

# Gene duplication and loss

Matthew Hahn  
Indiana University

[mwh@indiana.edu](mailto:mwh@indiana.edu)

How many genes does a human have:

- a. <1
- b. 1-10,000
- c. 10,000-100,000
- d. >100,000

How many genes does a human have:

- a. <1
- b. 1-10,000
- c. 10,000-100,000 (~23,000)
- d. >100,000

How many genes does a fruitfly have:

- a. <1
- b. 1-10,000
- c. 10,000-100,000
- d. >100,000

How many genes does a fruitfly have:

- a. <1
- b. 1-10,000
- c. 10,000-100,000 (~15,000)
- d. >100,000

## Gene Number Variation

Corn	40,000 genes
Rice	33,000
Thale cress	28,000
Mouse	23,000
<b>Human</b>	<b>23,000</b>
Worm	19,000
Fruitfly	15,000
Yeast	6,000
<i>M. genitalium</i>	500

# Gene duplication and loss result in genome size variation

	<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	<i>C. elegans</i>	<i>D. melanogaster</i>	<i>H. sapiens</i>	<i>A. thaliana</i>
Homeodomain	9	109	148	267	118
Zinc-finger	121	437	357	706	1049
Nuclear receptor	1	183	25	59	4

from Venter et al. (2001)

Similar genomes have similar numbers of genes

Insects: ~15,000

Mammals: ~23,000

Worms: ~19,000

Fungi: 6,000-10,000

Despite this, lots of variation in individual genes.

# Gene duplication and loss

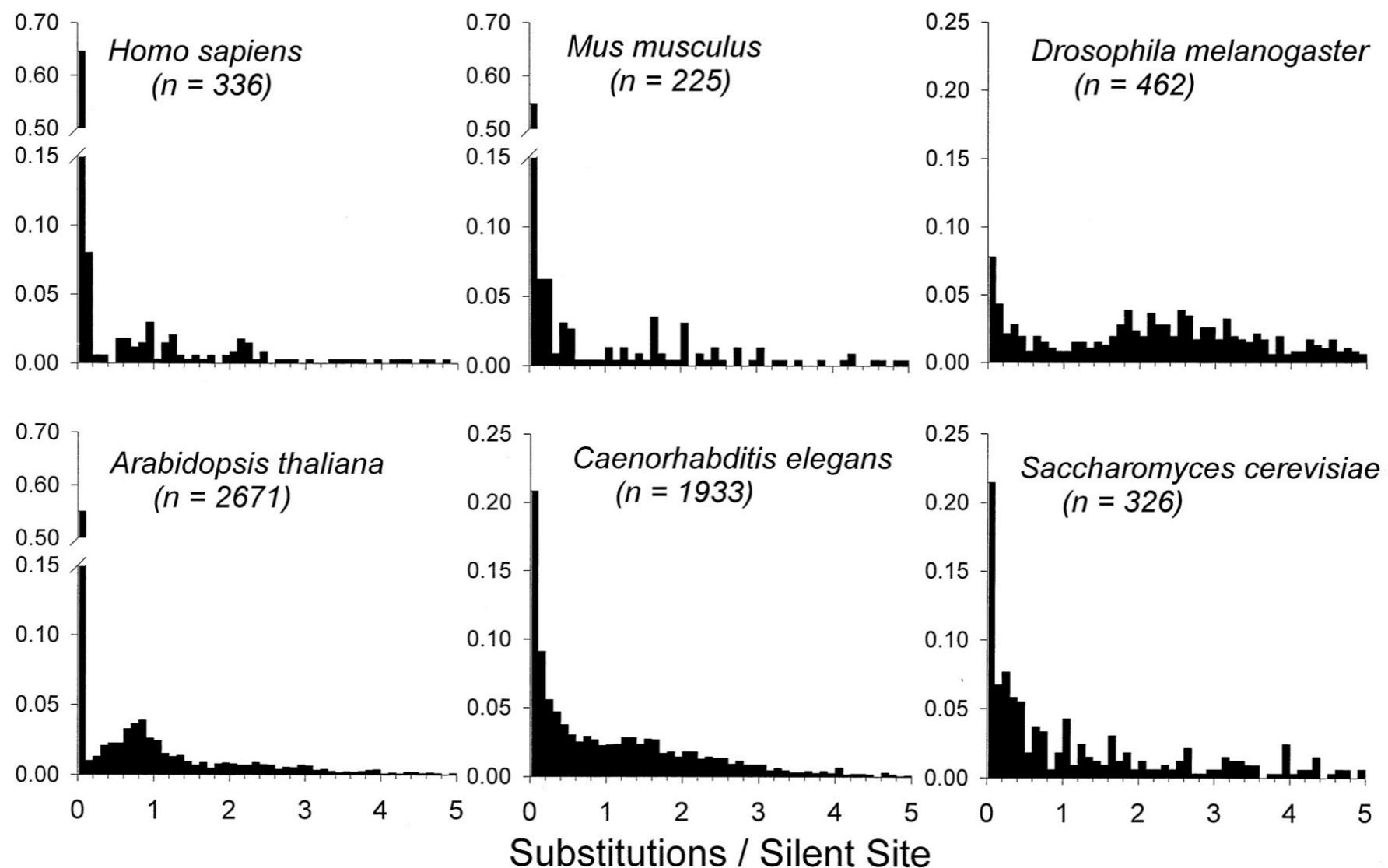
**Table 1. Prevalence of gene duplication in all three domains of life<sup>a</sup>**

	Total number of genes	Number of duplicate genes (% of duplicate genes)	Refs
<b>Bacteria</b>			
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	677	298 (44)	[65]
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	1590	266 (17)	[66]
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	1709	284 (17)	[67]
<b>Archaea</b>			
<i>Archaeoglobus fulgidus</i>	2436	719 (30)	[68]
<b>Eukarya</b>			
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	6241	1858 (30)	[67]
<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	18 424	8971 (49)	[67]
<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	13 601	5536 (41)	[67]
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	25 498	16 574 (65)	[69]
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	40 580 <sup>b</sup>	15 343 (38)	[11]

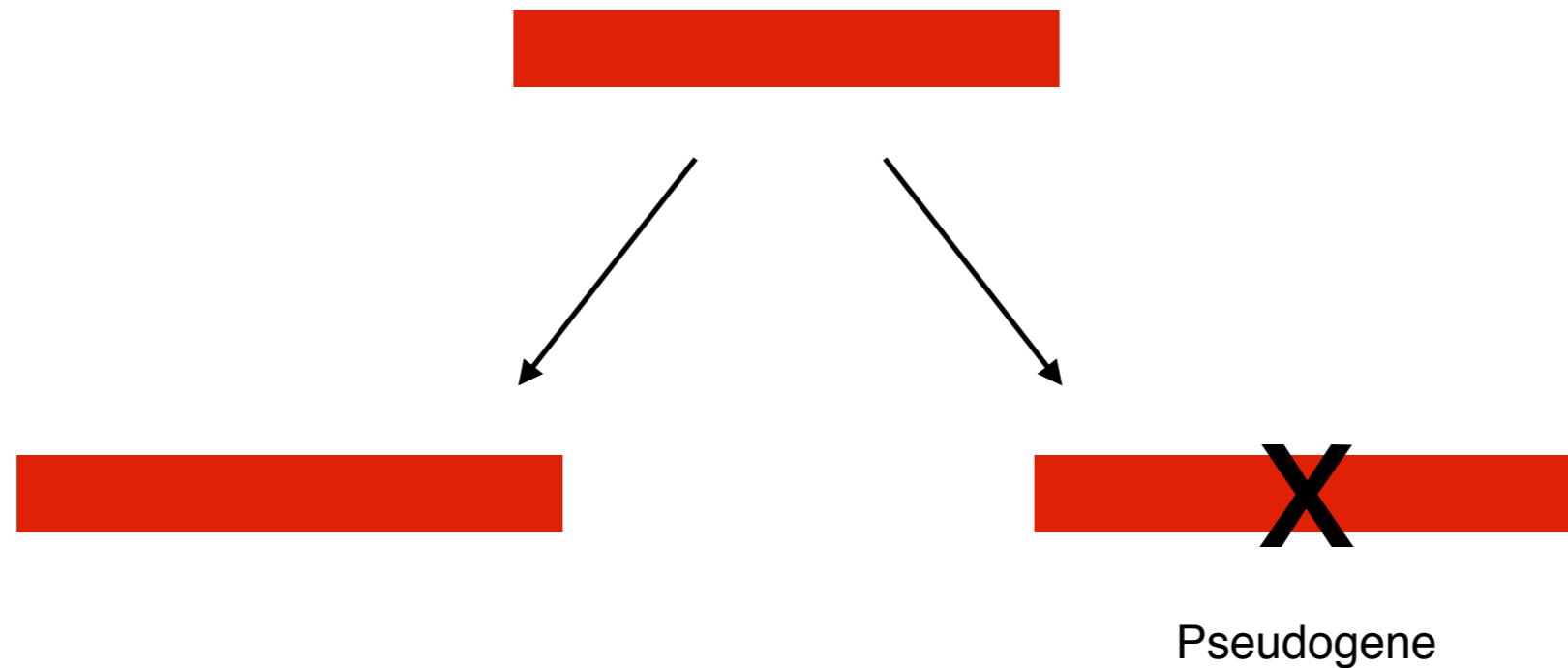
<sup>a</sup>Use of different computational methods or criteria results in slightly different estimates of the number of duplicated genes [12].

<sup>b</sup>The most recent estimate is ~30 000 [61].

# Gene duplication and loss

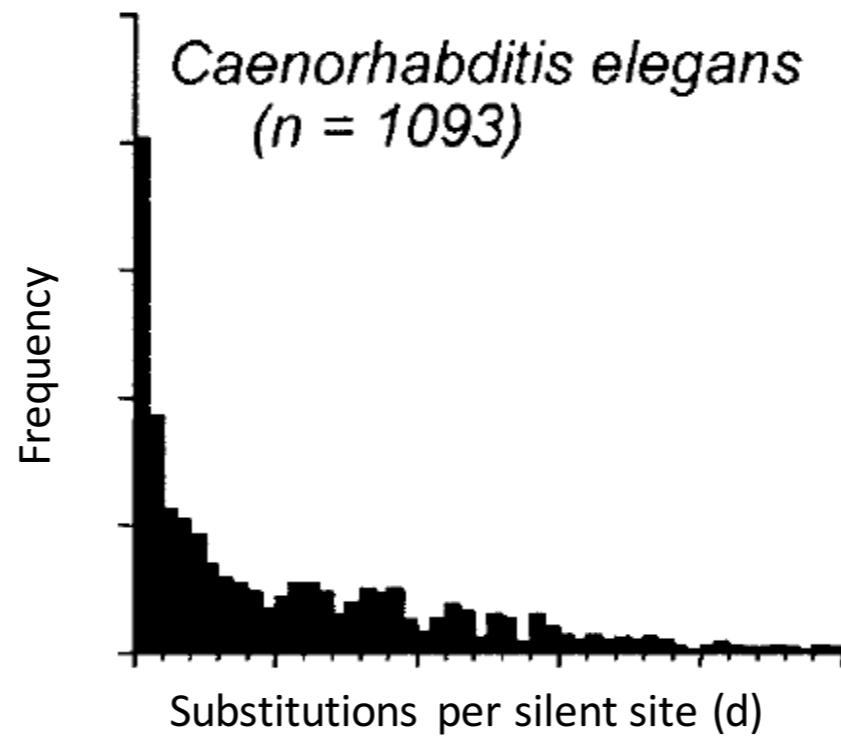


# Gene duplication and loss



The most common outcome of duplication is loss

# Gene duplication and loss



The most common outcome of duplication is loss

# Big questions in gene duplication

“The main interest in duplications lay in ... identical genes which could subsequently mutate separately and diversify their effects.”

--Bridges 1918

# Big questions in gene duplication

210

SCIENCE

VOL. 83, No. 2148

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

### THE BAR "GENE" A DUPLICATION

THE nature of the Bar gene has been the subject of extensive investigation and speculation since February, 1913, when Tice<sup>1</sup> found this reduced-eye mutant as a single male in the progeny of normal-eyed parents. The eye-reduction behaves as a sex-linked dominant, with a locus at 57.0, and has been one of the most important of all the sex-linked characters of *D. melanogaster*. A remarkable peculiarity of the mutant is that occasionally the homozygous stock gives rise to a fly indistinguishable in appearance and genetic behavior from wild-type.<sup>2</sup> More rarely the stock gives rise to an even more extreme reduction in eye-size, a type which was called Ultra-Bar by Zeleny,<sup>3</sup> who found it.

Sturtevant and Morgan<sup>4</sup> and Sturtevant<sup>5</sup> found that these two-way changes were the result of a novel type of "unequal" crossing-over, by which the two genes originally present in the two parental chromosomes both emerged in the same chromosome (Bar-double) while the other resultant chromosome was without Bar

The exact point of the insertion is ambiguous, for a reason which will appear below. The normal X in this region (see revised map in Fig. 1) shows in sub-sec-

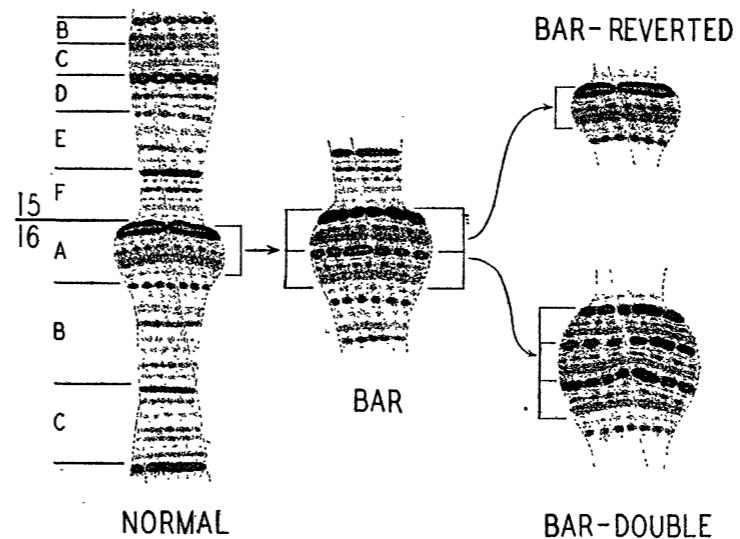


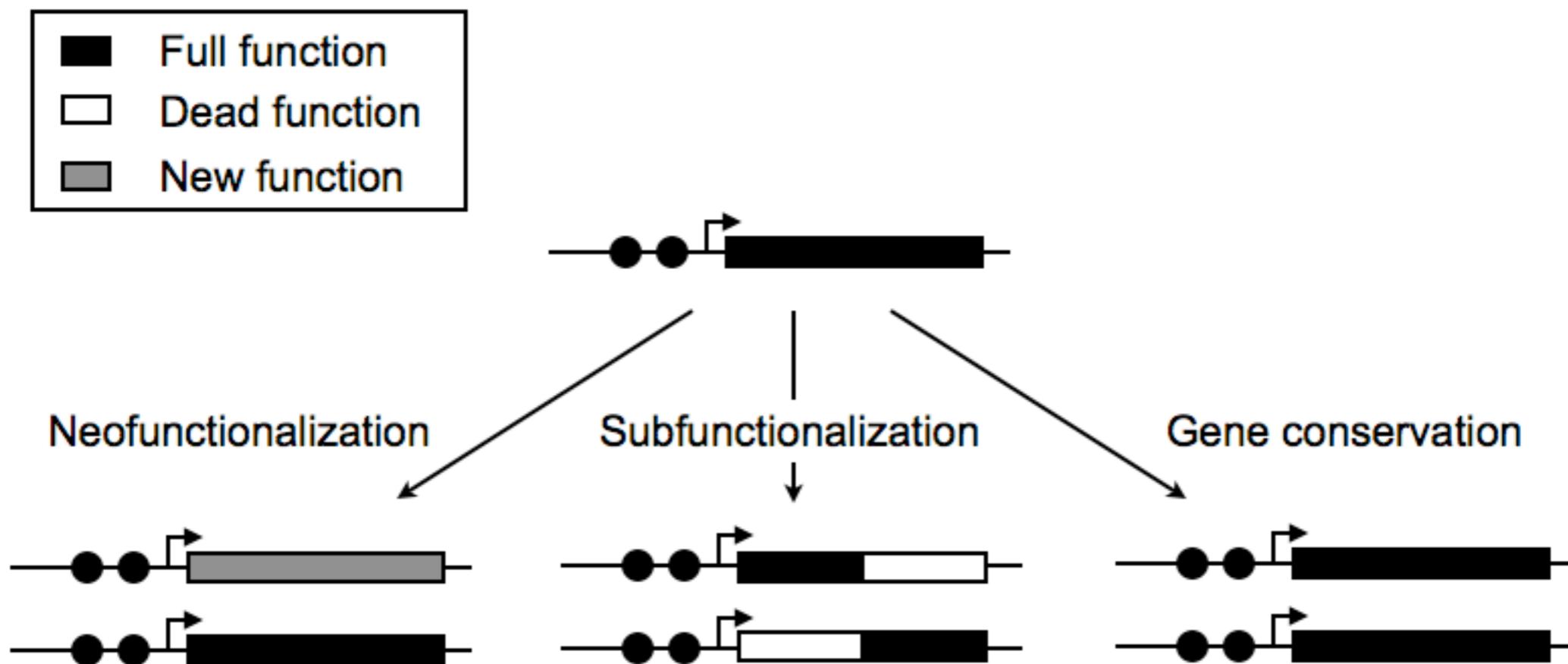
FIG. 1

tion 16A a heavy band, which in well-stretched chro-

Bridges (1935)

