

# Network modularity, currency metabolites and graph representations of metabolism

Petter Holme

KTH, CSC, Computational Biology

December 17, 2007, Mathematics for biological networks

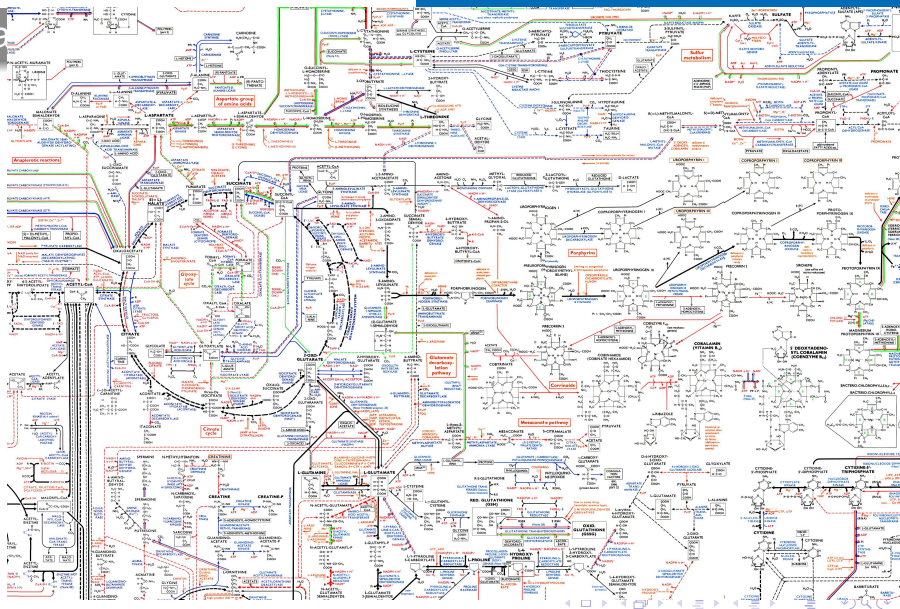
<http://www.csc.kth.se/~pholme/>



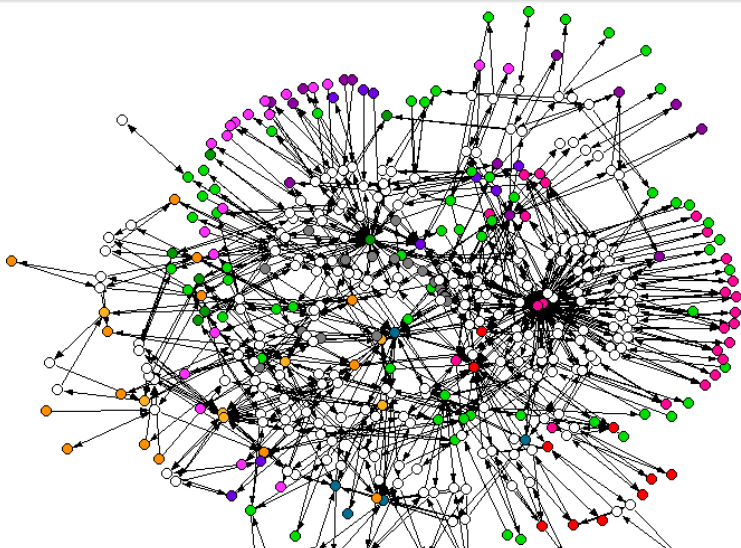
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metabolic networks, intro  
networks (physicist style?)  
modularity & currency metabolites  
subnetwork hierarchies

