

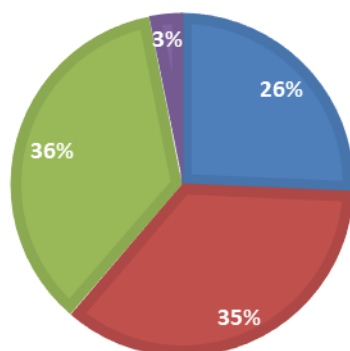
## Survey and interview

Along with the synthetic biology themed orienteering, we did an online survey which incorporated questions about synthetic biology as well as how the public perceive liver cancer. Since the survey is carried out on campus, the interviewees are mainly college students in their twenties. Our survey shows that, although most of the interviewees' majors can be classified into general life sciences, very few of them can distinguish between synthetic biology and genetic engineering. This result suggests that more work should be done in propagating such information.

According to the survey, a considerable amount of students are rather optimistic about the development of synthetic biology now that over a third support gene modification, even the synthesis of artificial living bodies.

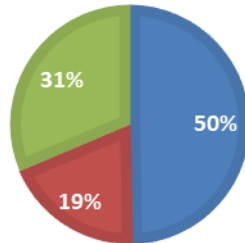
### DO YOU THINK HUMANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE LIFE?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Depending on the circumstances or size of the creature ■ Don't know



**IF SYNTHETIC BIOTECHNOLOGY IS USED, HUMANS CAN TREAT GENES AS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND SYNTHESIZE LIVING ORGANISMS.WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?**

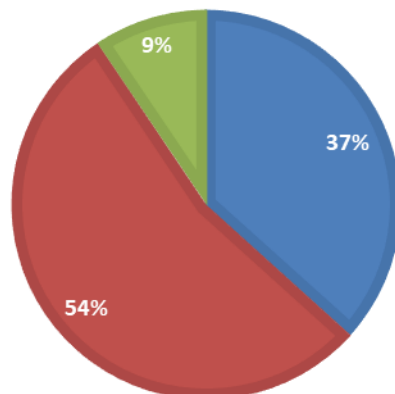
- I feel cool or more supportive
- I am afraid that it still far away from myself.



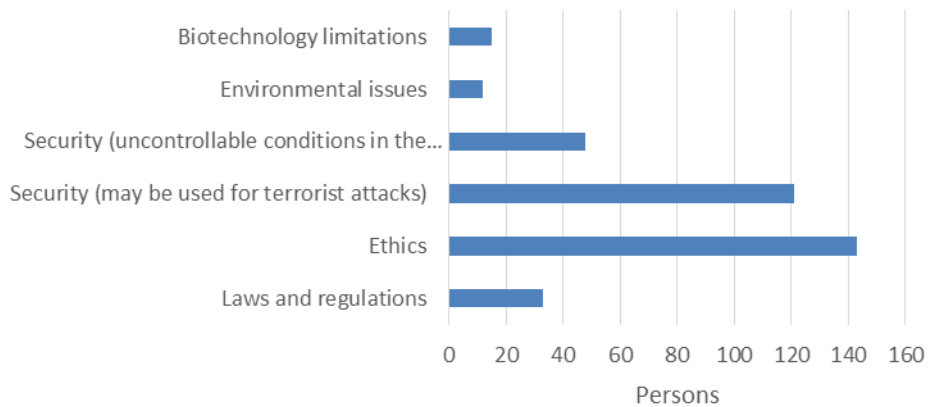
Interestingly, females are comparatively more conservative on such questions: only 20% agree that humans have the right to make new lives, while the supportive rate is 40% in males. What’s more common is the opposing voices that express serious concerns on ethical issues and safety problems, which are indeed obstacles to the long-term development of synthetic biology.

**DO YOU SUPPORT GENETIC MODIFICATION?**

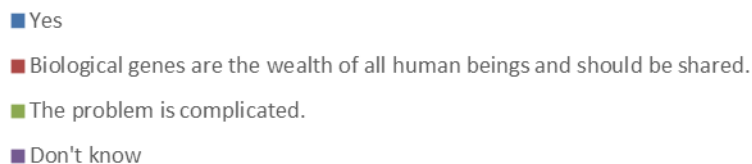
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose



## The biggest problem in the continued development of synthetic biology



## DO YOU THINK THAT A BIOLOGICAL GENE CAN BE PATENTED?



Another question also received controversy: about one third of the population agrees that genes can be patented while another third disagrees, arguing that gene sequence should be an open resource to the whole mankind.

In addition to the questionnaire, we conducted random interviews and filmed videos on the streets during the days of Aug. 12 to 16. We introduced the simple concepts and assumptions of synthetic biology

before the interview, interviewees then answered our questions and expressed their views on synthetic biology in front of the camera. A little of the dozens of people we interviewed had a better understanding of synthetic biology. they were open to the ethical issues of genetics, and they all thought that as synthetic biology developed, it needed more effective regulation to ensure safety. Others who do not understand synthetic biology are conservative or difficult to decide on ethical issues. One Catholic girl said that life should be created by God, and that man had no right to decide. She inspired us all, because the number of religious person in China is so small that we haven't considered the relationship between public perception and religion, and maybe in the future we should pay attention to the voice of this group. Because the number of people of religious belief around the world is still quite large. What encourages us is that almost all of them are optimistic and hopeful about the future of synthetic biology. In interviews, many of them were surprised by the results of synthetic biology, which sounded like the future of the world in sci-fi films. All of us feel the pleasure of communicating with the public when we promote synthetic biology.