

Reasoning over large-scale biological systems with heterogeneous and incomplete data

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Short presentation

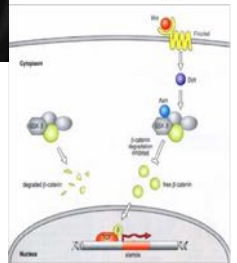
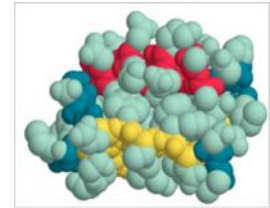
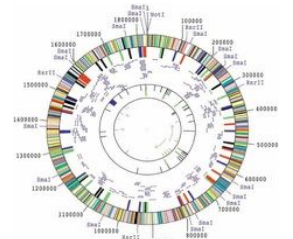
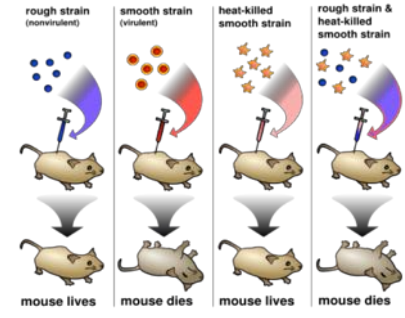
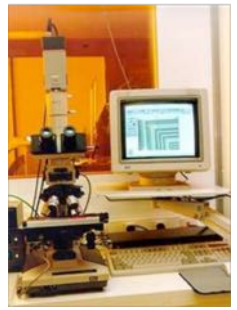
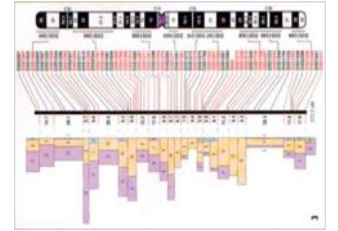
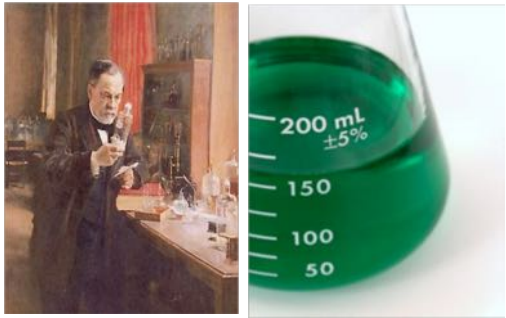
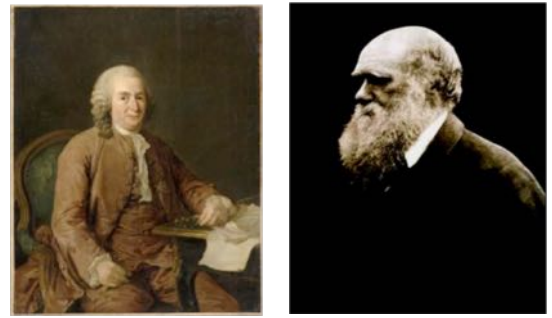
- **Research field**
 - Discrete dynamical systems & fractals
 - Systems biology
 - Knowledge representation

- **IRISA & INRIA Rennes**
 - 800 members, >40 teams
 - Univ Rennes, CNRS, Inria, etc...

- **Bioinformatics@Rennes**
 - GenOuest: platform, ressource center
 - Genscale : NGS data analysis
 - **Dyliss: Integration of heterogeneous data**



From life science... to data science



Naturalist approach

- Observing and deducing

Experimental approach

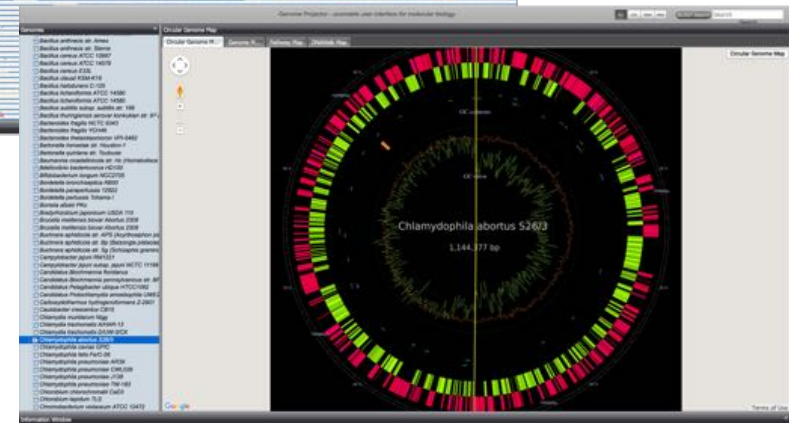
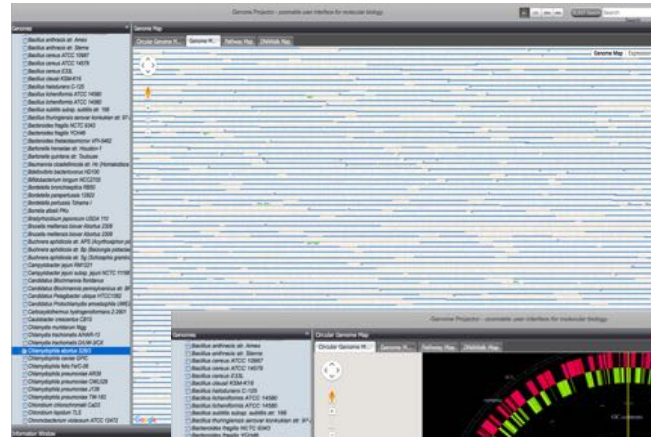
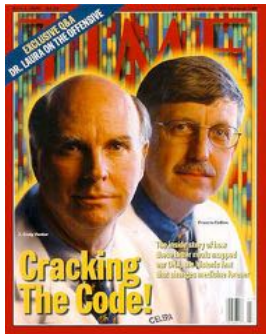
- Perturbating and observing

Modern biology

- Measuring at lower scales

Data science !

Biomolecular data: genomes



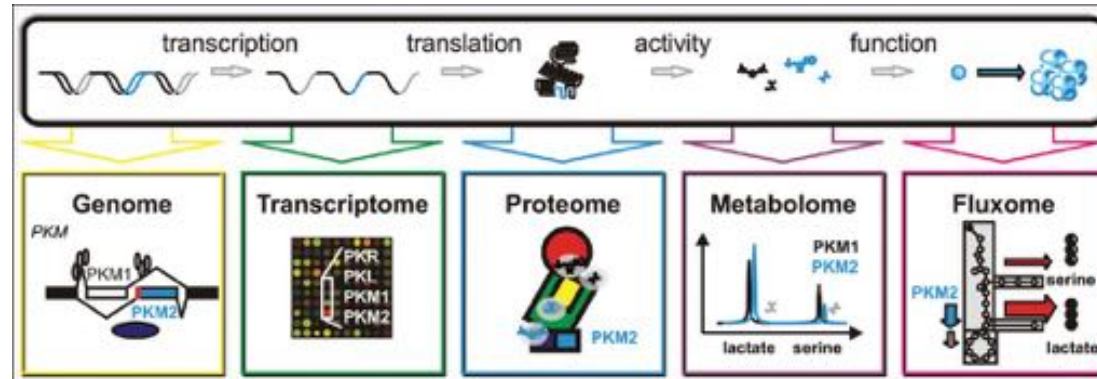
Genome sequencing

- Very smart computational issues
- Bioinformatics

Thousands of publicly available genomes

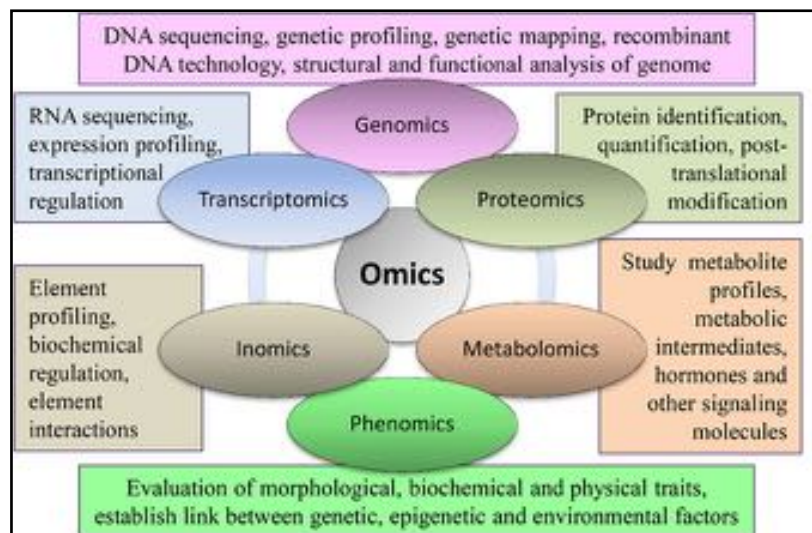
- Exploration, mapping and analysis

What do we do with genomic data ?



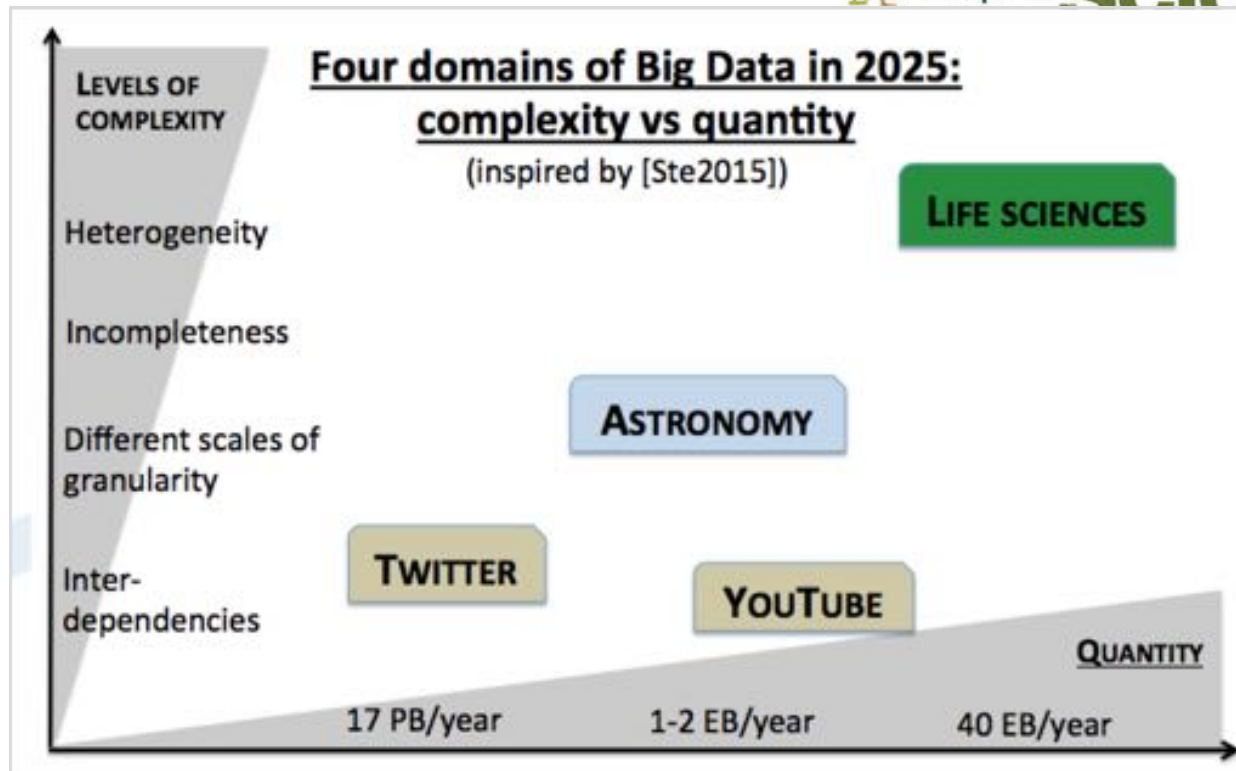
Assign a function to each DNA fragment

Develop new technologies to validate/refine the assigned functions



➔ Data deluge !

Life science data nightmare



Data characteristics

- Large-scale
- Incomplete
- Inter-dependent
- Heterogeneous / multi-scale

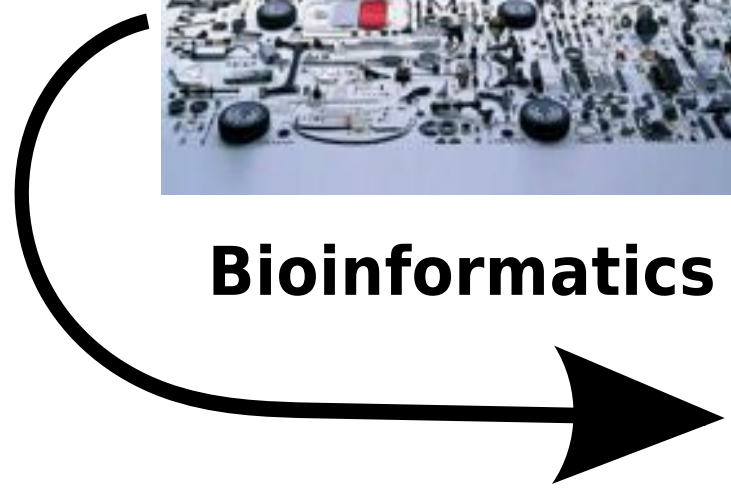


How to integrate them?

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

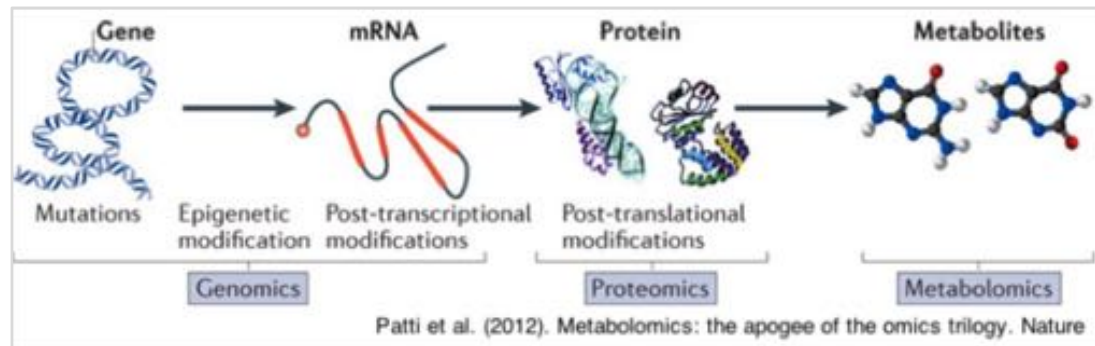


Bioinformatics



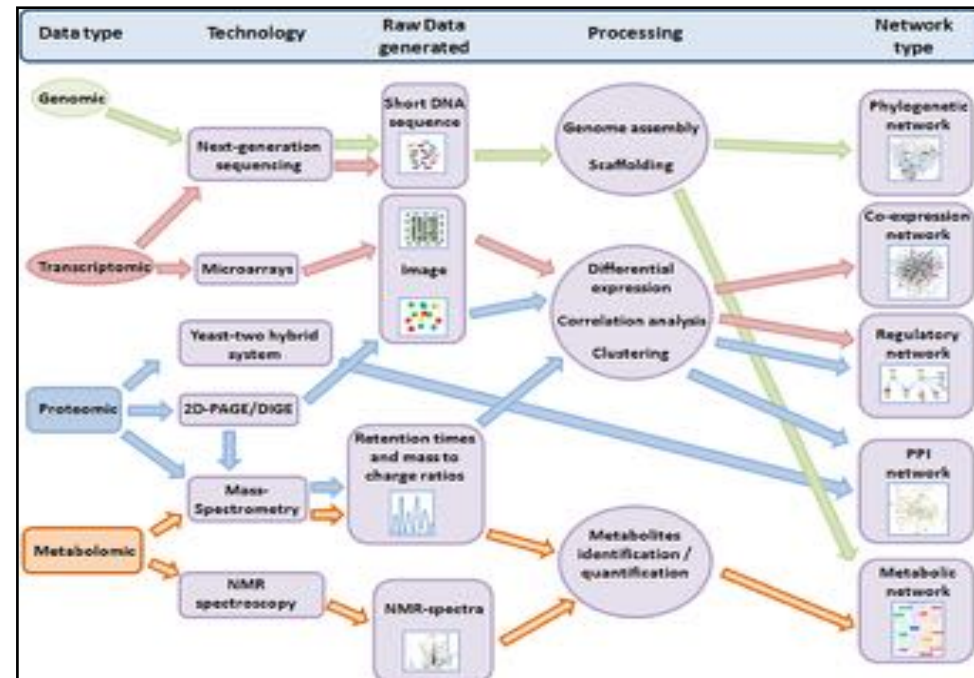
Systems biology

Setting all together



Gene function = regulation of a intra-cellular transformation procedure

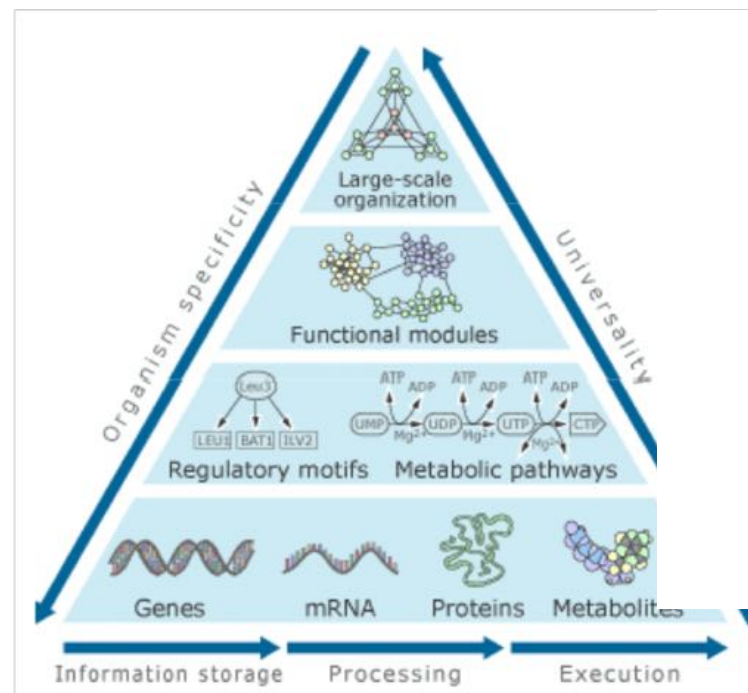
- Biological interactions !
- Graphs / networks



