



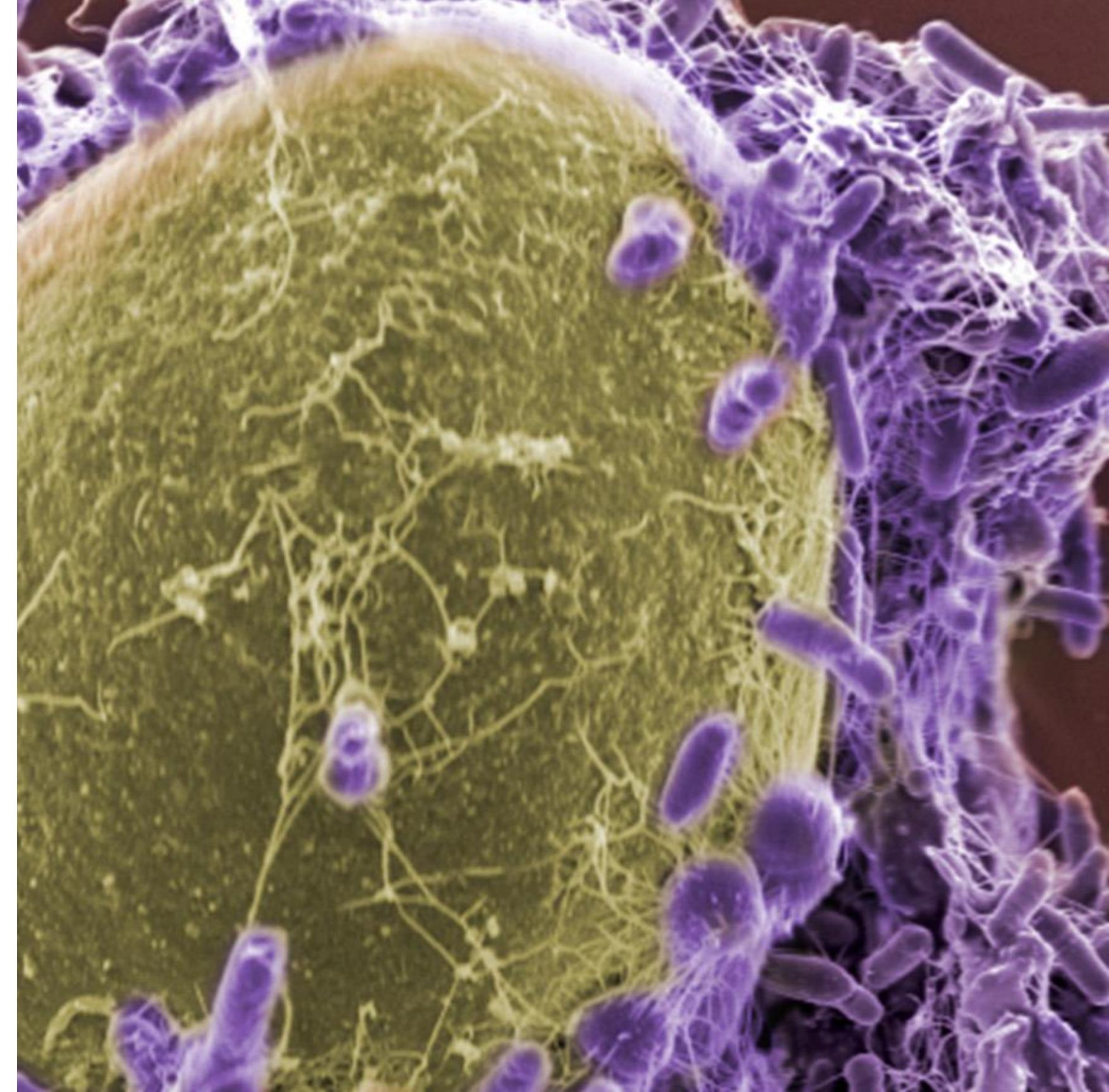
# ChemComp: A Compilation Framework for Computing with Chemical Reaction Networks

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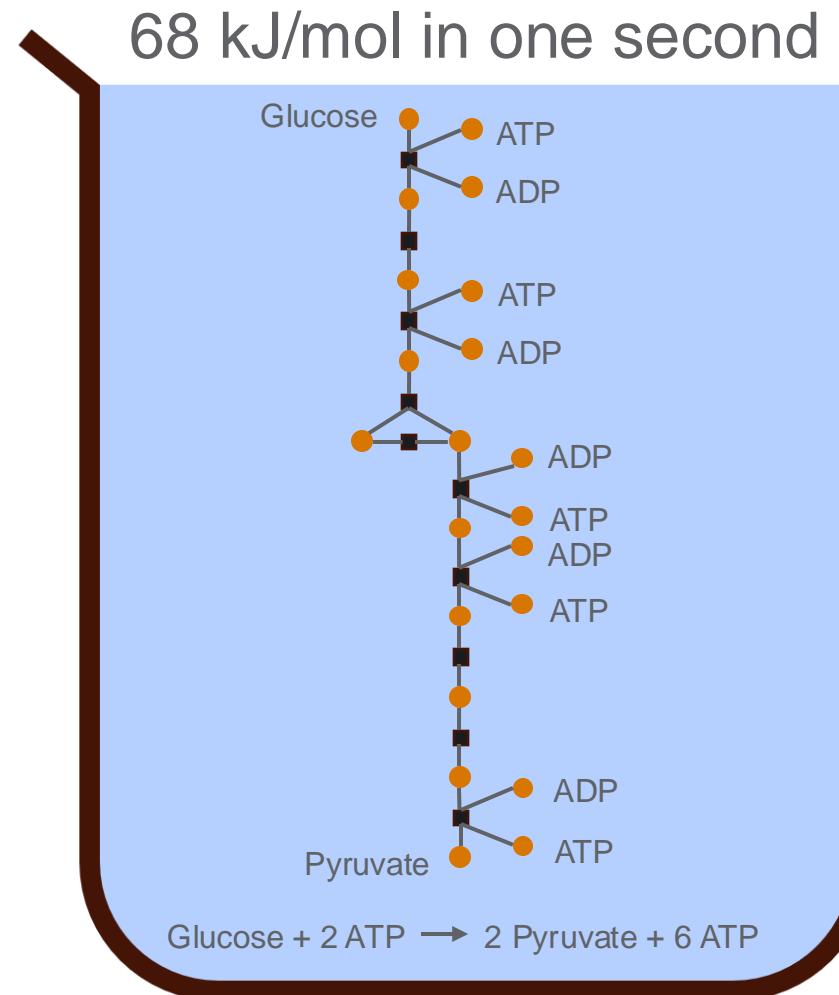
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William Cannon  
Antonino Tumeo



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# Chemistry conveys a “chemical advantage” for computation



Rules are ‘simple’  
compared to biology

**Potential of  
Biochemical Pathway**  
OPS:  $\sim 10^{23}$   
Energy/s:  $\sim 68$  kW

**Frontier (ORNL, 2021)**  
FLOPS:  $\sim 10^{18}$   
Energy/s:  $\sim 29,000$  kW

**Potential Gain  
in OPS/W**  
 $\sim 4 \times 10^7 \times$

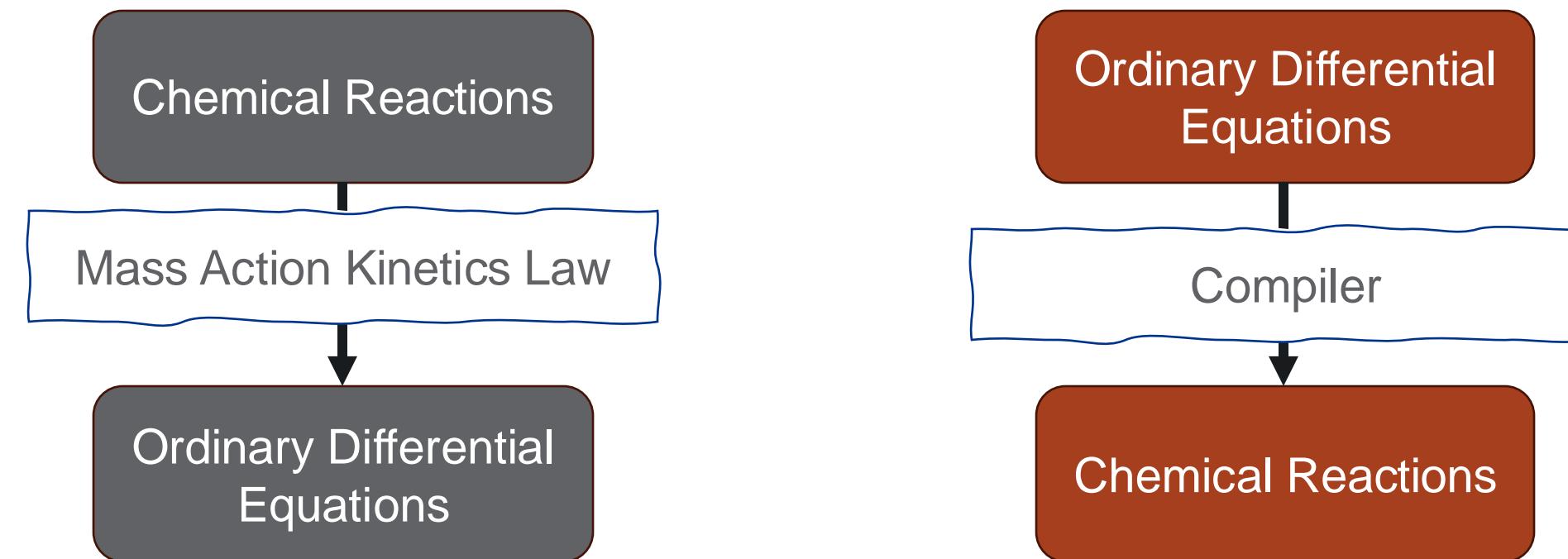
“Chemical advantage” meets the high-performance requirements for scientific workflows:

- Scalable
- Massively concurrent
- Continuous (time) representation
- “Low” energy

Beneficial to applications:

- Continuous systems such as ODEs as natural representation
- Neural networks/NLP as massively concurrent inference

# Chemical reactions can be used for useful computation



D. Soloveichik, et.al. - Turing completeness [Natural Computing 2008]  
M. Matejak, et.al. – Modelic Lib of Chem Processes [Modelica Conf 2015]  
W. Poole, et.al. - BioCRNpyler [PLOS Computational Biology 2022]  
R. Rendal, et.al. - Chemilang [Github 2023]

S. Shah, et.al. - CCompiler [arXiv 2008]  
M. Vasic, et.al. - CRN++ [Natural Computing 2020]

RW does not consider:

- Concrete chemical reactions
- Tracking species over time

# Chemical reaction can be mapped to ODEs

Using the Law of Mass Action kinetics:

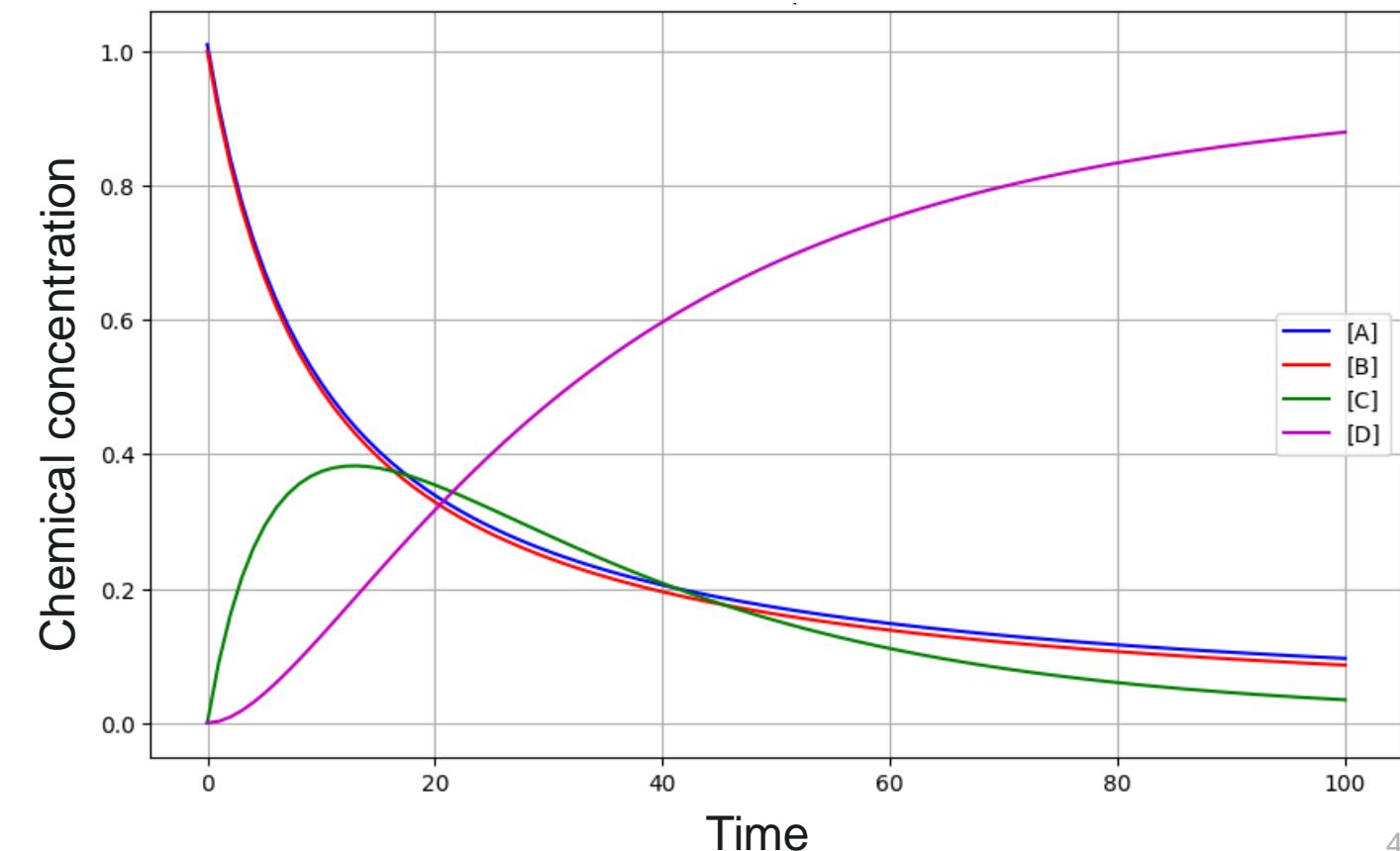
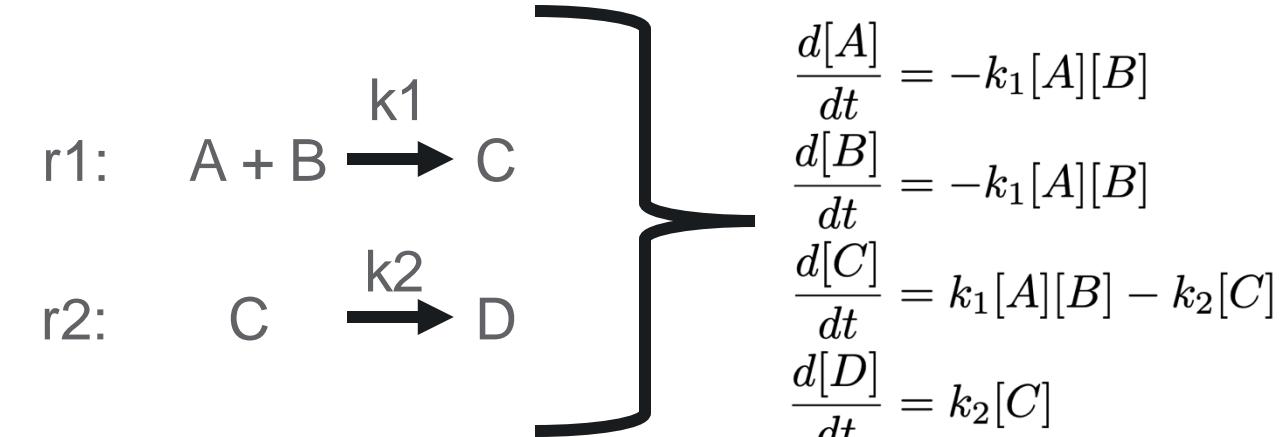
$$\sum_i I_i^r X_i \xrightarrow{p_r(x)} \sum_i O_i^r X_i$$

$$\frac{dX_i}{dt} = \sum_i (O_i^r - I_i^r) p_r(X)$$

$I_i^r$ : Number of input species  $i$  in reaction  $r$

$O_i^r$ : Number of output species  $i$  in reaction  $r$

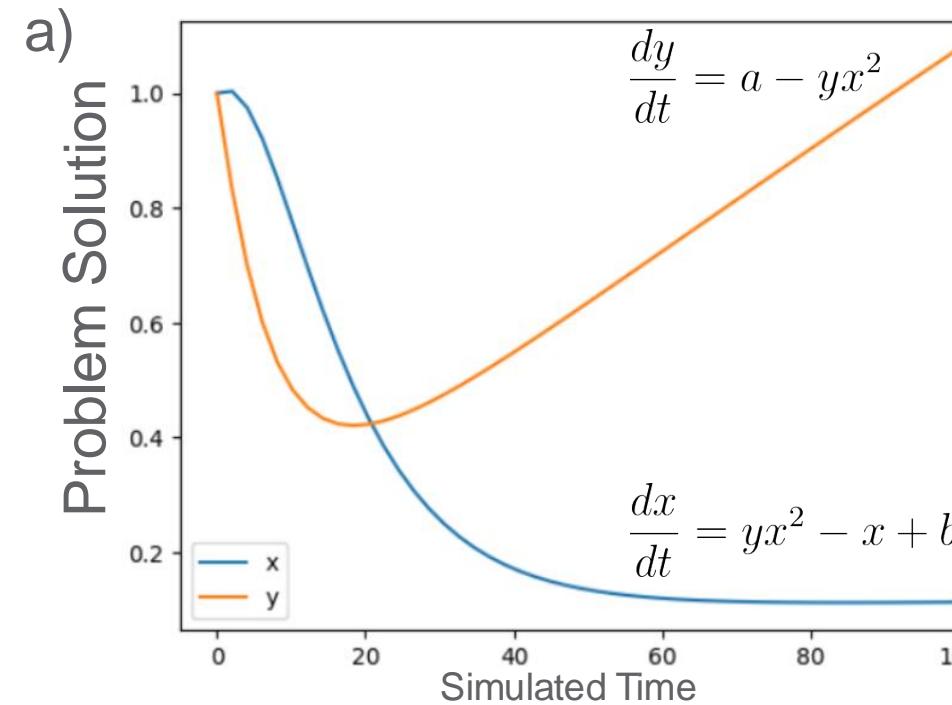
$p_r(x)$ : Propensity or Rate of the reaction  $r$



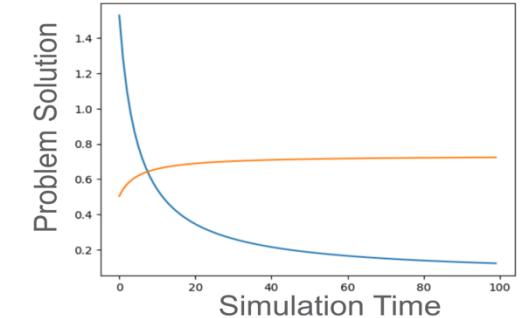
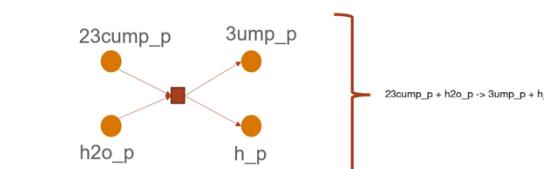


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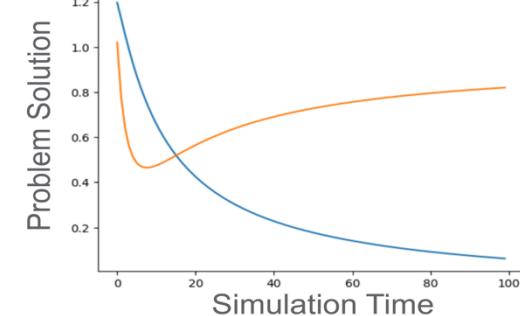
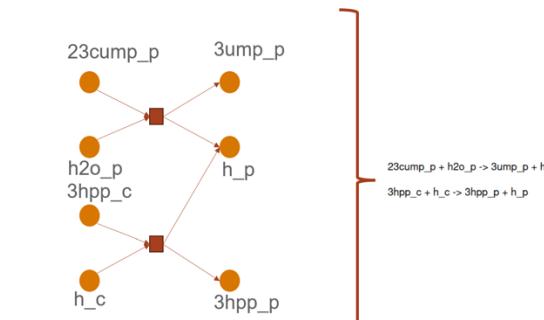
# Fitting mathematical patterns into concrete CRs



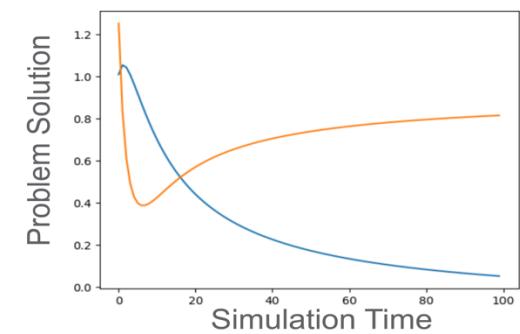
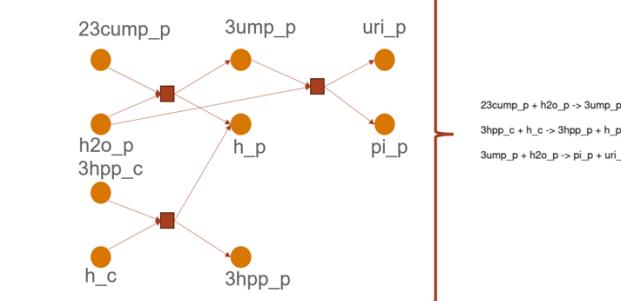
b) One reaction



