

DNA Microfactory for Autonomous Archiving

Storage and Computing with DNA

Paris, June 19-21, 2025

Pierre-Yves Burgi

IT Department

University of Geneva

Switzerland

pierre-yves.burgi@unige.ch

Jérôme Charmet

Medical Devices Group

Haute Ecole Arc, HES-SO

Switzerland

jerome.charmet@he-arc.ch

DNA-MIO.org

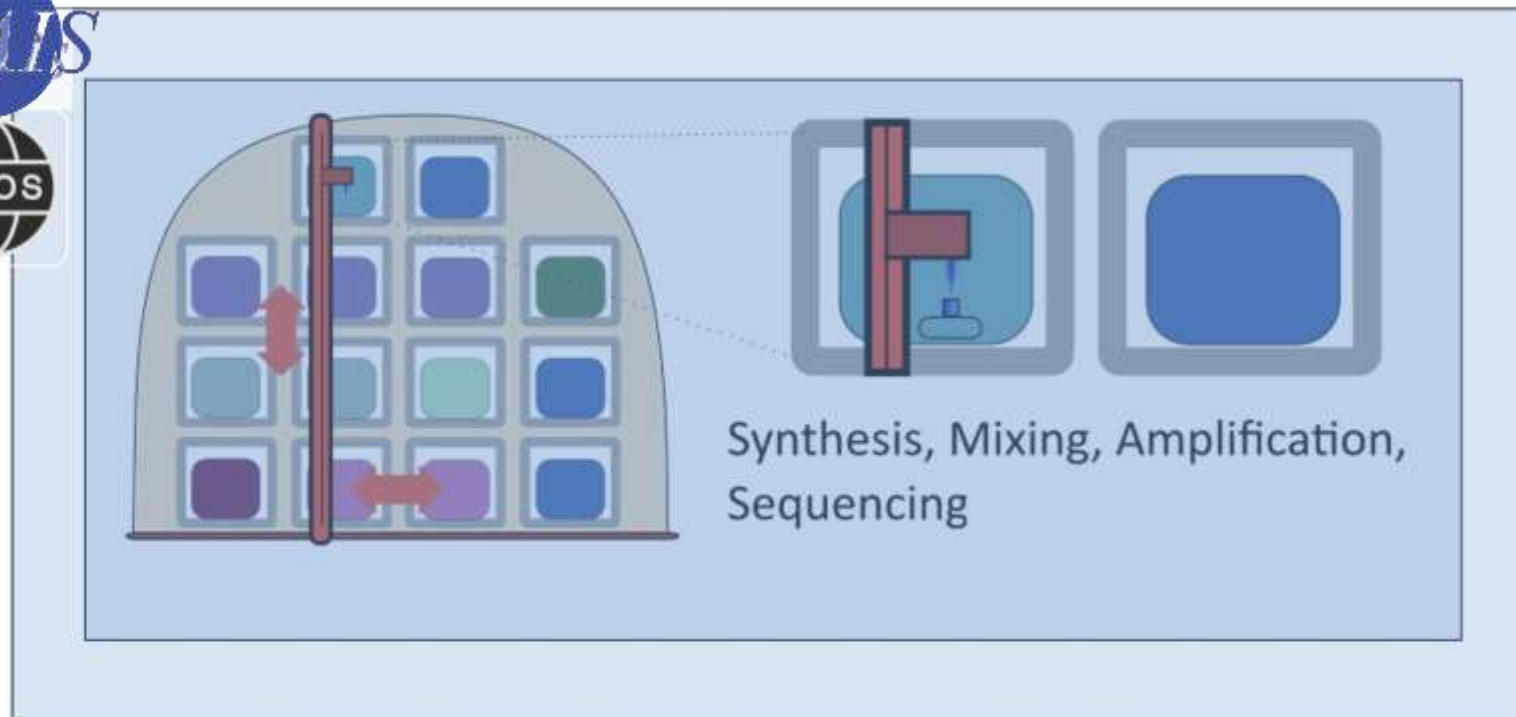


GA no. 101115389
European Path Finder
challenge for DNA-
based digital data
storage

