

Article

Not peer-reviewed version

Fully Complementary Interactions of Human mRNA Genes with miRNAs

[Anatolij Ivashchenko](#)*, [Anna Pyrkova](#), Saltanat Orazova, [Raigul Niyazova](#)

Posted Date: 9 February 2026

doi: 10.20944/preprints202602.0592.v1

Keywords: miRNA; mRNA; human genes; nucleotides; complementary interactions



Preprints.org is a free multidisciplinary platform providing preprint service that is dedicated to making early versions of research outputs permanently available and citable. Preprints posted at Preprints.org appear in Web of Science, Crossref, Google Scholar, Scilit, Europe PMC.

Copyright: This open access article is published under a [Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license](#), which permit the free download, distribution, and reuse, provided that the author and preprint are cited in any reuse.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.

Article

Fully Complementary Interactions of Human mRNA Genes with miRNAs

Anatoliy Ivashchenko ^{1,2,*}, Anna Pyrkova ^{2,3}, Saltanat Orazova ^{1,2} and Raigul Niyazova ^{1,2}

¹ Department of Biotechnology, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty 050040, Kazakhstan

² Center for Bioinformatics and Nanomedicine, Almaty 050040, Kazakhstan

³ Department of Computer Sciences, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty 050040, Kazakhstan

* Correspondence: a.iavashchenko@gmail.com; Tel.: +7 7017236446

Abstract

miRNA has been studied for over 30 years, but the interaction of miRNA with mRNA has not been sufficiently studied to date. Problems in this area of research include the lack of adequate methods for predicting the characteristics of miRNA-mRNA interactions, and wet lab experiments are many times more labor-intensive and time-consuming. The aim of this study was to determine the characteristics of fully complementary interactions of miRNAs from the 2568 miRNAs of the NCBI database with mRNAs of 17508 protein-coding genes using the MirTarget program. It was found that mRNA from 384 genes have binding sites (BS) with 89 miRNAs. miR-619-5p has 220 BSs in mRNA from 201 genes. mRNA from 17 genes has two BSs of miR-619-5p and mRNA of the *CACNG8* gene has three BSs. Three mRNAs contained miR-619-5p BSs in the 5'UTR, only one gene had a CDS, and the remaining BSs were in the 3'UTR. miR-5096 binds to the mRNAs of 45 genes, 12 of which also bound miR-619-5p. *IL18* mRNA bound two miR-5096s. MiR-1273f targeted 12 genes, miR-1273g-3p targeted nine genes, and miR-1273h-5p targeted four genes. MiR-1548ap-3p, miR-1285ap-5p, and miR-4478 each had four target genes. Several pairs of miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p were identified that bind to mRNAs of the *RTL*, *CCDC42B*, *FOXF2*, *GLYCTK*, *KAA2026*, and *LPPR3* genes. The highest free energy of interaction was found for miR-4665-3p (-159 kJ/mole), miR-1-356-5p (-146 kJ/mole), and miR-1-155-3p (-138 kJ/mole). miRNAs from the NCBI database can significantly suppress the translation of many mRNAs.

Keywords: miRNA; mRNA; human genes; nucleotides; complementary interactions

1. Introduction

miRNA (mRNA inhibiting RNA) that bind to mRNA of genes and suppress protein synthesis were discovered more than 30 years ago [1]. Nanosized miRNAs, ranging in length from 18 nucleotides (5.8 nanometers) to 25 nucleotides (8.5 nanometers), are involved in the regulation of the synthesis of many proteins and likely regulate the expression of most cellular genes [2–7]. Identifying miRNA target genes in wet assays is costly and time-consuming. Many computer programs have been proposed that, unfortunately, predict false-positive miRNA target genes. Therefore, many publications have essentially only established correlations between changes in miRNA concentration and the amount of synthesized protein or disease development. Since many diseases are associated with disrupted expression of protein-coding genes, the involvement of miRNA in these processes requires studying the direct interaction of miRNA with mRNA, preferably with quantitative characteristics of this interaction. The use of inadequate methods for establishing specific miRNA-mRNA relationships involved in these processes has not led to the development of reliable diagnostic and therapeutic methods using miRNA. The goal of this study is to demonstrate that many miRNAs can interact fully complementarily with mRNA and, therefore, can play an important role in regulating human genome expression.

2. Materials and Methods

The nucleotide (nt) sequence of 17,508 genes were downloaded from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>, 2020). The nucleotide sequences of 2567 miRNAs were taken from NCBI (<http://mirbase.org>). The miRNA binding sites (BSs) in mRNA were predicted using the MirTarget program [8]. This program predicts the following features of miRNA binding to mRNA: (a) the initiation of miRNA binding to the mRNA from the first nucleotide of the mRNA; (b) the localization of the miRNA BSs in the 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR), coding domain sequence (CDS), and 3'-untranslated region (3'UTR) of the mRNAs; (c) the schemes of nucleotide interactions between miRNA with mRNA, which clearly demonstrate the interactions of all nucleotides between miRNA with mRNA; (d) the free energy Gibbs (ΔG , kJ/mol) of the interaction between miRNA and the mRNA; and the ratio $\Delta G/\Delta G_m$ (%) is determined for each site. ΔG_m equals the free energy of miRNA binding with its fully complementary canonical nucleotide sequence. Only miRNAs whose nucleotides interacted with mRNA using canonical (G-C and A-U) nucleotides with a given ΔG value were selected from the calculated data. The MirTarget program finds hydrogen bonds between miRNAs with mRNA according to the physicochemical characteristics of nucleotide interactions [9–12]. MirTarget differs from other programs in terms of finding miRNA BSs on mRNA in the following: it takes into account the interaction of miRNA with mRNA over the entire miRNA nucleotides sequence; and it calculates the free energy of the interaction of the miRNA with mRNA. Note that the G, A, C, and U nucleotides, which comprise the RNA structure of microorganisms, plants, and animals, interact identically under equal conditions. Therefore, the physicochemical properties of canonical nucleotide pairs given above do not require additional proof of the previously established physicochemical characteristics of their interaction. The reliability of translation suppression by miRNAs that are fully complementary to mRNAs was proven by A.Z. Fire et al. [13]. A.Z. Fire and C.C. Mello were awarded the Nobel Prize in 2006 for this research.

