

# MOD1 – DNA ENGINEERING

Engelward, Spring 2008

**Day 1**

## **About this Module**

Goals for this Module

Brief background: Homologous recombination is not just for meiosis!

Overview of the Experiment

The Plasmid Construction Roadmap

## **Today's Experiment: Design Primers and Perform PCR**

Chemistry of nucleotide addition (5' vs 3' end)

PCR - Cycling

What is a Restriction Enzyme Site?

How can you use PCR to add a restriction site to your PCR product?

# **What you will gain from the opportunity to do these experiments:**

- Confidence in your ability to work with plasmids**
- Know-how for using plasmids to express a gene in a mammalian cell**
- Ability to independently design primers and set up a PCR reaction**
- Ability to culture mammalian cells**
- Ability to use a flow cytometer and a basic understanding of how it works**

# **What you will learn about the science behind your experiments:**

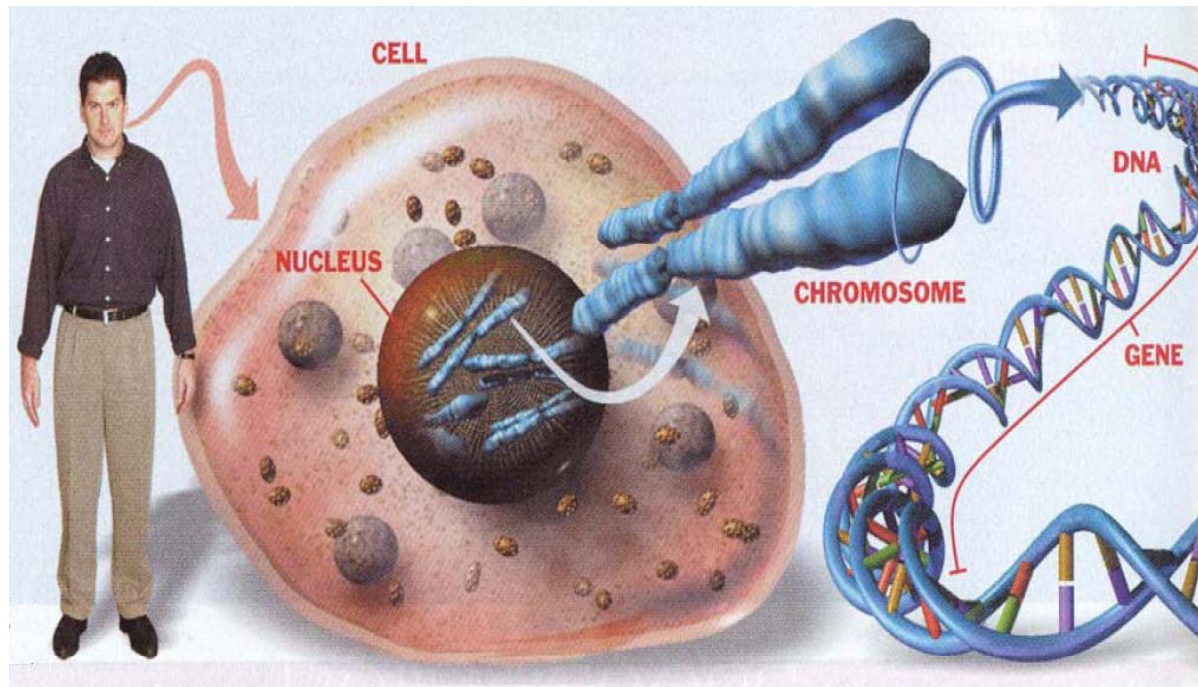
**By the end of this module, you will have a basic understanding of:**

- where mutations come from**
- how DNA is repaired**
- the relationship between mutations and cancer**
- how homologous recombination works**
- why companies are designing drugs to disable homologous recombination in tumor cells**

## **What you will do :**

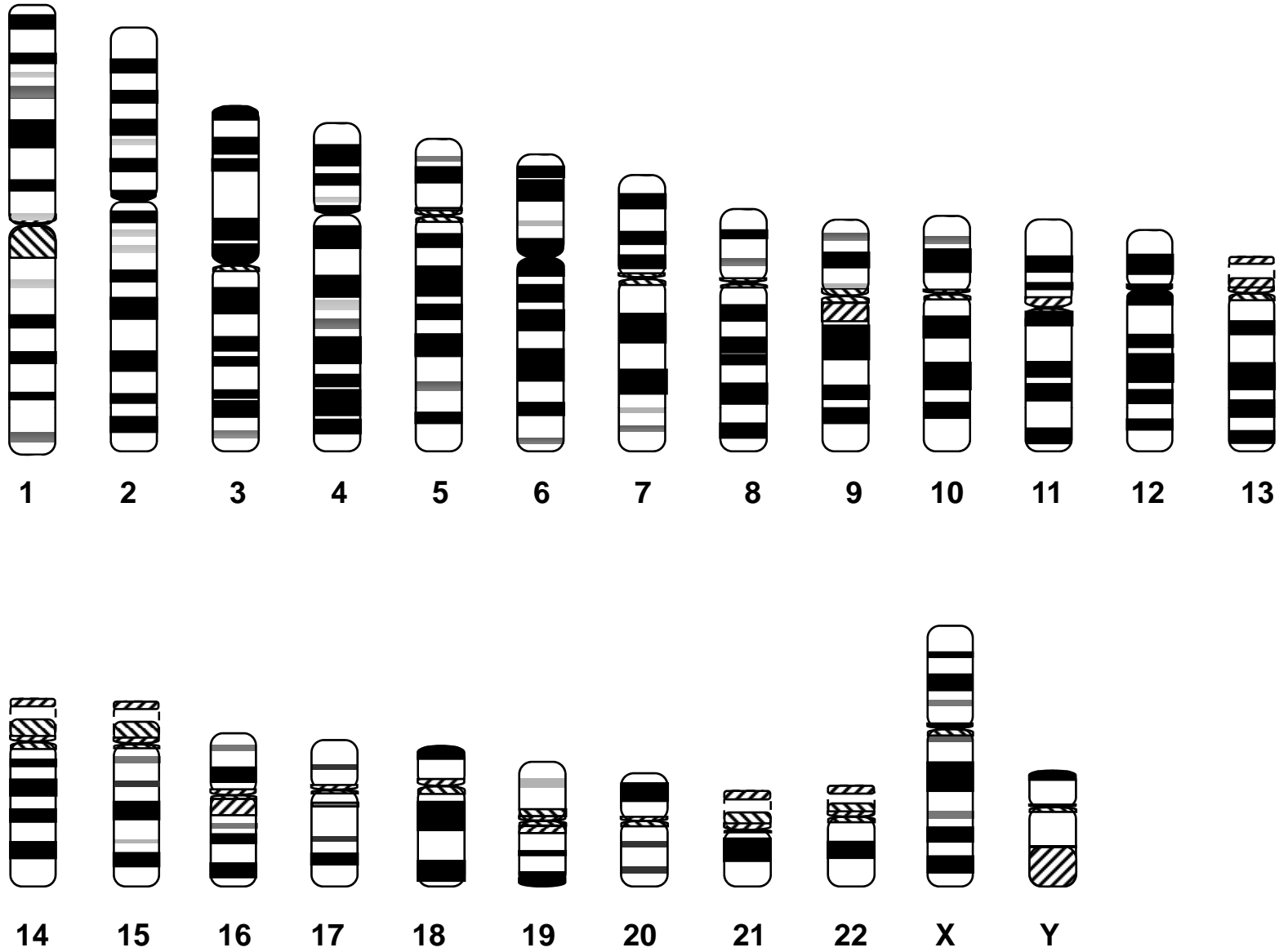
**In this module, you will create a plasmid that will be used in an assay to measure homologous recombination activity in mammalian cells.**

