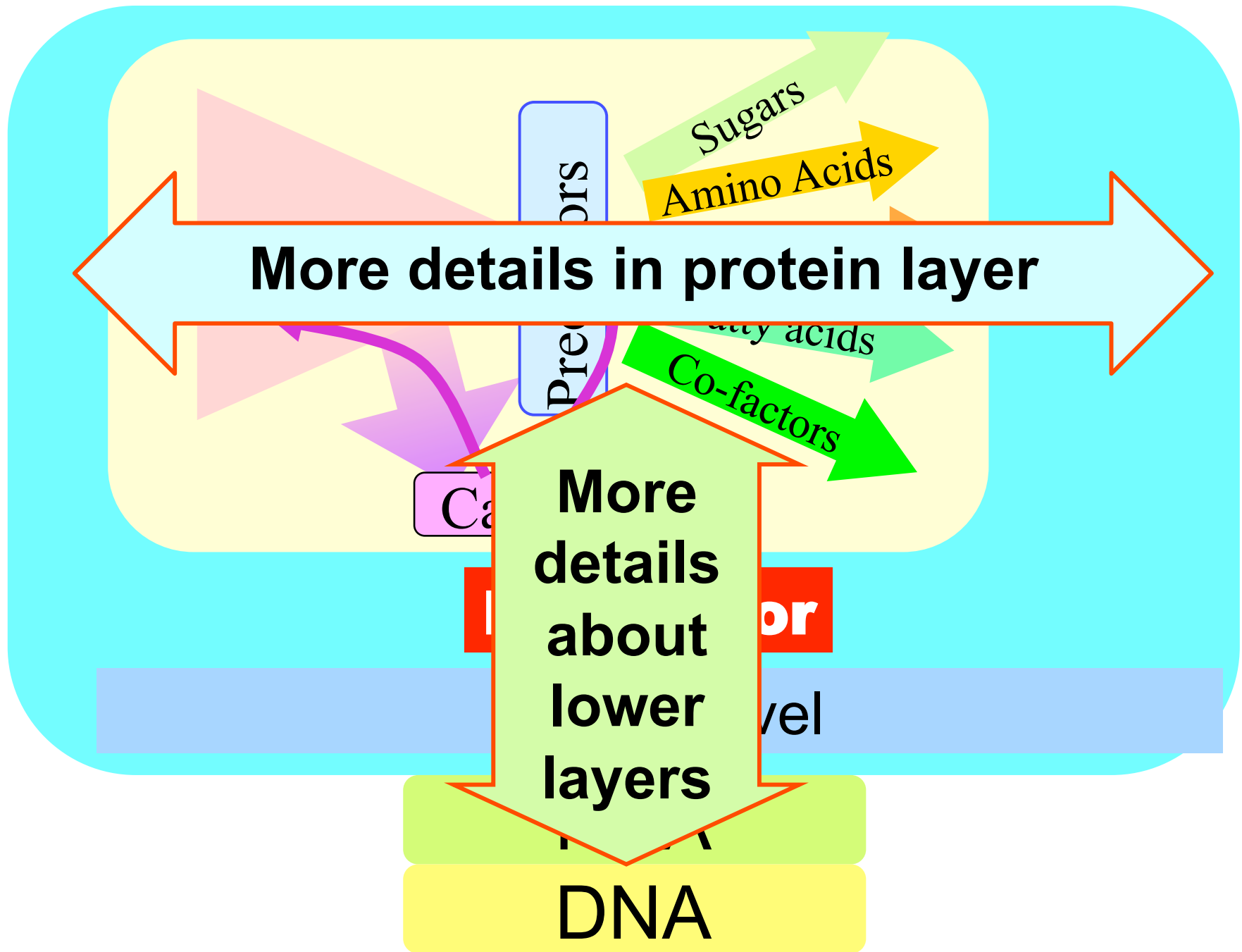


**Flow/error**

Protein level

RNA

DNA



In the much simpler world of the Internet,  
the details are still bewilderingly complex.



We'd need  
to look at  
the entire  
industry.



An  
understanding  
of architecture  
is essential to  
making any  
sense of this.

We will take horizontal and vertical slices through biology to illustrate the essentials.

**More details in protein layer**

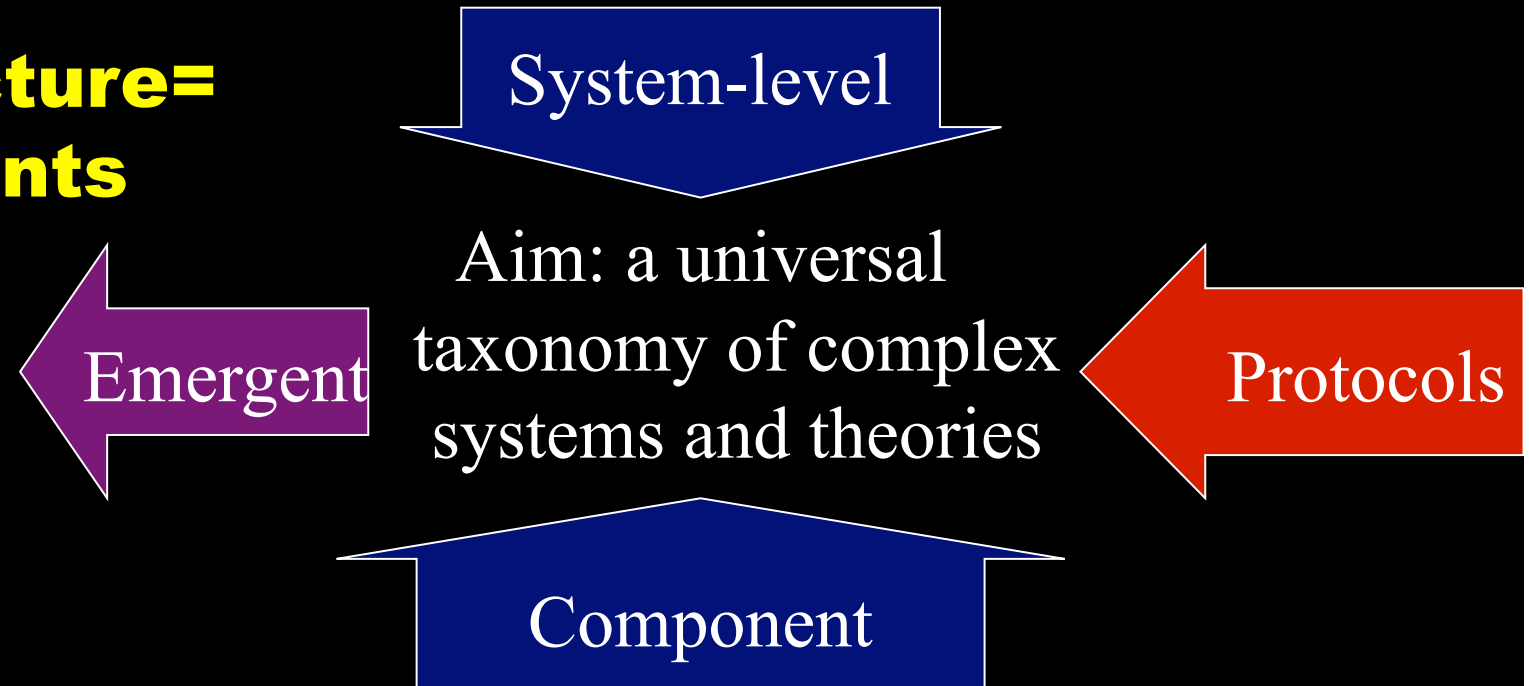
**More details about lower layers**

**DNA**

We need to look at the entire biosphere.

An understanding of architecture is essential to making any sense of this.

# Architecture= Constraints



- Describe systems/components in terms of constraints on what is possible
- Decompose constraints into component, system-level, protocols, and emergent
- Not necessarily unique, but hopefully illuminating nonetheless

Systems requirements:  
functional, efficient,  
robust, evolvable

Hard constraints:  
Thermo (Carnot)  
Info (Shannon)  
Control (Bode)  
Compute (Turing)

**Constraints**

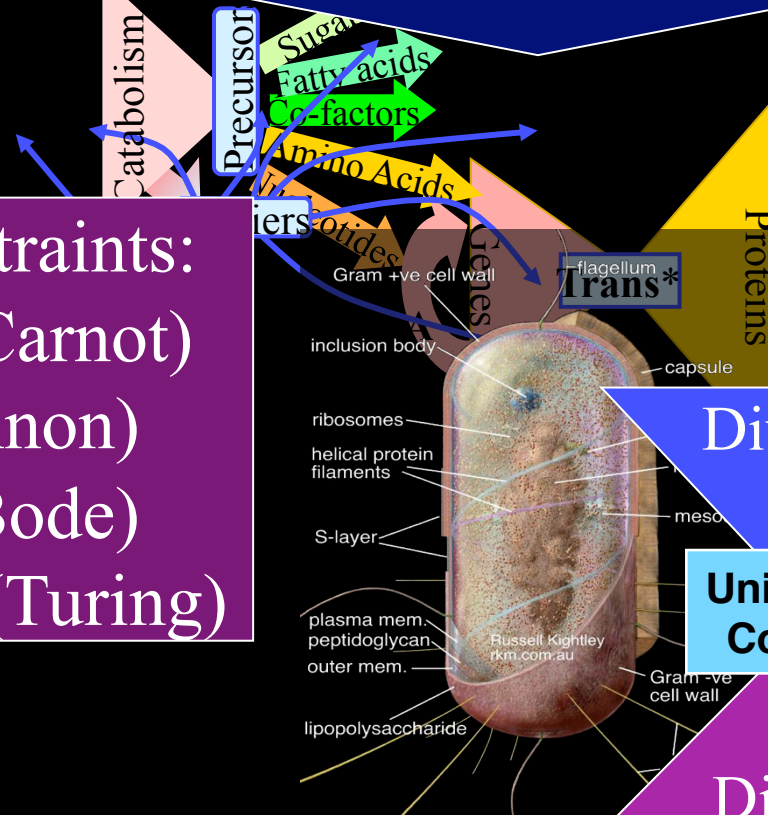
Components and materials:  
Energy, moieties

**Protocols**

Diverse

Universal  
Control

Diverse



# Essential ideas

- Listening to engineers and physicians
- Robust yet fragile (RYF)
- “Constraints that deconstrain” (G&K)
- Network architecture
- Layering
- Control and dynamics (C&D)
- Hourglasses and Bowties
- Unity and diversity

Systems requirements:  
functional, efficient,  
robust, evolvable

**Constraints  
that  
deconstrain**

Are there universal  
architectures?

**Protocols**

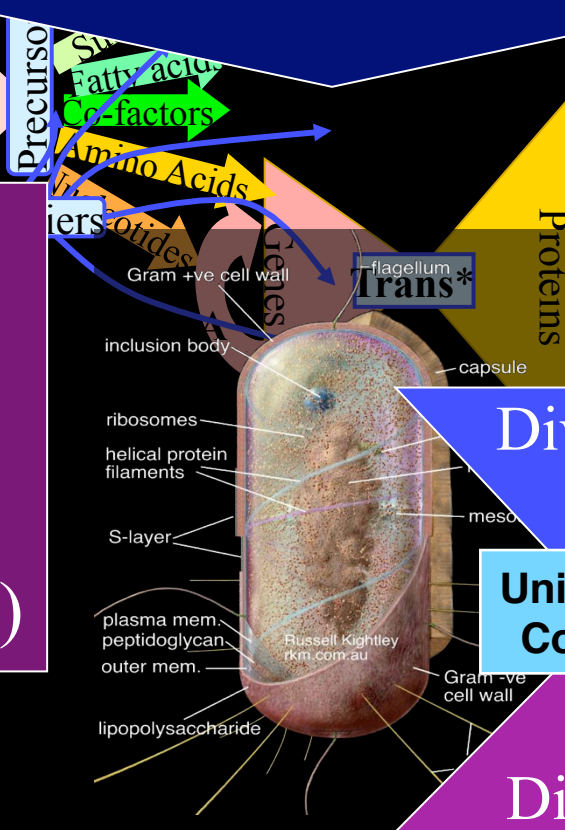
Components and materials:  
Energy, moieties



Systems requirements:  
functional, efficient,  
robust, evolvable

## Emergent Constraints

Hard constraints:  
Thermo (Carnot)  
Info (Shannon)  
Control (Bode)  
Compute (Turing)



Diverse

Universal  
Control

Diverse

# Protocols

Components and materials:  
Energy, moieties

Are there universal laws?

## Emergent Constraints

Hard constraints:  
Thermo (Carnot)  
Info (Shannon)  
Control (Bode)  
Compute (Turing)

No networks

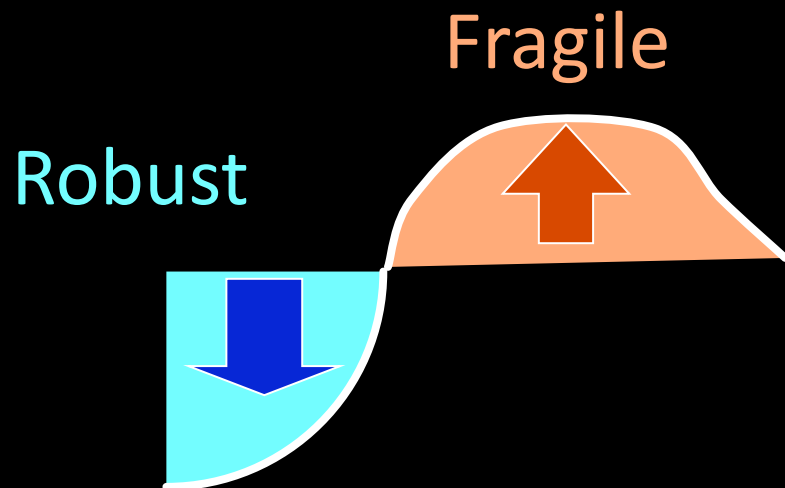
Assume  
*different*  
architectures  
a priori.

New unifications are encouraging,  
but not yet accessible or complete.

# Robust Yet Fragile (RYF)

[a system] can have  
[a property] *robust* for  
[a set of perturbations]

Yet be *fragile* for  
[a different property]  
Or [a different perturbation]



Proposition :

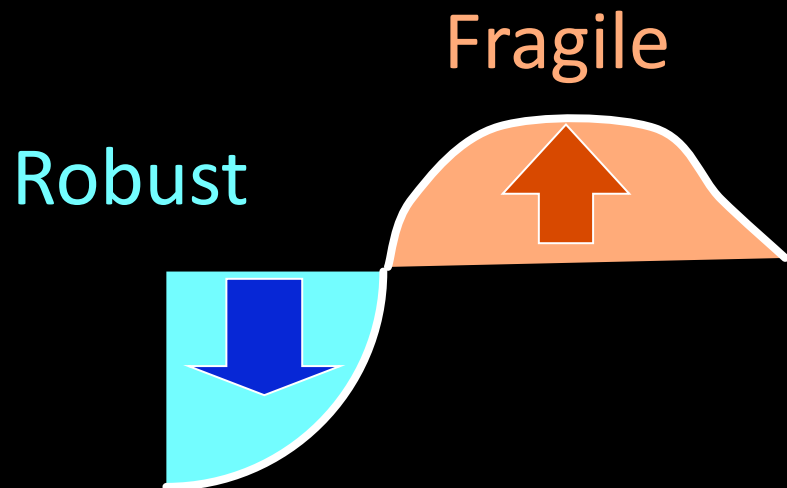
The RYF tradeoff is a *hard limit* that cannot be overcome.

# Cyber

- Thermodynamics
- Communications
- Control
- Computation

# Physical

- Thermodynamics
- Communications
- Control
- Computation



**Theorems :**  
RYF tradeoffs are  
***hard limits***

# **Robust yet fragile**

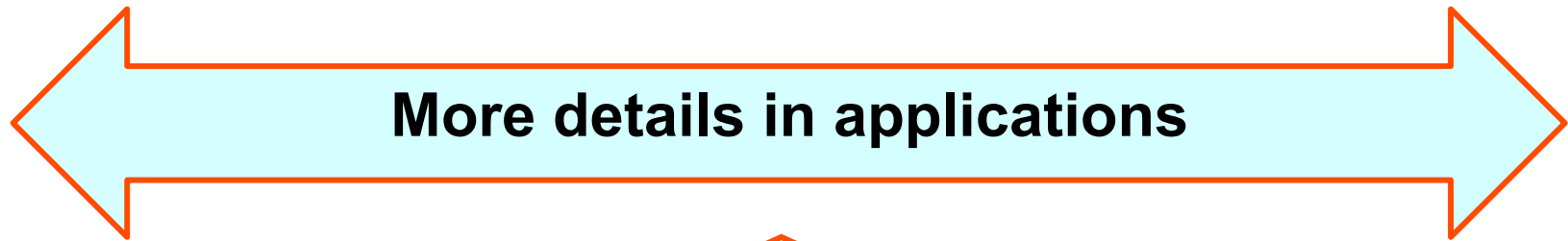
Biology and advanced tech nets show extremes

- Robust Yet Fragile
- Simplicity and complexity
- Unity and diversity
- Evolvable and frozen

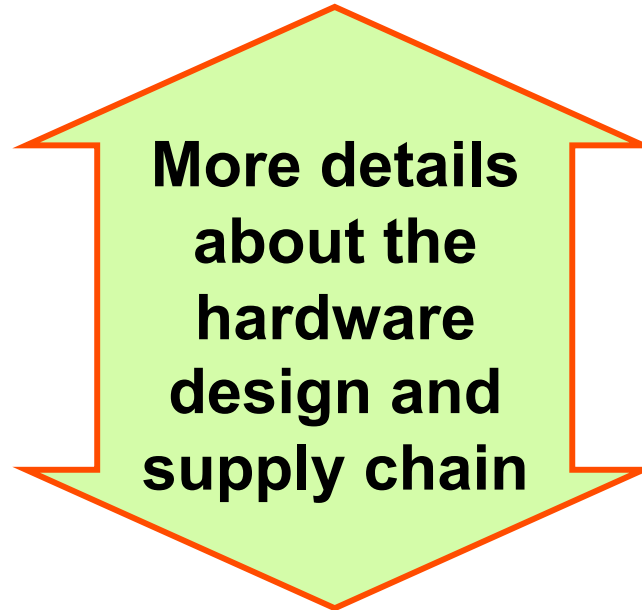
What makes this possible and/ or inevitable?

**Architecture (= constraints)**

Let's dig deeper.



We'd need  
to look at  
an entire  
industry.



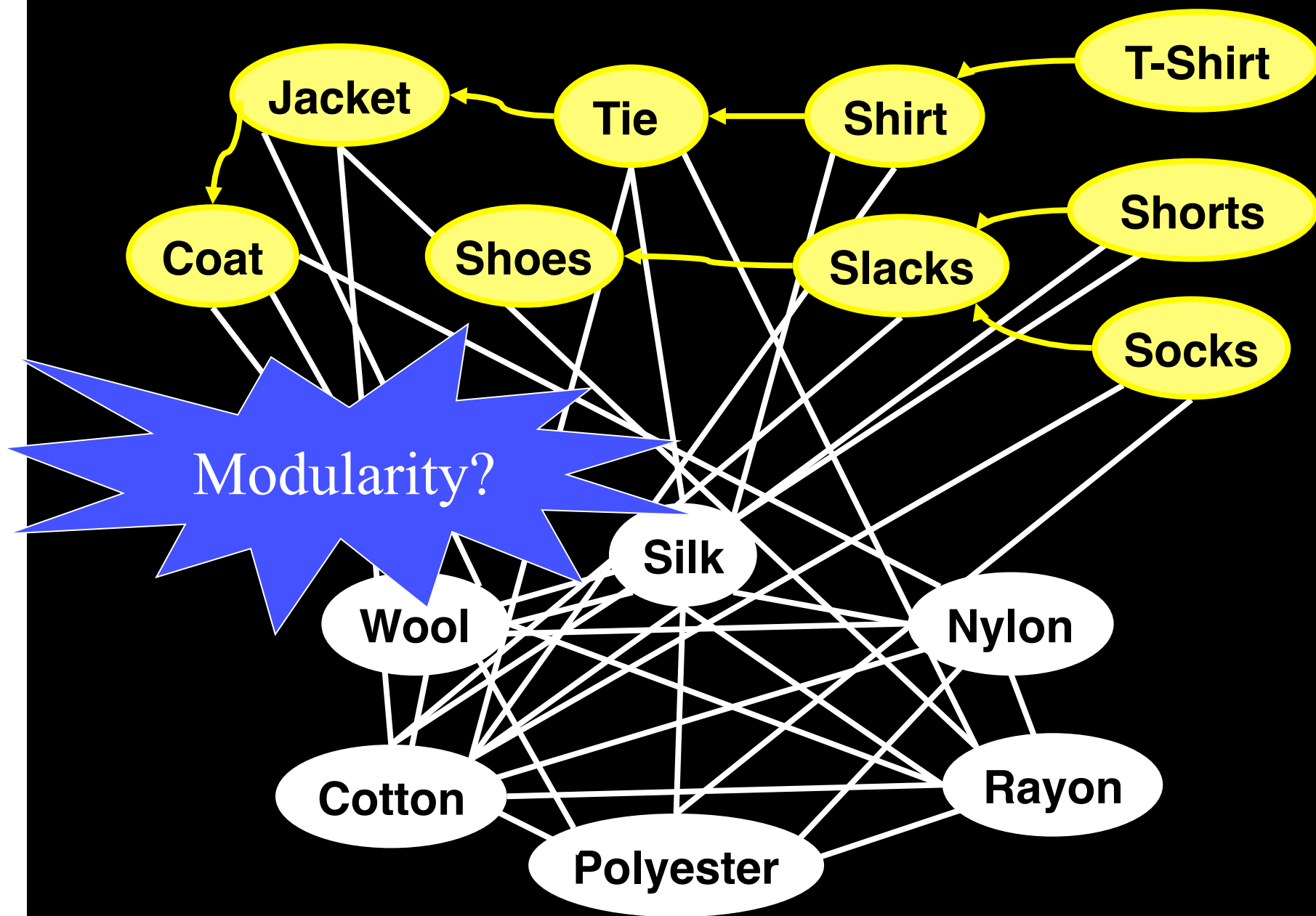
An understanding  
of architecture is  
essential to  
making any  
sense of this.

Is there a simpler  
example than  
Internet?

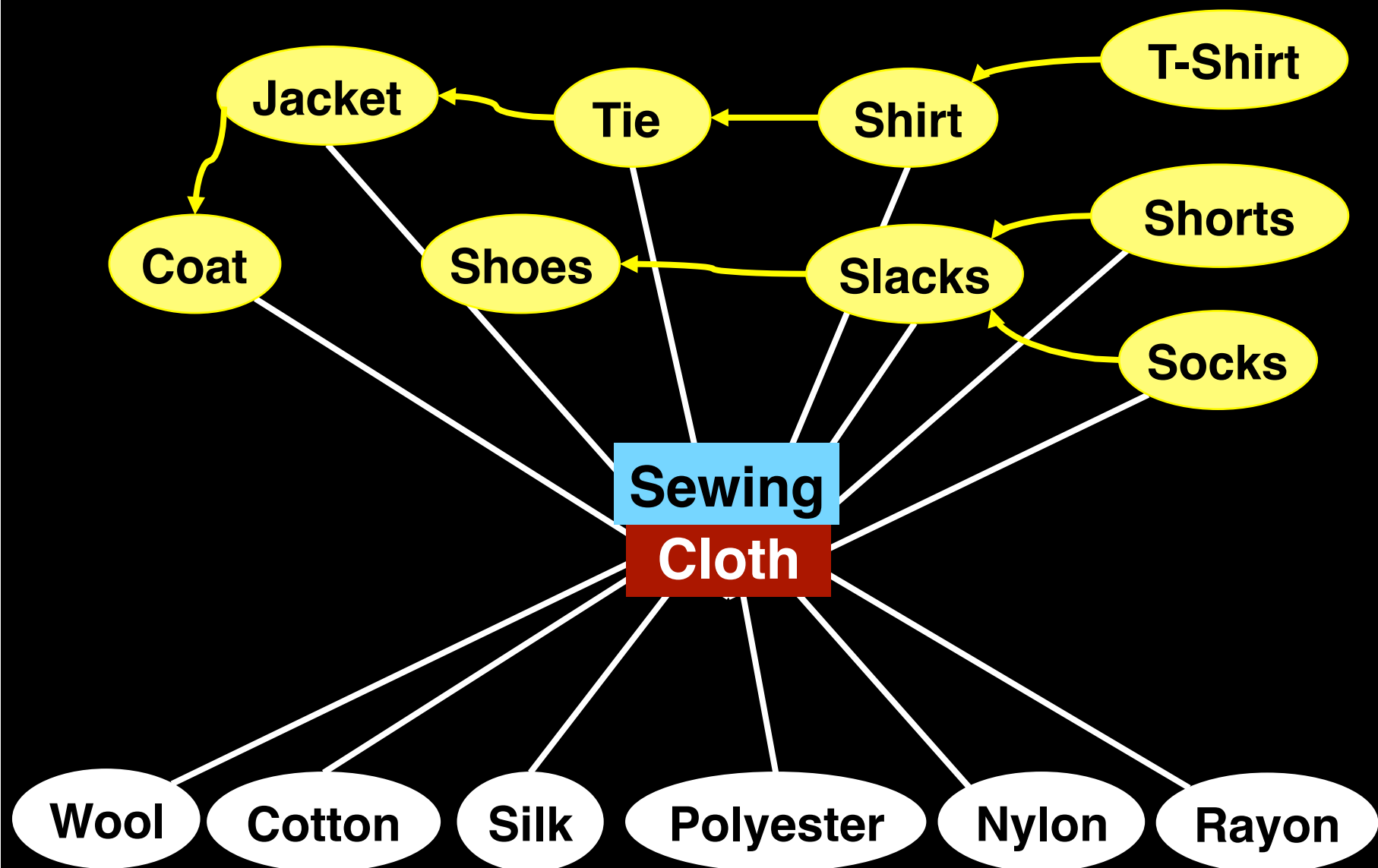
$\exists$  devil  $\in$  details  
 $\Rightarrow$  ☹ architecture  
Jean Jour (alias John Day)

# Other examples

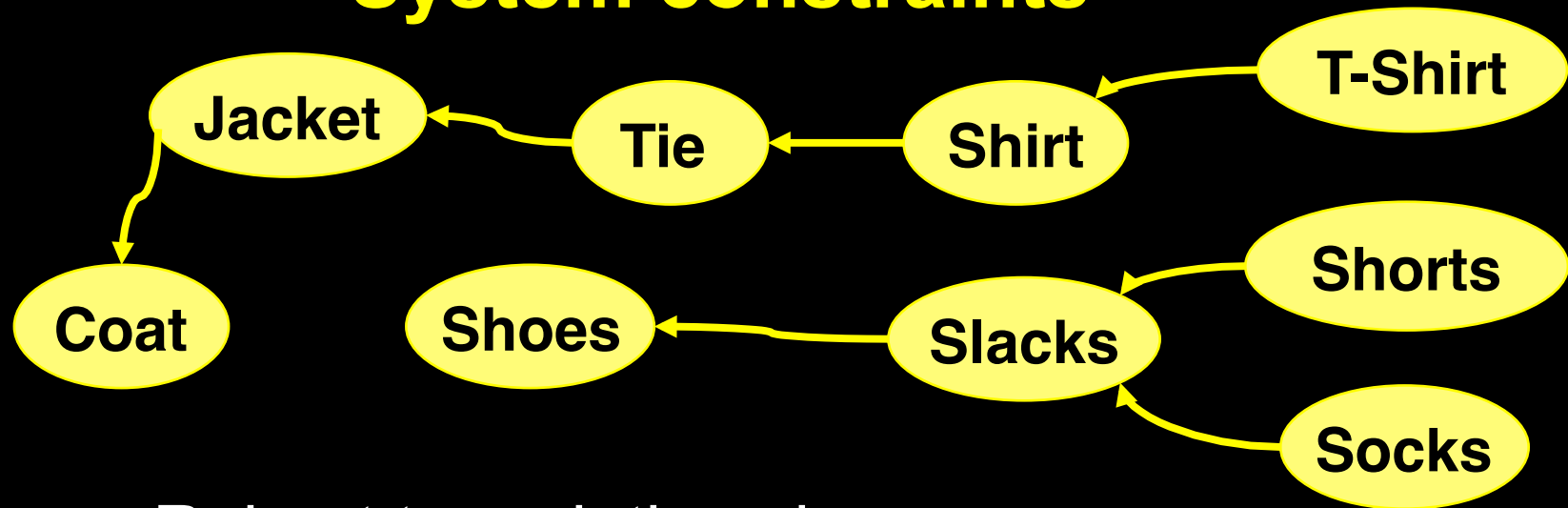
Clothing







# System constraints



Robust to variations in

- weather
- activity
- appearance requirements
- wear and tear
- cleaning

**Wool**

**Cotton**

**Silk**

**Polyester**

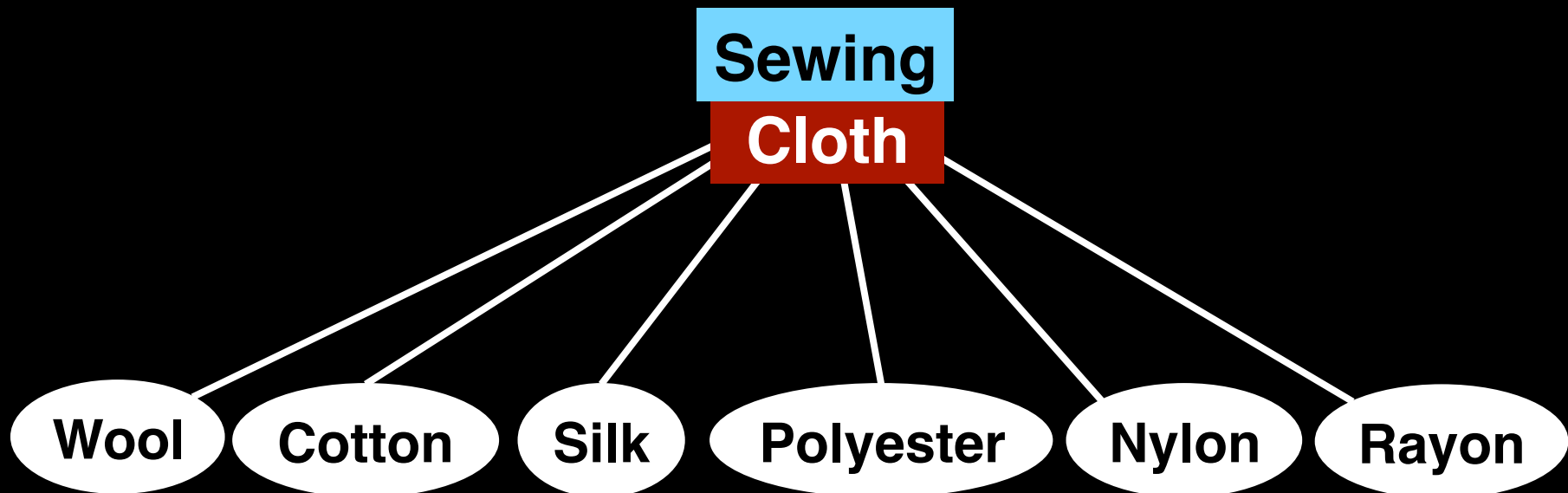
**Nylon**

**Rayon**

**Component constraints**

Robust to

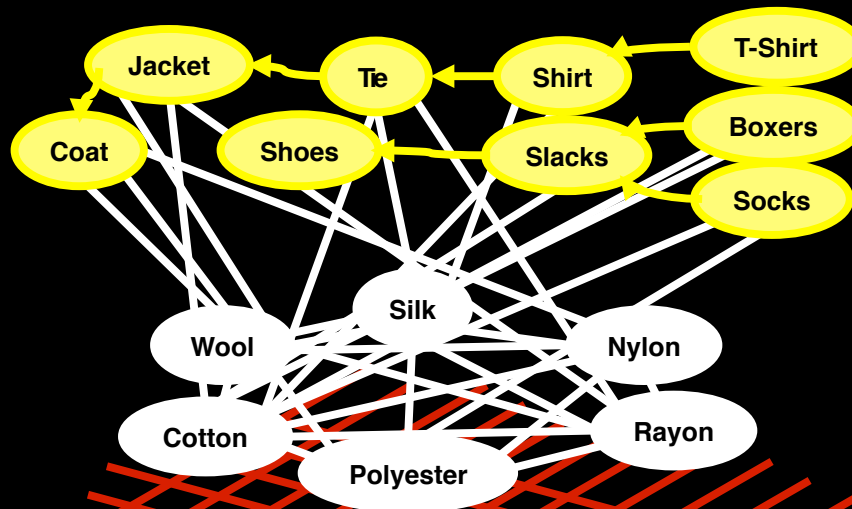
- perturbations to clothing
- variety of raw materials
- *unraveling*



**Component constraints**

Horizontal networks of garments

Vertical decomposition



Sewing

The  
hourglass?

Cloth



Horizontal networks of fibers

## Garments

Dress

Shirt

Slacks

Lingerie

Coat

Scarf

Tie

Sewing

Cloth

Thread

Fiber

Recursion?

Wool

Cotton

Silk

Polyester

Nylon

Rayon

Material technologies

**Garments**

**Sewing**

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

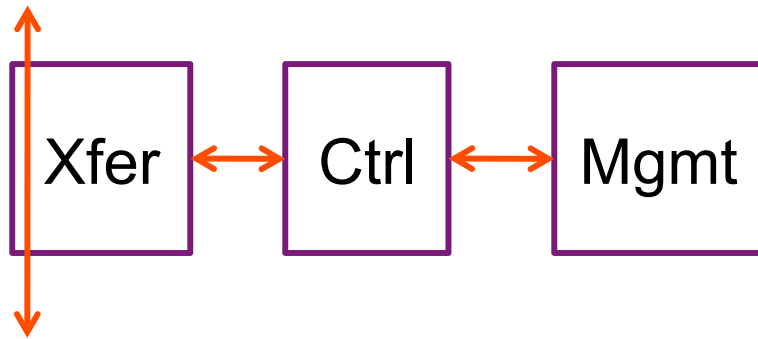
Universal  
functions?

Cloth available

**Cloth**

**Thread**

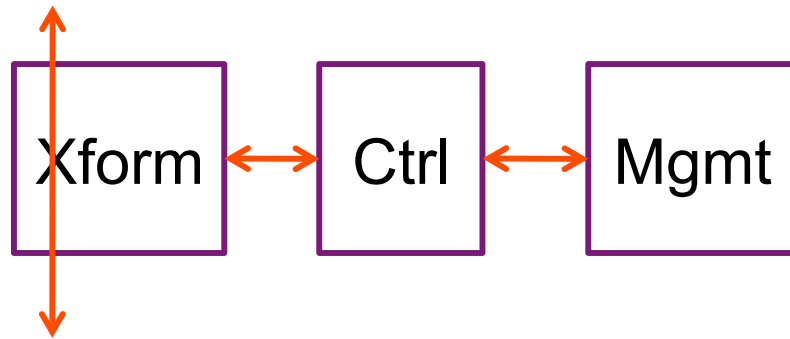
**Fiber**



Universal functions?

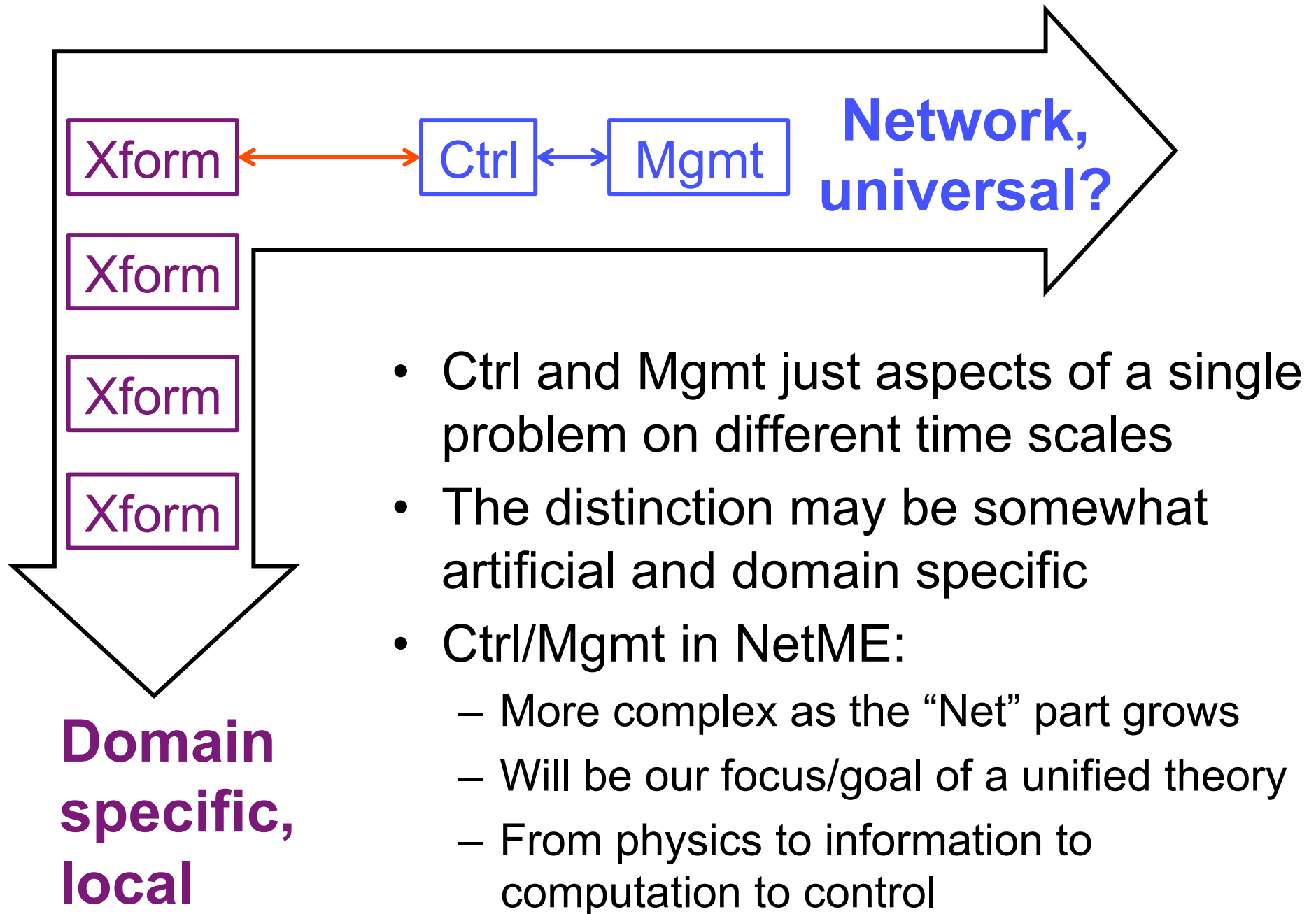
- Transfer or transform (fastest)
  - **Domain specific (data, power, goods, etc)**
  - Depends on demand and supply
- Control (middle)
  - Schedule/MUX resources in time and space
  - Flow and error control
- Management (slowest)
  - ***What*** resources are available?
  - ***Where*** are they?
  - Cost? Risk? etc



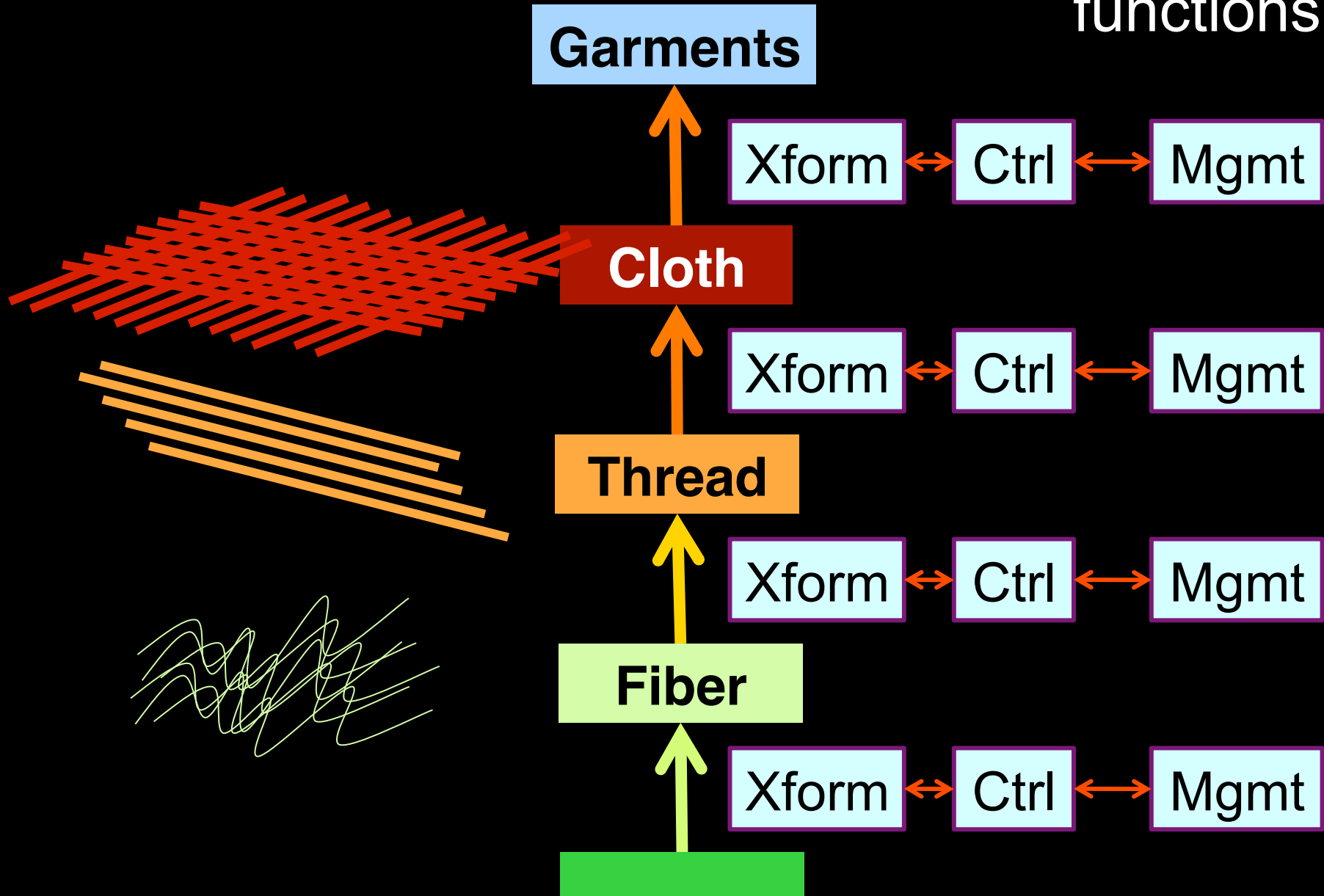


## Sewing function?

- Transfer or transform (fastest)
  - **Transform cloth to garments**
  - Depends on demand and supply
- Control (middle)
  - Schedule/MUX resources in time and space
  - Flow and error control
- Management (slowest)
  - **What** resources are available?
  - **Where** are they?
  - Cost? Risk? etc



Universal  
functions?



Domain specific

Garments

Cloth

Thread

Fiber

Networked,  
universal,  
layered

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Networked,  
universal,  
layered

Supply

Demand

Garments

Cloth

Thread

Fiber

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

Xform

Ctrl

Mgmt

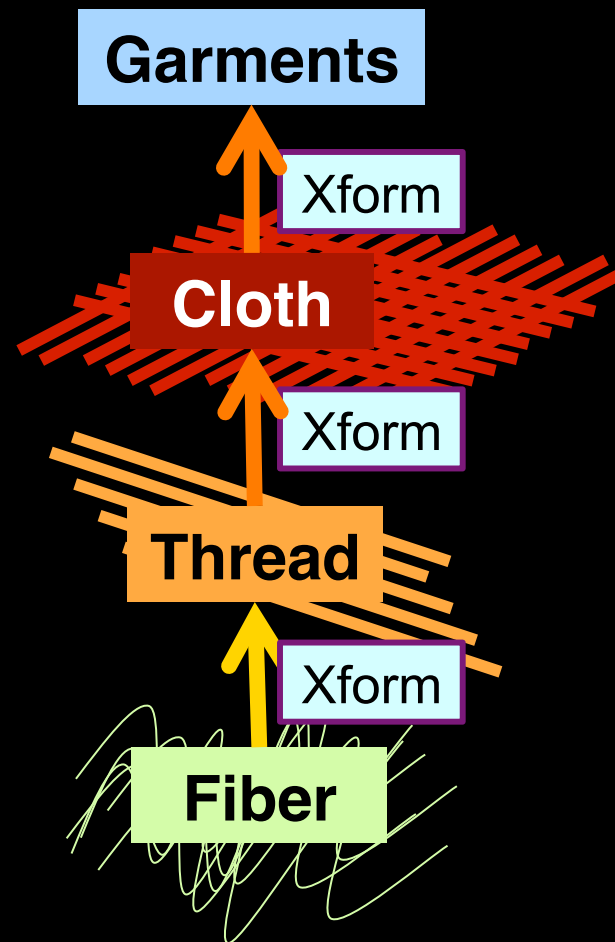
# Universal strategies?

Even though garments seem analog/continuous

Garments have limited access to threads and fibers

quantization for robustness

constraints on cross-layer interactions



Prevents unraveling of lower layers

Scalable

Garments

Cloth

Thread

Fiber

Sustainable?



