

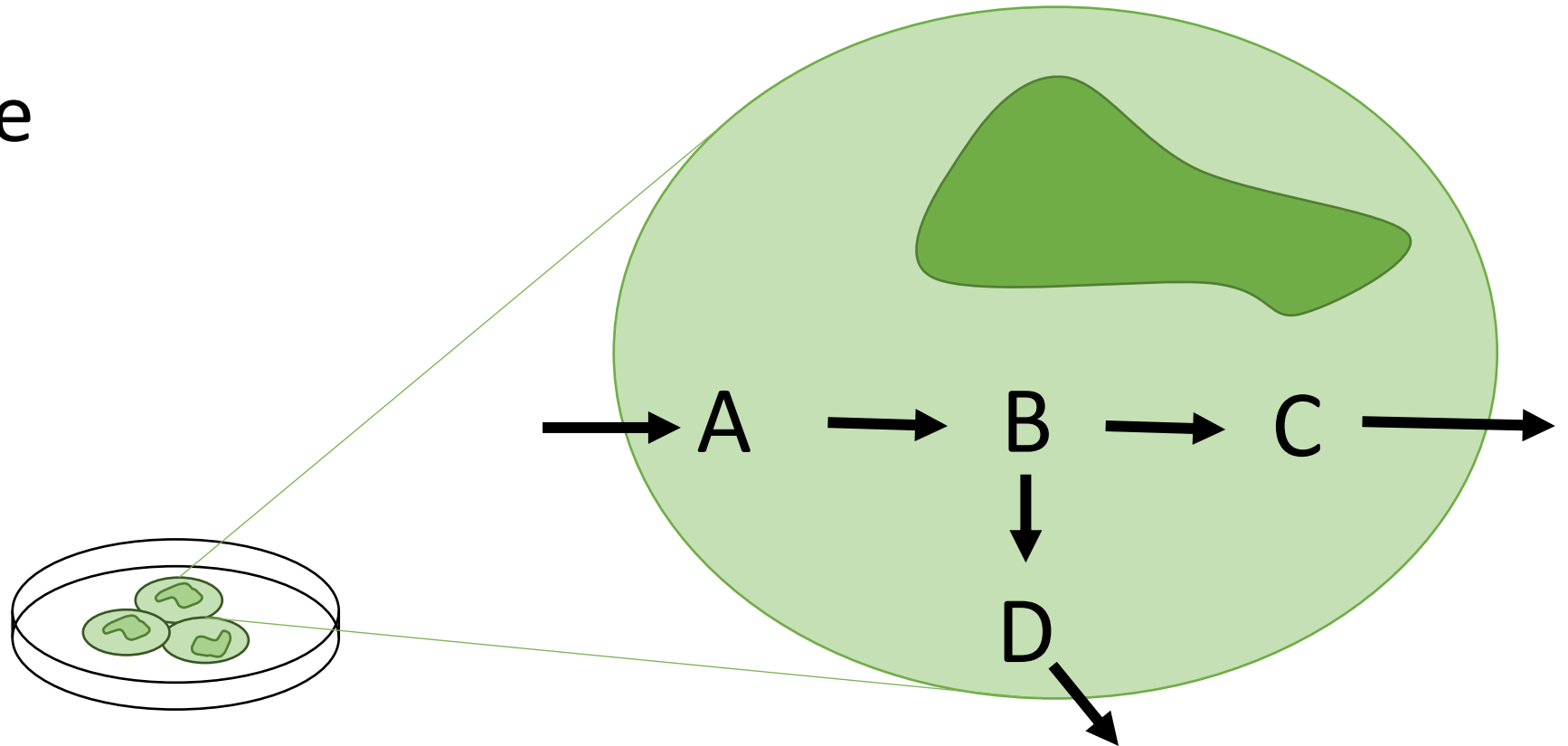
An Introduction to ^{13}C Metabolic flux analysis

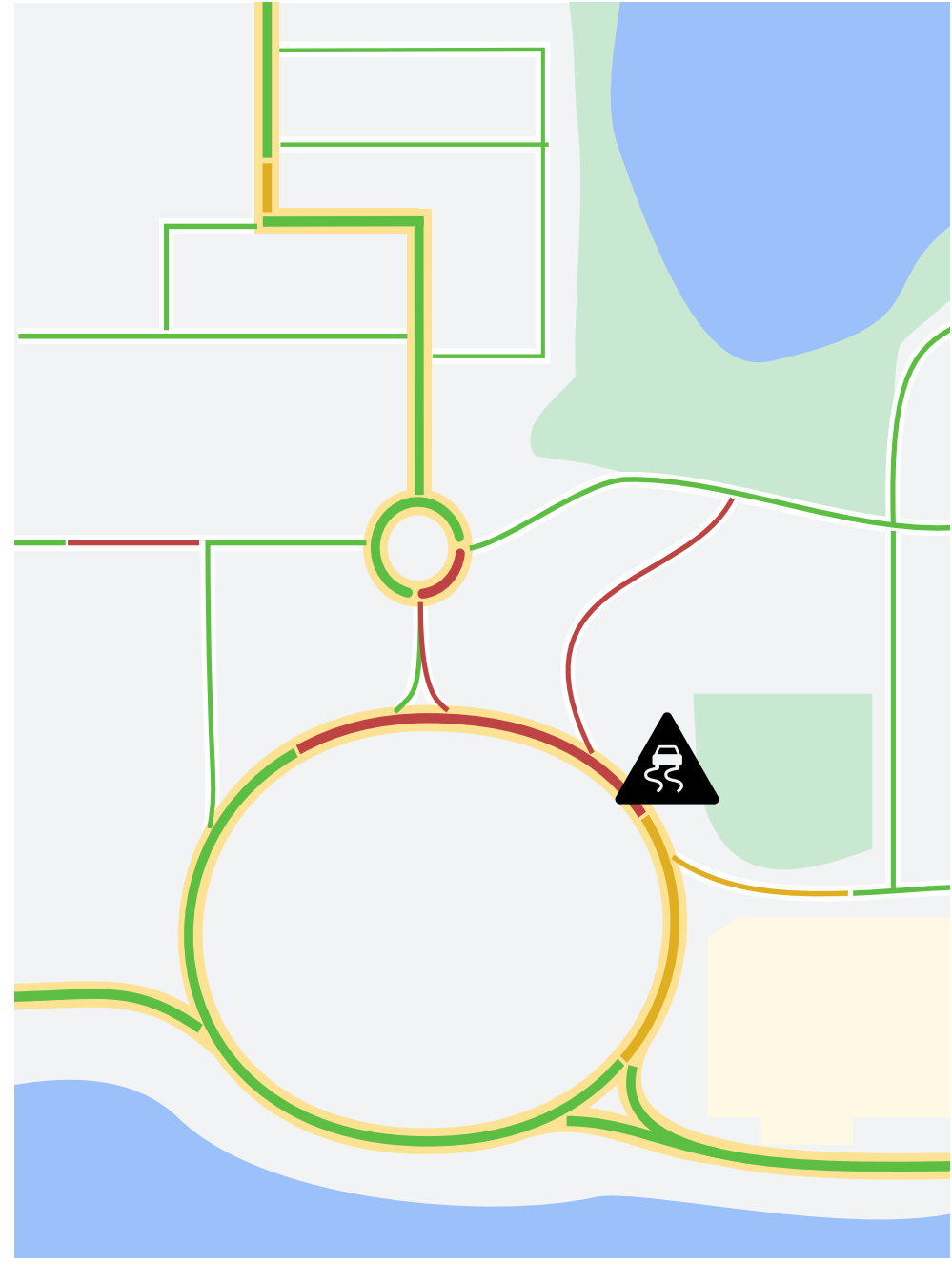
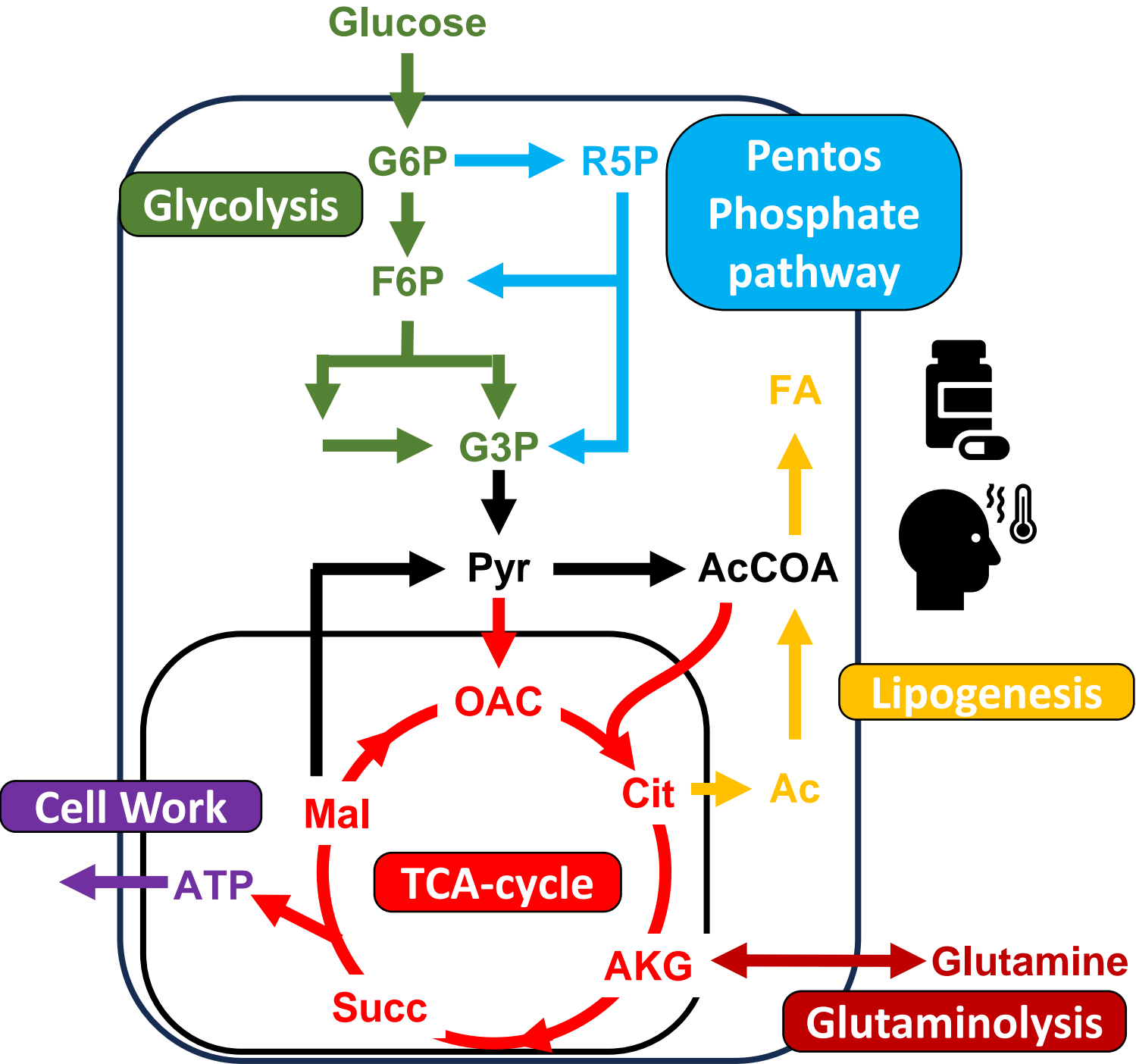
Nicolas Sundqvist

2023-10-11

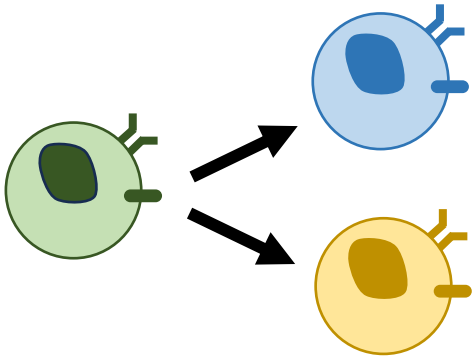
Metabolic Flux Analysis (MFA)

- Quantitatively determine the flux configuration
- Steady state





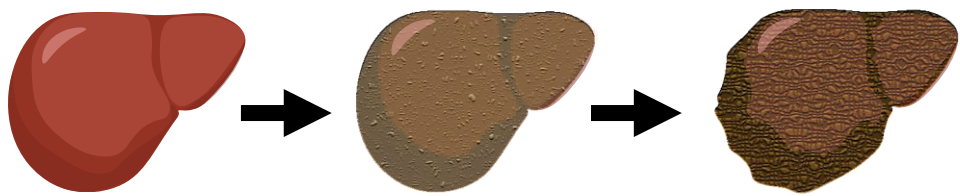
Systematic alterations of Metabolic Fluxes



T-Cell differentiation



Ageing



Normal

NAFLD

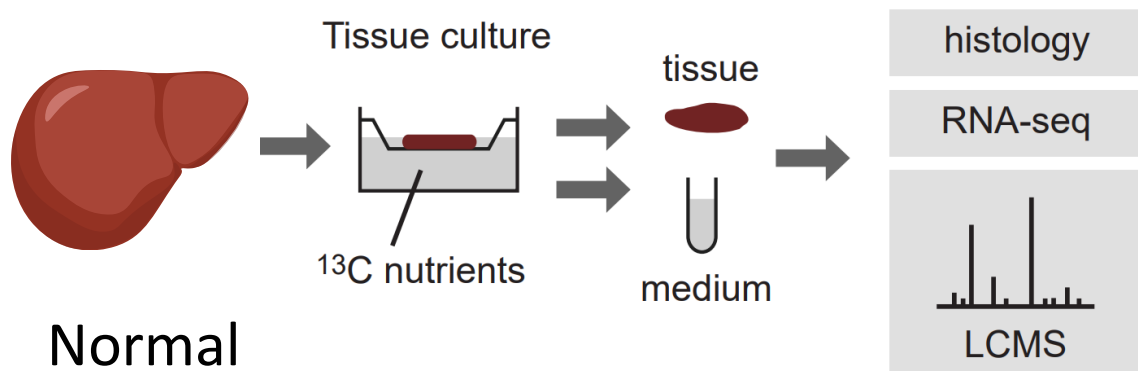
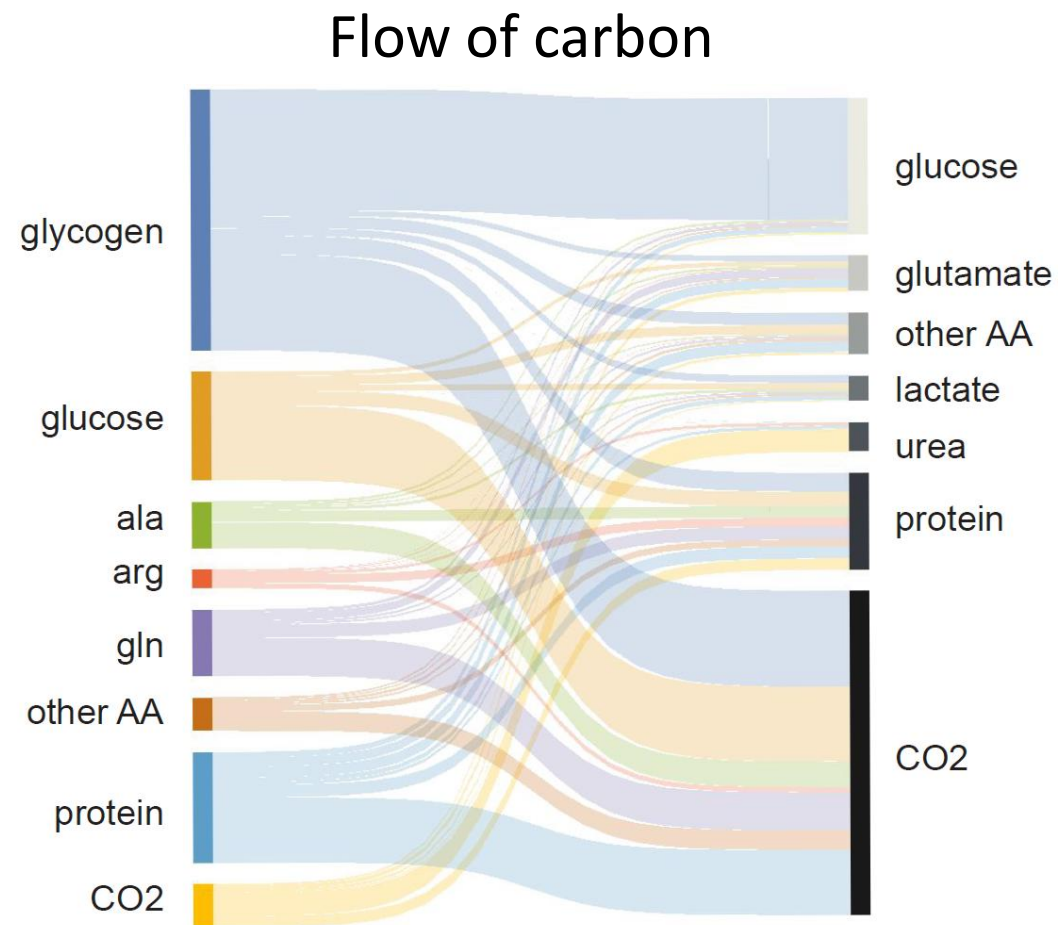
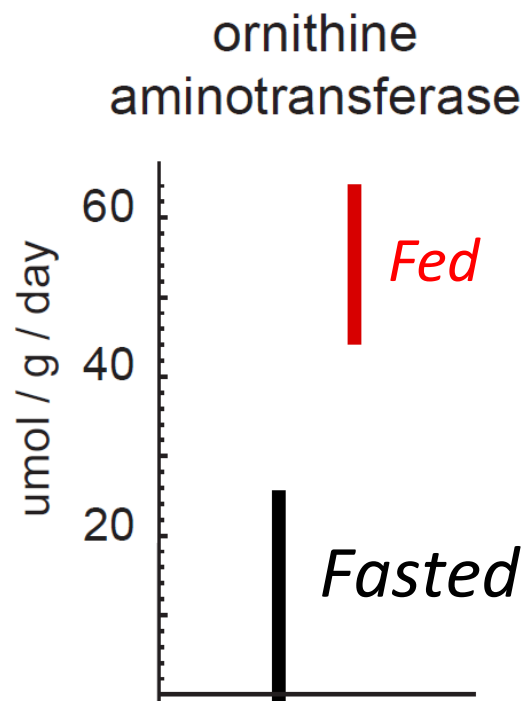
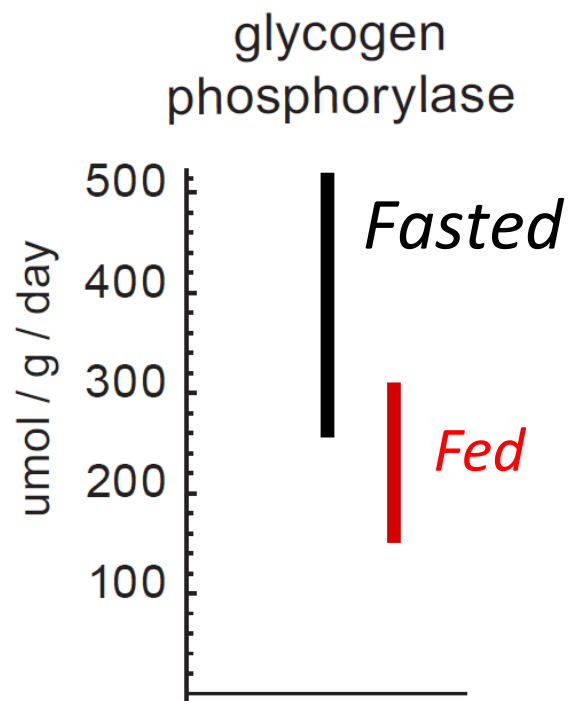
NASH



