



## SOFTWARE TOOL ARTICLE

# cy3sabiork: A Cytoscape app for visualizing kinetic data from SABIO-RK

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## Abstract

Kinetic data of biochemical reactions are essential for the creation of kinetic models of biochemical networks. One of the main resources of such information is SABIO-RK, a curated database for kinetic data of biochemical reactions and their related information. Despite the importance for computational modelling there has been no simple solution to visualize the kinetic data from SABIO-RK.

In this work, I present cy3sabiork, an app for querying and visualization of kinetic data from SABIO-RK in Cytoscape. The kinetic information is accessible via a combination of graph structure and annotations of nodes, with provided information consisting of: (I) reaction details, enzyme and organism; (II) kinetic law, formula, parameters; (III) experimental conditions; (IV) publication; (V) additional annotations. cy3sabiork creates an intuitive visualization of kinetic entries in form of a species-reaction-kinetics graph, which reflects the reaction-centered approach of SABIO-RK. Kinetic entries can be imported in SBML format from either the SABIO-RK web interface or via web service queries. The app allows for easy comparison of kinetic data, visual inspection of the elements involved in the kinetic record and simple access to the annotation information of the kinetic record.

I applied cy3sabiork in the computational modelling of galactose metabolism in the human liver.



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## Introduction

One of the main challenges for the modeling of biochemical systems is the availability of reliable information on the individual reaction steps and their kinetics from the literature. This information includes kinetic parameters with their rate equations as well as detailed descriptions of how these were determined<sup>1</sup>.

SABIO-RK (<http://sabio.h-its.org/>) is a manually curated database for kinetic data storing comprehensive information about biochemical reactions and their kinetic properties, with data manually extracted from the literature and directly submitted from lab experiments<sup>1,2</sup>. Available information comprises kinetic parameters with their corresponding rate equations, kinetic law and parameter types and experimental conditions under which the kinetic data were determined. In addition, information about the biochemical reactions and pathways including their reaction participants, cellular location and the catalyzing enzyme are recorded<sup>2</sup>.

The information in SABIO-RK is structured in datasets, so called database entries, which can be accessed either through the web-based user interface (<http://sabiork.h-its.org/newSearch/index>) or via web services (<http://sabiork.h-its.org/sabioRestWebServices>). Both interfaces support the export of the data in the Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML), a free and open interchange format for computer models of biological processes<sup>3</sup>.

Database entries are annotated with controlled ontologies and vocabularies based on Minimum Information Required for the Annotation of Models (MIRIAM<sup>4</sup>), e.g. reaction participants (e.g. small chemical compounds and proteins), as well as kinetic rate laws, and parameters. The annotation information is encoded in the form of RDF-based MIRIAM annotations, and additional XML based SABIO-RK specific annotations, e.g. for experimental conditions. These annotations integrate the kinetic information with external resources like ChEBI (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chebi/>)<sup>5</sup>, UniProtKB (<http://www.uniprot.org/help/uniprotkb>)<sup>6</sup>, PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>), or KEGG (<http://www.kegg.jp/>)<sup>7</sup>.

Despite the importance of kinetic information for computational modelling there has been no simple solution to visualize the database entries from SABIO-RK, and provide access to the structure of the kinetic entries and the information encoded in the annotations.

In this work, we present cy3sabiork, an app for the visualization of kinetic data from SABIO-RK for Cytoscape, an open source software platform for network visualization<sup>8</sup>. cy3sabiork creates an intuitive visualization of kinetic entries in the form of a species-reaction-kinetics graph extended with kinetic information, which reflects the reaction-centered approach of SABIO-RK. Hereby, the kinetic information is accessible via a combination of graph structure and annotations of nodes, with provided information consisting of: (I) reaction details, enzyme and organism; (II) kinetic law, formula, parameters; (III) experimental conditions; (IV) publication; (V) additional annotations. cy3sabiork allows for

easy comparison of kinetic data, visual inspection of the elements involved in the kinetic record and simple access to the annotation information of the kinetic record.

