

FAST and PARTIAL FLIGHT OVER GENETICS

First part

Peculiarity of the genetic approach

**Relationship between genotype and
phenotype**

Second part

DNA as the genetic material

DNA structure and function

Third part

Genetic markers and their use

Genetic maps and their use

SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS - 1

Genetics: the study of biological inheritance

Genotype: the genetic constitution of a CELL or ORGANISM. It can refer to single or multiple genes

Phenotype: the observable characteristics of a CELL or ORGANISM including the result of tests and/or measurements

Gene:

1. an hereditary unit
2. a functional DNA unit
3. a factor that controls a phenotype and segregates in pedigrees

Alleles: Alternative forms of the same gene

Genome: The whole DNA content, i.e. the genetic information

SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS – 2

Mutation: a HERITABLE alteration of a gene or chromosome or the genome

Mutant:

1. a biological entity with a change due to a mutation
2. a “changed” gene

Segregation: the distribution of allelic sequences between daughter cells at meiosis

Recombinant: a gamete that contains a combination of alleles that is different from the combination inherited by parents

GENOTYPE- PHENOTYPE RELATIONSHIP: STILL THE MAIN QUESTION

**To understand the nature of genetic variation,
which is at the basis of evolution**

DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

1. DARWINIAN SCHOOL

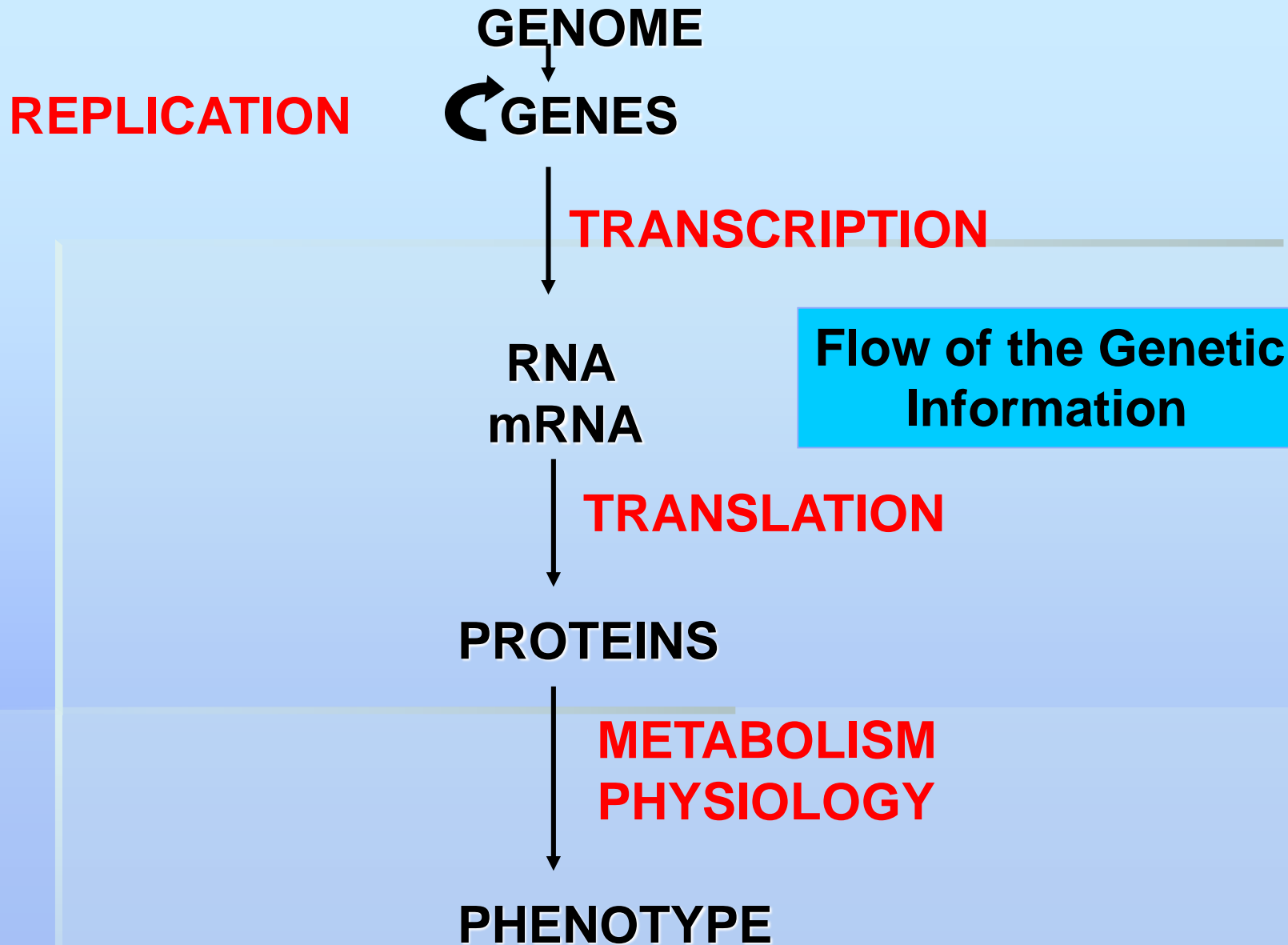
Approach: Olistic

Methods: Biometry and Quantitative Genetics

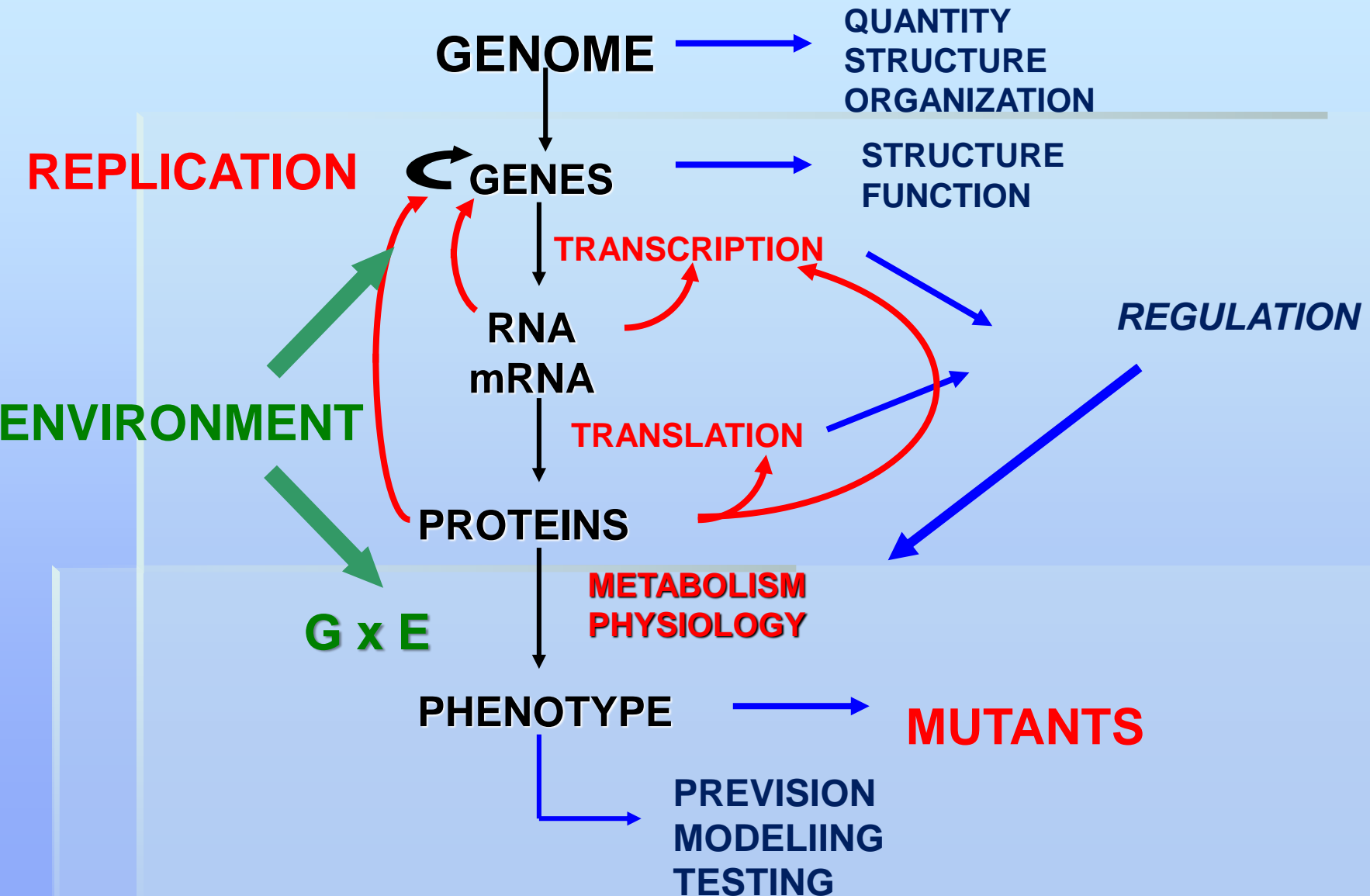
2. MENDELIAN SCHOOL

Approach: Reductionist

Methods: Mendelian Genetics, Molecular Genetics



The Flow of the Genetic Information



Genetic Approaches

GENOME

GENES

TRANSCRIPTION

RNA
mRNA

TRANSLATION

PROTEINS

METABOLISM
PHYSIOLOGY

PHENOTYPE

MUTANTS

Reverse
Genetics
By means of
Mol Biol

Forward
Genetics
by means
of crossing

PREVISION
MODELING, TESTING

Genetic Variability: NO genetic analysis without it

- **Genetics addresses those differences among individuals of a species (Sturtevant & Beadle 1939)**
- **Variability among individuals is crucial for a species to adapt to the environment and evolve, either by selection and / or by random drift**
- **Selection (natural and artificial) works on PHENOTYPIC differences**

MUTATIONS

- 1. Source of new genetic variability**
- 2. Cornerstone of genetic analysis**
- 3. Studying aberrant phenotypes may lead to the discovery of wild type function of a gene**

MUTATIONS: the source of genetic variation

Mutations can be classified in three main types

1. Genome mutations

Changes in chromosome number

2. Chromosome mutations

Changes in chromosome structure

3. Single-gene mutations

Relatively small changes in DNA structure that occur within a particular gene

Mutations, Alleles and the Concept of Polymorphisms

HOW MANY POSSIBLE ALLELES FOR A GENE?

- Mutations in the same gene can produce different alleles
- Several alleles for a single gene
- Polymorphism derives from mutations which spread in the population
- By definition a polymorphic allele $> 1\%$ in the population

Multi-allelism is a population genetics concept

Types of Mutations

RECESSIVE

$m1/m1$ display a mutant phenotype BUT
 $M1/m1$ are wildtype

DOMINANT

$M2/m1$ display a mutant phenotype BUT
 $m2/m2$ are wildtype

SEMIDOMINANT

Based on severity of the phenotypic change
 $M3/M3 > M3/m3 > m3/m3$

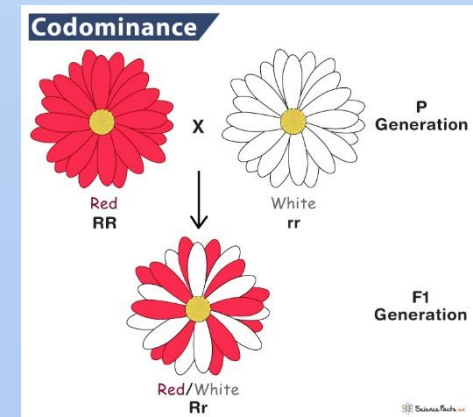
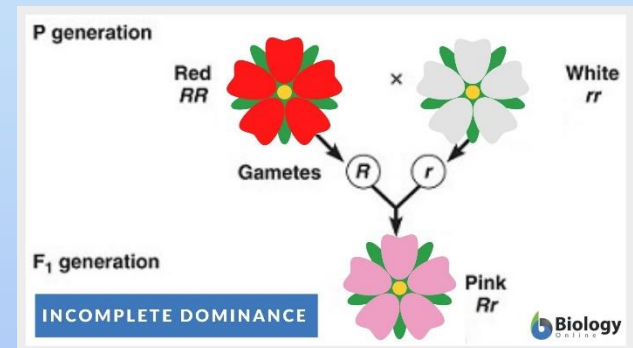
CO-DOMINANT

The both alleles determine the phenotype (blood types). Very useful in genetic analysis

**VERY SIMPLE CLASSIFICATION BUT NOT
ALWAYS ADEQUATE**



les1
Lesion
Mimic



Mutations and Phenotypic Effects

- Not all mutations lead to phenotypic changes
the majority are **SILENT but still provide genetic variation**
- Only those which cause phenotypic effects provide phenotypic variability on which selection can act
- Most mutations produce negative phenotypic effects
- Linking mutation, i.e. genetic variation, to phenotypic effects **IS** a major problem



1822 - 1884
Metereologist,
mathematician
and botanist

■ THE USE OF MUTATIONS WITH PHENOTYPIC EFFECTS

Gregor Mendel: Augustinian friar

- Lived in what was the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now Czech Rep.)
- Adopted a mathematical approach to the study of hybridization
- Defined the concept of “factors” transmitted from one generation to the next according to specific laws
- **STILL OPEN THE QUESTION OF THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF HEREDITY**

Physical basis of Inheritance: The Birth of the Chromosome Theory of Inheritance



Walter Sutton

1877 – 1916

American

Geneticist and
Physician

Theodor Boveri

1862 – 1915

German

Zoologist



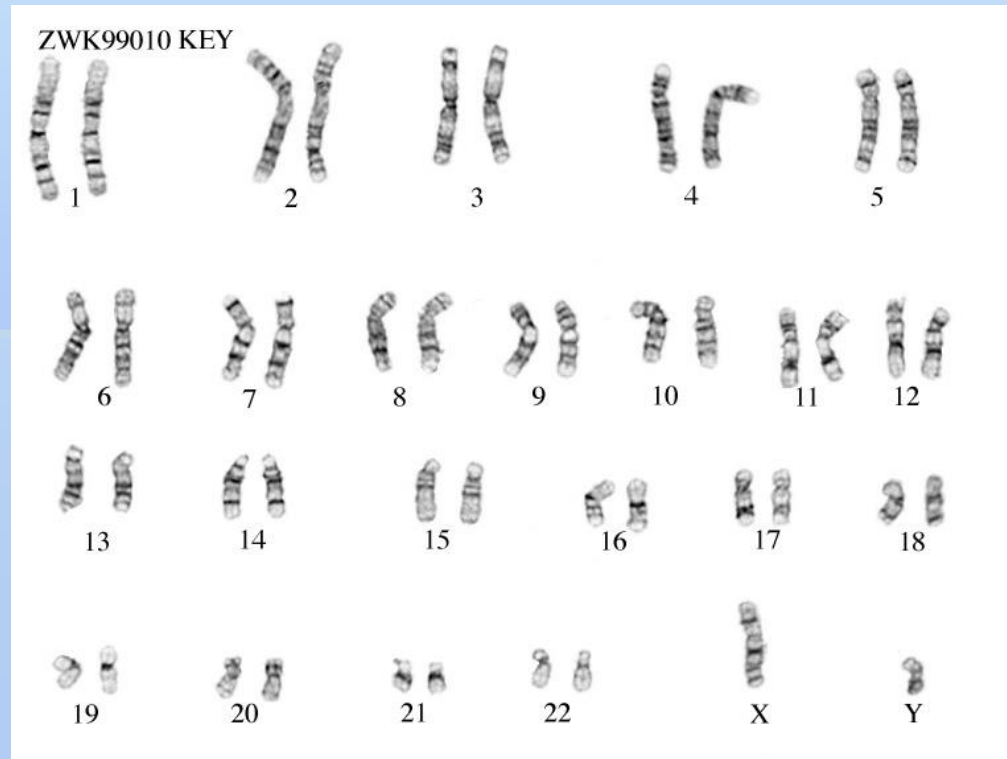
- Around 1900, cytologists and biologists began to see parallels between the behavior of chromosomes and the behavior of Mendel's factors.
 - **Chromosomes and genes (genetic factors) are both present in pairs in diploid cells**
 - **Homologous chromosomes (diploidy) separate and alleles segregate during meiosis**
 - **Fertilization restores the paired condition for both chromosomes and genes**



BIOLOGY REMINDERS BOX: chromosomes, karyotypes and meiosis

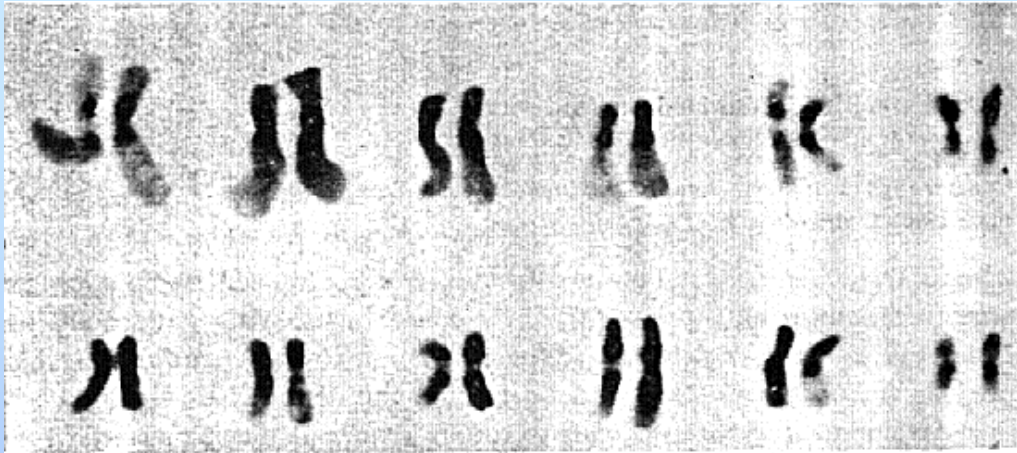
Karyotype of Eukaryotic Cells: the first description of genomes