**Functionally diverse garments**

**Diverse fabric**

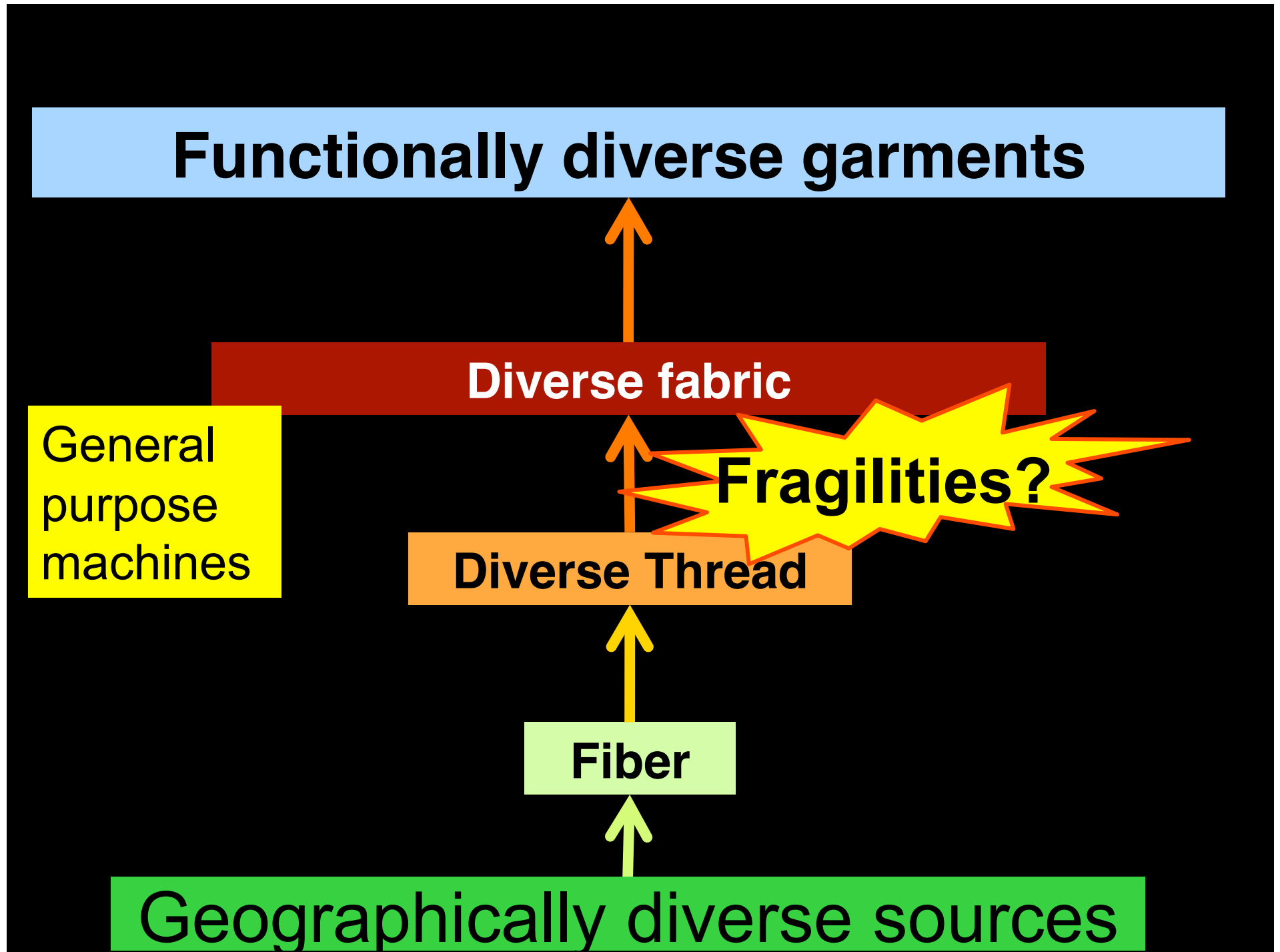
General  
purpose  
machines

**Fragilities?**

**Diverse Thread**

**Fiber**

**Geographically diverse sources**



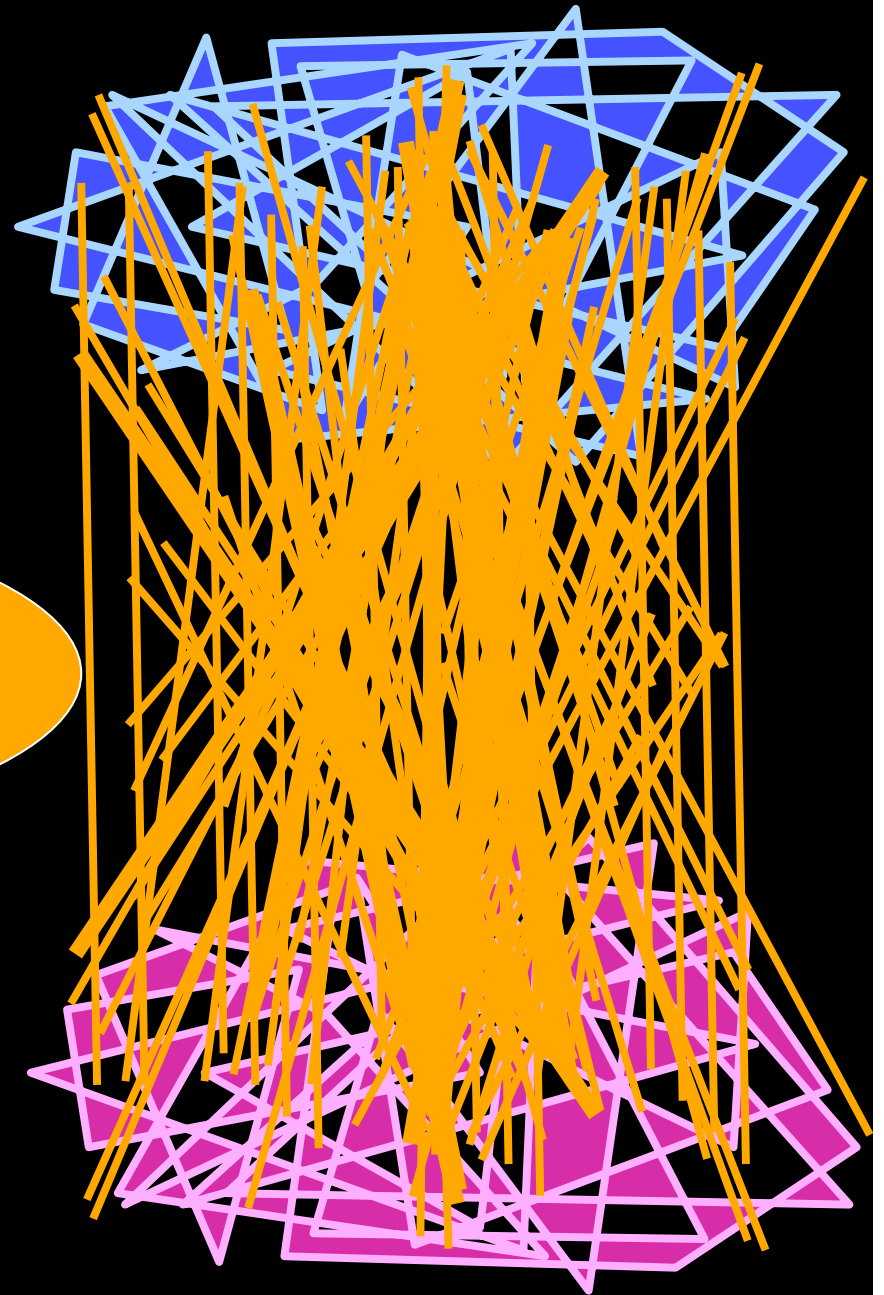


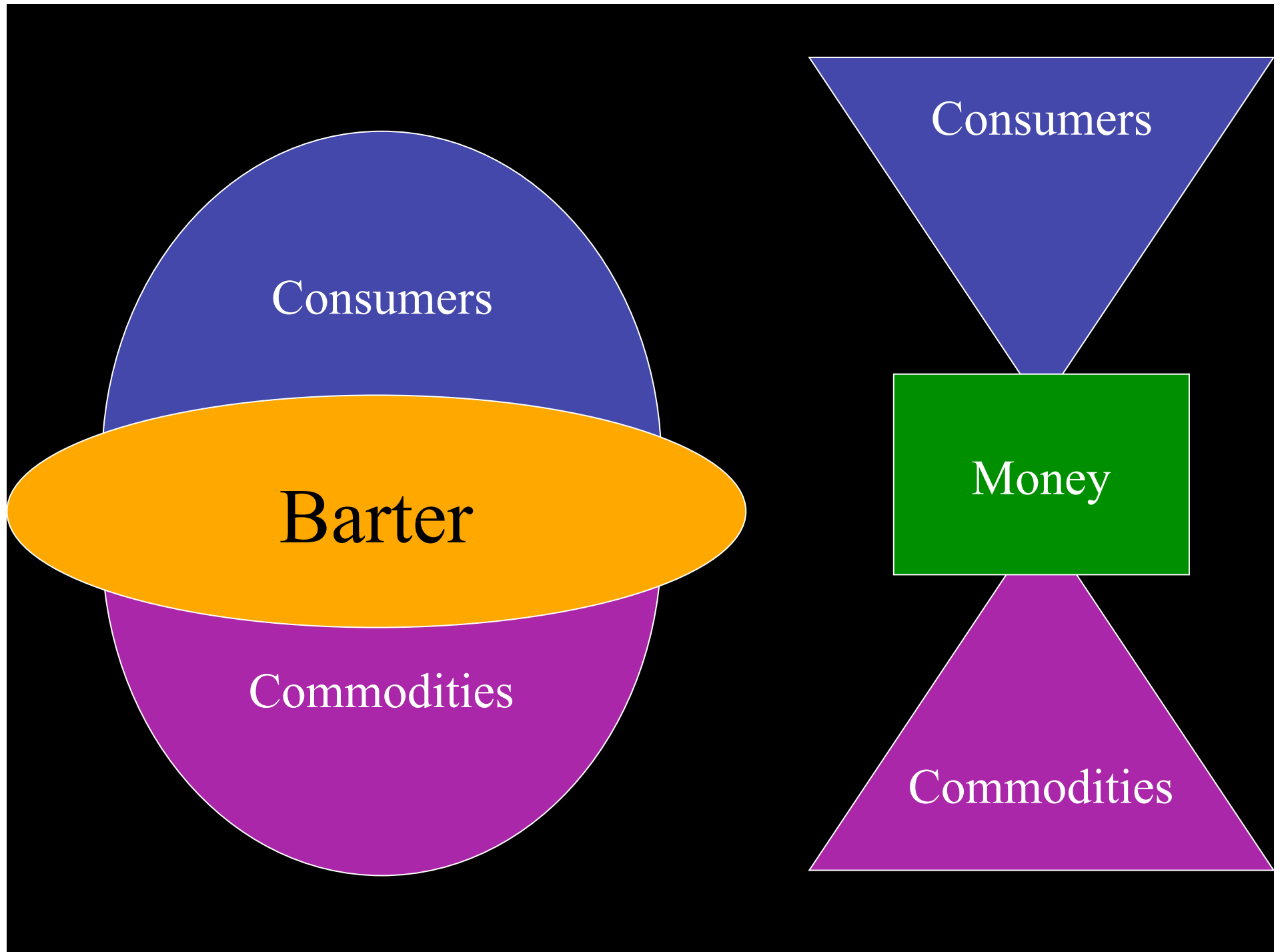
Money

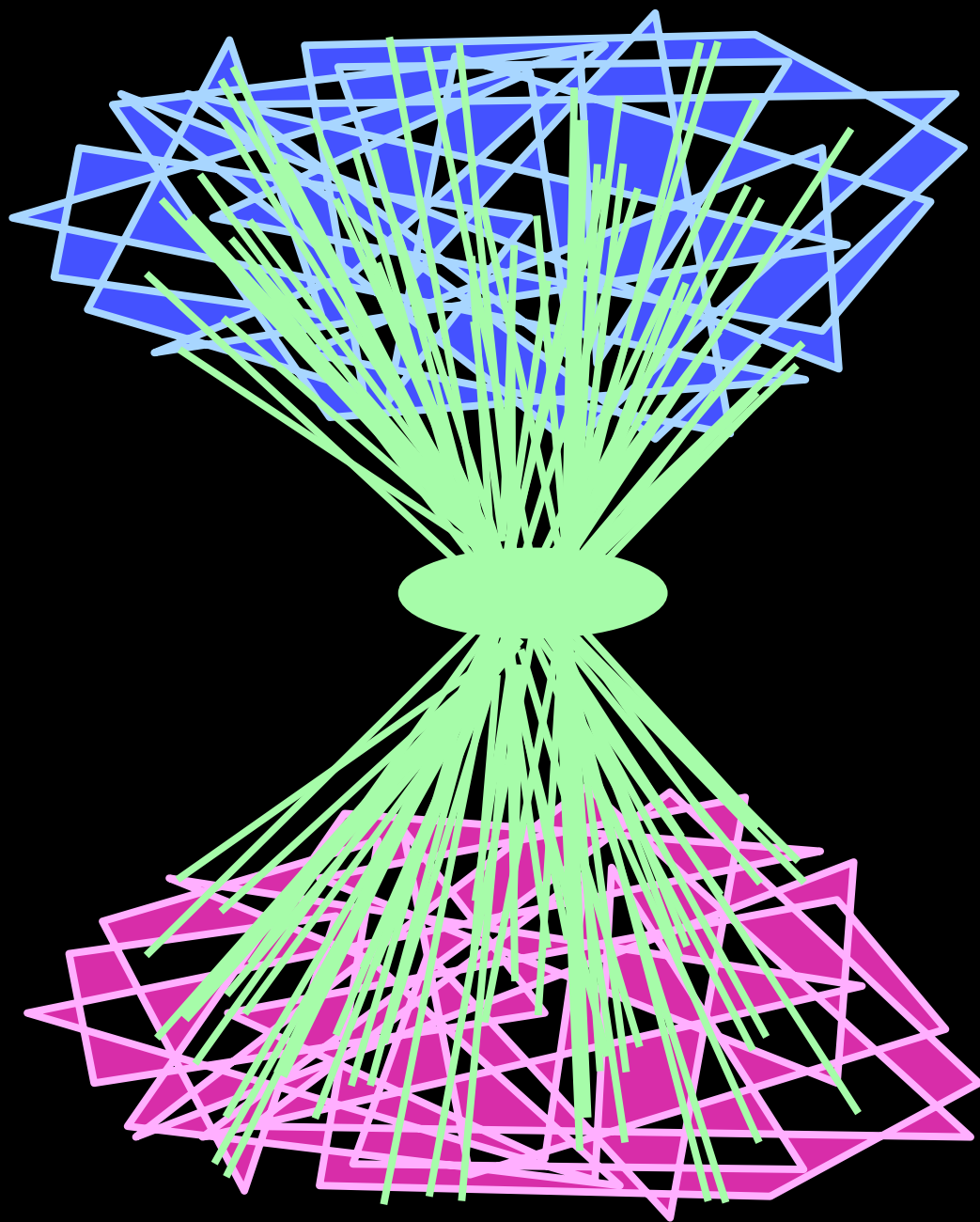
Consumers

Barter

Commodities







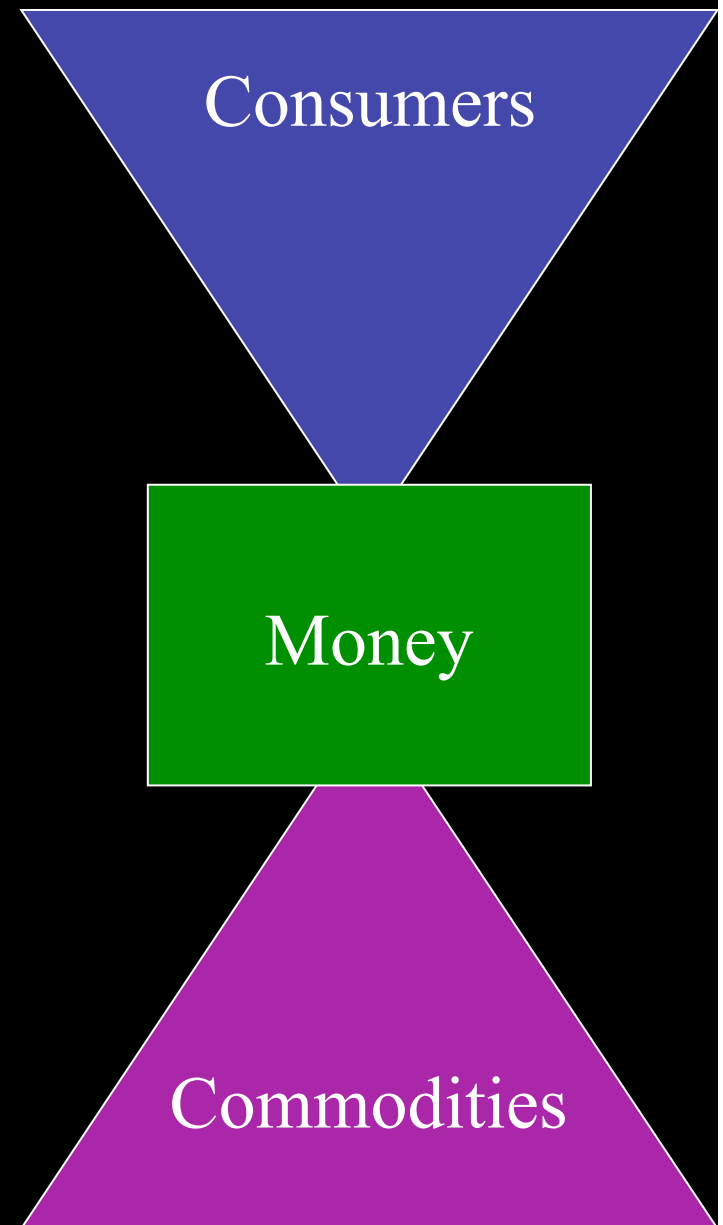
Consumers

Money

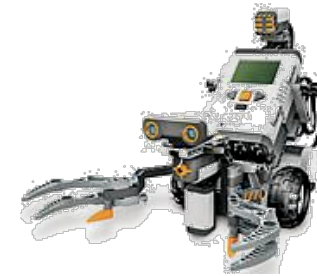
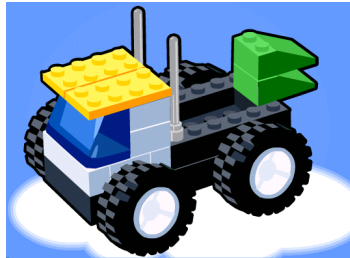
Commodities

# New fragilities

- Theft, counterfeiting, fraud, and “creative accounting” are now possible
- The beginning of a growing complexity-fragility spiral
- Complex legal infrastructure
- Law, banking, finance, Ponzi schemes, derivatives, credit default swaps, ...



# Lego hourglass



Diverse  
toys

**control**



**Universal  
Control**

**assembly**



Diverse  
instructions



# Robust yet fragile

Extremes of

- Robust yet fragile
- Simplicity and complexity
- Constrained and flexible
- Frozen and evolvable
- Digital and analog
- Diverse and conserved



# Lego *system* requirements

|                     | Alternative designs? |  |  |  |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Performance         |                      |  |  |  |
| Trauma              |                      |  |  |  |
| Allowed connections |                      |  |  |  |
| Reuse               |                      |  |  |  |
| Evolvable parts     |                      |  |  |  |
| Evolvable systems   |                      |  |  |  |
| Labor cost          |                      |  |  |  |
| Parts cost          |                      |  |  |  |



# Alternatives



No interface. Simple blocks.



Standard interface. (Wild type.)



Add glue to hold the parts together.



Injection mold the whole toy from scratch.

**For a  
single  
toy**



Lego hourglass

**Complexity**

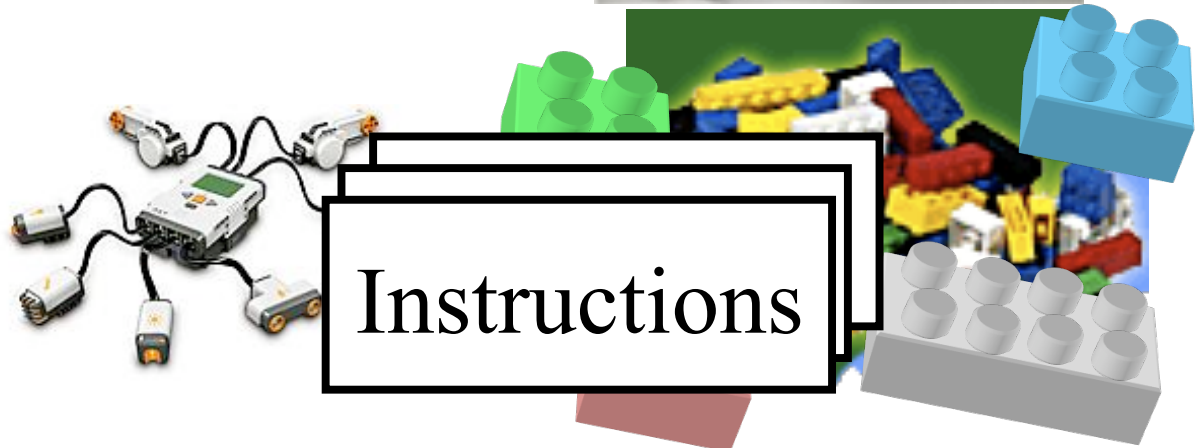
**control**



**assembly**



**Instructions**



**Analog behavior**  
Kinematics  
Dynamics



**Digital description**  
Control  
Assembly

**control**

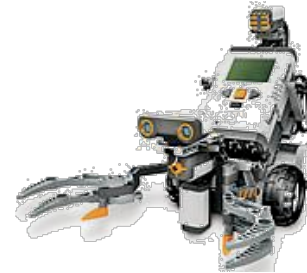


Instructions

# Toy *system*

Huge variety  
of toys

# Lego hourglass



Standardized mechanisms  
Highly conserved

**control**



**assembly**



Huge variety  
of instructions

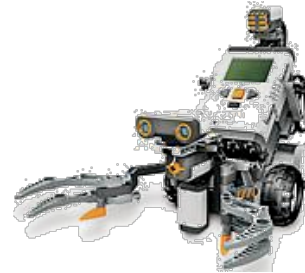


Instructions



# Lego hourglass

Huge variety  
of toys



Standardized mechanisms  
Highly conservative

**control**



Large (<< huge)  
Variety of parts

**assembly**



Huge variety  
of instructions

Instructions



Reaction

**Flow/**

Carriers

# Robust yet fragile

## Extremes of

- Robust yet fragile
- Unity and diversity
- Simplicity and complexity
- Constrained and flexible
- Frozen and evolvable
- Digital and analog

**Flow/**

RNA

**Flow/**

DNA level

Instructions





# Diverse

Lessons from Lego:

- Infinitely ***diverse*** toys from
- moderately diverse parts
- ***Hourglass*** organization of control
- ***Conserved*** control mechanisms
- ***Bowties*** within layers
- ***Complexity*** is overwhelmingly in conserved control parts, but
- largely hidden in ordinary operation
- Greater internal complexity means more ***robust yet fragile*** external behavior



**control**

**Conserved**



**assembly**

# Diverse

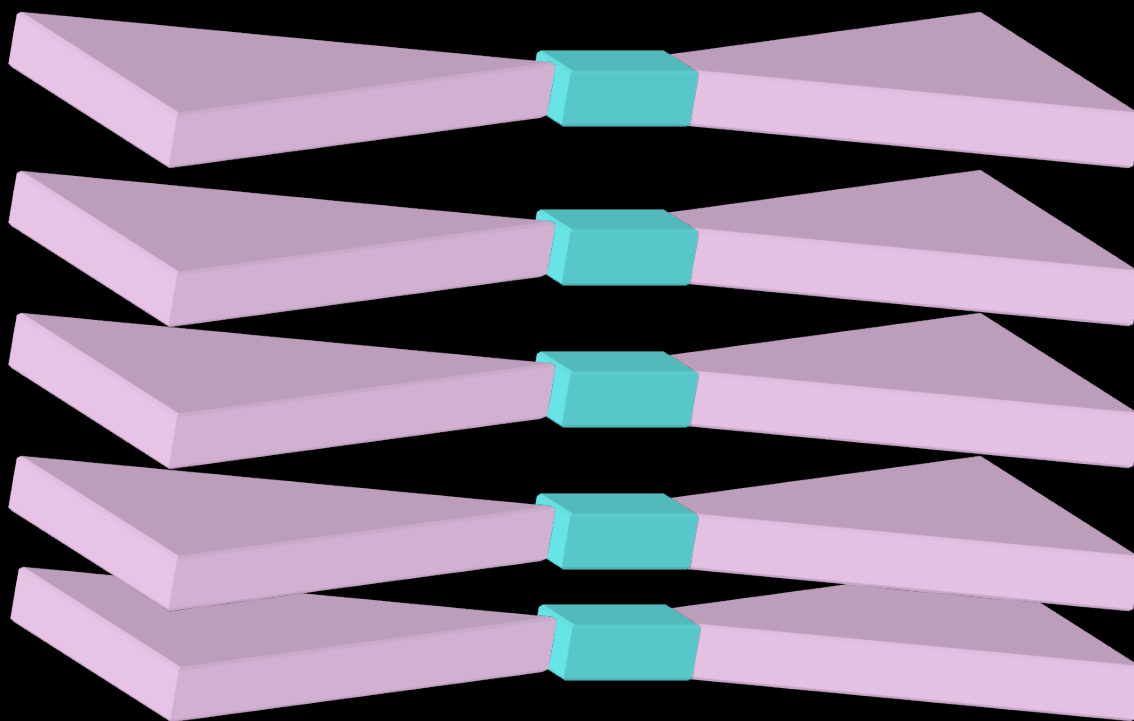
Diverse  
inputs

universal  
carriers

Diverse  
inputs

Layers of  
bowties

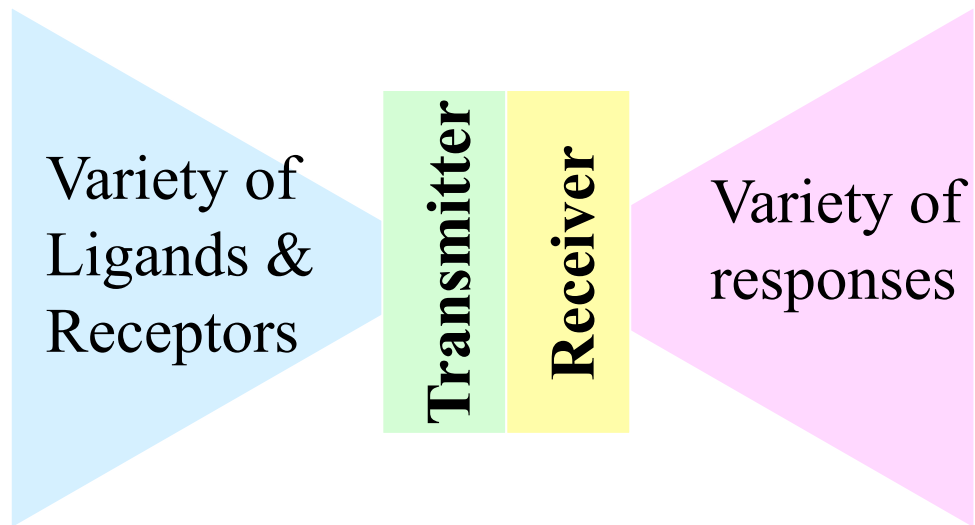
We'll come  
back to this  
aspect later.



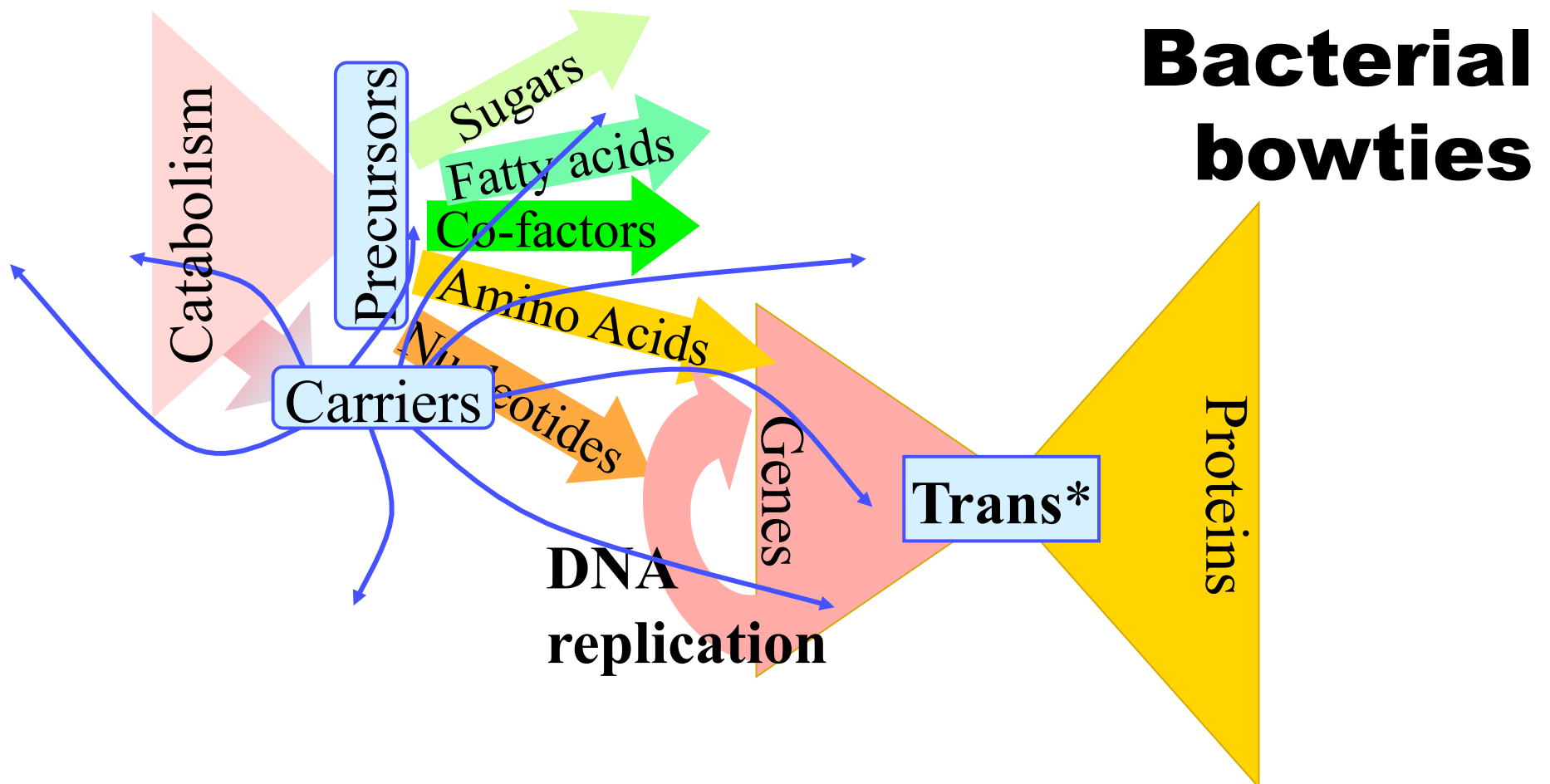


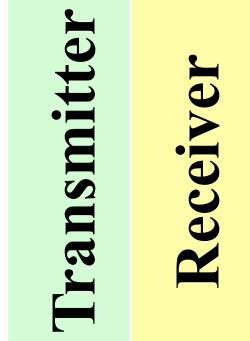
# Why bowties?

- Metabolism, biosynthesis, assembly
  1. *Carriers*: Charging carriers in central metabolism
  2. *Precursors*: Biosynthesis of precursors and building blocks
  3. *Trans\**: DNA replication, transcription, and translation
- Signal transduction
  4. *2CST*: Two-component signal transduction



1. *Carriers*
2. *Precursors*
3. *Trans\**
7. *2CST*



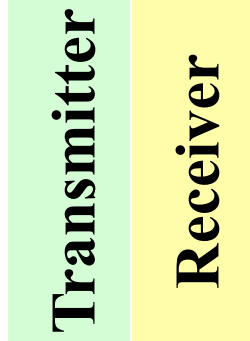


- 1. Carriers*
- 2. Precursors*
- 3. Trans\**
- 7. 2CST*

Precursors

Carriers

Trans\*

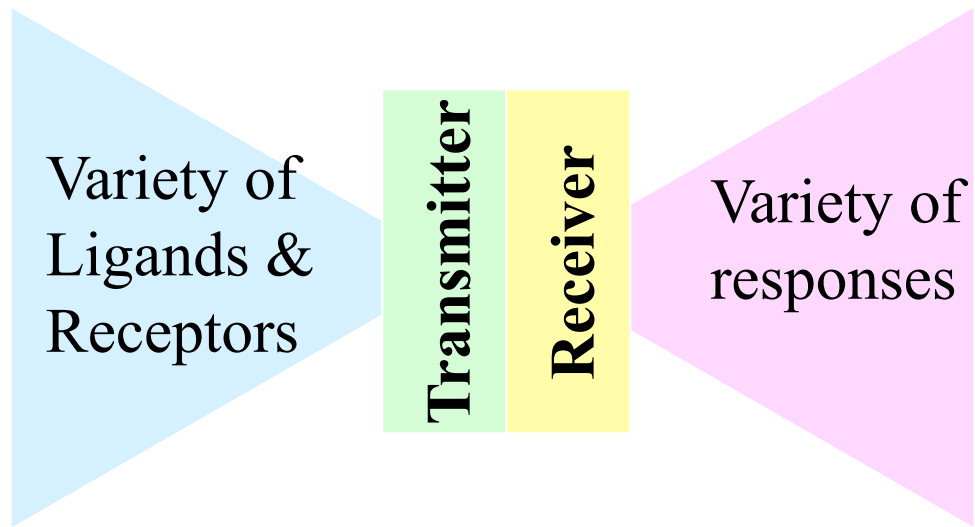


Constraints

Precursors

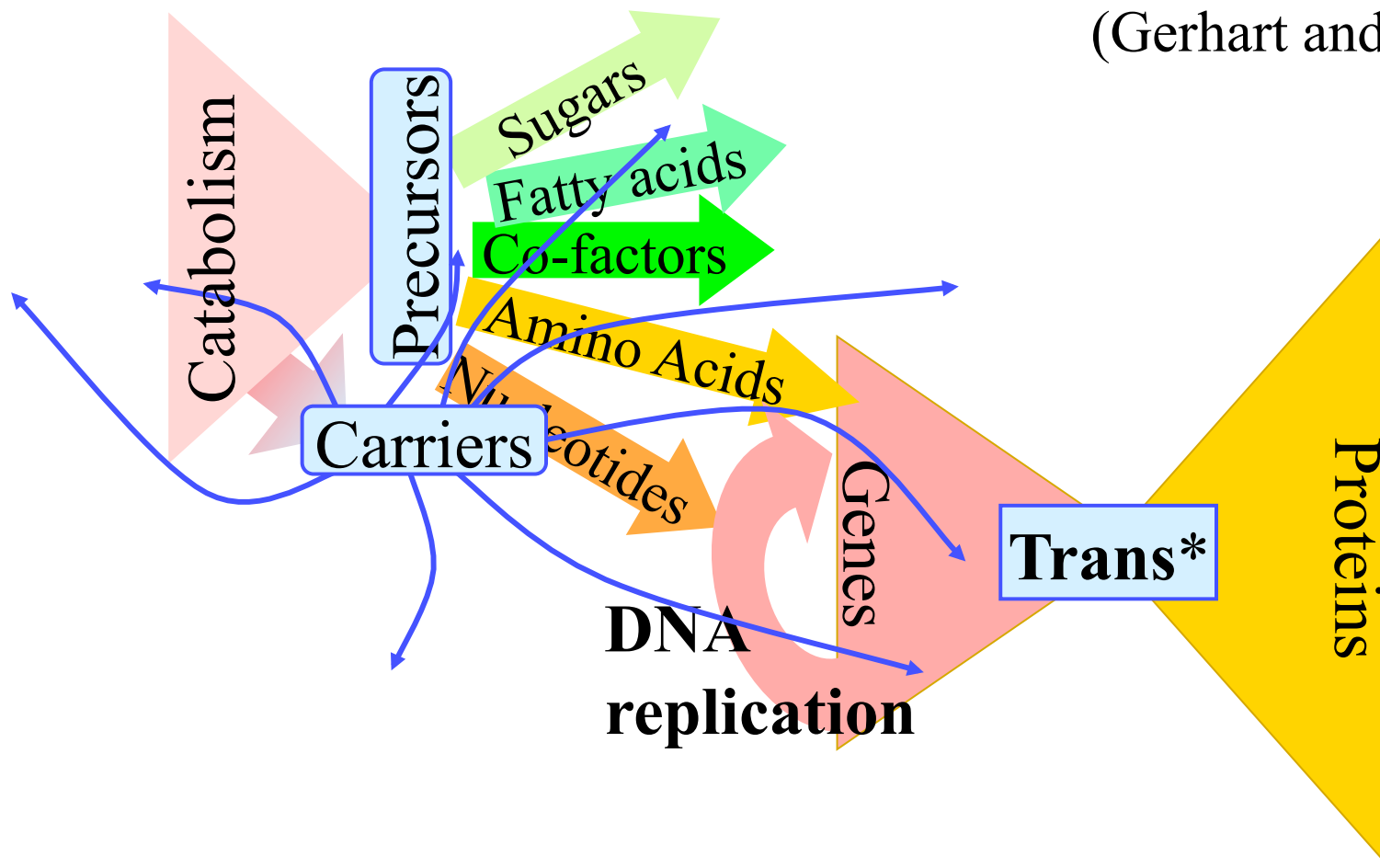
Carriers

**Trans\***

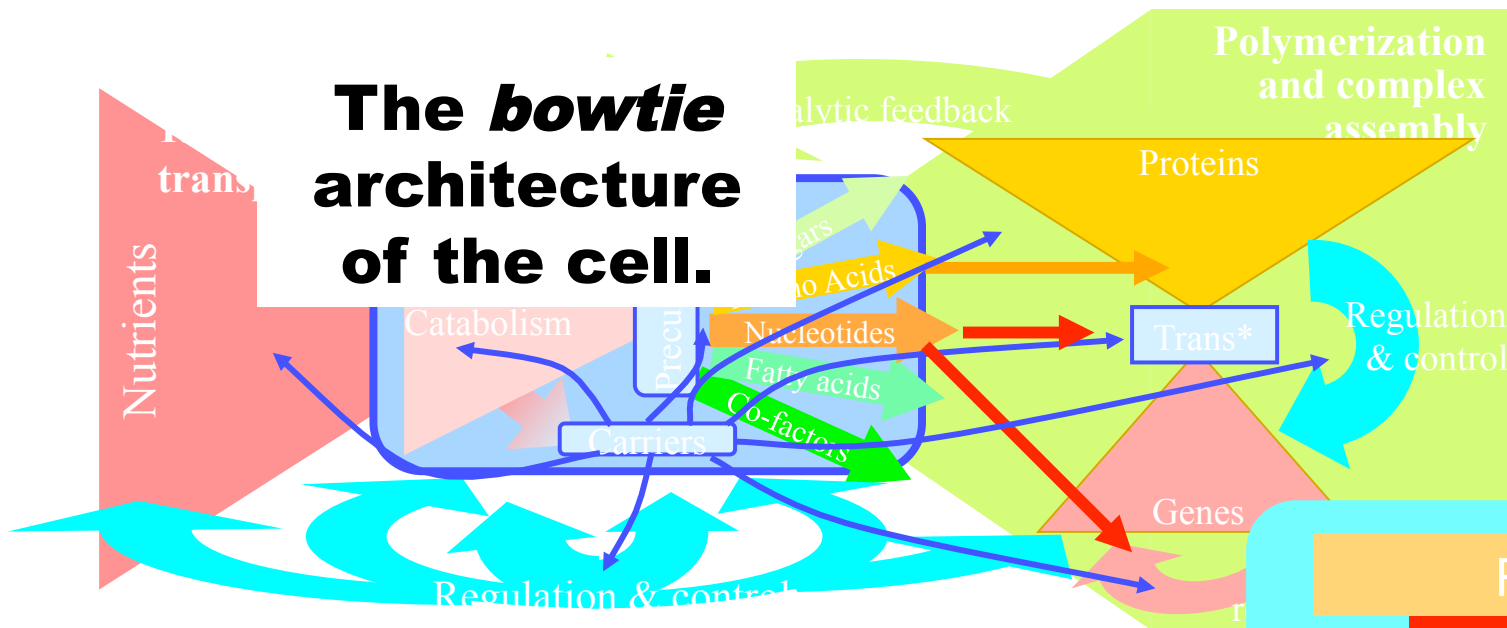


# Constraints That Deconstrain

(Gerhart and Kirschner)

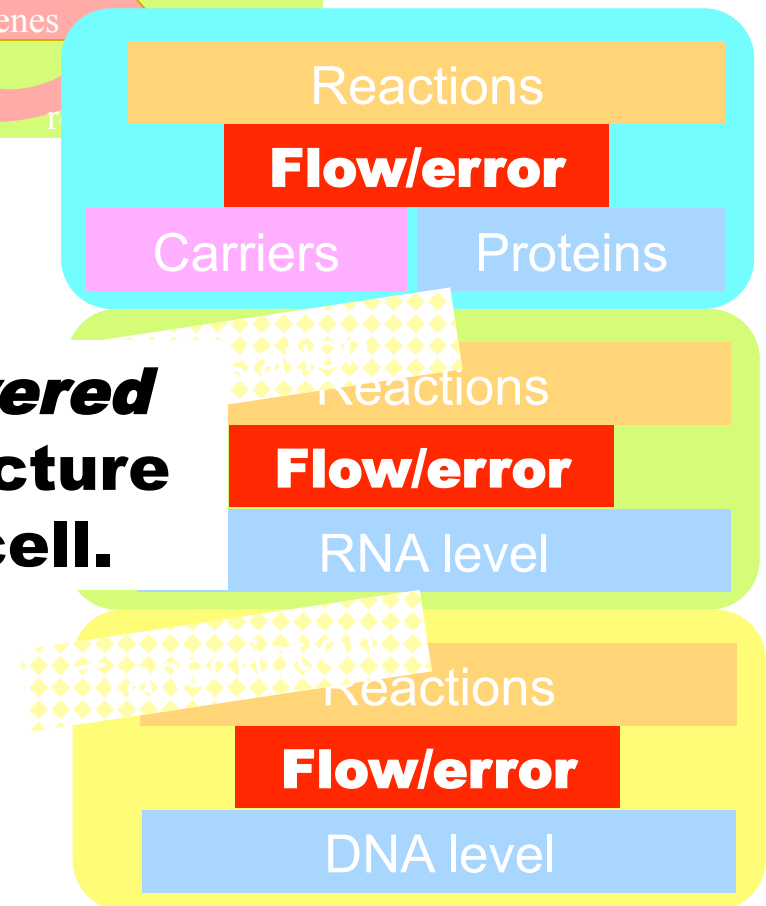


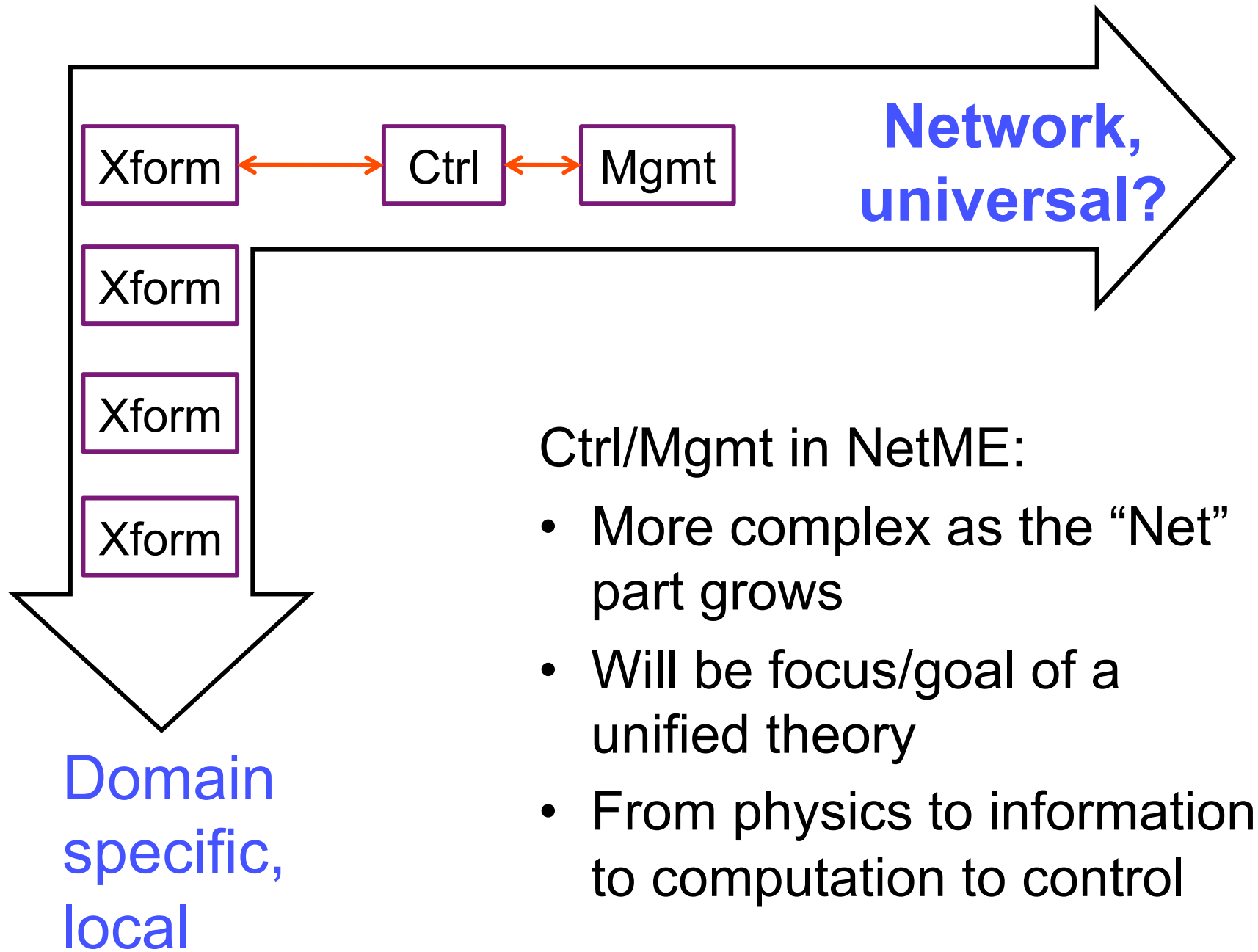
## The *bowtie* architecture of the cell.



Need a more coherent cartoon to visualize how these fit together.