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## *B. burgdorferi*, 2000



Petter Holme

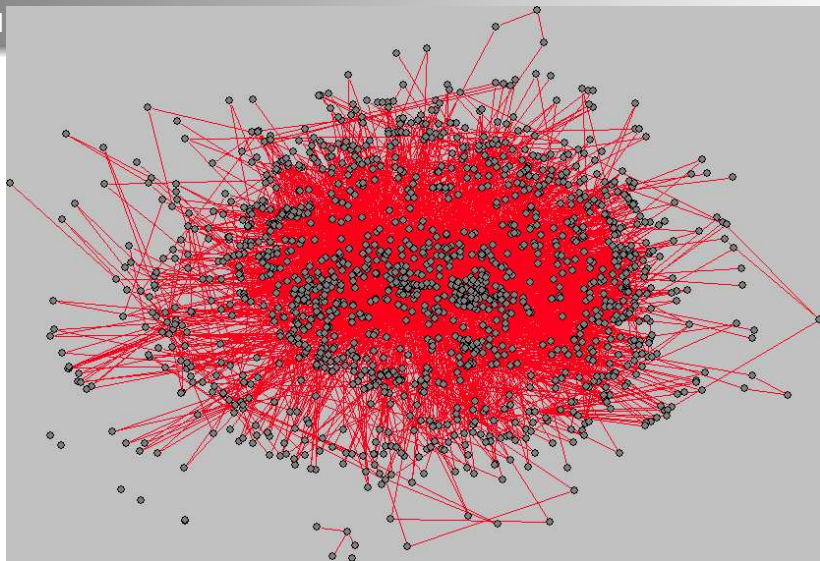
Network modularity, currency metabolites and graph representation



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## complex network studies

. . . of biochemical networks. What questions can we ask?

- how can the large-scale organization be characterized?
- are there any universal features over different species?
- do the differences tell us something about evolution?
- can we identify functional modules?
- . . the functions of molecules?



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# what systems?

What systems can be analyzed with complex network methods?

- items are, naturally, coupled pairwise **MAYBE?**
- the network is relatively sparse (the average degree is constant) **ALMOST TRUE**
- there is a dynamic system on the network **TRUE!**
- the time scale of this dynamics is faster than the dynamics of network evolution **TRUE!**



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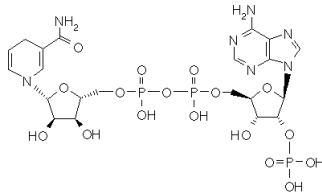
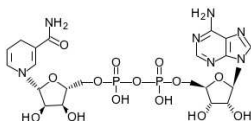
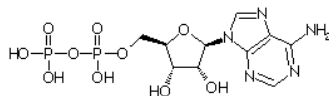
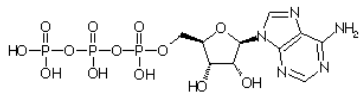
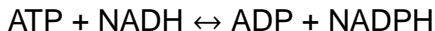
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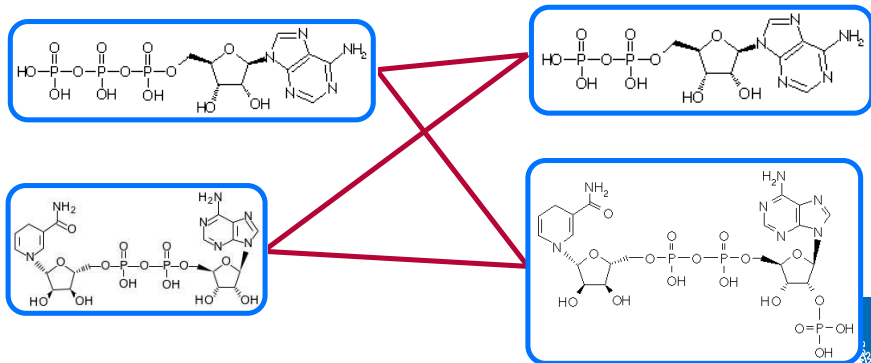
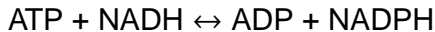


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# representations



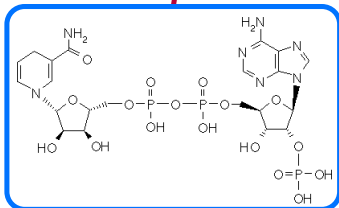
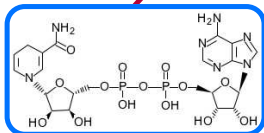
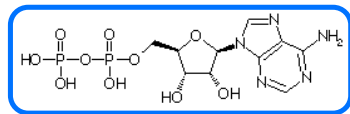
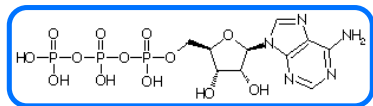
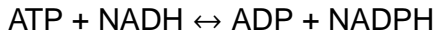
# representations



