

OTTO VON GUERICKE
UNIVERSITÄT
MAGDEBURG

Petri Nets for Multiscale Systems Biology, 25TH June 2013, Milano

PETRI NETS IN BIOLOGY

WHAT ARE PETRI NETS FOR?

„Petri Nets is a formal and graphically appealing language which is appropriate for **modelling systems with concurrency and resource sharing**. Petri Nets have been under development since the beginning of the 60's, where Carl Adam Petri defined the language. It was the first time a general theory for discrete **parallel systems** was formulated. The language is a generalization of automata theory such that the concept of **concurrently occurring events** can be expressed.“

<http://www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/TGI/PetriNets/faq/>



12. July 1926 in Leipzig; † 2. July 2010



THE PETRI NET FORMALISM

○ Place

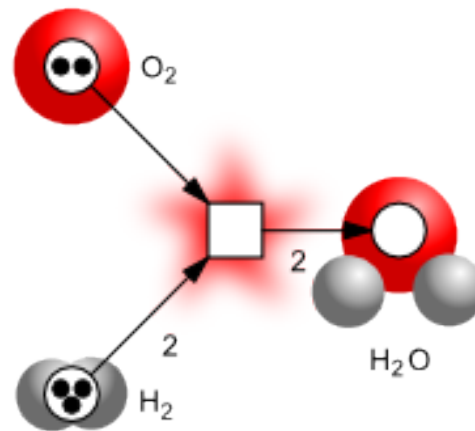
□ Transition

↗ Arc

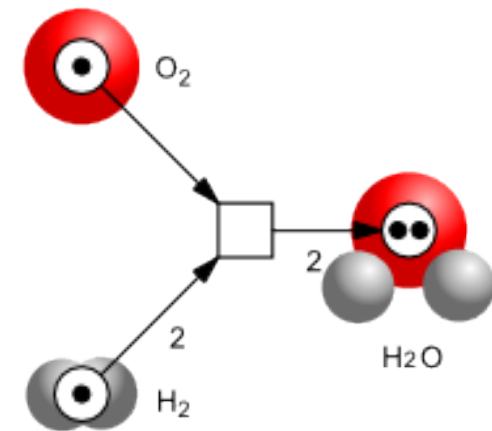
● Token

Chemical reaction of the water formation:
 $2 \text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Before switch of t:



After switch of t:



○ ● ✓

□ ● ✗

□

○ → □ → ○ ✓

○ → ○ ✗

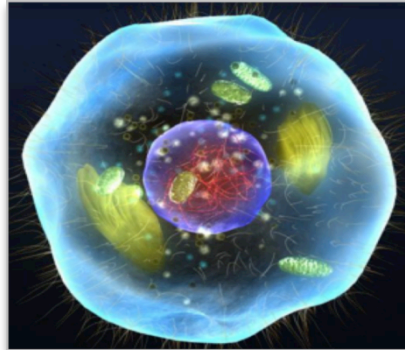
□ → □ ✗



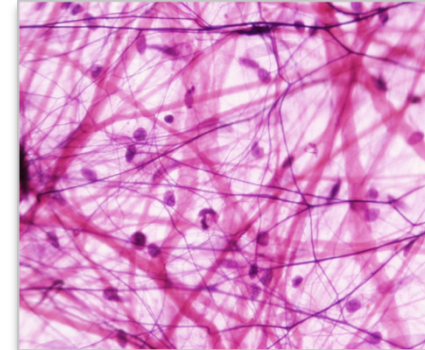
WHAT CAN BE REPRESENTED?



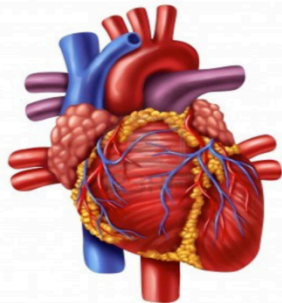
Molecules



Cells



Tissues



Organs



Organisms



Populations



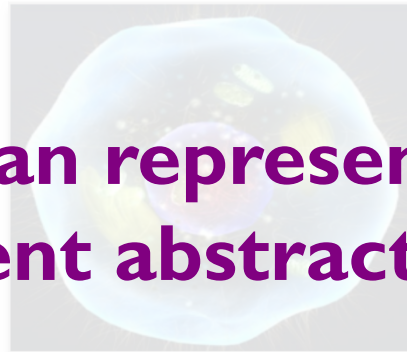
WHAT CAN BE REPRESENTED?

⇒ **Petri Nets can represent and integrate different abstraction levels**

- Places can represent all kinds of biological entities
- Transitions can represent all kinds of actions related to biological entities



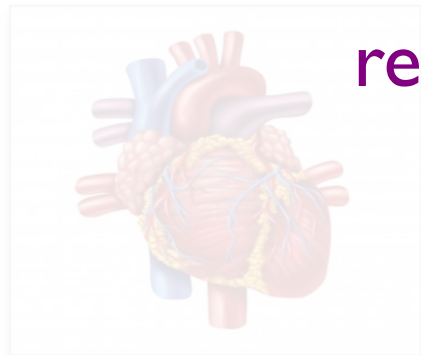
Molecules



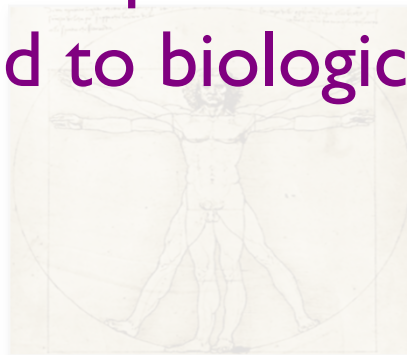
Cells



Tissues



Organs



Organisms



Populations



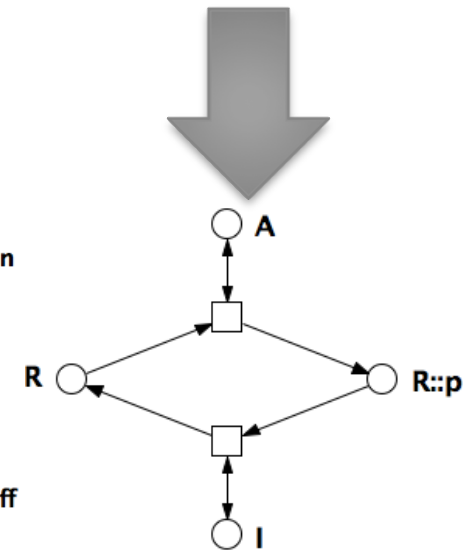
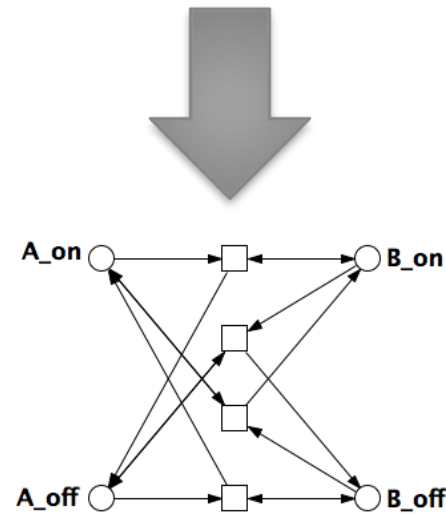
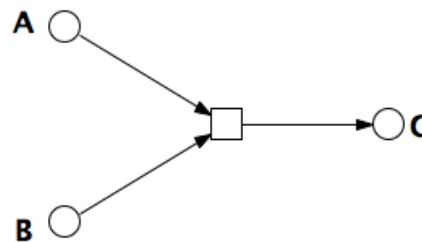
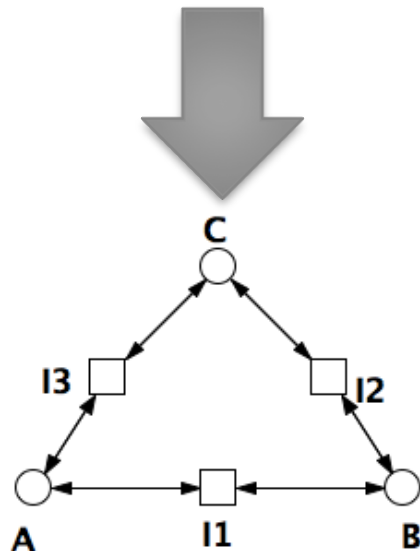
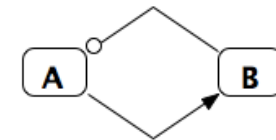
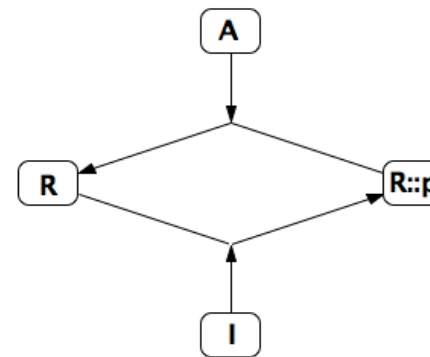
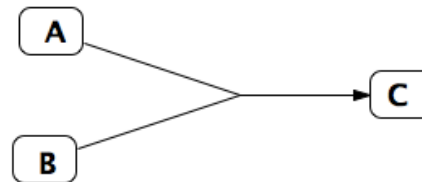
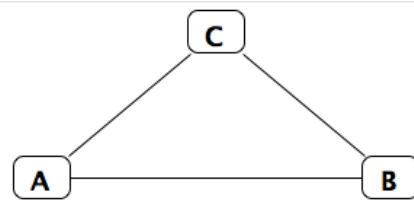
WHICH NETWORK TYPES CAN BE REPRESENTED?

