# DNA Splicing System: From Laboratory to Computation and Graph

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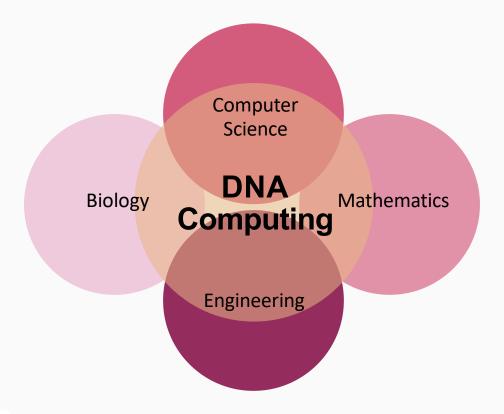
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#### **DNA Computing**



• DNA computing has emerged in the last twenty years as an exciting new research field at the intersection of Computer Science, Biology, Engineering and Mathematics.





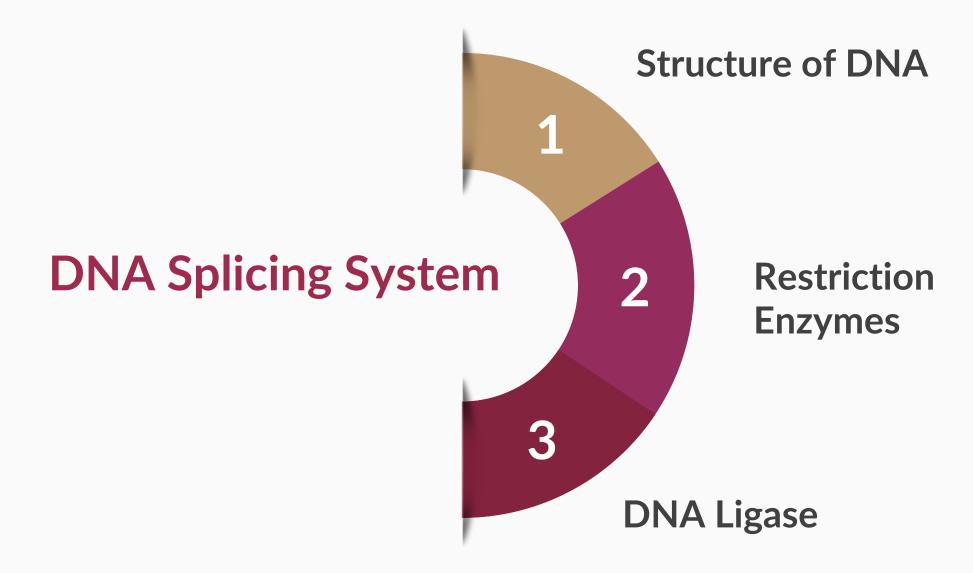
## **DNA Computing (Cont.)**



- Since then the field has blossomed rapidly, with development of significant theoretical and experimental results by researchers from interdisciplinary areas.
- **Different models** of molecular computation have been proposed in scientific society including Splicing Models and Sticker Models.





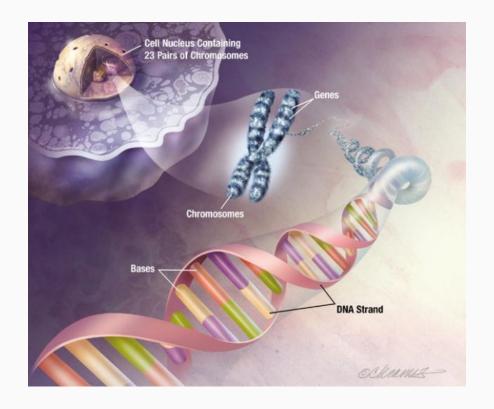




#### Structure of DNA

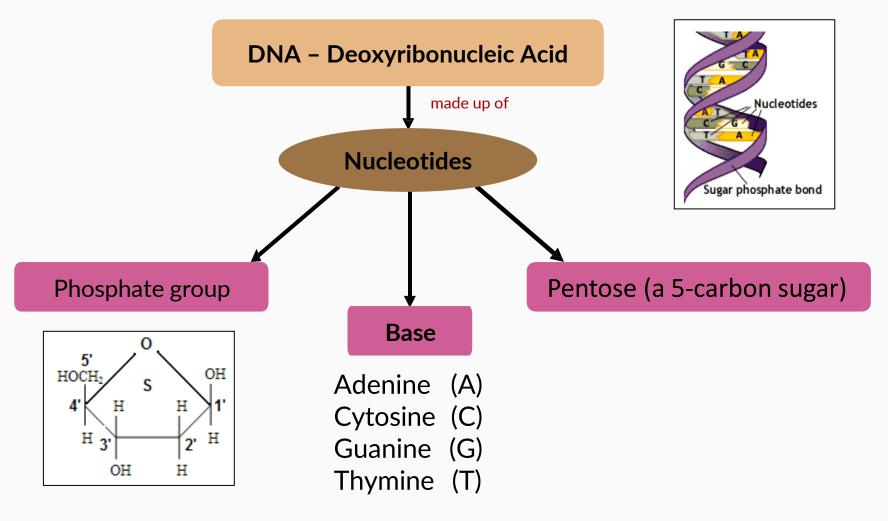


• DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms (animals, plants etc).





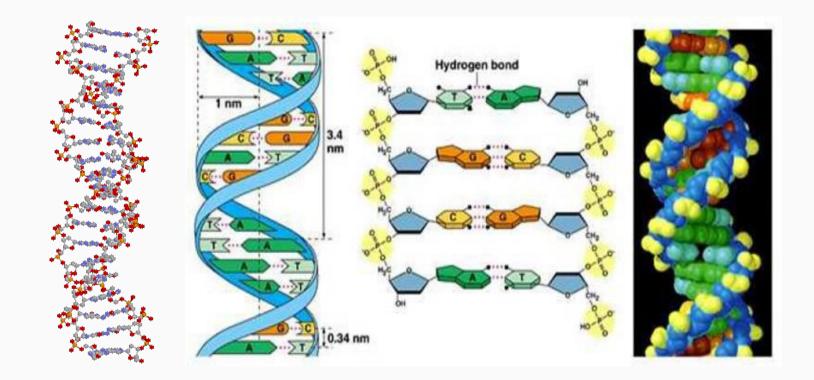








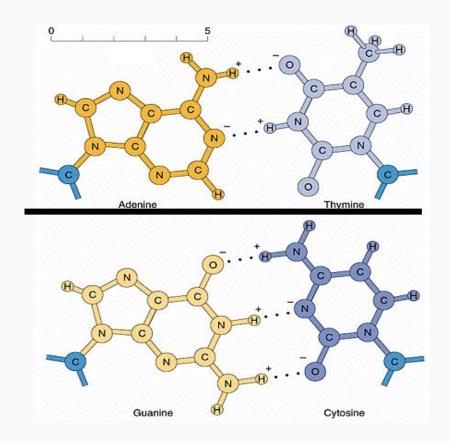
• Two single strands of DNAs can be linked together with the hydrogen bonds between their bases and hence form a helical shape called double stranded DNA (dsDNA).