## Methods

### Implementation

cy3sabiork was written in Java as an OSGi bundle for Cytoscape 3 using the app infrastructure. The bundle activator adds the cy3sabiork Action to the Cytoscape icon bar, which provides access to the JavaFX based cy3sabiork dialog. The cy3sabiork GUI is a combination of web based components handled in a WebView and classical GUI components. The combination of Swing and JavaFX is implemented based on a JFXPanel with JavaFX GUI updates in Platform.runLater, Swing GUI updates via SwingUtilities.invokeLater. The JavaFX approach allows for the integration of rich Web-based content using HTML/JavaScript/CSS with Cytoscape. The GUI was created utilizing FXML based GUI definitions created in JavaFX Scene Builder, a JavaFX tool which allows to quickly design JavaFX application user interfaces by dragging UI components into a content view area. FXML code for the UI layout is created by the tool which was styled using CSS. The downside of the JavaFX-Swing hybrid approach are additional complexity in handling Events and EventListeners in different threads, some issues with Windows Management and Focus Handling, and full support of JavaFX in old felix OSGi containers.

SABIO-RK entries are retrieved via the web services using the RESTful API. SBML from the web service calls or the web interface export is imported using a Cytoscape Task created by the LoadNetworkFileTaskFactory. CyNetworks and CyNetworkViews for the imported kinetic entries are created by a CyNetworkReader registered for SBML files provided by cy3sbml<sup>9</sup>. During the app development the SBML CyNetworkReader was extended to support the SABIO-RK specific annotations and data. RDF based annotations are read with JSBML<sup>10,11</sup> and hyperlinks to the respective resources are created by parsing the resources.

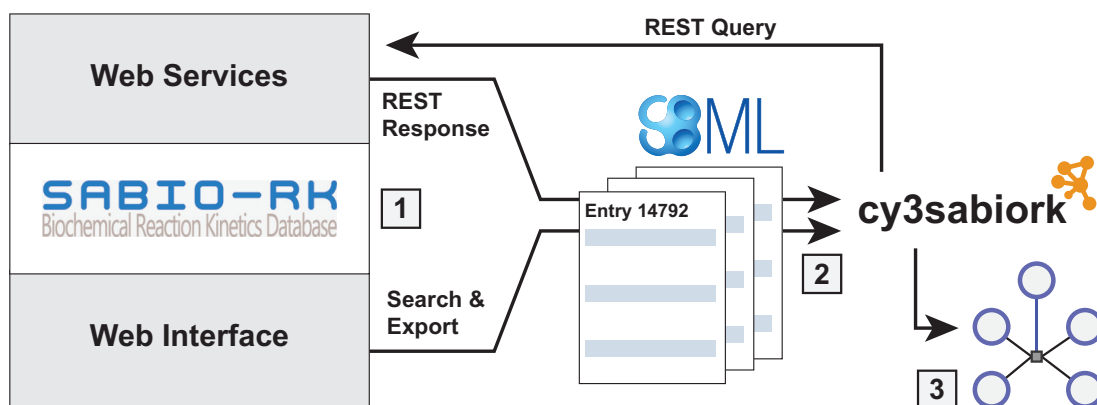
By implementing cy3sabiork as a desktop app, in comparison to a solely web-based solution with Cytoscape.js, tight integration with cy3sbml was possible, thereby providing rich functionality for the kinetic entries in SBML, like for instance access to the annotation information or the raw SBML files of the kinetic entries.

### Operation

An overview over the typical cy3sabiork workflow is depicted in Figure 1. The main steps of operation are searching entries in SABIO-RK, loading entries in cy3sabiork, and visual exploration of results:

**Searching kinetic entries.** Kinetic entries can either be searched via the web services available from the cy3sabiork panel or directly in the SABIO-RK web interface available at <http://sabiork.h-its.org/newSearch/index>.

The web interface enables the search for reactions and their kinetics by either a free text search or an advanced search, which



**Figure 1. cy3sabiork workflow.** The main steps of operation are: (1) Searching entries in SABIO-RK: Kinetic entries are retrieved from SABIO-RK via calls to the RESTful web services or via searching the web interface and exporting selected entries as SBML; (2) Loading entries in cy3sabiork: The exchange format between SABIO-RK and cy3sabiork is SBML; (3) Visual exploration of results. The kinetic graphs for the imported entries are generated providing simple access to kinetic information and annotations. An example query with resulting SABIO-RK information and subsequent visualization is shown in Figure 2.

supports the creation of complex queries by specifying reactions by their participants (substrates, products, inhibitors, activators etc.) or identifiers (KEGG or SABIO-RK reaction identifiers and KEGG, SABIO-RK, ChEBI or PubChem compound identifiers), pathways, enzymes, UniProt identifiers, organisms (NCBI taxonomy<sup>12</sup>), tissues or cellular locations (BRENDA tissue ontology (BTO)<sup>13</sup>), kinetic parameters, environmental conditions or literature sources<sup>1,2</sup>. After finalizing the search the selected kinetic entries are exported as SBML.