3. Results

In this study, we identified miRNAs that bind fully complementarily to mRNAs from 17,508 genes in the NCBI database. The largest number of target genes was identified for miR-619-5p, which had 220 binding sites in 201 genes (Table 1). The mRNA of the *CACNG8* gene had three miR-619-5p binding sites located in the 3'UTR. The *CACNG8* gene is weakly expressed in the stomach, heart, and kidney, and therefore is under strong control of miR-619-5p. Seventeen genes had two miR-619-5p binding sites each: *C17orf75*, *C8orf44*, *CHST6*, *CIAO1*, *CPM*, *CYP20A1*, *DCAF10*, *FKBP14*, *GK5*, *KREMEN1*, *LMOD3*, *RAB3IP*, *SYNJ2BP*, *TMEM213*, *TRPM7*, *VHL*, *XIAP*, and *ZNF667*. miR-619-5p has an intronic origin from the pre-miRNA of the *SSH1* gene, which is expressed in many tissues, and therefore miR-619-5p may also be present in many tissues and influence the expression of its target genes in them. Many of these target genes are expressed to a higher degree than the *SSH1* gene, and therefore miR-619-5p cannot exert significant control over the synthesis of the corresponding proteins. However, due to the general dependence on miR-619-5p, a balance is established between the protein synthesis of the target genes of this miRNA. A large number of miR-619-5p target genes have been identified for a long time [14], but this miRNA has not attracted much interest from researchers. Clearly, controlling the influence of miR-619-5p on such a large number of genes is very difficult, but it is necessary, since this unique phenomenon is highly likely not random and can explain many physiological properties of humans, given the wide range of functions of the target genes.

Table 1. Binding sites miR-619-5p in mRNA target genes.

mRNA of gene	Binding site, nt	mRNA of gene	Binding site, nt	mRNA of gene	Binding site, nt	mRNA of gene	Binding site, nt
<i>CSL6</i>	4638	<i>DAP3</i>	1841	<i>MR1</i>	3663	<i>SPATS2</i>	3331
<i>ADAL</i>	2040	<i>DCAF10</i>	3304	<i>MREG</i>	1539	<i>SPN</i>	5286

