

Integration of high-throughput datasets through dynamical modeling of regulatory networks

Hidde de Jong IBIS INRIA Grenoble – Rhône-Alpes Hidde.de-Jong@inria.fr

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INRIA Grenoble - Rhône-Alpes and IBIS



- IBIS: systems biology group at INRIA/Université Joseph Fourier/CNRS
 - Analysis of bacterial regulatory networks by means of models and experiments
 - Biologists, computer scientists, mathematicians, physicists, ...

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main



Tutorial overview

- Bacterial growth and metabolism: high-throughput data sources
- Modeling of regulatory networks in bacteria
 - Flux balance models
 - Kinetic models of metabolic networks
 - Towards models of integrated networks
- Conclusions



• **Bacteria** are unicellular organisms geared towards growth and division

Escherichia coli cells have doubling times up to 20 min





Stewart et al. (2005), PLoS Biol., 3(2): e45

• **Metabolism** fuels growth by production of energy and building blocks for macromolecules, using nutriments from environment

ATP, amino acids, nucleotides, ...



 Central carbon metabolism breaks down carbon sources for energy production and macromolecular synthesis

Glucose, acetate, lactose, ...



Fischer et al. (2004), Anal. Biochem., 325(2):308-16



 Central carbon metabolism breaks down carbon sources for energy production and macromolecular synthesis

Glucose, acetate, lactose, ...

 Enzymes catalyze individual steps in metabolic network

> Pyruvate kinase transforms phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) into pyruvate







 Central carbon metabolism breaks down carbon sources for energy production and macromolecular synthesis

Glucose, acetate, lactose, ...

- Enzymes produced from information encoded in genes
 - pykF is gene encoding pyruvate kinase



Oh et al. (2002), J. Biol. Chem., 277(15):13175-83



 Central carbon metabolism breaks down carbon sources for energy production and macromolecular synthesis

Glucose, acetate, lactose, ...

- Enzymes produced from information encoded in genes
 - *pykF* is gene encoding pyruvate kinase
 - Expression of *pykF* regulated by transcription factor Cra



Oh et al. (2002), J. Biol. Chem., 277(15):13175-83





• Bacterial metabolism is **flexible**, allowing cell to grow on different carbon sources

Preferential utilization: diauxic growth on glucose and lactose



Bettenbrock et al. (2006), J. Biol. Chem., 281(5):2578-84

Adaptation of bacterial physiology to different carbon sources



Growth transition and metabolism

Adaptation of bacteria to different carbon source involves changes in **metabolic fluxes**

Different flux distribution in central metabolism of *E. coli* during growth on glucose and galactose



Haverkorn van Rijsewijk *et al.* (2011), *Mol. Syst. Biol.*, 7:477



Growth transition and metabolism

 Adaptation of bacteria to different carbon source involves adjustment of metabolite levels

Different metabolite concentrations in *E. coli* cells growing on glucose and acetate



Table 1 Intracellular metabolite concentrations in glucose-fed, exponentially growing E. coli

Metabolite	mol I ⁻¹	Metabolite	mol I ⁻¹
Glutamate	9.6×10^{-2}	UDP-glucuronate (51)	5.7×10^{-4}
Glutathione	1.7×10^{-2}	ADP	$5.6 imes 10^{-4}$
Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate	1.5×10^{-2}	Asparagine (52)	$5.1 imes 10^{-4}$
ATP	9.6×10^{-3}	α-Ketoglutarate	4.4×10^{-4}
UDP-N-acetylglucosamine (29)	9.2×10^{-3}	Lysine (53)	4.1×10^{-4}
Hexose-P ^a	8.8×10^{-3}	Proline (54)	$3.9 imes 10^{-4}$
UTP (30)	8.3×10^{-3}	dTDP (55)	3.8×10^{-4}
GTP (31)	4.9×10^{-3}	Dihydroxyacetone phosphate	3.7×10^{-4}
dTTP	4.6×10^{-3}	Homocysteine (56)	$3.7 imes 10^{-4}$
Aspartate	4.2×10^{-3}	CMP (57)	3.6×10^{-4}
Valine (32)	4.0×10^{-3}	Deoxyribose-5-P (58)	$3.0 imes 10^{-4}$
Glutamine	3.8×10^{-3}	Isoleucine (59) + leucine (60)	$3.0 imes 10^{-4}$
6-Phosphogluconate	3.8×10^{-3}	AMP	$2.8 imes 10^{-4}$

Bennett et al. (2009), Nat. Chem. Biol., 5(8):593-9





 Adaptation of bacteria to different carbon source involves adjustment of expression levels of enzymatic genes