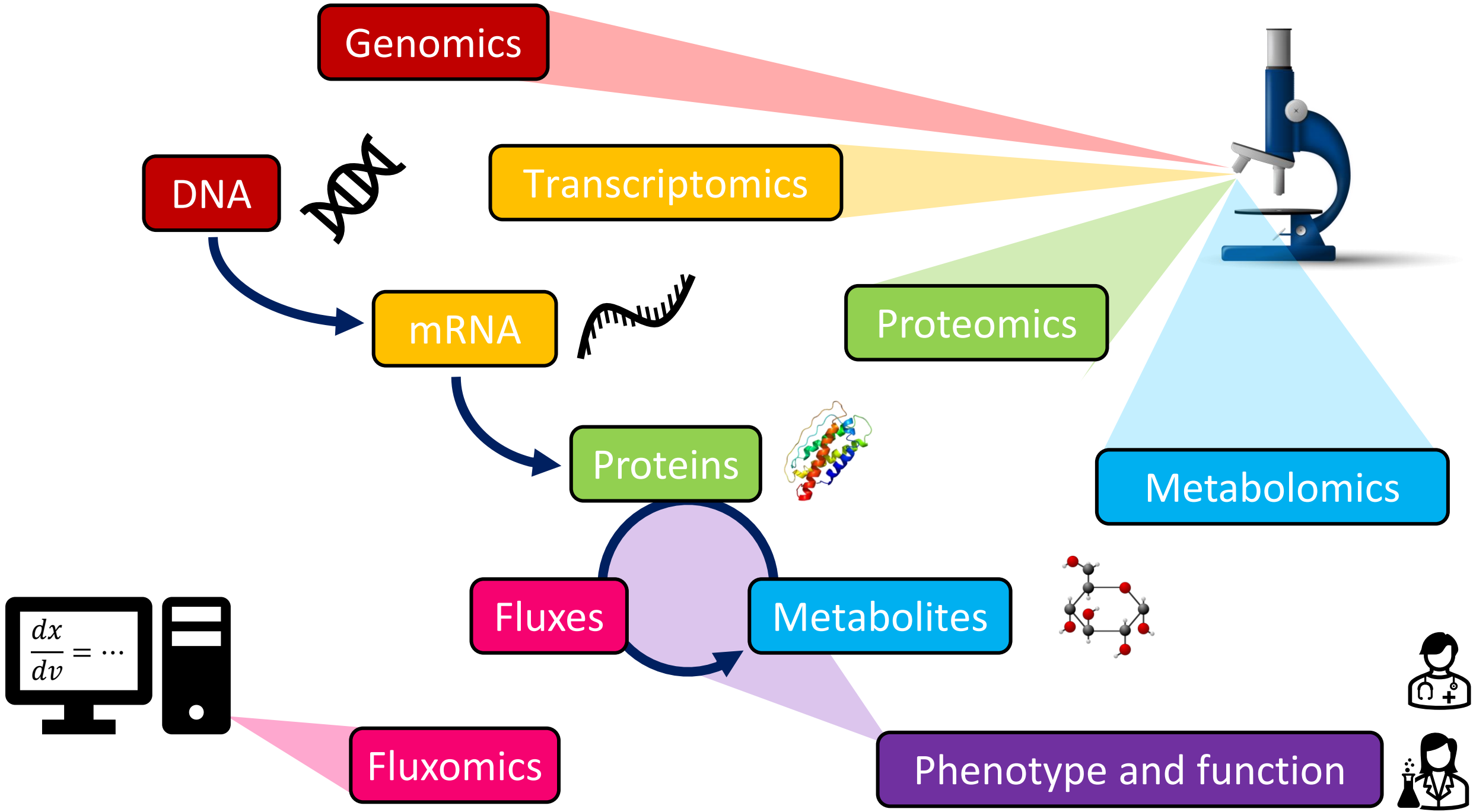
Metabolic syndrome



Neurodegenerative diseases

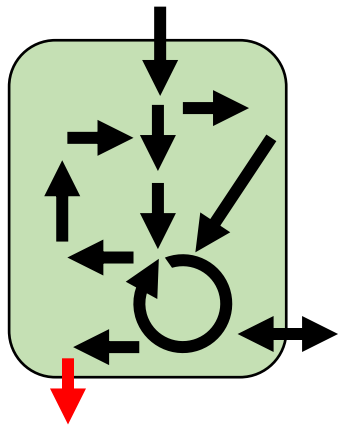


Grankvist N, *et al*, Global ^{13}C tracing and metabolic flux analysis of intact human liver tissue ex vivo, Submitted Nat. Metab.



FBA

Flux balance analysis

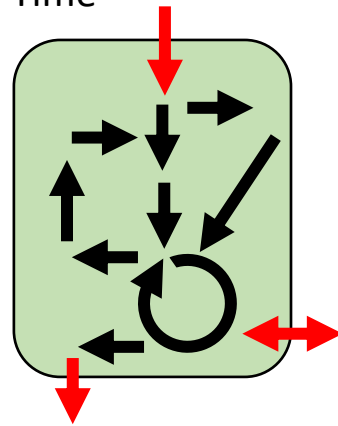
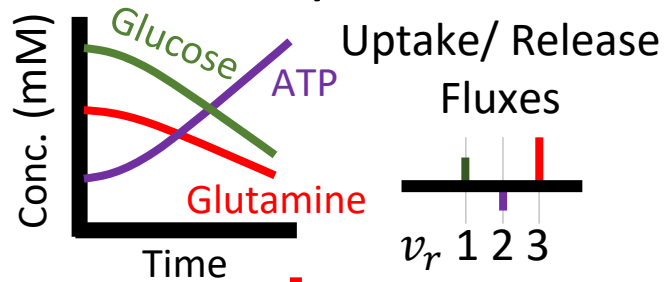


$$\begin{aligned} & \max V_{growth} \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & lb < \bar{v} < ub \end{aligned}$$

Large scale models
(genome-scale)

MFA

Metabolic flux analysis

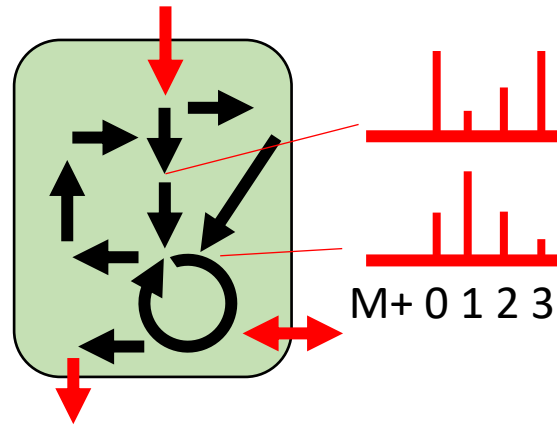


$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum (v_r - \hat{v}_r) \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & \bar{v} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Small scale models
(Core metabolism)

¹³C-MFA

Isotopic labelling

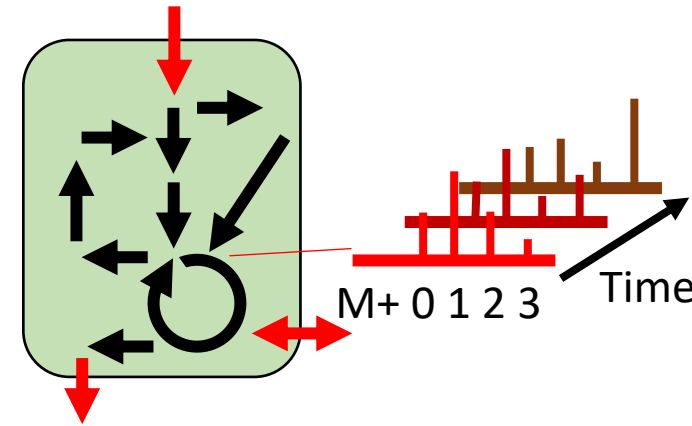


$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum (x_i(\bar{v}) - \hat{x}_i) \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & \bar{v} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Medium scale models
(Metabolomics)

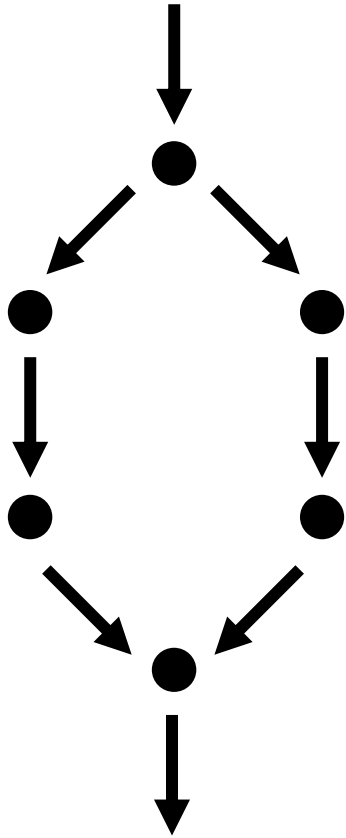
¹³C-INST MFA

Isotopically Nonstationary Metabolic flux analysis

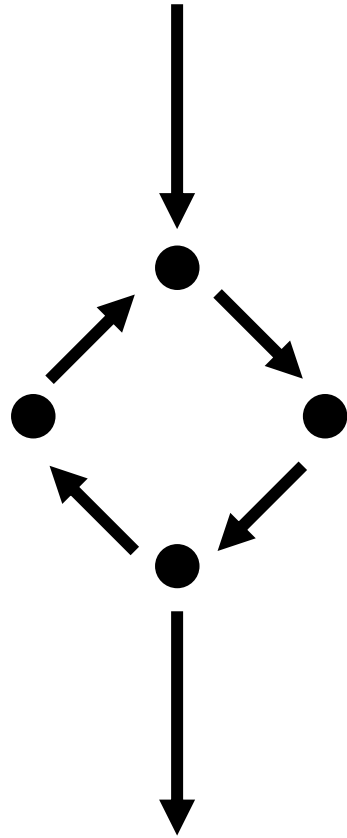


$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum \sum (x_{i,t}(\bar{v}) - \hat{x}_{i,t}) \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & \bar{v} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

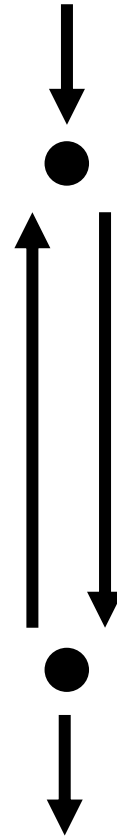
Why isotopic labelling?