<i>ADAM17</i>	3465	DCAF10	4558	<i>MRPS25</i>	1608	<i>STAC2</i>	2240
<i>AGMAT</i>	2206	<i>DCLRE1C</i>	2965	<i>NDUFAF7</i>	1696	SYNJ2BP	1297
<i>AK1</i>	1448	<i>DDOST</i>	1781	<i>NDUFC2</i>	1645	SYNJ2BP	4174
<i>AKT2</i>	4570	<i>DHODH</i>	1708	<i>NLN</i>	4214	<i>TCEB1</i>	1963
<i>ALDH3A2</i>	2616	<i>DHRS9</i>	1280	<i>NRIP2</i>	2074	<i>TIGD6</i>	3438
<i>ANKRD16</i>	2164	<i>DNAJC22</i>	1553	<i>NSL1</i>	3062	<i>TMEM156</i>	1592
<i>AP5B1</i>	4315	<i>DNAL1</i>	4924	<i>NXPE3</i>	7446	<i>TMEM19</i>	3509
<i>ARGFX</i>	2641	<i>ERBB3</i>	5103	<i>OPTN</i>	2331	TMEM213	874
<i>ARHGEF39</i>	1306	<i>FADS6</i>	1776	<i>PAG1</i>	8155	TMEM213	1189
<i>ARL11</i>	1032	<i>FAM161A</i>	2784	<i>PAQR5</i>	4438	<i>TMEM50B</i>	1025
<i>ATCAY</i>	2990	<i>FAM227A</i>	4980	<i>PARK2</i>	3728	<i>TMEM56</i>	1242
<i>ATP1A2</i>	4409	<i>FAM84B</i>	3625	<i>PBLD</i>	2076	<i>TMF1</i>	4735
<i>BCL2L15</i>	2649	<i>FBLIM1</i>	2125	<i>PCGF5</i>	5088	<i>TMOD2</i>	7815
<i>BPNT1</i>	1127	<i>FBXL22</i>	1410	<i>PCSK5</i>	8612	<i>TNFRSF10A</i>	1620
<i>C15orf40</i>	522	<i>FBXO27</i>	1534	<i>PDAP1</i>	1925	<i>TNFRSF10D</i>	1531
C17orf75	2894	<i>FGD4</i>	7618	<i>PDCD4</i>	3220	<i>TOP3A</i>	3813
C17orf75	3671	FKBP14	1514	<i>PEX2</i>	3055	<i>TPRG1L</i>	1753
<i>C21orf58</i>	2667	FKBP14	2128	<i>PGPEP1</i>	1475	<i>TRIM72</i>	1884
<i>C4orf19</i>	2067	<i>FKBP5</i>	7113	<i>PIK3R2</i>	3344	TRPM7	8078
<i>C6orf170</i>	4112	<i>FXN</i>	3287	<i>PNPLA1</i>	1990	TRPM7	8220
C8orf44	335*	<i>GDPD1</i>	1558	<i>PODNL1</i>	1875	<i>TXNDC15</i>	2459
C8orf44	1625	<i>GEMIN8</i>	2171	<i>POFUT1</i>	4678	<i>TYW5</i>	3691
<i>C9orf85</i>	870	<i>GGT6</i>	1955	<i>POLH</i>	5549	<i>UACA</i>	6119
<i>CACNB2</i>	4300	GK5	3807	<i>PPM1K</i>	2191	<i>UBIAD1</i>	2880
CACNG8	3217	GK5	6354	<i>PPP1R12B</i>	5155	<i>UBXN2A</i>	1664
CACNG8	5005	<i>GLB1L</i>	2223	<i>PRRG4</i>	997	<i>UPK1B</i>	1512
CACNG8	7534	<i>GOLGA3</i>	7239	<i>PSMB2</i>	2924	<i>UQCRB</i>	1268
<i>CALHM1</i>	2895	<i>GP2</i>	1876	<i>PTCD3</i>	4115	<i>USP29</i>	1**
<i>CCBE1</i>	3320	<i>GPR65</i>	3308	<i>PTK6</i>	2232	VHL	3763
<i>CCDC114</i>	260**	<i>GPR82</i>	2663	<i>QRFP</i>	1948	VHL	3897
<i>CD109</i>	6840	<i>GPRIN2</i>	6675	<i>RAB11FIP1</i>	4927	<i>VWA2</i>	3365
<i>CD36</i>	4041	<i>GTPBP10</i>	1872	RAB3IP	3974	<i>WDR73</i>	1735
<i>CD68</i>	1397	<i>H6PD</i>	5753	RAB3IP	7021	XIAP	5680
<i>CDAN1</i>	4295	<i>HM13</i>	1744	<i>RAB7L1</i>	1692	XIAP	5814
<i>CDHR3</i>	4877	<i>IFIT3</i>	1863	<i>RBBP9</i>	1817	<i>YAE1D1</i>	1547
<i>CEP68</i>	4393	<i>ISY1</i>	685*	<i>RGS3</i>	204**	<i>ZBTB24</i>	4841
<i>CHST5</i>	2945	<i>IYD</i>	1657	<i>RPS6KA6</i>	7135	<i>ZC3H12D</i>	2811
CHST6	2978	<i>KIAA1456</i>	2535	<i>SCN11A</i>	5870	<i>ZDHHC20</i>	3389
CHST6	3875	<i>KIF11</i>	3597	<i>SEPT11</i>	4032	<i>ZFP30</i>	3462
CIAO1	2415	<i>KLHL23</i>	2569	<i>SEPT14</i>	1574	<i>ZNF114</i>	1826
CIAO1	3813	<i>KPNA1</i>	5710	<i>SGTB</i>	3141	<i>ZNF197</i>	3445
<i>CLEC19A</i>	1746	KREMEN1	2198	<i>SH3GLB1</i>	4855	<i>ZNF320</i>	5533
<i>CLTC</i>	7005	KREMEN1	2791	<i>SLC15A2</i>	4332	<i>ZNF429</i>	2080*
<i>CORO2A</i>	2226	<i>LAX1</i>	2056	<i>SLC17A5</i>	2388	<i>ZNF445</i>	8819

COX18	1263	LILRA6	2200	SLC26A2	5065	ZNF461	3086
CPM	2697	LIMD1	5734	SLC26A4	4209	ZNF549	3735
CPM	4995	LIMS1	3930	SLC28A2	2195	ZNF557	4790
CPT2	2556	LMOD3	3223	SLC7A11	6303	ZNF626	4619
CYB5RL	3425	LMOD3	3992	SLC7A14	8486	ZNF667	3239
CYP20A1	2538	METTL6	1187	SNX22	901	ZNF716	2798
CYP20A1	4708	MR1	3663	SOWAHC	3416	ZNF780B	5414
CYP27C1	3822	MREG	1539	SPATA13	5019	ZNF84	4919
CYP2W1	2175	MRPS25	1608	SPATA5	5647	ZNF841	3421

Genes with two miR-619-5p binding sites are shown in bold.

MiR-5096 has 45 target genes, of which only the mRNA of the IL18 gene had two BSs (Table 2). All miR-5096 BSs were localized in the 3'UTR. The expression of the 45 miR-5096 target genes may likely be linked via this miRNA, since increased expression of one gene will lead to increased binding of miR-5096 to its mRNA, and the expression of other target genes will increase. Twelve miR-5096 target genes have BSs for miR-619-5p, which increases the control of these genes' expression by miRNA. Of these, in the mRNAs of the *C15orf40*, *LMOD3*, *PNPLA1*, and *ZNF197* genes, the beginning of the miR-5096 BS is located 74 nt before the beginning of the miR-619-5p BS. This arrangement of BS miR-5096 and miR-619-5p is not random and reflects the relationship between these miRNAs and their target genes.