**Protein/Gene
Interaction
Networks**

**Metabolic
Networks**

**Signaling
Networks**

**Gene
Regulatory
Network**



WHICH NETWORK TYPES CAN BE REPRESENTED?

Protein/Gene
Interaction
Networks

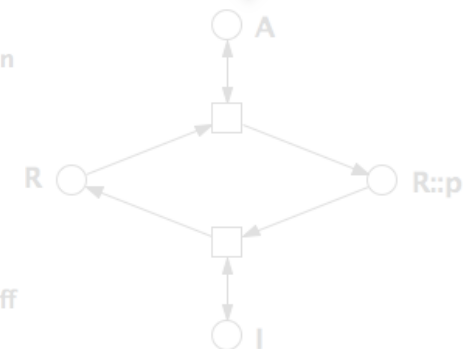
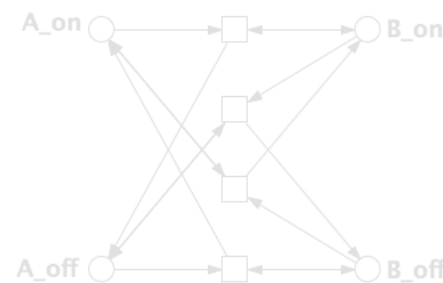
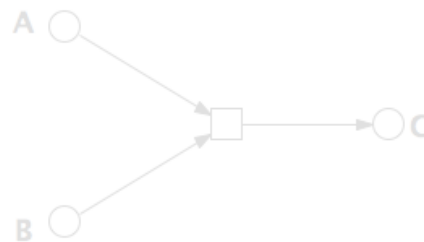
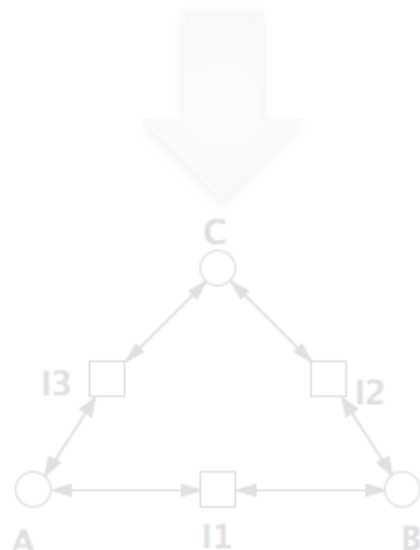
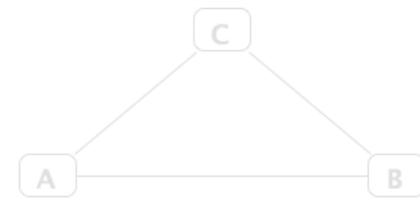
Metabolic
Networks

Signaling
Networks

Gene
Regulatory
Networks

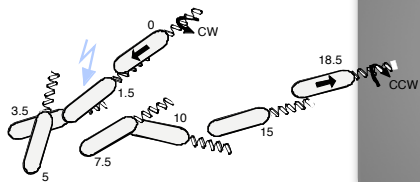
⇒ **Petri Nets can represent and integrate different Network Classes, and thus:**

- Different OMICs data
- Different datatypes
- Different informations
- Different knowledge



HOW WE GENERATE PETRI NETS?

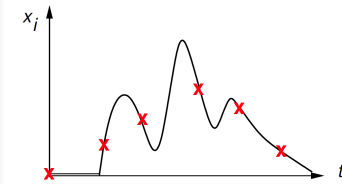
**Functional Data and
Biological response**



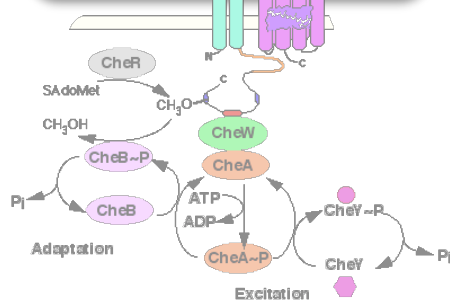
**Top-Down =
Reverse
Engineering**

**Automatic
Network
Reconstruction**

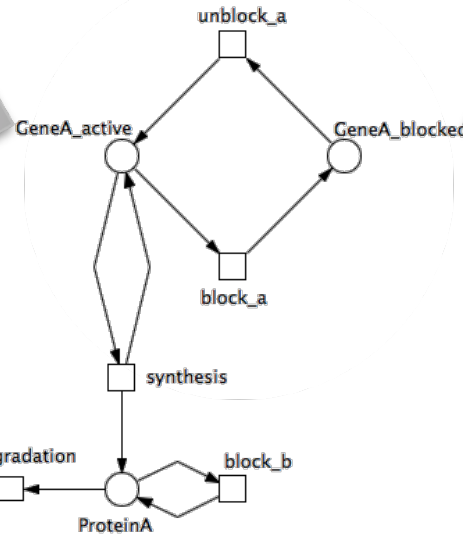
Time Series Data



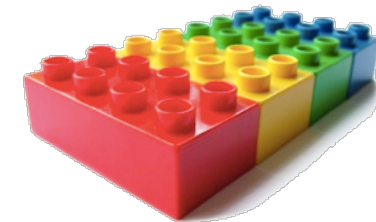
**Bottom-Up =
Forward
Engineering**



Biochemical Reactions



**Automatic
Network
Composition**



Existing Models



HOW CAN WE INTERPRET A PETRI NET?

Discrete State Space
Timed
Molecules/Levels
Stochastic Rates

**Stochastic
Petri Nets**

**Continuous
Petri Nets**

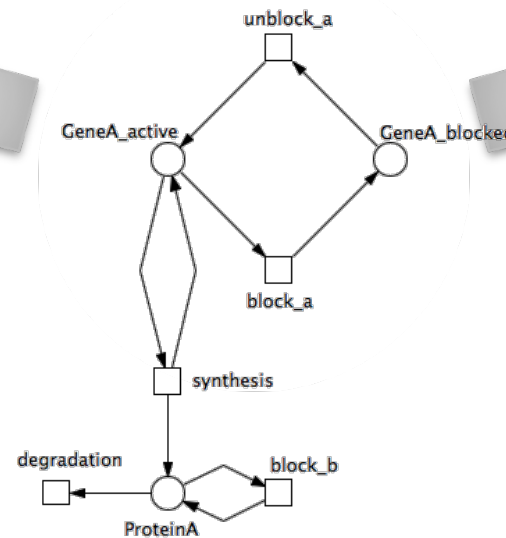
Cont. State Space
Timed
Concentration
Deterministic Rates

