

Executable Disease Networks using CaSQ

Anna Niarakis and **Sylvain Soliman**



Computational Systems Biology for Complex Human Disease:
From static to dynamic representations of disease mechanisms



Sylvain Soliman

Computer Science Researcher
[Inria Saclay, Lifeware team](#)



Biography

Since 2002 I am a permanent researcher (CR) in the [Lifeware](#) (formerly Contraintes) group of Inria Saclay (formerly Paris-Rocquencourt).

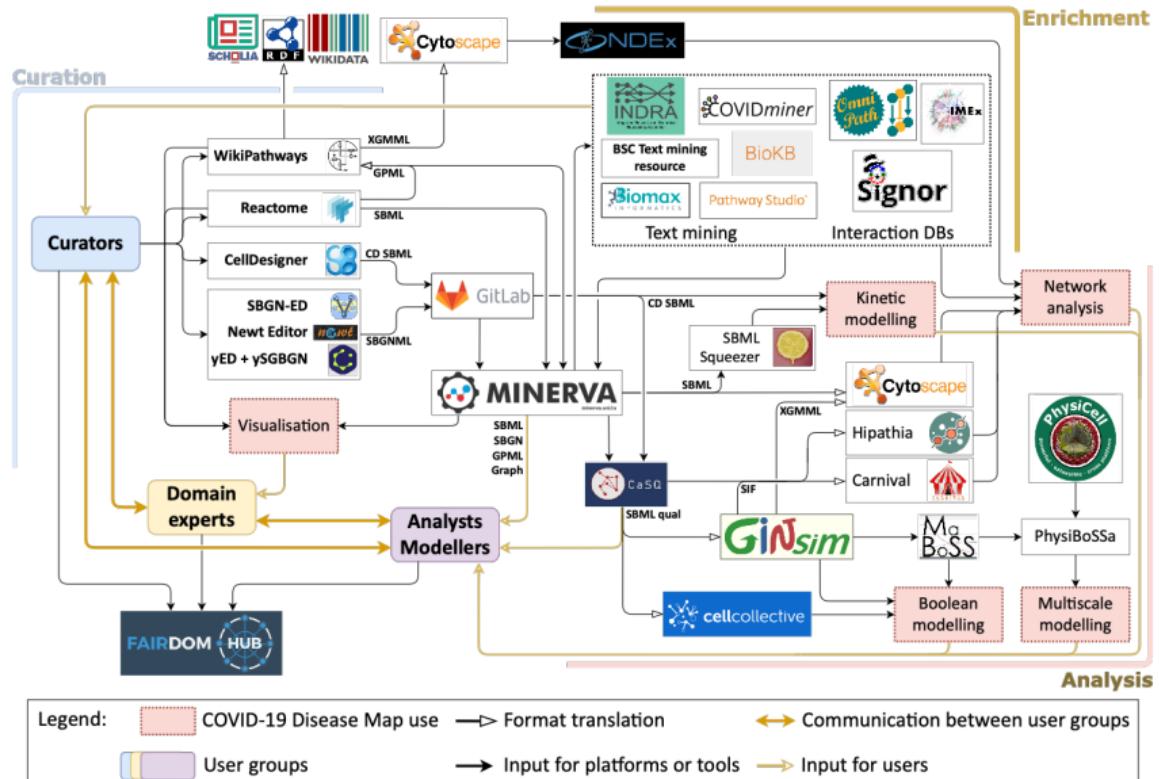
My research interests focus around Computational Biology and Theoretical Computer Science. In this context I'm one of the main developers and maintainers of the [BIOCHAM](#) platform. This is where most of the techniques I develop, using Constraint Programming, Model-Checking, and other formal methods get implemented.

On top of my BIOCHAM developments, you can find [below](#) other side projects concerning Vim, Prolog, etc. I used to maintain separately [Nicotine](#), a constraint-based software for Petri-net invariant computation and [Tropical equilibration](#), but it has now been completely merged into BIOCHAM.

I was teaching for about 15 years in the [MPRI](#) and for two years in the [AI&AVC Master](#). You can find [below](#) more information.

I am president of Inria Saclay's [Scientific Commission](#), and since 2016 I was on various Ph.D. grants committees. When I was in Rocquencourt I was president of the Doctoral Committee for quite some time, and of the Technological Development Commission for a few years.

C19DM Ecosystem



Using CaSQ to bridge a gap...

People curate data/literature to build large, rich and complex knowledge maps

How do you compare them with experiments?