Table 2. Binding sites miR-5096 in mRNA target genes.

mRNA gene	of Binding site, nt	mRNA gene	of Binding site, nt	mRNA gene	of Binding site, nt	mRNA gene	of Binding site, nt
<i>AHI1</i>	4538	<i>FAM73A</i>	5068	<i>LMOD3*</i>	4066	<i>SLC25A15</i>	2854
<i>BHMT2</i>	1833	<i>GLTP</i>	1486	<i>MREG*</i>	1611	<i>SPN*</i>	6092
<i>C15orf40*</i>	596	<i>HEATR5A</i>	6835	<i>MYO3B</i>	5488	<i>SRSF8</i>	3281
<i>CABP4</i>	2001	<i>HES2</i>	3503	<i>NME6</i>	981	<i>TCTA</i>	990
<i>CCBE1*</i>	3096	<i>IAPP</i>	875	<i>NUBPL</i>	1942	<i>TTF1</i>	2806
<i>COG7</i>	2715	<i>IL17RD</i>	8084	<i>PEX5L</i>	5030	<i>XPR1</i>	5193
<i>CORO2A</i>	2389	<i>IL18</i>	891	<i>PLCXD1</i>	1807	<i>ZNF43</i>	4342
<i>CPM*</i>	1900	<i>IL18</i>	903	<i>PNPLA1*</i>	2064	<i>ZNF197*</i>	3519
<i>DCAF10*</i>	3376	<i>KIAA1456*</i>	5136	<i>POU6F1</i>	3494	<i>ZNF234</i>	4129
<i>DCP1A</i>	4695	<i>KLHL8</i>	4381	<i>PPP2R1B</i>	3053	<i>ZNF714</i>	6670
<i>DCP2</i>	9185	<i>LARS</i>	4597	<i>RBM3</i>	1152		
<i>DNAL1*</i>	2389	<i>LIMD1*</i>	5836	<i>RFWD3</i>	4441		

* - target gene of miR-619-5p.

Expression of several genes depends on pairs of miRNAs (miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p) that originate from the same pre-miRNA hairpin. We have previously identified quantitative characteristics of their interactions with target genes [15]. This surprising property is possessed by mRNA of the RTL1 gene, containing five pairs of binding sites for miR-127-3p and miR-127-5p, miR-136-3p and miR-136-5p, miR-431-3p and miR-431-5p, miR-432-3p and miR-432-5p, miR-433-3p and miR-433-5p. Schemes of interaction of these miRNAs with quantitative characteristics are shown in Figure 1. All binding sites for these miRNAs were located within the CDS of the RTL1 gene mRNA at intervals of 34 nt in the miR-127-3p and miR-127-5p pair, 33 nt in the miR-136-3p and miR-136-5p pair, 44 nt in the miR-431-3p and miR-431-5p pair, 46 nt in the miR-432-3p and miR-432-5p pair, and

52 nt in the miR-433-3p and miR-433-5p pair. Importantly, the miRNA nucleotide sequences were identical in animals that diverged millions of years ago.

miRNA; BS, nt; region mRNA; ΔG , kJ/mol; miRNA, nt	miRNA; BS, nt; region mRNA; ΔG , kJ/mol; miRNA, nt
miR-127-3p; 1792; CDS; -121; 22 5'-AGCCAAGCUCAGACGGAUCCGA-3' 3'-UCGGUUCGAGUCUGCCUAGGCU-5'	miR-431-5p; 3802; CDS; -115; 21 5'-UGCAUGACGGCCUGCAAGACA-3' 3'-ACGUACUGCCGGACGUUCUGU-5'
miR-127-5p; 1826; CDS; -119; 22 5'-AUCAGAGCCCUCUGAGCUUCAG-3' 3'-UAGUCUCGGGAGACUCGAAGUC-5'	miR-432-3p; 284; CDS; -115; 21 5'-AGACAUGGAGGAGCCAUCCAG-3' 3'-UCUGUACCUCCUCGGUAGGUC-5'
miR-136-3p; 77; CDS; -113; 22 5'-AGACUCAUUUGAGACGAUGAUG-3' 3'-UCUGAGUAAACUCUGCUACUAC-5'	miR-432-5p; 330; CDS; -123; 23 5'-CCACCCAAUGACCUACUCCAAGA-3' 3'-GGUGGGUUACUGGAUGAGGUUCU-5'
miR-136-5p; 110; CDS; -115; 23 5'-UCCAUCAUAAAACAAAUGGAGU-3' 3'-AGGUAGUAGUUUGUUUACCUCA-5'	miR-433-3p; 2878; CDS; -119; 22 5'-ACACCGAGGAGCCCAUCAUGAU-3' 3'-UGUGGCUCUCGGGUAGUACUA-5'
miR-431-3p; 3758; CDS; -121; 22 5'-AGAAGCCCUGCAAGACGACCUG-3' 3'-UCUUCGGGACGUUCUGCUGGAC-5'	miR-433-5p; 2930; CDS; -115; 22 5'-GAAUAAUGACAGGCUCACCGUA-3' 3'-CUUAUUACUGUCCGAGUGGCAU-5'

Figure 1. Schemes of interaction of miRNA nucleotides with mRNA of the *RTL1* gene. The mRNA nucleotides are shown in red, and the miRNA nucleotides are shown in purple.

