Lecture 8

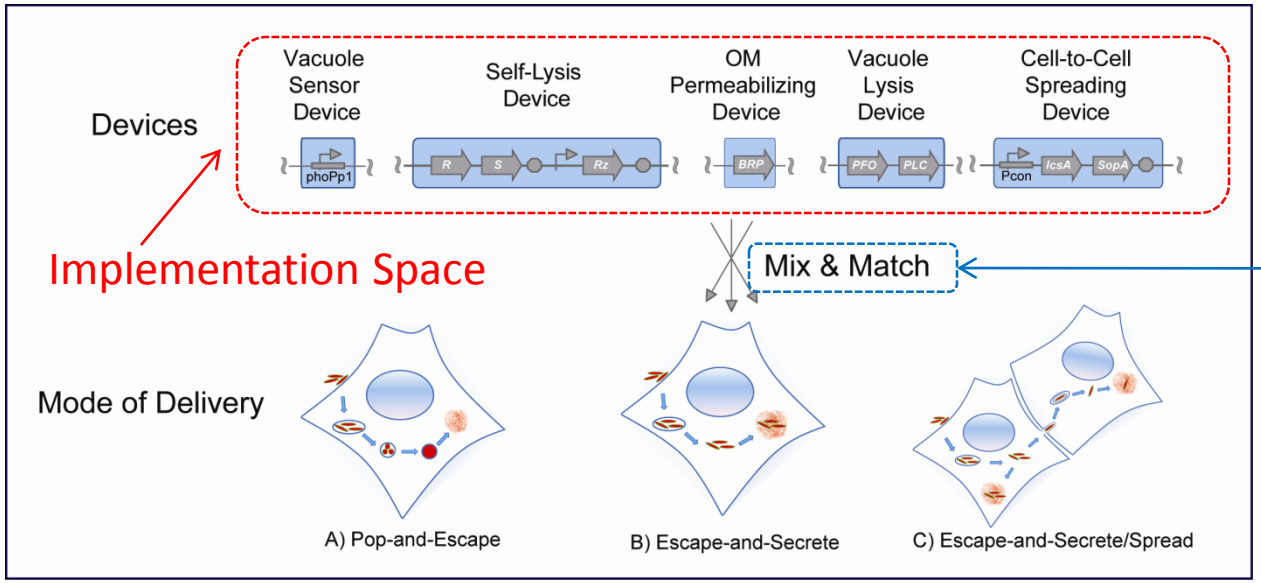
Design – Overview, Approaches, Challenges

Prof. Douglas Densmore

EC/BE552

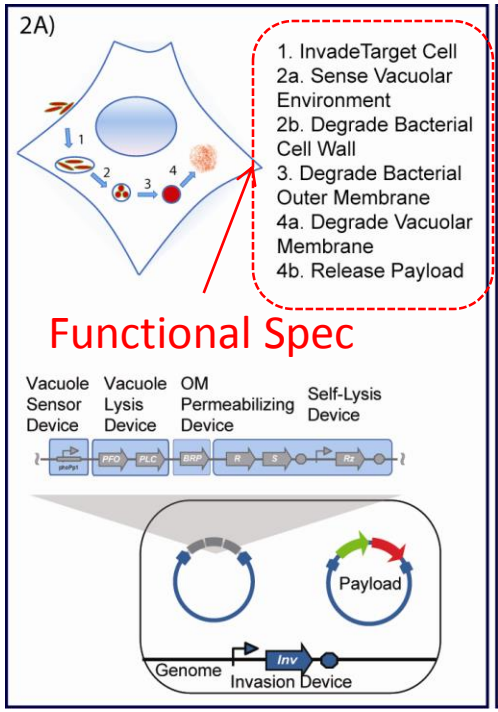
Computational Synthetic Biology for Engineers

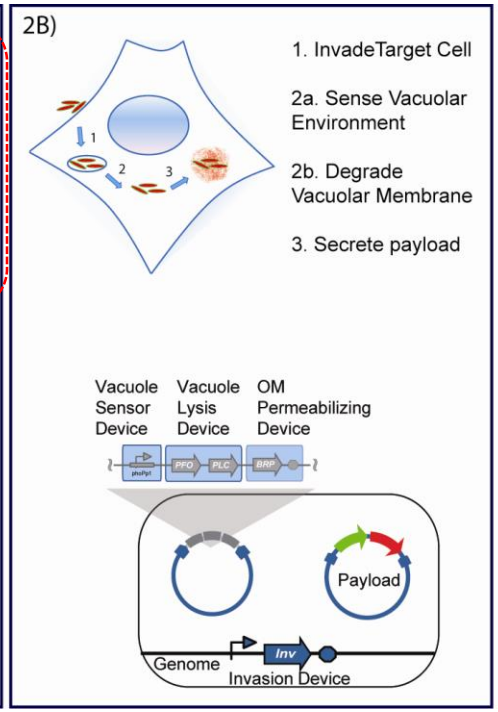
Synthetic Biology: Tremendous Potential

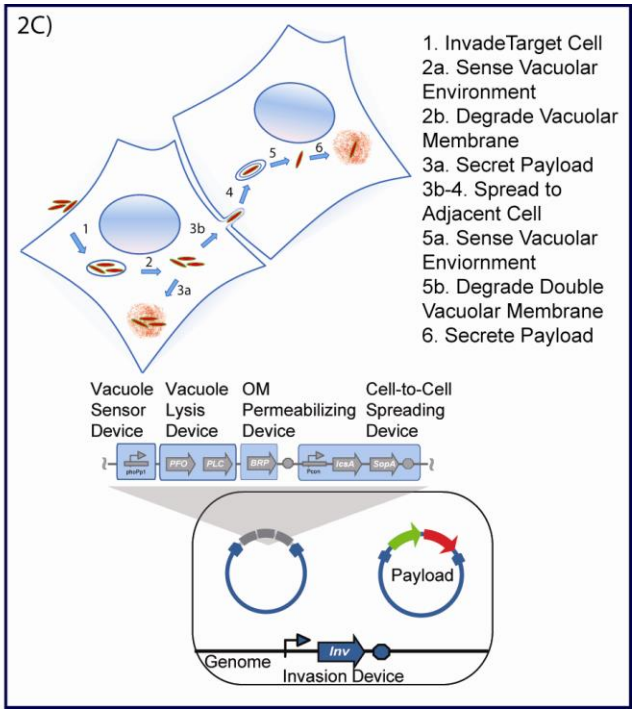


The disciplined design of biological systems using engineering principles

How do you capture, specify, and validate this design? How do you share it? Reason about it?

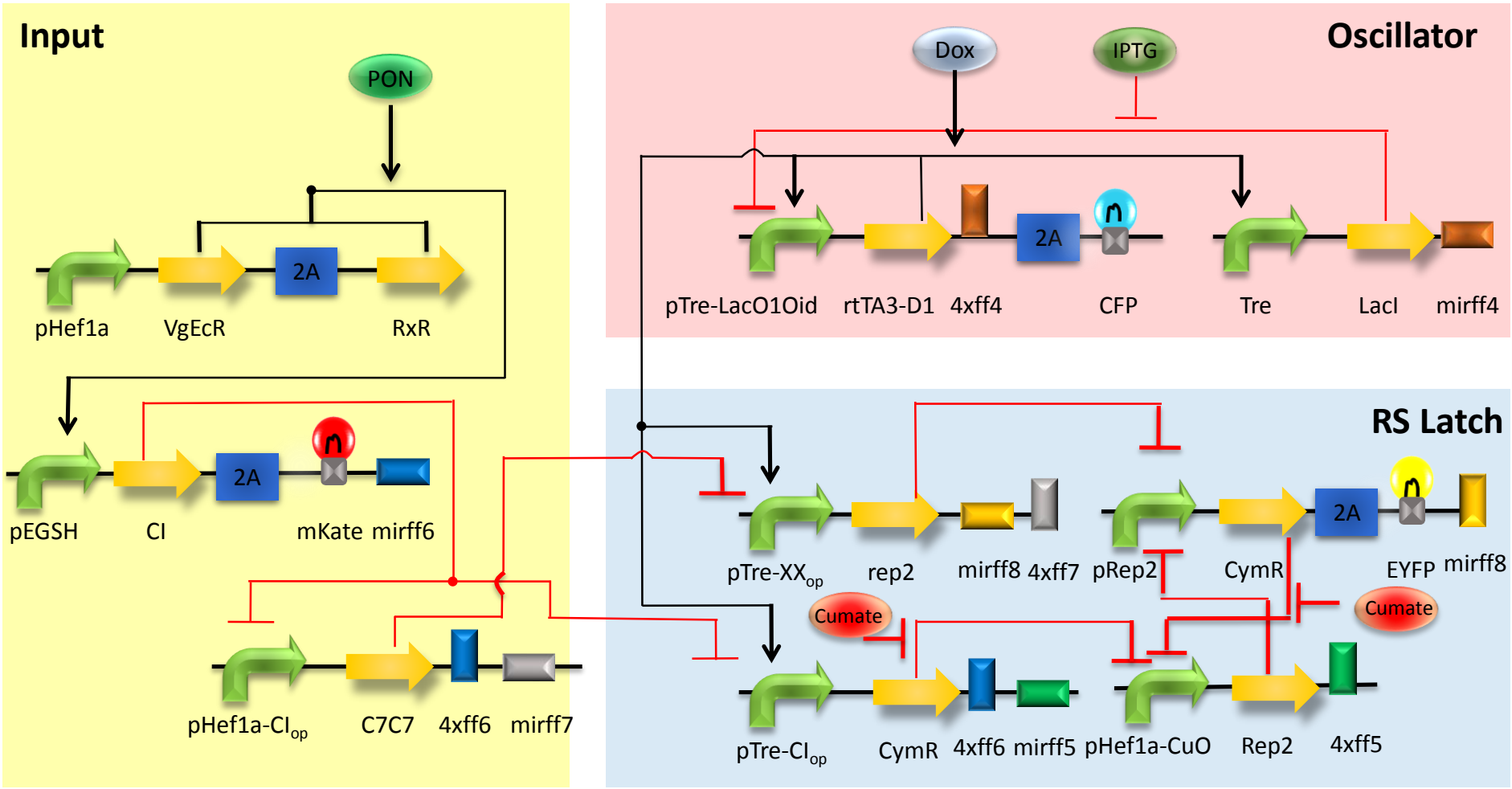






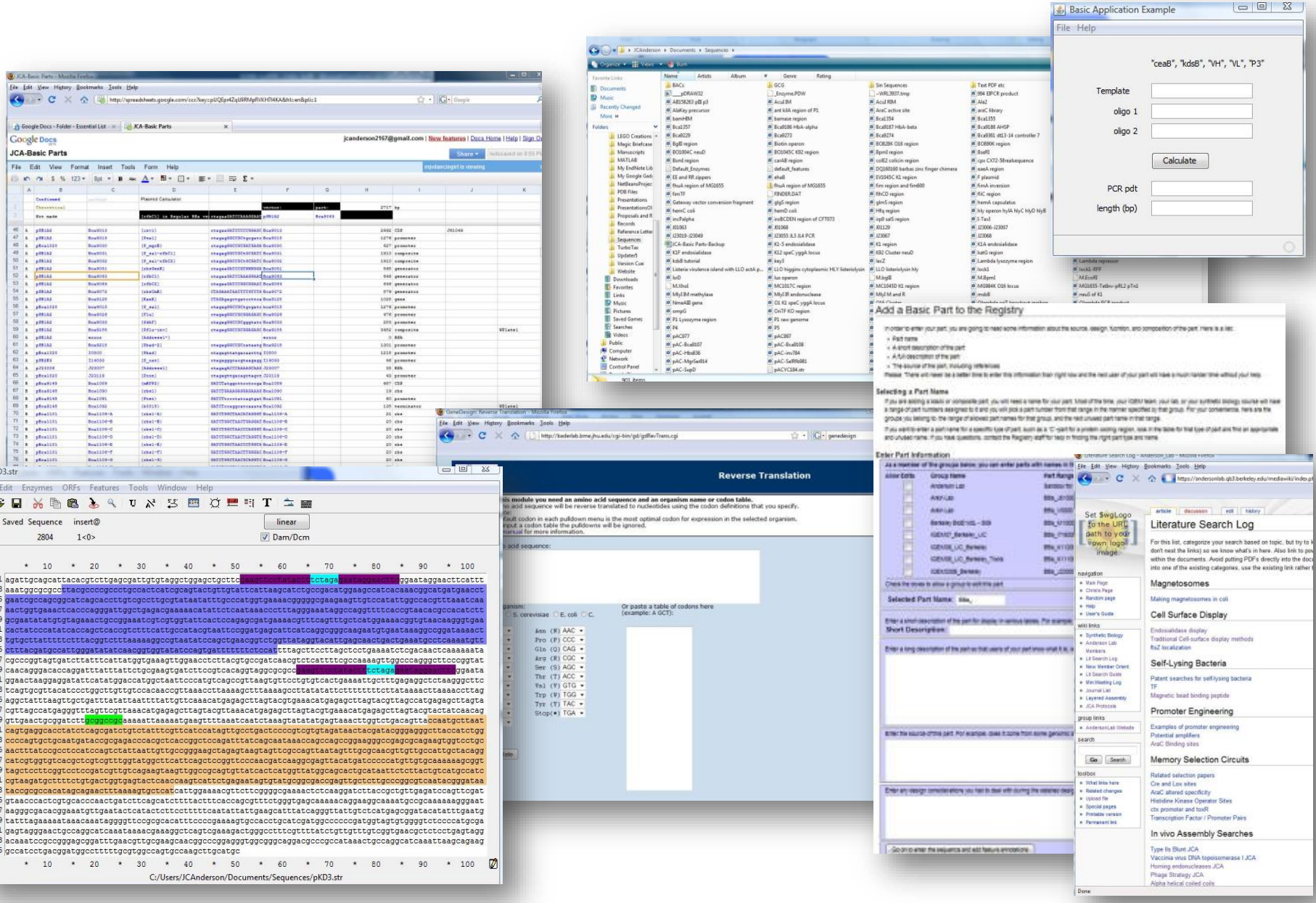
Courtesy: Jin Huh and J.C. Anderson (UCB)

Potential Complexity?

