

Wiring between close nodes in molecular networks evolves more quickly than between distant nodes

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Abstract

As species diverge, a wide range of evolutionary processes lead to changes in protein-protein interaction networks and metabolic networks. The rate at which molecular networks evolve is an important question in evolutionary biology. Previous empirical work has focused on interactomes from model organisms to calculate rewiring rates, but this is limited by the relatively small number of species and sparse nature of network data across species. We present a proxy for variation in network topology: variation in drug-drug interactions (DDIs), obtained by studying drug combinations (DCs) across taxa. Here, we propose the rate at which DDIs change across species as an estimate of the rate at which the underlying molecular network changes as species diverge. We computed the evolutionary rates of DDIs using previously published data from a high throughput study in gram-negative bacteria. Using phylogenetic comparative methods, we found that DDIs diverge rapidly over short evolutionary time periods, but that divergence saturates over longer time periods. In parallel, we mapped drugs with known targets in protein-protein interaction and co-functional networks. We found that the targets of synergistic DDIs are closer in these networks than other types of DCs and that synergistic interactions have a higher evolutionary rate, meaning that nodes that are closer evolve at a faster rate. Future studies of network evolution may use DC data to gain larger-scale perspectives on the details of network evolution within and between species.

Introduction

Molecular networks are models of real molecular interactions in the cell. These networks are built by collecting biochemical and genetic interaction data, an approach that has improved in the last

1 decades with the advent of modern high-throughput methods. However, there are still many
2 limitations to the gathering and analysis of molecular networks, specifically for studying network
3 variation across and within species. This is because many molecular networks have poor quality or
4 are sparse and incomplete and because the number of organisms for which network data is available
5 is still very limited (Cusick et al. 2005; Jin et al. 2013; Ghadie et al. 2018). The major types of
6 molecular networks that have been built represent protein interactions, metabolic processes,
7 signaling, and gene regulation.

8 Molecular networks evolve as nodes (e.g. proteins) and edges (e.g. molecular interactions) are added
9 or lost. This can be the result of different processes, including those affecting genes and the
10 interaction of their products, such as gene or motif duplication, loss, horizontal transfer, or whole
11 genome duplication (Wagner 2003; Cork and Purugganan 2004; Bernhardsson et al. 2011; Koch et
12 al. 2017), or a result of processes affecting quantitative properties, including non-synonymous
13 substitutions in the protein nodes affecting their function (Jensen 1976; Ghadie et al. 2018). These
14 mutations may affect the binding of ligands, protein domains, or DNA motifs (Koch et al. 2017),
15 which in turn result in changes in their associated metabolic, signaling, or gene expression
16 networks. The type of network also may affect the rewiring rates of nodes. For example, gene
17 regulatory networks tend to rewire at faster rates than metabolic networks (Shou et al. 2011),
18 suggesting that some network types are less constrained than others.

19 The genetic and evolutionary events that remove old connections and generate new ones may be
20 random with neutral consequences (Bernhardsson et al. 2011), may be genetically constrained
21 (Wollenberg Valero 2020), or may affect fitness. We know that not all network motifs (i.e. recurrent
22 patterns of connections with potential functional properties) are equally abundant in molecular
23 networks, suggesting the action of natural selection (Milo et al. 2002; Picard et al. 2008). Natural
24 selection may remove deleterious connections (Jordan et al. 2008) and favor advantageous ones
25 (Laarits et al. 2016; Mehta et al. 2021), including balancing environmental robustness with network
26 functions (Han et al. 2013; Chen and Ho 2014). While higher fitness solutions may include those
27 with lower levels of modularity (Kashtan and Alon 2005), modularity itself may be driven by
28 selection to reduce connection costs (Clune et al. 2013). Higher levels of protein connectivity have
29 been correlated with lower substitution rates (Fraser et al. 2002), potentially due to strong
30 purifying selection acting on the interfacial sites of interacting proteins (Zotenko et al. 2008). Each
31 of the network types, discussed in aggregate above, may be subject to different evolutionary forces
32 and patterns.

33 Part of the key to understanding the forces acting on networks is a characterization of evolutionary
34 rates of network change. Despite advances in studying the connections of individual nodes and
35 network rewiring, the rate and patterns by which quantitative differences between networks
36 accumulate as a function of species divergence remain relatively unexplored. Beltrao and Serrano
37 (2007) estimated rewiring rates among eukaryotic proteins at $\sim 10^{-5}$ interactions/protein pair/million
38 years, found that network rewiring proceeds faster than sequence evolution, and that differences in
39 rewiring rates between functional categories suggest the action of natural selection. One interesting
40 question is whether network rewiring among a given pair of nodes is correlated with metrics of
41 connectivity between those nodes, including minimum path length (the number of steps along the
42 shortest path between nodes), K-edge connectivity (minimum number of edges that can be removed
43 to disconnect two nodes), degree (number of edges connected to the node), and centrality. This is
44 important information for understanding what aspects of network structure that we can quantitate
45 are subject to evolutionary forces acting on variation.

1 In this study, we use drug-drug interaction (DDI) scores as a quantitative proxy measurement of
2 inter-node connectivity, since it has been shown that DDIs are partially dependent on the
3 underlying network topology between targets (Lehár et al. 2007; Yeh et al. 2009). Among drug
4 combinations (DCs), DDIs occur when the effect of two or more drugs is significantly stronger or
5 weaker than the additive expectation, respectively named synergies and antagonisms (Greco et al.
6 1995). DDIs are used in the development of novel pharmacological treatments with higher
7 efficiencies at lower doses and to reduce the evolution of drug resistance (Cowen and Steinbach
8 2008). The reasons why a DDI occurs are varied, influenced by the functional relationships between
9 the drug targets; this is an effect of factors such as the topology of the underlying network between
10 drug targets and the essentiality of the metabolites affected by the drugs (Yeh et al. 2009). These
11 relationships can either be direct (between the target genes themselves) or indirect (mediated
12 through interactions with other genes). Synergies often occur when drugs act on parallel or
13 redundant pathways that contribute to the same essential biological function or end product. This
14 redundancy in pathways is susceptible to drug combinations which prevent any single pathway
15 from fully compensating for the inhibition of others, thereby enhancing the overall effect (Lehár et
16 al. 2007). In contrast, antagonistic interactions can arise (1) when drugs acting on the same
17 pathway at different sites interfere with each other's actions, (2) when drugs acting on the same
18 pathway or process exert opposite effects, thus diminishing the overall effect, (3) when two drugs
19 each result in complete loss of function of the same non-essential pathway or (4) if two drugs each
20 effect different functions, but where the combined effect is equal to the most limiting of the two (Yeh
21 et al. 2009). While both DDI types can be a result of either direct or indirect effects, experimental
22 evidence suggests that, in general, most synergistic interactions are the result of drugs targeting
23 the same cellular process, while antagonistic interactions are typically the result of drugs targeting
24 different processes (Brochado et al. 2018).

25 Only a few studies have explored interspecific variation of DDI scores (Spitzer et al. 2011; Robbins et
26 al. 2015; Brochado et al. 2018; Davis et al. 2022), but they have demonstrated that DC experiments
27 (used to obtain DDI scores) could be scalable in the number of species and strains. A high
28 throughput study of DDIs in gram-negative bacteria has shown that synergies are more conserved
29 across species than antagonisms and additive combinations (Brochado et al. 2018).

30 How well does the evolution of DDI scores transmit the evolutionary patterns of their underlying
31 molecular networks? This is an important question; assuming there is a reasonable correspondence,
32 then our questions about DDI evolution mirror those about molecular networks: Does DDI score
33 divergence accumulate linearly with divergence time, or follow some other function? Do DDIs
34 diverge consistently with neutral processes acting on the underlying network structure? Or is there
35 heterogeneity across the network, for example with differences accumulating slowly in constrained
36 local neighborhoods, and faster between more distant connections? In other words, does the
37 evolutionary rate of DDIs depend on the connectivity of the drug targets?

38 Another way to parse this latter question is to divide up drug combinations by type. Do synergistic
39 interactions evolve at a slower rate than other types of drug interactions, and do antagonistic
40 interactions evolve at a faster rate? These differences in rates would be a result of synergistic
41 interactions taking place in local neighborhoods of nodes, while antagonistic interactions act across
42 distant network neighborhoods, which may evolve more slowly due to greater network redundancy
43 between distant nodes. Indeed, if we were to map DCs to protein targets (when known), are the drug
44 targets of synergistic drug interactions closer in the network than additive and antagonistic
45 interactions? And, more generally, are more closely connected nodes subject to higher rates of

1 evolution than more distantly related nodes? These questions can be addressed by comparing rates
2 of DDI score evolution with measures of inter-node connectivity.

