

Synthesis of Boolean Networks from the Structure and Dynamics of Reaction Networks

Athénaïs Vaginay

14th November 2023

My curriculum

- ▶ 2011–2012: medical studies
 - ▶ 2012–2015: bachelor biology
 - ▶ 2015–2017: master bioinformatics
- } Univ. Diderot, Paris
- ▶ 2018: engineer bioinformatics CRIStAL, Lille
machine learning for gene expression analysis
 - ▶ 2018–2023: PhD Loria / Cran / Univ. Lorraine, Nancy
*Synthesis of Boolean networks from the structure and
dynamics of reaction networks*
Taha Boukhobza & Malika Smail-Tabbonne
 - ▶ beginning 2024: visiting univ. Iowa, US

Systems Biology

Formal modelling and reasoning about **biological systems**

A set of **species** of interest genes, proteins, cells, animals. . .

Questions

How does the system evolve?

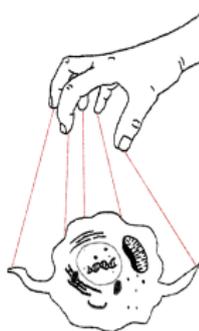
Is the population of some cell type stable over time?



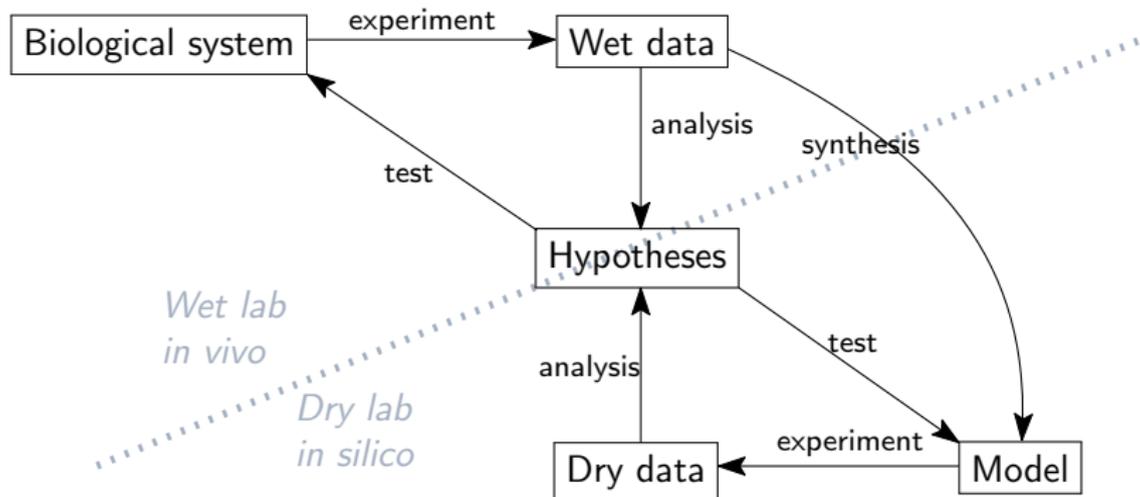
How to control the system?

Cure a pathological system

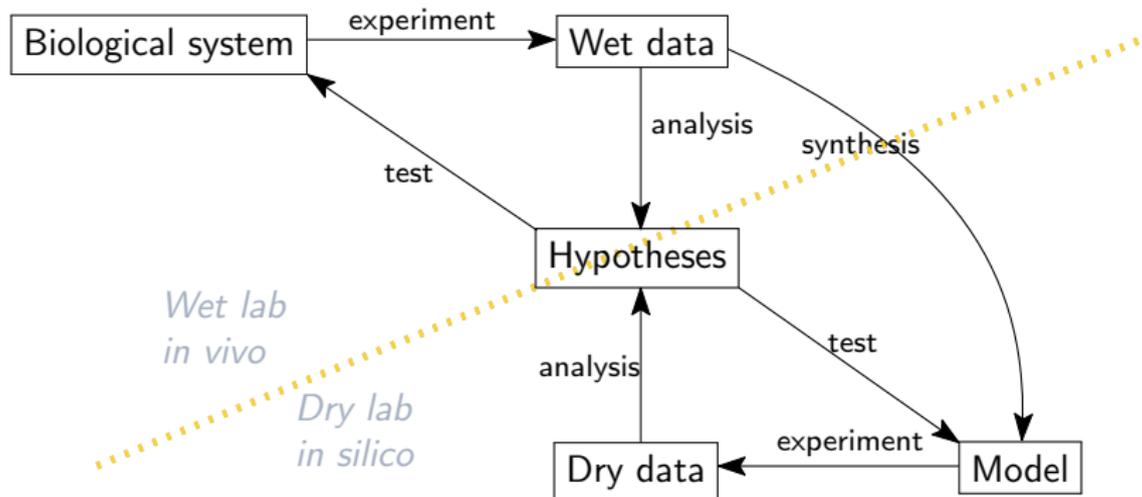
Produce more of some species of interest



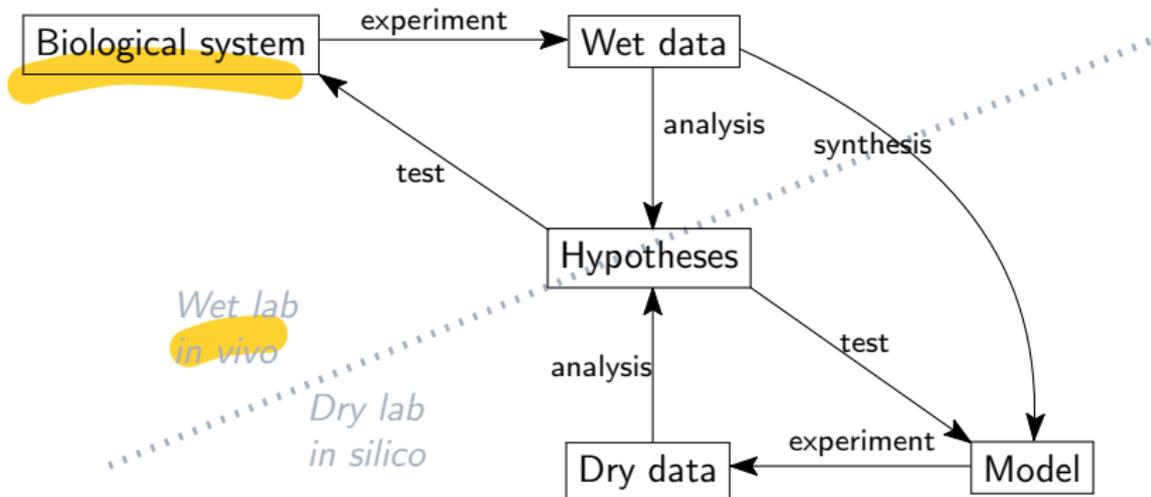
The workflow of system biology [Kohl et al., 2010]



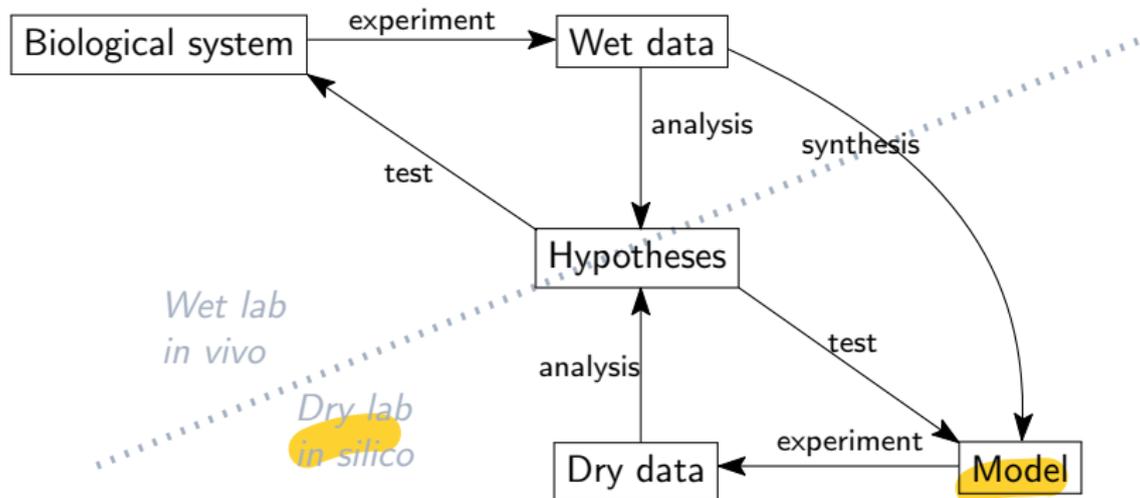
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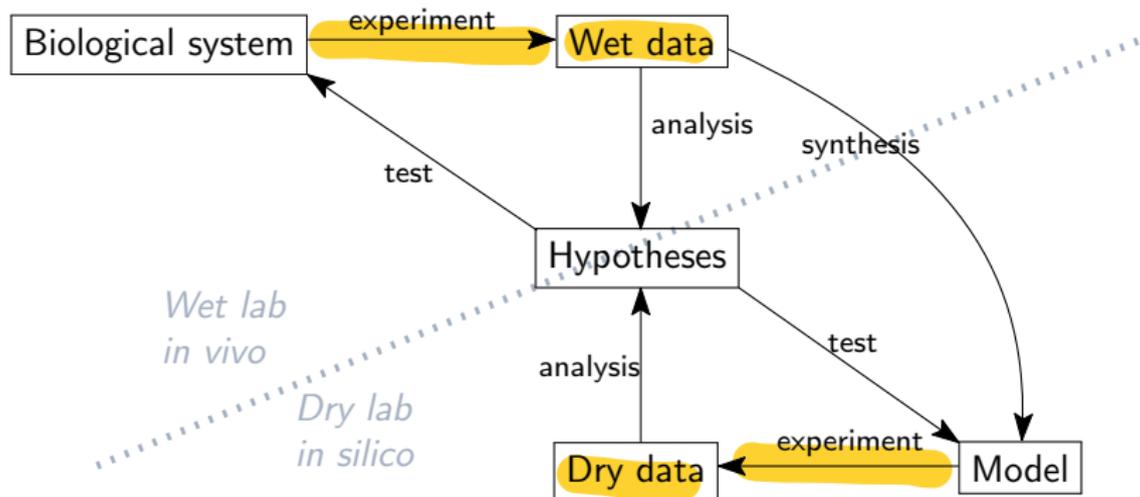
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Definition (Model)

Abstract representation (abbreviated and convenient)
of the reality (more complex and detailed).