Each of the mRNAs from the genes *CCDC42B*, *FOXF2*, *GLYCTK*, *KAA2026*, and *LPPR3* bound a pair of miRNA-5p and miRNA-3p (Figure 2). The data show that the binding sites for these miRNA pairs were localized in the CDS, 3'UTR, and 5'UTR. For these genes, experiments showed that the presented results of computer analysis were fully confirmed. Our results add to them the free energy of interaction between miRNA and mRNA. The beginnings of miRNA binding sites in the pairs miR-7106-5p and miR-7106-3p, miR-6720-5p and miR-6720-3p, miR-135a-5p and miR-135a-3p, miR-4665-5p and miR-4665-3p, miR-3187-5p and miR-3187-3p were located at 40 nt, 35 nt, 38 nt, 39 nt, and 34 nt, respectively.

Gene; miRNA; BS, nt; region mRNA; ΔG ,kJ/mol; miRNA, nt	Gene; miRNA; BS, nt; region mRNA; ΔG ,kJ/mol; miRNA, nt
<i>CCDC42B</i> ; miR-7106-3p; 1351; 3'UTR; -127; 23 5'-CUGGGACAGGGAUUCAGGGAGCU-3' 3'-GACCCUGUCCUAAGUCCUCGA-5'	<i>GLYCTK</i> ; miR-135a-5p; 2812; 3'UTR; -113; 23 5'-UCACAUAGGAAUAAAAGCCAU-3' 3'-AGUGUAUCCUUAUUUUUCGGUAU-5'
<i>CCDC42B</i> ; miR-7106-5p; 1391; 3'UTR; -113; 20 5'-CCCAAGAUCUUCCUCCCA-3' 3'-GGGUUCUAGGGGAGGAGGGU-5'	<i>KIAA2026</i> ; miR-4665-3p; 108; 5'UTR; -159; 26 5'-GGCGGGGGCUACGCGCCGCGCCGAG-3' 3'-CCGCCCCGAUGCGCGCGCCGCGCUC-5'
<i>FOXF2</i> ; miR-6720-3p; 491; CDS; -123; 22 5'-CUGGGACAGGGAUUCAGGGAGCU-3' 3'-GACCCUGUCCUAAGUCCUCGA-5'	<i>KIAA2026</i> ; miR-4665-5p; 147; 5'UTR; -136; 23 5'-GCUCGCGCUCACGCGUCCCCAG-3' 3'-CGAGCGCGAGUGCGCAGGGGGUC-5'
<i>FOXF2</i> ; miR-6720-5p; 526; CDS; -134; 23 5'-CGCGGCGCCUACCAGGGCUGGAA-3' 3'-GCGCCGCGGAUGGUCCGACCUU-5'	<i>LPPR3</i> ; miR-3187-3p; 1229; CDS; -117; 20 5'-CCGCGCAGCCCAUGGCCAA-3' 3'-GGCGCGUCGGGUACCGGUU-5'
<i>GLYCTK</i> ; miR-135a-3p; 2774; 3'UTR; -121; 22 5'-CGCCACGGCUCCAAUCCUAUA-3' 3'-GCGGUGCCGAGGUAGGGAU-5'	<i>LPPR3</i> ; miR-3187-5p; 1263; CDS; -132; 23 5'-CCUUCAGCCACACGCGCCAGG-3' 3'-GGAAGUCGUGUGCGACGGGUCC-5'

Figure 2. Schemes of interaction of miRNA nucleotides with mRNA of the *CCDC42B*, *FOXF2*, *GLYCTK*, *KAA2026* and *LPPR3* genes. The mRNA nucleotides are shown in red, and the miRNA nucleotides are shown in purple.

miRNA-1-155-3p has ten target genes (Table 3). The mRNAs of six genes have binding sites in the 5'UTR and four in the CDS, which is caused by the increased GC content of miRNA-1-155-3p and the mRNAs of the target genes. Naturally, this is reflected in the free energy of interaction of -138 kJ/mole. miRNA-1-356-5p has three BSs in the 5'UTR of the mRNAs of two genes, including the *BMP8B* gene with two BSs with a binding onset interval of one nucleotide. This mRNA-miRNA pair has an even higher free energy of interaction of -146 kJ/mole. It is worth noting the effect of miR-762 on the *BCL7C* and *TBCID10B* genes with an interaction free energy of -136 kJ/mole. This interaction also ensures strong suppression of the synthesis of the corresponding proteins.