3 To address these questions, we used the most complete available dataset of DCs measured across
4 species and strains (Brochado et al. 2018). We modeled these DCs under a phylogenetic comparative
5 framework and applied a multivariate Brownian motion model to estimate the evolutionary rate of
6 interaction scores for different clusters of DCs in six strains (three species) of gram-negative
7 bacteria. We also mapped DCs to their putative protein targets to evaluate them in known
8 molecular networks. We show that DDI scores can be used as an effective proxy to evaluate
9 macroevolutionary patterns of network evolution.

10

11 Results

12 DDI scores diverge non-linearly

13 We obtained drug-drug interaction (DDI) scores for 2655 pairwise combinations of 79 different
14 compounds affecting six strains, two from each of the three gammaproteobacteria species:
15 *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella enterica*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The DDI scores were measured
16 and calculated by Brochado et al. (2018) using the Bliss independence model, which calculates the
17 expected combined effect of two drugs as the product of the probabilities that each drug individually
18 fails to produce its effect (Tallarida 2011; Foucquier and Guedj 2015). This expected outcome
19 provides a baseline for detecting synergistic or antagonistic interactions, where the actual combined
20 effect surpasses or falls short of the predicted effect, respectively. We performed hierarchical
21 clustering (UPGMA) of the Euclidean distances among DDI scores from the six strains, revealing a
22 'DDI score distance' tree (**Fig. 1B**). The DDI score distance is half of the cophenetic distance for each
23 strain pair; i.e. the distance from either tip of the pair to the point in the tree where they first come
24 together.

25 We also estimated phylogenetic divergence times between the strains and species using calibrated
26 phylogenetic analysis of highly conserved proteins (**Fig. 1A**). The 95% highest probability density of
27 the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of these three species is 1359-1527 million years ago
28 (MYA), or 100-151 MYA for the two *Enterobacteriaceae* (*E. coli* and *S. enterica*).

29 To test how DDI scores diverge as a function of species divergence, we regressed the DDI score
30 distances between strains against their divergence times (time to MRCA in MYA). There is a
31 positive correlation between DDI score distance and divergence time (**Fig. 1E**). This is a log-linear
32 relationship ($R^2=0.93$, $p\text{-value}=6.8\times 10^{-9}$; **Sup. Fig. S1**). Specifically, the initial stages of DDI score
33 divergence is characterized by rapid changes that accumulate between closely related strains, the
34 rate of divergence slows down when comparing more distant species, and it saturates among the
35 most distantly related species. This pattern may be consistent with both neutral and selective forces
36 acting on the molecular networks underlying DDIs (see Discussion). Indeed, a phylomorphospace
37 plot of the first two axes of a principal components analysis of the DC data (**Fig. 1F**) does not reflect
38 the branch lengths of the DDI distance tree (**Fig. 1B**), suggesting that DDI score variance is
39 explained by more factors than just time. Here, the largest variance component seems to distinguish
40 all three species from each other (PC1, 47%), while the second component (PC2, 21.5%) seems to
41 distinguish between *Salmonella* and the other species (**Fig. 1F**). This highlights that while the

1 divergence time between *Salmonella* and *Escherichia* is small (**Fig. 1A**), the DDI score distance
2 between these species is comparatively much larger, suggesting that after the divergence from their
3 common ancestor, each lineage rapidly accumulated cellular and biochemical differences that are
4 reflected in their differing DDI scores.

5 In light of these observations and to further explore these possibilities, we sought to estimate the
6 evolutionary rate of DDI score change for particular DCs. However, there is low power with only six
7 tips to estimate rate shifts for any individual DC. To address this limitation, we used t-SNE to
8 detect clusters of DCs that behave similarly across species, allowing for increased power within
9 each cluster. In order to find DC clusters that are the most biologically relevant from among a large
10 parameter space (after filtering solutions), we first filtered for the top five solutions with the
11 highest degree of phylogenetic modular signal (Adams et al. 2016). From among those five, we
12 chose the solution with the biggest differences in evolutionary rate among clusters, when fitted
13 with a multivariate Brownian motion model. A detailed description of the filters and tests used to
14 select the clusters is in the Methods.

15 The resulting solution, with a perplexity of 245 and 16 clusters (**Fig. 1C**), was used for the
16 remainder of the analysis. Cluster 14 had the highest evolutionary rate measured using the
17 Brownian motion standard deviation parameter σ^2 , with a value of 0.00347 bliss score² per million
18 years, while all the other clusters had rates ranging from 0.00021 to 0.00169 (**Fig. 1D**). Cluster 15
19 had the second highest rate with a value of 0.00169 bliss score² per million years, and cluster 1
20 had the third highest rate with a value of 0.00161 bliss score² per million years.

21

22 **Synergistic DDIs have the shortest distance between network** 23 **targets, followed by additive DCs and antagonistic DDIs**

24 We observed that highly synergistic DDIs across all species tend to occur when both drugs belong to
25 the same chemical category and target the same cellular process, as can be seen from the
26 accumulation of green bars for category and process across cluster 14 (**Fig. 1C**; in agreement with
27 (Brochado et al. 2018). This motivated us to formally examine how DCs map onto molecular
28 networks. We therefore leave discussion of DDI evolution for now, to first describe our mapping of
29 the DC targets to known molecular networks, and how connectivity on these networks relates to
30 combination type (antagonism, additivity, synergy); in the next section we will describe how rates of
31 DDI evolution map onto combination types and network connectivity. We were able to identify
32 protein targets for 39 of the 79 drugs tested by Brochado *et al.* (2018) (see Methods). These drugs
33 had a total of 27 target proteins as identified by their unique protein IDs in *E. coli*. The most
34 common target category was bacterial penicillin-binding protein, a group involved in the
35 biosynthesis of bacterial cell walls. Other target categories mapped include ribosomal RNA, DNA
36 polymerase, topoisomerase, thymidylate synthase, and mitochondrial glycerol-3-phosphate (**Sup.**
37 **Table S1**).

38 We then examined the *E. coli* DDI scores as a function of the connectivity of their targets. We used
39 two *E. coli* networks: (1) a gold-standard co-functional gene pair network (**Fig. 2A**), and (2) a
40 protein-protein interaction (PPI) network derived from small/medium scale studies (**Fig. 2B**), both
41 hosted on EcoliNet (Kim et al. 2015). The co-functional network integrates probabilistic functional
42 links, including shared GO and EcoCyc annotations, which signify molecular, metabolic, and
43 biological process linkages or co-regulation among genes and their products. Each edge of the

1 network represents a shared functionality between gene pairs, reflecting their involvement in
 2 similar molecular or biological processes. The PPI network, compiled from curated databases,
 3 features high-confidence interactions between pairs of *E. coli* proteins.

4 We measured the length of minimum distance paths between all drug targets in the networks.
 5 Targets of synergistic DCs have a significantly shorter minimum path length than antagonistic and
 6 additive DCs in both networks (**Fig. 3A, B**). This result is consistent with our expectations, given
 7 that synergistic DDIs tend to be more common between drugs that target the same cellular process
 8 and thus should be closer to each other in molecular networks (Brochado et al. 2018). We next
 9 examined K-edge connectivity, where two nodes are K-edge-connected if after removing k edges or
 10 less the nodes remain connected. For the co-functional network, K-edge connectivity is higher for
 11 targets of synergistic DCs than additive DCs (Wilcoxon p-value=0.0032), and higher for targets of
 12 additive DCs than antagonistic DCs (Wilcoxon p-value=0.014) (**Fig. 3C**), as expected if targets of
 13 synergistic DCs are closer together. There was no significant difference among combination types for
 14 the PPI network, although targets of synergistic and additive DCs do have significantly higher
 15 connectivity than a background set of non-targets (**Fig. 3D**). Overall, these results suggest that, the
 16 closer together and better connected two nodes are to each other, the more likely they are associated
 17 with a synergistic DDI.

