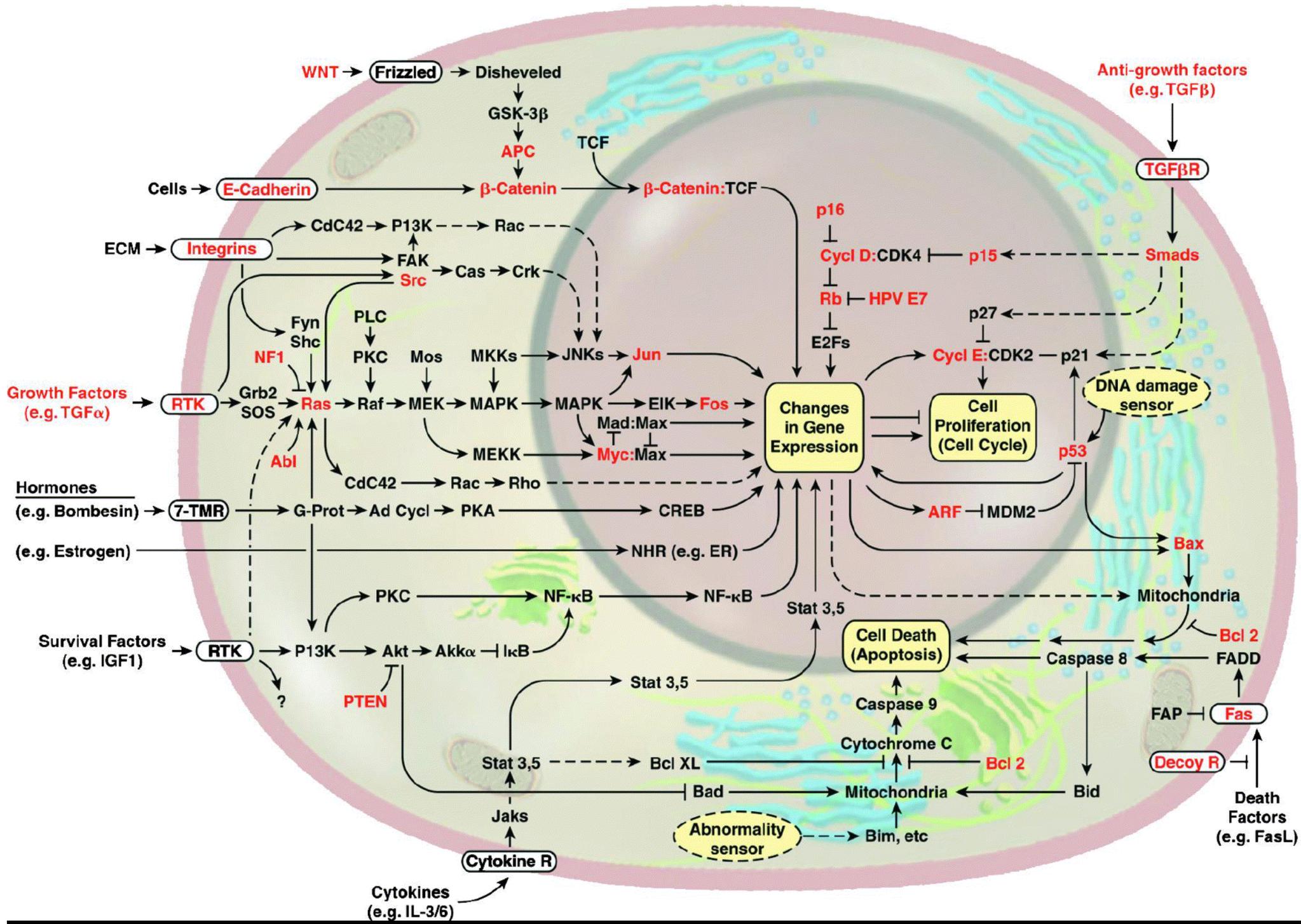


*Persistence, permanence, and global stability  
in reaction network models:  
some results inspired by thermodynamic principles*

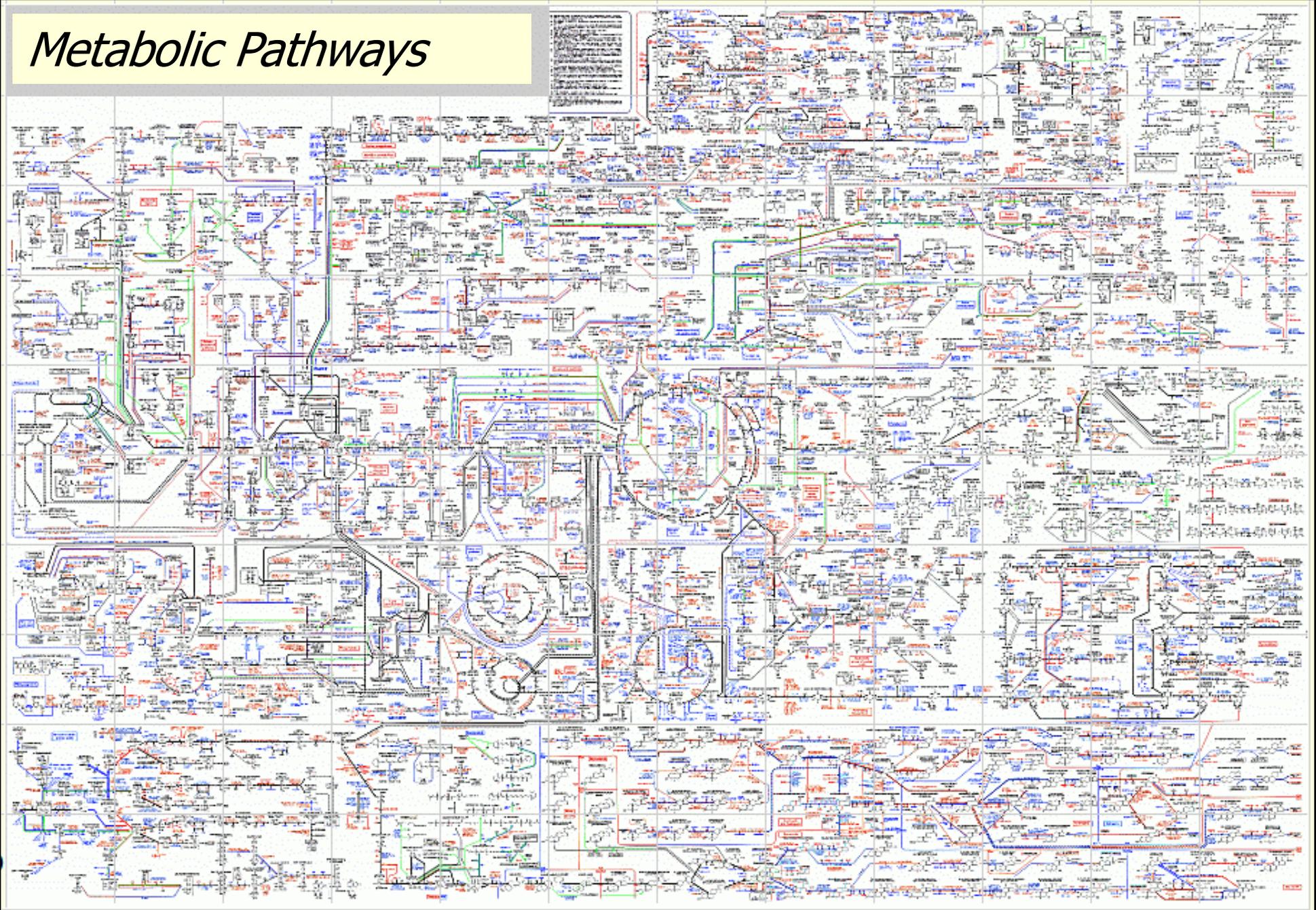
*Gheorghe Craciun*

*Department of Mathematics and  
Department of Biomolecular Chemistry  
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

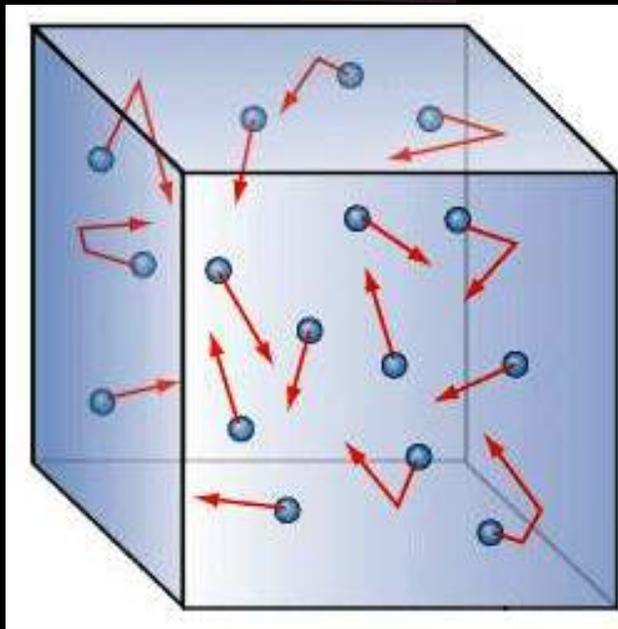


Hanahan and Weinberg, *The Hallmarks of Cancer*, Cell, 2000.

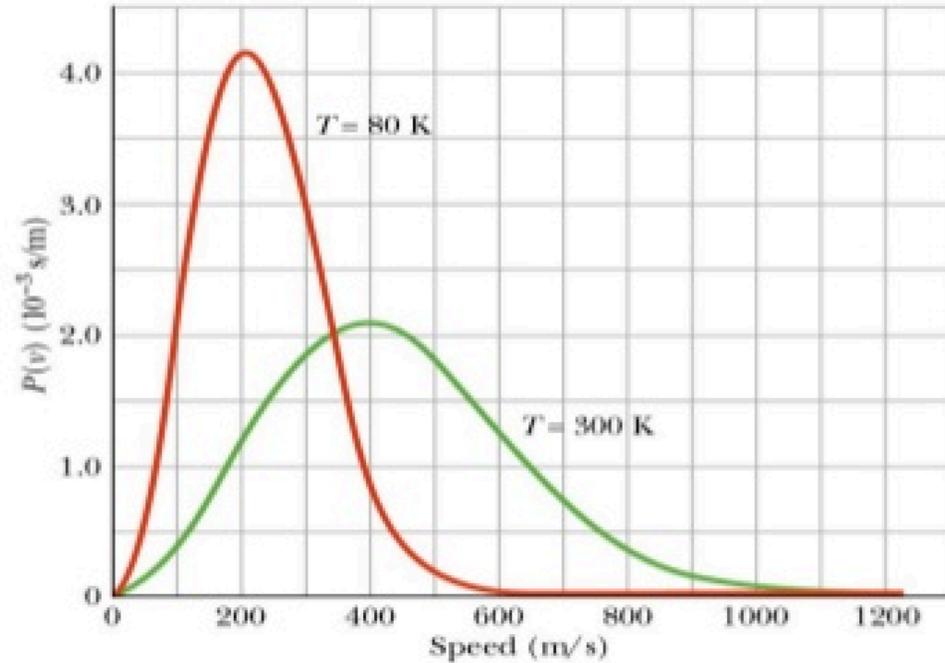
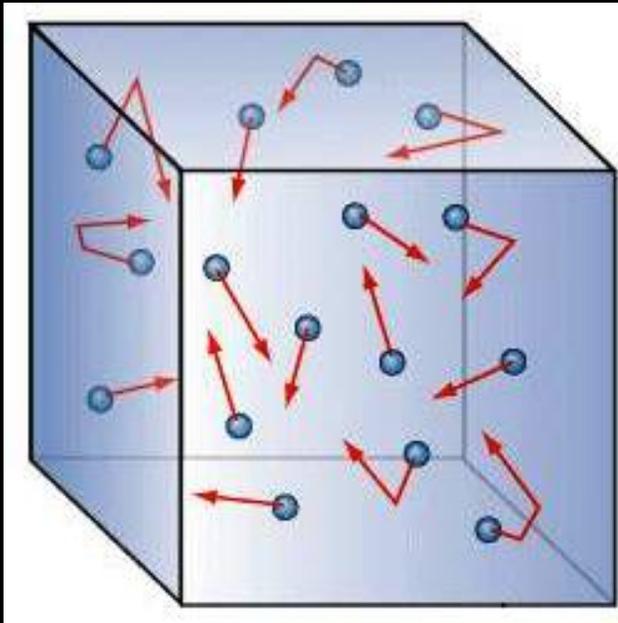
# Metabolic Pathways



*Boltzmann's H-theorem: the distribution of velocities of the atoms of a gas converges to the Maxwell distribution*

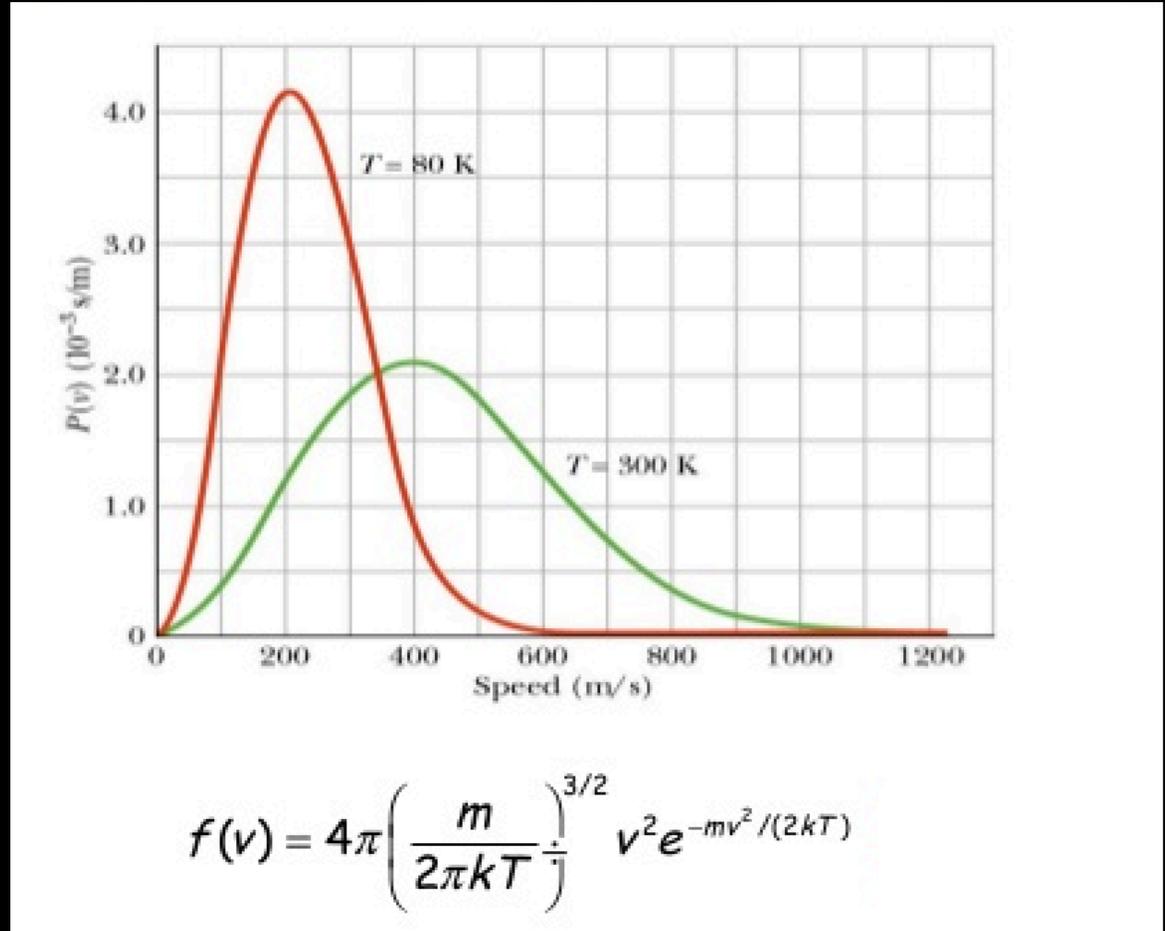
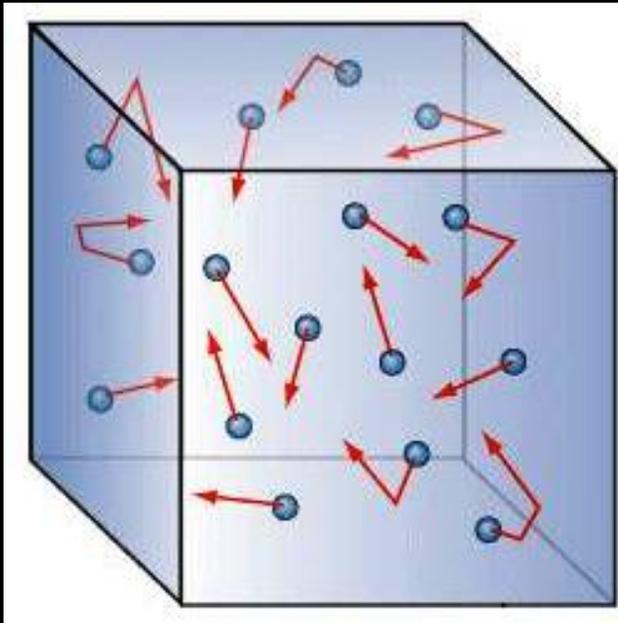


# Boltzmann's H-theorem: the distribution of velocities of the atoms of a gas converges to the Maxwell distribution



$$f(v) = 4\pi \left( \frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} v^2 e^{-mv^2/(2kT)}$$

*Boltzmann's H-theorem: the distribution of velocities of the atoms of a gas converges to the Maxwell distribution*