Systems biology

Statement : **biology is a complex system**

- « Requires to examine the structure and dynamics of a cellular function rather than the characteristics of isolated parts of a cell » (Kitano, 2002)

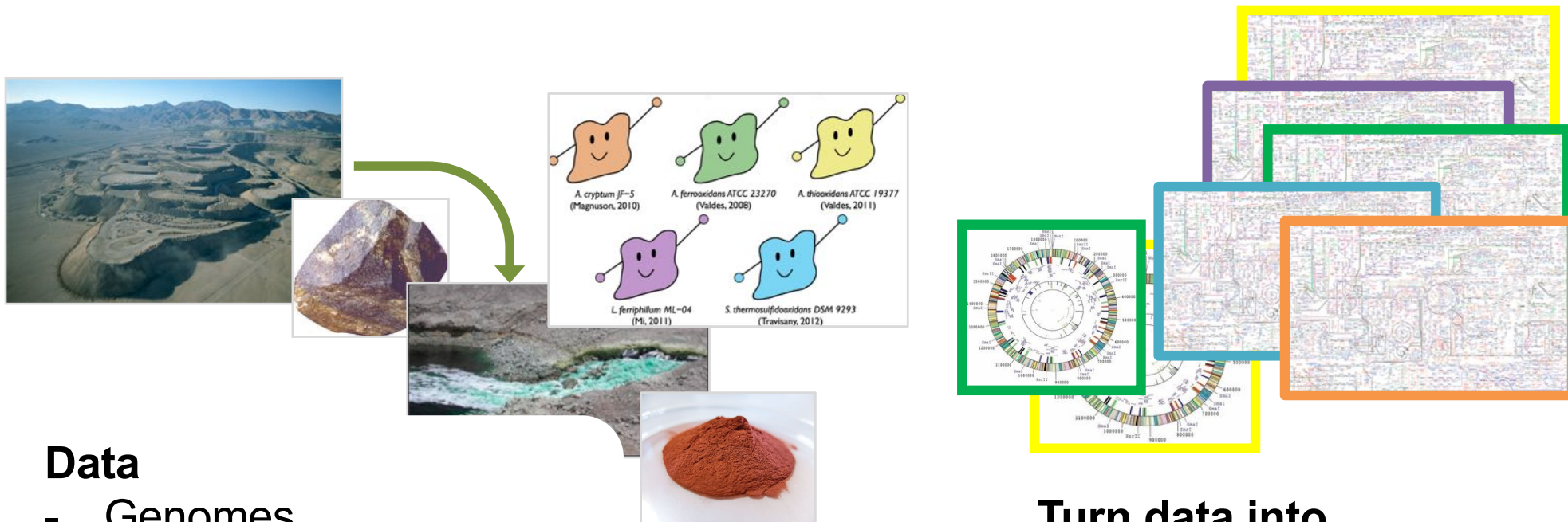


Systems biology: **Interpreting multi-layer data and graphs**

- Produce predictive statements that can be experimentally validated

Case-study: extremophile mining consortium

*Role of an **empirical taylor-made consortium** of bacteria in copper extraction from ore ?*



Data

- Genomes
- Expression data
- Metabolic compounds

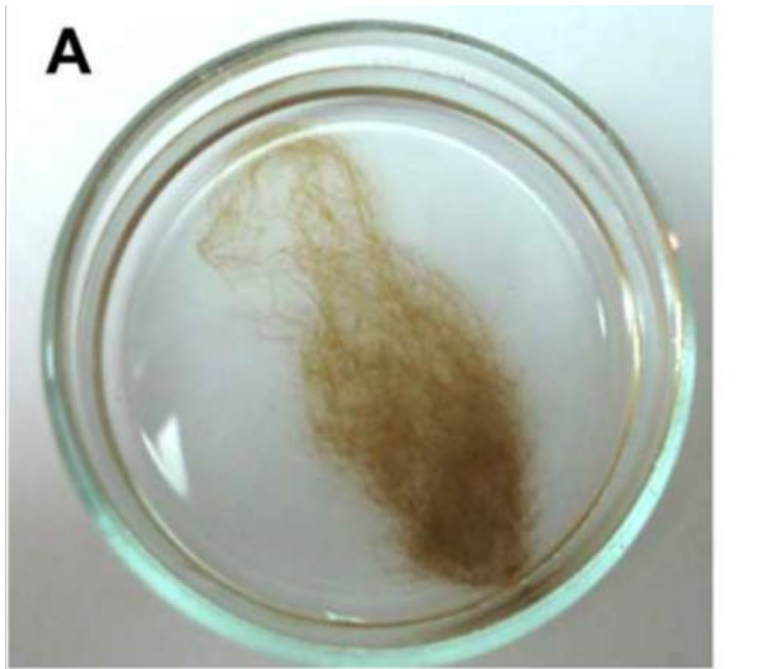
Turn data into

- genomics maps
- interaction maps

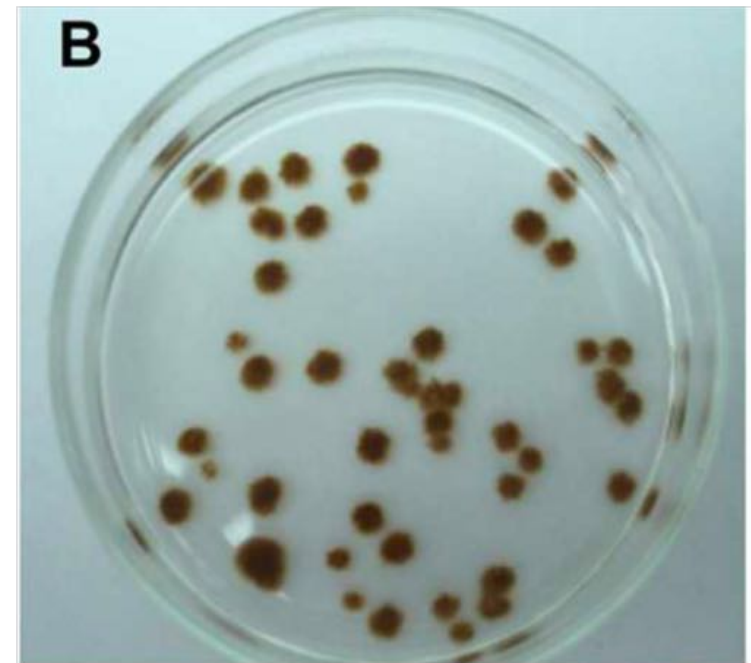
Understand the contribution of each bacteria to the complete system ?

➤ **integrative and systems biology**

A second case-study : algal metabolism



E. siliculosus

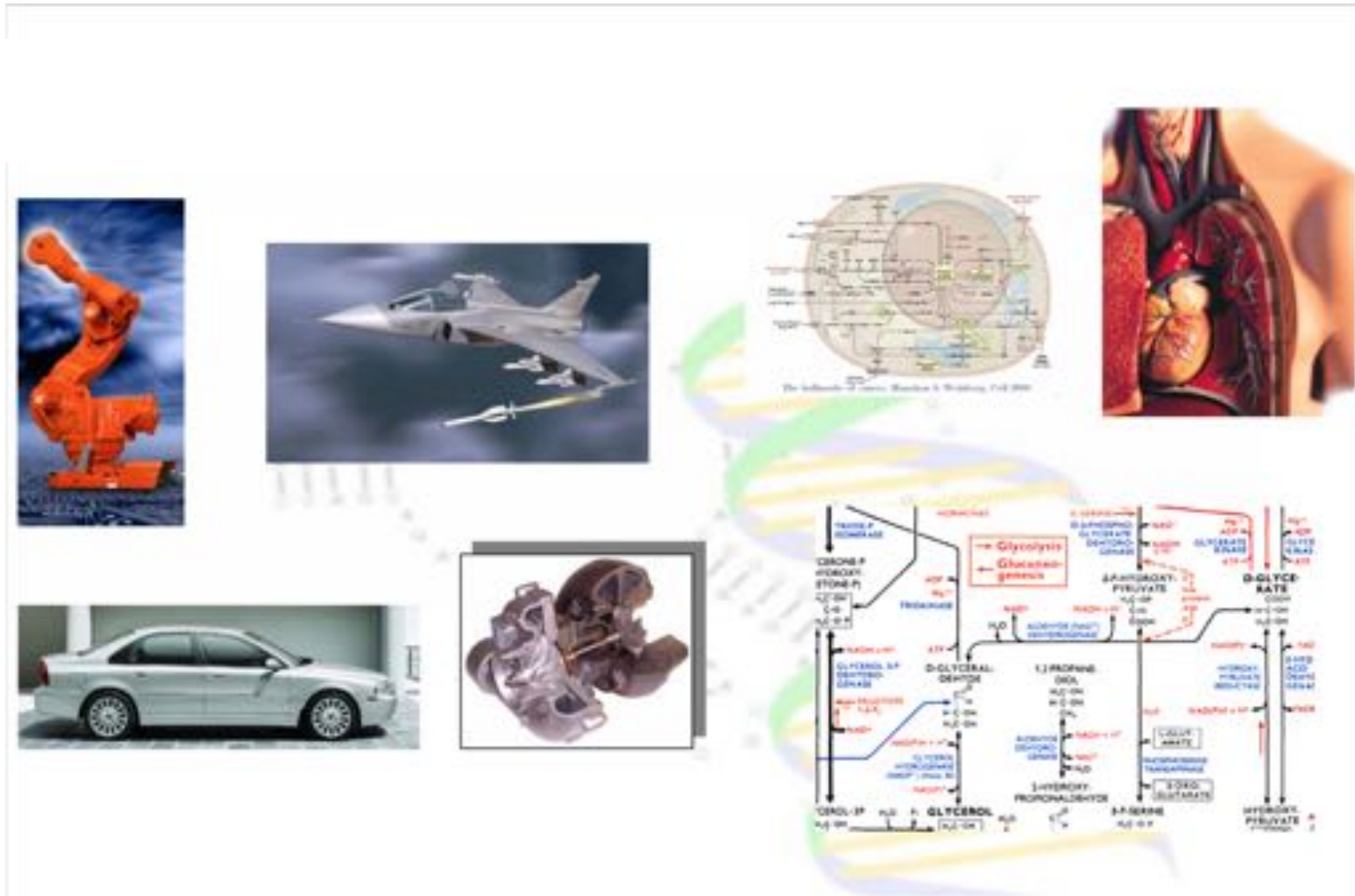


In axenic condition....

Ectocarpus
[Dittami2014, Tapia2016]

What is the role of environmental bacteria ?

Complex systems are everywhere



Are molecular/cellular different than others ?

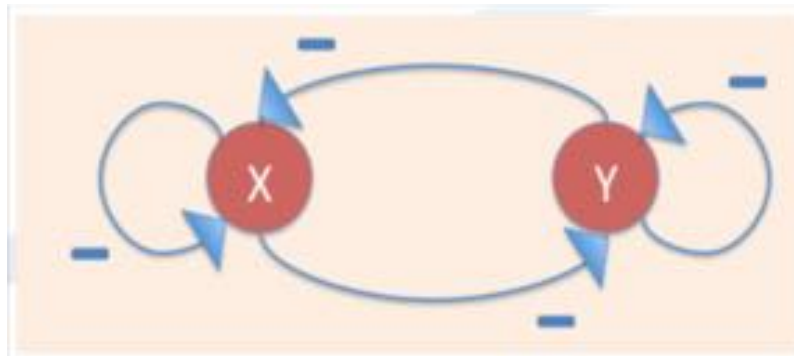
Dynamical systems

3

Historical motivation

Model the evolution of the set of components in a system according to time.

$$F : \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{S} \\ (t, \mathbf{z}) \\ \text{(time, state)} \end{array} \rightarrow \mathbb{S} \quad \mapsto \quad F(t, \mathbf{z}) \quad \text{new state at time } t$$



$$\frac{dX}{dt} = \frac{k}{K + Y^n} - aX$$

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \frac{l}{L + X^n} - bY$$

Parameterized
numerical system

$$f(X) \leftarrow 1 - Y$$

$$f(Y) \leftarrow 1 - X$$

Boolean model with
asynchronous update
scheme

Identification/calibration of a dynamical system

Find the **best function F** which parcimounously explains and describes the observed responses of a system.

Model identification/calibration since the 18th century

4

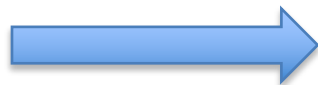
What has always allowed a model identification

- **A priori knowledge about the (conservation/behavior) laws governing the system**
 - Predetermined shape for the function F
- **Limited number of components**
 - Reduction of the search space
- **Wide panel of sensors and perturbations**
 - Discriminate parameters

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{S} & \rightarrow \mathbb{S} \\
 F : & (t, \mathbf{z}) & \mapsto F(t, \mathbf{z}) \\
 & \text{(time, state)} & \text{new state at time } t
 \end{array}$$

Where is the complexity ?

- The search space grows exponentially with the number of measured compounds



**The more compounds we measure,
the less calibrated a system can be.**

Differences between application domains

5

Physical sciences

- **Knowledge.**
Fundamental laws of physics.
- **Sensors.**
Numerous.
- **Perturbations.**
Various protocols in controlled frameworks.
- **System description.**
Independent components

Biological sciences

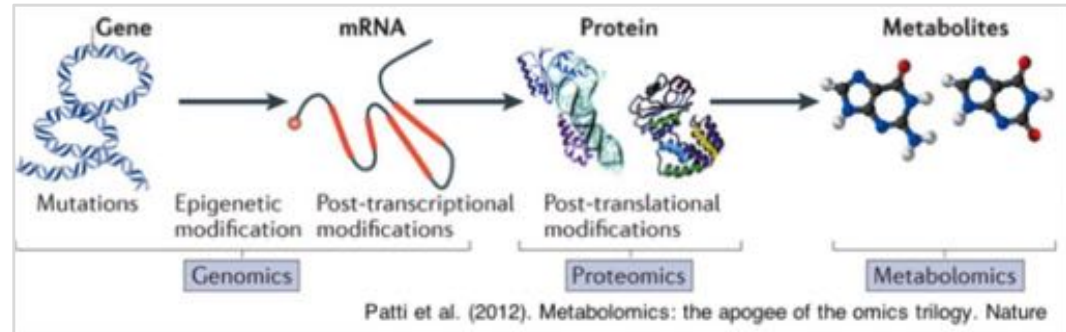
- **Knowledge.**
Empirical laws
- **Sensors.**
Low quality (qualitative) although numerous.
- **Perturbations.**
Quite few according to sensors
- **System description.**
Hidden dependencies

Today's molecular/cellular biological systems

6

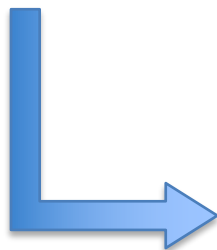
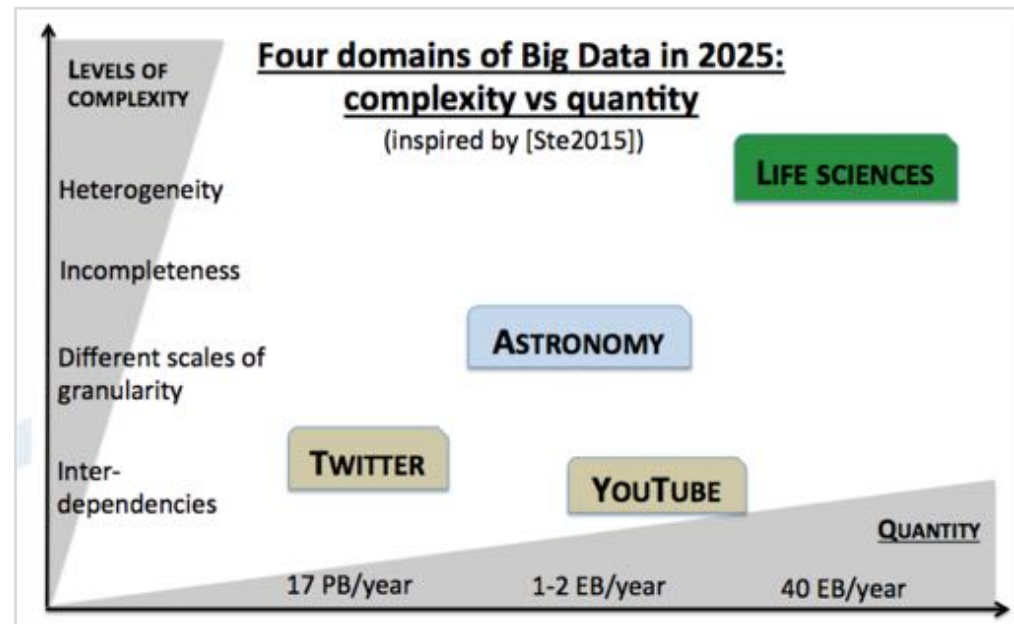
Omics data.

- Large-scale (variables)
- Noisy
- Heterogeneous.



Biological systems characteristics

- Large-scale
- Empirical laws
- Few data wrt the search space size



Biological systems observed with omics data cannot be uniquely determined

Strategy: combine dynamical systems and constraints programming

Describe a system by a family of abstract models

- Reason over a family of models instead of selecting a single one

(Logical) knowledge representation

- Search space **description**
- Structured knowledge (link open data)

Discrete dynamical systems

- **Links** between multi-scale observations.
- **Invariants** of model families.