# Big questions in gene duplication

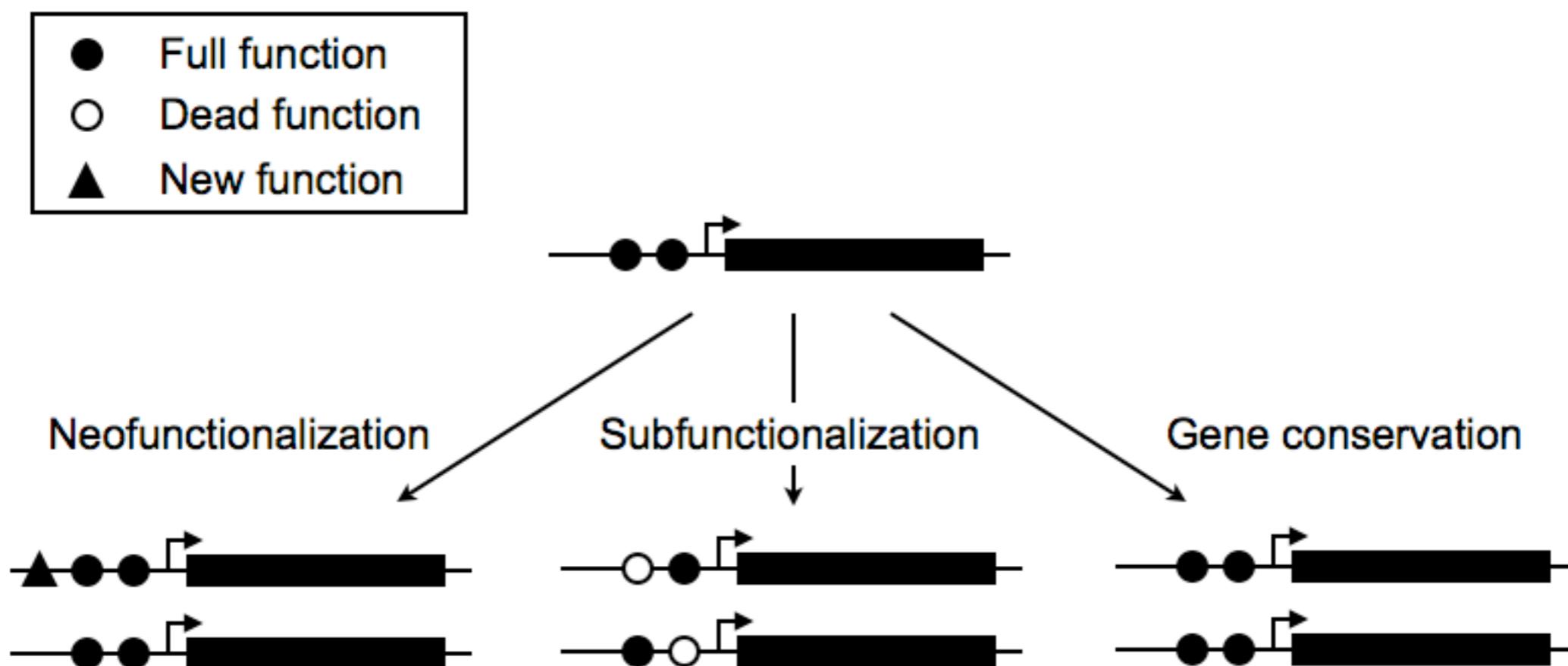
Figure 1b



Hahn (2009)

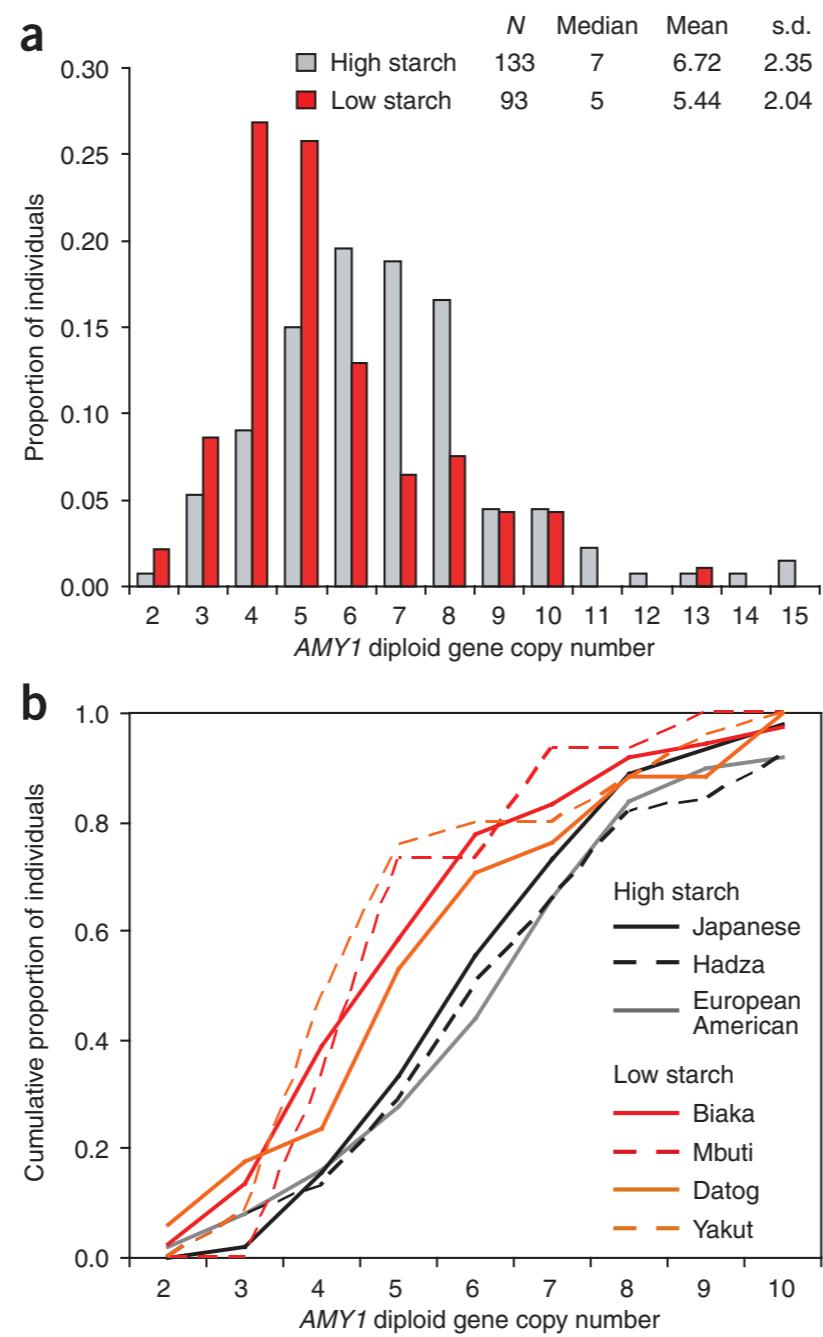
# Big questions in gene duplication

Figure 1a



Hahn (2009)

# Gene conservation



Perry et al. (2007)

# Subfunctionalization

*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*  
Vol. 85, pp. 3479–3483, May 1988  
Evolution

## Gene sharing by $\delta$ -crystallin and argininosuccinate lyase

(lens proteins/evolution/gene expression/enzymes/urea cycle)

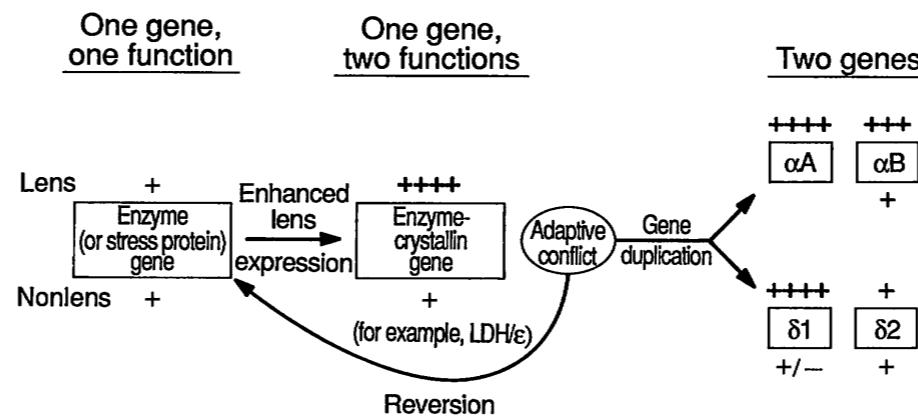
JORAM PIATIGORSKY\*, WILLIAM E. O'BRIEN†, BARBARA L. NORMAN\*, KAREN KALUMUCK†,  
GRAEME J. WISTOW\*, TERESA BORRAS\*, JOHN M. NICKERSON\*, AND ERIC F. WAWROUSEK\*

\*Laboratory of Molecular and Developmental Biology, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892; and †Baylor College of Medicine, and Institute for Molecular Genetics, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Houston, TX 77030

Communicated by Donald D. Brown, February 1, 1988

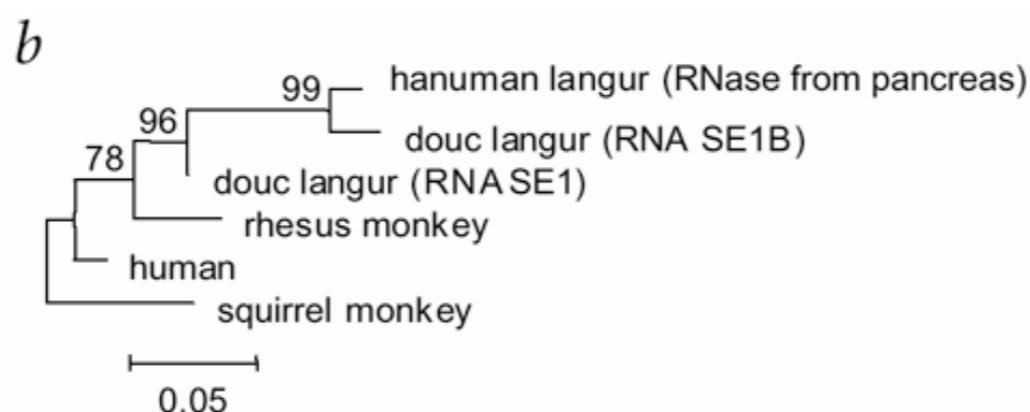
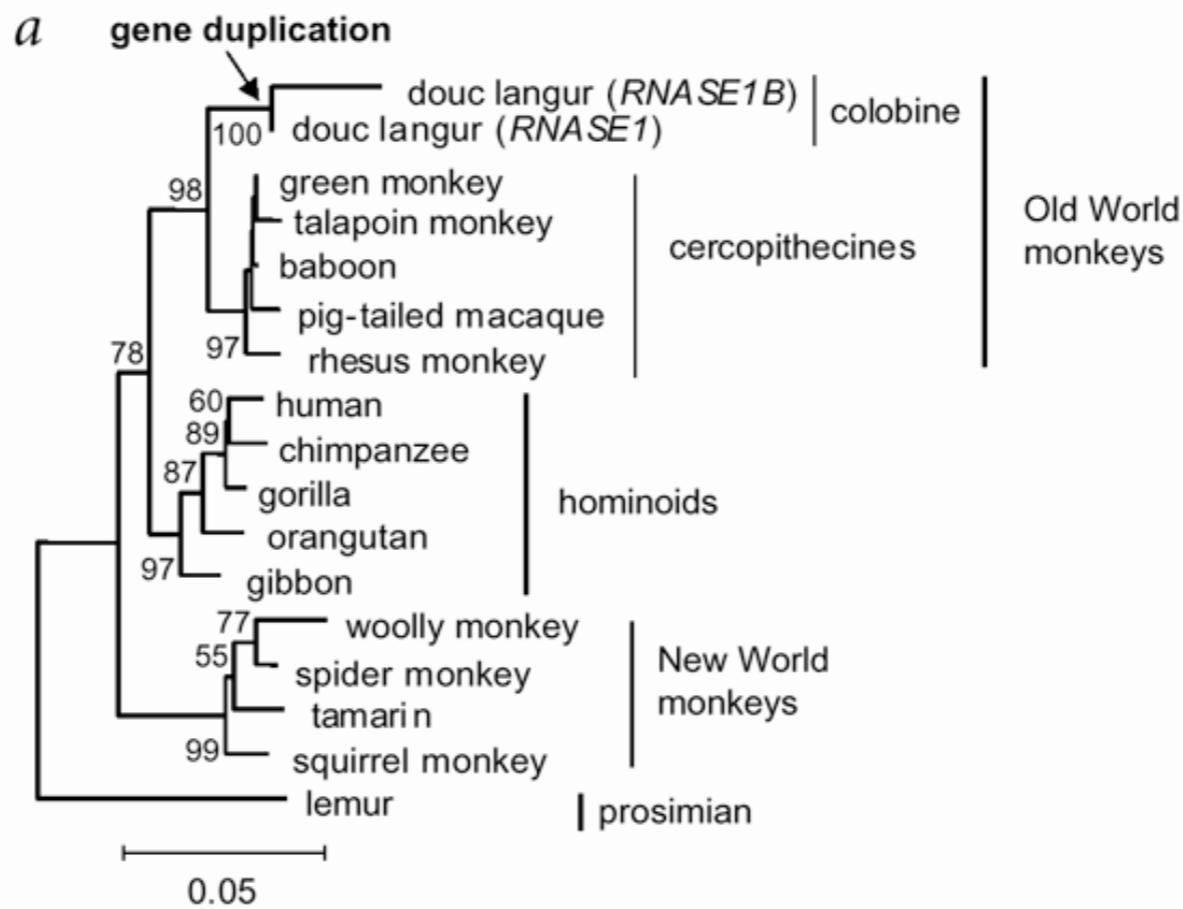
**ABSTRACT** The lens structural protein  $\delta$ -crystallin and the metabolic enzyme argininosuccinate lyase (ASL; L-argininosuccinate arginine-lyase, EC 4.3.2.1) have striking sequence similarity. We have demonstrated that duck

Although uricotelic, birds have some activity for ASL as well as for other enzymes of the urea cycle.  $\delta$ -Crystallin is the dominant crystallin in lenses of birds and reptiles, but it is absent from lenses of mammals. (2) Southern blot hybridiza-



Piatigorsky and Wistow (1991)

# Neofunctionalization



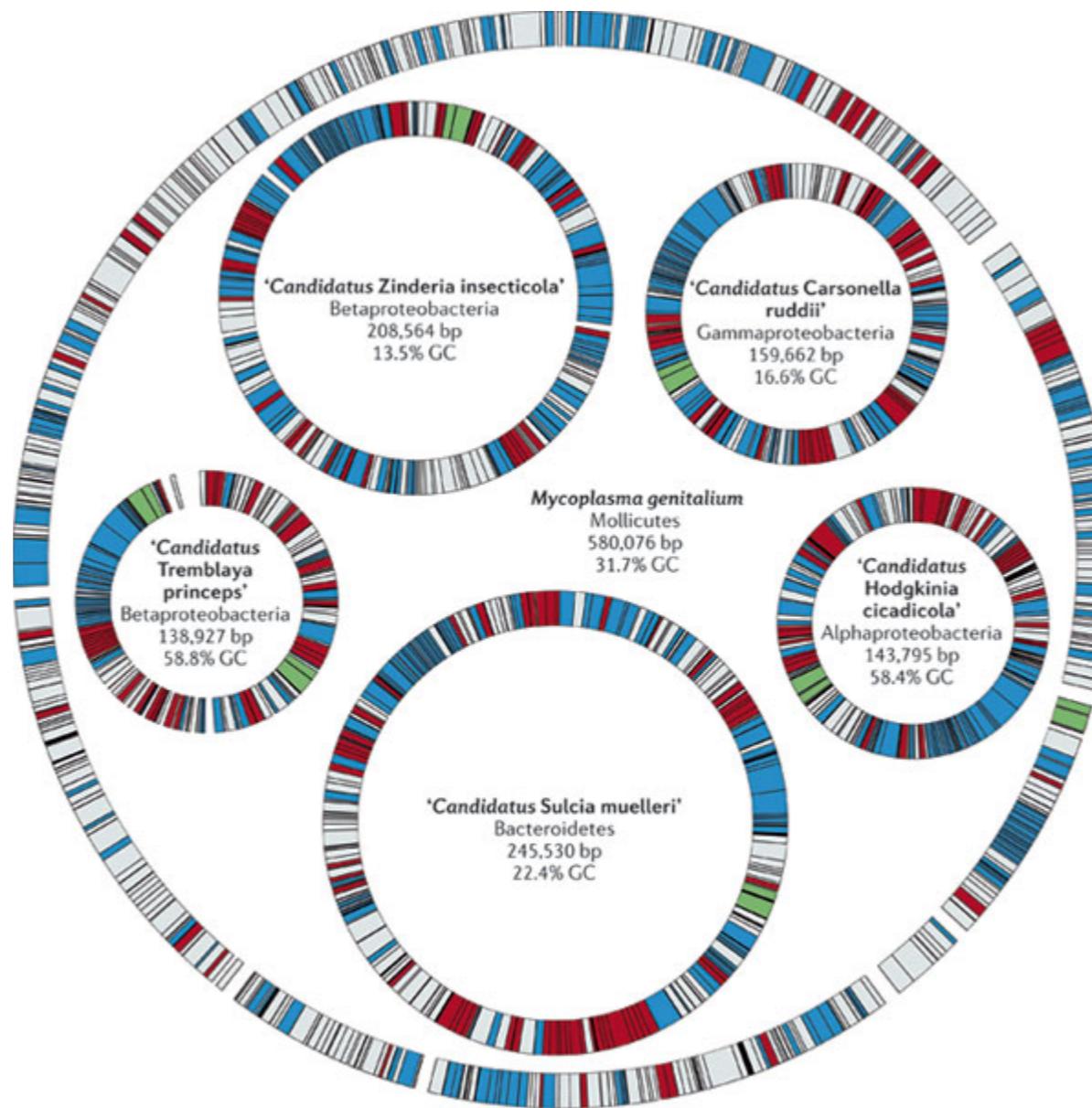
Zhang et al. (2002)

# Big questions in gene duplication

Neofunctionalization, subfunctionalization, or conservation?

