

# LATE-PCR

---

## Linear-After-The-Exponential

A Patented Invention of the Laboratory  
of

Human Genetics and Reproductive Biology

Lab. Director: Lawrence J. Wangh, Ph.D.

Department of Biology, Brandeis University, Waltham MA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nucleic Acid Quantification Meeting, London 2003**



# Laboratory Co-Inventors

---

Cristina Hartshorn

Kenneth Pierce

John Rice

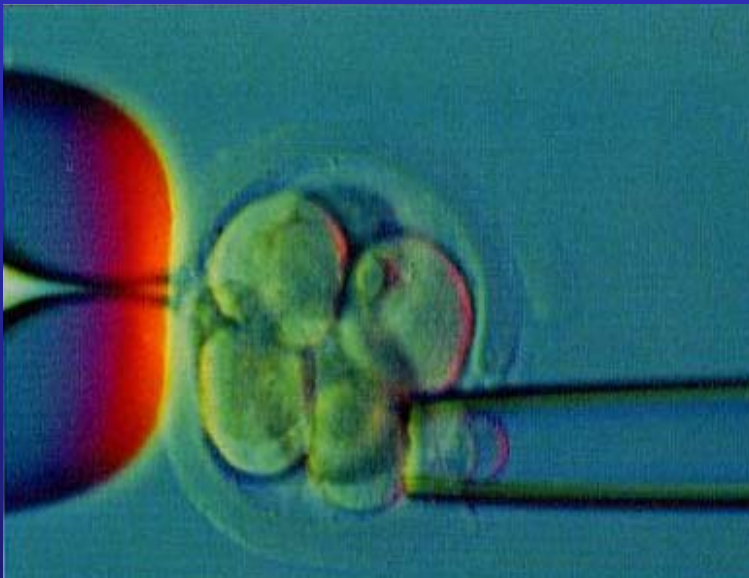
J. Aquiles Sanchez

Lawrence J. Wangh



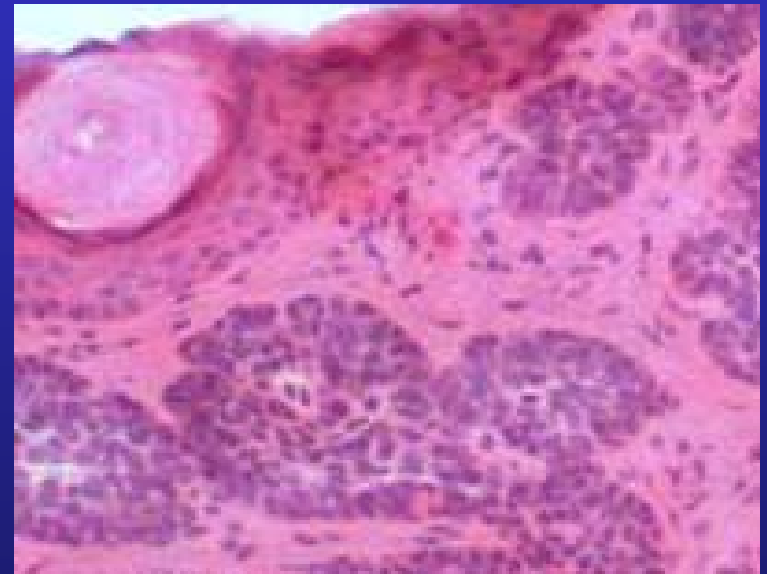
# Additional Challenges of Clinical Importance

## Pre-Implantation Genetic Diagnosis



Problem: Small Sample Size

## Tumor Cancer Diagnosis



Problem: Tissue Heterogeneity



# **Solutions to General Problems in *In Vitro* Diagnostics:**

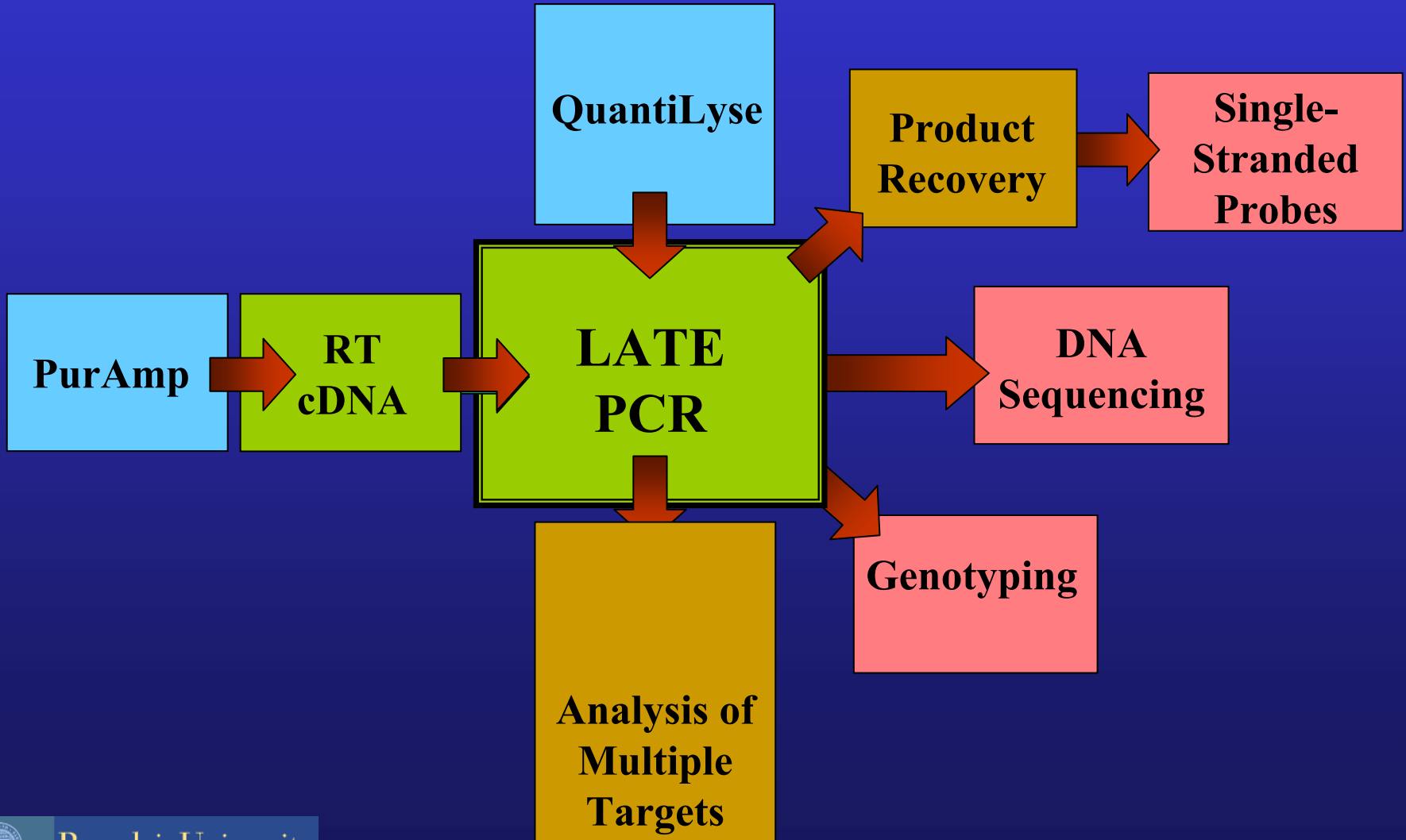
---

- **Improved Sensitivity of Detection**
- **Increased Accuracy of Detection**
- **Increased Reliability of Detection**
- **Simpler Methods and Instrumentation**
- **Simultaneous Detection of Multiple Targets**
- **Broader Range of Applications**
- **Construction of Automated – Integrated Systems**
- **Reduce Time and Cost of Detection**



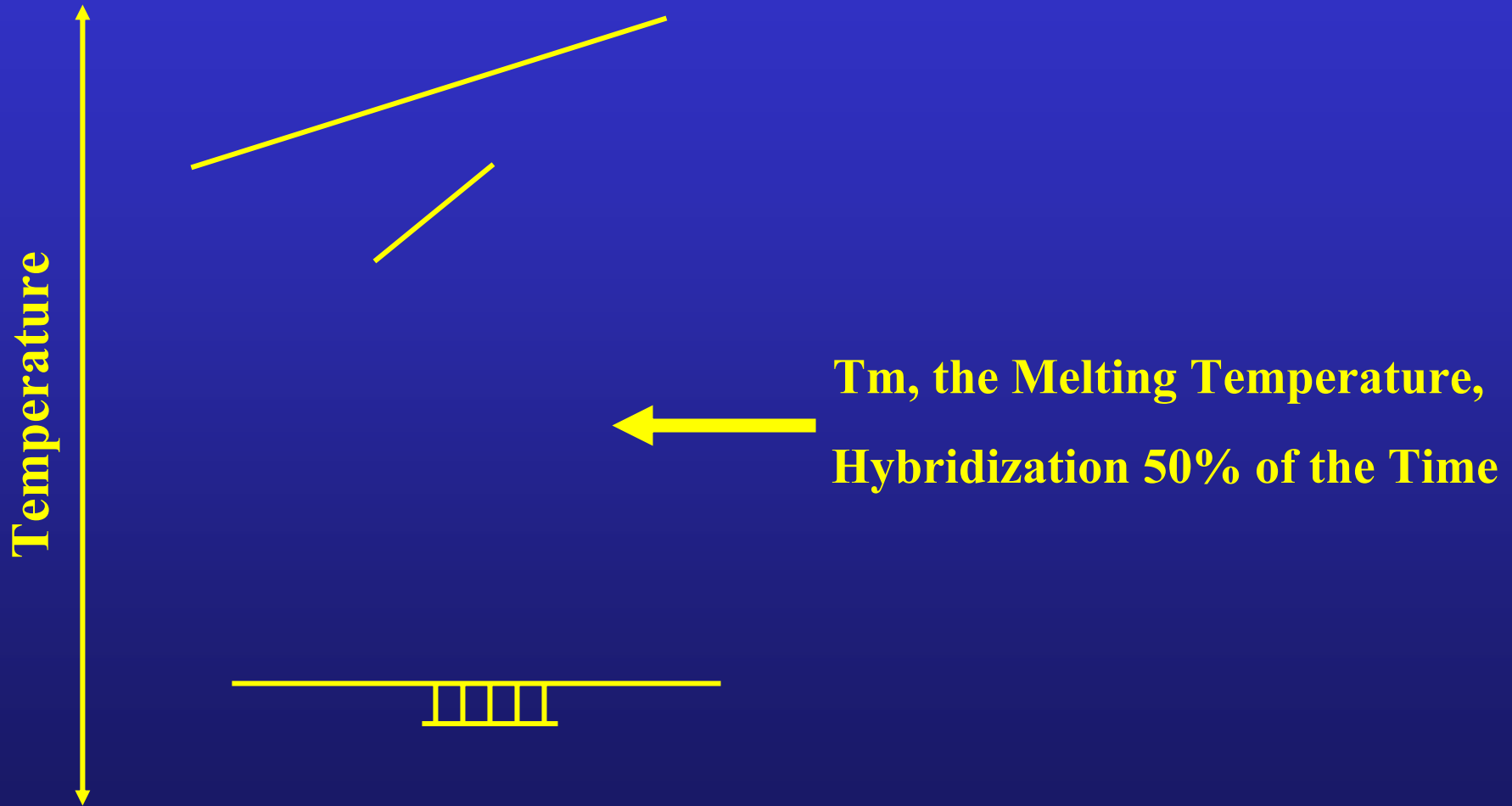
# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications