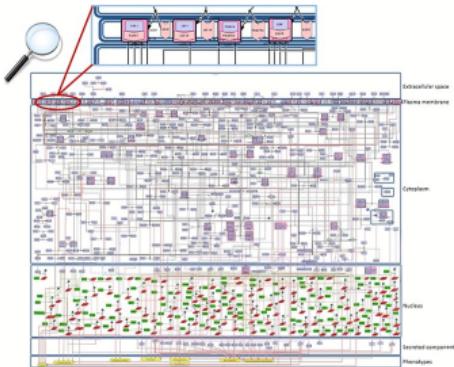


Map

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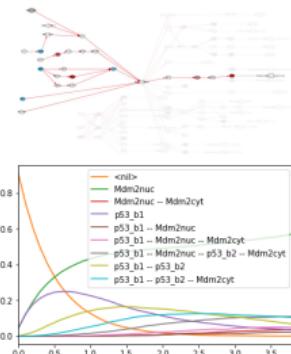
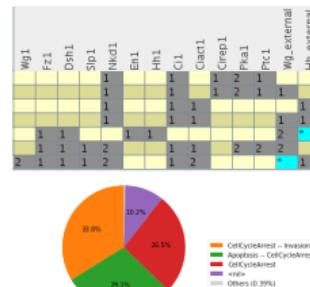
Map



Using CaSQ to bridge a gap...

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How do you compare them with experiments?



Map

⇒

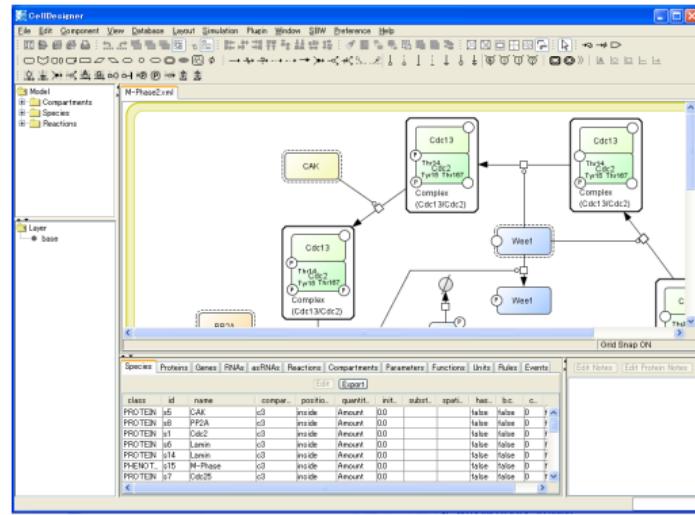
Model

Molecular Interaction Maps (Monday sessions)

Built from scratch

Starting from an available map
(e.g., Rheumatoïd Arthritis,
Covid-19 DM, Atlas of Cancer
Signalling Network)

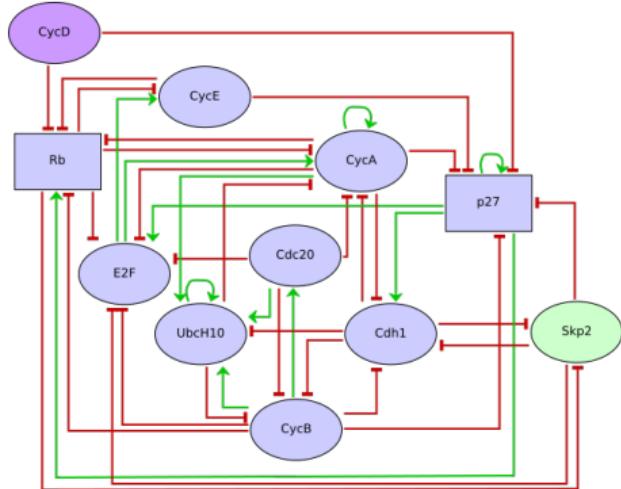
Reactome, KEGG → MINERVA
Translated into SBGN-PD



Described as *reusable* and *comprehensive* Process Description
diagrams: **detailed, mechanistic**

Encoded in SBML using CellDesigner: **rich annotations**

Logical Models à la René Thomas



Qualitative abstraction:

- Discrete (*Boolean*) state
- Dynamics \Leftarrow logical formulae
- *Logical* time
- Phenotype \equiv steady state

More details in today's other sessions...

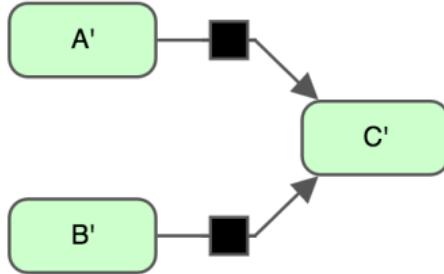
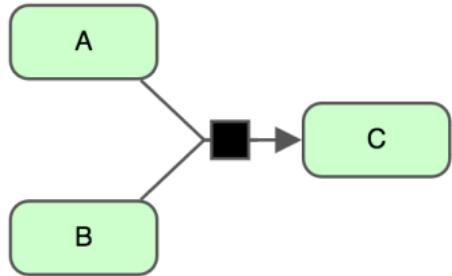
What CaSQ does

- Handle even very large detailed mechanistic maps
- Keep and **use** all information in the annotations
- Build a fully executable/**dynamic** logical model