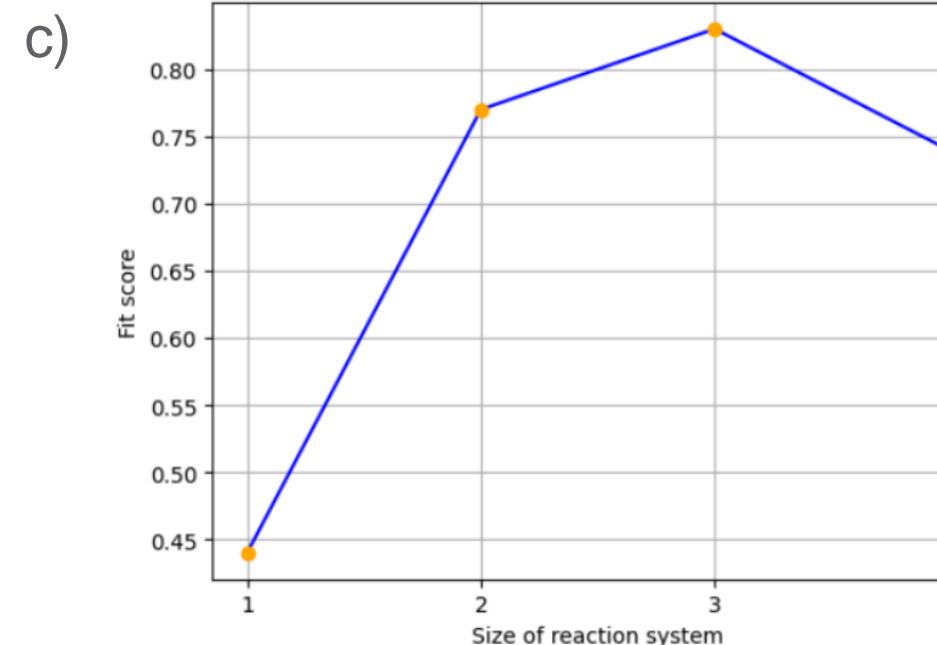
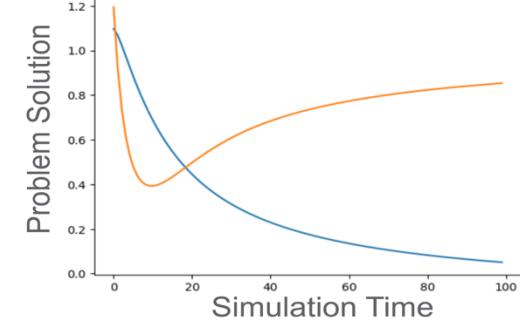
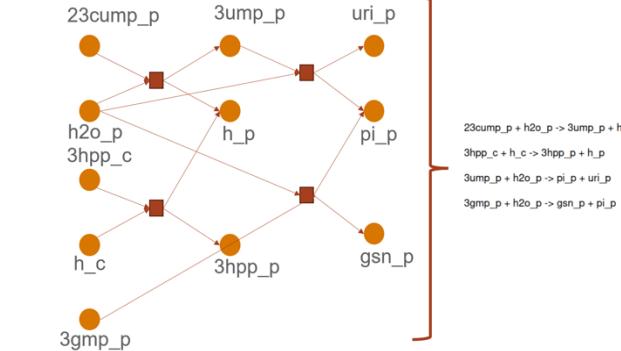
Two reactions



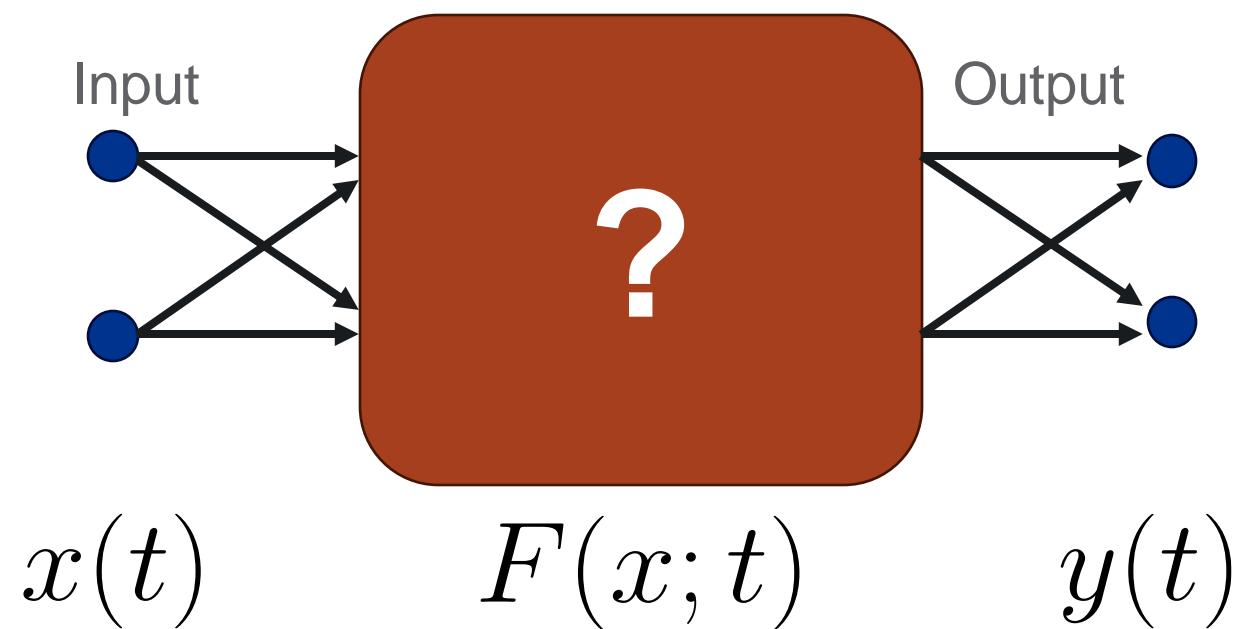
Three reactions



Four reactions



# Reservoir computing can harness real world systems for computation and forecasting



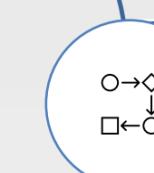
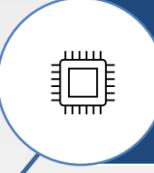
A range of dynamical systems have been considered:

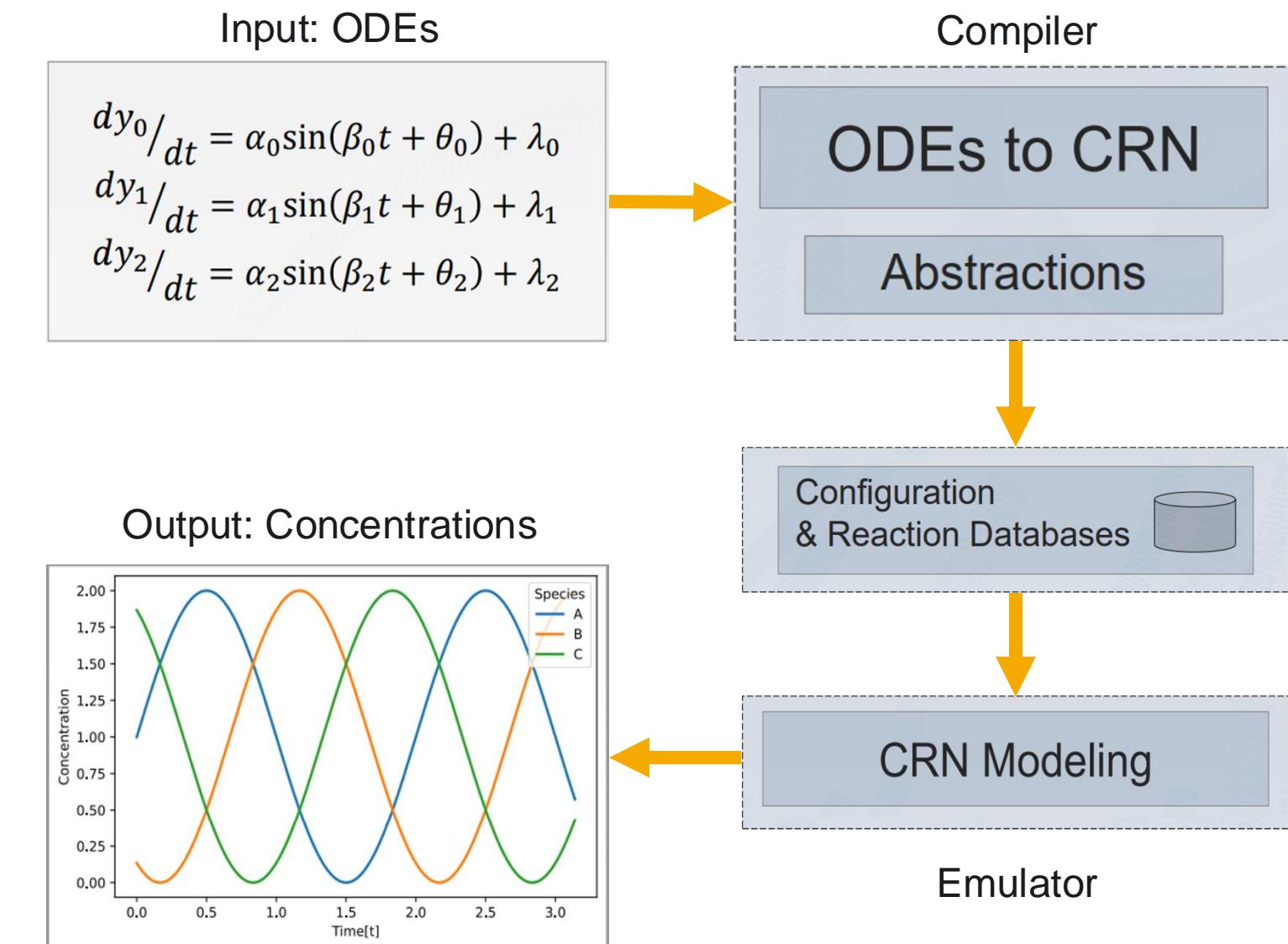
- Optofluidic systems (Gao et al., 2022)
- Water waves (MakSYMov and Pototsky, 2023)
- Ecosystems of Unicellular organisms (Ushio et al., 2023)
- Ferromagnetic materials (Everschor-Sitte et al., 2024)
- Formose reaction network (Baltussen et al., 2024)

- Provide problem as input signal
- Map the signal onto a higher dimension physical system
- Dynamical system performs some process function
- Perform measurements of system states and form weighted combination of measurements
- Use linear least squares optimization of output weights

# ChemComp: A Compilation Framework for Computing with Chemical Reaction Networks

## Approach

-  Develop a compiler using MLIR [1] to capture ODE and realistic chemical and biological processes
-  Create a compilation flow to convert ODEs into chemical operations from a curated database of known motifs
-  Implement CRNCMs, leveraging the BiGG [2] database and respective mass action kinetics

