FIGURE 17.2. Selection on catalytic activity of a population of RNA molecules. (A) Secondary structure of the *Tetrahymena* ribozyme. Sites in red were never seen to vary during the course of the experiment. The RNA substrate is shown in purple (left). (B) The increase in activity over 12 generations. (C) The change in frequency of the nine commonly seen variants; numbers give the position in the RNA sequence, as shown in A. Two of these variants (258, 260) increased at first, but were later displaced by other variants that resulted in greater activity.


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