**vertices:** substrates

**edges:** between products / substrates

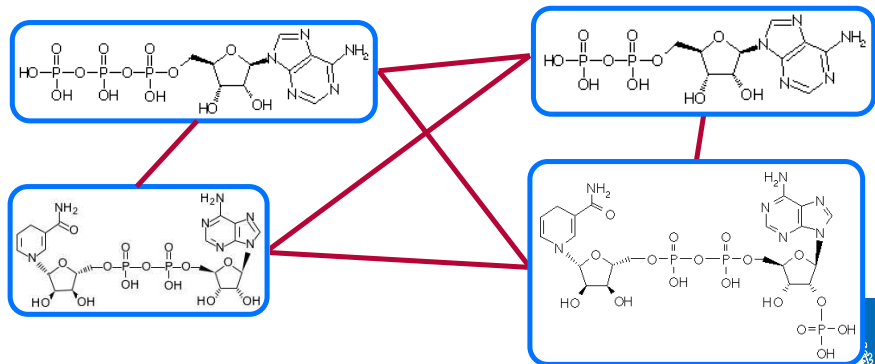
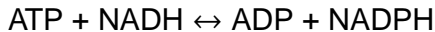
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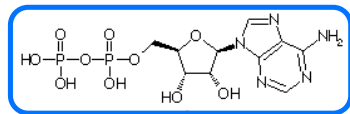
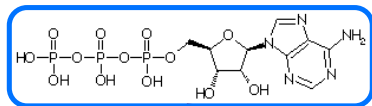
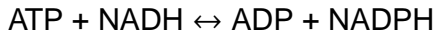
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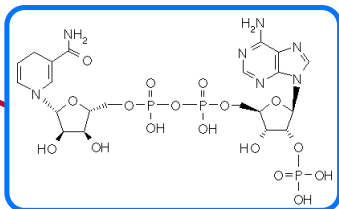
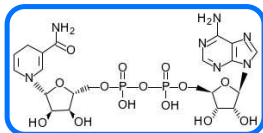
**vertices:** substrates

**edges:** between all products-/ substrates

# representations



NADH kinase



**vertices:** substrates + enzymes (reactions)

**edges:** between substance / reaction vertices



# representations

- different representations, give different information
- most common representation = substance graphs—following atoms, the number of conversions between two molecules are small  $\Leftrightarrow$  the graph distance is small



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# what is network structure?

- how the network differs a random network
- **to be more precise:** how the network differs from a null model



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## network null-models

- Network structures are relative . . .
- . . . so one has to be clear about what to compare with . . . a null model
- *Null model 1*: random graphs (Poisson random graphs, Erdős-Rényi graphs)
- *Null model 2*: random graphs constrained to the set of degrees of the original graph



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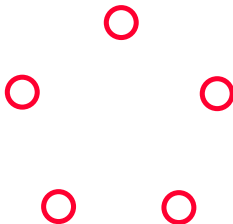
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## random graphs

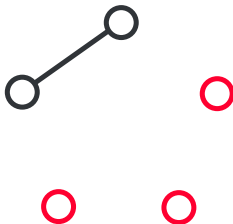


for each pair of vertices,  
with probability  $p$ , add an edge



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## random graphs

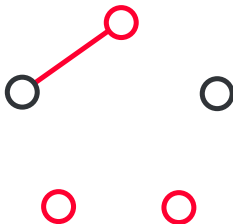


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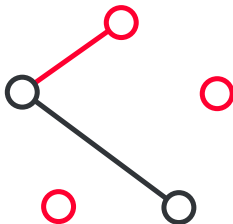


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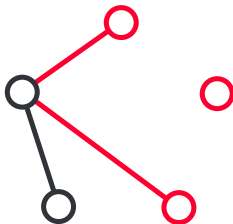


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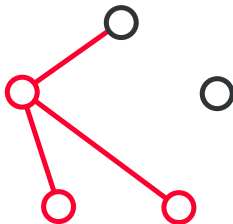


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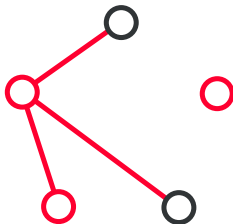
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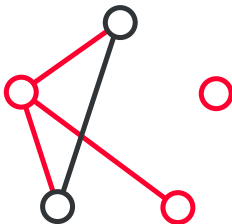


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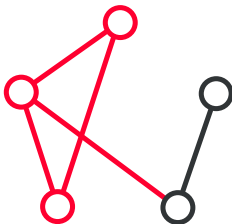