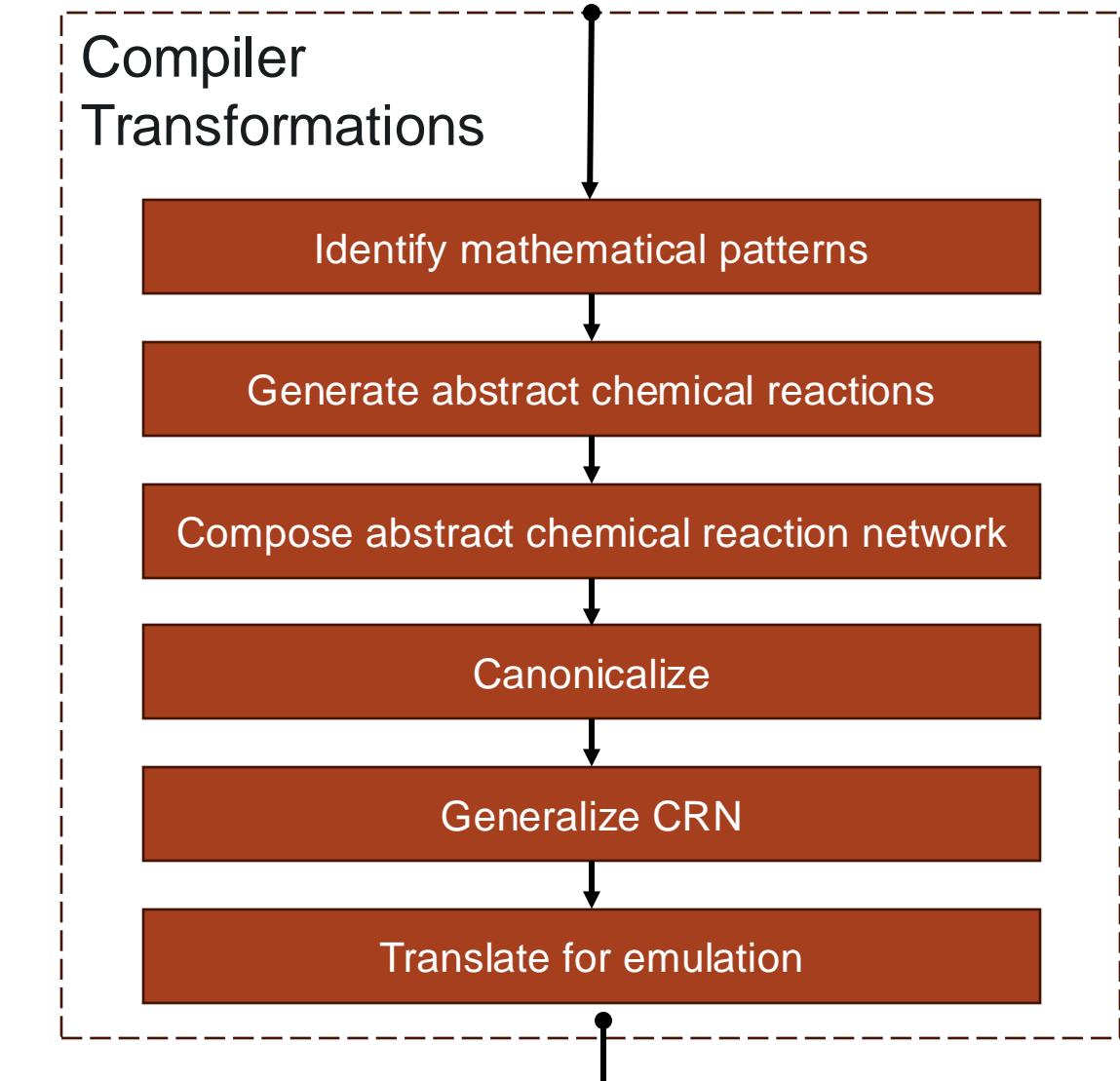


[1] C. Lattner, et al. "MLIR: Scaling compiler infrastructure for domain specific computation." 2021 IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization (CGO). IEEE, 2021

[2] Z. A. King, et al., "BiGG Models: A platform for integrating, standardizing and sharing genome-scale models, Nucleic Acids Research", Volume 44

# Approach to compiler support

- Introduce a new dialect to represent chemical reactions
- Using MLIR, implement lowerings of mathematical patterns to abstract chemical reactions
- Incorporate concrete chemical reactions in the flow

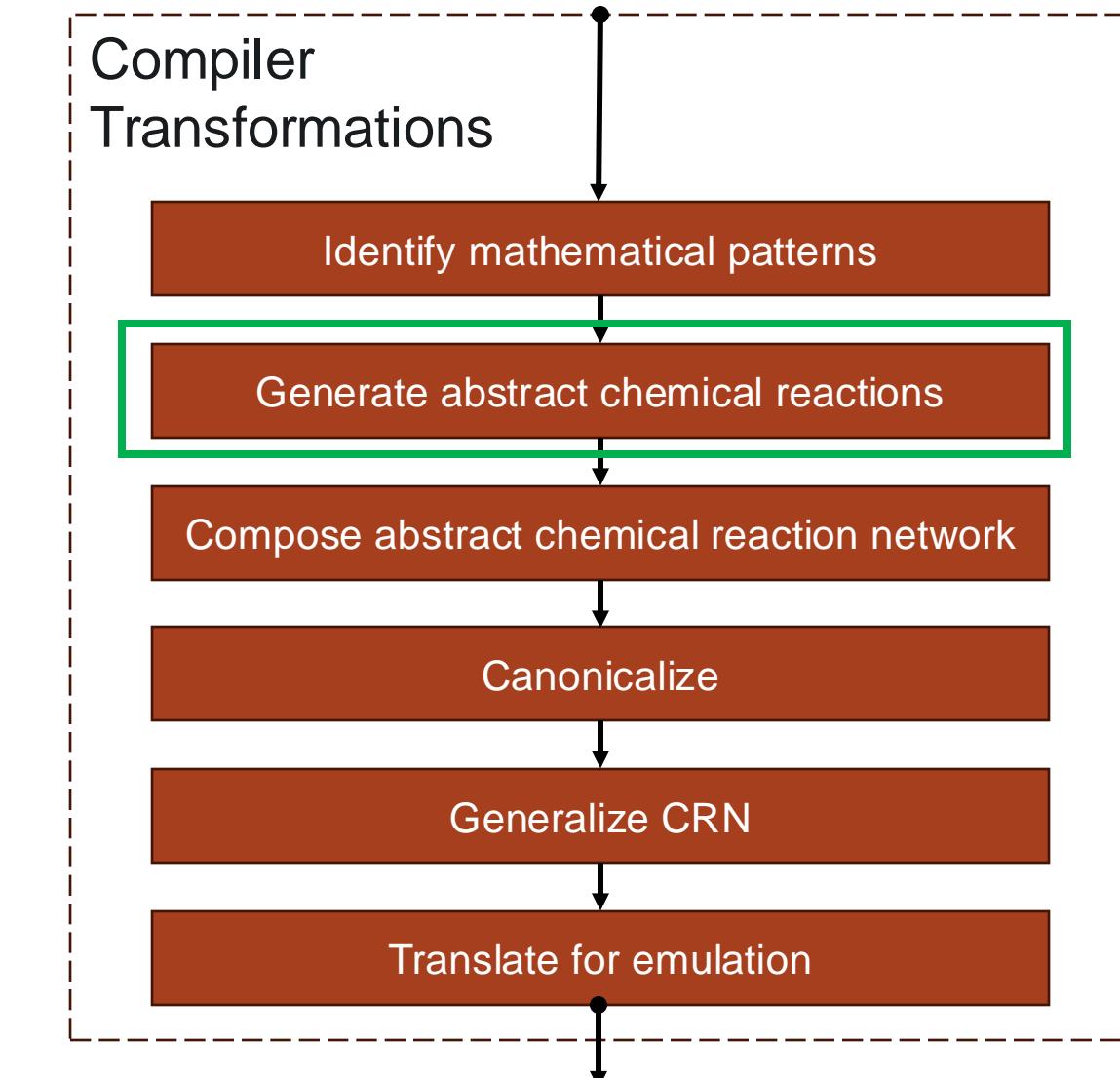


# Approach to compiler support

```
// Define reaction 1: 2H2 + O2 -> 2H2O
// Reaction 1 adjusts concentrations of H2, O2, and H2O
acr.reaction @reaction_1(%h2: !acr.species,
    %o2: !acr.species,
    %h2o :!acr.species,
    %rate_constant: f32)
-> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species) {
// Define the stoichiometry: 2H2 + O2 -> 2H2O
%h2_stoich = acr.stoich_coeff -2 :f32
%o2_stoich = acr.stoich_coeff -1 :f32
%h2o_stoich = acr.stoich_coeff 2 :f32

%h2_o, %o2_o, %h2o_o = acr.react(%h2, %o2, %h2o,
    %h2_stoich, %o2_stoich, %h2o_stoich,
    %rate_constant) : (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species,
        f32, f32, f32,
        f32) -> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species)
return %h2_o, %o2_o, %h2o_o
}
```

Define reaction     $2\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$



# Approach to compiler support

```
// Declare reactions that were defined elsewhere
acr.reaction private @reaction_1(%h2: !acr.species, %o2: !acr.species,
    %h2o :!acr.species, %rate_constant: f32)
-> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species)

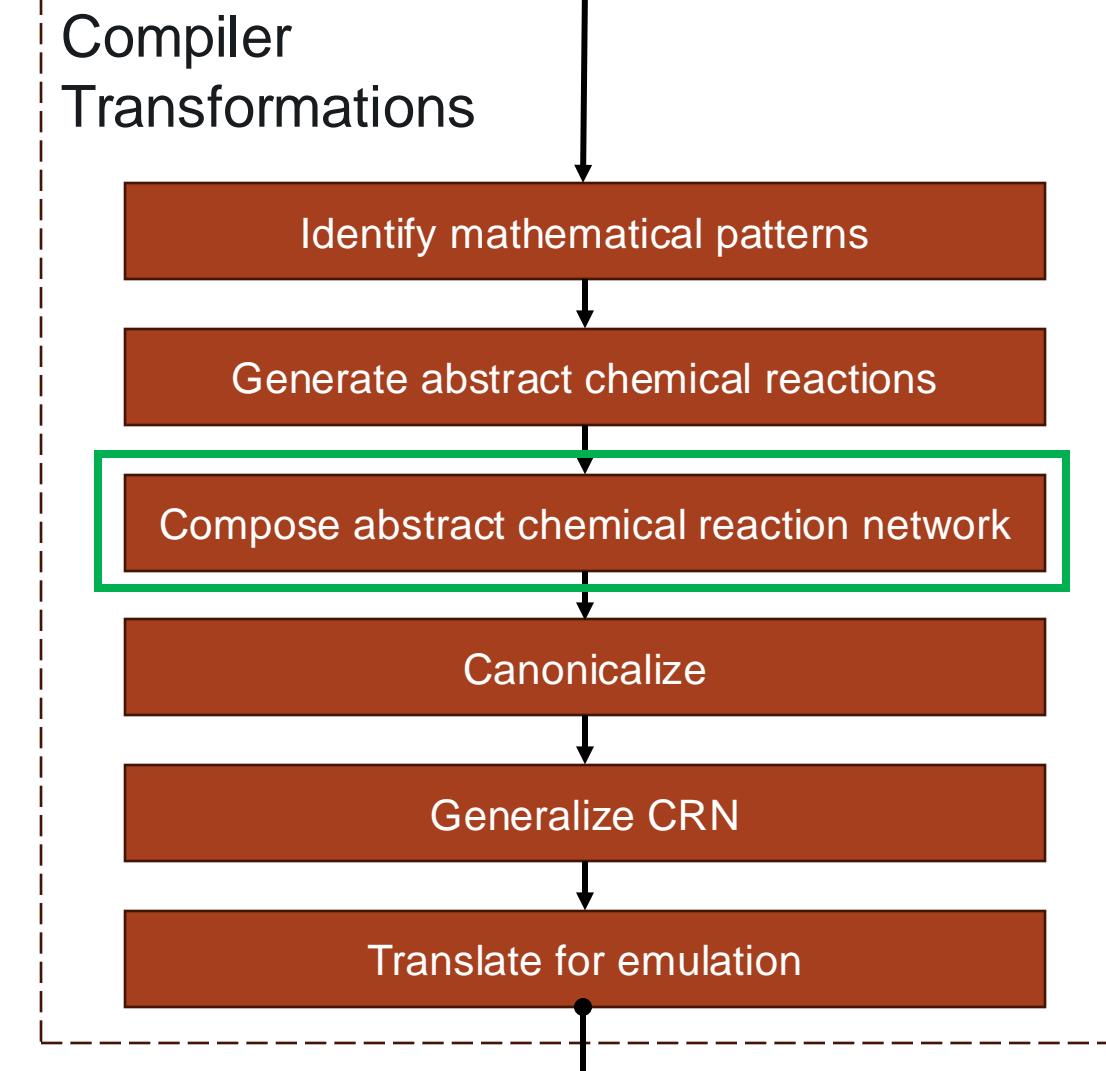
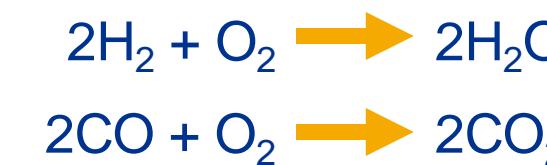
acr.reaction private @reaction_2(%o2: !acr.species, %co: !acr.species,
    %co2: !acr.species, %rate_2: f32)
-> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species)

// Use reactions in a network
acr.crn @reaction_network(%h2: !acr.species, %o2: !acr.species,
    %h2o : !acr.species, %co: !acr.species,
    %co2: !acr.species,
    %rate_1: f32, %rate_2: f32)
-> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species) {
    // Instantiate reaction 1 within the network
    %h2_o, %o2_o, %h2o_o = acr.reaction_instance @reaction_1(%h2, %o2,
        %h2o, %rate_1)
    : (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species, f32)
    -> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species)

    // Instantiate reaction 2 within the network
    %o2_o_final, %co_o, %co2_o = acr.reaction_instance @reaction_2(%o2_o, %co,
        %co2, %rate_2)
    : (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species, f32)
    -> (!acr.species, !acr.species, !acr.species)

    // Return updated concentrations for all molecules: H2, O2, H2O, CO, and CO2
    return %h2_o, %o2_o_final, %h2o_o, %co_o, %co2_o
}
```

