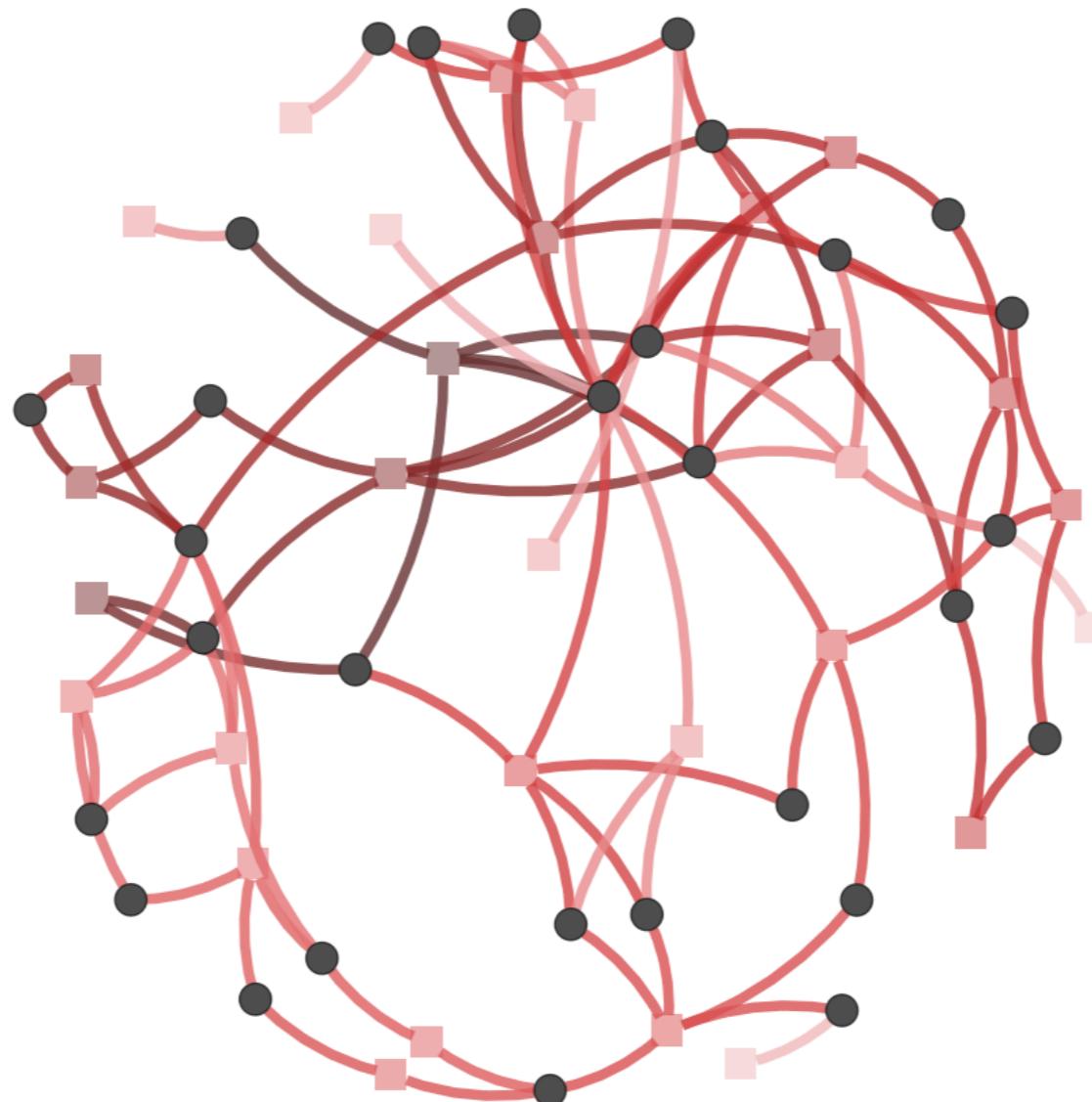


Geometry of nonequilibrium reaction networks

Sara Dal Cengio (LIPhy, Grenoble)

Questions

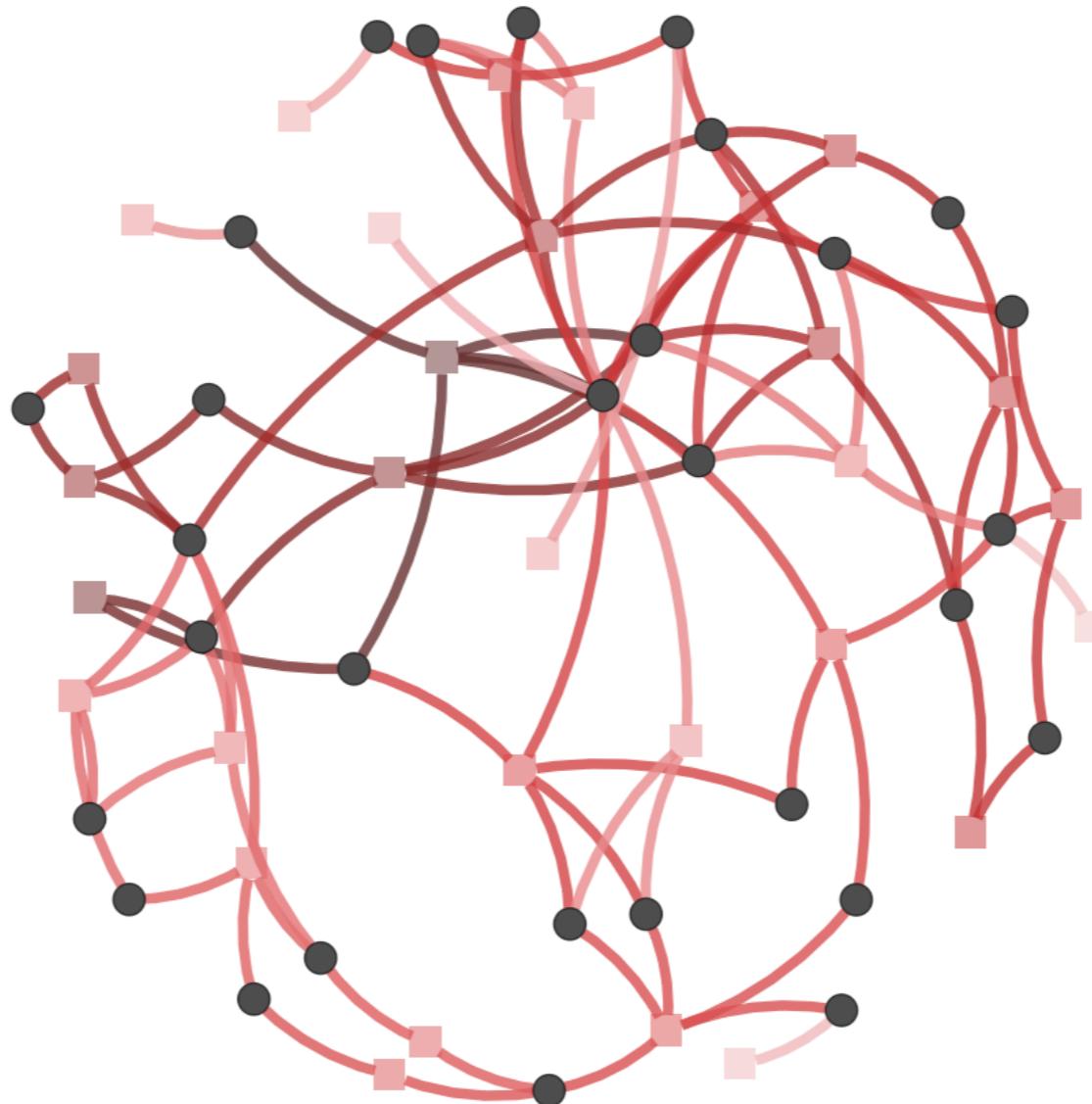
● = species
■ = reaction



red blood cell
reaction network

Questions

● = species
■ = reaction



red blood cell
reaction network

- * How to characterize the **nonequilibrium** drive and dynamics?
- * How to understand their **geometrical** features?

Statement of the problem

How to identify **nonequilibrium** (chemical) **forces** and **currents** in complex topology?

Hill–Schnakenberg approach:

[Schakenberg, Rev mod Phys 1976]

- Microscopic description (**population level**)
- Based on tools from **graph theory**
- Role of **cycles** for nonequilibrium steady state

Statement of the problem

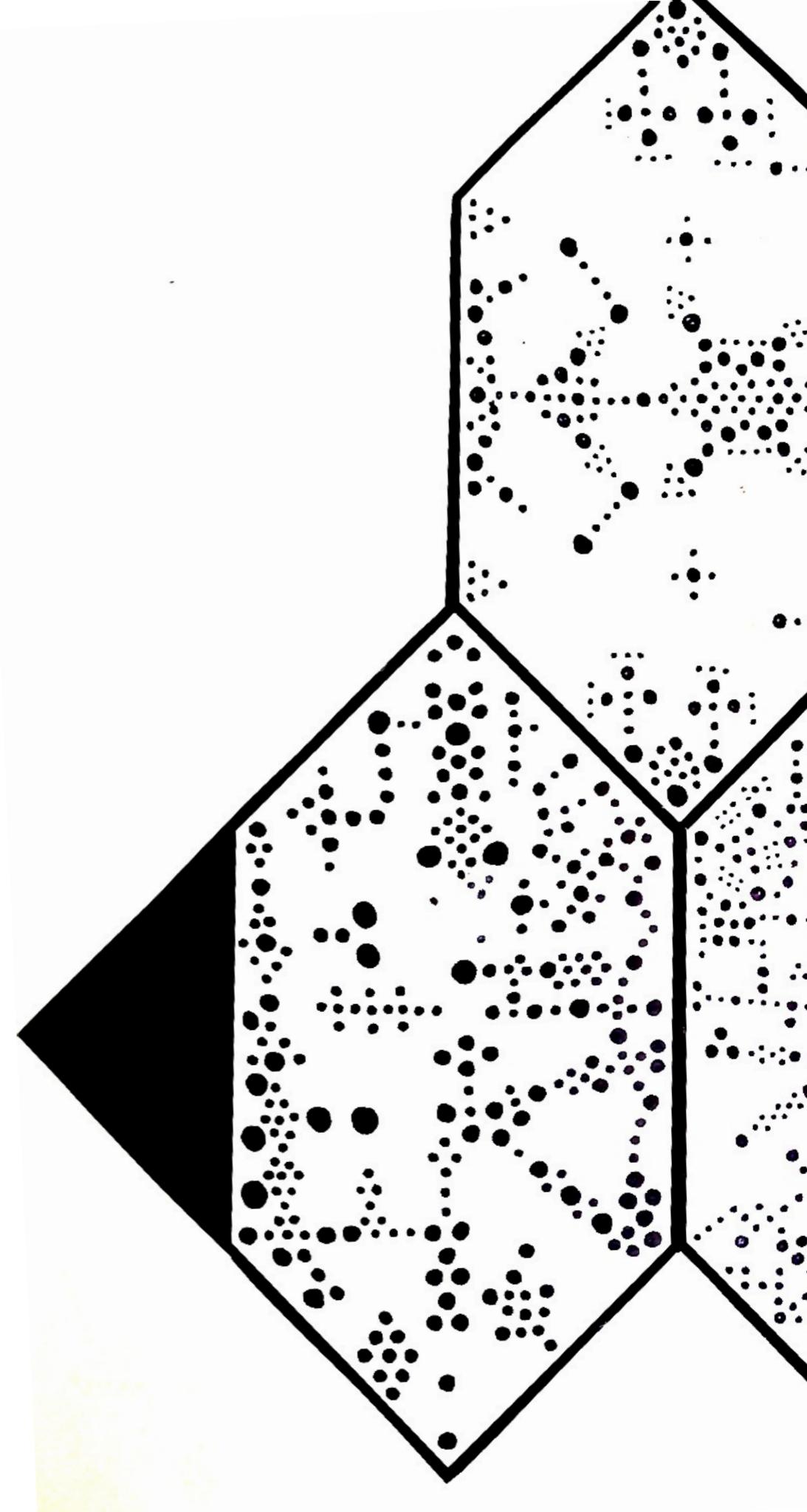
How to identify **nonequilibrium** (chemical) **forces** and **currents** in complex topology?

But:

- Graph at the population level is impractical.
 - **Macroscopic** description?
- Steady-state picture only.
 - What about the **transient**?

