

#### Cell-free systems Gene expression outside of the cell Olivier Borkowski

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# Cell-free systems Gene expression outside of the cell

#### Olivier Borkowski, PhD

AgroParisTech

Permanent researcher in Synthetic Biology Institut Micalis, INRAE - AgroParisTech - Univ. Paris-Saclay, France SyBER team

Email: Olivier.Borkowski@inrae.fr



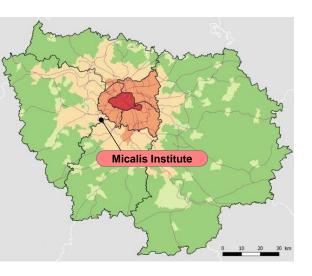






#### **Micalis Institute**







#### **21 Research Teams**

- 340 people

- 130 scientists and engineers140 PhD students and post-docs70 scientific and administrative personnel

#### Themes

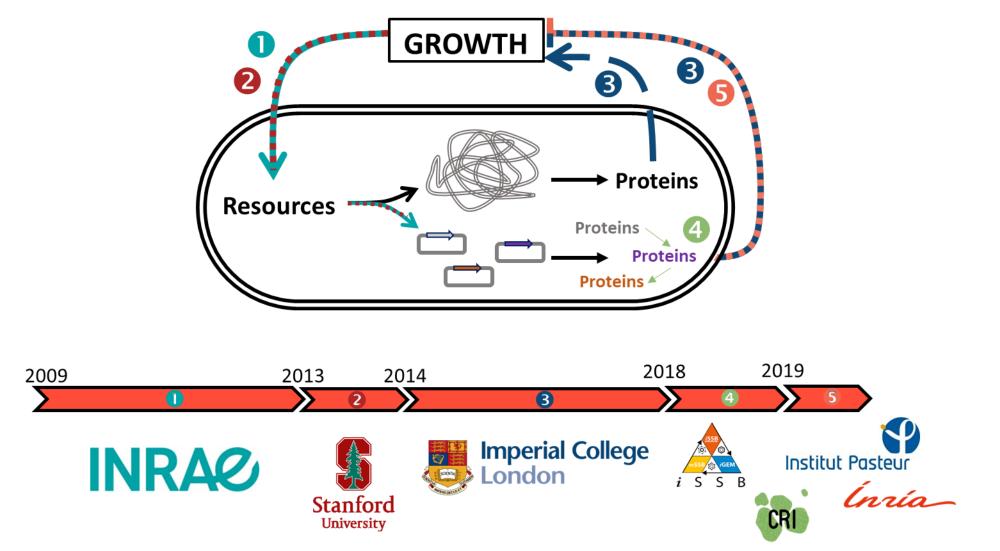
- (1) Emergence, control, and adaptation of pathogenic mícroorganisms
- (2) Microbial food and intestinal ecosystems(3) Synthetic and systems biology







Understand and use the relationship between protein production and bacterial physiology









- Bacterial physiology is a branch of biology that aims to understand overarching principles of cellular reproduction:
- What are the fundamental principles underlying the regulation and coordination of biosynthesis in a given growth environment?
- -> Bacterial growth law







- Bacterial physiology is a branch of biology that aims to understand overarching principles of cellular reproduction:
- What are the fundamental principles underlying the regulation and coordination of biosynthesis in a given growth environment?

#### -> Bacterial growth law

- Some major principles studied in bacterial physiology:
  - Link between bacterial growth and nutrient concentrations in culture media (Monod, 1942)
  - Link between the macromolecular composition and the cell doubling time (Schaechter et al., 1958)
  - Linear relationships between RNA/DNA, RNA/protein, protein/DNA and growth rate (Bremer & Dennis, 1974)
  - Increasing allocation of cellular resources to ribosome synthesis with increasing growth rate (Hwa & Scott, 2010)

#### -> New technology allows novel experiments

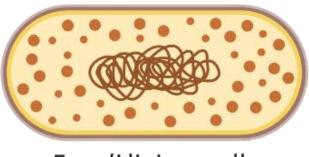




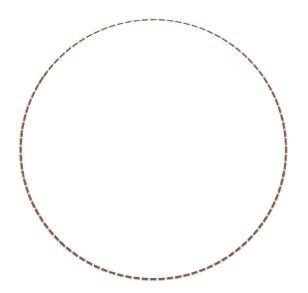


#### Experimental setup

#### **Genomic regulations**



E. coli living cells







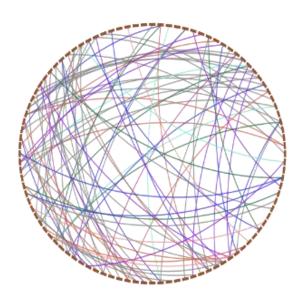


#### **Experimental setup**

# **Genomic regulations**



E. coli living cells

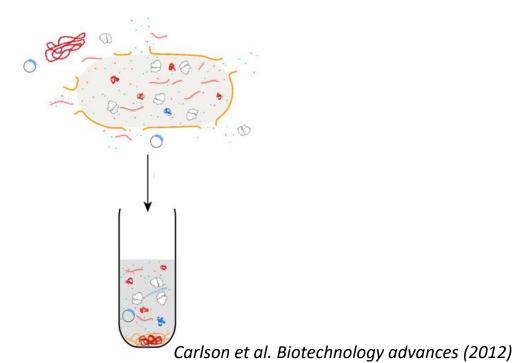


**Intertwined Effects** 

-> New technology to decouple the many effects observed in living cells

#### Protein expression in an open system

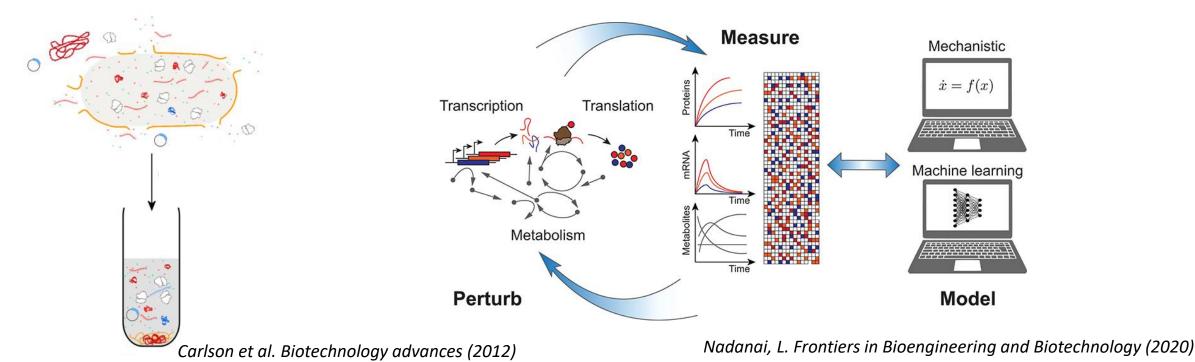
A direct manipulation of the environment of protein production because it is an open system:



#### Protein expression in an open system

A direct manipulation of the environment of protein production because it is an open system:

- An alternative technology to study central process observed in living cells (replication, transcription, translation, degradation, metabolism)
- A versatile technology for bioengineering (Use in Synthetic Biology)







# UNIVERSITE PARIS-SACLAY

# 1. Description of Cell-Free Systems

History: First use of cell-free

What is the composition of a cell-free reaction?

Advantages of producing protein outside of the cell

Measurements in 384-well plate

Current existing protocol to produce bacterial cell extract

Alternative cell-free approach, the pure system

2. Current Applications of Cell-Free Systems in Academia and Industry

#### First major use of cell-free

Cell-free was first used in the 1960's by Nirenberg and Matthaei to understand the genetic code

#### THE DEPENDENCE OF CELL- FREE PROTEIN SYNTHESIS IN E. COLI UPON NATURALLY OCCURRING OR SYNTHETIC POLYRIBONUCLEOTIDES

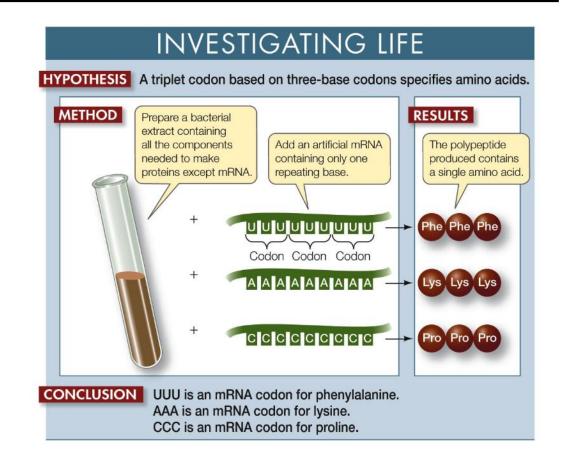
BY MARSHALL W. NIRENBERG AND J. HEINRICH MATTHAEI\*

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Communicated by Joseph E. Smadel, August 3, 1961

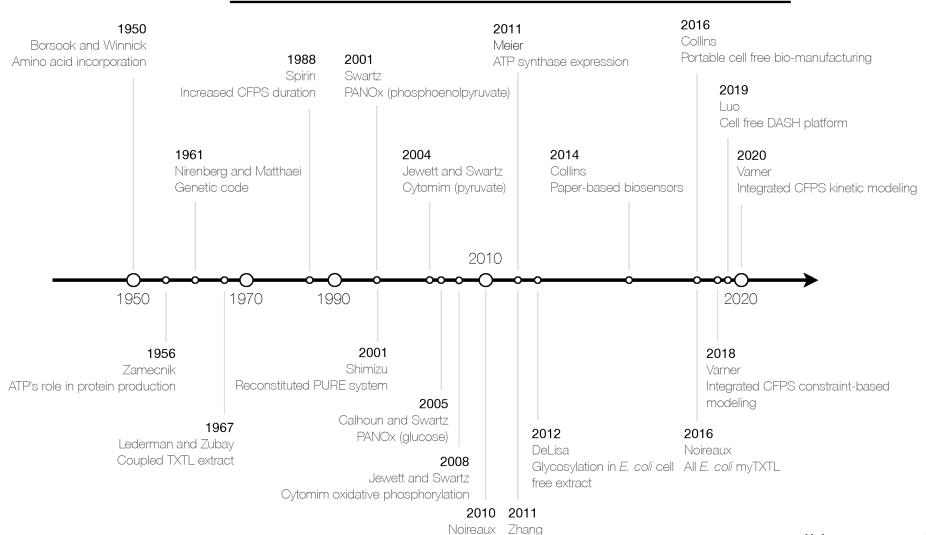
A stable cell-free system has been obtained from *E. coli* which incorporates  $C^{14}$ -valine into protein at a rapid rate. It was shown that this apparent protein synthesis was energy-dependent, was stimulated by a mixture of L-amino acids, and was markedly inhibited by RNAase, puromycin, and chloramphenicol.<sup>1</sup> The present communication describes a novel characteristic of the system, that is, a requirement for template RNA, needed for amino acid incorporation even in the

# Nobel prize for the interpretation of the genetic code and its function in protein synthesis



They made a synthetic RNA only with the base uracil (poly U – codon UUU) and tested it in 20 tubes, each one with a different radioactive amino acid.

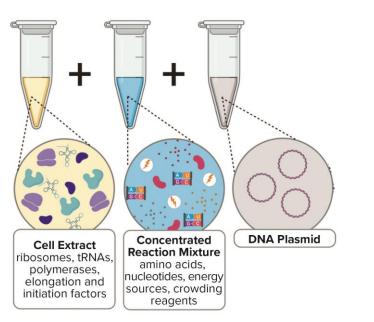
#### History



Vilkhovoy, Michael, Processes (2020)

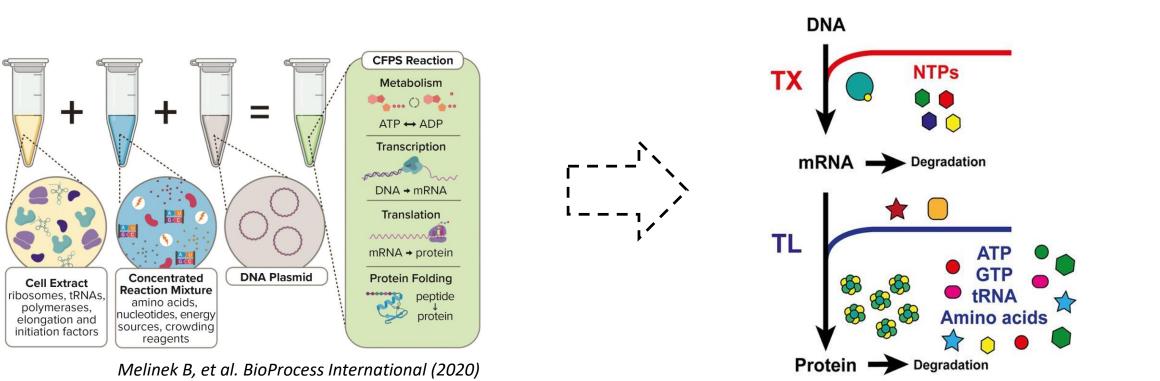
sigma-factor genetic system GCPR expression

