

1 **Title: Virus-associated organosulfur metabolism in**
2 **human and environmental systems**

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19
20
21 **Summary**

22
23 Viruses influence the fate of nutrients and human health by killing microorganisms and altering
24 metabolic processes. Organosulfur metabolism and biologically-derived hydrogen sulfide play
25 dynamic roles in manifestation of diseases, infrastructure degradation, and essential biological
26 processes. While microbial organosulfur metabolism is well-studied, the role of viruses in
27 organosulfur metabolism is unknown. Here we report the discovery of 39 gene families involved
28 in organosulfur metabolism encoded by 3,749 viruses from diverse ecosystems, including human
29 microbiomes. The viruses infect organisms from all three domains of life. Six gene families encode
30 for enzymes that degrade organosulfur compounds into sulfide, while others manipulate
31 organosulfur compounds and may influence sulfide production. We show that viral metabolic
32 genes encode key enzymatic domains, are translated into protein, are maintained after
33 recombination, and that sulfide provides a fitness advantage to viruses. Our results reveal viruses
34 as drivers of organosulfur metabolism with important implications for human and environmental
35 health.

36
37 **Key words**

38 Sulfide, organic sulfur, cysteine, viruses, bacteriophages, auxiliary metabolism, human
39 microbiome

41 Introduction

42
43 Biological sulfur cycling is one of the oldest and most influential biochemical processes
44 on Earth and is primarily driven by microbial reduction of sulfate to produce hydrogen sulfide
45 (Andreae, 1990; Fike et al., 2015; Wacey et al., 2011). Sulfide plays dynamic roles in the
46 degradation of infrastructure and souring of oil reserves (Ma et al., 2000; Voordouw et al., 1996),
47 microbial respiration and essential biosynthesis processes, and manifestation of human
48 gastrointestinal disorders such as colitis, inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and colorectal cancer
49 (CRC) (Guo et al., 2016). Much of our knowledge of sulfur cycling focuses on a small subset of
50 microbes that are capable of respiring inorganic sulfur compounds, a process known as
51 dissimilatory metabolism (Anantharaman et al., 2018). Consequently, the cycling of sulfur-
52 containing organic (organosulfur) compounds and resulting sulfide production from more
53 widespread biological mechanisms and sources has largely been ignored.

54 Two mechanisms of sulfide production include the degradation of organosulfur compounds
55 and assimilatory sulfur metabolism. Sulfide production from microbial-driven degradation of
56 organosulfur compounds, such as the amino acid cysteine, has been noted as a significant
57 contributor to sulfide concentrations in environmental and human systems (Carbonero et al., 2012;
58 Morra and Dick, 1991; Xia et al., 2017). However, there exists no comprehensive analysis of the
59 specific microbes involved. Assimilatory sulfur metabolism, a common strategy used by many
60 microbes and some eukaryotes to incorporate sulfide into biological compounds, has similarly
61 been routinely discounted as a mechanism of significant sulfide release into either environmental
62 or human systems. Notably, the role of viruses in these processes has not been explored.

63 Microbial viruses, mainly comprising bacteriophages (phages) are extraordinarily
64 abundant on Earth. Microbial viruses are known to redirect and recycle nutrients on the scale of
65 ecosystems by infecting and lysing host cells (Gobler et al., 1997; Jiao et al., 2010; Jover et al.,
66 2014; Wilhelm and Suttle, 1999). In the oceans alone, the number of viral infections per second
67 exceeds the number of stars in the known universe, which likely leads to the lysis of over 20% of
68 all microbes per day (Manojlović, 2015; Suttle, 2007). In addition to lysis, viruses can actively
69 redirect host metabolism during infection which manipulates major biogeochemical cycles,
70 including carbon, nitrogen and sulfur. One such mechanism involves viruses “stealing” metabolic
71 genes from their host in order to gain fitness advantages during infection (Sullivan et al., 2006).
72 Such host-derived viral genes are termed auxiliary metabolic genes (AMGs), and are expressed
73 during infection to modulate microbial respiration, biosynthesis processes, and/or direct
74 intracellular nutrients towards virus replication and virion production (Anantharaman et al., 2014;
75 Breitbart et al., 2007; Hurwitz et al., 2013, 2015; Mann et al., 2003; Roux et al., 2014; Suttle, 2005;
76 Thompson et al., 2011; Trubl et al., 2018). For example, some viruses of Cyanobacteria encode
77 core photosystem proteins that augment host metabolism in order to increase the biosynthesis of
78 dNTPs that are utilized for viral genome replication (Thompson et al., 2011). The viral auxiliary
79 metabolism of iron-sulfur clusters, central carbon metabolism, nitrification, methane oxidation and
80 other metabolic processes could also provide viruses with a multi-faceted method of manipulating

81 nutrients within their host cell to enable efficient, rapid or otherwise a more improved viral
82 replication cycle (Ahlgren et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2020; Hurwitz and U'Ren, 2016; Hurwitz et
83 al., 2015).

84 In spite of the importance and global prevalence of viruses, nothing is known about their
85 contribution and impact on AMG-driven organosulfur metabolism in the environment. Moreover,
86 the role of AMGs in human microbiomes has been largely unexplored. Here, we investigated
87 environmental and human microbiomes for the presence of viruses involved in production of
88 hydrogen sulfide and manipulation of organosulfur metabolism. By screening publicly available
89 partial and complete viral genomes from cultivated and uncultivated viruses, we identified genes
90 involved in direct and indirect sulfide production from organosulfur degradation and assimilatory
91 sulfur metabolism. We followed this up with experiments to validate the impacts of genes for
92 organosulfur metabolism as well as hydrogen sulfide on viral fitness.

93

94 **Results**

95

96 **Metabolic pathways for organosulfur metabolism driven by viral AMGs**

97 We queried a comprehensive dataset of approximately 135,000 partial and complete viral
98 genomes (contigs) publicly available on Integrated Microbial Genomes/Viruses (IMG/VR) (Paez-
99 Espino et al., 2016, 2017) and the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)
100 databases, and two metagenomic studies from Lake Mendota, WI (Linz et al., 2018), for the
101 presence of virally encoded proteins for organosulfur metabolism. In total, we identified 4,103
102 viral AMGs representative of 39 unique gene families. All genes identified are categorized as Class
103 I AMGs, or those for central metabolic functions but auxiliary to productive viral infection
104 (Hurwitz and U'Ren, 2016). These AMGs were detected on 3,749 non-redundant viral genomes
105 from all major bacterial dsDNA viral families (*Myoviridae*, *Podoviridae* and *Siphoviridae*)
106 including viruses infecting an archaea (Rahlff et al., 2020) and eukaryote (amoeba) (Schulz et al.,
107 2020). Therefore, AMGs for organosulfur metabolism were identified on viruses infecting all three
108 domains of life, representing a shared metabolic constraint regardless of host domain. The viruses
109 represent cultivated and uncultivated viruses, linear and circular genomes, and lytic and lysogenic
110 cycles of viral replication across a vast range of environmental and human microbiomes. Of these,
111 164 have been isolated and cultivated on hosts spanning nine major bacterial lineages
112 (Alphaproteobacteria, Betaproteobacteria, Gammaproteobacteria, Cyanobacteria, Actinobacteria,
113 Firmicutes, Bacteroidetes, Verrucomicrobia and Deinococcus-Thermus) as well as an amoeba
114 (*Vermamoeba vermiformis*) (**Table S1**). The isolation of viruses encoding organosulfur
115 metabolism AMGs indicates that the identification of such viral driven metabolism is not an
116 artifact of metagenomic analysis.

117 Viral AMGs are putatively associated with five distinct processes: sulfide production from
118 organic sulfur, the assimilatory sulfate reduction pathway, sulfite production from organic sulfur,
119 metabolism of organic sulfur, and sulfur-related amino acid metabolism (**Figure 1 and Table 1**).
120 Six different AMG families (*cysK*, *cysM*, *malY*, *dcd*, *metC* and *metY*) encode for enzymes able

121 to directly produce sulfide from the degradation of cysteine and homocysteine, which are
 122 important organosulfur compounds and central sources of sulfur in the environment and human
 123 body (Chiku et al., 2009; Fitzgerald, 1976). Six other AMG families (*cysD*, *cysN*, *cysC*,
 124 bifunctional-*cysNC*, *cysH* and *cysJ*) are components of the assimilatory sulfate reduction
 125 pathway, which is widely utilized across all three domains of life for incorporation of sulfide into cysteine.
 126 Sulfite can be directly produced from the breakdown of several organosulfur compounds (e.g.
 127 taurine) by three families of AMGs (*tauD*, *ssuD* and *msmA*) and successively fed into dissimilatory
 128 and assimilatory sulfate reduction. Eleven of the AMG families (*aspB*, *metB*, *metH*, *metE*, *msrC*,
 129 *metK*, *megL*, *dcm*, *mtnN*, *ahcY* and *luxS*) are inferred to indirectly produce sulfide by manipulating
 130 abundant organosulfur compounds (e.g. methionine and cystathionine) that funnel into the
 131 synthesis of cysteine or homocysteine. Finally, indirect organosulfur metabolism by the remaining
 132 thirteen AMG families (*lysC*, *thrA*, *asd*, *hom*, *metA*, *cysE*, *cysQ*, *nrnA*, *speE*, *mdh*, *mtnD*, *mtnA* and
 133 *mtnK*) would influence the synthesis of organosulfur compounds (e.g. synthesis of cysteine using
 134 serine) that feed into sulfide producing reactions.
 135

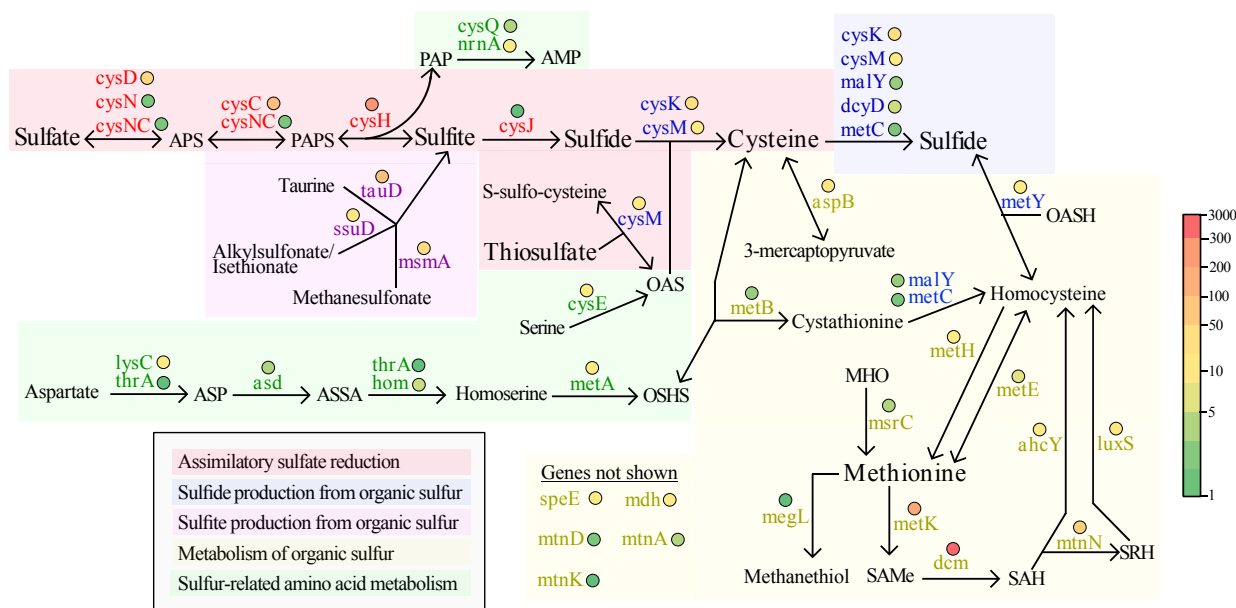


Figure 1. Reaction diagram of organosulfur transformations mediated by viruses. All genes shown have been identified on viruses and are colored coordinated respective to the process with which they are putatively associated. Colored circles represent the abundance of each AMG across all viral genomes according to the color scale (heatmap) on the right. Complete reactions and full names of acronyms are listed in Table 1.

136 Viruses encoding AMGs for organosulfur metabolism are globally 137 distributed

138 Uncultivated viruses encoding AMGs for organosulfur metabolism were recovered from
 139 diverse environmental (marine, freshwater, engineered, soil, hydrothermal vent, non-marine saline
 140 and alkaline, deep subsurface, wetland and thermal spring), non-human host-associated
 141 (mammalian gut, other animal-associated and plant-associated) and human host-associated
 142 (gastrointestinal, oral and vaginal) microbiomes (**Figure 2A**). Cultivated and well-characterized

143 viruses exhibited likewise microbiome dispersal because they were recovered from more than one
 144 ecosystem (e.g. food production, marine, freshwater, soil, engineered, hot springs, animal-
 145 associated, plant-associated, as well as human-associated gastrointestinal, oral and skin) (**Table**
 146 **S1**). These results encompassed every ecosystem category, with the exception of air, in which
 147 viruses are routinely identified. This displays evidence that viruses encoding AMG for sulfide
 148 production are ubiquitous on Earth.