In each diploid eukaryotic cell there are two **HOMOLOGOUS** chromosomes for each type of chromosome, e.g. in humans 23 pairs = 46 chromosome
Chromosome content in a human diploid cell is $2n = 46$
Also $2x$, where x = number of pairs of homologue

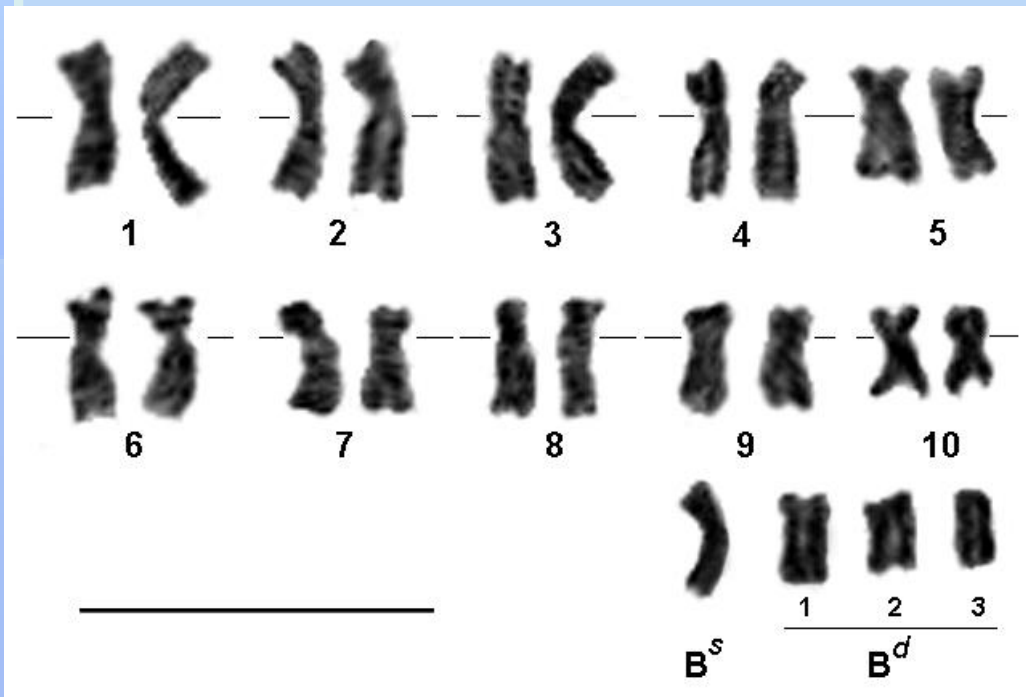


**Human
karyotype**

Plant Karyotypes



**Rice
karyotype**

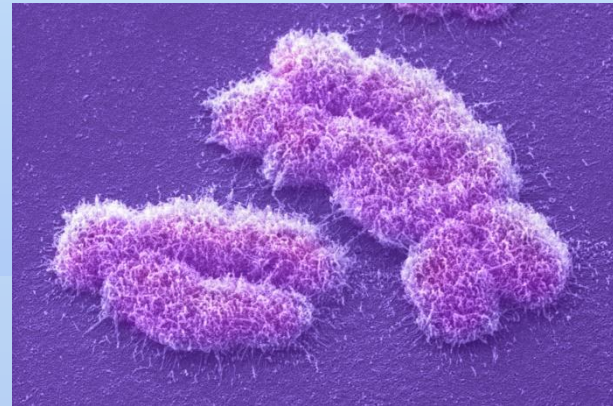
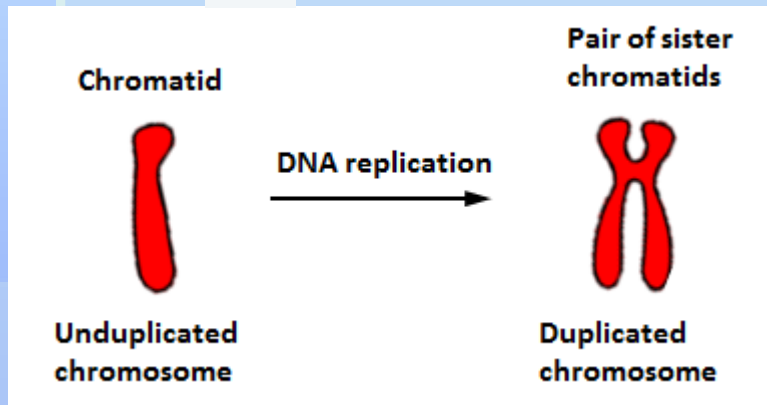


**Maize
karyotype**

MITOSIS

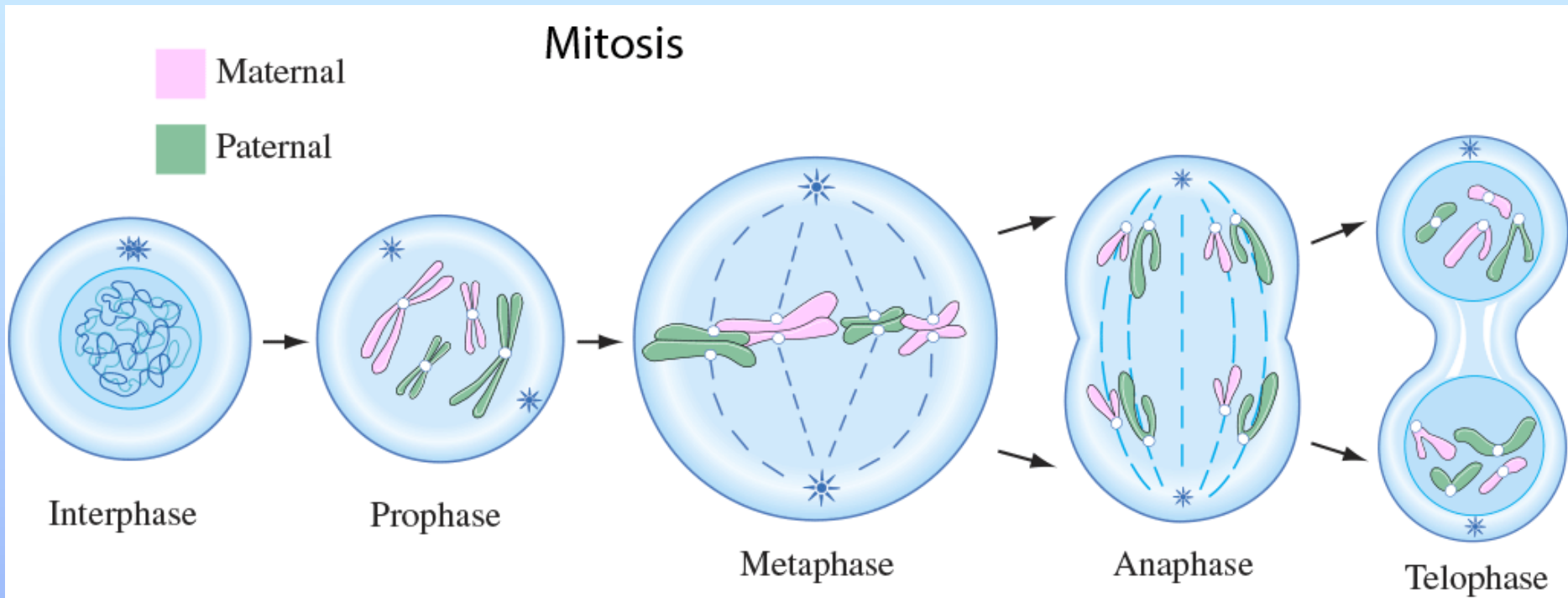
Cellular Process by which from one single eukaryotic cell **two daughter cells** are produced that are equal among each other and equal to their mother cell

- a. One replication of cellular chromosomes \rightarrow doubling of chromosomes = $4n$



- b. Only one cell division, therefore from one $4n$ cell \rightarrow two $2n$ cells



MITOSIS



MEIOSIS

Cellular Process by which from **one single** eukaryotic cell **four daughter cells** are produced whose chromosome content is half that of the mother cell

IF the cell is diploid ($2n$) the results are four haploid (n) cells or gametes

- a. One chromosomal replication  **one** $4n$ cell
- b. Two cellular divisions  **four** n cells
- c. The first is a reduction meiotic division
separation of homologous chromosomes
- d. Second meiotic division is basically a mitosis

MEIOSIS IN THE PRESENCE OF GENETIC VARIATION

Segregation: the distribution of allelic sequences between daughter cells at meiosis

Crossing over: the exchange of genetic material between homologous chromosome

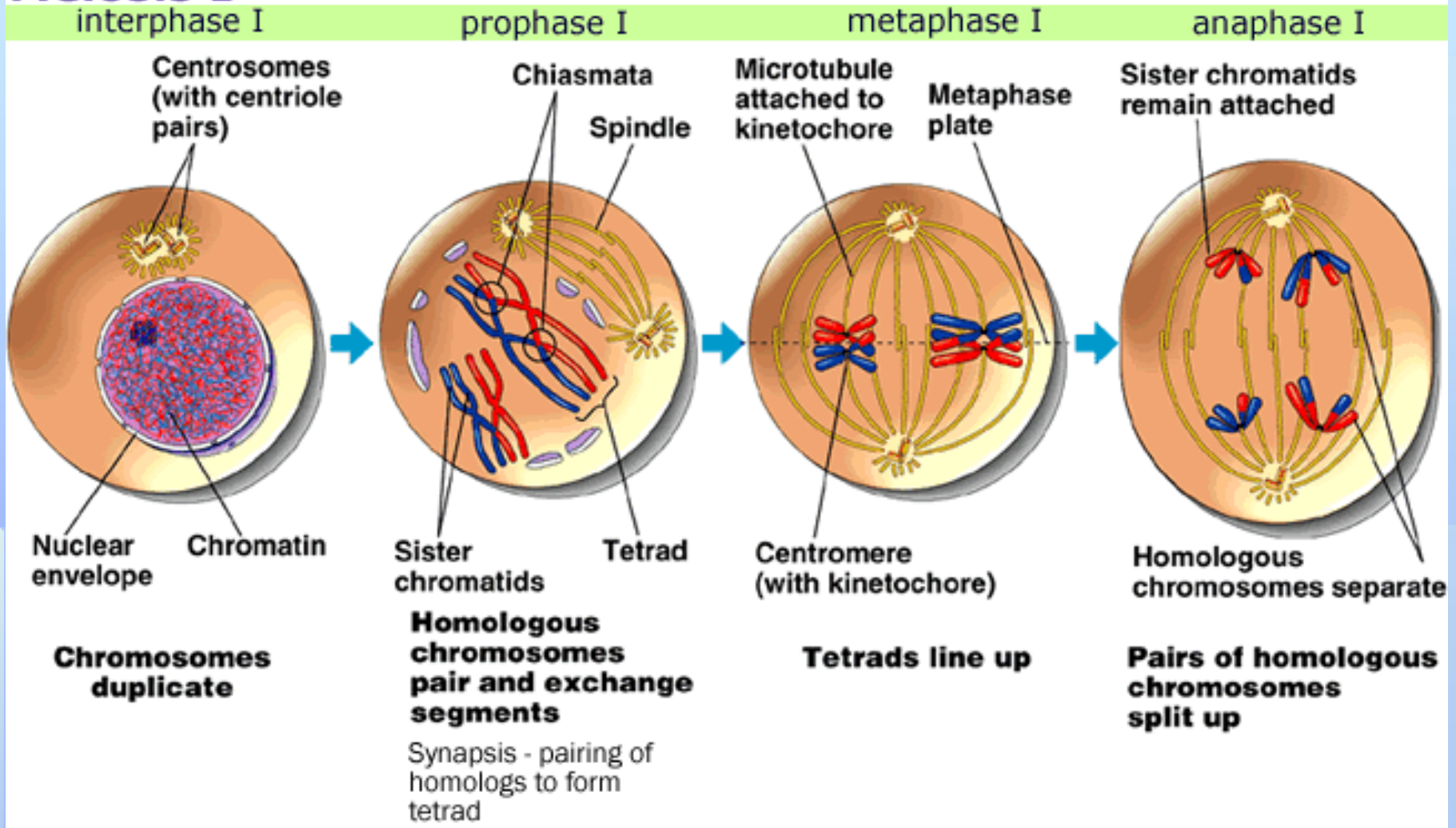
Recombinant: a gamete that contains a combination of alleles that is different from the combination inherited by parents

RECOMBINATION IS PRODUCED BY **BOTH**
SEGREGATION AND CROSSING OVER

MEIOSIS I

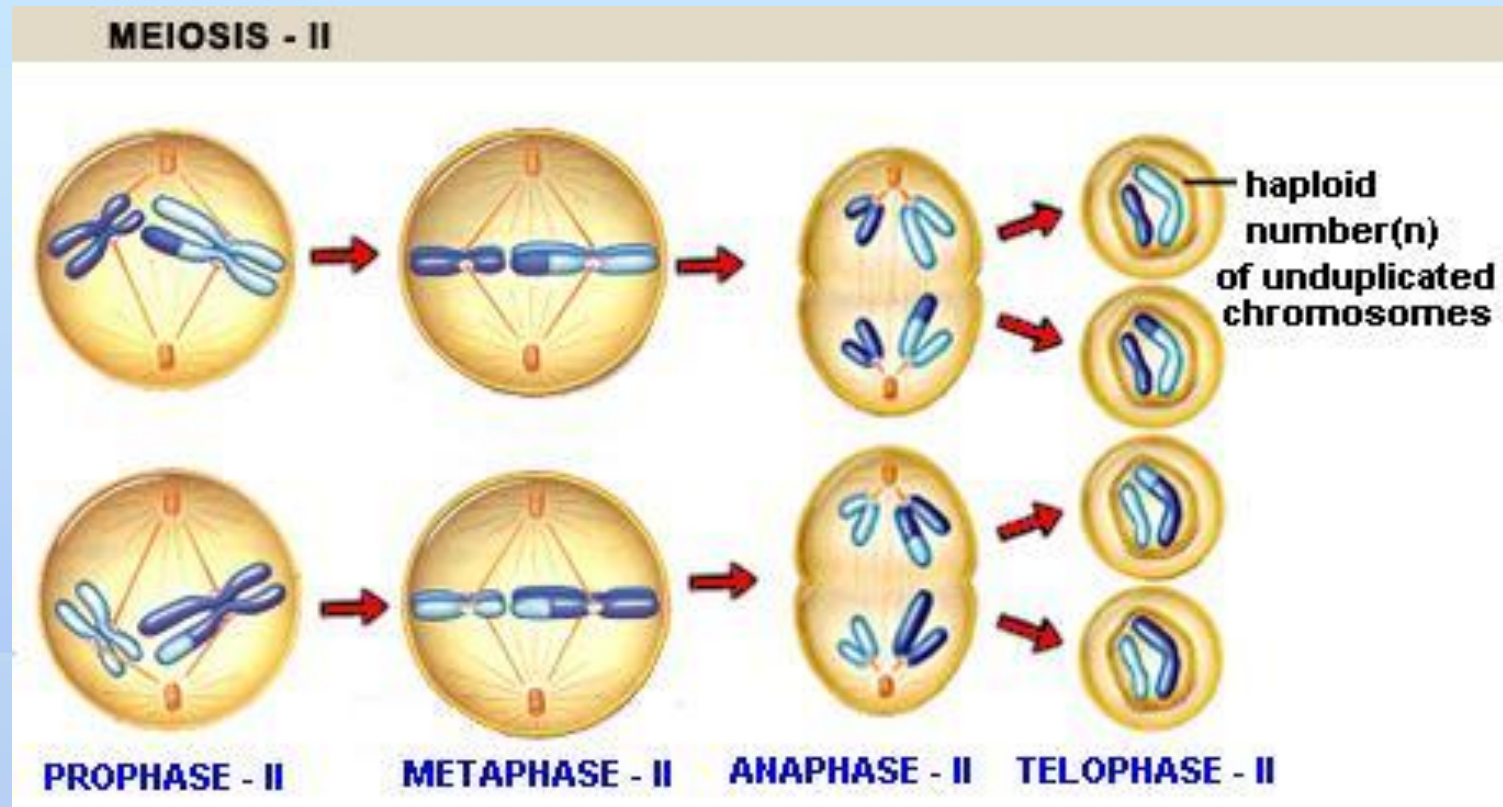
Reduction Division

Meiosis I



MEIOSIS II

Separation of Sister Chromatids





Thomas Hunt Morgan Demonstrated the Chromosome Theory of Inheritance

1866 – 1945

American biologist and geneticist

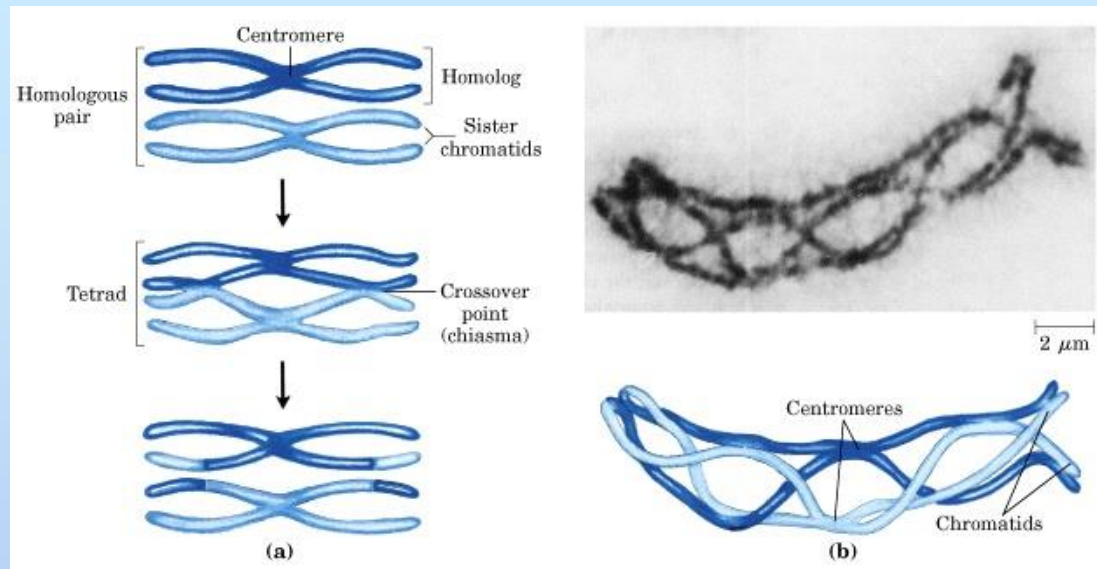
Winner of Nobel prize in Physiology in 1933