#### What is the composition of a cell-free reaction?



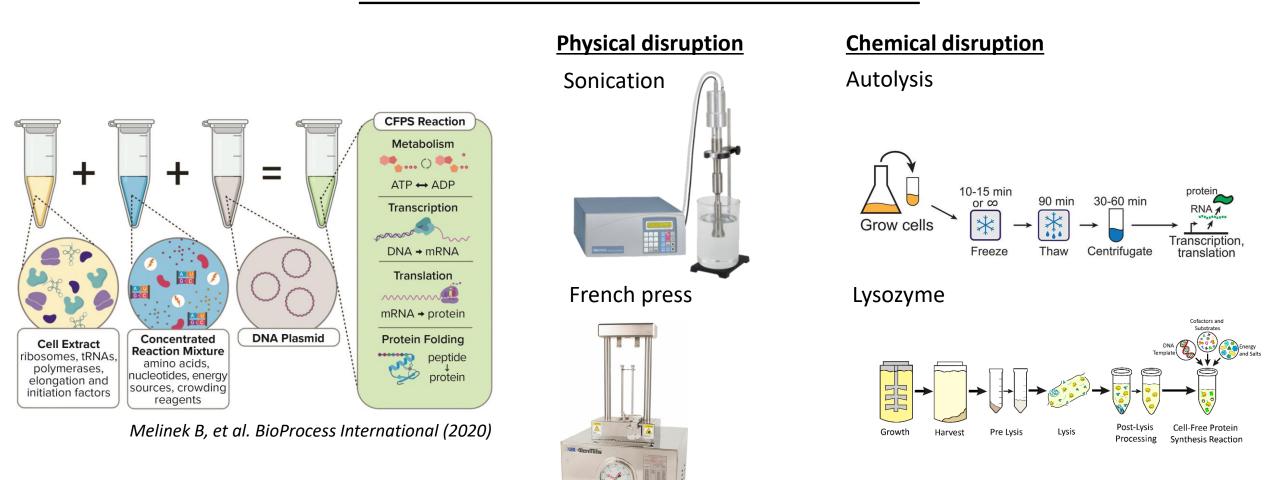
Melinek B, et al. BioProcess International (2020)

#### What is the composition of a cell-free reaction?

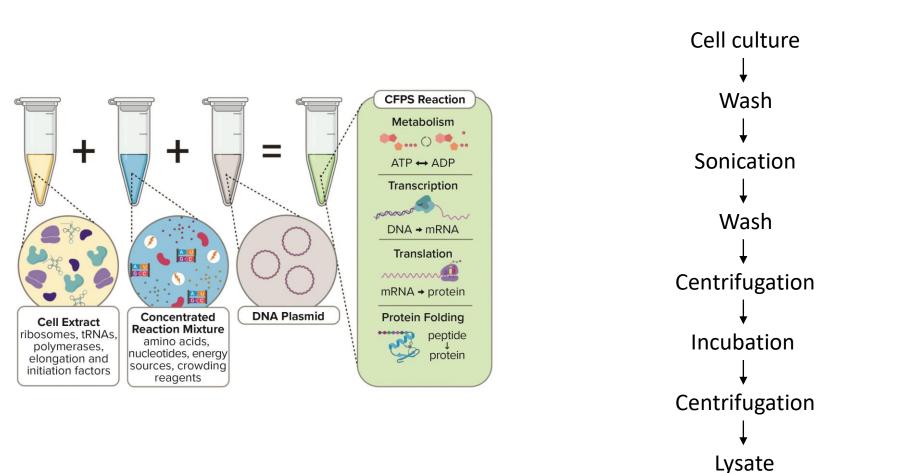


Seok Hoon Hong et al. Frontiers in Chemistry 2014

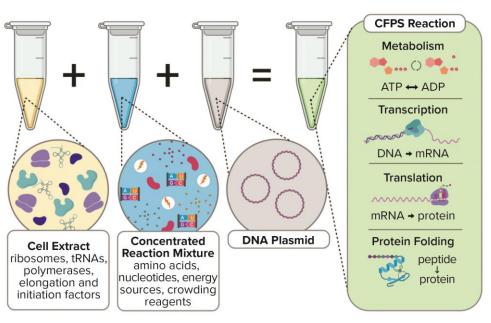
# Cell-extract preparation



#### Protocol for home-made cell-extract preparation



## **Buffer composition**

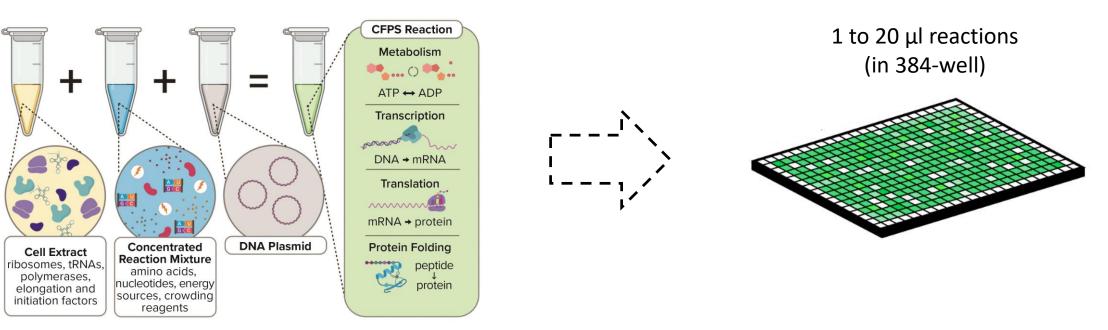


Melinek B, et al. BioProcess International (2020)

Amino Acid tRNA Mg-glutamate K-glutamate Folinic Acid Spermidine Coenzyme A NAD 3-PGA AMPc Nucleoside triphosphate (NTP)

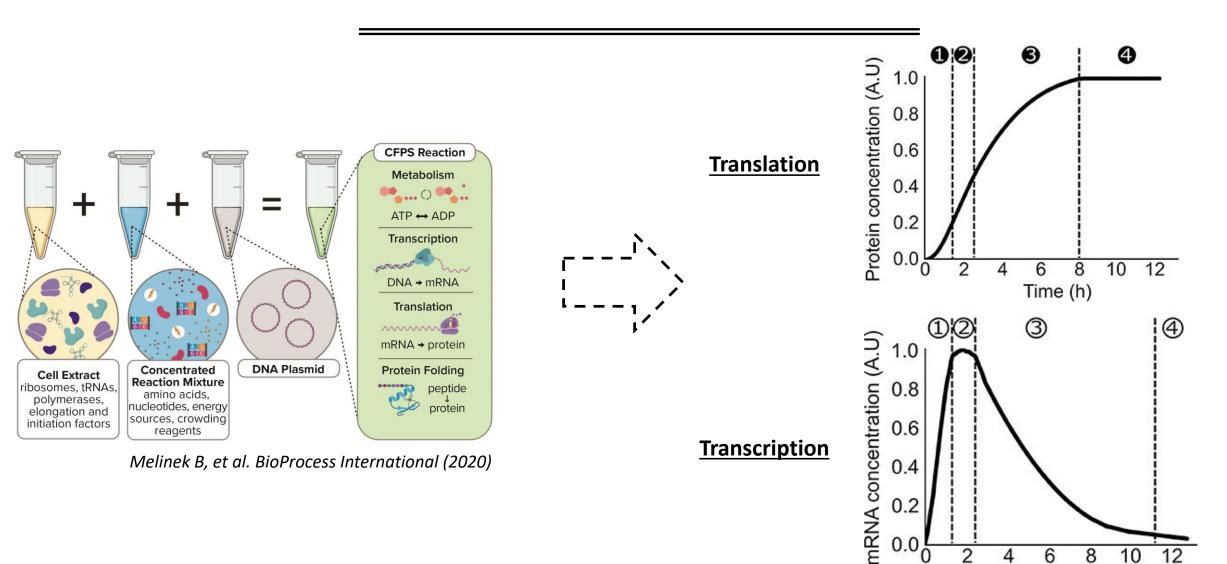
Translation Translation Ribosome maintenance Ribosome stability A precursor for formylmethionine (fMet) Ribosome activity /RNA stability Regenerate ATP via glycolysis Regenerate ATP via glycolysis Regenerate ATP regulating glycolysis NTP) Transcription

#### Measurements in 384-well plate



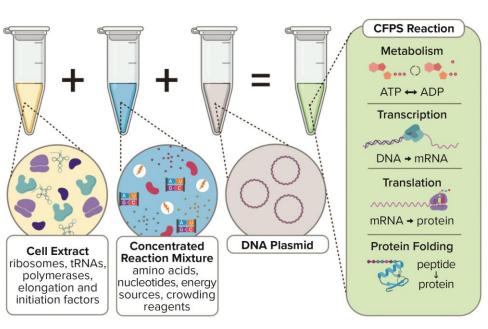
Melinek B, et al. BioProcess International (2020)

#### Measurements in 384-well plate



Time (h)

#### Current existing protocol to produce bacterial cell extract

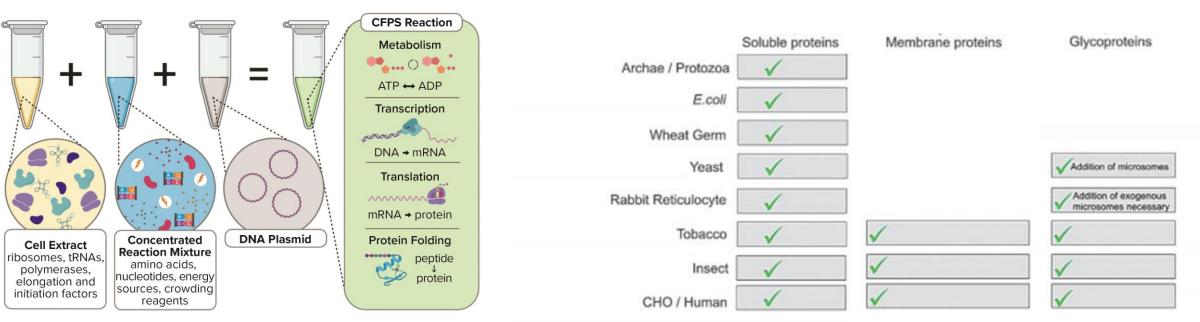


Melinek B, et al. BioProcess International (2020)

#### Table 1. Current existing protocols to produce cell-free lysates from bacteria cells

Organism	Bacteria Phylum
E. coli	Proteobacteria
B. subiltis	Firmicutes
L. lactis	Firmicutes
B. megaterium	Firmicutes
C. autoethanogenum	Firmicutes
V. natriegens	Proteobacteria
P. putida	Proteobacteria
E. fergusoni	Proteobacteria
S. enterica	Proteobacteria
K. oxytoca	Proteobacteria
C. glutamicum	Actinobacteria
S. venezuelae	Actinobacteria

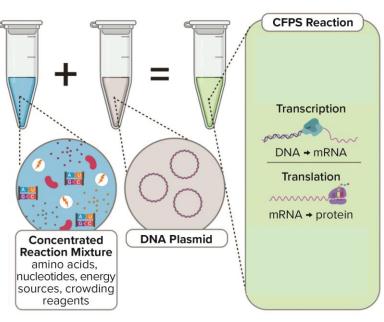
# Types of cell-free extract



Melinek B, et al. BioProcess International (2020)

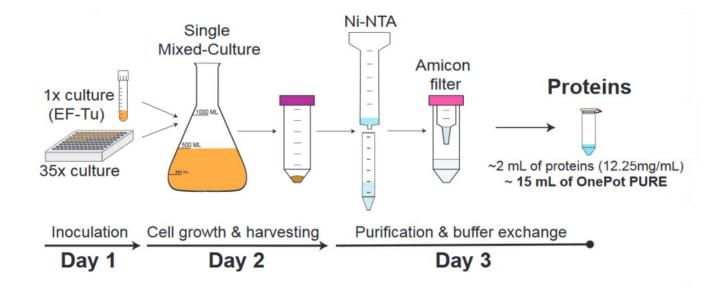
Anne Zemella et al. ChemBioChem 2015

# Alternative cell-free approach, the pure system



Melinek B, et al. BioProcess International (2020)

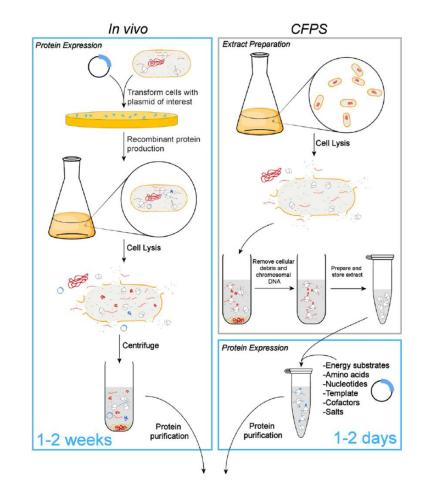
36 PURE protein components produced using the OnePot method + tetra-(His)6-tagged 70S ribosomes purified using affinity chromatography



Lavickova, Barbora, et al. ACS synthetic biology (2019)

# Advantages of producing protein outside of the cell

- Fast reaction to produce protein
- No need for transformation
- No GMO
- No interaction with a living host (No mutation, No burden)
- Decoupling effect
- (e.g. Metabolic burden vs production burden)
- Low volume of reaction
- Higher level of control: Amount of DNA, Composition of the reaction.
- Work with Linear DNA





AgroParisTech



# Current Applications of Cell-Free Systems in Academia and Industry







Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

**Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice** 

Industrial Applications: Transforming Knowledge into Innovation

## Current uses of cell-free system

Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions

DNA replication Transcription and translation process Metabolism and energy production