The web interface supports the same query options, which can be added in the REST query GUI, but allows a direct import of the SBML without the requirement for search in the web interface and export and subsequent import of the SBML.

Example queries are depicted in Figure 2 and Figure 4 with resulting SBML available as Supplementary File S1 and Supplementary File S2.

**Loading kinetic entries.** The SBML exported from web interface searches is imported as in Cytoscape using cy3sbml<sup>9</sup> (File → Import → Network → File). For queries to the web services the response SBML is imported automatically without the need for additional file operations.

**Visual exploration.** The final step is the exploration of the kinetic entries in the species-reaction-modifier and the kinetic graph (e.g. in Figure 2 and Figure 4). The information from a wide

range of resources and databases is integrated with the graph visualization of the kinetic records accessible as hyperlinks from the cy3sbml panel. Examples are the access to the source publication on PubMed from which the kinetic information was retrieved, the UniProtKB protein for which the kinetic information was measured, KEGG and ChEBI information for species involved in the reaction, or links back to the SABIO-RK database entry and reaction.

### Use cases

We applied cy3sabiork for kinetic parameter search and model construction of a kinetic model of galactose metabolism of the human liver (<https://github.com/matthiaskoenig/multiscale-galactose>) within the Virtual Liver Network (VLN) and Systems Medicine of the Liver (LiSyM) projects. A crucial step in building kinetic models of metabolism is the collection of kinetic information from the literature for the parameterization of the biochemical reactions. The search and visual exploration with cy3sabiork provides easy-access to a high-quality starting set of kinetic parameters and corpus of relevant publications for the processes of interest. Hereby, subsequent literature search and retrieval of referenced publications is simplified.

A representative SABIO-RK query for galactokinase (EC:2.7.1.6, UniProtKB:P51570), the first step of hepatic galactose metabolism is depicted in Figure 2 retrieving the SABIO-RK kinetic record 14792. A more complex query used for parameter search is depicted in Figure 3 and Figure 4 retrieving all kinetic records available for human galactose metabolism.

A SABIO-RK Entry 14792

General information		
Organism	Homo sapiens	
Tissue		
EC Class	2.7.1.6	
SABIO reaction id	1354	
Variant	wildtype His-tagged	
Recombinant	expressed in Escherichia coli HMS174(DE3)	
Experiment Type	in vitro	
Pathways	Amino sugar and nucleotide sugar metabolism	
Event Description	Galactose metabolism	
Substrates		
name	location	comment
D-Galactose	cytosol	-
ATP	cytosol	-
Products		
name	location	comment
ADP	cytosol	-
alpha-D-Galactose 1-phosphate	cytosol	-
Modifiers		
name	location	effect
galactokinase(Enzyme)	cytosol	Modifier-Catalyst
Enzyme (protein data)		
UniProtKB_AC		
subunit	P51570	mol. weight (kDa)
complex	-	deviation (kDa)