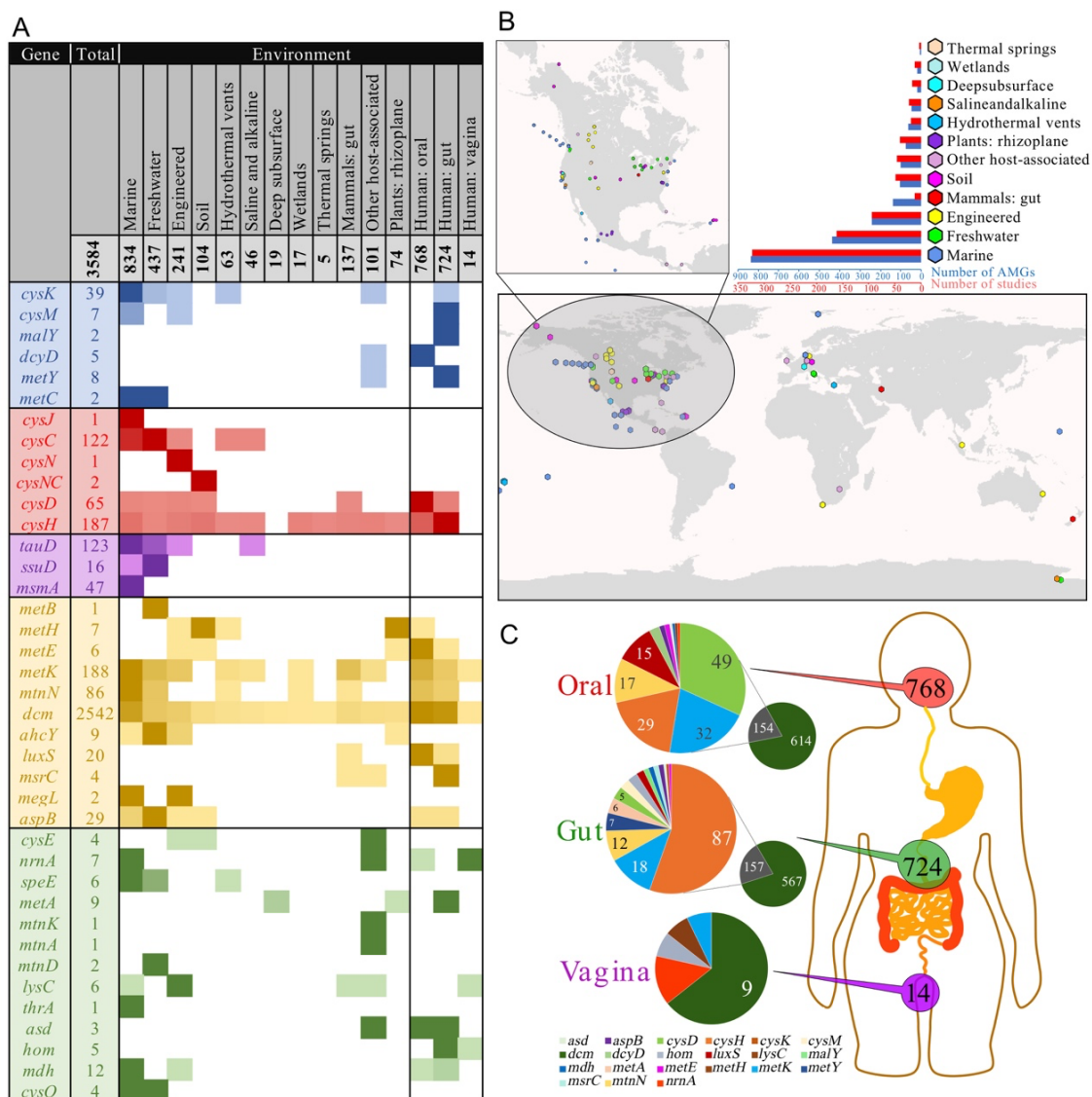


Figure 2. Distribution of viral AMG in environmental and human microbiomes. (A) Heatmap of each AMG's relative abundance in environmental and human systems with colors coordinated by the AMG's pathway respective to Figure 1. Per AMG, darker colors represent greater abundance. A total of 3,584 AMG derived from IMG/VR are shown. (B) Global distribution of viruses encoding AMG, color coordinated by environment classification. The bar graphs represent the number of AMG and IMG studies from which viruses were recovered. See Tables S2 and S3 for exact abundances for (A) and (B), respectively. Only studies with published coordinates and environment categories are shown. (C) Abundance of AMG derived from incomplete or uncultivated viruses from human oral, gastrointestinal and vaginal microbiomes. Only values greater than five are shown.

149 Next, we estimated the proportion of viral richness in each ecosystem category found to
150 encode organosulfur metabolism AMG. Viruses encoding at least one AMG were found to be
151 highly abundant in human vaginal, gastrointestinal and oral microbiomes comprising 8%, 6% and
152 3% of all identified viruses, respectively. Mammalian-associated, other animal-associated and
153 plant-associated microbiomes likewise had significant AMG-encoding virus abundances of 8%,
154 6% and 6%, respectively. Notably, previous reports have determined that expanded viral richness
155 in the gastrointestinal tract is correlated with the manifestation of IBD (Norman et al., 2015) and
156 our results support the possibility of this being in part due to the metabolic potential of viruses,
157 such as for sulfide production. This points to an important distinction that the collective metabolic
158 potential of viruses in these host-associated environments, in conjunction with measuring total viral
159 richness, could have significant implications for host health. Viruses encoding organosulfur AMGs
160 beyond host-associated microbiomes may also impact ecosystem health. Major environmental
161 systems, such as the deep subsurface (6%), engineered (3%), soil (3%), freshwater (2%), wetlands
162 (2%), marine (2%) and hydrothermal vents (2%), likewise display significant richness of
163 organosulfur AMG encoding viruses (**Table S4**). The net impact of viral metabolism on organic
164 and inorganic sulfur compound concentrations in these environments is unknown, but it is
165 nonetheless striking that up to 8% of all resident viruses may be involved.

166 Viruses recovered from non-human microbiomes also displayed extensive geographical
167 and niche distributions, which demonstrates their relevance in global sulfur biochemistry (**Figure**
168 **2B**). Individual distributions of abundant AMGs (e.g. *dcm*, *cysC*, *cysK*, *cysH*, *metK*, and *tauD*)
169 likewise had no geographical or environmental restrictions (**Figure S1A-F**). For example, *cysH*
170 which encodes a critical enzyme for assimilatory sulfur metabolism was found in every ecosystem
171 except the deep subsurface. CysK, a predominant enzyme involved in sulfide generation from
172 cysteine degradation was also broadly dispersed in marine, freshwater, engineered, hydrothermal
173 vent and host-associated environments. Even *msmA* which was only identified in marine
174 environments showed strong geographical dispersal (**Figure S1G**).

175 AMG distributions between environments may depend on different factors, such as how
176 universal the AMG function is (e.g. CysH and CysK are common amongst bacteria) or the nutrient
177 landscape in a specific environment (e.g. MsmA is capable of degrading methanesulfonate, a
178 common compound in marine environments (Henriques and Marco, 2015). However, human-
179 associated samples contained the greatest fraction of identified *cysH* and *cysD* AMGs overall,
180 while marine and freshwater environments contained nearly all of the identified *cysC*. In human-
181 associated samples, nearly 97% of AMGs were *cysD*, *cysH*, *metK*, *mtnN*, *luxS* and *dcm* which
182 encompass essential steps of cysteine and methionine degradation (**Figure 2C**). The uneven
183 distribution of these assimilatory sulfate reduction AMGs suggests that further constraints on
184 nutrient availability or variance in rate limiting steps based on thermodynamics in different
185 environments play a role in determining the distribution of organosulfur metabolism AMGs.

186
187 **Viral organosulfur AMGs result in likely functional proteins and provide**
188 **a fitness advantage to the virus**

189 To overcome the challenge of assigning conclusive function to protein sequences in the
190 absence of biochemical evidence, we analyzed functional and conserved domains of AMG-
191 encoded proteins with biochemically characterized bacterial homologs. Overall, we examined 24
192 AMG families and found broad conservation of whole protein sequence and functional amino acid
193 residues (**Figure S2**). For example, viral sequences encode specific domains for: CysC: ATP
194 binding (gsGKss) and required motifs (dgD) (Poyraz et al., 2015); CysK: cofactor pyridoxal
195 phosphate binding (KDR, NtG, GT/SgGT and SS/AG), substrate binding (T/SSGN and QF) and
196 phosphate recognition (GI/V) (Ishikawa et al., 2010); MetK: substrate binding (egHPDk, acE, gEit,
197 GDqG, DaK, TgRKi, sGKd and kvDrs) (Komoto et al., 2004); CysH: iron-sulfur cluster motif
198 (CC...CxxC) (Chartron et al., 2006); TauD: nitrogen and oxygen binding (e.g. WH and H) (Knauer
199 et al., 2012). Conserved amino acid residues that are not functional are likely preserved for
200 structural features. The retention of AMGs on viral genomes despite strong selective pressures for
201 reduced genome size suggests that most of these AMGs are functional (Bragg and Chisholm,
202 2008). In addition to functional and conserved domain analysis we calculated the ratio of non-
203 synonymous to synonymous nucleotide differences (dN/dS) for a subset of the abundant viral
204 AMG families. A dN/dS value less than one would suggest that the virus is under selective
205 pressures to retain a functional AMG. dN/dS calculations for *cysK*, *cysC*, *cysD*, *cysH*, *tauD*, *msmA*,
206 *metK*, *mtmN* and *luxS* AMG pairs revealed that viral AMGs appear to be under purifying selective
207 pressures to retain function of the encoded AMGs (Supplementary Figure S3).

208 To assess if viral AMGs are active in the environment, we queried a comprehensive
209 metagenomic and metatranscriptomic dataset from Lake Mendota, WI. We identified 23 AMGs
210 representative of six gene families (*aspB*, *cysC*, *cysH*, *metK*, *speE* and *tauD*) that were actively
211 expressed by 22 different viruses over a 48-hour time period (**Table S5**). One *cysC* in particular
212 was expressed by a virus with a 210kb genome that was bioinformatically determined to be
213 complete and circular. Analysis of the genome's GC-skew, a metric to evaluate genome replication
214 patterns using nucleotide coverage (Sernova and Gelfand, 2008), was used to determine that the
215 virus performs rolling circle replication (i.e. unidirectional) which is a common method utilized
216 by viruses (Olm et al., 2017a) (**Figure S4A**). To assess if the virus was actively replicating when
217 *cysC* was expressed we used a metagenomic read mapping approach to estimate the genome's *in*
218 *situ* index of replication (iRep) (Brown et al., 2016). The genome's iRep value of 1.54 falls within
219 the range of typical values of growing populations and indicates that the virus was actively
220 replicating its genome in the environment when *cysC* was expressed (**Figure S4B**). Analyses of
221 other host-virus systems with transcriptomic data enabled the identification of *cysH* expression by
222 Enterobacteria phage Lambda during infection of *Escherichia coli* MG1655 (Liu et al., 2013). The
223 activity and expression of viral AMGs in various systems provides further evidence that they are
224 likely utilized for a specific function during infection.

225 To validate that AMGs are in fact transcribed during infection we developed a model host-
226 virus system with *Lactococcus lactis* C10 and its *cysK*-encoding virus Lactococcus phage P087.
227 The transcript abundance of *cysK* was measured in a culture of either *L. lactis* C10 grown alone
228 (control) or with P087 at timepoints 15-, 60- and 120-minutes post infection (**Figure S5** and **Table**

229 **S6).** At 120 minutes the host cells in the infection condition had mostly lysed from viral infection.
230 Transcript abundance of *L. lactis* C10 *cysK* was found to be comparable at 15 minutes and 60
231 minutes in either the uninfected control or infected with P087. At 120 minutes transcripts of *L.*
232 *lactis* C10 *cysK* were 4x greater than at 60 minutes in the control but were undetectable in the
233 infected condition. This suggests that *L. lactis* C10 *cysK* transcripts are greatly reduced during mid
234 to late infection by P087. The transcript abundance of P087 *cysK* follows a similar trend as *L.*
235 *lactis* C10 *cysK*. At 15 minutes P087 *cysK* transcripts were near zero and by 60 minutes were in
236 approximately 2x greater abundance compared to transcripts of the host. By 120 minutes P087
237 *cysK* transcripts likewise reduced nearly to initial levels. There was no detection of P087 *cysK*
238 transcripts within the uninfected control. Although P087 *cysK* transcript abundance never
239 exceeded that of *L. lactis* C10 *cysK*, we provide further evidence that the viral AMG *cysK* is
240 actively transcribed during infection and potentially replaced host *cysK* to an extent with the
241 greatest abundance during mid infection rather than early or late infection.