Your DNA

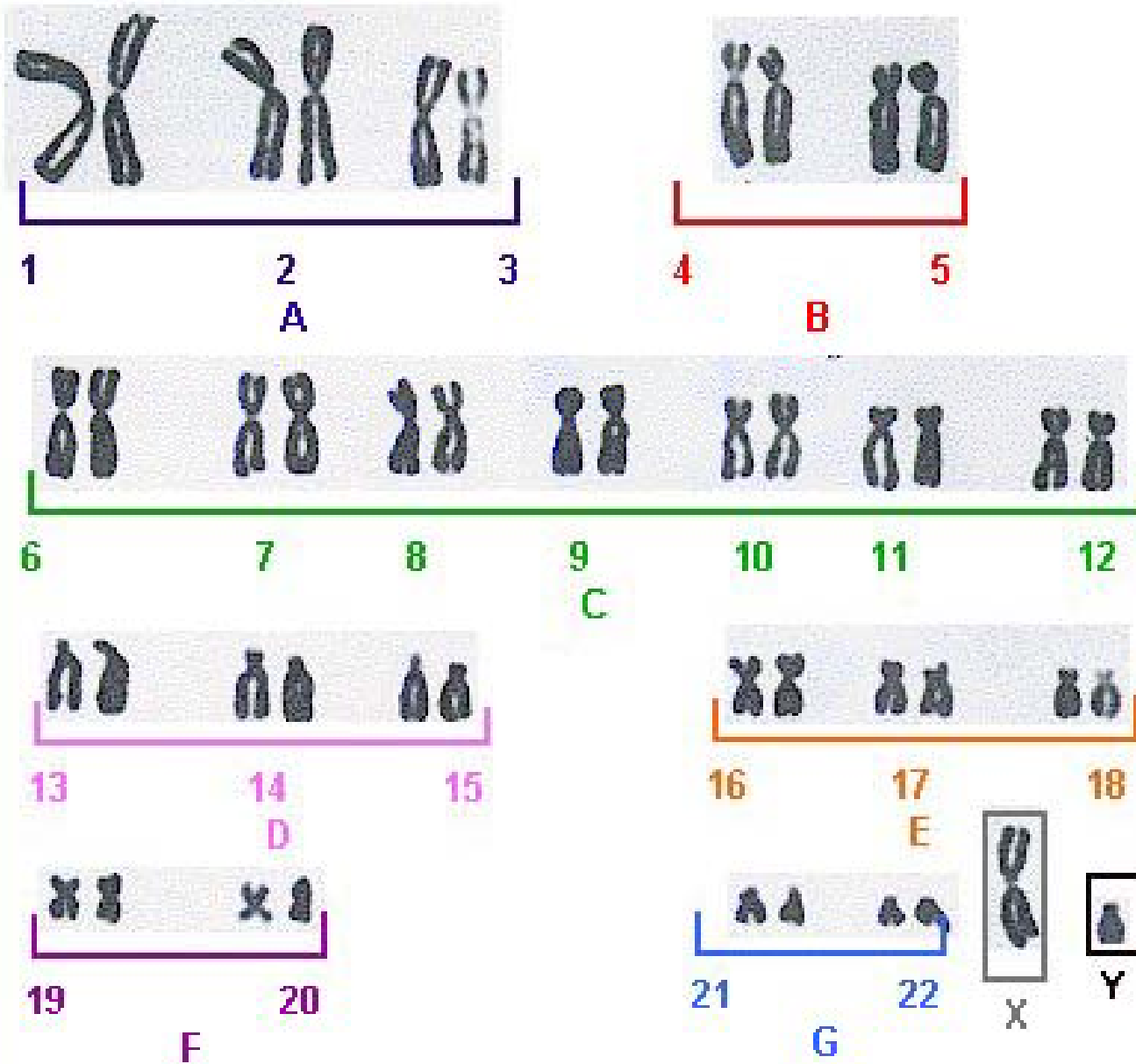


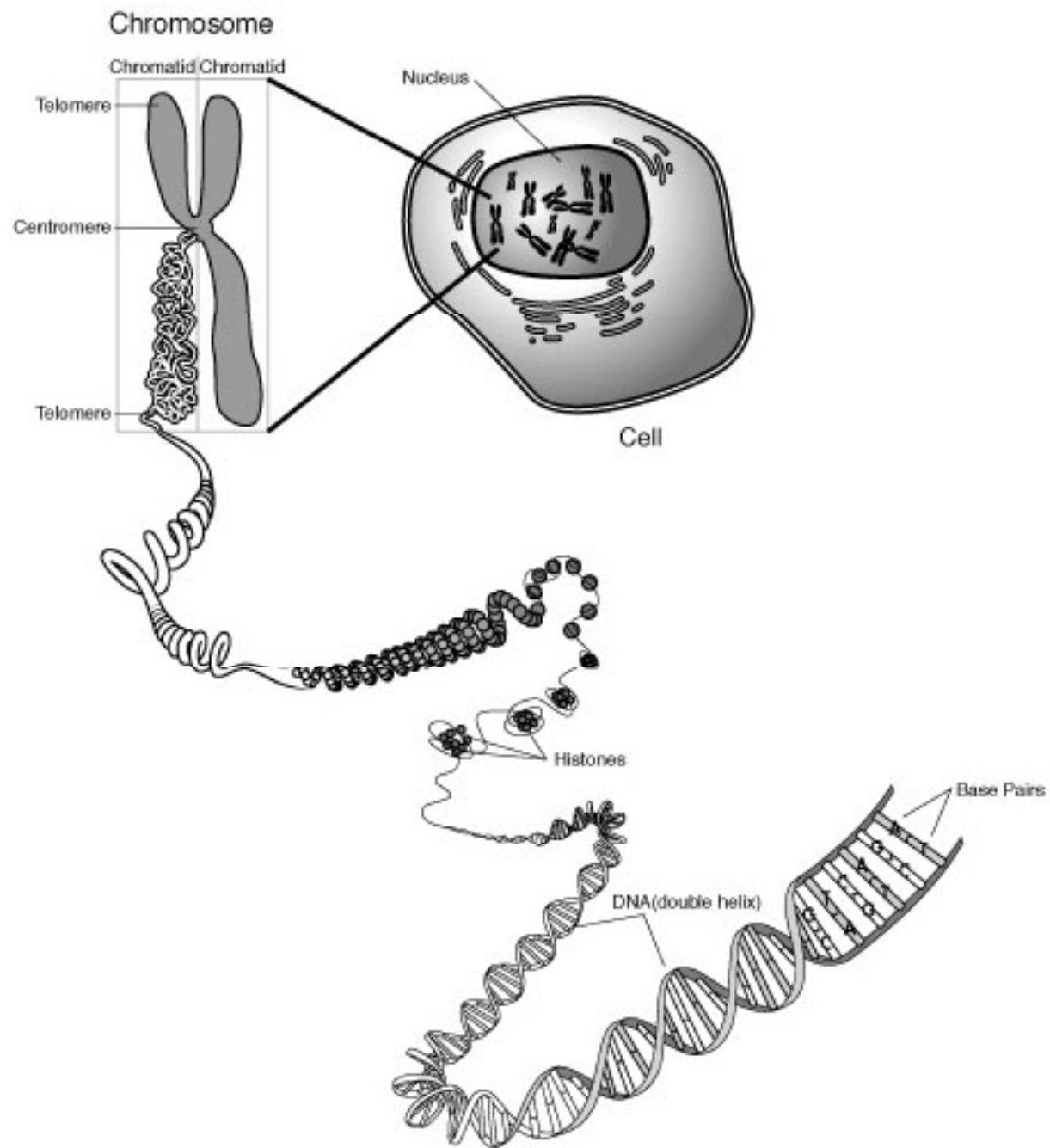
“*TIME*” Nov., 1999

# Human chromosomes

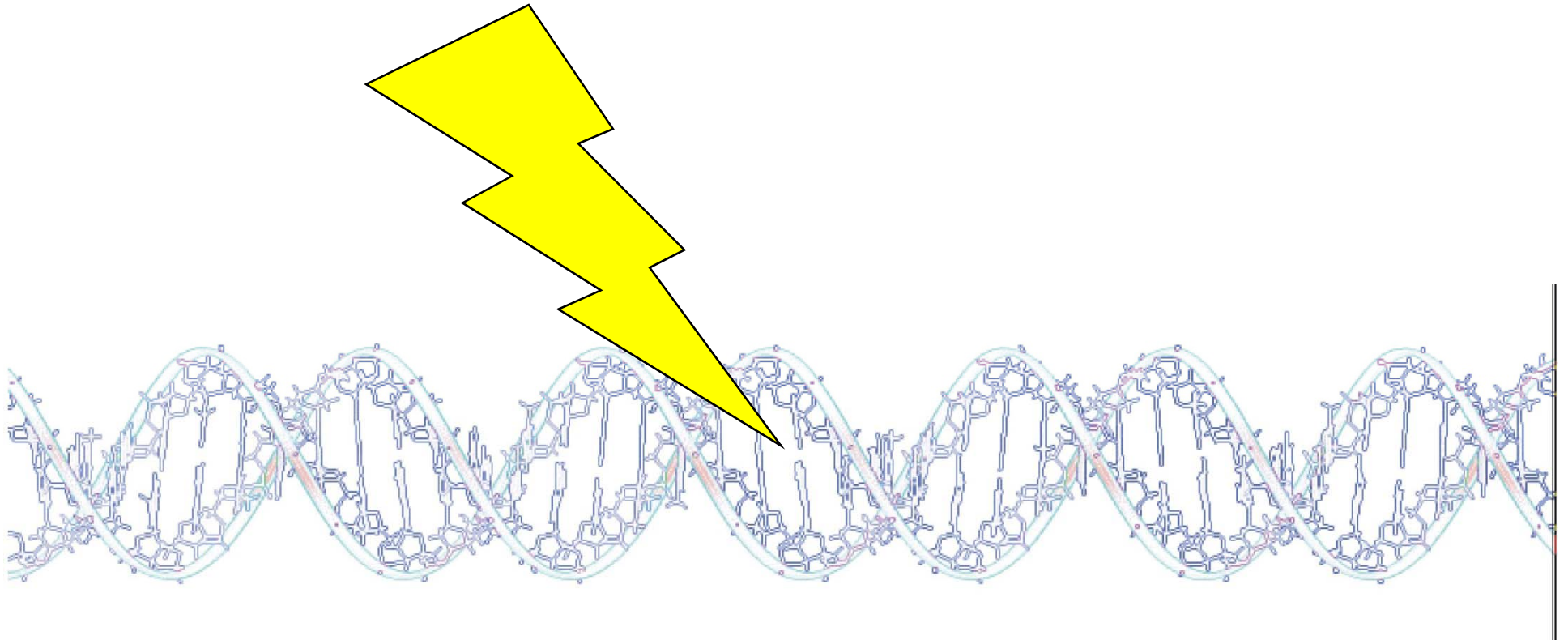


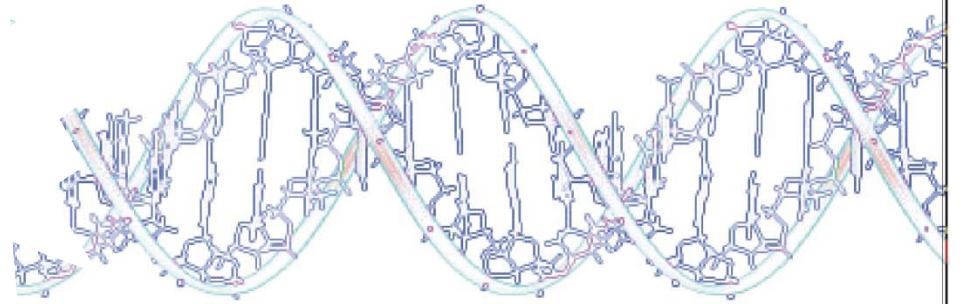
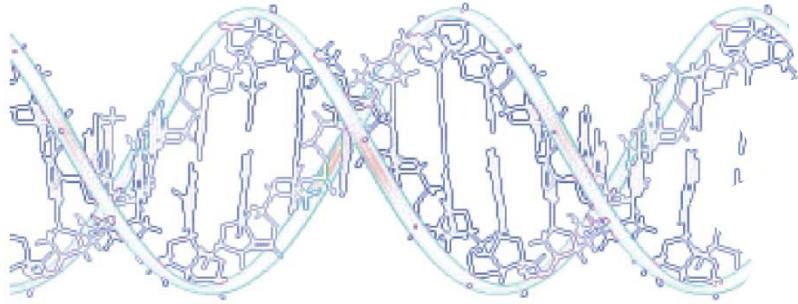






Why should you care about  
Homologous Recombination?





Gene Conversion  
SDSA  
Animation

# **Homologous Recombination Protects Cells from the Lethal Effects of DNA Damage**

## **Your Experiment:**

**Create a plasmid that will be part of a homologous recombination assay.**

**Measure the frequency of cells in which homologous recombination between two plasmids gives rise to a fluorescent cell.**