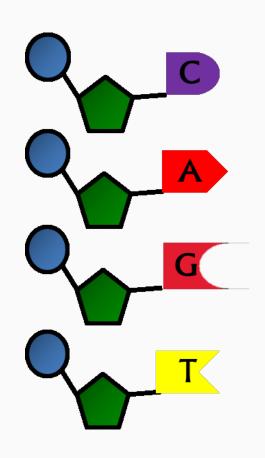


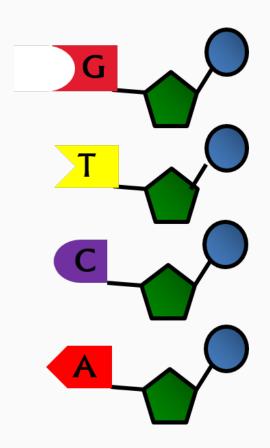
• In 1953, it was shown that the bases can join only complimentarily, A with T and G with C respectively.













## **Restriction Enzymes**



• DNA molecules can be cut by restriction enzymes at specific places based on the cutting sites of the restriction enzymes.

Sticky end (e.g. Acil)

5'...C ▼ CGC...3'

3'...GGC G...5'

Blunt end (e.g. *Afe*I)

5'...AGC ♥GCT...3'

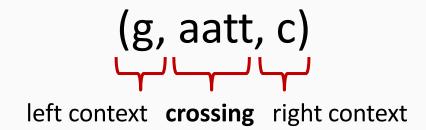
3'...TCG **\** CGA...5'



#### **Restriction Enzymes (Cont.)**



- Every restriction enzyme has a triple known as the cleavage pattern of the enzyme.
- The triple is denoted as a rule for the restriction enzyme which consists of left context, crossing and right context (Head, 1998).
- The restriction enzyme **EcoRI** is isolated from the bacterium Escherichia coli with strain serotype R; I indicates the first enzyme discovered from the bacterium.
- The cleavage pattern of restriction enzyme *EcoRI* is

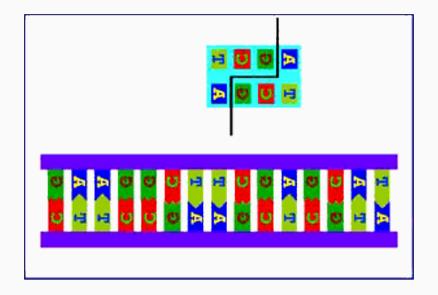




#### **Restriction Enzymes (Cont.)**



• A restriction enzyme is an enzyme that cuts double-stranded or single stranded DNA at specific recognized nucleotide sequences, known as restriction sites.

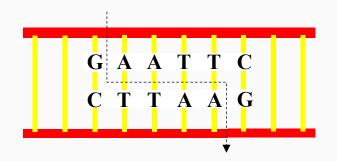




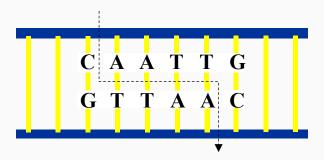
## **Restriction Enzymes (Cont.)**



*EcoR*I: ([G/C],[A/T],[A/T],[T/A],[T/A],[C/G])



*Mfe*I: ([C/G],[A/T],[A/T],[T/A],[T/A],[G/C])

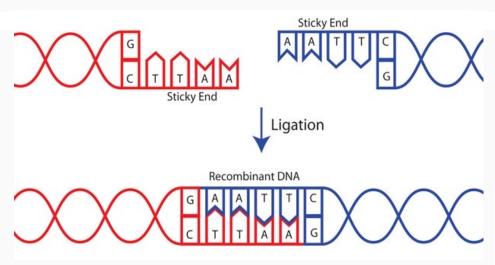


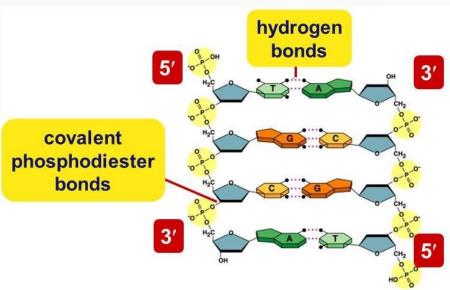


## **DNA Ligase**



• DNA ligase is an enzyme that can catalyze the linking of DNA strands together by forming a phosphodiester bond.





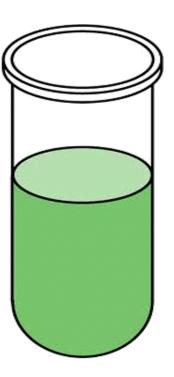


# Wet Experiment on Splicing System





$$S = (A, I, B, C)$$







# QÏSS

#### **Previous Molecular Works on Splicing Systems**

Author	Description QU INTERVARSITY SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
Laun and Reddy 1999	The first experiment on the splicing system using restriction enzymes <b>BglI</b> and <b>DraIII</b>
Fong 2008	The adult and limit languages from Head's splicing model using restriction enzymes Hpall and Acil
Karimi 2013	Verification of the persistency properties of splicing systems involving restriction enzymes <i>CvaQ</i> I and <i>Acc65</i> I
Yusof et al. 2015	Yusof-Goode splicing system with restriction enzymes Acl and Acil using limit graph approach
Ahmad et al. 2018	Experiment on second order limit language from Yusof-Goode splicing system using restriction enzyme <b>DpnII</b>
Ismail 2020	Experiment using the restriction enzymes <i>CviQI</i> and <i>AciI</i> to verify the generalisation of splicing system involving palindromic and non-palindromic rules

Laun, E., & Reddy, K. J. (1999). Wet Splicing Systems. Paper presented at the 3rd DIMACS Workshop on DNA Based Computers, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Fong, W. H. (2008). Modelling of Splicing Systems using Formal Language Theory. (Ph.D. Thesis), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, Malaysia.

Karimi, F. (2013). Mathematical Modelling of Persistent Splicing Systems in DNA Computing. (Ph.D. Thesis), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor, Malaysia.