242 To validate that transcribed AMGs in fact produce protein, we further leveraged the *L.*
243 *lactis* and P087 system. Using untargeted mass spectrometry at the endpoint of virus infection (i.e.
244 lysis) we identified that P087's AMG *cysK* produces protein and at approximately 1.5x greater
245 abundance than *L. lactis* C10 *cysK* (**Table S7**). The higher ratio of virus CysK to host CysK
246 suggests the virus gains a fitness advantage from compensation of CysK levels in the cell. These
247 findings build upon the results from our qPCR based analysis of transcript abundance in which
248 host transcripts were more abundant than viral but may be explained by higher stability of either
249 viral CysK or *cysK* transcripts. Moreover, since viruses demand a substantial fraction of cellular
250 resources during infection (Mahmoudabadi et al., 2017), the high viral CysK levels measured here
251 supports our hypothesis that CysK is actively utilized during productive infection in contrast to
252 being metabolically inactive. The presence of the gene on the genome in conjunction with
253 transcription and translation measurements is consistent with the AMG providing a fitness
254 advantage, which has been modeled to be as much as a 4% gain for some AMGs (Bragg and
255 Chisholm, 2008). The mechanism(s) by which this functions is likely different than what has been
256 observed previously for AMGs. For example, AMGs for photosynthesis were found to have
257 differential effects during light-dark cycles as well as transcript compensatory effects over an ~8
258 hour time period (Thompson et al., 2011). Conversely, P087 is not influenced by light-dark cycles
259 and complete lysis can occur within ~2.5 hours. Beyond providing evidence that AMGs can be
260 remarkably active during infection this further underlines the diverse nature by which AMGs are
261 utilized by viruses. In addition, the identification of similar gene families on genomes of diverse,
262 geographically spread viruses strongly supports the hypothesis that organosulfur metabolism
263 AMGs play a functional role during infection (Roux et al., 2014).

264

265 **Viruses encoding organosulfur AMGs are phylogenetically diverse**

266 To investigate the diversity of AMGs we conducted phylogenetic analysis of encoded
267 amino acid sequences for five gene families. Phylogeny of CysH from complete viral genomes
268 show close relationships between viruses and their known hosts, supporting previous observations

269 that AMGs are most often acquired from the host (Sullivan et al., 2006) (**Figure S6A**). One clade
270 in particular encoded an addition domain of unknown function (DUF3440) which suggests a
271 shared evolutionary history. Analysis of CysH phylogeny of viral contigs with no known host
272 revealed a similar clustering of viruses with their putative bacterial hosts (phyla Bacteroidetes and
273 Firmicutes) (**Figure S6B**). In contrast to CysH, phylogenetic analysis for several abundant AMG
274 protein sequences (CysC, CysK, TauD and MetK) on complete and incomplete viral genomes
275 displayed clustering of viral sequences in separate clades from bacterial homologs with few
276 exceptions of the virus clustering with a putative host (**Figure S6C-F**).

277 Separate clustering would suggest that viruses may have acquired AMGs beyond their
278 current or known host range, which is supported by the observation that viruses can encode an
279 AMG that their host does not (e.g. *cysC* for *Xylella* phage Sano) and that AMGs can cluster
280 separately from their host (e.g. CysH for *Vibrio* phages). However, based on the CysH phylogeny
281 of complete viral genomes another likely explanation for distinct viral clustering is that the full
282 range of host sequences has yet to be identified. Within the human microbiome alone, thousands
283 of novel bacterial genomes have been identified recently and may provide further insight into host
284 ranges or origins of AMG transfer (Almeida et al., 2019; Nayfach et al., 2019; Pasolli et al., 2019).
285 Even so, in comparison to human microbiomes, little is known about the breadth and diversity of
286 environmental or human viromes. Analysis of all AMGs suggests they have collectively been
287 derived from bacteria (with the exceptions of the archaeal and eukaryotic virus) affiliated with the
288 phyla Firmicutes, Bacteroidetes, Alphaproteobacteria and Gammaproteobacteria, which is
289 supported by the host range of cultivated AMG-encoding viruses (**Figure S7**).

290

291 **Directed recombination and AMG sequence conservation validates** 292 **proposed mechanism of AMG transfer and retention**

293 The proposed mechanism of AMG acquisition by viruses in nature is the transfer of a host
294 metabolic gene to the virus by recombination. Over multiple replication cycles of the viral genome,
295 the AMG is retained as a functional gene. To verify this proposed mechanism, we engineered
296 *Escherichia coli* phage T7 by inserting the host gene *cysK* (T7::*cysK*) to simulate a recombination
297 event. Following successful insertion, T7::*cysK* was passaged, in three biological replicates, for
298 nine complete infection cycles to simulate infection in nature over time. After passaging, the
299 T7::*cysK* construct was sequenced to check for retention of the AMG in the viral population.
300 Sequencing confirmed retention of the gene, indicating that recombination of a host metabolic
301 gene onto a viral genome (i.e., AMG acquisition) can lead to stable retention of an AMG over
302 time. Furthermore, between three biological replicates no mutations from the wildtype *cysK*
303 sequence were observed.

304 Importantly, these observations show that a recombination event can occur without
305 environmental triggers (e.g., nutrient limitation during infection) or fitness constraints (e.g.,
306 metabolic bottlenecks in the host), which provides further credibility for the proposed mechanism
307 that AMG transfer occurs frequently and randomly in nature. If the AMG provides sufficient
308 fitness benefits, or a lack of detrimental effects on viral replication it will be retained over multiple

309 infection cycles. In the system developed here, conditions resulting in a fitness benefit (e.g., greater
310 burst size or faster replication) for the T7::cysK virus compared to wild-type T7 were not identified.
311

312 **Sulfide can provide a fitness advantage to viruses**

313 Since active expression and function of AMGs likely
314 can result in the production of sulfide in the environment and
315 human microbiome, we sought to determine if sulfide does
316 indeed confer a fitness advantage to viruses. A highly
317 plausible method for viruses to achieve this would be through
318 the degradation of cysteine which is present in nearly all
319 environments. As a result, we hypothesized the *cysK*-
320 encoding virus P087 would have the capacity to gain a fitness
321 advantage in the presence of sulfide. Theoretically P087
322 would be involved in the direct degradation of intracellular
323 cysteine via the action of virally encoded CysK under some
324 conditions. To elucidate if sulfide alone confers a fitness
325 advantage, we exogenously added sulfide during P087
326 infection of *L. lactis* and quantified the impact on virus and
327 host growth. We found that viable virus production increased
328 linearly with the addition of physiologically relevant
329 concentrations of sulfide (**Figure 3A**) with no significant
330 observed differences in host growth (**Figure 3B**). This
331 indicates that under the conditions tested P087 benefits from
332 increased production of sulfide in the system through either
333 AMG or host-driven mechanisms, and that the resulting
334 fitness gain is not due to a simple increase in host abundance.
335 We performed the same experiment with exogenously added
336 cysteine but did not observe any effect on viral fitness (data
337 not shown). This has significant biological implications as
338 microorganisms contain high intracellular concentrations of
339 cysteine, with *L. lactis* species reported to contain
340 approximately 3.5mM intracellular cysteine (Li et al., 2005).
341 Likewise, *Escherichia coli* has a free cysteine pool of
342 approximately 150 μ M (Park and Imlay, 2003). We believe
343 other viruses encoding organosulfur metabolism AMGs
344 would likewise derive a fitness advantage under similar conditions and that this phenotype is not
345 restricted to the ability to directly produce sulfide from cysteine degradation.

346

347 **Viral organosulfur auxiliary metabolism associated with human gut** 348 **bacteria**

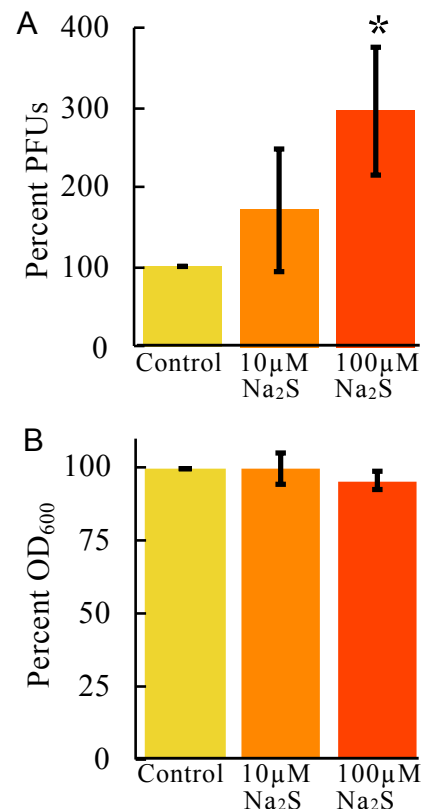


Figure 3. Increased viral fitness is associated with sulfide concentrations. Impact of varying sulfide concentrations on (A) Lactococcus phage P087 virus production as measured by plaque forming units (PFUs) and (B) uninfected host growth. Experimental conditions are normalized to percent of control. Asterisk represents statistical significance ($p < 0.02$) compared to the control.

349 Among viruses with known hosts, 107 were found to be associated with 35 different
350 bacterial species known to be commensal or pathogenic residents of the human gastrointestinal
351 tract (**Table S1**). These viruses encode five AMGs (*cysE*, *cysH*, *cysK*, *dcm* and *metK*) for both the
352 assimilation of sulfur and capacity to degrade organosulfur compounds into sulfide. Most of these
353 viruses were isolated from a variety of dairy, soil, sewage and wastewater environments indicating
354 a potential for environmental reservoirs of sulfide producing viruses, or in the case of wastewater
355 environments the viruses may have been resident in human gastrointestinal tracts. Five AMG-
356 encoding viruses of the pathogens *Salmonella enterica*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Vibrio cholerae*
357 and *Clostridium difficile* were isolated from human fecal samples indicating transmission and
358 replication in human gastrointestinal tracts likely does occur and may contribute to dysbiosis via
359 the production of sulfide or altering the organosulfur metabolic potential of the pathogenic host.

360 Uncultivated viruses from the human gastrointestinal tract encoding AMGs putatively
361 involved in direct sulfide production (*cysM*, *malY* and *metY*) had high protein identity (>97%) to
362 *Alistipes putredinis*, *Alistipes obesi*, *Alistipes finegoldii*, *Bacteroides uniformis* and *Bacteroides*
363 *vulgatus* suggesting they are viruses closely associated with these human gut bacteria from the
364 order *Bacteroidales* (phylum Bacteroidetes) (Fenner et al., 2007; Hugon et al., 2013; Patrascu et
365 al., 2017; Schirmer et al., 2018). Viruses encoding *metK*, *mtnN* and *metE* (i.e. capacity for
366 methionine degradation to sulfide) in human gastrointestinal samples were likewise inferred to be
367 closely associated with the human gut bacteria *Alistipes ihumii*, *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii*,
368 *Flavonifractor sp.*, *Bacteroides intestinalis*, *Bacteroides xylanisolvens*, *Bacteroides uniformis*,
369 *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*, *Haemophilus parainfluenzae*, *Aggregatibacter sp.* and
370 *Eubacterium sp.* based on high protein identity (Bakir et al., 2006; Costea et al., 2017; Curtis et
371 al., 2014; Jiang et al., 2015; Kuang et al., 2017; Martín et al., 2017; Pfeleiderer et al., 2014; Qin et
372 al., 2010; Veiga et al., 2014). At lower protein identity (96%-80%), viruses encoding *metK*, *luxS*
373 and *mtnN* were inferred to be in some part associated with the gut bacteria *Prevotella spp.*
374 (*Bacteroidales*), *Butyricoccus spp.* and *Clostridiales sp.* (Eeckhaut et al., 2013; Larsen, 2017;
375 Patrascu et al., 2017) (**Table S8**).

376 Many of these *Bacteroidales* (i.e. *Alistipes spp.*, *Bacteroides spp.* and *Prevotella spp.*) and
377 some members of the phylum Firmicutes (e.g. *Haemophilus parainfluenzae* and *Butyricoccus*
378 *spp.*) have been strongly associated with IBD (Eeckhaut et al., 2013; Lucke, 2006; Schirmer et al.,
379 2018; Veiga et al., 2014) and their role in inflammation may be in part attributed to virus-mediated
380 or influenced production of sulfide. Importantly, viruses of these *Bacteroidales*, including
381 *Prevotella* megaphages with high coding capacity, have been shown to be dominant and abundant
382 in human gastrointestinal tracts which could promote the continuous viral-driven production of
383 sulfide to exacerbate inflammation (Devoto et al., 2019; Dutilh et al., 2014).

384

385 **Comparative genomics displays diversity of viral genome organization**

386 We used comparative genomics to examine the diversity of viruses found to be associated
387 with human microbiomes. We identified four distinct uncultivated virus contigs encoding *dcm*
388 from human oral samples to be closely related to known *Streptococcus pneumoniae* viruses based

389 on genome sequence identity (**Figure S8A**). However, there are large stretches of dissimilarity
 390 between some of the genomes which may indicate evidence for large genetic exchange between
 391 viruses that frequently share the same niche and not the same host, which has been demonstrated
 392 before between *Lactococcus* and *Enterococcus* viruses (Villion et al., 2009). This observation
 393 supports the likelihood of AMG transfer between viruses in human and environmental
 394 microbiomes. Furthermore, two plant-associated viruses were identified to be closely related to
 395 known *Salmonella enterica* viruses originally derived from human fecal samples (**Figure 4A**).
 396 These plant-associated viruses may represent examples of environmental reservoirs for AMG-
 397 encoding viruses in the human gastrointestinal tract.

