

The COBRA Toolbox: a comprehensive and powerful modelling resource

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<https://opencobra.github.io/cobratoolbox/>

Project Goals: This project aims to develop COBRA Toolbox: a package of methods to simulate, analyse, predict and visualise a variety of metabolic phenotypes using genome-scale models.

Over the past decade, COntstraint-Based Reconstruction and Analysis (COBRA) methods have widely been used in several fields including microbial metabolic engineering, modelling of gene expression and metabolism at genome-scale on modelling transcriptional and signaling networks. The COBRA Toolbox, a MATLAB package of COBRA methods, provides systems biology researchers with a high-level interface to a variety of methods for constraint-based modelling of genome-scale stoichiometric models of cellular biochemistry. The first version of COBRA Toolbox, released in 2007, contains a variety of methods, such as flux variability analysis, growth-rate optimisation, robustness analysis, gene essentiality analysis and model curation tools. Version 2.0 [3] expanded the first version by adding new functions including network gap filling, C13 analysis, metabolic engineering, omics-guided analysis and visualisation. The COBRA Toolbox has now gained widespread use and has become a leading software package for genome-scale analysis of metabolism. The success of COBRA Toolbox has been used in more than 500 studies. The COBRA Toolbox has rapidly developed in recent years based on contributions from a growing number of researchers. Our recently contributed functions to the COBRA Toolbox include: (i) consistent estimation of Gibbs energy using component contributions [2], (ii) identification of conserved moieties in metabolic networks [1], (iii) reconstruction context-specific metabolic network models from generic reconstructions [5], (iv) robust flux balance analysis [4], (v) Cell Designer - Matlab interface for parsing and editing files, and (vi) tools for conversion of a reconstruction into a COBRA model in a quality controlled manner. The latest version of The COBRA toolbox is available at <https://github.com/opencobra/cobratoolbox> and includes contributions from a community of >25 developers: <https://github.com/opencobra/cobratoolbox/graphs/contributors>.

References

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