

From Genetic Engineering to Synthetic Biology

Briefing for Ownership & Sharing Workshop

Drew Endy
Stanford Bioengineering
The BioBricks Foundation

15 July 2013
London UK









Photo by Roger Lancaster (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rogeral/5813079061/>); educational fair use





<http://philross.org/#projects/mycotecture/>



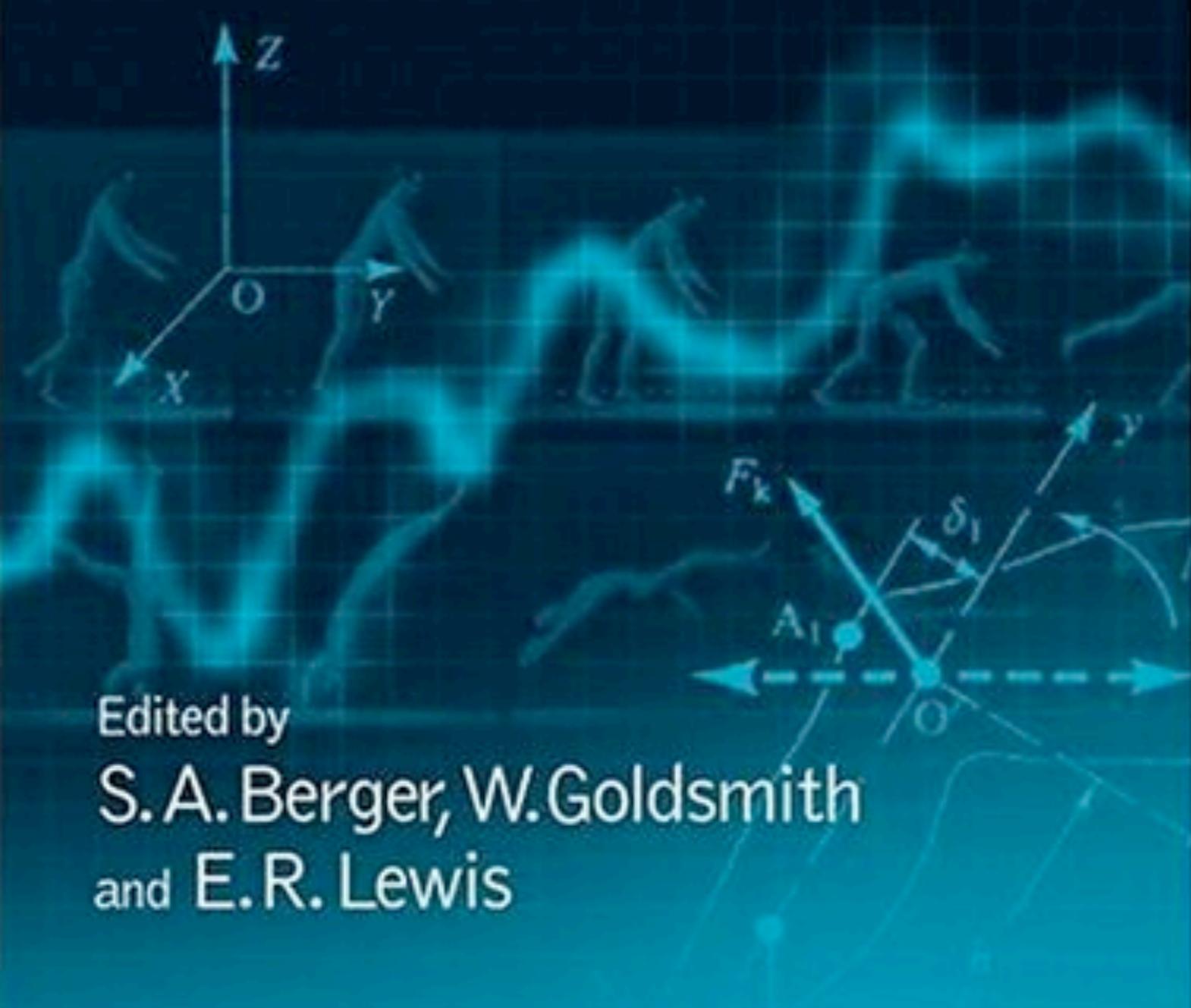


The living bridges of Cherrapunji, India are made from the roots of the Ficus elastica tree. (<http://rootbridges.blogspot.com>)



Introduction to

Bioengineering

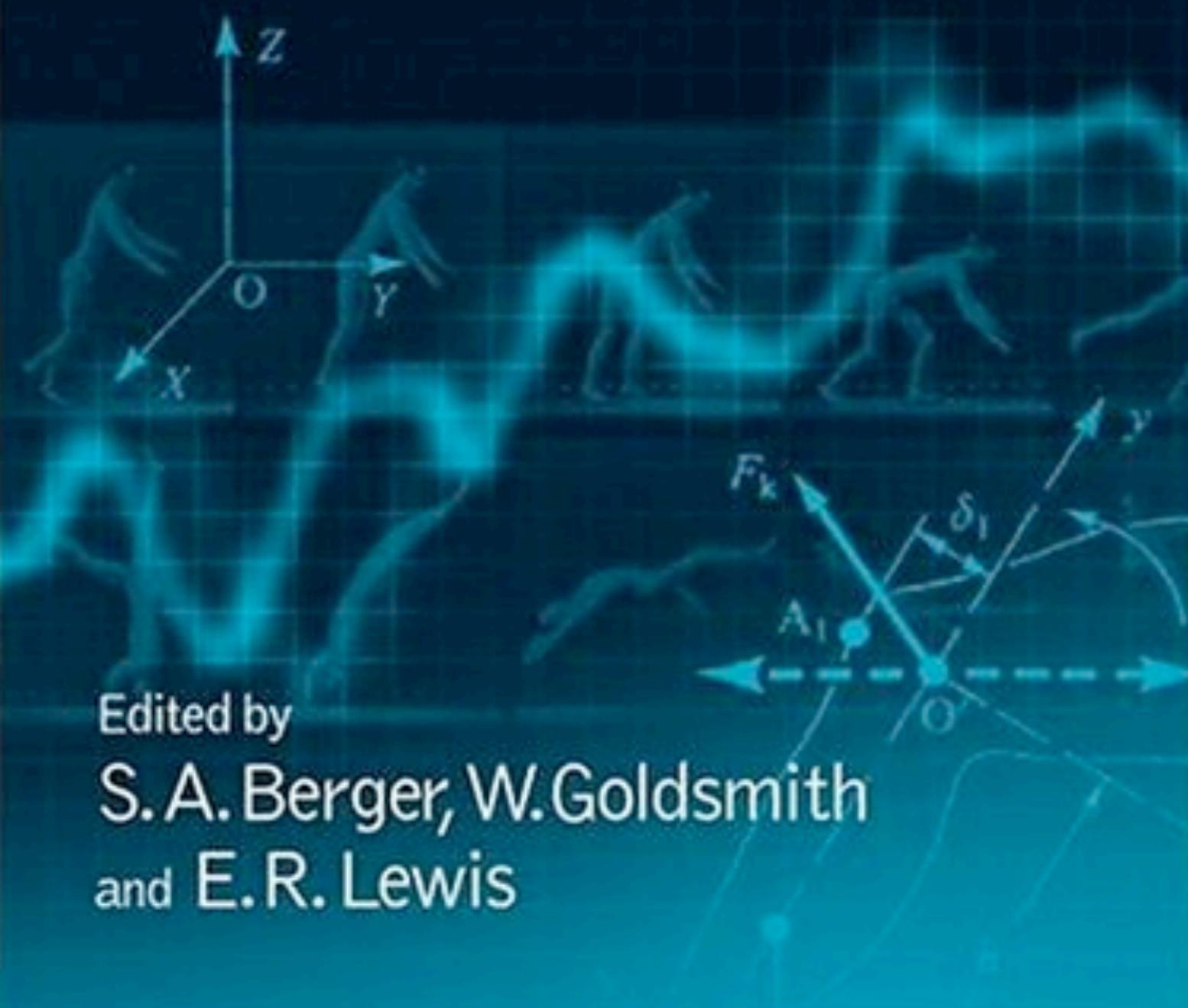


Edited by
S.A. Berger, W. Goldsmith
and E.R. Lewis



Introduction to

Bioengineering



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Third sentence:

“In the use of the term bioengineering in this book we exclude genetic engineering; that is, the systematic design of phenotypes by manipulation of genotypes.”

Synthetic Biology

Drew Endy

Fellow of Biology & Biological Engineering, MIT

Patrick Lincoln

Director of Computer Science, SRI, Inc.

Richard Murray

Division Chair, Engineering & Applied Science, Caltech

October 8, 2003

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2003 Synthetic Biology Study



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2003 Synthetic Biology Study

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October 8, 2003

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- Patrick Lincoln (co-chair)
- Richard Murray (co-chair)
- Frances Arnold (Caltech)
- Ralph Baric (UNC)
- Roger Brent (TMSI)
- Rob Carlson (U.Washington)
- Jim Collins (BU)
- Lynn Conway (Michigan)
- Ron Davis (Stanford)
- Mita Desai (NSF)
- Eric Eisenstadt (DARPA)
- Stephanie Forrest (U.New Mexico)
- Seth Goldstein (CMU)
- Homme Hellinga (Duke)
- Tom Kalil (UC Berkeley)
- Jay Keasling (UC Berkeley)
- Doug Kirkpatrick (DARPA)
- Tom Knight (MIT)
- Bill Mark (SRI)
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- Radhika Nagpal (MIT/Harvard)
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- Pam Silver (Harvard)
- Brad Smith (Johns Hopkins)
- Christina Smolke (Caltech)
- Gerry Sussman (MIT)
- Jack Thorpe (ISAT)
- Claire Tomlin (Stanford)
- Jeff Way (Lexigen)
- Chris Webb (Stanford)
- Ron Weiss (Princeton)
- Erik Winfree (Caltech)

Study participants included representatives from universities, industry, and government. Participants provided expertise in basic biological research, biological systems modeling, DNA synthesis, device analysis & design, self-assembly, systems analysis & design, computer science, electrical engineering, engineering theory, and biological security. Rich Entlich and other staff provided expert organizational support throughout the study.

The study held three workshops and four executive meetings:

1. October 23-24th (2002) at the Beckman Center in Irvine, CA
2. March 3-4th (2003) at SRI, Inc. in San Mateo, CA (workshop)
3. March 24-25th at Norton's Woods in Cambridge, MA (workshop)
4. April 10-11th at IDA in Alexandria, VA
5. May 29-30th at Caltech in Pasadena, CA (workshop)
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The following related events occurred while the study was underway:

1. IBEA contracted by DOE to synthesize a bacterial genome (11/02)
[see <http://www.bioenergyals.org/news.html>]
2. MIT conducts Synthetic Biology Lab (1/03)
[see <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/nr/2003/blinkers.html>]
3. Caltech announces Center for Biological Circuit Design (3/03)
[see <http://www.eas.caltech.edu/ingenious/win03/cbcd.pdf>]
4. EU NEST proposes Synthetic Biology research program (8/03)
[see ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/nest/docs/synthetic_biology.pdf]
5. Lawrence Berkeley Lab creates Dept. of Synthetic Biology (8/03)
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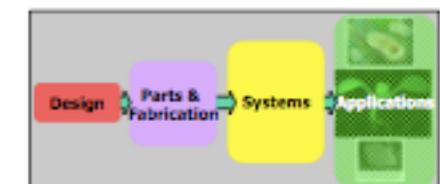
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2003 Synthetic Biology Study

Executive Summary

- Biology is a powerful technology
 - Processing information
 - Fabricating materials
 - Converting energy
 - Maintaining & enhancing health
- Biological technology poses a danger on par with any past experience
 - Existing threats
 - Emerging threats
 - Engineered threats
- Synthetic biology advances science & technology while mitigating danger
 - General capability to engineer biological systems
 - Increased speed and scope of response to threats



October 8, 2003

Biology is a technology for processing information, materials, and energy. As a technology platform, biological systems provide access to artifacts and processes across a range of scales (e.g., the ribosome is a programmable nanoassembler, a bamboo shoot can grow 12" per day). Biology also forms the basis for human welfare (e.g., modest amounts of memory and logic, implemented as genetically encoded systems, would directly impact biological research and medicine). **However, our ability to deploy biology as a technology and to interact intentionally with the living world is now limited;** the charge to our study was to begin to specify enabling technologies that, if developed, would provide a general foundation for the engineering of biology and make routine the creation of synthetic biological systems that behave as predicted.

We focused on improvements to the process of engineering biological systems. **Three specific process improvements that should be pursued now are: (i) component standardization, (ii) substrate and component abstraction, and (iii) design and fabrication decoupling.**

The development of technologies that enable the systematic engineering of biology must take place within the context of current and future risks due to natural and engineered biological agents. While the development of technologies for engineering biology appears inevitable, and their distribution uncontrollable, the net impact such technologies will have on the creation of biological risk is not known. However, any technology-based increase in risk creation seems likely to at least be offset by a concomitant increase in the speed and scope of response to risks. **Consequently, any meaningful strategy for minimizing future biological risk requires that the development of technologies for engineering biology proceeds alongside the development of non-technical approaches to risk management;** new training programs and professional societies will serve an important role in creating a cadre of engineers who can work in biology and who will serve as a strategic resource for responding to natural and engineered biological threats.

2003 Synthetic Biology Study

Our charge was, “*to specify enabling technologies that, if developed, would provide a general foundation for the engineering of biology and make routine the creation of synthetic biological systems that behave as predicted.*”



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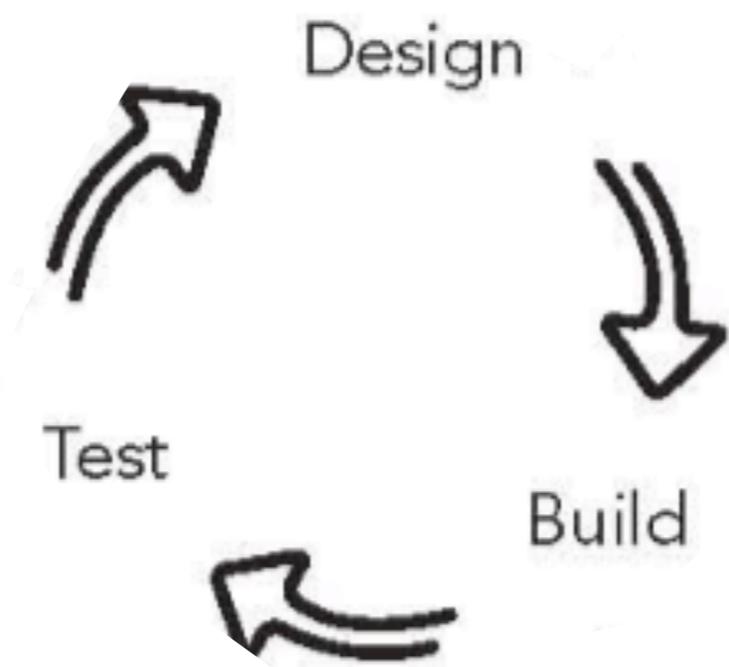
Our stated findings were, “*Three specific process improvements that should be pursued now are: (i) component standardization, (ii) substrate and component abstraction, and (iii) design and fabrication decoupling.*”



By *process* we meant
the **core** of the
engineering cycle.

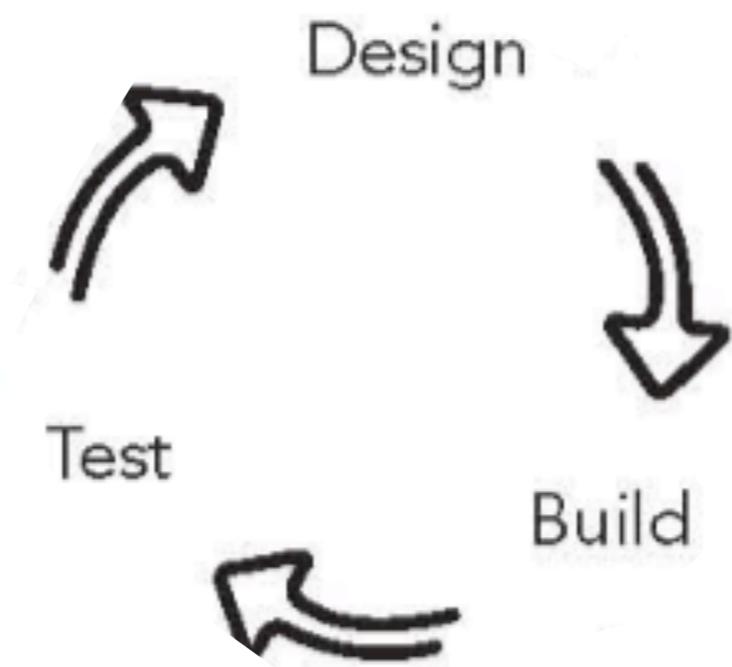


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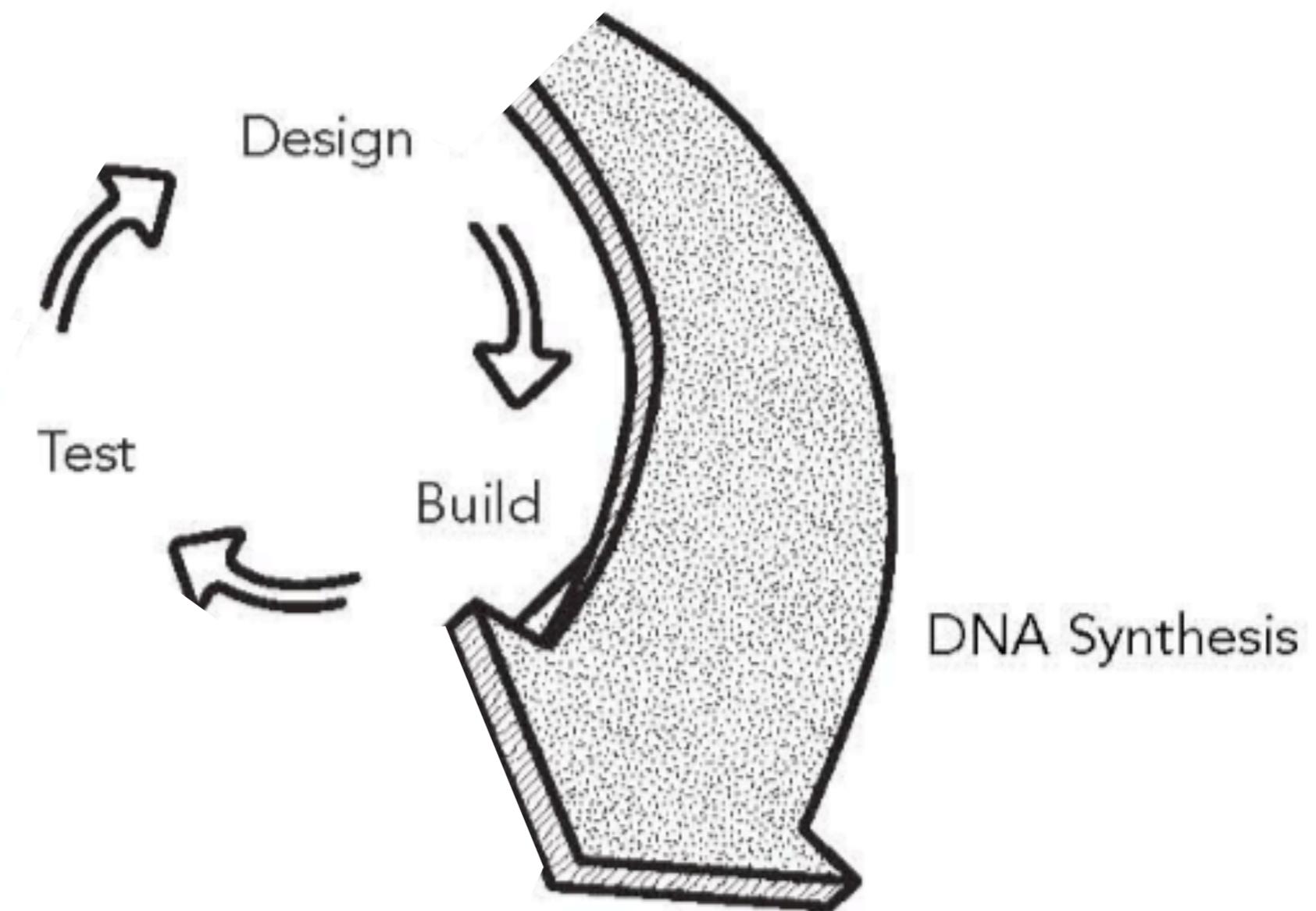
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By *improvements* we meant **going around faster, smarter, more times in parallel, etc.**