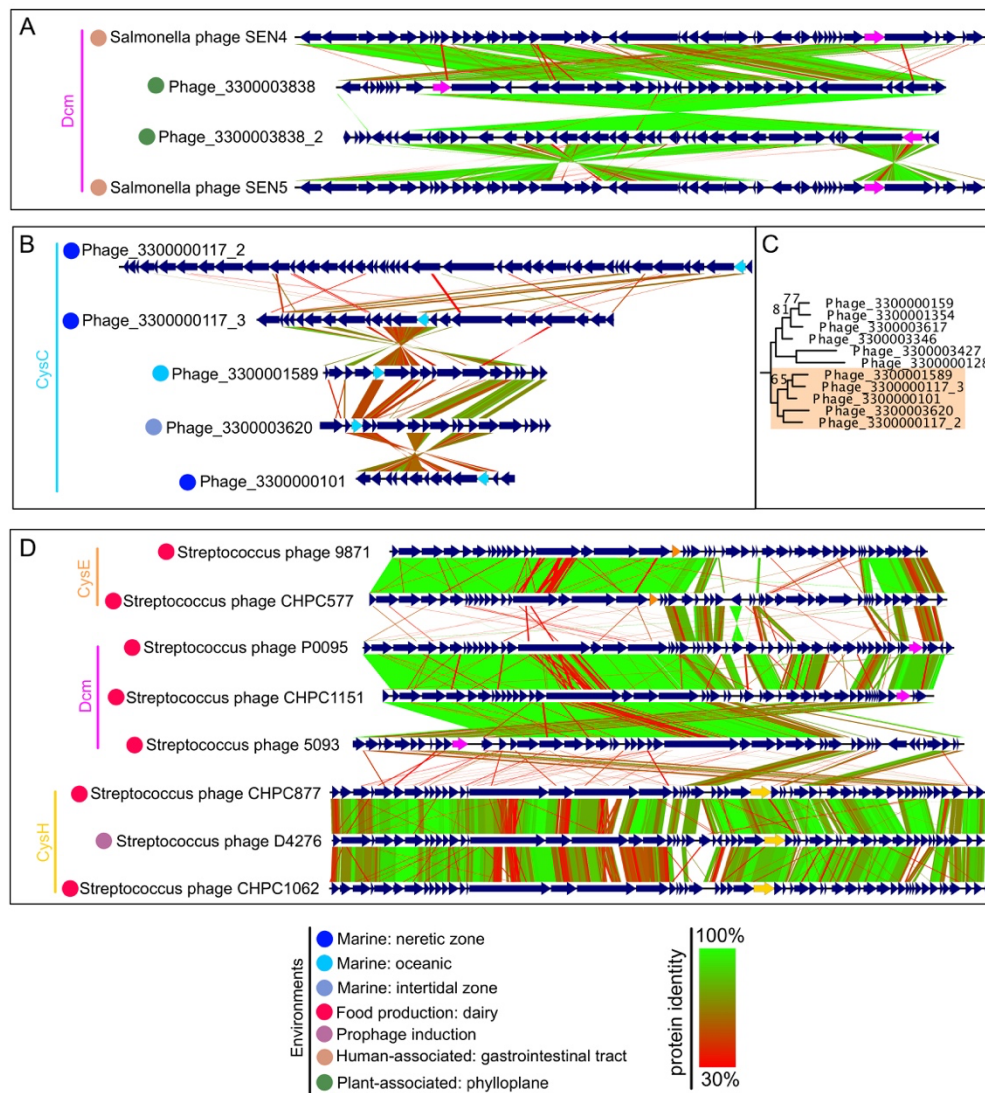


Figure 4. Genome comparisons of viruses encoding AMGs. Comparisons of (A) uncultivated viruses and complete *Salmonella enterica* viruses encoding *dcm* (pink), (B) uncultivated viruses encoding *cysC* (cyan) with (C) respective protein phylogeny (orange highlighting, refer to Figure S6 for full phylogenetic tree), and (D) complete *Streptococcus thermophilus* viruses encoding *cysE* (orange), *dcm* (pink) or *cysH* (yellow). For all comparisons, predicted open readings frames are annotated by dark blue arrows and genomes are connected with lines according to protein identity by tblastx alignment. Colored circles refer to the environment in which the virus was isolated or identified.

398 However, for either case above the exact nature of viral transfer of AMG is challenging
 399 to determine because AMG sequences that closely share evolutionary history can be encoded on
 400 dissimilar and geographically diverse viruses. For example, five *cysC*-encoding viruses that group
 401 closely by CysC phylogeny conversely depict dissimilarity by genome comparison and are
 402 geographically dispersed in marine environments (**Figure 4B, C**). The same is true for six different
 403 *metK*-encoding viruses in which MetK shows phylogenetic similarity but the genomes are diverse
 404 and geographically spread (**Figure S8B**).

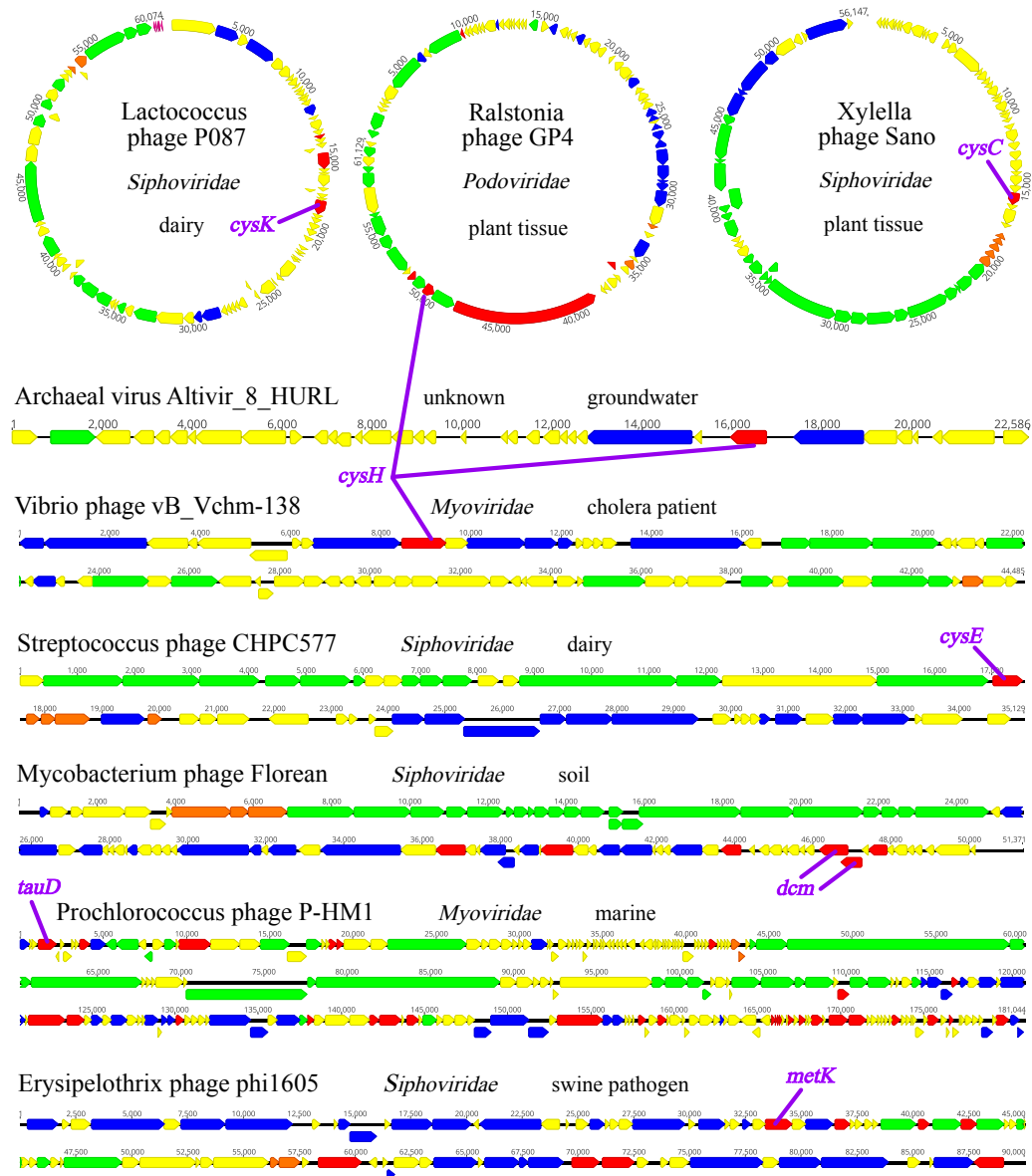


Figure 5. Genome organization of 8 complete viral genomes encoding organosulfur AMGs. Genome representation of circular and linear viruses. Arrows indicate open reading frames and are annotated by general function: virion structural assembly (green), auxiliary metabolism and general functions (red), nucleotide metabolism and genome replication (blue), lysis (orange) and unknown function (yellow). AMGs are annotated in purple.

405 To further investigate the relationships of AMGs on viral genomes we examined the
406 prevalence of multiple AMG copies on individual genomes. In total we identified 285 viral
407 genomes that contained multiple copies. While most such genes encoded for identical functions
408 (i.e. two copies of protein from the same gene family), some with connected (e.g. *metK* and *dcm*,
409 *luxS* and *mtnN*) or disparate functions (e.g. *dcm* and *cysM*, *cysH* and *mtnN*) were also found. These
410 findings suggest viruses may utilize these genes for diverse regulation of host organosulfur
411 metabolism to fit their individual requirements (**Table S9**). For example, a single virus may
412 augment both assimilatory sulfate reduction (e.g. using CysH) as well as methionine degradation
413 (e.g. using MetK) during infection by encoding and expressing both AMGs.

414 We next compared viral genome organization to identify relationships in the physical
415 location of AMGs between different viral genomes and interpret affiliations with other encoded
416 genes. We found no universal organization of AMGs which were broadly encoded in various
417 locations, such as between structural genes, adjacent to lysis factors, near genes for genome
418 replication or nucleotide metabolism and within regions comprising genes of unknown function
419 (**Figure 5**). Additionally, no pattern associated with encoding specific AMGs was detected
420 according to virus classification, genome length or isolation source. There were a small number of
421 outliers, such as a comparison of 10 complete viral genomes encoding *cysH* that indicated a trend
422 towards co-location of the AMG with genome replication and/or nucleotide metabolism genes to
423 suggest similar transcriptional regulation or function of this AMG across different viruses (**Figure**
424 **S9**).

425 The model that viruses acquire AMGs from diverse sources and for disparate functions is
426 further supported by looking at AMG-encoding viruses that share the same host but not the same
427 AMG. There are several different variations in which this occurs. One example involves *Bacillus*
428 *cereus* phages PBC5, Basilisk, BCU4 and PBC6 where the viruses have low sequence similarity
429 between genomes and AMG sequences (i.e. *cysH*) (**Figure S8C**). Another example involves
430 *Streptococcus suis* phages phiJH1301-2, phiSC070807, phiNJ3 and phiD12 where the viruses have
431 very similar genome sequences but encode multiple AMGs with similarity shared only among a
432 subset of them (i.e. *metK* and *dcm*) (**Figure S8D**). A final example involves *Streptococcus*
433 *thermophilus* phages 9871, CHPC577, P0095, CHPC1151, 5093, CHPC877, D4276 and
434 CHPC1062 where the viruses group separately according to the single AMG each encodes (*cysE*,
435 *cysH* or *dcm*) (**Figure S8D**). Taken together, these three examples indicate that viruses are able to
436 employ separate strategies to accomplish a similar function of manipulating host organosulfur
437 metabolism. This may be in the form of acquiring the same AMG from different sources to perform
438 a shared task or acquiring disparate AMGs to perform separate tasks towards the same objective,
439 such as sulfide production.

440

441 Discussion

442

443 The metabolic potential of viruses, the most abundant biological entities on Earth, is all too
444 often overlooked because viruses do not independently conduct metabolic transformations. Here

445 we show that viral manipulation of host metabolism in contrast to solely measurements of viral
446 richness and host range is likely important to the environmental sulfur cycle and human health.
447 Furthermore, we propose that assimilatory sulfur metabolism, a ubiquitous method of fixing sulfur
448 and manipulating organosulfur compounds, is frequently modulated by viruses during infection of
449 organisms from all three domains, and in almost all microbiomes on Earth. This poses an important
450 question, what have we been overlooking in viromes by frequently assessing sequence reads
451 instead of metagenomically assembled genomes that encode AMGs? Are we giving enough
452 emphasis on viruses as core drivers in the metabolism of microbiomes?

453 AMG-driven organosulfur metabolism mediated by viruses may lead to sulfide production
454 in the gastrointestinal tract during infection or following microbial lysis. The result would be a
455 sulfide-induced inflammatory response in conjunction with the activity of resident microbiota or
456 invading pathogens, though the extent to which this occurs in human or environmental systems
457 has yet to be quantified. Indeed, it has been observed that infected bacterial cells have manipulated
458 and ‘rewired’ sulfur assimilation that will impact cysteine metabolism and likely sulfide
459 production (Howard-Varona et al., 2020). Furthermore, viruses encoding sulfur assimilation
460 AMGs may be short-circuiting the assimilatory sulfur pathway by reducing the steps necessary for
461 assimilation of sulfur into organosulfur compounds. This concept is supported by the observation
462 that *cysH* is the most abundant organosulfur metabolism AMG, which plays a role in both the
463 canonical sulfate assimilation pathway as well as direct sulfonation of organic molecules (Moran
464 and Durham, 2019). The latter mechanism may explain the high abundance of *cysH* on viral
465 genomes.