*In other words: the Maxwell distribution is a global attractor.*

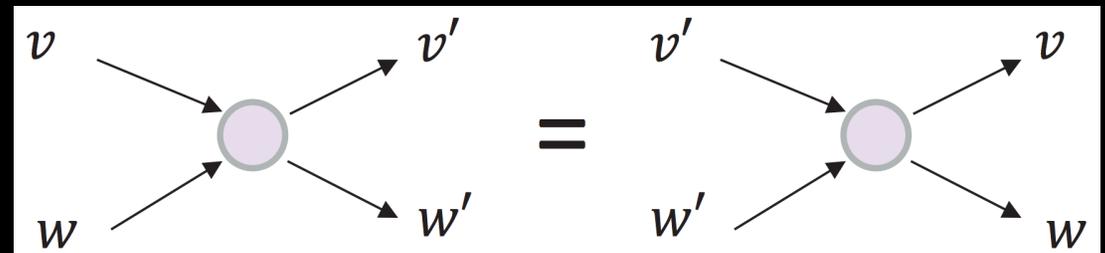
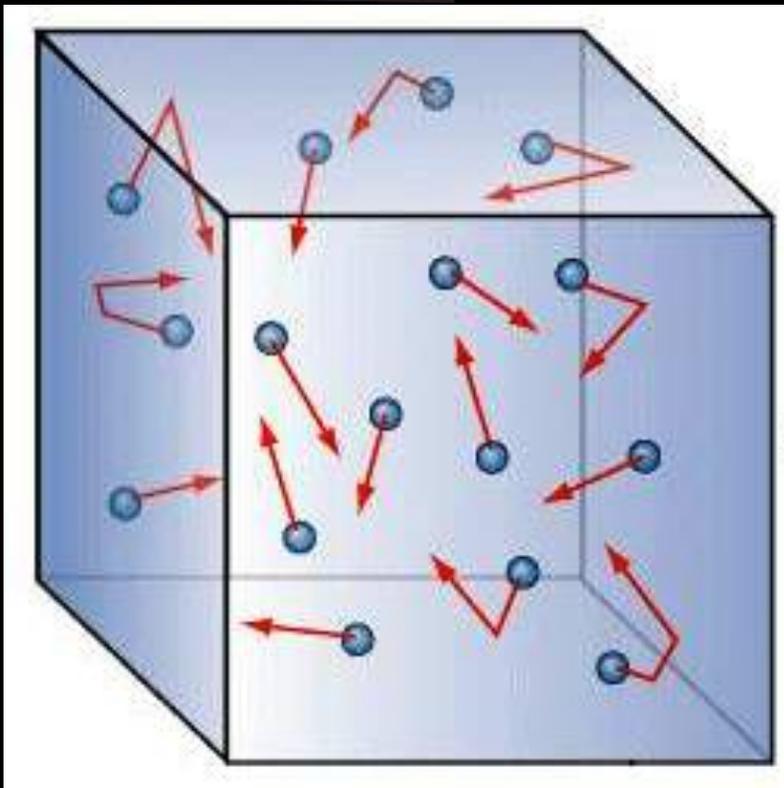
*Boltzmann's H-theorem: the distribution of velocities of the atoms of a gas converges to the Maxwell distribution*



*Boltzmann used a key hypothesis:*

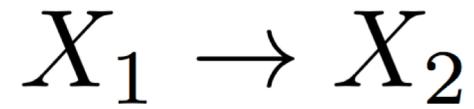
*“detailed balance”*

*i.e. the forward and backward transition rates (at equilibrium) balance each other out:*

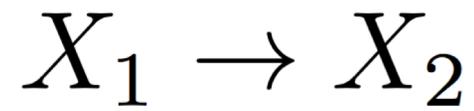


*Chemical reaction networks and polynomial  
dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*

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dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = -kx_1$$

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = kx_1$$

*Chemical reaction networks and polynomial  
dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*

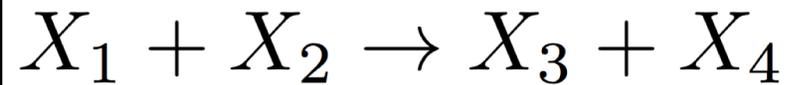


$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = -kx_1x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = -kx_1x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_3}{dt} = kx_1x_2$$

# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



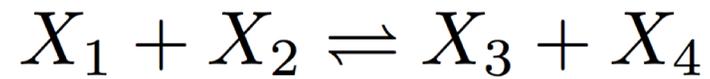
$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = -kx_1x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = -kx_1x_2$$

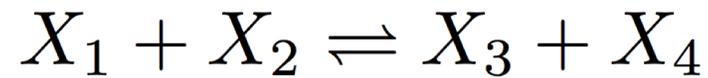
$$\frac{dx_3}{dt} = kx_1x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_4}{dt} = kx_1x_2$$

*Chemical reaction networks and polynomial  
dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = -k_1 x_1 x_2 + k_2 x_3 x_4$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = -k_1 x_1 x_2 + k_2 x_3 x_4$$

$$\frac{dx_3}{dt} = k_1 x_1 x_2 - k_2 x_3 x_4$$

$$\frac{dx_4}{dt} = k_1 x_1 x_2 - k_2 x_3 x_4$$

# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



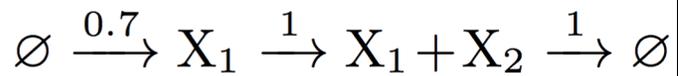
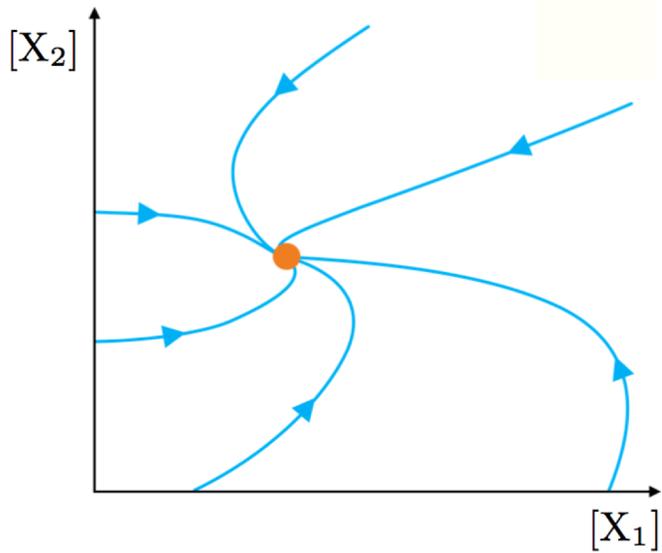
# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems: mass action kinetics*



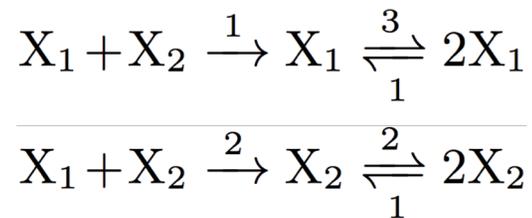
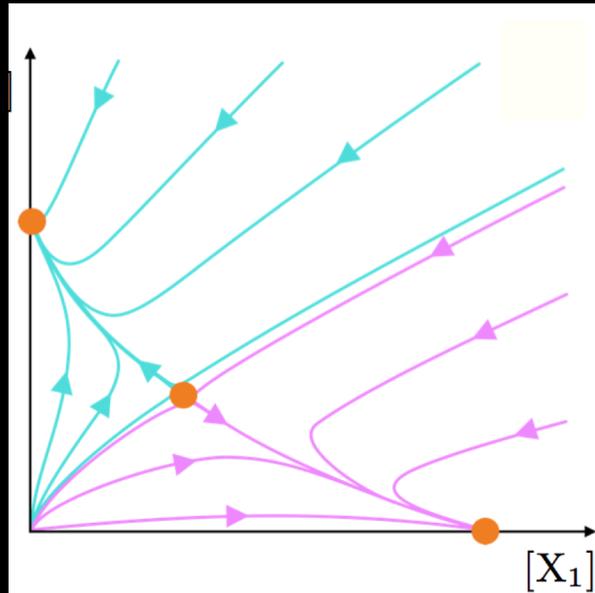
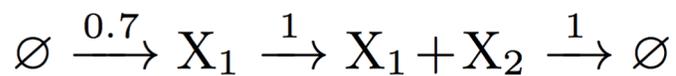
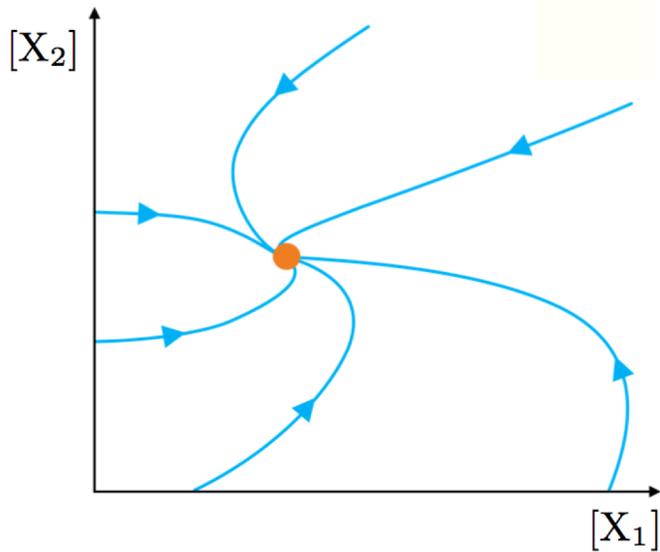
$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = k_1 - k_3 x_1 x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = k_2 x_1 - k_3 x_1 x_2$$

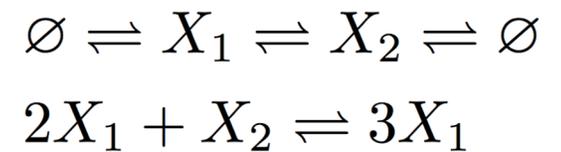
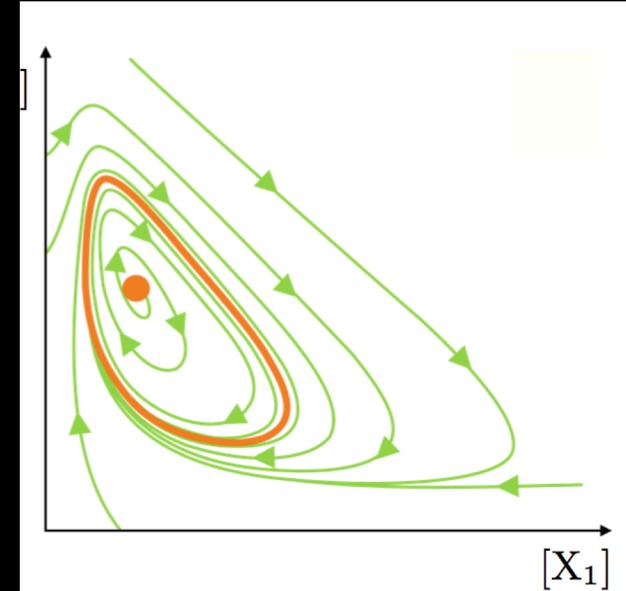
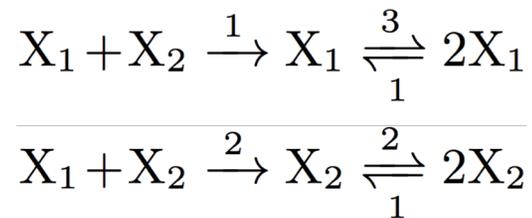
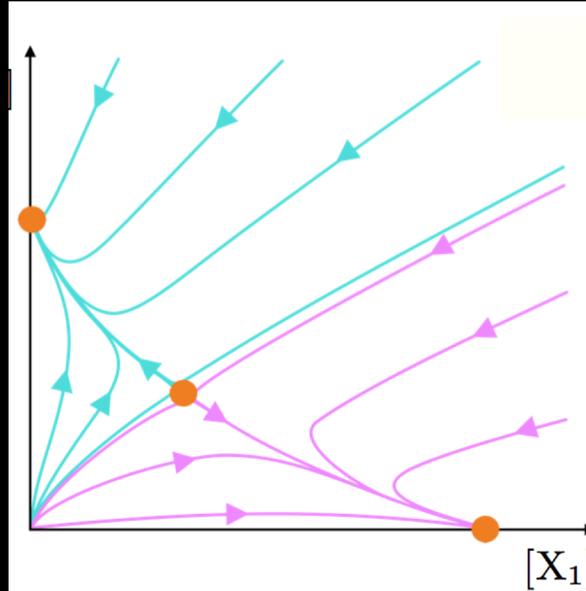
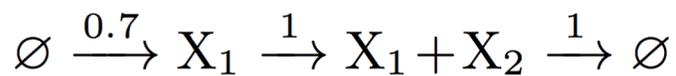
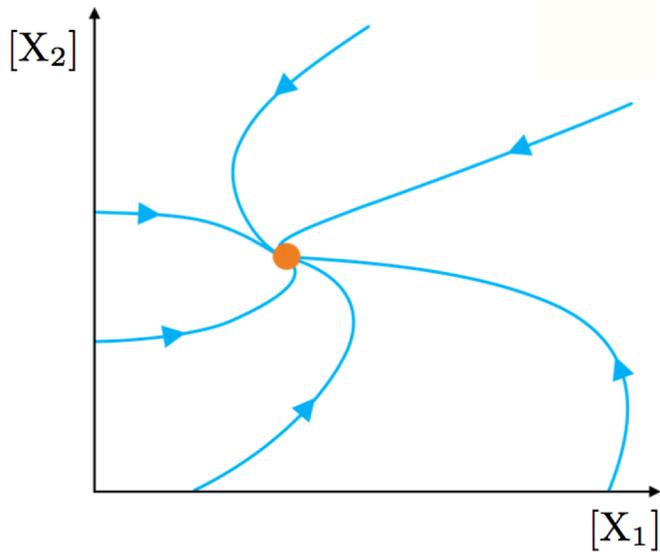
# *Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems*



# Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems

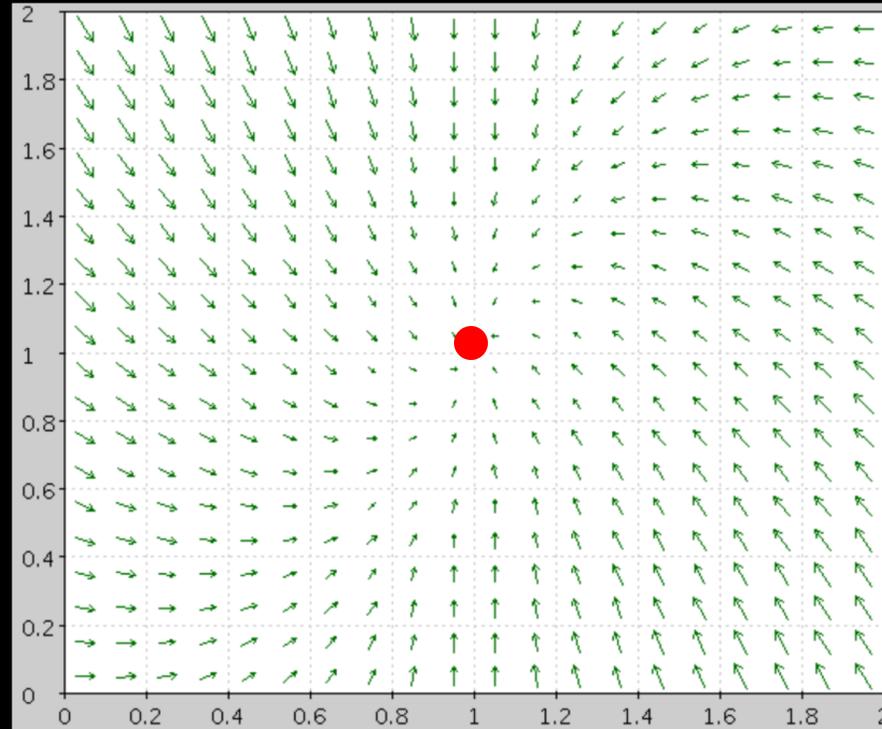


# Chemical reaction networks and polynomial dynamical systems



*But, many polynomial systems have very stable dynamics:*

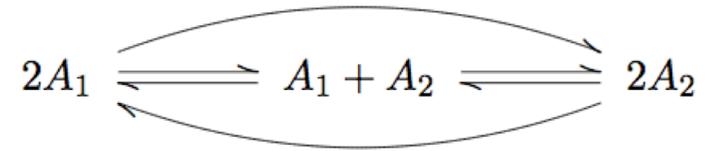
*Global Attractor Conjecture: complex balanced systems are globally stable (Horn, 1974).*



*Why? By analogy to Boltzmann's H-theorem.*

# *Mass-action kinetics*

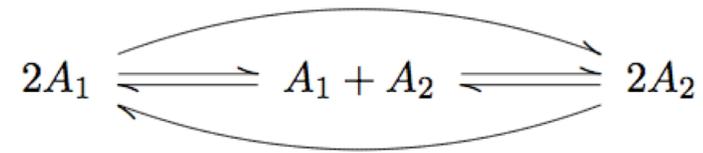
# Mass-action kinetics



$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = -k_1 x_1^2 + k_2 x_1 x_2 - k_3 x_1 x_2 + k_4 x_2^2 - 2k_5 x_1^2 + 2k_6 x_2^2$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = k_1 x_1^2 - k_2 x_1 x_2 + k_3 x_1 x_2 - k_4 x_2^2 + 2k_5 x_1^2 - 2k_6 x_2^2$$

# Mass-action kinetics

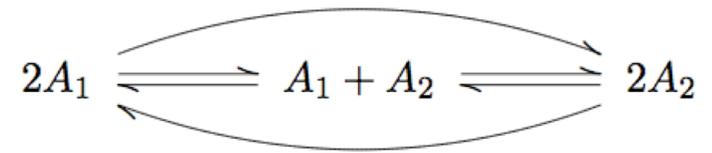


$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = -k_1 x_1^2 + k_2 x_1 x_2 - k_3 x_1 x_2 + k_4 x_2^2 - 2k_5 x_1^2 + 2k_6 x_2^2$$