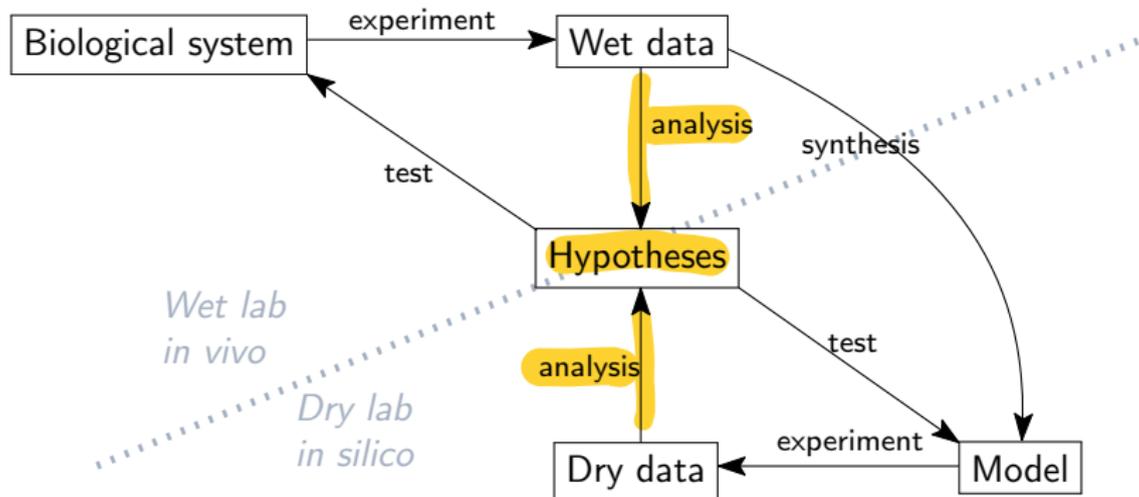
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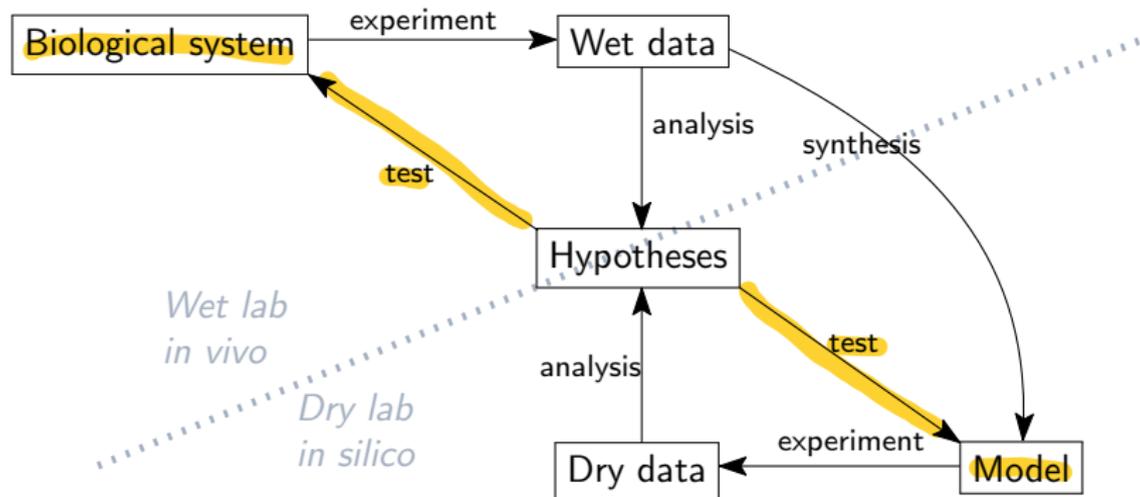
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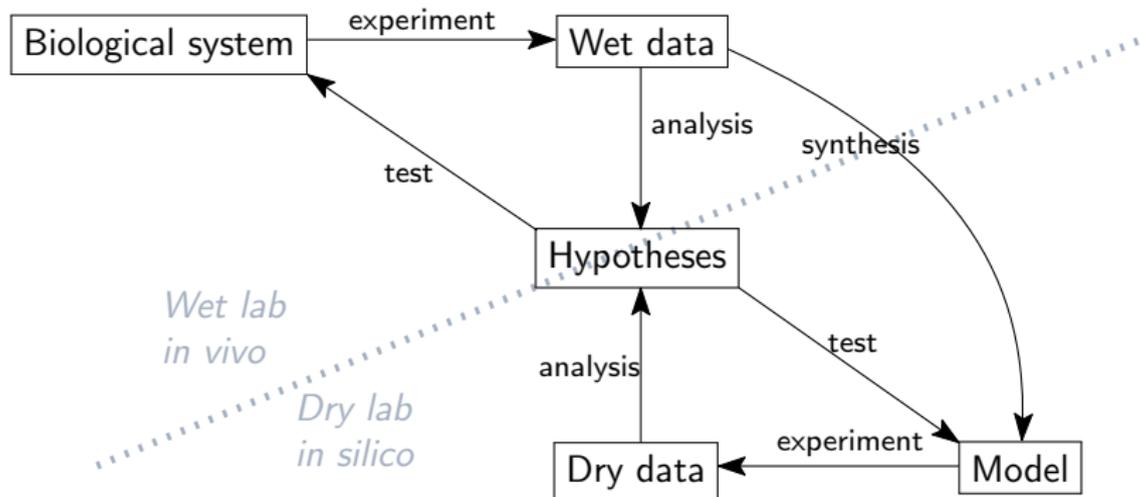
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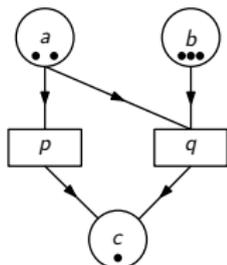


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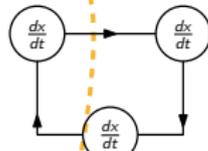
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A dichotomic zoo of modelling approaches

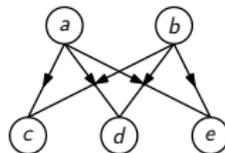
Petri net



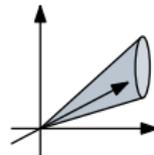
Hybrid system



Bayesian network



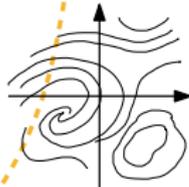
Constraint based model



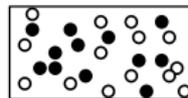
Process algebra

$((b(x, de)[E]) \parallel (B(y, dl)[I]))$
 $bh(x, dE)bh(y, dl)(E \parallel I)$

Differential equations



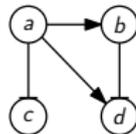
Agent-based model



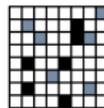
Reaction network



Boolean network



Cellular automata



Principles shared across modelling approaches

Synthesis

- ▶ from available knowledge and data about the structure and the dynamics
- ▶ **parameter fitting task**
find models that optimise some criteria

Usage

- ▶ encodes our knowledge, cannot be exact
- ▶ various analyses
simulation, control

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Use the simplest model that contains enough information to answer the question at hand. [Bornholdt, 2005]

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Boolean networks are **simpler** than reaction networks.

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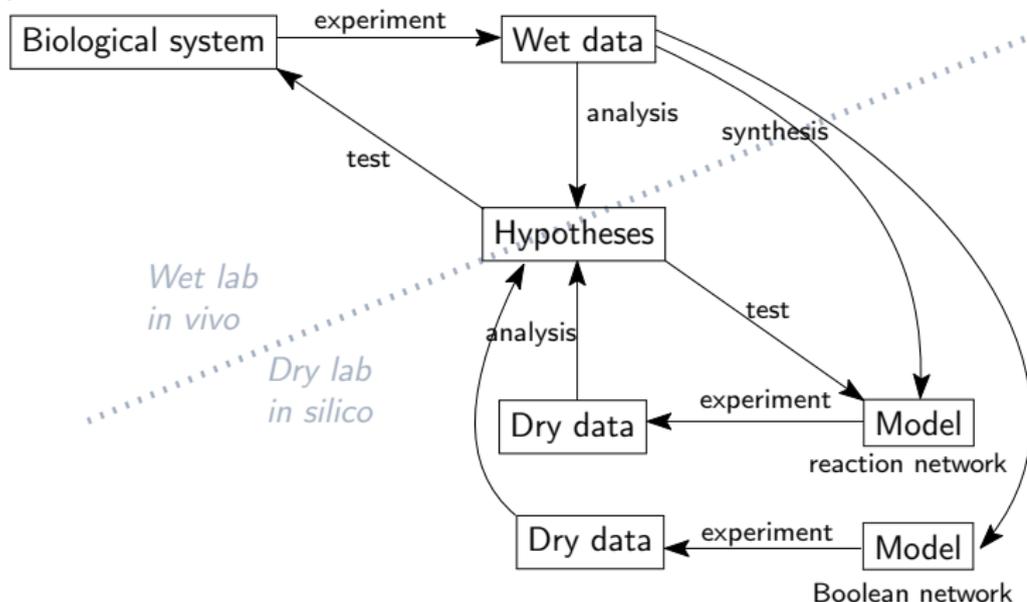
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Problem statement

Automatic transformation (abstraction) of
reaction networks to Boolean networks

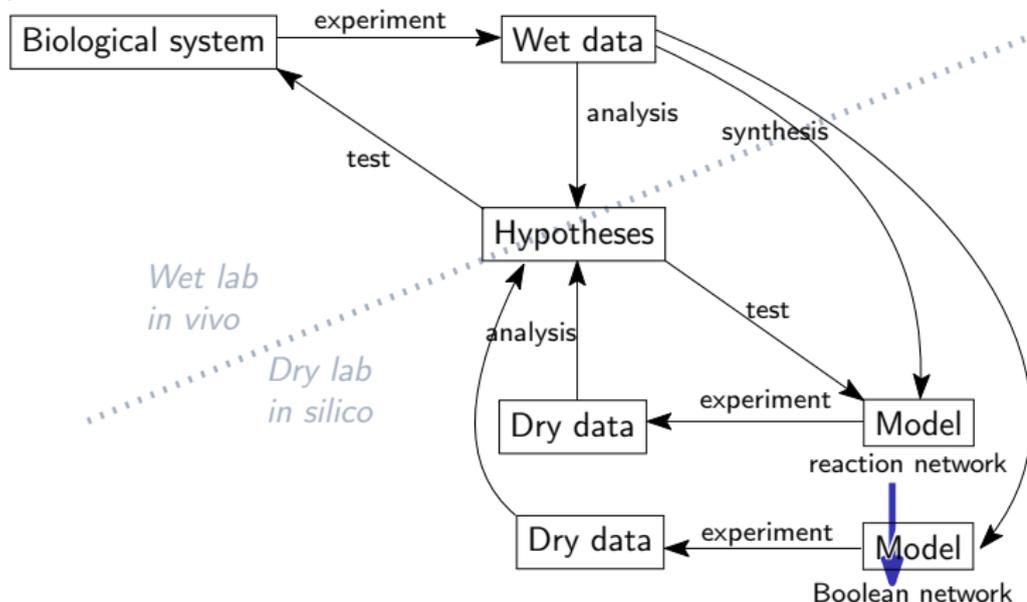
From reactions to Boolean influences with guarantees

Why?