466 The evidence presented here strongly points towards sulfide production as a component of
467 viral organosulfur auxiliary metabolism, either directly or indirectly by AMG activity, which could
468 provide many fitness advantages for viruses (**Figure 6A**). As obligate intracellular pathogens,
469 viruses could benefit from the survival and enhanced growth of their host, which could be achieved
470 by responding to sulfur starvation signals, assimilating sulfide for biosynthesis (e.g. for
471 sulfolipids), upregulating sulfide utilization (e.g. sulfide oxidation), antibiotic stress response
472 (**Figure 6A.1**), or redox balance and free radical scavenging (**Figure 6A.2**) (Anantharaman et al.,
473 2014; Gyaneshwar et al., 2005; Mahmoudabadi et al., 2017; Nambi et al., 2015; Pal et al., 2018;
474 Roux et al., 2016; Xia et al., 2017). To benefit the virus directly, sulfide could be utilized for amino
475 acid synthesis or protein function, such as for co-factor binding (e.g. metal ions) (**Figure 6A.3.1**),
476 persulfidation of cysteine residues for signaling (**Figure 6A.3.2**), structural sulfide bridge
477 formation (**Figure 6A.3.3**), iron-sulfur cluster formation (**Figure 6A.3.4**) or for viral structural
478 proteins in virion assembly (**Figure 6A.4**) (Peng et al., 2017; Tam et al., 2013). Furthermore, thiol
479 modification of nucleic acids (i.e. dsDNA, tRNA and sRNA) could provide an avenue for
480 responding to stresses (**Figure 6A.5**) or regulating gene expression for the virus or host (**Figure**
481 **6A.6**) (Damon et al., 2015; Hsu et al., 1967; Lira et al., 2018; Peng et al., 2017; Shimizu et al.,
482 2017; Yang et al., 2017). Another method of nucleic acid modification that viruses may rely on is
483 dsDNA recombination or integration (**Figure 6A.7.1**), or dsDNA repair (**Figure 6A.7.2**) which
484 can be enabled by essential thiol components of enzymes (Jessop et al., 2000; Kessler, 2006;

485 Yeeles et al., 2009). Sulfide may even be a key component in the ability of viruses to effectively
486 lyse their host (**Figure 6A.8**) (Propst-Ricciuti, 1976).

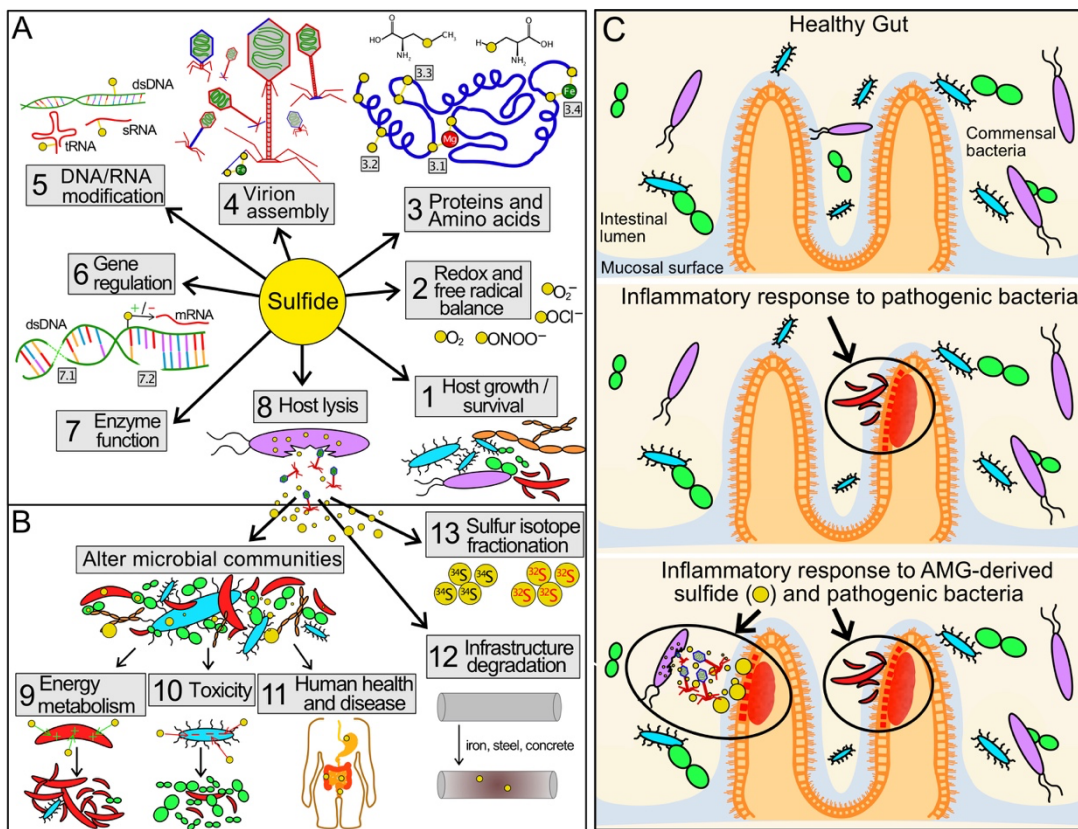


Figure 6. Virus-driven production of sulfide and its effects on human health, viral fitness and microbial communities. (A) Mechanisms by which sulfide could benefit viral fitness and (B) effect microbial communities, human health and environmental conditions. (C) Proposed impact of viral driven production of sulfide, in conjunction with activity of pathogenic bacteria, on inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract and its implications in IBD and CRC.

487 However, due to the diversity of functions encoded by AMGs (e.g. degradation of
488 organosulfur compounds directly into sulfide or sulfite, manipulation of organosulfur compound
489 forms or fixing sulfur) it is likely that host physiology and local environmental conditions drive
490 their acquisition and function. Regardless of the utility of AMGs employed by individual viruses,
491 the eventual lysis and release of virus-derived sulfide or virus-influenced sulfur chemistry could
492 have significant impacts on the surrounding environment and local microbial communities (**Figure**
493 **6B**). Increased sulfide concentrations could either enhance the growth of sulfide oxidizing
494 organisms (**Figure 6B.9**) or act as a toxin to inhibit the growth of others (**Figure 6B.10**) (Pal et
495 al., 2018). Likewise, in both environmental and human systems, intracellular content released
496 through viral lysis could alter nutrient availability and sulfide concentrations in the microbial
497 community (**Figure 6B.11**) or lead to the degradation of iron, steel and concrete in infrastructure
498 (**Figure 6B.12**).

499 In humans, balancing organic and inorganic sulfur concentrations is pivotal to both the
500 health of the gastrointestinal tract and the resident microbiota (Yin et al., 2016), and our evidence

501 suggests that viruses may interfere with this equilibrium. Moreover, dozens of microbial species
502 have been linked to accumulation of sulfide within the human gut via the degradation of
503 organosulfur compounds (e.g. cysteine and taurine) and implicated in CRC and IBD (Carbonero
504 et al., 2012; Guo et al., 2016), but the role of viruses in facilitating or upregulating these processes
505 is unknown. Specifically, virus-mediated sulfide production could accelerate the development of
506 sulfide-associated gastrointestinal disorders such as colitis, IBD and CRC (**Figure 6C**).

507 Our discovery of AMGs for organosulfur metabolism and sulfide production also has
508 widespread ramifications for interpreting Earth history (**Figure 6B.13**). Sulfur isotope
509 fractionation ($^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$) analysis is widely used to interpret geological records and estimate rates of
510 microbial processes such as sulfate reduction (Habicht and Canfield, 1997; Sim et al., 2019; Thode
511 et al., 1953). Microbial assimilatory sulfate reduction and viral auxiliary metabolism have been
512 ignored as contributors to fractionation in the environment, mainly because sulfide is incorporated
513 into organosulfur compounds instead of being exported into the environment as it is in
514 dissimilatory reactions. As a result, assimilatory fractionation appears to be negligible (~3‰),
515 whereas dissimilatory fractionation is frequently measured closer to 47‰ (Chambers and
516 Trudinger, 1979; Kaplan and Rittenberg, 1964). Without the incorporation of sulfide into
517 organosulfur compounds, assimilatory sulfite to sulfide reduction fractionates up to 36-42‰ in
518 *Salmonella*, *Clostridium* and *Bacillus* species (Chambers and Trudinger, 1979). We propose that
519 virus-mediated sulfide production can directly impact the observed fraction of ^{32}S -enriched sulfide
520 at scales relevant to dissimilatory sulfate reduction.

521 Overall, the global distribution and diversity of viruses encoding organosulfur
522 transforming AMGs represents a novel and so-far unexplored cog in the global organic and
523 inorganic sulfur cycles. By modulating organic and inorganic sulfur compound concentrations,
524 viruses likely play important roles in infrastructure degradation, human disease and ecosystem
525 health. Beyond viral organosulfur metabolism, this study serves as a model for elucidating the
526 impacts of virus-driven degradation of amino acids, whose fate is an important driver in human
527 health and biotechnology and associated with ecosystem services in agriculture.

528
529

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531
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541 E.Z., P.H., and A.M.B. performed host-virus experiments. K.K. and K.A. conducted
542 bioinformatic and metabolic analyses. K.K. and A.L. performed metatranscriptomic analyses.
543 K.K. and K.A drafted the manuscript. All authors reviewed the results and approved the
544 manuscript. **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

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Pathway	Protein	Reaction(s)
Assimilatory sulfate reduction	CysC	$\text{APS} + \text{ATP} \leftrightarrow \text{PAPS} + \text{ADP} + \text{H}^+$
	CysN	$\text{SO}_4^{2-} + \text{ATP} + \text{H}^+ \leftrightarrow \text{APS} + \text{P}_2\text{O}_7^{4-}$
	CysD	$\text{SO}_4^{2-} + \text{ATP} + \text{H}^+ \leftrightarrow \text{APS} + \text{P}_2\text{O}_7^{4-}$
	CysH	$\text{PAP} + \text{SO}_3^{2-} + \text{an oxidized Trdx} + 2 \text{H}^+ \leftrightarrow \text{PAPS} + \text{a reduced Trdx}$
	CysNC	$\text{PAP} + \text{ATP} \leftrightarrow \text{PAPS} + \text{ADP} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{SO}_4^{2-} + \text{ATP} + \text{H}^+ \leftrightarrow \text{APS} + \text{P}_2\text{O}_7^{4-}$
CysJ	$\text{SO}_3^{2-} + 3 \text{NADPH} + 5 \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{S} + 3 \text{NADP}^+ + 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}$	
Sulfide production from organic sulfur	CysK	$\text{OAS} + \text{H}_2\text{S} \rightarrow \text{L-cysteine} + \text{acetate} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{L-cysteine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{pyruvate} + \text{H}_2\text{S} + \text{NH}_4^+$
	CysM	$\text{OAS} + \text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-} \leftrightarrow \text{S-sulfo-L-cysteine} + \text{acetate} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{OAS} + \text{H}_2\text{S} \rightarrow \text{L-cysteine} + \text{acetate} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{L-cysteine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{pyruvate} + \text{H}_2\text{S} + \text{NH}_4^+$
	MalY	$\text{L-cystathionine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{L-homocysteine} + \text{pyruvate} + \text{NH}_4^+$
		$\text{L-cysteine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{pyruvate} + \text{H}_2\text{S} + \text{NH}_4^+$
	DcyD	$\text{D-cysteine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{NH}_4^+ + \text{pyruvate} + \text{H}_2\text{S}$
		$3\text{-chloro-D-alanine} + \text{thioglycolate} \rightarrow \text{S-carboxymethyl-D-cysteine} + \text{Cl}^- + \text{H}^+$
	MetC	$\text{L-cystathionine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{L-homocysteine} + \text{pyruvate} + \text{NH}_4^+$
$\text{L-cysteine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{pyruvate} + \text{H}_2\text{S} + \text{NH}_4^+$		
MetY	$\text{OASH} + \text{H}_2\text{S} \leftrightarrow \text{L-homocysteine} + \text{acetate} + \text{H}^+$	
Sulfite production from organic sulfur	TauD	$\text{taurine} + 2\text{-OG} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{SO}_3^{2-} + 2\text{-aminoacetaldehyde} + \text{succinate} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}^+$
	SsuD	$\text{an alkylsulfonate} + \text{FMNH}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{an aldehyde} + \text{SO}_3^{2-} + \text{FMN} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + 2\text{H}^+$
		$\text{isethionate} + \text{FMNH}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{glycolaldehyde} + \text{SO}_3^{2-} + \text{FMN} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + 2\text{H}^+$
MsmA	$\text{methanesulfonate} + \text{NADH} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{formaldehyde} + \text{SO}_3^{2-} + \text{NAD}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	
Metabolism of organic sulfur	MetB	$\text{OSHS} + \text{L-cysteine} \leftrightarrow \text{L-cystathionine} + \text{succinate} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{OSHS} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{-oxobutanoate} + \text{succinate} + \text{NH}_4^+ + \text{H}^+$
	MetH	$\text{L-homocysteine} + \text{a 5-methyl-THF} \rightarrow \text{L-methionine} + \text{a THF}$
	MetE	$\text{L-homocysteine} + 5\text{-methyl-THP-3G} \leftrightarrow \text{L-methionine} + \text{THP-3G}$
	MetK	$\text{ATP} + \text{L-methionine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{SAME} + \text{PO}_4^{3-} + \text{P}_2\text{O}_7^{4-}$
	MtnN	$\text{SAH} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{SRH} + \text{adenine}$
		$\text{MTA} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{MTR} + \text{adenine}$
	Dcm	$\text{SAME} + \text{a cytosine in DNA} \rightarrow \text{a 5-methylcytosine in DNA} + \text{SAH} + \text{H}^+$
	AhcY	$\text{SAH} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{L-homocysteine} + \text{adenosine}$
	LuxS	$\text{SRH} \rightarrow \text{L-homocysteine} + \text{autoinducer 2}$
	MsrC	$\text{MHO} + \text{a reduced Trdx} \rightarrow \text{L-methionine} + \text{an oxidized Trdx} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
	MegL	$\text{L-methionine} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{methanethiol} + 2\text{-oxobutanoate} + \text{NH}_4^+$
	AspB	$\text{L-aspartate} + 2\text{-OG} \leftrightarrow \text{oxaloacetate} + \text{L-glutamate}$
$\text{L-cysteine} + 2\text{-OG} \leftrightarrow 3\text{-mercaptopyruvate} + \text{L-glutamate}$		
Sulfur-related amino acid metabolism	CysE	$\text{L-serine} + \text{acetyl-CoA} \rightarrow \text{OAS} + \text{CoA}$
	NrnA	$\text{PAP} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{AMP} + \text{PO}_4^{3-}$
	SpeE	$\text{putrescine} + \text{dAdoMT} \leftrightarrow \text{spermidine} + \text{MTA} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{cadaverine} + \text{dAdoMT} \rightarrow \text{aminopropylcadaverine} + \text{MTA} + \text{H}^+$
	MetA	$\text{L-homoserine} + \text{succinyl-CoA} \rightarrow \text{OSHS} + \text{CoA}$
	MtnK	$\text{ATP} + \text{MTR} \rightarrow \text{ADP} + 5\text{-MTR-1-phosphate} + \text{H}^+$
	MtnA	$5\text{-MTR-1-phosphate} \rightarrow 5\text{-(MT)-ribulose 1-phosphate}$
	MtnD	$\text{DHK-MTPene} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 4\text{-(MT)-2-oxobutanoate} + \text{formate} + \text{H}^+$
		$\text{DHK-MTPene} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 3\text{-(MT)propanoate} + \text{formate} + \text{CO} + \text{H}^+$
	LysC	$\text{L-aspartate} + \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{ASP} + \text{ADP}$
	ThrA	$\text{L-aspartate} + \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{ASP} + \text{ADP}$
		$\text{ASSA} + \text{NAD(P)H} + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{L-homoserine} + \text{NAD(P)}^+$
	Asd	$\text{ASSA} + \text{NADP}^+ + \text{PO}_4^{3-} \leftrightarrow \text{ASP} + \text{NADPH} + \text{H}^+$
	Hom	$\text{ASSA} + \text{NAD(P)H} + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{L-homoserine} + \text{NAD(P)}^+$
	Mdh	$(\text{S})\text{-malate} + \text{NAD}^+ \leftrightarrow \text{oxaloacetate} + \text{NADH} + \text{H}^+$
CysQ	$\text{PAP} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{AMP} + \text{PO}_4^{3-}$	