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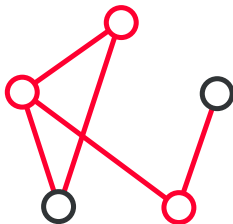


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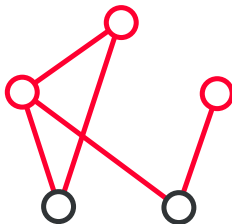


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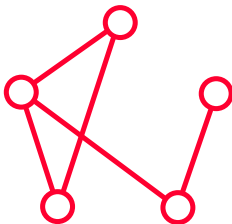


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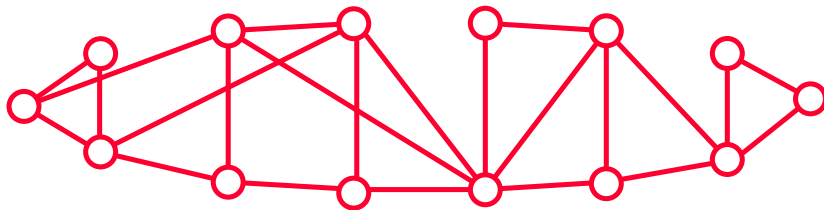


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## random rewiring

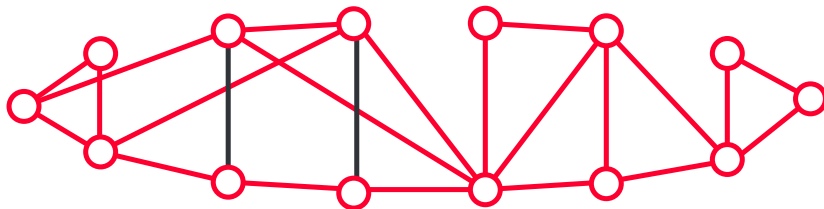


start from the original graph  
choose edge pairs, and swap them



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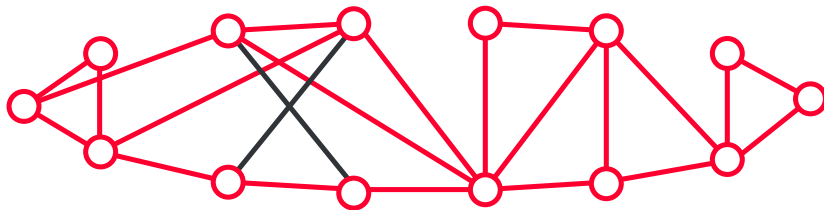
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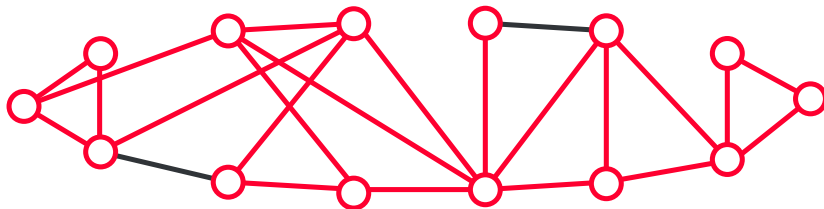


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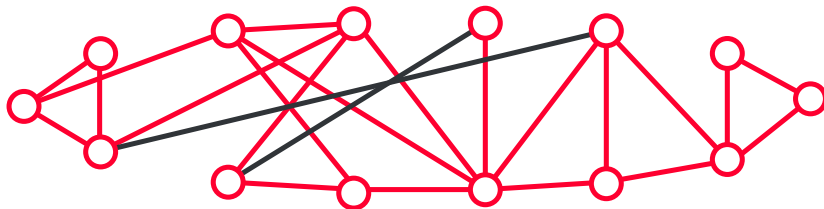


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# the dogmas of network science

- real networks have both structure and randomness
- the network structure relates to the function of the network



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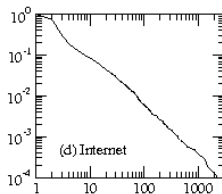
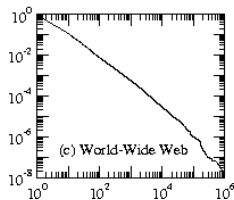
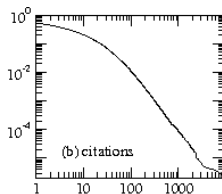
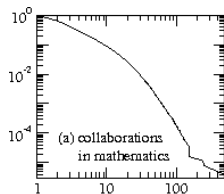
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# degree distribution



# network structure of metabolism

- Power-law degree distributions.
- Increasing average degree.
- Network modularity?



