

# Digging (energy) wells for unknown substances: Programming substrate-independent energy barriers in catalytic chemical reactions

David Doty

Maynooth University CS Colloquium, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Slides credit:** David Haley

**Joint work with:** Keenan Breik, Cameron Chalk, David Haley, David Soloveichik

# Acknowledgements



David Haley



Keenan Breik



Cameron Chalk



David Soloveichik



# Goal

Build molecular computing systems that are reliable

# Goal

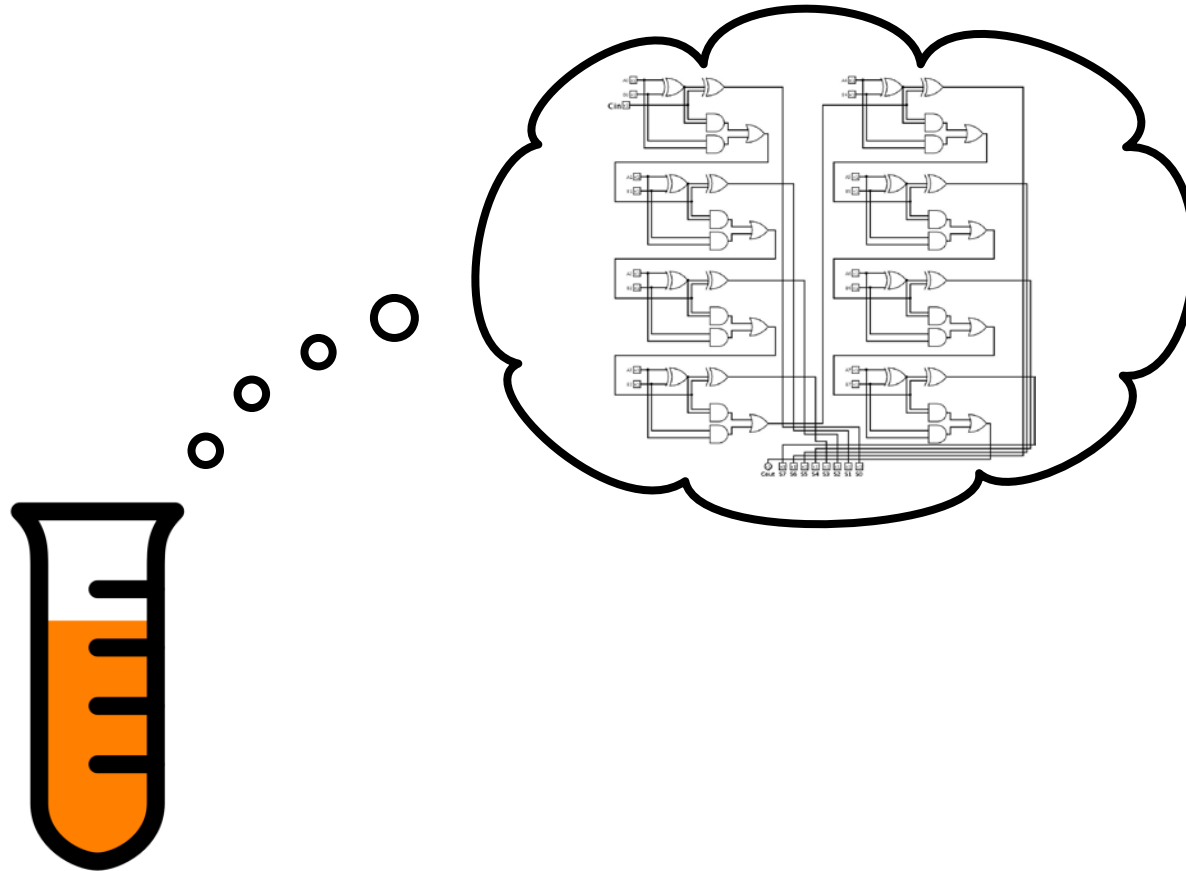
Build molecular computing systems that are reliable





# Goal

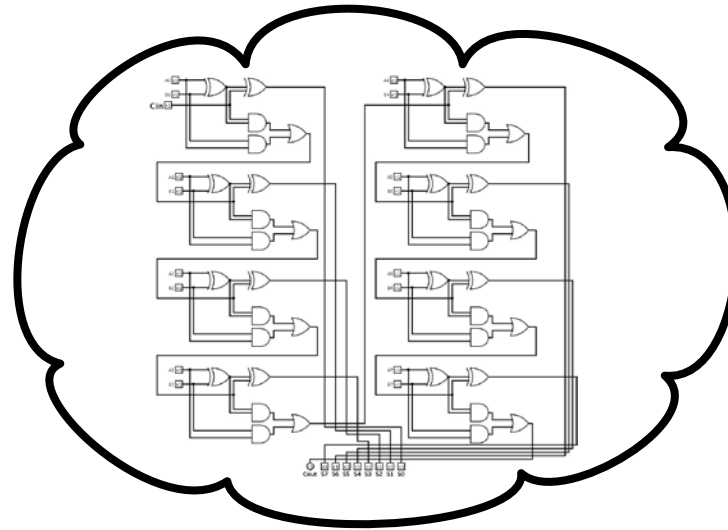
Build molecular computing systems that are reliable



# Goal

Build molecular computing systems that are reliable

?

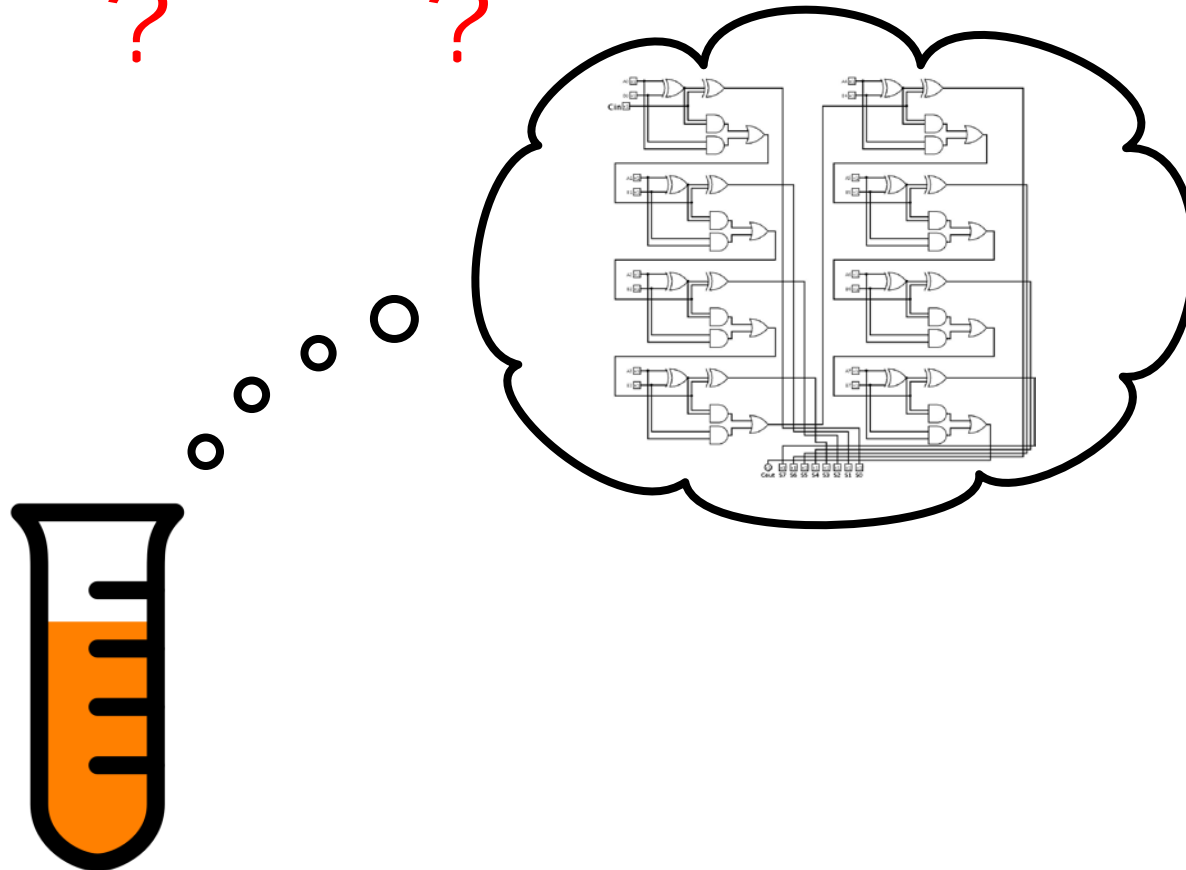


# Goal

Build molecular computing systems that are reliable

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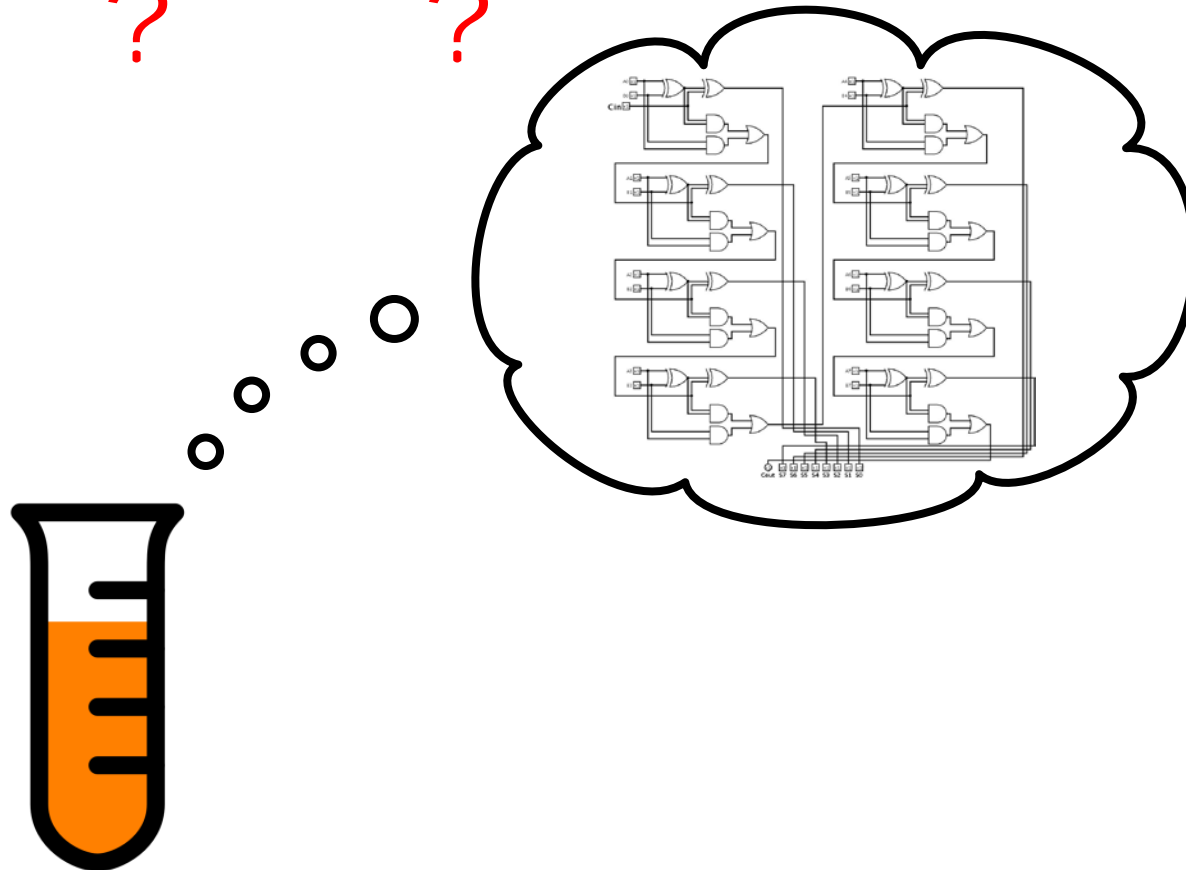
# Goal

Build molecular computing systems that are reliable

?

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?!?



# Goal

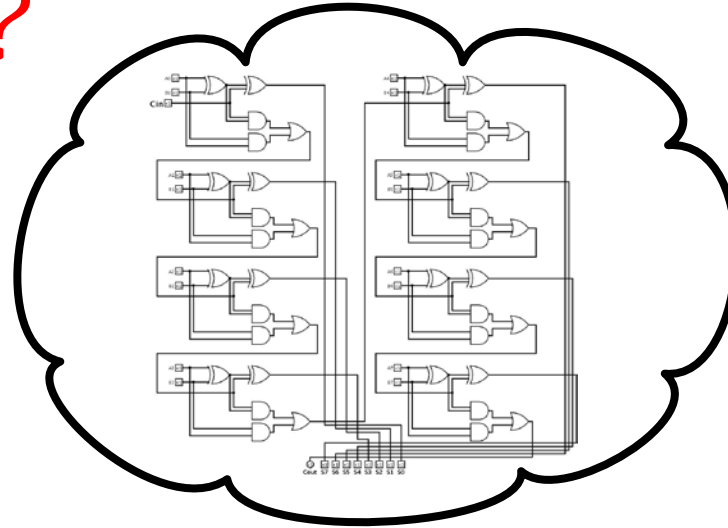
Build **molecular** **computing** systems that are **reliable**

?

?

?!?

(often DNA)



# DNA nanotechnology applications

## **nonbiological:**

- nanoscale resolution  
surface placement
- X-ray crystallization  
scaffolding
- molecular motors
- super-resolution  
imaging
- molecular circuits

## **biological:**

- smart drugs
- mRNA detection
- cell surface marker detection
- genetically encoded structures

# DNA nanotechnology applications

## nonbiological:

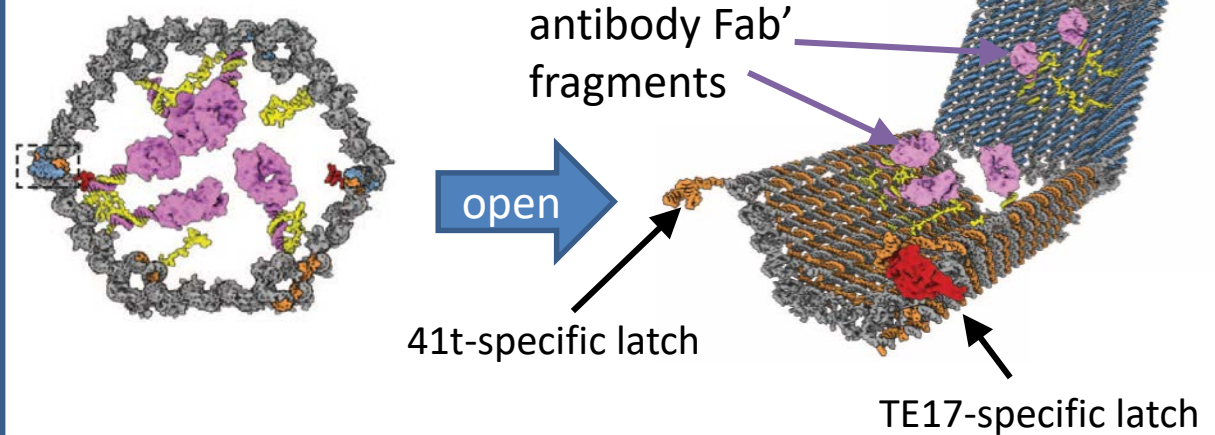
- nanoscale resolution surface placement
- X-ray crystallization scaffolding
- molecular motors
- super-resolution imaging
- molecular circuits

## biological:

- smart drugs
- mRNA detection
- cell surface marker detection
- genetically encoded structures

*example*

DNA origami opens to deliver antibody only in presence of two protein antigens

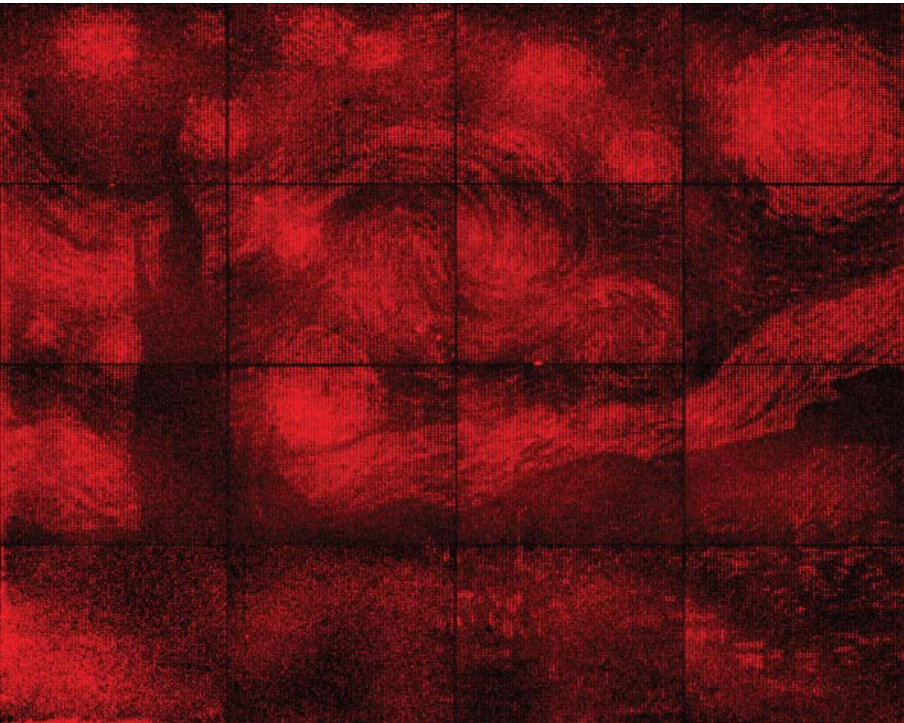


Shawn Douglas, Ido Bachelet, George Church, *A logic-gated nanorobot for targeted transport of molecular payloads*, Science 2012

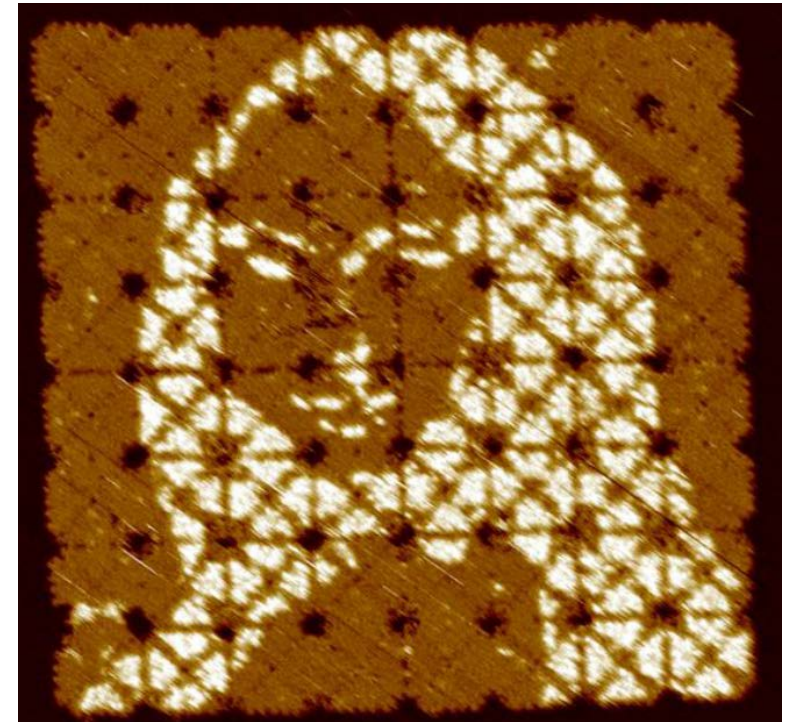
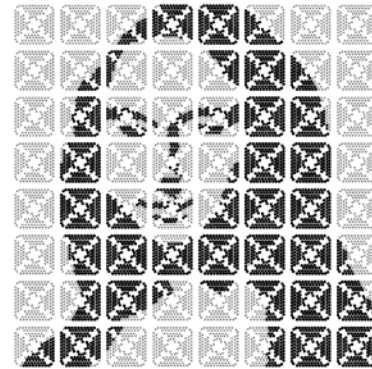
# DNA nanotechnology applications

nonbiological:

- **art**



Ashwin Gopinath, Evan Miyazono, Andrei Faraon, Paul Rothemund, *Engineering and mapping nanocavity emission via precision placement of DNA origami*, Nature 2016

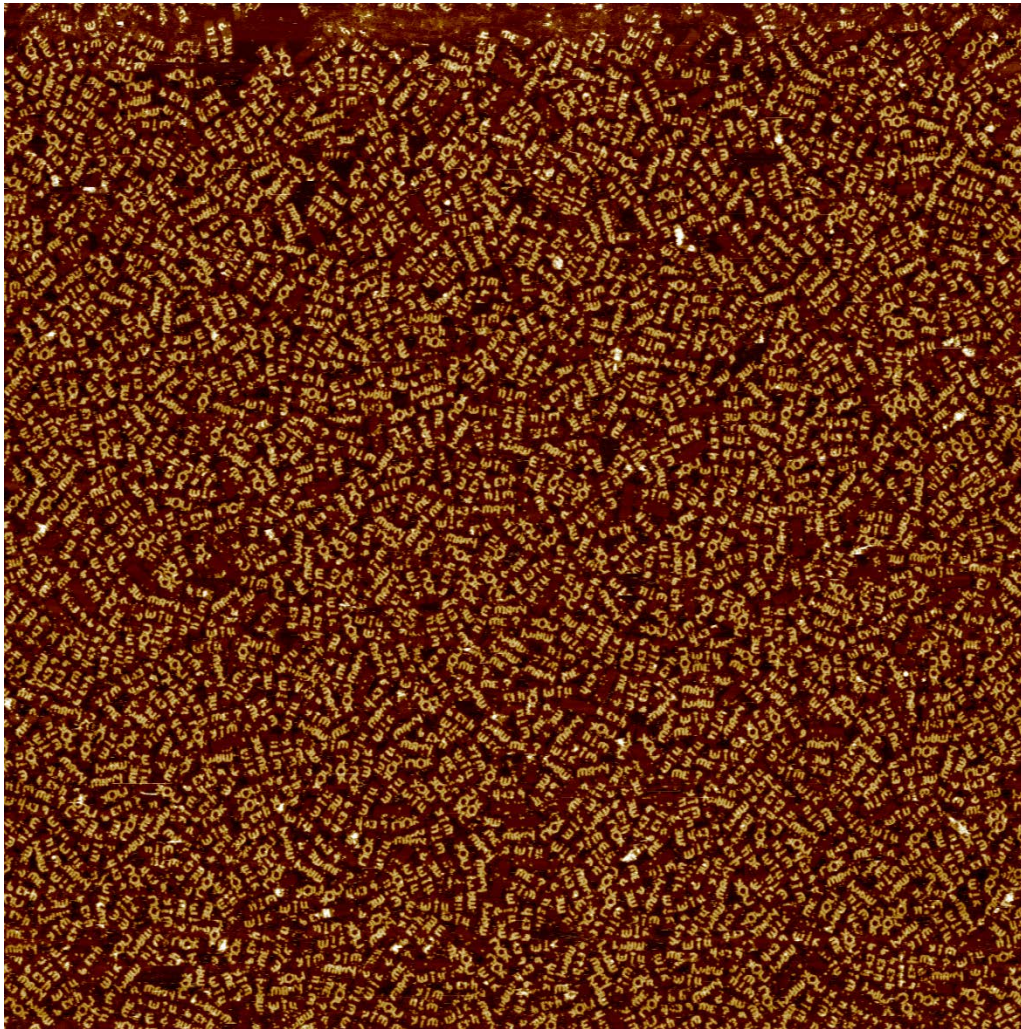


Grigory Tikhomirov, Philip Petersen, and Lulu Qian. *Fractal assembly of micrometre-scale DNA origami arrays with arbitrary patterns*. Nature 2017.

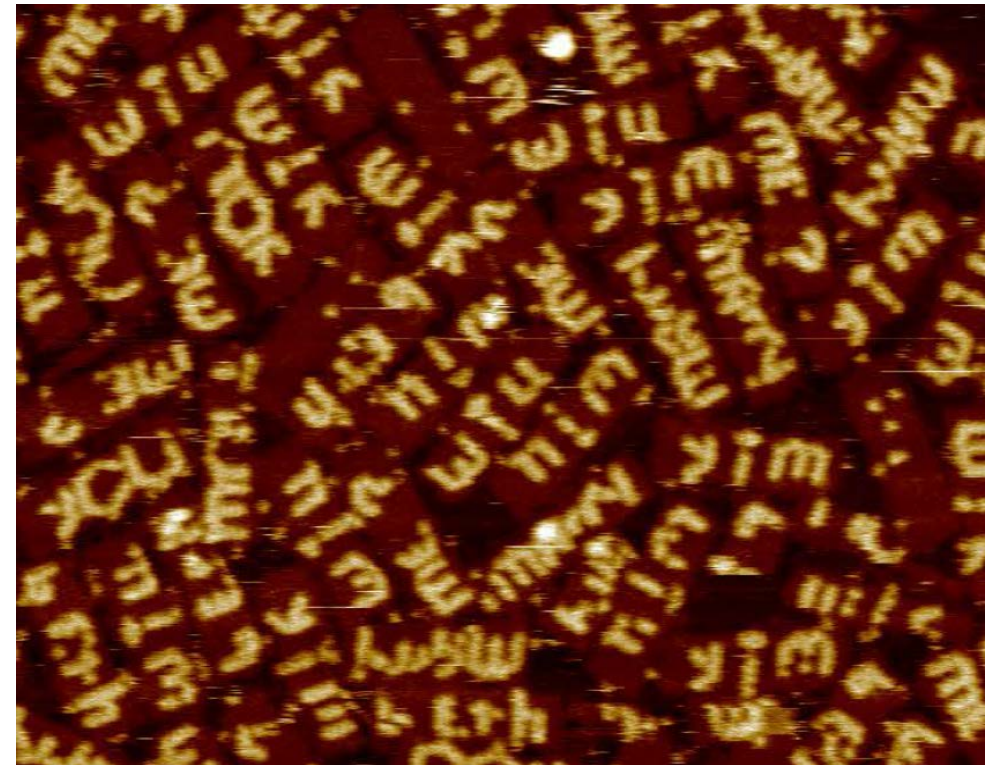


# Other applications of DNA nanotechnology

4  $\mu\text{m}$  wide scan



zoom in



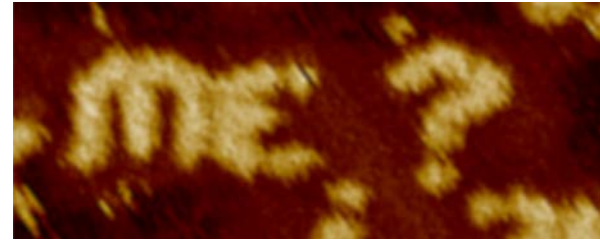
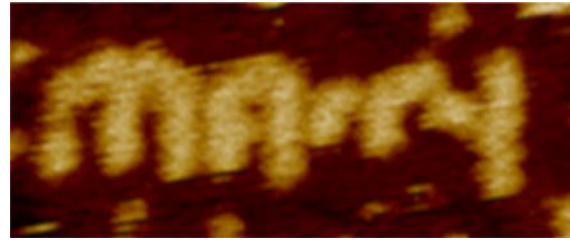
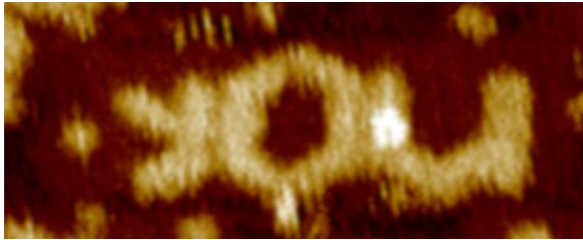
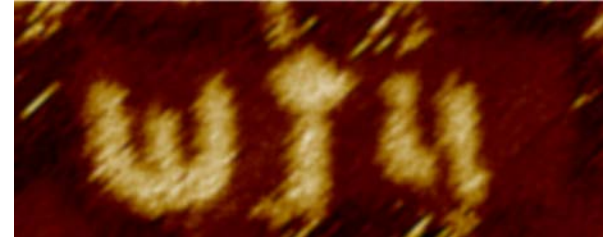
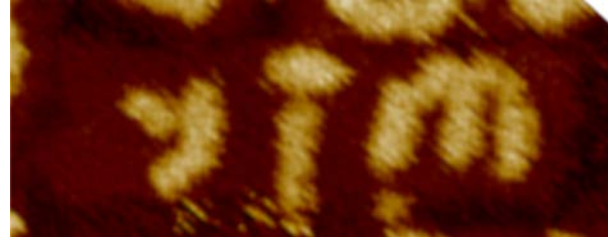
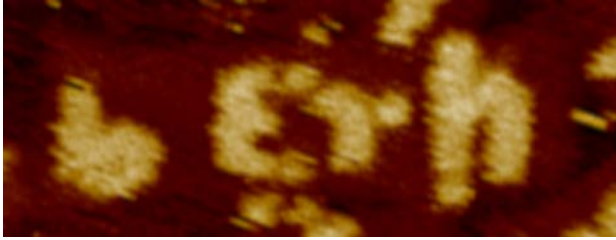
# Cherry-picked samples

Beth Yim





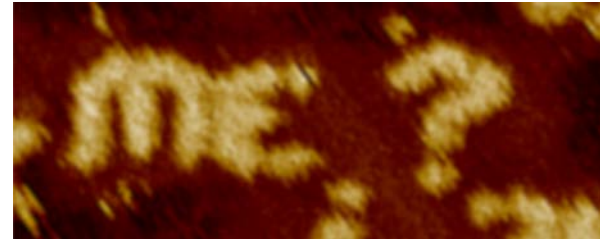
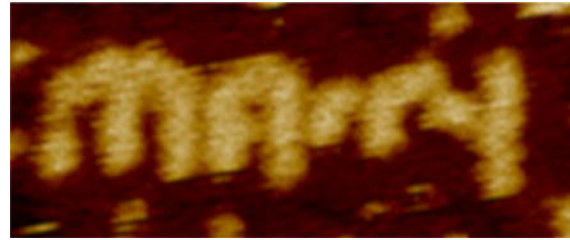
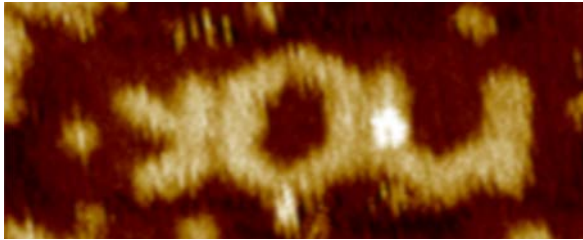
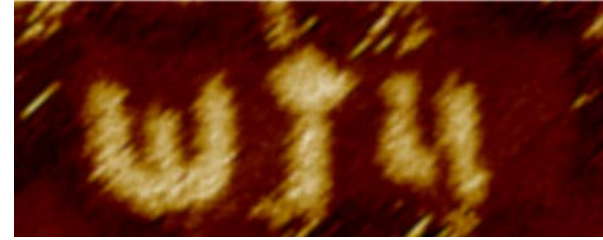
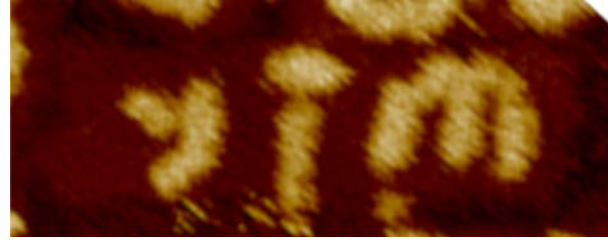
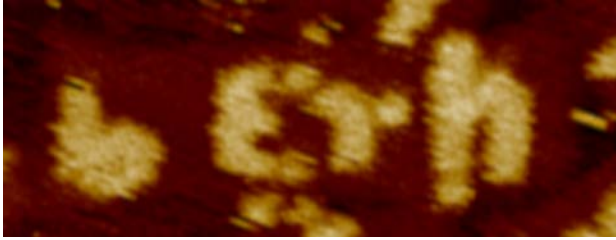
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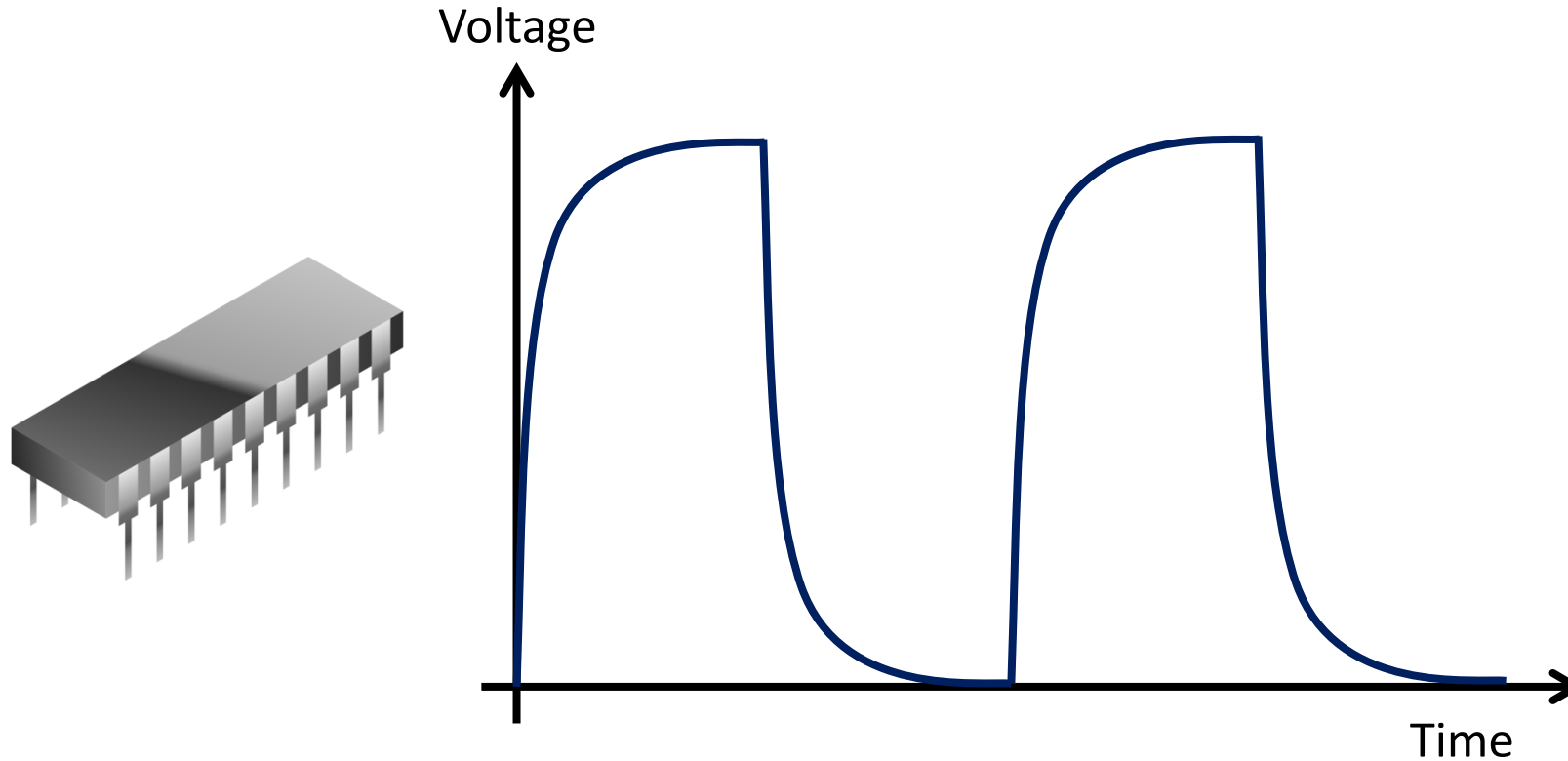
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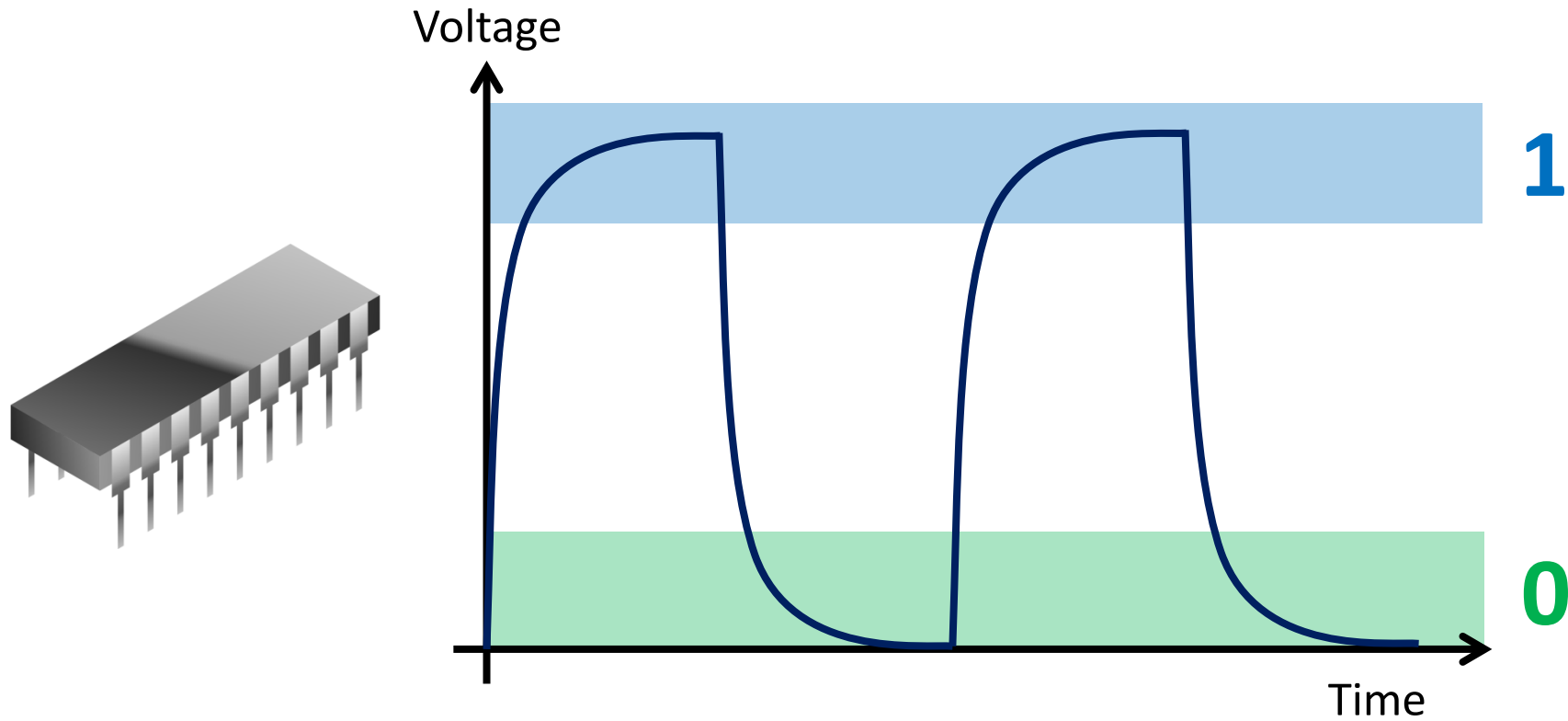


# Representing Information with Molecules



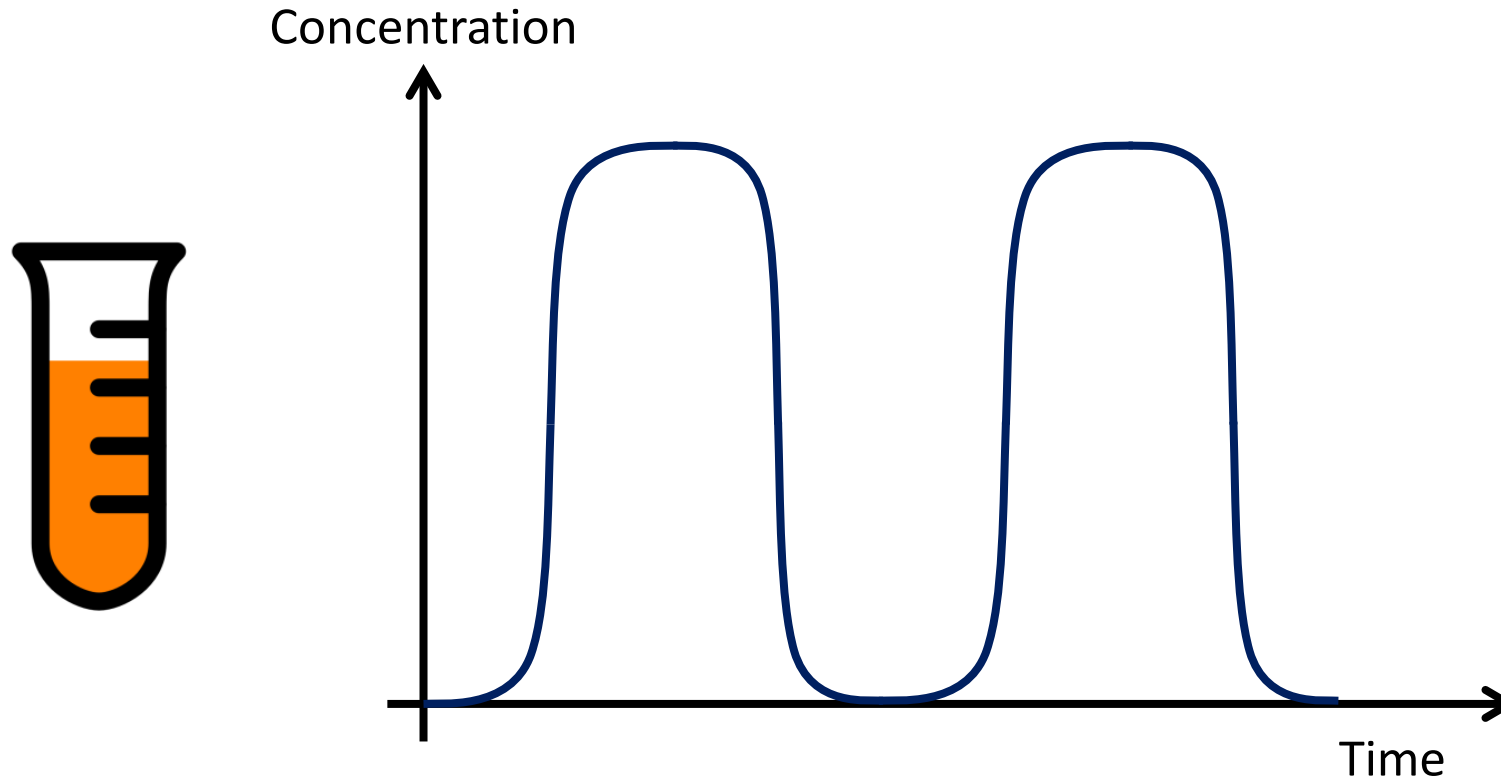
In an electronic circuit,  
**voltage** can represent Boolean input

