

# An Algebraic Framework for Describing and Studying Binary Enzymatic Networks

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AMGEN

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**Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics**

**Conference on the Life Sciences**

**Minisymposium on the Algebraic Aspects of  
Biochemical Reaction Networks**

Charlotte, North Carolina, USA  
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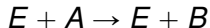
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- 1 Introduction and Motivation
- 2 The Algebraic Formalism

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# Enzymes and Enzymatic Reactions (oversimplified)



Enzyme  $E$  catalyzes (enables or accelerates) the conversion of substrate  $A$  into product  $B$ .

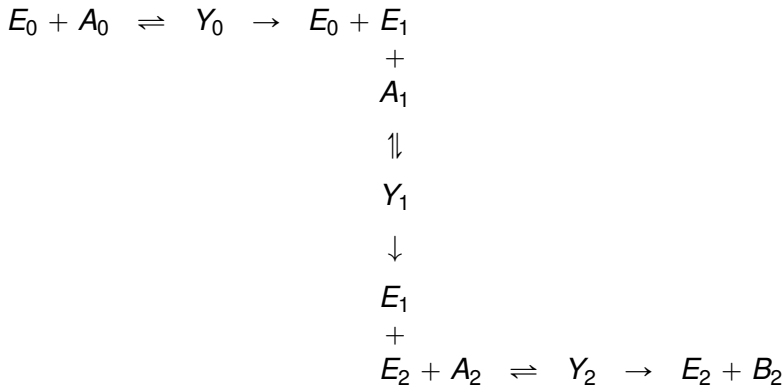
# Simple Futile Cycle



Species  $A$  and  $B$  are converted one into the other.

- Enzyme  $E$  catalyzes the conversion of  $A$  into  $B$ .
- Enzyme  $F$  catalyzes the reverse conversion.

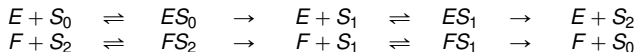
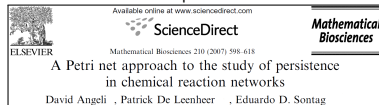
## Simple Cascade



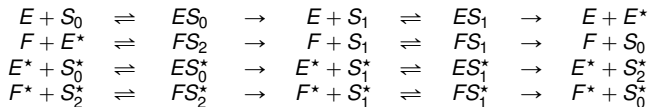
- $E_1$  is product in first conversion and enzyme in second.
- $E_2$  is product in second conversion and enzyme in third.

# Some More Elaborate Enzymatic Networks

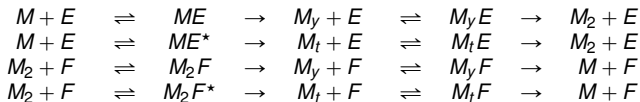
Examples from



A futile cycle of two two-step pathways

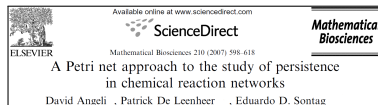


Two futile cycles in a cascade



One futile cycle with two alternate pathways in each direction

# Persistence in Enzymatic Networks

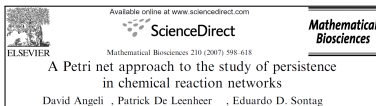


The three example enzymatic networks are persistent, i.e. if all species are initially present, then none tend to extinction.

Proof: The networks are conservative and their minimal siphons coincide with the supports of the canonical conservation laws.



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# Enzymatic Networks: Persistence and Beyond

- Computing minimal siphons can be complex.
- Intuition: The three example networks are different, yet *they look the same* and *I can see* that they (and other enzymatic networks) are persistent. *All sensible enzymatic networks should be persistent; enzymatic feedback mechanisms keep things going.*
- Goal: Formalize this intuition.

Define enzymatic networks and pertinent attributes to:

- Express biochemical reality; and
- Facilitate mathematical reasoning and results, e.g.:

***If a binary enzymatic network is futile and cascaded, then it is persistent.***

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# Axiomatics ahead

*Half the battle in understanding is having the right representation.*

Attributed to Pierre-Simon Laplace

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# Defining Binary Enzymatic Networks

## Binary Enzymatic Network

A reaction network  $\mathcal{N} = (\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{R})$  is a binary enzymatic network provided the five conditions (Enz1)-(Enz5) are satisfied.