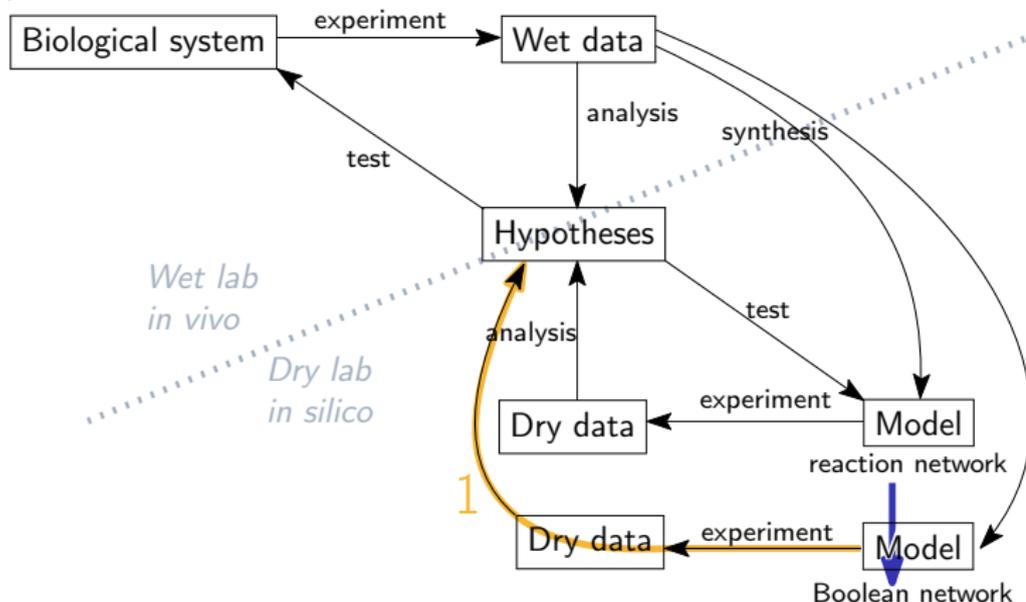
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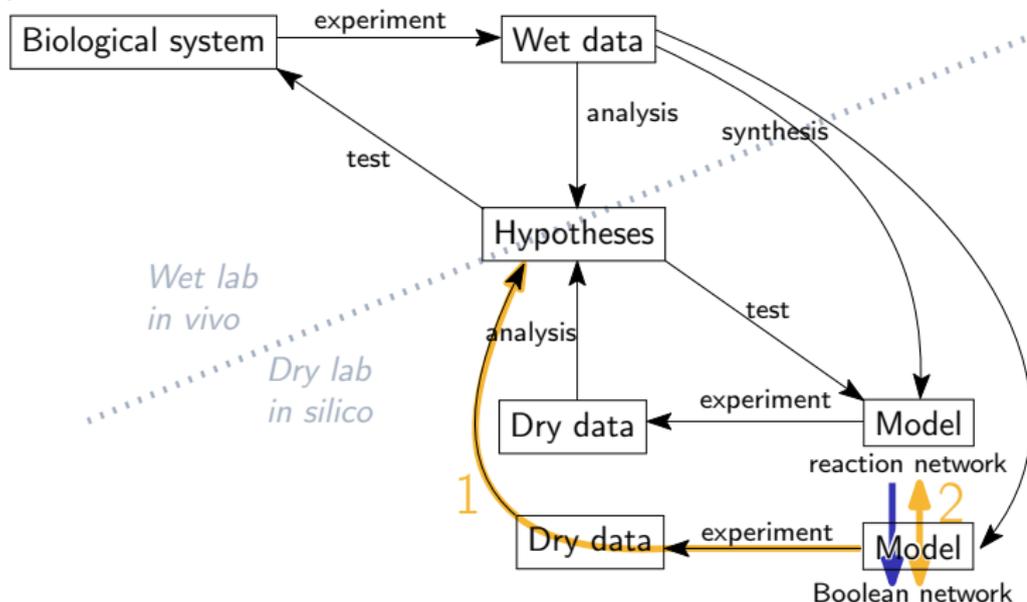
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1. Use BNs to facilitate some analyses

From reactions to Boolean influences with guarantees

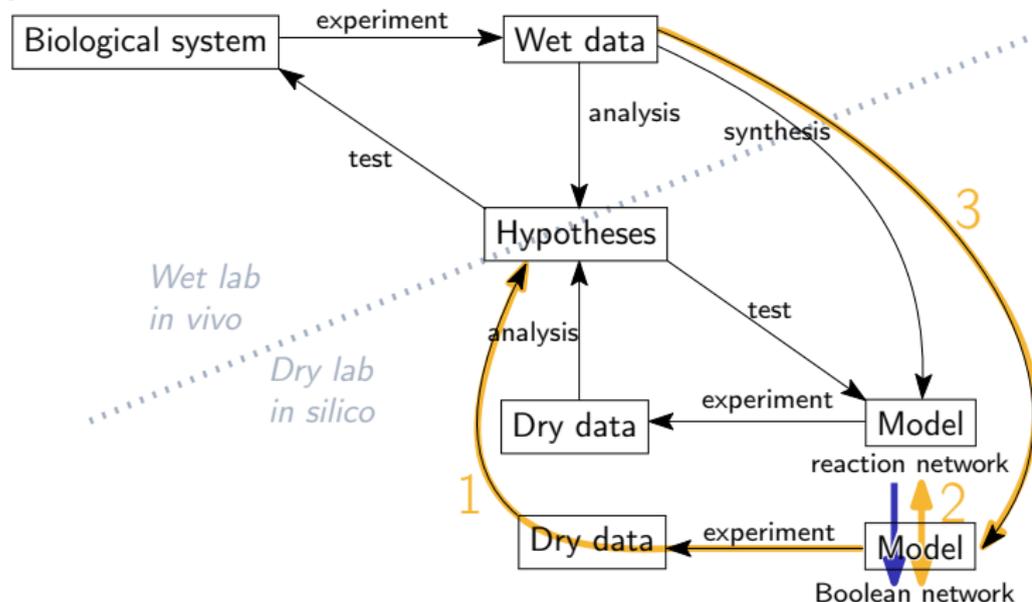
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1. Use BNs to facilitate some analyses
2. Explore the formal relationship between RN and BN

From reactions to Boolean influences with guarantees

Why?



1. Use BNs to facilitate some analyses
2. Explore the formal relationship between RN and BN
3. Improve the BN synthesis methods

Outline

1. Preliminaries on reaction networks and Boolean networks
2. My method and its guarantees
3. Evaluation of the approach
4. Link to other abstractions
5. Conclusion and perspectives

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Preliminaries

Reaction networks, structure and dynamics

$\mathcal{R} = \{\mathcal{R}_i : R_i \xrightarrow{e_i} P_i\}_{i=1\dots m}$
reaction, reactants, products, kinetics

Example

$\mathcal{S} = \{A, B, C\}$

$\mathcal{R}_1 : A + B \xrightarrow{e_1} 2 \times C$

$\mathcal{R}_2 : A + C \xrightarrow{e_2} A + B$

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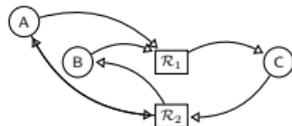
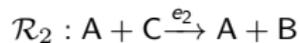
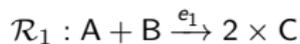
reaction, reactants, products, kinetics

Reaction graph

$$(\mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{R}, E \subseteq (\mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{R}) \cup (\mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{S}))$$

Example

$$\mathcal{S} = \{A, B, C\}$$



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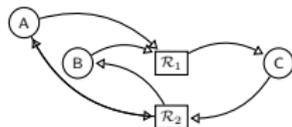
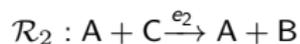
Differential semantics

ordinary differential equation (ODE)

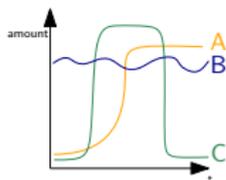
$$\left\{ \dot{X} = \sum_{i \in 1\dots m} e_i \times (P_i(X) - R_i(X)) \right\}_{X \in \mathcal{S}}$$

Example

$$\mathcal{S} = \{A, B, C\}$$



$$\begin{cases} \dot{A} = -1 \times e_1 \\ \dot{B} = -1 \times e_1 + 1 \times e_2 \\ \dot{C} = 2 \times e_1 + (-1) \times e_2 \end{cases}$$



Boolean network, structure and dynamics

One **transition function** per species in \mathcal{S} :

$$\{f_X : \mathbb{B}^{|\mathcal{S}|} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}\}_{X \in \mathcal{S}} \quad \mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$$

Example

$$\mathcal{S} = \{A, B, C\}$$

$$f_A := 0$$

$$f_B := (B \wedge \neg C) \vee (\neg B \wedge C)$$

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Influence graph

$$IG = (\mathcal{S}, E \subseteq \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{S}, \sigma : E \rightarrow \{+, -, \pm\})$$

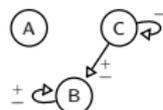
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Transition graph (TG)

$(\mathbb{B}^{|\mathcal{S}|}, E \subseteq \mathbb{B}^{|\mathcal{S}|} \times \mathbb{B}^{|\mathcal{S}|})$

general asynchronous **update scheme**:

$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S}) \setminus \emptyset$

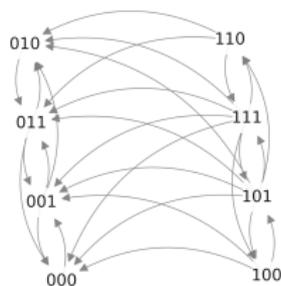
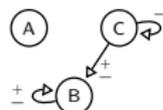
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From RN to BN with guarantees

Which ones?

Structure guaranty: conserve direct influences among species

IG of input RN \supseteq IG of output BN

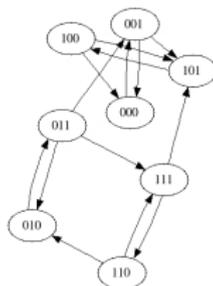


Dynamics guaranty: recover the Boolean transitions

Boolean transitions from input RN \subseteq gen. async. TG of output BN

$$\left\{ \dot{X} = \sum_{i \in 1 \dots m} e_i \times (R_i(X) - P_i(X)) \right\}_{X \in S}$$

010 \Rightarrow 011 \Rightarrow 111 \Rightarrow 110



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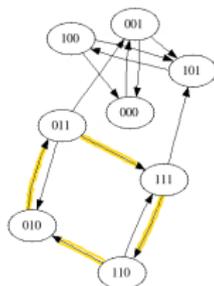


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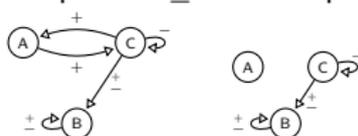


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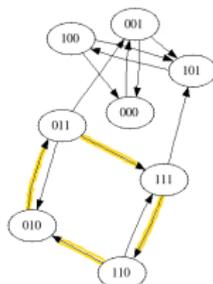


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Coverage: proportion of recovered transitions (ideally 100%)

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SBML2BNET

STEP 1: Retrieve from the input reaction network

Structure: influence graph

Dynamics: Boolean transitions

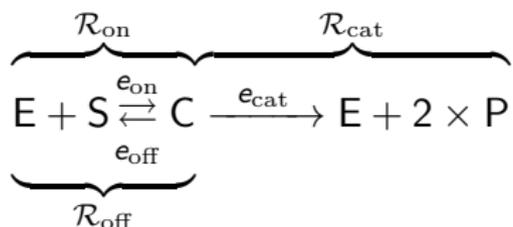
- ▶ binarised time series from classic simulation of the ODEs
- ▶ abstract simulation of the ODEs [Niehren et al., 2022]

STEP 2: BN synthesis with ASK&D-BN [Vaginay et al., 2021]

