合体由具有各种特殊形状的分子复合而成,当有适当的原材料供应,这些复合体就会将原材料加工成产品。这是"分子机器"一词的来源。DNA 与蛋白质的复合物——染色体是储存遗传信息的部件。当核酸聚合酶插入 DNA 双链,就形成了遗传信息复制或转录的机器。对于在这个过程中所遇到的由于螺旋形状引起的几何学问题,本书都作了详尽的论述。

对于初具一般科学知识的读者来说,本书也是容易理解的。本书不仅语言通俗易懂,对于稍有深度的问题,都有简明的图解,即使对染色体那样的复杂结构,整体上采用了由简到繁,由浅人深的论述方式。所以本书很适合对于专业自然科学知识了解不深的读者了解物质运动的多样性和复杂性,认识物质运动由简单到复杂过程中的一个环节。这些读者可能对结构问题有一些片断的了解,知道一些关于非平衡热力学耗散结构的科普知识,可能认为自然界的"序"都起源于耗散结构。通过阅读本书,这些读者将会了解到,细胞内各种分子机器,是由分子组装起来的,这些分子的特殊结构是在热力学平衡态下形成的,与"耗散结构"并没有关系。

最后需要一提的是词汇的翻译问题。对飞速发展的现代科学,我们仍然处在不断学习的过程中。对于不断出现的科学词汇,如何翻译成中文,在一定程度上或多或少地反映了我们对相关科学问题的理解。"Epigenetics"一词译者尝试性地将它译为"外遗传学"。因为本书的作者们明确指出,"Epi"是"out of"或"in addition to"的意思。"经典遗传学"指遗传学中认为遗传信息存储在四种不同碱基的排列顺序中,"外遗传学"指碱基化学修饰的遗传学后果,包括信息表达和遗传。所以,"外遗传学"涉及DNA分子化学结构的改变,而不仅仅是"表观"遗传学的改变。外遗传学的存在,使遗传信息的储存在某种程度上复杂化了,偏离了信息存储的密码方式。

曾宗浩 中国科学院生物物理研究所 2006 年 10 月于北京

早期版本评语选

本书以精彩、崭新而富有洞察力的眼光系统而深入地分析了 DNA 结构。本书试图系统地从最简单、最基本的原理着手,彻底地理解 DNA 这一奇妙分子……我极力地推荐它。

Trends in Genetics

我们常常见到 DNA 结构,以至于想当然地认为这个分子只能是一个美不胜收的盘旋的双螺旋。但是它为什么会有这样漂亮的结构?本书对这个问题和其他类似的难以回答的问题,给以绝对令人满意的答案。"深人理解 DNA"是一本优秀的书,肯定会是一本富有价值的教学参考书。

The Biochemist

本书的众多优势之一,在于对某些难以理解的概念所做的清楚的解释,以及在阐述某些问题时所采用的新颖的思路,这些都将引发读者重新思考 DNA 结构的一些问题。我喜欢这本书,也鼓励所有从事 DNA 研究的同事一读。

Heredity

以现代漂亮的手法、用层层递近的逻辑达到主题。高年级本科生将会从中受益的一本书,专家们也会从中受到启发。

Nature

权威而且清楚易懂。

Aaron Klug

(曾宗浩 译)

封面图的说明

封面图显示的是由果蝇染色体的一个称为"HMG-D"的蛋白(尿促性素 D-译者注)和与之紧密结合的一段特定的 DNA 序列所组成的复合物。

DNA 双螺旋的两股核酸链分别用白色和黄色显示,而蛋白质则用红色并只简略地显示主链。

在这个复合物中,DNA 严重弯曲,但没有扭缠,这个可以被调控蛋白识别并特异性结合的三维结构很好地说明了我们对 DNA 分子生物功能的现代理解。

除了众所周知的记录在四个碱基 A, T, C 和 G 的顺序中的一维的遗传密码以外, DNA 结构本身也包含重要的信息。

(曾宗浩 译)

The cover picture shows a complex between a protein called 'HMG-D' from fly chromosomes, and a particular sequence of DNA to which it binds strongly.

The two strands of double-helical DNA are shown in white and yellow respectively, while the protein is shown with less detail in red.

