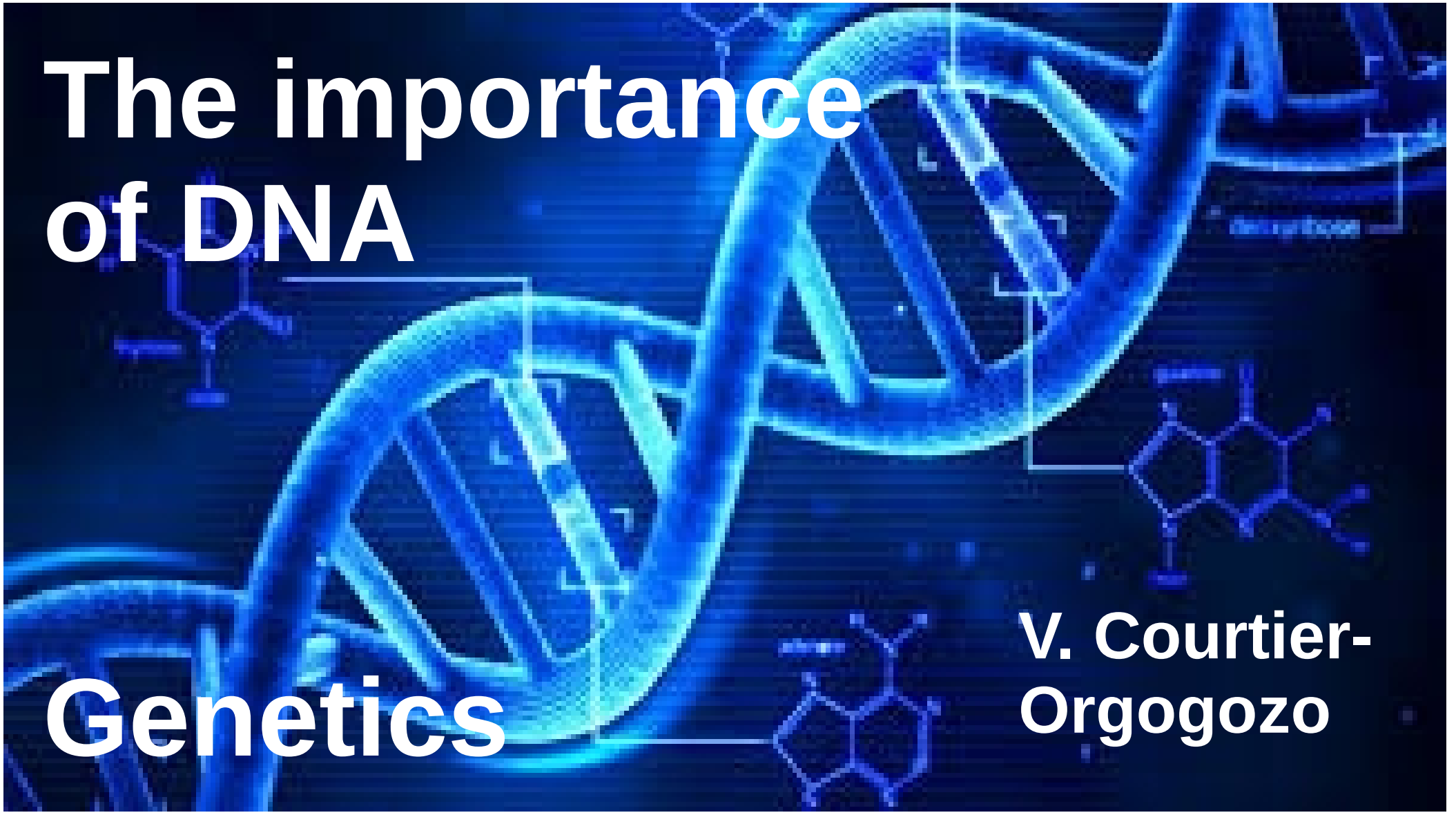
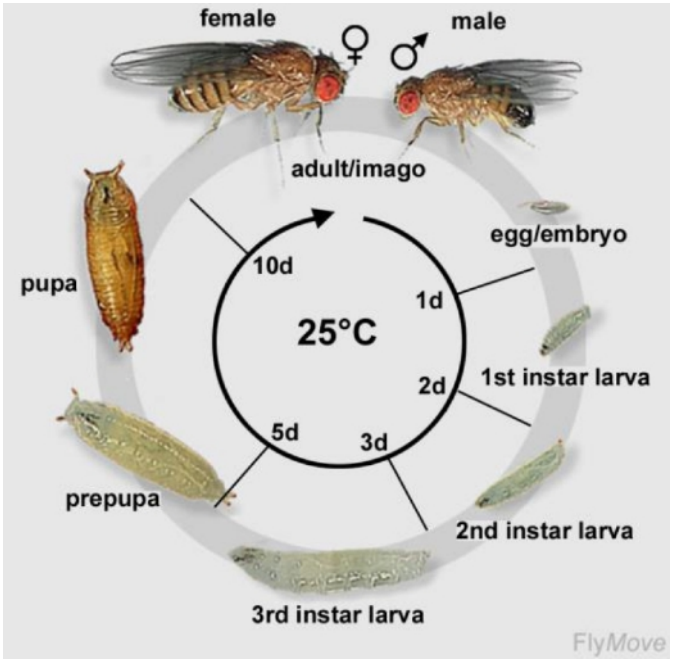

The importance of DNA
Genetics
V. Courtier-Orgogozo

My research: Drosophila glue



soil

D. grimshawi

rotten strawberry

D. suzukii

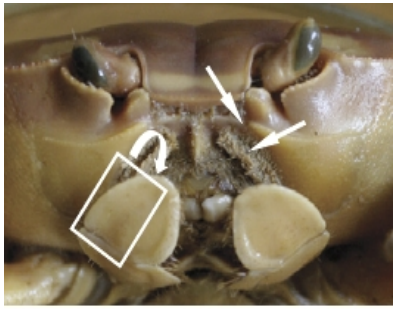
grape

D. melanogaster

potato

D. repleta

crab



D. carcinophila

Bioadhesives

Natural polymer that can act as an adhesive: binds two items together and resists their separation

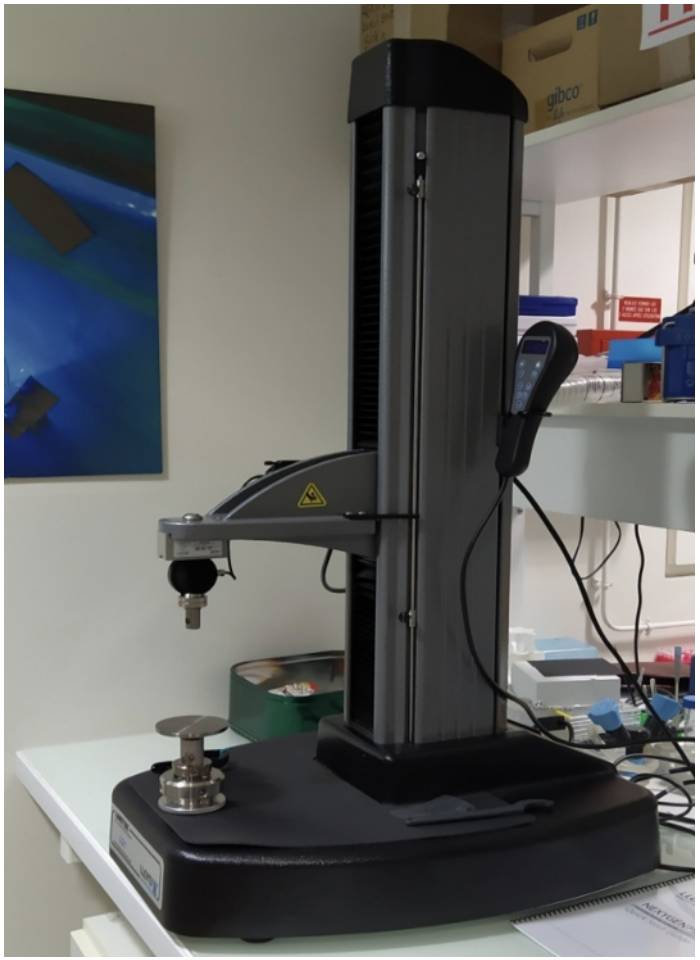
Mussel glue

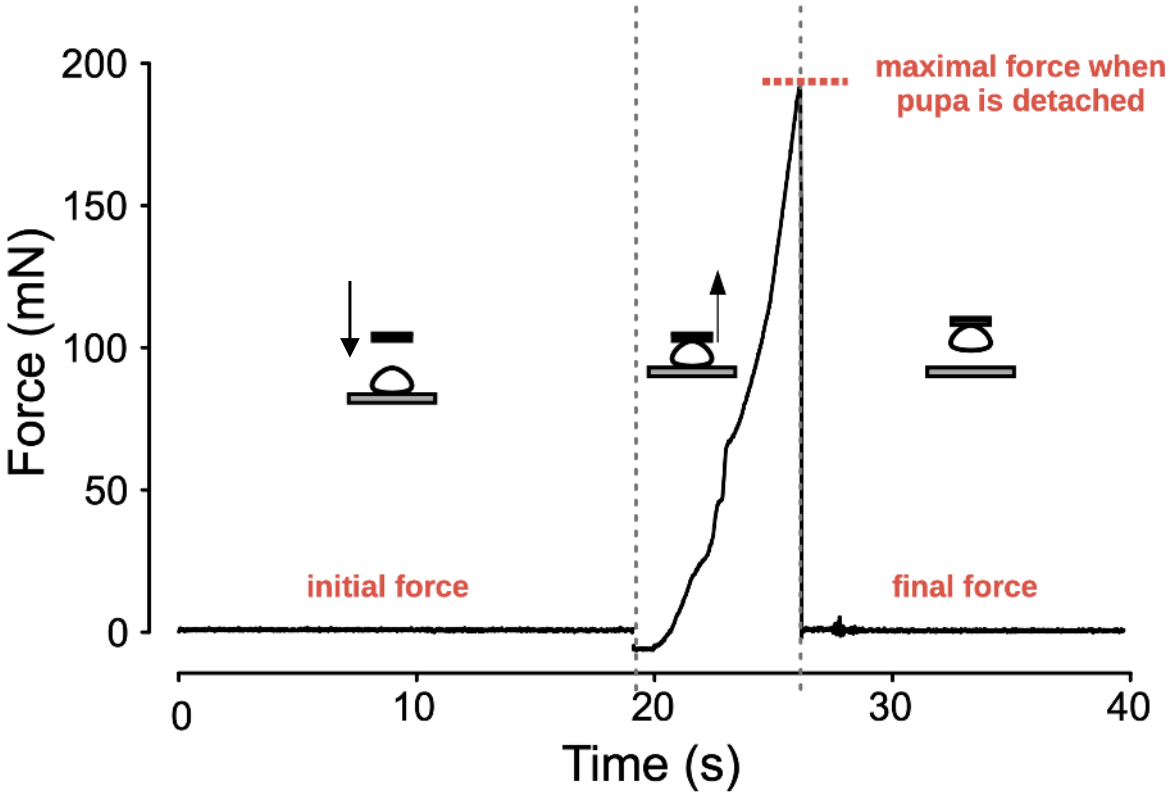
water resistant

25 proteins

3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (DOPA)

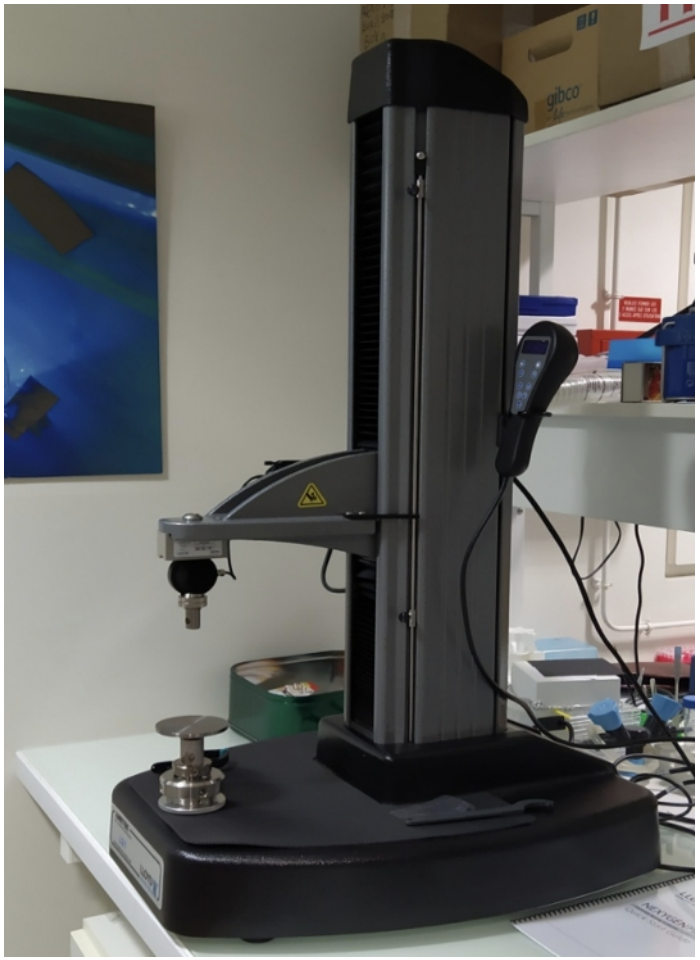
We designed a method to measure Drosophila glue adhesion

