

Preface

When I was asked whether I could write a book on the translation system, I thought it would be an interesting challenge. Now I know better; it is an almost impossible task to catch a rapidly moving target. Sometimes, it has felt like trying to get to the top of a mountain against the avalanche of new relevant literature that has moved me further and further from the goal, a finished book.

The targetted audience is anyone, undergraduate or graduate students and researchers, who privately or in doing a course, would like to get a summary of the structural knowledge of the translation system. I realize that it is a biased representation, partly due to my inability to cover the vast and rapidly growing literature. Space also necessitates a limited coverage. I have restricted the material to bacterial translation with only a few excursions into the other domains of life. Many of the black and white illustrations are cartoon-like, attempting to describe aspects of translation in the simplest way I could. The color plates are selected from the scientific literature to give correct structural representations. I am very grateful to authors and publishers for permissions to reproduce these illustrations.

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Anders Liljas
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