Yusof, Y., Lim, W. L., Goode, T. E., Sarmin, N. H., Heng, F. W., & Wahab, M. F. A. (2015). *Molecular Aspects of DNA Splicing System*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Mathematics, Engineering and Industrial Applications 2014 (ICoMEIA 2014), Penang, Malaysia.

Ahmad, M. A., Sarmin, N. H., Abdul-Wahab, M. F., Heng, F. W., & Yusof, Y. (2018). Biomolecular Aspects of Second Order Limit Language. *Malaysian Journal of Fundamental and Applied Sciences*, 14(1), 15-19.

Ismail, N. I. (2020). Generalisations of Splicing Languages From DNA Splicing Systems. (Ph.D. Thesis), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, Malaysia.







Visit to wet lab, State University of New York,
Binghamton, New York, USA
2007











Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 2007







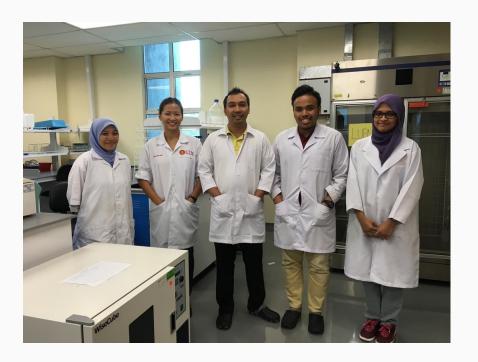


Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 2012









Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 2015









Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 2020



#### **DNA Splicing System**



#### Definition 1 (Head, 1987) Splicing System and Splicing Language

A splicing system, S = (A, I, B, C) consists of

- A: finite alphabet
- I: a finite set of initial strings in A\*
- B and C: finite sets of triples (c, x, d) with c, x and d in A\*
- Triples in *B* are called left patterns
- Triples in *C* are called right patterns

For each such triple the string *cxd* is called a site and the string *x* is called a crossing.

A language, L is a splicing language if there exists a splicing system S for which L = L(S).



#### **DNA Splicing System (Cont.)**



#### **Example 1**

Suppose that S = (A, I, B, C) is a splicing system in which  $A = {A, C, G, T \\ T G C A}$  is the set

of dsDNA symbols,  $I = \left\{ \frac{GAATTCTCTGTAAT}{CTTAAGAGACATTA} \right\}$  is the set consisting of an initial

string of molecules, set  $B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} G & AATT & C \\ C' & T & TAA' & G \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  is the set of cleavage pattern for the enzyme **EcoRI** and set *C* is the empty set.

The initial string is shown in the following:

5'-GAATTCTCTGTAAT-3'

3'-CTTAAGAGACATTA-5''

or written 180 degree wise,

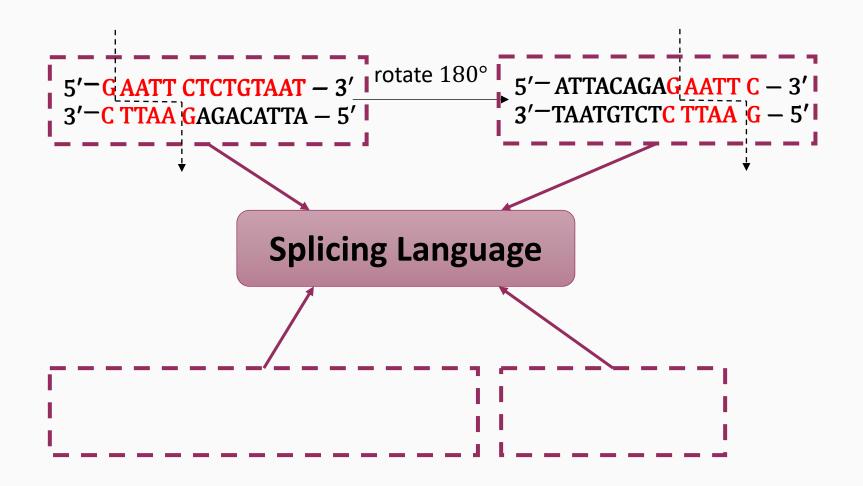
5'-ATTACAGAGAATTC-3'

3'-TAATGTCTCTTAAG-5'



## **DNA Splicing System (Cont.)**



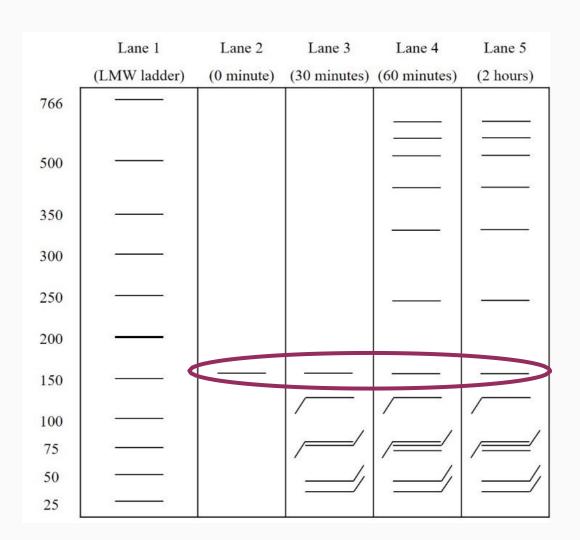


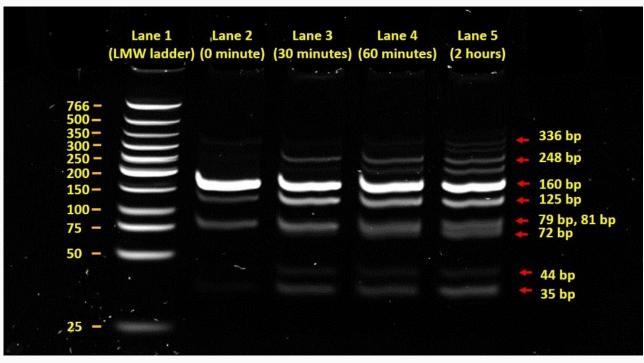


#### Theoretical vs Lab Results

Wet Splicing System involving CviQI and Acil







- Lane 1: LMW ladder
- Lane 2 (0 minute): 79 bp (or 81 bp), 125 bp and 160 bp
- Lane 3 (30 minutes): 35 bp, 44 bp, 79 bp, 81 bp, 125 bp, 160 bp, 248 bp
- Lane 4 (60 minutes): 35 bp, 44 bp, 79 bp, 81 bp, 125 bp, 160 bp, 248 bp
- Lane 5 (2 hours): 35 bp, 44 bp, 72 bp, 79 bp, 81 bp, 125 bp, 160 bp, 248 bp, 336 bp