# Representing Information with Molecules



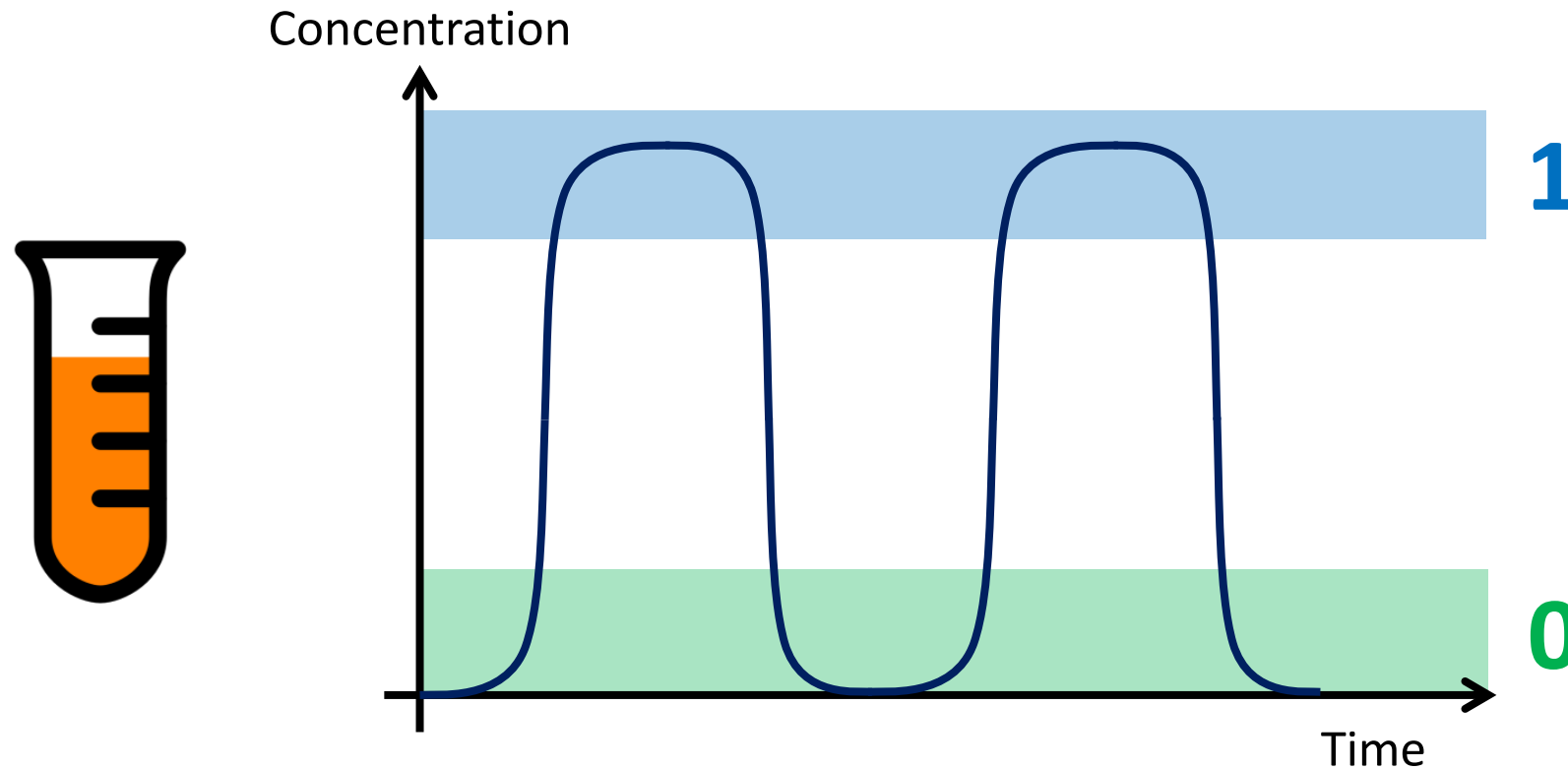
In an electronic circuit,  
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# Representing Information with Molecules



In a well-mixed solution,  
**concentration** can represent Boolean input

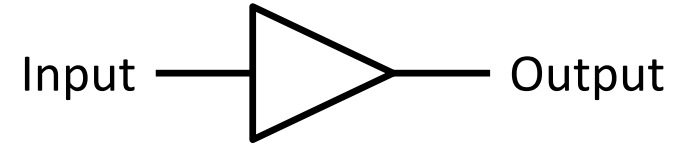
# Representing Information with Molecules



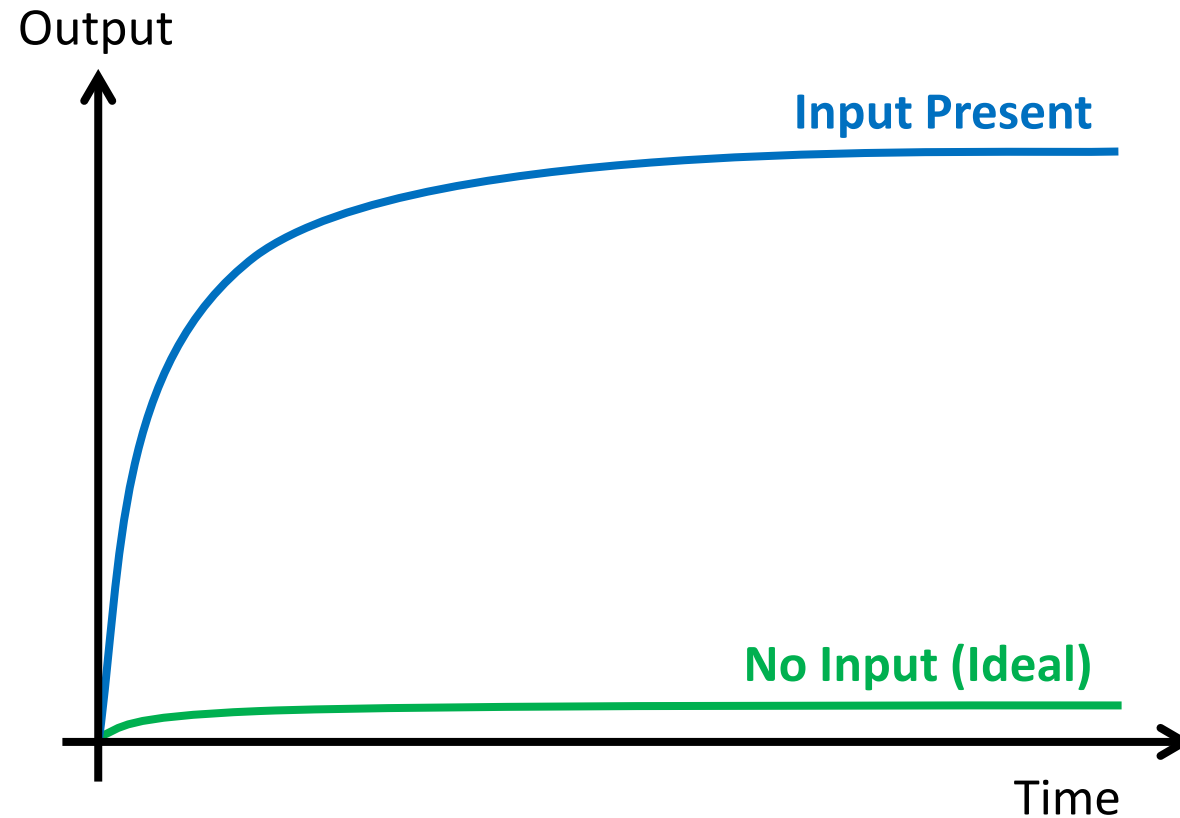
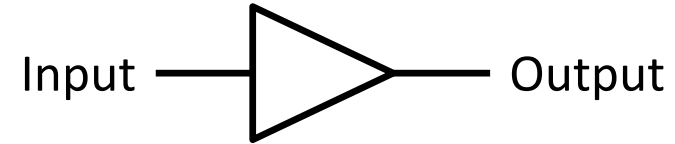
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# Chemical Identity Gate: Idealized vs. Actual Behavior

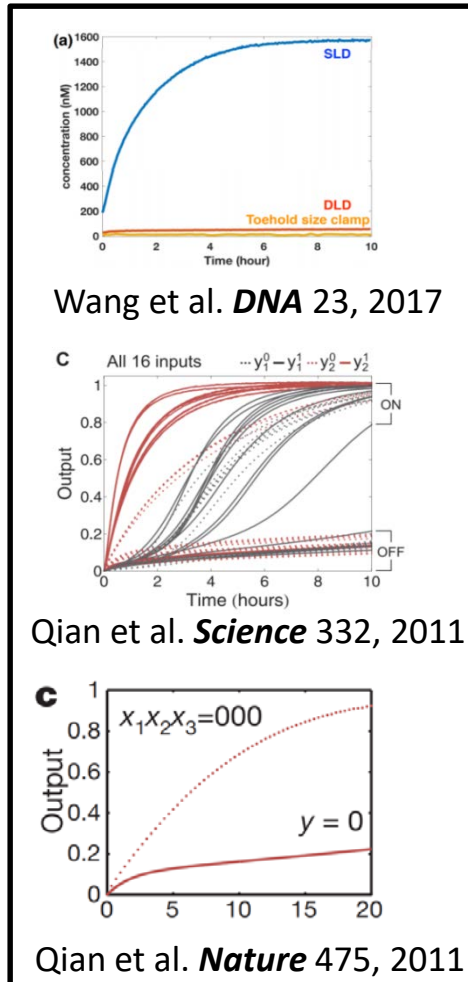


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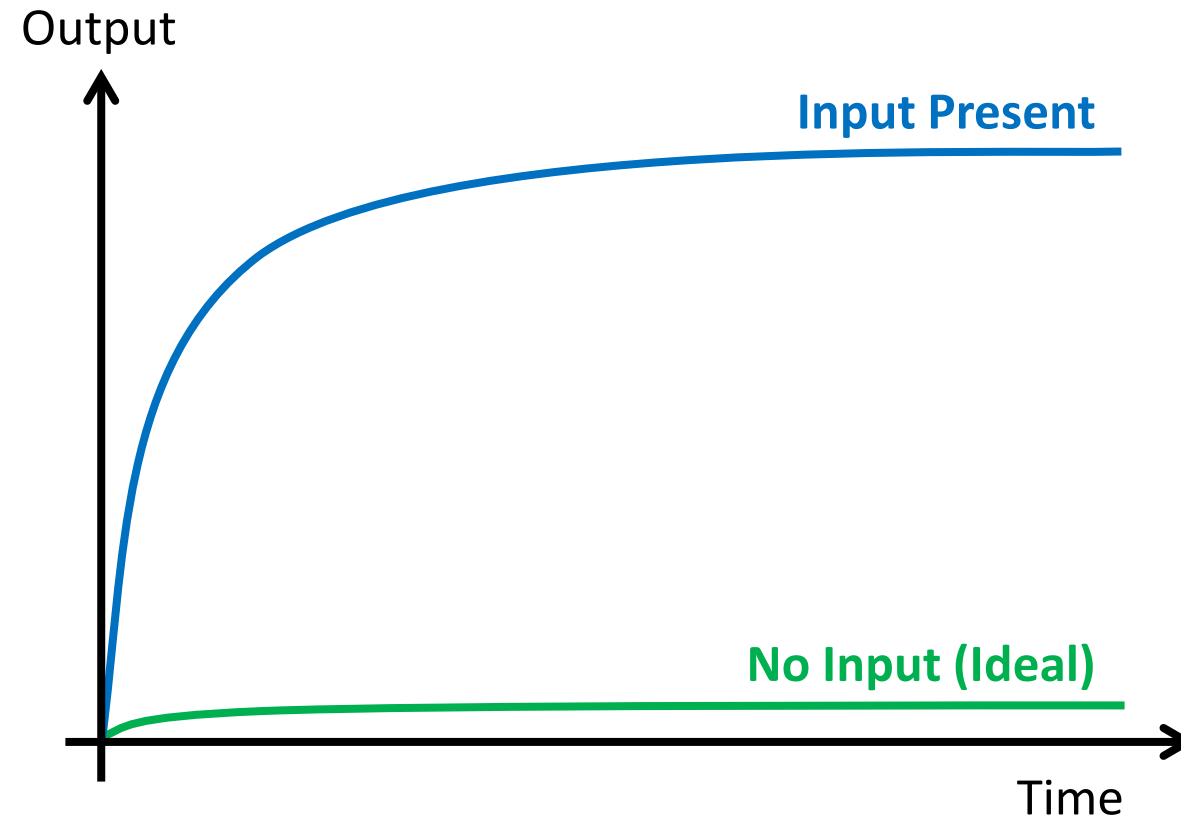
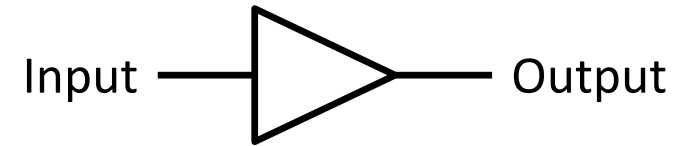


# Chemical Identity Gate: Idealized vs. Actual Behavior

## Experimental Implementation of Chemical Logic

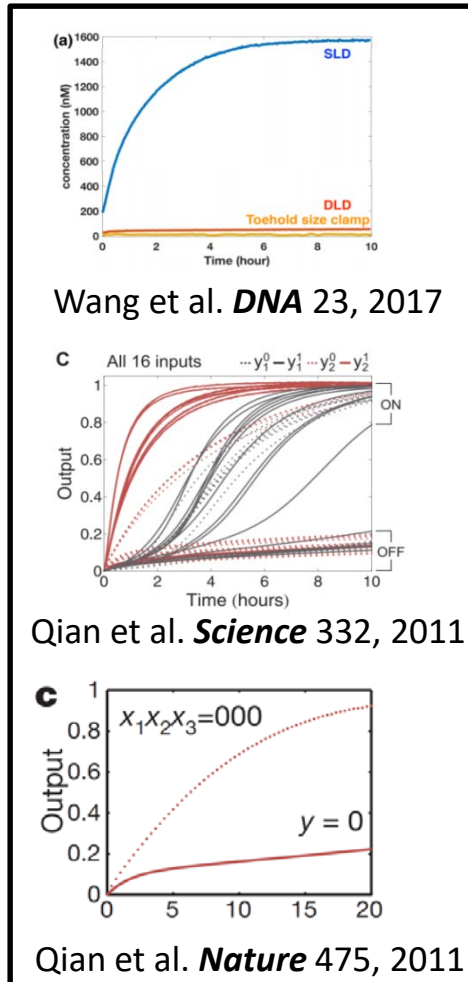


(Don't worry about the details in  
the pictures above)

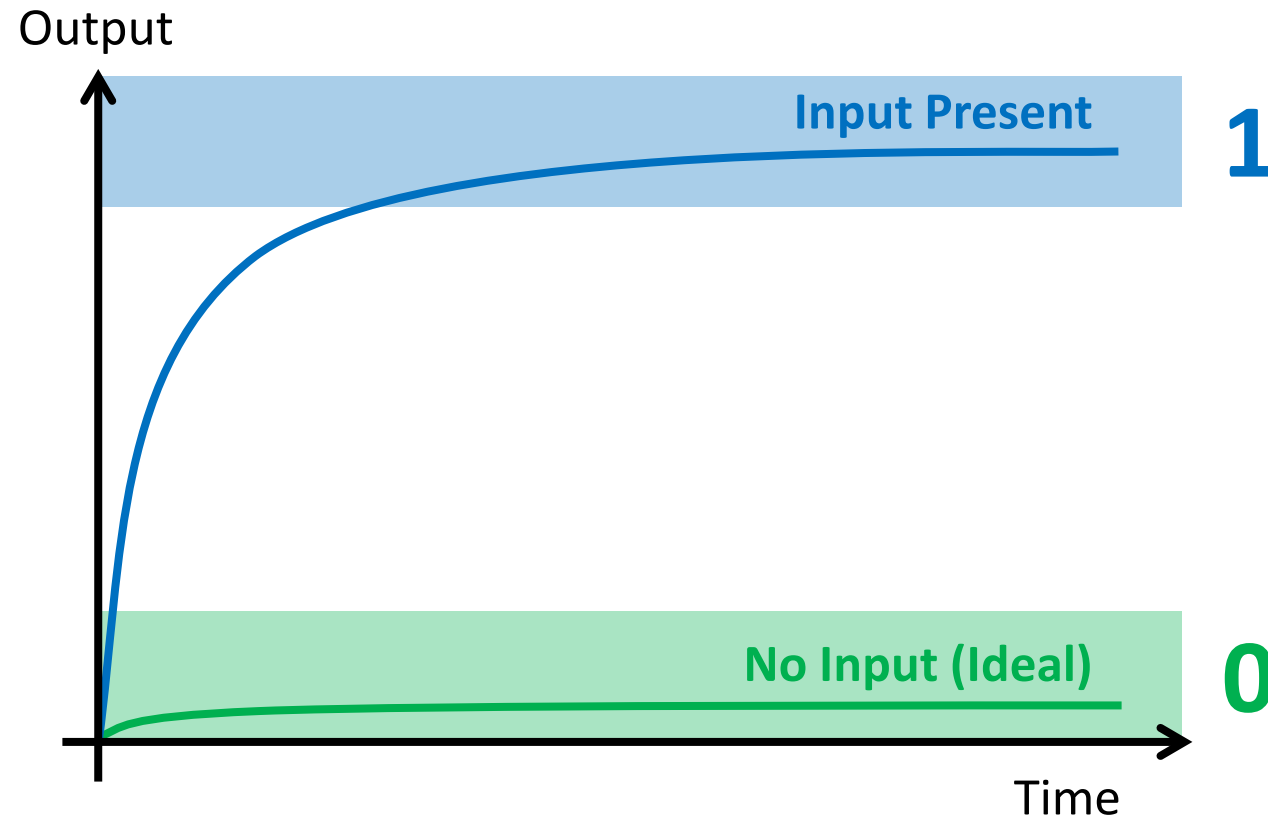
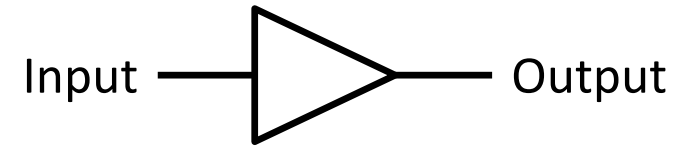


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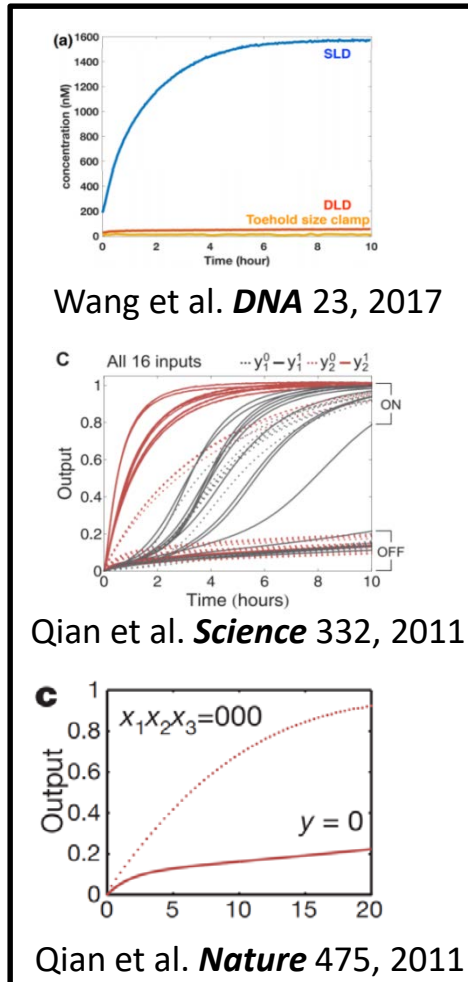


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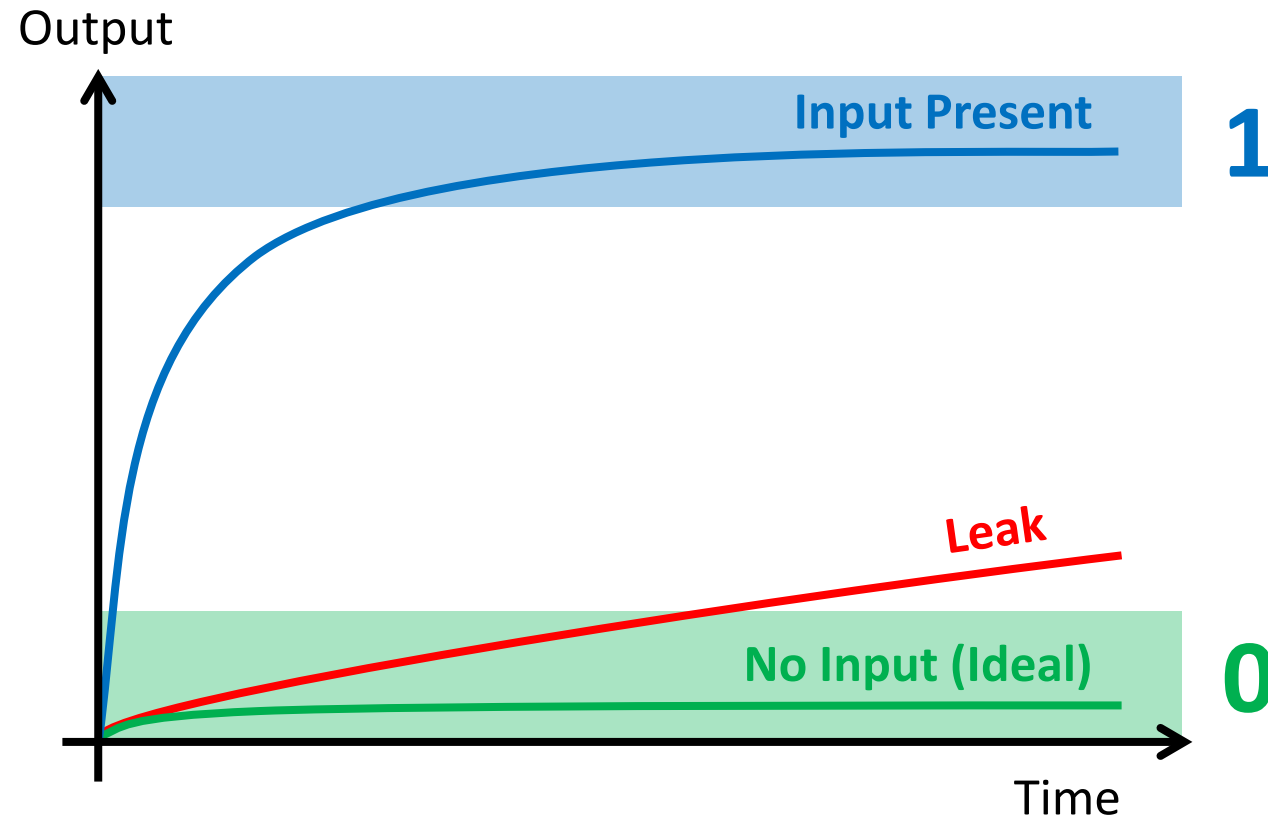
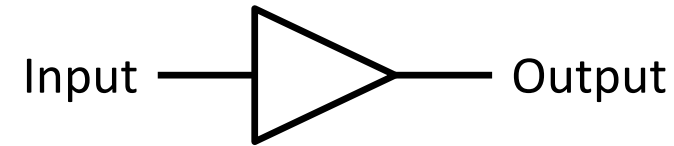


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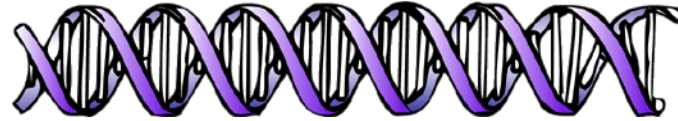
(Don't worry about the details in  
the pictures above)



# Levels of Abstraction

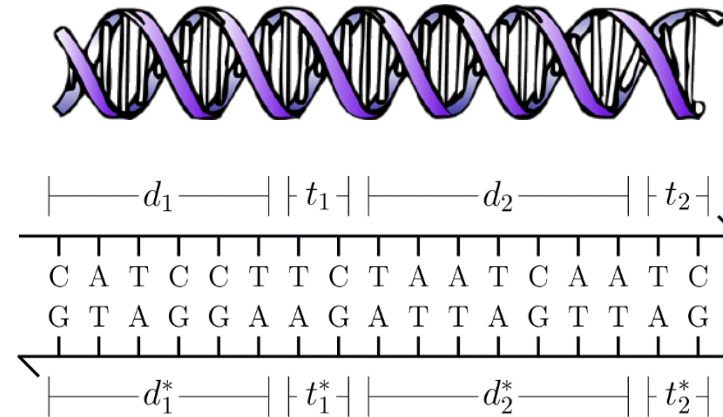
# Levels of Abstraction

DNA



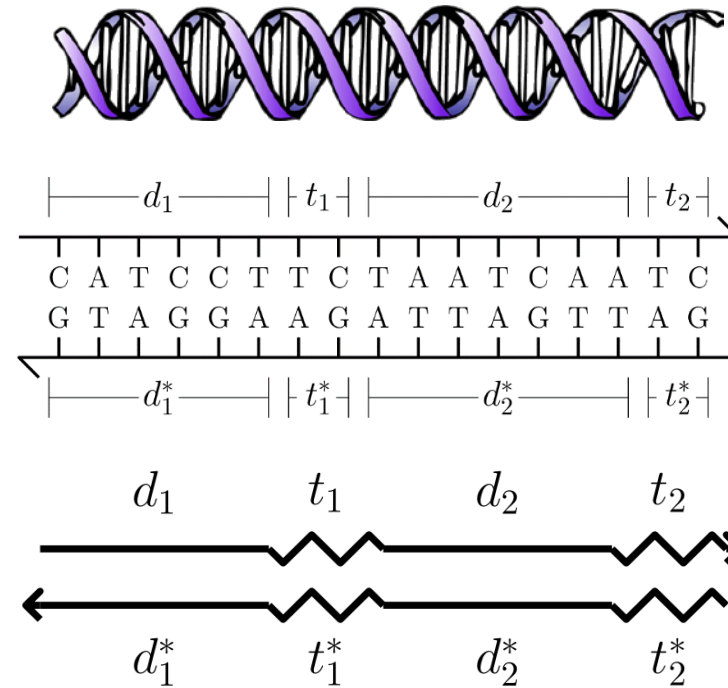
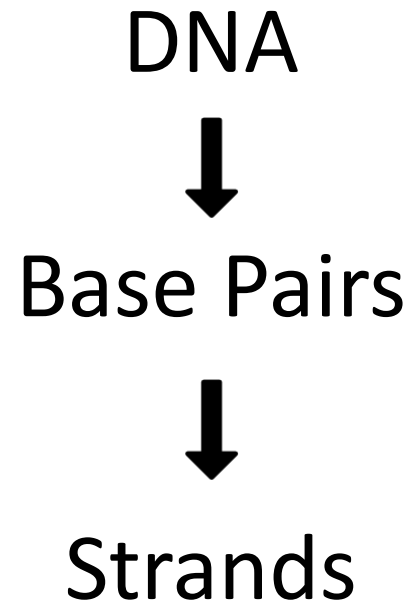
# Levels of Abstraction

DNA  
↓  
Base Pairs

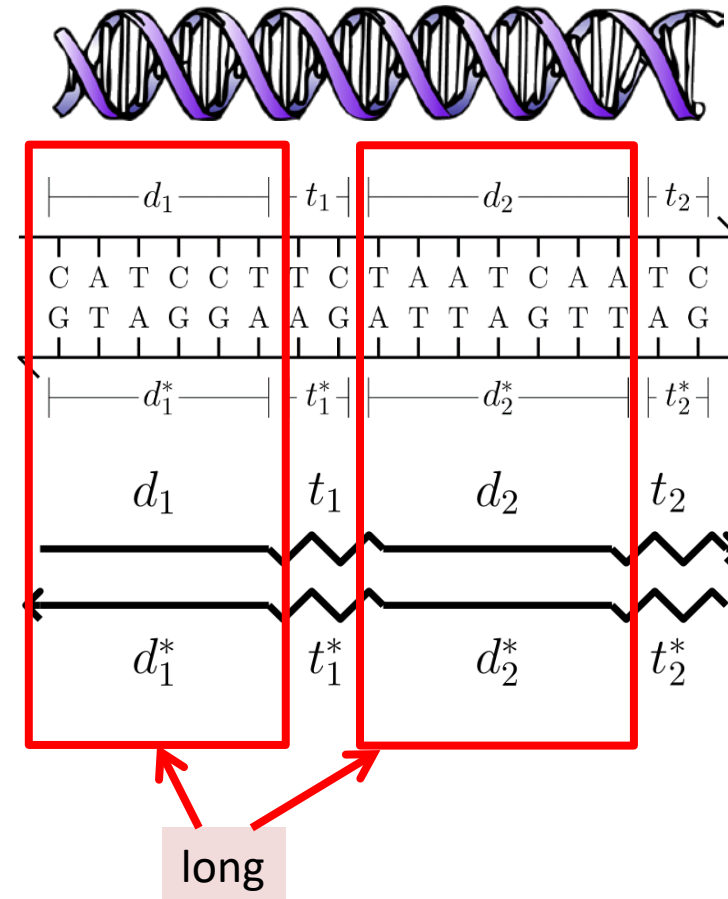
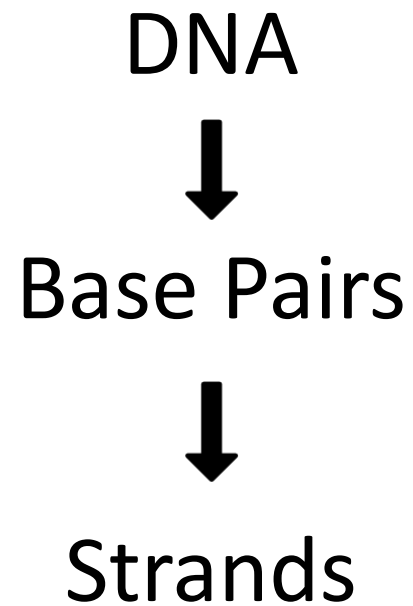




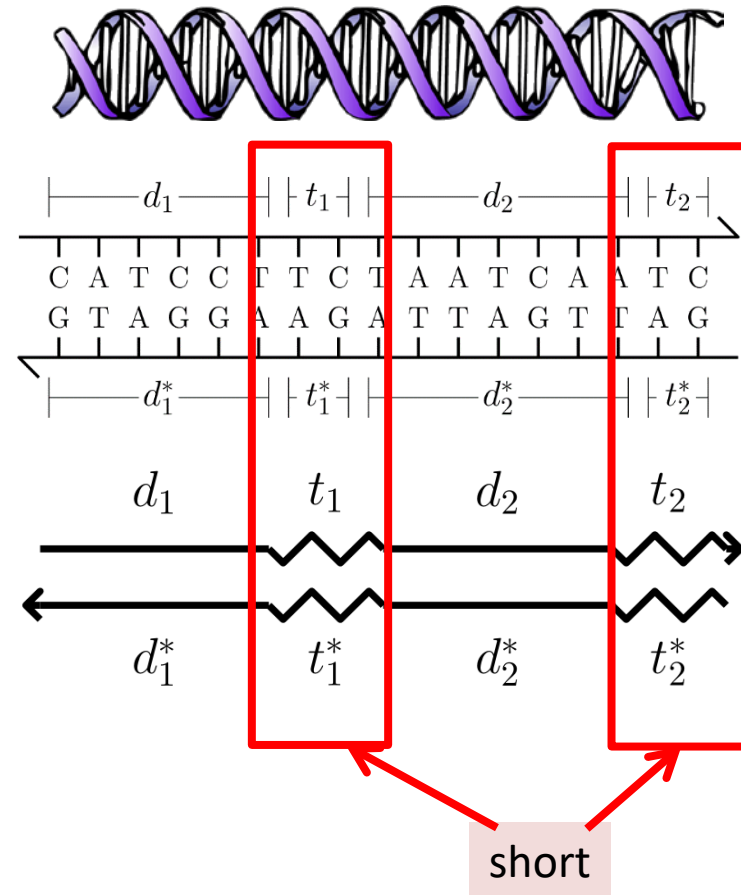
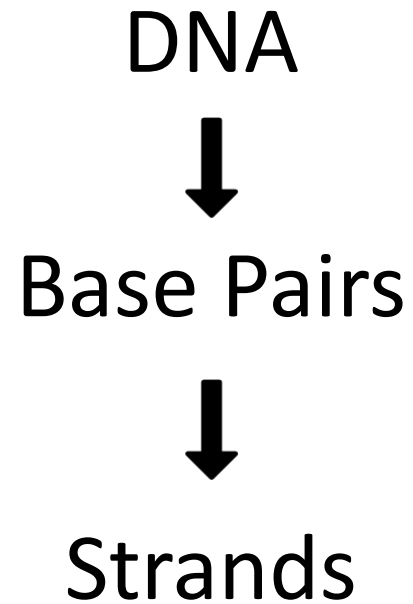
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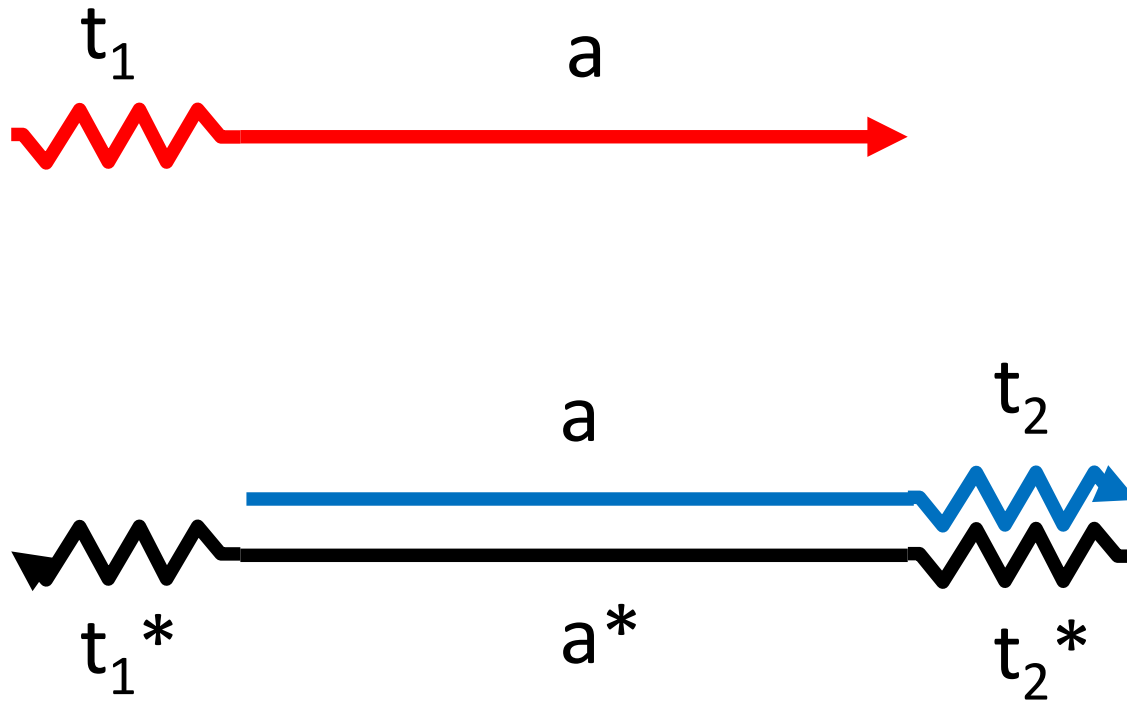
# Levels of Abstraction



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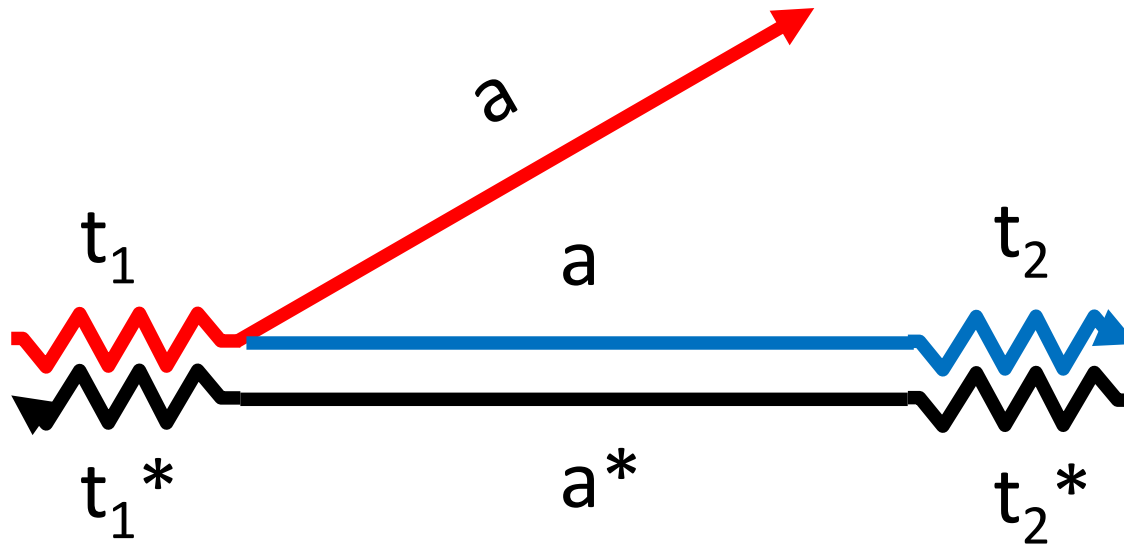


# DNA strand displacement



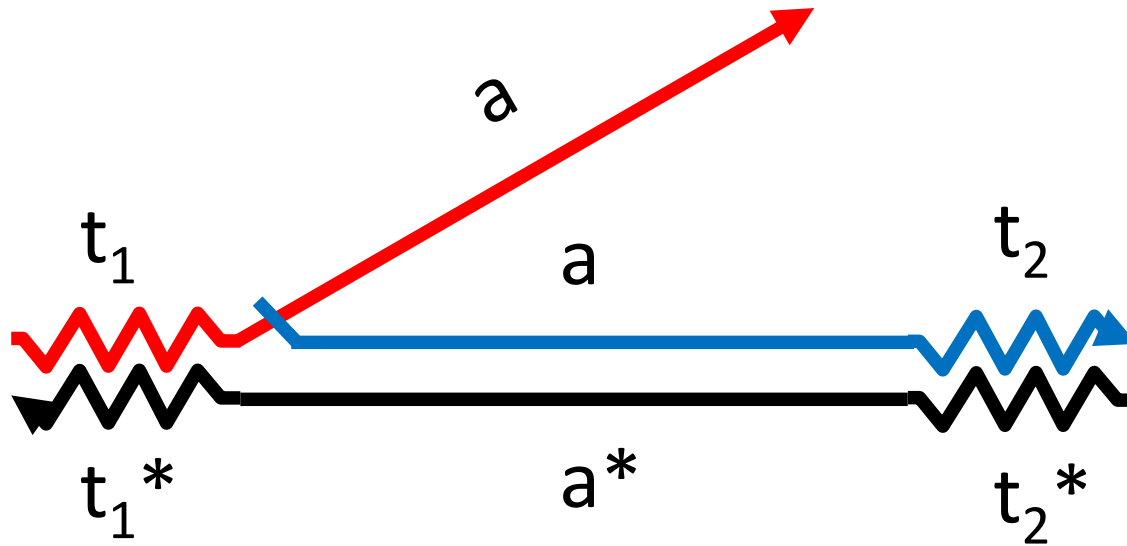
# DNA strand displacement

Bind



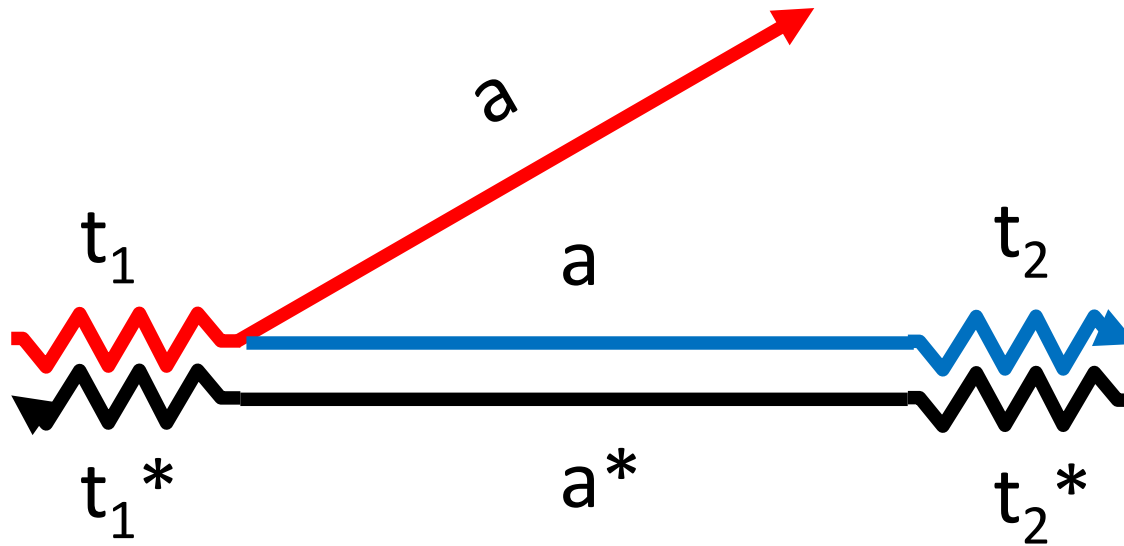
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Bind