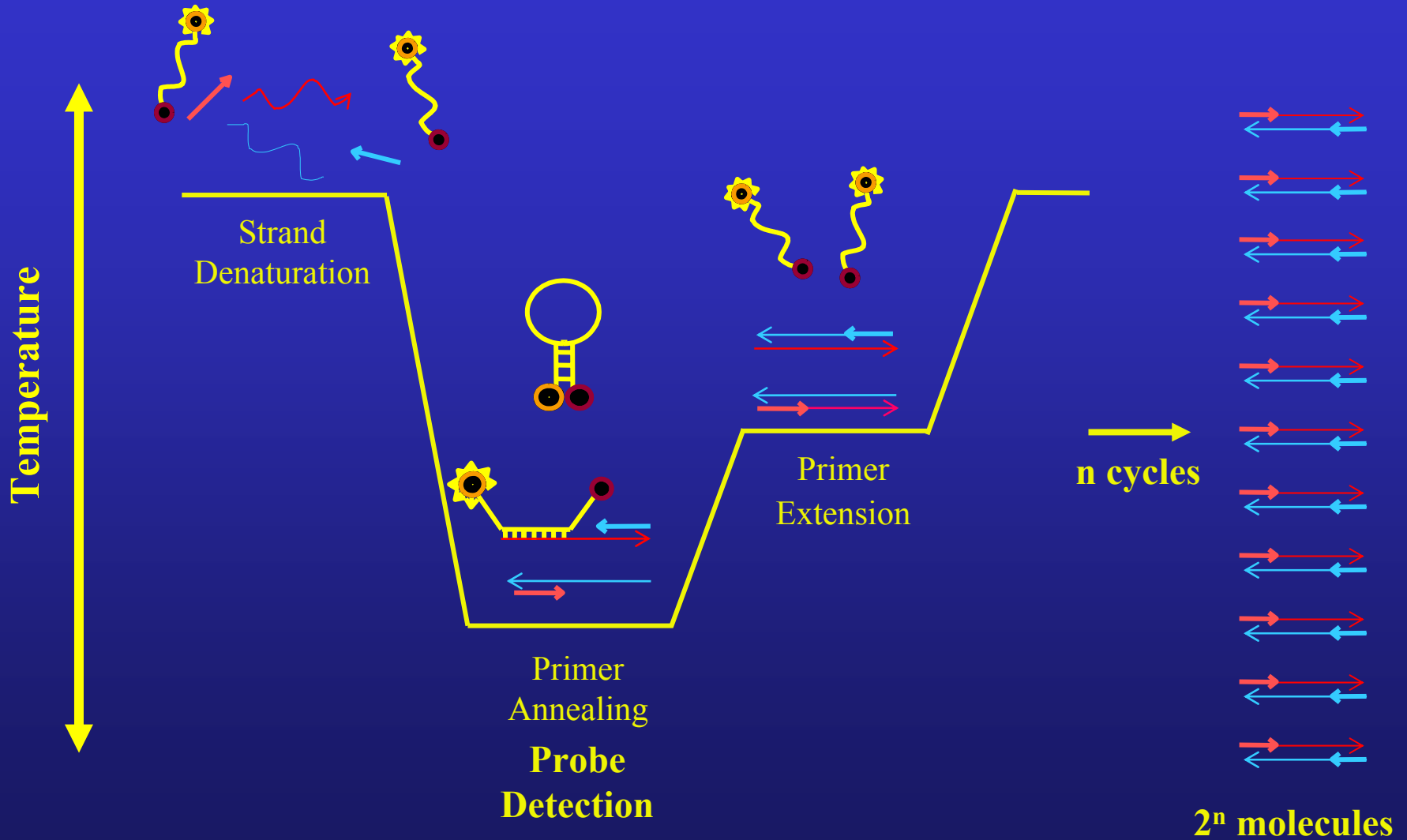


# Hybridization & Melting of DNA Strands is Temperature-Dependent

---

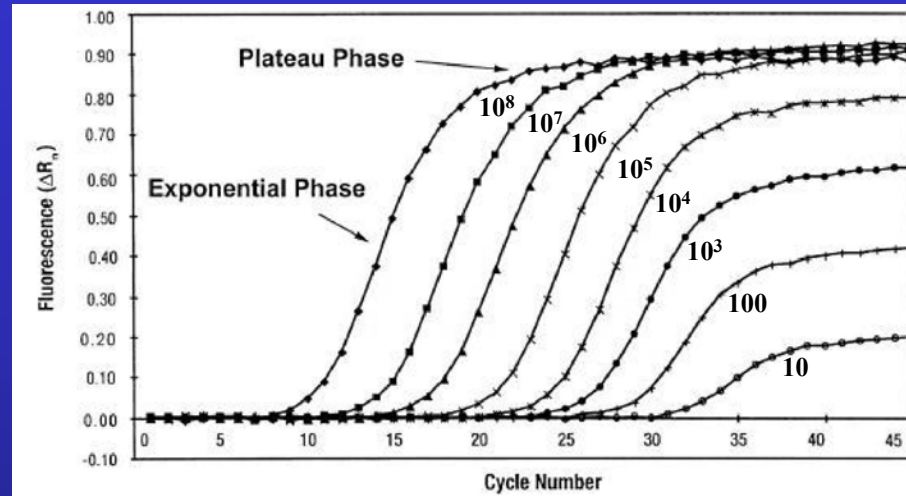


# Symmetric (conventional) PCR

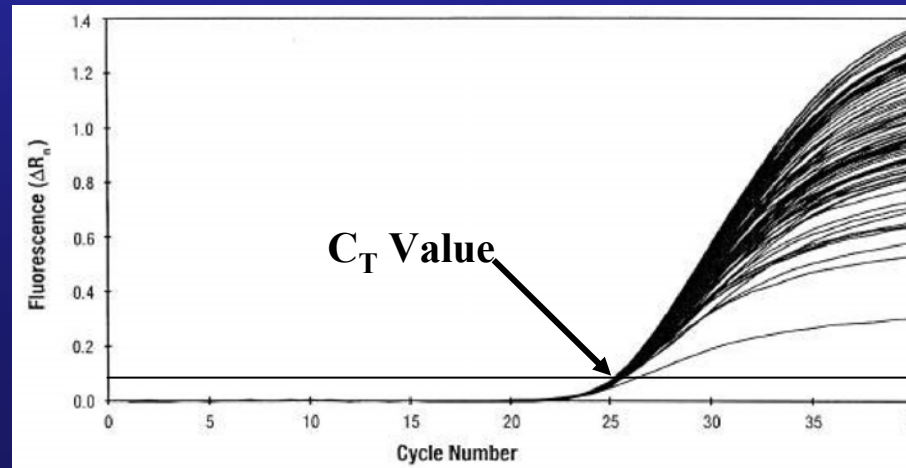


# Limitations of Real-Time Symmetric PCR

## Lower Sensitivity for Smaller Number of DNA Targets

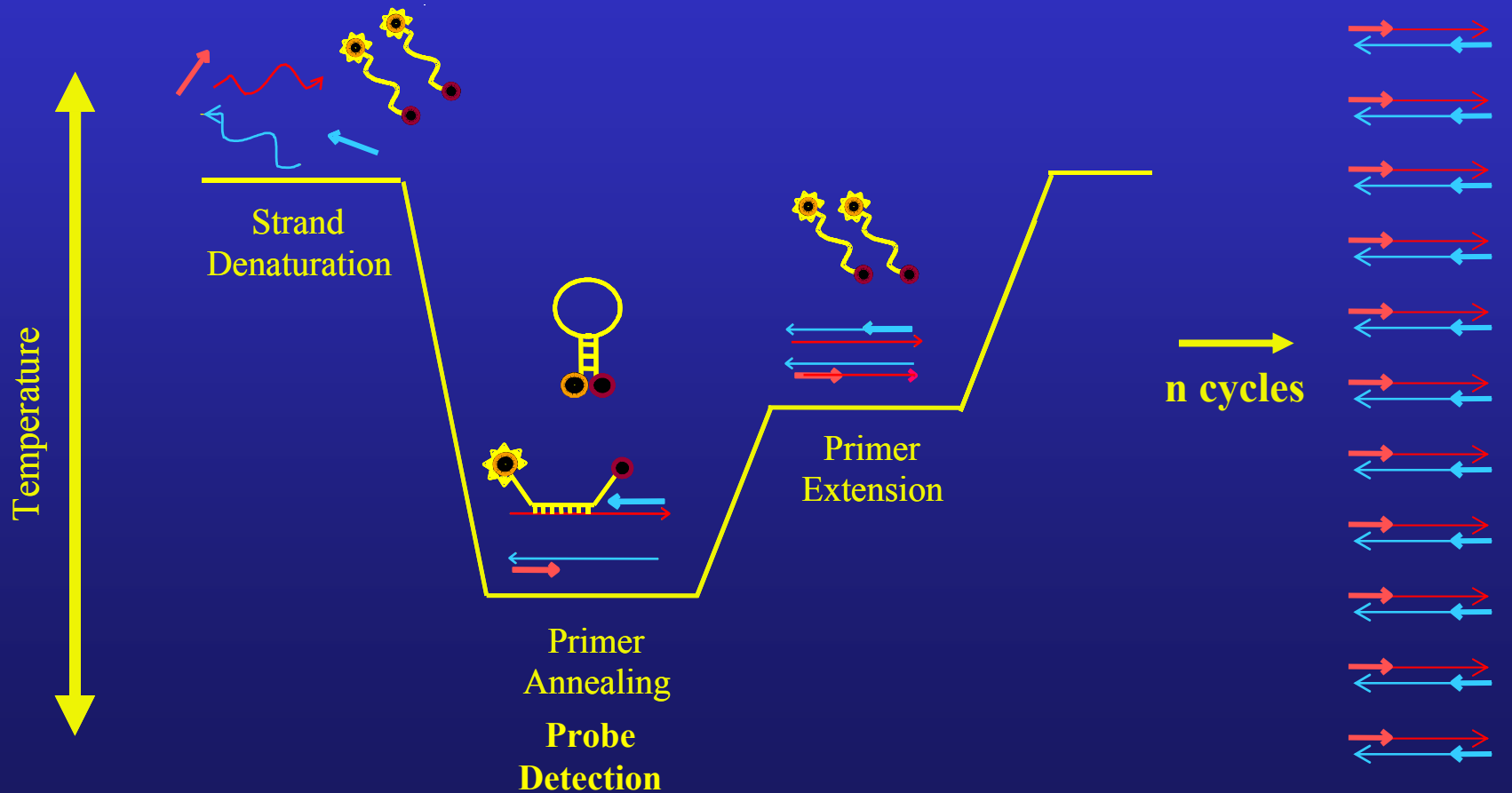


## Lack of Reliability Among Replicate Samples





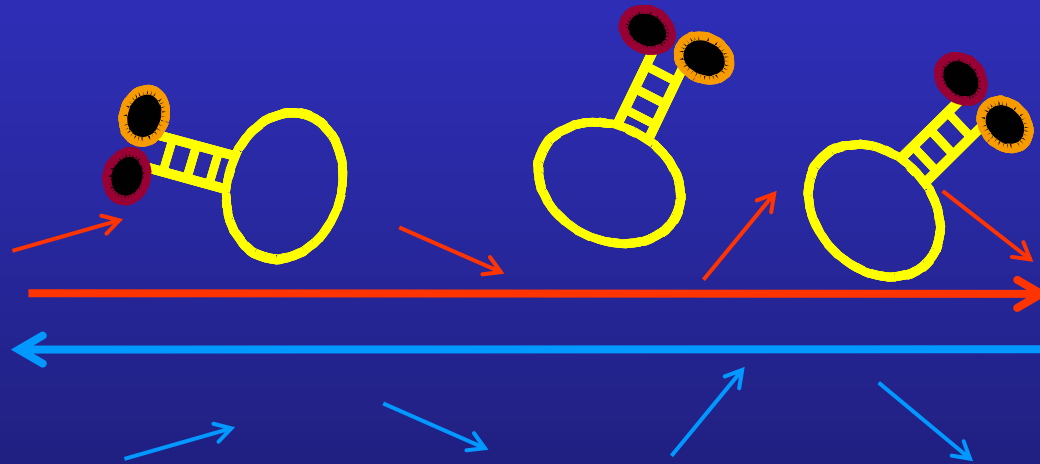
# Symmetric PCR Generates High Concentrations of Both Strands



# Why Does PCR Plateau?

## The Problem of Amplicon Strand Reannealing

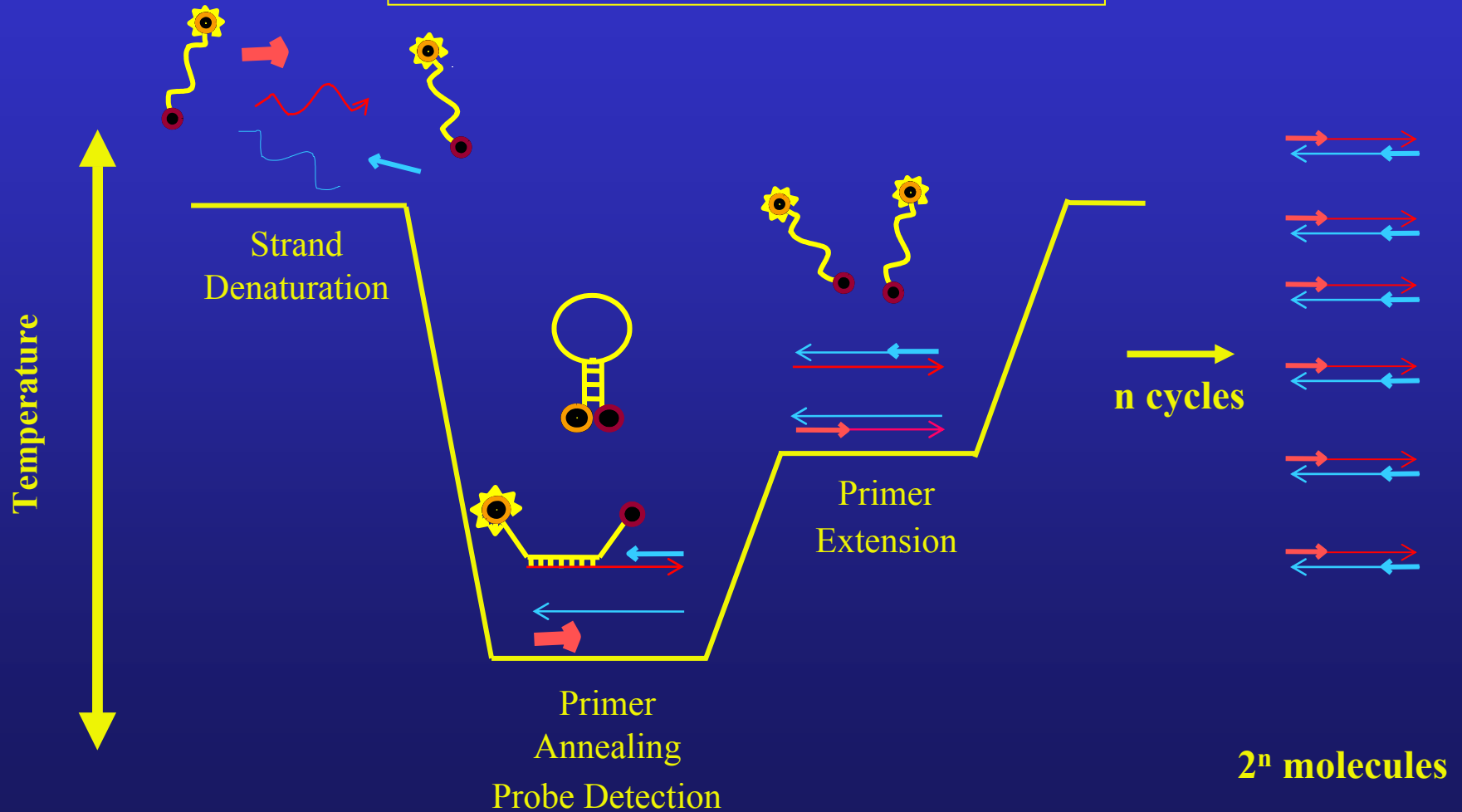
---



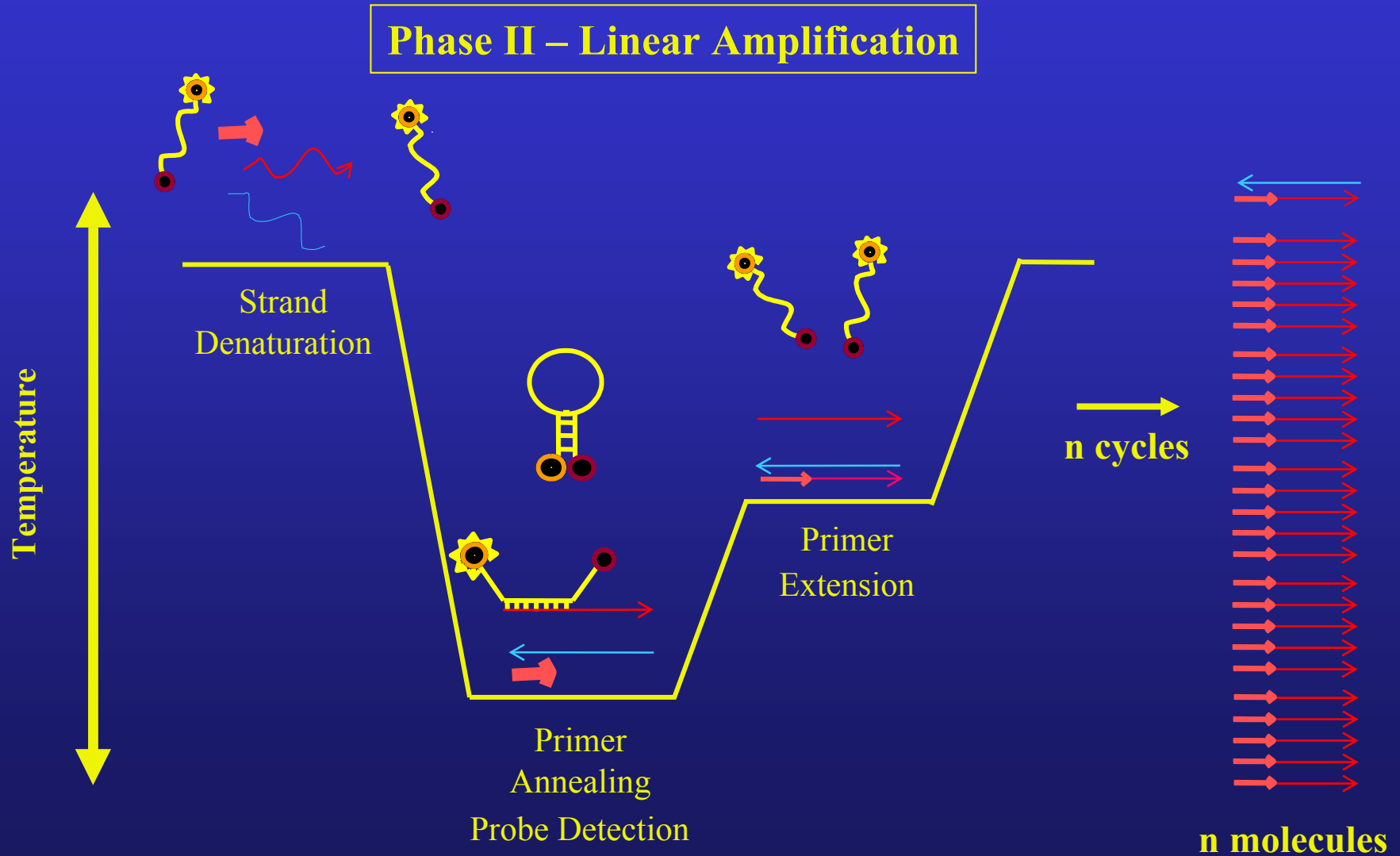
**Amplicon Strand Reannealing Competes With  
Primer and Probe Binding**

# Asymmetric PCR As a Solution to Amplicon Strand Reannealing

## Phase I – Exponential Amplification



# Asymmetric PCR As a Solution to Amplicon Strand Reannealing



## The Problem With Conventional Asymmetric PCR

---

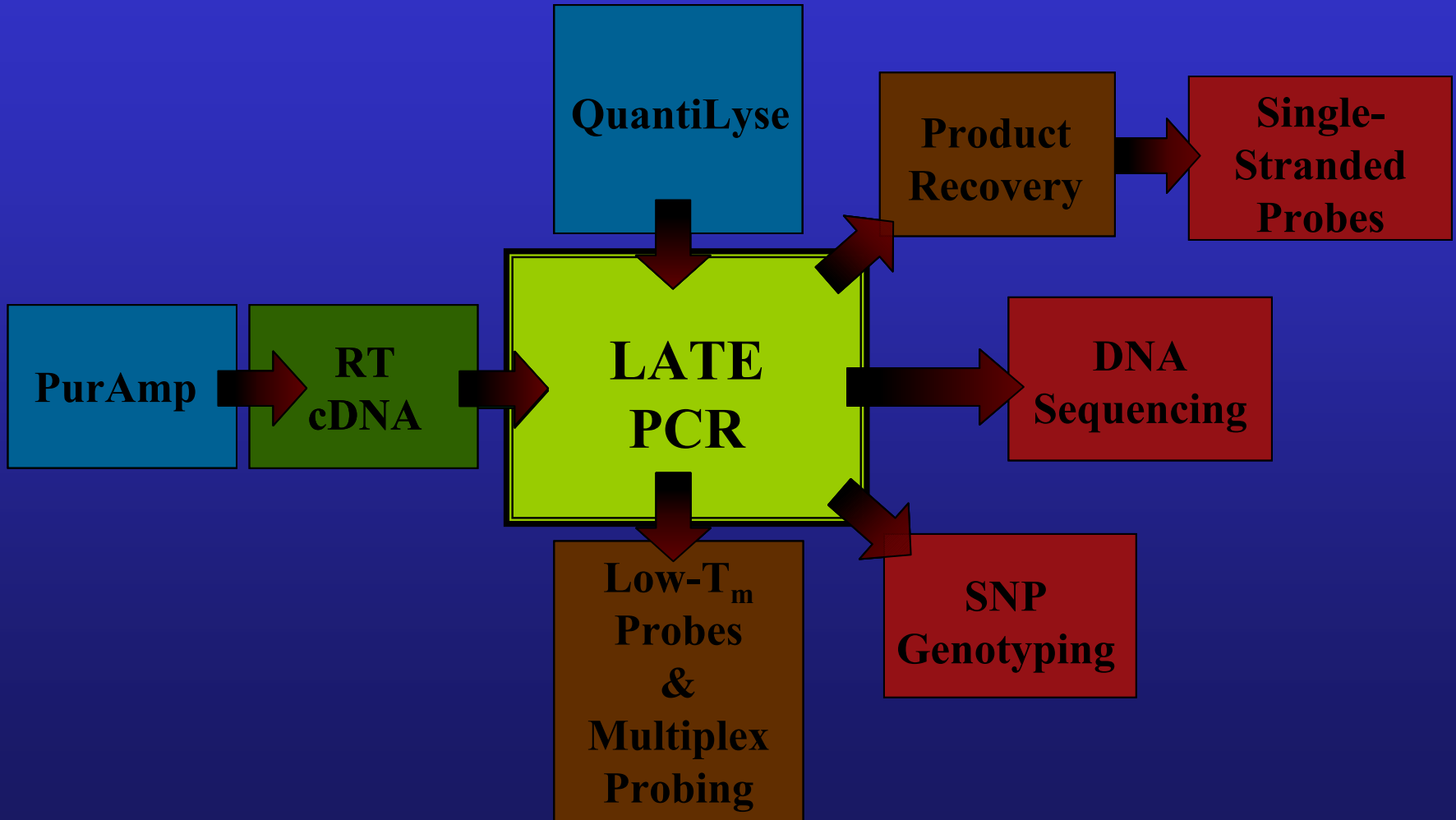
*“Although attractive in theory, asymmetric PCR is quite difficult to perform since the technique requires much optimization for each specific template-primer combination.... It is (also) important to find the optimal ratio between the two primers and the optimal amount of starting material...”*

*From: <http://autodna.apbiotech.com/handbook/seq/seqb-18.htm>*

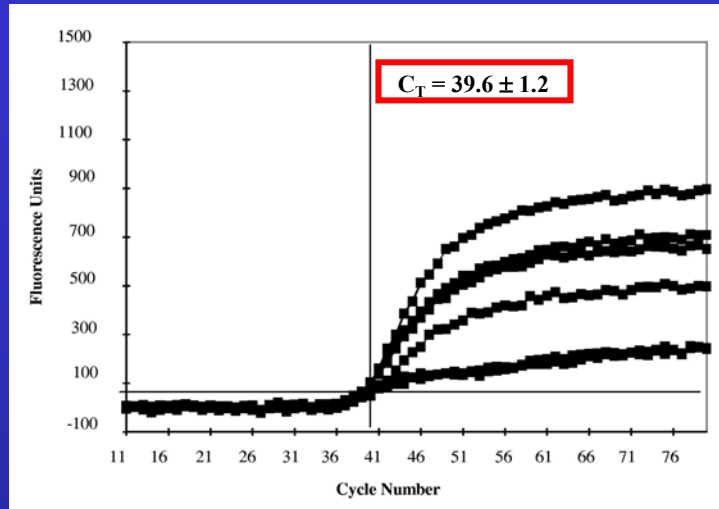


# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

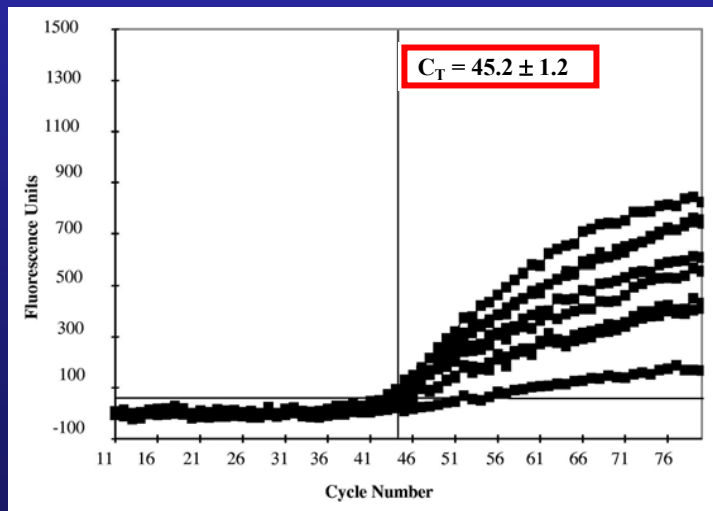
Sample Preparation   Reaction Methods   Product Analysis   Applications



