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LEIPZIG

Are we there yet?

# Modeling microbial communities

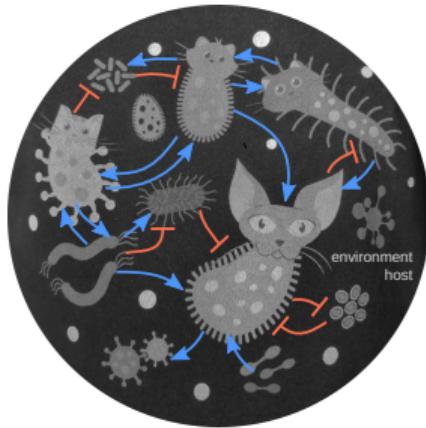
Bled, February 13, 2024  
Maria Waldl

MATOMC

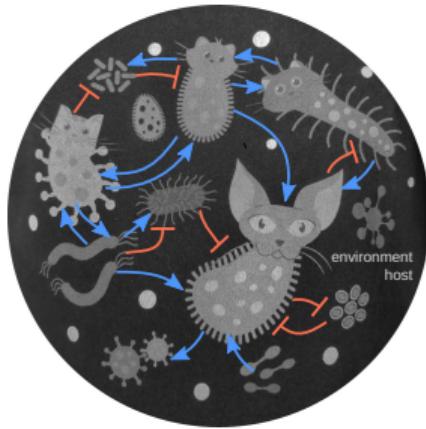


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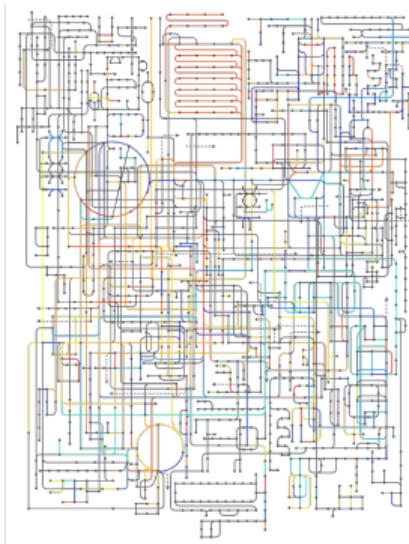
## microbial interaction network



## microbial interaction network

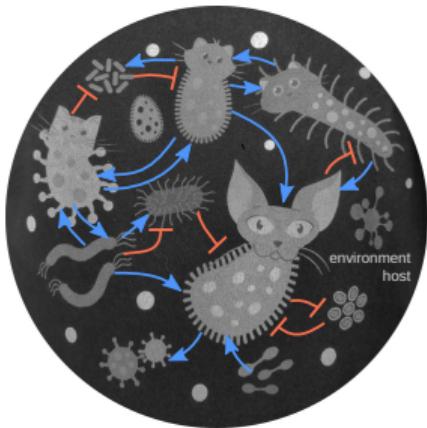


## metabolic network

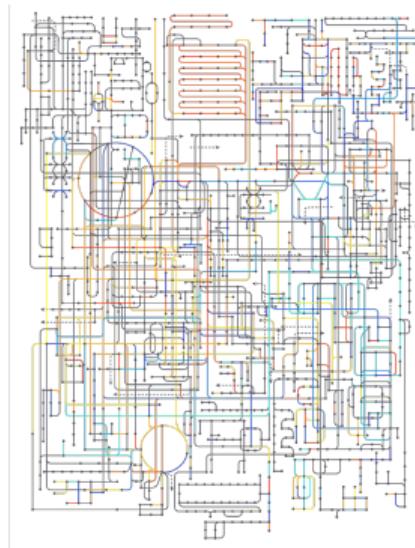


<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MetabolicNetwork.png>  
J3D3, CC BY-SA 4.0

## microbial interaction network

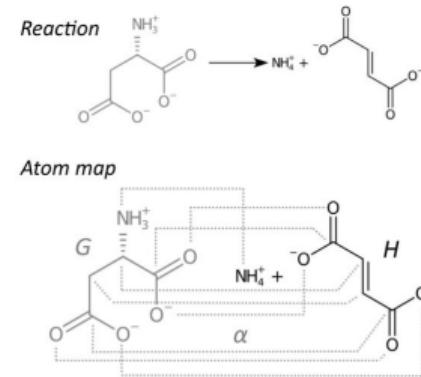


## metabolic network



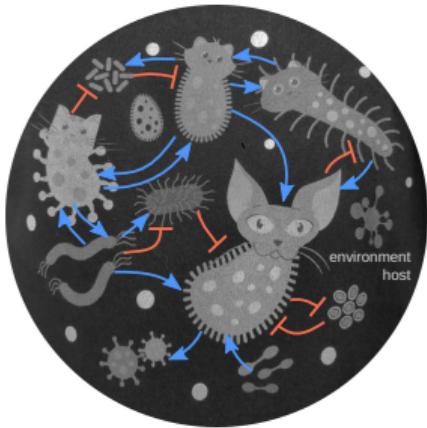
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MetabolicNetwork.png>  
J3D3, CC BY-SA 4.0

