

Biology

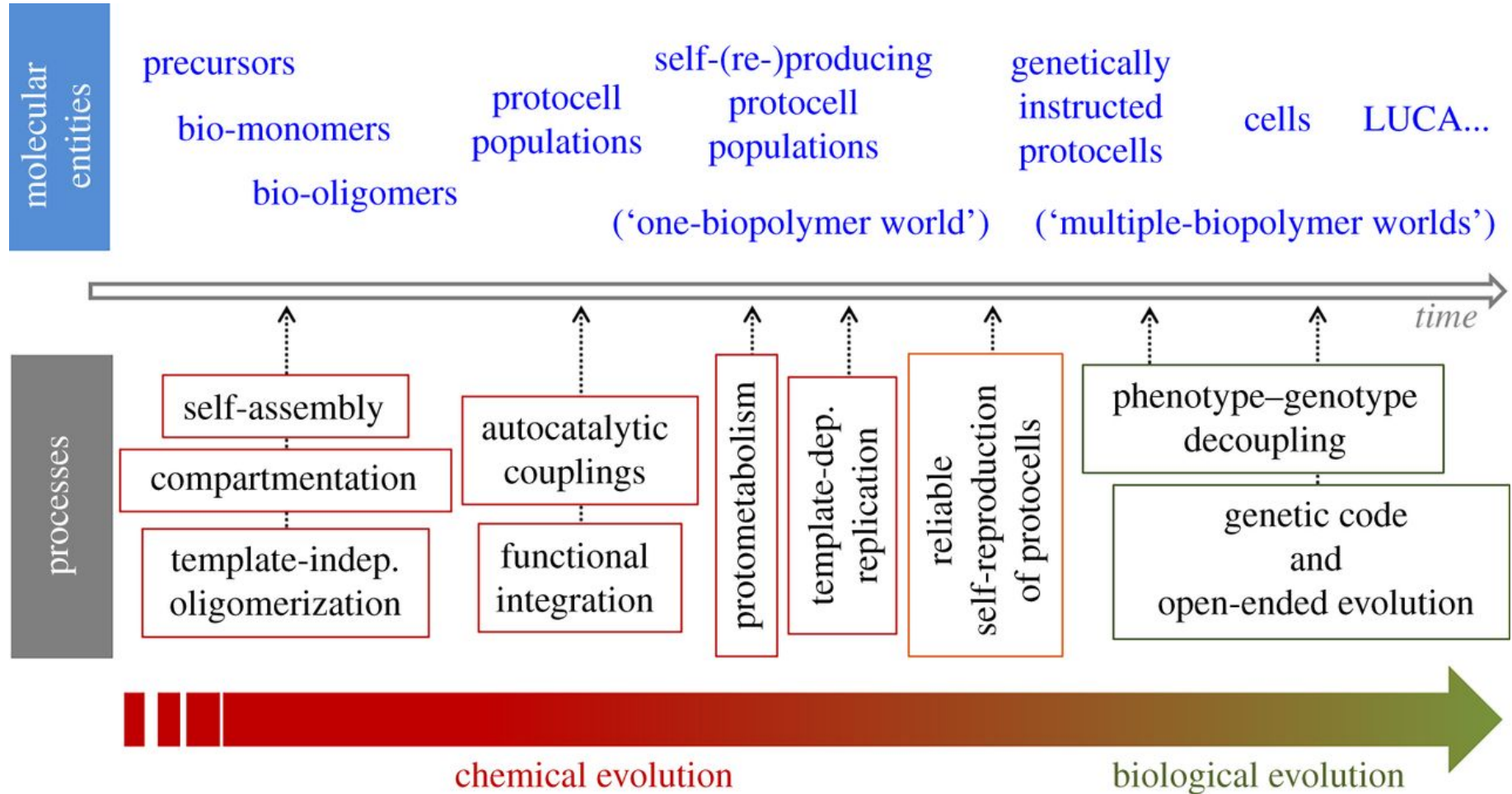
ES131

Module 2

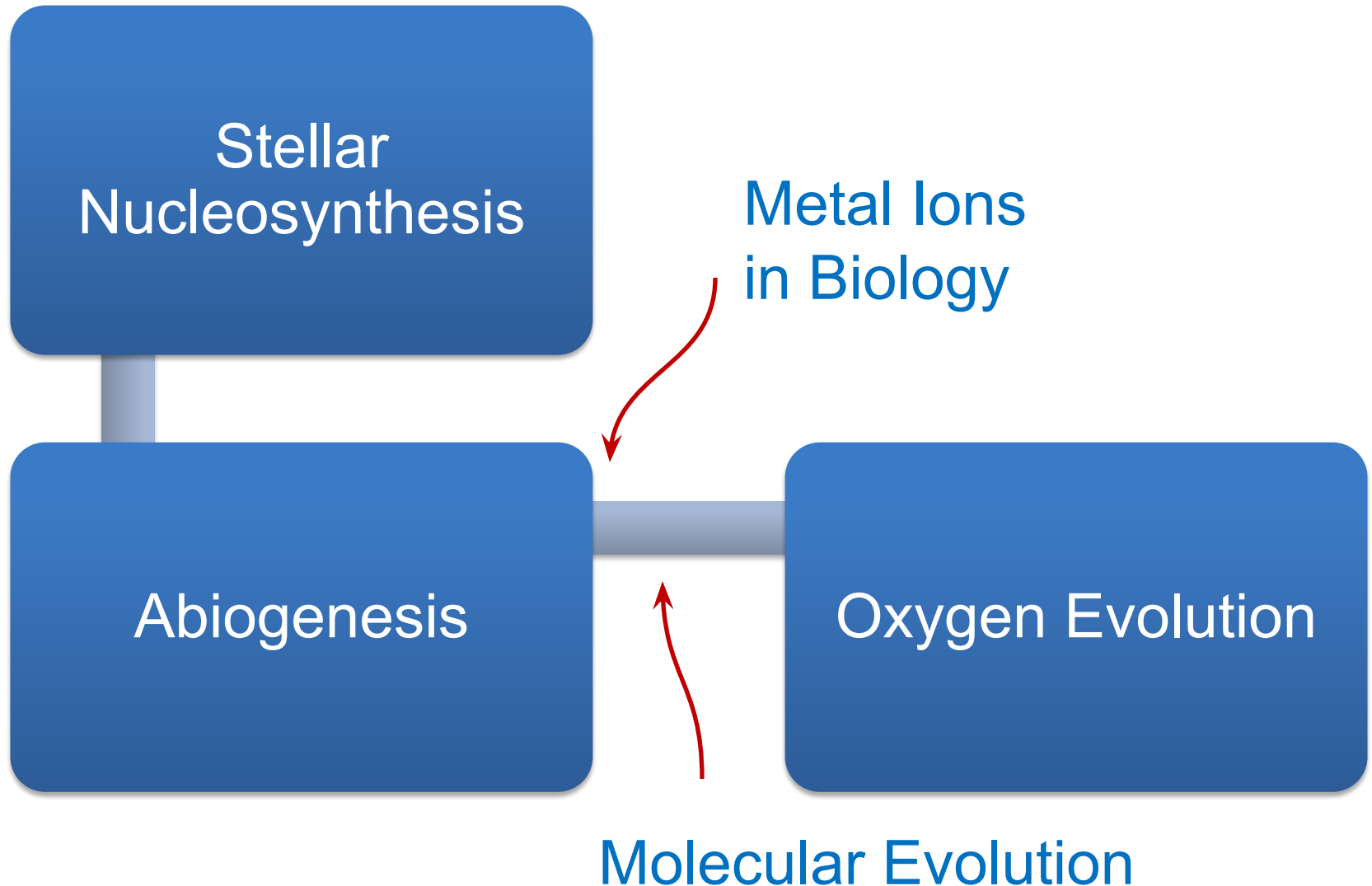
Chemistry in Biology (Part 2)