Solving optimisation problems

- **Replace laws by constraints**
- Extract robust information

KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION

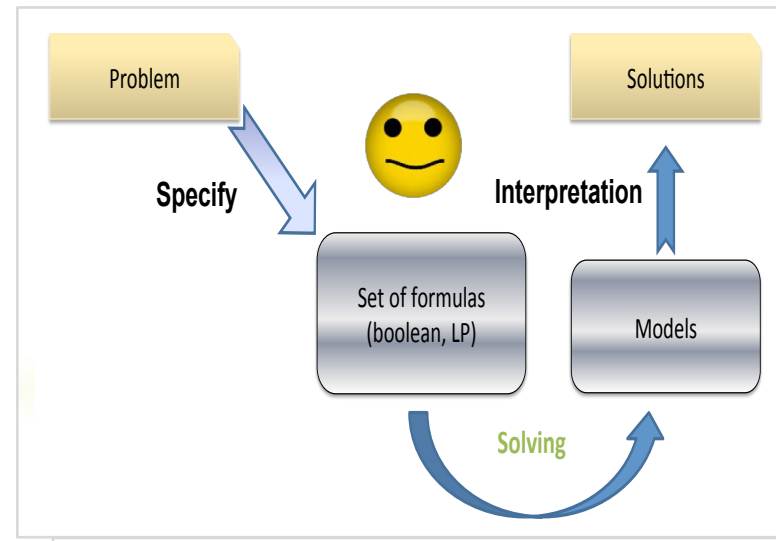
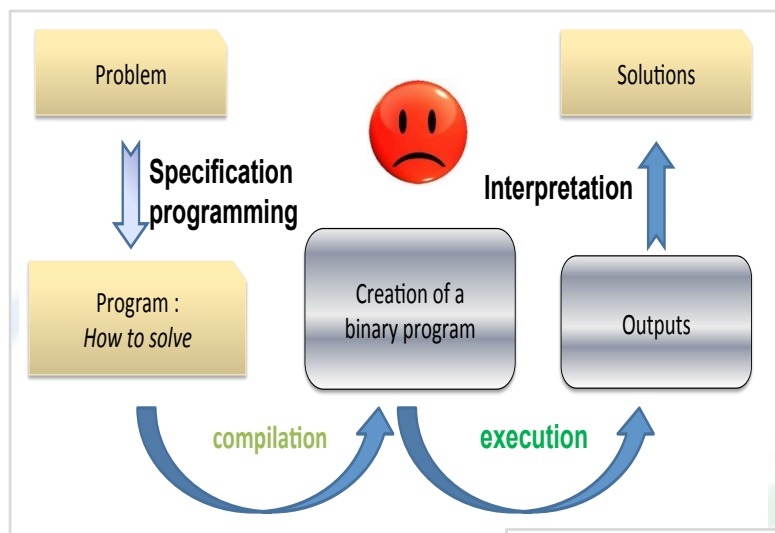
```
1{murderer(ms_scarlet); murderer(colonel_Mustard)}1.
1{weapon_of_crime(revolver); weapon_of_crime(candlestick)}1.
1{place_of_crime(kitchen); place_of_crime(hall);
    place_of_crime(dining_room)}1.

crim_record(ms_scarlet,7). crim_record(colonel_Mustard,4).

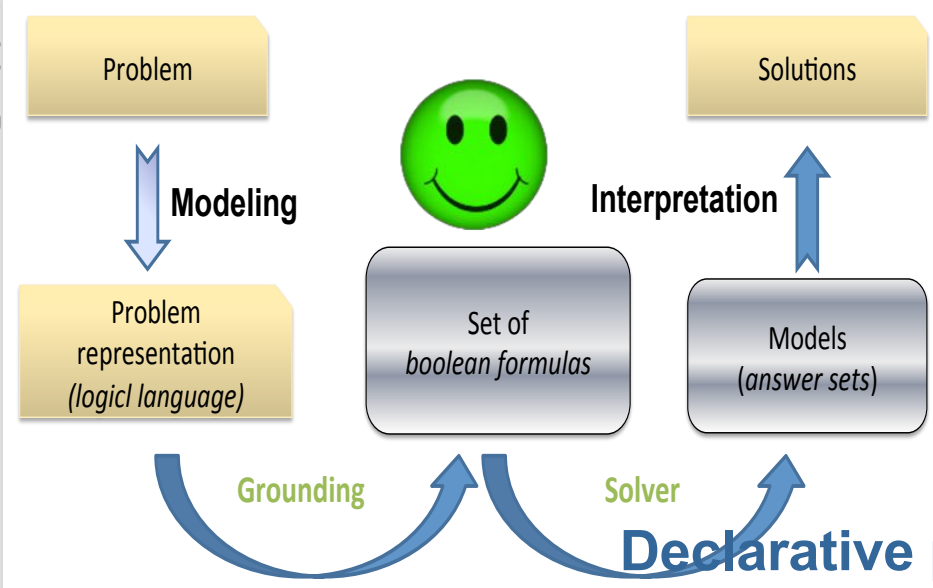
weapon_of_crime(candlestick).
:- place_of_crime(kitchen).
place_of_crime(hall) :- murderer(colonel_Mustard), not
    weapon_of_crime(revolver).

sol(X,Y,Z) :- murderer(X),weapon_of_crime(Y),place_of_crime(Z).
#maximize{w , sol : sol(X,Y,Z) , crim_record(X,w) , murdered(w)}.
#show sol/3.
```

Solving combinatorial problems



Write a program which describes how the problem should be solved



Specify (boolean, linear) constraints (SAT, ILP,...)

Answer set programming.
Describe what you want to solve

- Declarative programming**
- Problem = axioms & rules
 - No need of algorithm

ASP logical rules : declarative programming

$$\underbrace{K \{ atom_1; \dots; atom_n \}}_{\text{head}} \underbrace{L}_{\text{"smiley"}} \underbrace{:- atom_{n+1}; \dots; atom_r; not atom_{r+1}; \dots; not atom_s.}_{\text{body}}$$

If all terms on the **right side** are true,
then at least **K** and at most **L** terms are true
 on the **left side**.

If nothing on the **left side**,
then always false.

If nothing on the **right side**,
then always true.

$:- K\{atom_1, \dots, atom_N\}L.$

$K\{atom_1, \dots, atom_N\}L.$

Optimisation rule

$\#maximize\{w, atom(X) : condition(X), w\}.$

High-level model language

- Propositional logics
- Model for negation

Highly performant solving technics

- SAT-based and deductive-DB technics
- Decidable: no infinite loop

Link with systems biology ?

Integrative and systems biology is a very relevant field to challenge ASP technologies

- Repair large-scale interaction graph with **branch and bound** solving heuristics (KR 2010)
- Scale metabolic network completion problem with **unsatisfiable core** solving strategy (LPNMR 2013)
- Design experiments with **incremental solving** (Frontiers 2015)
- Implement and benchmark **constrains propagators** (TPLP 2018)

Linear constrains atoms

$$\sum\{a_1*x_1; \dots; a_l*x_l\} \leq k$$

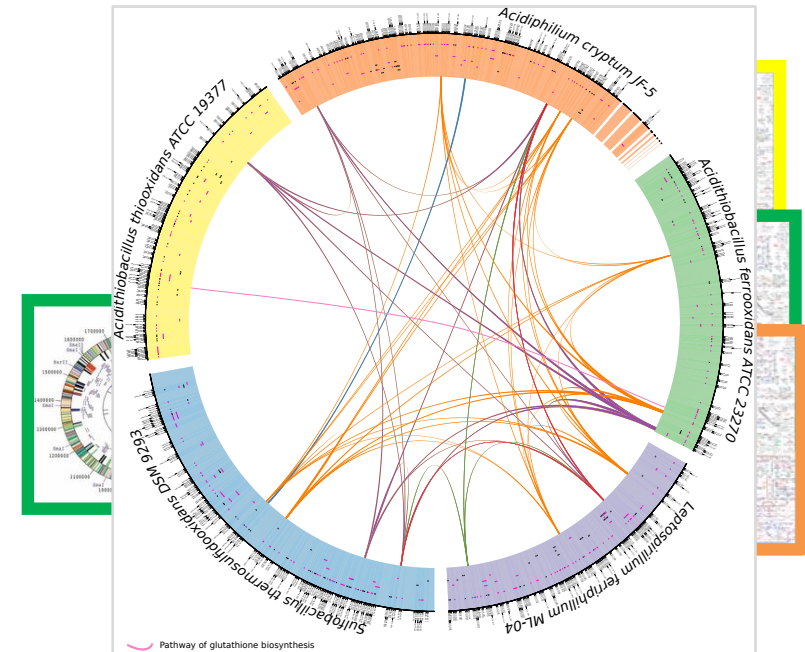
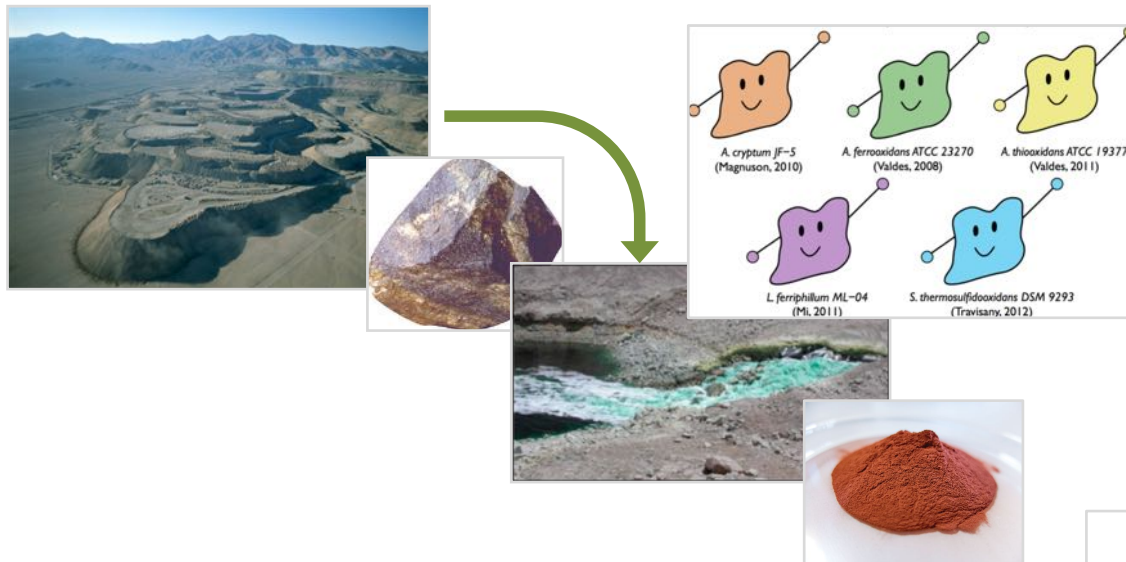
Problem statement
& modelling



Solving heuristics
& problem reformulation

Application: extremophile mining consortium

Role of an empirical taylor-made consortium of bacteria in copper extraction from ore ?



« *NAD(H) biosynthesis* metabolic pathways of *A. Cryptum* complements metabolic functions spread between the five strains »

ASP program

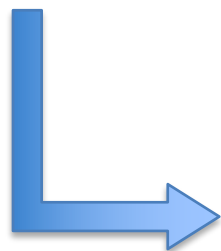
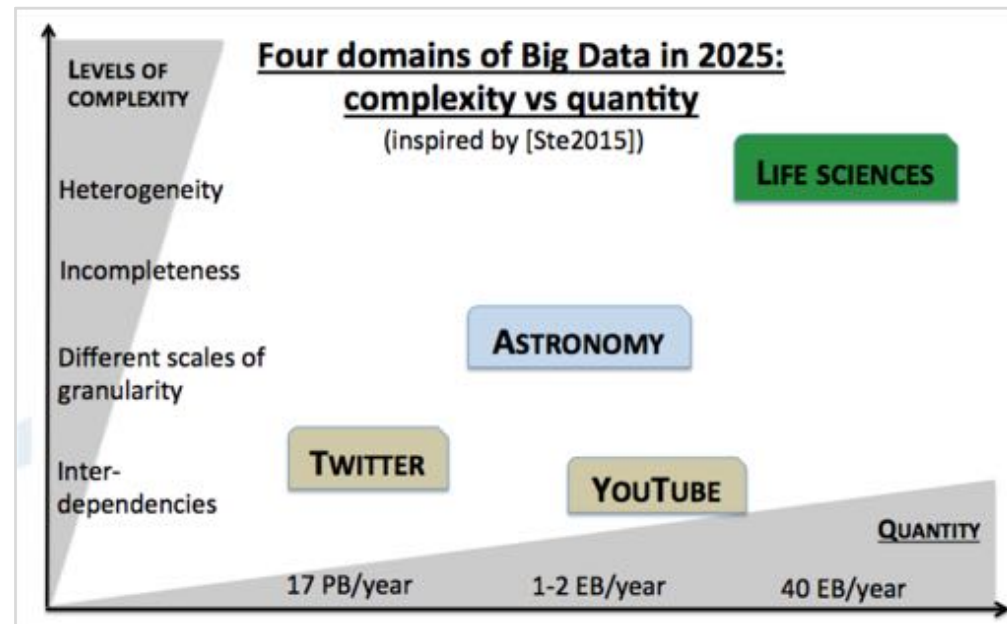
→ graph alignment / static modeling

→ chains of reactions explaining the capability of the consortium to produce the compounds (LPNRM'13, Microbiology open'15)

BACK TO DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

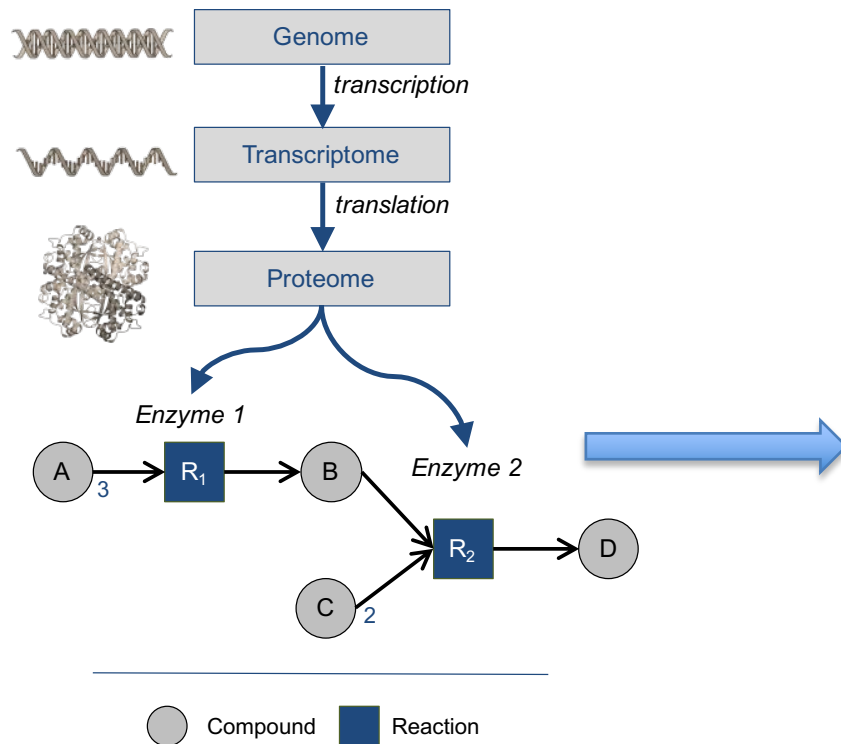
Biological systems characteristics

- Large-scale
- Empirical laws
- Few data wrt the search space size



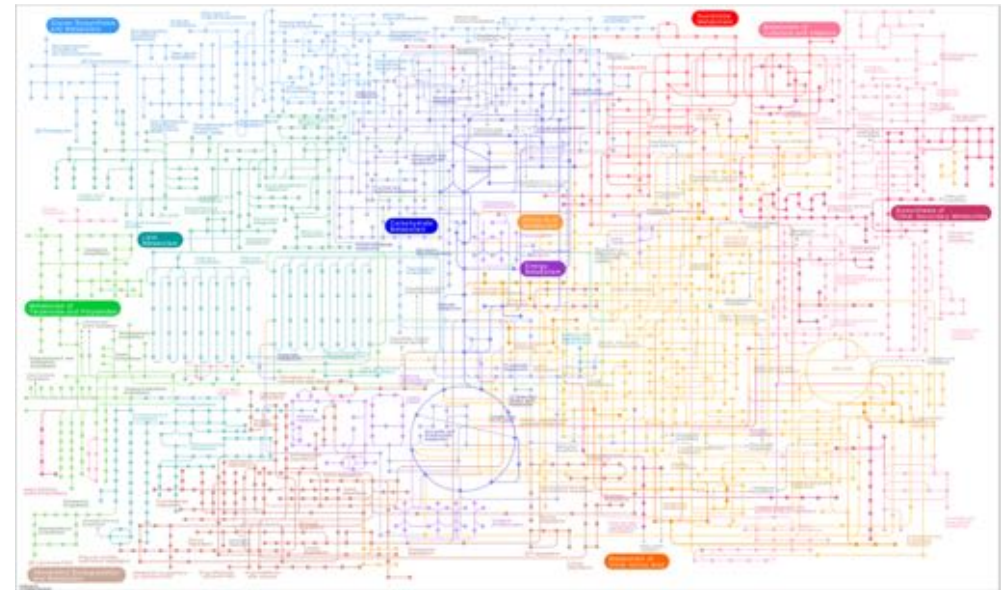
Biological systems observed with omics data are not uniquely identifiable

Underlying tool : from genes to dynamical systems



Link between genes
and functions

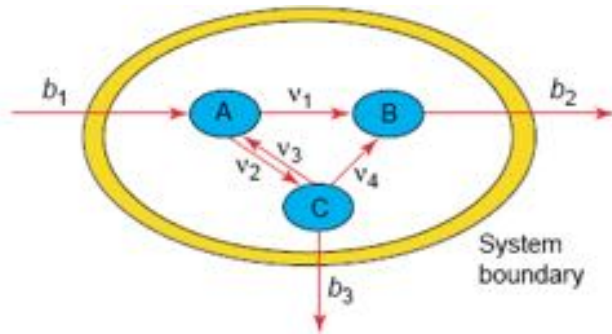
1 genome
⇒ 1 metabolic network
= bipartite directed graph



Large scale metabolic network

All expected metabolic capabilities of an organism

How to model fluxes ?