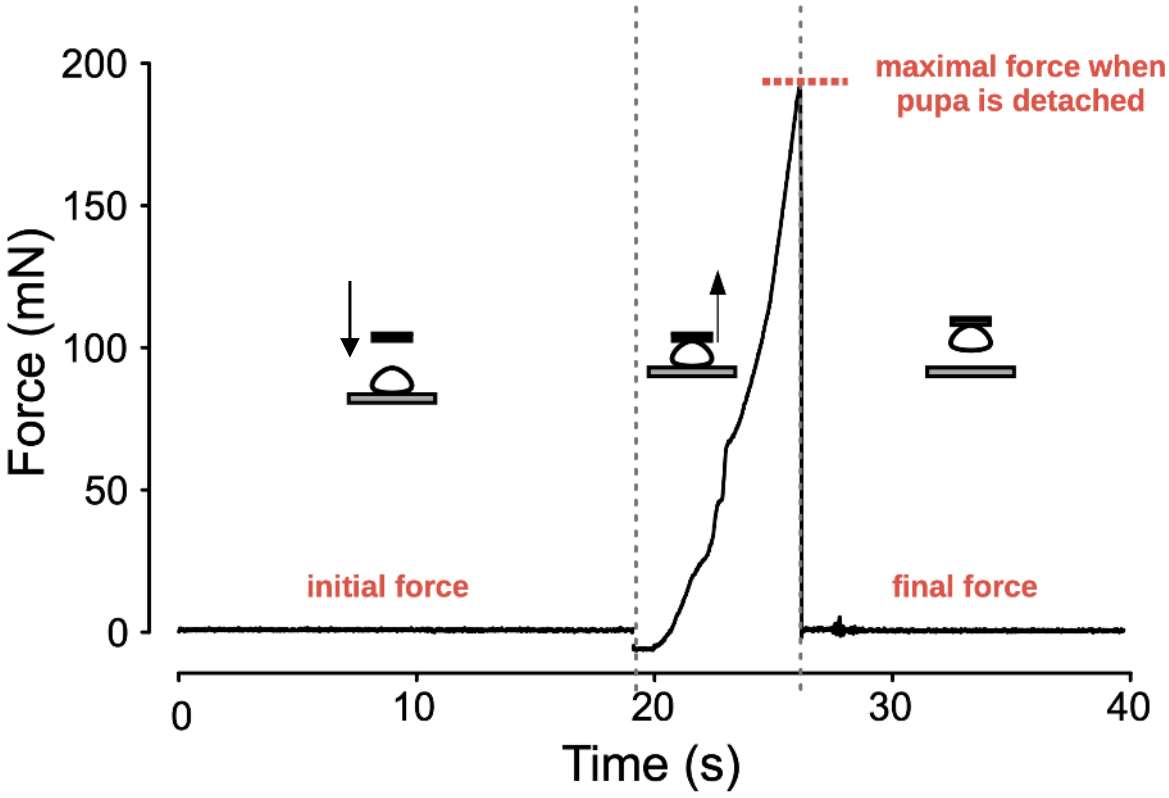




Borne et al 2020 JEB

D. melanogaster glue sticks as strongly as our most adhesive tapes

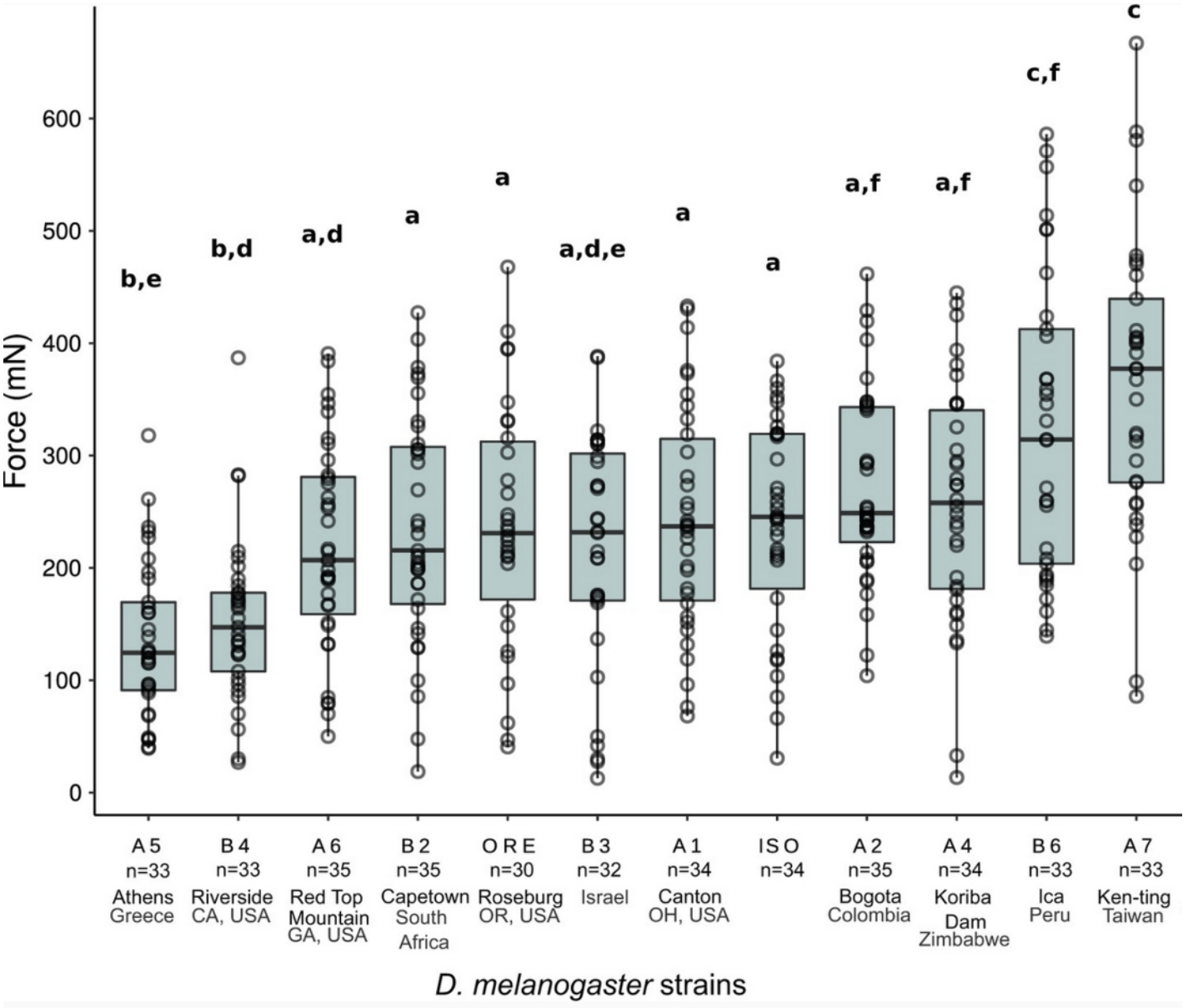




Borne et al 2020 JEB

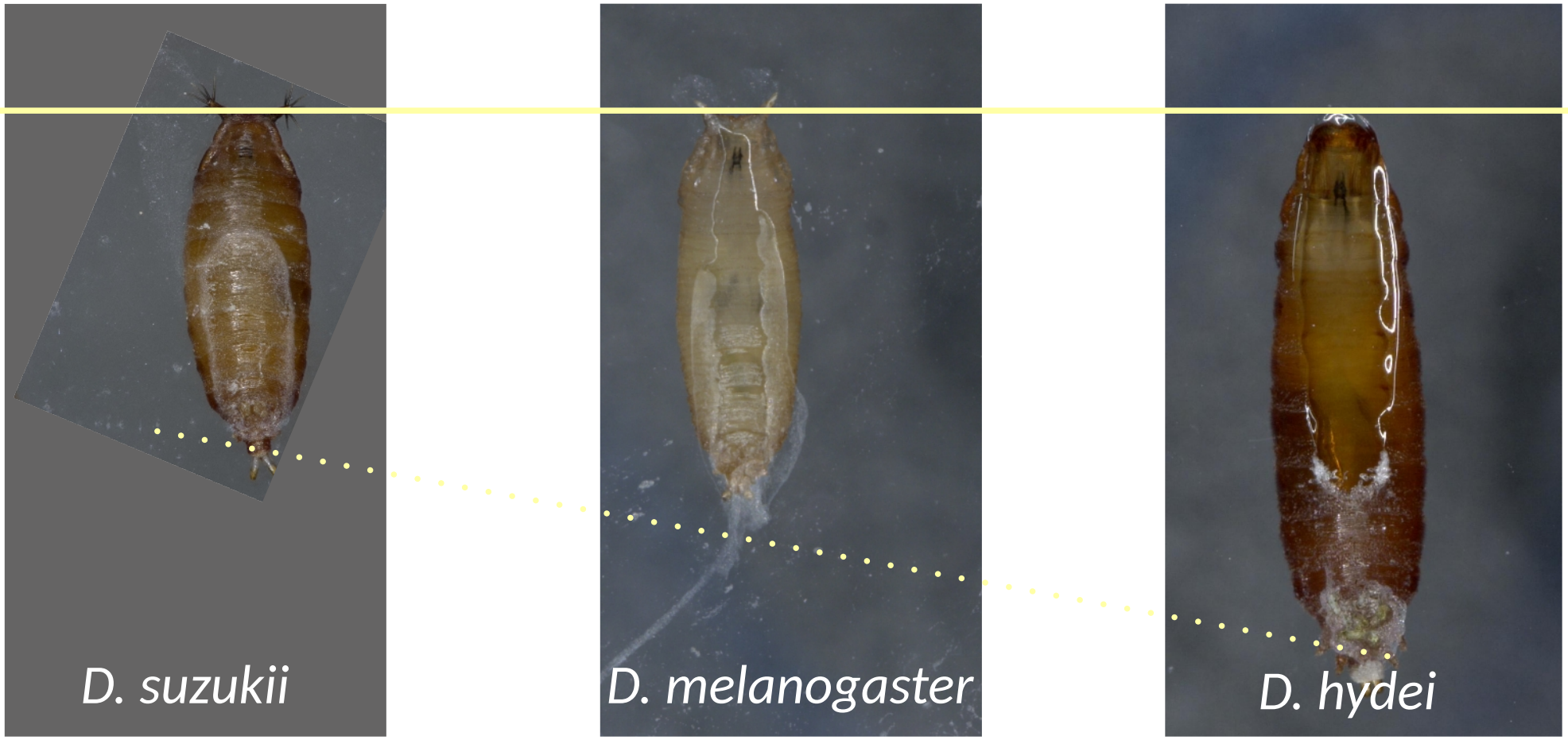
Adhesion force varies within species

D. melanogaster lines
DSPR



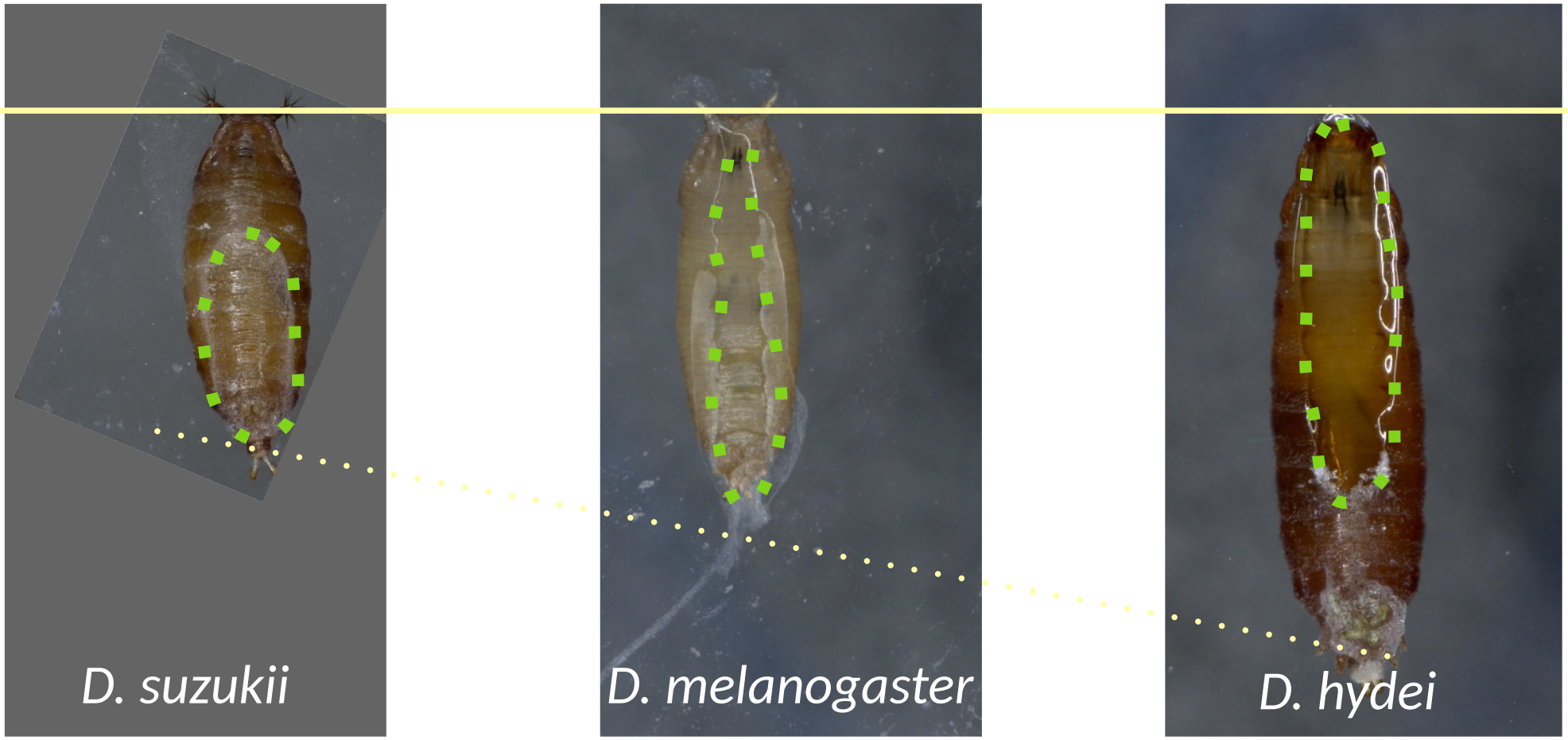
Borne et al. 2021 GBE

Pupa size and glue area vary between species



Monier et al. in revision

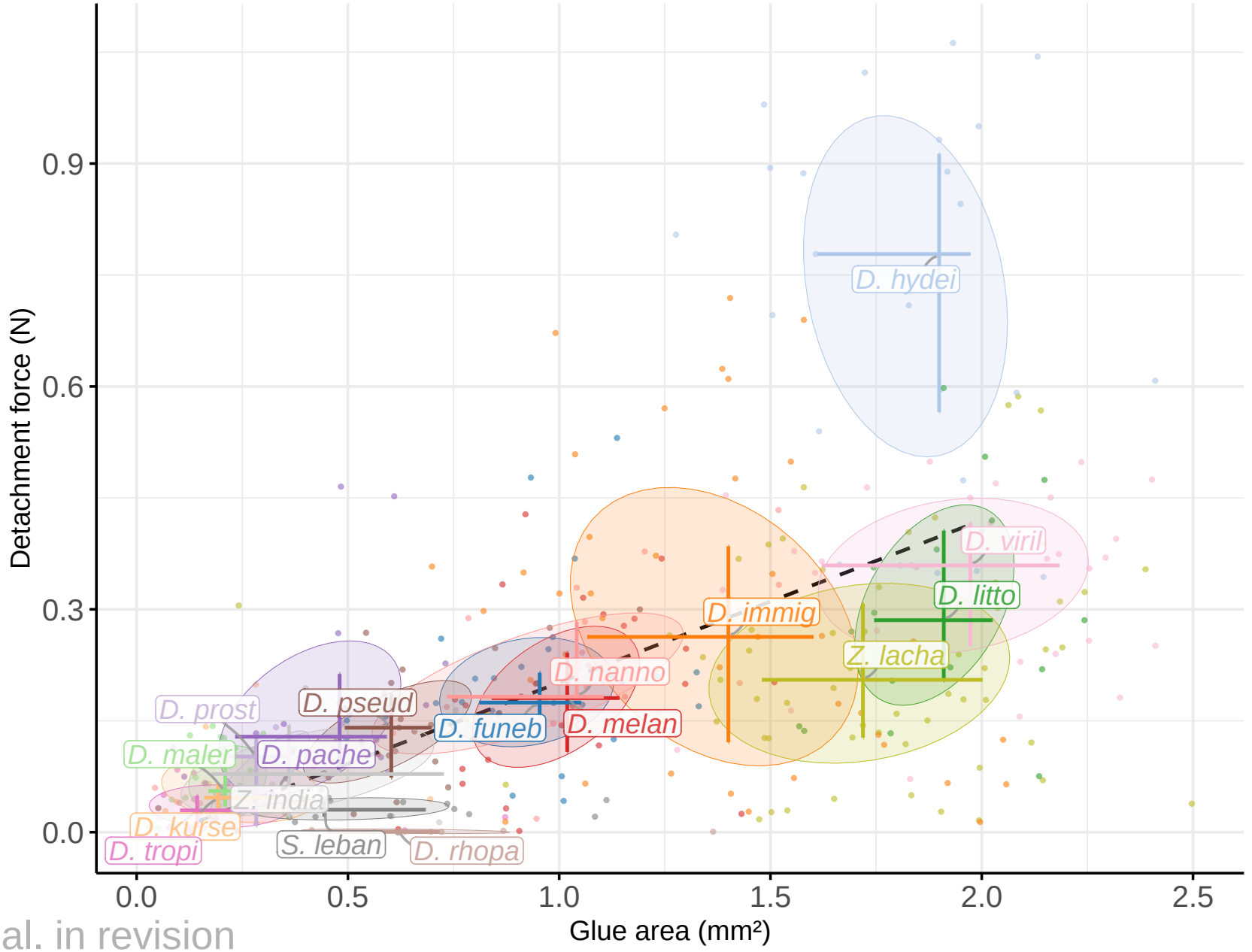
Pupa size and glue area vary between species