## The *layered* architecture of the cell.





Reactions

**Flow/error**

Protein level

Translation

**Flow/error**

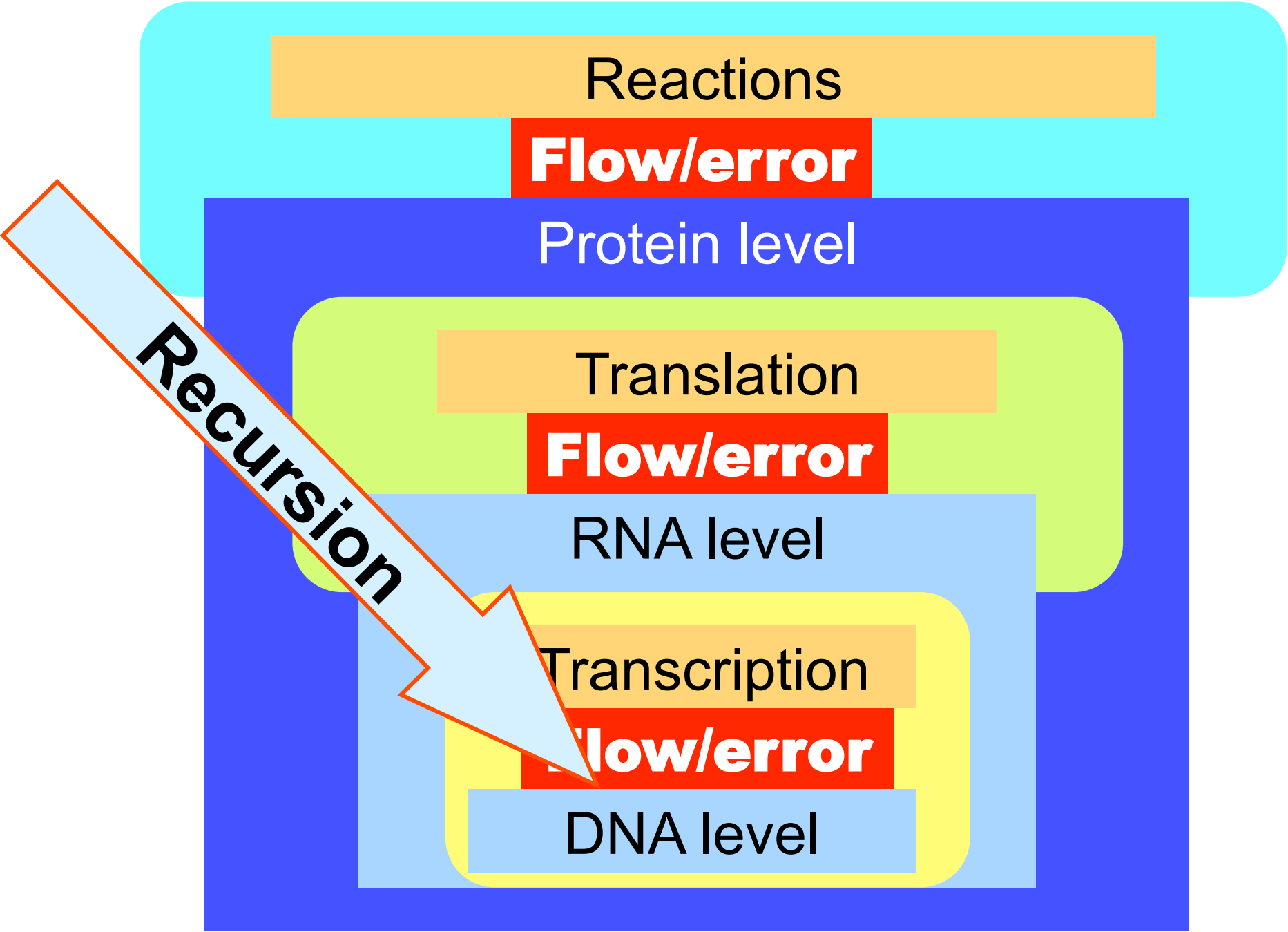
RNA level

Transcription

**Flow/error**

DNA level

Recursion





# Diverse Reactions

**Flow/error**

Protein level

Conserved  
core  
control

Reactions

Translation  
RNA level

Transcription

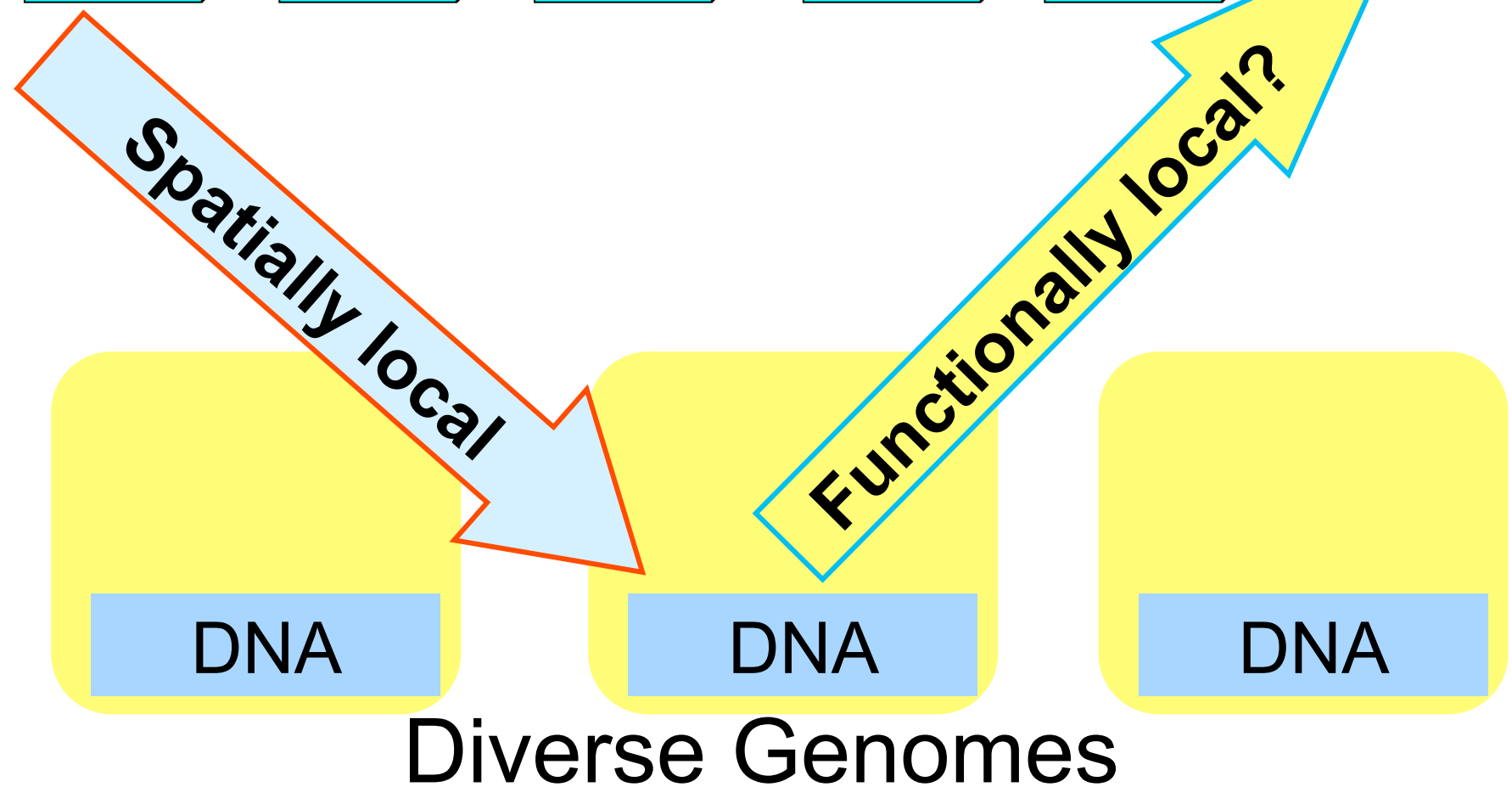
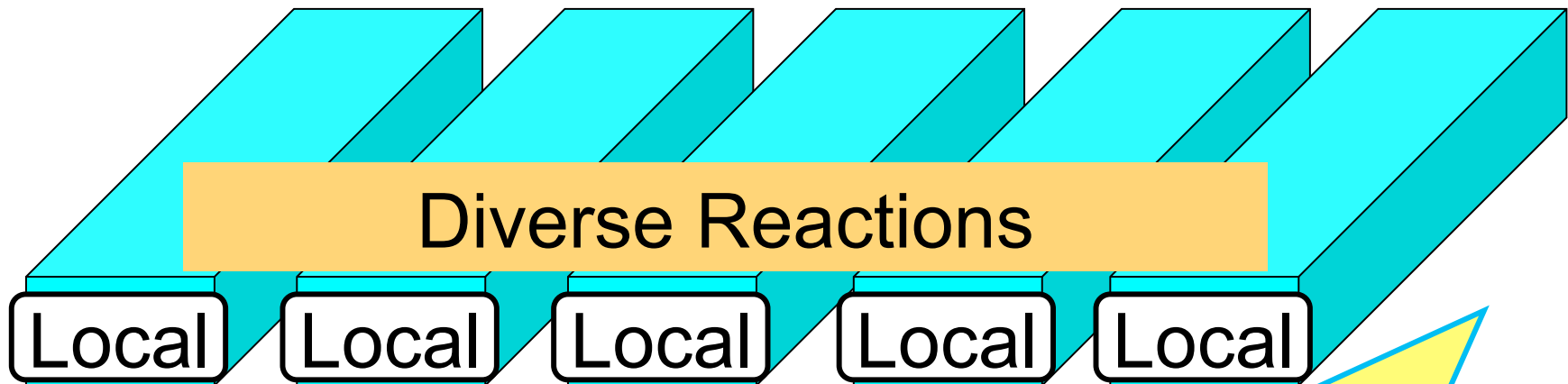
**Flow/error**

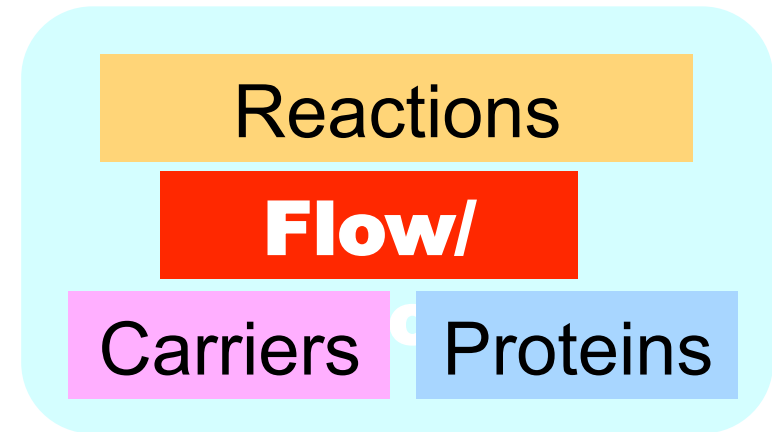
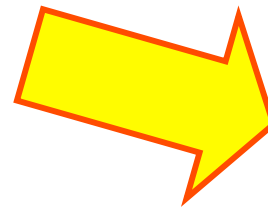
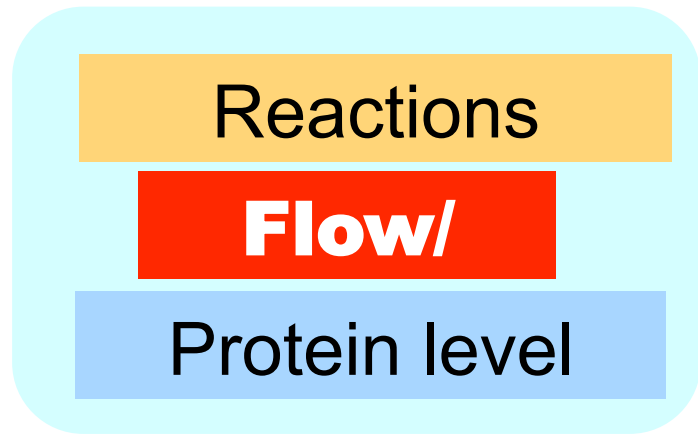
DNA

DNA

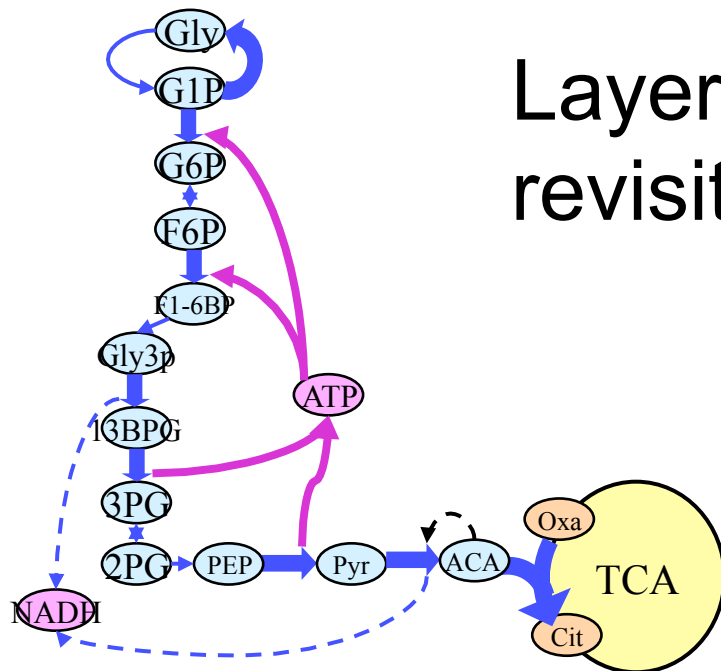
DNA

# Diverse Genomes





Layering  
revisited



More complete picture

# Biology versus the Internet

## Similarities

- Evolvable architecture
- Robust yet fragile
- **Layering, modularity**
- Hourglass with bowties
- Dynamics
- Feedback
- Distributed/decentralized
- *Not* scale-free, edge-of-chaos, self-organized criticality, etc

## Differences

- Metabolism
- Materials and energy
- **Autocatalytic feedback**
- Feedback complexity
- Development and regeneration
- >3B years of evolution

Catabolism

Precursors

Carriers

Sugars

Amino Acids

Nucleotides

Fatty acids

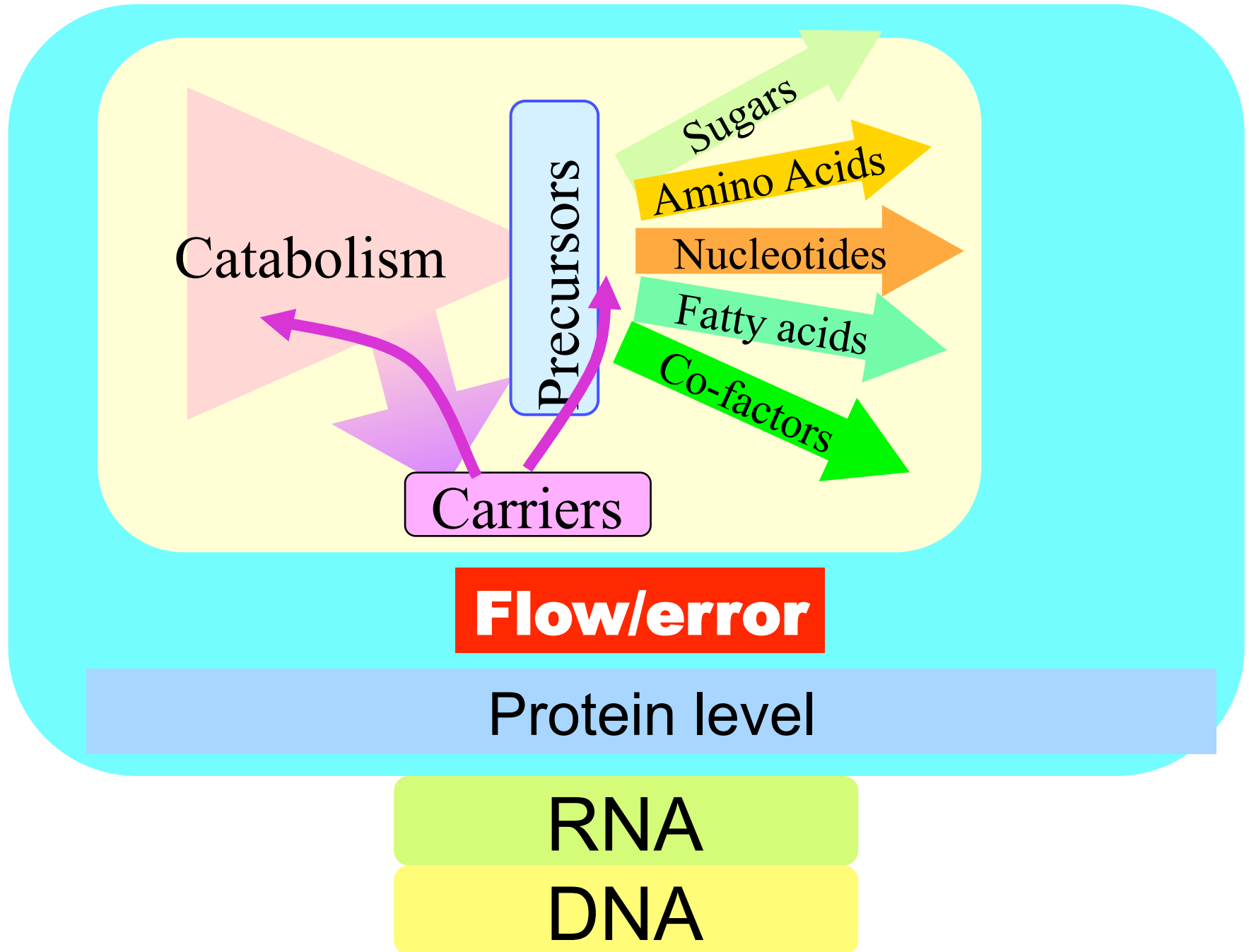
Co-factors

**Flow/error**

Protein level

RNA

DNA



# “Central dogma”

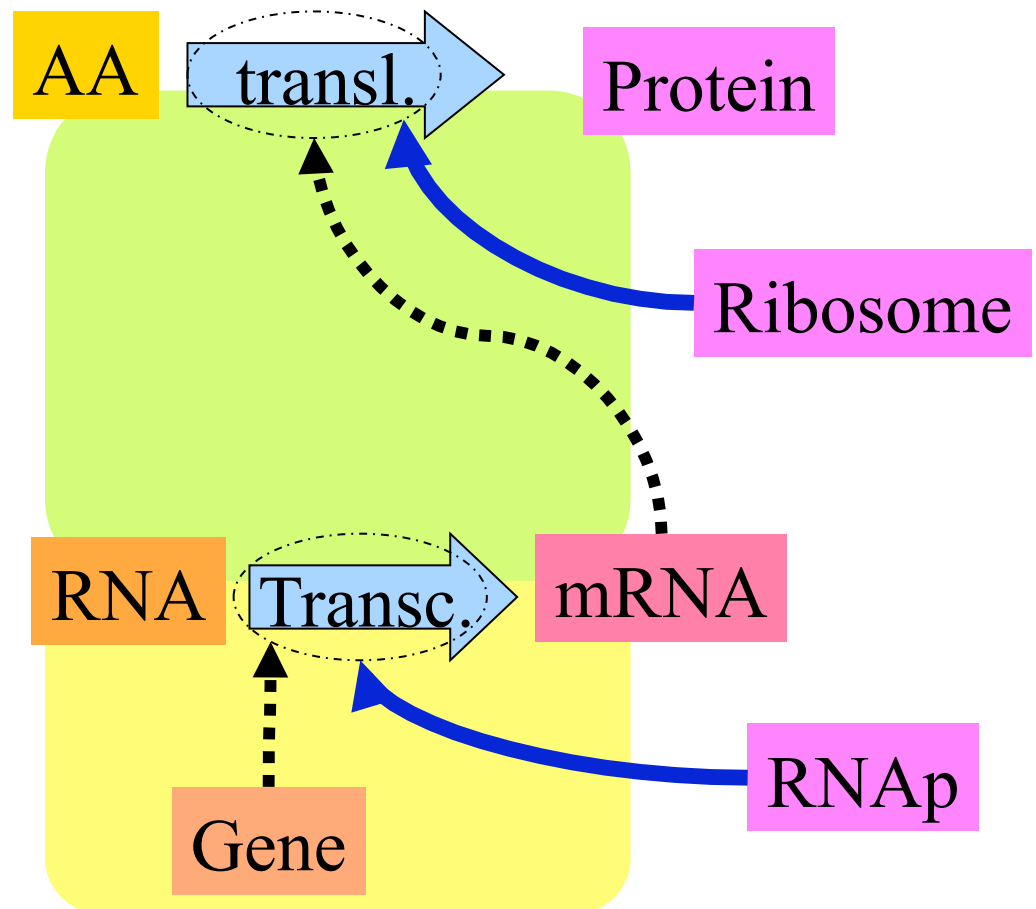
**Protein**

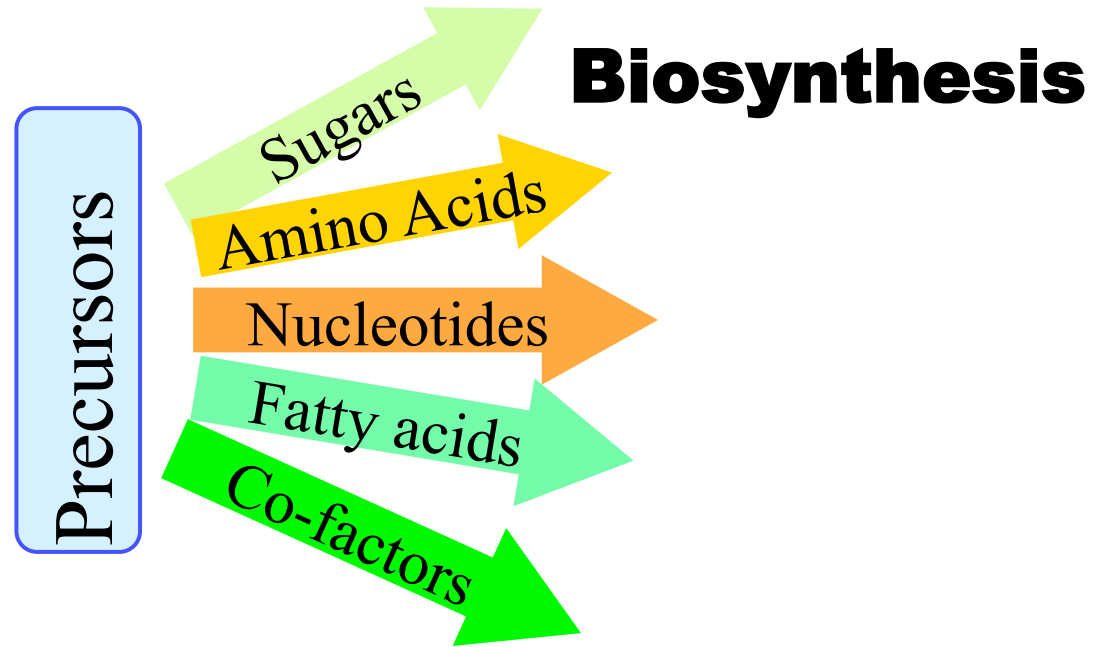
**RNA**

Transc.

