

# “Code Biology Database – A List of Biological Codes”

Compiled and updated by

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Number	Code Name	Descriptive Name(s)	Full Citation(s), Hyperlinked to Source
1	14-3-3 code	The 14-3-3 Protein (Phosphorylation Code) <b>SEE also <a href="#">Phosphorylation Code</a></b>	<a href="#">Winter, S., Simboeck, E., Fischle, W., Zupkovitz, G., Dohnal, I., Mechtler, K., . . . Seiser, C. (2008). 14-3-3 Proteins recognize a histone code at histone H3 and are required for transcriptional activation. <i>Embo j</i>, 27(1), 88-99.</a>
2	Acoustic code	The Acoustic Codes	<p><a href="#">Farina, A. and N. Pieretti (2014). "Acoustic Codes in Action in a Soundscape Context." <i>Biosemiotics</i> 7(2): 321-328.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Malavasi, R., K. Kull and A. Farina (2014). "The Acoustic Codes: How Animal Sign Processes Create Sound-Topes and Consortia via Conflict Avoidance." <i>Biosemiotics</i> 7(1): 89-95.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Curé, C., N. Mathevon and T. Aubin (2016). "Mate vocal recognition in the Scopoli's shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>: do females and males share the same acoustic code?" <i>Behav Processes</i> 128: 96-102.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Farina, A. (2018). "Ecoacoustic codes and ecological complexity." <i>Biosystems</i> 164: 147-154.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Farina, A. (2019). "Acoustic codes from a rural sanctuary: How ecoacoustic events operate across a landscape scale." <i>Biosystems</i> 183: 103986.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Farina, A., &amp; Villa, A. E. P. (2023). On the semantics of ecoacoustic codes. <i>Biosystems</i>, 232, 105002.</a></p>
3	Actin code	The Actin Code <b>SEE also <a href="#">Cytoskeleton Code</a></b>	<p><a href="#">Vedula, P. and A. Kashina (2018). "The makings of the 'actin code': regulation of actin's biological function at the amino acid and nucleotide level." <i>J Cell Sci</i> 131(9).</a></p> <p><a href="#">A, M., Latario, C. J., Pickrell, L. E., &amp; Higgs, H. N. (2020). Lysine acetylation of cytoskeletal proteins: Emergence of an actin code. <i>Journal of Cell Biology</i>, 219(12).</a></p>
4	Adenylation code	The Adenylation Code	<p><a href="#">Stachelhaus, T., H. D. Mootz and M. A. Marahiel (1999). "The specificity-conferring code of adenylation domains in nonribosomal peptide synthetases." <i>Chem Biol</i> 6(8): 493-505.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Davis, R. and Y. Shi (2014). "The polyadenylation code: a unified model for the regulation of mRNA alternative polyadenylation." <i>J Zhejiang UnivSci B</i> 15(5): 429-437.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Zhang, F., Y. Wang, Q. Jiang, Q. Chen, L. Karthik, Y.-L. Zhao and Z. Li (2018). "Substrate selection of adenylation domains for nonribosomal peptide synthetase (NRPS) in bacillamide C biosynthesis by marine <i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i> C89." <i>Journal of Industrial Microbiology &amp; Biotechnology</i> 45(5): 335-344.</a></p>