18 We also found that proteins in the co-functional network that are associated with synergistic DDIs
 19 are more central and better connected than nodes that are associated with other types of
 20 interactions. In the PPI network, nodes that are associated with any type of DC are more central
 21 and better connected than nodes that aren't targeted in our DC set, but don't differ by combination
 22 type. We arrived at these conclusions by examining three metrics (node degree, betweenness
 23 centrality, eigenvector centrality) that are characteristics of individual nodes (we averaged between
 24 the two target nodes in the DC). Average node degree (the number of connected edges) is
 25 significantly higher for targets of synergistic DCs than additive (Wilcoxon p-value=0.0024) or
 26 antagonistic DCs (Wilcoxon p-value=0.00018) in the co-functional network (**Fig. 3E**), but not in the
 27 PPI network (**Fig. 3F**). Average betweenness centrality (how much each node lies on the shortest
 28 paths between pairs of other nodes in the network) is higher for targets associated with synergistic
 29 DCs than with additive (Wilcoxon p-value=0.0015) or antagonistic DCs (Wilcoxon p-value=0.013) in
 30 the co-functional network (**Fig. 3G**), but not in the PPI network (**Fig. 3H**). Average eigenvector
 31 centrality (how much each node is connected to other important nodes in the network) was also
 32 higher for targets associated with synergistic DCs than with additive (Wilcoxon p-value=0.0002) or
 33 antagonistic DCs (Wilcoxon p-value=0.0005) in the co-functional network (**Fig. 3I**), but these
 34 differences were not significant in the PPI network (**Fig. 3J**). Together, these results suggest that
 35 network connectivity of a protein affects the likelihood that it will be associated with a DDI, as well
 36 as the type of DDI.

38 Synergistic DDIs evolve faster than additive and antagonistic 39 DDIs

40 We return now to describing the evolutionary rates of DDI scores (**Fig. 1D**), as determined on a per-
 41 cluster basis (via t-SNE, described above). Cluster 14, which had the highest evolutionary rate
 42 ($\sigma^2=0.00347$), appears to be rich in synergies in *E. coli* and *Salmonella*, while *Pseudomonas* has more
 43 additive DCs in this cluster (**Fig. 1B**). In contrast, cluster 15, which was the second highest rate
 44 cluster ($\sigma^2=0.00169$), appears to be rich in synergies in *Pseudomonas* while the DCs in *E. coli* and

1 *Salmonella* are primarily additive. The cluster with the third highest rate, cluster 1 ($\sigma^2=0.00161$),
 2 contains highly antagonistic DDIs in all the species. These observations suggest that the
 3 evolutionary rate of DDI scores may vary as a function of the combination (DDI) type and network
 4 connectivity of their targets. To more formally investigate this, we examined how the rates vary
 5 based on the targets' connectivity (in *E. coli*) and type of interaction. None of the DCs are exclusively
 6 antagonistic across all strains and species, although we found all other combinations (i.e., additivity,
 7 synergy, additivity↔antagonism, additivity↔synergy, antagonism↔synergy and
 8 additivity↔antagonism↔synergy, where the arrow indicates that some strains or species have one
 9 DDI type and other strains or species have another DDI type).

10 Overall, synergistic DDIs and additive↔synergistic DDIs have faster evolutionary rates than any
 11 other class (**Fig. 4A**; all possible group comparisons were significantly different from each other
 12 except additivity↔antagonism↔synergy vs. additivity↔antagonism, and excluding
 13 antagonism↔synergy, with only a single observation; see **Sup. Table S2** for all statistical tests in
 14 **Fig. 4**; significant differences mentioned have p-value < 0.001 unless indicated). We also aggregated
 15 each target pair's DDI type as a simple sum of its DDI types across strains and species (+1 for
 16 synergies, 0 for additivities, -1 for antagonisms), and found again that more synergistic DDIs (sum ≤
 17 -3) have faster evolutionary rates than additivities (3 > sum > -3) and antagonisms (sum ≥ 3) (**Fig.**
 18 **4B**). This result of higher evolutionary rates for synergistic DDIs is also true for the targets that are
 19 in both the PPI and co-functional networks described earlier (**Fig. 4C**; all categories are significantly
 20 different, except for additivities vs antagonisms in the PPI network).

21 Furthermore, DCs whose targets are nearby in the network have the highest rate of DDI score
 22 evolution (**Fig. 4D**). This is consistent with the fact that cluster 14 has the highest rate (**Fig. 1D**),
 23 and contains a majority of synergies (**Fig. 1C**). This result of nearby targets having the highest DDI
 24 evolution rates is significant for both the PPI network (p-value=0.007) and the co-functional network
 25 (p-value=0.019). Our observation of higher rates of DDI evolution among the close nodes is
 26 consistent when using reference networks from other species: we repeated this analysis by mapping
 27 *E. coli* target proteins to their orthologs in other species, and found a similar result among networks
 28 from four corresponding strains (including *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas* and *Salmonella*) in comparative
 29 networks from the STRING database (**Sup. Fig. S2**). The evolutionary rate is also significantly
 30 faster when simply comparing DCs that target adjacent vs. non-adjacent targets in the *E. coli* PPI
 31 network (p-value=0.0049; **Sup. Fig. S3B**), and for the EcoCyc portion of the *E. coli* co-functional
 32 network (**Sup. Fig. S3A**), and when comparing connected vs. disconnected targets for this latter
 33 network (**Sup. Fig. S3C**).

34 Protein pairs with the highest K-edge connectivity (>20) are targets of DCs with higher DDI score
 35 evolutionary rates in the co-functional network (but not the PPI network, where all targets have
 36 connectivities < 5; **Sup. Fig. S3K**). Interestingly, DCs that have evolved between additive and
 37 synergistic DDI types tend to have targets with greater connectivity, degree, and betweenness
 38 centrality values in the *E. coli* networks (**Sup. Fig. S3E,F,G**). Together, these results indicate that,
 39 as the distance and connectivity between two targets increase (as measured, for example, by their
 40 minimum connecting path length), the average evolutionary rate of the DDI scores decreases. We
 41 interpret this to mean that wiring between close nodes in molecular networks evolves faster than
 42 between distant nodes.

43

1 Discussion

2 Overview

3 We studied the evolution of drug-drug interaction scores as a proxy for studying the evolution of
 4 network topology. We found that the evolutionary rates of DDIs among gram-negative bacteria are
 5 initially high, lower at longer evolutionary distances, and plateau at the largest distances. This
 6 suggests that chemogenomic variation rapidly accumulates. This helps to explain the observation
 7 that therapeutic combination therapies are typically taxon specific; for example, in fungi very few
 8 combinations of antifungals act across species (Brown et al. 2014).

9
 10 We then mapped drugs with known targets to different molecular networks in *E. coli* K-12 and found
 11 that the targets of synergistic DDIs are closer in molecular networks than other types of DDIs, and
 12 that synergistic interactions have a higher evolutionary rate, suggesting that connectivity between
 13 nodes that are closer in molecular networks evolves at a faster rate than between more distant nodes.

15 DDI evolution

16 Examining pairwise distances of DDI scores between species, we observed a rapid accumulation of
 17 differences and overall dissimilarity in DDI responses among species. Indeed the DDI score
 18 distances curve appears saturated among distantly related species. The high rate of DDI evolution
 19 we observed is consistent with the observations from the source paper that most (~70%) drug
 20 interactions are species-specific, and about one fifth are strain-specific (Brochado et al. 2018).
 21 Indeed, it is now generally appreciated that some DDIs show substantial genetic variation
 22 (Roemhild et al. 2022). For instance, the interaction between the aminoglycoside tobramycin and
 23 different β -lactams can be either synergistic or additive across isolates of multidrug resistant
 24 Enterobacteriaceae (Fass 1982). Some interactions between drugs used for treating urinary tract
 25 infections are additive across *E. coli* isolates (50%, e.g. mecillinam and ciprofloxacin) or antagonistic
 26 across isolates (10%, mecillinam and nitrofurantoin), while two different combination types occur
 27 across isolates for other combinations (40%; e.g. mecillinam and trimethoprim) (Fatsis-Kavalopoulos
 28 et al. 2020).

29 We also clustered DDIs by their similarity across strains and species and then evaluated the rate of
 30 evolution of these clusters under a Brownian motion model. This approach is analogous to methods
 31 used in geometric morphometrics, in which specimen landmarks are grouped to evaluate different
 32 features, and modularity tests are used to assess whether there are differences in the evolution rate
 33 of different regions of that organ (Smaers and Vanier 2019). Modularity among traits mirrors shared
 34 functional, genetic, and developmental pathways (Cheverud 1996). Here, the signal of high
 35 modularity among DDI clusters is a result of variance between clusters being greater than the
 36 variance within clusters. We observed that the distribution of synergies, additivities and
 37 antagonisms among clusters partially explains different rate estimates. Clusters with low rates are
 38 composed of mostly additive DDIs; however some of these low-rate estimates are caused by
 39 resistance to one or both antibiotics, and a low phylogenetic signal is expected when multiple strains
 40 are resistant (Michel et al. 2008). Importantly, low evolutionary rates can reflect two fundamentally
 41 different scenarios. The first is a scenario where a functional relationship between two drug targets
 42 is conserved across species and strains, likely under purifying selection. For instance, cluster 4
 43 contains many DCs that result in synergistic or slightly synergistic DDIs and are conserved across

1 all strains. A second scenario involves targets that do not interact functionally, resulting in
2 consistently additive interactions across different biological contexts. These interactions represent
3 "evolutionary indifference" where a lack of connectivity between nodes in the network, for example,
4 may contribute to the apparent conservation. Our use of t-SNE clustering categorized DDIs into
5 clusters based on both their interaction patterns and evolutionary rates, so that these two low-rate
6 scenarios were separated into distinct clusters. In contrast to these low rate clusters, high rate
7 clusters such as 14, 15, and 1 contain DCs with a combination of synergistic and additive DCs across
8 strains, or else antagonistic and additive DCs across strains. This variability may reflect a complex
9 interplay of evolutionary forces acting on the underlying network.

