

# Randomization of chemical reaction networks

Christoph Flamm

`xtof@tbi.univie.ac.at`

Institute for Theoretical Chemistry  
University of Vienna

**joined work with:**

**Philipp Honegger (HMS)**

**Walter Fontana (HMS)**

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# Widespread use of random chemistry models

SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

## Universal scaling across biochemical networks on Earth

Hyunju Kim<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Harrison B. Smith<sup>2\*</sup>, Cole Mathis<sup>1,3</sup>, Jason Raymond<sup>2</sup>, Sara I. Walker<sup>1,2,4,5†</sup>

Kim et al 2019, Sci Adv 5:eaau0149 | doi:10.1126/sciadv.aau0149

## Scaling laws in enzyme function reveal a new kind of biochemical universality

Dylan C. Gagler<sup>a</sup>, Bradley Karas<sup>a</sup>, Christopher P. Kempes<sup>b</sup>, John Malloy<sup>a</sup>, Veronica Mierzejewski<sup>a</sup>, Aaron D. Goldman<sup>c</sup>, Hyunju Kim<sup>a,d,e,1</sup>, and Sara I. Walker<sup>a,b,d,e,1</sup>

Gagler et al 2022, PNAS 119(9):e2106655119 | doi:10.1073/pnas.2106655119

JOURNAL  
OF  
THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY  
**Interface**

J. R. Soc. Interface (2012) 9, 1168–1176

doi:10.1098/rsif.2011.0652

Published online 30 November 2011

## Evolutionary significance of metabolic network properties

Georg Basler<sup>1,\*</sup>, Sergio Grimbs<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Ebenhöf<sup>2</sup>,  
Jochim Selbig<sup>1,3</sup> and Zoran Nikoloski<sup>1,3</sup>

# Mathematical random network models

**Purpose** of prototype models:

- null models (statistic significance of observed features).
- insight how observed features arise from construction rules.

The **most common** prototype models:

- 1 Erdős-Rényi (ER) Model (**small-world**).
- 2 Watts-Strogatz (WS) Model (**small world + local clustering**).
- 3 Barabási-Alberts (BA) Model (**scale-free**).

**Basic assumption:** **A nodes can interact with any other node.**

**Assumption fails for chemistry!!**

# Randomization strategies for chemical networks

- 1 Randomize network structure
  - a. construct a large network instance
  - b. thin out network by random
    - vertex sampling.
    - edge sampling.
    - walk sampling.
- 2 Randomize network chemistry
  - reaction preception method.
  - mechanistic constraints on rections.

**Q1:** Are networks generated by these strategies chemical?

A: Not necessarily, only if all reactions are mass balanced =; (

**Q2:** Is every directed hypergraph a chemical network?

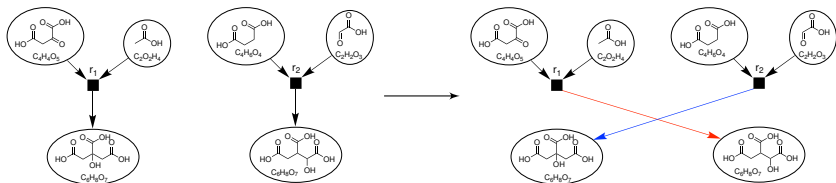
A: No, only if the network is conservative<sup>†</sup> (i.e. mass preserving)!

$$\exists m \gg 0 \text{ such that } m^T \cdot S = 0$$

<sup>†</sup> Stefan Müller, Christoph Flamm, Peter F Stadler, What makes a reaction network "chemical"? J Cheminfo 14:63, 2022 doi:10.1186/s13321-022-00621-8

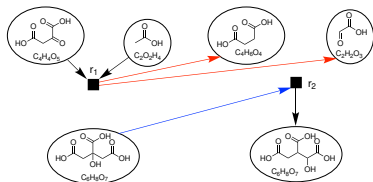
# What to preserve in chemical reactions ...

... apart from mass?