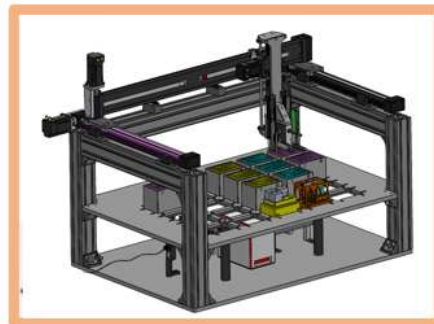


**Imperial College
London**





Wet Bench 1



Wet Bench 2



Storage



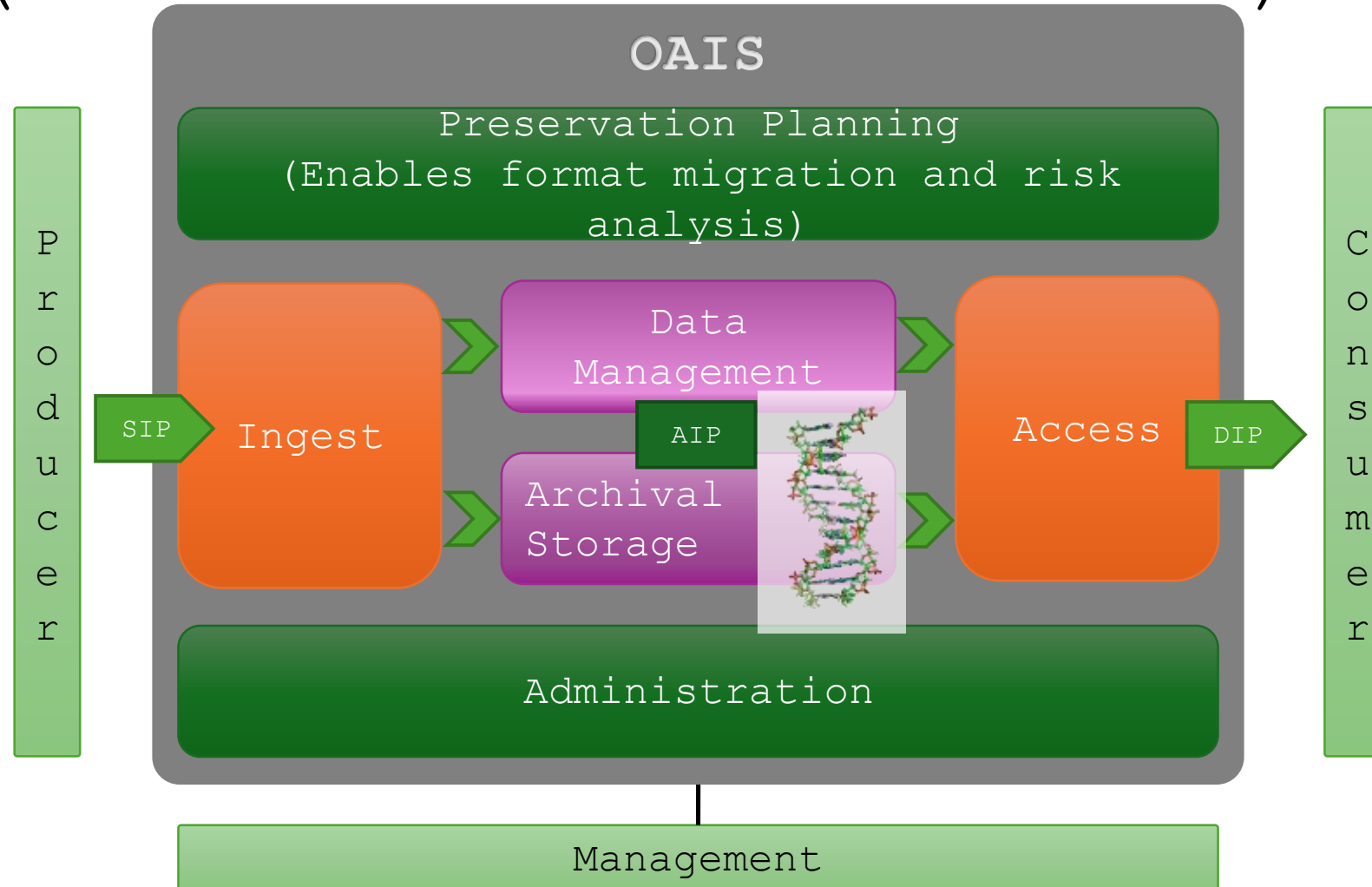
Physical archive



Not yet implemented

The Open Archival Information System standard (– ISO 14721)

DYNAMIC



Key features of the OAIS Standard

The Archival Information Package (AIP) includes:

- **Content Information** (the actual data)
- **Preservation Description Information :**
 - Provenance
 - Fixity
 - Context
- **Representation Information :**
 - Syntax (e.g., file format: TIFF, PDF/A, etc.)
 - Semantics (e.g., what a “record” or “field” means)
 - Decoding parameters (e.g., for physical media: bit density, signal modulation, byte alignment) --> CODEC parameters
 - Software tools, format registries, or emulators

Self-Description Principle

- In the context of OAIS, **self-description** refers to the archive's ability to **describe its own contents, structure, and services** in a way that is understandable and usable by both:
 - **A Designated Community**
 - **Future systems or custodians**, even after decades of technological change
- This enables disaster recovery based on **Representation Information**

Self-description is dependent on :

- **The complexity of describing:** it is measured by the difficulty associated with extracting the description of a system
- **The complexity of interpreting:** it is measured by the difficulty associated with extracting the interpretation (meaning) of a description

A DNA CODEC should be conceived so as **to minimize both complexities** :

- To ensure a compact description into DNA (or other sustainable material, e.g. micro-film)
- To ensure our future generations will be able to decode the information

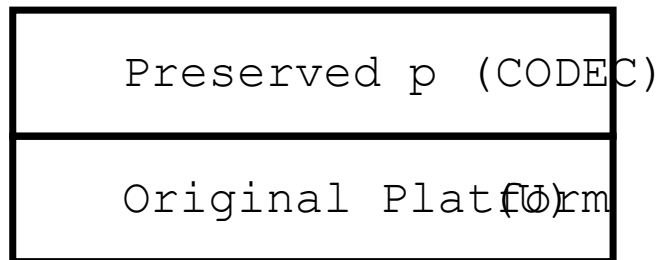
The algorithmic complexity can be measure based on **Kolmogorov complexity** $K(x)$:

$$K(x) = \min\{\text{len}(p) : U(p) = x\}$$

where

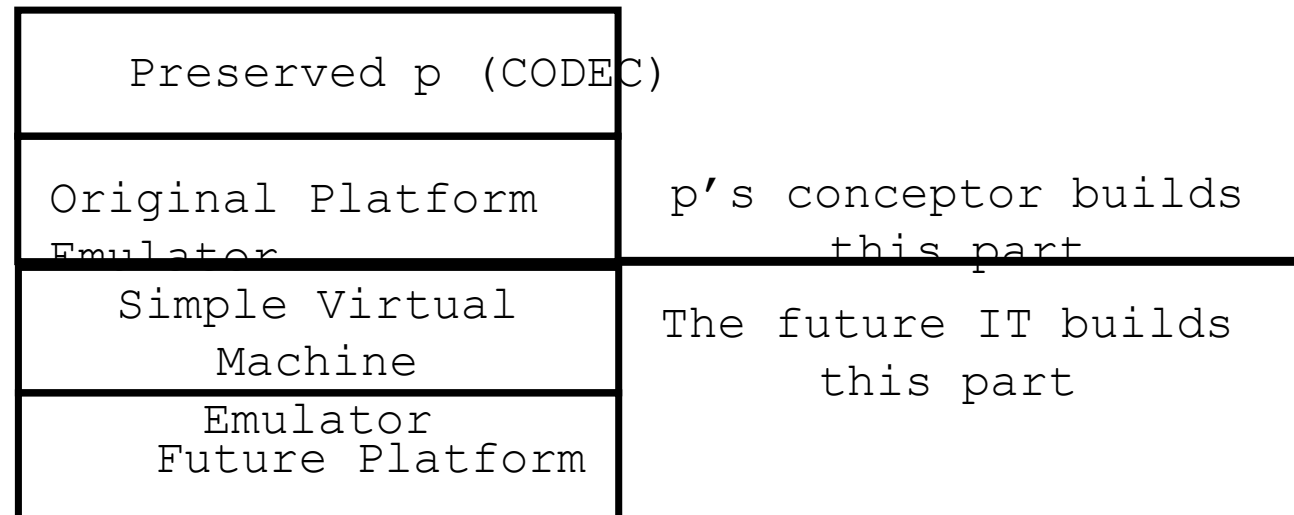
- U is a **universal Turing machine**
- p is a **program** (a finite binary string) that, when run on U, produces x

In the Present



Adapted from Nguyen & Kay (2015)