Monier et al. in revision

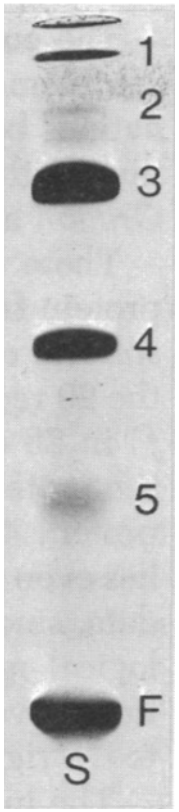
D. hydei has the highest adhesion strength

Adhesion strength = detachment force / glue area



Monier et al. in revision

D. melanogaster glue is composed of 8 proteins



Korge 1975

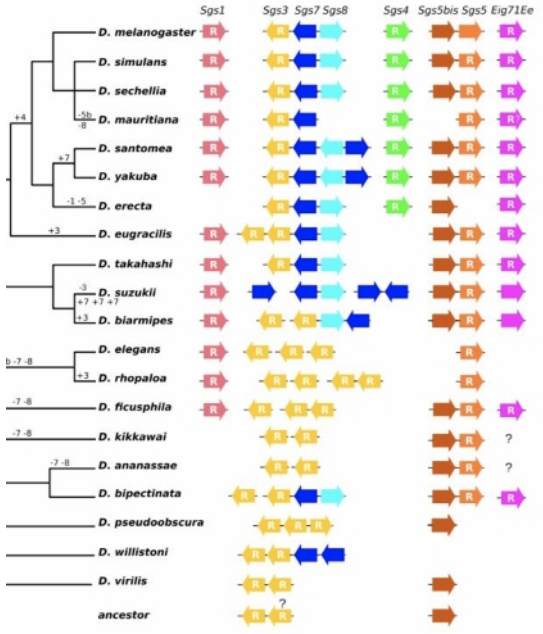
Sgs1, Sgs3, Sgs4, Eig71Ee (1286, 307, 287, 445 aa)

Long, repeats rich in Ser, Thr, Pro
Disordered
O-glycosylated

Sgs5, Sgs5bis, Sgs7, Sgs8 (163, 142, 74, 75 aa)

Short, rich in Cys

Rapid evolution of glue genes



Monier & Courtier-Orgogozo 2022 Insects

Perspectives

Genetics
Genomics

Characterize the function of each glue gene
Make a CRISPR glue-free line
Identify other potential glue genes (RNAseq)

Physics

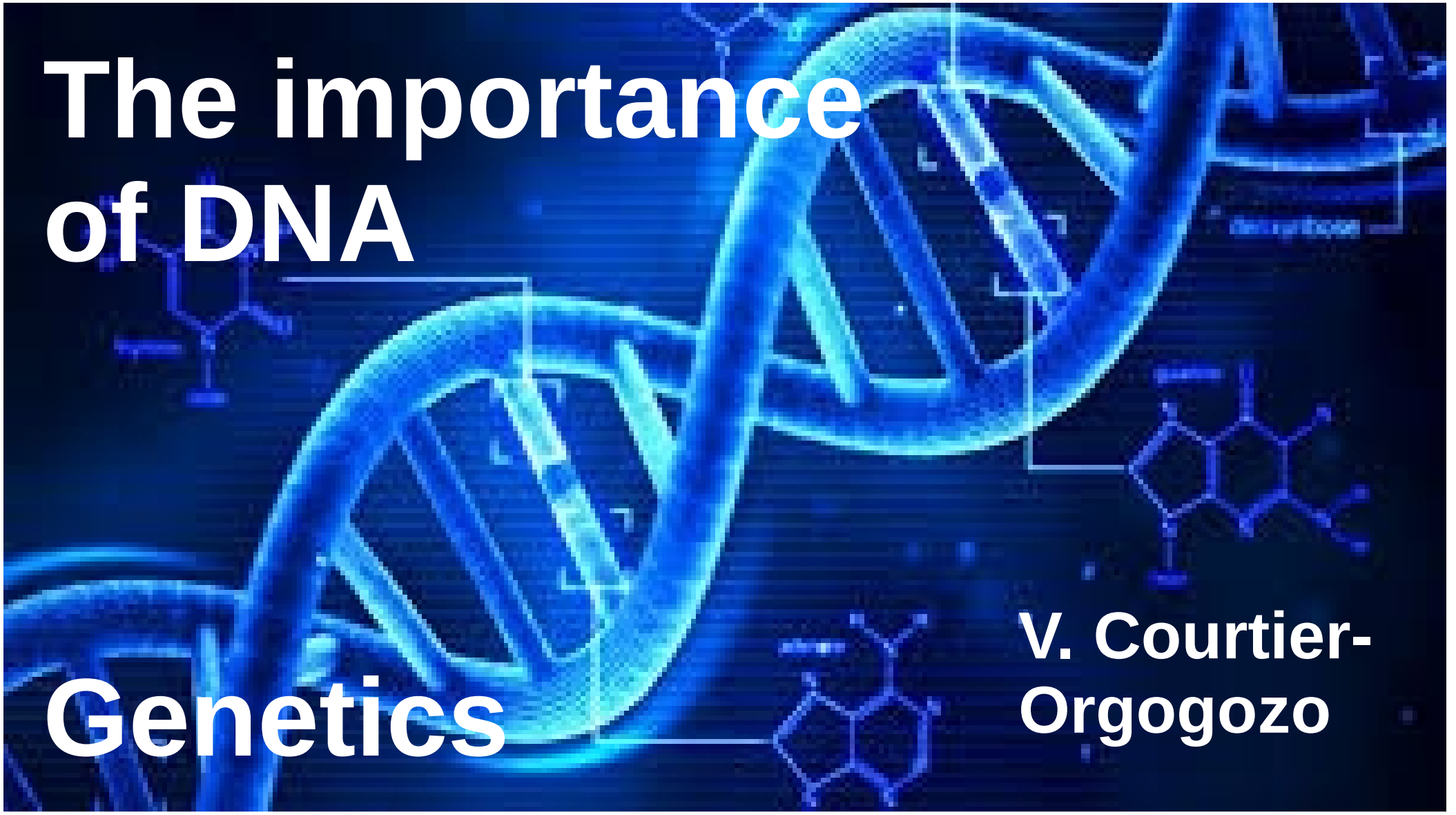
Improve the adhesion assay
Test natural substrates

Physiology

Find microorganisms in contact with pupae
Test antibacterial properties of the glue

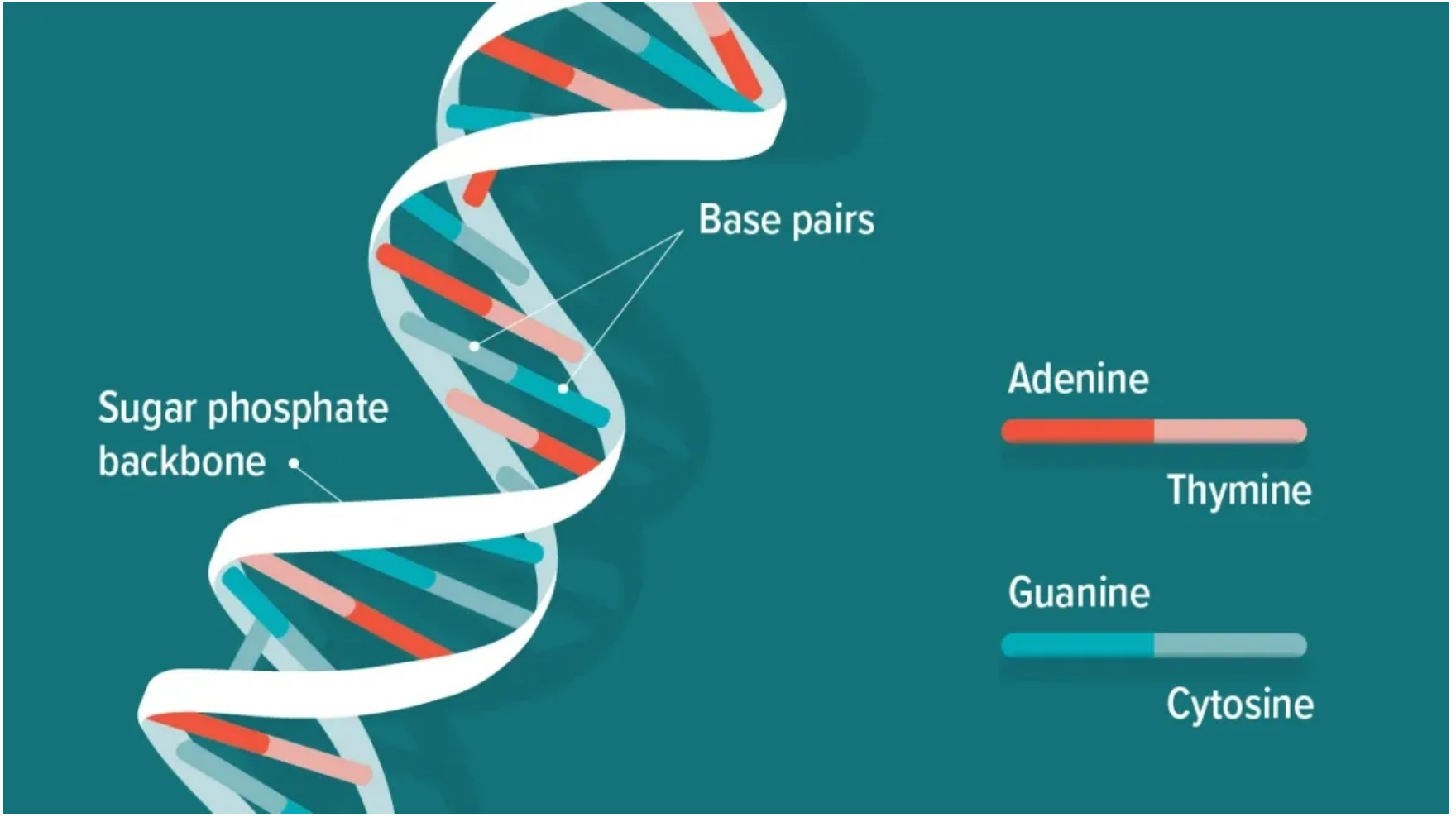
Biochemistry

Develop new
bioadhesives


The importance of DNA
Genetics
V. Courtier-Orgogozo

Why do we resemble (or not) our parents and grand-parents?

Why is DNA an essential molecule in biology?



How can a single-letter flip in DNA lead to dramatic changes?

What is special with living beings compared to machines?

Should we be worried about GMOs?

Can genetics help us improve the future?

Why is DNA an important molecule in biology?

Slide from S. Gilbert

SAME DNA. SMALLER CHROMOSOMES.

THE ALL-NEW MIDSIZE H3. LIVING UP TO THE OFF-ROAD REPUTATION HUMMER MADE FAMOUS.
COMING SOON. STARTING AT $29,500. VEHICLE SHOWN $30,195.*

HUMMER
LIKE NOTHING ELSE.™

*MSRP. TAX, TITLE, LICENSE, DEALER FEES AND OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT ARE EXTRA. 1.800.REAL.4WD

The importance of DNA in biology

Major basis of heritable variation (genotype-phenotype)

Transmitted (can help reconstruct history)

Present in all living entities (DNA/RNA)

Stable molecule (ancient DNA – oldest = 2 million years, forensic)

String of letters, can be easily analyzed with computers (compared to anatomical traits for taxonomy)

Genetic Individuality

Slide from S. Gilbert

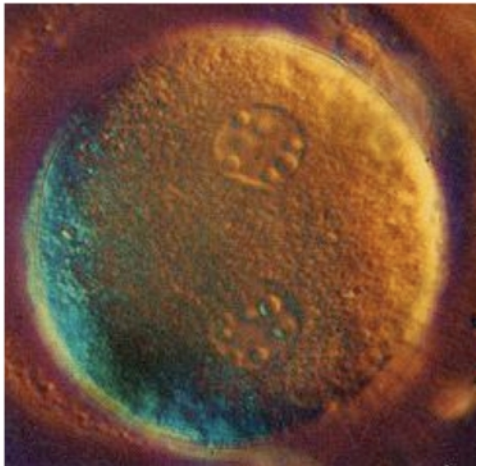
Genes determine who you are, and they act the same in each person.

LIFE Magazine, *First Days of Creation,* 1990:

"The result of fertilization is a single nucleus that contains an entire biological blueprint for a new individual, genetic information governing everything from the length of the nose to the diseases that will be inherited."

Standupgirl.com (anti-Choice website):

"And even more amazingly, intelligence and personality—the way you look and feel—were already in place in your genetic code. At the moment of conception you were essentially and uniquely you."



Disclaimer:
DNA is not the cause of everything

Monozygotic twins are not identical

Cardiovascular disease associates better with lifestyle than with DNA sequence (Mozaffarian 2008)

Lung cancer associated with smoking habits

Drug metabolism is mostly due to the microbiome

Several genes associated with autism, depression, etc. were “lost” in larger studies

Distilbene: anti-miscarriage drug, increases cancer risks in daughters and malformations in grand-daughters

What the HGP Taught us with the first genome sequenced: Genes act differently and non-additively in different people

Cockayne syndrome: **Mutation in the DNA repair enzyme ERCC6 at position 5q12.1.** Homozygous recessive persons are characterized by growth failure, impaired neural development, premature aging, sensitivity to sunlight.

Usher Syndrome: **Mutation in the retinal and cochlear basement membrane myosin MYO7A at 11q13.** Homozygous recessive persons are characterized by congenital deafness and gradual loss of vision.

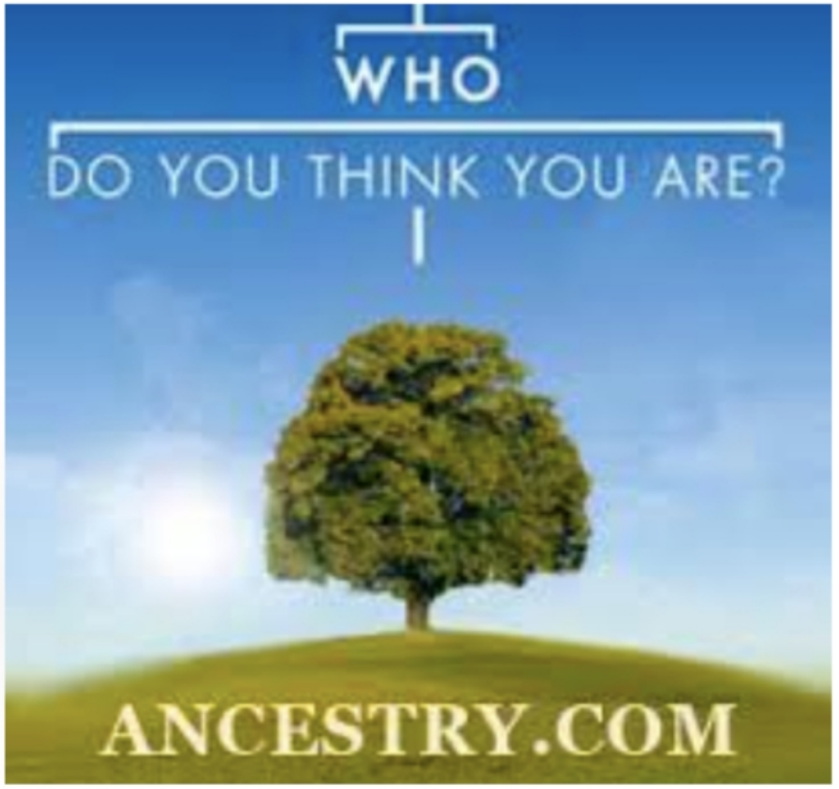
James Watson, presently 90 years old; not deaf, blind, nor stunted

Slide from S. Gilbert

GENETIC INDIVIDUALITY:

Slide from S. Gilbert

Each of us is a genetically unique individual, and the genes determine who we are.