**Qualitative
Petri Nets**

Discrete State Space
Time-free
Molecules/Levels

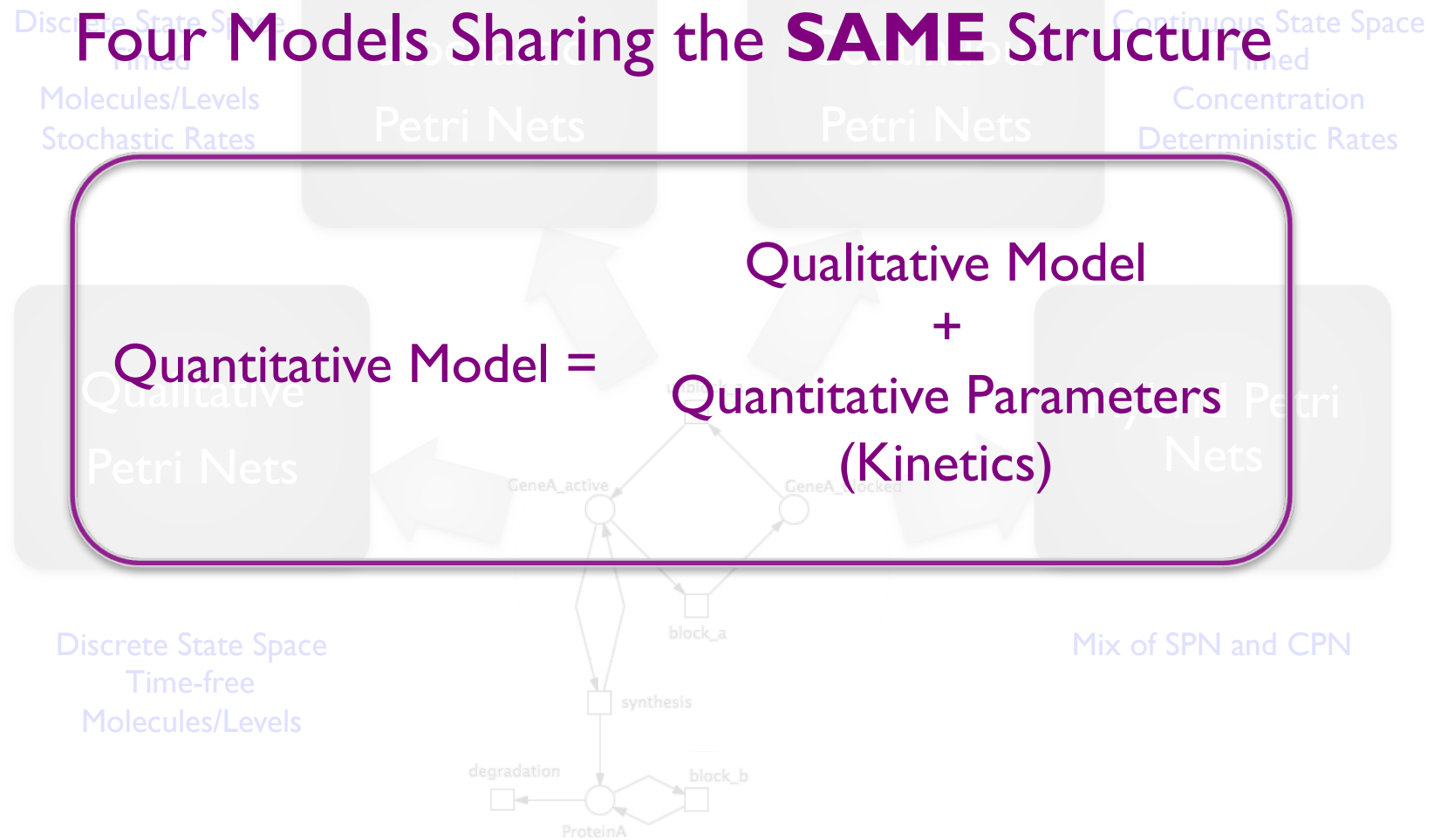
**Hybrid Petri
Nets**

Mix of SPN and CPN



HOW CAN WE INTERPRET A PETRI NET?

Four Models Sharing the **SAME** Structure



GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF PETRI NETS

Formal language

- Strict syntax, no free-style description

Bipartite directed graphs

- Graph theory, linear algebra

Graphical

- Visualisation

Executable

- Simulation



GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF PETRI NETS

Formal language \Rightarrow Advantages for Modelling in BME

- Strict syntax, no free-style description
 - Easy and intuitive modelling framework
- Unambiguous translation of real systems into a formal model with operational semantics
 - Graph theory, linear algebra
 - Explicitly formulating concurrency
 - Support of hierarchical structuring

Graphical

- Visualisation

Executable

- Simulation



GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF PETRI NETS

Formal language

⇒ Advantages for Analysis in BME

- Strict syntax, no free-style description

Bipartite directed graphs

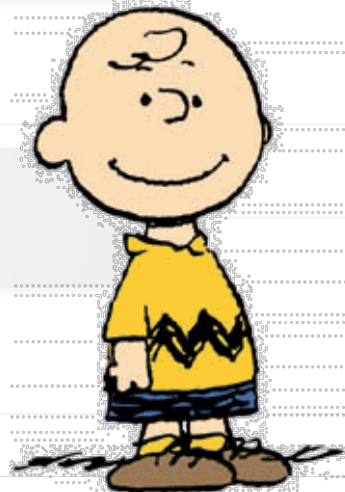
- Network topology
- Structurally defined behavioural properties
- Graph theory
- Simulative/analytical model checking
- Application of different modelling paradigms

Graphical

- Visualisation

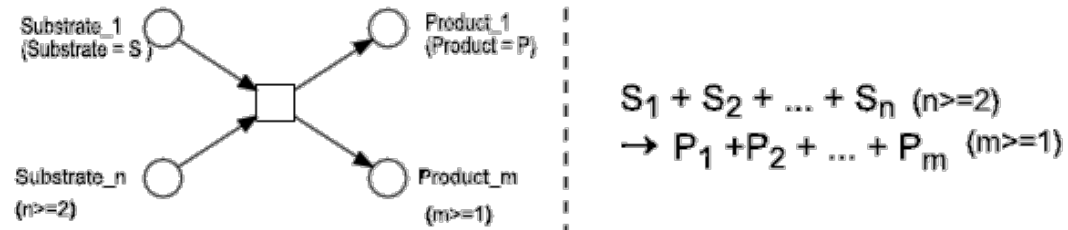
Executable

- Simulation

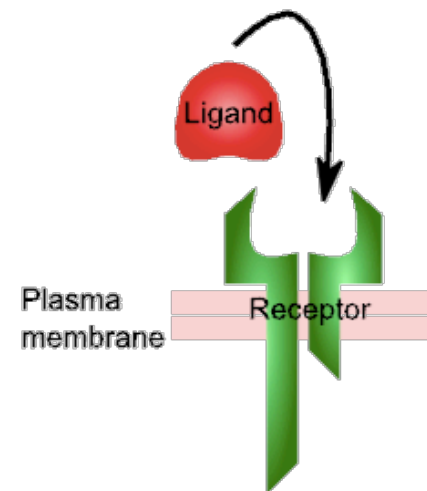
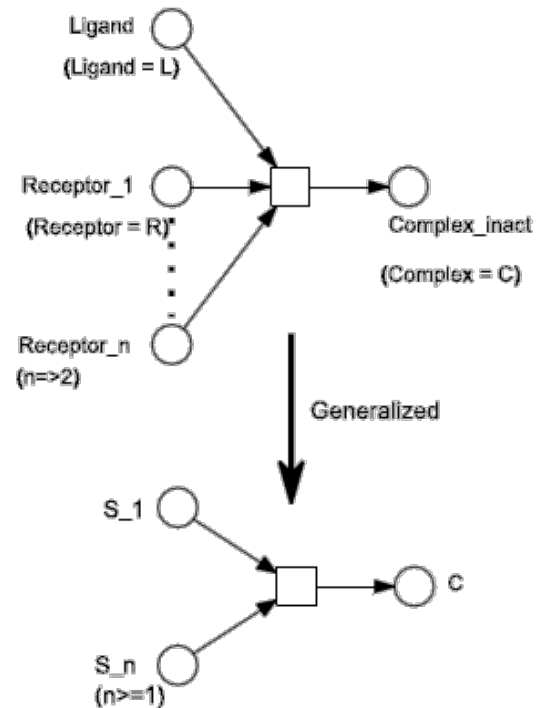