$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -v_1 - v_2 + v_3 + b_1$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = v_1 + v_4 - b_2$$

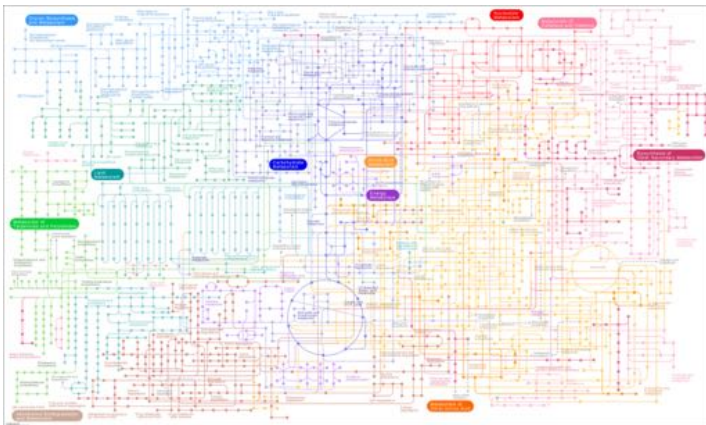
$$\frac{dC}{dt} = v_2 - v_3 - v_4 - b_3$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = S \cdot v(x)$$

$$v([substrat]) = Vm[Substrat] / (Km + [Substrat])$$

Back to high school chemistry

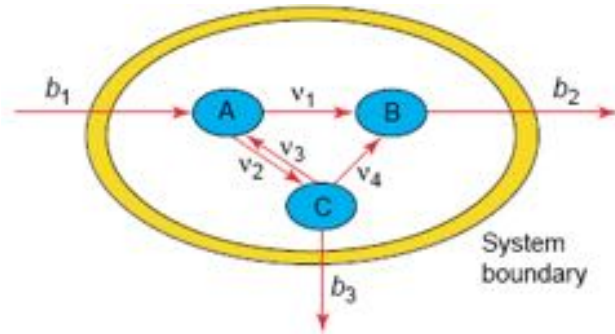
- Two parameters have to be estimated for each reaction



Intractable in practice !

- Overapproximation of the dynamics

Quasi-steady state hypothesis



$$\frac{dx}{dt} = S \cdot v(x) = 0 = S \cdot v$$

$$v([\textit{substrat}]) = Vm[\textit{Substrat}] / (Km + [\textit{Substrat}])$$

= constant

Metabolic compounds do not accumulate

- Fluxes have constant values
- Fluxes are constrained by linear values
- The system optimises a global objective

r is active if

$$v_r > 0 \text{ and}$$

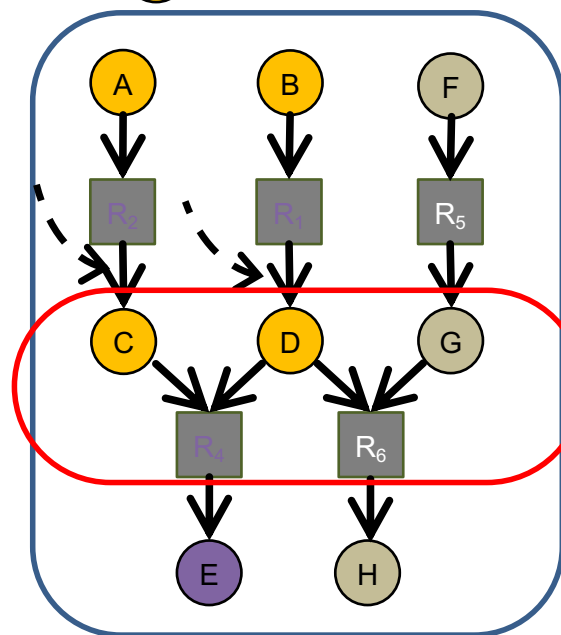
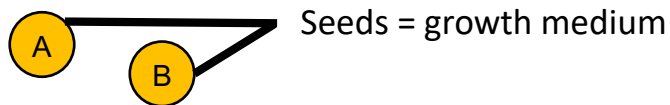
$$s \cdot v = 0 \text{ and}$$

$$lb < v < ub$$




Replace kinetic constants by conservation law and global optimisation hypotheses

Growing phase hypothesis

Functionality: recursive graph-based semantics



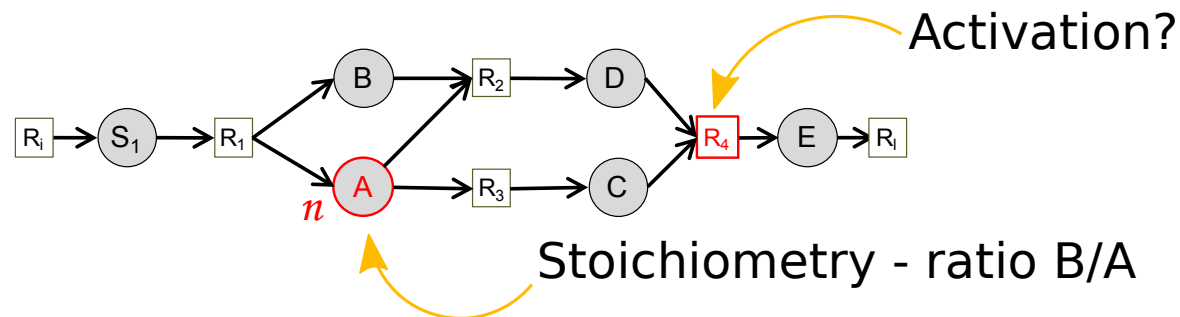
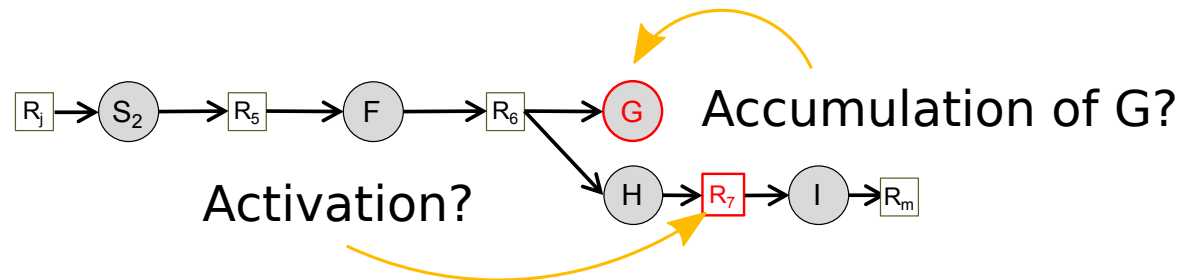
“and” condition checked recursively

-  Non-producible metabolite
-  Metabolite reachable from the seeds
-  Reaction

```
scope(M) :- seed(M).
scope(M) :- product(M,R), reaction(R), scope(M') : reactant(M',R).
```

Study paths in hypergraphs

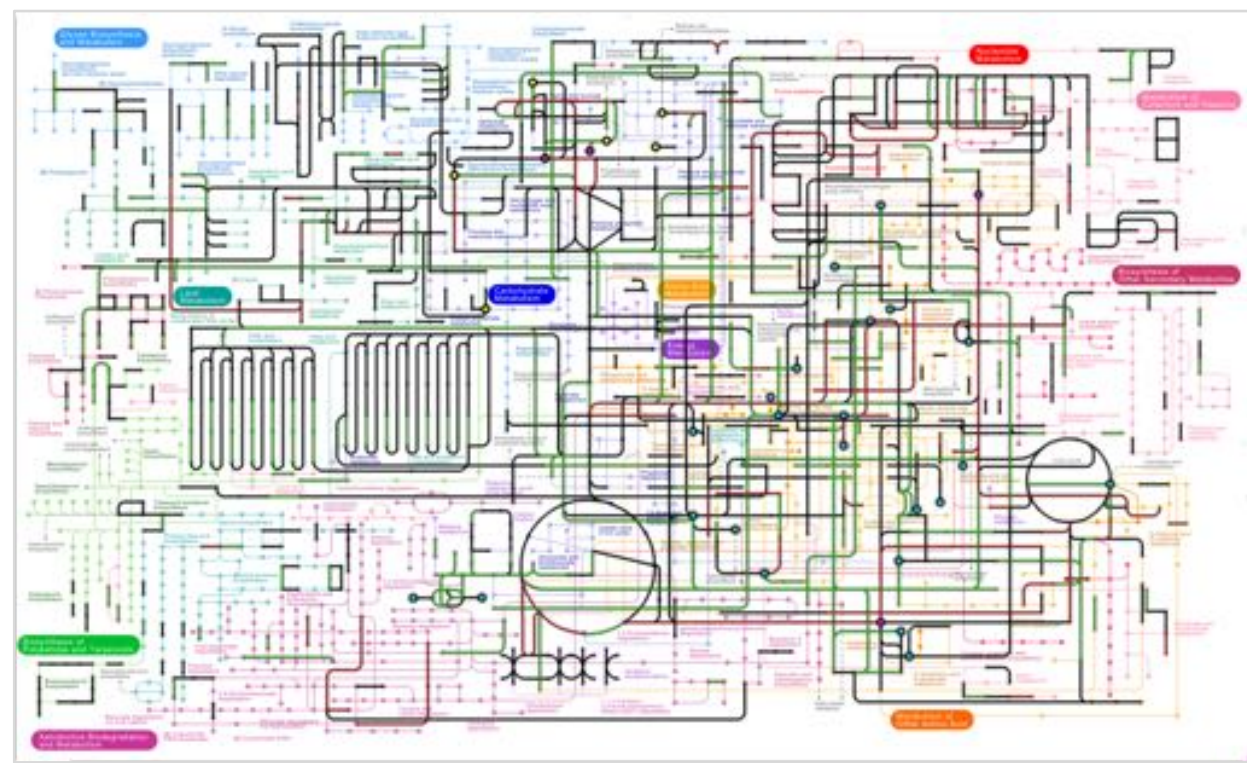
Everything is a matter of choices



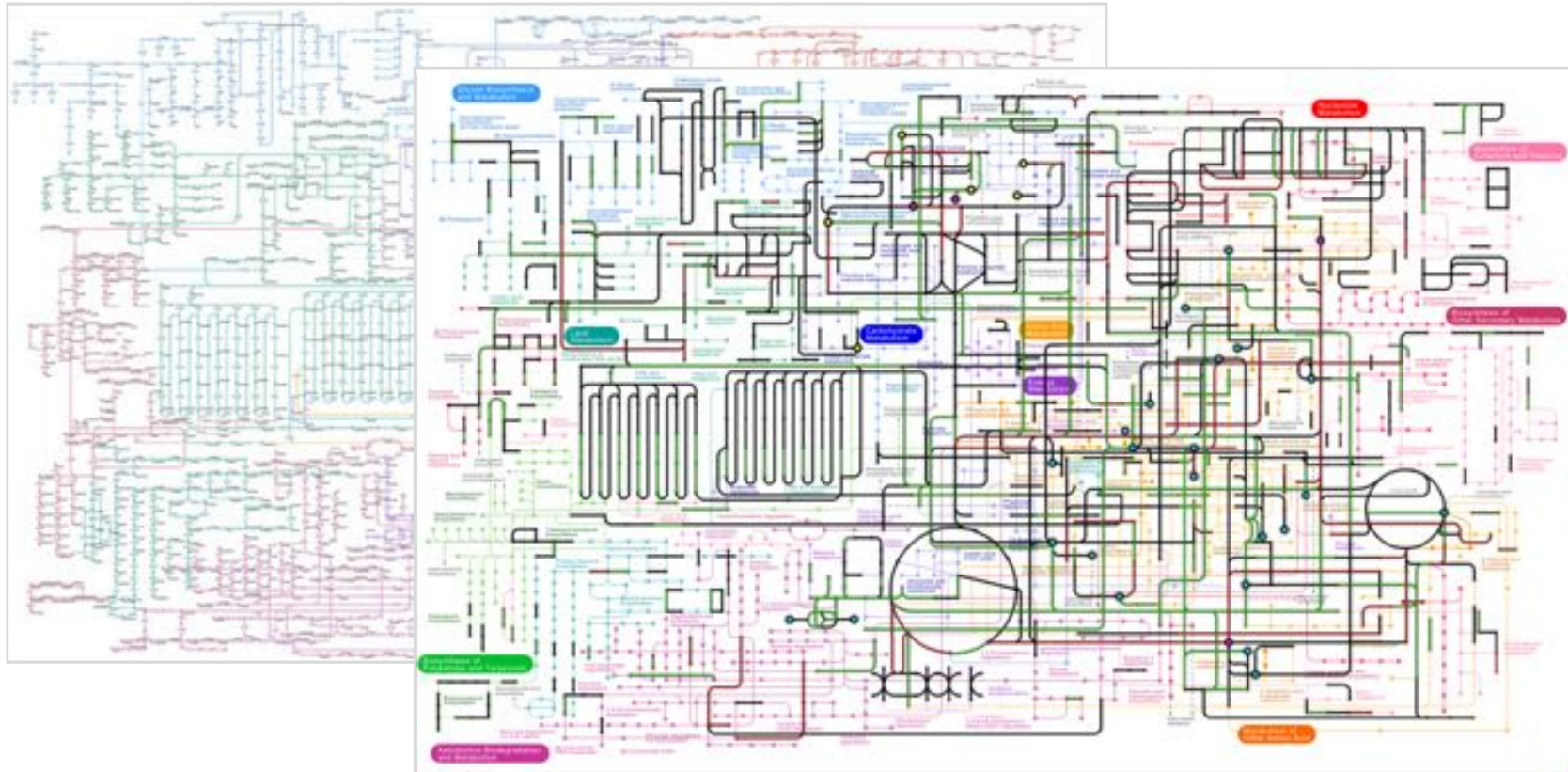
The reaction status of the reactions is different according to the approximation

- No choice but dealing with such overapproximation !
- Use the flexibility of ASP language to handle these questions

APPLICATION TO NETWORK COMPLETION



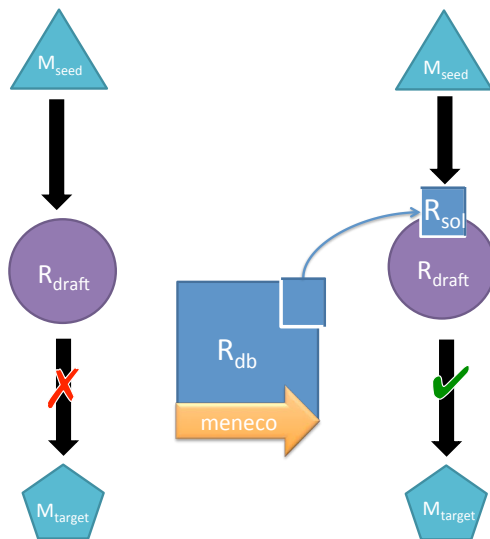
Data incompleteness



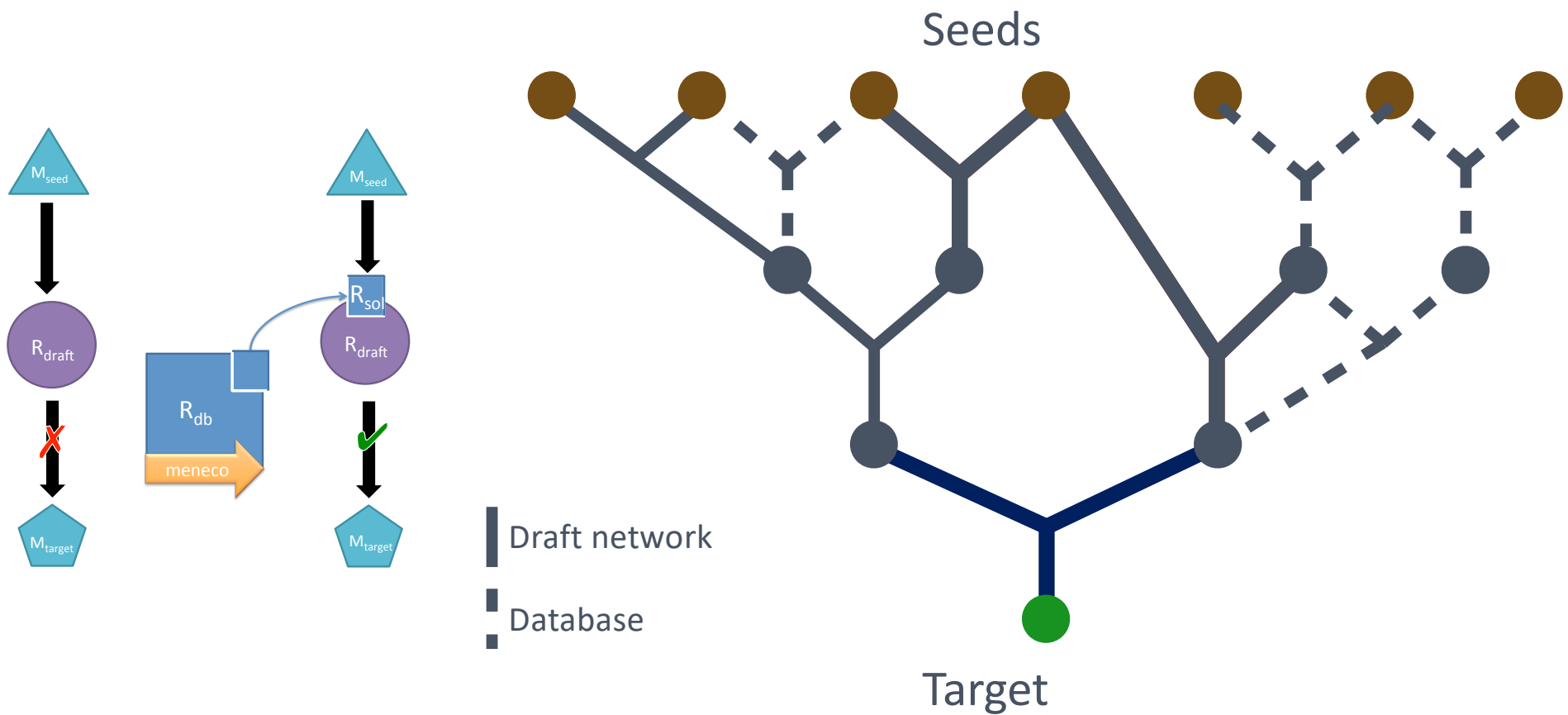
Metabolic networks built from NGS sequencing

➤ no possible biomass production.

