

A data specification for efficient archival of ecological networks

Timothée Poisot

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This is a *working document* describing **mangal**, a set of JSON objects templates to encode ecological networks of virtually any complexity. There are plans to host a pilot database.

The need for a data specification

Ecological networks enable ecologists to accommodate the complexity of natural communities, and to discover mechanisms contributing to their persistence, stability, resilience, and functioning.

The elements of a network

Proposed implementation

```
{
  "ID": "MyDB_I_00001",
  "from": "MyDB_P_00001",
  "to": "MyDB_P_00002",
  "info": {
    "binary": true,
    "directional": false,
    "strength": 1,
  },
  "type": "predation",
  "notes": "none"
}
```

Conclusion and future directions