3. Evaluation of the approach
4. Link to other abstractions
5. Conclusion and perspectives

SBML2BNET – STEP 1:
Retrieve an influence graph and
Boolean transitions

Running example \mathcal{R}_{enz}



Its ODEs (reconstructed)

$$\begin{cases} \dot{S} = -e_{\text{on}} + e_{\text{off}} \\ \dot{E} = -e_{\text{on}} + e_{\text{off}} + e_{\text{cat}} \\ \dot{C} = e_{\text{on}} - e_{\text{off}} + e_{\text{cat}} \\ \dot{P} = 2 \times e_{\text{cat}} \end{cases}$$

Its parameters (given)

$$\begin{aligned} e_{\text{on}} &= 10^6 \times E \times S \\ e_{\text{off}} &= 0.2 \times C \\ e_{\text{cat}} &= 0.1 \times C \end{aligned}$$

Retrieve the influence graph of a reaction network

Contribution

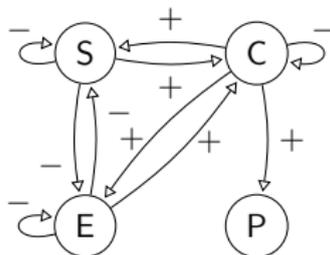
Implement the routines from
[Fages, Soliman, 2008b]

“If Y is a reactant and X
disappears: $Y \xrightarrow{-} X$ ”

Guarantees

Overapproximates the
possible signs of $\frac{\partial X}{\partial Y}$
→ capture all the direct
influences between the
species

Influence graph of \mathcal{R}_{enz}



Retrieve Boolean transitions from a reaction network

Numerical simulation and binarisation

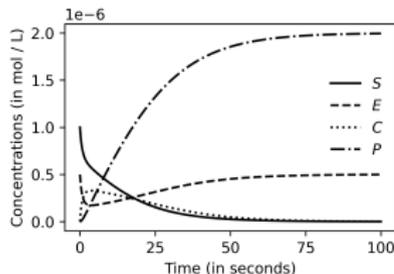
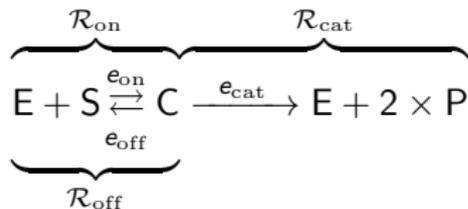
Contribution

Use dedicated tools for simulation
Apply binarisation procedure

Guarantees

Approximate the real solution of
the ODE with good accuracy
[Hoops et al., 2006]
but causations are lost

For \mathcal{R}_{enz} :



Expected transitions: 1100 \rightarrow ** 10 \rightarrow *** 1

Binarisation	Boolean configuration sequence SECP
Midrange	1100 \rightarrow 1000 \rightarrow 1010 \rightarrow 0010 \rightarrow 0011 \rightarrow 0101
Median	1100 \rightarrow 1010 \rightarrow 0011 \rightarrow 0101
Mean	1100 \rightarrow 1010 \rightarrow 1000 \rightarrow 0011 \rightarrow 0101
Above 0	1100 \rightarrow 1111 \rightarrow 1011 \rightarrow 1111 \rightarrow 0111

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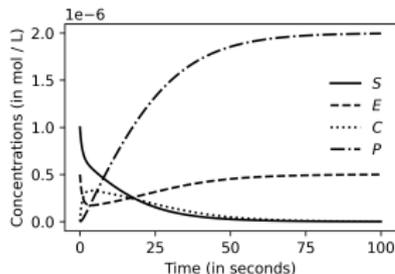
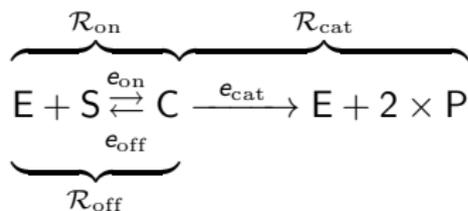
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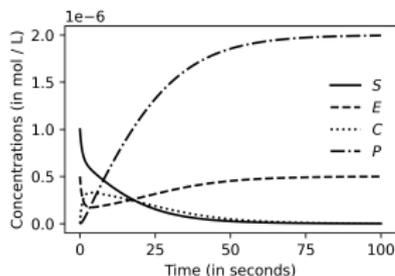
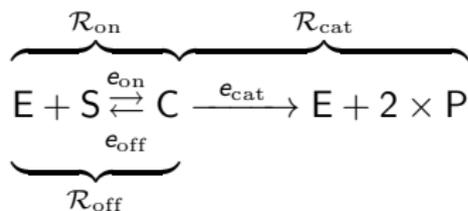
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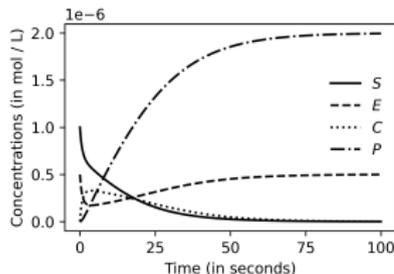
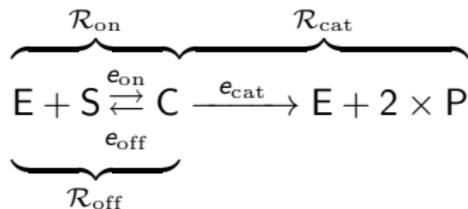
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Abstract simulation — Intuition

Joint work with Joachim Niehren and Cristian Versari [Niehren et al., 2022]

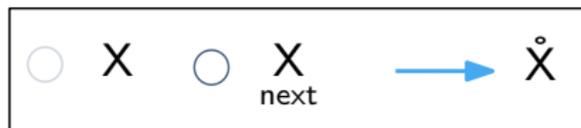
Use the **rule of signs** to reason on the causal relationship between the signs ($\$ = \{-1, 0, 1\}$) of the variables values (species amount and derivatives) of the ODE system

Retrieve Boolean transitions from a reaction network

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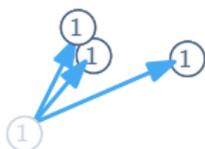
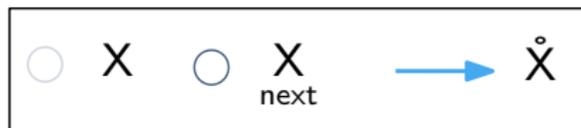


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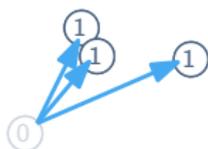
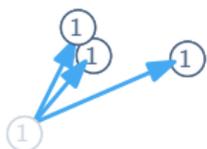
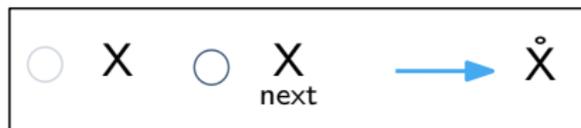


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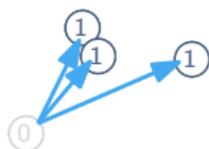
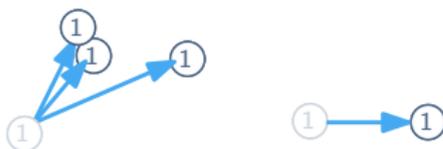
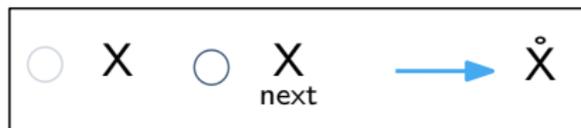


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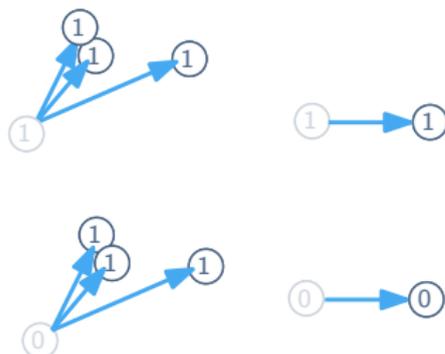
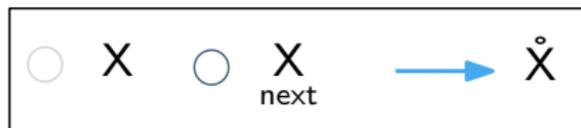


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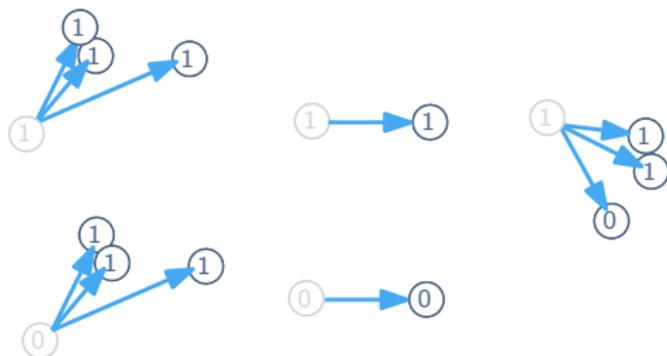
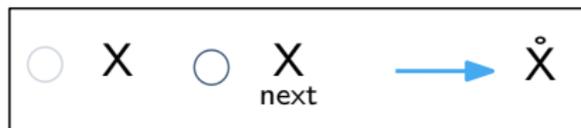


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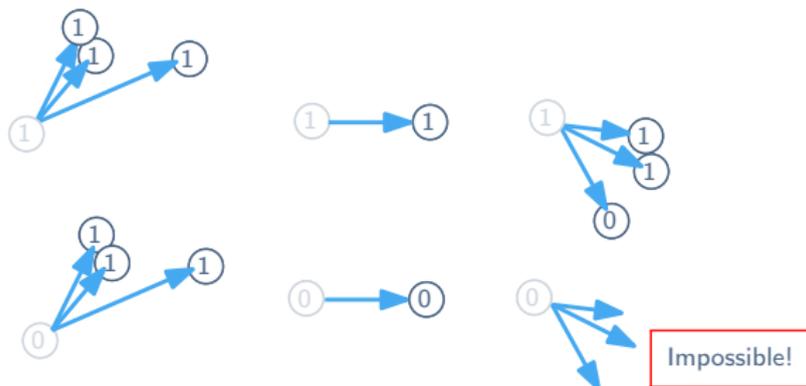
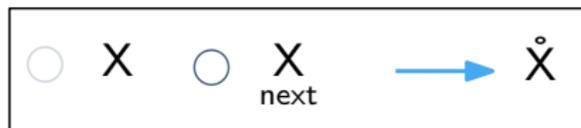


X was above 0 and its derivative was negative
plus – plus = unknown \leadsto nondeterminism

Retrieve Boolean transitions from a reaction network

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Retrieve Boolean transitions from a reaction network

Abstract simulation — In practice

Contribution

$$\mathcal{V} = \bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{S}} \{X, \dot{X}, X_{\text{next}}, \dot{X}_{\text{next}}\}$$

- ▶ Causal relationships encoded by a **first-order logic** formula ϕ
- ▶ Solve ϕ on the structure of signs $\mathbb{S} = \{-1, 0, 1\}$
- ▶ Restrict the solutions on $\mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{S}_{\text{next}}$

$$\rightsquigarrow \text{relation } \mathbb{B}^{|\mathcal{S}|} \times \mathbb{B}^{|\mathcal{S}_{\text{next}}|}$$