## atom map

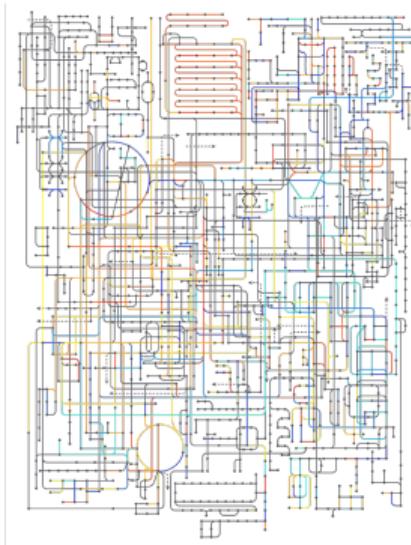


González Laffitte et al. (2023)  
doi: 10.46793/match.90-1.075G

## microbial interaction network

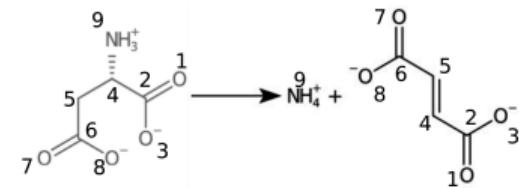


## metabolic network



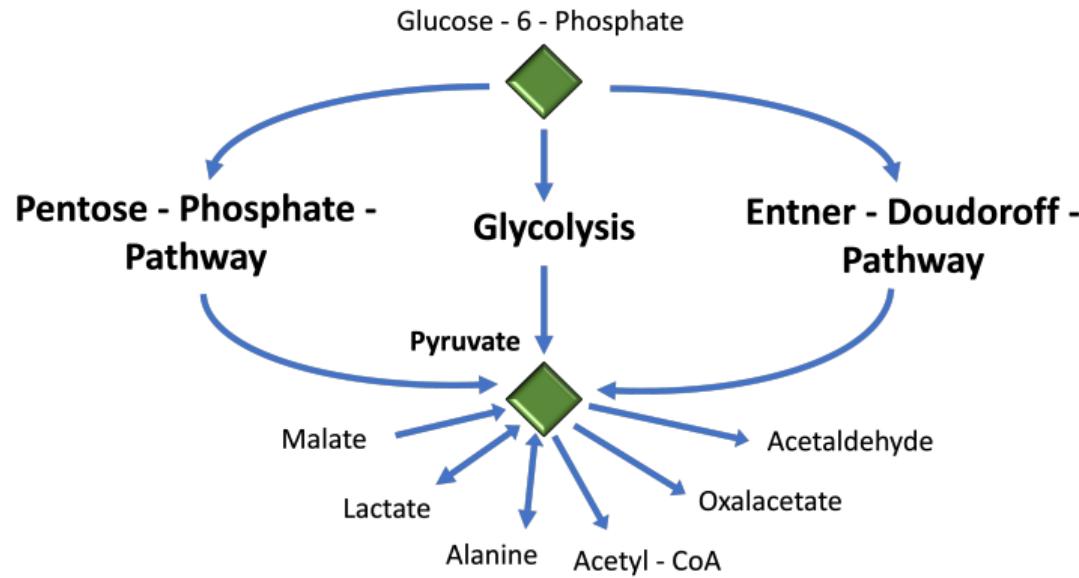
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MetabolicNetwork.png>  
J3D3, CC BY-SA 4.0

## atom map



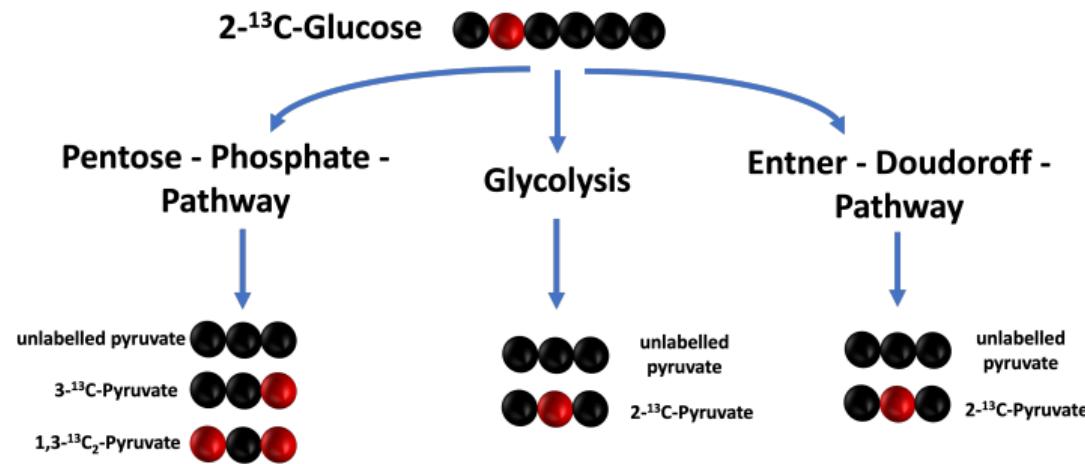
González Laffitte et al. (2023)  
doi: 10.46793/match.90-1.075G