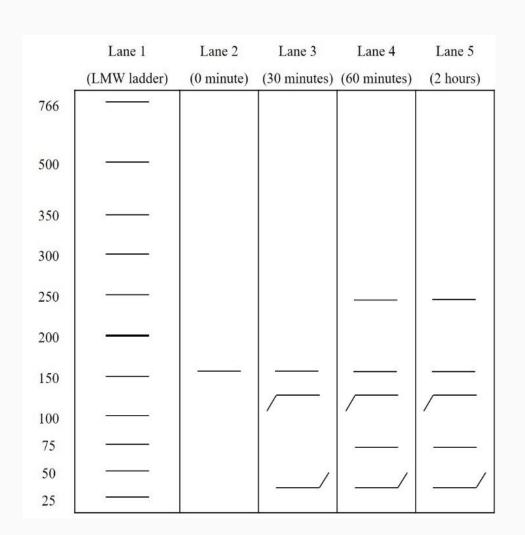


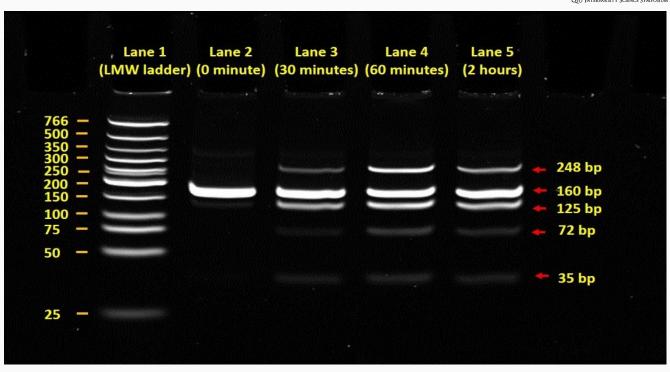
#### Theoretical vs Lab Results (Cont.)





Wet Splicing System involving CviQI





- Lane 1: LMW ladder
- Lane 2 (0 minute): 160 bp
- Lane 3 (30 minutes): 35 bp, 72 bp, 125 bp, 160 bp and 248 bp
- Lane 4 (60 minutes): 35 bp, 72 bp, 125 bp, 160 bp and 248 bp
- Lane 5 (2 hours): 35 bp, 72 bp, 125 bp, 160 bp and 248 bp

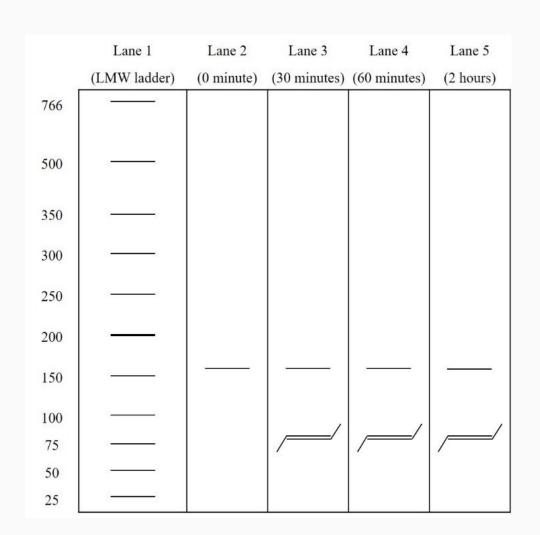


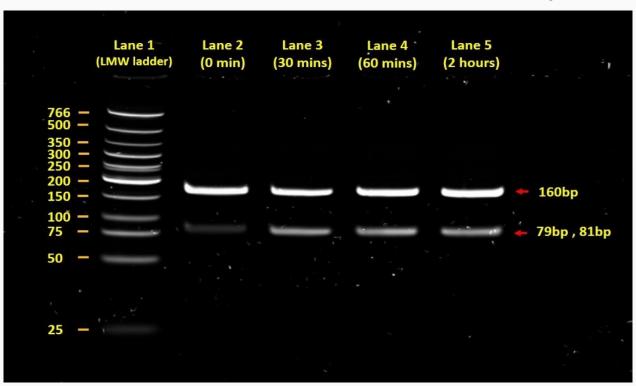
#### Theoretical vs Lab Results (Cont.)





Wet Splicing System involving Acil





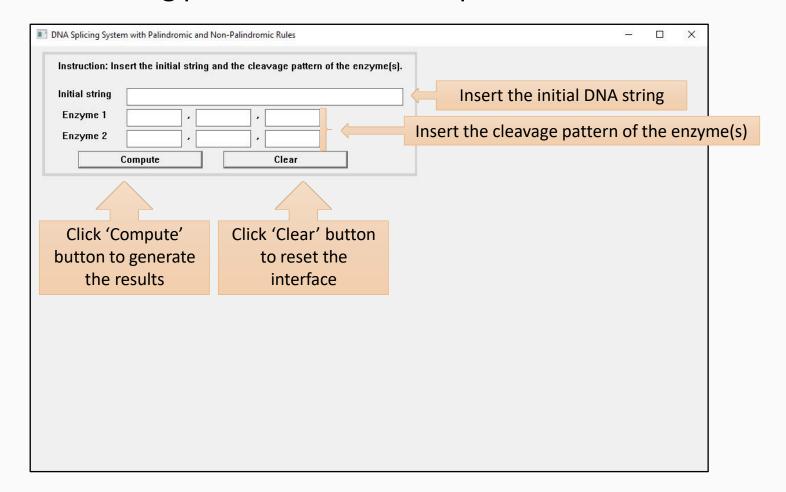
- Lane 1: LMW ladder
- Lane 2 (0 minute): 79 bp (or 81 bp) and 160 bp
- Lane 3 (30 minutes): 79 bp, 81 bp and 160 bp
- Lane 4 (60 minutes): 79 bp, 81 bp and 160 bp
- Lane 5 (2 hours): 79 bp, 81 bp and 160 bp



## **Programming Code**



• A C++ program is created in **Microsoft Visual Studio** to **develop the GUI** for DNA splicing systems involving palindromic and non-palindromic rules.