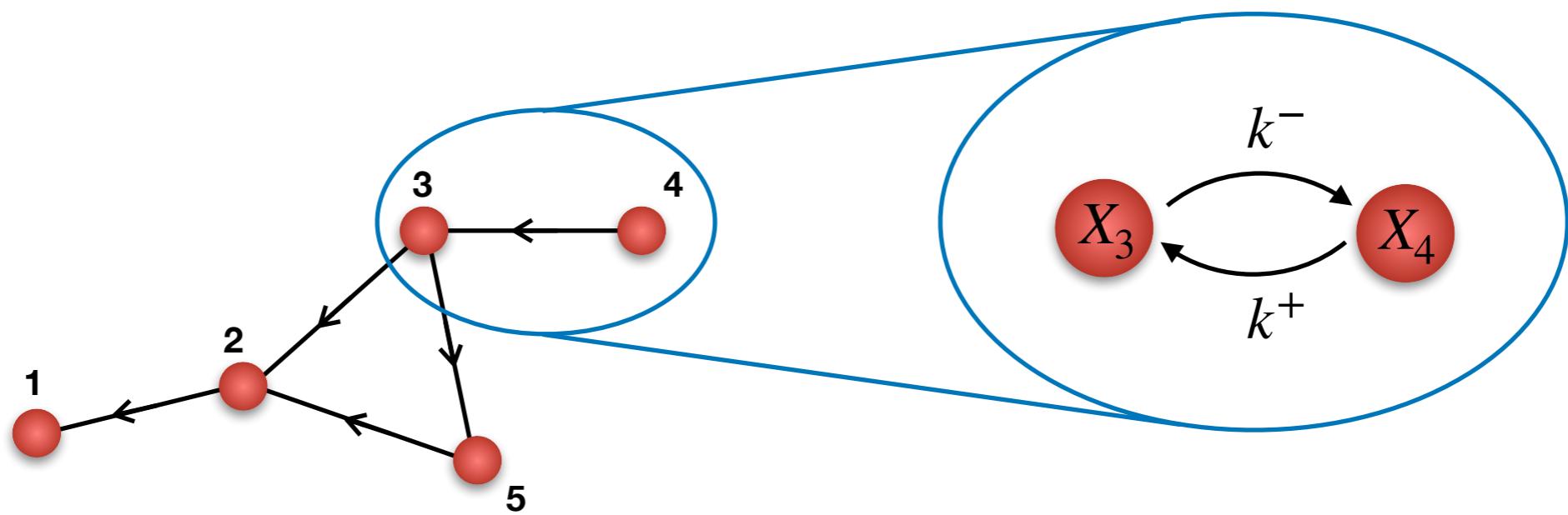
Outline

- Introduction
- Non-interacting networks
 - Graph theory
 - Geometry and algebra
- Interacting networks
 - Algebra
 - Geometry
- Application
 - Metabolic reconstruction



Noninteracting networks: graph representation

Unimolecular reactions: $X_i \rightleftharpoons X_j$ (E.g. Markov chains)

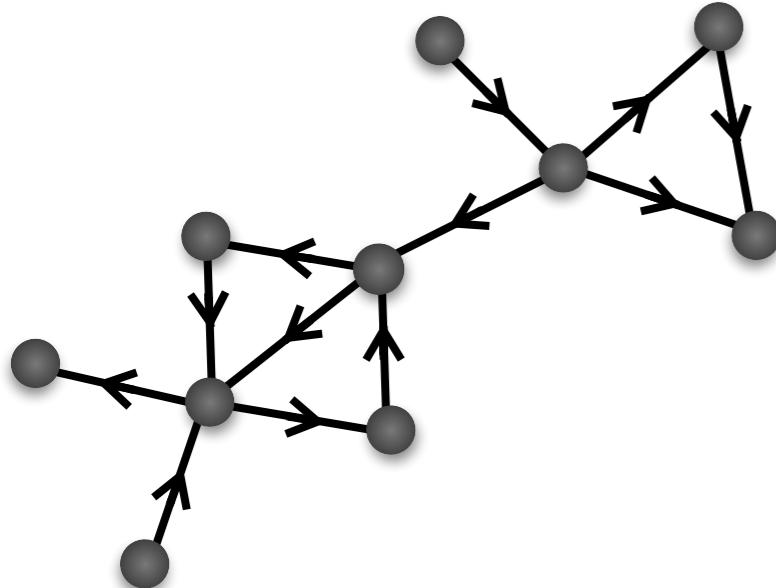


Oriented graph representation:

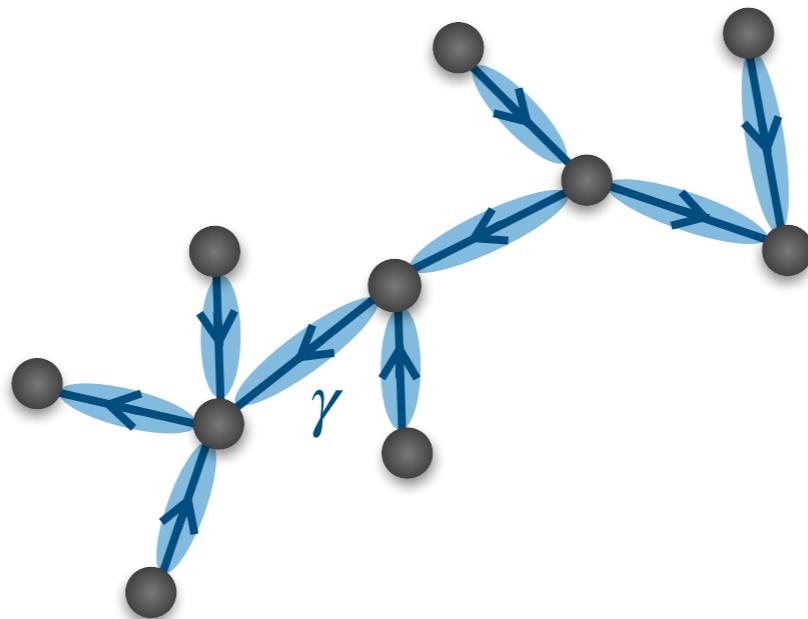
N nodes/species
 R edges/reactions

Elements of graph theory

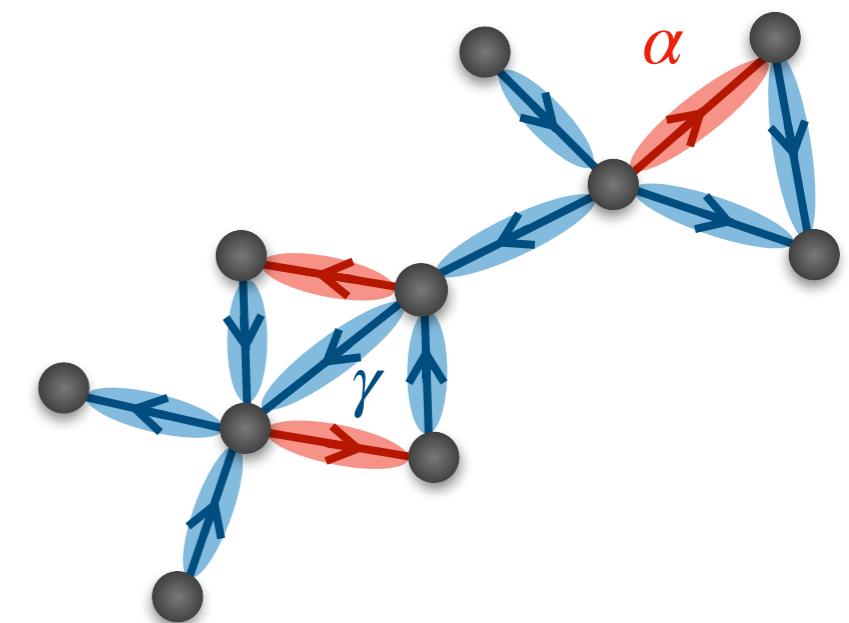
Oriented graph



Spanning tree



Chords & cochords



Connected graph: N nodes/species, R edges/reactions

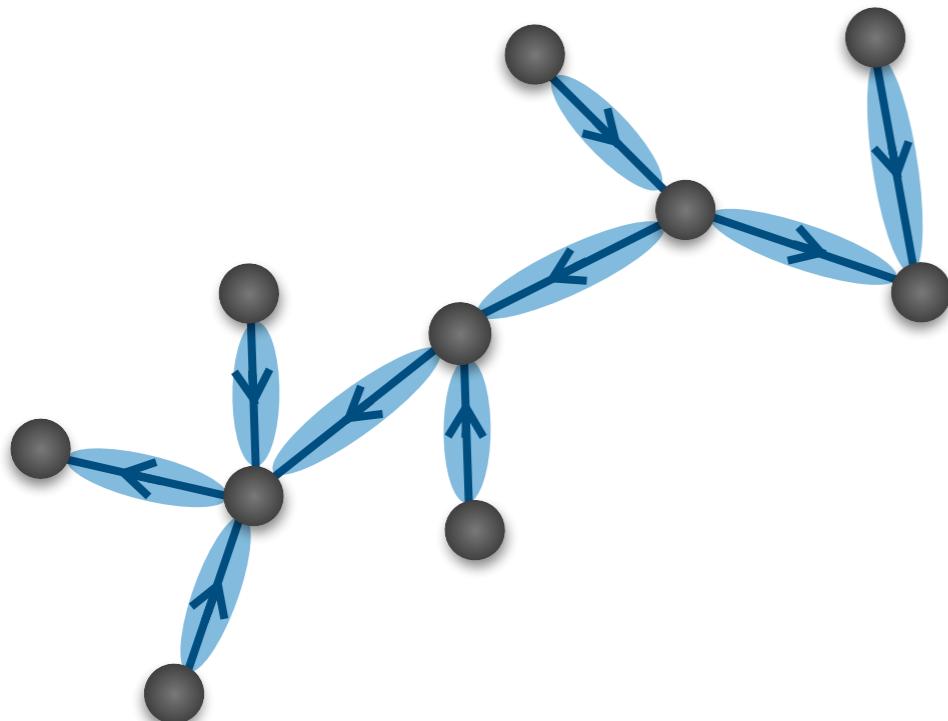
Spanning tree: $M = N - 1$ independent reactions

Cochords: reactions that belong to the tree, indexed by γ

Chords: reactions that do not belong to the tree, indexed by α

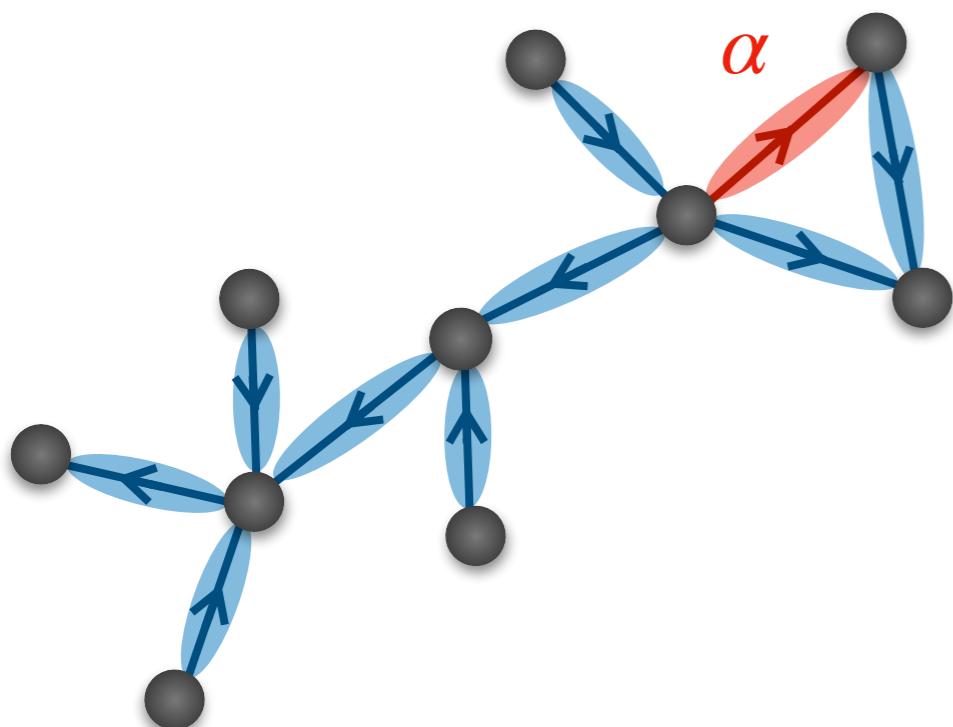
Elements of graph theory

Adding a **chord** back to the spanning tree...



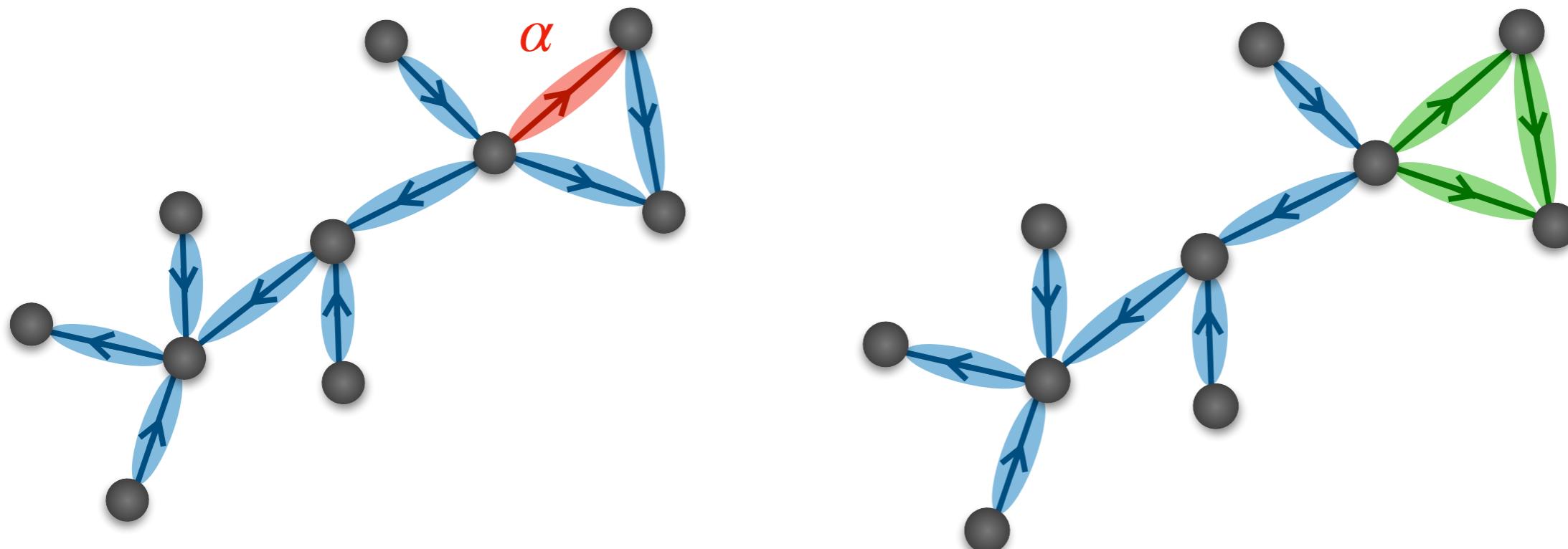
Elements of graph theory

Adding a **chord** back to the spanning tree...