In the Future

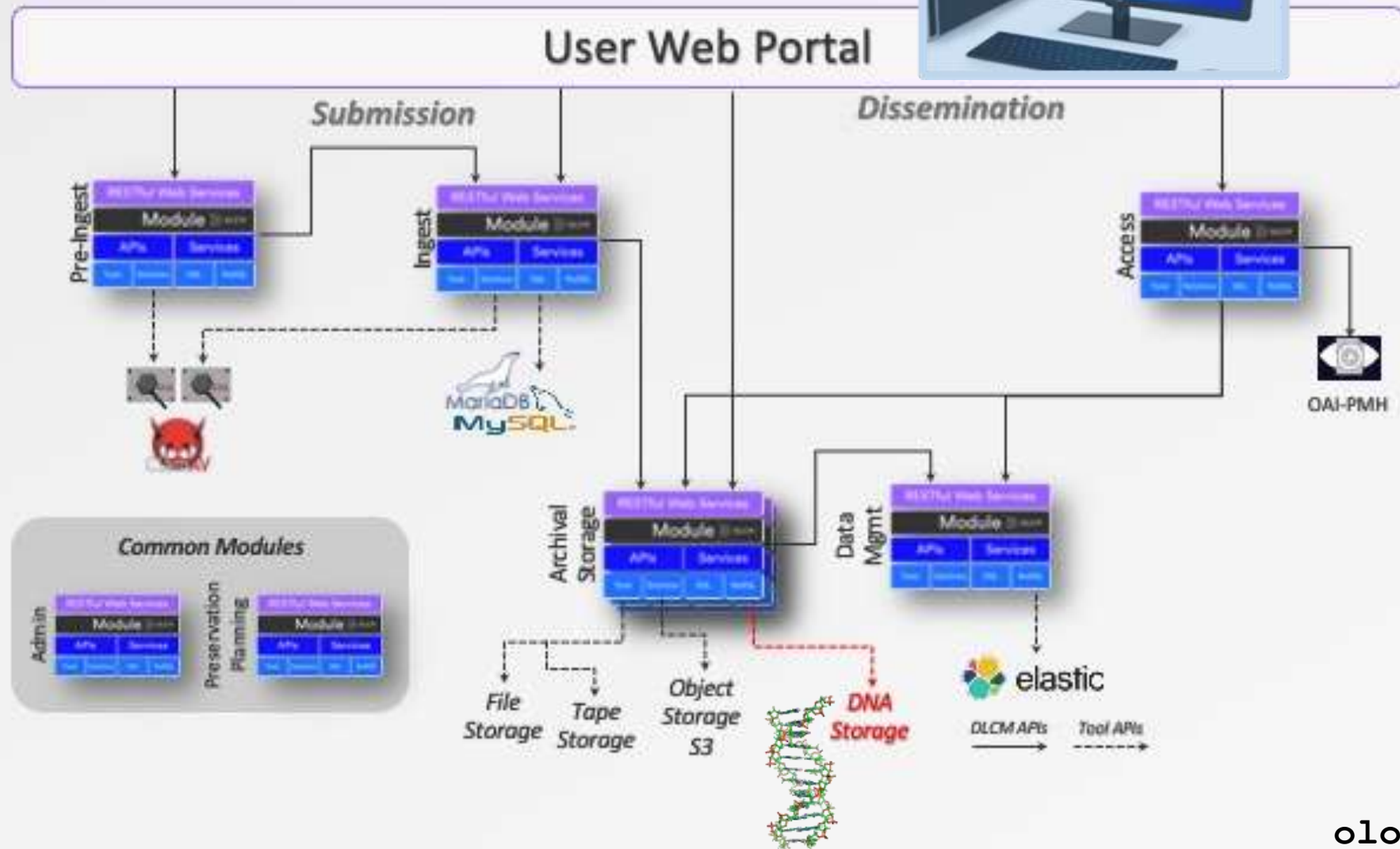




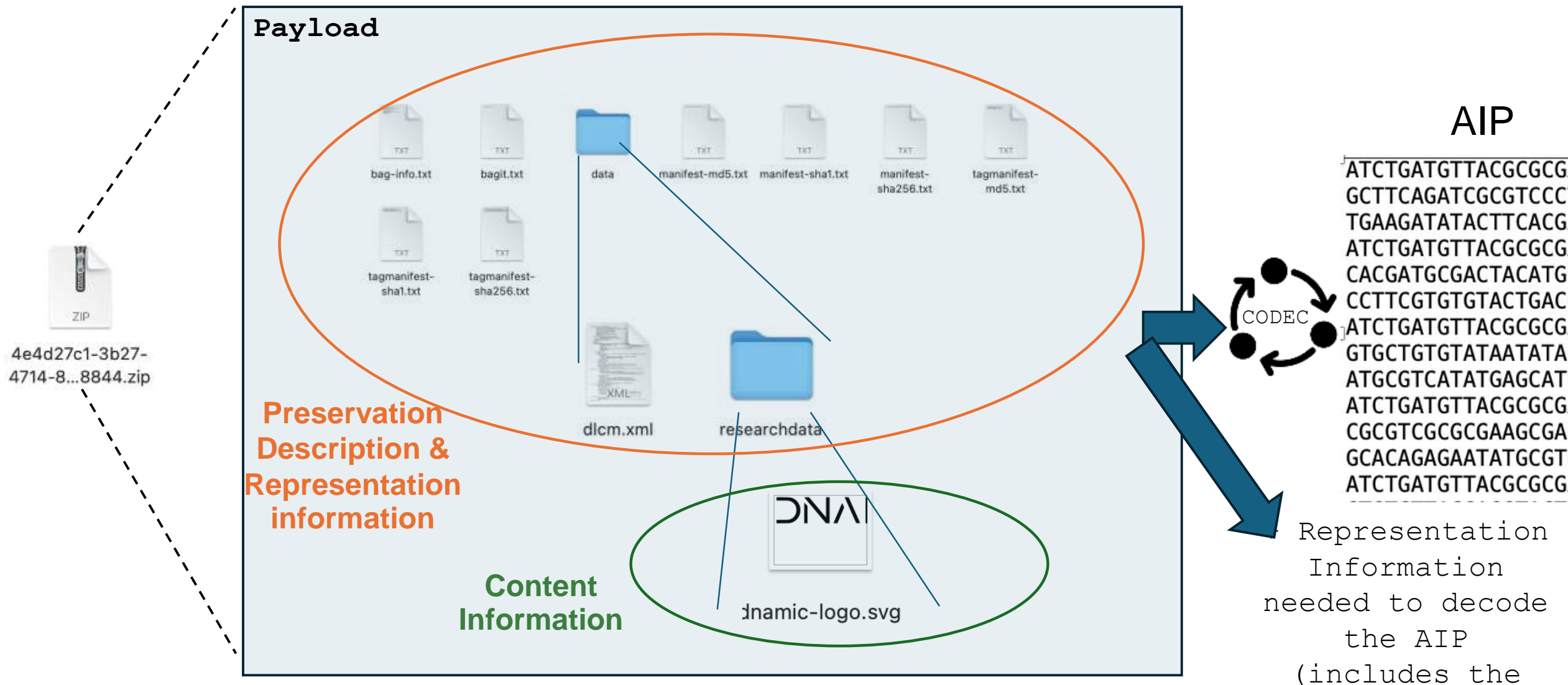
OAIS Architecture DLC

DCLM+

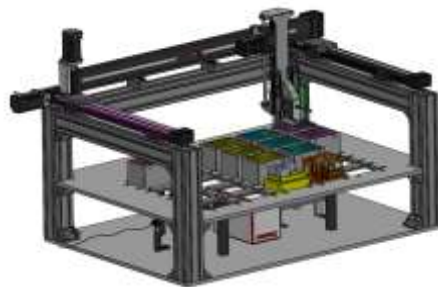
DYNAMIC



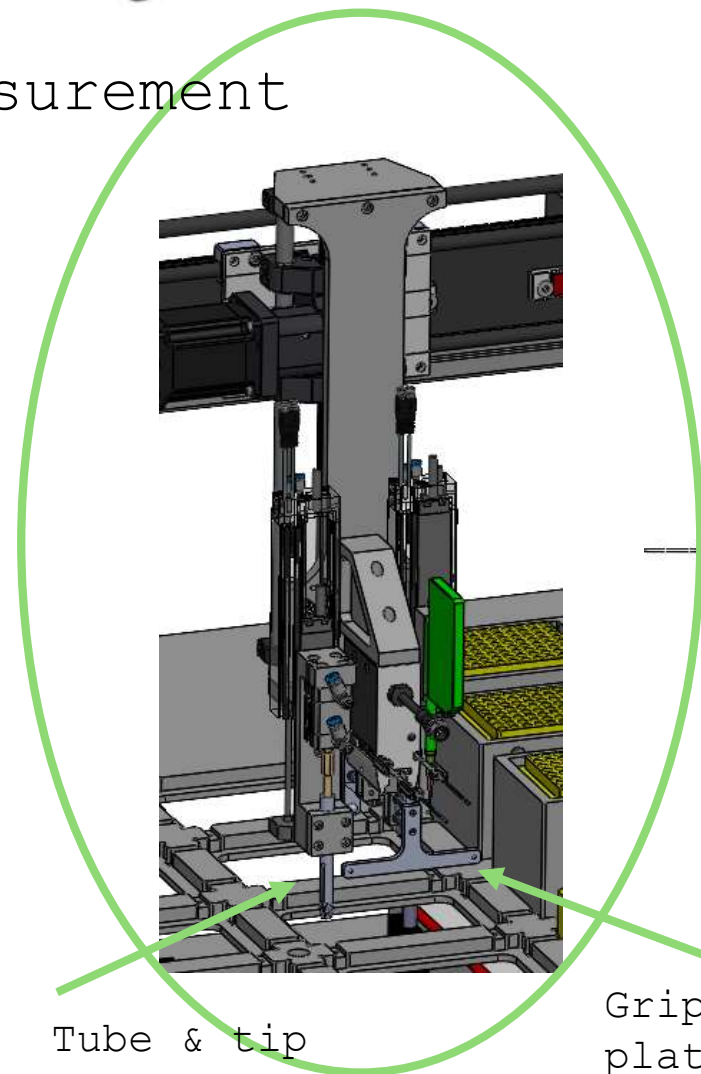
AIP file structure (zip files) DYNAMIC



Wet Bench

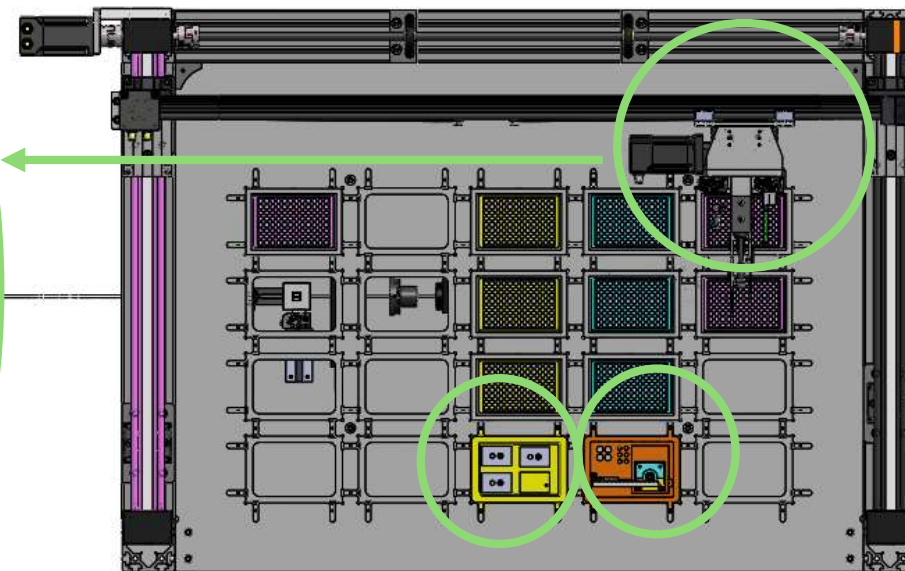


