



# Metabolic {kinetic} model development with COPASI

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<http://www.comp-sys-bio.org>  
<https://copasi.org>

# Scope

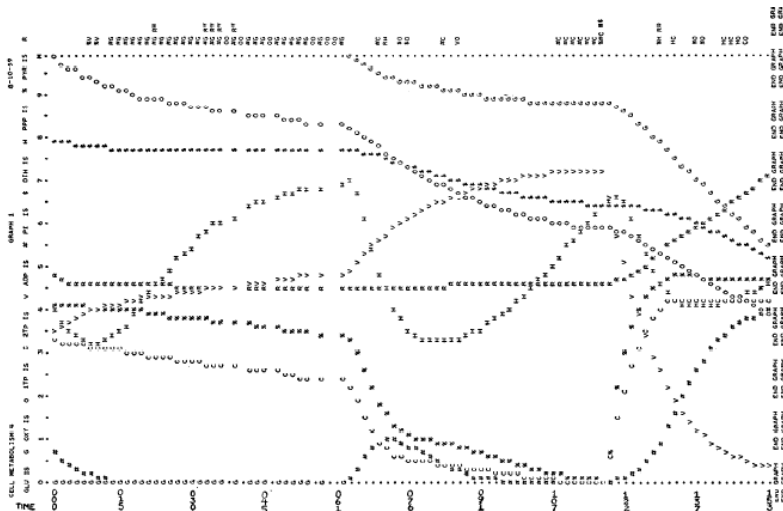
- A little bit of history...
- Overview of COPASI and its user ecosystem
- Simulation methods
- Analysis methods
- Reproducibility

## Metabolic Control Mechanisms

### V. A SOLUTION FOR THE EQUATIONS REPRESENTING INTERACTION BETWEEN GLYCOLYSIS AND RESPIRATION IN ASCITES TUMOR CELLS\*†

BRITTON CHANCE, DAVID GARFINKEL,‡ JOSEPH HIGGINS,§ AND BENNO HESS¶

- 500 hours of UNIVAC I time
- Euler method for integration, 12-digit numbers
- Many failures of model against experiment but an exemplary application of model-based reasoning



# BIOSSIM – A generic “biosimulator”

COMPUTERS AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH **2**, 31–44 (1968)

## **A Machine-Independent Language for the Simulation of Complex Chemical and Biochemical Systems\***

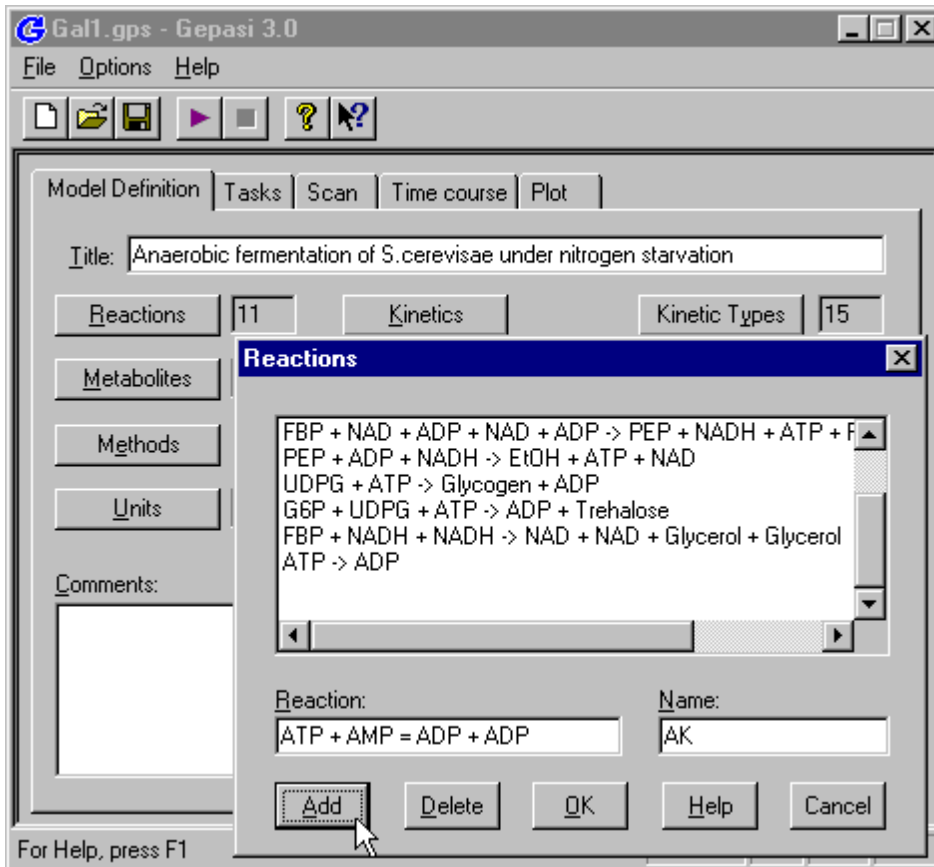
DAVID GARFINKEL

*Johnson Research Foundation, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104*

Received April 6, 1968

- Model specification and simulation without need for programming
- Models can be easily manipulated without having to understand specific code
- This is a precursor towards reproducibility, where a model becomes independent from the source code that runs a simulation

# Gepasi



Mendes, P. (1993) *Comput. Applic. Biosci.* **9**, 563-571.