Elements of graph theory

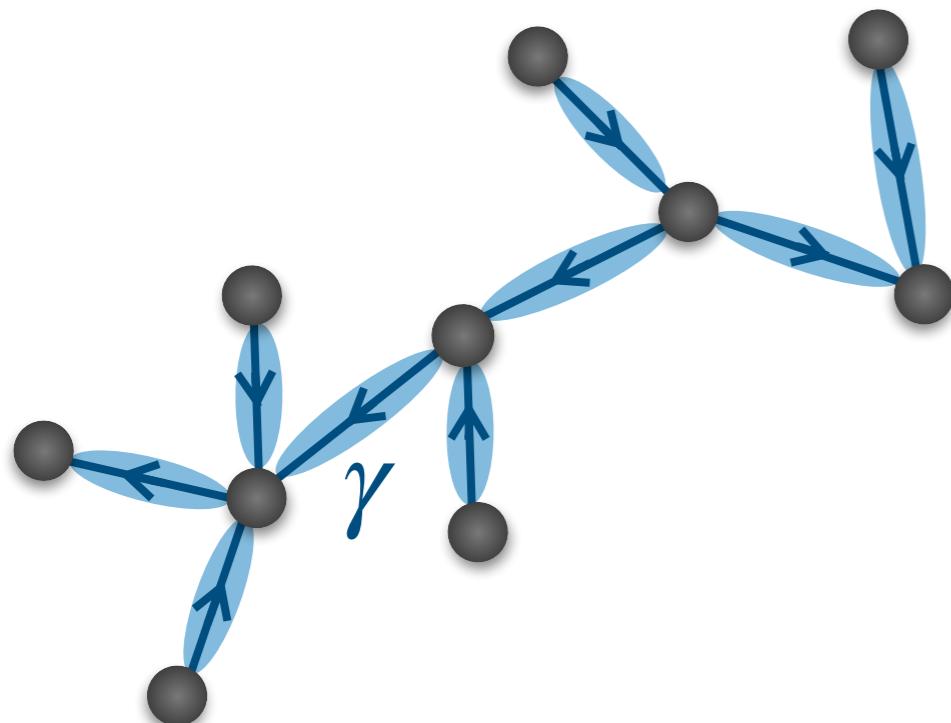
Adding a **chord** back to the spanning tree...



Cycle: applying its reactions leaves the system unchanged, indexed by α

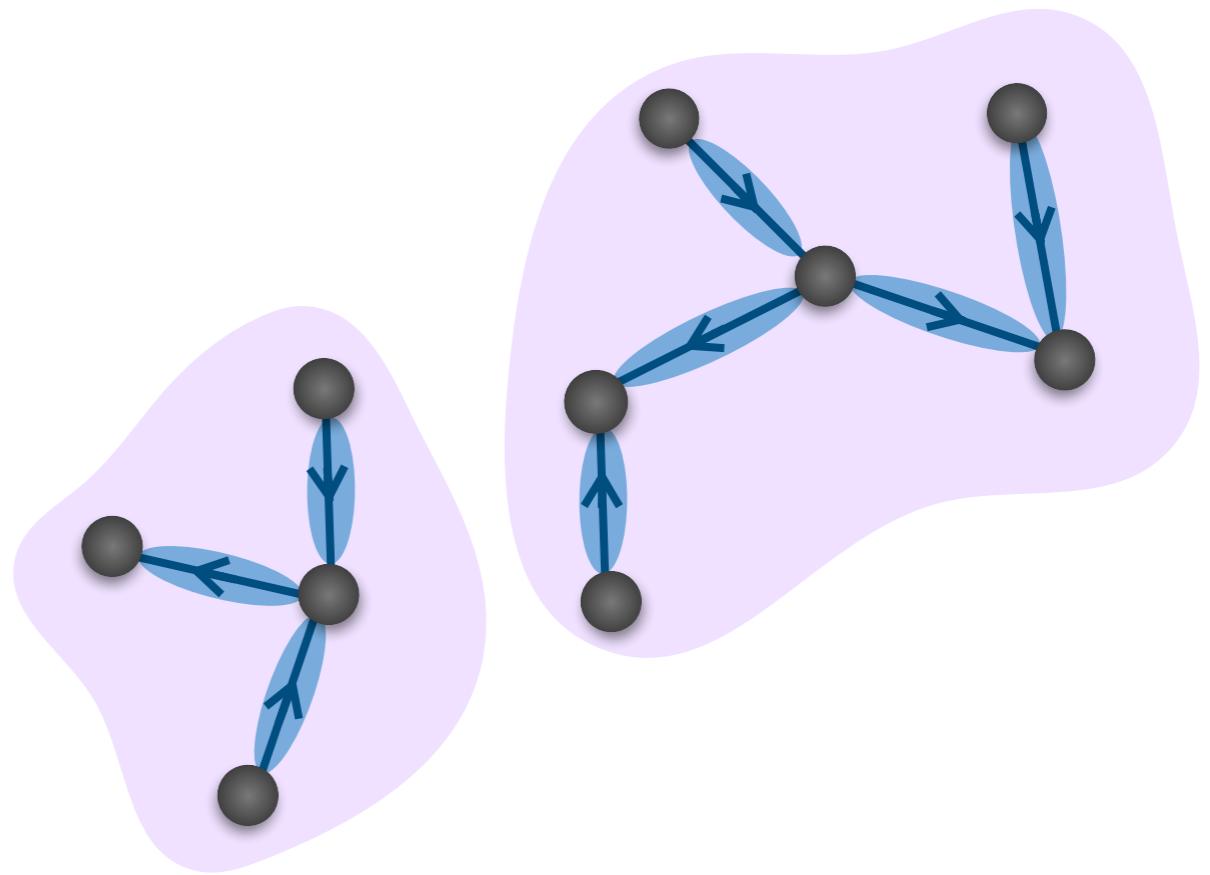
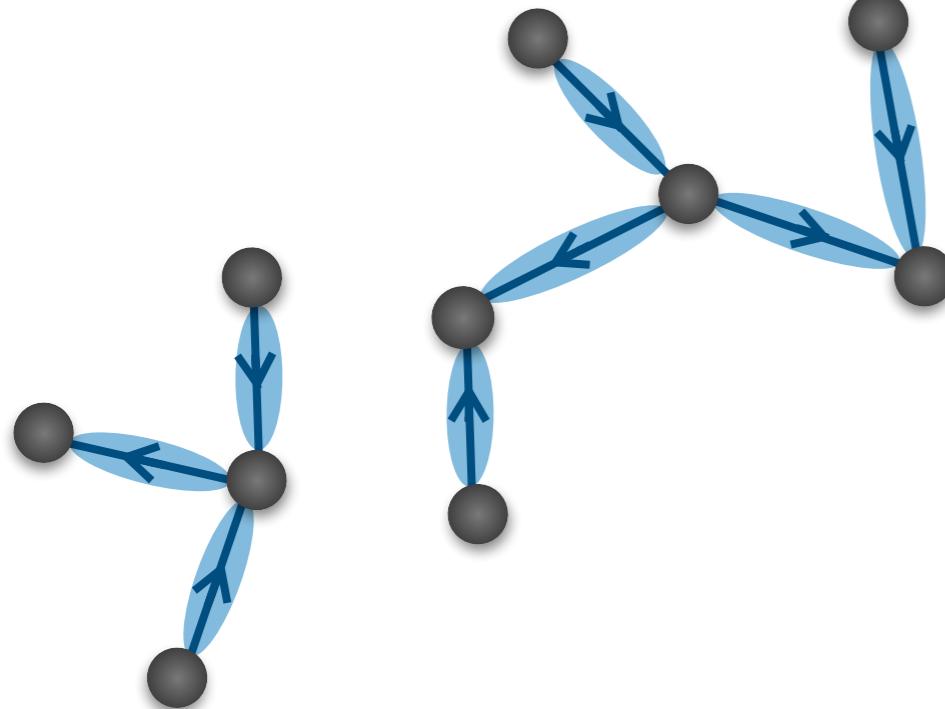
Elements of graph theory

Removing a **cochord** from the spanning tree...



Elements of graph theory

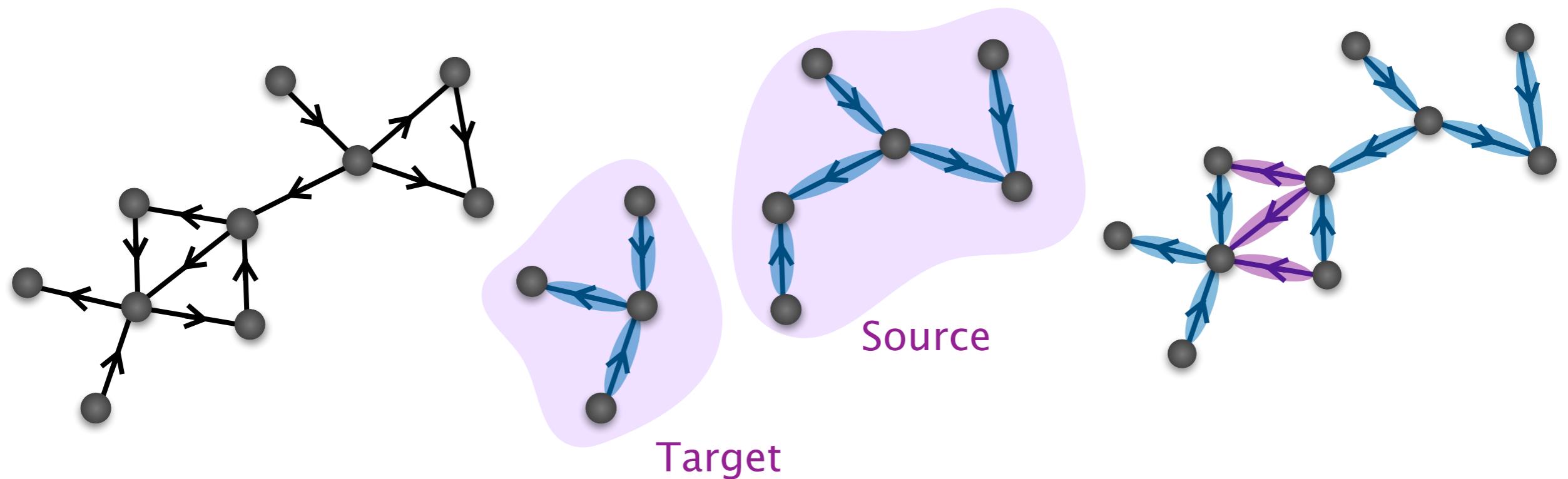
Removing a **cochord** from the spanning tree...



The tree is split in two **islands**

Elements from graph theory

Removing a **cochord** from the spanning tree...



Cocycle: all edges connecting the two islands, indexed by γ

Algebraic tools

Average behavior: concentration $x_i \equiv \lim_{n, \Omega \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n_i}{\Omega}$

Rate equation:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} J(\mathbf{x})$$

Stoichiometric matrix \mathbb{S}
 $(N \times R)$ encodes the
topology

Algebraic tools

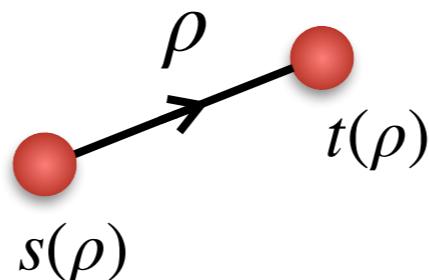
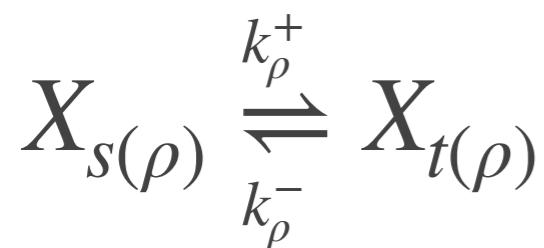
Average behavior: concentration $x_i \equiv \lim_{n, \Omega \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n_i}{\Omega}$

Rate equation:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} J(\mathbf{x})$$

Stoichiometric matrix \mathbb{S}
($N \times R$) encodes the
topology

Unimolecular reaction ρ :



$$\mathbb{S} = \begin{pmatrix} +1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & +1 & 0 & +1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & +1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & +1 \end{pmatrix}$$

\mathbb{S} : discrete divergence
 \mathbb{S}^T : discrete gradient

Algebraic tools

Average behavior: concentration $x_i \equiv \lim_{n, \Omega \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n_i}{\Omega}$

Rate equation:

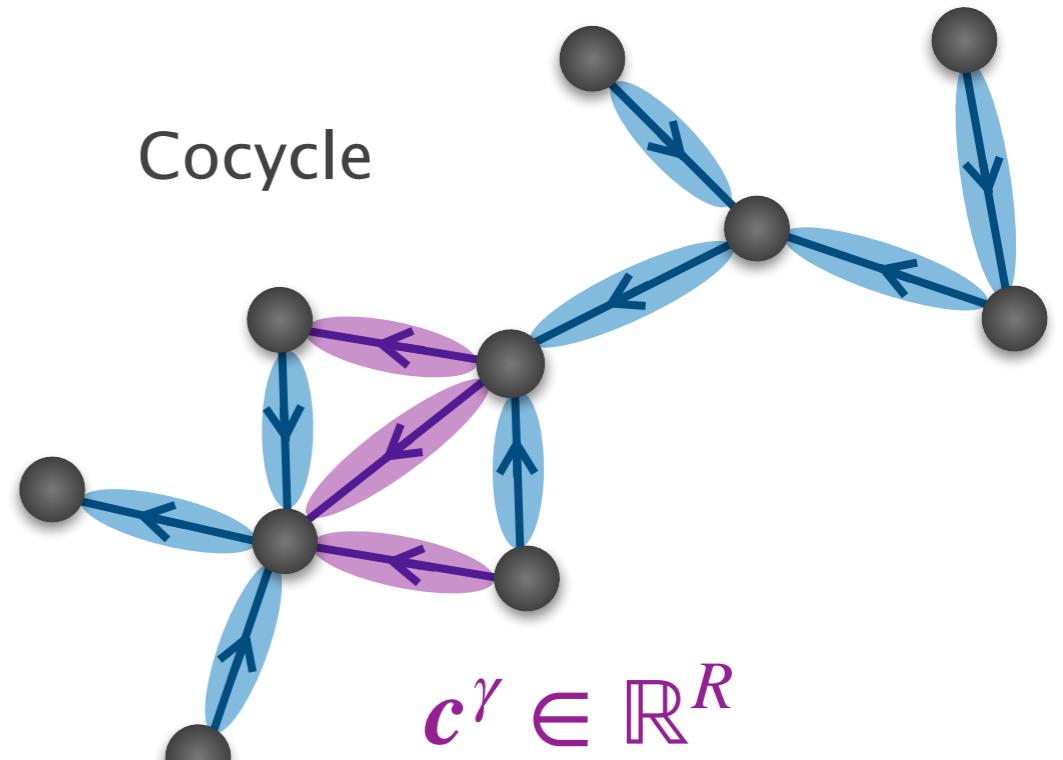
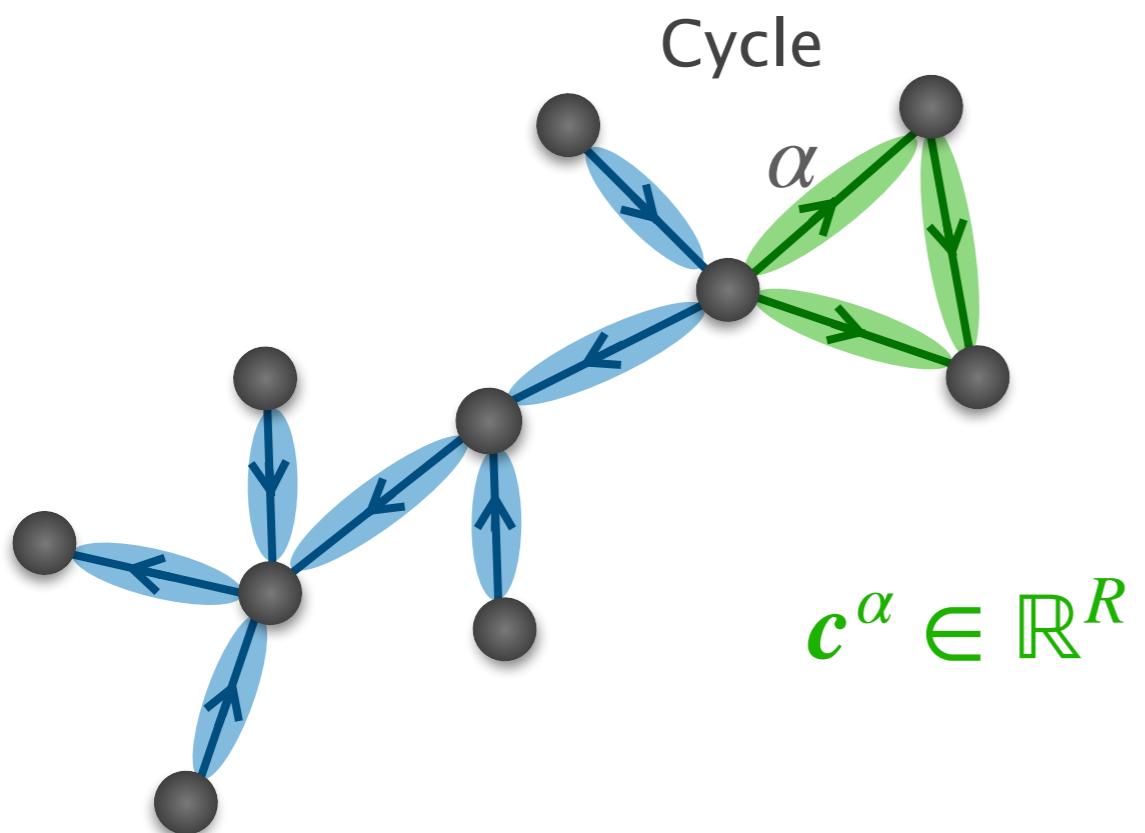
$$\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})$$

Stoichiometric matrix \mathbb{S}
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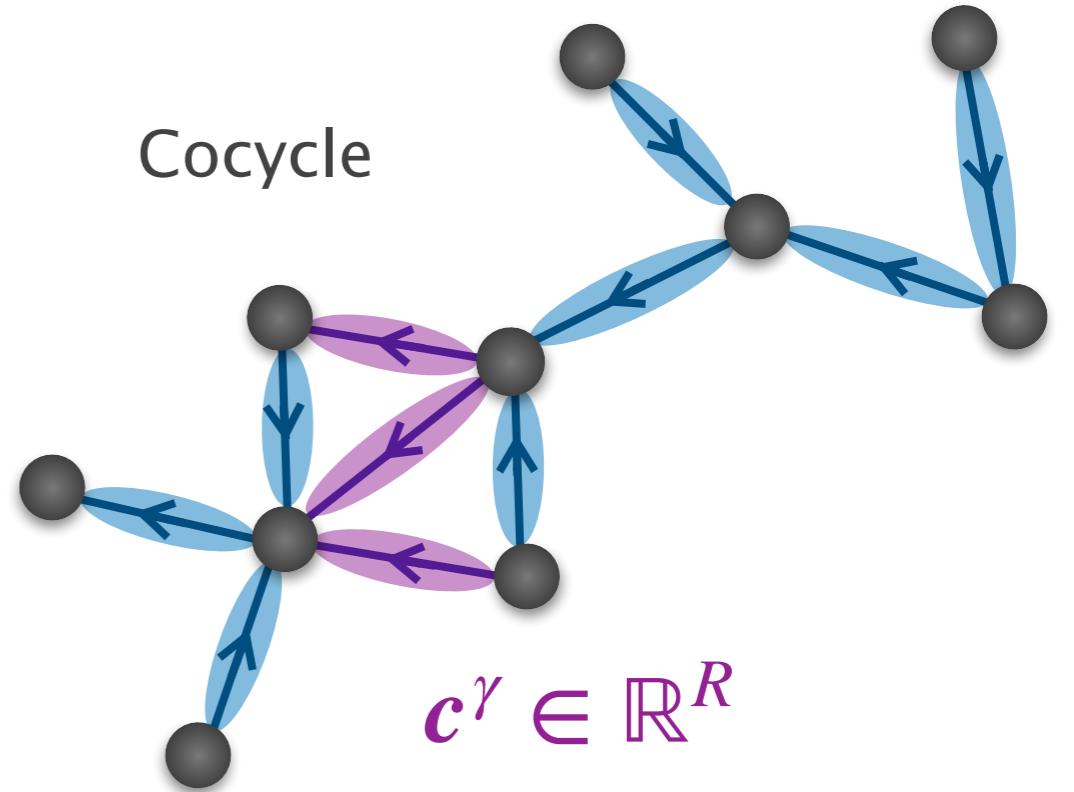
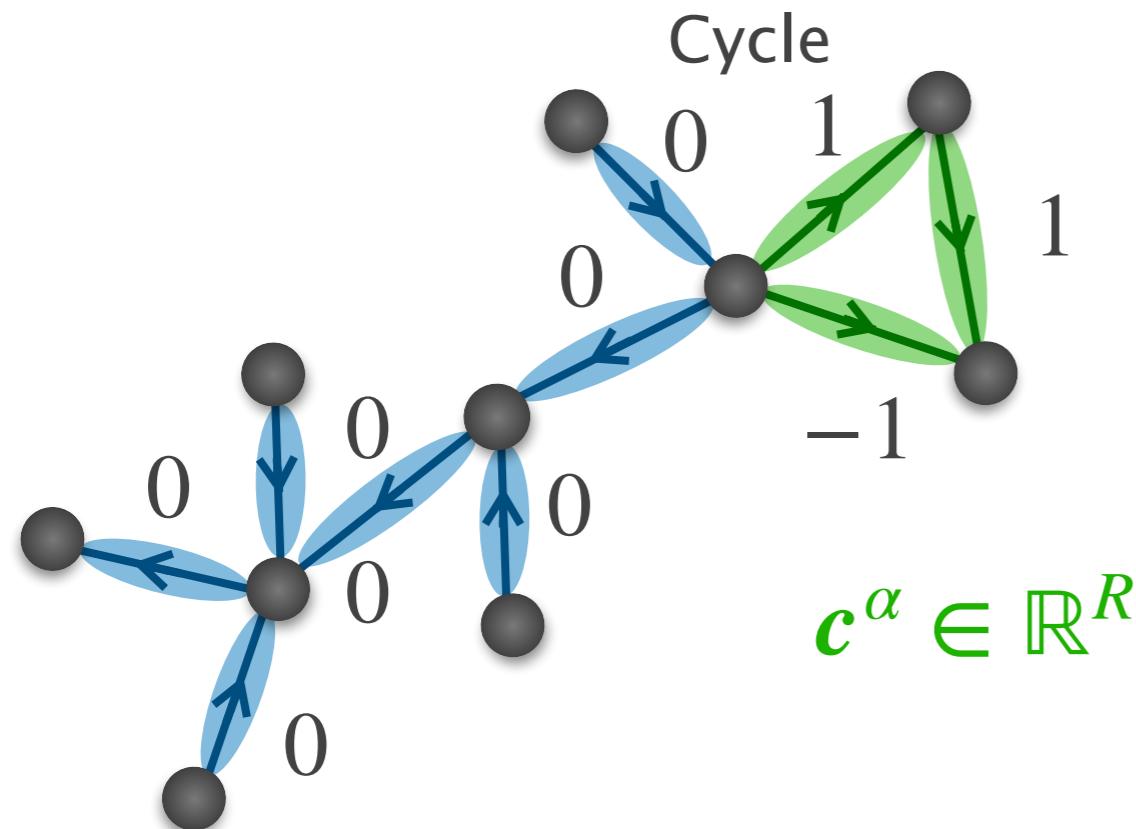
- **Current of ρ** : $J_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = k_\rho^+ \mathbf{x}^{t(\rho)} - k_\rho^- \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} = k_\rho^+ \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} \left[1 - e^{-A_\rho(\mathbf{x})} \right]$
- **Affinity (or force) of ρ** : $A_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \log \left(\frac{j_\rho^+(\mathbf{x})}{j_\rho^-(\mathbf{x})} \right) = \log \left(\frac{k_\rho^+}{k_\rho^-} \mathbf{x}^{-\mathbb{S}_\rho} \right)$

Equilibrium steady-state: $A_\rho(\mathbf{x}^{\text{eq}}) = 0$, $J_\rho(\mathbf{x}^{\text{eq}}) = 0$