# atom map - applications



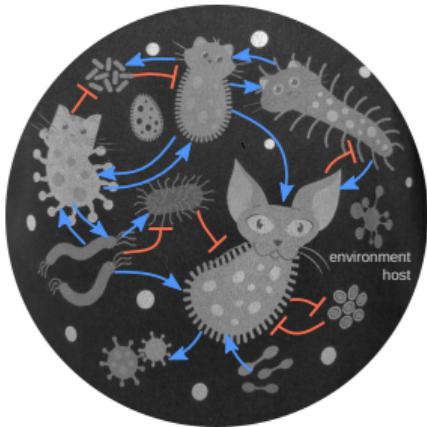
Richard Golnik

# atom map - isotope tracing

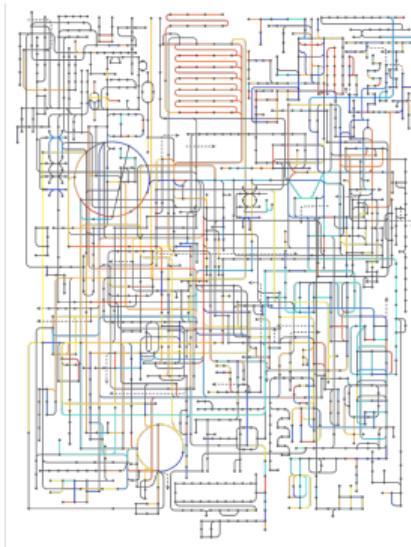


Richard Golnik

## microbial interaction network

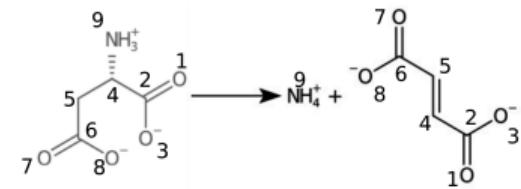


## metabolic network



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MetabolicNetwork.png>  
J3D3, CC BY-SA 4.0

## atom map



González Laffitte et al. (2023)  
doi: 10.46793/match.90-1.075G

**MATOMIC** Unlocking network

**scalability in communities**

**Coarse graining concept in metabolic modelling**

Rupert Tscheliessnig, Branko Ristivojcevic, Xtof Flamm, 12. February 2024

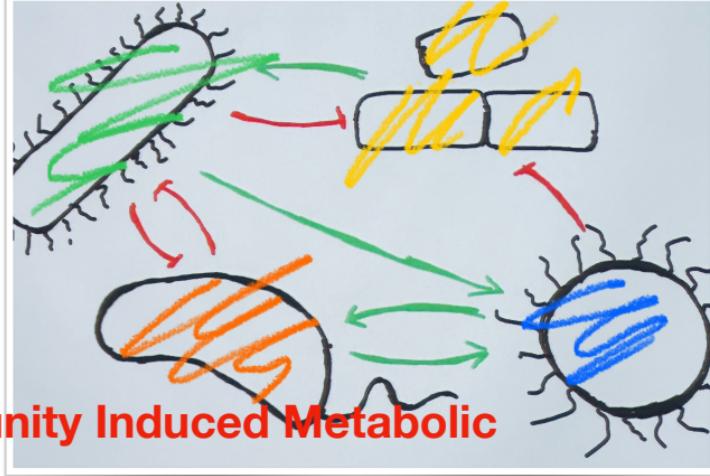
# Motivation

MATOMIC

## Mathematical Modelling for Microbial Community Induced Metabolic Diseases

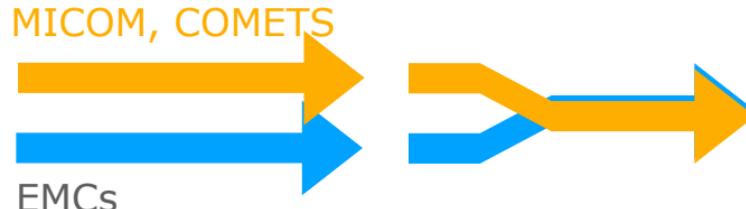
Treatment-related interventions that change the structure and composition of gut bacteria among individuals.

Combining metabolic modeling techniques with experimental cultivation of microbiomes of different complexity, to design stable microbial communities for therapeutic use.



# First approach

For systematic coarse graining (lump the networks)



MICOM, a customizable metabolic model of the human gut microbiome. COMETS on stoichiometric modeling of individual microbial species, and on a discrete approximation of convect<sub>ion</sub>-diffusion equations (Cobrapy).

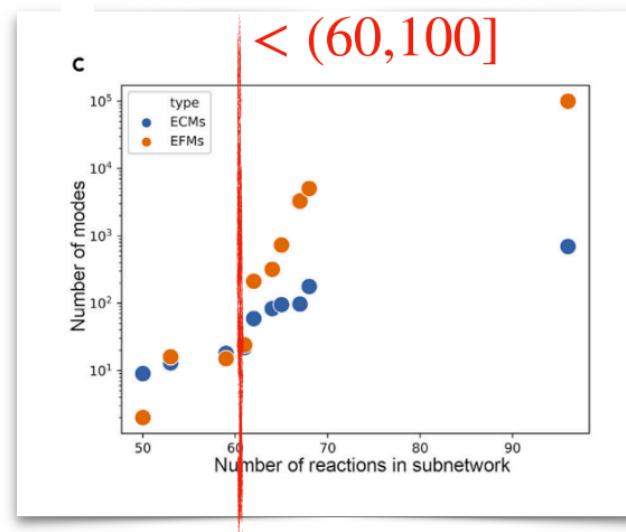
Complement ecmtool by the Python Community metabolic Modelling package, PyCoMo and benchmark against memory-efficient enumeration of elementary conversion modes.