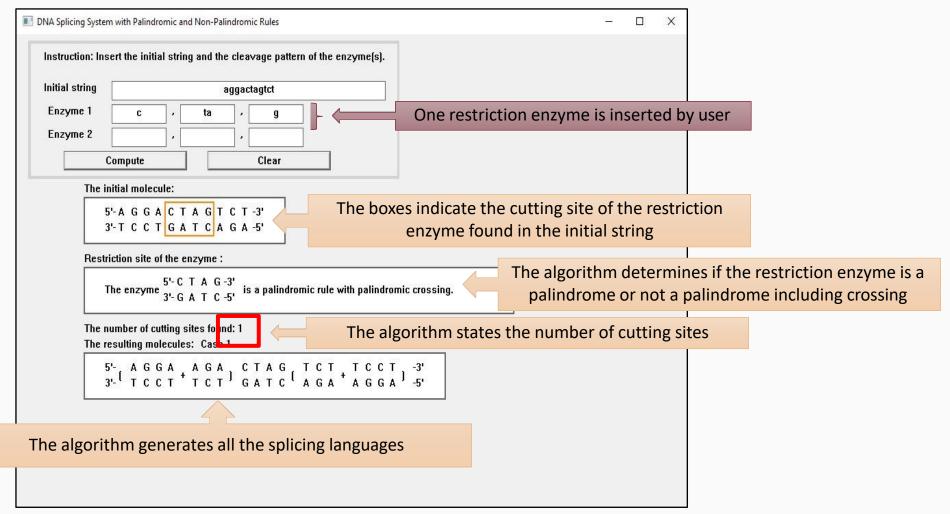




#### **Graphical User Interface (GUI)**

#### Output of GUI for DNA Splicing System involving One Rule



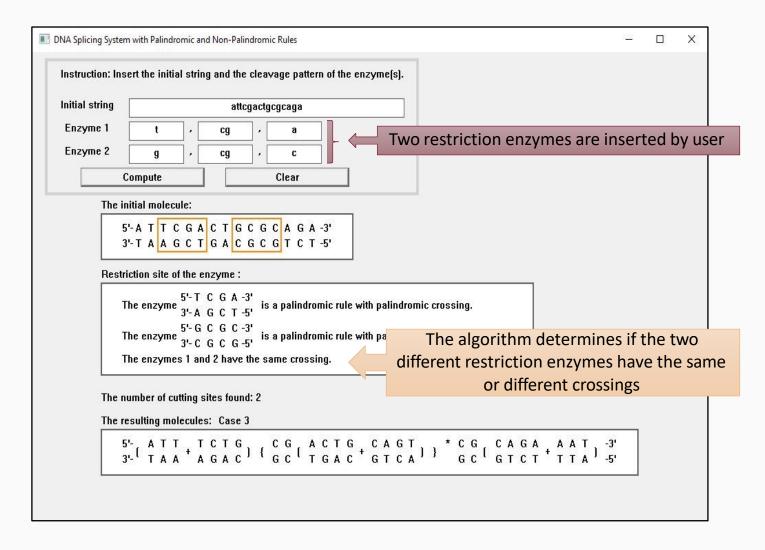




## **Graphical User Interface (GUI) (Cont.)**

#### Output of GUI for DNA Splicing System involving Two Rules





#### **Additional features:**

- Certain messages are displayed on the interface if the number of cutting sites found exceeds two
- The interface prompts the users if the cutting sites of restriction enzyme overlap
- The users will be notified if the inputs are incorrect.



## **Splicing System in Graph Theory**



$$A graph$$
 $G = (N, E, L)$ 

over

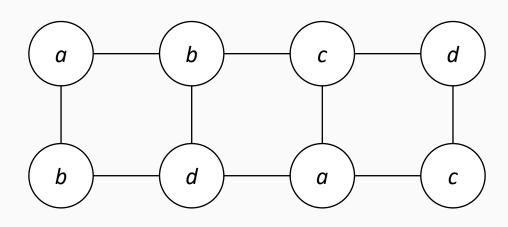
alphabet A

where

*N* : Nodes/Vertices

E : Edges

 $L: N \rightarrow A$ 



$$A = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

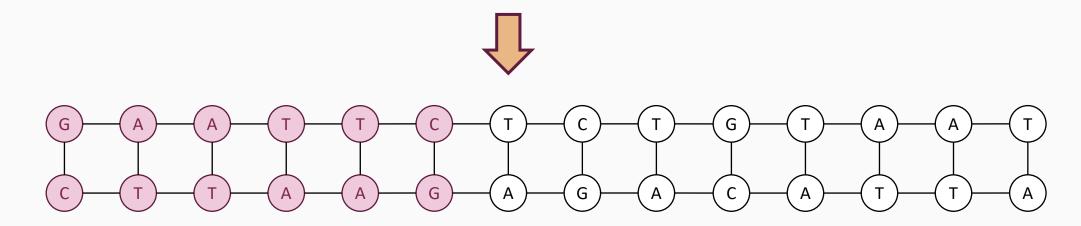


# Splicing System in Graph Theory (Cont.)



5'-GAATTCTCTGTAAT-3'

3'-CTTAAGAGACATTA-5'



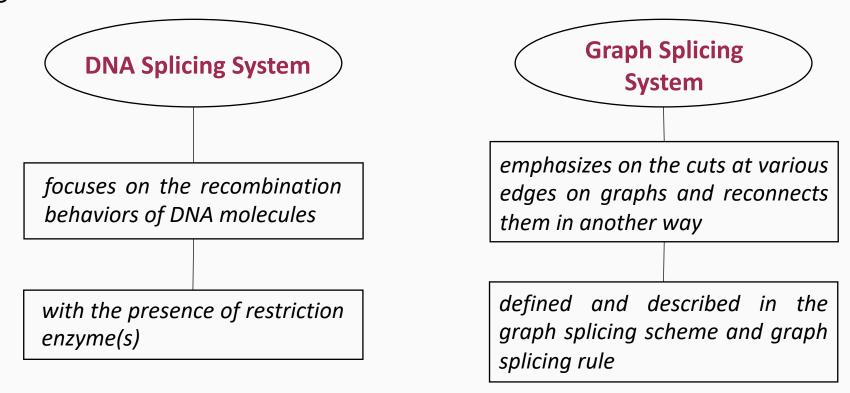
**Graph representation of the DNA string** 