The strongly curved and untwisted structure of DNA in this complex illustrates our modern understanding of the molecule's biological action, in terms of its three-dimensional structure, which may be recognized and bound specifically by a regulatory protein.

Thus the DNA structure itself contains important information, in addition to the well-known one-dimensional Genetic Code written in the sequence of bases A, T, C and G.

作者介绍

Chris Calladine 是剑桥大学退休的结构力学荣誉教授。除了研究结构工程的许多领域之外,他应用结构力学方法来研究细菌鞭毛、DNA 和蛋白质。

Horace Drew 在加州理工学院与 Richard Dickerson —起解出了第一个 DNA 晶体的 几个 X 射线结构,随后在英格兰剑桥的医学研究会(MRC)分子生物学实验室与 Aaron Klug —起花了 5 年时间研究 DNA 和染色体结构。他现在居住在澳大利亚,是澳大利亚科学与工业研究院(CSIRO)悉尼实验室分子科学的首席研究科学家。

Ben Luisi 与剑桥的 Max Perutz 一起研究过血红蛋白结构,也在耶鲁大学和 Paul Sigler 研究过蛋白质 – DNA 相互作用。他现在是剑桥大学生物化学系的维康基金会 (Wellcome Trust) 资深研究员。

Andrew Travers 是英格兰剑桥 MRC 分子生物学实验室的成员科学家。他研究过细菌和果蝇中的转录控制、DNA 在核小体中的缠绕和细胞中尿促性素(HMG)蛋白的功用。

(曾宗浩 译)

About the authors

Chris Calladine is Emeritus Professor of Structural Mechanics at the University of Cambridge. In addition to researching many aspects of structural engineering, he has applied the methods of structural mechanics to the study of bacterial flagella, DNA and proteins.

Horace Drew solved several of the first DNA crystal X-ray structures with Richard Dickerson at Caltech, and subsequently spent 5 years researching DNA and chromosome structures with Aaron Klug at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England. He now lives in Australia and is a Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Molecular Science, Sydney Laboratory.

Ben Luisi studied hemoglobin structure with Max Perutz in Cambridge, and protein–DNA interactions with Paul Sigler at Yale University. He is a Wellcome Trust Senior Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge.

Andrew Travers is a staff scientist at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England. He has studied transcriptional control in bacteria and flies, the wrapping of DNA in nucleosomes, and the role of HMG proteins in cells.

我们现在认识到分子生物学并不是生物体系中的一个平凡的部分。它处于整个体系的中心。生命的几乎所有方面都是在分子水平上构建的,并且如果没有对分子的理解,我们对生命本身就只能有大略的了解。直到在分子水平上得到证实以前,在较高水平上的任何研究方法都会受到怀疑。

Francis Crick,《狂热的追求》, 1998

这是一本关于地球上所有生命运转最核心物质——DNA 的书。它是一本阐释 DNA 如何在分子水平上工作的书。我们的书取名为《深入理解 DNA······》,因为我们的研究 水平已经达到使我们能够对其主要思想给以很清晰的表述的程度。但是不能否认,还有 大量未知的和尚未理解的东西存在。

这本书可以在两个不同的水平上阅读。首先,它可以作为大学化学系和生物系本科生和研究生易于阅读的教科书。其次,不具备基本的生物化学知识,但是希望了解生命的某些基本过程的一般公众,也可以阅读。我们所指的一般公众是那些通过科普杂志、报纸和电视节目,对 DNA 有所了解的人。例如,他们知道 DNA 含有经典遗传学中的"基因"——即遗传的单位,它能够把遗传特征从父母传递给孩子,这些遗传特征包括诸如红头发或长鼻子,甚至是对镰状细胞贫血或地中海贫血等疾病的易感性。他们也可能知道,DNA 是一个很长的分子,如像计算机的程序带(译者注:上世纪 80 年代以前的计算机没有现在用的键盘式输入设备,计算程序要像电报码那样用特殊的穿孔纸带输入)——这条纸带告诉我们的身体如何生长,如何消化食物,以及(也有可能)如何行动。如果是在参加像类似知识抢答那样的游戏时,他们甚至可能知道缩写"DNA"代表"Deoxyribo-Nucleic Acid"(脱氧核糖核酸),100 多年前首次在细胞中鉴别出来的某种有机酸。像这样的好奇心强,想知道更多东西的人,将会从本书中学习到大量关于DNA 分子是如何在我们身体内,在分子水平上行使其功能的知识。