Chemical Evolution, Metabolism, Synthetic Biology

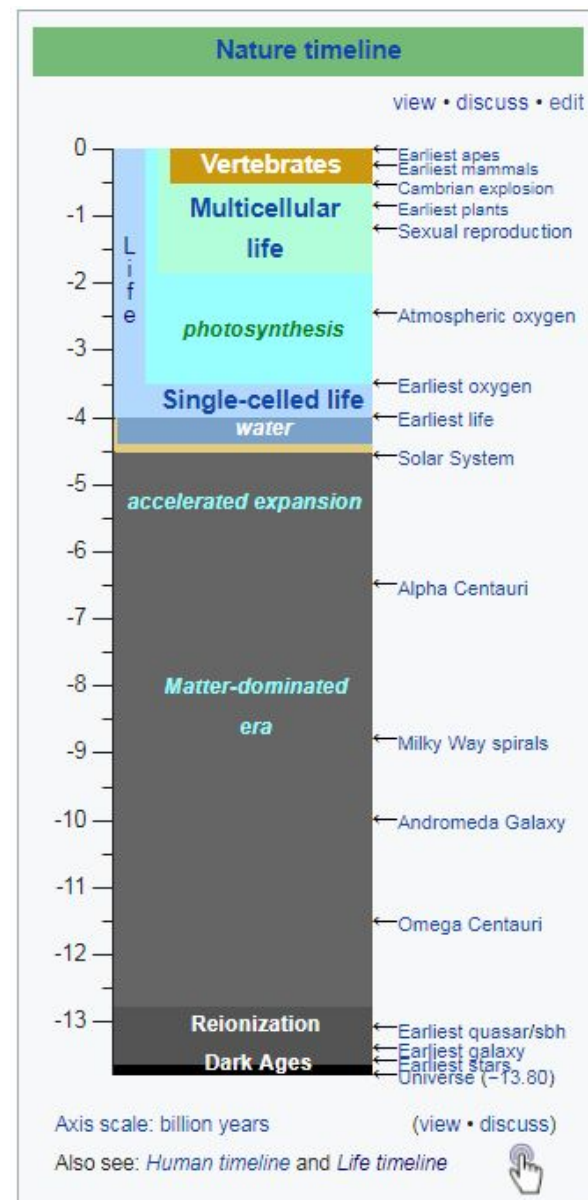
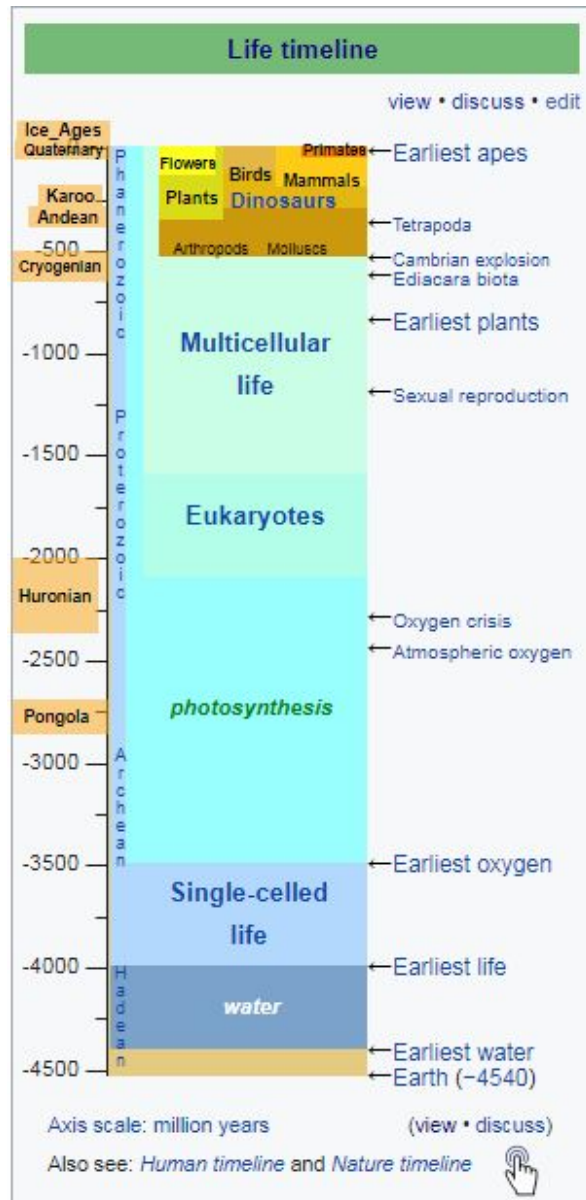
Chemical Evolution



Chemical Evolution

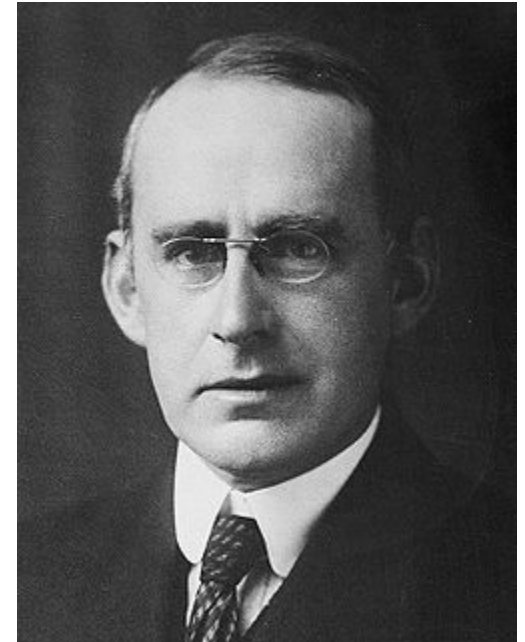


Chemical Evolution



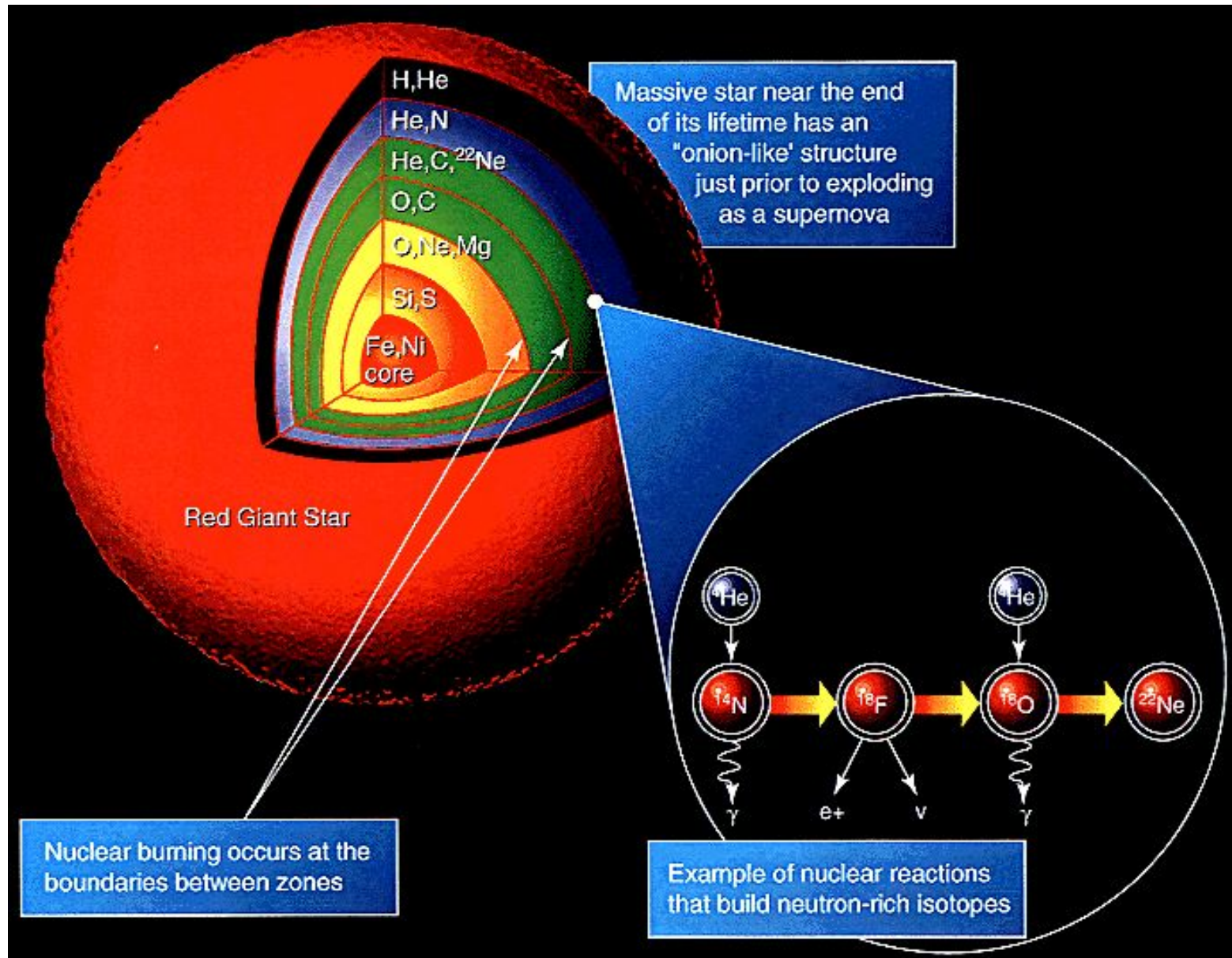
Stellar Nucleosynthesis

- Why some elements and their isotopes are much abundant than others?
- Proposed that stars obtained their energy from nuclear fusion of hydrogen to form helium and raised the possibility that the heavier elements are produced in stars