"…revealing what it is that makes you, you."

-American television ad for ancestry.com 2015

Manipulating DNA

What can we do with DNA ?

What can we do with DNA ?

Extract, purify **Store**

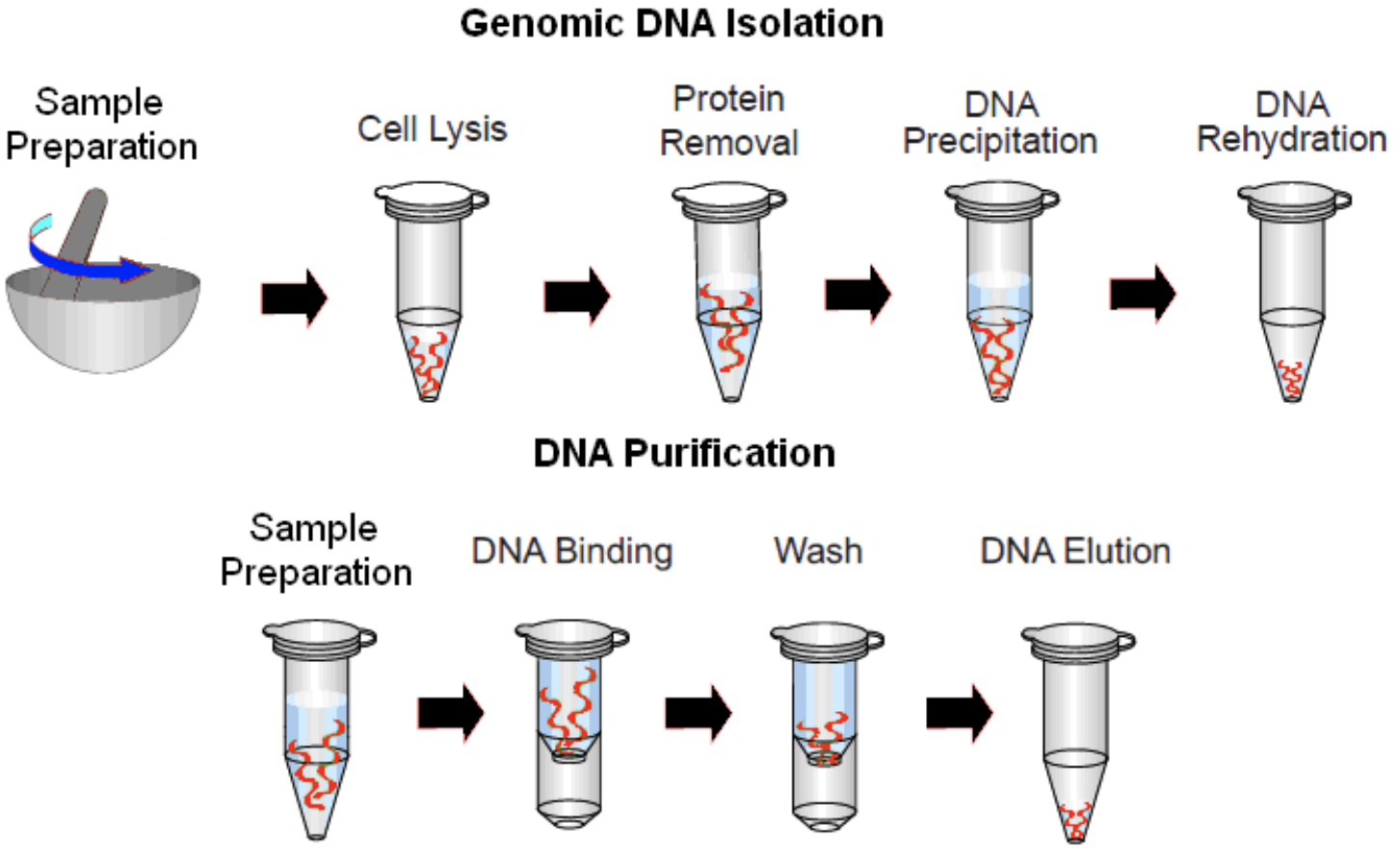
Make more
Amplify
Clone
Synthetize

Examine
Quantify
Examine length
Stain, probe
Sequence
Examine 3D structure
Measure physical properties of DNA molecules

Modify
Cut
Ligate
Recombine fragments
Introduce foreign DNA
Mutate

Extract DNA

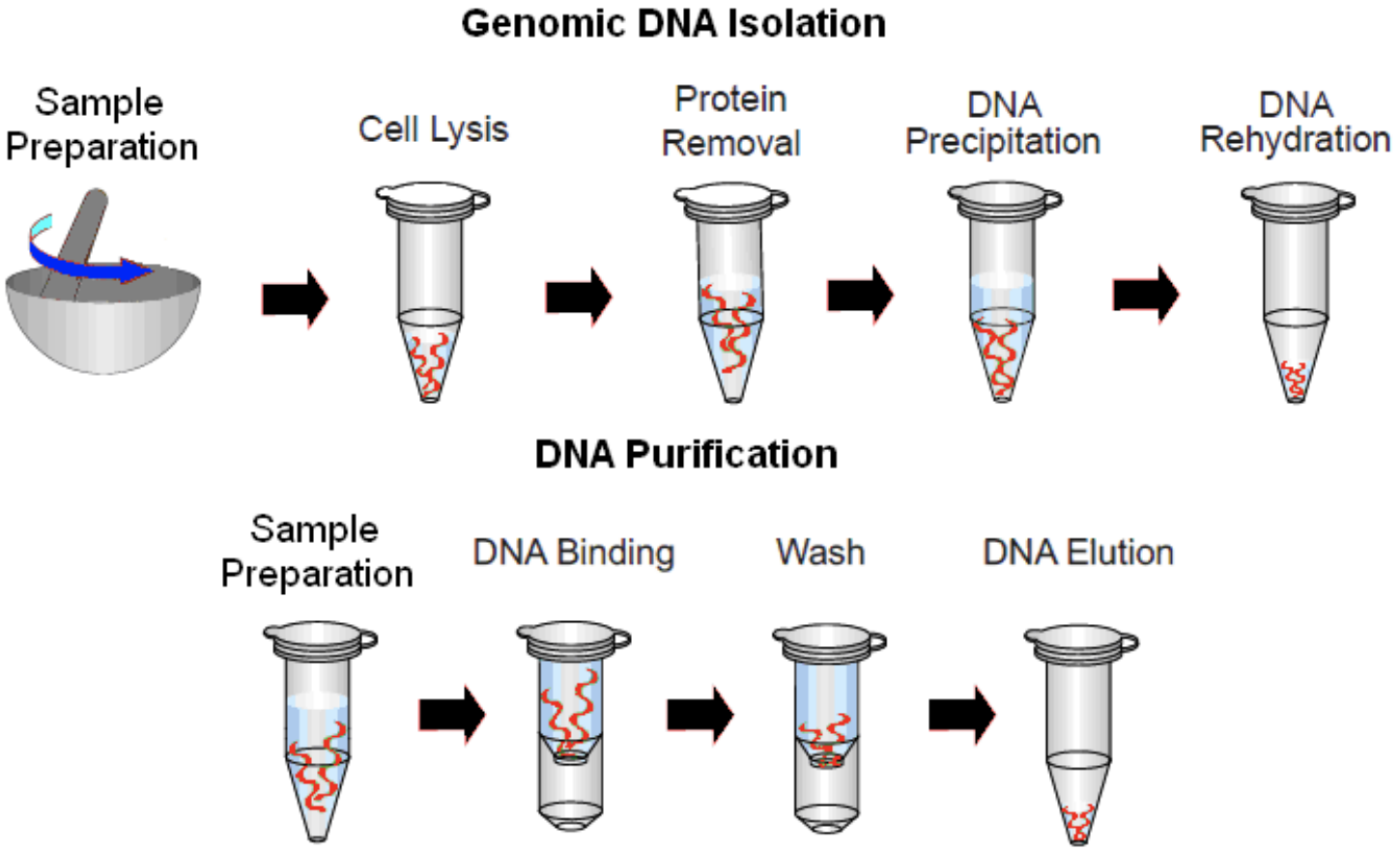
Break cells, remove lipids and proteins,
precipitate DNA, remove liquid, resuspend in aquaeous solution



Be aware of contaminants!

Extract DNA

Break cells, remove lipids and proteins,
precipitate DNA, remove liquid, resuspend in aquaeous solution



Be aware of contaminants!

(DNA from mitochondria, viruses, bacteria, researcher, symbionts...)

Amplify DNA

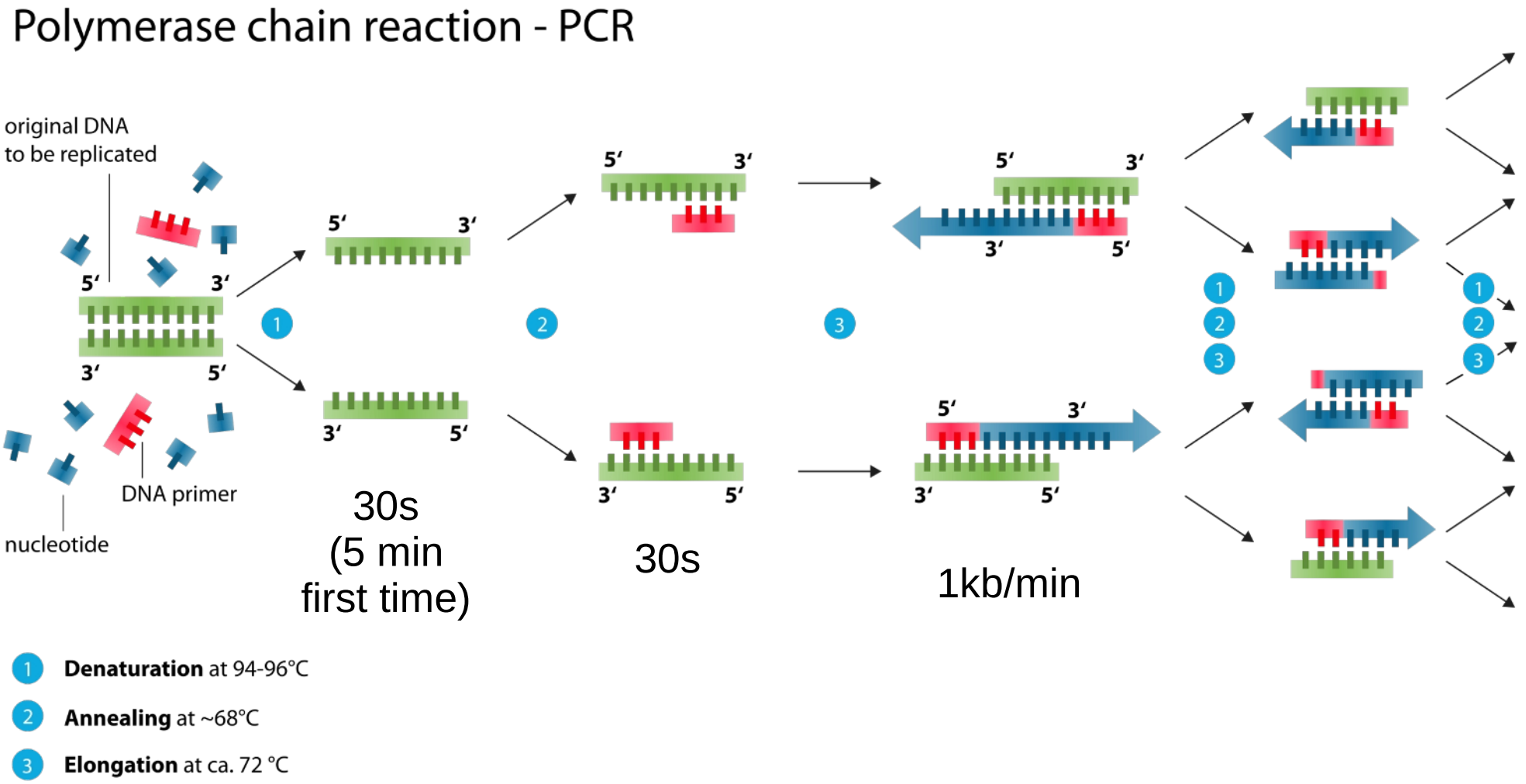
Mix:
Genomic DNA
Probes (oligonucleotides)
Nucleotides
Taq polymerase
Ions ($MgCl_2$)

Cycles of Denaturation, Annealing, Elongation

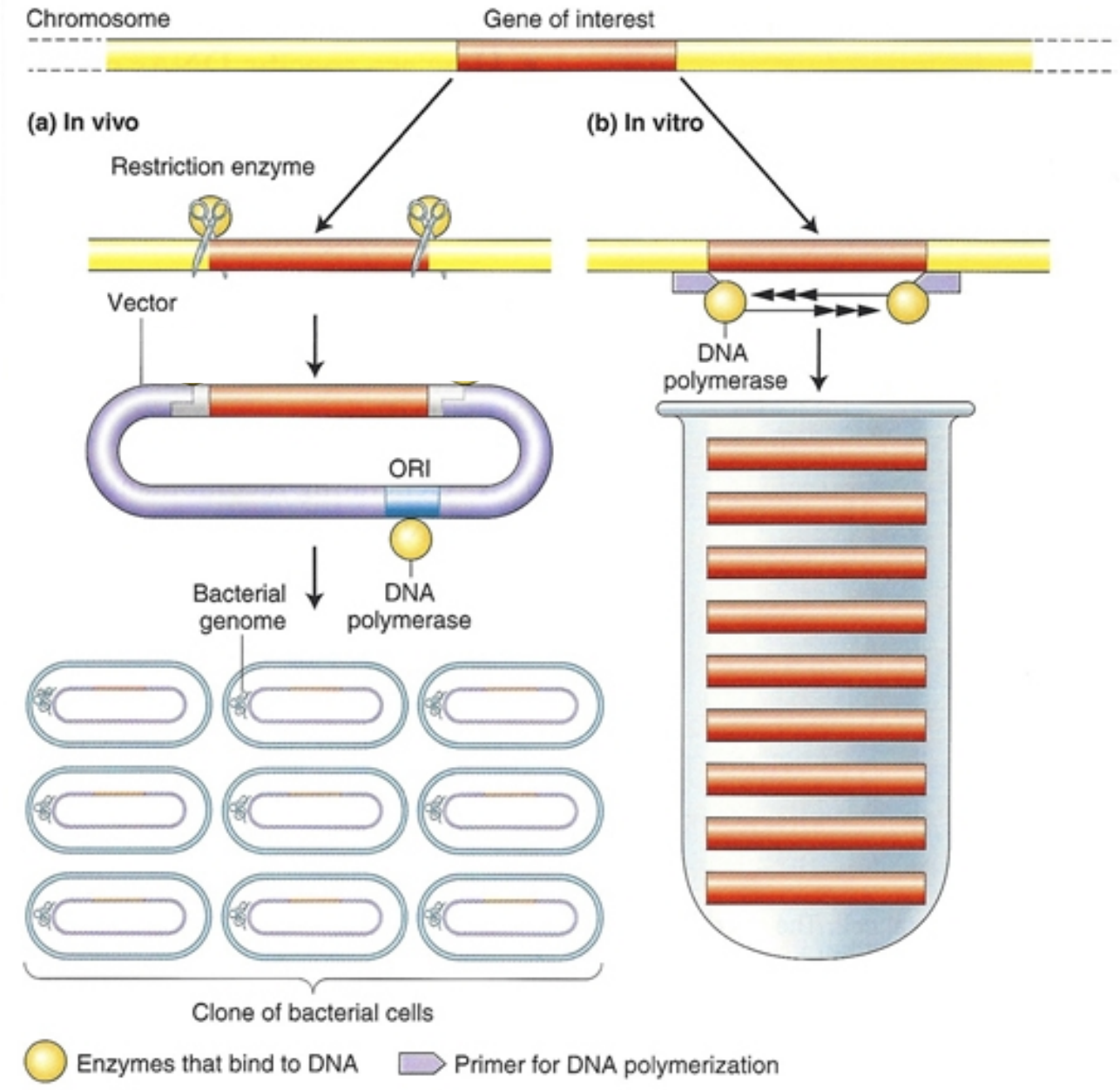
PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction

Amplifies DNA fragments of between 0.1 and 10 kb (up to 40 kb)

Amplify DNA


Polymerase chain reaction - PCR
original DNA
to be replicated
5′
3′
3′
5′
DNA primer
nucleotide
1
5′
3′
3′
5′
30s
(5 min
first time)
2
5′
3′
3′
5′
30s
3
5′
3′
3′
5′
5′
3′
3′
5′
1kb/min
1
2
3
1
2
3
1 Denaturation at 94-96°C
2 Annealing at ~68°C
3 Elongation at ca. 72 °C

Cloning vs. PCR



Amplify DNA

DNA fragments
5 kb-15 kb: plasmids in bacteria
~10 kb: lambda phage-based vectors
Up to 40 kb: fosmids in bacteria
~100-300 kb: bacterial artificial chromosomes (BAC)

Commande d'ADN sur internet

GenScript
Make Research Easy

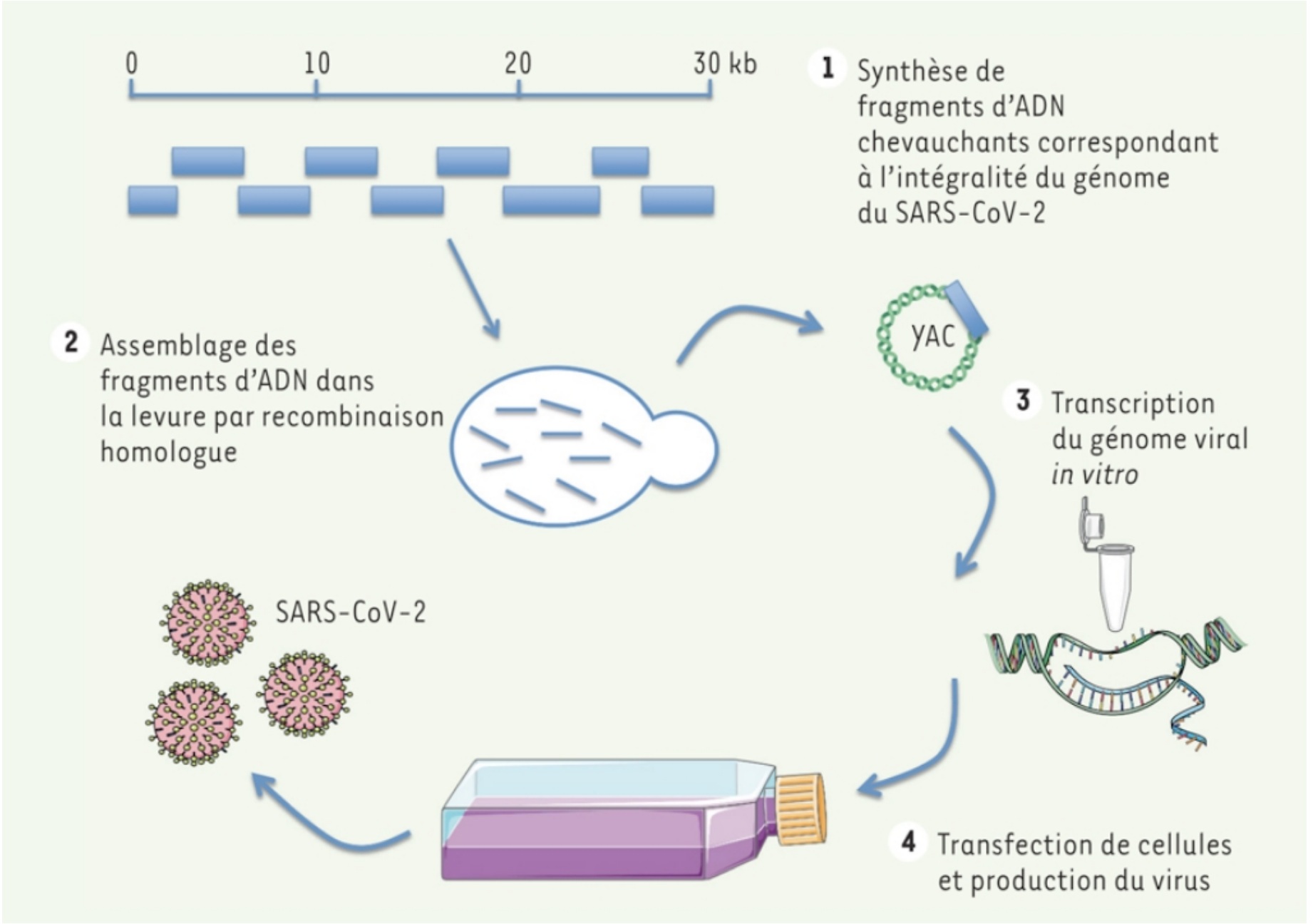
	Fast	Standard	Economy	GenBrick
Length	≤ 5 kb	≤ 8 kb	≤ 8 kb	> 8 kb
Turnaround time (starting from)*	5 business days (bd)	8 business days (bd)	10 business days (bd)	23 business days (bd)
Complex genes	✖	✔	✖	✔
Overview	Custom industry-leading genes, 100% sequence accuracy guaranteed			

ⓘ The standard delivery includes:

- 4 µg of lyophilized plasmid containing your gene insert (1 µg for low-copy plasmid) *
- Sequence chromatograms or NGS read depth plot covering your gene (electronic)
- Construct map for the plasmid (electronic)
- Quality assurance certificate

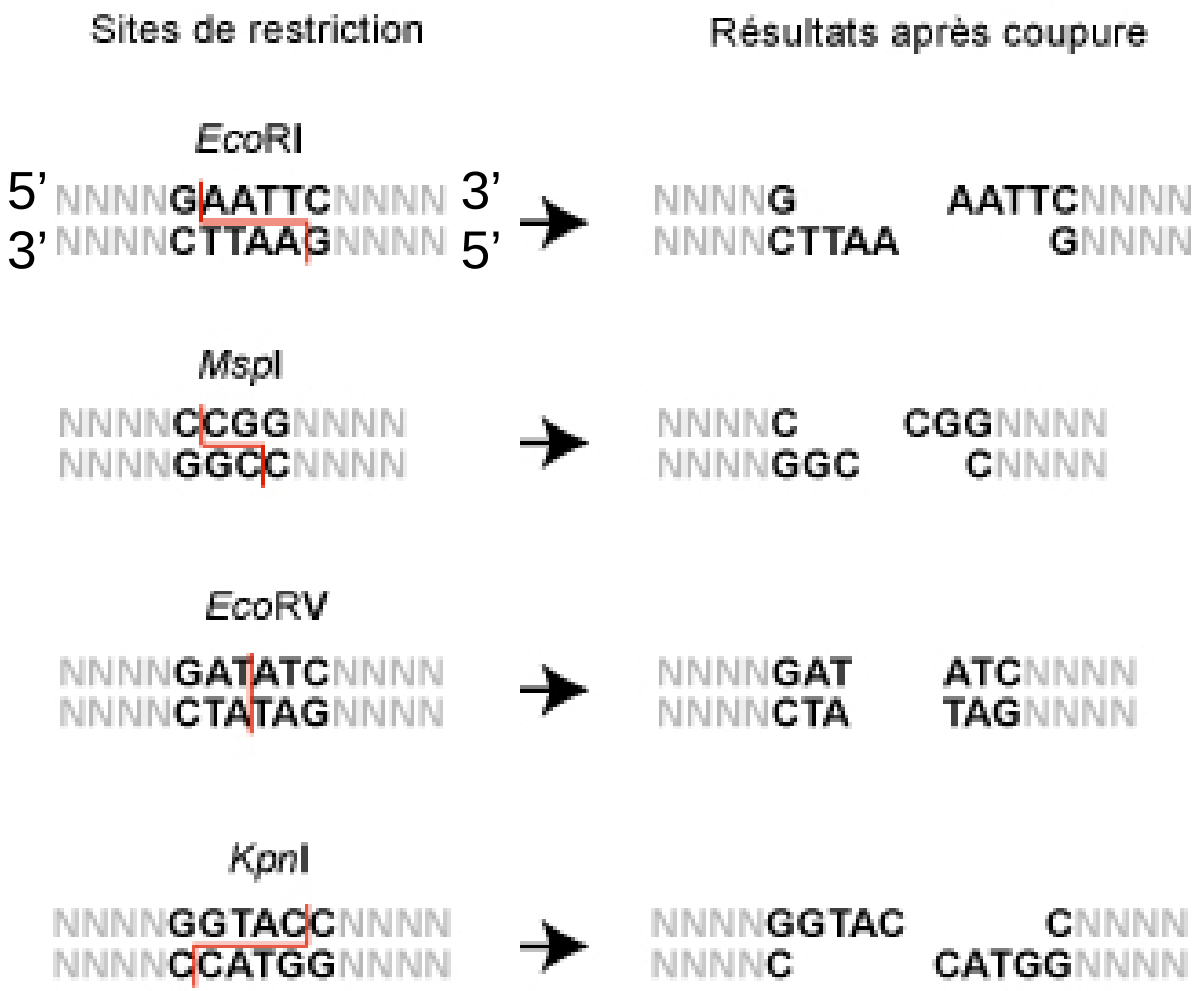
https://www.genscript.com/gene_synthesis.html?src=home

Synthèse de SARS-CoV-2 en un mois



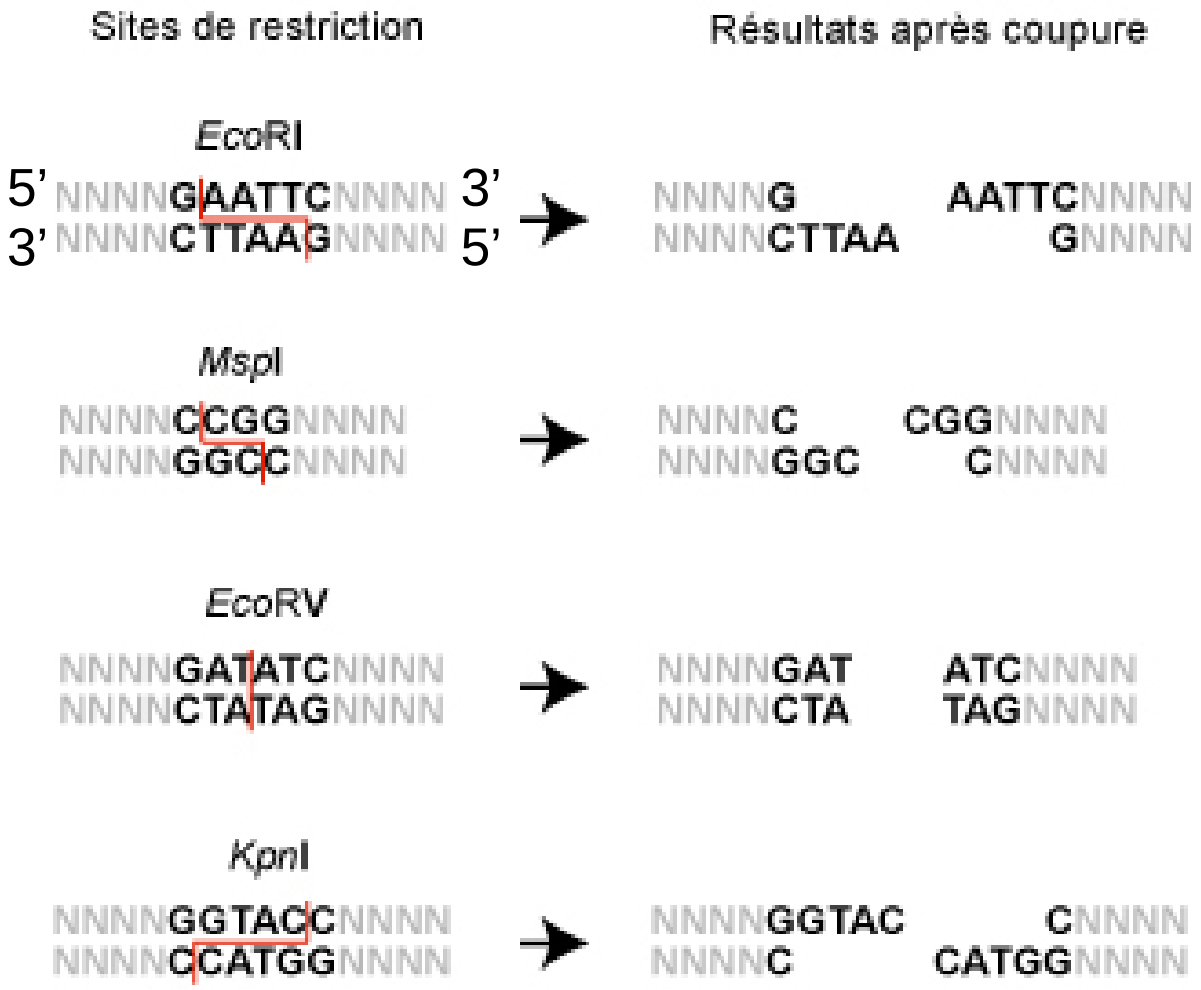
Iseni, Frédéric, and Jean-Nicolas Tournier. 2020. 'Une Course Contre La Montre-Création Du SARS-CoV-2 En Laboratoire, Un Mois Après Son Émergence !' Médecine/Sciences 36 (8–9): 797–802