Algebraic representation of cycles & cocycles



Algebraic representation of cycles & cocycles

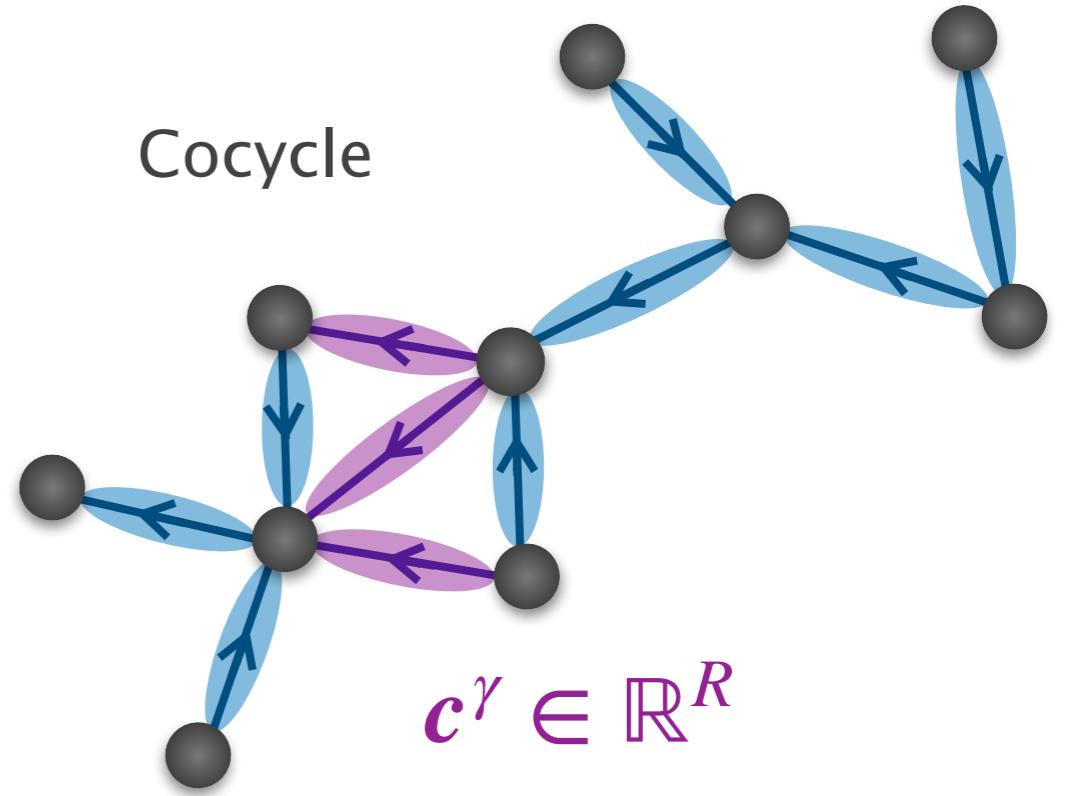
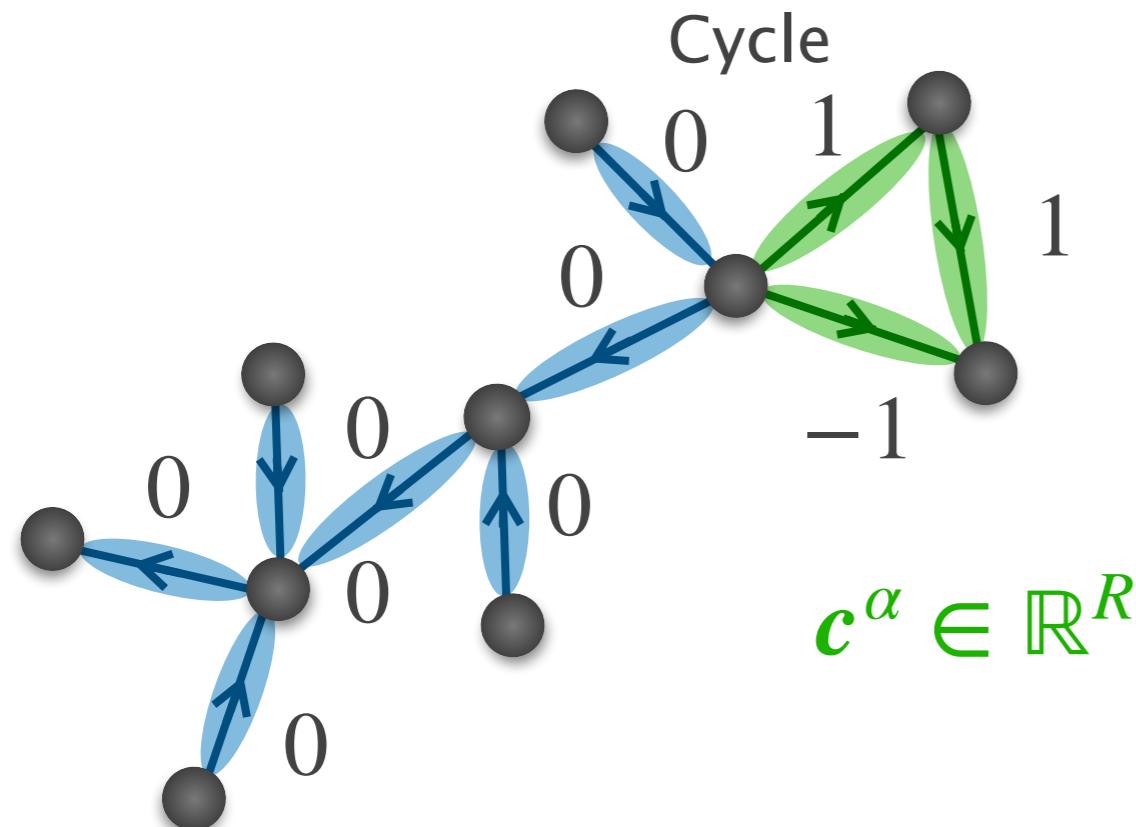


Algebraic $R - M$ **cycles** and M **cocycles**:

($M = \text{Rank } \mathbb{S}$)

$$(\dots, \mathbf{c}^\alpha, \dots) = \begin{pmatrix} -\mathbb{T} \\ \mathbf{1}_{R-M} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\dots, \mathbf{c}^\gamma, \dots) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_M \\ \mathbb{T}^\top \end{pmatrix}$$

Algebraic representation of cycles & cocycles



Algebraic $R - M$ **cycles** and M **cocycles**:

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Non-trivial duality: **same matrix \mathbb{T}** with $(\pm 1, 0)$ entries

Algebraic representation of cycles & cocycles

$$(\dots, \mathbf{c}^\alpha, \dots) = \begin{pmatrix} -\mathbb{T} \\ \mathbf{1}_{R-M} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(\dots, \mathbf{c}^\gamma, \dots) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_M \\ \mathbb{T}^\top \end{pmatrix}$$

- * All **independent** vectors
- * **Orthogonal** families: $\mathbf{c}^\alpha \cdot \mathbf{c}^\gamma = 0$

Orthogonal vector spaces:
 $\text{span } \{\mathbf{c}^\alpha\} = \text{Ker } \mathbb{S}$
 $\text{span } \{\mathbf{c}^\gamma\} = \text{Im } \mathbb{S}^\top$

Rank-nullity thm: $\text{Im } \mathbb{S}^\top \oplus \text{Ker } \mathbb{S} = \mathbb{R}^R \quad \text{Ker } \mathbb{S} \perp \text{Im } \mathbb{S}^\top$

A physical decomposition of chemical forces

Reminder: $\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})$ with $\mathbf{J}_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = k^+ \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} \left[1 - e^{-A_\rho(\mathbf{x})} \right]$

The affinity (chemical force) is decomposed as:

$$A = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^e \mathbf{e}^{\alpha}$$

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$$A = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^e \mathbf{e}^{\alpha}$$

Cycle affinities: $A_{\alpha}^e = \mathbf{c}^{\alpha} \cdot A$ (Graph: sum along a cycle)

Condition for the affinity to be **conservative**:

$$\forall \alpha, A_{\alpha}^e = 0 \Leftrightarrow A \in \text{Im } \mathbb{S}^T \Leftrightarrow A = -\mathbb{S}^T V$$

For electric circuits, it is **Kirchhoff voltage law**

A physical decomposition of chemical forces

Reminder: $\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} J(\mathbf{x})$ with $J_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = k^+ \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} \left[1 - e^{-A_\rho(\mathbf{x})} \right]$

The affinity (chemical force) is decomposed as:

$$A = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^e \mathbf{e}^{\alpha} \quad (*)$$



Hence: (*) is a Helmholtz–Hodge decomposition (on graph)

Cocycles are a basis for conservative affinities

A physical decomposition of chemical forces

Reminder: $\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} J(\mathbf{x})$ with $J_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = k^+ \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} \left[1 - e^{-A_\rho(\mathbf{x})} \right]$

The affinity (chemical force) is decomposed as:

$$A = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^e \mathbf{e}^{\alpha} \quad (*)$$


Conservative Non-conservative

Notice that for the (stochastic) molecular dynamics:

$\forall \alpha, A_{\alpha}^e = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ The dynamics is reversible **(Kolmogorov)**

Geometry of affinities – and of cocycles

How to integrate conservative forces

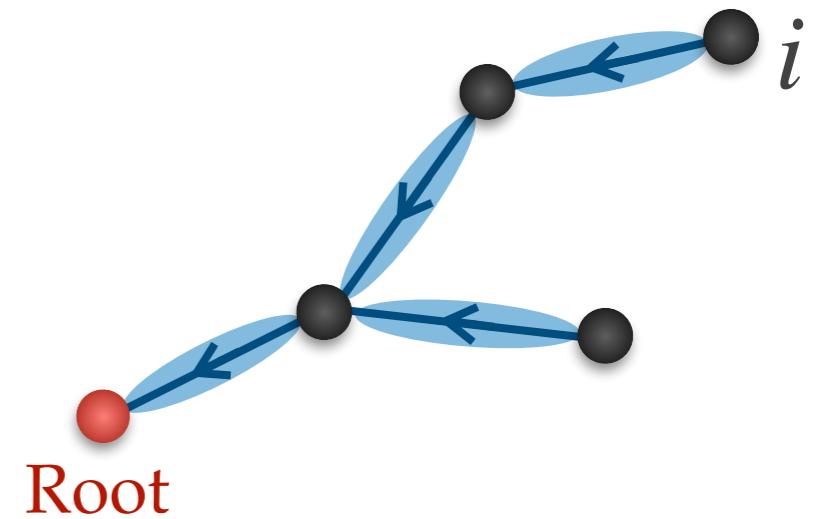
$$A_{\text{pot}} = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c c^{\gamma} = -S^T V$$

in order to obtain the potential V ?

By integrating along the spanning tree

$$V_i[A_{\gamma}^c] = \sum_{1 \leq \gamma \leq M} (G^T)_{is(\gamma)} A_{\gamma}^c$$

= sum of affinities A_{γ}^c between root and node i

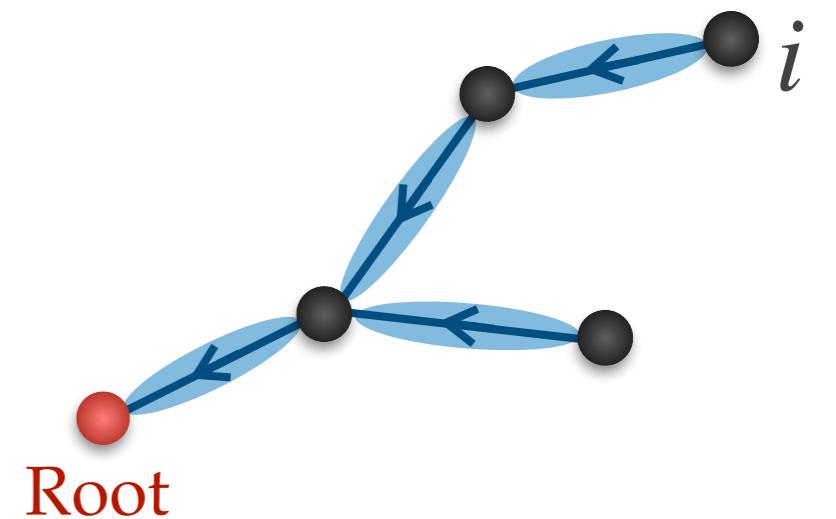


Geometry of affinities – and of cocycles

How to integrate conservative forces

$$A_{\text{pot}} = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c c^{\gamma} = -S^T V$$

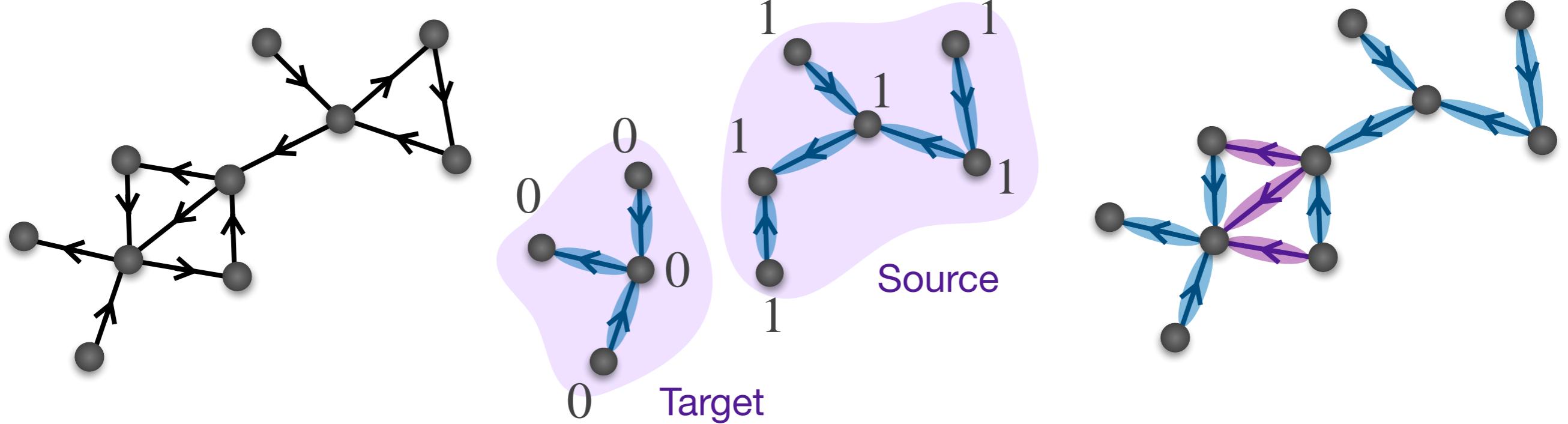
in order to obtain the potential V ?