Arthur Eddington

Stellar Nucleosynthesis



Abiogenesis / Origin of Life

- The transition from non-living to living entities was not a single event, but a gradual process of increasing complexity
- It involved molecular self-replication, self-assembly, autocatalysis and cell membranes.
- Multiple models, no single explanation

Origin of Organic Molecules

Terrestrial

Impact
Shocks

Other Energy
Sources

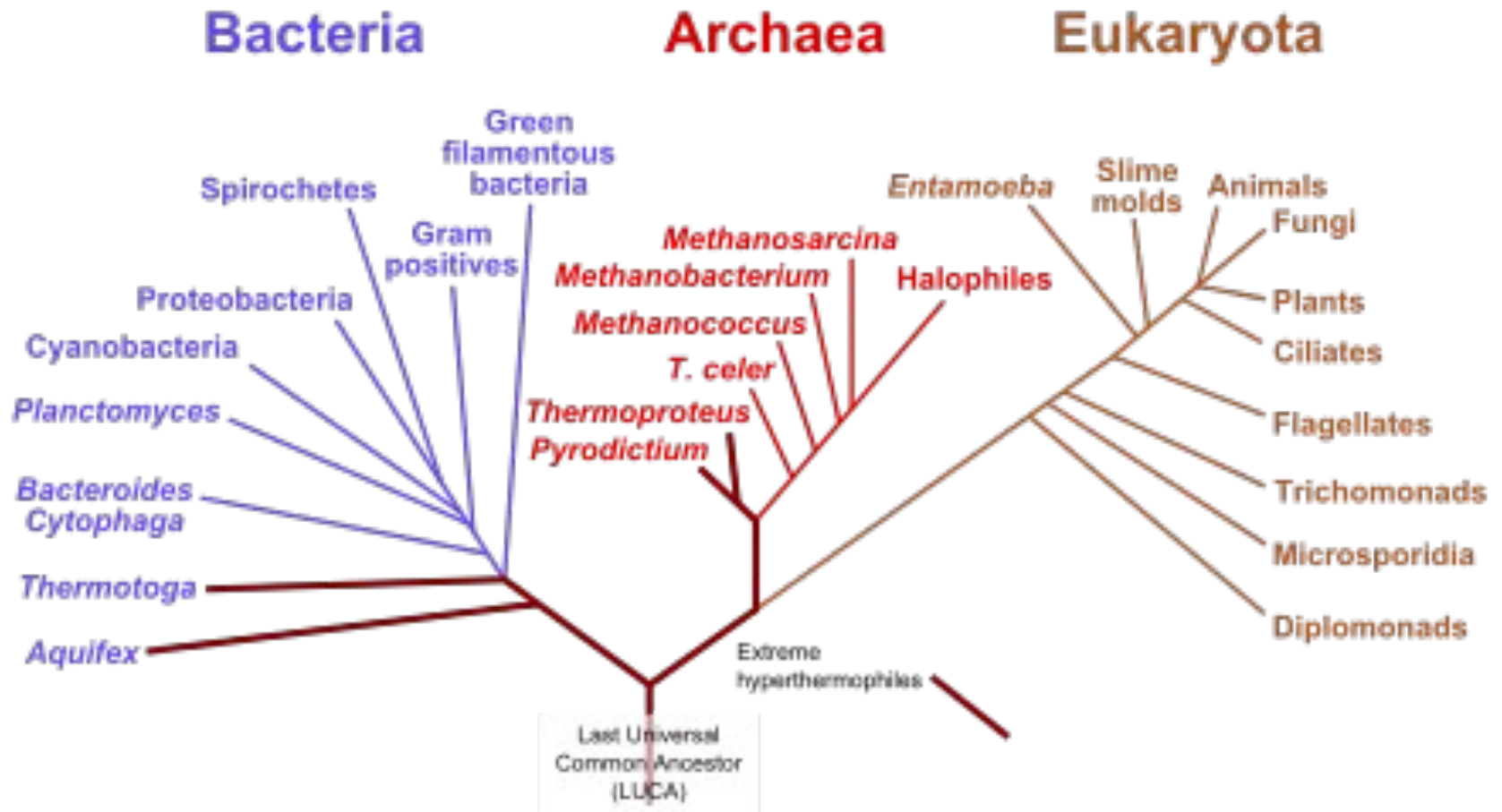
Extra-terrestrial

Formation in
interstellar
dust clouds

Rain down on
planet

Origin of Organic Molecules