> Difference in expression levels of genes encoding enzymes in central metabolism of *E. coli* during growth on glucose and acetate



Oh et al. (2002), J. Biol. Chem., 277(15):13175-83

 Adaptation of bacteria to different carbon source involves genome-wide reorganization of gene expression

Gene expression during glucose-acetate shift in *E. coli*

Traxler et al. (2006), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 103(7):2374-9

 Adaptation of bacteria to different carbon source involves adjustment of transcription factor activity

Changes in activity and concentration of transcription factors during glucose-acetate shift in *E. coli*

Kao et al. (2005), J. Biol. Chem., 280(43):36079-87

 Adaptation of bacteria to different (carbon source involves adjustment of protein levels

> Changes in relative protein abundance during growth on lactose vs glucose and acetate vs glucose

Silva et al. (2006), Mol. Cell. Proteom., 5(4):589-607

Multiple high-throughput measurements

 Adaptation of bacteria to different carbon source involves adjustments on all levels at the same time!

Parallel measurement of enzyme and metabolite concentrations, and metabolic fluxes

• Experimental conditions:

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- Steady-state measurements in chemostat
- 24 single-gene disruptants from Keio collection
- 5 different dilution rates from 0.1 h⁻¹
 to 0.7 h⁻¹

Ishii et al. (2007), Science, 316(5284):593-7

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Coordination of adaptative responses

- Cells are capable of responding to a variety of changes in their environment by adapting their physiology Change in carbon source, starvation, population density, ...
- On the molecular level, these responses involve adjustment on different levels

Cellular concentrations of metabolites, enzymes, transcription factors, ...

• Coordination of adaptive responses of bacterial cell achieved by large and complex regulatory networks

Coordination of adaptative responses

- Coordination of adaptative responses of bacterial cell achieved by large and complex regulatory networks
 - Variety of molecular mechanisms...

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- ... operating on different time-scales...
- … involving numerous feedback loops

Baldazzi et al. (2010), PLoS Comput. Biol., 6(6):e1000812

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Coordination of adaptative responses

- Coordination of adaptative responses of bacterial cell achieved by large and complex regulatory networks
 - Variety of molecular mechanisms...
 - ... operating on different time-scales...
 - … involving numerous feedback loops
- Abundant knowledge on interactions between network components
- Accumulation of data on multi-level response of network to external perturbations
- However, global view on functioning of network is difficult to achieve and largely absent today

Regulatory networks as dynamical systems

- Bacterial regulatory networks are complex nonlinear dynamical systems, evolving on different time-scales
- **Challenge:** can mathematical models and computer tools help us understand how these systems function?
 - Integration of knowledge on interaction structure and different data sources into mathematical models
 - Use of models to analyze and predict dynamical behavior of system
 - Emergence of new discipline: systems biology...
 - ... which has a long history in biochemistry, thermodynamics, theoretical biology, ...

Goodwin (1963), *Temporal Organization in Cells*, Academic Press

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Regulatory networks as dynamical systems

- Bacterial regulatory networks are complex nonlinear dynamical systems, evolving on different time-scales
- **Challenge:** can mathematical models and computer tools help us understand how these systems function?
- Variety of **different formalisms** have been developed, describing system on different levels of detail

- Kinetic models of form $\dot{x} = N v(x)$
 - Concentration variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$
 - Reaction rates $v\,:\,\mathbb{R}^n_+ o\mathbb{R}^q$
 - Stoichiometry matrix $N \in \mathbb{Z}^{n imes q}$

Heinrich and Schuster (1996), The Regulation of Cellular Systems, Chapman & Hall

- Stochiometry matrix ${\cal N}$ describes structure of reaction network
- Reaction rate \boldsymbol{v} depends on concentrations of other cellular components

Modeling regulatory networks: example

- Kinetic models of form $\dot{x} = N v(x)$
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Heinrich and Schuster (1996), The Regulation of Cellular Systems, Chapman & Hall

Simplified model of glycolysis pathway, with metabolic and genetic regulation

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$$\dot{x}_{PEP} = 2 \cdot v_6(x_{H6P}, x_{PEP}, x_{FbaA})$$

-1 \cdot v_7(x_{Pyr}, x_{PEP}, x_{PykF})
-1 \cdot v_8(x_{PEP}, x_{Pyr}, x_{PTSp})

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• Steady-state dynamics of metabolic network

 $N \cdot v = 0$

 Stoichiometry matrix defines convex space of possible solutions (flux cone)

System of steady-state equations underdetermined: more reactions than concentrations variables

Stelling (2004), Curr. Opin. Microbiol., 7:513-8

• Steady-state dynamics of metabolic network

 $N \cdot v = 0$

 Stoichiometry matrix defines convex space of possible solutions (flux cone)