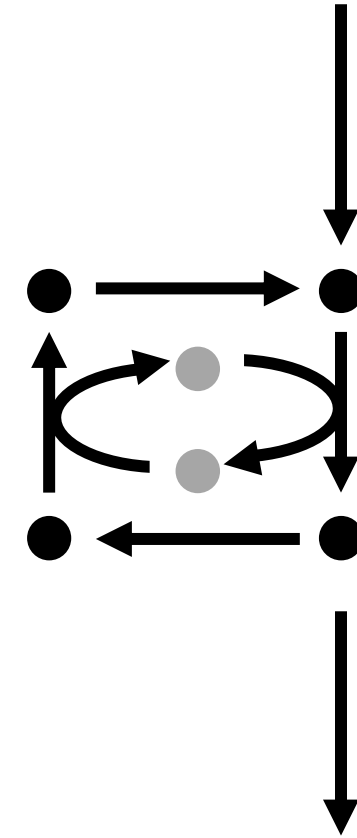
Parallel pathways



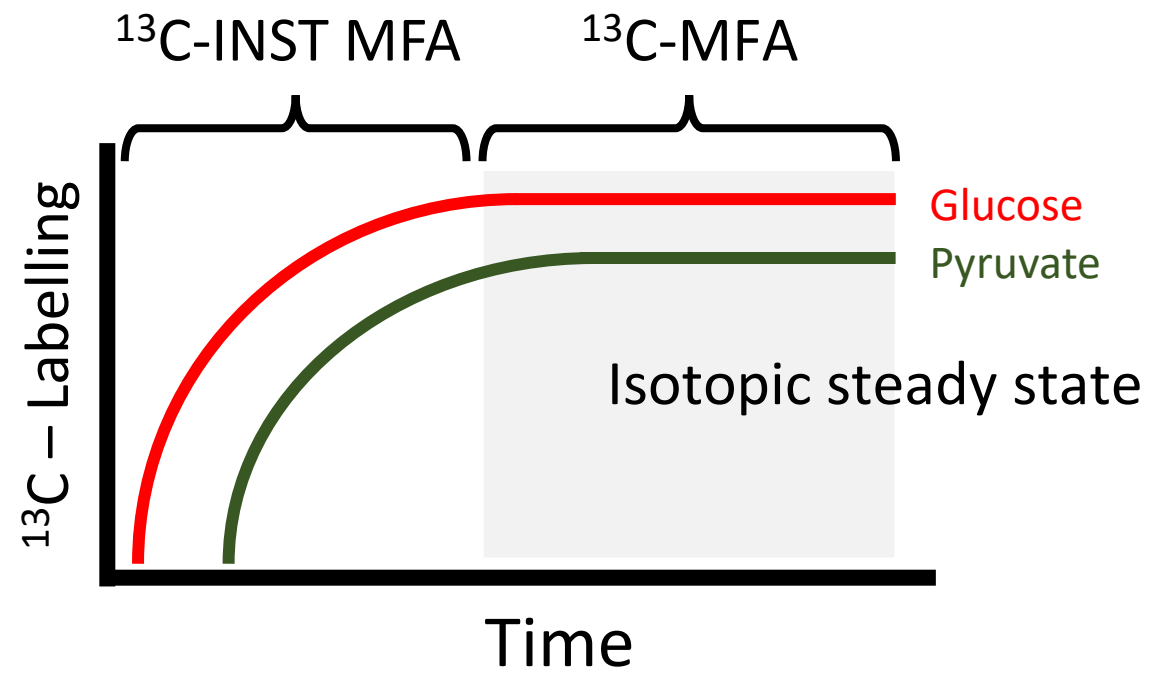
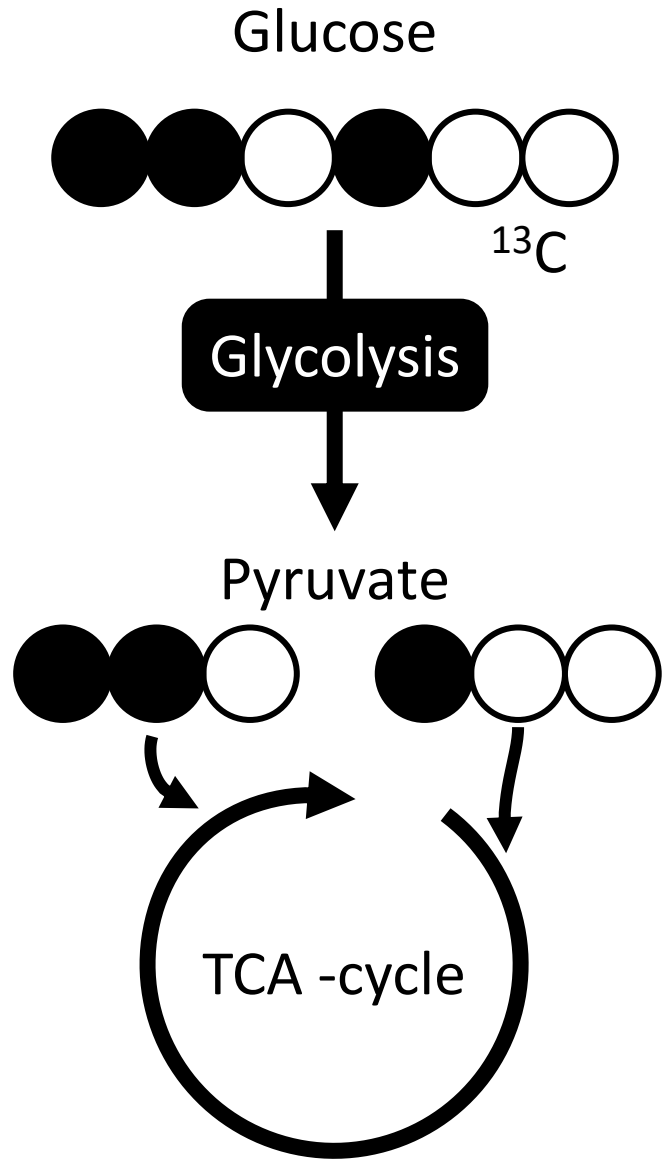
Internal cycles



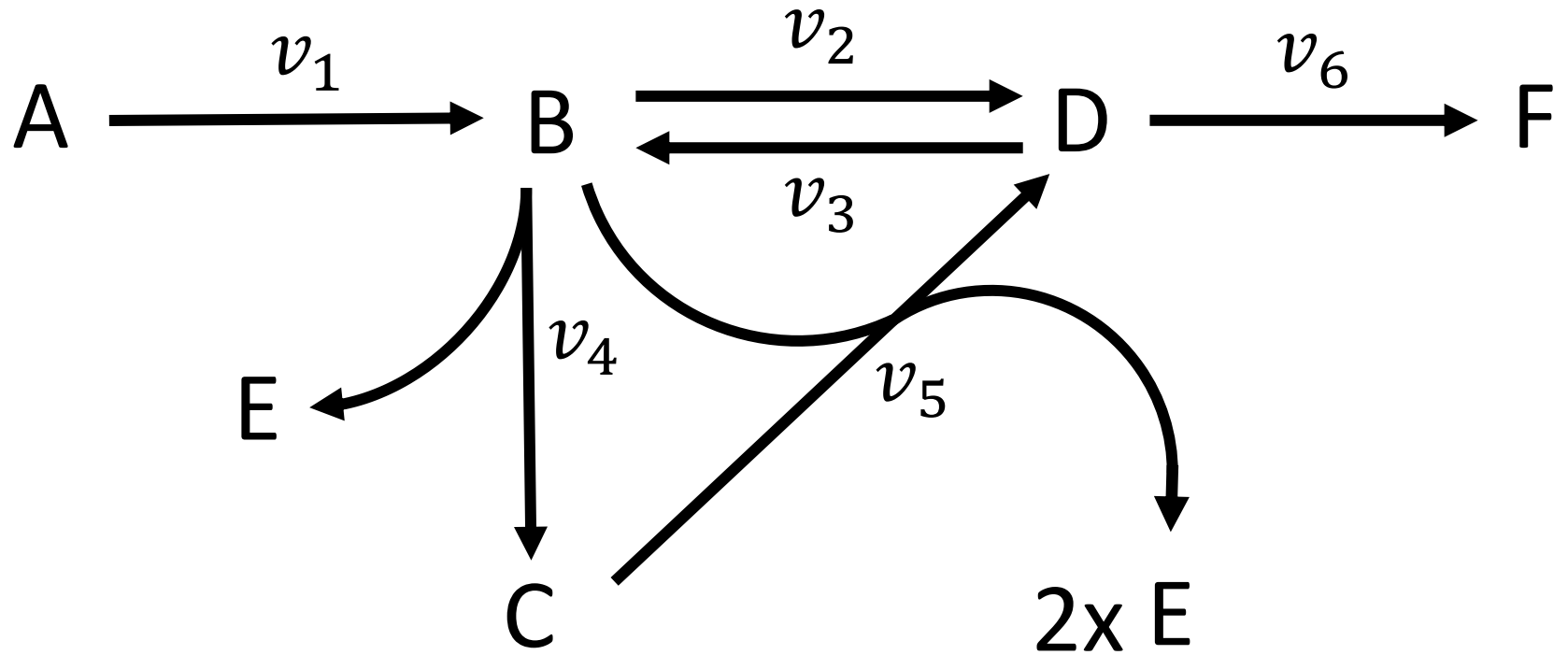
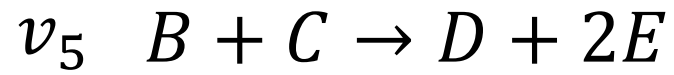
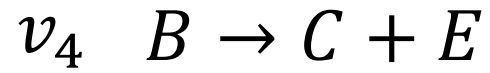
Reversible reactions



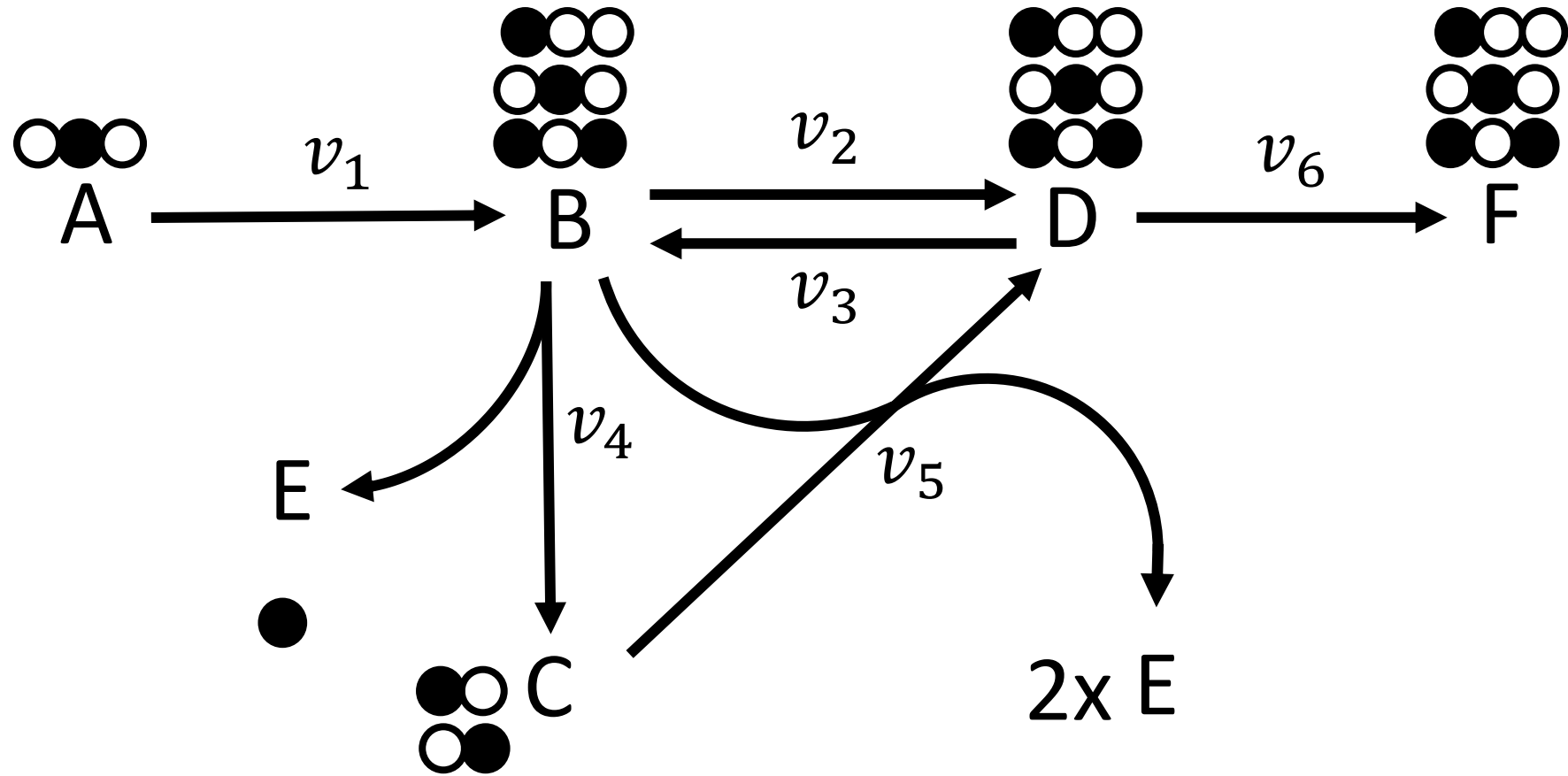
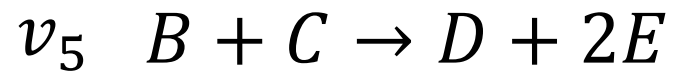
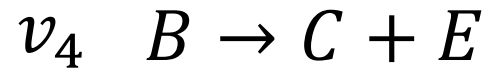
Unbalances
Co-metabolites



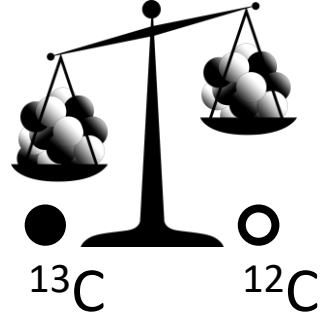
Reactions



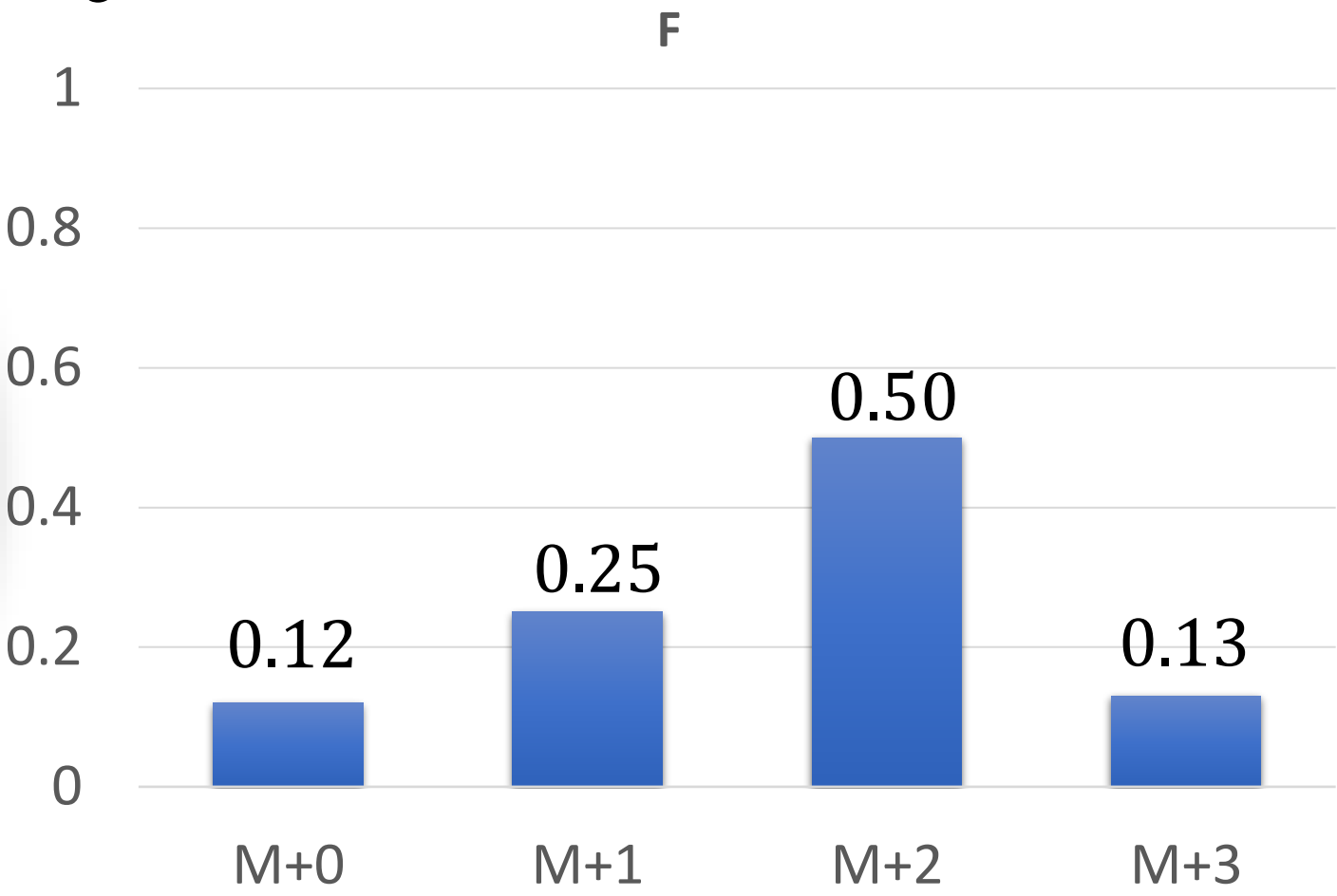
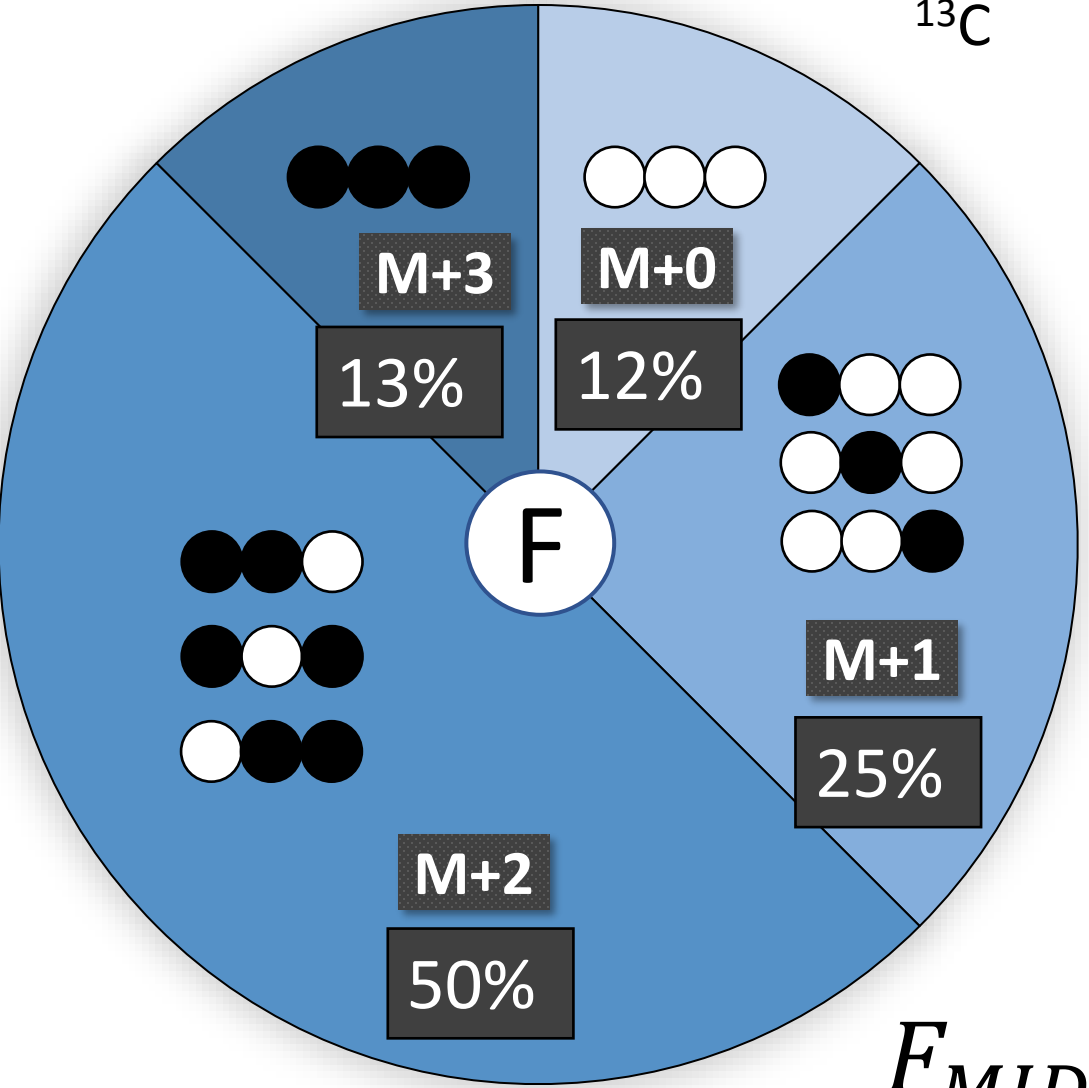
Reactions