- DNA amplification
- Concentration measurement



Tube & tip
fitting
picking head

Gripper, well
plate footprint
compatible



Thermal
bath,
HES-SO

Filtration
unit,
HES-SO

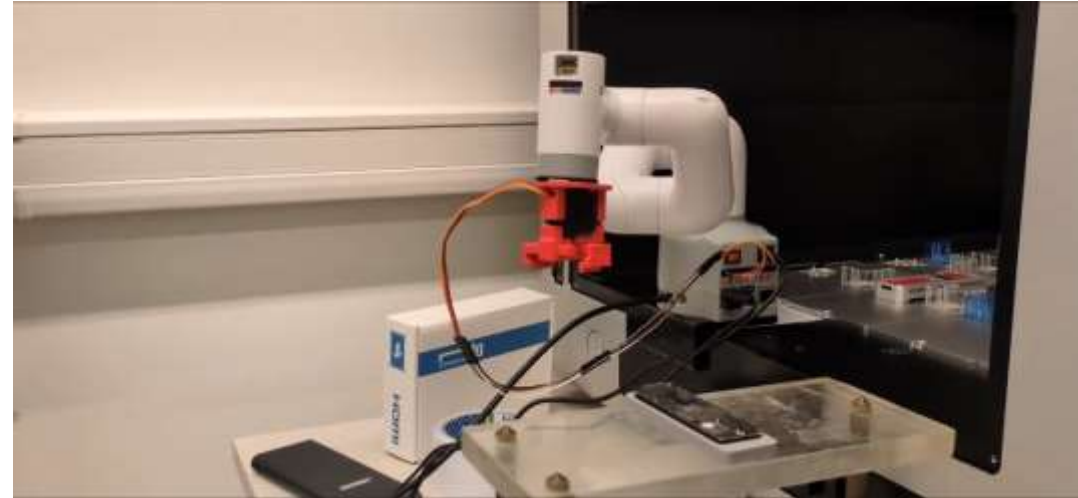
Wet Bench 2 – Opentrons

Based

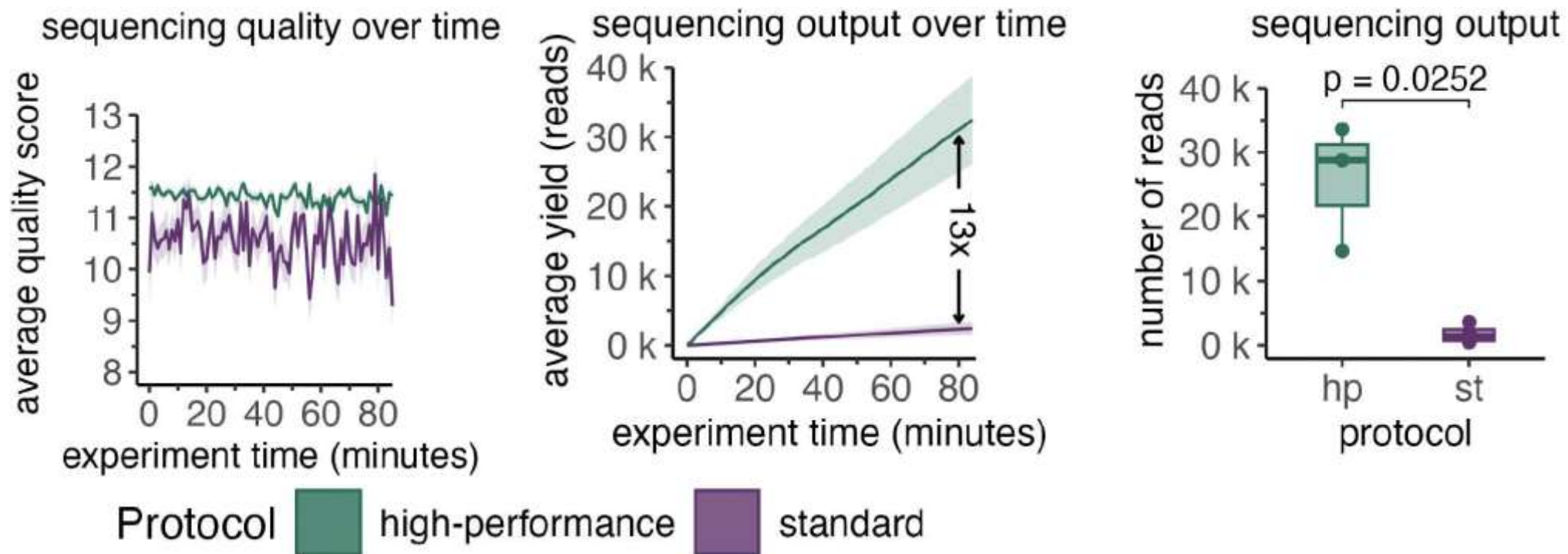
- Primer synthesis