**Test conditions that might affect the frequency of green cells!**

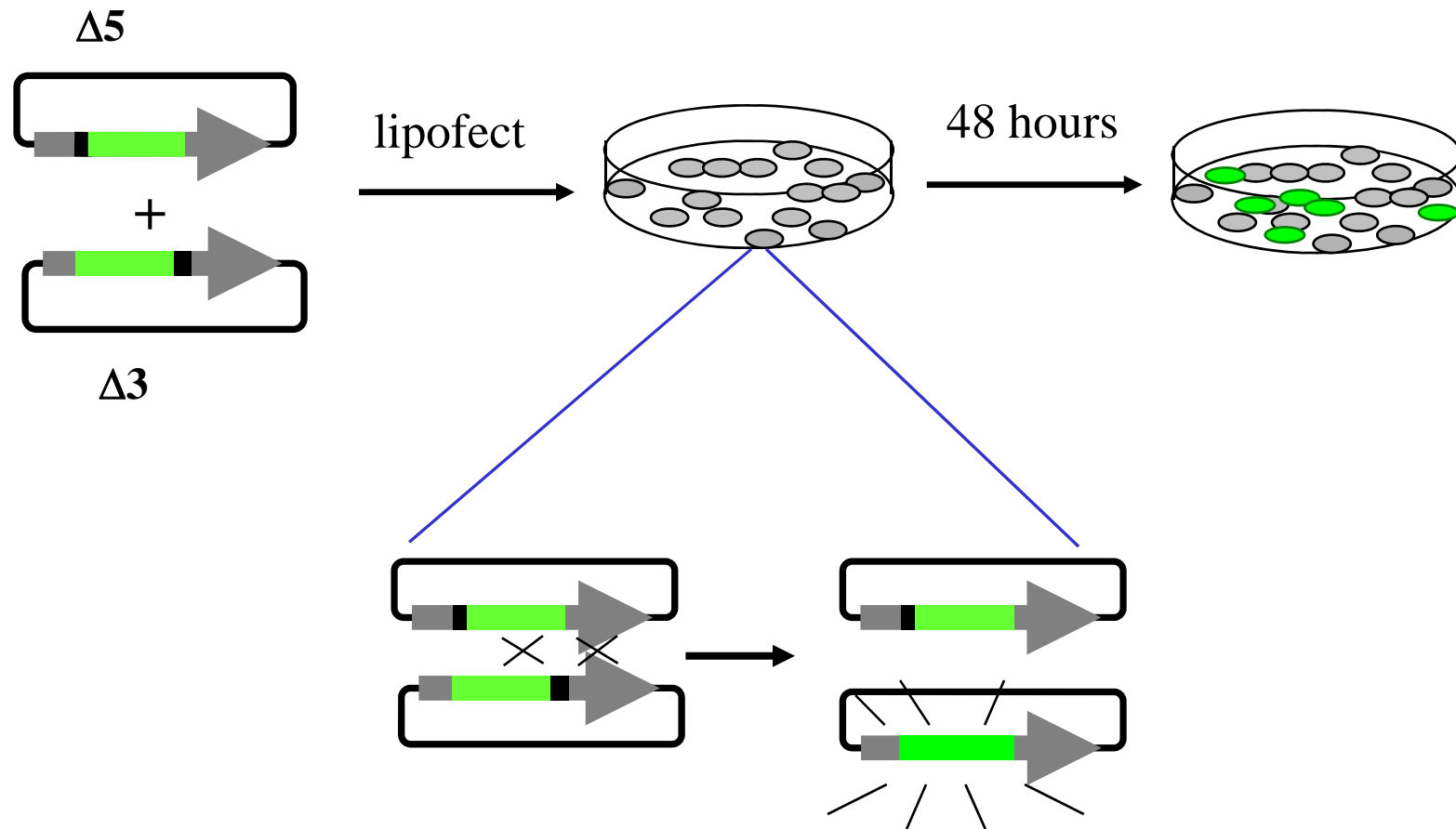


**What is a gene?**

**What is an expression cassette?**

**What is a plasmid?**

# A Plasmid-Based Assay for Homologous Recombination in Mammalian Cells



# Roadmap: Blueprint of Plasmid Construction Plan

## *Roadmap for Plasmid Construction*

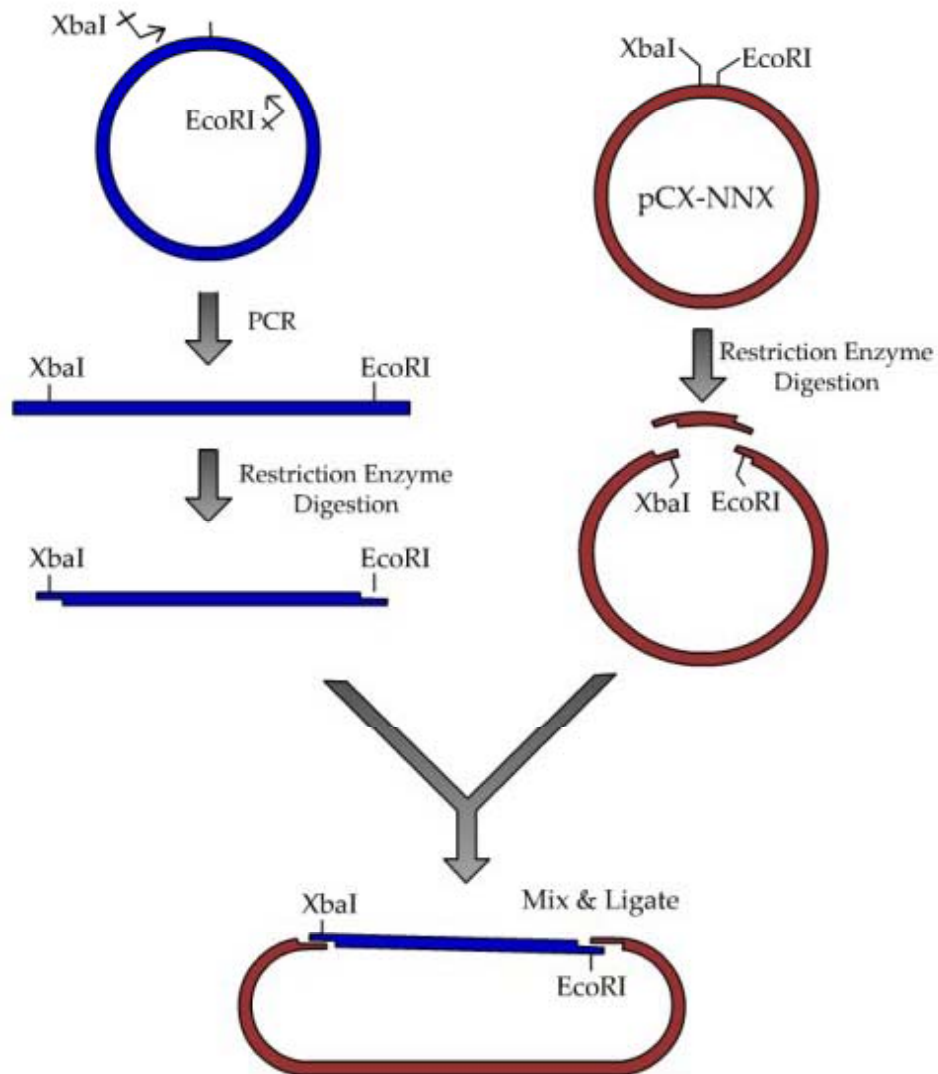
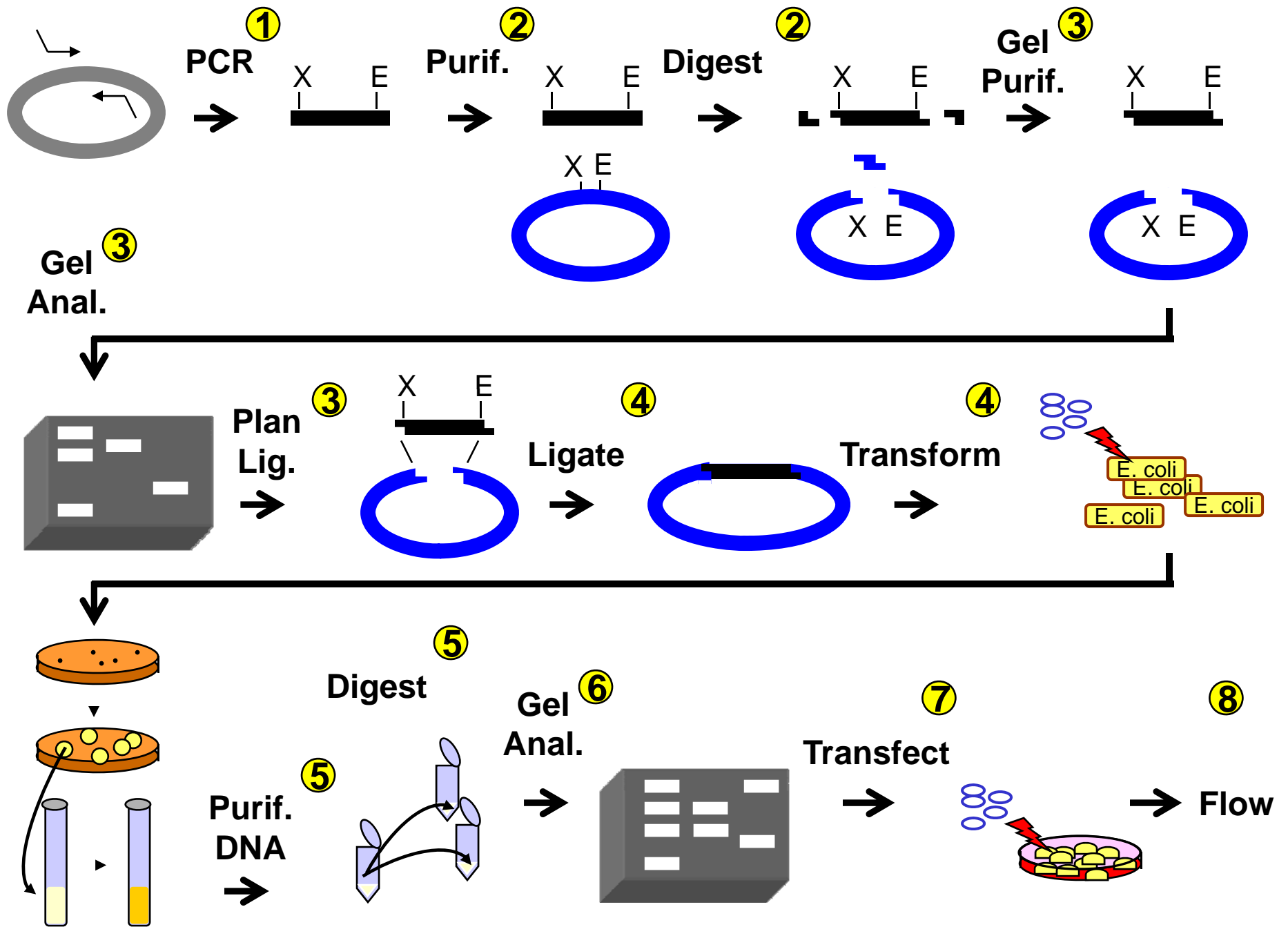
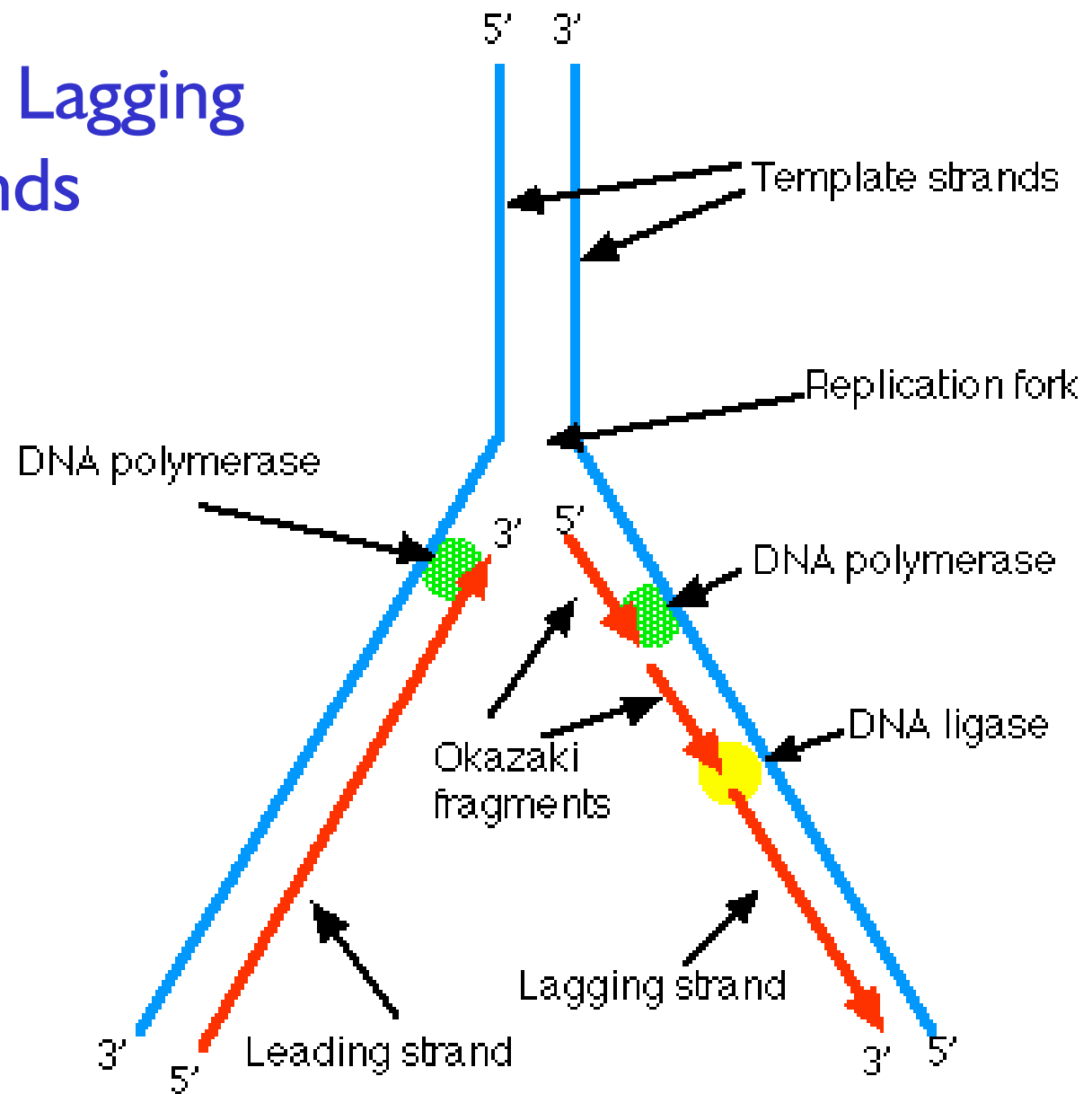