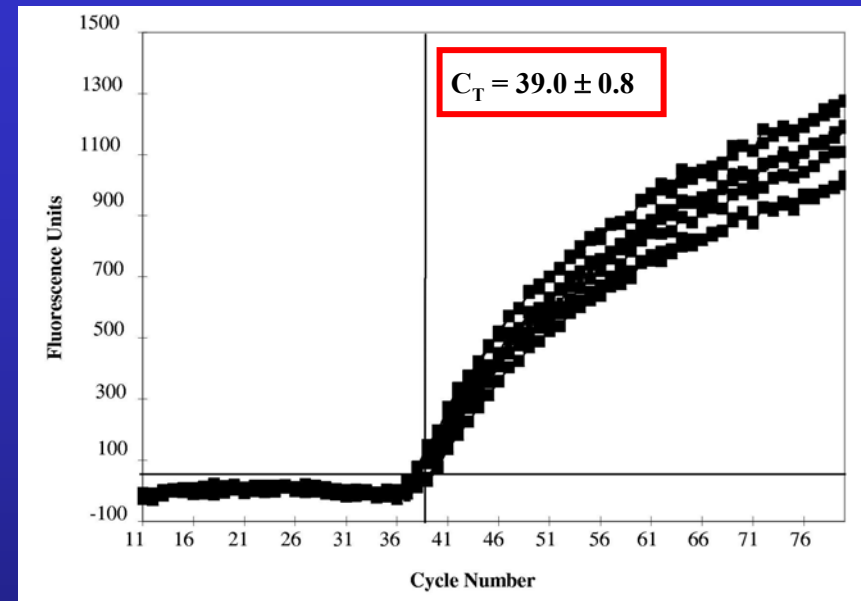
## Symmetric PCR



## Asymmetric PCR



## LATE-PCR



- Efficient
- Sensitive (does not plateau)
- Reliable



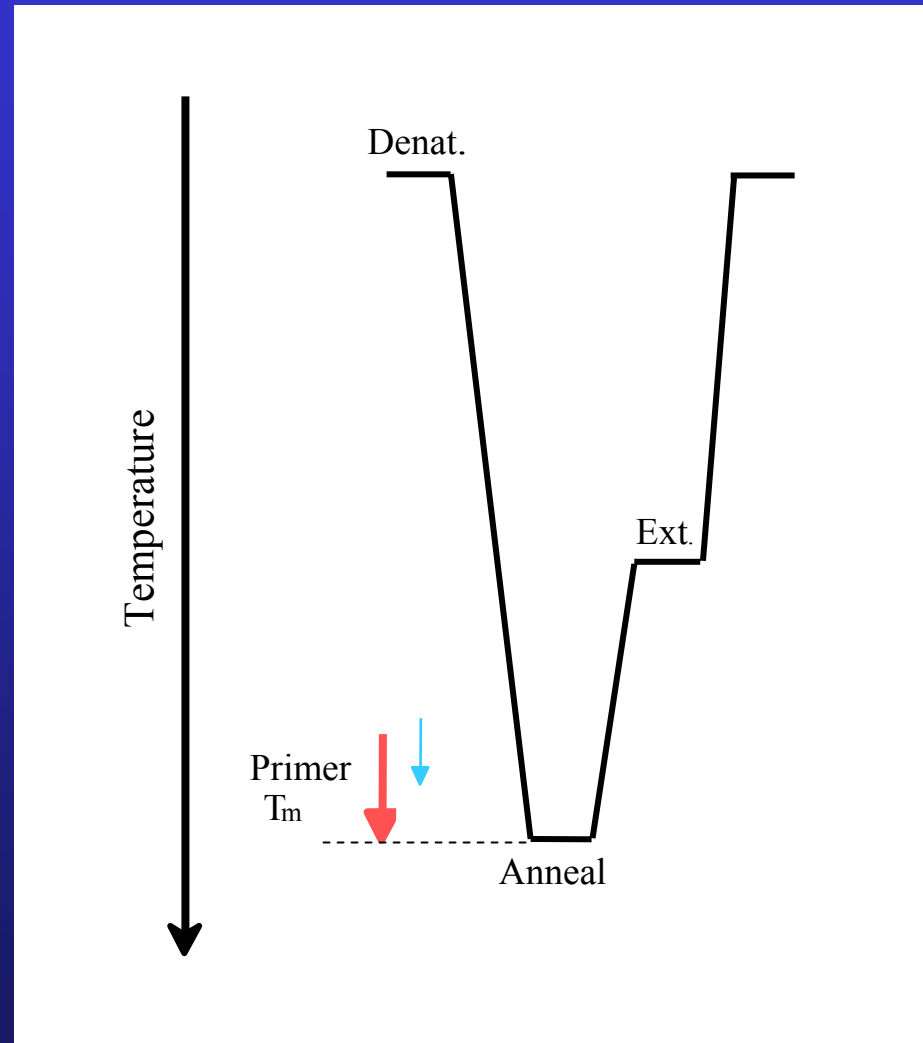
# The Key to LATE-PCR Primer Design

## LATE-PCR

Modifies Limiting Primer  
So That Limiting Primer  $T_m$   
Is Above Excess Primer  $T_m$

$$(T_m^L - T_m^X) \geq 0$$

**Efficient!**





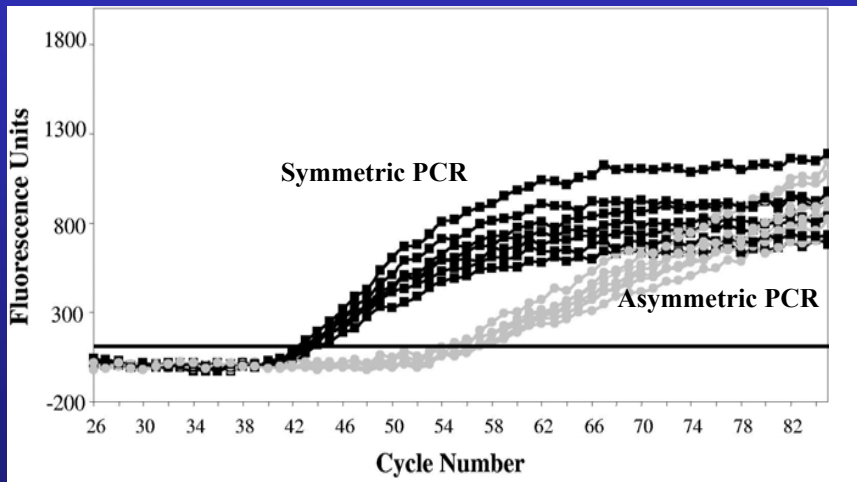
# Simple Redesign of Primers Improves Amplification Efficiency and Maintains Quantitative Kinetics of Real-Time PCR

	Sequence	nM	T <sub>m</sub> (°C)	ΔT <sub>m</sub>
<b>Symmetric PCR</b>	5'-CCTTCTCTCTGCCCCCTGGT-3'	1000	64.8	<b>+ 0</b>
	5'-GCCAGGGGTTCCACTACGTAGA-3'	1000	64.3	
<b>Conventional Asymmetric PCR</b>	5'-CCTTCTCTCTGCCCCCTGGT-3'	<b>25</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>- 5</b>
	5'-GCCAGGGGTTCCACTACGTAGA-3'	1000	64.3	
<b>LATE-PCR</b>	5'- <b>GC</b> CCTTCTCTCTGCCCCCTGGT -3'	<b>25</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
	5'-GCCAGGGGTTCCACTACGTAGA-3'	1000	64.3	



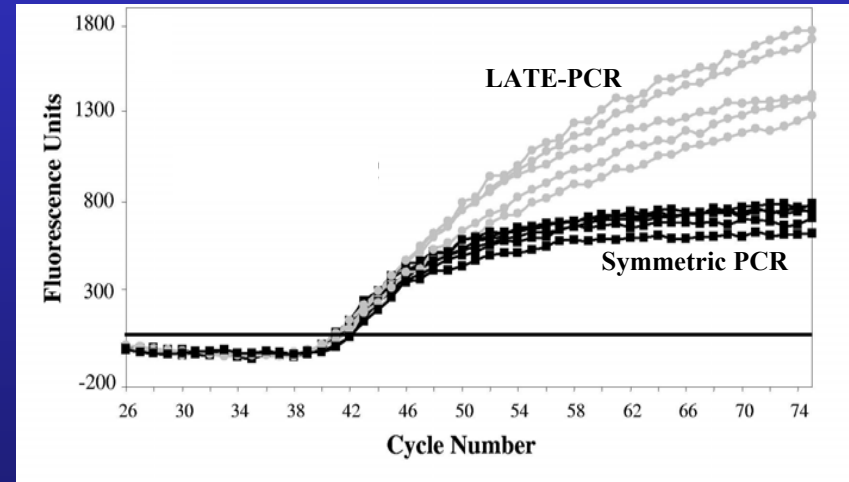
# Validation of LATE-PCR Primer Design

$$(T_m^L - T_m^X) < 0$$



**Inefficient**

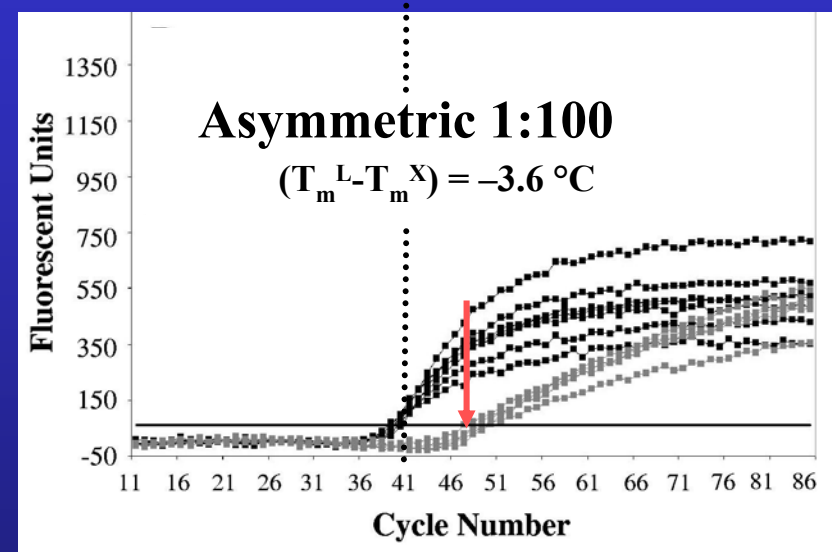
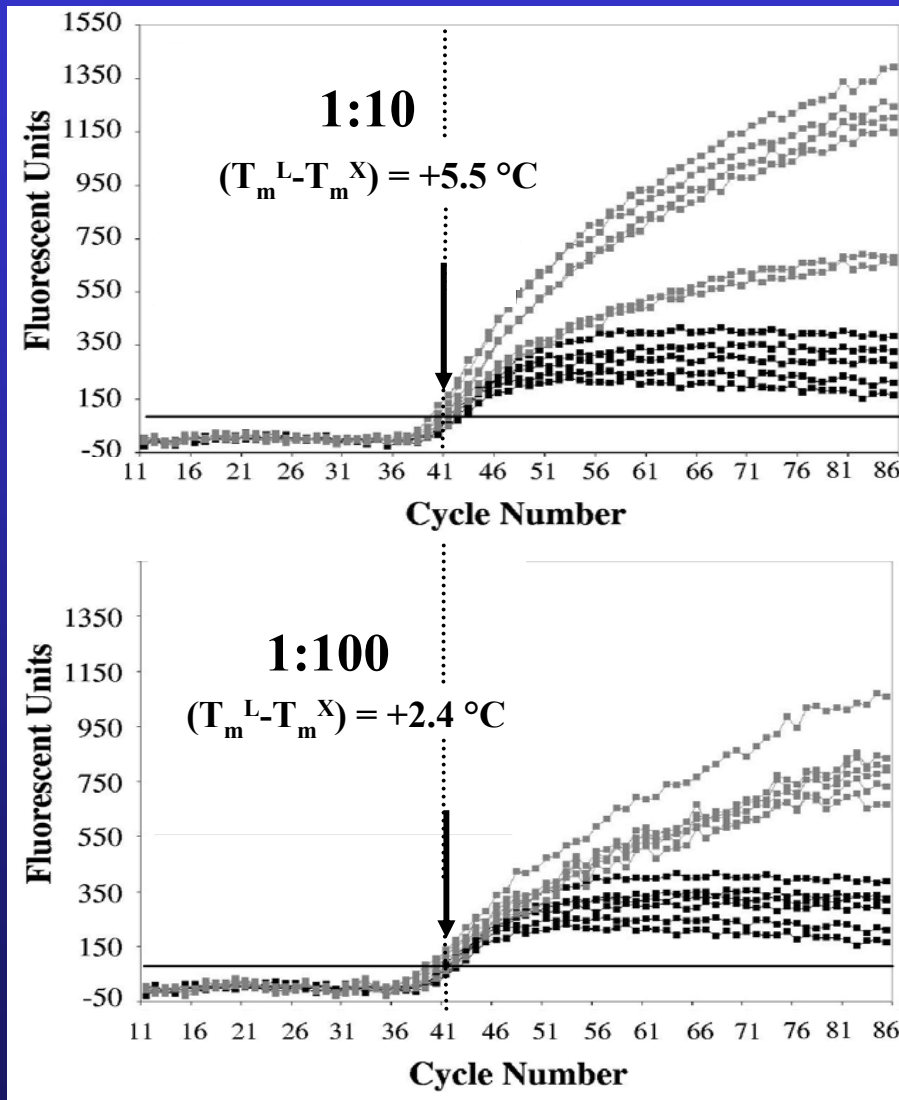
$$(T_m^L - T_m^X) \geq 0$$



**Efficient**



# LATE-PCR: Rational Design Allows A Broad Range of Primer Ratios

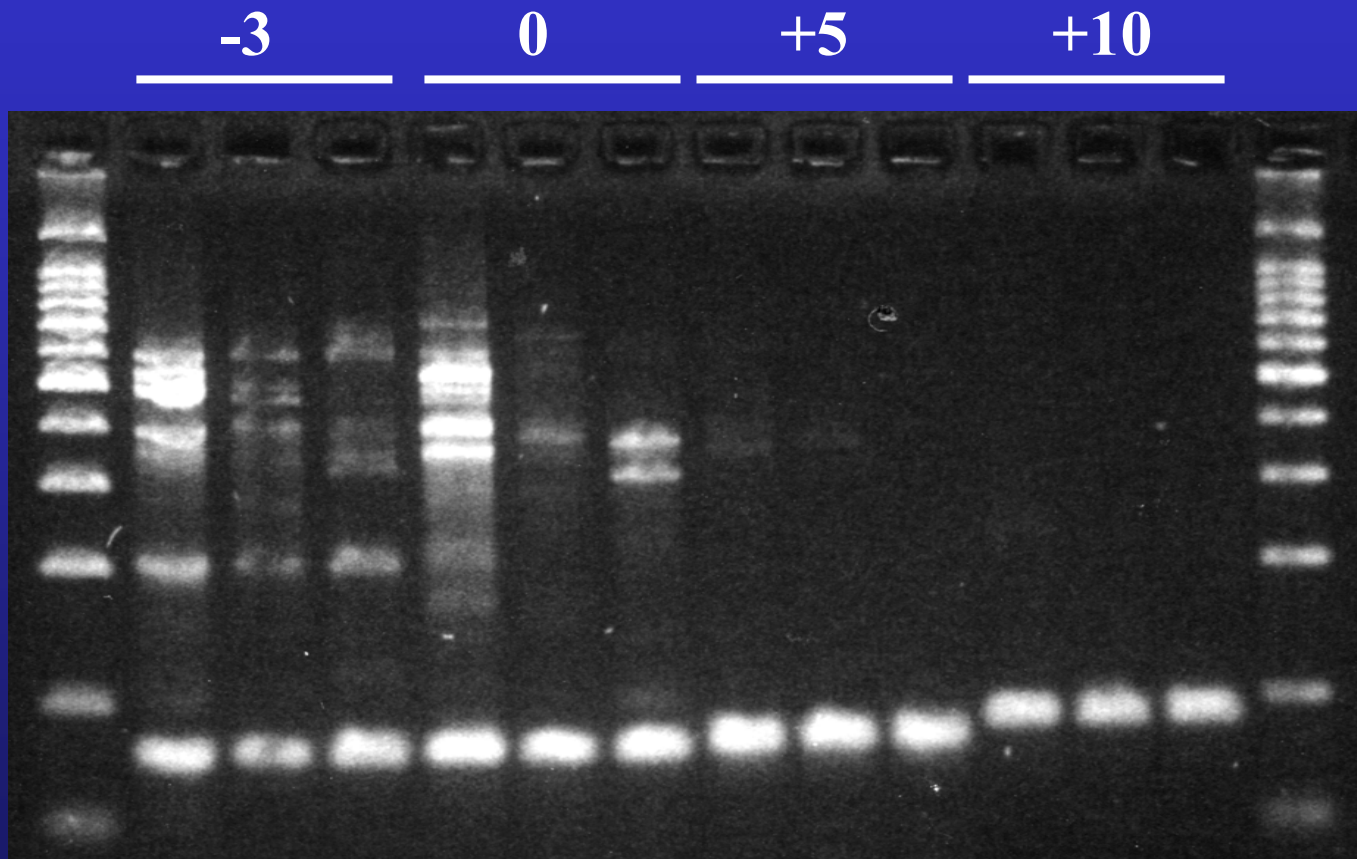


**Rule 1:  $(T_m^L - T_m^X) \geq 0$**



# Increasing the Value of $(T_m^L - T_m^X)$ also Increases Amplification Specificity

---



100 genomes, Annealing Temp. 2°C Below  $T_m^L$



# The Problem of Product Amplicon Strand Competition

---



$$\text{Rule 2: } (Tm^A - Tm^X) \leq 18^\circ\text{C}$$



# Benefits of LATE-PCR Primer Design

---

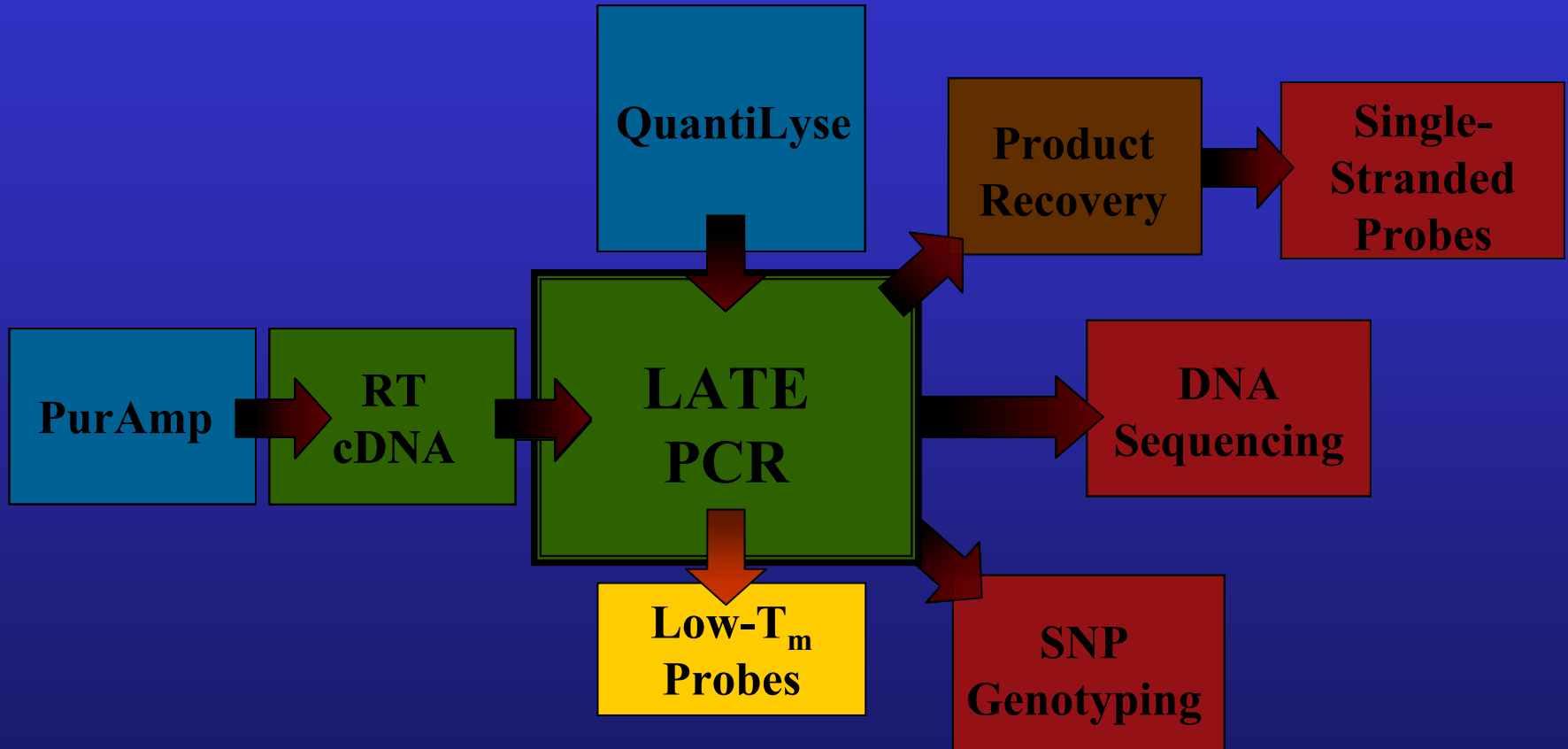
- Increased Efficiency
- Improved Sensitivity (No Plateau)
- Flexible Use of Primer Ratios