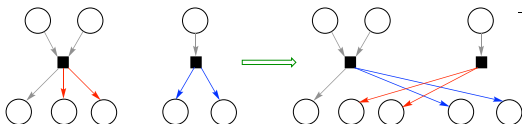
Reaction features:

- sidedness
- role change
- arity

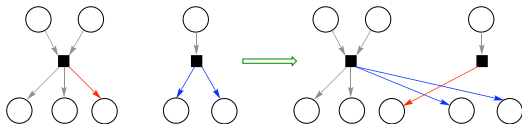


# Rewiring strategies 1/2

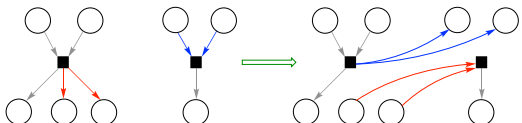
111 - One-sided, no role-change, preserve arity



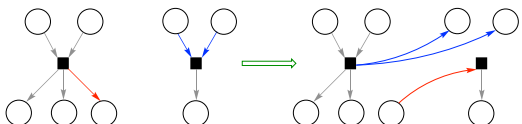
110 - One-sided, no role-change, vary arity



101 - One-sided, allow role-change, preserve arity



100 - One-sided, allow role-change, vary arity



Op	MF	Mdeg	Rdeg	Mdeg <sub>tot</sub>
111	Y	Y	Y	Y
110	Y	Y	N	Y
101	Y	N	Y	Y
100	Y	N	N	Y

Operation 3-digit code:

**1st digit** ... one-sided (only educt or product side of reaction)

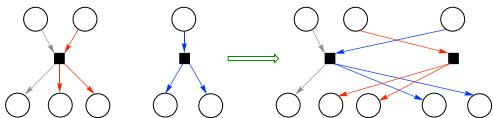
**2nd digit** ... role change (educts become products and vice versa)

**3rd digit** ... arity (number of educts and products of a reaction)

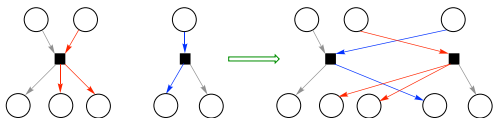
**Op** ... operation; **MF** ... molecular formula; **Mdeg** ... in/out degree of molecule node; **Rdeg** ... reaction node degree; **Mdeg<sub>tot</sub>** ... total degree of molecular node

# Rewiring strategies 2/2

011 - Two-sided, no role-change, preserve arity



010 - Two-sided, no role-change, vary arity



Op	MF	Mdeg	Rdeg	Mdeg <sub>tot</sub>
111	Y	Y	Y	Y
110	Y	Y	N	Y
101	Y	N	Y	Y
100	Y	N	N	Y

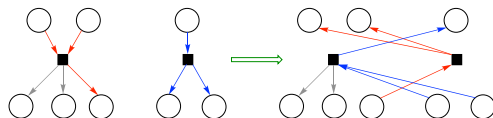
Operation 3-digit code:

**1st digit** ... one-sided (only educt or product side of reaction)

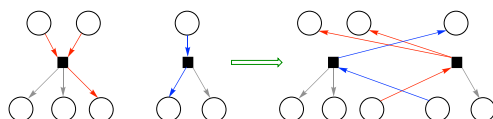
**2nd digit** ... role change (educts become products and vice versa)

**3rd digit** ... arity (number of educts and products of a reaction)

001 - Two-sided, allow role-change, preserve arity

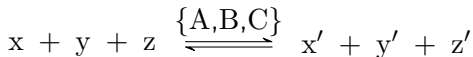


000 - Two-sided, allow role-change, vary arity

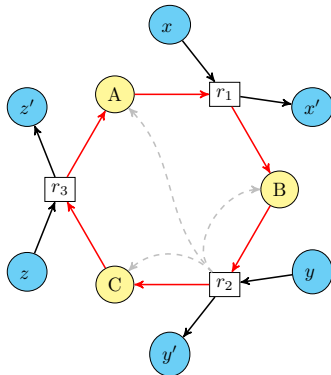


**Op** ... operation; **MF** ... molecular formula; **Mdeg** ... in/out degree of molecule node; **Rdeg** ... reaction node degree; **Mdeg<sub>tot</sub>** ... total degree of molecular node

# (Auto)Catalyst as Sets



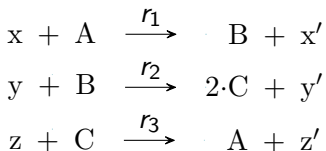
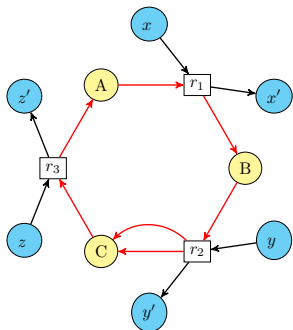
- 1 Rate acceleration:  $r_1 - r_3$  must together proceed faster than the spontaneous process.
- 2 Set of catalysts is conserved.
- 3 Each reaction involve:
  - catalysts.
  - at least 1 catalyst as reactant.
  - at least 1 catalyst as product.
- 4 The production of a species from the set of catalysts depends on the presence of another species from the set of catalysts.