599 **Table 1. Complete reaction(s) performed by each AMG-encoded protein.** Each protein is grouped respective to
600 the main organosulfur metabolism pathway in which it is involved. Full names of acronyms are as follows. PAP:
601 adenosine 3',5'-bisphosphate, APS: adenosine 5'-phosphosulfate, PAPS: 3'-Phosphoadenosine-5'-phosphosulfate,
602 CoA: Coenzyme A, OG: oxoglutarate, OAS: O-acetyl-L-serine, OASH: O-acetyl-L-homoserine, OSHS: O-succinyl-
603 L-homoserine, SAME: S-adenosyl-L-methionine, dAdoMT: S-adenosyl 3-(methylsulfanyl)propylamine, MTA: S-
604 methyl-5'-thioadenosine, MTR: 5-(methylsulfanyl)- α -D-ribose, MT: methylsulfanyl, SAH: S-adenosyl-L-
605 homocysteine, SRH: S-ribosyl-L-homocysteine, DHK-MTPene: 1,2-dihydroxy-5-(methylsulfanyl)pent-1-en-3-one,
606 ASSA: L-aspartate 4-semialdehyde, ASP: L-aspartyl-4-phosphate, MHO: L-methionine-(R)-S-oxide, Trdx:
607 thioredoxin, THF: tetrahydrofolate, THP-3G: tetrahydropteroyl tri-L-glutamate.

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609

610 **STAR Methods**

611
612

613 LEAD CONTACT AND MATERIALS AVAILABILITY

614

615 Lead Contact

616 Further information and any resources requests should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the
617 lead contact Karthik Anantharaman (karthik@bact.wisc.edu).

618

619 Materials Availability

620 The recombinant phage line generated in this study is available upon request.

621

622 Data and Code Availability

623 All sequences used in this study are publicly available and can be found at their original sources.
624 The genomic and protein sequences of viruses highlighted in this study and respective AMG
625 protein sequences identified can be found at
626 https://github.com/AnantharamanLab/Kieft_et_al_2020_organosulfur_AMGs.

627

628

629 KEY RESOURCES TABLE

630

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
Lactococcus phage P087	Université Laval's Félix d'Hérelle Reference Center for Bacterial Viruses	HER#: 361
<i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subs. <i>lactic</i> C10	Université Laval's Félix d'Hérelle Reference Center for Bacterial Viruses	HER#: 1361
Escherichia phage T7	ATCC	BAA-1025-B2

<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> BY4741	This paper	Available on request
<i>Escherichia coli</i> BL21	This paper	Available on request
<i>Escherichia coli</i> 10G	Lucigen	60107-1
<i>Escherichia coli</i> BW25113 and BW25113ΔcysK	Doug Weibel, UW-Madison	NA
Critical Commercial Assays		
PureLink RNA Mini Kit	Ambion	Cat#: 12183020
DNase Max Kit	Qiagen	Cat#: 15200-50
High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit	Applied Biosystems	Cat#: 4368814
Qubit dsDNA BR Assay Kit	Invitrogen	Cat#: Q32850
Long Orbitrap LC/MS/MS	University of Wisconsin-Madison Biotechnology Center	NA
KAPA HiFi	Roche	KK2101
KAPA2G Robust PCR kits	Roche	KK5005
EZNA Cycle Pure Kits	Omega Bio-tek	D6492-01
YeaStar Genomic DNA Extraction kit	Zymo Research	D2002
Bio-rad MicroPulser	Bio-rad	165-2100
Deposited Data		
Viral genome and AMG sequences; sequence alignments	This paper	https://github.com/AnantharamanLab/Kieft_et_al_2020_org_anosulfur_AMGs
Lake Mendota sequence and raw data	Linz et al., 2020	See Table S1 for details
IMG/VR sequences	Paez-Espino et al., 2017	See Table S1 for details
NCBI sequences	NA	See Table S1 for details
Oligonucleotides		
Primers for qPCR	This paper	See Table S10 for details
Primers for T7 recombination	This paper	See Table S10 for details
Recombinant DNA		
T7::cysK	This paper	NA
Plasmid: pRS415 for recombination	This paper	NA
Software and Algorithms		
Prodigal v2.6.3	Hyatt et al., 2010	https://github.com/hyattpd/Prodigal
Prokka v1.13.3	Seemann, 2014	https://github.com/tseemann/prokka
Integrated Microbial Genomes and Microbiomes pipeline	Markowitz et al., 2014	https://img.jgi.doe.gov/index.html

InterProScan v65.0, v71.0	Jones et al., 2014	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/search/sequence/
VIBRANT v1.2.1	Kieft et al., 2020	https://github.com/AnantharamanLab/VIBRANT
VirSorter v1.0.3	Roux et al., 2015	https://github.com/simroux/VirSorter
Blast	Altschul et al., 1990; Marchler-Bauer et al., 2017	https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi
MAFFT v7.388	Katoh and Standley, 2013	https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/
HMMER v3.1	Eddy, 1998	http://hmmerr.org/
BlastKOALA v2.1	Kanehisa et al., 2016	https://www.kegg.jp/blastkoala/
CD-HIT	Fu et al., 2012; Huang et al., 2010; Li and Godzik, 2006	http://weizhongli-lab.org/cd-hit/
Geneious Prime 2019.0.3	NA	https://www.geneious.com/
dRep v2.6.2	Olm et al., 2017b	https://github.com/MrOlm/drep
RAxML v8.2.4	Stamatakis, 2014	https://github.com/stamatak/standard-RAxML
FigTree v1.4.3	Rambaut, 2009	http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/
iRep	Brown et al., 2016	https://github.com/christophertbrown/iRep
Bowtie2 v2.3.4.1	Langmead and Salzberg, 2012	https://github.com/BenLangmead/bowtie2
EasyFig v2.2.2	Sullivan et al., 2011	https://mjsull.github.io/Easyfig/
GhostKOALA v2.0	Kanehisa et al., 2016	https://www.kegg.jp/ghostkoala/
Basemap v1.2.0	Hunter, 2007	https://matplotlib.org/basemap/
Seaborn v0.8.1	NA	https://seaborn.pydata.org/
Matplotlib v3.0.0	Hunter, 2007	https://matplotlib.org/

631

632

633

634 EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

635

636 *Lactococcus* system growth conditions

637 *Lactococcus lactis* subs. *lactis* C10 and *Lactococcus* phage P087 were obtained from Université

638 Laval's Félix d'Hérelle Reference Center for Bacterial Viruses (Canada, www.phage.ulaval.ca).

639 *L. lactis* C10 was grown without agitation at 30°C in M17 broth (Oxoid) supplemented with 0.5%

640 glucose (GM17). Infections were supplemented with 10mM CaCl₂ and incubated without agitation
641 at room temperature.

642

643 T7 system growth conditions

644 T7 phage was obtained from ATCC (ATCC® BAA-1025-B2). *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
645 BY4741 and *E. coli* BL21 are lab stocks, *E. coli* 10G is a highly competent DH10B derivative
646 (Durfee et al., 2008) originally obtained from Lucigen (60107-1). *E. coli* BW25113 and
647 BW25113Δ*cysK* were obtained from Doug Weibel (University of Wisconsin, Madison).

648 All bacterial hosts were grown in and plated on LB media (1% Tryptone, 0.5% Yeast
649 Extract, 1% NaCl in dH₂O, plates additionally contain 1.5% agar, while top agar contained 0.5%
650 agar) and LB media was used for all experimentation. All incubations of bacterial cultures were
651 performed at 37°C, with liquid cultures shaking at 200-250 rpm unless otherwise specified.
652 Bacterial hosts were streaked on appropriate LB plates and stored at 4°C. *S. cerevisiae* BY4741
653 was grown on YPD (2% peptone, 1% yeast extract, 2% glucose in dH₂O, plates additionally
654 contain 2.4% agar), after Yeast Artificial Chromosomes (YAC) transformation *S. cerevisiae*
655 BY4741 was grown on SD-Leu (0.17% yeast nitrogen base, 0.5% ammonium sulfate, 0.162%
656 amino acids – Leucine [Sigma Y1376], 2% glucose in dH₂O, plates additionally contain 2% agar).
657 All incubations of *S. cerevisiae* were performed at 30°C, with liquid cultures shaking at 200-250
658 rpm. *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 was streaked on YPD or SD-Leu plates as appropriate and stored at
659 4°C.

660 T7 phage was propagated using *E. coli* BL21 after initial receipt from ATCC and then as
661 described on various hosts in methods. All phage experiments were performing using LB and
662 culture conditions as described for bacterial hosts. Phages were stored in LB at 4°C. For long term
663 storage all microbes were stored as liquid samples at -80°C in 10% glycerol, 90% relevant media.
664 SOC (2% tryptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.2% 5M NaCl, 0.25% 1M KCL, 1% 1M MgCl₂, 1% 1M
665 MgSO₄, 2% 1M glucose in dH₂O) was used to recover host and phages after transformation.

666 For infection experiments, stationary phase cultures were created by growing bacteria
667 overnight (totaling ~20-30 hours of incubation) at 37°C. Exponential phase culture consisted of
668 stationary culture diluted 1:20 in LB then incubated at 37°C until an OD₆₀₀ of ~0.4-0.8 was
669 reached, typically after 40 minutes. Phage lysate was purified by centrifuging phage lysate at 16g,
670 then filtering supernatant through a 0.22 μm filter. To establish titer, phage samples were serially
671 diluted (1:10 or 1:100 dilutions made to 1 mL in 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes) in LB to a 10⁻⁸
672 dilution for titering by spot assay. Spot assays were performed by mixing 250 μl of relevant
673 bacterial host in the stationary phase with 3.5 mL of 0.5% top agar, briefly vortexing, then plating
674 on LB plates pre-warmed to 37°C. After plates solidified (typically ~5 minutes), 1.5 μl of each
675 dilution of phage sample was spotted in series on the plate. Plates were incubated and checked
676 every 2-4 hours or overnight (~20-30 hours) to establish a preliminary titer. MOI was estimated
677 by calculated by dividing phage titer by estimated bacterial concentration.