5	Adhesion code	<p>The Adhesion Code  <b>SEE also <a href="#">Synaptic code(s)</a></b>  <b>SEE also <a href="#">Cadherin code(s)</a></b></p>	<p><a href="#">Bedzhov, I., Alotaibi, H., Basilicata, M. F., Ahlborn, K., Liszewska, E., Brabletz, T., &amp; Stemmler, M. P. (2013). Adhesion, but not a specific cadherin code, is indispensable for ES cell and induced pluripotency. Stem Cell Research, 11(3), 1250-1263.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Faria, M. (2018). "Aggregating, polarizing, networking – The evolution of cell adhesion codes." Biosystems 164: 60-67.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tsai, T. Y., M. Sikora, P. Xia, T. Colak-Champollion, H. Knaut, C. P. Heisenberg and S. G. Megason (2020). "An adhesion code ensures robust pattern formation during tissue morphogenesis." Science 370(6512): 113-116.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ferreira-Pinto, M., Aguilar-Aragón, M., Rhiner, C., &amp; Moreno, E. (2026). Hbs and Rst adhesion molecules provide a regional code that regulates cell elimination during epithelial remodeling. iScience, 29(3).</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ko, J. (2026). A decade of discovery: Deciphering the synaptic adhesion code. Mol Cells, 49(5), 100341.</a></p>
6	Allosteric code -A (hemoglobin)	<p>The Allosteric Code Hemoglobin</p>	<p><a href="#">Ackers, G. K., Doyle, M. L., Myers, D., &amp; Daugherty, M. A. (1992). Molecular Code for Cooperativity in Hemoglobin. Science, 255(5040), 54-63.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Edelstein, S. J. (1996). "An allosteric theory for hemoglobin incorporating asymmetric states to test the putative molecular code for cooperativity." J Mol Biol 257(4): 737-744.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ackers, G. K. (1998). Deciphering the Molecular Code of Hemoglobin Allostery. In E. Di Cera (Ed.), Advances in Protein Chemistry (Vol. 51, pp. 185-253). Academic Press.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Daugherty, M. A., M. A. Shea, J. A. Johnson, V. J. LiCata, G. J. Turner and G. K. Ackers (1991). "Identification of the intermediate allosteric species in human hemoglobin reveals a molecular code for cooperative switching." Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 88(4): 1110-1114.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Goldbeck, R. A., Esquerra, R. M., Holt, J. M., Ackers, G. K., &amp; Kliger, D. S. (2004). The molecular code for hemoglobin allostery revealed by linking the thermodynamics and kinetics of quaternary structural change. 1. Microstate linear free energy relations. Biochemistry, 43(38), 12048-12064.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Goldbeck, R. A., R. M. Esquerra, D. S. Kliger, J. M. Holt and G. K. Ackers (2004). "The molecular code for hemoglobin allostery revealed by linking the thermodynamics and kinetics of quaternary structural change. 2. Cooperative free energies of (alphaFeCObetaFe)2 and (alphaFebetaFeCO)2 T-state tetramers." Biochemistry 43(38): 12065-12080.</a></p>

7	Allosteric code -B (miscellaneous)	The Allosteric Code Miscellaneous	<a href="#">Armour-Garb, I., I. S. M. Han, B. S. Cowan and K. M. Thayer (2022). "Variable Regions of p53 Isoforms Allosterically Hard Code DNA Interaction." J Phys Chem B.</a>
8	Alzheimer's code	The Alzheimer's Disease Code	<a href="#">Fan, F., Zhao, N., &amp; Guo, M. (2026). Lymphatic-venous anastomosis: Cracking the code of Alzheimer's disease treatment? Neural Regen Res, 21(6).</a>
9	Angiotensin code	The Angiotensin Receptor Code	<a href="#">Sadybekov, A. and V. Katritch (2020). "Breaking the Enigma Code of Angiotensin II Type 2 Receptor Signaling." Structure 28(4): 390-392.</a>
10	Annexin code	The Annexin Codes	<a href="#">Kietselaer, B. L., Narula, J., &amp; Hofstra, L. (2007). The Annexin code: revealing endocarditis. Eur Heart J, 28(8), 948.</a> <a href="#">Ganesan, T., Sinniah, A., Ramasamy, T. S., &amp; Alshawsh, M. A. (2024). Cracking the code of Annexin A1-mediated chemoresistance. Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 725, 150202.</a>
11	Antibiotic resistance code	The Antibiotic Resistance Codes	<a href="#">Lo, S. W., N. Kumar and N. E. Wheeler (2018). "Breaking the code of antibiotic resistance." Nat Rev Microbiol 16(5): 262.</a> <a href="#">Al Fadhli, A. H., Mouftah, S. F., Jamal, W. Y., Rotimi, V. O., &amp; Ghazawi, A. (2023). Cracking the Code: Unveiling the Diversity of Carbapenem-Resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae Clones in the Arabian Peninsula through Genomic Surveillance. Antibiotics, 12(7), 1081.</a>
12	Anticancer code	The Anticancer Codes	<a href="#">Pei, Z., Zhou, W., Zhong, M., Xi, R., Li, F., &amp; Li, H. (2025). Unlocking the anticancer code of gambogic acid: Multidimensional strategies to overcome tumor treatment challenges. Computers in Biology and Medicine, 197, 111044.</a>
13	Antigen code	The Antigen Codes <b>SEE also <a href="#">Immune code</a></b>	<a href="#">Krasilnikov, I., Lehnerr-Ilyina, T., Djonovic, M., Artamonova, I., Nikitin, M., &amp; Kislichkin, N. (2024). Cracking the antigenic code of mycobacteria: CFP-10/ESAT-6 tuberculosis skin test and misleading results. Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases, 36, 100436.</a>
14	Apoptosis code	The Apoptosis Code	<a href="#">Basañez, G. and J. M. Hardwick (2008). "Unravelling the bcl-2 apoptosis code with a simple model system." PLoSBiol 6(6): e154.</a> <a href="#">Füllgrabe, J., N. Hajji and B. Joseph (2010). "Cracking the death code: apoptosis-related histone modifications." Cell Death Differ 17(8): 1238-1243.</a> <a href="#">Biermann, M., C. Maueröder, J. M. Brauner, R. Chaurio, C. Janko, M. Herrmann and L. E. Muñoz (2013). "Surface code--biophysical signals for apoptotic cell clearance." Phys Biol 10(6): 065007.</a>