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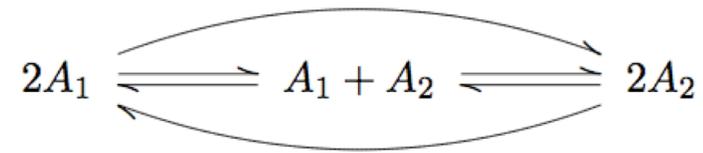
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} &= k_1 x_1^2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + k_2 x_1 x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + k_3 x_1 x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &+ k_4 x_2^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + k_5 x_1^2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + k_6 x_2^2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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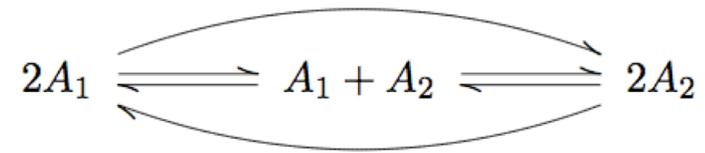
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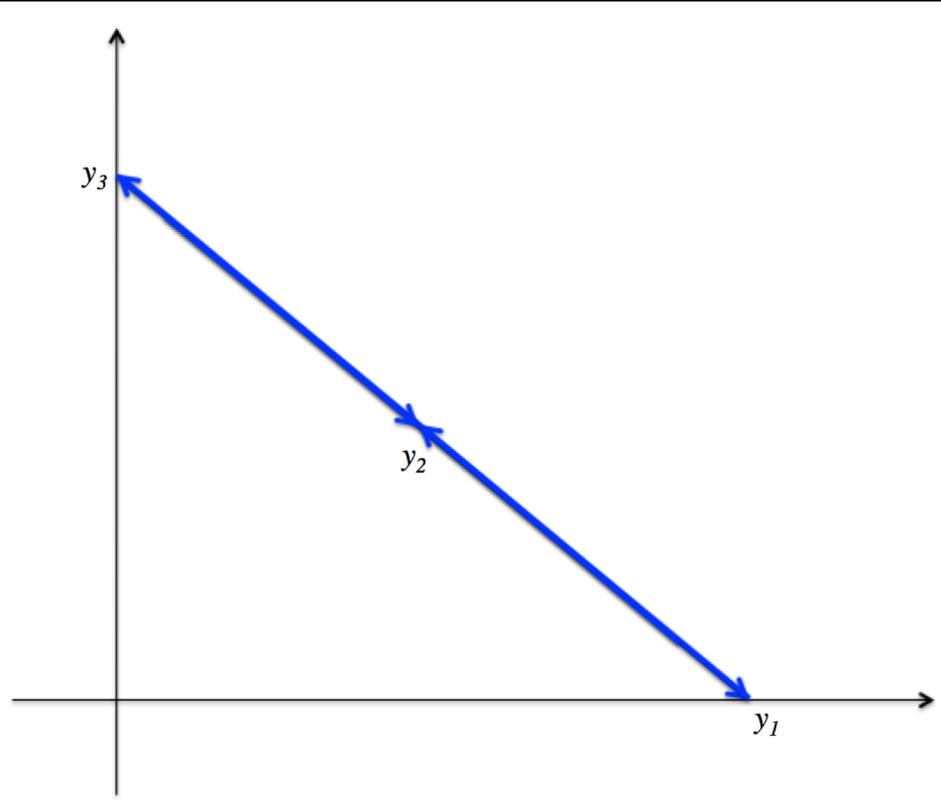
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^n k_i x^{y_i} (y'_i - y_i)$$

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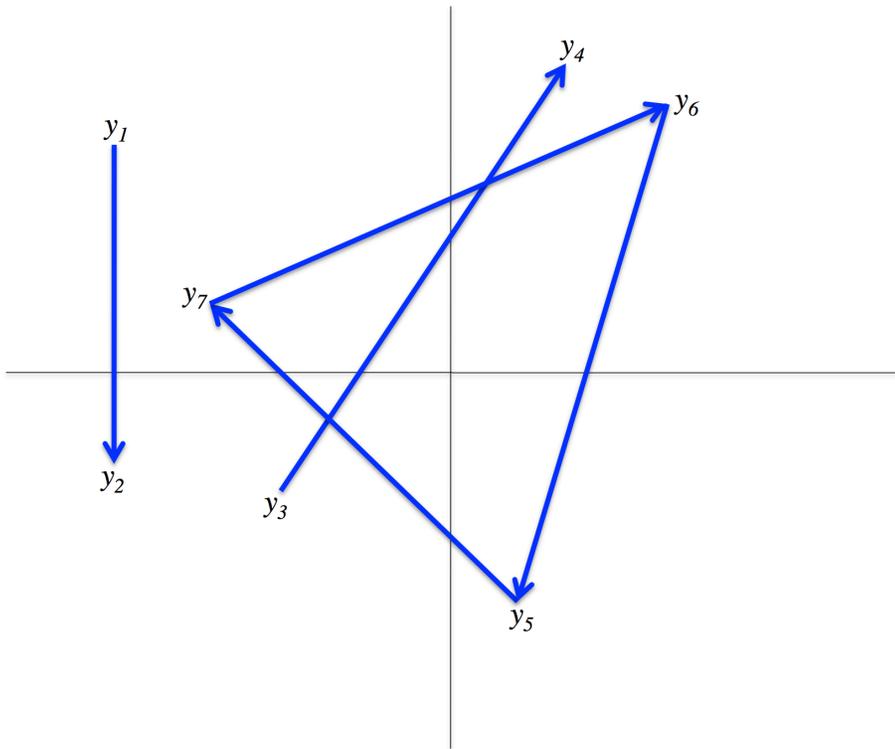
*Complex-balanced*  
*polynomial dynamical*  
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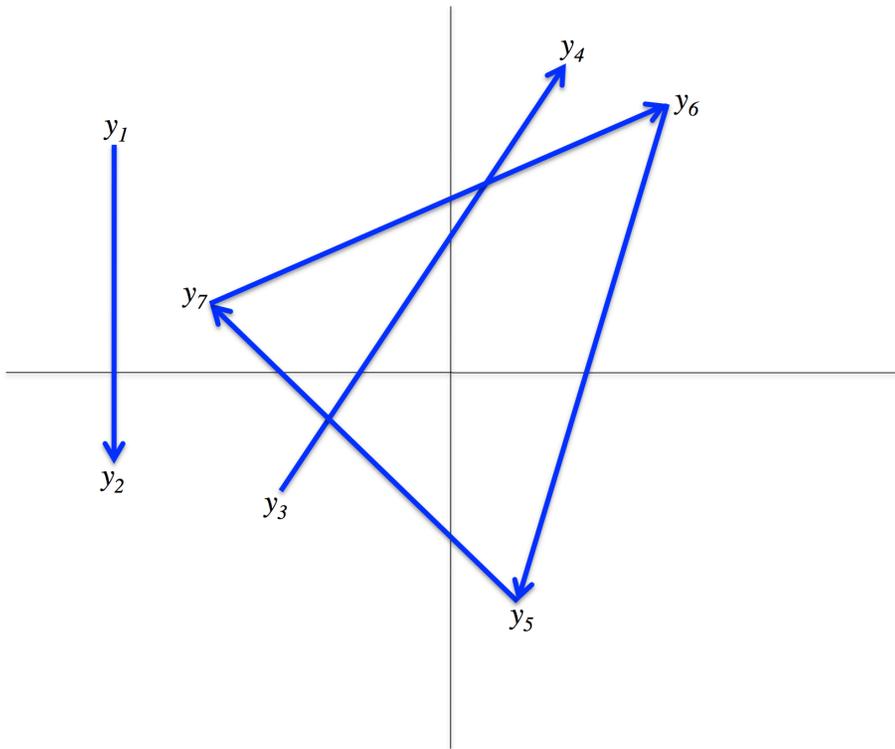
*Any polynomial dynamical system can be represented by an “Euclidean embedded graph”*



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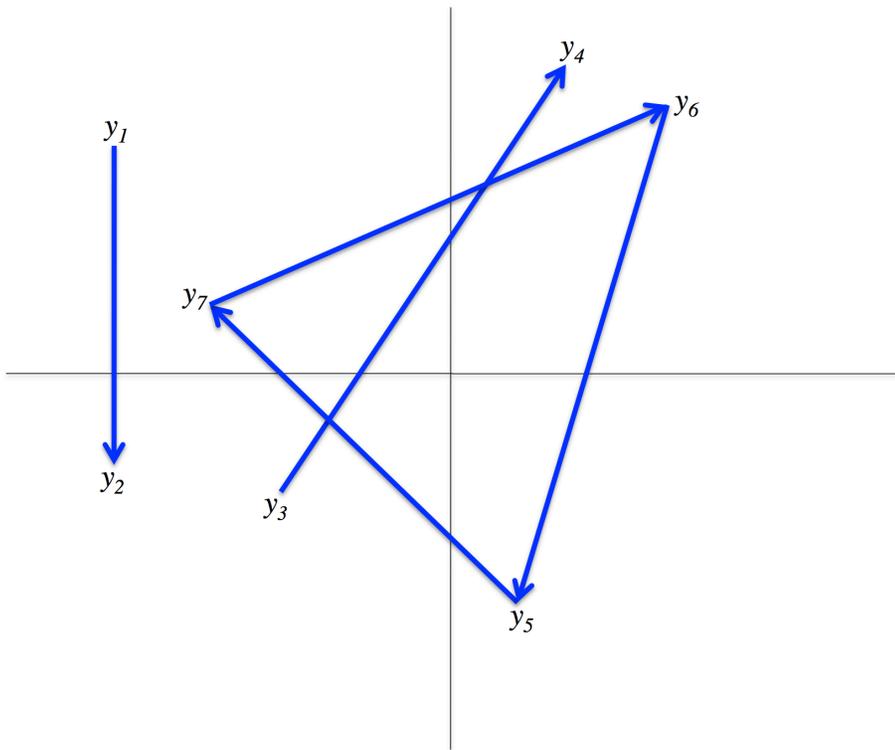


$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sum_{y \rightarrow y' \in G} k_{y \rightarrow y'} x^y (y' - y)$$

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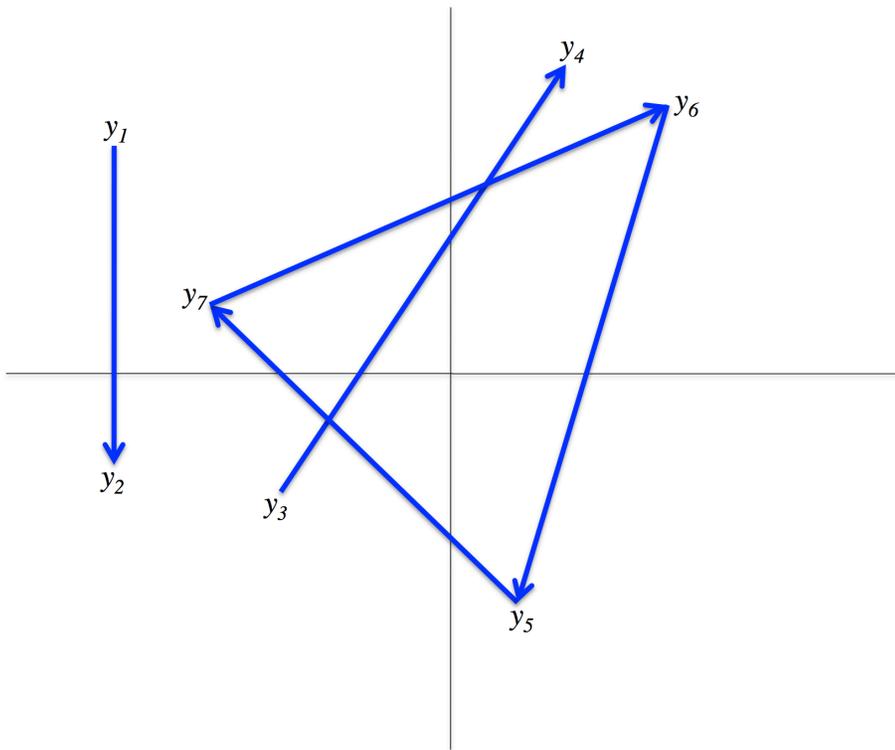
**Complex balance condition:**

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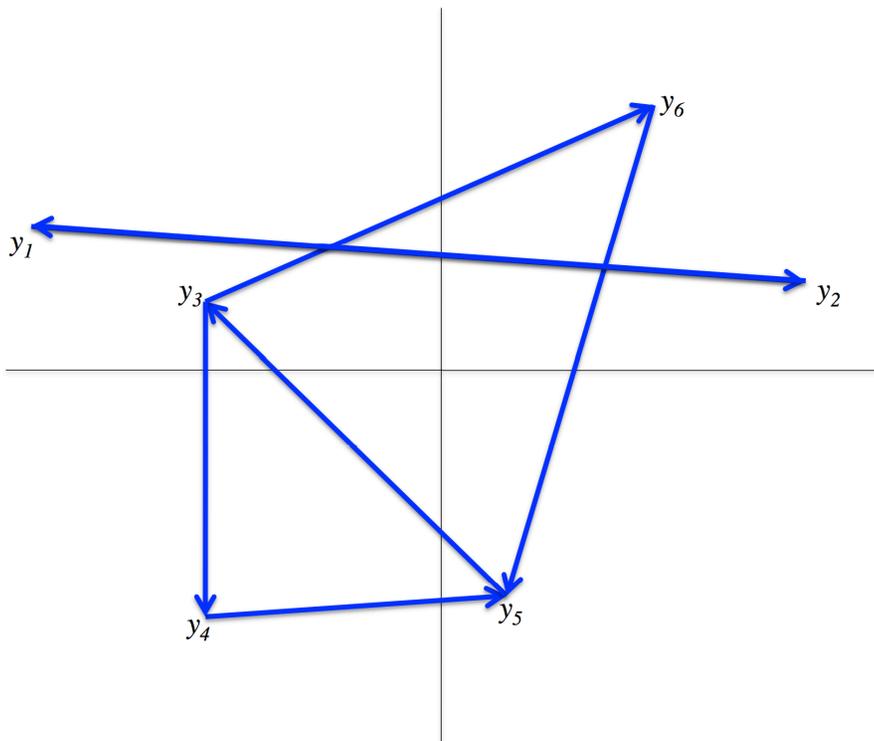
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**Remark:** complex balance implies that the graph is “weakly reversible”

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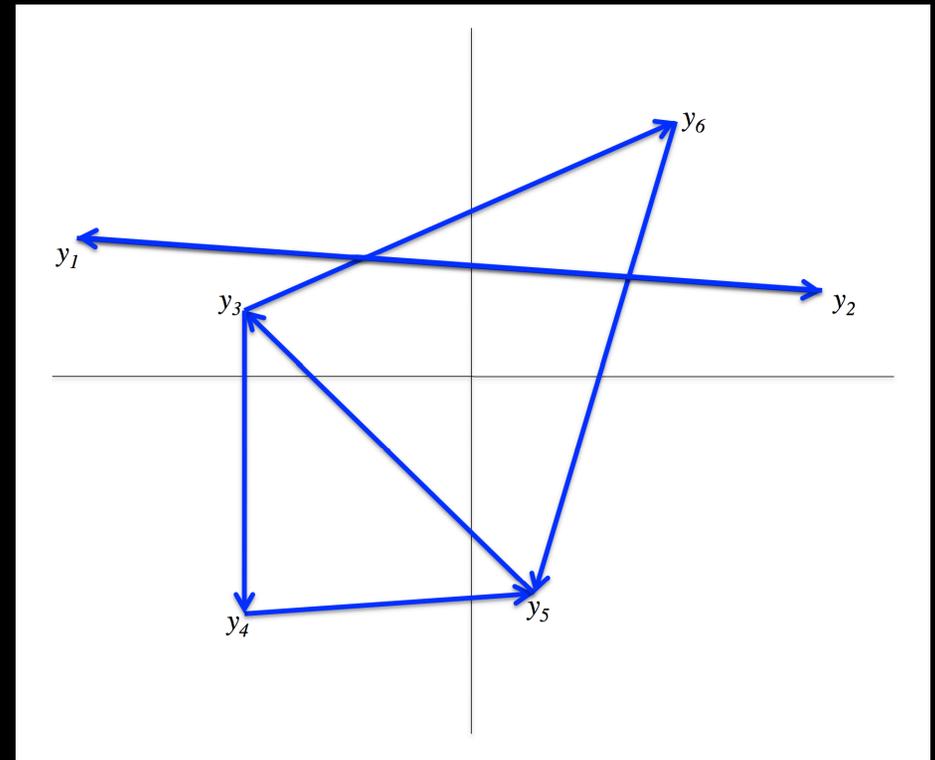
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## *The Horn-Jackson theorem (1972)*

*Theorem. If a reaction system is complex balanced then there exists a strict Lyapunov function within each linear invariant subspace.*

# *The Horn-Jackson theorem (1972)*

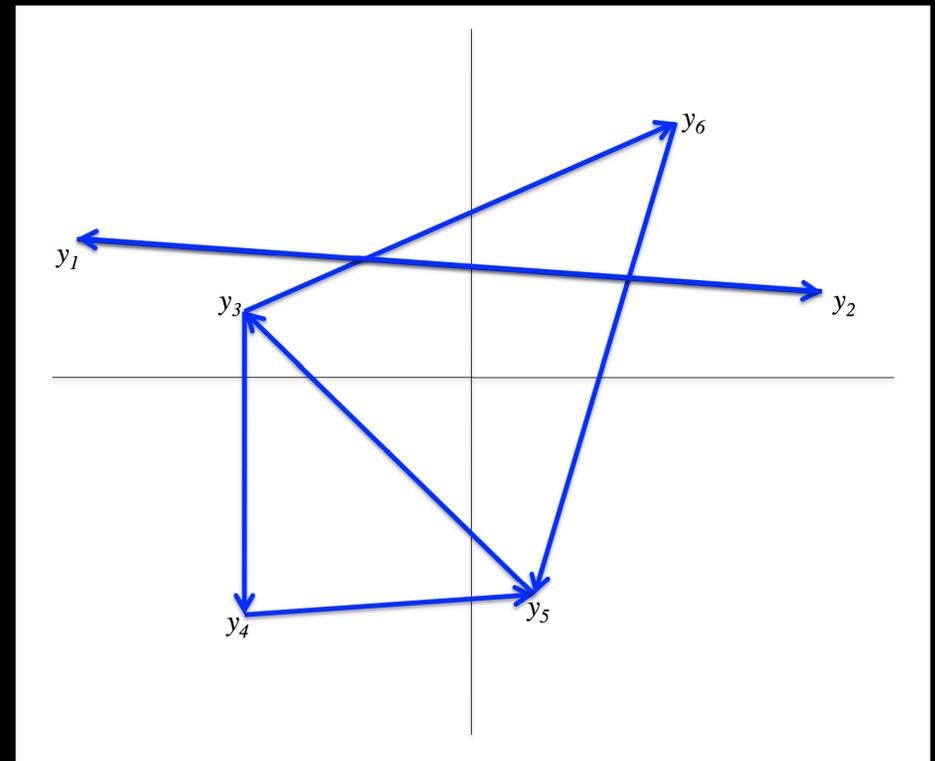
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# The Horn-Jackson theorem (1972)