# Why ECMs ...

## But identifying ECMs is network dependent

Identification of the main routes in metabolic modeling of microbial community interactions. The **current golden standard** is the computation of **ECMs**. Cells have orders of magnitude fewer ECMs than flux routes (EFMs)

**The number of elementary conversion modes in the e\_coli\_core model<sup>37</sup> reduces from 100,274 EFMs to 689 ECMs.**



Clement, Tom J., Erik B. Baalhuis, Bas Teusink, Frank J. Bruggeman, Robert Planqué, and Daan H. De Groot. "Unlocking Elementary Conversion Modes: Ecmtool Unveils All Capabilities of Metabolic Networks." *Patterns* 2, no. 1 (January 2021): 100177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patter.2020.100177>.

# Identifying Elementary Conversion Modes (ECM)

Formally, it is a Fourier-Motzkin elimination method

To eliminate a metabolite, we can rewrite the constraints in terms of the metabolite.

$$S_{i,j} \cdot v_j \leq 0$$

$$\begin{cases} 2x - 5y + 4z \leq 10 \\ 3x - 6y + 3z \leq 9 \\ -x + 5y - 2z \leq -7 \\ -3x + 2y + 6z \leq 12 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} x \leq \frac{10 + 5y - 4z}{2} \\ x \leq \frac{9 + 6y - 3z}{3} \\ x \geq 7 + 5y - 2z \\ x \geq \frac{-12 + 2y + 6z}{3} \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} 7 + 5y - 2z \leq \frac{10 + 5y - 4z}{2} \\ 7 + 5y - 2z \leq \frac{9 + 6y - 3z}{3} \\ \frac{-12 + 2y + 6z}{3} \leq \frac{10 + 5y - 4z}{2} \\ \frac{-12 + 2y + 6z}{3} \leq \frac{9 + 6y - 3z}{3} \end{cases}$$

$$4(n/4)^{2^d}$$

How to decide which metabolite should be taken out as the algorithm produces many unnecessary constraints (constraints that are implied by complement). Constraints can be minimised using FBA.

# The annotation problem

## 8 communities and their missing annotations.

Good and bad

Anaerostipes\_caccae\_DSM\_14662  
Anaerostipes\_caccae\_DSM\_14662\_NBmod  
**Bifidobacterium\_longum\_NCC2705**  
Blautia\_productus\_DSM\_2950  
Clostridium\_butyricum\_DSM\_10702  
Clostridium\_ramosum\_VPI\_0427\_DSM\_1402  
Lactobacillus\_plantarum\_subsp\_plantarum\_ATCC\_14917

Bacteroides\_thetaiotaomicron\_VPI\_5482  
Escherichia\_coli\_str\_K\_12\_substr\_MG1655  
Escherichia\_coli\_str\_K\_12\_substr\_MG1655\*

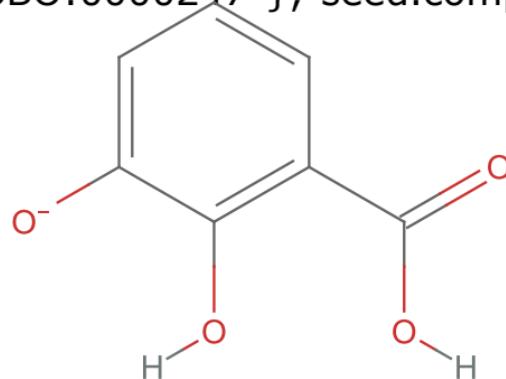
From 6 species max. 5 metabolites are not *annotated*, only. However approx. 300 metabolites are annotated by a single reference, poorly

From 2 species 236 metabolites missing, but only 40 of these are not seed or sink metabolites

# Solving the annotation issue, web crawling

## The annotation of “2,3-dihydroxybenzoate”

```
{9, {{"23dhb[c]", "2,3-dihydroxybenzoate"},  
{"bigg.metabolite" -> "23dhb", "chebi" -> "CHEBI:18026", "hmdb" ->  
"HMDB0000397", "inchi" -> "InChI=1S/C7H6O4/  
c8-5-3-1-2-4(6(5)9)7(10)11/h1-3,8-9H,(H,10,11)/p-1",  
"kegg.compound" -> "C00196", "metanetx.chemical" -> "MNXM455",  
"pubchem.compound" -> "19", "sbo" -> {"SBO:0000247"}, "seed.compound" ->  
"cpd00168"}}}
```