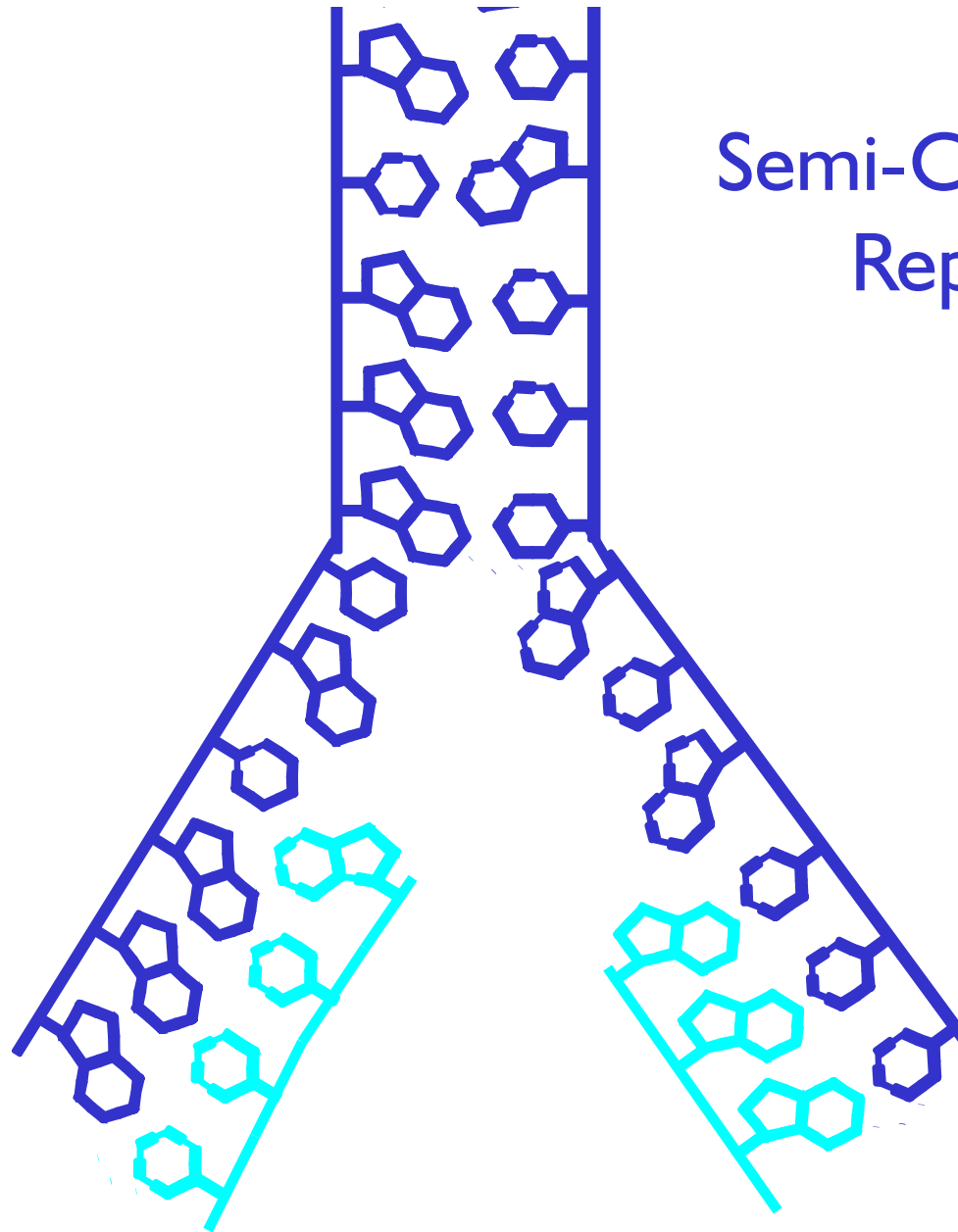
Figure by Justin Lo



**PCR!**

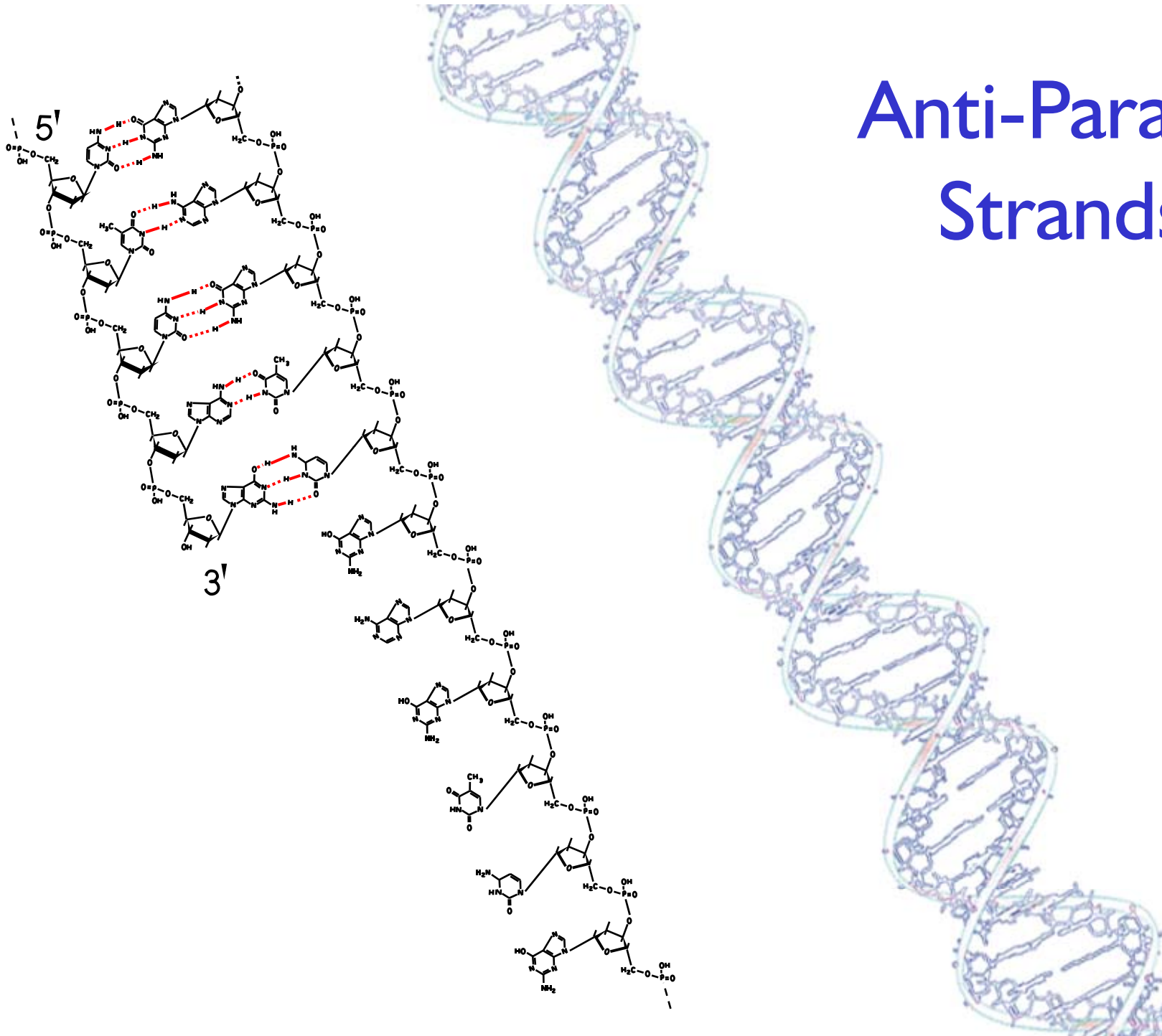
# Leading & Lagging Strands





Semi-Conservative  
Replication

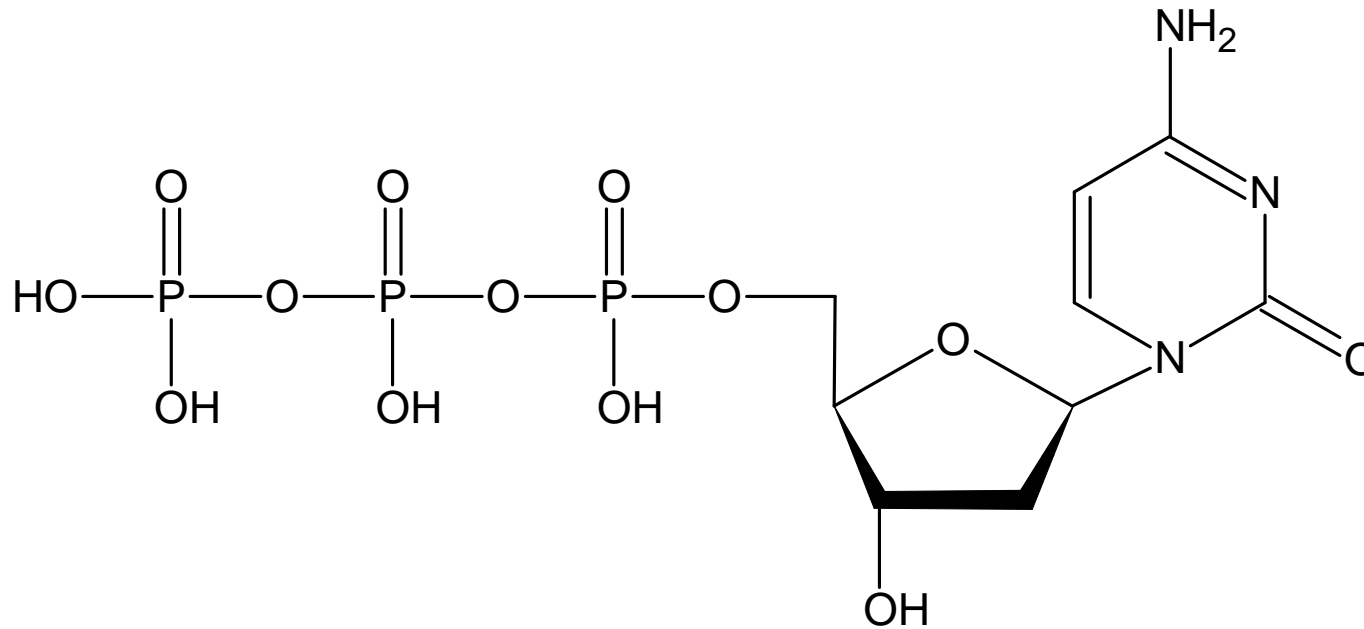
# Anti-Parallel Strands





How do you design primers for PCR?

First, we need to review DNA replication...

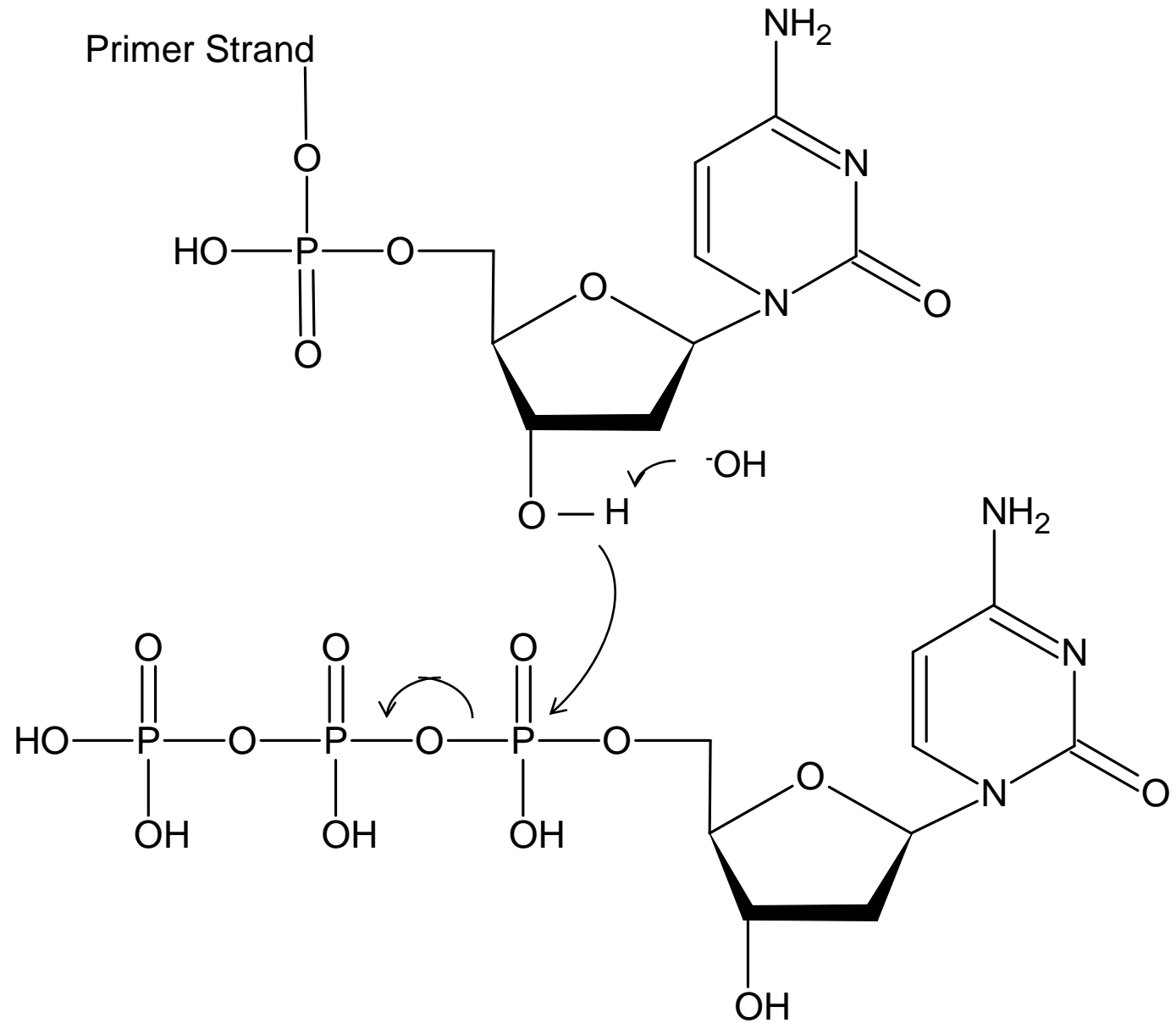


dCTP = 2'-deoxycytidine 5'-triphosphate

dNTPs = ?

(the others being deoxyadenosine, deoxyguanosine, and deoxythymidine)