**LATE-PCR Provides a Rational  
Framework for Efficient and Reliable  
Amplification of Single-Stranded DNA**

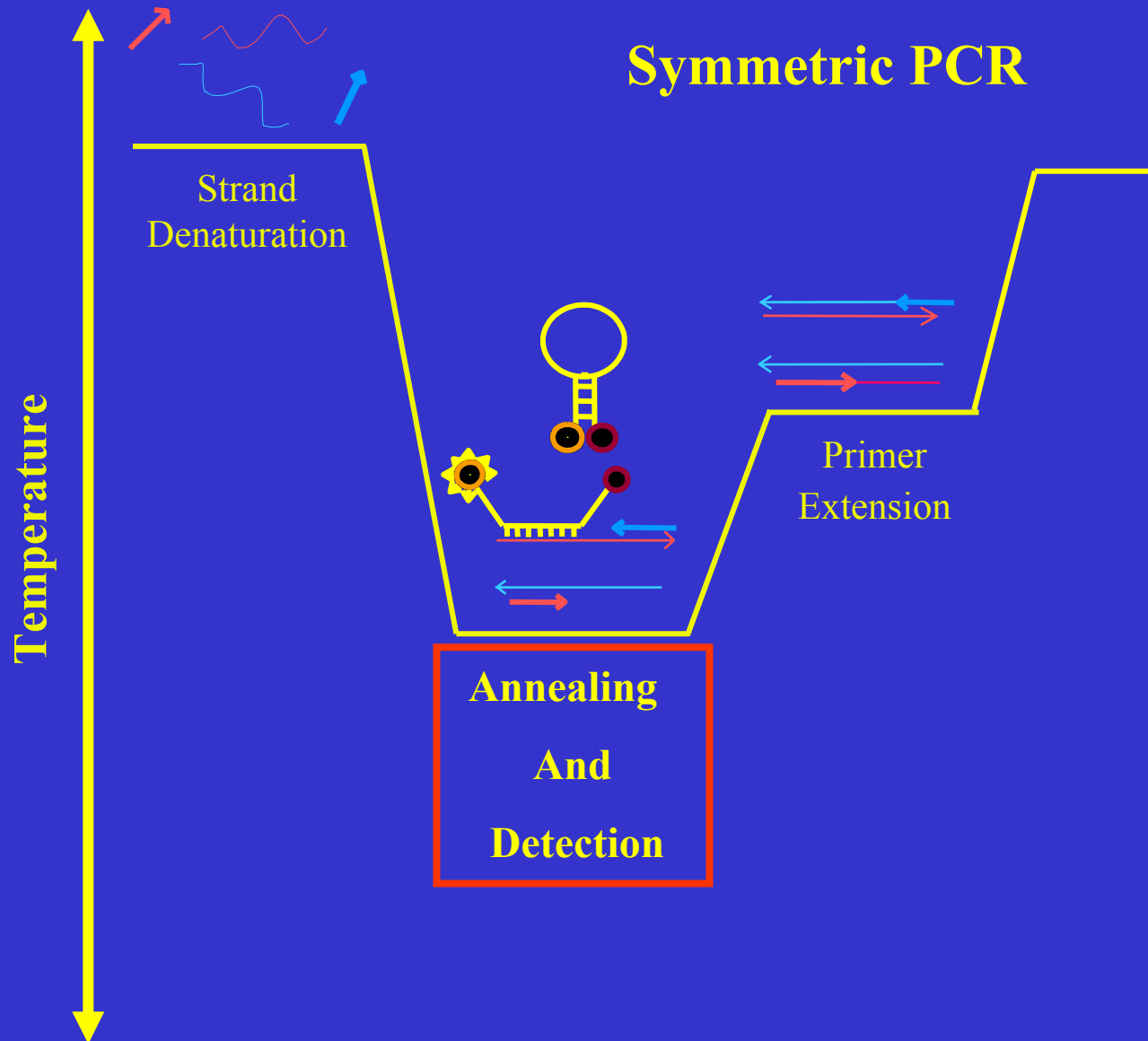


# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications

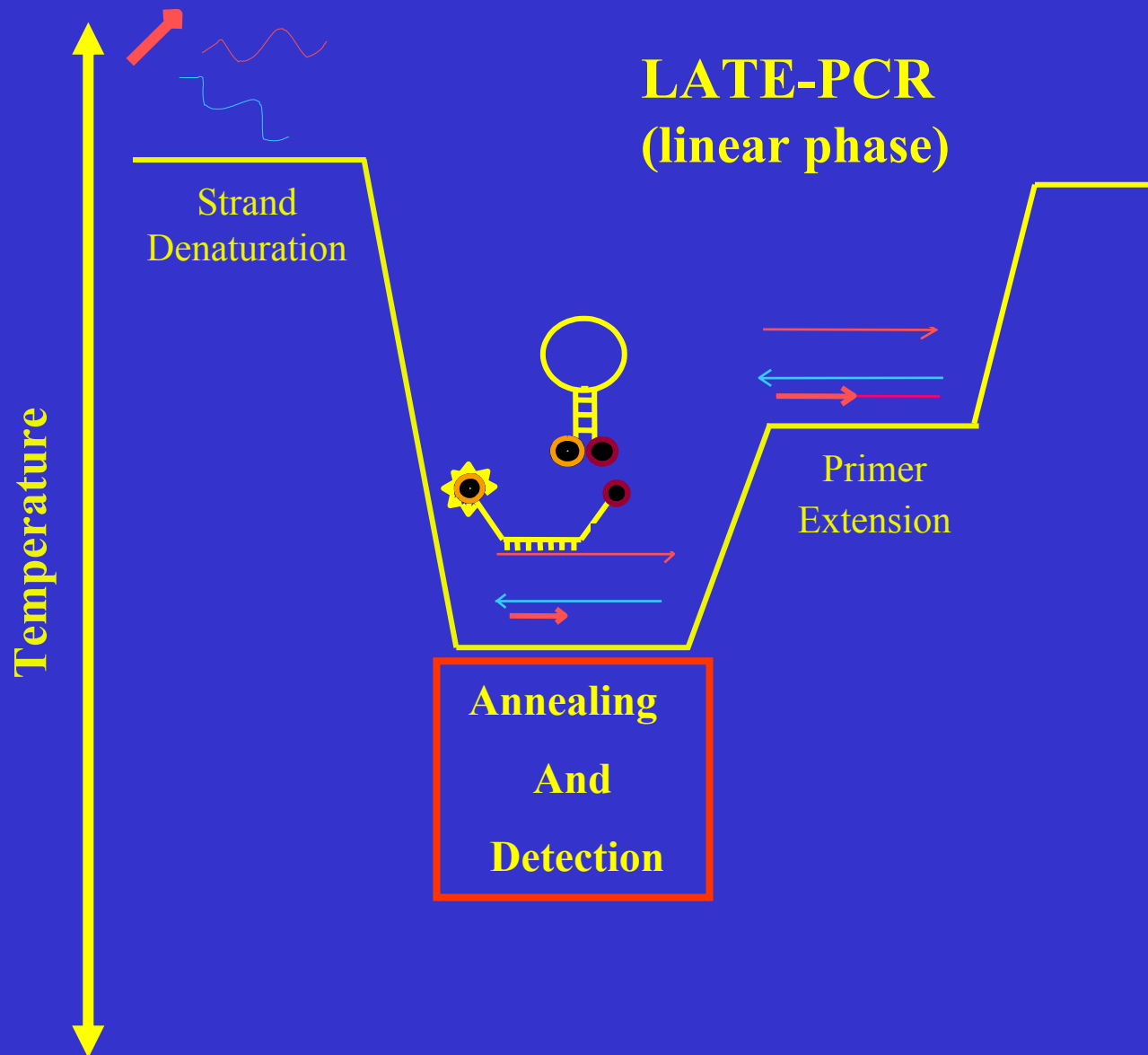


# LATE-PCR Uncouples Annealing and Detection

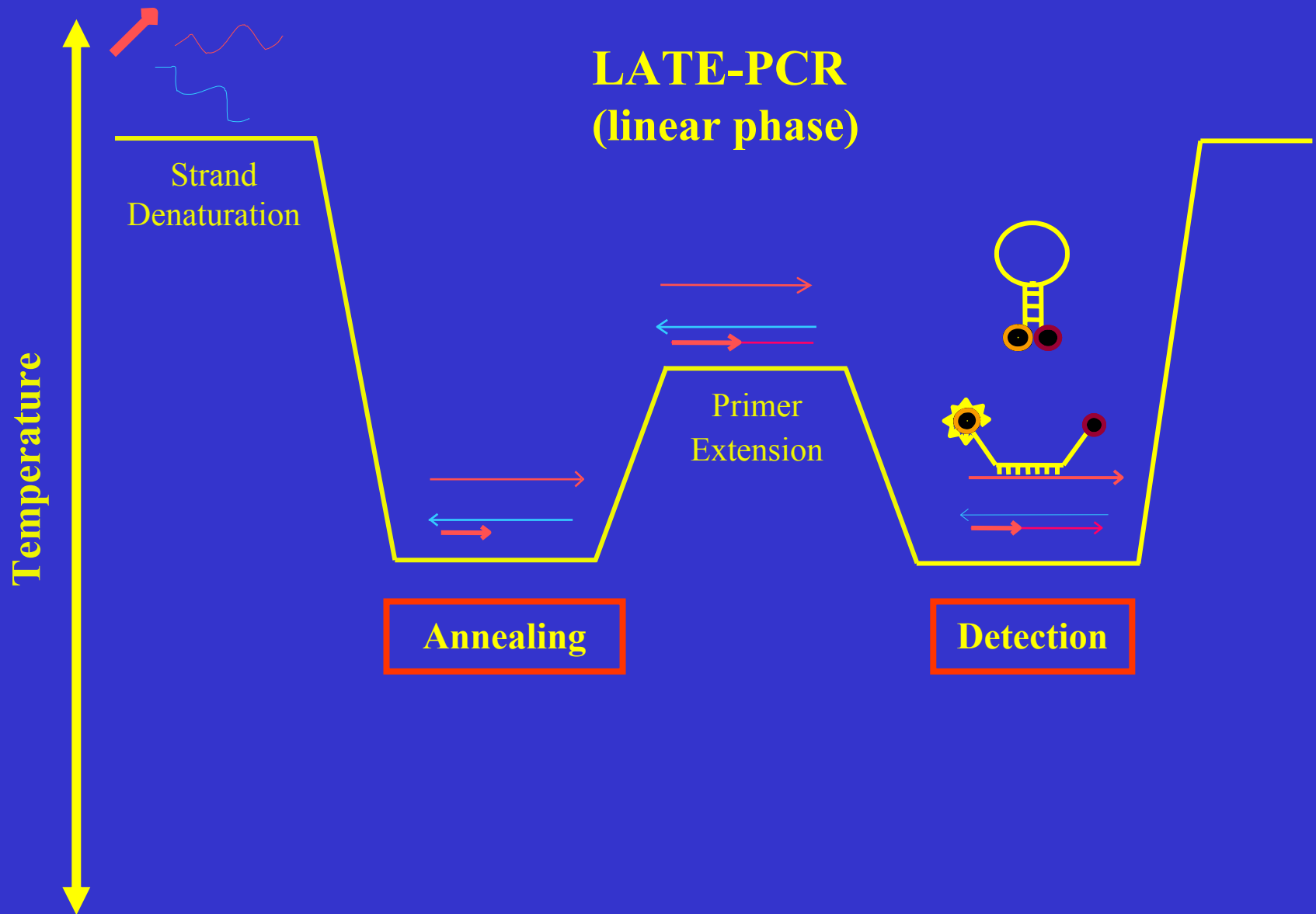




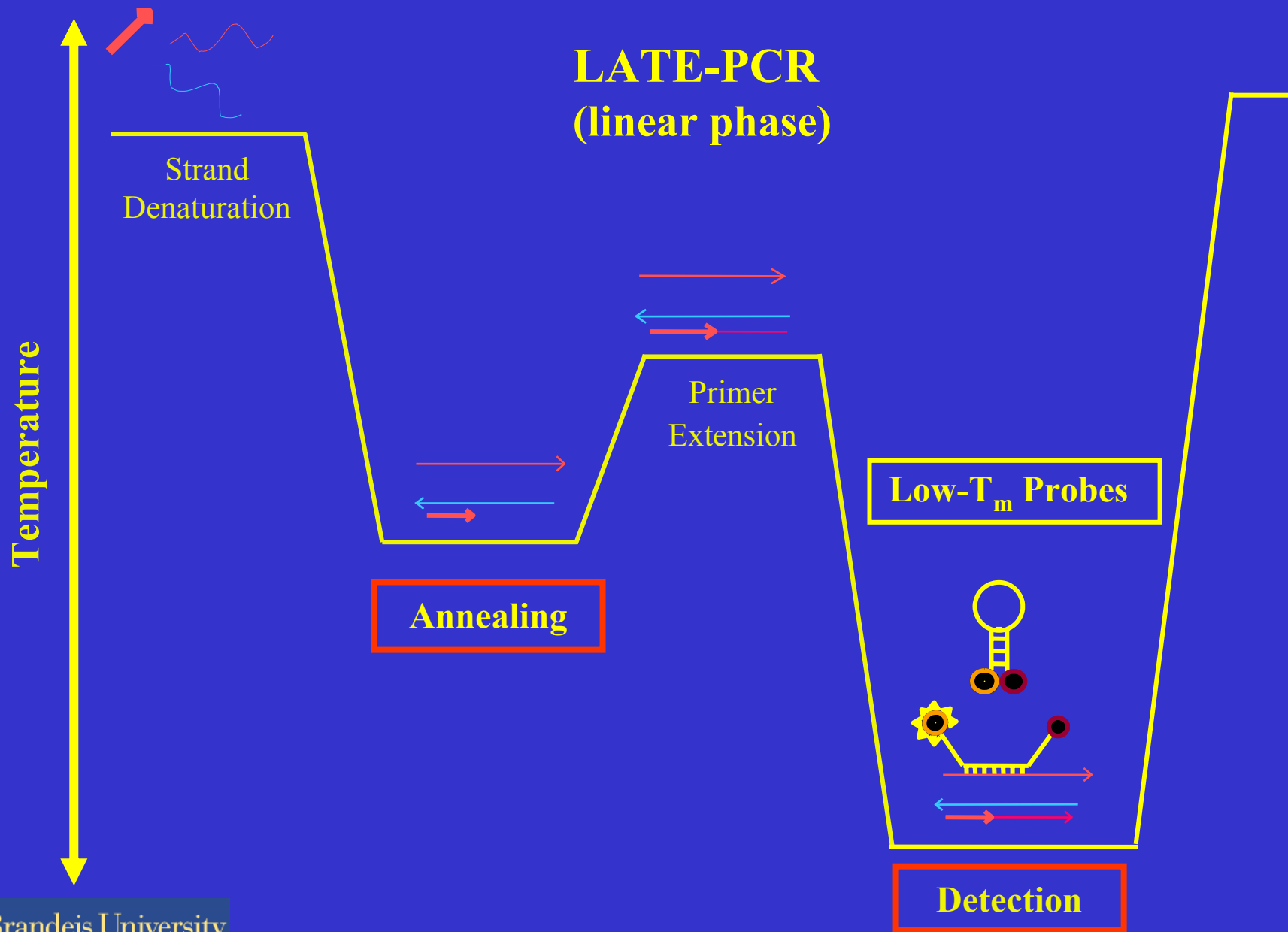
# LATE-PCR Uncouples Annealing and Detection



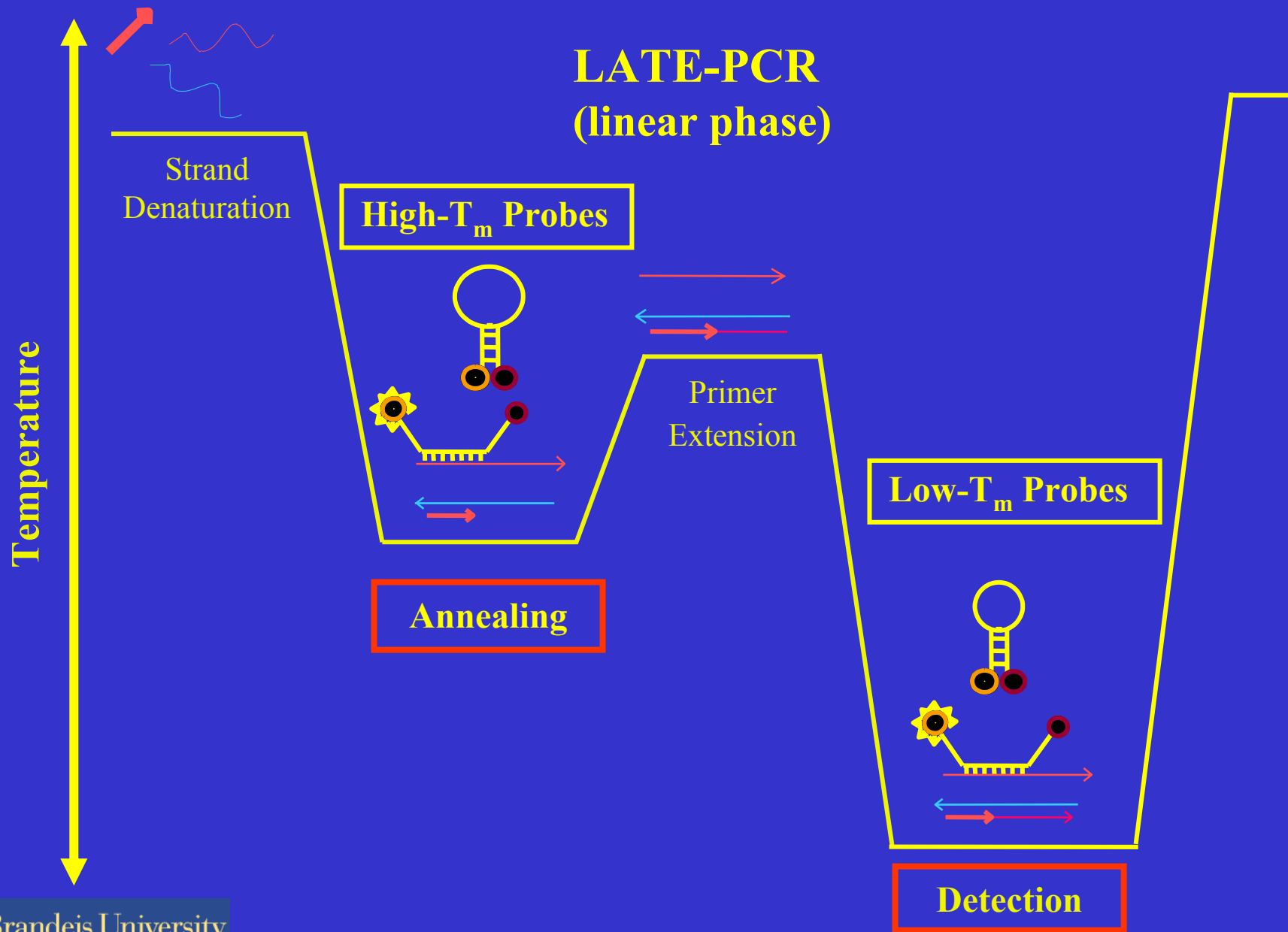
# LATE-PCR Uncouples Annealing and Detection