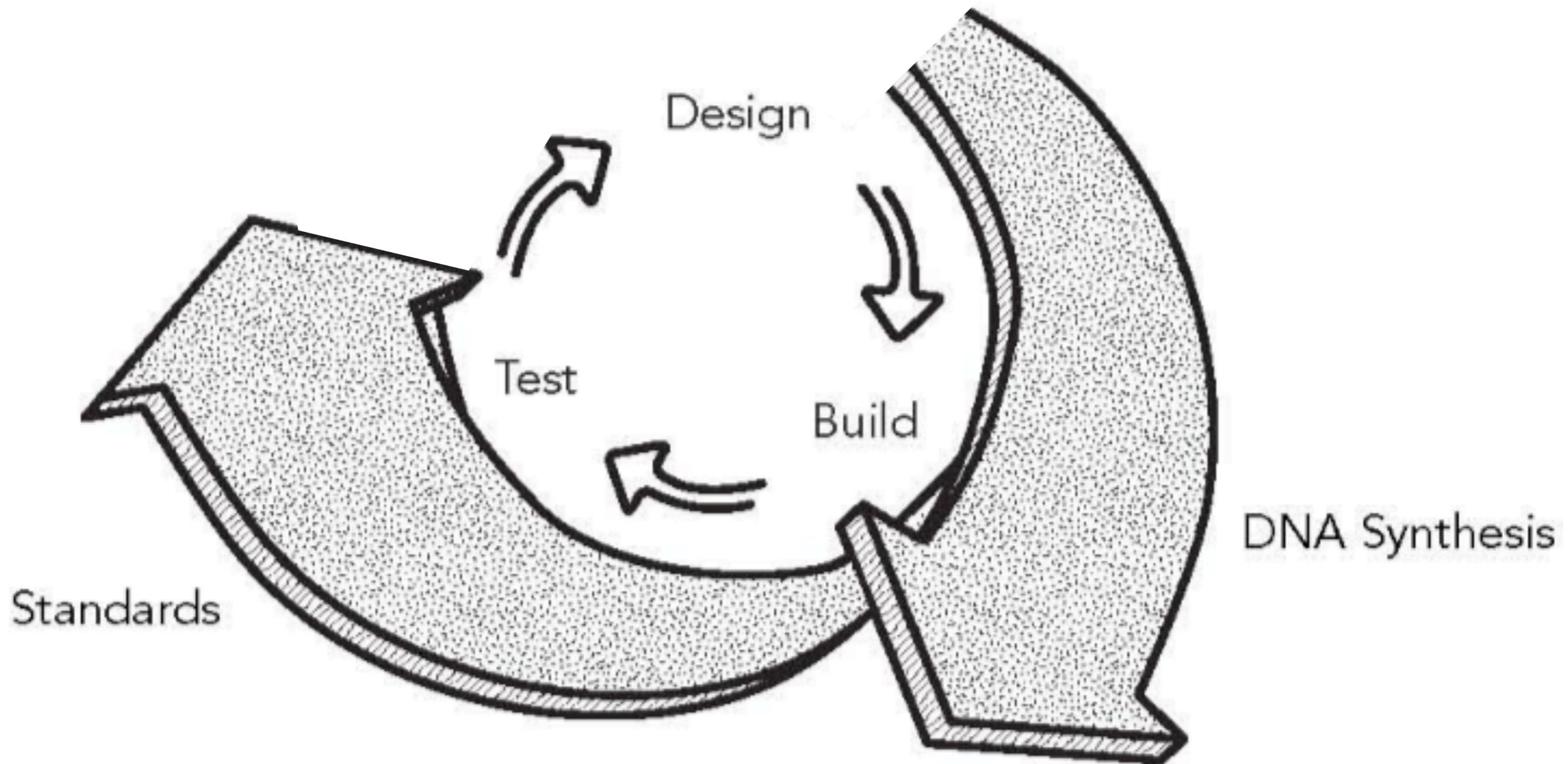
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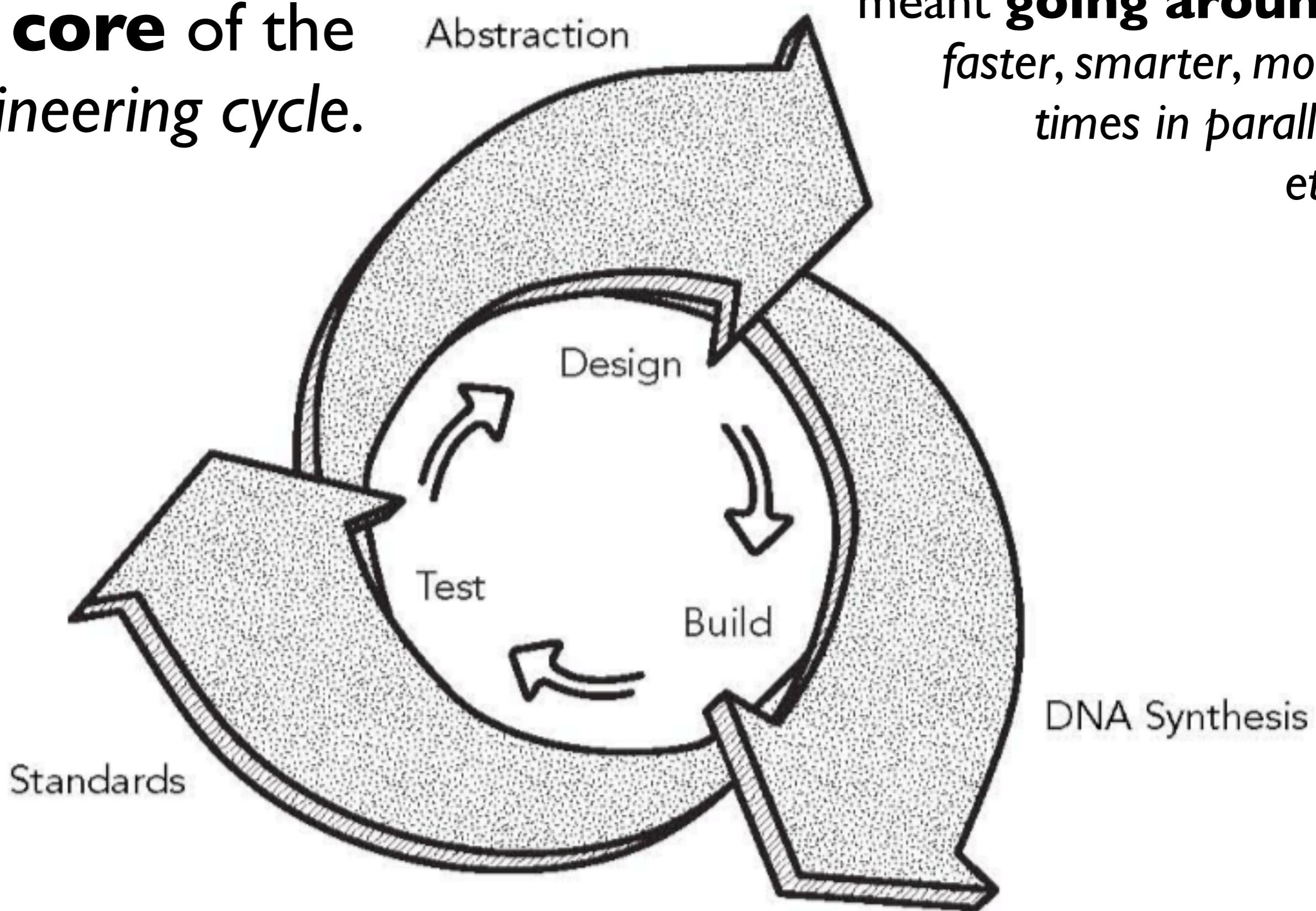
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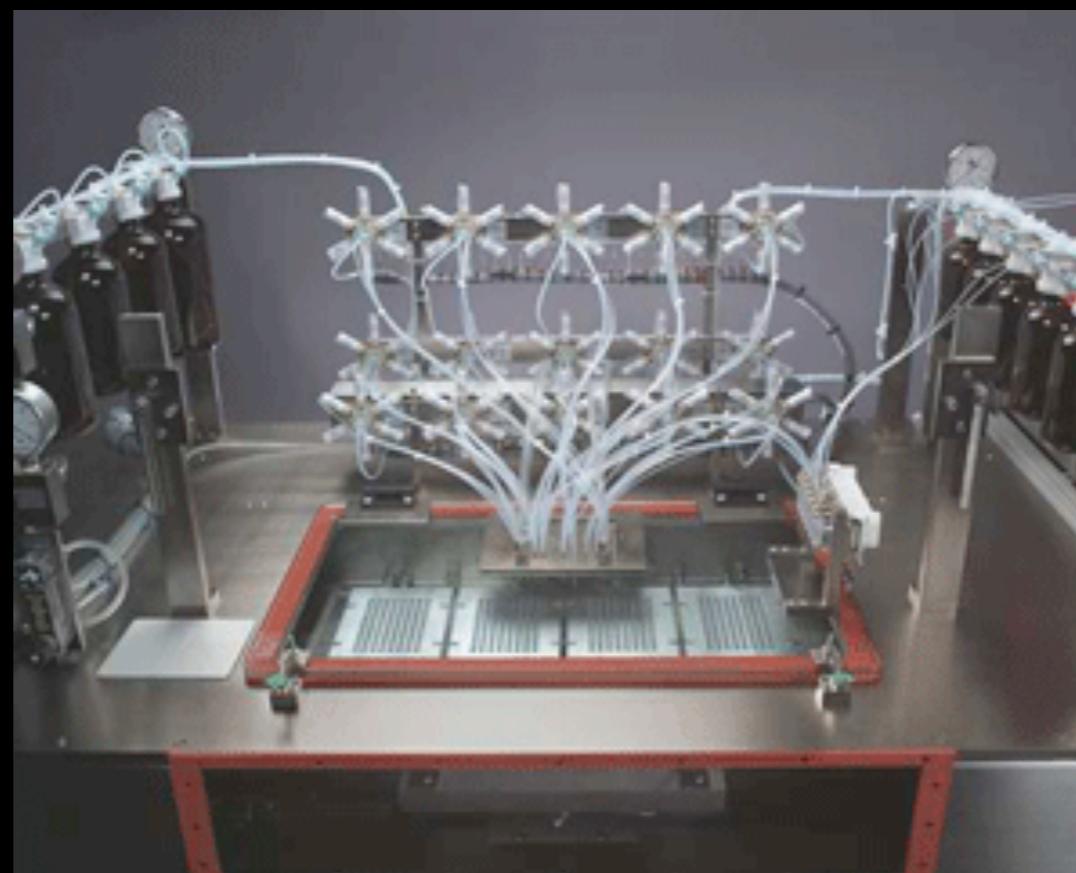


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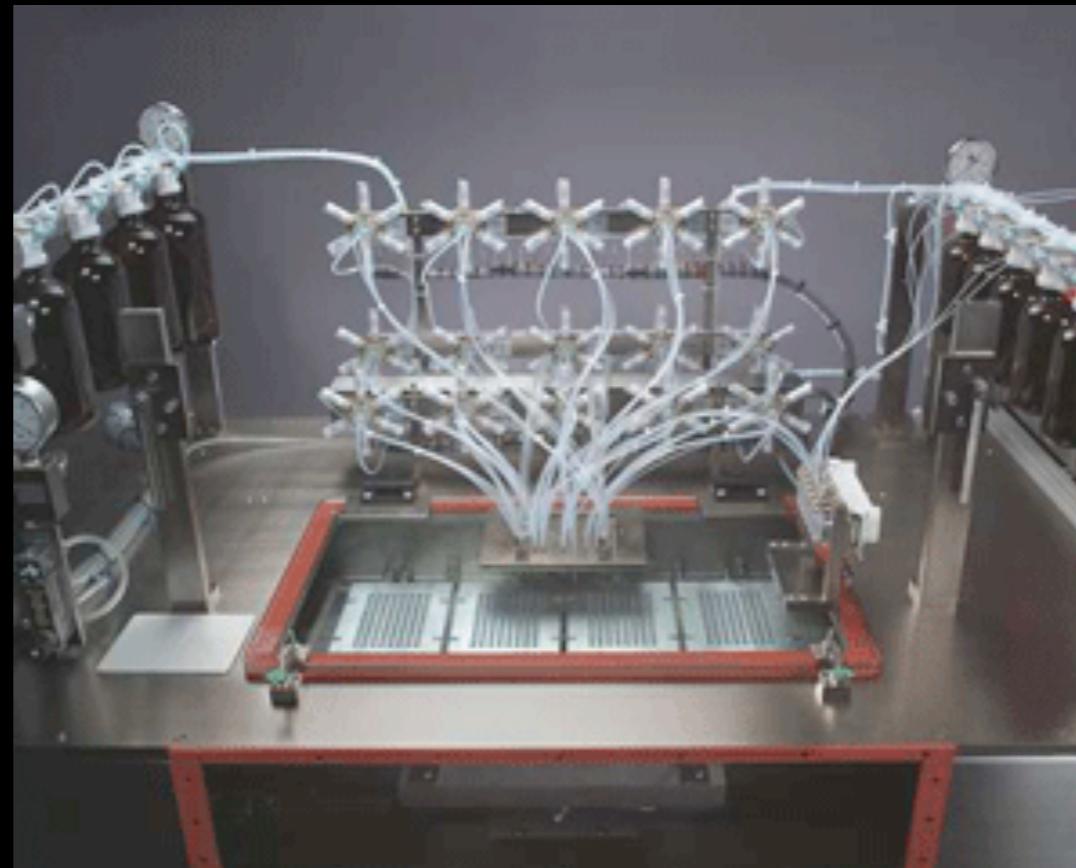








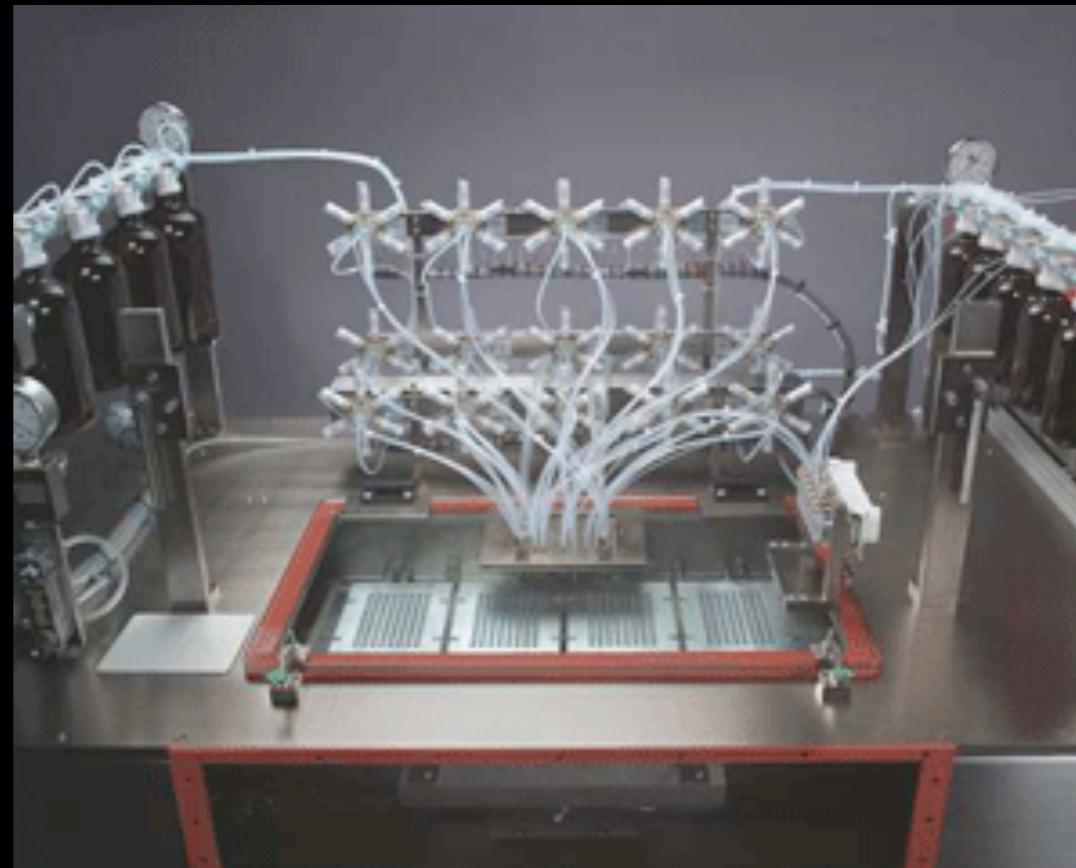
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From abstract
information to
physical, living
DNA designs.



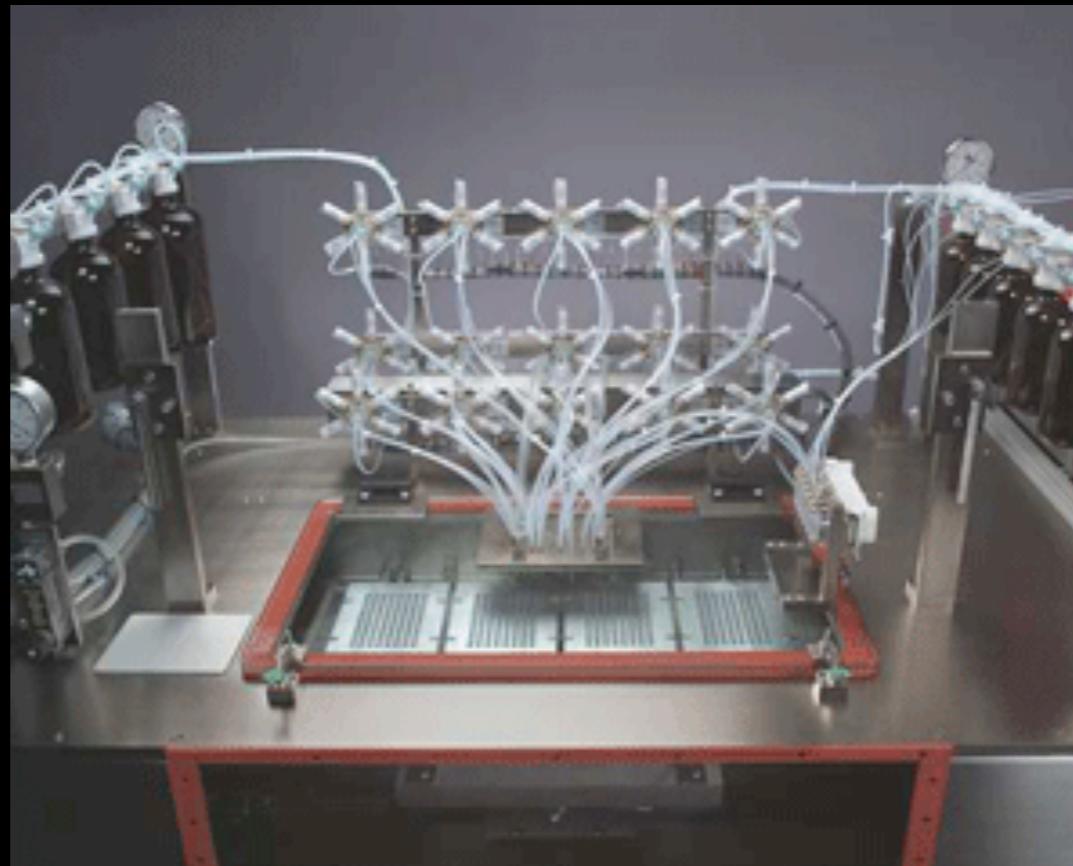
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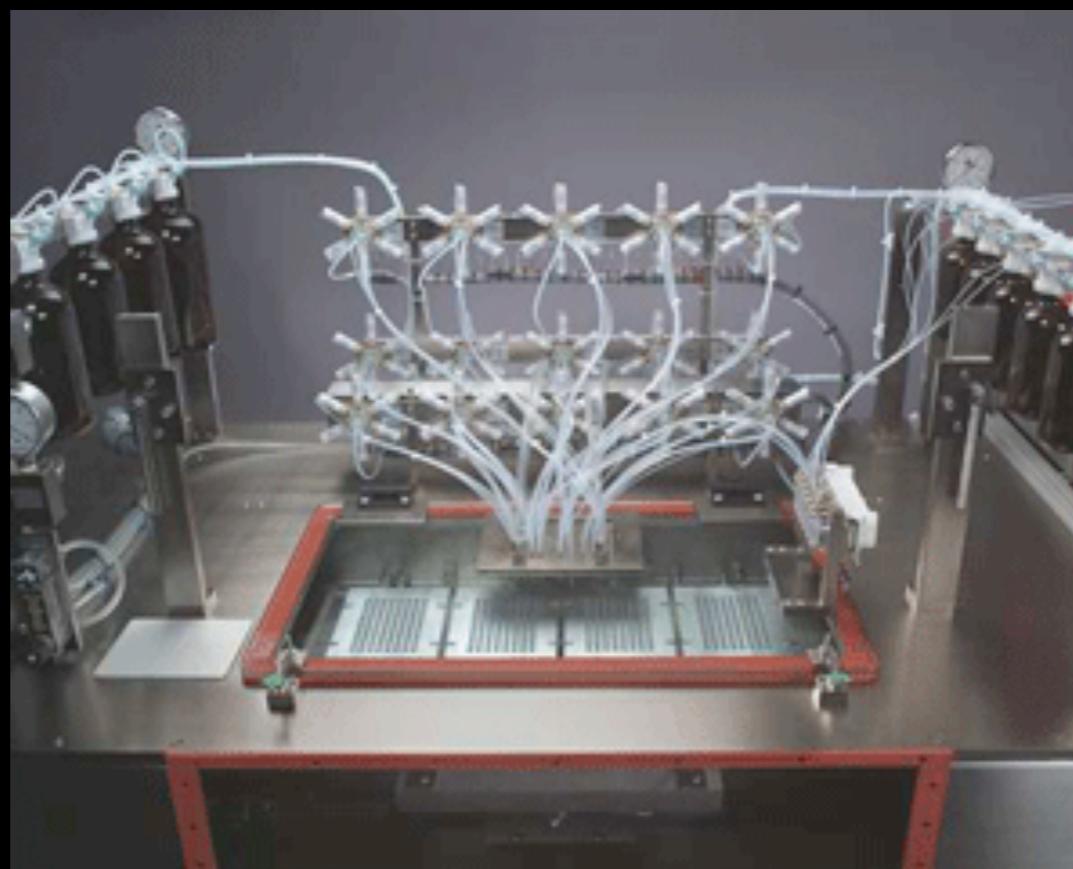


2004: 10,000 bp
2010: 1,000,000 bp

From abstract
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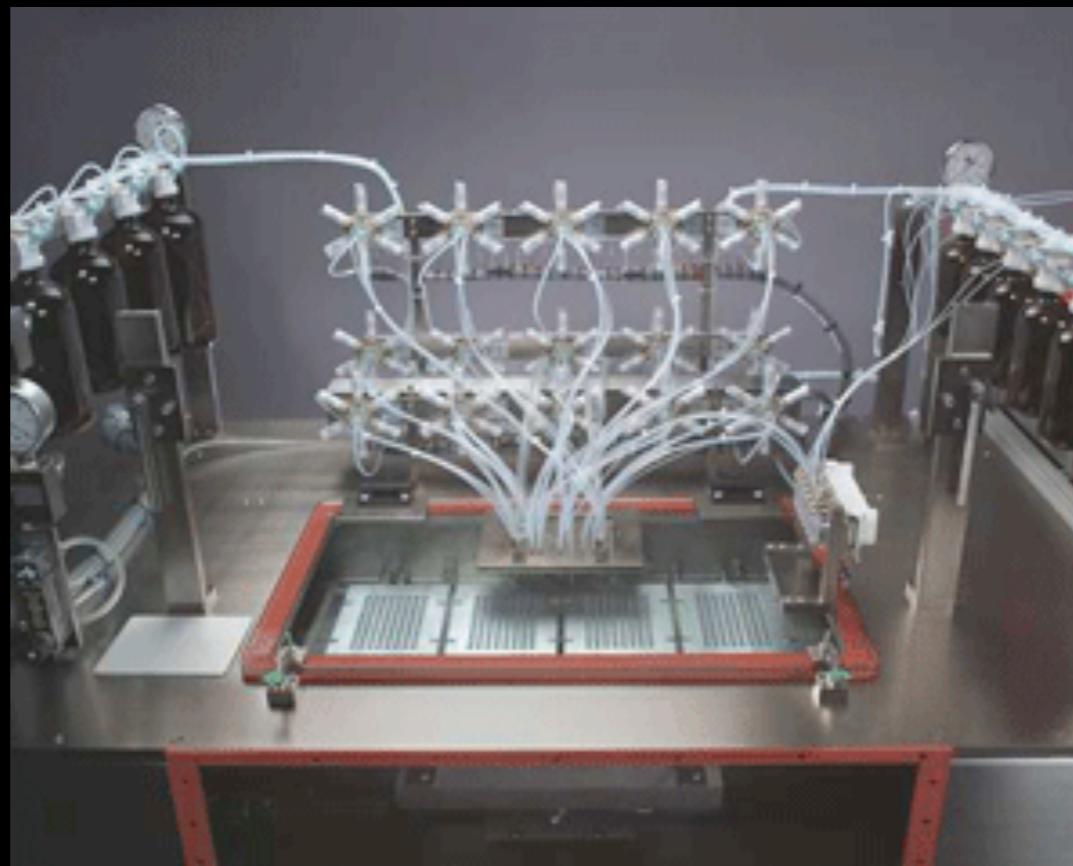
2004: 10,000 bp
2010: 1,000,000 bp
2016: 100 million?

DNA Construction = #1 Tech. of 21st Ctry.

From abstract information to physical, living DNA designs.



TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGA



2004: 10,000 bp
2010: 1,000,000 bp
2016: 100 million?

Why does DNA synthesis matter?



Why does DNA synthesis matter?

Molecular Systems Biology (2005) doi:10.1038/msb4100025
© 2005 EMBO and Nature Publishing Group All rights reserved 1744-4292/05
www.molecularsystemsbiology.com

molecular
systems
biology

Refactoring bacteriophage T7

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³ These authors contributed equally to this work

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Received 15.7.05; accepted 23.7.05

Natural biological systems are selected by evolution to continue to exist and evolve. Evolution likely gives rise to complicated systems that are difficult to understand and manipulate. Here, we redesign the genome of a natural biological system, bacteriophage T7, in order to specify an engineered surrogate that, if viable, would be easier to study and extend. Our initial design goals were to physically separate and enable unique manipulation of primary genetic elements. Implicit in our design are the hypotheses that overlapping genetic elements are, in aggregate, nonessential for T7 viability and that our models for the functions encoded by elements are sufficient. To test our initial design, we replaced the left 11 515 base pairs (bp) of the 39 937 bp wild-type genome with 12 179 bp of engineered DNA. The resulting chimeric genome encodes a viable bacteriophage that appears to maintain key features of the original while being simpler to model and easier to manipulate. The viability of our initial design suggests that the genomes encoding natural biological systems can be systematically redesigned and built anew in service of scientific understanding or human intention.