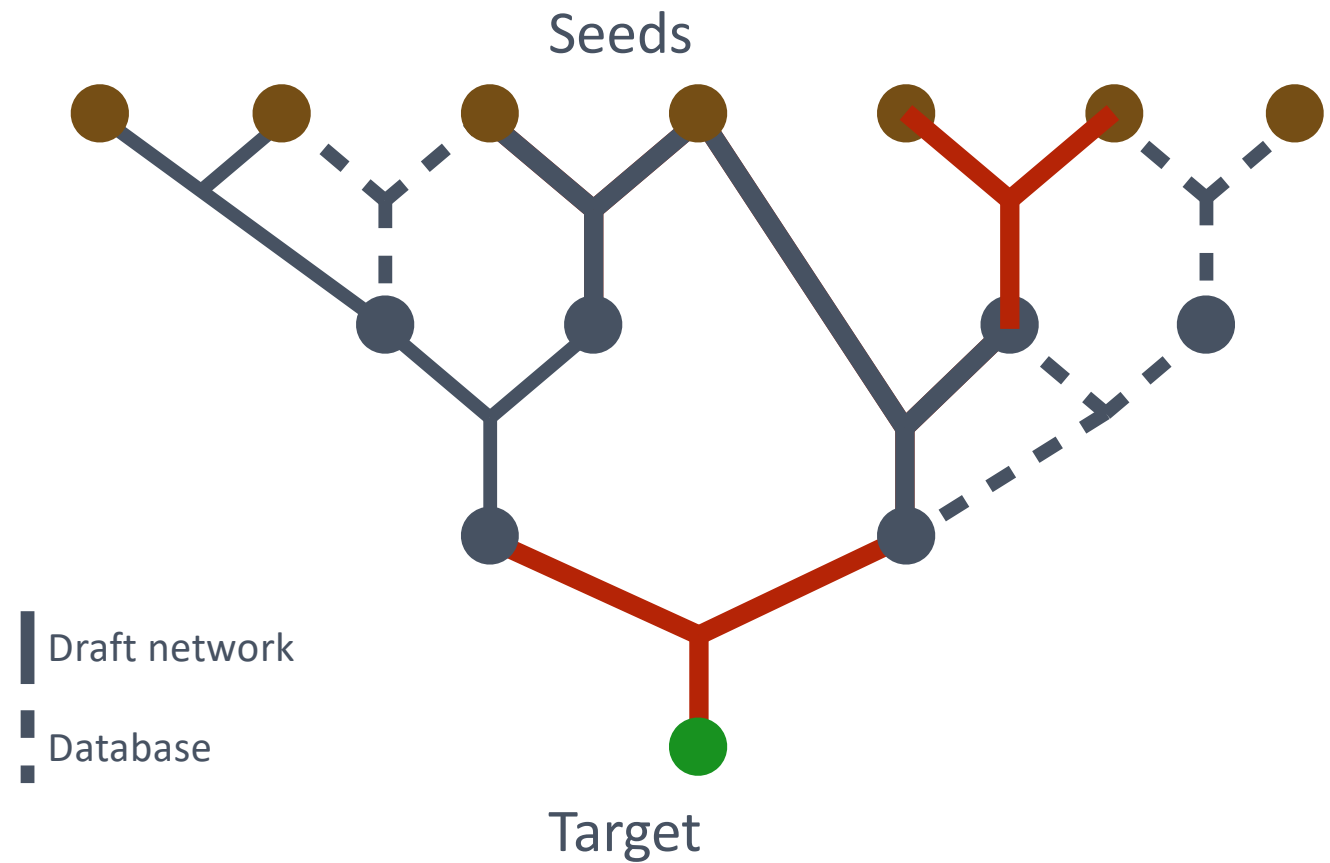
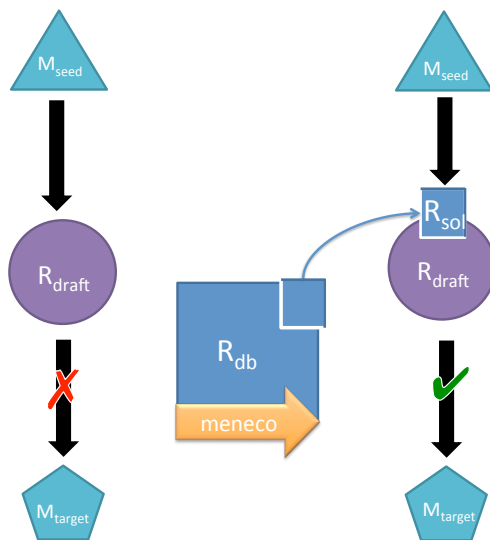
Gapfilling a metabolic network (nutshell)



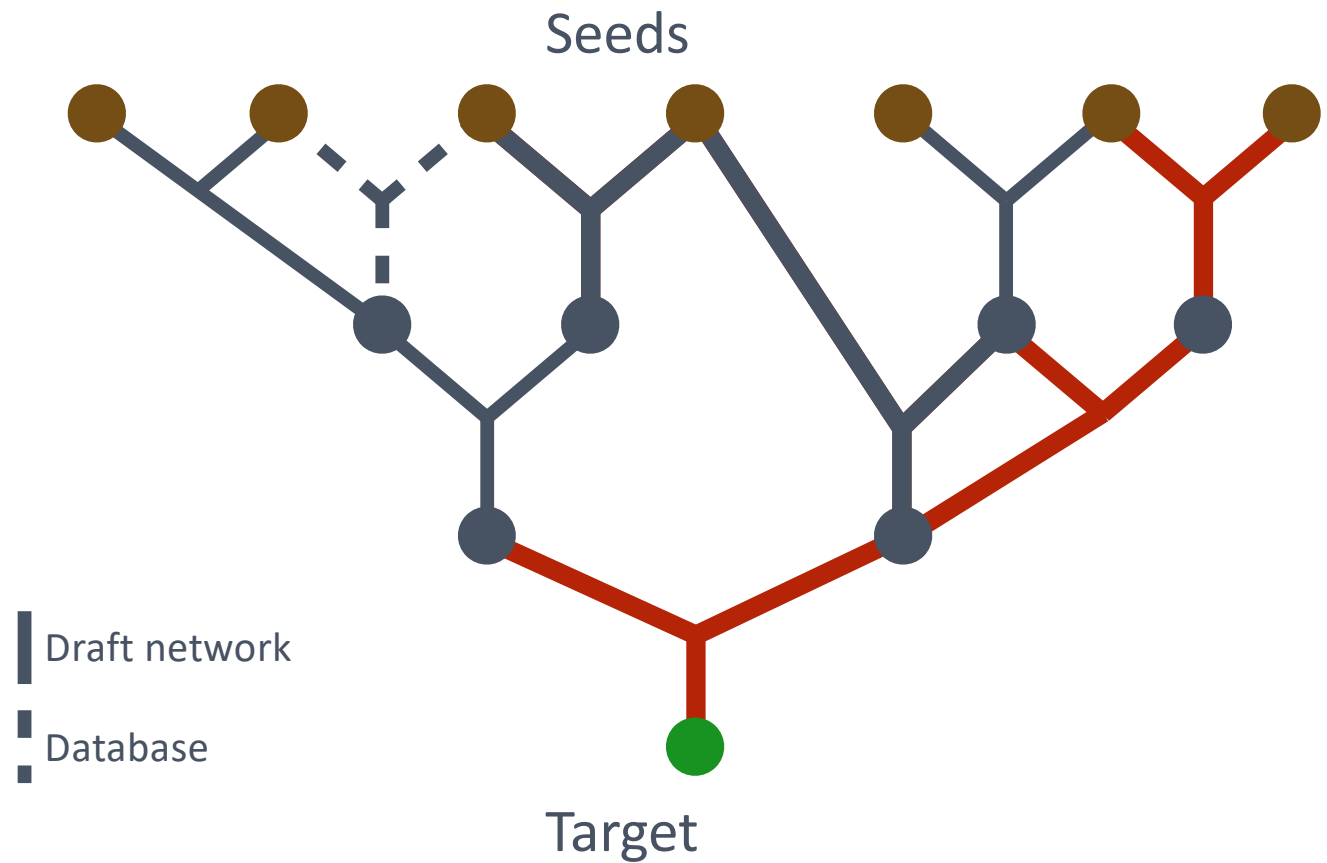
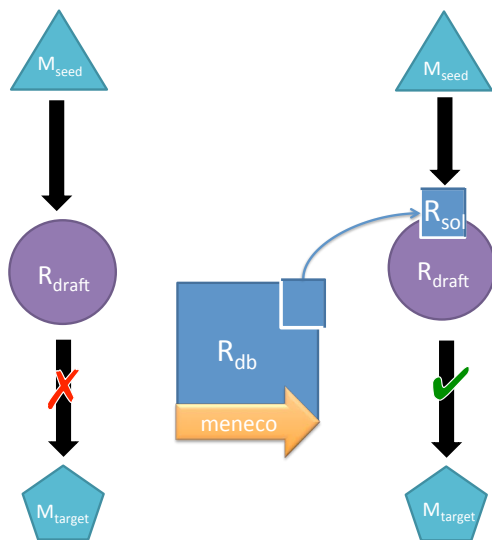
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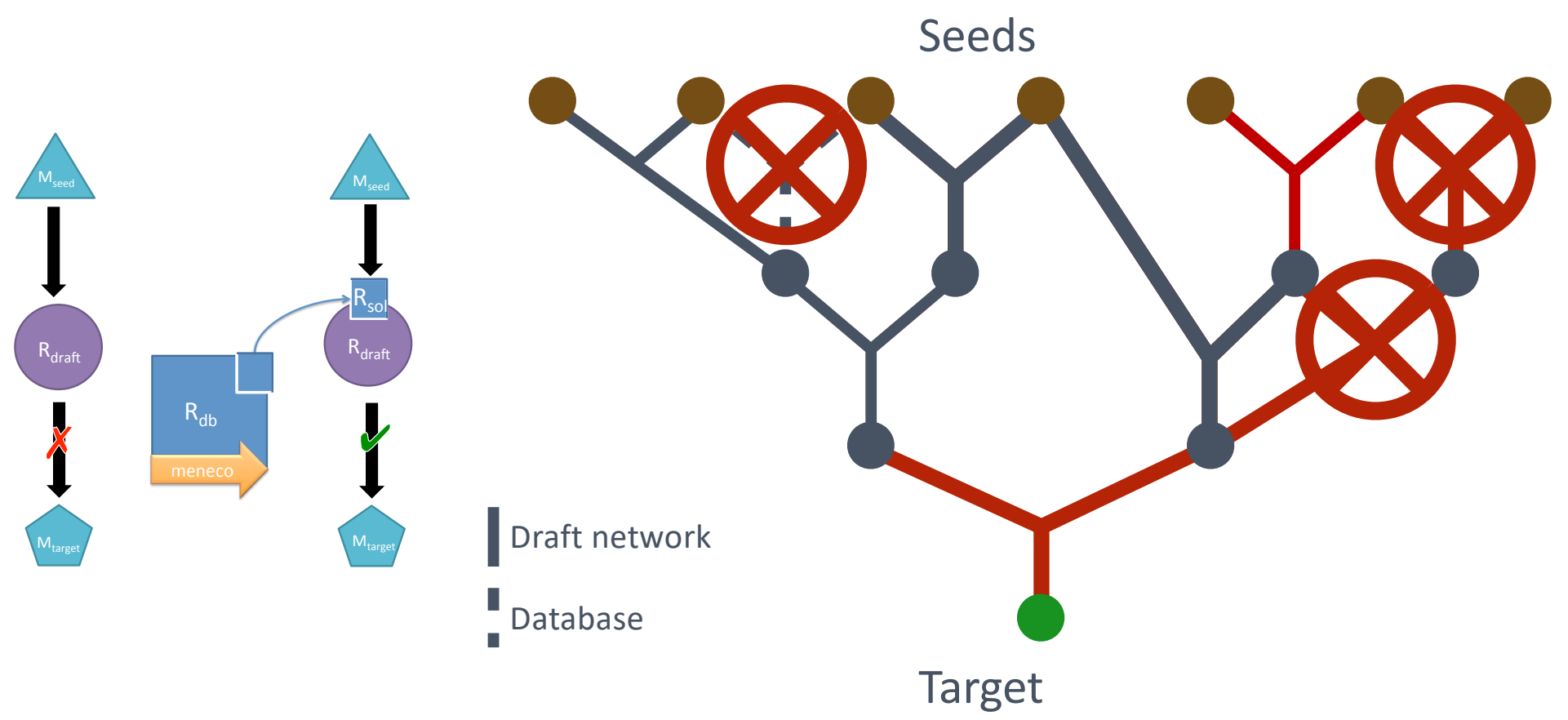
Gapfilling a metabolic network (nutshell)



Gapfilling a metabolic network (nutshell)



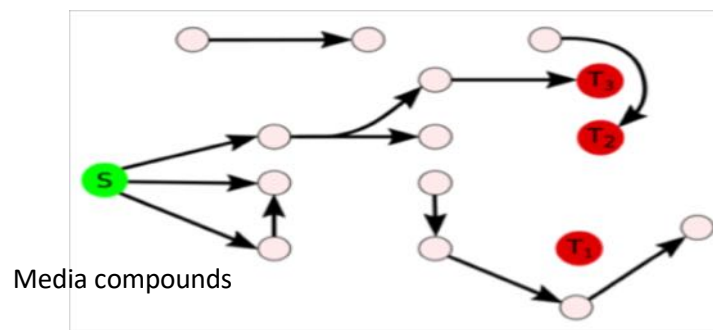
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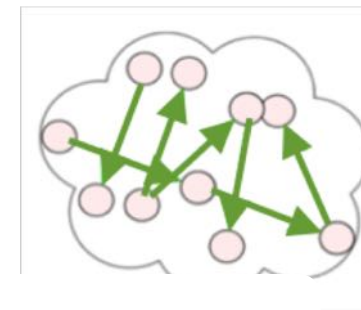
Gapfilling a metabolic network

What we have

- Graph with **non-accessible target components**
- **Knowledge database** of possible edges



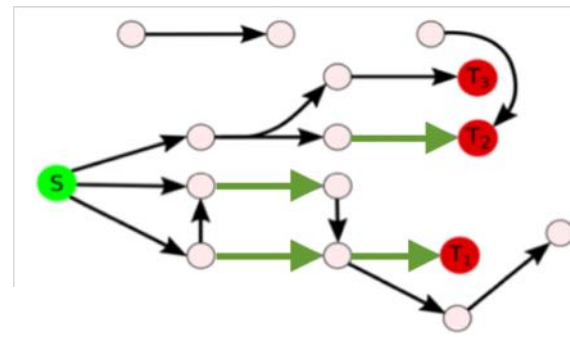
Experimentally observed compounds



Putative interactions from knowledge databases

Gap-filling problem:

- Restore target accessibility
- Minimal number of reactions



$$\text{gapfilling}(S, R_T, G_1, G_{DB}) = \arg \min_{\{R_i..R_m\} \subset G_{DB}} \left(\frac{\text{size}(\text{reactants}(R_T) \setminus \text{scope}(G_1 \cup \{R_i..R_m\}))}{\text{size}\{R_i..R_m\}} \right)$$

Meneco: ASP-based gap-filling for non-model organisms

$$\text{Hybgapfilling}(S, R_T, G_1, G_{DB})$$

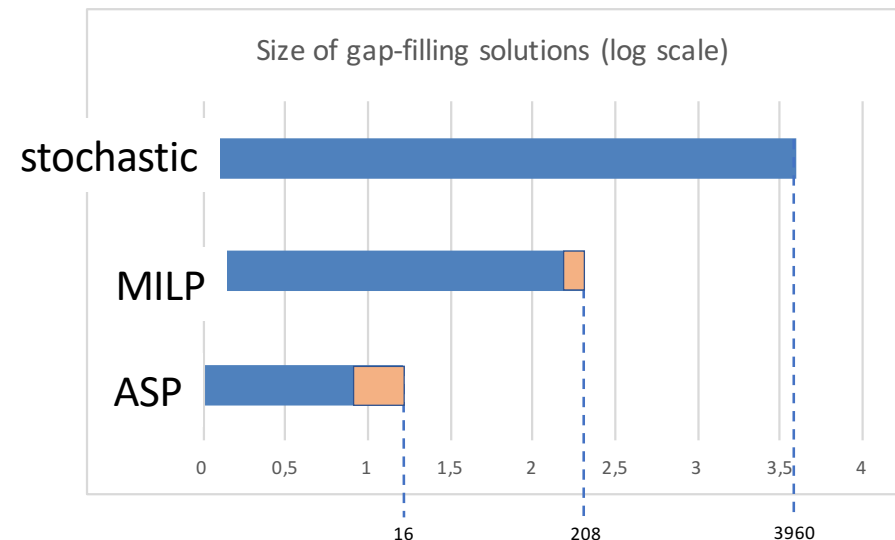
$$\arg \min_{\{R_i..R_m\} \subset G_{DB}} \left(\frac{\text{size}(\text{reactants}(R_T) \setminus \text{scope}(G_1 \cup \{R_i..R_m\}))}{\text{size}\{R_i..R_m\}} \right)$$

```

{reaction(r)}.
scope(M):- seed(M).
scope(M):- product(M,R), reaction(R), scope(M') : reactant(M',R).
:- target(T), not scope(T).
#minimize{ reaction(r) }.
    
```

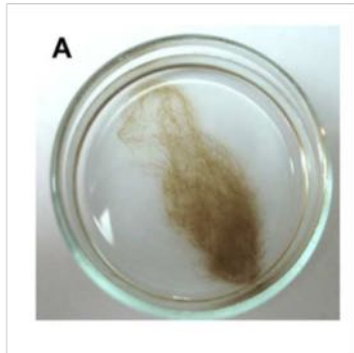
16 reactions in average are sufficient to restore degraded bacterial networks (PLOS CB 2017)

- MILP-based approaches required from 200 to 4000 reactions.