## Splicing System in Graph Theory (Cont.)

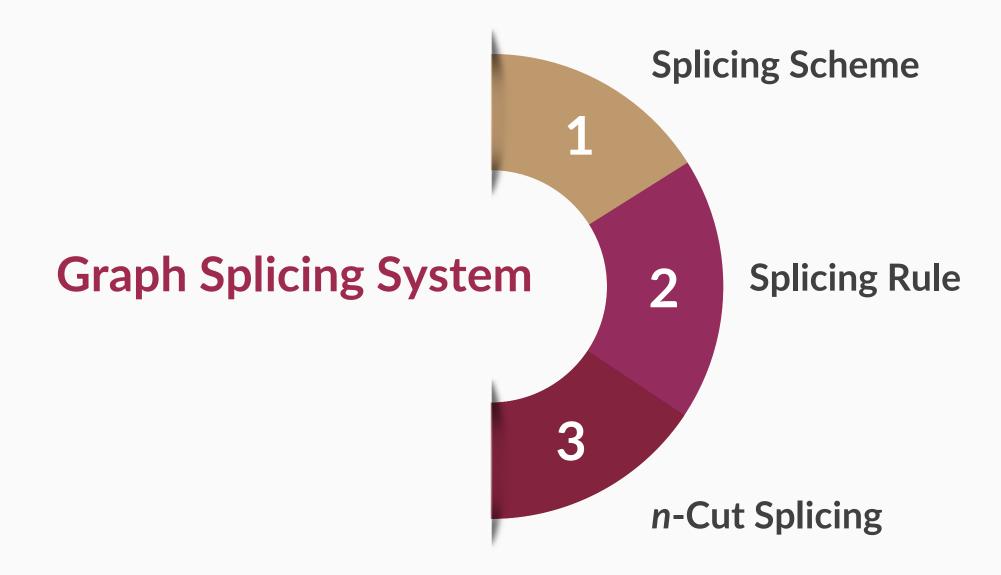


 Graph splicing system is originally introduced by Freund in 1995 to describe the DNA splicing system in the form of graphs instead of one-dimensional strings.



Freund, R. Splicing systems on graphs, in 1st Int. Symp. On Intelligence in Neural and Biological Systems, INBS'95 (IEEE, Washington, DC, 1995), 189-194.







#### **Graph Splicing Scheme**



#### **Definition (Freund, 1995) Graph Splicing Scheme**

A graph splicing scheme is a pair  $\sigma = (A, P)$  where A is a set of finite alphabets and P is a set of finite splicing rules. A finite set P with k number of graph splicing rules, can be written in the form

$$((h[1],E'[1]); (h[2],E'[2]), ..., (h[k];E'[k]);R)$$

such that  $k \ge 1$  where  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and for all i with  $1 \le i \le k$ , where

- h[i] = (N[i], E[i], L[i]) weakly connected graph, where E[i] is the edges of the ith graph splicing rule,
- $E'[i] \subseteq E[i]$ , where E'[i] is the cutting pattern for the *i*th graph splicing rule,
- the nodes N[i] are mutually disjoint,
- R obeys the following rules:
- i. Each edge  $(n,m) \in E'[i]$  is supposed to be divided into two parts; i.e the start part (n,m] and the end part [n,m),
- ii. The elements of E are of the form ((n,m], [n',m')), where (n,m) and (n',m') are edges from  $\bigcup_{1 \le i \le k} E'[i]$ ,
- iii. Every element from  $\{(n,m], [n,m) \mid (n,m) \in \bigcup_{1 \le i \le k} E'[i] \text{ must appear exactly once in a pair of } E.$



## **Graph Splicing Scheme (Cont.)**



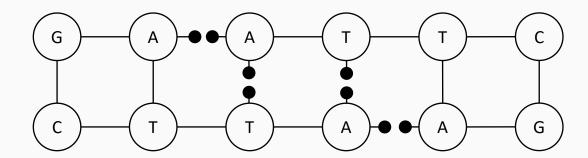
- Graph splicing scheme described the whole process of the graph splicing system where the graph splicing rule(s) is defined.
- Similar as enzymes in DNA splicing, splicing rules are used to control and restrict the edges to be cut on the initial graphs.

Cleavage pattern of restriction enzyme, *Acl*I

(AA CG TT) TT' GC' AA



#### **Graph representation of** *Acl***I**





## **Graph Splicing Rule**



#### **Definition (Freund, 1995) Graph Splicing Rule**

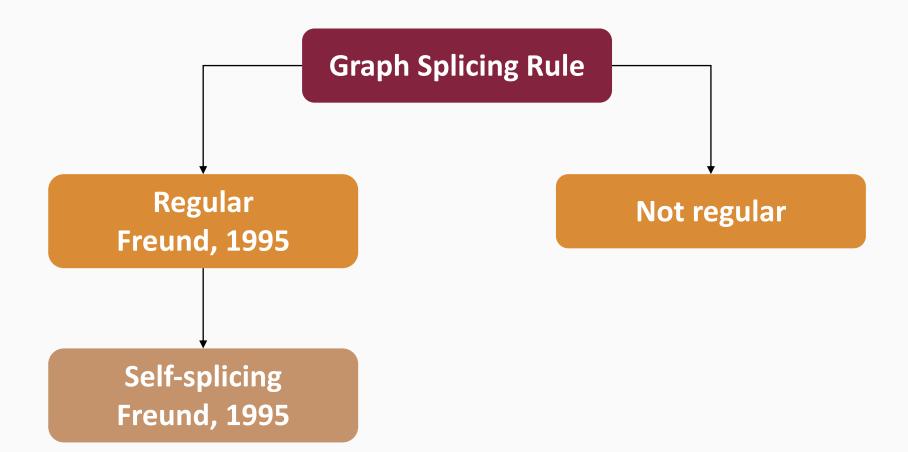
Let p = ((h[1], E'[1]), ..., (h[k], E'[k]); R) be a graph splicing rule and  $r \in \langle \langle \gamma_c(A) \rangle \rangle$  where  $\gamma_c(A)$  is a set of connected graphs over alphabet A. If there are k different graphs g[1], ..., g[k] from r, in the sense that n copies of the graph  $g \in \gamma_c(A)$  are n objects selected, provides that  $r(g) \ge n$ , then p can be applied to r, which yields some  $s \in \langle \langle \gamma_c(A) \rangle \rangle$  in the following way:

- i. for all i with  $1 \le i \le k$ , h[i] is a subgraph of g[i], where f[i] establishes the injective node embedding h[i] into g[i],
- ii. the union of g[i], ..., g[k] can be looked at as a single graph  $g \in \gamma_c(A)$  and the union of the functions f[i] as single function f embedding h[i] into g. Eliminate all edges from  $\bigcup_{1 \le i \le k} f(E'[i])$  from g and add all edges (f(n), f(m')) such that  $((n,m], [n',m')) \in E$ , which yields the uniquely determined union of k' connected graphs g'[i], ..., g'[k],
- iii. the new  $\mathbb{N}_{\infty}$  -subset s is obtained from r by successively decrementing r(g[1]), ..., r(g[k]) by one and incrementing r(g'[1]), ..., r(g'[k]) by one.