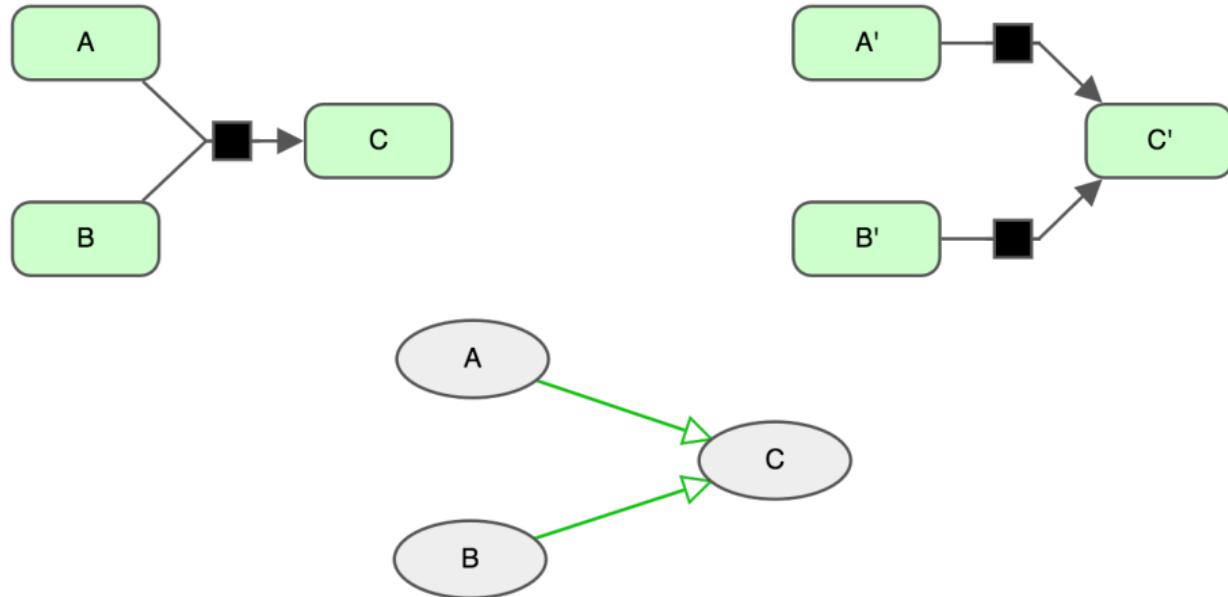
What CaSQ does not do

- extract a *relevant* submap
(CaSQ can extract up/down-stream however)
- only convert PD to AF
(he who can do the most can do the least,
CaSQ saves the AF as .sif file for Cytoscape/Hipathia)
- build a numerical (ODE-based) dynamic model
- build *the best* logical model
- handle the analysis of the model

The AF graph loses information

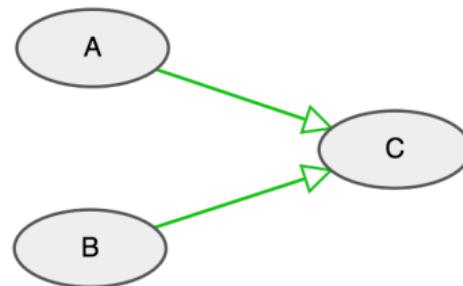


The AF graph loses information



Same Activity Flow,

The AF graph loses information



Same Activity Flow, but different Logical Models (\wedge vs. \vee)

Installing CaSQ (from PyPI)

```
python3 -m pip install casq
```

The screenshot shows the PyPI project page for 'casq 1.3.2'. The top navigation bar includes links for Help, Sponsors, Log in, and Register. A search bar is present. The main title 'casq 1.3.2' is displayed with a green 'Latest version' button. Below the title, there's a 'pip install casq' button and a release date of 'Released: Mar 11, 2024'. The page content includes a 'Project description' section with a navigation menu (Project description, Release history, Download files), a 'Verified details' section (verified by PyPI), and a 'Maintainers' section. The PyPI interface features a blue header and a light gray body.

casq 1.3.2

[pip install casq](#)

✓ Latest version

Released: Mar 11, 2024

CaSQ: Celldesigner as Sbml-Qual

Navigation

Project description

Release history

Download files

Verified details

These details have been verified by PyPI

Maintainers

Project description

pipeline passed coverage 67.00% code style black docs passing license GPLv3

pypi v1.3.2 python 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.10 | 3.11 wheel yes downloads 242/month dependencies up to date

CaSQ converts [CellDesigner](#) models to Boolean models encoded in [SBML-Qual](#) with a rather strict semantics defined in a [published article](#).