Instantiate CRN



# Approach to compiler support

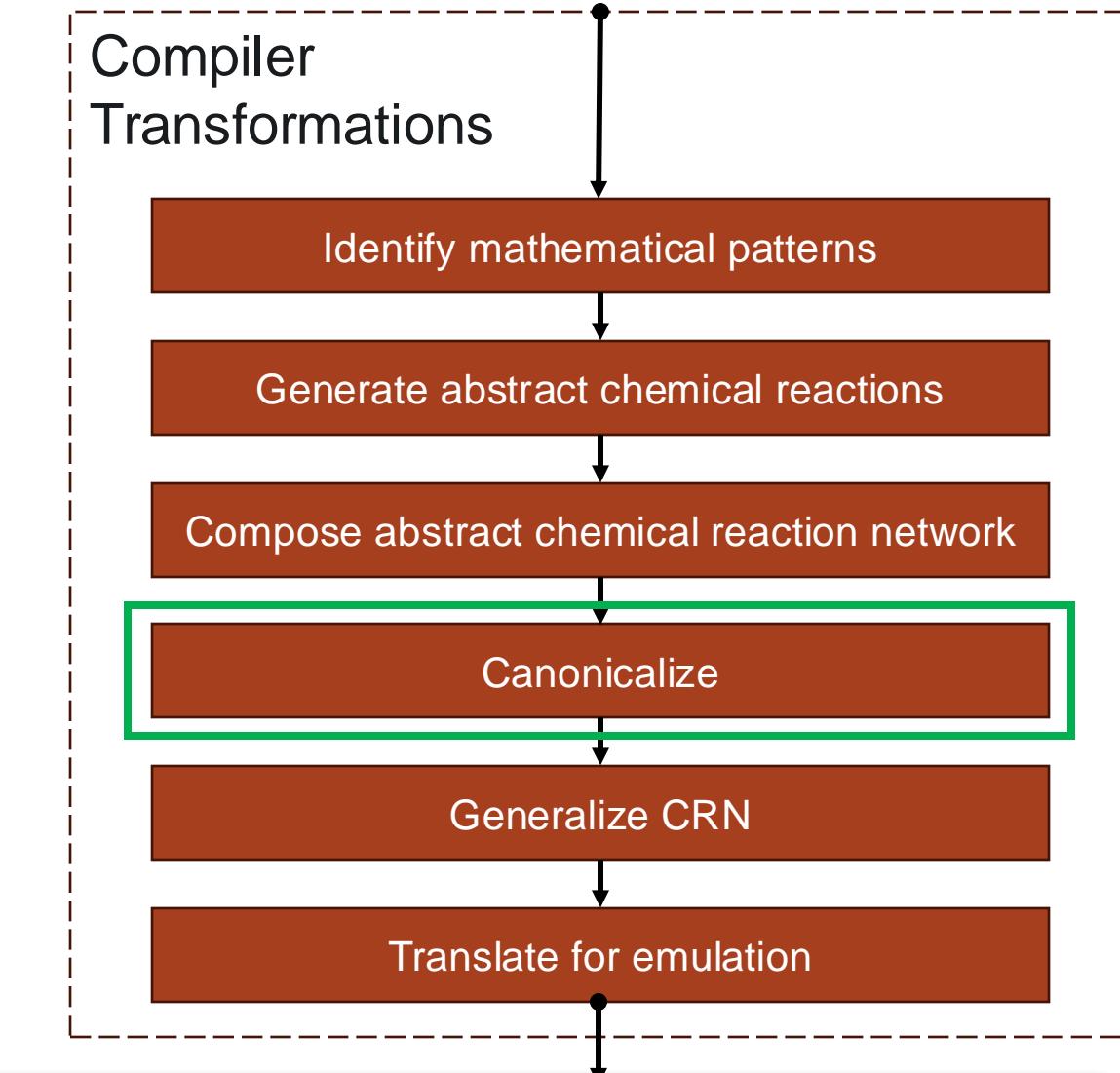
```
// Also declare @reaction_1 and @reaction_2 in canonical form
// Omitted here for conciseness...

// Define the CRN operation
acr.crn @reaction_network(%species_vec: vector<5x!acr.species>,
    %rate_vec: vector<2xf32>)
    -> (vector<5x!acr.species>){
// For these 5 species: H2, O2, H2O, CO, CO2
// Define the stoichiometry: 2H2 + O2 -> 2H2O
// and the stoichiometry: O2 + 2CO -> 2CO2

// Select the subvector for reaction 1
%subvector_r1 = vector.gather %species_vec, [0, 1, 2]
: vector<5x!acr.species>, vector<3xindex>
// Instantiate reaction 1 with the rate constant as an input
%subvector_r1_out = acr.reaction_instance @reaction_1(%subvector_r1,
    %rate_vec[0])
: (vector<3x!acr.species>, f32)
-> vector<3x!acr.species>
// Update the original species vector with the output subvector
%species_vec_out1 = vector.scatter %species_vec, %subvector_r1_out, [0, 1, 2]
: vector<5x!acr.species>, vector<3x!acr.species>, vector<3xindex>

// Select the subvector for reaction 2
%subvector_r2 = vector.gather %species_vec_out1, [1, 3, 4]
: vector<5x!acr.species>, vector<3xindex>
// Instantiate reaction 2 with the rate constant as an input
%subvector_r2_out = acr.reaction_instance @reaction_2(%subvector_r2,
    %rate_vec[1])
: (vector<3x!acr.species>, f32)
-> vector<3x!acr.species>
// Update the original species vector with the output subvector
%species_vec_out = vector.scatter %species_vec_out1, %subvector_r2_out,
    [1, 3, 4]
: vector<5x!acr.species>, vector<3x!acr.species>, vector<3xindex>

return %species_vec_out }
```

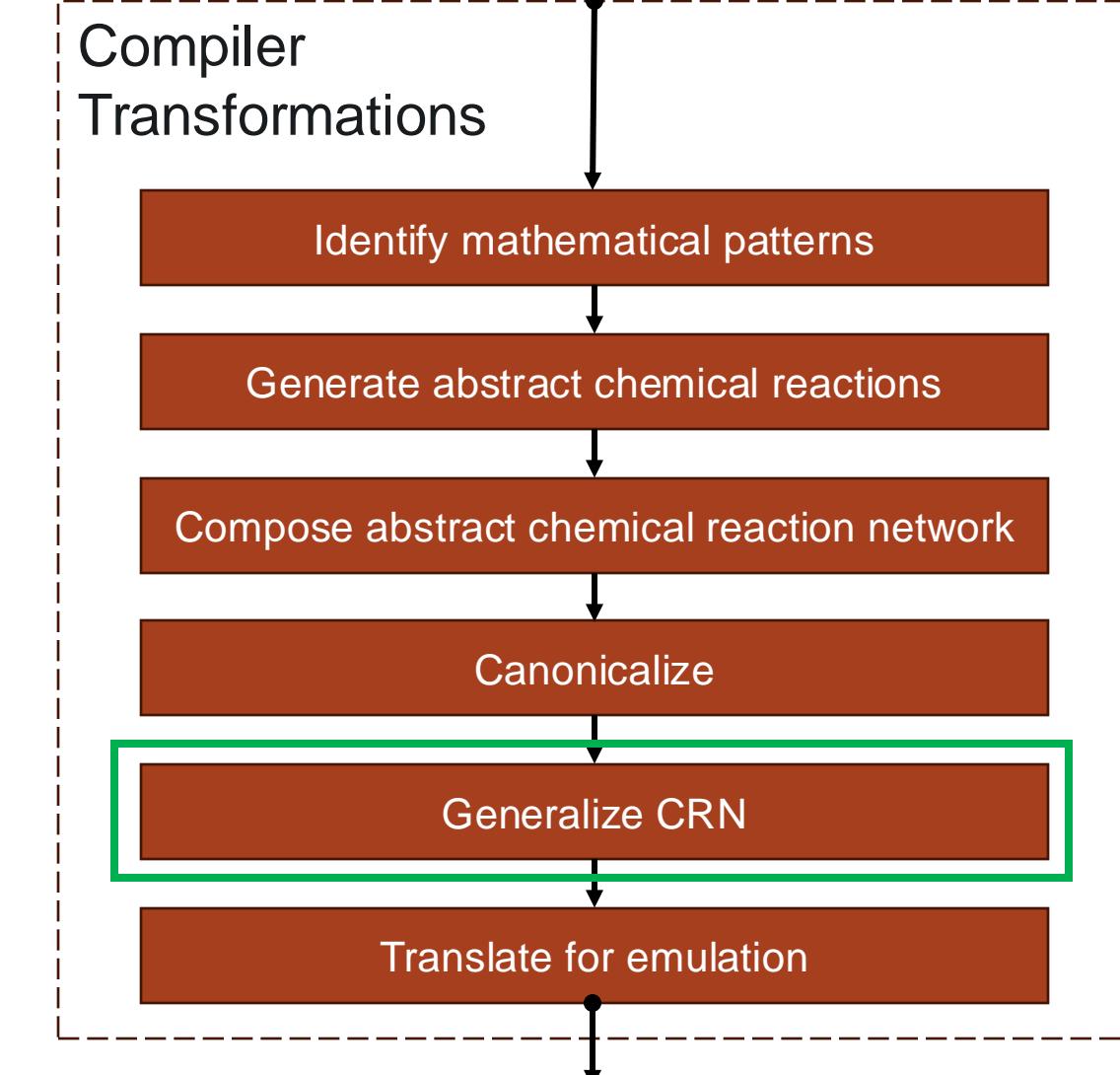
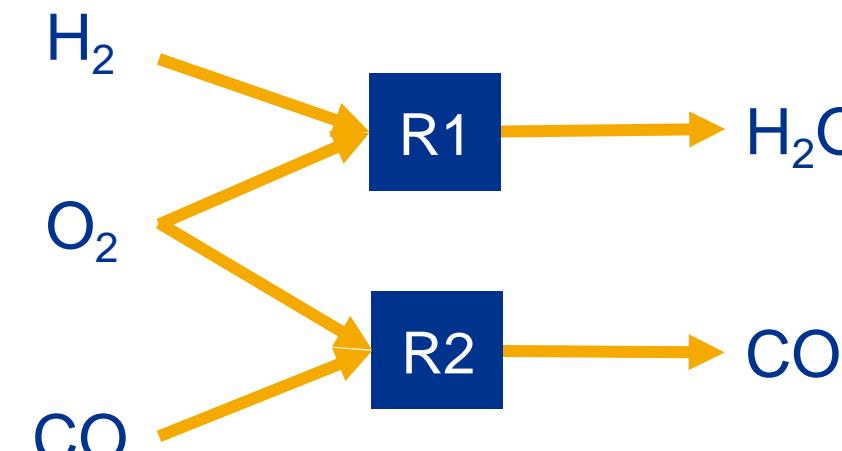


Canonicalize chemicals into concentration vector  
 $\text{H}_2, \text{O}_2, \text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{CO}, \text{CO}_2$