Positive selection or genetic drift?

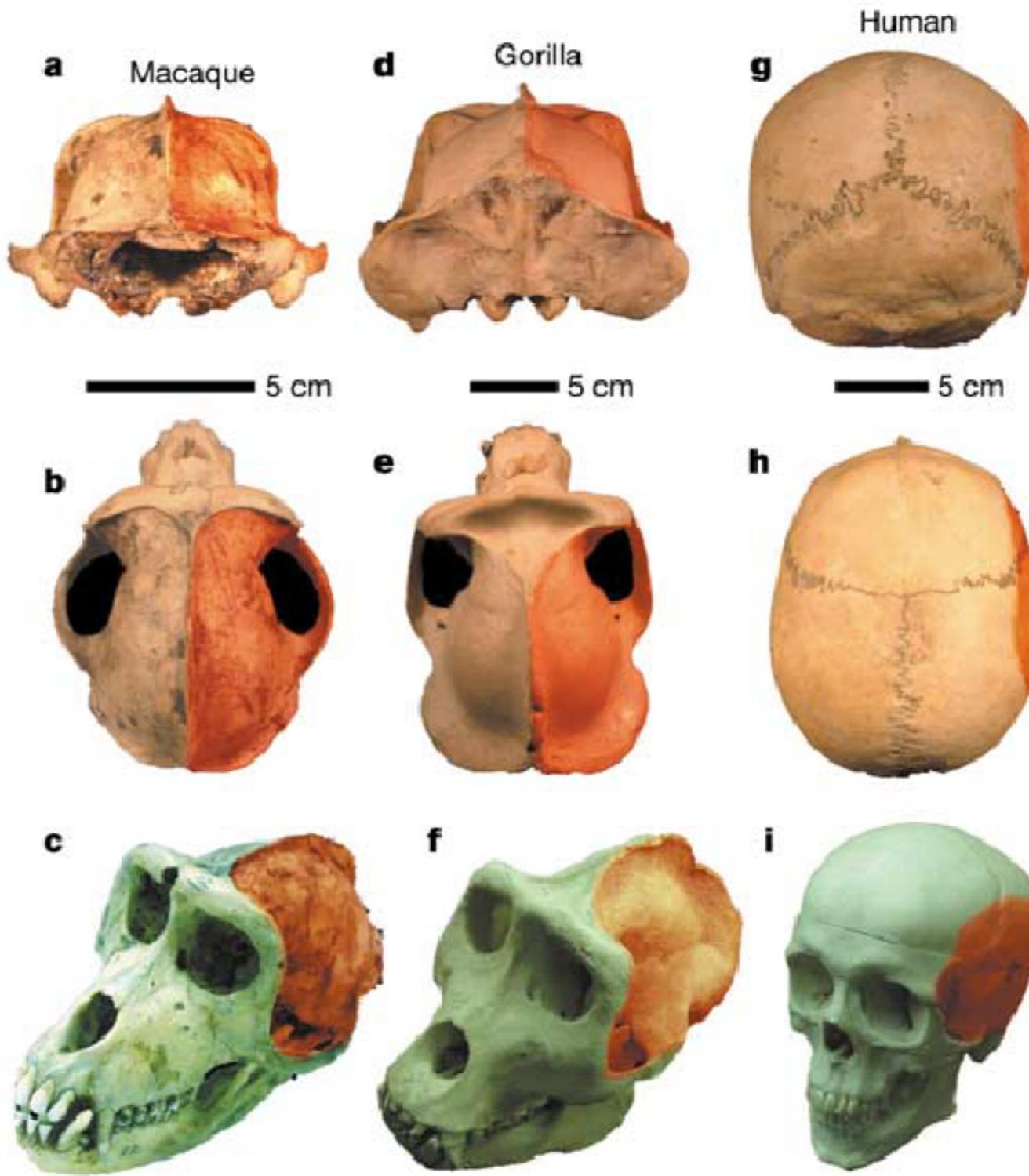
# Big questions in gene loss



Nature Reviews | Microbiology

McCutcheon and Moran (2012)

# Loss of *Myh16* associated with cranial enlargement



# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

DNA- or RNA-based

Multiple genes, single genes, partial genes

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

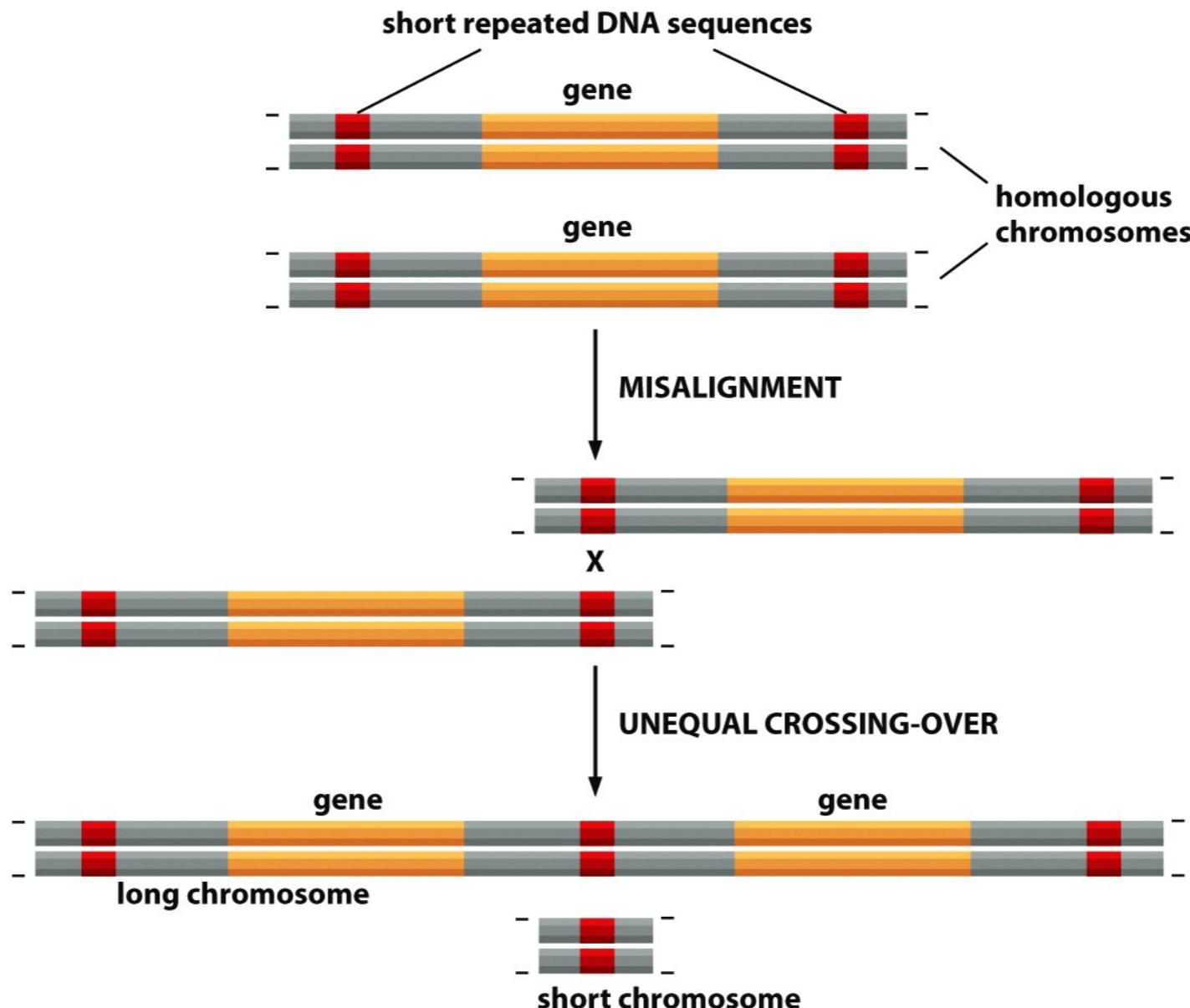


Figure 9-9 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

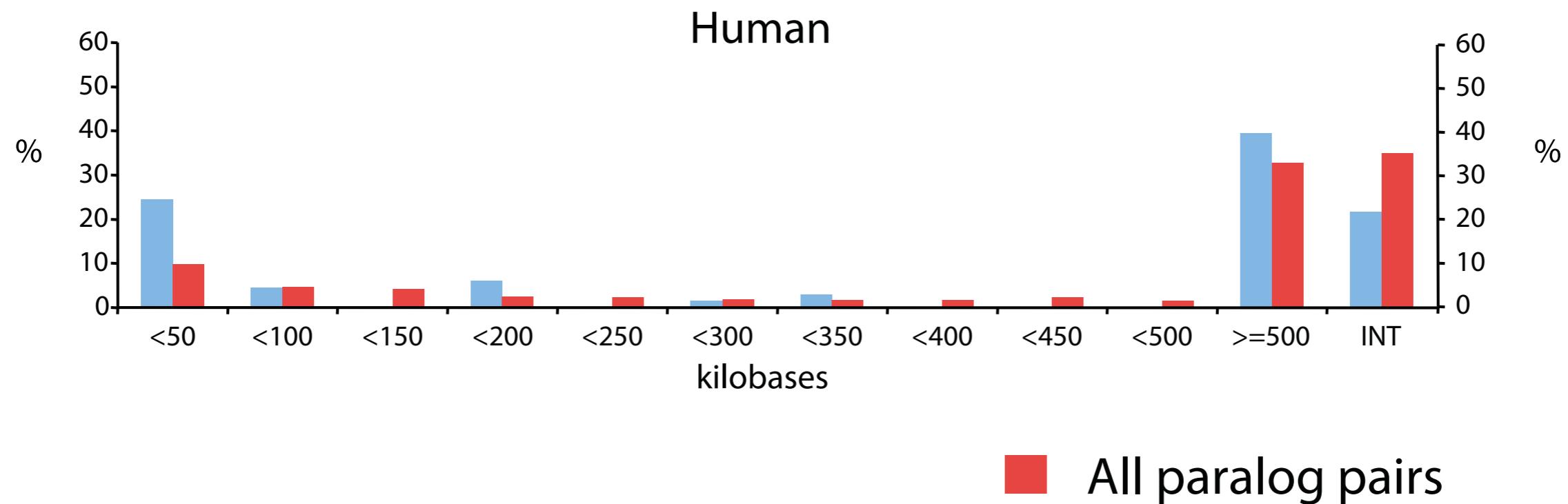
“Unequal crossing-over”

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

“Unequal crossing-over”:

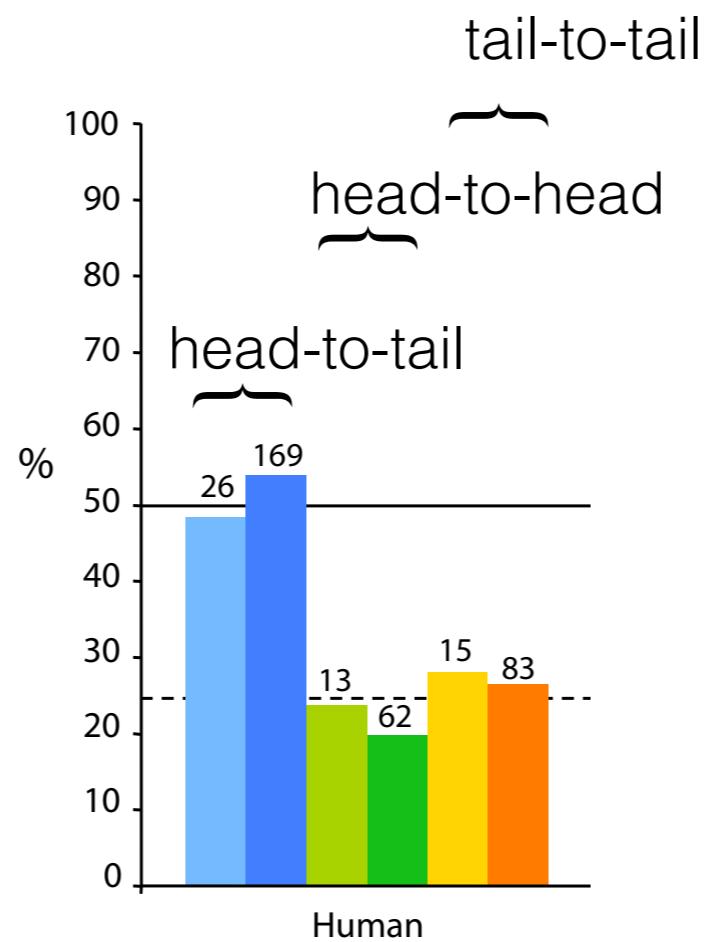
- Requires repeated elements to be present
- Is generally due to NAHR
- Does not always result in tandem duplicates

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

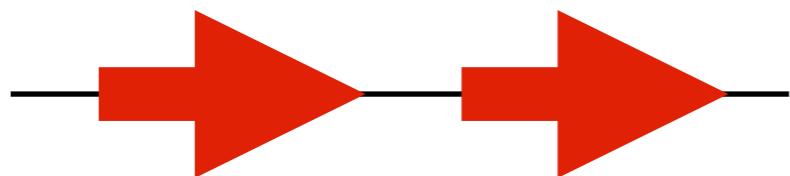


Hypothesis: the more TEs there are in a genome,  
the farther apart the duplicates are

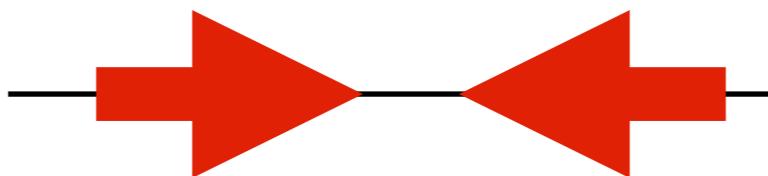
# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication



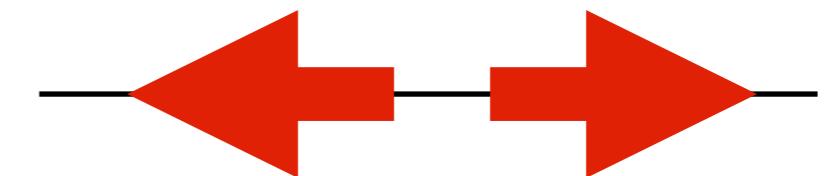
head-to-tail



head-to-head



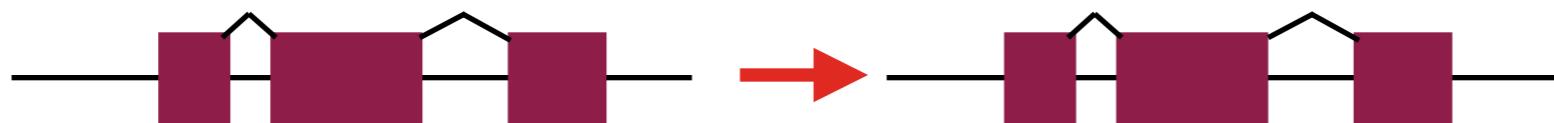
tail-to-tail



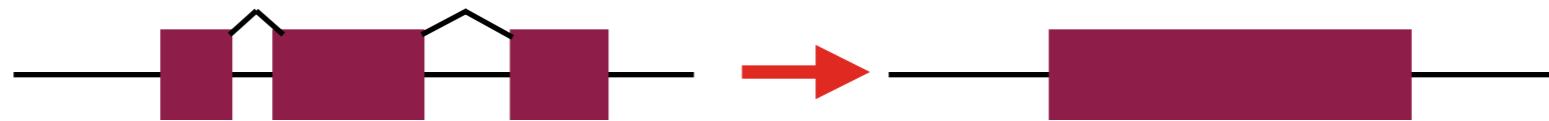
McGrath et al. (2009)

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

DNA-based mechanisms



RNA-based mechanisms



“Retrotransposition”