Isotope isomers
=
Isotopomers



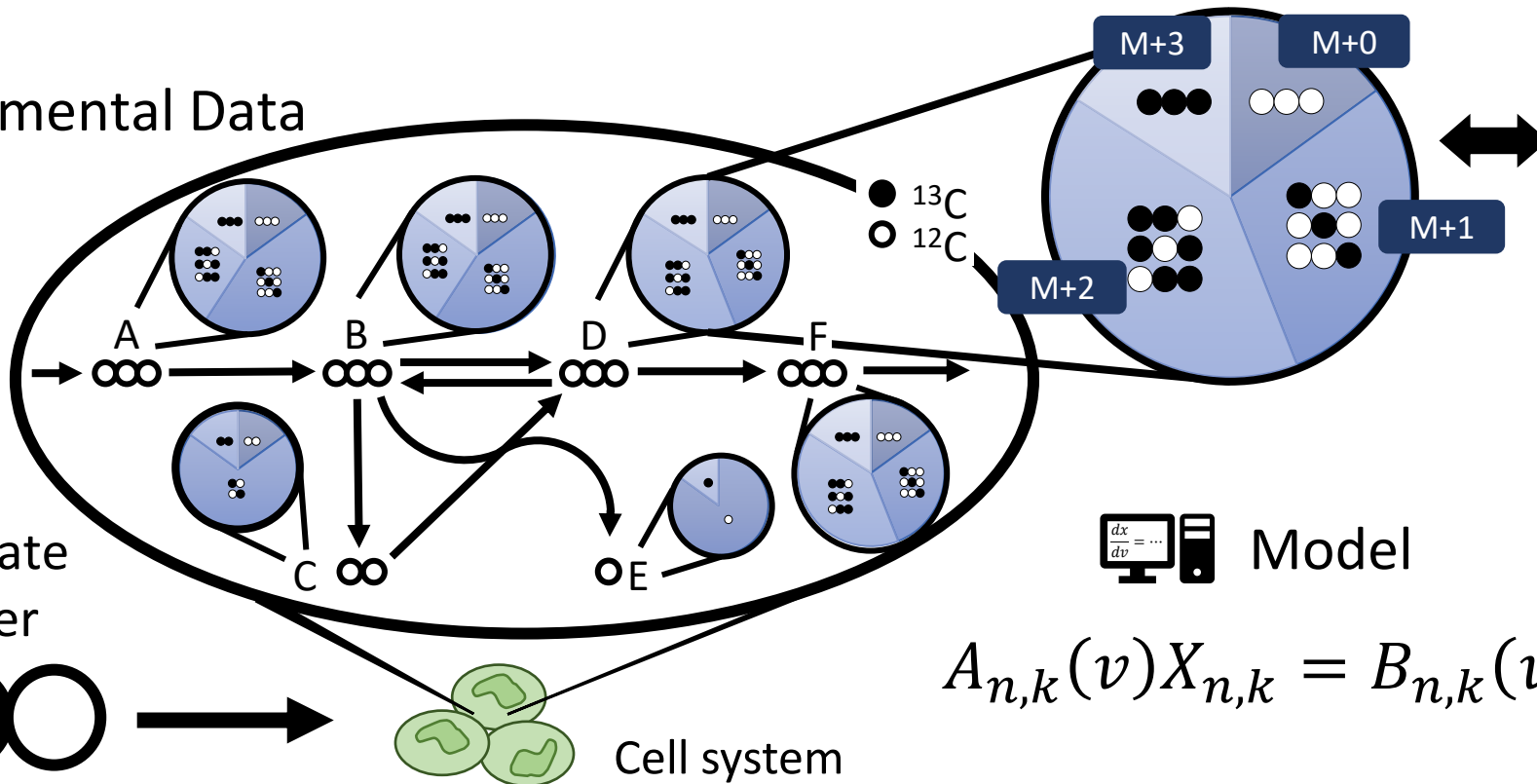
Mass Isotopomer Distribution
(MID)



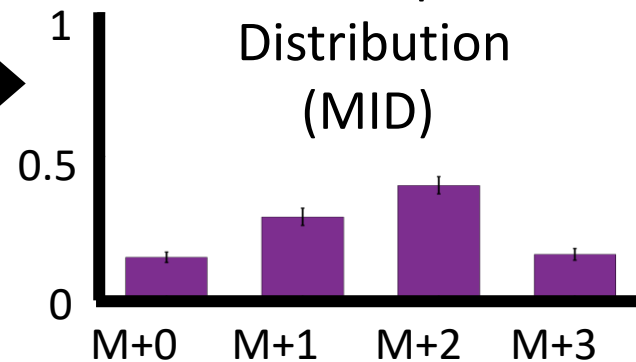
$$F_{MID} = [0.12 \quad 0.25 \quad 0.5 \quad 0.13]$$



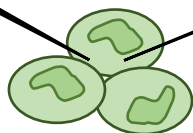
Experimental Data



Mass Isotopomer Distribution (MID)

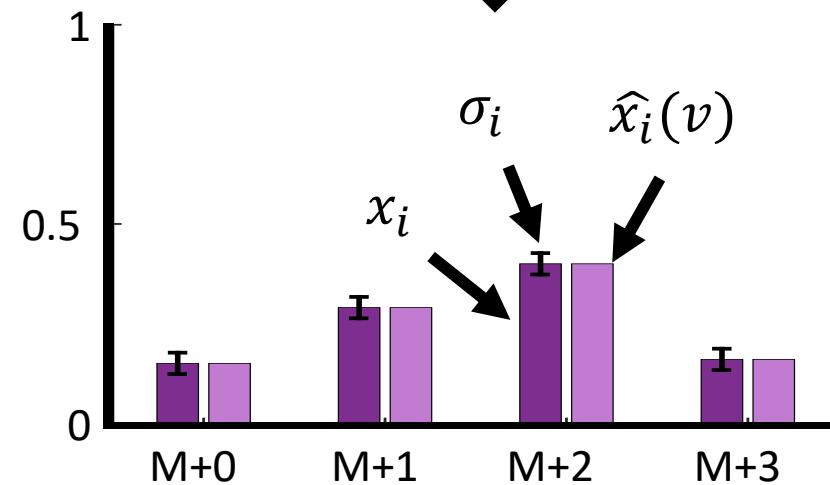
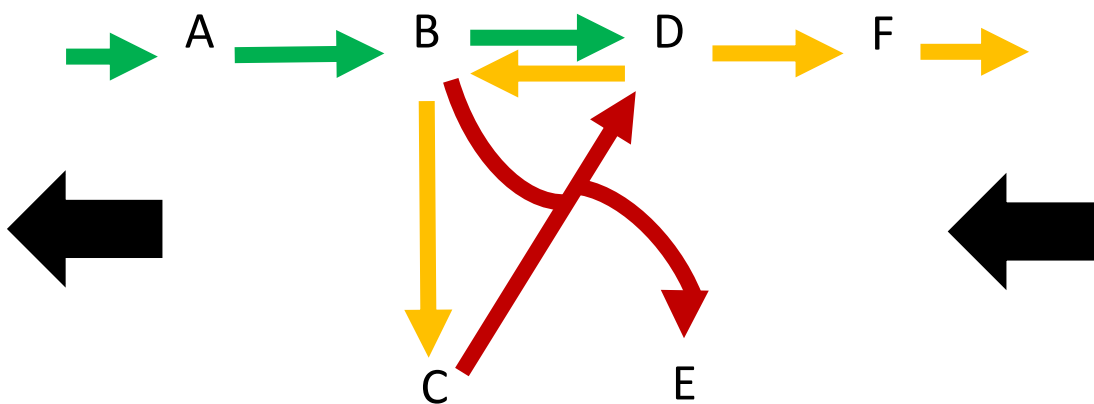
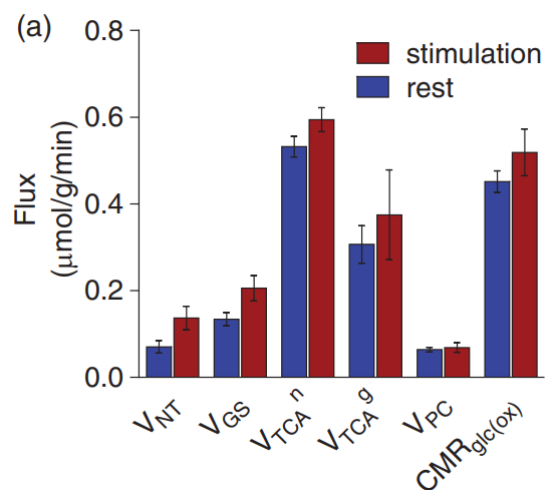


Substrate Tracer

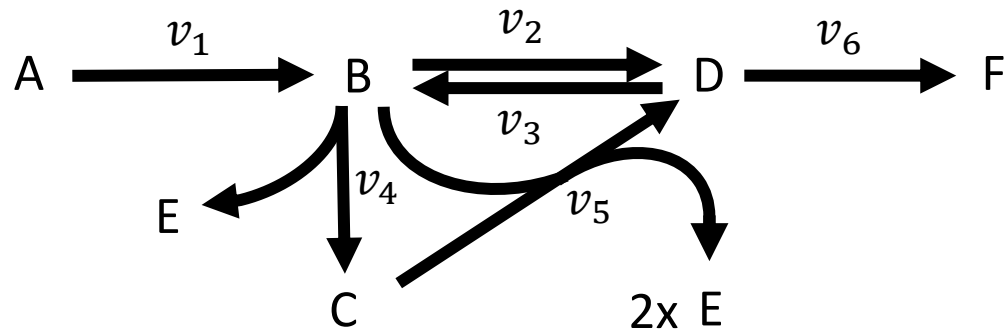


Cell system

$$A_{n,k}(v)X_{n,k} = B_{n,k}(v)Y_{n,k}(y_n^{in}, X_{n-1}, \dots, X_1)$$

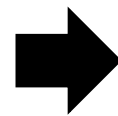


Stoichiometry



$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} v_1 + v_3 = v_2 + v_4 + v_5 \\ v_4 = v_5 \\ v_5 + v_2 = v_3 + v_6 \end{cases}$$

	v_1	v_2	v_3	v_4	v_5	v_6
A	-1	0	0	0	0	0
B	1	-1	1	-1	-1	0
C	0	0	0	1	-1	0
D	0	1	-1	0	1	-1
E	0	0	0	1	2	0
F	0	0	0	0	0	1



$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \\ v_5 \\ v_6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Steady state condition

$$S * \vec{v} = 0 \iff \begin{cases} v_1 - v_2 + v_3 - v_4 - v_5 = 0 \\ v_4 - v_5 = 0 \\ v_2 - v_3 + v_5 - v_6 = 0 \end{cases}$$

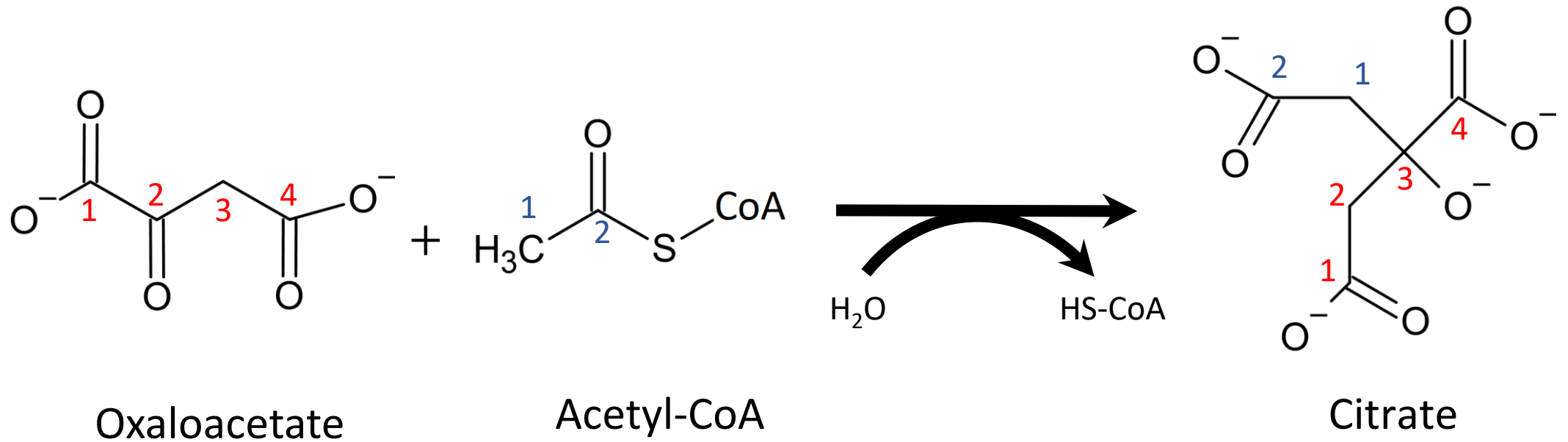
$$\begin{cases} v_2 = v_1 + v_3 - 2 * v_4 \\ v_5 = v_4 \\ v_6 = v_1 - v_4 \end{cases}$$