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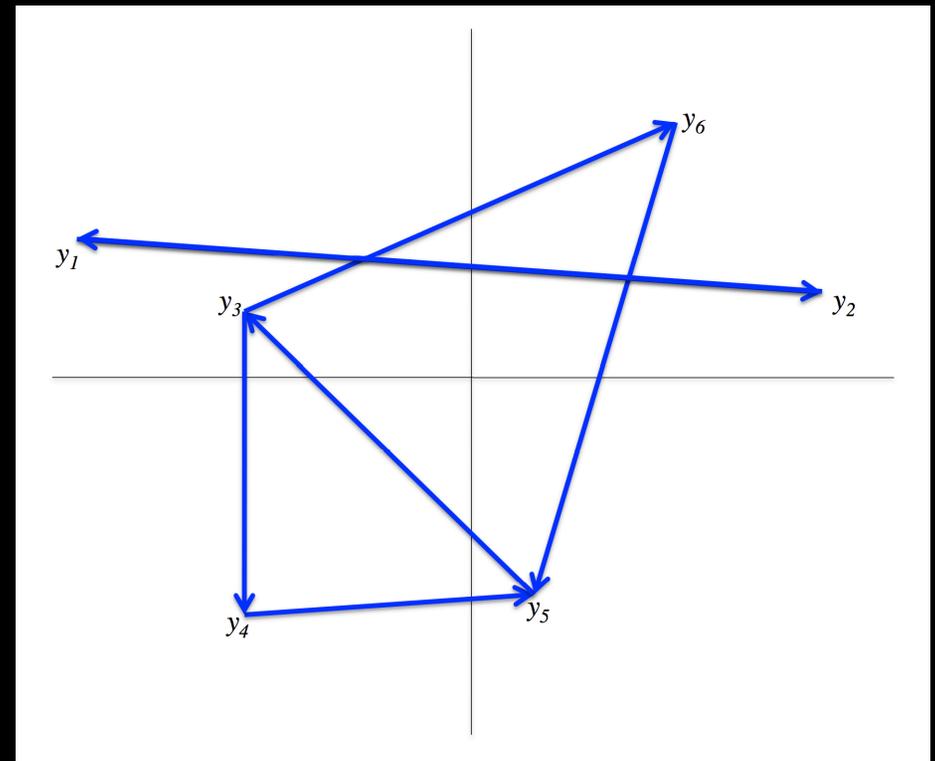


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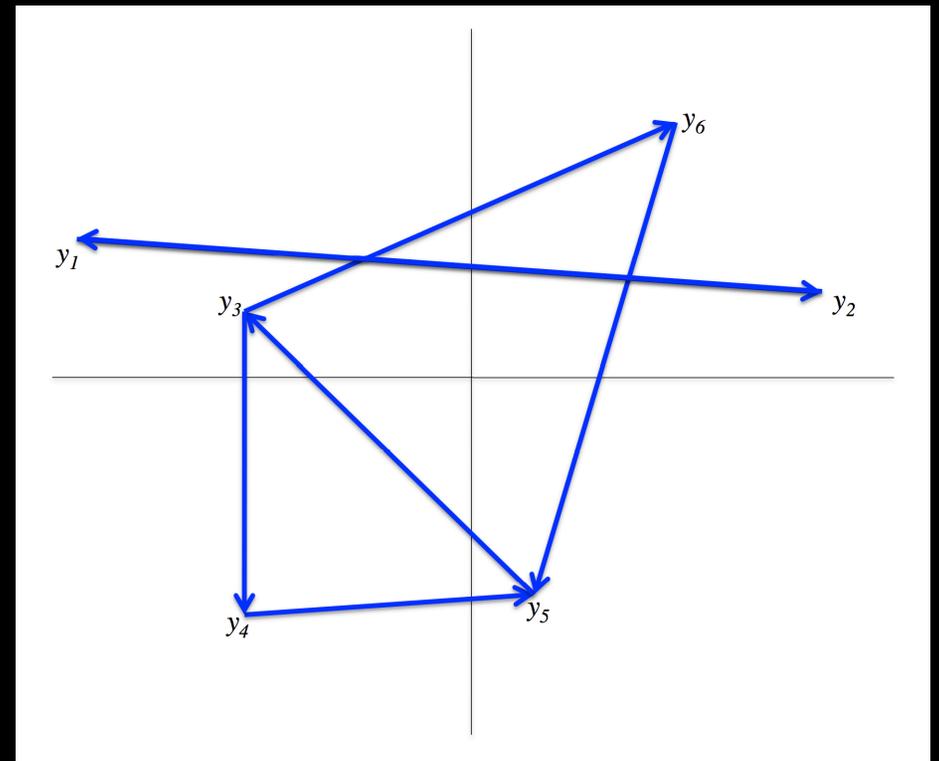


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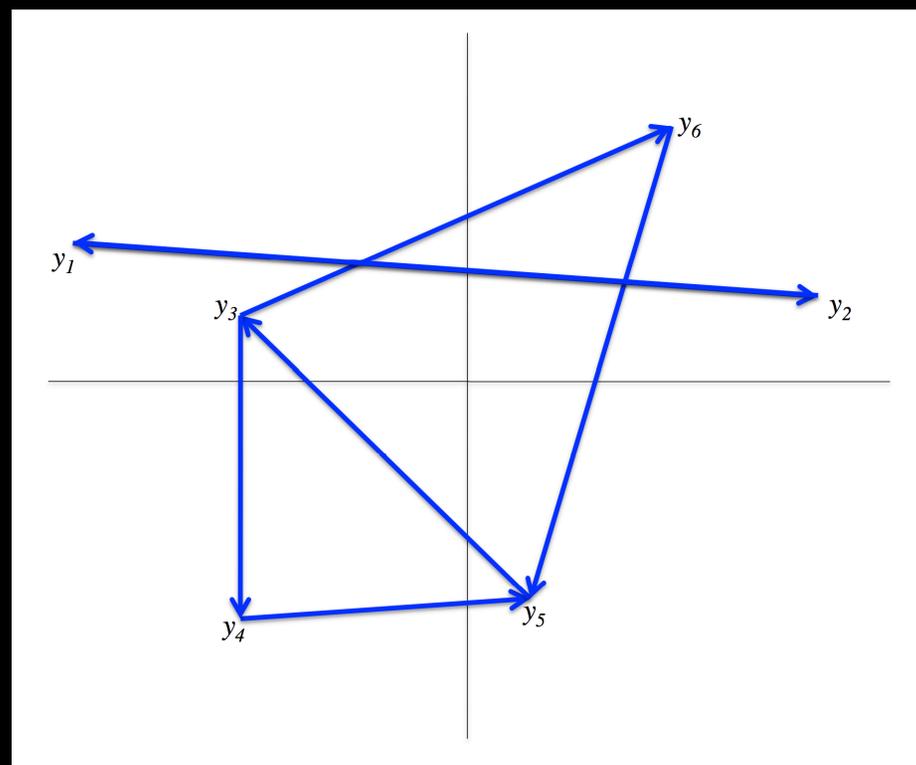
$$L(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (\ln x_j - \ln x_j^* - 1)$$

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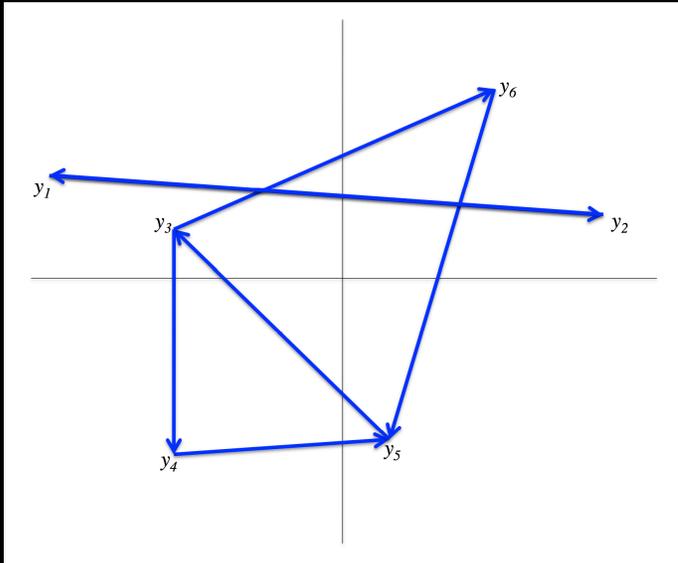
**Conjecture (Horn 1974).** If a system is complex balanced then it has a globally attracting point within each linear invariant subspace.

## *The Global Attractor Conjecture*

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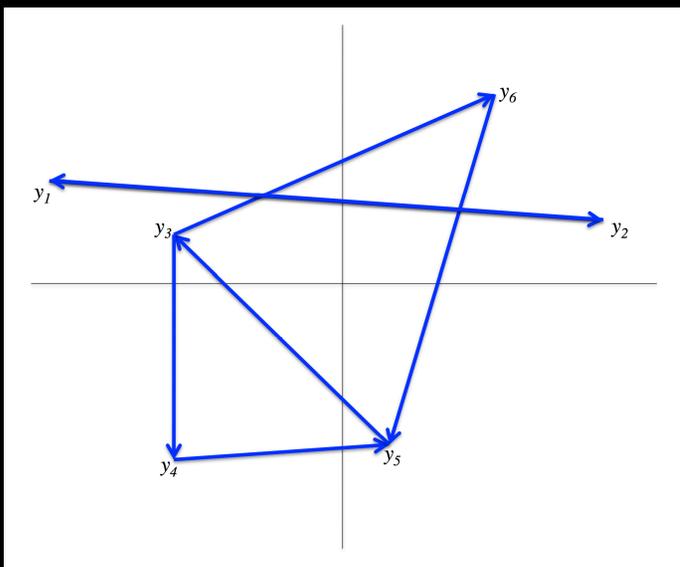


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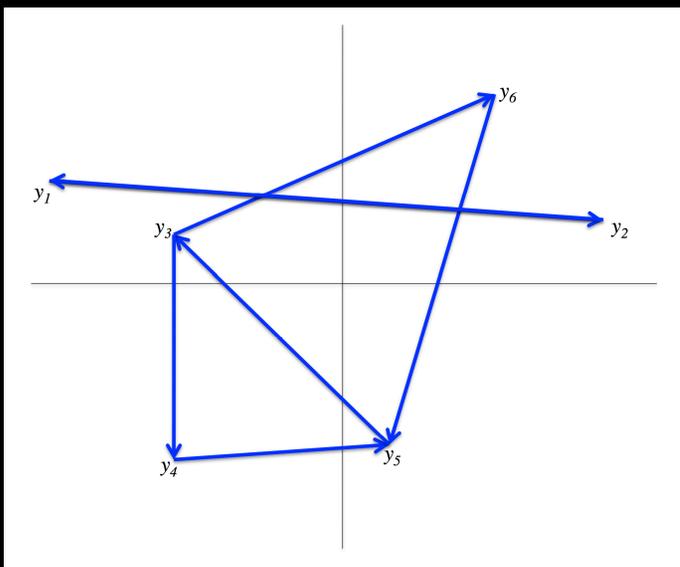
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**Remark 1:** *if the graph  $G$  is weakly reversible and embedding is in “general position” then the system is guaranteed to be complex balanced (by the deficiency zero theorem).*

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**Remark 1:** *if the graph  $G$  is weakly reversible and embedding is in “general position” then the system is guaranteed to be complex balanced (by the deficiency zero theorem).*

**Remark 2:** *The “Extended Permanence Conjecture” says that if the graph  $G$  is weakly reversible then the system is variable- $k$  permanent.*

# *Timeline*

# Timeline

1876: *Boltzmann*, entropy, the H-theorem

1901: *Wegscheider*, the Wegscheider paradox

1930: *Onsager*, the reciprocal relations

1962: *Wei and Prater*, linear systems, global strict Lyapunov function

1967: *Shear*, reversible systems with unique steady state, global strict Lyapunov function

1968: *Higgins*, points out Shear's error

1972: *Horn and Jackson*, complex balanced systems, global strict Lyapunov function

1972: *Horn and Feinberg*, deficiency zero theorem

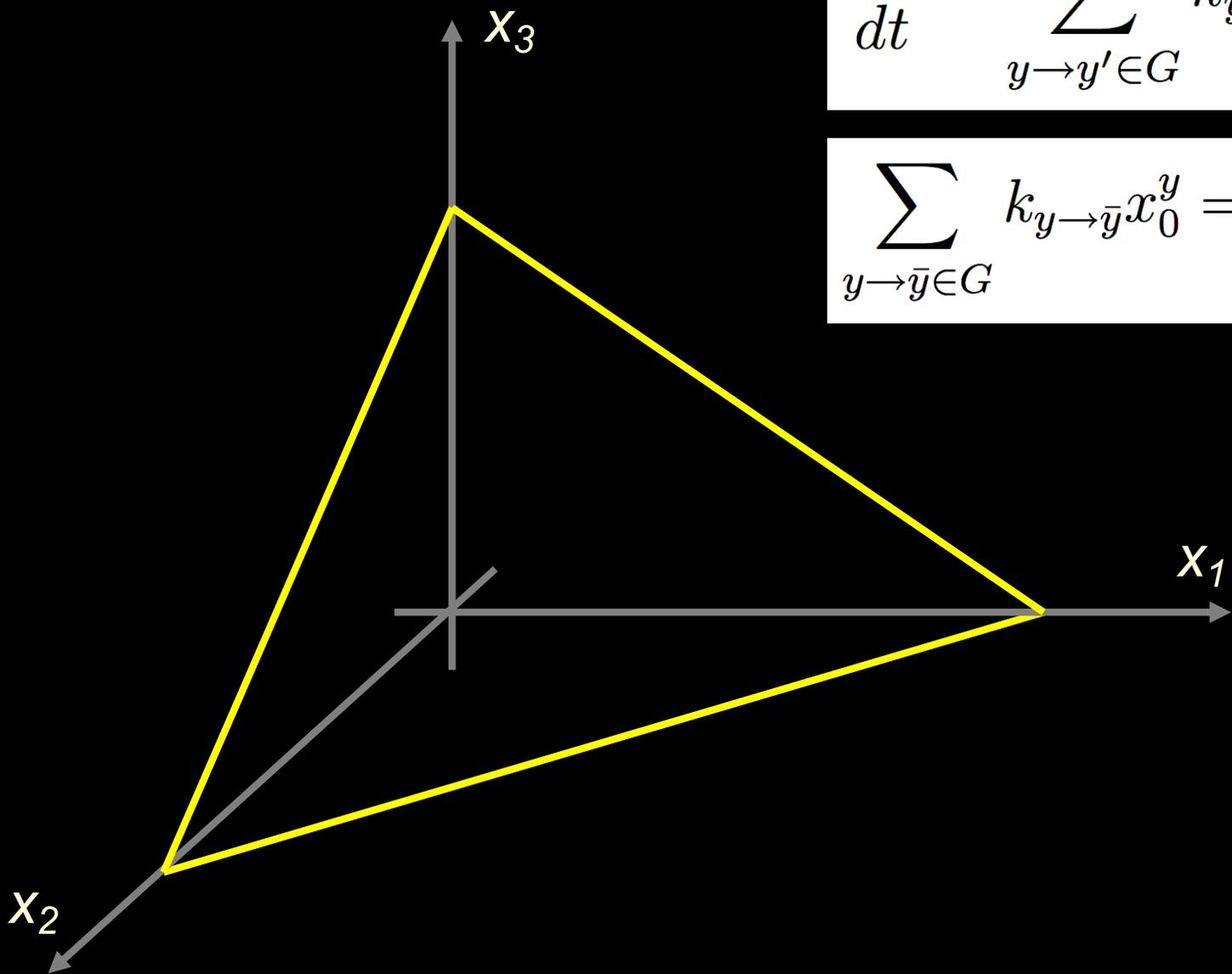
1972: *Kurtz*, connection between stochastic and deterministic mass-action kinetics

1974: *Horn*, the Global Attractor Conjecture

# The Global Attractor Conjecture

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sum_{y \rightarrow y' \in G} k_{y \rightarrow y'} x^y (y' - y)$$

