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More is more: how increasing complexity facilitates adaptability in biochemical networks.

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The ability of cells to perform tasks under a variety of conditions is determined at the molecular level by the corresponding biochemical networks. Instead of being static structures, these networks have the property that they are dynamic over time, allowing them to reorganize during evolution in response to deleterious perturbations that compromise network functionality. I will discuss our experimental results on how increasing complexity in a network facilitates this reorganization, using a concrete example, the biochemical network for pattern formation in baker's yeast.