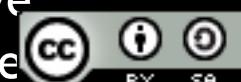
Molecular Systems Biology 13 September 2005; doi:10.1038/msb4100025

Subject Categories: synthetic biology

Keywords: bacteriophage T7; synthetic biology; refactor



To build section alpha, we first cloned parts 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24 into pSB104. We cloned part 11 into pSB2K3. We cloned each part with its part-specific bracketing restriction sites surrounded by additional BioBrick restriction sites. We used site-directed mutagenesis on parts 6, 7, 14, and 20 to introduce the sites U1, U2, U3, and U4, respectively. Our site-directed mutagenesis of part 20 failed. We used site-directed mutagenesis to remove a single Eco0109I restriction site from the vector pUB119BHB carrying the scaffold Fragment 4. We cloned part 15 into this modified vector. We then cloned scaffold Fragment 4 into pREB and used serial cloning to add the following parts: 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 23. We digested the now-populated scaffold Fragment 4 with NheI and BclI and purified the resulting DNA. Next, we cloned parts 5 and 6 into pUB119BHB carrying scaffold Fragment 3. We used the resulting DNA for in vitro assembly of a construct spanning from the left end of T7 to part 7. To do this, we cut wild-type T7 genomic DNA with Asel, isolated the 388 bp left-end fragment, and ligated this DNA to scaffold Fragment 2. We selected the correct ligation product by PCR. We fixed the mutation in part 3 (A1) via a two-step process. First, PCR primers with the corrected sequence for part 3 were used to amplify the two halves of the construct to the left and right ends of part 3. Second, a PCR ligation joined the two constructs. We added scaffold Fragment 3 to the above left-end construct once again by PCR ligation as described above. We repaired the mutation in part 4 (A2, A3, and R0.3) following the same procedure as with part 3. We used a right-end primer containing an MluI site to amplify the entire construct, and used the MluI site to add part 7. We used PCR to select the ligation product, digested the product with NheI, and purified the resulting DNA. We isolated the right arm of a BclI digestion of wild-type T7 genomic DNA and used ligation to add the populated left-end construct and the populated Scaffold Fragment 4. We transfected the three-way ligation product into IJ1127. We purified DNA from liquid culture lysates inoculated from single plaques. We used restriction enzymes to digest the DNA and isolate the correct clones. Next, we added part 11 via three-way ligation and transfection. Because the restriction sites that bracket part 9 (RsrII) also cut wild-type T7 DNA, we needed to use in vitro assembly to add this part to a subsection of section alpha. To do this, we used PCR to amplify the region spanning parts 5–12 from the refactored genome. We cut the PCR product with RsrII and ligated part 9. We used PCR to select the correct ligation product; this PCR reaction also added a SacII site to the fragment. We digested the PCR product with SacI and SacII and cloned onto the otherwise wild-type phage. Lastly, we used the SacII site to clone part 10 onto the phage.



DNA synthesis replaces below with...

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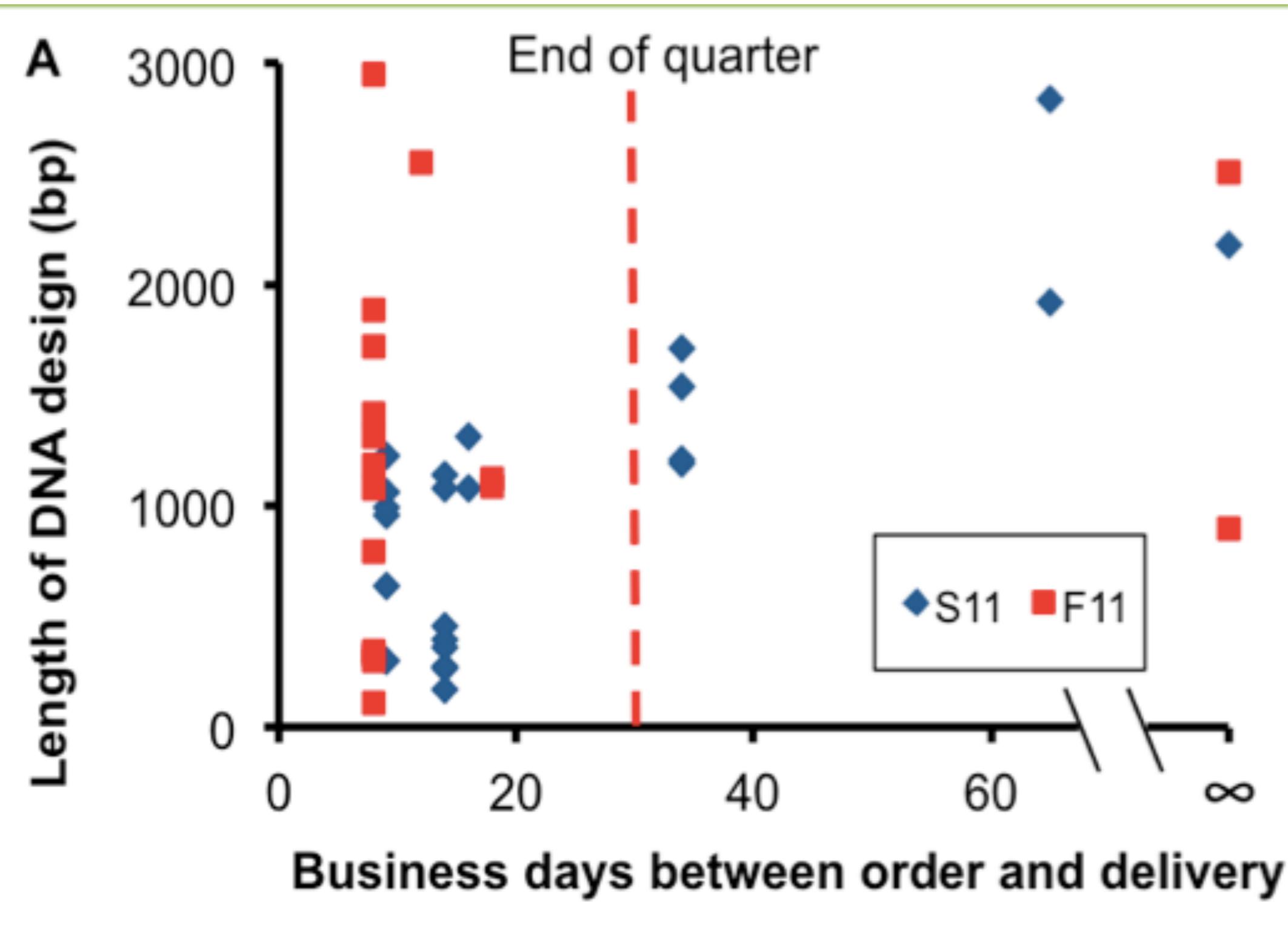


Get me my DNA!

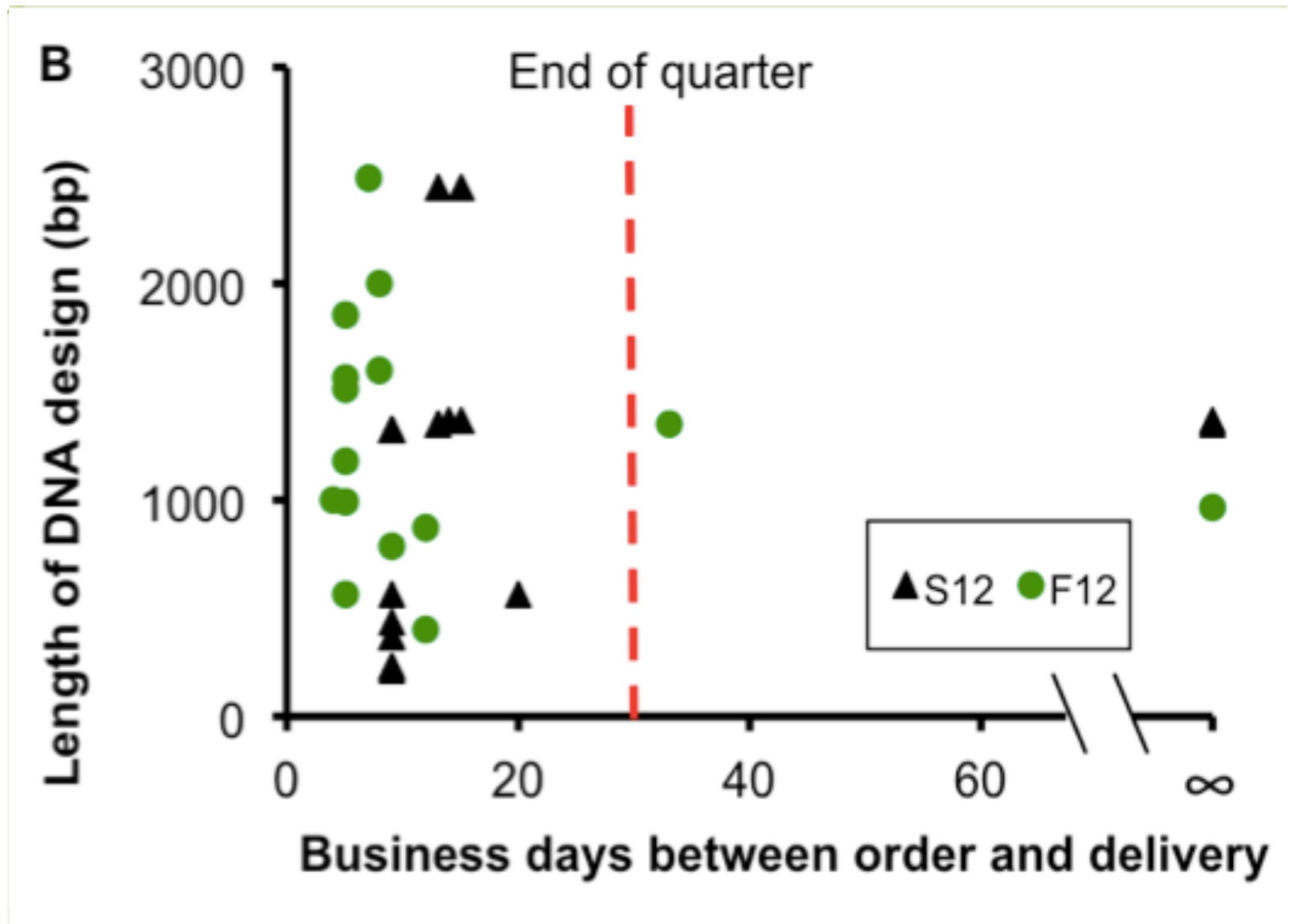


DNA fab. displacing classical genetic engr.

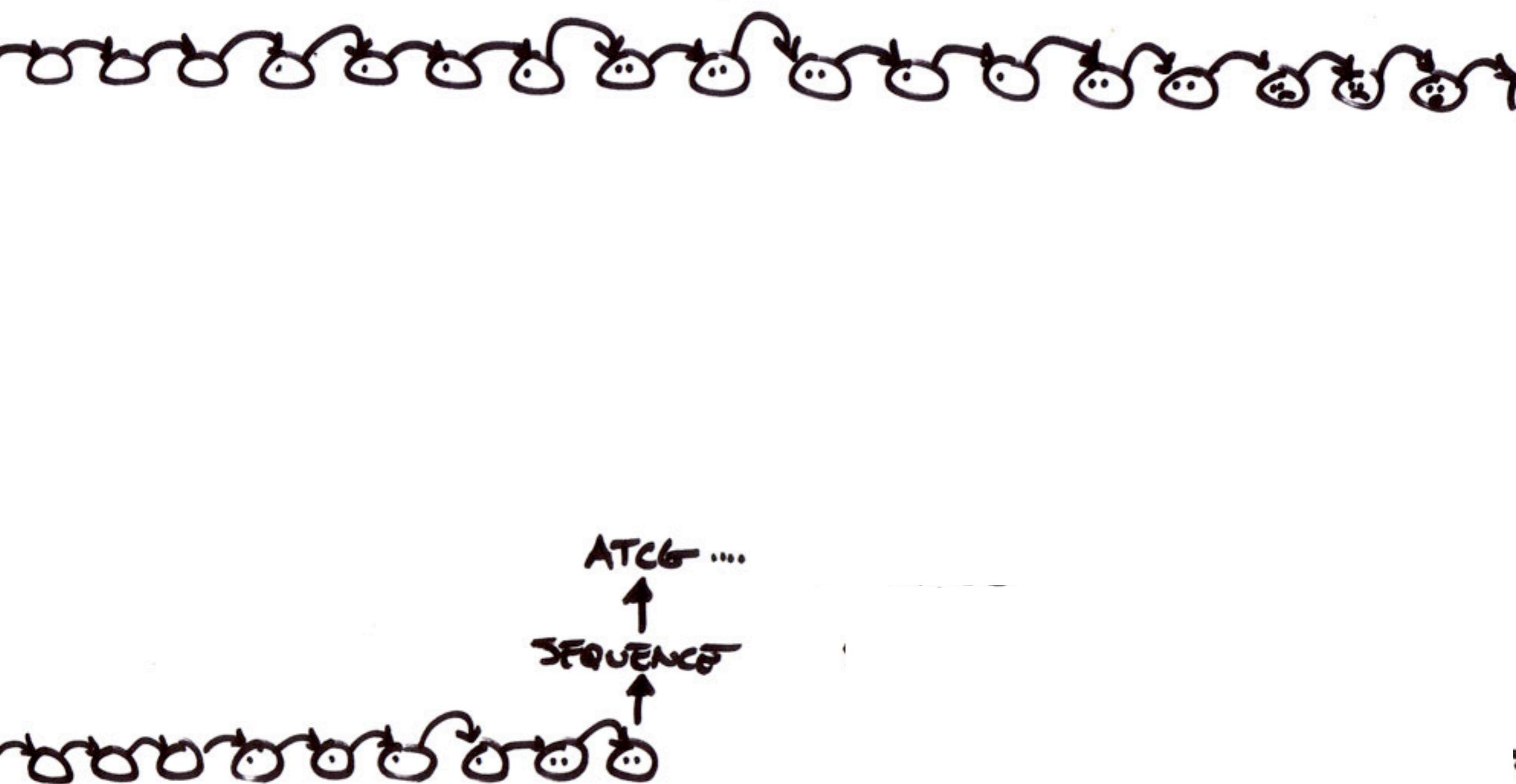
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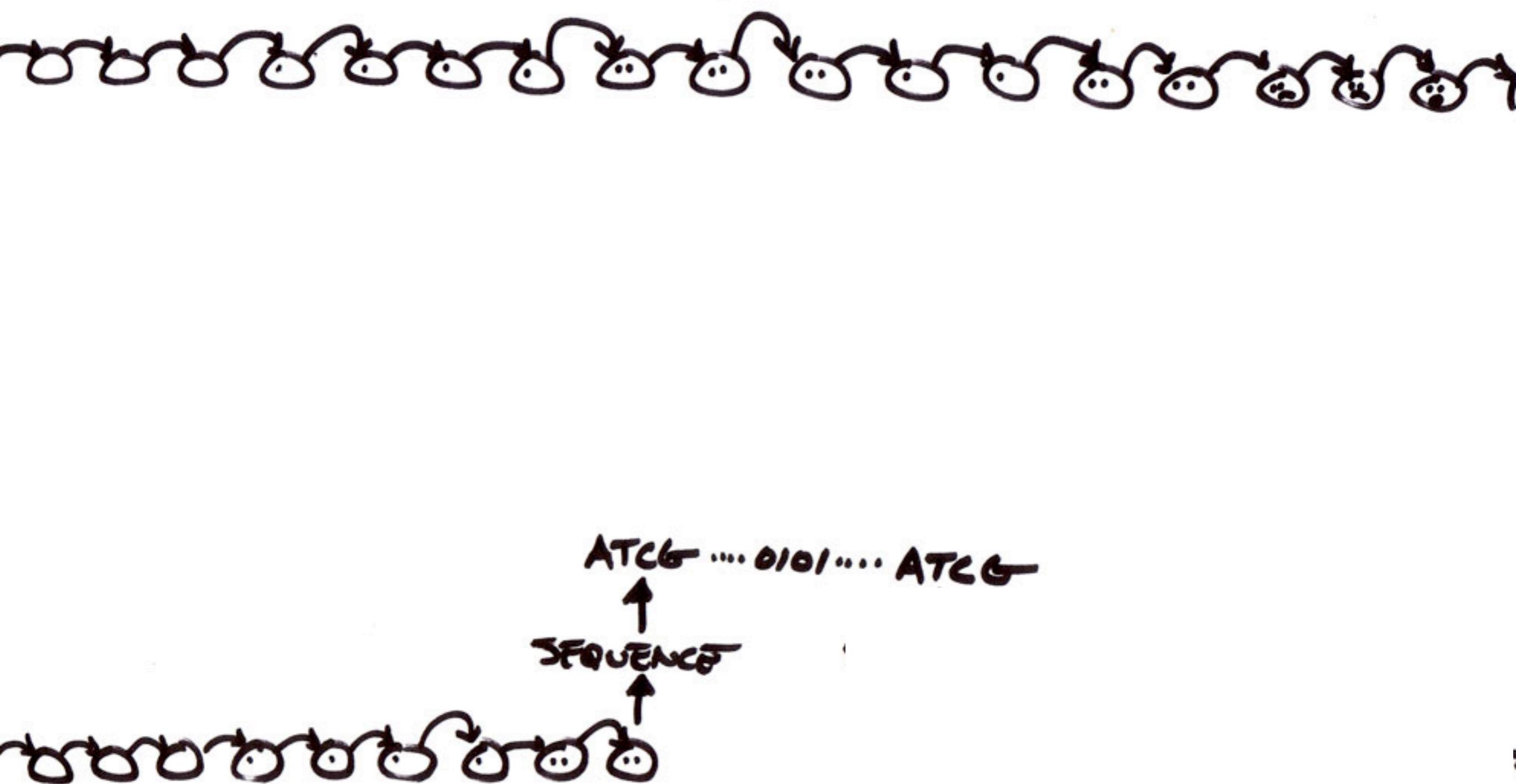


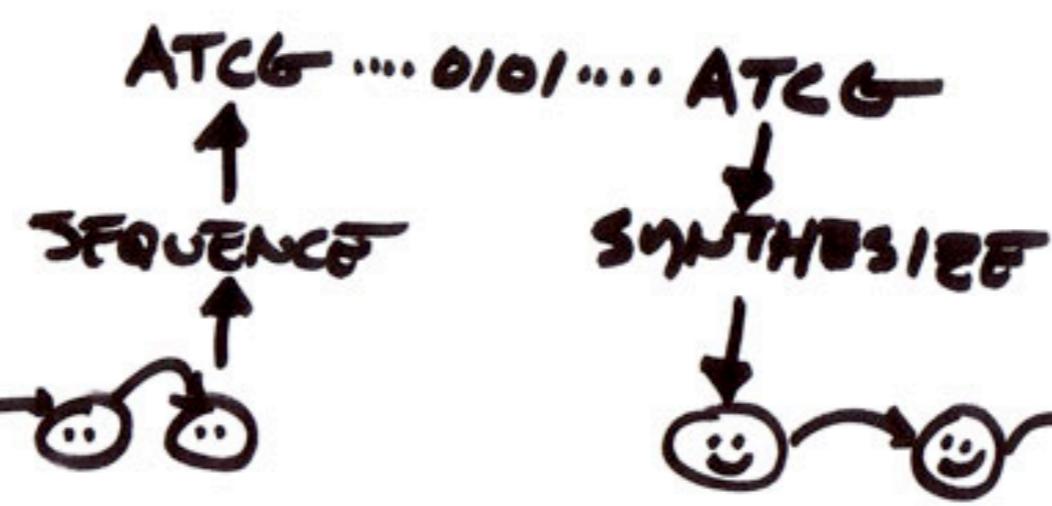
DNA fab. displacing classical genetic engr.