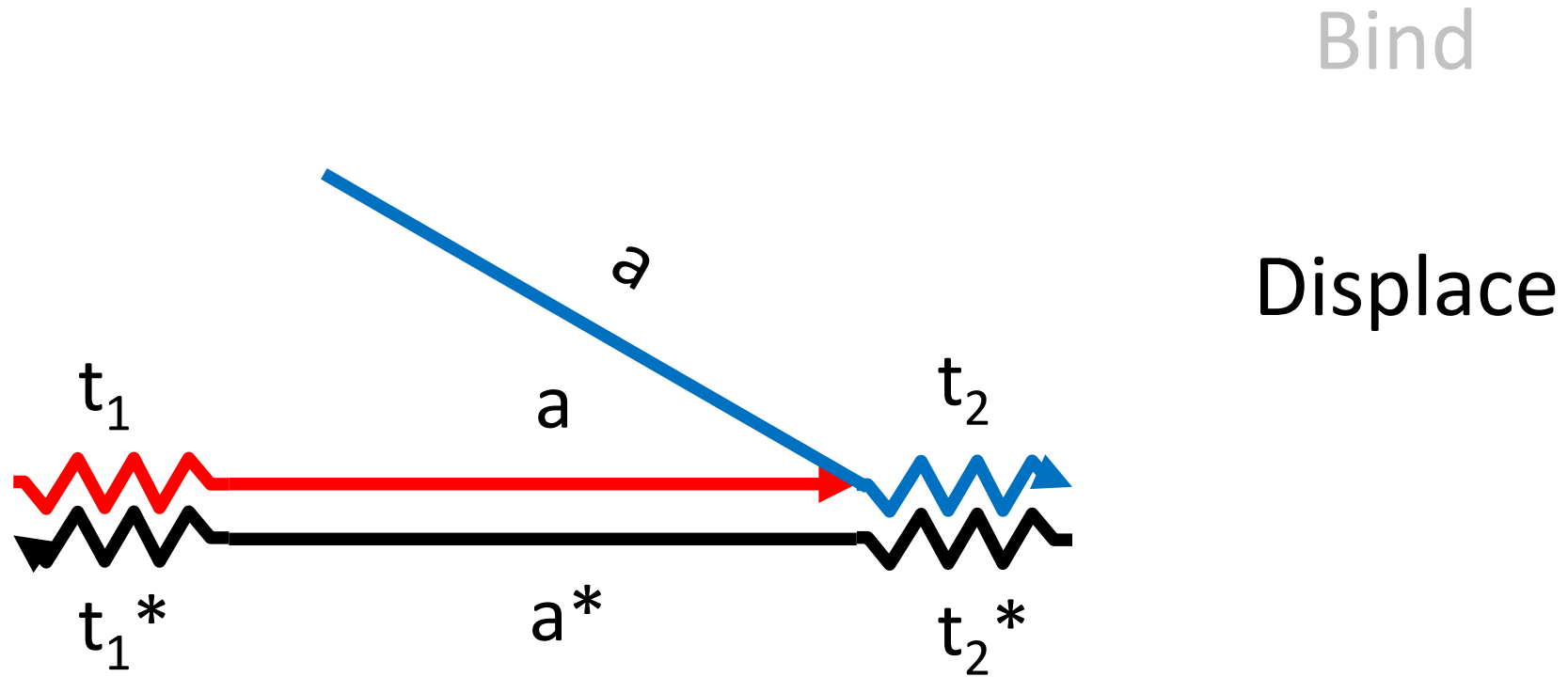


# DNA strand displacement

Bind

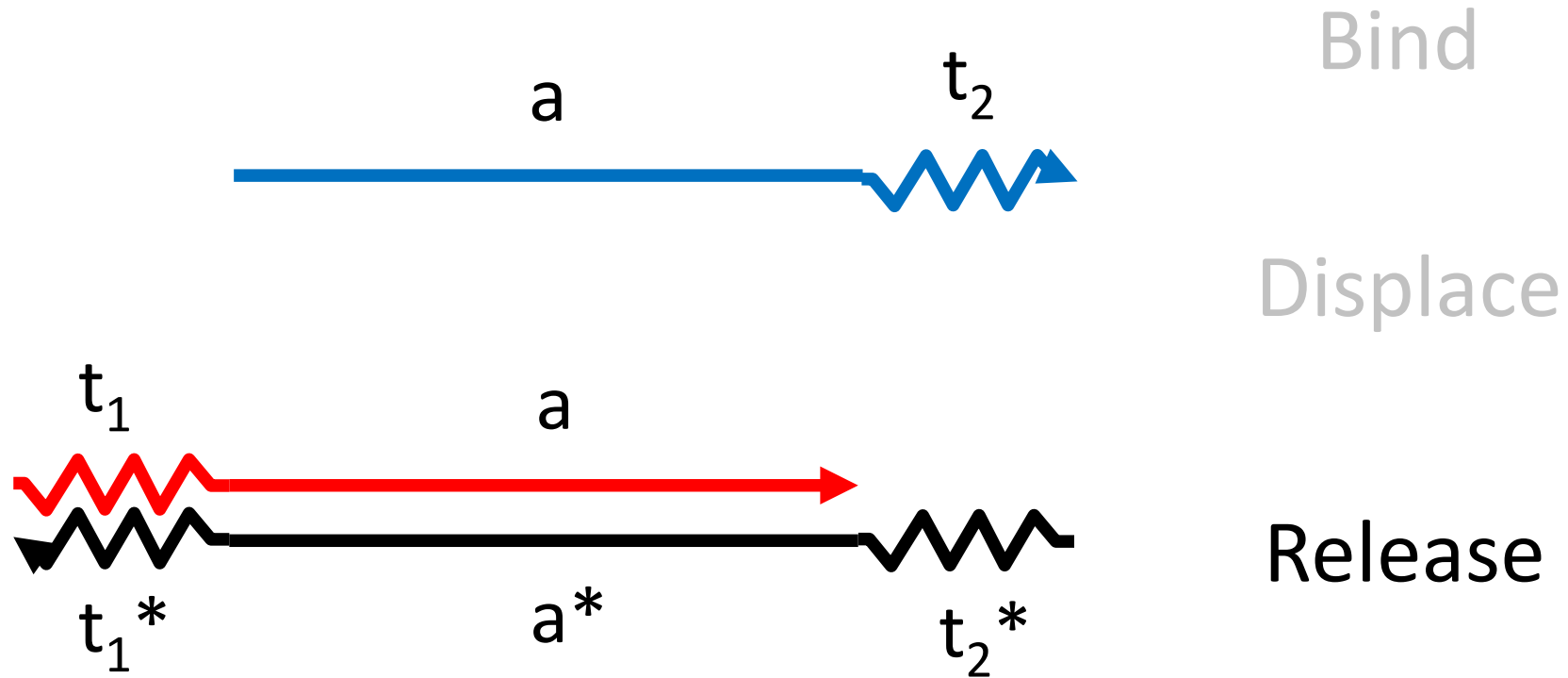


# DNA strand displacement





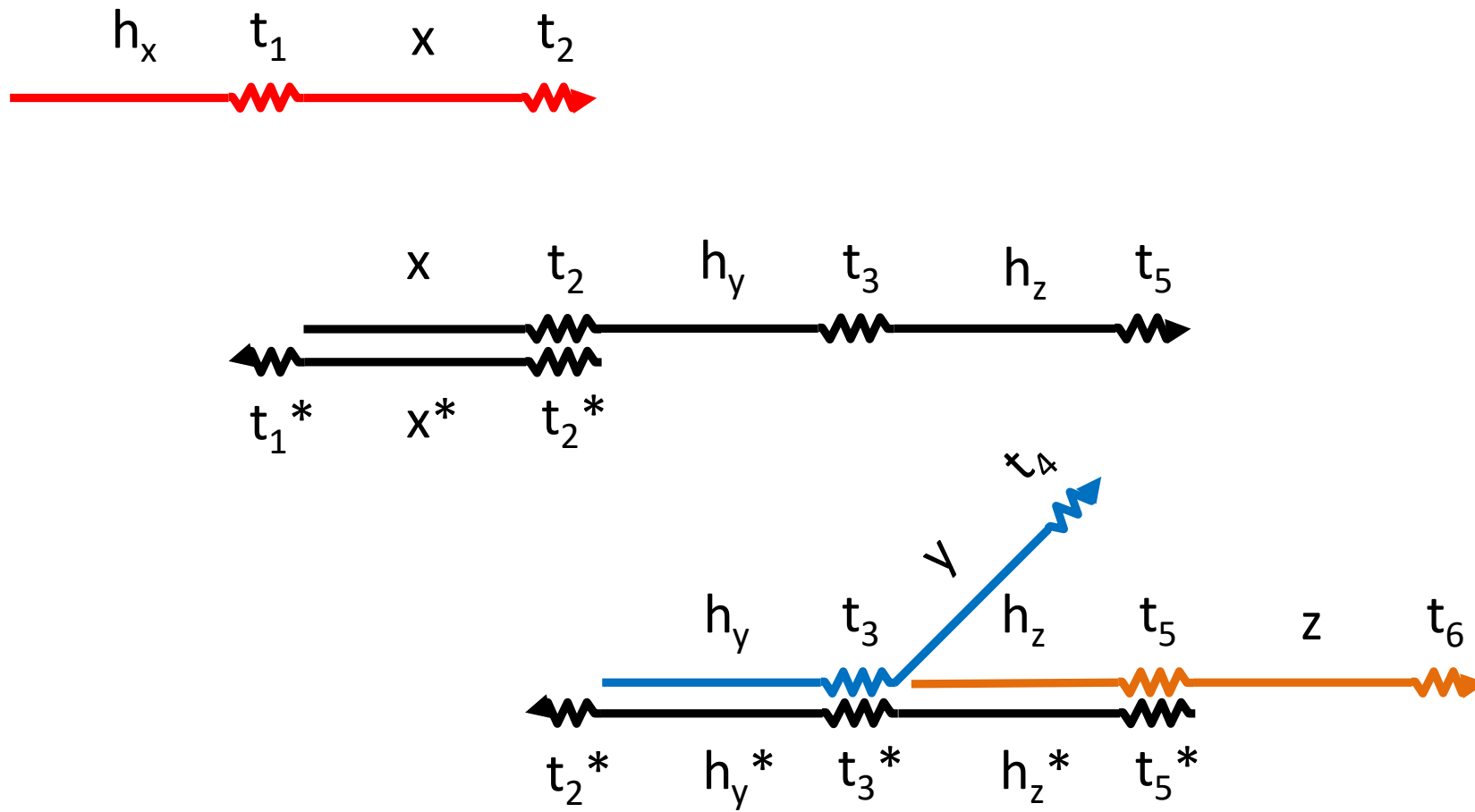
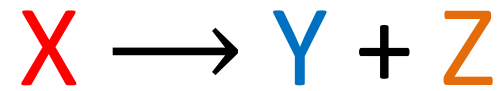
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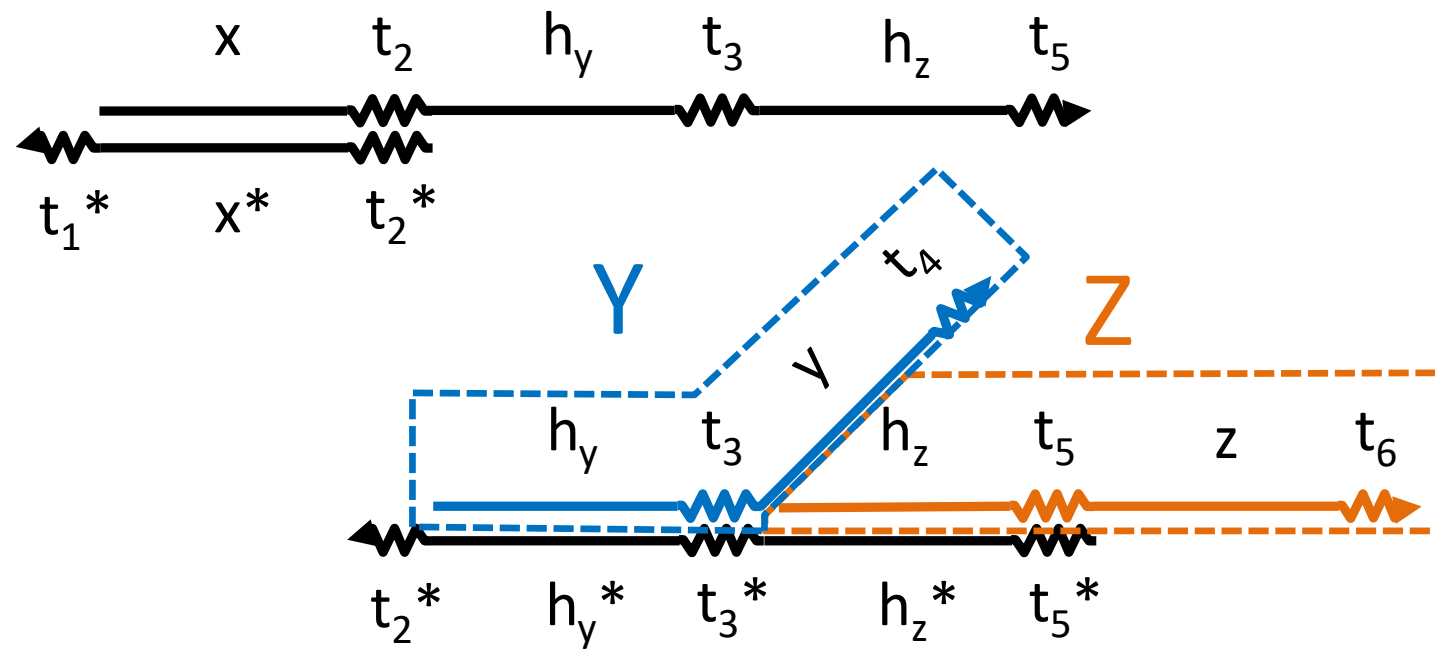
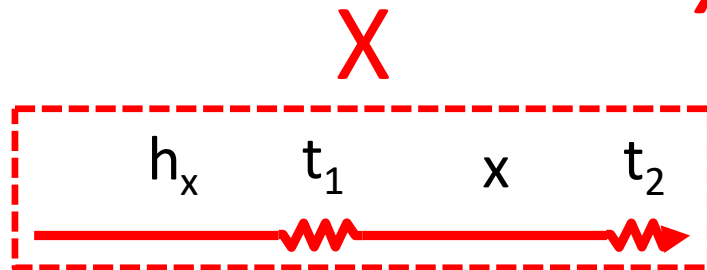
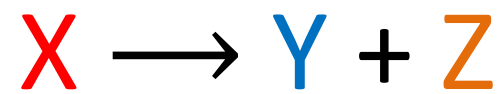


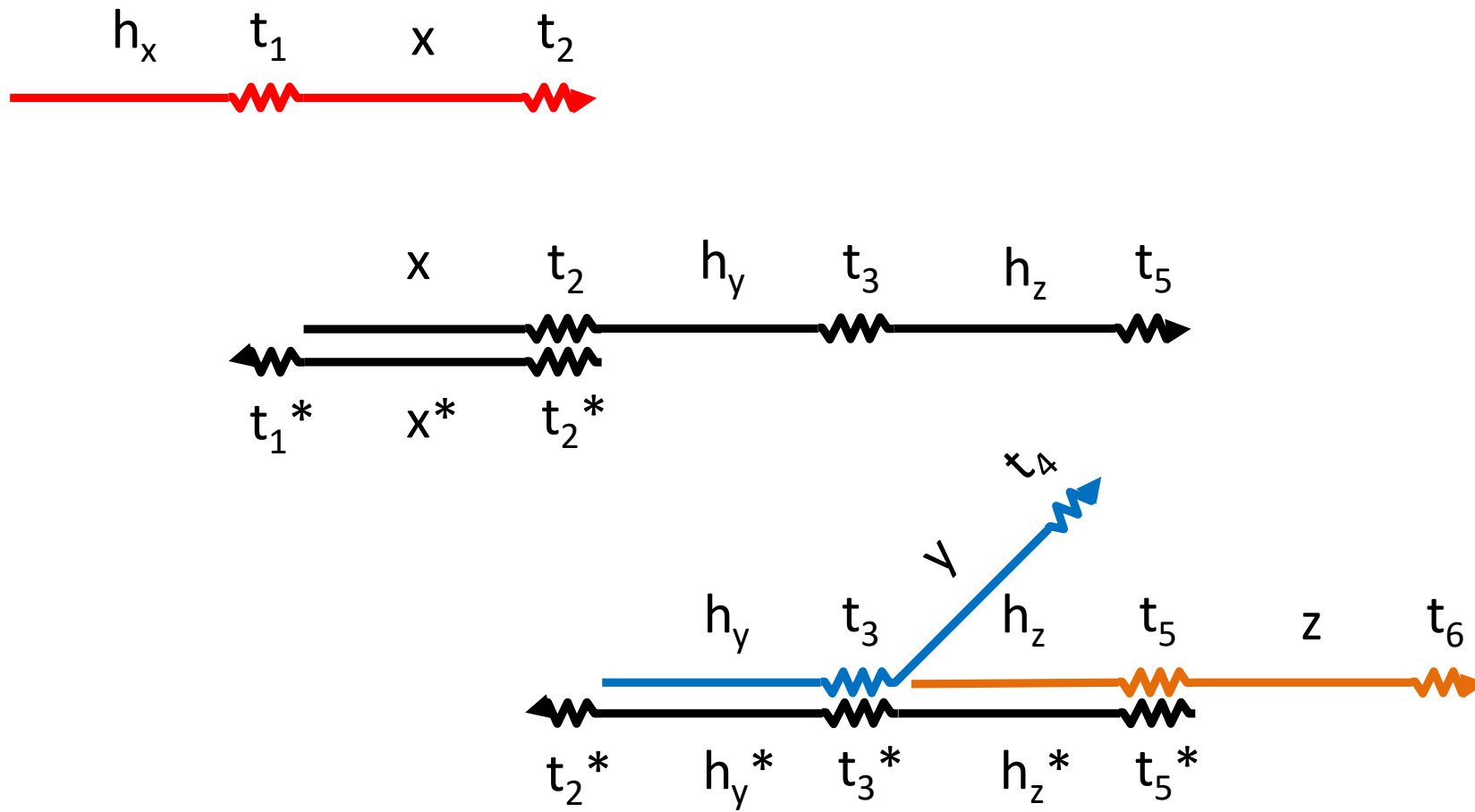
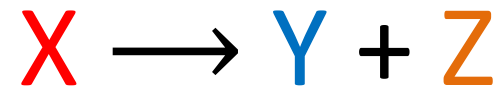
# DNA strand displacement implementing $A+B \rightarrow C$

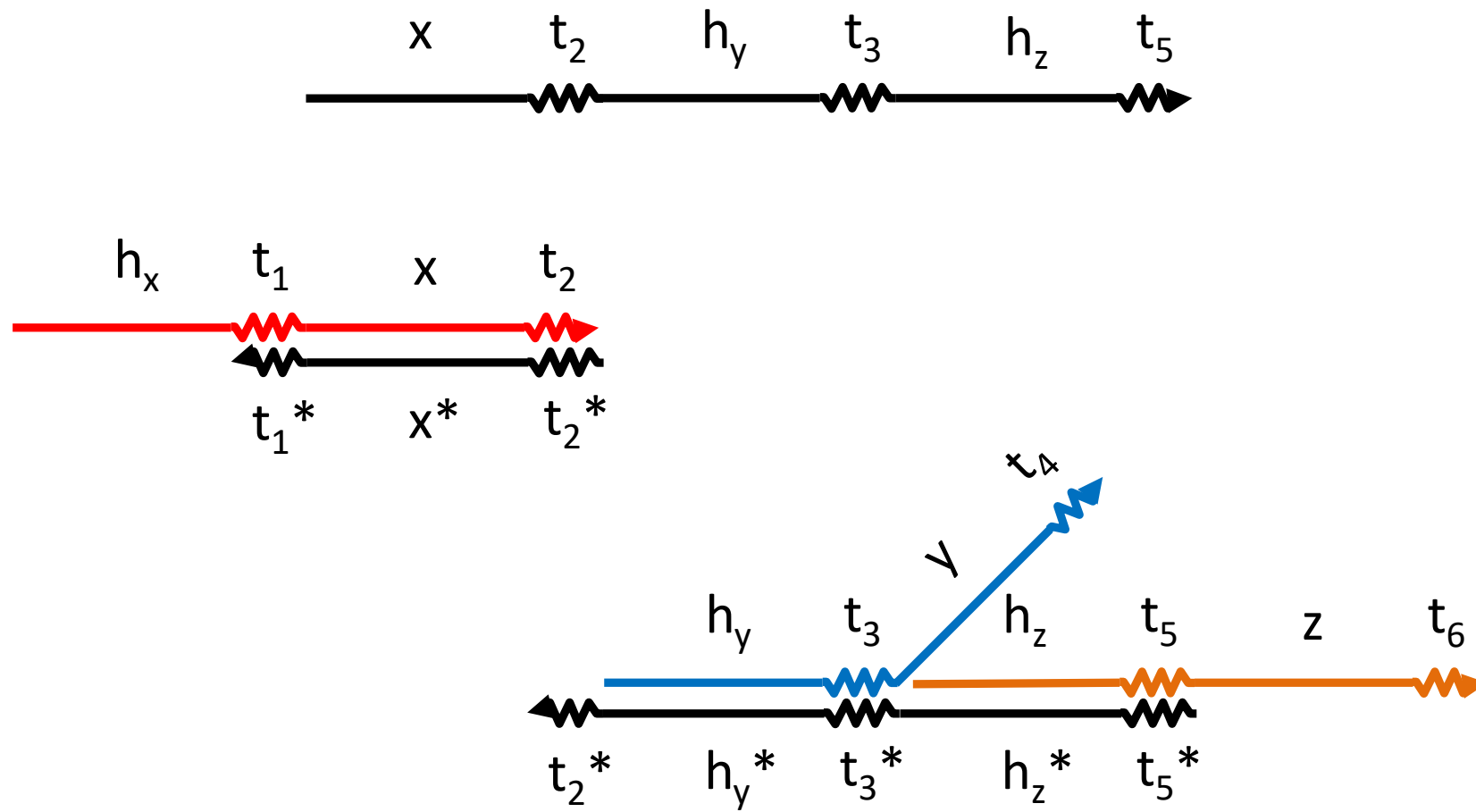
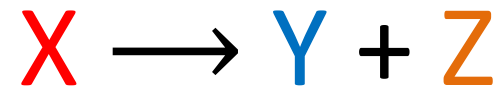


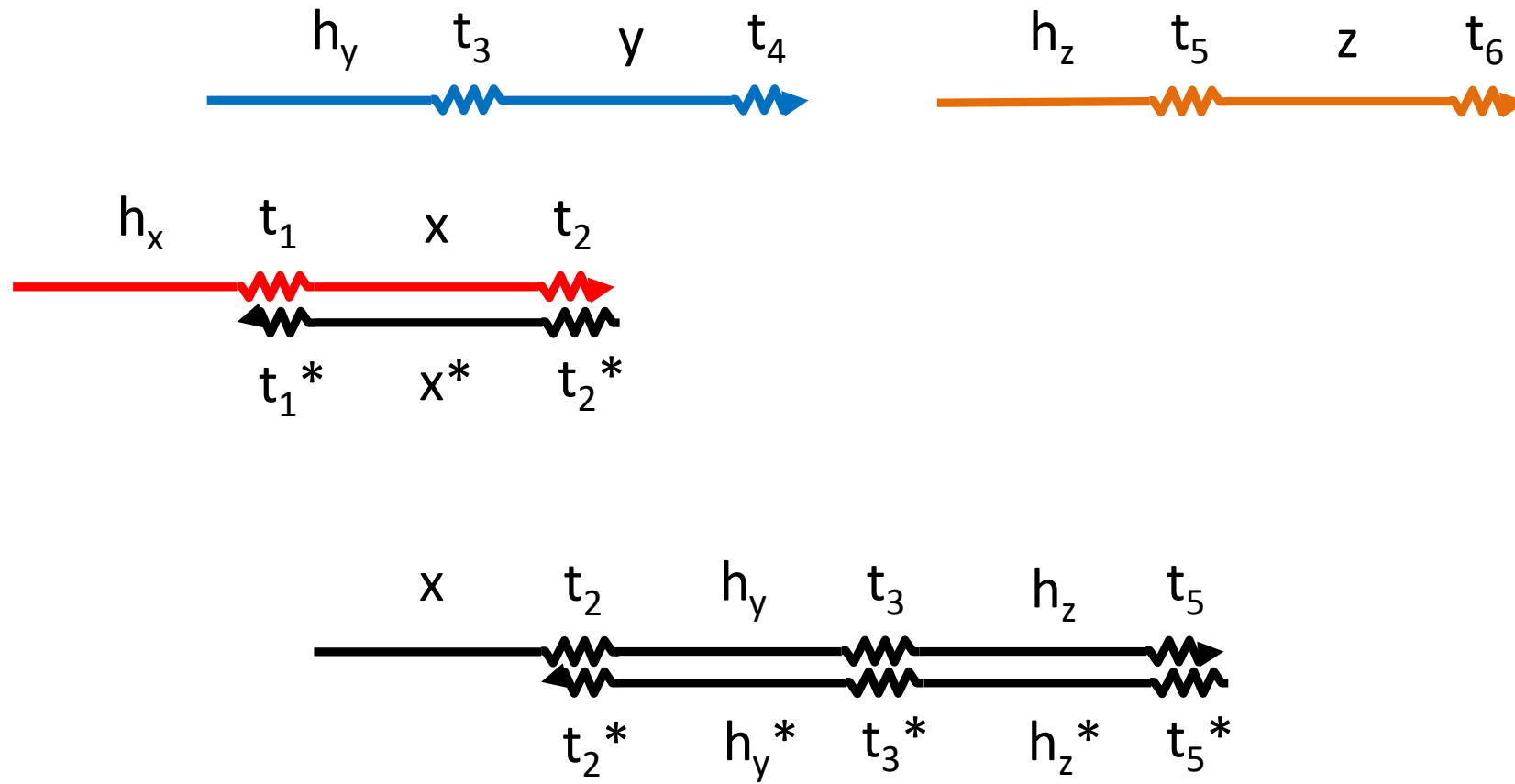
video: Microsoft Research Cambridge

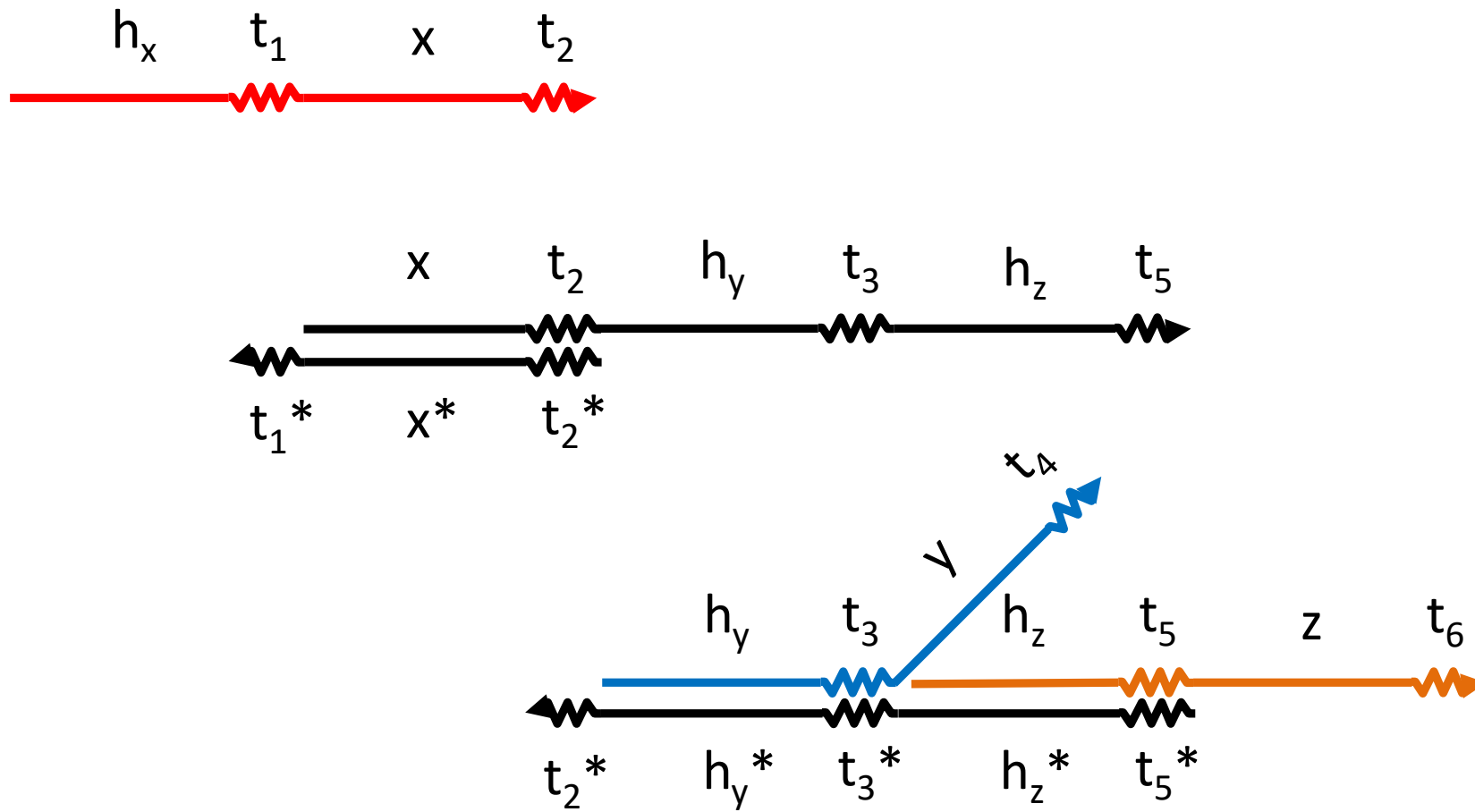








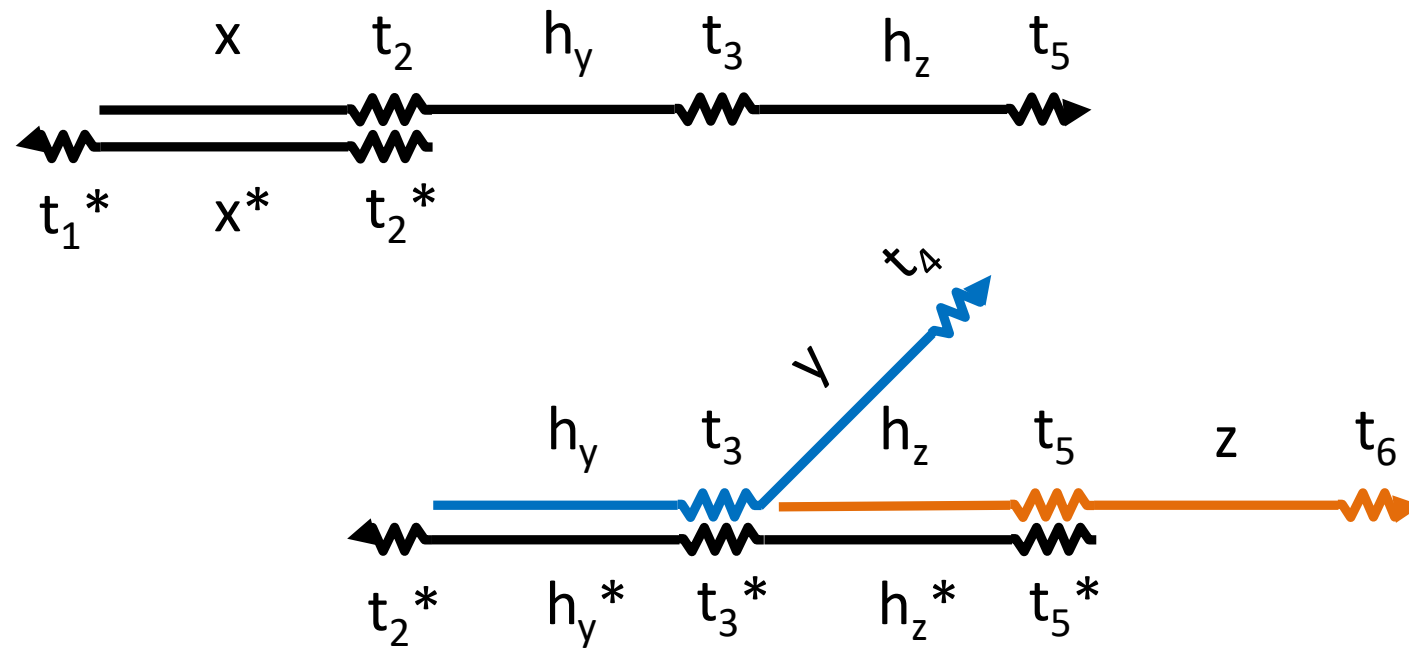






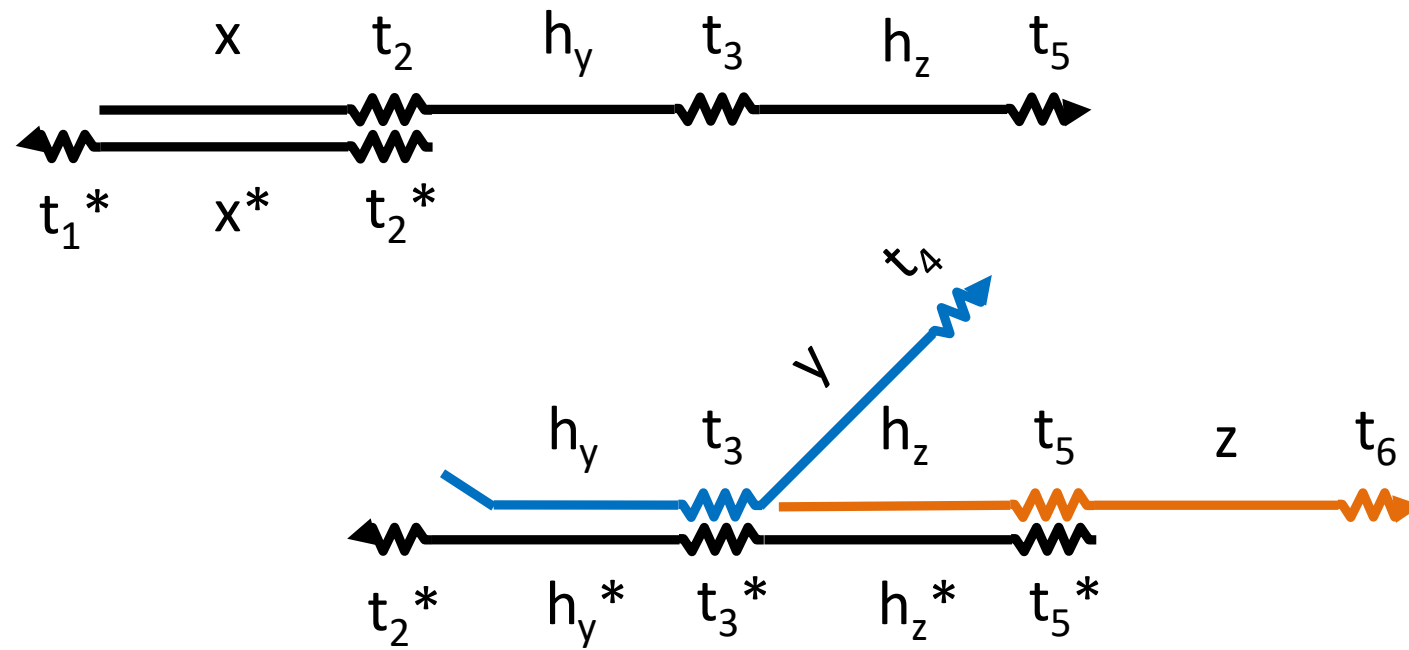
Leak: A Source of Error

$$\emptyset \longrightarrow Y + Z$$



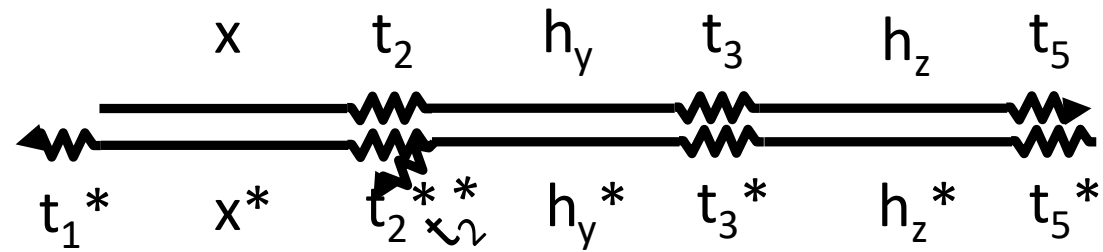
Leak: A Source of Error

$$\emptyset \longrightarrow Y + Z$$



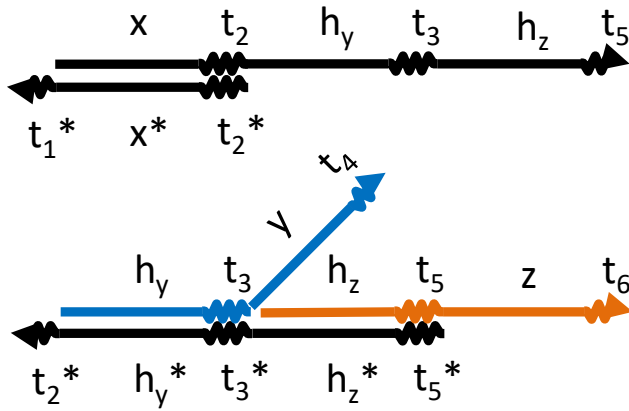
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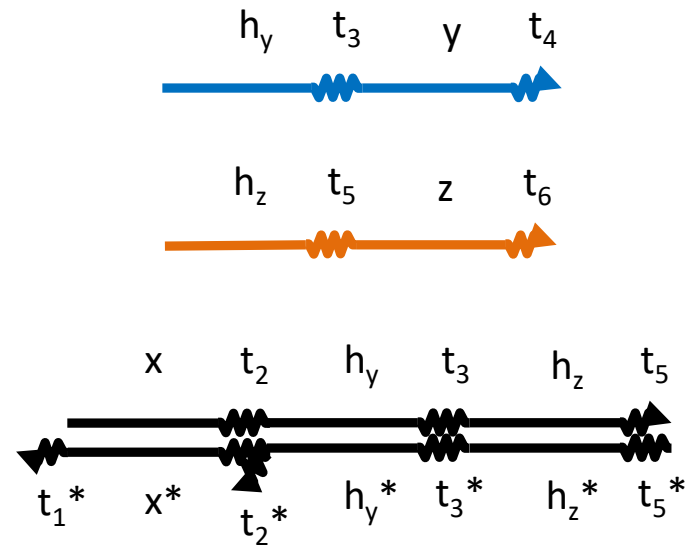


# A Driving Force for Leak

Before:

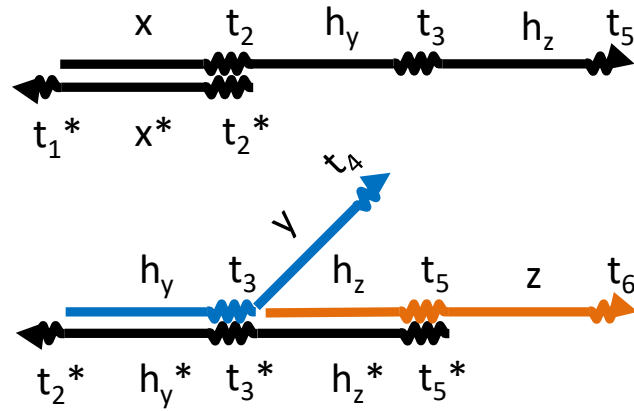


After:



# A Driving Force for Leak

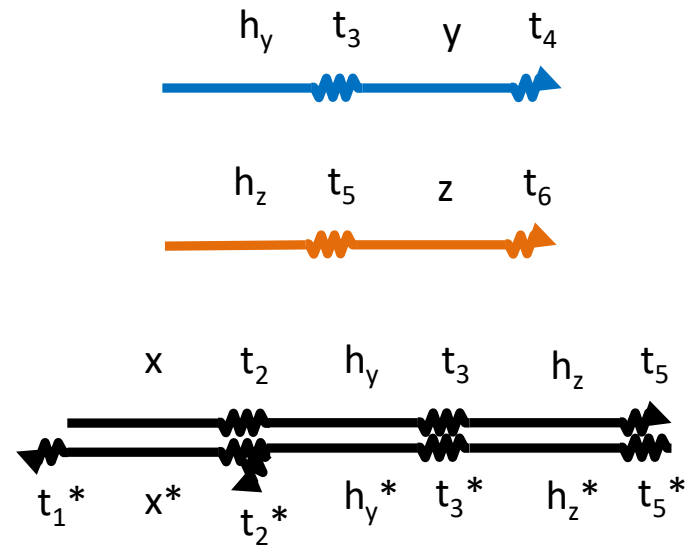
Before:



slow

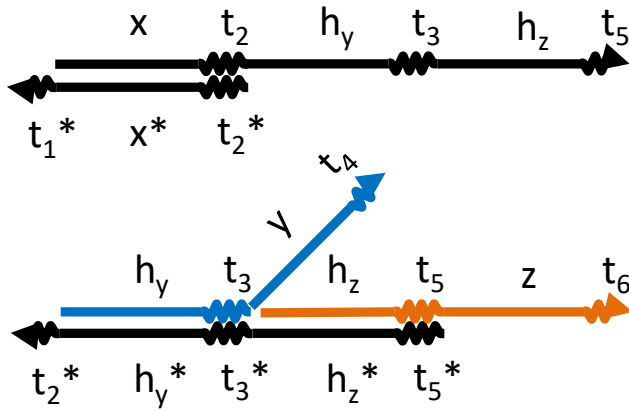


After:



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Before:



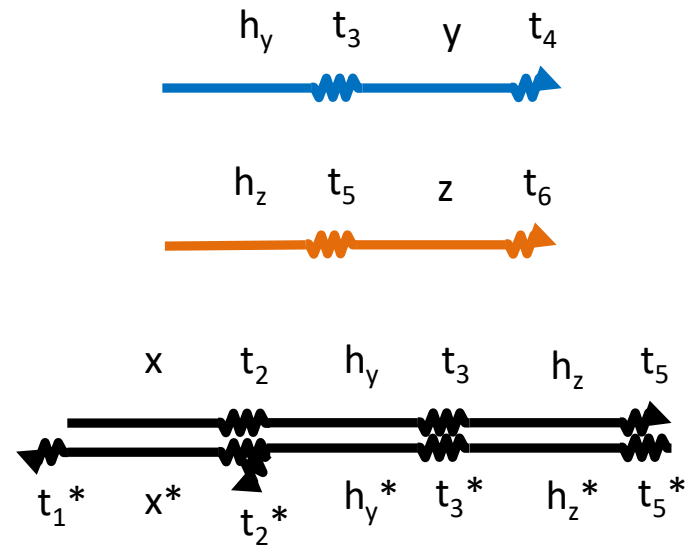
slow



very slow

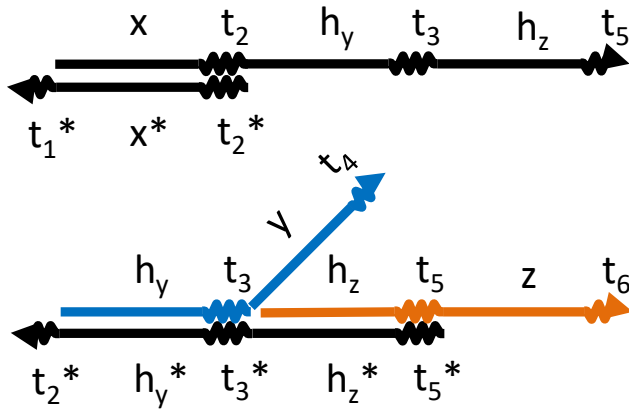


After:



# A Driving Force for Leak

Before:

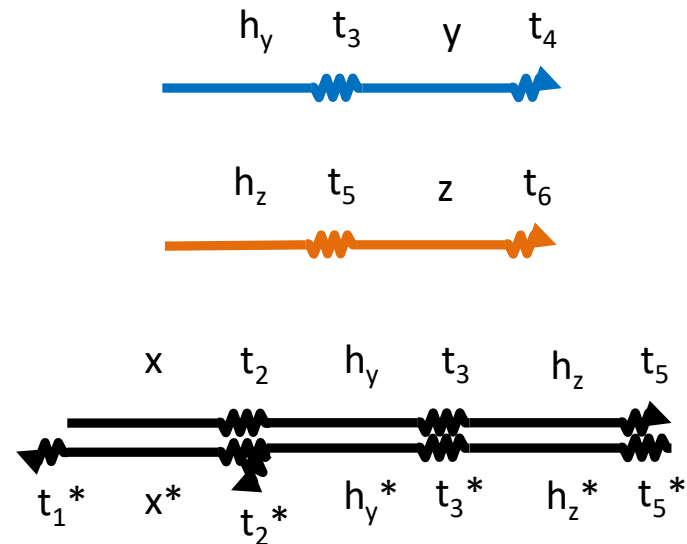


less favorable

After:

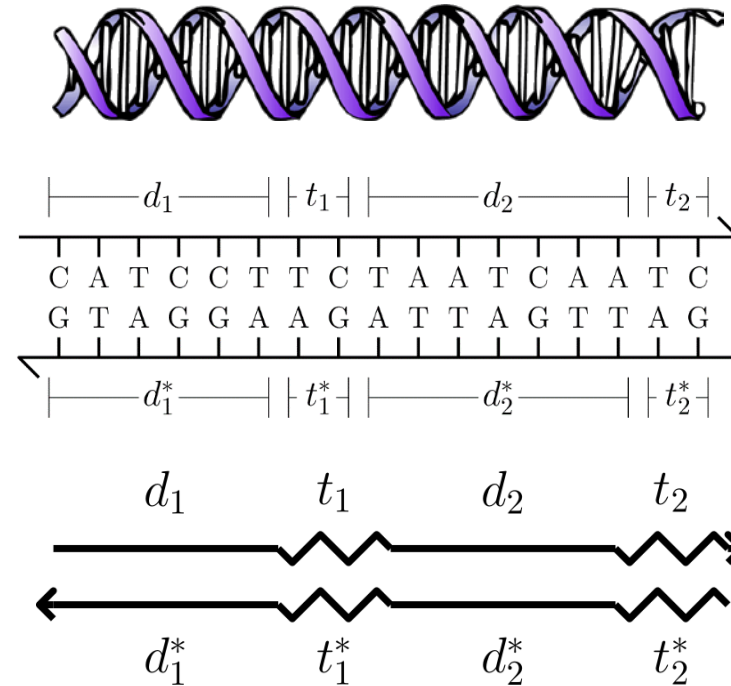
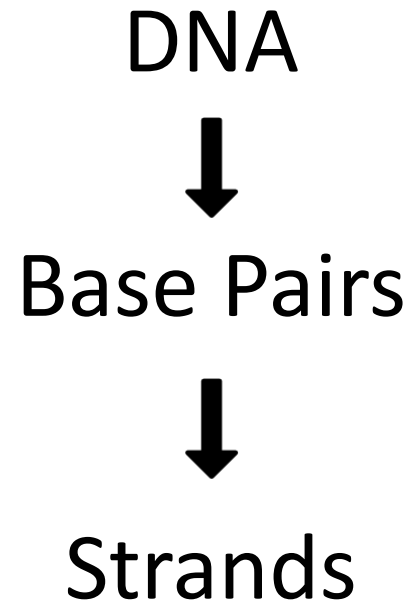
slow

very slow



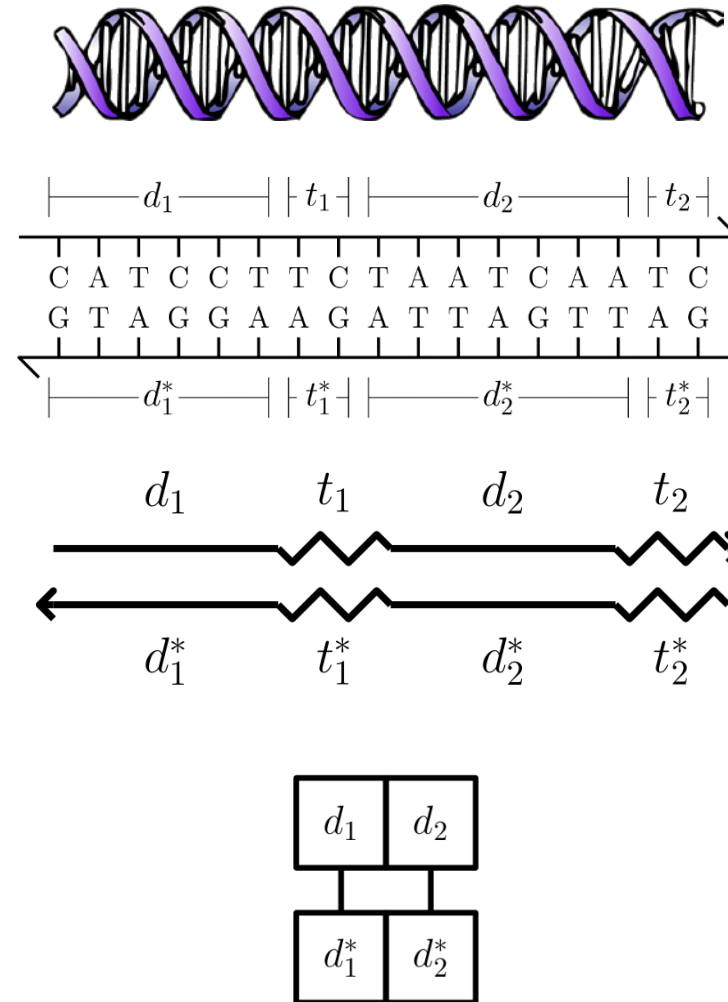
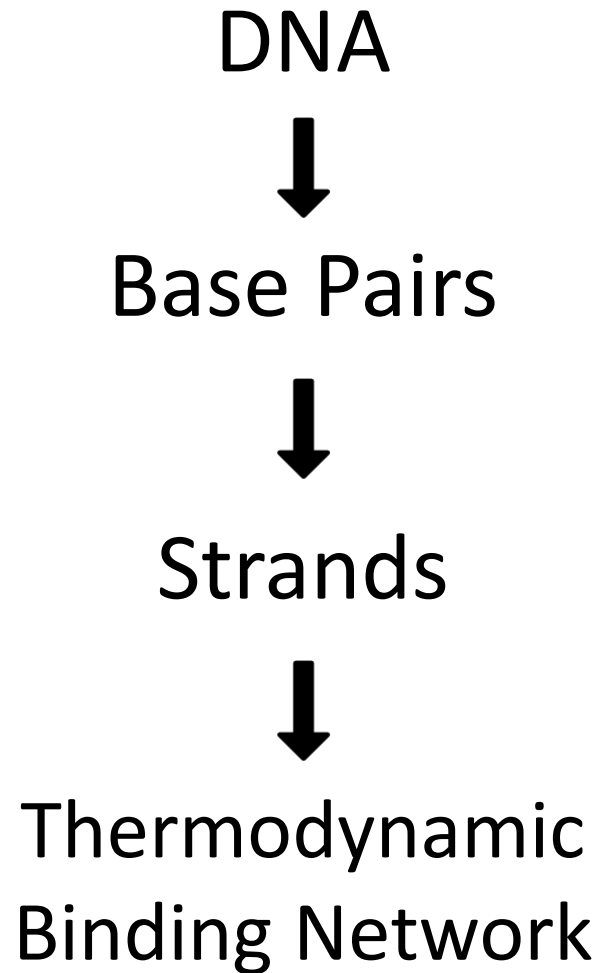
more favorable

# Levels of Abstraction

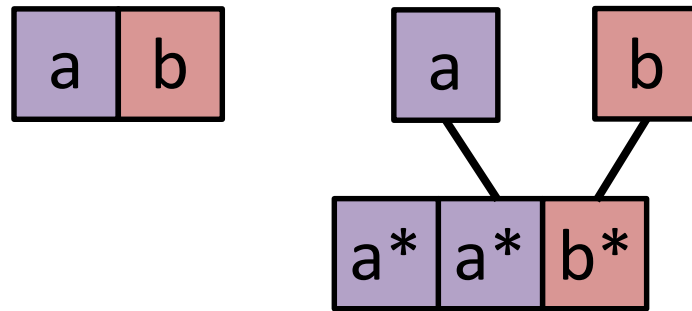




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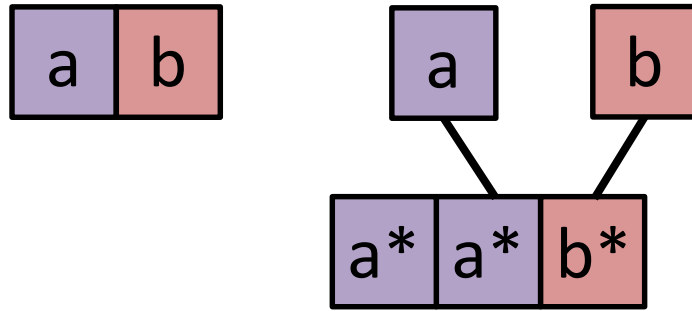
# Thermodynamic Binding Networks



Monomer = collection of domains

Configuration = how monomers are bound

# Thermodynamic Binding Networks

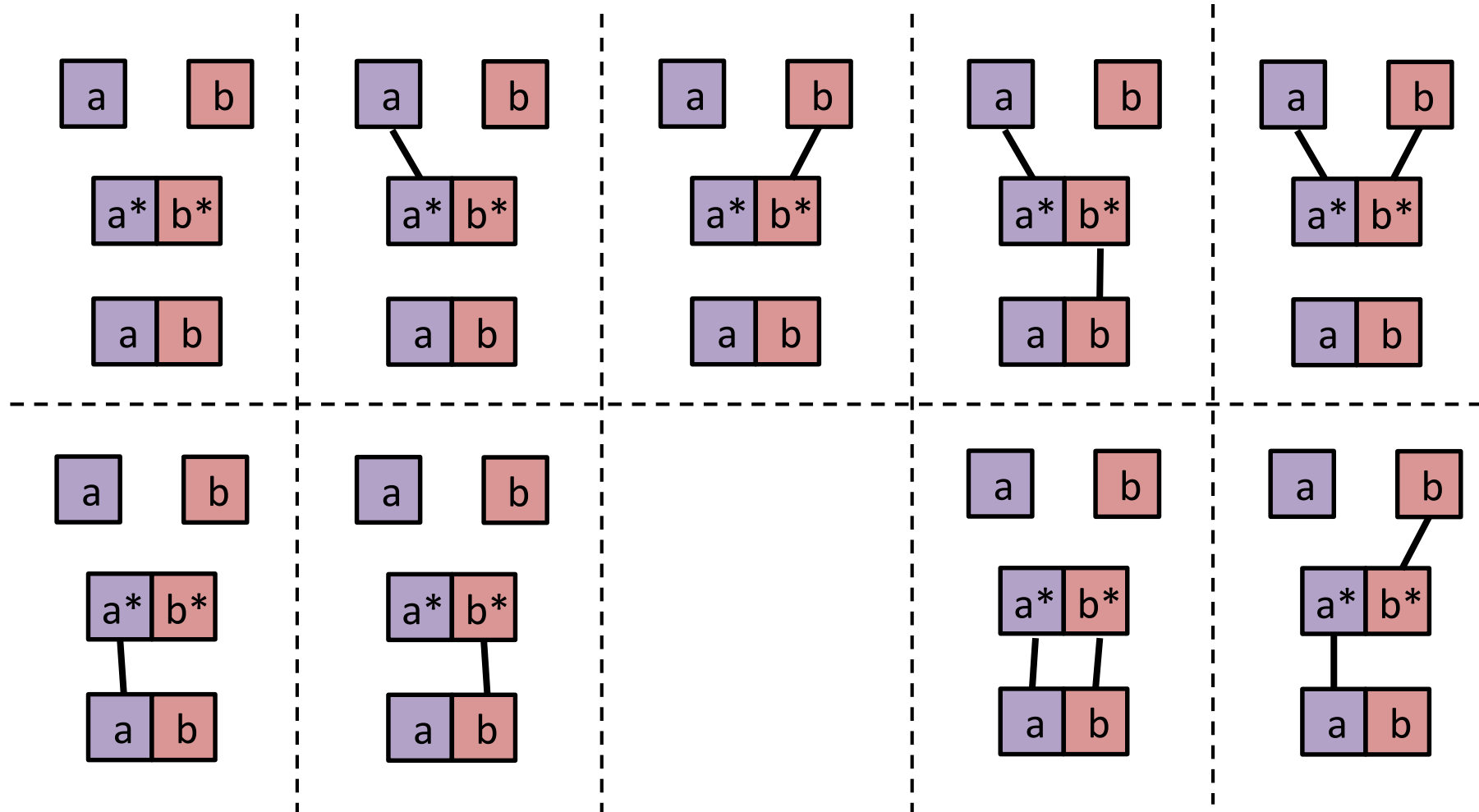


Geometry-Free Model:  
The domains within a monomer are unordered

Monomer = collection of domains

Configuration = how monomers are bound

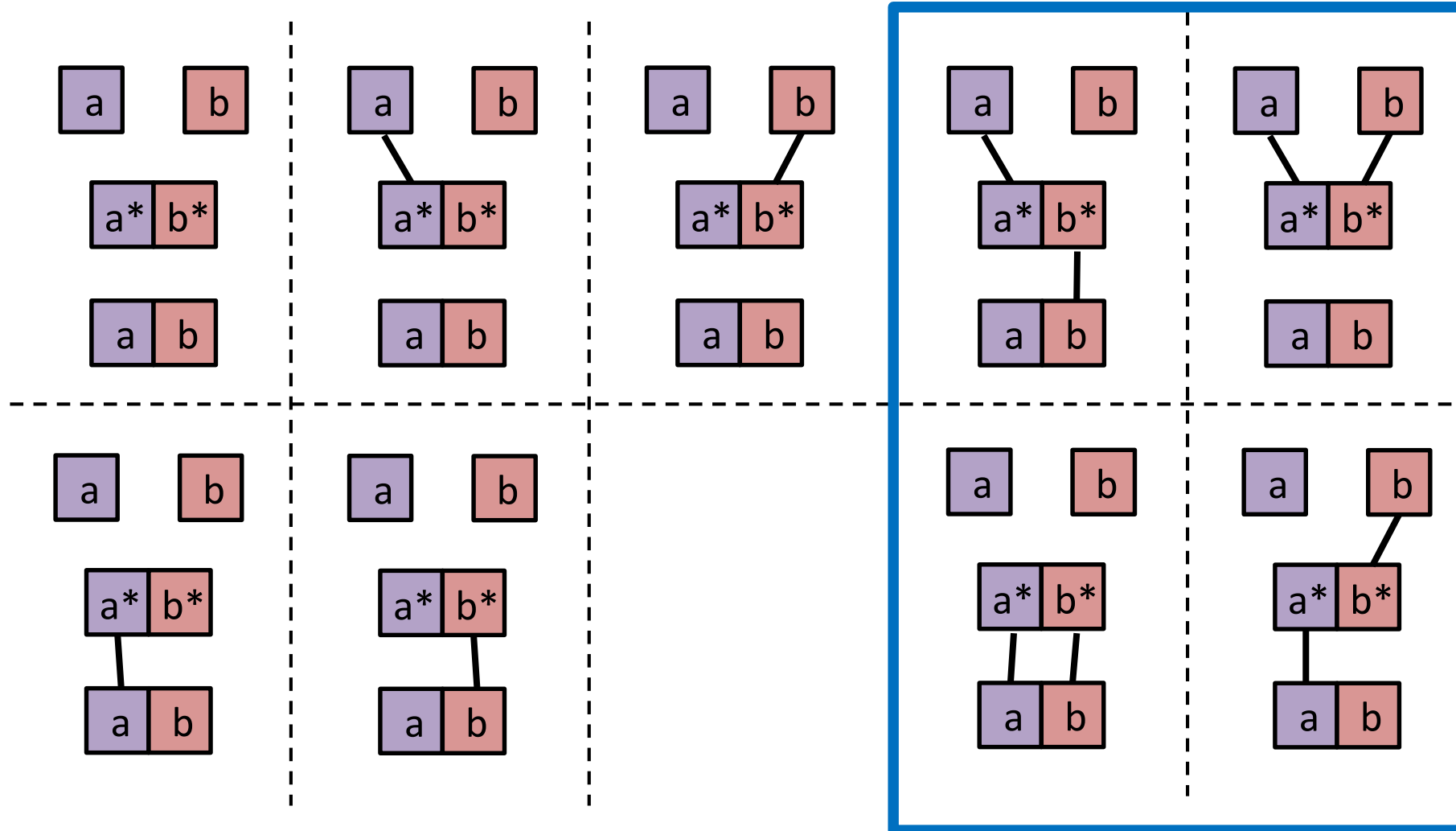
# Thermodynamic Binding Networks



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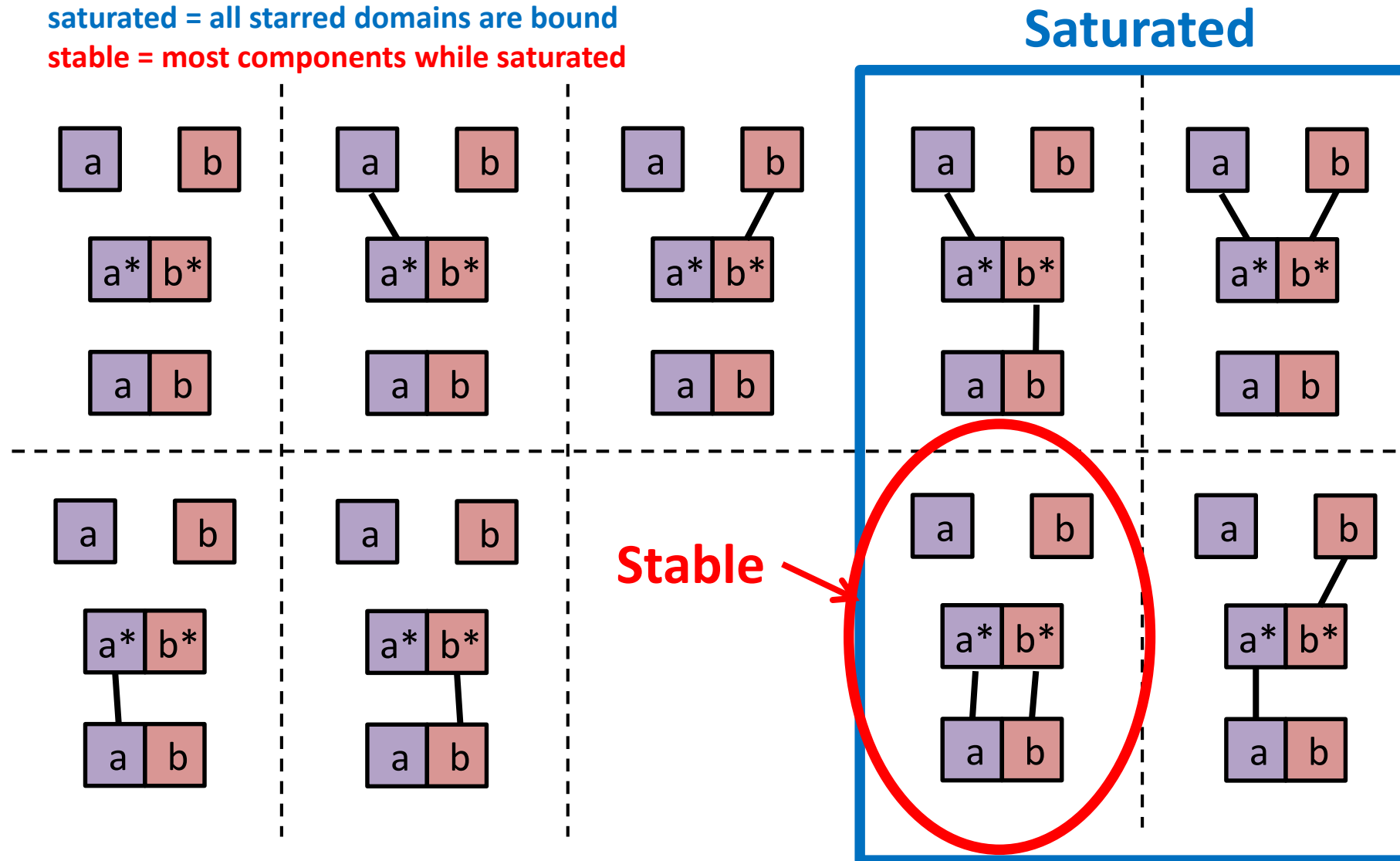
saturated = all starred domains are bound

Saturated



# Thermodynamic Binding Networks

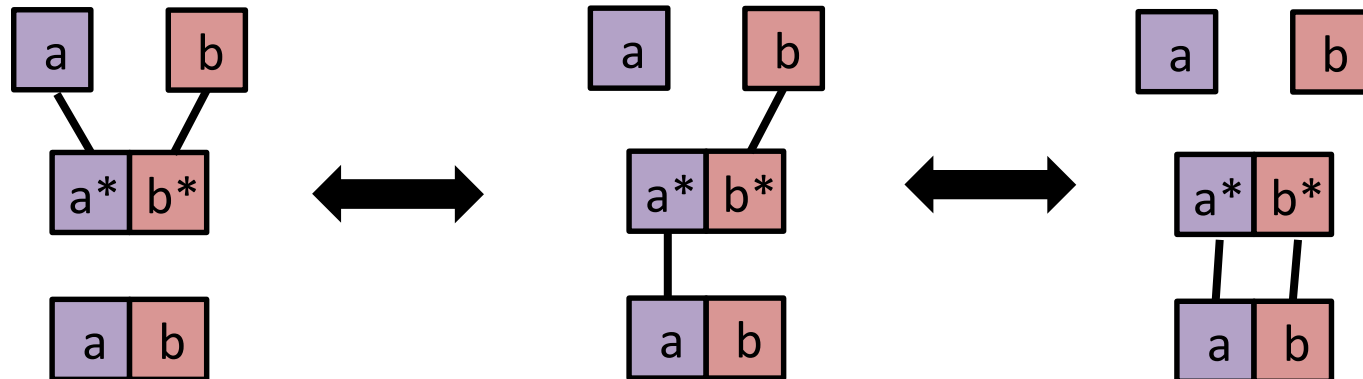
saturated = all starred domains are bound  
stable = most components while saturated

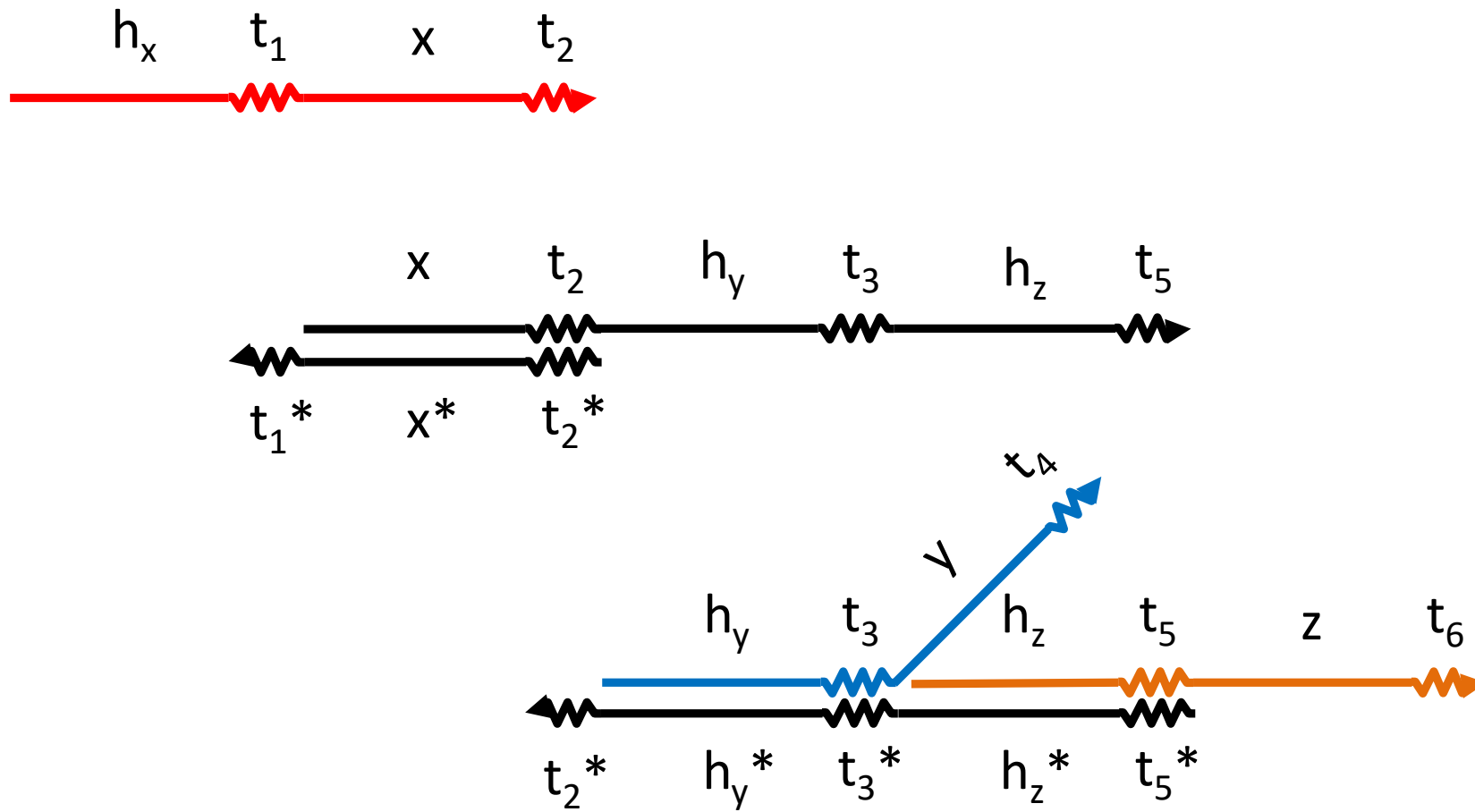


# Pathways

**Thermodynamics:** Which configurations are energetically favorable

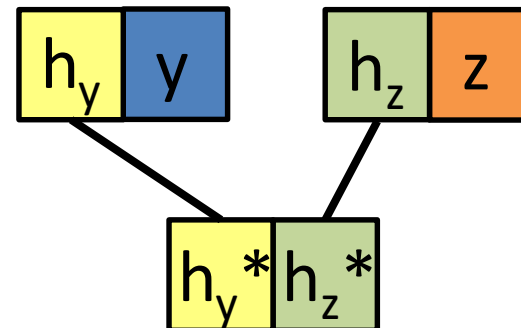
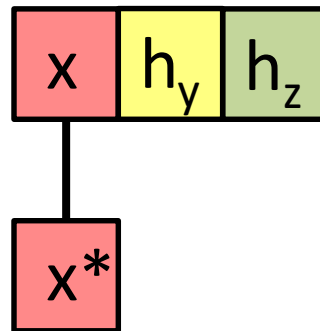
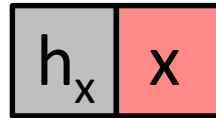
**Kinetics:** How a system moves between configurations over time



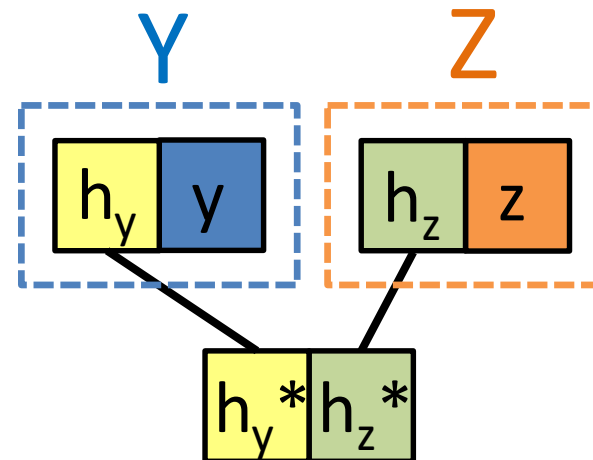
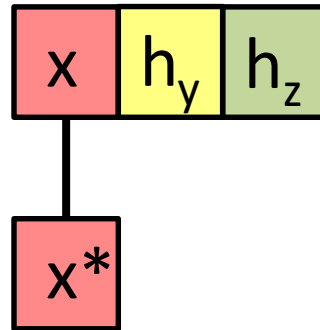
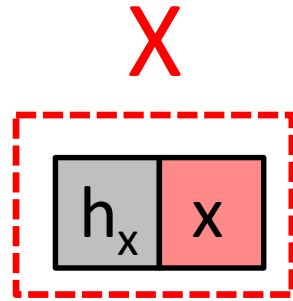




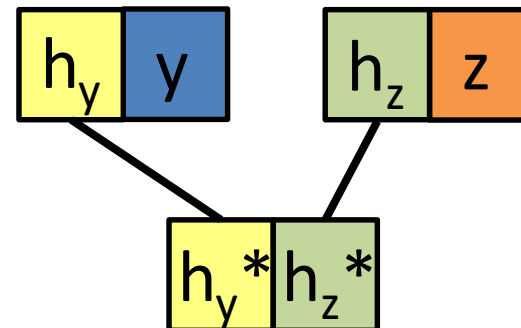
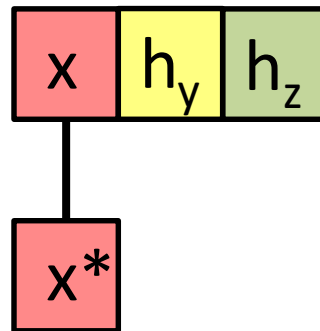
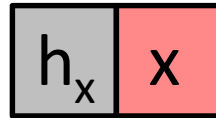
$$X \rightarrow Y + Z$$

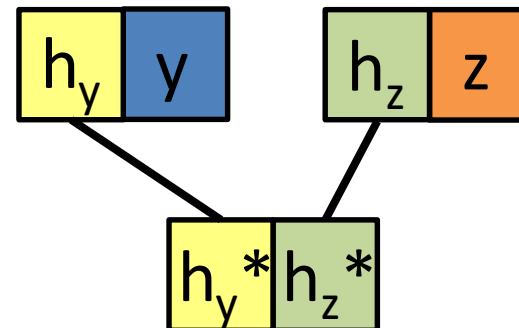
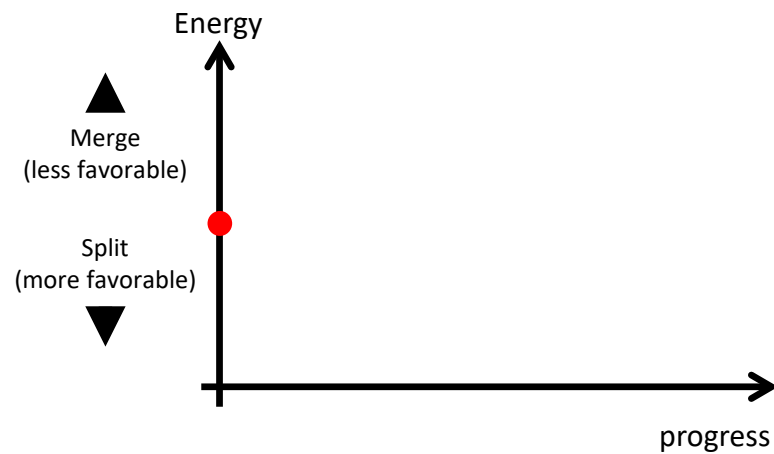
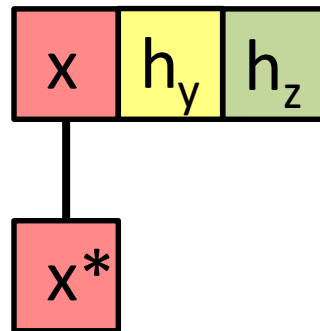
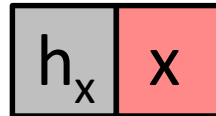


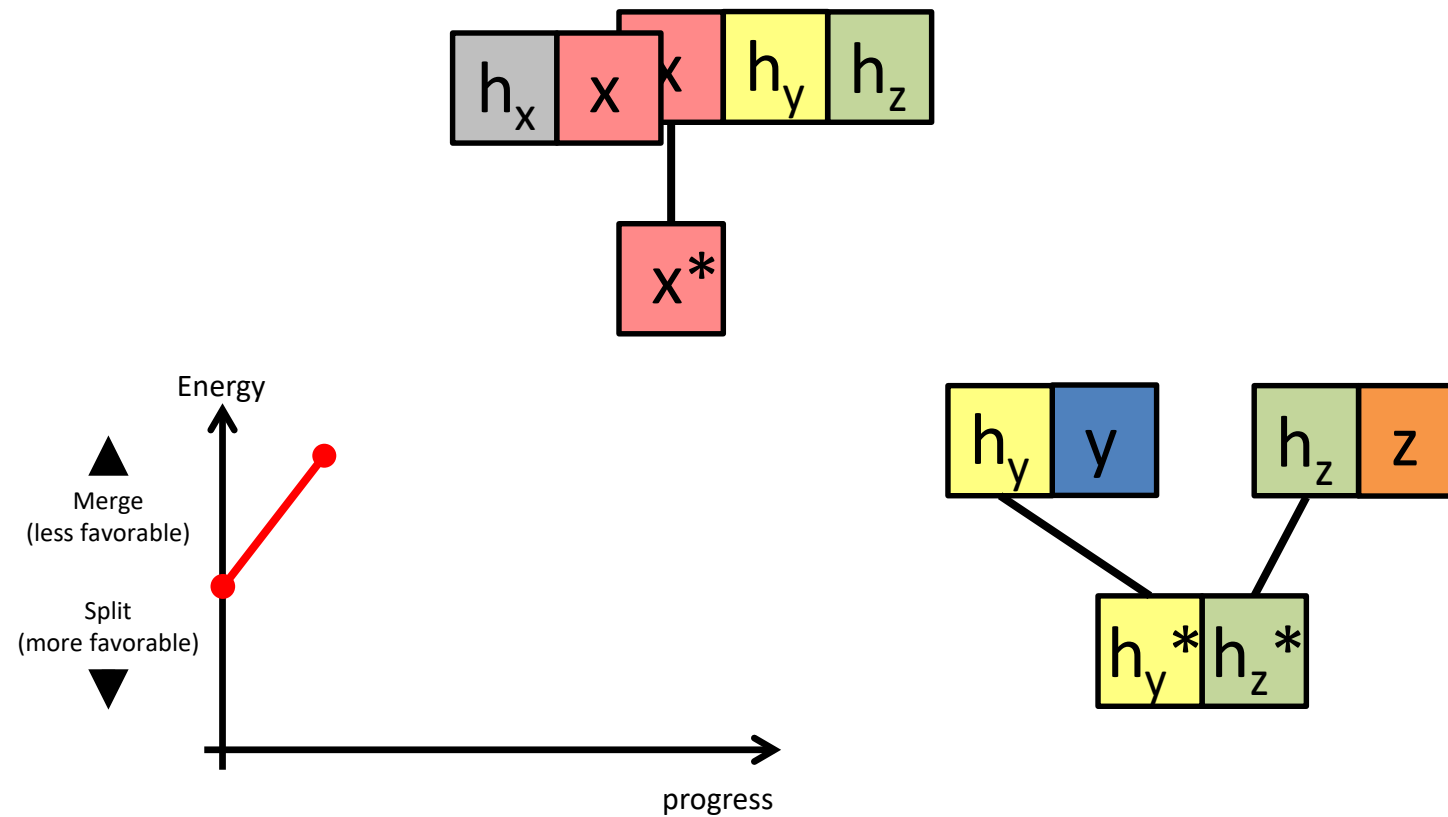
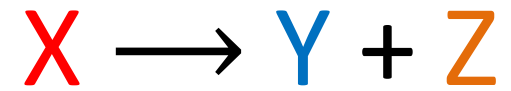
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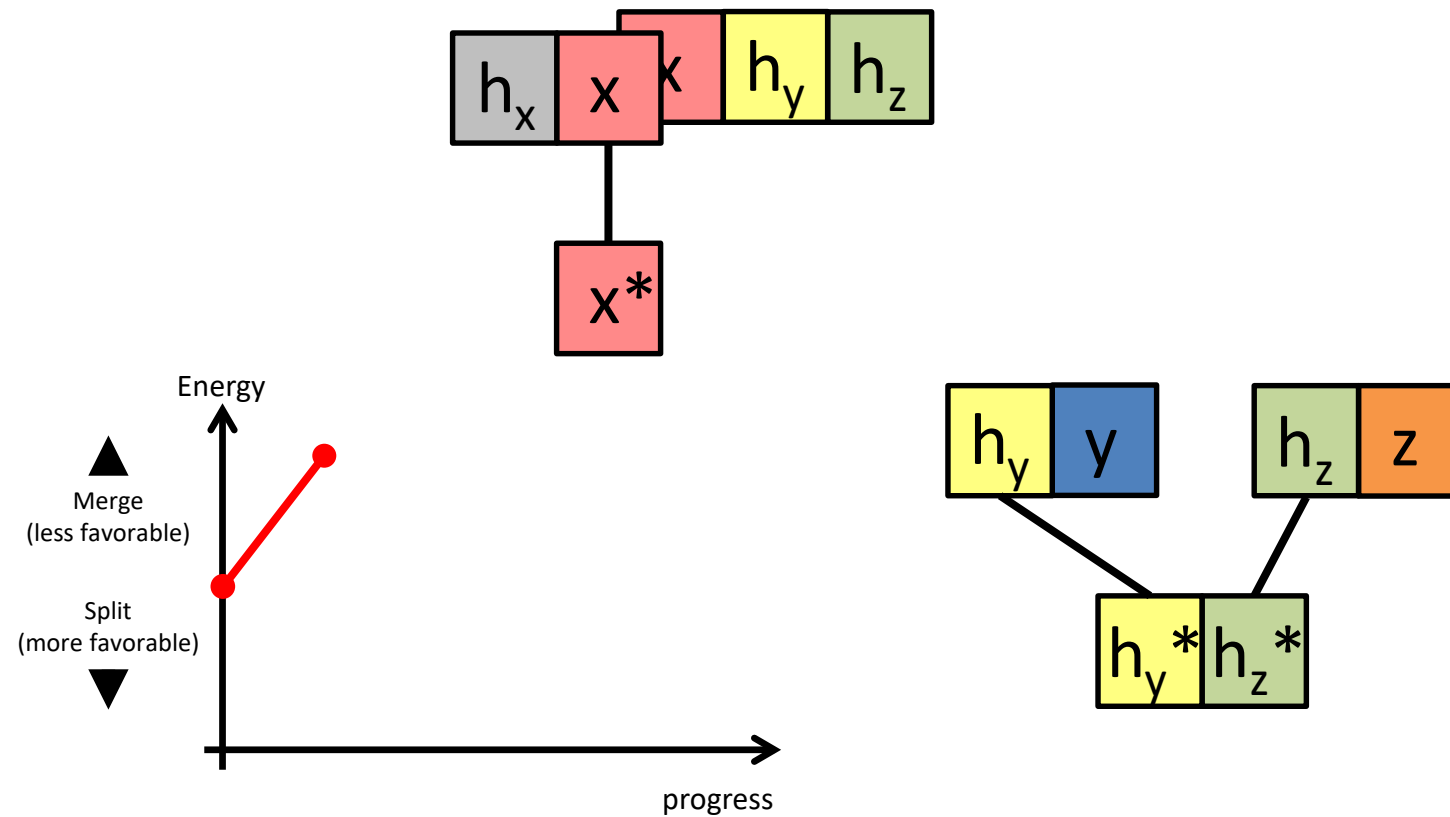
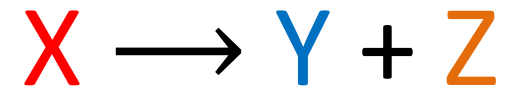


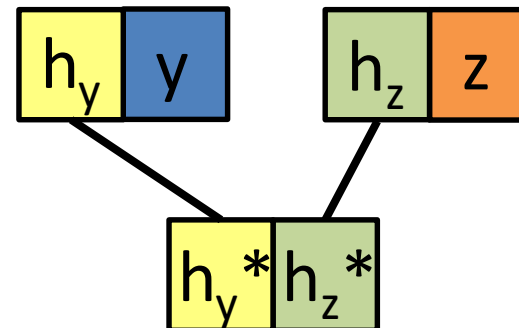
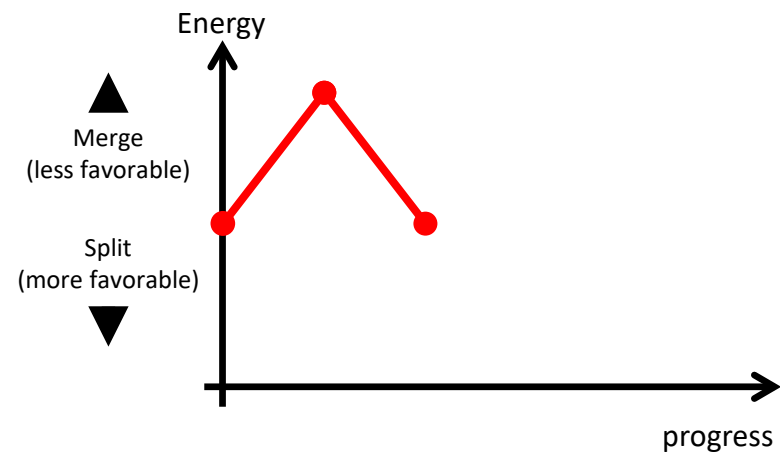
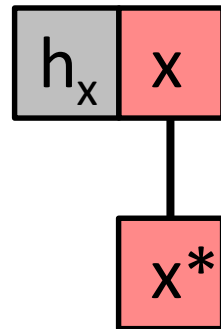
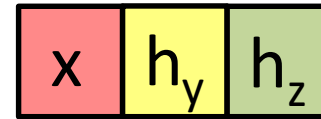
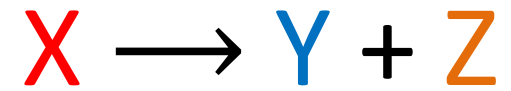
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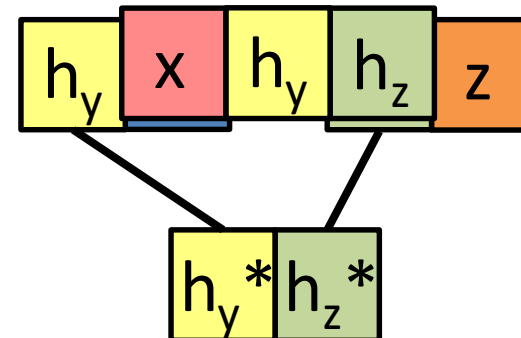
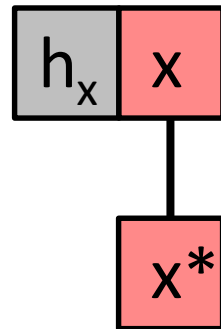
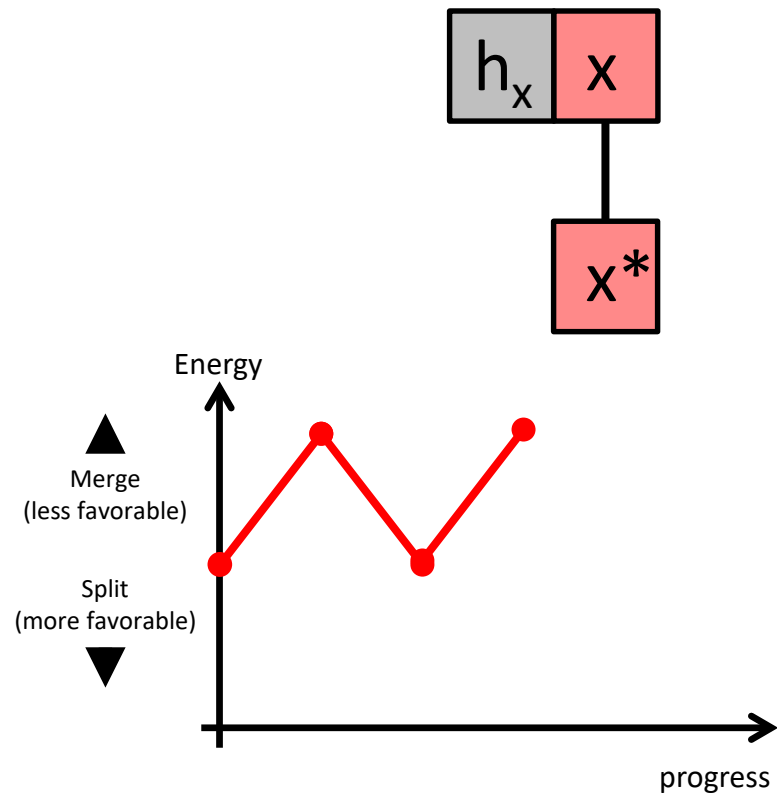
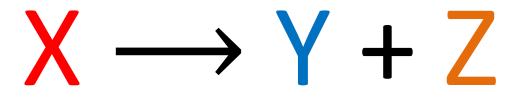