**Flow**

**DNA**

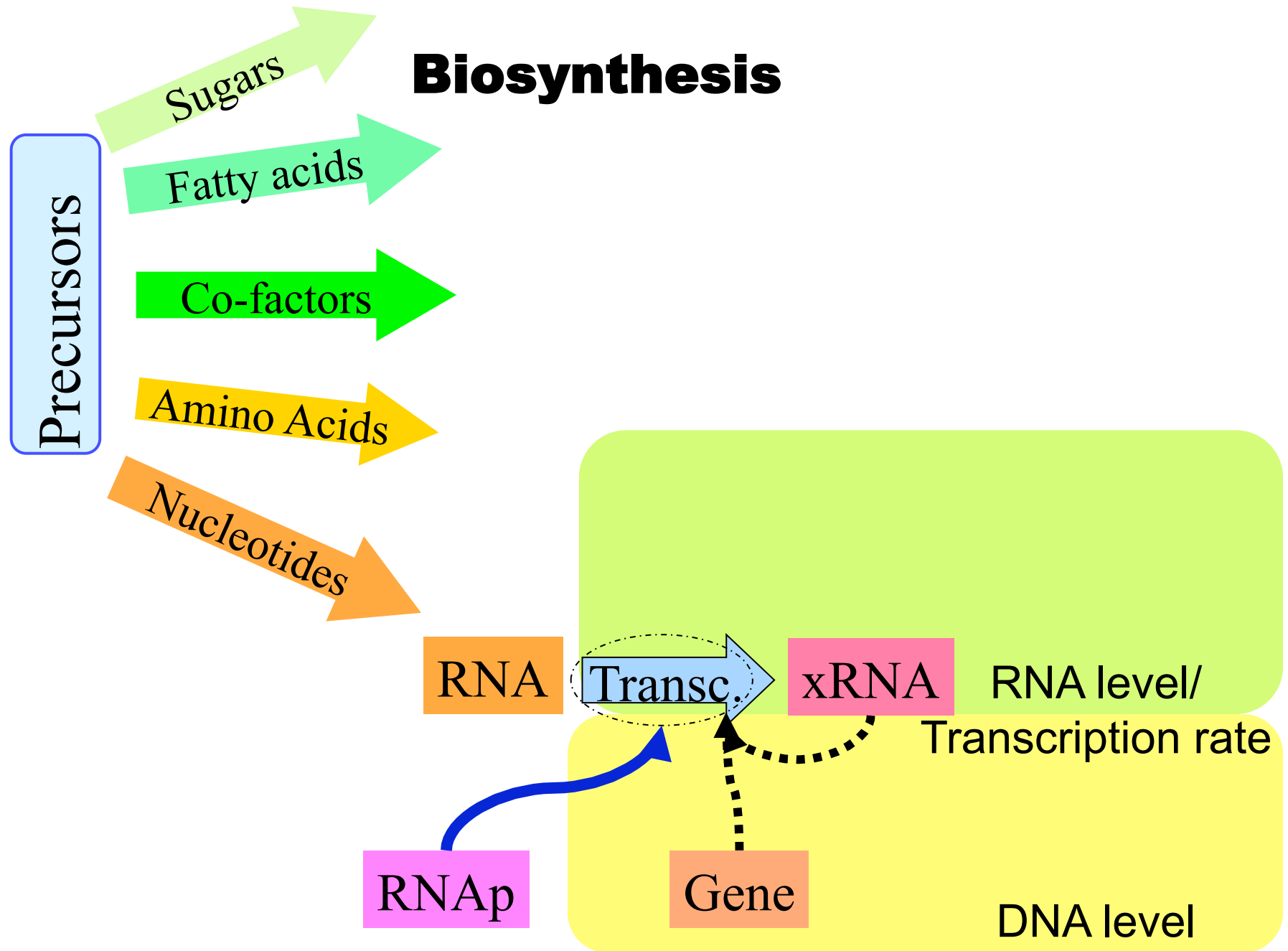




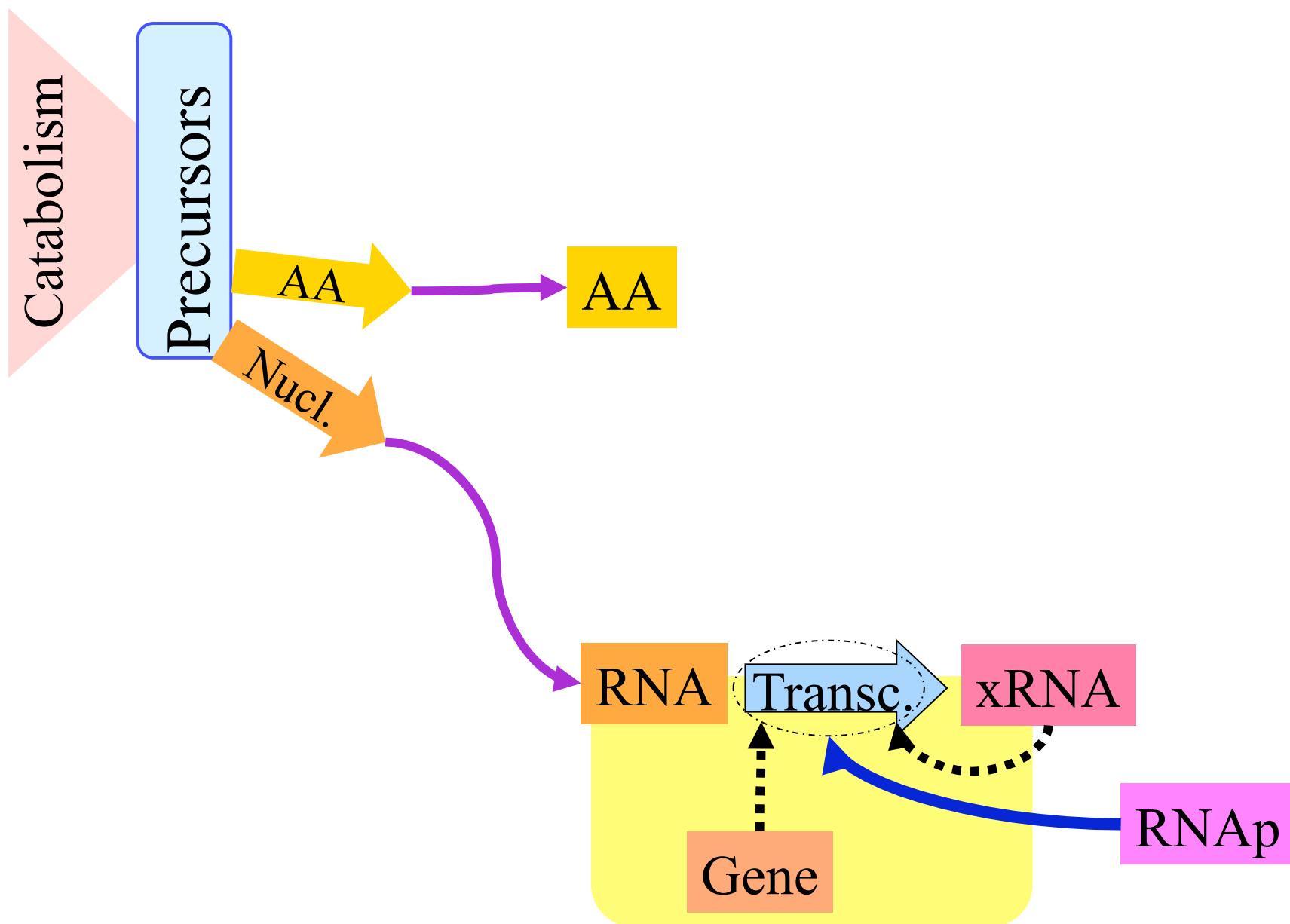
RNA

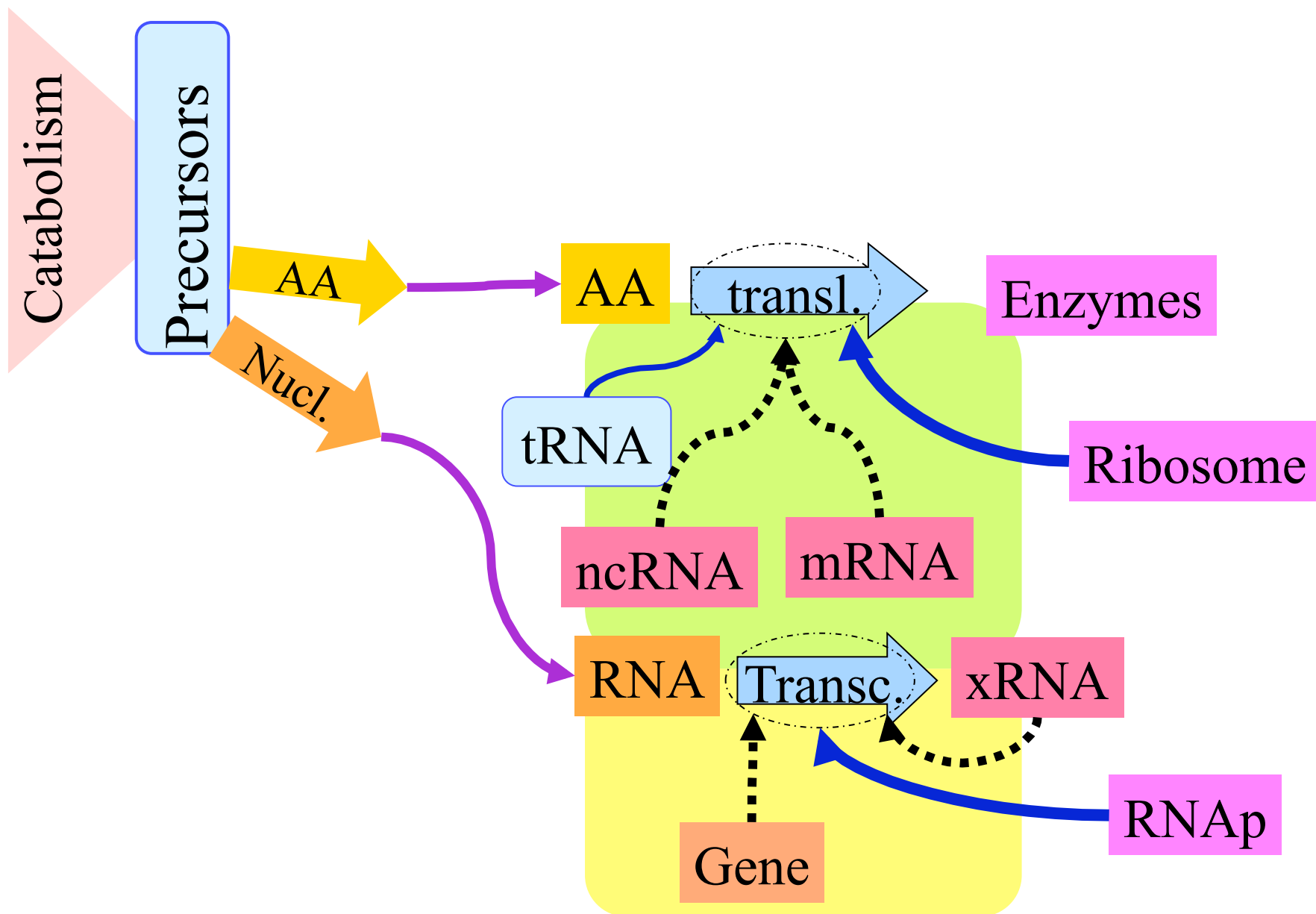
DNA

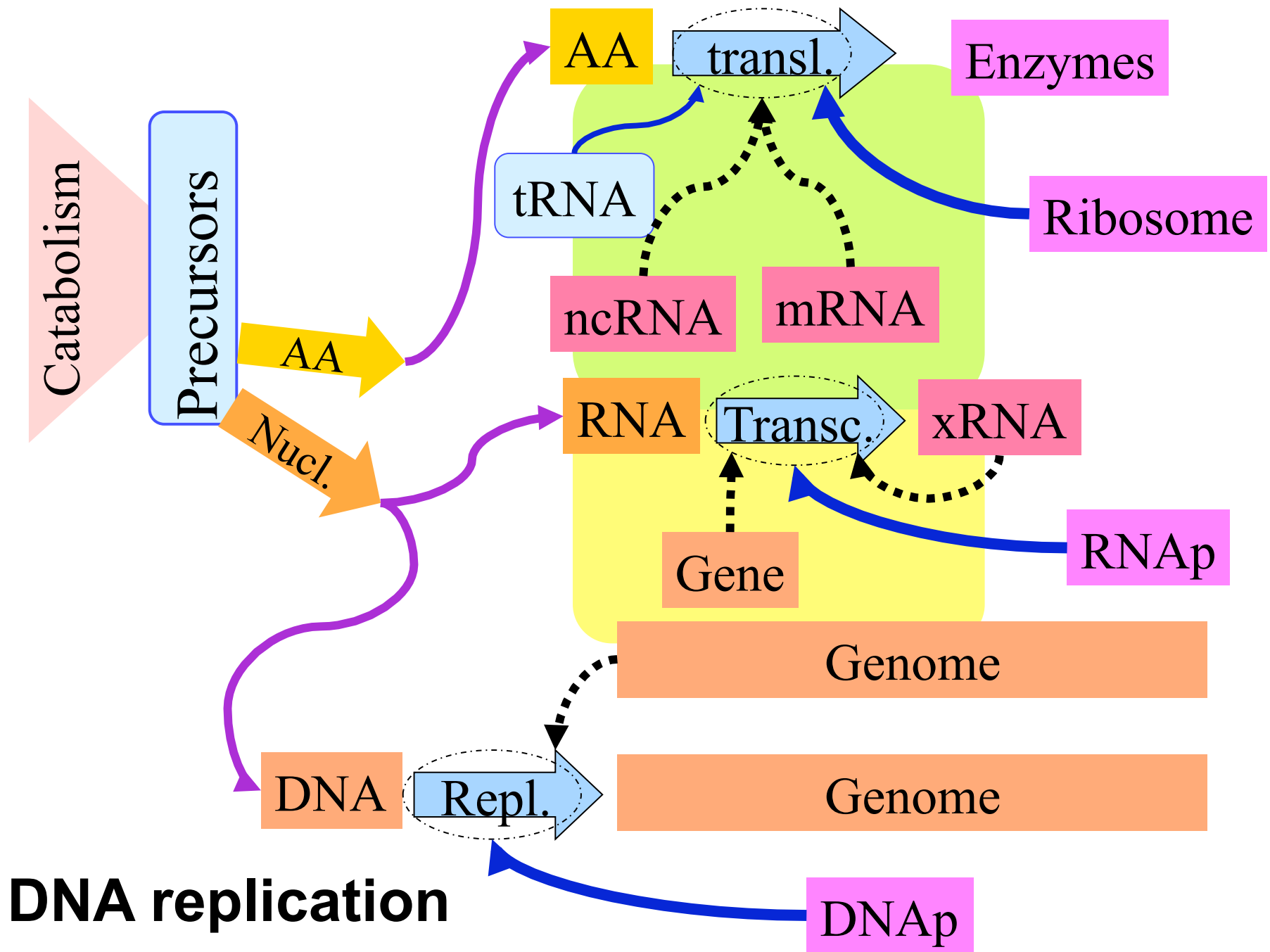
# Biosynthesis



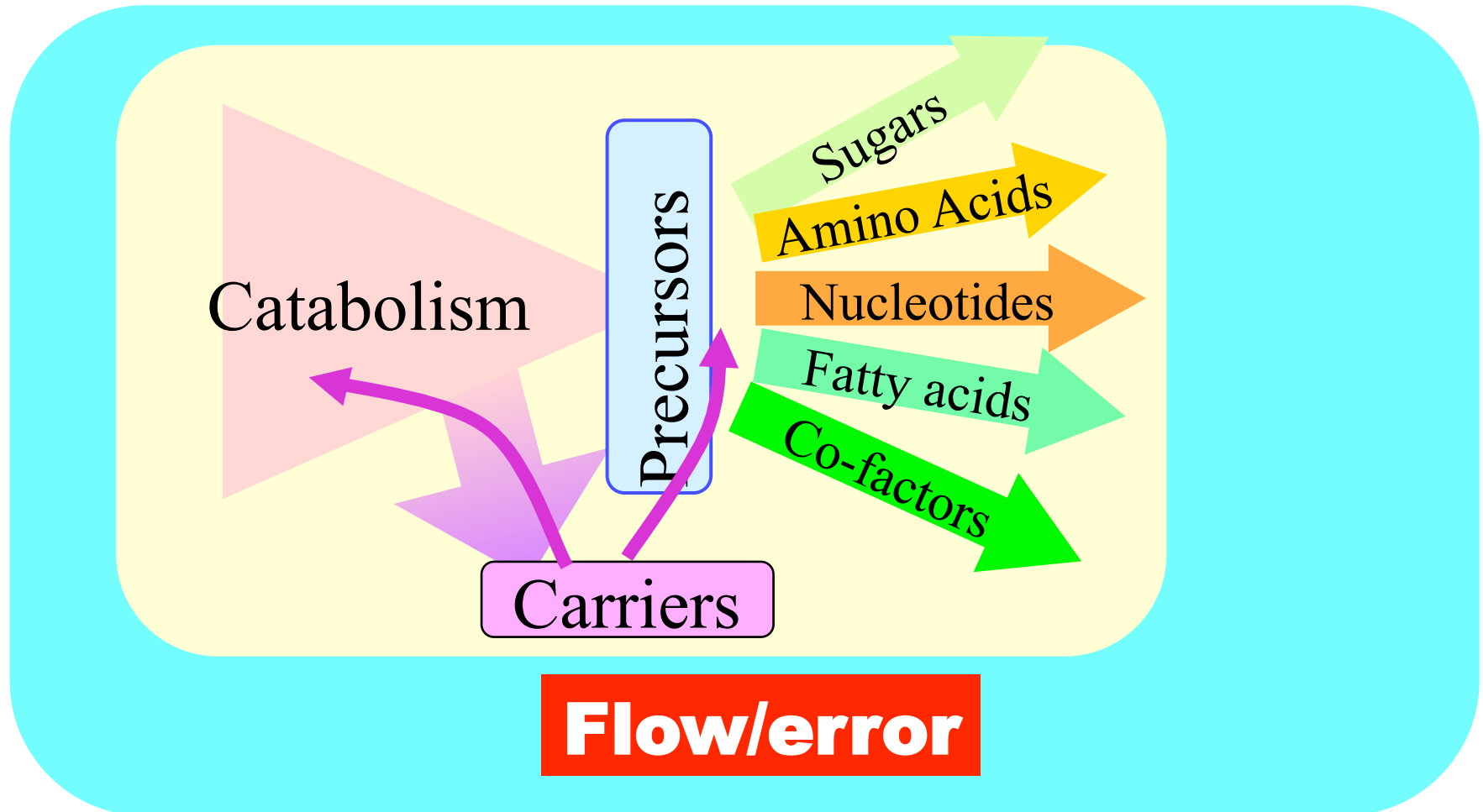




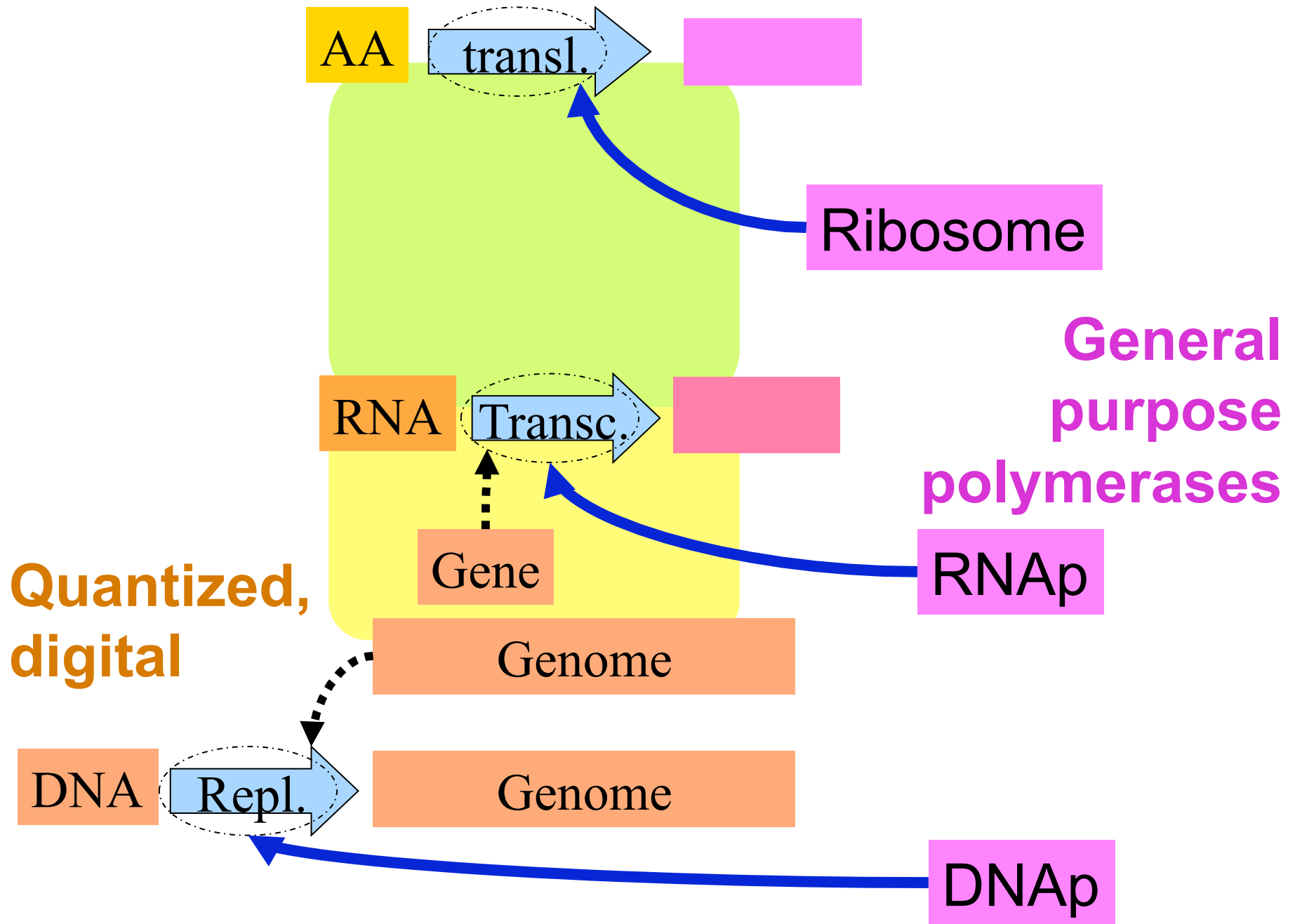


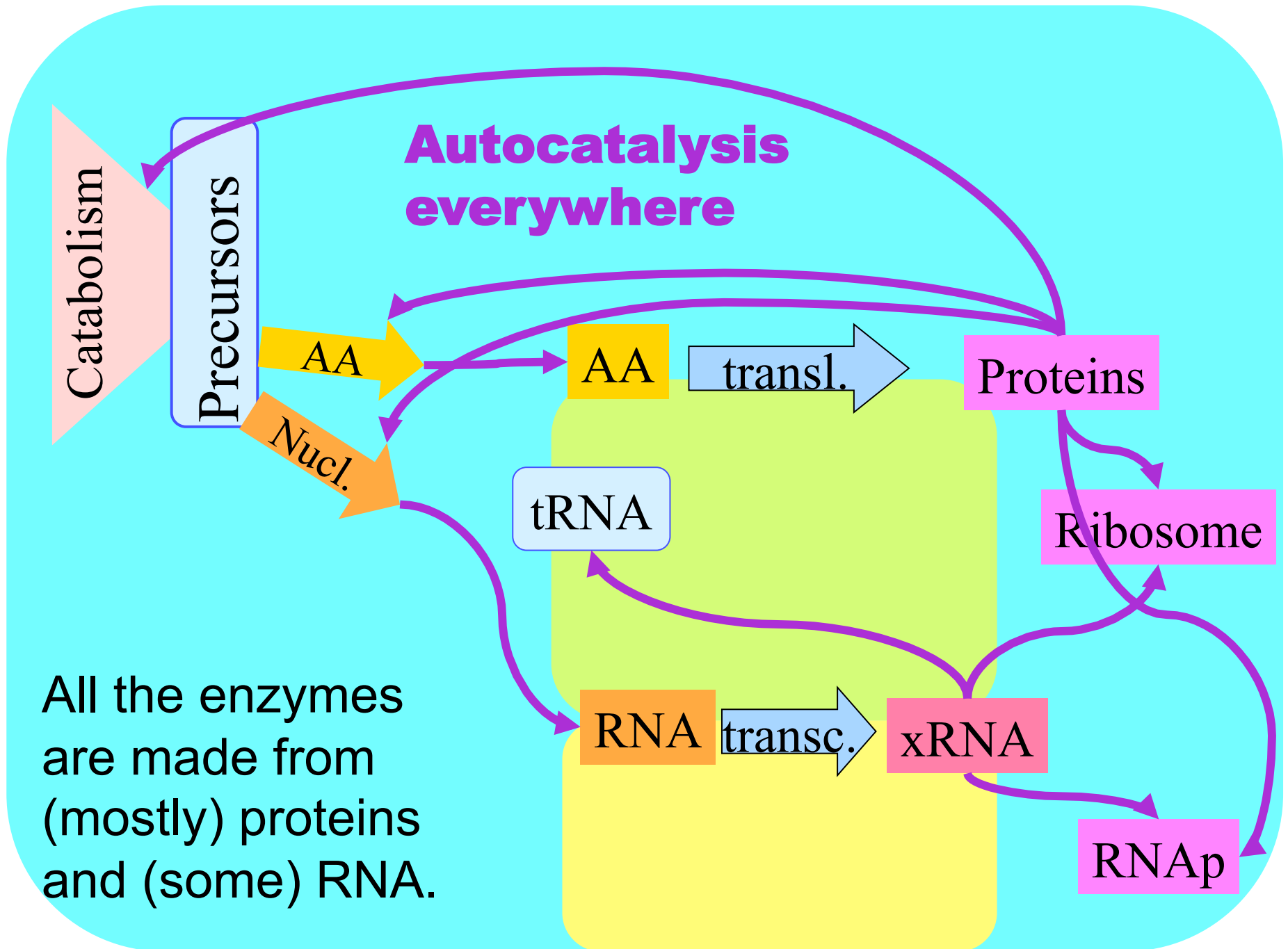


# Analog/continuous dynamics

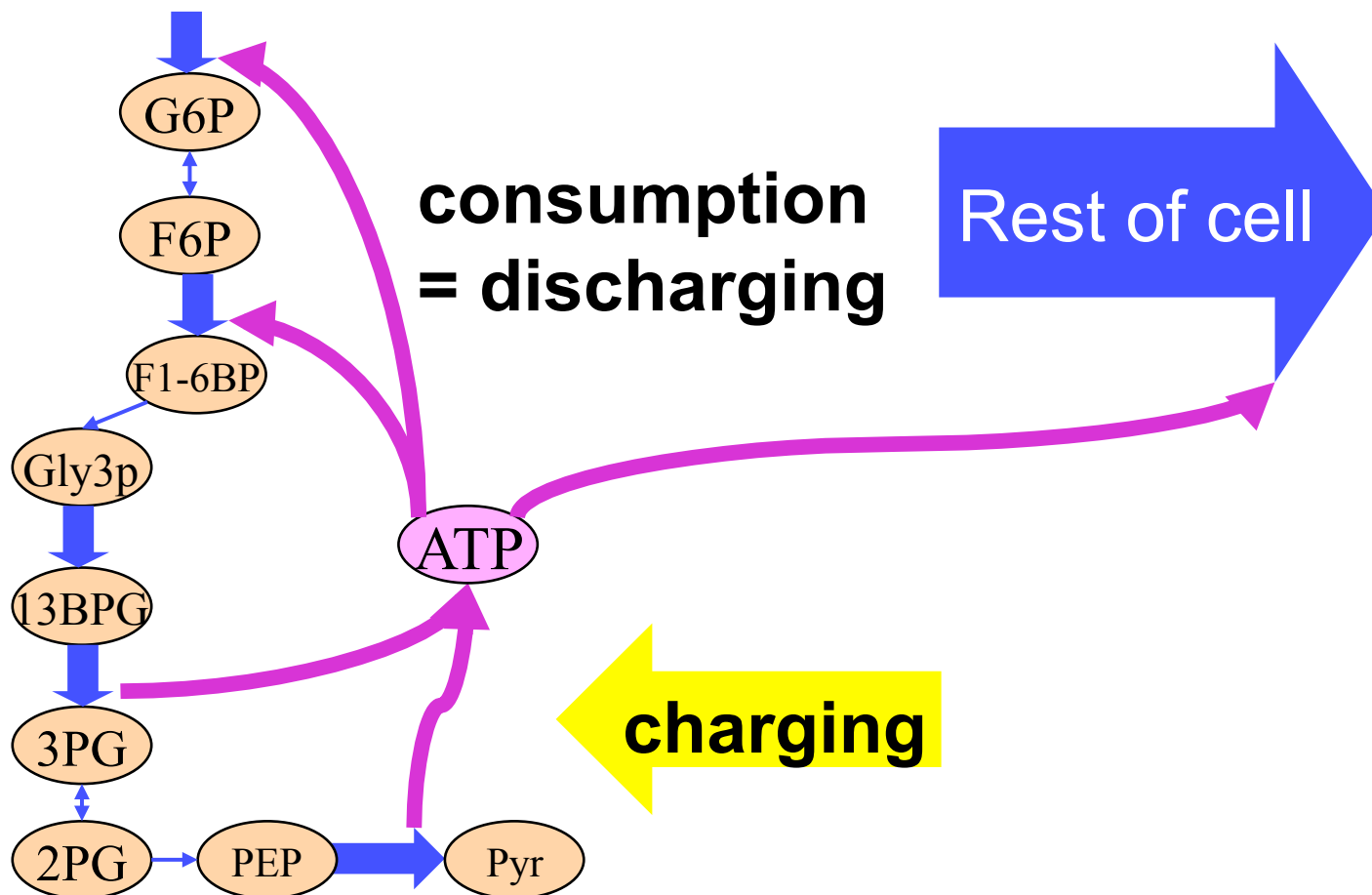


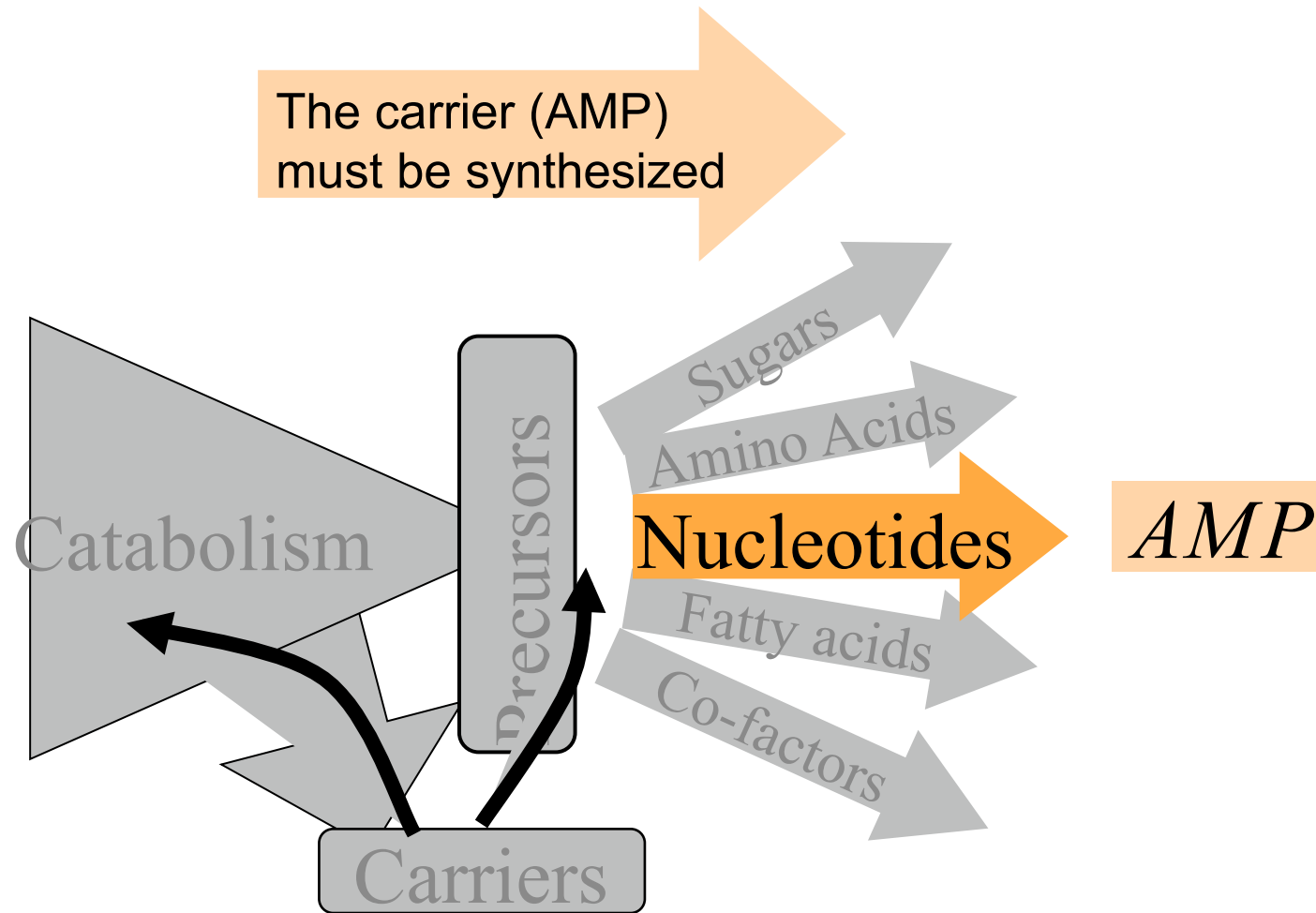
Specialized enzymes  
for each reaction



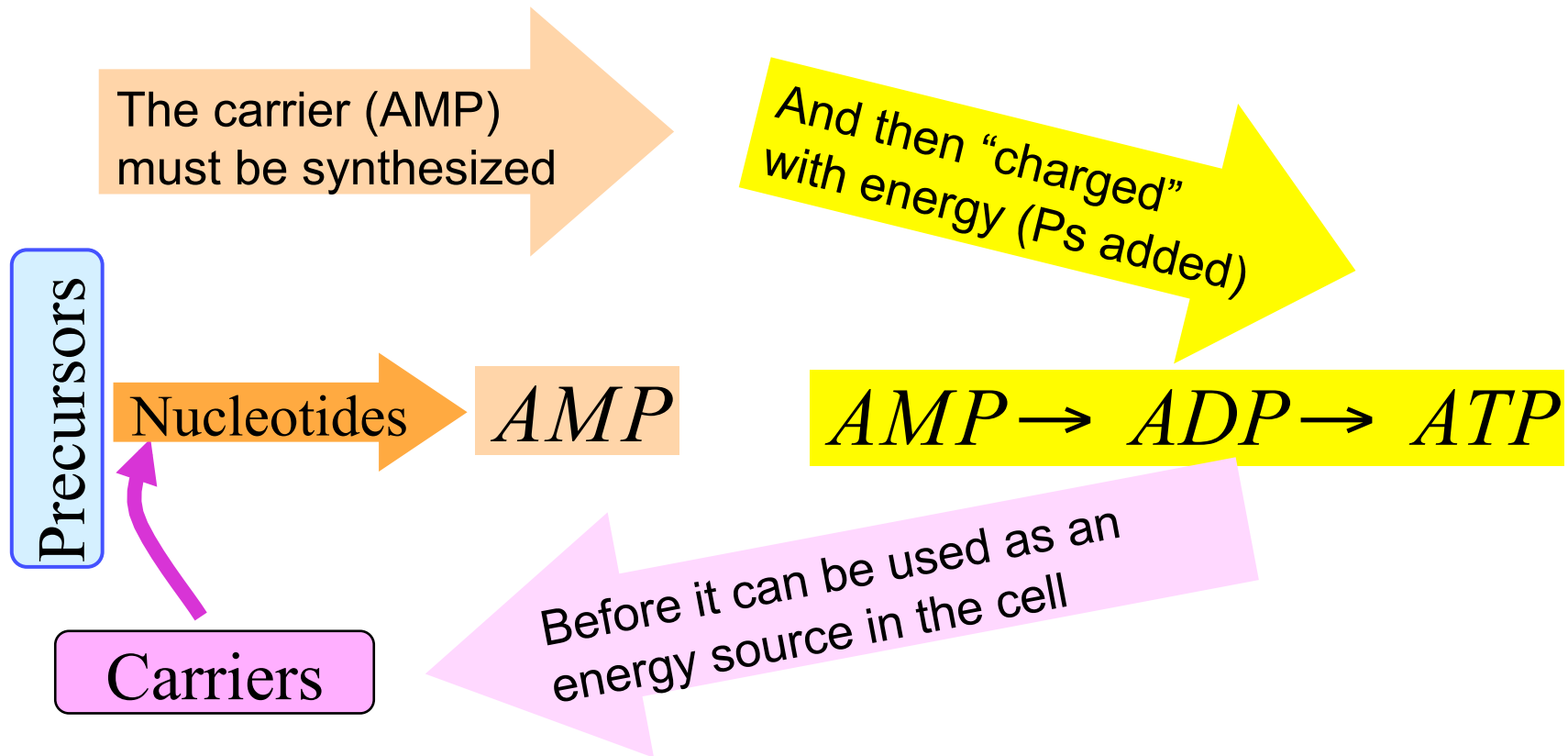


This is just charging and discharging



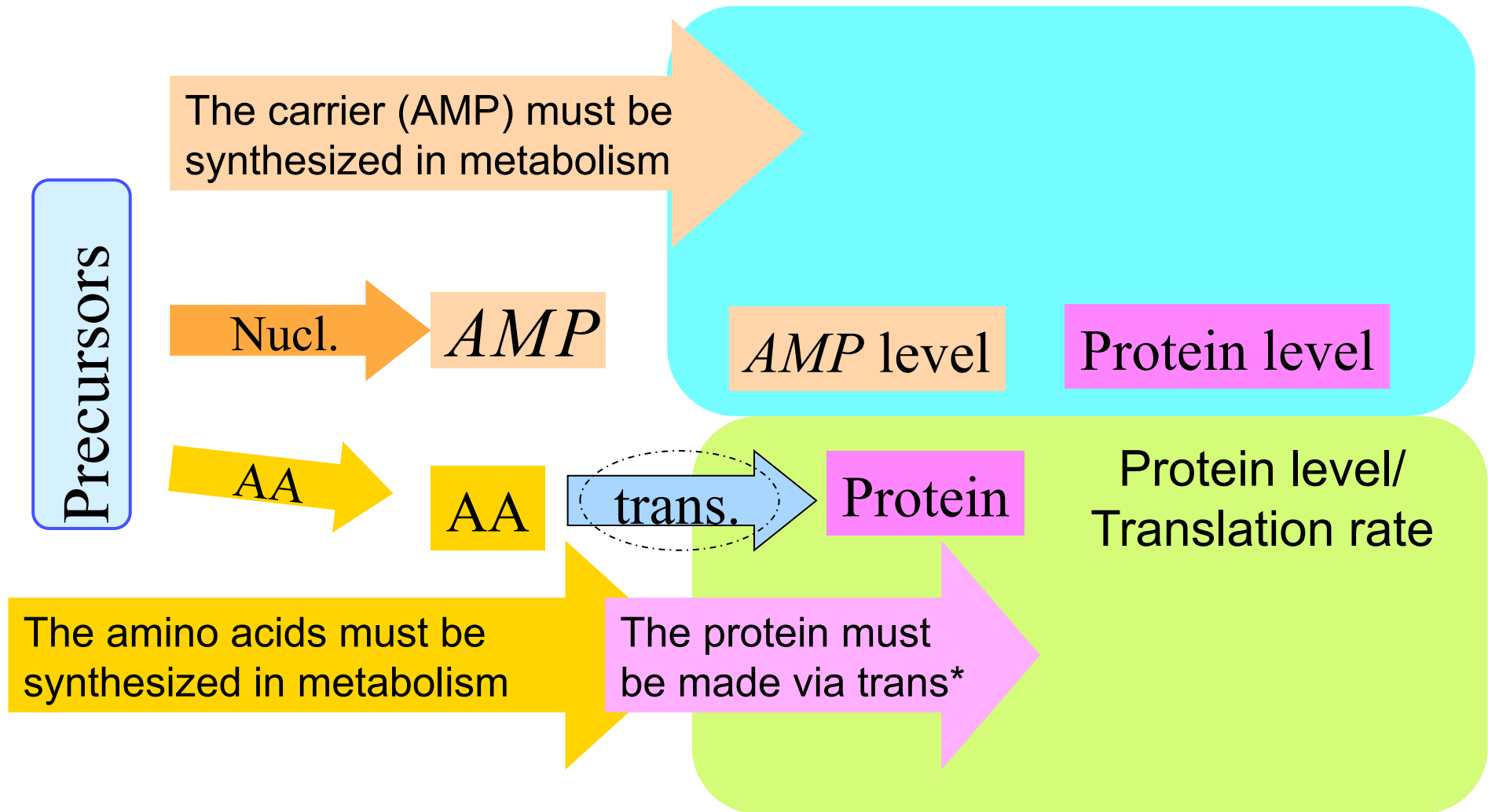






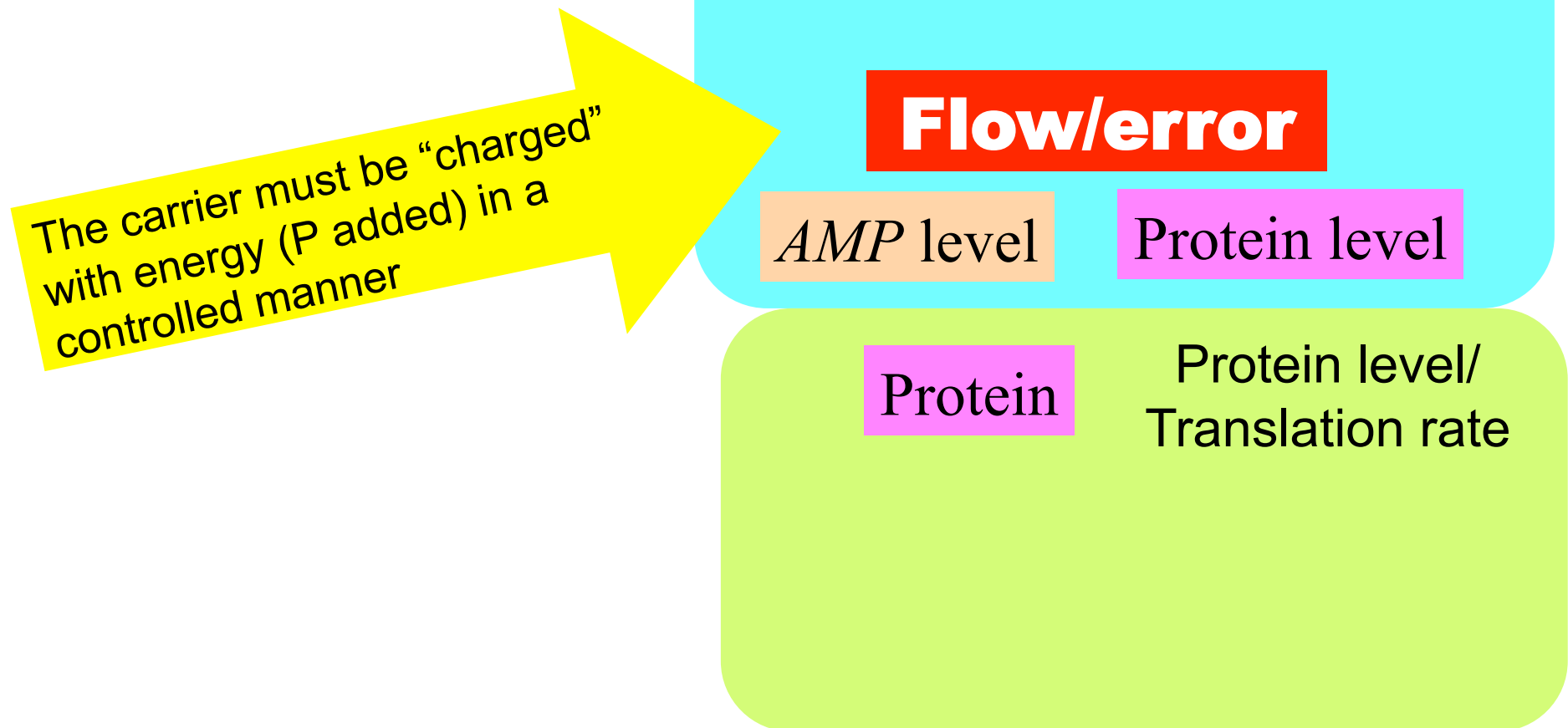
Think of AMP as a battery, and ATP as the charged battery. There are two autocatalytic processes requiring the feedback of resources:

- manufacturing the “battery” (slower process)
- and then repeatedly charging/using the “battery” (very fast)

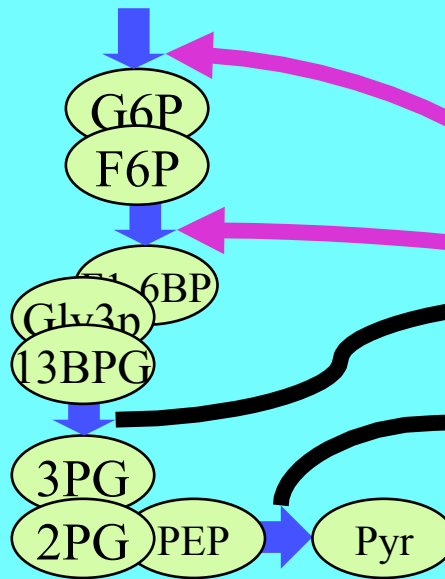


We know what's going on here, but it's hard to draw the layers neatly.

- The carrier (AMP) must be both synthesized (in nucleotide biosynthesis), and then charged in a controlled way.
- The protein must be both synthesized and then its form and activity controlled.



ATP supplies  
energy to all  
layers



**Flow/error**

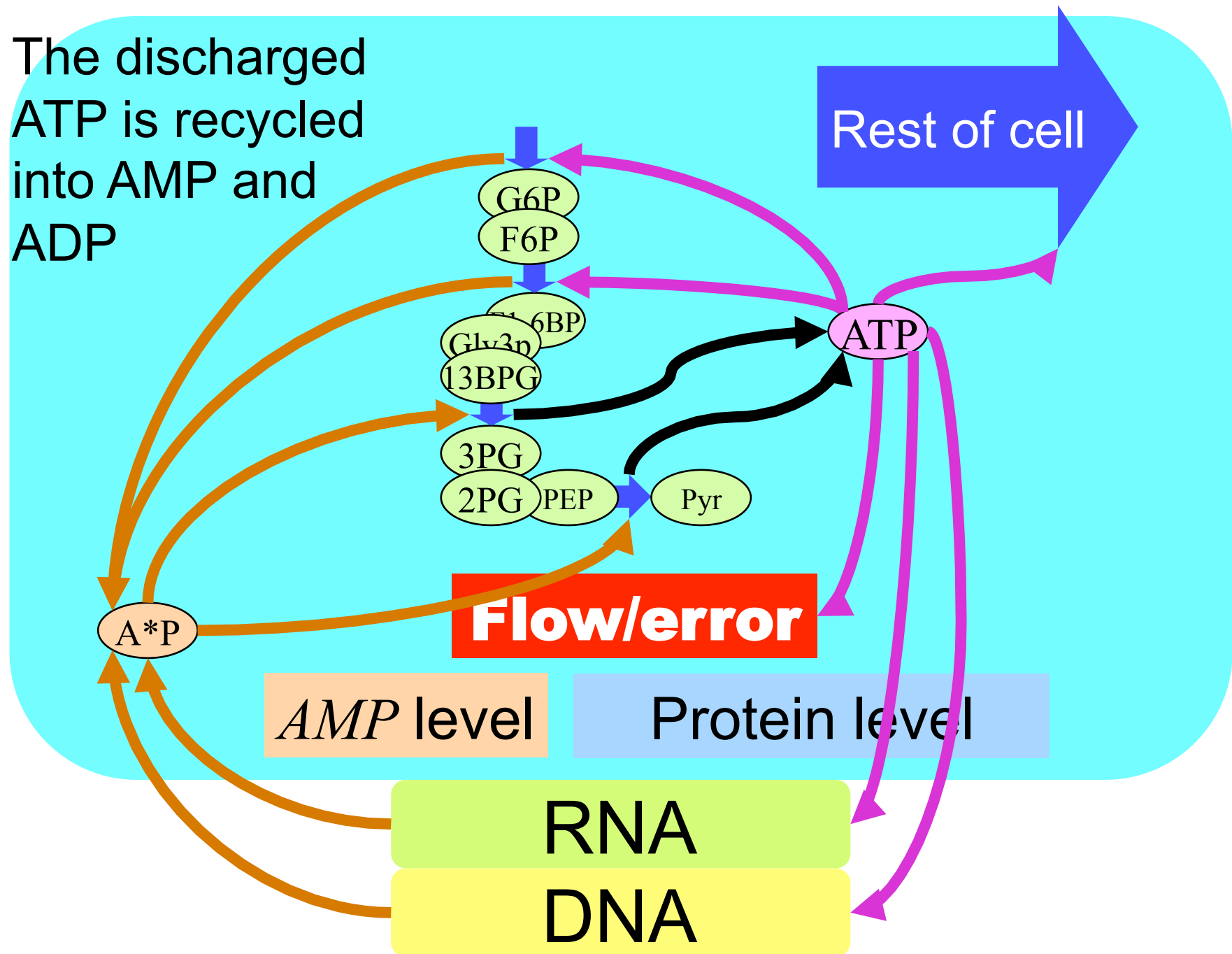
*AMP* level

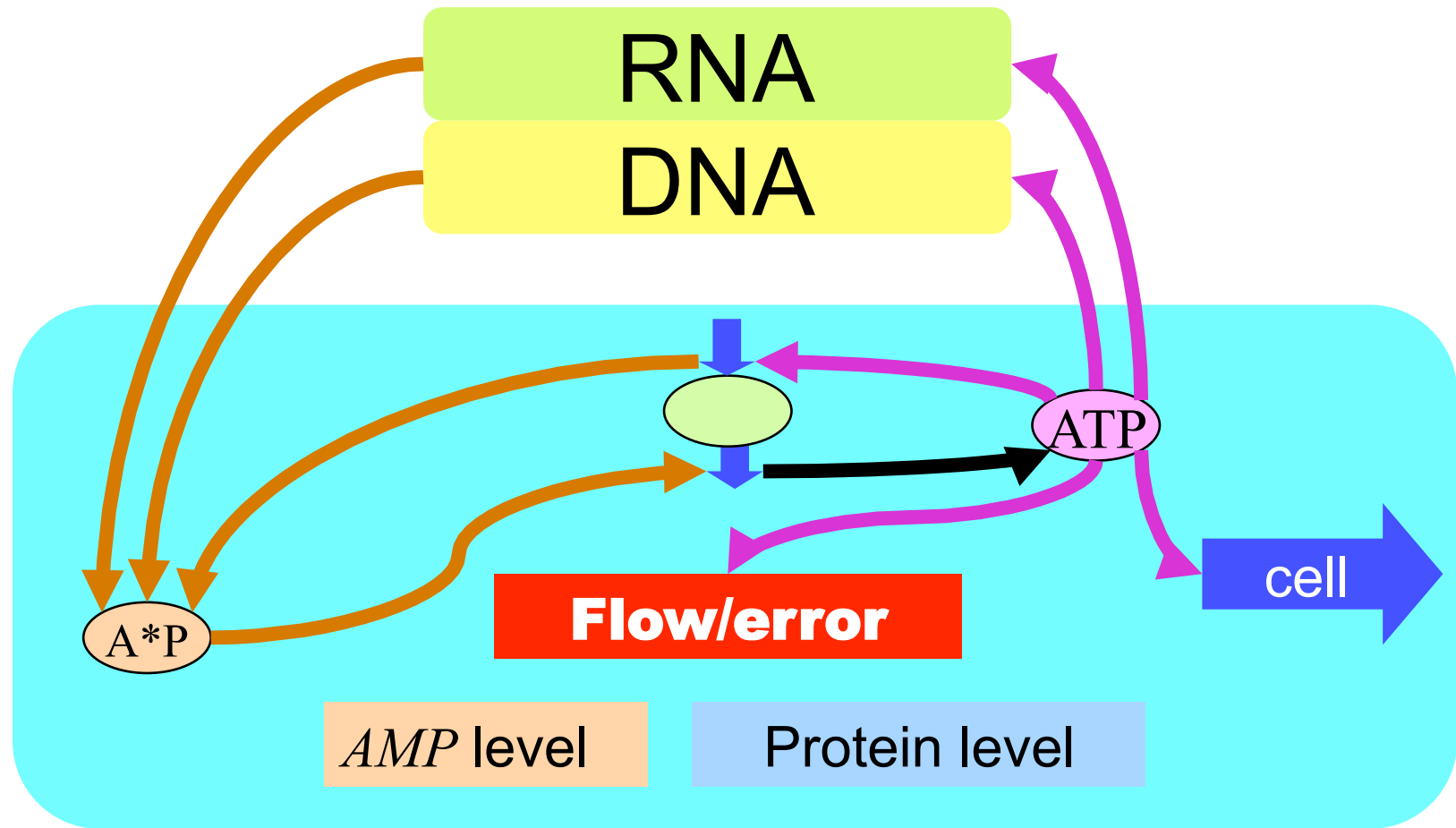
Protein level

RNA

DNA

The discharged  
ATP is recycled  
into AMP and  
ADP





Lots of  
ways to  
draw this.



Catabolism

Precursors

AA

Nucl.

AA

transl.

Enzymes

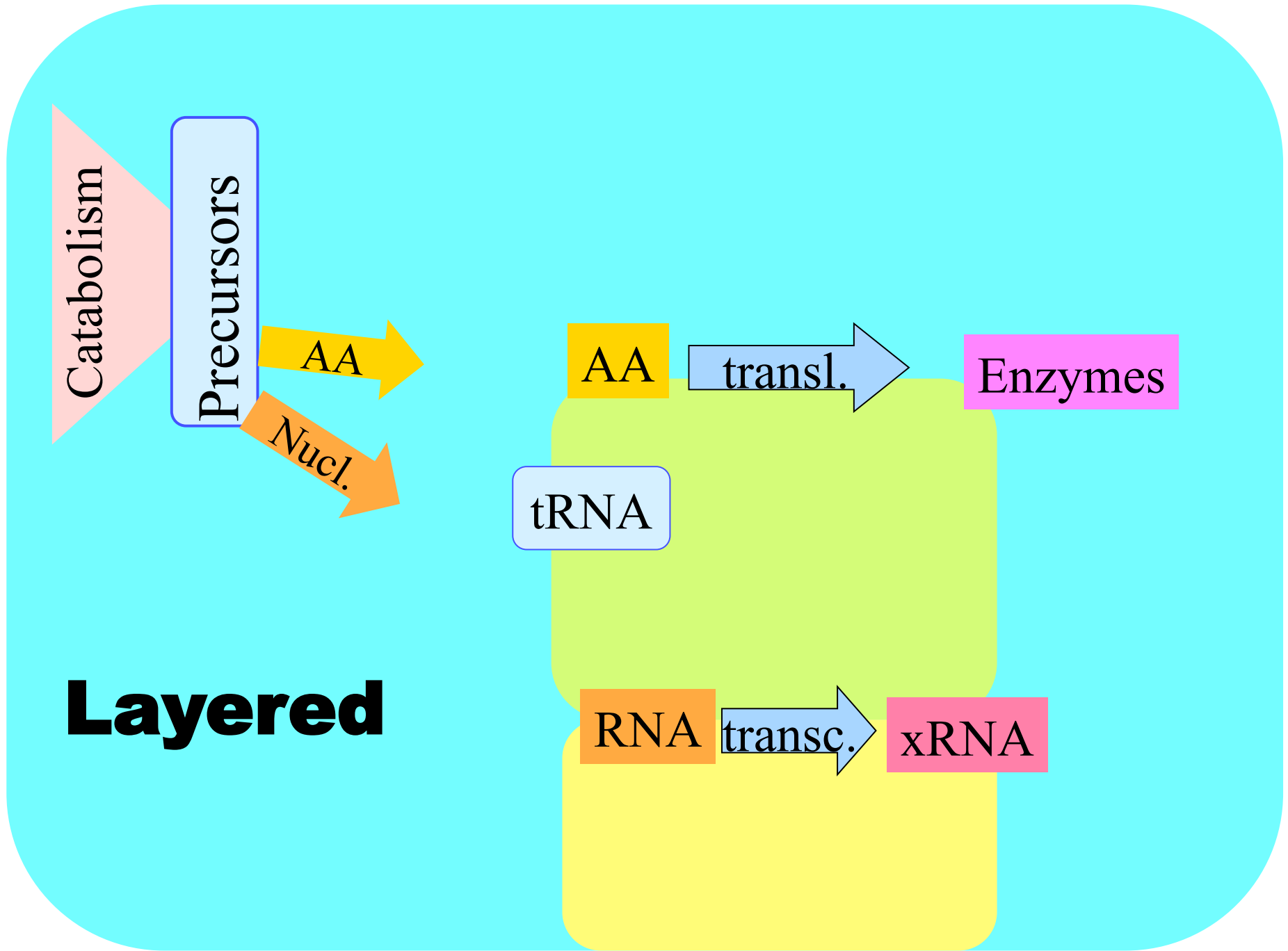
tRNA

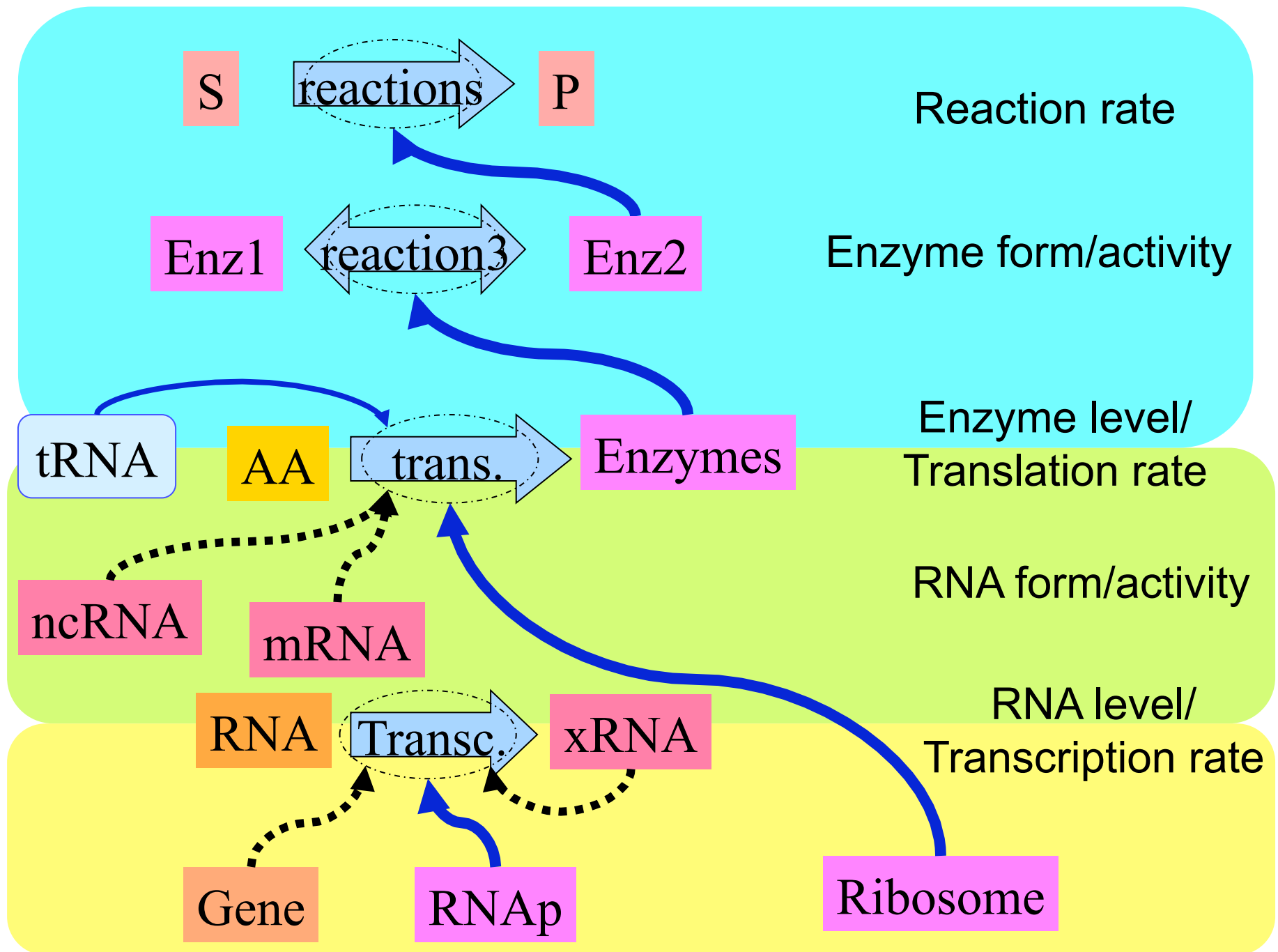
RNA

transc.

xRNA

**Layered**

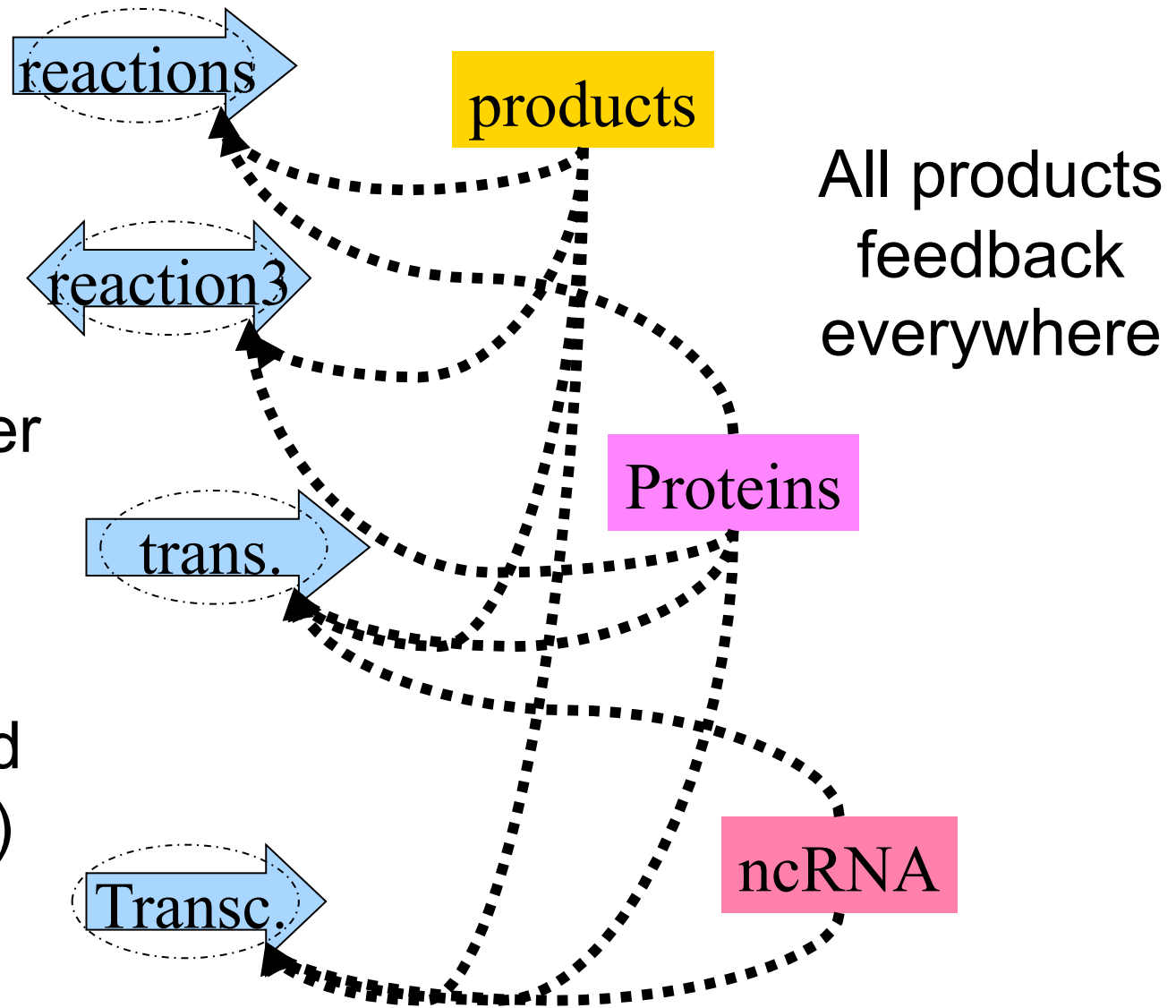






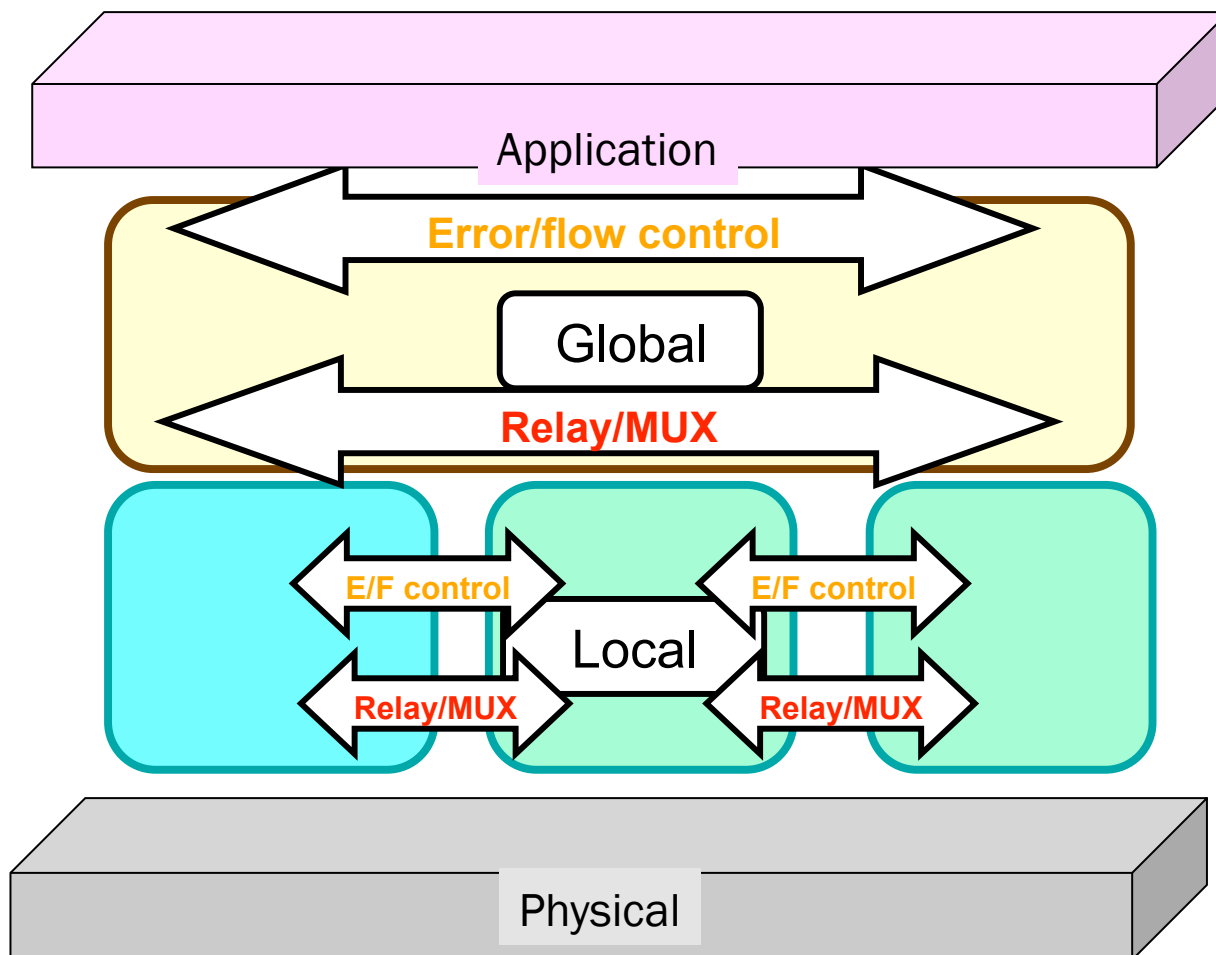
# Control?

But each layer  
has its own  
controlling  
molecules  
(proteins and  
small RNAs)



So X-layer interactions are highly structured

# Recursive control structure



Reactions

**Flow**

Protein level

Reactions

**Flow**

RNA level

Reactions

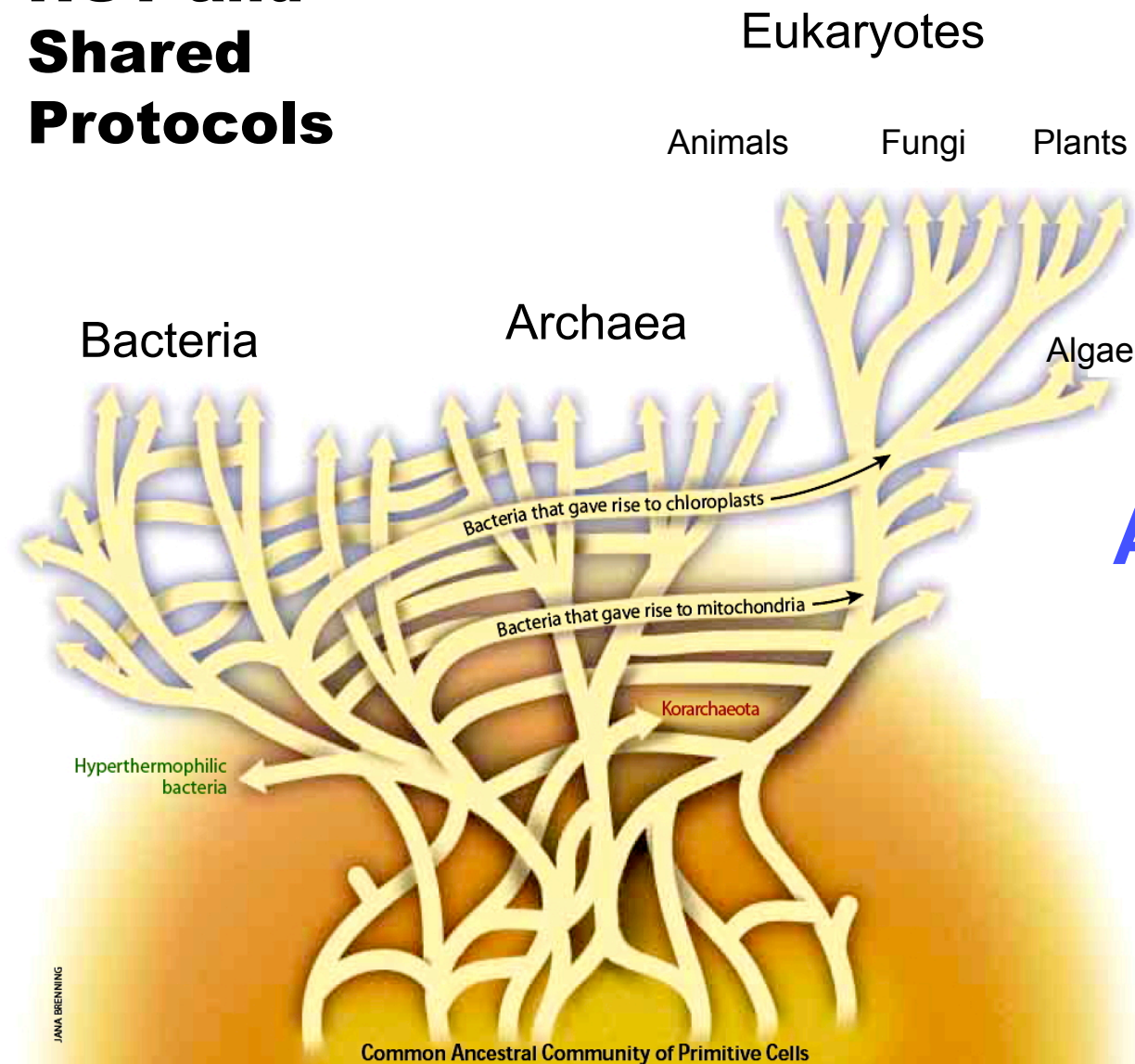
**Flow**

DNA level

# Horizontal gene transfer

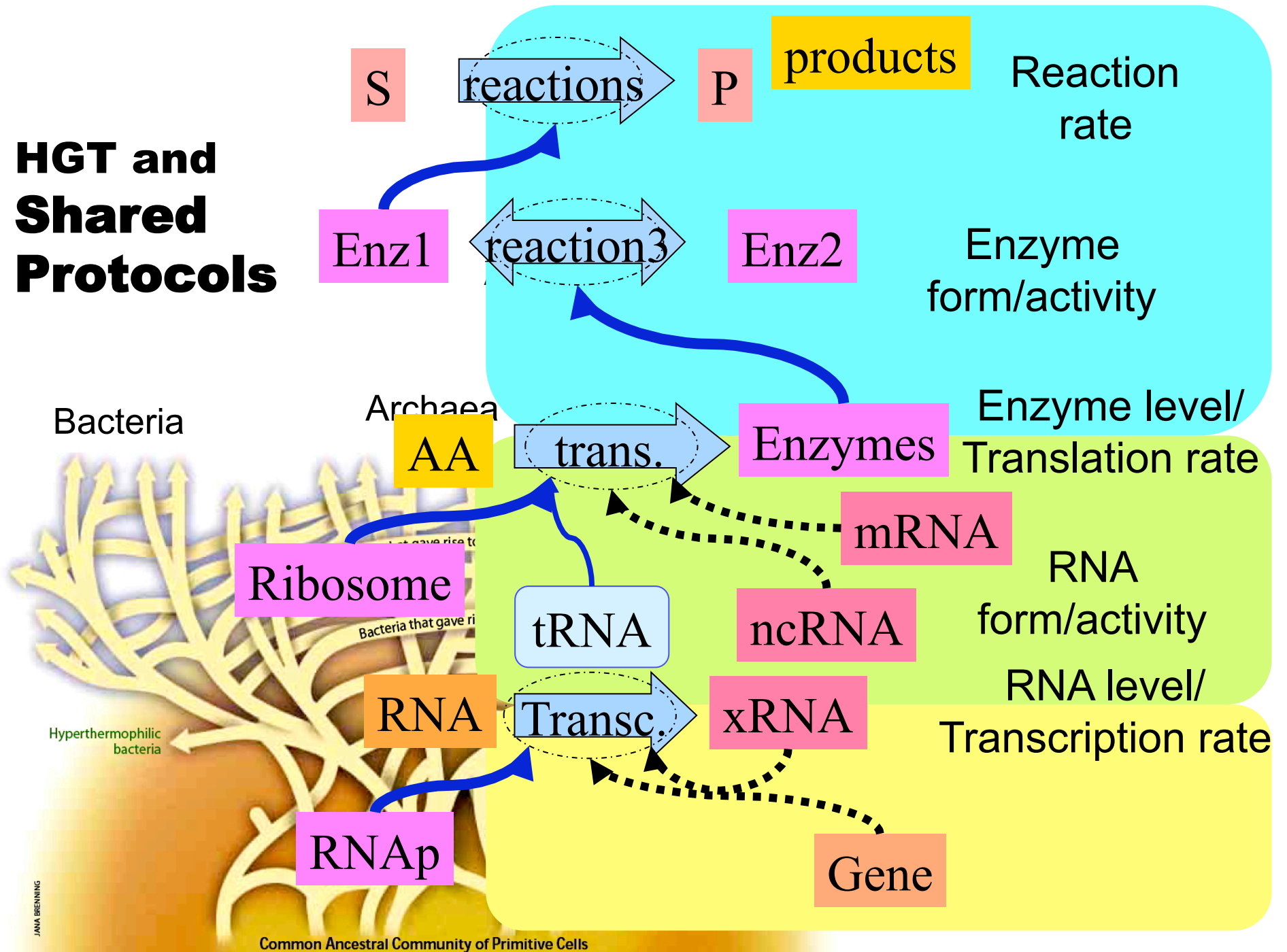
## HGT and Shared Protocols

What is locus of early evolution?



Architecture!?!