N°5

INÉVITABLE

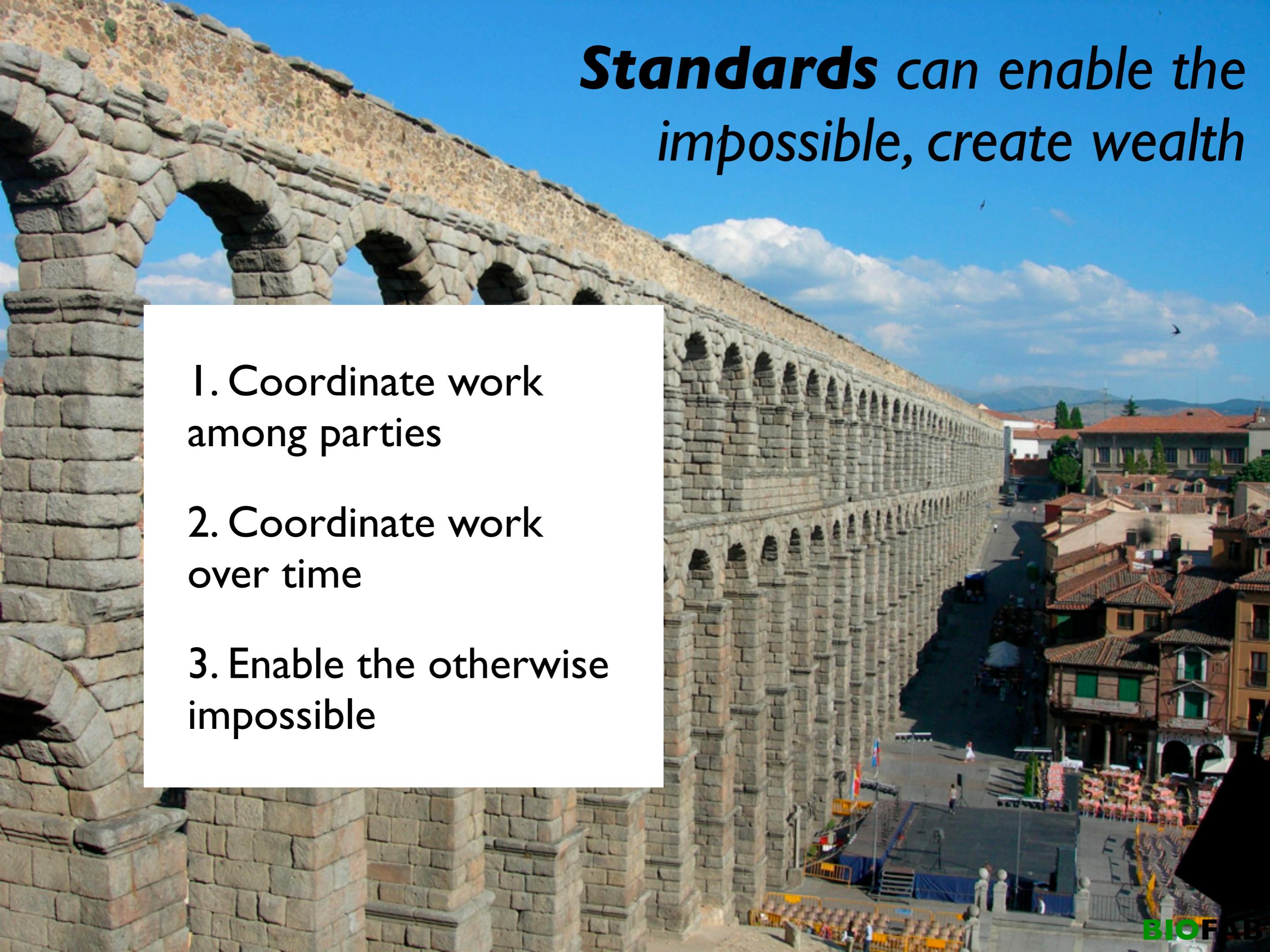


CHANEL N°5





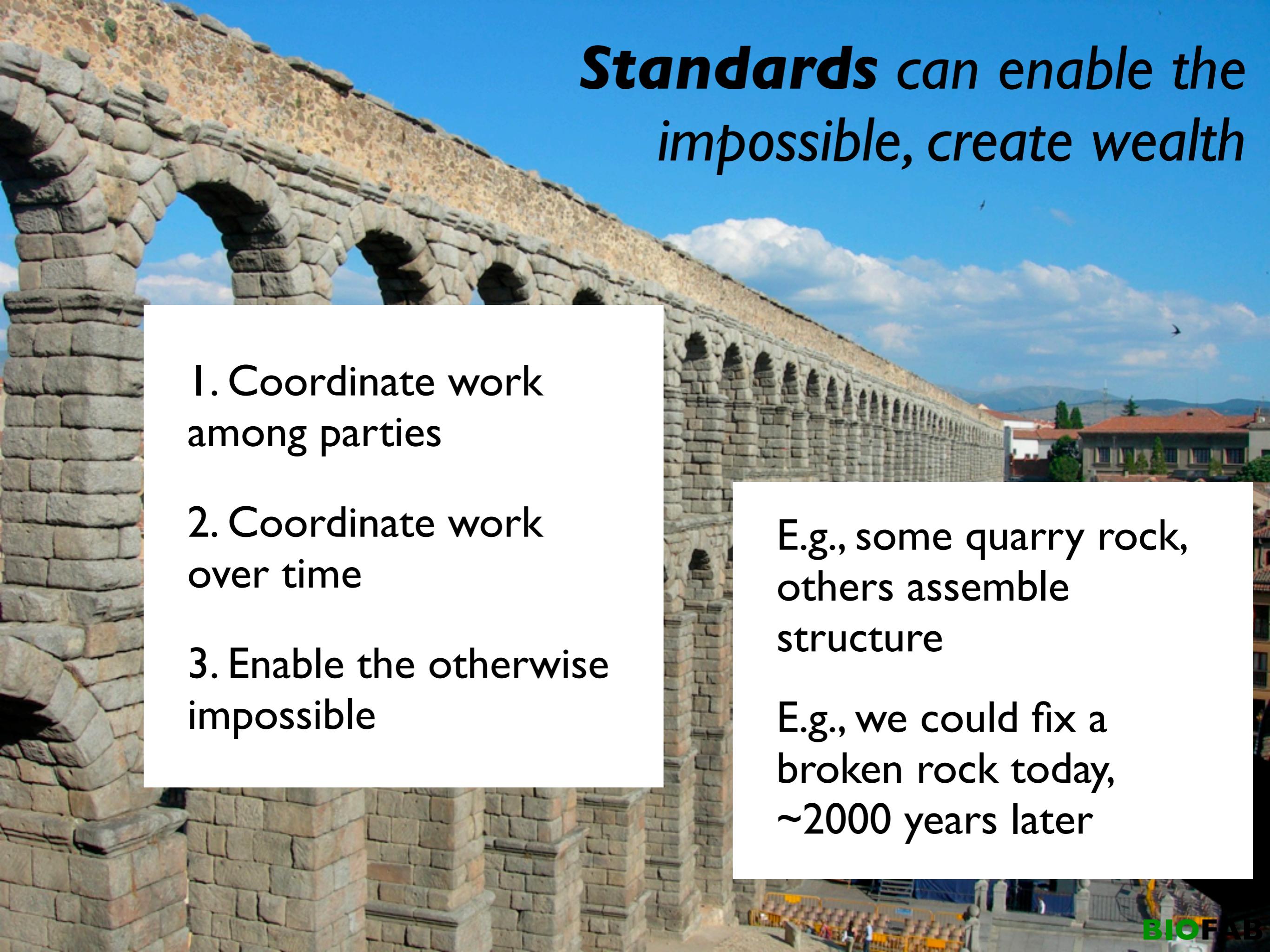
***Standards can enable the
impossible, create wealth***



Standards can enable the impossible, create wealth

1. Coordinate work among parties
2. Coordinate work over time
3. Enable the otherwise impossible





Standards can enable the impossible, create wealth

1. Coordinate work among parties
2. Coordinate work over time
3. Enable the otherwise impossible

E.g., some quarry rock, others assemble structure

E.g., we could fix a broken rock today, ~2000 years later

Standards in synthetic biology



Standards in synthetic biology

1. Physical genetic layout (leading to...)

Standards in synthetic biology

1. *Physical genetic layout (leading to...)*
2. *Functional composition*

Standards in synthetic biology

1. *Physical genetic layout (leading to...)*
2. *Functional composition*
3. *Metrology inside cells
(measurement and reference materials)*



Standards in synthetic biology

1. *Physical genetic layout (leading to...)*
2. *Functional composition*
3. *Metrology inside cells
(measurement and reference materials)*
4. *Representations*



“There is no such thing as a standard (biological) component, because even a standard component works differently depending on the environment. The expectation that you can type in a (DNA) sequence and can predict what a (genetic) circuit will do is far from reality and always will be.”

Caltech Professor, NY Times, 2006



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Caltech Professor, NY Times, 2006

“... reusing the same well-characterized RBS (ribosome binding site) sequence for different proteins, a common practice, is not likely to work reliably.”

MIT Professor, Nature Biotechnology, 2009



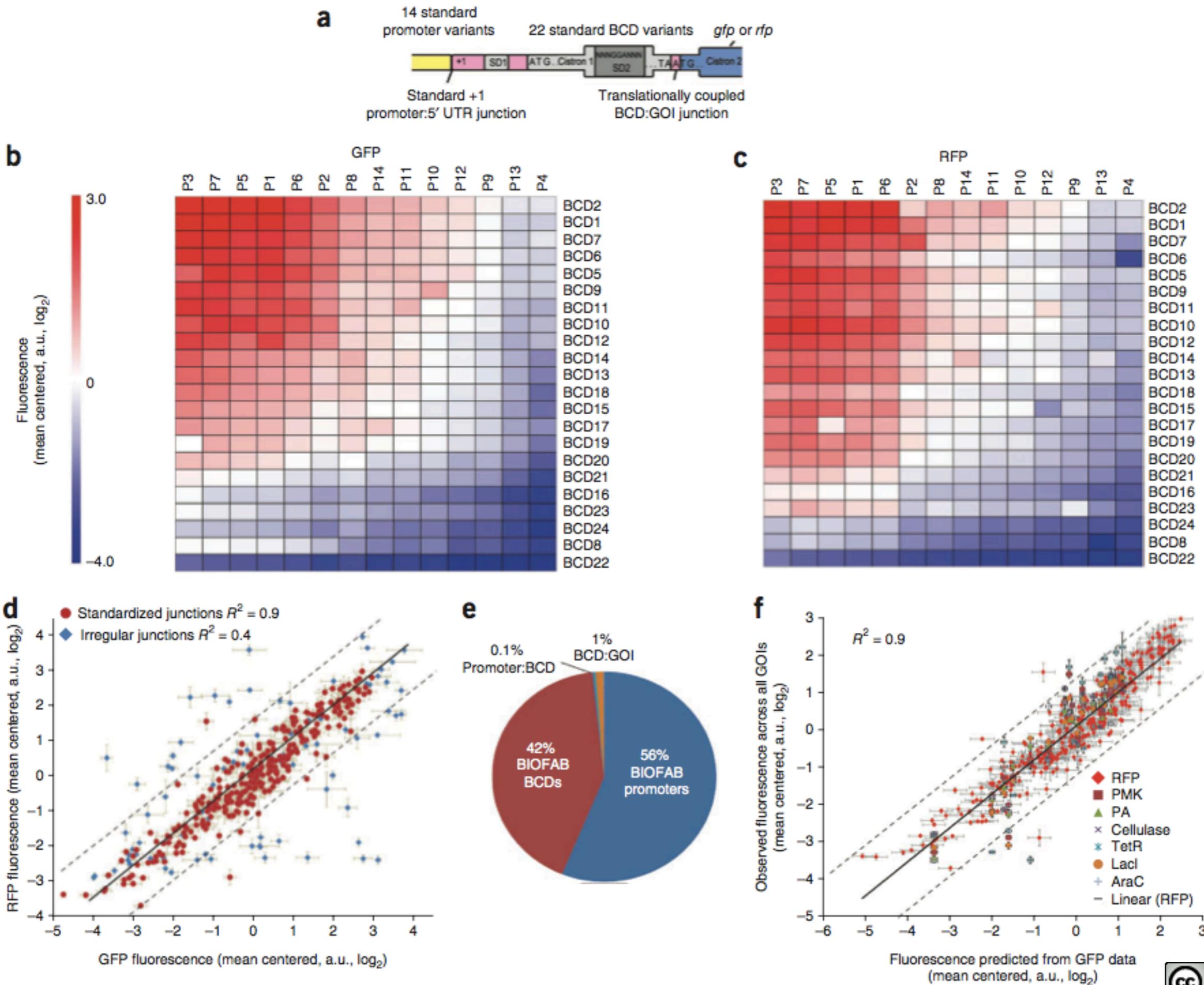


Figure 4 | Precise and reliable gene expression via standard transcription-control and translation-initiation elements. **(a)** Standard promoters produce mRNA from a common +1 nucleotide position. Translation initiation is entirely encoded by a separate and independent bicistronic design (BCD).

Abstraction to manage complexity ?%&#!!!



Abstraction to manage complexity ?%&#!!!

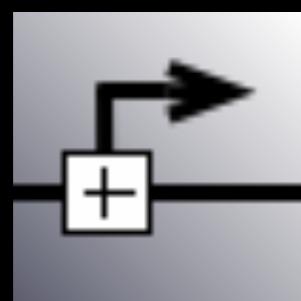
8 Bit Synchro.
Counter

Systems = One or more devices encoding a human defined function(s).

DNA Inversion
Data Latch

Abstraction barrier! Do not cross!

Devices = One or more parts encoding a human defined function(s).



Abstraction barrier! Do not cross!

Parts = Basic biological functions encoded via DNA.

CTATAGGGAGA

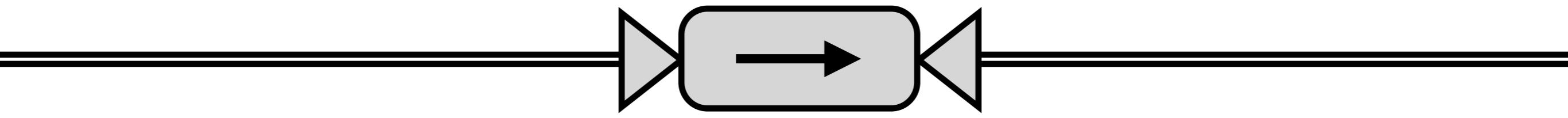
Abstraction barrier! Do not cross!

DNA = Primary sequence and mater



01010101



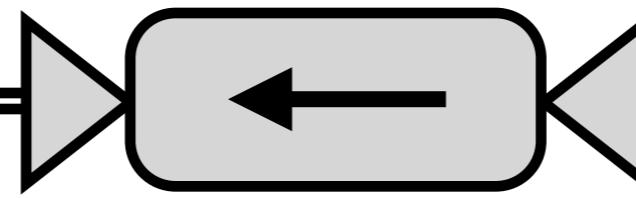


“flipee”

Bonnet et al., PNAS USA, 2012

**please see Nash & Pollock (1981, 1983) thru Friedland & Lu et al. (2010+) for prior work on flipping DNA and data storage



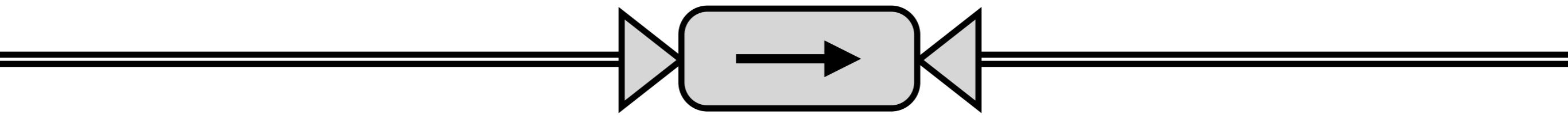


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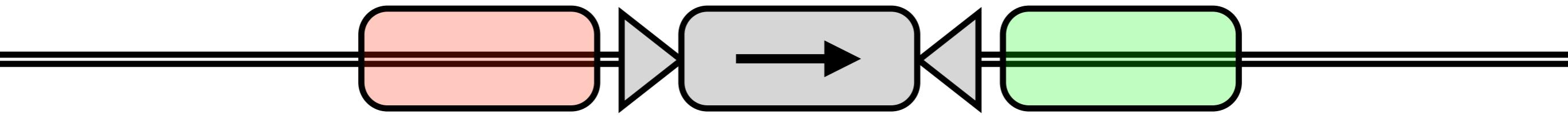


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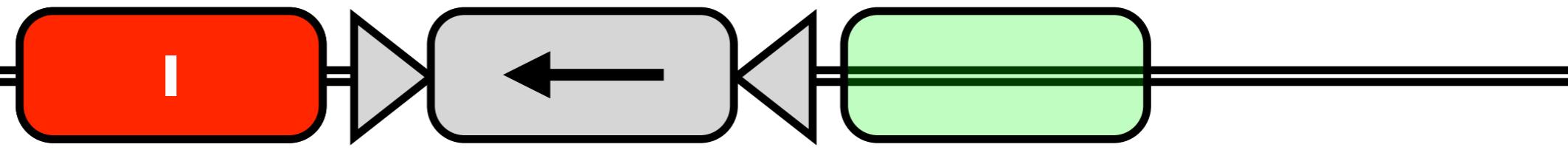
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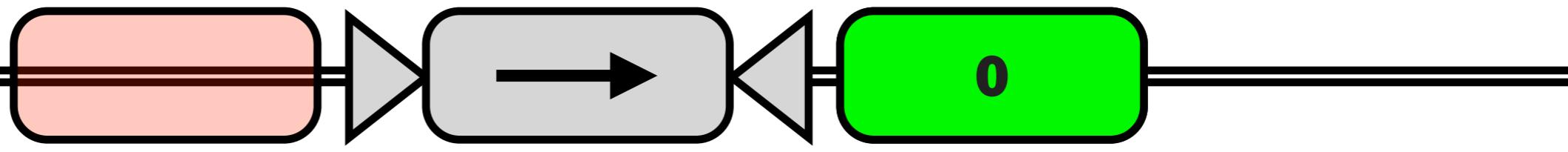




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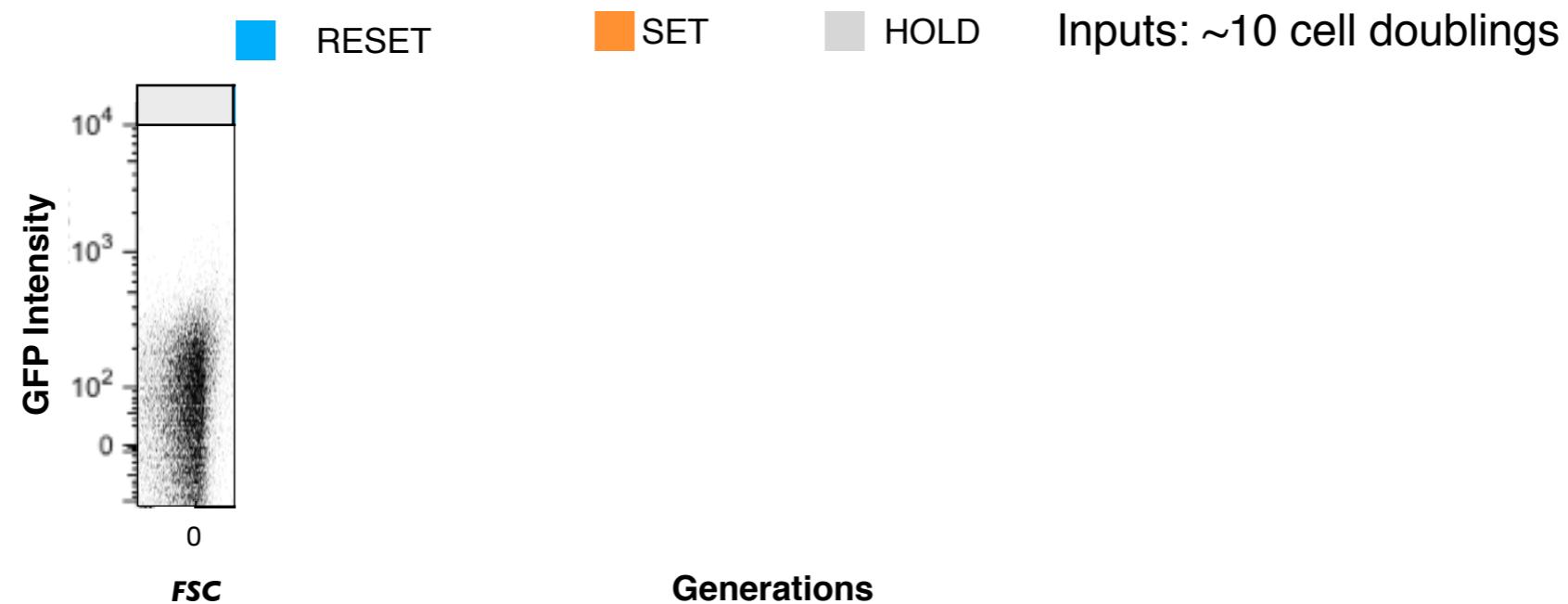


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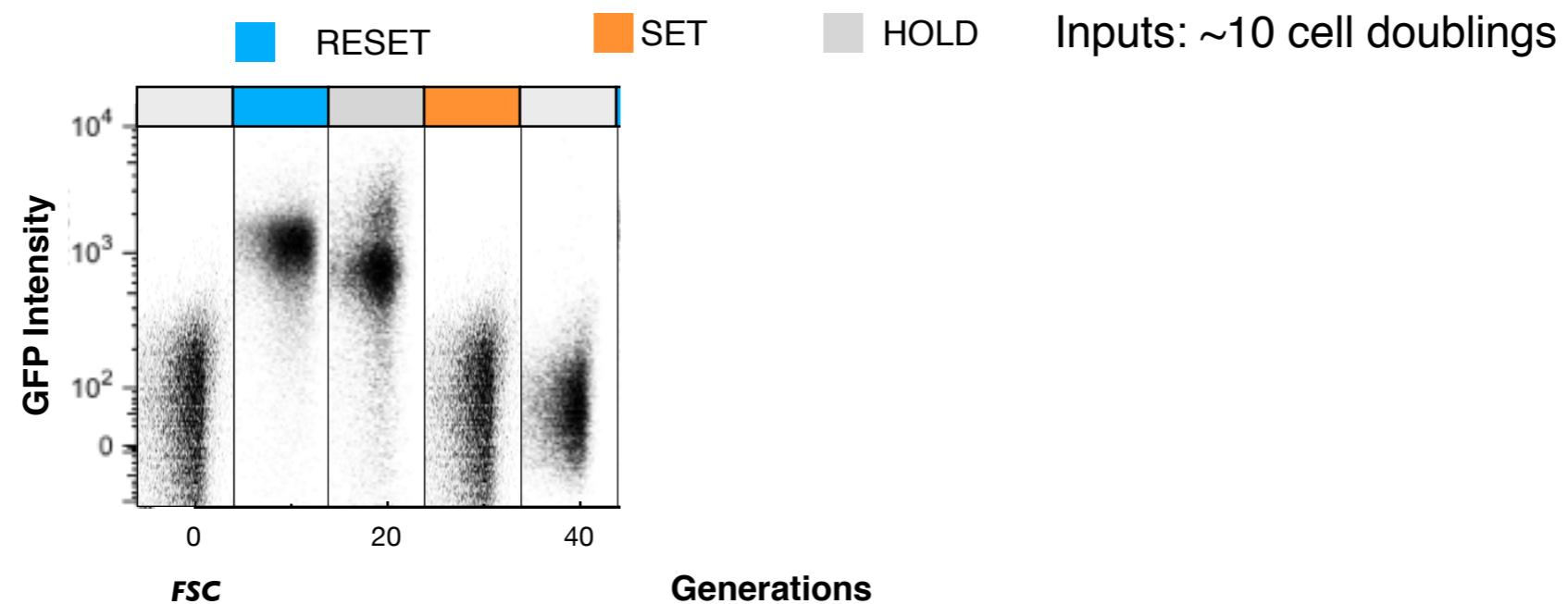


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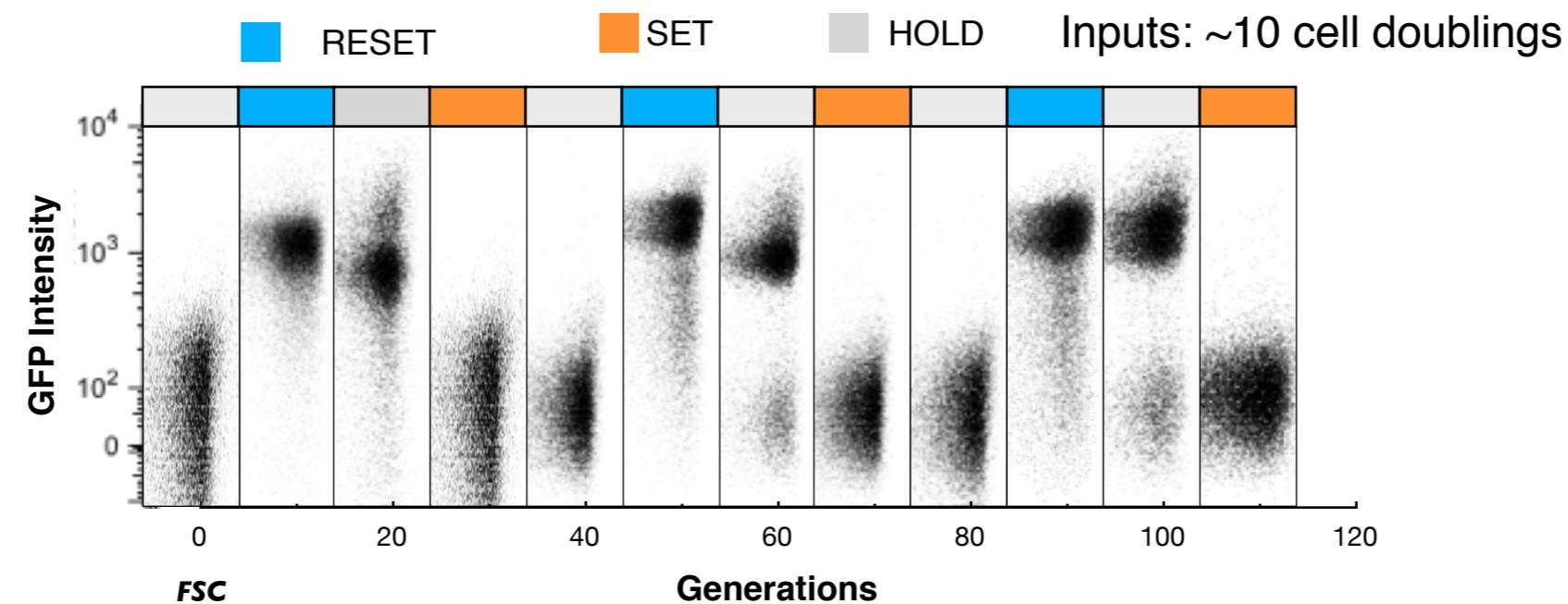
3 years, 750 attempts later...



