

# Design of Synthetic Genetic Systems

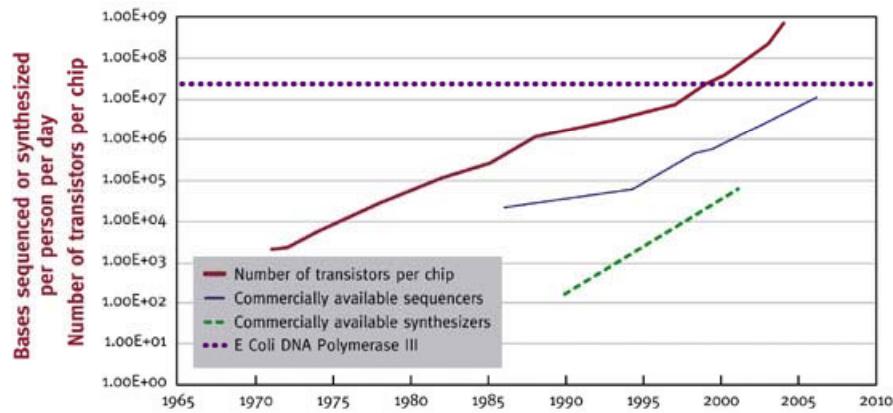
## Closing the Design Automation Loop

Jean Peccoud  
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute  
Virginia Tech

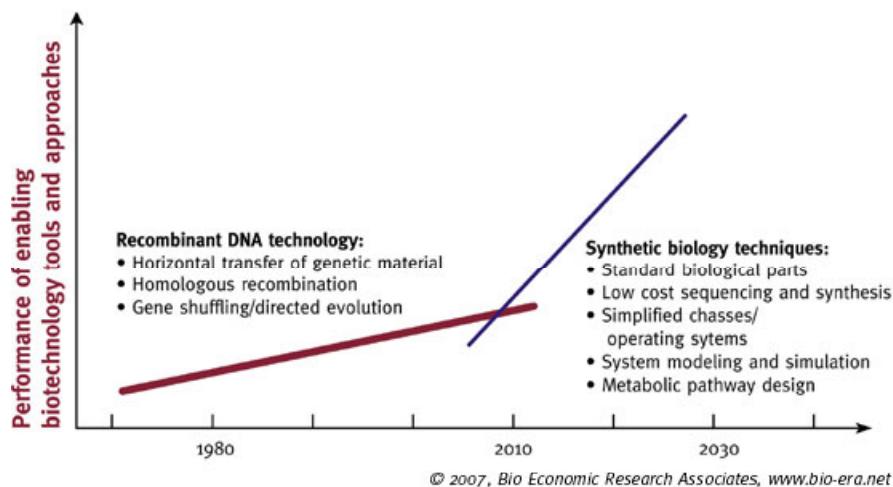


# Moore's law of synthetic genomics

- The productivity of DNA sequencing has increased more than 500-fold over the past decade. At this rate, productivity is doubling every 24 months.
- Over the same period, the costs of sequencing have declined by more than three orders of magnitude from \$1.00 per base pair to less than \$0.001 per base pair.
- Productivity of DNA synthesis technologies has increased 700-fold over the past decade, doubling every 12 months.
- Costs of gene synthesis have fallen from approximately \$30 per base pair to less than \$1 per base pair over the same period.



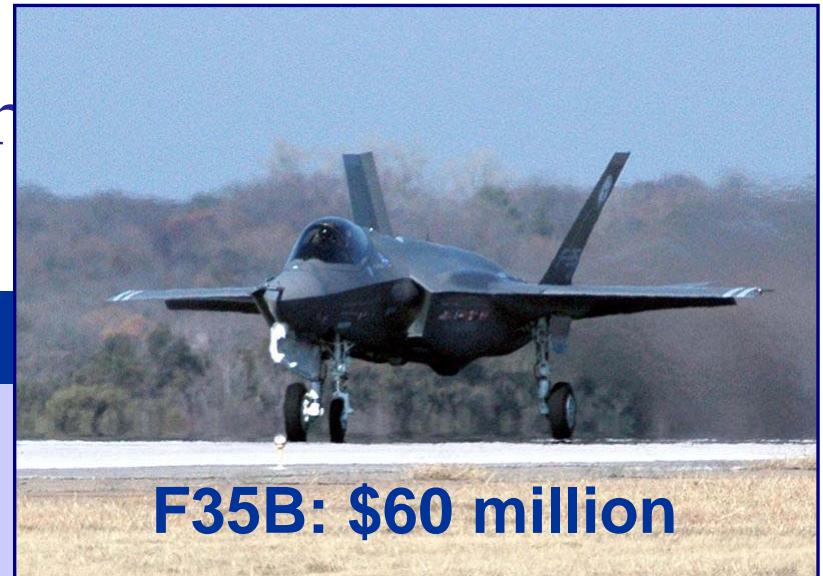
Source: R. Carlson, Bio-era  
© 2007, Bio Economic Research Associates, [www.bio-era.net](http://www.bio-era.net)



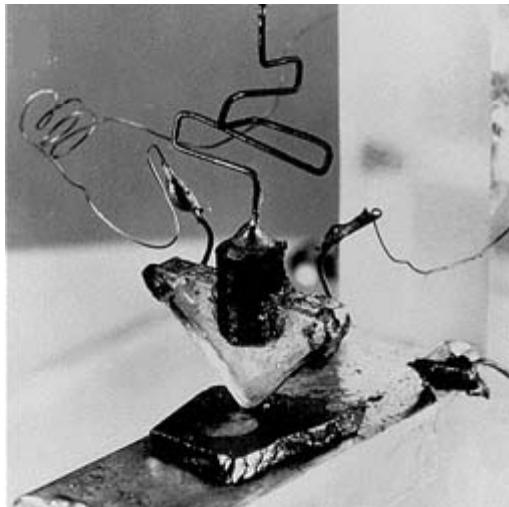
Source: R. Carlson, Bio-era  
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# It is affordable to synthesize genomes

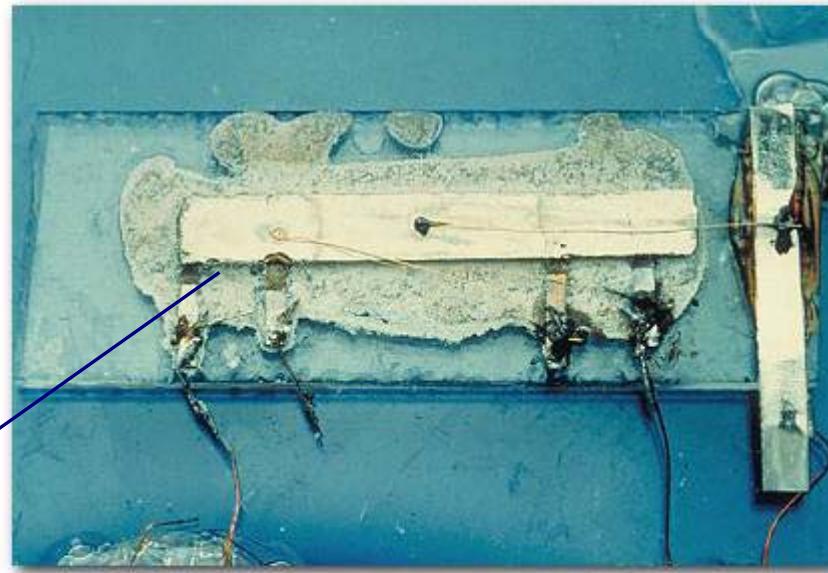
Organism	
Virus, Bacteriophage MS2	
Virus, SV40	
Virus, Phage $\Phi$ -X174;	
Filoviruses, Ebola	$1.9 \times 10^4$
Bacterium, <i>Carsonella ruddii</i>	$1.6 \times 10^5$
Bacterium, <i>Escherichia coli</i>	$4 \times 10^6$
Nematode, <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	$9.8 \times 10^7$
Insect, <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> aka Fruit Fly	$1.3 \times 10^8$
Mammal, <i>Homo sapiens</i>	$3.2 \times 10^9$



# 50 years ago



First transistor  
Bell Labs  
**Complexity  
of current  
artificial  
gene  
networks**

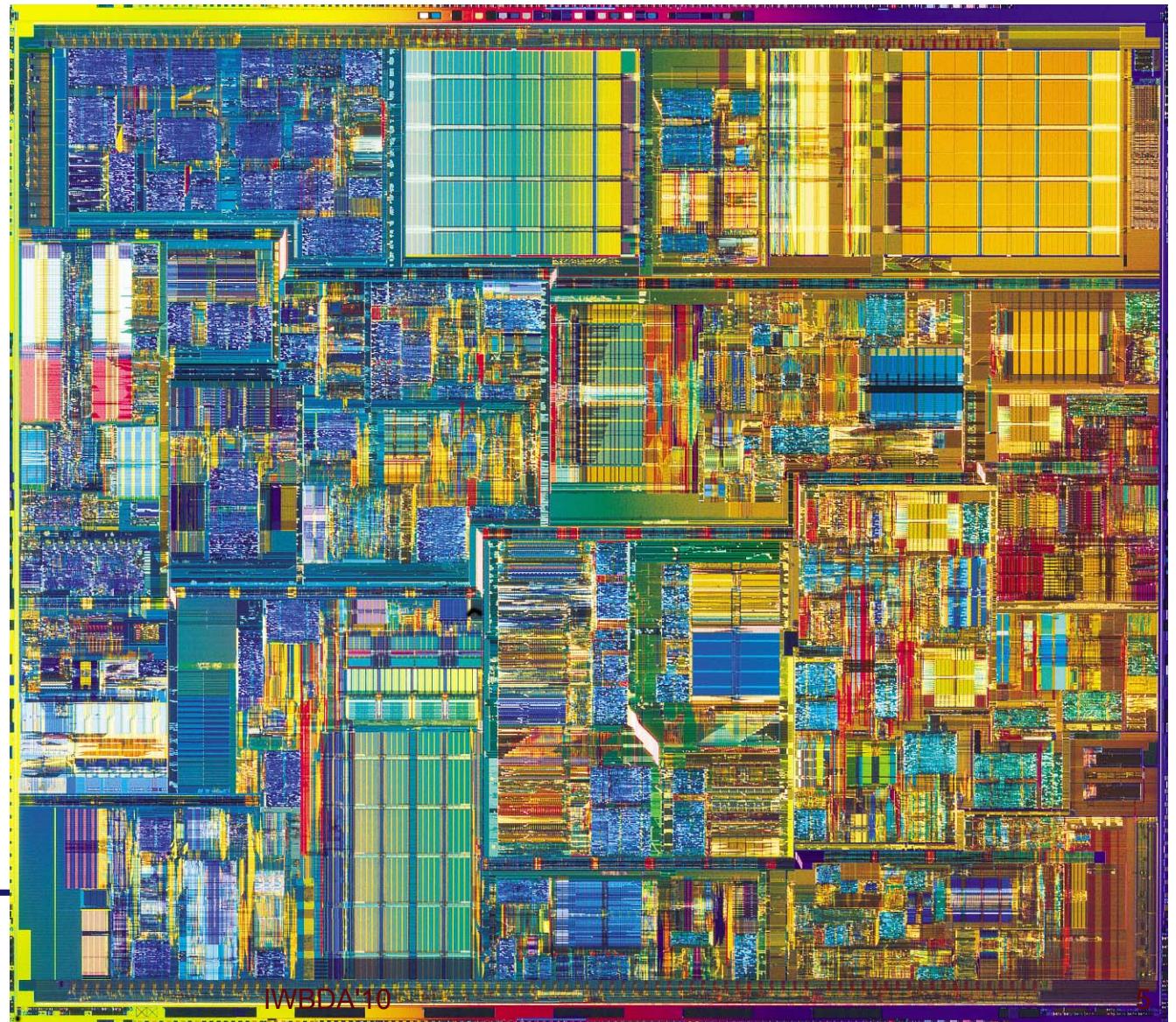


**First Integrated circuit.  
Five components  
Texas Instruments 1958**

2012?

~~2040: 55 mb of synthetic DNA?~~

Pentium 4 (2000)  
55 million transistors



June 11, 2010

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**EDITION: U.S. INTERNATIONAL MÉXICO**

**Set edition preference**

**RELIGION**

**Catholic Church: synthetic cell creation good development but**

Published May 21, 2010 | Associated Press

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A scanning electron micrograph image of the synthetic bacterium *JCVI-syn1*.

**cnn Health**

**BETA**

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## Vatican calls synthetic cell creation 'interesting'

By the CNN Wire Staff

May 22, 2010 9:58 a.m. EDT

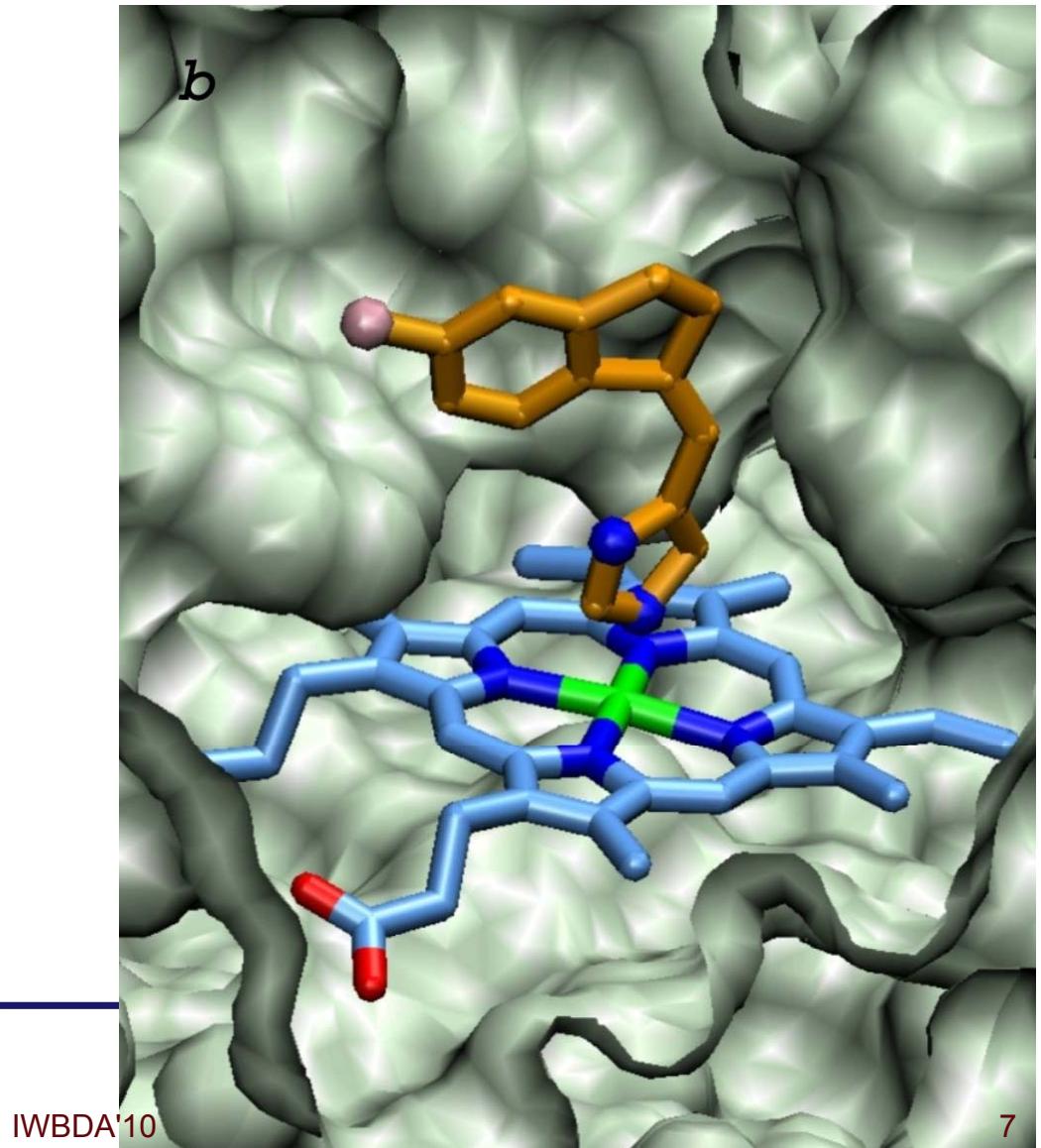
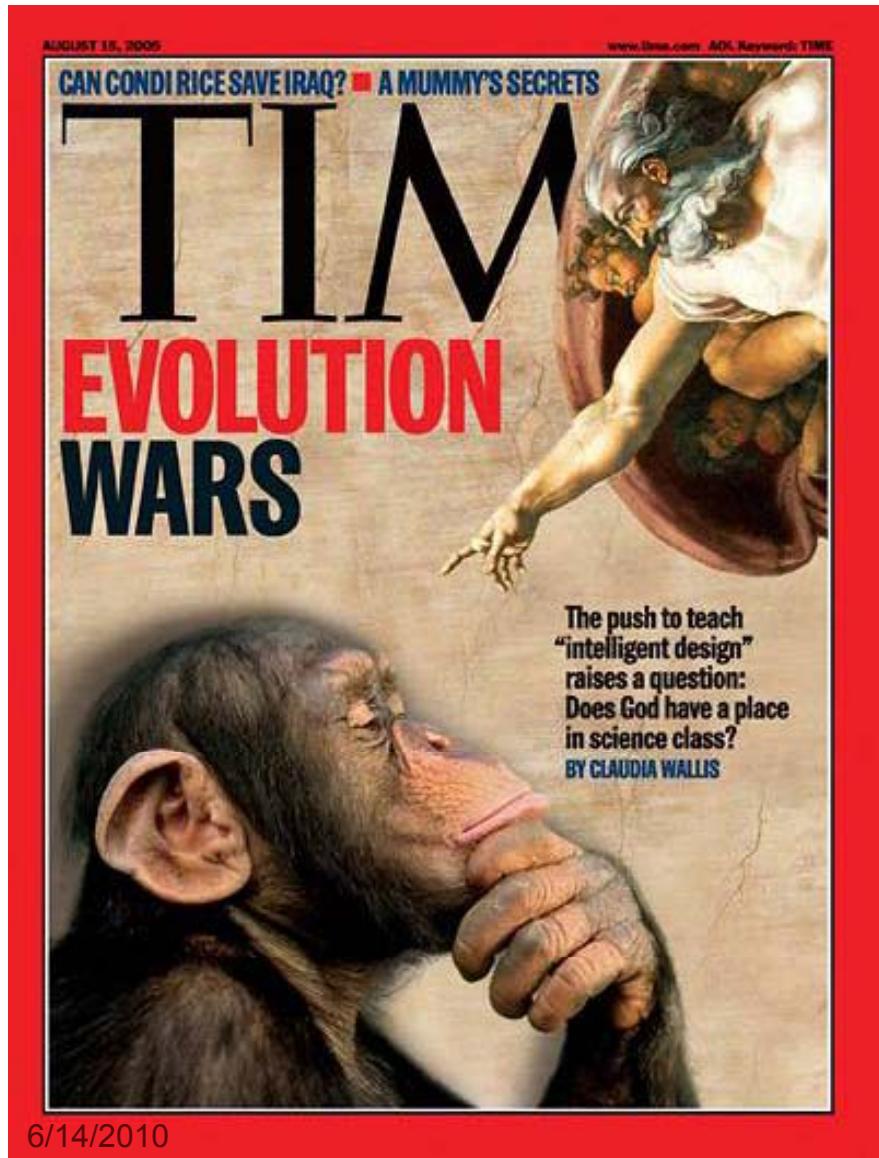


J. Craig Venter says synthetic cells will help give science new tools for creating new food and vaccines.

**Rome, Italy (CNN) --** The Vatican had praise Saturday for this week's announcement that scientists had created the world's first synthetic cell, calling it an "interesting result" that could help cure disease.