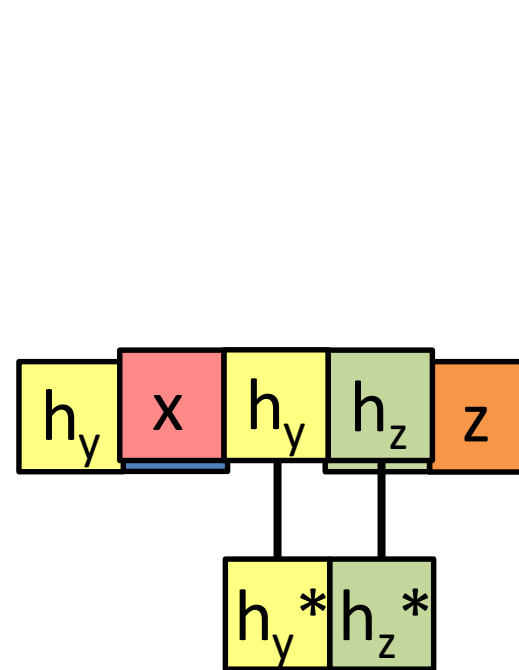
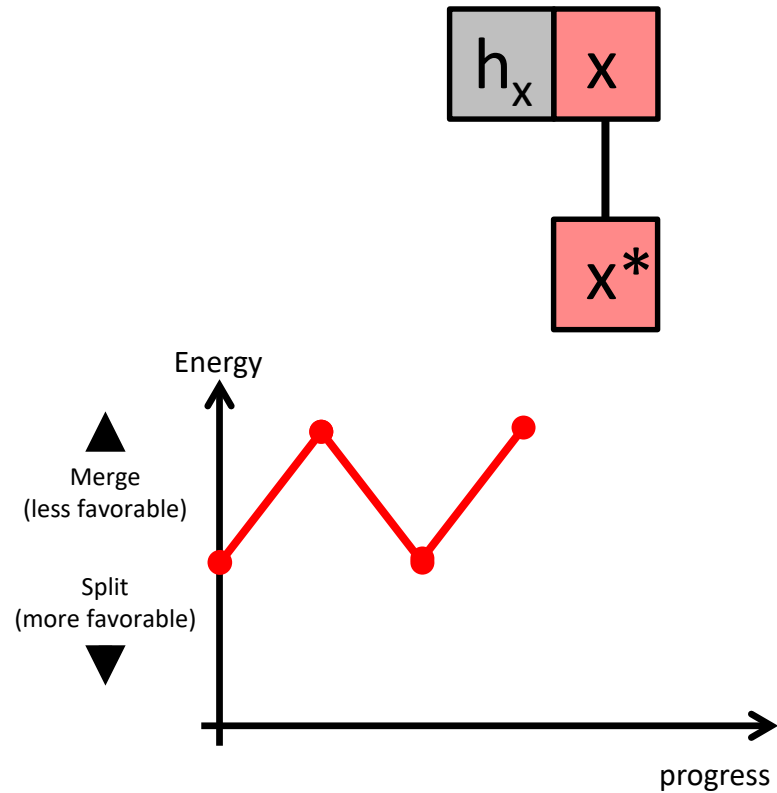
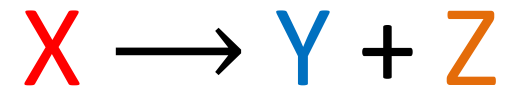


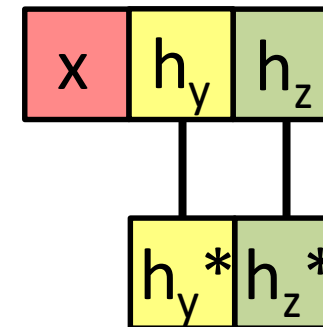
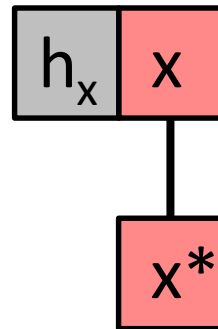
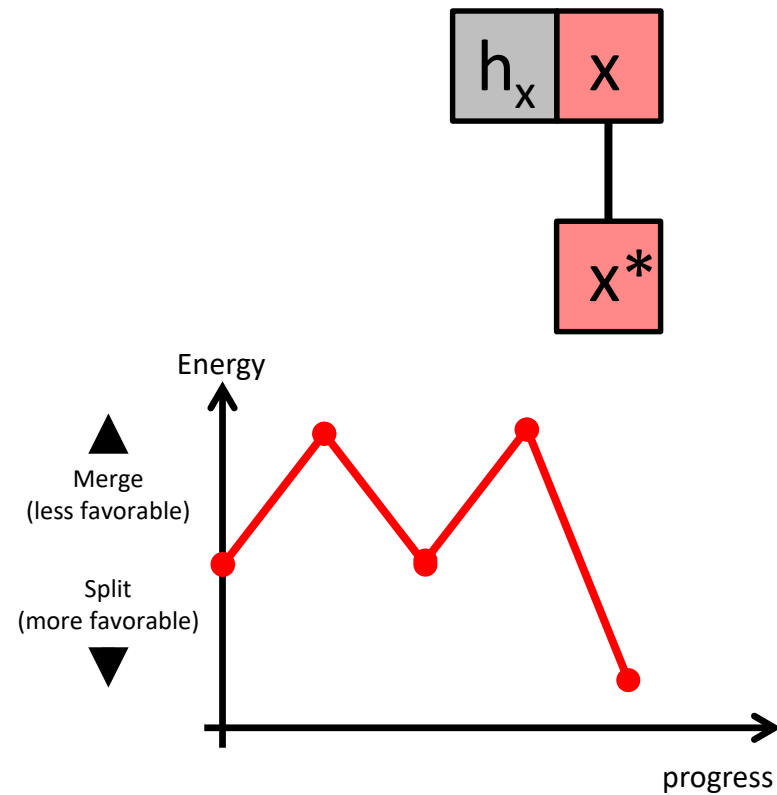
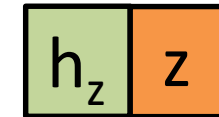
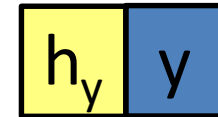
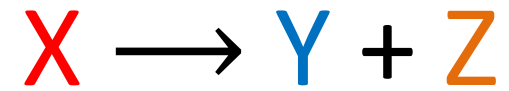




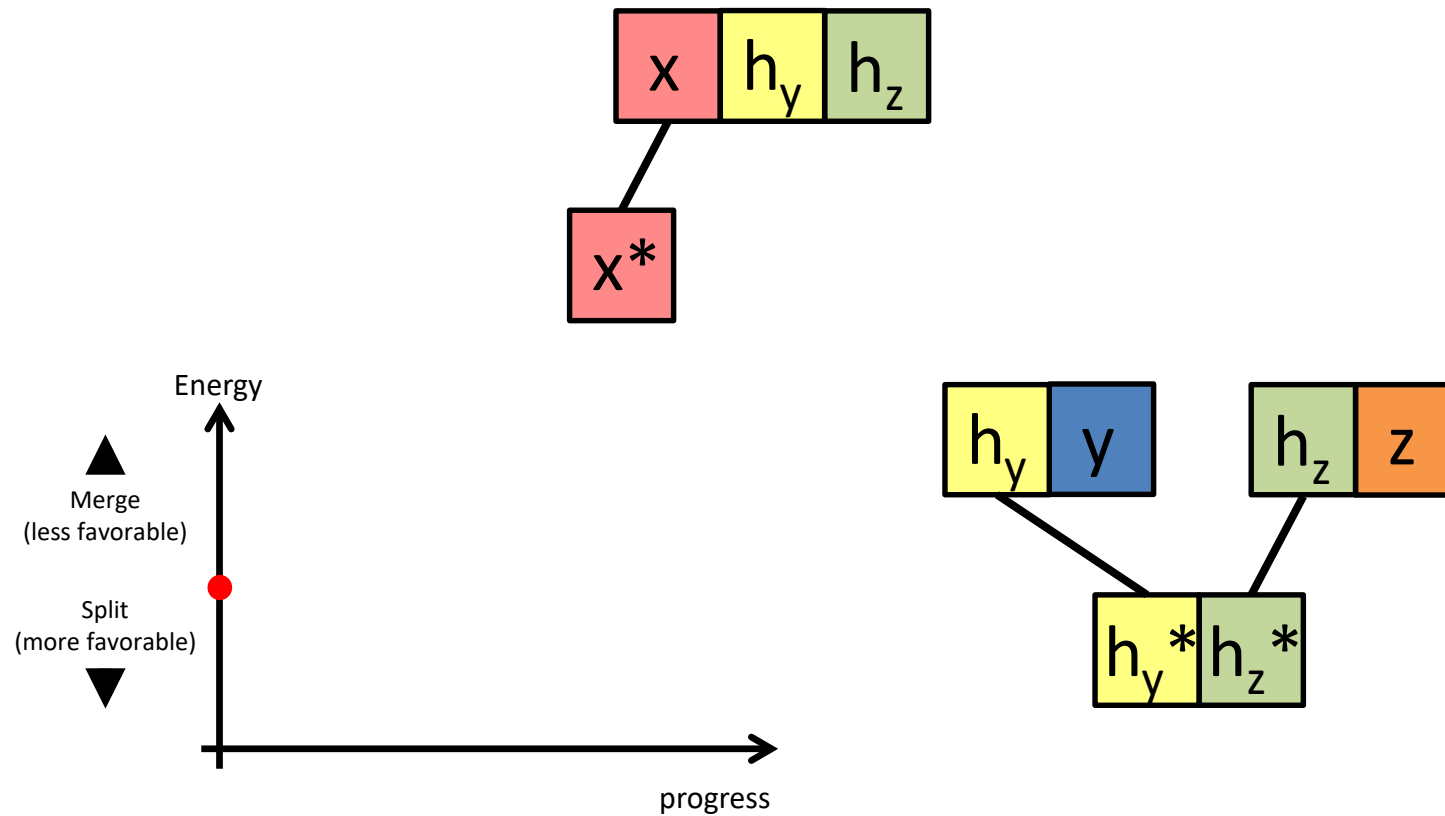
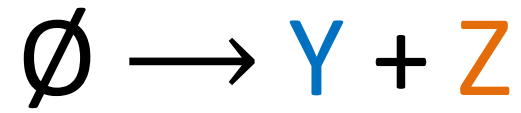




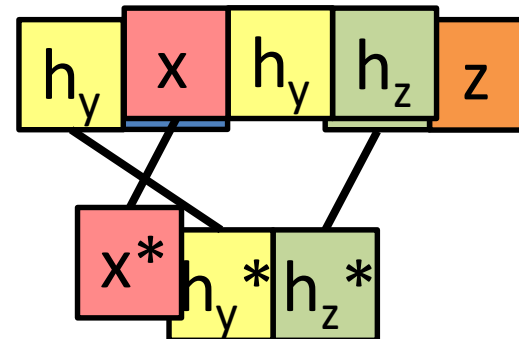
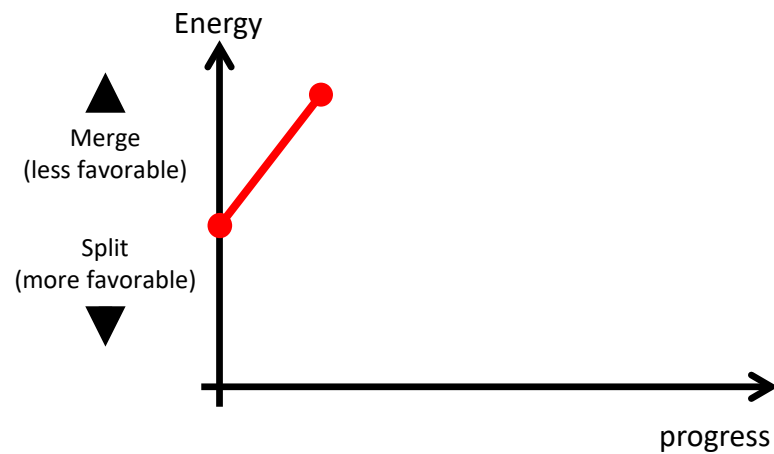
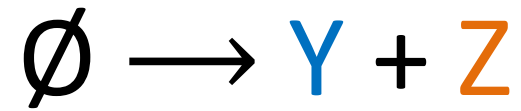




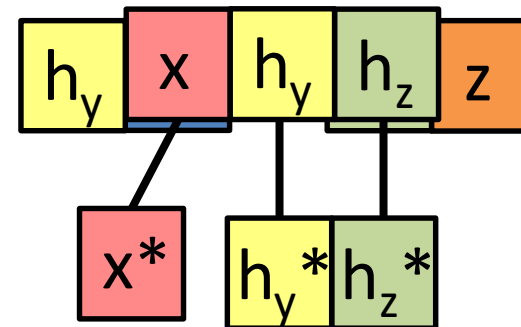
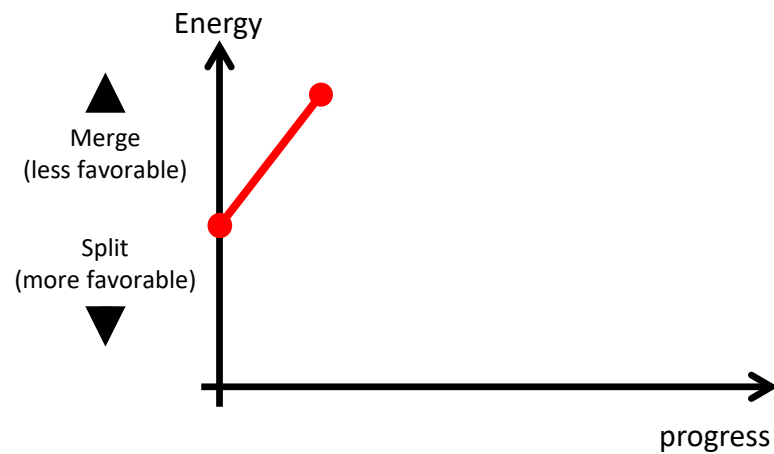
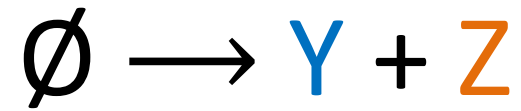
Leak: A Source of Error



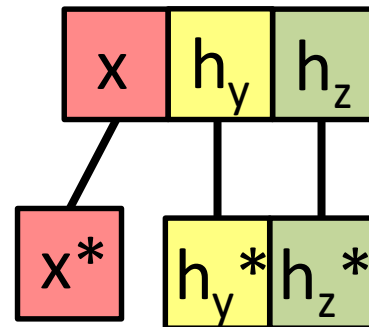
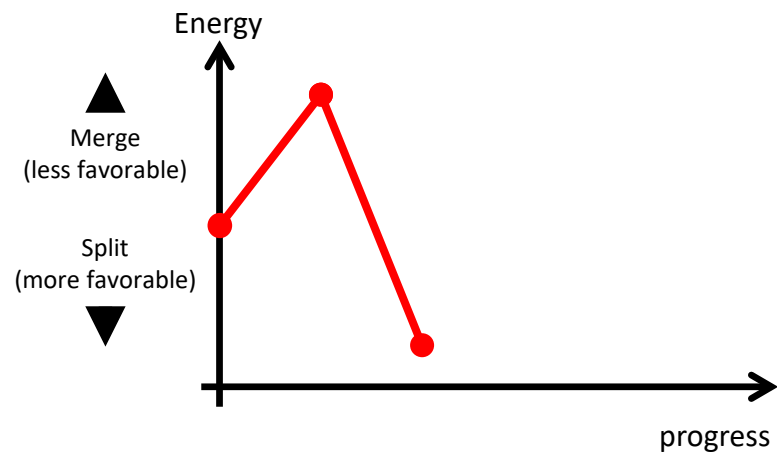
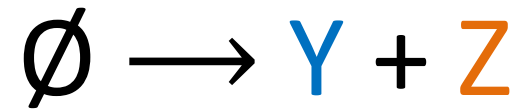
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# Kinetic Binding Networks

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- But for  $w_H \geq 2$ , only saturated pathways need be considered<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Keenan Breik, Cameron Chalk, David Doty, David Haley, David Soloveichik. *Programming Substrate-Independent Kinetic Barriers with Thermodynamic Binding Networks*. CMSB 2018

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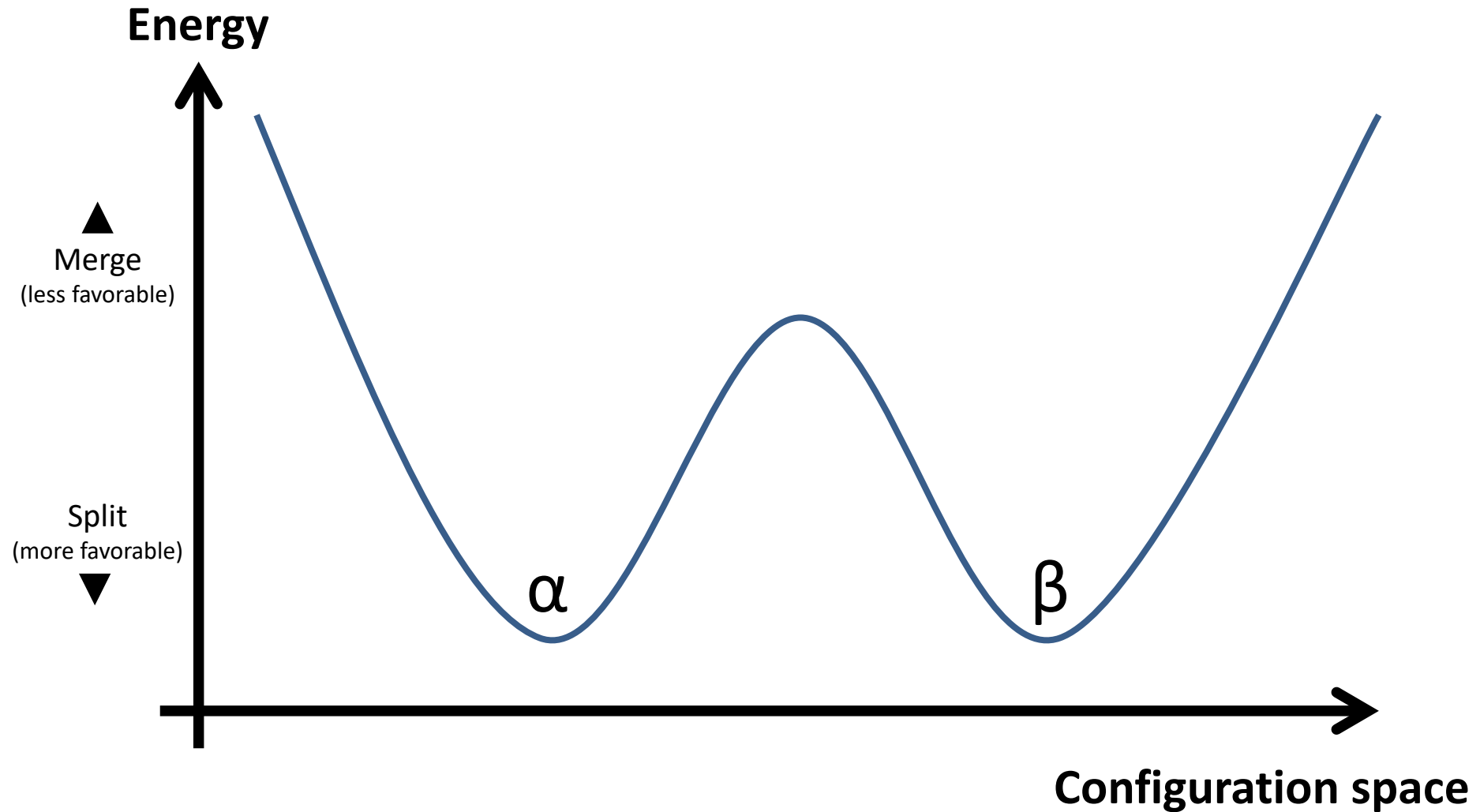
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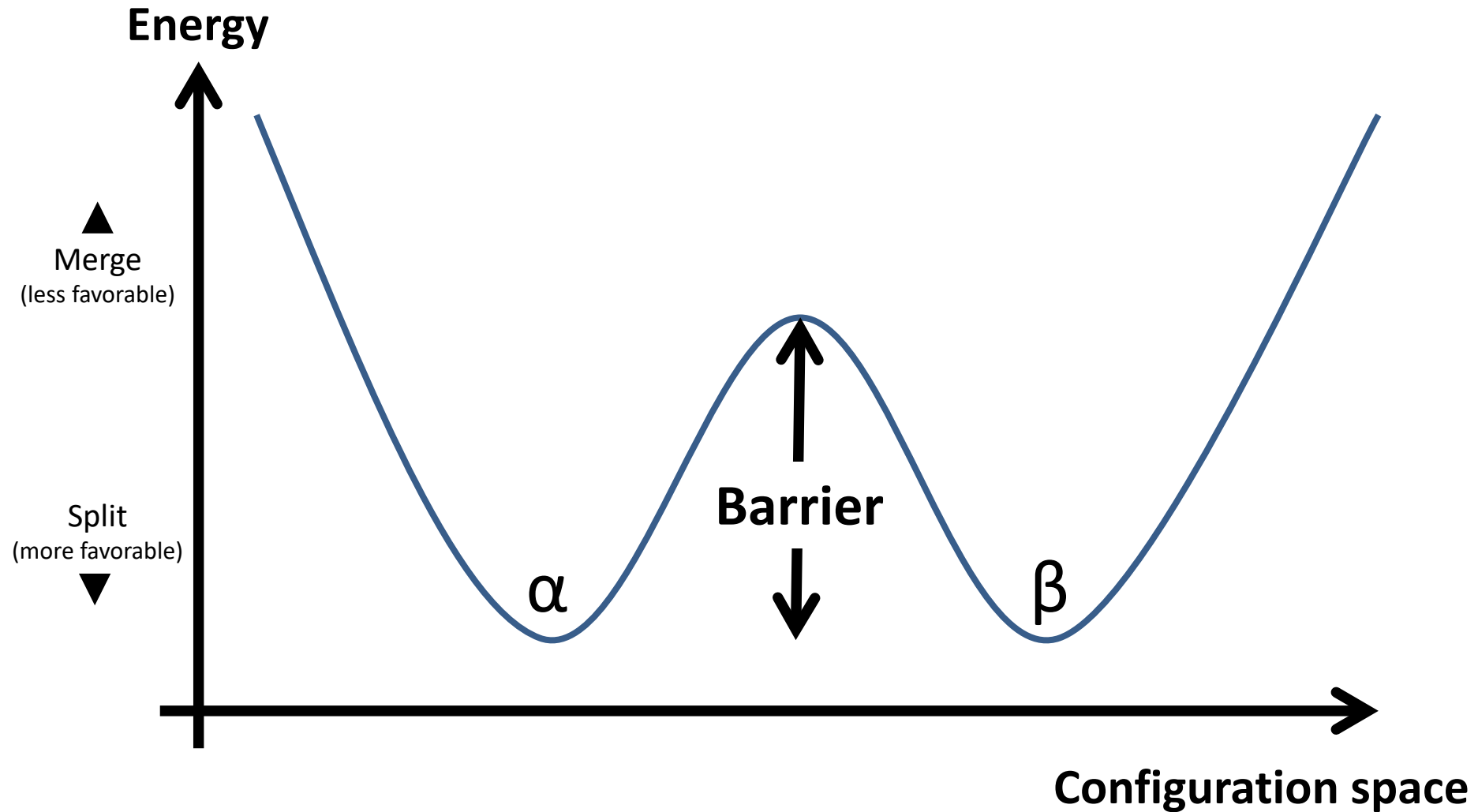
**Since all saturated configurations have an equal number of bonds, we can focus solely on the number of components**

<sup>2</sup>Keenan Breik, Cameron Chalk, David Doty, David Haley, David Soloveichik. *Programming Substrate-Independent Kinetic Barriers with Thermodynamic Binding Networks*. CMSB 2018

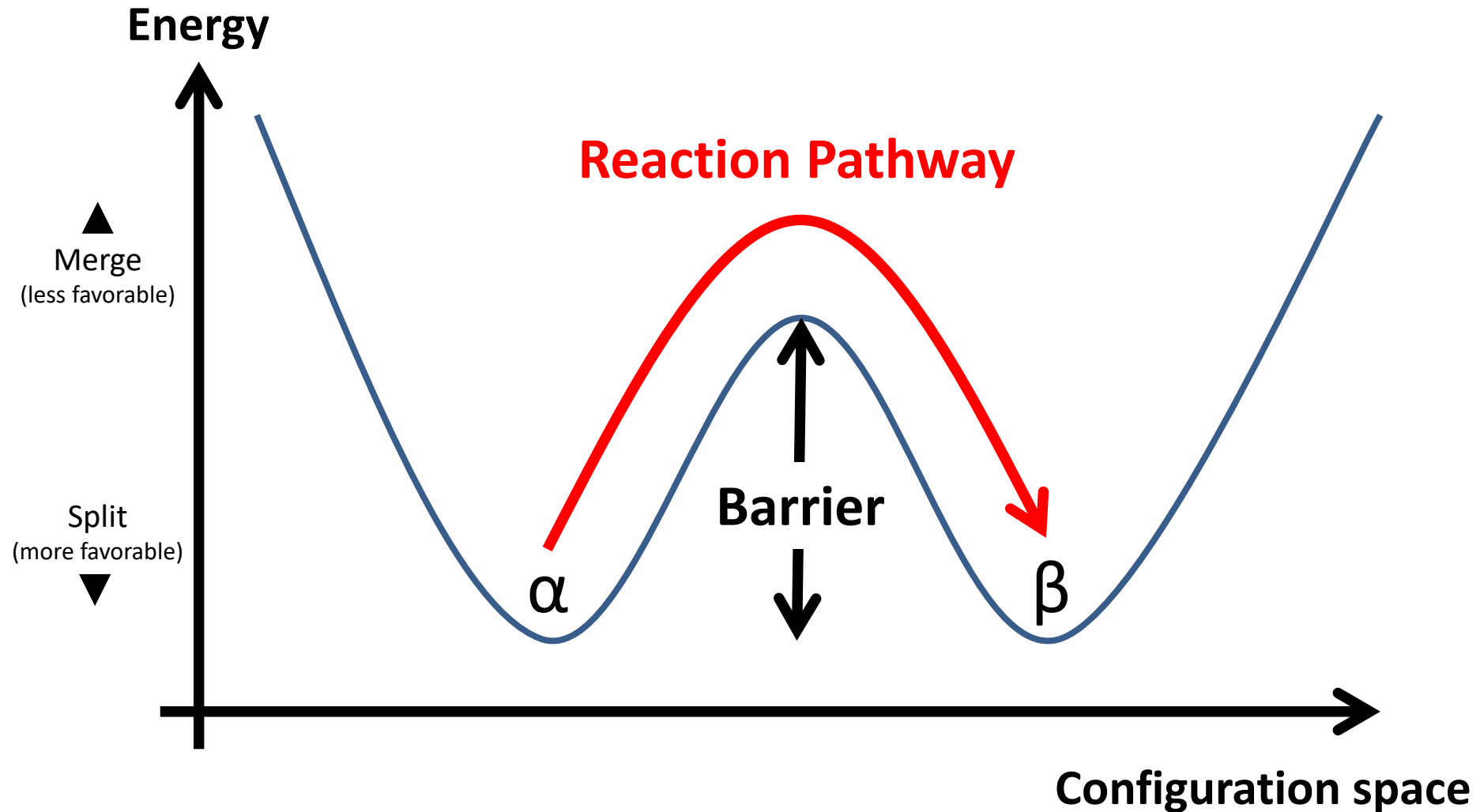
# Large Energy Barriers



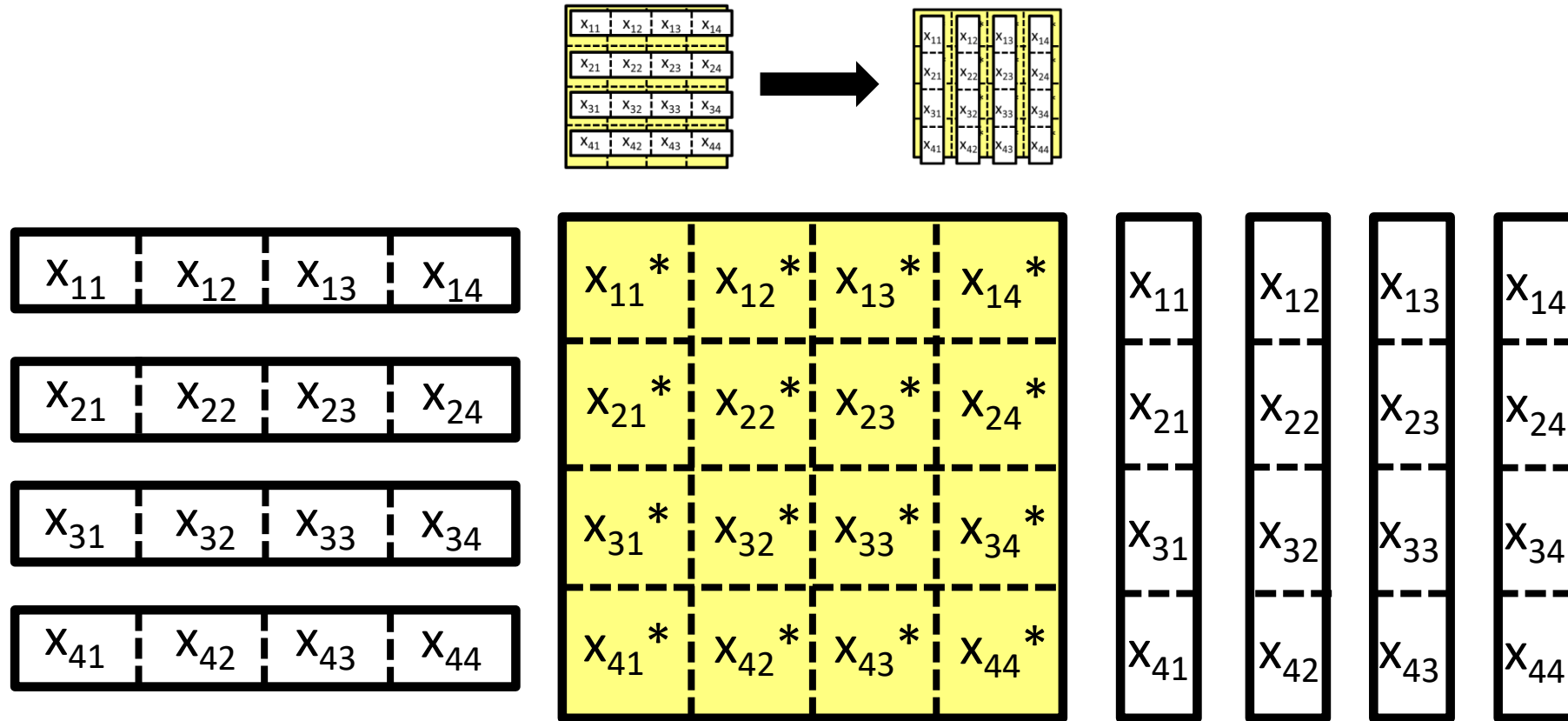
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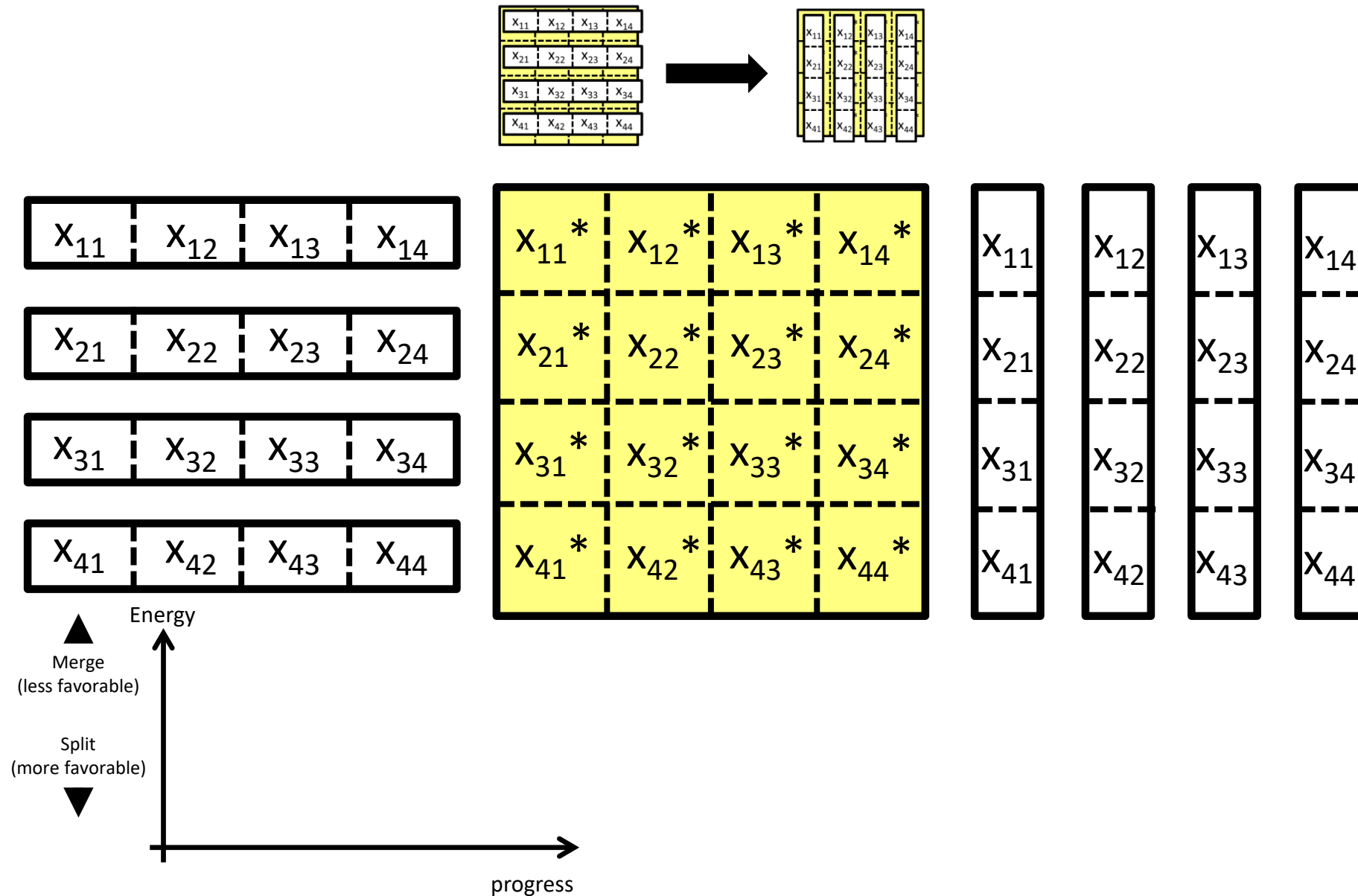