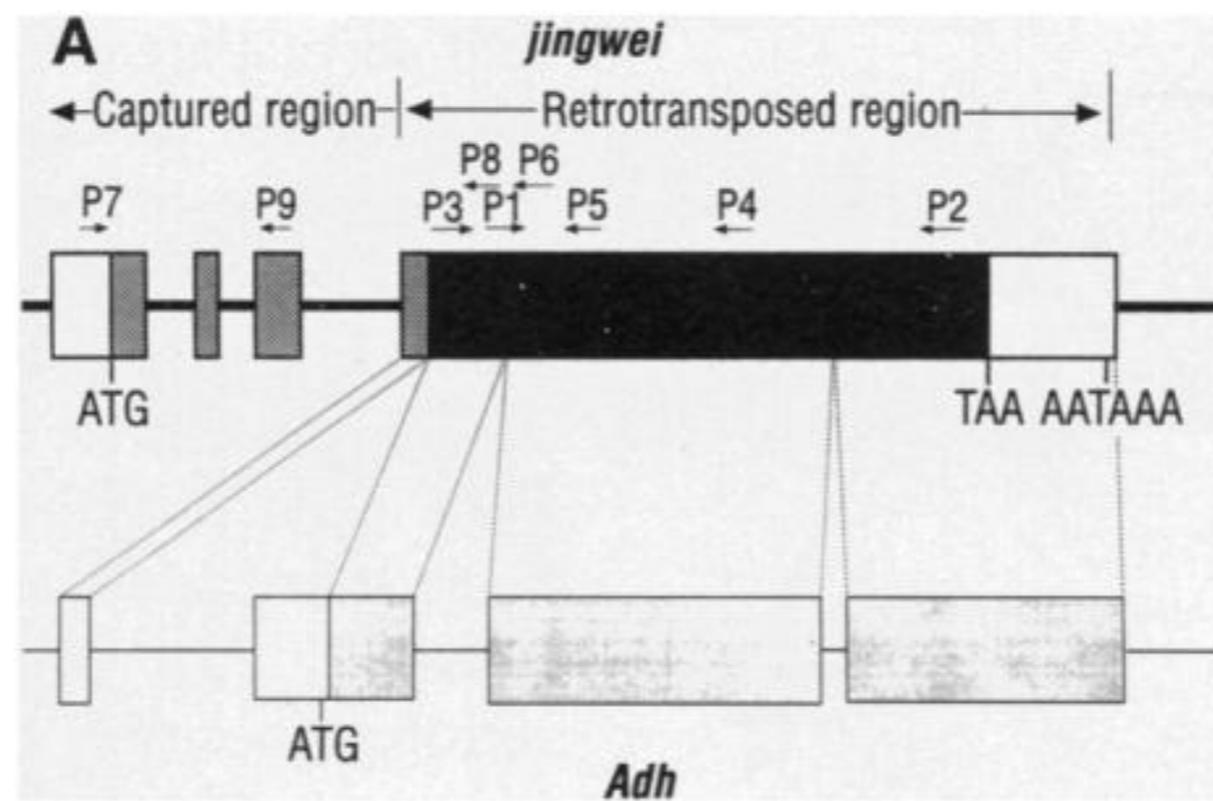
# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

## Retrotransposition:

- Results in a daughter copy without introns
- Brings along (almost) no flanking sequence
- Can only copy one gene at a time

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

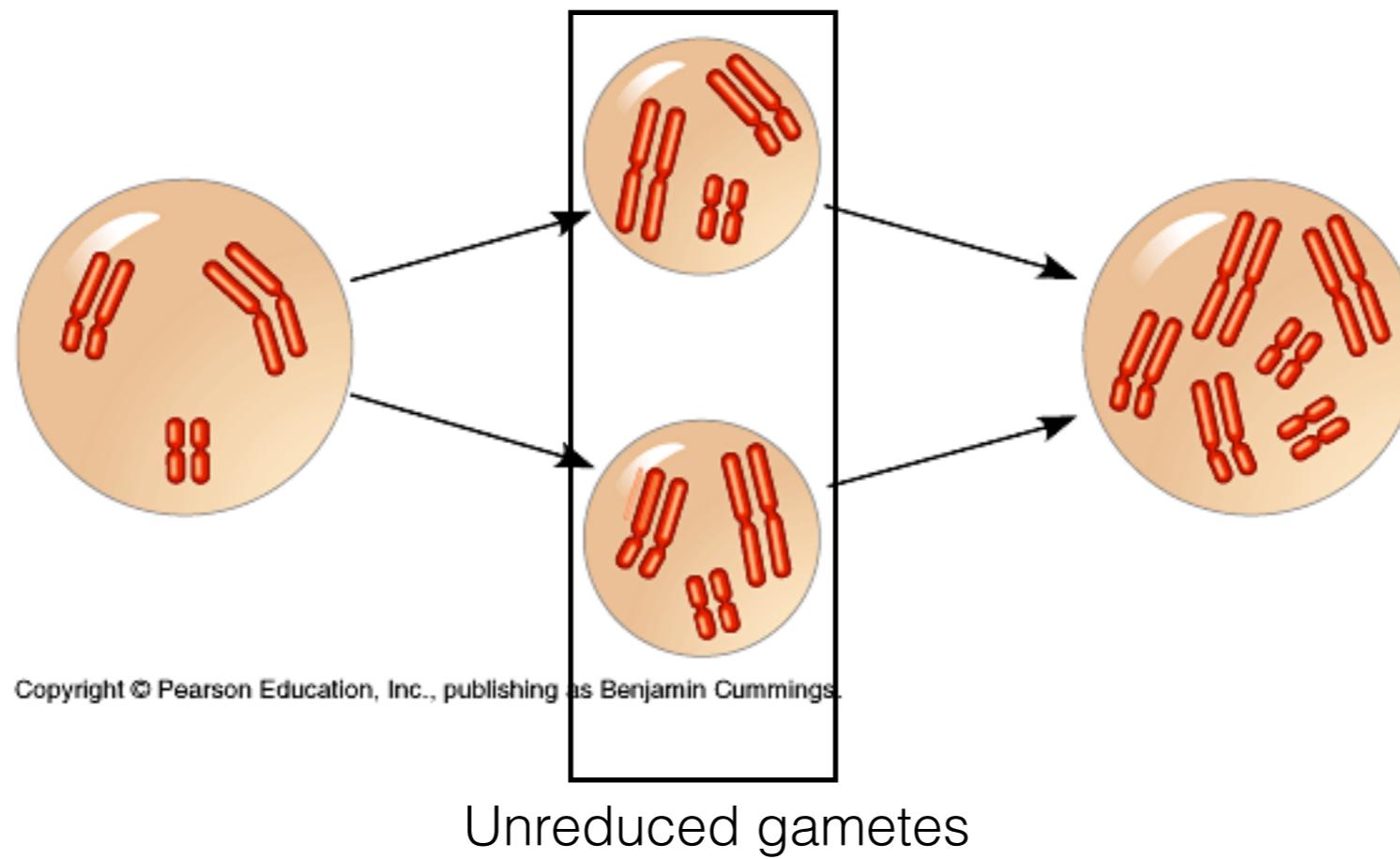
Weird hybrid case: “chimeric” gene duplicates



Long and Langley (1993)

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

## Polyplody



# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

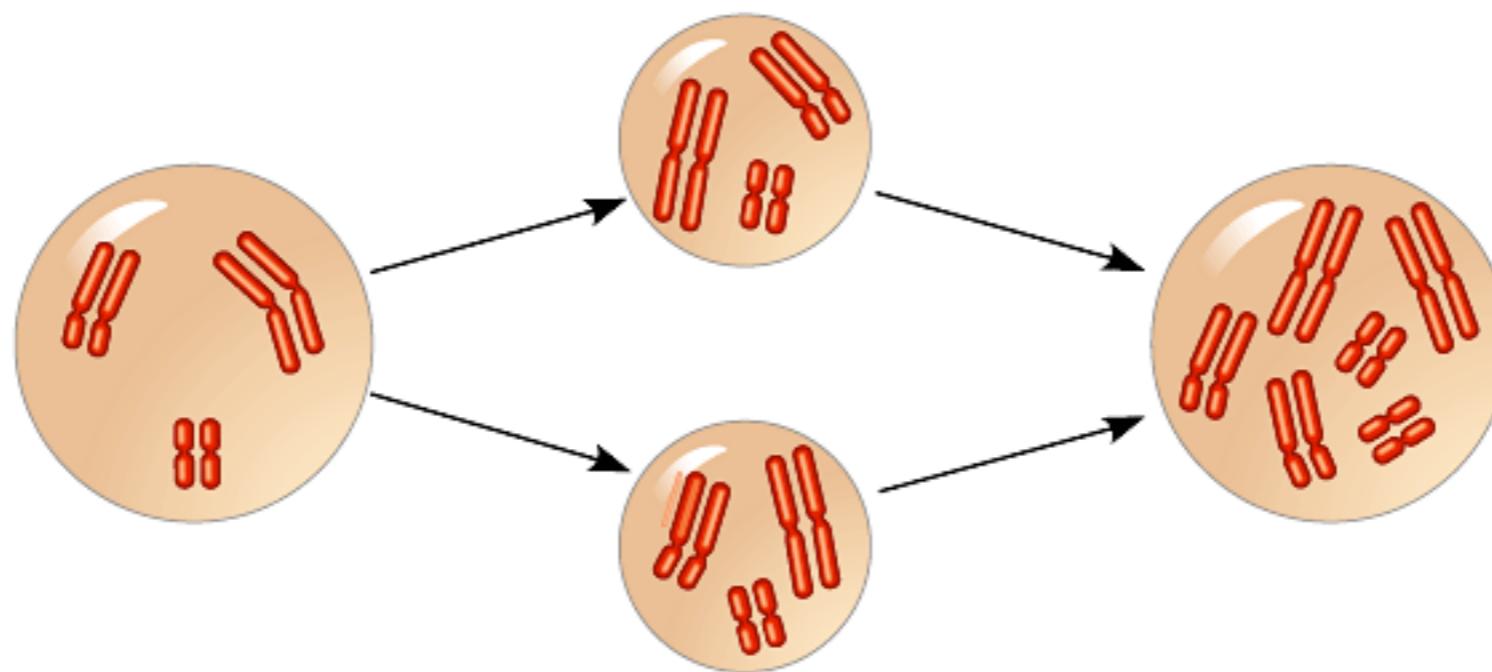
## Polyplody:

- Doubles the entire content of the genome
- Most genes subsequently return to single-copy
- Two types (at approximately equal frequency in nature):  
Autopolyplody and allopolyploidy

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

Autopolyplody:

Doubling the number of chromosomes, where both parents are from the same species (or same individual)

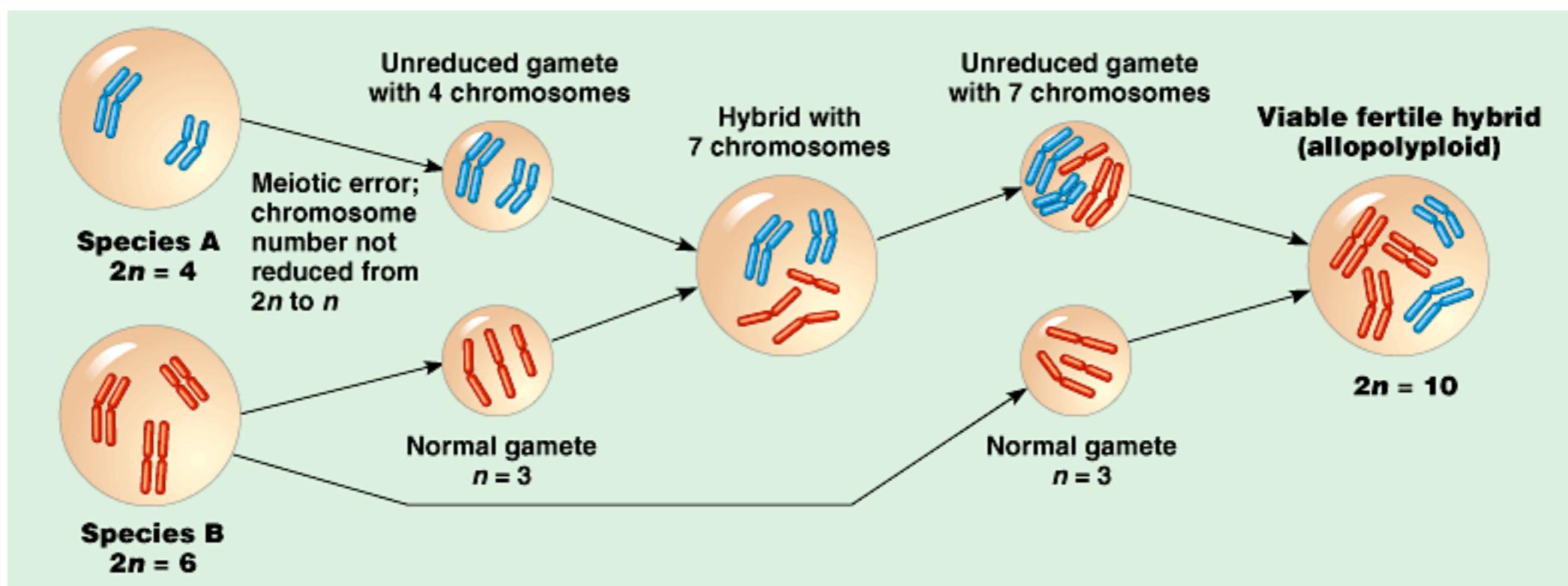


Copyright © Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Benjamin Cummings.

# Molecular mechanisms of gene duplication

Allopolyploidy:

Doubling the number of chromosomes, where the parents are from *different* species



# Molecular mechanisms of gene loss

Nonsense mutation

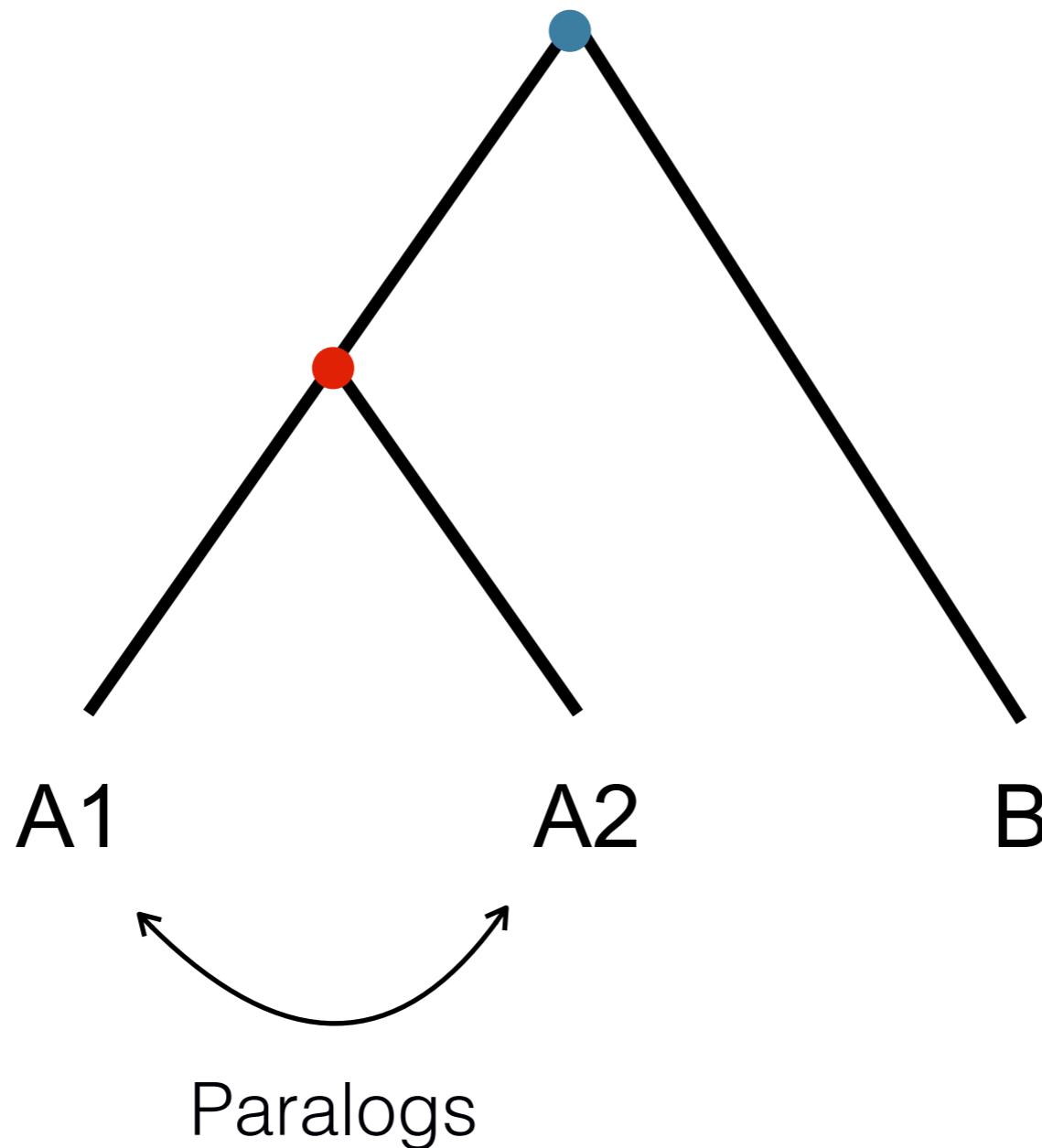
Frame shifting indel

Complete deletion (often due to NAHR)