Mendes, P. (1997) *Trends Biochem. Sci.* **22**, 361-363.

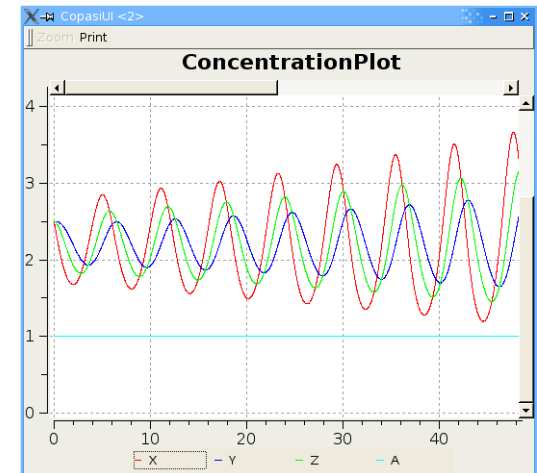
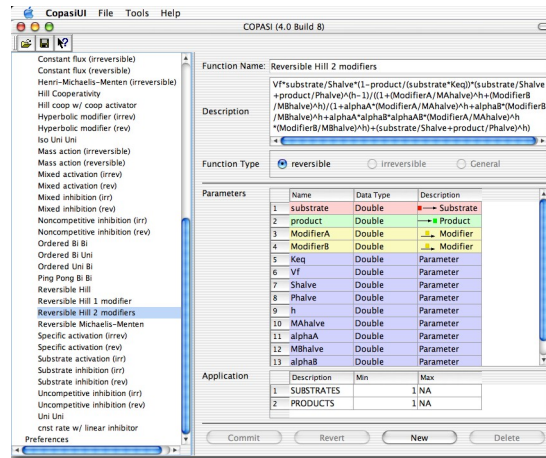
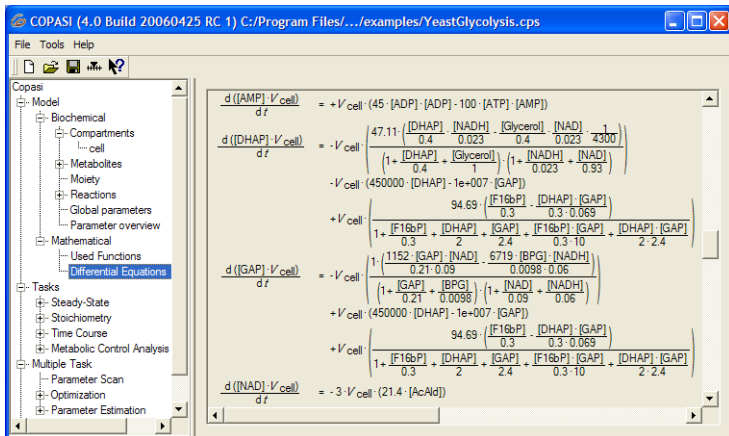
Mendes, P. & Kell, D. B. (1998) *Bioinformatics* **14**, 869-883

<http://www.gepasi.org/>



# COPASI

- ODE, SDE, or SSA
- Discrete events
- Steady states
- Stability analysis
- Parameter scans
- Sensitivity analysis
- Metabolic Control Analysis
- Time scale separation analysis
- Optimisation,
- Parameter estimation
- Cross-sections
- Lyapunov exponents
- Network diagrams
- 2D and surface plots
- GUI and command line versions
- Reads/writes SBML

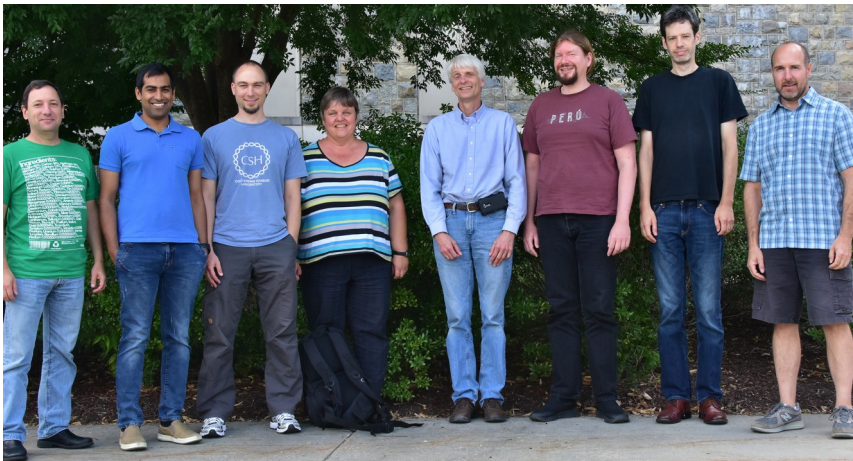


<http://www.copasi.org>

@COPASI\_software

# COPASI development

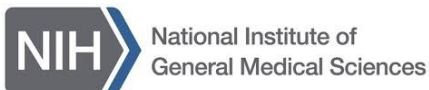
- Collaboration with Ursula Kummer since 1999
- New GUI, combined Gepasi back-end w/ Kummer's STODE for stochastic simulation
- First public release of COPASI in 2006



Mendes group  
Connecticut, USA  
**UConn**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Kummer, Sahle,  
& Pahle groups  
Heidelberg, Germany