10 **Biological network inferences**

11 With these rate estimates and interaction patterns, we asked whether network-based metrics are
12 correlated with DDI divergence, by linking a subset of DCs with their respective protein targets in
13 *E. coli* co-functional (EcoCyc/GO-BP) and PPI networks. We hypothesize that the rate of evolution of
14 a DDI reflects the evolution of underlying connections between the protein targets of the DC.

15 We first made several observations about the *E. coli* DDI types and network connectivity: synergistic
16 DDIs occur when the targets are closer in the network, while additive and antagonistic DDIs target,
17 on average, more distant proteins (**Fig. 3A, B**). This result is not surprising given the fact that
18 synergies are expected to be more prevalent in drug combinations that target the same pathway or
19 that belong to the same chemical class (Cowen and Steinbach 2008; Yeh et al. 2009), however, we
20 think this is the first time this pattern has been shown using network data. We also found that
21 synergistic interactions are more prevalent among targets that are part of the same cellular process
22 or functional category, while antagonisms can take place between targets that are in different parts
23 of the cell (Yeh et al. 2006; Wang et al. 2012; Brochado et al. 2018). We further found that targets
24 associated with synergistic DDIs have a higher node degree (for the co-functional network) and K-
25 edge connectivity than targets of DCs with additive or antagonistic DDIs (**Fig. 3C-F**). This result
26 agrees with a previous study that reports on the positive contribution of node degree in synergy
27 prediction (Liu et al. 2022). Average node betweenness and eigenvector centralities were also found
28 to be more significant among targets of DCs with synergistic DDIs compared to additivities and
29 antagonisms in the co-functional network (**Fig. 3G-J**). This result suggests that targets of DCs with
30 synergistic DDIs tend to be "hubs" in the network (Li et al. 2011; Tilli et al. 2016), or that they are
31 more central to different pathways than targets of DCs with antagonistic or additive DDIs.

32 At large evolutionary scales, network rewiring rates appear to slow down (Shou et al. 2011); our
33 DDI-based estimates also suggest a pattern of saturation of network divergence at the largest
34 evolutionary distances (**Fig. 1E**). Beltrao and Serrano (2007) estimated a single rewiring rate among
35 proteins that is faster than sequence evolution; here, we demonstrated that there is a distribution of
36 evolutionary rates. We examined the rate of evolution of DDIs whose targets are closer in the PPI
37 and co-functional networks and found that their rate of evolution is higher (**Fig. 4D**). This is
38 correlated with our observation that synergies tend to occur when DC targets are closer in the PPI
39 and co-functional networks (**Fig. 3A,B**) and have a high evolutionary rate (**Fig. 4A,B,C**).

40 Accordingly, as the path length between targets increases (and for more antagonistic DDIs), the
41 evolutionary rate decreases (**Fig. 4C,D**). Our results indicate that the rewiring rates of DDI scores
42 are higher for drug targets that are nearby within biological networks, contrary to the initial
43 expectation that more distant nodes would have greater flexibility for rewiring. We hypothesize

1 several mechanisms to explain these findings, including roles for epistasis, pathway topology, and
2 pharmacodynamics. Proximity in biological networks often implies direct epistatic interactions
3 (where the effect of one gene is directly influenced by another), which can be rapidly rewired through
4 single mutational events (Phillips 2008). Conversely, targets that are functionally distant typically
5 exhibit indirect epistasis, with multiple intervening genes that can buffer changes, thus requiring
6 multiple mutations for effective rewiring (Wagner 2013). This buffering capacity reduces the
7 likelihood of rapid change among distant targets in our DDI analysis.

8 We found differences in rates are also associated with differences in interaction type. Indeed,
9 interaction signs (synergistic, antagonistic) are influenced in complex ways by the local topology of
10 the pathway, including whether the drug targets act in series or parallel. Modifications in drug
11 effects (e.g. partial versus total inhibition) or pathway essentiality may swiftly convert an
12 interaction from synergistic to antagonistic or vice versa. Such transformations are more feasible
13 within tightly connected networks where targets share direct functional relationships (Yeh et al.
14 2006). Another mechanism by which network proximity may determine rates of connectivity
15 evolution is through the action of gene duplication, or segmental duplication affecting multiple genes
16 in an operon. Such duplications may be particularly relevant in closely connected network nodes,
17 where duplicated genes are likely to interact and undergo selective pressures together. For example,
18 if gene duplication results in parallel pathways and selective drug resistance develops differently in
19 these pathways, it can transform drug interaction dynamics from antagonism to synergy, as one
20 pathway compensates for the inhibited function of the other (Díaz-Mejía et al. 2007; Hegreness et al.
21 2008). This capability for rapid adaptation is less probable in distant nodes, which are typically part
22 of separate functional systems, requiring more extensive genetic and regulatory changes to evolve
23 new interactions and less likely to affect localized clusters of duplicated genes (Schmidt et al. 2003;
24 Conant and Wolfe 2008). The functional and spatial proximity of these nodes within both the
25 network and the genome promotes faster evolutionary rewiring, supporting observed patterns of
26 network dynamics where close nodes exhibit more rapid evolutionary changes compared to more
27 distantly connected nodes. Because the method that we are using relies on druggability of respective
28 targets, pharmacokinetic effects of the network are also detected, and may vary as a function of
29 distance between targets. For distant targets, interactions often manifest through altered
30 pharmacokinetics (e.g., absorption, metabolism) rather than direct pathway interactions. Changes in
31 one drug's metabolism can inadvertently affect the bioavailability of another, leading to
32 modifications in DDI type (Roemhild et al. 2022).

33 These mechanisms suggest why closer nodes might exhibit higher rates of evolutionary rewiring
34 compared to more distant ones. Our findings are in line with the notion that synergistic interactions,
35 which are predominantly found among closely linked targets, tend to accelerate the evolution of
36 resistance, potentially driving faster network changes (Hegreness et al. 2008). While our use of DDIs
37 to investigate network change opens up more questions than answers, a key attractive feature is
38 that they highlight specific routes for future investigation of the mechanisms behind the putative
39 network changes.

40
41 An important extension of the work presented here involves leveraging available cross-species
42 network data (e.g. STRING; Szklarczyk et al. 2023). Such analysis will facilitate direct comparison of
43 network connectivity evolution from network data and drug combination data. Comparative network
44 analyses are also important for evaluating the sensitivity of our observed relationships between DDI
45 evolutionary rates and network connectivity to the species from which the reference network is

1 obtained. In a preliminary analysis, we examined STRING's PPI and comprehensive networks for
2 four strains: *E. coli* strains K-12 (ebw) and IAI1 (ecr), *Salmonella* strain LT2 (stm), and *Pseudomonas*
3 strain PAO1 (pae). All of these networks support our primary conclusion that DDI evolutionary rates
4 decrease with increasing network distance (**Sup. Fig. S2**). Further work with comparative network
5 analysis (e.g. De Domenico et al. 2015) will be crucial for advancing our understanding of how
6 network topology evolution corresponds to evolution of drug-drug interactions.

7 Our observation of differential evolutionary rates among drug interaction types suggests that
8 different molecular pathways have different rewiring rates. Different processes (besides the drugs
9 themselves) may be driving this pattern, for instance, positive selection on mutations that cause co-
10 expression or co-localization of components from different networks may result in novel connections
11 between the previously disconnected pathways. Purifying selection against loss of function may also
12 constrain the rewiring of the network.

13 Beltrao and Serrano (2007) suggested that differences in rewiring rates between functional
14 categories may be attributed to natural selection. In our DDI analyses, we found that there is
15 variation in functional process annotations among the subset of known target proteins of drugs in
16 clusters 2, 3, 4, 6 and 16 (**Sup. Fig. S4**). These clusters all showed enrichment for anion binding
17 (GO:0043168) and small molecule binding (GO:0036094), while clusters 3, 6 and 16 are also enriched
18 for ion binding (GO:0043167). These results suggest that differences in rates of DDI evolution may
19 be partially explained by differences in natural selection acting on different underlying network
20 components. However, next, we highlight a different type of bias in DDI data that may contribute to
21 our observed signal and cause difficulty in the interpretation of DDI data.