			<p><a href="#">Shih, H. C., M. El-Shazly, Y. S. Juan, C. Y. Chang, J. H. Su, Y. C. Chen, S. P. Shih, H. M. Chen, Y. C. Wu and M. C. Lu (2014). "Cracking the cytotoxicity code: apoptotic induction of 10-acetylirciformonin B is mediated through ROS generation and mitochondrial dysfunction." Mar Drugs 12(5): 3072-3090.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wook Choi, D. and C. Yong Choi (2014). "HIPK2 modification code for cell death and survival." Mol Cell Oncol 1(2): e955999.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Cavallaro, S. (2015). Cracking the code of neuronal apoptosis and survival. Cell Death Dis, 6(11), e1963-e1963.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Jiang, S., Y. Liu, B. Xu, Y. Zhang and M. Yang (2020). "Noncoding RNAs: New regulatory code in chondrocyte apoptosis and autophagy." Wiley Interdiscip Rev RNA 11(4): e1584.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rothlin, C. V. and S. Ghosh (2020). "Cracking the Cell Death Code." Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol 12(5).</a></p>
15	Archetype codes	The Archetype Codes	<p><a href="#">Bemowski, Karen (1995) Codes, cultural archetypes, and the collective cultural unconscious. Quality Progress; Milwaukee Vol 28, Issue 1, p33.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Major, J. C. (2021). "Archetypes and code biology." Biosystems 208: 104501.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Major, J. C. (2025). From code to archetype: Toward a unified theory of biological, neural, and artificial artifacts. Biosystems, 254, 105516.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Major, João Carlos, (2025) Jung 4.0 - The Code Architecture of the Archetype: Reframing Analytical Psychology through Code Biology. Available at SSRN.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Major, João Carlos, From Archetype-as-Code to the Code-Mediator-Artifact Framework: Empirical Extensions Across Biological, Neural, and Symbolic Systems (October 22, 2025). Available at SSRN.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sacco, Rob G., Marks-Tarlow, T., &amp; Beitman, Bernard D. (2026). Archetypes as Codes: Jungian Psychology, Biological Organization, and the Fractal Logic of Synchronicity. International Journal of Jungian Studies, 1-21.</a></p>
16	Area code	The Area / Cell Recognition Code	<p><a href="#">Hood, L., H. V. Huang and W. J. Dreyer (1977). "The area-code hypothesis: The immune system provides clues to understanding the genetic and molecular basis of cell recognition during development." Journal of Supramolecular Structure 7(3-4): 531-559.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Springer, T. A. (1993). "Signals on endothelium for lymphocyte recirculation and leukocyte emigration: the area code paradigm." Harvey Lect 89: 53-103.</a></p>

			<p><a href="#">Yoshihara, Y., &amp; Mori, K. (1994). Telencephalin: a neuronal area code molecule? Neuroscience Research, 21(2), 119-124.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dreyer, W. J. (1998). "The area code hypothesis revisited: olfactory receptors and other related transmembrane receptors may function as the last digits in a cell surface code for assembling embryos." Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 95(16): 9072-9077.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Liu, C. Y. (2020). "β7 Gives Tregs a Gut Area Code." Cell Mol Gastroenterol Hepatol 9(3): 543-544.</a></p>
17	Arrestin code	The Arrestin Receptor Code	<a href="#">Draper-Joyce, C. J. and A. Christopoulos (2018). "Strength in numbers-an arrestin interaction code." Nat Struct Mol Biol 25(6): 437-439.</a>
18	Assembly code	The Assembly Code	<a href="#">Shelton, C. L., D. G. Conrady and A. B. Herr (2017). "Functional consequences of B-repeat sequence variation in the staphylococcal biofilm protein Aap: deciphering the assembly code." Biochem J 474(3): 427-443.</a>
19	ATG8 code	The ATG8 Paralog Code	<a href="#">Choi, H., Lee, S. M., &amp; Lee, J. A. (2026). Decoding the brain's ATG8 paralog code: LC3-GABARAP specialization at synapses and the astrocyte-neuron interface. Front Cell Dev Biol, 14, 1762891.</a>
20	Auditory Code	The Auditory Codes	<p><a href="#">Middlebrooks, J. C. and E. I. Knudsen (1984). "A neural code for auditory space in the cat's superior colliculus." J Neurosci 4(10): 2621-2634.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Schwarz, D. W. and R. W. Tomlinson (1987). "A complex tone code in the auditory cortex." J Otolaryngol 16(5): 316-321.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sterbing, S. J., U. Schmidt and R. Rübsamen (1994). "The postnatal development of frequency-place code and tuning characteristics in the auditory midbrain of the phyllostomid bat, Carollia perspicillata." Hear Res 76(1-2): 133-146.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Thompson, V. A., &amp; Paivio, A. (1994). Memory for pictures and sounds: independence of auditory and visual codes. Can J Exp Psychol, 48(3), 380-398.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Schwarz, D. W., F. Tennigkeit, T. Adam, P. Finlayson and E. Puil (1998). "Membrane properties that shape the auditory code in three nuclei of the central nervous system." J Otolaryngol 27(6): 311-317.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Lalwani, A. K. and C. M. Castelein (1999). "Cracking the auditory genetic code: nonsyndromic hereditary hearing impairment." Am J Otol 20(1): 115-132.</a></p> <p><a href="#">March, L., A. Cienfuegos, L. Goldbloom, W. Ritter, N. Cowan and D. C. Javitt (1999). "Normal time course of auditory recognition in schizophrenia, despite impaired precision of the auditory sensory ("echoic") memory code." J Abnorm Psychol 108(1): 69-75.</a></p>