Benchmark of 10,800 bacterial networks

Example of application



Ectocarpus
siliculosus

[Tapia2016]

➤ **Genome: 1785 reactions, 1981 compounds**

➤ **54 metabolites to produce:**

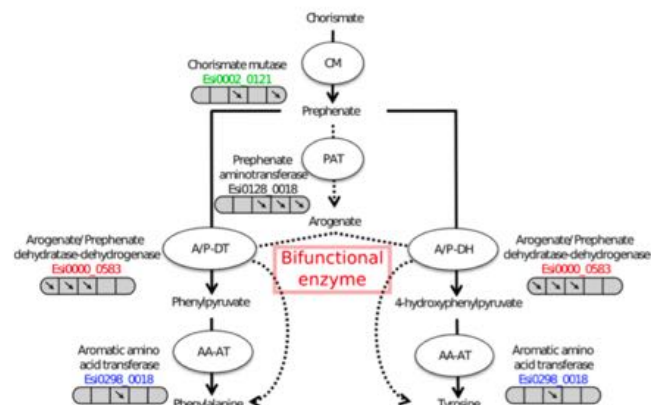
- 25 are graph-based producible
- None is FBA-based producible.

➤ **Gapfilling**

- MILP: 500 reactions (untractable)
- ASP: 50 reactions added to the network

- Sufficient for fluxes
- Manual curation

Proposed after manual curation



New bifunctional role of a specific enzyme
(Plant Journal 2015)

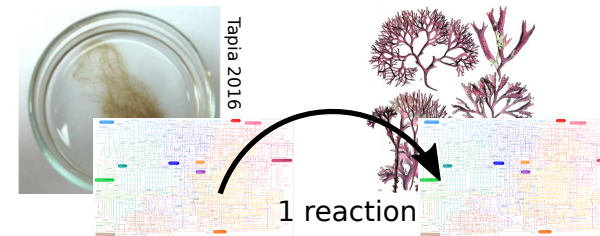
Counter-example of application



Chondrus crispus

Network analysis (G. Markov, SBR)

- 1943 reactions
- 149 reactions added by ASP
- **No way to produce biomass**

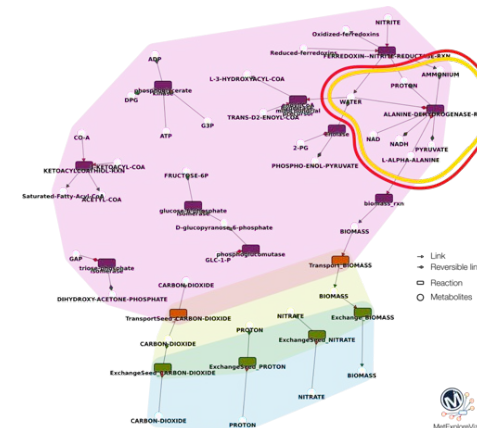


New problem to be solved

- **Hybrid problem** (TPLP 2018)
- Constraint propagator
- Reduce the database

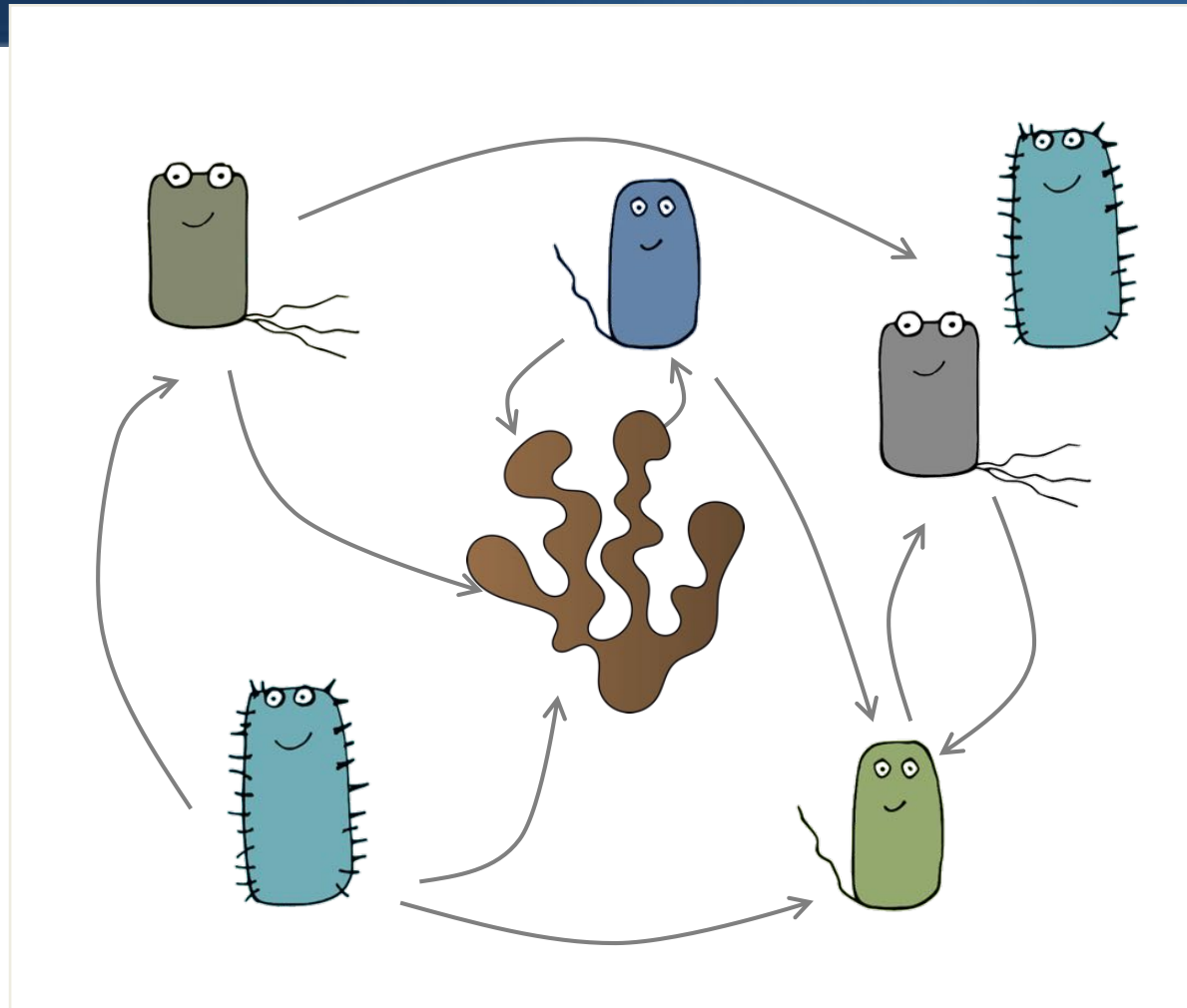
$$\text{Hybgapfilling}(S, R_T, G_1, G_{DB}) = \arg \min_{\{R_i..R_m\} \subset G_{DB}} \left(\frac{\text{size}(\text{reactants}(R_T) \setminus \text{scope}(G_1 \cup \{R_i..R_m\}))}{\text{size}\{R_i..R_m\}} \right)$$

s.t. $s.v = 0, v_{R_T} > 0, lb < v < ub$

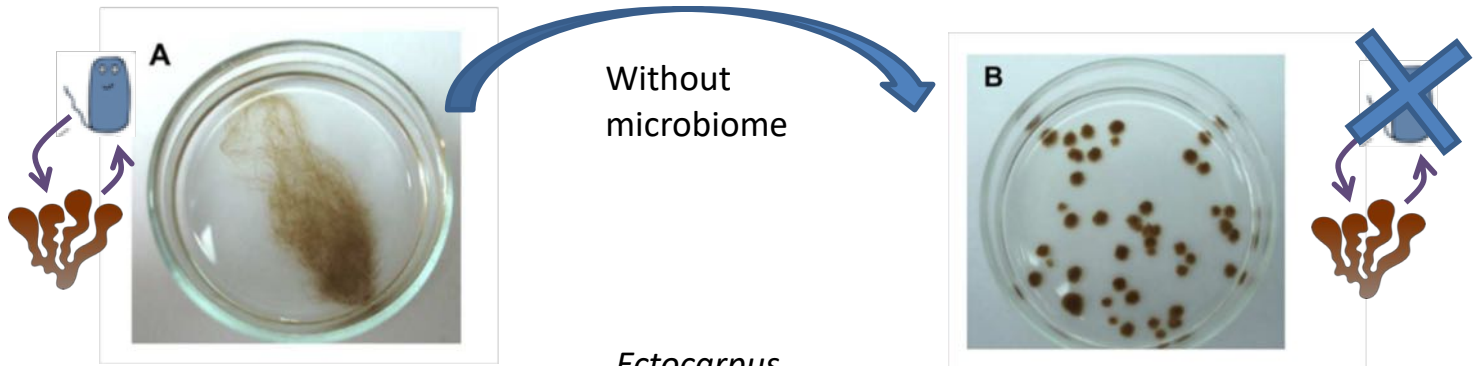


Essential reactions for alanine production in *CcrGem*

STILL MORE COMPLEXITY



Role of environmental bacteria ?



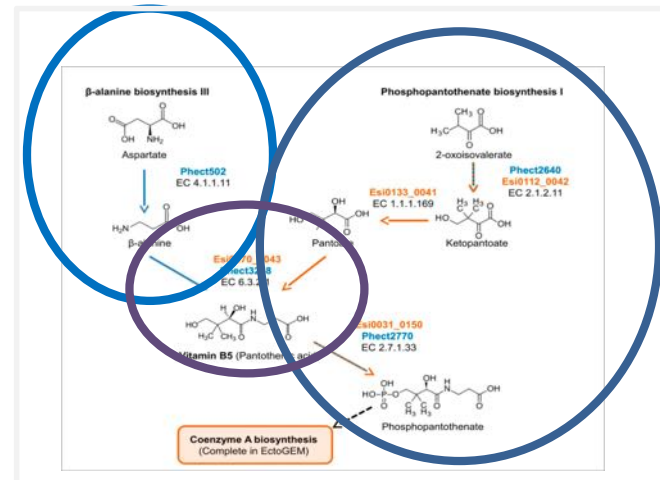
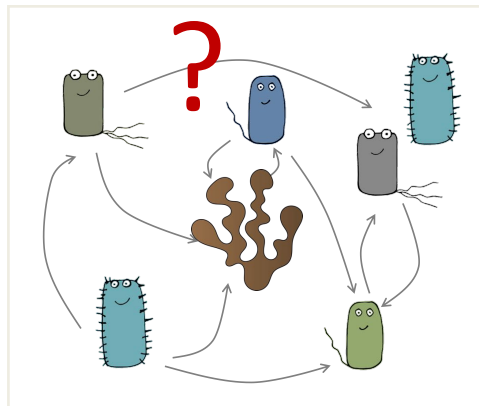
Without microbiome

Ectocarpus

[Dittami2014, Tapia2016, Prigent2015]

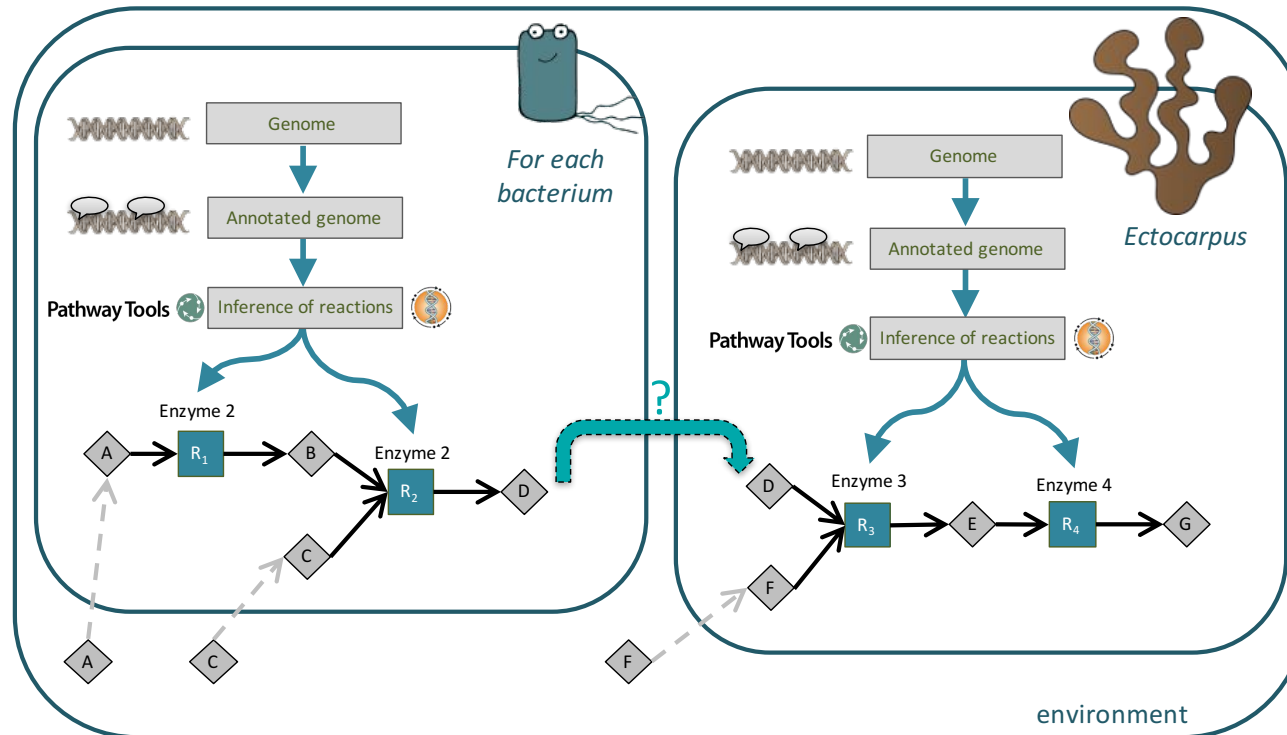


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Metabolism may be an explanation
(PLOS CB 2017)

Systems ecology question

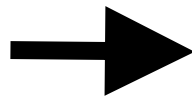
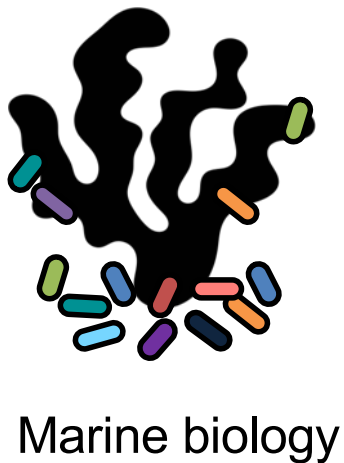


Can we suggest compound exchanges that could restore the production of targeted compounds ?

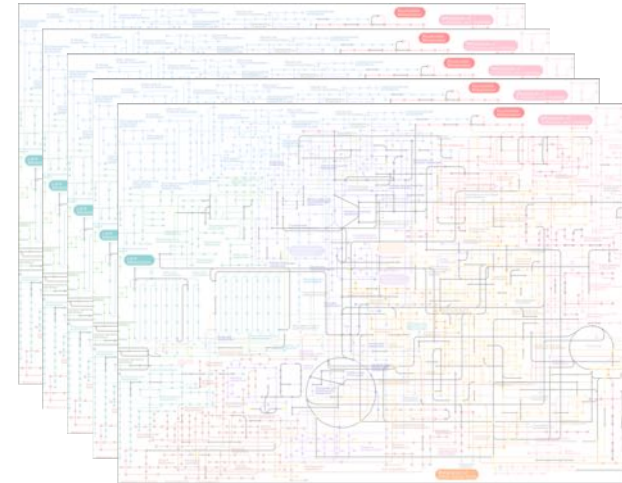
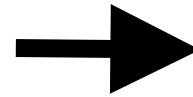
- New gap-filling problem !
- Steiner graph approach (Sagot team, 2017) or ASP implementation

Scalability...