PROCESSES IN SIGNALING

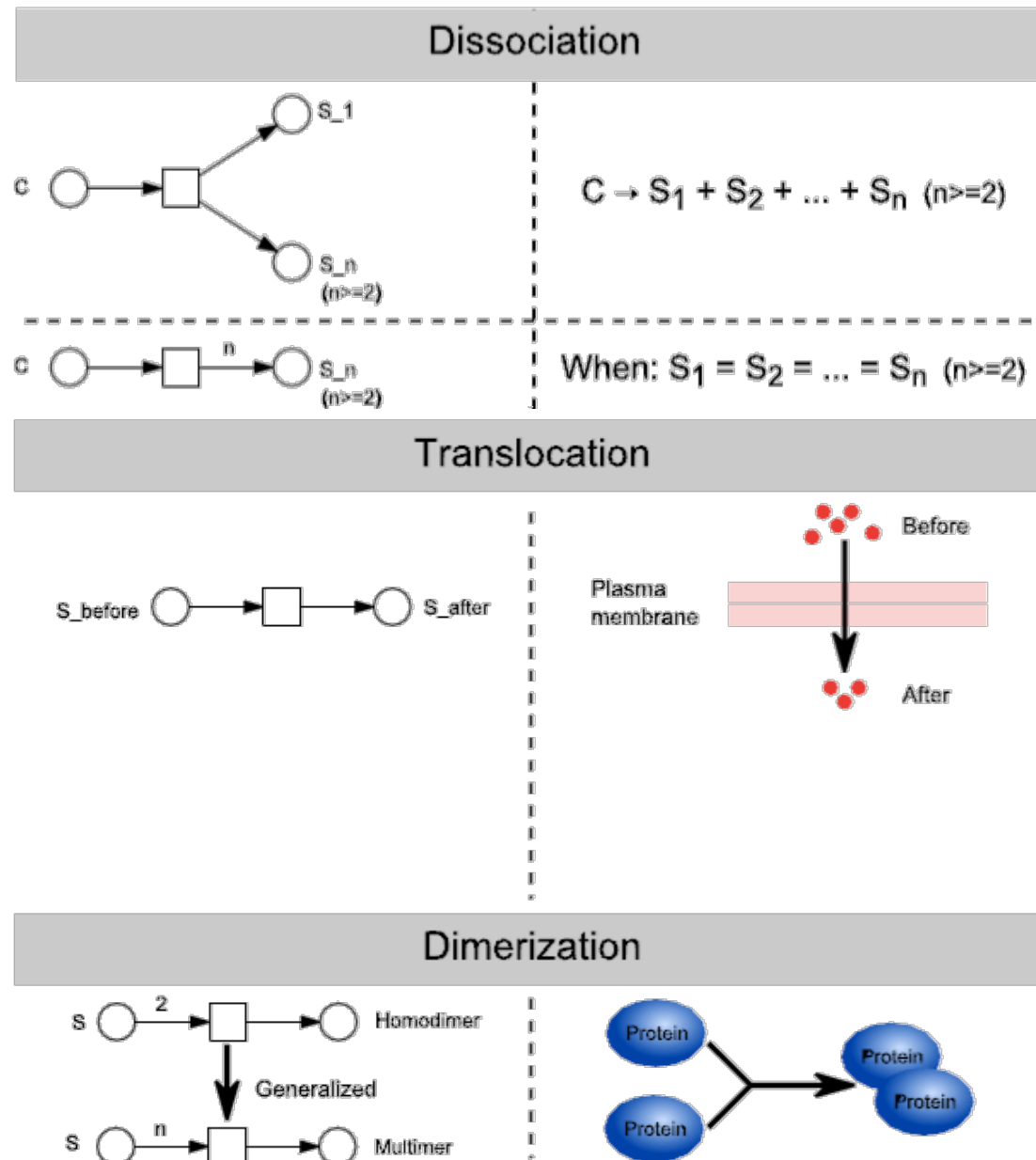
Chemical Reaction



Association

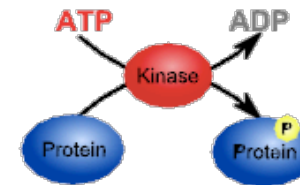
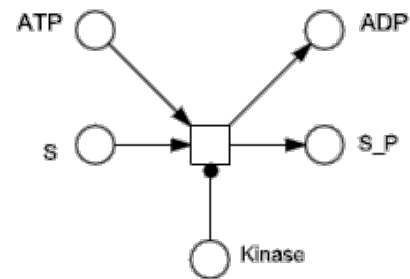


PROCESSES IN SIGNALING

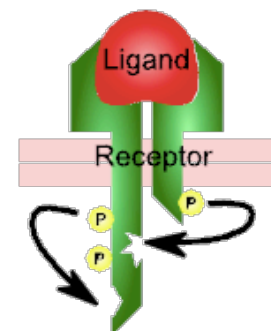
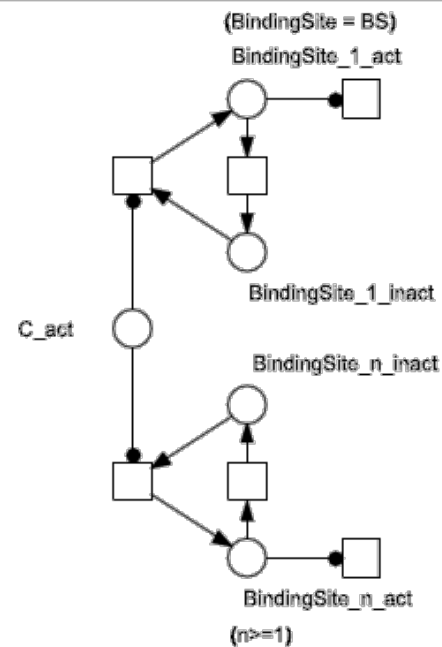


PROCESSES IN SIGNALING

Phosphorylation

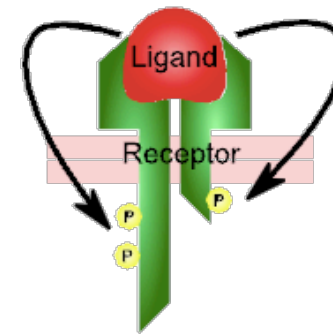
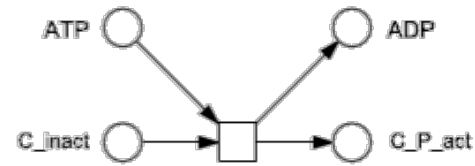


Activation of Functional Sites

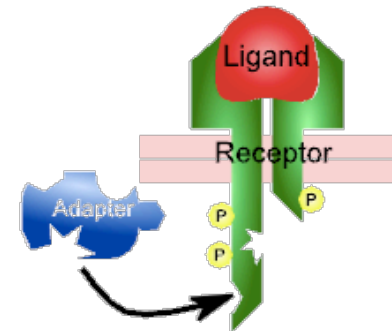
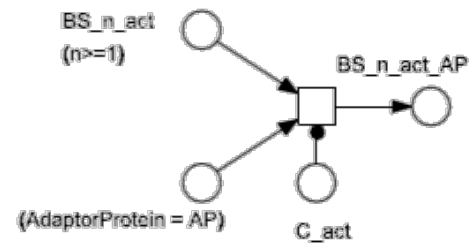