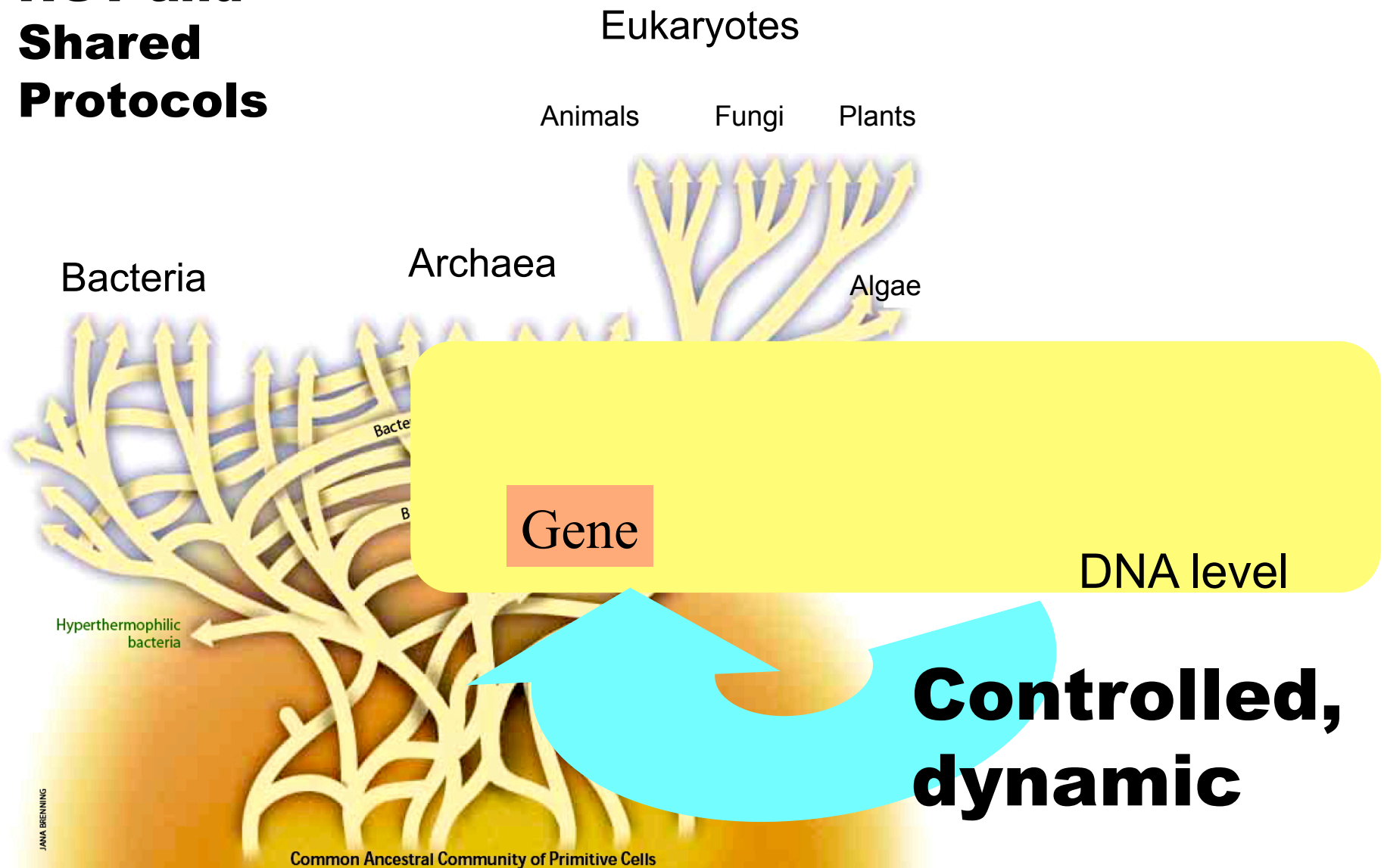
# HGT and Shared Protocols



# Horizontal gene transfer

- Not a static database
- Not only point mutations

## HGT and Shared Protocols



## Fragility example: Viruses

**Viral  
proteins**

Viruses exploit the universal bowtie/hourglass structure to hijack the cell machinery.

**Viral  
genes**

Reactions

**Flow**

Protein level

Reactions

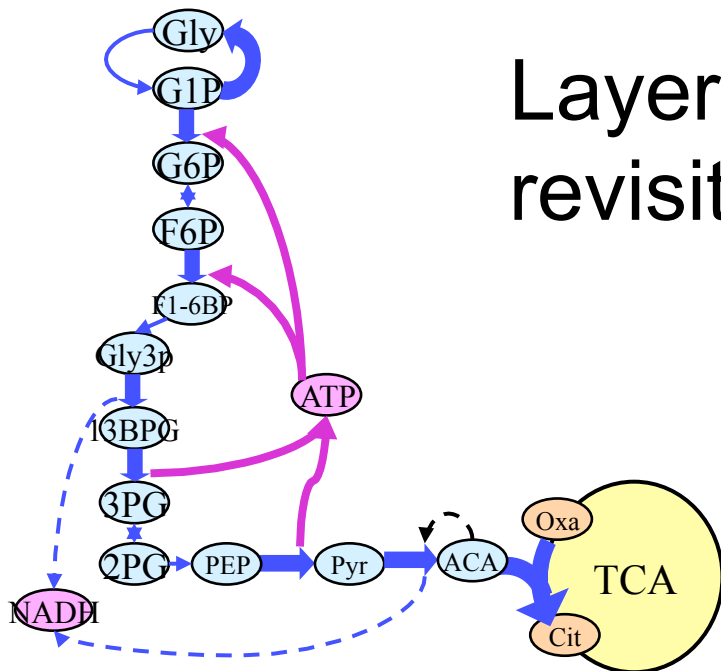
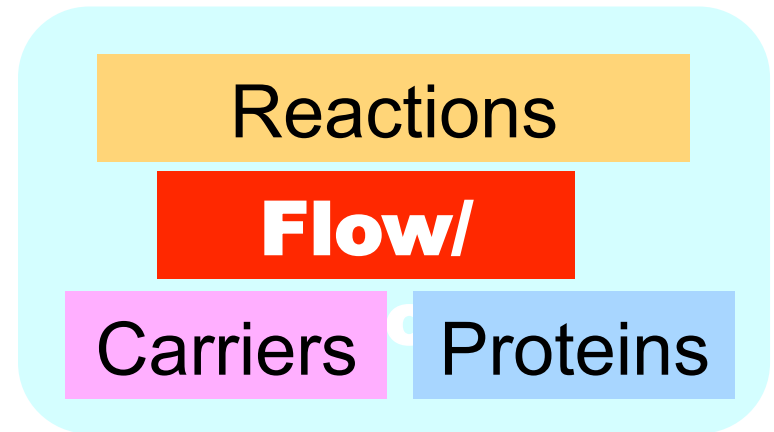
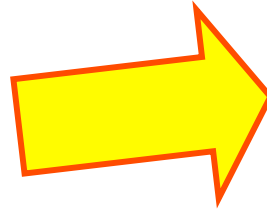
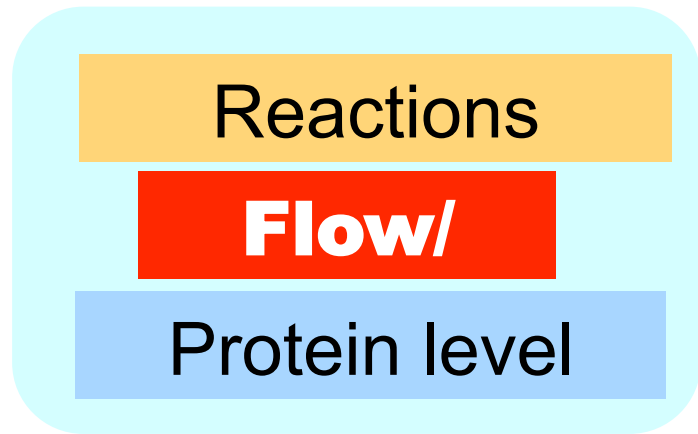
**Flow**

RNA level

Reactions

**Flow**

DNA level



Layering  
revisited

More complete picture ?

Reactions

**Flow/**

Carriers

Proteins

Translation  
Reactions

**Flow/error**

RNA level

Transcription  
Reactions

**Flow/error**

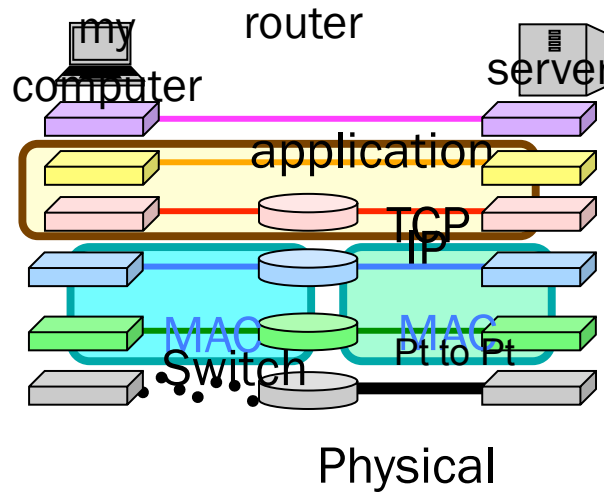
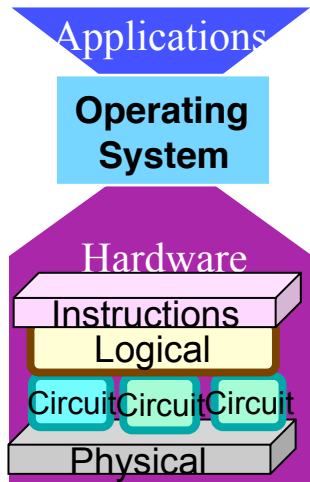
DNA level

“Power supply”  
for everything

This is a  
“database” of  
instructions

Manufacturing supply chain



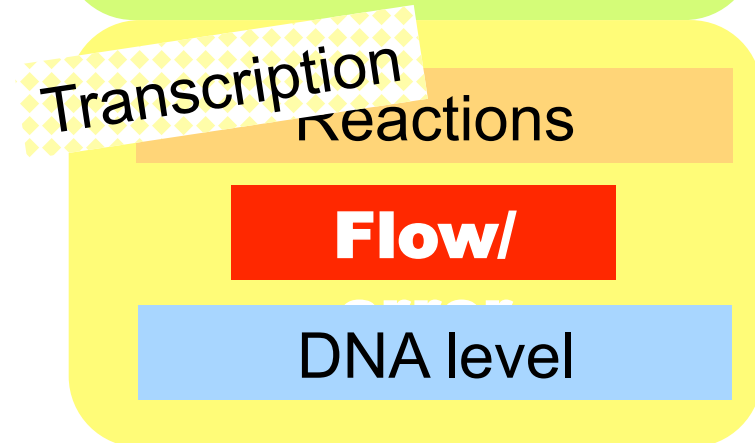
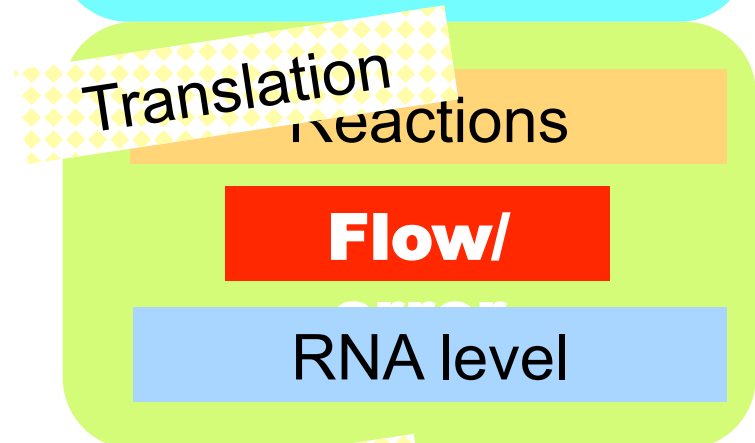
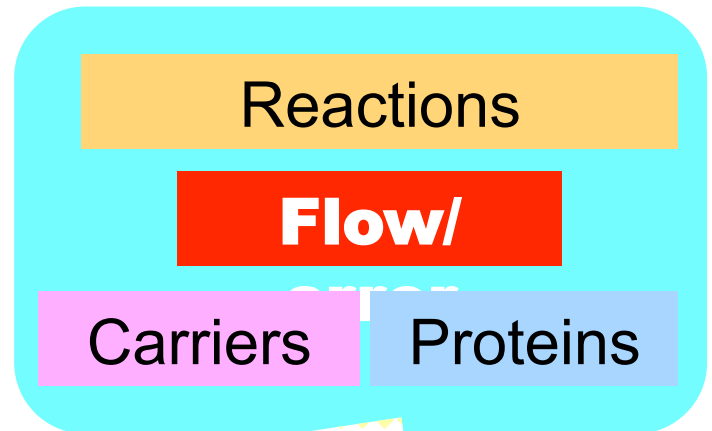


?

What are the additional layers?

?

- Where is the power supply?
- Where are the designs and processes that produce the chips, PCs, routers, etc?



# Network motifs in the transcriptional regulation network of *Escherichia coli*

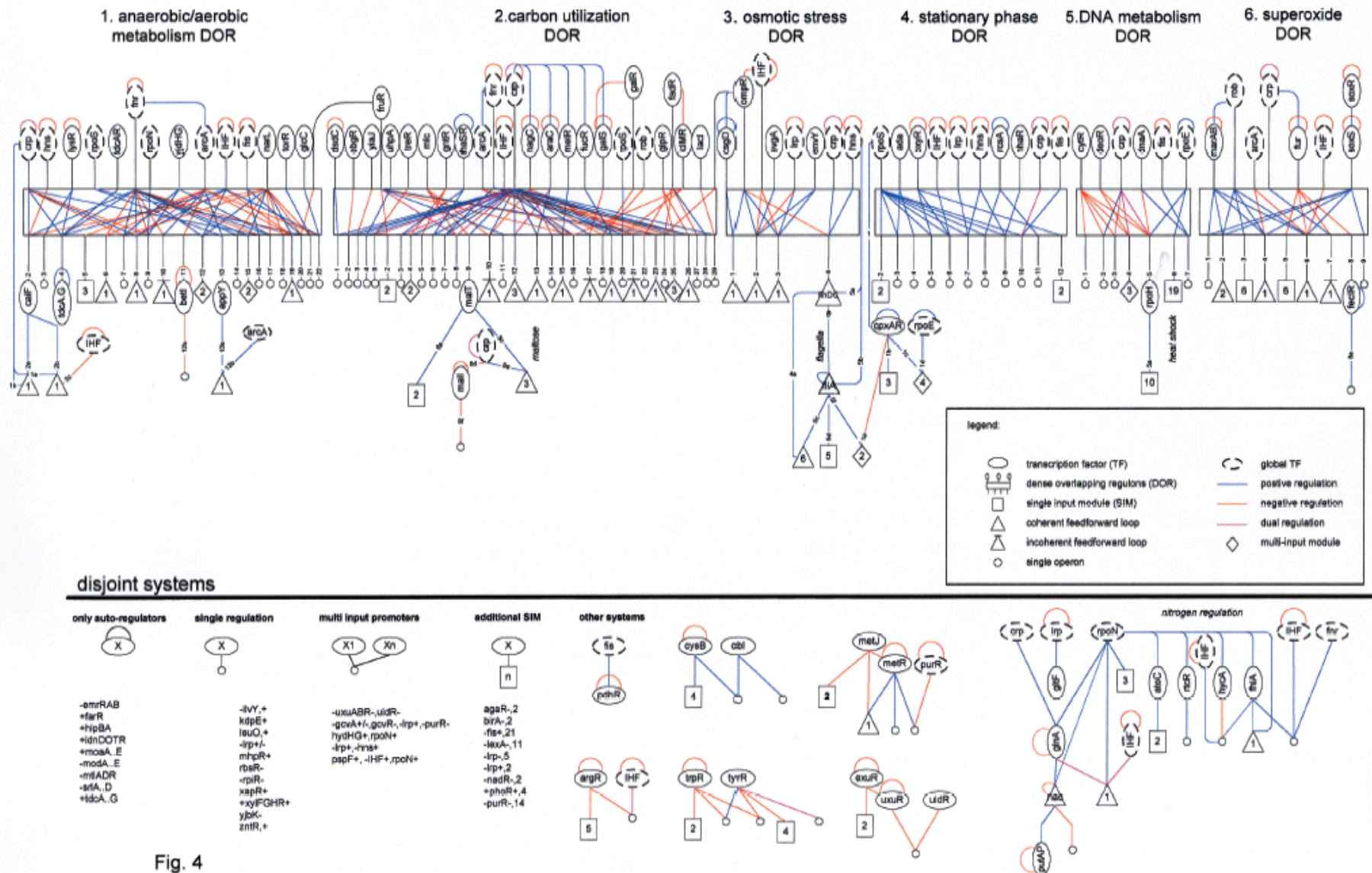
Shai S. Shen-Orr<sup>1</sup>, Ron Milo<sup>2</sup>, Shmoolik Mangan<sup>1</sup> & Uri Alon<sup>1,2</sup>

Fig. 4

# Network motifs in the transcriptional regulation network of *Escherichia coli*

Shai S. Shen-Orr<sup>1</sup>, Ron Milo<sup>2</sup>, Shmoolik Mangan<sup>1</sup> & Uri Alon<sup>1,2</sup>

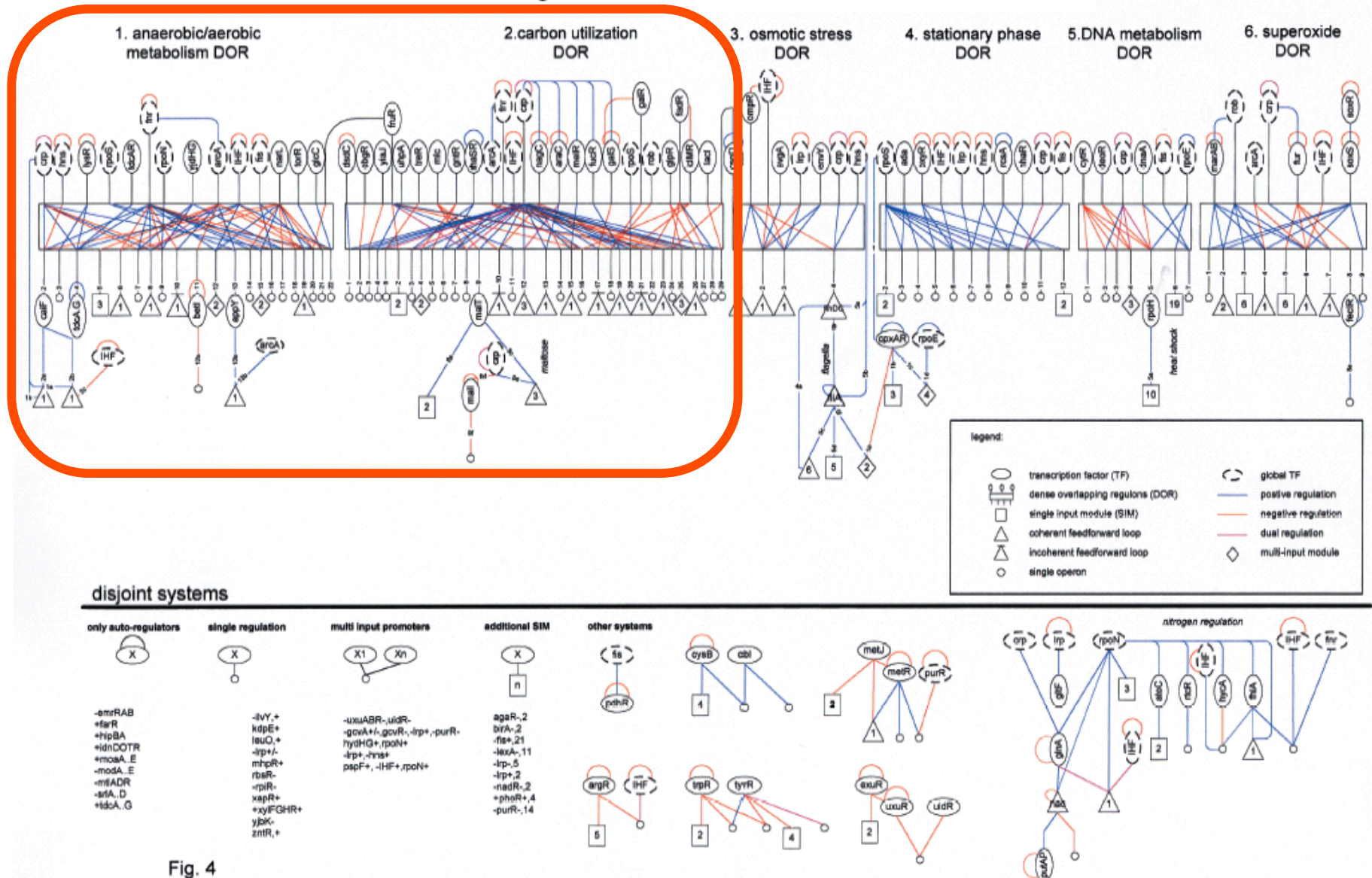
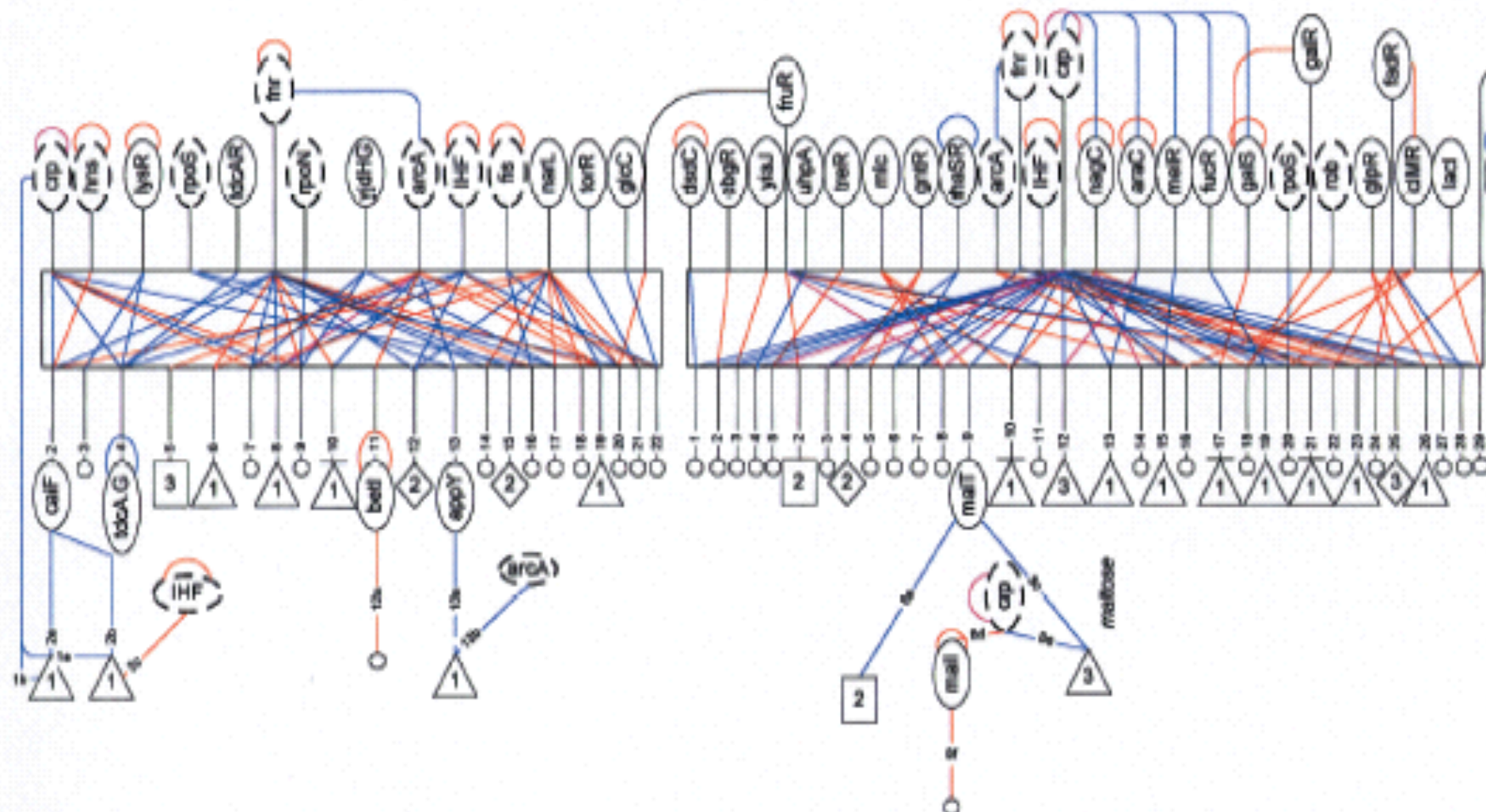


Fig. 4



# 1. anaerobic/aerobic metabolism DOR

# 2. carbon utilization DOR



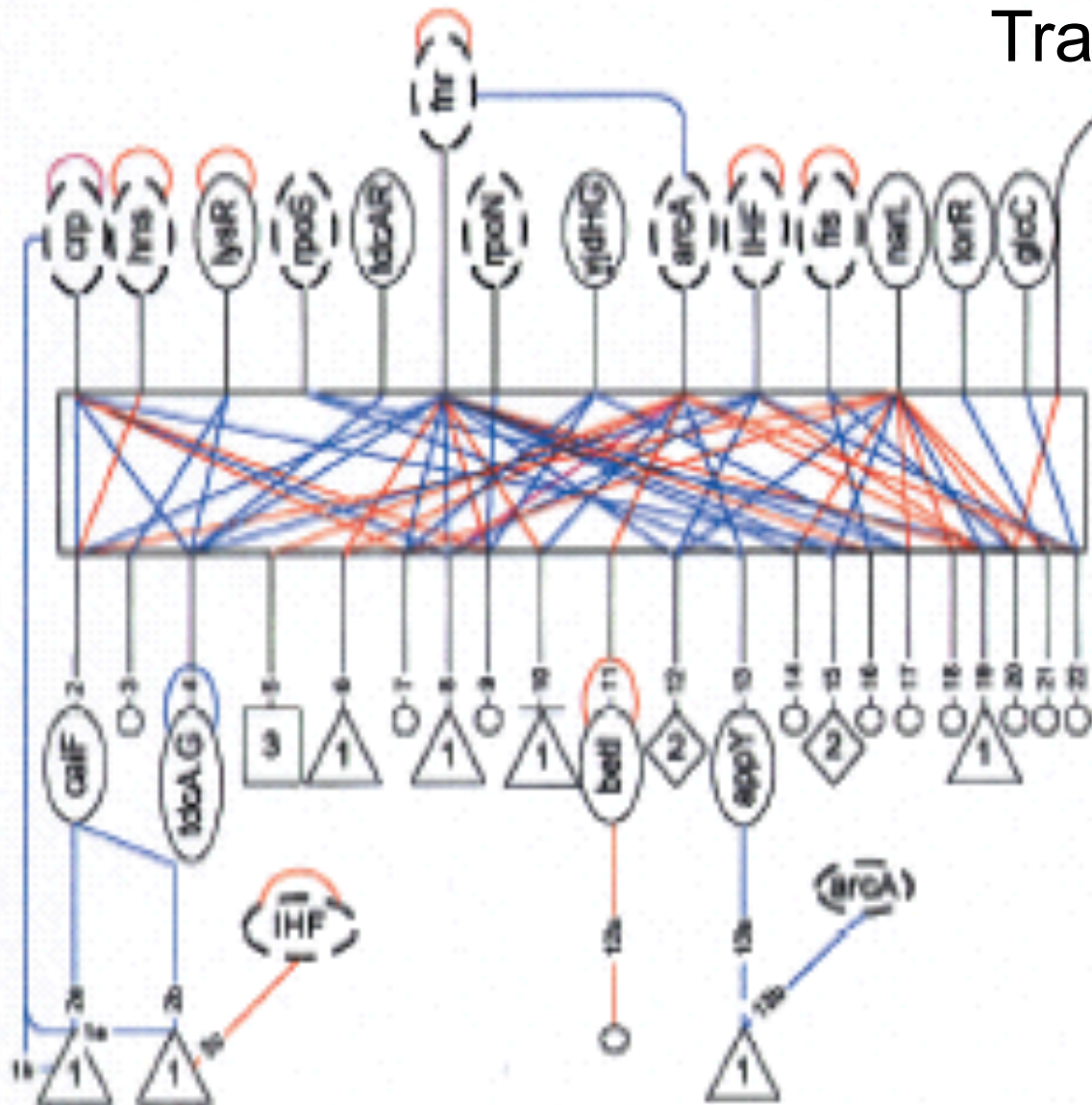
## 1. anaerobic/aerobic metabolism DOR

### Transcription factors

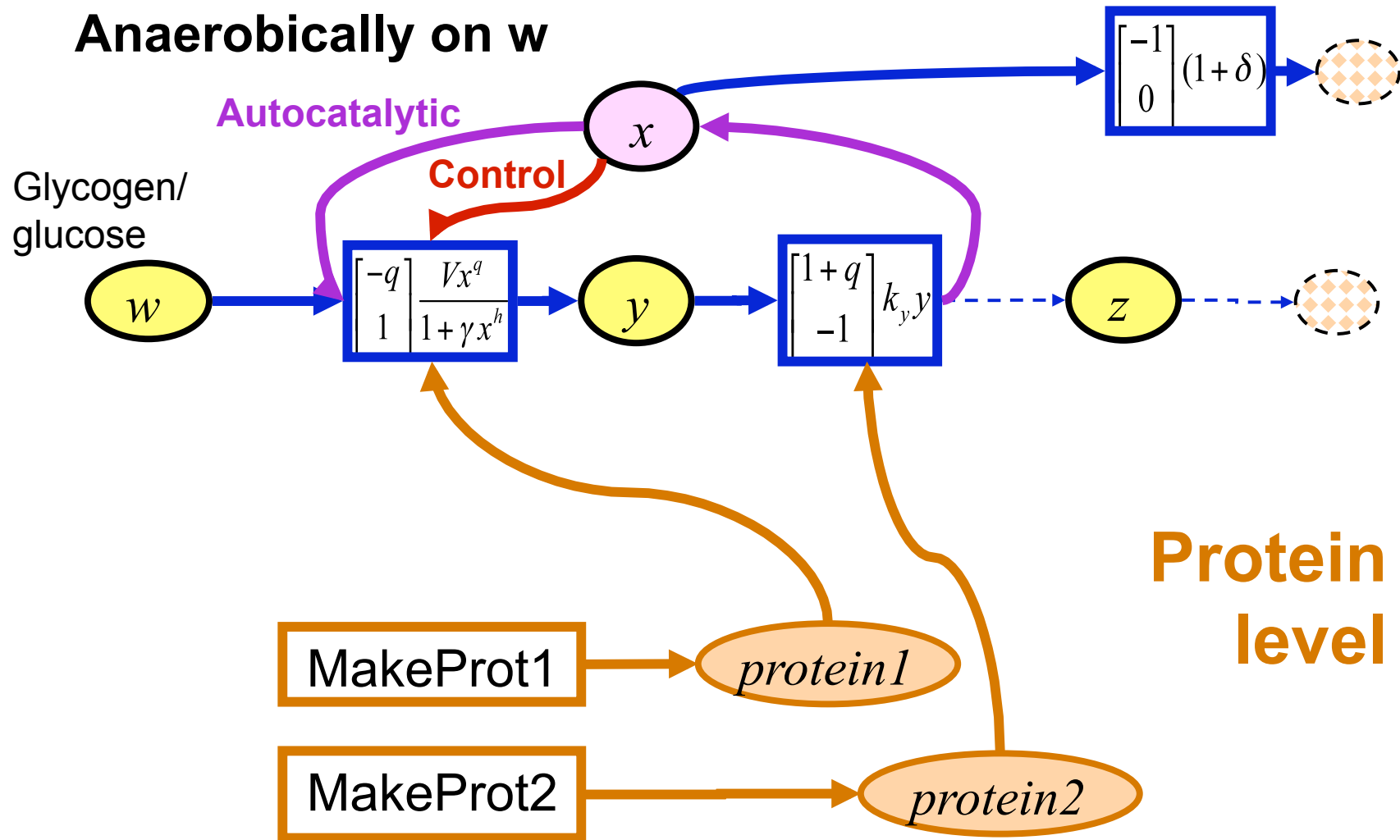
Special purpose proteins that control gene expression