The first to associate a **specific gene** with a **specific chromosome**

- ❖ Like Mendel, Morgan made an insightful choice of his experimental model, *Drosophila melanogaster*
- ❖ Fruit flies are prolific breeders and have a generation time of two weeks
- ❖ Fruit flies have three pairs of autosomes and a pair of sex chromosomes $n = 4$

PROBLEM: THERE ARE MORE GENES THAN CHROMOSOMES

GENES and CHROMOSOMES

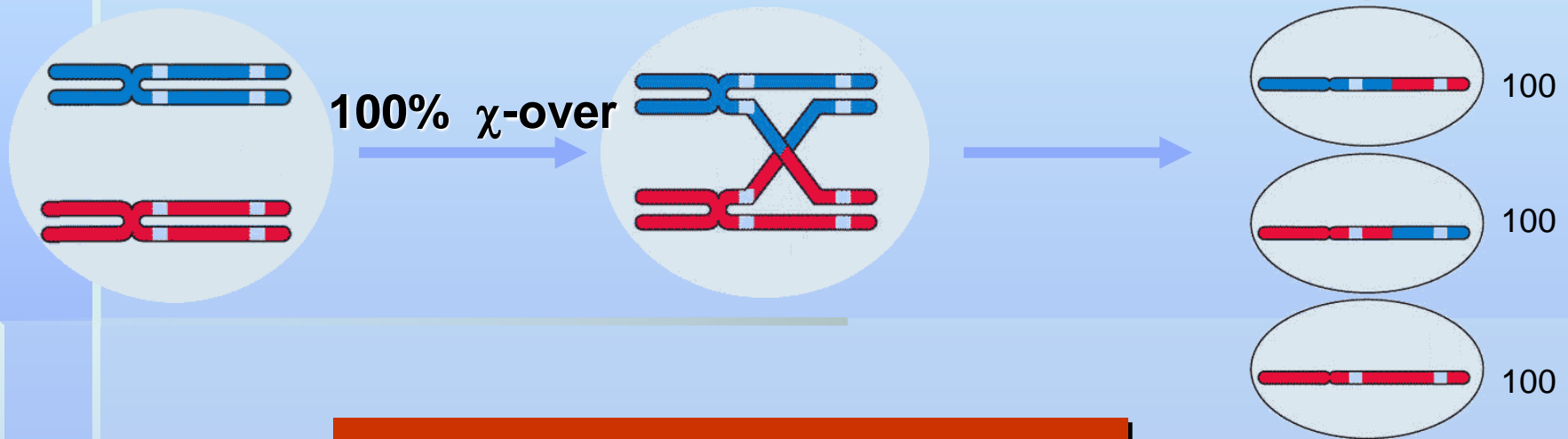


Ccrossing over occurs between two chromatides at a time. C.O. could involve multiple events involving all 4 chromatides

FREQUENCY of CROSS-OVER and FREQUENCY of RECOMBINATION

Maximum value of RECOMBINANTS is 50%

For instance: N° of Cells in meiosis = 100



freq of recombinant
gametes = 50%

Alfred Sturtevant the **FREQUENCY** of **RECOMBINATION** to estimate genetic distances between genes



Alfred Henry Sturtevant

Photo courtesy of Cold Spring Harbor
Laboratory Archives.

American geneticist
1891 – 1970 As a child
Built the pedigree of horses
PhD student of Thomas Morgan

Proposed his hypothesis in 1913
When he was still a PhD student

Alfred Sturtevant's **Background knowledge**

- Maximum percentage of RECOMBINANTS due to segregation is 50% (Mendel's law)
- If two genes are on the same chromosome and there is always a c.o. between them, the maximum percentage of recombinant is 50%

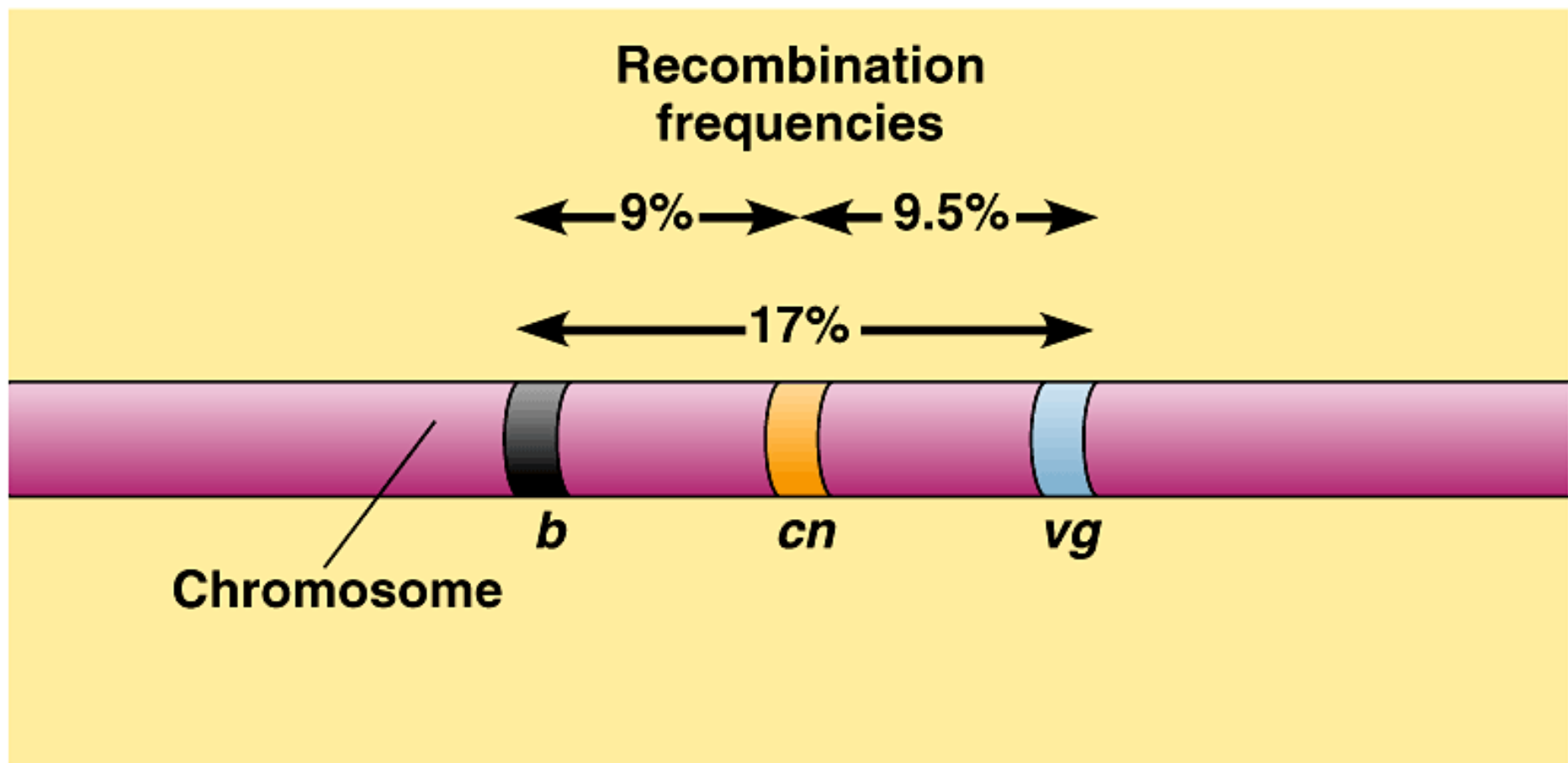
**no difference from independent
segregation**

Alfred Sturtevant's Hypothesis of linkage between genes and estimate of genetic distance

Hypothesis: If c.o. is a **random event**, its frequency would depend on the distance between genes. Therefore the Frequency of recombination can be an **estimate of the genetic distance between the two genes**

NOTE THAT THE FREQUENCY OF RECOMBINATION CAN BE ESTIMATED ONLY IF THERE ARE 2 DIFFERENT ALLELES FOR EACH OF THE GENES CONSIDERED

Using Frequencies of Recombination to Construct Genetic Maps



How the discovery that DNA is the genetic material revolutionized biology

The discovery that **DNA is the Genetic Material** of all organisms changed the perspective and determined the birth of Molecular Biology

Only exceptions are a number of (both plant and animal) viruses whose genetic material is **RNA**

The Search for the Genetic Material: Griffith's Experiment 1928



- Frederick Griffith 1887 - 1941

British microbiologist

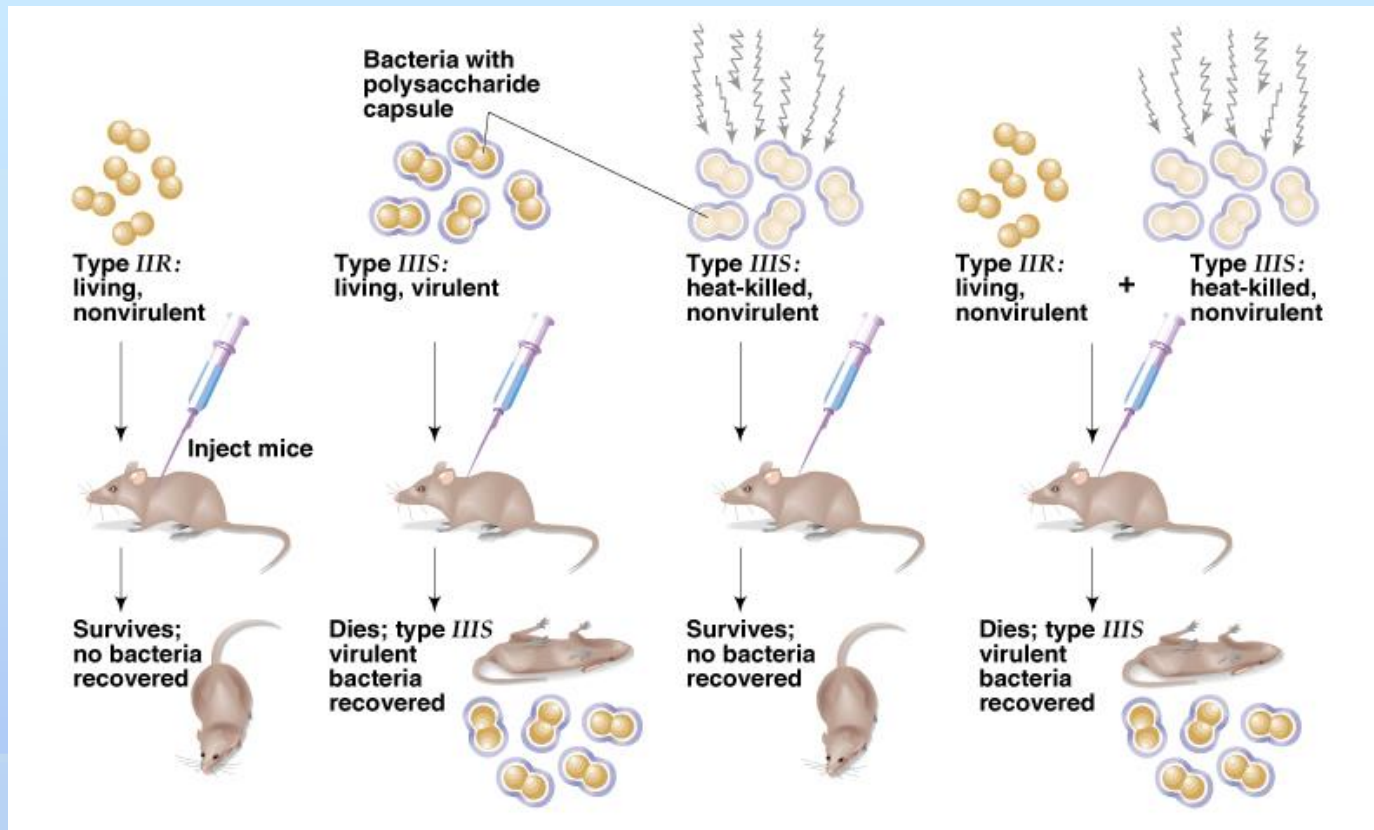
Worked on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria

Smooth strain (S): virulent



Rough strain (R)
avirulent
Lacks the capsule

TRANSFORMING PRINCIPLE



MAJOR FINDING

A substance that did not need a living cell was the transforming principle

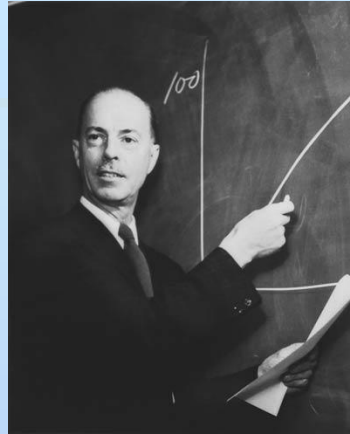
DNA IS the Genetic Material

1944 Avery, MacLeod and McCarty

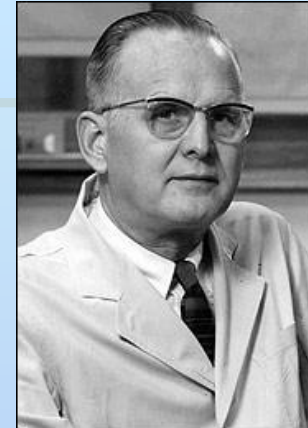
Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research



Canadian



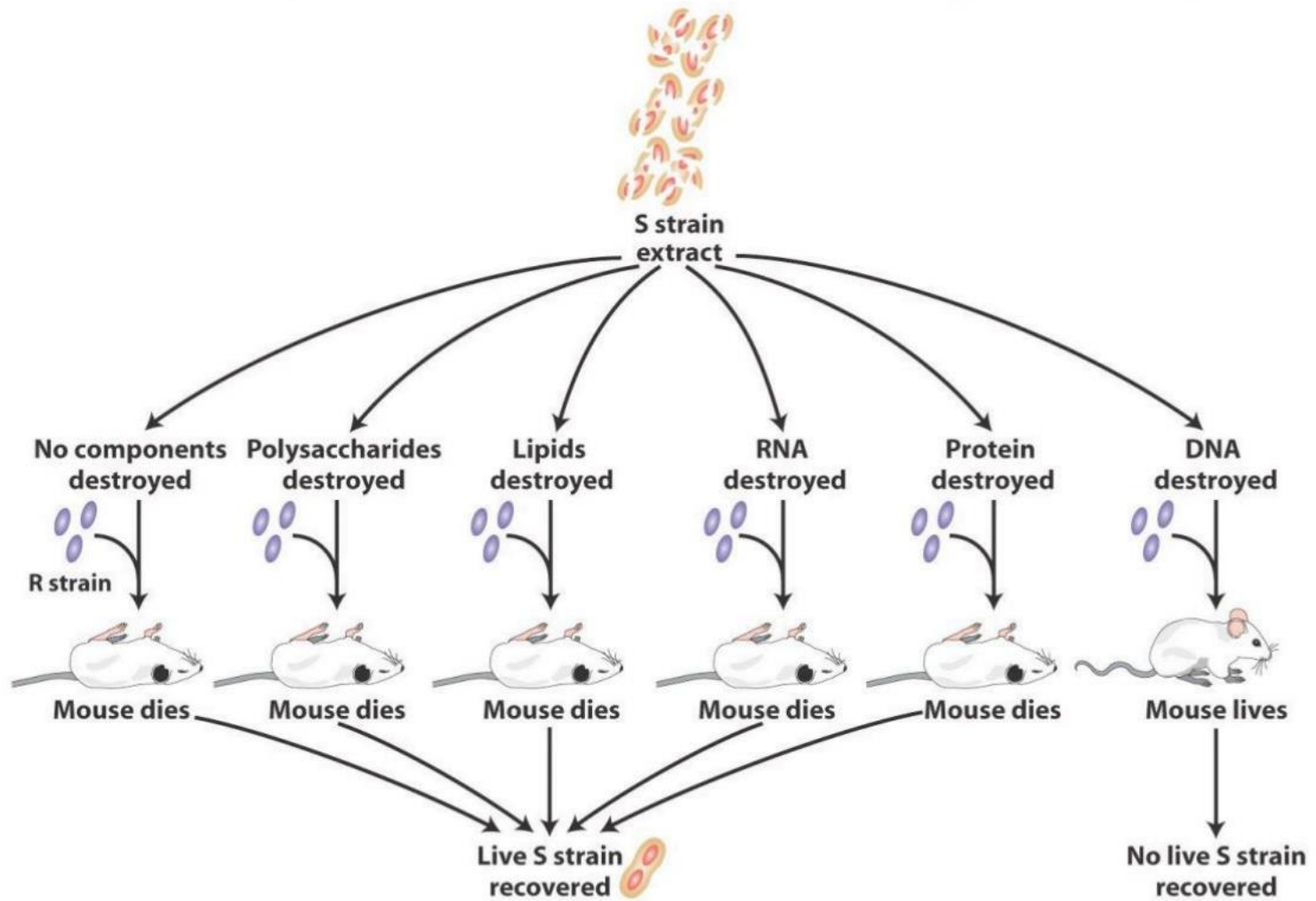
Canadian



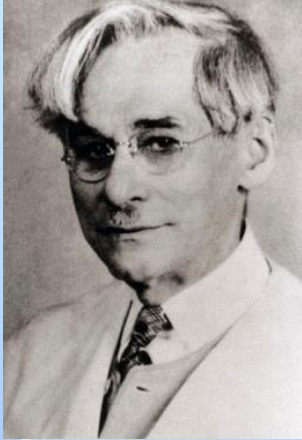
American

Identification of the transforming principle from *S. pneumoniae*.