Hoops group  
Virginia, USA



R24 GM137787 Mechanistic Modeling of Cellular Systems

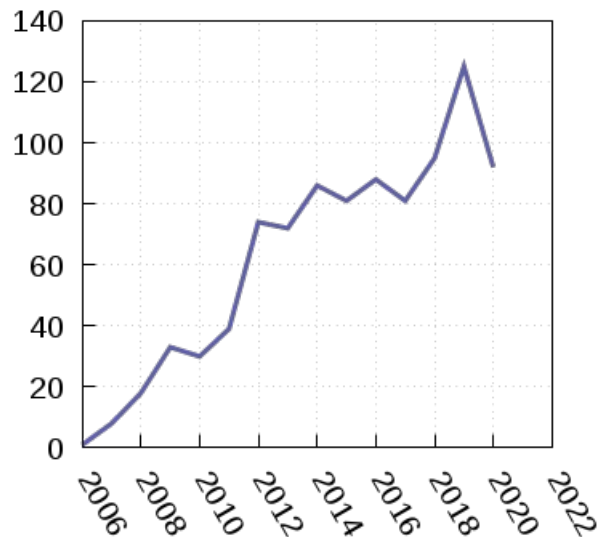




# COPASI

- Has now a well-established worldwide user-base
- > 1000 publications that use COPASI
- Around 100 papers published yearly that use COPASI
- Over 10,000 downloads per year