# Genealogical relationships among genes

Paralogs: genes (loci) whose most recent common ancestor is a duplication node •

# Genealogical relationships among genes

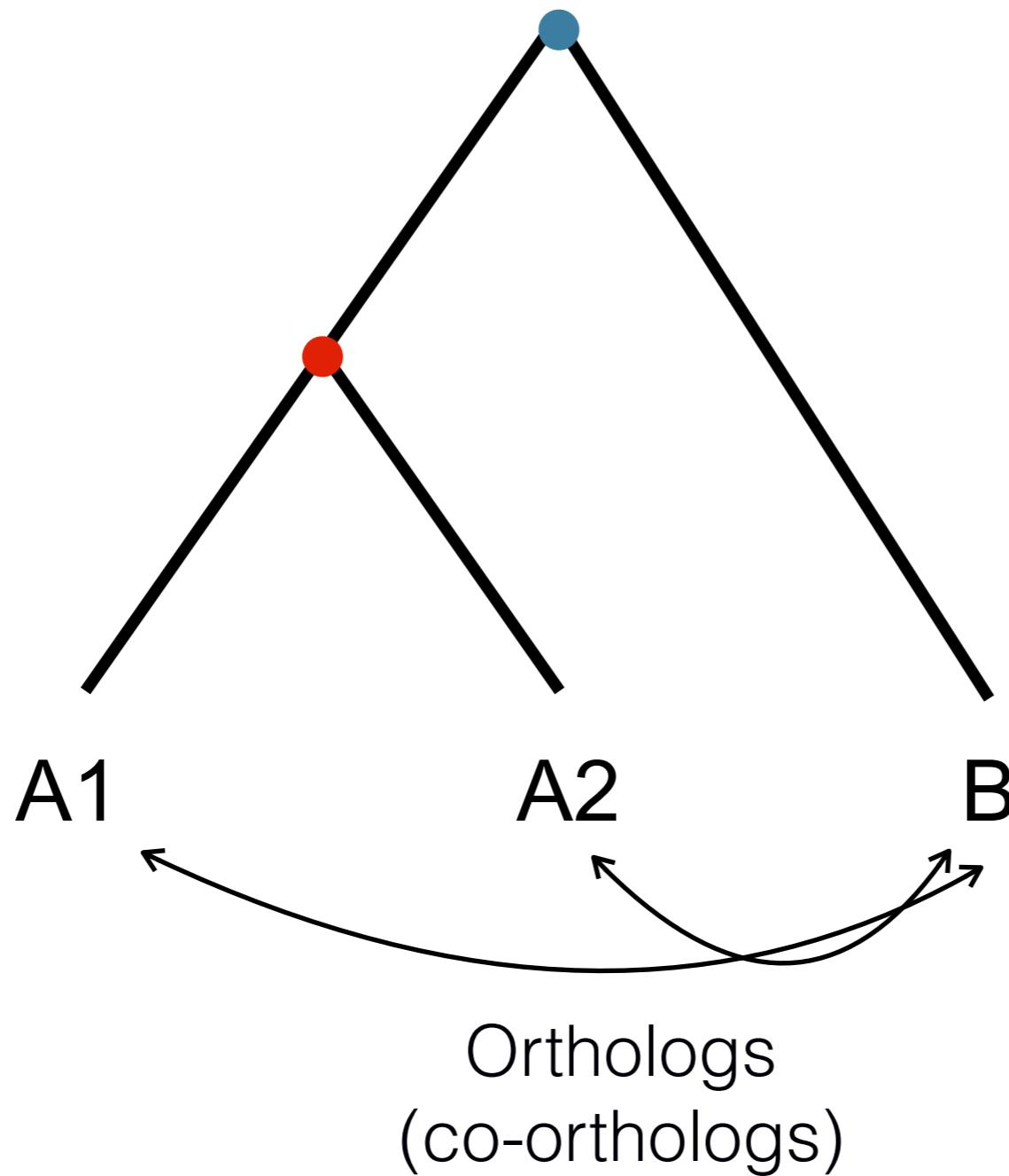


# Genealogical relationships among genes

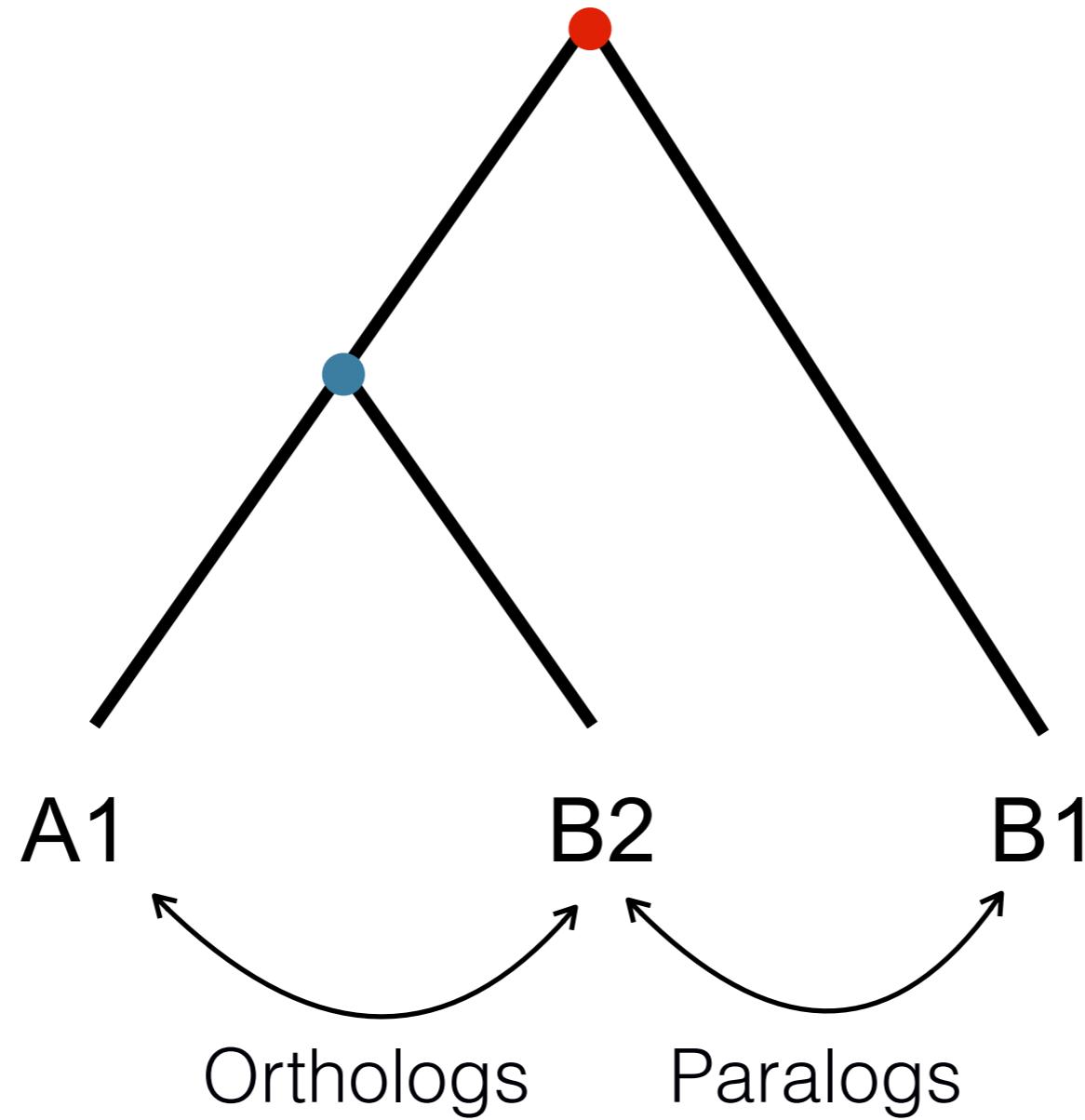
Paralogs: genes (loci) whose most recent common ancestor is a duplication node ●

Orthologs: genes (loci) whose most recent common ancestor is a speciation node ●

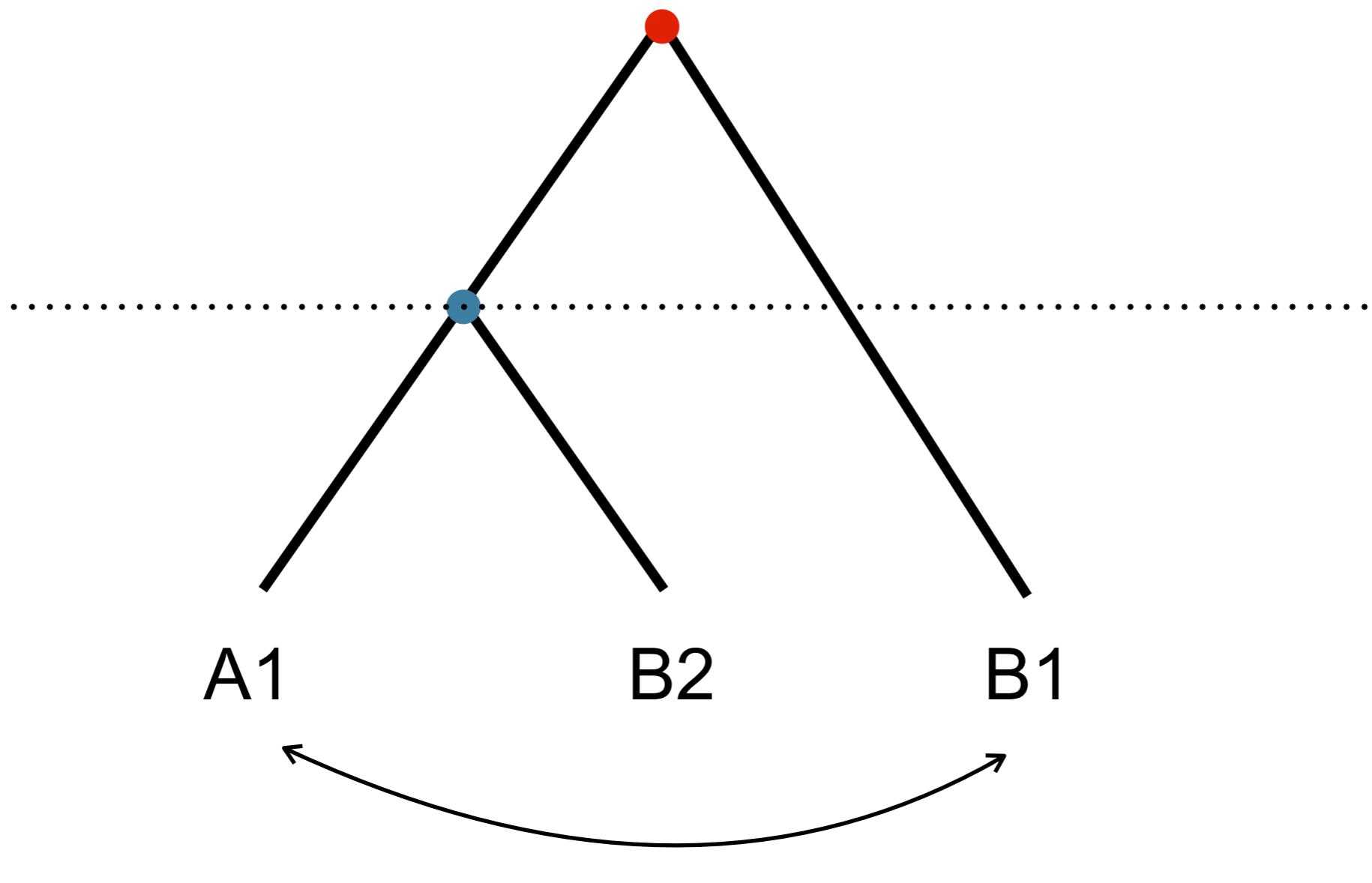
# Genealogical relationships among genes



# Genealogical relationships among genes

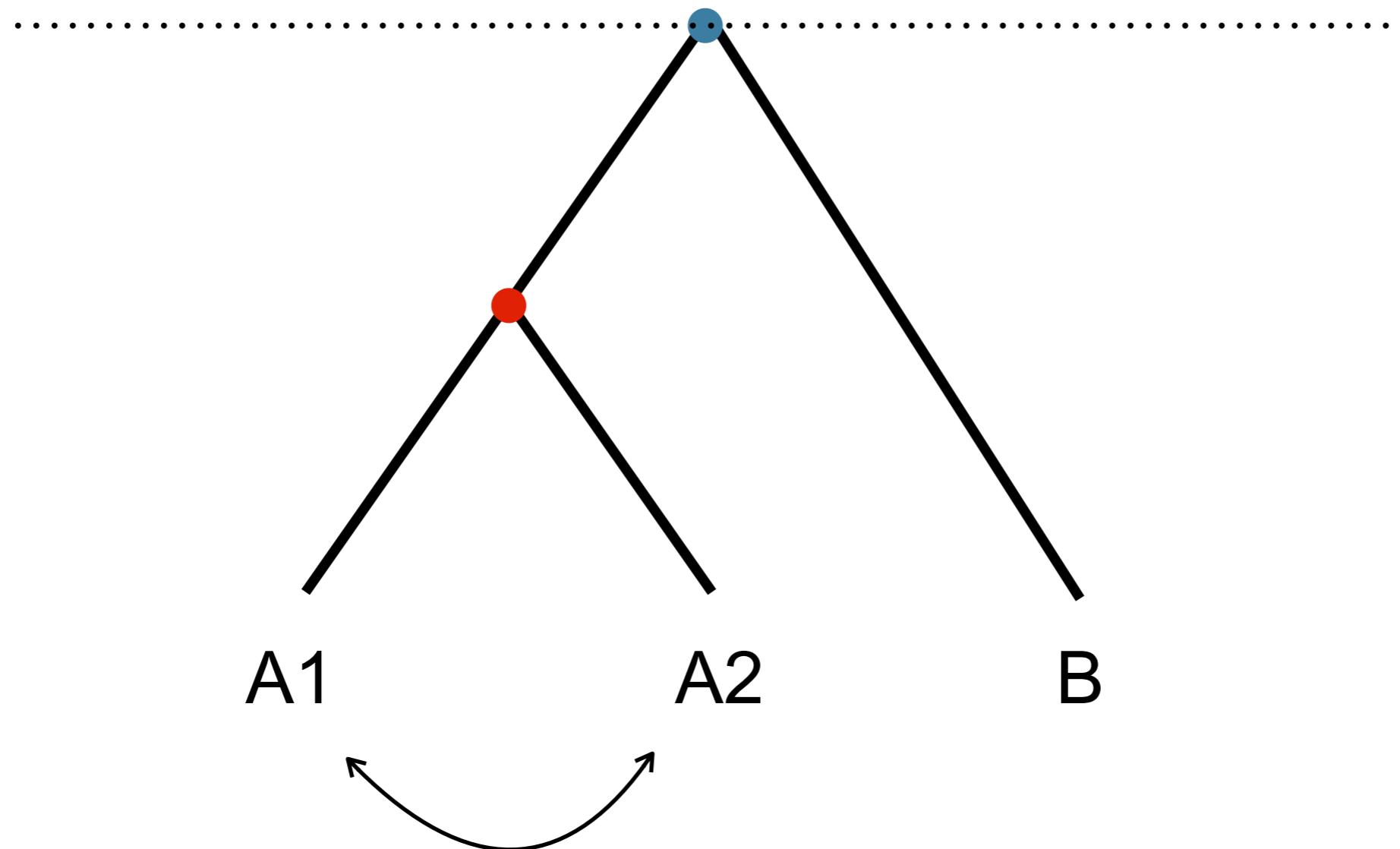


# Genealogical relationships among genes



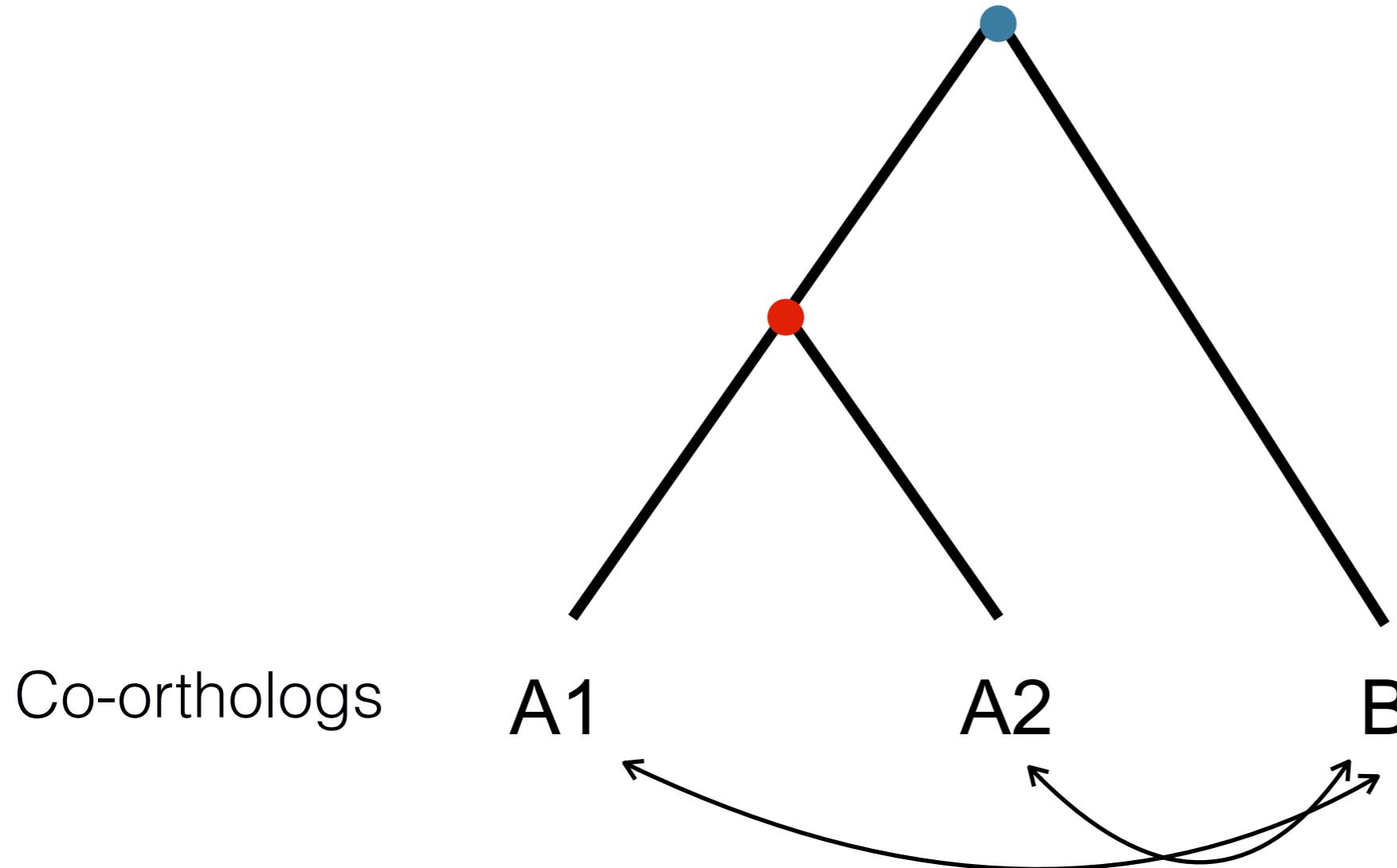
Paralogs  
(out-paralogs wrt the A-B speciation event)