Their approach was to break open dead cells, chemically separate the components (e.g., protein, nucleic acids) and determine which was capable of transforming **living** *S. pneumoniae* cells



The Composition and Structure of DNA and RNA

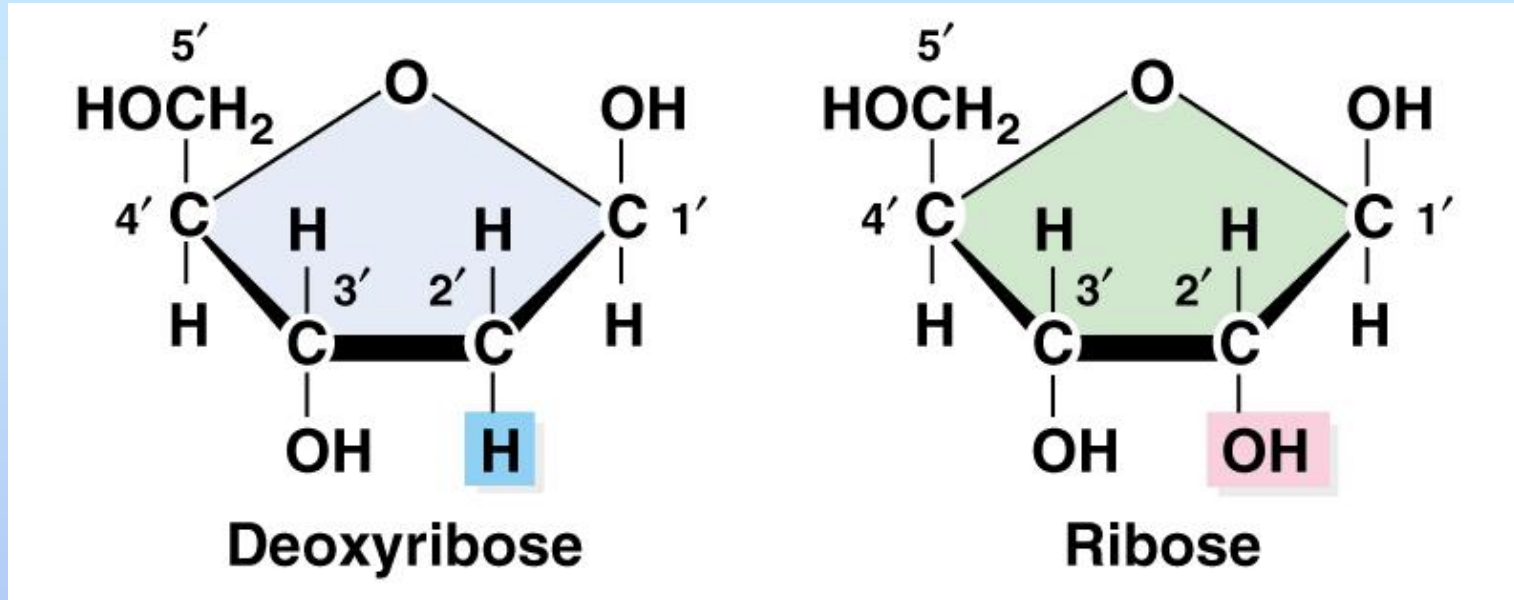


Poebus Levene (1863-1940) Biochemist
Born in the Russian Empire emigrated to
US, Worked at Rockefeller Institute NY

- 1. DNA and RNA are polymers composed of monomers called nucleotides**
- 2. Each nucleotide has three parts:**
 - a. A pentose (5-carbon) sugar**
 - b. A nitrogenous base.**
 - c. A phosphate group**

The Composition and Structure of DNA and RNA

SUGAR: A pentose (5-carbon) FLAT MOLECULE

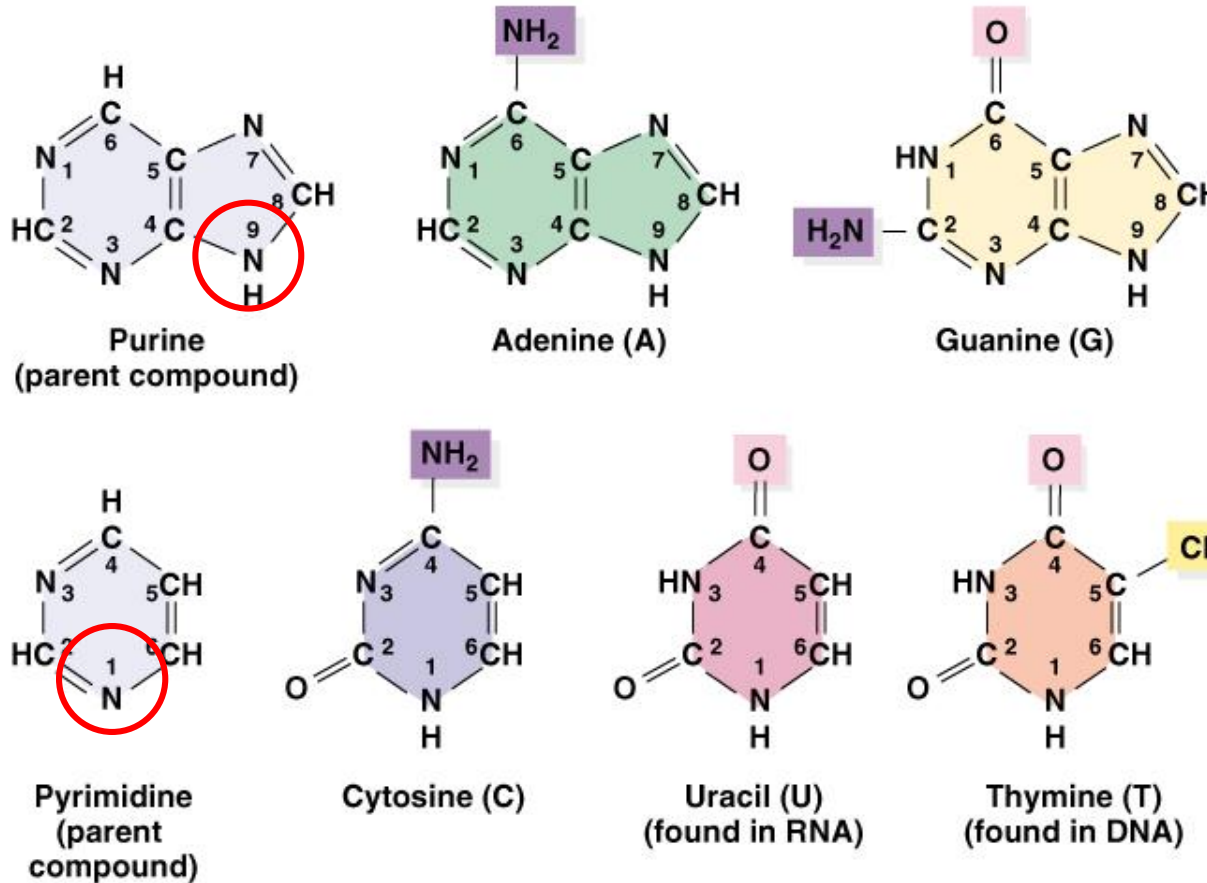


The Number of the C atoms is IMPORTANT

The Composition and Structure of DNA and RNA

There are two classes of nitrogenous bases (**Nucleobases**)

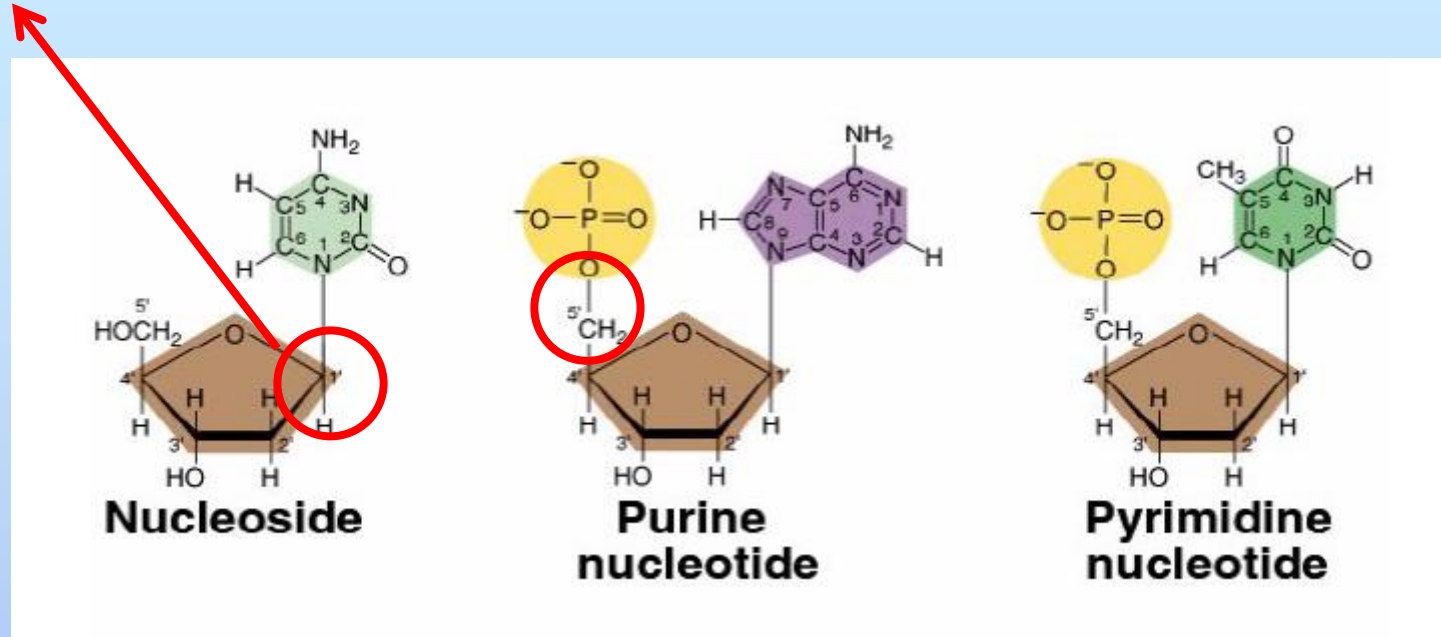
- a. Purines (double-ring, nine-membered structures)
- b. Pyrimidines (one-ring, six-membered structures)



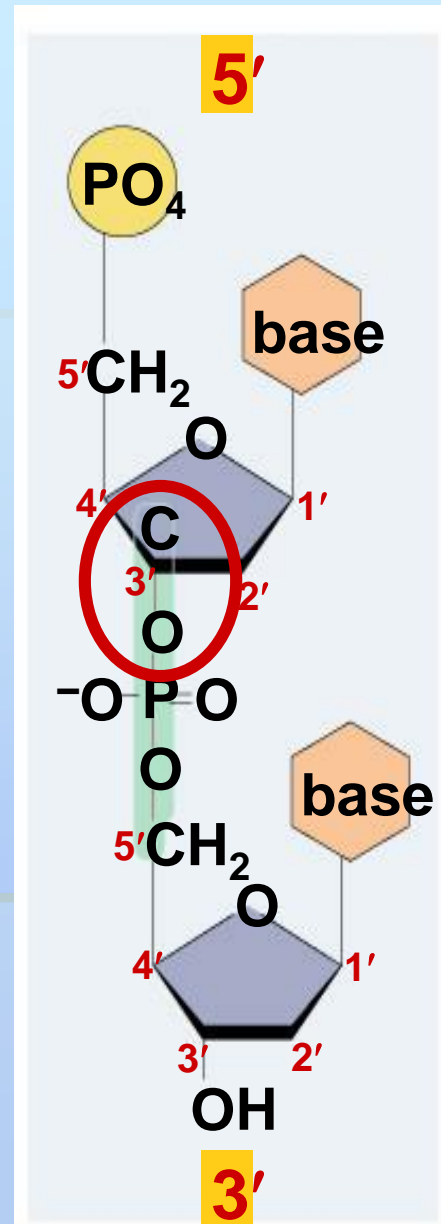
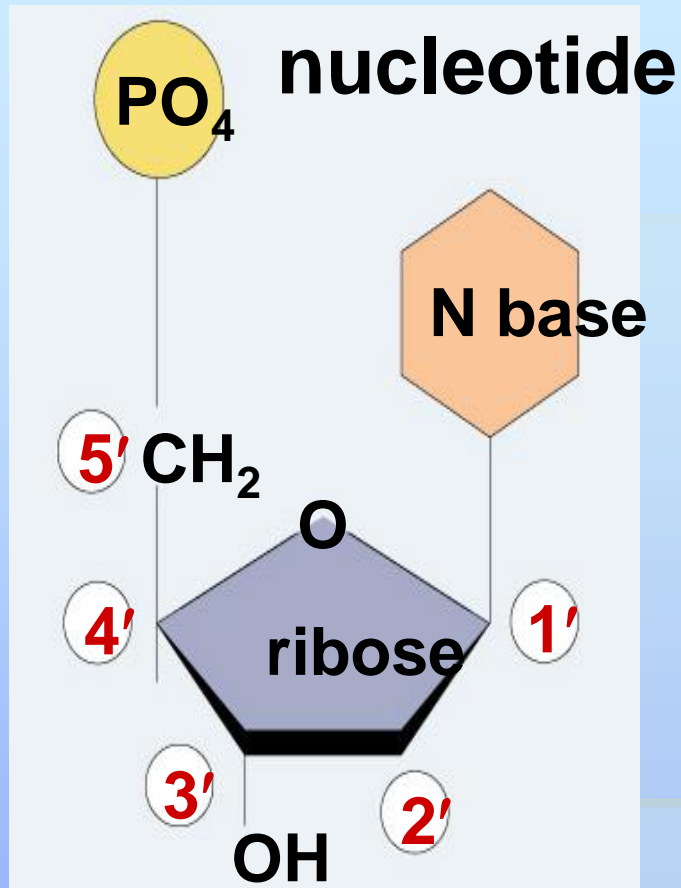
Natural
Nucleo-
bases

Nucleosides and Nucleotides

β - glycosidic
bond

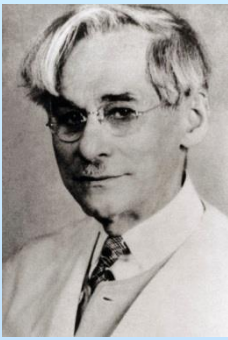


Carbon 1 linked to the nucleobase and Carbon 5 to the phosphate

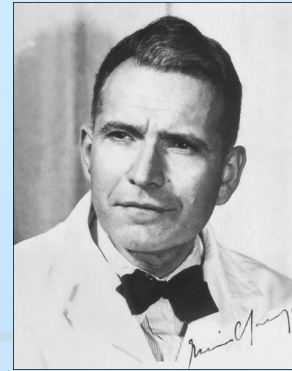


**Polarity of
the chain**

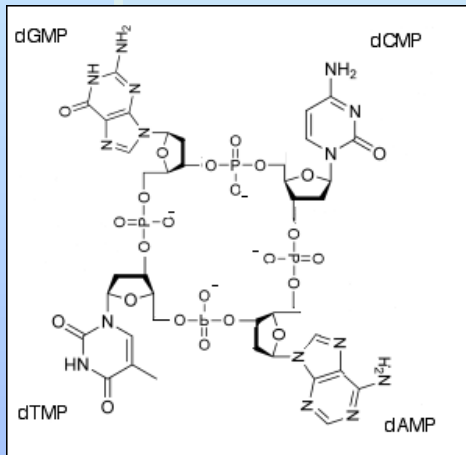
**Sugar and P
make up the
backbone
of the chain**



Phoebus Levene
proposed the
TETRANUCLEOTIDE
HYPOTHESIS

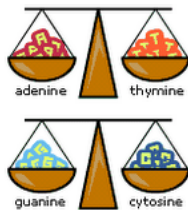


Erwin Chargaff
Austrian biochemist
emigrated to
US when Nazis
annexed Austria



DNA source	Adenine	Thymine	Guanine	Cytosine
Calf Thymus	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.0
Beef Spleen	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.0
Yeast	1.8	1.9	1.0	1.0
Tubercle Bacillus	1.1	1.0	2.6	2.4

(From Vischer, Zamenhof and Chargaff, 1949, p. 433, and Chargaff *et al.*, 1949, p. 413).