Phylogenetic Tree of Life



Origin of Organic Molecules

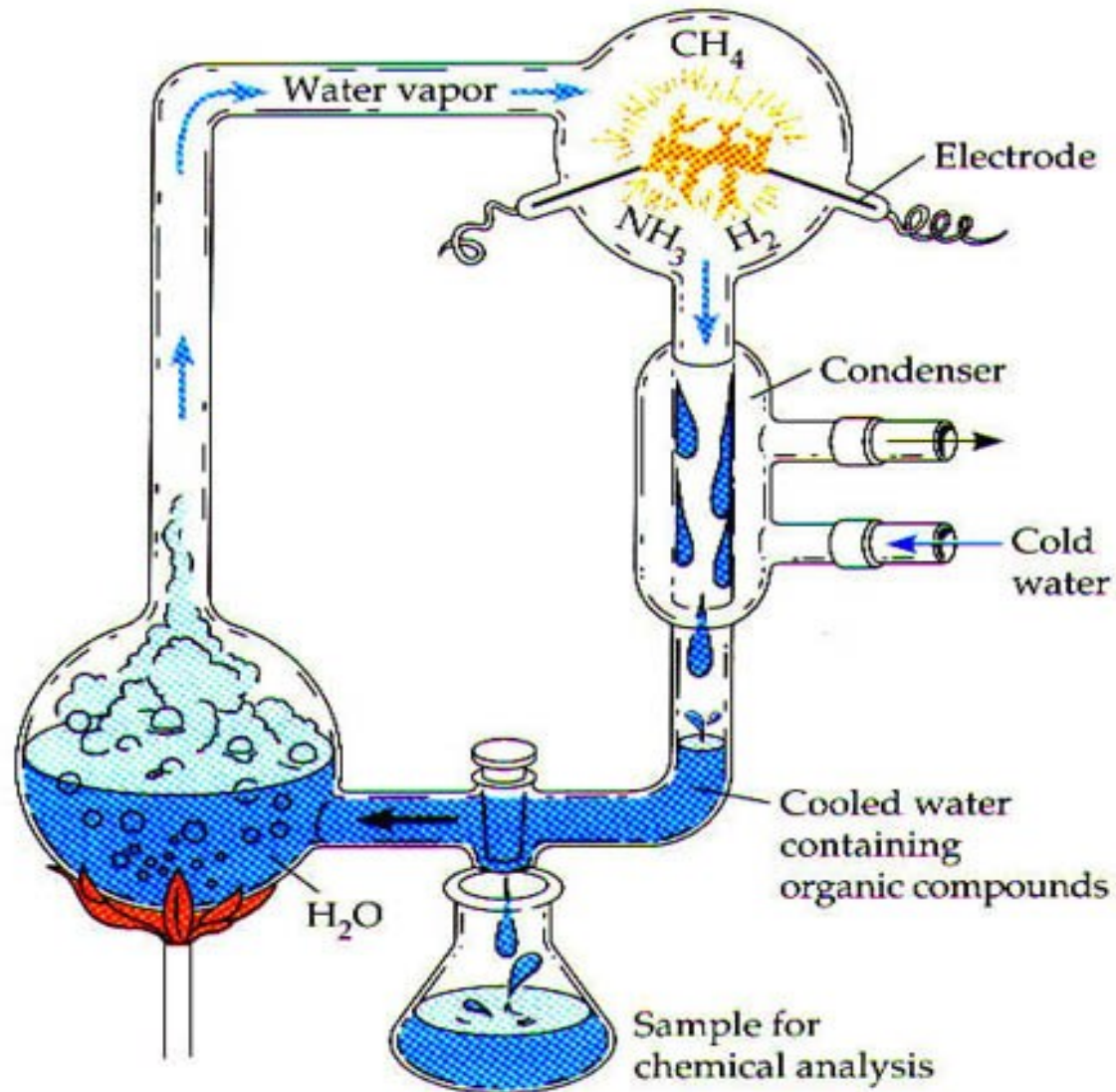
1. Chemical Synthesis

- Self Replication
- Self Assembly

2. Autocatalysis

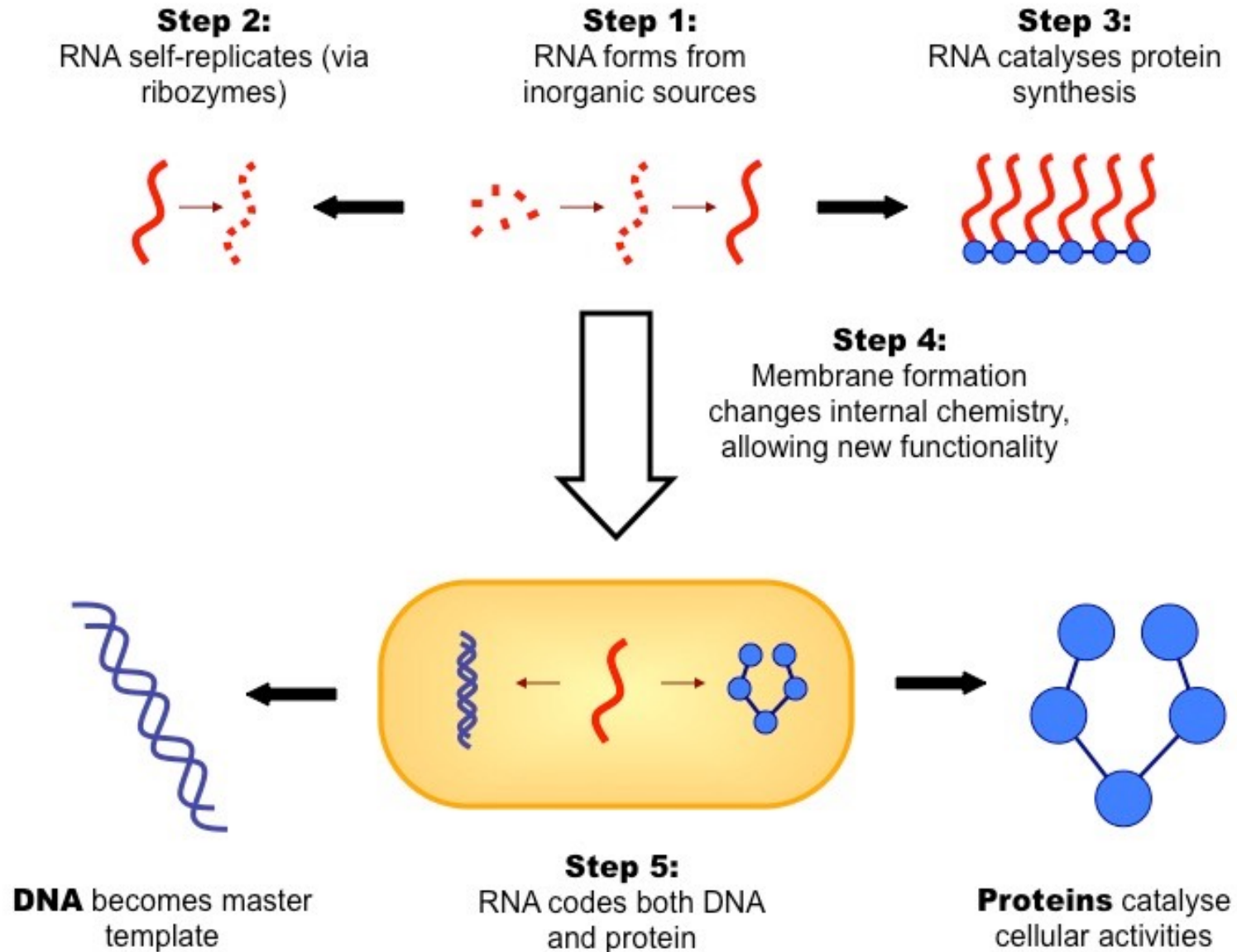
3. Homochirality

Chemical Evolution

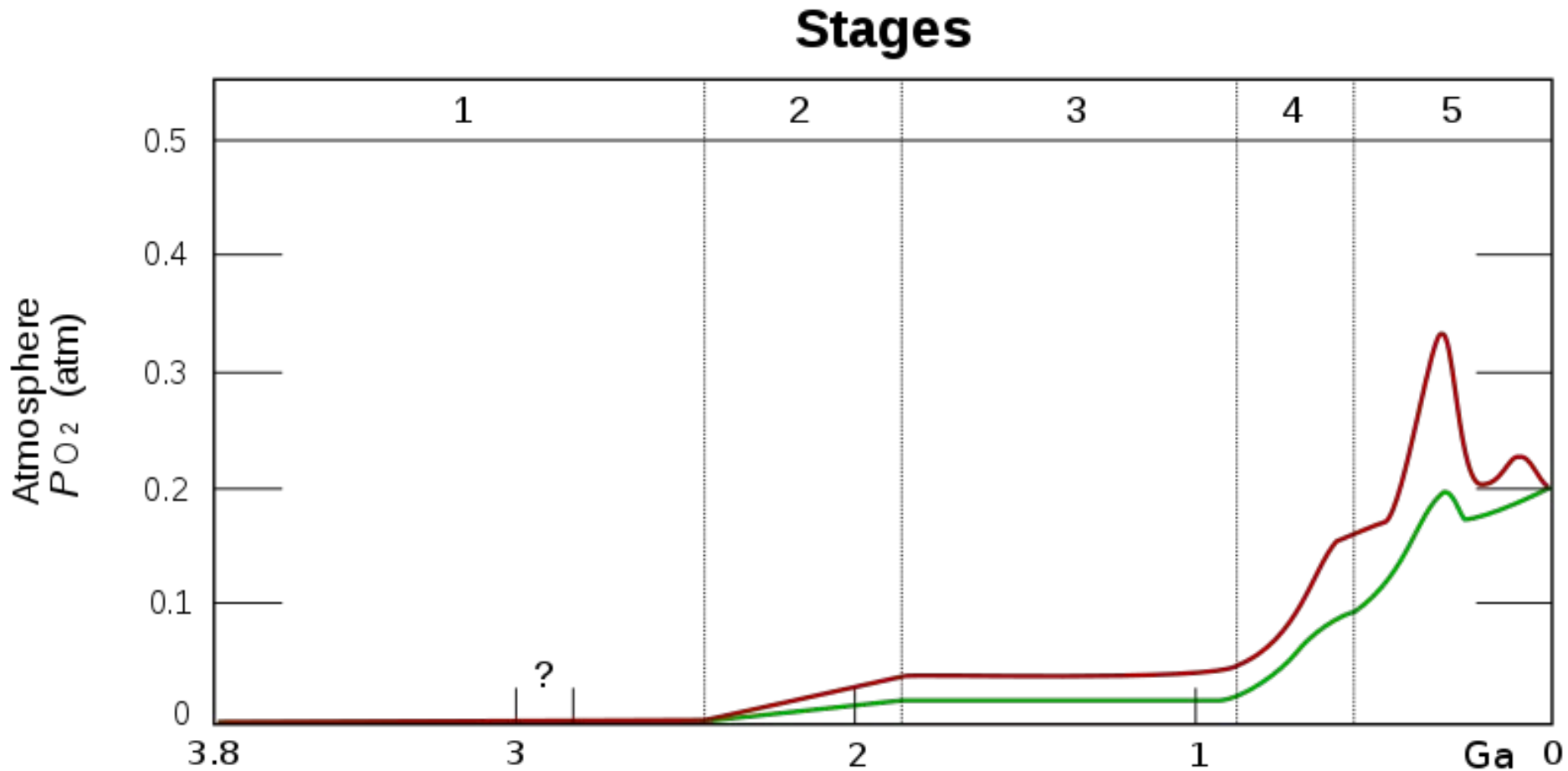


Miller-Urey
Experiment
1953

The RNA World Hypothesis



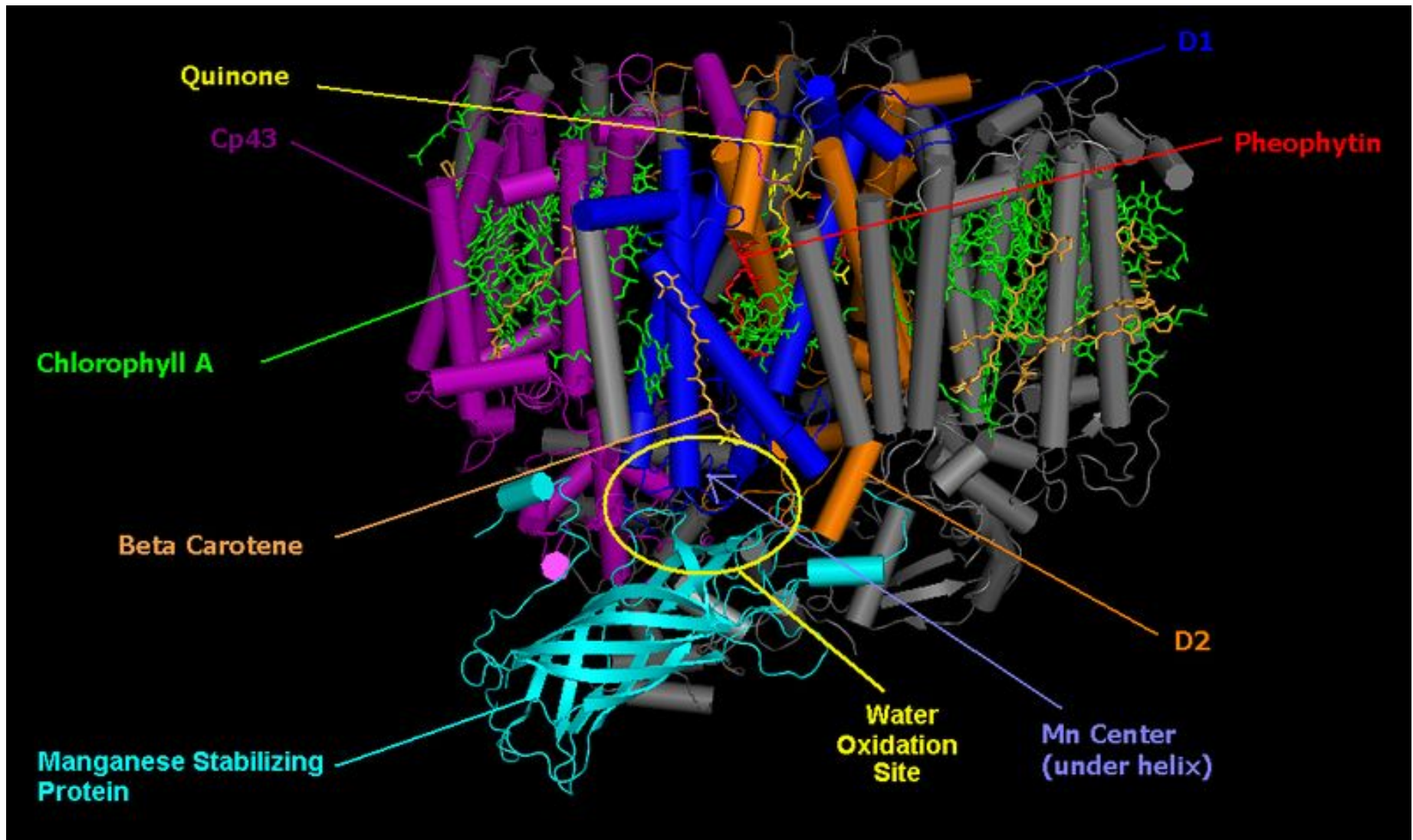
The Great Oxygenation Event



Origin of Metabolic Pathways

- **Iron-Sulfur World**
- **Zn-world Hypothesis**
- **Deep Sea Vent / Alkaline Hydrothermal Vent Hypothesis**
- **Thermosynthesis**