# A Network with a Programmable Energy Barrier

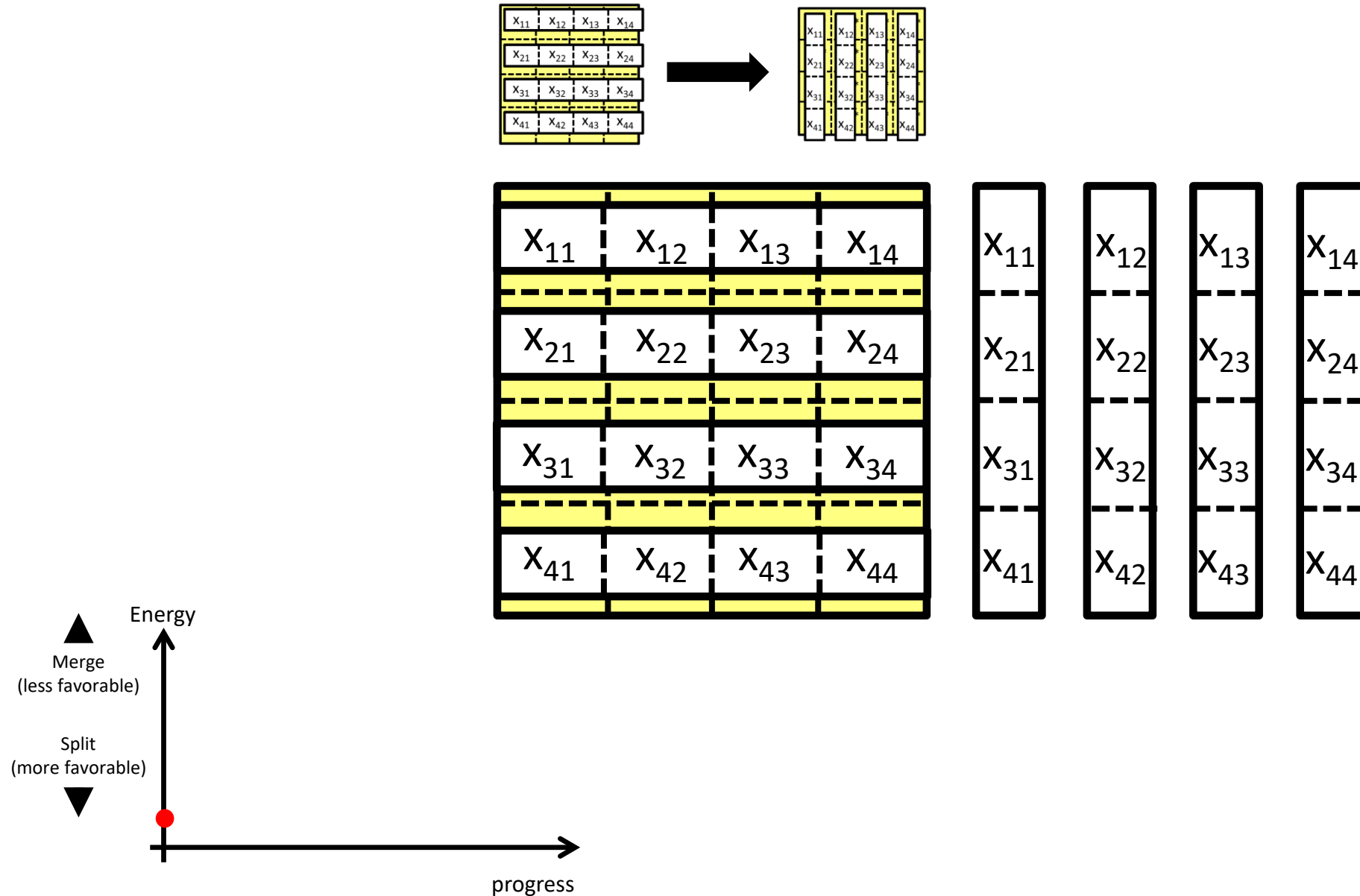




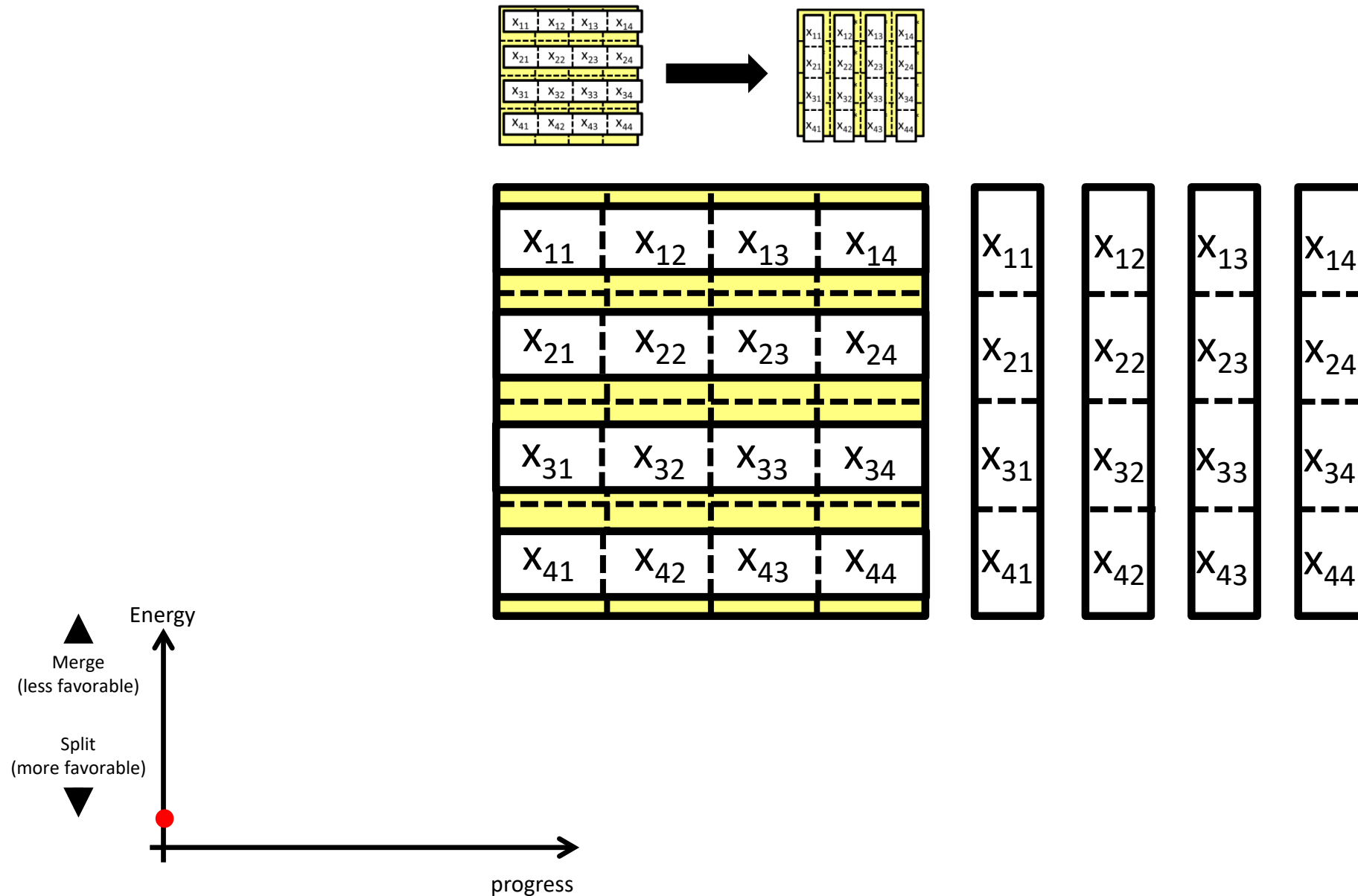
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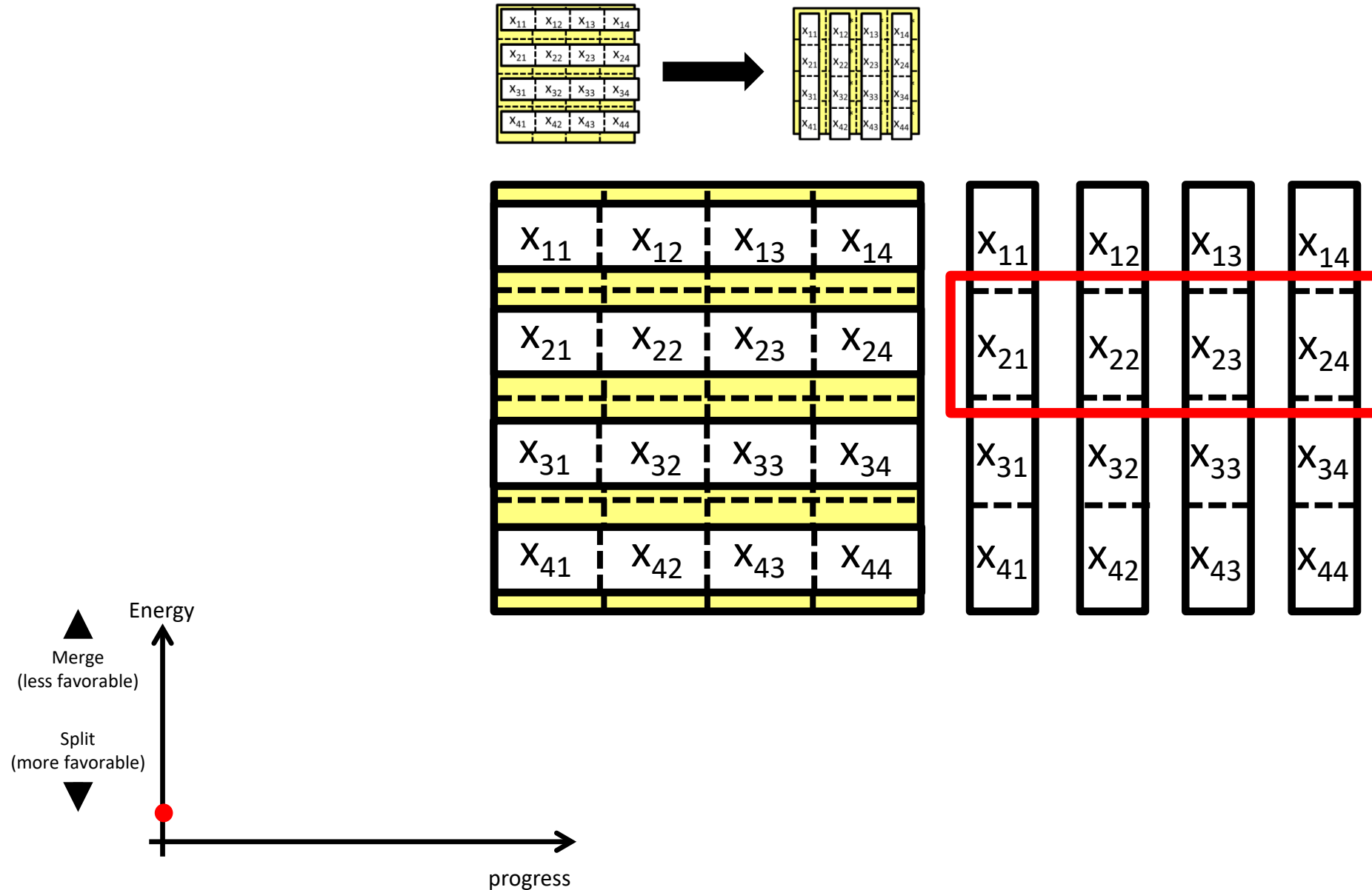
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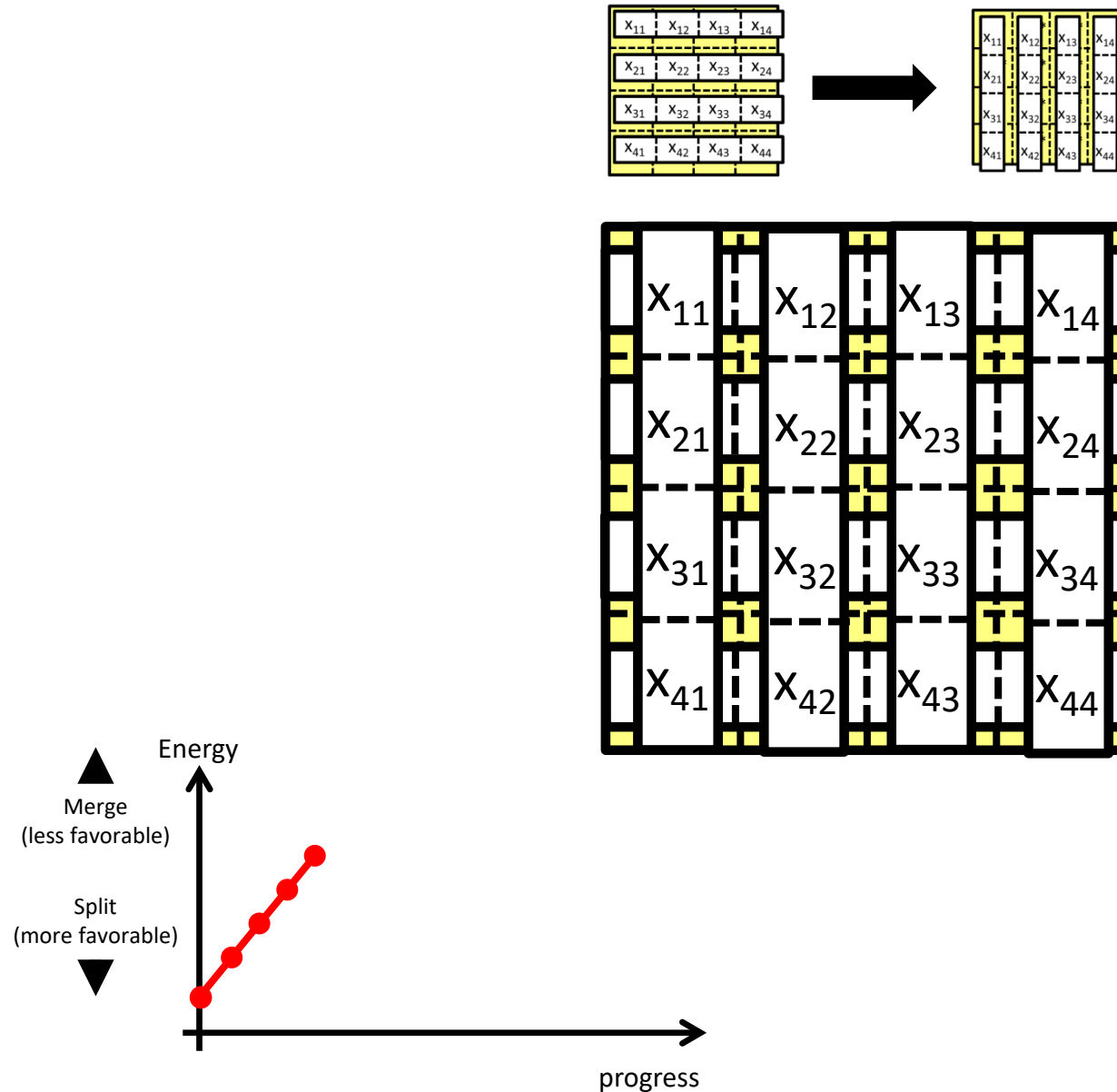
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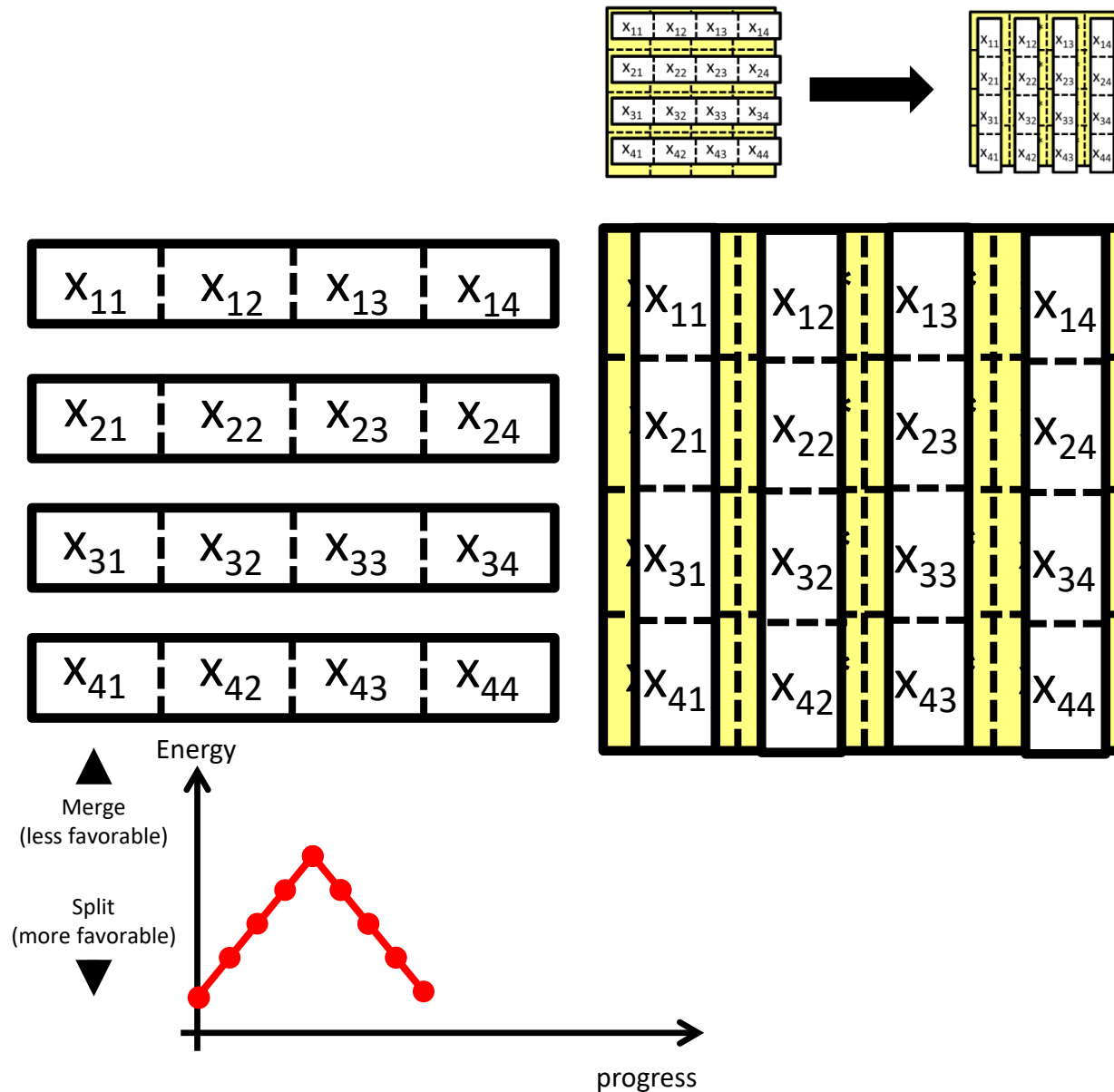
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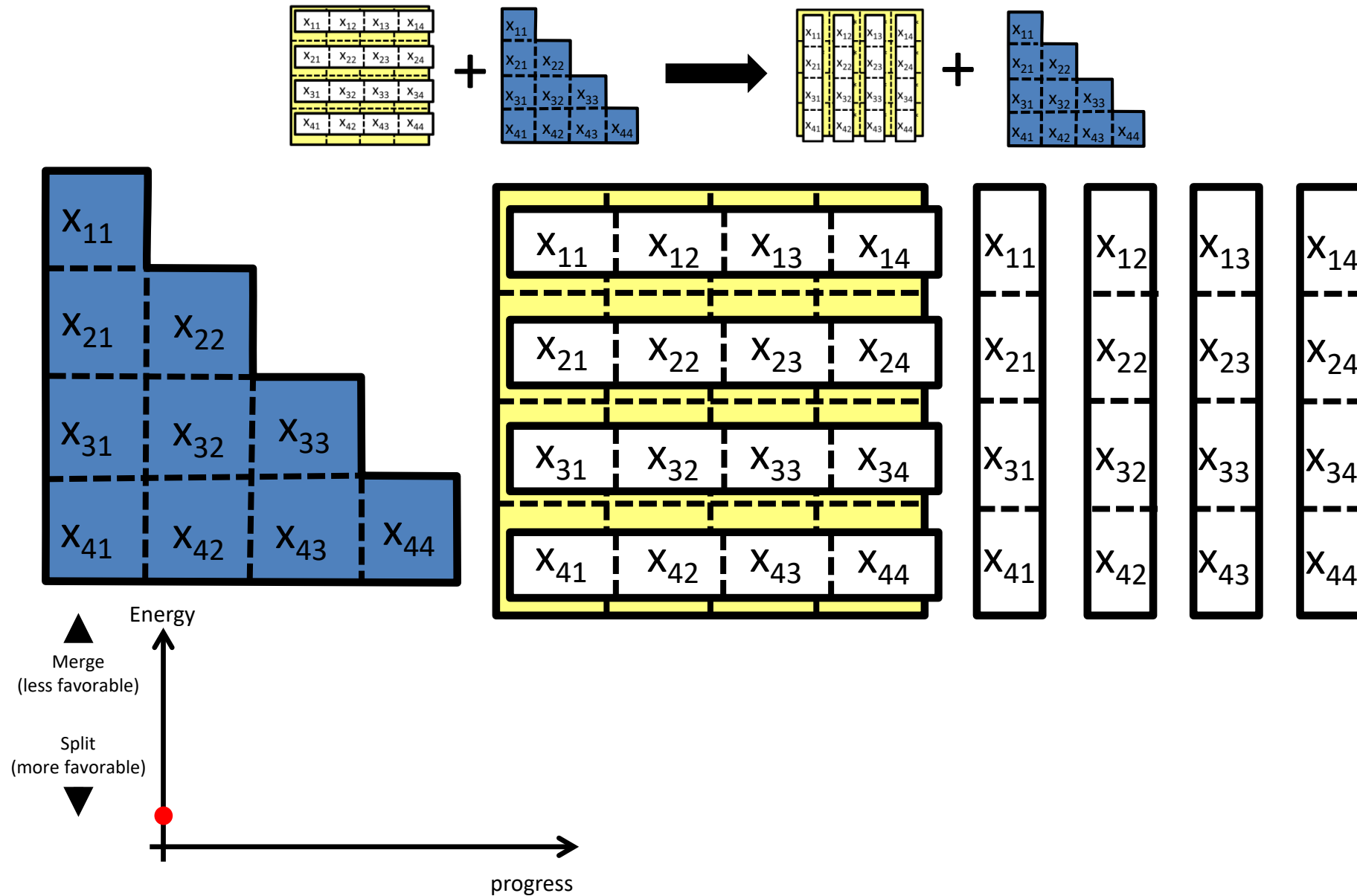
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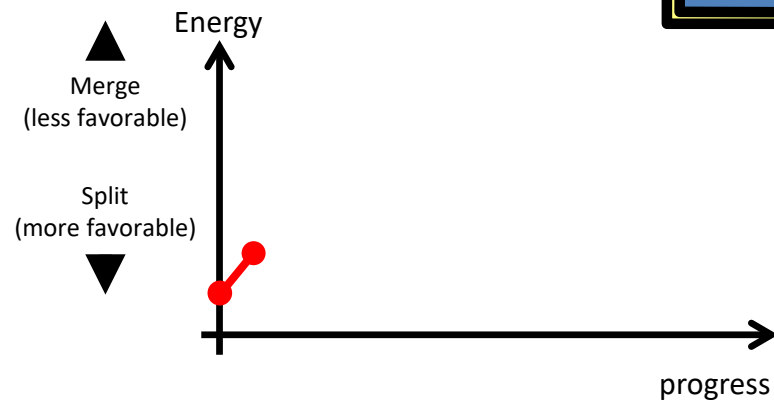
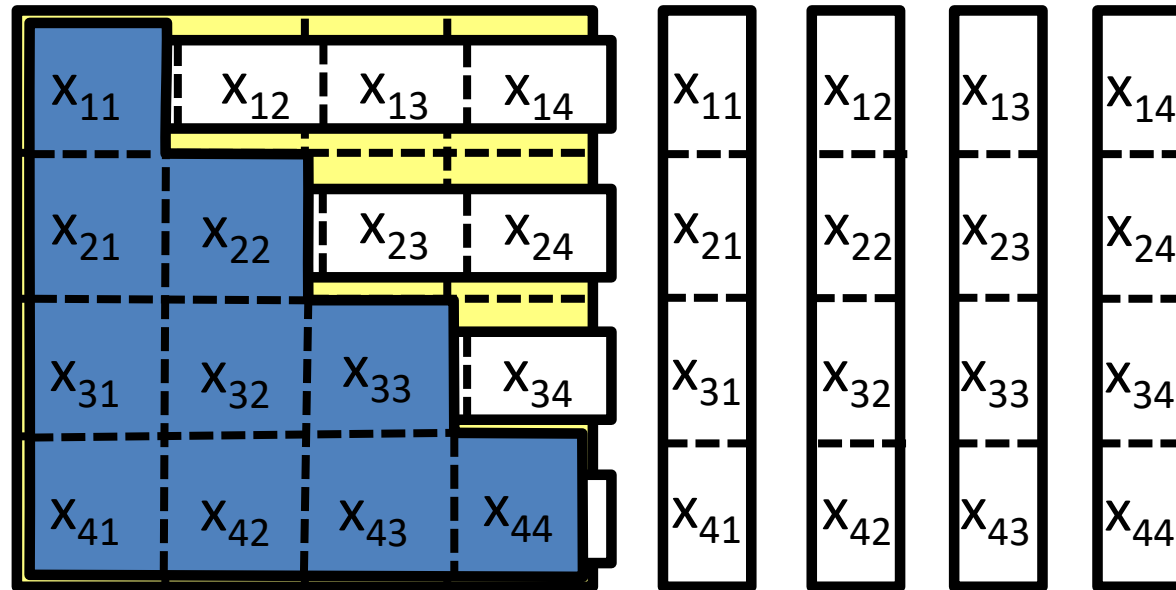
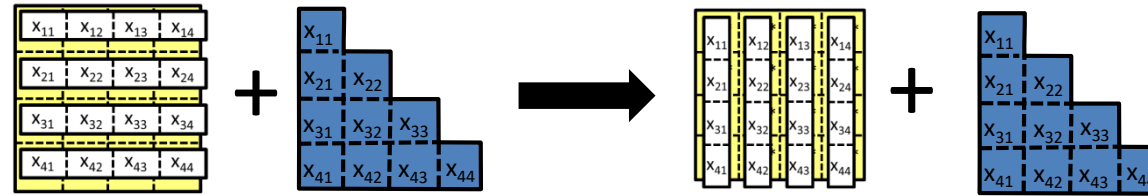
# A Network with a Programmable Energy Barrier



# Catalysis

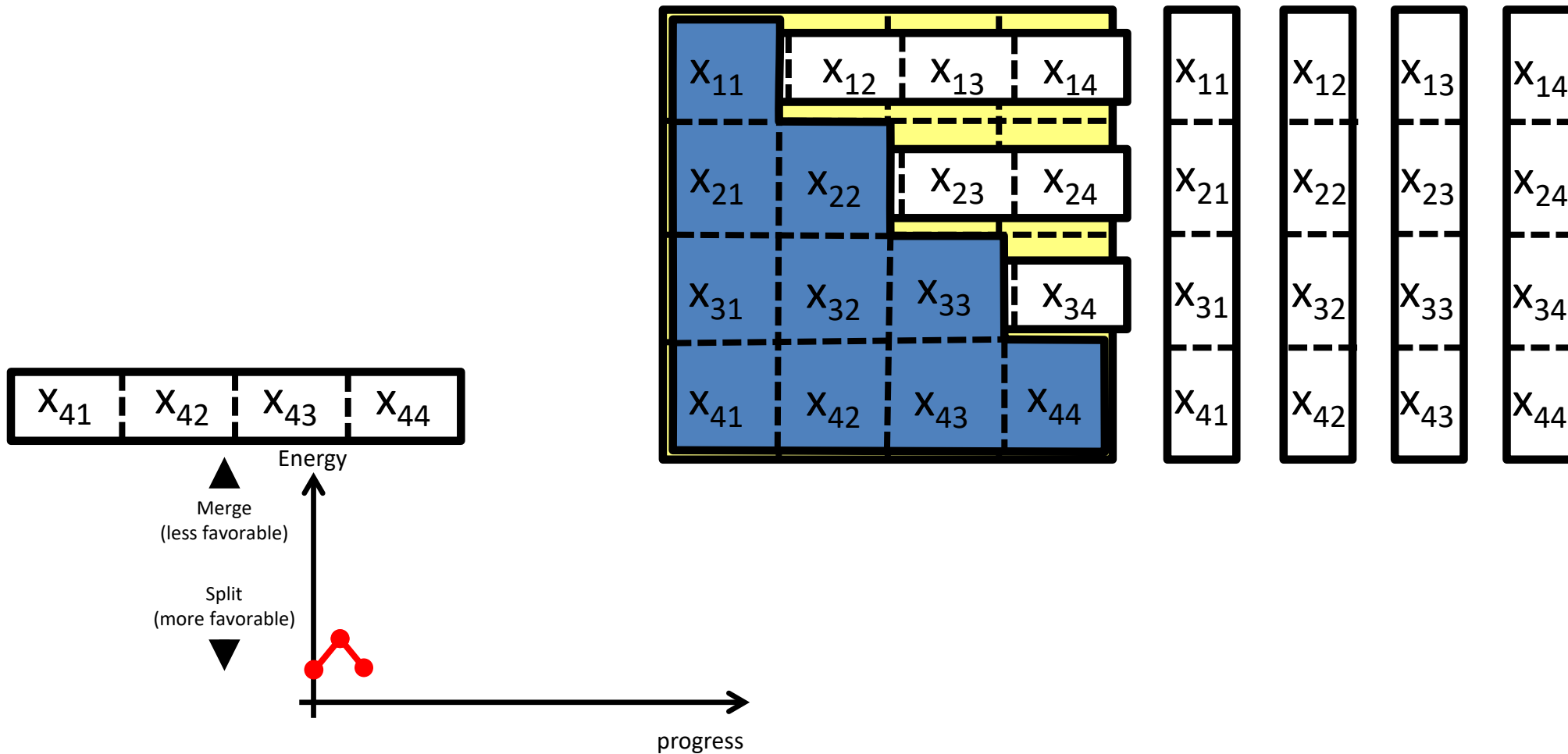
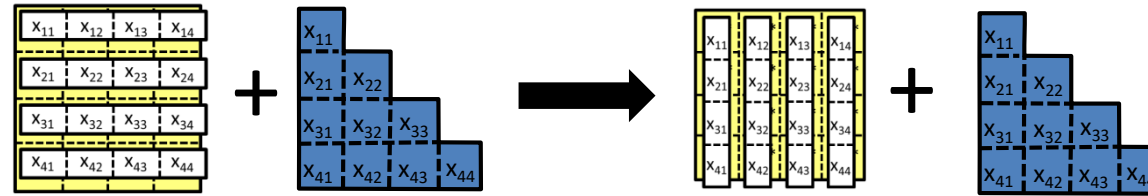


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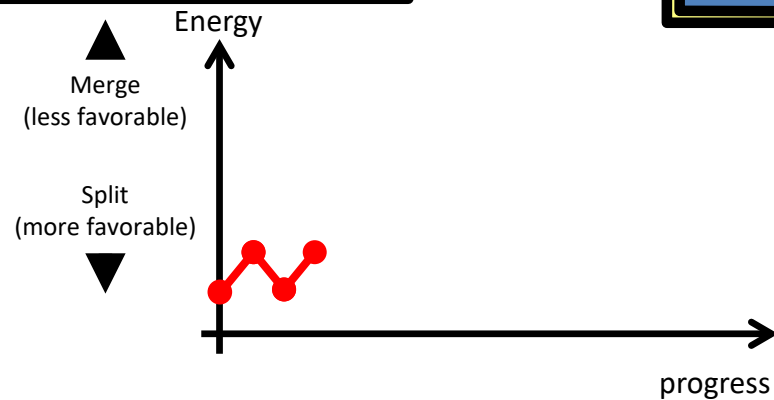
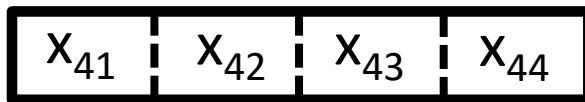
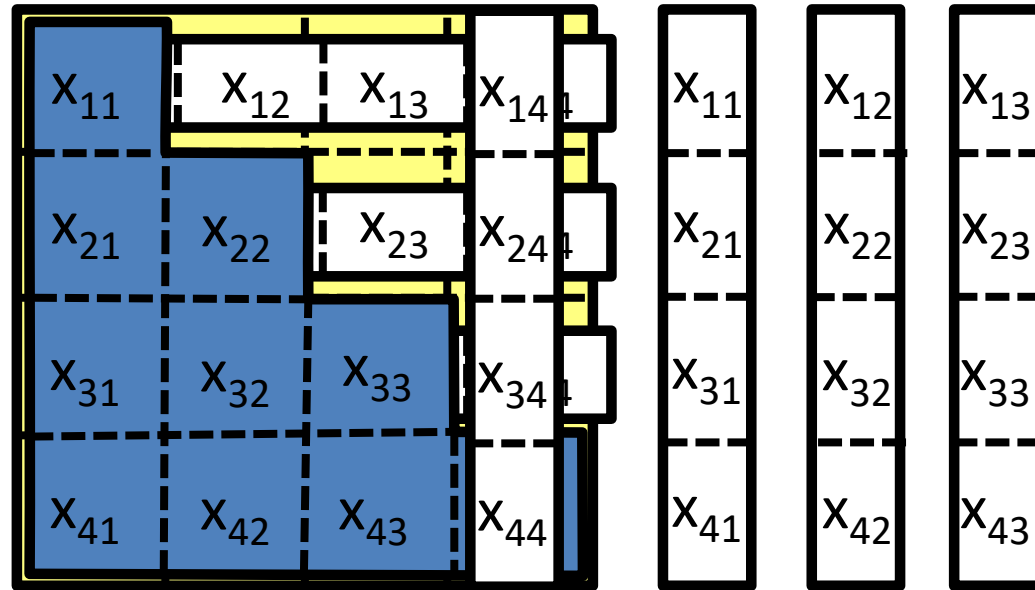
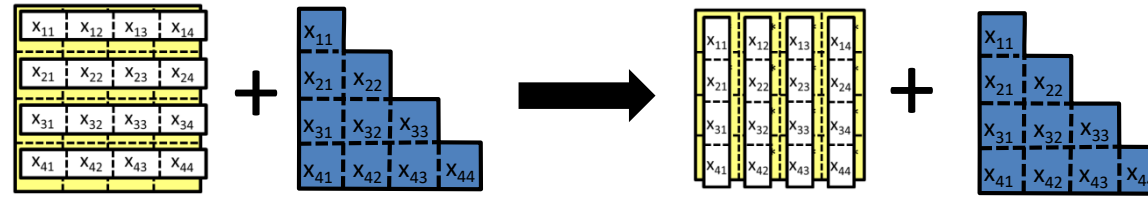




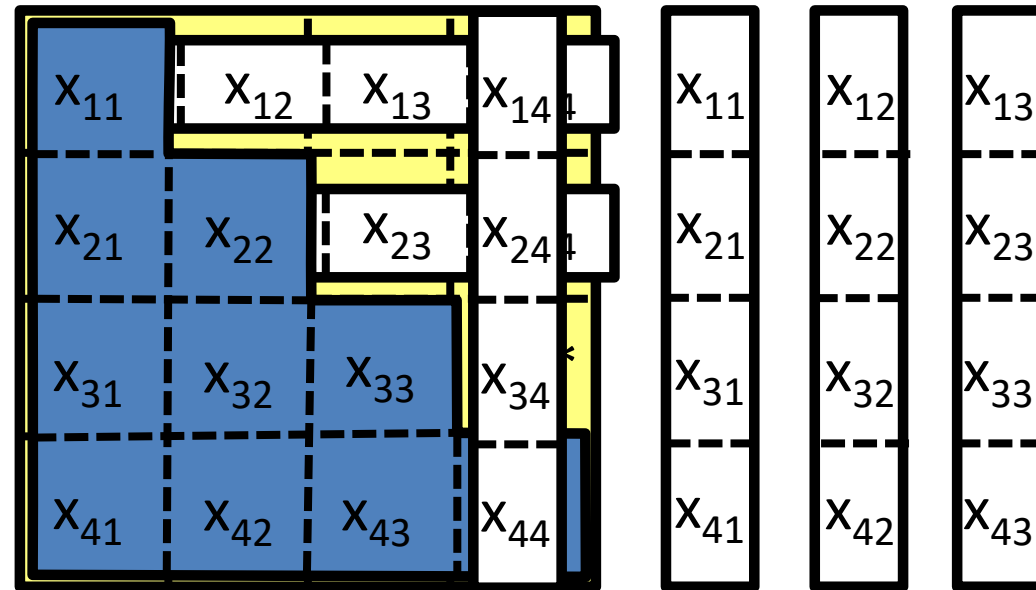
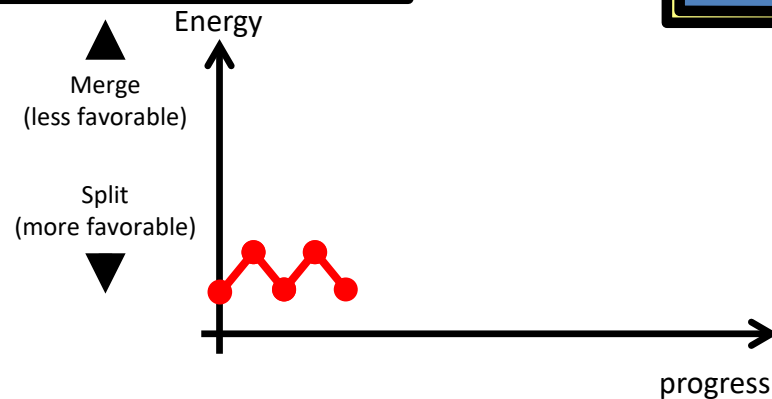
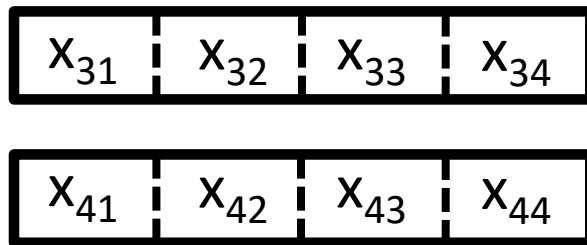
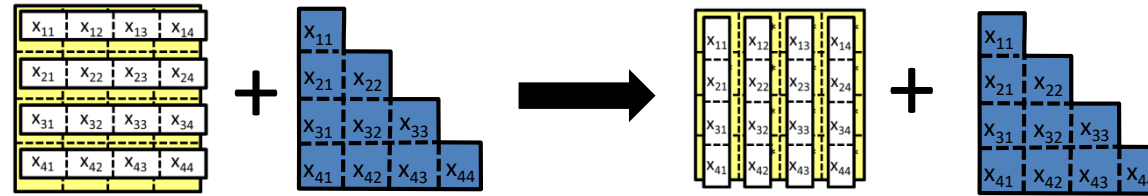
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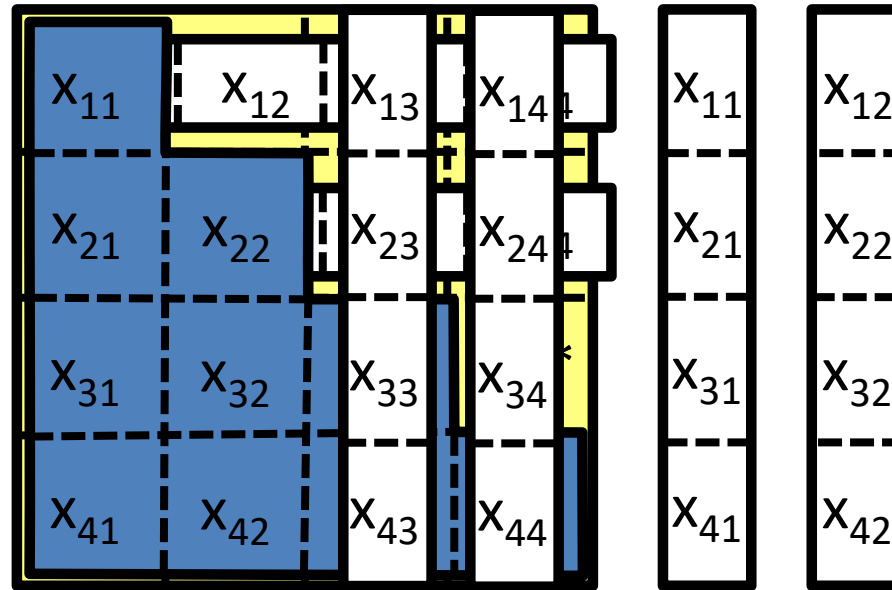
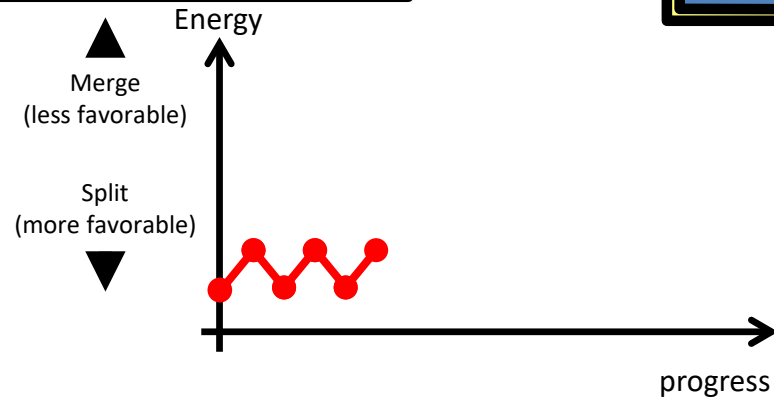
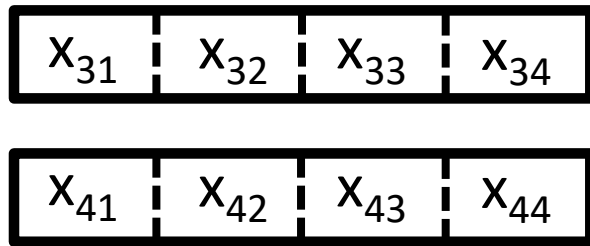
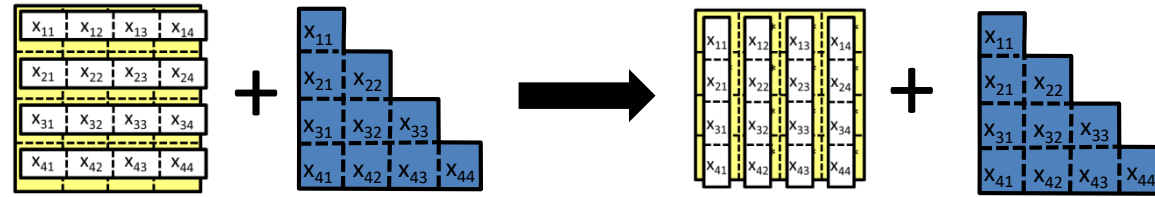
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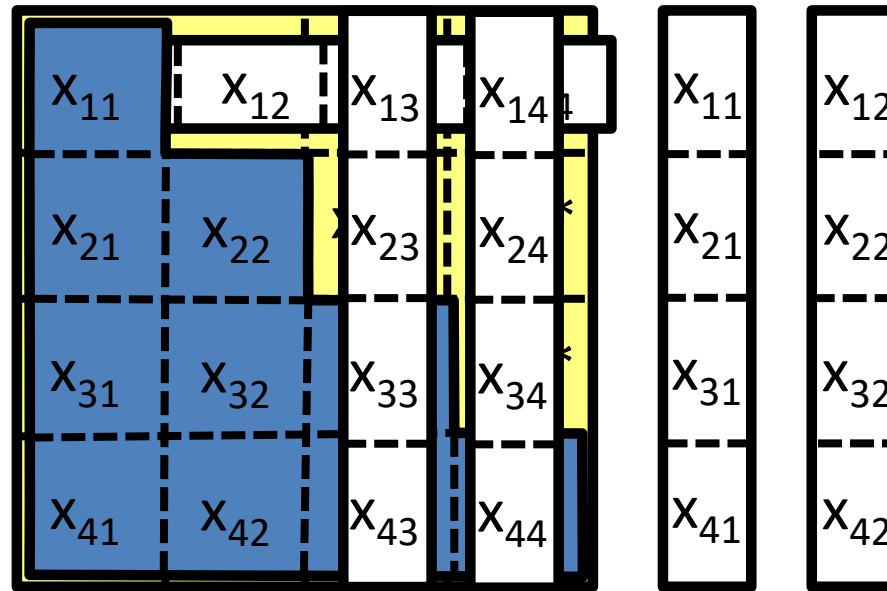
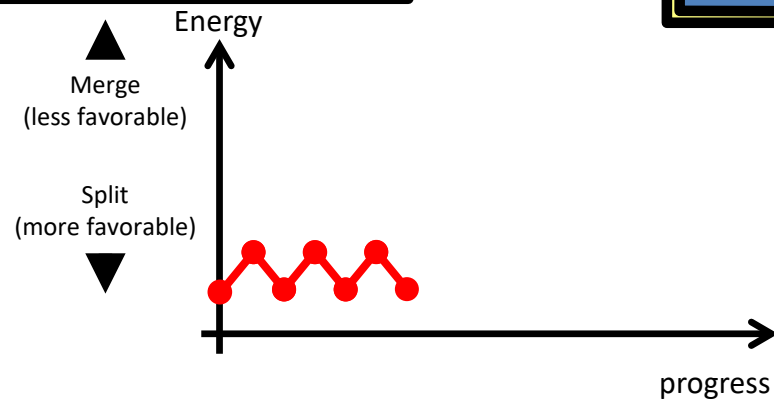
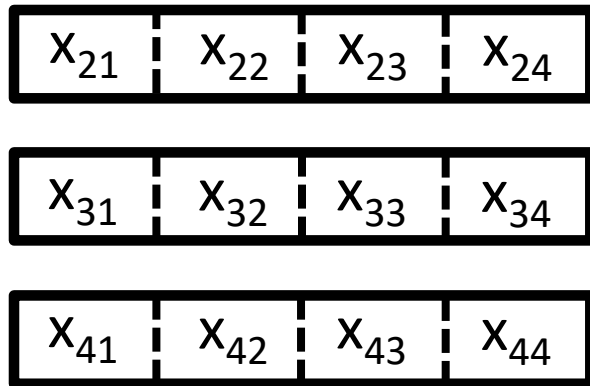
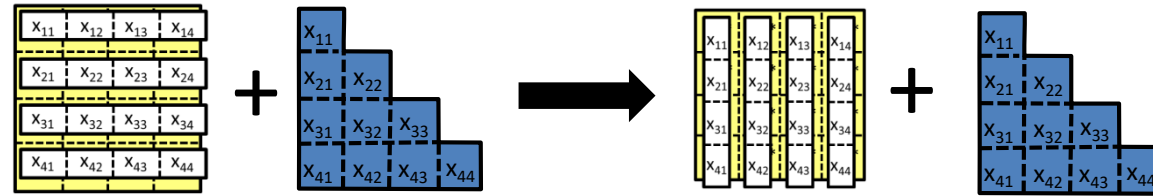
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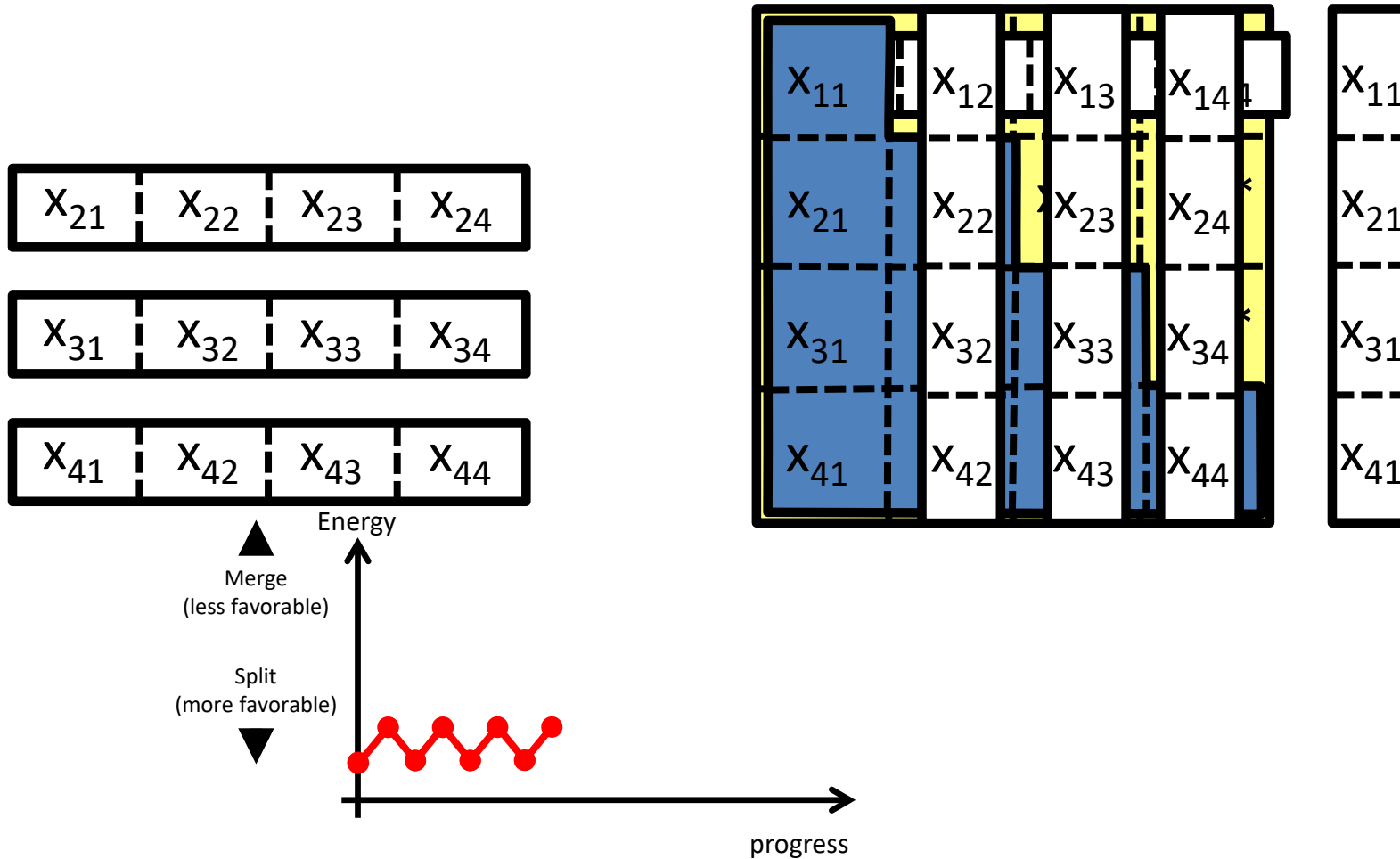
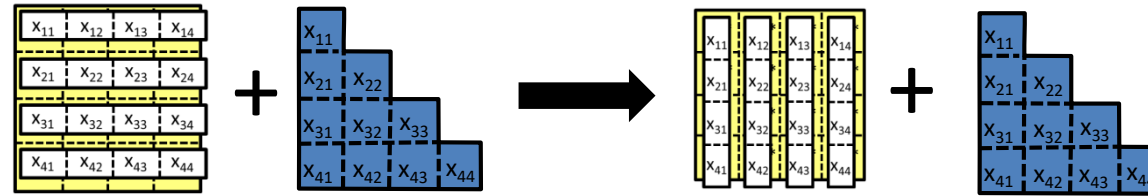
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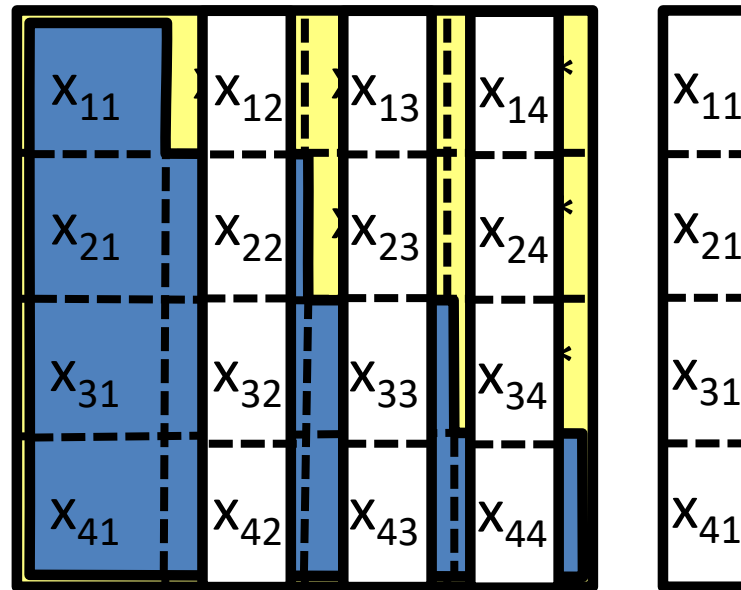
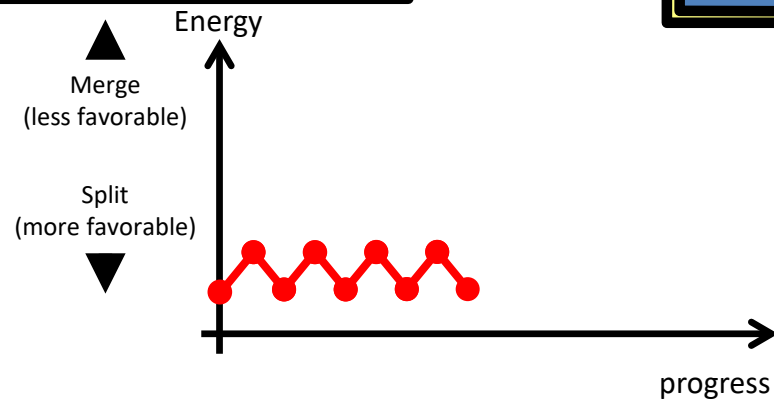
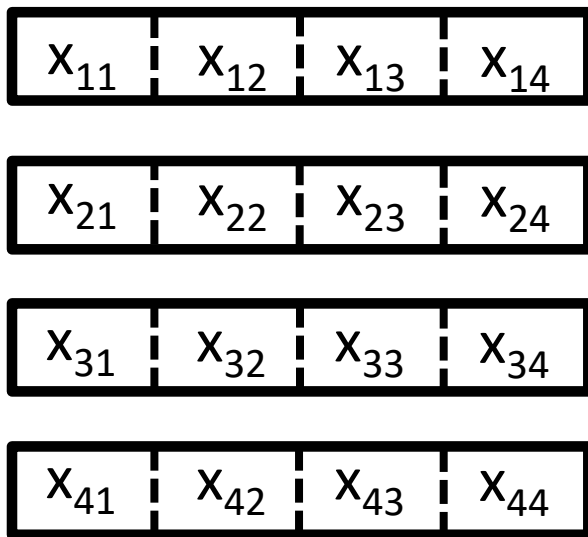
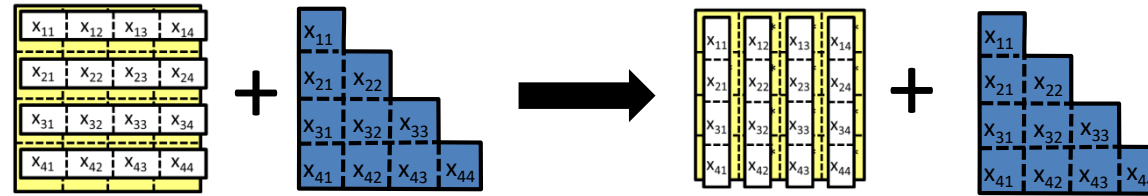
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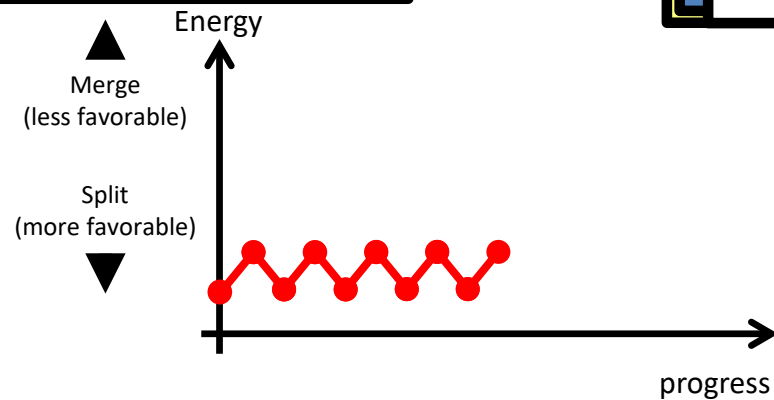
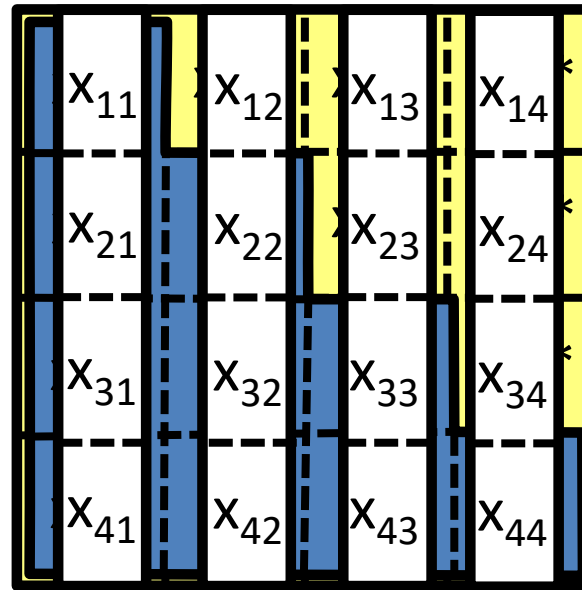
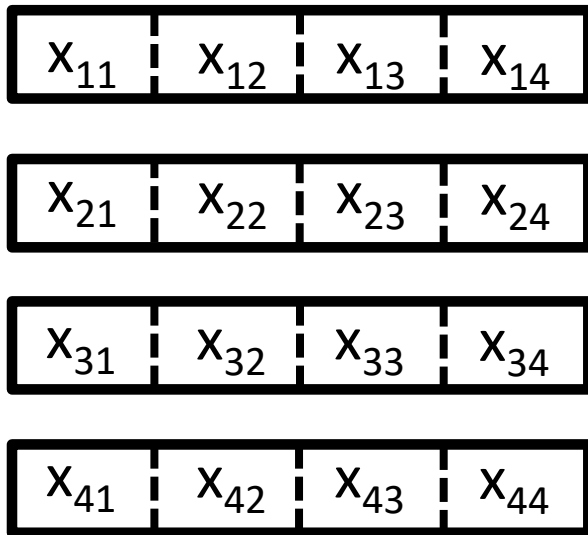
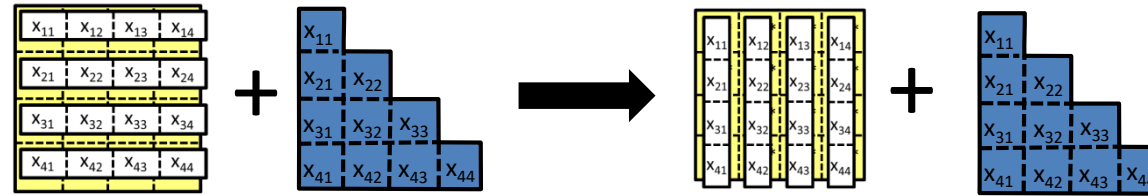
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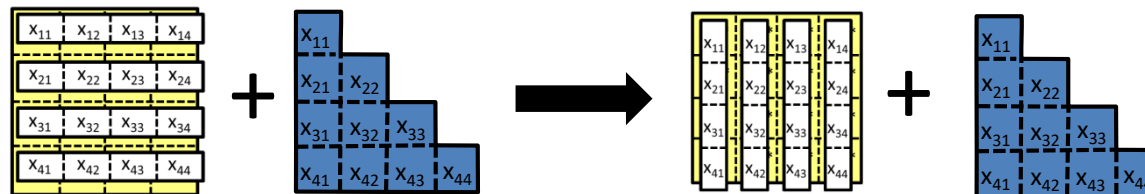