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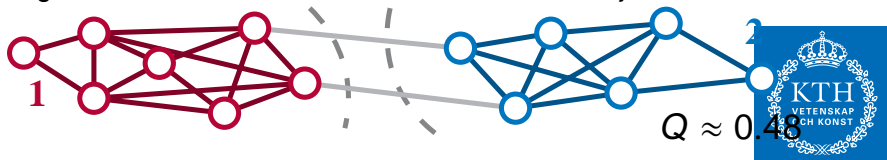
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## modularity (of a partition)

### Definition

$$Q = \sum_i \left[ e_{ii} - \left( \sum_j e_{ij} \right)^2 \right] \quad (1)$$

the sum is over the a partition into clusters and  $e_{ij}$  is the fraction of edges that leads between vertices of cluster  $i$  and  $j$



## modularity (of a graph)

### Definition

$$\hat{Q}(G) = \max_{\text{partitions}} Q \quad (2)$$

(null model: random graphs)

### Definition

$$\hat{Q}(G) = \max_{\text{partitions}} Q - \left\langle \max_{\text{partitions}} Q \right\rangle \quad (3)$$

(null model: random graphs with the same degree sequence)



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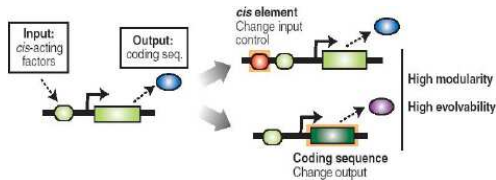
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## modularity (the biological idea)

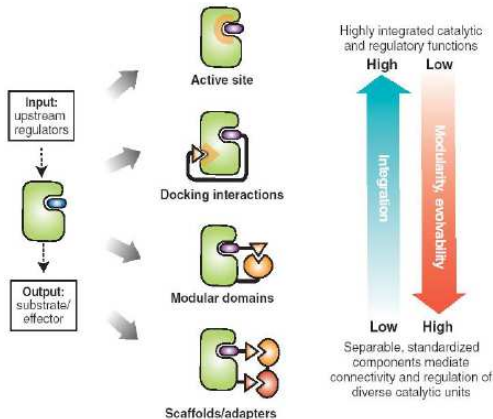


(Bhattacharyya *et al.*, 2006, *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* **75**, pp. 655–80)



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(Bhattacharyya *et al.*, 2006, *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* **75**, pp. 655–80)



# modularity and robustness

- robustness—sensitivity of a relevant dynamic system on the network to perturbations
- perturbations = changes in:
  - network topology
  - concentrations
  - delays in periodic input
- in spreading of harmful things (like disease), modularity increases robustness
- in other systems where a flow is needed throughout the networks, modularity might decrease robustness



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- perturbations = changes in:
  - network topology
  - concentrations
  - delays in periodic input
- in spreading of harmful things (like disease), modularity increases robustness
- in other systems where a flow is needed throughout the networks, modularity might decrease robustness



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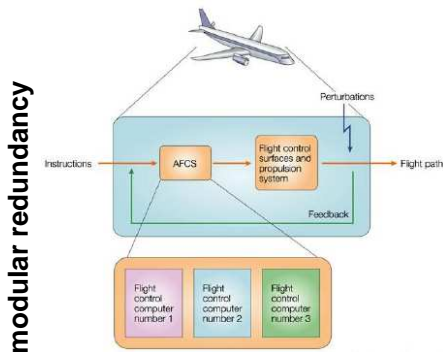
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# modularity and robustness



(Kitano, 2004, Nat. Rev. Genet. **5**, pp. 826–837.)