$$\vec{v} = N * \vec{u}$$

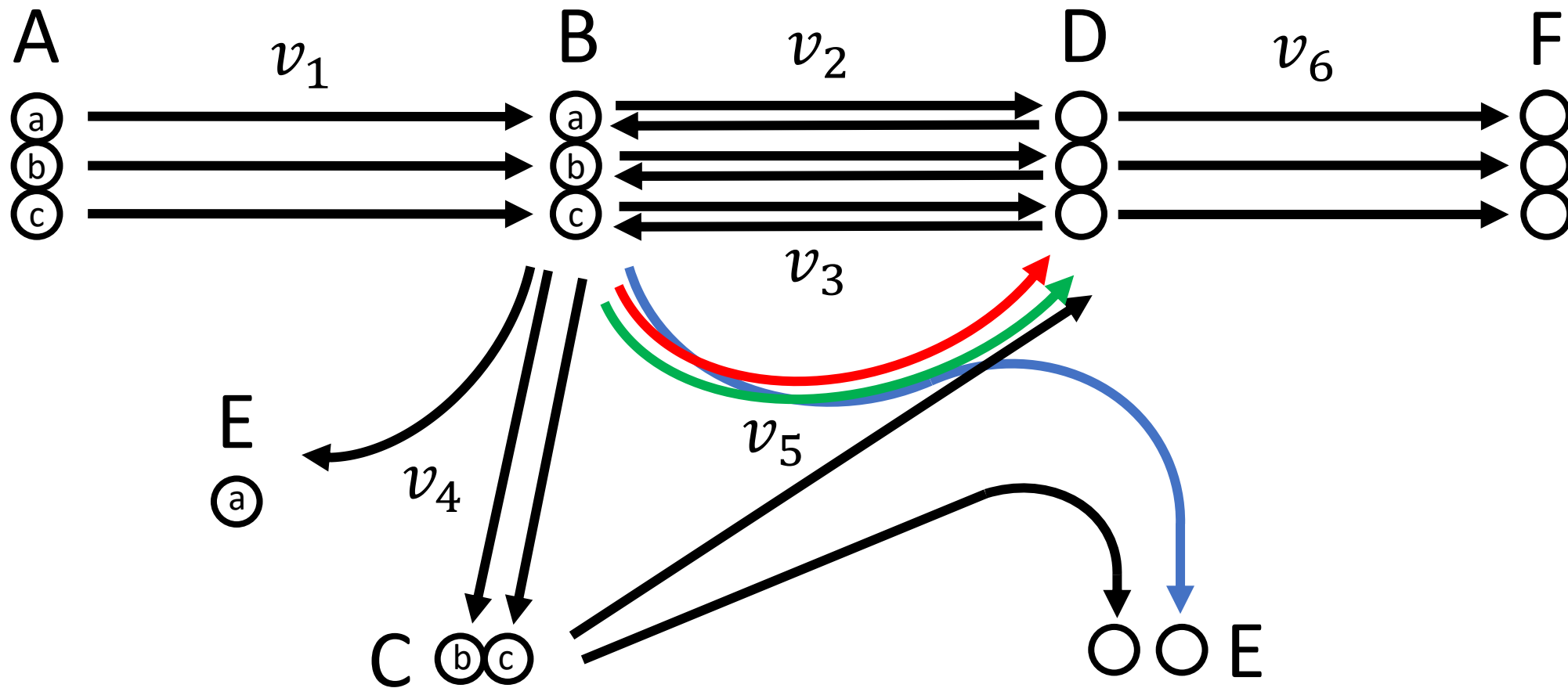
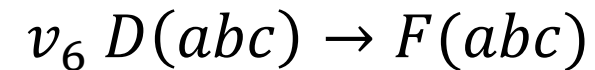
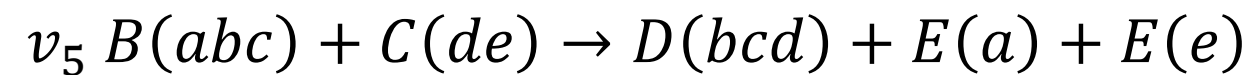
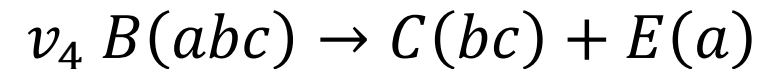
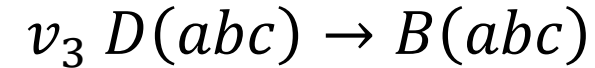
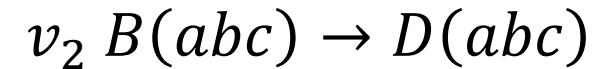
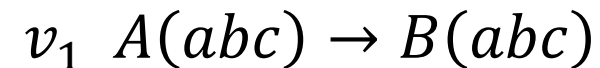
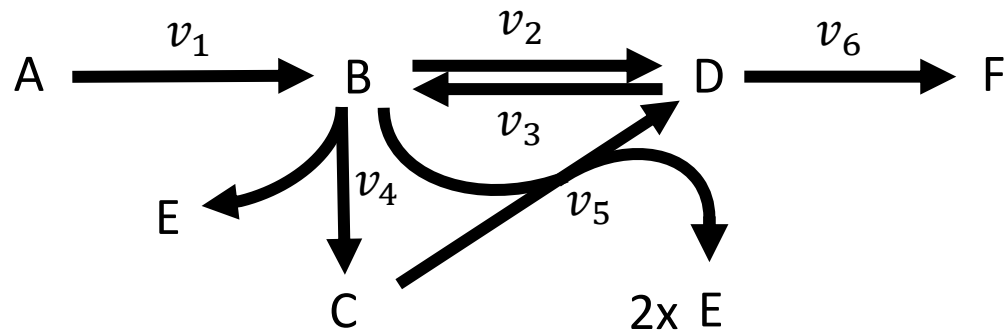
$$N = \text{null}(S)$$

Independent fluxes

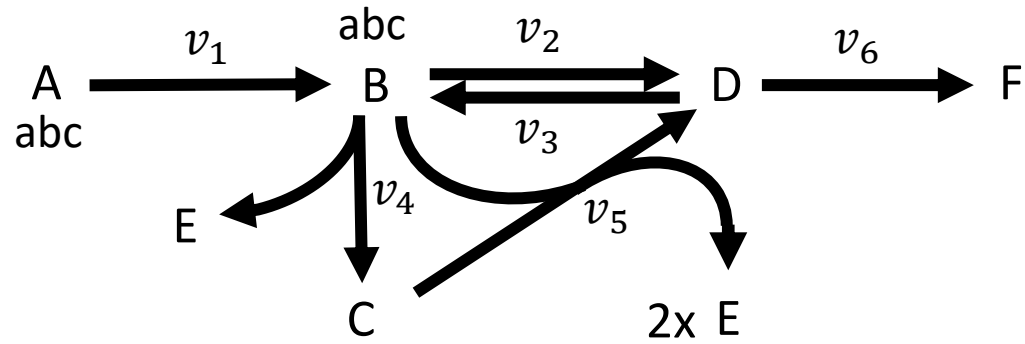
Atom mapping



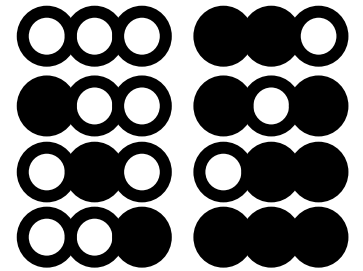
Atom mapping



ODE equations



$$\frac{dM_{ij}}{dt} = \sum_{k \in \text{In}(i)} v_k \sum_{\theta \in \text{Gen}(k,i,j)} \prod_{(l,m) \in \theta} r_{lm} - \left(\sum_{k \in \text{Out}(i)} v_k \right) r_{ij} = 0$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} A_a = -v_1 A_a \quad \frac{d}{dt} B_a = v_1 A_a - v_2 B_a + v_3 D_a - v_4 B_a$$

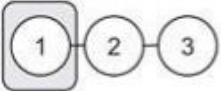

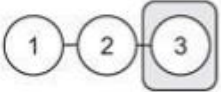
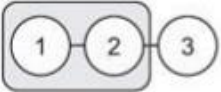
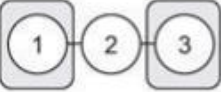
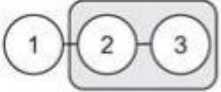

$$\frac{d}{dt} A_b = -v_1 A_b \quad \frac{d}{dt} B_b = v_1 A_b - v_2 B_b + v_3 D_b - v_4 B_b$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} A_c = -v_1 A_c \quad \frac{d}{dt} B_c = v_1 A_c - v_2 B_c + v_3 D_c - v_4 B_c$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} C_a = v_4 B_b - v_5 C_a \quad \frac{d}{dt} C_b = v_4 B_c - v_5 C_b \quad \dots$$

- Number of C-atoms: N
- Number of states: N^2
- Example: 225 states

Elementary Metabolite Units

Elementary metabolite unit	Atoms included in the EMU	EMU size
A_1		1
A_2		1
A_3		1
A_{12}		2
A_{13}		2
A_{23}		2
A_{123}		3



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



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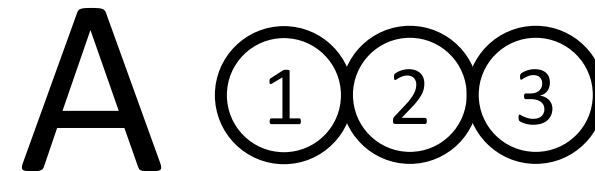
Elementary metabolite units (EMU): A novel framework for modeling isotopic distributions

Maciek R. Antoniewicz, Joanne K. Kelleher, Gregory Stephanopoulos*

Department of Chemical Engineering, Bioinformatics and Metabolic Engineering Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

Received 7 July 2006; received in revised form 28 August 2006; accepted 1 September 2006

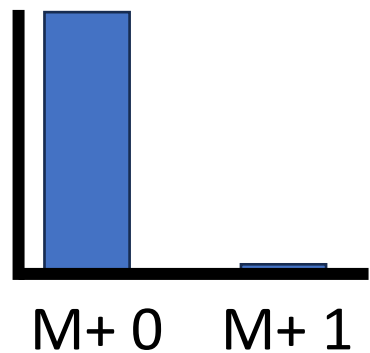
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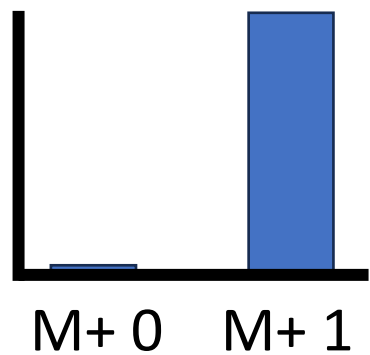
EMUs

A **1** **2** **3**

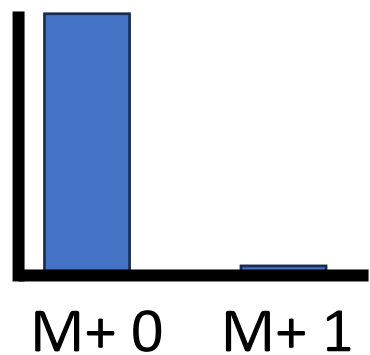
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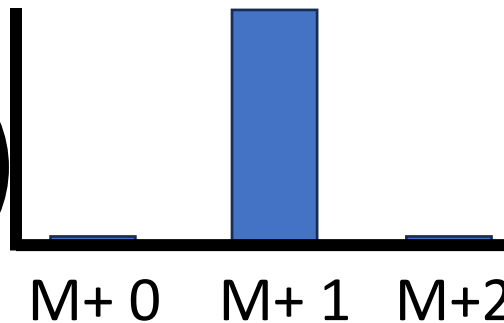
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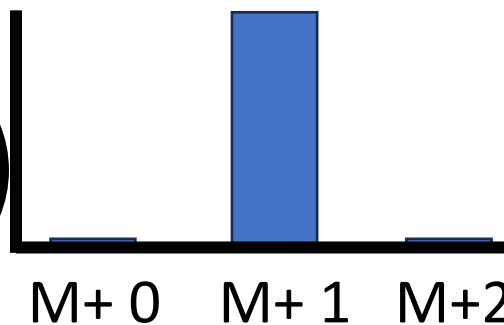
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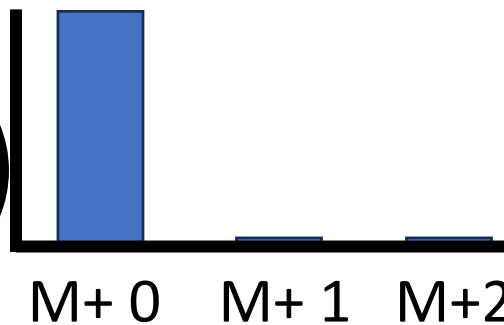
1 **2**



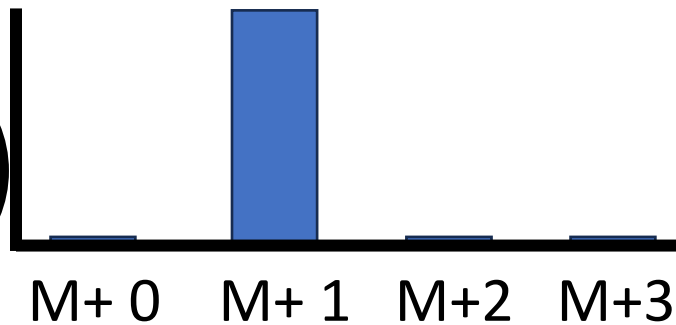
2 **3**



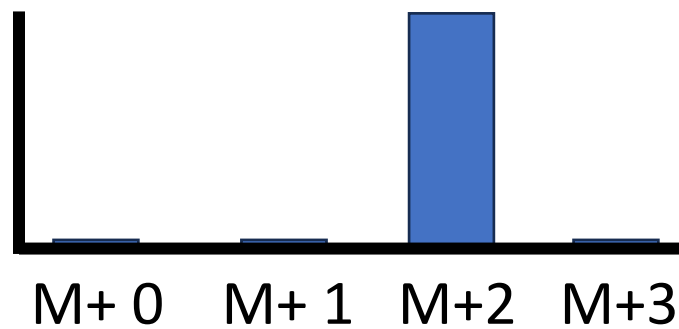
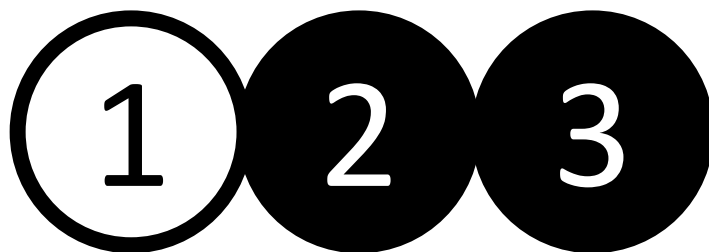
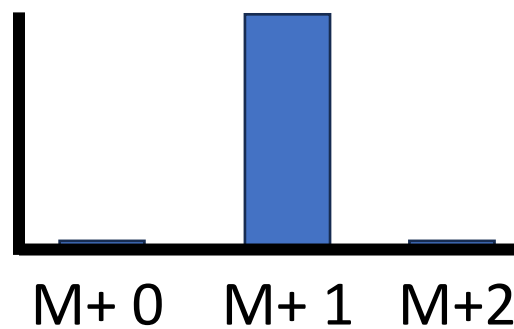
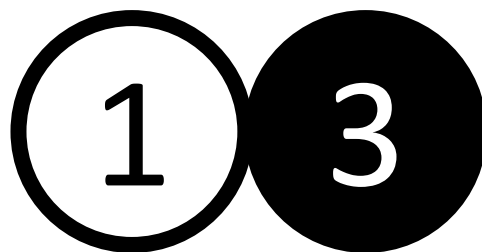
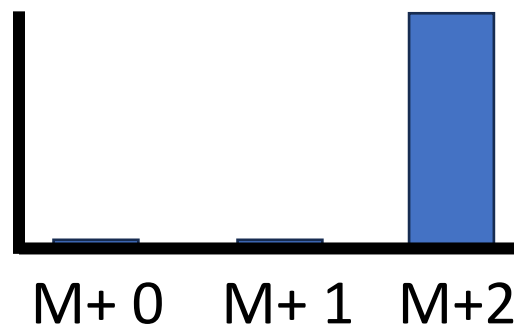
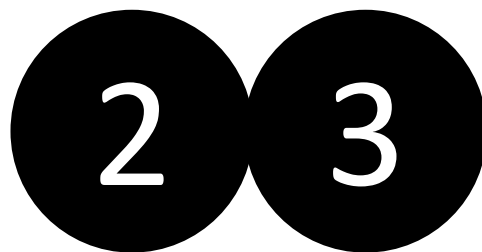
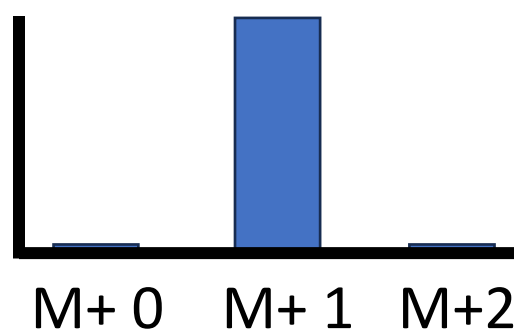
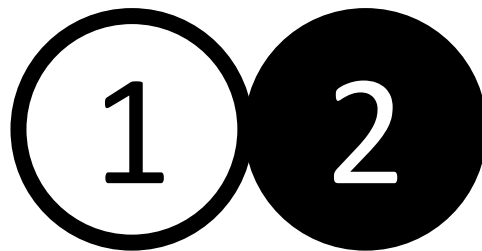
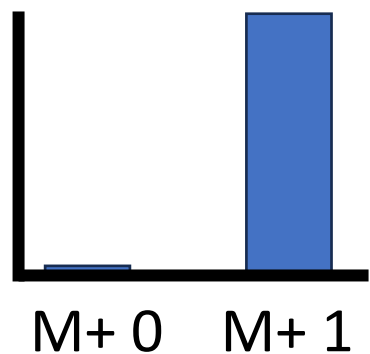
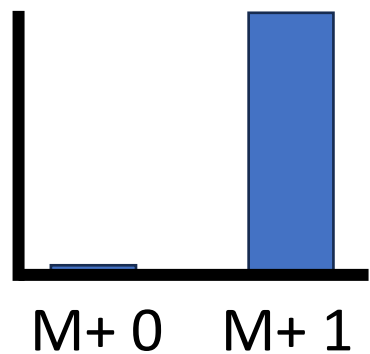
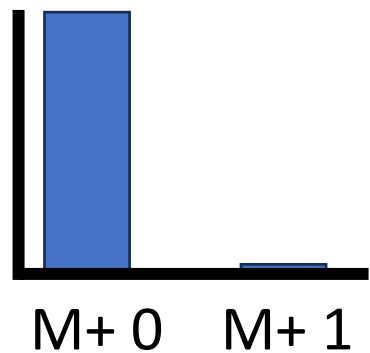
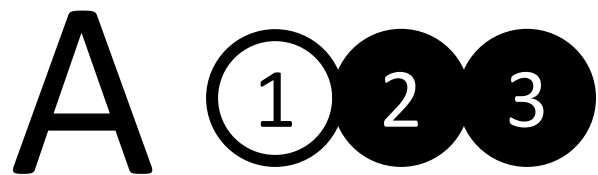
1 **3**