# Genealogical relationships among genes

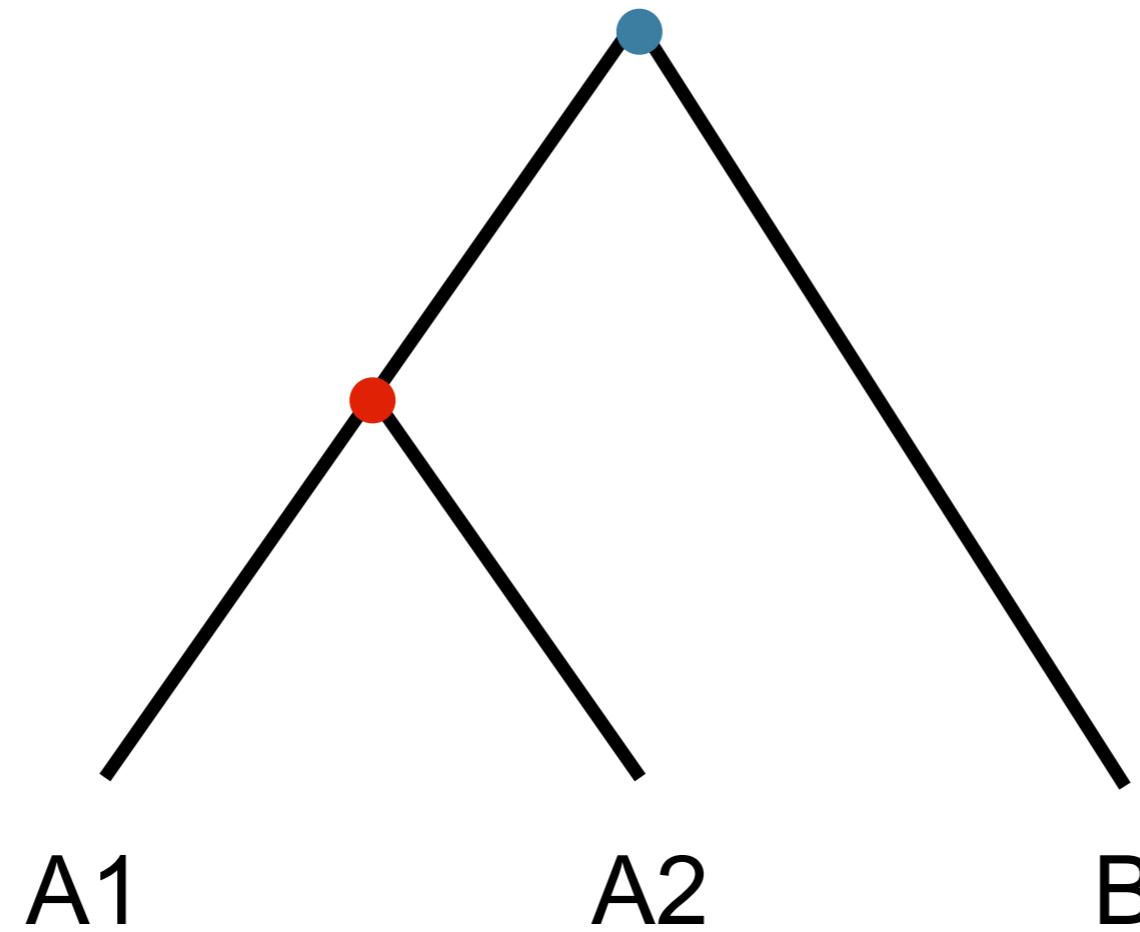


In-paralogs wrt the A-B speciation event

# More genealogical relationships among genes



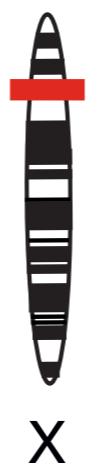
# More genealogical relationships among genes



“Positional orthologs”  
(Dewey 2011)



16

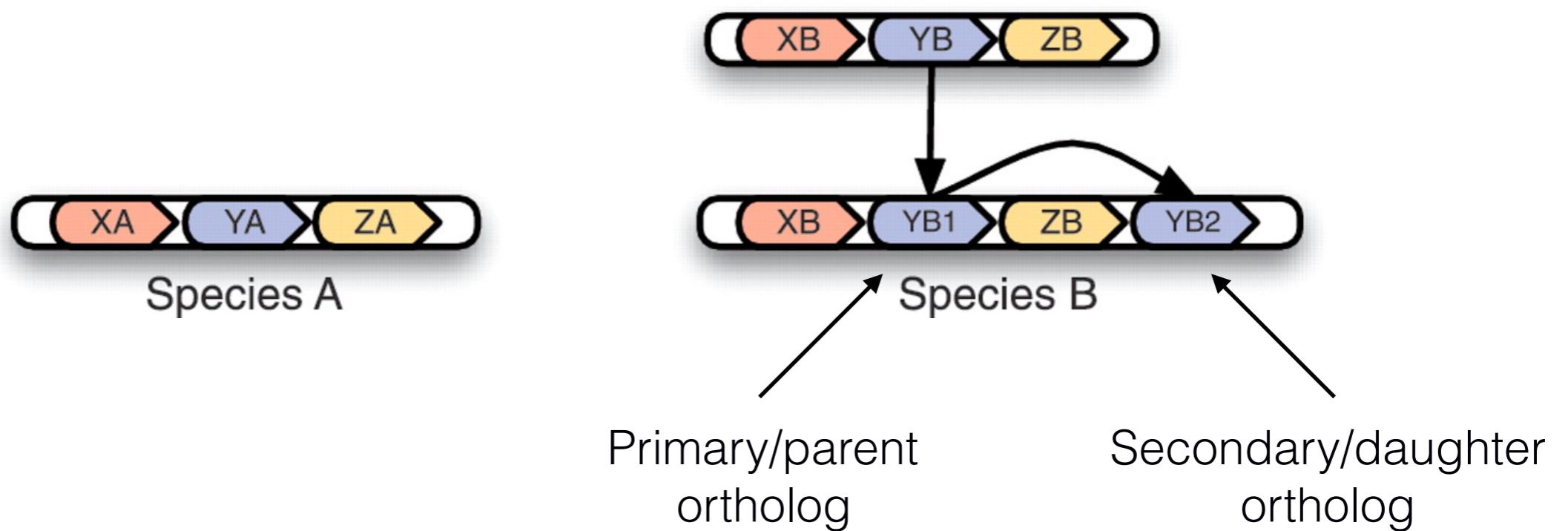


X



X

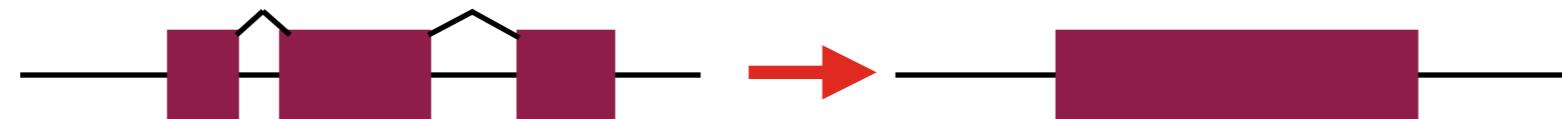
# More genealogical relationships among genes



“Positional orthologs”  
(Dewey 2011)

# More genealogical relationships among genes

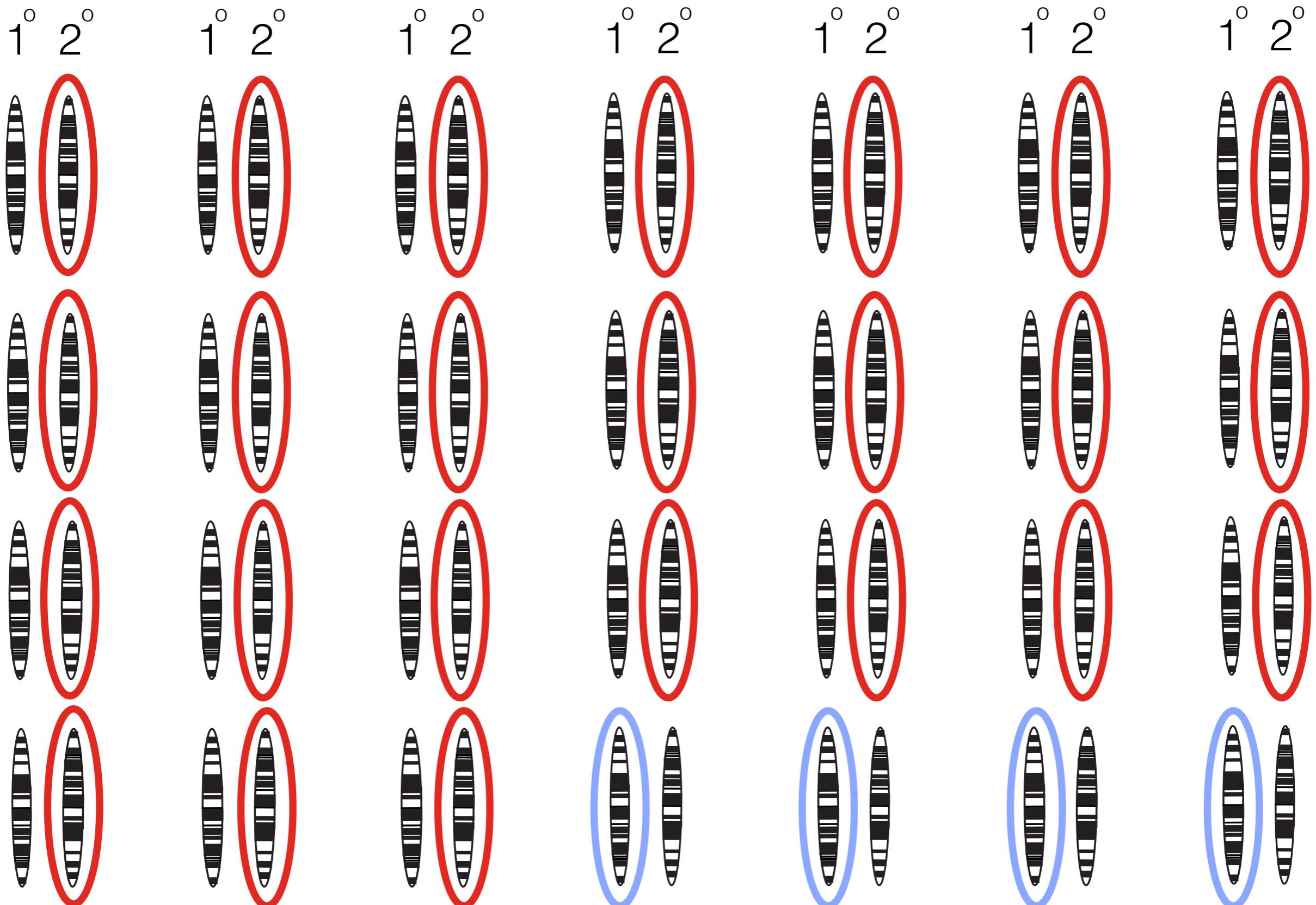
Retrotransposition



Primary/parent  
ortholog

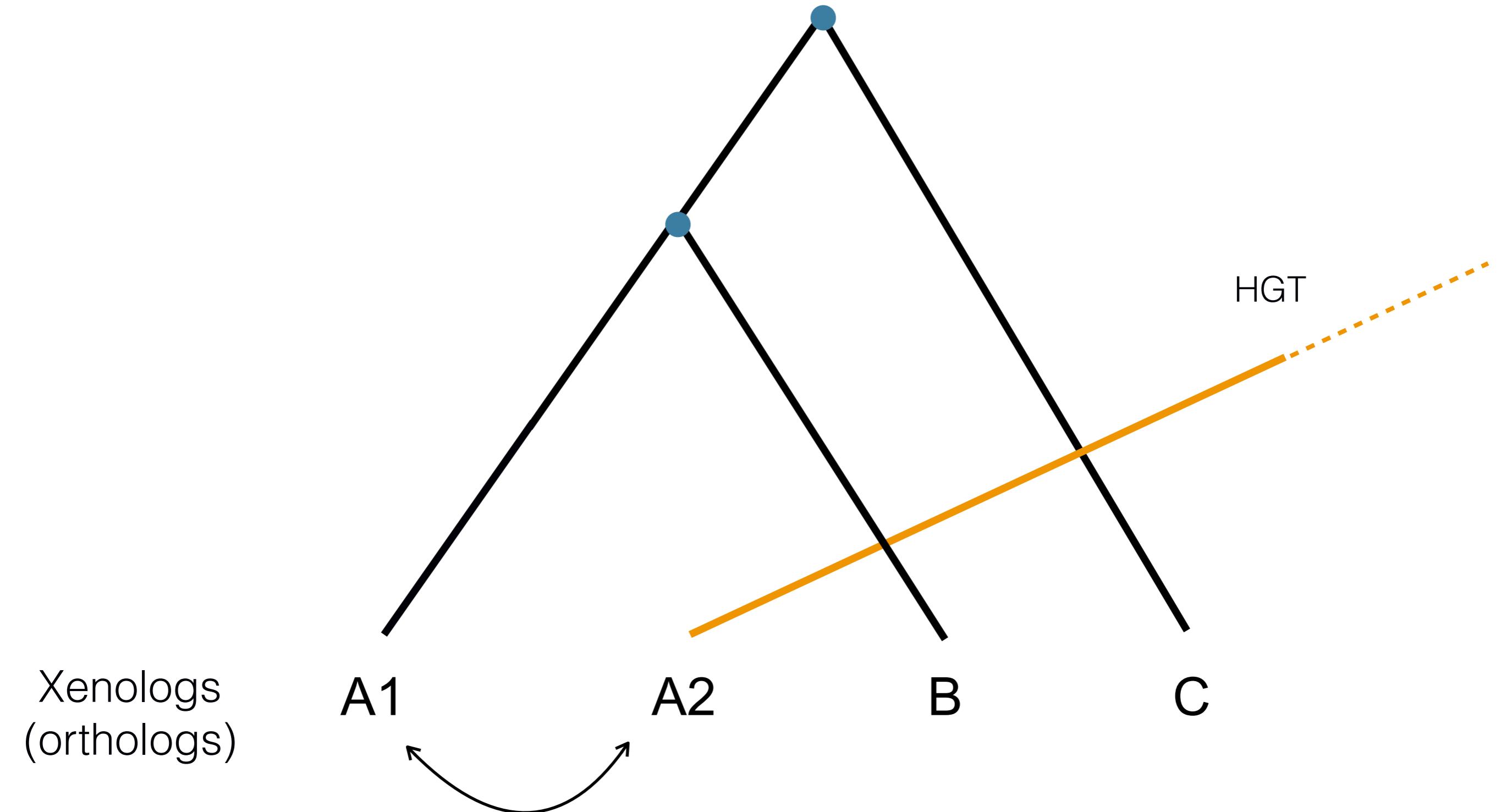
Secondary/daughter  
ortholog

# Polarized duplicates and adaptation



Han et al. (2009)

# More genealogical relationships among genes



# More genealogical relationships among genes

 OPEN ACCESS  PEER-REVIEWED

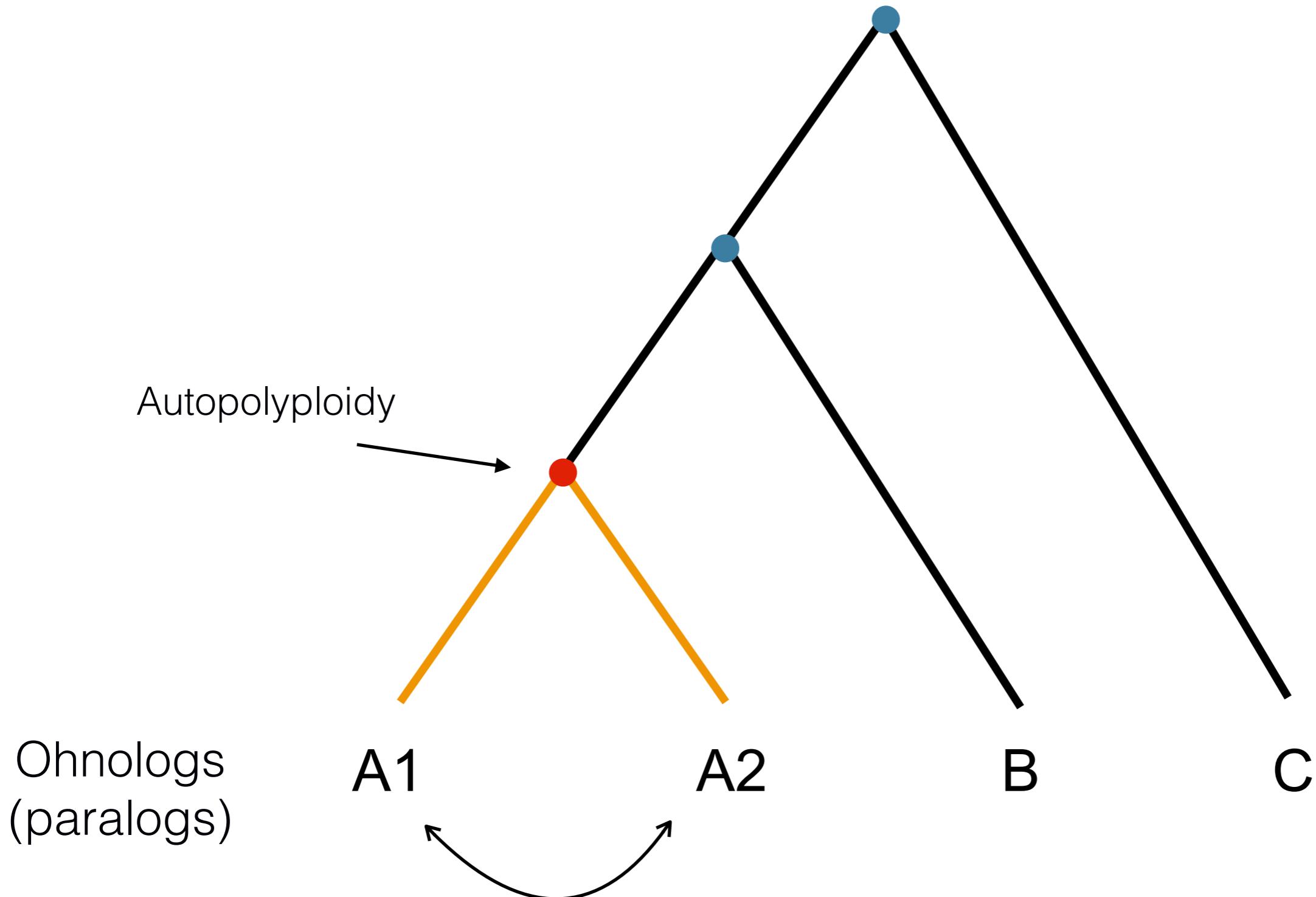
RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Horizontal Transfer, Not Duplication, Drives the Expansion of Protein Families in Prokaryotes