22 23 **Network vs. resistance evolution**

24 Another important explanation for our observed signal (high evolutionary rate of synergistic, well-
25 connected targets) lies in the fact that some strains are resistant to particular antibiotics. We
26 suspect that some changes in DDIs that we correlated with changes in network structure are
27 actually caused by changes in resistance to one or both drugs, rather than changes in the drug
28 interaction term itself. Changes in resistance are likely based on structural changes in either target
29 proteins, or other resistance mechanisms. These other resistance mechanisms include transporter
30 proteins or cell membrane permeability characteristics, which affect cross-resistance and collateral
31 sensitivity, and don't represent the types of molecular network changes that we hoped to measure
32 with the DDI. Indeed, there is genetic variation in how drug interactions are affected by the order in
33 which drug combinations are administered, suggesting hysteresis (Roemhild et al. 2022). Note that
34 Brochado et al. (2018) reported any strain with fitness values (e.g., ratio of drug/non-drug treated
35 growth) of >0.7 as being resistant to that drug. However, some drugs that are known to be clinically
36 bacteriostatic (inhibit growth) fall in this range, and strains are reported to be resistant; e.g. see the
37 case of sulfamonomethoxine resistance in all species and strains, below. Indeed, Bushby (1973)
38 reported "resistance to one of the drugs as measured by conventional tests may not abolish synergy."
39 To consider the effect of resistance differences on our results, we repeated the entire analysis
40 filtering for DDIs that are "susceptible" (fitness < 0.7) in at least one of the species for both drugs,
41 assuming that this decreases the proportion of true resistance cases in the dataset. This set included
42 1127/2655 DCs (42.2% of the total DCs). Our results for this smaller set are consistent with the full
43 dataset (**Sup. Figs. S5-S7**). A minor difference in the subset is that antagonisms have a slightly
44 lower (instead of equivalent) rate than additivities. Although this consistency between the full and

1 reduced dataset is desirable, it doesn't remove the possibility that differences in resistance among
 2 strains are a substantial part of the evolutionary signal.

3
 4 We used DDIs to learn about the evolution of networks, so discussion of some of the individual DDIs
 5 illustrate strengths and limitations of the approach. The evolutionary and network parameters also
 6 provide some insight into how and why individual DDIs with clinical relevance may vary across
 7 species. Next, we discuss these aspects of the interaction between A22 and novobiocin, and
 8 sulfamonomethoxine and trimethoprim or erythromycin.

10 **A22 and novobiocin**

11 The DDI between A22 and novobiocin is a case example (**Sup. Table S3**). Briefly, A22 binds the
 12 ATP-binding domain of MreB (eco:b3251) (Bean et al. 2009), the actin homolog in prokaryotes, while
 13 novobiocin binds gyrase subunit B (gyrB, eco:b3699) and topoisomerase IV (parC, eco:b3019), which
 14 are two type II topoisomerases involved in DNA unwinding and DNA duplication (Gellert et al.
 15 1976; Hardy and Cozzarelli 2003). MreB and ParC are known to physically interact (Madabhushi
 16 and Marians 2009) and are required for chromosome segregation (Huang et al. 1998). A22 and
 17 novobiocin have previously been reported to be synergistic in *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* (Taylor 2011;
 18 Taylor et al. 2012); however, in the dataset from Brochado et al. (2018), the combination type is
 19 variable within species. Both *E. coli* strains are susceptible to both drugs, but they have different
 20 interaction terms: one is additive, the other synergistic. *Salmonella* also shows intraspecific
 21 differences, where one of the strains is synergistic and the other additive, although in this case, the
 22 synergistic strain is resistant to novobiocin, with a fitness of 0.85. Both *Pseudomonas* strains are
 23 resistant to novobiocin, with fitnesses greater than 0.86, and they have additive DDIs. This high
 24 variability of DDI type within species resulted in an evolutionary rate of 0.008 bliss²/MYA for this
 25 DC, within the cluster with the highest evolutionary rate. The distance between these targets in the
 26 co-functional (EcoCyc/GO-BP) network was 2, and in the DDI network the distance between targets
 27 was 4. Why are the rates so high among strains, for this DDI? Strain-specific network predictions at
 28 STRING (Szklarczyk et al. 2023) suggest strain-specific differences in local network content. Of the
 29 genes all connected to each other in the local network (mreB, gyrA, parC, gyrB), parC is missing in
 30 three strains, while a fourth strain has reduced connectivity for MreB (only connected to gyrB). This
 31 type of gene content variation suggests the type of intraspecific network variation that may lead to
 32 high observed rates of DDI evolution.

34 **Sulfamonomethoxine and trimethoprim or erythromycin**

35 Another illustrative example of a known DDI used in the clinic and found in our data is the
 36 combination of sulfamonomethoxine and trimethoprim (**Sup. Table S3**) (Bushby 1973). These drugs
 37 inhibit successive steps in the synthesis of tetrahydrofolic acid synthesis, necessary for the
 38 biosynthesis of amino acids, purines, and thymidine. Sulfamonomethoxine competes against the
 39 enzymatic substrate of dihydropteroate synthase (folP, eco:b3177); this blocks the production of
 40 dihydrofolic acid, which in turn is a substrate for dihydrofolate reductase. Trimethoprim inhibits
 41 dihydrofolate reductase (folA, eco:b0048) by competing against the substrate for the binding site of
 42 the enzyme. Even on its own, trimethoprim can contribute to "thymineless death" (Then and
 43 Angehrn 1973); but while the effect of each drug on its own is bacteriostatic (prevents growth;
 44 Ocampo et al. 2014), when used in combination, the combined effect is bactericidal (kills bacteria).
 45 This is the cause of the strong synergistic effect between the two drugs (Bushby 1973; Ocampo et al.

1 2014).

2

3 We measured an evolutionary rate of $0.008 \text{ bliss}^2/\text{MYA}$ for this DDI, as it belongs to the cluster with
4 the highest evolutionary rate. This rate can be explained by the difference in DDI type between
5 *Pseudomonas* and non-*Pseudomonas* strains. In the data used in our study, the interaction was
6 synergistic for *E. coli* and *S. enterica*, but additive in *Pseudomonas*. The DDI may be additive in
7 *Pseudomonas* because it is resistant to both drugs, due to differences in its permeability to the drugs
8 and the presence of efflux pumps that remove the drugs (Eliopoulos and Huovinen 2001). In
9 contrast, *E. coli* and *S. enterica* were only resistant to a single drug, sulfamonomethoxine.

10

11 Our goal in using the sulfamonomethoxine and trimethoprim DDIs to study the network, in this
12 case, was to capture the rate of evolution of the folate biosynthesis pathway across species. The fact
13 that the two targets act as successive steps in all studied species suggests several possible causes for
14 this observed rate. There are some differences in the presence of pathway components that are
15 peripheral to these steps (Pribat et al. 2010), and it is possible that such differences in the network
16 beyond the direct connection contribute to DDI differences. Indeed, beyond their direct link in the
17 co-functional (EcoCyc/GO-BP) network, the targets are highly connected to each other, with a K-
18 edge connectivity of 21 (68% quantile), meaning that 21 edges have to be removed to disconnect the
19 two targets. It is also possible that there are differences in the direct target enzymes and their
20 connectivity (e.g., concentration, k_{max}). An alternative explanation is resistance: resistance to
21 sulfamonomethoxine and trimethoprim was detected soon after they were introduced in clinical
22 treatments. Several point mutations have been described in the target genes across different
23 bacteria, and the most common mechanism of resistance is due to the bacteria having an extra copy
24 of the target gene (Estrada et al. 2016). All of this suggests that, for sulfamonomethoxine and
25 trimethoprim, evolution of the DDI is the result of many types of biological differences, not just
26 specific differences in network interactions between the drug targets. This is an important
27 limitation to the DDI approach to studying network evolution.

28

29 Trimethoprim also interacts with erythromycin, a macrolide that inhibits protein synthesis and has
30 a bacteriostatic effect. This interaction is additive in *E. coli*, but when sulfate is added to the media
31 the combination type becomes suppressive (a type of antagonistic interaction) (Qi et al. 2021).

