



Figure 1. Plausible sites of action for genetic determinants of mRNA levels. Genetic variations influencing gene expression may reside within the regulatory sequences, promoters, enhancers, splice sites, and secondary structure motifs of the target gene and so be genetically in *cis* (red stars), or there may be variations in the molecular machinery that interact with *cis*-regulatory sequences and so act genetically in *trans* (blue stars).