**Note: We generally refer to the bases when speaking about duplex DNA..  
“Adenine, Guanine, Cytosine and Thymine”**



# What are the components of a PCR reaction?

Polymerase

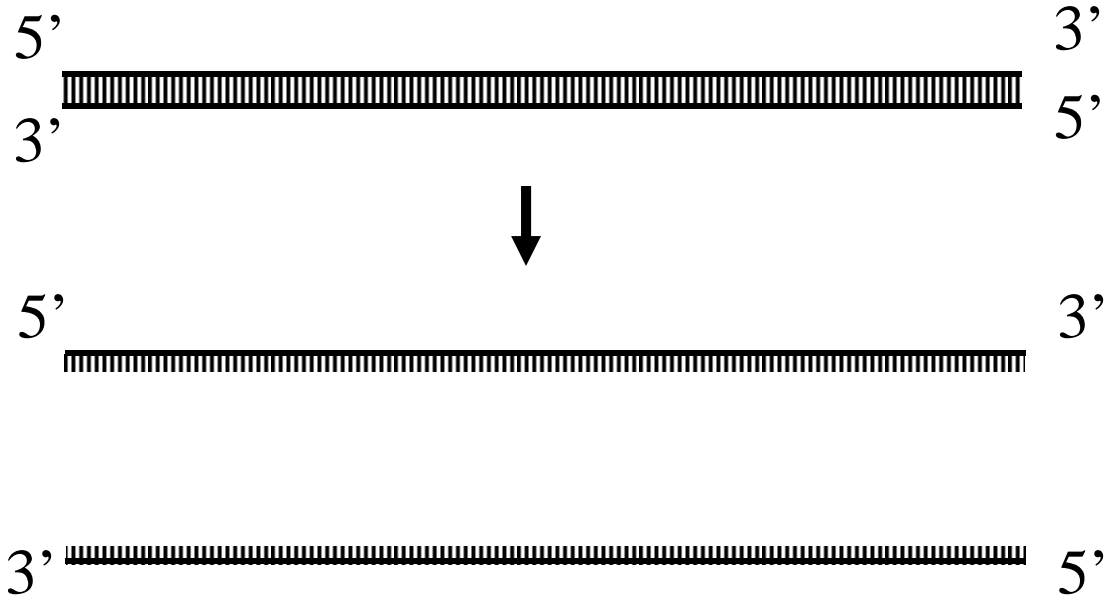
Template

Primer

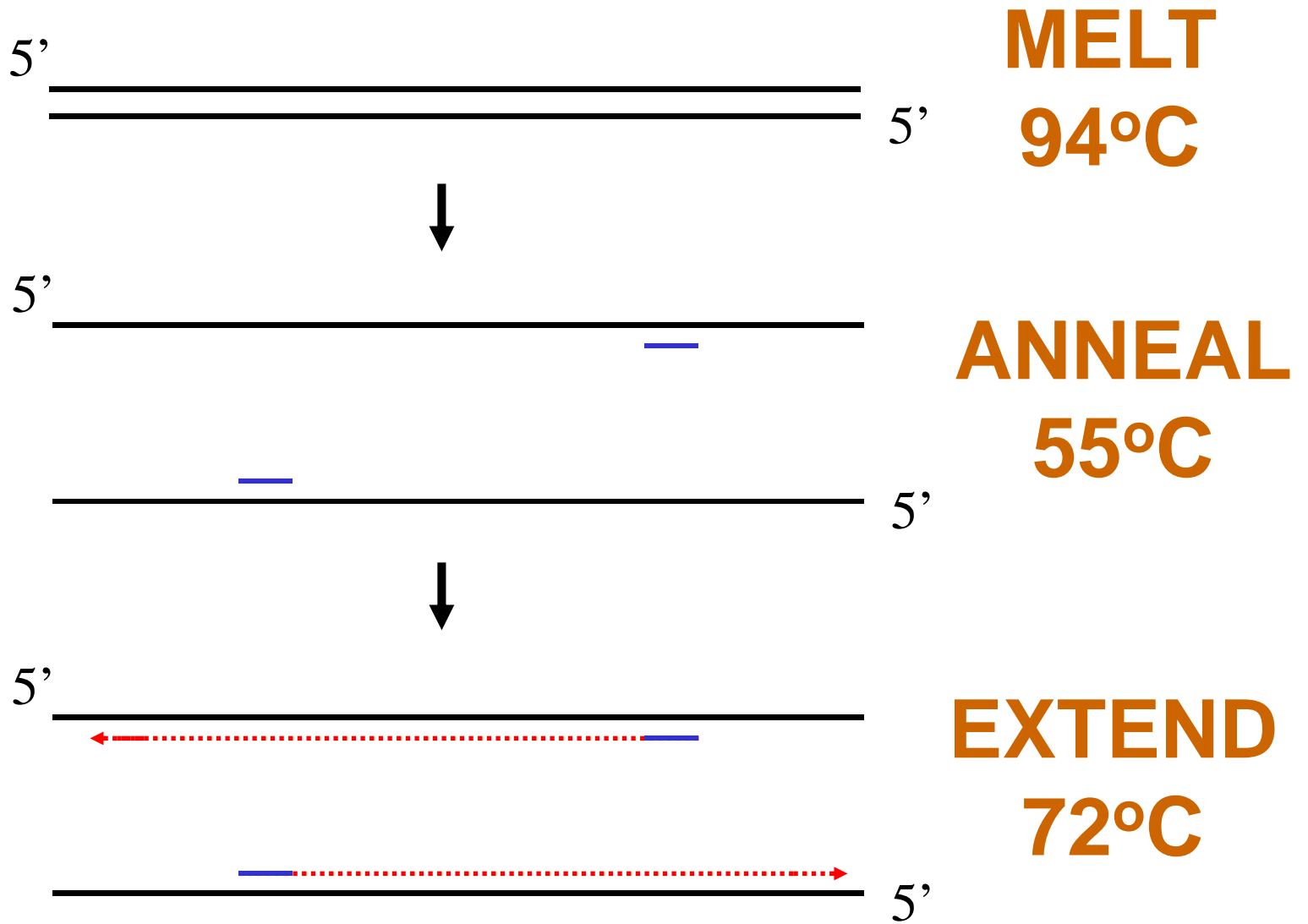
dNTPs

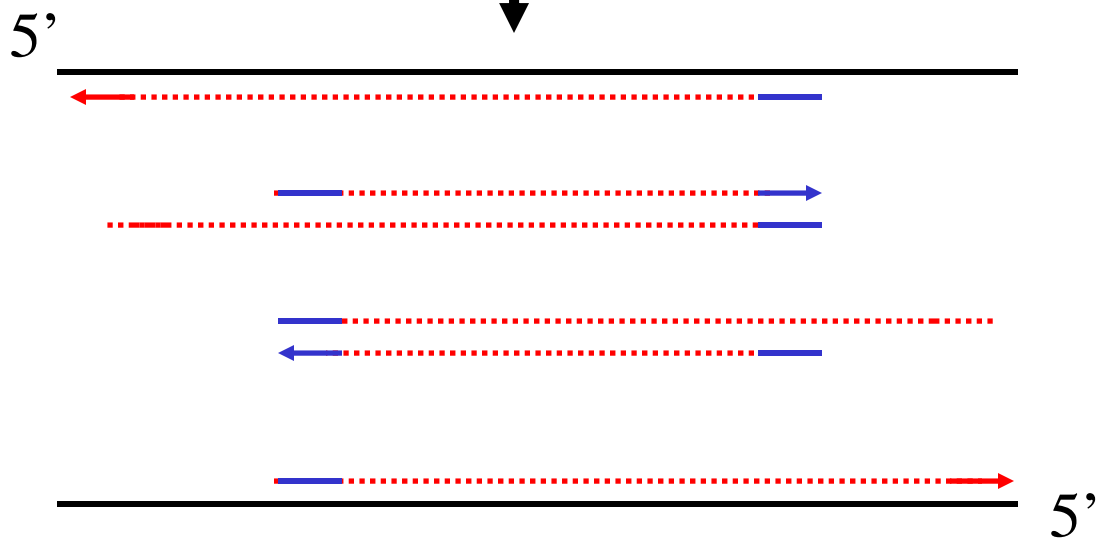
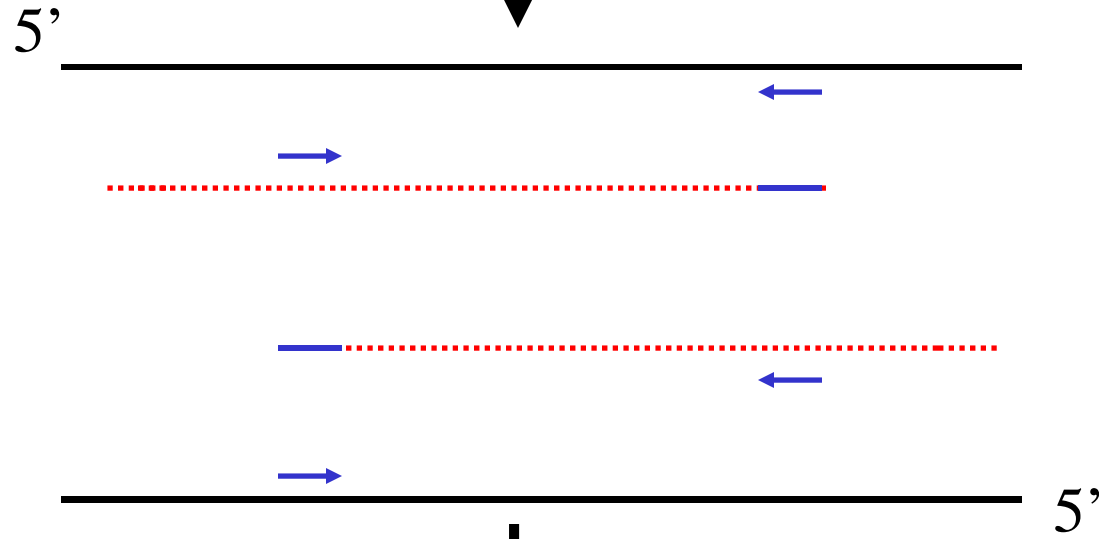
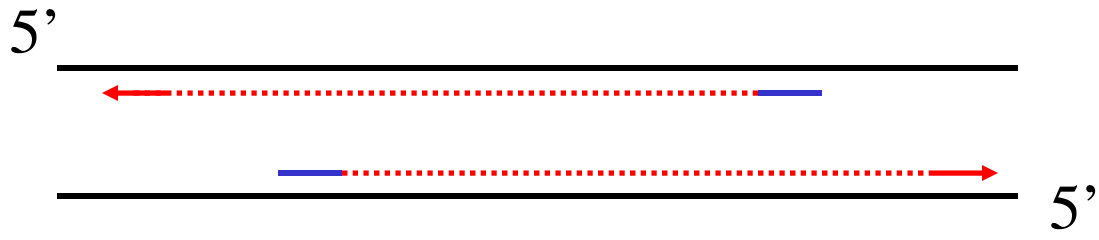
Mg<sup>++</sup>

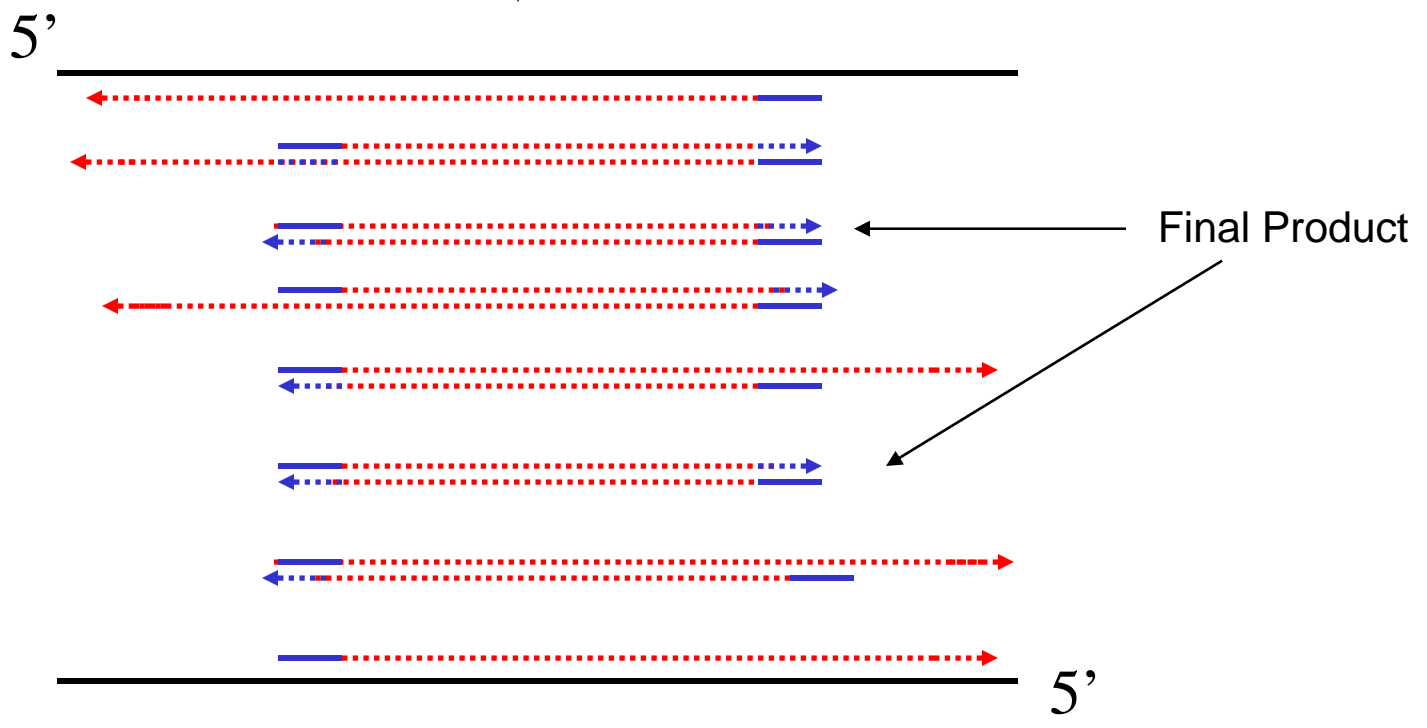
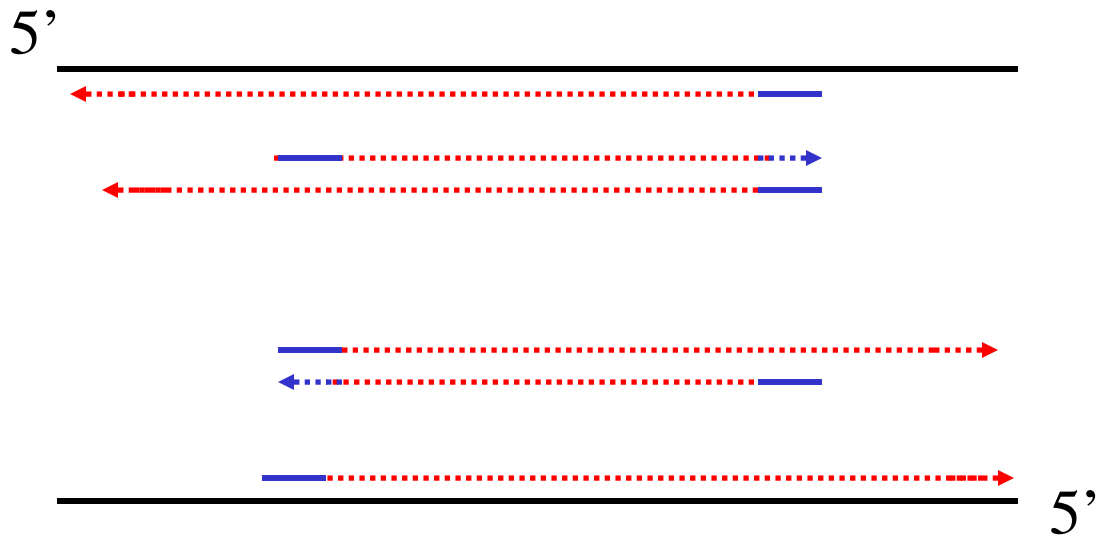
# PCR