# Annotations—structrecon

## The metabolite: "2,3-dihydroxybenzoate"

**Input identifiers**

Automatically infer  Identifier type

Common name  
MetaNetX  
BIGG  
PubChem  
InChi  
KEGG  
CHEBI  
ECMDB  
Sum Formula  
SMILES

**Result**

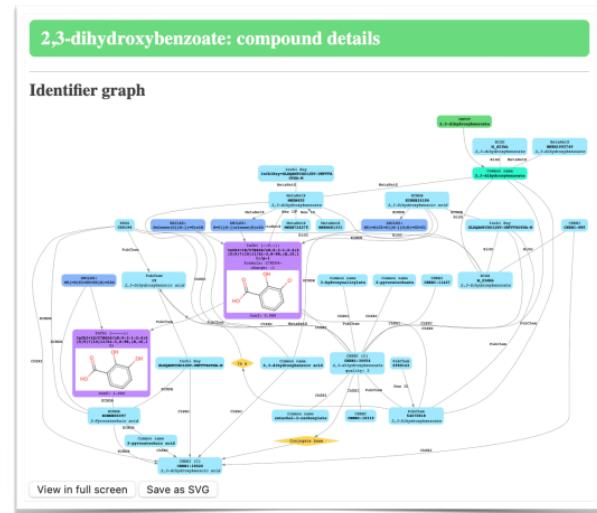
[Return to input form](#) [Download output as zip](#) [Download response as JSON](#)

**Input mapping**

Click on a row in the list to display the associated identifier graph and statistics.

Compound	Result	Conf.
2,3-dihydroxybenzoate	InChI=1S/C7H6O4/c8-5-3-1-2-4(6(5)9)7(10)11/h1-3,8-9H,(H,10,11)	1.0
	InChI=1S/C7H6O4/c8-5-3-1-2-4(6(5)9)7(10)11/h1-3,8-9H,(H,10,11)/p-1	0.99

2,3-dihydroxybenzoate InChI=1S/C7H6O4/c8-5-3-1-2-4(6(5)9)7(10)11/h1-3,8-9H,(H,10,11) 1.0



### Reconciling Inconsistent Molecular Structures from Biochemical Databases

Casper Asbjørn Eriksen, Jakob Lykke Andersen, Rolf Fagerberg, Daniel Merkle (2023)

[DOI:978-981-99-7074-2\\_5](#), ArXiV Preprint

Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNBI, vol 14248), Proceedings of the International symposium of Bioinformatics Research and Applications (ISBRA 2023)

# Annotations—structrecon

## The metabolite: "1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide"

**Input identifiers**

List of identifiers  
Automatically infer Identifier type  
`1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide`

Upload list of identifiers  
Automatically infer Identifier type  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

Upload SBML file  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

Upload JSON file  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

**Submit query** **Clear form**



**Result**

[Return to input form](#) [Download output as zip](#) [Download response as JSON](#)

**1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide: compound details**

**Identifier graph**

**INPUT**  
**1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide**

**View in full screen** **Save as SVG**

**Input mapping**

Click on a row in the list to display the associated identifier graph and statistics.

Compound	Result	Conf.
1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide	No structures found.	

# Solving the annotation issue, web crawling

## Combine Google PubChem for the annotation

"1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide" // useGooglePubChem[]

"midazolam-glucuronide", "Mdz-glucuronide"

Formula	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>21</sub> ClFN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub>
PubChemCompoundID	{ PubChem compound <a href="#">133640</a> }
PubChemSynonyms	{ ... <sub>21</sub> }
InChI	InChI=1S/C24H21ClFN3O7/c25-11-5-6-16-14(7-11)18(13-3-1-2-4-15(13)26)28-9-12-8-27-17(29(12)
CanonicalSMILES	O=C(O)C1OC(OCc2ncc3n2-c2ccc(Cl)cc2C(c2cccc2F)=NC3)C(O)C(O)C1O

# Annotations – structrecon

## The metabolite: "1-oh-midazolam-glucuronide"

**Input identifiers**

**List of identifiers**  
Automatically infer Identifier type

**Upload list of identifiers**  
Automatically infer Identifier type  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

**Upload SBML file**  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

**Upload JSON file**  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

**Submit query** **Clear form**

When providing a list of IDs or uploading a list, either:

**Result**

[Return to input form](#) [Download output as zip](#) [Download response as JSON](#)

**Input mapping**

Click on a row in the list to display the associated identifier graph and statistics.

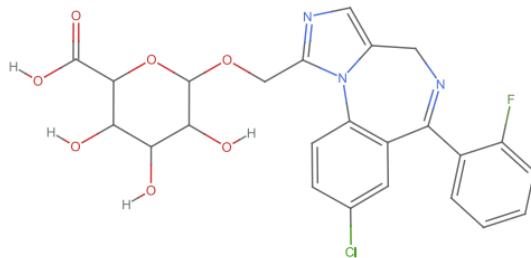
Compound	Result	Conf.
1hmdbluc	InChI=1S/C24H21ClFN3O7/ c25-11-5-6-16-14(7-11)18(13-3-1-2-4-15(13)26)-28-9- -12-8-27-17(29(12)16)10-35-24-21(32)19(30)20(31) 22(36-24)23(33)34/h1-8,19-22,24,30-32H,9-10H2, (H,33,34)	