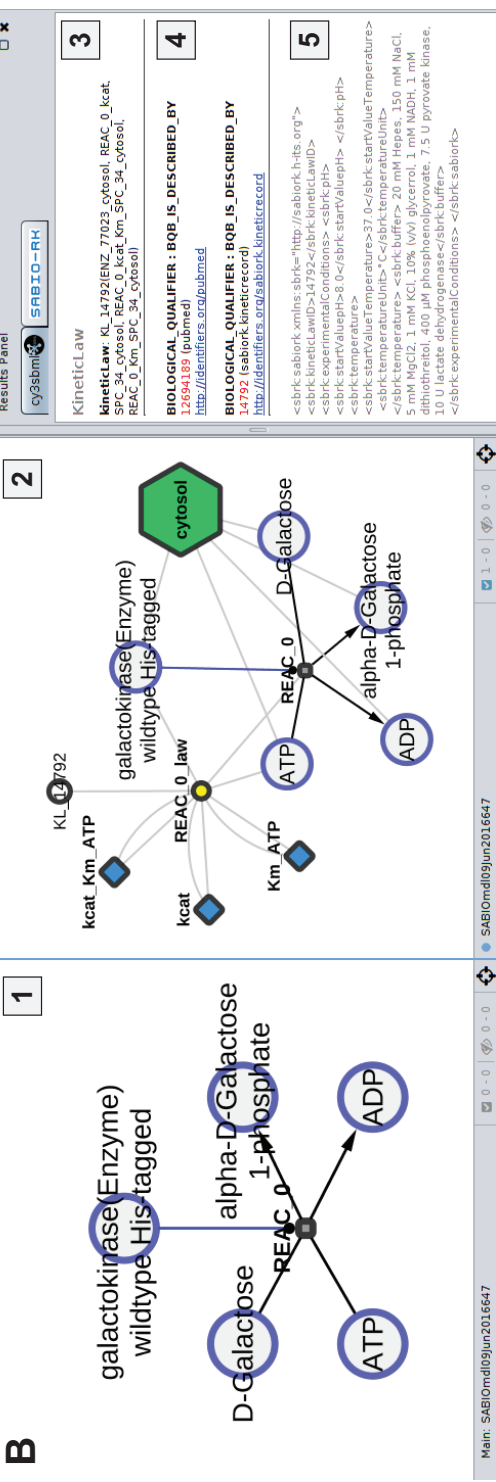
Kinetic Law	
type	formula
Michaelis-Menten	$(E \cdot kcat \cdot A)/(Km + A)$
annotation	
SBO:0000029	
Parameter	
name	type
E	species
A	concentration
kcat	Enzyme
kcat_Km	ATP
Km	ATP
start val.	
end val.	
deviat.	
unit	
comment	
Experimental conditions	
start value	
end value	
unit	
pH	8.0
temperature	37.0
buffer	20 mM Hepes, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl2, 1 mM KCl, 10% (v/v) glycerol, 1 mM NADH, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 400 μM phosphoenolpyruvate, 7.5 U pyruvate kinase, 10 U lactate dehydrogenase
comment	-
Reference	
title	author
Functional analysis of disease-causing mutations in human galactokinase	Timson DJ, Reece RJ
year	2003
journal	Eur J Biochem
volume	270
pages	1767-74
PubMed	12694189

Reaction details, enzyme, organism

Kinetic law, formula, parameters

Experimental conditions

Source



**Figure 2. Overview of kinetic information and visualization for a single SABIO-RK entry.** The kinetic entry 14792 for galactokinase (EC:2.7.1.6, UniProtKB:P51570) was retrieved via the web service query <http://sabiork.h-its.org/sabioreactWebServices/kineticLaws/14792> (status 10-06-2016, SBML of query in [Supplementary File S1](#)). (A) Overview of kinetic information for SABIO-RK entry (<http://sabiork.h-its.org/kineticLawEntry.jsp?viewData=true&kinlawid=14792>) with color coding according to 1. (B) cy3sabiork information for entry 14792: (1) Resulting species-reaction-modifier graph. The galactokinase enzyme catalyzes the conversion of D-Galactose + ATP → α-D-Galactose 1-phosphate + ADP (see also Substrates, Products and Modifiers in A); (2) Kinetic graph with additional nodes for kinetic law, parameters and localization; (3) Selecting nodes in the graphs provides access to the annotation information and links to databases. In the example the kinetic law information is displayed in the Results Panel. (4) MIRIAM annotations with respective links to databases are available via the Results Panel; (5) Additional SABIO-RK annotations in XML for the experimental conditions are displayed in this section.

Keyword	Search Term
Organism	homo sapiens



KegglID	KeggReactionID	KineticMechanismType	Organism	Organization	OtherModifier	ParameterType	Pathway

searchKineticLaws/sbml?q=Pathway:"galactose metabolism" AND Organism:"homo sapiens"

Run Done

```
Status 200
Time 16390 [ms]
```

#	Id	Organism	Tissue	Reaction
31	14785	9606	-	galactokinase(Enzyme) wildtyp...
30	14786	9606	-	galactokinase(Enzyme) mutant...
32	14787	9606	-	galactokinase(Enzyme) mutant...
33	14788	9606	-	galactokinase(Enzyme) mutant...
35	14789	9606	-	galactokinase(Enzyme) mutant...