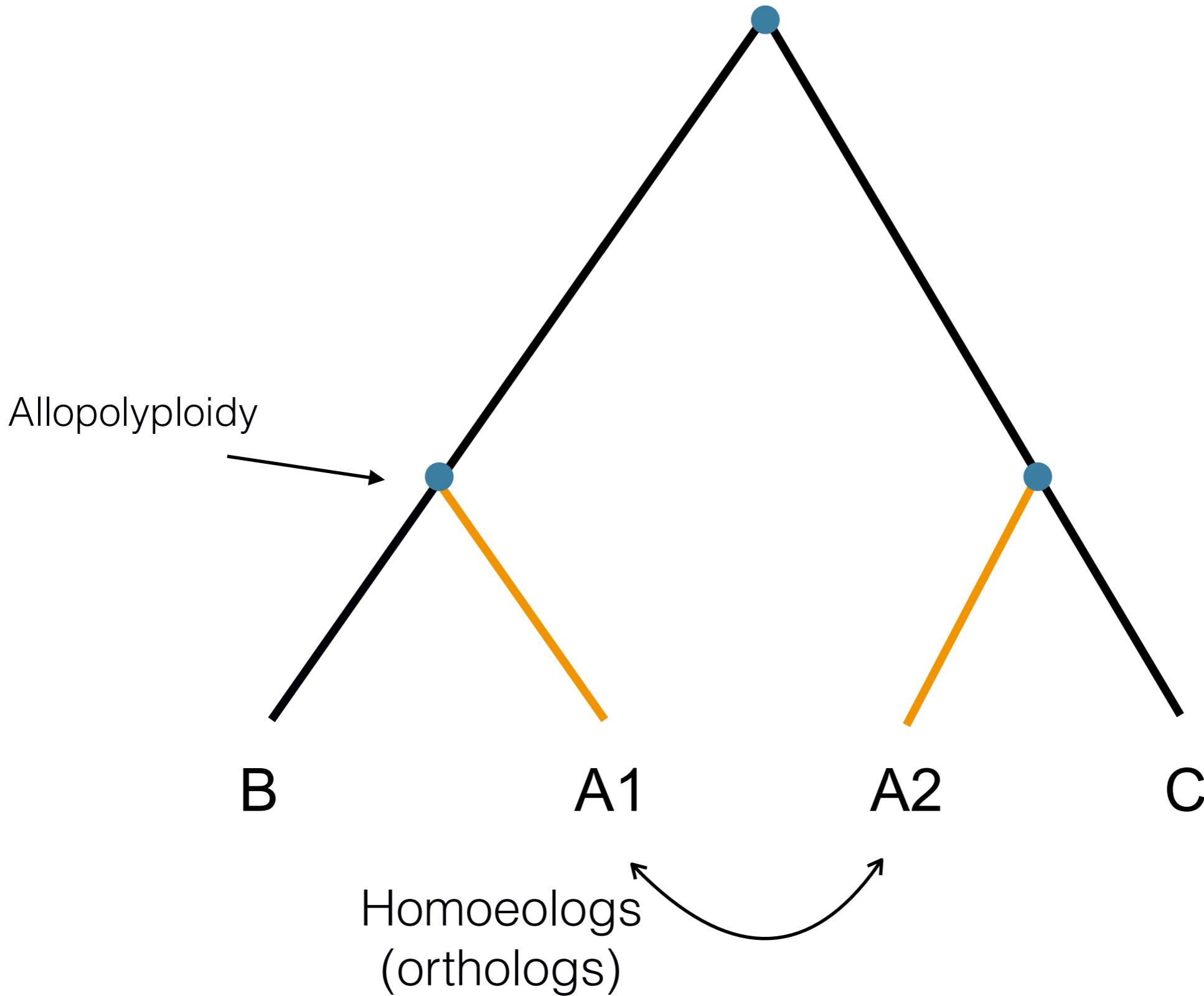
Todd J. Treangen , Eduardo P. C. Rocha

Published: January 27, 2011 • <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1001284>

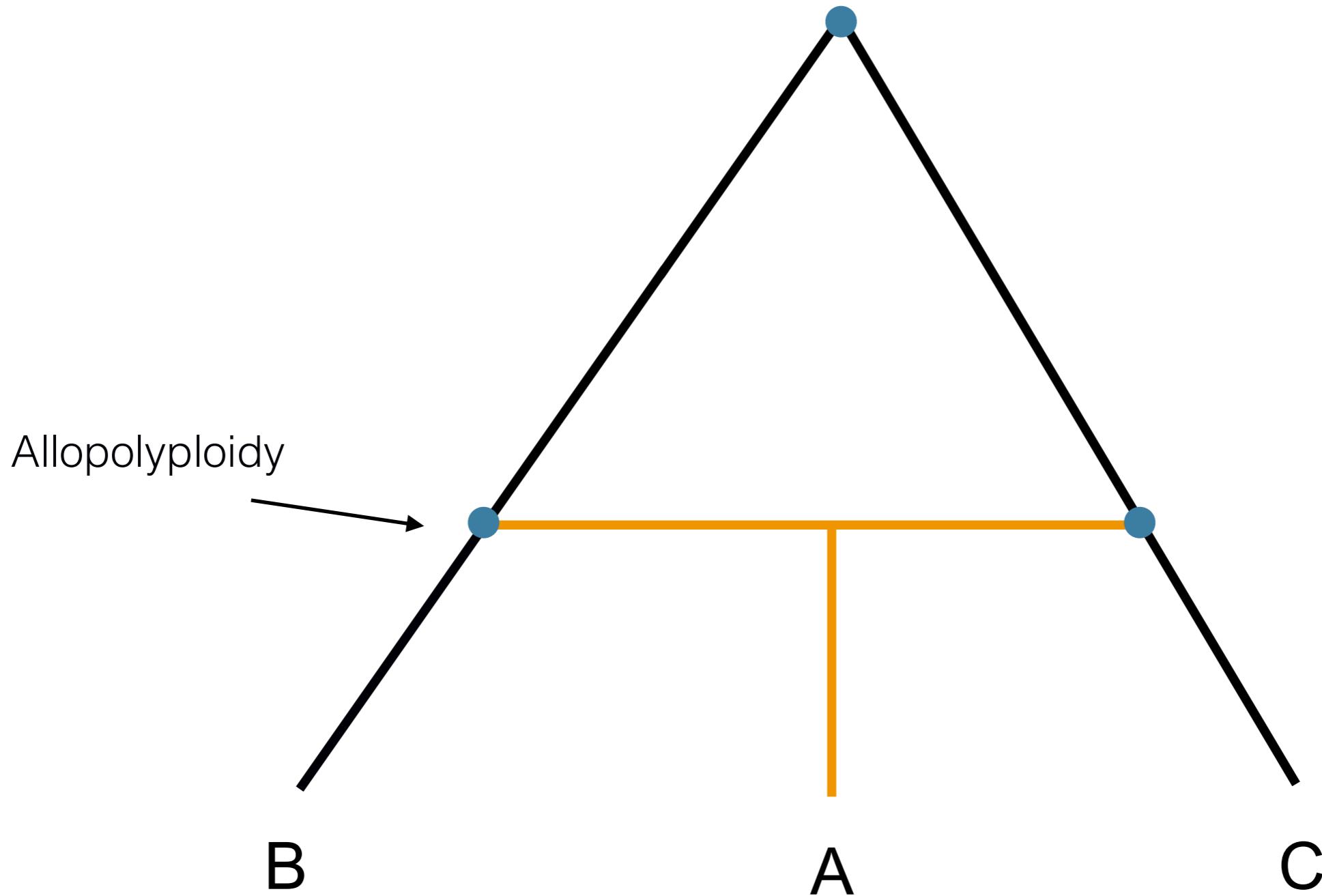
# More genealogical relationships among genes



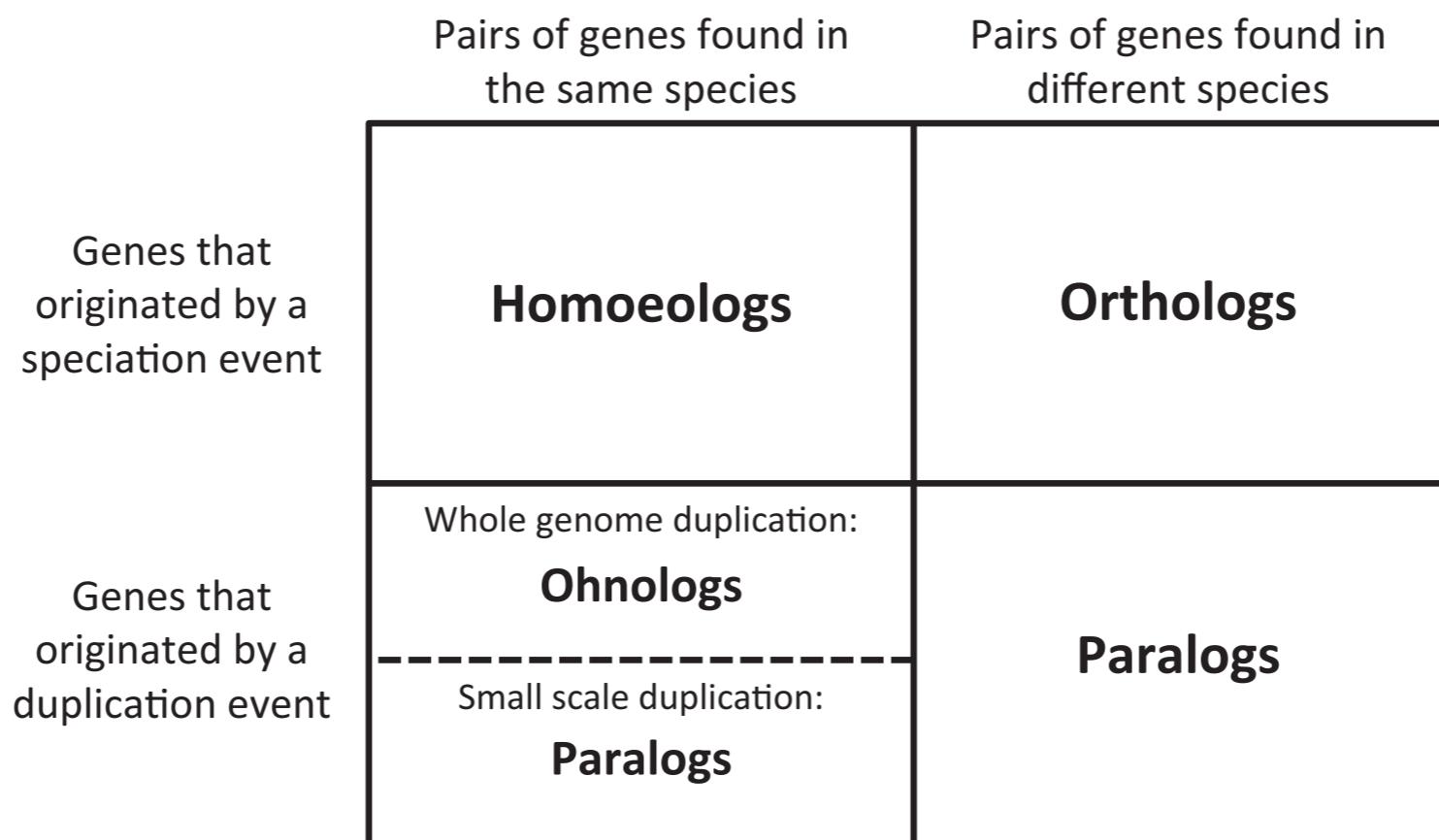
# More genealogical relationships among genes



# More genealogical relationships among genes



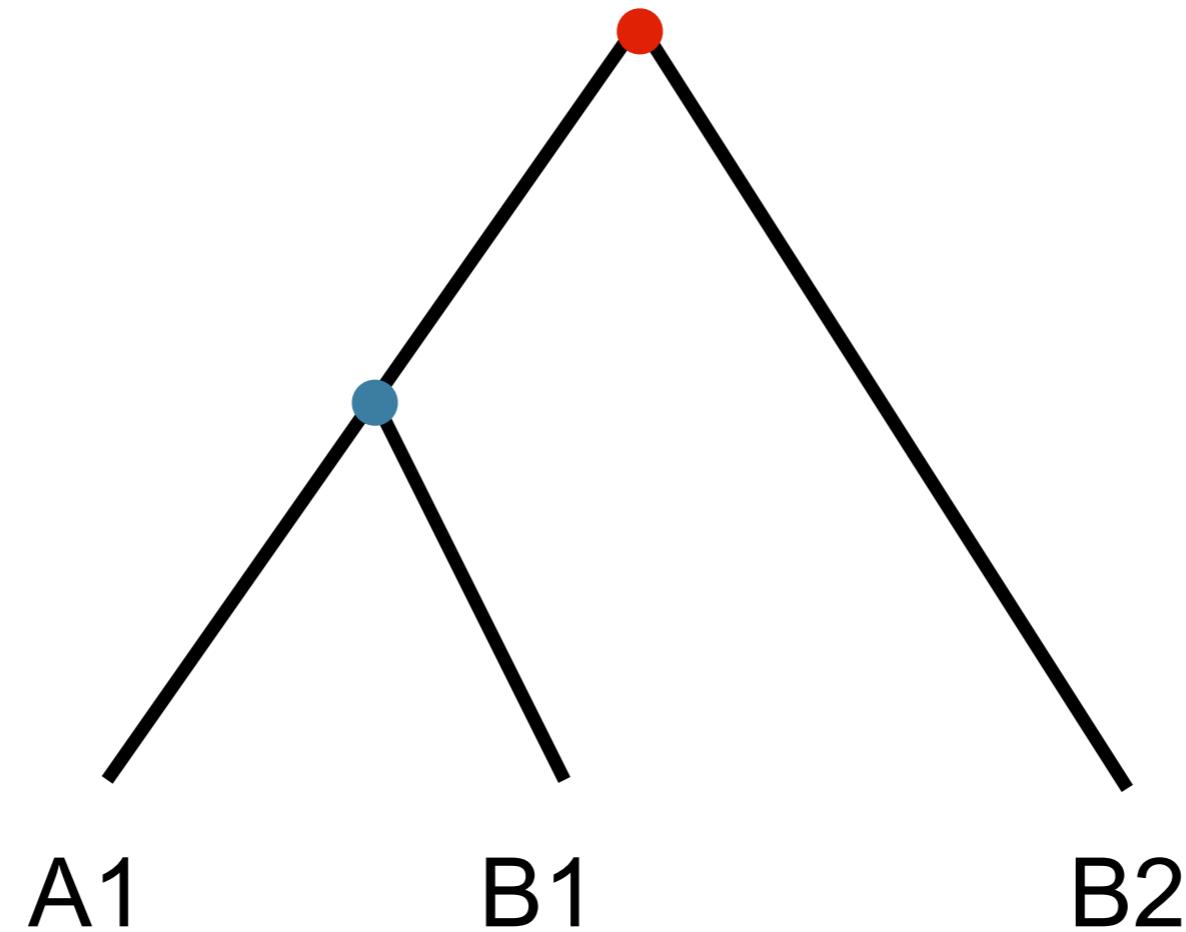
# More genealogical relationships among genes



