



A coarse-grained view of *E. coli*.

Much like the "Ford-T assembly line," *Escherichia coli* can be thought of as a factory producing RNA polymerase, ribosomes, and other molecular machinery, all inside the crowded cytoplasm of the cell. In this simplified picture, genes and proteins of similar function are lumped together, resulting in an effective, coarse-grained representation of the cell (see Tadmor, Tlusty, doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1000038).

*Image Credit: Genia Brodsky, Weizmann Institute of Science*