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22	Auxin code	The Auxin Metabolism Code	<p><a href="#">Campos, M. L. (2021). "Breaking the code of auxin metabolism: an additional role for DIOXYGENASE FOR AUXIN OXIDATION 1." <i>Plant Physiol</i> 187(1): 7-8.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Martin-Arevalillo, R., &amp; Vernoux, T. (2023). Decoding the Auxin Matrix: Auxin Biology Through the Eye of the Computer. <i>Annu Rev Plant Biol</i>, 74(Volume 74, 2023), 387-413.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Martin-Arevalillo, R., Guillotin, B., Schön, J., Hugues, A., Gerentes, M.-F., Tang, K., . . . Vernoux, T. (2025). Synthetic deconvolution of an auxin-dependent transcriptional code. <i>Cell</i>, 188(11), 2872-2889.e2824.</a></p>
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119	Eukaryogenesis codes	The Eukaryogenesis Codes	<p><a href="#">Igamberdiev, A. U. (2025). The development of code systems during eukaryogenesis and the rise of multicellularity. Biosystems, 255, 105546.</a></p>
120	Event codes	Neural Event Tracking Code	<p><a href="#">Collin, S. H. P., Kempner, R. P., Srivatsan, S., &amp; Norman, K. A. (2025). Neural codes track prior events in a narrative and predict subsequent memory for details. Communications Psychology, 3(1), 26.</a></p>
121	Export / Exit code	The Export & Exit Codes	<p><a href="#">Nishimura, N., S. Bannykh, S. Slabough, J. Matteson, Y. Altschuler, K. Hahn and W. E. Balch (1999). "A di-acidic (DXE) code directs concentration of cargo during export from the endoplasmic reticulum." J Biol Chem 274(22): 15937-15946.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wang, X., J. Matteson, Y. An, B. Moyer, J. S. Yoo, S. Bannykh, I. A. Wilson, J. R. Riordan and W. E. Balch (2004). "COPII-dependent export of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator from the ER uses a di-acidic exit code." J Cell Biol 167(1): 65-74.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Roy, G., Chalfin, E. M., Saxena, A., &amp; Wang, X. (2010). Interplay between ER Exit Code and Domain Conformation in CFTR Misprocessing and Rescue. Mol Biol Cell, 21(4), 597-609.</a></p>
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126	Fiber code	The Fiber Code	<a href="#">Dong, Y. (2026). The fiber code: AI predicts HCC in MASLD. Hepatology, 83(3).</a>
127	Fibrogenic code	The Fibrogenic Code <b>SEE also <a href="#">Inflammation Codes</a></b>	<a href="#">Friedersdorf, M., &amp; Diehl, A. M. (2021). Inflammation Writes the Fibrogenic Code. Cell Mol Gastroenterol Hepatol, 12(3), 1147-1148.</a>
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149	Hearing code	The Hearing Code	<p><a href="#">Cremers, C. W. (2000). "Hearing: cracking the code." J Laryngol Otol 114(1): 6-16.</a></p>
150	Hepatocyte code	The Hepatocyte Code <b>SEE also <a href="#">Stem Cell Code</a></b> <b>SEE also <a href="#">Transcription Factor Code</a></b>	<p><a href="#">Willenbring, H. (2011). A simple code for installing hepatocyte function. Cell Stem Cell, 9(2), 89-91.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rombaut, M., Boeckmans, J., Rodrigues, R. M., van Grunsven, L. A., Vanhaecke, T., &amp; De Kock, J. (2021). Direct reprogramming of somatic cells into induced hepatocytes: Cracking the Enigma code. J Hepatol, 75(3), 690-705.</a></p>
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