In an article Saturday, the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano called it "important research" and "the work of high-quality genetic engineering." But it said the scientists who created the cell had not

# Design: A controversial notion in biology



# Design: a transformative notion in biology

## Biology is still a science

- ▶ Still in “**discovery**” mode
  - Drug discovery
  - Plant breeding, genetic selection
  - Directed evolution....
- ▶ Trial and error is still the dominant mode of investigation

## An engineering counterpart to biology

- ▶ Still searching for a name
  - Synthetic biology, genetic engineering, bioengineering...
- ▶ Main characteristics
  - **Specify**: Assume ownership of what we build
  - **Simplify**: Simple designs easy to simulate and fabricate
  - **Abstract**: Simple language closer to needs than solutions
  - **Divide**: Division of labor to increase productivity, size of projects

# Outline

## *Design of biological systems*

- ▶ *Controversial and transformative*

## **Lessons from 40 years of EDA**

- ▶ **Shrinking the size of the design space**

## The genetic code and beyond

- ▶ DNA as a second language

## CAD meets CAM

- ▶ Recoupling design and fabrication

## Design evaluation

- ▶ Coupling design and data acquisition

## Co-design of biological systems

- ▶ Beyond the proof of concept design

## A shifting intellectual property landscape

- ▶ Unleashing the business potential of open source

# 47 Years of Design Automation

Key to success

1964-1978

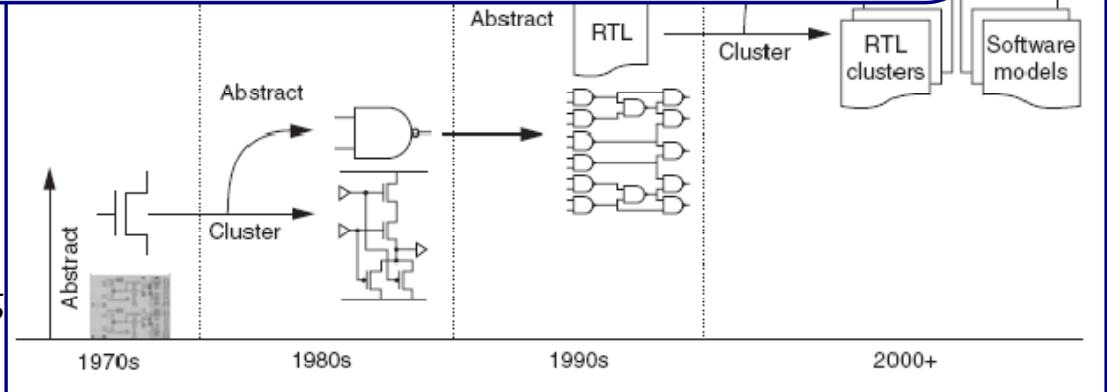
- ▶ Research done
- ▶ Main topics
  - Circuit simulation
  - Logic simulation
  - Wire routing

**What do we want to emulate in biology?**

- Working first in silicon/DNA
- Ability of non-experts to produce working systems
- Fast time to market: agile development

1979-1993

- ▶ Emergence of academic research
- ▶ Main topics
  - Verification and testing
  - Layout
  - Logic synthesis (design optimization)
  - Hardware description languages

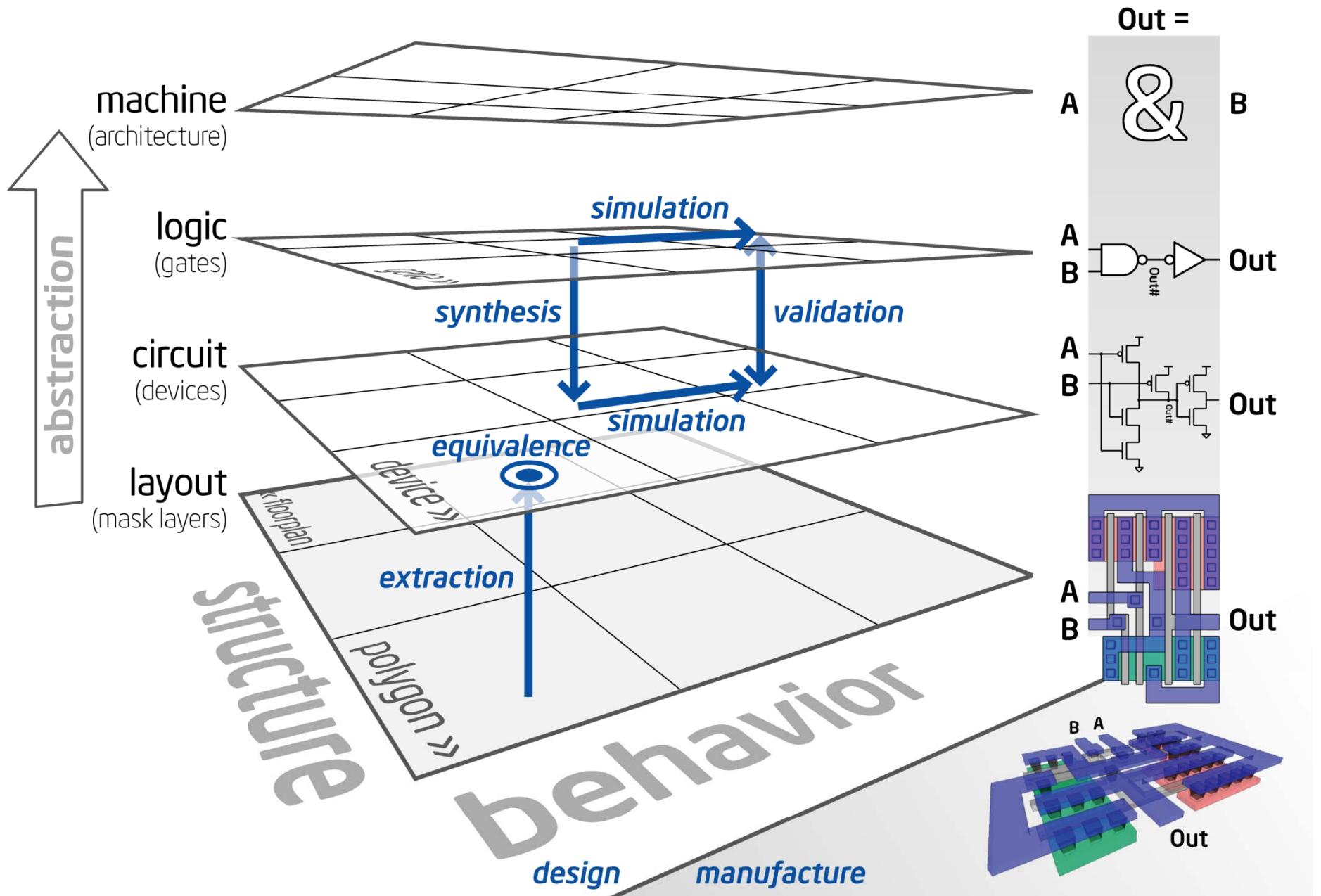


1994-present

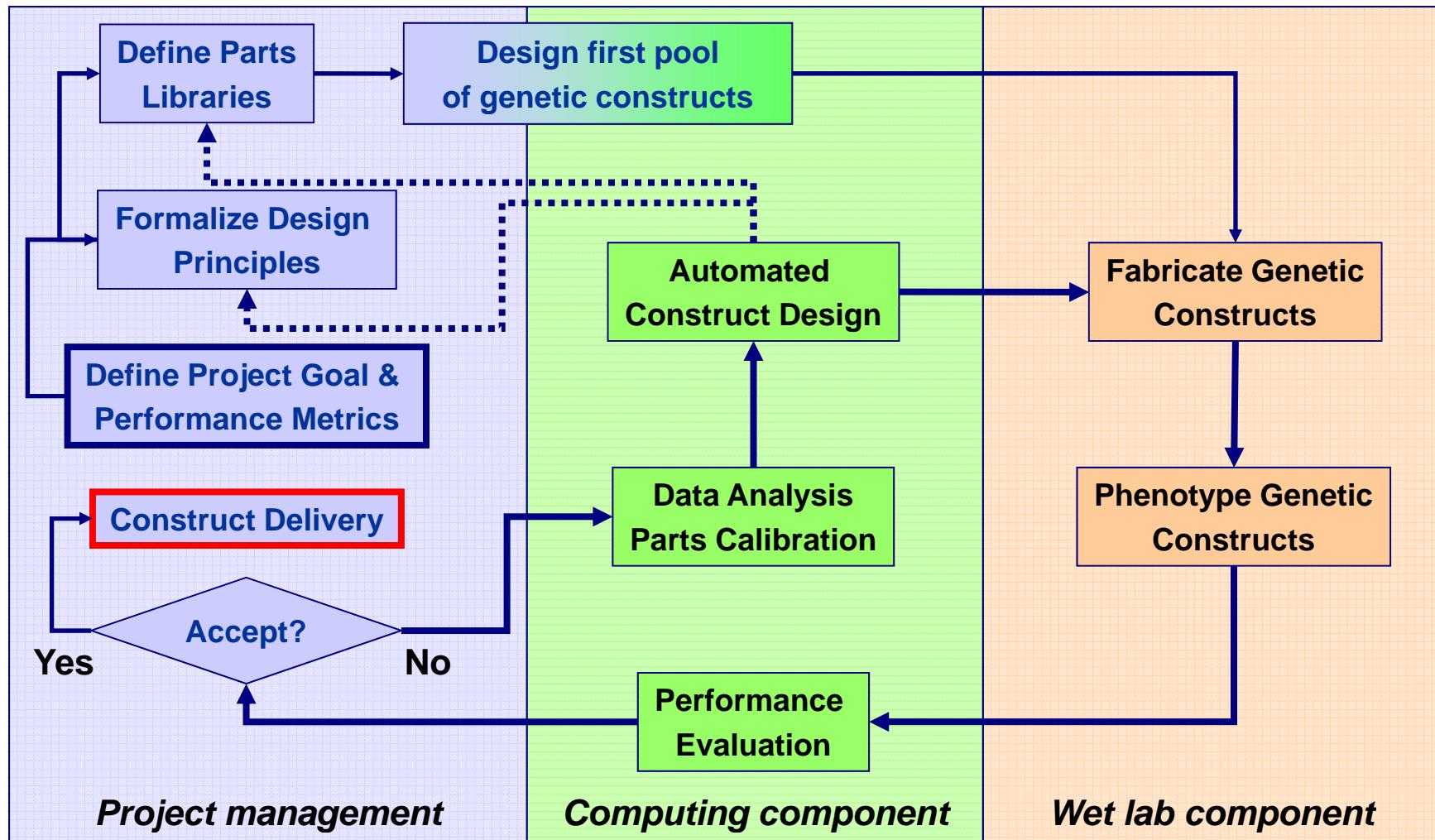
- ▶ Dominated by academic research
- ▶ Major contributions...

**Steadily raising the level of abstraction**

Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli, 2003



# Integrated workflow of parts-based biology



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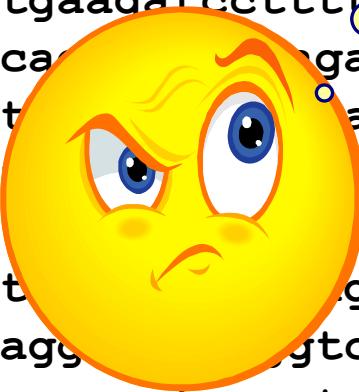
- ▶ Unleashing the business potential of open source

# Who can read this?

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at The Biocomplexity Institute research institute dedicated to the study of biological sciences. "Disease research through the efforts of the VBI faculty (VBI) the is displacement from Bioinformatics of public Bioinformatics the biologists.

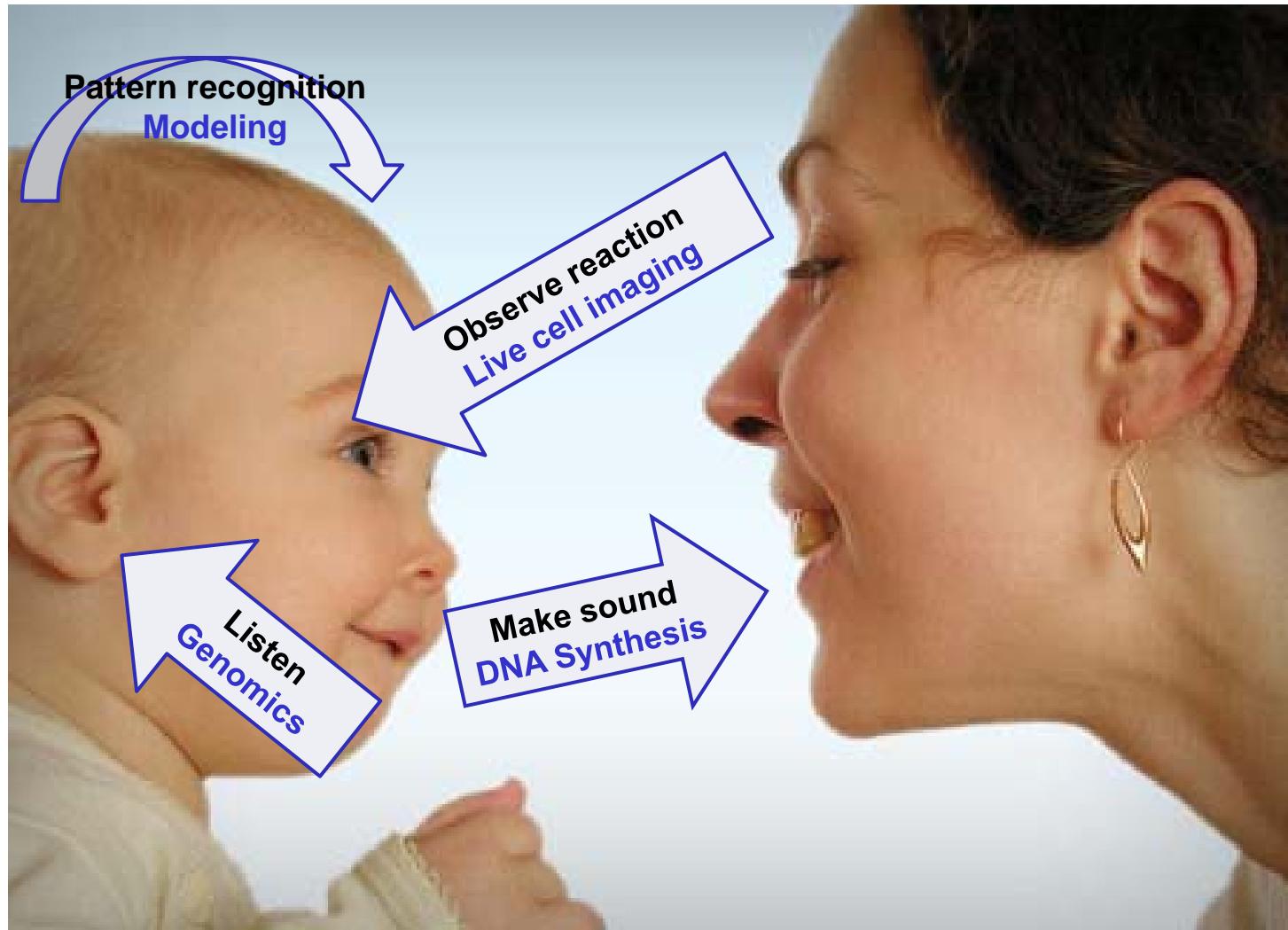
By using bioinformatics scientists, combining synthetic biology and systems biology. By formalizing, reorganizing and interpreting information from various fields and applying knowledge about models of biological data generated by VBI biology, statistics, as well as mathematics, key players in science, the dominate field, chemogenomics and applying agricultural data generated such Biology, from collaboration basic research today's key players pathology, chemistry, challenges, in biological pathobiology, disease diversity, disciplines, epidemiology, statistical, involves collaboration synthesis, biogenomics

The of state-of-the-art technologies and information tools and bioinformatics tools that of the study will the study development of new diseases, as well as the discovery of new targets, discover diagnostic targets.

