A Sequence-to-Function Map for Ribozyme-catalyzed Metabolisms

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# Motivation

### Sequence-to-Function Map

- Observation of the evolution of RNA structure under functional constraints
- Using known statistical properties of the RNA sequence-to-structure map

### **Ribozyme-catalyzed Metabolisms**

- Explaining the evolution of metabolic pathways
- Investigating the emergence of network properties
- Screening for reaction networks with particular dynamic behavior

### Schema of Reaction Network Model



- Bag of ribozymes.
- Algebraic chemistry model.
- Exchange of molecules with the environment.

# Algebraic Chemistry Model

Molecules are abstracted to vertex and edge labeled graphs.

- Neighborhood relations are preserved by this abstraction.
- Spacial properties (e.g. Chirality, E/Z isomery) can be handled by extending the label set.

**Reactions** are abstracted to Graph Rewrite Rules. The grammar ensures mass conservation:

- vertex labels are preserved.
- total degrees of corresponding vertices are preserved.

Use graph-indices and QM to calculate physical properties.

## Chemical Reaction as Graph Rewrite Rule



Graph-grammars are a context sensitive language!

## Iterating the Graph Grammar



# Way to avoid the Combinatorial Explosion



Faulon, J-L, (2001) J Chem Inf Comput Sci 41:894-908

### We need a model for the genetic system



# RNA sequence-to-structure map in 2 minutes

- Redundancy: Many more sequences than structures.
- Sensitivity: Small changes in the sequences may lead to large changes in the structure.
- Neutrality: A substantial fraction of mutations does not alter the structure.



Walter Fontana & Peter Schuster, J. Theor. Biol. 194:491-515 (1998)

# We need a model for the structure-to-function map



### Reaction Classification

### $\mathsf{CH}_3\mathsf{CO}_2\mathsf{Et} + \mathsf{HCI} + \mathsf{H}_2\mathsf{O} \Longrightarrow \mathsf{CH}_3\mathsf{CO}_2\mathsf{H} + \mathsf{EtOH}$



Fujita, Hendrickson, ...

## The structure-to-function map



Neutrality is higher than in the RNA sequence-to-structure map.

## Results

#### Genotype-phenotype-map

- Random neutral walk
- Neutral networks
- Network properties  $\rightarrow$  Map properties

Evolution of metabolism

- Metabolic pathway analysis
- Network properties  $\rightarrow$  System properties

### Random neutral walk





- Neutral Step
- $\bigcirc$ Neighborhood
- Encountered
  - Phenotype

## Encountered Phenotypes (length=100)



Encountered Phenotypes (length=20)



## Metabolic Pathway Analysis



## Robustness, Modularity, ...



robustness and modularity measures based on elementary modes

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