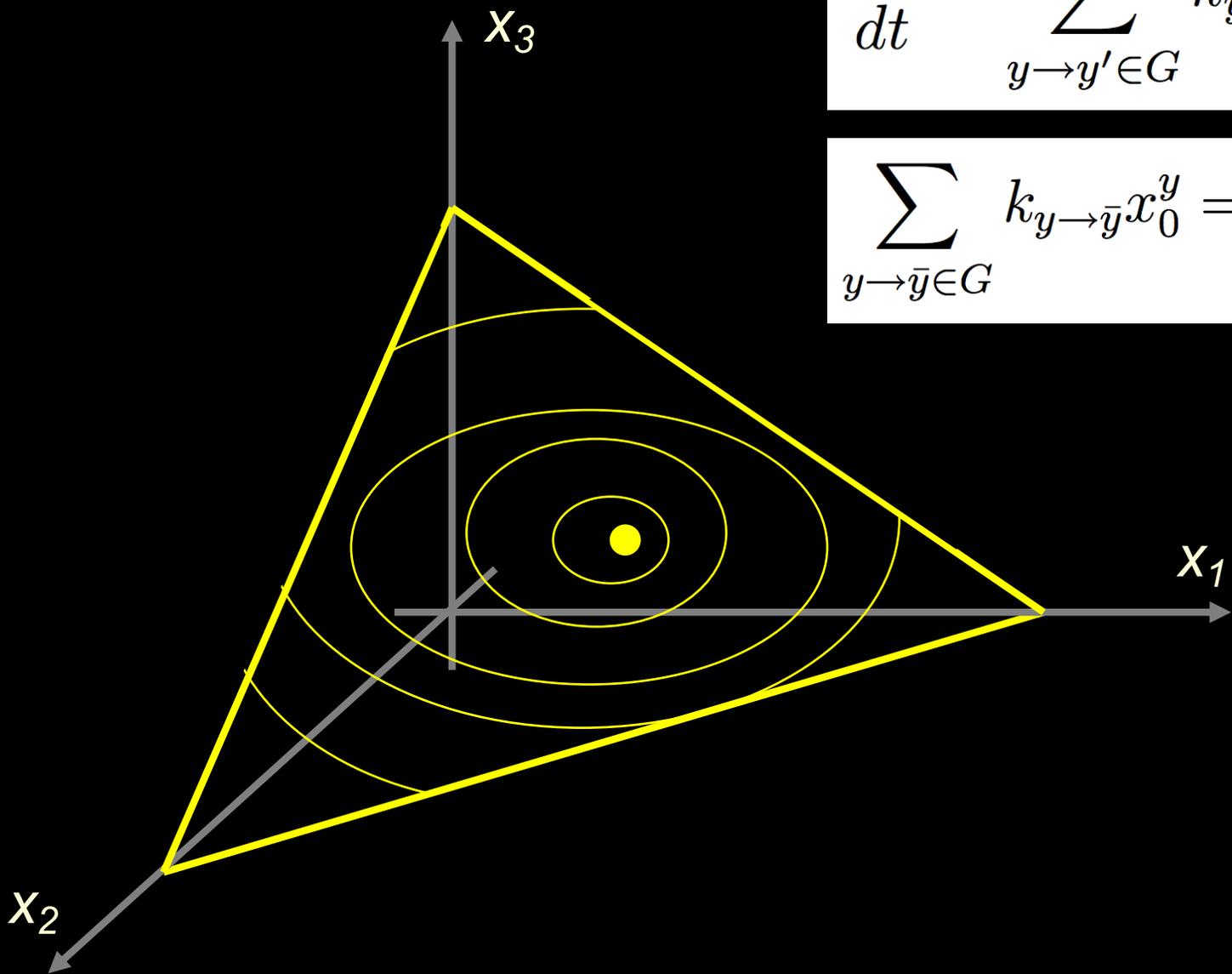
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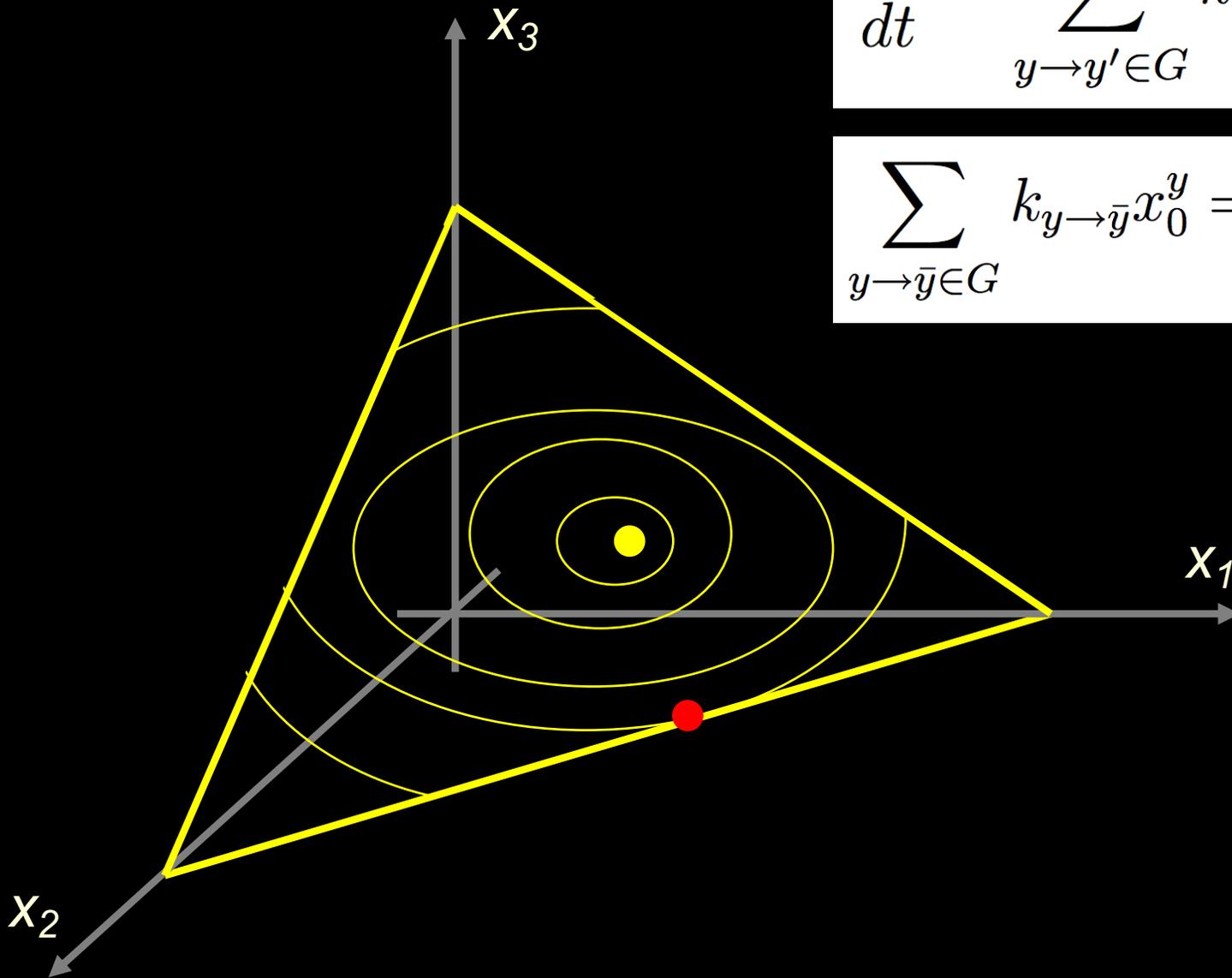
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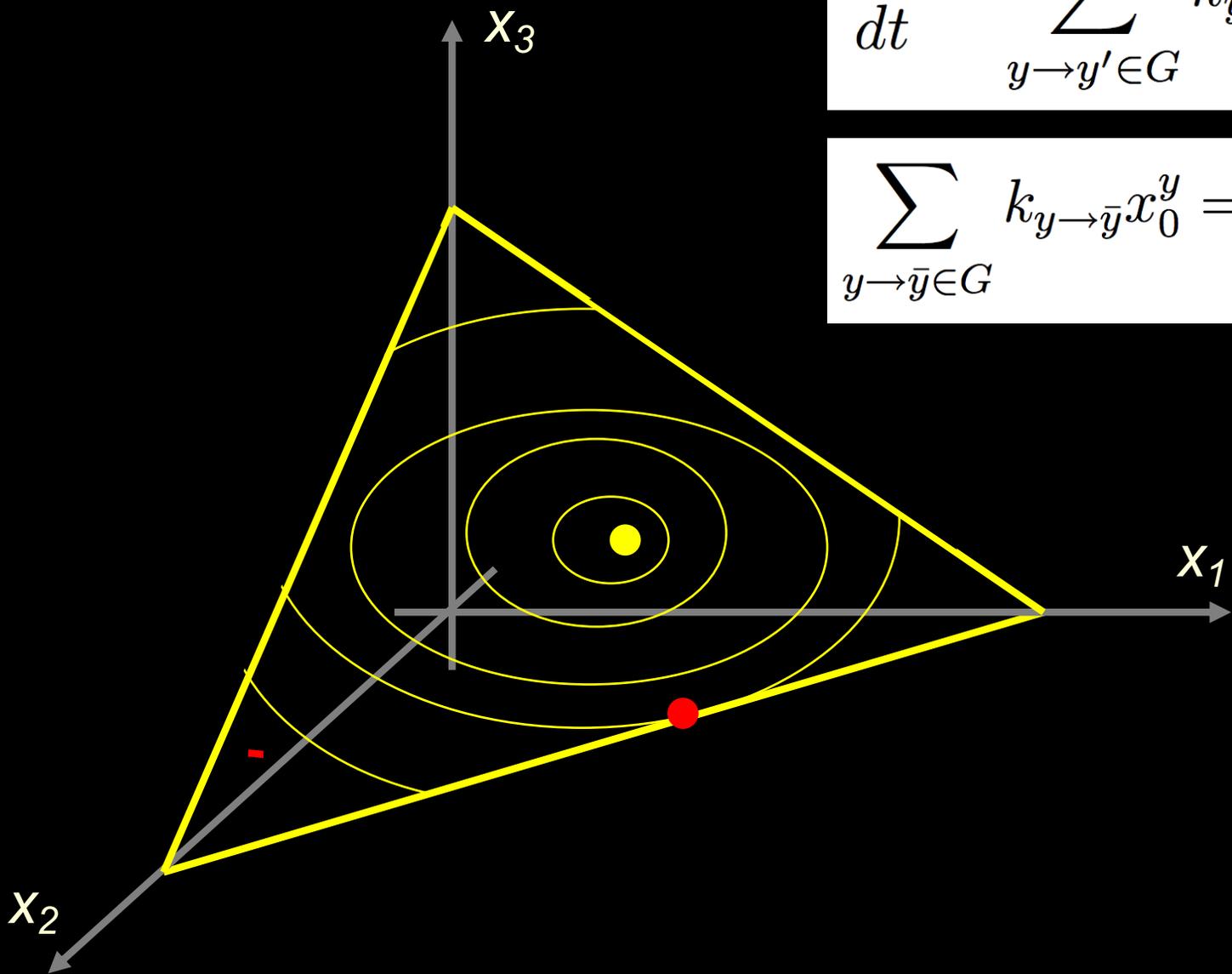
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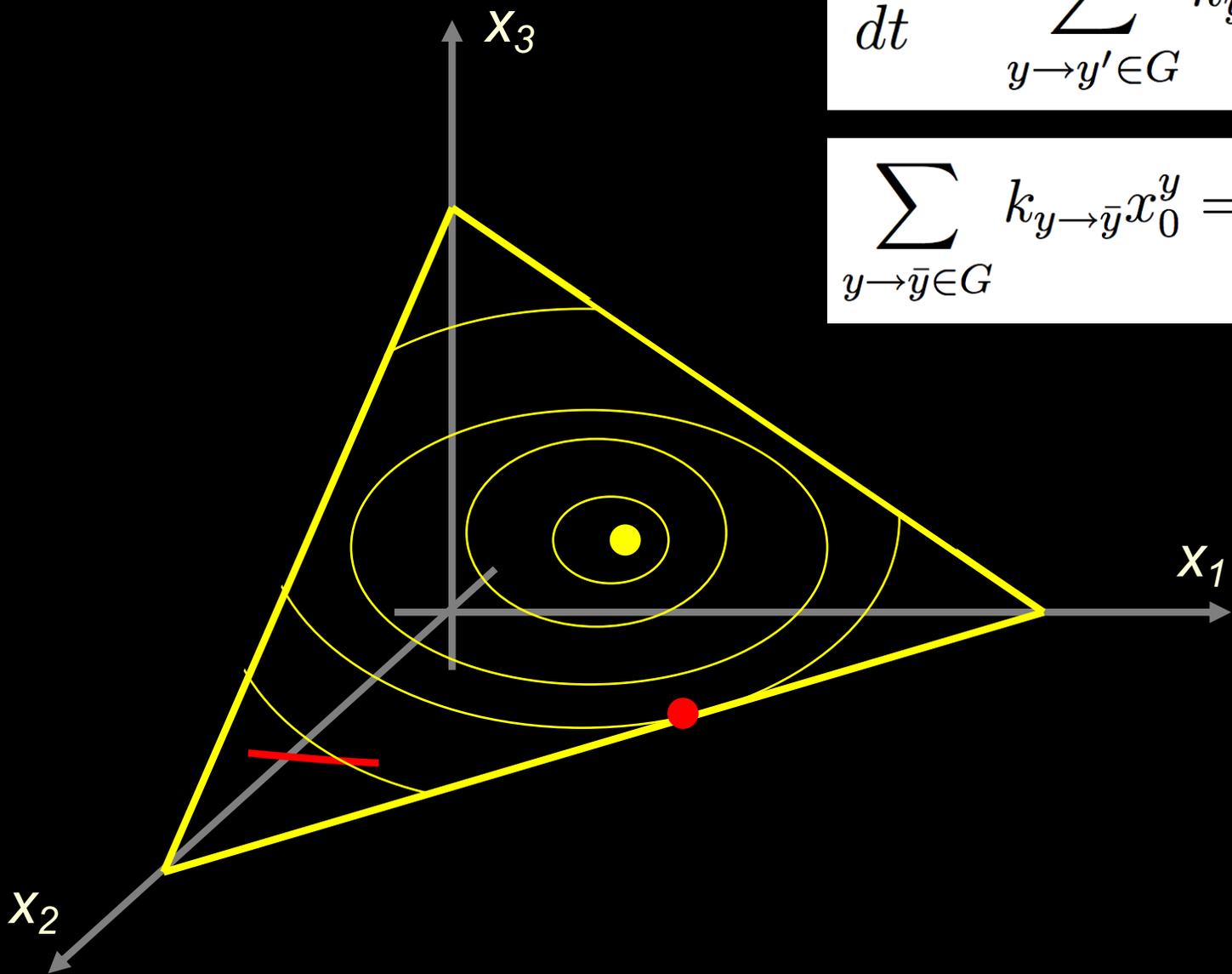
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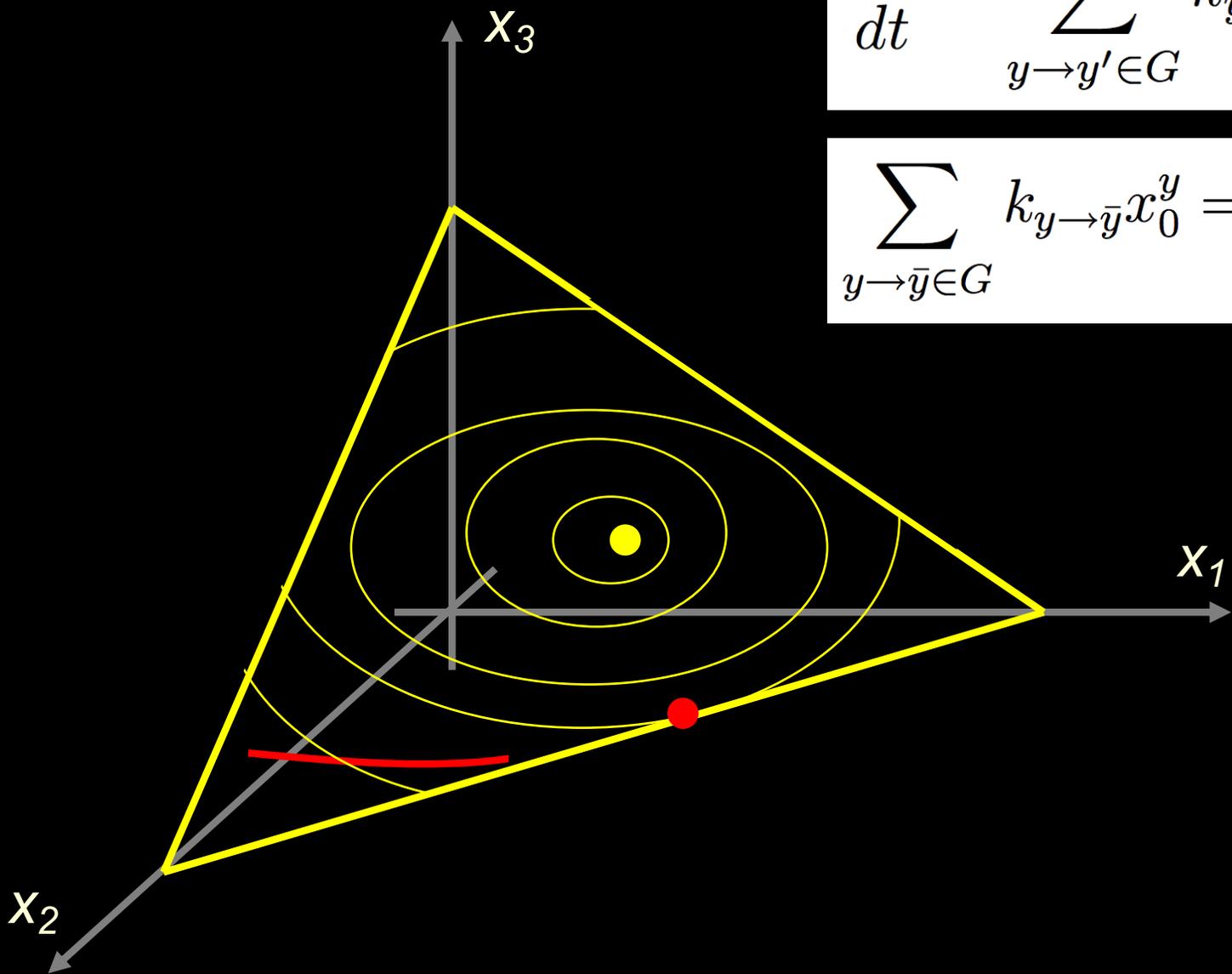
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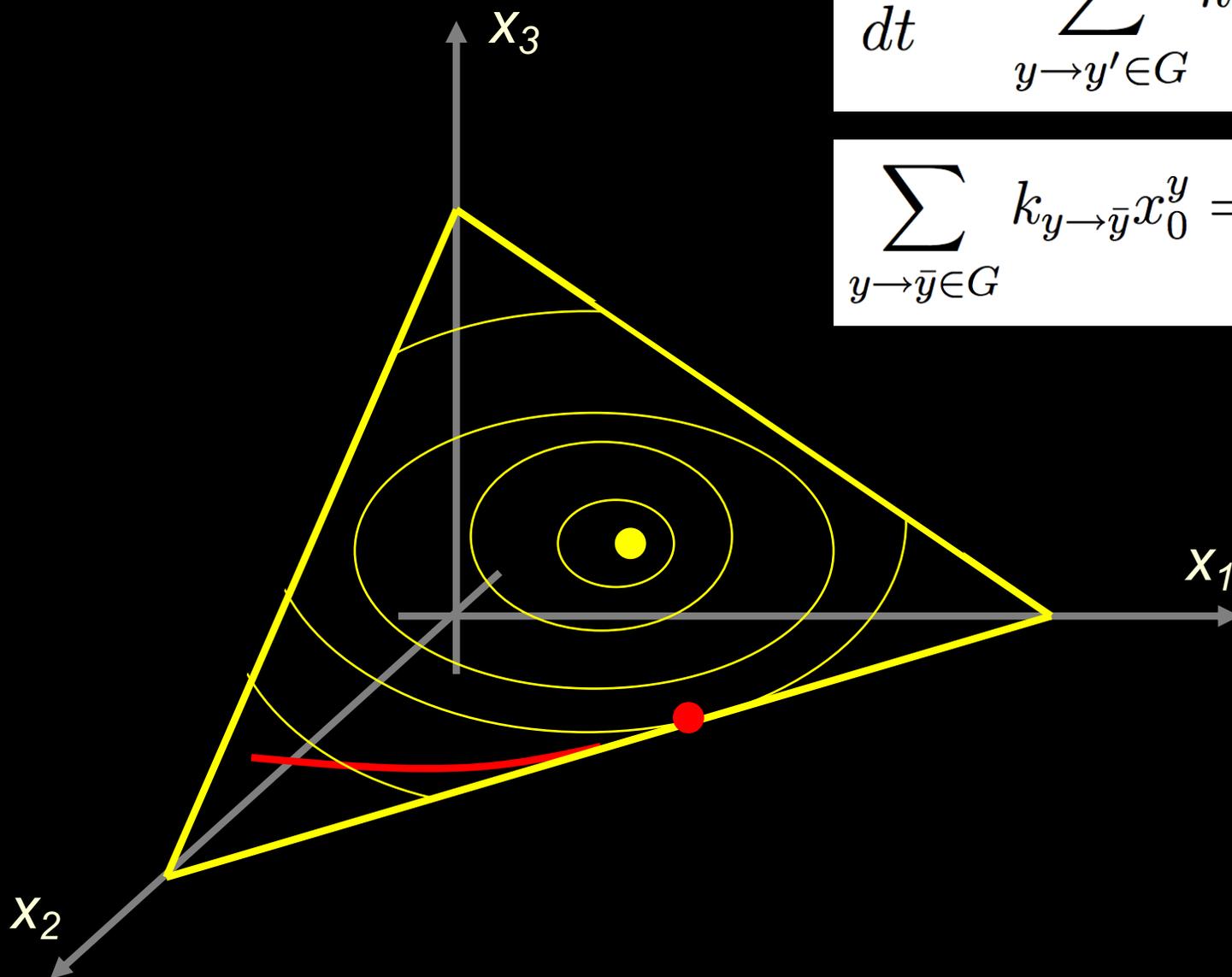
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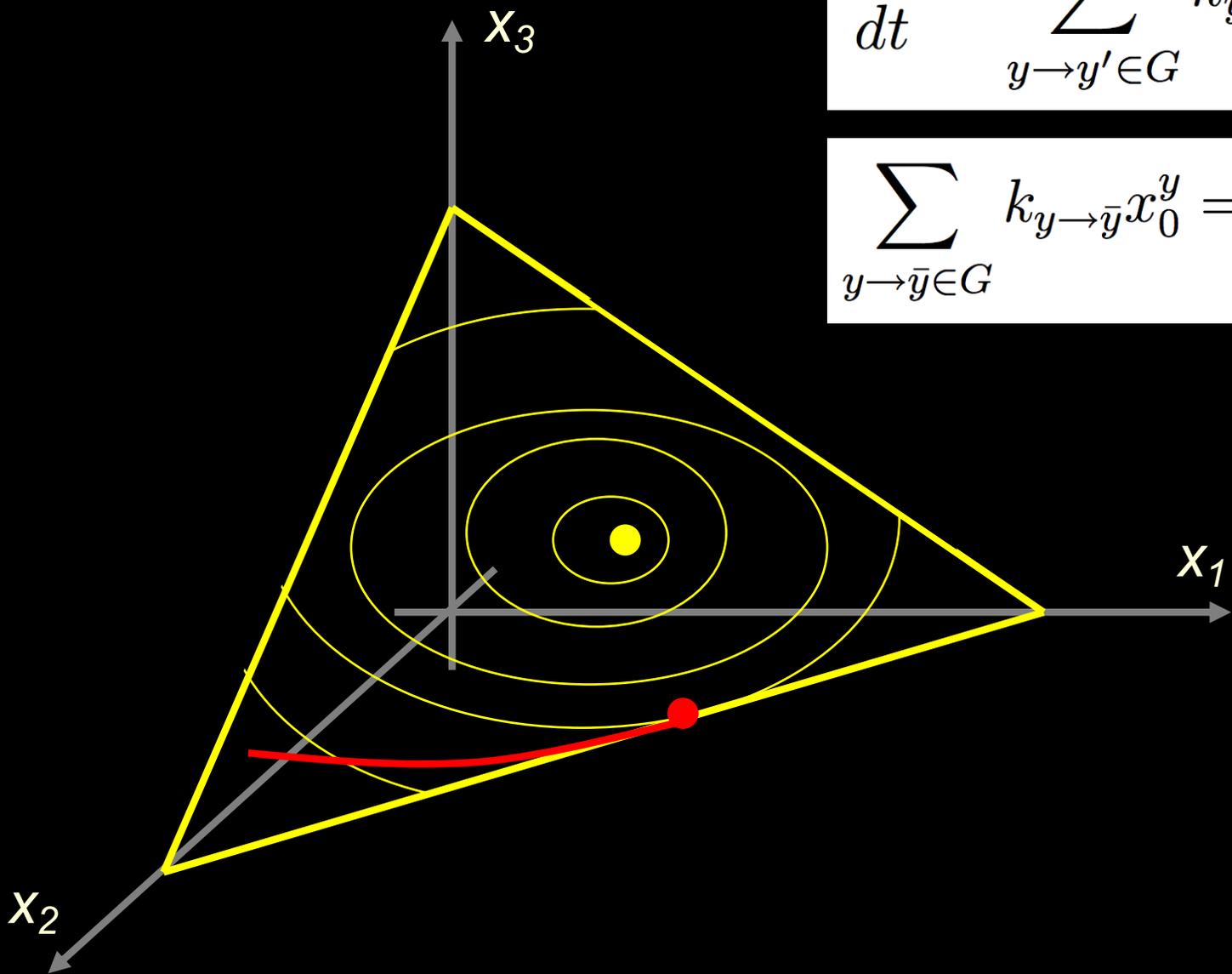
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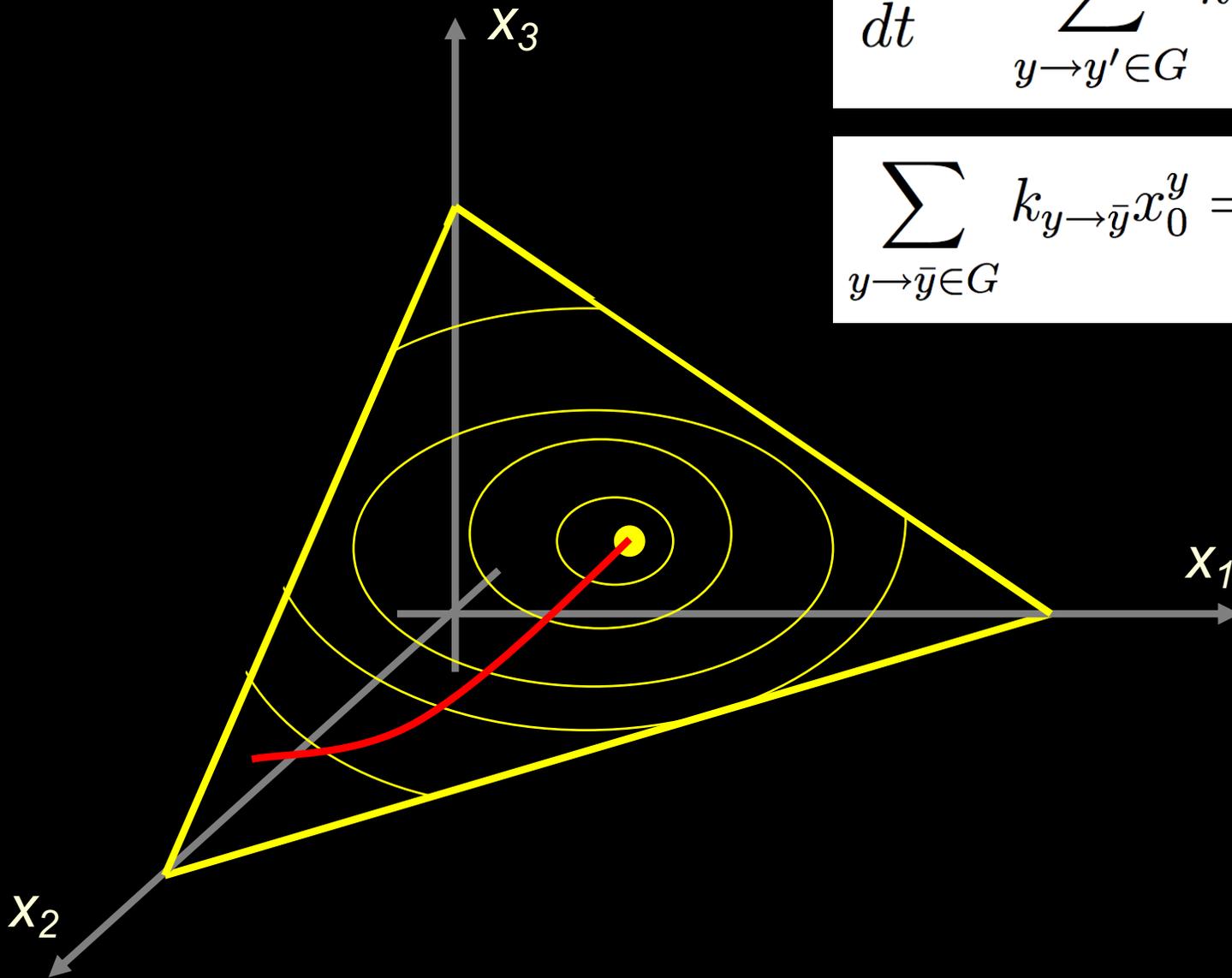
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# *Global Attractor Conjecture: towards an “algebraic thermodynamics”*