Guarantee

- ▶ Keep the causalities of changes
- ▶ Proof of correctness: overapproximation of an **ideal Euler simulation** (perfectly adjusted time step and no computation error)

FOBNN: First-Order Boolean networks with nondeterministic updates

Retrieve Boolean transitions from a reaction network

Abstract simulation — Example on \mathcal{R}_{enz}

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \dot{S} = -e_{on} + e_{off} & \wedge \quad \dot{S}_{next} = -e_{on_{next}} + e_{off_{next}} \\
 \wedge \quad \dot{E} = -e_{on} + e_{off} + e_{cat} & \wedge \quad \dot{E}_{next} = -e_{on_{next}} + e_{off_{next}} + e_{cat_{next}} \\
 \wedge \quad \dot{C} = e_{on} - e_{off} - e_{cat} & \wedge \quad \dot{C}_{next} = e_{on_{next}} - e_{off_{next}} - e_{cat_{next}} \\
 \wedge \quad \dot{P} = e_{cat} & \wedge \quad \dot{P}_{next} = e_{cat_{next}}
 \end{array}$$

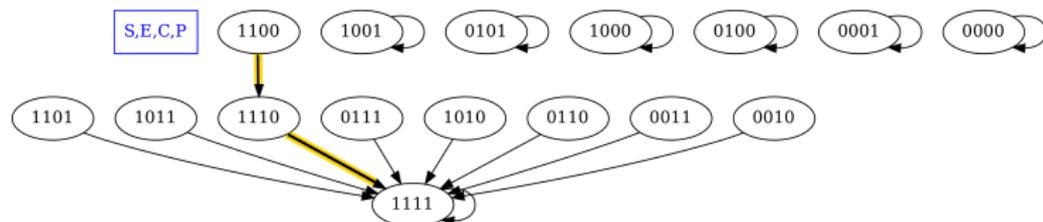
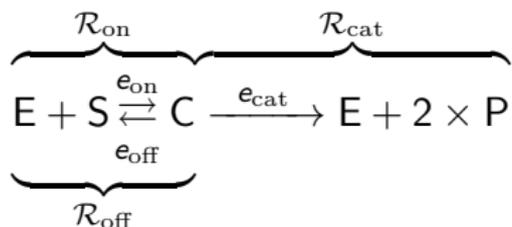
$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \wedge \quad S_{next} = S + \dot{S} & \wedge \quad S \leq S_{next} \\
 \wedge \quad E_{next} = E + \dot{E} & \wedge \quad E \leq E_{next} \\
 \wedge \quad C_{next} = C + \dot{C} & \wedge \quad C \leq C_{next} \\
 \wedge \quad P_{next} = P + \dot{P} & \wedge \quad P \leq P_{next}
 \end{array}$$

with

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 e_{on} = 10^6 \times S \times E & e_{off} = 0.2 \times C & e_{cat} = 0.1 \times C \\
 e_{on_{next}} = 10^6 \times S_{next} \times E_{next} & e_{off_{next}} = 0.2 \times C_{next} & e_{cat_{next}} = 0.1 \times C_{next}
 \end{array}$$

Retrieve Boolean transitions from a reaction network

Abstract simulation — Result on \mathcal{R}_{enz}



Outline

1. Preliminaries on reaction networks and Boolean networks
2. My method and its guarantees

SBML2BNET

STEP 1: Retrieve from the input reaction network

Structure: influence graph

Dynamics: Boolean transitions

- ▶ binarised time series from classic simulation of the ODEs
- ▶ abstract simulation of the ODEs [Niehren et al., 2022]

STEP 2: BN synthesis with ASK&D-BN [Vaginay et al., 2021]

3. Evaluation of the approach
4. Link to other abstractions
5. Conclusion and perspectives

SBML2BNET – STEP 2:
Boolean network synthesis with
ASK&D-BN

Input

Structure

Influence graph

Dynamics

Time series / Boolean time series

List of Boolean transitions

Output

Set of *compatible*
Boolean networks

Input

Structure

Influence graph

Dynamics

Time series / Boolean time series

List of Boolean transitions

Output

Set of *compatible*
Boolean networks

1. **Local search** species-wise synthesis of *all* the transition functions compatible with the given influence graph and time series

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

↪ Answer-Set Programming

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Influence graph

Dynamics

Time series / Boolean time series

List of Boolean transitions

Output

Set of *compatible*
Boolean networks

1. **Local search** species-wise synthesis of *all* the transition functions compatible with the given influence graph and time series

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

↪ Answer-Set Programming

2. **Global assembly** produce all the possible BNs

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

Search space: $2^{3|S|}$ non-redundant DNF = non-redundant disjunction
of non-redundant conjunctions

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

Search space: $2^{3^{|S|}}$ non-redundant DNF = non-redundant disjunction of non-redundant conjunctions

Pick a subset of non-redundant conjunctions

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

Search space: $2^{3|S|}$ non-redundant DNF = non-redundant disjunction of non-redundant conjunctions

Pick a subset of non-redundant conjunctions

Examples

invalid candidates:

$$(A \wedge \neg B) \vee (A \wedge \neg B) \vee (\neg A \wedge \neg C) \\ (A \wedge A \wedge \neg B) \vee (\neg A \wedge \neg C)$$

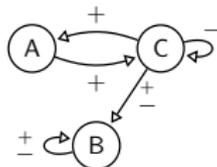
valid candidate:

$$(A \wedge \neg B) \vee (\neg A \wedge \neg C)$$

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

influence graph of the Boolean network \subseteq influence graph of the reaction network



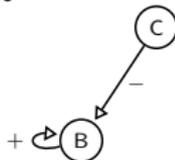
Do not select a conjunction that uses a forbidden literal

Example

invalid conjunction: $\neg A \wedge \neg C$



valid conjunction: $\neg C \wedge B$



ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → **Dynamic constraint** → Minimality constraint

(1) input: Boolean transitions

Build partial truth tables for each species X: what were the values of its putative inputs **when its value changed**? \leadsto Do not assume the underlying update scheme
Compare the truth table of a candidate function to the reconstructed truth table

putative input	output
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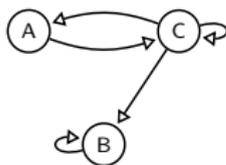
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input influence graph (unsigned)



putative input	output
C	A
BC	B
AC	C

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010 $\xrightarrow{\textcircled{1}}$ 011 $\xrightarrow{\textcircled{2}}$ 100 $\xrightarrow{\textcircled{3}}$ 001

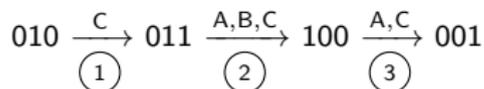
putative input	output
C	A
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(1) (2) (3)

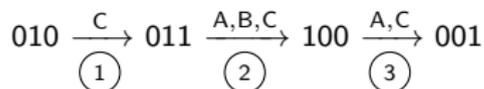
putative input	output
C	A
1	1 (2)
BC	B
AC	C

ASK&D-BN— Local search

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(1) input: Boolean transitions

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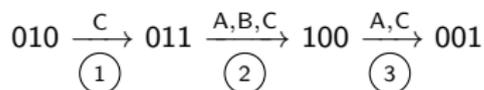
putative input		output
C	A	
0	0	③
1	1	②
BC		B
AC		C

ASK&D-BN— Local search

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(1) input: Boolean transitions

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Compare the truth table of a candidate function to the reconstructed truth table



putative input		output
C	A	
0	0	(3)
1	1	(2)

BC	B	
11	0	(2)

AC	C	
00	1	(1)
01	0	(2)
10	1	(3)

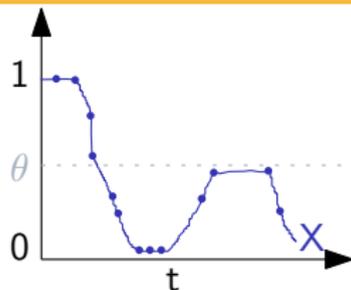
ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → **Dynamic constraint** → Minimality constraint

(2) input: time series

X_t : continuous value of X at time t

θ : binarisation threshold for X



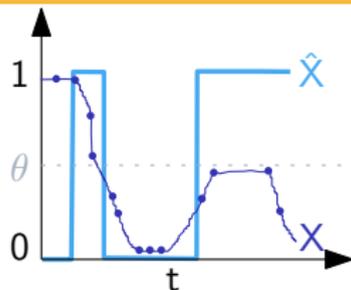
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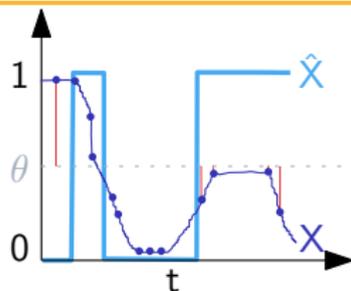
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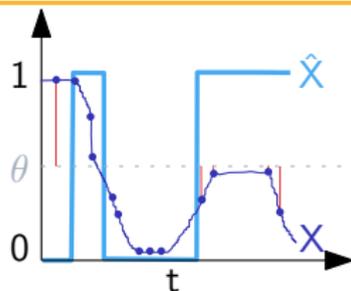
(2) input: time series

X_t : continuous value of X at time t

θ : binarisation threshold for X

\mathcal{U} : set of unexplained time steps

$E = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{U}} |\theta - X_t|$ To minimise (ideally 0)



ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → **Minimality constraint**

Select candidates with the **smallest expressions** (**subset** and/or **cardinal minimal**) \rightsquigarrow most general conditions

putative input	observed output
AB	X
00	
01	0
10	1
11	

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

Select candidates with the smallest expressions (subset and/or cardinal minimal) \rightsquigarrow most general conditions

putative input	observed output	possible completions			
AB	X				
00		0	1	0	1
01	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	1	1	1	1
11		0	0	1	1

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Generate candidates → Structure constraint → Dynamic constraint → Minimality constraint

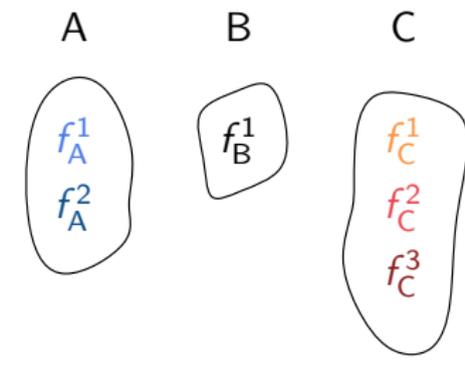
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putative input	observed output	possible completions			
AB	X				
00		0	1	0	1
01	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	1	1	1	1
11		0	0	1	1
subset minimal candidates		$A \wedge \neg B$	$\neg B$	A	$A \vee \neg B$
size		2	1	1	2

card. min. candidates

ASK&D-BN— Global assembly

Cartesian product of the set of transition functions synthesised for each species



$$\mathcal{B}_1 = \{ f_A^1, f_B^1, f_C^1 \}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_2 = \{ f_A^1, f_B^1, f_C^2 \}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_3 = \{ f_A^1, f_B^1, f_C^3 \}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_4 = \{ f_A^2, f_B^1, f_C^1 \}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_5 = \{ f_A^2, f_B^1, f_C^2 \}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_6 = \{ f_A^2, f_B^1, f_C^3 \}$$