Evolution of Metals in Biology



Magnesium Center in Cyanobacterial photosystem II

Evolution of Metals in Biology

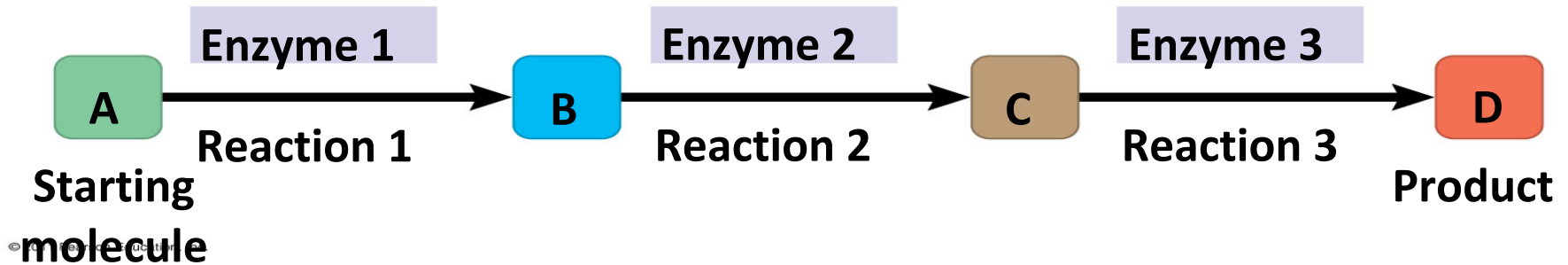


Pyrococcus furiosus – Hyperthermophilic archaea contains Tungsten (high M.P.)

Metabolism

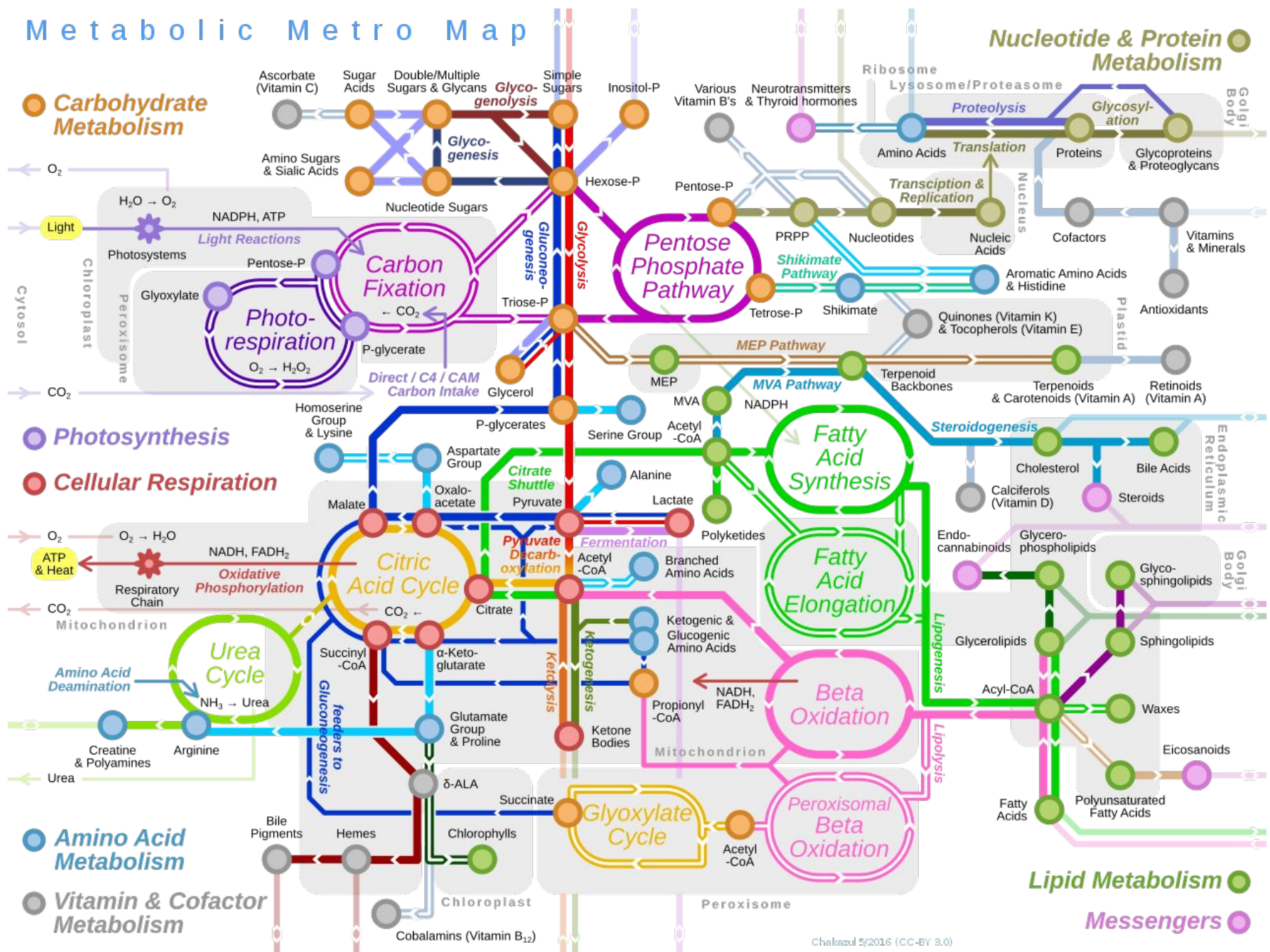
- **Metabolism** is the totality of an organism's chemical reactions
- Metabolism is an emergent property of life that arises from interactions between molecules within the cell
- An organism's metabolism transforms matter and energy, subject to the laws of thermodynamics