3 + 4 induce the presence of a cycle. Species  $\color{blue}\bullet$  show turnover, species  $\color{yellow}\bullet$  remain conserved. For catalysis ignore gray dashed arrows.



# The stoichiometric matrix $S$



	$r_1$	$r_2$	$r_3$
x	-1	0	0
x'	1	0	0
y	0	-1	0
y'	0	1	0
z	0	0	-1
z'	0	0	1
A	-1	0	1
B	1	-1	0
C	0	2	-1

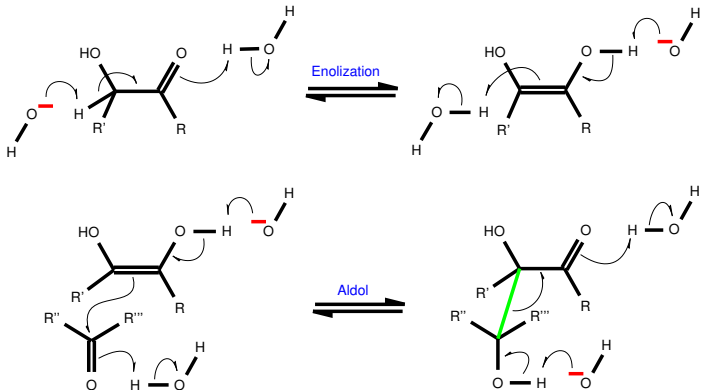
Note that a catalyst, which enters and exits a reaction with the same stoichiometry, has as well a zero entry in  $S$ . The yellow highlighted region is a restriction of the  $S$  to the autocatalytic cycle. The species in the cyan region are considered external to the autocatalytic cycle, and are thought to be chemo-stated.

# Primer: Carbohydrate Chemistry (CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>

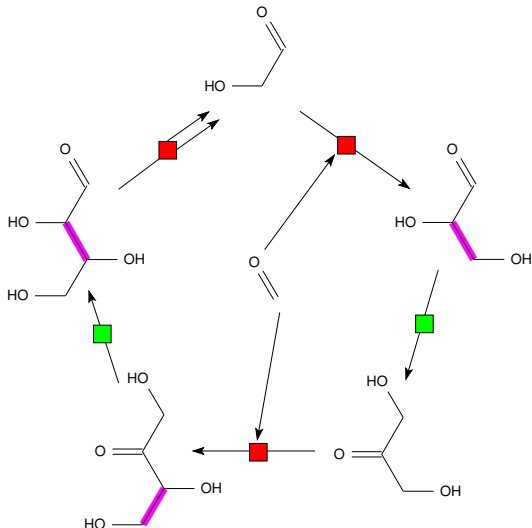
Sugars are organic compounds with an **C:H:O ratio** of 1:2:1.

The reactivity of sugars is largely dominated by the **carbonyl** group (C=O) and the **vicinal alcohol** groups (HO-C-C-OH).

The **keto-enol isomerization** reaction and the **aldol condensation** a C-C bond formation reaction are of importance.