publications per year



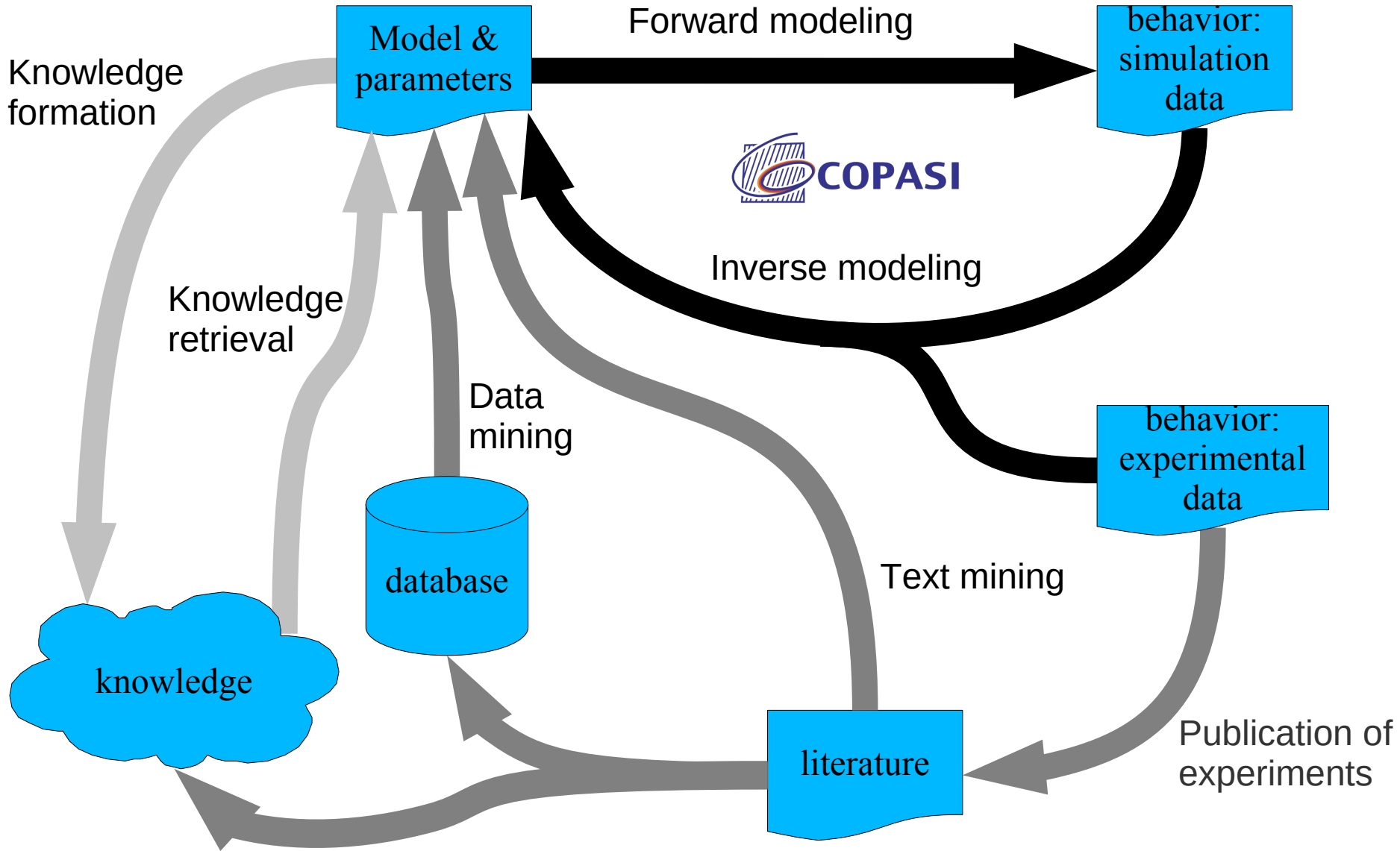
<http://copasi.org/Research>



# Citation analysis

• 854 journal articles	• PLOS One	44	• Chemistry	204
• 91 theses	• J. Am. Chem. Soc.	38	• Signaling	168
• 33 conf. procs.	• BMC Sys. Bio.	30	• <b>Metabolism</b>	<b>140</b>
• 16 book chapters	• PLOS Comp. Bio.	28	• Biochemistry	64
• 16 preprints	• Scientific Reports	21	• <b>Microbiology</b>	<b>63</b>
	• J. Biol. Chem.	15	• Enzymology	59
	• PNAS	15	• Macromol. Biochem.	57
	• FEBS J.	12	• Cell Biology	56
	• ACS Catalysis	12	• Physiology	53
	• Organometallics	11	• Immunology	51
	• Bioinformatics	11	• Synthetic Biology	38
			• <b>Biotechnology</b>	<b>29</b>
			• Pharmacology	24
			• Genetics	24
	• Comput. Method	148	• Biophysics	17
	• Software	38	• Genomics	16
	• Lab. Method	23	• Toxicology	13
	• Theory	18	• Epidemiology	6
	• Education	6	• <b>Whole-Cell Models</b>	<b>5</b>
			• Parasitology	5

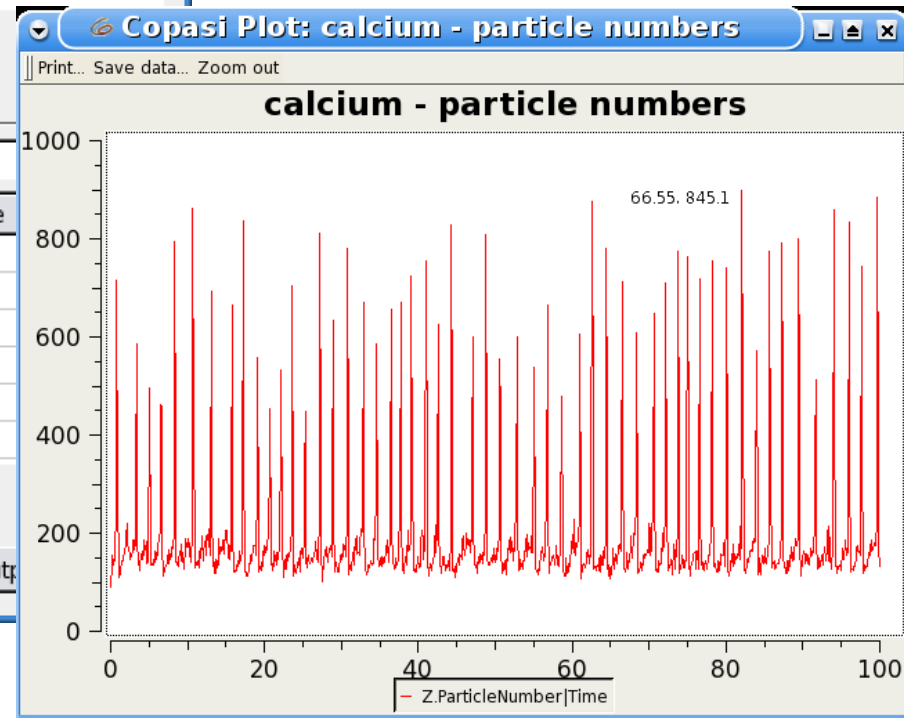
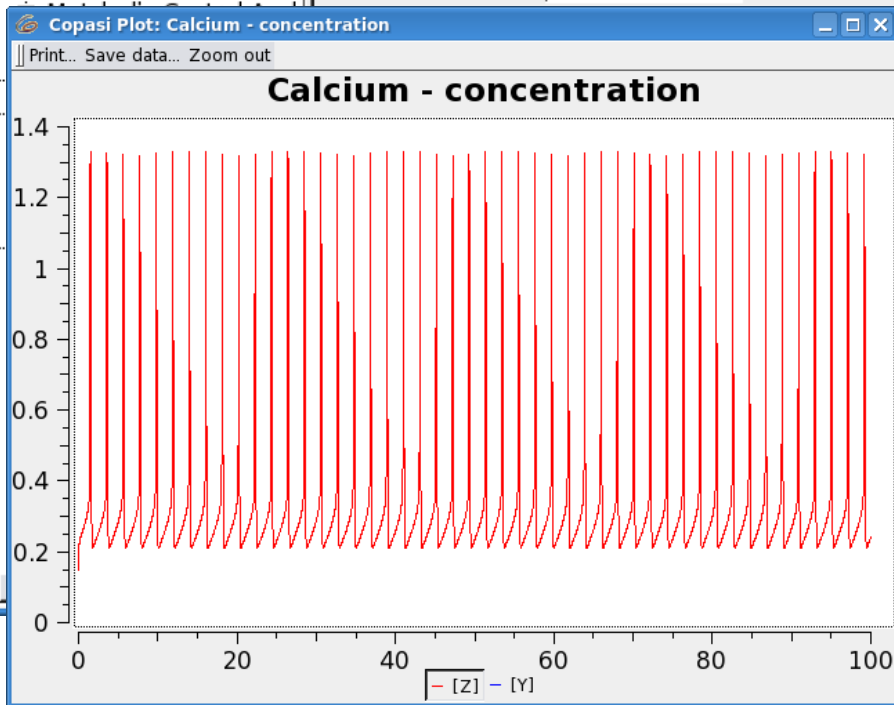
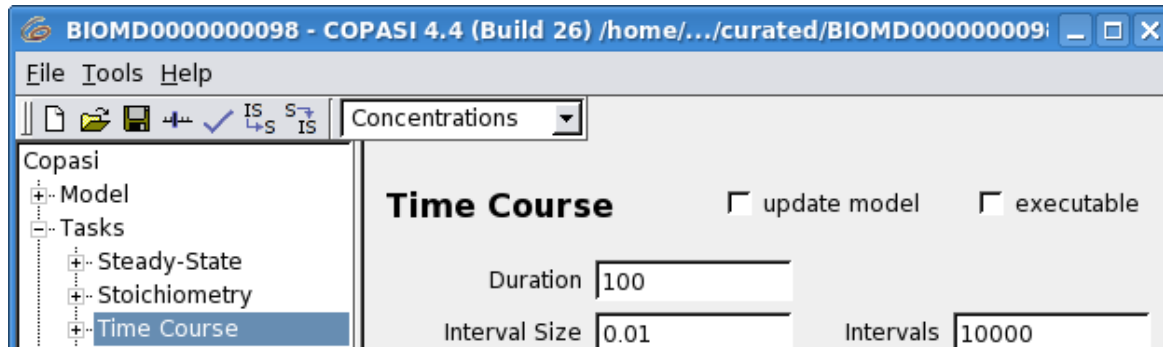
# Modeling cycle



