

Properties of Genetic Code

2. The Code is Degenerate:

The occurrence of more than **one codon** for a **single amino acid** is referred to as degenerate. A review of genetic code dictionary will **reveal** that most of **the amino acids** have more than **one codon**. Out of 61 functional codons, AUG and UGG code to one amino acid each. But remaining 18 amino acids are coded by 59 codons.

- a given amino acid may be coded for by more than one codon

64 codons and only 20 amino acids:

so some amino acids are coded for by several codons – exceptions [next slide]:

Valine

GUU

GUC

GUA

GUG

Lysine

AAA

AAG

Tyrosine

UAU

UAC