PROCESSES IN SIGNALING

Autophosphorylation

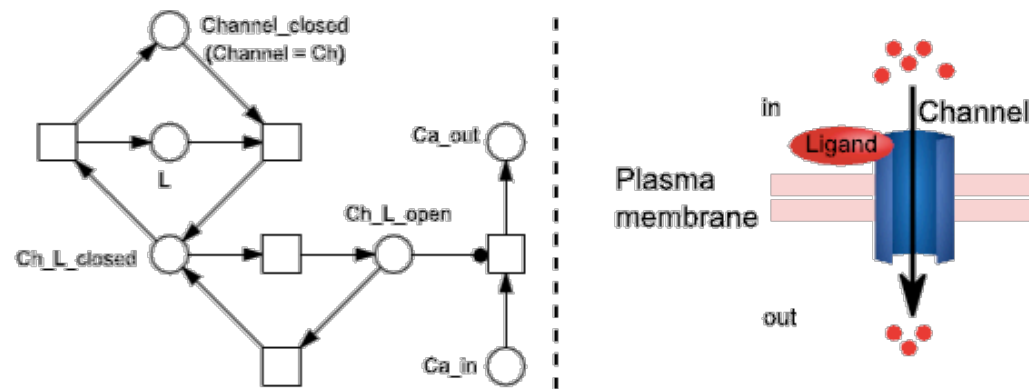


Gathering Functionality by Adaptor Proteins

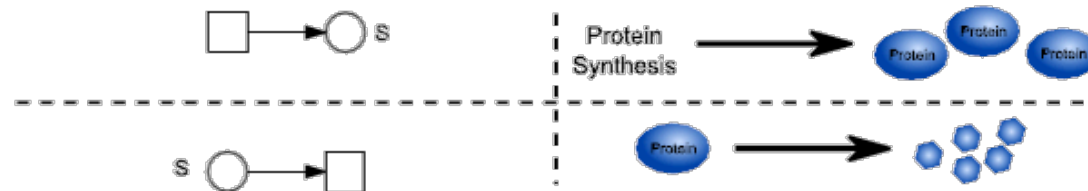


PROCESSES IN SIGNALING

Switching of Ligand-gated Channels



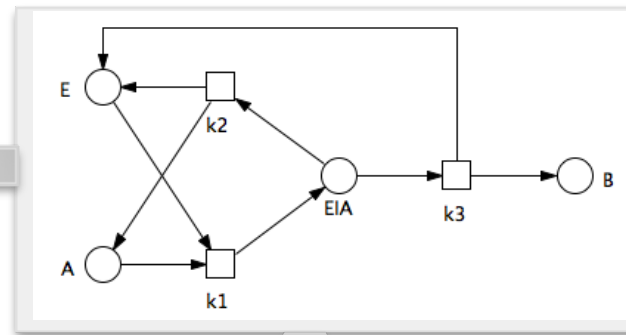
Synthesis/ Degradation



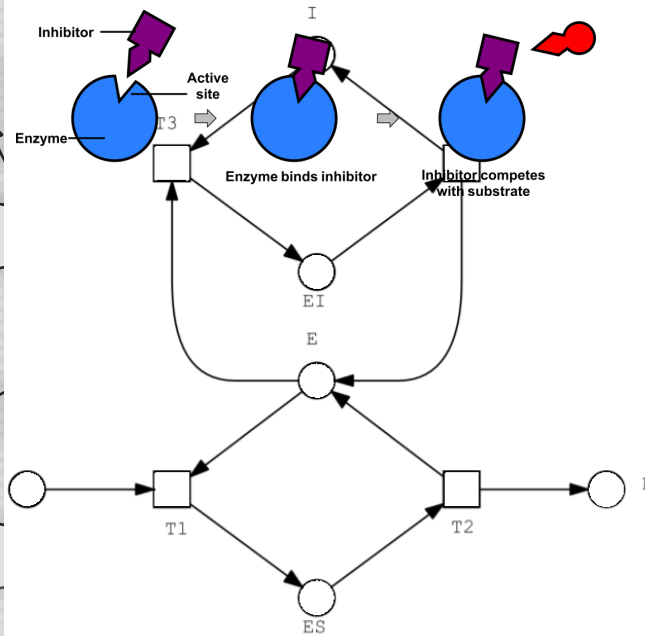
ENZYMATIC REACTIONS

Extension

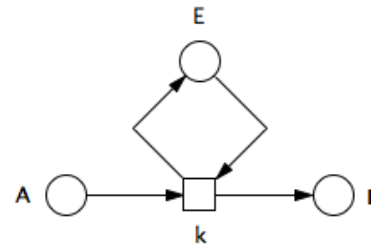
Extension



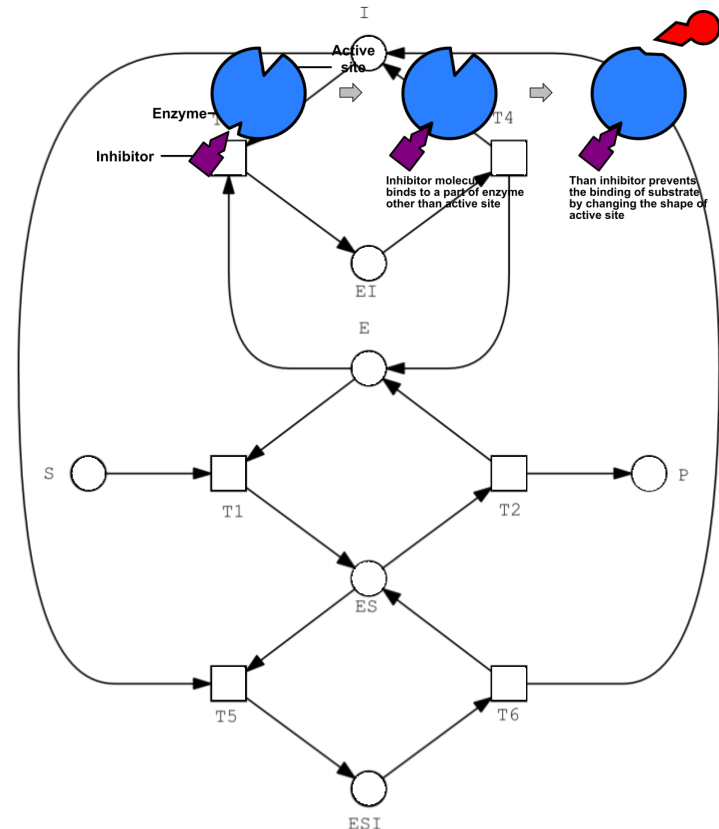
Competitive Inhibition



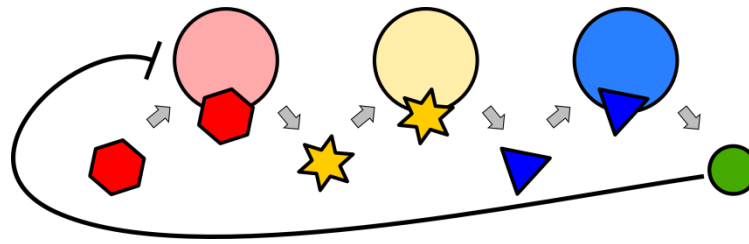
Simplification



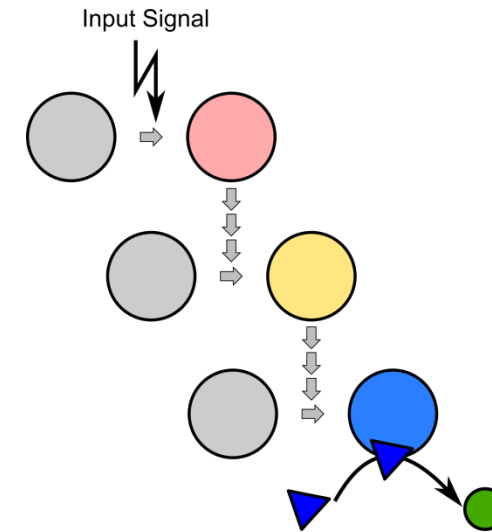
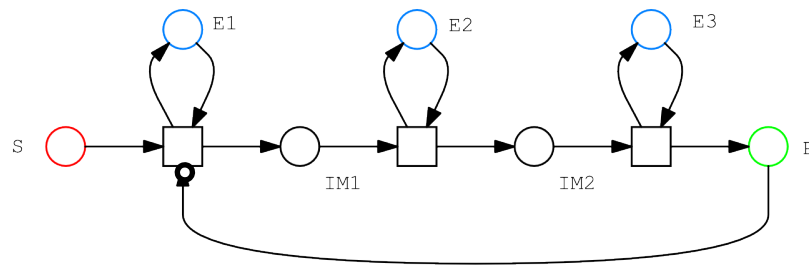
Allosteric Inhibition