Table 3. Characteristics of the interaction of mRNA of target genes with miRNAs of the miR-1-155-3p and miR-1-356-5p families.

mRNA of gene	miRNA	Binding site, nt	ΔG , kJ/mole	Region of mRNA
<i>ASXL1-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	340	-138	5'UTR
<i>CPT1A-v-2</i>	miR-1-155-3p	97	-138	5'UTR
<i>CXXC4-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	742	-138	CDS
<i>DISP2-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	20	-138	5'UTR
<i>DNAJC21-</i>	miR-1-155-3p	62	-138	5'UTR
<i>ESPN-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	1966	-138	CDS
<i>FAM131C-</i>	miR-1-155-3p	1	-138	5'UTR
<i>1HTT-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	263	-138	CDS
<i>>IRX4-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	1243	-138	CDS
<i>USP25-v-1</i>	miR-1-155-3p	183	-138	5'UTR
<i>ACTN2</i>	miR-1-356-5p	99	-146	5'UTR
<i>BMP8B</i>	miR-1-356-5p	250	-146	5'UTR
<i>BMP8B</i>	miR-1-356-5p	251	-146	5'UTR

The miR-548 family has binding sites in the mRNA of five genes (Table 4). The mRNAs of the *ALG10* and *SMU1* genes each had one miR-548 binding site. The mRNAs of the *ANKRD5* and *TCEANC2* genes each had three miR-548 binding sites, and the mRNA of the *KATNAL1* gene had six miR-548 binding sites. All binding sites for these miRNAs are located in the 3'UTR. The free energy of interaction of these miRNAs with mRNA varied from -89 kJ/mole to -123 kJ/mole, which depended on the GC content and the length of the miRNA. If the miRNA binding sites in mRNA were located with overlapping nucleotides, we called such mRNA regions binding site clusters. In such clusters, competition between miRNAs for binding to mRNA occurs. Three miRNAs from the miR-548 family bound in a cluster at 3534 nt, and three miRNAs at 3495 nt. Of note is the effect of miR-762 on the *BCL7C* and *TBCID10B* genes, with a free energy of interaction of -136 kJ/mole. This interaction ensures strong suppression of the synthesis of the corresponding proteins.

Table 4. Characteristics of the interaction of mRNA of target genes with miRNAs of the miR-548 family.

mRNA of gene	miRNA	Binding site, nt	ΔG , kJ/mole	Region of mRNA
<i>KATNAL1</i>	miR-548aa	3945	-123	3'UTR
<i>TCEANC2</i>	miR-548aa	2658	-123	3'UTR
<i>KATNAL1</i>	miR-548am-5p	3534	-110	3'UTR
<i>LG10</i>	miR-548ap-3p	2116	-89	3'UTR

<i>ANKRD5</i>	miR-548ap-3p	3406	-89	3'UTR
<i>KATNAL1</i>	miR-548ap-3p	3501	-89	3'UTR
<i>TCEANC2</i>	miR-548ap-3p	2664	-89	3'UTR
<i>ANKRD5</i>	miR-548au-5p	3444	-104	3'UTR
<i>KATNAL1</i>	miR-548au-5p	3535	-104	3'UTR
<i>KATNAL1</i>	miR-548c-5p	3534	-110	3'UTR
<i>SMU1</i>	miR-548h-3p	6756	-115	3'UTR
<i>ANKRD5</i>	miR-548t-3p	3400	-123	3'UTR
<i>KATNAL1</i>	miR-548t-3p	3495	-123	3'UTR
<i>TCEANC2</i>	miR-548t-3p	2658	-123	3'UTR

Members of the miR-1273 family play a significant role in the regulation of gene expression (Table 5). miR-1273f affects 12 target genes, each of whose mRNAs contains one BS of this miRNA. In all but one of these mRNAs, the BSs are located in the 3'UTR. miR-1273f consists of 19 nucleotides, and the free energy of interaction with the mRNA of the target genes is -104 kJ/mole (Table 5). BSs of miR-1273g-3p are located in the 3'UTR of the mRNA of nine genes. mRNA of four genes is the target of miR-1273h-5p (Table 5). The free energy of interaction of miR-1273g-3p and miR-1273h-5p with the mRNA of the target genes is -117 kJ/mole at a length of 21 nucleotides. In total, the miR-1273 family targets 25 different genes, making it difficult to elucidate the biological role of these miRNAs.

Table 5. Characteristics of the interaction of miR-1273 families with mRNAs of target genes.

mRNA of gene	miRNA	Binding site, nt	ΔG , kJ/mole	Region of mRNA
<i>ACACB</i>	miR-1273f	7996	-104	3'UTR
<i>ATF7IP2</i>	miR-1273f	2817	-104	3'UTR
<i>CA13</i>	miR-1273f	2779	-104	3'UTR
<i>COX18</i>	miR-1273f	1851	-104	3'UTR
<i>GTPBP3</i>	miR-1273f	2143	-104	3'UTR
<i>KRAS</i>	miR-1273f	3208	-104	3'UTR
<i>LOC100996605</i>	miR-1273f	238	-104	CDS
<i>MAP3K13</i>	miR-1273f	4636	-104	3'UTR
<i>RNF125</i>	miR-1273f	2810	-104	3'UTR
<i>SLA2</i>	miR-1273f	1910	-104	3'UTR
<i>SPTSSA</i>	miR-1273f	1564	-104	3'UTR
<i>XPNPEP3</i>	miR-1273f	5392	-104	3'UTR
<i>AP3S2</i>	miR-1273g-3p	4111	-117	3'UTR
<i>C15orf38</i>	miR-1273g-3p	4433	-117	3'UTR
<i>C20orf203</i>	miR-1273g-3p	1938	-117	3'UTR
<i>CRLF3</i>	miR-1273g-3p	2030	-117	3'UTR
<i>EIF1AD</i>	miR-1273g-3p	2165	-117	3'UTR
<i>EVI5</i>	miR-1273g-3p	4673	-117	3'UTR
<i>GJC1</i>	miR-1273g-3p	4830	-117	3'UTR
<i>TRAF6</i>	miR-1273g-3p	4719	-117	3'UTR
<i>ZNF621</i>	miR-1273g-3p	4815	-117	3'UTR
<i>CASP10</i>	miR-1273h-5p	2622	-117	3'UTR
<i>GINS3</i>	miR-1273h-5p	442	-117	CDS