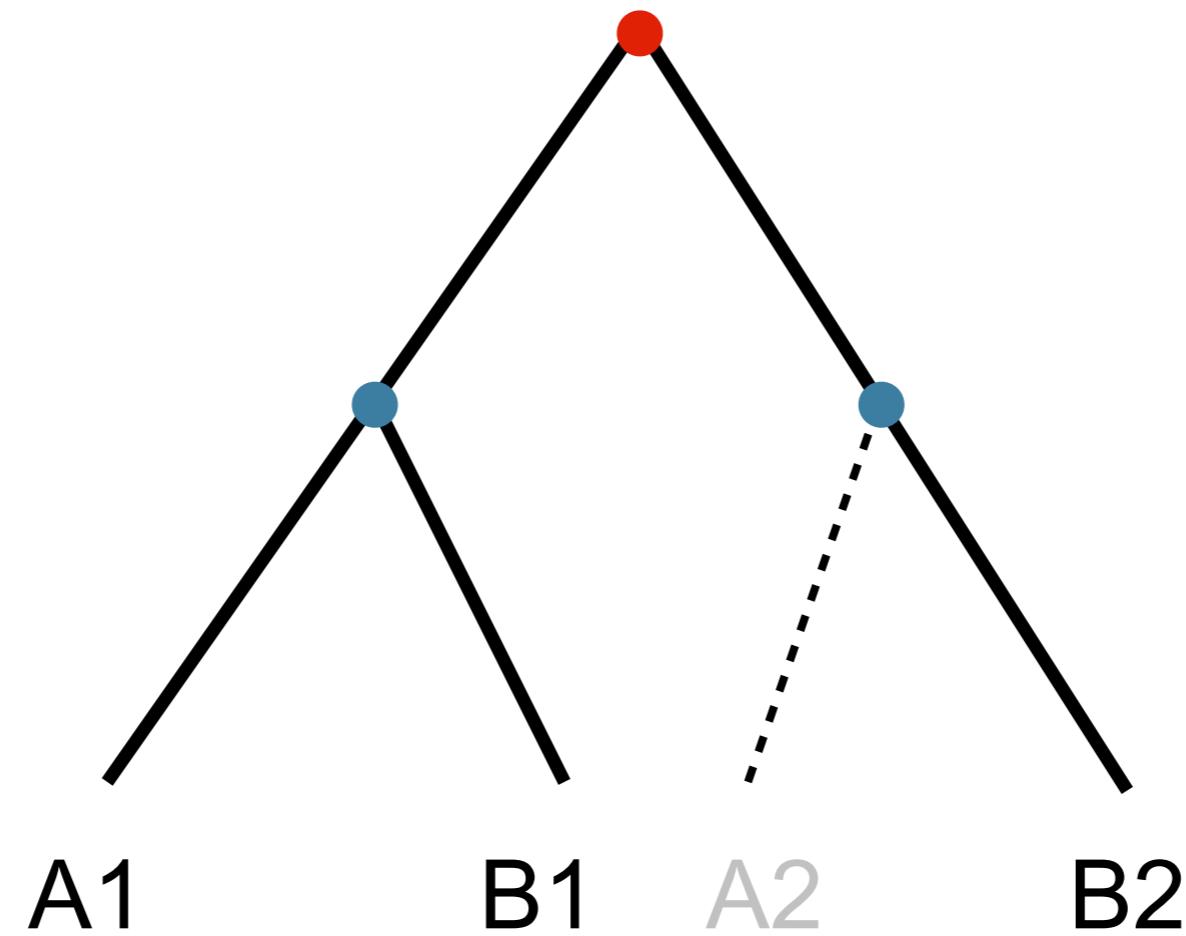
Trends in Plant Science

Glover et al. (2016)

# More genealogical relationships among genes

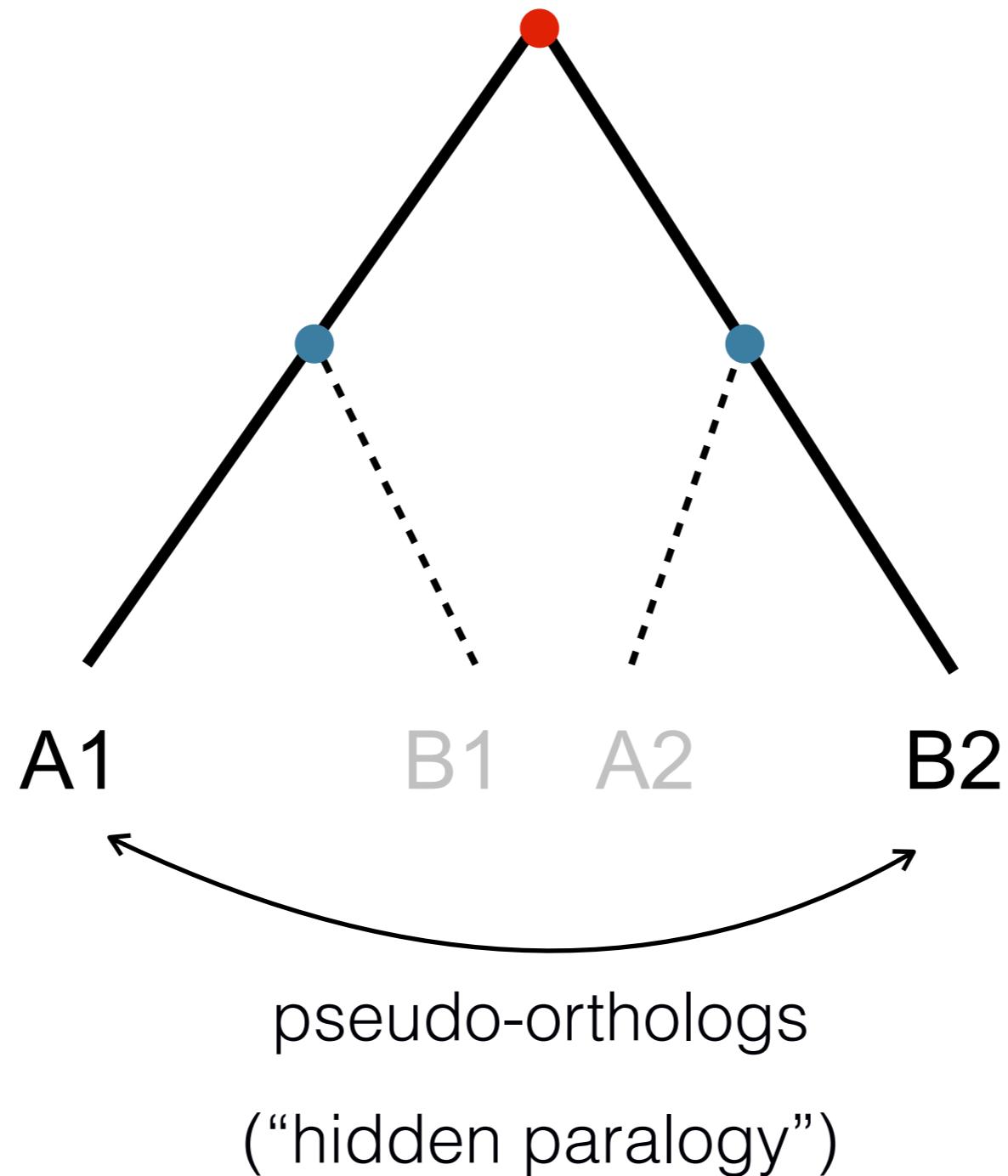


# More genealogical relationships among genes

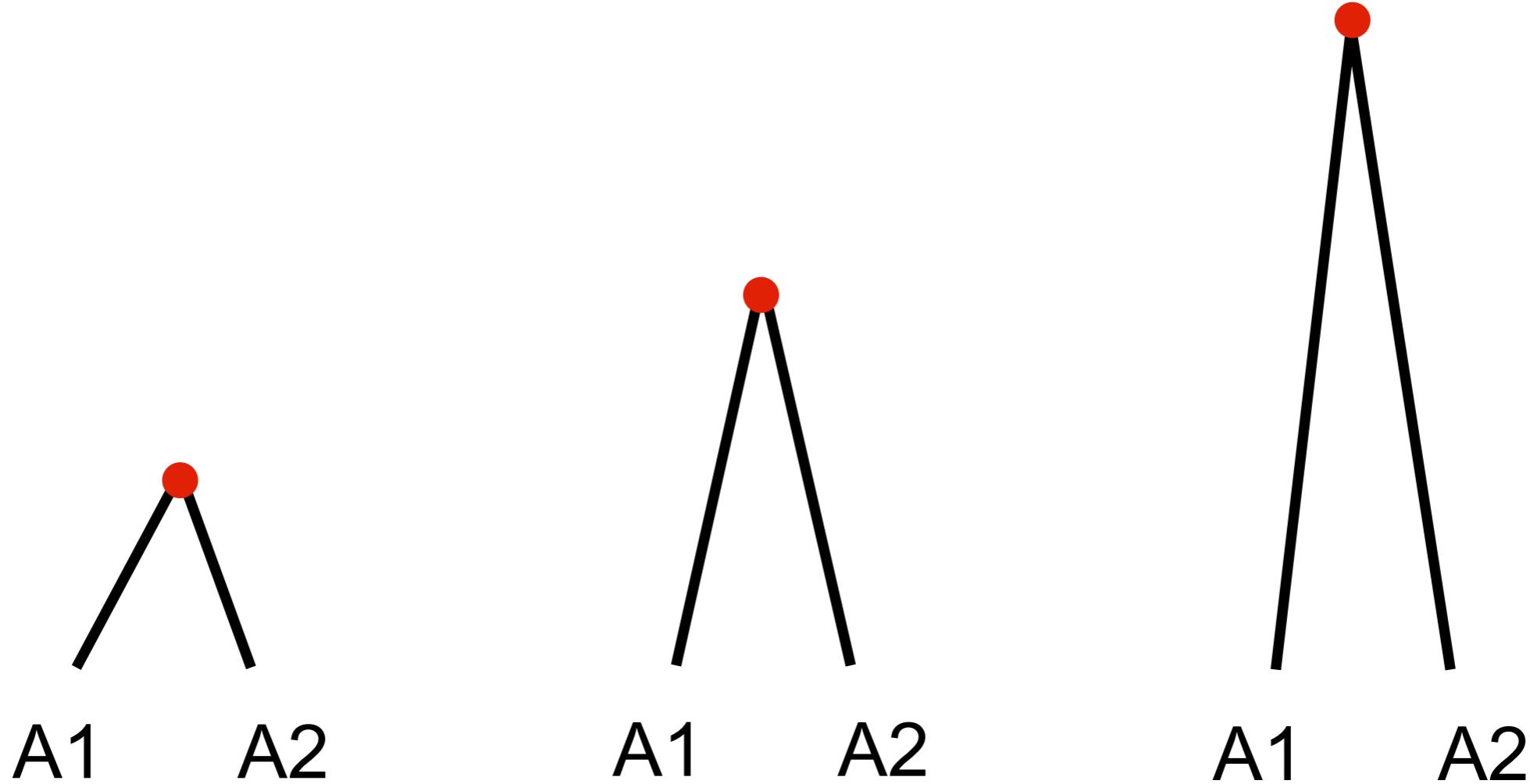


“Reconciled” gene tree

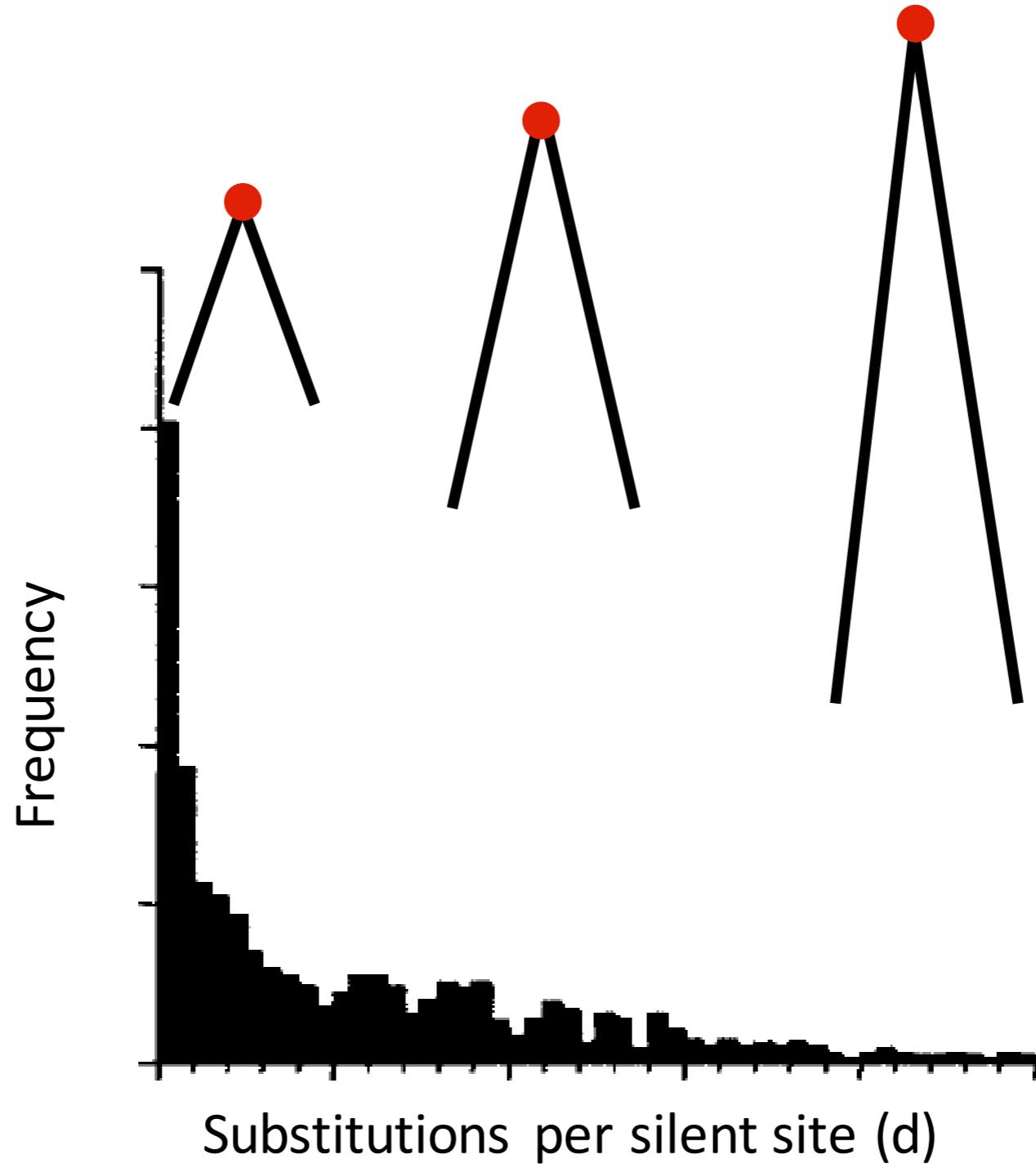
# More genealogical relationships among genes



# Divergence between paralogs



# Divergence between paralogs



# Divergence between paralogs

How divergent are new paralogs?

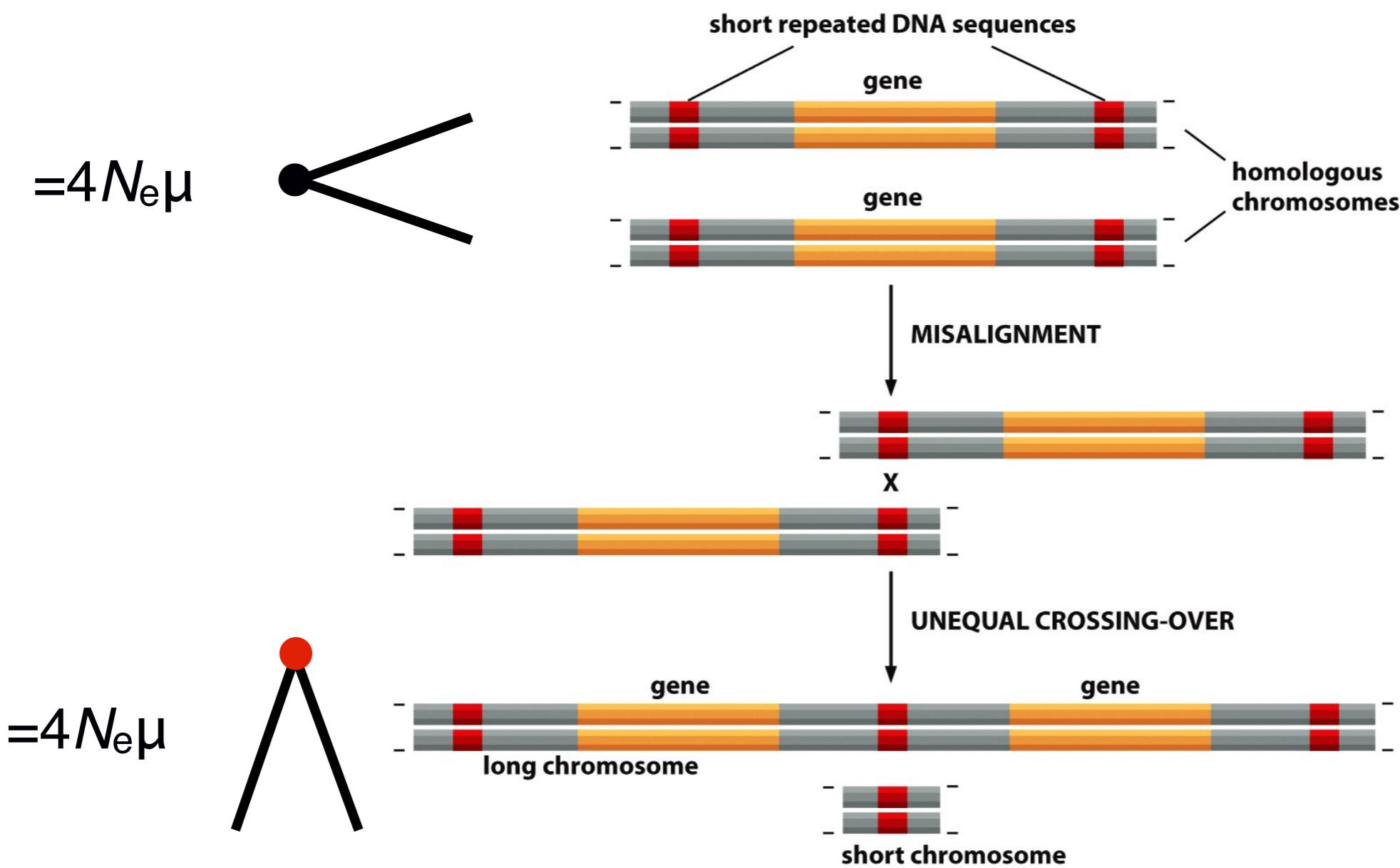


Figure 9-9 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)