Load

```
[1][13:09:06 INFO] Load information for Kinetic Law <I4785>  
[1][13:09:06 INFO] Load information for Kinetic Law <I4785>  
[1][13:08:18 INFO] SABIO-RK returned status <200> after 16390 [ms]  
[1][13:08:01 INFO] ... waiting for SABIO-RK response ...  
[1][13:08:01 INFO] GET <searchKineticLaws/sbm/q-Pathway:>"galactose  
metabolism" AND Organism:"homo sapiens")>  
[1][13:08:01 INFO] <88> Kinetic Law Entries for query in SABIO-RK.  
[1][13:08:01 INFO] GET COUNT  
[1][13:08:01 INFO] searchKineticLaws/sbm/q-Pathway:>"galactose metabolism" AND
```

General information	
Organism	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a>
Tissue	-
EC Class	<a href="#">2.7.1.6</a>
SABIO reaction id	1354
Variant	wildtype His-tagged
Recombinant	expressed in Escherichia coli HMS174(DE3)
Experiment Type	in vitro
pathways	<a href="#">Amino sugar and nucleotide sugar metabolism</a> <a href="#">Galactose metabolism</a>
Event Description	-

Substrates	
name	location
D-Galactose	cytosol ↗
ATP	cytosol ↗

Products	
name	location
ADP	cytosol
alpha-D-Galactose 1-phosphate	cytosol

Modifiers			
name	location	effect	comment
galactokinase(Enzyme)	cytosol	Modifier-Catalyst	-
			251570

Enzyme (protein data)		
	UniProtKB_AC	
	name	mol. weight (kDa)
subunit	P51570	
complex	-	-

Kinetic Law		
type	formula	annotation
Michaelis-Menten	$(E \cdot k_{cat} \cdot A) / (K_m + A)$	SBO:0000029 

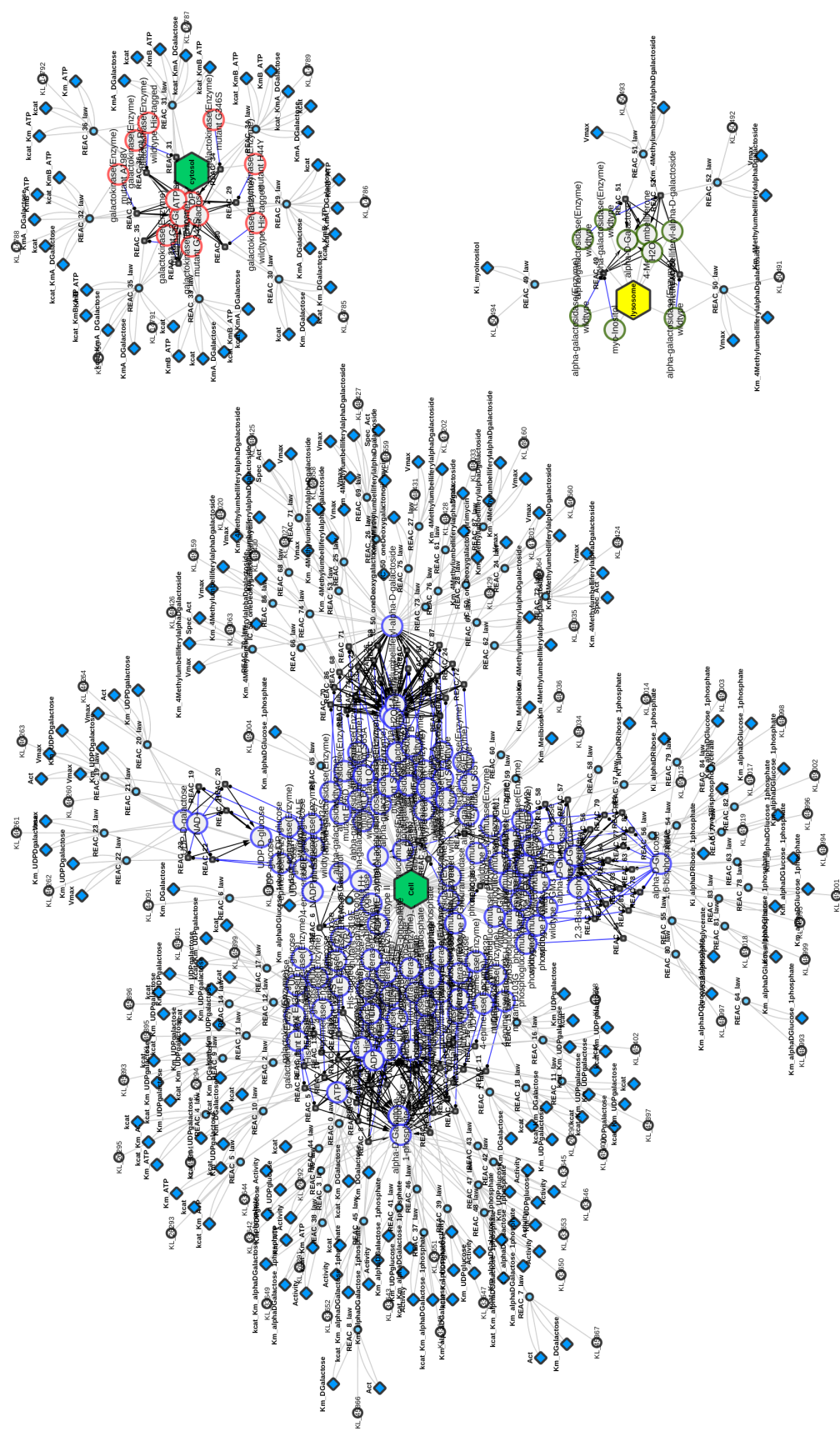
Parameter					
name	type	species	start val.	end val.	comment
E	<a href="#">concentration</a>	Enzyme	32.0	67.0	nM
A	<a href="#">concentration</a>	D-Galactose	0.0	2000.0	$\mu$ M
kcat	<a href="#">kcat</a>		8.7	5	$s^{-1}$
kcat_km	<a href="#">kcat/Km</a>	D-Galactose	8900.0	2900	$M^{-1}s^{-1}$
Km	<a href="#">Km</a>	D-Galactose	970.0	220	$\mu$ M