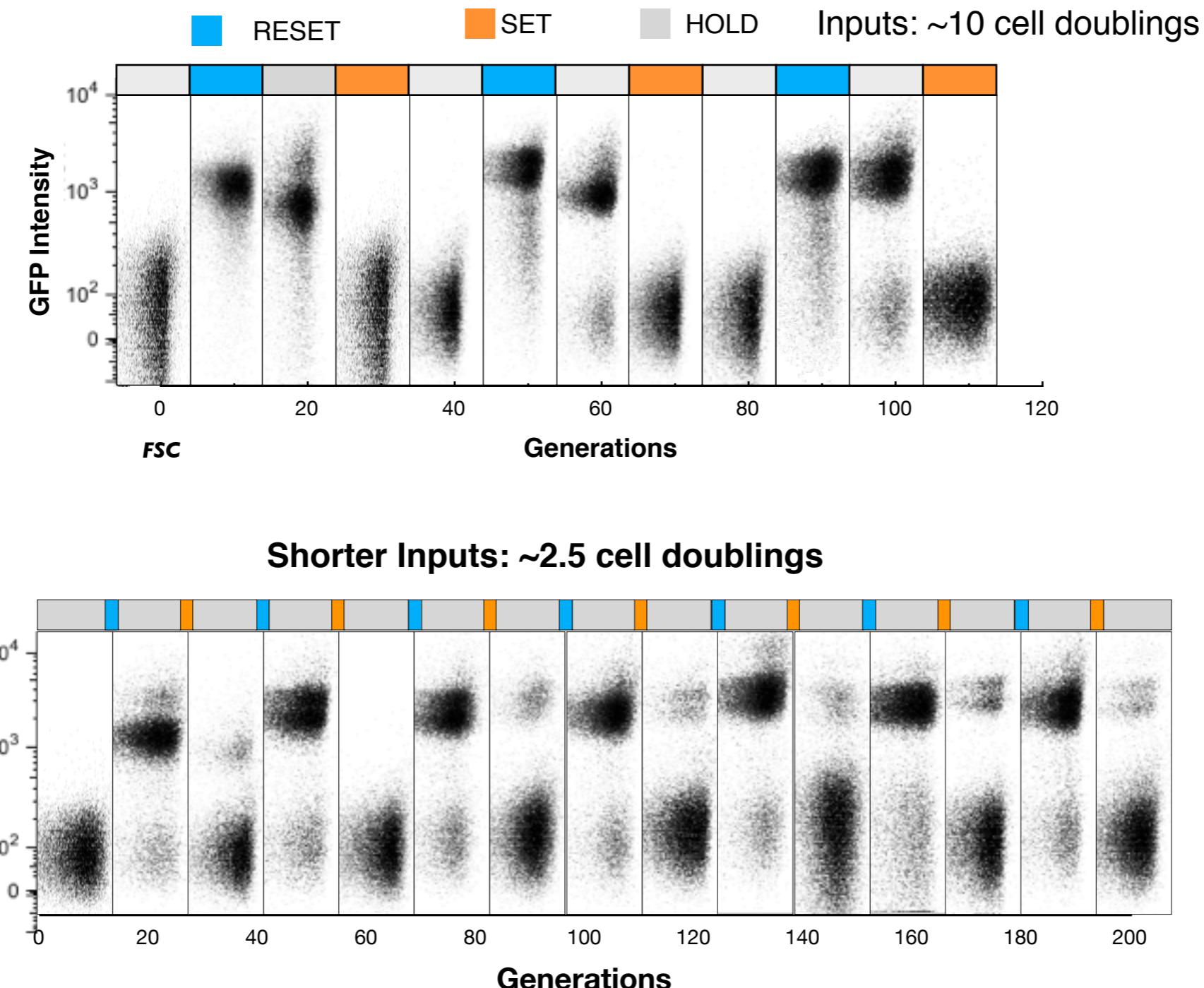
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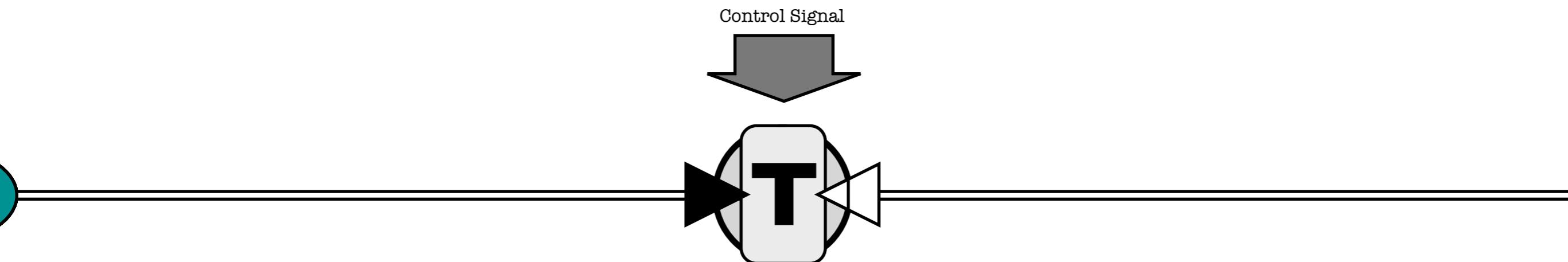
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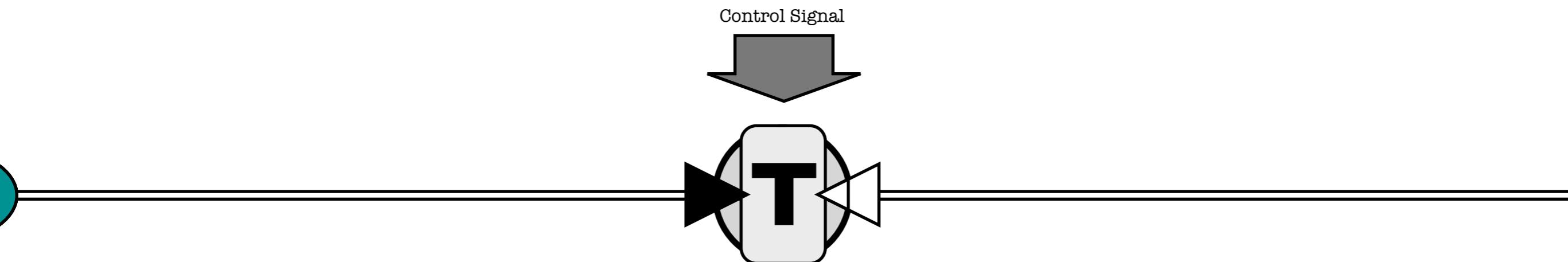
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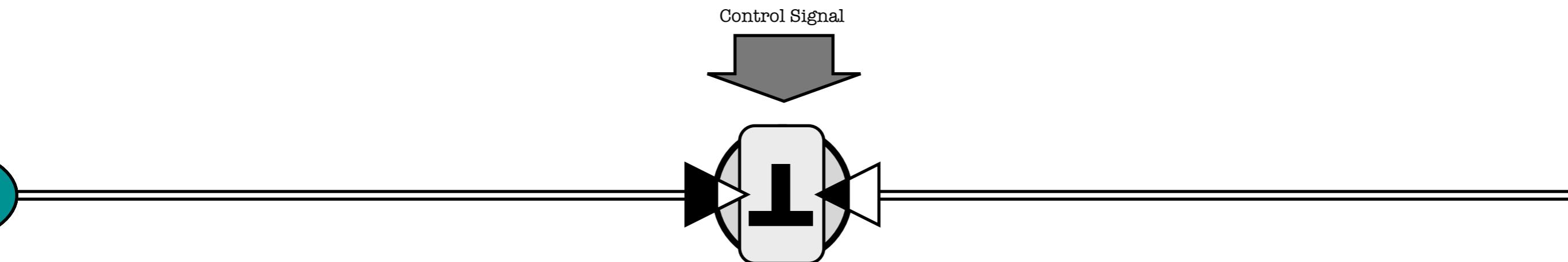
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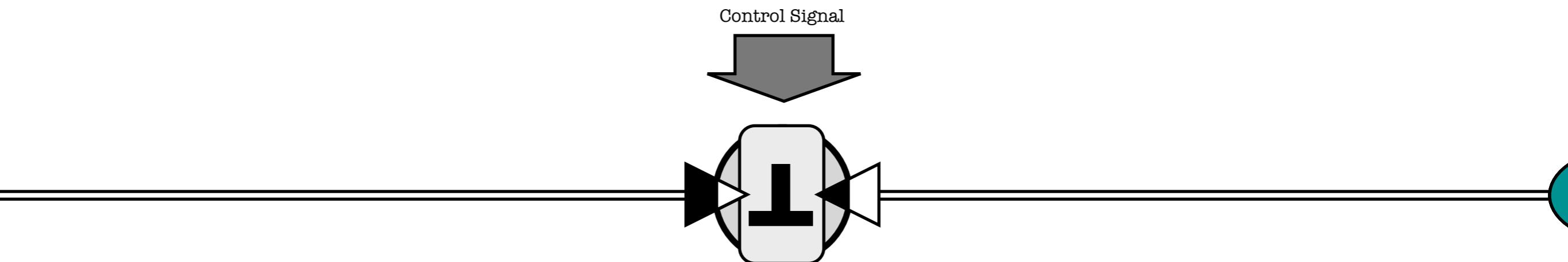
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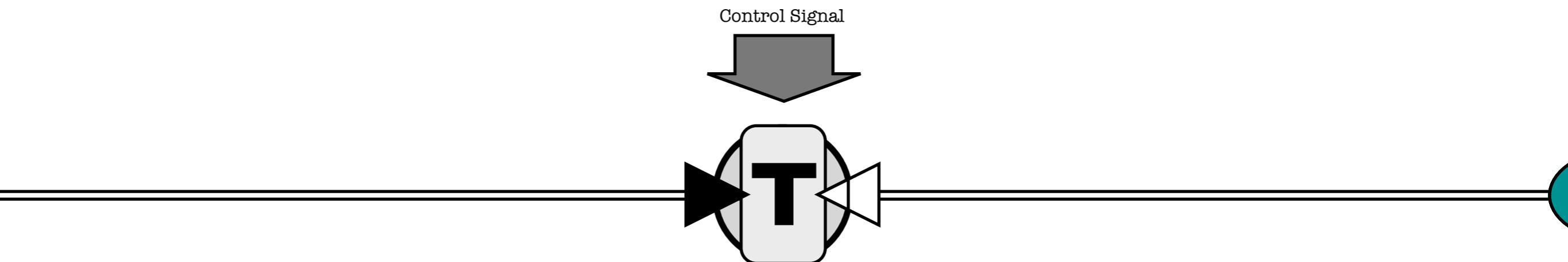
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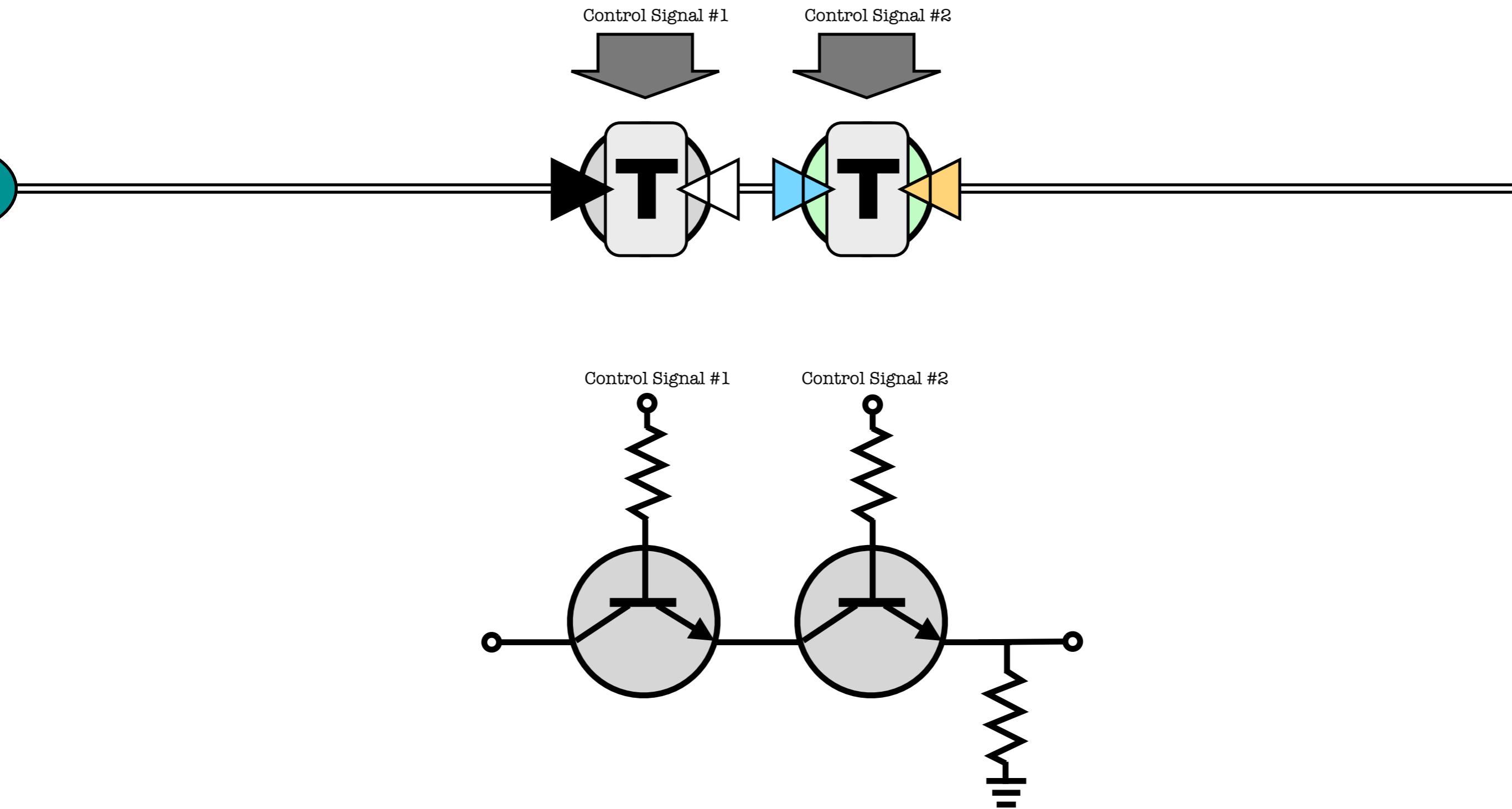
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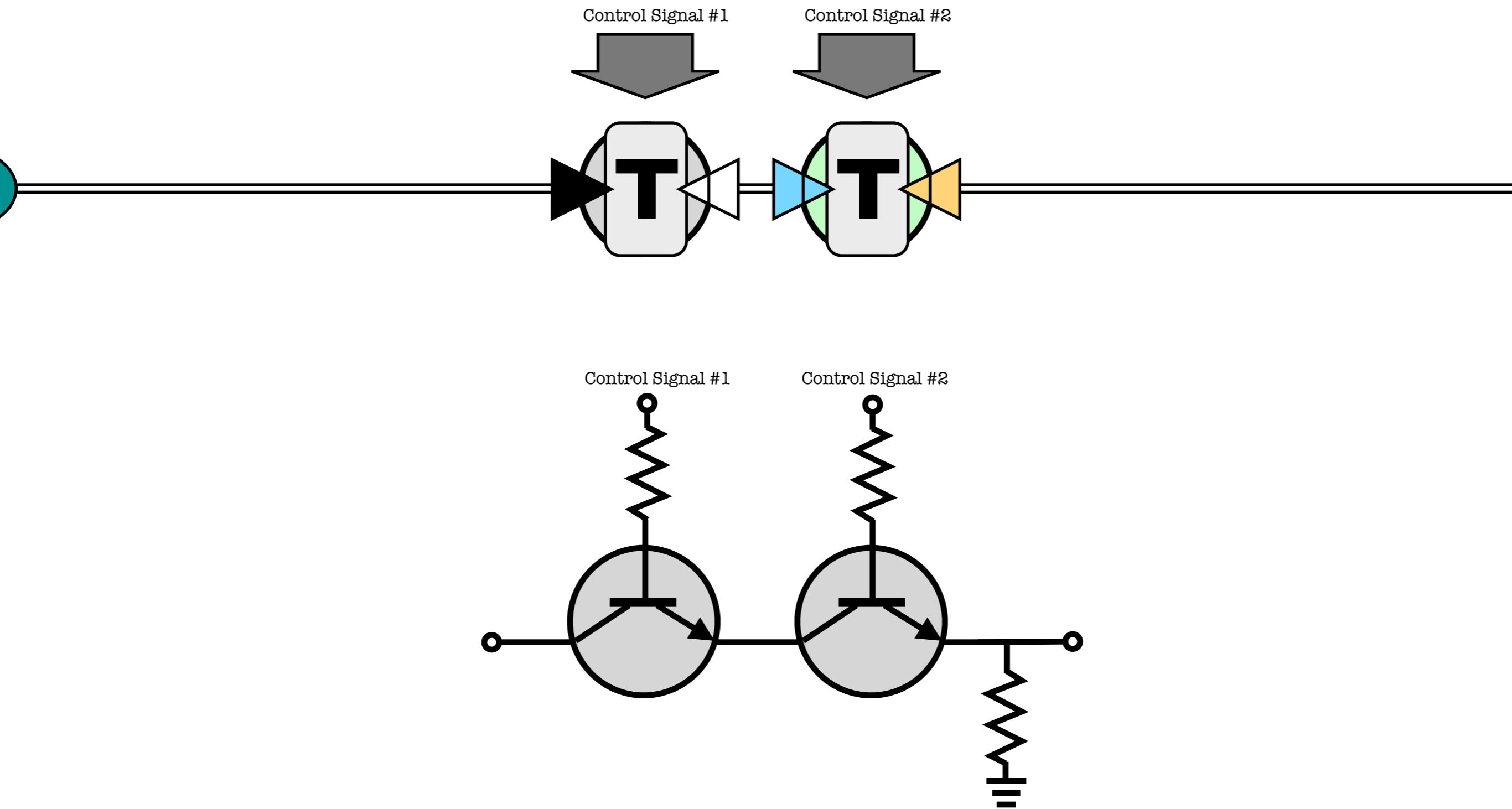
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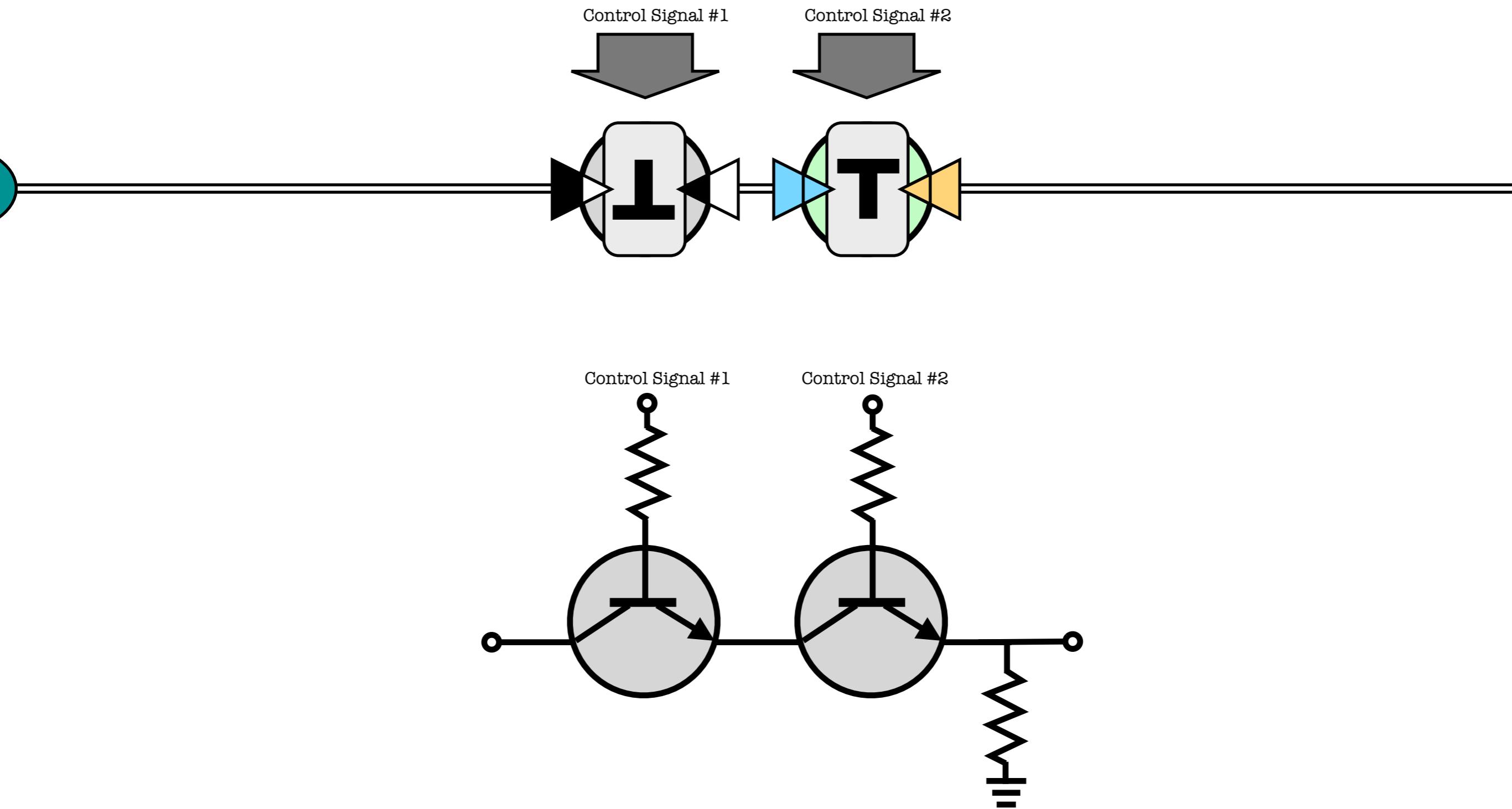
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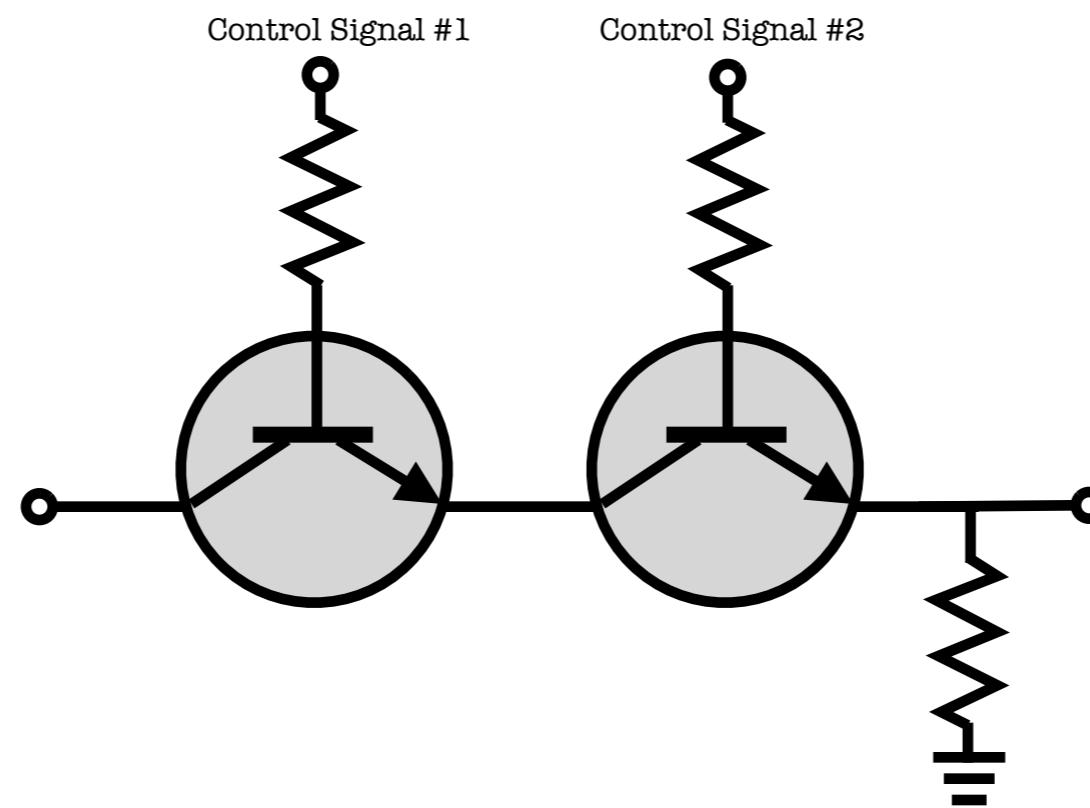
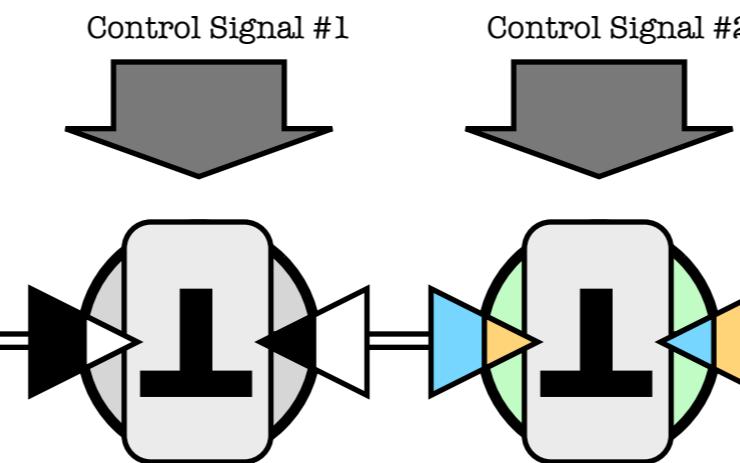
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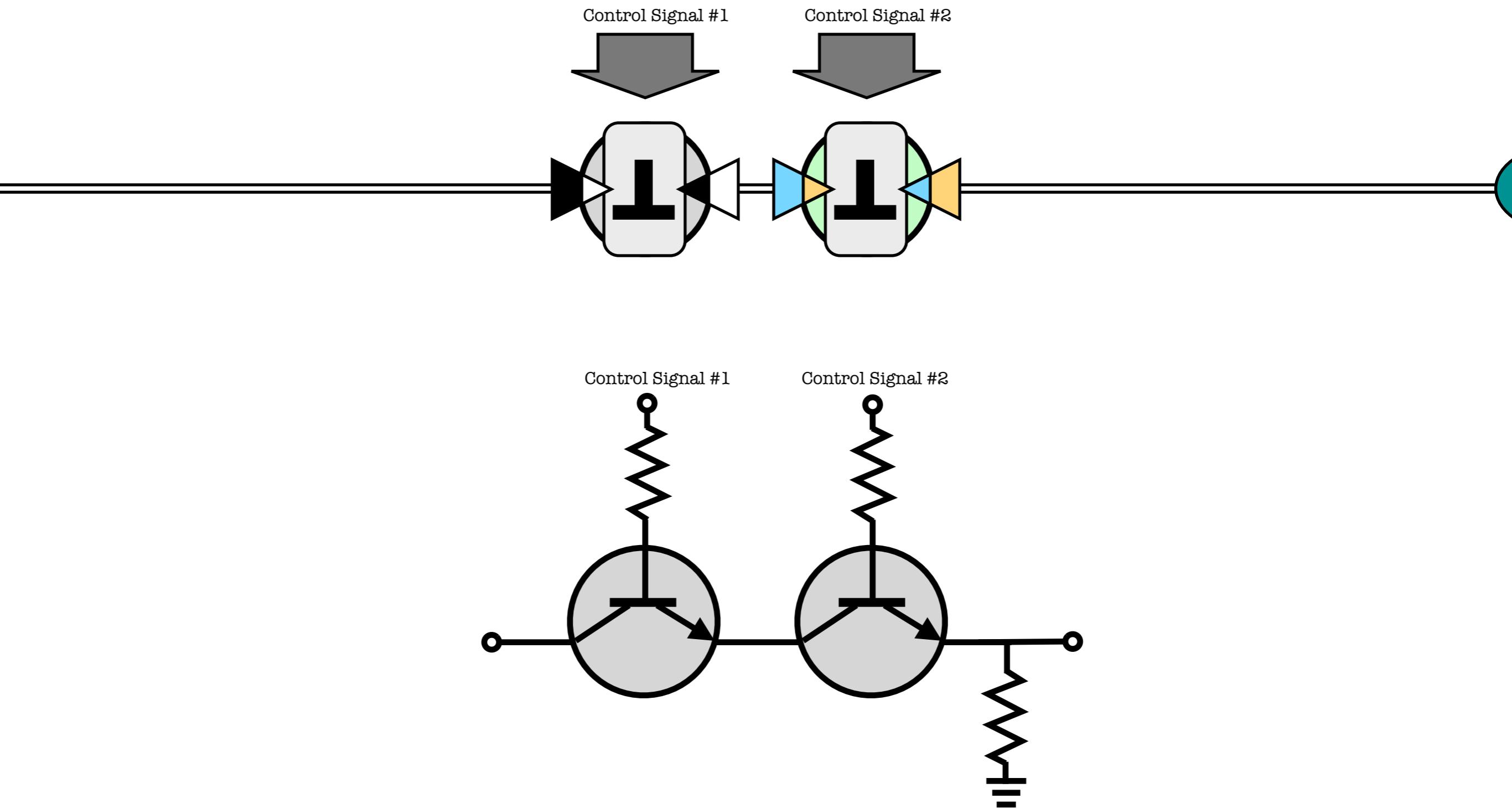
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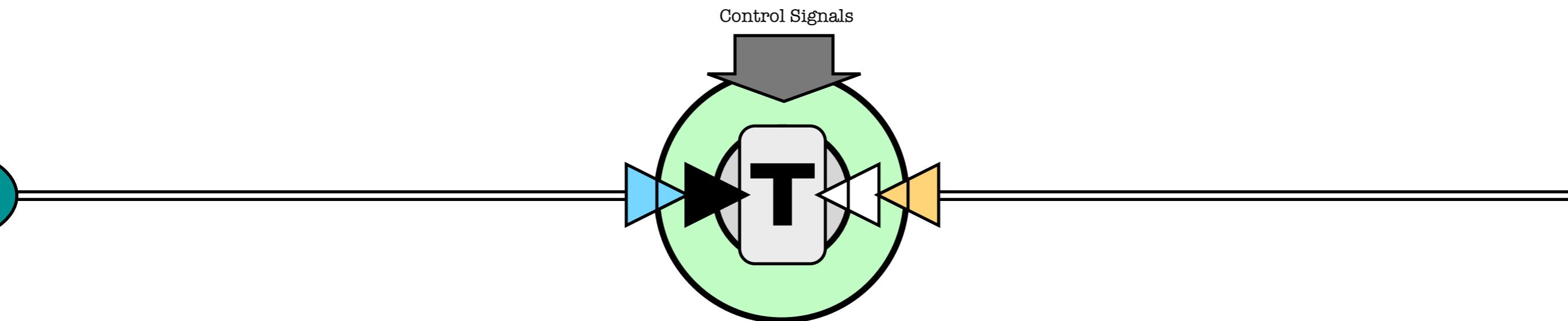
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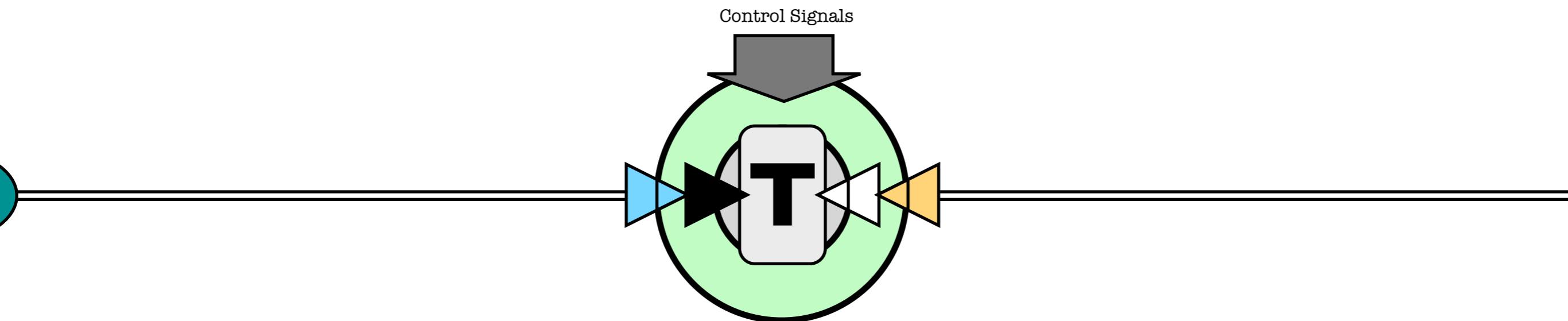
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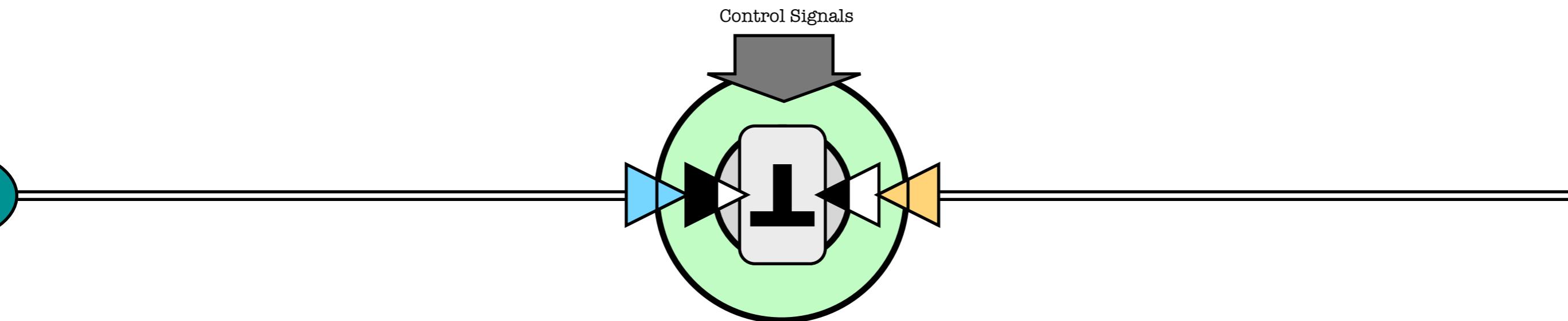
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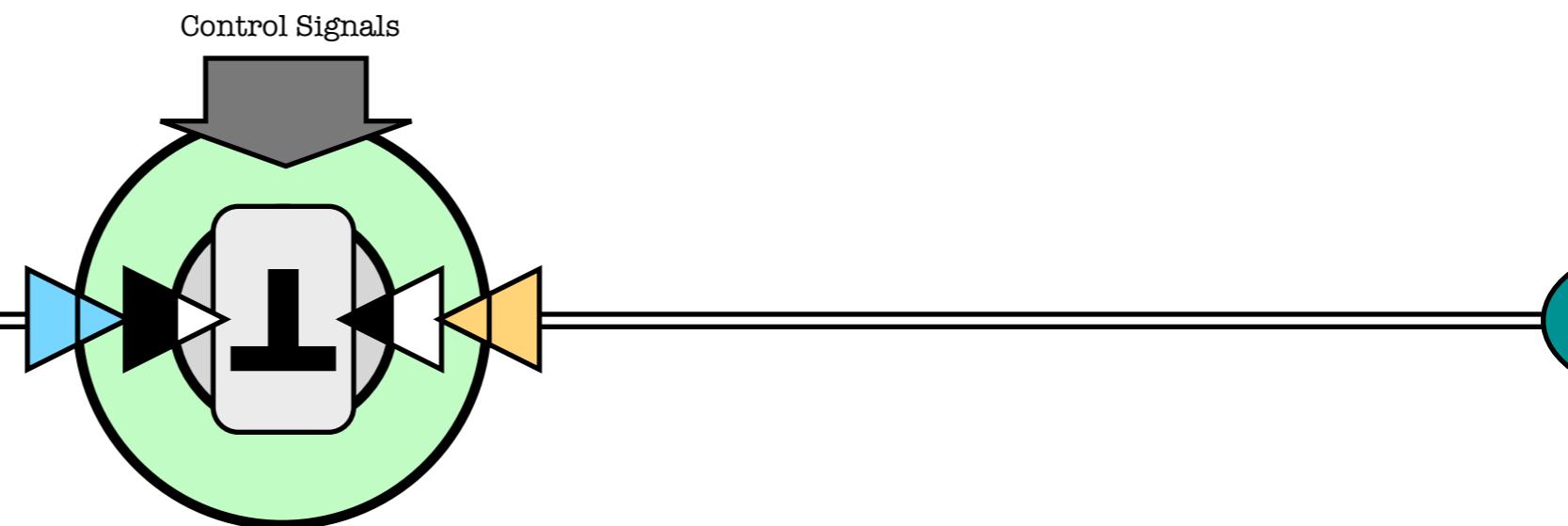
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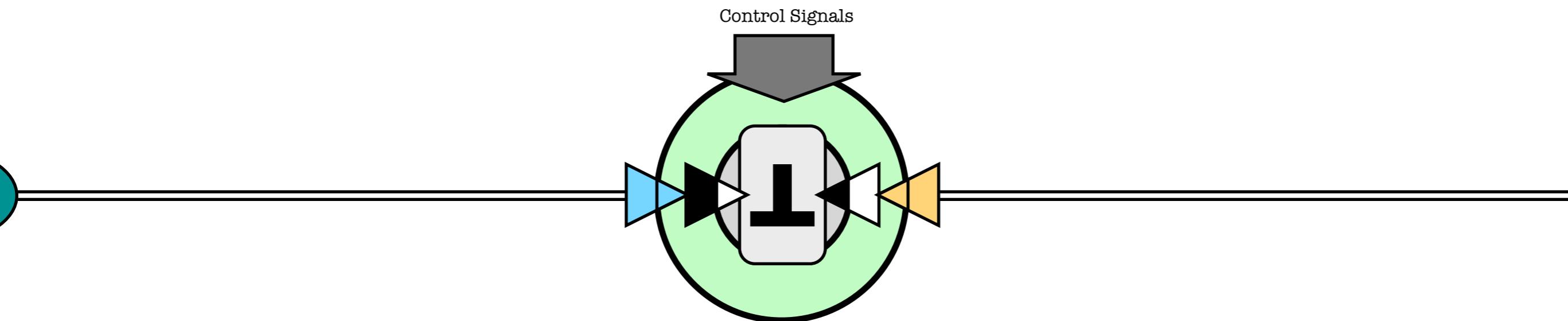
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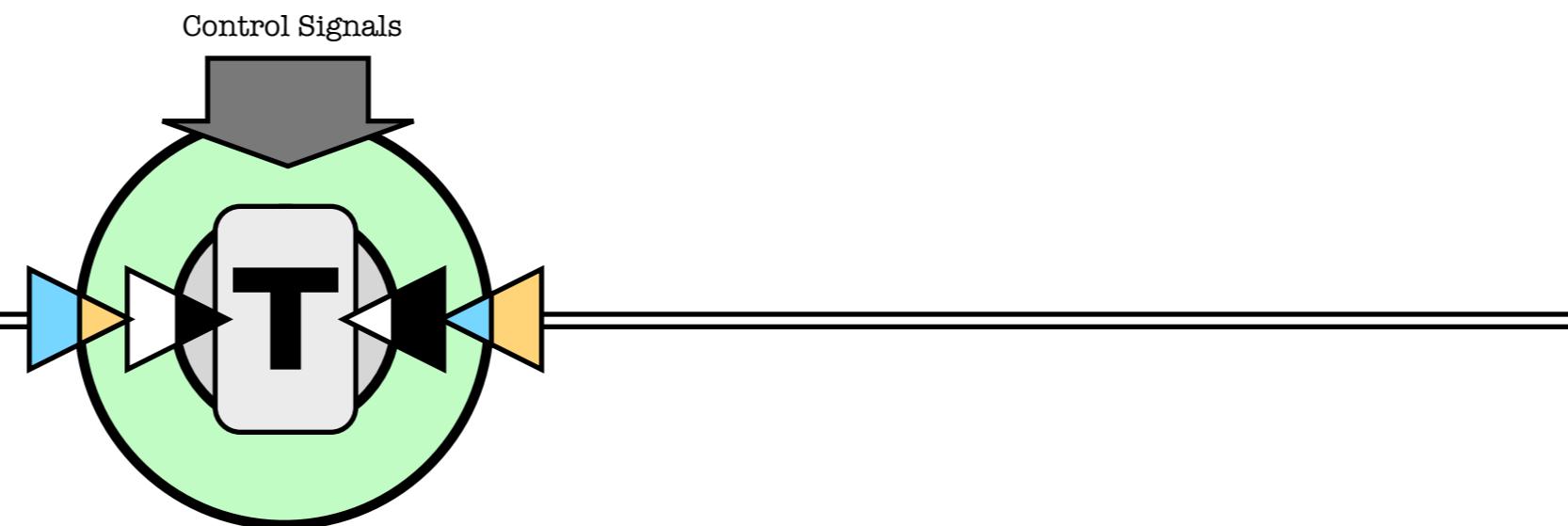
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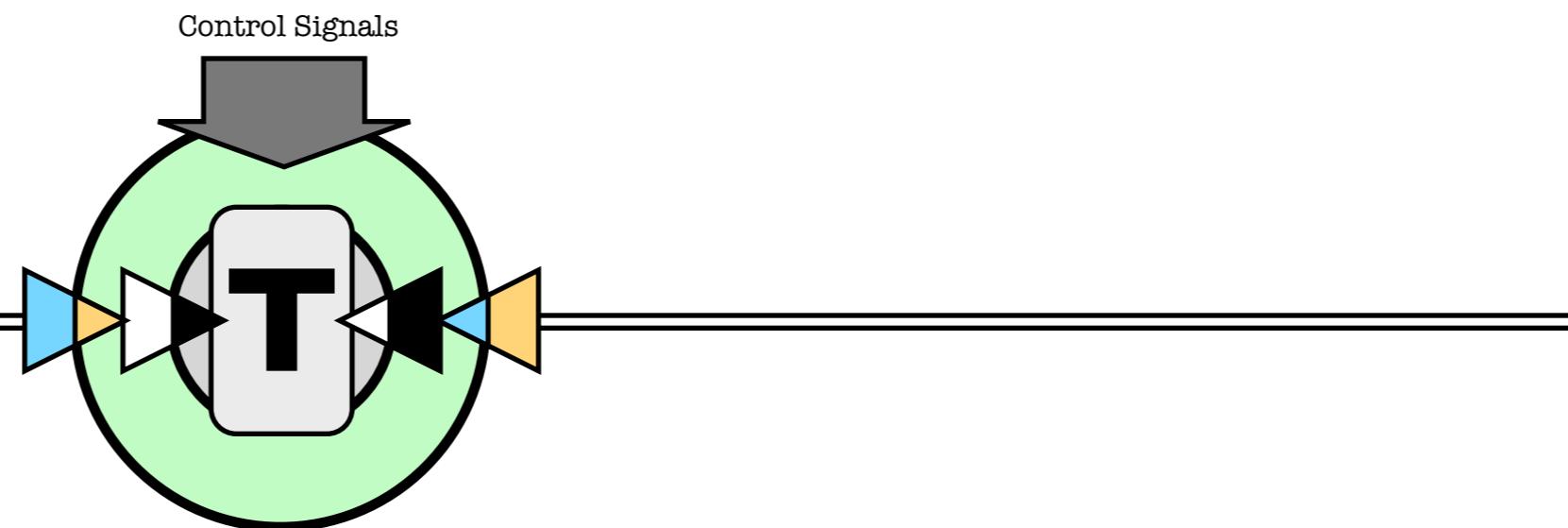
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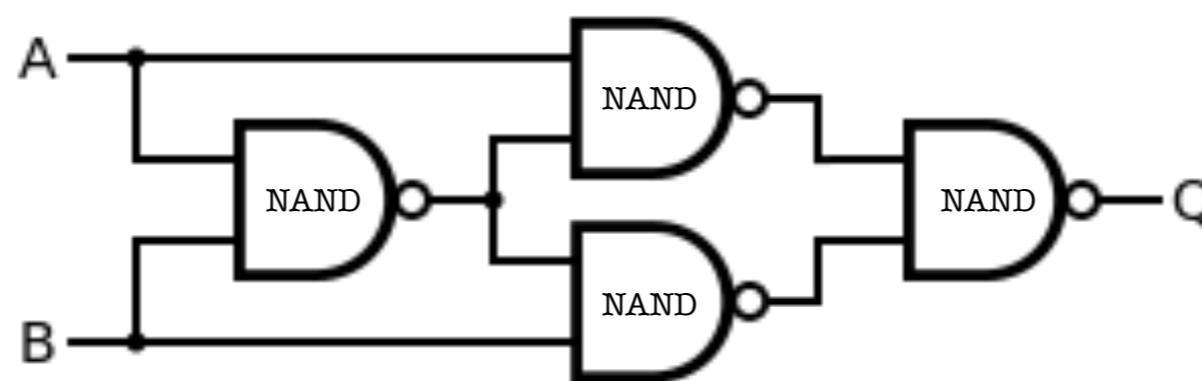
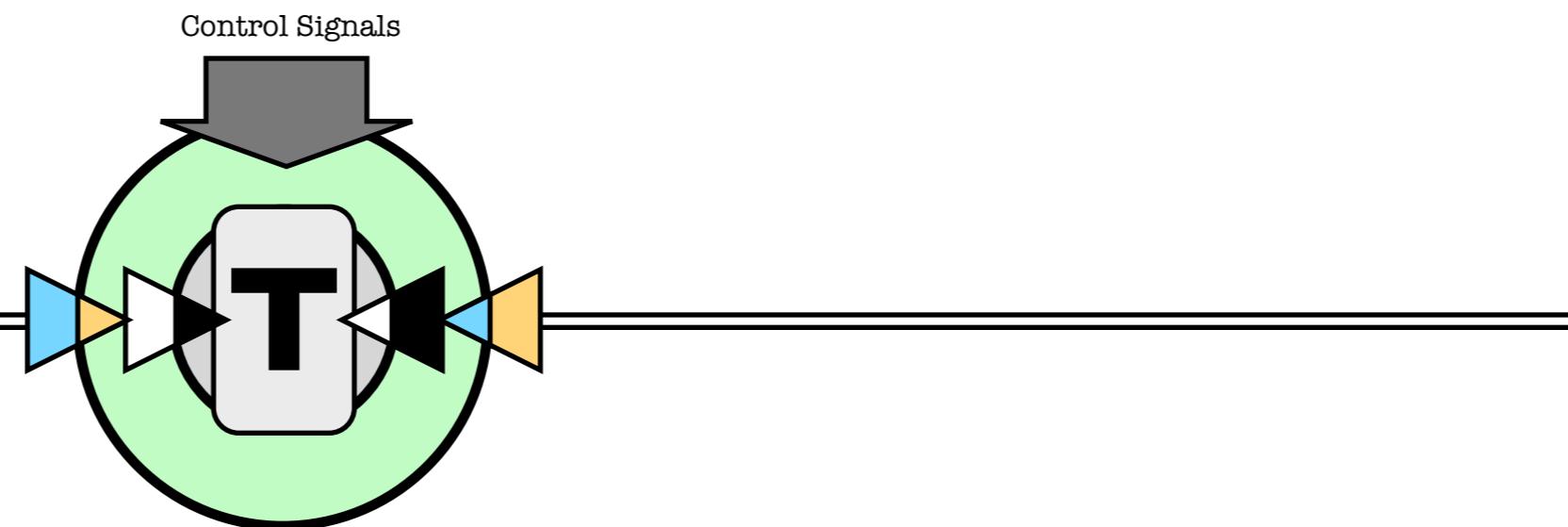
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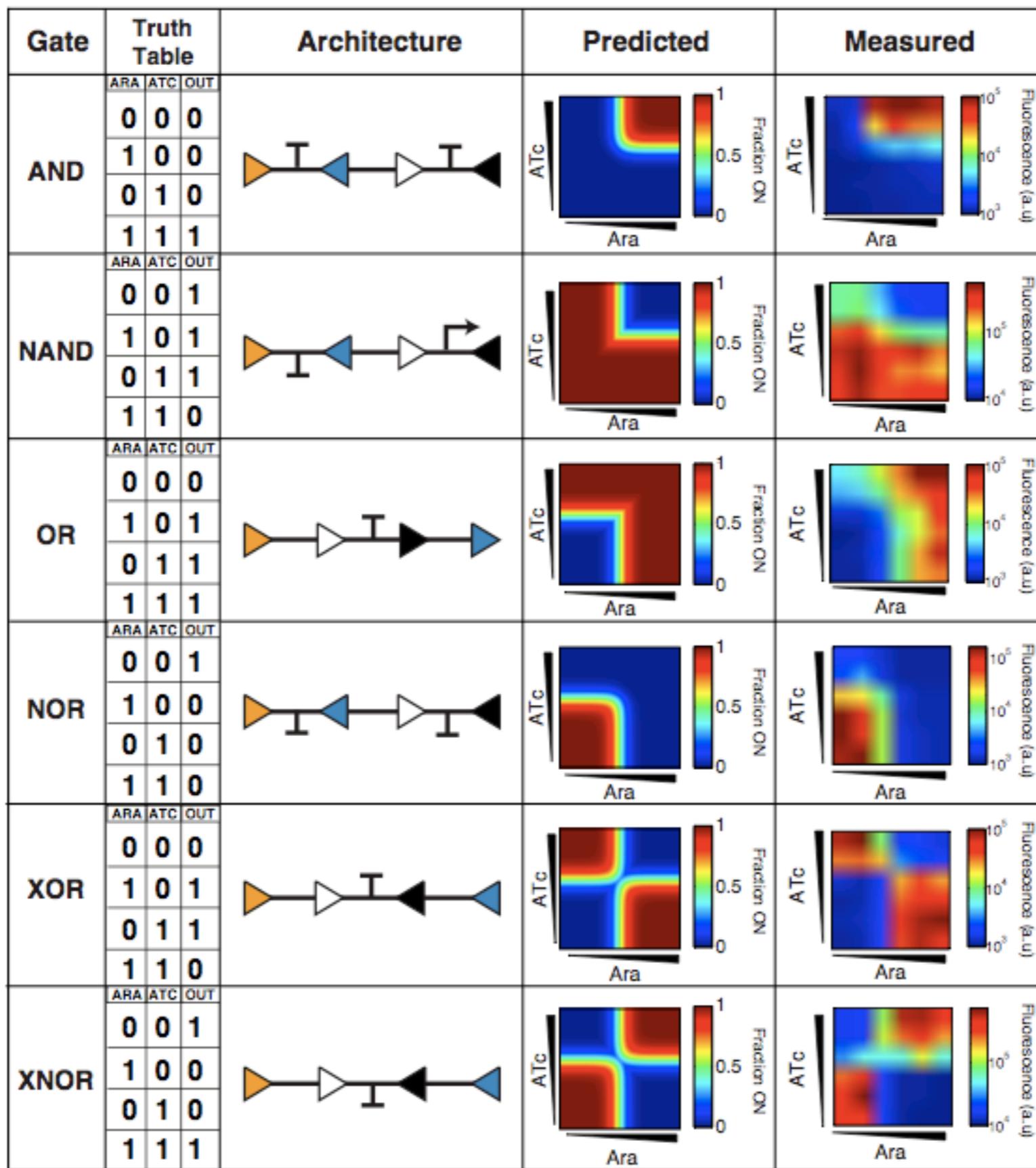