- Resource competition *in vitro* Production burden
  Decouple production and metabolic burden
- Construction hybrid systems

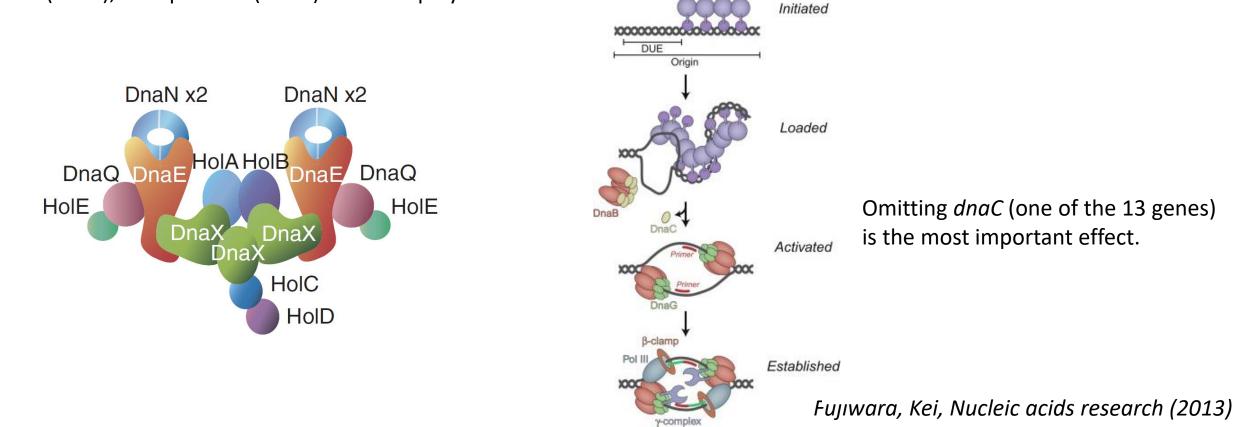
Multi-species systems Nonstandard (unnatural) amino acids Eukaryote properties (Glycolysation)

- Constructing artificial cells

# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

#### - Central functions DNA replication

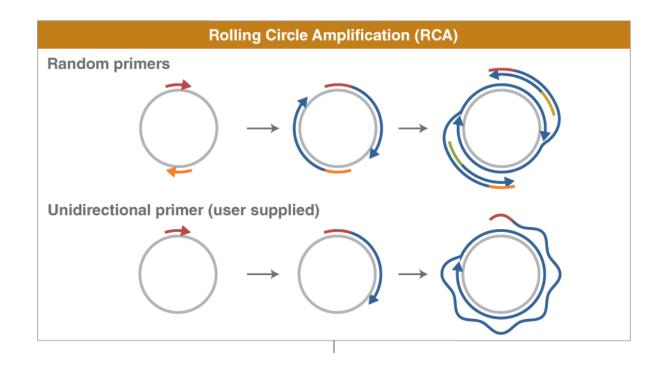
DNA replication system reconstructed by expressing 13 central genes encoding initiator (*dnaA*), DNA helicase (*dnaB*), helicase loader (*dnaC*), RNA primase (*dnaG*) and DNA polymerase III.



# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions DNA replication

DNA replication system reconstructed by expressing 1 gene of the bacteriophage phi 29 DNA replication .

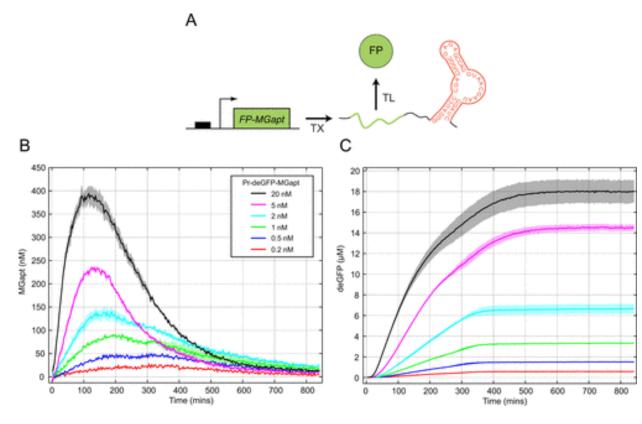


Use for replication of large DNA genomes

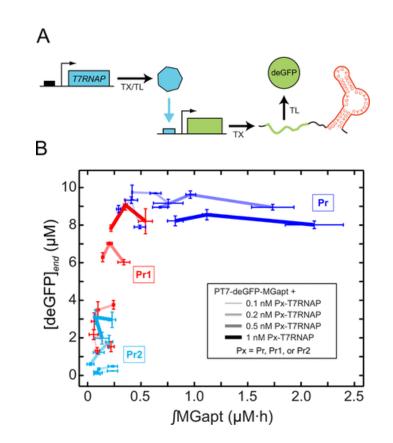
Libicher, K, nat comms (2020)

Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions Transcription process: T7 polymerase



Gene circuit performance characterization



Siegal-Gaskins, D. ACS synthetic biology (2014)

# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

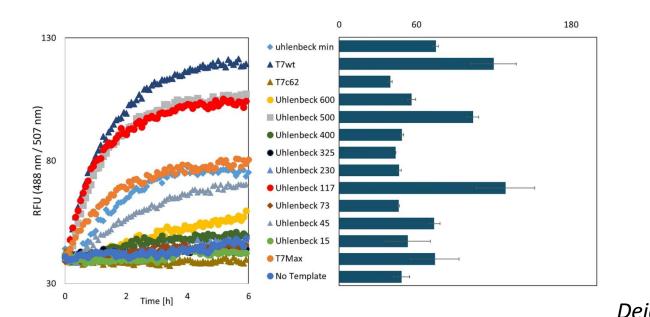
#### - Central functions

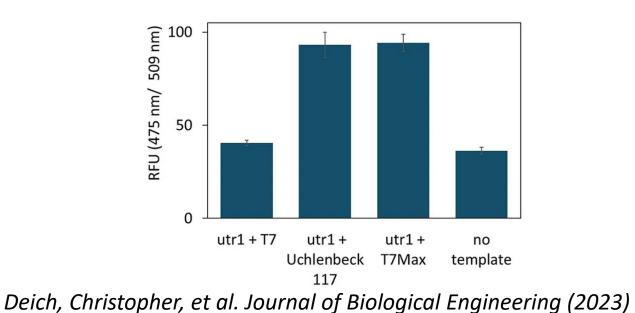
#### Transcription process: modified promoter to recruits more T7 polymerase

Control environnement: Fixed purified T7 RNA polymerase concentration, Fixed plasmid concentration, Fixed lysate and buffer concentration (ribosome, NTPs, Amino Acides etc..)

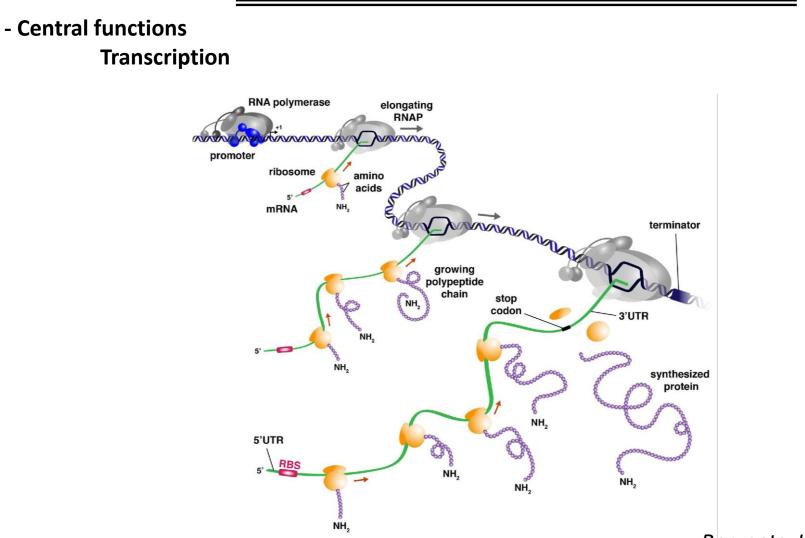
One changing elements = promoter sequence

Specific effects measured = Protein production, RNA production and DNA template degradation



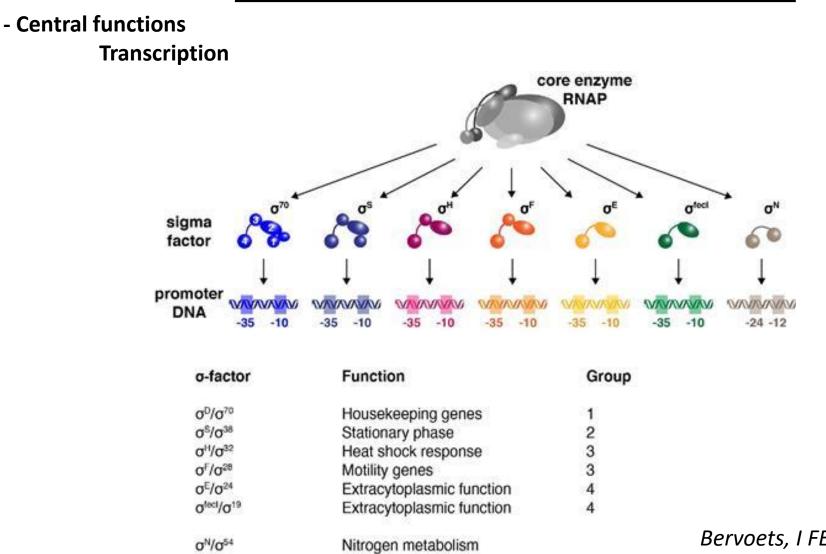


Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells



#### Bervoets, I FEMS microbiology reviews (2019)

Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

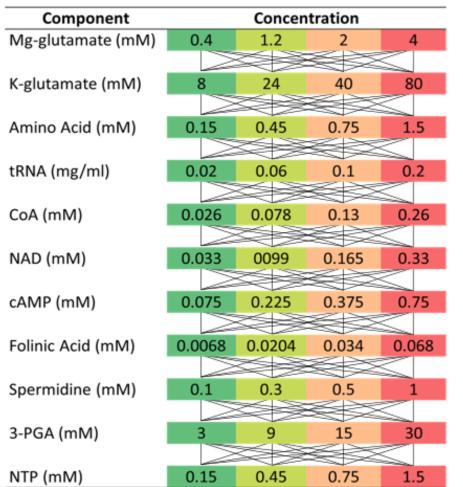


Bervoets, I FEMS microbiology reviews (2019)

#### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

#### - Central functions

#### **Translation: Optimizing translation process**



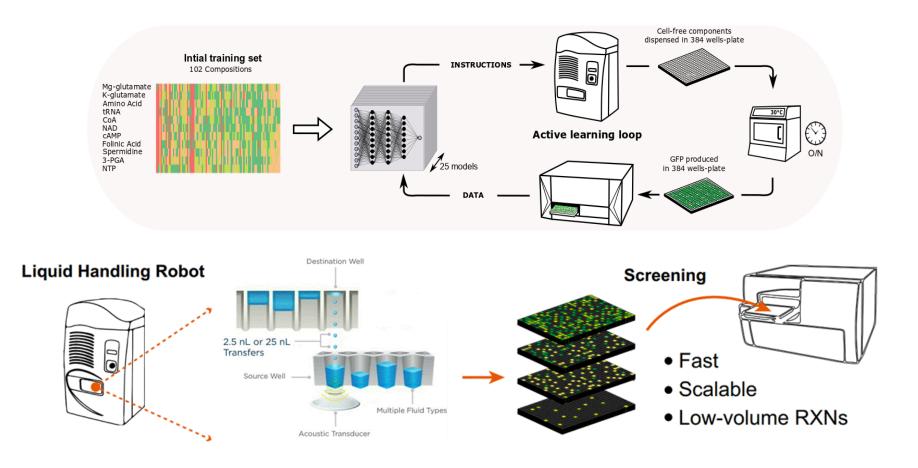
Combinatorial space = 4<sup>11</sup> = **4 194 304** compositions

- Can we improve protein production for a specific lysate without increasing the price of cell-free reaction?
- Can we provide efficient predictions of protein production?
- Can we highlight the critical parameters involved in protein production?

#### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions

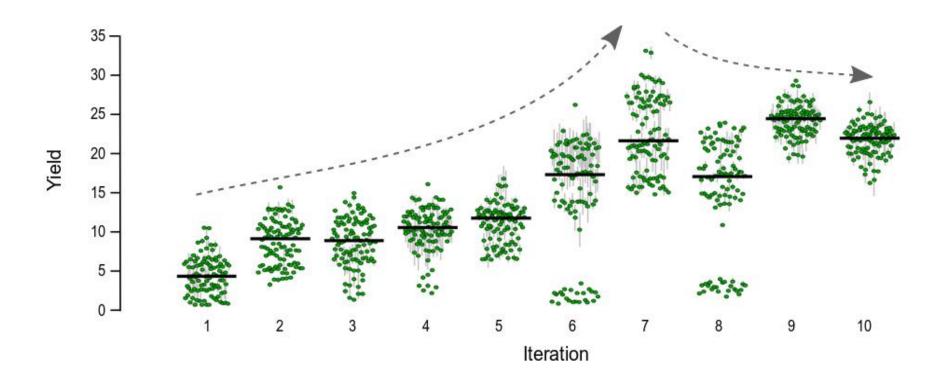
#### **Translation: Optimizing translation process**



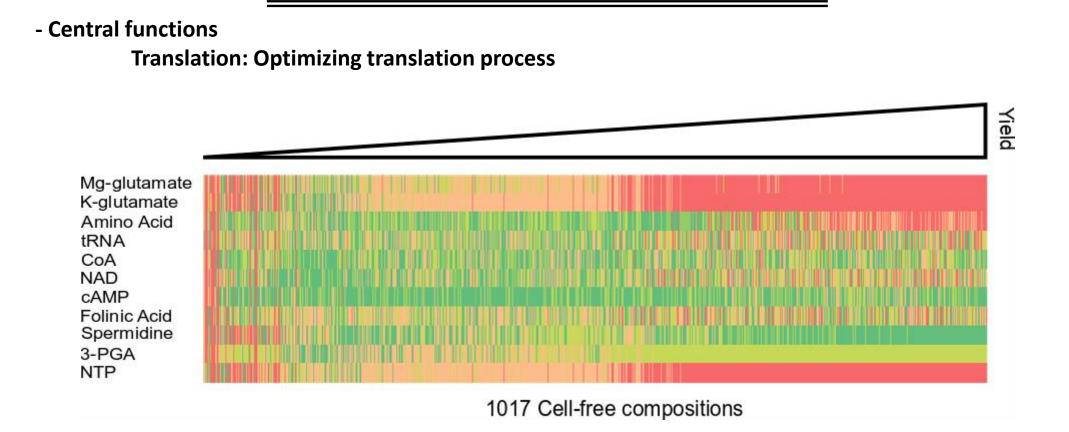
Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions

**Translation: Optimizing translation process** 



#### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells



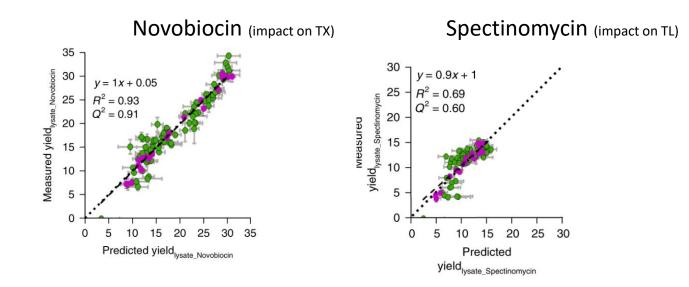
Components that improve yield at high concentration: Mg-glutamate, K-glutamate, Amino Acidss and NTPs

Components that improve yield at low concentration: Spermidine, 3-PGA

#### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions

#### **Translation: Optimizing translation process**



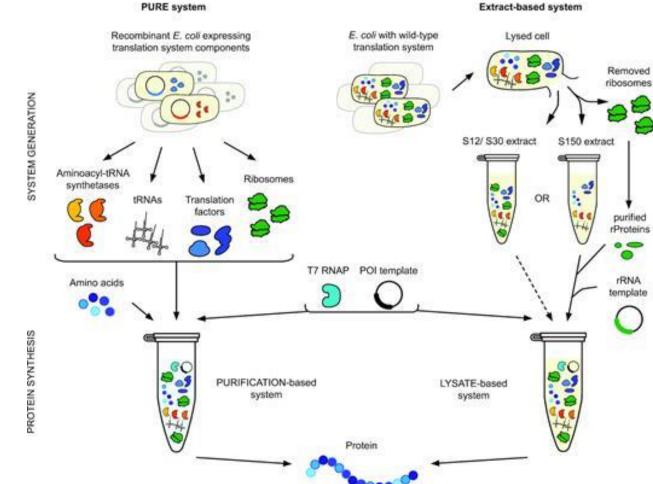
#### Transcription vs translation:

Our data suggests that we mainly improved translation via composition optimization

### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions



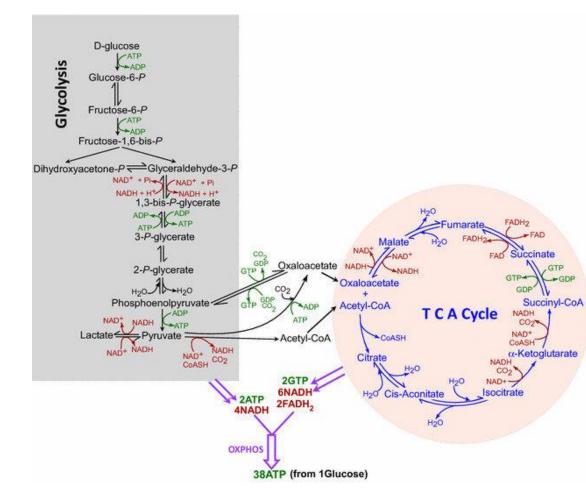


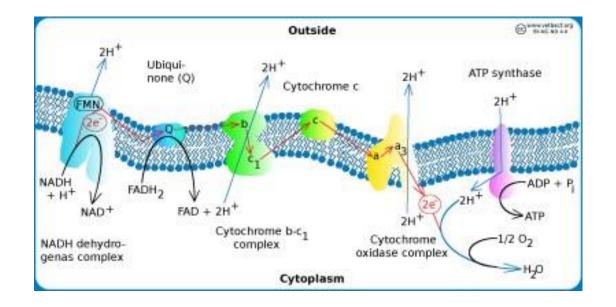
Hammerling J NAR 2019

Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Central functions





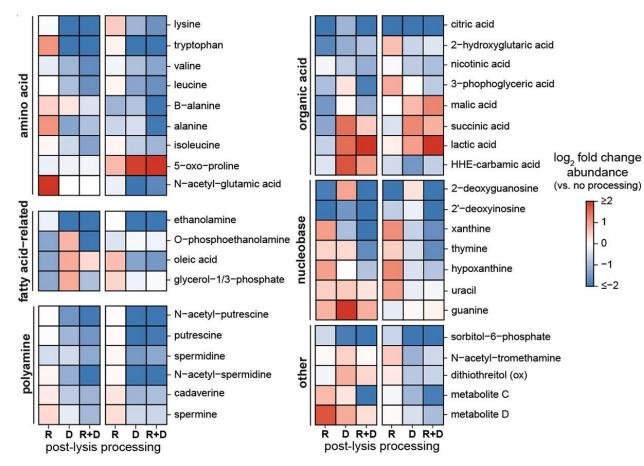


### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

#### - Central functions



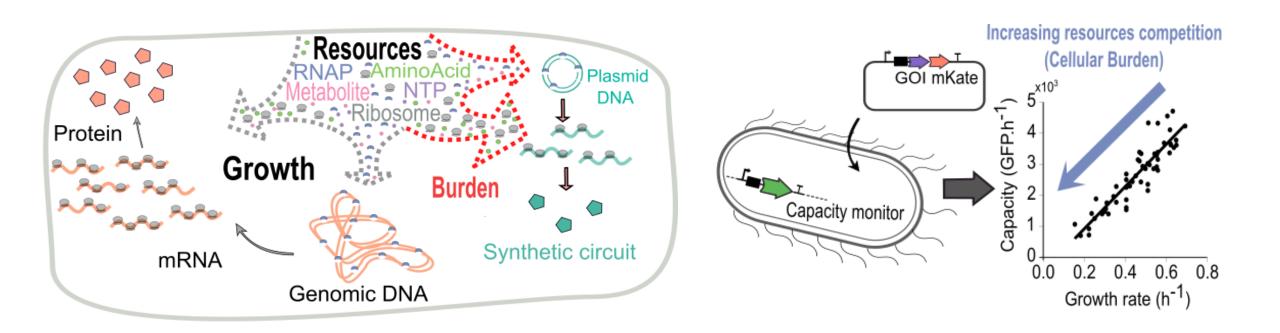
Study of composition in metabolites in different cell-free process



-> improve cell-free efficiency, supplemented with proteins to observe the impact on each part of of the metabolism

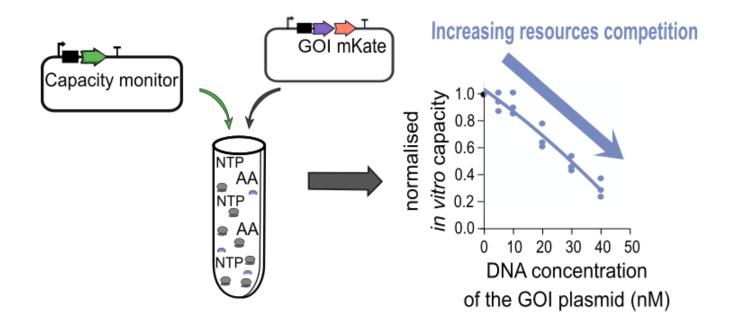
Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Resource competition *in vitro* Production burden

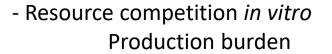


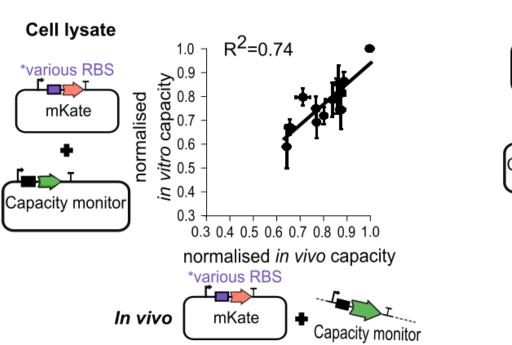
Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

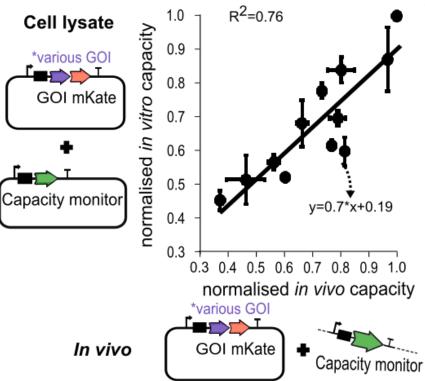
- Resource competition *in vitro* Production burden



Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

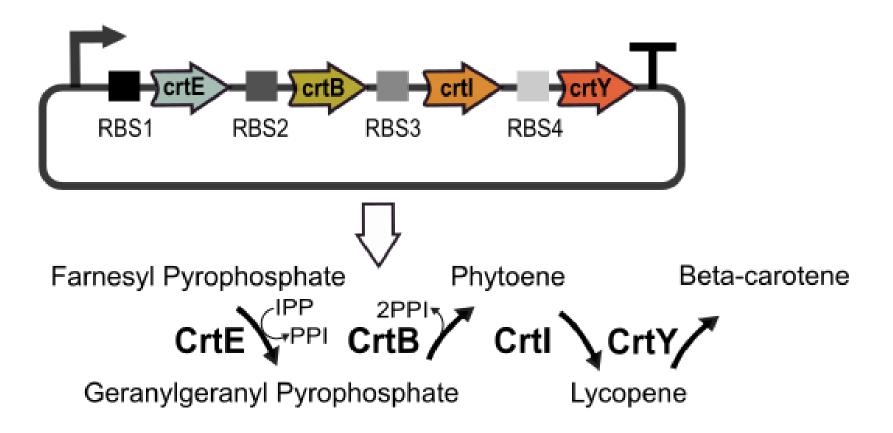






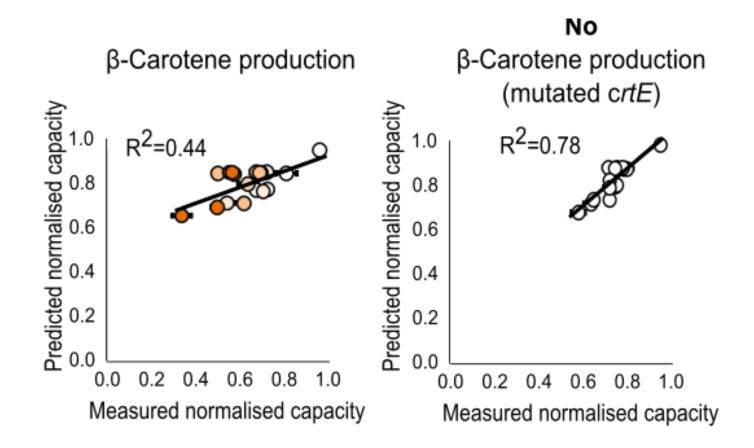
### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Resource competition *in vitro* Decouple production and metabolic burden



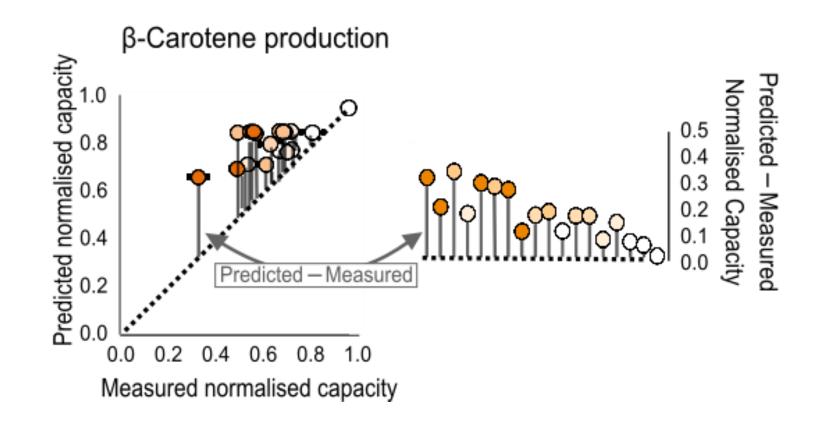
Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Resource competition *in vitro* Decouple production and metabolic burden