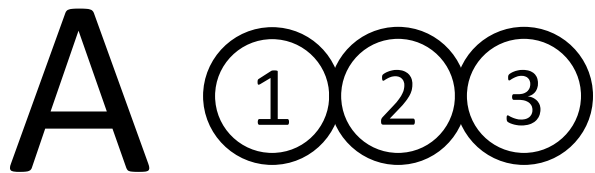
1 **2** **3**



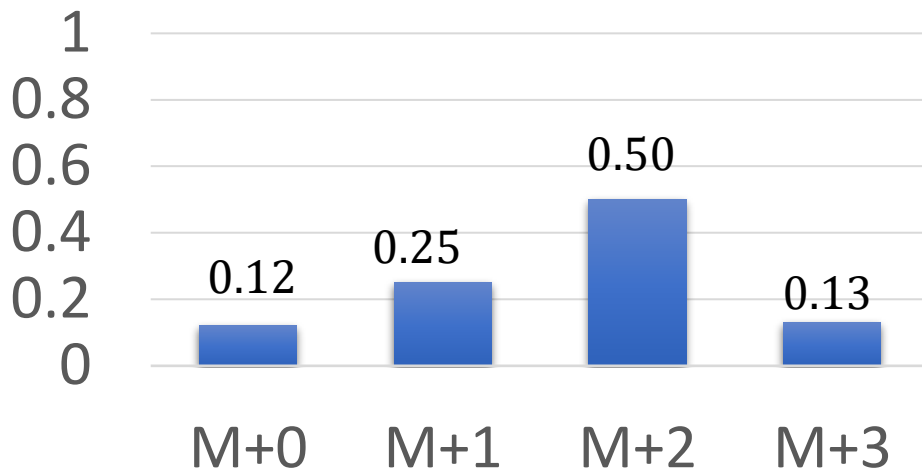
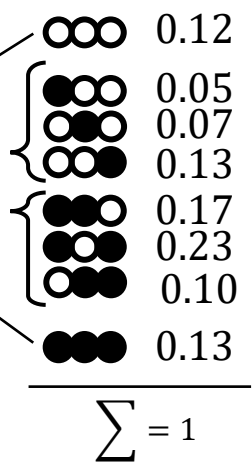
EMUs



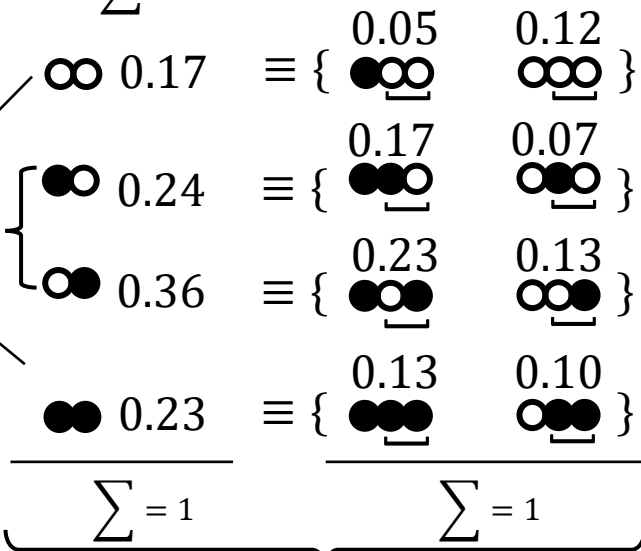
EMUs



$$A_{123} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{123,M+0} \\ A_{123,M+1} \\ A_{123,M+2} \\ A_{123,M+3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.12 \\ 0.25 \\ 0.50 \\ 0.13 \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^4 \text{EMU}_i$$



$$A_{23} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{23,M+0} \\ A_{23,M+1} \\ A_{23,M+2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.17 \\ 0.60 \\ 0.23 \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^4 \text{EMU}_i$$

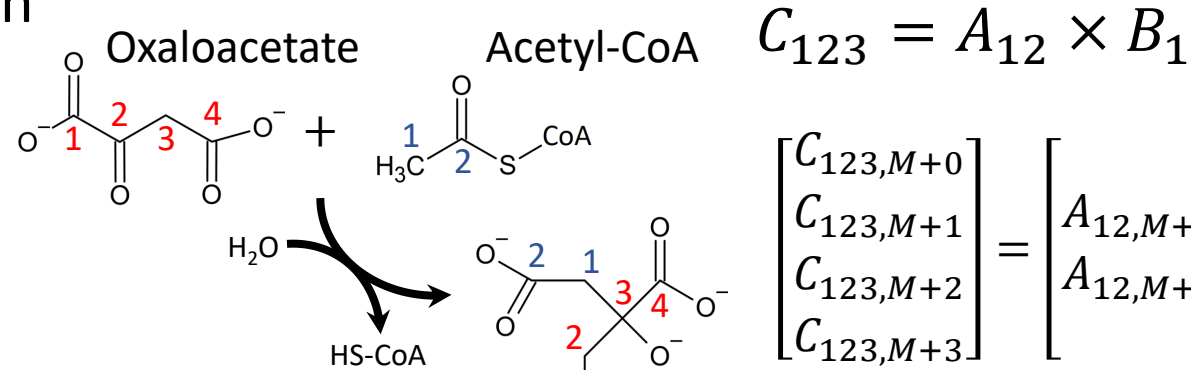
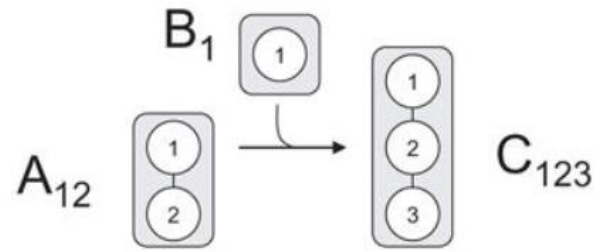


Mass Isotopomers
Mass fractions

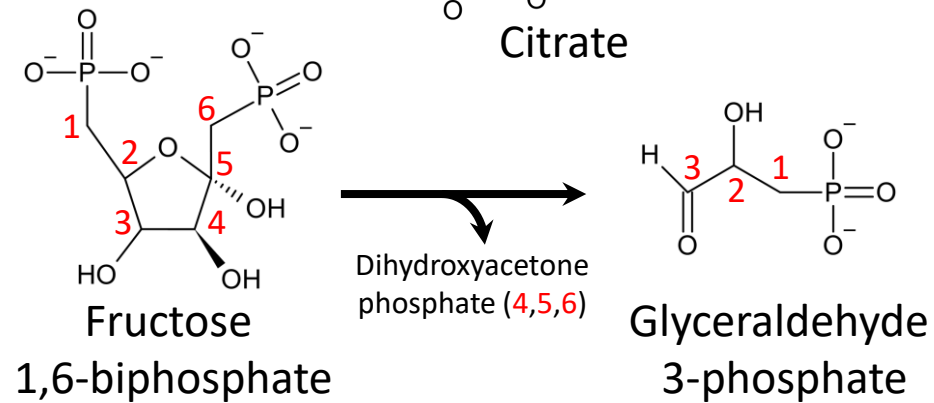
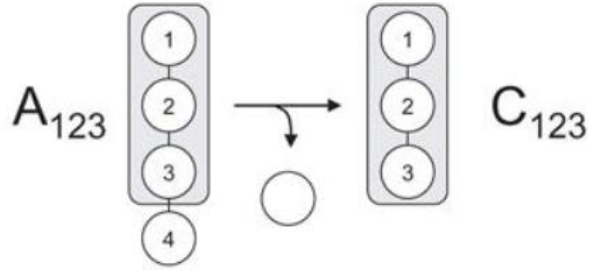
Isotopomers

EMUs

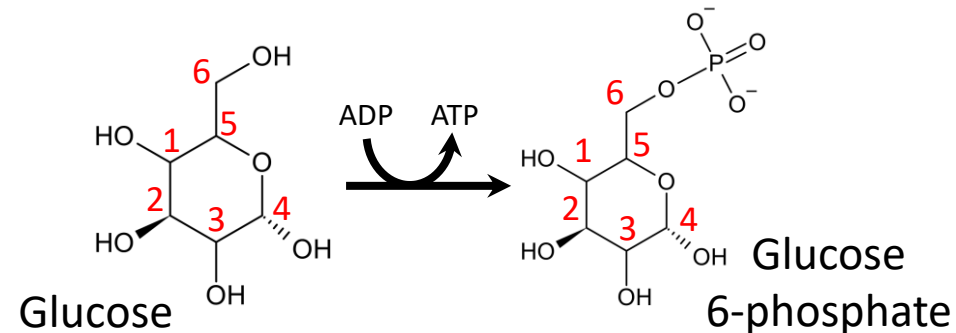
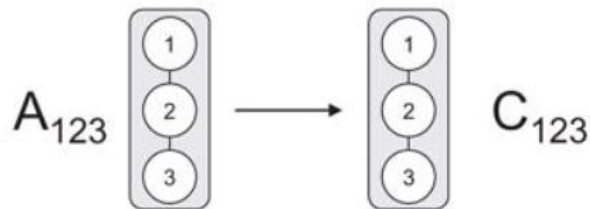
A) Condensation reaction



B) Cleavage reaction

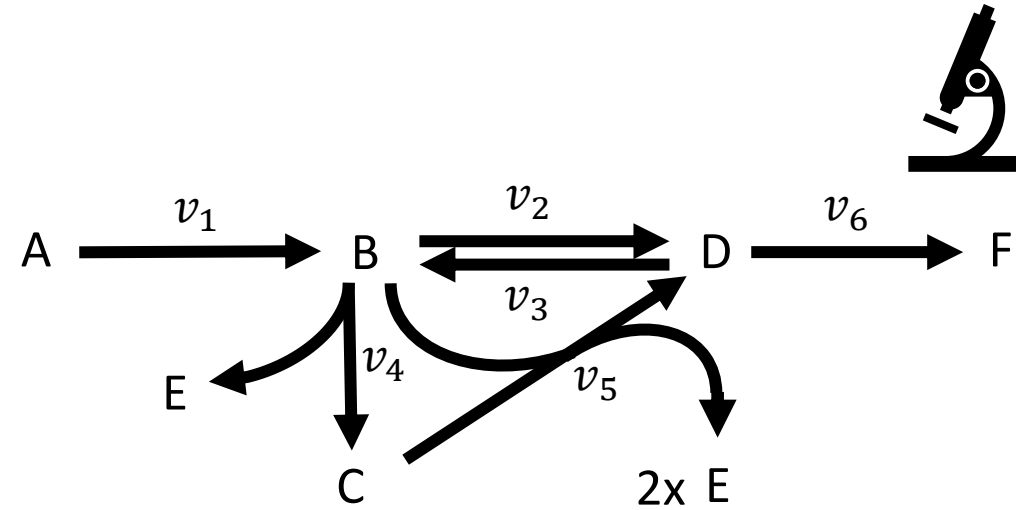
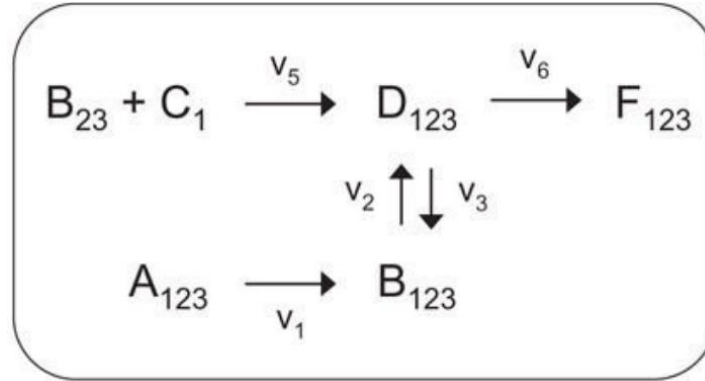
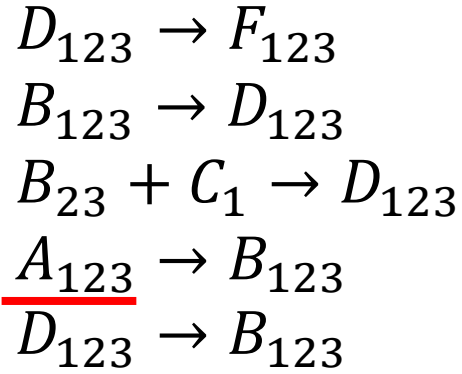


C) Unimolecular reaction

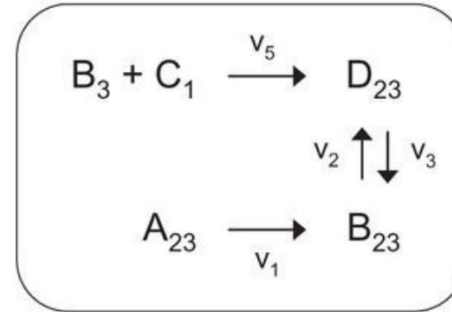
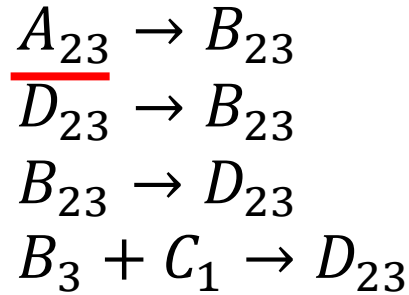


EMU Decomposition

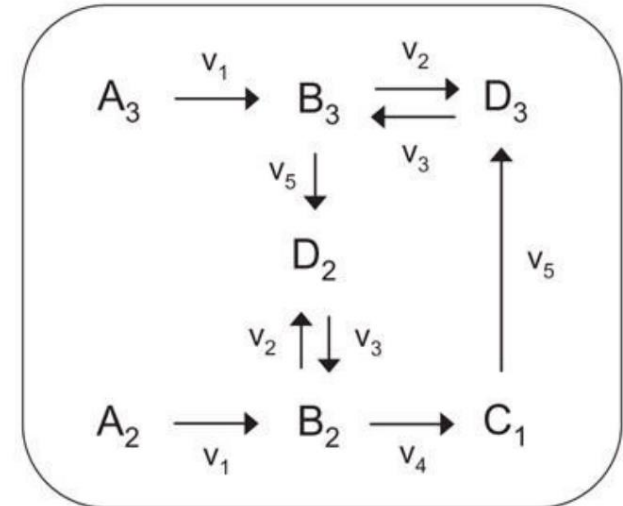
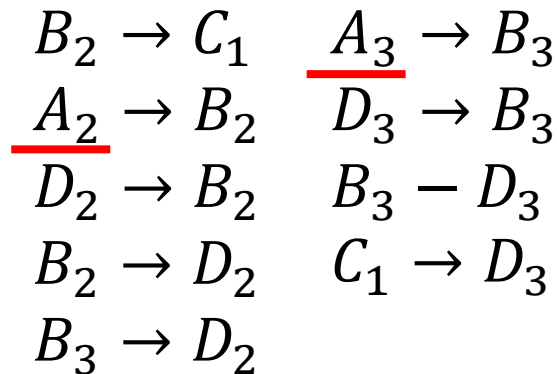
EMU
size 3



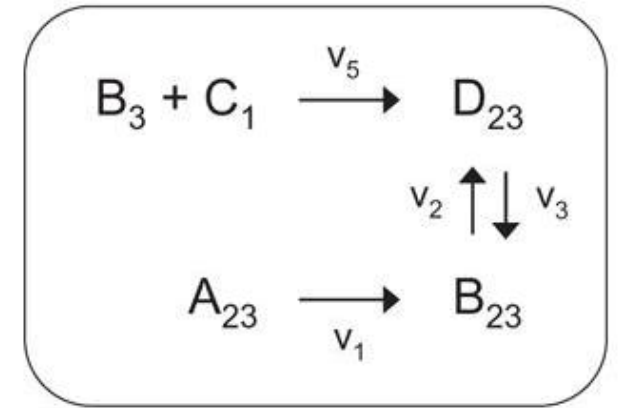
EMU
size 2



EMU
size 1



Reaction network for EMU size 2



$$\frac{d}{dt} D_{23} = v_5 \cdot (B_3 \times C_1) - v_3 \cdot D_{23} + v_2 \cdot B_{23} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} B_{23} = v_1 \cdot A_{23} + v_3 \cdot D_{23} - v_2 \cdot B_{23} = 0$$

$$-v_3 \cdot D_{23} + v_2 \cdot B_{23} = -v_5 \cdot (B_3 \times C_1)$$

$$+v_3 \cdot D_{23} - v_2 \cdot B_{23} = -v_1 \cdot A_{23}$$

$$v_2 = v_1 + v_3 + 2v_4$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -v_3 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} v_2 \\ -v_2 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Unknown Components}} \begin{bmatrix} D_{23} \\ B_{23} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -v_5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} (B_3 \times C_1) \\ A_{23} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Known Components}}$$

