

Contents

Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	v
Contents	xi
1 Justification, outline and contributions	1
2 State of the Art	7
2.1 Molecular systems biology	7
2.1.1 Systems biology	7
From molecules to systems	8
Components vs. systems	9
Top-down vs Bottom-up	9
Characteristics	11
Applications and challenges	11
2.1.2 Molecular Biology	12
Biology and cells	12
Central dogma and molecular agents	14
Biological and system hierarchy	15
Dual causation: physics and evolution	16
2.1.3 Modelling biology	17
What is a model? Definition and purposes	17
Cells as modelling environment	18
Classification of biological models	18

Modelling questions	19
2.1.4 Experimental data integration	19
2.2 Biological networks	20
2.2.1 Networks	21
Macroscopic networks	21
Microscopic networks	22
2.2.2 Metabolic networks	23
2.2.3 Protein-protein interaction networks	27
2.3 Modelling tools	29
2.3.1 Graph theory	29
Nodes and edges	29
Visual and mathematical representations	31
Network properties	31
Functional modules	32
Community detection based on Markov Stability	34
2.3.2 Constraint-based modelling	37
Kinetics models	38
Main features of constraint-based models	38
The stoichiometric matrix	39
Main principles in constraint-based models	40
Constraint-based approach	41
The biomass reaction	43
Brief history, uses and applications of CBMs	43
2.3.3 Multivariate statistics	45
 3 Potyvirus network analysis	51
3.1 Introduction	52
3.2 Potyvirus- <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> protein-protein interaction network	53
3.2.1 Summary	53
3.2.2 Background	54
3.2.3 Methodology	57
Data collecting	57
Data integration: interactions, matrices and networks	59
Network topology	60
Virus-host interactome	61

3.2.4 Results and discussion	62
VVPI network analysis	62
VHPI network analysis	70
3.3 Potyvirus data fusion	79
3.3.1 Summary	79
3.3.2 Background	79
3.3.3 Methodology	82
Amino acid substitution matrix	82
Partial Least Squares regression (PLS)	83
Cross-validation and Jackknife confidence intervals	83
3.3.4 Results and discussion	84
Protein-protein interaction network reconstruction	84
Mutation and fitness	84
Mathematical modelling	87
Statistical modelling	88
Functional modules	92
3.4 Conclusions	95
 4 Constraint-based approaches for metabolic analysis of <i>E. coli</i>	99
4.1 Introduction	100
4.2 Summary	101
4.3 Background	101
4.4 Materials	103
4.4.1 <i>E. coli</i> metabolic model	103
<i>E. coli</i> constraint-based models	104
Main features of the core <i>E. coli</i> metabolic model	104
Mathematical formulation of the core <i>E. coli</i> metabolic model	107
Computational form of the core <i>E. coli</i> metabolic model	108
4.4.2 Experimental <i>E. coli</i> data	109
4.5 Methodology	110
4.5.1 Metabolic Flux Analysis	110
Mathematical formulation	110
Dealing with uncertainty: Interval MFA	111
4.5.2 Flux Balance Analysis	113
4.5.3 Flux Variability Analysis	115
4.5.4 Comparison of methods	117

4.5.5 Statistical description and analysis	118
4.6 Results and discussion	121
4.6.1 Data vs. model agreement	121
4.6.2 Growth rate estimation	122
4.6.3 Flux distributions	125
4.6.4 Pathway flow profiles	129
4.6.5 Statistical description and comparison	132
4.6.6 Variability analysis	134
Original variables variability: Principal Component Analysis	134
Outcome variables variability: Partial Least Squares regression	137
4.7 Conclusions	138
 5 Metabolic graph analysis of <i>E. coli</i>	141
5.1 Introduction	142
5.2 Summary	143
5.3 Background	143
5.4 Methodology	146
5.5 Results and discussion	147
5.5.1 Graphs of metabolic networks: constructing graphs that incorporate directionality and context	147
Directed Probabilistic Flux Reaction Graphs of metabolism in the absence of context	151
Flux-Balance Graphs	154
5.5.2 Graph analysis of the core <i>E. coli</i> metabolic model	156
Probabilistic flux reaction graph of the <i>E. coli</i> core metabolic model	159
Flux-Balance Graphs of the <i>E. coli</i> core metabolic model	160
5.5.3 Structure of FBGs at multiple resolutions	165
5.6 Conclusions	169
 6 Conclusions	171
 7 Annexes	175
7.1 Annex I: Mutations performed on TEV, distances registered, and fitness measured	176
7.2 Annex II: collected <i>E. coli</i> experimental data	178

7.3 Annex III: <i>MFA</i> , <i>MFAg</i> and <i>FVA</i> interval estimates for the experimental scenarios.	181
7.4 Annex IV: Toy model example matrices.	203
7.5 Annex V: Additional comparison between graphs A and D_p	205
7.6 Annex VI: communities from Markov Stability	208
7.6.1 Graph A	211
7.6.2 Graph D_p	212
7.6.3 Graph M_{glc}	213
7.6.4 Graph M_{eth}	214
7.6.5 Graph M_{anaero}	215
7.6.6 Graph M_{lim}	216
Bibliography	217