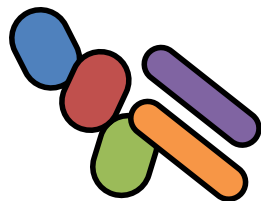
But... There are hundreds of bacteria in the environment



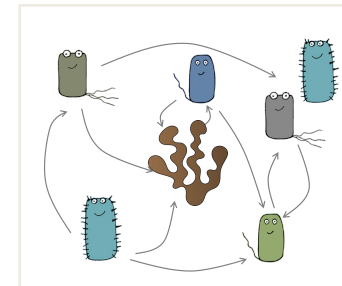
Hundreds of bacteria



Hundreds of Genome-scale models (GSMs)

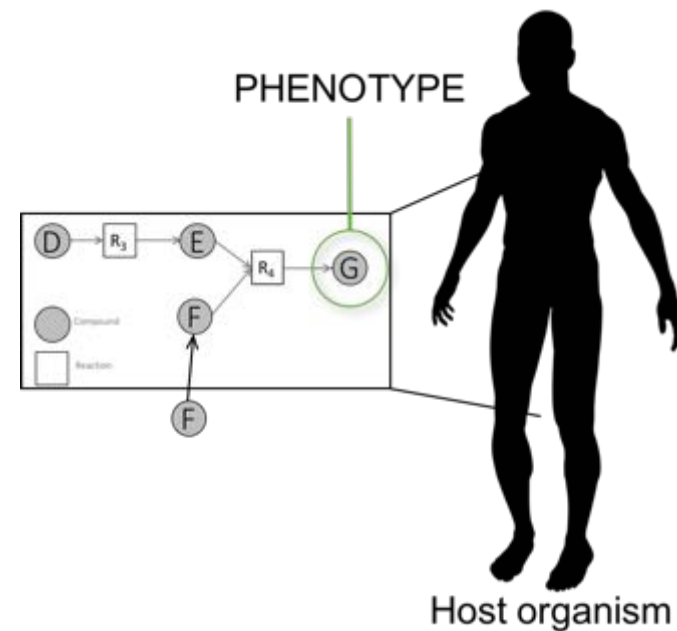


Happy few bacteria interact with the algae



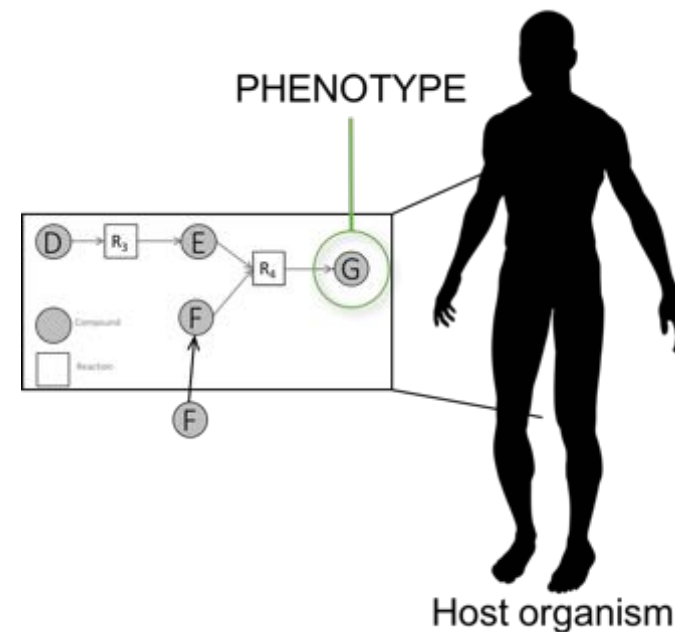
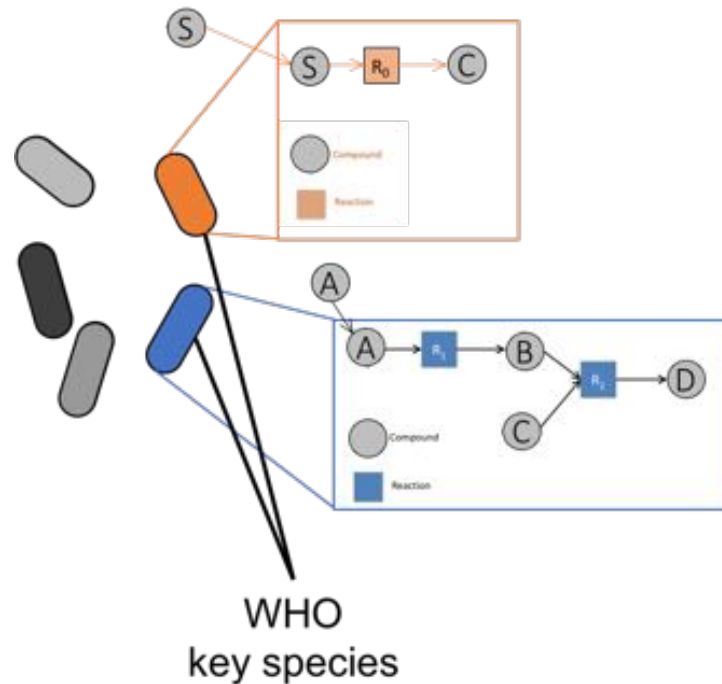
How to select communities within large microbiotas which explain the algal response to stress ?

Selecting communities of interest within [large] microbiotas



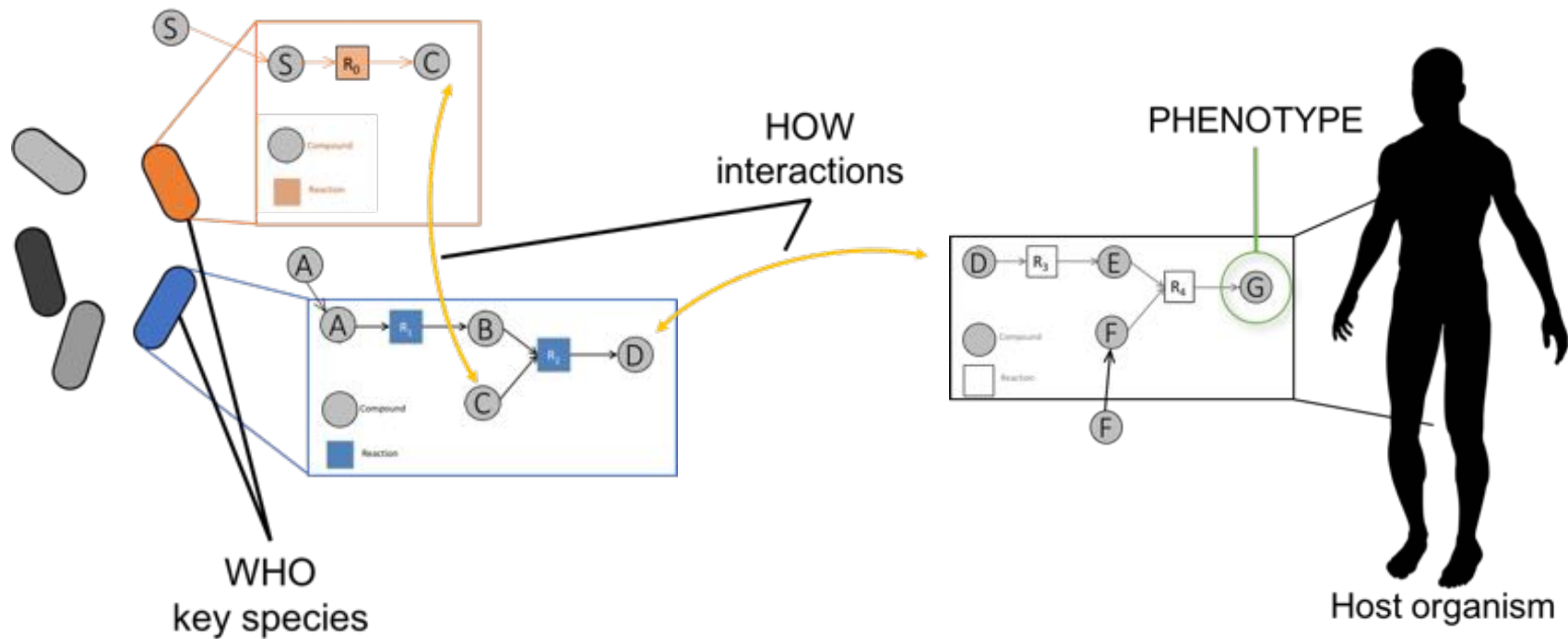
The “who”, “how” challenges of community selection

Selecting communities of interest within [large] microbiotas



The “who”, “how” challenges of community selection

Selecting communities of interest within [large] microbiotas

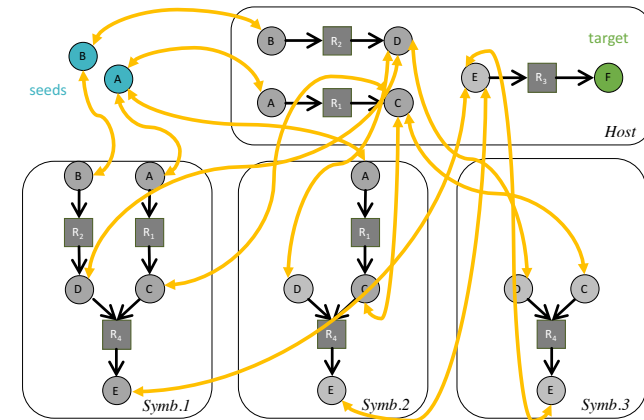


The “who”, “how” challenges of community selection

Complexity

Community selection problem

- Switch from hundreds of symbiots to 3 or 4
- Pinpoint a few number of putative cross-feedings



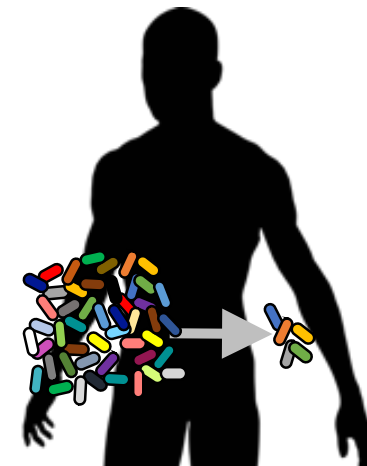
499,177 combinations of <6 exchanges

$$\text{Comsel}(S, T, G_1..G_n) = \arg \min_{\{exchg(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}) \subset \{G_1..G_n\}\}} \left(\begin{array}{l} size(T \setminus MBscope(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L})) \\ size\{\varepsilon \in exchg(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}) \mid \\ T \cap CPscope(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}, \varepsilon, S) = \\ T \cap MBscope(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}, S)\} \end{array} \right)$$

- depends on the number of hyperarcs

Size of the search space

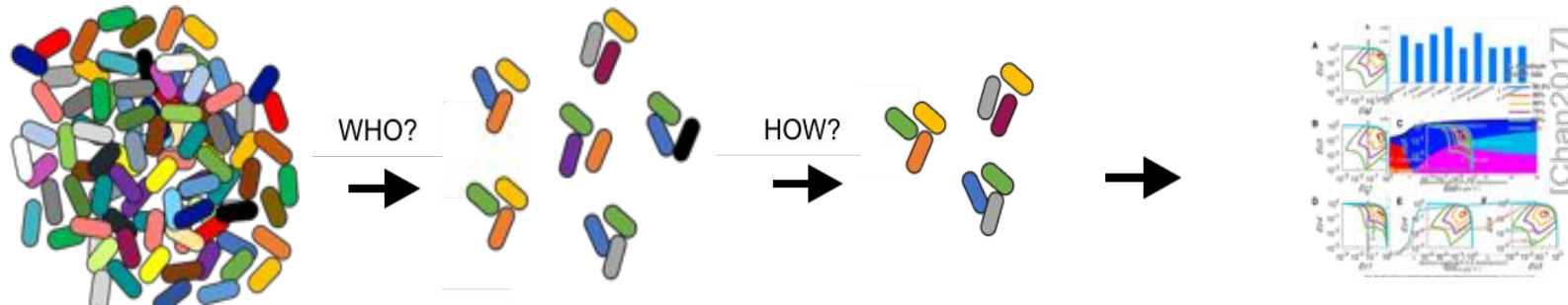
- depends on the number of symbionts



1.62.10⁸¹ combinations of <10 exchanges

Highly combinatorial problem

Two-step optimization procedure



Heuristics for the community selection problem

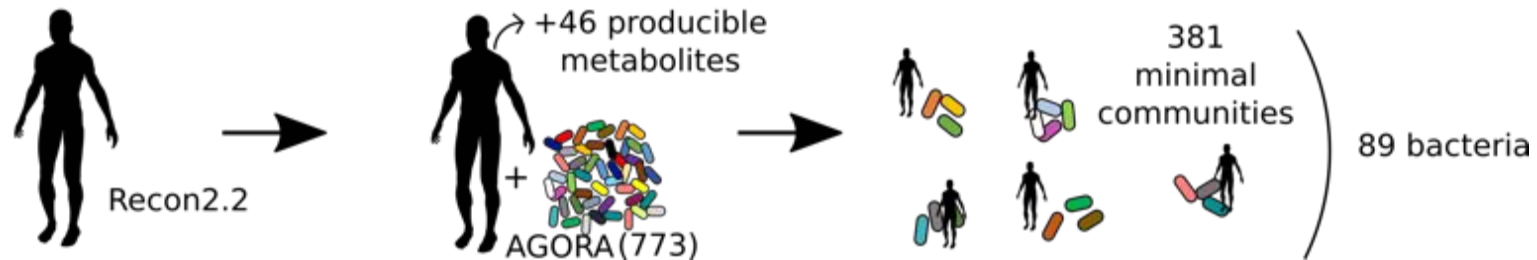
- **Who problem.**
 - Get rid of boundaries and select all minimal symbiot families
- **How problem.**
 - Sort the selected families according to the number of exchanges
- **Manual curation.**
 - Ask your favorite biologist to select the final one

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{mxdbagCnity}(S, T, G_1..G_N) \\ &= \arg \min_{\{G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}\} \subset \{G_1..G_N\}} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{size}(T \setminus \text{mxdbagScope}(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}, S)), \\ \text{size}\{G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}\}. \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{cptCnity}(S, T, G_1..G_N) \\ &= \arg \min_{\substack{\{G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}\} \\ \subset \{G_1..G_N\}}} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{size}(T \setminus \text{mxdbagScope}(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}, S)), \\ \text{size}\{G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}\}, \\ \text{size}\{\mathcal{E} \subset \text{exchg}(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L})\} \\ T \cap \text{cptScope}(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}, \mathcal{E}, S) \\ = T \cap \text{mxdbagScope}(G_{i_1}..G_{i_L}, S). \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Validation/benchmarking on human microbiome project

Context of the study [Swainston et al., 2016] [Magnúsdóttir et al., 2016]

