

**P847: Readings on RNA (To be discussed in class Sept 18)**

Read the two RNA papers posted on the website.

1) Schuster P, Fontana W, Stadler P and Hofacker I. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B* **255**, 279 (1994).

2) Liphardt J, Onoa B, Smith S, Tinoco Jr I, Bustamante C. *Science* **292**, 733 (2001).

The first covers the folding of random RNA sequences and the resulting statistics. It first raised notions of 'designability' of structure as well as the existence of large neutral paths in the evolution of a structure. The 2<sup>nd</sup> paper is a classic on the energetics/kinetics of RNA folding as studied by optical tweezers.

Come prepared to discuss each figure. Are the results sound? what are the conclusions? what questions remain unanswered?