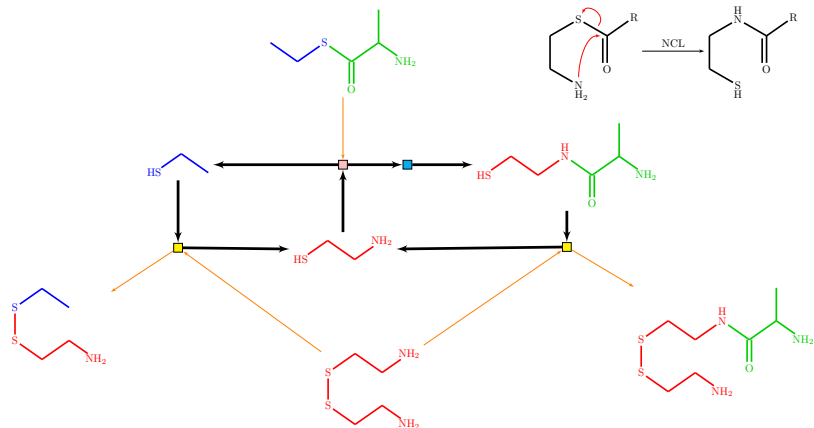


# Core Cycle of the Formose Process



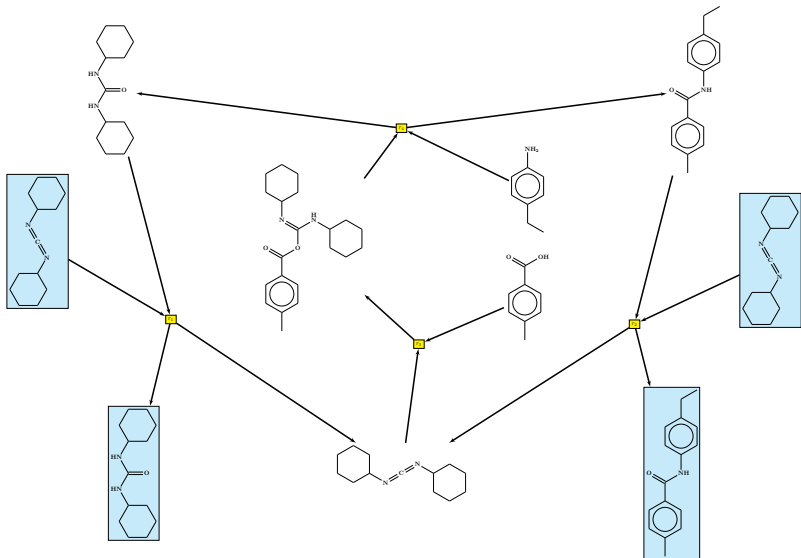
**Type 1 autocatalytic core;** ■ keto-enole isomerization, ■ Aldol / retro-Aldol reaction. Note that the reaction sequence from glyceraldehyde to erythrose is compressed into a single reaction ( $r_1$ ) in the type 1 autocatalytic core figure. Butlerov AM (1861), Einiges über die chemische Structur der Körper, *Zeitschrift für Chemie* 4:549-560;

# Amino acid thioesters, cystamine autocatalytic system



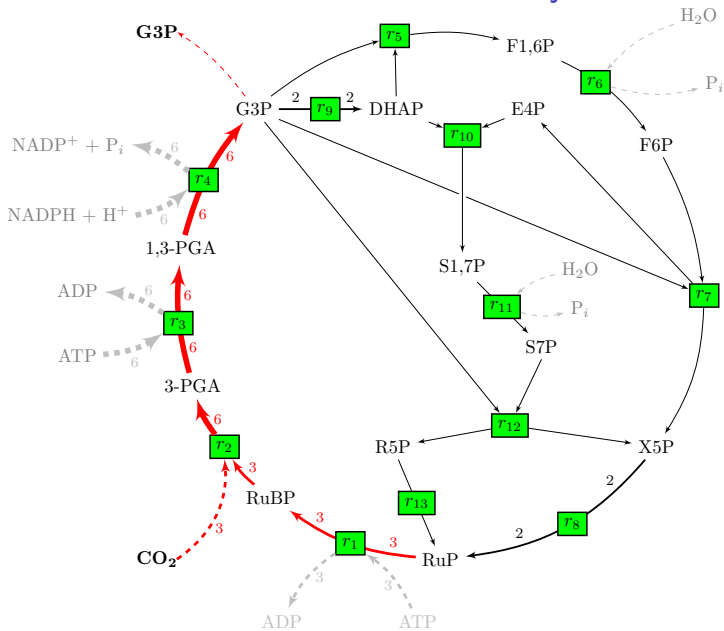
**Type 3 autocatalytic core;** The reaction chemistry is thiol-disulfide exchange ■, thiol-thioester exchange ■ and native chemical ligation ■; orange arrows connect food or waste molecules to the autocatalytic cycle, which has a type 3 topology; cystamine (in the center) is the "autocatalyst"; [Semenov et al Nature 2016]

# Rebeck's Autocatalytic System



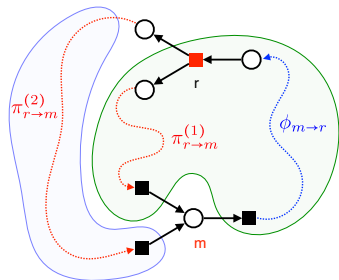
**Type 3 autocatalytic core;** Molecules in cyan boxes are sequestered in a molecular cage. The synthesis of the autocatalytic species and its storage, occurs temporally, spatially, and chemically distinct from the process that depletes the store in an autocatalytic fashion. [Chen et al PNAS 2001]