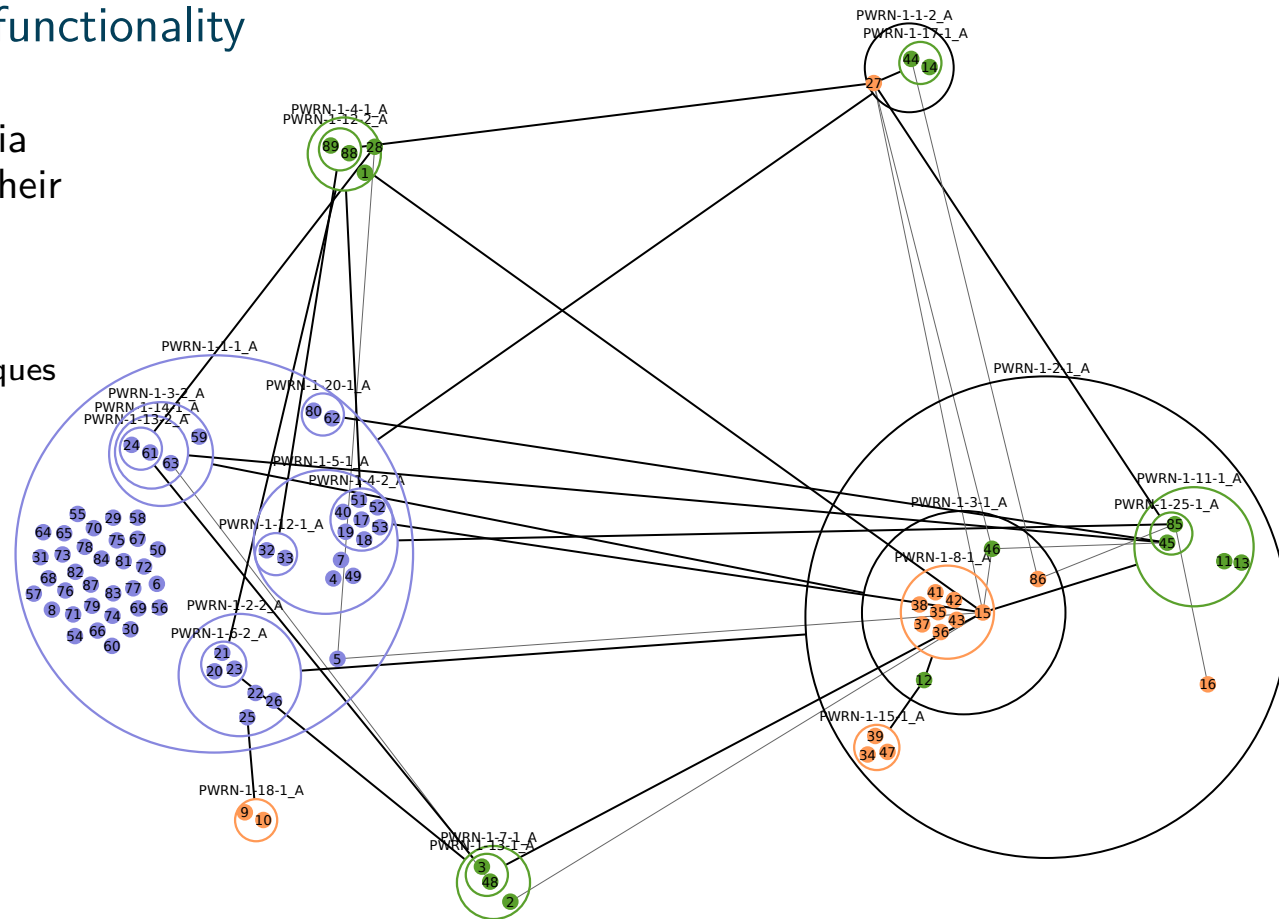


Validation/benchmarking on human microbiome project

Association of bacteria & functionality

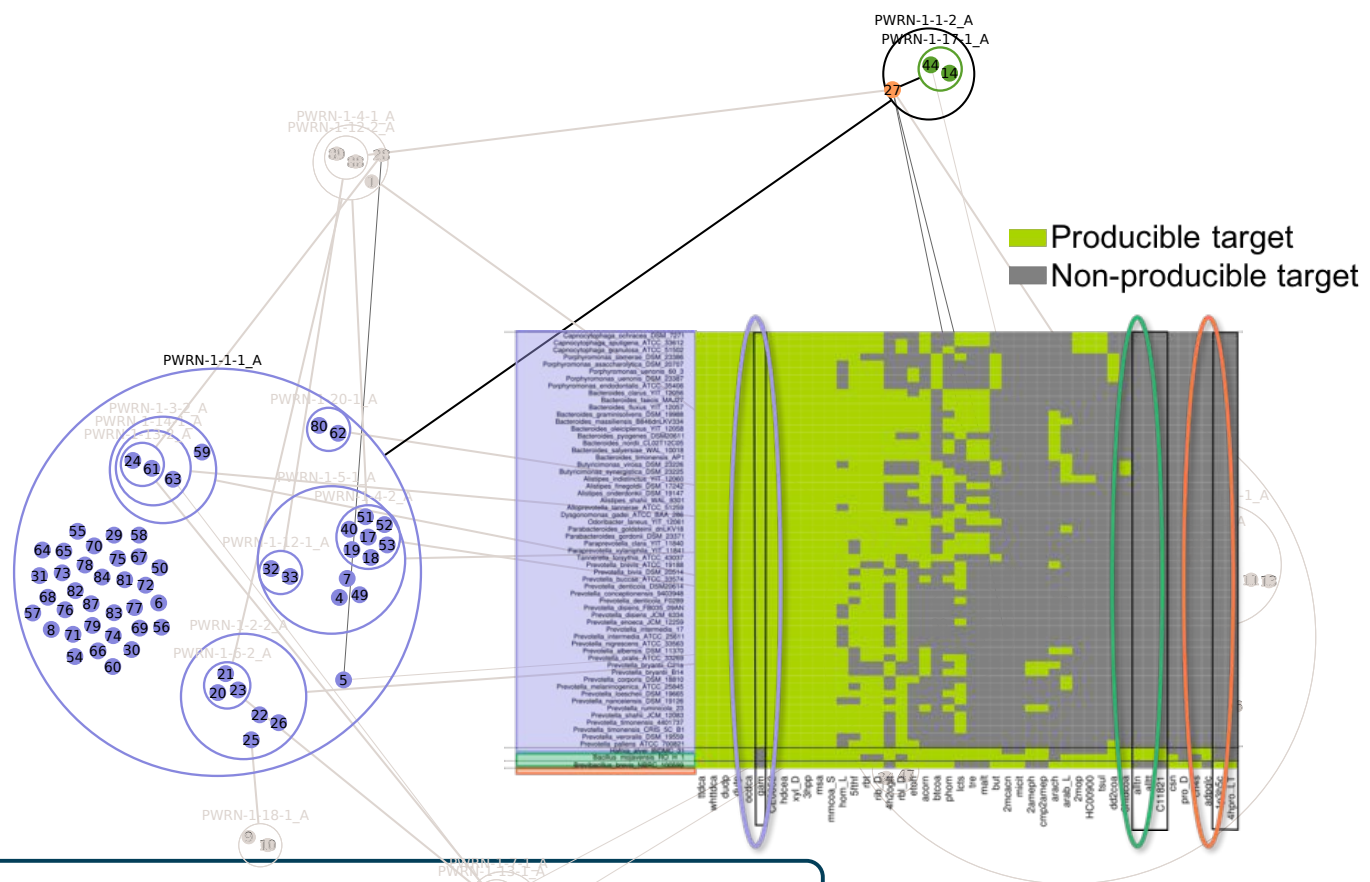
- ▶ Groups of equivalent bacteria in clusters with respect to their associations [Bourneuf et al., 2017]

- **Powernodes:** groups of bacteria, parts of bicliques
- **Poweredges:** connect bicliques



Validation/benchmarking on human microbiome project

► Producibility of individual targets explains the communities → screening

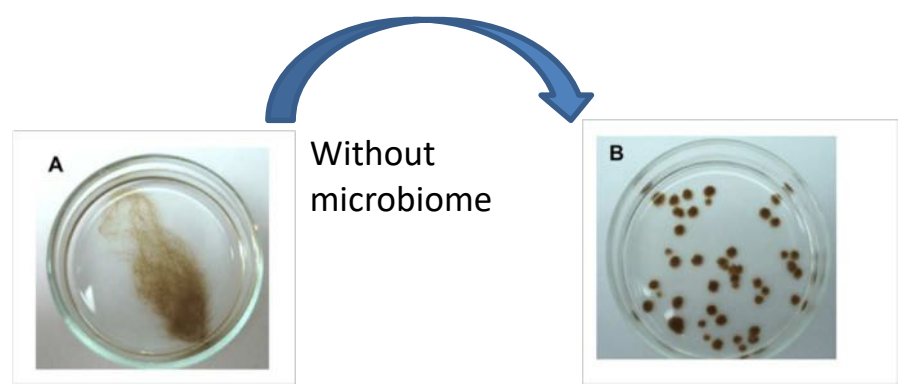
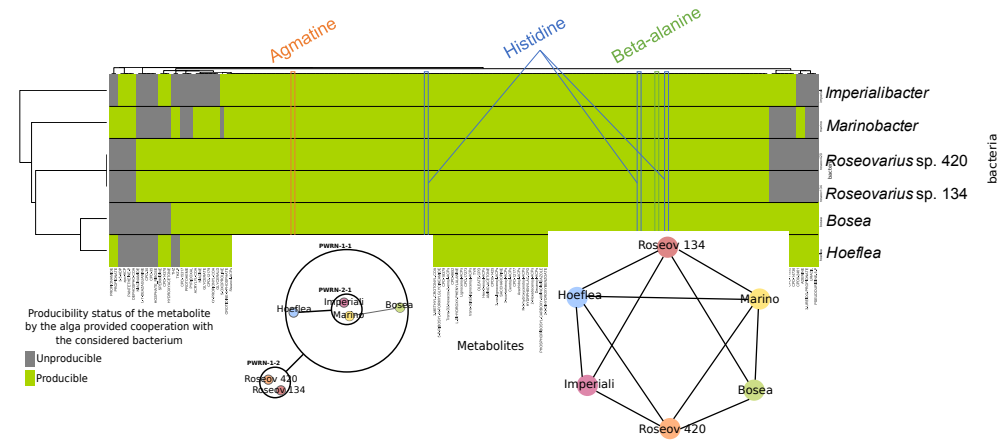


Community composition can be explained by the functional dependencies of the targets towards specific groups of bacteria

Validation/benchmarking on human microbiome project

- Ca. *P. ectocarpus* not culturable
- 10 culturable bacteria → functional redundancy
- 6 equivalent communities of 3 bacteria

Joint work with Enora Fremy, Bertille Burgunter-Delamare & Simon Dittami



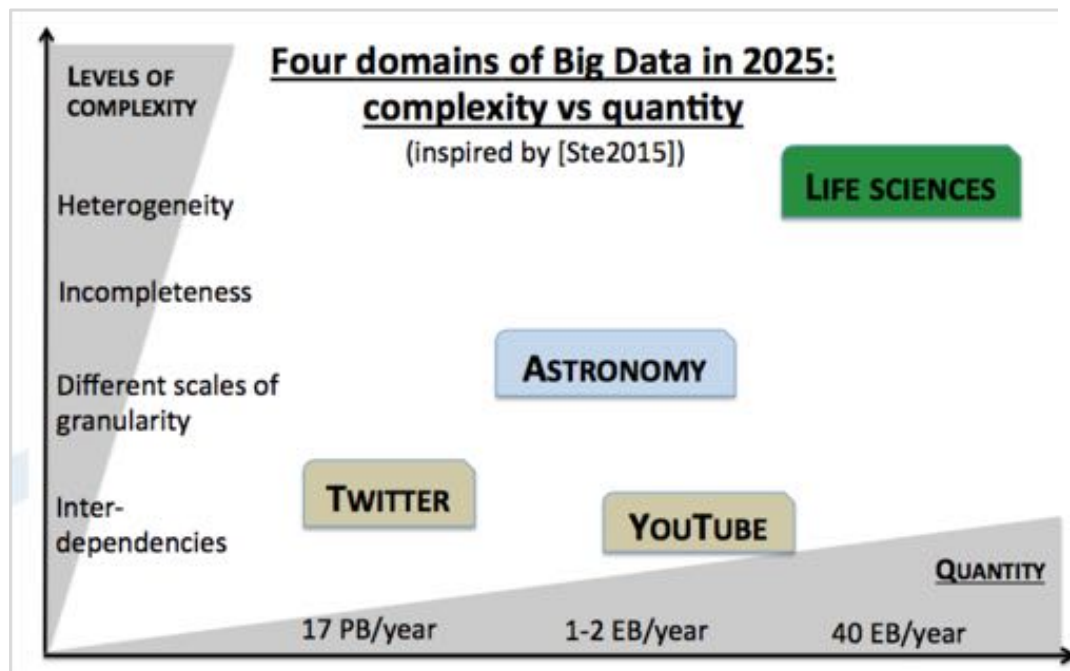
+ 3 selected bacteria among 30 cultivable bacteria



S. Dittami, Bertille Burgunter-Delamare

The algae grew again... But with strange behaviors

TOWARDS CONCLUSION

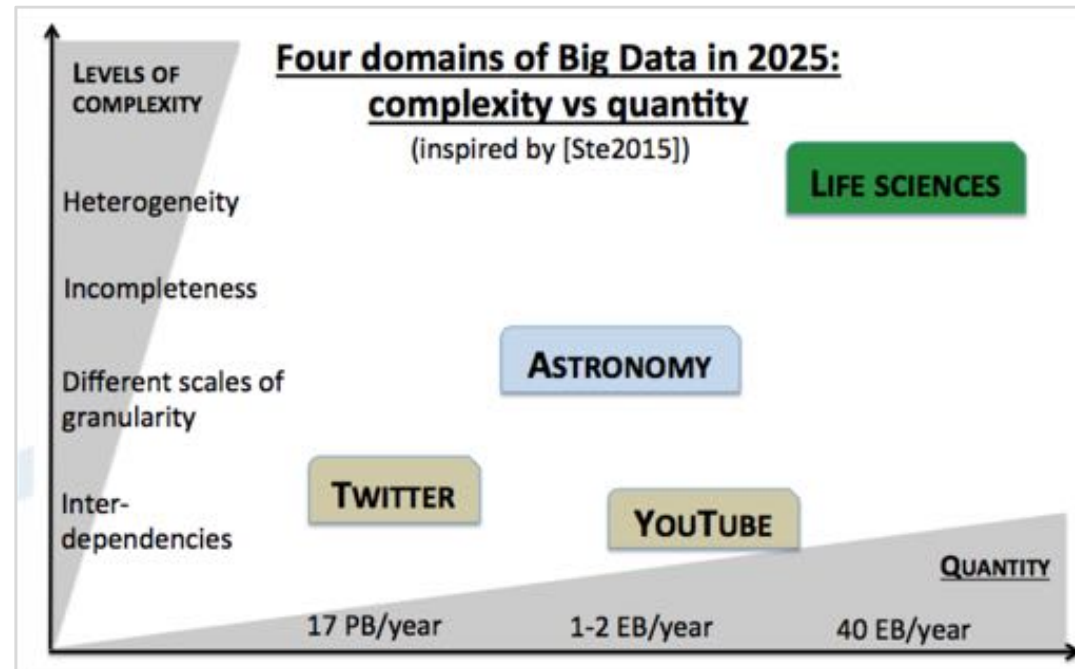
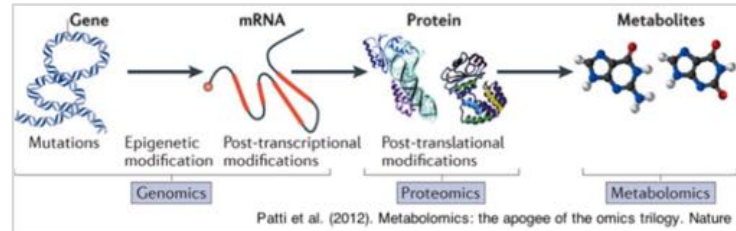


Take home messages: life science data integration ?

- **Life science data are multi-scale and heterogeneous**
 - Linked by underlying regulatory processes
- **Systems biology ?**
 - study of complex systems which cannot be uniquely identified
- **Handling complexity for**
 - Make (dynamical) hypotheses
 - Solve optimization problems instead of identify parameters
 - Win-win collaboration with your BFF ASP-tech developers
- **We will never replace biologists**

Molecular and cellular life science analysis is a user-assisted data science rather than a modeling system science

What about the future

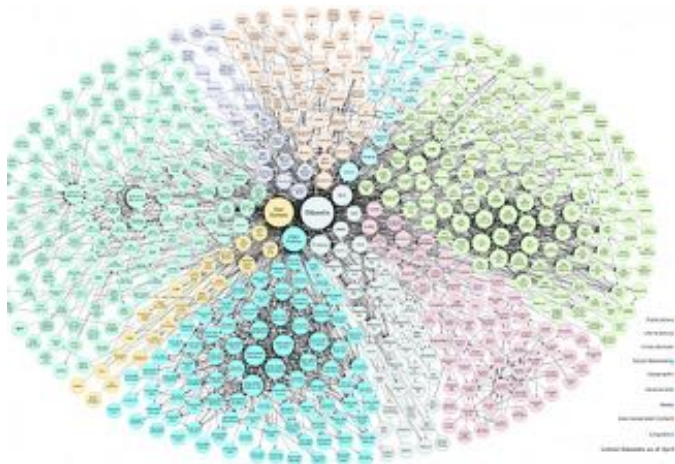


- **Size complexity**
 - Towards deep-learning ?
- **Heterogeneity complexity ?**
 - Knowledge-based methods

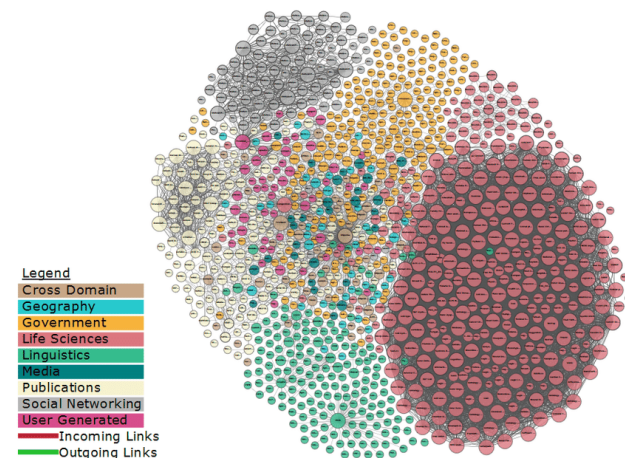
Linked open data

- **More than 1500 life science databases**
 - Gene Ontology
 - Chebi
 - KEGG
 - Swissprot...

- **Many of these DB are being linked and can be queried**
 - **Huge knowledge repositories to support reasoning**



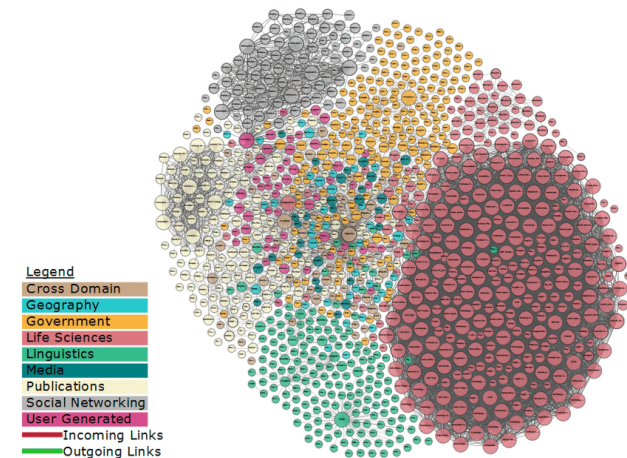
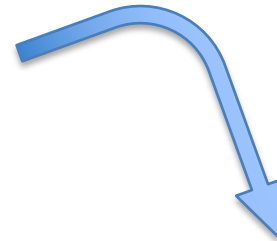
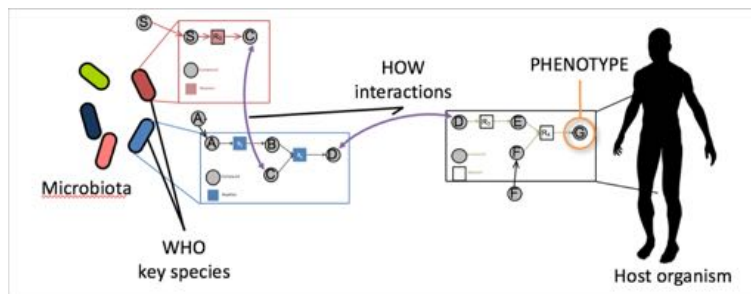
Linked Open Data initiative (2014)



Linked Open Data initiative (2017)

The futur of life-science data analysis ?

Machine learning : compound,
function and species identification



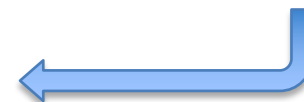
Knowledge representation :

Connect data

- Performant queries
- User-friendly interfaces

Formal approaches : explain

- Automatic reasoning
- Assist biologists and never replace them



Prospective

- **Our future role : facilitate and scale life science data analysis**
 - Easy exploration of search spaces
 - **Extract dynamical features as constraints** (temporal ?)
 - Use knowledge DBs
- **Always explain the results**
 - Give choices to experimentalists
 - **According to all the hypotheses that we make, biologists have to double-check our predictions.**

Acknowledgment

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- J. Got



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