Outline

1. Preliminaries on reaction networks and Boolean networks
2. My method and its guarantees
3. **Evaluation of the approach**
4. Link to other abstractions
5. Conclusion and perspectives

Evaluation of the approach

Evaluation of SBML2BNET

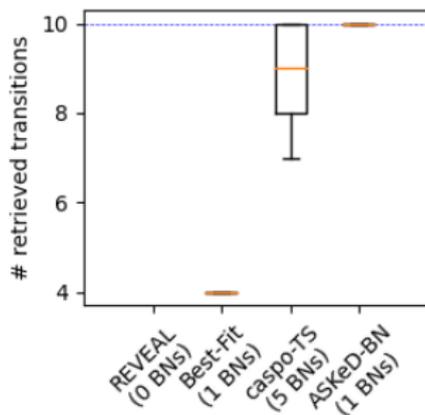
1. The BN synthesis itself [Vaginay et al., 2021]:
ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL¹, Best-Fit² and Caspo-TS³
2. One specific variant of the complete approach on real-world reaction networks [Vaginay et al., 2021, Vaginay et al., 2022]:
influence graph + time series and midrange binarisation
3. Several variants of the complete approach on \mathcal{R}_{enz} :
compare concrete and abstract simulation

¹[Liang et al., 1998] ²[Lähdesmäki et al., 2003] ³[Ostrowski et al., 2016]

ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL, Best-Fit, and Caspo-TS

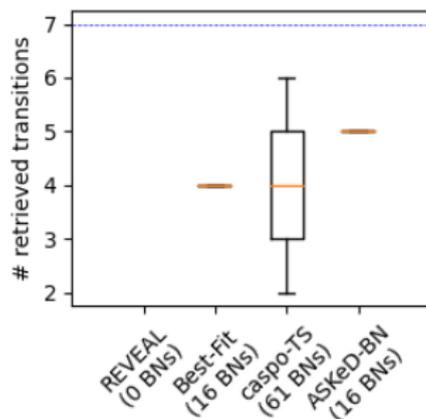
A. thaliana

5 species, 10 transitions



yeast

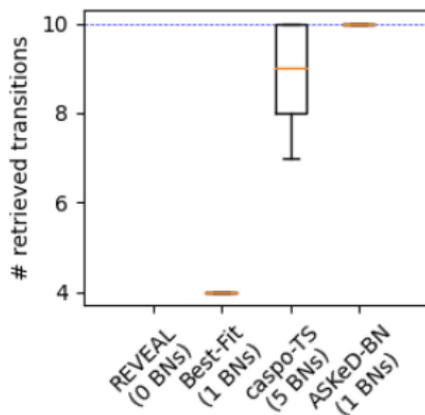
4 species, 7 transitions



ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL, Best-Fit, and Caspo-TS

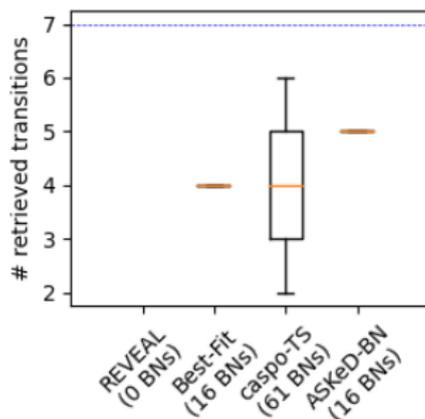
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5 species, 10 transitions



yeast

4 species, 7 transitions

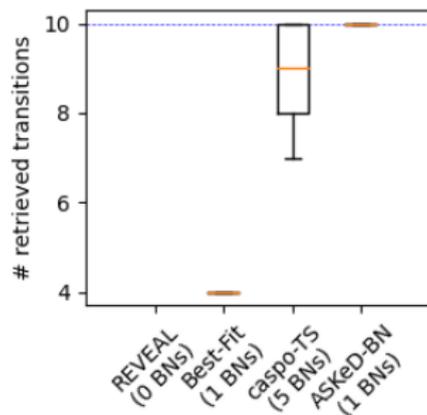


► REVEAL fails

ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL, Best-Fit, and Caspo-TS

A. thaliana

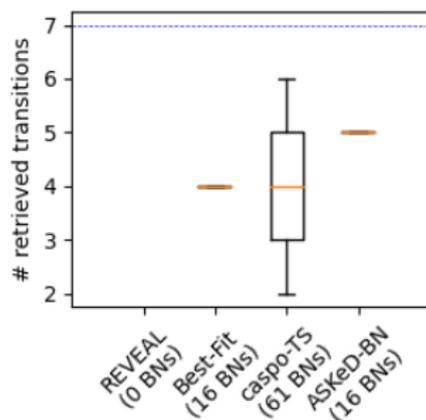
5 species, 10 transitions



► REVEAL fails

yeast

4 species, 7 transitions

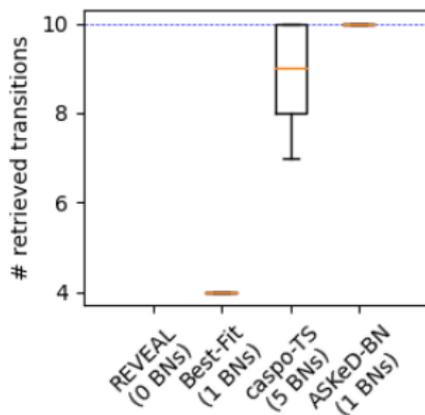


► Best-Fit lacks consistency

ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL, Best-Fit, and Caspo-TS

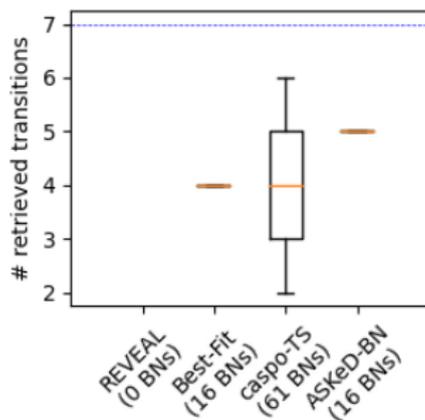
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yeast

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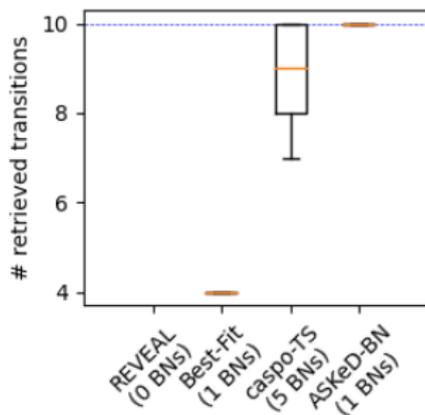
- ▶ REVEAL fails
- ▶ Caspo-TS returns more BNs, some of them with poor coverage because of reachability constraint

- ▶ Best-Fit lacks consistency

ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL, Best-Fit, and Caspo-TS

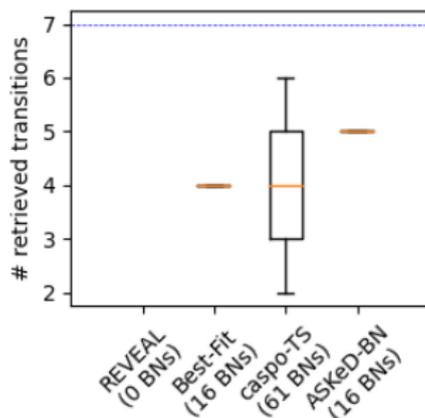
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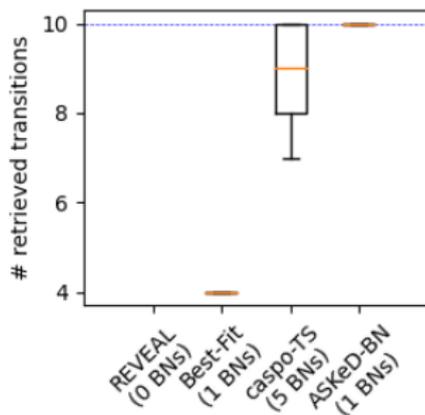
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- ▶ ASKeD-BN returns a small number of BN, with good coverage and low variance ✓

ASK&D-BN versus REVEAL, Best-Fit, and Caspo-TS

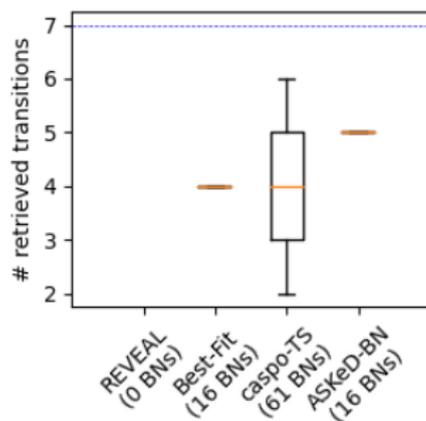
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5 species, 10 transitions



yeast

4 species, 7 transitions



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- ▶ Caspo-TS returns more BNs, some of them with poor coverage because of reachability constraint
- ▶ Best-Fit lacks consistency
- ▶ ASKeD-BN returns a small number of BN, with good coverage and low variance ✓

~> Confirmed on > 300 datasets generated from existing BNs from the repository of PyBoolNet

Results to real-world reaction networks (from BioModels⁴)

Input: an **extended** reaction network rules and events

Output: a set of compatible Boolean networks, according to ASK&D-BN

Setting:

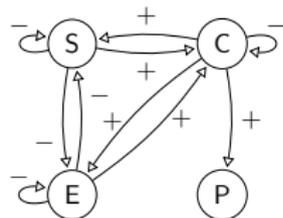
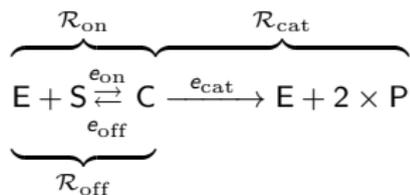
- ▶ hard structure constraint (**extended** influence graph)
- ▶ soft dynamics constraints (time series and midrange binarisation)
- ▶ mincard DNF

Result:

- ▶ on 155 reaction networks processed in less than 30 hours
- ▶ we synthesise perfect Boolean networks for $\sim 90\%$ of them ✓
139/155 sets of BNs have a coverage proportion median = 1

⁴[Malik-Sheriff et al., 2020]

A closer look: \mathcal{R}_{enz}



Setting n°1

- ▶ influence graph
- ▶ time series
- ▶ binarised time series

midrange (0.8) and median (0.6):

$$f_S := \neg E$$

$$f_E := \neg S$$

$$f_C := S$$

$$f_P := C$$

→ Coverage depends on the binarisation procedure, BNs miss some influences

Setting n°2

- ▶ full graph from abstract simulation

$$f_S := C \vee S$$

$$f_E := E \vee C$$

$$f_C := (E \wedge S) \vee C$$

$$f_P := C \vee P$$

→ Perfect coverage but does not comply with the influence graph

⇒ They do not capture the same thing

Outline

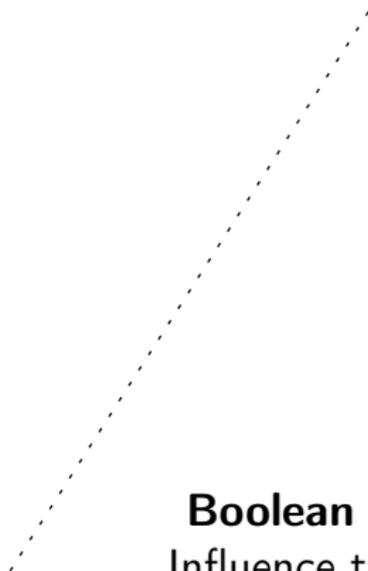
1. Preliminaries on reaction networks and Boolean networks
2. My method and its guarantees
3. Evaluation of the approach
4. **Link to other abstractions**
5. Conclusion and perspectives

Relation to other abstractions

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

Reaction-thinking

Reaction network



Boolean network

Influence thinking

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

Reaction-thinking

Reaction network

differential

Boolean network

Influence thinking

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

Reaction-thinking
Reaction network

differential

Approximation

Concrete simulation

Boolean network
Influence thinking

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

Reaction-thinking
Reaction network

differential

Approximation

Concrete simulation

Proof: correct
abstraction

Abstract simulation
via FOBNN

Boolean network
Influence thinking

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

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Reaction network

differential

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Proof: correct
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Abstract simulation
via FOBNN

Conjecture
with gen. async.