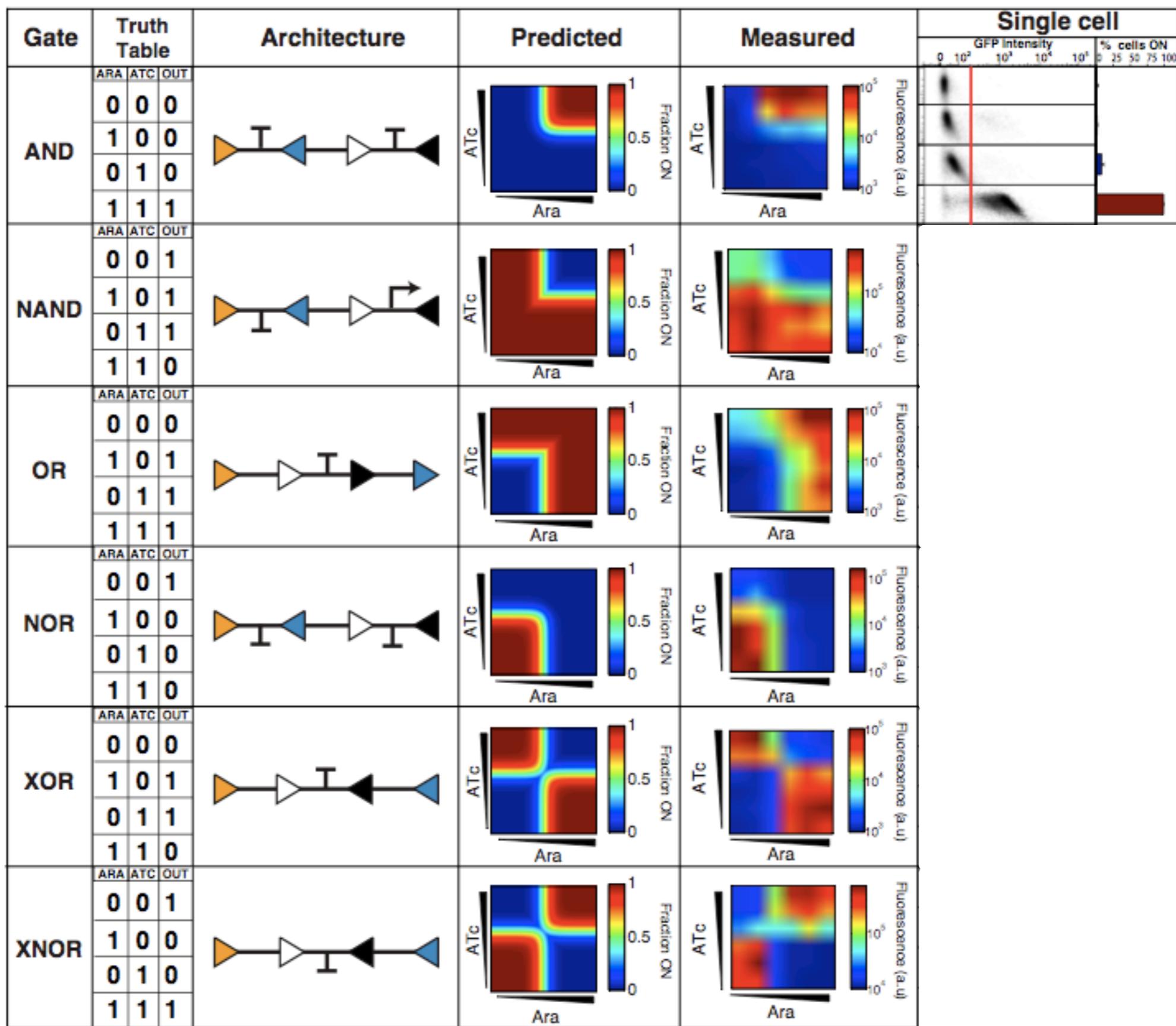
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	0	1	1	
OR	ARA	ATC	OUT	
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	1	0	1	
	0	1	1	
NOR	ARA	ATC	OUT	
	0	0	1	
	1	0	0	
	0	1	0	
XOR	ARA	ATC	OUT	
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	1	0	1	
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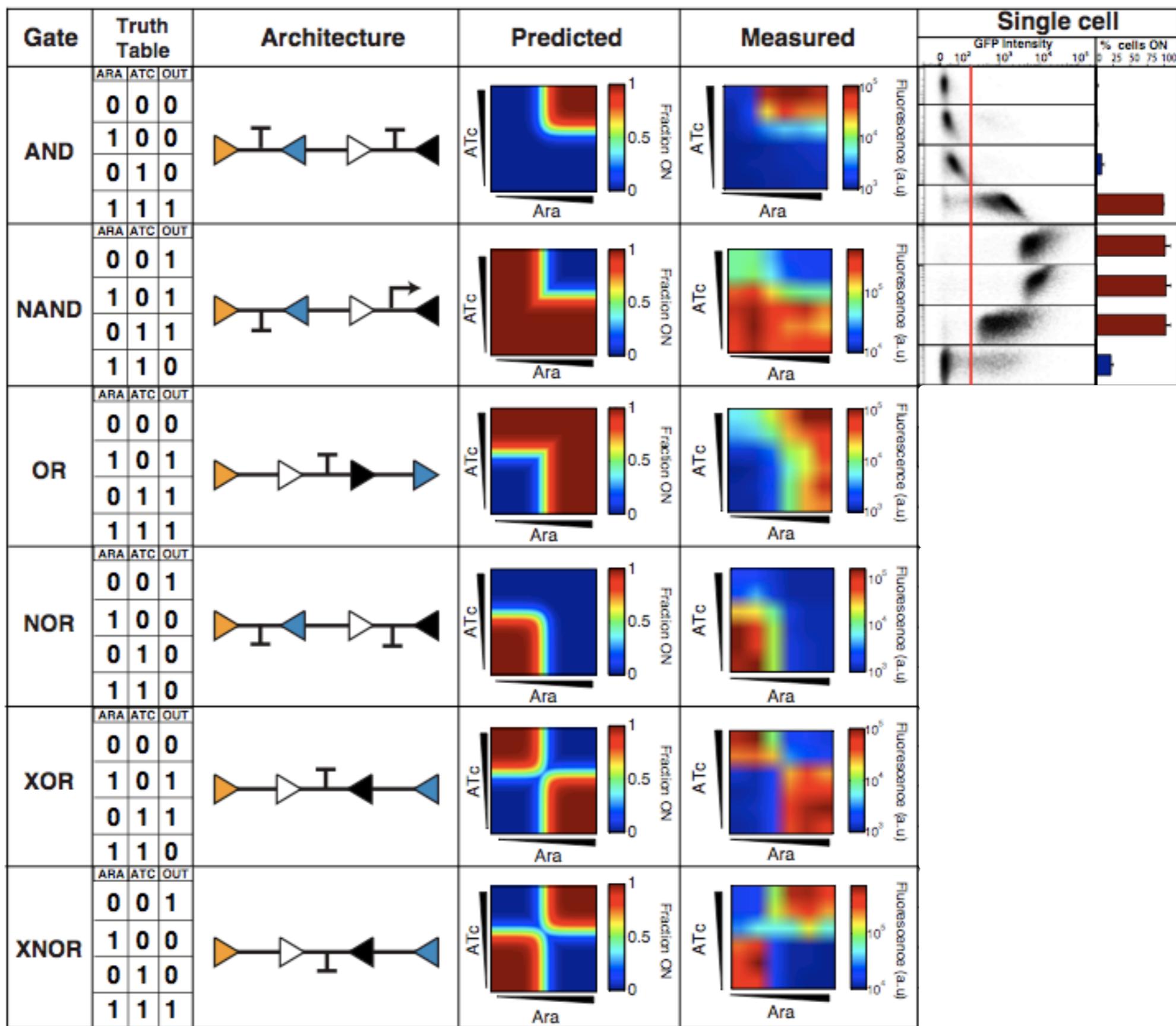