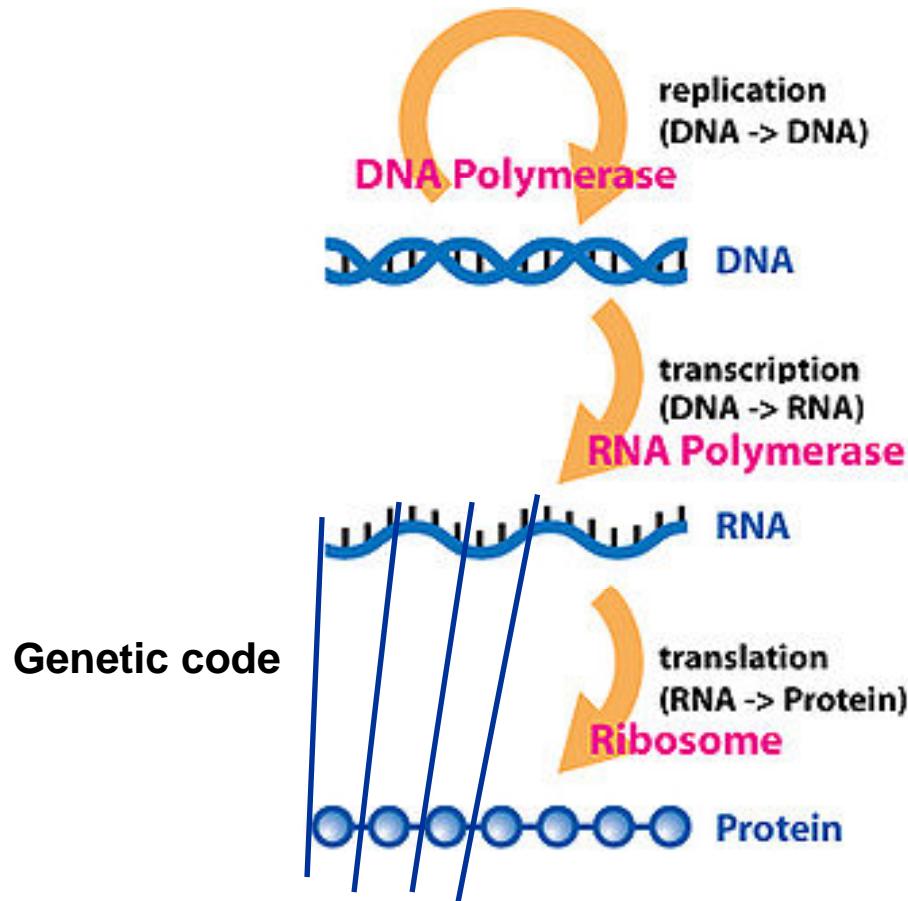
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**I do not speak DNA.  
Do you?**

# Learning DNA as a second language...



# The central dogma: a linguistic metaphor



## ARTICLES

# A genomic code for nucleosome positioning

Eran Segal<sup>1</sup>, Yvonne Fondufe-Mittendorf<sup>2</sup>, Lingyi Chen<sup>2</sup>, AnnChristine Thåström<sup>2</sup>, Yair Field<sup>1</sup>, Irene K. Moore<sup>2</sup>, Ji-Ping Z. Wang<sup>3</sup> & Jonathan Widom<sup>2</sup>

## ARTICLES

# Deciphering the splicing code

Yoseph Barash<sup>1,2\*</sup>, John A. Calarco<sup>2\*</sup>, Weijun Gao<sup>1</sup>, Qun Pan<sup>2</sup>, Xinchen Wang<sup>1,2</sup>, Ofer Shai<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin J. Blencowe<sup>2</sup> & Brendan J. Frey<sup>1,2,3</sup>

# Formal Grammars

R1: Sentence → Subject + Predicate

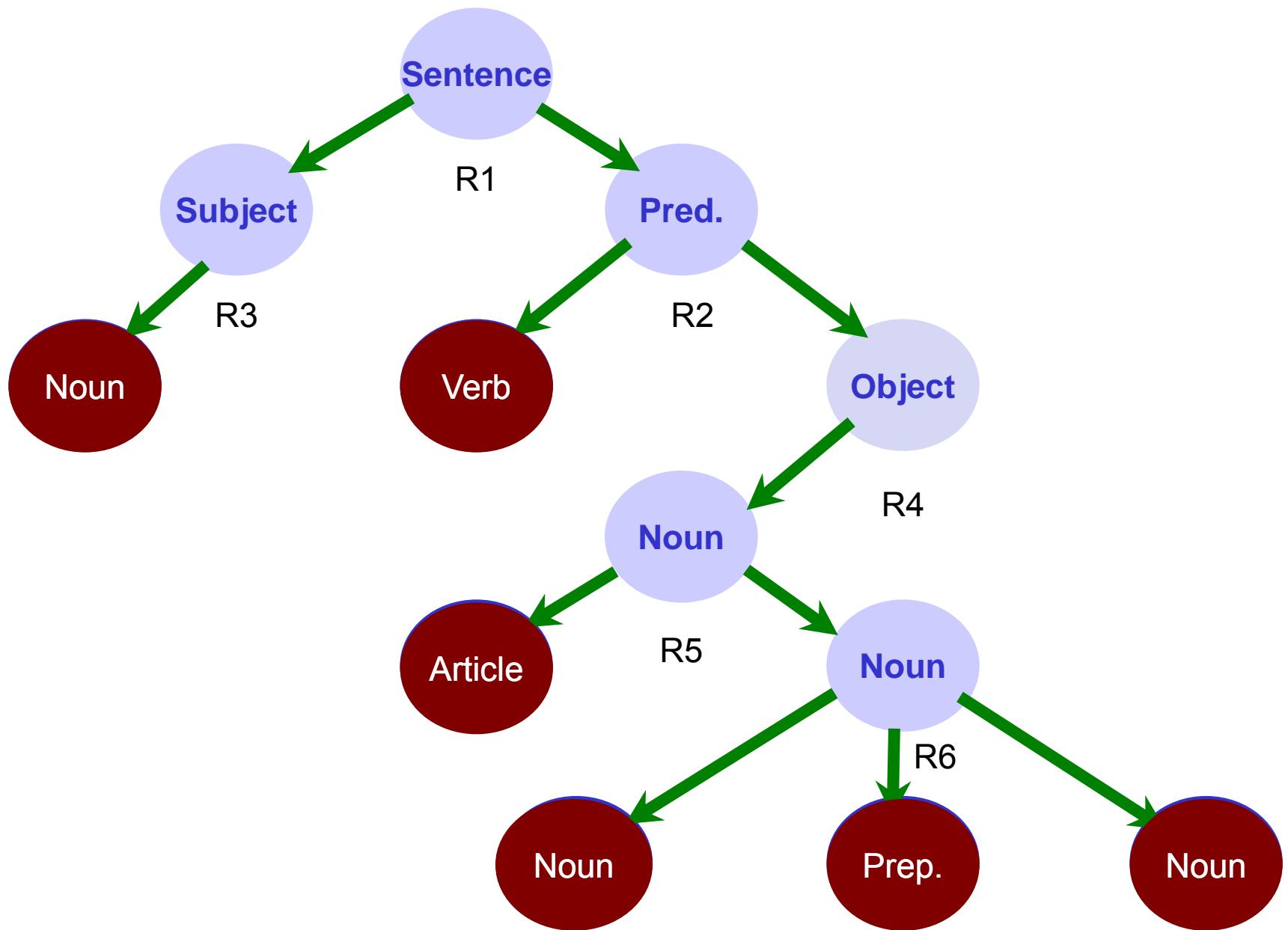
R2: Predicate → Verb + Object

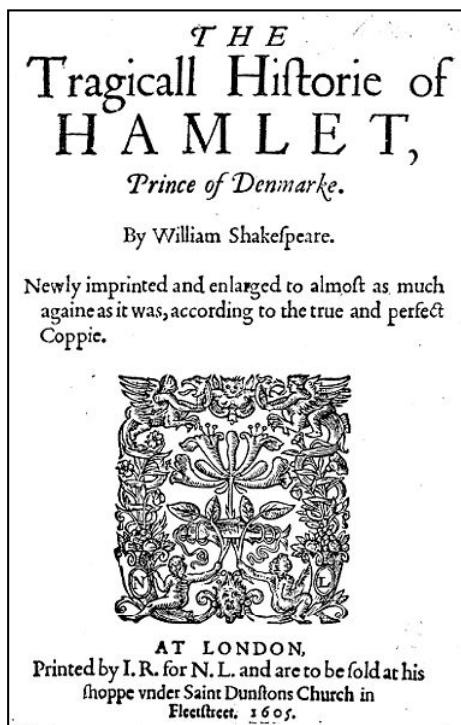
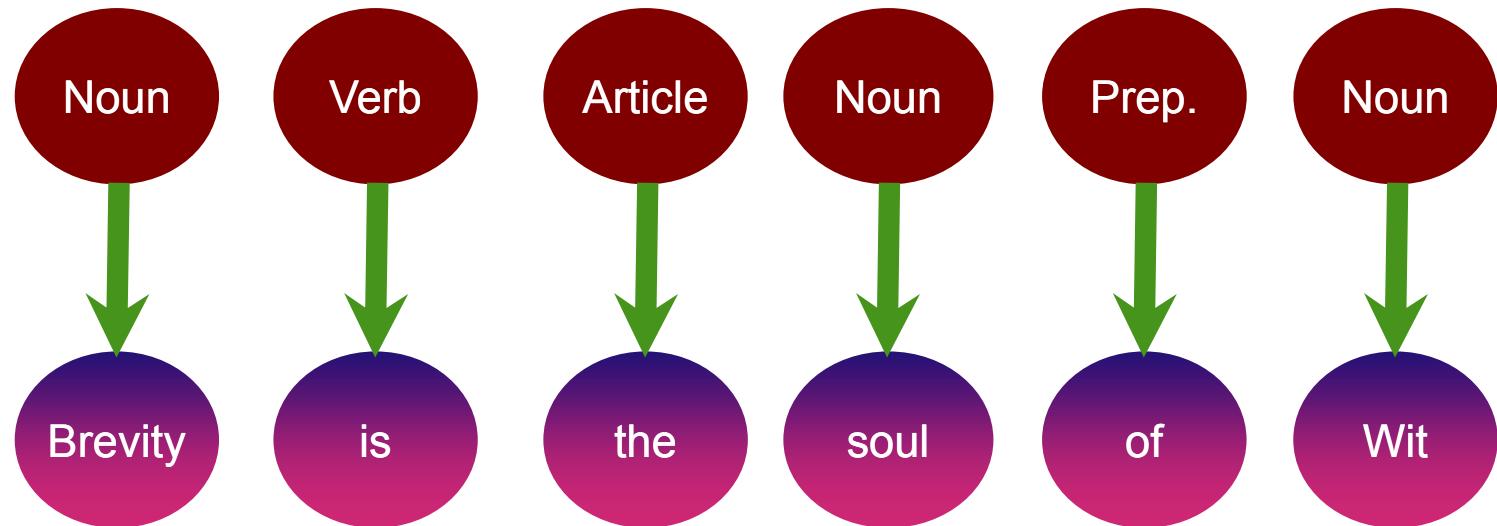
R3: Subject → Noun

R4: Object → Noun

R5: Noun → Article + Noun

R6: Noun → Noun + Preposition + Object





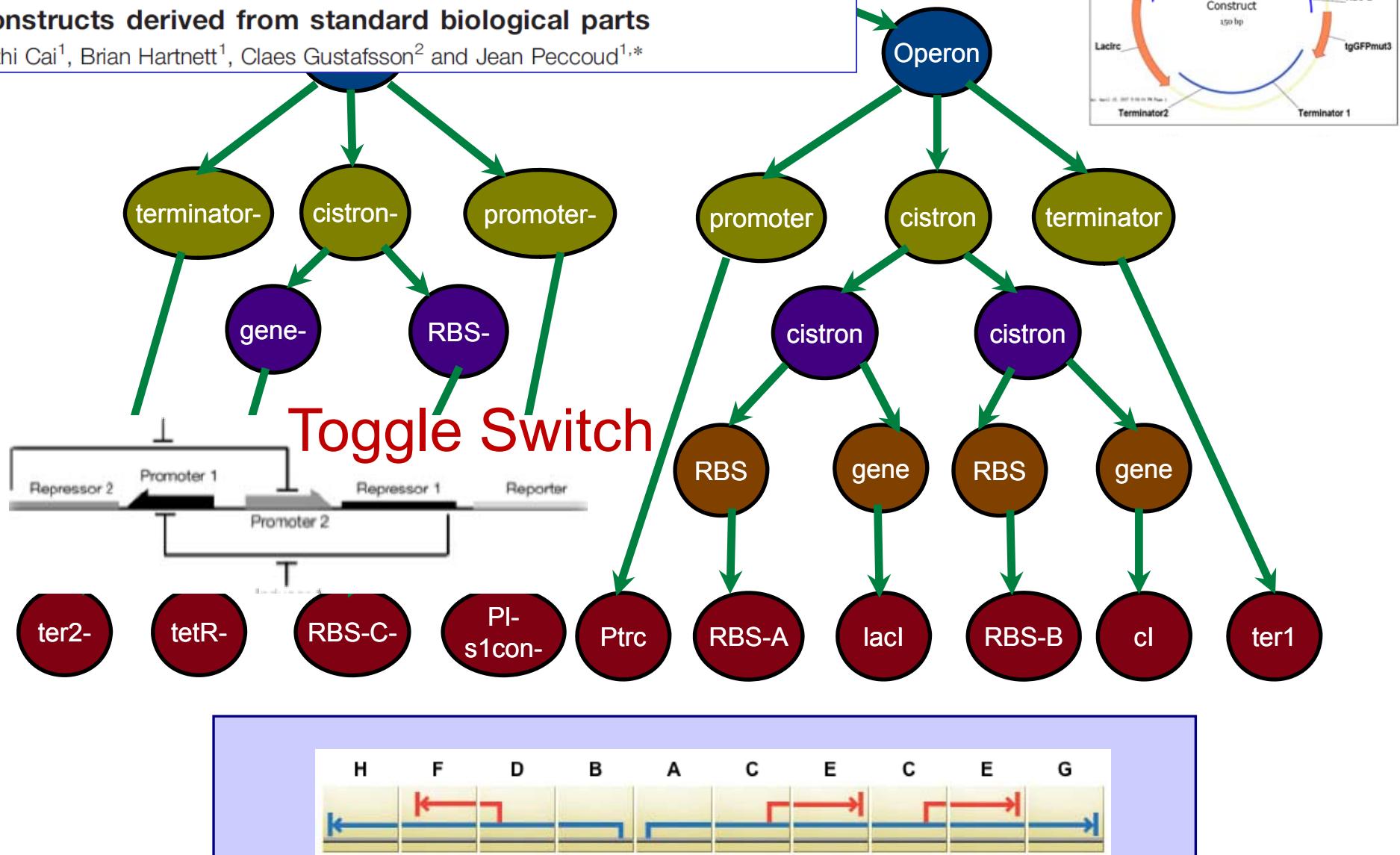
~Shakespeare



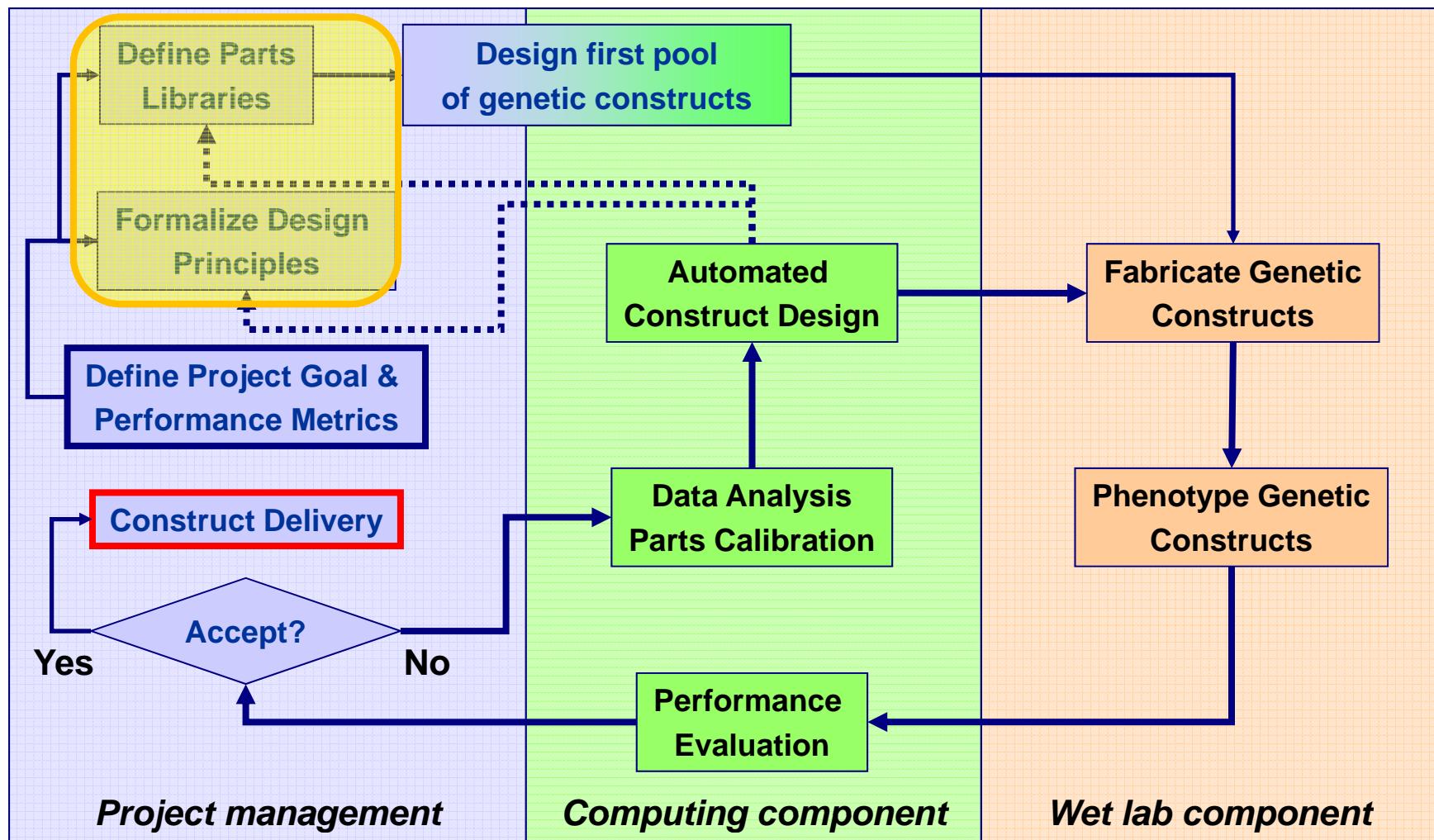
Systems biology

## A syntactic model to design and verify synthetic genetic constructs derived from standard biological parts

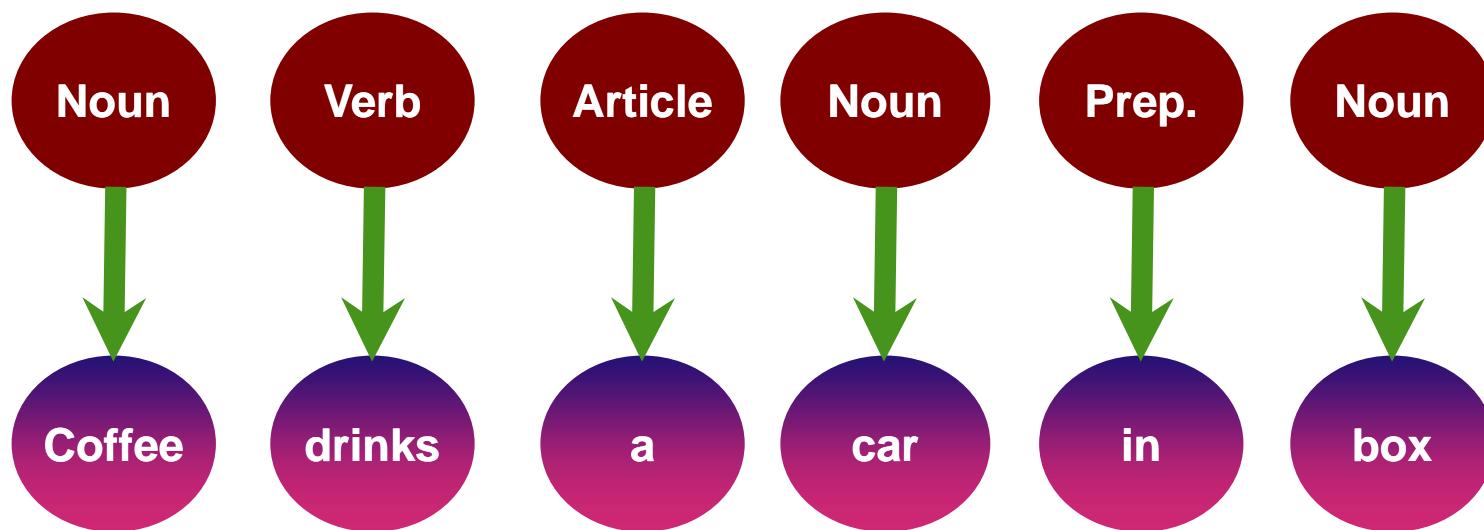
Yizhi Cai<sup>1</sup>, Brian Hartnett<sup>1</sup>, Claes Gustafsson<sup>2</sup> and Jean Peccoud<sup>1,\*</sup>



# Integrated workflow of parts-based biology



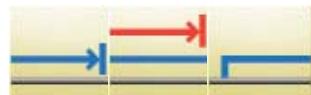
A correct structure is not enough...