System of steady-state equations underdetermined: more reactions than concentrations variables

- Flux balance analysis (FBA) predicts flux distribution enabling optimal network performance
 - Optimal network performance often interpreted as maximal growth rate
 - Refinement by including additional constraints: thermodynamics, gene expression, ...
 - Constrained optimization problem

Palsson (2006), Systems Biology: Properties of Reconstructed Networks, Cambridge University Press

 Integration of gene expression constraints by deleting fluxes in strains mutated for an enzyme

- Integration of gene expression constraints by deleting fluxes in strains mutated for an enzyme
- Genome-scale model of *E. coli* metabolism, including regulation of enzymatic genes
- When including gene expression constraints, prediction of optimal growth rate in different mutants and growth conditions improved

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Covert et al. (2004), Nature, 429(6987):92-6

60% vs 78%

- Integration of gene expression constraints by deleting fluxes in strains mutated for an enzyme
- Genome-scale model of *E. coli* metabolism, including regulation of enzymatic genes
- Identification of missing enzymes and regulatory interactions

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Covert et al. (2004), Nature, 429(6987):92-6

- Integration of gene expression constraints by deleting fluxes in strains mutated for an enzyme
- Genome-scale model of *E. coli* metabolism, including regulation of enzymatic genes
- FBA models provide increasingly complete, static picture of metabolism

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In *E. coli* and other (less well-characterized) organisms

Feist and Palsson (2008), Nat. Biotechnol., 26(6):659-67

- Kinetic models of form $\dot{x} = N v(x)$
 - Concentration variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$
 - Reaction rates $v : \mathbb{R}^n_+ \to \mathbb{R}^q$
 - Stoichiometry matrix $N \in \mathbb{Z}^{n imes q}$

Heinrich and Schuster (1996), The Regulation of Cellular Systems, Chapman & Hall

- Stochiometry matrix $N\,$ describes structure of reaction network
- Reaction rate v depends on concentrations of other cellular components
 - Mass-action

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Michaelis-Menten (reversible/irreversible)

$$S \xleftarrow{V} P$$

- Kinetic models of form $\dot{x} = N v(x)$
 - Concentration variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$
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Heinrich and Schuster (1996), The Regulation of Cellular Systems, Chapman & Hall

- Stochiometry matrix ${\cal N}$ describes structure of reaction network
- Reaction rate \boldsymbol{v} depends on concentrations of other cellular components
 - Mass-action
 - Michaelis-Menten (reversible/irreversible)
 - Hill
 - Monod-Wyman-Changeux

- Kinetic models of form $\dot{x} = N v(x)$
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Heinrich and Schuster (1996), The Regulation of Cellular Systems, Chapman & Hall

- Stochiometry matrix ${\cal N}$ describes structure of reaction network
- Reaction rate \boldsymbol{v} depends on concentrations of other cellular components
- In general, reaction rate functions are nonlinear and have many parameters, difficult to measure directly in vivo
- Nevertheless, some examples of well-calibrated models!

- Model of uptake of carbon sources (glucose, lactose, glycerol, ...) by *E. coli*
 - Several dozens of equations and more than a hundred parameters, many of them unknown or unreliable
 - Mosty metabolic subsystem

Bettenbrock et al. (2005), J. Biol. Chem., 281(5): 2578-2584

- Estimation of parameter values from time-series data on metabolite concentrations in wild-type and mutant strains
- Model has good predictive capability: growth kinetics well explained in variety of conditions

Bettenbrock et al. (2005), J. Biol. Chem., 281(5): 2578-2584

- Estimation of parameter values from time-series data on metabolite concentrations in wild-type and mutant strains
- Parameterization of reaction rate functions is **major hurdle** towards quantitative models:
 - Noisy and partial observations in available datasets
 - Heterogeneous experimental methods and conditions
 - Large size of networks
 - Parameter estimation algorithms: heuristic and computationally costly

Ashyraliyev *et al.* (2009), *FEBS J.*, 276:886-902 van Riel (2006*), Brief. Bioinform.*, 7(4):364–74

- Alternative: model reduction and approximation
- Linlog models approximate classical enzymatic rate laws:

 $v(x, u, e) = \operatorname{diag}(e) \cdot \left(a + B^x \cdot \ln(x) + B^u \cdot \ln(u)\right)$

- Internal and external metabolite concentrations $x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^p_+$
- Enzyme concentrations $e \in \mathbb{R}^m_+$
- Parameters $a \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $B^x \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $B^u \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$