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# Catalysis



$X_{11}$	$X_{12}$	$X_{13}$	$X_{14}$
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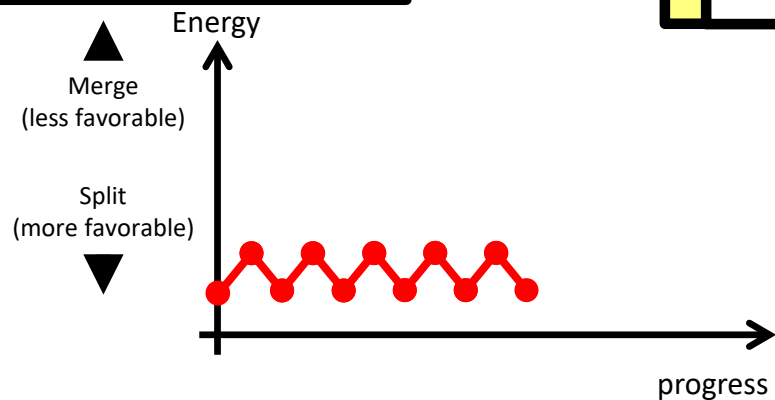
$X_{21}$	$X_{22}$	$X_{23}$	$X_{24}$
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$X_{31}$	$X_{32}$	$X_{33}$	$X_{34}$
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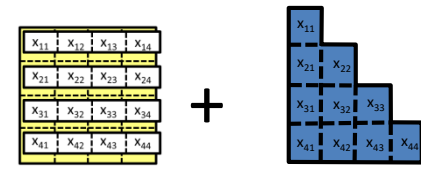
$X_{41}$	$X_{42}$	$X_{43}$	$X_{44}$
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$X_{11}$	$X_{12}$	$X_{13}$	$X_{14}$
$X_{21}$	$X_{22}$	$X_{23}$	$X_{24}$
$X_{31}$	$X_{32}$	$X_{33}$	$X_{34}$
$X_{41}$	$X_{42}$	$X_{43}$	$X_{44}$

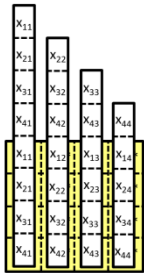
$X_{11}$			
$X_{21}$	$X_{22}$		
$X_{31}$	$X_{32}$	$X_{33}$	
$X_{41}$	$X_{42}$	$X_{43}$	$X_{44}$



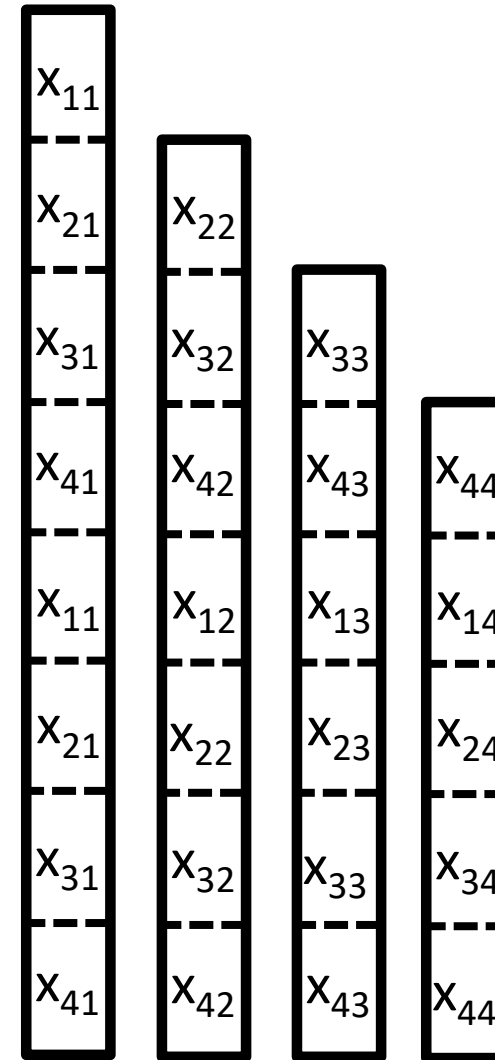
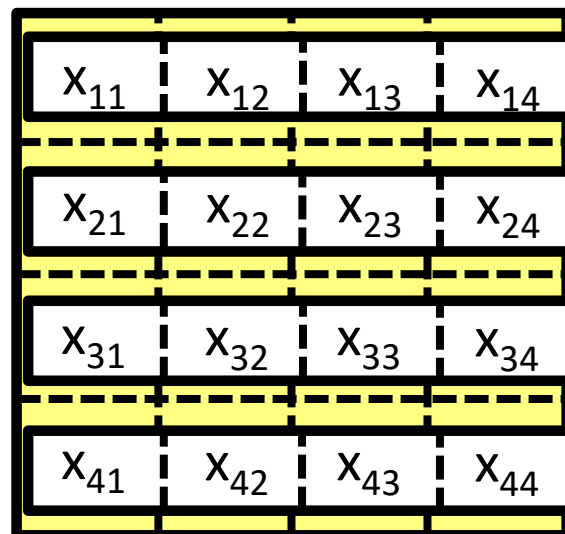
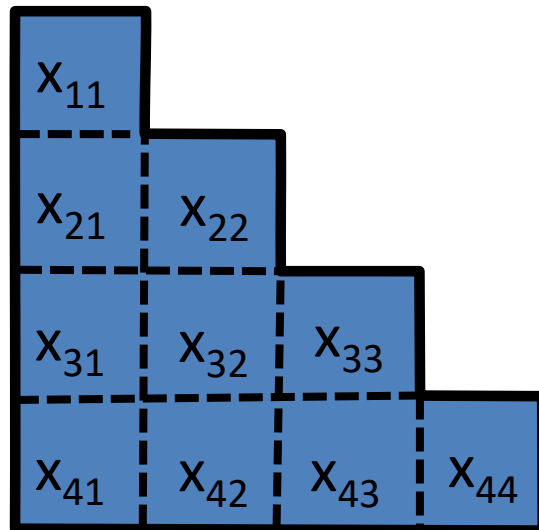
# Autocatalysis



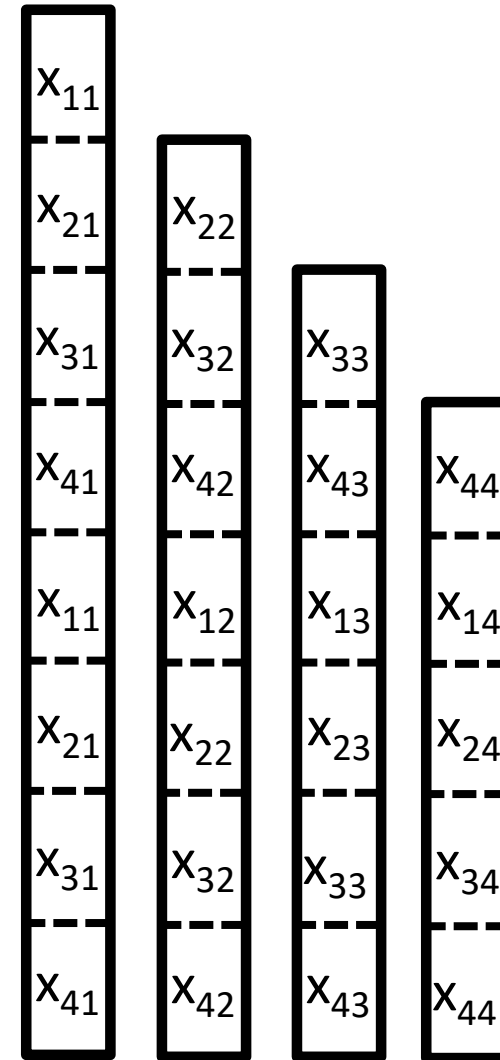
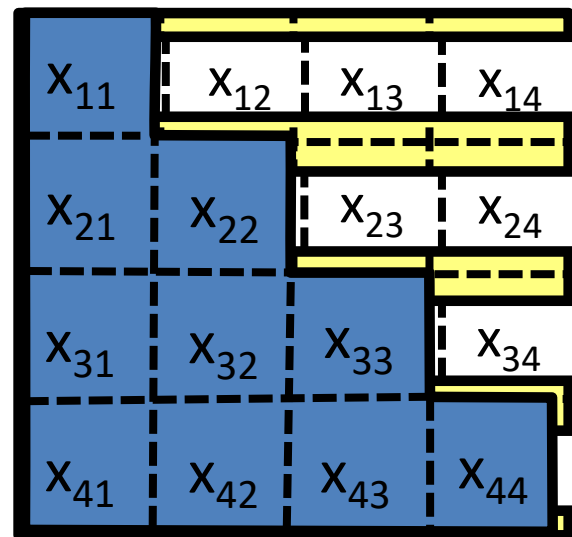
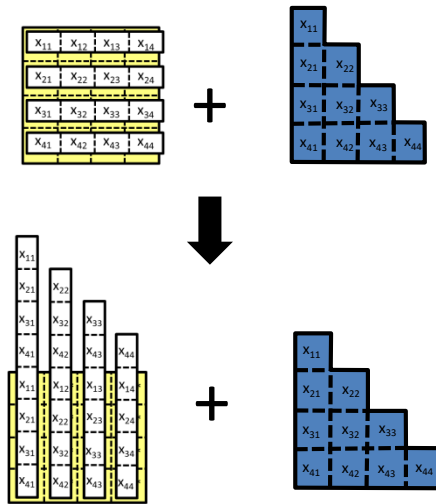
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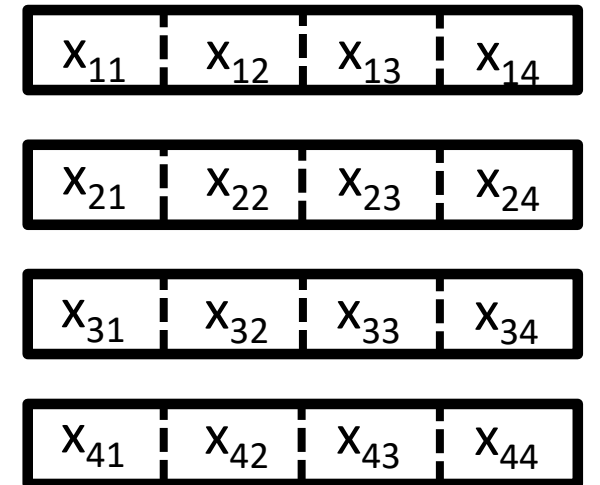
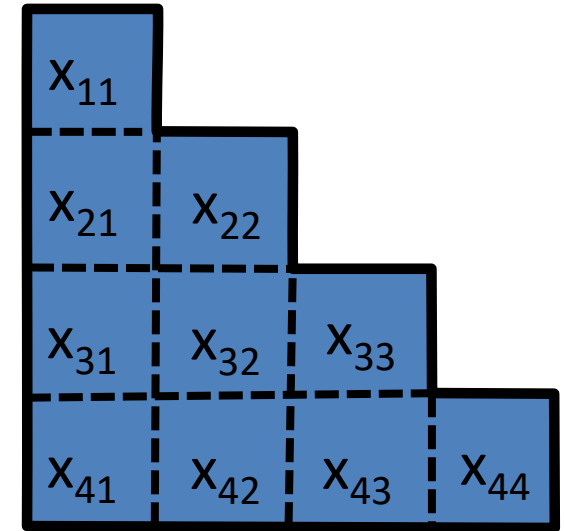
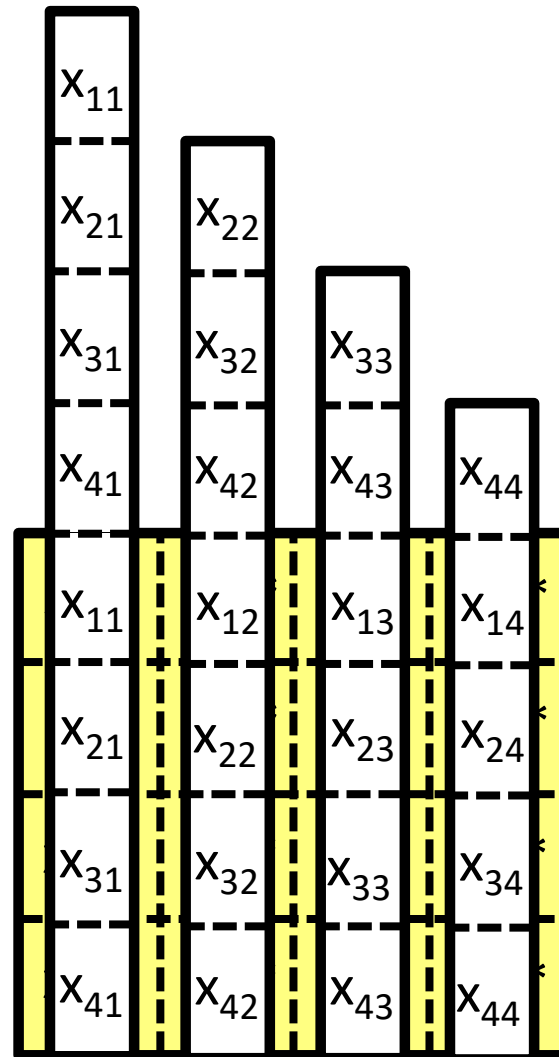
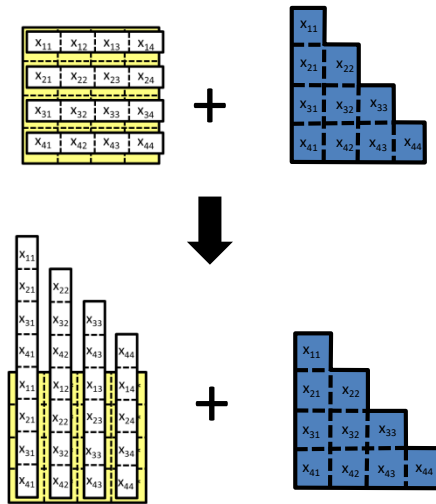
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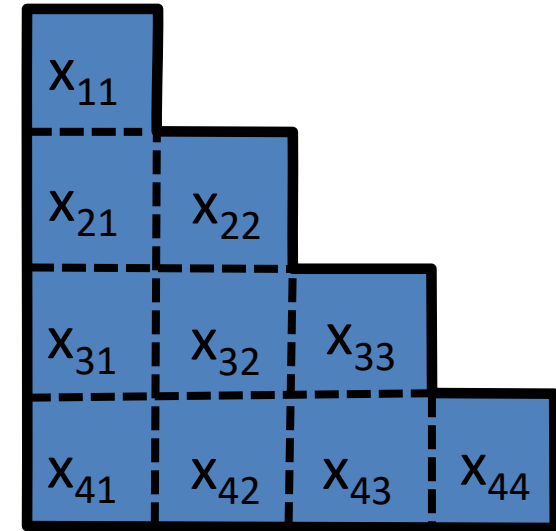
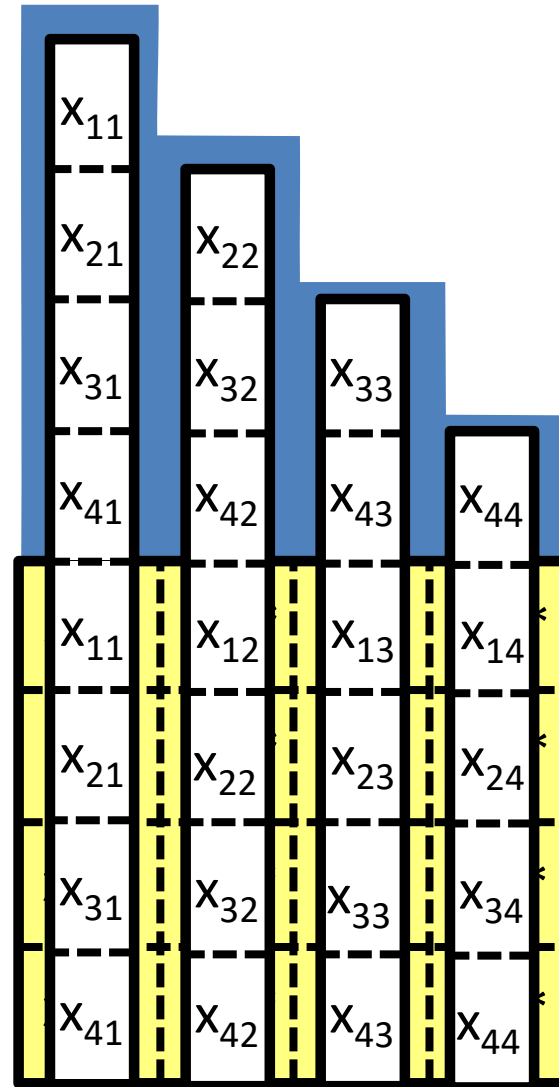
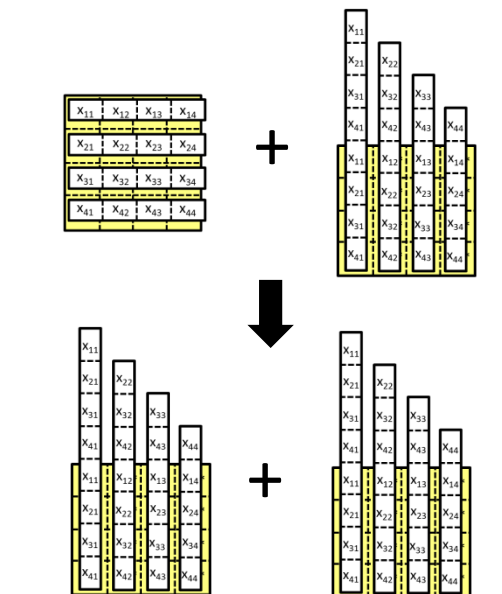
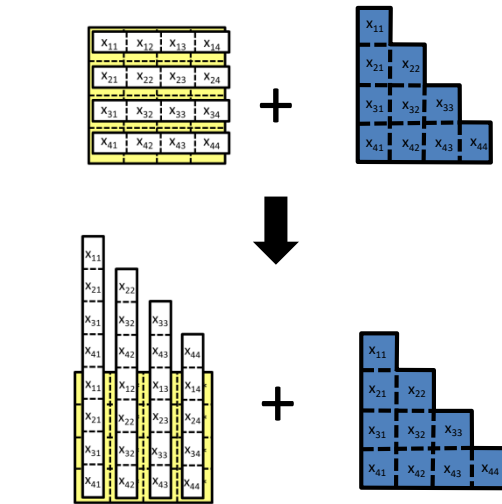
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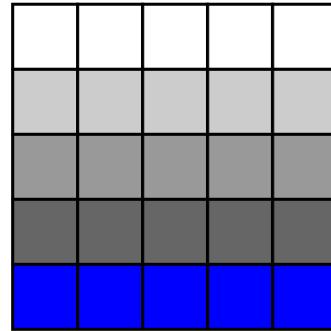
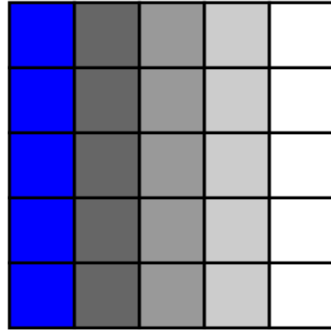
$x_{11}$	$x_{12}$	$x_{13}$	$x_{14}$
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$x_{21}$	$x_{22}$	$x_{23}$	$x_{24}$
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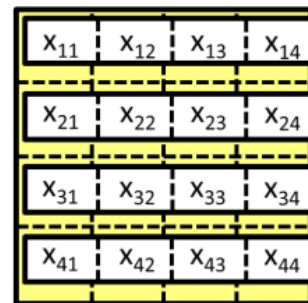
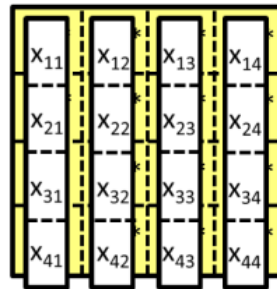
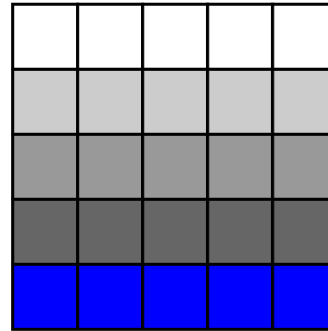
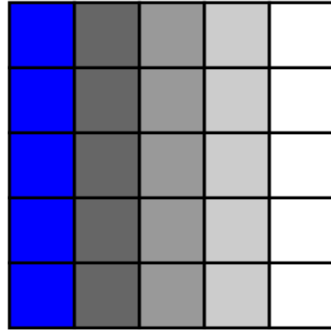
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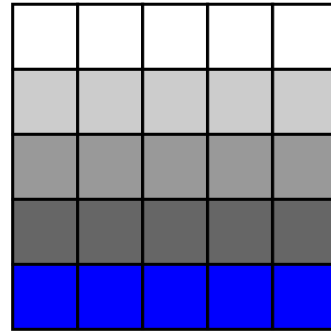
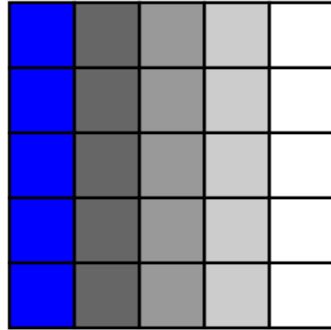
# Multiple Stable Configurations



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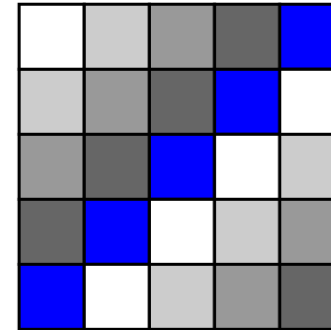
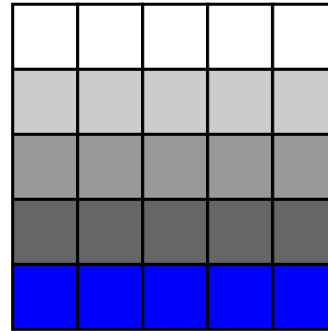
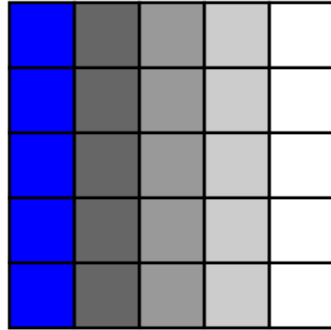


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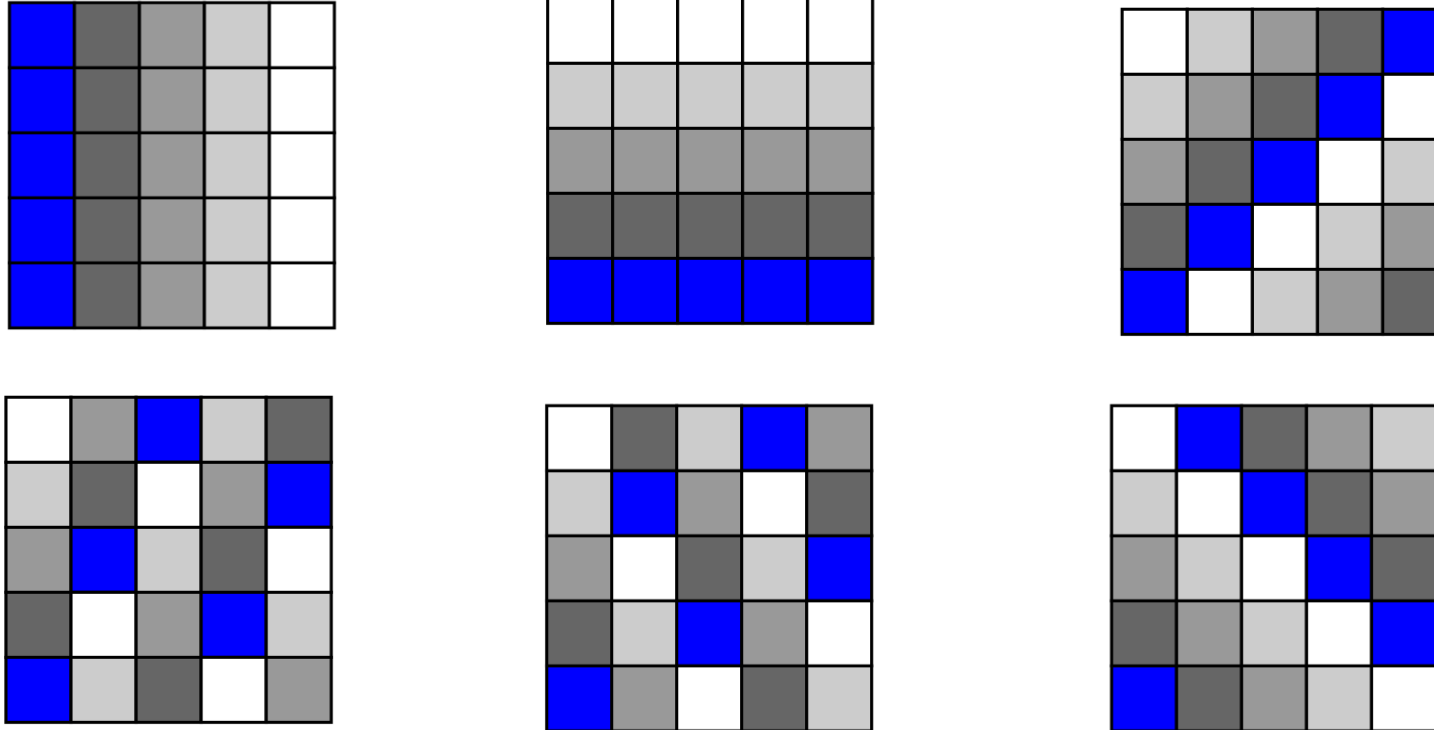




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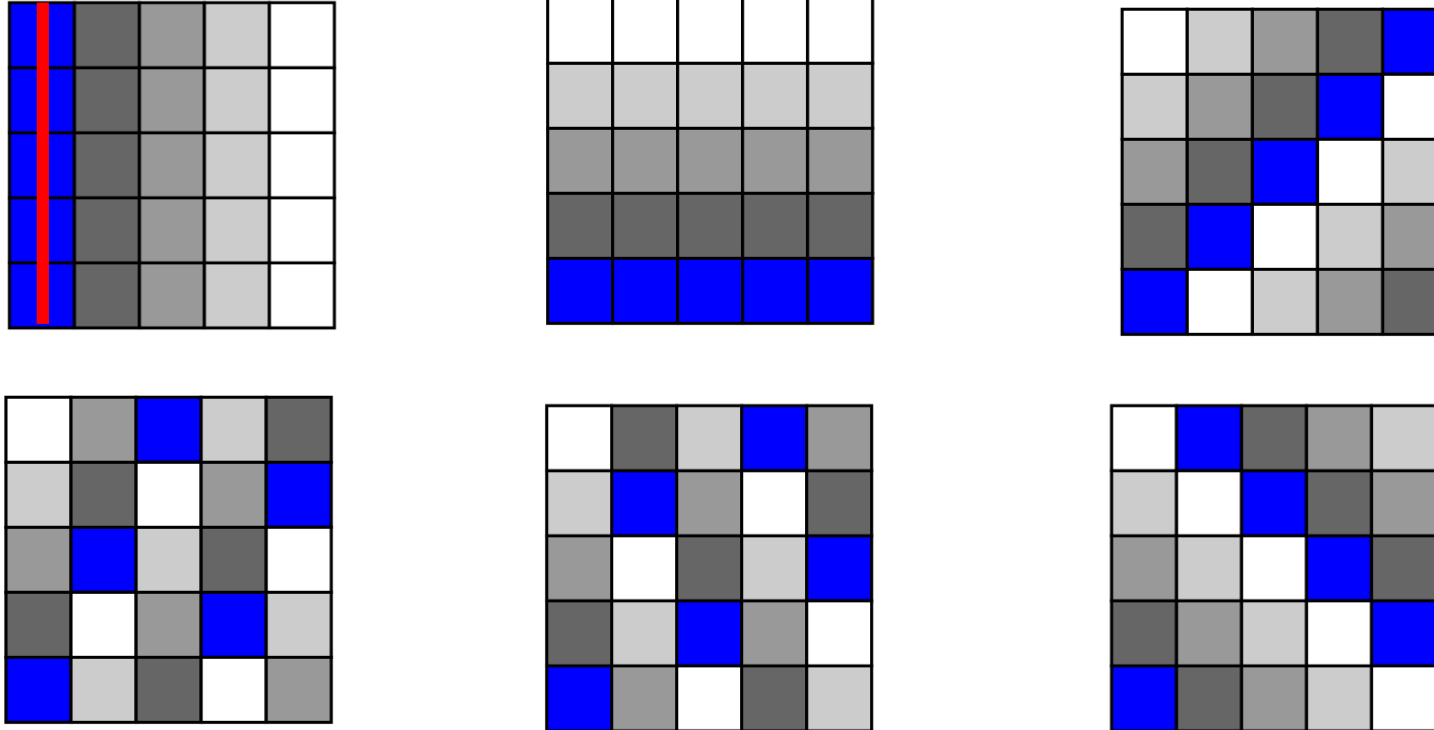


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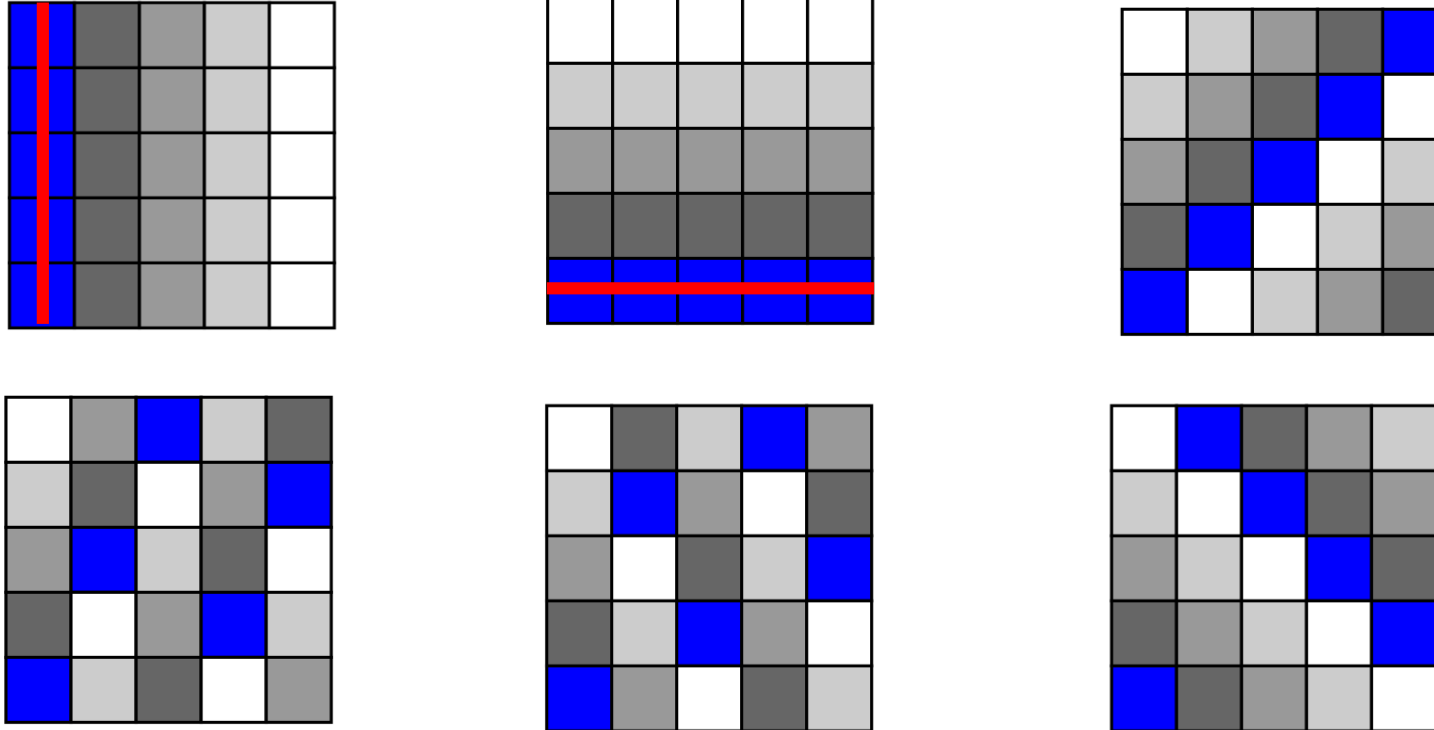
For a grid of size  $n \times n$ , there can be at most  $n+1$  different stable configurations with barrier  $n$  to pass between any of them