Adenine = Thymine

Guanine = Cytosine

Chargaff's Rule

Tetranucleotide hypothesis
DEMOLISHED because the
Amount of the 4 nucleotide
Is NOT equal, BUT what is its
structure?

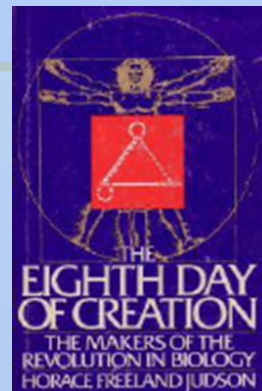
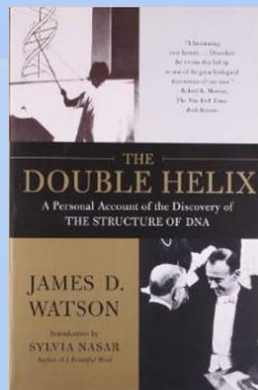
The Discovery of the DNA Structure: Drama, Intrigue and Brilliance.

LIST OF PLAYERS

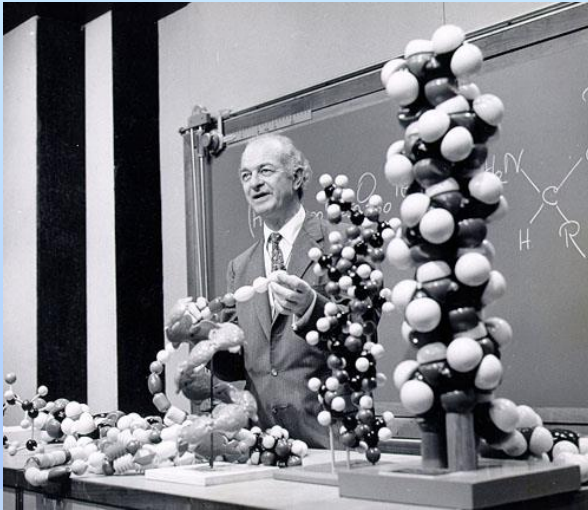
Cal Tech Institute: Linus Pauling

King's College London: Maurice Wilkins
Rosalind Franklin

Cavendish Lab Cambridge: Francis Crick
James Watson



The Cal Tech Institute 1953: Pauling's Incorrect Triple-Helical Structure



Linus Pauling Chemist 1901 – 1994

The most important American Scientist at the time

Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1954

- **nature of the chemical bonds**
- **helical pattern of hemoglobin**

Nobel Peace Prize in 1963

- **Activism against nuclear weapons**

FATAL WEAKNESS

He could not produce DNA crystals

The London Group

STRONG POINTS

- ❖ Experimentally very advanced
- ❖ Able to produce crystalized DNA
- ❖ X-Ray analysis

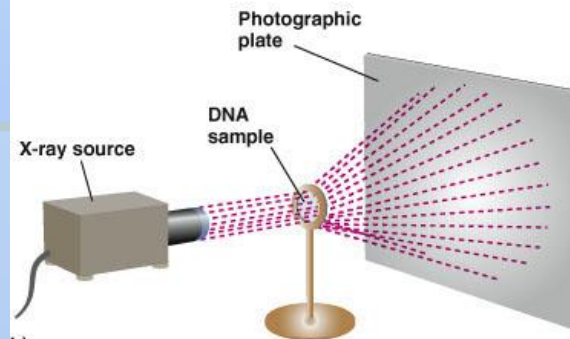
WEAKNESS

- ❖ Disagreement between Wilkins and Franklin
- Lack of communication

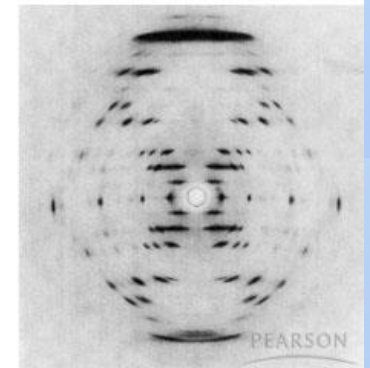
X-Ray analysis suggests that DNA might be a double helix



a)

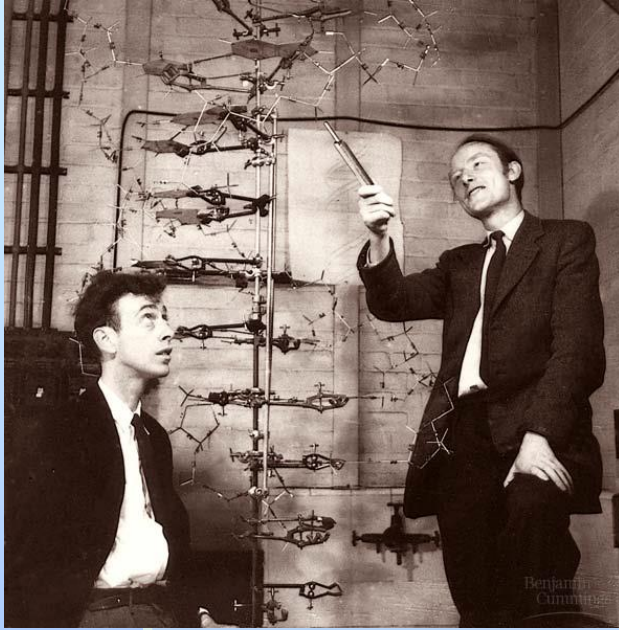


b)



X-Ray diffraction pattern

The Cambridge Group



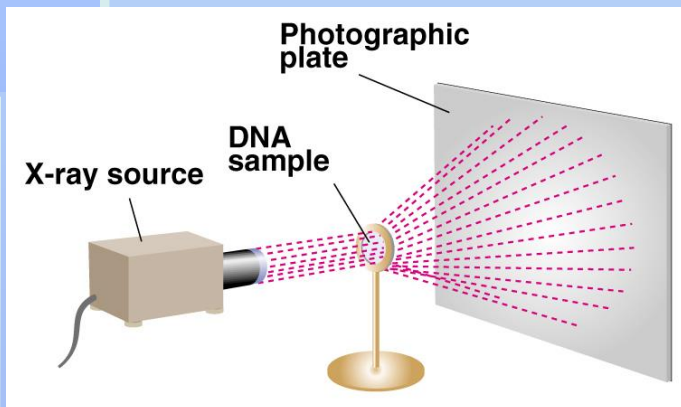
Francis Crick British Physicist (1916 – 2004)
the genius of the team
PhD student working on protein structure

James Watson American Biologist (1928 -)
the driving force

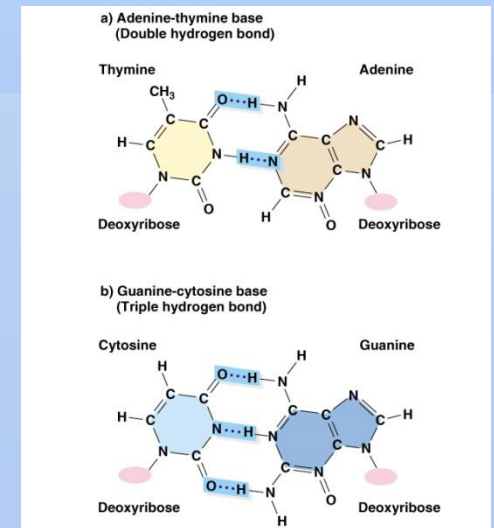
With the ambition to discover the structure of
the genetic material

WINNING STRATEGY

To build tridimensional models



+ Chargaff's rule =
**COMPLEMENTARY
BASE PAIRING**



The Discovery of the DNA Double Helix

No. 4356 April 25, 1953

NATURE

737

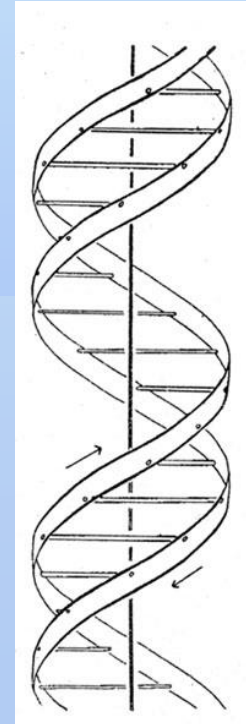
MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS

A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid

WE wish to suggest a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid (D.N.A.). This structure has novel features which are of considerable biological interest.

Watson and Crick's Three-dimensional Model

- a. It implies two polynucleotide chains wound around each other in a right-handed helix
- b. The two chains are antiparallel
- c. The sugar-phosphate backbones are on the outside of the helix, and the bases are on the inside, stacked perpendicularly to the long axis



Why was the double helix such a Revolutionary Discovery?

FROM THE SECONDARY STRUCTURE TO HYPOTHESIS ON HOW IT FUNCTIONS

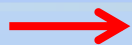
It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing we have postulated immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material.

1. Each strand contains the information necessary to generate a companion strand through complementary base pairing



REPLICATION

2. Specificity depends on nucleotide sequence



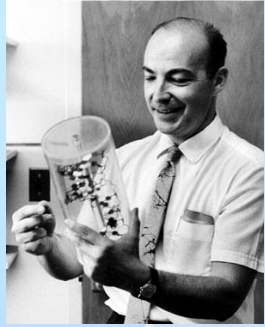
GENETIC CODE

3. Modification of the nucleotide sequence



GENETIC VARIATION

The Mechanism of DNA Replication



Arthur Kornberg (1918 - 2007)

American Biochemist

NYU

DNA synthesis

**Nobel Prize in 1959 with
Severo Ochoa**



Severo Ochoa (1905 – 1993)

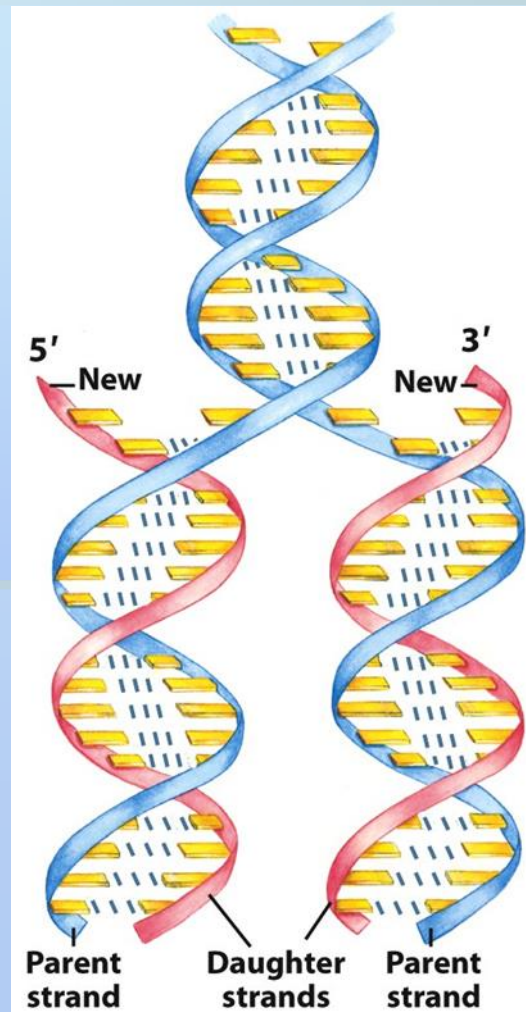
Spanish physician

Four components are required

1. dNTPs: dATP, dTTP, dGTP, dCTP
(deoxyribonucleotide 5' -triphosphates)
(sugar-base + 3 phosphates)
2. DNA template
3. DNA polymerase
4. Mg^{2+} (optimizes DNA polymerase activity)

DNA Replication

EACH STRAND IS USED AS TEMPLATE TO SYNTHESIZE A NEW COMPLEMENTARY STRAND



Phases of DNA Replication

- **Initiation**

- Proteins bind to DNA and open up the double helix
- DNA is prepared for complementary base pairing

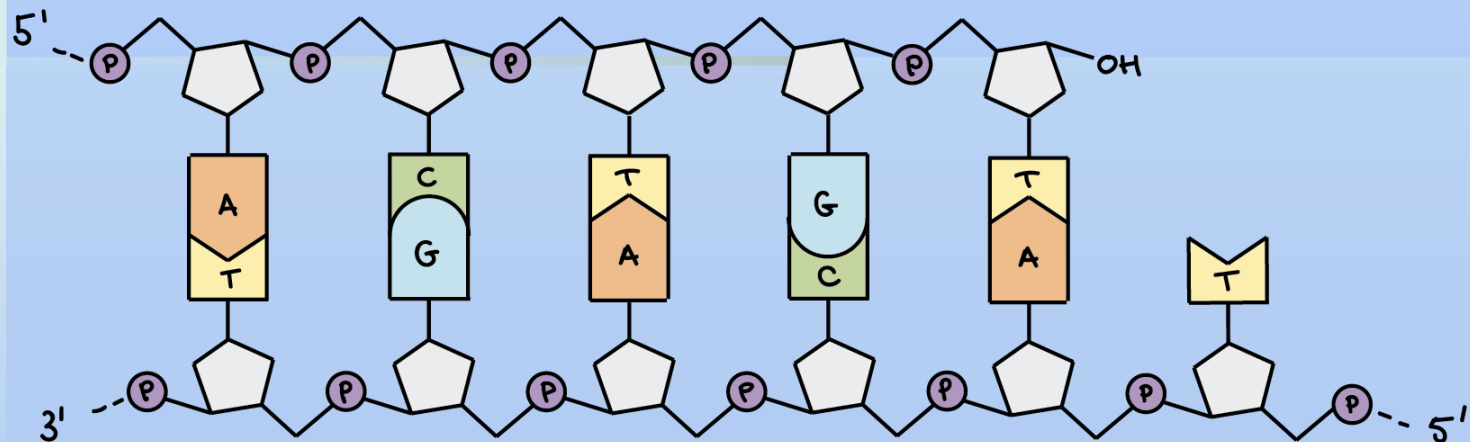
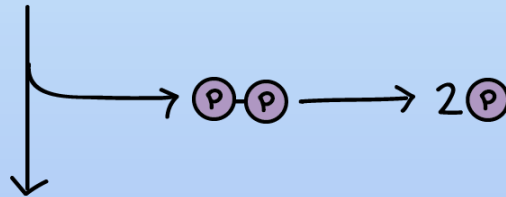
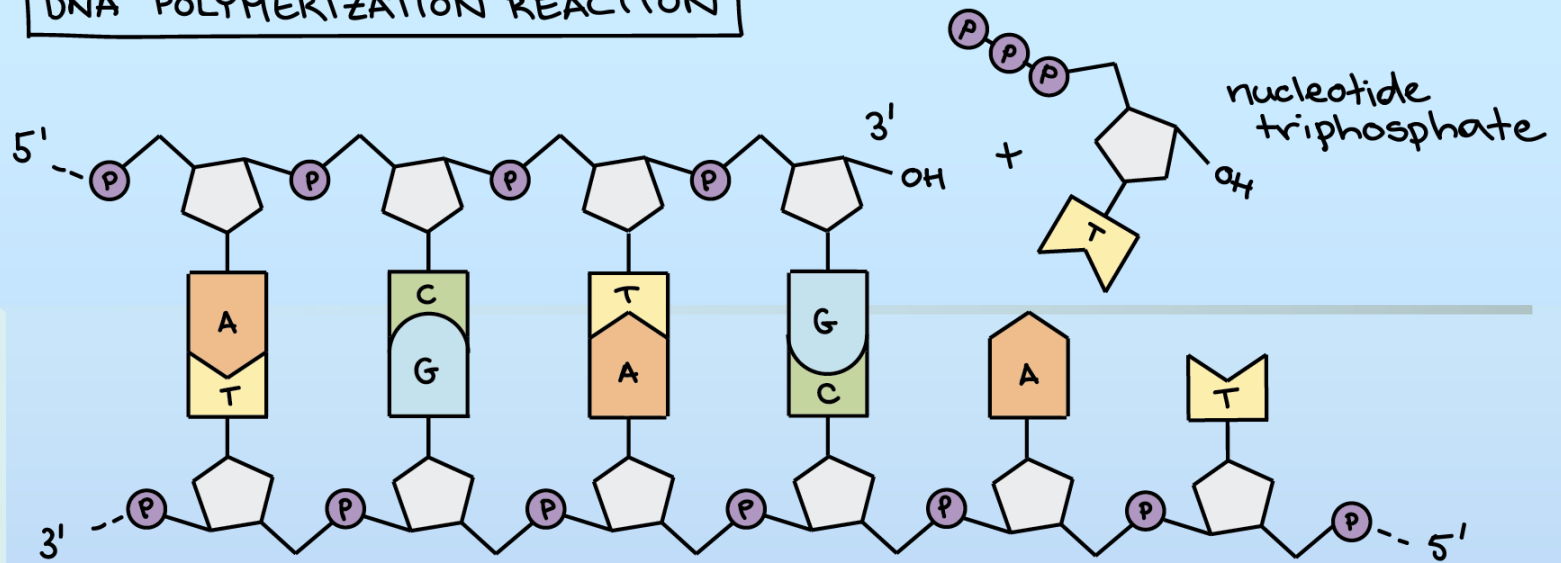
- **Elongation**