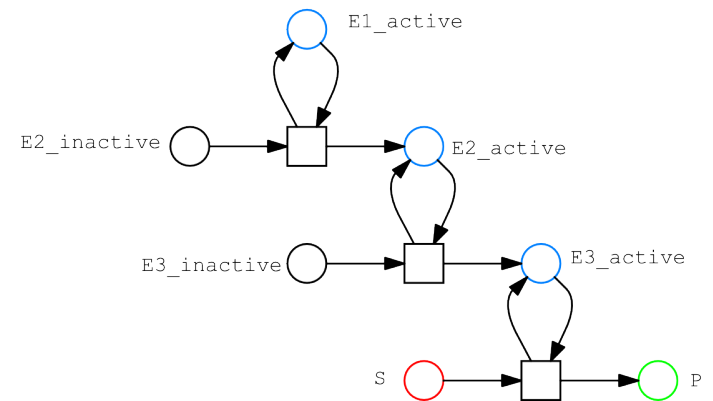
FEEDBACK INHIBITION VS. SIGNAL AMPLIFICATION



(e) Feed-back Inhibition

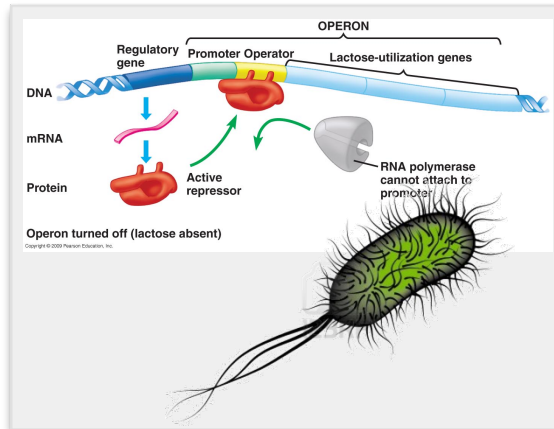


(f) Amplification of an input signal



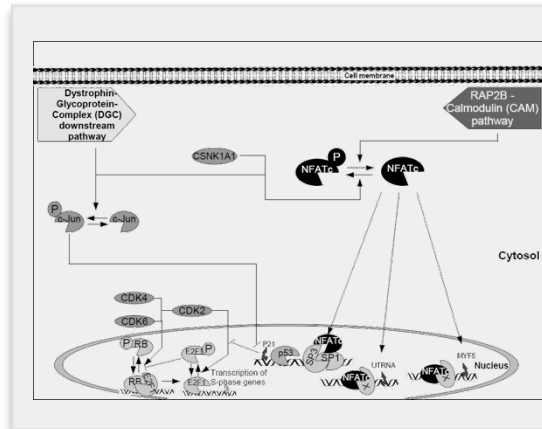
EXAMPLES

Lac Operon



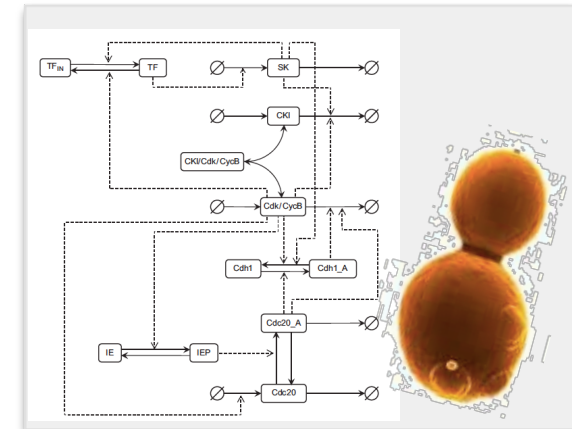
Sackmann et al, 2006

Duchenne Musclar Dystrophy



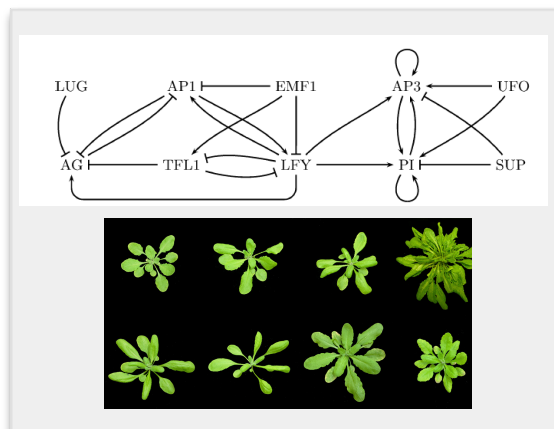
Grunwald et al, 2008

Yeast Cell Cycle



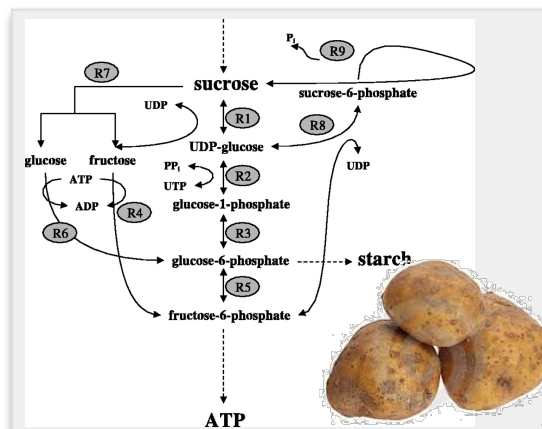
Mura et al, 2008

Morphogenesis in Arabidopsis thaliana



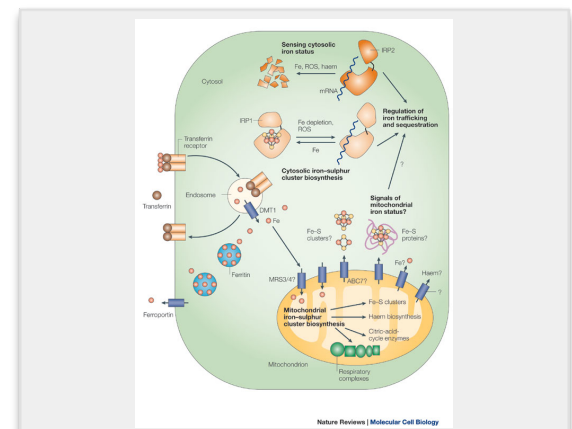
Chaouiya et al, 2004

Sucrose breakdown in the potato tuber



Koch et al, 2005

Iron homoeostasis



Sackmann et al, 2007



BUT...

Standard
Petri nets
do not scale



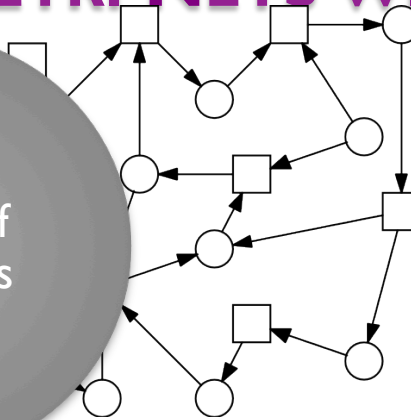
BUT...

Coloured
Petri nets
do scale

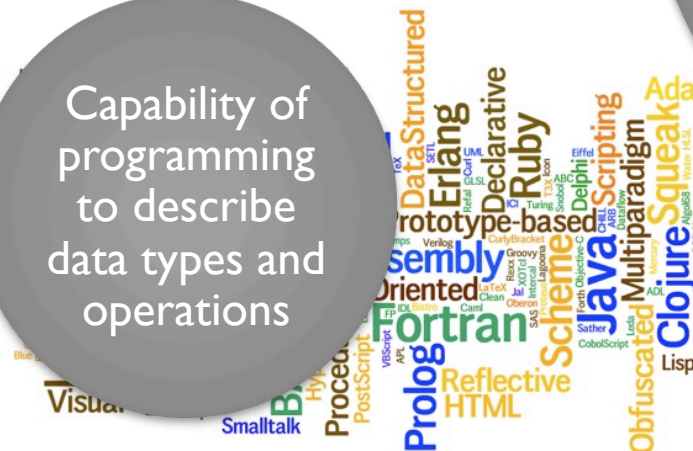


EXTENDING PETRI NETS WITH COLOUR

Power of
Petri nets



Capability of
programming
to describe
data types and
operations

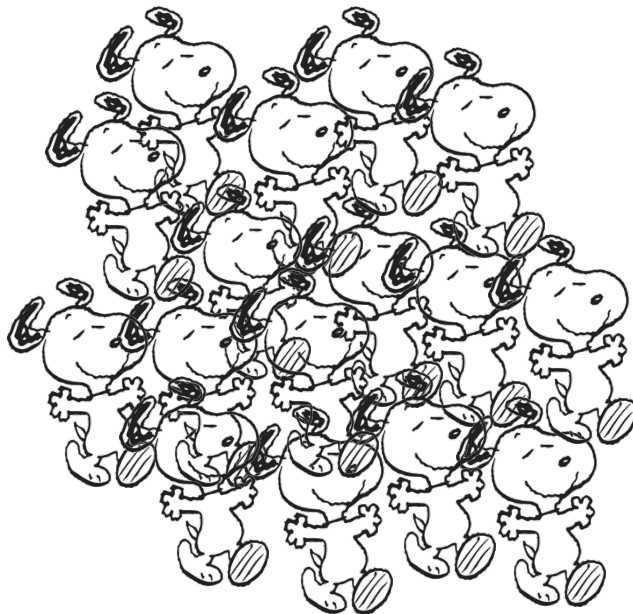


Coloured
Petri nets



WHAT IS COLOUR?