# Words have no meaning! (by themselves)



**Bear Claw**



**Green  
Fluorescent  
Protein**



# Context-dependencies: RBS ORF

## Coding-Sequence Determinants of Gene Expression in *Escherichia coli*

Grzegorz Kudla,<sup>1\*</sup> Andrew W. Murray,<sup>2</sup> David Tollervy,<sup>3</sup> Joshua B. Plotkin<sup>1†</sup>

doi:10.1006/jmbi.2001.5040 available online at <http://www.idealibrary.com> on IDEAL® *J. Mol. Biol.* (2001) 313, 215–228

**JMB**



## Anatomy of *Escherichia coli* Ribosome Binding Sites

Ryan K. Shultzaberger<sup>1,2</sup>, R. Elaine Buchheimer<sup>3</sup>, Kenneth E. Rudd<sup>4</sup>  
and Thomas D. Schneider<sup>2\*</sup>

Automated design of synthetic ribosome binding sites  
to control protein expression

Howard M Salis<sup>1</sup>, Ethan A Mirsky<sup>2</sup> & Christopher A Voigt<sup>1</sup>

# Attribute Grammars

Add semantic layer to a syntax

Attribute grammar=

- ▶ Context-free grammar +
- ▶ Attributes +
- ▶ Semantic actions

Attribute

- ▶ Property associated with a part
- ▶ Notation
  - ptrc2.transcription\_rate
- ▶ Two types of attributes
  - Inherited attribute: gets value from its parental node
  - Synthesized attribute: gets value from its children nodes

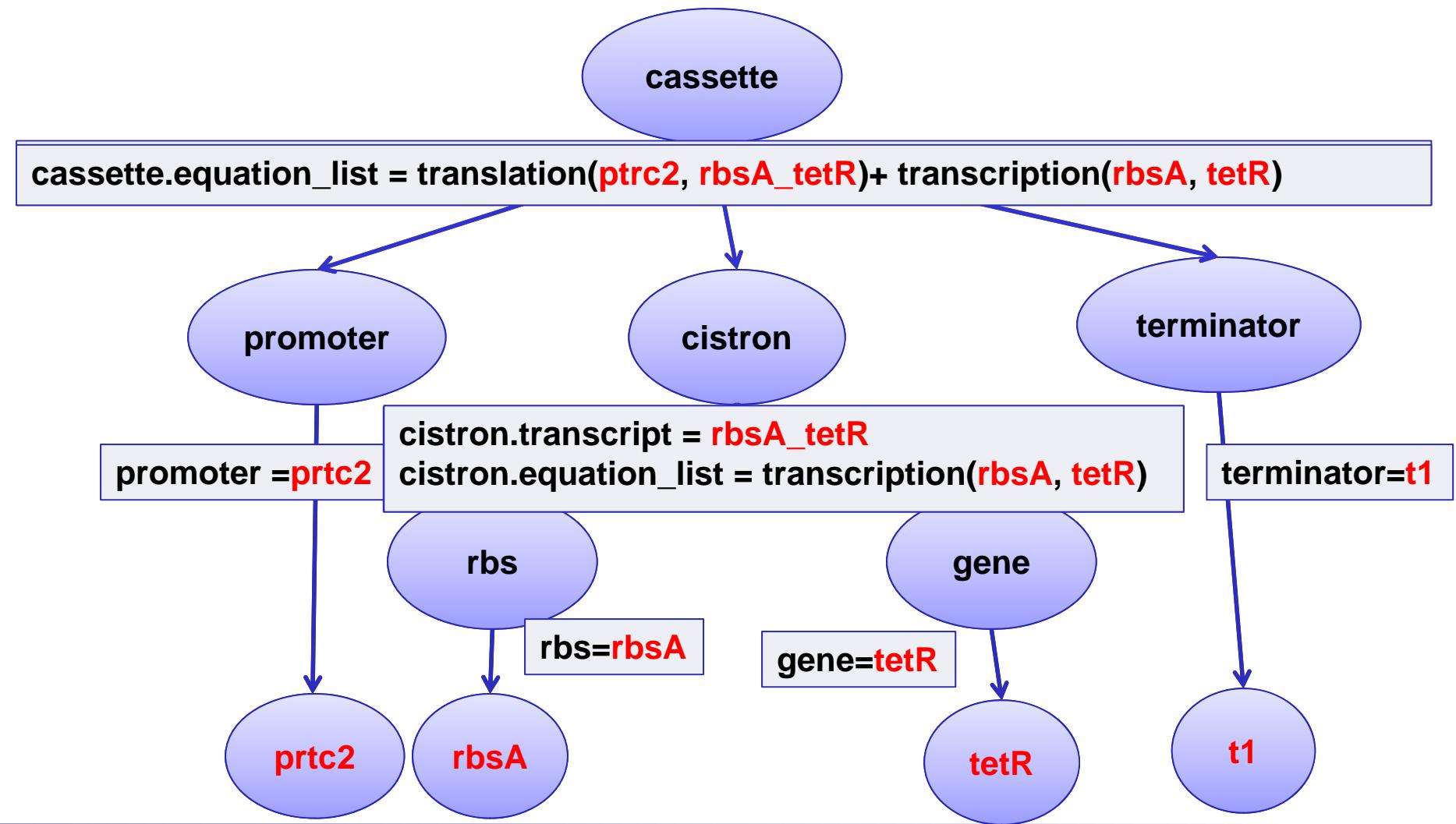
Semantic actions

- ▶ Functions updating the attributes of the language objects.
- ▶ Associated with production rules

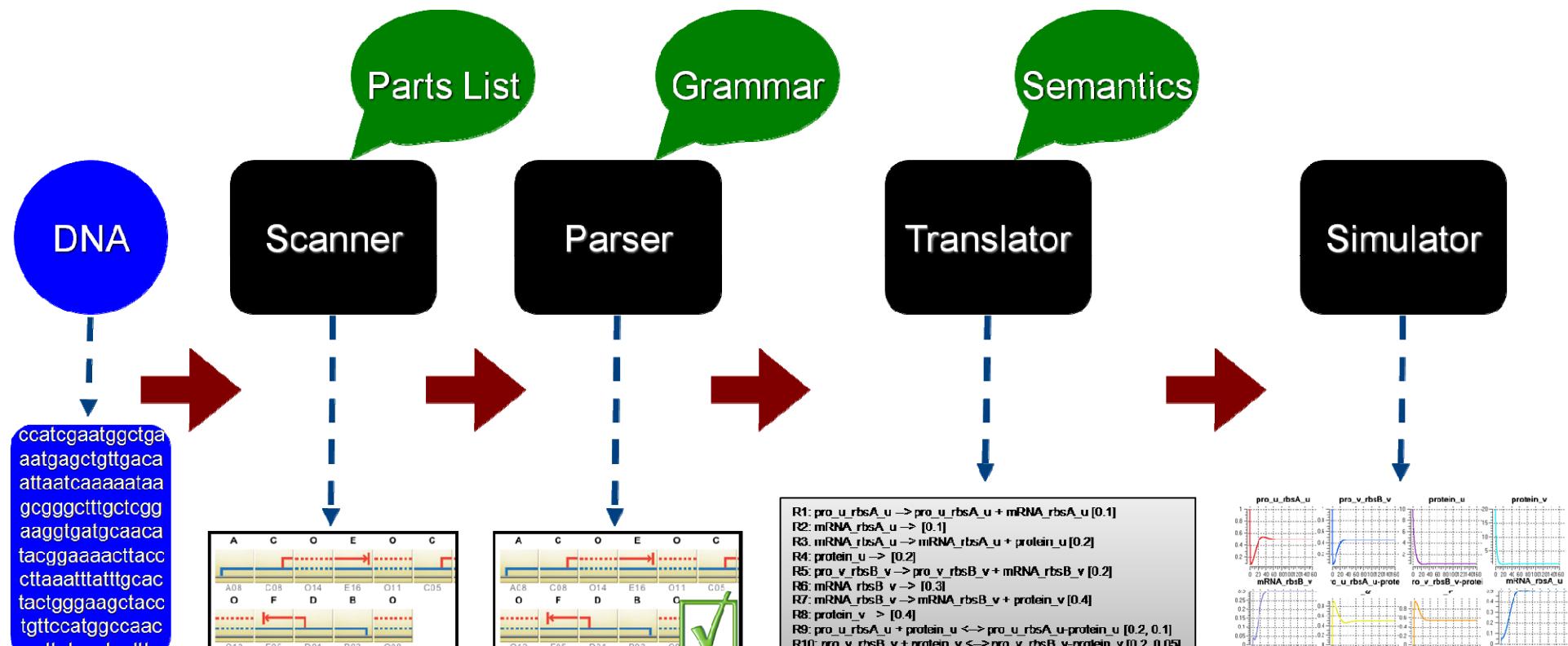
Attribute	Value
Name	ptrc2
Sequence	ccatcgaaatggctgaaat...
transcription_rate	25
repressor_list	[lacI, 4, 0.001, 1]

```
cistron → rbs, gene
{
  cistron.transcript =
    rbs.name + gene.name;
  cistron.equation_list =
    transcription(rbs, gene);
}
```

# Synthesizing the attributes: a simple example



# Compiling parts-based DNA sequences

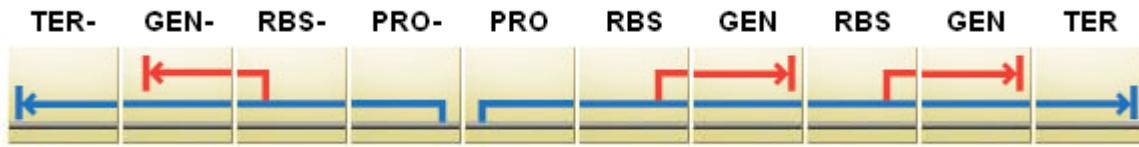


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PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

## Modeling Structure-Function Relationships in Synthetic DNA Sequences using Attribute Grammars

# Design optimization

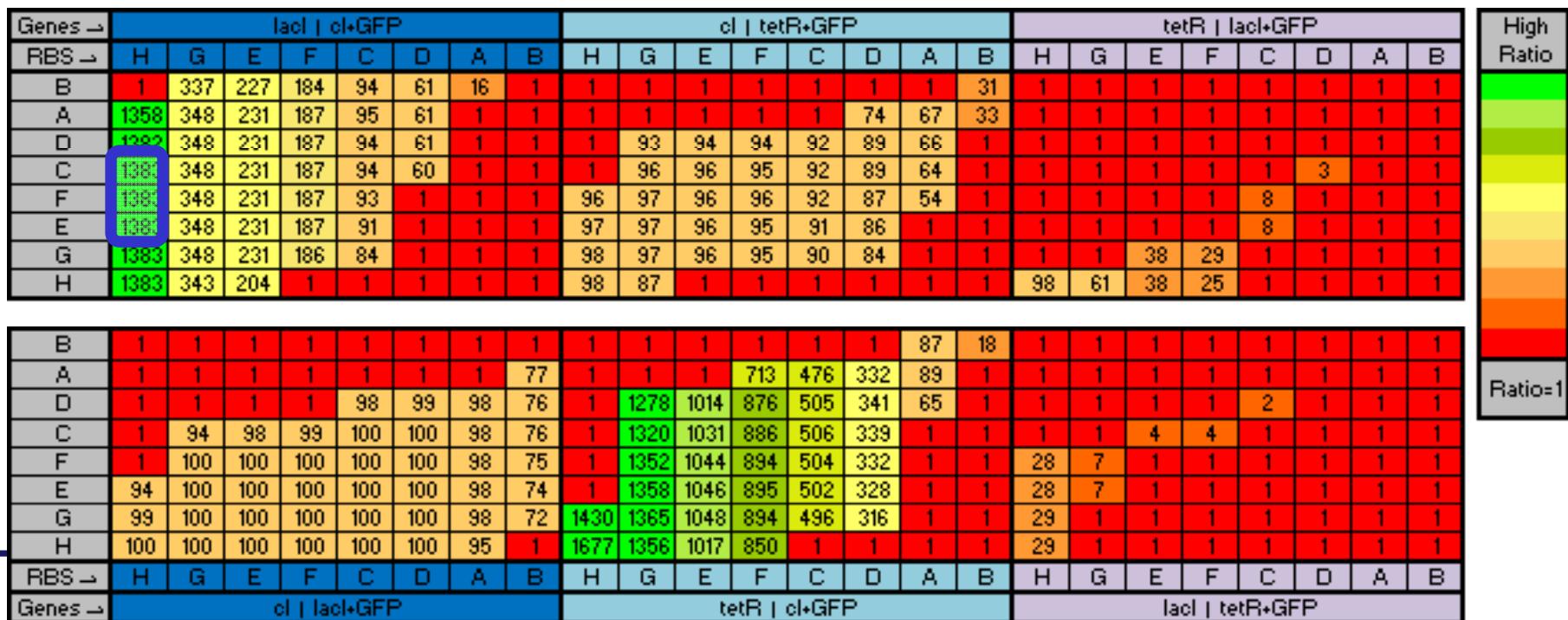


41,472 possible designs

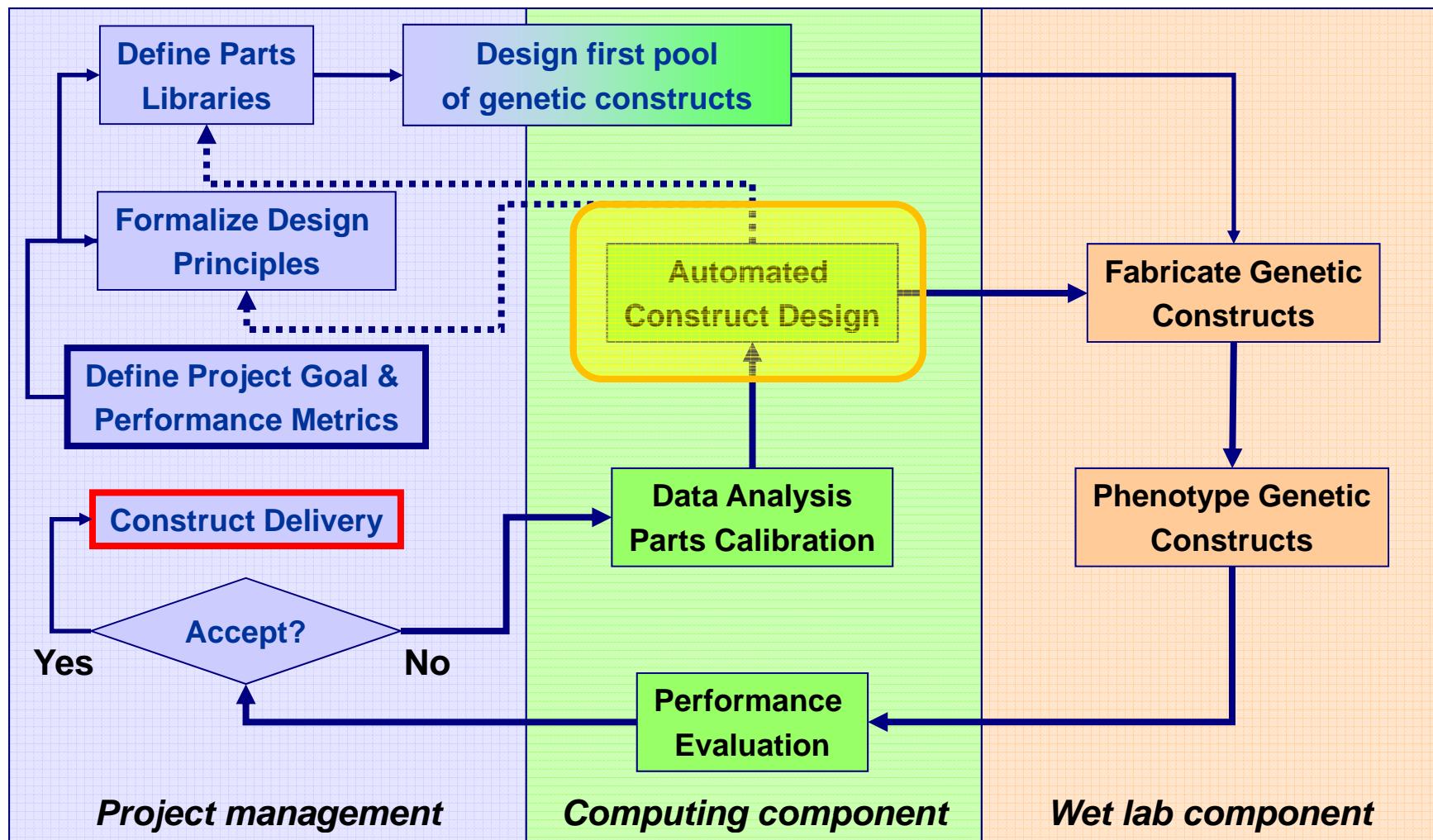
82,944 SBML files

41,472 stability analyses

Robustness and detectability of 384 potential switch designs



# Integrated workflow of parts-based biology



# XCell Description Languages

## Generation 1

- ▶ DNA
- ▶ Mol. Biol.
- ▶ MIT Registry

## Generation 2

- ▶ Formal syntax
- ▶ Structural
- ▶ Application-specific
- ▶ GenoCAD

## Generation 3

- ▶ Portable language
- ▶ Abstract representation
- ▶ Compilable into DNA for different targets organisms