# Calvin–Benson–Bassham Cycle

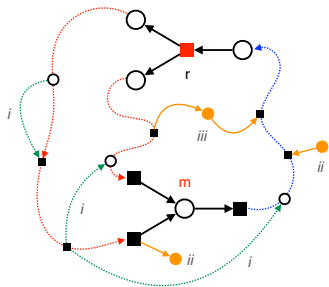


# Finding Autocatalysis in reaction networks

A



B



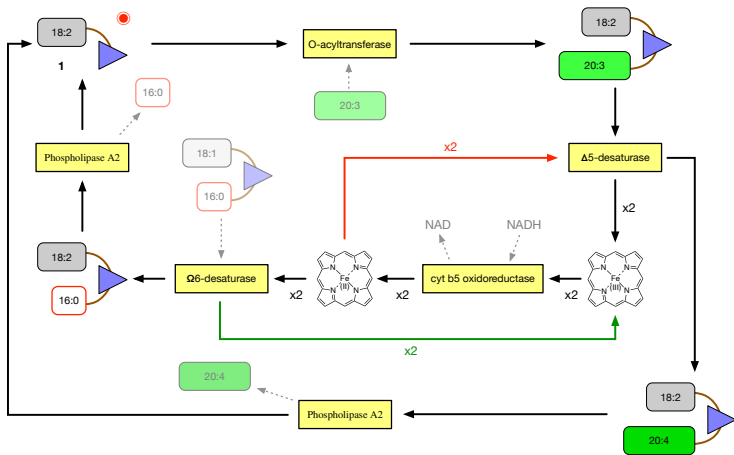
**A** Find autocatalytic skeleton:

- 1 Find fission and merging points.
- 2 Connect fission and merging points by paths.

**B** Embed autocatalytic skeleton in hypergraph:

- 1 Insert induced edges (highlighted in green labeled i).
- 2 Add species and edges attached to skeleton reaction nodes. (highlighted in yellow; nodes: ii immediate substrates and products; iii mediator species).

# Poly-unsaturated fatty acid system (PUFA)



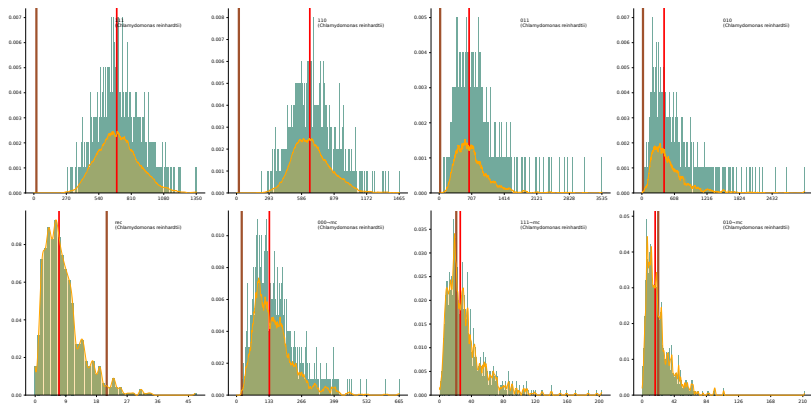
Red bull's eye marks autocatalytic species. Reactions are yellow boxes. Skeleton connected by black arrows. Red / green cross-links are introduced in embedding phase and render the network catalytic.





# Chlamydomonas reinhardtii

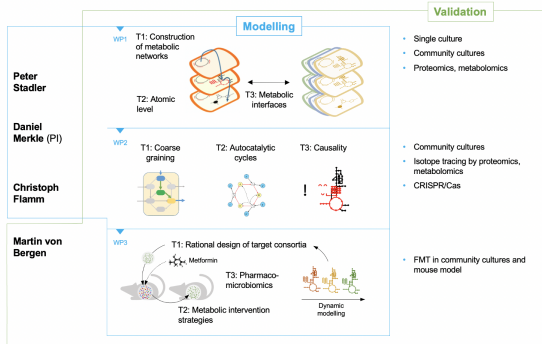
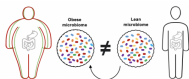
Single-celled green alga.  
Extended lipid metabolism.



# Conclusion

- 1 A formalism for Chemistry must be **expressive enough** to capture the major characteristics of reactive systems:
  - mass conservation.
  - structural change.
  - atom-to-atom mappings.
- 2 Graph grammar formalization has the right level of abstraction.
- 3 Chemical reaction space is vast, hence:
  - computational exploration is indispensable.
  - hyperflows allows to search for complex reaction patterns.
  - automated atom tracking in reaction networks is important.
- 4 Computational methods can be a powerful way to gain insight into complex chemistry.

# Mathematical Modelling for Microbial Community Induced Metabolic Diseases



**MATOMIC**

Novo Nordisk Foundation  
Challenge Programme

**!!! Postdoc Position available in Vienna !!!**

Novo Nordisk Foundation grant NNF21OC0066551 (45 mio. DKK, 2022–2028).

# Further reading



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