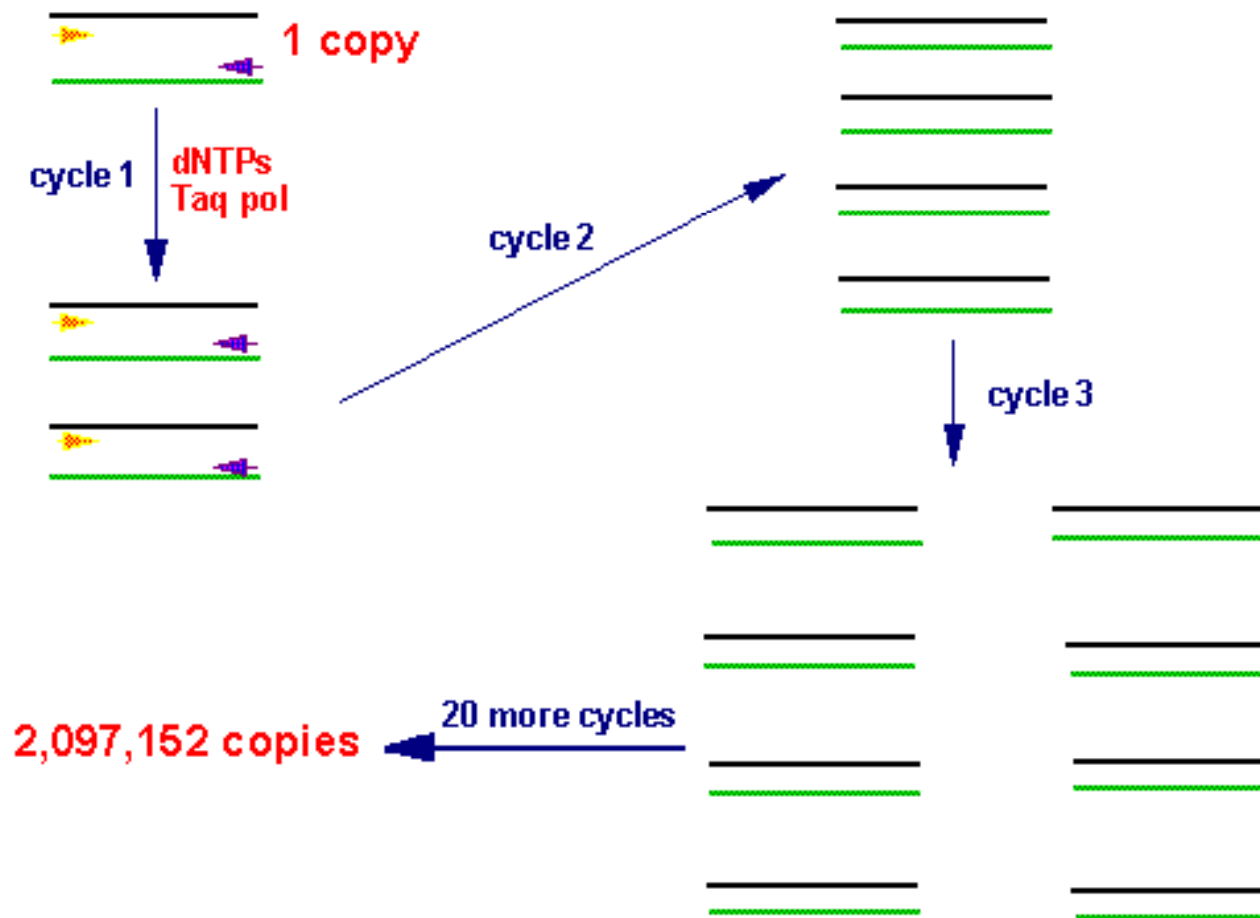
# PCR





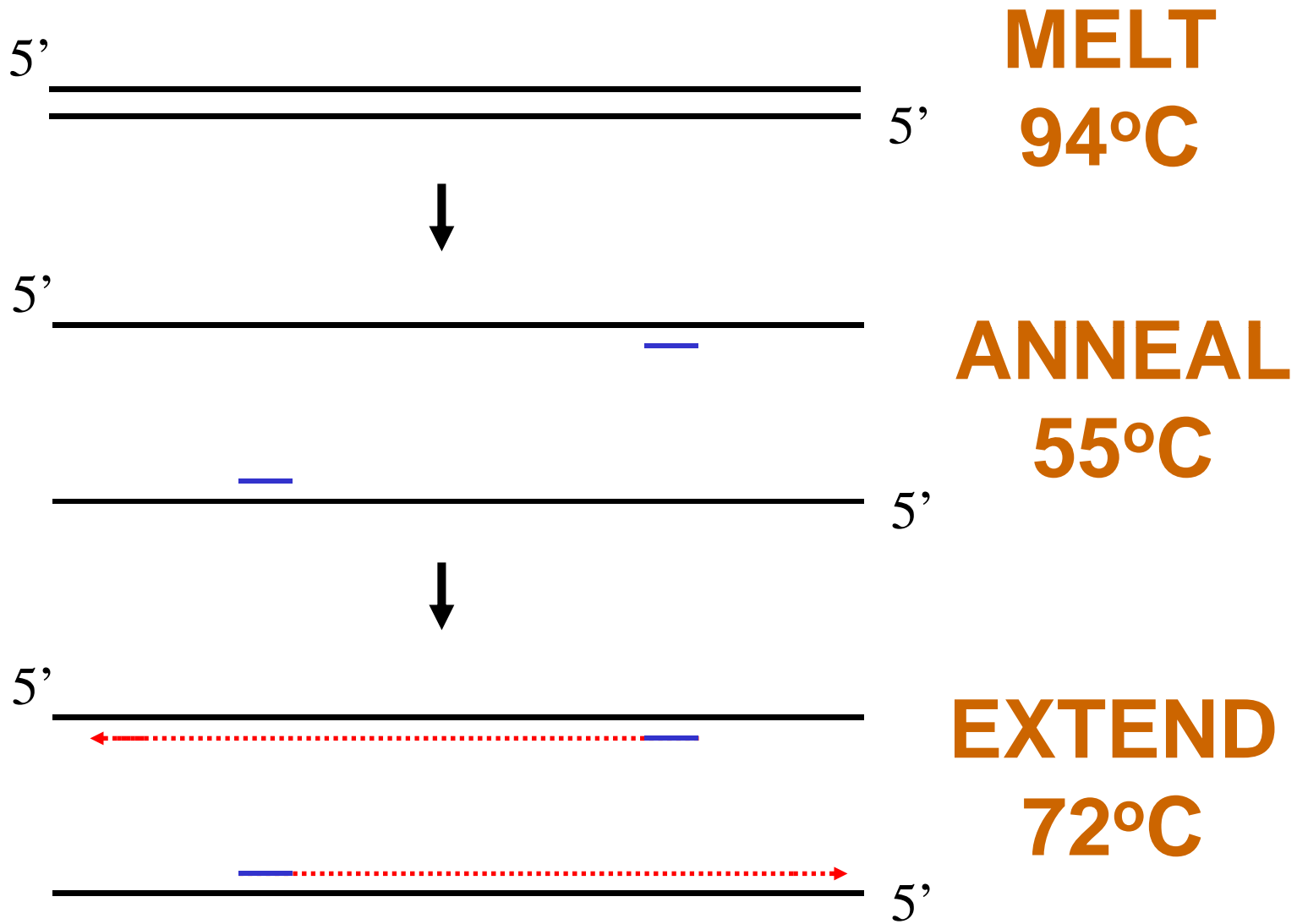




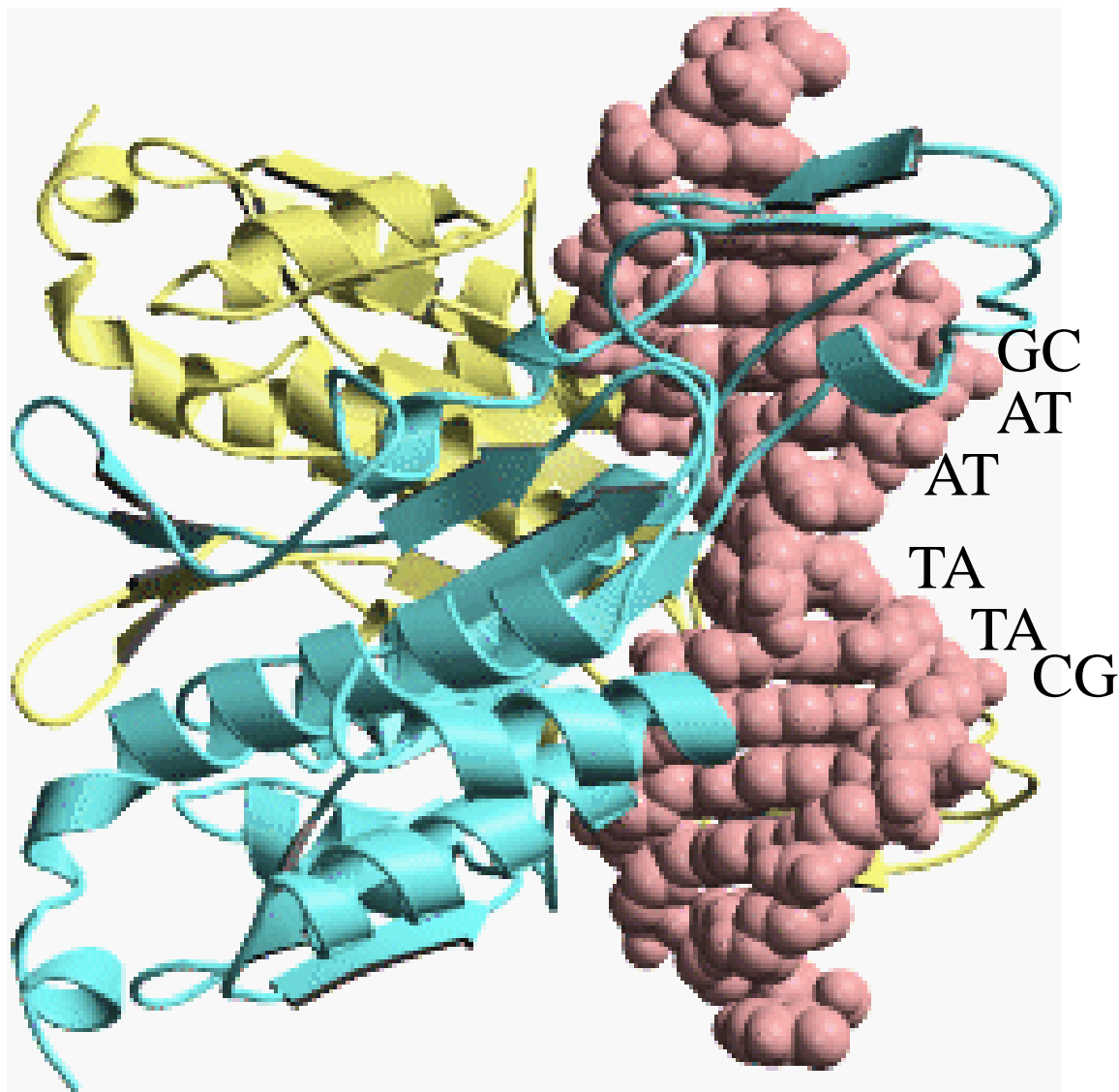


copyright M.W.King 1996

# PCR



# ***Restriction Enzymes***



5' - GAATTC - 3'  
3' - CTTAAG - 5'

**EcoRI**

Image from: Rosenberg, J. M. Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol. 1: 104-110 (1991)



“Old cloners never die, they just come to a sticky end.”

Why are sticky ends useful?