Boolean network
Influence thinking

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

Reaction-thinking

Reaction network

stochastic



correct
abstraction

discrete



correct
abstraction

Boolean

differential



Proof: correct
abstraction

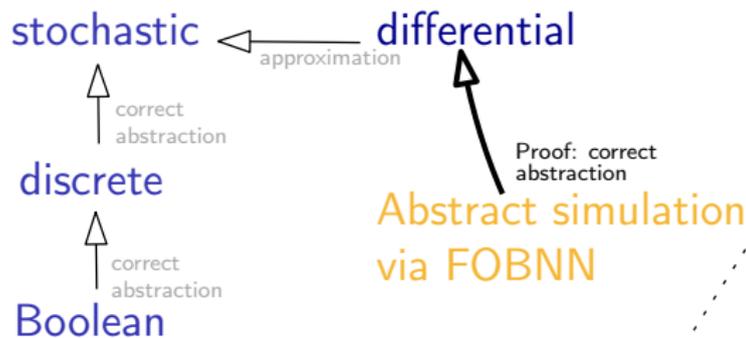
Abstract simulation
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Boolean network
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[Fages, Soliman, 2008a]

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

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Reaction network

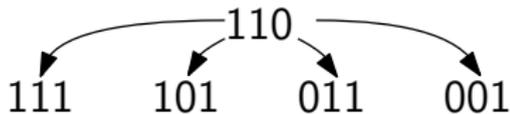
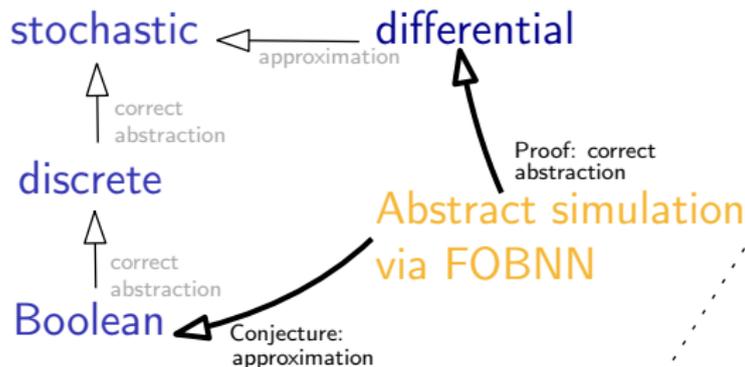


Boolean network
Influence thinking

[Fages, Soliman, 2008a]

Our abstraction versus other abstractions

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[Fages, Soliman, 2008a]

Boolean network
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Conclusion and perspectives

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Automatic synthesis of Boolean networks from a given reaction network, with **guarentees**. ✓

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- ▶ Methodology: Boolean networks synthesis from **constraints**
Structure: **Influence graph** from **syntactic parsing of the reactions**
 - ▶ captures all the direct influences among species

Dynamics: **Boolean transitions**

from **numerical simulation** of the ODEs + **binarisation**

- ▶ good approximation or the analytical solution
- ▶ but we lose causality

from **abstract simulation** of the ODEs

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- ▶ Implementation: the SBML2BNET pipeline (+ ASK&D-BN)
- ▶ Evaluation

Perspectives

1. *Ad hoc* solution to facilitate some analyses
Make SBML2BNET easy to use, use more evaluation criteria, include more knowledge in the synthesis, analyse FO-BNN themselves (process more RN, compute attractors)
2. Better understanding of the formal relationship between reaction networks and Boolean network
Two conjectures to investigate, reverse process(*)
3. Improve the Boolean networks synthesis methods when applied to wet data
Investigate, in a controlled environment
 - ▶ when we can't fulfill the constraints(*)
 - ▶ overfitting to *the* sequence of configuration?
 - ▶ impact of the choice of the binarisation procedure and error measure

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Publications

J. Niehren, C. Lhoussaine and **AV**. *Core SBML and its Formal Semantics* CMSB: International Conference on Computational Methods in Systems Biology 2023

Abstract simu. J. Niehren, **AV**, and C. Versari. *Abstract Simulation of Reaction Networks via Boolean Networks* CMSB: International Conference on Computational Methods in Systems Biology 2022

SBML2BNET **AV**, T. Boukhobza, and M. Smaïl-Tabbone. *From Quantitative SBML Models to Boolean Networks* CNA: Complex Networks & Their Applications X 2022

SBML2BNET **AV**, T. Boukhobza, and M. Smaïl-Tabbone. *From Quantitative SBML Models to Boolean Networks* Applied Network Science 2022

ASK&D-BN **AV**, T. Boukhobza, and M. Smaïl-Tabbone. *Automatic Synthesis of Boolean Networks from Biological Knowledge and Data* OLA: Optimization and Learning 2021

A. Hirtz, N. Lebourdais, F. Rech, Y. Bailly, **AV**, M. Smaïl-Tabbone, H. Dubois-Pot-Schneider, and H. Dumond. *GPER Agonist G-1 Disrupts Tubulin Dynamics and Potentiates Temozolomide to Impair Glioblastoma Cell Proliferation* Cells 2021

Thank you for your attention.



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- ▶ [Vaginay et al., 2021]
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- ▶ [Vaginay et al., 2022]
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Applied Network Science vol. 7-1 pp. 1–23, 2022

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Candidate transition function

Search space: $2^{3|S|}$ **non-redundant DNF** = non-redundant disjunction of non-redundant conjunctions

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Pick a subset of non-redundant conjunctions

```
% GIVEN : conj(ID, Component, Sign}  
% conj(ID, Species, Sign}  
conj(1, a, 1). conj(1, b,-1). conj(1, c, 0). %  $A \wedge \neg B$   
conj(2, a, -1). conj(2, b, 0). conj(2, c, -1). %  $\neg A \wedge \neg C$   
conj(3, a, -1). conj(3, b,-1). conj(3, c, -1). %  $\neg A \wedge \neg B \wedge \neg C$   
...  
1{conjTakenID(0..maxNbPossibleConj)}. % choice rule
```

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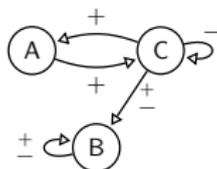
Example

```
conjTakenID(1). conjTakenID(2).  $\Rightarrow$  candidate =  $(A \wedge \neg B) \vee (\neg A \wedge \neg C)$ 
```

ASK&D-BN— Local search

Structure constraints

influence graph of the Boolean network \subseteq influence graph of the reaction network



Do not select a conjunction that uses a forbidden literal

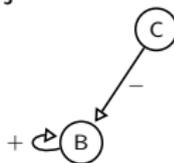
```
ig(ParentID, x, V) :- conjTaken(ConjID, ParentID, V); V!=0.  
:- ig(ParentID, x, V) ; not pig(ParentID, x, V).
```

Example

invalid conjunction: $\neg A \wedge \neg C$



valid conjunction: $\neg C \wedge B$



ASK&D-BN— Local search

Dynamics constraints

(1) input: Boolean transitions

Build partial truth tables for each species X : what were the values of its putative inputs **when its value changed**? \leadsto Do not assume the underlying update scheme
Compare the truth table of a candidate function to the reconstructed truth table

putative input	output
-------------------	--------

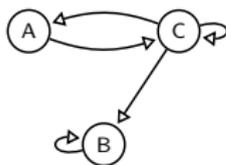
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input influence graph (unsigned)



putative input	output
C	A
BC	B
AC	C

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010 $\xrightarrow{\textcircled{1}}$ 011 $\xrightarrow{\textcircled{2}}$ 100 $\xrightarrow{\textcircled{3}}$ 001

putative input	output
C	A
BC	B
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010 $\xrightarrow{\text{C}}$ 011 $\xrightarrow{\text{A,B,C}}$ 100 $\xrightarrow{\text{A,C}}$ 001
① ② ③

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$010 \xrightarrow{\text{C}} 011 \xrightarrow{\text{A,B,C}} 100 \xrightarrow{\text{A,C}} 001$
(1) (2) (3)

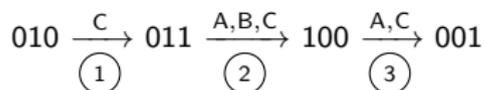
putative input	output
C	A
1	1 (2)
BC	B
AC	C

ASK&D-BN— Local search

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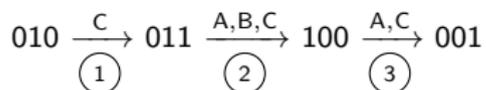
putative input		output
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0	0	③
1	1	②
BC		B
AC		C

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putative input		output
C	A	
0	0	(3)
1	1	(2)

BC	B	
11	0	(2)

AC	C	
00	1	(1)
01	0	(2)
10	1	(3)

ASK&D-BN— Local search

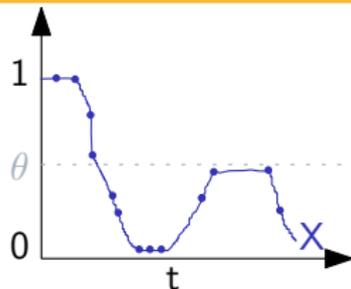
Dynamics constraints

(2) input: time series

```
#minimize{E@2 : error(E)}. %
```

X_t : continuous value of X at time t

θ : binarisation threshold for X



ASK&D-BN— Local search

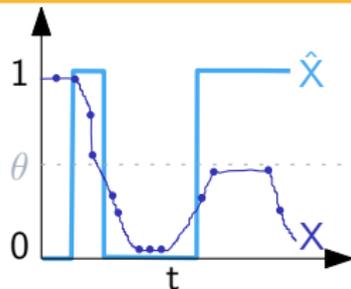
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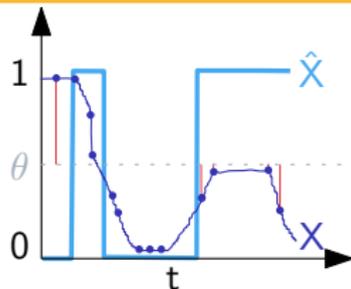
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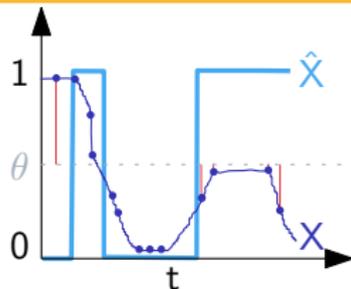
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```