G^T plays the role of **inverse** (or Green function) for S^T

$$-S^T G^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1_M \\ 0 & T \end{pmatrix}$$

Geometry of affinities – and of cocycles



Build a **characteristic potential** $v_i^\gamma = \delta_{i \in \text{source island}}$

$$\Rightarrow c^\gamma = \text{gradient of potential between the source and target islands}$$

$$= -S^T v^\gamma$$

Each column is an emergent conservation law

$$G^T = \left(\begin{array}{c} \\ | \\ \end{array} \right)$$

A physical decomposition of currents

Reminder: $\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})$ with $J_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = k^+ \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} \left[1 - e^{-A_\rho(\mathbf{x})} \right]$

The current is decomposed as:

$$\mathbf{J} = \sum_{\gamma} \mathcal{J}_{\gamma}^e \mathbf{e}^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} \mathcal{J}_{\alpha}^c \mathbf{c}^{\alpha}$$

Note the difference with: $\mathbf{A} = \sum_{\gamma} \mathcal{A}_{\gamma}^c \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} \mathcal{A}_{\alpha}^e \mathbf{e}^{\alpha}$

A physical decomposition of currents

Reminder: $\partial_t \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbb{S} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})$ with $J_\rho(\mathbf{x}) = k^+ \mathbf{x}^{s(\rho)} \left[1 - e^{-A_\rho(\mathbf{x})} \right]$

The current is decomposed as:

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Cycle component: in steady state $\mathbb{S} \mathbf{J}^* = 0$

$$\mathbf{J}^* = \sum_{\alpha} J_{\alpha}^{*,*} \mathbf{c}^{\alpha}$$

Cycles are a basis for stationary currents

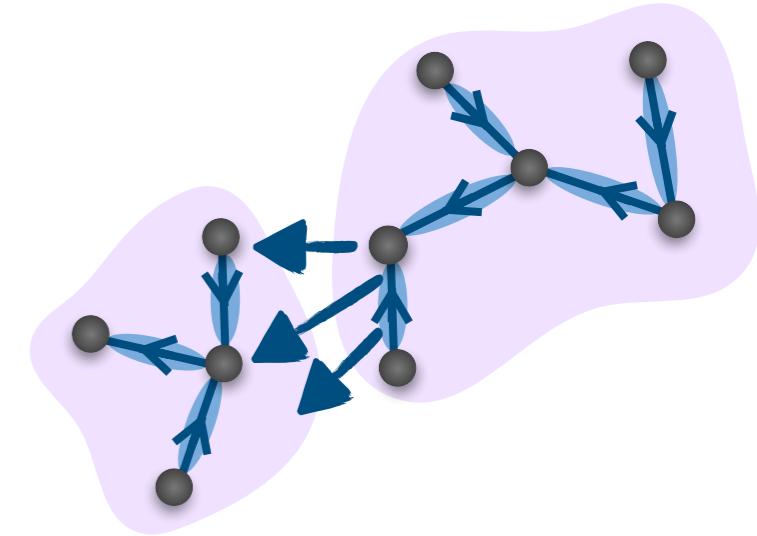
For electric circuits, this is **Kirchhoff current law**

A physical decomposition of currents

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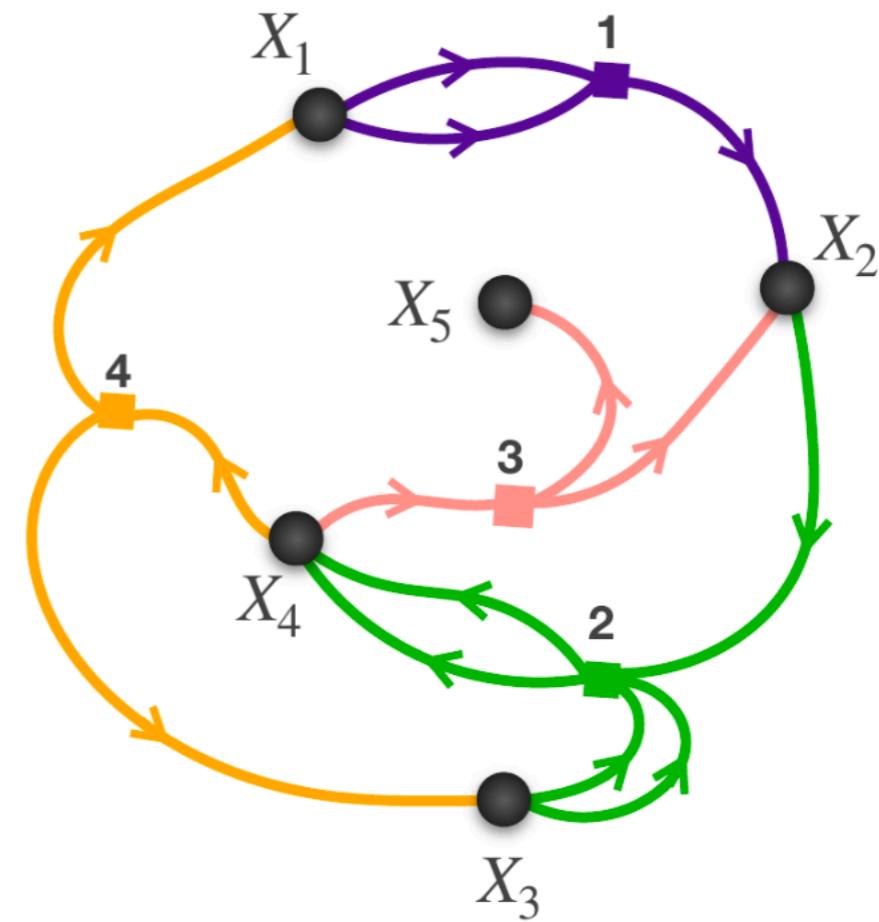
Tidal component: $J_{\gamma}^e = \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{J}$ (Graph: sum along a **cocycle**)

= outward flux from the island v^{γ}

Tidal currents are transient, they control relaxation to steady state

From graphs to hypergraphs

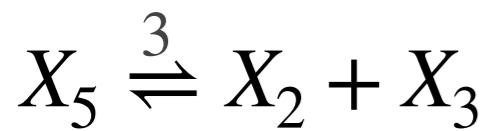
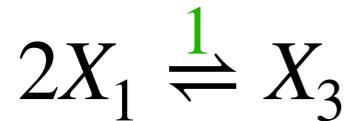
Interacting reaction networks



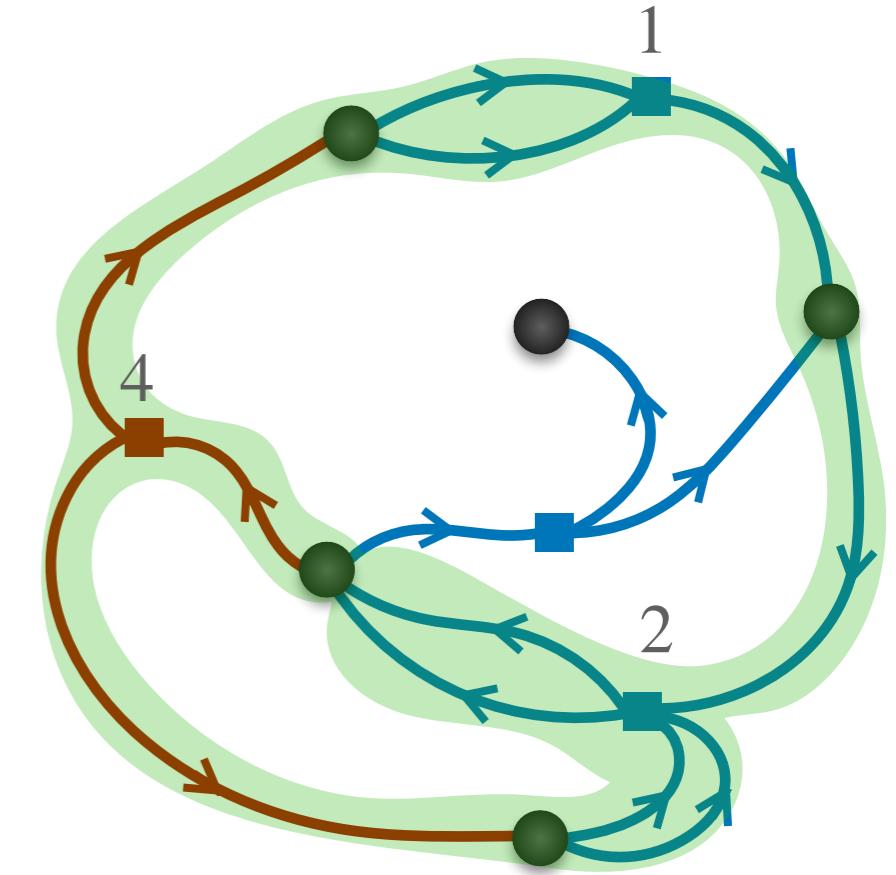
Graph theory cannot be used anymore (no spanning tree, no cocycles)

How to proceed?

From graphs to hypergraphs



$$\mathbb{S} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 & 0 & +1 \\ 0 & 0 & +1 & 0 \\ +1 & -1 & +1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & +1 \\ 0 & +2 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Cycles: weighted set of reactions leaving the system unchanged

In this example: $\textcolor{green}{c} = (1/2 \ 1/2 \ 0 \ 1)^T$ spans the $\text{Ker } \mathbb{S}$

What about cocycles?

An algebraic construction

Upon an adequate reordering of reactions and species

Row reduction in echelon form $\Rightarrow \exists$ invertible matrix \mathbb{G} :

$$-\mathbb{G} \mathbb{S} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_M & \mathbb{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$(M = \text{Rank } \mathbb{S})$

Purely algebraic tool

Same relation as before

\Rightarrow Key equation to build generalized **cycles/cocycles**

\mathbb{T} uniquely defined, with **fractional** entries (instead of $\pm 1, 0$)

An algebraic construction

Upon an adequate reordering of reactions and species

Row reduction in echelon form $\Rightarrow \exists$ invertible matrix \mathbb{G} :

$$-\mathbb{G} \mathbb{S} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_M & \mathbb{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$(M = \text{Rank } \mathbb{S})$

Purely algebraic tool

Non-canonical basis in the reaction space:

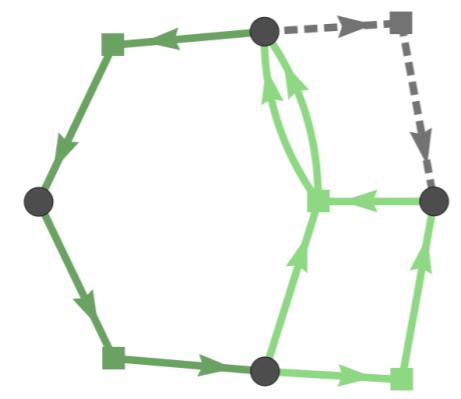
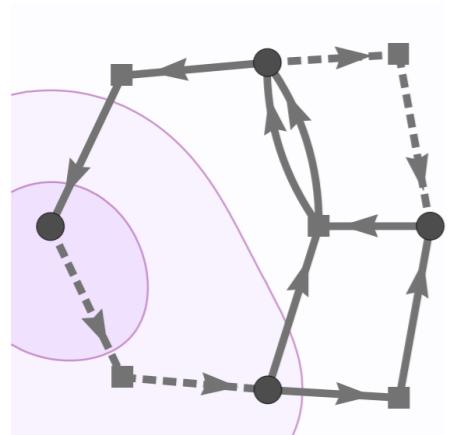
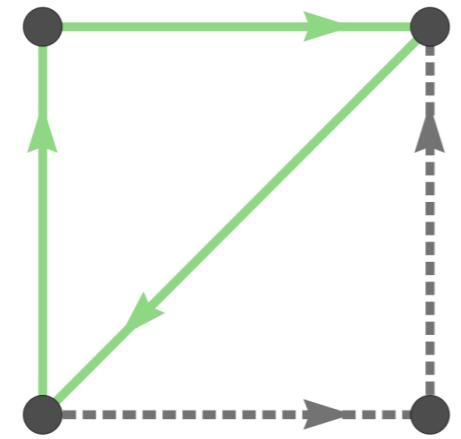
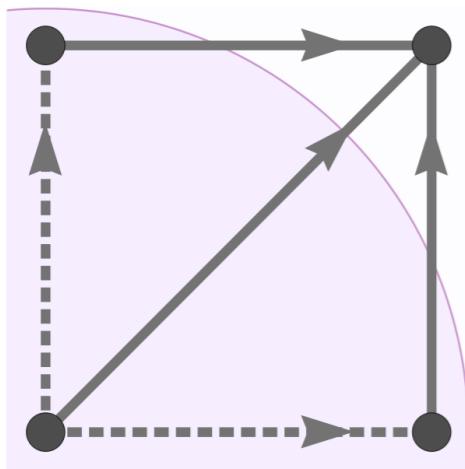
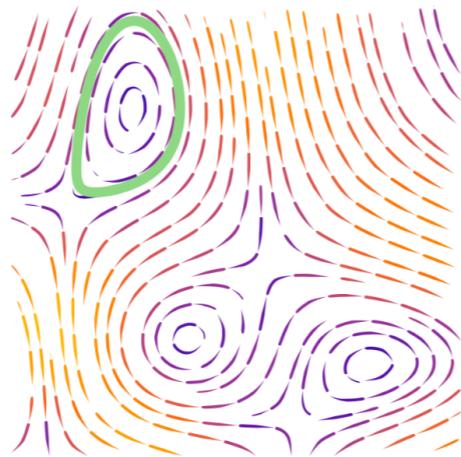
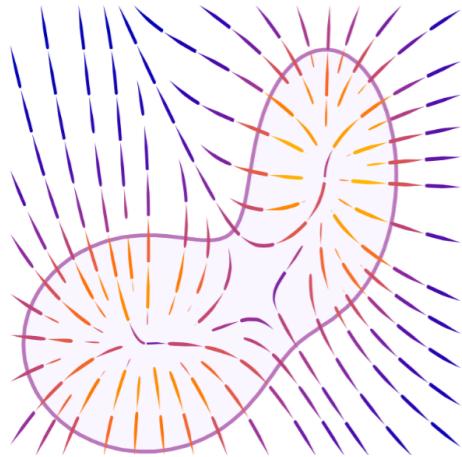
$$(\mathbf{c}^\gamma, \mathbf{c}^\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_M & -\mathbb{T} \\ \mathbb{T} & \mathbf{1}_{R-M} \end{pmatrix}$$