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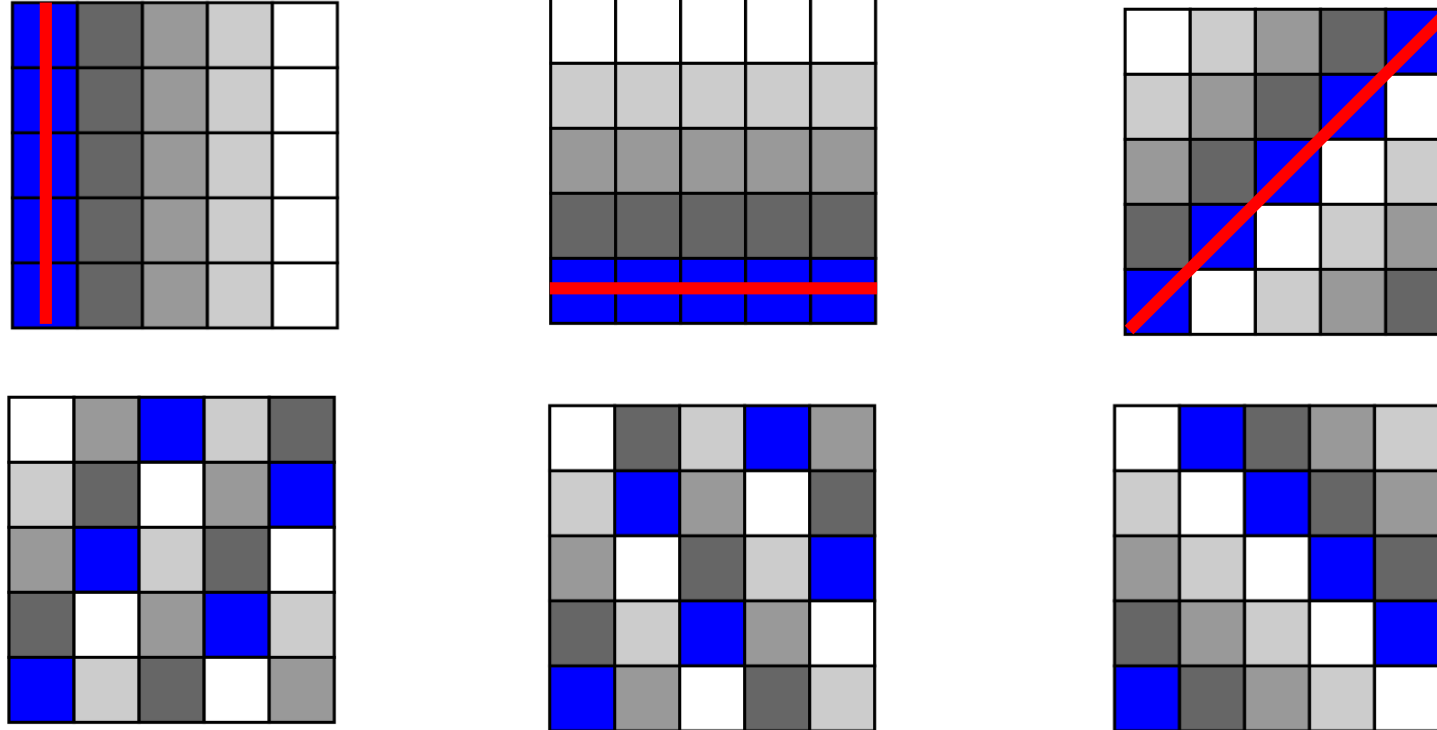
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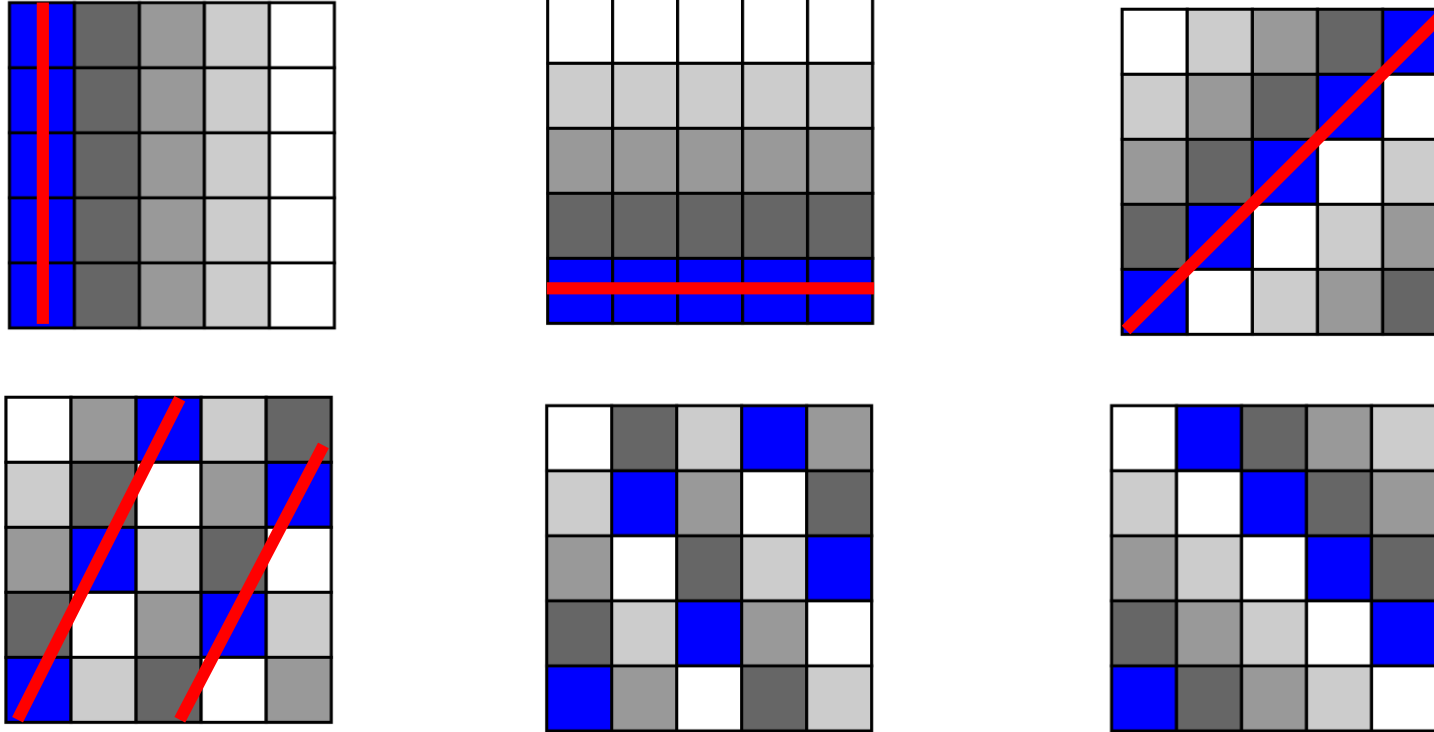
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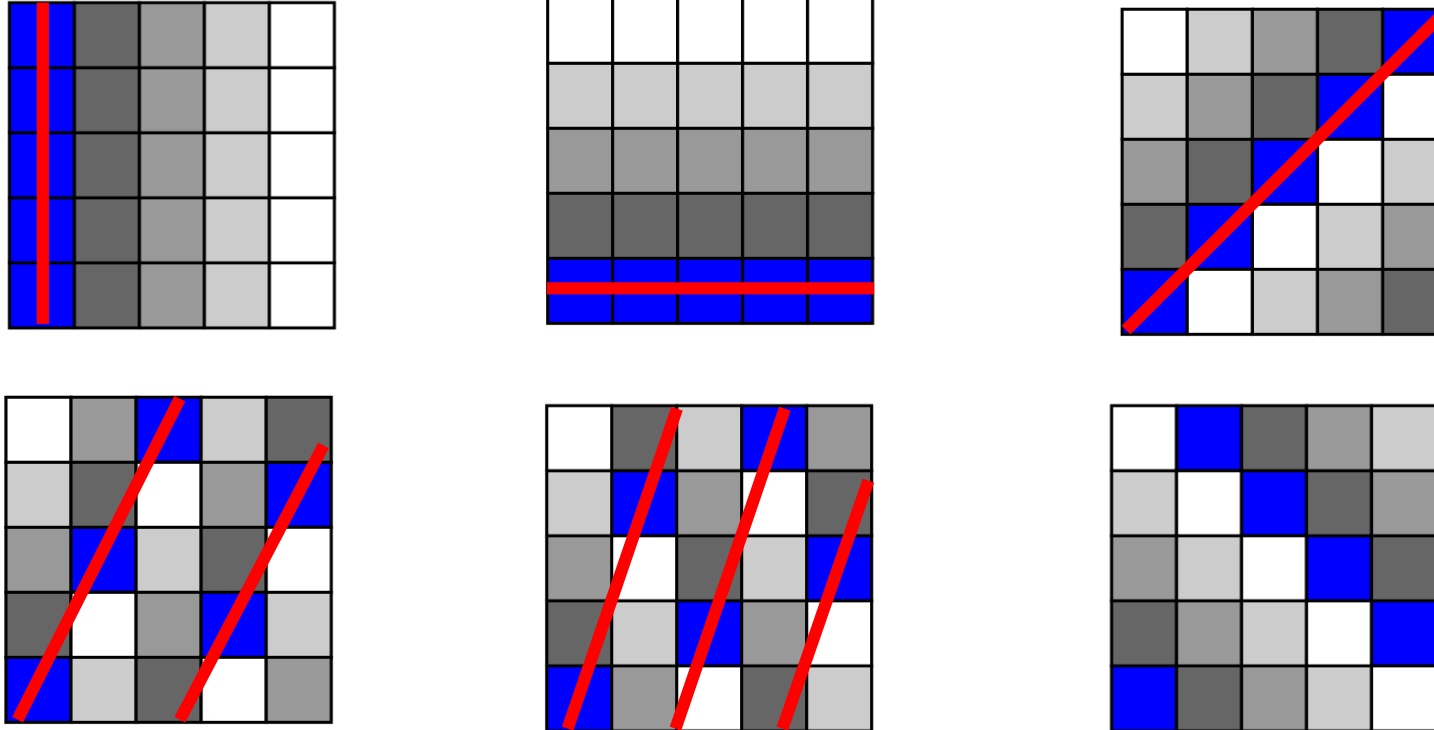
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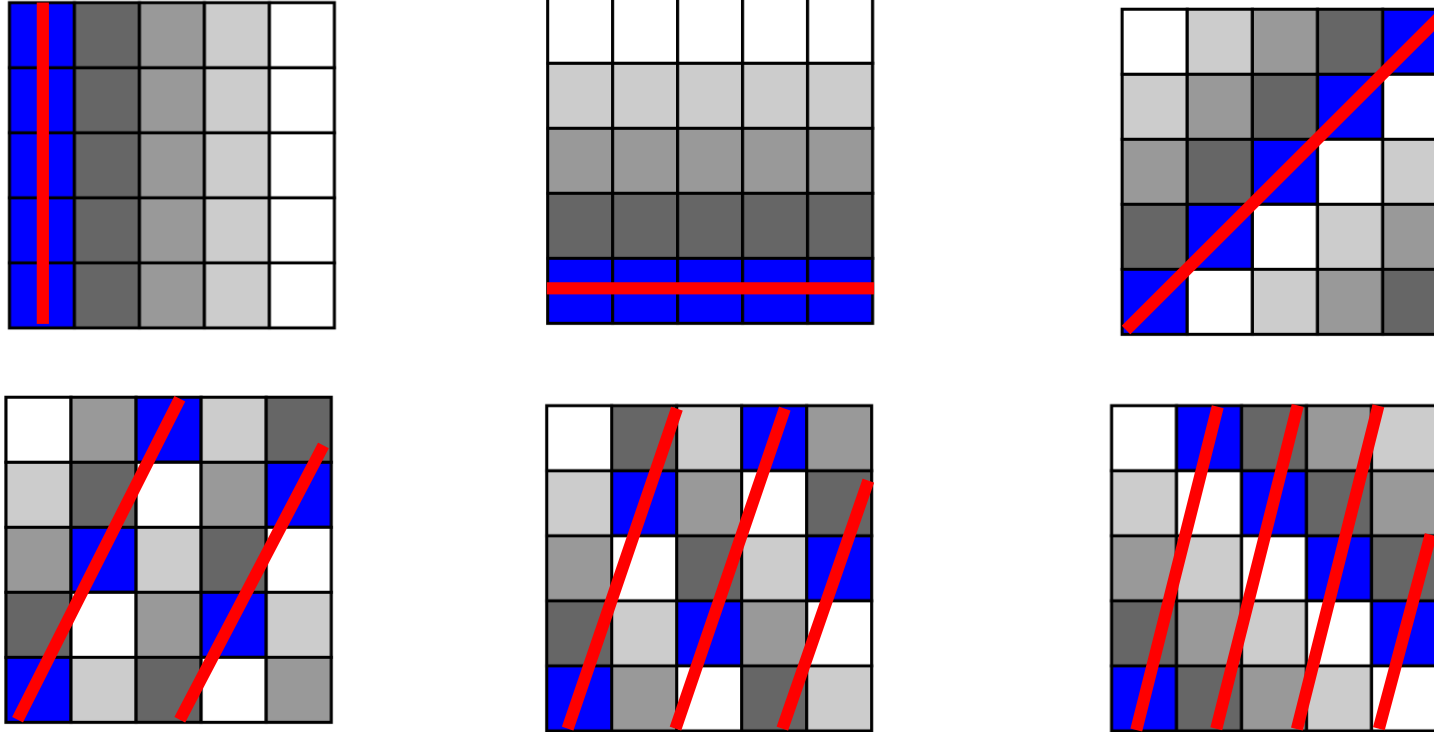
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# Social Golfer Problem

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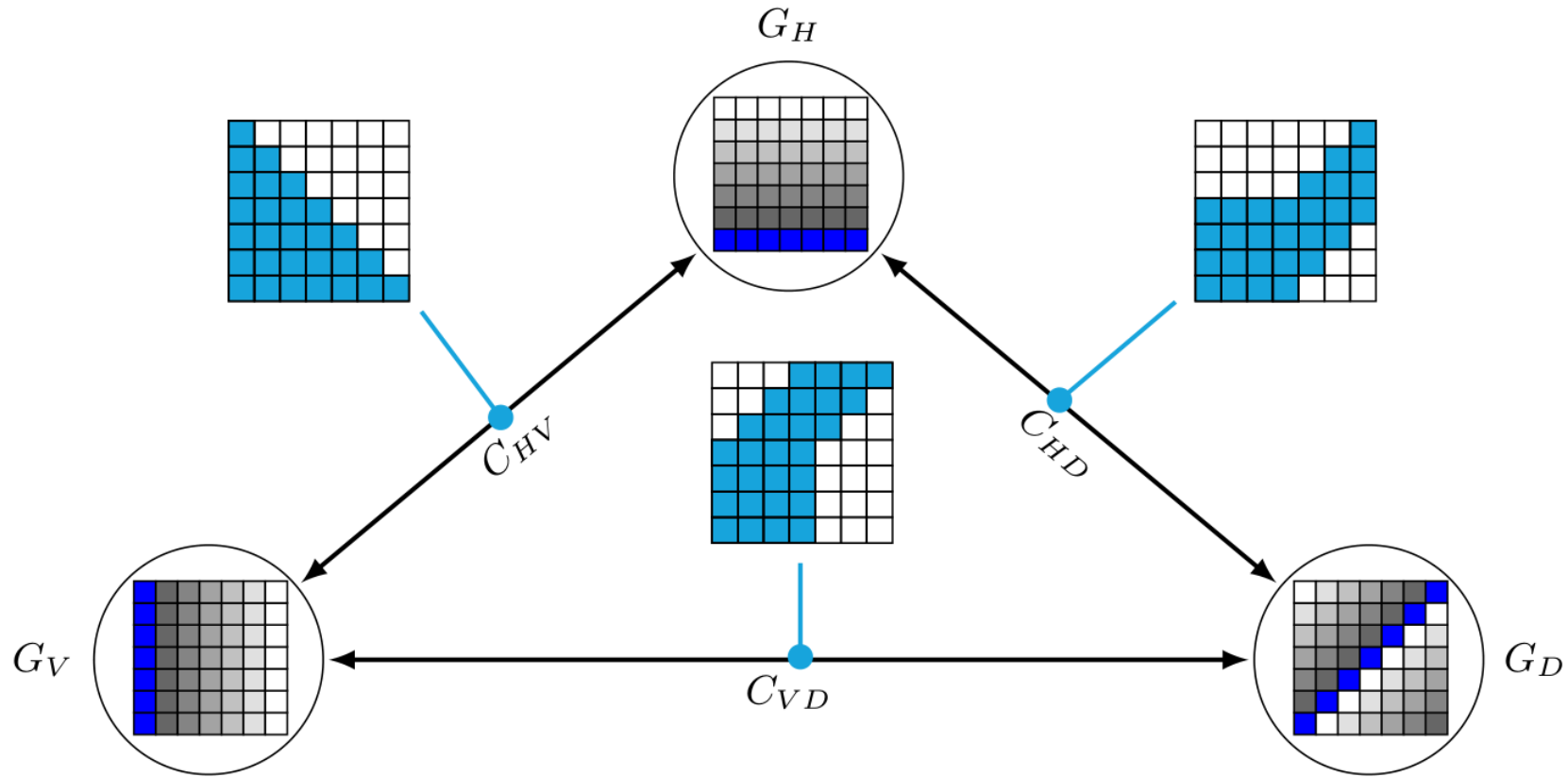
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[Gaston Tarry (1901). "Le Problème des 36 Officiers". *Compte Rendu de l'Association Française pour l'Avancement des Sciences*. Secrétariat de l'Association. 2: 170–203.]

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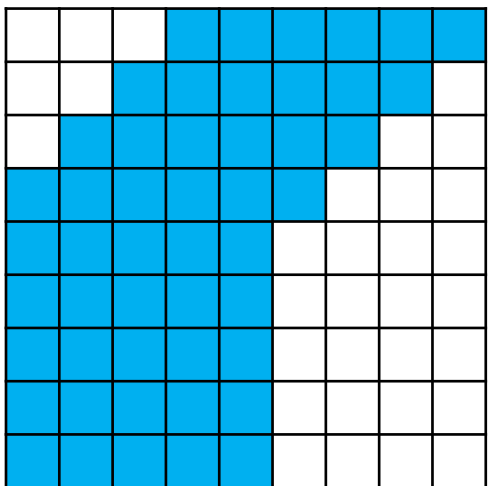
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- Unknown for next prime power  $n=10$ :
  - trivial upper bound is 11 days
  - best known lower bound is 3

# Directed Catalysis

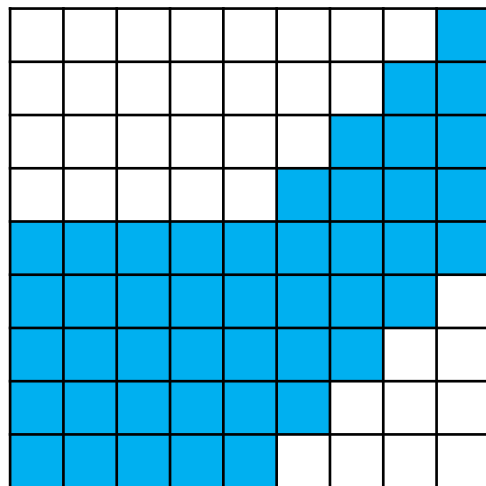


Along a catalyzed pathway, the barrier is 1  
Otherwise the barrier is  $n/2$

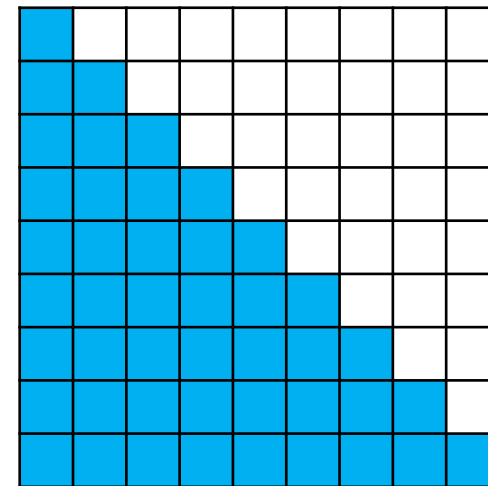
# Allowing more than one catalyst at once



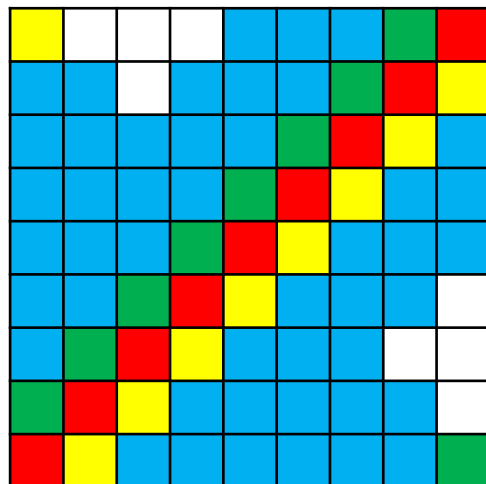
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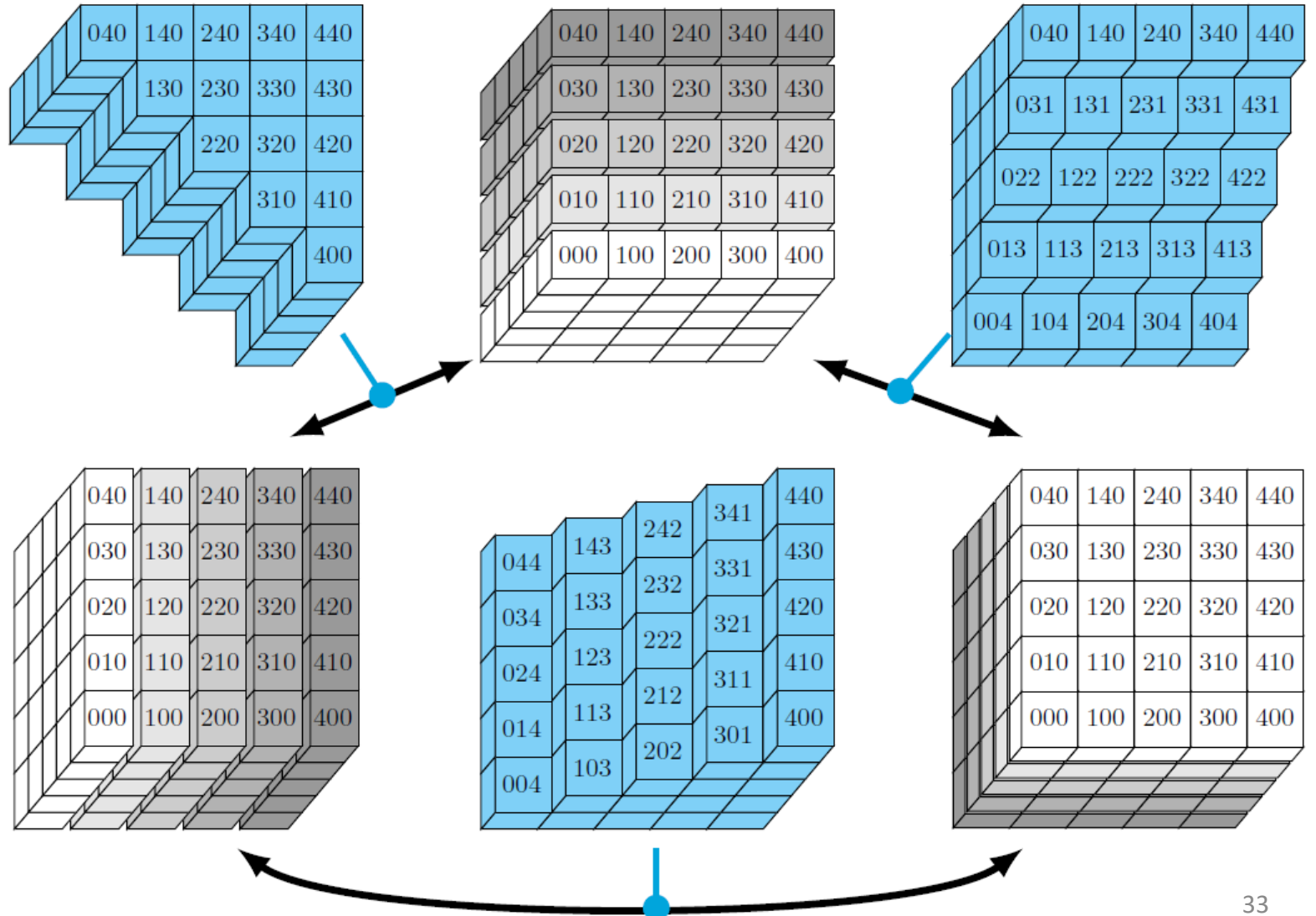
=



Not sure how to prove that all properties we want of system are preserved.

# Allowing more than one catalyst at once

- To have  $d$  stable states, set of domains is discrete  $d$ -dimensional hypercube.
- Each monomer is  $(d-1)$ -dimensional hyperplane
- Maintains energy barrier  $n$ , not just  $\Omega(n)$ .





# Future directions

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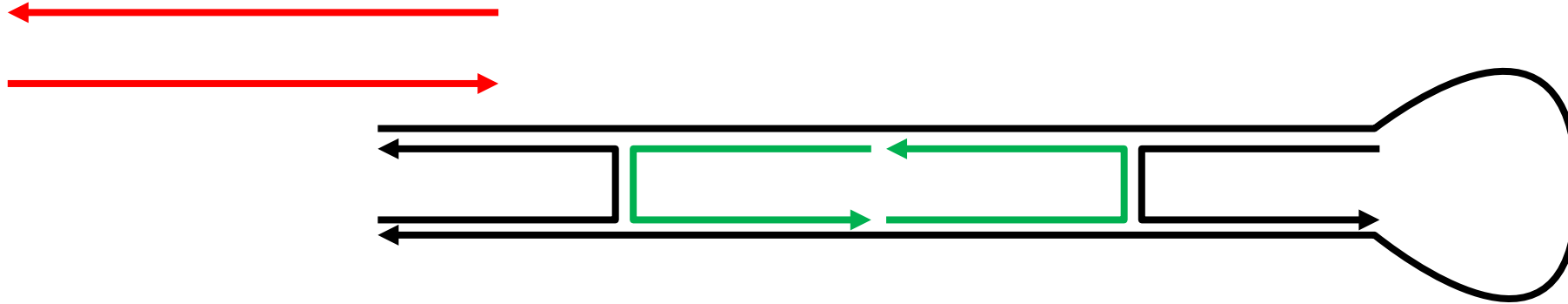
# Future directions

- Simultaneous presence of multiple directed catalysts (without exponential blowup)
- Minimum number of domain types to be robust to varying relative amounts of the monomers
- Constrained catalytic networks using overhangs

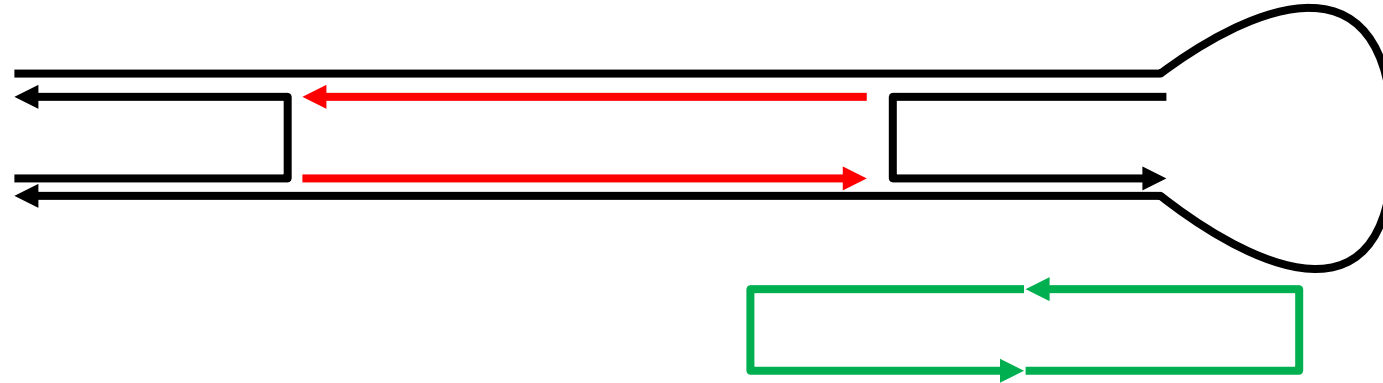
Thank you!



# Feasible DNA implementation

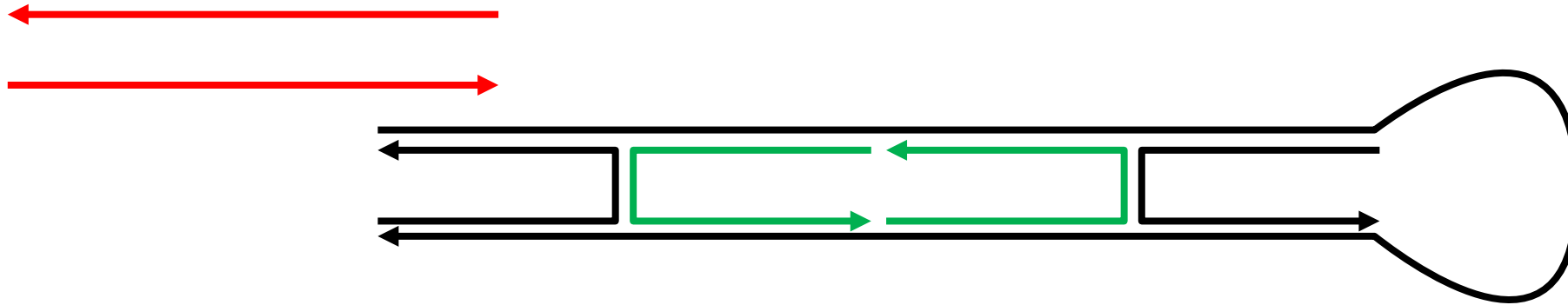


# Feasible DNA implementation

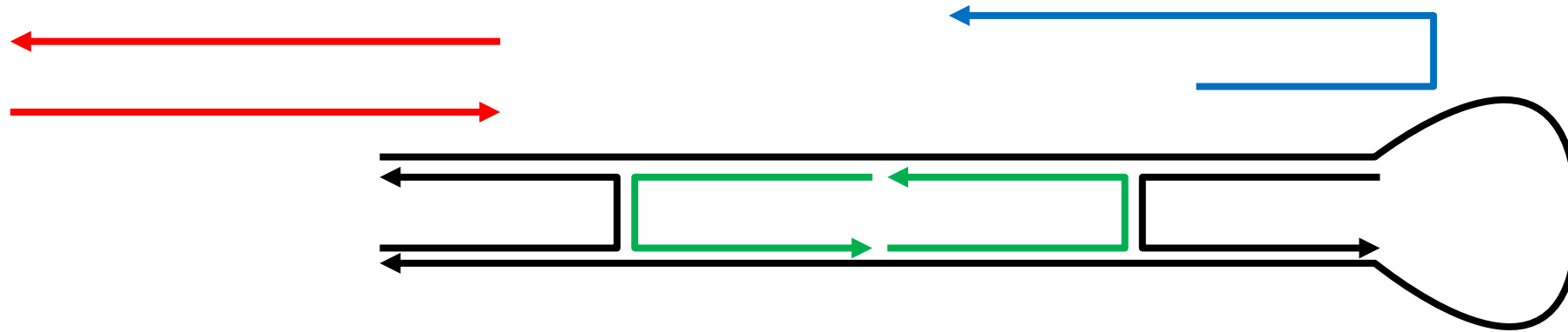




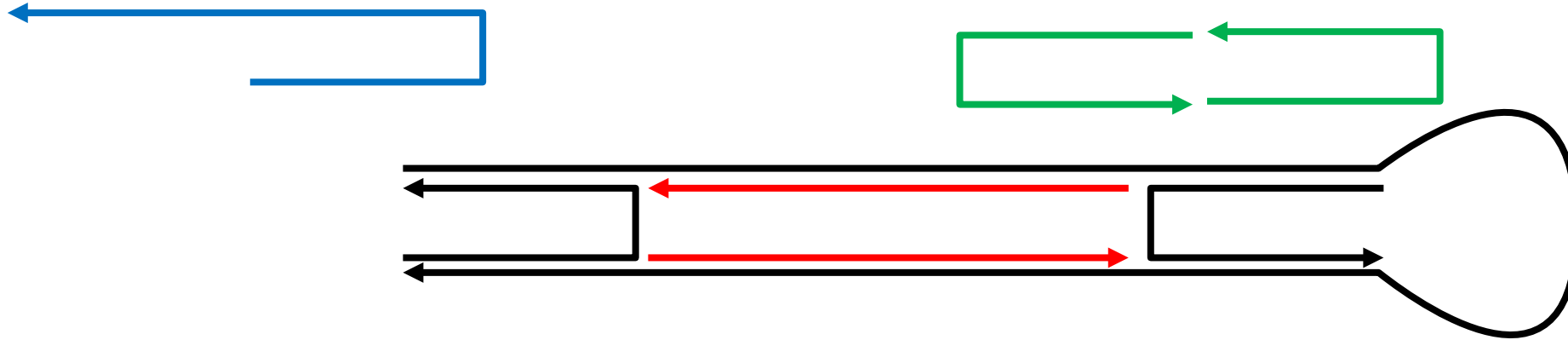
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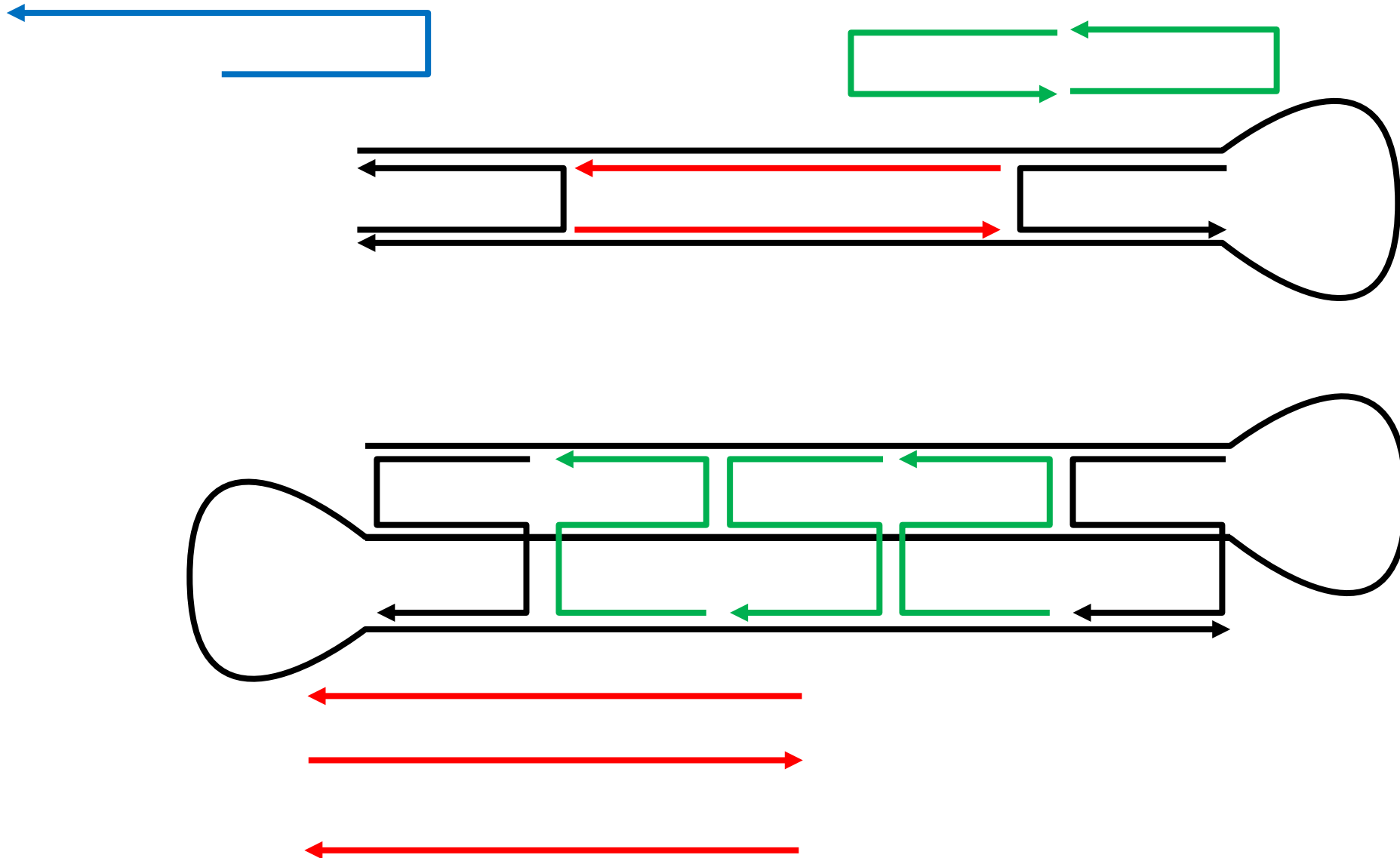
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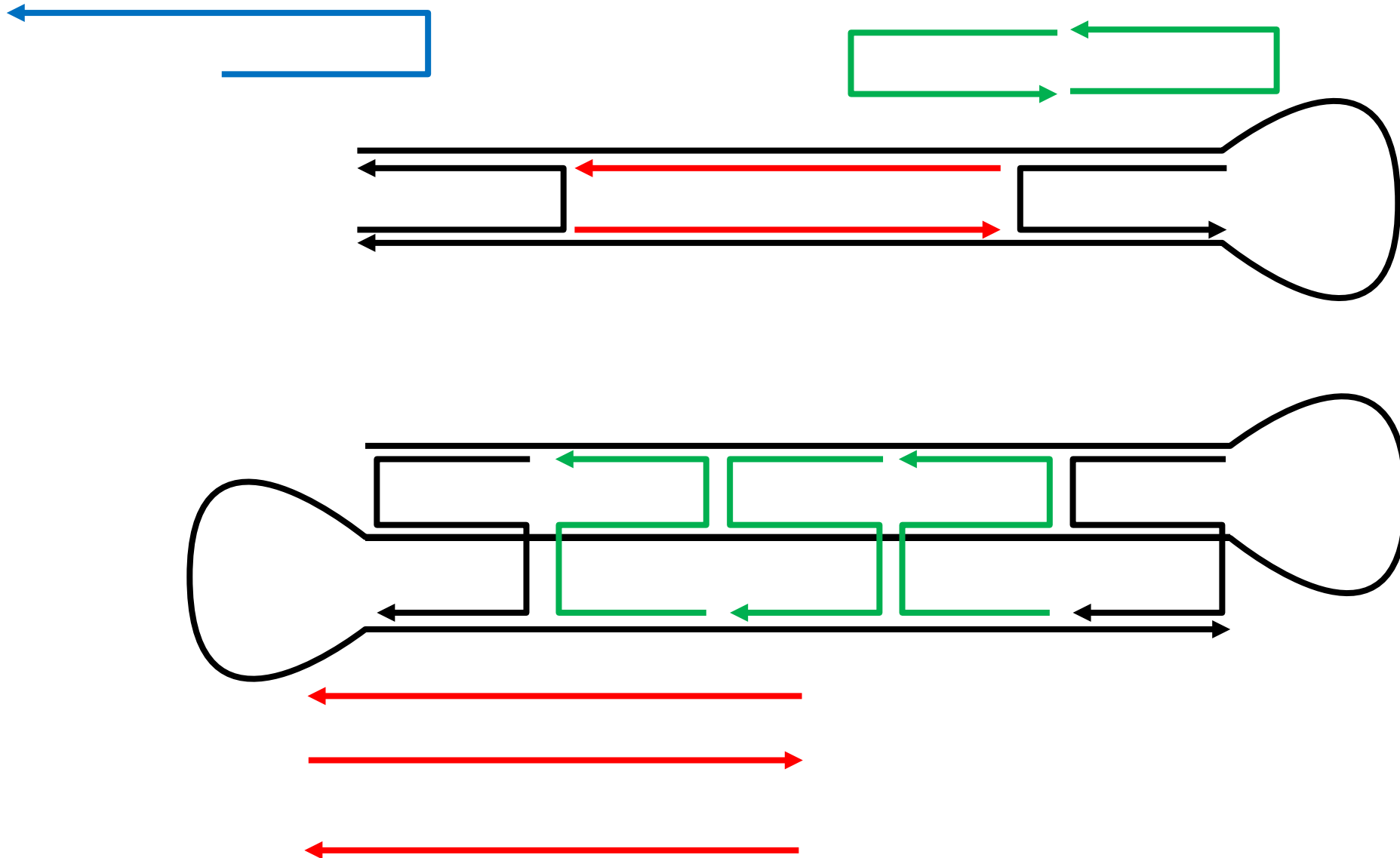
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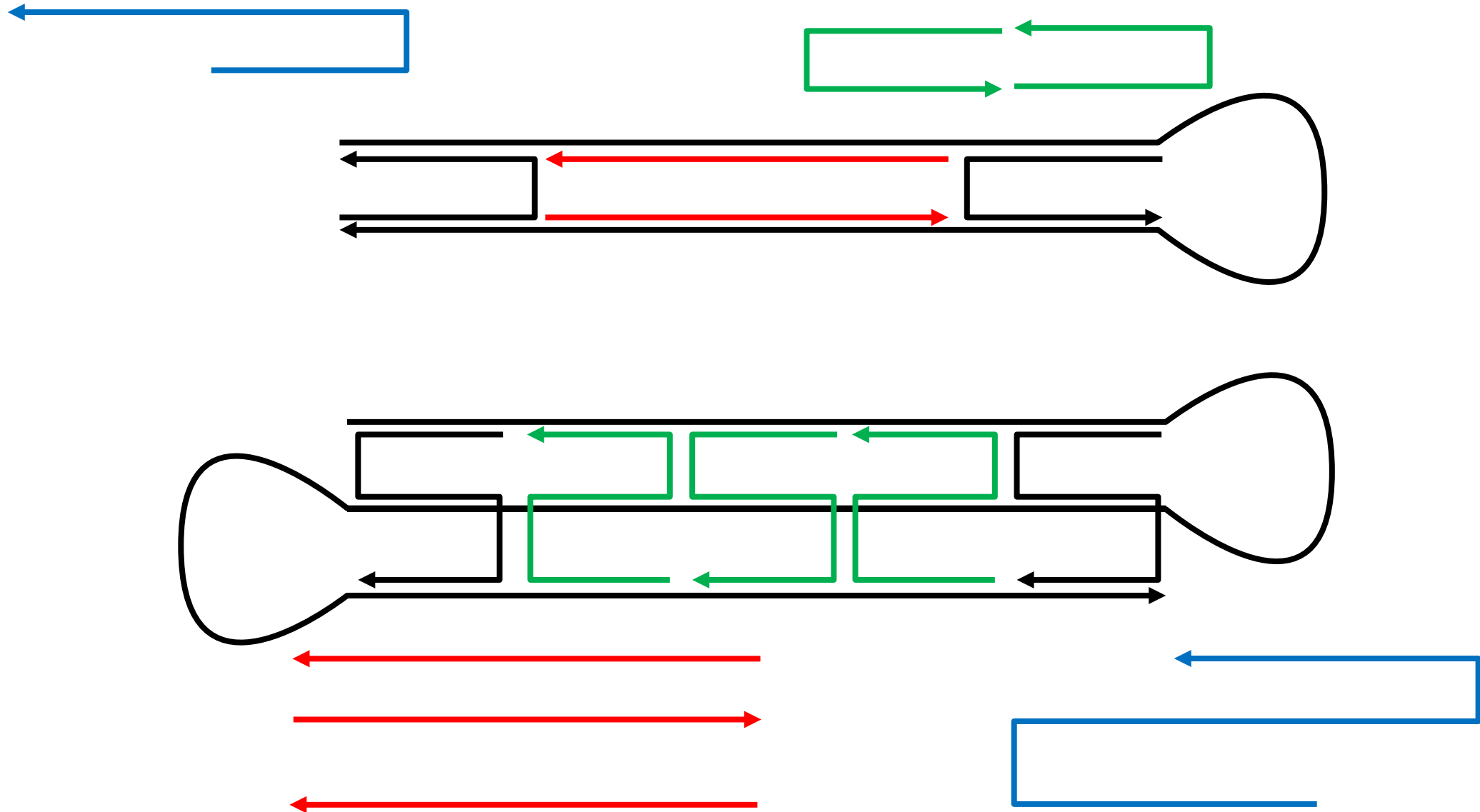
The diagram illustrates three models of DNA replication using colored lines to represent the parent and daughter DNA molecules:

- Conservative Replication (Top):** The parent DNA (black) remains intact, and a new daughter DNA (red) is synthesized separately. The parent DNA is shown as a single continuous line, and the daughter DNA is shown as a separate, identical line.
- Semi-conservative Replication (Middle):** The parent DNA (black) is unwound, and each strand serves as a template for a new strand (red). The resulting daughter DNA molecules each consist of one black strand and one red strand.
- Dispersive Replication (Bottom):** The parent DNA (black) is unwound, and the new DNA (red) is synthesized in fragments that are interspersed with the parent fragments. The resulting daughter DNA molecules are shown as a single continuous line with alternating segments of black and red.

# Feasible DNA implementation



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# Feasible DNA implementation