Metabolism

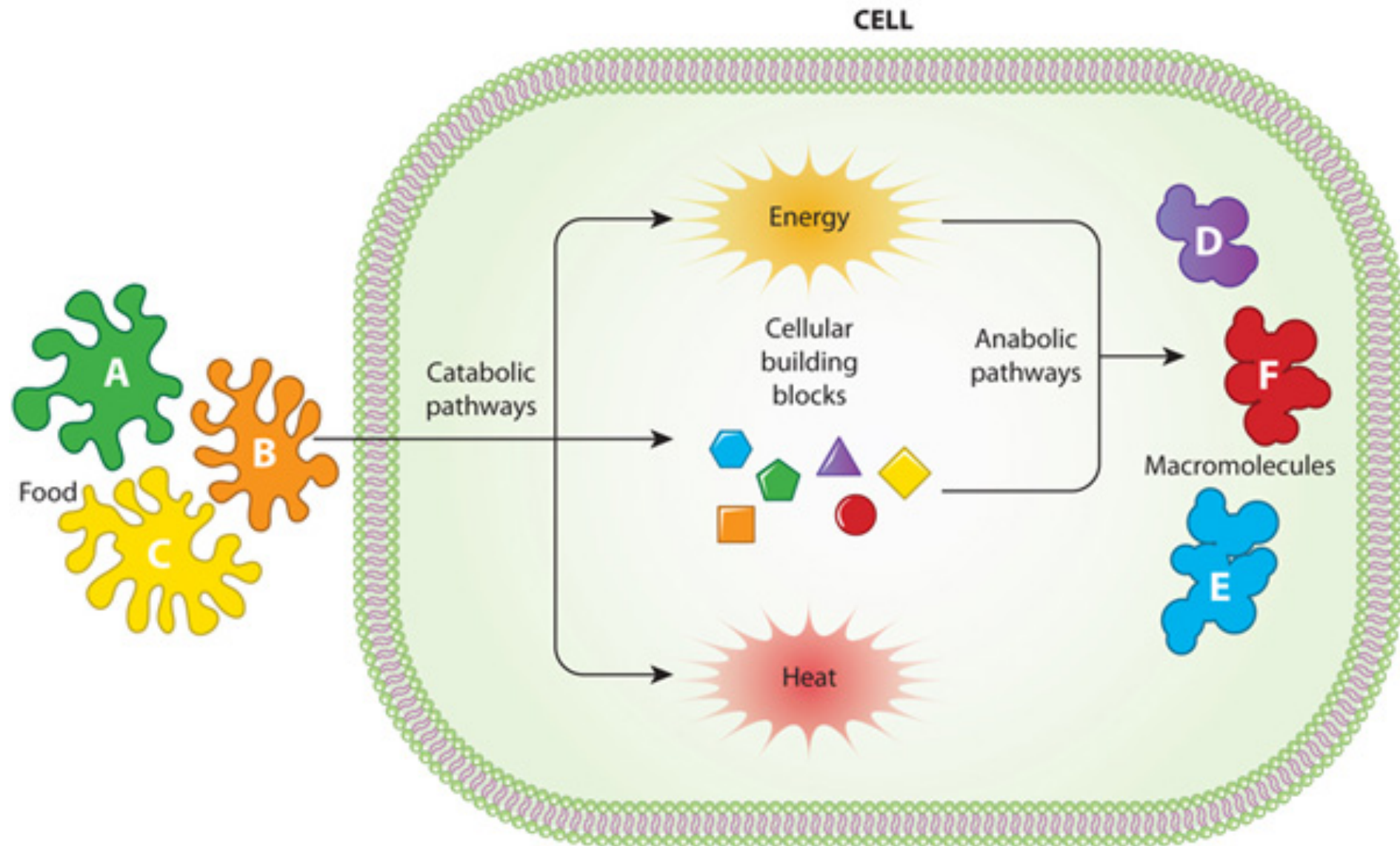


- A **metabolic pathway** begins with a specific molecule and ends with a product
- Each step is catalyzed by a specific enzyme

