

# Q: Is multispecies coexistence an emergent property of complex communities?

Community  
(system)



Species pairs  
(simplest units)

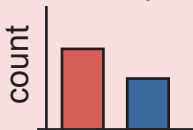


**No**, species coexistence is **predictable** from pairs  
Both the community and all its pairs coexist



exclusion  
coexistence

**Yes**, species coexistence is an **emergent** property  
The community coexists but not all the pairs do



exclusion  
coexistence