<i>MXRA7</i>	miR-1273h-5p	1379	-117	3'UTR
<i>ZNF445</i>	miR-1273h-5p	5930	-117	3'UTR

miR-1184 bound to mRNA of three different genes, and miR-1285-5p bound to mRNA of four genes (Table 6). The family of five miR-1260s bound to mRNA of five genes in the CDS and 3'UTR. miRNA-3178 and other miRNAs had binding sites in individual genes. Table 6 highlights miRNA-4478, which has four target genes, and miRNA-4508 and miRNA-5095, which each have three target genes. The total number of miRNAs identified in this study between 18 and 24 nucleotides in length was 310, of which 21 and 22 nucleotides miRNAs accounted for 82%, ensuring highly selective miRNA and mRNA interactions.

Table 6. Characteristics of the interaction of several mRNA target genes with one miRNA.

mRNA of gene	miRNA	Binding site, nt	ΔG , kJ/mole	Region of mRNA
<i>FBA1</i>	miR-1184	1016	-127	CDS
<i>FBA2</i>	miR-1184	1001	-127	CDS
<i>FBA3</i>	miR-1184	1001	-127	CDS
<i>ERP29</i>	miR-1260a	377	-100	CDS
<i>NGB</i>	miR-1260a	1118	-100	5'UTR
<i>MAML2</i>	miR-1260a	1715	-104	CDS
<i>SC5DL</i>	miR-1260a	4212	-108	3'UTR
<i>MAML2</i>	miR-1260b	1715	-104	CDS
<i>CENPL</i>	miR-1285-5p	2316	-113	3'UTR
<i>FAM73A</i>	miR-1285-5p	2974	-113	3'UTR
<i>LRAT</i>	miR-1285-5p	3475	-113	3'UTR
<i>TSN</i>	miR-1285-5p	1964	-113	3'UTR
<i>GPR179</i>	miR-4478	2280	-96	CDS
<i>KHSRP</i>	miR-4478	66	-96	5'UTR
<i>PRR12</i>	miR-4478	4396	-96	CDS
<i>RNF111</i>	miR-4478	2436	-96	CDS
<i>KANK3</i>	miR-4508	510	-106	CDS
<i>OXR1</i>	miR-4508	103	-106	5'UTR
<i>PXDNL</i>	miR-4508	2686	-106	CDS
<i>ALG1</i>	miR-4526	864	-127	CDS
<i>ALG1L2</i>	miR-4526	400	-127	CDS
<i>ITGAL</i>	miR-5095	4708	-117	3'UTR
<i>KANK4</i>	miR-5095	4753	-117	3'UTR
<i>RBBP4</i>	miR-5095	4279	-117	3'UTR

For identical miRNA lengths, the free energy of interaction (ΔG) between miRNA and mRNA depends on the GC content, and for identical miRNA GC content, the free energy of interaction depends on the miRNA length.

4. Discussion

A previous publication demonstrated that 201 target genes with miR-619-5p binding sites are involved in numerous metabolic reactions, including those associated with various diseases [14].

Therefore, the proposed biological role of miR-619-5p and other miRNAs with multiple target genes is to maintain a balance between the expression of the target genes in this association. Increased mRNA synthesis for one gene will result in preferential miRNA binding, and other genes will show a slight increase in expression while the amount of this miRNA remains constant. We found that not only one miRNA can bind to an mRNA, but other miRNAs can bind to the mRNA in a fully complementary manner. It has been established that multiple miRNAs can bind to a single region (cluster of binding sites) of mRNA, competing with each other, indicating robust control of gene expression. In addition to the interactions of canonical nucleotide pairs A-U and G-C, non-canonical nucleotide pairs A-C and G-U can be formed. It has been shown that mRNAs of different genes contain identical binding clusters for identical miRNAs. The use of a specific miRNA for diagnosis or therapy necessarily requires identifying the effect of this miRNA on other genes to avoid side effects of the miRNA used. A miRNA can suppress oncogenesis if it acts on an oncogene and can stimulate oncogenesis if the miRNA acts on a tumor suppressor. The provided list of properties of miRNA-mRNA interactions demonstrates the need to consider the above-mentioned features of miRNA-mRNA interaction. Since many diseases are associated with impaired expression of protein-coding genes, the involvement of miRNA in these processes requires confirmation of the interaction of miRNA with mRNA, preferably with specific characteristics of this interaction. The use of inadequate methods for establishing specific miRNA and mRNA relationships involved in these processes has not led to the development of reliable diagnostic and therapeutic methods using miRNA. The present studies have shown that many miRNAs can interact fully complementarily with mRNA and, therefore, can play an important role in the regulation of human genome expression.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, A.I. and A.P.; methodology, R.N.; software, S.O.; validation, A.I., R.N. and A.P.; formal analysis, A.P.; investigation, S.O.; resources, R.N.; data curation, A.I.; writing—original draft preparation, R.N.; writing—review and editing, A.I.; visualization, S.O.; supervision, A.P.; project administration, A.P.; funding acquisition, A.I. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by Committee of Science of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, grant number AP26102055 “Design of a System for Monitoring and Analyzing Health Indicators of Patients with Metabolic Syndrome.