Metabolic Metro Map

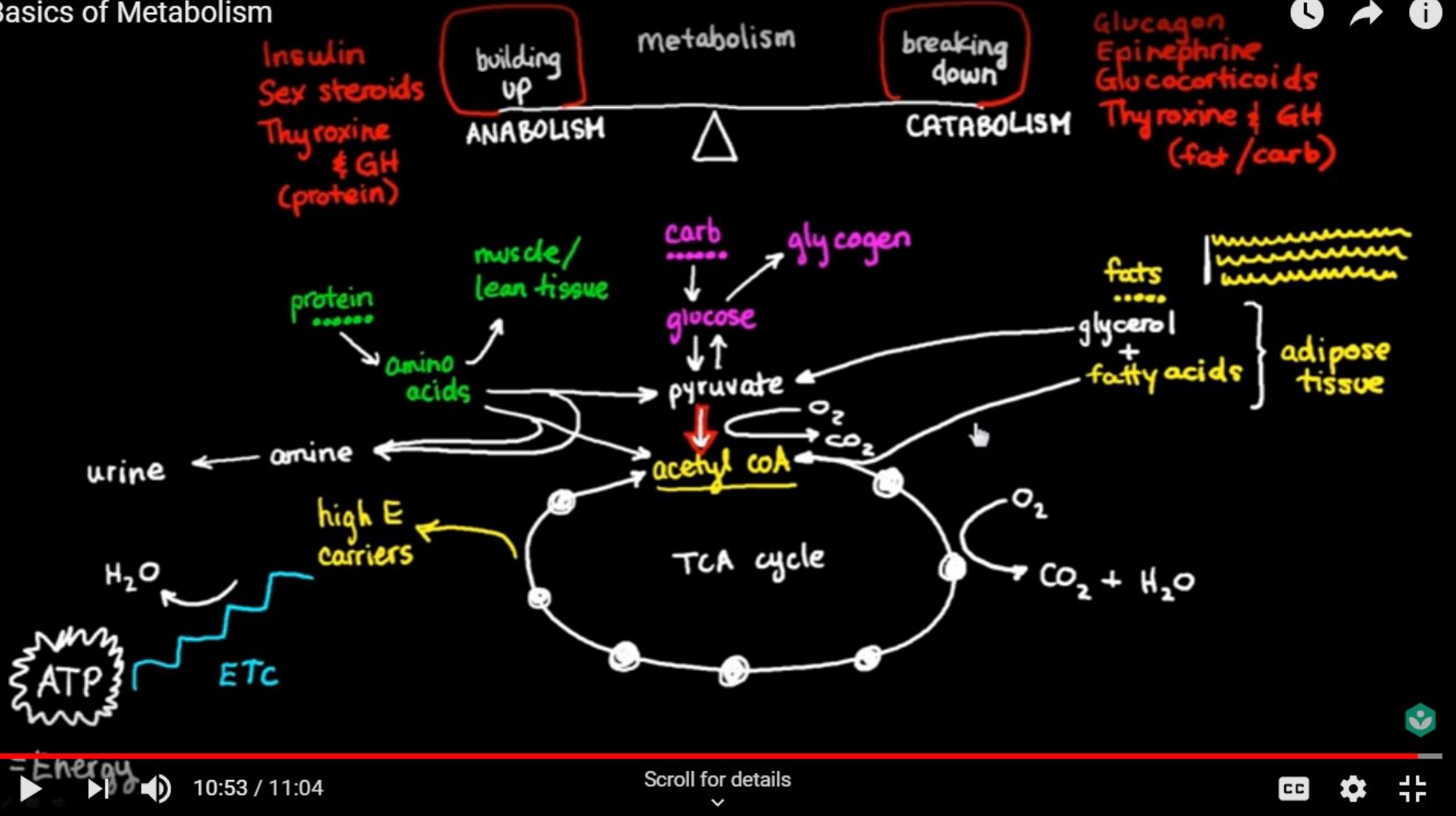


Catabolism and Anabolism



Metabolism in Action

Basics of Metabolism



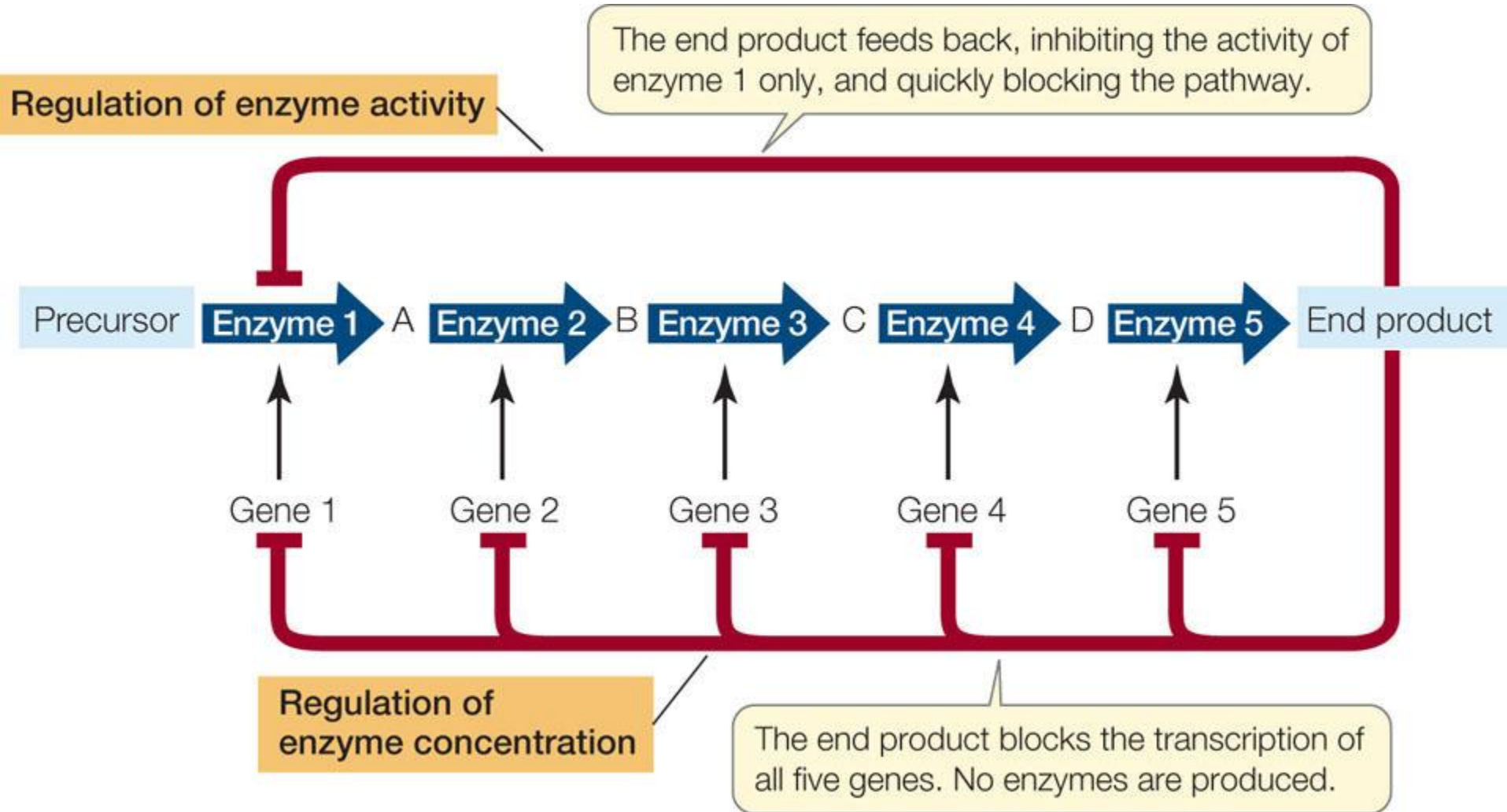
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ1QGZ6gJ8w>

Regulation of Metabolism

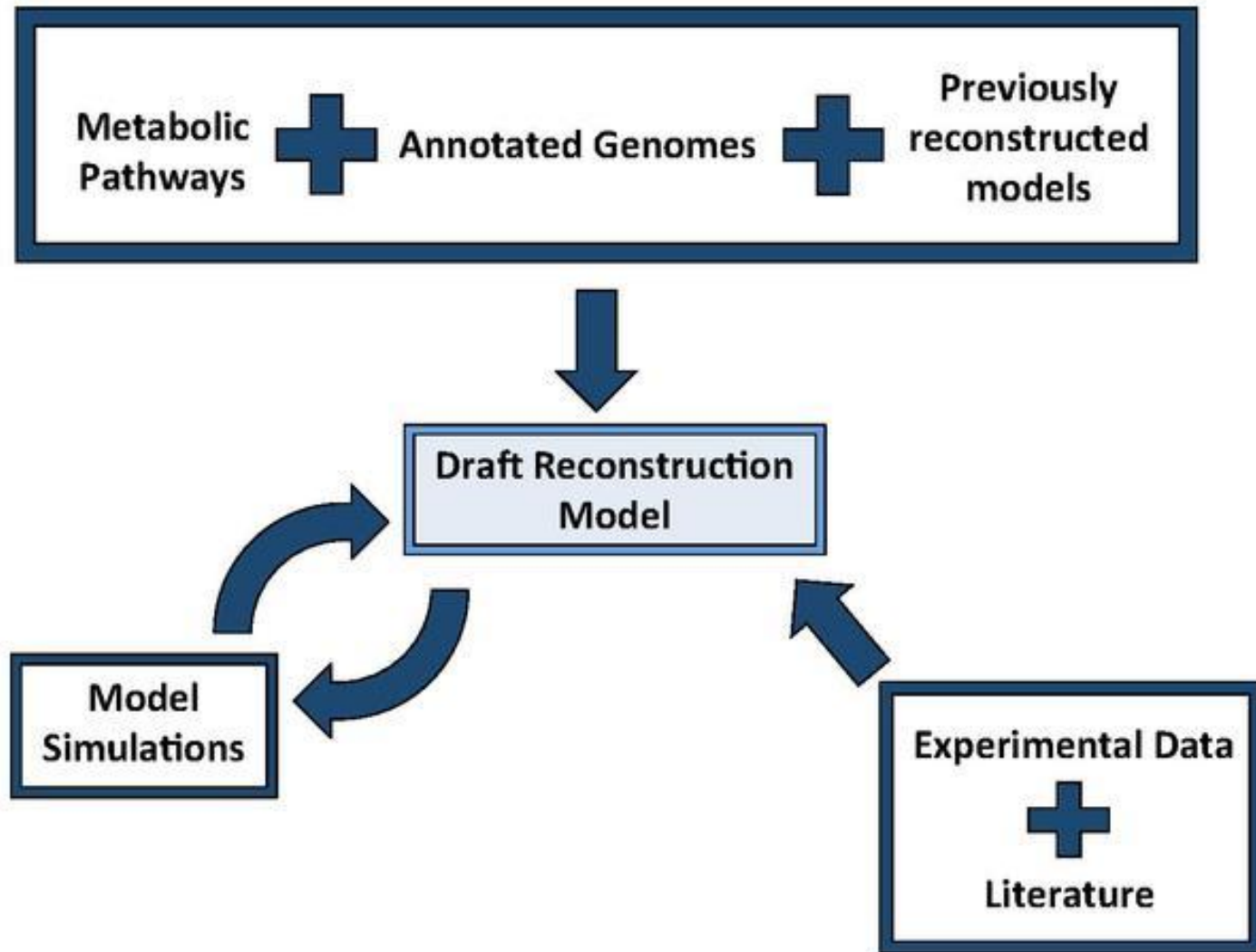
- **Rate Limiting Step: Slowest step; beginning of the pathway**
- **Covalent and Non-covalent modifications**
- **Metabolic flux is regulated by the Stoichiometric Reaction Model***, the utilization rate of metabolites, and the translocation pace of molecules across the lipid bilayer