Unknown Components

Known Components

$$\begin{aligned}
 (B_3 \times C_1) &= [B_{3,M+0} \quad B_{3,M+1}] \times [C_{1,M+0} \quad C_{1,M+1}] \\
 &= \underbrace{[B_{3,M+0} \cdot C_{1,M+0}]}_{\text{New M+0 term}} \quad \underbrace{[B_{3,M+0} \cdot C_{1,M+1} + B_{3,M+1} \cdot C_{1,M+0}]}_{\text{New M+1 term}} \quad \underbrace{[B_{3,M+1} \cdot C_{1,M+1}]}_{\text{New M+2 term}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Discrete Convolution (Cauchy product)

$$\begin{bmatrix} D_{23} \\ B_{23} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} D_{23,M+0} & D_{23,M+1} & D_{23,M+2} \\ B_{23,M+0} & B_{23,M+1} & B_{23,M+2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -v_3 & v_1 + v_3 \\ v_3 & -v_1 - v_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} D_{23} \\ B_{23} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (B_3 \times C_1) \\ A_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} F_{123} = 0 \cdot (B_{23} \times C_1) + 0 \cdot B_{123} + v_6 \cdot D_{123} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} D_{123} = v_5 \cdot (B_{23} \times C_1) + v_2 \cdot B_{123} - (v_3 + v_6) \cdot D_{123} = 0$$

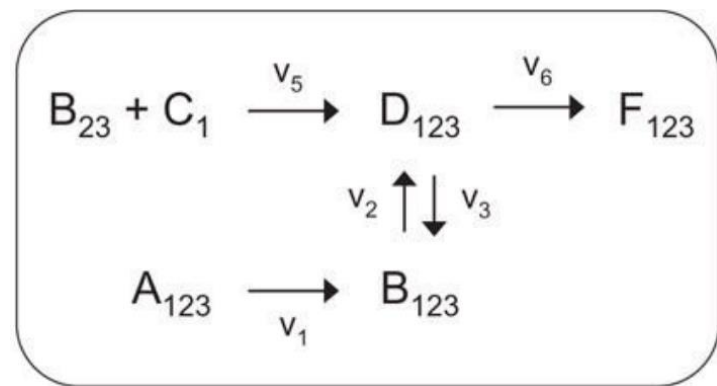
$$\frac{d}{dt} B_{123} = v_1 \cdot A_{123} - v_2 \cdot B_{123} + v_3 \cdot D_{123} = 0$$

$$0 \cdot B_{123} + v_6 \cdot D_{123} = 0 \cdot (B_{23} \times C_1)$$

$$v_2 \cdot B_{123} - (v_3 + v_6) \cdot D_{123} = -v_5 \cdot (B_{23} \times C_1)$$

$$v_2 \cdot B_{123} + v_3 \cdot D_{123} = -v_1 \cdot A_{123}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & v_6 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_3 - v_6 & v_2 \\ 0 & v_3 & v_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{123} \\ D_{123} \\ B_{123} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (B_{23} \times C_1) \\ A_{123} \end{bmatrix}$$



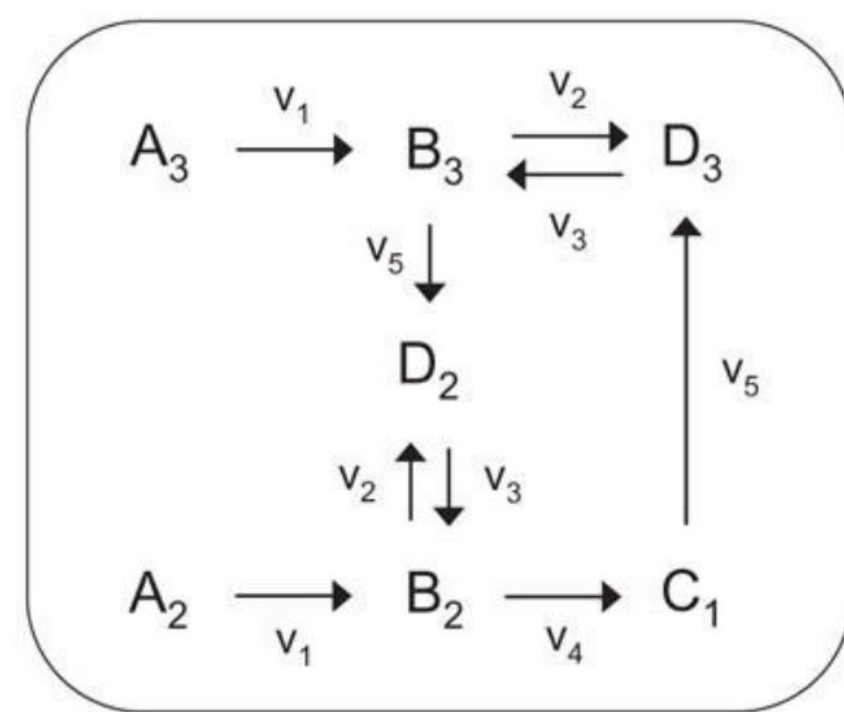
$$\frac{d}{dt} C_1 = v_4 \cdot B_2 - v_5 \cdot C_1 = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} B_2 = v_1 \cdot A_2 + v_3 \cdot D_2 - (v_2 + v_4) \cdot B_2 = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} D_2 = v_5 \cdot B_3 + v_2 \cdot B_2 - v_3 \cdot D_2 = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} B_3 = v_1 \cdot A_3 + v_3 \cdot D_3 - (v_2 + v_5) \cdot B_3 = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} D_3 = v_2 \cdot B_3 + v_5 \cdot C_1 - v_2 \cdot D_3 = 0$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} -v_5 & v_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_2 - v_4 & v_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & v_2 & -v_3 & v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -v_2 - v_5 & v_3 \\ v_5 & 0 & 0 & v_2 & -v_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ B_2 \\ D_2 \\ B_3 \\ D_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -v_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{EMU size 1} \begin{bmatrix} -v_5 & v_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_2 - v_4 & v_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & v_2 & -v_3 & v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -v_2 - v_5 & v_3 \\ v_5 & 0 & 0 & v_2 & -v_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ B_2 \\ D_2 \\ B_3 \\ D_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -v_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_{1,1}(v) \quad X_{1,1} = B_{1,1}(v) \quad Y_{1,1}(y_1^{in})$$

$$\text{EMU size 2} \begin{bmatrix} -v_5 - v_2 & v_2 \\ v_3 & -v_1 - v_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} D_{23} \\ B_{23} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (B_3 \times C_1) \\ A_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_{2,1}(v) \quad X_{2,1} = B_{2,1}(v) \quad Y_{2,1}(y_2^{in}, X_{1,1})$$

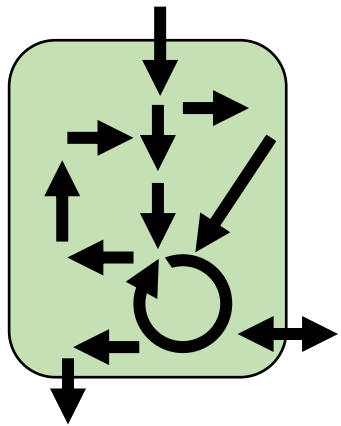
$$\text{EMU size 3} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & v_6 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_3 - v_6 & v_2 \\ 0 & v_3 & v_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{123} \\ D_{123} \\ B_{123} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (B_{23} \times C_1) \\ A_{123} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_{3,1}(v) \quad X_{3,1} = B_{3,1}(v) \quad Y_{3,1}(y_3^{in}, X_{2,1}, X_{1,1})$$

$$A_{n,k}(v)X_{n,k} = B_{n,k}(v)Y_{n,k}(y_n^{in}, X_{n-1}, \dots, X_1) \rightarrow X_i = A_i^{-1}B_iY_i \quad \begin{matrix} \forall i = 1 \dots n \\ k = 1 \end{matrix}$$

FBA

Flux balance analysis

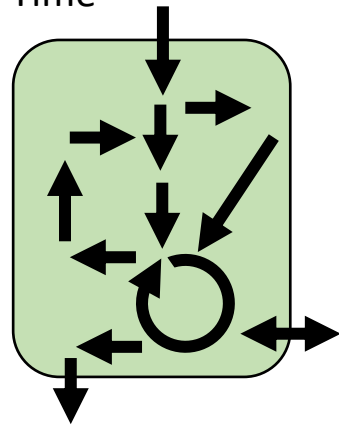
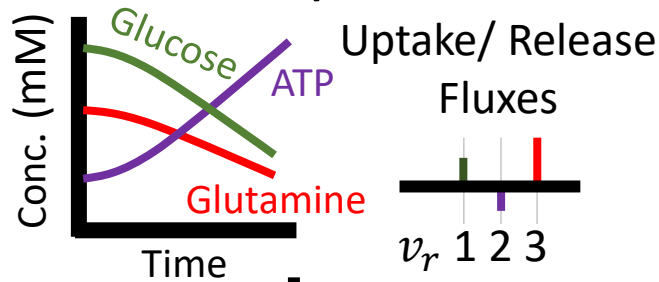


$$\begin{aligned} & \max V_{growth} \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & lb < \bar{v} < ub \end{aligned}$$

Large scale models
(genome-scale)

MFA

Metabolic flux analysis

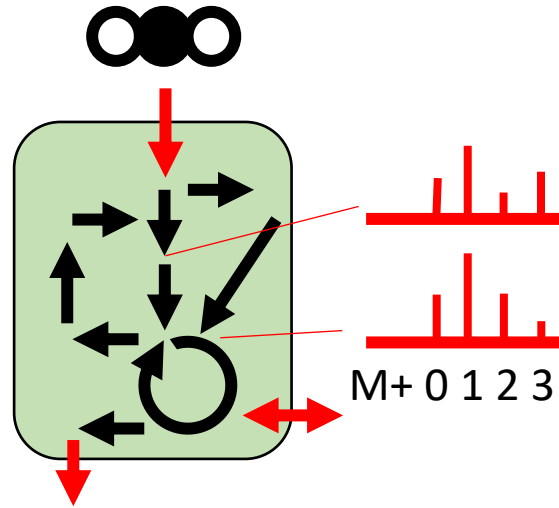


$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum (v_r - \hat{v}_r) \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & \bar{v} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Small scale models
(Core metabolism)

¹³C-MFA

Isotopic labelling

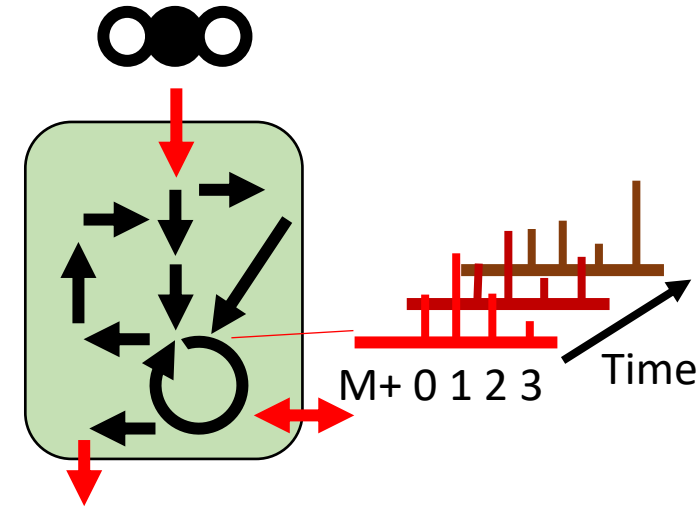


$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum (x_i(\bar{v}) - \hat{x}_i) \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & \bar{v} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

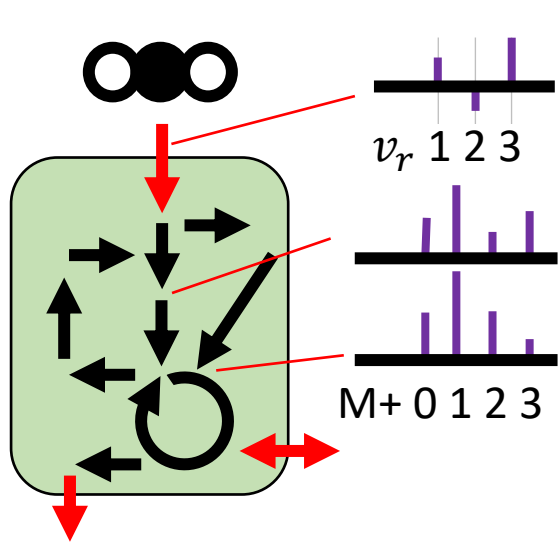
Medium scale models
(Metabolomics)

¹³C-INST MFA

Isotopically Nonstationary Metabolic flux analysis



$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum \sum (x_{i,t}(\bar{v}) - \hat{x}_{i,t}) \\ & s.t. S * \bar{v} = 0 \\ & \bar{v} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



 Experimental Data

 Model

$$\hat{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{vec}(\hat{X}_{1,1}^T) \\ \vdots \\ \text{vec}(\hat{X}_{n,k}^T) \\ \hat{v}_r \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} \text{vec}(X_{1,1}^T) \\ \vdots \\ \text{vec}(X_{n,k}^T) \\ v_r \end{bmatrix}$$

$$X_{n,k} = A_{n,k}^{-1}(\bar{v})B_{n,k}(\bar{v})Y_{n,k}$$

$$\bar{v} = N * \bar{u}$$

$$\text{if } X = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \text{ then } \text{vec}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ c \\ b \\ d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\min \sum (x_i(\bar{v}) - \hat{x}_i)$$

$$\text{s. t. } S * \bar{v} = 0$$

$$\bar{v} \geq 0$$

$$\arg \min_{\bar{u}} \sum (x_i(\bar{u}) - \hat{x}_i)$$

$$\text{s. t. } \bar{v} \geq 0$$

$$c(x, \bar{v}) = 0$$

$$\underbrace{A_{n,k}(v)X_{n,k} - B_{n,k}(v)Y_{n,k}(y_n^{in}, X_{n-1}, \dots, X_1) = 0}_{\text{Isotopic steady state}}$$