Usage (CLI or directly from Python, e.g., in CoLoMoTo)

```
casq -h
```

```
usage: casq [-h] [-v] [-D] [-c] [-s] [-r S] [-f FIXED] [-n]
             [-u [UPSTREAM ...]] [-d [DOWNSTREAM ...]] [-b] [-g GRANULARITY]
             [-i INPUT] [-C]
             [infile] [outfile]
```

Convert CellDesigner models to SBML-qual with a rather strict semantics.
Copyright (C) 2019, Sylvain.Soliman@inria.fr GPLv3

positional arguments:

infile	CellDesigner File
outfile	SBML-Qual/BMA json File

options:

-h, --help	show this help message and exit
-v, --version	show program's version number and exit
-D, --debug	Display a lot of debug information
-c, --csv	Store the species information in a separate CSV (and .bnet) file
-s, --sif	Store the influence information in a separate SIF file
-r S, --remove S	Delete connected components in the resulting model if their size is smaller than S. A negative S leads to keep only the biggest(s) connected component(s)
-f FIXED, --fixed FIXED	A CSV file containing input values or knock-ins/knock-

A 3-step process

- map simplification (4 rules)
- logical model (logical rules and graph) computation
- model simplification

(S. S. Aghamiri et al. Bioinformatics 36 (16) Aug. 2020)

Step 2 – General Logical Rule

Using *inhibitor* and other modifier annotations:

"A target is on when **any** of the reactions producing it is on
a reaction is on if **all reactants are on, all inhibitors are off** and **one of the catalysts is on** if there are any."

$$t = \bigvee_{R,C,I \rightarrow t \dots} (\bigwedge_{r \in R} r \bigwedge_{i \in I} \neg i \bigwedge_{c \in C \text{ or } \{\top\} \text{ if } C=\emptyset} c)$$

R POSITIVE t

C POSITIVE t

I NEGATIVE t

Step 3 – Cleanup

Maps are **not connected**

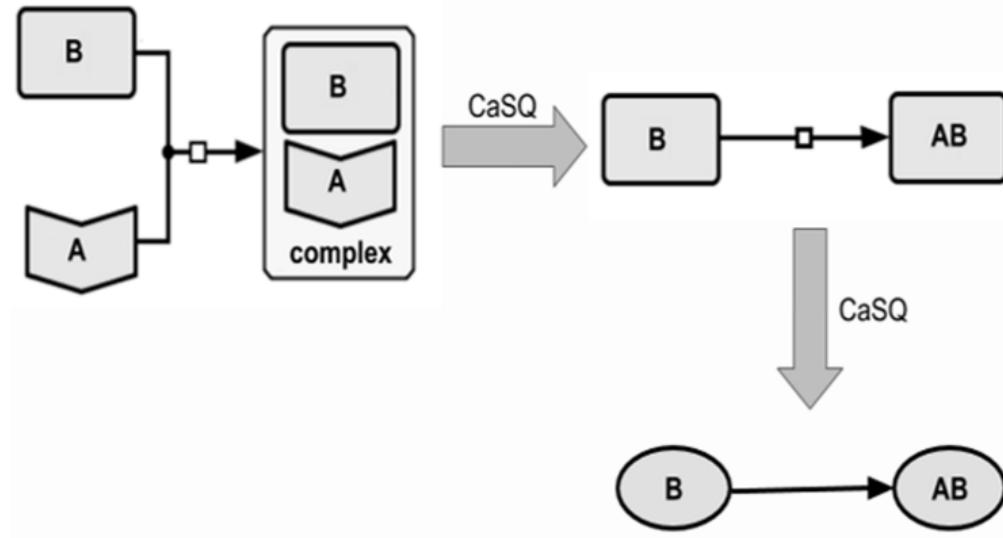
Keep only some CCs (according to their size)

Names are **ambiguous**

Rename species if necessary (e.g., type, modifications and compartment disappear in the model)

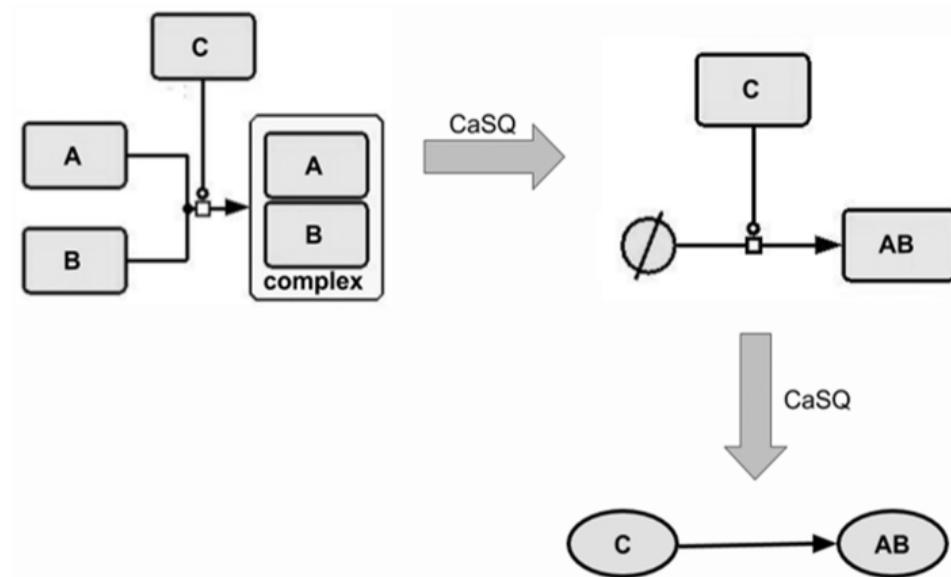
Generate auxiliary files if requested (SIF, CSV, BMA...)