**Law of conservation of mass = Matter is not created or destroyed in a chemical reaction*

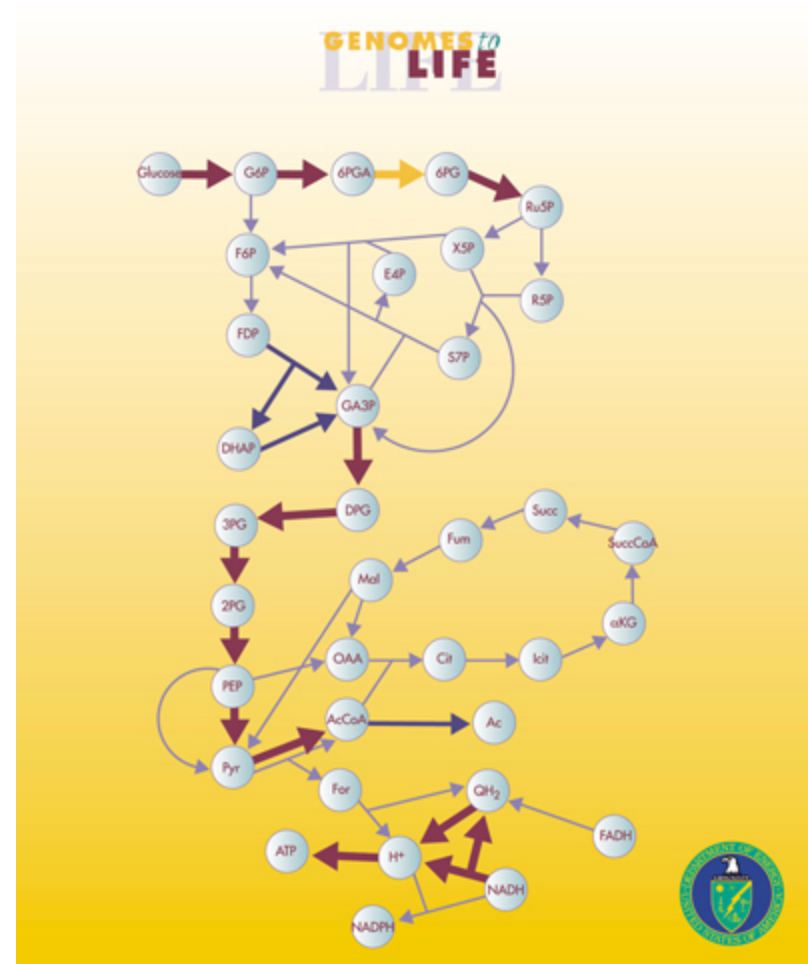
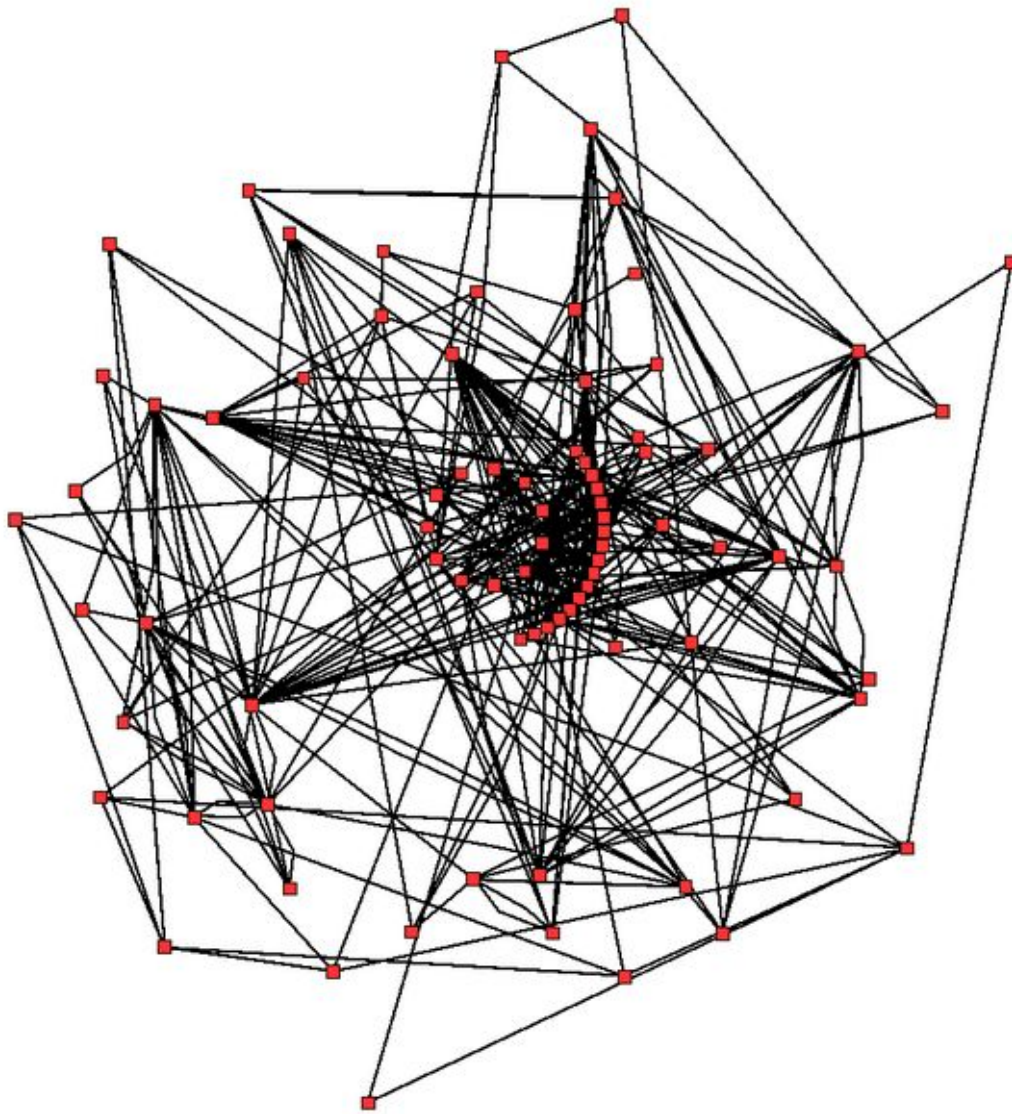
Regulation of Metabolism



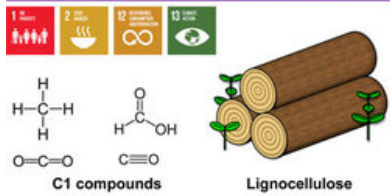
Metabolic Network Modeling



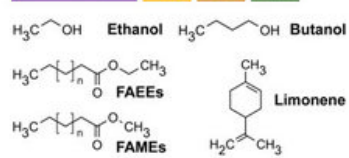
Metabolic Network Modeling



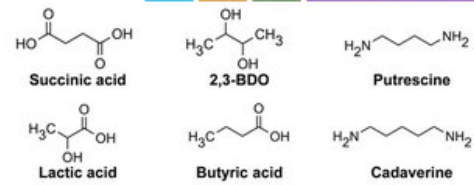
Renewable/inedible carbon sources



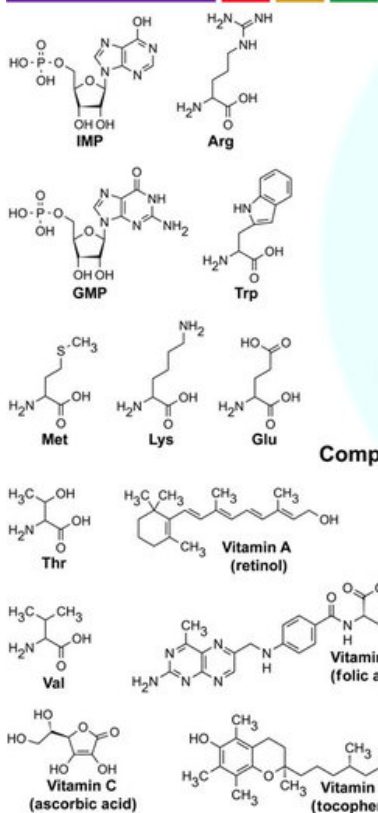
Biofuels



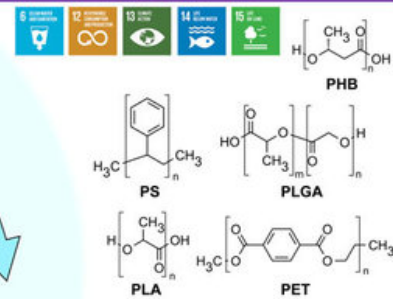
Bulk chemicals



Food supplements



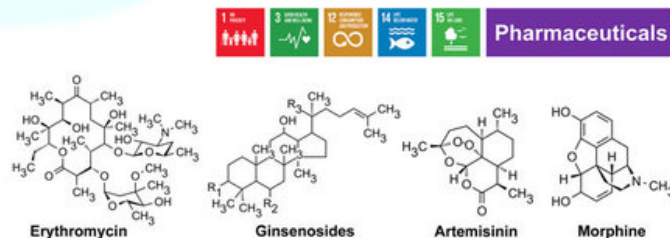
Plastic/monomer production/degradation



Functional proteins



Pharmaceuticals



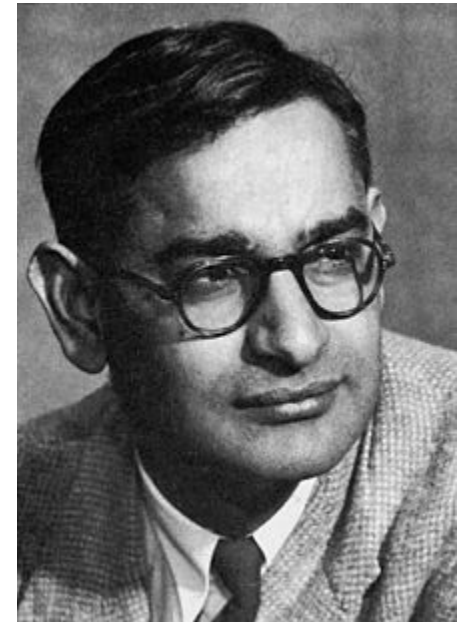
SDGs addressed by SysME



Metabolic Engineering

Synthetic Biology

- First to synthesis an oligonucleotide
- Genetic code behind Amino Acids
- Two repeating units (UCUCUCU → UCU CUC UCU) produce two alternating AAs
- Three repeating units (UACUACUA → UAC UAC UAC, or ACU ACU ACU, or CUA CUA CUA) produce three different strings of AAs



Hargobind Khorana

Synthetic Cell