$\mathcal{S}$ : Set of species

$\{E, A, B, EA\}$

$\mathcal{C}$ : Set of complexes

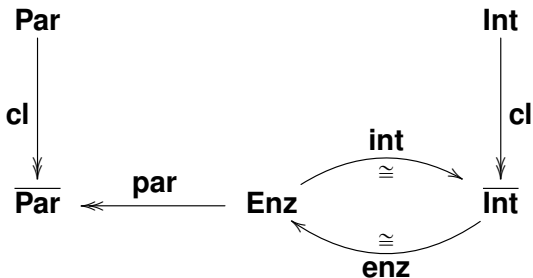
$\{E + A, E + B, EA\}$

$\mathcal{R}$ : Set of reactions

$\{(E + A, EA), (EA, E + A), (EA, E + B)\}$



# Preview: The Maps in Conditions (Enz1)-(Enz5)



## Binary Enzymatic Networks – Condition (Enz1)

## Condition (Enz1) : species roles

There are four sets **Enz**, **Sub**, **Pro**, **Int** satisfying

- $\emptyset \neq \mathbf{Enz}, \mathbf{Sub}, \mathbf{Pro}, \mathbf{Int} \subsetneq \mathcal{S}$  and
- $\mathcal{S} = (\mathbf{Enz} \cup \mathbf{Sub} \cup \mathbf{Pro}) \sqcup \mathbf{Int}$ .

**Enz** : Enzymes

**Sub** : Substrates

**Pro** : Products

**Int** : Intermediates

**Par** := **Sub**  $\cup$  **Pro** Enzyme partners

**Enz**<sub>0</sub> := **Enz** \ **Par** Enzymes that are not enzyme partners

$$\mathcal{S} = (\mathbf{Enz} \cup \mathbf{Par}) \sqcup \mathbf{Int} = \mathbf{Enz}_0 \sqcup \mathbf{Par} \sqcup \mathbf{Int}$$

## Binary Enzymatic Networks – Condition (Enz2)

**Condition (Enz2) : starting and ending info on conversions**

There is the set  $\mathbf{Cat} \subseteq \mathbf{Enz} \times \mathbf{Sub} \times \mathbf{Pro}$  of *catalysis triples*.  
The three canonical projections restricted to  $\mathbf{Cat}$  are surjective.

$(E, A, B) \in \mathbf{Cat} \Leftrightarrow$  Enzyme  $E$  catalyzes (somehow)  
the conversion of substrate  $A$  into product  $B$

Equivalence relation on  $\mathbf{Par} = \mathbf{Sub} \cup \mathbf{Pro}$  :

$A \sim B \Leftrightarrow (E, A, B) \in \mathbf{Cat}$  for some enzyme  $E$ .

Quotient map:  $\mathbf{cl} : \mathbf{Par} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Par}}$ .

## Binary Enzymatic Networks – Condition (Enz3)

**Condition (Enz3) : conversions each enzyme catalyzes**

There is a surjective map  $\mathbf{par} : \mathbf{Enz} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Par}}$  satisfying

- $\forall E \in \mathbf{Enz}, E \notin \mathbf{par}(E)$ , and
- $\forall (E, A, B) \in \mathbf{Cat}, \{A, B\} \subseteq \mathbf{par}(E)$ .

$\mathbf{par}(E)$  : Equivalence class of partners of enzyme  $E$

$E \notin \mathbf{par}(E)$  : No self-catalyzed enzyme conversion

$\mathbf{sub}(E) := \mathbf{par}(E) \cap \mathbf{Sub}$  Substrates of  $E$

$\mathbf{pro}(E) := \mathbf{par}(E) \cap \mathbf{Pro}$  Products of  $E$

# Binary Enzymatic Networks – Condition (Enz4)

## Condition (Enz4) : the intermediates for each enzyme

There are

- an equivalence relation on **Int** with quotient map  $\mathbf{cl} : \mathbf{Int} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Int}}$ , and
- two mutually inverse bijections  $\mathbf{int} : \mathbf{Enz} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Int}}$  and  $\mathbf{enz} : \overline{\mathbf{Int}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Enz}$ .

$\mathbf{int}(E)$  : Intermediates in conversion catalyzed by enzyme  $E$

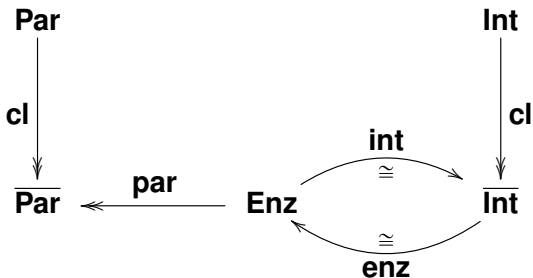
$\mathbf{enz}(\mathcal{Y})$  : Enzyme that catalyzes conversions where intermediates in class  $\mathcal{Y}$  occur

# Binary Enzymatic Networks – Condition (Enz5)

## Condition (Enz5) : the reactions

All intermediate pathways are specified for each catalysis triples  $(E, A, B)$ .