# Roadmap: Blueprint of Plasmid Construction Plan

## *Roadmap for Plasmid Construction*

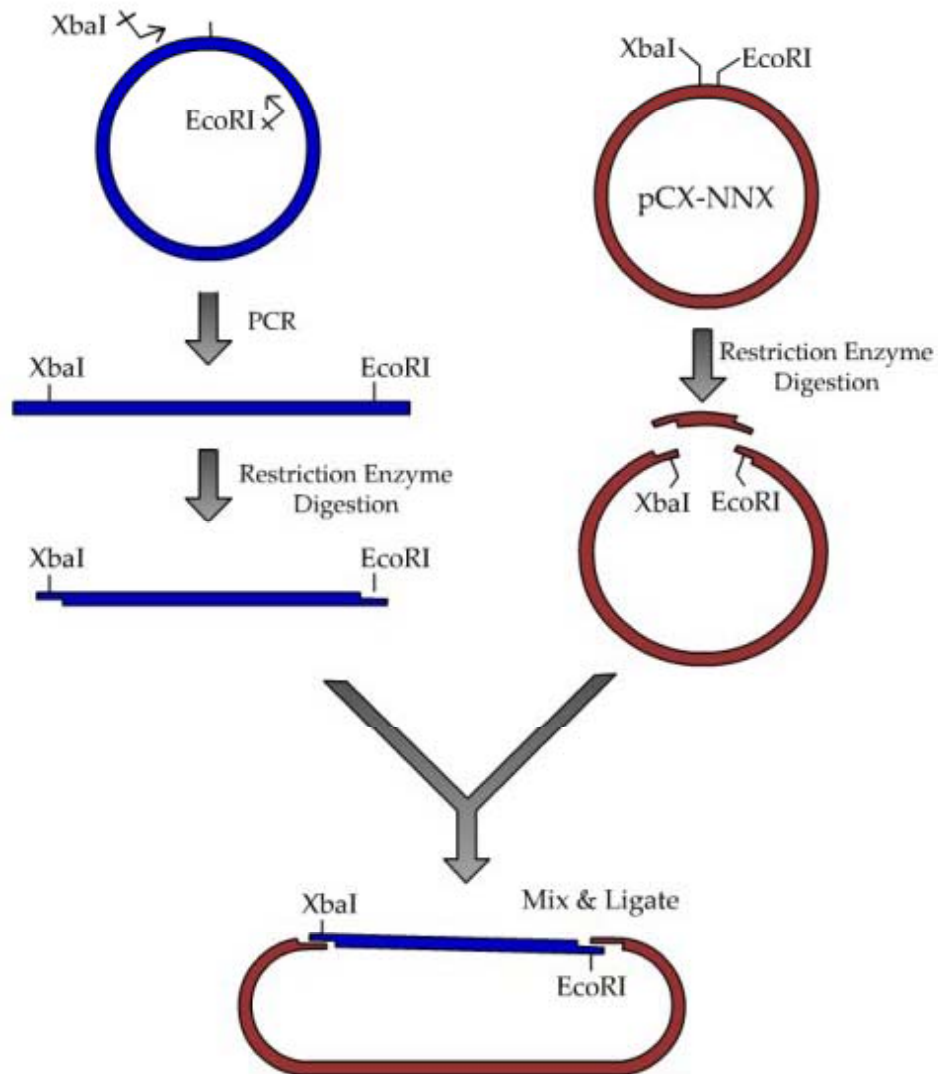


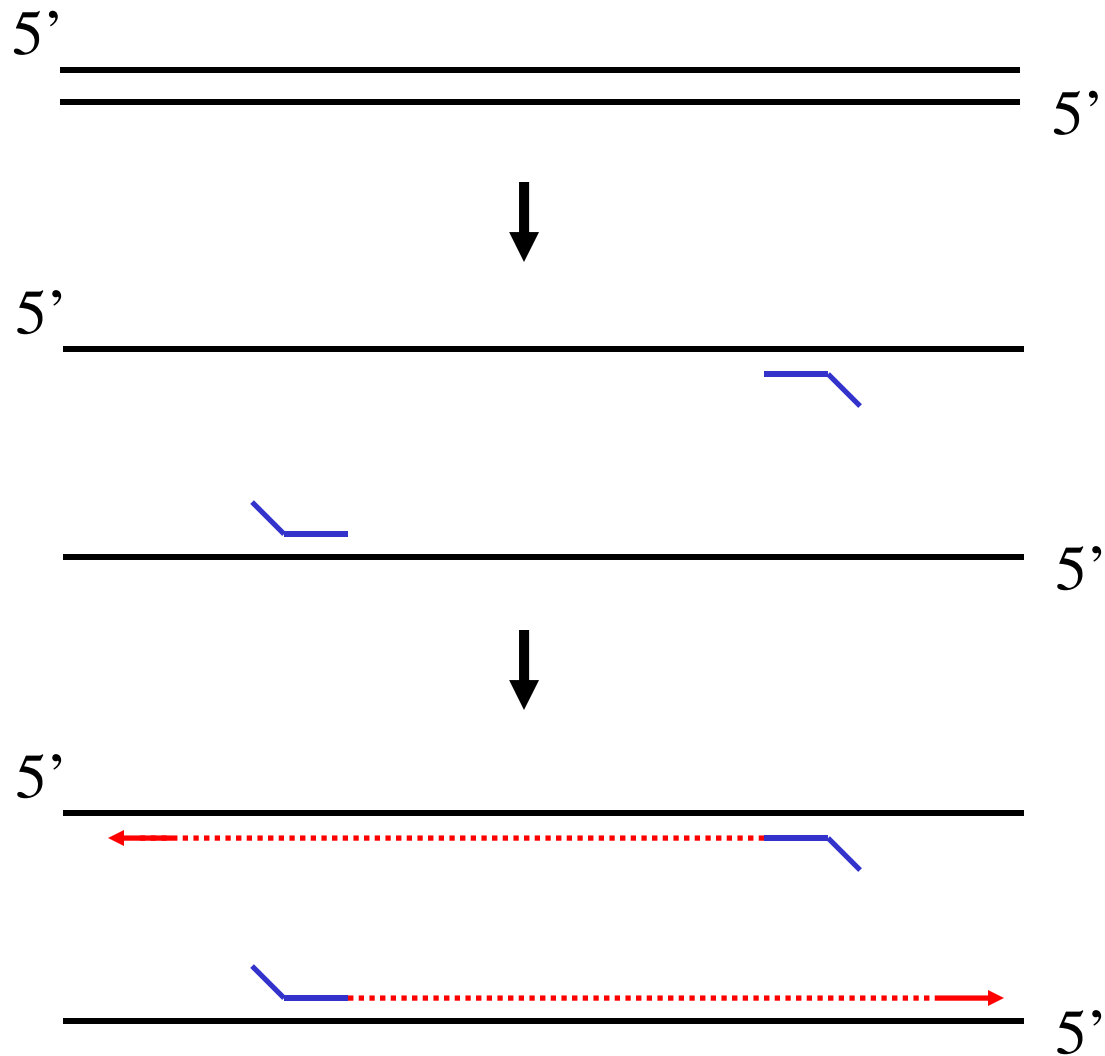
Figure by Justin Lo

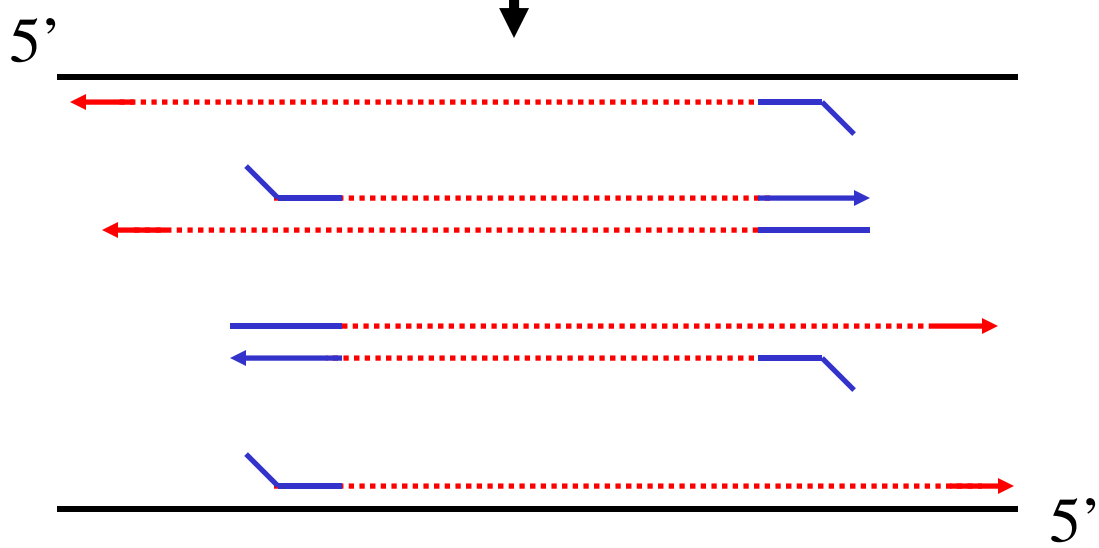
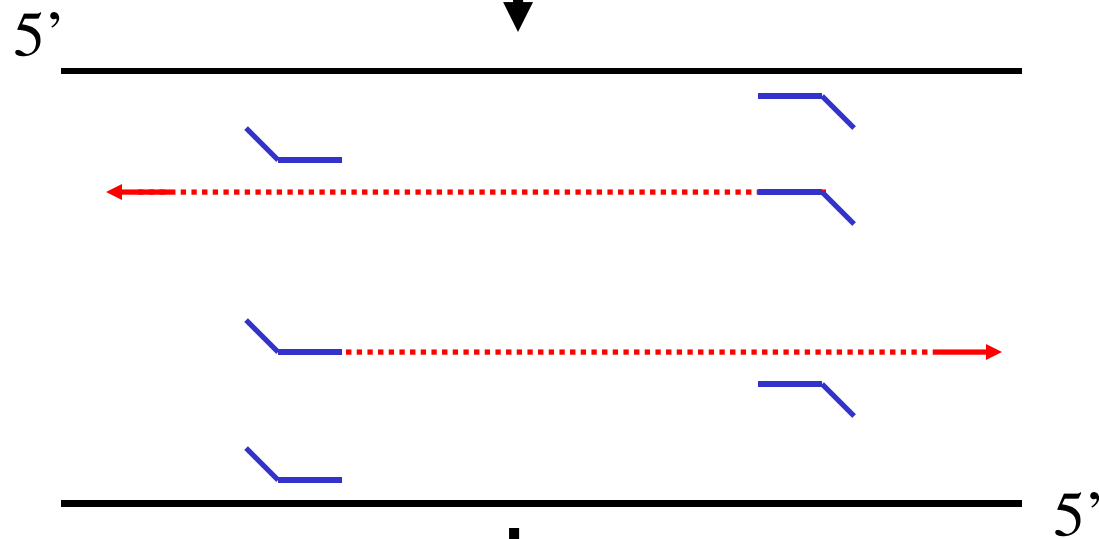
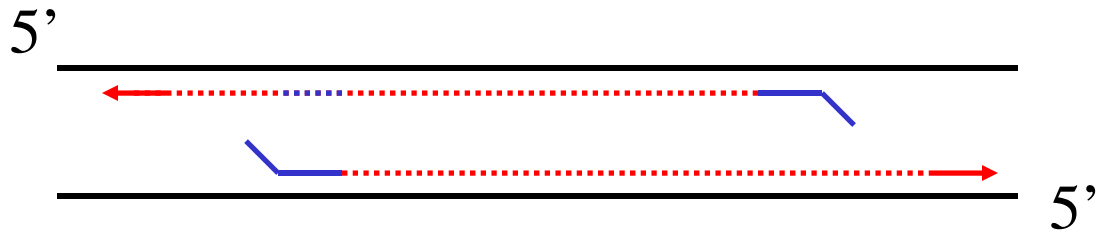
**PCR can be used to  
add sequences  
to the ends of a product.**