Data Availability Statement: The nucleotide sequences of 17,508 genes were downloaded from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>, 2020). The nucleotide sequences of 2567 miRNAs were taken from NCBI (<http://mirbase.org>).

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; or in the decision to publish the results”.

References

1. Lee, R.C.; Feinbaum, R.L.; Ambros, V. The *C. elegans* heterochronic gene *lin-4* encodes small RNAs with antisense complementarity to *lin-14*. *Cell* **1993**, *75*, 843–854, [https://doi.org/10.1016/0092-8674\(93\)90529-y](https://doi.org/10.1016/0092-8674(93)90529-y).
2. Mehanna, E.T.; Ghattas, M.H.; Mesbah, N.M.; Saleh, S.M.; Abo-Elmatty, D.M. Association of MicroRNA-146a rs2910164 Gene Polymorphism with Metabolic Syndrome. *Folia Biol.* **2015**, *61(1)*, 43–48, <https://doi.org/10.14712/fb2015061010043>.
3. Huang, Y.; Yan, Y.; Xv, W.; Qian, G.; Li, C.; Zou, H.; Li, Y. A New Insight into the Roles of MiRNAs in Metabolic Syndrome. *Biomed Res Int.* **2018**, *2018*, 7372636, <https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/7372636>.
4. Vorobeva, E.V.; Kyyaly, M.A.; Sones, C.L.; He, P.J.W.; Arshad, S.H.; Sanchez-Elsner, T.; Kurukulaaratchy, R.J. Circulating microRNAs as Potential Diagnostic Tools for Asthma and for Indicating Severe Asthma Risk. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2025**, *26(14)*, 6676, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26146676>.
5. Stevanovic, J.; Mitic, N.; Penezic, A.; Radojicic, O.; Ardalic, D.; Mandic, M.; Mandic-Markovic, V.; Mikovic, Ž.; Brkušaniin, M.; Nedic, O.; et al. Upregulation of the Antioxidant Response-Related microRNAs miR-

- 146a-5p and miR-21-5p in Gestational Diabetes: An Analysis of Matched Samples of Extracellular Vesicles and PBMCS. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2025**, *26(14)*, 6902, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26146902>.
6. Khalyfa, A.; Verma, M.; Alexander, M.M.; Qiao, Z.; Rood, T.; Kapoor, R.; Joshi, T.; Gozal, D.; Francisco, B.D. Childhood Asthma Biomarkers Derived from Plasma and Saliva Exosomal miRNAs. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2025**, *26(15)*, 7043, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26157043>.
 7. Dobre, M.; Manuc, T.E.; Manuc, M.; Matei, I.-C.; Dobre, A.-M.; Dragne, A.-D.; Maffioletti, E.; Pelisenco, I.A.; Milanesi, E. Circulating miRNA Profile in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patients with Stress, Anxiety, and Depression. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2025**, *26(15)*, 7321, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26157321>.
 8. Ivashchenko, A.; Berillo, O.; Pyrkova, A.; Niyazova, R.; Atambayeva, S. MiR-3960 binding sites with mRNA of human genes. *Bioinformatics* **2014**, *10(7)*, 423–427, <https://doi.org/10.6026/97320630010423>.
 9. Kool, E.T. Hydrogen bonding, base stacking, and steric effects in DNA replication. *Annu. Rev. Biophys. Biomol. Struct.* **2001**, *30*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.biophys.30.1.1>.
 10. Leontis, N.B.; Stombaugh, J.; Westhof, E. The Non-watson-crick Base Pairs and their associated isostericity matrices. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **2002**, *30(16)*, 3497–3531, <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkf481>.
 11. Davis, E.; Caiment, F.; Tordoir, X.; Cavaillé, J.; Ferguson-Smith, A.; Cockett, N.; Georges, M.; Charlier, C. RNAi-mediated allelic trans-interaction at the imprinted Rtl1/ Peg11 locus. *Curr. Biol.* **2005**, *15(8)*, 743–749, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2005.02.060>.
 12. Garg, A.; Heinemann, U.A. Novel form of RNA double helix based on G·U and C·A+ wobble base pairing. *RNA* **2018**, *24(2)*, 209–218, <https://doi.org/10.1261/rna.064048.117>.
 13. Fire, A.; Xu, S.; Montgomery, M.K.; Kostas, S. A.; Driver, S. E.; Mello, C.C. Potent and specific genetic interference by double-stranded RNA in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Nature* **1998**, *391(6669)*, 806–811, <https://doi.org/10.1038/35888>.
 14. Atambayeva, S.; Niyazova, R.; Ivashchenko, A.; Pyrkova, A.; Pinsky, I.; Akimniyazova, A.; Labeit, S. The binding sites of miR-619-5p in the mRNAs of human and orthologous genes. *BMC Genomics* **2017**, *18*, 428, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-017-3811-6>.
 15. Yurikova, O.Yu.; Aisina, D.E.; Niyazova, R.E.; Atambayeva, S.A.; Labeit, S.; Ivashchenko, A.T. The interaction of miR-5p and miR-3p with the mRNAs of orthologous genes. *Mol. Biol. (Mosk)*. **2019**, *53(4)*, 692–704, <https://doi.org/10.1134/S0026898419040189>.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.