Heijnen (2005), *Biotechnol. Bioeng.*, 91(5):534-45

- Linlog models have several advantages for our purpose:
 - Good local approximation of classical rate laws
 - Parameter estimation reduced to **linear regression** problem
 - Parameters have biological interpretation (elasticities)

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• Consider metabolic system at (quasi-) steady state

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 $v = \operatorname{diag}(e) \cdot (a + B^{x} \cdot \ln x + B^{u} \cdot \ln u)$ $N \cdot v = 0$

- Measurements:
 - Metabolite concentrations u, x

• Consider metabolic system at (quasi-) steady state

 $v = \operatorname{diag}(e) \cdot (a + B^{x} \cdot \ln x + B^{u} \cdot \ln u)$ $N \cdot v = 0$

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• Consider metabolic system at (quasi-) steady state:

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• Measurements:

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- Metabolite concentrations u, x
- Enzyme concentrations *e*
- Metabolic fluxes (reaction rates at steady state) J
- Linear regression problem:

$$\left(\frac{v}{e}\right)^{T} = \left[1 \ \ln x^{T} \ \ln u^{T}\right] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a^{T} \\ (B^{x}) \\ (B^{u}) \end{bmatrix}$$

• Consider metabolic system at (quasi-) steady state:

 $v = \operatorname{diag}(e) \cdot (a + B^{x} \cdot \ln x + B^{u} \cdot \ln u)$ $N \cdot v = 0$

- Measurements:
 - Metabolite concentrations u, x
 - Enzyme concentrations *e*
 - Metabolic fluxes (reaction rates at steady state) J
- Parameters to estimate:

 $a B^x B^u$

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- High-throughput data sets are becoming available that allow estimation of parameters in linlog models
 - Parallel measurement of enzyme and metabolite concentrations, and
metabolic fluxesIshii et al. (2007), Science, 316(5284):593-7
- Estimation of parameters in linlog models from experimental data
 - Technical problem: missing data

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 Expectation-Maximization (EM) approach for estimation of parameter values, tailored to linlog models

Berthoumieux et al. (2011), Bioinformatics, 27(13):i186-95

- **Question:** can we reliably estimate parameter values using simplified model and state-of-the-art high-throughput data set?
- Evaluation of results by comparing estimated and known signs of parameters
 - Parameters have biological interpretation (elasticities)
 - Elasticities capture normalized local response of reaction rates to changes in metabolite concentration
 - Elasticities and parameters $\begin{bmatrix} B^x & B^u \end{bmatrix}^T$ have same sign

Heinrich and Schuster (1996), *The Regulation of Cellular Systems*, Chapman & Hall

• **Question:** can we reliably estimate parameter values using simplified model and state-of-the-art high-throughput data set?

26 nonidentifiable parameters40 estimated signs not significantat 95% confidence

20 signs correctly estimated14 signs wrongly estimated

Berthoumieux et al. (2011), Bioinformatics, 27(13):i186-95

- **Question:** can we reliably estimate parameter values using simplified model and state-of-the-art high-throughput data set?
- Further analysis pinpoints **identifiability issues**: Different parametrizations lead to same predictions

Berthoumieux et al. (2012), J. Math. Biol, in press

- **Question:** can we reliably estimate parameter values using simplified model and state-of-the-art high-throughput data set?
- Further analysis pinpoints **identifiability issues**:

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Berthoumieux et al. (2012), J. Math. Biol, in press

- **Question:** can we reliably estimate parameter values using simplified model and state-of-the-art high-throughput data set?
- Further analysis pinpoints identifiability issues
- State-of-the-art high-throughput data set does not allow to unambiguously infer most parameters in large metabolic network model
 - Noisy data (often of same order of magnitude as relevant information)
 - Little informative conditions (steady-state data, metabolism is homeostatic system)

- Question: can we reliably estimate parameter values using simplified model and state-of-the-art high-throughput data set?
- New experimental methods and techniques: **time-series data** that allow dynamic monitoring of metabolism
- Modelling glycolysis in Lactococcus lactis using approximate kinetic models

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Power-law models (cousin of linlog models)

Voit et al. (2006), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 103(25):9452-7

Metabolic networks are integrated with gene networks and signalling networks

Complex multi-level system with feedback across different time-scales

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- Fast response: adaptation of metabolic fluxes and metabolite pools (metabolic network)
 - Slow response: adaptation of enzyme and TF concentrations (gene regulatory network)
 - Feedback across genetic and metabolic levels: complex system on different time-scales