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1972: *Horn and Jackson*, complex balanced systems, global strict Lyapunov function

1972: *Horn and Feinberg*, deficiency zero theorem

1990s, early 2000s: *Siegel, Sontag*, boundary equilibria, global stability

2007: *Craciun, Dickenstein, Shiu, Sturmfels*, proof of special case of 2D global attractor conjecture

2009: *Anderson and Shiu*, proof of 2D global attractor conjecture

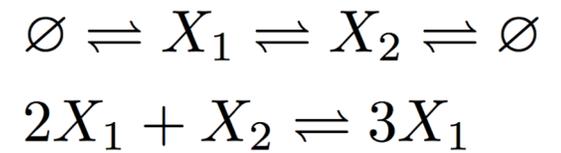
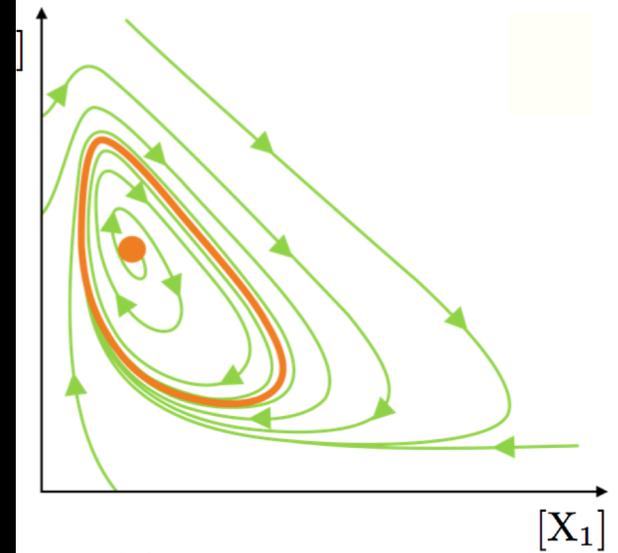
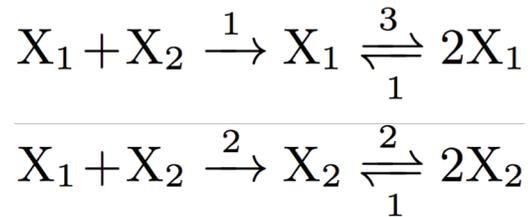
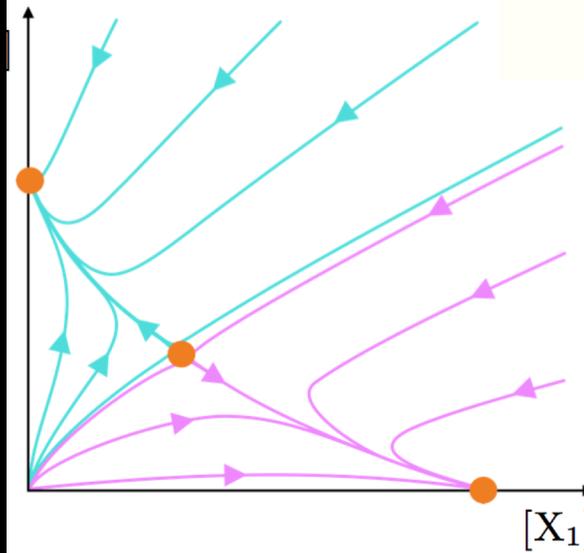
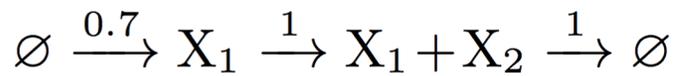
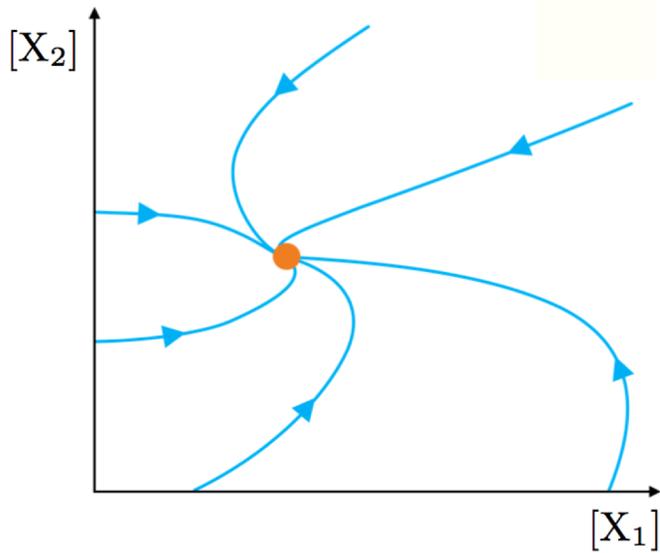
2010: *Craciun, Nazarov, Pantea*, introduce permanence conjecture,  
proof of 3D global attractor conjecture

2011: *Anderson*, proof of global attractor conjecture for single linkage class

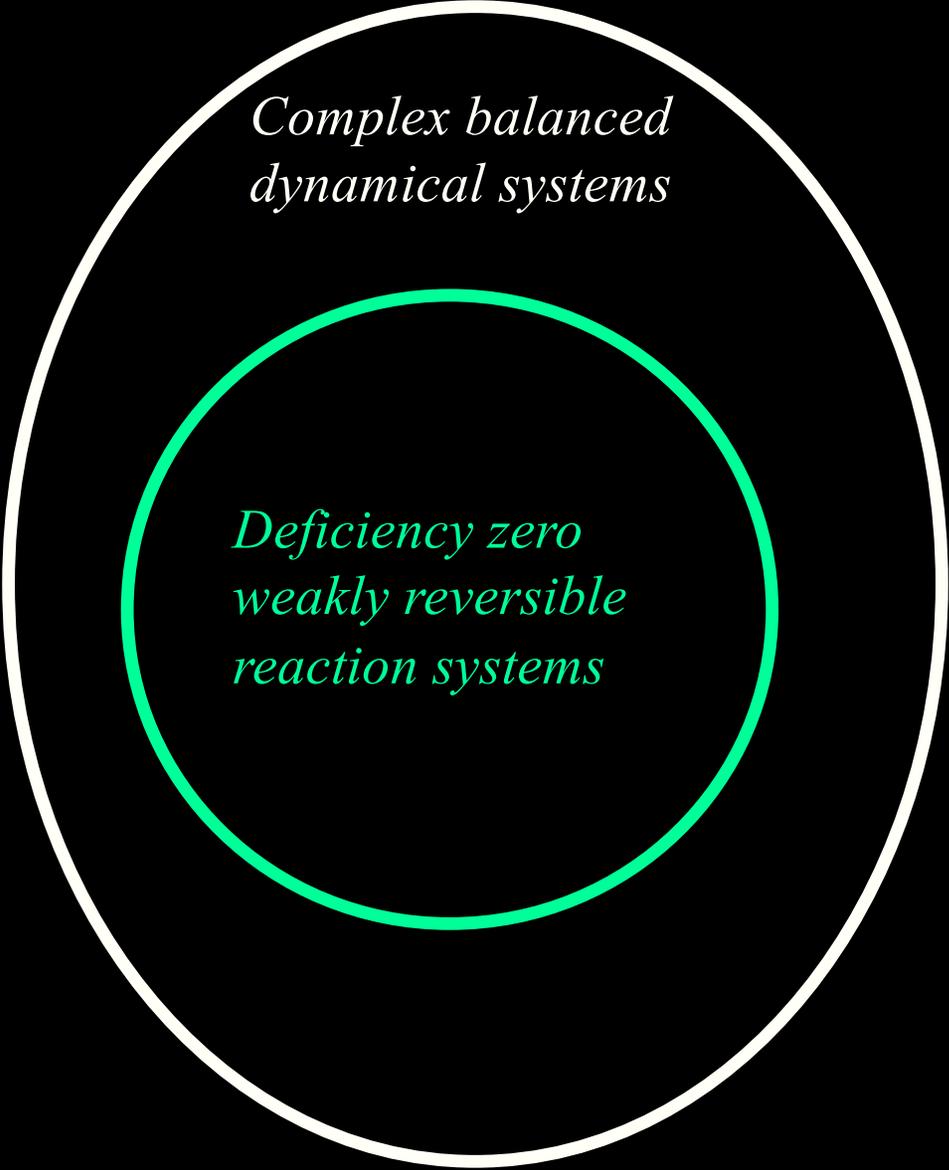
2013: *Gopalkrishnan, Miller, Shiu*, proof of global attractor conjecture for  
strongly endotactic networks