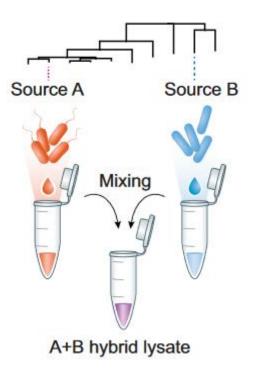
Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

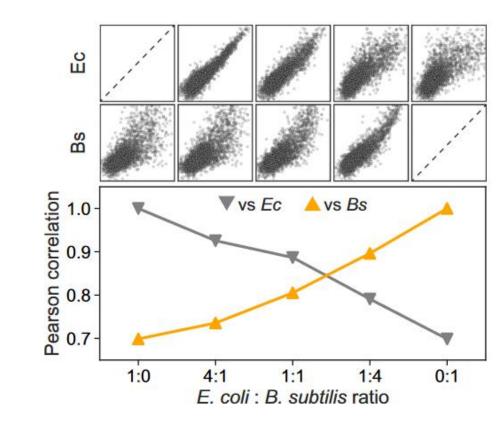
- Resource competition *in vitro* Decouple production and metabolic burden



Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Construction hybrid systems Multi-species systems

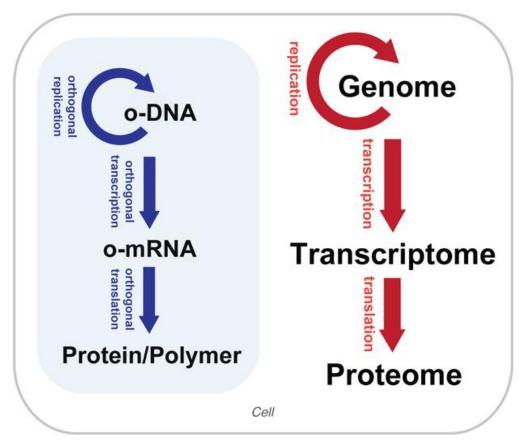




# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Construction hybrid systems

Nonstandard (unnatural) amino acids, more orthogonality for a better predictability

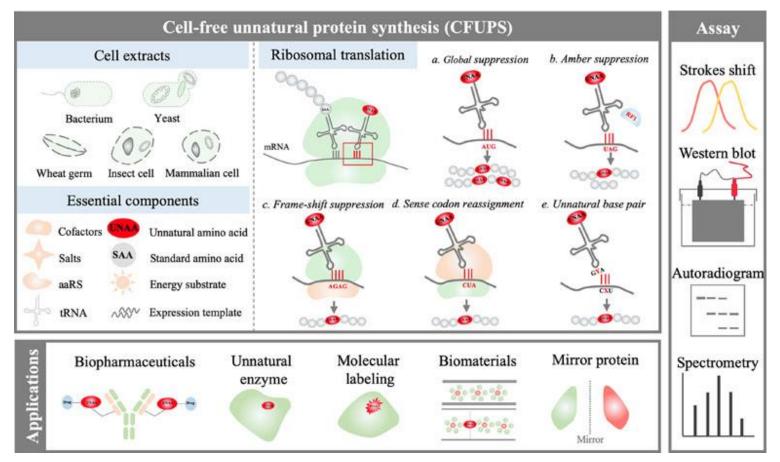


Liu, Chang C., et al. Nature chemical biology (2018)

### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

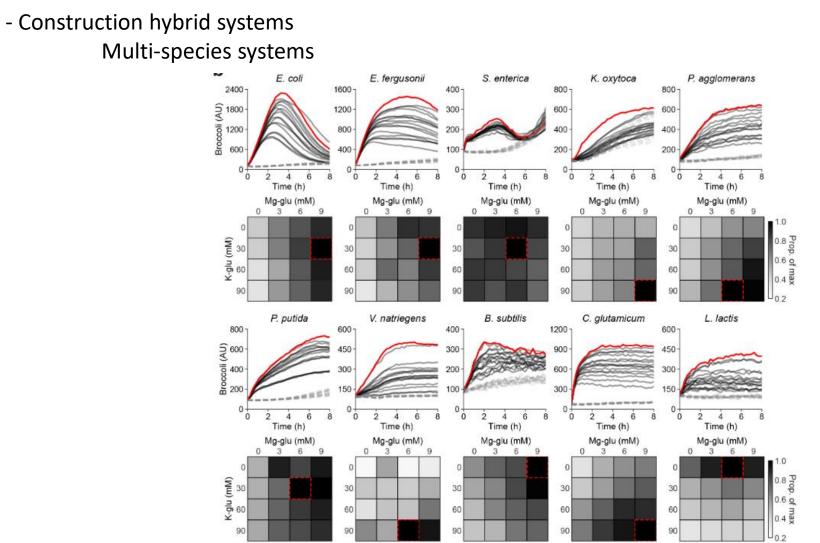
#### - Construction hybrid systems

Nonstandard (unnatural) amino acids



#### Gao, Wei, et al. Frontiers in pharmacology (2019)

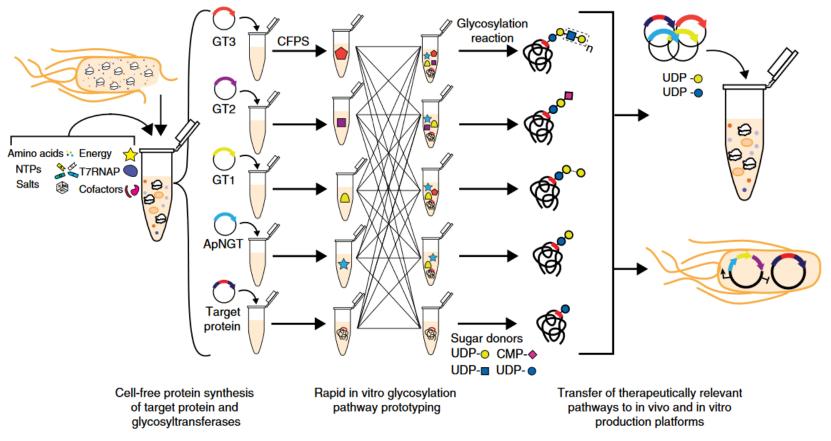
### Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells



Yim, Sung Sun, et al. Molecular Systems Biology (2019).

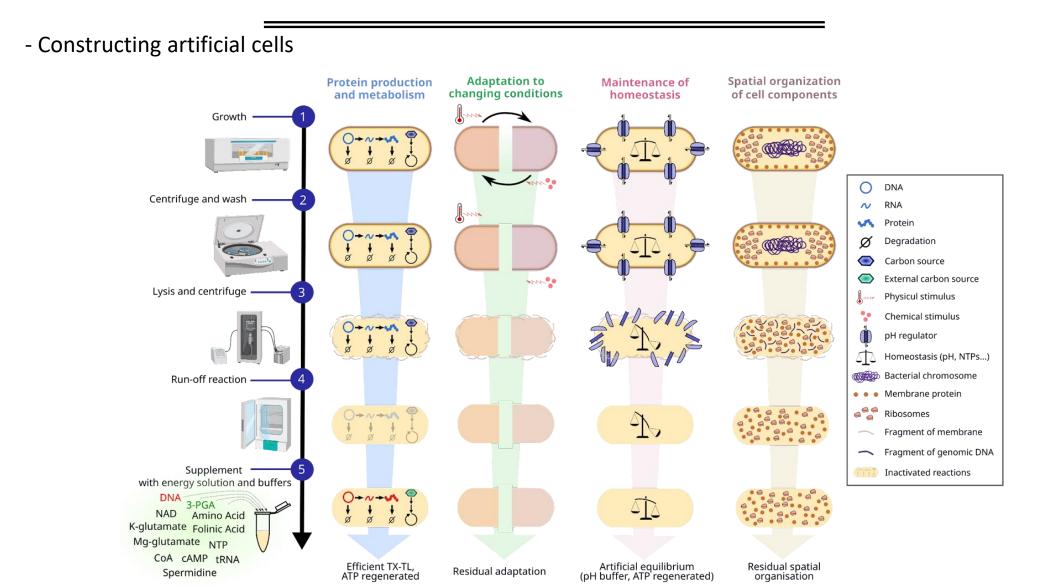
Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Construction hybrid systems Eukaryote properties (Glycolysation)



*Kightlinger, W. et al Nature communications (2019)* 

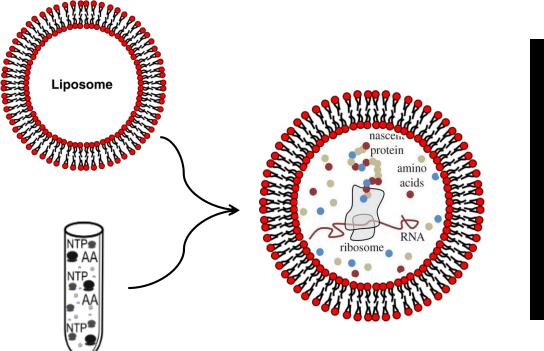
# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

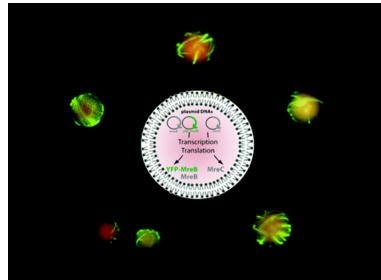


Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Constructing artificial cells



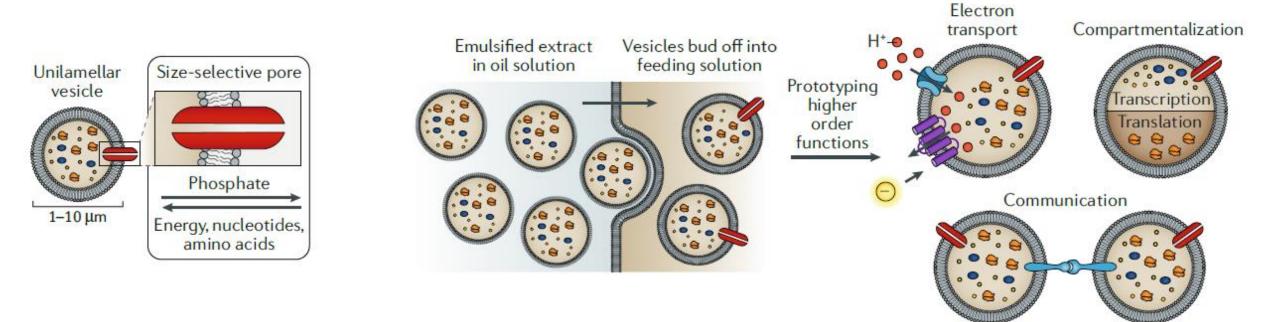




#### Maeda, Yusuke T., et al. ACS synthetic biology 2011

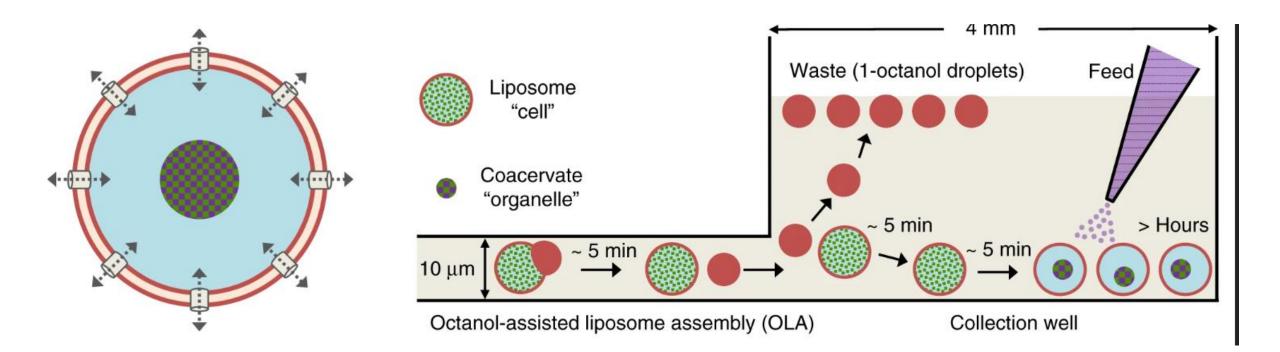
# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Constructing artificial cells: Communication / exchange with the environment



# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

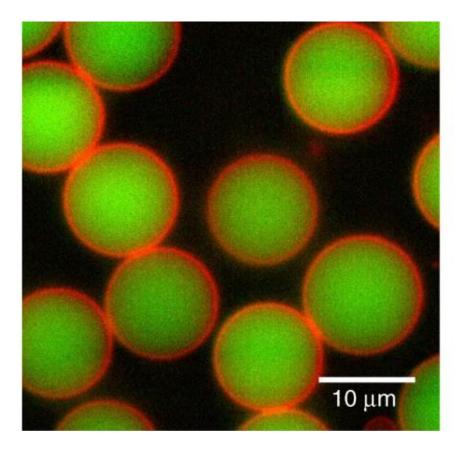
- Constructing artificial cells : compartimentation