# Approach to compiler support

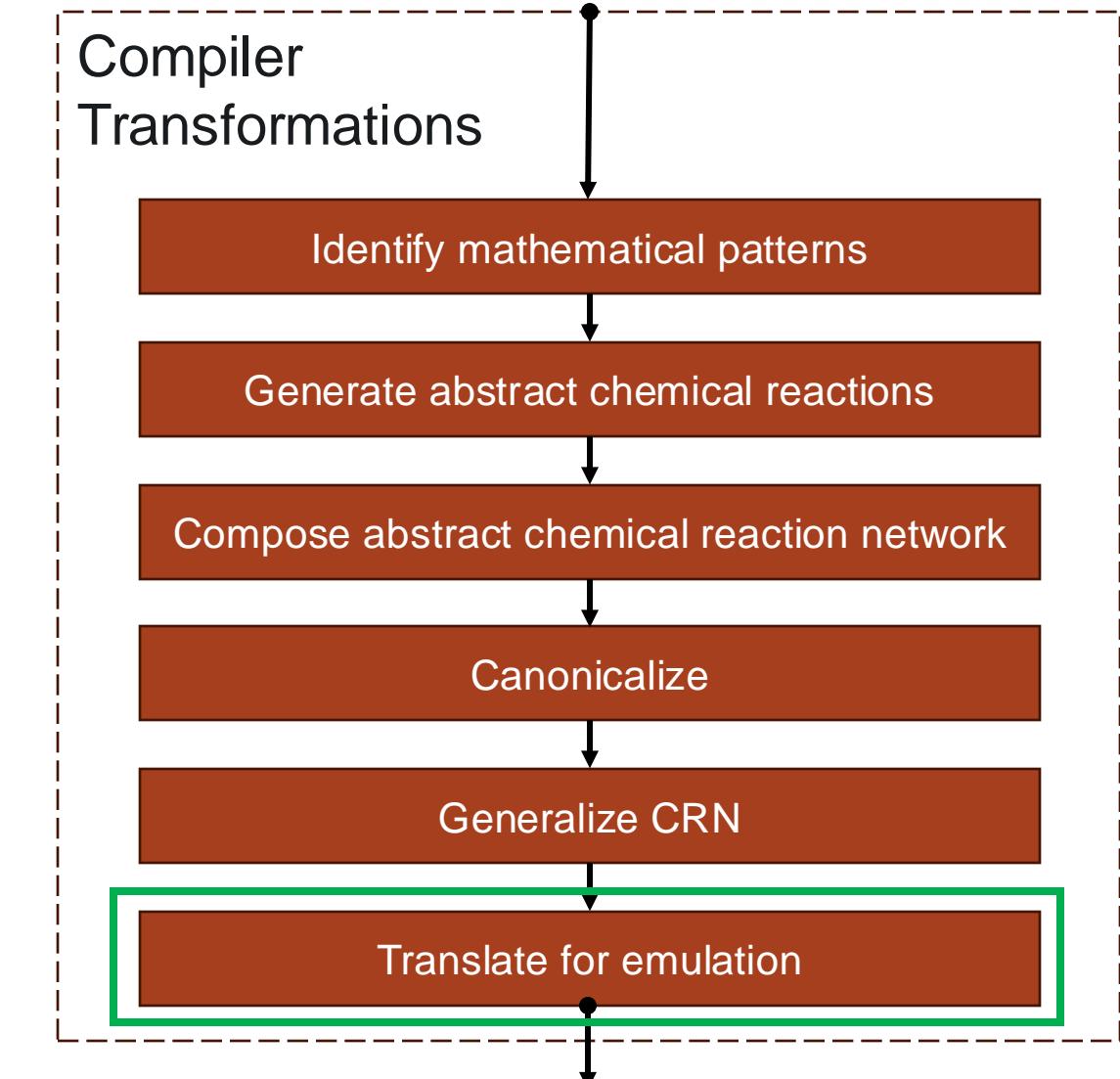
```
// A generic operation that can represent any CRN
acr.crn_generic {stoich_matrix =
[
    // With the following order of species:
    // H2, O2, H2O, CO, CO2
    [-2,-1, 2, 0, 0], //2H2 + O2 -> 2H2O
    [ 0,-1, 0,-2, 2] //2CO + O2 -> 2CO2
] : tensor<5x2x>
} (%species_vec: vector<5x!acr.species>, %rate_vec: vector<2xf32>
-> (vector<5x!acr.species>)
```

Represent with the generic CRN format

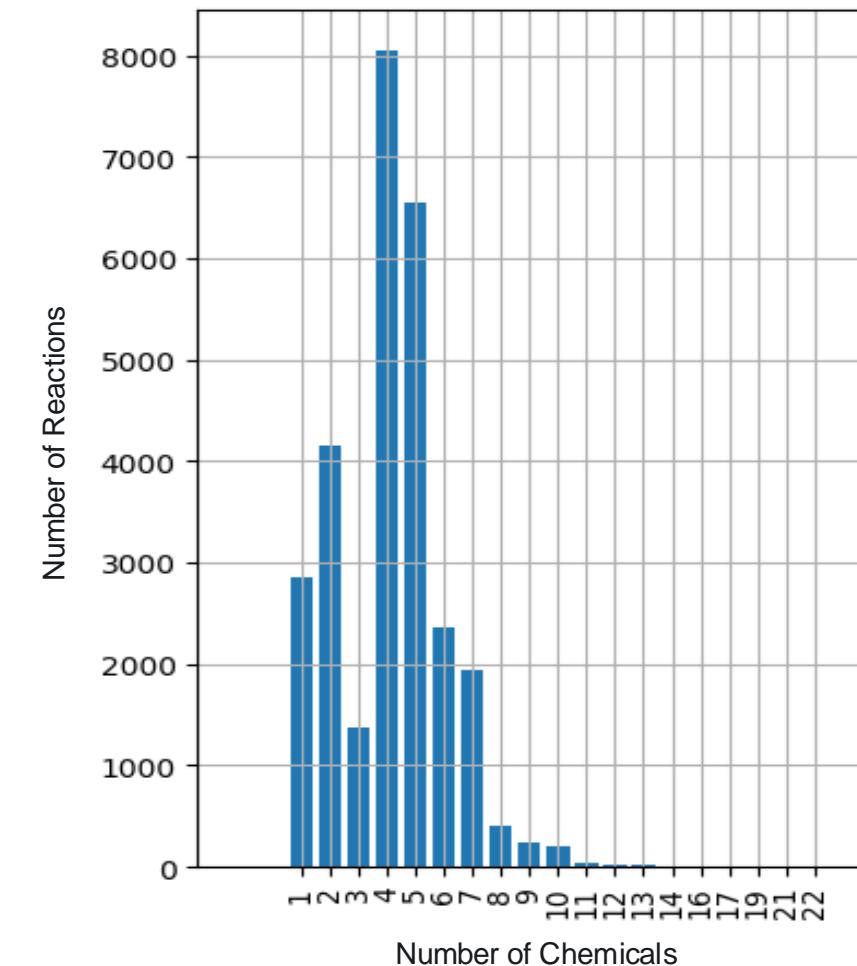
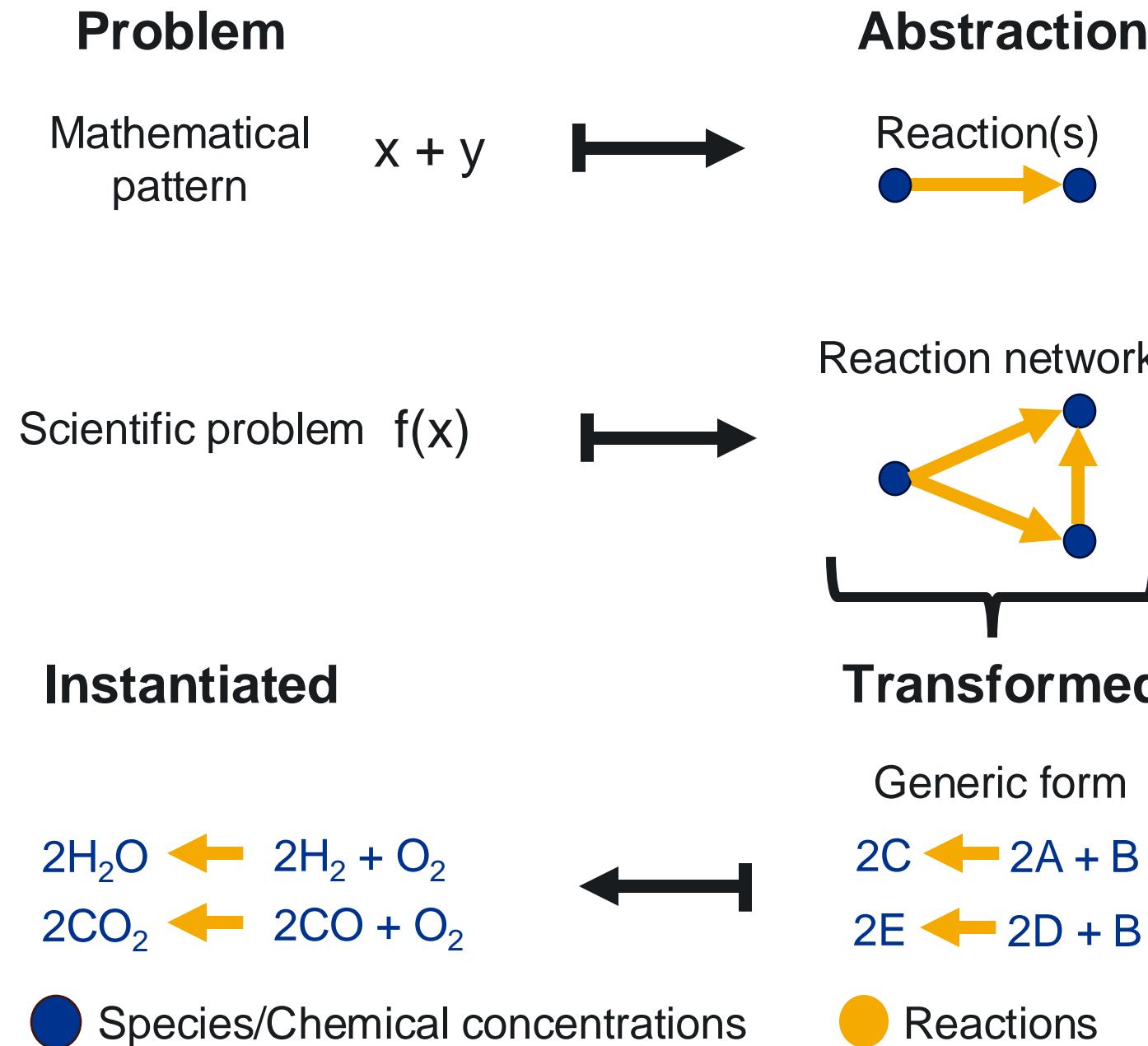


# Approach to compiler support

```
{
    // Reactions are written in a list.
    // Species follow the order: H2, O2, H2O, CO, CO2
    "reactions": [
        {
            // 2H2 + O2 -> 2H2O
            // 2A + B -> 2C
            "species" : ["A", "B", "C", "D", "E"],
            "reactants" : [2, 1, 0, 0, 0],
            "products" : [0, 0, 2, 0, 0],
            "rate": 0.1,
            "name": "R1"
        },
        {
            // O2 + 2CO -> CO2
            // B + 2D -> 2E
            "species" : ["A", "B", "C", "D", "E"],
            "reactants" : [0, 1, 0, 2, 0],
            "products" : [0, 0, 0, 0, 2],
            "rate": 0.05,
            "name": "R2"
        }
    ],
    // Initial concentrations
    "concentrations": {
        "A": 1, "B": 1, "C": 0, "D": 1, "E": 0
    },
    // List of species to track on the simulator,
    // this is the concentration that should implement our ODE
    "tracked_species": ["O2"]
}
```