### Operons

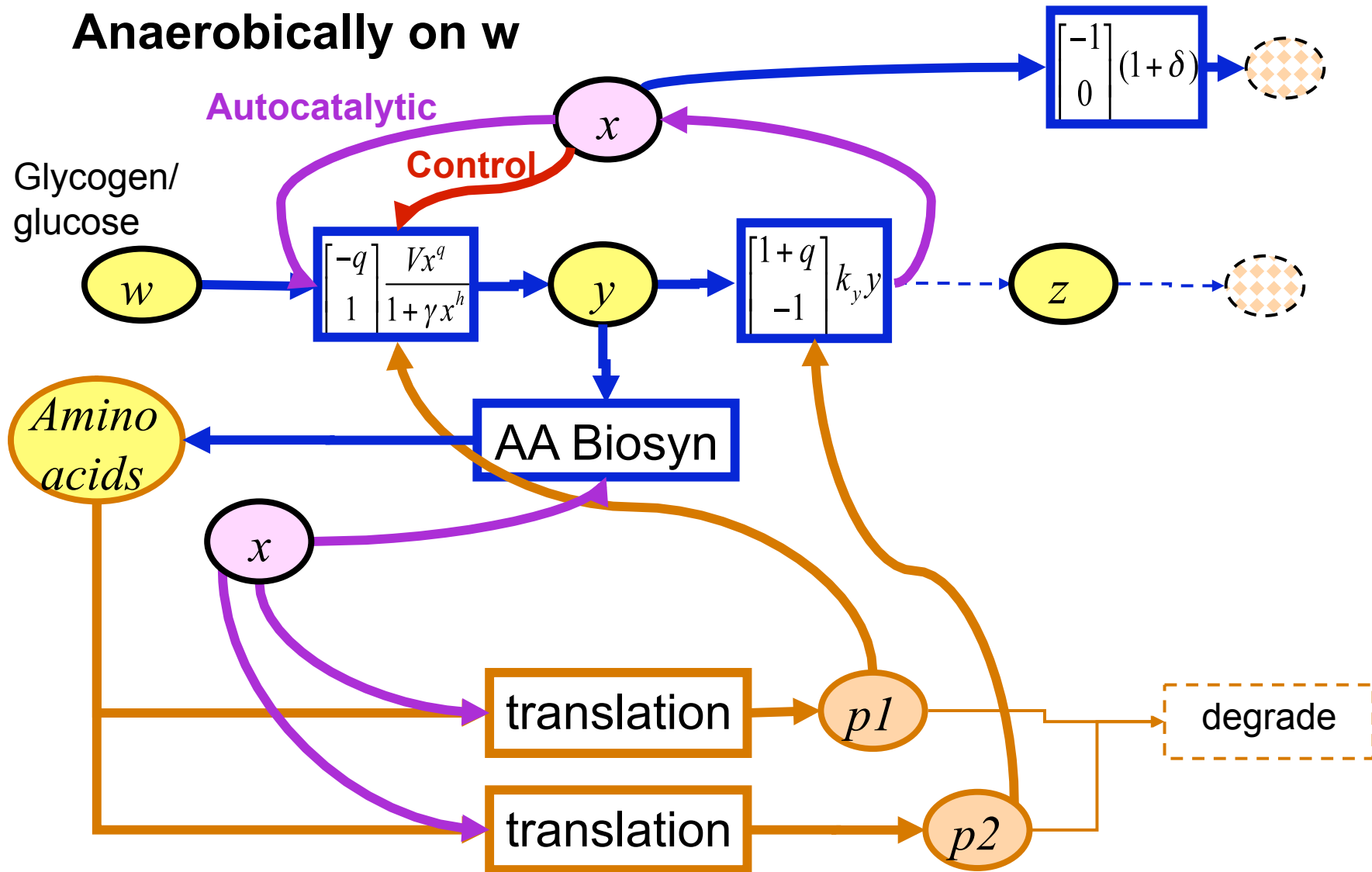
Small groups of co-regulated genes



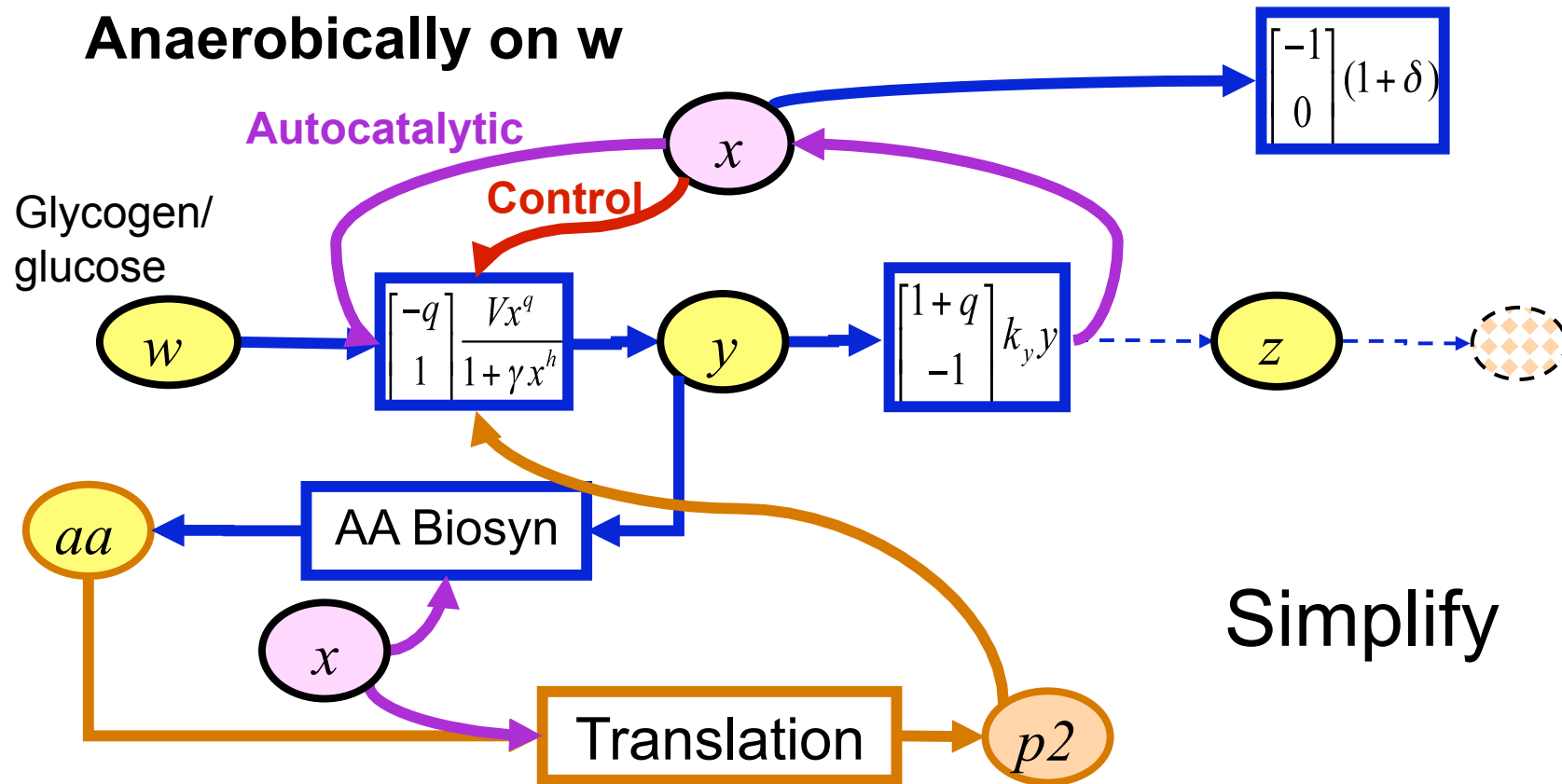
Anaerobically on w



# Anaerobically on w



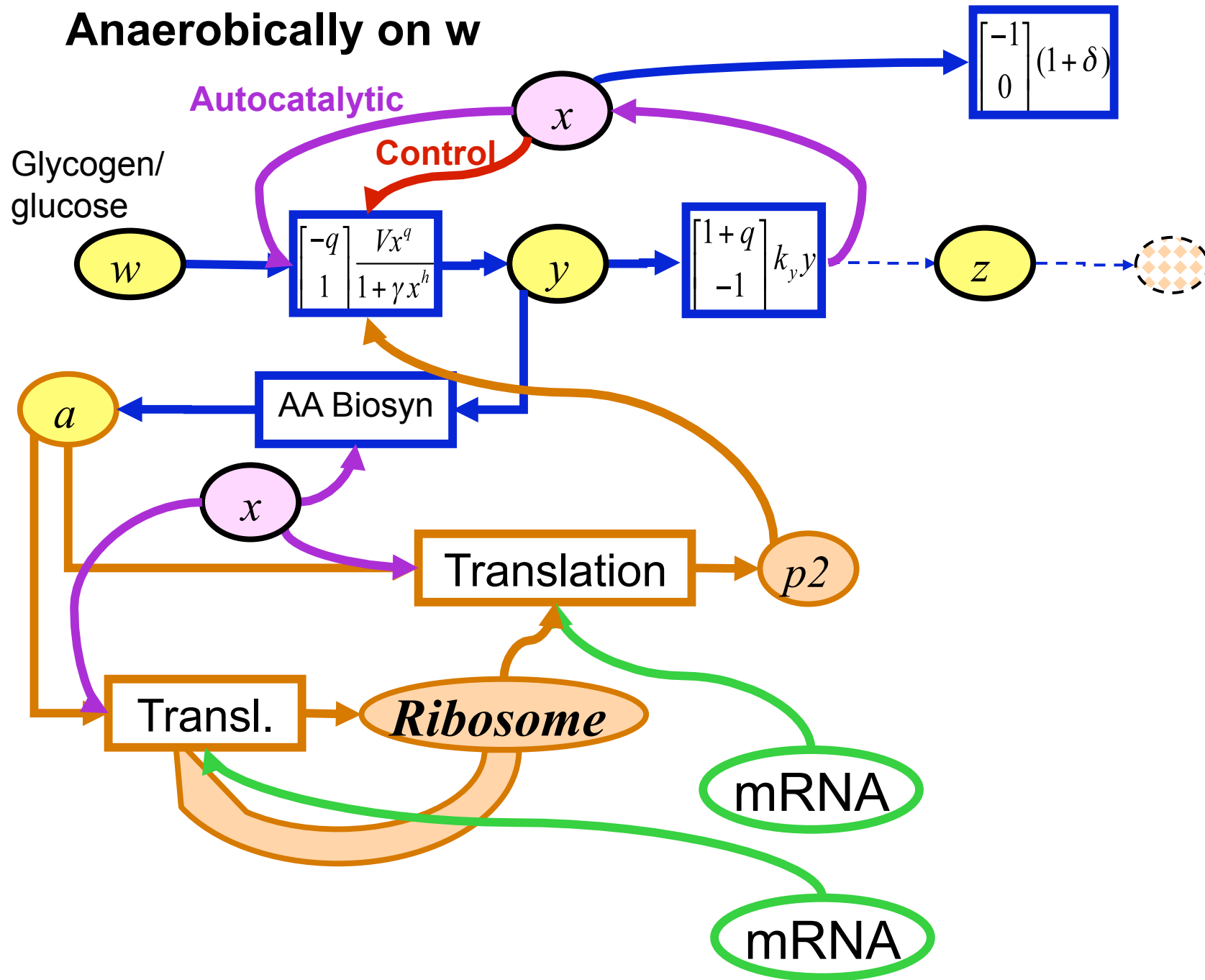
# Anaerobically on w



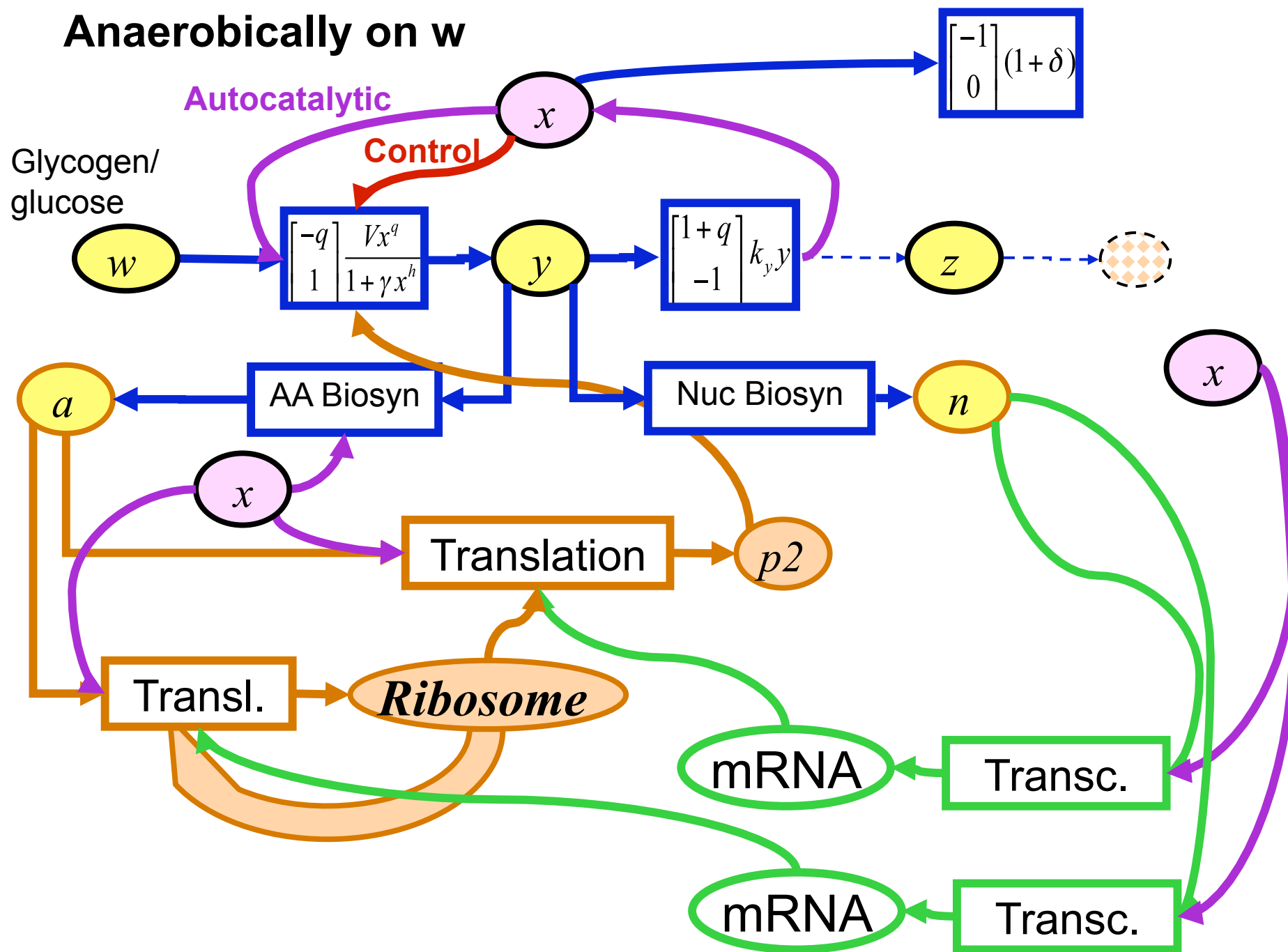
Simplify

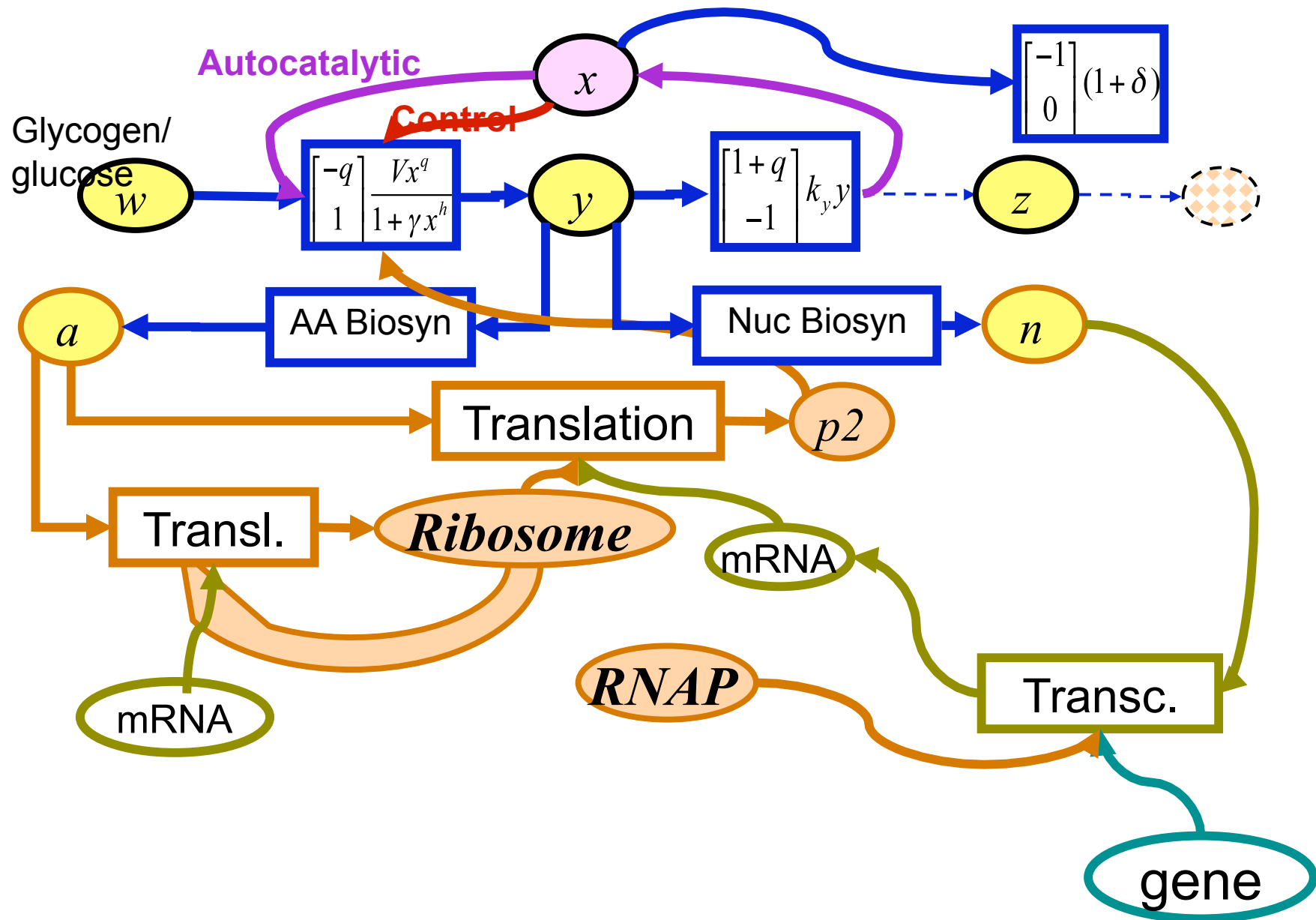


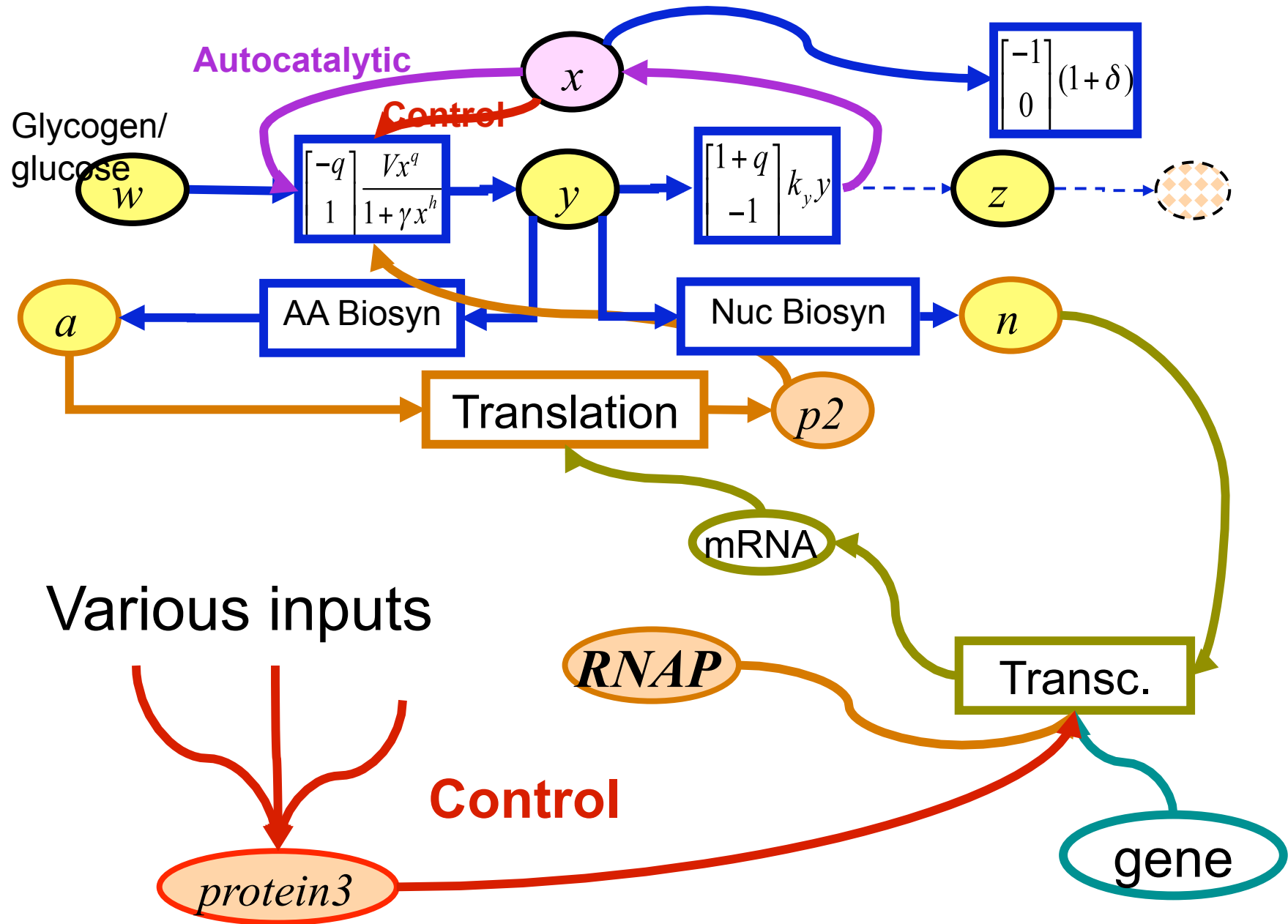
# Anaerobically on w



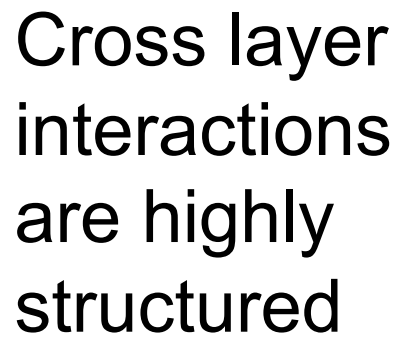
# Anaerobically on w

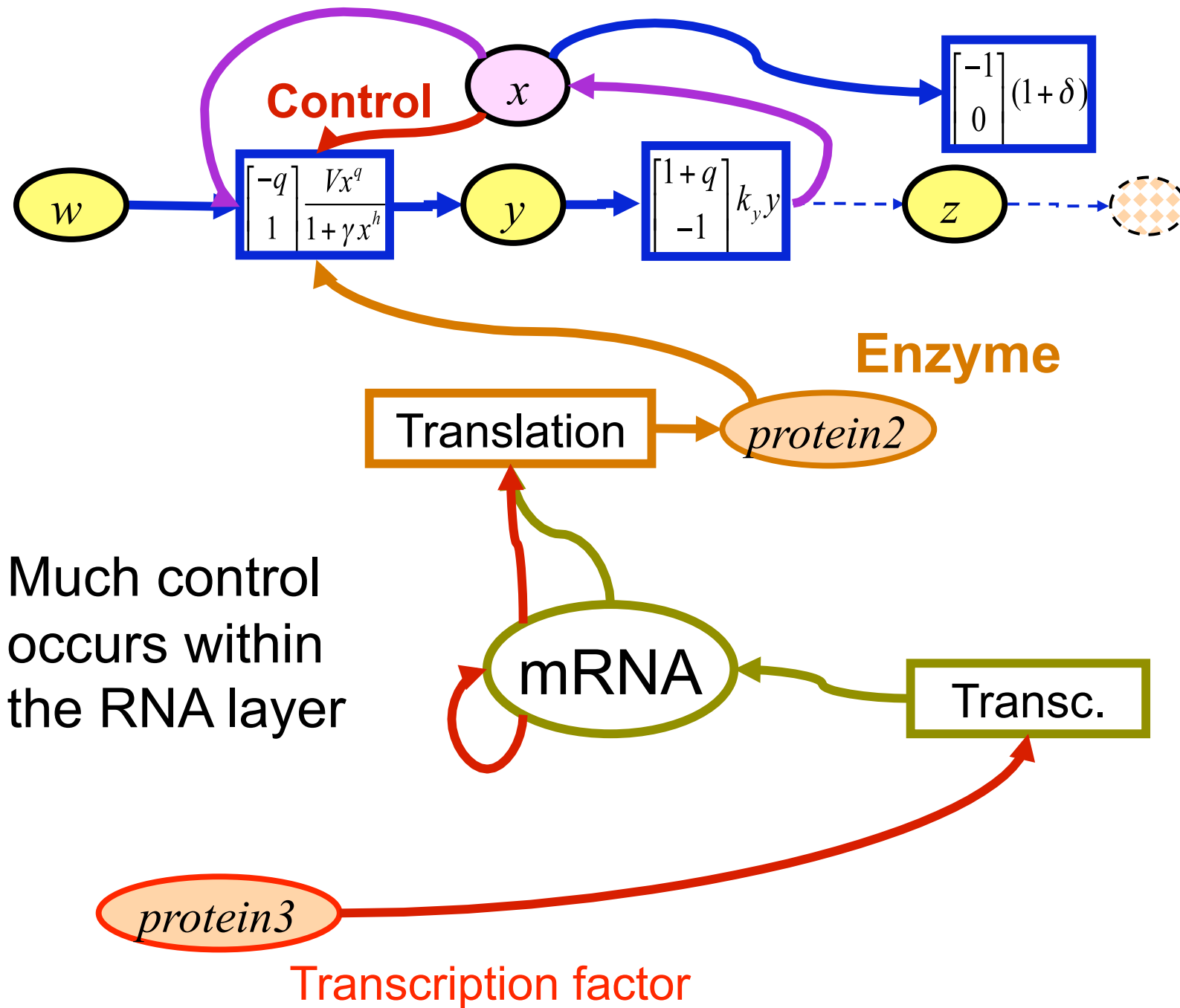


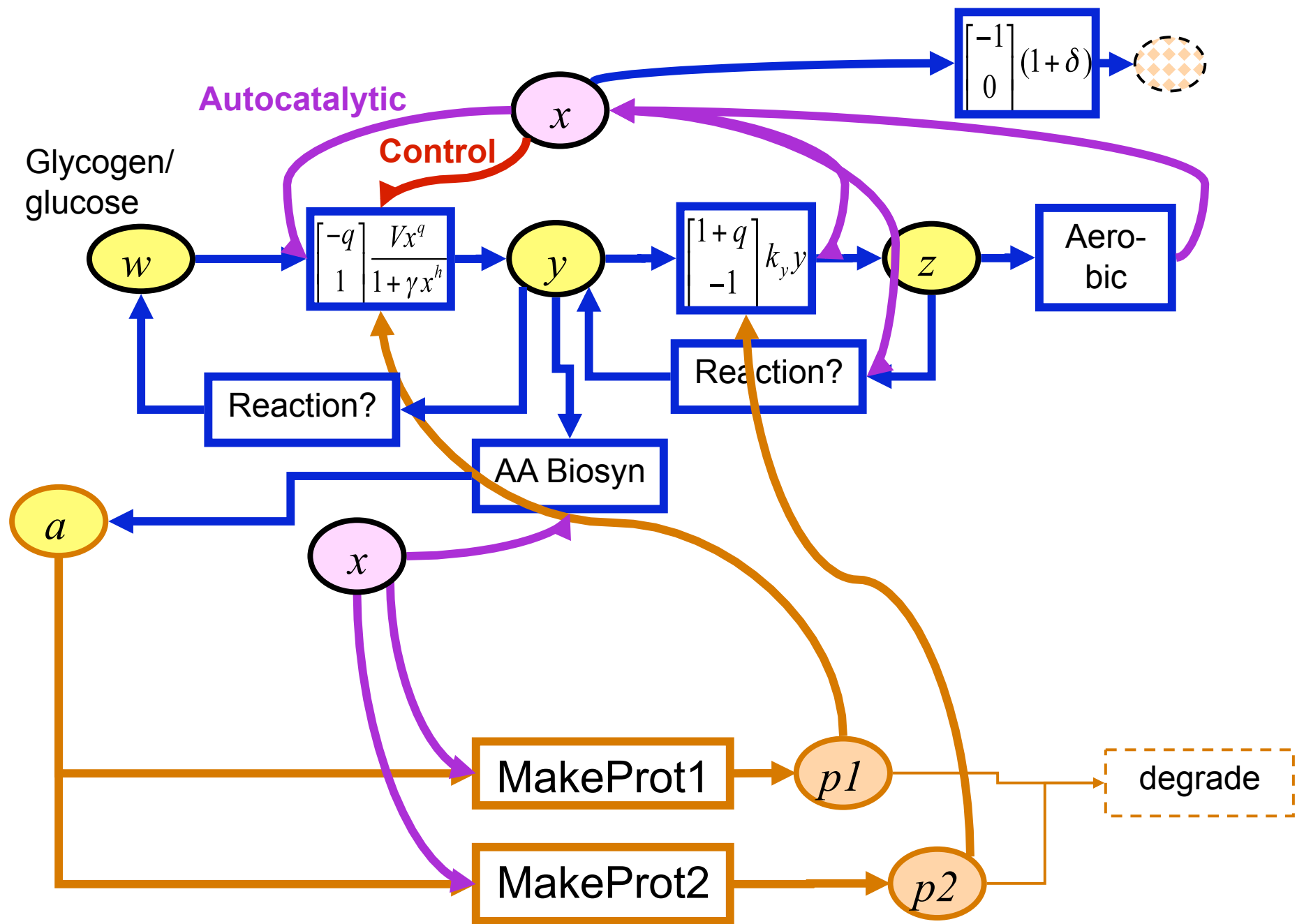




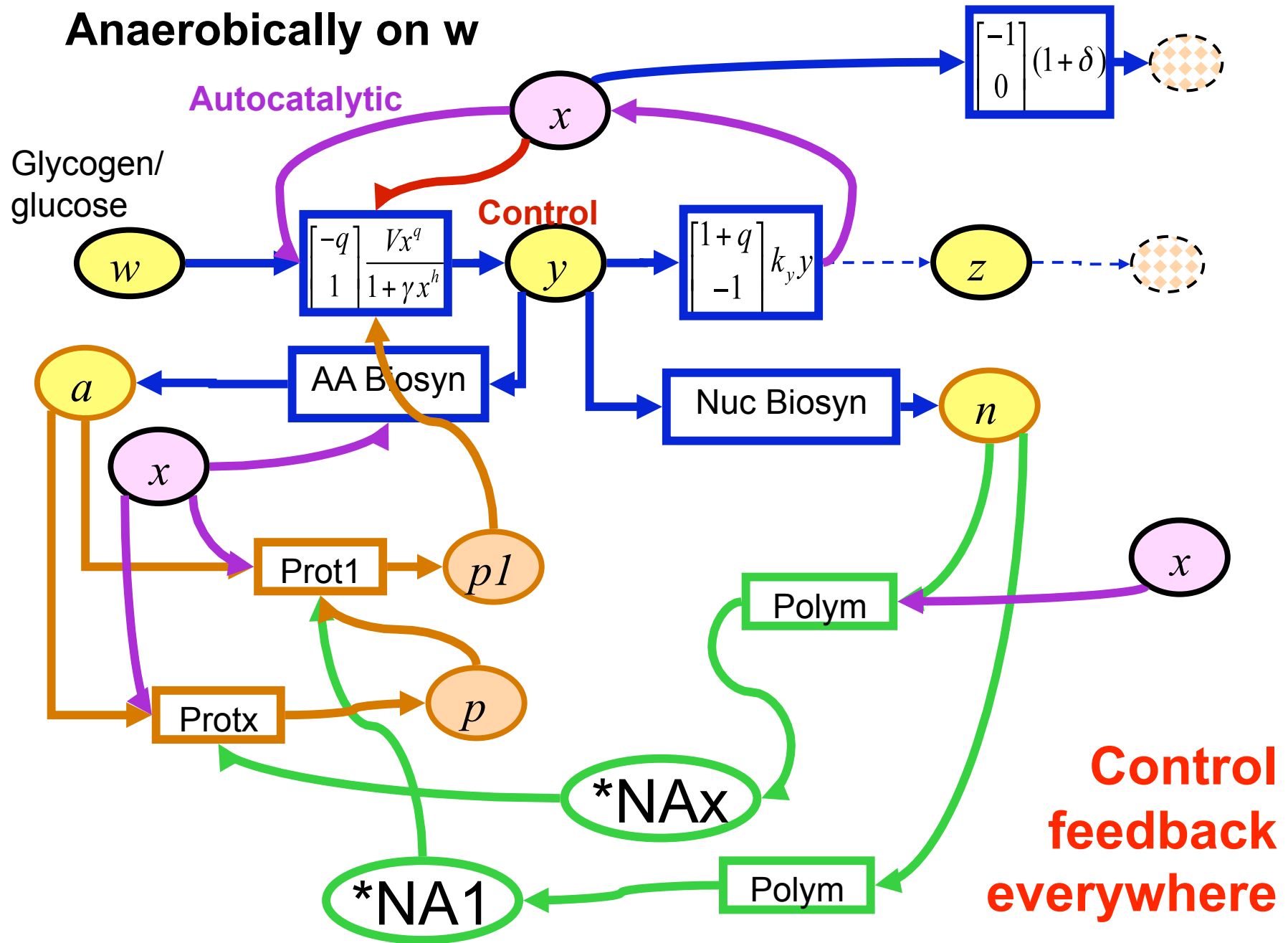
**Transcription factor**



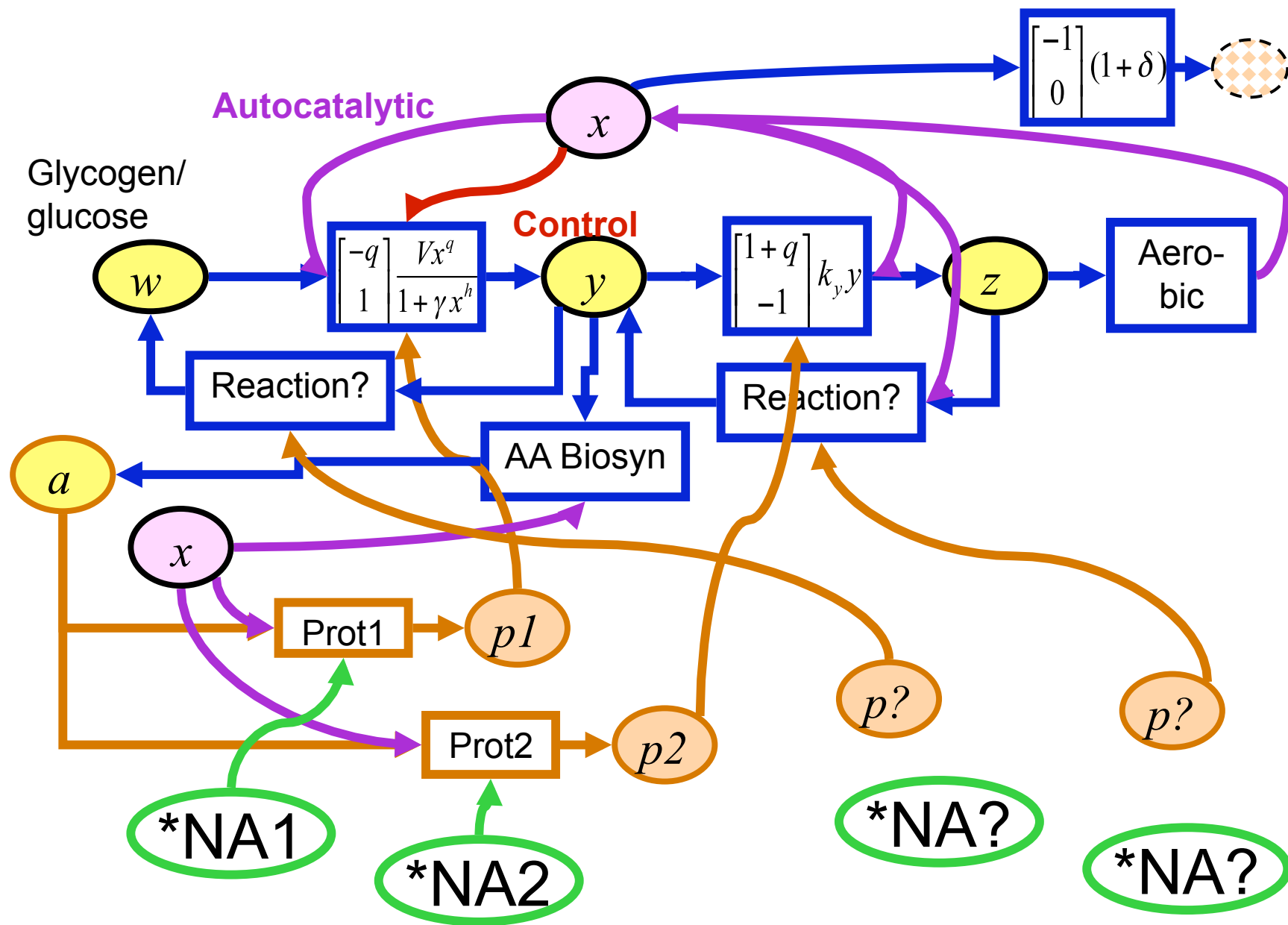


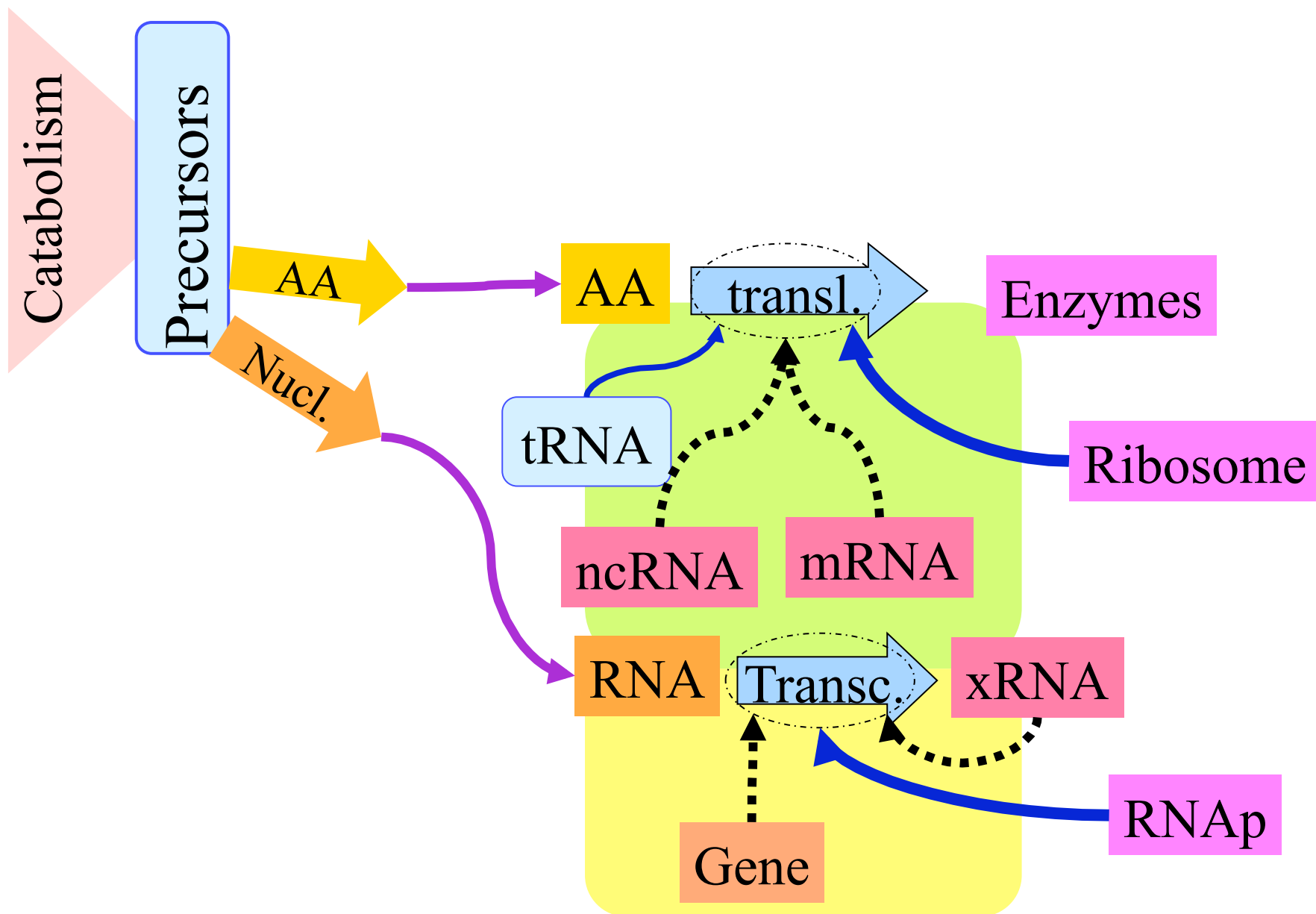


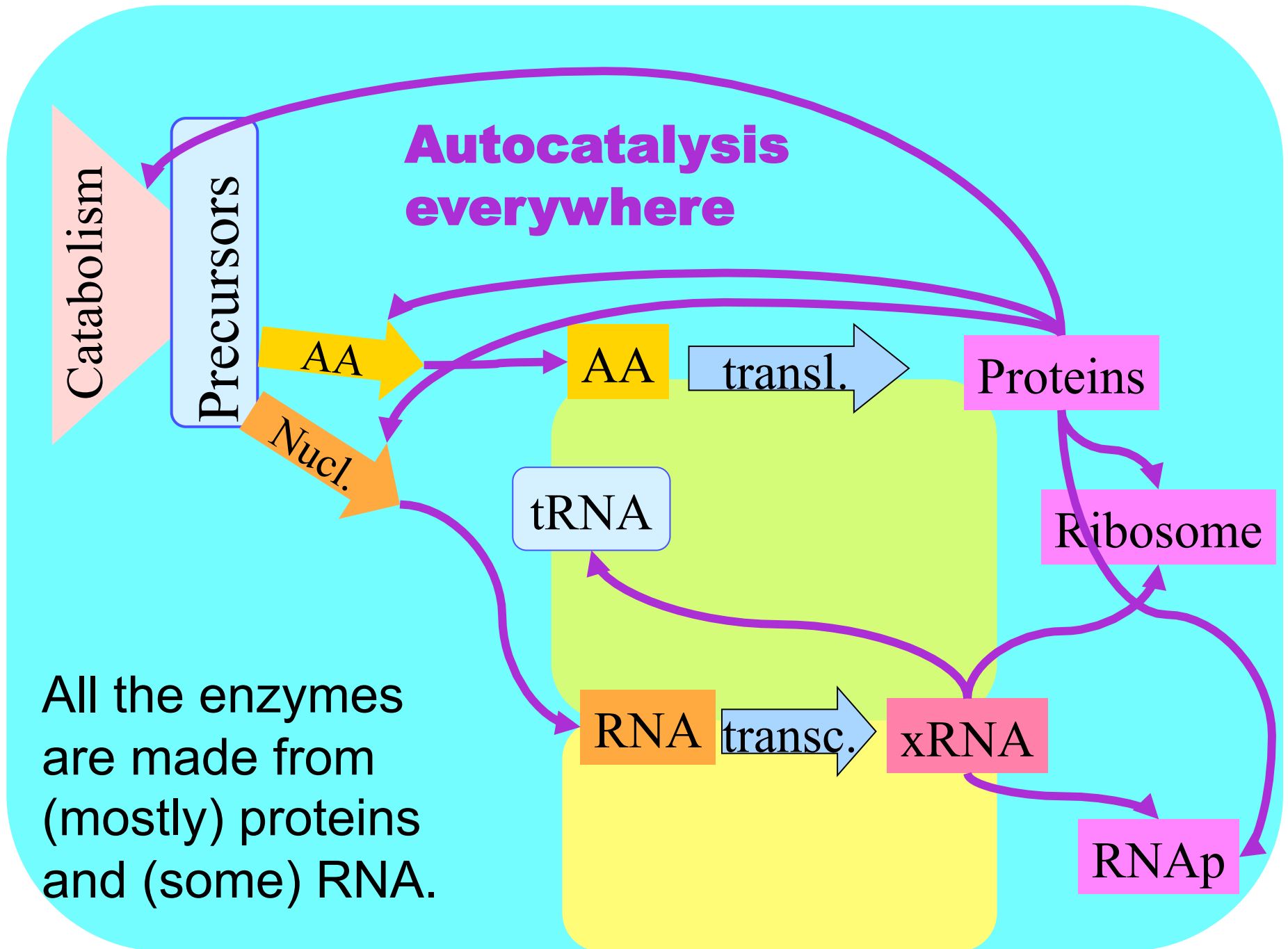
# Anaerobically on w





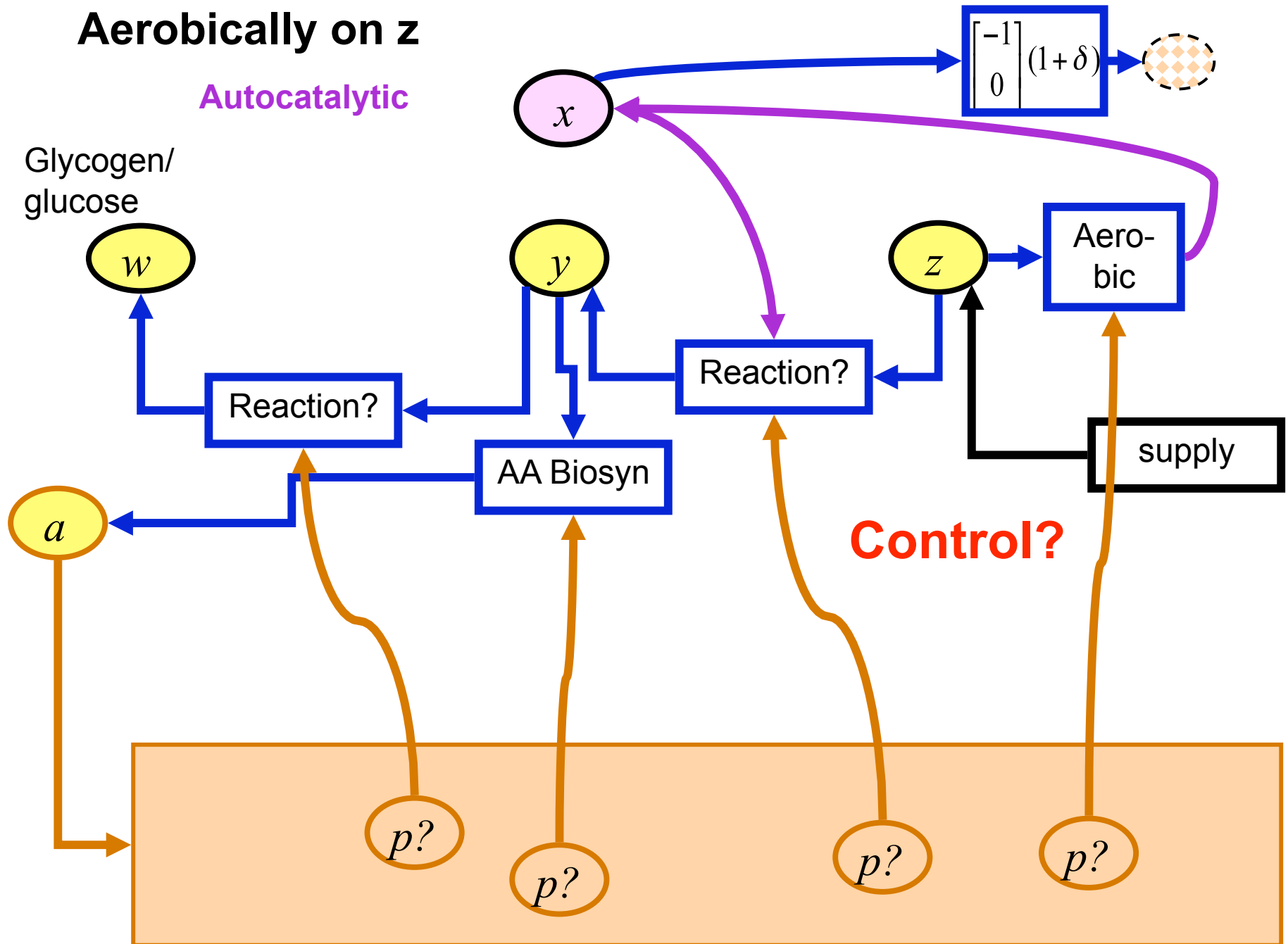


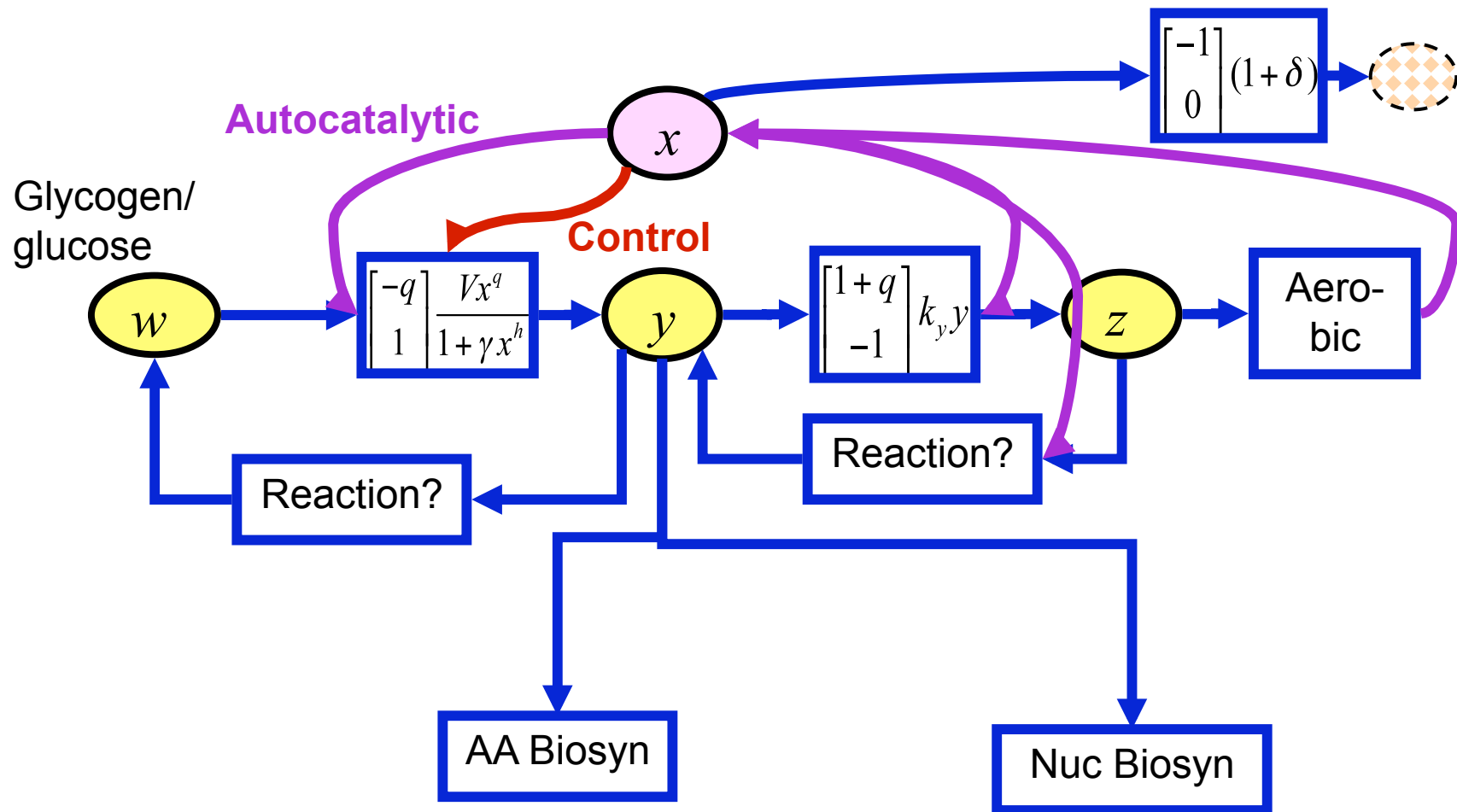




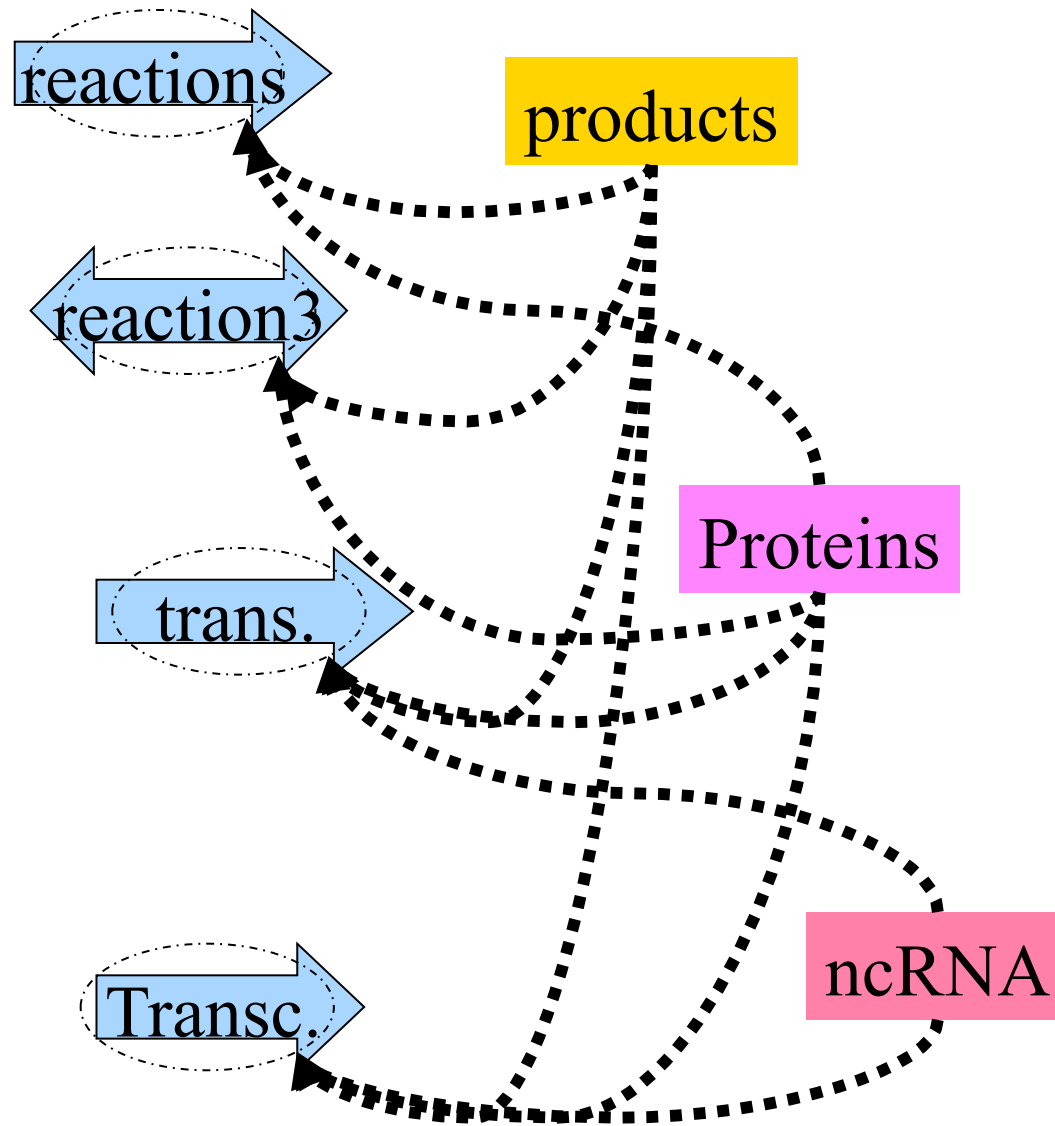
# Aerobically on z

Autocatalytic





**Control?**



All products feedback  
everywhere

# Network motifs in the transcriptional regulation network of *Escherichia coli*

Shai S. Shen-Orr<sup>1</sup>, Ron Milo<sup>2</sup>, Shmoolik Mangan<sup>1</sup> & Uri Alon<sup>1,2</sup>

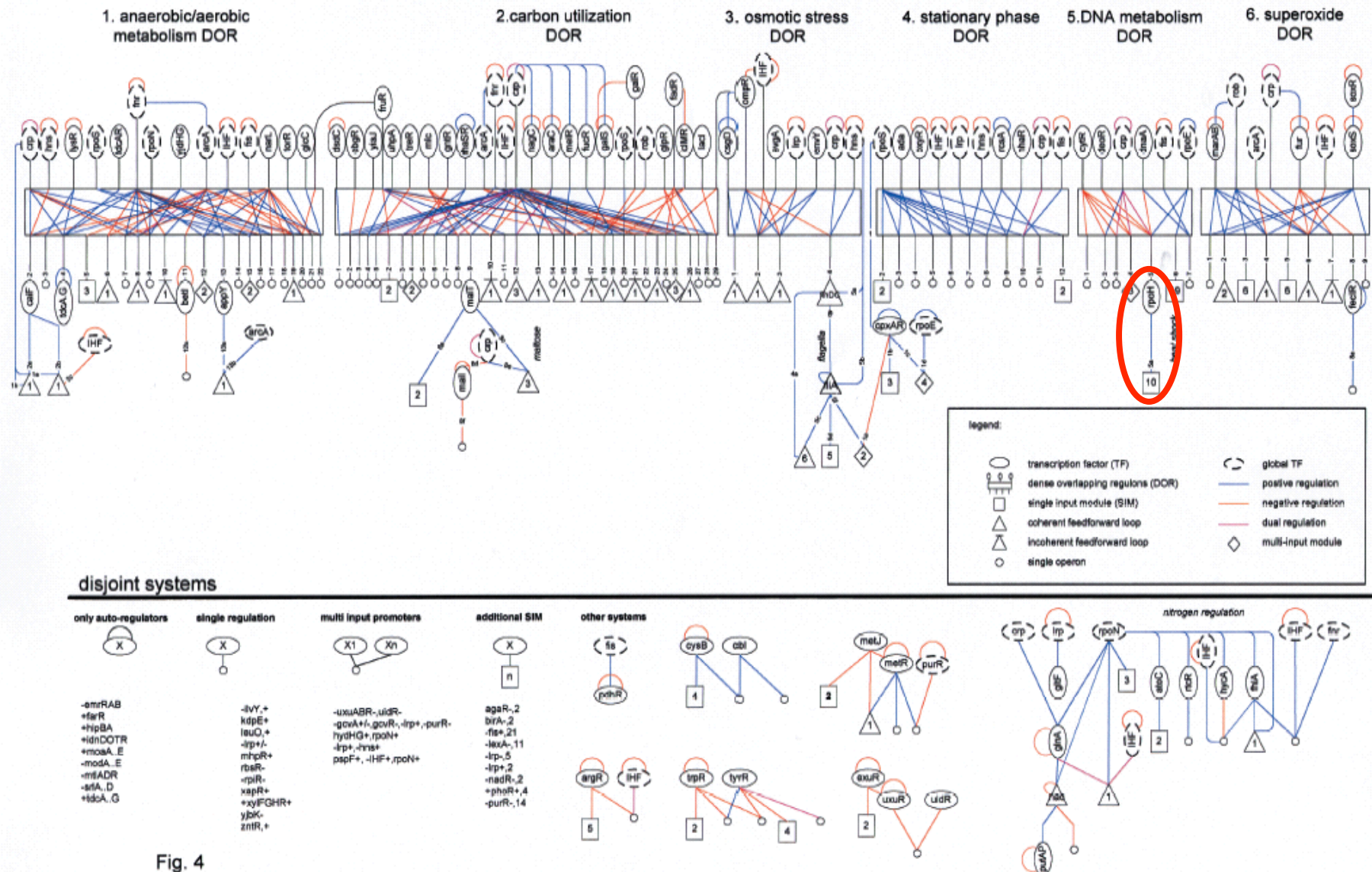
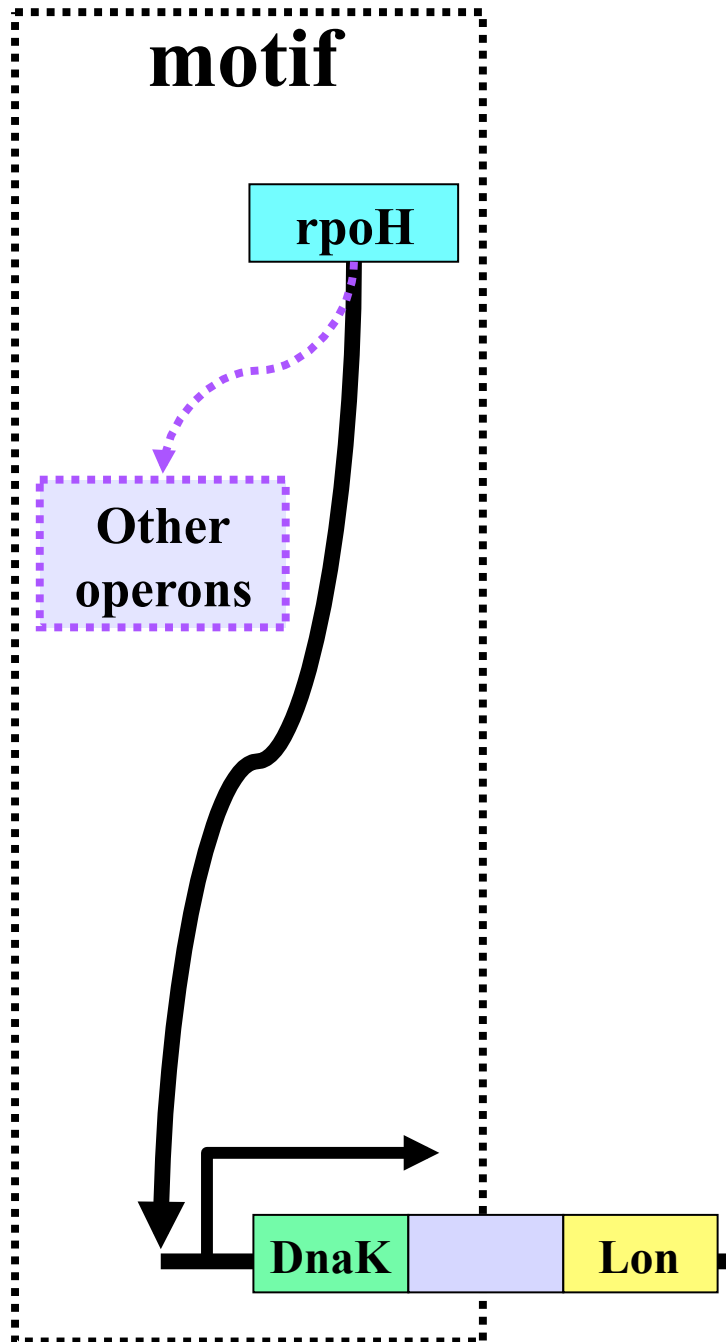
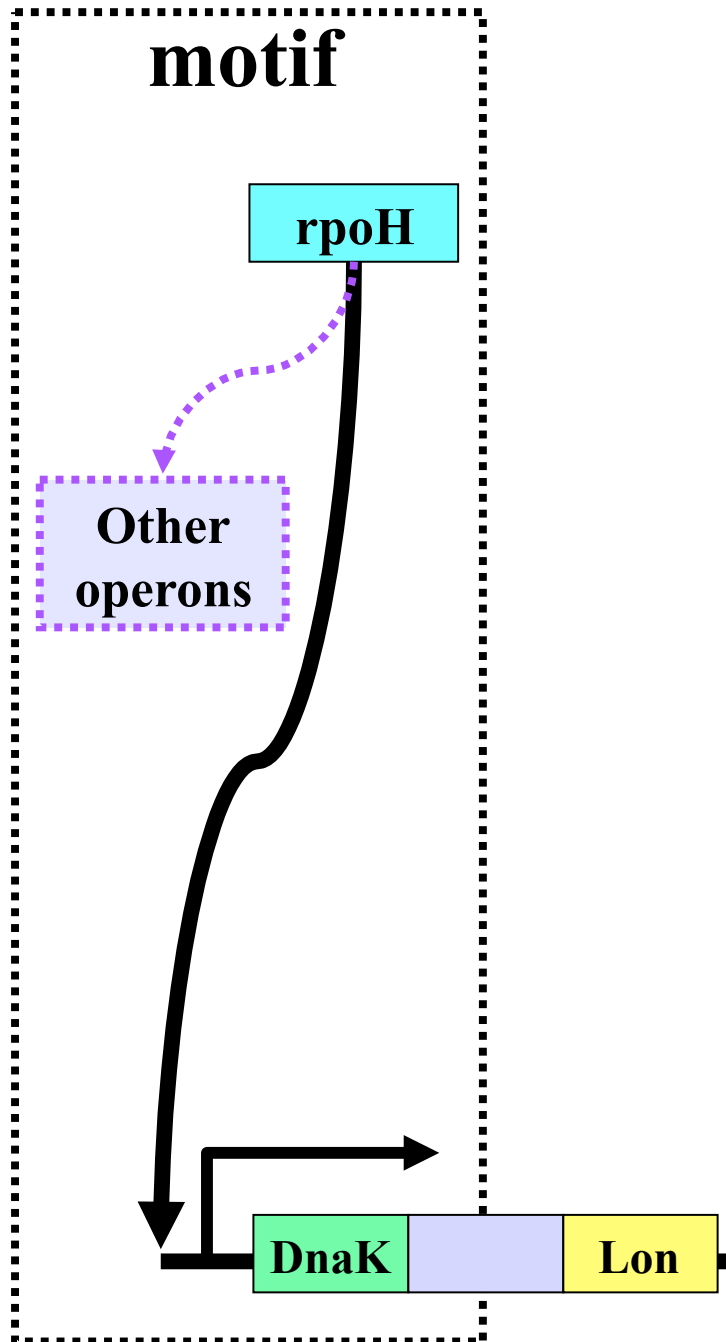