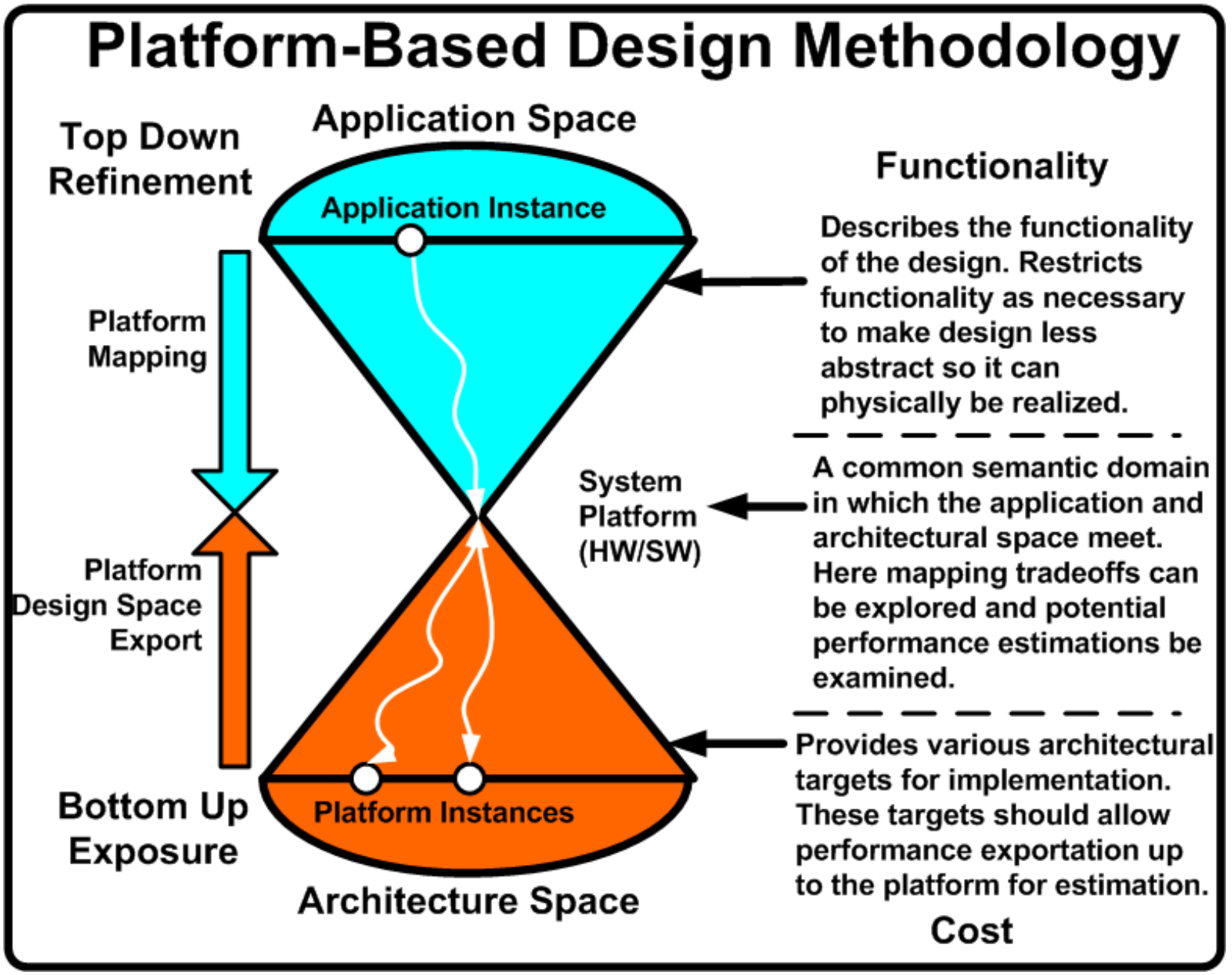


Circuit size: 9 promoters, 13 genes

State of the Art??



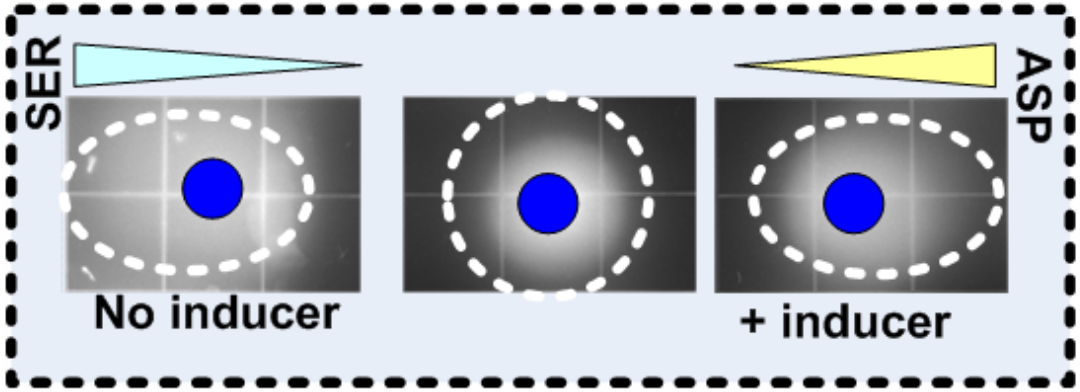
Platform-Based Design Methodology



Circa 2008

1. Specify a biological system in a platform agnostic manner. In this case, Remote Control of Bateria

```
X = 0
LOOP
  IF (ARA)
      x = 1
  SWITCH X
  CASE 0:
     IF (SER)
        SWIM
  CASE 1:
     IF (ASP)
        SWIM
```



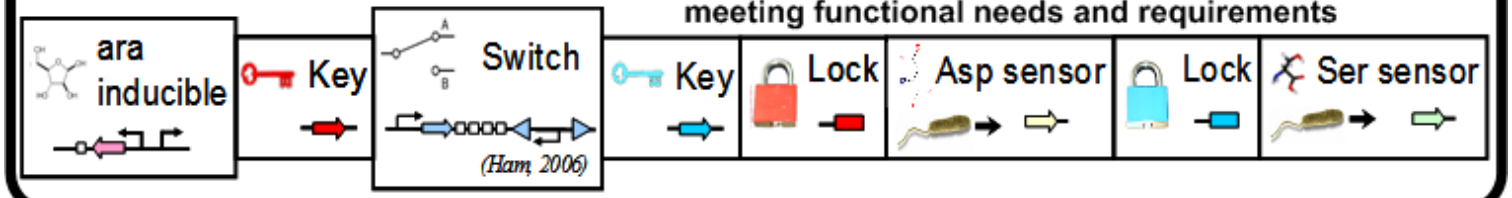
2. Constrain functionality to realize design in current environment.

2a. Strain Constraints – various strains cross react. Translation is strain dependent. (i.e. only certain bacteria strains can swim)

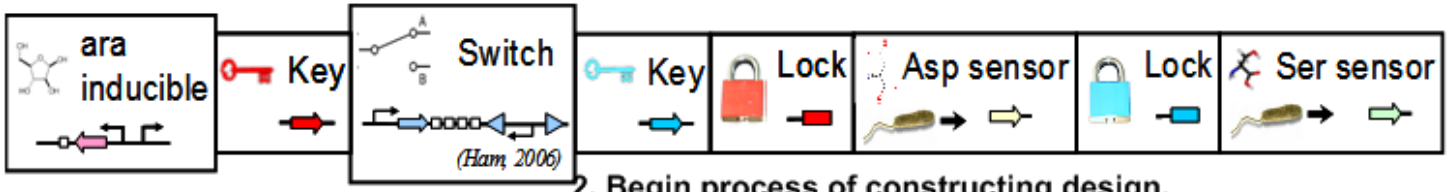
2b. Biochemical – various protein restrictions.

2c. Load Constraints – various compositions restrict growth rate, secretion speed, etc.

3. Arrive at platform components (parts) meeting functional needs and requirements



1. Start with a collection of standardized parts which have the potential to implement the functionality needed.



2. Begin process of constructing design.

2a. Context Constraint – Genomic or plasmid based design flows.

i.e. Plasmid based design flow

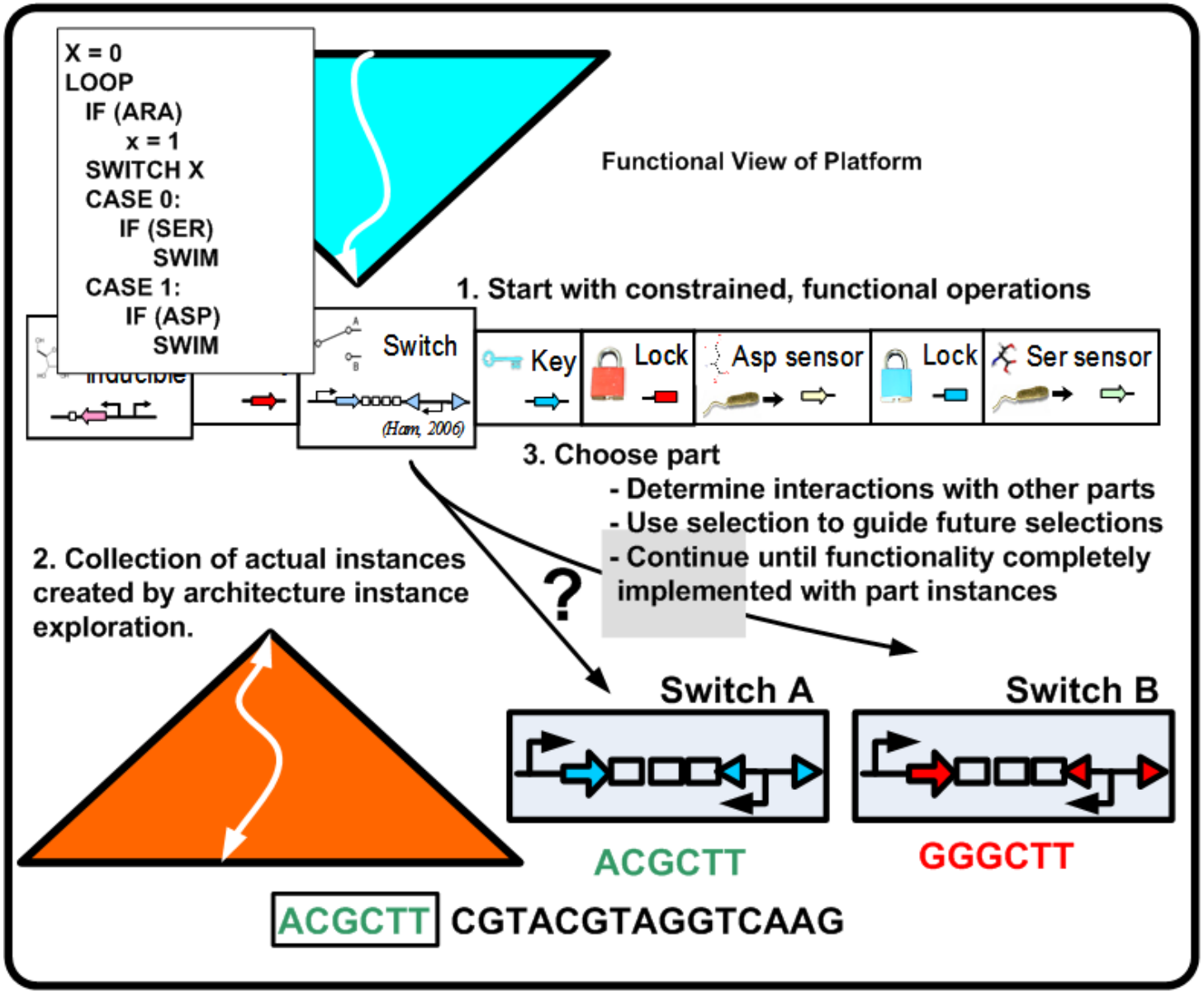
2b. Synthesis Constraints (i.e. repetitive and low-information content DNA, palindromes (like ATGCGCAT) , toxicity when ligated into high copy plasmids, GC bias)