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# modularity and robustness

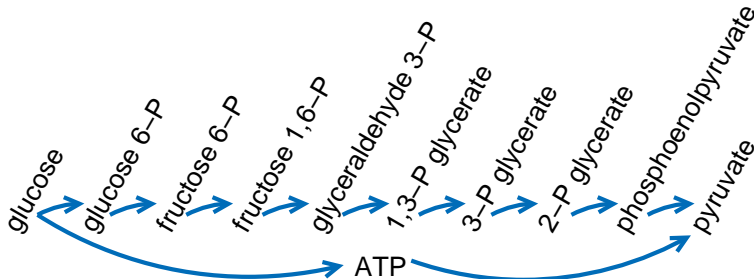
## **distributed redundancy (A. Wagner):**

*In distributed robustness, many parts of a system contribute to its function, but all of these parts have different roles. When one part fails or is changed through mutations, other parts can compensate for this failure, but not simply by standing in for the failed part.*



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# currency metabolites



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# currency metabolites

Wagner & Fell, 2001

ATP  
 ADP  
 NADP  
 NADPH  
 NAD  
 NADH

Schuster *et al.*, 2002

ATP  
 ADP  
 NADP  
 NADPH  
  
 $P_i$   
 $H_2O$   
 $H^+$   
 $PP_i$   
 CMP

Ma & Zeng, 2003

ATP  
 ADP  
 NADP  
  
 NAD  
  
 $P_i$   
 $H_2O$   
  
 $CO_2$   
 $O_2$   
 $NH_3$



## currency metabolites (a definition)

- 1 currency metabolites have high degree
- 2 they make not meaningful shortcuts
- 3 i.e. tie together distant parts of the network
- 4 i.e. tie different modules together

. . . let's turn this around to a definition . . .



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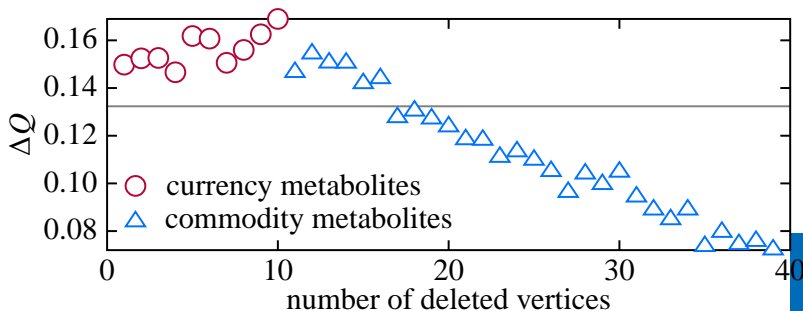
### Definition

Remove vertices in order of (currently) highest degree. The set of removed vertices that gives the network the highest modularity is the set of currency metabolites.



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## human currency metabolites



## detected currency metabolites

Wagner & Fell, 2001

ATP  
ADP  
NADP  
NADPH  
NAD  
NADH

Schuster *et al.*, 2002

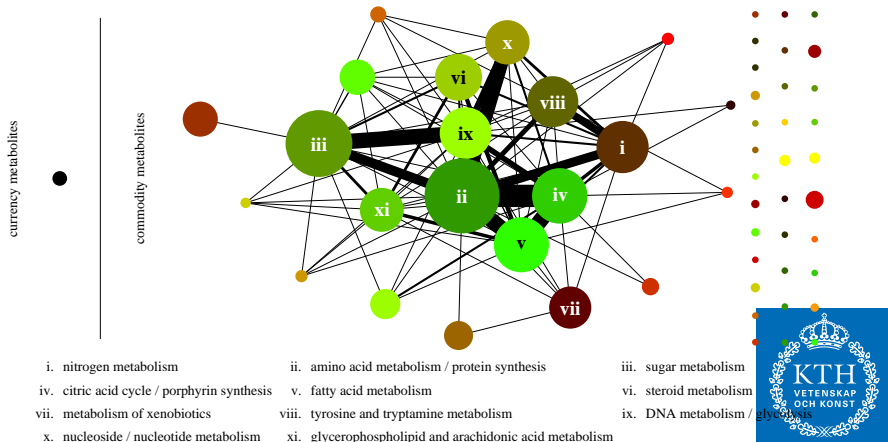
ATP  
ADP  
NADP  
NADPH  
  
P<sub>i</sub>  
H<sub>2</sub>O  
H<sup>+</sup>  
PP<sub>i</sub>  
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ATP  
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NAD  
  
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H<sub>2</sub>O  
  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
O<sub>2</sub>  
NH<sub>3</sub>



# modularity and robustness



## different organisms

organism	samples	nodes	edges	c. m.	modularity
animals	5	1621	4662	6.2	0.157
plants	1	1561	4302	1	0.144
fungi	2	1281	3654	1.5	0.150
bacteria	99	1050	2739	1.7	0.140



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## conclusions

- proposed graph based definition of currency metabolites
- metabolic networks *are* modular, but not so much
- the reason they are not more modular might be give robustness

(Huss & Holme, 2007, IET Syst. Biol. **1**, pp. 280–5.)