- DNA Library preparation and sequencing implementation according to the Genomica's wet lab protocol
- Concentration measurement

Proprietary technology :

- Thermal unit and filtration unit
- Universal arm for ONP MinION cartridge manipulation



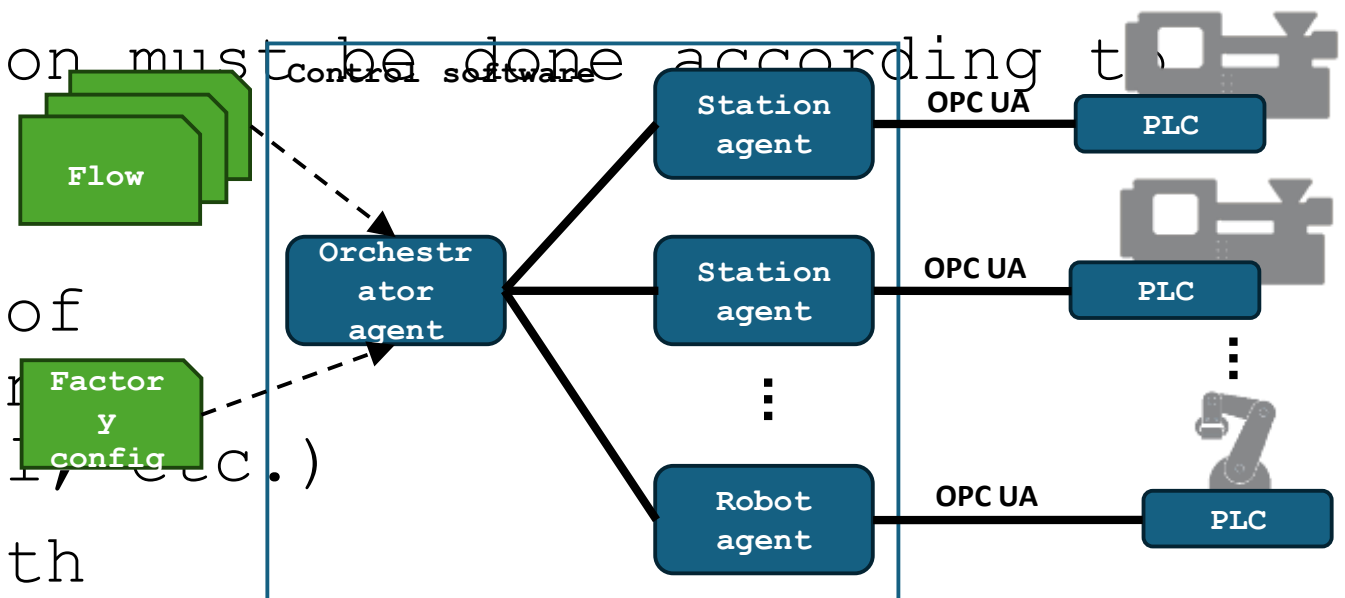
Genomica's wet lab protocol⁽¹⁾ for nanopore sequencing