$$S * \bar{v} = 0 \text{ --- Metabolic steady state}$$

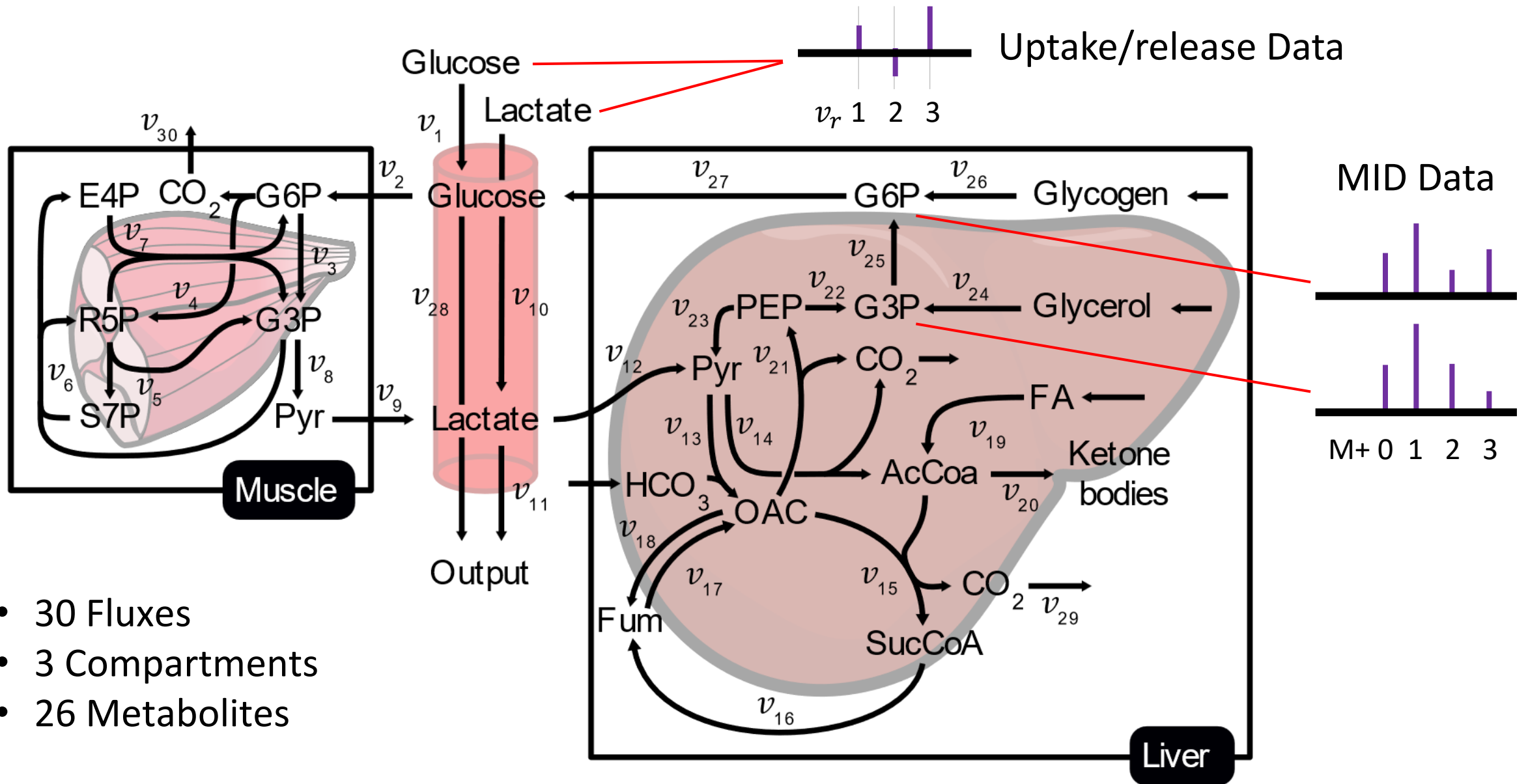
\bar{v} – flux vector

S – Stoichiometric matrix

\bar{u} – Independent flux vector

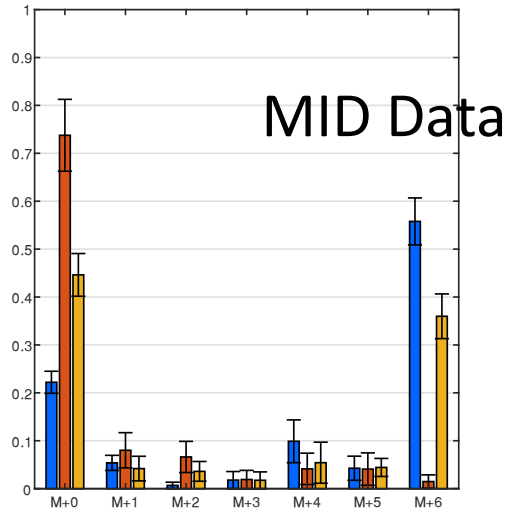
N – Null space matrix

Glucose metabolism Model

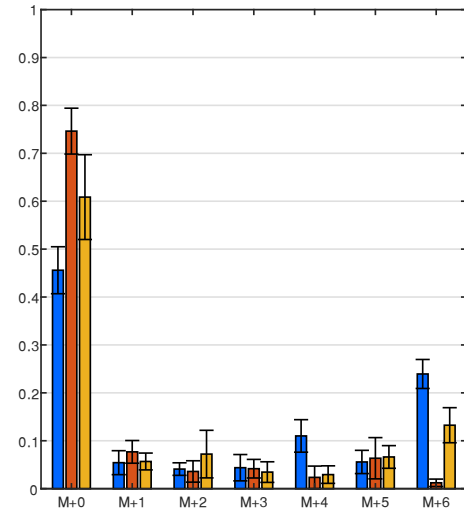


- 30 Fluxes
- 3 Compartments
- 26 Metabolites

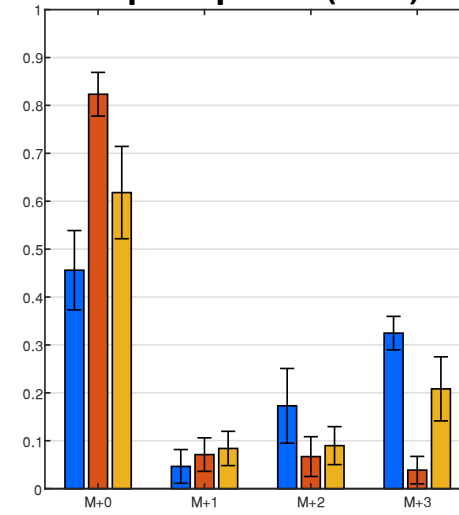
Glucose



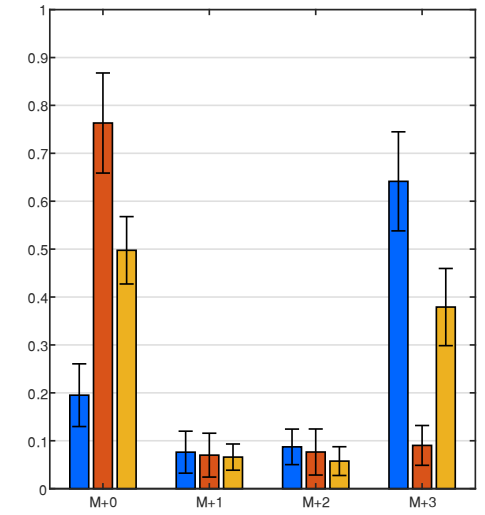
Glucose 6-phosphate (G6P)



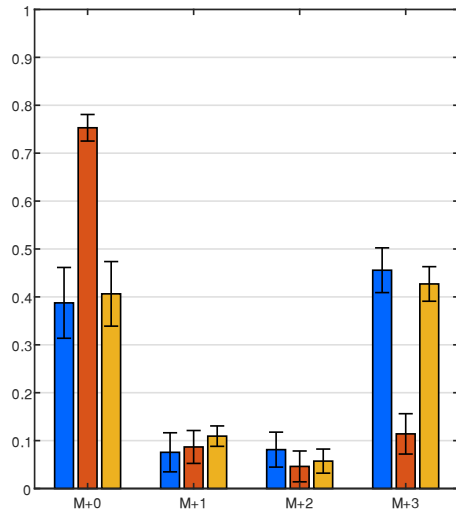
Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate (G3P)



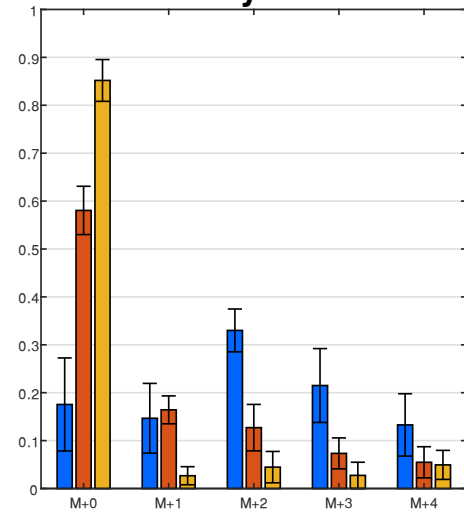
Pyruvate



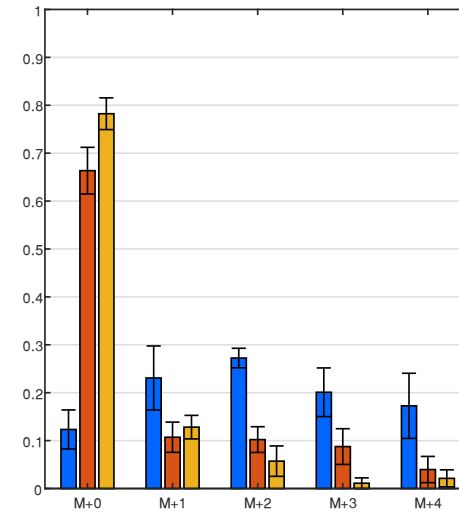
Lactate



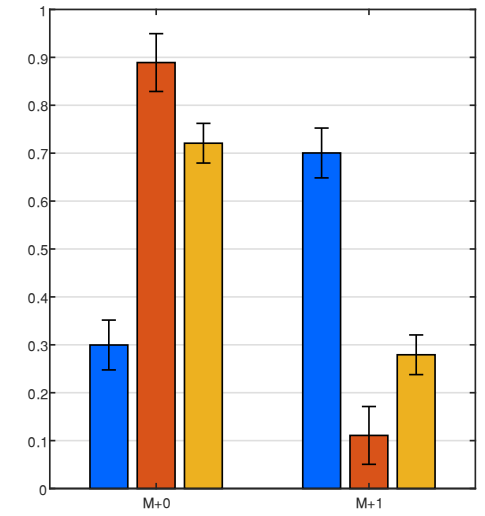
Succinyl-CoA



Fumarate



Carbon dioxide

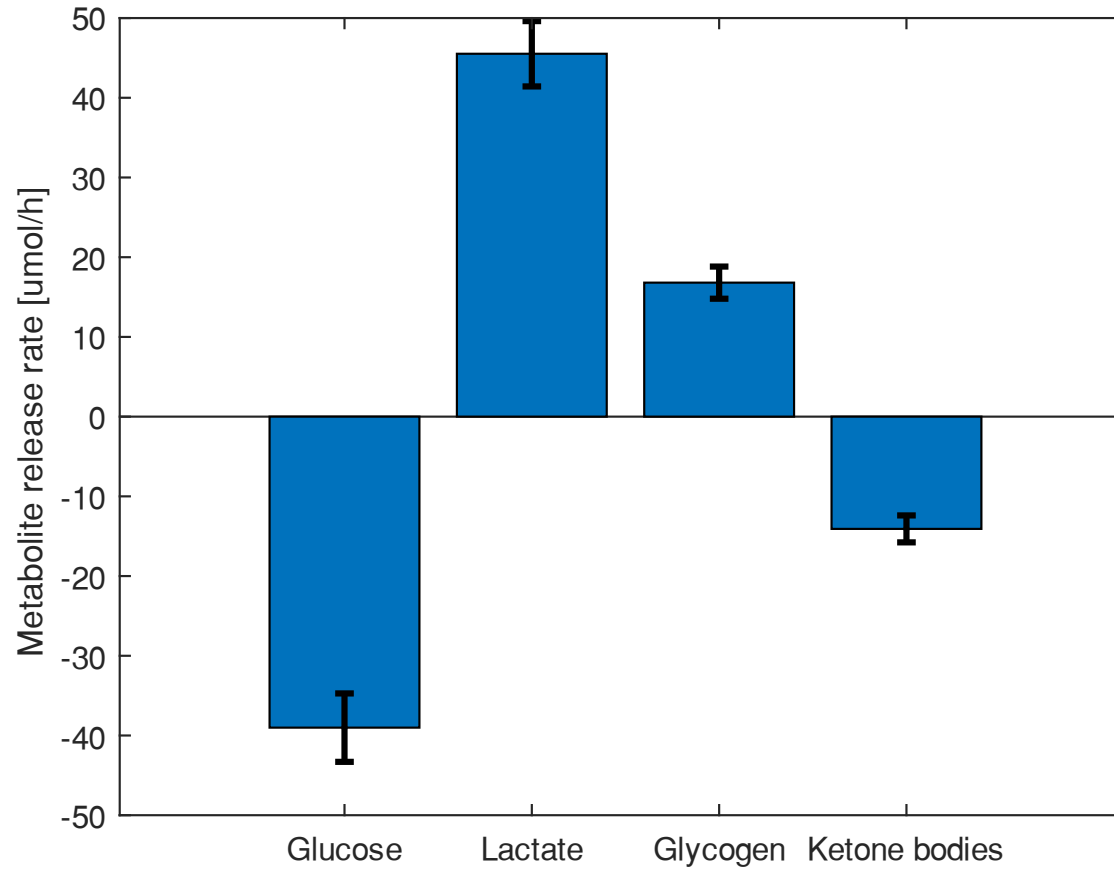


Healthy [U-¹³C] Glucose

Healthy [U-¹³C] Lactate

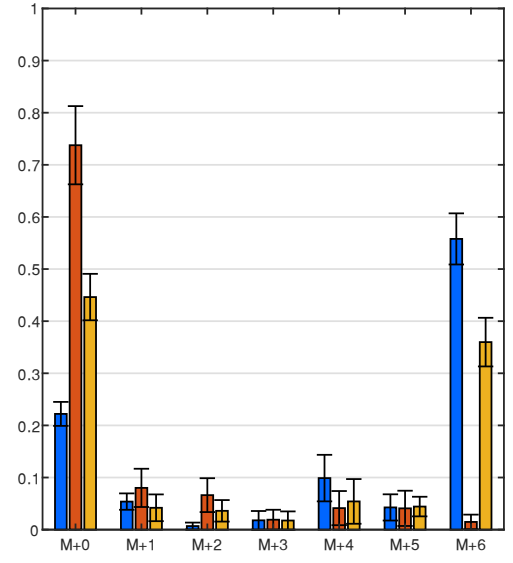
Diabetic [U-¹³C] Glucose

Uptake/release Data

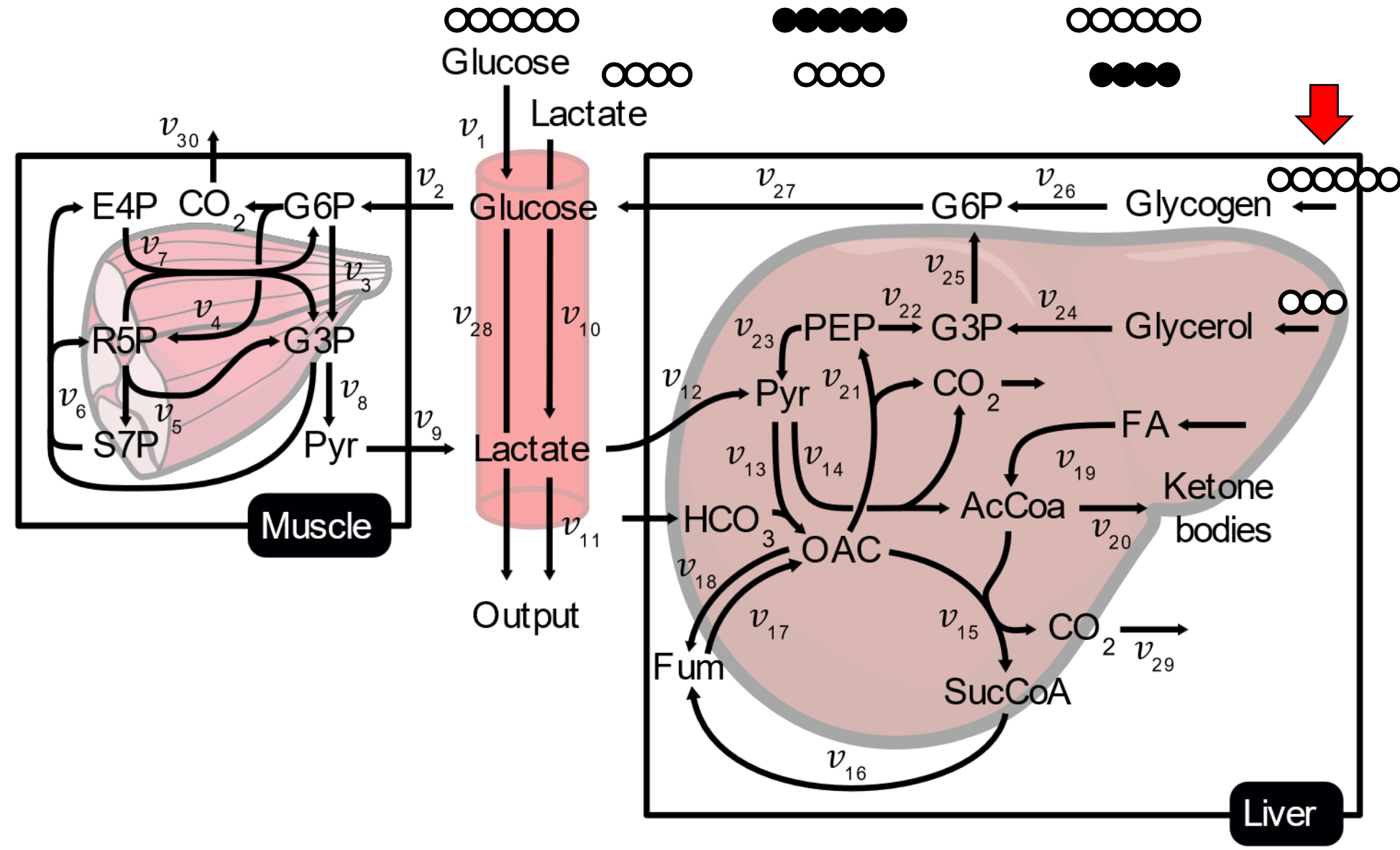
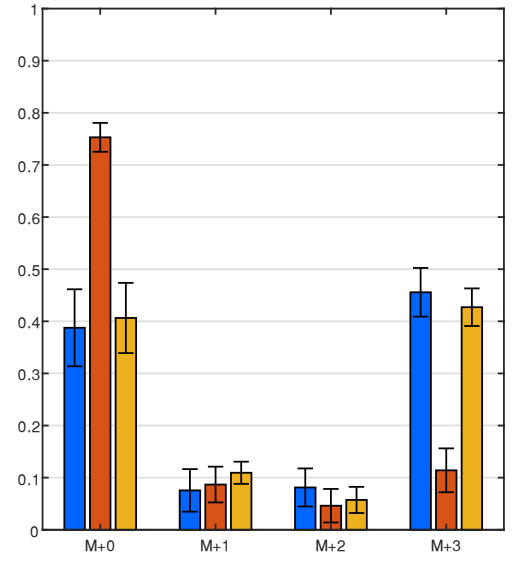


■ Healthy [U-¹³C] Glucose
 ■ Healthy [U-¹³C] Lactate
 ■ Diabetic [U-¹³C] Glucose

Glucose



Lactate



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