## **Graph Splicing Rule (Cont.)**







## **Graph Splicing Rule (Cont.)**

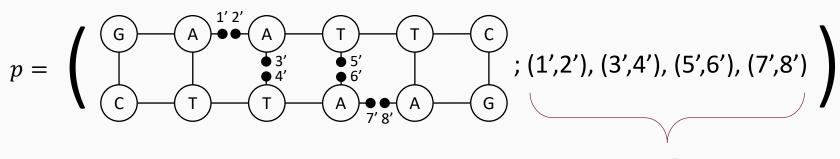


• A graph splicing rule consisting the enzyme AclI can be written as follows.

$$p = ((h, E'); R)$$

 $EcoRI: \left\{ \begin{matrix} AA & CG & TT \\ TT' & GC' & AA \end{matrix} \right\}$ 

$$h = \begin{array}{c|cccc} A & A & C & G & T & T \\ \hline T & T & G & C & A & A \end{array}$$





### **Graph Splicing System**



#### **Definition (Freund, 1995) Graph Splicing System**

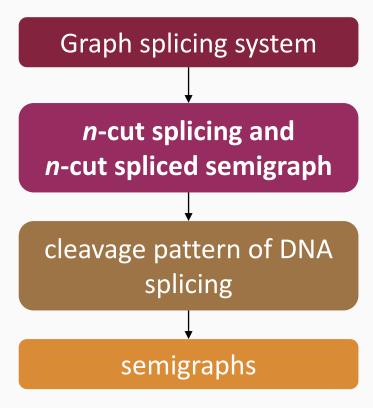
Let  $\sigma = (A, P)$  be any graph splicing scheme and consider  $I \in \langle \langle \gamma_c(A) \rangle \rangle$  where  $I = \{(g, k)\}$ , for any  $g \in \langle \langle \gamma_c(A) \rangle \rangle$  and  $k \geq 0$  is the number of copies of g. Then there exists the set of all  $I' \in \langle \langle \gamma_c(A) \rangle \rangle$  denoted by  $\sigma(\{I\})$ , obtained by applying one graph splicing rule of P to I. By applying the graph splicing rule repeatedly, for every  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\sigma^n(\{I\})$  is defined by  $\sigma^n(\{I\}) = \sigma(\sigma^{n-1}(\{I\}))$  and note that  $\sigma^0(\{I\}) = \{I\}$ . Also, note that  $\sigma^n(\{I\})$  is simply denoted as  $\sigma^*(\{I\}) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sigma^n(\{I\})$ , by extending  $\sigma^n(\{I\})$ , where  $\mathbb{N}$  is the set of natural numbers. Hence, there is a set of triple S = (A, P, I) is called as a graph splicing system.



### *n*-Cut Splicing



• In 2011, Jeyabharathi *et. al.* introduced one type of splicing called as *n*-cut splicing.



S. Jeyabharathi, J. Padmashree, S. S. Selvi, and K. Thiagarajan, *Semigraph structure on DNA splicing system*, in *6th Int. Conf. on Bio-Inspired Computing: Theories and Applications, BIC-TA* (IEEE Computer Society, Washington, DC, 2011), 182–187.

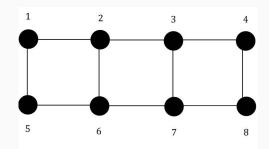


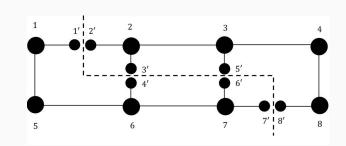


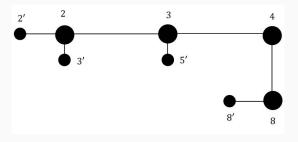
Semigraph representation of DNA molecule

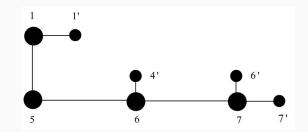
An *n*-cut splicing is applied

Two components of *n*-cut spliced semigraphs are generated





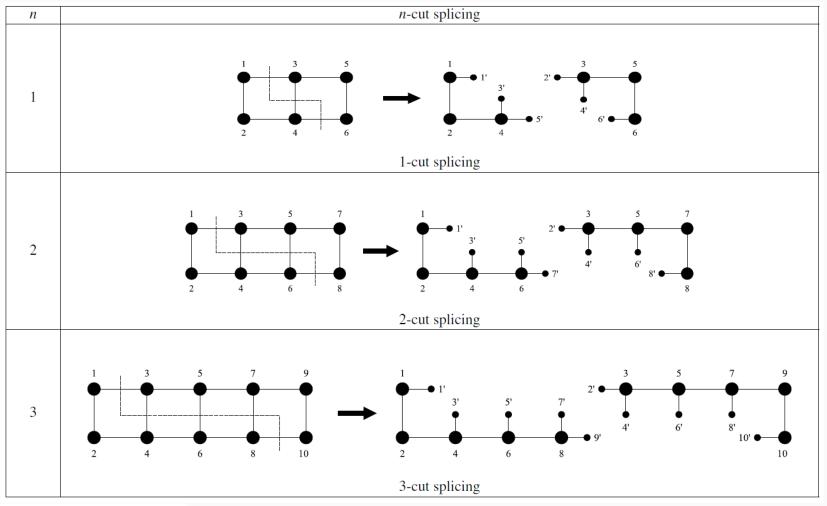








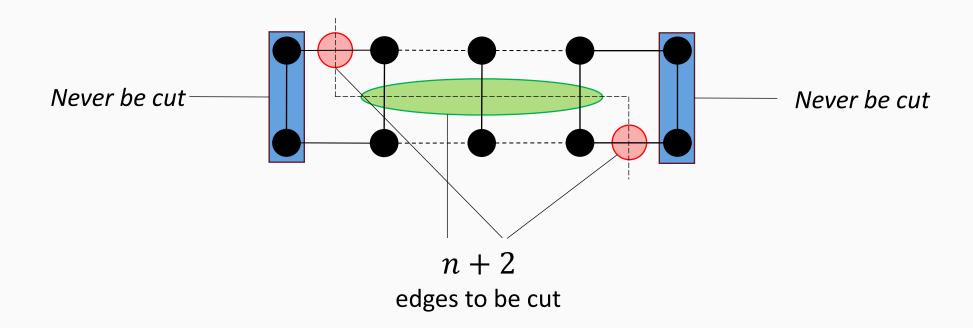
### Example of *n*-cut splicing & *n*-cut spliced semigraph







• An *n*-cut splicing will cut *n*+2 number of edges and the two vertices from the left most of the graphs as well as the two vertices from the right most of the graphs will never be cut.



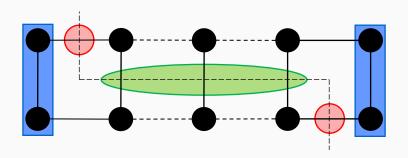


### Sufficient condition for an n-cut splicing



### **Proposition 1.**

Let SG be a semigraph. Then, an n-cut splicing can only be applied on SG if  $|SG| \ge 2(n+2)$ .