678

679

680 METHOD DETAILS

681

682 Identification of viral genomes

683 A total of 125,842 viral genomes from the Integrated Microbial Genomes/Virus (IMG/VR) (Paez-
684 Espino et al., 2017) v1 database were used for analysis (accessed October 2017). Only publicly
685 available genomes >5kb analyzed by Paez-Espino *et al.* (2016) were used in this study (Paez-
686 Espino et al., 2016). Open reading frames were predicted using Prodigal with default parameters
687 (v2.6.3) (Hyatt et al., 2010). All viral genomes were annotated using a combination of Prokka
688 (v1.13.3) (Seemann, 2014), Integrated Microbial Genomes and Microbiomes pipeline (Markowitz
689 et al., 2014), and InterProScan (v65.0) (Jones et al., 2014). Contigs with a high ratio of bacterial
690 to viral protein annotations were manually identified and discarded. Contigs were further validated
691 and annotated using a combination of VIBRANT (v1.2.1) and VirSorter (v1.0.3, virome database,
692 categories 1, 2, 4, 5) (Kieft et al., 2020; Roux et al., 2015). All viral genomes encoding AMGs
693 were manually inspected. Additional viral genomes were identified on the National Center for
694 Biotechnology Information (NCBI) RefSeq (Brister et al., 2015; O’Leary et al., 2016; Tatusova et
695 al., 2016) or Genbank database (Clark et al., 2016) (accessed Jan 2019) by querying viral genomes
696 for AMGs of interest by blastp domain analysis (Altschul et al., 1990; Marchler-Bauer et al., 2017).
697 Approximately 9,500 genomes corresponding to the viral classification *Caudovirales* were
698 searched. VIBRANT and VirSorter were used to identify viruses >5kb from Lake Mendota, WI.

699

700 AMG identification and annotation

701 In-house hidden Markov model (HMM) profiles were built corresponding to the Kyoto
702 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway of organosulfur Metabolism as well as
703 Cysteine and Methionine Metabolism (accessed December 2018) (Kanehisa and Goto, 2000). The
704 two pathways’ KEGG Orthology (KO) numbers (189 total) were used to access corresponding
705 proteins from the UniProt database (release 2018_11) (UniProt Consortium, 2018). The resulting
706 proteins were aligned with MAFFT (v7.388, default parameters) (Kato and Standley, 2013) and
707 HMM profiles were built using hmmbuild (HMMER v3.1, default parameters) (Eddy, 1998).
708 HMM profiles for CysC and CysH were built in the same manner, except manually verified viral
709 CysC and CysH sequences, respectively, were added to the alignment for robustness. Hmmssearch
710 (HMMER v3.1, $evalue < 1e-5$) was used to scan proteins on viral genomes. Proteins identified by
711 the in-house HMM profiles were uploaded to the KEGG BlastKOALA server (v2.1) (Kanehisa et
712 al., 2016) and queried under “prokaryotes” taxonomy and “genus prokaryotes” database for best
713 hit annotations. Proteins annotated according to the original 189 KO numbers were selected for
714 further verification. Manual verification of several representatives of each KO number (i.e. protein
715 family) was done to curate the results using blastp (NCBI non-redundant database, accessed Jan
716 2019) and InterProScan (v71.0) to check for the presence of all expected conserved domains.
717 Individual proteins and protein families of irrelevance or incorrect annotation were removed.

718

719 Sequence alignment and *dN/dS* analysis

720 Alignment of CysH, CysK, CysC, TauD and MetK sequences was performed using MAFFT
721 (v7.388, default parameters). For *cysH*-encoding genomes identified from NCBI, all viral
722 sequences were used. Host genomes were scanned, by annotation and blastp domain analysis, for
723 multiple copies of *cysH* and all those identified were used, along with non-host bacterial sequences
724 that were found to be highly similar to viral sequences according to pairwise identity. For the
725 remaining alignments, all viral AMG protein sequences that shared at least 95% pairwise identity
726 were restricted to one representative using CD-HIT (accessed Jan 2019) (Fu et al., 2012; Huang et
727 al., 2010; Li and Godzik, 2006) and aligned. Viral CysK and CysH sequences were limited to
728 lengths 200-330 and 117-600 amino acids, respectively. To obtain bacterial representatives, the
729 majority consensus sequence of aligned viral proteins was queried against the NCBI RefSeq
730 database by blastp (evaluate < 1e-5). In order to ensure broad phylogenetic distribution of blastp
731 results, the output was restricted to the top 500 hits from each of five phylogenetic groups based
732 on NCBI categorization: [1] Proteobacteria, [2] Terrabacteria, [3] FCB superphylum, [4] PVC
733 superphylum and [5] a group containing all other phyla. The resulting sequences were manually
734 limited to specific lengths to match viral sequences (CysC: 210-360, CysH: 150-600, CysK: 269-
735 400, TauD: 314-400 amino acids, MetK: all) and reduced to one representative per 50% pairwise
736 identity using CD-HIT. Viral and bacterial representatives were aligned together using MAFFT
737 (default parameters) and gaps were stripped by 98%. The resulting alignments were used for
738 phylogenetic analysis. Visualization of alignments was done using Geneious Prime 2019.0.3. For
739 reference to full virus protein name and genome, see Table S1.

740 The AMGs for *cysK*, *cysC*, *cysD*, *cysH*, *tauD*, *msmA*, *metK*, *mtmN* and *luxS* were used to
741 calculate *dN/dS* ratios. dRep (v2.6.2) was used to compare AMG sequences separately (dRep
742 compare --SkipMash --S_algorithm goANI) and *dnds_from_drep.py* was used to calculate *dN/dS*
743 ratios from the AMG pairs (Olm et al., 2017b). The *dN/dS* ratios were visualized with Seaborn
744 (v0.8.1) and Matplotlib (v3.0.0).

745

746 Sequence phylogeny

747 Phylogenetic analysis was performed using protein alignments of CysH, CysK, CysC, TauD and
748 MetK as described above. To infer phylogenetic relationships RAXML (v8.2.4) (Stamatakis, 2014)
749 was used with the following parameters: `raxmlHPC-PTHREADS -N 100 -f a -m PROTCATLG`.
750 Resulting best trees were used and rooted by manual identification of most distant (outgroup) taxa.
751 Trees were visualized using FigTree (v1.4.3) (Rambaut, 2009).

752

753 Protein functional analysis

754 For domain and residue analysis, phylogenetic trees were used as a reference to select
755 representative viral and bacterial sequences, which were then aligned using MAFFT (default
756 parameters). Annotations of functional amino acid residues were labeled according to the Protein
757 Data Bank (PDB, accessed January 2019) (Berman et al., 2000) with the following identification
758 numbers: 4BZQ and 4BZP (CysC), 2GOY (CysH), 3ZEI (CysK), 3SWT (TauD), and 1RG9
759 (MetK). For alignments with no phylogenetic tree, up to five viral sequences and five PDB

760 homologs (when available) were randomly selected for all AMGs with abundance of five or
761 greater. The PDB sequences used for annotation were added to the alignment. N- and C-terminal
762 ends of protein alignments were manually removed for clarity and gaps were stripped by 90% (for
763 alignments with phylogenetic trees) or 80% (for all others). Residues were highlighted according
764 to 85% pairwise identity between sequences, excluding sequence gaps. An identity graph,
765 generated by Geneious, was fitted to the alignment to visualize pairwise identity of 100% (green),
766 99-30% (yellow) and 29-0% (red).

767

768 Protein Reactions

769 Enzymatic reactions, diagrams and pathways were created by referencing KEGG and MetaCyc
770 (v22.6) (Caspi et al., 2012) annotations.

771

772 Viral transcriptomics and growth rates

773 Publicly available metatranscriptomic data from Lake Mendota, WI was assessed for AMGs by
774 querying annotation names (Linz et al., 2020). This gene expression data comprises a two-day time
775 series and is accompanied by metagenomic assemblies (IMG Taxon Object IDs 3300013004 and
776 3300013005). Metatranscriptomic reads were mapped to a custom, non-redundant database of
777 freshwater reference data, including the metagenome assemblies; annotations in this study are
778 derived from the annotations of the reference database. We used read counts normalized to
779 transcripts per liter as the input for our study, and we searched for AMGs in the metagenomic
780 assemblies as described above.

781 The growth rate of the *cysC*-encoding Lake Mendota virus was identified using index of replication
782 (iRep) with default parameters (Brown et al., 2016). Metagenomic assembly reads used for iRep
783 are available on IMG under the Taxon Object ID 3300013005. Reads were mapped to the viral
784 genome using Bowtie2 (v2.3.4.1) (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). GC-skew to indicate rolling
785 circle replication of the viral genome was likewise completed using the iRep toolkit.

786

787 Virus growth and fitness assay

788 Approximately 10^8 plaque forming units (PFUs) of Lactococcus phage P087 (approximate
789 multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 1) were used to infect 1mL of *L. lactis* C10 which had been
790 brought to an optical density (OD₆₀₀) of approximately 0.15 in GM17 broth. For fitness
791 experiments, either vehicle control (water), 10 μ M Na₂S or 100 μ M Na₂S was supplemented to the
792 media at time of infection. Infections were incubated without agitation at room temperature for
793 approximately three hours. Additional cultures of uninfected *L. lactis* C10 with all other variables
794 identical were measured for growth at the endpoint of infections using OD₆₀₀. To end infections,
795 *L. lactis* C10 were spun out of solution at 10,000 rcf and the supernatant (i.e viral fraction) was
796 removed and cooled to 4°C. Plaque assays were done using the standard double agar method
797 (Lillehaug, 1997) with diluted viral fraction and *L. lactis* C10 brought to high concentration. A 1%
798 bottom agar and 0.4% top agar of GM17 were used, both supplemented with 0.5% glycine and
799 10mM CaCl₂.

800

801 Virus and host *cysK* qPCR assay

802 An overnight culture of *L. lactis* C10 was diluted in GM17 broth to OD 0.08 and grown at 30°C
803 for ~2 hours until OD reached 0.15. In a batch culture 10mM CaCl₂ was added. Two different
804 conditions were assayed, each in duplicate: (1) *L. lactis* C10 control and (2) *L. lactis* C10 plus
805 Lactococcus phage P087. For infection conditions, Lactococcus phage P087 was added at a MOI
806 of 1 (time 0 minutes). RNA was extracted using the PureLink RNA Mini Kit (Ambion) from
807 500µL of the cellular fraction at 15, 60 and 120 minutes post-infection. RNA was then treated with
808 DNase with the DNase Max Kit (Qiagen) and converted to cDNA using the High Capacity cDNA
809 Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems). qPCR of viral and host *cysK* was performed
810 using *Power* SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) with 7ng of cDNA template
811 and the following primer sets (IDT): *L. lactis* C10 forward (CCTTCGTTGGCTCTGCTTTG), *L.*
812 *lactis* C10 reverse (TGGCATCATCTCCTTTGACCC), Lactococcus phage P087 forward
813 (CAGAAACTATCGGAAACACACCAC), and Lactococcus phage P087 reverse
814 (TTGAGTGAATGACCTGCTCCA) (**Table S10**). The concentration of template cDNA was
815 measured with the Qubit dsDNA BR Assay Kit (Invitrogen). The viral and host *cysK* sequences
816 were sufficiently dissimilar in sequence identity (<60% at the protein level) to allow for accurate
817 distinction by qPCR and the primers selected.

818

819 Mass spectrometry and protein identification

820 *L. lactis* C10 was grown without agitation at 30°C in modified M17 broth supplemented with 0.5%
821 glucose (mGM17). mGM17 was made by adding 1.25g glucose, 0.625g tryptone, 1.25g peptone,
822 0.125g yeast extract, 0.125g ascorbic acid, 0.0626g anhydrous magnesium sulfate and 4.75g
823 disodium glycerophosphate to 250mL deionized water. Approximately 10⁸ PFUs of Lactococcus
824 phage P087 were used to infect 3mL of *L. lactis* C10 which had been brought to OD₆₀₀ of
825 approximately 0.15 and supplemented with 10mM CaCl₂. Infections proceeded to complete lysis
826 without agitation at room temperature for approximately three hours. To end the infection, *L. lactis*
827 C10 were spun out of solution at 10,000 rcf and the supernatant was removed and stored at 4°C.
828 The supernatant was size fractionated by filtration for the 100kDa to 10kDa size fraction before
829 trypsin solution digestion and analysis by Long Orbitrap LC/MS/MS (University of Wisconsin-
830 Madison Biotechnology Center).

831

832 Genome organization and comparisons

833 Genome organization was visualized using Geneious Prime. Genes were manually colored by
834 referencing functions according to NCBI RefSeq or Genbank annotation, or blastp search. Viral
835 genomes in genbank format were compared and visualized with EasyFig (v2.2.2) (Sullivan et al.,
836 2011) using the tblastx function. Only tblastx (v2.8.1+) hits with percent identities greater than
837 30% and e-values less than 0.001 are shown. Remaining analysis parameters were set to default.
838 Circular sequences were visualized linearly for ease of comparison.

839

840 Geographical distributions

841 IMG Taxon Object ID numbers were used to identify global coordinates of studies in which AMGs
842 were identified. Coordinates were mapped using Matplotlib's Basemap (v1.2.0) (Hunter, 2007).
843 Human studies were excluded from coordinate maps.

844

845 Host classification

846 GhostKOALA (v2.0) (Kanehisa et al., 2016) with the “genus prokaryotes” database was used to
847 query all 3,794 AMG-encoded proteins identified from IMG/VR derived viruses (3,421 annotated
848 and used for taxonomy). To benchmark accuracy of the analysis, all 282 AMG-encoded proteins
849 identified from NCBI-derived viruses with known hosts were queried in the same manner (278
850 were annotated and used for taxonomy) and compared to the taxonomy of hosts.

851

852 T7 recombination: cloning

853 All primers can be found in **Table S10**. PCR was performed using KAPA HiFi (Roche) for all
854 experiments with the exception of multiplex PCR for screening Yeast Artificial Chromosomes
855 (YACs), which was performed using KAPA2G Robust PCR kits (Roche). DNA purification was
856 performed using EZNA Cycle Pure Kits (Omega Bio-tek) using the centrifugation protocol. YAC
857 extraction was performed using YeaStar Genomic DNA Extraction kits (Zymo Research). All
858 cloning was performed according to manufacturer documentation except where noted in methods.
859 PCR reactions using phage as template use 1 µl of undiluted phage stock, with extension of the
860 95°C denaturation step to 5 minutes.