本书的第三版有 11 章。第 1 章是对分子生物学的简要介绍,是为非专业读者所写的。对生物学有所了解的学生可以略过这一章。第 2、3 和 4 章讲述 DNA 分子结构的各个方面,比如它为何是螺旋的以及它如何能缠绕在蛋白质上。这些是在其他教科书中没有的基本材料。第 5 和第 6 章在较高的层次上讨论三维结构。这些章节包括某些数学和几何学知识,非专业人士和生物系学生对这些内容可能是不熟悉的;但我们尽可能地用清晰的图来展示关键的思想。第 7 章从整体的角度介绍染色体。这些染色体是包含蛋白质和 DNA 的大颗粒,颗粒中 DNA 在蛋白质上缠绕成若干层次的结构。第 8 章讨论蛋白质对 DNA 序列的"直接阅读"机制。这是自 1992 年第一版问世以来经过了大量扩展的部分。第 9 章解释科学家用来研究 DNA 的各种实验技术。第 10 章描述使 DNA 在医药中得到越来越广泛应用的方法,而第 11 章是本书新版才有的,总结正在迅速发展的胞嘧啶甲基化和 DNA 外遗传学。我们以一篇列出本书中所没有包括的内容的后记

作为结束,然后是涉及太过详细不宜在正文中讲述的内容的附录。大多数章节的结尾都附有正文中参考过的文献目录;我们还为学生提供了便于深入学习的阅读书目,以及与网络资源的链接点。第3版显著地更新了参考目录。在大多数章节的结尾我们也提供了一些练习。

除了以上提到的以外,我们对两个早期版本作了许多改变。这样,我们在需要的地方更新了正文和图片,特别是第 7、10 章和附录。我们作者队伍中的两个新成员 B. F. L. 和 A. A. T. 在这些更新中起了主要的作用。跟早期的版本一样,我们尝试使用平易的英语,尽量少用可能会使读者感到困惑的行话或术语。

《深人理解 DNA: DNA 分子以及它是如何工作的》作为一本小型教科书应该与现今大学生物化学系广泛采用的大部头的普通教科书一起使用,或者,只要学生有生物学背景并渴求更详细地阅读科技文献,它也可以作为专门讲述 DNA 结构的主要教材。再或者,当然它也可以仅仅作为一本书来读。

许多朋友和同事以各种不同方式对本书的准备提供了大量的帮助。我们特别要感谢Nick Cozzarelli,Mustafa El Hassan,Malcolm Ferguson-Smith,John Finch,Robert Henderson,Ron Hill,Chris Hunter,Maxine McCall,Garth Nicholson,Dinshaw Patel,Tim Richmond,Masashi Suzuki,David Tremethick,Takeshi Urayama 和 Sue Whytock,他们提供了我们使用的照片和图片等;感谢Dick Dickerson 提供了 X 射线结构的数据;感谢 Aaron Klug,John Melki,Kiyoshi Nagai,Daniela Rhodes,Deidre Scadden,Chris Smith,Jean Thomas 和 Michael Waring,他们坦率地评阅了本版及以前版本的的各种草稿;感谢已故的 Julian Wells,他最先鼓励我们写一本关于 DNA 的书。我们感谢 Japan Graphers 和 Kyoritsu Shuppan 两家公司(我们第一个版本的日文版的出版商),它们提供了每章开头的图标;感谢 Elliott Stollar 对封面照片提供的帮助。Tessa Picknett 一直不断地给以编辑方面的参谋和鼓励。Caryn Wilkinson 在校对和草稿录人盘片方面,Dennis Halls 在更新和制作更多图片方面的工作已不能用言语来赞扬。最后我们要感谢我们各自的妻子 Mary,Maxine,Sandra 和 Carrie 多年来照顾孩子们;我们把这个新版本献给他们以表谢意。

(曾宗浩 译)

Preface

We also now appreciate that molecular biology is not a trivial aspect of biological systems. It is at the heart of the matter. Almost all aspects of life are engineered at the molecular level, and without understanding molecules we can only have a very sketchy understanding of life itself. All approaches at a higher level are suspect until confirmed at the molecular level.