Fig. 4

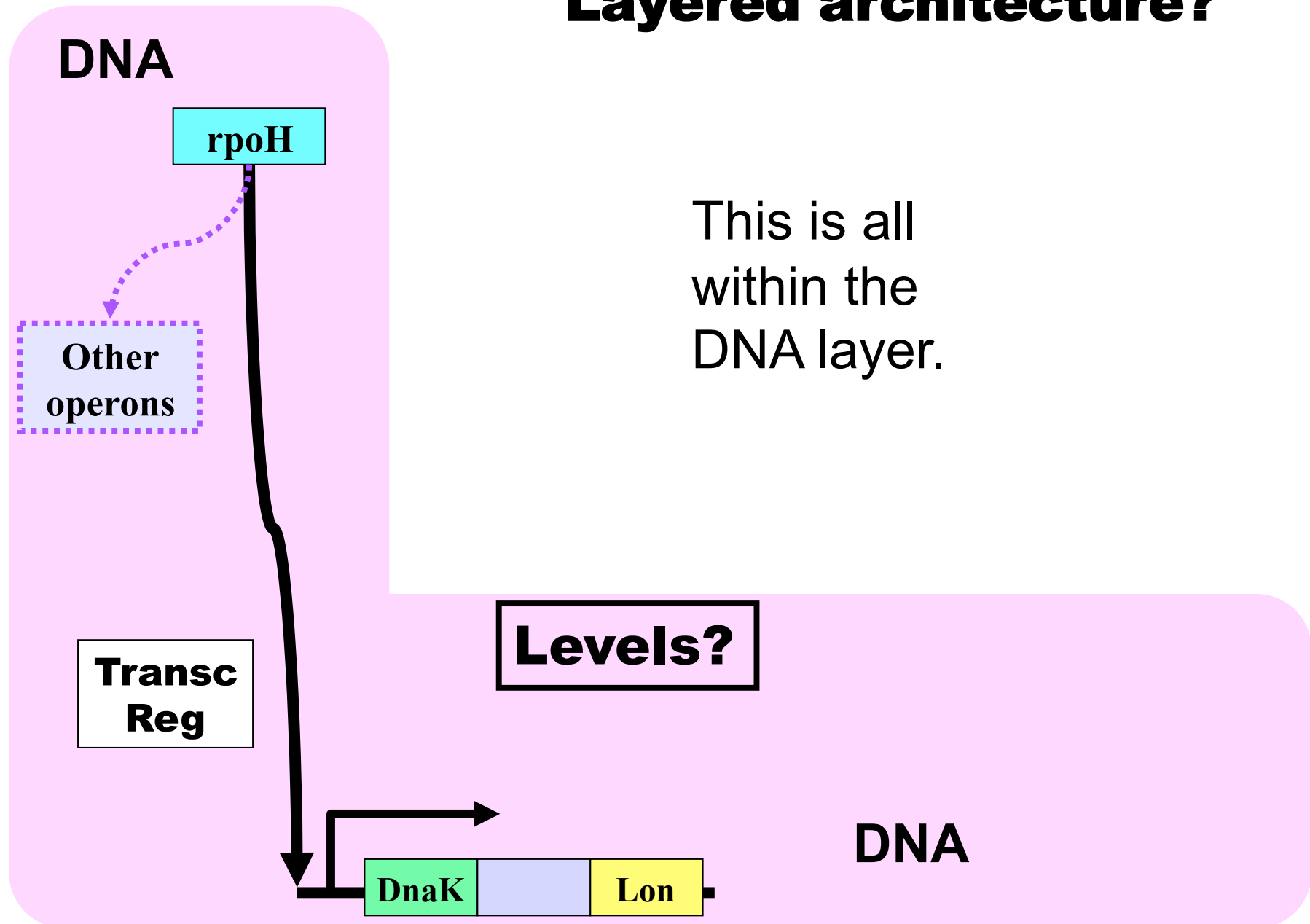


See El-Samad, Kurata, et al...  
*PNAS, PLOS CompBio*

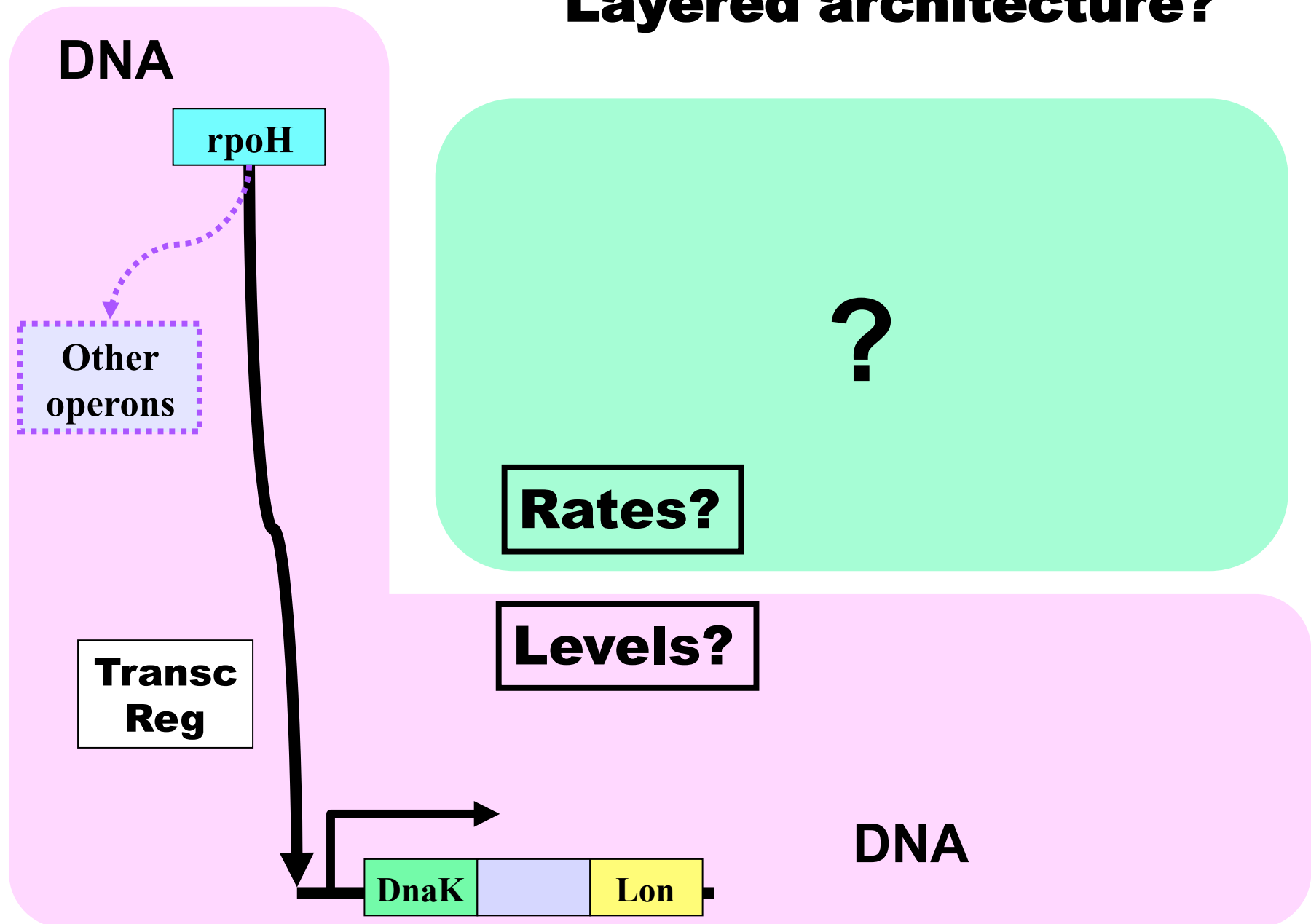


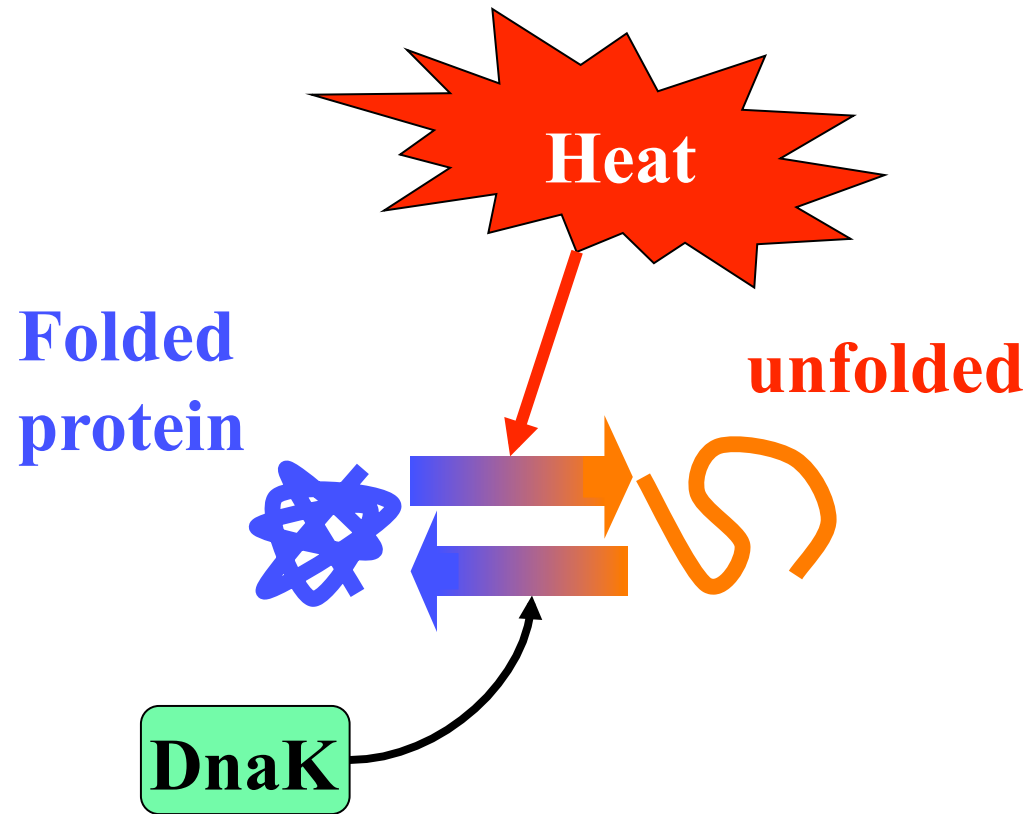


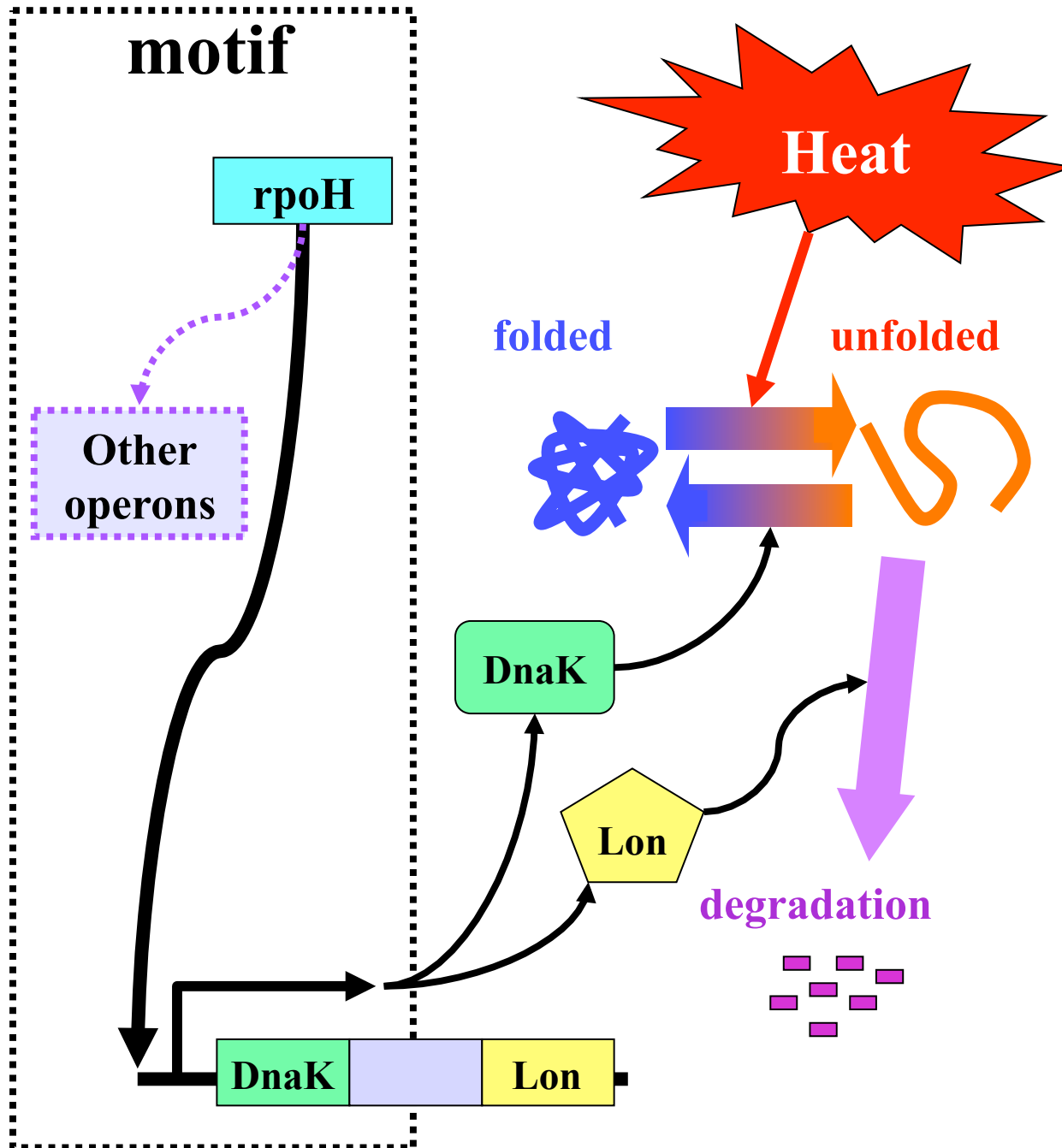
# Layered architecture?

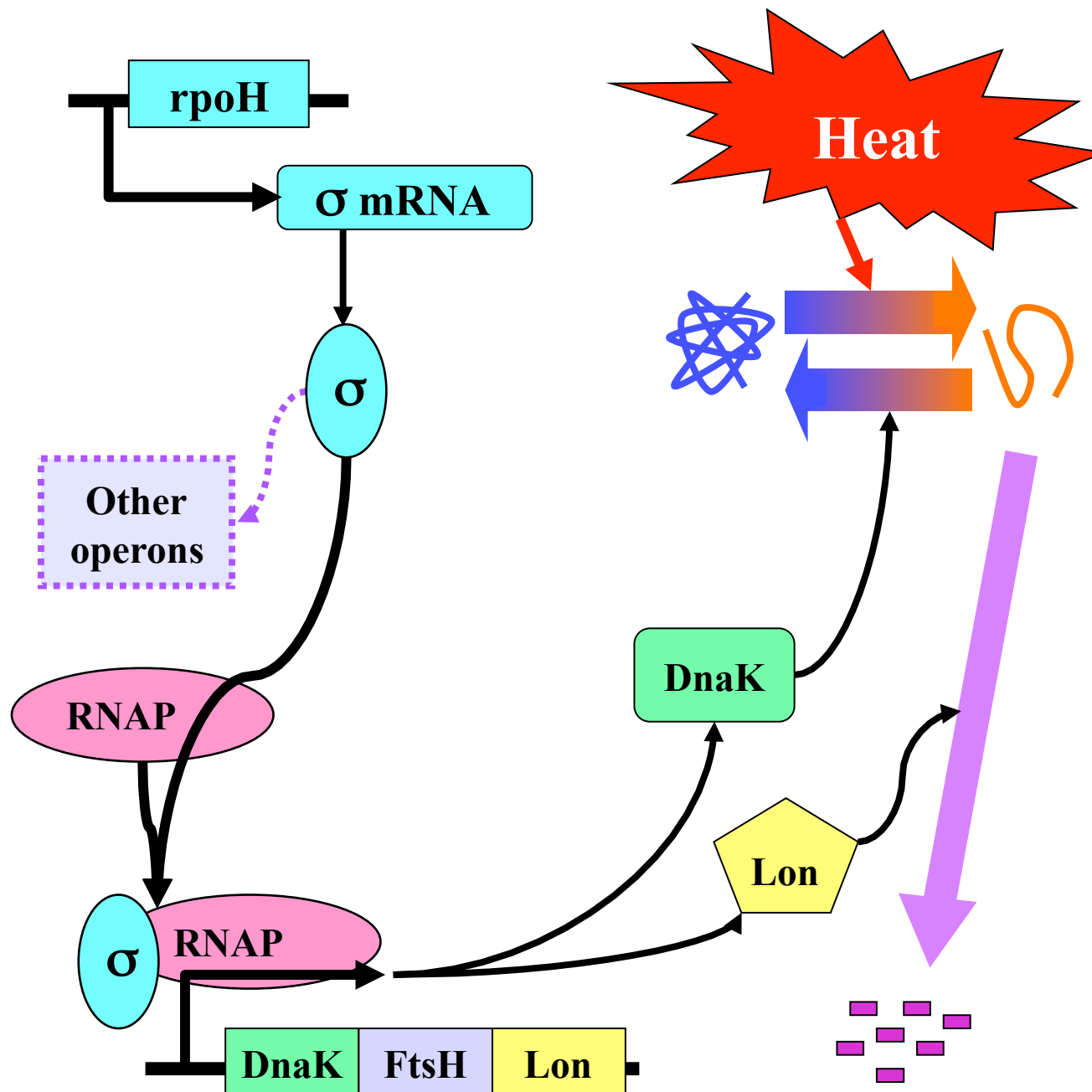


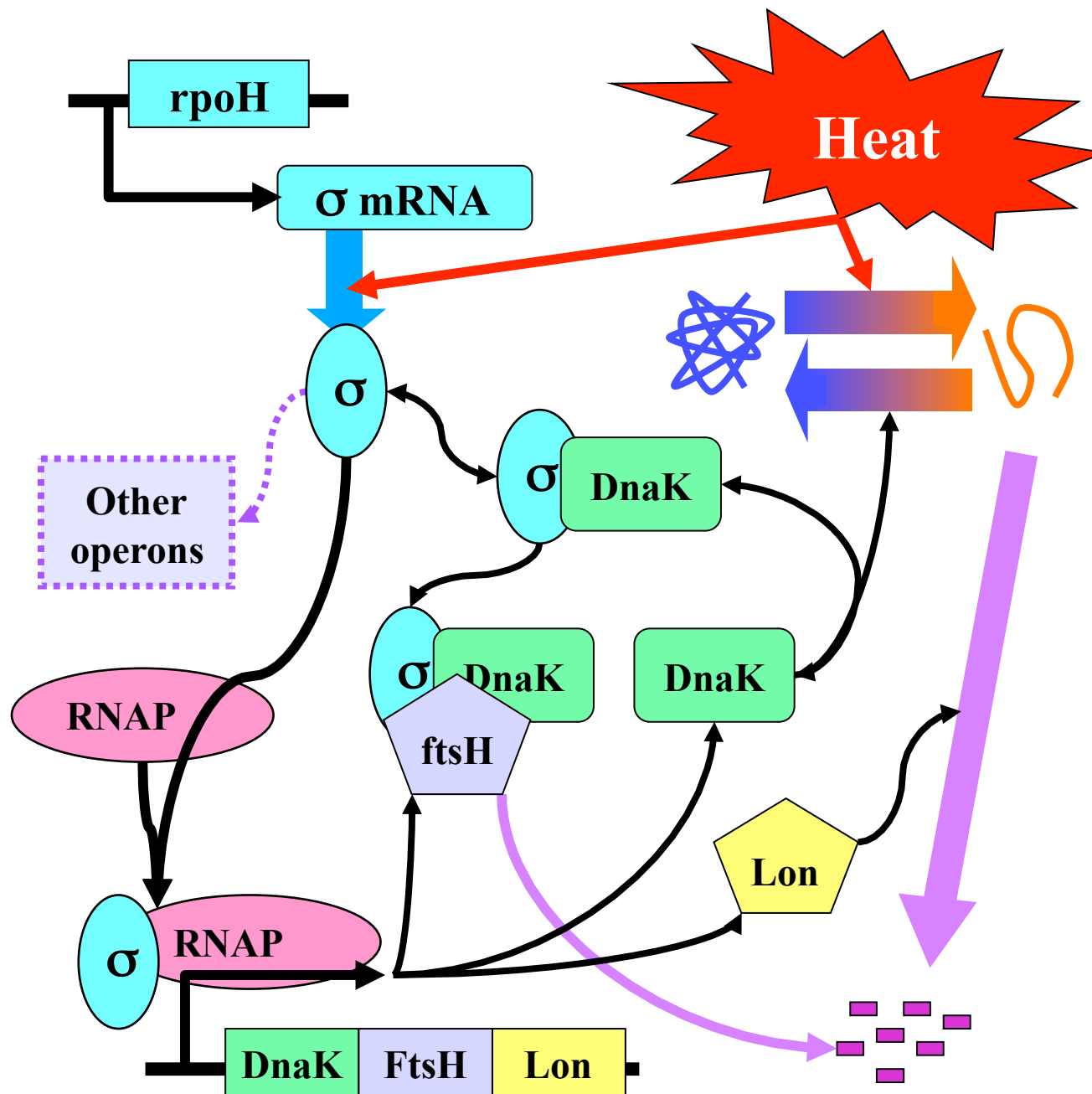
# Layered architecture?

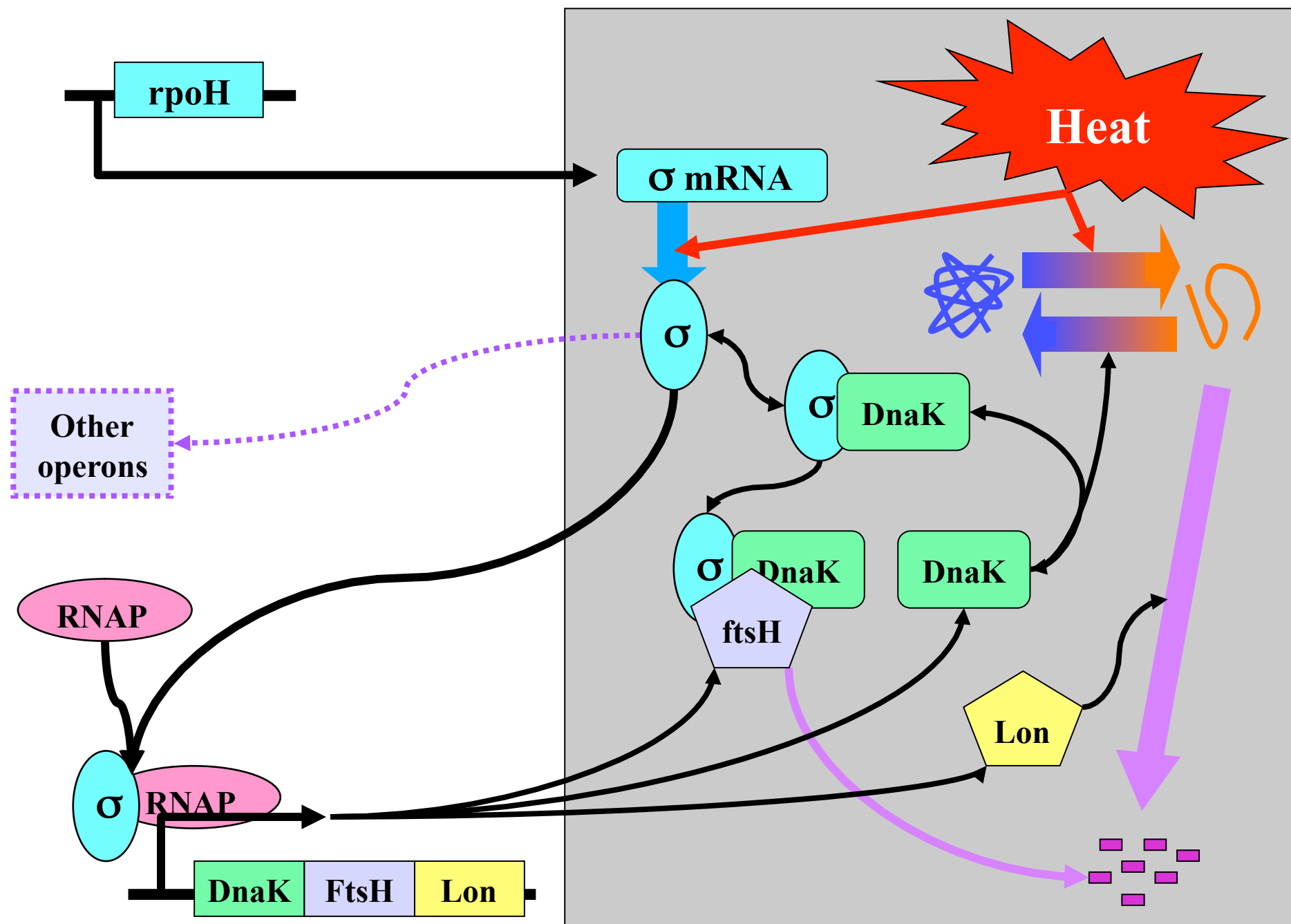




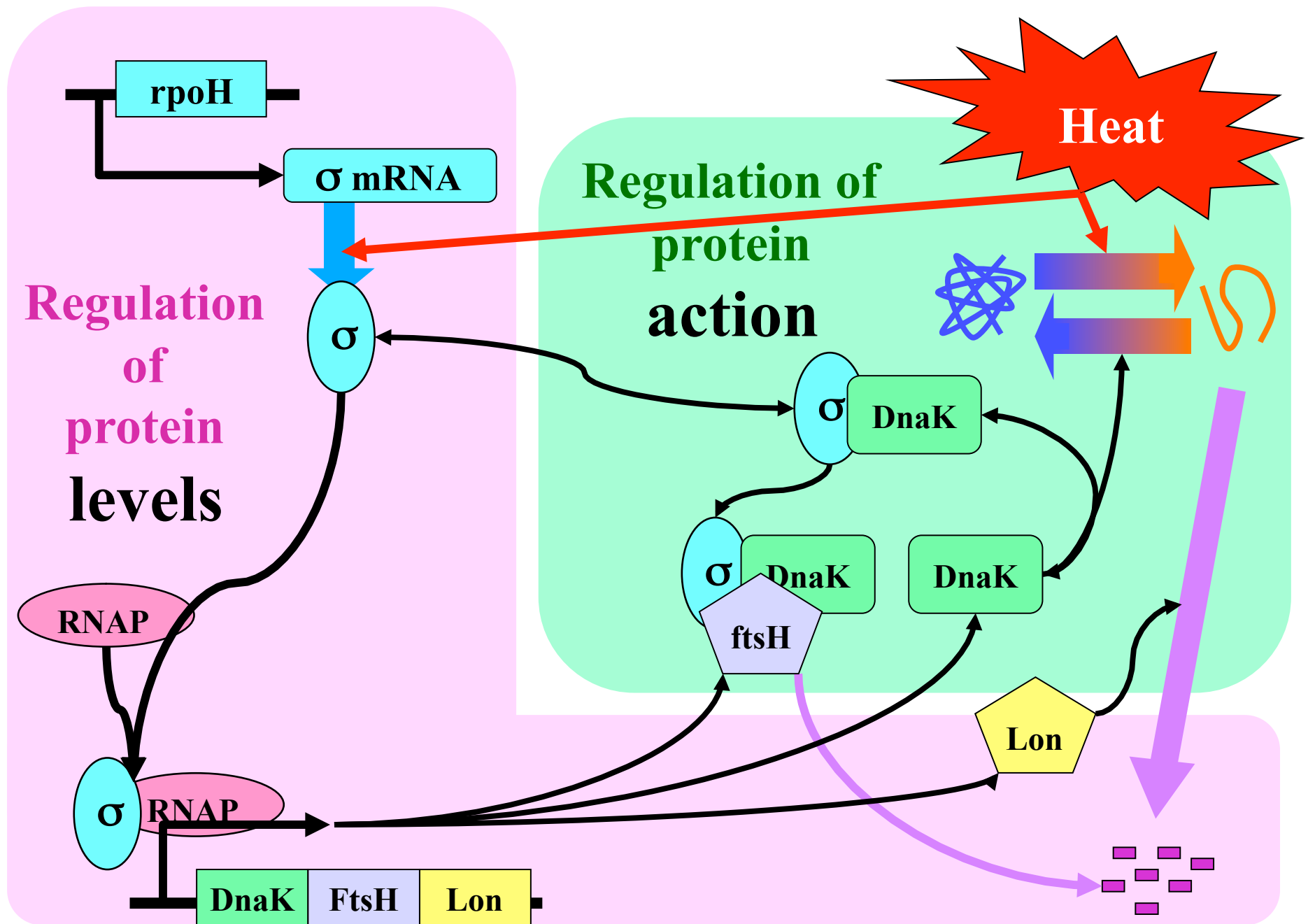






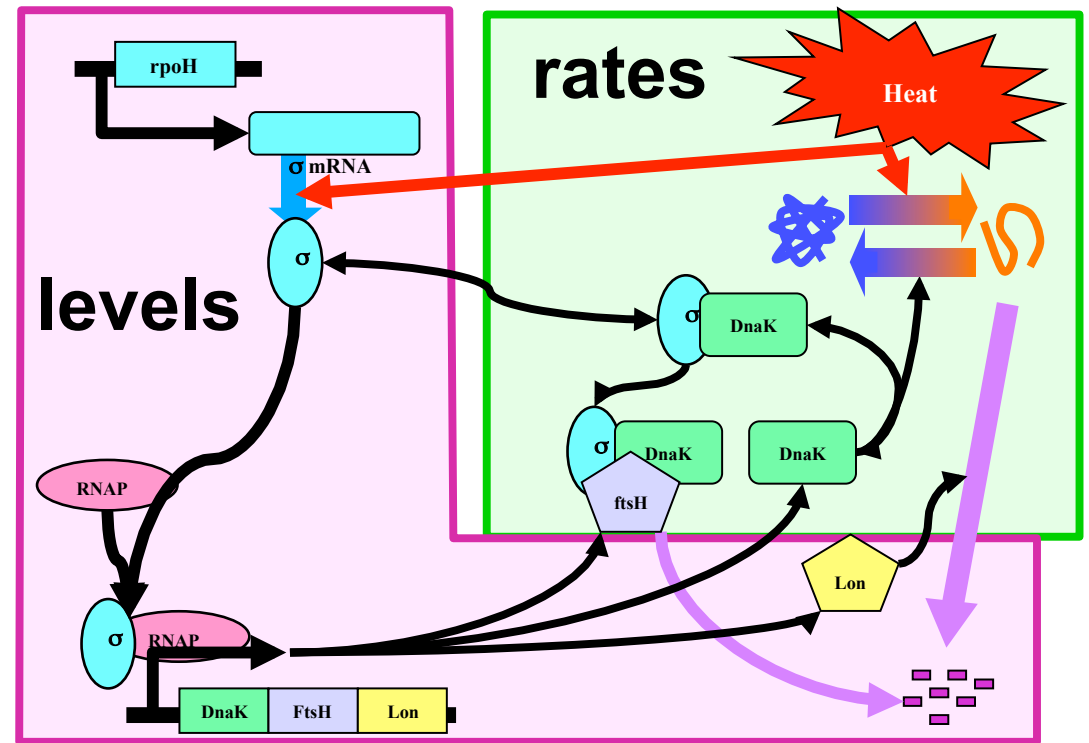




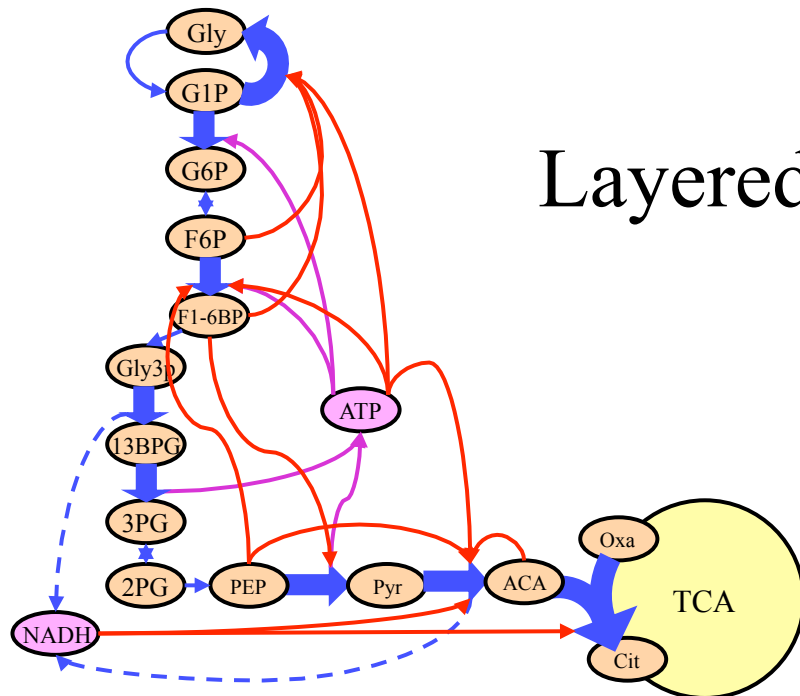


**Regulation of  
protein action**

**Regulation of  
protein levels**



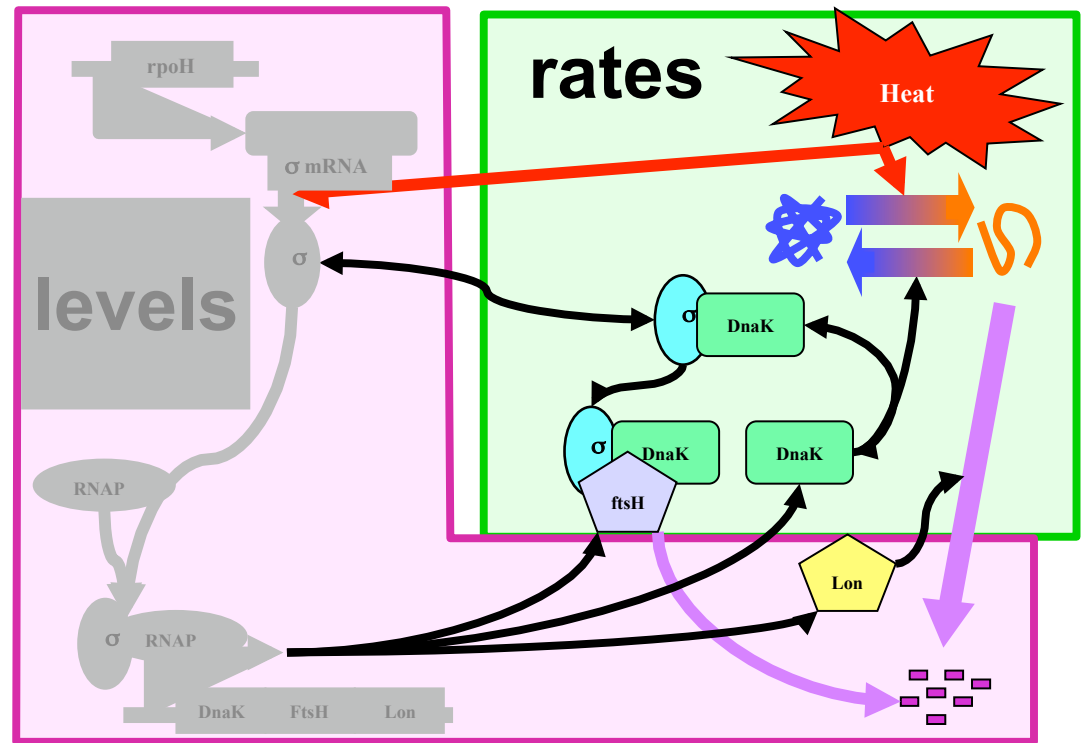
Layered control architectures



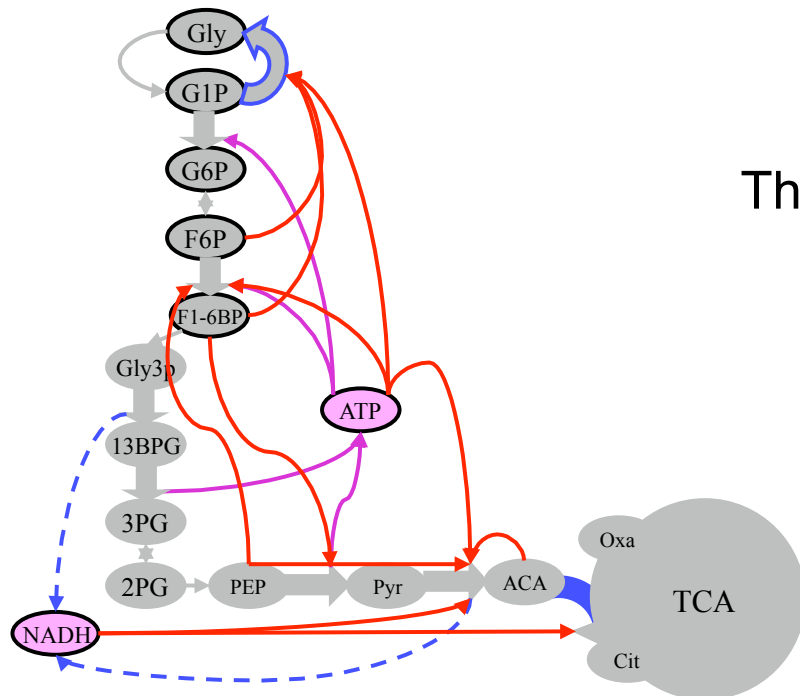
**Allosteric**

**Trans\***

The greatest complexity here is primarily in the control of *rates*



That is not always the case.



**Allosteric**

**Trans\***

Where are these layers?