**1hmdbluc: compound details**

**Identifier graph**

```
graph TD; Input[INPUT 1hmdbluc] --> B1000[B1000 1'-OH-midazolam-glucuronide]; Input --> B1001[B1001 1'-OH-midazolam-glucuronide]; Input --> B1002[B1002 1'-OH-midazolam-glucuronide]; B1000 --> B1001; B1000 --> B1002; B1001 --> B1002; B1000 --> B1003[B1003 InChIKey=CIUHQZLQXNGL-UNPFFFAOEHA-W]; B1001 --> B1003; B1002 --> B1003; B1003 --> B1004[B1004 333491]; B1000 --> B1005[B1005 MetaNetX MRNMT44407 1'-OH-midazolam-glucuronide]; B1001 --> B1005; B1002 --> B1005; B1003 --> B1005; B1004 --> B1006[B1006 SMILES: O=C(O)c1cc2[nH]cnc2[nH]1Cc3ccccc3Cl]; B1005 --> B1006; B1006 --> B1007[B1007 InChI=1S/C24H21ClFN3O7/c25-11-5-6-14(7-11)18(13-3-1-2-4-15(13)26)-28-9-12-8-27-17(29(12)16)10-35-24-21(32)19(30)20(31)22(36-24)23(33)34/h1-8,19-22,24,30-32H,9-10H2,(H,33,34)]
```

**View in full screen** **Save as SVG**



# Annotations – structrecon

## The metabolite: "3-hydroxymorphinan o-glucuronide"

**Input identifiers**

List of identifiers  
Automatically infer Identifier type  
`3oh_mxn_glc`

Upload list of identifiers  
Automatically infer Identifier type  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

Upload SBML file  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

Upload JSON file  
Durchsuchen... Keine Datei ausgewählt.

**Submit query** **Clear form**

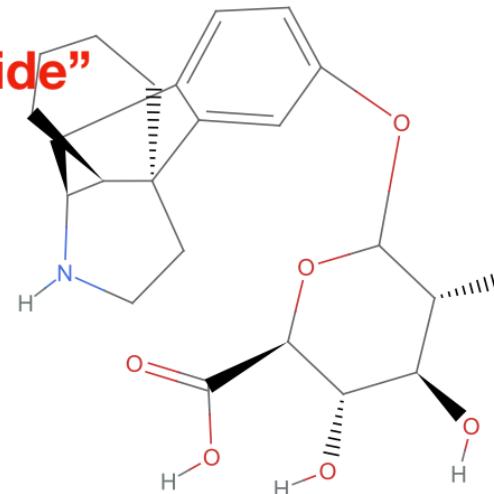
**Result**

[Return to input form](#) [Download output as zip](#)  
[Download response as JSON](#)

**Input mapping**

Click on a row in the list to display the associated identifier graph and statistics.

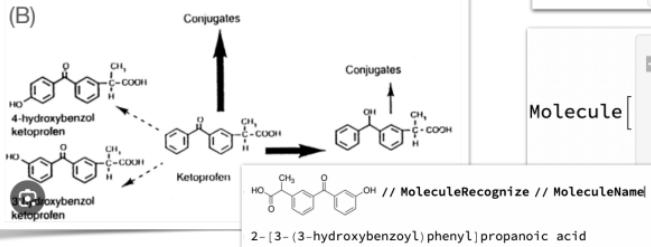
Compound	Result	Conf.
<code>3oh_mxn_glc</code>	No structures found.	



(A) "[//Import//Molecule">https://go.drugbank.com/structures/metabolites/DBMET01319.inchi">//Import//Molecule](https://go.drugbank.com/structures/metabolites/DBMET01319.inchi)

Molecule [ Formula: C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> Atoms: 59 Bonds: 63 ]

Molecule [ Formula: C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> Atoms: 59 Bonds: 63 ]  
SMILES: C1CC[C@H]23CCN[C@@H]([H])[Cc4ccc(OC5([H])[C@@H](O)[C@H](C(=O)O)([H])O5)H][C@H](O)[C@@H](O)[C@H]([H])[C@H](C(=O)O)([H])O5)cc42)C@@H]3([H])C1  
InChIKey: QYVMECDBFFRIEZ-DESFNQSRSA-N