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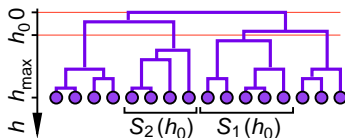


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## subnetwork hierarchies

P. Holme, M. Huss & H. Jeong, 2003, *Bioinformatics* **19**, pp. 532–8.

- Start with a directed bipartite networks, with both reaction and substance vertices (keep the currency metabolites).
- Iteratively remove the reaction vertices with the highest *betweenness* (fraction of shortest paths passing through a vertex).
- Study the dendrogram of this process.

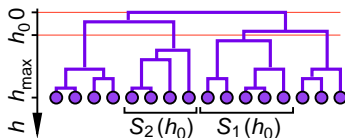


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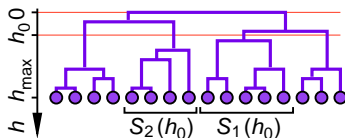


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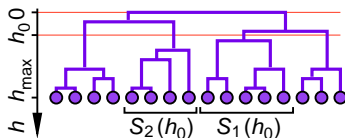


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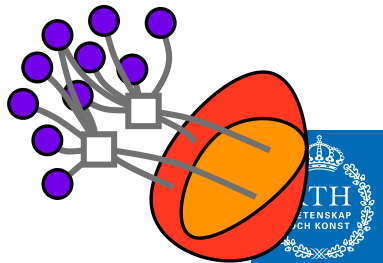
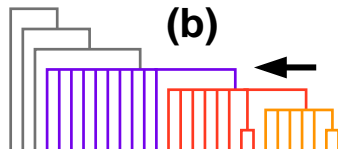
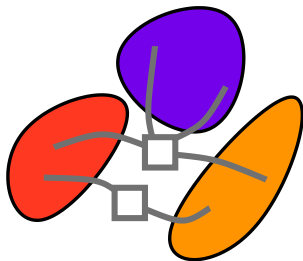
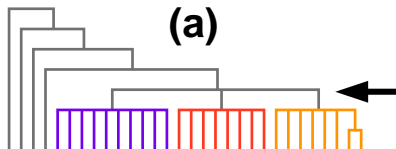
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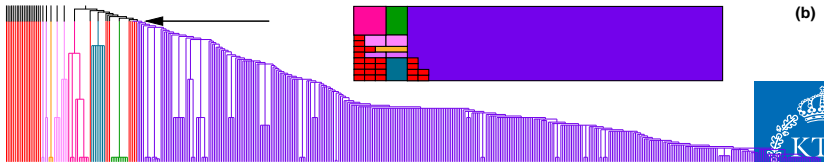
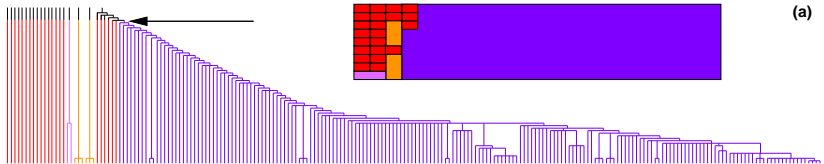
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## shell- vs community-type ordering