Opinion

## Genetic design: rising above the sequence

Jonathan A. Goler<sup>1</sup>, Brian W. Bramlett<sup>2</sup> and Jean Peccoud<sup>3</sup>

First Generation	
Machine code	DNA Sequence
8E542408 83FA0077 06E80000 0000C383 FA027706 E8010000 00C353BB 01000000 E9010000	ccatcgaaatggctgaaatgagctgttacaattaatca tccggctcgataatgtgtggattgtgagcggataac aatttcacacaggaaaccggttatga
Second Generation	
Assembly Language	XDL v1
<pre>fib:     mov edx, [esp+8]     cmp edx, 0     Ja @f     mov eax, 0     re t     @@     push ebx     mov ebx, 1     mov ecx, 1     @@     lea eax,[ebx+ecx]</pre>	Parts <pre>PROMOTER prol = "ccatcgaaatggctgaaatgagctgttacaattaatca"; PROMOTER pr:02 = "gcatgctcc... "; RES rbs1 = "aggaatttaa..."; RES rbs2 = "agggaaaccggtt..."; GENE gene1 = "atggtgaat..."; GENE gene2 = "atgcgtaaa..."; GENE gene2 = "atgagcaca..."; TERMINATOR ter= "ctagcataa..."; EndOfParts; Construct [prol, rbs1, gene1, ter]-; [pro2, rbs2, gene2, rbs2, gene3, ter]; EndOfConstruct</pre>
Third Generation	
C	XDL v2
<pre>#include&lt;stdio.h&gt; #include&lt;malloc.h&gt; int main () {     unsigned char huge</pre> <div style="background-color: #e0e0ff; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  size;     3000000;     array =     ed char huge *)     size,1)) == NULL</div>	<pre>include coli.lib include boolean.Lib  LIGAND x = aTc; LIGAND y = IPTG; REPORTER g = GFP;  switch (LIGAND x, LIGAND y,         REPORTER g)</pre>

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- ▶ *DNA as a second language*

## **CAD meets CAM**

- ▶ **Recoupling design and fabrication**

## Design evaluation

- ▶ Coupling design and data acquisition

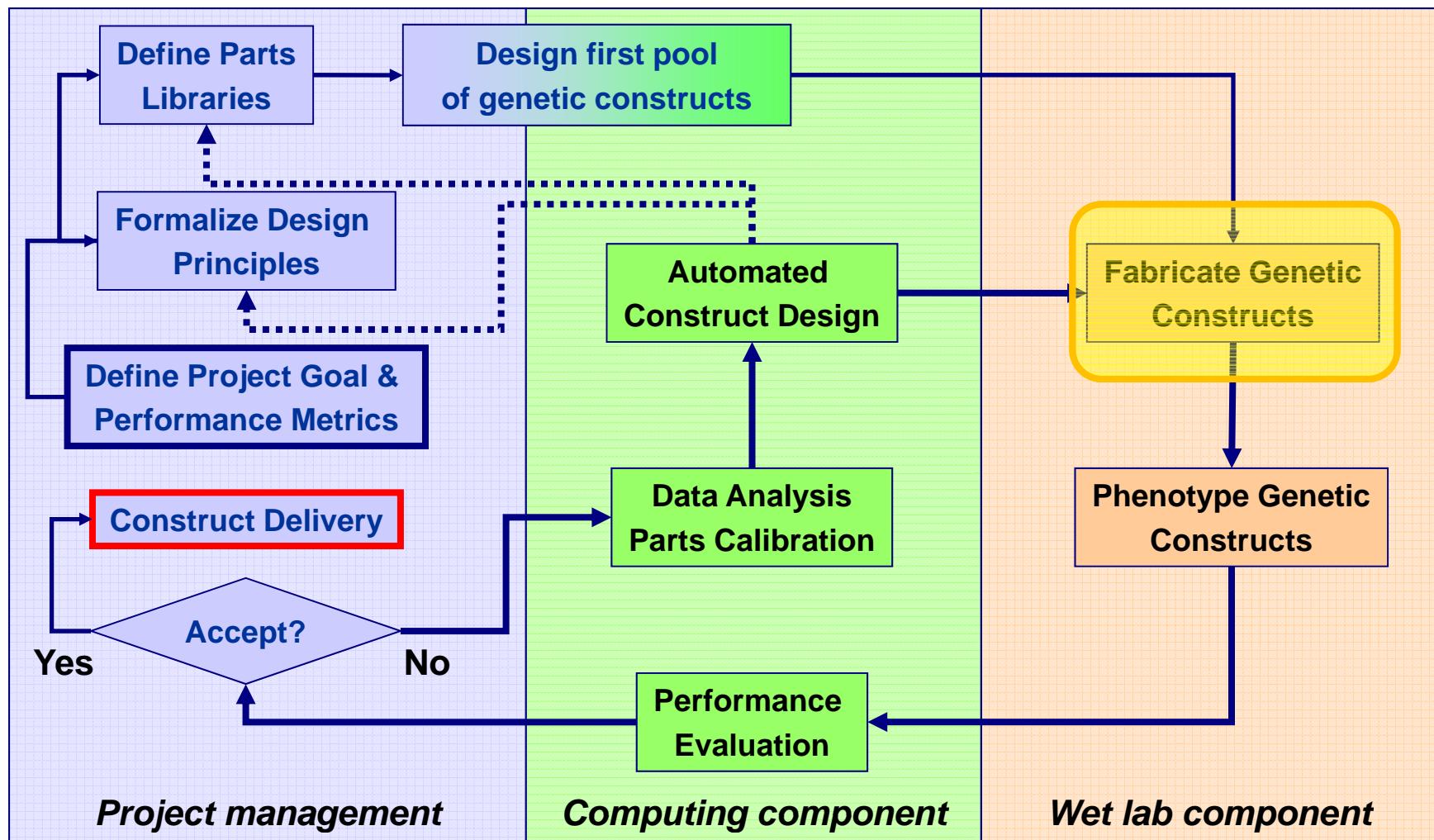
## Co-design of biological systems

- ▶ Beyond the proof of concept design

## A shifting intellectual property landscape

- ▶ Unleashing the business potential of open source

# Integrated workflow of parts-based biology



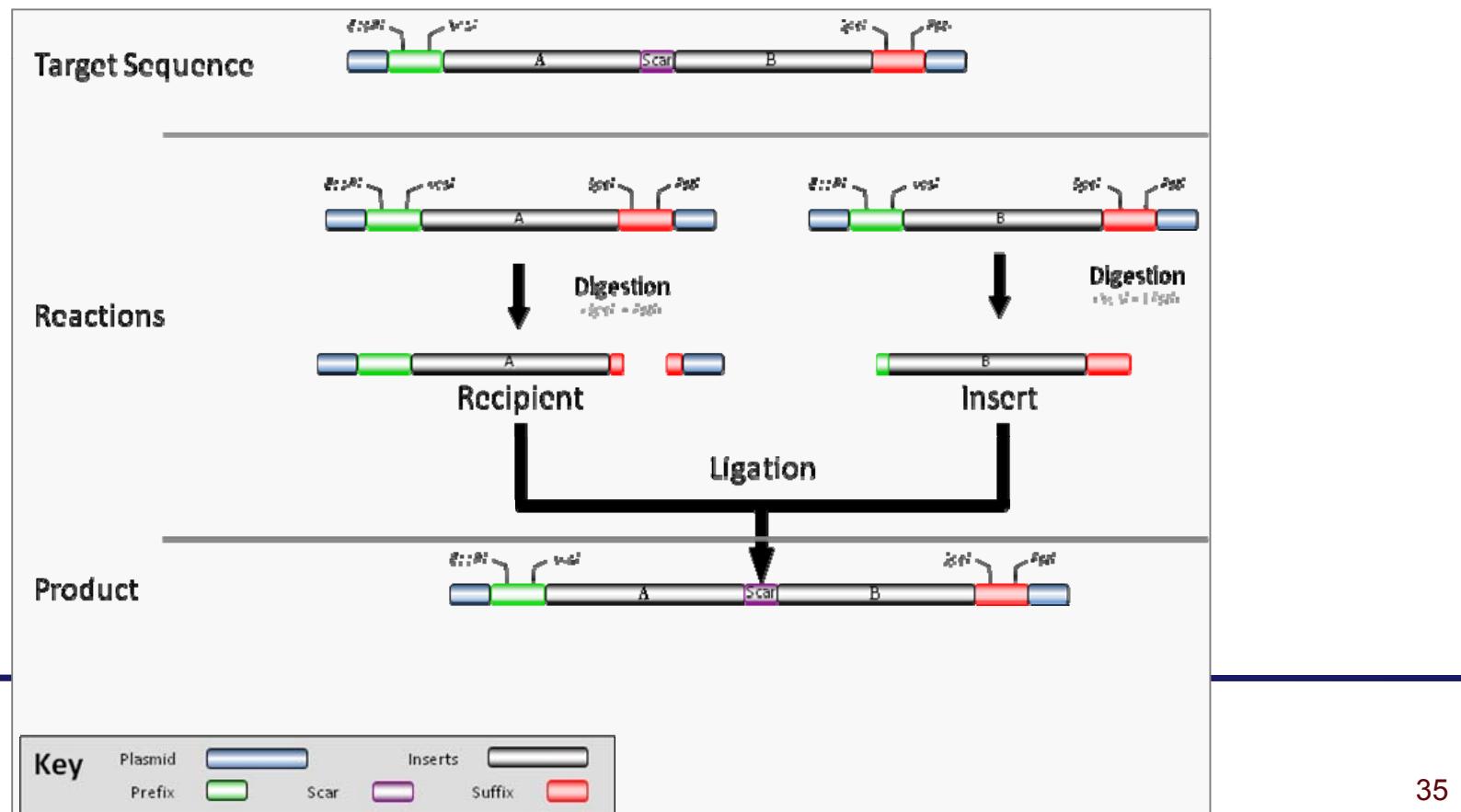
# BioBrick Assembly

## BioBrick™ standards

- ▶ Assembly of two BB parts is streamlined
- ▶ Composition: assembly of two BB parts is BB compliant

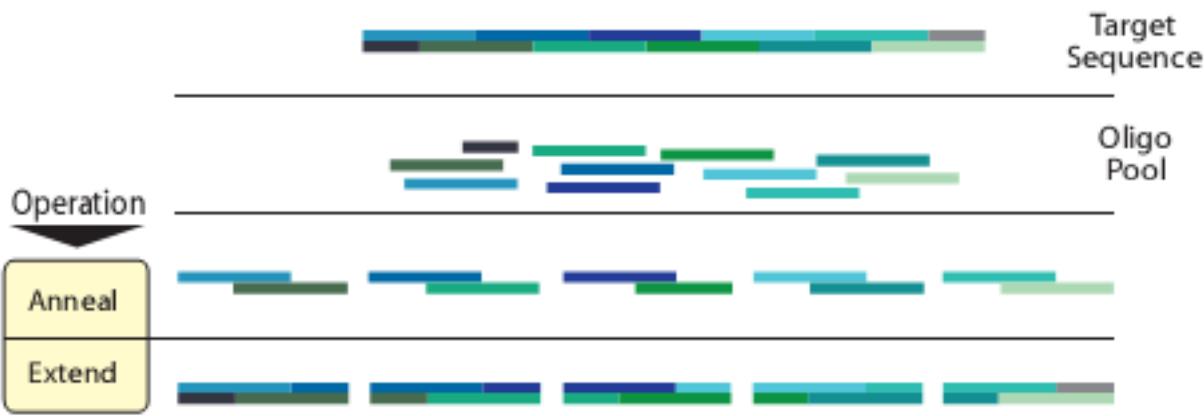
## Limitations

- ▶ Restriction sites
- ▶ Scar
- ▶ Proliferation of standards



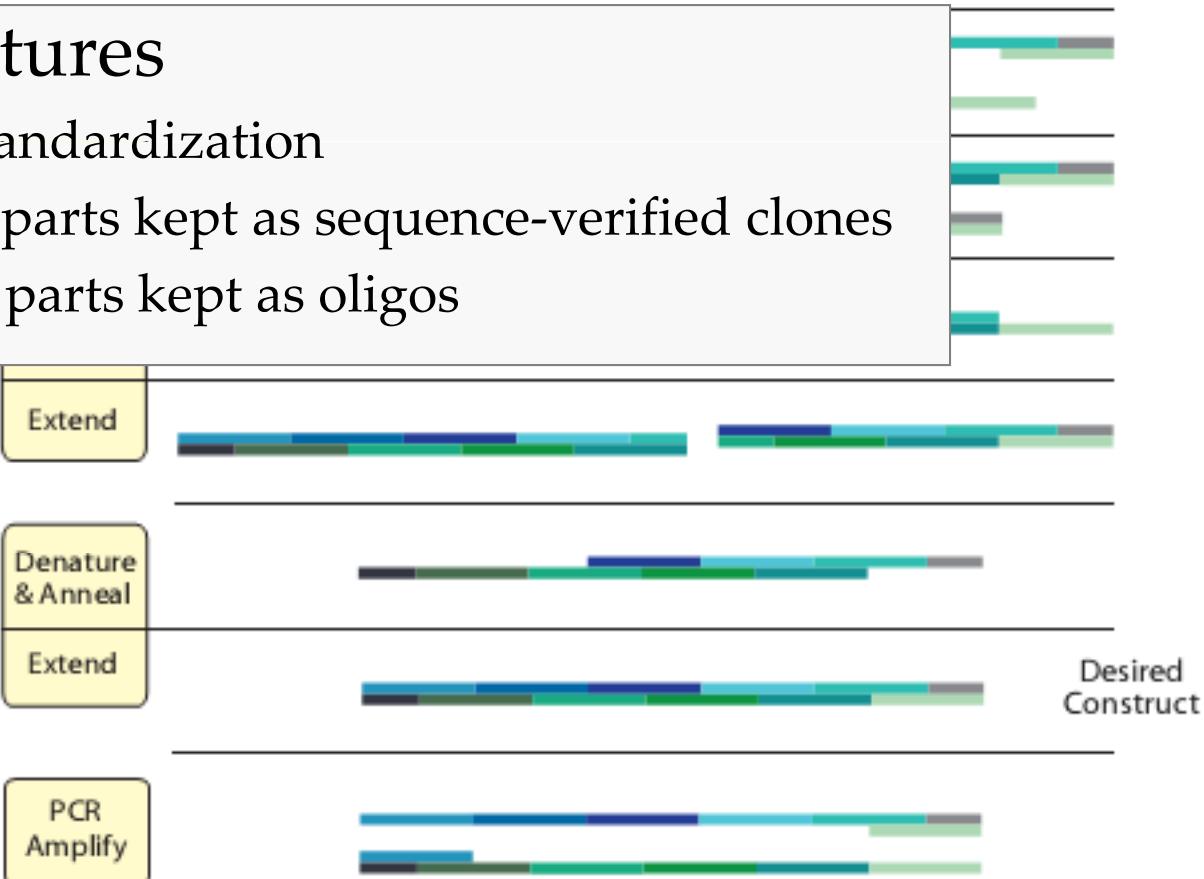
# Parts-based fabrication:

## parts-synthesis



## Main features

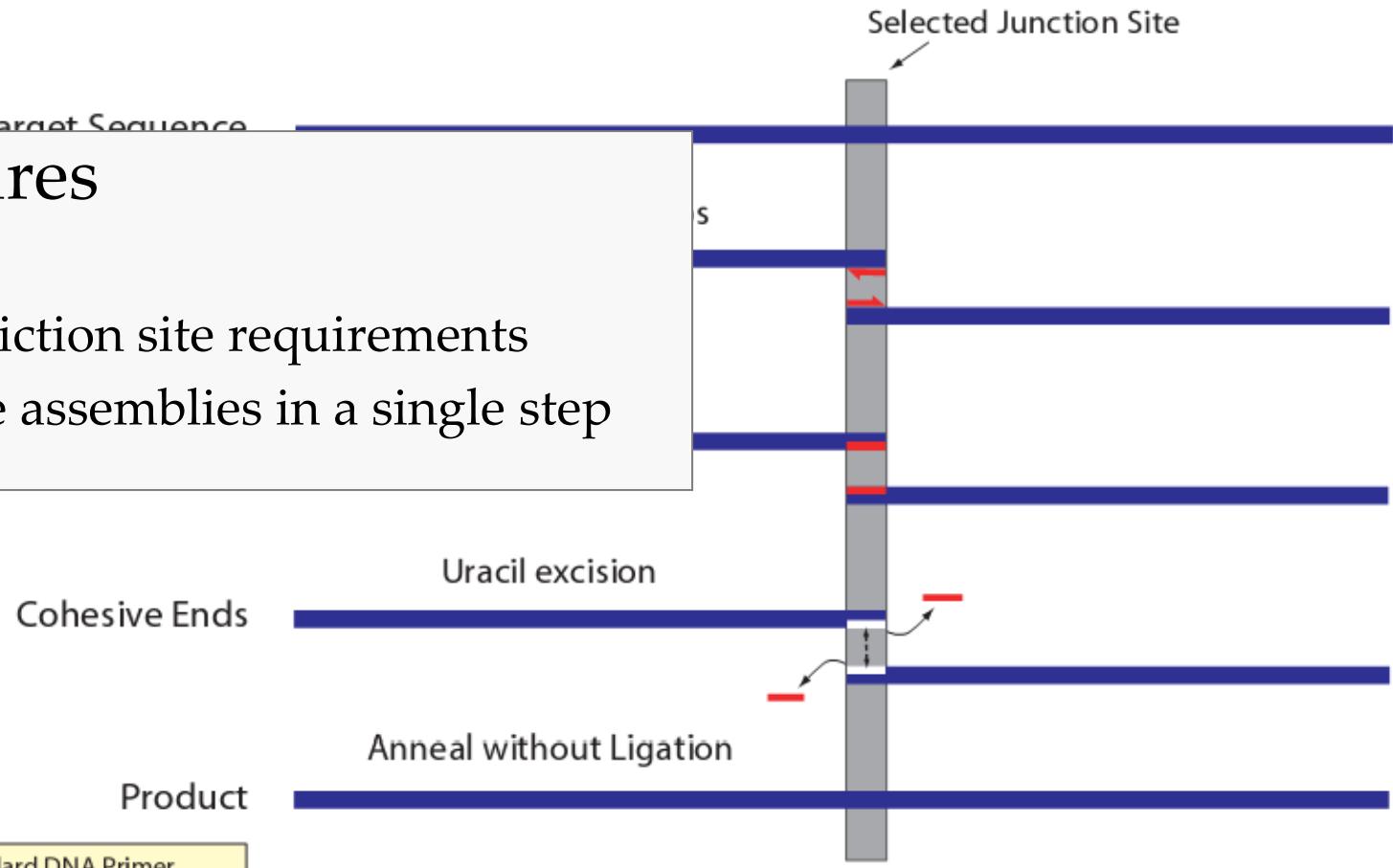
- ▶ No standardization
- ▶ Long parts kept as sequence-verified clones
- ▶ Short parts kept as oligos



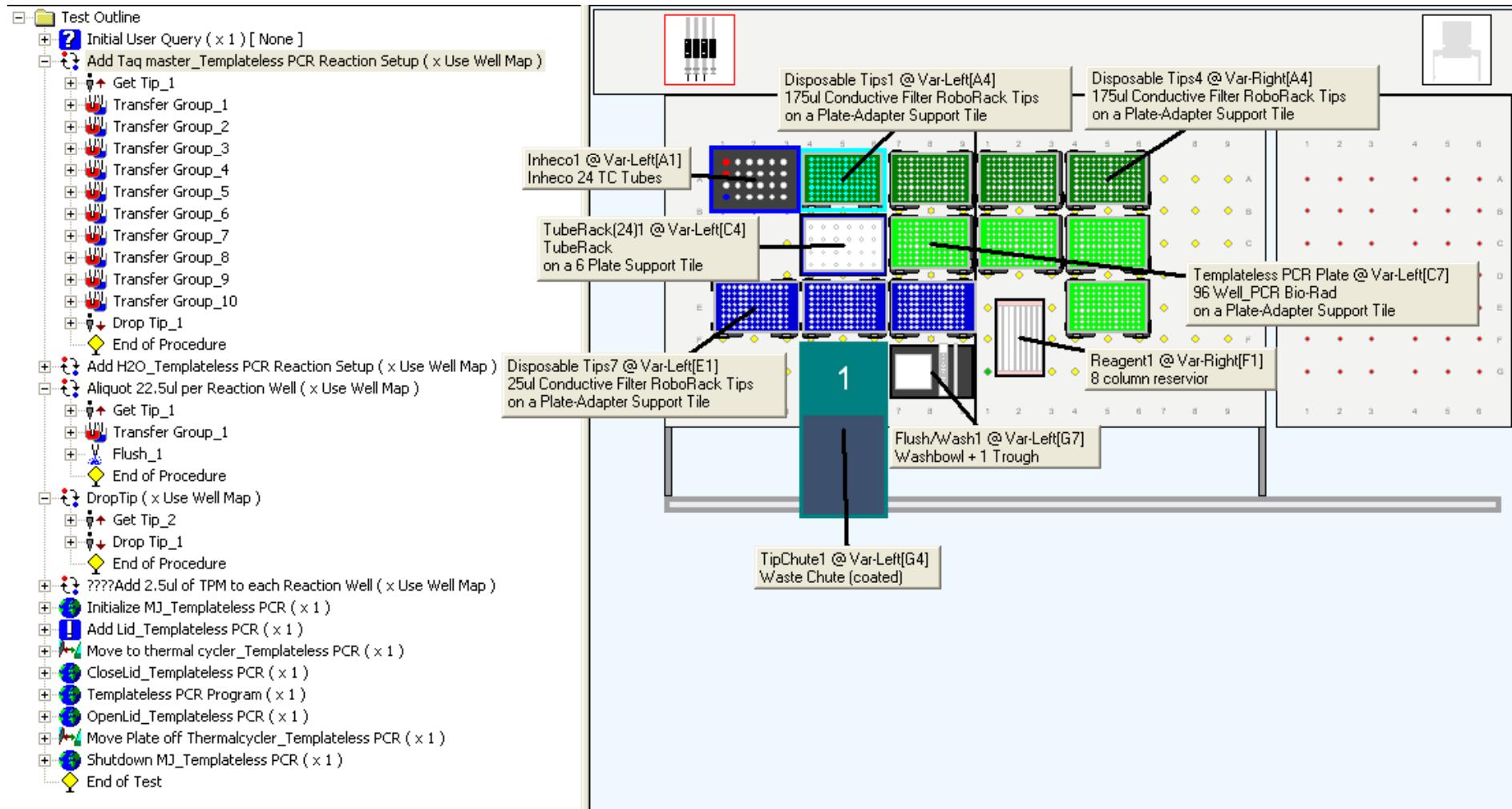
# Parts-based fabrication: parts assembly by USER fusion

## Main features

- ▶ No scar
- ▶ No restriction site requirements
- ▶ Multiple assemblies in a single step



# Automating each of the steps



# Optimization of fabrication processes

Published online 23 March 2010

Nucleic Acids Research, 2010, Vol. 38, No. 8 2607–2616  
doi:10.1093/nar/gkq165

## Algorithms for automated DNA assembly

Douglas Densmore<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Timothy H.-C. Hsiao<sup>2</sup>, Joshua T. Kittleson<sup>2</sup>, Will DeLoache<sup>2,3</sup>, Christopher Batten<sup>4</sup> and J. Christopher Anderson<sup>2,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Fuel Synthesis, Joint BioEnergy Institute, 5885 Hollis St., Fourth Floor, Emeryville CA 94608,

<sup>2</sup>Department of Bioengineering, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, <sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Davidson College, Davidson, NC 28036, <sup>4</sup>School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 and <sup>5</sup>Berkeley National Laboratory, Physical Biosciences Division; QB3: California Institute for Quantitative Biological Research; 327 Stanley Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

Molecular Systems Biology 4; Article number 191; doi:10.1038/msb.2008.26

Citation: *Molecular Systems Biology* 4:191

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www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

molecular  
systems  
biology

## REPORT

## Recursive construction of perfect DNA molecules from imperfect oligonucleotides

Gregory Linshiz<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Tuval Ben Yehzkel<sup>2,3</sup>, Shai Kaplan<sup>1</sup>, Ilan Gronau<sup>1</sup>, Sivan Ravid<sup>1</sup>, Rivka Adar<sup>2</sup> and Ehud Shapiro<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel and <sup>2</sup> Department of Biological Chemistry, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel

<sup>3</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work

\* Corresponding author. Department of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, and Department of Biological Chemistry, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel. Tel.: +972 8 9344506; Fax: +972 8 947 1746; E-mail: ehud.shapiro@weizmann.ac.il

Received 8.1.08; accepted 13.3.08

# CAD meet CAM

## Fabrication strategy can constrain the design space: BioBricks 1.0

- ▶ Scar between parts
- ▶ Does not allow fusion of protein domains
- ▶ Reserved sequences (restriction sites)

## Design strategies can facilitate fabrication

- ▶ Minimize local GC content: alternative parts, parts design
- ▶ Minimize repeats

## Tuning the process parameters

- ▶ Different protocols for different steps
- ▶ Parameters of specific protocols (oligo design, oligo synthesis, etc)
- ▶ Complex effects of parameters on the process performance
  - Save on oligo synthesis but may result in higher sequencing costs

## Optimization for different figures of merit

- ▶ Collect performance statistics to establish a baseline
- ▶ Simulate existing process to identify parameter sensitivity
- ▶ Simulate revised process to identify possible improvements
- ▶ Deploy improved processes customized for specific projects

# Outline

## *Design of biological systems*

- ▶ *Controversial and transformative*

## *Lessons from 40 years of EDA*

- ▶ *Shrinking the size of the design space*

## *The genetic code and beyond*

- ▶ *DNA as a second language*

## *CAD meets CAM*

- ▶ *Recoupling design and fabrication*

## **Design evaluation**

- ▶ **Coupling design and data acquisition**

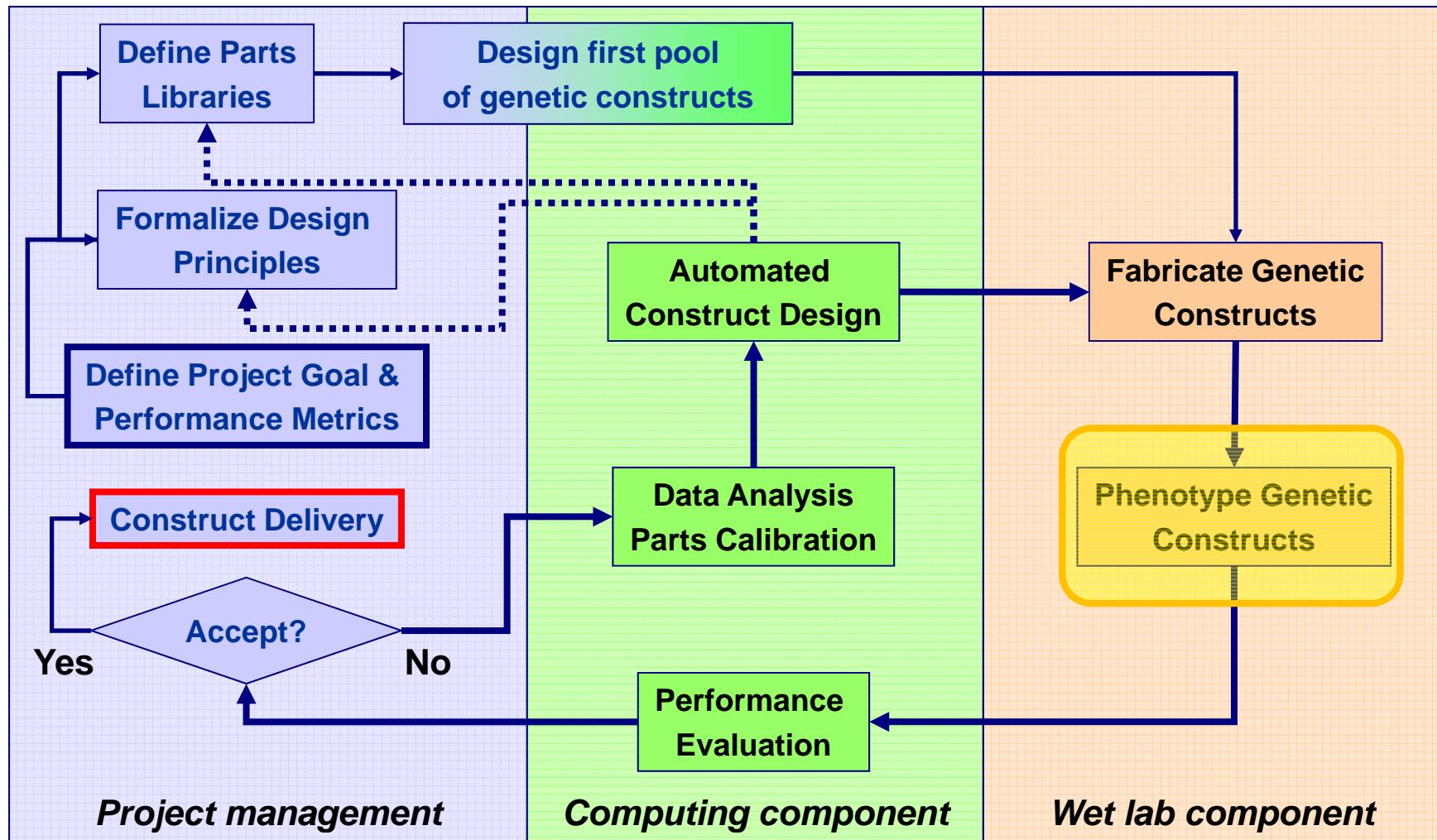
## Co-design of biological systems

- ▶ Beyond the proof of concept design

## A shifting intellectual property landscape

- ▶ Unleashing the business potential of open source

# Integrated workflow of parts-based biology



# Cell Cycle: Robust yet Sloppy

Robustness of the outcome

- ▶ Sequence of events

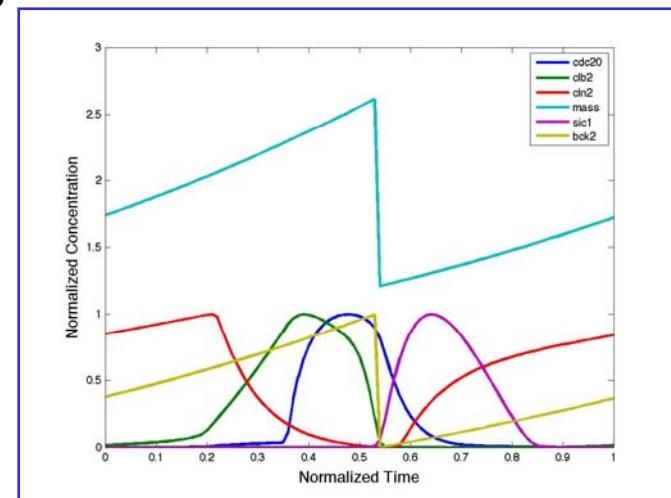
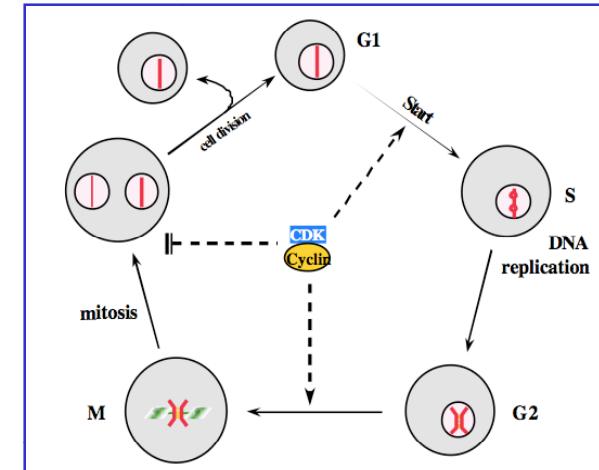
Sloppiness of the process

- ▶ Time between division (CV 10%-15%)
- ▶ Size at cell division (CV 5%-8%)

Sources of fluctuations

- ▶ Molecular noise: small molecule numbers
- ▶ Fluctuation of the division process

Gene	Average molecules per cell	
	mRNA	Protein
CLN2	1.2	1000
CLN3	1.1	110
CLB6	0.4	50
SWI5	0.8	690
CDC28	2.2	6000



Sources: Chen and Tyson

# Measuring the stochastic dynamics of gene networks

## Requirements

- ▶ Fine time-resolution
- ▶ Single cell data
- ▶ Track individual cells (space, information, cell lineage)



## Objectives

- ▶ Estimate the dynamics of the statistical distribution of gene expression and product localization

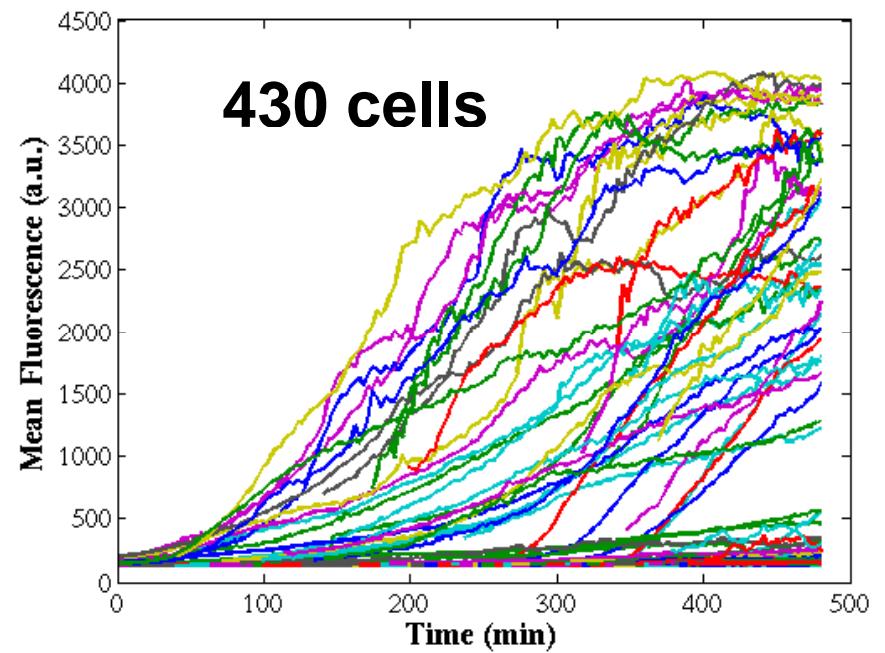
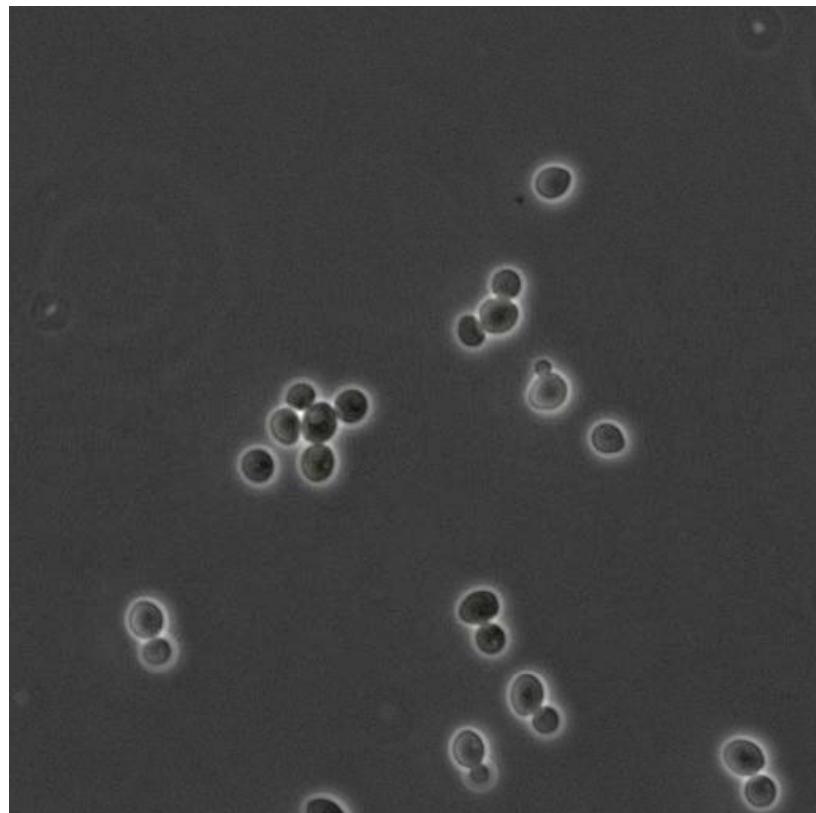
## Method