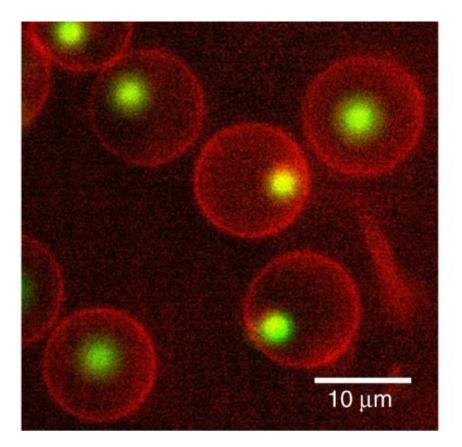


Deshpande, S et al. Nature communications (2019)

# Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

- Constructing artificial cells : compartimentation





#### Deshpande, S et al. Nature communications (2019)

# Current uses of cell-free system

#### **Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice**

Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways
 Genetic parts
 Metabolic engineering

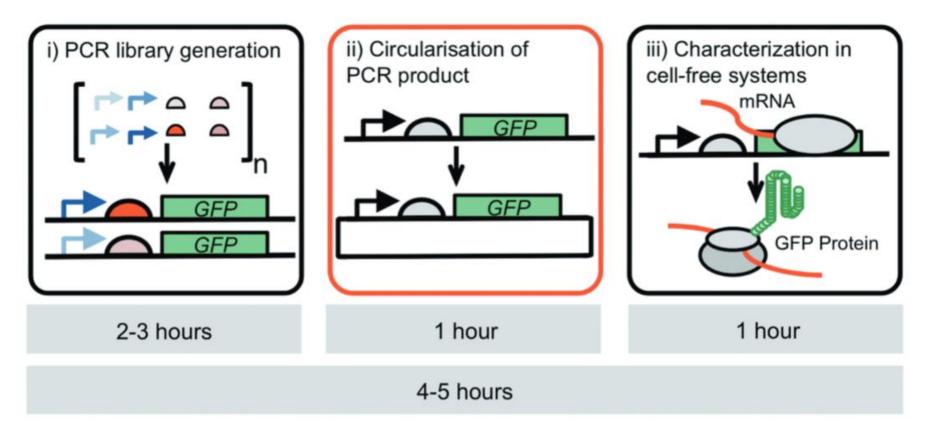
- Developing biosensors

Optimize cell-free biosensor Biocomputing Materials and cell-free Medical diagnostics Pollution diagnostics

- Bio-machine assembly Phages selection Antibodies

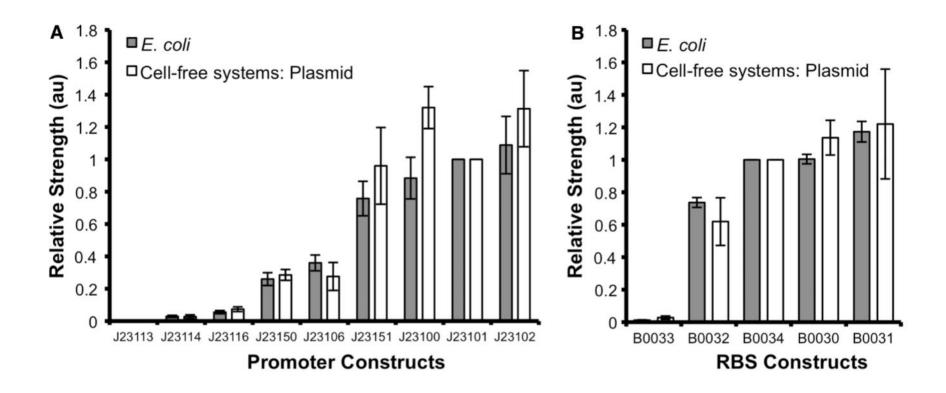
# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways Genetic parts



Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

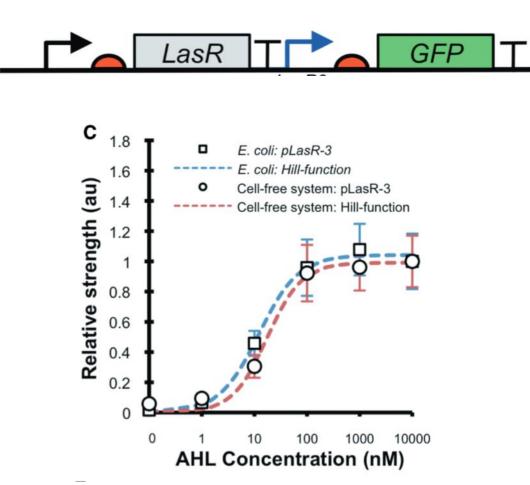
- Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways Genetic parts



Chapelle J et al. Nucleic Acids Res. 2013

Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

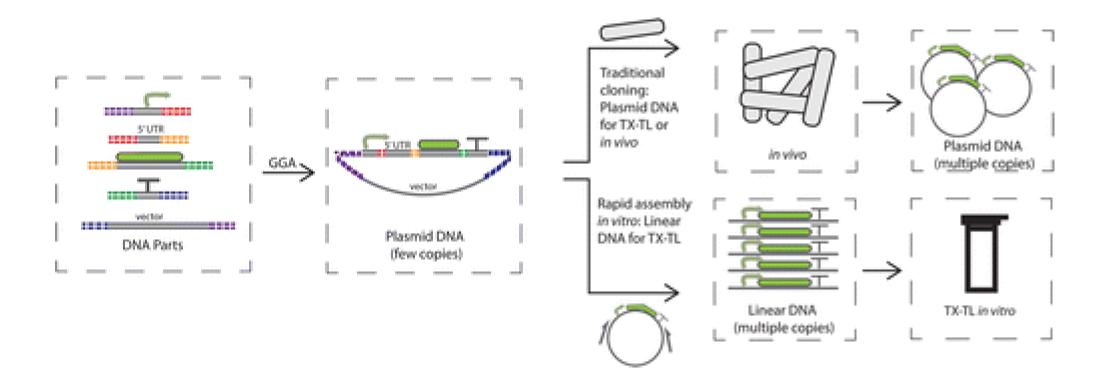
- Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways Genetic parts: regulated systems



Chapelle J et al. Nucleic Acids Res. 2013

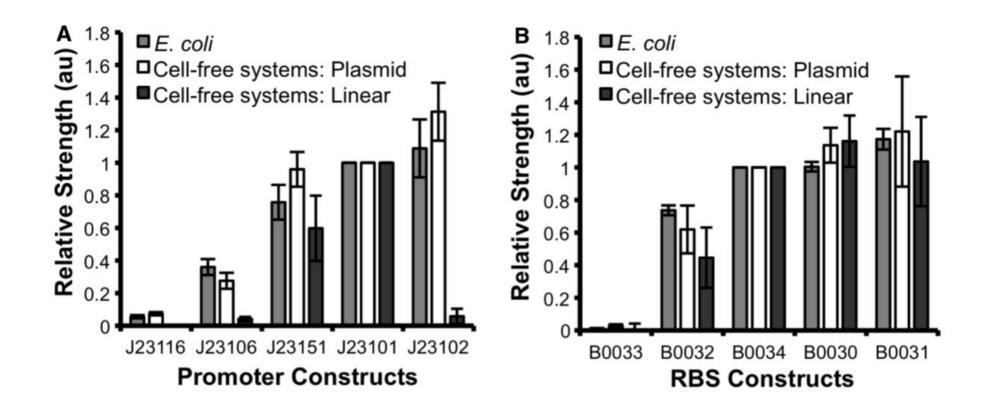
# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways Genetic parts: Linear fragment vs plasmid



Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

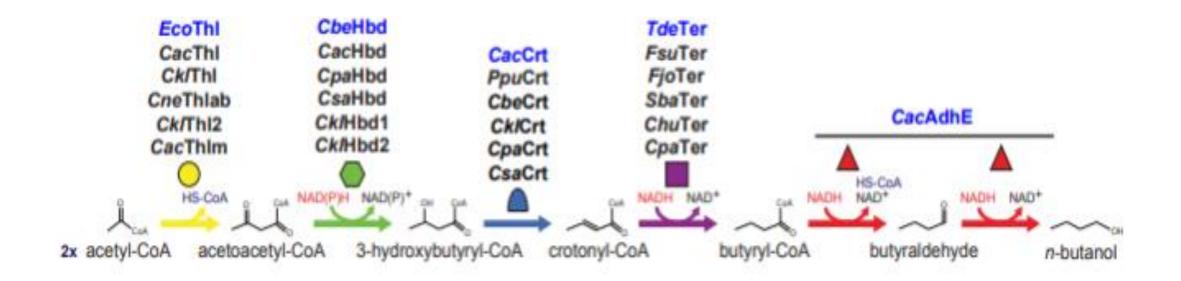
Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways
 Genetic parts: Linear fragment vs plasmid



# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

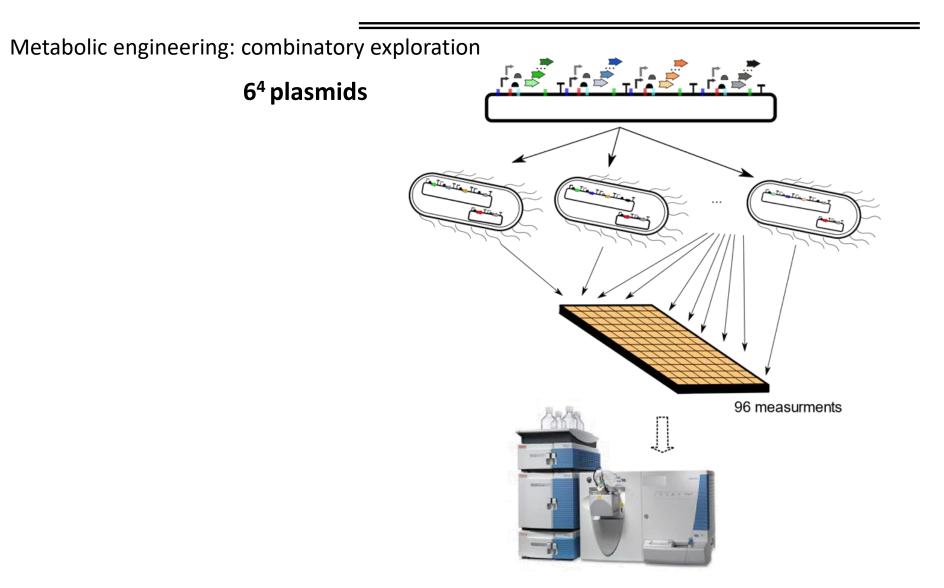
Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways

Metabolic engineering: combinatory exploration



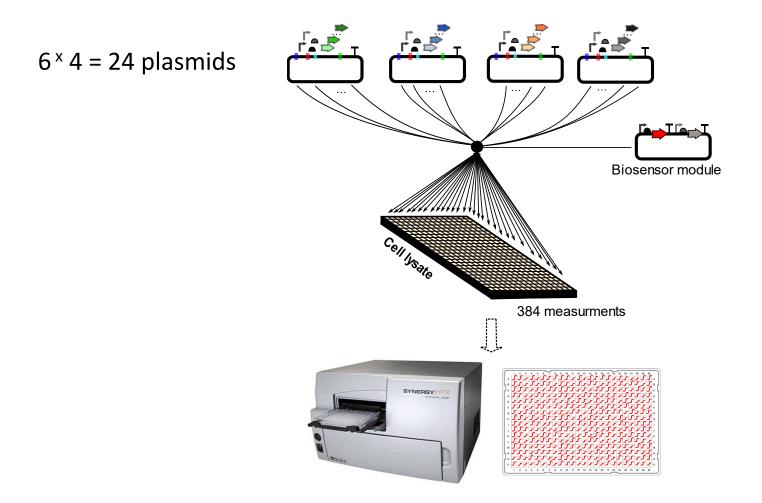
#### **Example of : 6<sup>4</sup> combinations**

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice



# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

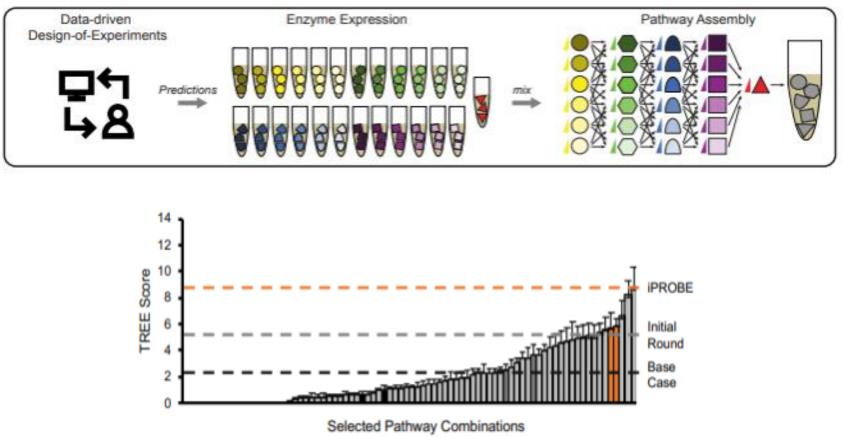
Metabolic engineering: combinatory exploration



# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

Prototyping genetic circuits and pathways

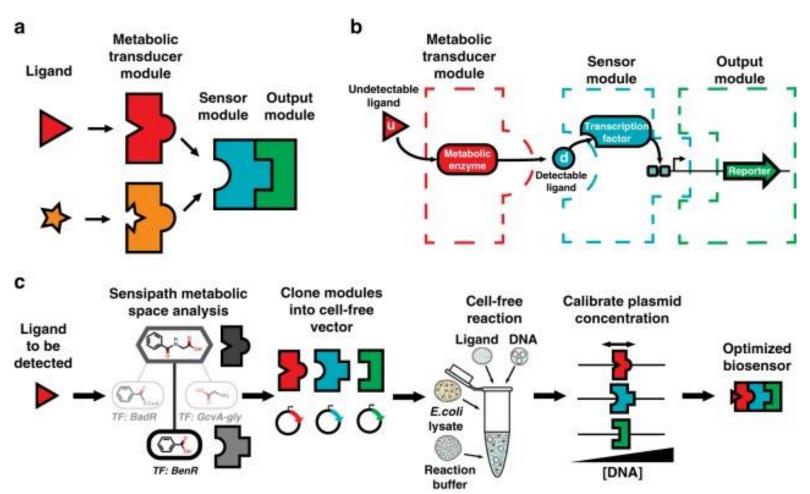
Metabolic engineering: combinatory exploration



Karim et al. Nat com. 2019

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

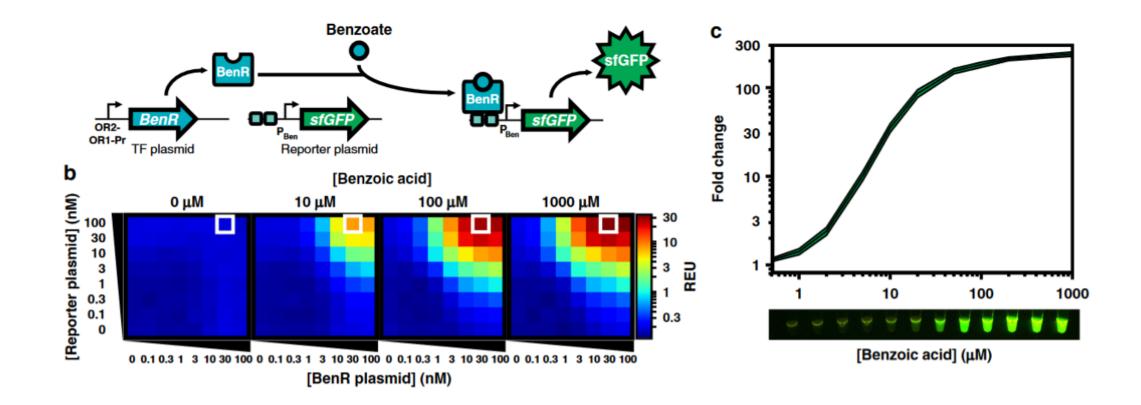
- Developing biosensors



#### Voyvodic P et al. Nat comm. 2019

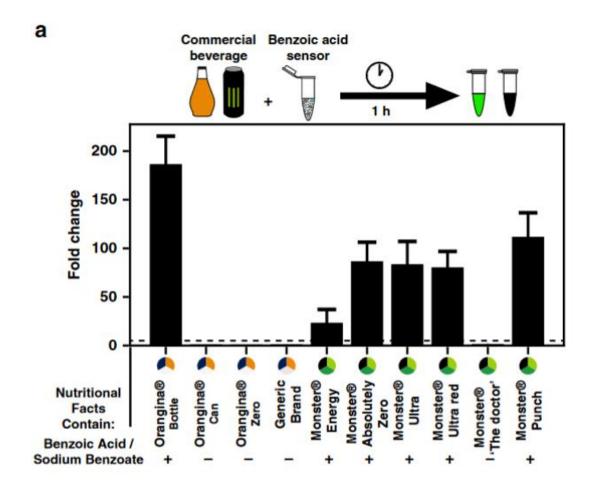
# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Developing biosensors

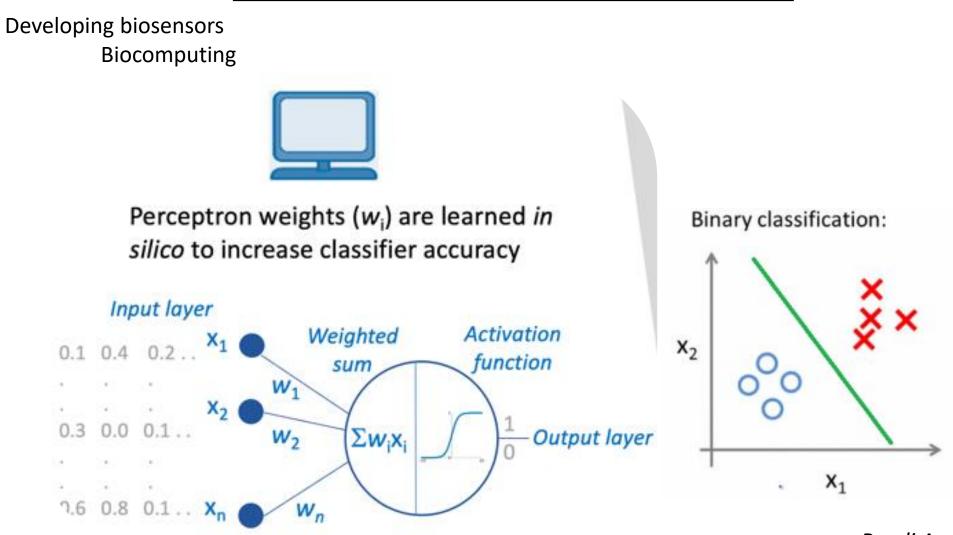


### Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Developing biosensors



# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

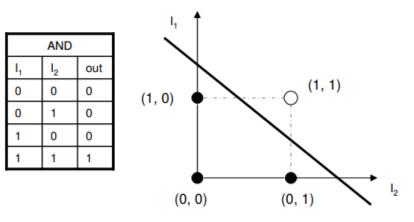


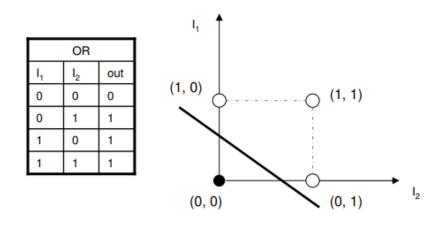
Pandi A et al. Nat com. 2019

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

Developing biosensors

Biocomputing: logic gates

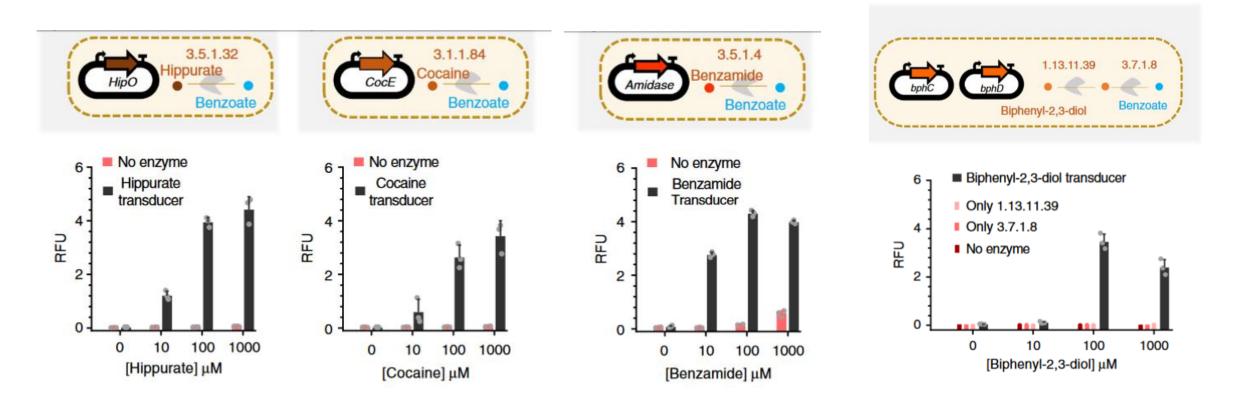




#### Pandi A et al. Nat com. 2019

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

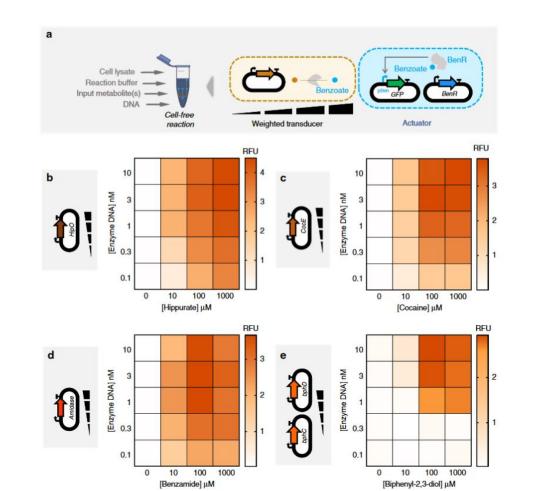
Developing biosensors Biocomputing: 4 biosensors



## Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

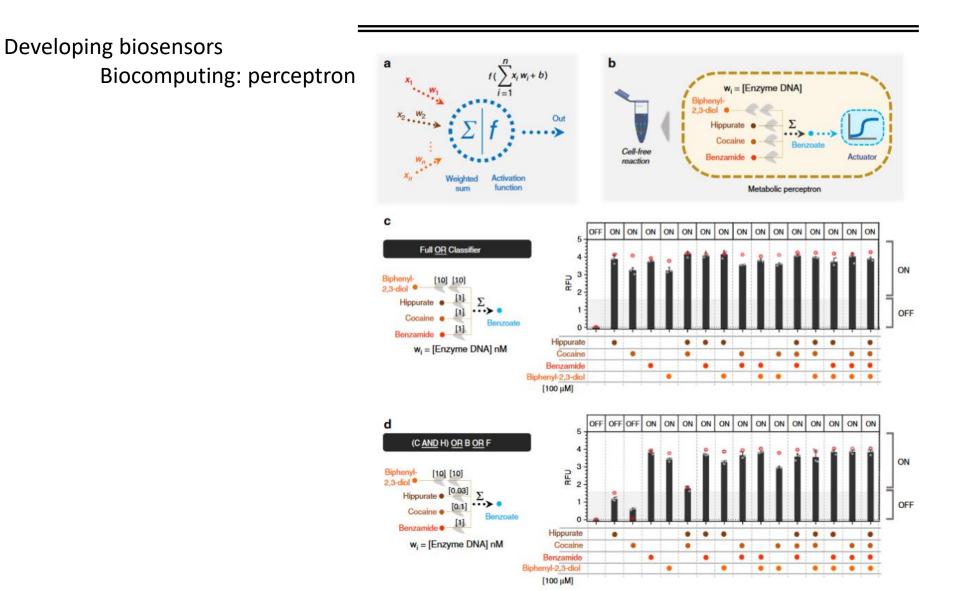
Developing biosensors

Biocomputing: tuning the weights



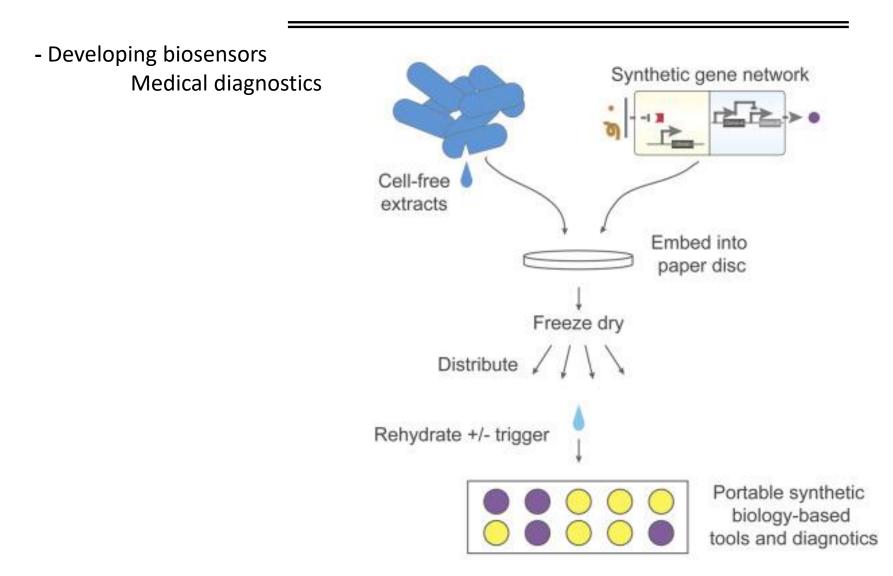
Pandi A et al. Nat com. 2019

Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice



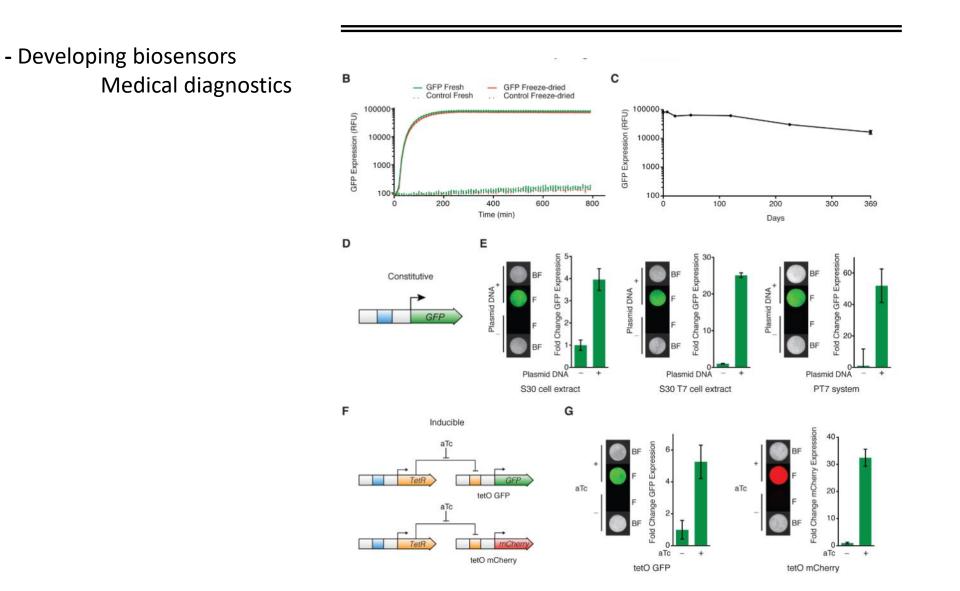
Pandi A et al. Nat com. 2019

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice



Pardee K et al. Cell 2014

Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

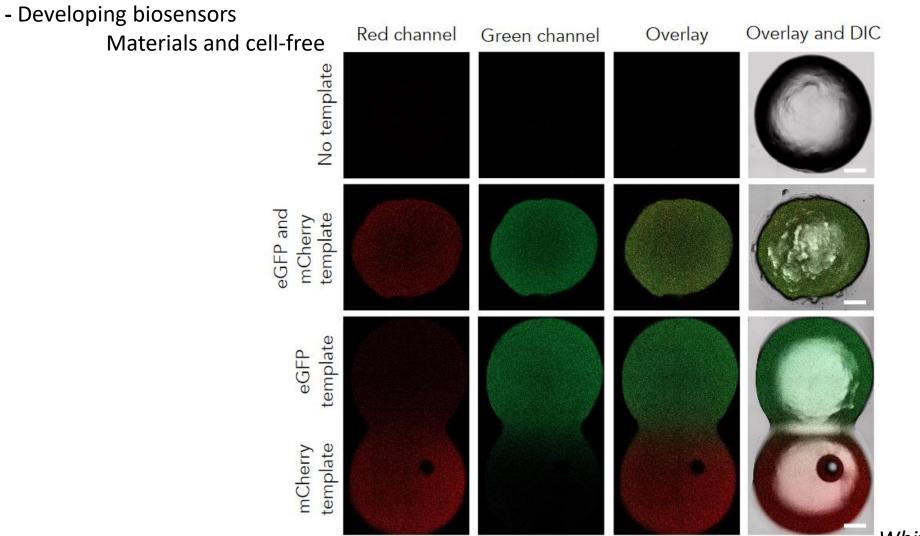


Pardee K et al. Cell 2014

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Developing biosensors Materials and cell-free **BioFabrics Biosensor for Zika Virus on Thread** Synthetic Biology + Textiles Biosensor Design a GC AU Zika Thread Alone + Zika Cell-Free Reaction Freeze Drying onse to Clean \* Synthetic Biology Biosensor Dangerous INPUT O -OUTPUT Detected Engineered gene circuit
 Transcriptional changes +3 Integration with Wearable A Interviet of Things **Diagnostics?** Do 1 Paper-based Diagnostics Engineered **Biosensors** 💾 💽 BROAD 🕎 Animal Sentinels

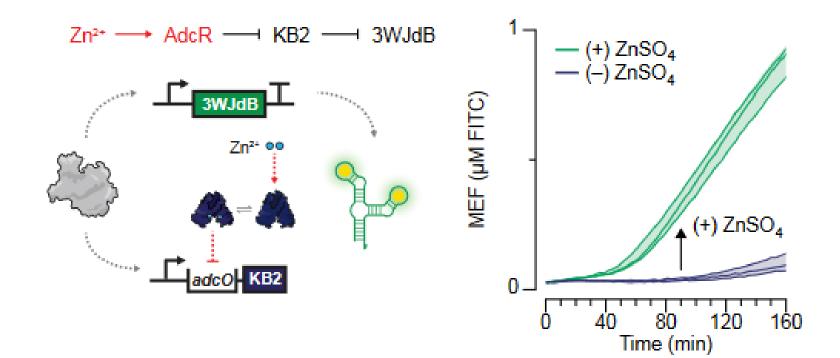
# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice



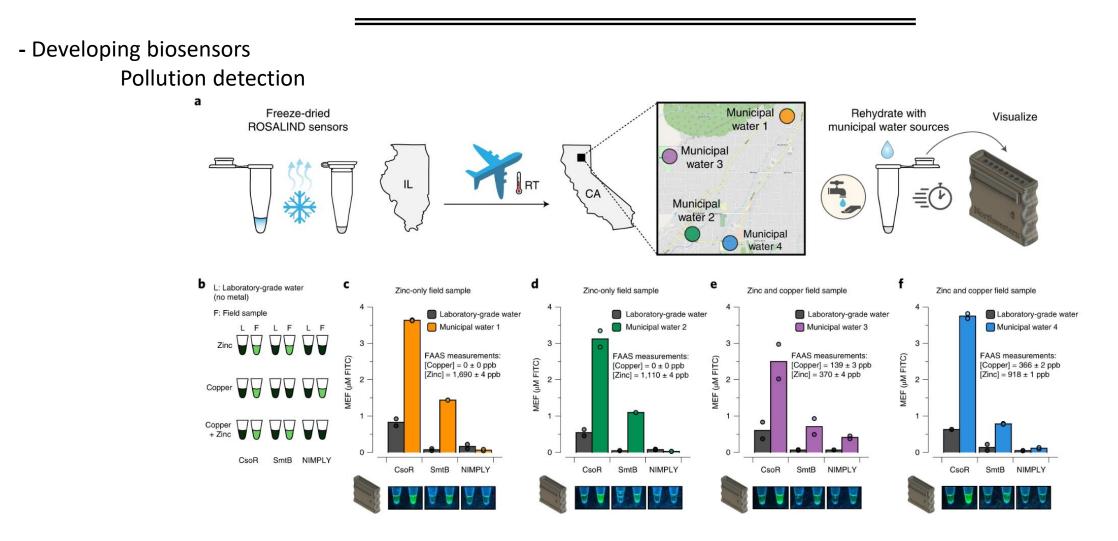
Whithfield et al. Chem Commun 2020

Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Developing biosensors Pollution detection

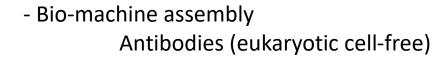


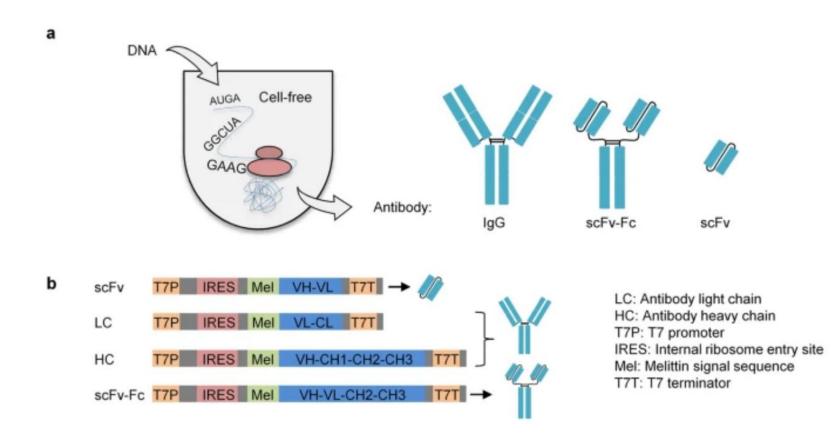
# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice



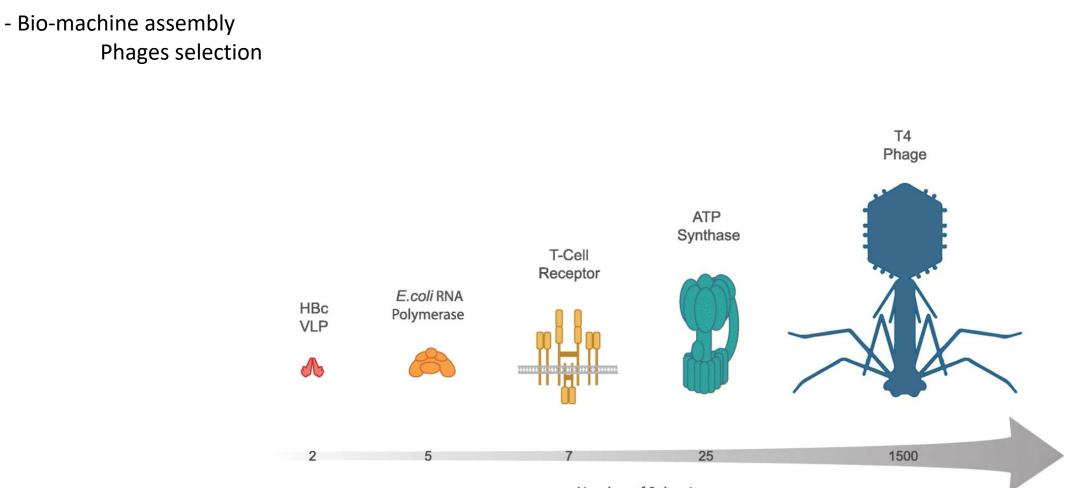
Jung K et al. Nat biotech 2020

# Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice





Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

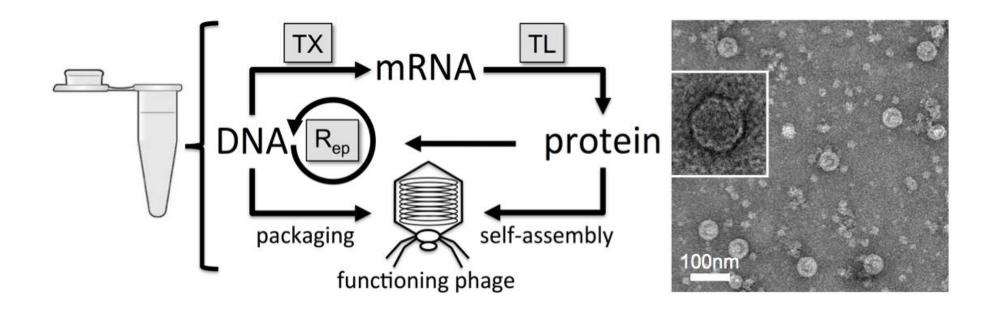


Number of Subunits

Shin J ACS synthetic biology (2012)

Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice

- Bio-machine assembly Phages selection



Encoded by a 40 kbp DNA program composed of about 60 genes







Fundamental science: cell-free to understand living cells

**Applied Science: Bridging Theory to Practice** 

Industrial Applications: Transforming Knowledge into Innovation

#### Industrial Applications: Transforming Knowledge into Innovation

#### **Pharmaceuticals** - Monoclonal Antibodies & Antimicrobial Peptides LenioBio (Germany) Cube Biotech (Germany) BioCat (Germany) - Vaccines Ntxpress (New Mexico, USA) CPI (UK) Sutro Biopharma (California, USA) - Small Molecules Creativebiomart (USA, Europe, Canada) - Membrane Proteins Creativebiomart (USA, Europe, Canada) Desgin Pharma (Massachussetts, USA) Synthelis (France) Pollution - CO2 capture Ensovi (Massachussetts, USA) - Biosensor Stemloop (Illinois, USA)

#### **On-Demand**

#### - Purified proteins

Tierra bioscience (California, USA) CFS (Japan) Cell-free (Ontario, Canada)

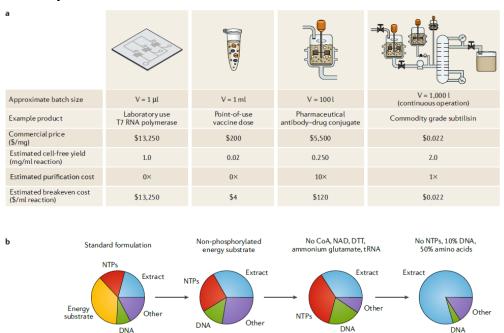
#### **Cell-free kit providers**

\$4.67

- New England Biolabs (Massachussets, USA)
- Thermo Fisher (Massachussets, USA)
- Biotechrabbit (Germany)
- arbor bioscience (Michigan, USA)

#### Scale-up

\$/ml reaction



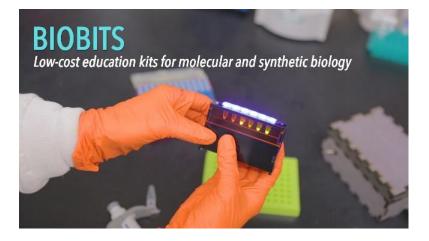
\$2.93

\$2.03

\$0.87

# Additional use / challenges with cell-free

#### **Cell-free for education**





#### myTXTL® Cell-Free Protein Expression kits for Igem

#### National Institute of Standards and Technology