Experimental conditions		
	start value	end value
pH	8.0	-
temperature	37.0	- °C
buffer	20 mM Hepes, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl <sub>2</sub> , 1 mM KCl, 10% (v/v) glycerol, 1 mM NADH, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 400 $\mu$ M phosphoenolpyruvate, 7.5 U pyruvate kinase, 10 U lactate dehydrogenase	
comment	-	

Reference	title	author	year	journal	volume	pages	PubMed
	Functional analysis of disease-causing mutations in human galactokinase	Timson DJ, Reece RJ	2003	Eur J Biochem	270	1767- 74	12694189

**Figure 3. cy3sabiorik GUI for web service queries.** For human galactose metabolism 88 entries are available (status 28-06-2016, SBML of query in [Supplementary File S2](#)). For the selected Entry 14785 detailed information is provided on the right side.





**Figure 4. Kinetic graph for human galactose metabolism.** Graph of SABIO-RK kinetic information available for human galactose metabolism consisting of 88 entries (status 28-06-2016, SBML of query in [Supplementary File S2](#)). The kinetic graph consists of three clusters, separated based on the reported localization of the catalyzing enzyme. The lysosomal entries are non-canonical reactions in the galactose metabolism.

During model building publications with kinetic information not yet available in SABIO-RK were included in the database by the SABIO-RK curation service.

## Conclusion

cy3sabiork is a Cytoscape app for visualizing kinetic data from SABIO-RK providing the means for visual analysis of kinetic entries from SABIO-RK within their reaction context. Herby, the integration of kinetic parameters with computational models is supported. The availability of direct links to annotated resources from within the network context of the kinetic records provides important information for the knowledge integration with computational models.

## Software availability

Software available from: <http://apps.cytoscape.org/apps/cy3sabiork>

Latest source code: <https://github.com/matthiascoenig/cy3sabiork>

Archive source code as at the time of publication: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.57428>

License: GNU General Public License, version 3 (GPL-3.0): <https://opensource.org/licenses/GPL-3.0>

## Supplementary material

**Supplementary File S1:** Kinetic entry 14792.

SBML for query <http://sabiork.h-its.org/sabioRestWebServices/kineticLaws/14792>

**Supplementary File S2:** Kinetic entries for human galactose metabolism.

SBML for query: <http://sabiork.h-its.org/sabioRestWebServices/searchKineticLaws/sbml?q=Pathway:”galactosemetabolism”AND Organism:”homo sapiens>

## Author contributions

MK developed the app and wrote the manuscript. All authors were involved in the revision of the draft manuscript and have agreed to the final content.

## Competing interests

No competing interests were disclosed.

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