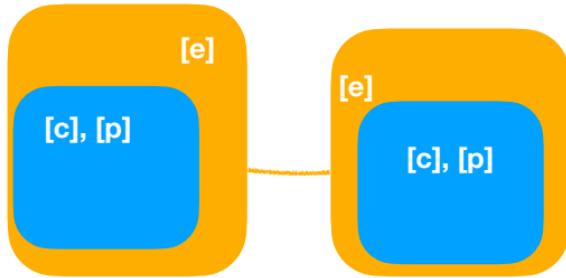
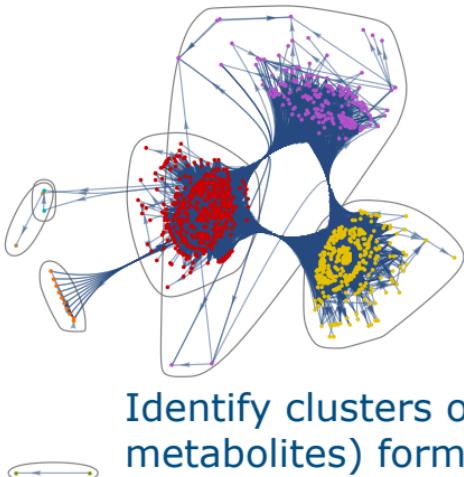
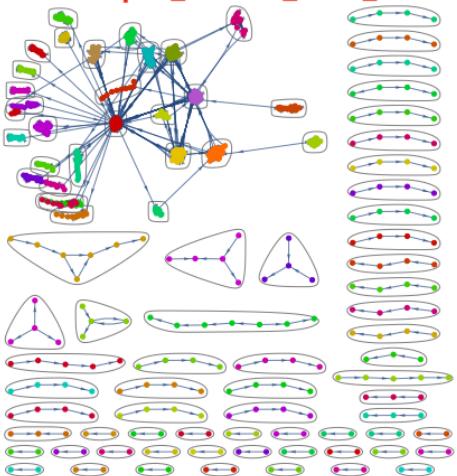
# Communities detection

## Tagging the reactions

```
{ {<23dhmp [c][c], 3h3mop, 26dap_LL [c][c] glu_L, 26dap_LL [c][c] thdp, 2ahbut [c][c] 3h3mop, tyr_L [c][c] dad_5, tyr_L [c][c] imogly, tyr_L [c][c] met_L, tyr_L [c][c] pcesol, 21ns [c][c] dkdi, 2mbcoa [c][c] 2mbutACP, 3btcoa [c][c] b2coa, 3hdecACP [c][c] tdec2eACP, 10m3hundecACP [c][c] 10mtundec2eACP, ...1174..., trp_L [c][c] biomass, tyr_L [c][c] PGPm1, tyr_L [c][c] apoACP, tyr_L [c][c] biomass, udcpdp [c][c] PGPm1, udcpdp [c][c] apoACP, udcpdp [c][c] biomass, val_L [c][c] PGPm1, val_L [c][c] apoACP, val_L [c][c] biomass, zn2 [c][c] PGPm1, zn2 [c][c] apoACP, zn2 [c][c] biomass}, {...1...}, {...8...}, {...1...} }}
```

"[e]", "[c]", and "[p]" give the **compartmentalization** within biological systems or models, especially in the context of metabolic pathways: "[e]" **extracellular space or environment**, "[c]" **cytosol or cytoplasmic compartment**, and "[p]" **periplasmic space**

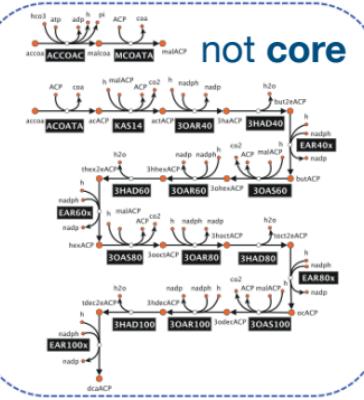
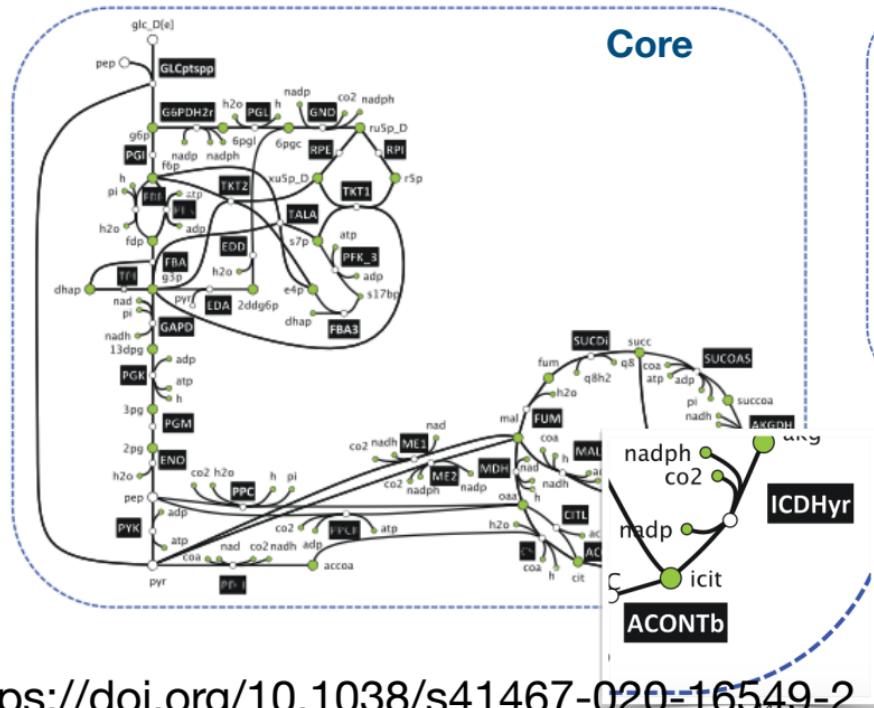
Anaerostipes caccae DSM 14662