32 Trimethoprim may cause sulfur limitation resulting in changes in expression of sulfur reduction
33 genes. Interestingly, this suppressive effect is dependent on the gene *crl*, and a *crl* knockout strain
34 eliminates the suppressive response entirely. This is therefore a clearly demonstrated case of genetic
35 variation affecting a DDI. Because *Pseudomonas* doesn't have *crl* (Cavaliere et al. 2015) we might
36 have expected to see a high rate of DDI evolution; however Brochado et al. (2018) did not add sulfate
37 to the growth media, and thus the interaction between trimethoprim and erythromycin is additive
38 across all species and in a cluster with one of the lowest evolutionary rates ($0.0003 \text{ bliss}^2/\text{MYA}$). We
39 predict that, in the presence of sulfate, the rate of this DDI would be much higher (suppressive in
40 non-*Pseudomonas* strains, and additive in *Pseudomonas*), illustrating a case of DDI evolution as a
41 result of network evolution, as well as a strong dependence on environmental conditions.

42 Conclusions

43 Here, we introduce a novel framework to compare evolutionary rates across entire networks. We
44 examined changes in DC effects among strains and species, and compared these rates of change with
45 the DDI types and, when possible, network topology of the drugs' targets. This approach has some

1 advantages over direct network analyses, such as increasing the number of species under study,
2 without the need of obtaining the underlying network in each species. DDIs can be quantified using
3 high-throughput experiments across different species and strains, and are phenotypic quantitative
4 traits that can be modeled in a phylogenetic comparative framework, allowing for an independent
5 measurement of evolutionary rates between nodes in the network. An important limitation of our
6 approach is that evolution of resistance to a drug may obscure underlying network-based effects.
7 Still, our approach suggests a general picture of network evolution, where close nodes in the
8 network (which tend to respond synergistically in response to targeting both at once) evolve at faster
9 rates than more distant nodes.
10

11 Materials and Methods

12 DDI scores, strain susceptibility, and combination types

13 We obtained DDI scores (Bliss scores) from a previous study (Brochado et al. 2018) that assessed
14 2655 combinations (after removing 228 DDIs with missing data) of 79 different compounds on six
15 strains of three species of gram-negative bacteria: *Escherichia coli* K-12 BW2952 (ebw), *E. coli* O8
16 IAI1 (ecr), *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* serovar Typhimurium 14028S (seo), *S. enterica* subsp.
17 *enterica* serovar Typhimurium LT2 (stm), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1 (pae), *P. aeruginosa*
18 UCBPP-PA14 (pau). We used the following datasets from Brochado (2018): interaction scores from
19 table ED09C as input for our phylogenetic comparative analysis, strain susceptibility to antibiotics
20 from Sup. Table 1 (used for our **Sup. Figs. S5-S7**), and the categories that DDIs belong to from Sup.
21 Table 2.
22

23 Divergence time estimates

24 We obtained concatenated alignments of 27 highly conserved protein sequences for the six strains
25 using PhySpeTree (Fang et al. 2019). We simultaneously estimated the phylogeny and divergence
26 times in BEAST2 (Bouckaert et al., 2014) using the following approach: We employed one partition
27 for each protein, with linked trees/clocks. A Yule tree model was used in conjunction with an
28 optimized relaxed molecular clock. The following priors were used for calibrating node time
29 estimates: For the divergence time between *E. coli* and *S. enterica*, 100-160 MYA (Vernikos et al.
30 2007; Meysman et al. 2013; Knöppel et al. 2018). The divergence time between these species and *P.*
31 *aeruginosa* occurred within the range of 1350.0 to 1527.7 million years ago (Battistuzzi et al. 2004;
32 Blair Hedges and Kumar 2009; Marin et al. 2017). The Markov chain Monte Carlo analysis was run
33 for 20 million iterations.
34

35 Clustering DDIs using t-SNE

36 To reduce data dimensionality of the DDI trait space, we classified DDIs into clusters using t-SNE
37 in the R packages bigMap (Garriga and Bartumeus 2018) and bigmemory (Kane et al. 2013) with
38 parameters: 80 threads, 80 layers, and 9 rounds. DDIs that were similar to each other across strains
39 were clustered together. The t-SNE analyses were performed for a range of 251 perplexity values
40 between 5 and 2505 (**Sup. Doc. S1**). The clustering output was evaluated based on the stability and
41 plateauing of cost and effect size, and the variance between threads. We obtained stable solutions
42 between perplexity values 175 and 1455. The pakde algorithm was applied with a perplexity of 1/3
43 the respective t-SNE perplexity. To find which of the clustering solutions was the most modular, we

1 tested for modularity in the data using the function `phylo.modularity` within the R package
2 `geomorph` (Adams et al. 2016) The five most modular clustering patterns were selected with the
3 most negative ZCR coefficients. These clustering patterns had the following perplexity values: 355,
4 245, 275, 215, and 345; and the following number of clusters: 9, 16, 14, 18, and 12. All five clustering
5 patterns had a strong modular signal, with multivariate effect sizes under -26.6 , p -value=0.001 and
6 covariance ratios below 0.91. Lastly, we fitted a multivariate Brownian motion model to each of
7 these 5 clustering patterns and calculated the evolutionary rates per cluster using
8 `compare.multi.evol.rates`, also using the R package `geomorph` (Adams et al. 2016). Out of the 5 most
9 modular clustering models, the model with a perplexity of 245 was the one with a higher Z effect in
10 the test, showing the biggest differences between groups. Thus, this clustering pattern was used in
11 the following steps. In addition, the sigma rates calculated for each of the clusters were used as
12 approximations for DDI evolutionary rates that are part of that cluster.
13

14 Identification of drug targets and their molecular networks

15 Each drug was identified with unique Pubchem and ChEMBL IDs using `webchem` (Szöcs et al.
16 2020), which were then used to retrieve their mode of action from IUPHAR (Armstrong et al. 2019).
17 We also compared our targets to a previously published dataset on drugs and drug targets (Santos et
18 al. 2017), identified unique Uniprot IDs and KO IDs for each target protein, and converted these IDs
19 into *E. coli* Uniprot IDs using the KEGG Orthology (Kanehisa and Goto 2000). We didn't include
20 drugs whose mode of action was unknown, or that had non-protein molecules as targets, such as
21 small molecules, RNA, or DNA.

22 Two molecular networks of *E. coli* were downloaded from Ecolinet
23 (<https://www.inetbio.org/ecolinet/downloadnetwork.php>) (Kim et al. 2015), small/medium-scale
24 protein-protein interactions (LC; 764 genes, 1073 links) and the gold-standard co-functional gene
25 pair network of *E. coli* derived from EcoCyc and GO-BP (1835 genes, 10804 links). Comparative
26 networks were also downloaded from the STRING database (Szklarczyk et al. 2023) for *Escherichia*
27 *coli* K-12 BW2952 (ebw), *E. coli* O8 IAI1 (ecr), *S. enterica* subsp. *enterica* serovar Typhimurium LT2
28 (stm), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1 (pae), filtered for interactions with a 70% score or higher, and
29 mapped to our DDI data via KEGG ortholog IDs.
30

31 Inter-node network metrics

32 For each of the networks, we calculated the average path length and node degree distributions. In
33 addition, the minimum distance between each of the nodes in the network was calculated, as well
34 as the node degree (number of connections per node), the K-edge connectivity between each pair of
35 nodes (i.e. the minimum number of edges that can be removed to disconnect the nodes),
36 betweenness centrality (i.e. a measure of centrality in the network based on shortest paths) and
37 eigenvector centrality (i.e. a measure of the influence of the node in the network). We used the R
38 package `igraph` (Csardi et al. 2006) to calculate these values in each one of the molecular networks
39 and for each node or pair of nodes. We also generated an adjacency matrix, which contains
40 information on whether two nodes are connected directly by an edge or not. In addition, we used K-
41 edge connectivity as a proxy for connectedness between proteins (i.e., a pair with K-edge
42 connectivity equal to zero is disconnected, and proteins with K-edge connectivity different than zero
43 are connected).
44

1 **Enrichment analysis per cluster**

2 Differential gene set enrichment analysis was performed across the subset of DDIs with known
3 target proteins for each cluster using the R package clusterProfiler ver 4.10.0 (Yu et al. 2012) and
4 org.EcK12.eg.db. The background set included only the known targets. In many cases, drugs from
5 different clusters target the same protein.