- Proteins connect the correct sequences of nucleotides into a continuous new strand of DNA
- **POLYMERIZATION**

- **Termination**

- Proteins refine the product of replication and release the replication complex

DNA POLYMERIZATION REACTION

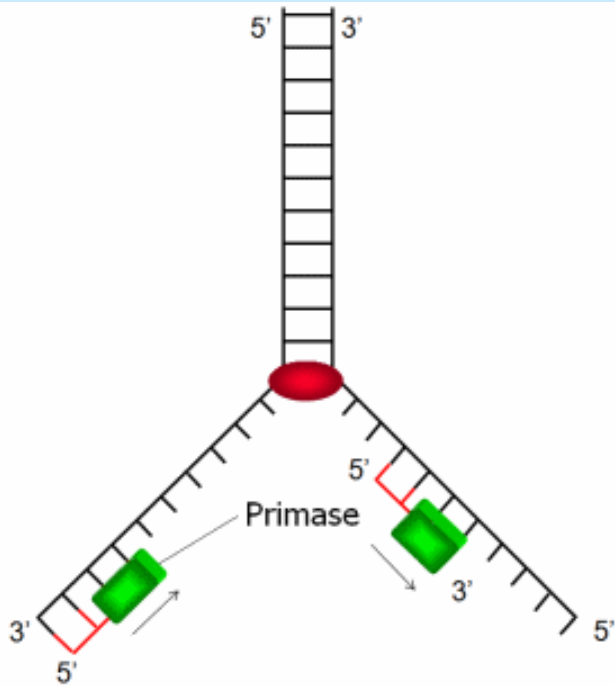


Main features of the DNA Synthesis

1. DNA polymerases a multi-protein enzymes that catalyzes formation of phosphodiester bonds
2. Energy for this reaction is derived from the release of pyrophosphate of the three phosphates of the dNTP
3. DNA polymerase “finds” the correct complementary dNTP at each step in the lengthening process
4. **Higly processing enzyme**
 - rate ≤ 800 dNTPs/second
 - low error rate because of **PROOF READING PROPERTY** due to 3' – 5' DNase activity
5. Direction of synthesis ONLY 5' to 3'

ONE MAJOR DRAWBACK
It CANNOT START polymerization

Priming: DNA Primase



- ❖ It is DNA-dependent RNA polymerase
- ❖ Synthesizes short (11 nt) RNA fragments on both strands called **PRIMERS**
- ❖ DNA Polymerase works by elongating the RNA primers

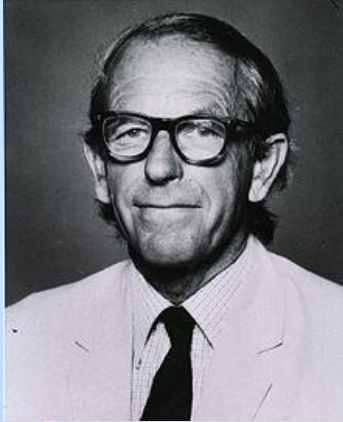
Priming is only the last step of Initiation

1. Open the double strand
2. Unwind the double helix and form the replication bubble
3. Keep the bubble open



METHODOLOGICAL BOX

DNA sequencing: the SANGER'S CHAIN TERMINATION METHOD



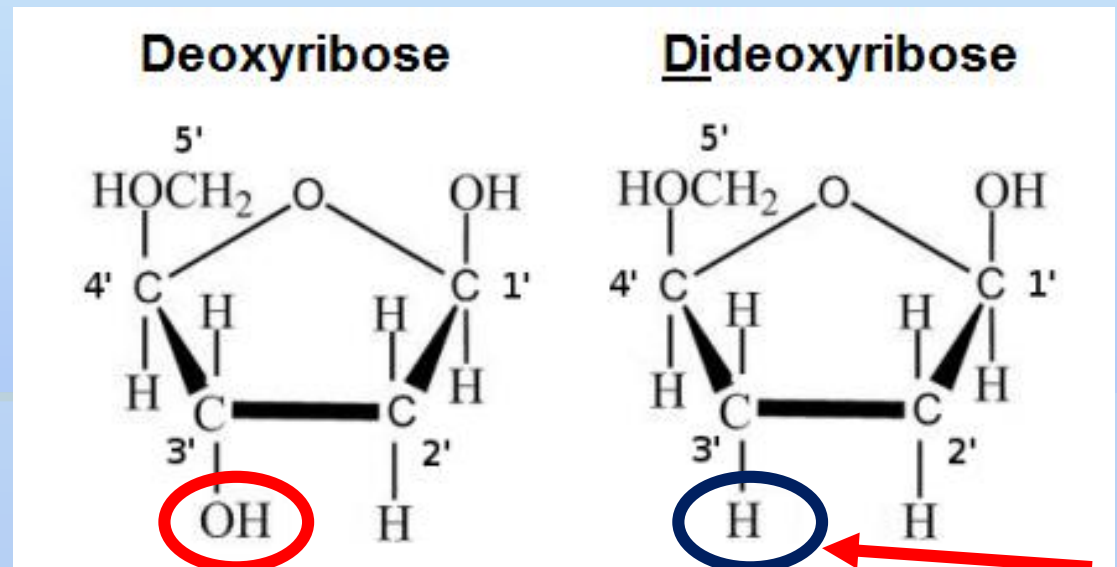
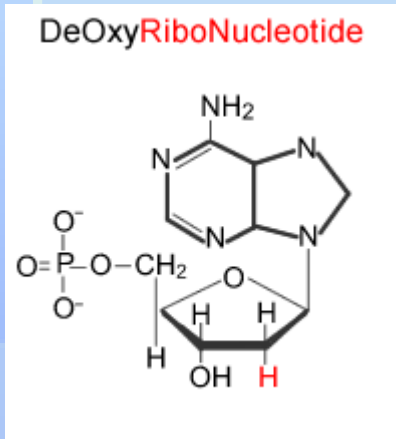
Sir Frederick Sanger (1918- 2013)

British biochemist

Cambridge University UK

Two Nobel Prizes in Chemistry

- 1958 structure of insulin
- 1980 DNA sequencing



Developed in the first version in 1968!!

SANGER'S CHAIN TERMINATION METHOD

5' TAGCTGACTC 3'   
3' ATCGACTGAGTCAAGAACTATTGGGCTTAA...



DNA polymerase
+ dATP, dGTP, dCTP, dTTP
+ **ddGTP** in low concentration

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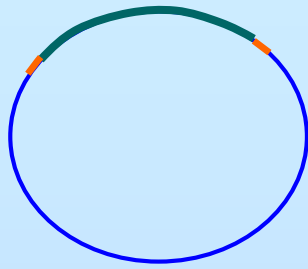
5' TAGCTGACTCA**G** 3'
3' ATCGACTGAGTCAAGAACTATTGGGCTTAA...

+

5' TAGCTGACTCAGTTCTT**G** 3'
3' ATCGACTGAGTCAAGAACTATTGGGCTTAA...

+

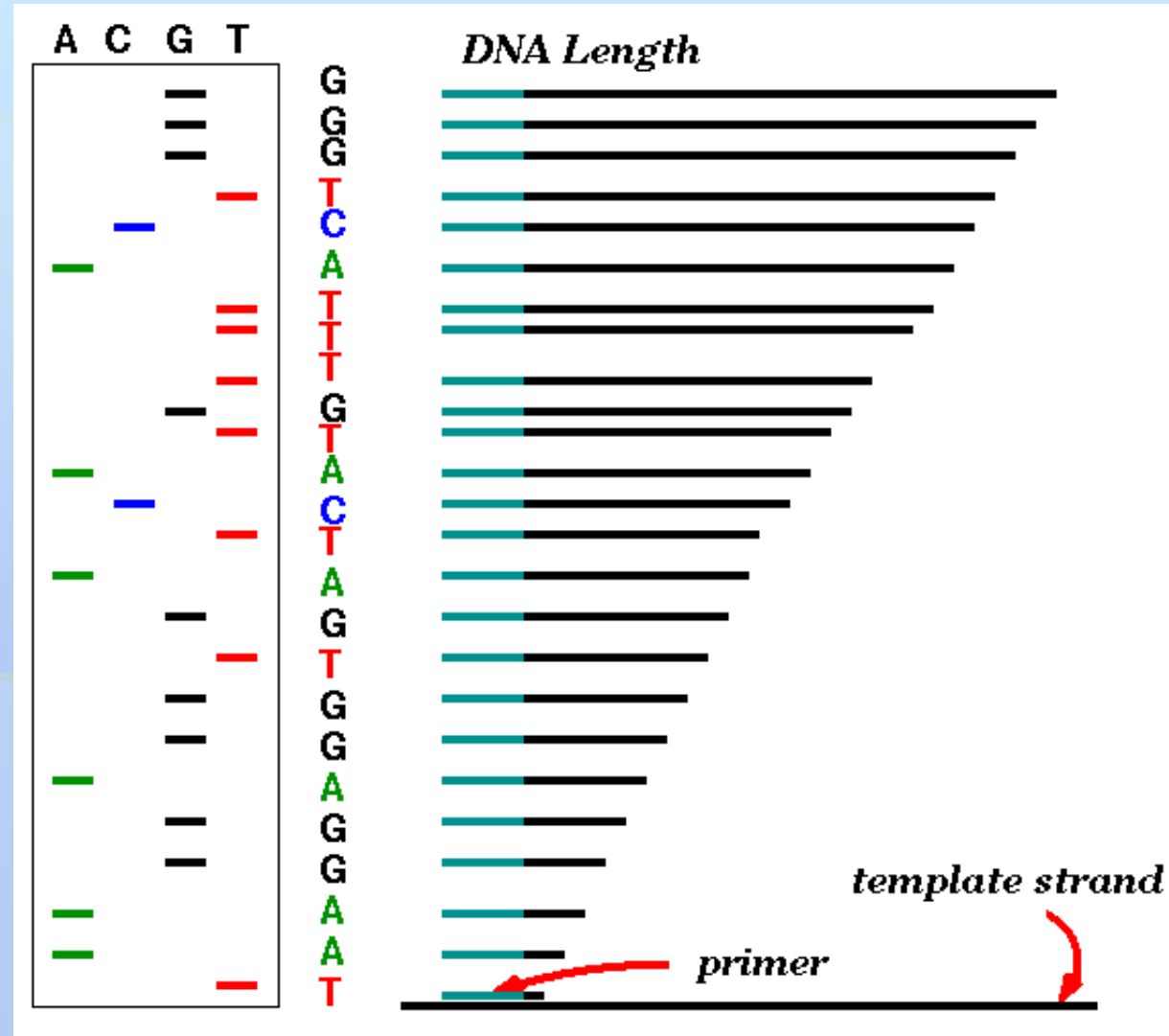
5' TAGCTGACTCAGTTCTTGATAACCC**G** 3'
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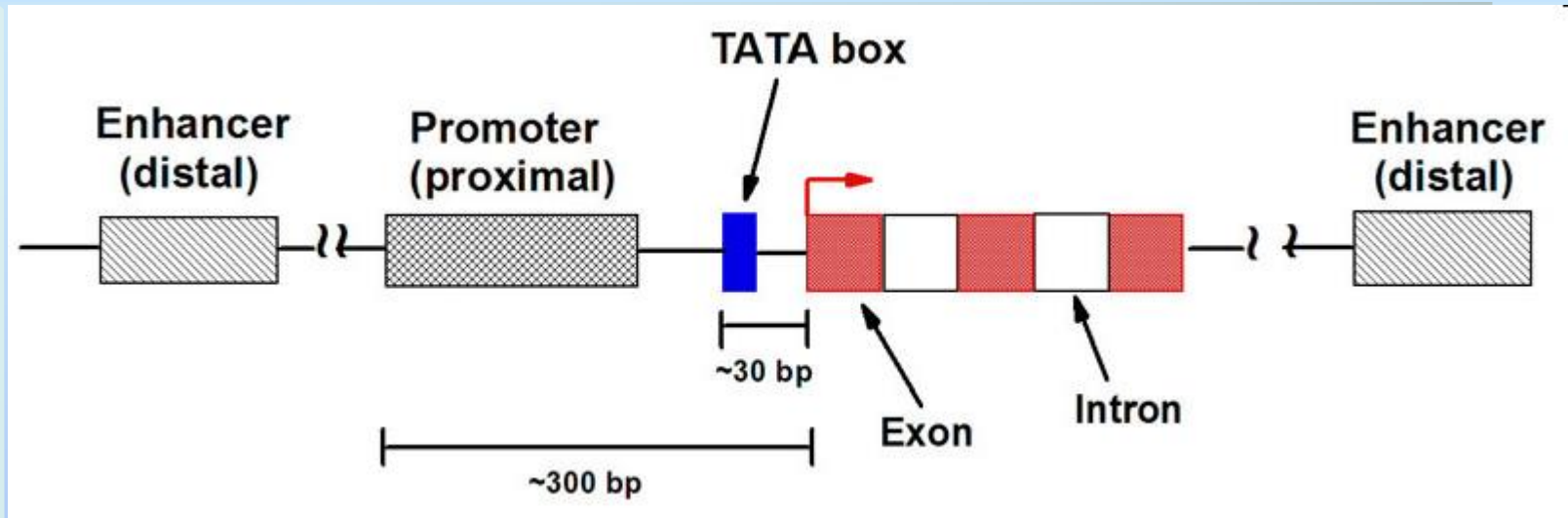
Sanger Method: Generating Read

Fragment cloned into a plasmid

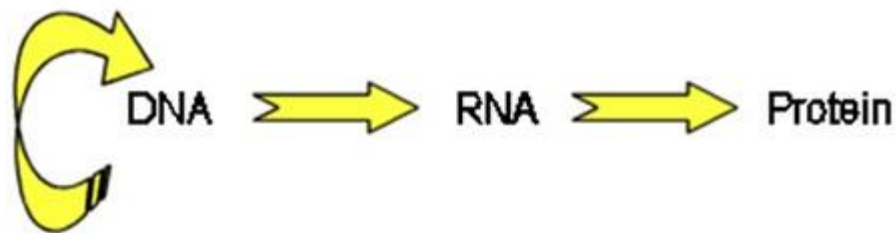
1. Start at primer (restriction site)
2. Included dNTPs
3. Grow DNA chain
4. Stops reaction at all possible points
5. Separate products by length, using gel electrophoresis