Francis Crick, What Mad Pursuit, 1988

This is a book about DNA, the most central substance in the workings of all life on Earth. It is a book about the way in which DNA works at a molecular level. We have used the title *Understanding DNA*... because our subject has now reached the stage where many aspects of it are well enough understood for us to be able to give a clear and uncluttered presentation of the main ideas. But we shall not disguise the fact that there is still a great deal which is not known or understood.

The book can be read at two different levels. First, it can be taken as an easy-to-read textbook for undergraduate or graduate students of chemistry and biology at university. Second, it may be read by ordinary people who have no prior knowledge of biochemistry, but who want to understand something of the fundamental processes of life. The sort of people we have in mind here are those who have learned something about DNA from popular magazines, newspapers, and TV programs. They know, for example, that DNA contains the 'genes' of classical genetics - those units of inheritance which pass on characteristics such as red hair or a long nose from parent to child, or even crippling diseases such as sickle-cell anemia or thalassemia. They probably also know that DNA is a long molecule, like a computer tape – the tape which tells our bodies how to grow and how to digest food and (perhaps) how to behave. And they may even know, if they are into quiz games and the like, that the initials 'DNA' stand for 'Deoxyribo-Nucleic Acid,' a certain kind of acid found in the cell nucleus, which was first identified over 100 years ago. People like this, who are curious to know more, will be able to

learn a lot from this book about how DNA performs its tasks in our bodies at a molecular level.

This third edition of the book comprises 11 chapters. Chapter 1 is a general introduction to molecular biology: it is aimed at the nonspecialist reader, and so it may be passed over by a student who already knows some biology. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 give some lessons about various aspects of the molecular structure of DNA, such as why it is helical, and how it can bend around proteins; this is basic material, which is nevertheless not vet available in other textbooks. Chapters 5 and 6 discuss the three-dimensional structure of DNA at a higher level. These chapters include some mathematics and geometry that may be unfamiliar to non-specialists and biology students; but we take care to present the key ideas by means of clear diagrams wherever possible. Chapter 7 gives an overview of the organization of chromosomes, which are large particles that contain both protein and DNA: there the DNA wraps about the protein into several different levels of structure. Chapter 8 discusses the mechanism of 'direct reading' of DNA sequences by proteins: this is an area that has expanded greatly since the first edition appeared in 1992. Chapter 9 explains the various experimental techniques which scientists use to study DNA. Chapter 10 describes the way in which DNA techniques are increasingly being used in medicine; while Chapter 11, which is new to this edition, summarizes the fast-growing area of cytosine methylation and DNA epigenetics. We end with a Postscript on what we have left out, followed by three Appendices on matters too detailed for the main part of the book. At the end of most chapters we give a bibliography of works to which we have referred in the text; and we provide some further reading for the student, and also some pointers to web-based resources. We have substantially updated the reference lists for this third edition. We have also supplied a few exercises at the end of most chapters.

We have made many changes from the two earlier editions apart from those mentioned above. Thus, we have updated the text and figures where necessary, particularly in Chapters 7 to 10 and the Appendices: the two new members of our author team, B.F.L. and A.A.T., have played a major part in these revisions. As in the earlier editions, we have tried to write in plain English, with minimum use of jargon which might confuse the reader.

Understanding DNA: the molecule & how it works should be suitable as a small text to accompany the very large, general textbooks which are now used widely in university biochemistry courses; or else it may be employed as a main text for a course specializing in DNA structure, provided the students have a background in biology and are willing to pursue more detailed readings in the

scientific literature, as suggested. Or, of course, it may just be read as a book.