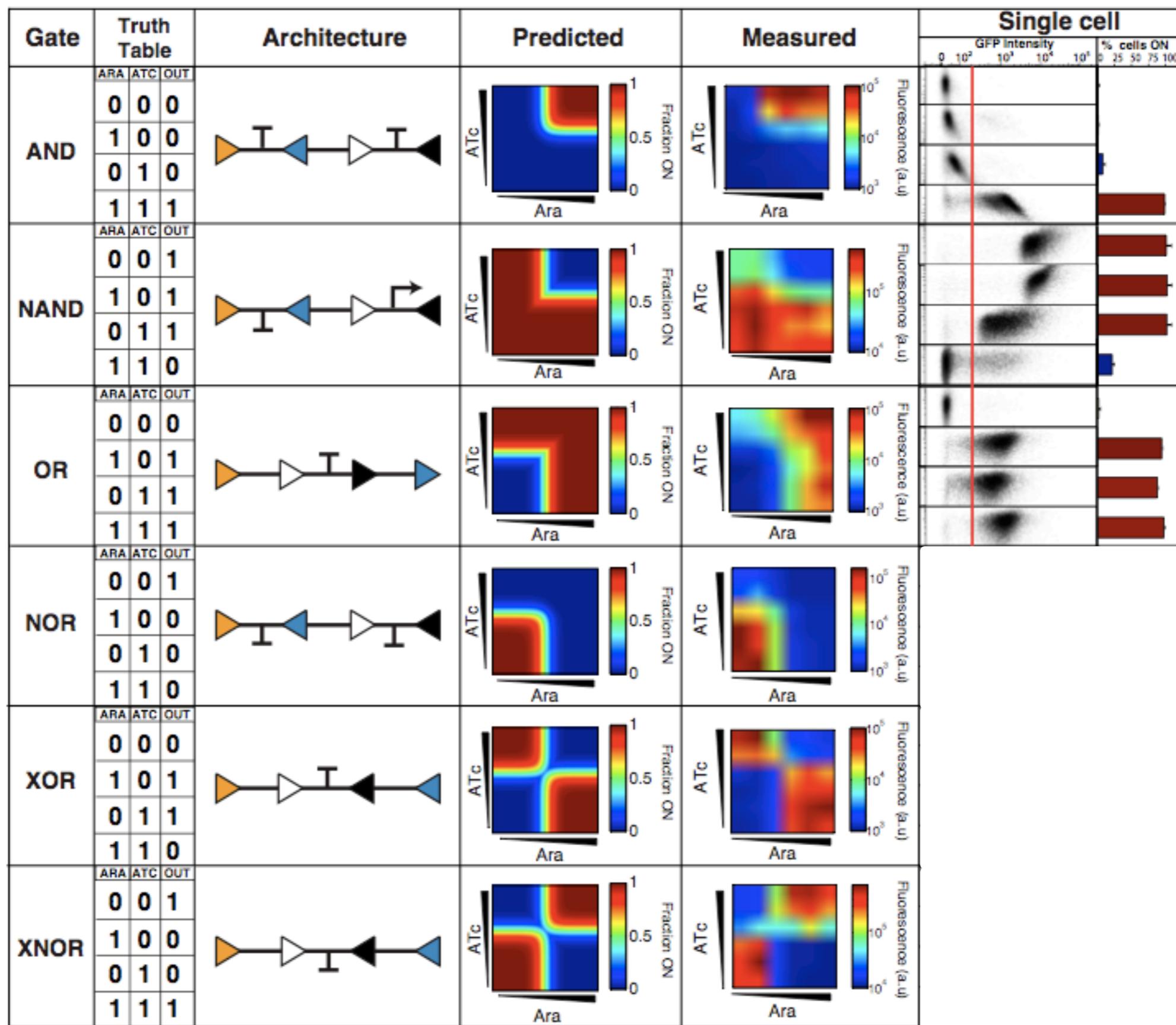
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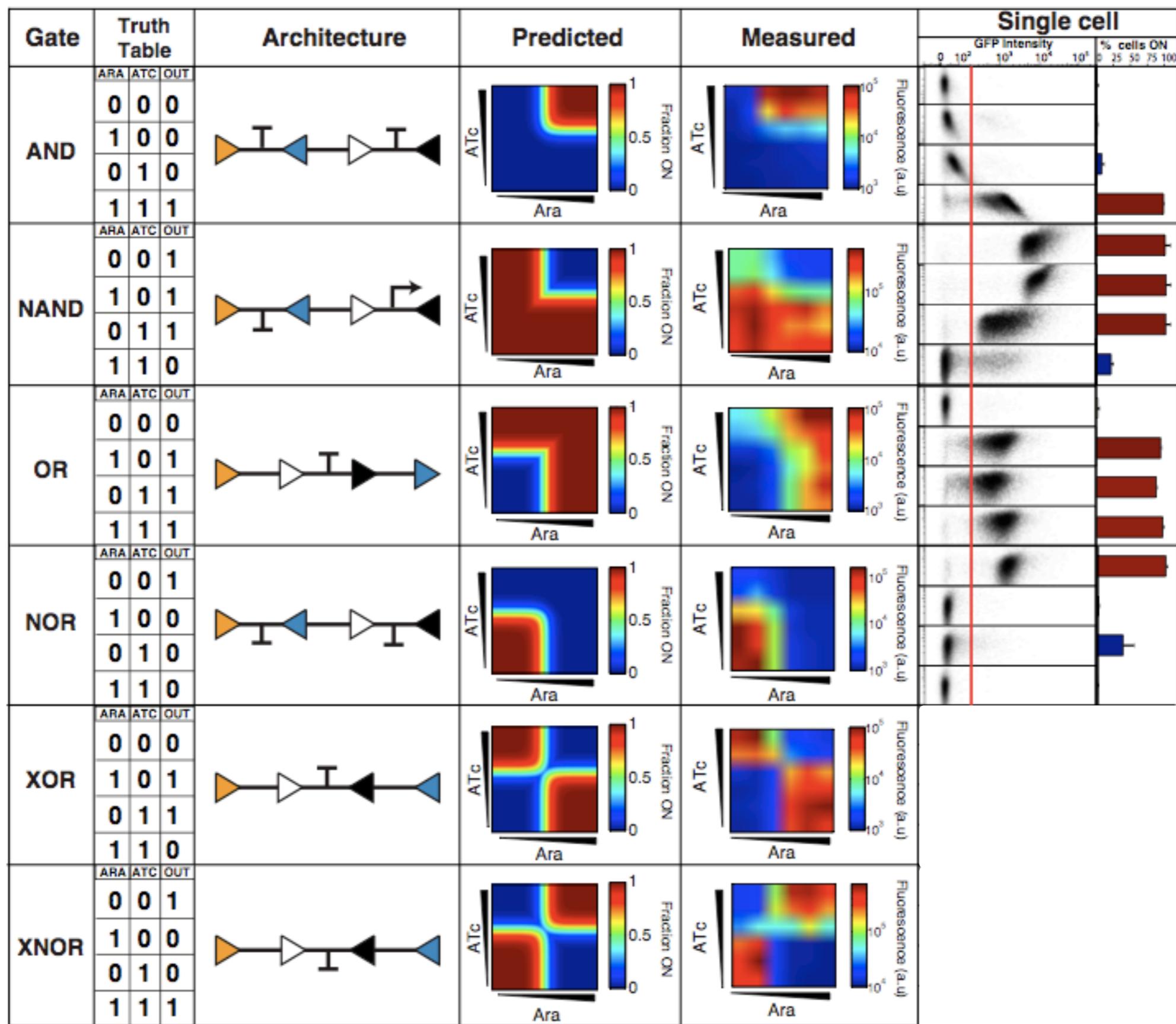