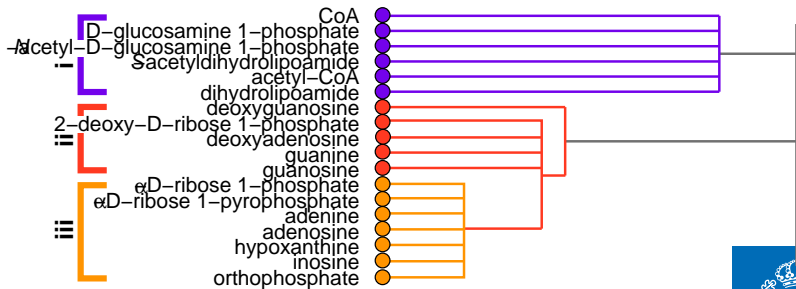


# dendrogram



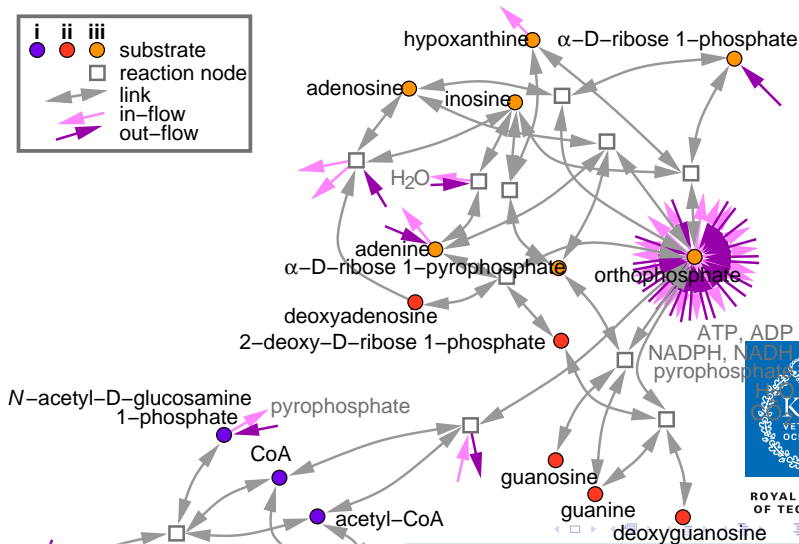
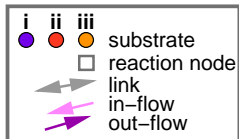
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# modules



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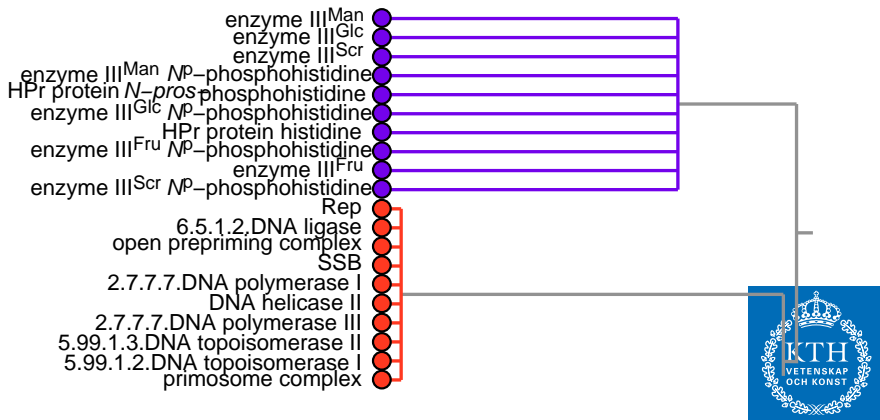
Petter Holme

Network modularity, currency metabolites and graph representation

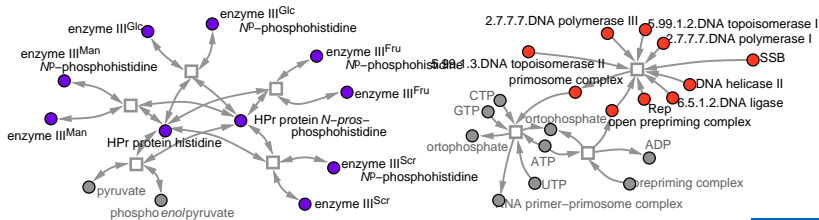


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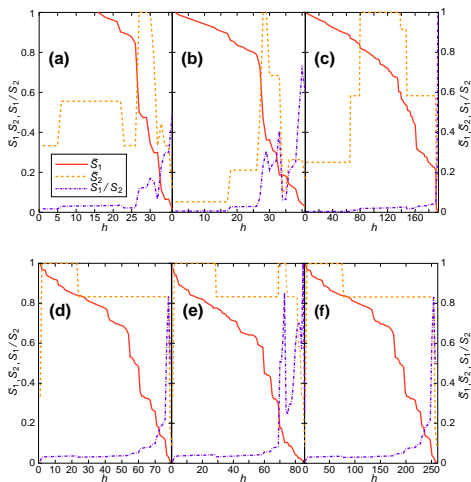


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# dentrogram statistics



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- Shell- rather than community-type ordering
- A few, seemingly clear, modules



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