Step 1, Rule 1 – Receptor Deletion



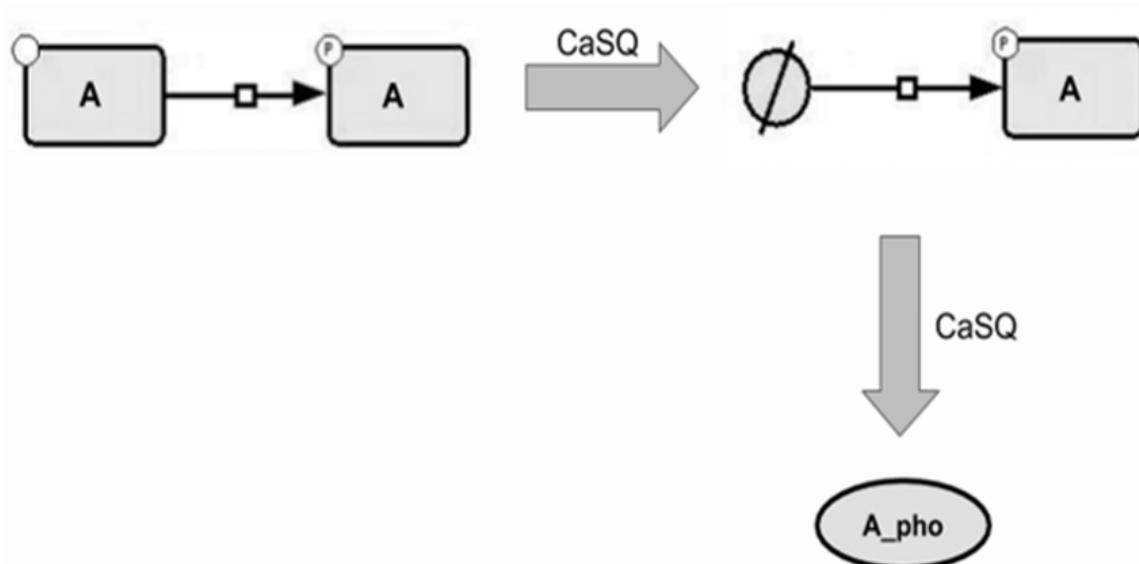
A and B do not take part in any other reaction. A annotated as **receptor**, reaction as *heterodimer association*

Step 1, Rule 2 – Complex Merge



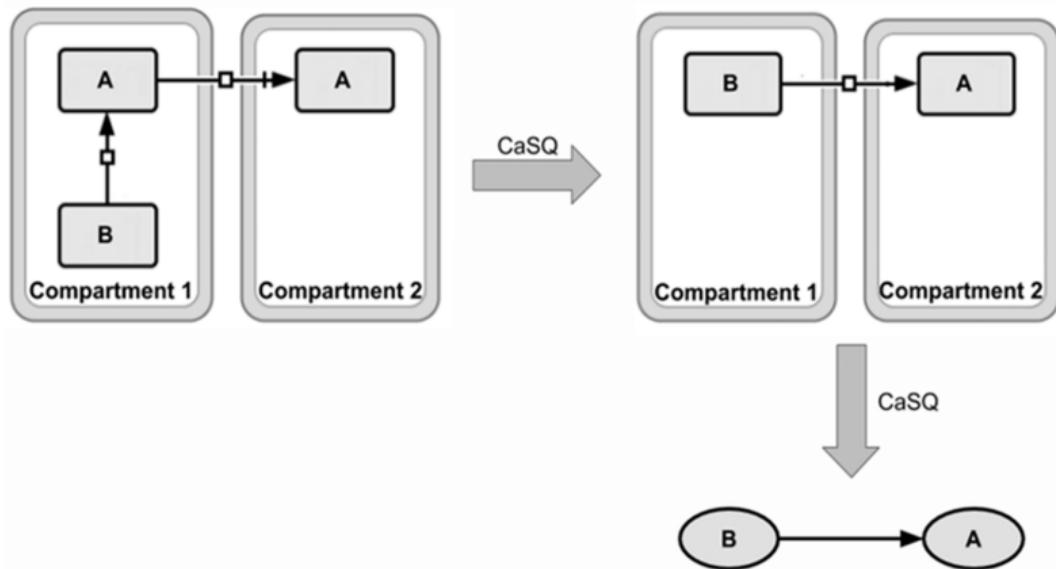
A and B do not take any part in any other reaction, reaction annotated as **heterodimer association**