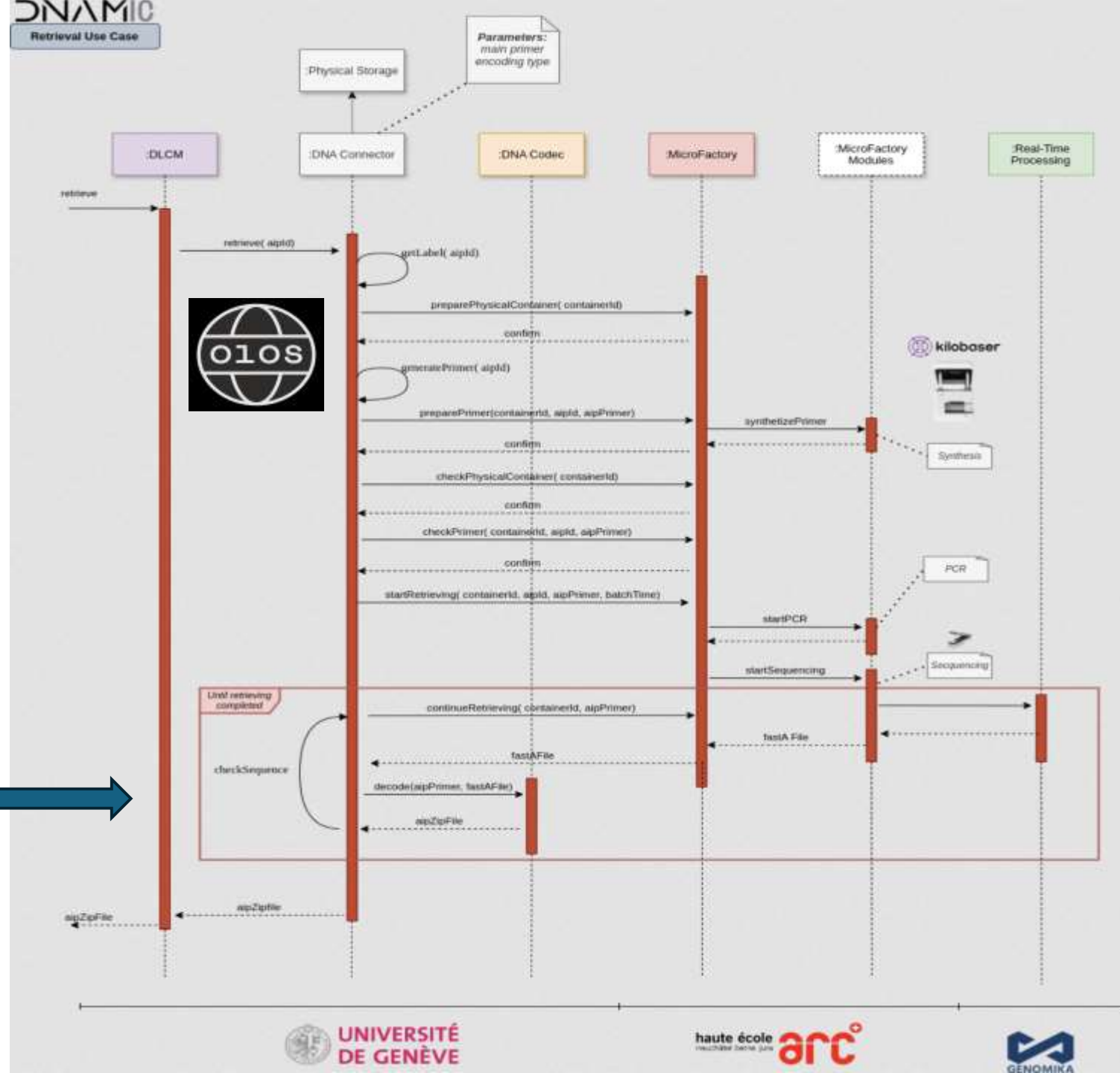
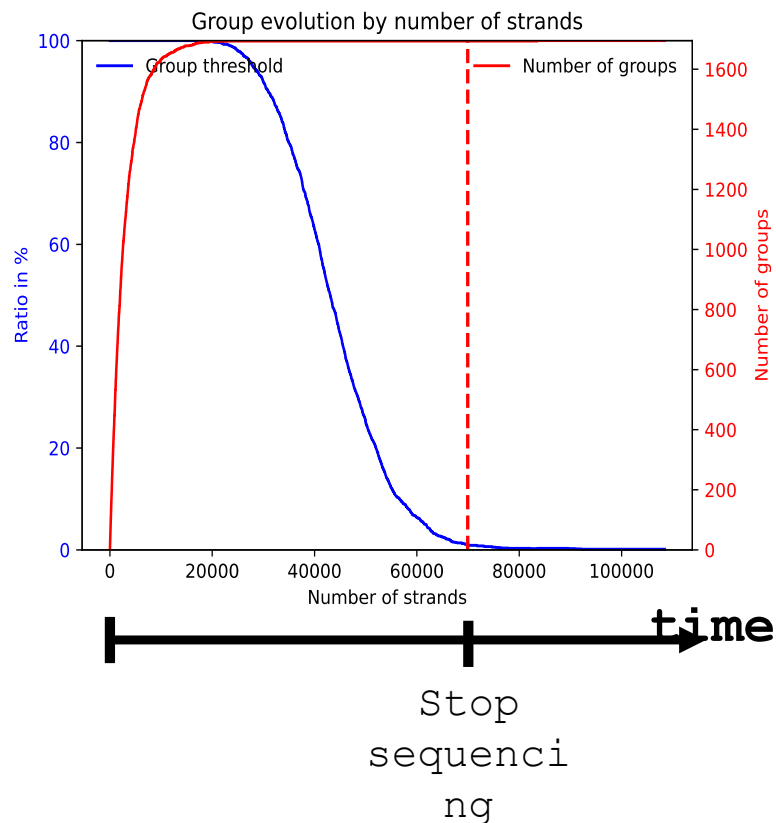
(1) Žemaitis L et al. (2025) High-performance protocol for ultra-short DNA sequencing using Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT). PLoS One 20(4): e0318040. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0318040>