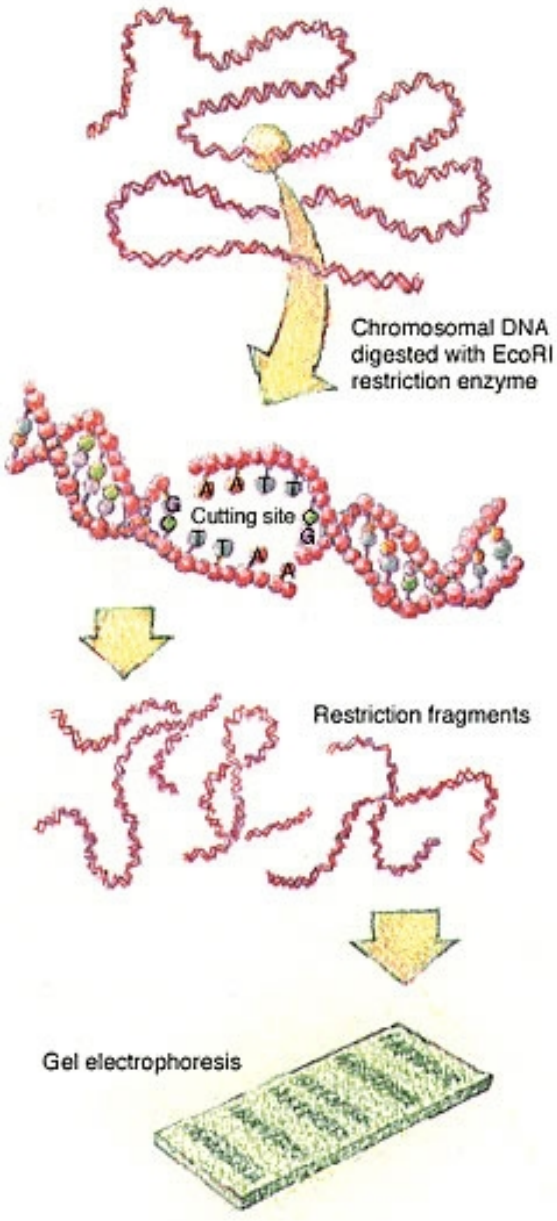
Cut DNA with restriction enzymes



Blunt ends, 3' protruding ends, 5' protruding ends

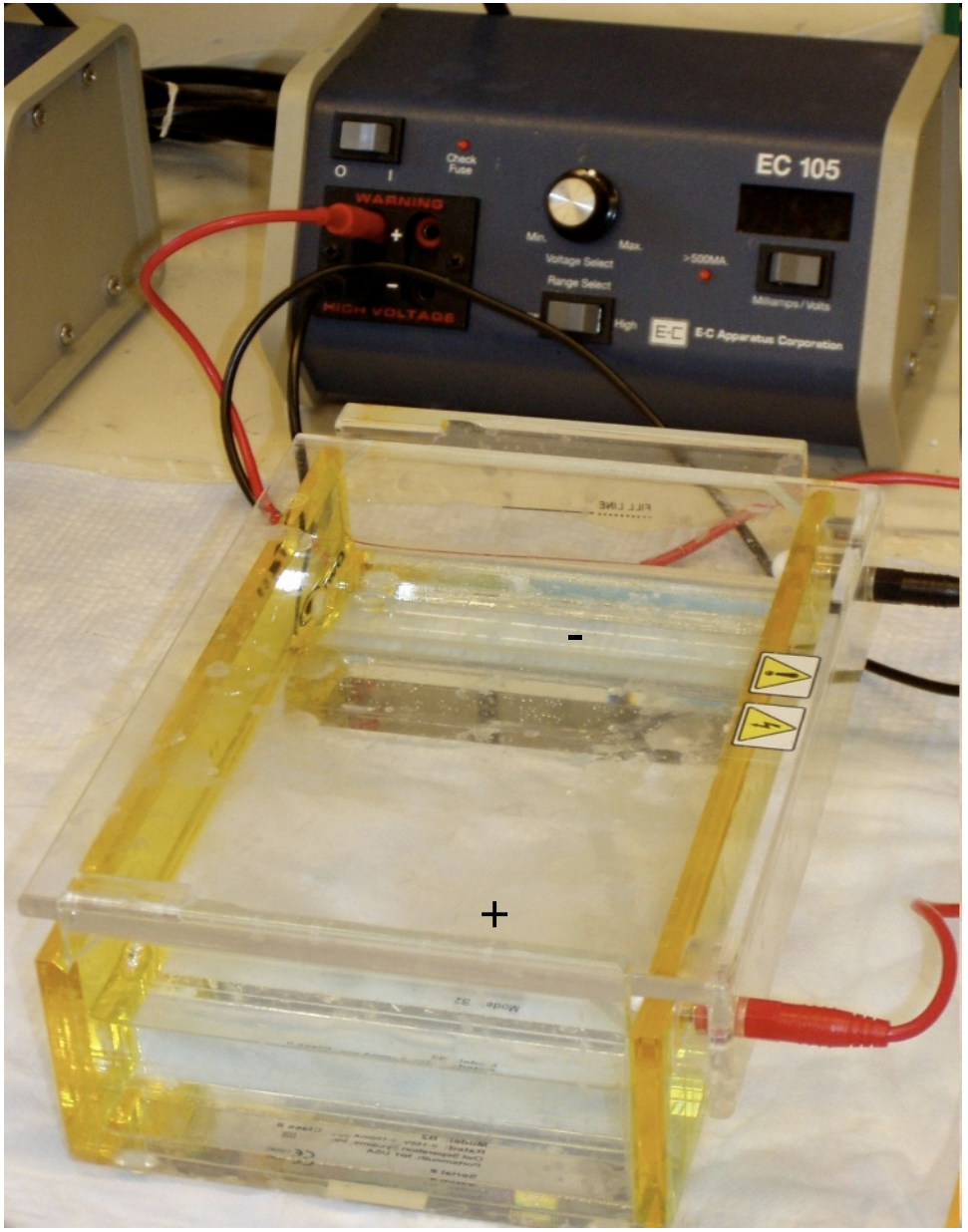
Cut DNA with restriction enzymes



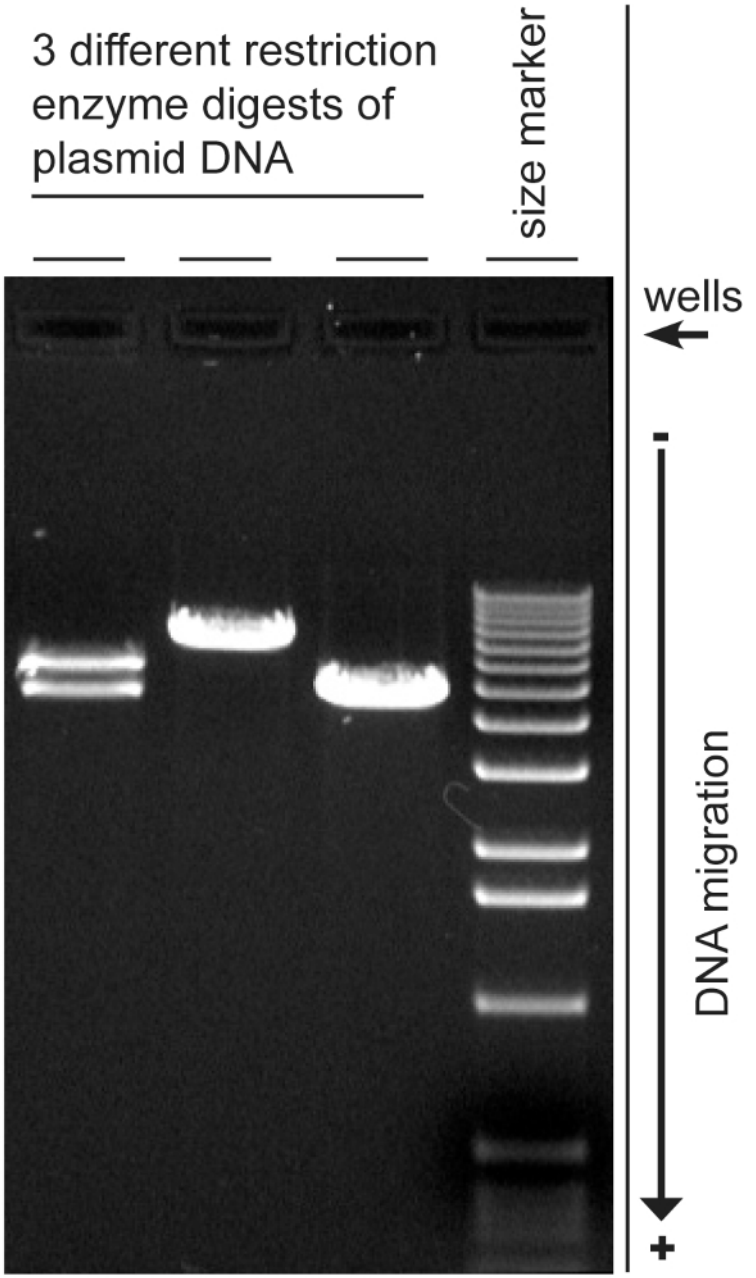


Blunt ends, 3' protruding ends, 5' protruding ends

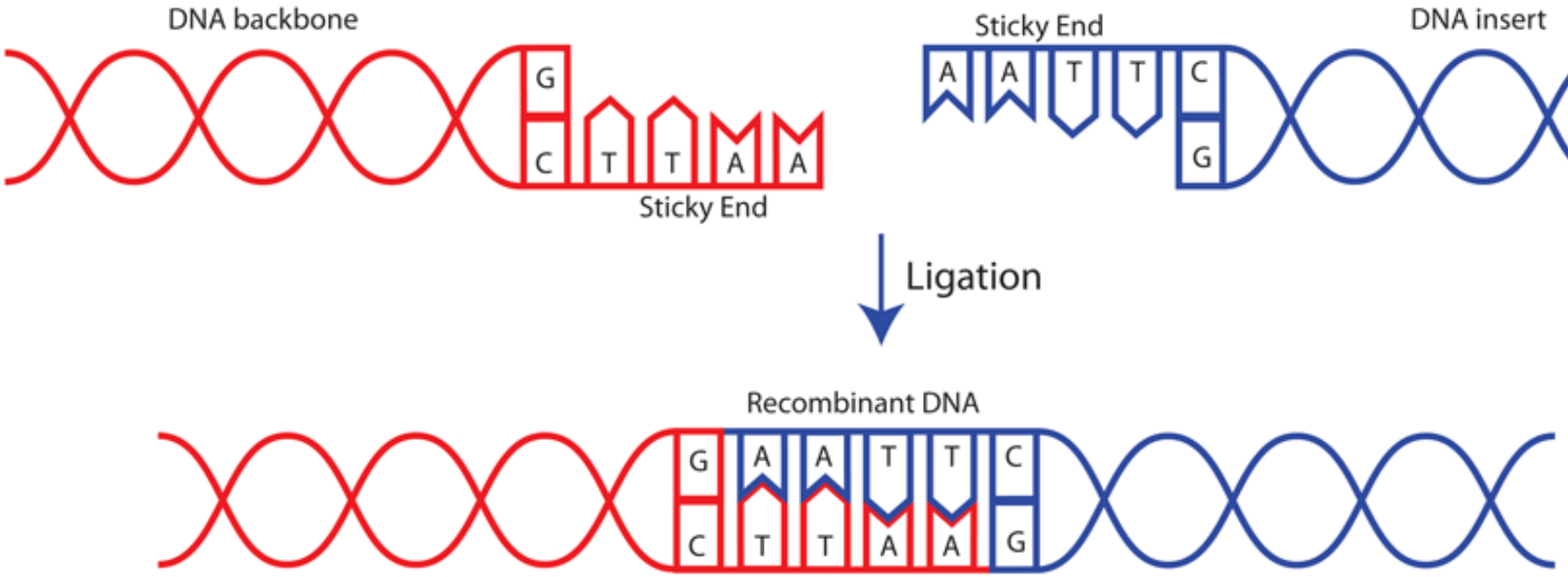
Examine length of DNA

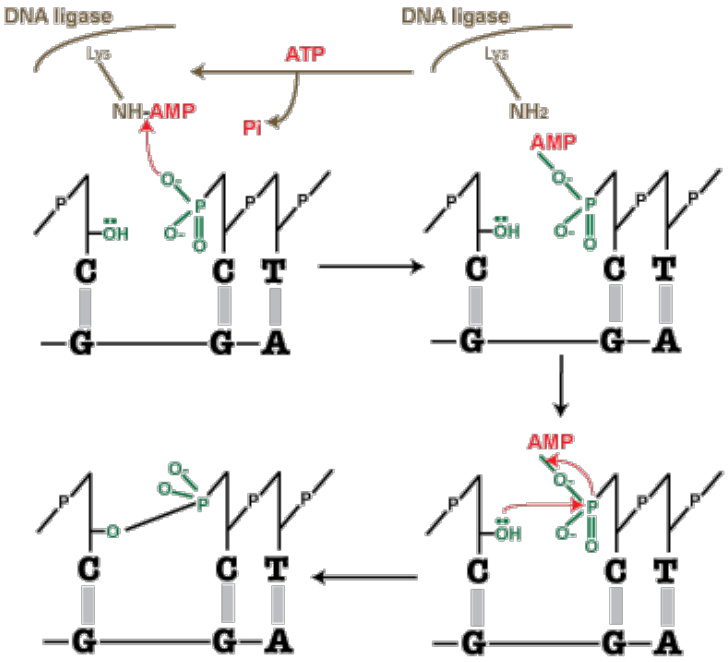


TAE (Tris-acetate-EDTA) buffer



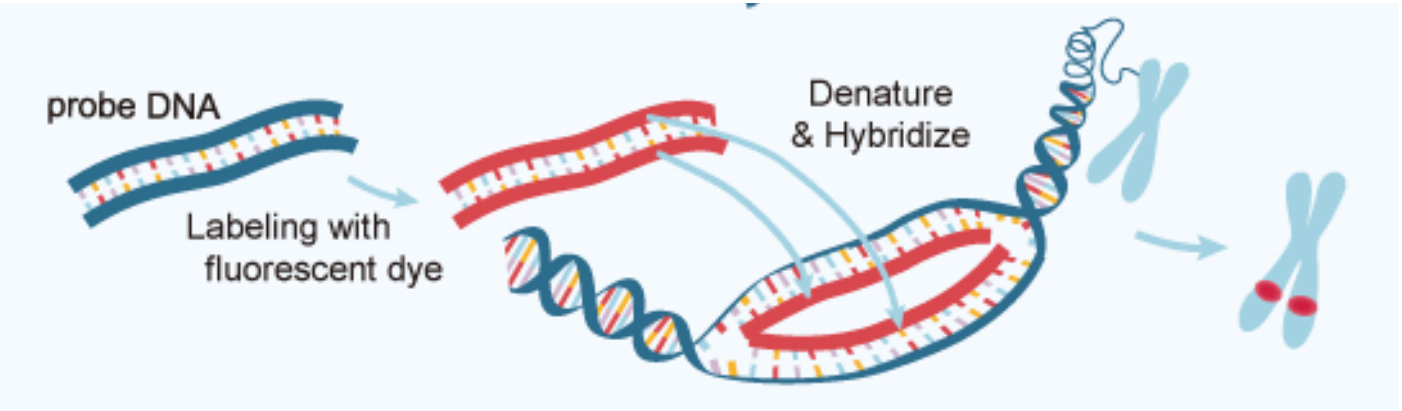
Ligate DNA

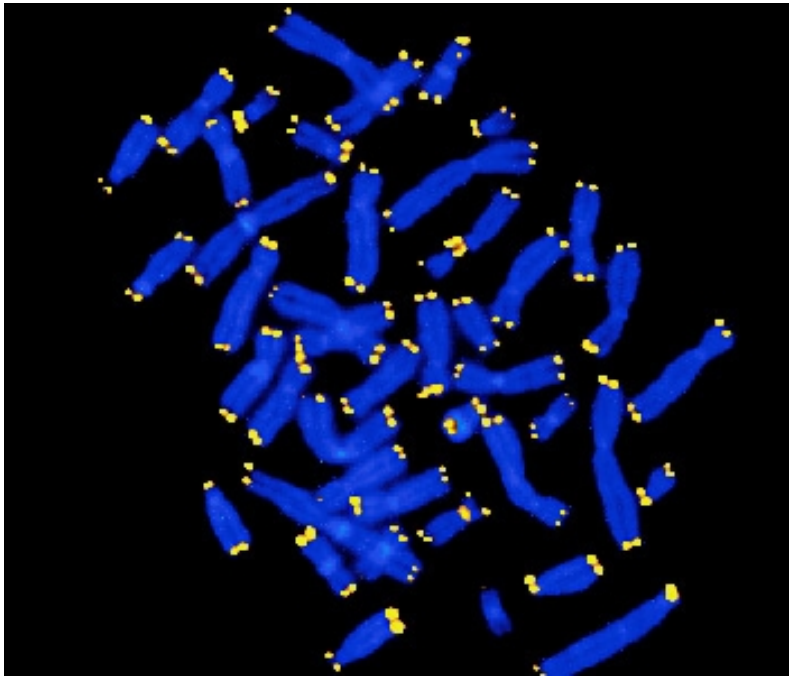




Fragments have to be phosphorylated but only on one strand
Dephosphorylate the vector to inhibit self-circularization