Step 1, Rule 3 – Inactive Species Removal



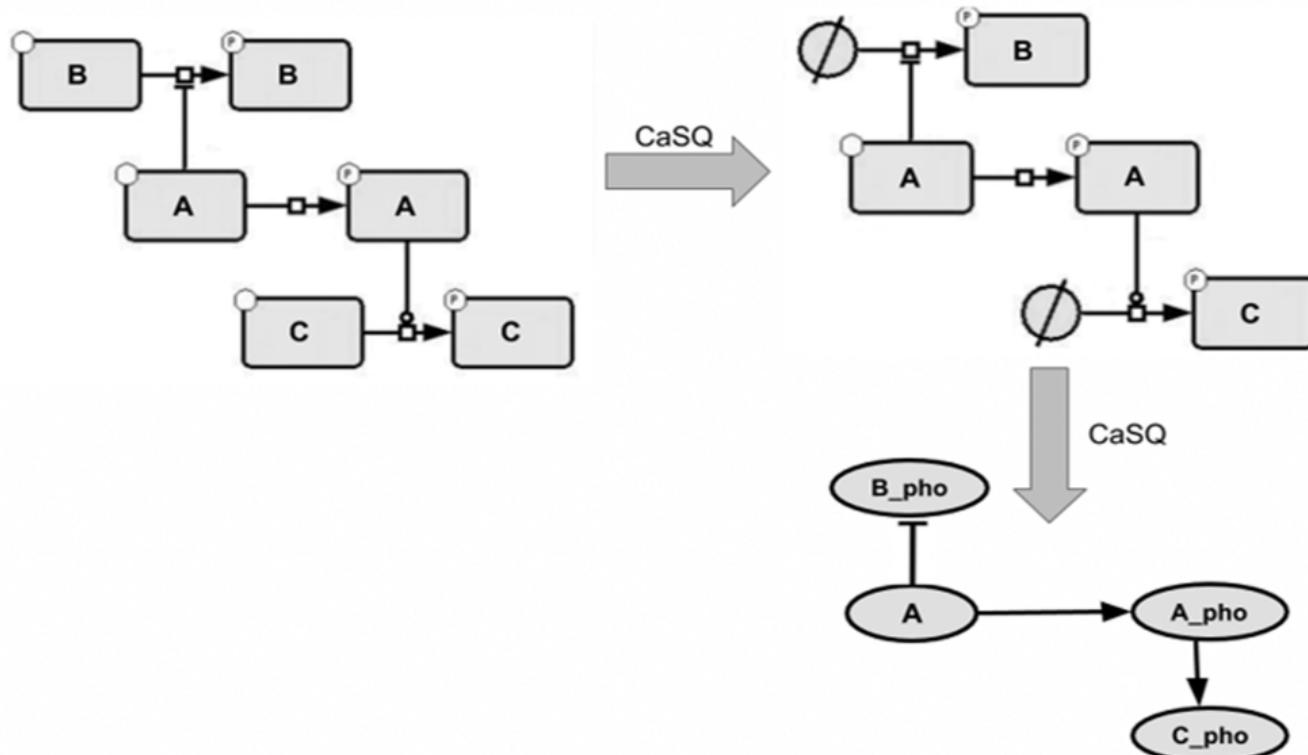
A only appears in this reaction with a single product, both reactant and product have the **same name**