# Abstract reactions can be instantiated to concrete biochemical reactions



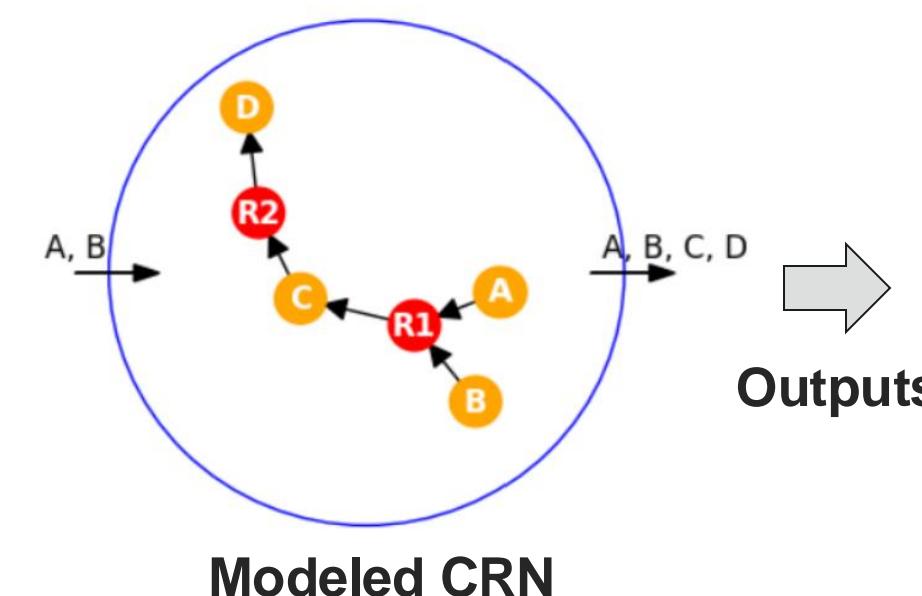
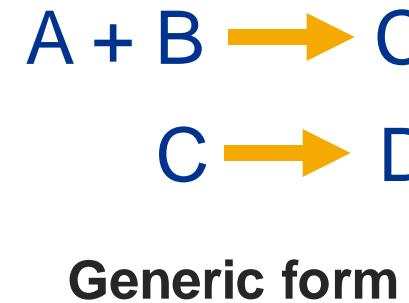
Possible Abstract Reaction	Concrete Reaction (Motifs)
$A_2B + 2C_2 \rightleftharpoons 2A + BC_4$	$H_2S + 2O_2 \rightleftharpoons 2H + SO_4$
$2A_2B \rightarrow 2A_2 + B_2$	$2H_2O \rightarrow 2H_2O_2$
$AB_3 + B_2C \rightarrow AB_4CB$	$NH_3 + H_2O \rightarrow NH_4OH$



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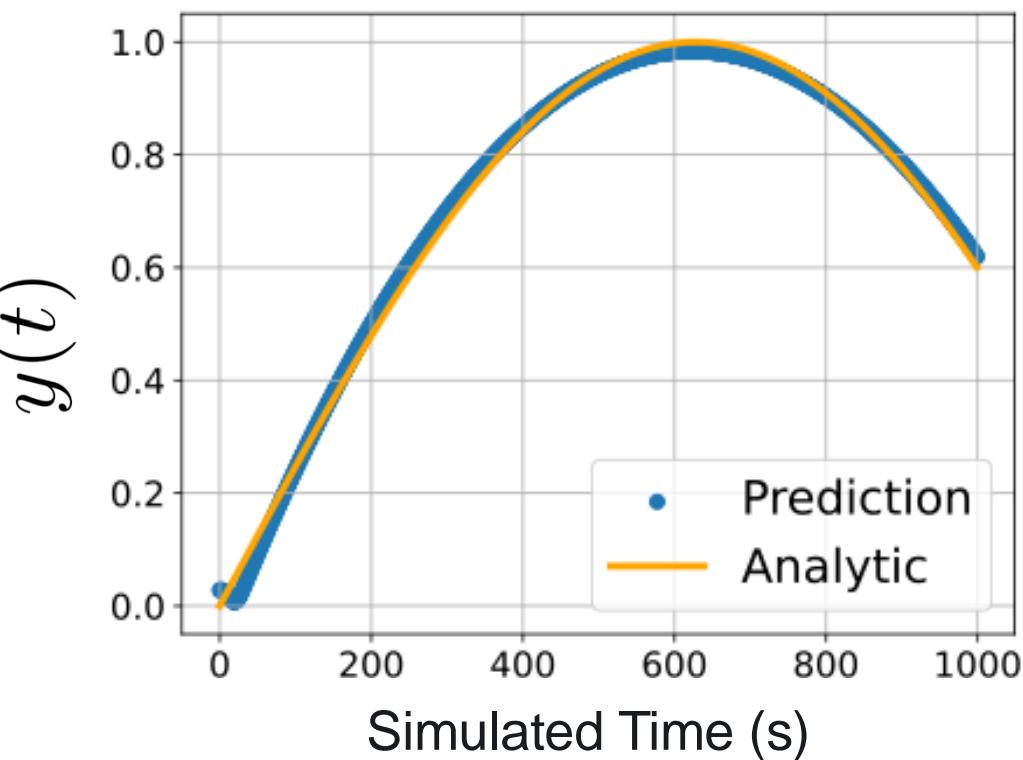
# Emulator approach

- Model device using Reservoir Computing
- Model reactions using continuum well-stirred system
- We can emulate both abstract and continuous reaction forms but are currently not considering noise

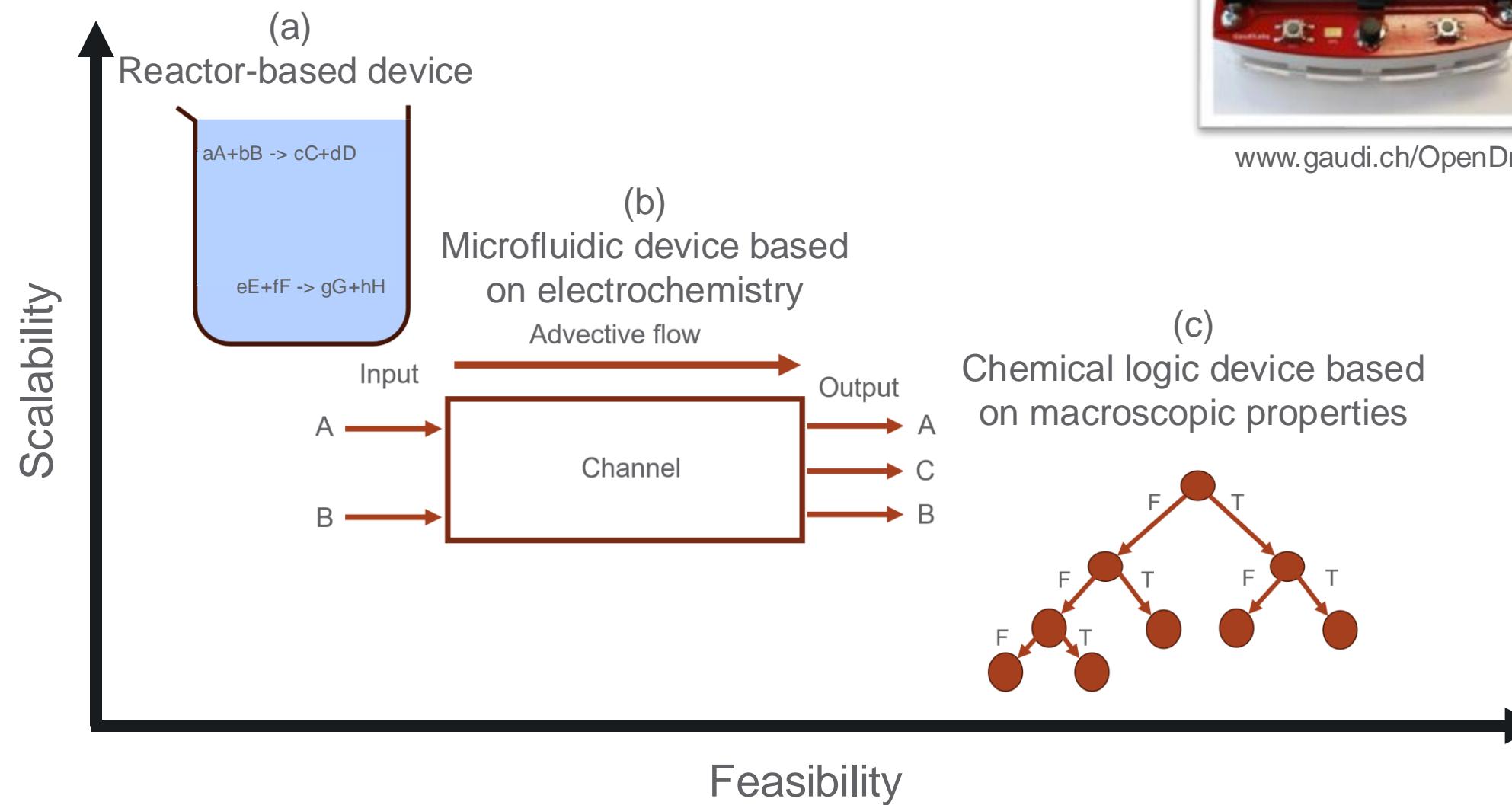


$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t; \alpha)$$

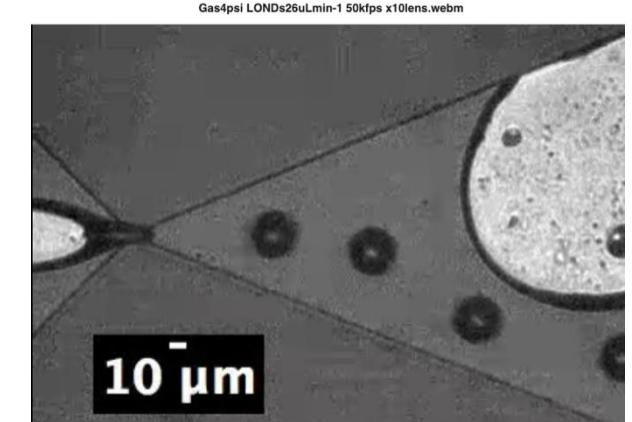
● Problem I/O   ● Mapped I/O   ● Chemical concentrations   ● Reactions



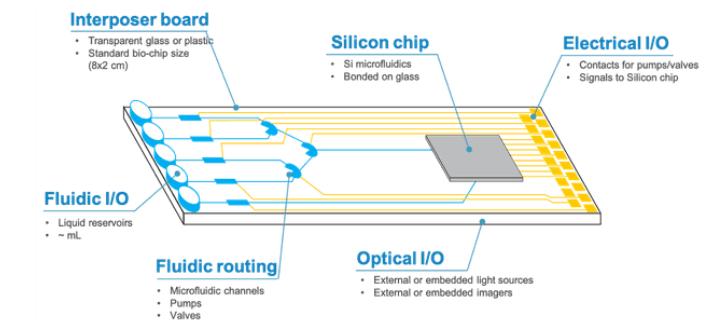
# The future of bio-chemical computing devices: Scalability vs Feasibility



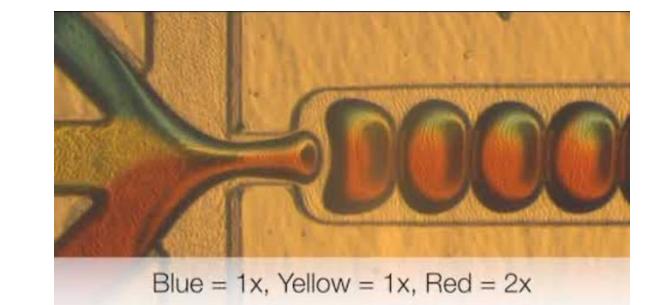
[www.gaudi.ch/OpenDrop](http://www.gaudi.ch/OpenDrop)