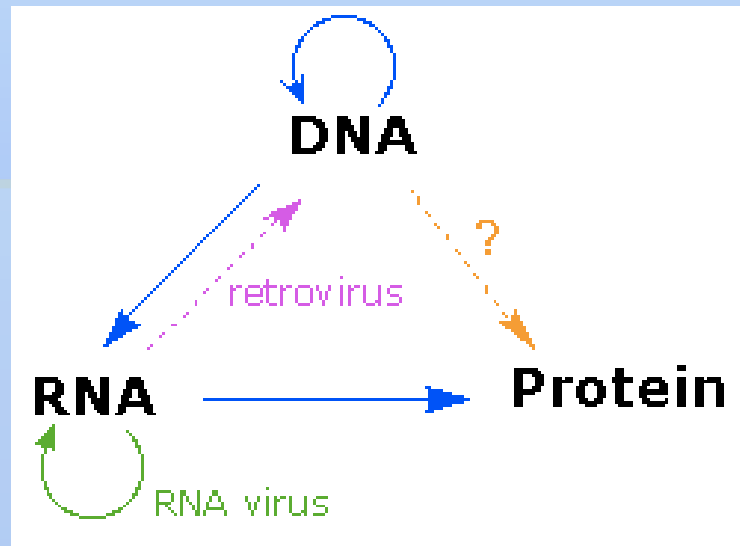
Eukaryotic Gene Structure



CENTRAL DOGMA of BIOLOGY

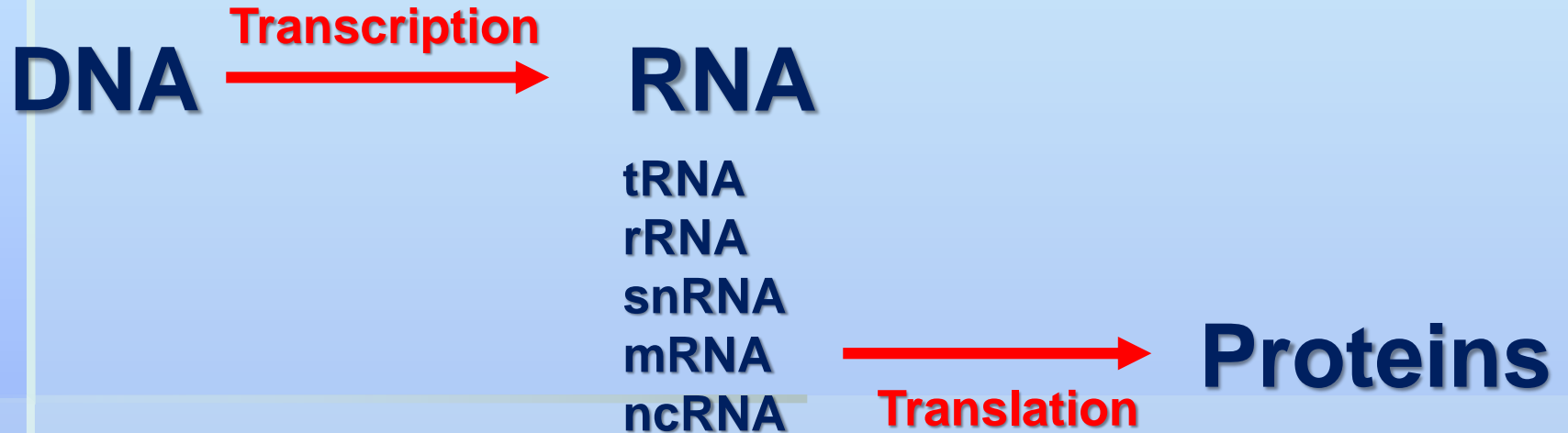


The Central Dogma of Genetics



Transcription

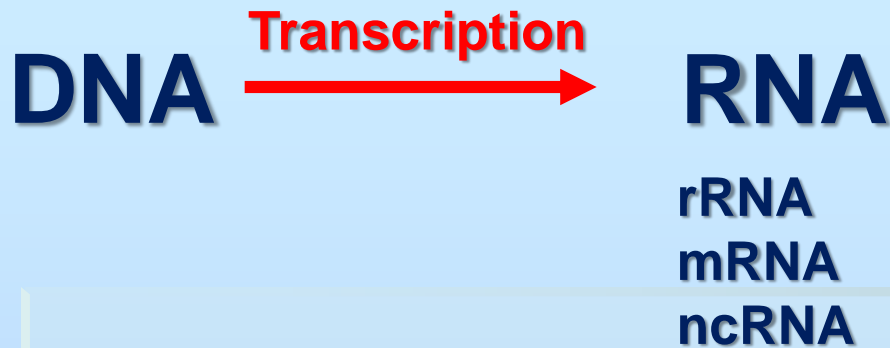
The synthesis of RNA molecules using DNA strands as the templates so that the genetic information can be transferred from DNA to RNA



**EACH STEP REPRESENTS AN AMPLIFICATION
OF THE GENETIC INFORMATION**



METHODOLOGICAL BOX

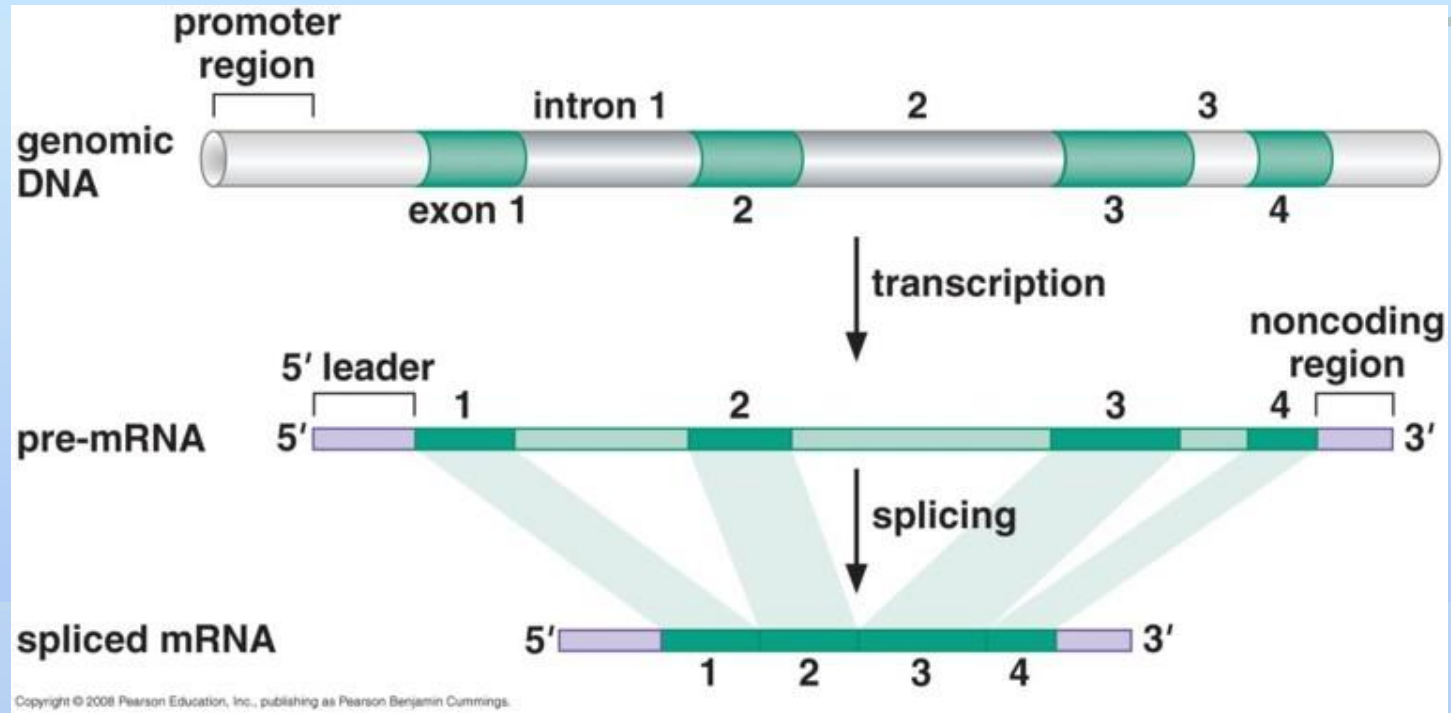


RNA is a highly unstable molecule
Molecular biology is mostly done on DNA

The discovery of retrovirus (RNA genome) brought to the discovery of a key enzyme called **REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE** that can copy an RNA molecule into a copy DNA – **cDNA**

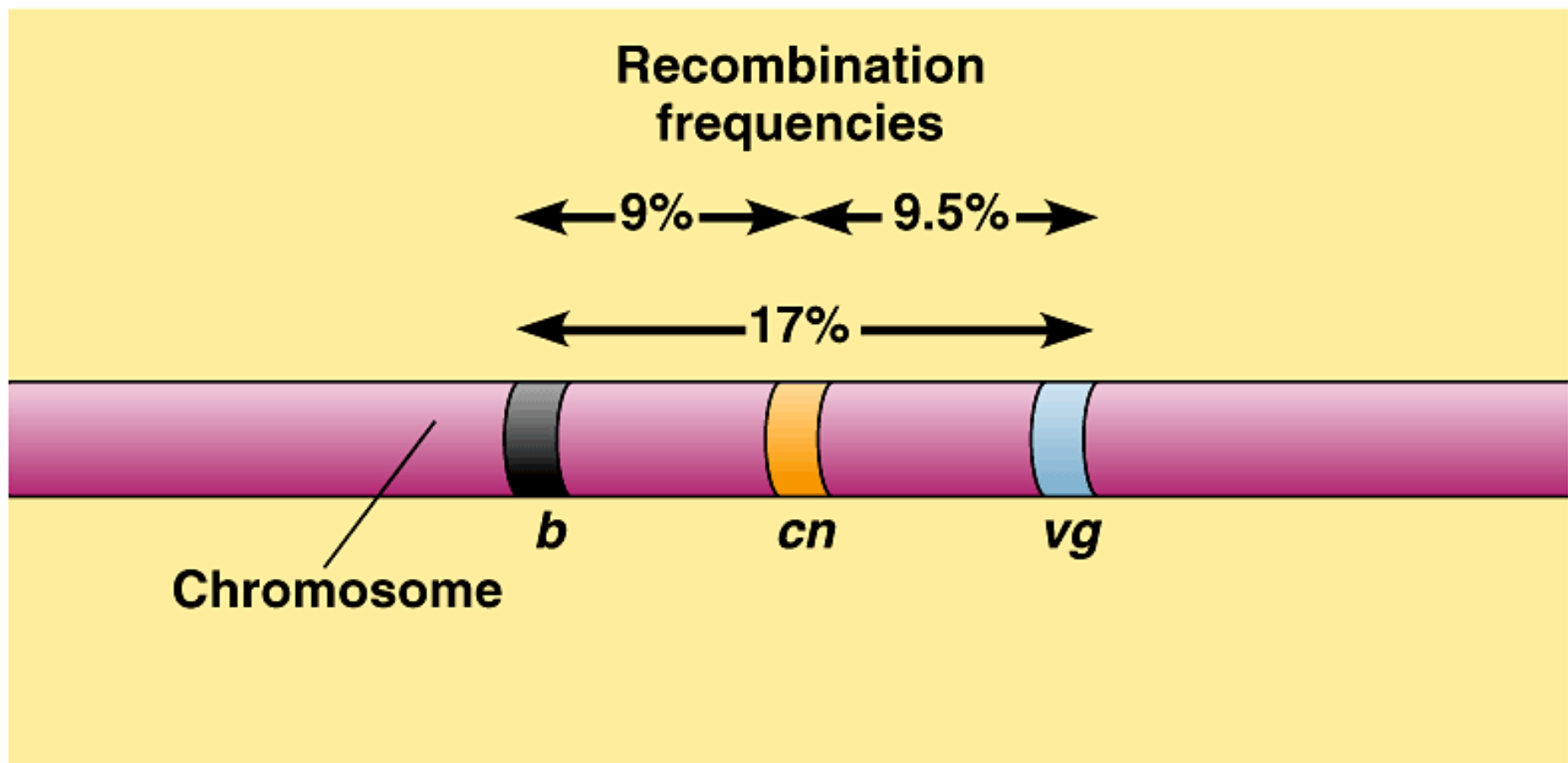
Extracting total mRNAs with Reverse Transcription a population of cDNAs can be produced and studied opening the path to **TRANSCRIPTOMICS**

Eukaryotic genes contain introns which are spliced to form mature mRNA

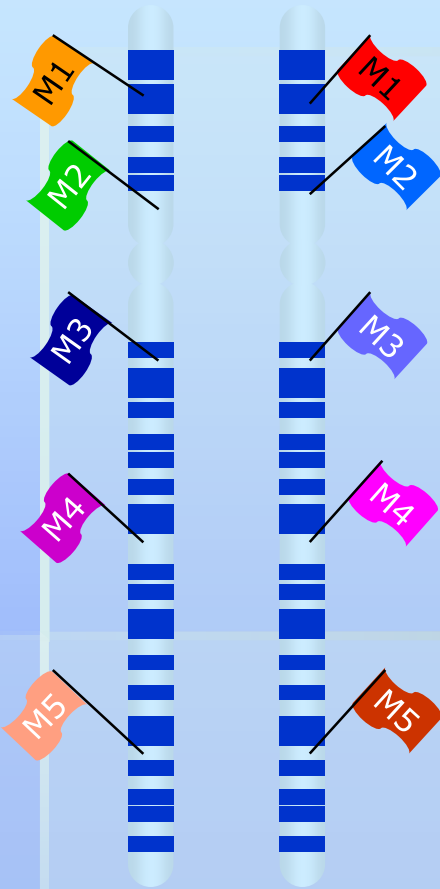


Integrating molecular biology into genetic mapping

Using Frequencies of Recombination to Construct Genetic Maps



Genetic Markers



Genetic Marker

A *Locus* which identifies unambiguously a specific chromosomal region

- **Tool** → not the objective
- **Marker** → indirect approach

Genetic markers

TOOLS FOR GENETIC ANALYSIS

morphological

- Classical Mendelian traits

biochemicals

- isoenzymes
- structural proteins (endosperm)

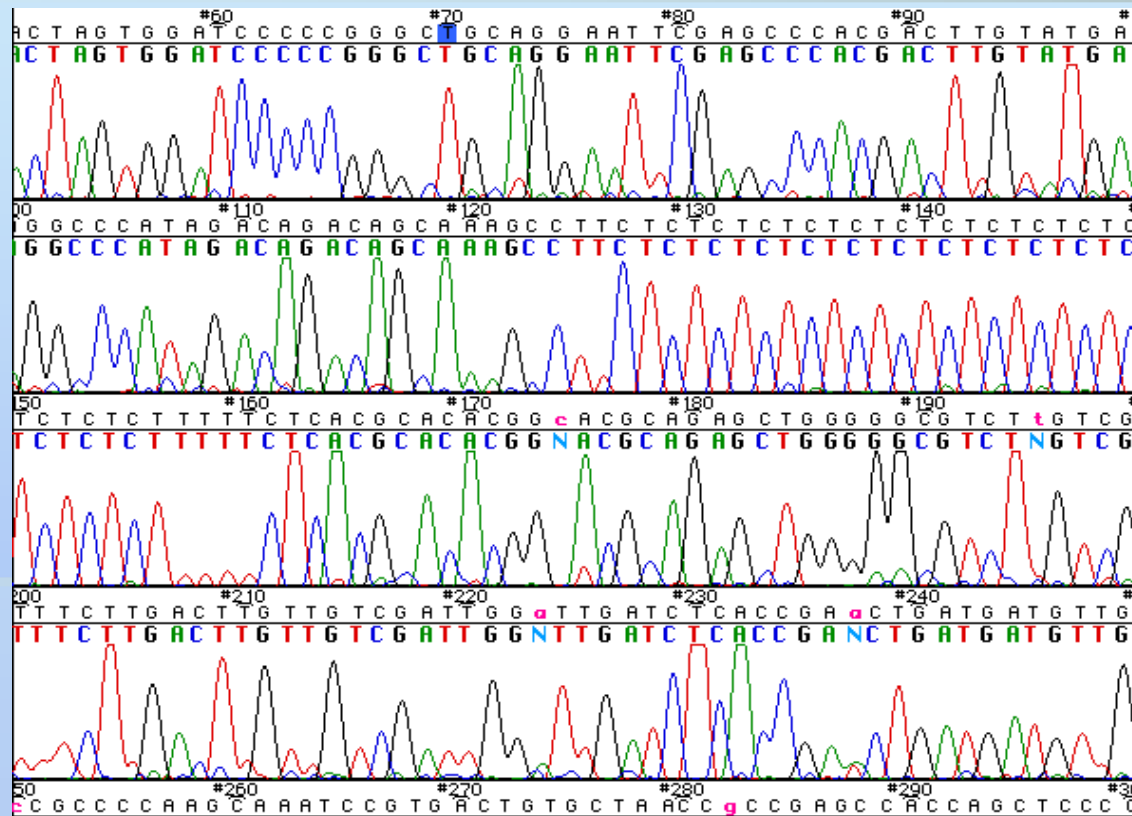
molecular

- based on DNA (RFLP, VNTR, RAPD, microsatellites, SSCP, AFLP, **Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms**)

Ideal GENETIC Marker: Characteristics

- ▶ **Mendelian behaviour**
- ▶ **Not influenced by the environment**
- ▶ **Highly polymorphic**
- ▶ **Easy to detect and analyze**
- ▶ **Robust**
- ▶ **Not expensive**
- ▶ **Automation**

Simple Sequence Repeat - SSR – (Microsatellites)





METHODOLOGICAL BOX

POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION – PCR –



Kary Mullis (1944 -)
American Biochemist
Cetus Corp.
Nobel prize in Chemistry in 1993

Polymerase: DNA polymerase

- DNA polymerase REPLICATES DNA

Chain Reaction: DNA polymerase

- The product of a reaction is used to amplify the products of each reaction

It is the PERFECT MEHODOLOGY to amplify regions containing SSRs and identify GENETIC VARIATION AT THE DNA LEVEL