# The Maps in Conditions (Enz1)-(Enz5)



## Initial Substrates and Terminal Products

$\mathcal{C}(E)$  : Complexes of enzyme  $E$

$$\mathcal{C}(E) = \{E + A : A \in \mathbf{par}(E)\} \sqcup \mathbf{int}(E)$$

$\mathbf{isub}(E)$  : Initial substrates of  $E$

$$A \in \mathbf{isub}(E) \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} A \in \mathbf{sub}(E) \\ E + A \text{ ultimately reacts to} \\ \text{every complex in } \mathcal{C}(E) \end{cases}$$

$\mathbf{tpro}(E)$  : Terminal products of  $E$

$$B \in \mathbf{tpro}(E) \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} B \in \mathbf{pro}(E) \\ \text{Every complex in } \mathcal{C}(E) \\ \text{ultimately reacts to } E + B \end{cases}$$



# Reversing Enzyme, Futile Network

## Reversing Enzyme

An enzyme  $F$  is a *reversing enzyme* for an enzyme  $E$  provided  $\emptyset \neq \mathbf{tpro}(E) = \mathbf{isub}(F)$ .

## Futile Network

A binary enzymatic network is *futile* provided every enzyme is a reversing enzyme.

- “Every enzyme has a reversing enzyme” did not work.
- In examples, there is a *futility involution*  $\varphi : \mathbf{Enz} \rightarrow \mathbf{Enz}$ .
  - $\varphi \circ \varphi = \text{Id}_{\mathbf{Enz}}$ .
  - For every enzyme  $E$ ,  
 $E$  and  $\varphi(E)$  are mutually reversing enzymes.

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# Cascaded Network

## Cascade Index of Enzymes

$$\mathbf{Enz}_0 = \mathbf{Enz} \setminus \mathbf{Par}$$

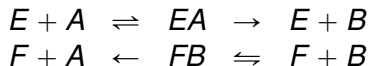
$$\mathbf{Enz}_m = \left( \mathbf{Enz} \setminus (\mathbf{Enz}_0 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \mathbf{Enz}_{m-1}) \right) \cap \bigcup_{E \in \mathbf{Enz}_{m-1}} \mathbf{tpro}(E)$$

## Cascaded Network

A binary enzymatic network is *cascaded* provided

$$\mathbf{Enz} = \bigsqcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \mathbf{Enz}_m.$$

## Illustrative (Simple, Anticlimactic 😊) Example



$$\text{Enz} = \{E, F\} \quad \text{Sub} = \{A, B\} \quad \text{Par} = \{A, B\}$$

$$\text{Enz}_0 = \{E, F\} \quad \text{Pro} = \{A, B\} \quad \text{Int} = \{EA, FB\}$$

$$\text{Cat} = \{(E, A, A), (E, A, B), (F, B, B), (F, B, A)\}$$

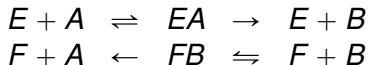


$$\overline{\text{Par}} = \{\{A, B\}\} \quad \overline{\text{Int}} = \{\{EA\}, \{FB\}\}$$

$$\text{cl}(A) = \{A, B\} \quad \text{cl}(EA) = \{EA\}$$

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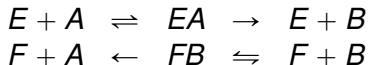


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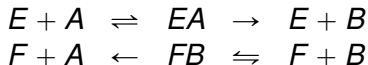
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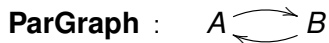


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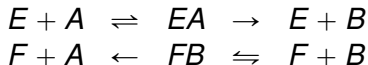


$$\overline{\mathbf{Par}} = \{\{A, B\}\} \quad \overline{\mathbf{Int}} = \{\{EA\}, \{FB\}\}$$

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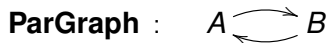
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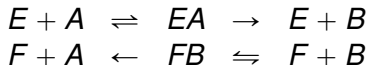


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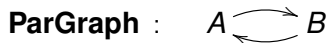
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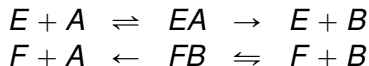
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## Illustrative (Simple, Anticlimactic 😊) Example – continued



$$\text{par}(E) = \{A, B\} \quad \text{int}(E) = \{EA\} \quad \text{enz}(\{EA\}) = E$$

$$\text{par}(F) = \{A, B\} \quad \text{int}(F) = \{FB\} \quad \text{enz}(\{FB\}) = F$$

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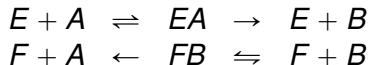
$$\text{isub}(E) = \text{tpro}(F) = \{A\}$$

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$$\varphi(E) = F$$

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## Illustrative (Simple, Anticlimactic 😞) Example – continued

$$E + A \rightleftharpoons EA \rightarrow E + B$$

$$F + A \leftarrow FB \rightleftharpoons F + B$$

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# The paper

J Math Chem (2011) 49:2158–2176  
DOI 10.1007/s10910-011-9895-3

ORIGINAL PAPER

## **Reachability, persistence, and constructive chemical reaction networks (part III): a mathematical formalism for binary enzymatic networks and application to persistence**

Gilles Gnacadja