7 **Data and code availability**

8 The code used for data analysis is available from: <https://github.com/Alexggo/ddi-netevo>

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6

7

8 Figure Legends

9 **Figure 1:** Drug-drug interaction (DDI) score distance diverges non-linearly over time. Species and
10 strain abbreviations are shown in the top left box. **A.** Bayesian phylogeny and divergence time
11 estimates based on an alignment of 27 highly conserved protein sequences. **B.** Hierarchical
12 clustering of strains based on average Euclidean distances across DDIs (i.e. "DDI score distance");
13 drug combination (DC) data is from Brochado *et al.* (2018). **C.** Heatmap of DDI scores across
14 strains. Along top, hierarchical clustering of DCs is shown based on Euclidean distances across
15 strains, but these clusters were constrained by t-SNE cluster membership (see text). In the
16 heatmap, synergistic interactions are blue (close to -1), antagonistic interactions are red (close to 1),
17 and additivities are white (close to 0; measured in Bliss score units). The bars below indicate
18 whether the two drugs involved in the interaction are the same (green) or different (black) in terms
19 of: belonging to the same drug category, targeting the same cellular process, or having the same
20 use. **D.** Evolutionary rate of DDI score change, calculated for each cluster. **E.** Pairwise DDI score
21 distances between strains as a function of divergence time between strains. Intraspecific
22 comparisons, comparisons between *Salmonella* and *Escherichia*, and comparisons with
23 *Pseudomonas* are each labeled. **F.** First two axes of a phylomorphospace-PCA for the DDI score
24 data. The percent of variance explained for principal components 1 and 2 are shown.

25

26 **Figure 2:** **A.** Graphical representations of the co-functional gene pair network of *E. coli* (EcoliNet:
27 EcoCyc/GO-BP). This network contains 1835 nodes with an average path length of 4.8 and contains
28 20 proteins targeted by 36 drugs in our analysis. **B.** Graphical representations of the PPI network of
29 *E. coli*, as determined by small and medium-scale experiments (EcoliNet: LC. Small/medium-scale
30 PPI). This network contains 764 nodes with an average path length of 4.9, with 18 proteins targeted
31 by 27 drugs in our analysis. In **A** and **B**, each node represents a unique protein (KEGG ID) in *E.*
32 *coli*; the red nodes are target proteins identified as participating in DCs in our analysis.

33

34 **Figure 3:** Pairs of protein targets with synergistic drug-drug interactions (DDIs) have lower path
35 length and higher connectivity and centrality measures in *E. coli* co-functional (**A,C,E,G,I**) and
36 protein-protein interaction (**B,D,F,H,J**) networks. DDI types examined are synergies, additivities,
37 and antagonisms ("non-targets" are a background sample of non-drug target proteins in the
38 network). The number of interactions in each category is in parentheses. Network metrics are: **A-**
39 **B:** path length between two targets, **C-D:** K-edge connectivity between two targets, **E-F:** mean
40 node degree of the two targets, **G-H:** mean betweenness centrality of the two targets, **I-J:** mean
41 eigenvector centrality of the two targets. In all plots, significance of Wilcoxon test p-values are

1 given for differences in the mean between all pairwise comparisons: p-value < *0.05, **0.0001,
2 ***0.00001. For all plots, Kruskal–Wallis test for difference among groups is $p < 1 \times 10^{-7}$.

3

4 **Figure 4:** Evolutionary rates of DDI scores as a function of DDI type and network connectivity of
5 targets. **A.** DCs resulting in only synergy or synergy↔antagonism DDIs across strains have faster
6 evolutionary rates. **B.** Aggregated interaction types reveal that more synergistic DCs have higher
7 evolutionary rates. The X-axis value is the sum, per DC, across strains, where DDIs are scored as -
8 1 for synergies, 0 for additive, and +1 for antagonistic interactions. **C.** Rate of DDI evolution as a
9 function of DDI type, for DCs with protein targets in the co-functional and small/medium scale PPI
10 networks. Synergistic DCs have higher evolutionary rates than additive and antagonistic DCs
11 (combination types and networks from *E. coli*). **D.** Rate of DDI evolution as a function of the
12 minimum distance between DC target proteins reveals that wiring between close nodes in
13 molecular networks evolves more quickly than between distant nodes. See **Sup. Table S2** for
14 statistical tests for differences among groups shown here. For all plots, the error bars represent the
15 standard error of the mean.

16

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

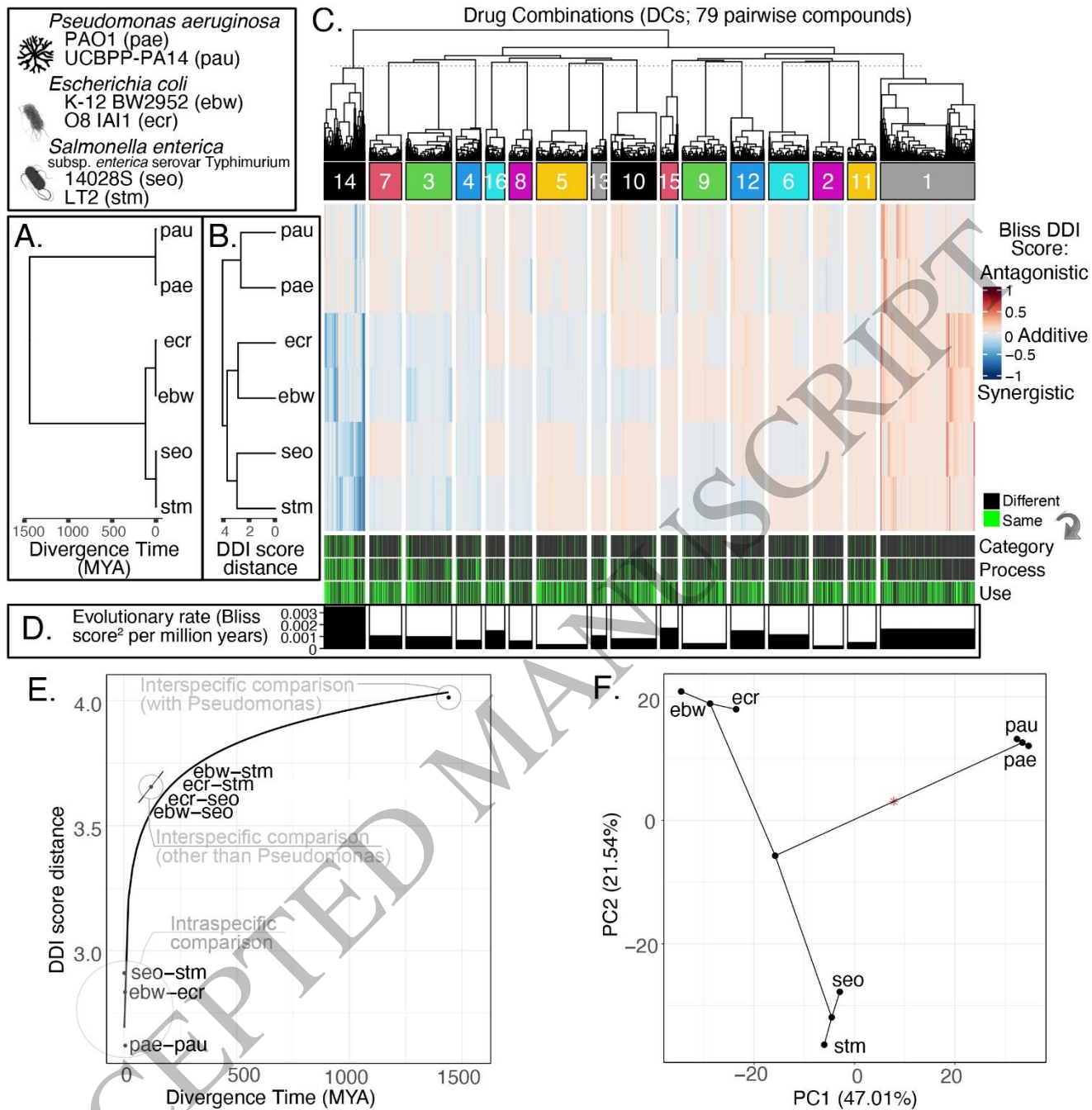
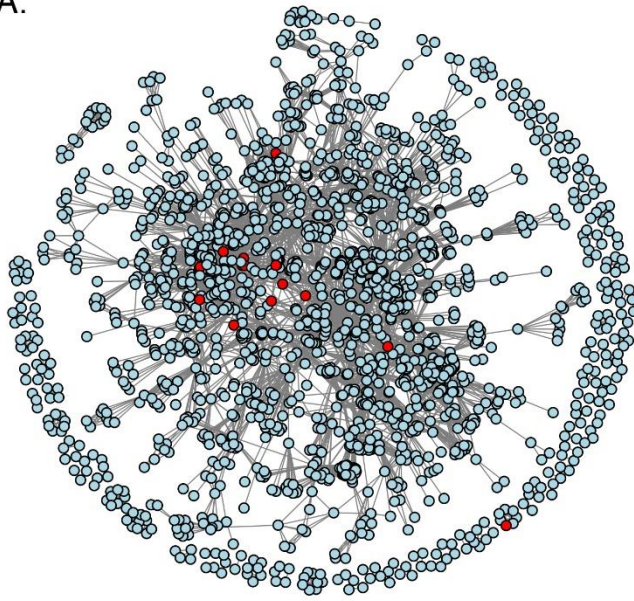