# LATE-PCR Uncouples Annealing and Detection

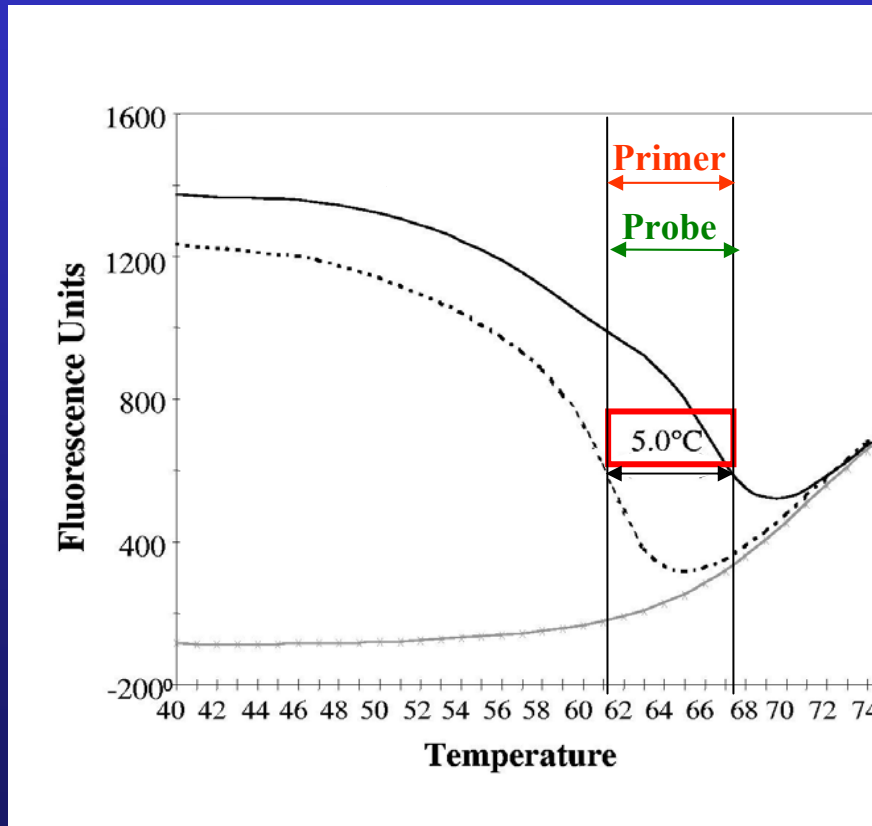


# LATE-PCR Uncouples Annealing and Detection

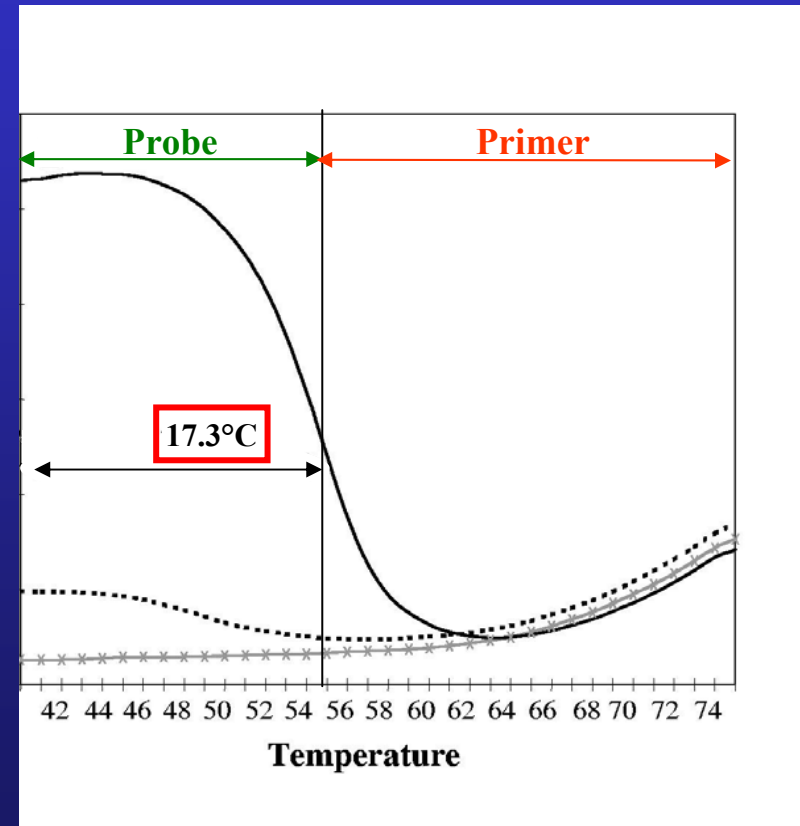


# Advantages of Low- $T_m$ Probes: Separate Temperature Window for Primer and Probe Design

## High- $T_m$ Molecular Beacon Melting Curve

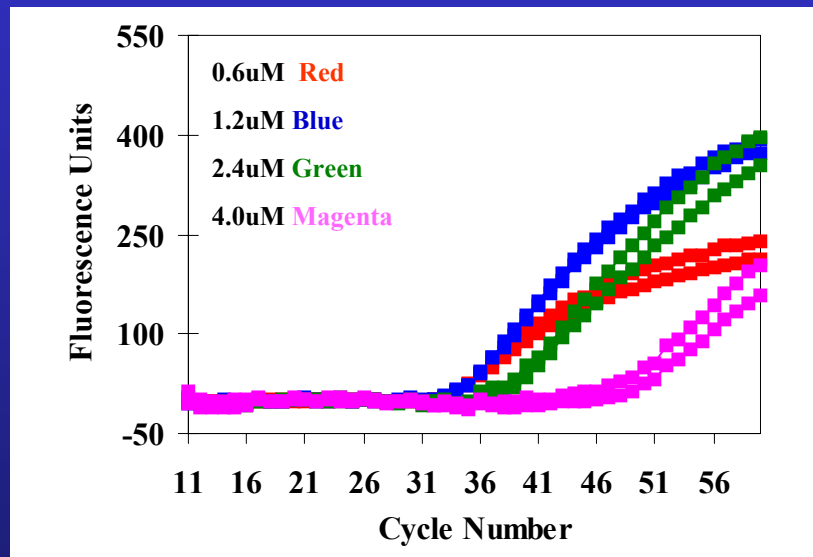


## Low- $T_m$ Molecular Beacon Melting Curve

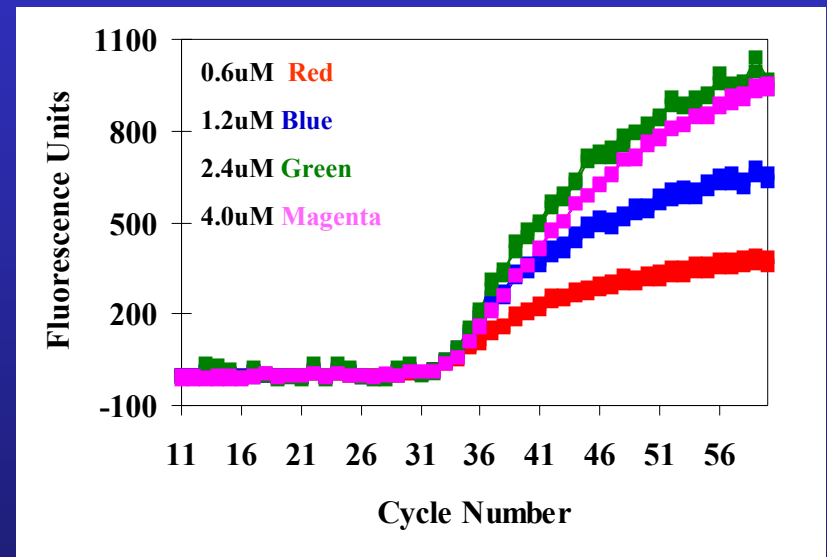


# Advantages of Low- $T_m$ Probes: Saturating Amounts for Increased Sensitivity

## High- $T_m$ Probes



## Low- $T_m$ Probes



# Benefits of Low- $T_m$ Molecular Beacons

---

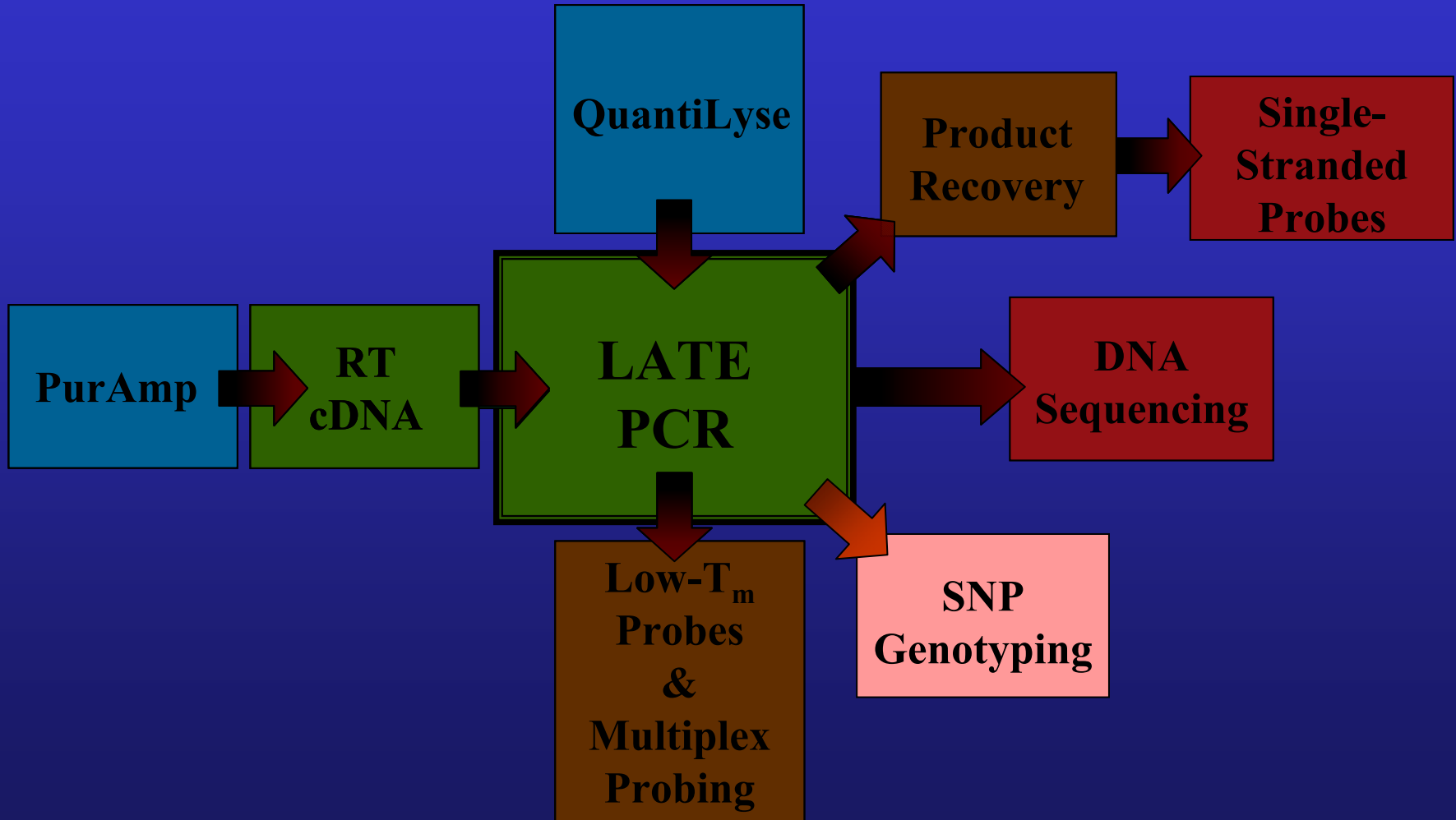
- Easier to Design – Not Constrained by Primer  $T_m$
- Improved Sensitivity
- Do not Affect Amplification Efficiency
- Increased Allele Discrimination
- Expands Multiplexed Amplicon Detection

**Low- $T_m$  Molecular Beacons Provide  
Versatile and Sensitive Amplicon Detection  
in LATE-PCR**



# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

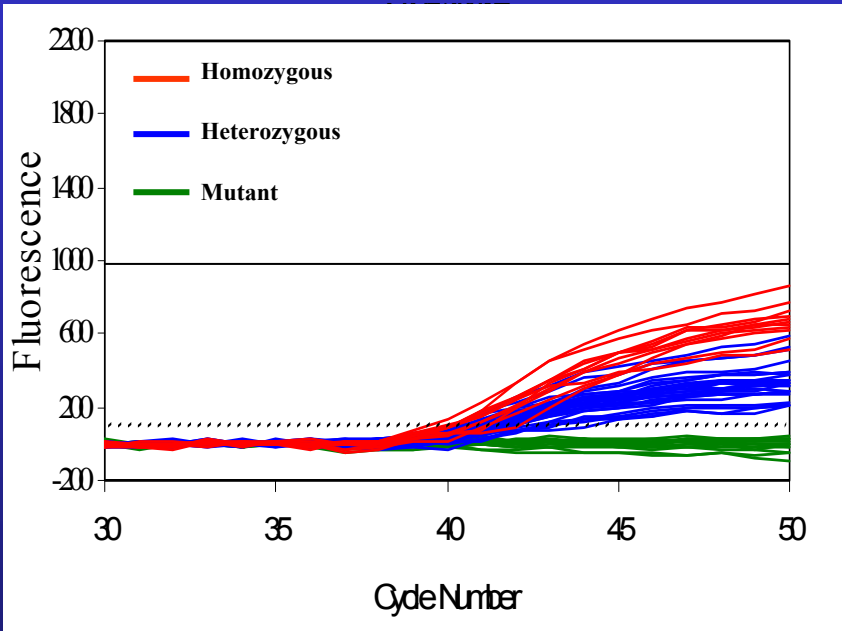
Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications



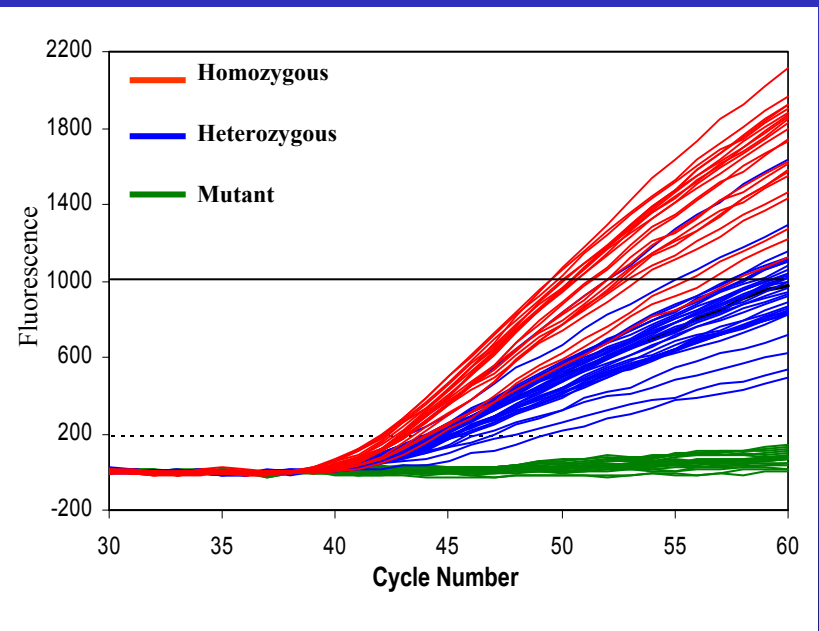


# An Example of LATE-PCR Assay: Cystic Fibrosis

## Symmetric PCR

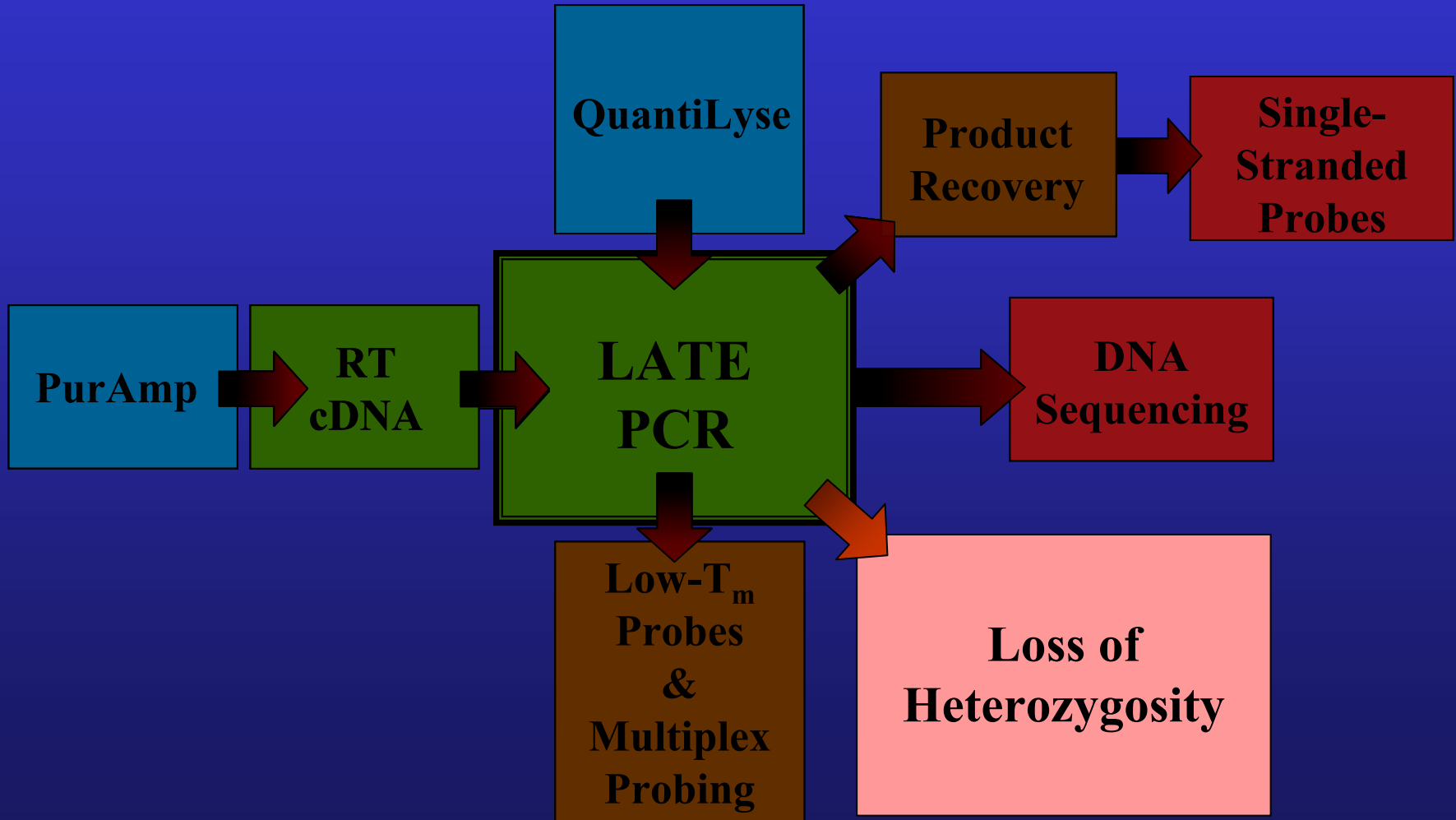


## LATE-PCR

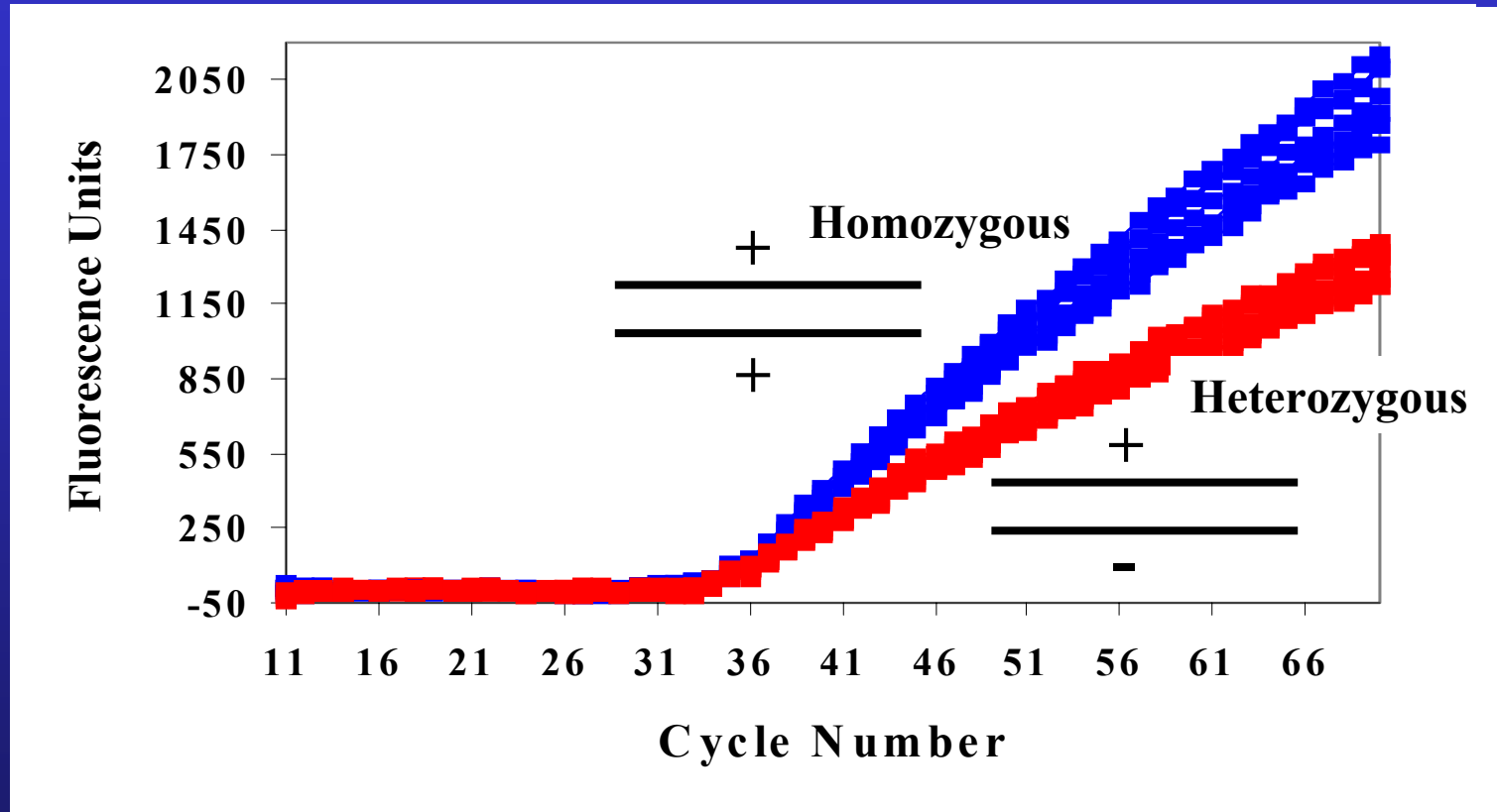


# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

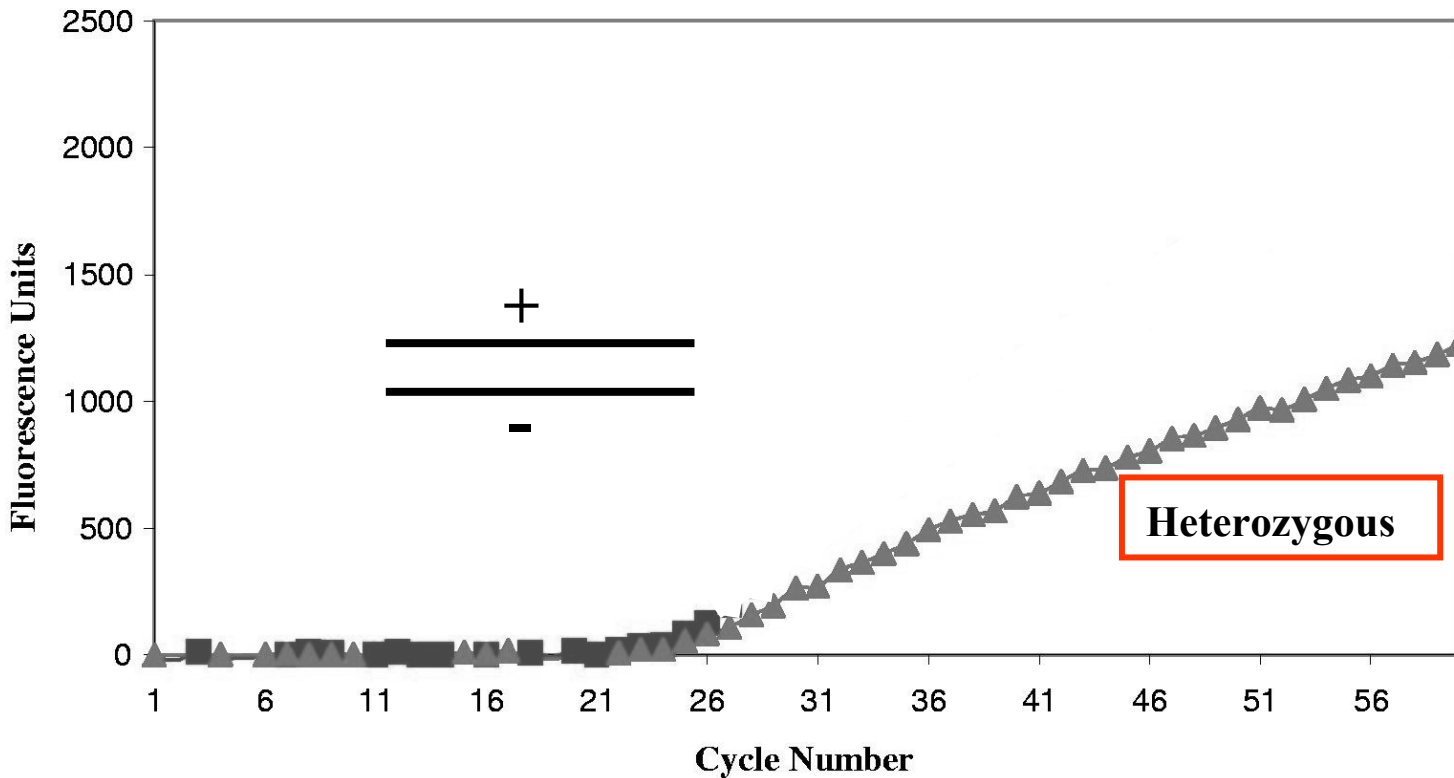
Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications



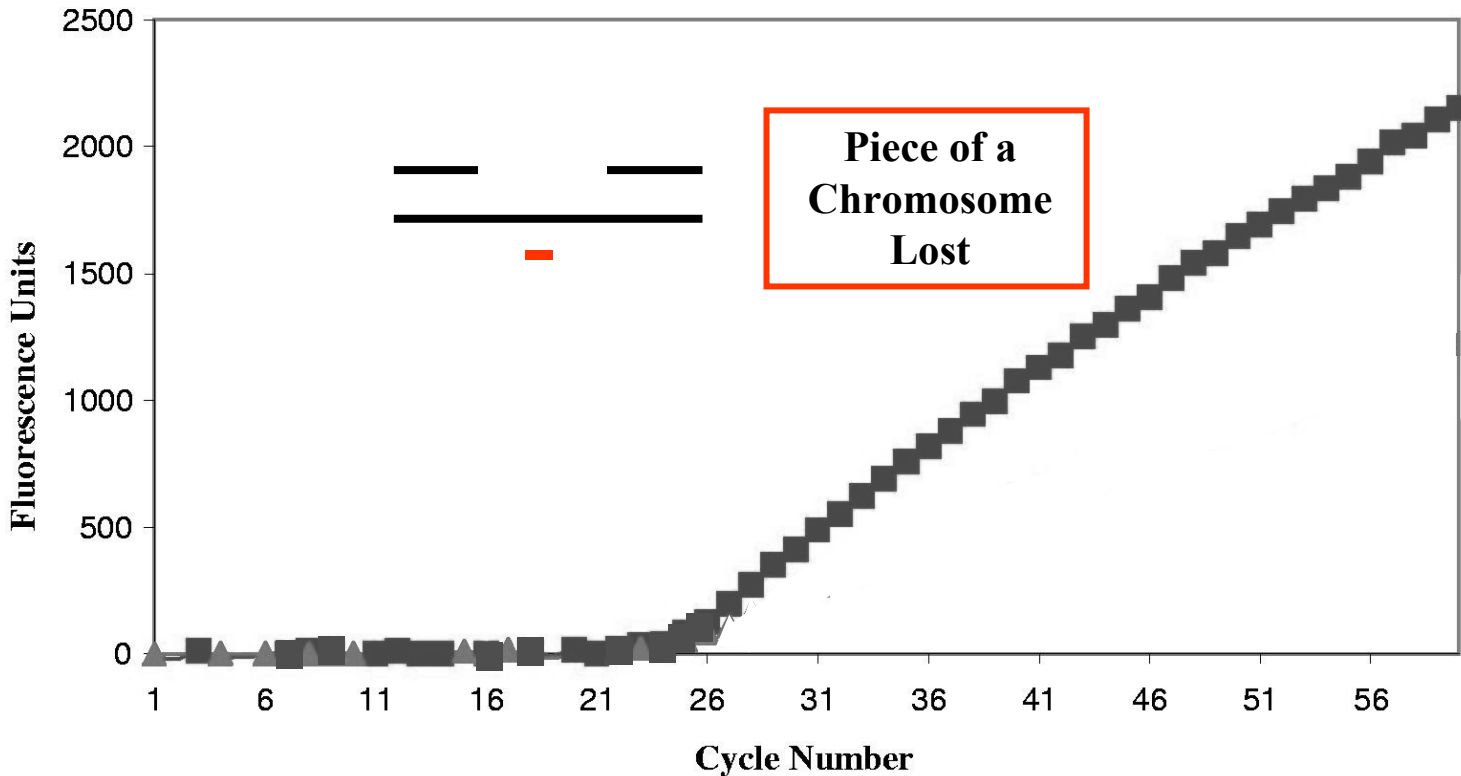
# The Linear Kinetics of LATE-PCR



# Loss of Heterozygous and Oncogenesis



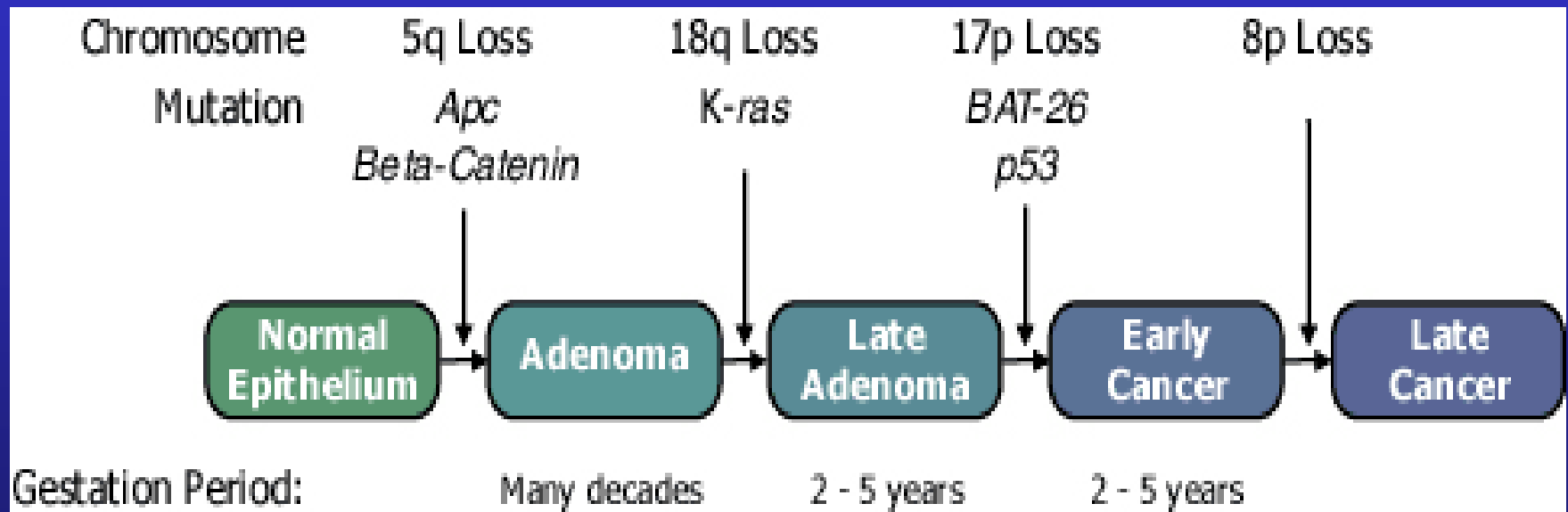
# Simple Assay for Loss of Heterozygosity



**The American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute recommend annual colorectal cancer screening for the more than 74 million Americans over the age of 50. In reality, only a fraction of this population is being screened routinely for this disease.**