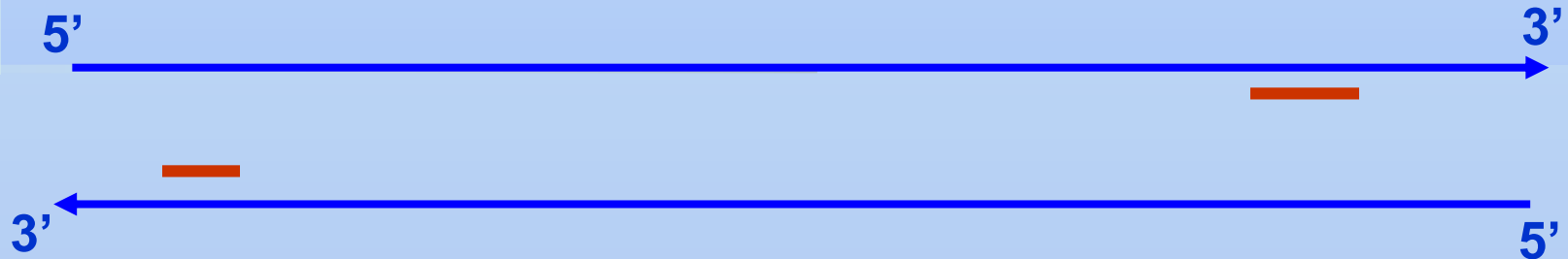
Properties of DNA polymearse

It needs a pre-existing DNA to duplicate

- Cannot assemble a new strand from components
- Called template DNA

It can only extend an existing piece of DNA

- Called primers

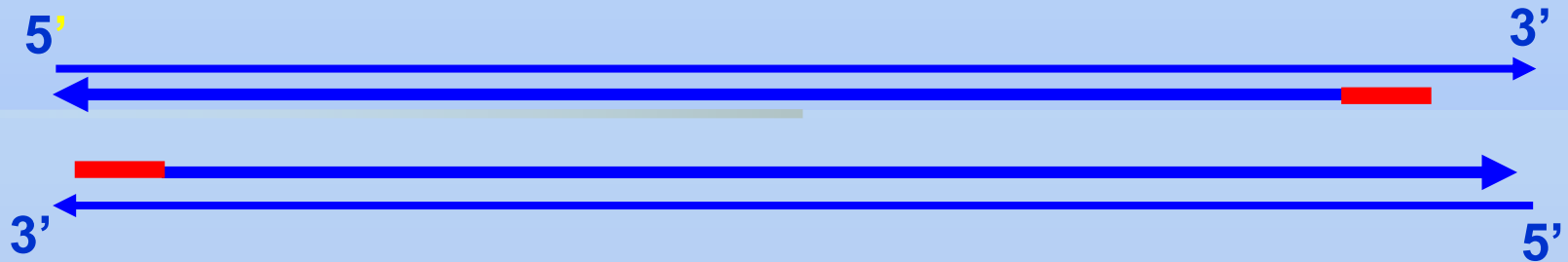


Properties of DNA polymearse

DNA strands are anti-parallel

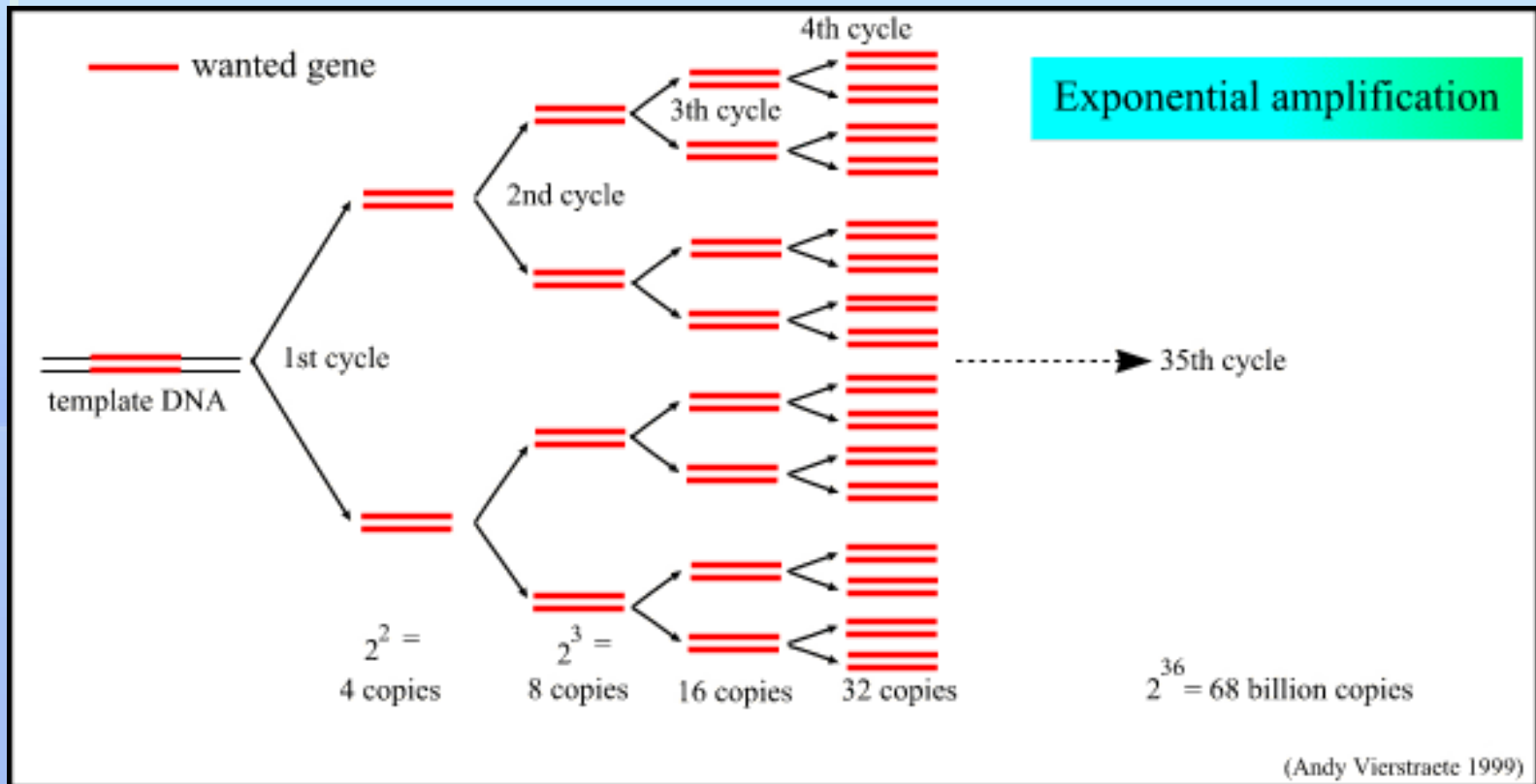
- One strand goes in 5' → 3'
- The complementary strand is opposite

DNA polymerase always moves in one direction (from 5' → 3')



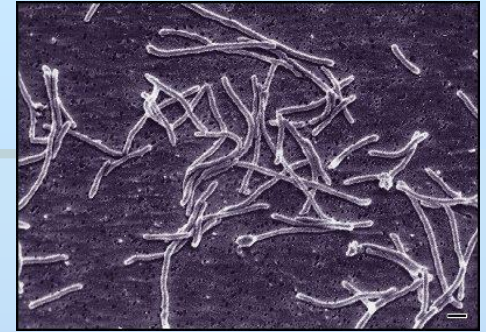
Properties of DNA polymearse

- The newly generated DNA strands serve as template DNA for the next cycle
- PCR is very sensitive
- Widely used



Taq DNA polymerase

- Derived from *Thermus aquaticus* thermophilus bacterium
- Heat stable DNA polymerase
- 1000 nt /sec at 72°C
- No proof reading activity



Lower Geiser at Yellowstone

Thermal Cycling

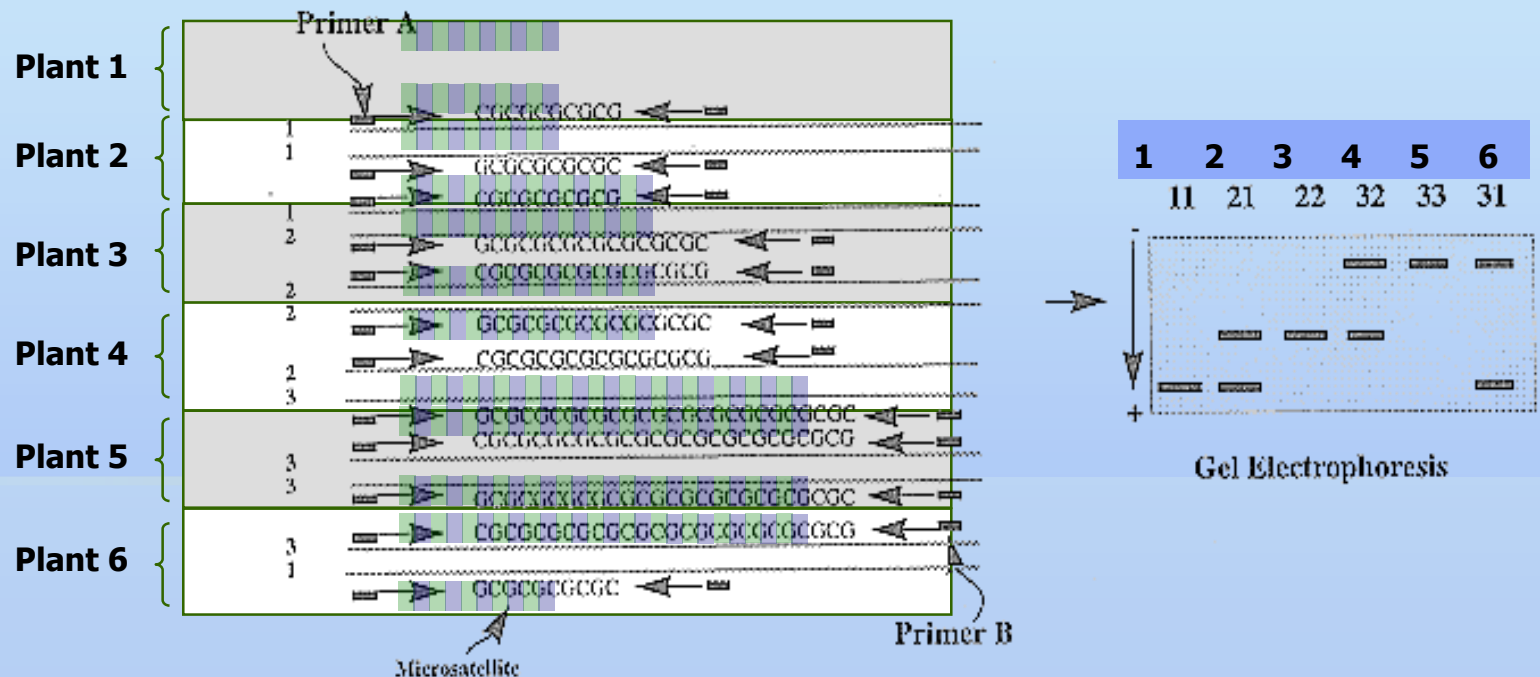
A PCR machine controls temperature

Typical PCR go through three steps

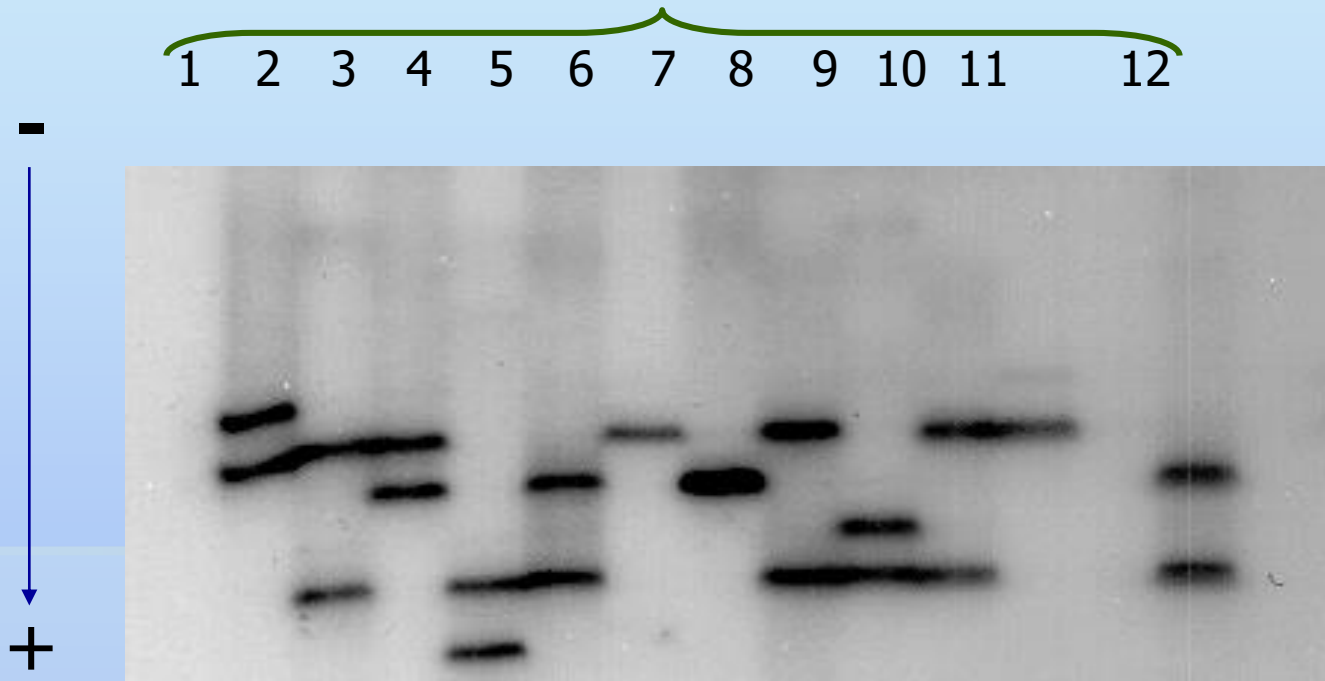
- Denaturation
- Annealing
- Extension



Simple Sequence Repeats - SSR – (Microsatellites)



SSR Analysis of different individuals from a natural population



Separation of different alleles by PAGE

Concept of Polymorphisms

- Several alleles for a single gene
- Polymorphism derives from mutations which spread in the population
- By definition a polymorphic allele $> 1\%$ in the population

HOW MANY POSSIBLE ALLELES FOR A GENE?

Multi-allelism is a population genetics concept

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism - SNP -

C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	A	N	T	T	C
C	G	G	A	C	C	G	C	A	T	T	N	C
C	G	G	A	C	C	G	A	A	T	Y	N	C
C	G	G	G	C	C	G	C	N	T	C	T	C
C	C	G	A	C	C	G	C	C	T	T	T	C
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	A	C	T	Y	C	C
C	G	G	A	C	C	G	C	A	T	Y	C	C
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	C	T	C	C	G
C	C	R	G	C	C	C	C	A	T	C	C	C
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	C	T	C	T	G
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	C	T	C	T	G
C	G	G	A	T	T	C	C	A	T	C	T	C
C	C	G	A	C	C	G	C	A	T	C	T	C
C	C	G	G	C	C	G	A	C	T	C	C	C
C	C	G	G	C	C	G	A	C	T	C	C	C

...C C **A** T T G A C...
...G G **T** A A C T G...

...C C **G** T T G A C...
...G G **C** A A C T G...

- Identified by sequencing
- Their frequency depends on several factors

Allele Identification is **NOT** the Bottleneck Anymore

C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	A	N	T	T	C
C	G	G	A	C	C	G	C	A	T	T	N	C
C	G	G	A	C	C	G	A	A	T	Y	N	C
C	G	G	G	C	C	G	C	N	T	C	T	C
C	C	G	A	C	C	G	C	C	T	T	T	C
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	A	C	T	Y	C	C
C	G	G	A	C	C	G	C	A	T	Y	C	C
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	C	T	C	C	G
C	C	R	G	C	C	C	C	A	T	C	C	C
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	C	T	C	T	G
C	G	R	G	C	C	G	C	C	T	C	T	G
C	G	G	A	T	T	C	C	A	T	C	T	C
C	C	G	A	C	C	G	C	A	T	C	T	C
C	C	G	G	C	C	G	A	C	T	C	C	C
C	C	G	G	C	C	G	A	C	T	C	C	C

In the post genomics era the challenge is to
assign these sequences a meaning

Molecular Markers Applications

- **Population Analysis**
 - Population Genetics
 - Taxonomy and Evolution
- **Mapping**
 - Linkage maps
 - Mapping of single genes
 - Mapping of complex traits (QTL)
 - Dignostics
 - Marker assisted breeding
 - Gene Isolation
- **Fingerprinting**
 - Cultivar Identification
 - Forensic
 - Germplasm characterization

GENETIC MAP

Map

- It defines linear relationships among *loci*
- Produced by genetic analyses
- Distance between genes is measured as frequency of recombination

IT IS THE RESULT OF GENETIC EXPERIMENTS

1 centi-Morgan (cM) = 1 recombinant / 100 meiotic products

Polymorphism

- Allelic Variants for a specific gene

Molecular Polymorphism

- Differences at the DNA level

Molecular Marker

- Genetic *locus* that identifies a position on the genetic map



Relevance of a Genetic Map

- Integration with known mutants

⇒ **FUNCTION**

- Quantitative Traits

⇒ **IMAPPING PHENOTYPES**

- Genomic Organization

⇒ **COMPARATIVE STUDIES**

Genetic Maps are an application of FORWARD GENETICS

STEPS

1. Identification of polymorphism
→ Molecular markers generation
2. Selection of parental genotypes and breeding
3. Production of a segregating population
→ F2 – Backcross – etc.
4. Genotyping of single individuals in the population
→ Alleles at polymorphic *loci*
5. Analysis of segregation data
→ Genetic Map

Types of Mapping Populations

F₂

- All heterozygous *loci* segregate in a single meiosis

Back-cross = F₁ x P_x

- Only the alleles of the NON recurrent parent segregate

Recombinant Inbred Lines (RIL)

- All heterozygous *loci* segregate in multiple meioses

Pseudo back-cross

- F₁ x C where C is NOT homozygous

Recombinant Inbred Lines (RIL)