3. Use De-novo tools to create parts which do not exist in registry and to stitch together design

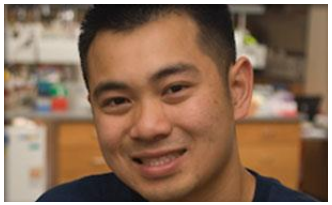
- Codon Optimization
- RBS calculator
- Promoter Composer
- mRNA Secondary Structure Predictor
- Random DNA generation

ACGCTTCGTACGTA
GGTCAAGGGGCTT

These tools give info about the design (cost) which determine if this part(s) is amenable or not


X = 0
LOOP
IF (ARA)
x = 1
SWITCH X
CASE 0:
IF (SER)
SWIM
CASE 1:
IF (ASP)
SWIM
Functional View of Platform
1. Start with constrained, functional operations
Switch
(Ham, 2006)
Key
Lock
Asp sensor
Lock
Ser sensor
3. Choose part
- Determine interactions with other parts
- Use selection to guide future selections
- Continue until functionality completely implemented with part instances
2. Collection of actual instances created by architecture instance exploration.
?
Switch A
Switch B
ACGCTT
GGGCTT
ACGCTT CGTACGTAGGTCAAG

Clotho 0.0: 2007-2009


A Platform-Based Design Environment for Synthetic Biological Systems

Douglas Densmore[1*], Anne Van Devender[1+], Matthew Johnson[2*], Nade Sritanyaratana[2*]
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences[1]
Department of Bioengineering[2]
University of California, Berkeley*
Washington and Lee University+
vandevendera@wlu.edu {densmore@eecs, matthewjohnson, nadesri}.berkeley.edu

ABSTRACT

Genomics has reached the stage at which the amount of DNA sequence information in existing databases is quite large. Synthetic biology is now using these databases to catalog sequences according to their functionality thus creating a system of standard biological parts. Flexible tools are needed which both permit access and modification to that data and also allow one to perform meaningful, intelligent manipulation. A Platform-Based Design approach views genetic information as having a particular functionality and assembles platforms (collections of DNA elements) to perform this functionality. Specifically this paper presents the *Clotho* toolset which uses these concepts to create a complete design environment for standardized biological parts.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

D.2.2 [**Software Engineering**]: Design Tools and Techniques

General Terms

Design, Management

Keywords

Platform-based Design, Synthetic Biology

1. INTRODUCTION

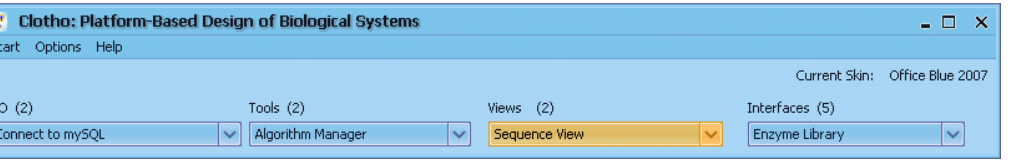
Synthetic biology is a rapidly growing field in which the techniques of chemistry, biology, and engineering merge. Synthetic biologists look to create new microorganisms by manipulating the basic building blocks of life to create living material which interacts with, manipulates, and responds to the environment in which it lives. Synthetic biology is very much a *design science* where a new system is created by researchers in laboratories using a series of design steps along with their understanding of biological processes. Synthetic biology has the potential to greatly impact greater society through the development of new technologies in drug production, biofuels, and drug delivery vessels.

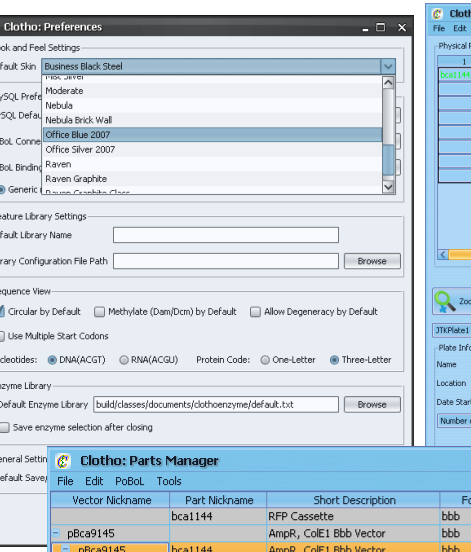
In an attempt to standardize this process, leverage previous design experiences, and begin to create a predictive design environment, registries of standard biological parts are beginning to emerge [14]. Researchers have begun to talk about how to classify these parts, create CAD systems, and establish standards [13], [12], [7], [19], [10]. [18] lays out very nicely an example of how these parts can be used to *program* bacteria and discusses how they can be characterized (e.g. sensors, switch logic, inducers, etc). The fact that these collections of *parts* can be discussed in terms of their functionality along with rules for their composition, raises the interesting question of how the Electronic Design Automation (EDA) community (traditionally in electrical engineering and computer science) possibly can leverage its techniques in the creation of biological systems.

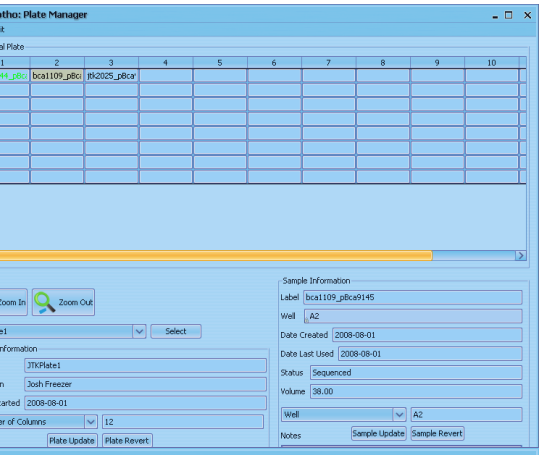
This paper describes the design of a toolset called *Clotho* (named after the Greek fate which spun the thread of life) which uses a methodology called Platform-Based Design (PBD) [16] to approach the problem of designing synthetic biological systems. In particular, we will describe its separation of computation, communication, and coordination, the concept of a "platform" as a common semantic meeting place for designs, and the notion of both "top down" and "bottom up" design styles.

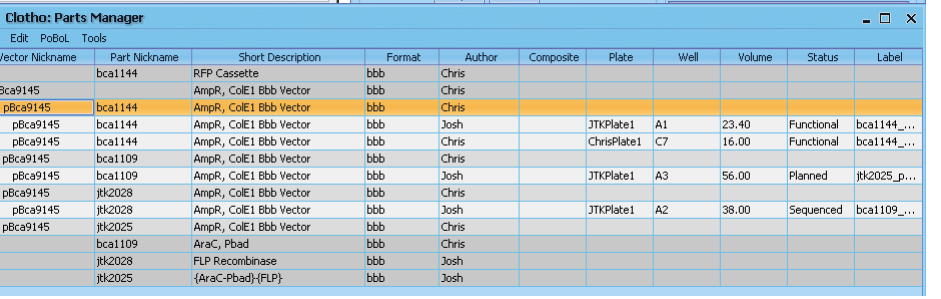
1.1 Requirements

In the world of biology one can roughly separate tool offerings into three broad categories. The first category are those tools which provide computational power to specific biological algorithms. BLAST (Basic Local Alignment and Search Tool) [15] aligns nucleotide and protein sequences to allow for functional prediction and to aid in locating sequences in databases. ORBIT [11], [4] is protein design software which allows the design of an amino acid sequence that folds into a particular 3D structure. Mfold [20] enables the prediction of mRNA secondary structures which aids in predicting mRNA regulation and ribosome binding site strengths. These types of tools require a strong understanding not only of the un-