**Protein**

Reactions

**Flow/error**

Protein level

RNA

Translation

**Flow/error**

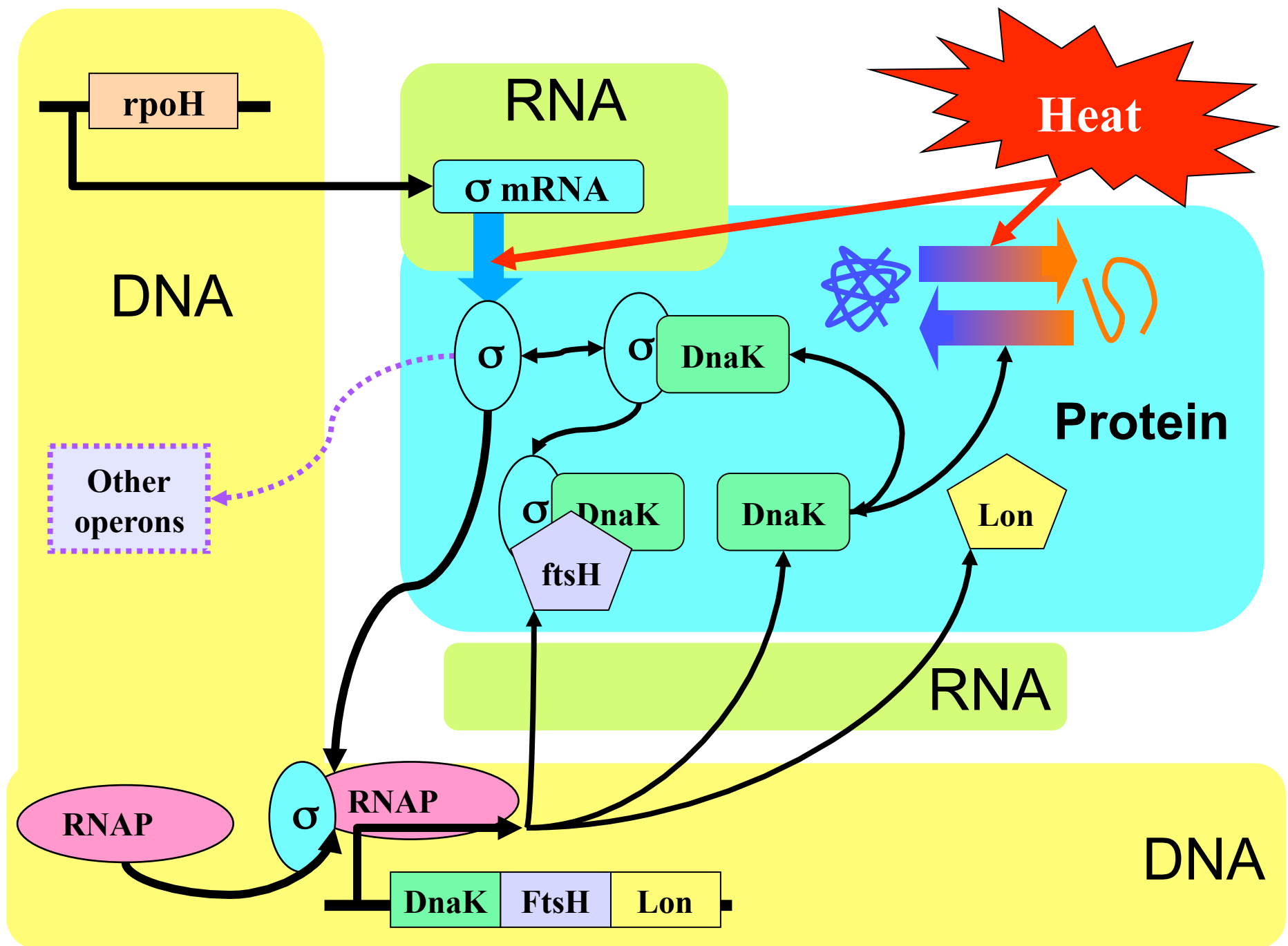
RNA level

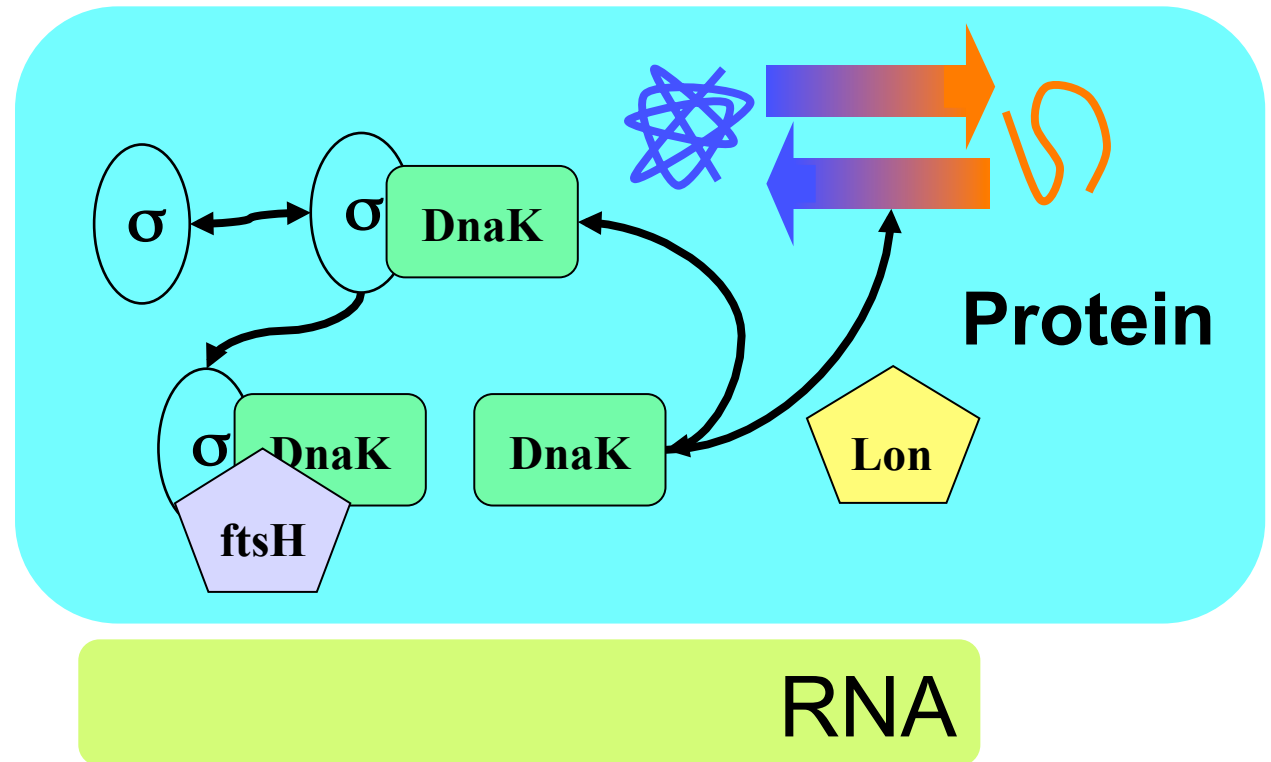
DNA

Transcription

**Flow/error**

DNA level



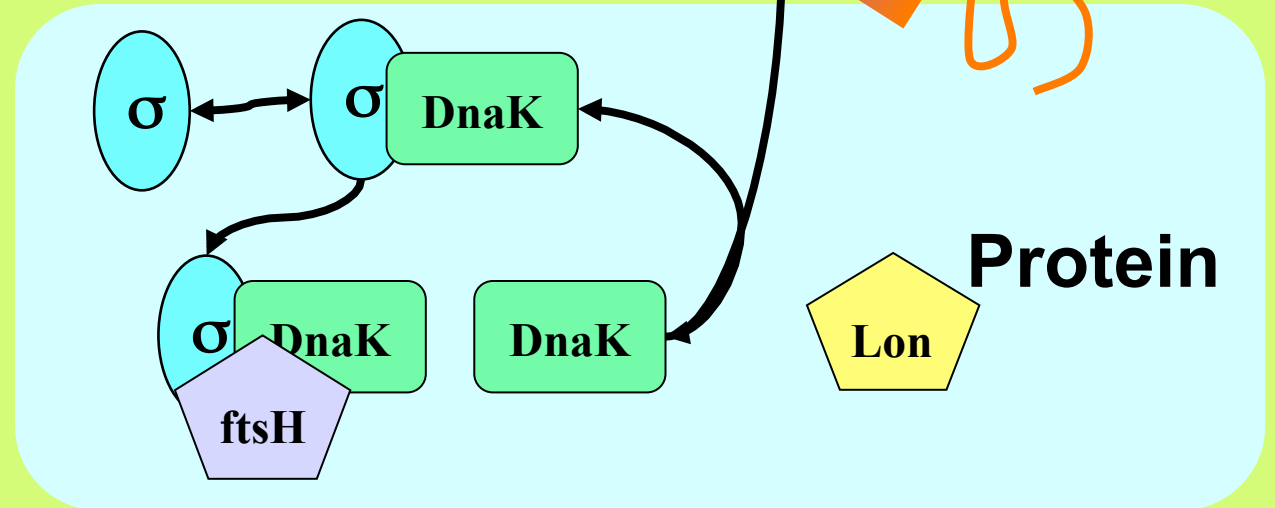


folded

All proteins

unfolded

This is all  
part of  
controlling  
protein *level*



**Protein**

RNA

Reactions

**Flow/error**

Protein level

Translation

**Flow/error**

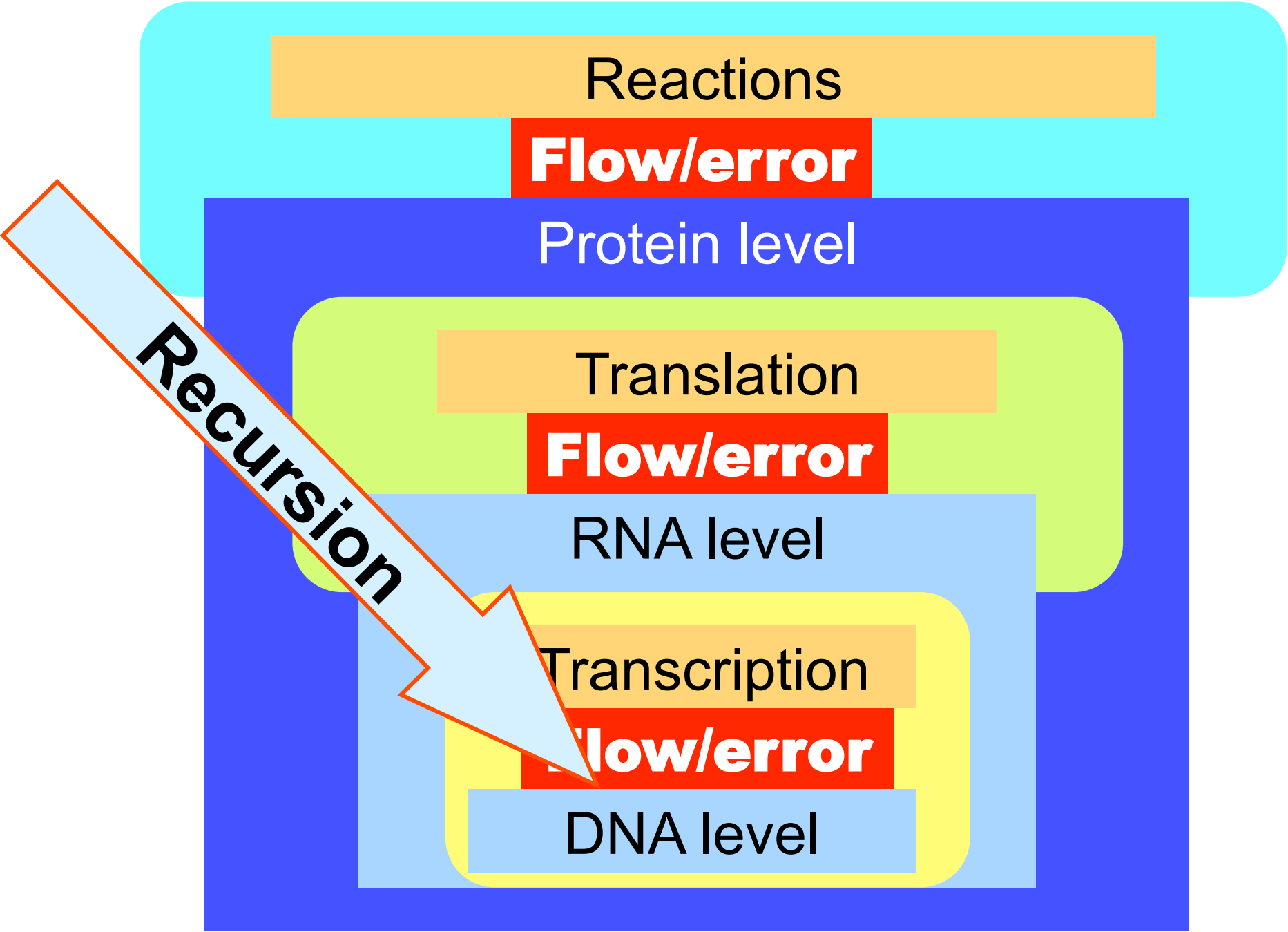
RNA level

Transcription

**Flow/error**

DNA level

Recursion





Reactions

**Flow/error**

Protein level

Translation

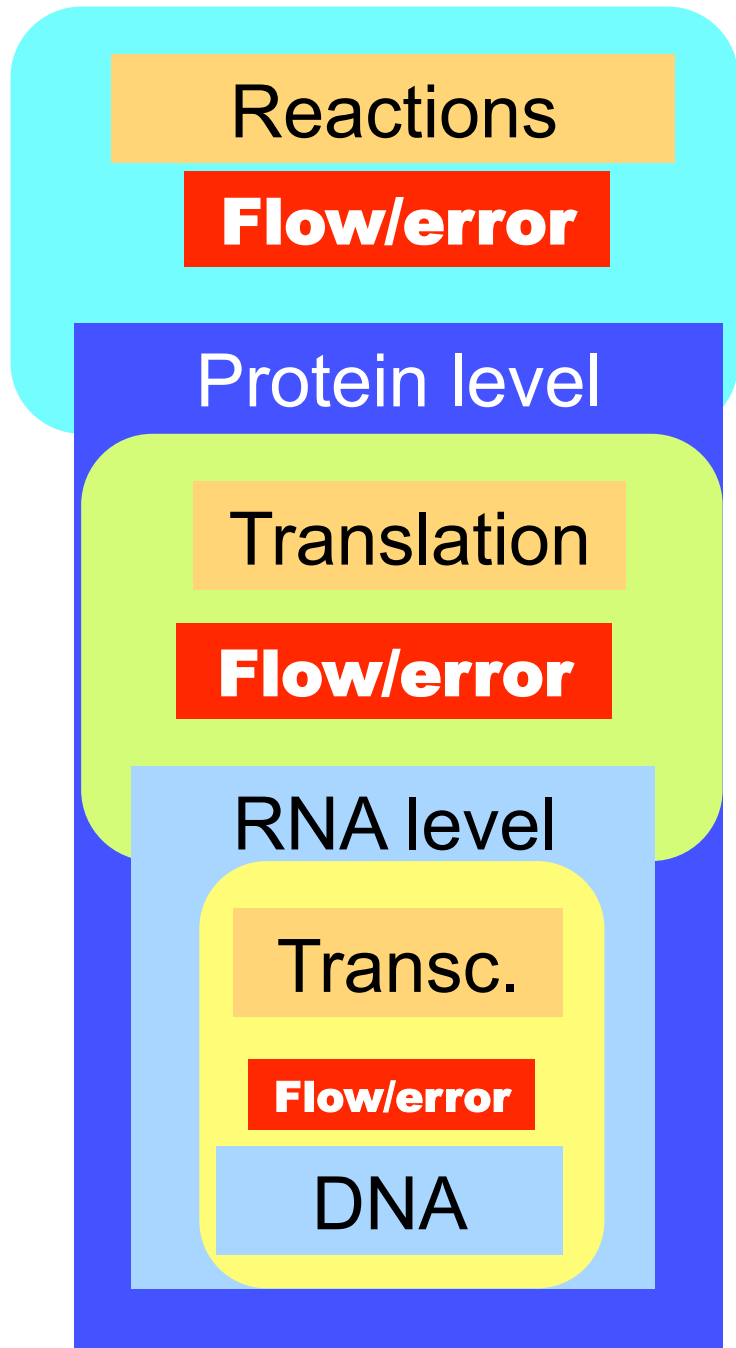
**Flow/error**

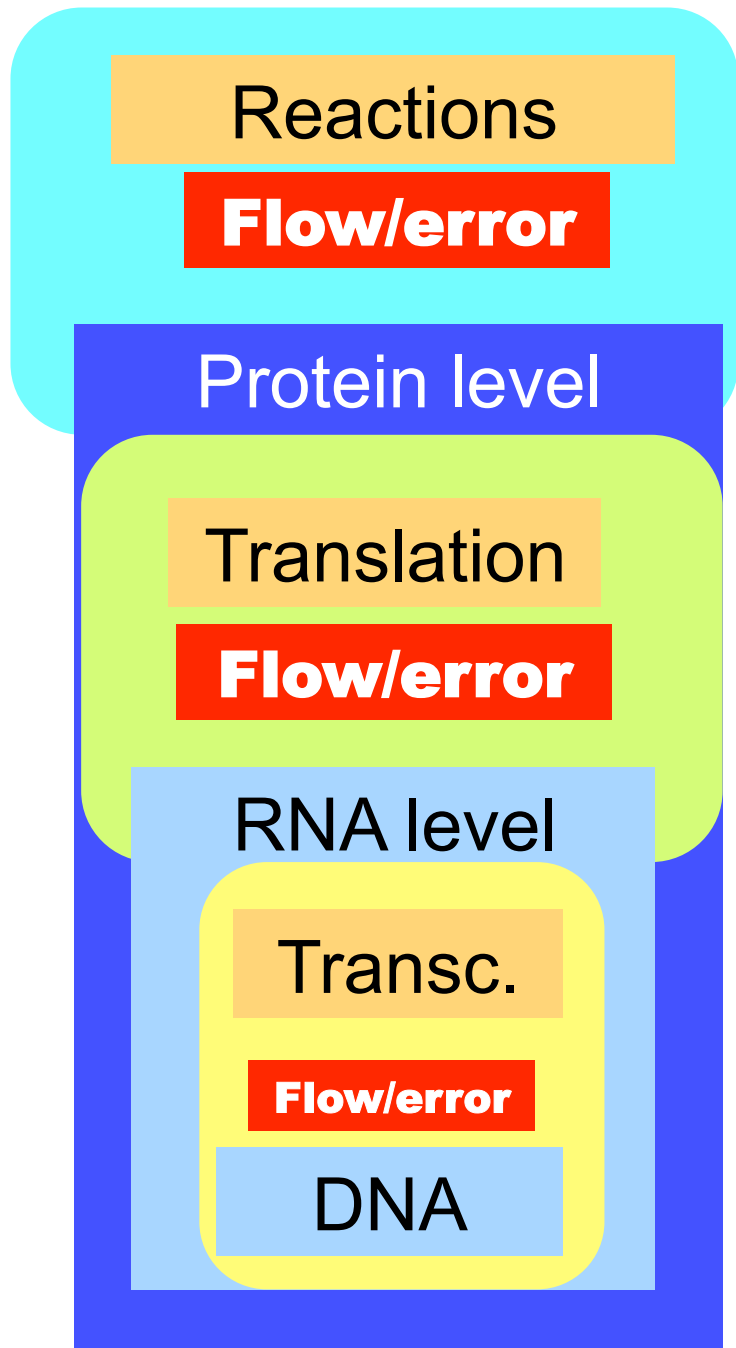
RNA level

Transc.

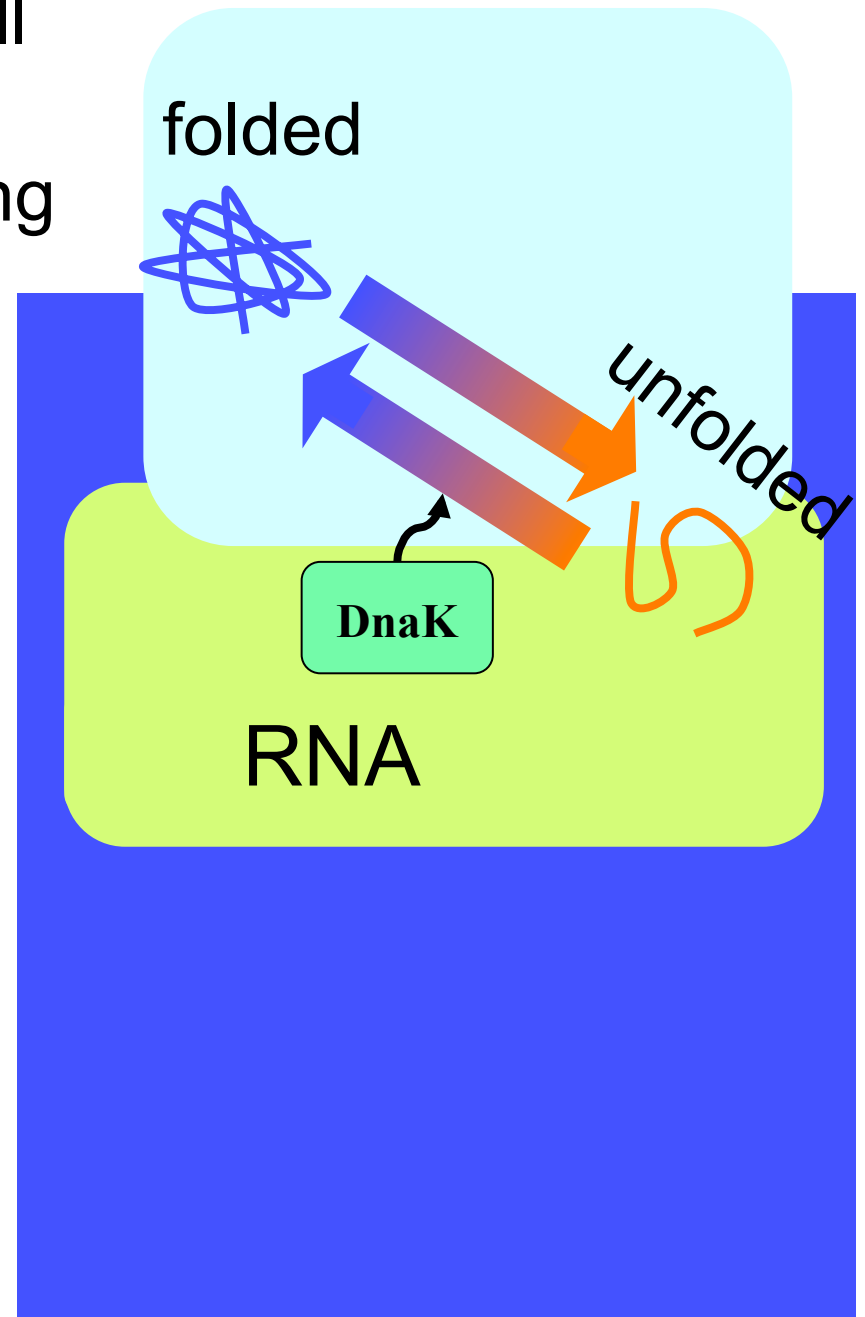
**Flow/error**

DNA

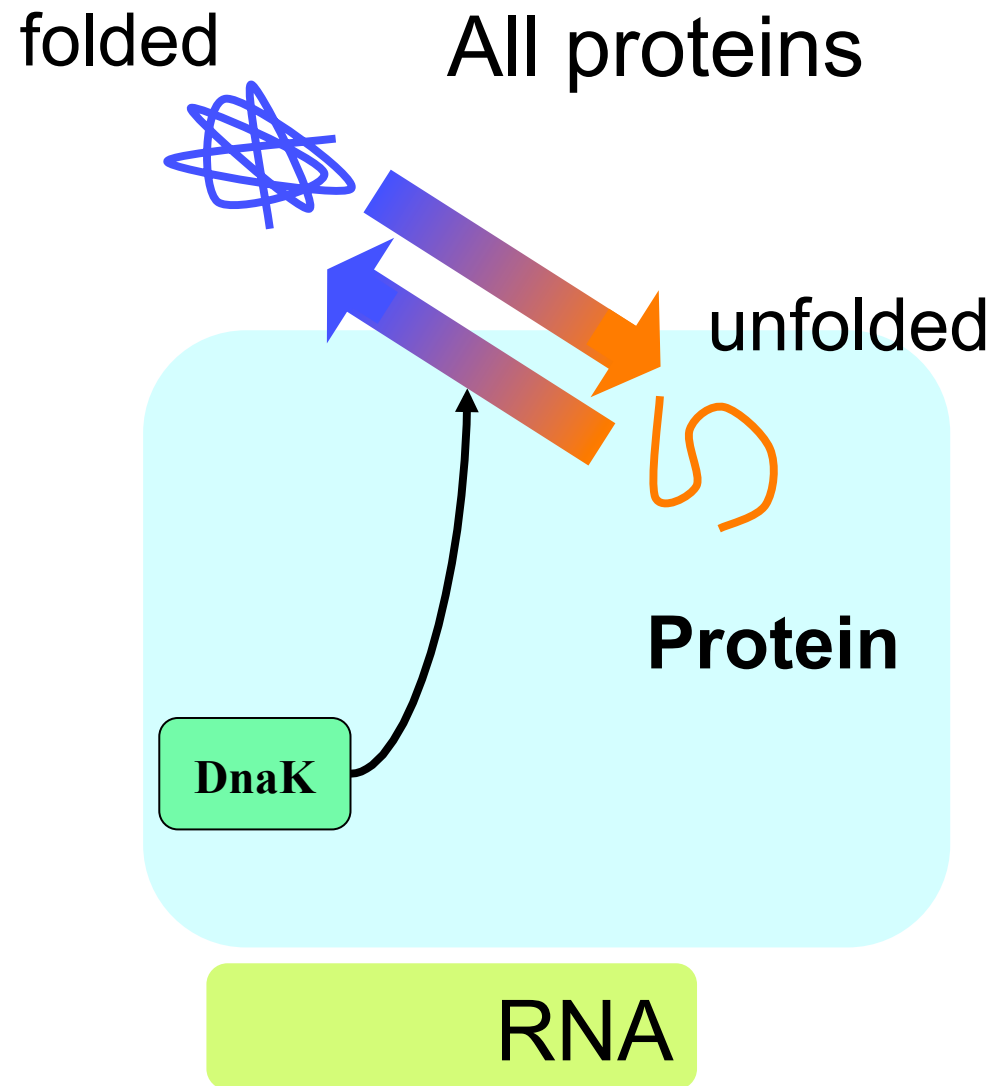


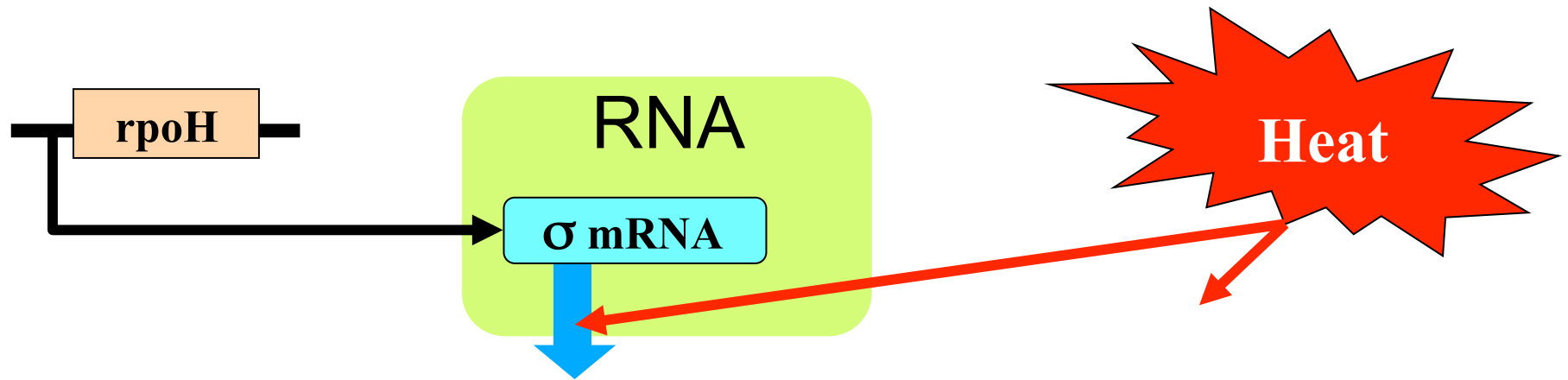


This is all  
part of  
controlling  
protein  
*level*

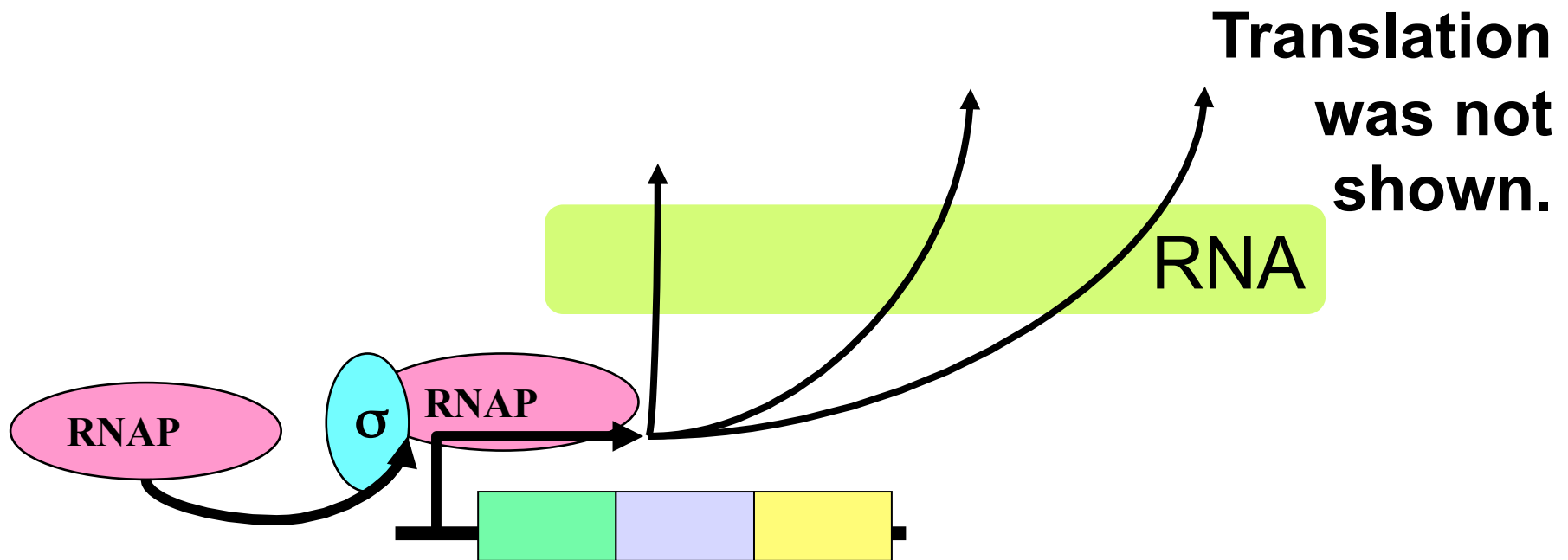


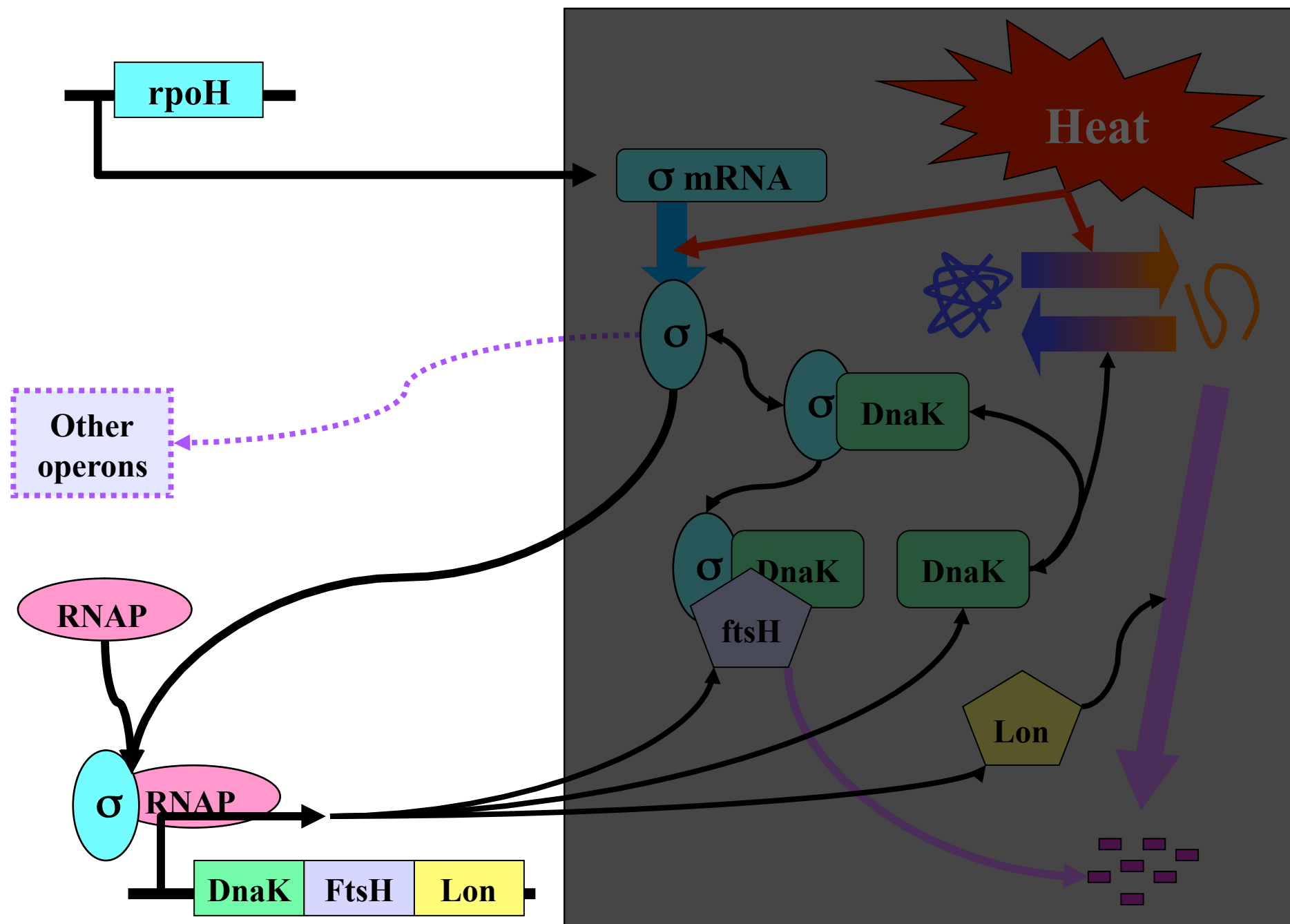
This is all  
part of  
controlling  
protein level

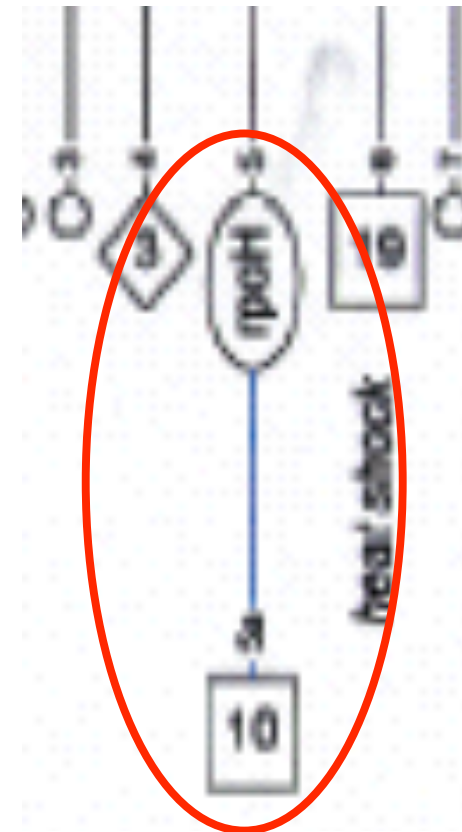
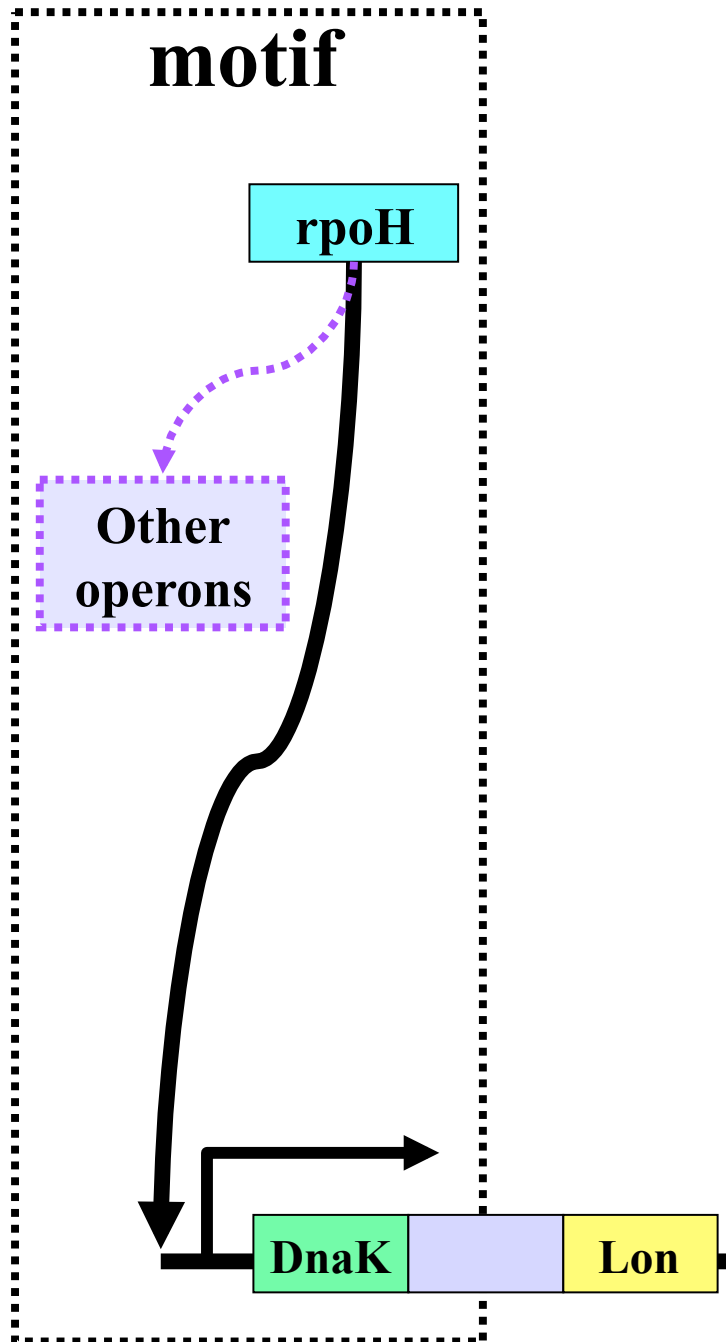




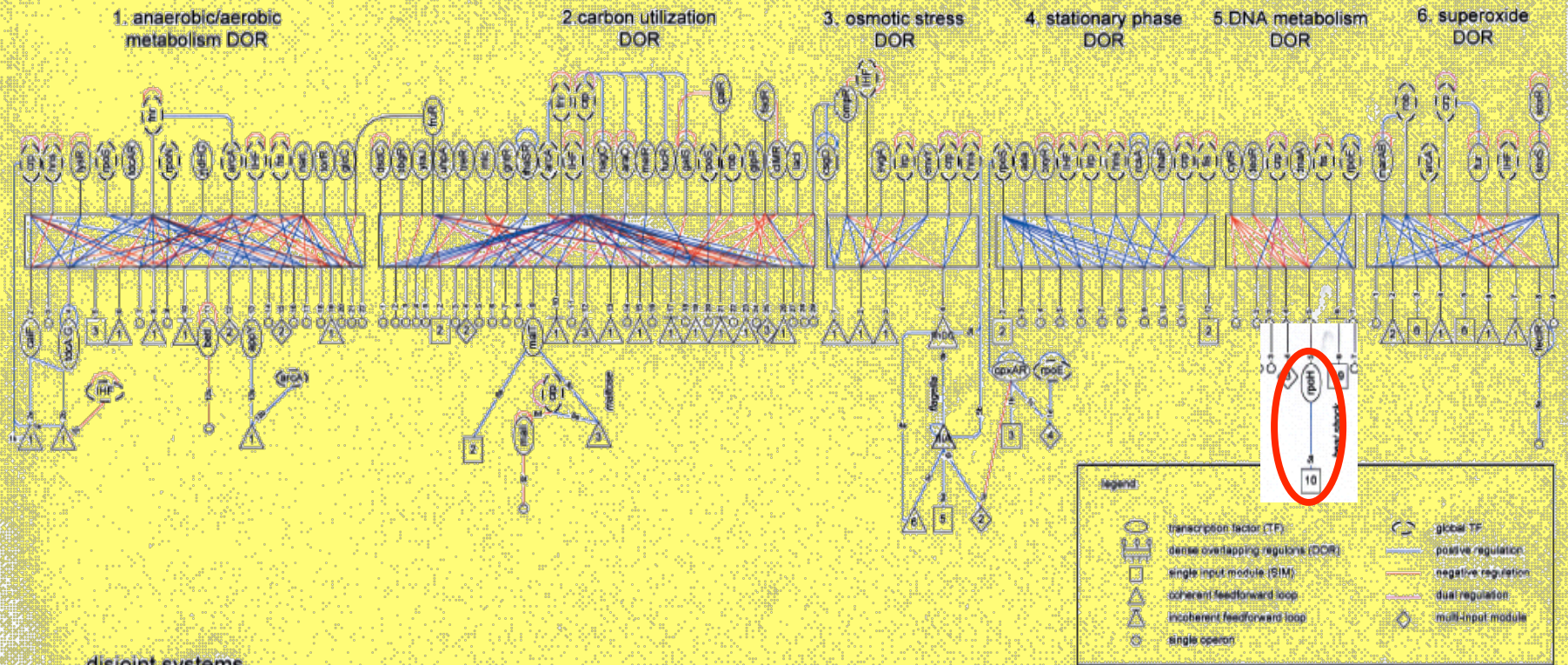
**mRNA activity is actively controlled.**



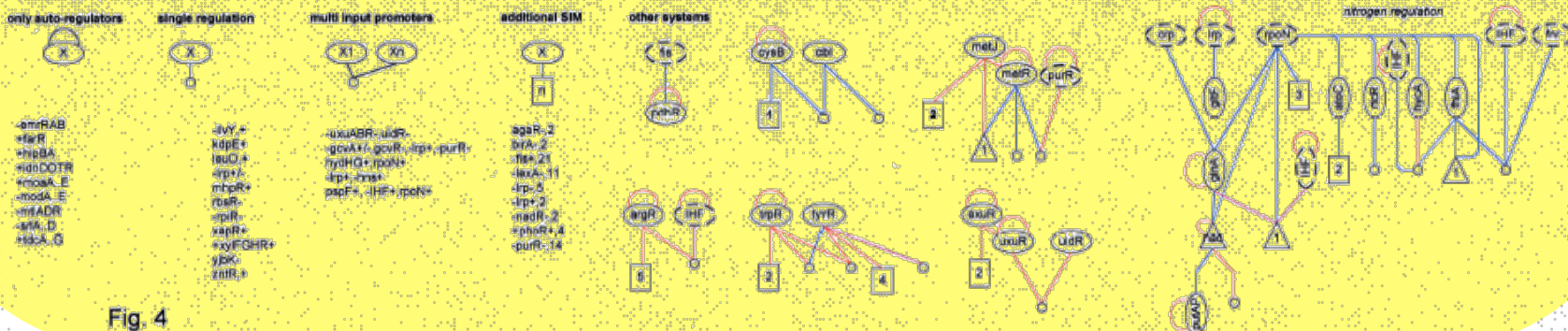




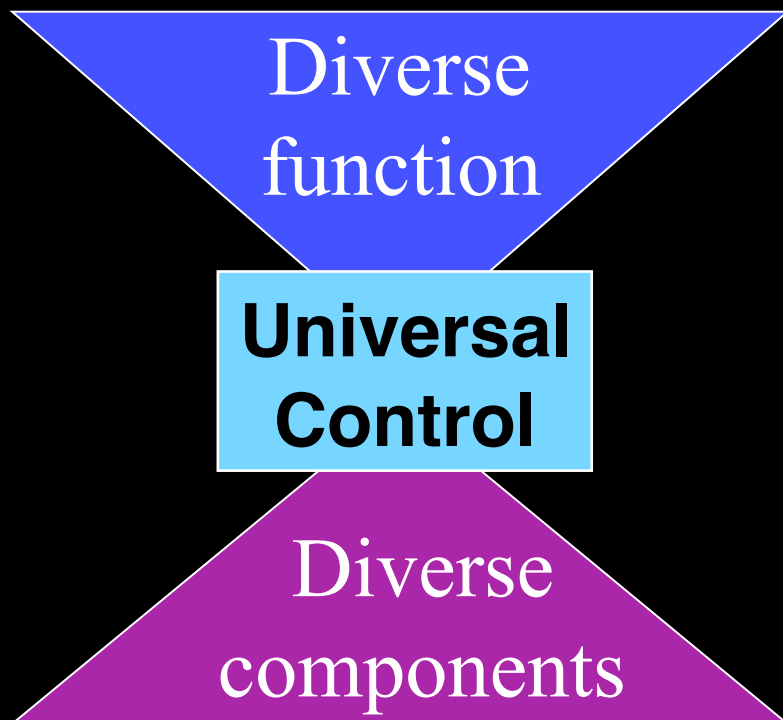
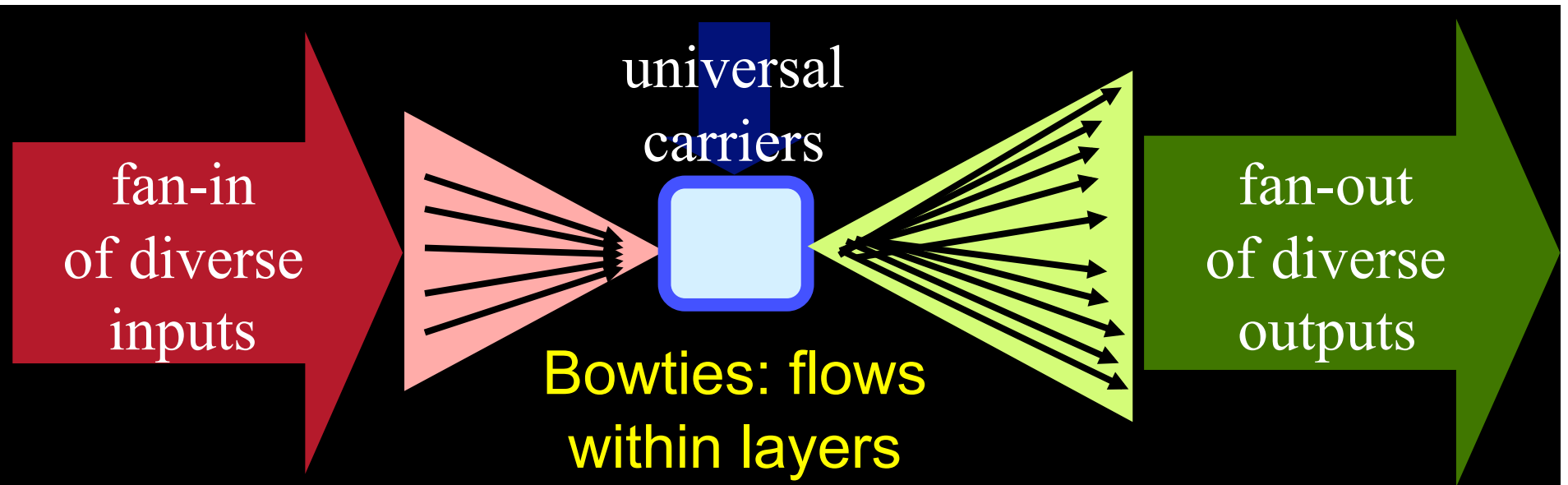
# All at the DNA layer



## disjoint systems



**Fig. 4**



## Essential ideas

Robust  
yet  
fragile

Constraints  
that  
deconstrain



fan-in  
of diverse  
inputs

fan-out  
of diverse  
outputs

Diverse  
function

Diverse  
components

Highly robust

- Diverse
- Evolvable
- Deconstrained

Robust  
yet fragile

Constraints that  
deconstrain

universal  
carriers



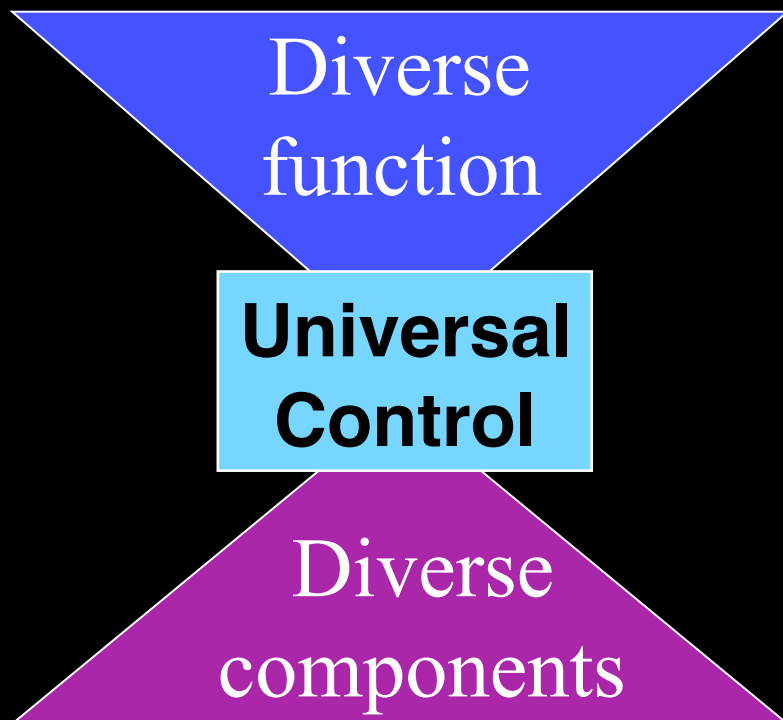
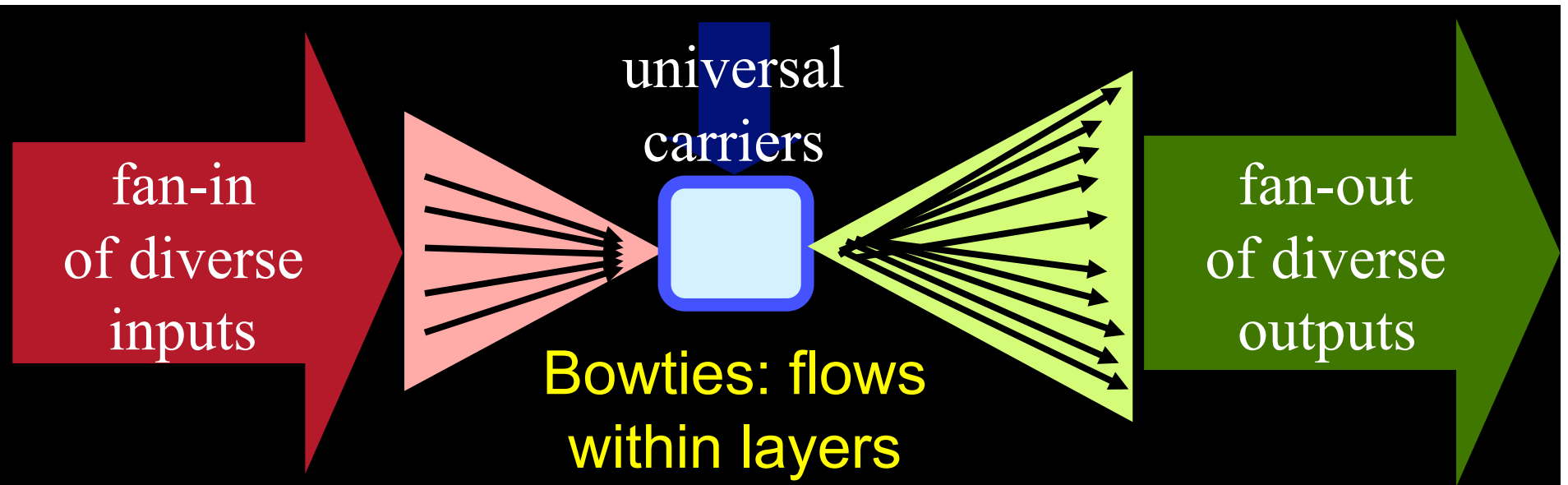
Highly fragile

- Universal
- Frozen
- Constrained

**Universal  
Control**

Robust  
yet fragile

Constraints that  
deconstrain



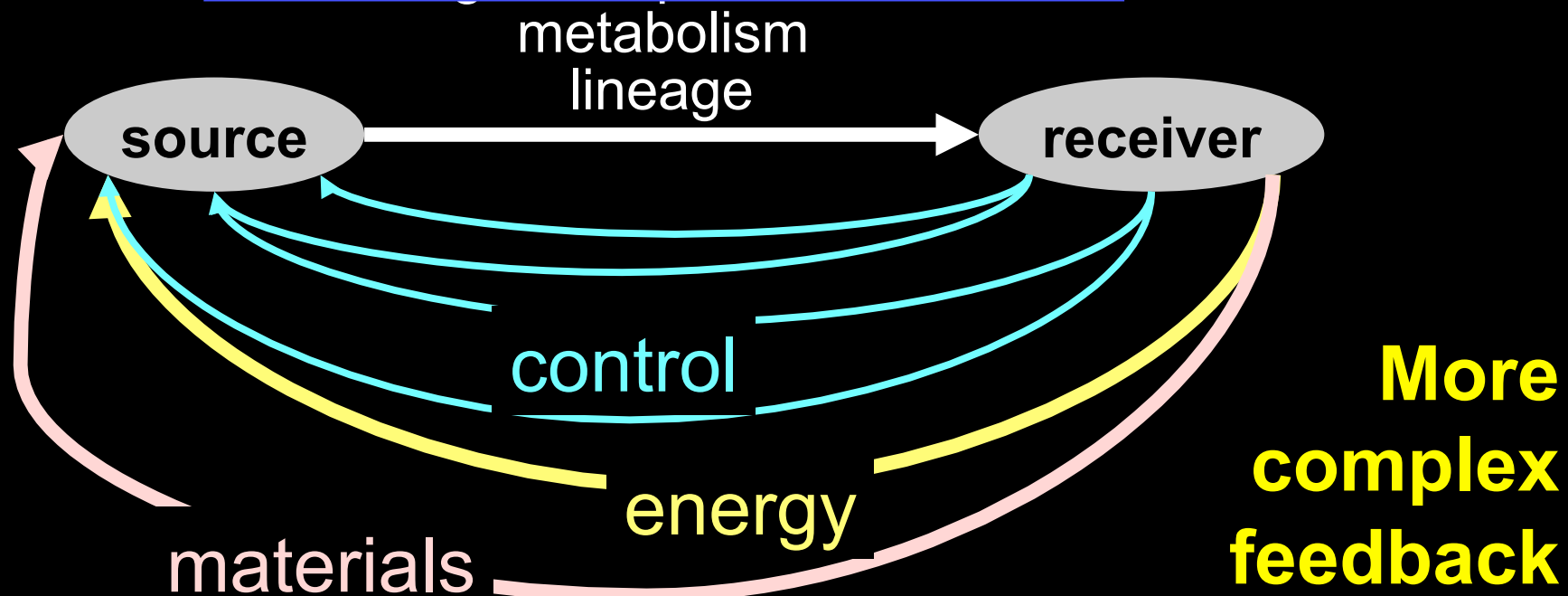
## Essential ideas

Robust  
yet  
fragile

Constraints  
that  
deconstrain

What theory is relevant to these more complex feedback systems?

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \ln |S(j\omega)| \frac{z}{z^2 + \omega^2} d\omega \geq \ln \left| \frac{z + p}{z - p} \right|$$



# New fragilities

- Theft, counterfeiting, fraud, and “creative accounting” are now possible
- Need complex legal infrastructure to protect
- The beginning of a growing complexity-fragility spiral