# Simulation methods available in COPASI

- ODE-based
  - Stochastic differential equations (SDE)
  - Steady-state analysis
  - Linear noise approximation
  - Gillespie exact methods
  - Gillespie approximate methods
  - Hybrid ODE-Gillespie methods
- 
- Arbitrary number of compartments
  - Compartment sizes can be dynamic (variables)
  - Discrete events possible in most simulations

# Deterministic and stochastic time course simulations



# Steady state solutions

## Steady State Result



A steady state with given resolution was found.

Species	Compartments	Model Quantities	Reactions	Stability	Jacobian (Complete)	Jacobi
	Name	Type	Concentration [mmol/l]	Rate [mmol/(l*s)]	Transition Time [s]	
1	ACCOA	reactions	0.154743	-1.67319e-15	0.386001	
2	ACO	reactions	0.0321499	8.18909e-15	0.142034	
3	ACP	reactions	0.0143909	2.35334e-15	0.785229	
4	AKG	reactions	0.597871	-5.56708e-15	4.65494	
5	BPG	reactions	0.0654104	7.27768e-13	0.168473	
6	CIT	reactions	0.0895308	-7.4001e-15	0.395534	
7	DAP	reactions	0.437094	-6.97569e-14	2.3739	
8	E4P	reactions	0.1313	7.48172e-17	11.6509	
9	F6P	reactions	0.261766	-5.27483e-15	1.41235	
10	FDP	reactions	0.281808	2.12146e-14	1.52957	
11	FUM	reactions	0.213115	1.46914e-15	1.01694	
12	G6P	reactions	0.861128	7.32784e-15	3.74403	
13	GAP	reactions	0.117183	3.61337e-14	0.291839	
14	GL6P	reactions	0.00326164	2.87716e-15	0.0557485	
15	GLX	reactions	0.00881041	1.21068e-15	0.0899794	
16	ICIT	reactions	0.105783	-1.68679e-15	0.467333	
17	KDPG	reactions	0.0868177	1.32631e-16	5.30709	
18	MAL	reactions	1.03215	5.0182e-14	0.366193	
19	NAD	reactions	1.41154	1.18164e-13	1.47068	
20	NADH	reactions	0.158456	-1.18164e-13	0.165096	
21	NADP	reactions	0.167837	-1.33311e-14	0.5997	

## Steady State Result



A steady state with given resolution was found.

Species	Compartments	Model Quantities	Reactions	Stability	Jacobian (Complete)	Jacobi
	Name	Flux (extensive) [mmol/s]	Flux (intensive) [mmol/(l*s)]	Reaction		
1	PGI	0.168301	0.168301	G6P = F6P; PEP PGN		
2	PFK	0.18424	0.18424	ATP + F6P = ADP + FDP; PEP MgADP MgATP		
3	FBA	0.184125	0.184125	FDP = DAP + GAP; PEP		
4	TPI	0.184125	0.184125	DAP = GAP		
5	GDH	0.388254	0.388254	GAP + NAD + P = BPG + NADH		
6	PGK	0.388254	0.388254	ADP + BPG = ATP + PGA3; MgADP MgATP		
7	GPM	0.364998	0.364998	PGA3 = PGA2		
8	ENO	0.364998	0.364998	PGA2 = PEP		
9	PYK	0.158113	0.158113	ADP + PEP -> ATP + PYR; FDP G6P GL6P ...		
10	ZWF	0.0585065	0.0585065	G6P + NADP = GL6P + NADPH		
11	PGL	0.0585064	0.0585064	GL6P = PGN; G6P		
12	GND	0.0421477	0.0421477	NADP + PGN = NADPH + RU5P + HCO3; AT...		
13	RPE	0.0169246	0.0169246	RU5P = X5P		
14	RPI	0.025223	0.025223	RU5P = R5P; E4P		
15	X5P_GAP_TKT	0.0169246	0.0169246	tkc + X5P = GAP + tktC2		
16	F6P_E4P_TKT	0.00565509	0.00565509	E4P + tktC2 = F6P + tkt		
17	S7P_R5P_TKT	0.0112695	0.0112695	R5P + tktC2 = S7P + tkt		
18	F6P_GAP_TAL	0.0112695	0.0112695	GAP + talC3 = F6P + tal		
19	S7P_E4P_TAL	0.0112695	0.0112695	S7P + tal = E4P + talC3		
20	FBP	0.000115429	0.000115429	FDP -> F6P + P; AMP MG MgFDP		
21	PPC	0.079423	0.079423	PEP + HCO3 = OAA + P; ACCOA CIT FDP FLU		