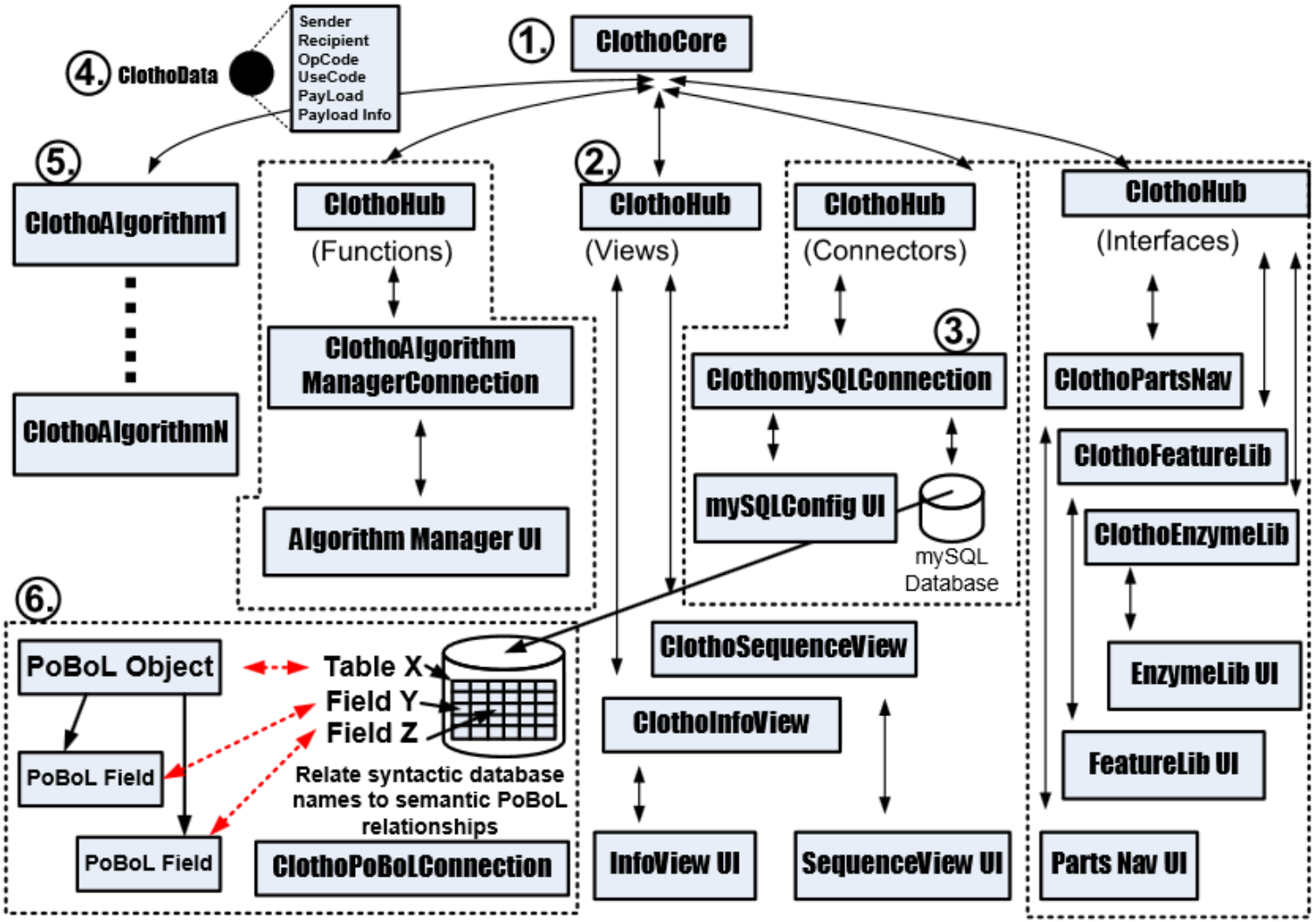




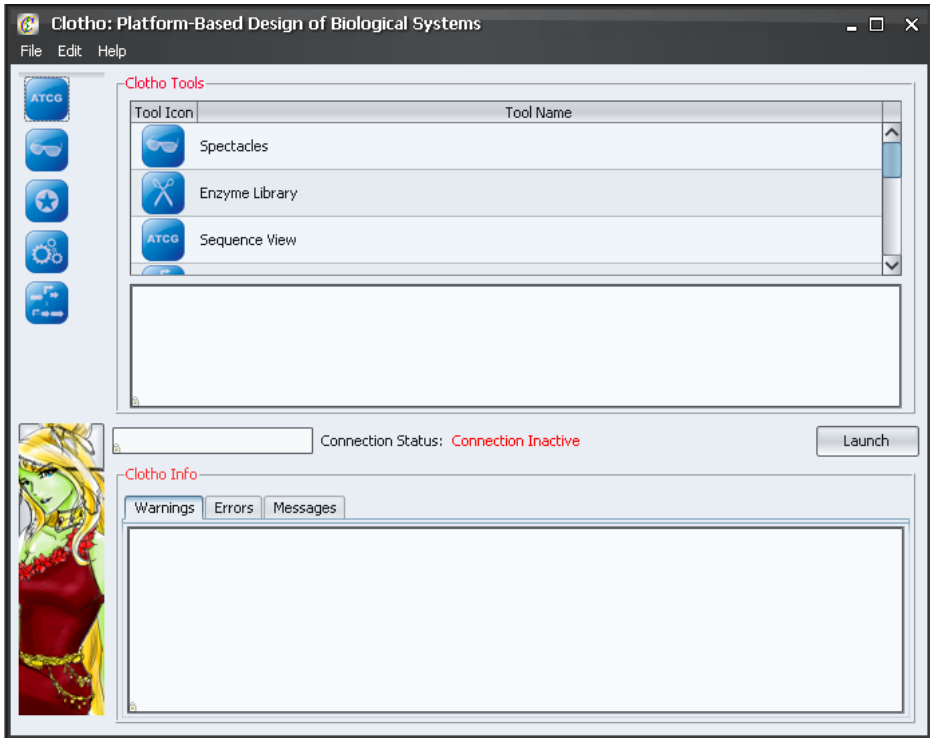


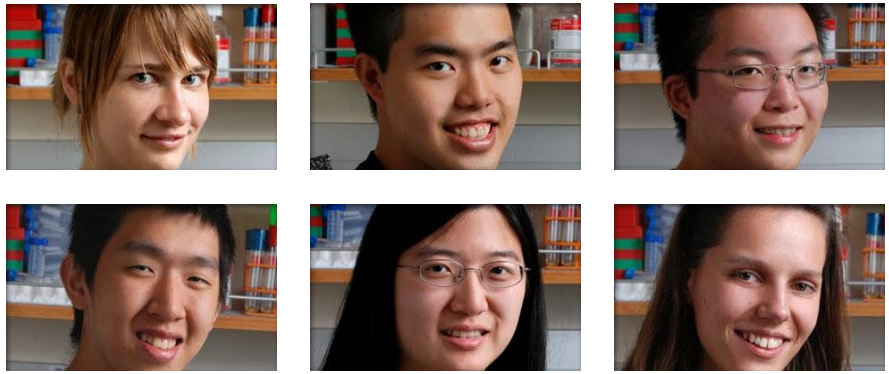


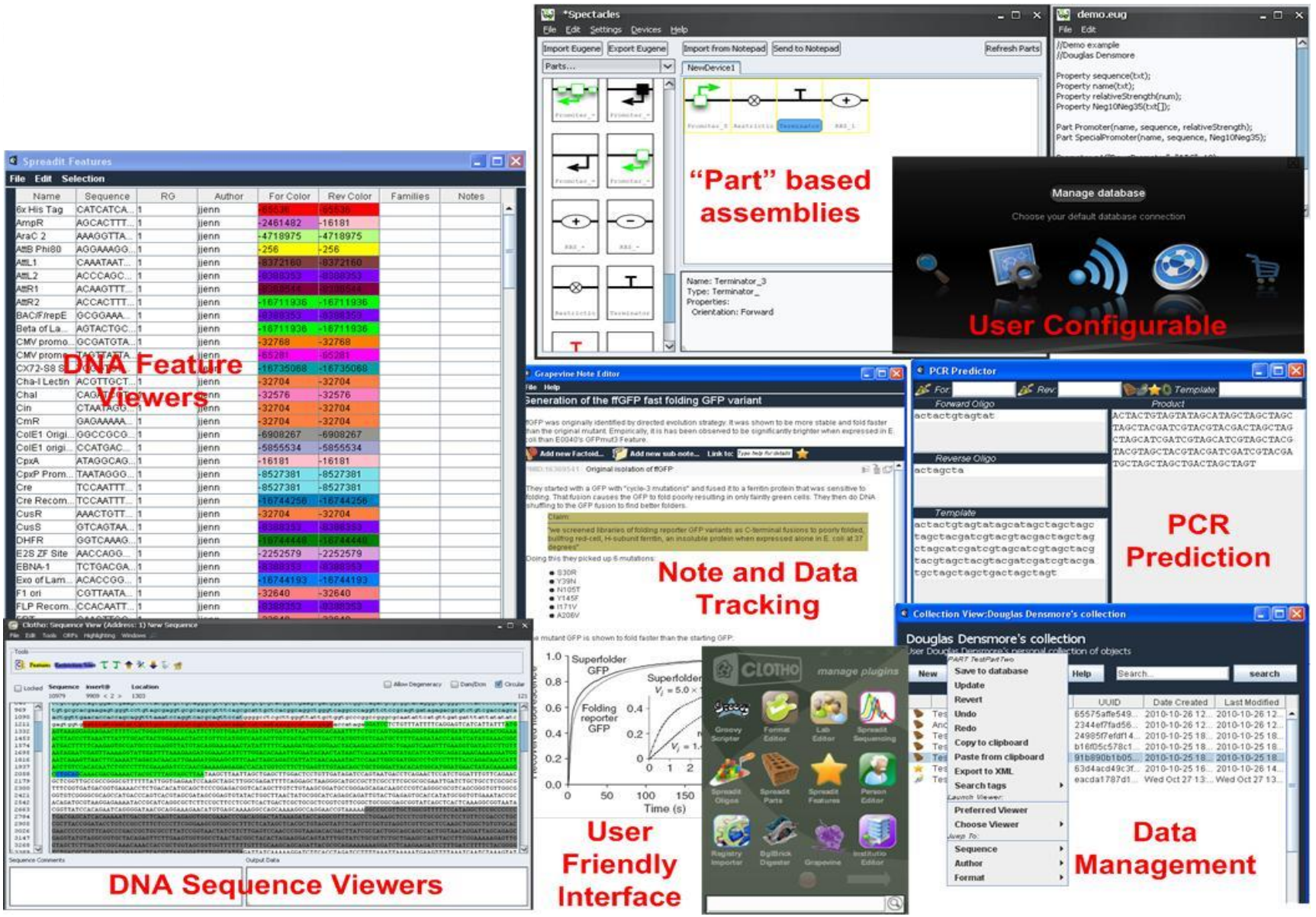
"A platform-based design environment for synthetic biological systems," in *The Fifth Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference: Intellect, Initiatives, Insight, and Innovations*, New York, NY, USA, 2009, pp. 24-29.

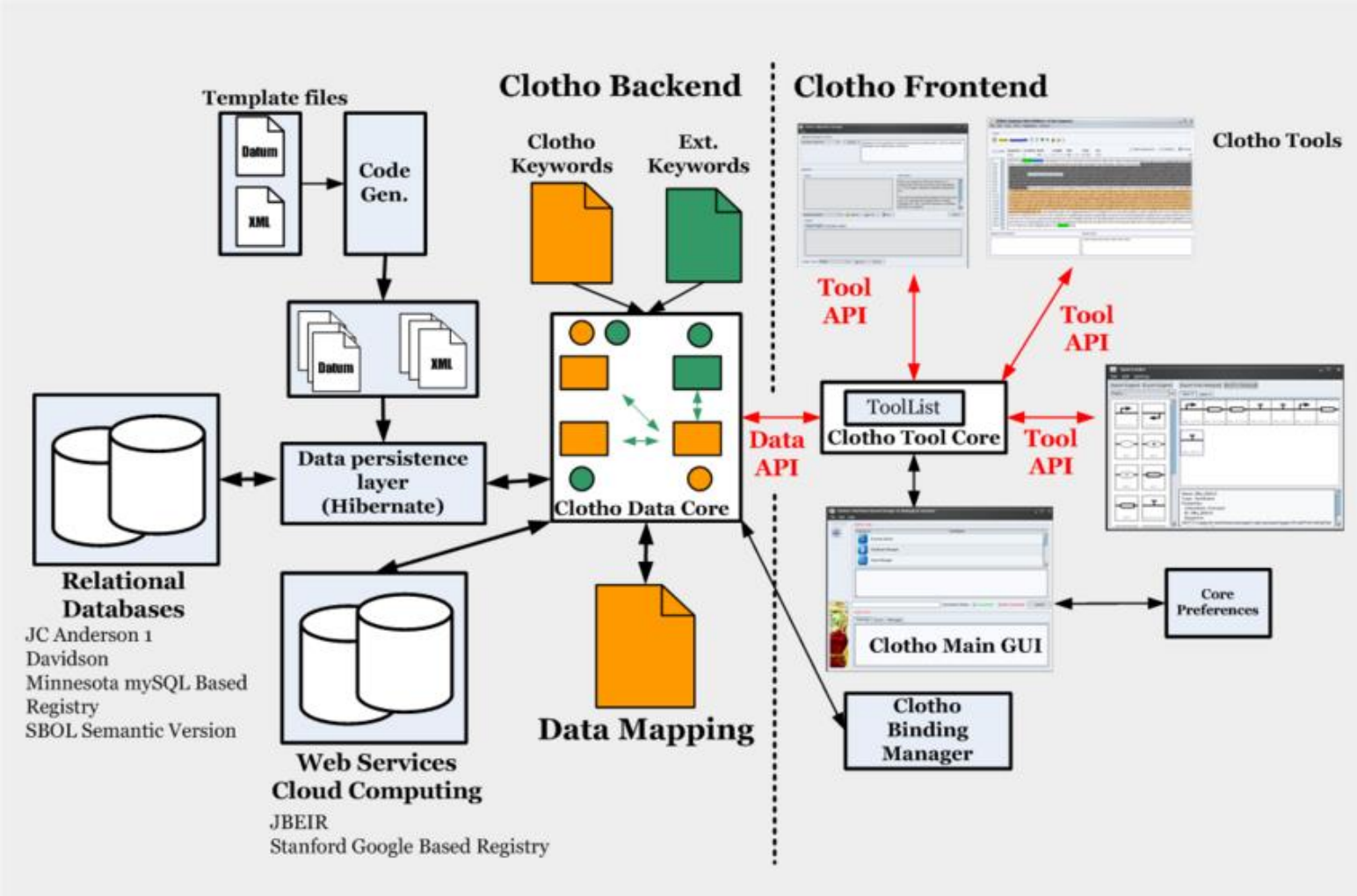

Sender
Recipient
OpCode
UseCode
PayLoad
Payload Info
4. ClothoData
1. ClothoCore
5.
ClothoAlgorithm1
ClothoAlgorithmN
ClothoHub
(Functions)
ClothoAlgorithm ManagerConnection
Algorithm Manager UI
2.
ClothoHub
(Views)
ClothoHub
(Connectors)
3.
ClothomySQLConnection
mySQLConfig UI
mySQL Database
ClothoHub
(Interfaces)
ClothoPartsNav
ClothoFeatureLib
ClothoEnzymeLib
EnzymeLib UI
FeatureLib UI
Parts Nav UI
6.
PoBoL Object
PoBoL Field
PoBoL Field
Table X
Field Y
Field Z
Relate syntactic database names to semantic PoBoL relationships
ClothoPoBoLConnection
ClothoSequenceView
ClothoInfoView
InfoView UI
SequenceView UI

Clotho 1.0: 2009-2010

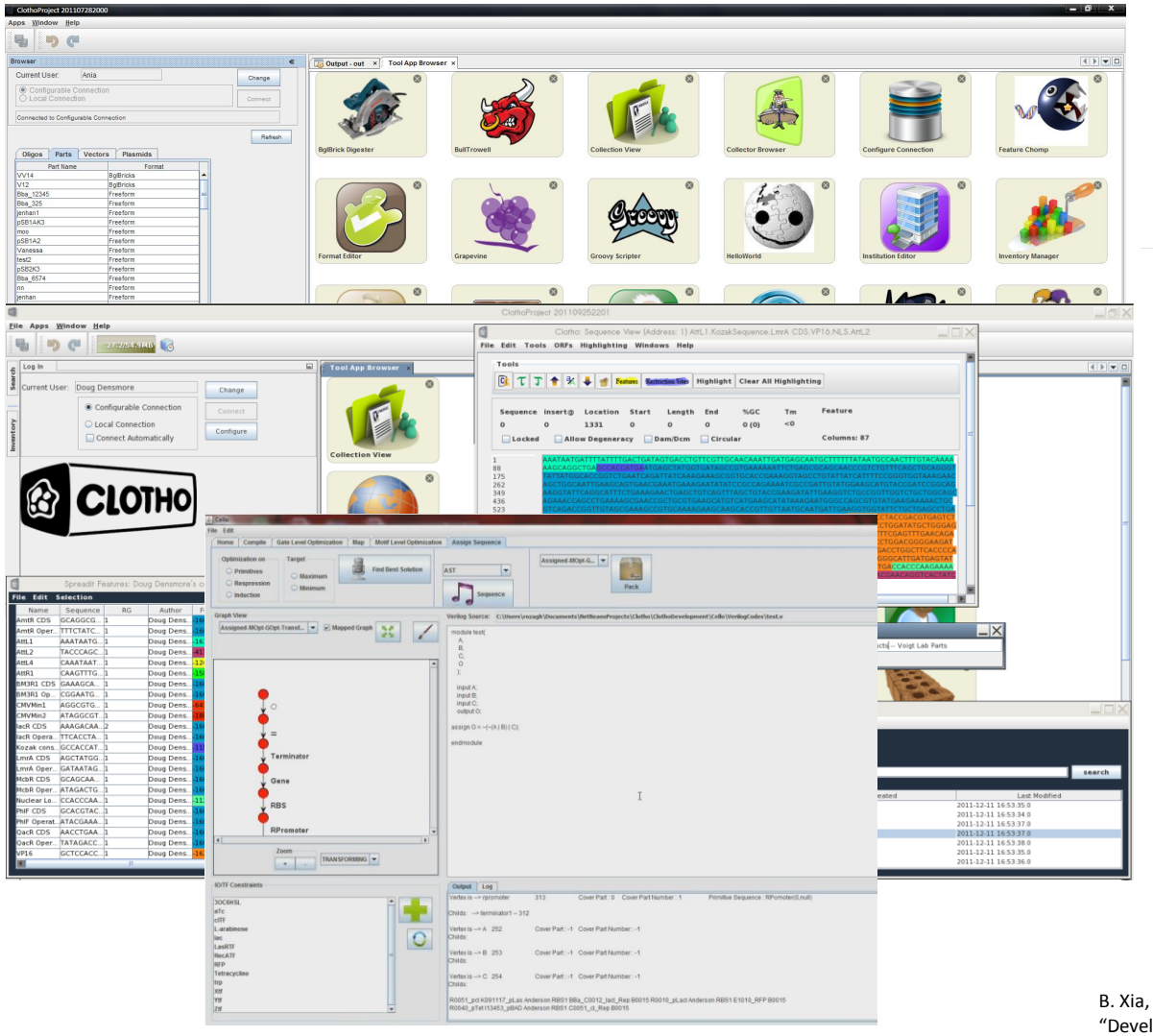


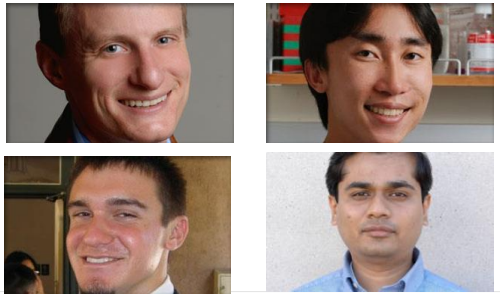



"Part" based assemblies
User Configurable
DNA Feature Viewers
Note and Data Tracking
PCR Prediction
User Friendly Interface
Data Management
DNA Sequence Viewers