# Colorectal Cancer Is a Disease That Is Well Understood From a Genomics Point of View



# **Sequencing Mutant Amplicons Would Be Informative**

---

**But Before Sequencing it is Critical to Suppress  
Amplification Errors**



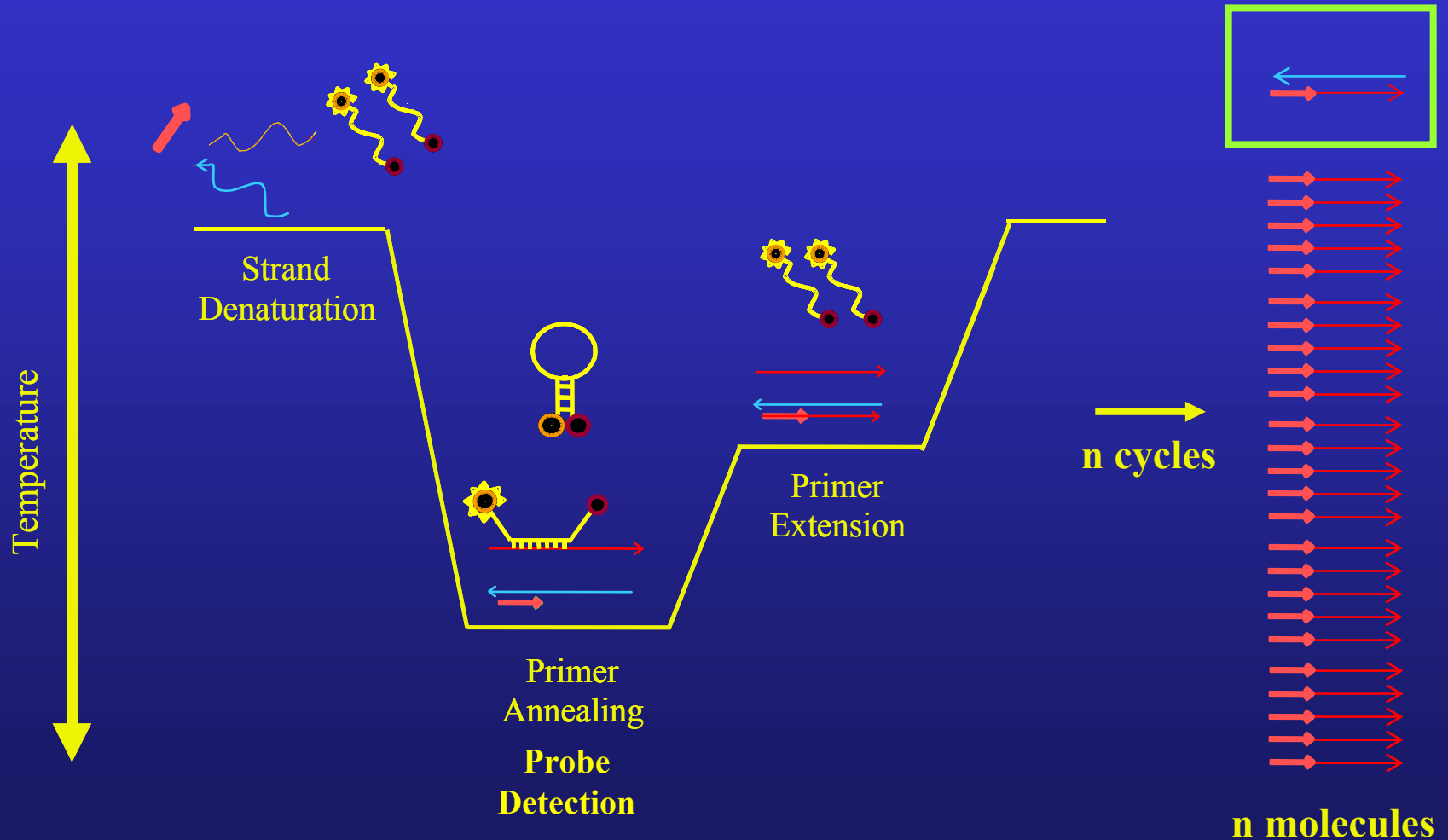


# Product Evolution

---

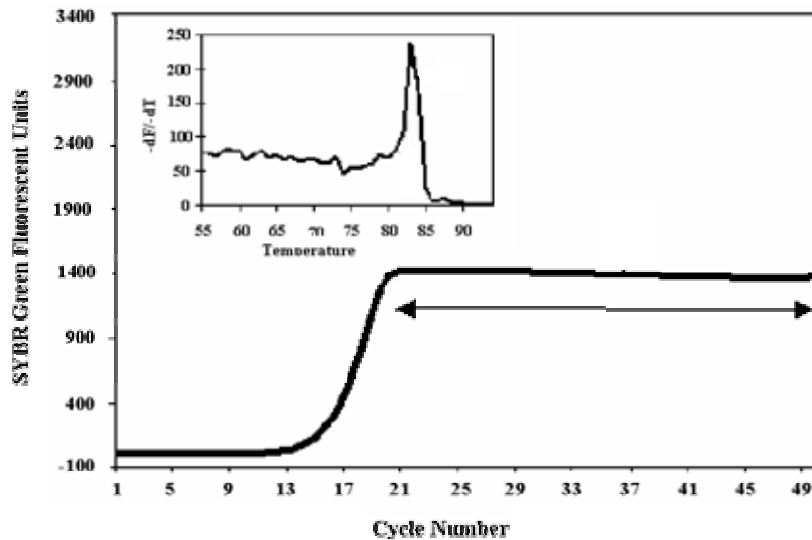


# In LATE-PCR: Double-Stranded DNA Molecules Should Remain Constant During Linear Amplification



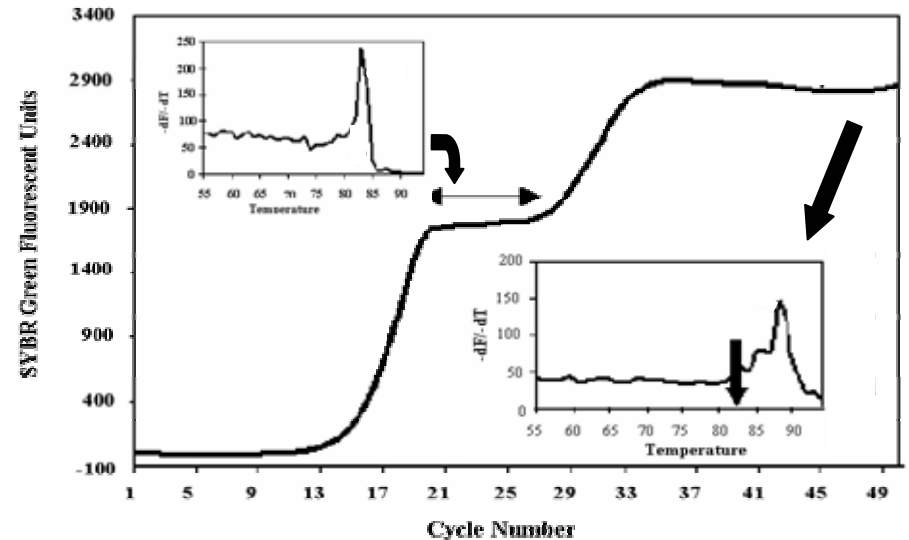
# The Phenomenon of Product Evolution

## Stringent Conditions



**No Evolution: ds-Molecules Constant**

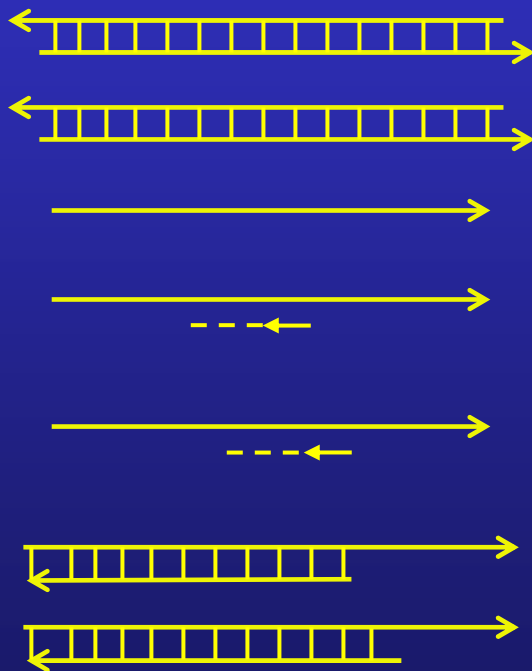
## Non-Stringent Conditions



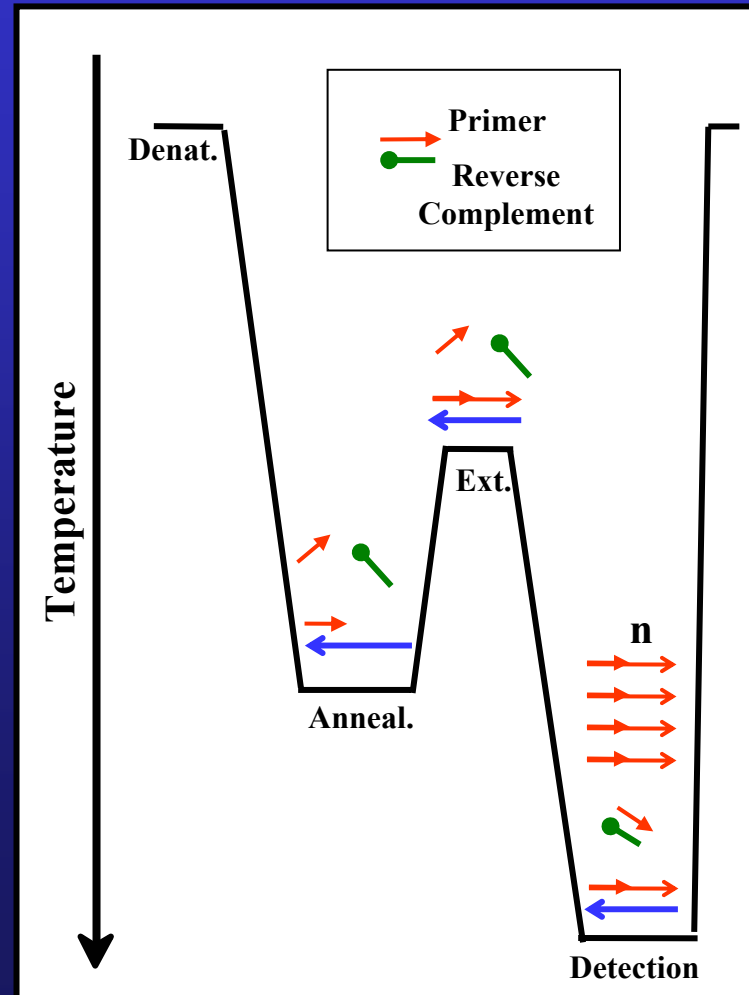
**+ Evolution: ds-Molecules Increase**

# Hypotheses I to Explain Product Evolution

## Primer Mis-Priming Of the Single-Strands



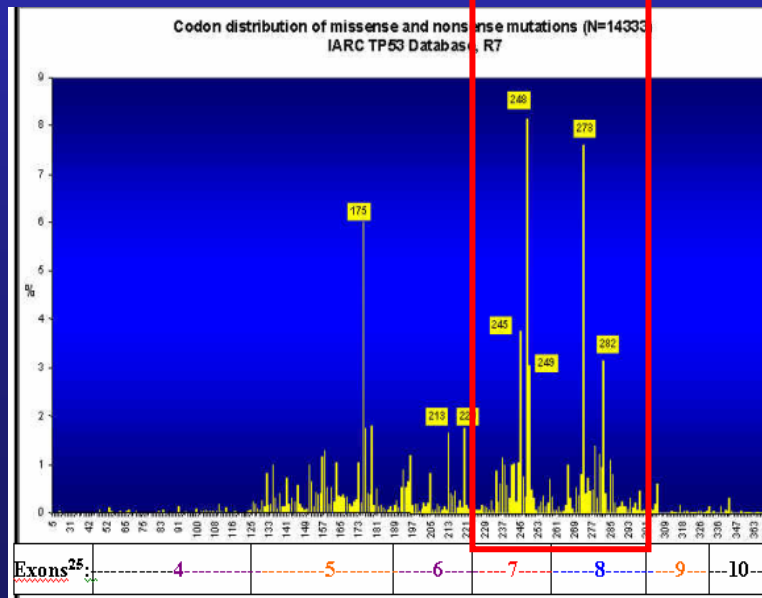
## Solution: Primer Reverse Complement



# p53 Mutations

- found in the majority of Li-Fraumeni syndrome cases, an autosomal dominantly inherited disorder
- most frequently observed somatic genetic events, occurring in ~50% of all cancers

600 nucleotides

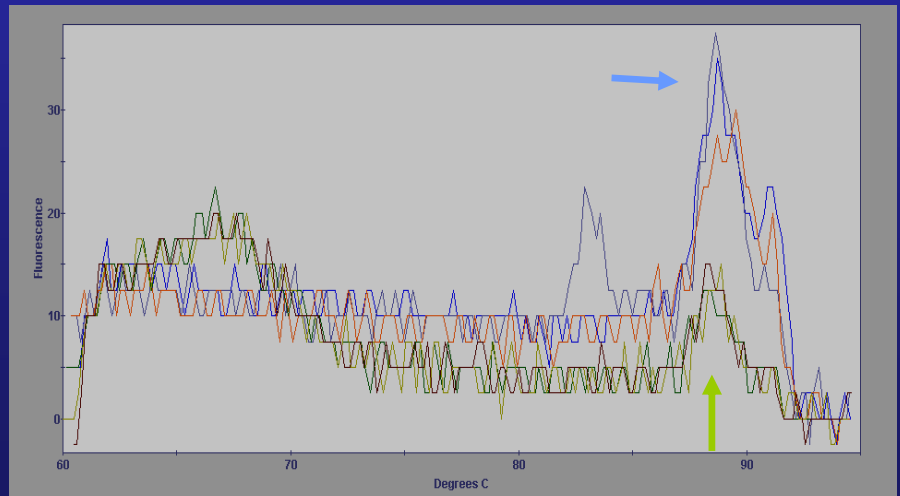
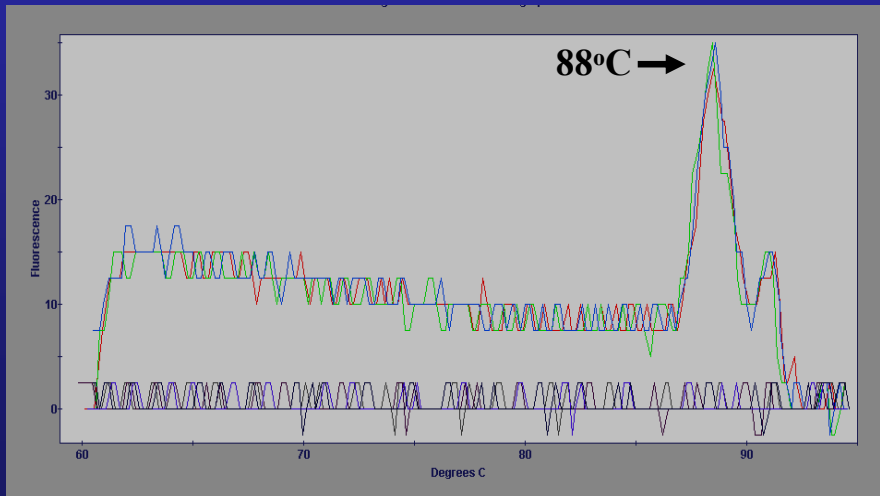
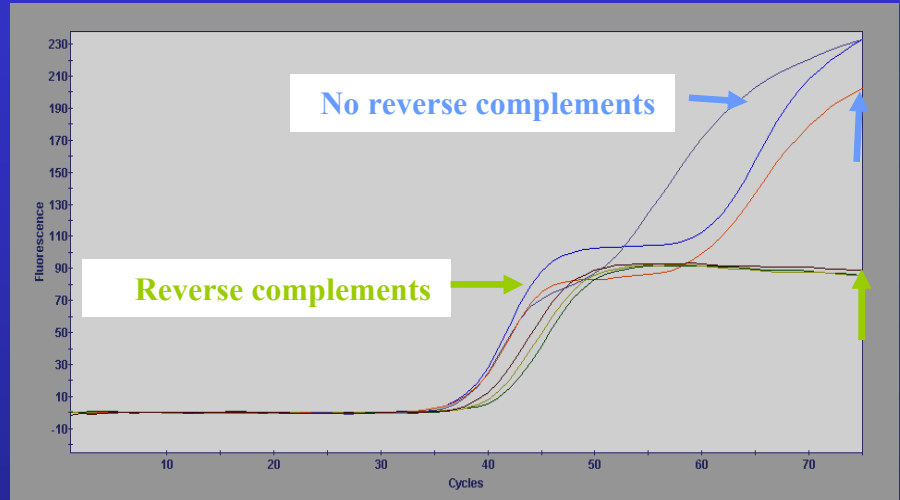
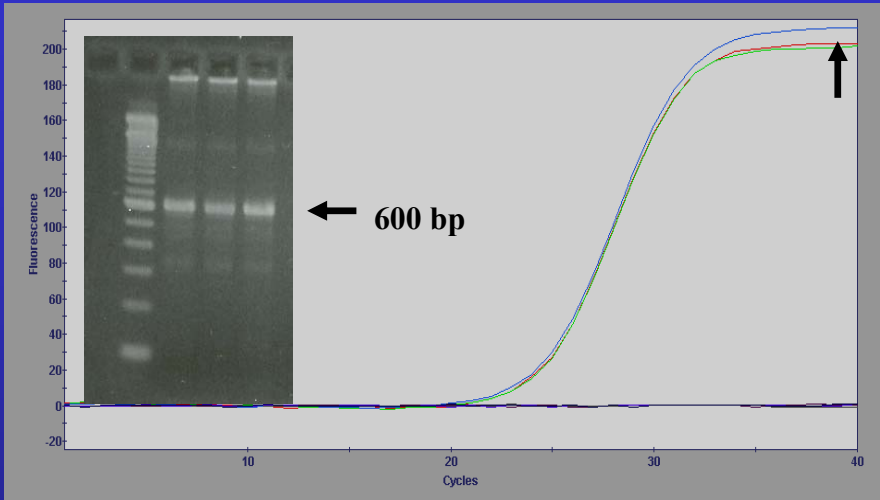


## p53 Missense Mutations In Conserved Sites of DNA Binding Domain

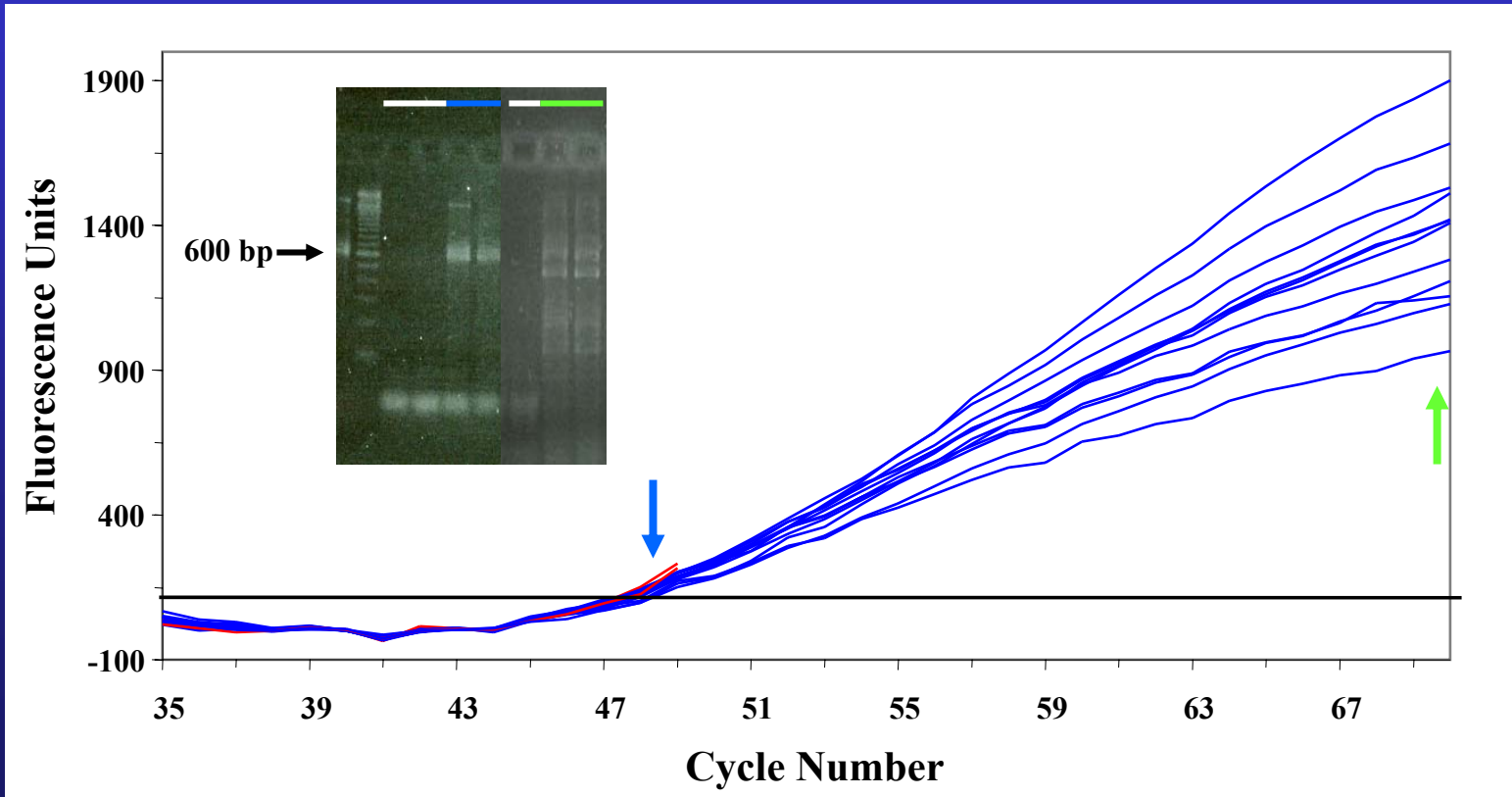
Missense mutations affect >90 amino acids in p53

Three “Hotspots” account for 30% Alter capacity of p53 to bind to DNA

# Amplification of the p53 Exon 7-8 Amplicon

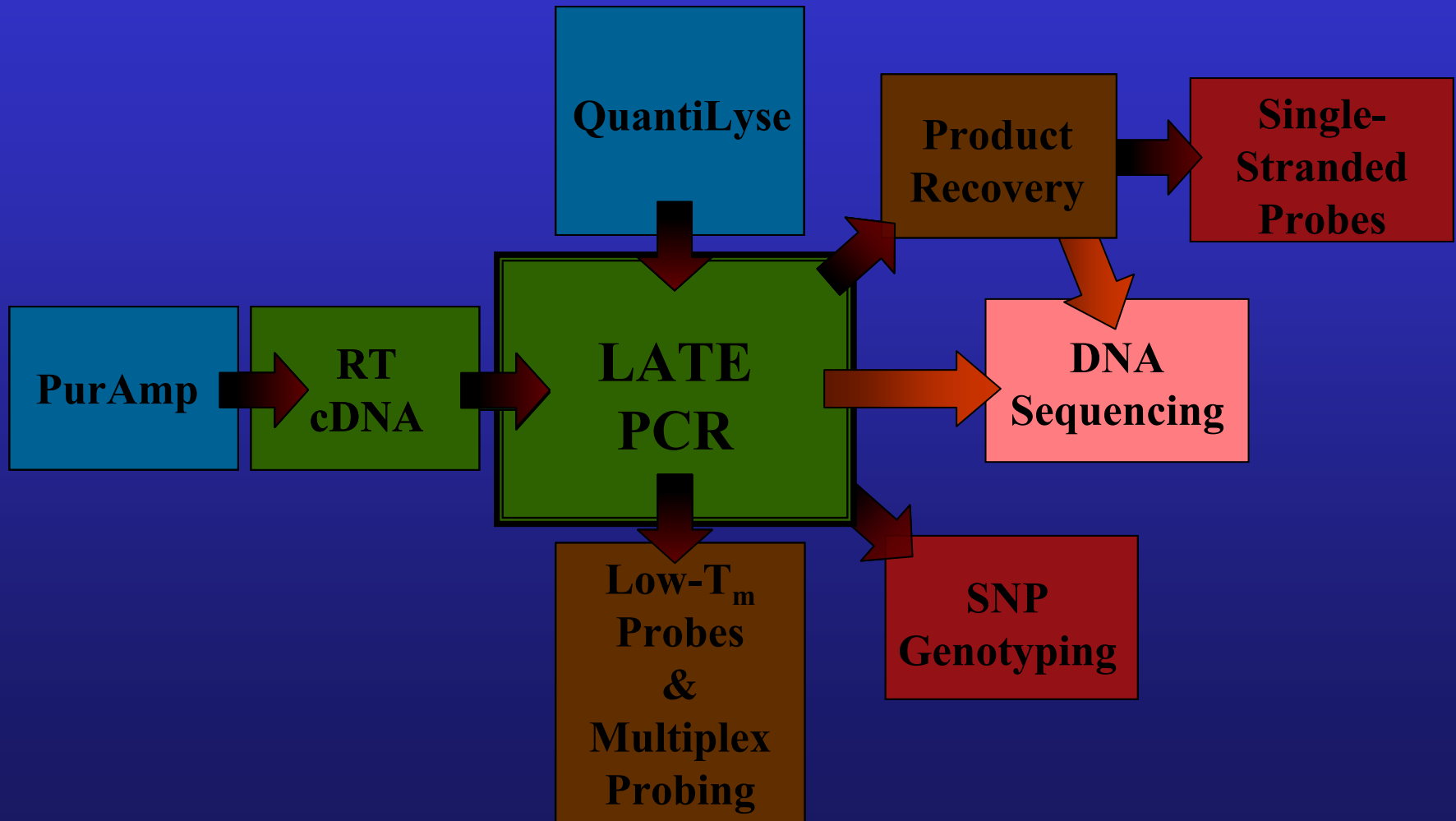


# LATE PCR Analysis of p53 gene from Single Cell Double Stranded Probe and Two Reverse Complements



# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

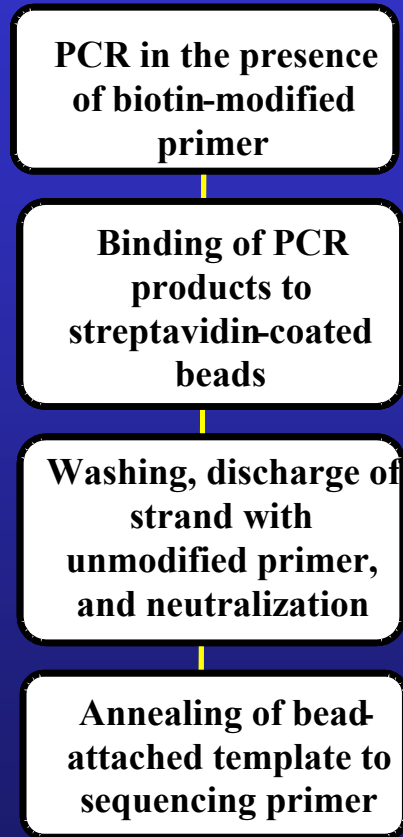
Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications



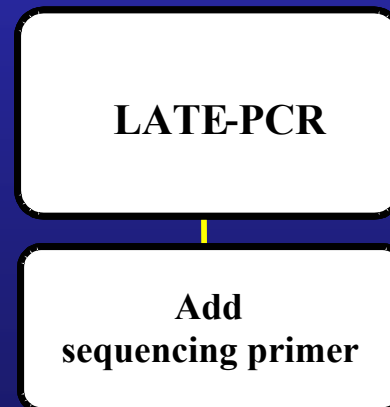


# The Problem of Substrate Preparation for Pyrosequencing

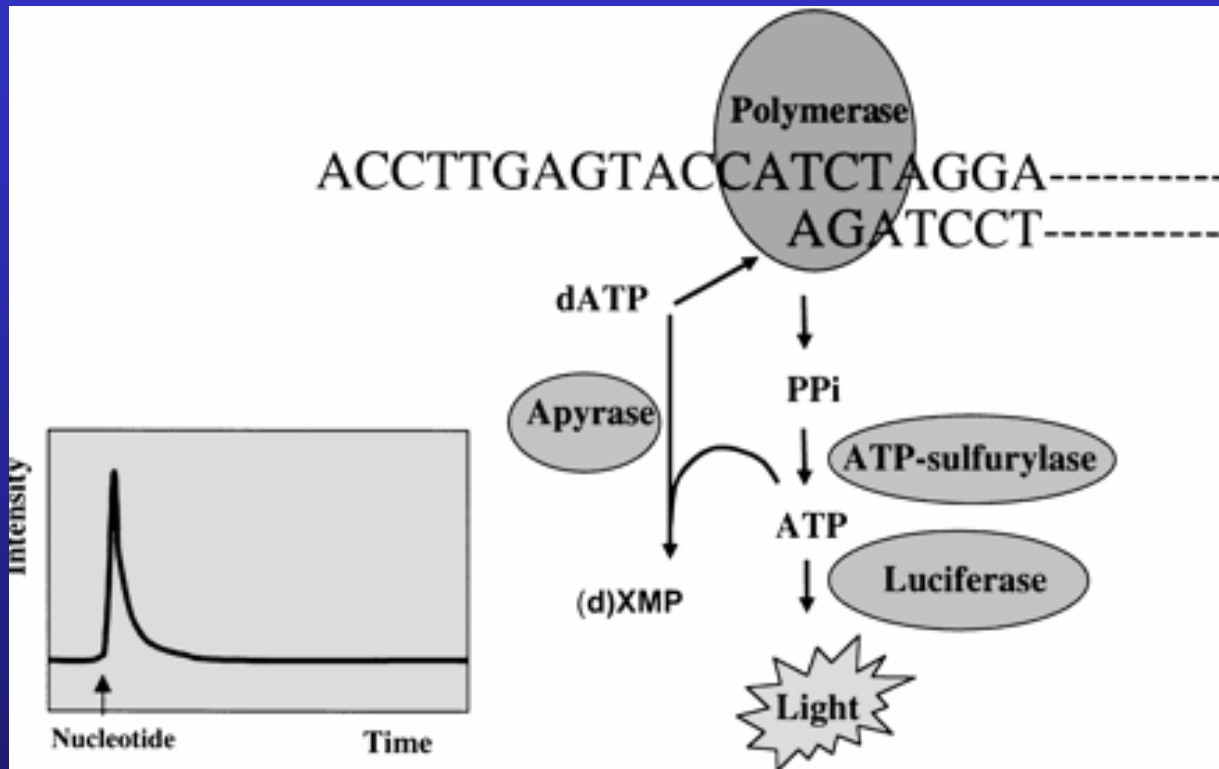
## The Problem



## The Solution

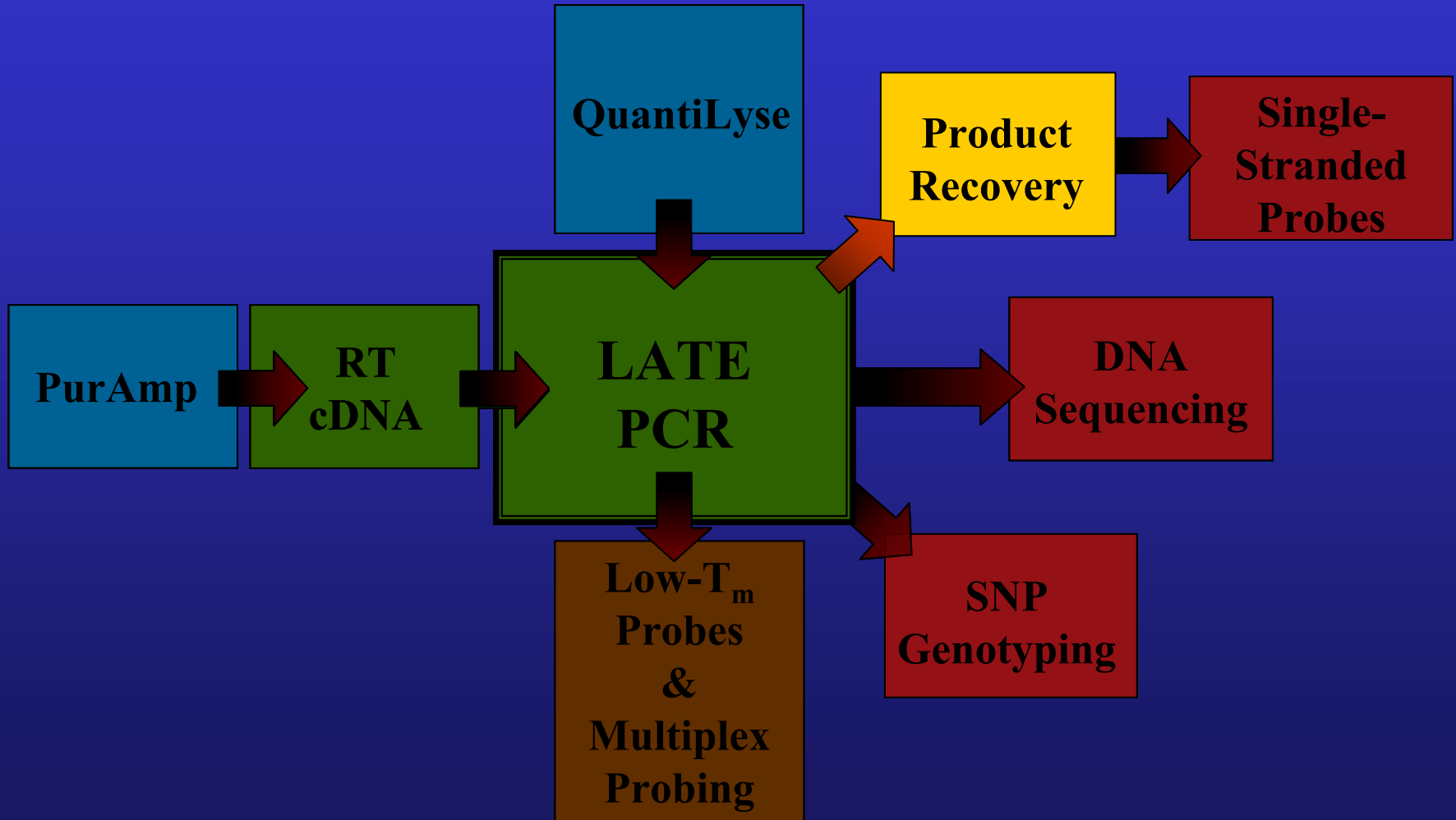


# Pyrosequencing

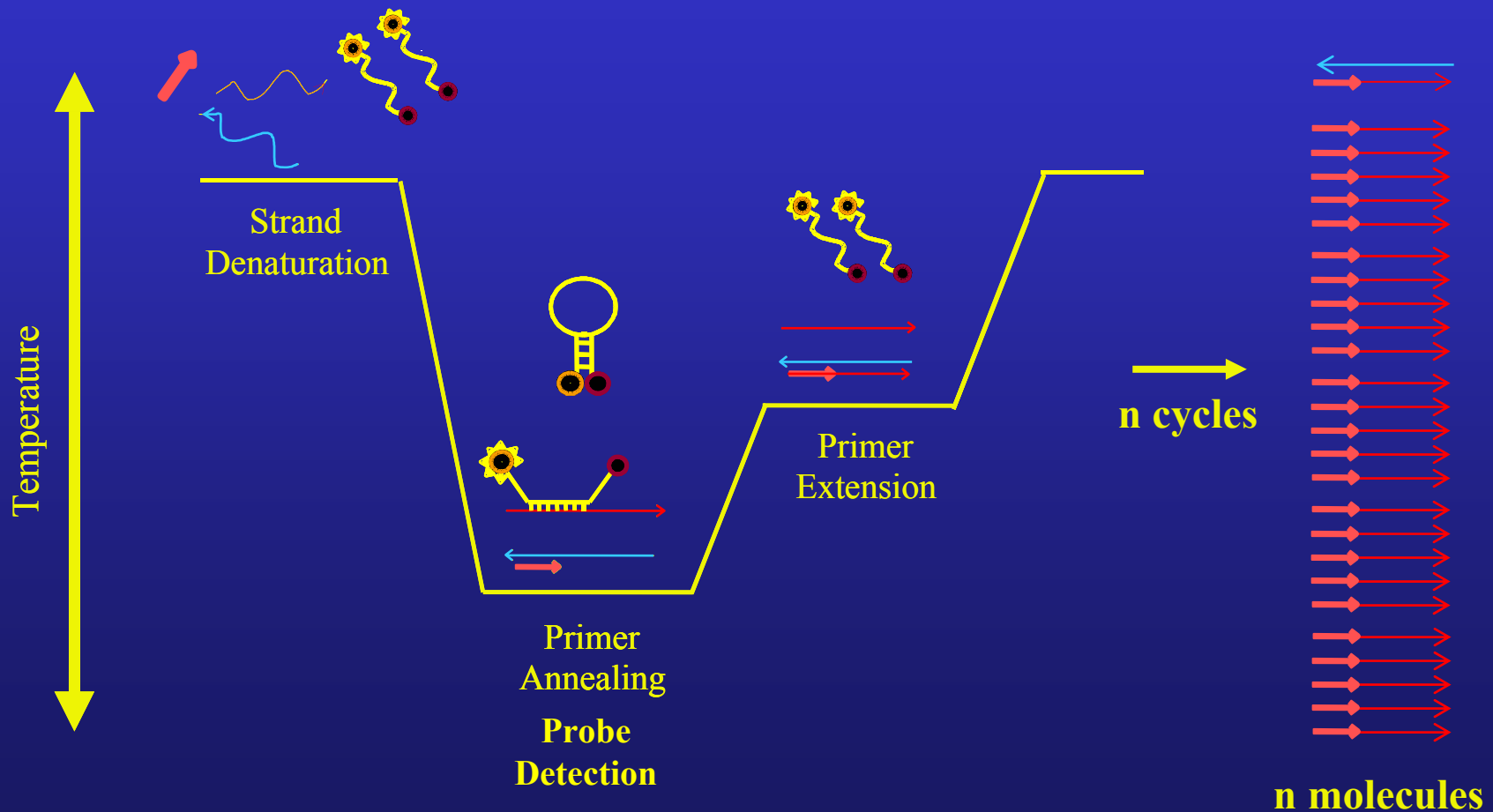


# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

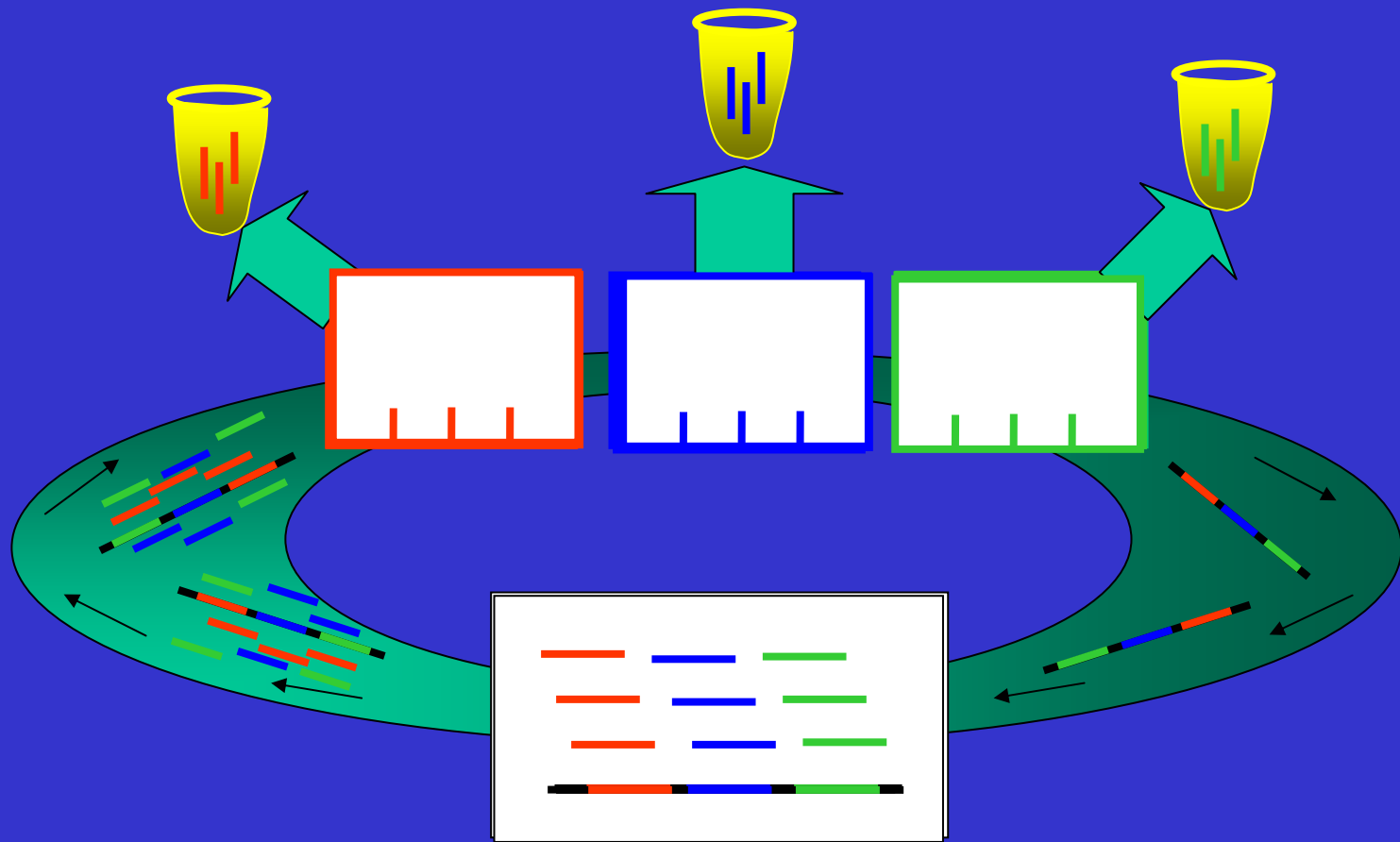
Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications



# Automated Product Recovery



# The Race Track Reaction Chamber: Amplification & Product Recovery in a Closed System Format



PCR Reaction  
Chamber



# Benefits of the RaceTrack Reaction Chamber

---

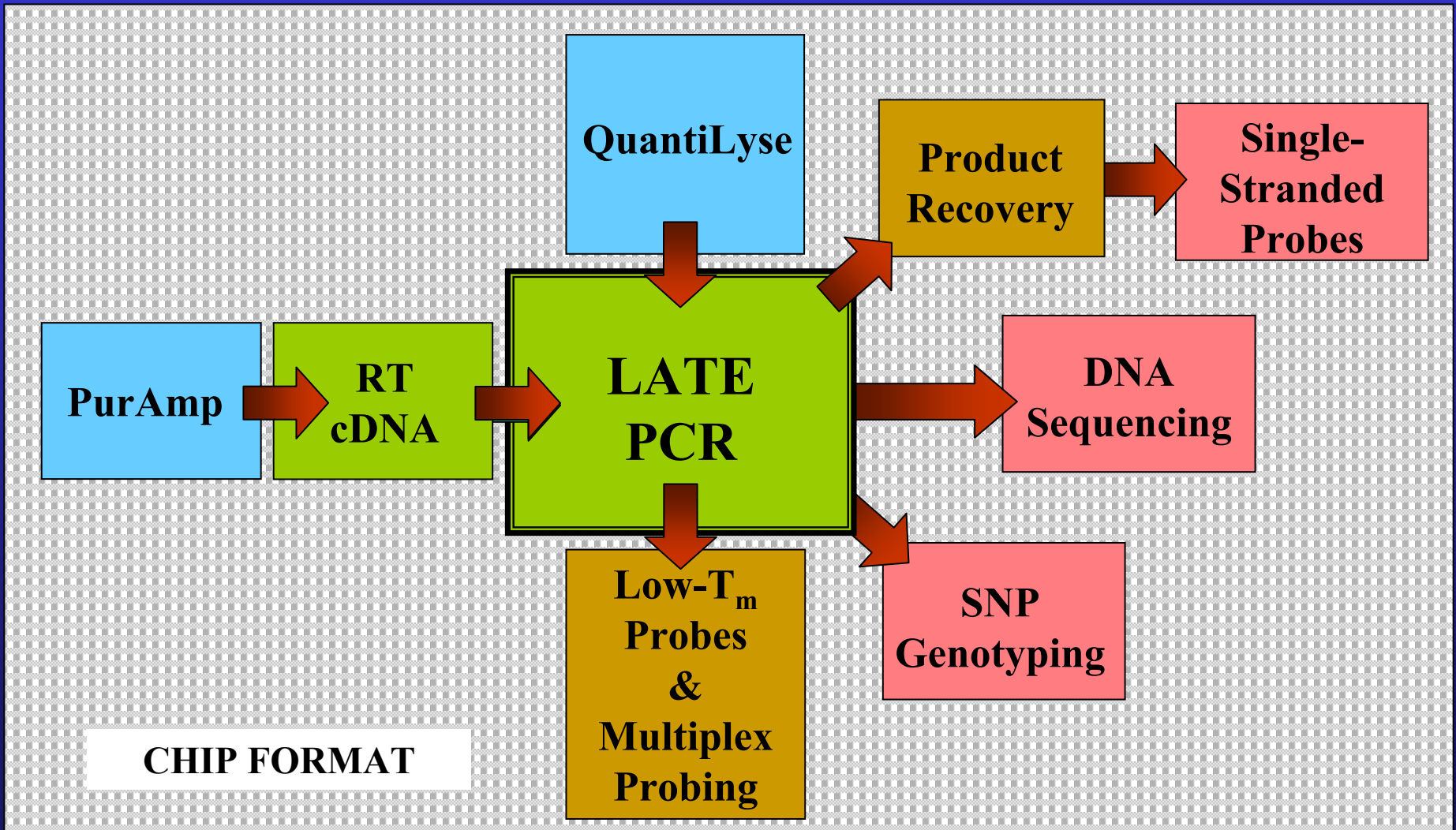
- Unlimited Single-Strand DNA Yield
- Eliminates Product Evolution
- Enables Simultaneous Amplification of Multiple Targets
- Automatable – No Operator Input Required

**The Race Track Reaction Chamber is a  
Closed Tube Solution for Multiplex  
LATE-PCR Applications**



# The LATE-PCR Platform Technologies

Sample Preparation    Reaction Methods    Product Analysis    Applications



# Why Will Users Adopt These Technologies ?

---

- Simple One-Tube Methods for Preparation of DNA and/or RNA
- Primer Design Made More Rational
- Thermal Cycle Profiles Made More Precise and Easier to Design
- Probe Design Made Easier and More Reliable
- Rational Approaches to Analysis and Recovery of Multiple Targets
- SLIO: Suppression of Amplification Errors in all Forms of PCR
- Quantitative End Point Assays
- Direct DNA Sequencing
- PurAmp: Quantitative RT-PCR Using Internal DNA as Controls





## **Additional Advantages of LATE-PCR**

---

- **Compatible With Existing PCR Equipment**
- **Lower Cost (Greater Sensitivity Means Less Reagents)**
- **Ideal for Lab-On-A-Chip Format**



**LATE-PCR and Several Allied Technologies  
Are Available for Licensing  
From Brandeis University**