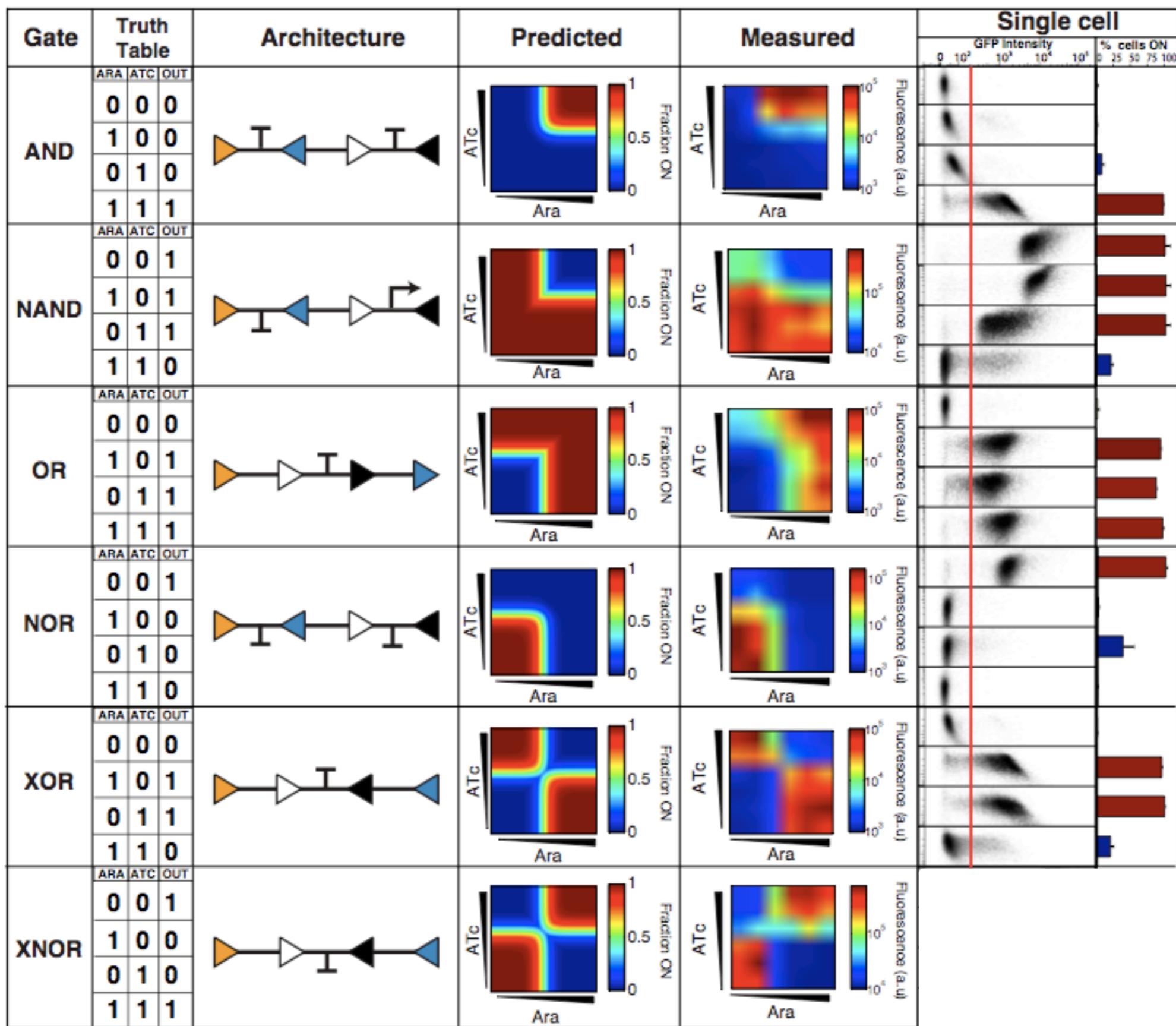


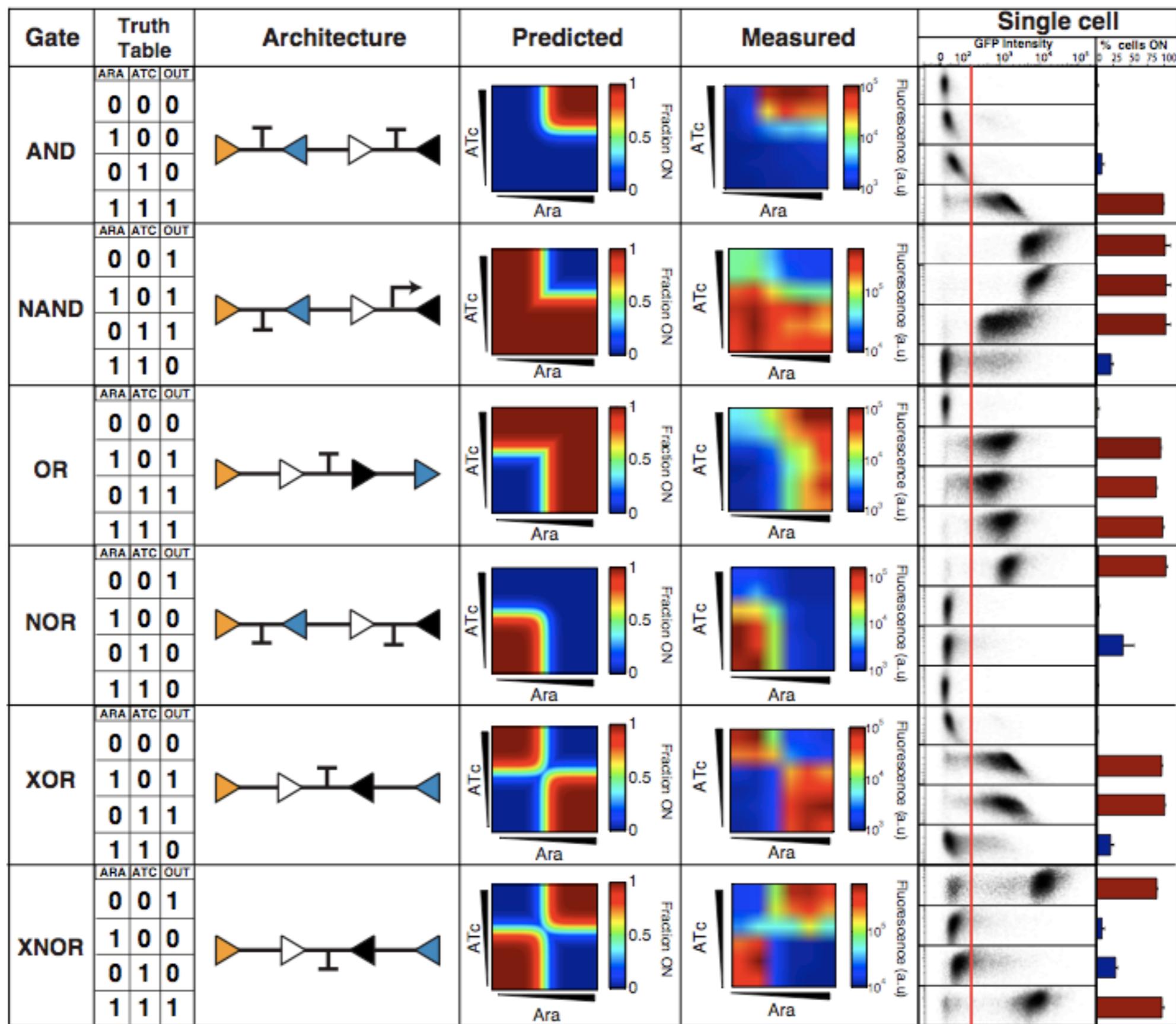




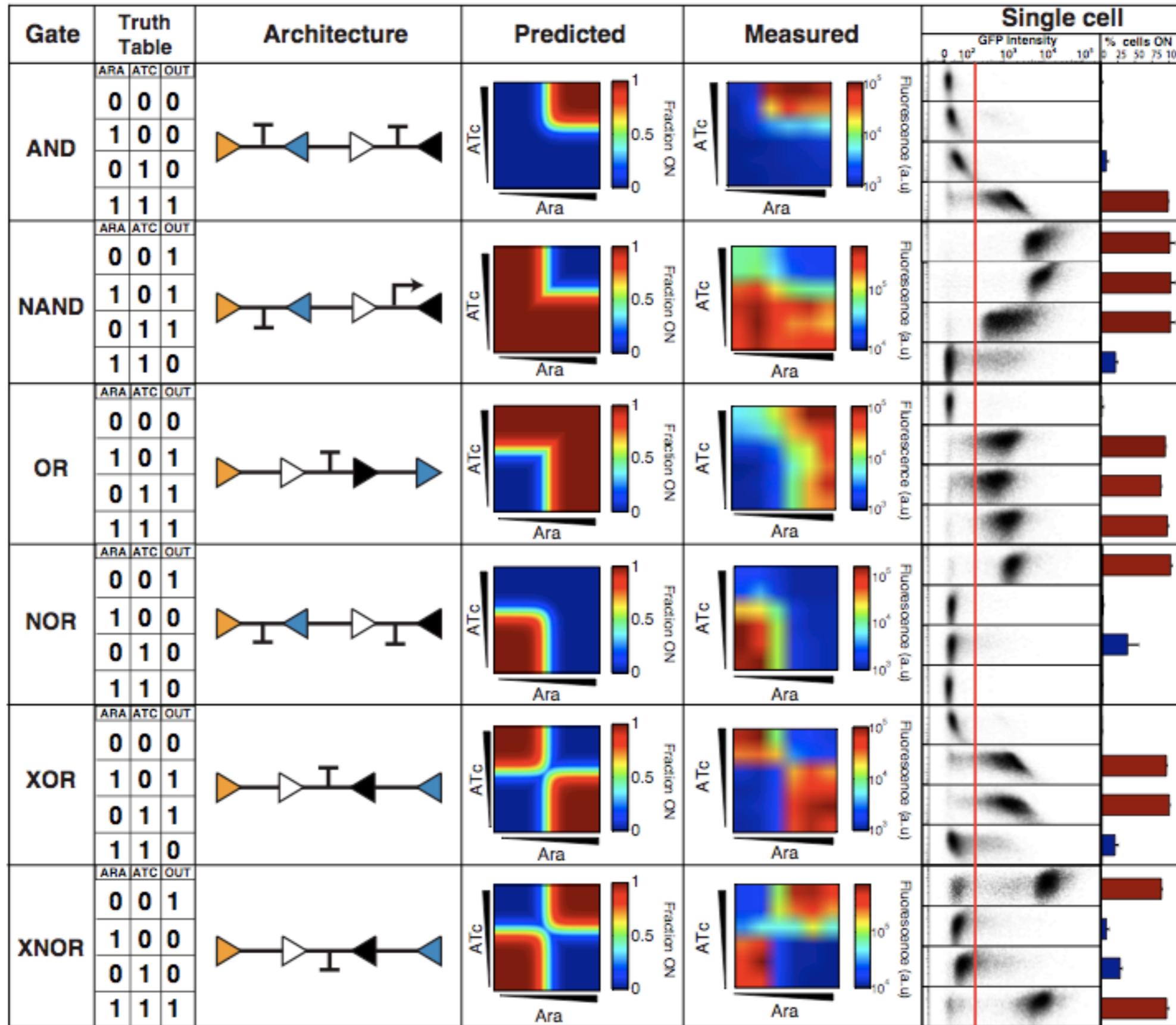






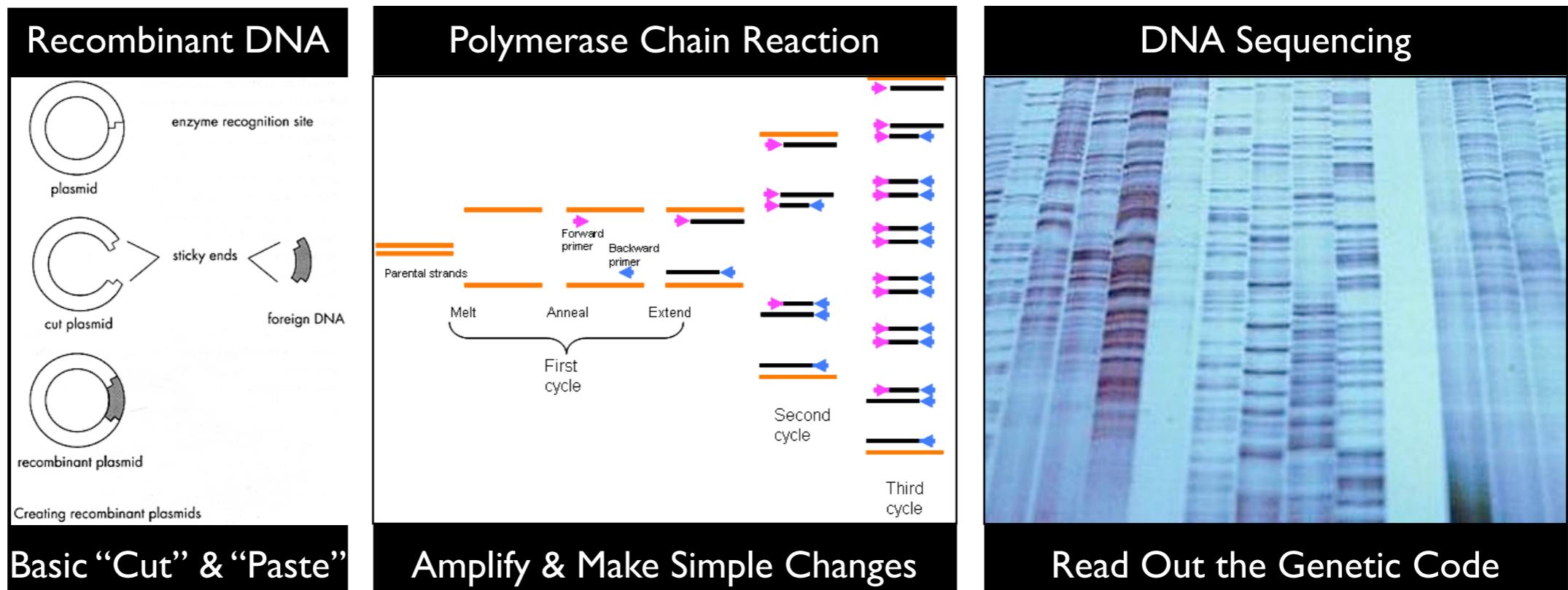


Boolean Integrase Logic (BIL) gates



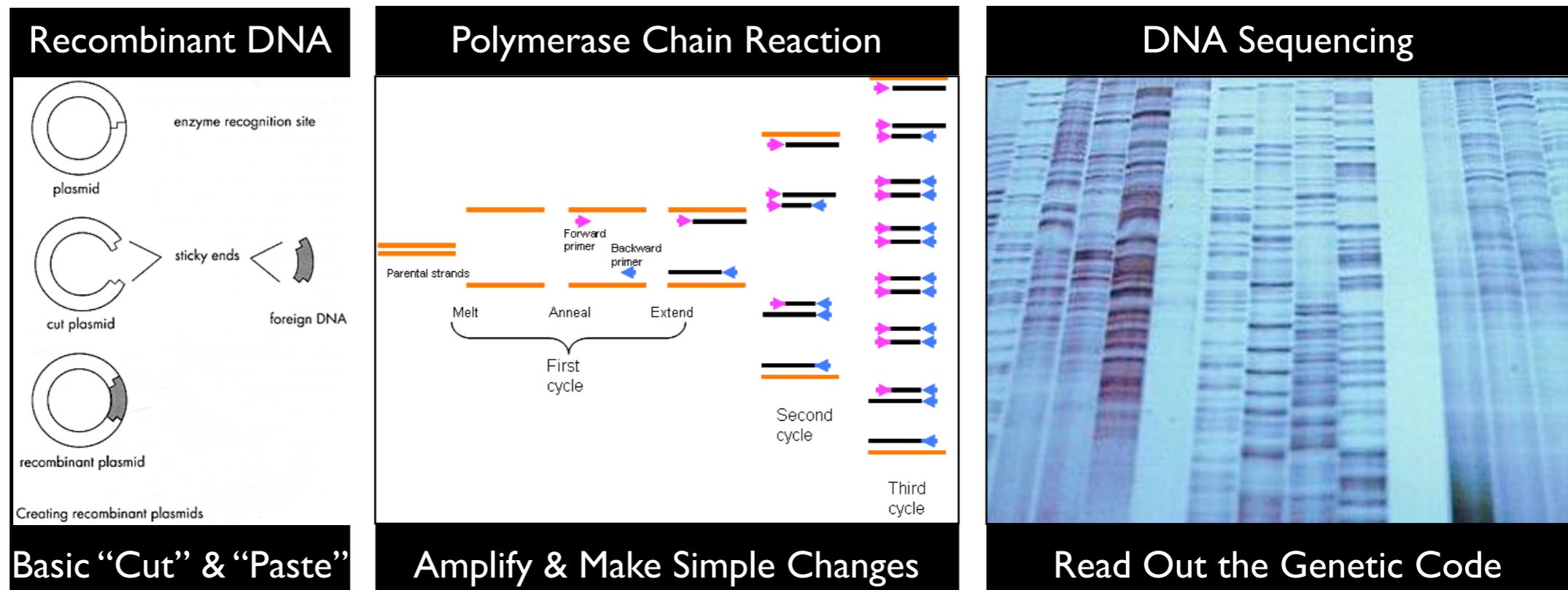
From genetic engineering to synthetic biology

**Genetic
Engr.** =



From genetic engineering to synthetic biology

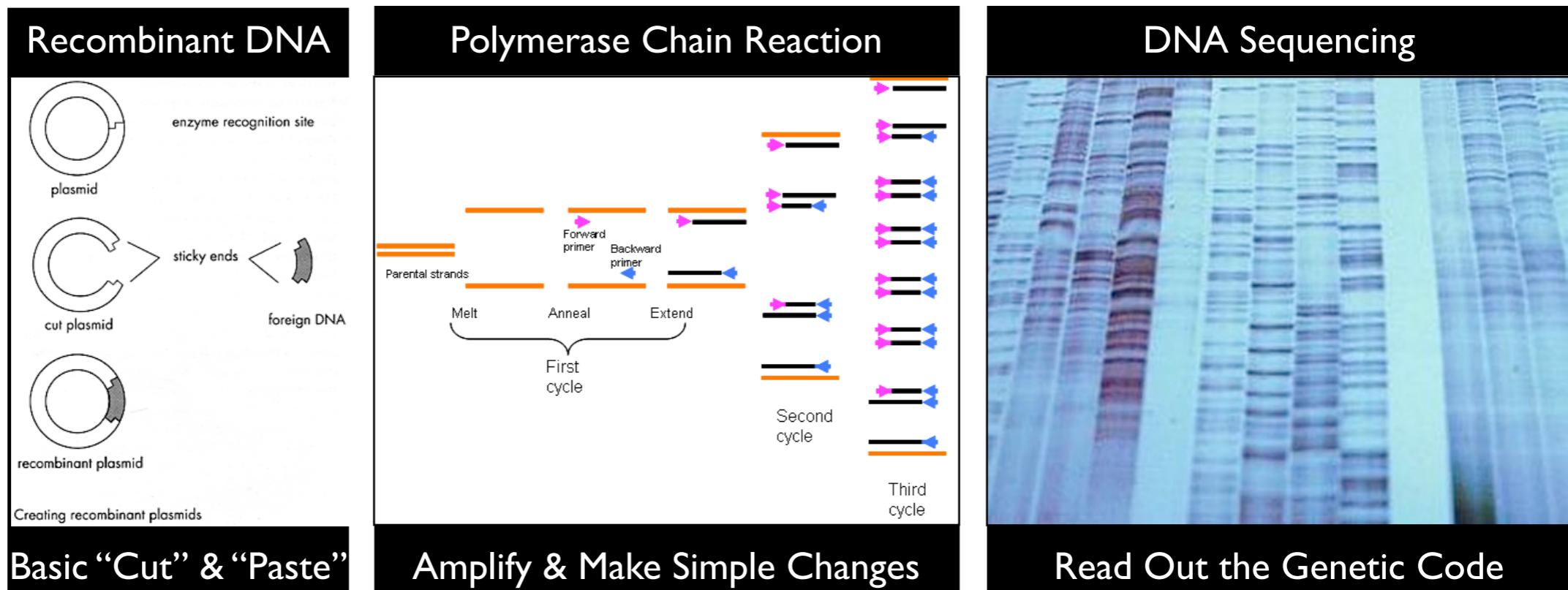
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Synth. =
Biology =

From genetic engineering to synthetic biology

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Engr. =

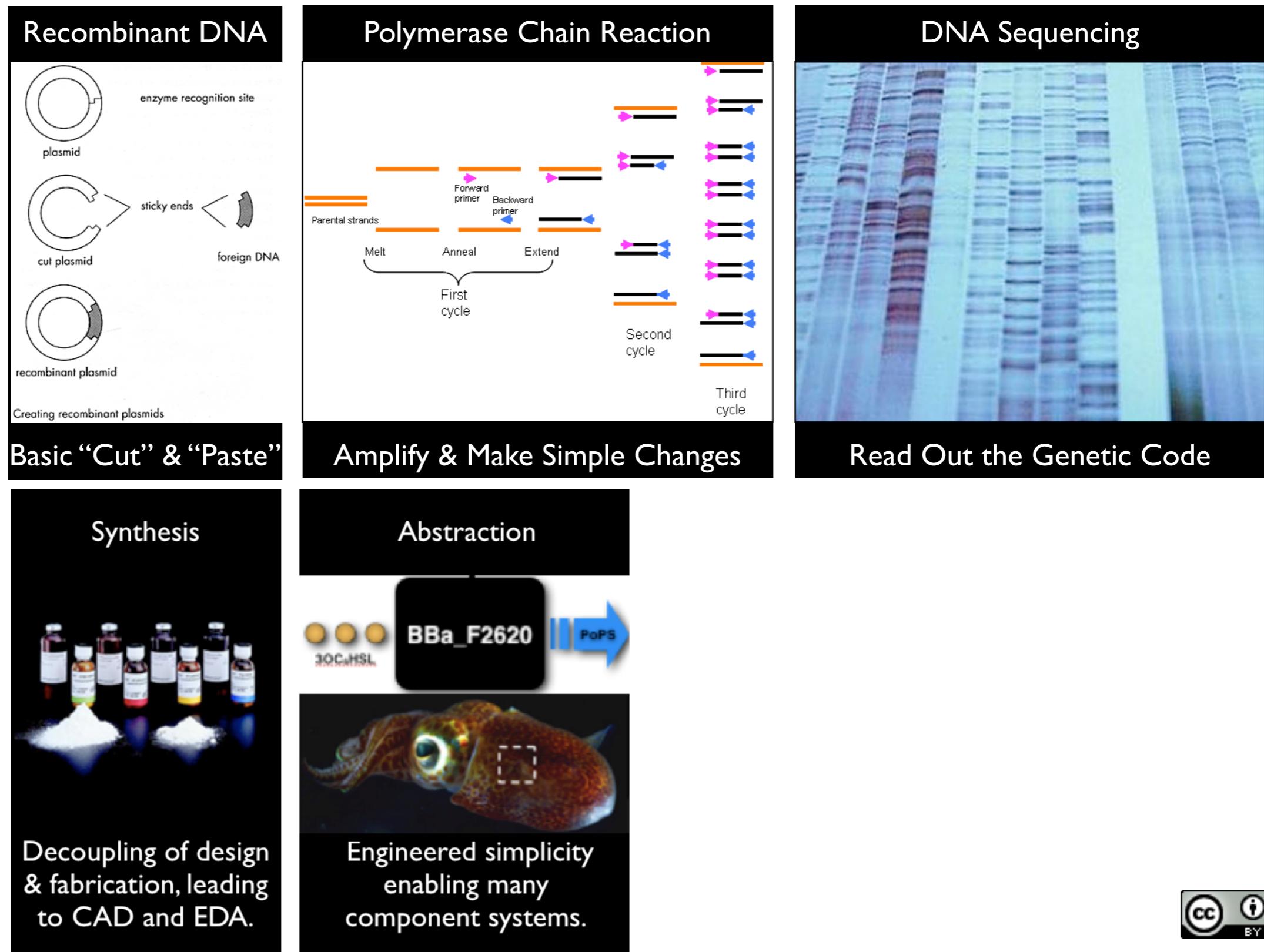


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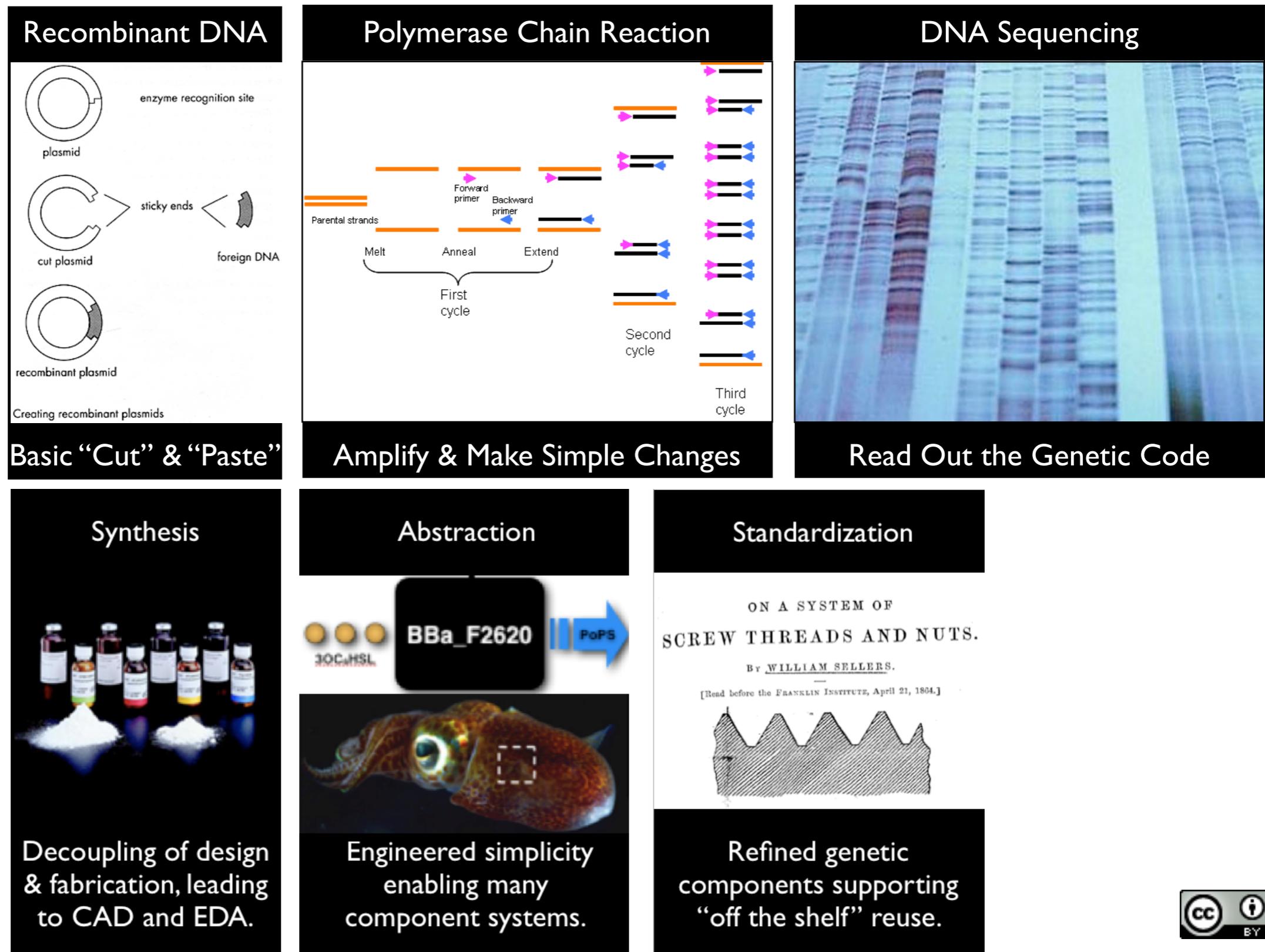
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