Probe DNA:
Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization

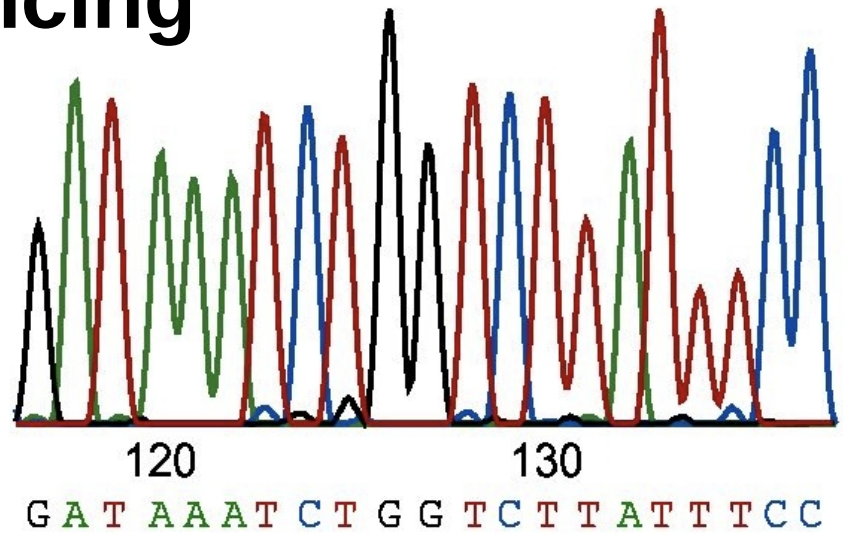




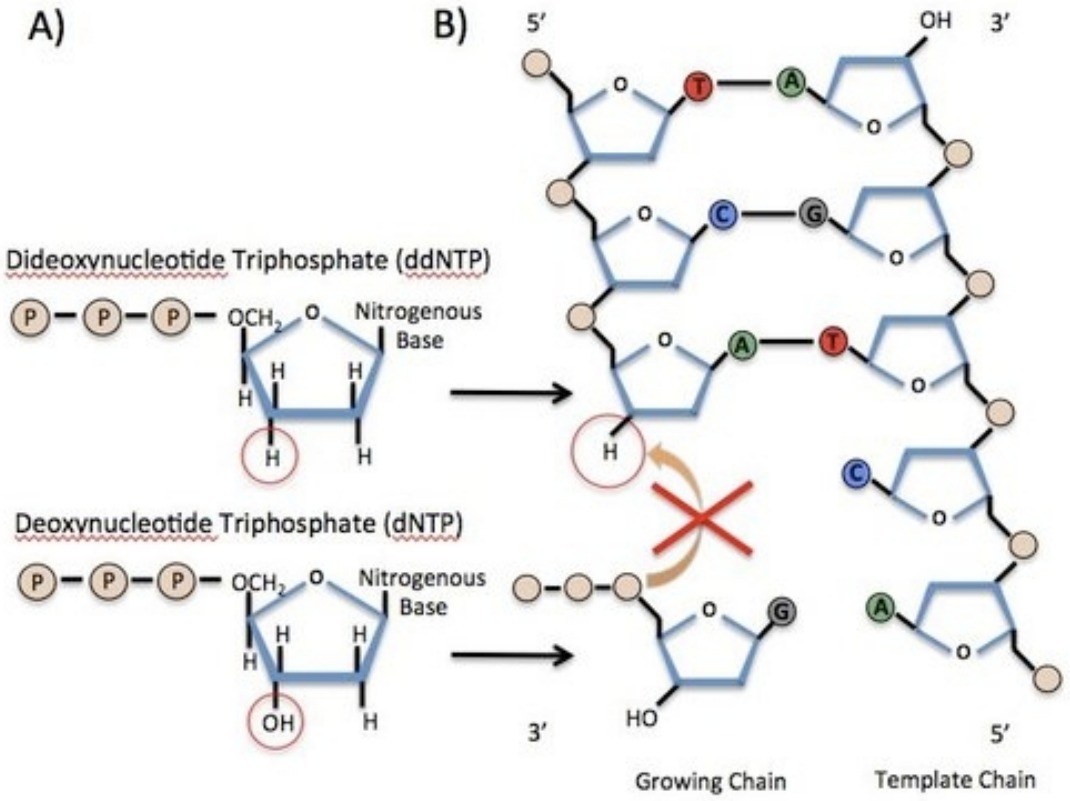
Probes for telomere sequences

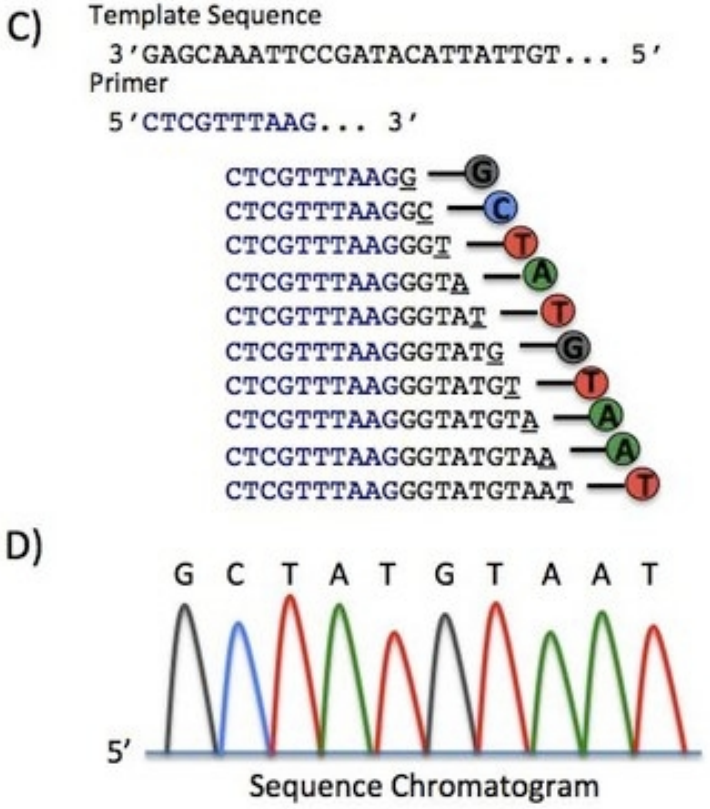
Sanger sequencing

800 bp long
Starts based on oligonucleotide (primer)
~4 euros per reaction



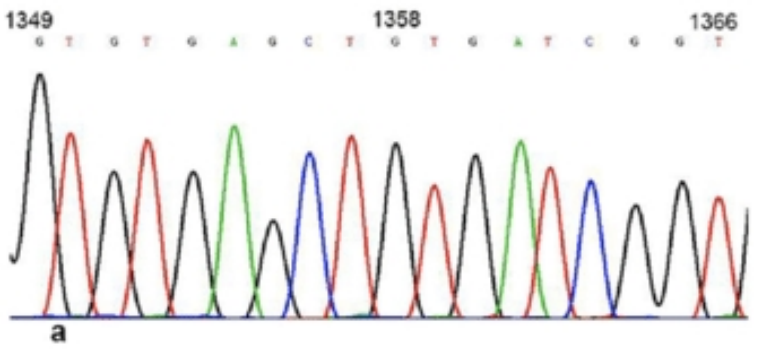
Dye terminator sequencing

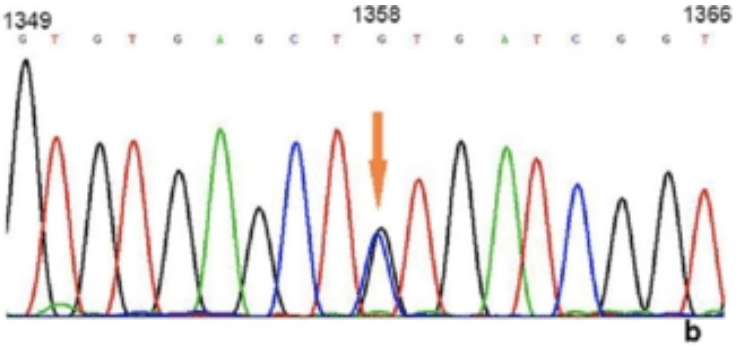


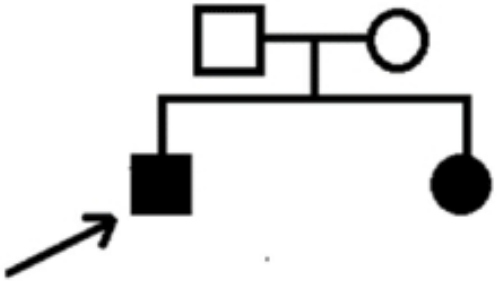


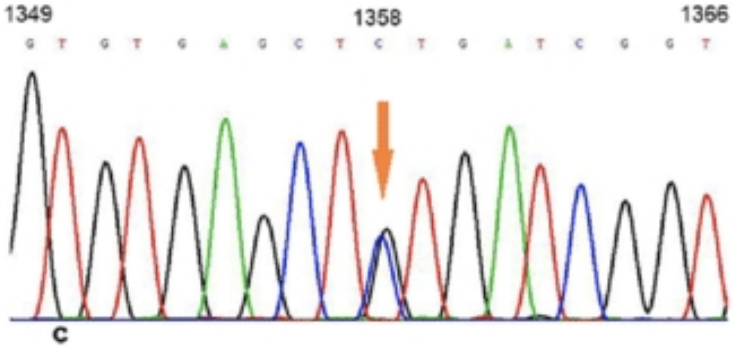
McGovern 2015

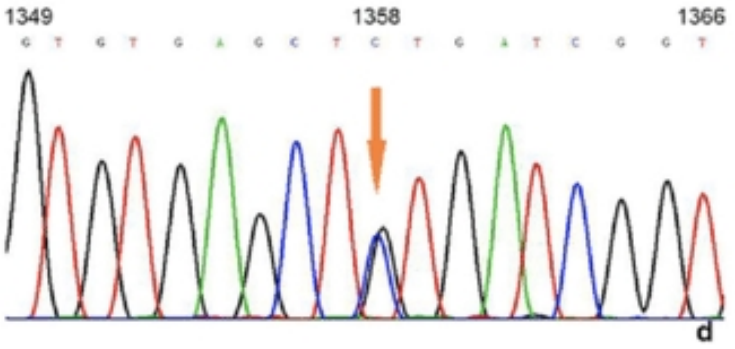
GTGTGAGCTGTGATCGGT



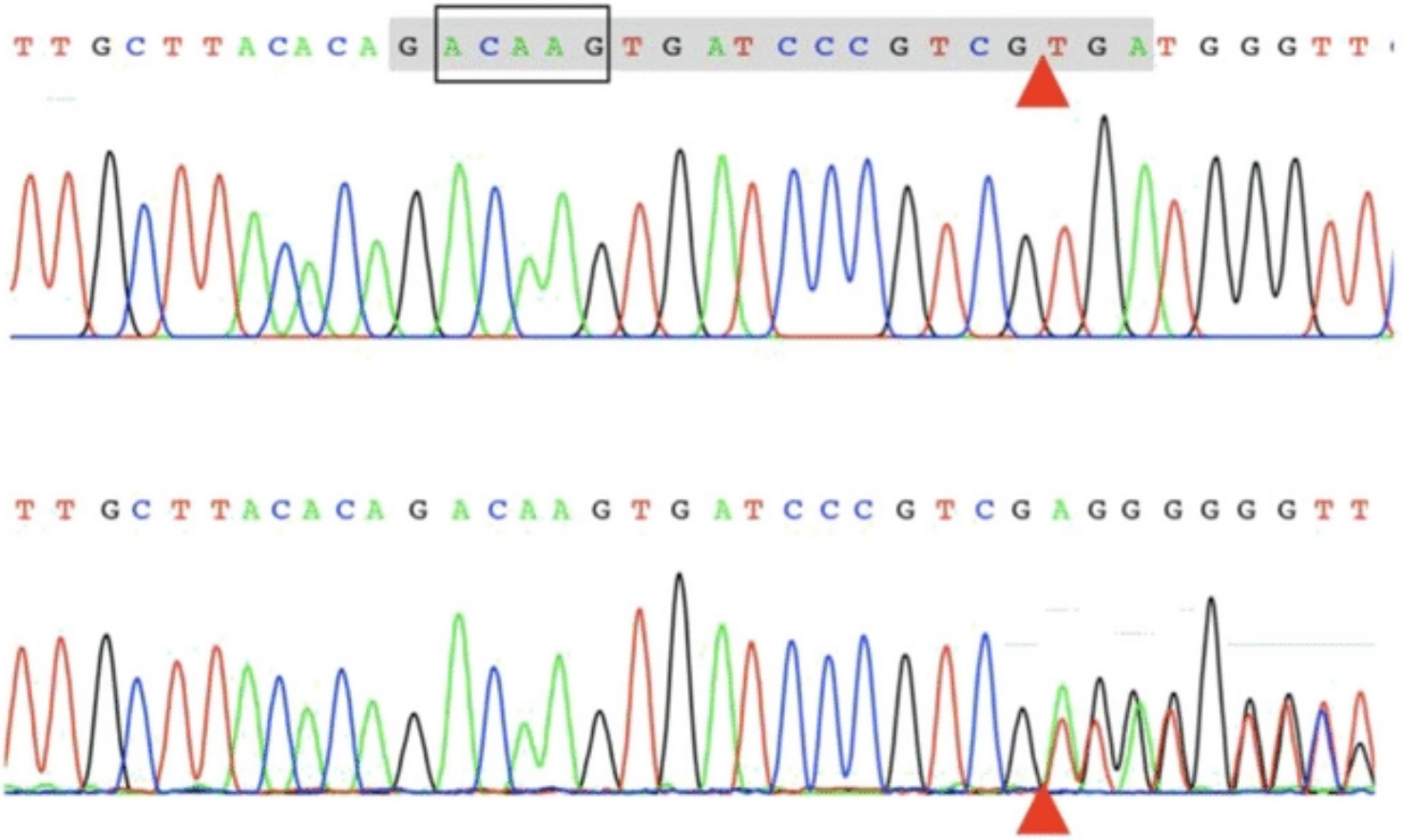








Ding et al 2015


T T G C T T A C A C A G A C A A G T G A T C C C G T C G T G A T G G G T T
T T G C T T A C A C A G A C A A G T G A T C C C G T C G A G G G G G G T T

DNA and its observable effects

The genotype-phenotype map

The distinction between genotype and phenotype is the basis of genetics

“The view of natural inheritance as realized by an act of transmission, viz., the transmission of the parent's (or ancestor's) personal qualities to the progeny, is the most naive and oldest conception of heredity.”

“All "types" of organisms, distinguishable by direct inspection or only by finer methods of measuring or description, may be characterized as "**phenotypes**.”

“ A "**genotype**" is the sum of all the "genes" in a gamete or in a zygote.”

Johansen 1911

Phenotype = observable attributes of an individual

Genotype = inheritable genetic material
= DNA or RNA

How do genotypes map onto phenotypes ?