Supervisor system and autonomization

- Control the tech stations and robots according to one or several flows
- Choose which tech station or robot must execute each operation
- Choose when an operation must be done according to flow and priority
- React to the requests of the tech stations (bring consumable, change tool, etc.)
- Synchronize actions with interaction between a tech station and robot



to the DNA
micro-factory
with feedback
control



The whole cycle

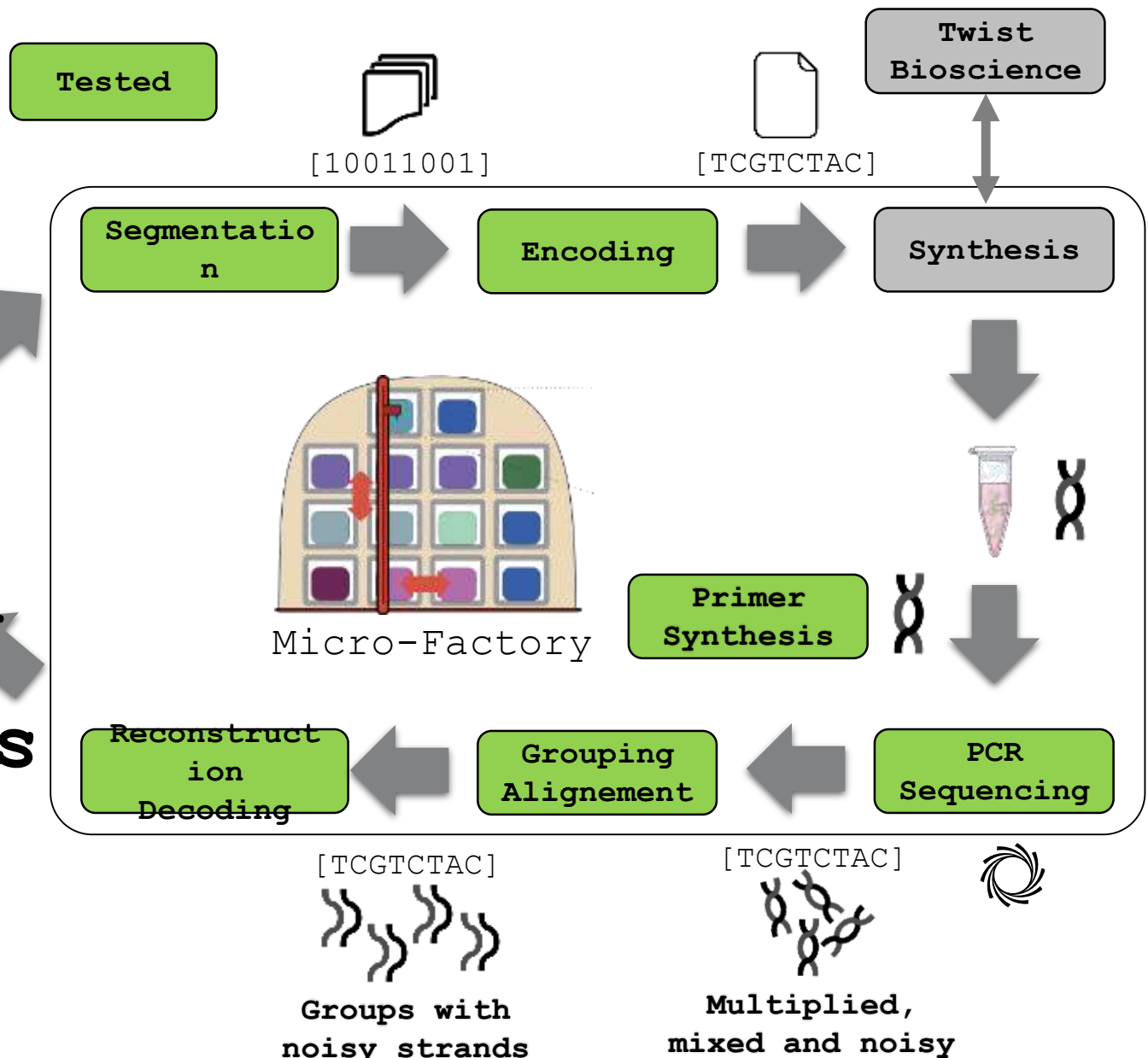
6 use cases

Archivist



For a total of
1'075'828 bytes
31'642 strands
7'689'024 nts

Recognized standard



Challenges and Next steps

- Synthesis: currently limited to primers
- Waste management : Reusable pipettes ? Echo liquid handler ?
- Disaster recovery needs a sound self-description – the approach has not yet been finalized but the CODEC complexity is kept low
- Optimizing CODEC to target TB scale

Thanks for your attention !

DNAMIC



Contact us: <https://dnamic.org/contacts>