Clotho Backend
Clotho Frontend
Template files
Datum
XML
Code Gen.
Clotho Keywords
Ext. Keywords
Clotho Tools
Tool API
Tool API
Datum
XML
ToolList
Clotho Tool Core
Data persistence layer (Hibernate)
Clotho Data Core
Data API
Tool API
Relational Databases
JC Anderson 1
Davidson
Minnesota mySQL Based Registry
SBOL Semantic Version
Clotho Main GUI
Core Preferences
Clotho Binding Manager
Data Mapping
Web Services Cloud Computing
JBEIR
Stanford Google Based Registry

Clotho 2.0: 2010-2012





CHAPTER FIVE

Developer's and User's Guide to Clotho v2.0: A Software Platform for the Creation of Synthetic Biological Systems

Bing Xia,[†] Swapnil Bhatia,* Ben Bubenheim,[†] Maisam Dadgar,[‡] Douglas Densmore,*,[‡] *and* J. Christopher Anderson[†,§,¶,‖]

Contents

B. Xia, S. Bhatia, B. Bubenheim, M. Dadgar, D. Densmore, and J. C. Anderson, "Developer's and user's guide to Clotho v2.0 A software platform for the creation of synthetic biological systems," *Meth. Enzymol.*, vol. 498, pp. 97-135, 2011.

What was wrong? What could be right?

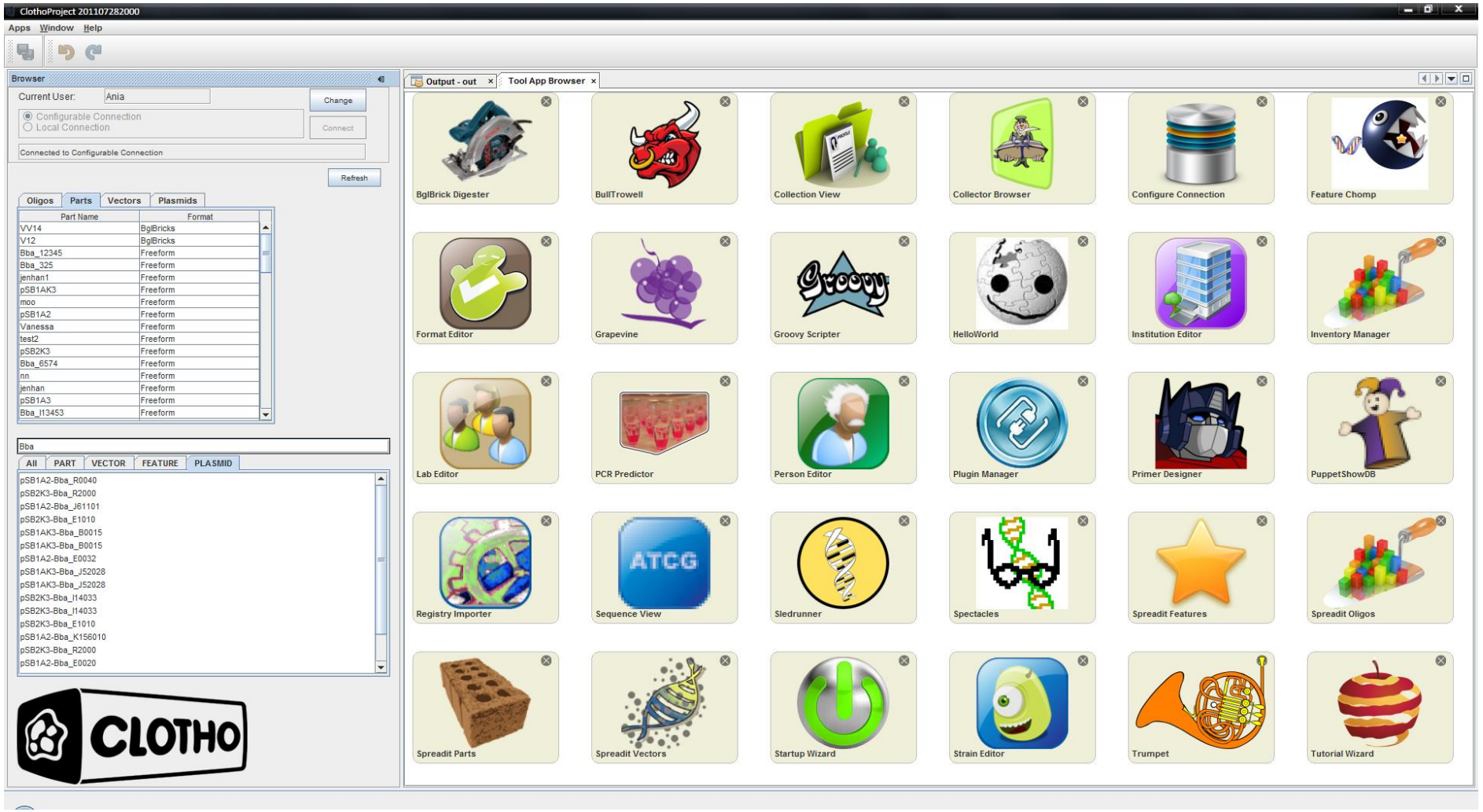
In 2.0

- Rich client – physically had to install Clotho; Java/Swing/Hibernate
  - Updates to code base not globally propagated
  - Non-uniform development platforms
  - Code bloat/registry reminants/etc
- Hard-coded bio objects
  - Provided guideline but field still immature
  - Meta-data lost
- 22+ GUIs
  - What about the 23rd? “Can you make that button green?”
- Fragmented documentation
  - No centralized body to maintain this

In 3.0

- Web-based – “only” need a browser
  - Centralized updating
  - Fewer development platforms
  - More inline with current software development practices
- Abstracted API and Datamodel
  - Comes with 2.0esque model standard
  - Can be modified by the user(s)
  - Multiple UI environment API support
- Just one editor
  - Simplify the Clotho workflow
- Embedded interactive training
  - Clotho actually stores its own documentation
  - Create organization to maintain documentation going forward

Clotho…there's an app for that!



CLOTHO

Specification Apps

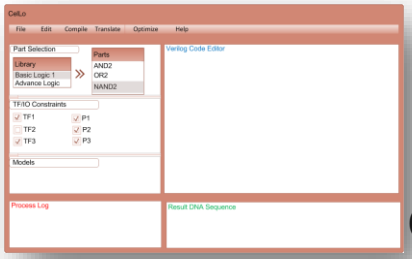
```
Property sequence(txt);
Property strength(num);
Property toxicity(txt);
Property uniqueID(num);

Part Promoter(sequence);
Part ORF(sequence, toxicity);
Part Terminator(sequence, strength);
Part RBS(sequence, uniqueID);

Rule rule2a(p BEFORE r1);
Rule rule2b(p NEXTTO r1);
Rule rule2c(p BEFORE r2);
Rule rule2d(p NEXTTO r2);
Note((rule2a AND rule2b)

//Device Generation
permute(deviceType4, 25, strict)
```

Eugene Scripter

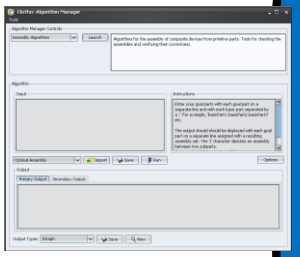


Cello

Batterboard

Assembly Apps

Assembly Manager



API

CLOTHO Data Model

Person – Creator of the design.

Family – Biological classification of the information.

Note – Information provided by designer.

Format – Information regarding legal compositions and interaction with other objects

Grammar – Defines what combinations of Parts are allowed and in what order.

Vector – Backbone for the creation of Plasmids.

Feature – Description of biological functionality.

Oligo – A single stranded piece of DNA.

NucSeq – A DNA sequence.

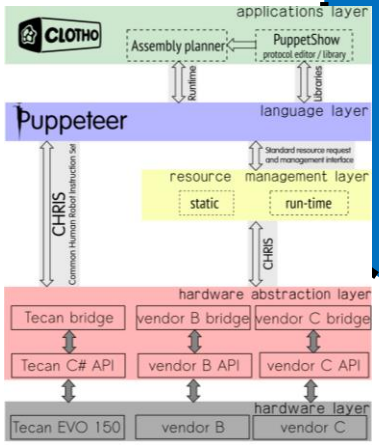
Part – Basic building block of a design.