Step 1, Rule 4 – Transport Simplification

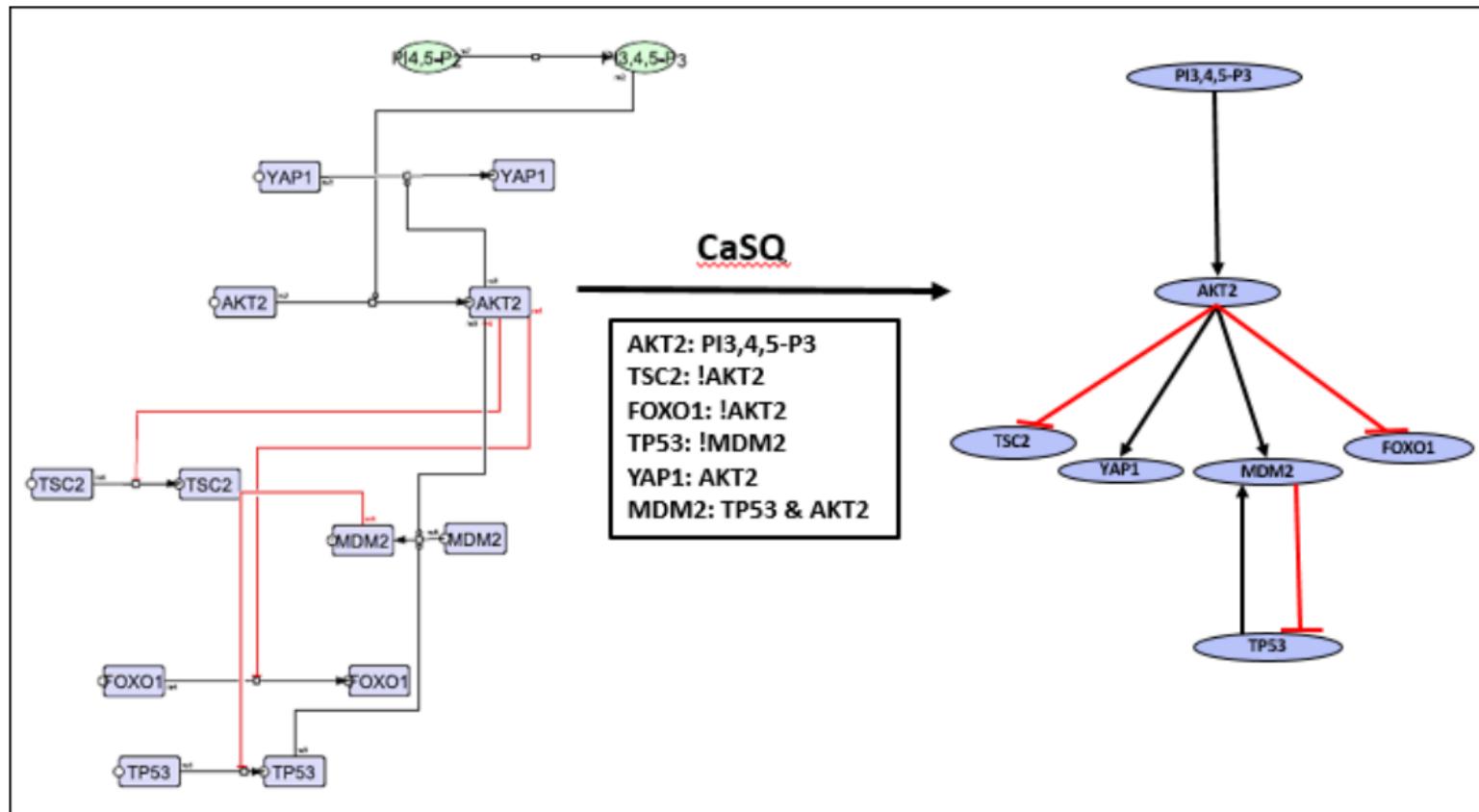


A (reactant) does not take any other *active part*, reaction annotated as **transport, same name** in both compartments

Example (practical reduction is about 30%)



RA map excerpt (50% reduction)



Conserving *information*

All vertices of the model correspond to one (species) vertex of the original map

Let us **keep its original layout** for readability!

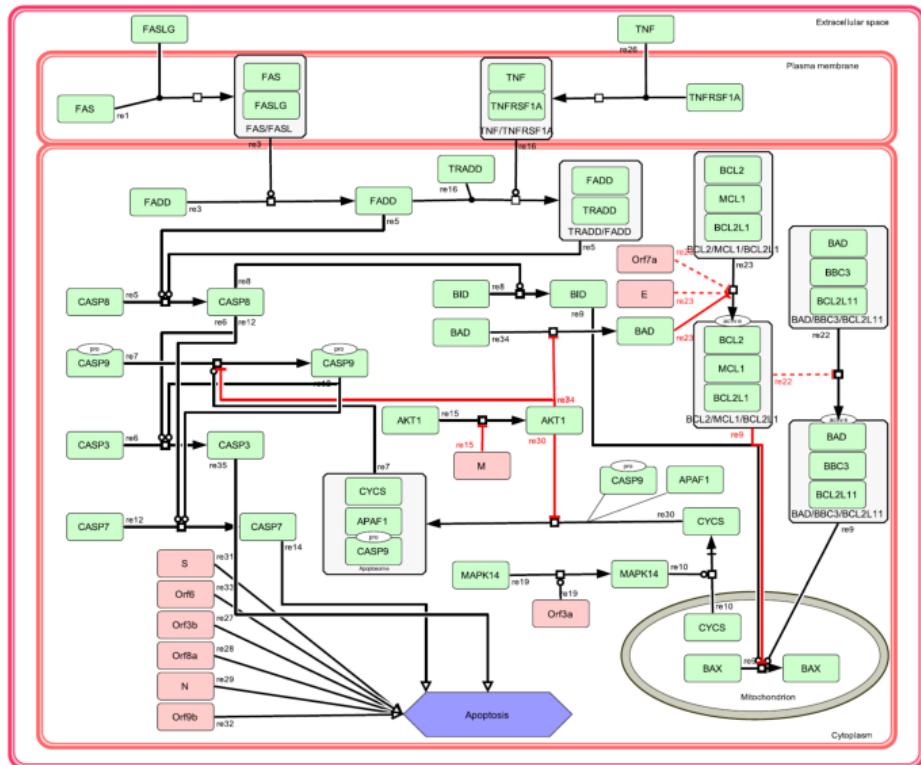
Annotations about the nature of a species (e.g., receptor) are used in the transformation