50kfps recording of droplets avoiding a bubble

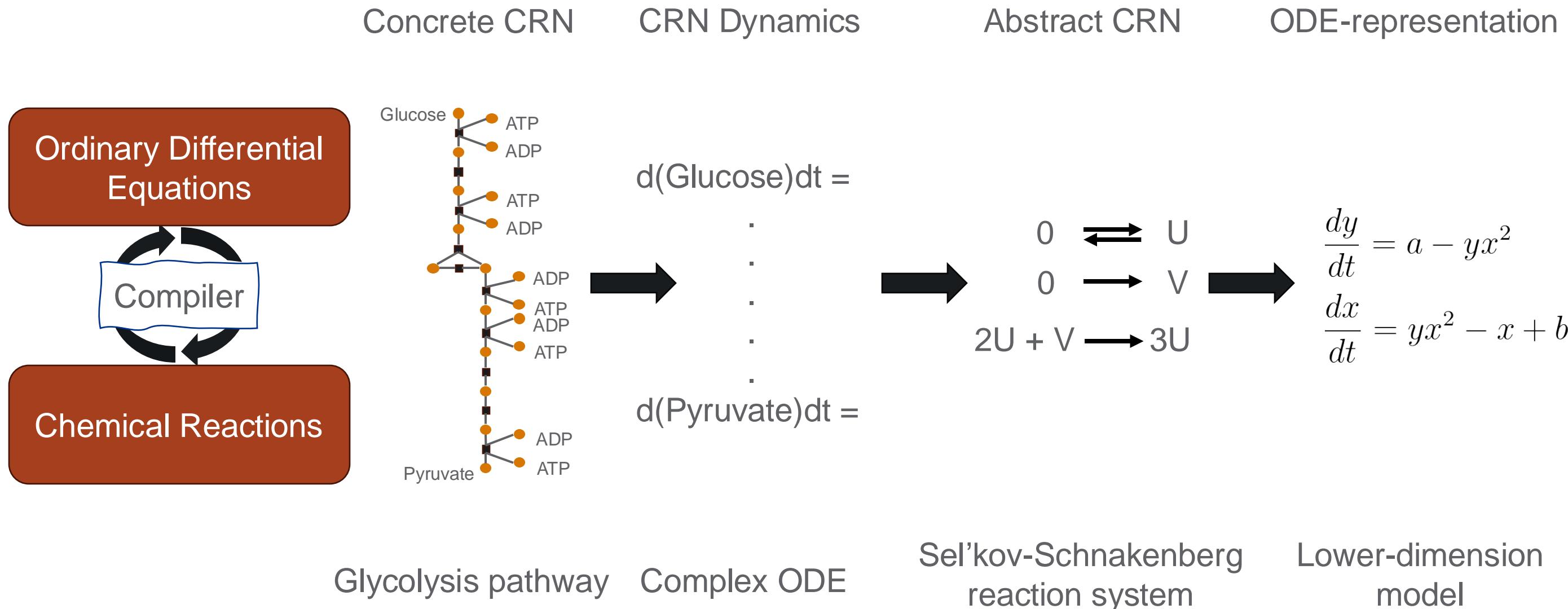


Imec's lab on a chip



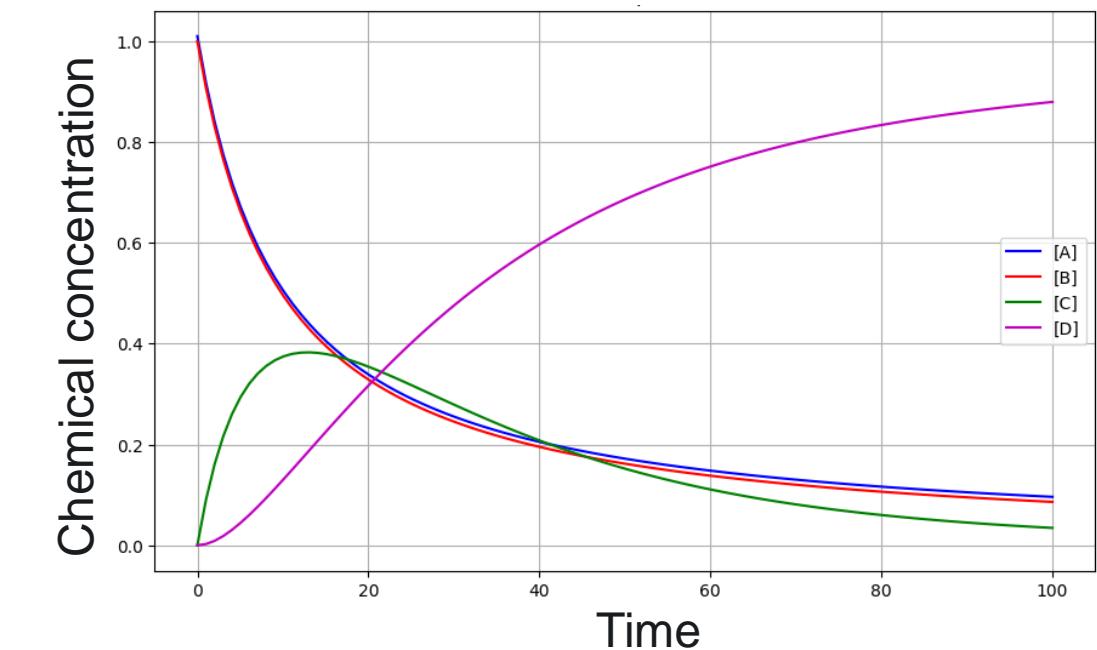
Content-, Size-, and rate- controlled microfluidic flow-focusing droplet generation

# Closing the loop: Using compilers to study biochemical systems



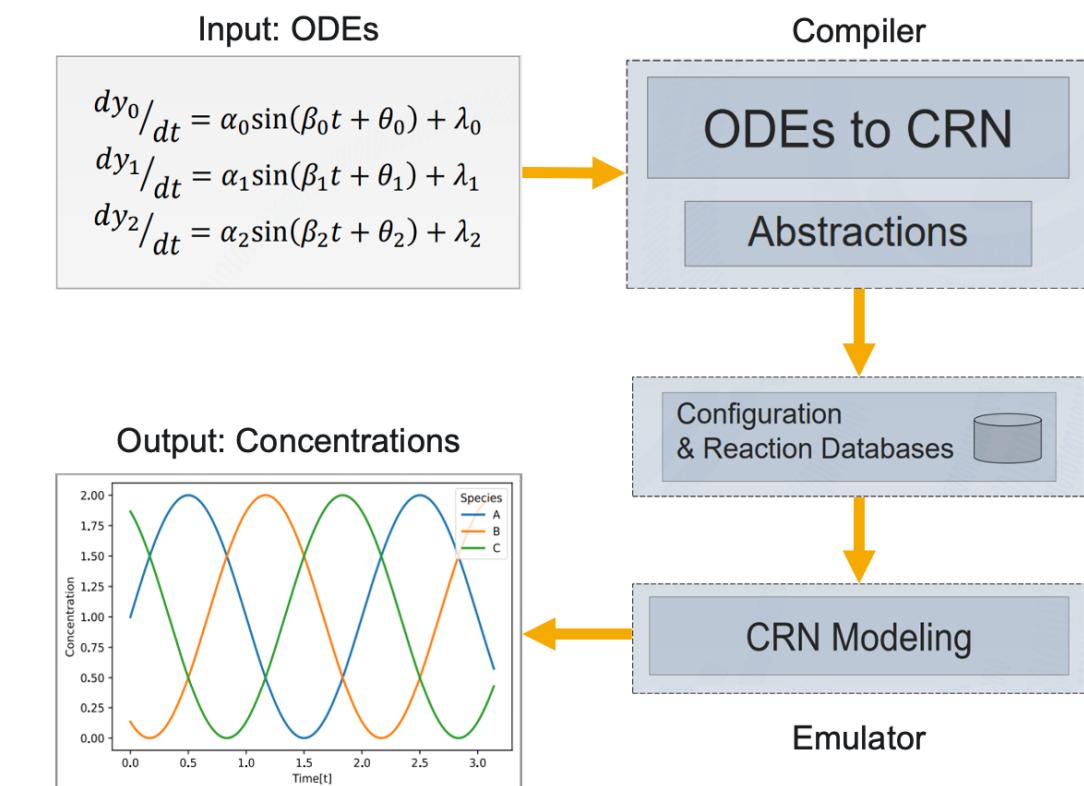
# Take-home messages

- Chemistry can be utilized for ‘unconventional’ computation with a ‘chemical advantage’
- ChemComp is developing the necessary compilation and emulation frameworks
- Feasibility of a CRNCM needs to consider the physics and chemistry



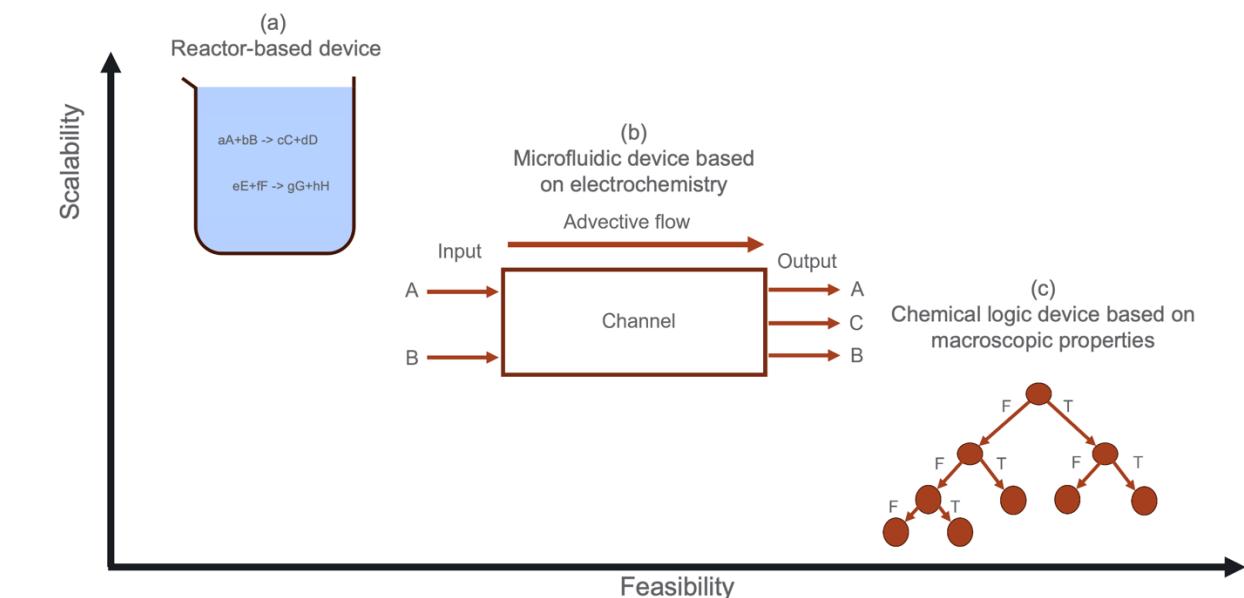
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# References

- Gao et al., 2022, “Thin liquid film as an optical nonlinear-nonlocal medium and memory element in integrated optofluidic reservoir computer”, 2022
- Ushio et al., 2023, “Computational capability of ecological dynamics”, Royal Society Open Science
- Maksymov and Pototsky, 2023, “Reservoir computing based on solitary-like waves dynamics of liquid film flows: A proof of concept”, Europhysics Letters
- Everschor-Sitte et al., 2024, “Topological magnetic and ferroelectric systems for reservoir computing”, Nature Reviews Physics
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# Thank you

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