- ▶ Custom image processing
- ▶ [Custom hardware]
- ▶ [Custom control algorithm]

## Typical Experiment Size

- ▶ 10 hours
- ▶ 3 min resolution
- ▶ 20 fields of view
- ▶ Phase / Fluo.
- ▶ 8,000 images
- ▶ 4 GB data

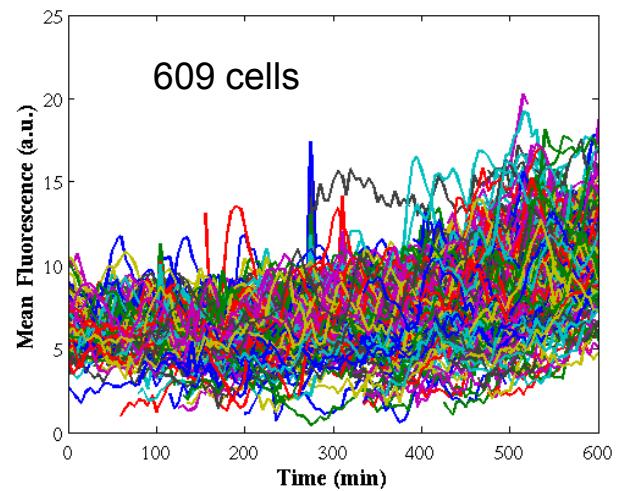
## Example : GAL1pr-YFP



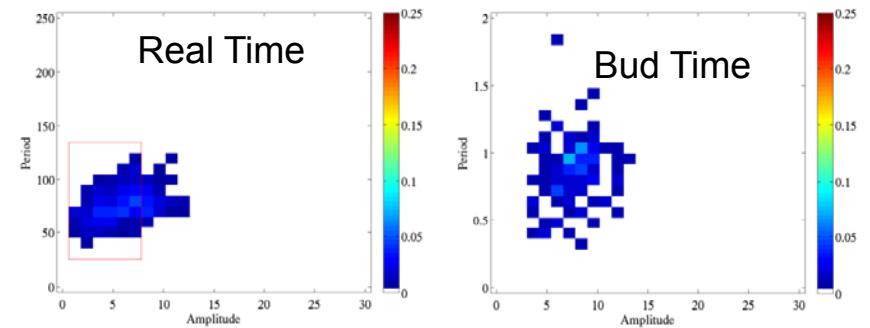


# *CLN2-GFP*

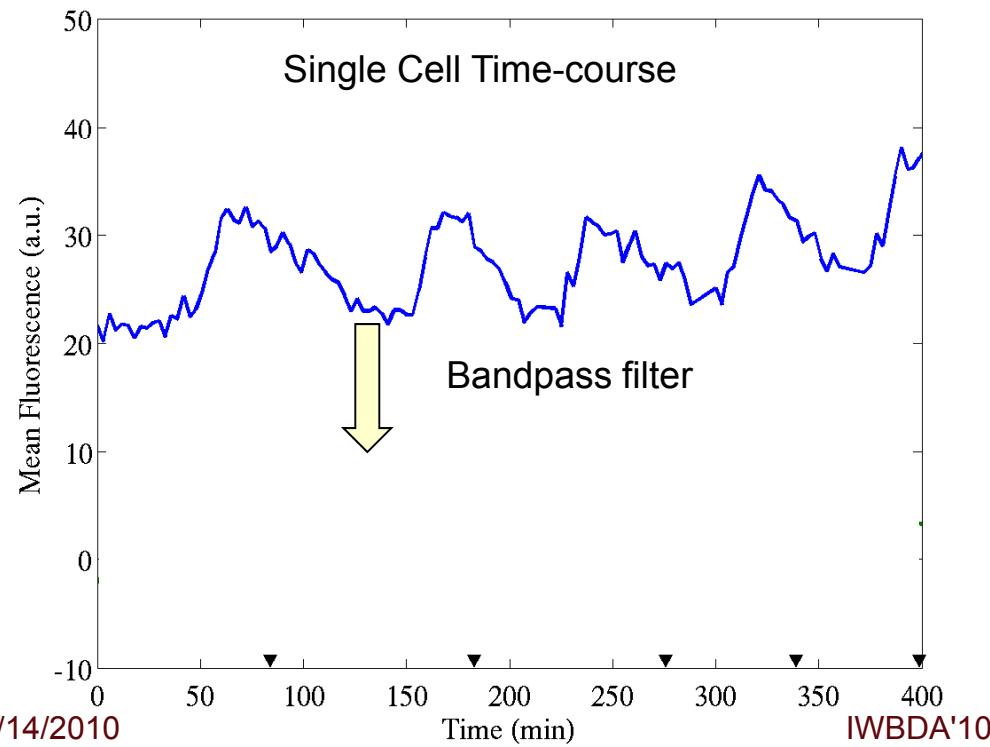
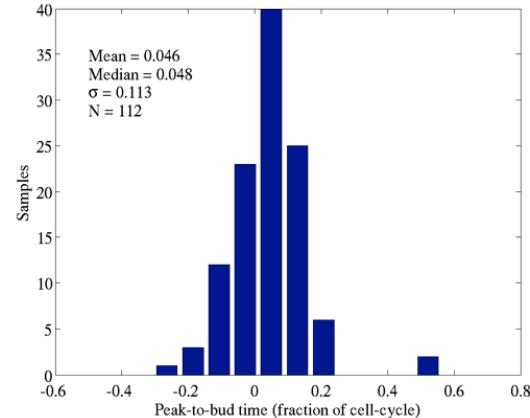
Characterizing the fluctuations  
of the cell cycle oscillations



Population Amplitude & Period



Population Phase



# Coupling Design and Measurement

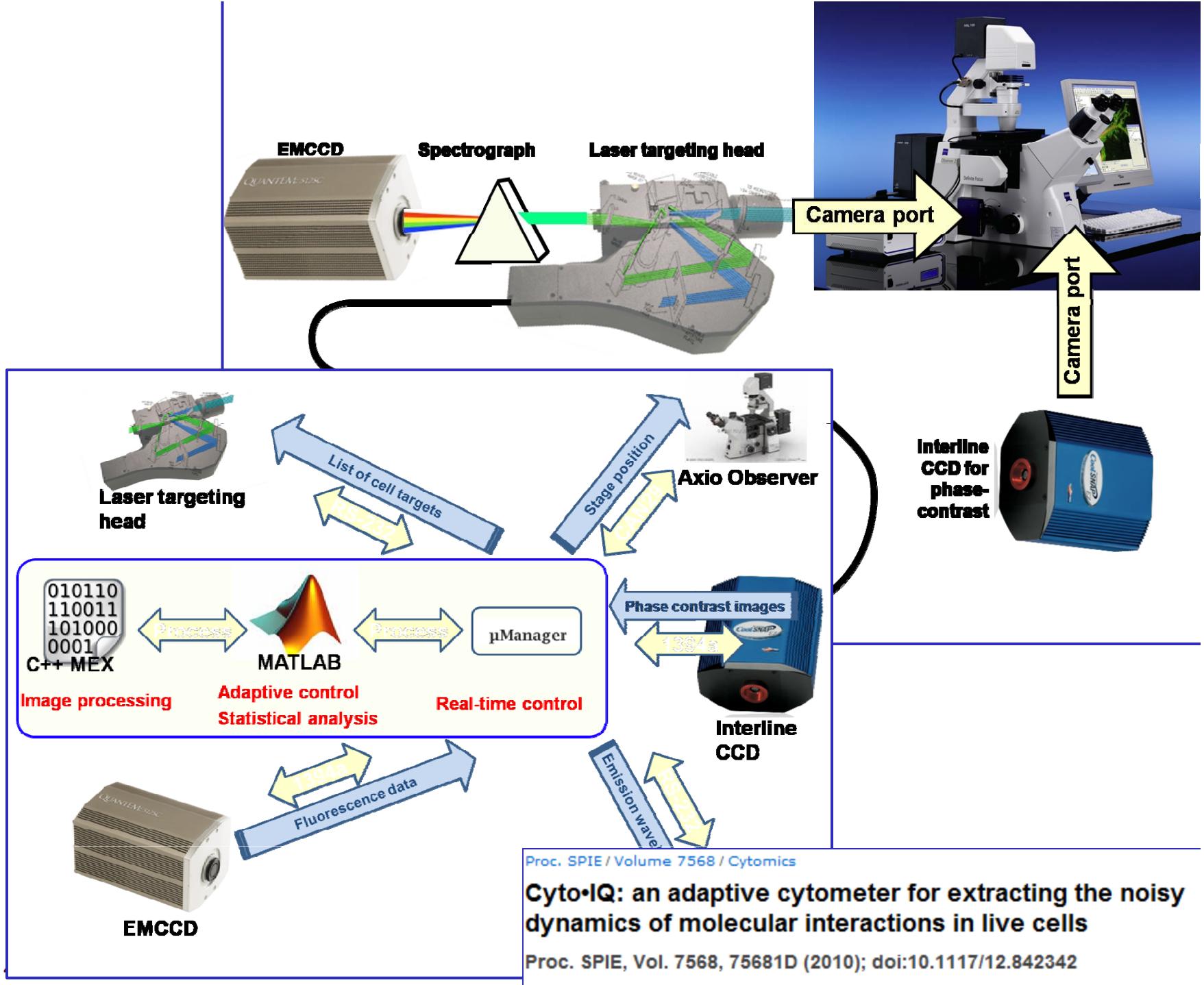
It is difficult to reconcile data with the model

- ▶ Stochastic model / single cell data
  - Mean value, first moment, entire distribution, rare events
- ▶ Need a model of the measurement system
  - Lack of information about GFP maturation / degradation
  - Error in raw data acquisition and data processing

We have a problem

- ▶ Time lapse microscopy is inherently inefficient
  - ▶ Need real time image processing / data analysis
  - ▶ Need to adapt the data acquisition to the experiment (not the other way around)
  - ▶ Will lead to the development of a new generation of T&M instruments
-

# Cyto•IQ HW and SW Architecture



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- ▶ *DNA as a second language*

## *CAD meets CAM*

- ▶ *Recoupling design and fabrication*

## *Design evaluation*

- ▶ *Coupling design and data acquisition*

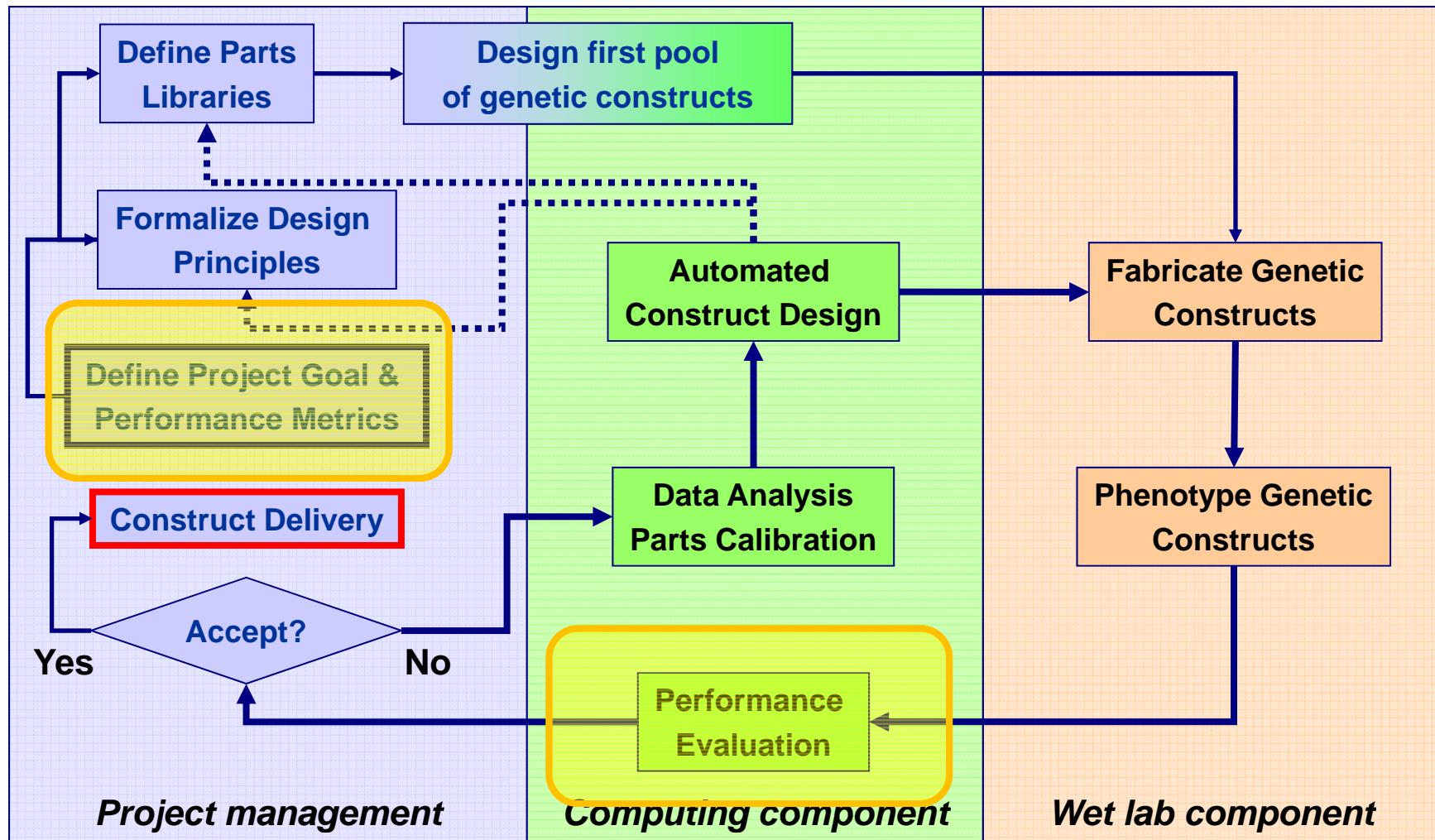
## **Co-design of biological systems**

- ▶ **Beyond the proof of concept design**

## A shifting intellectual property landscape

- ▶ Unleashing the business potential of open source

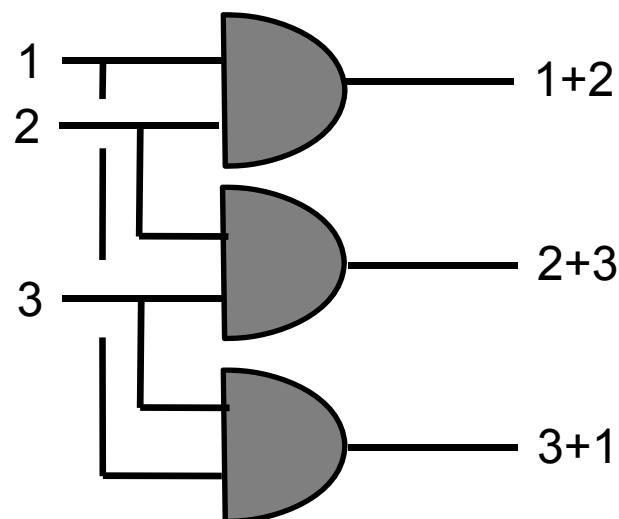
# Integrated workflow of parts-based biology



# Environmental Sensor: Specification

Defense application

3 Inputs, unique output for any pair on inputs



Input 1	Input 2	Input 3	Output 1	Output 2	Output 3
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	+	-	-	-
-	+	-	-	-	-
-	+	+	-	+	-
+	-	-	-	-	-
+	-	+	-	-	+
+	+	-	+	-	-
+	+	+	+	+	+

# Co-design of the environmental sensor

## Why co-design?

Compare multiple approaches

- ▶ Finding the “best” design
- ▶ Different design domains
- ▶ Some alternative methods

Load on cells generally unknown

- ▶ Spread load out
- ▶ Transcriptional control somewhat inefficient

## Performance metrics

Difficulty of implementation:

- ▶ Cost/risk of development
- ▶ Number of design cycles

Performance:

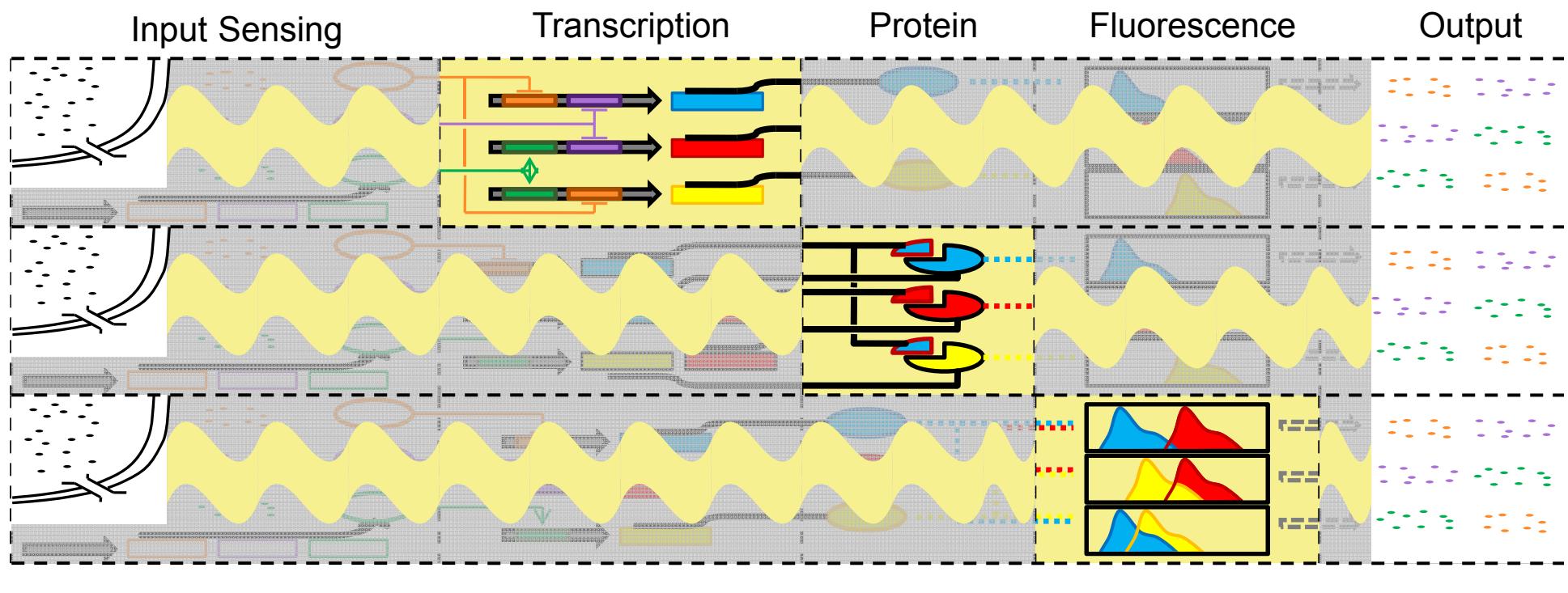
- ▶ Accuracy
- ▶ Signal strength
- ▶ Sensitivity
- ▶ Response time
- ▶ Low “power” consumption

Fieldable application

- ▶ Cost of manufacturing
- ▶ Integration in an IT system

# Multiple design domains

Implement at different layers of cellular control  
Transcription, translation, post-translation, detection  
Similar to the software/hardware codesign problem



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## *Co-design of biological systems*

- ▶ *Beyond the proof of concept design*

## **A shifting intellectual property landscape**

- ▶ **Unleashing the business potential of open source**

The screenshot shows the GenoCAD website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Design', 'Validate', 'Parts', 'About', and 'Log In'. A 'HOME' link is also present. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Design' on the left and 'Validate' on the right.

**How to use this site:**

GenoCAD™ is an experimental tool allowing you to build and verify complex genetic constructs derived from a library of standard genetic parts.

© 2007 Virginia Bioinformatics Institute  
[contact information](#)

**Design**

- 1 Think of a construct
- 2 Build its structure
- 3 Select its parts
- 4 Download your sequence

**Start a Design ▶**

**Validate**

- 1 Upload your sequence
- 2 Click validate
- 3 View structure

**Validate ▶**

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# Change structure or select parts

The screenshot shows the GenoCAD BETA software interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'HOME' (with a back arrow), 'Design' (highlighted in blue), 'Validate', 'Parts', 'About', and 'Log In'. On the left, a sidebar titled 'History' has buttons for 'Step 1' through 'Step 5'. The main area is titled 'Sequence Builder' with dropdown menus for 'Simple Grammar' and 'Base library (Simple Grammar)'. Below this is a link 'Click here for design templates'. The central part of the screen displays a sequence diagram with arrows pointing from 'TER-' to 'CIS-' to 'PRO-' to 'PRO' to 'CIS' to 'TER'. Below the diagram is a grid of 10 rows and 6 columns of parts, each with a plus sign and a number. A blue bracket on the left groups the first four columns under 'Structure selection', and another blue bracket on the right groups the last two columns under 'Parts selection'. Arrows point from these brackets to their respective labels.

History

Step 1  
Step 2  
Step 3  
Step 4  
Step 5

Sequence Builder Simple Grammar Base library (Simple Grammar) Click here for design templates

TER- CIS- PRO- PRO CIS TER

+ -01	+ 2cis-	+ -01	+ 01	+ 2cis+	+ 2ter
+ -02	+ rbgn-	+ -02	+ 02	+ rbgn+	+ 01
+ -03		+ -03	+ 03		+ 02
+ -04		+ -04	+ 04		+ 04
			+ 05		
			+ 06		
			+ 07		
			+ 08		
			+ 09		
			+ 10		

Structure selection

Parts selection

# Export the sequence...

The screenshot shows the GenoCAD Sequence Builder interface. On the left, there's a vertical navigation bar with steps 1 through 9. The main area is titled "Sequence Builder" and shows a diagram of a protein sequence with domains: TER-, GEN-, RBS-, PRO-, and PR-. Below the diagram, checkboxes are checked for "ter-02", "gen-01", "rbs-03", "pro-03", and "pro-04". Above the diagram, dropdown menus show "Simple Grammar" and "Base library (Simple Grammar)". A button labeled "click here for design templates" is also present. To the right, a message says "Your sequence is ready!" with a "Download" button. A red circle highlights the "Log In" button in the top right corner. A file download dialog box is overlaid on the interface, titled "Opening sequence.txt". It contains the following text:

You have chosen to open  
sequence.txt  
which is a: Text Document  
from: http://synbio.vbi.vt.edu:25500

What should Firefox do with this file?

Open with Notepad (default)  DownThemAll!  Save File

Do this automatically for files like this from now on.

OK Cancel

# My designs

The screenshot shows the GenoCAD BETA software interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Design', 'Validate', 'Parts', 'About', and 'Log Out'. Below the navigation bar, there is a sub-navigation menu with links for 'My Designs', 'My Libraries', 'My Parts', and 'My Profile'. The main content area is titled 'My Designs' and contains a table listing four design entries. Each entry includes the name, description, last modification date, and links for 'Clone', 'Delete', and 'View/Modify'. Below the table, there are navigation links for 'First', 'Prev', '1 of 1', 'Next', and 'Last'. A 'Start a New Design' link is located at the top right of the main content area. Below the main content area, there is another section titled 'Public Designs' with a table listing one design entry. The table columns are 'Name', 'Description', 'Last Modification', and 'Load Design'. The design entry is for 'Two Cassettes' with a description of 'Two expression cassettes in opposite orientation.' and a modification date of '07/17/2008 11:42 AM'. A 'Load' link is provided for this entry. Below this table, there are navigation links for 'First', 'Prev', '1 of 1', 'Next', and 'Last'.

Name	Description	Last Modification	Clone	Delete	View/Modify
Polycistronic cassette		1/3/2008 11:02:25 AM	<a href="#">Clone this design</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
RNA Antiswitch Cassette		1/3/2008 11:04:17 AM	<a href="#">Clone this design</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
YAD	Yet another design	7/16/2008 8:55:51 PM	<a href="#">Clone this design</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
T8 Expression Cassette		7/16/2008 9:00:16 PM	<a href="#">Clone this design</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>	<a href="#">View</a>

First Prev 1 of 1 Next Last

Name	Description	Last Modification	Load Design
Two Cassettes	Two expression cassettes in opposite orientation.	07/17/2008 11:42 AM	<a href="#">Load</a>

First Prev 1 of 1 Next Last

# GenoCAD Design Strategy

A collaboration tool

- ▶ **Legal**: licensing, parts database, business rules
- ▶ **Bioinformatics**: organization central parts library
- ▶ **Application specialists**: vector design
- ▶ **Molecular biologists**: vector construction

Lightweight client: limit the hassle factor

- ▶ No software installation
- ▶ Web browser

Graphical user interface

- ▶ Familiar workflows: shopping carts
- ▶ Understandable by a middle-schooler

# GenoCAD Open Source License

From web site to open source software development

*“Don’t ask don’t tell licensing”* is not open source

- ▶ Typical scenario: *faking it*
- ▶ Problems:
  - Status of IP unclear
  - Access to software may be terminated

The three faces of Open Source licensing

- ▶ Initial code base
- ▶ Developer contributions
- ▶ End-user

VT partnered with ICSB for licensing GenoCAD

- ▶ Inter-institutional agreement
- ▶ Apache system of licenses: business friendly
- ▶ Protects the community

# How to use GenoCAD?

## Gene Synthesis

### Customize back-end DB

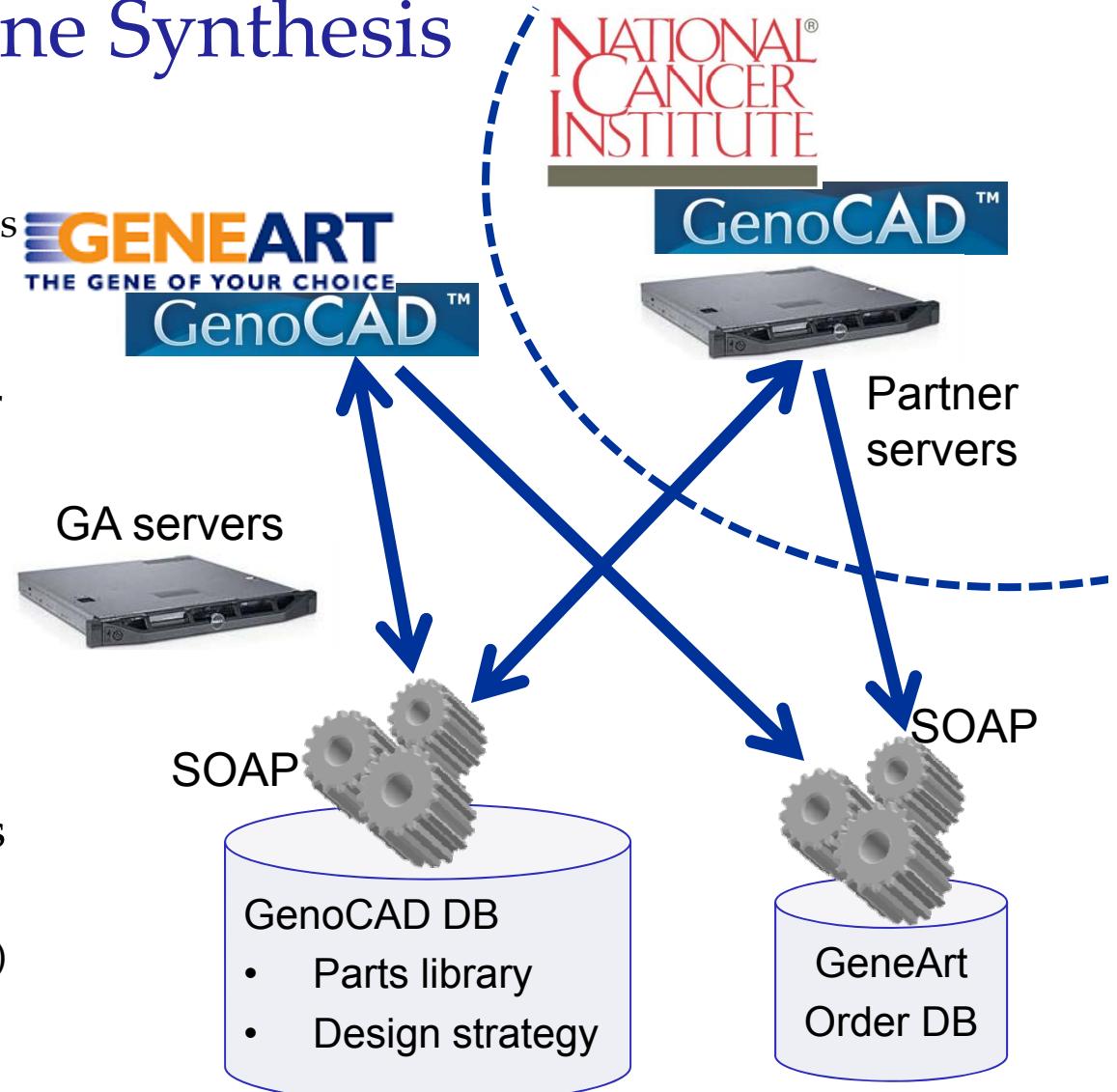
- ▶ Modify existing parts libraries
- ▶ Create new parts libraries
- ▶ Customize design strategies
- ▶ Design libraries/strategies for specific customers/projects

### Integrate GenoCAD in MyGeneArt.com

- ▶ Authentication
- ▶ Ordering system

### Custom front-end for partners

- ▶ Resides on partner servers
- ▶ Connects to partner db (auth)
- ▶ Connects to GenoCAD db on GA servers



# Why use GenoCAD?

**Defend / grow market share** with value-added services

- ▶ Gene synthesis is a commodity
- ▶ Create value by providing differentiating services:
  - Helping users design constructs: parts library & design strategies for different domains
  - Seamless ordering process

**Reduce costs** through knowledge capture

- ▶ Reduce the cost of pre-sale support
  - GA spends less time with customers without comprising project success
- ▶ Capture company expertise in design strategies

**Increase profitability** by maximizing parts reuse

- ▶ Resale previously synthesized sequences
  - Develop domain-specific parts libraries
- ▶ Reduced cost to the customer, increase profit margin

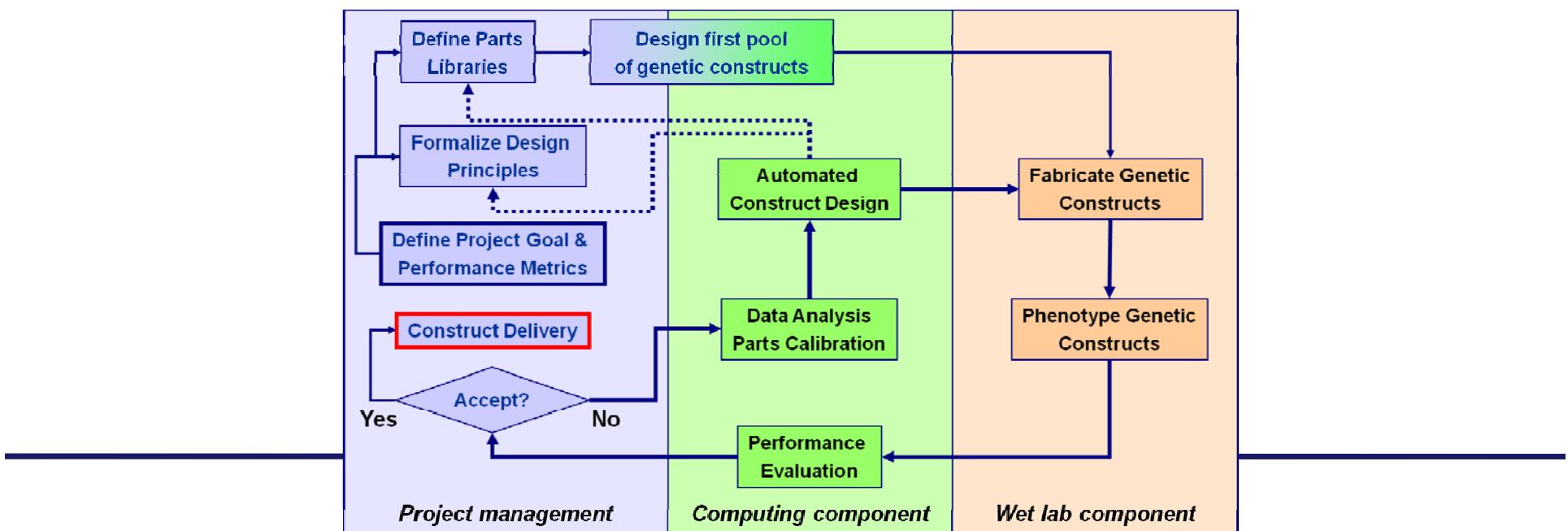
# Capturing value by integrating open components

Where is the value?

- ▶ Integration of tools and processes to close the DA loop
- ▶ Integration will be domain/problem specific
- ▶ Integration includes the team

How to capture value?

- ▶ Data sets generated by well structured experimental design
- ▶ Design strategies for a particular problem
- ▶ End product of the design process





**digital biology foundation**  
supporting life sciences software that works. together.

# Take home messages...

Finding a market to live the vision

- ▶ Demonstrate the **value proposition today**
- ▶ Test, capture, formalize **existing biological knowledge**
- ▶ Find a language to **communicate with potential users**

Reducing the cost of DNA fabrication by several orders of magnitude

- ▶ Avenues to rationally **optimize** the process
- ▶ **Recoupling** fabrication and design to increase fab efficiency
- ▶ Define target **languages describing fab processes**

Expressing and measuring the function of genetic parts

- ▶ Imaging: **reduction of raw data** (flow cytometry, microscopy)
- ▶ **Context-dependence** of functional parameters
- ▶ **Identifiability** of functional parameters

# Acknowledgements

## Leadership

- [VBI](#): Jean Peccoud, M. Czar, O. Folkerts, M. Wilson

## Experiments

- [VBI SynBio](#): J. Marchand, D. Ball, M. Lux, S. Zheng, J. Long
- [VT iGEM'07](#): E. DeLalla, B. Lyons, M. Sweede
- [VBI CLF](#): C. Evans, K. Cooper, M. Blauvelt

## Data analysis

- [VBI SynBio](#): Y. Cai, R. Shelton, M. Lux, L. Adams
- [VBI CIG](#): M. Shrinivasrao, O. Crasta



## Collaborators

- [VBI](#): S. Hoops, J. Lewis
- [Virginia Tech](#): J. Tyson, W Baumann
- [Brandeis](#): J. Cohen
- [JHU](#): J. Boeke, J. Bader
- [Boston U.](#): J. Collins
- [Berkeley](#): J.C. Anderson, J. Goler
- [UIUC](#): W. Sanders
- [MIT](#): R. Rettberg, R. Weiss
- [Lux Bio Group](#): B.W. Bramlett
- [DNA2.0](#): C. Gustafsson
- [SAIC](#): G. Doyle
- [MITRE](#): J. Dileo, M. Petersen

## Funding



# Questions?



CAD Model of VBI



Photo of VBI