API

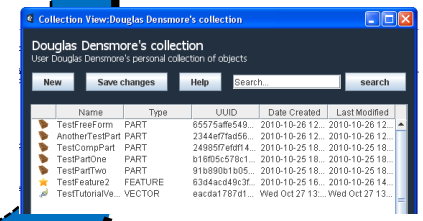
API

API

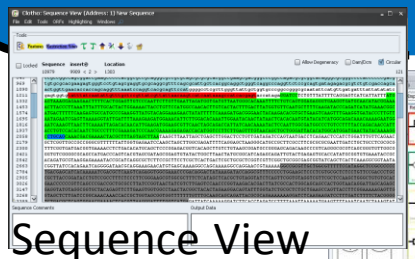
Data Management Apps



PuppetShow

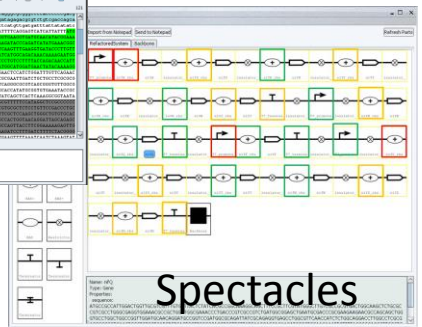


Part Management

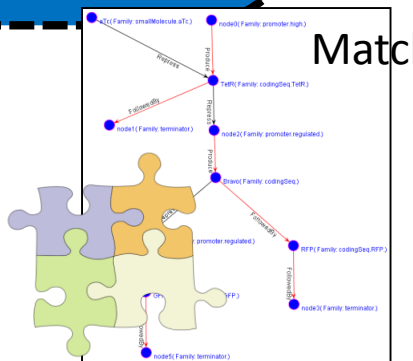


Sequence View

Design Apps

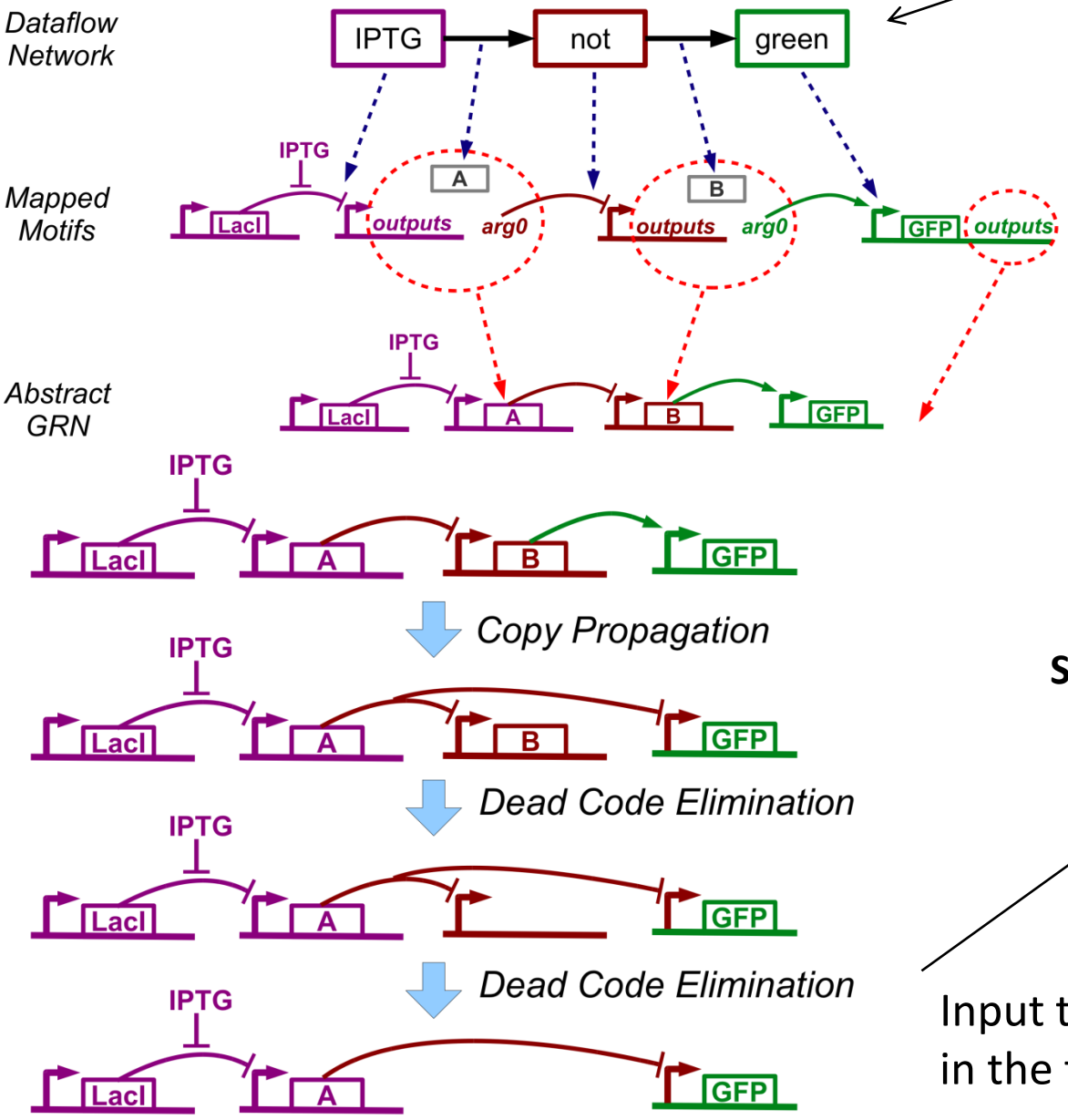


Spectacles



Matchmaker

Raytheon
BBN Technologies



Proto

Input Specification

SBOL Compliant Output

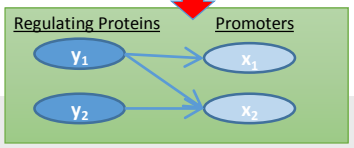
XML

Input to **MatchMaker** (next step in the tool-chain)

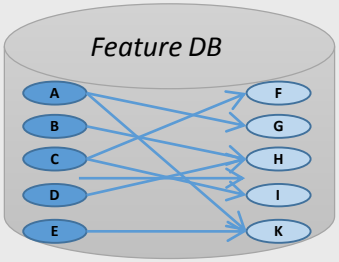
CLOTHO

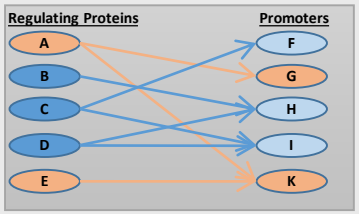
MatchMaker

BioCompiler (previous step in tool-chain) **output**

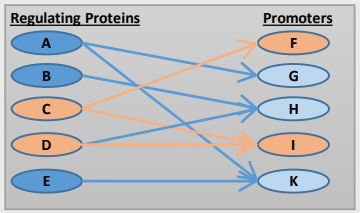


Step 1: Feature Matching

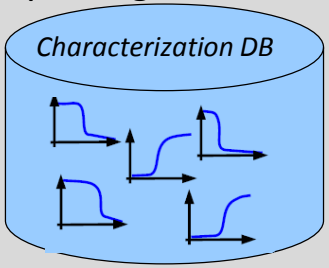


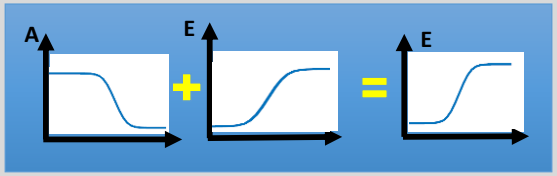


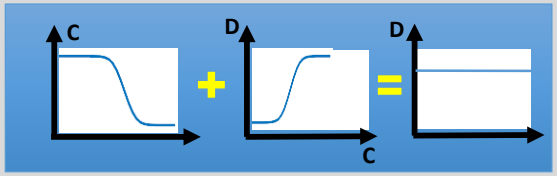
OR



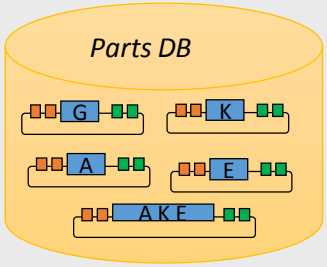
Step 2: Signal Matching

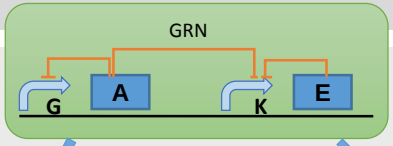






Step 3: Parts Matching

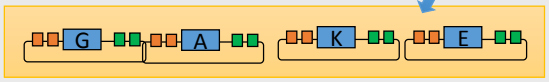


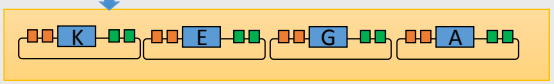


G--A--K--E

K--E--G--A

BEST!

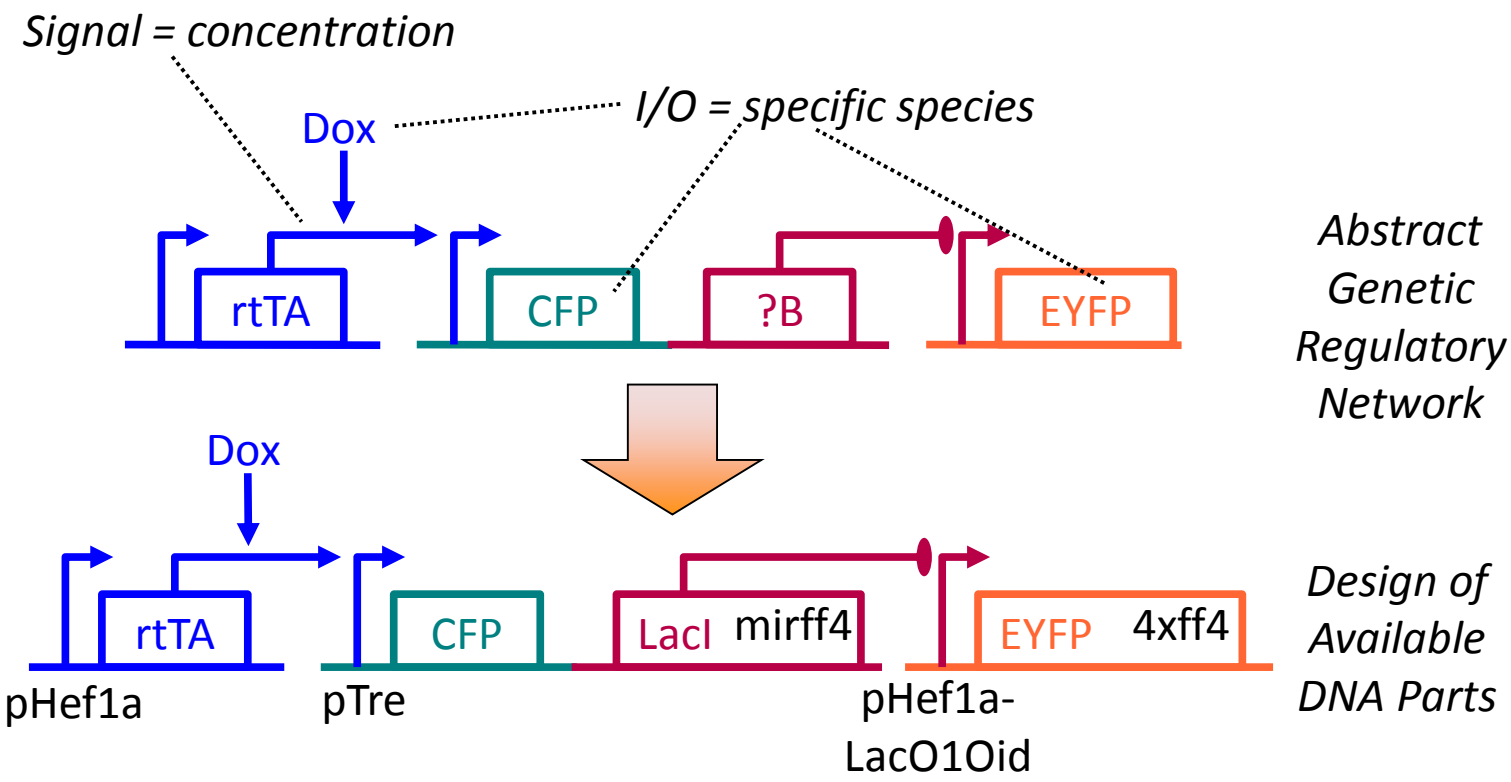




Input to the **Assembly Manager** (next step in the tool-chain)

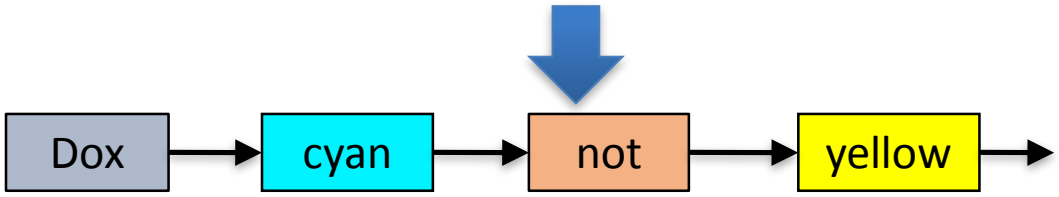
Problem: DNA Part Selection

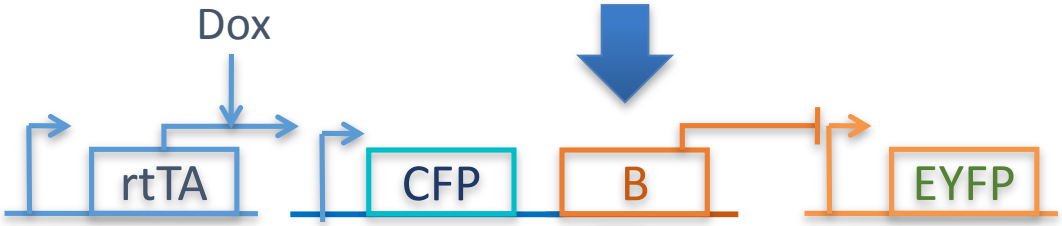
Transcriptional boolean logic networks:

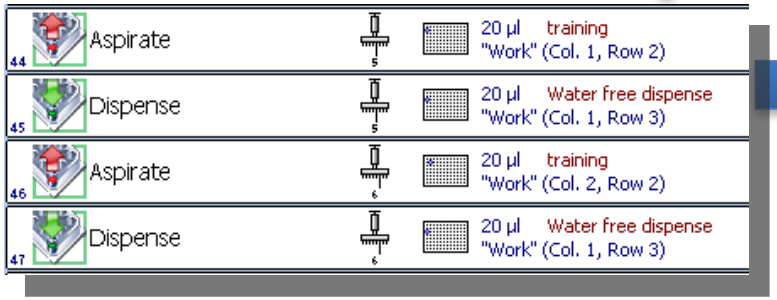


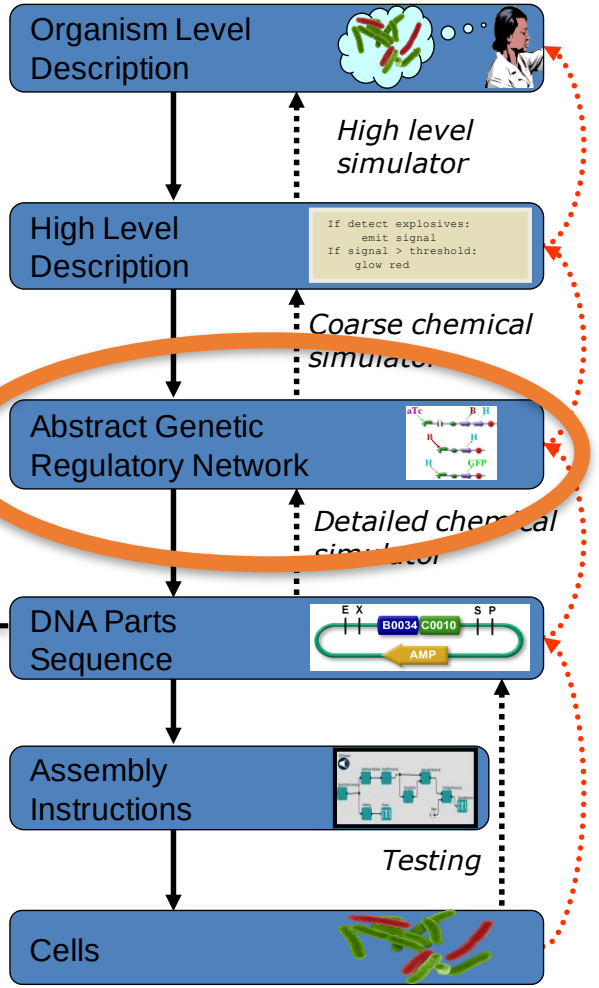
Solution: Feature Mapping + Signal Matching

```
(yellow (not (cyan (Dox))))
```