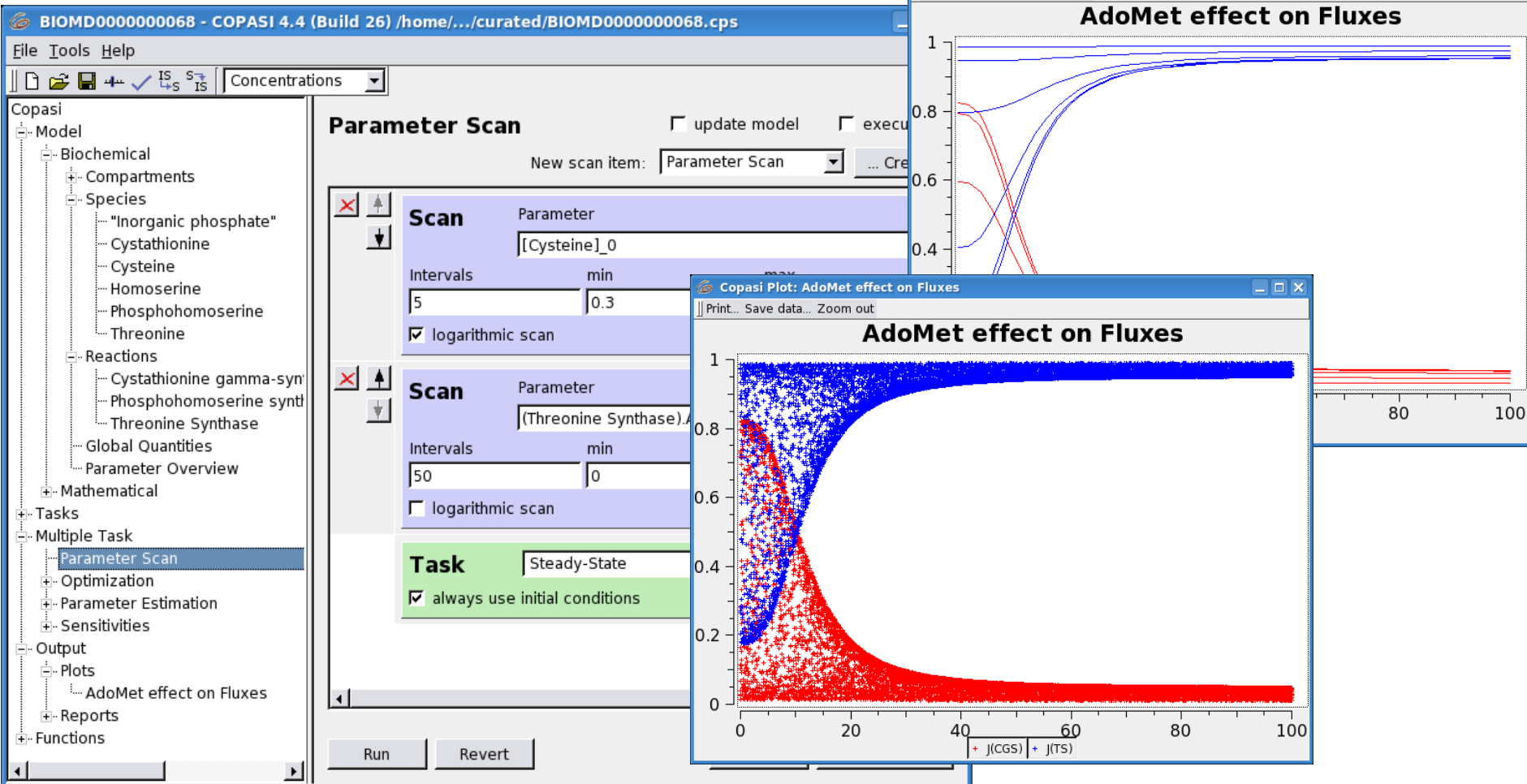
# The central modeling question

- Given a model of a system:  
**how do the parameters affect the state of the system?**
- Answers explain:
  - which parameters have highest effect on desired outcomes (eg drug design)
  - what properties of the model are more fragile or robust
  - which parameters need accurate estimates (experimental design)

# Analyses of dynamic simulations

- ***Stability analysis***: evaluate if steady state is stable
- ***Sensitivity analysis***: measures how much a parameter affects a variable (linearization)
- ***Parameter scanning***: perform several simulations at different values of one (or more) parameter(s)
- ***Optimization***: find parameter values for optimal states of the system (optimal means the maximum or minimum of some function of interest)
- ***Time scale analyses***: identify the distribution of time scales in the system
- ***Periodicity analysis***: identify periods/frequencies of oscillations