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θ : binarisation threshold for X

\mathcal{U} : set of unexplained time steps

$E = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{U}} |\theta - X_t|$ To minimise (ideally 0)



ASK&D-BN— Local search

Minimality constraint

Select candidates with the **smallest** expressions (**subset** and/or **cardinal** minimal)

↪ most general conditions

```
sizeconj(C, S):-conjTakenID(C);S=#sum{|V|,N:conj(C, N, V)} .  
sizeDNF(S):- S=#sum{N,C: sizeconj(C, N), conjTakenID(C)} .  
#minimize{S@1 : sizeDNF(S)}. % Find mincard expressions  
% + generate all combinations to find all the subset min expressions
```

putative input	observed output
AB	X
00	
01	0
10	1
11	

ASK&D-BN— Local search

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```

putative input	observed output	possible completions			
AB	X				
00		0	1	0	1
01	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	1	1	1	1
11		0	0	1	1

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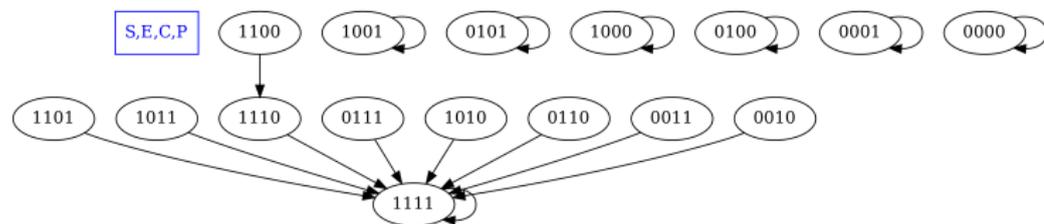
putative input	observed output	possible completions			
AB	X				
00		0	1	0	1
01	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	1	1	1	1
11		0	0	1	1
subset minimal candidates	size	$A \wedge \neg B$	$\neg B$	A	$A \vee \neg B$
		2	1	1	2

card. min.
candidates

FOBNN fix-points with SAT

Given an FOBNN ϕ with variables $\mathcal{V} = \bigcup_{X \in \mathcal{S}} \{X, \overset{\circ}{X}, X_{\text{next}}, \overset{\circ}{X}_{\text{next}}\}$, find the signed assignments α of ϕ such that:

$$\forall X \in \mathcal{S} : \alpha(X) = \alpha(\overset{\circ}{X}_{\text{next}}) \text{ (and no others!)}$$



Hans-Jörg Schurr (univ. Iowa).

Functional dependency for detecting dynamics conflicts

Set of attributes \mathcal{V} (relation scheme)

A set r of tuples that maps each attributes to a value of its domain ($t[X] \in \text{dom}(X)$)

A functional dependency (FD) F is an expression of the form $X \rightarrow Y$, where $X, Y \subseteq \mathcal{V}$
 F holds in a relation r ($r \models f$) if:

$$\forall t_1, t_2 \in r, t_1[X] = t_2[X] \implies t_1[Y] = t_2[Y]$$

Find counterexamples when it does not hold (work on the conflict-graph).

Find the maximum (biggest) independent sets.

g3-error: minimal proportion of tuples to remove from r to satisfy $F \rightsquigarrow$ coverage measure

Simon Vilmin (AMU) and Pierre Faure--Giovagnoli (LIRIS): relax the equality by using a predicate p instead, study how the complexity of the problems depends on the properties of p (reflexivity, symmetry, transitivity, antisymmetry)

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r	A	B	C	A _{next}	B _{next}	C _{next}	$X \subseteq \mathcal{S}$
t_1	0	0	0	0	0	0	●
t_2	0	1	1	1	0	0	●
t_3	0	0	0	0	0	1	●
...							

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Find counterexamples when it does not hold (work on the conflict-graph).

Find the maximum (biggest) independent sets.

g3-error: minimal proportion of tuples to remove from r to satisfy $f \rightsquigarrow$ coverage measure

Simon Vilmin (AMU) and Pierre Faure--Giovagnoli (LIRIS): relax the equality by using a predicate p instead, study how the complexity of the problems depends on the properties of p (reflexivity, symmetry, transitivity, antisymmetry)

Functional dependency for detecting dynamics conflicts

Set of variables $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{S}_{\text{next}}$ (relation scheme)

A set r of transitions that maps each attributes to a value of its domain ($t[X] \in \text{dom}(X) = \mathbb{B}^k$)

r	A	B	C	A _{next}	B _{next}	C _{next}	$X \subseteq \mathcal{S}$
t_1	0	0	0	0	0	0	●
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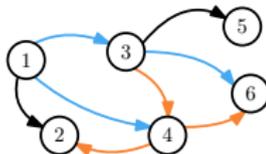
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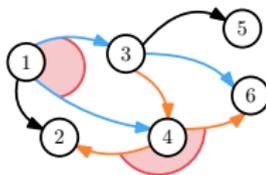
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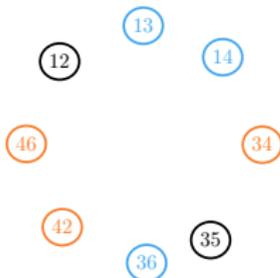
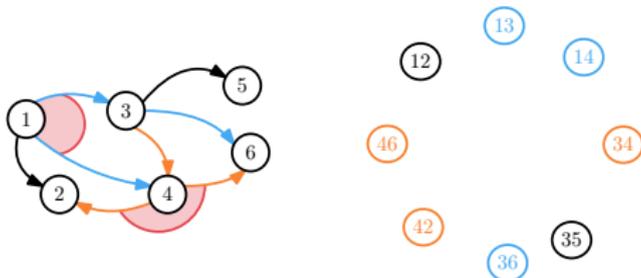
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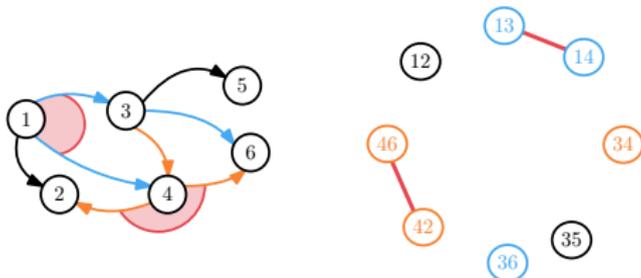
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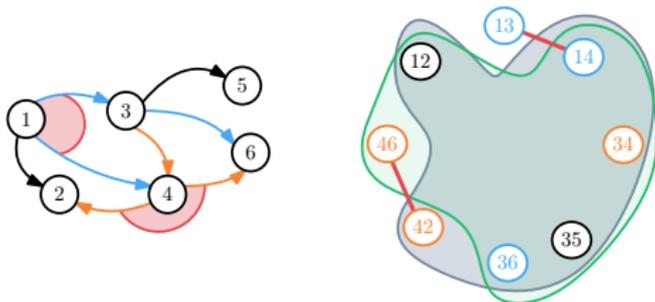
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Learn reaction networks from Boolean transitions

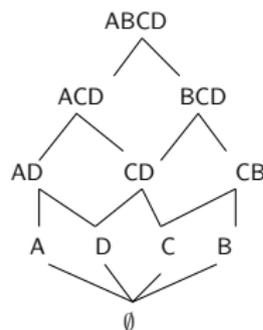
Implication base with variables in S : $\mathcal{R} = \{R_i \rightarrow P_i\}_{i=1\dots m}$

Closed-set: "element of $\mathcal{P}(S)$ such that we cannot derive anything new using \mathcal{R} "

Closure system = the set \mathcal{C} of closed-sets of \mathcal{R}

\mathcal{C} ordered by $\subseteq \rightsquigarrow$ a lattice

$$\mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{R}_1 : A + B \rightarrow C + D \\ \mathcal{R}_2 : A + C \rightarrow D \\ \mathcal{R}_3 : B + D \rightarrow C \end{array} \right\}$$



Simon Vilmin (AMU), Loïc Paulevé? (LABRI)

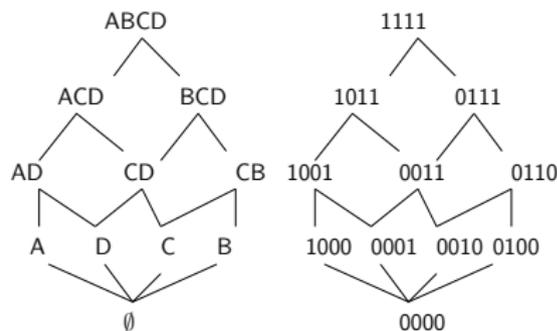
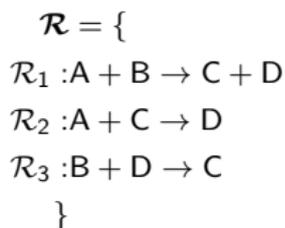
Learn reaction networks from Boolean transitions

Reaction network with species in \mathcal{S} : $\mathcal{R} = \{R_i \rightarrow P_i\}_{i=1\dots m}$

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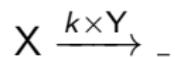
given a closure system, find the implication base(s)

$\stackrel{?}{\underline{=}}$

given Boolean transitions, find the reaction network(s)

Simon Vilmin (AMU), Loïc Paulevé? (LABRI)

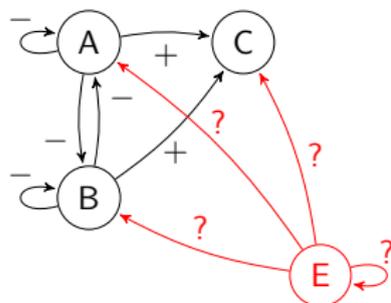
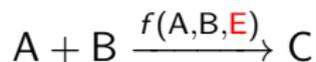
Not well-formed reaction networks



$\frac{\partial X}{\partial Y} \neq 0$ captured by the syntactic influence graph.

Impact of SBML inconsistencies on structure extraction

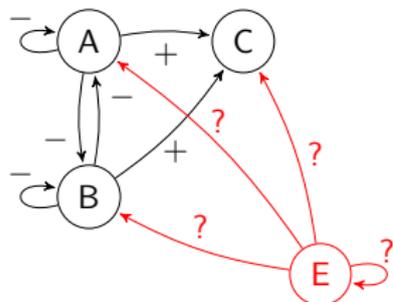
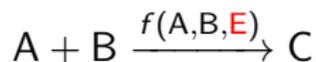
Ex. BIOMD n°44: 1 BN generated; coverage=0.55
some kinetics use components not listed in the reactants nor modifiers \rightarrow incomplete SIG (missing parents)



⁵[Fages et al. 2012]

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Ex. BIOMD n°44: 1 BN generated; coverage=0.55
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> 60% of SBML models from Biomodels are not “well-formed”⁵,
but some can be fixed \rightarrow add a step in the pipeline

⁵[Fages et al. 2012]