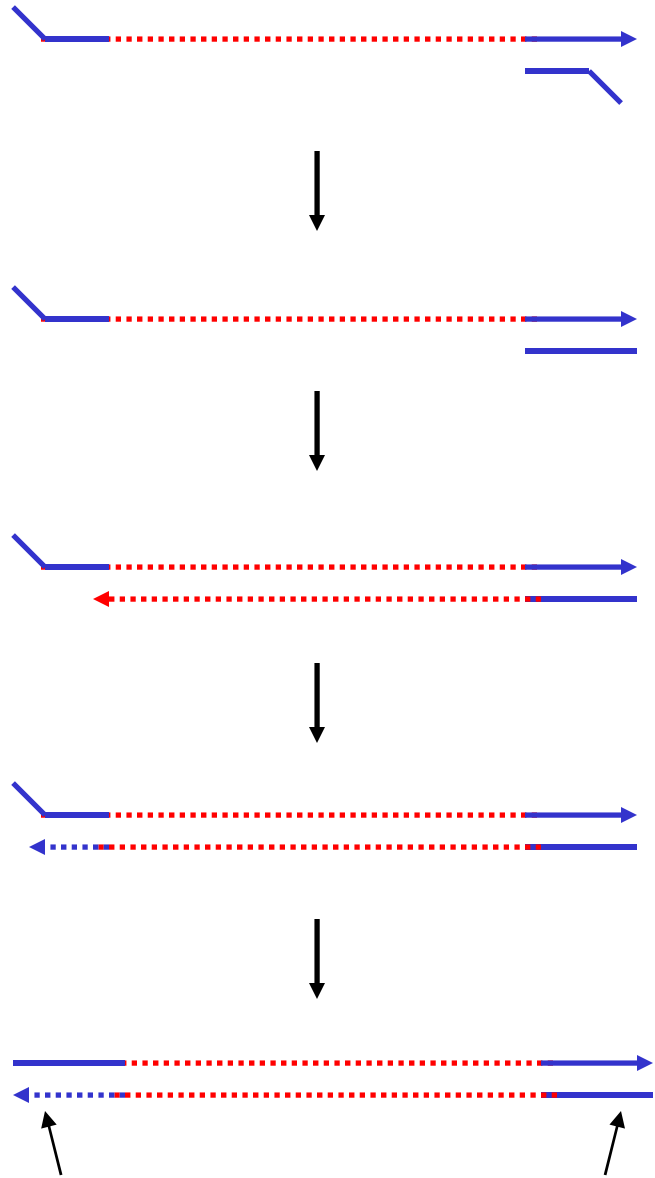


# PCR

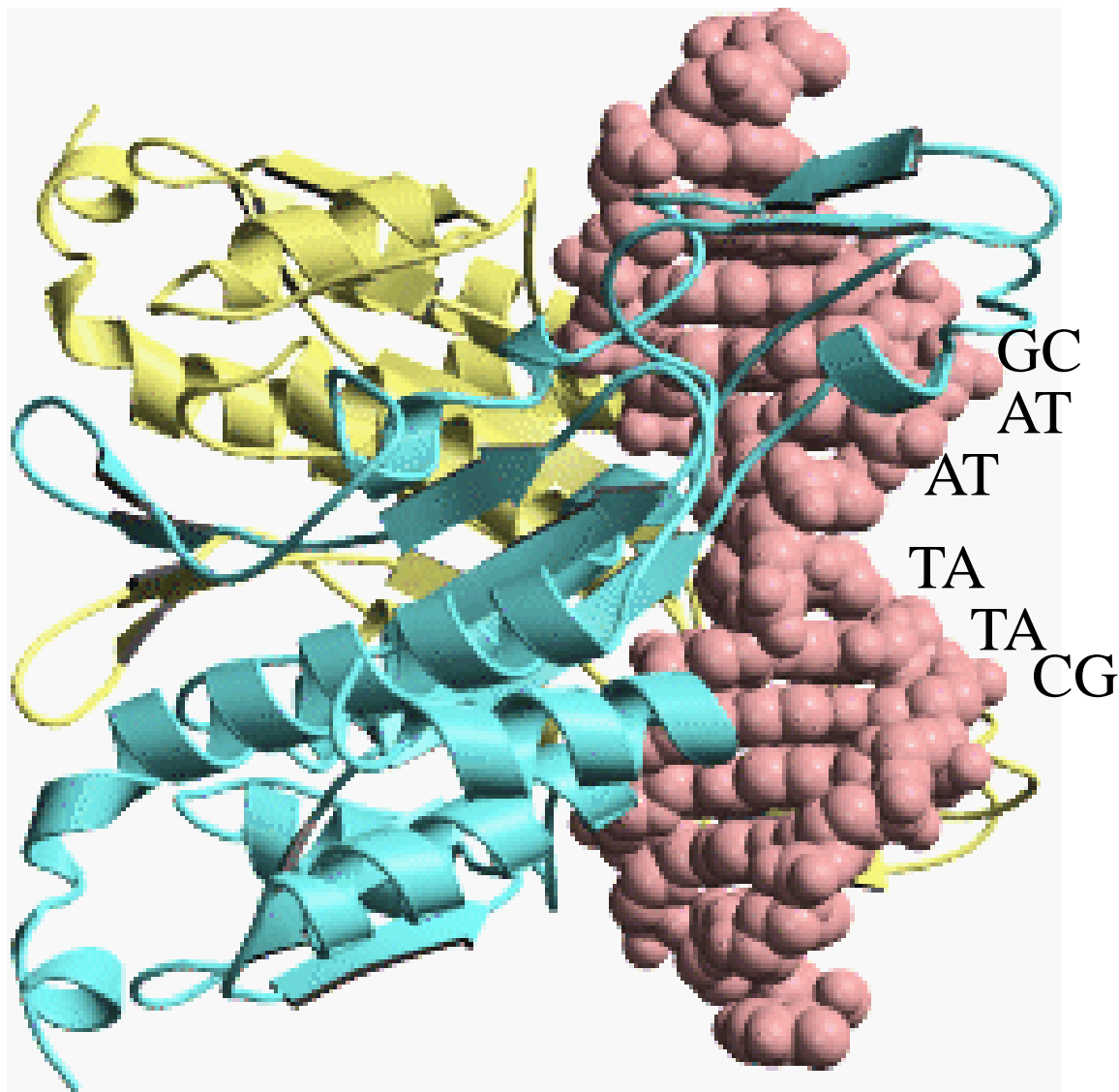
Basic Principles:







Restriction Enzyme Sites



5' - GAATTC - 3'  
3' - CTTAAG - 5'

## EcoRI

**Why do you need  
to add extra  
sequence to the 5'  
end of your  
primer?**

Image from: Rosenberg, J. M. Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol. 1: 104-110 (1991)

## Roadmap for Plasmid Construction

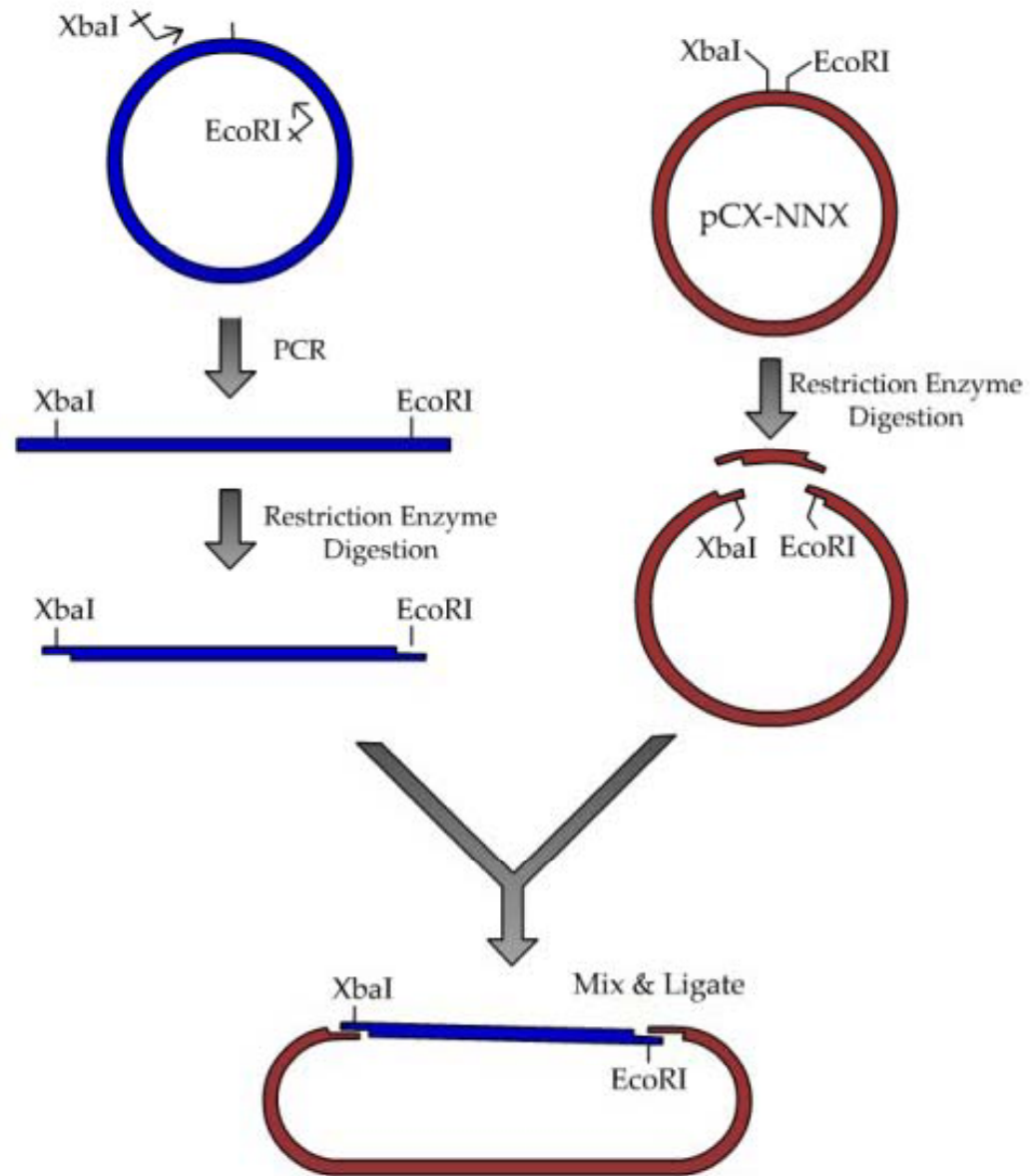
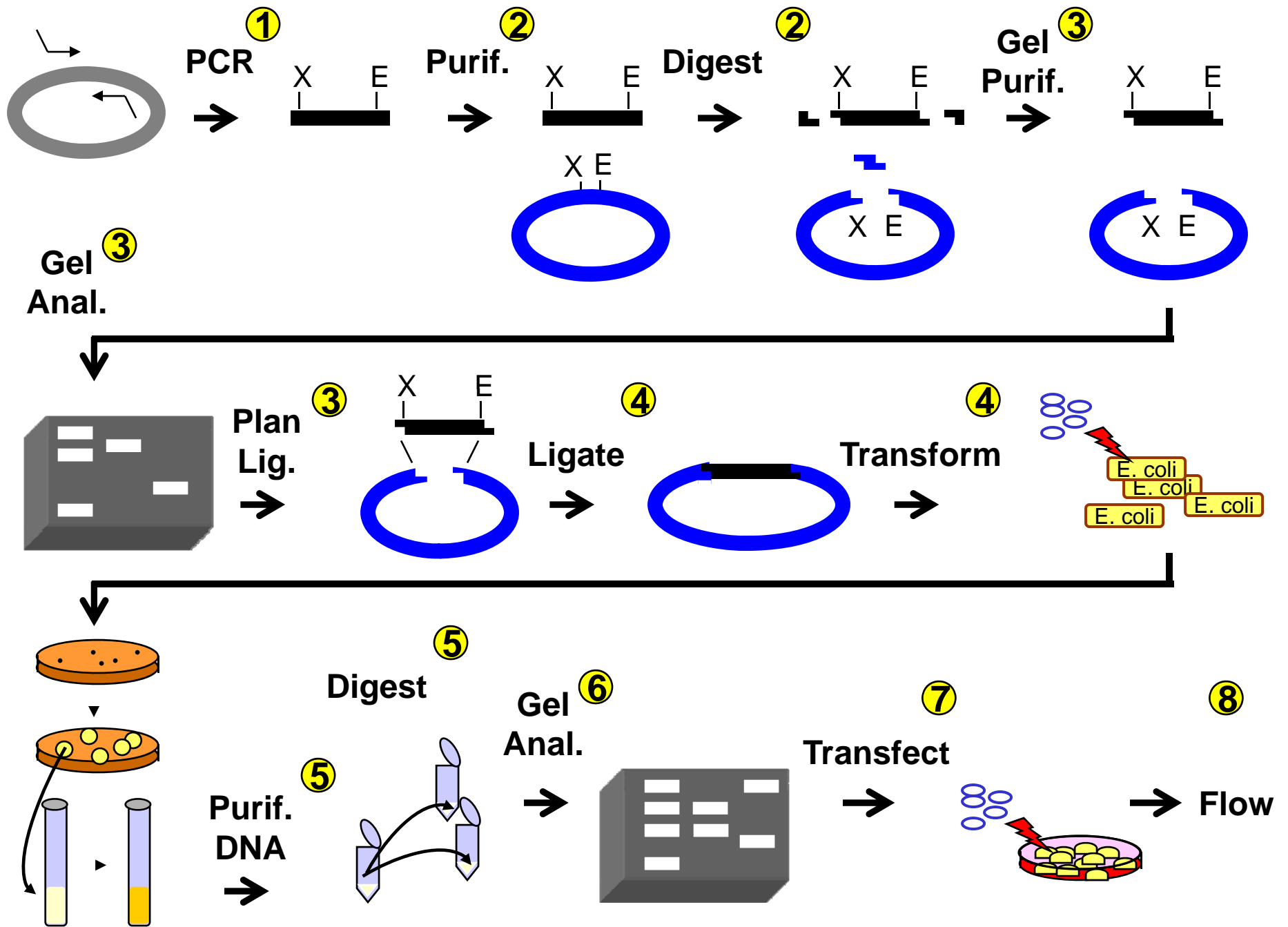


Figure by Justin Lo



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