# Parameter scanning & sampling





# Sensitivity analysis & MCA

BIOMD0000000023 - COPASI 4.4 (Build 26) /Users/.../Documents/BIOMD0000000023.cps

Concentrations

Steady State found. All coefficients available. scaled

Elasticities Flux Control Coefficients Concentration Control Coefficients

Rows: Reactions (reduced system)  
Columns: Species (reduced system)

	HexP	Fru	Suc	Glc	Suc6P
(v1)	0	-0.609497	0	0	0
(v2)	0	0	0	-0.536628	0
(v3)	-0.00773174	-0.00925229	0	0.0192642	0
(v4)	-0.00773181	0.990748	0	-0.980736	0
(v5)	0	-0.769302	0	0	0
(v6)	1.26013	0	0	0	-0.00447428
(v7)	0	0	0	0	0.954415
(v8)	0.610067	0.406732	-0.434553	0	0
(v9)	0	-0.569948	0.78062	-0.667482	0
(v10)	0.53809	0	0	0	0
(v11)	0	0	0.905688	0	0

# COPASI – Optimisation

YeastGlycolysis - COPASI 4.8 (Build 35) /home/.../ICSB07/YeastGlycolysis.cps

File Tools Help

Concentrations

**COPASI**

- Model
  - Biochemical
    - Compartments (1)
    - Species (25)
    - Reactions (19)
    - Global Quantities (0)
    - Events (0)
    - Parameter Overview
  - Mathematical Diagrams
  - Tasks
    - Steady-State
    - Stoichiometric Analysis
    - Time Course
    - Metabolic Control Analysis
    - Lyapunov Exponents
    - Time Scale Separation Analysis
    - Parameter Scan
    - Optimization**
    - Parameter Estimation
      - Result
    - Sensitivities
    - Output Specifications
    - Functions (90)

**Optimization**  update model  executable

Expression: "(ADH).Flux"

minimize  maximize

Subtask: Steady-State

Randomize Start Values  Calculate Statistics

Parameters (3) Constraints (0)

1	$1 \leq (\text{Glycogen Branch}).\text{KGLYCOGEN} \leq 8$ ; Start Value = 0
2	$1 \leq (\text{Trehalose Branch}).\text{Ktrehalose} \leq 5$ ; Start Value = 0
3	$1 \leq (\text{Succinate Branch}).k \leq 25$ ; Start Value = 0

Object: (Glycogen Branch).KGLYCOGEN

Lower Bound:

Upper Bound:

Start Value:

Method: Genetic Algorithm

Parameter:

Run Report Output Assistant

# Optimization methods

## **Based on derivatives:**

- Levenberg-Marquardt
- Steepest descent
- Truncated Newton

## **Direct search:**

- Hooke & Jeeves
- Nelder & Mead
- Praxis

## **Evolutionary:**

- Genetic algorithm
- GA w/ stochastic ranking
- Evolutionary programming
- Evolution strategy w/ stochastic ranking

## **Other stochastic:**

- Simulated annealing
- Particle swarm
- Random search

# COPASI – Parameter estimation

BrusselatorFit - COPASI 4.8 (Build 35) /home/.../Barcelona2012Workshop/Brusselat

File Tools Help

Concentrations

COPASI

- Model
  - Biochemical
    - Compartments (1)
    - Species (6)
    - Reactions (4)
      - Global Quantities (0)
      - Events (0)
      - Parameter Overview
  - Mathematical Diagrams
  - Tasks
    - Steady-State
    - Stoichiometric Analysis
    - Time Course
    - Metabolic Control Analysis
    - Lyapunov Exponents
    - Time Scale Separation Anal...
    - Parameter Scan
    - Optimization
    - Parameter Estimation**
    - Result
    - Sensitivities
  - Output Specifications
  - Functions (38)

### Parameter Estimation

update model  executable

Experimental Data

Randomize Start Values  Calculate Statistics

Parameters (4) Constraints (0)

1	$0.001 \leq (R1).k1 \leq 1000$ ; Start Value = 387.439
2	$0.001 \leq (R2).k1 \leq 1000$ ; Start Value = 189.856
3	$0.001 \leq (R3).k1 \leq 1000$ ; Start Value = 133.852
4	$0.001 \leq (R4).k1 \leq 1000$ ; Start Value = 1.16966