861 Electroporation of YACs was performed using a Bio-rad MicroPulser (165-2100), Ec2
862 setting (2 mm cuvette, 2.5 kV, 1 pulse) using 50 µl competent cells and 2 µl YAC DNA for
863 transformation. Electroporated cells were immediately recovered with 950 µl SOC, then incubated
864 at 37°C for 1 to 1.5 hours and plated or grown in Lb.

865 *E. coli* 10G competent cells were made by adding 8 mL overnight 10G cells to 192 mL
866 SOC (with antibiotics as necessary) and incubating at 21°C and 200 rpm until ~OD₆₀₀ of 0.4 as
867 determined using an Agilent Cary 60 UV-Vis Spectrometer using manufacturer documentation
868 (actual incubation time varies based on antibiotic, typically overnight). Cells are centrifuged at
869 4°C, 800-1000g for 20 minutes, the supernatant is discarded, and cells are resuspended in 50 mL
870 10% glycerol. Centrifugation and washing are repeated three times, then cells are resuspended in
871 a final volume of ~1 mL 10% glycerol and are aliquoted and stored at -80°C. Cells are competent
872 for plasmid and YACs. All primers used in experiments in this publication are listed in
873 supplemental.

874

875 T7 recombination: engineering T7 with *cysK*

876 Phages were assembled using YAC rebooting (Ando et al., 2015; Jaschke et al., 2012), which
877 requires yeast transformation of relevant DNA segments, created as follows. A prs415 yeast
878 centromere plasmid was split into three segments by PCR, separating the centromere and leucine
879 selection marker, which partially limits recircularization and improved assembly efficiency

880 (Kuijpers et al., 2013). Wildtype T7 segments were made by PCR using wildtype T7 as template.
881 *CysK* segments were made by colony PCR of BW25113. *CysK* was inserted into two locations to
882 create two phage constructs. The first location was replacement of gp1.7 to establish *CysK* in early
883 Class II genes. This insertion causes a two amino acid extension (YE) of the immediate 5' gene
884 gp1.6 that was not anticipated to have an effect on phage viability. The second location was
885 inserted adjacent to gp6.3 to establish *CysK* in early class III genes and leverages a copy of phage
886 promoter phi6.5 for expression.

887 DNA parts were combined together (0.1 pmol/segment) and transformed into *S. cerevisiae*
888 BY4741 using a high efficiency yeast transformation protocol (Daniel Gietz and Woods, 2002)
889 using SD-Leu selection. After 2-3 days colonies were picked and directly assayed by multiplex
890 colony PCR to assay assembly. Multiplex PCR interrogated junctions in the YAC construct and
891 was an effective way of distinguishing correctly assembled YACs. Correctly assembled YACs
892 were purified and transformed into *E. coli* 10G cells and these cultures incubated until lysis, after
893 which phages were purified to create the initial phage stock.

894

895 T7 recombination: passaging and AMG retention

896 Either T7Δ1.7::cysK or T7::cysK phages were added to 5 mL exponential phase BW25113 or
897 BW25113Δ*cysK* at an estimated MOI of 10⁻⁴ to allow for an estimated three phage passages. After
898 the culture had fully lysed, typically ~1 hour and 30 minutes, lysate was purified and then the titer
899 established by spot assay. This process was then repeated twice for a total of an estimated 9 phage
900 passages assuming at least 100 phage progeny per host. Phage lysate from the final passage was
901 used as template for sequencing to determine if the *cysK* insert remained as the consensus sequence
902 in the phage population. The entire process was repeated in biological triplicate for both host and
903 phage combinations.

904

905 QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

906

907 Virus growth and fitness

908 The number of resulting plaques from the growth and fitness assays were normalized to 100% of
909 controls for each experiment. Three independent experiments with three infection replicates and
910 two growth replicates each was performed. Further information of experiments can be found in
911 Method Details below.

912

913 Virus and host *cysK* qPCR

914 For each replicate of the two conditions assayed both primer sets were used for qPCR. To analyze
915 the qPCR results, the C_q readings were averaged between the three replicates for each treatment
916 at each timepoint to obtain a single datapoint per treatment:primer pair per timepoint, termed
917 *average C_q*. Using time point zero for the uninfected *L. lactis* C10 condition with *L. lactis* C10
918 *cysK* primers as the baseline *control*, delta-delta-C_q values were calculated by subtracting the
919 *control* value from the *average C_q* values. This result calculates the expression of *L. lactis* C10

920 *cysK* at time point zero to be normalized to zero (delta-delta-Cq of zero). Finally, all delta-delta-
921 Cq values were transformed using the formula $2^{-(\text{delta-delta-Cq})}$ (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001). All raw
922 Cq values and normalized results, including equations, can be found in **Table S6**. Further
923 information of experiments can be found in Method Details below.

924

925

926 **Supplemental Information**

927

928 **Table S1 (Separate File). Metadata for all viruses identified in this study, related to Figures**
929 **1-5.** List of all viral genomes with associated metadata: database origin, AMG name, KEGG
930 orthology number, name of protein product, viral AMG and genome name, genome length,
931 shorthand name if appended in study, environment and geographical information, cultivation
932 status, accession numbers, virus classification, host classification and human gut association, and
933 isolation location.

934

935 **Table S2 (Separate File). Abundance of each AMG per environment or human microbiome,**
936 **related to Figure 2A.** Only AMGs with IMG/VR environmental categories are shown.

937

938 **Table S3 (Separate File). Number of AMGs and IMG studies per environment classification,**
939 **related to Figure 2B.** Only AMGs with IMG/VR environmental categories are shown.

940

941 **Table S4 (Separate File). Richness of viruses encoding AMGs per environment, related to**
942 **Figure 2A, B.** Shown is the number of IMG/VR non-redundant viral genomes encoding at least
943 one AMG per environment, the total number of viruses in the IMG/VR dataset per environment
944 and the percentage of viruses per environment that encode at least one AMG.

945

946 **Table S5 (Separate File). Expression of viral AMGs in Lake Mendota, WI, related to Figure**
947 **6.** Viral genomes expressing the indicated AMG over two days (timepoint). Expression is given
948 as a measure of read counts normalized to an internal standard.

949

950 **Table S6 (Separate File). qPCR raw and normalized results of *cysK* transcript relative**
951 **abundance for *L. lactis* C10 and phage P087, related to Figure 3.** The raw Cq results for each
952 condition and primer set are provided, in addition to the normalization equations and $2^{-\text{ddCq}}$ results
953 used to generate Figure S5.

954

955 **Table S7 (Separate File). Complete profile of proteins identified by untargeted proteomics**
956 **between 100kDa and 10kDa, related to Figure 3.** The best-hit identification of peptides
957 according to NCBI databases, their associated accession number, calculated molecular weight and
958 spectral count. Lactococcus phage P087 and *L. lactis* CysK were identified to be 34th and 57th most
959 abundant, respectively.

960

961 **Table S8** (Separate File). **Full results of AMG protein identity search, related to Figures 2 and**
962 **6.** Tabular formatted blastp output of AMG queries against the NCBI non-redundant (nr) database.

963

964 **Table S9** (Separate File). **List of viral genomes containing multiple AMGs, related to Figures**
965 **1, 2, 4 and 5.** Shown are the viral gene and genome name corresponding to each encoded AMG.

966

967 **Table S10** (Separate File). **List of all sequence primers used in this study, related to Figure 3.**
968 Primers are listed for the virus and host *cysK* qPCR assay as well as for T7 recombination.

969

970 **Additional Data File S1** (Separate File). **Amino acid sequences of each of the 4,103 AMGs**
971 **identified in this study.** Each file is named with the three- or four-letter protein ID of the AMG
972 followed by the respective KEGG orthology number.

973

974 **Additional Data File S2** (Separate File). **Amino acid sequence alignments, in FASTA format,**
975 **respective to Figures S2 and S4.**

976

977 **Additional Data File S3** (Separate File). **Full genome sequence and Bowtie2 alignment of the**
978 ***cysC*-encoding Lake Mendota virus.** The genome sequence and alignment files were used for
979 the generation of Figure S3.

980

981 **Figure S1. Distribution of individual AMGs in the environment, related to Figure 2.** Global
982 distribution of viral populations encoding (A) *cysC*, (B) *cysH*, (C) *cysK*, (D) *dcm*, (E) *metK*, (F)
983 *tauD* or (G) *msmA* identified on the IMG/VR database, color coordinated by environment
984 classification.

985

986 **Figure S2. Amino acid alignments of proteins encoded by AMGs, related to Figure 1 and**
987 **Table 1.** Alignment of representative viral and bacterial sequences for all AMGs with abundances
988 greater than five. Viruses are indicated by the preface “Phage” followed by their respective IMG
989 Taxon Object ID number. See Table S1 for full genome names. Refer to Figure S4 for phylogeny
990 of the represented sequences for A-E. Highlighted amino acids indicate conservation in >85% of
991 sequences shown. Black boxes indicate amino acid residues that are biochemically verified as
992 functional according to the given PDB reference sequence.

993

994 **Figure S3. *dN/dS* ratio calculations for *cysK*, *cysC*, *cysD*, *cysH*, *tauD*, *msmA*, *metK*, *mtmN* and**
995 ***luxS* AMG pairs, related to Figures 1, 4 and 5.** Each data point overlaid on the standard box plot
996 represents a single AMG pair. The figure was generated using seaborn and matplotlib.

997

998 **Figure S4. Genome and growth statistics of a complete virus identified to express *cysC* in**
999 **Lake Mendota, WI, related to Figure 6.** The (A) GC-skew and (B) index of replication for a

1000 complete, circular virus identified in Lake Mendota, WI. GC-skew and replication statistics
1001 indicate that the virus was actively replicating at time of sampling and likely undergoes rolling
1002 circle replication.

1003

1004 **Figure S5. qPCR results of *cysK* transcript relative abundance for *L. lactis* C10 and phage**
1005 **P087, related to Figure 3.** Relative transcript abundance is provided in the normalized 2^{-ddCq}
1006 metric. Control is *L. lactis* C10 (host) alone and infection includes host plus phage P087. The times
1007 shown are t_1 (15 minutes), t_2 (60 minutes) and t_3 (120 minutes).

1008

1009 **Figure S6. Phylogeny of viral AMG encoded protein sequences, related to Figures 1, 4 and**
1010 **5.** (A) Phylogenetic tree for CysH of complete viruses with known bacterial hosts. Viruses are in
1011 red and bacteria are in black, and proteins with an additional DUF4440 domain are highlighted in
1012 blue. Bacteria with multiple copies of *cysH* are appended with a letter (“A” through “D”). Refer
1013 to Table S1 for virus-host associations. Also shown are phylogenetic trees of uncultivated viruses
1014 with bacterial homologs and select cultivated viruses for (B) CysH (red and green highlighting
1015 refers to putative virus-host associations; compressed blue clade contains 36 viruses and 89
1016 bacteria from several phyla), (C) CysC, (D) CysK (yellow highlighting refers to known virus-host
1017 associations), (E) TauD and (F) MetK. For trees (B-F) colored names refer to viruses (black),
1018 Bacteroidetes and other members of the FCB superphylum (red), Cyanobacteria (cyan),
1019 Verrucomicrobia and Planctomycetes and other members of the PVC superphylum (purple),
1020 Actinobacteria (yellow), and all other phyla in orange. For all trees, bootstrap values greater than
1021 60 are shown, orange highlighting indicates respective genomes used for comparative genomics
1022 (see Figures 4 and S6), and arrows indicate sequences used for protein alignments (see Figure S2).

1023

1024 **Figure S7. Taxonomic classification of AMGs, related to Figure 2.** Inferred taxonomic
1025 classification at the phylum level of AMG-encoded protein sequences on NCBI-derived (A)
1026 viruses and (B) taxonomy of their known hosts, showing similar proportionality. (C) Inferred
1027 taxonomic classification at the phylum level of AMG-encoded protein sequences on IMG/VR-
1028 derived viruses.

1029

1030 **Figure S8. Genome comparisons of viruses encoding AMGs, related to Figure 4.** Comparisons
1031 of (A) incomplete viruses and complete *Streptococcus pneumoniae* viruses encoding *dcm* (pink),
1032 (B) incomplete viruses encoding *metK* (pink), (C) complete *Bacillus cereus* viruses encoding *cysH*
1033 (pink), and (D) complete *Streptococcus suis* viruses encoding *metK* (yellow) and *dcm* (pink). For
1034 all comparisons, predicted open readings frames are annotated by dark blue arrows and genomes
1035 are connected with lines according to tblastx identity. Refer to Figure S6 for phylogeny of AMGs
1036 for (B) and (C) (orange highlighting).

1037

1038 **Figure S9. Genome organization of *cysH*-encoding viruses, related to Figure 5.** Organization
1039 of linear and circular complete viral genomes that encode *cysH*. Arrows indicate open reading

1040 frames and are annotated by general function: virion structural assembly (green), auxiliary
1041 metabolism and general functions (red), nucleotide metabolism and genome replication (blue),
1042 lysis (orange) and unknown function (yellow). Pink stars indicate the location of *cysH*. Refer to
1043 Table S1 for virus details.

1044

1045 **References**

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