M cocycles $R - M$ cycles

$\text{span } \{\mathbf{c}^\alpha\} = \text{Ker } \mathbb{S}$

$\text{span } \{\mathbf{c}^\gamma\} = \text{Im } \mathbb{S}^T$

Generalized cycles and cocycles



Physical decomposition for forces and currents

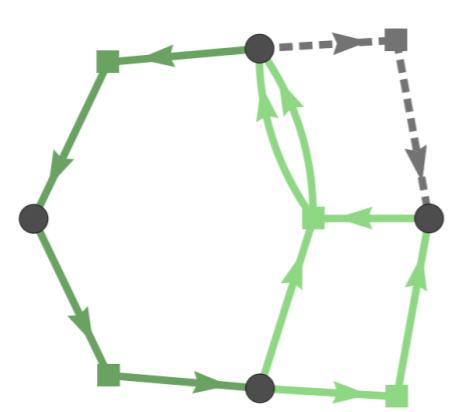
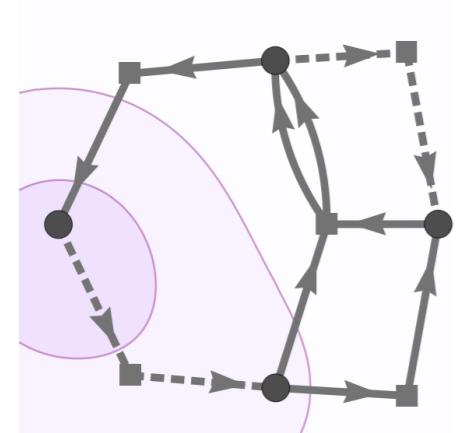
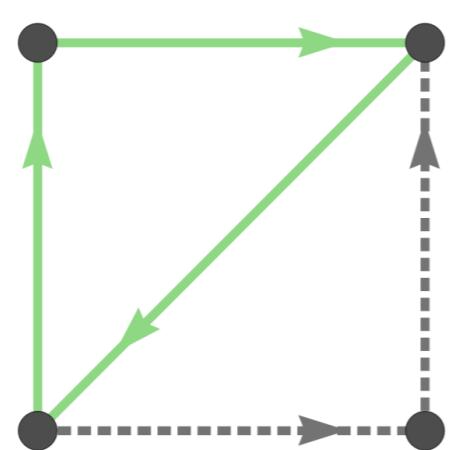
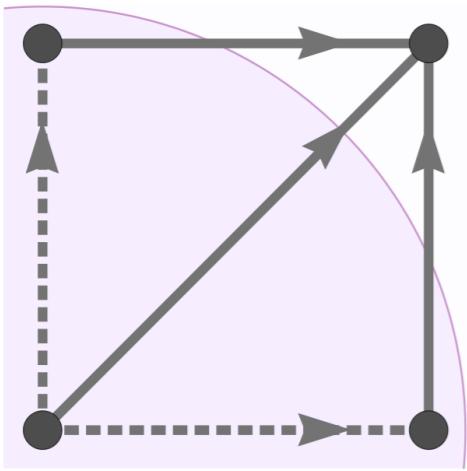
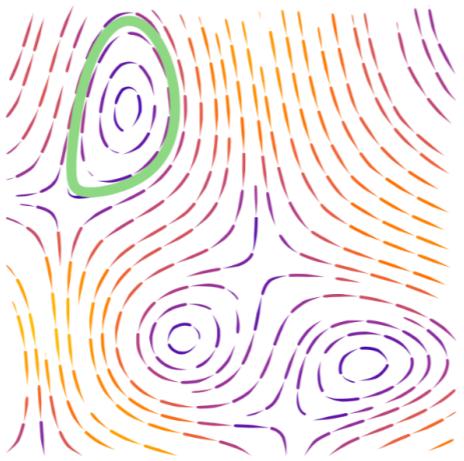
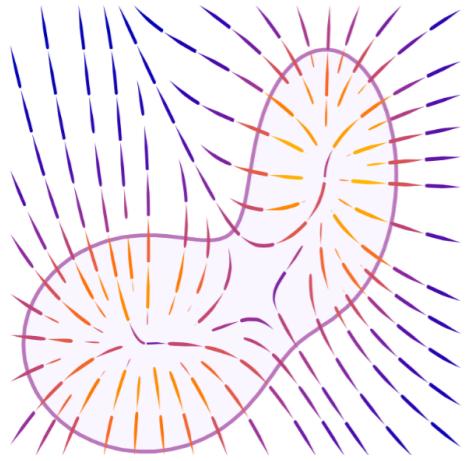
$$A = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c c^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}^e e^{\alpha}$$

$$J = \sum_{\gamma} J_{\gamma}^e e^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} J_{\alpha}^c c^{\alpha}$$

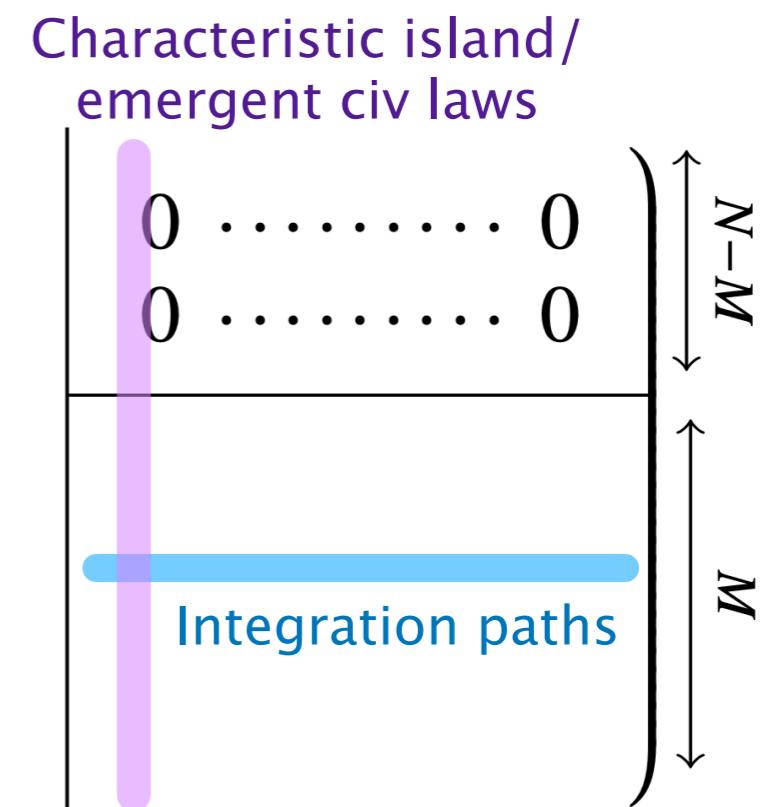
Cocycles = basis for conservative forces, support for tidal currents

Cycles = basis for stationary currents, support for non-conservative forces

Their geometry



$$G^T = \begin{cases} \text{CSV} \\ \text{laws} \end{cases}$$



Application on metabolic reconstruction

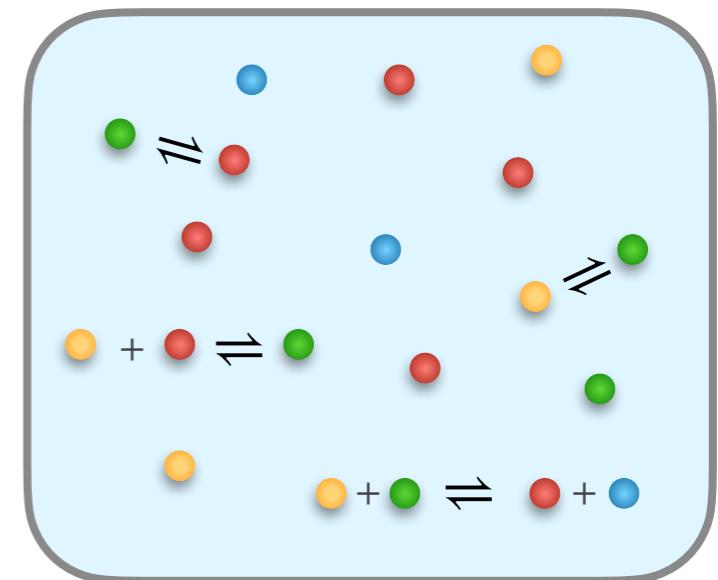
Thermodynamic feasibility or KVL

- A closed system eventually relaxes to equilibrium with $(J_\rho, A_\rho) = 0 \quad \forall \rho$
- A nonzero A_ρ generates nonzero J_ρ of the same sign, s.t. $\dot{s}(t) = \sum J_\rho A_\rho \geq 0$

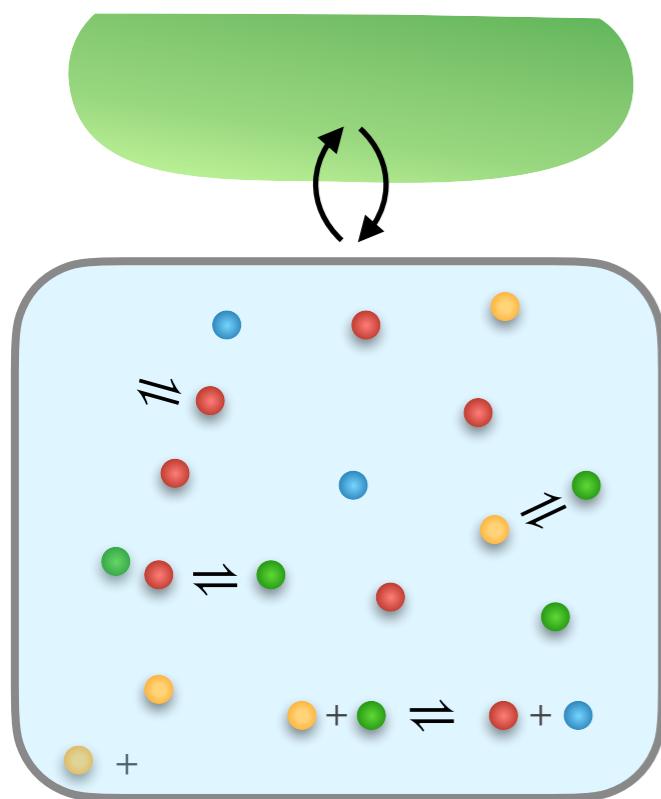
In the absence of chemostatting, affinities are conservative

$$A = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\gamma}^c \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} = -\mathbb{S}^T \mathbf{V}$$

$$\mathbf{c}^\alpha \cdot A = 0 \quad \forall \alpha \text{ for all internal cycles}$$

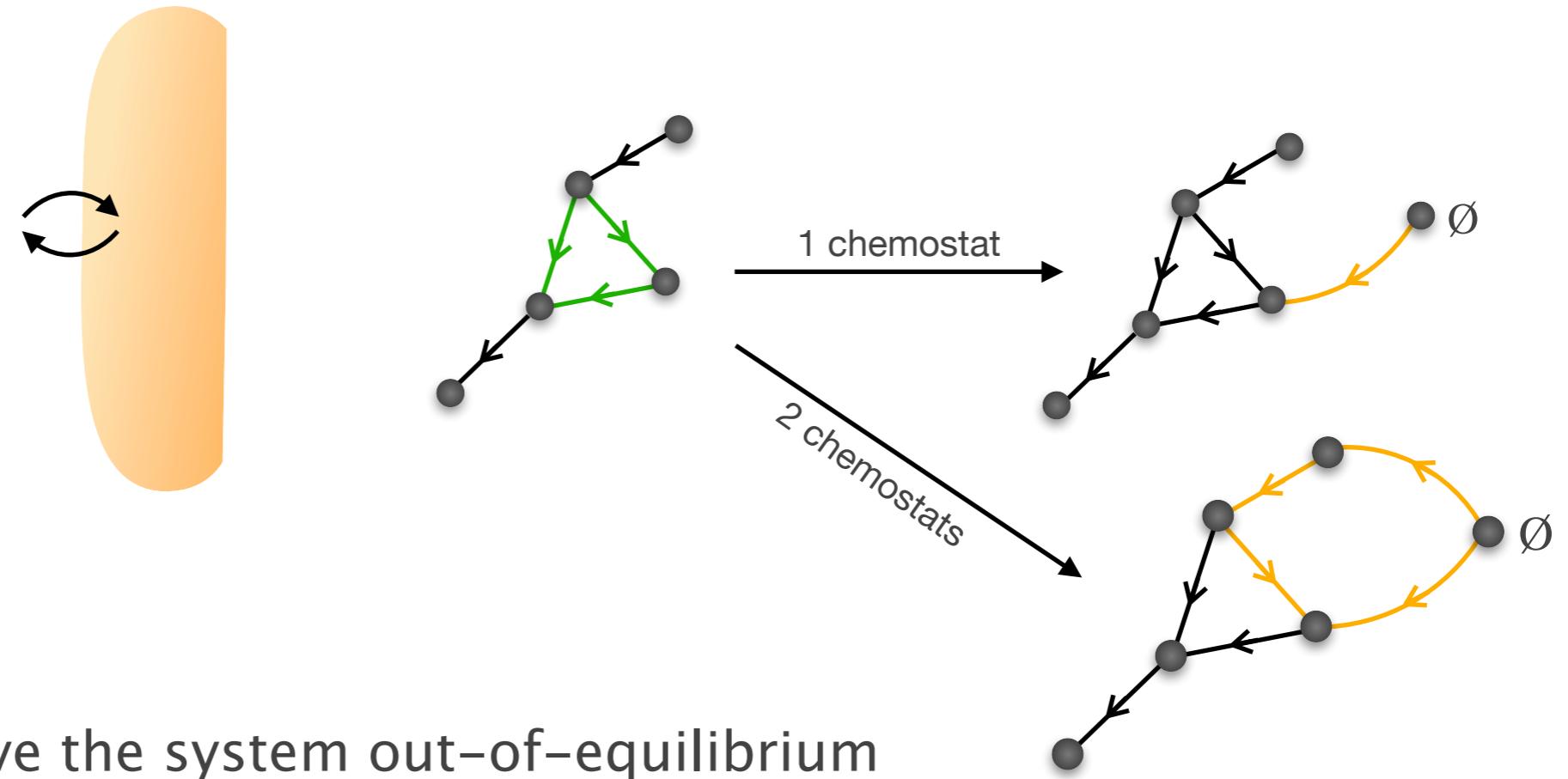


Thermodynamic feasibility or KVL



Open system

Adding chemostatting reactions $\emptyset \rightleftharpoons Y_i$
(may) introduce new emergent cycles