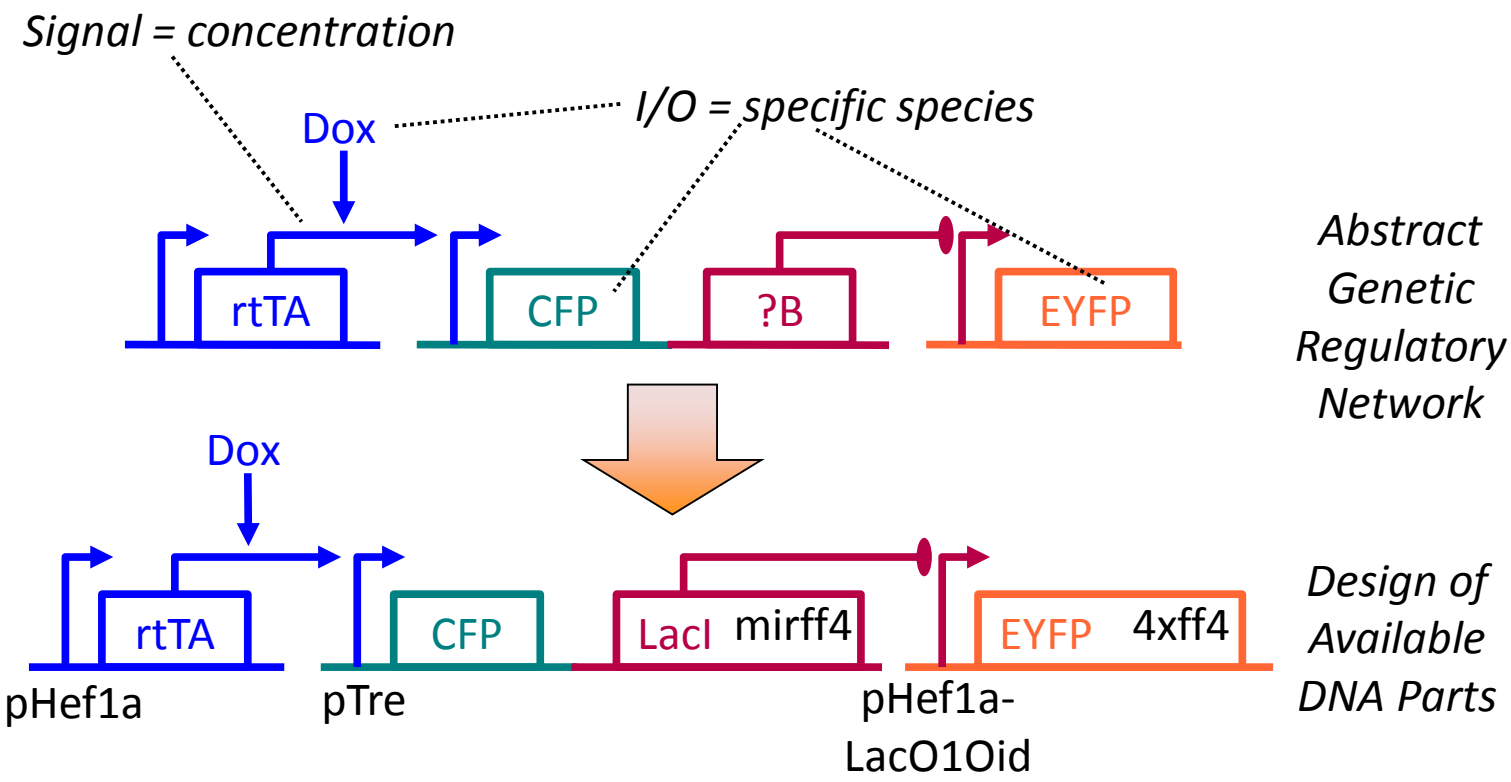






Problem: DNA Part Selection

Transcriptional boolean logic networks:



Solution: Feature Mapping + Signal Matching

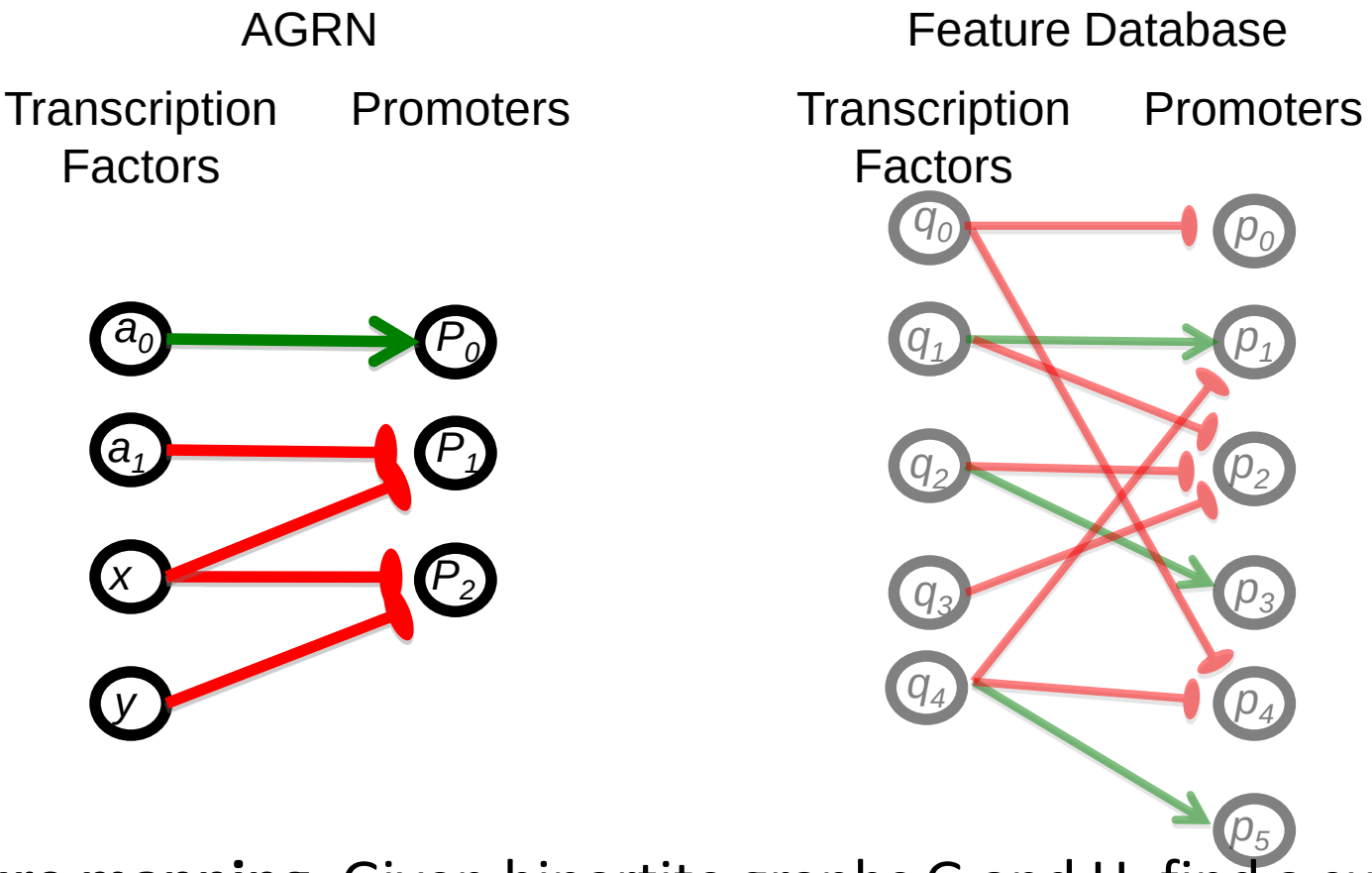
Feature Mapping: assign features to variables

- Feature: a DNA sequence responsible for a specific biochemical behavior
- Feature database: a collection of features and transcription factors with the regulatory relationships between them

- Feature mapping: Given an AGRN G and a feature database H, find a network of promoters and transcription factors in H that is isomorphic to G.

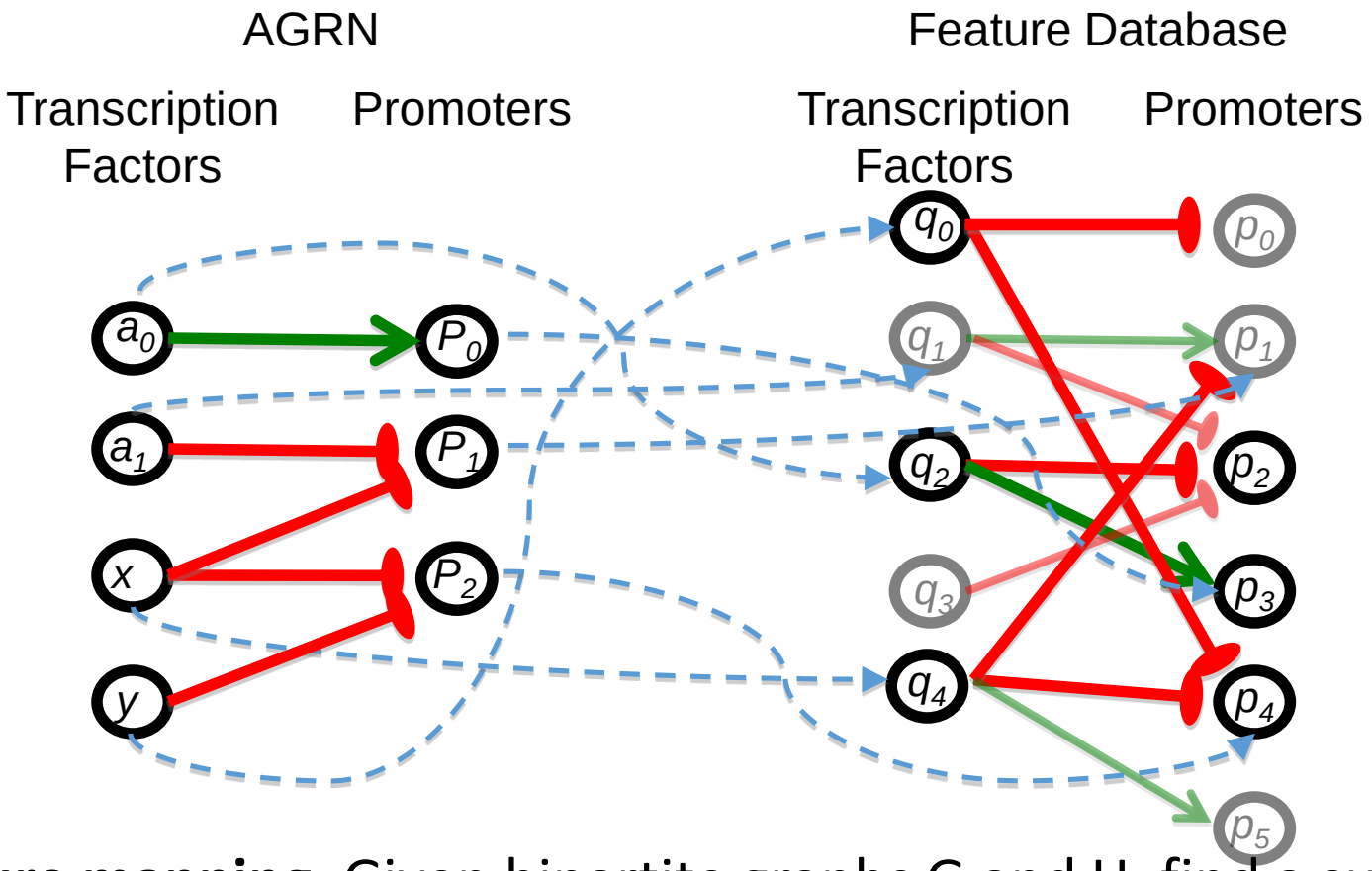
– isomorphism: a strict correspondence between arcs in G and the solution

Feature Mapping: assign features to variables



- **Feature mapping**: Given bipartite graphs G and H, find a subgraph of H that is strictly isomorphic to G.