- A group of similar components is represented by **one** component
- Single components are defined and thus distinguished through their specific colour



MULTISCALE/ MULTILEVEL/ MULTIDIMENSIONAL MODELLING



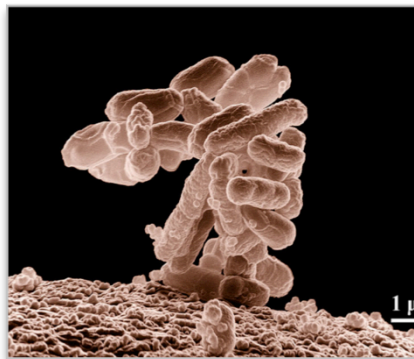
Repetition of
components



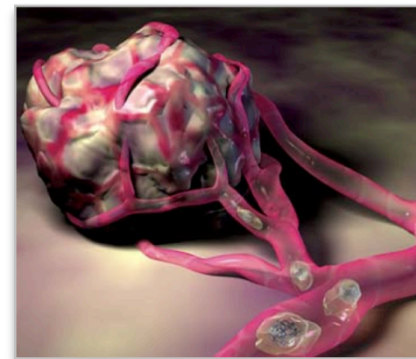
Variation of
components



Organisation of
components

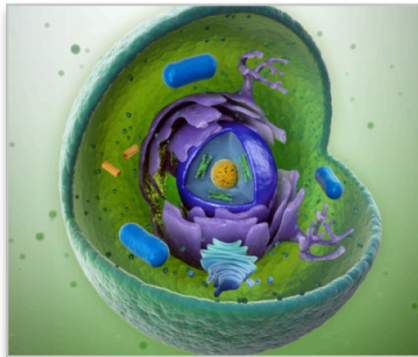


Communication
between components

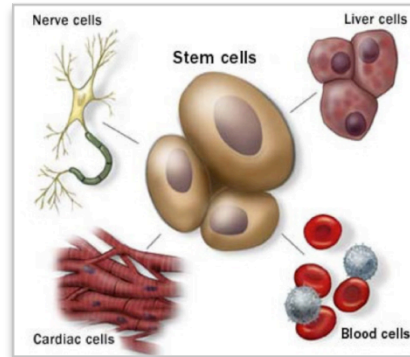


Movement of
components

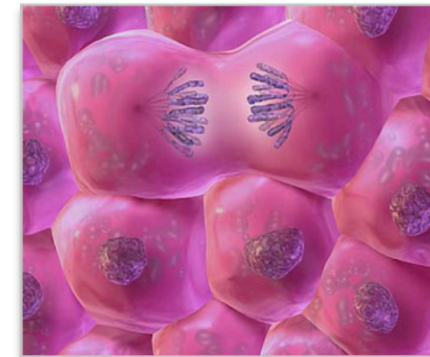
MULTISCALE/ MULTILEVEL/ MULTIDIMENSIONAL MODELLING



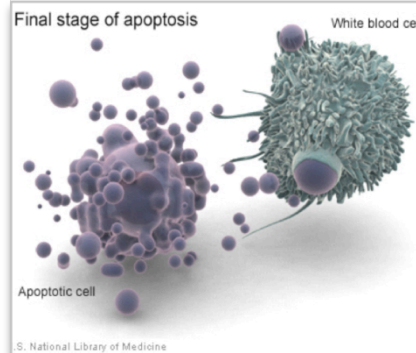
Hierarchical organisation of components



Differentiation of components



Replication of components



Deletion of components

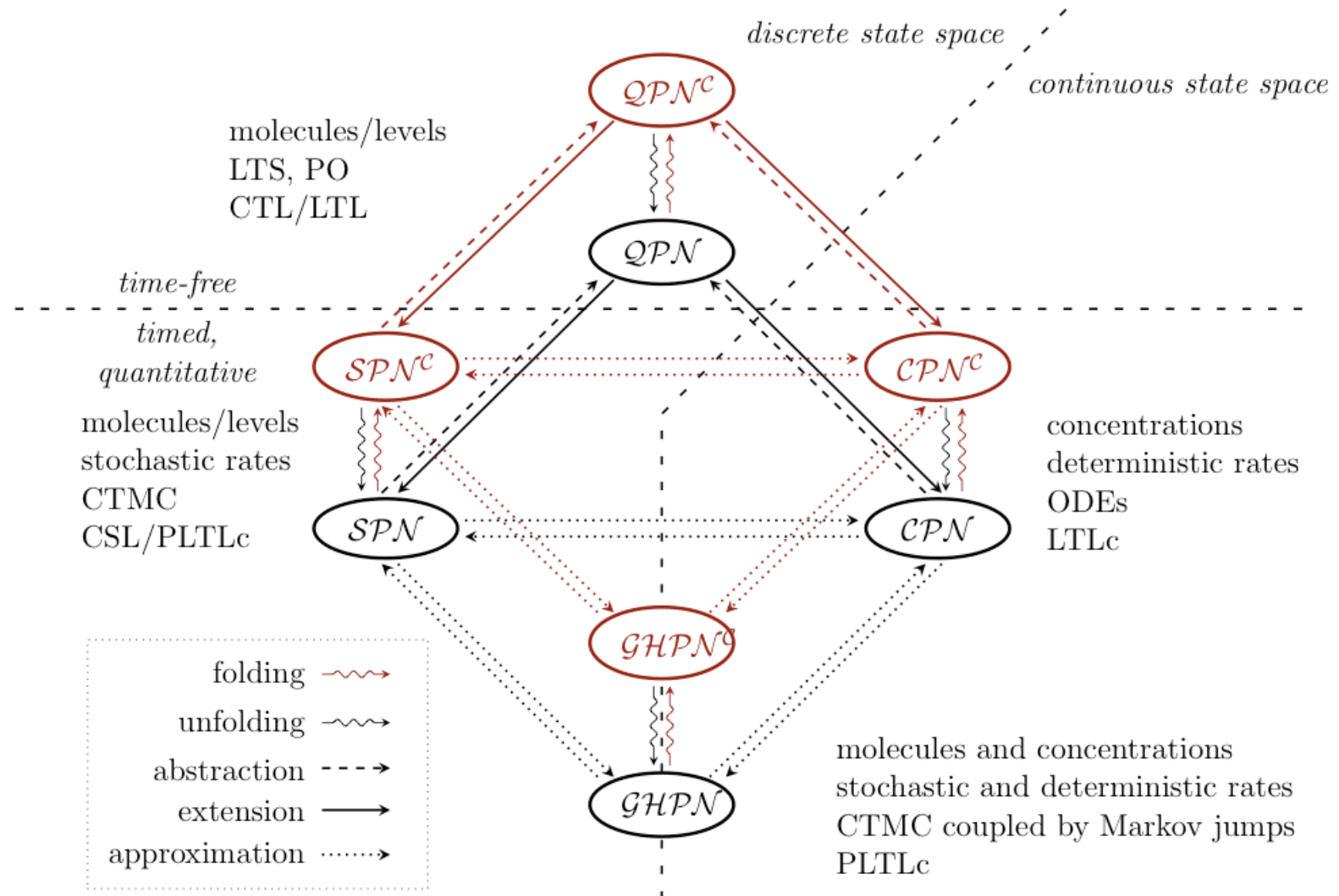


Pattern formation of components

Components, e.g., genes, molecules, cellular compartment, cells, multicellular complex, tissues, organs, organisms, populations