# *The big picture*

# The big picture



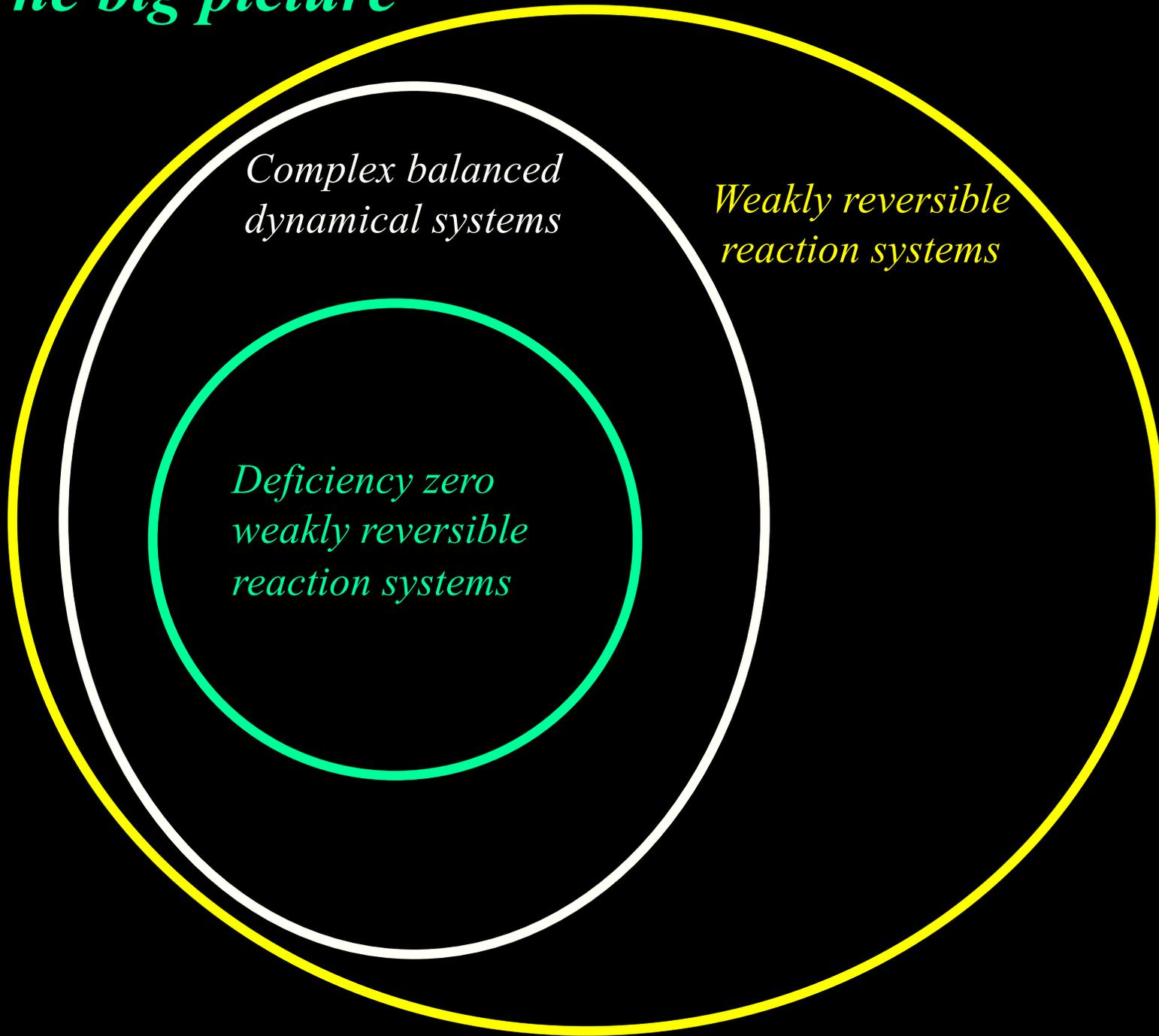
# *The big picture*



*Complex balanced  
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*Deficiency zero  
weakly reversible  
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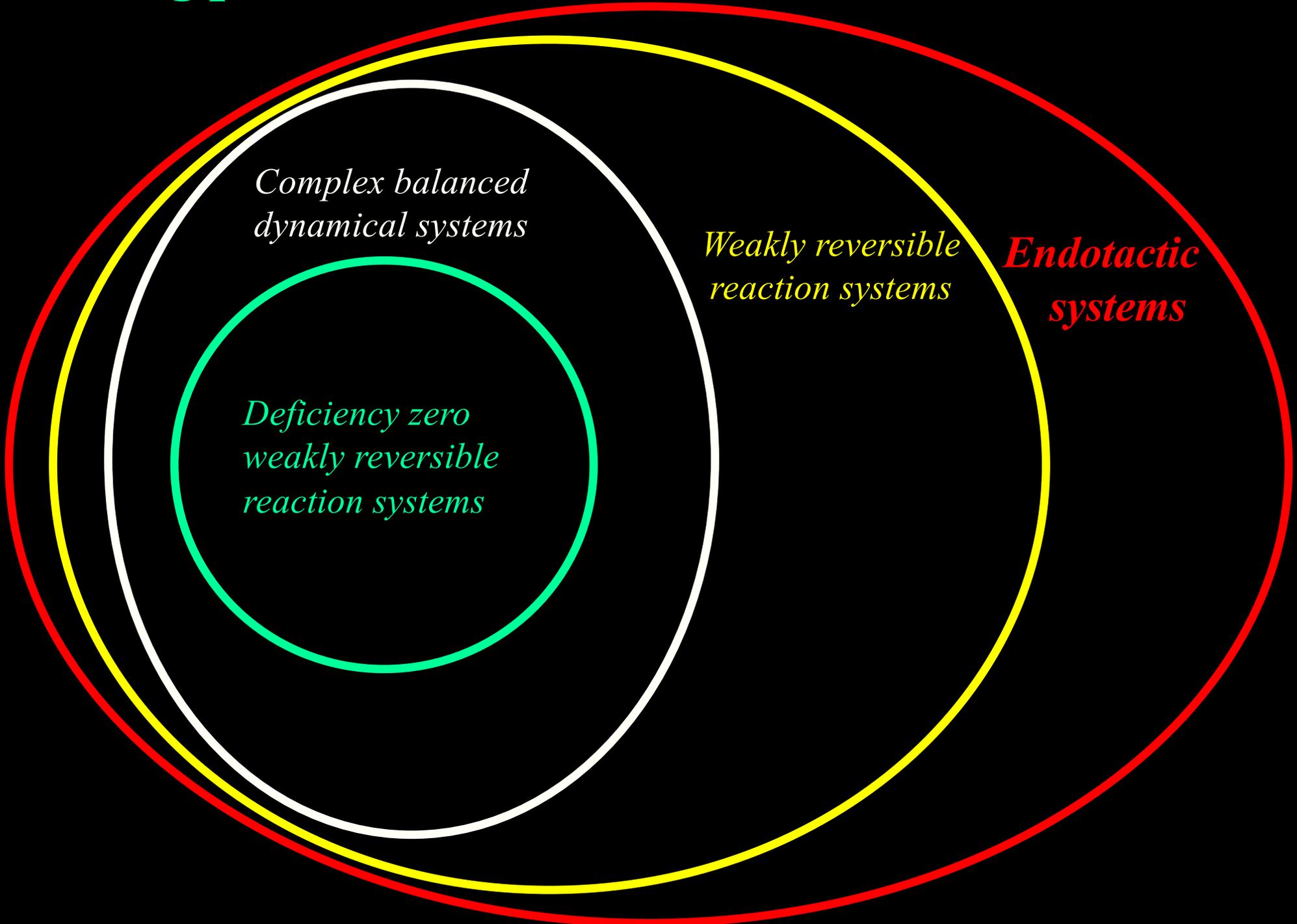
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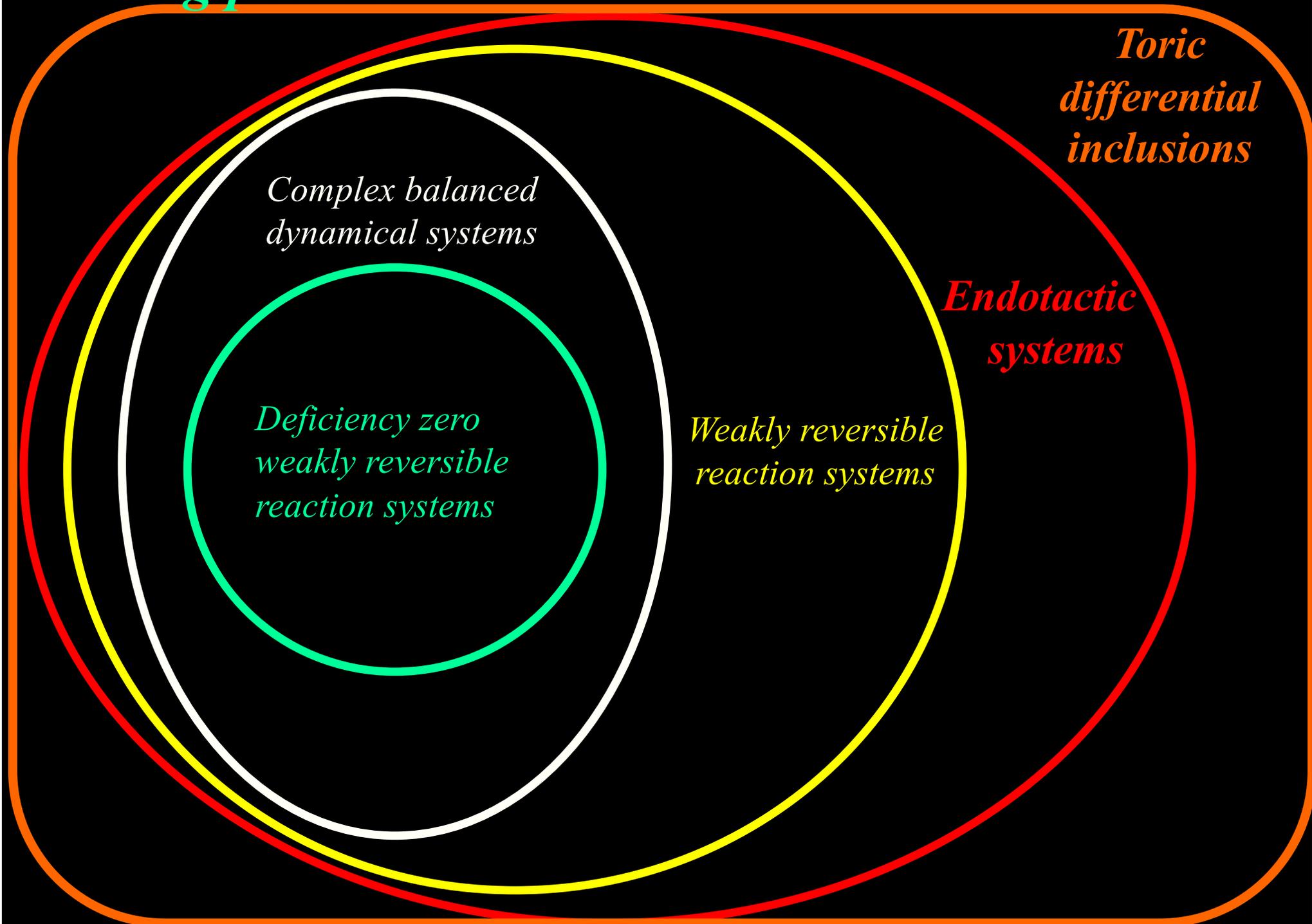
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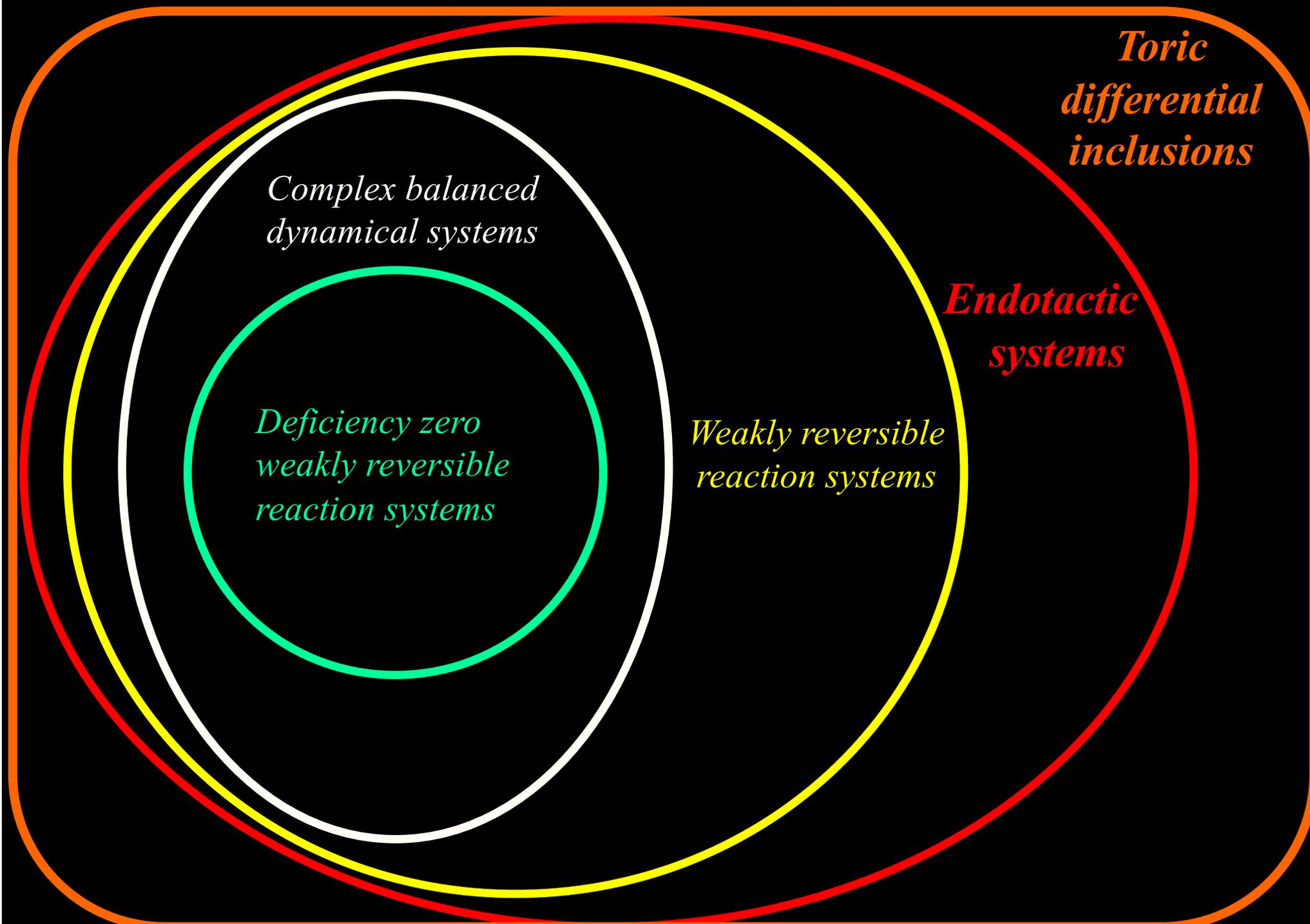
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# *The big picture*



*Question: what remains from global stability if we add external signals?*



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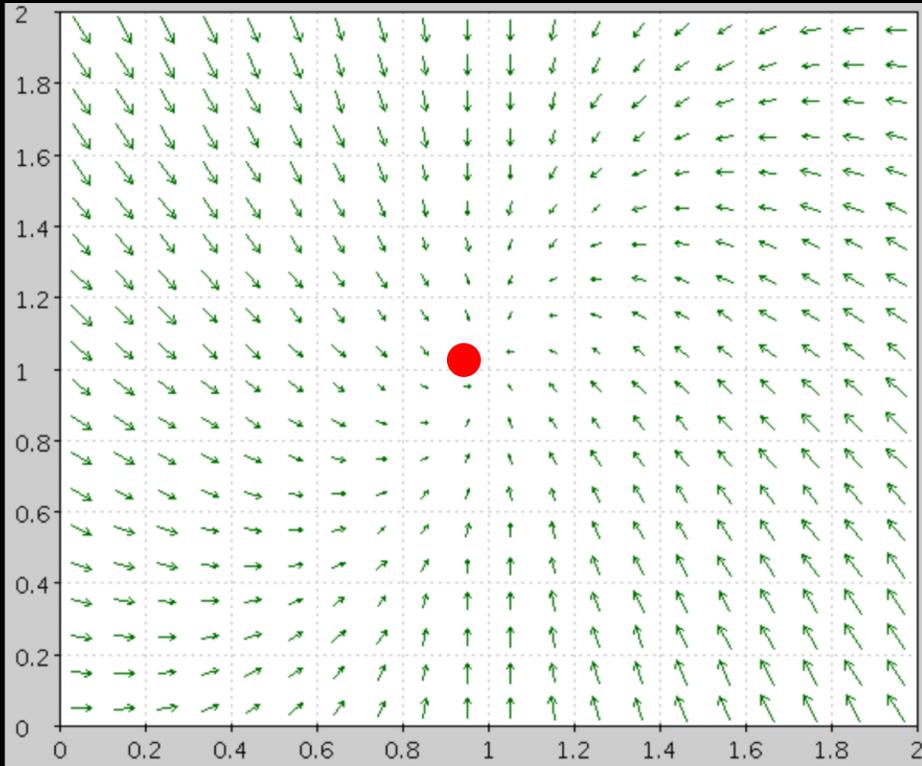
*Weakly reversible  
reaction systems*