Many friends and colleagues have helped us greatly in various ways in the preparation of this book. We are grateful to Nick Cozzarelli, Mustafa El Hassan, Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, John Finch, Robert Henderson, Ron Hill, Chris Hunter, Maxine McCall, Garth Nicholson, Dinshaw Patel, Tim Richmond, Masashi Suzuki, David Tremethick, Takeshi Urayama and Sue Whytock for providing photographs and diagrams etc. which we have used; to Dick Dickerson for giving us data on X-ray structures; to Aaron Klug, John Melki, Kiyoshi Nagai, Daniela Rhodes, Deidre Scadden, Chris Smith, Jean Thomas and Michael Waring for commenting freely on various drafts of the manuscript of the previous and the present edition; and to the late Julian Wells for encouraging us in the first place to write a book on DNA. We are grateful to Japan Graphers and Kyoritsu Shuppan Co., Ltd (publishers of the Japanese version of our first edition) for the chapter opening icons, and to Elliott Stollar for help with the cover picture. Tessa Picknett has been a constant source of editorial advice and encouragement. The work of Caryn Wilkinson in revising and adding to the manuscript disk, and of Dennis Halls in updating and making more diagrams, has been beyond praise. Lastly we thank our respective wives, Mary, Maxine, Sandra and Carrie for their help of many kinds over the years; and we dedicate this new edition to them with gratitude.

C.R.C. H.R.D. B.F.L. A.A.T. Cambridge Sydney Cambridge Cambridge

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* 译者	往:	supercoil, supercoiling 常译为"超螺旋"。但"coil",并不单指螺旋这样一种盘绕方式。	

(曾宗浩 译)

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CHAPTER 1



One day two of us were having lunch together at a Cambridge College. We got into a conversation with one of our neighbors at the table, who was a senior historian. After a while he asked us what we did, and we explained that we were scientists, working with the very tiny molecules of biology. Then he said, 'I don't see how you do it'.

'Do what?'

'Work all the time with things that you can't see'.

You see, even people of great intelligence and learning, who spend their lives gathering evidence and pondering it deeply, nevertheless think in ways very different from those of modern biologists; it is hard for them to imagine what atoms and molecules look like. How hard will it be, then, for the beginning student to do the same?

For this reason it is necessary for us to start this book by explaining carefully about the *sizes* of things. A single DNA molecule is too small to be seen by eye. But if you have a big clump of lots of DNA molecules together, then the substance becomes visible, and appears as a clean, white, stringy, and viscous mass, somewhat like molasses sugar. Yet, you *can* see single DNA molecules by using special equipment involving X-rays, or an electron microscope, or an atomic force microscope; and we shall show some pictures of individual DNA molecules later in the chapter.

But first, in order to gain an intuitive feeling for the microscopic world, let us compare the size of DNA to the sizes of things in general, and especially to the sizes of other things that are too small to be seen by the naked eye. Figure 1.1 shows a scale of typical sizes. It is a logarithmic scale, and each division represents a factor of 10. The scale (on the left) covers 10 orders of magnitude from 1 m down to $0.000\,000\,000\,1$ or 10^{-10} m. Near the top we have the largest objects

2 Understanding DNA

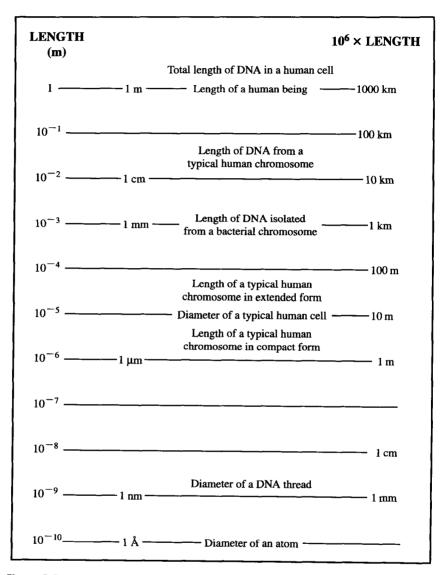


Figure 1.1 The relative lengths of things on a microscopic scale.

that we shall be thinking about: human beings are roughly 1 m long, as an order of magnitude. At the bottom of the scale are the smallest objects that we shall be concerned with: atoms, which are typically of diameter $10^{-10} \mathrm{m}$ (or 1 Ångstrom unit, Å). Exactly halfway between these two extremes, on the present kind of scale, we have the diameter of a typical human cell at about $10^{-5} \mathrm{m}$ or $10 \, \mu \mathrm{m}$.

Some things are larger than a cell on our scale, while others are smaller. It is perhaps surprising that the length of DNA isolated in