But there is much more, e.g., **bibliographic information**

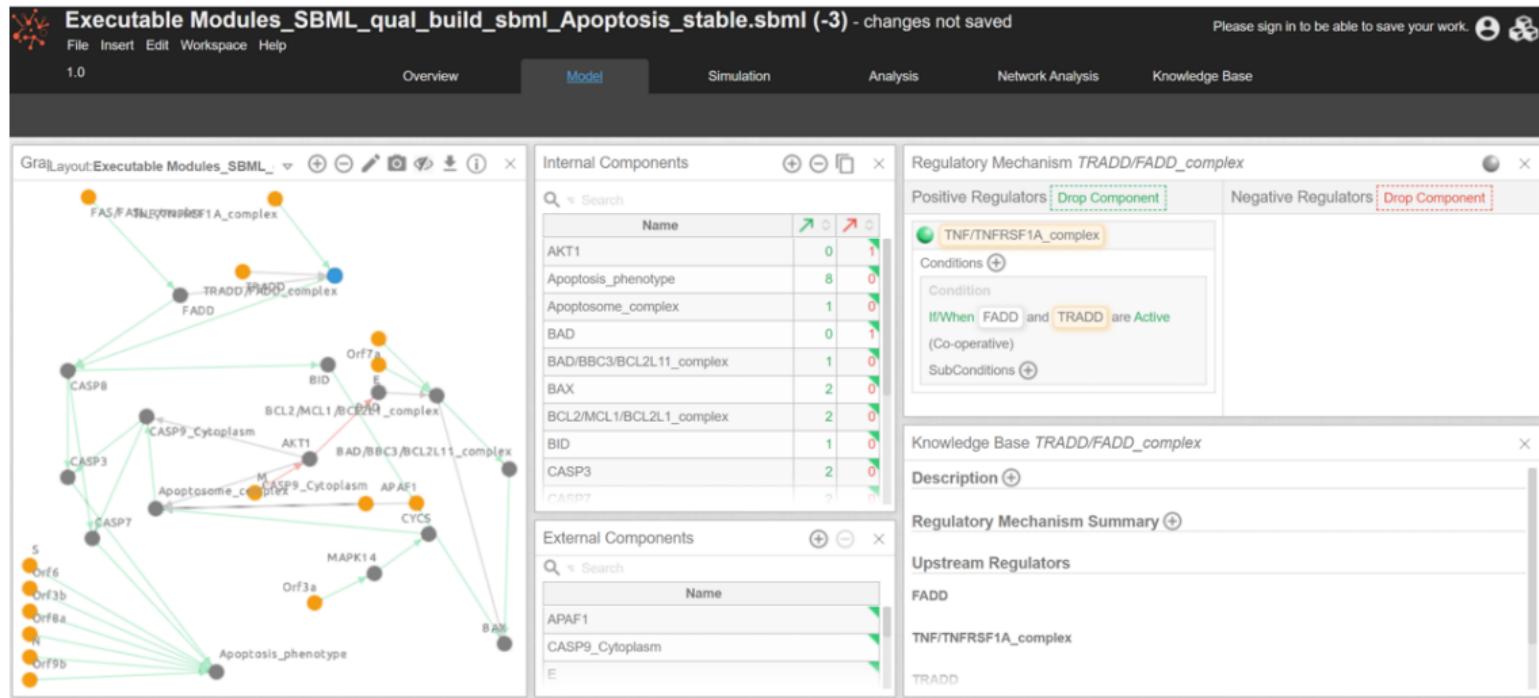
MIRIAM: Minimal Information Required In the Annotation of Models

Propagate that of vertices that are kept. **Merge** that of removed vertices into a nearby meaningful vertex

Apoptosis module (C19DM)



Apoptosis model in TCC



Apoptosis model in TCC



SBML in, SBML out

Standards are crucial for interoperability

Rich annotations “in”



Rich annotations “out”



Conclusion

CaSQ automatically produces a dynamic executable model from a static map

It strongly relies on annotations and topology to infer logical rules

It embraces SBML standards in and out for interoperability

It conserves rich annotations and layout, even when reducing the model, for readability and reusability

This does not lead to a *perfect* model, but is scalable, fast and consistent for a first step

TL;DL

“The map is not the territory.”
— Alfred Korzybski

TL;DL

"The map is not the territory."

— Alfred Korzybski

"All models are wrong, but some
are useful."

— George Box

C19DM Ecosystem