Object: (R1).k1

Lower Bound:  -Infinity 0.001

Upper Bound:  +Infinity 1000

Start Value: 387.439

Affected Experiments:  all

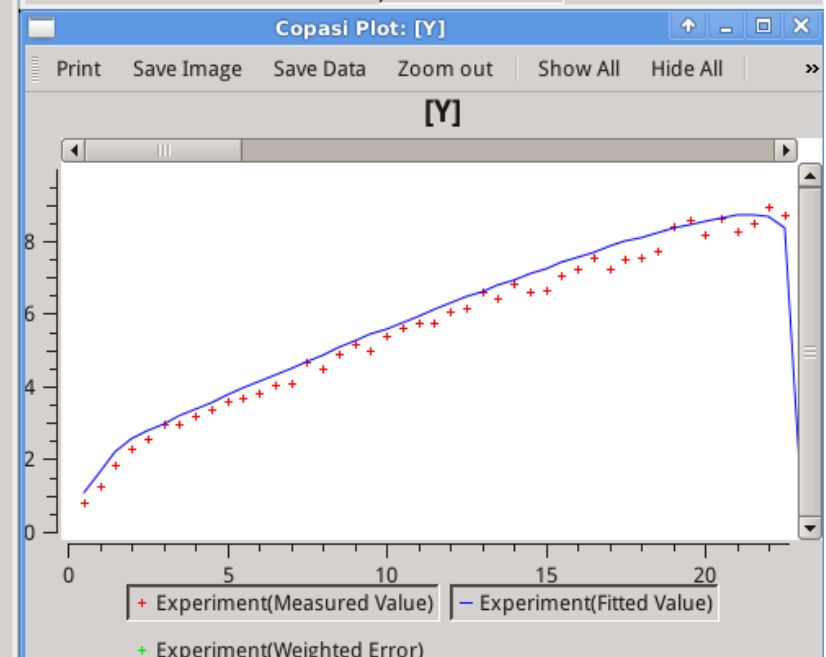
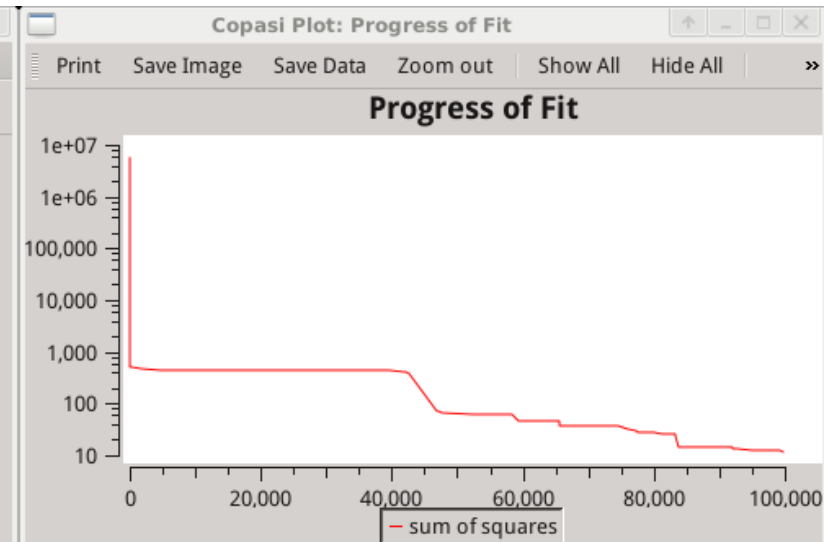
Duplicate for each Experiment

Method: Particle Swarm

Parameter:

Iteration Limit	2000
Swarm Size	50
Std. Deviation	1e-06

Run Revert Report Output Assistant



# Programming with COPASI

- Command line simulation engine (CopasiSE)
- Low-level API native C++ w/ bindings for Python, Java, R, etc...
  - Downloadable from main webpage
  - Used by Virtual Cell, Cell Designer, PyCoTools, SBpipe, etc.
- **CoRC** – accessing COPASI through R
  - <https://jpahle.github.io/CoRC/>
- **BasiCO** – accessing COPASI through python
  - <https://github.com/copasi/basico>

# Reproducibility in modeling metabolism

- **SBML** – allows models to be described in a program-independent way. Models written with older software can still be easily run with modern software.
- **MIRIAM** – describes level of annotation that would allow a model and its parts to be easily interpretable
- **SED-ML** – allows describing model simulations and associated output, independently of software
- **OMEX** – file format that can include SBML, SED-ML, data sources, metadata, etc. in a single container
- **Biosimulators.org** and **Biosimulations.org** make use of these technologies to allow a standard interface to simulate the same models across a range of software

# COPASI publications

- Hoops S, Sahle S, Gauges R, Lee C, Pahle J, Simus N, Singhal M, Xu L, Mendes P & Kummer U (2006) COPASI: a COMplex PATHway Simulator. *Bioinformatics* 22: 3067-74.
- Bergmann FT, Hoops S, Klahn B, Kummer U, Mendes P, Pahle J, Sahle S (2017) COPASI and its applications in biotechnology. *J. Biotechnology* 261:215–220
- Mendes P, Hoops S, Sahle S, Gauges R, Dada JO & Kummer U (2009) Computational Modeling of Biochemical Networks Using COPASI. *Methods Mol. Biology*, Humana Press. 500: 17-59.
- Challenger JD, McKane AJ & Pahle J (2012). Multi-compartment linear noise approximation. *J. Stat. Mech.* P11010.
- Pahle J, Challenger JD, Mendes P & McKane AJ (2012) Biochemical fluctuations, optimisation and the linear noise approximation. *BMC Systems Biology* 6: 86
- Surovtsova I, Simus N, Lorenz T, König A, Sahle S & Kummer U (2009) Accessible methods for the dynamic time-scale decomposition of biochemical systems. *Bioinformatics* 25: 2816-23.
- Dada, J.O. and Mendes, P. (2009). Design and Architecture of Web Services for Simulation of Biochemical Systems. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Springer 5647: 182-195.
- Kent E, Hoops S, Mendes P (2012) Condor-COPASI: High-Throughput Computing for Biochemical Networks. *BMC Systems Biology* 6:91

# Acknowledgments

## **Mendes group (throughout 2000-2022):**

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P. Zarrineh

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E. Kent

### **Ms students:**

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Srivastava, W. Sun, S. Tupe, L. Xu

### **Undergraduates:**

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## **COPASI collaborators:**

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Sahle

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