*Toric  
differential  
inclusions*

*Endotactic  
systems*

*Possible answer: homeostasis*

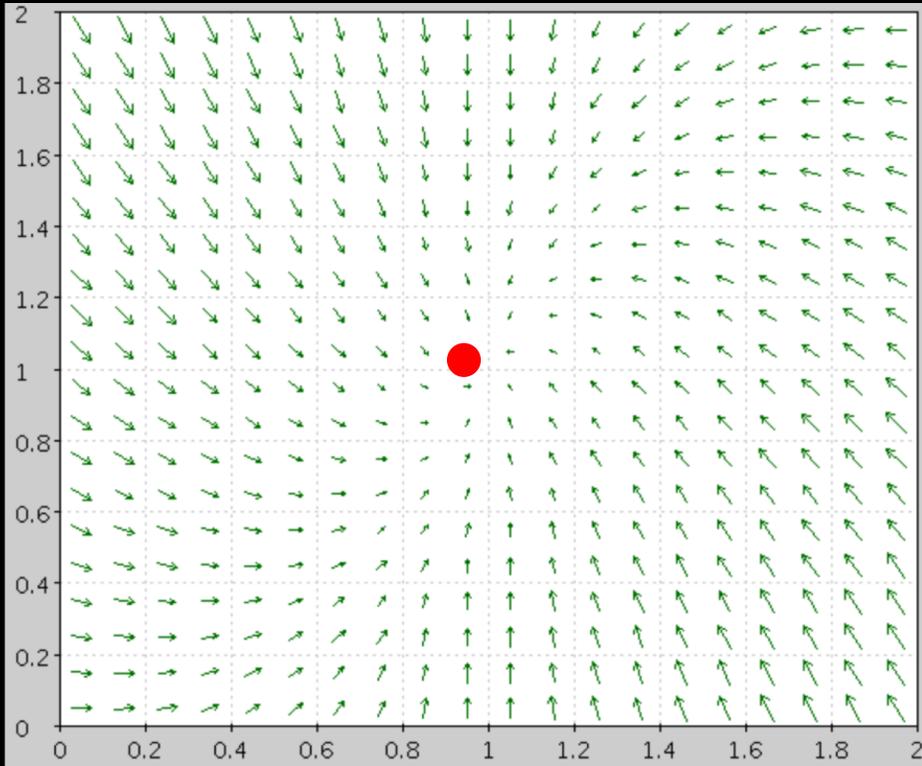
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***Globally stable system***

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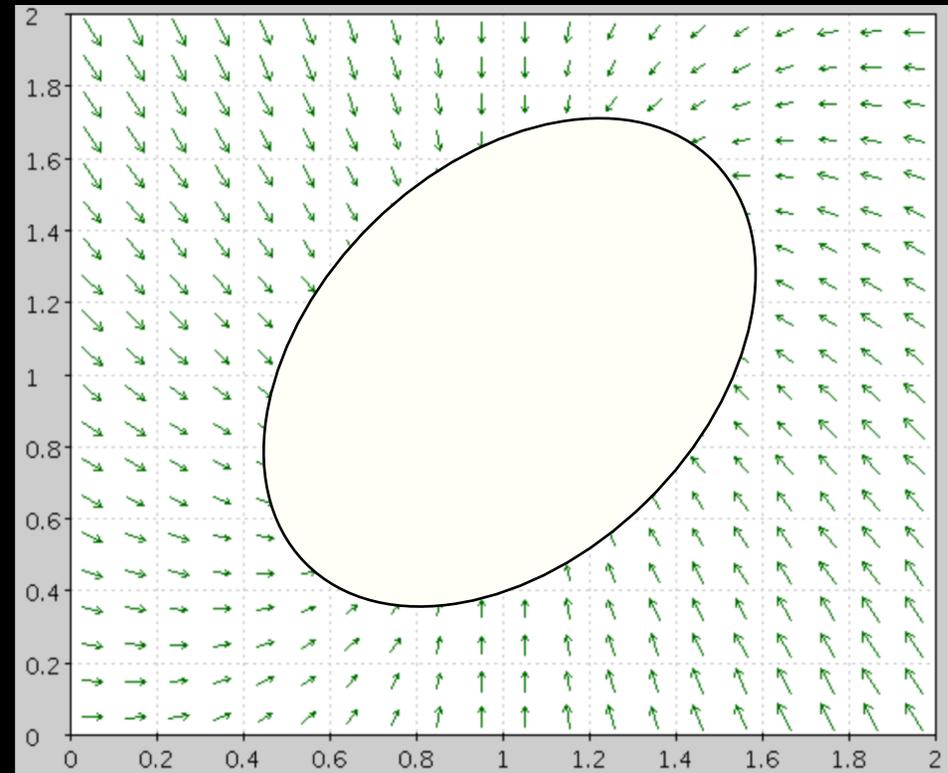
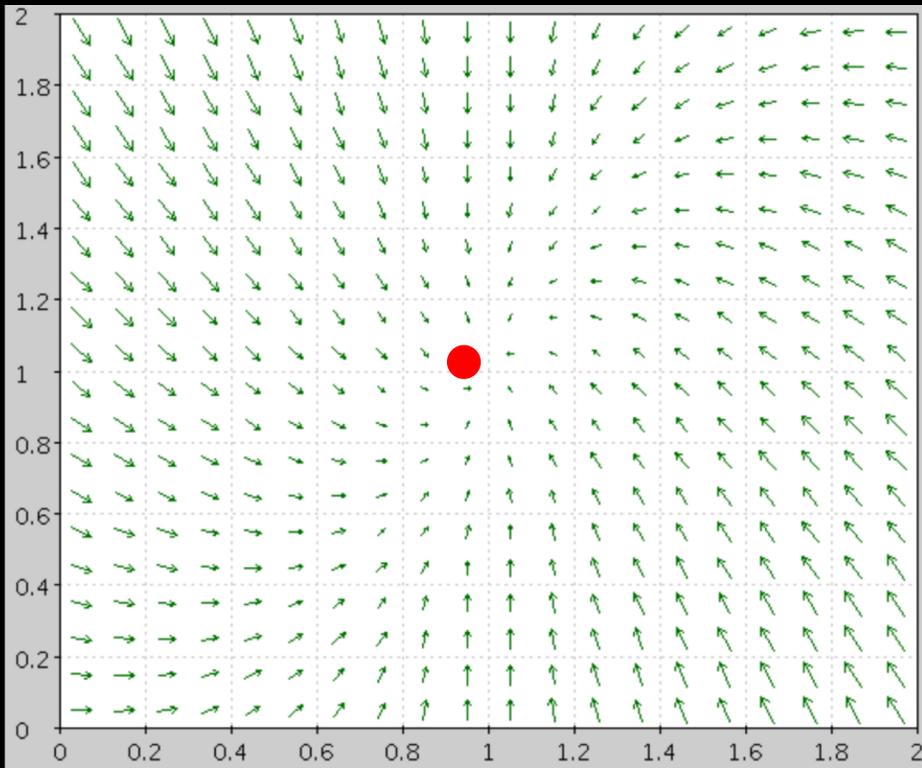
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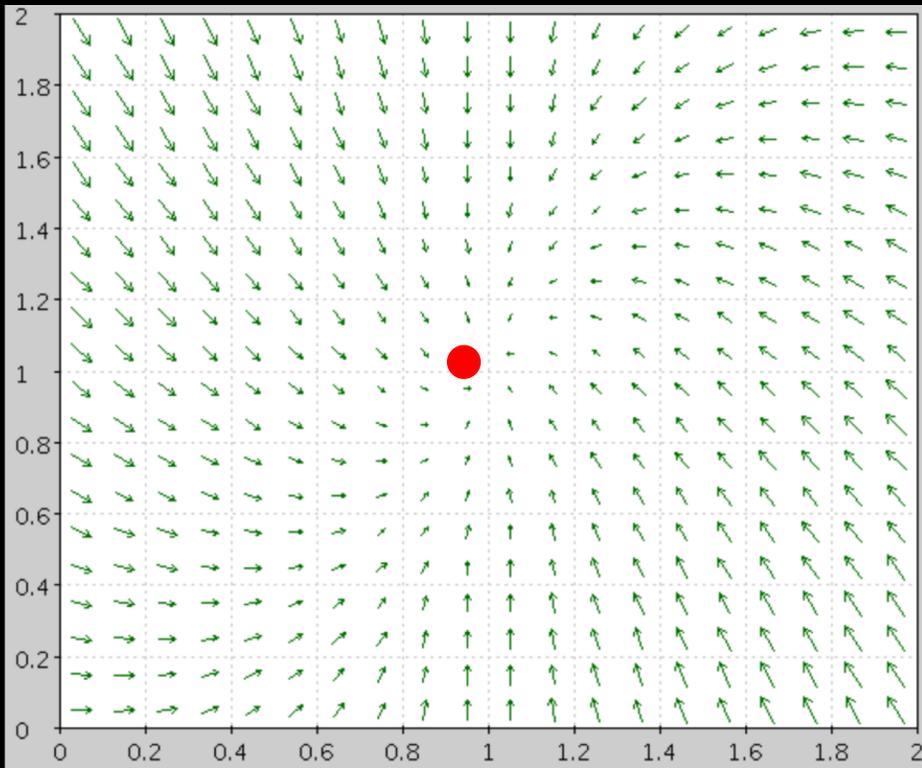
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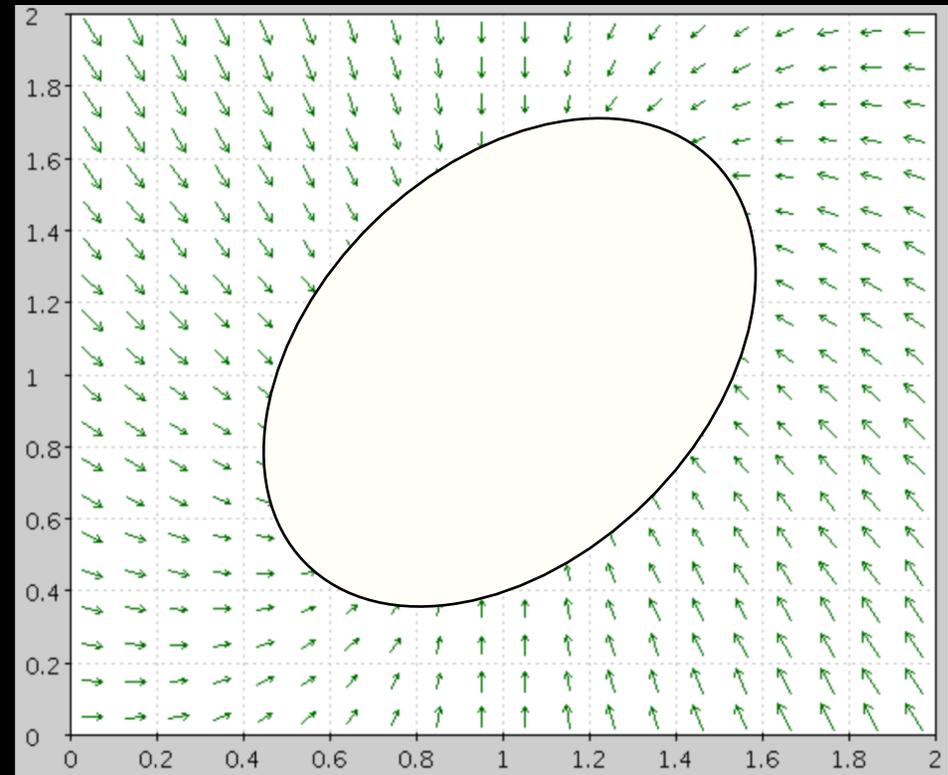
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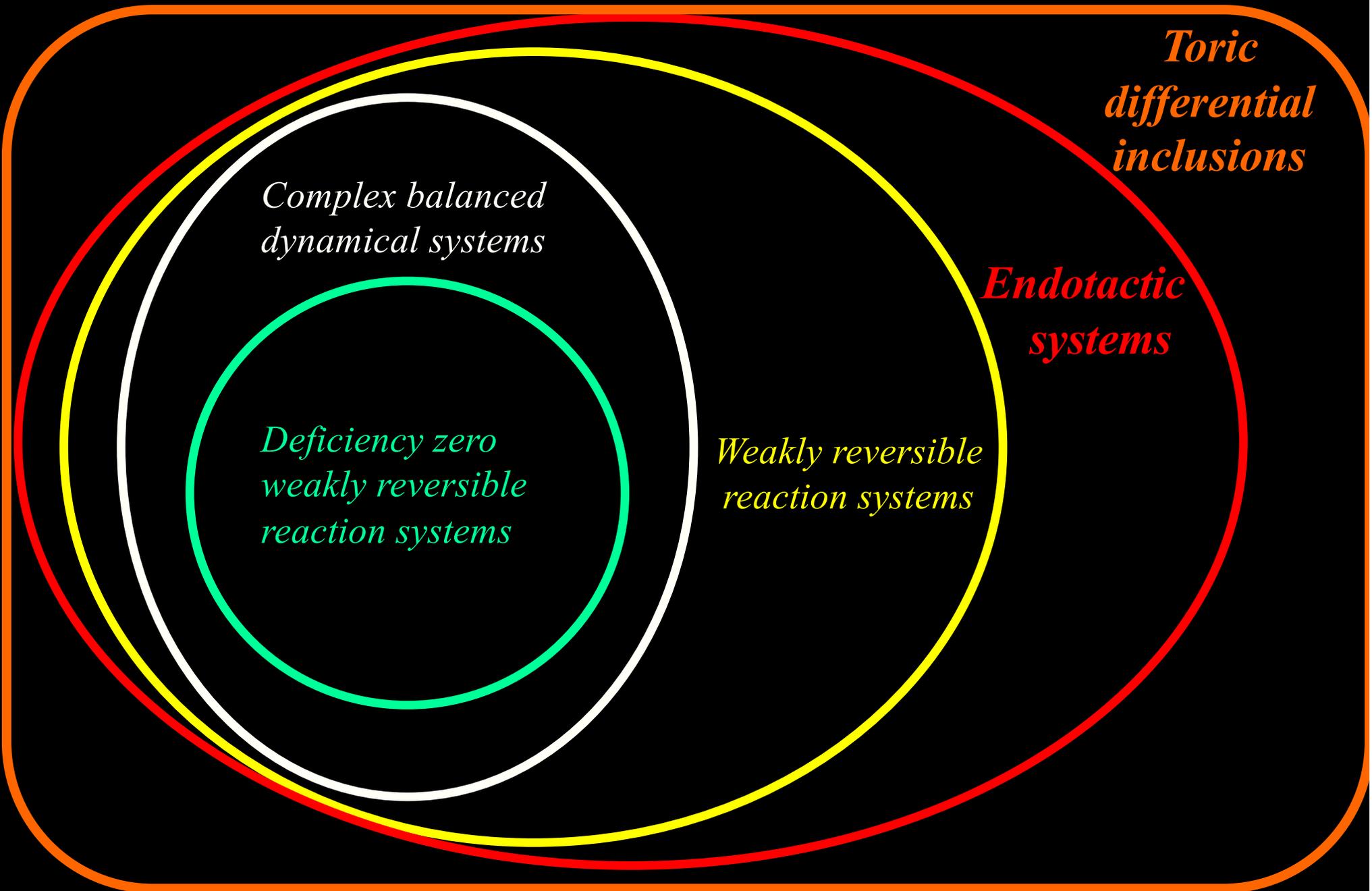


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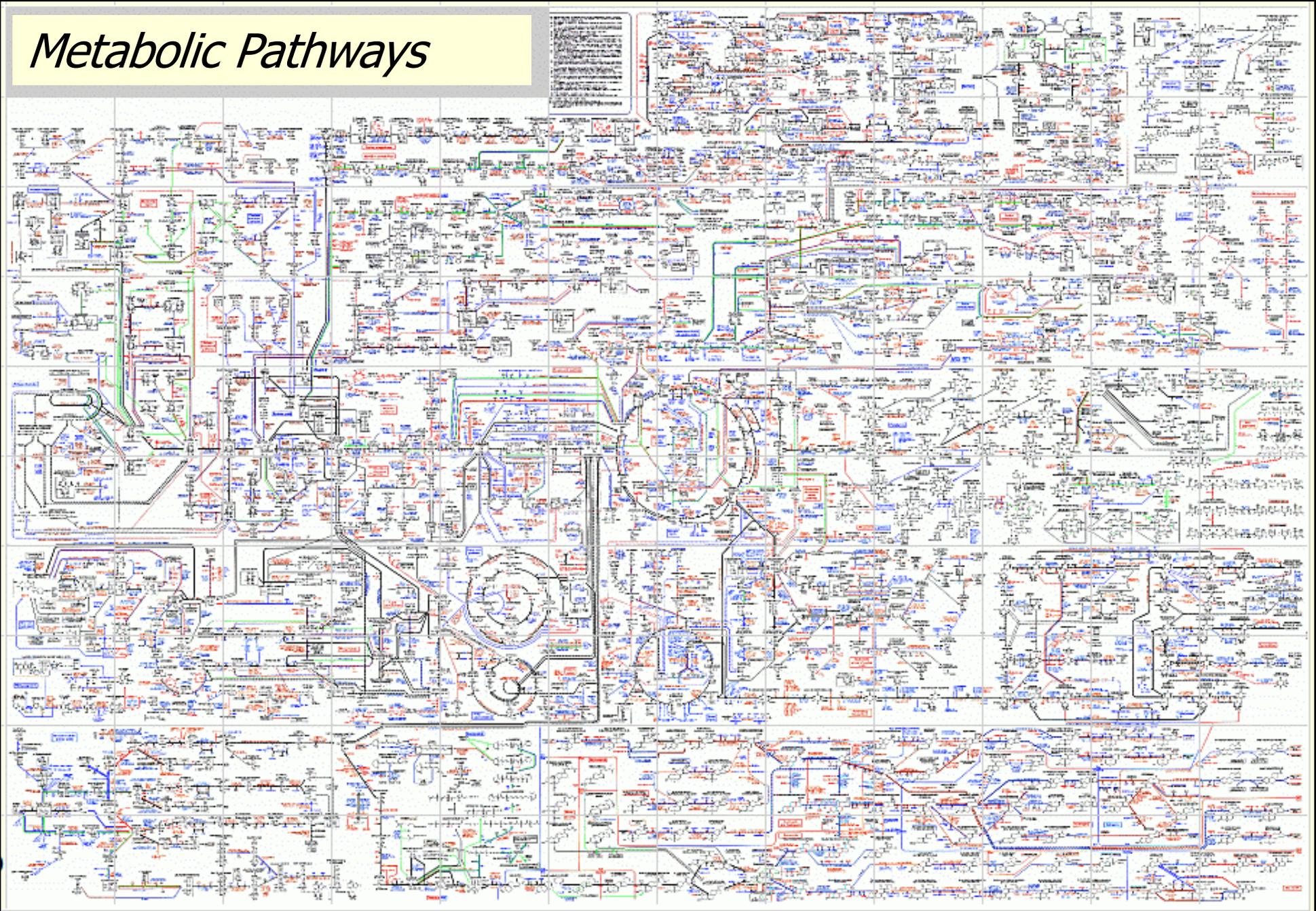
***Robustly permanent system***

*Question: what remains from global stability if we add external signals?*



*Possible answer: homeostasis*

# Metabolic Pathways



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