Emergent cycles drive the system out-of-equilibrium

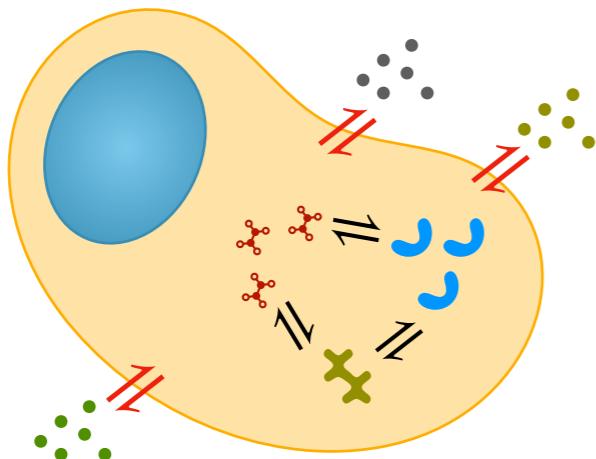
Even if the system is open, internal constraints are still there

$$c^\alpha \cdot A = 0 \quad \forall \alpha \text{ for all internal cycles}$$

Metabolic reconstruction

Genome-based metabolic networks: stoichiometry is known

Experimentally one has access to some external exchange currents



J^{ext} : known exchange currents

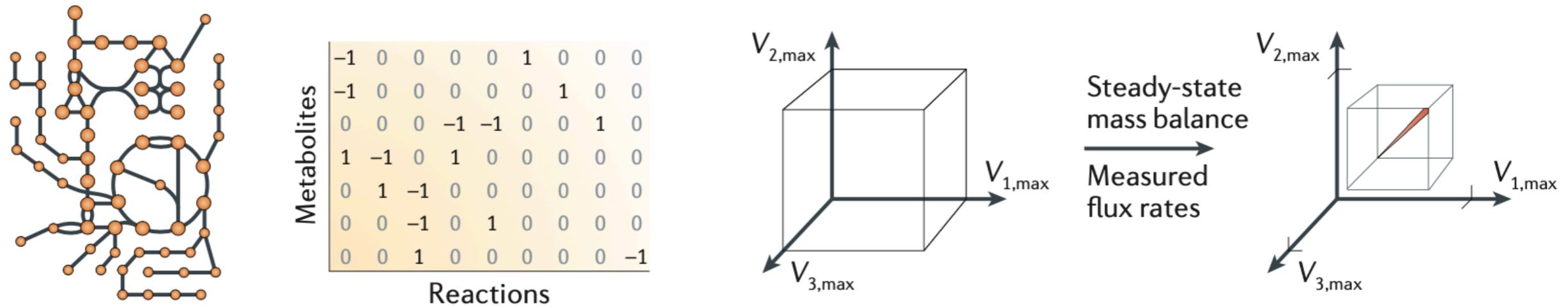
J : Unknown internal metabolic currents

Q: How to reconstruct the internal currents J in the cell?

$$\mathbb{S}_X J = -\mathbb{S}_Y J^{\text{ext}} \text{ (Rate equation at stationarity)}$$

Constrained-based models

Metabolic network → Stoichiometric matrix → Imposition of constraints



[Nature Reviews Genetics 15, (2) 107–120 (2014)]

- Flux Balance Analysis (FBA): optimizing some cellular objective function under the hypothesis of stationarity
- Unbiased sampling via MCMC of the solution space + currents bounds

Imposing thermodynamic feasibility is hard

A geometric approach to reconstruction

Recalling the current decomposition: $J = \sum_{\gamma} J_{\gamma}^e e^{\gamma} + \sum_{\alpha} J_{\alpha}^c c^{\alpha}$

With $J_{\gamma}^e \equiv c^{\gamma} \cdot J$
and $J_{\alpha}^c \equiv e^{\alpha} \cdot J$

$$\begin{pmatrix} J^e \\ J^c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{G}_M \mathbb{S}_Y J^{\text{ext}} \\ \text{function}(J^{\text{ext}}) \end{pmatrix}$$

- The cocycle currents are not constrained by thermodynamic feasibility
- $R - M$ Cycle currents are the one affected by thermodynamic feasibility

A geometric approach to reconstruction

Using the linear regime approximation: $J_\rho = \Lambda_\rho A_\rho$ with $\Lambda_\rho > 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} J^e \\ J^c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{G}_M \mathbb{S}_Y J^{\text{ext}} \\ \mathbb{L}_P^{-1} \mathbb{T}^\top \Lambda_M^{-1} \mathbb{G}_M \mathbb{S}_Y J^{\text{ext}} \end{pmatrix}$$

With Λ diagonal and positive
 $(\Lambda)_{\rho\rho} \equiv \Lambda_\rho$

With $\mathbb{L}_P = \Lambda_{R-M}^{-1} + \mathbb{T}^\top \Lambda_M^{-1} \mathbb{T}$
positive-definite and symmetric

In the linear regime, the Λ_ρ 's are the equilibrium chemical conductivities
and \mathbb{L}_P is the Onsager response matrix

A geometric approach to reconstruction

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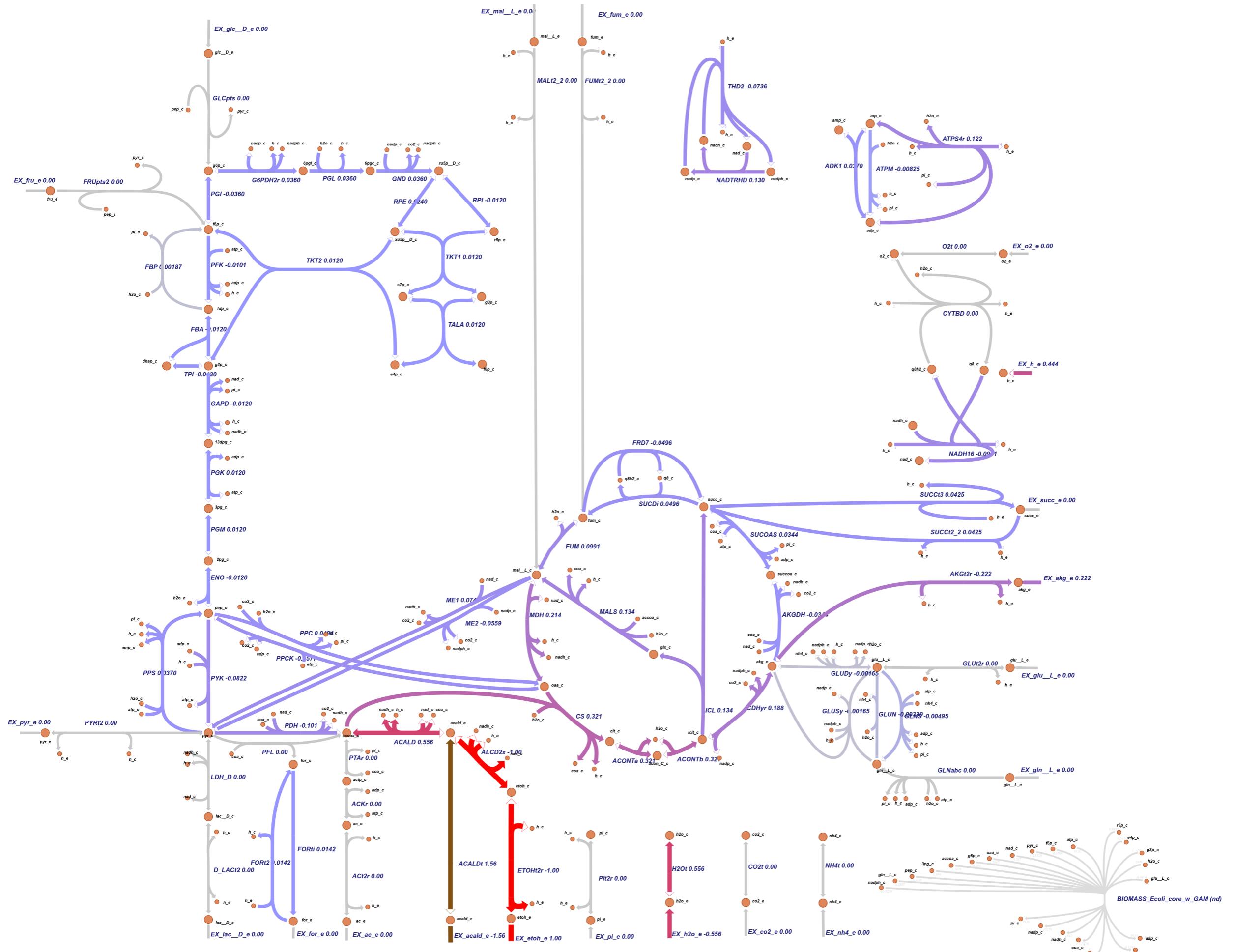
For metabolic reconstruction, the Λ_ρ 's are the free parameters which parametrize the space of feasible solutions

Λ_ρ = # reactions which belongs to internal chemical cycles

Outlook

Working with Delphine Ropers (INRIA) for application to the metabolism of Escherichia Coli

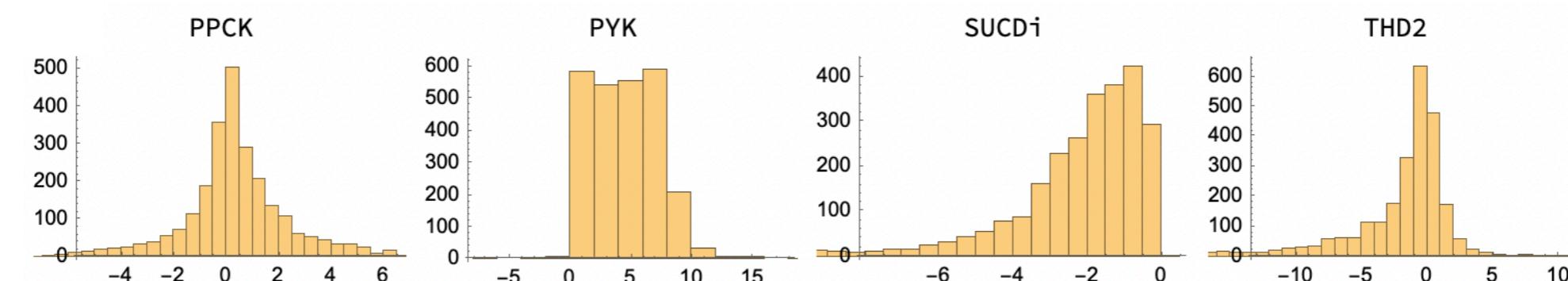
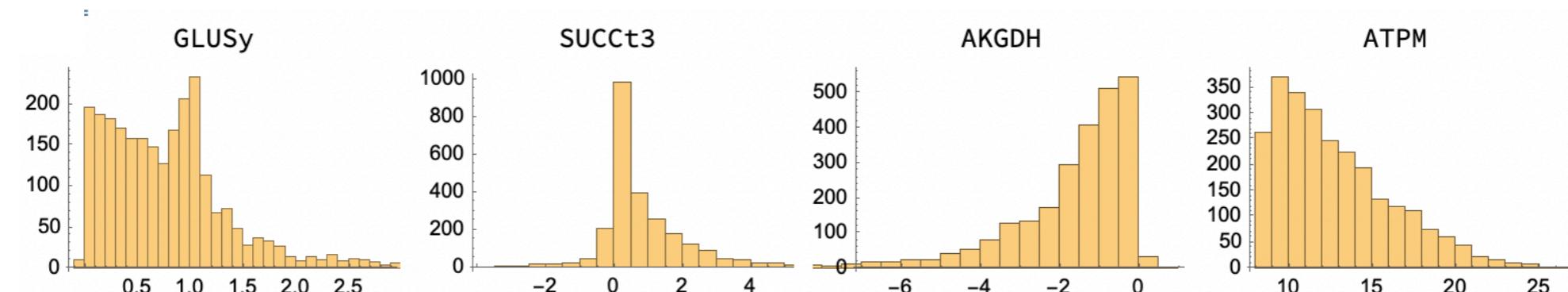
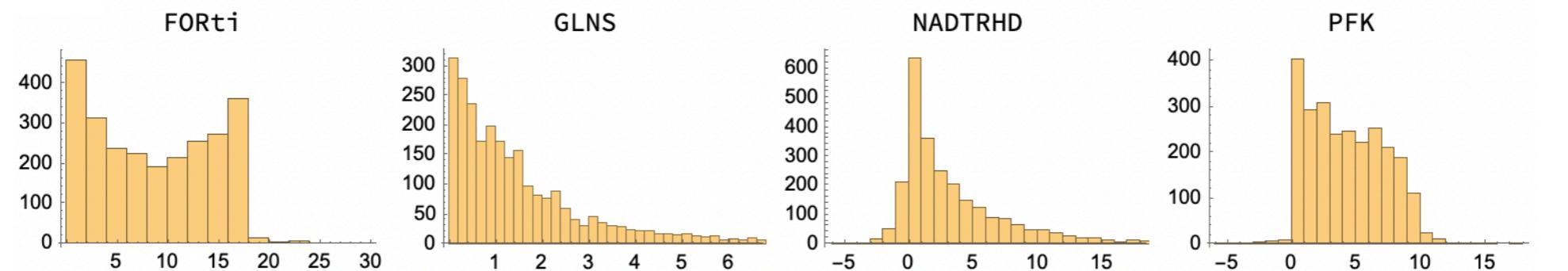
79 internal currents J , 15 external (fixed) currents J^{ext} , 12 internal cycles c^α



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- A criterion to check thermodynamical feasibility given a set of currents J . Applications?
- How to incorporate bounds on internal currents systematically in our approach?
- How do these bounds relate to thermodynamic feasibility?
- Comparison with other algorithms like cycle-free flux?

Thank you!

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Vivien Lecomte
Matteo Polettini

Soon to appear in PRX

