**Analytical ultracentrifugation of protein/RNA complexes**

Sedimentation of A₈ in the absence of any protein (●), of A₈ and PAP (▲), of A₈ and PABPN1 (♦), of A₈, PAP and PABPN1 (▼), and of PAP in the absence of oligo(A) (■). The concentrations of A₈ and the proteins were always 2 µM. The sedimentation velocity was monitored at 40 000 rpm, 20°C. The scans shown were measured at a wavelength of 260 nm 4 h after starting the centrifugation.

Under the given conditions A₈ hardly sedimented; it was still populated significantly at the meniscus of the solution. In contrast, PAP disappeared completely from the meniscus, and only a small fraction of the protein could still be observed at a radius above 6.85 cm. The scan of the sample containing both A₈ and PAP can be explained by the sum of the scans of both isolated species. Therefore, PAP did not interact with A₈ under the given conditions. In contrast, the incubation of A₈ with PABPN1 led to a co-sedimentation of the RNA with the protein as could be deduced from the fact that, in the presence of PABPN1, A₈ completely disappeared from the meniscus within 4 h of sedimentation. The sedimentation was even faster when PAP was added to the complex of A₈ and PABPN1, clearly indicating that a ternary complex of all three components was formed.