Feature Mapping: assign features to variables



- **Feature mapping**: Given bipartite graphs G and H, find a subgraph of H that is strictly isomorphic to G.
- This problem is NP-complete: unless an astonishing mathematical hypothesis—P=NP—is true, there is no fast algorithm for solving this problem.

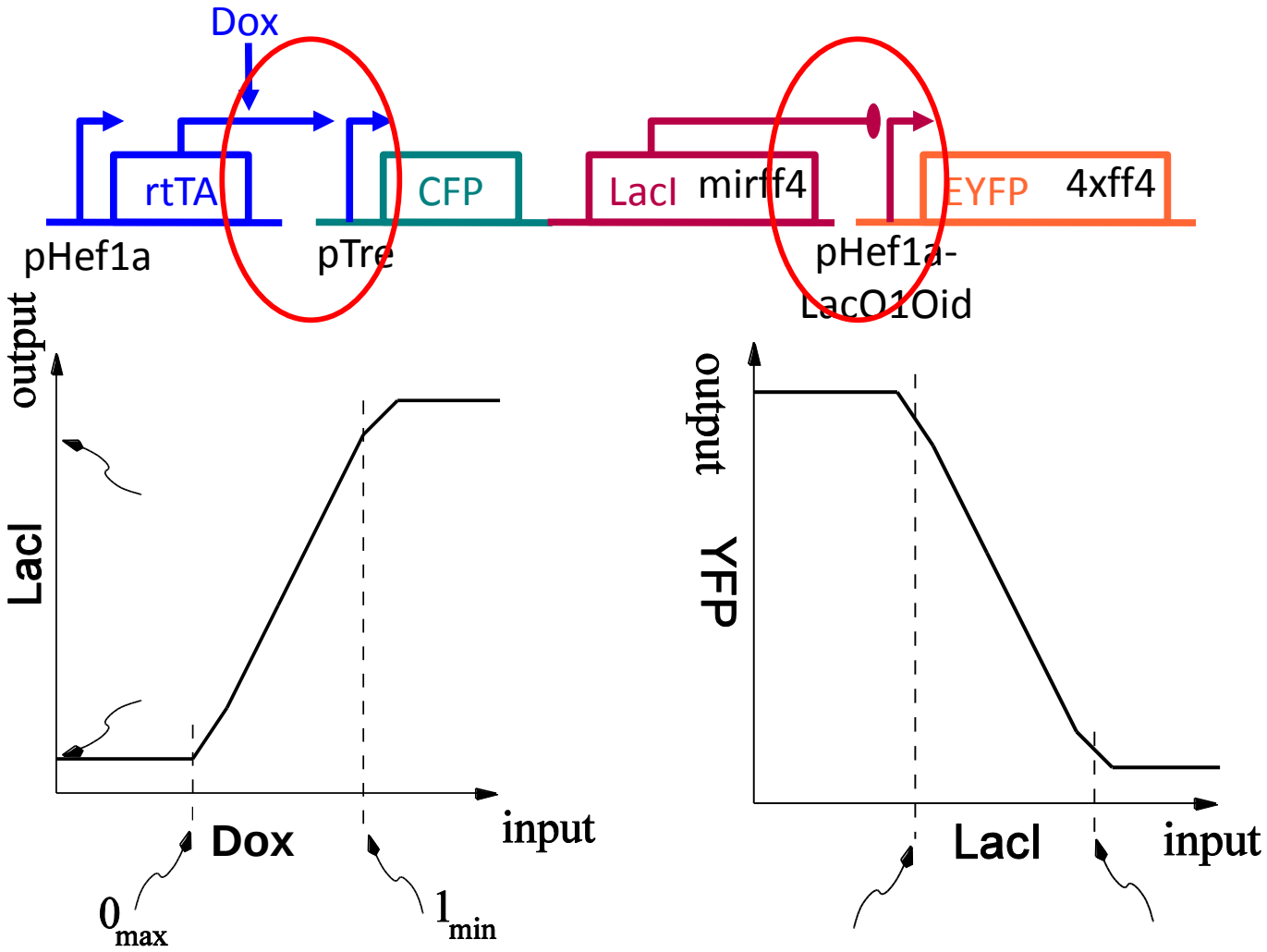
Solution: Feature Mapping with heuristic guided search

1: $M \leftarrow m \times n$ zero-one matrix of m rows (variables) and n columns (database)
2: Choose 1s in M such that one 1 in every row and at most one 1 in every column
3: If (i, j) is a chosen 1, and heuristics satisfied, then assign feature j to variable i
4: **if** the network induced by the assignment is isomorphic to the given AGRN **then**
5: return the assignment as a solution
6: **end if**

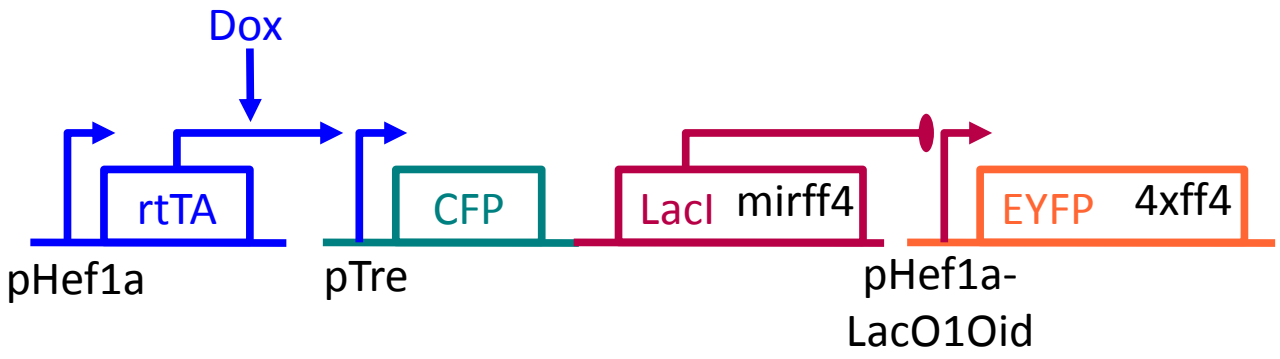
- Two heuristics to reduce search space (Ullman, *JACM 1976)*
- Number of arcs on the variable ≤ number of arcs on the feature
- Number of arcs on neighbors

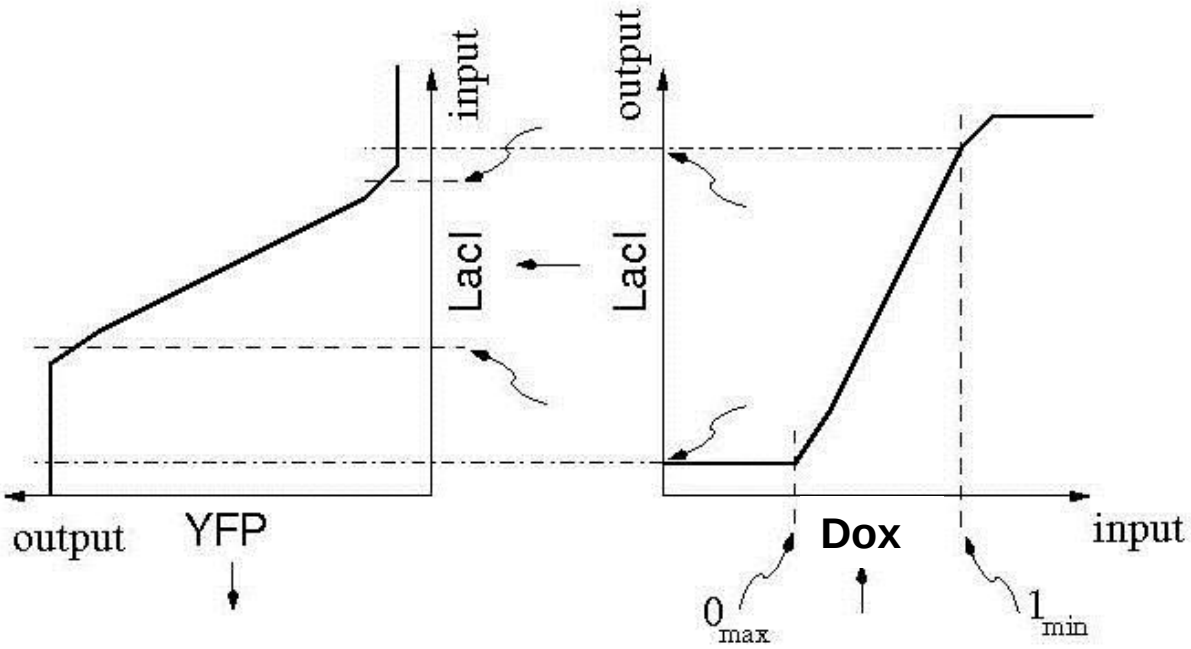
(types must match)

Signal Matching

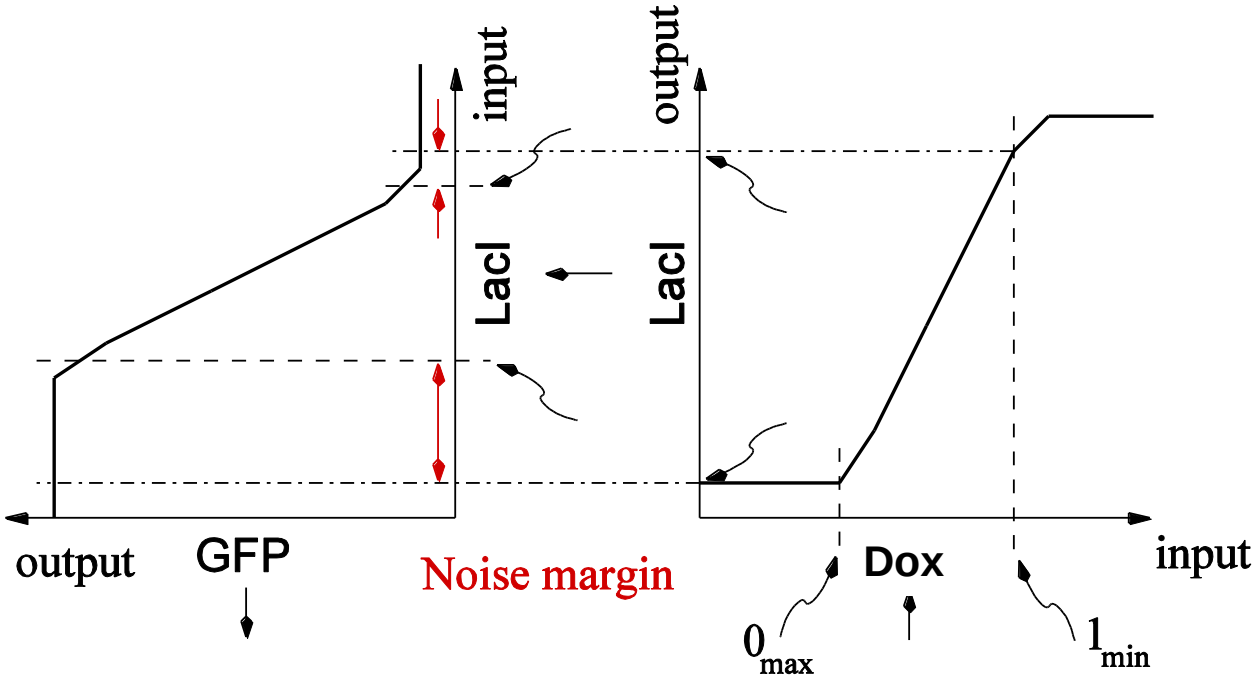


Signal Matching





Signal Matching



Output 0_{max} of Dox/LacI ≤ input 0_{max} of LacI/YFP

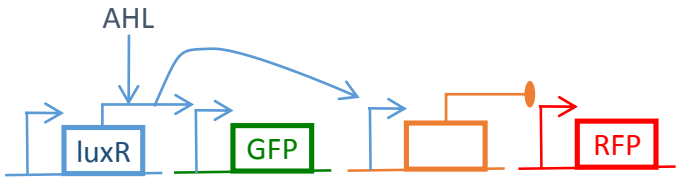
Output 1_{min} of Dox/LacI ≥ input 1_{min} of LacI/YFP

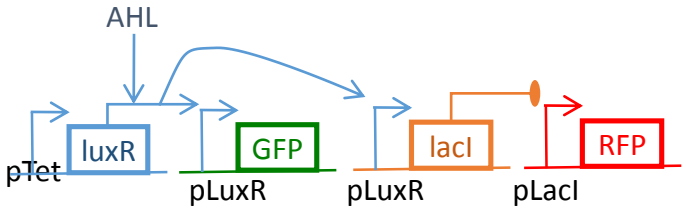
Noise margin of a circuit is the minimum noise margin over all junctions
Extend earlier algorithm with greedy search for noise margin maximization

“Cross Compilation” Possibilities

(color1 (not (color2 (sense 1))))

(red (not (green (AHL))))





BioCompiler (high level To AGRN)

MatchMaker (AGRN to GRN)

BioBrick (GRN to assembly Tree)

Gateway/ Gibson/MoClo (GRN to multiway Assembly)

(yellow (not (cyan (Dox))))