Aberration Types

Substitution
Insertion (CNV)
Deletion
Indel
Inversion
Translocation
Complex change
(Epigenetic change)

Aneuploidy = anomalous number of chromosomes

Estimation of mutation rates
Mutation accumulation lines, sequencing family trio, across a phylogeny

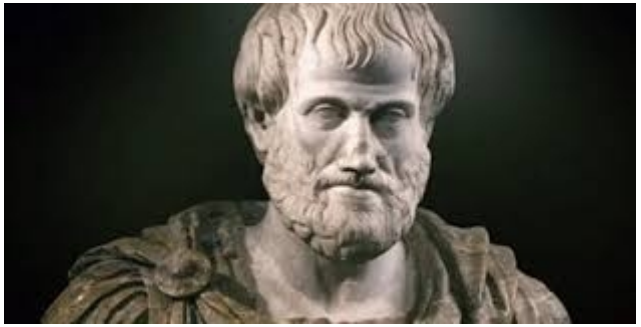
Coding versus cis-regulatory

Coding
Cis-regulatory
Gene loss
Gene amplification
(Gene rearrangement)

Different kinds of phenotypes

Morphology

- Color
- Size and shape
- Presence/ absence
- Position



Aristote, Historia animalium, book I, 2, 300BC

Physiology

Behavior

Genotype & Phenotype

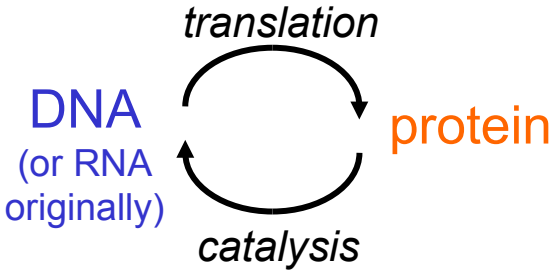
= what engenders = what is apparent

DNA/RNA

- **Regulation of gene expression**
- **Biochemical reactions**
- **Subcellular architecture**
- **Assembly of cells**
- **Organism morphology and behavior**

etc.

distinction appeared at the origin of life:



Francis Crick Central Dogma
A reductionist view of the GP relationship

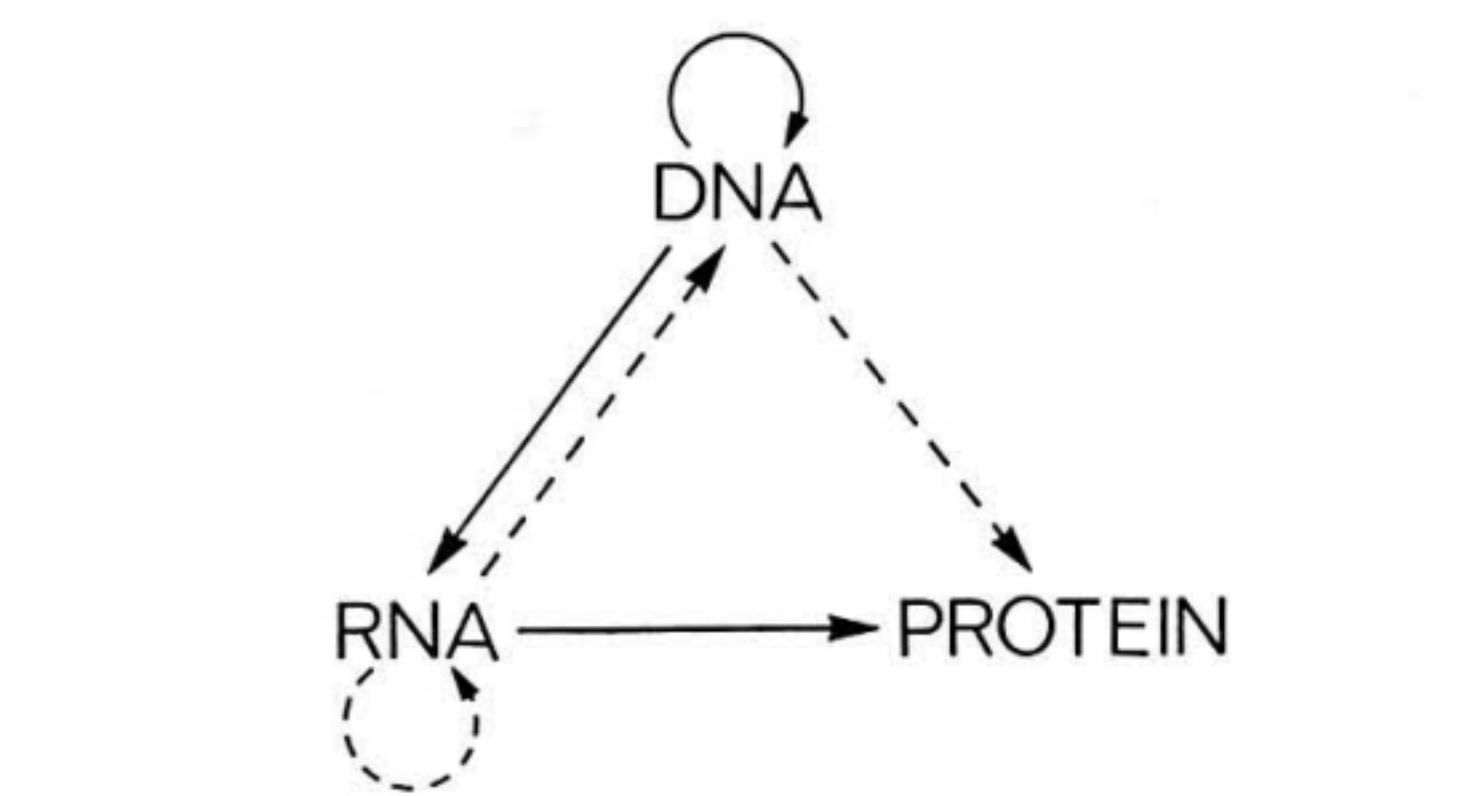


Fig. 3. A tentative classification for the present day. Solid arrows show general transfers; dotted arrows show special transfers. Again, the absent arrows are the undetected transfers specified by the central dogma.

Crick 1958
Crick 1970

How do genotypes map onto phenotypes ?

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS

Both are direct descendants of Morgan's school. Emphasis on genes.

How does an organism form from a single cell?

What makes one organism different from another one?

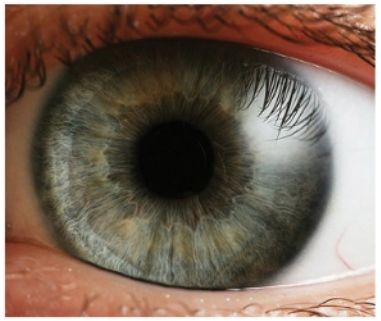
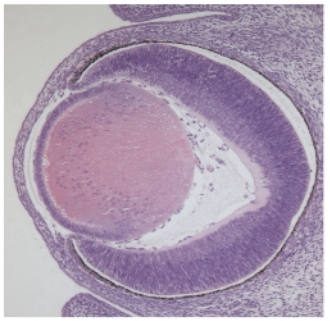
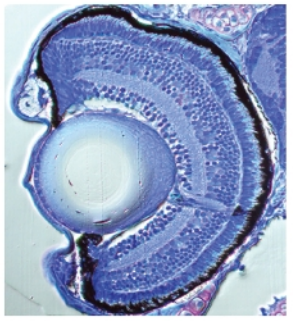
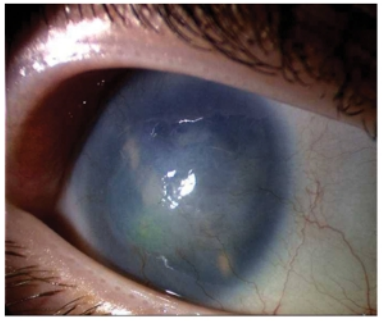
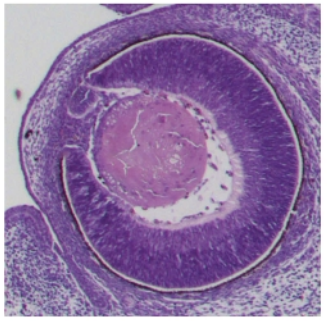
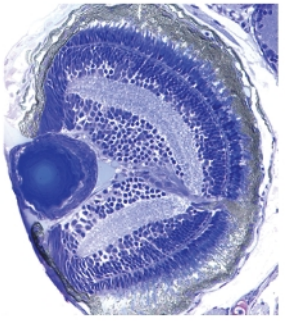
One of the central problems of biology is that of differentiation - how does an egg develop into a complex many-celled organism? That is, of course, the traditional major problem of embryology; but it also appears in genetics in the form of the question,
"How do genes produce their effects?

Sturtevant, 1932

How do genes produce observable traits?

Gene → Observable character

Pax6 : an eye gene ?

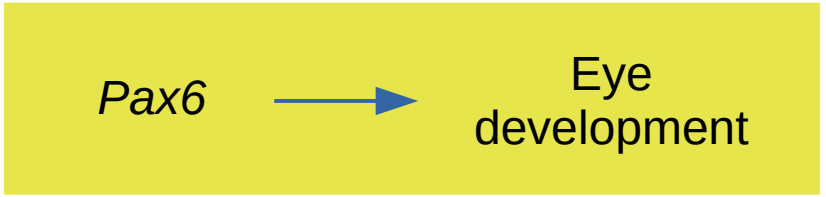
	Human	Mouse	Zebrafish	*Drosophila*
WT				
mut				
	***PAX6*$^{+/-}$**	***Pax6*$^{-/-}$**	***pax6b*$^{-/-}$**	***ey*$^{-/-}$**
EQs	cornea opaque iris absent retina degenerate lens opaque aqueous humor of eyeball increased pressure	eye decreased size lens fused_to cornea iris morphology anterior chamber absent	eye decreased size lens decreased size retina malformed	eye absent

Drosophila

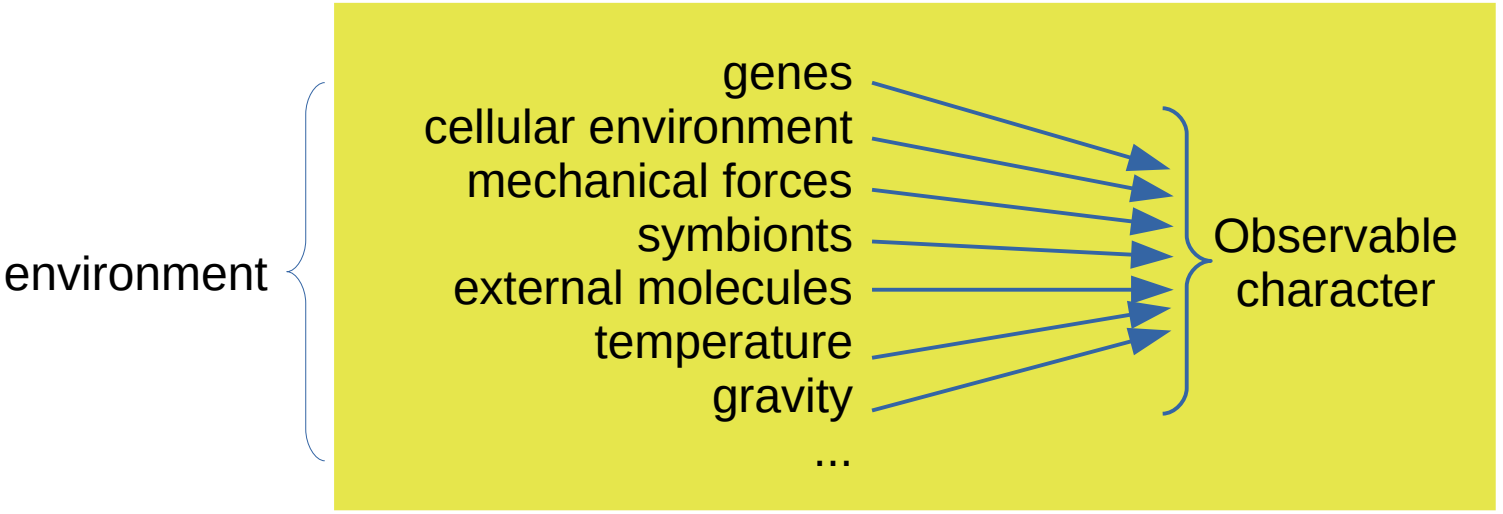
Ectopic expression of Pax6

Gene → Observable character

Pax6 → Eye development



Too simplistic

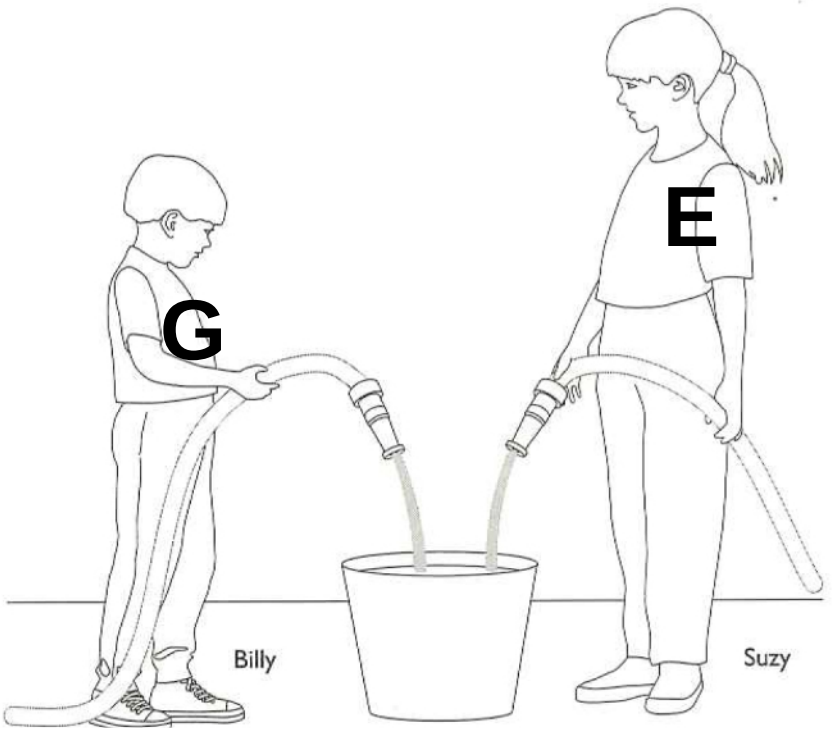


Better, but difficult to disentangle the effects

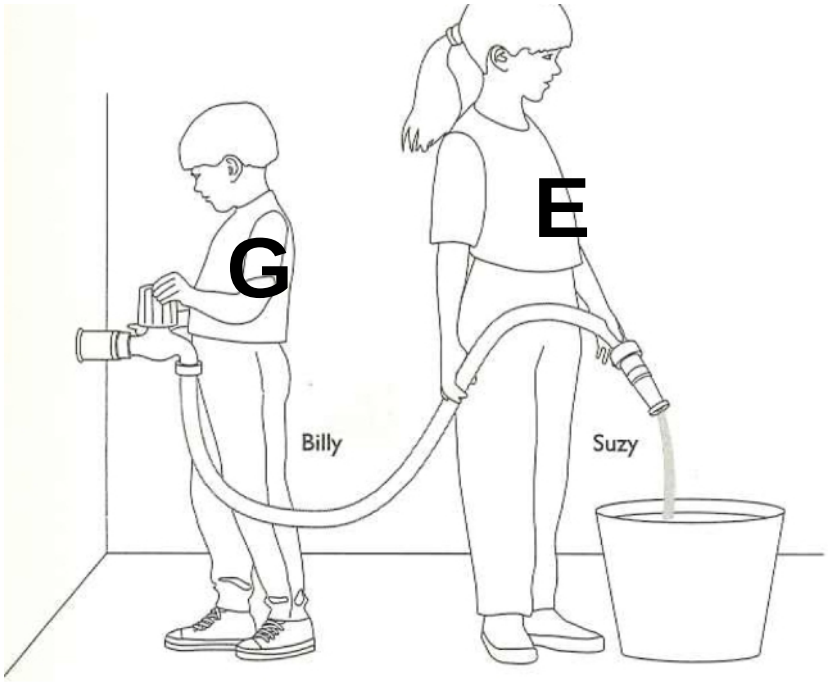
We all come from GxE (Genes x Environment)

Eero Mäntyranta, Finnish ski champion
7 Olympic medals in the 60s
Mutation enabling his blood to transport oxygen more efficiently
His family members were not Olympic champions

Impossible to quantify innate versus acquired influences



GxE



Fox Keller (2010)

Next time: bring your laptop!