Identify clusters of metabolites (without hub metabolites) form clusters of reactions (lumping) – identify exchange metabolites

# Communities detection

Splitting the reactions, workflow by Hatzimanikatis [1]



**biomass:** amino acids, lipids, cofactors ...

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005513>

# Communities design

Splitting the reactions, workflow by Hatzimanikatis [1]

Carbohydrate metabolism:

Glycolysis/gluconeogenesis (**Gg**)

Pentose phosphate pathway (**PPP**)

Central metabolism: the titric acid cycle (**TCA**)

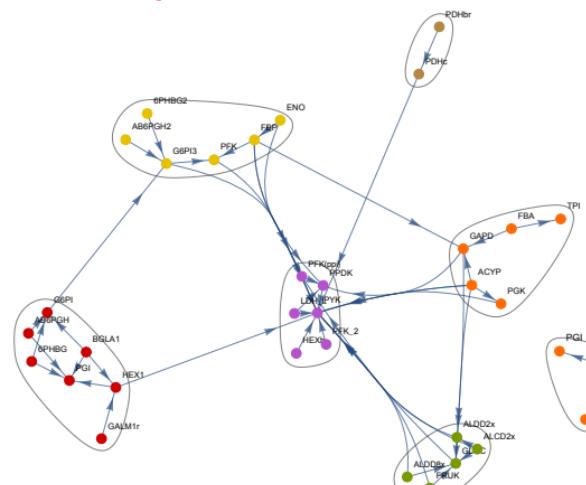


**Anaplerotic** cycles are all MP that replenish the supply of intermediates in TCA cycle, and are crucial for maintaining adequate levels of TCA cycle metabolites. Anaplerotic cycles ensure the continuous operation of the TCA.

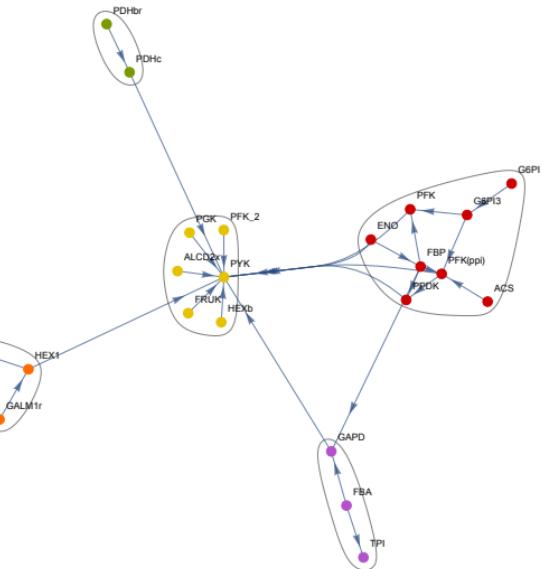
# Communities detection

## Pentose phosphate pathway (PPP) for 3 species

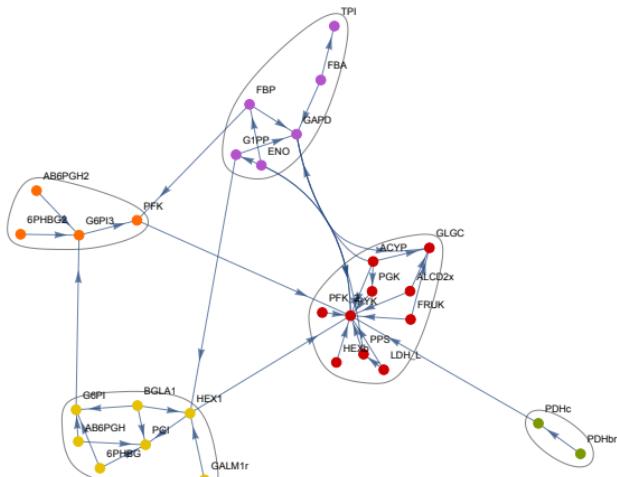
Anaerostipes\_caccae\_DSM\_14662



Bacteroides\_thetaiotaomicron\_VPI\_5482



Escherichia\_coli\_str\_K\_12\_substr\_MG1655



Colors indicate different reactions communities, only!

# Outlook

## Integration fo the redHUMAN workflow by Hatzimanikatis [1]

**Thermodynamic Curation:** Estimating Gibbs free energy to define reaction directionality.

**Subsystem Selection:** Choosing relevant metabolic processes for the study.

**Network Expansion:** Connecting initial subsystems to form a core metabolic network.

**Extracellular Medium Connection:** Linking extracellular medium components to the network.

---

**Biosynthetic Reaction Generation:** Identifying pathways for biomass building blocks.

**Data Integration and Consistency Checks:** Integrating experimental data and verifying model consistency.

<https://www.yworks.com/products/yed/download>

<https://fluxer.umbc.edu/>

[1] <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-16549-2>

# Take home message

Begin with simplicity, since complexity will  
**naturally evolve on its own.**

# Acknowledgment



**Rupert Tscheliessnig, Branko Ristivojcevic, Xtof Flamm ...  
the Matomic @, & the TBI**