Kotte et al. (2010), Mol. Syst. Biol., 6:355

- Kinetic model of form $\dot{x} = N v(x)$
 - Concentration variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$
 - Reaction rates $v : \mathbb{R}^n_+ \to \mathbb{R}^q$
 - Stoichiometry matrix $N \in \mathbb{Z}^{n imes q}$
- Time-scale hierarchy motivates distinction between fast reaction rates $v^f \in \mathbb{R}^{q-p}$ and slow reaction rates $v^s \in \mathbb{R}^p$, such that $v = [v^s \ v^f]'$

Typically, **enzymatic and complex formation** reactions are fast, **protein synthesis and degradation** are slow

• Separation of fast and slow reactions motivates a linear transformation $T \in \mathbb{Z}^n \times \mathbb{Z}^n$ of the variables

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^s \\ x^f \end{bmatrix} = T x \qquad \begin{bmatrix} N^s & 0 \\ N^{s'} & N^f \end{bmatrix} = T N$$

- We call $x^s \in \mathbb{R}^m_+$ slow variables and $x^f \in \mathbb{R}^{n-m}_+$ fast variables
- Separation of fast and slow variables allows $\dot{x} = N v(x)$ to be rewritten as coupled slow (genetic) and fast (metabolic) subsystems

$$\dot{x}^{s} = N^{s} v^{s}(x^{s}, x^{f})$$
$$\dot{x}^{f} = N^{s'} v^{s}(x^{s}, x^{f}) + N^{f} v^{f}(x^{s}, x^{f}) \approx N^{f} v^{f}(x^{s}, x^{f})$$

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Slow variables are typically **total protein concentrations**, fast variables **metabolites and biochemical complexes**

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Slow variables are typically **total protein concentrations**, fast variables **metabolites and biochemical complexes**

Modeling regulatory networks: example

 Separation of fast and slow variables allows original model to be rewritten as coupled slow (genetic) and fast (metabolic) subsystems

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$$\dot{x}^{s} = N^{s} v^{s}(x^{s}, x^{f})$$
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Baldazzi et al. (2010), PLoS Comput. Biol., 6(6):e1000812

 Separation of fast and slow variables allows original model to be rewritten as coupled slow (genetic) and fast (metabolic) subsystems

$$\dot{x}^{s} = N^{s} v^{s}(x^{s}, x^{f})$$
$$\dot{x}^{f} = N^{s'} v^{s}(x^{s}, x^{f}) + N^{f} v^{f}(x^{s}, x^{f}) \approx N^{f} v^{f}(x^{s}, x^{f})$$

• Under **quasi-steady-state approximation (QSSA)**, fast variables are assumed to instantly adapt to slow dynamics

$$\dot{x}^f = 0 \implies N^f v^f(x^s, x^f) = 0$$

Heinrich and Schuster (1996), The Regulation of Cellular Systems, Chapman & Hall

• Coupling of gene expression and metabolism into a single integrated model $\dot{x}^s - N^s v^s (x^s - x^f)$

$$x^{s} = N^{s} v^{s}(x^{s}, x^{f})$$
$$N^{f} v^{f}(x^{s}, x^{f}) = 0$$

Kotte et al. (2010), Mol. Syst. Biol., 6: 355

- Kinetic model with 47 variables and 193 parameters
 Parameters estimated from published experimental steady-state data sets for balanced growth on either glucose or acetate
- Analysis of model shows that adaptation to change in carbon source is achieved by distributed sensing of intracellular fluxes

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Kotte et al. (2010), Mol. Syst. Biol., 6: 355

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Metabolic networks are integrated with gene networks and signalling networks

Complex multi-level system with feedback across different timescales

Metabolic networks are integrated with gene networks and signalling networks

Complex multi-level system with feedback across different timescales

• Upscaling of analysis to large networks of dozens or even hundreds of genes, proteins, metabolites, ...

Model reduction, qualitative models, and formal verification tools

Conclusions

- Adaptation of bacteria to their environment involves
 reorganization of cellular physiology
- Increasingly powerful methods have become available to experimentally quantify cellular adaptation
 Transcriptomics, proteomics, fluxomics, metabolomics, ...
- Adaptation process achieved by large and complex regulatory networks

Nonlinear dynamical systems with feedback across different timescales

 Mathematical modeling and computer simulation helpful in making sense out of multiple sources of data Systems biology

Conclusions

- Issues for integration of different data sources into quantitative, predictive mathematical models:
 - Noisy data, obtained with heterogeneous methods in different experimental conditions
 - Parameter estimation and model identifiability
 - Complex models with many variables evolving on different timescales
- How can we make useful and reliable explanations/ predictions with the help of such large mathematical/ computational objects?
- To which extent can these approaches be applied to more complex multicellular organisms? Evolving in communities and ecosystems?

Merci!

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