EXTENDED PETRI NET FRAMEWORK



EXTENDED PETRI NET FRAMEWORK

Eight Models Sharing the **SAME** Structure

(Coloured) Quantitative Model = (Coloured) Qualitative Model + Quantitative Parameters (Kinetics)

Coloured Models

Folding
 \longleftrightarrow
 Unfolding

Low-Level Models



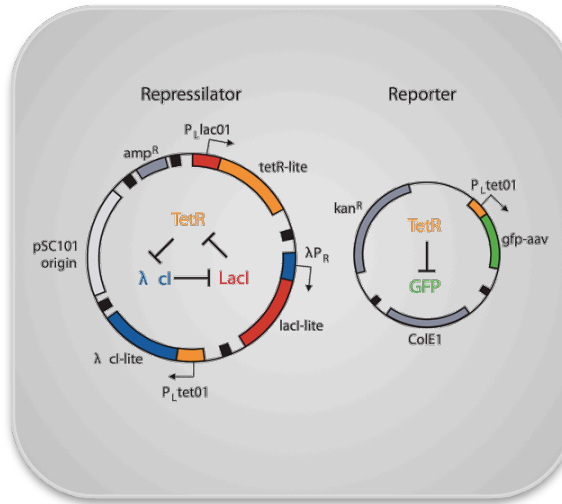
ADVANTAGES OF PETRI NETS



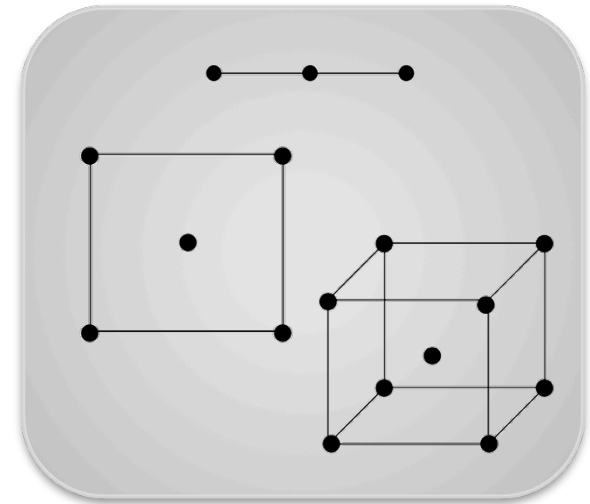
COLOURED EXAMPLES IN THIS TUTORIAL...



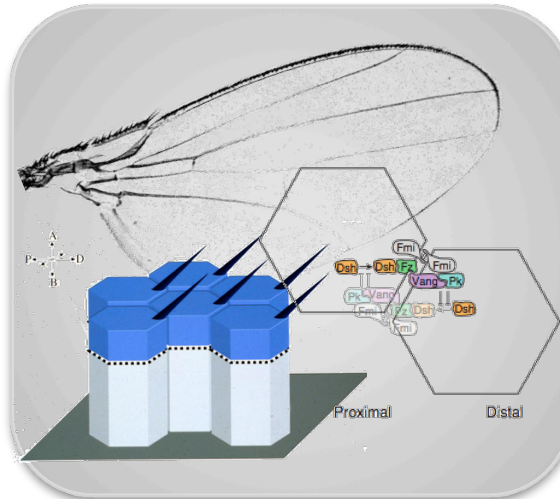
Lotka-Volterra



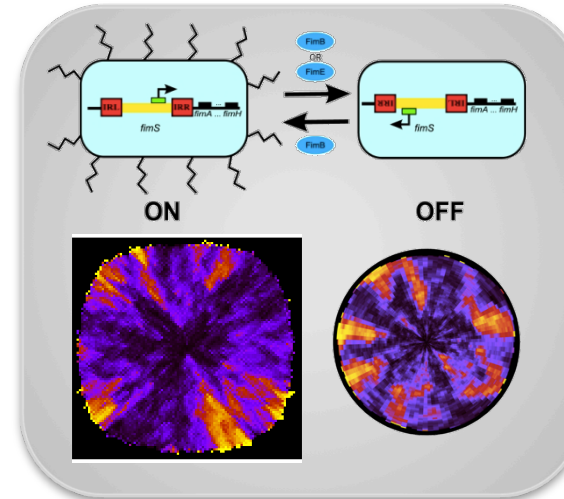
Repressilator



1D, 2D, 3D

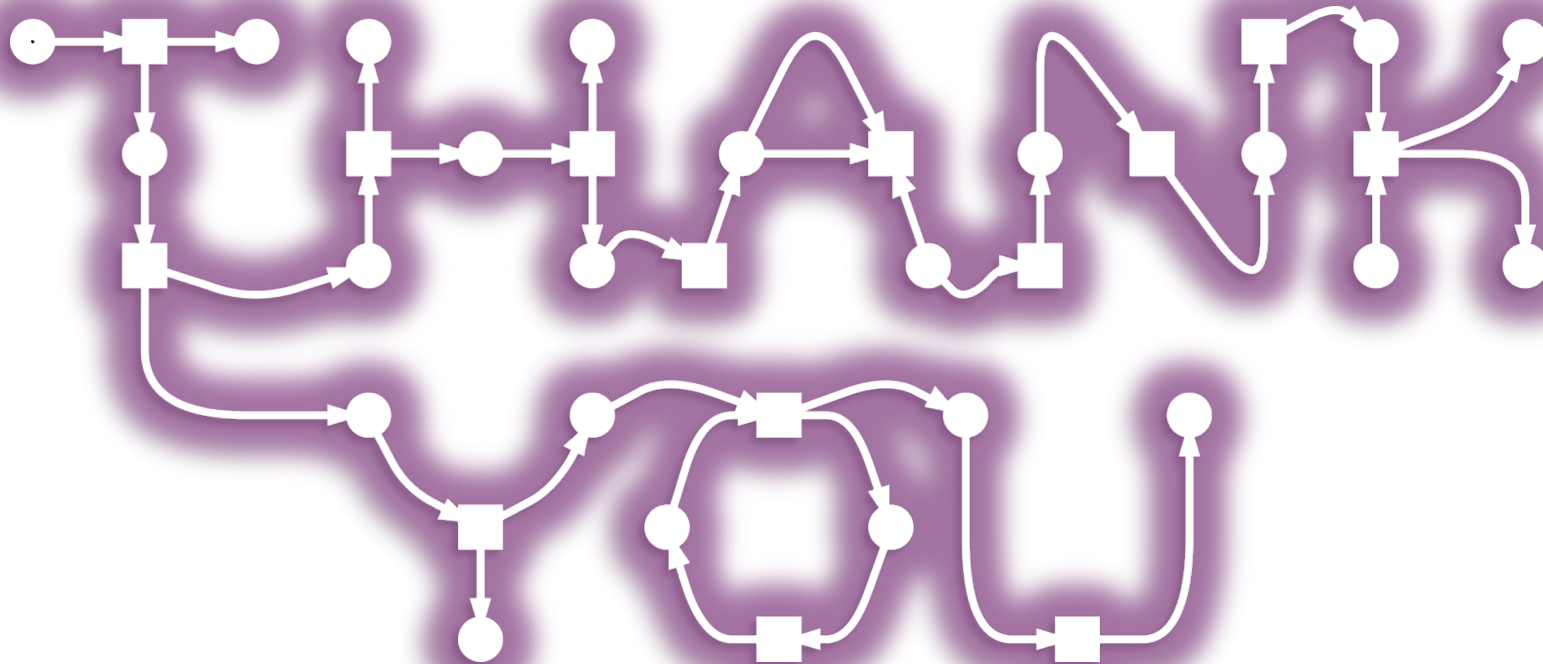


Drosophila Fly Wing



Phase Variation in Bacterial Colony

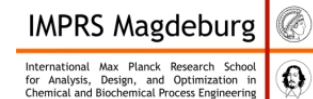




- **Cooperation Partners**
 - Monika Heiner and Co-Workers, BTU Cottbus
 - David Gilbert, Brunel University London
 - Fred Scharper and Co-Workers, OvGU Magdeburg
 - Tim Hucho, University of Cologne
- **Projects**
 - Consortium „Modelling of Pain Switches” 2009-2011
 - Consortium „NoPain” 2013-2015
- **Graduate School**
 - IMPRS Magdeburg



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



Brandenburg
University of Technology
Cottbus

