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Bacteria vs Phages: The art of war among unseen majority

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A virulent phage (virus that infects bacteria) infection to a host bacterial cell results in lysis of the cell, where hundreds of phage particles are released after a latency time. Therefore, phages are one of the biggest threats to bacterial communities. Phage pressure is believed to be an important factor in shaping the microbial communities and a driving force of their evolution, and yet we are far from having a full picture of their warfare. In this talk, I highlight a few factors that play significant roles in phage-bacteria interactions and their coexistence, especially the importance of the spatial structure in a few cells scale to the colony scale.

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