Figure 1
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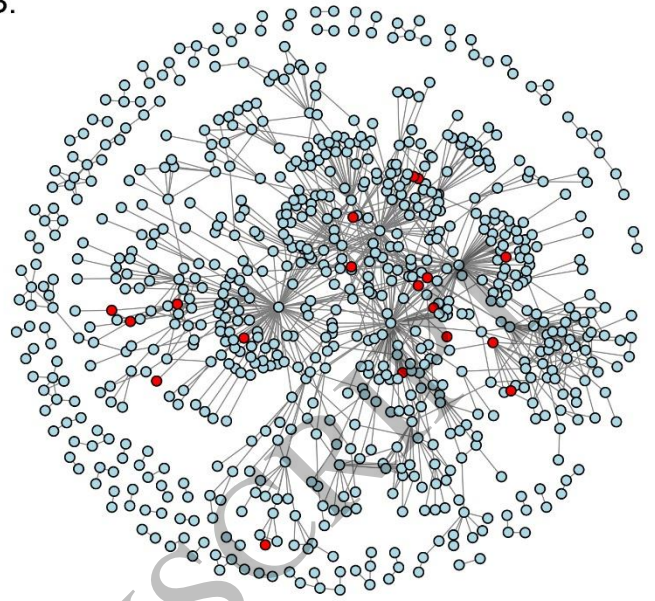


Figure 2
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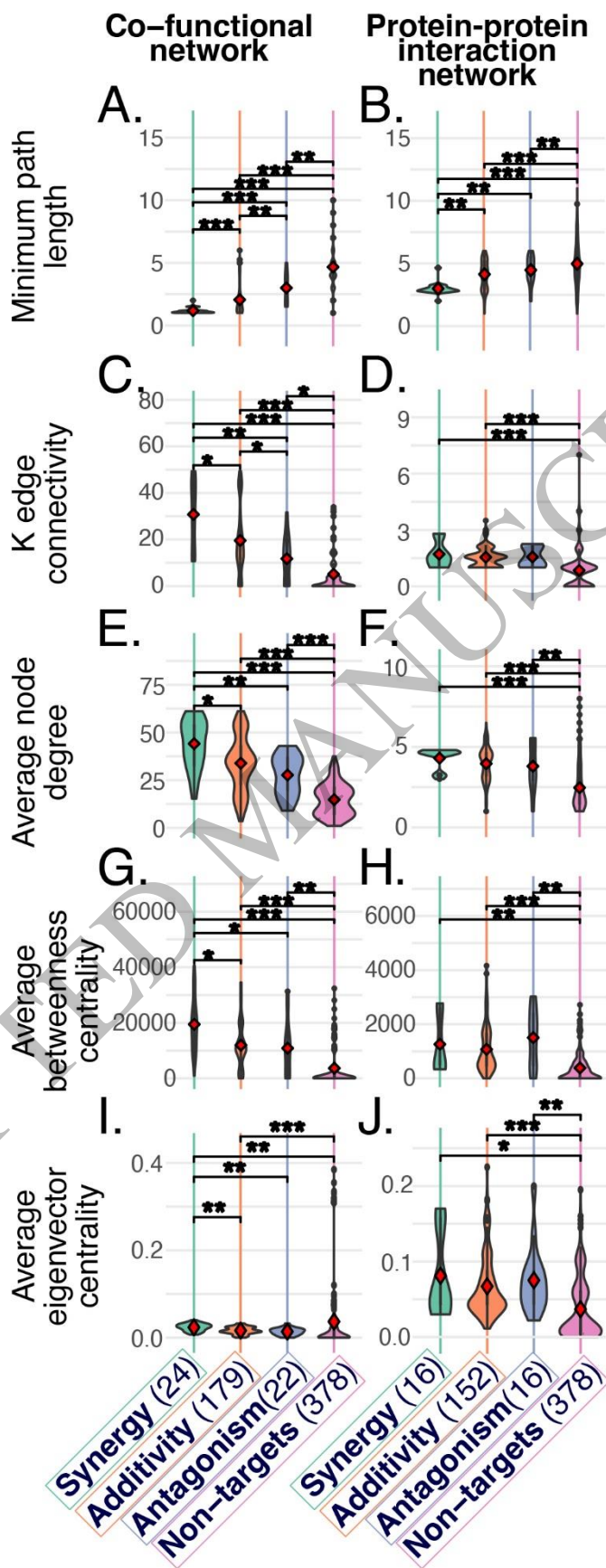


Figure 3
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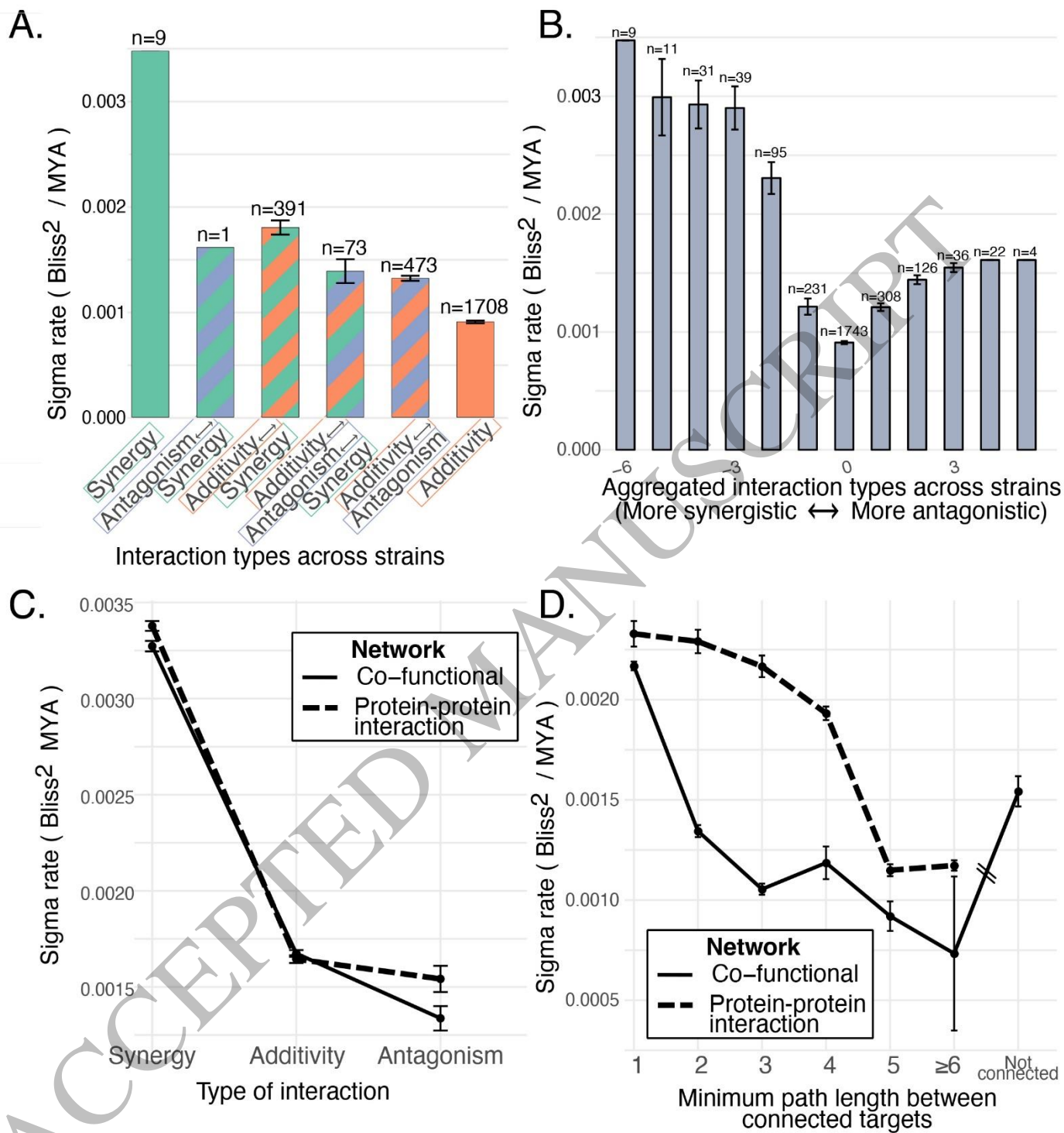


Figure 4
183x196 mm (x DPI)

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