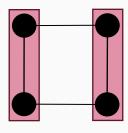




Sufficient condition for an *n*-cut splicing

### **Proposition 1.**

Let SG be a semigraph. Then, an n-cut splicing can only be applied on SG if  $|SG| \ge 2(n+2)$ .

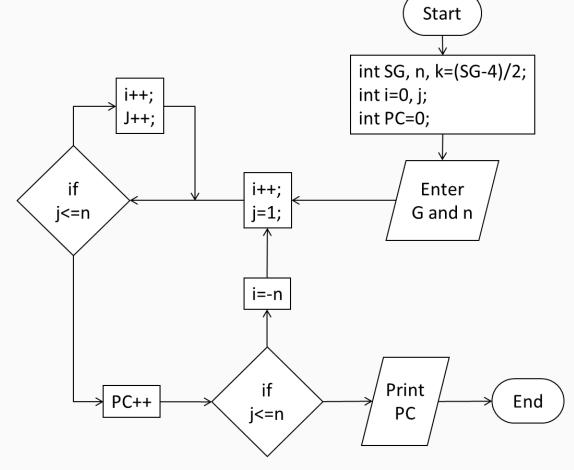






Number of possible cutting site for an *n*-cut to occur

### Algorithm 1.





### Number of possible cutting site for an *n*-cut to occur



SG	n	PC
6	1	1
	2	Invalid
	3	Invalid
	4	Invalid
8	1	2
	2	1
	3	Invalid
	4	Invalid
10	1	3
	2	2
	3	1
	4	Invalid
12	1	4
	2	3
	3	2
	4	1

#### Table:

The number of possible sites for n-cut splicing to occur on semigraph SG with order |SG| by using Algorithm 1.



### Number of possible cutting site for an *n*-cut to occur



#### Lemma 1.

Let SG be a semigraph with |SG| = 2(n + 2). Then, the number of possible sites for the n-cut to occur on SG is  $PC_{SG}(2(n + 2), n) = 1$ .



### Number of possible cutting site for an *n*-cut to occur



### Lemma 2.

Let a 1-cut be applied on a semigraph SG with  $|SG| \ge 2(n+2)$  such that  $|SG| \ge 6$ . Then, the number of possible sites for the 1-cut to occur on SG is  $PC_{SG}(|SG|, 1) = \frac{|SG|-4}{2}$ .



### Number of possible cutting site for an *n*-cut to occur



### Theorem 1.

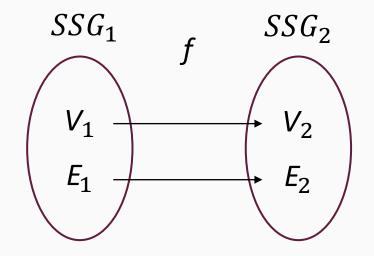
Let SG be a semigraph with  $|SG| \ge 2(n+2)$  and |SG| is even. If an n-cut splicing is applied on SG, then the number of possible sites for the n-cut to occur on SG is  $PC_{SG}(|SG|,n) = \frac{|SG|-2(n+2)}{2}$ .



## Folding Technique *n*-Cut Semigraphs



Mapping:



- i.  $\dim(f(v)) < \dim(v)$  for  $v \in V_1$
- ii.  $\dim(f(e)) < \dim(e)$  for  $e \in E_1$

Folding:

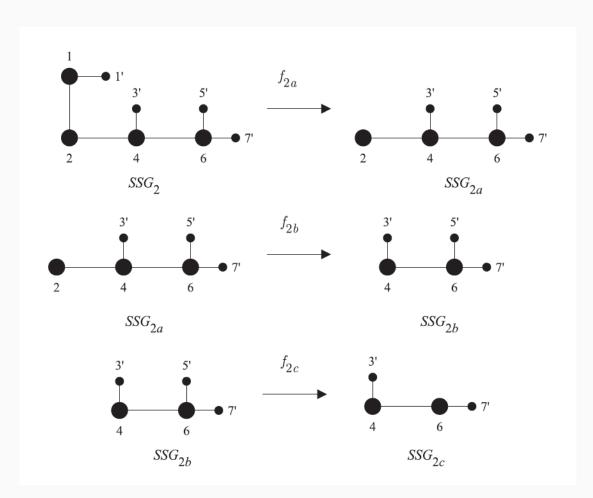
**IFF** *f* maps vertex (semivertex) to vertex (semivertex) and edge (semiedge) to edge (semiedge)

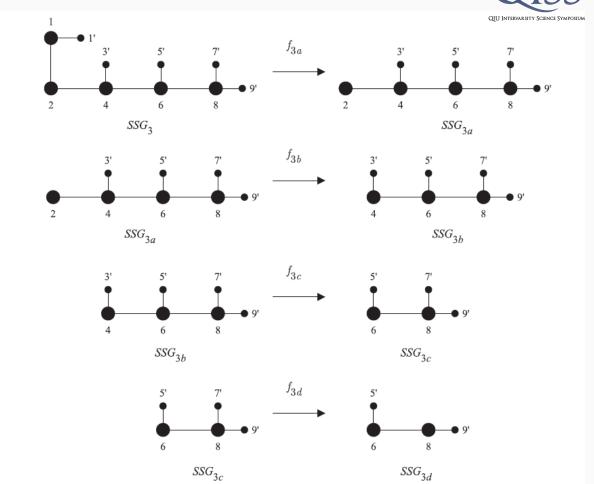


## Folding Technique *n*-Cut Semigraphs (Cont.)









Examples of *n*-cut spliced semigraphs folding



## Folding Technique *n*-Cut Semigraphs (Cont.)



### Maximum number of foldings

### **Proposition:**

Every n-cut spliced semigraph can be folded for n+1 times.

Muhammad Nur Syiham Abdul Razak, Wan Heng Fong, **Nor Haniza Sarmin**. Folding Technique on n-Cut Spliced Semigraph in Splicing System. In. AIP Conference Proceedings 2266: 060011 (2020); 1-10. (doi: 10.1063/5.0026045)

### **List of Publications**

Link: https://people.utm.my/nizasarmin/



#### 2010

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## List of Publications (Cont.)

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Muhammad Azrin Ahmad, **Nor Haniza Sarmin,** Fong Wan Heng, Yuhani Yusof, An Extension of First Order Limit Language, *Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Mathematical Sciences (ICMS3)*, AIP Conf. Proc., Vol 1602, 2014, pg. 627-631. (ISBN: 978-0-7354-1236-1)

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