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13C Metabolic Flux Analysis of CHO Cells with Parallel Labeling Experiments

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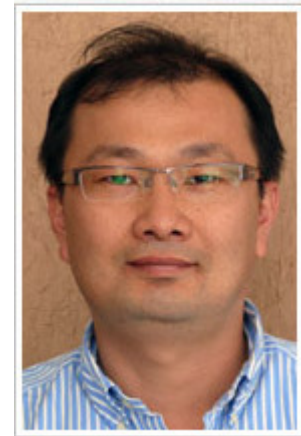
^{13}C Metabolic Flux Analysis of CHO Cells with Parallel Labeling Experiments

Maciek Antoniewicz, Woo Suk Ahn

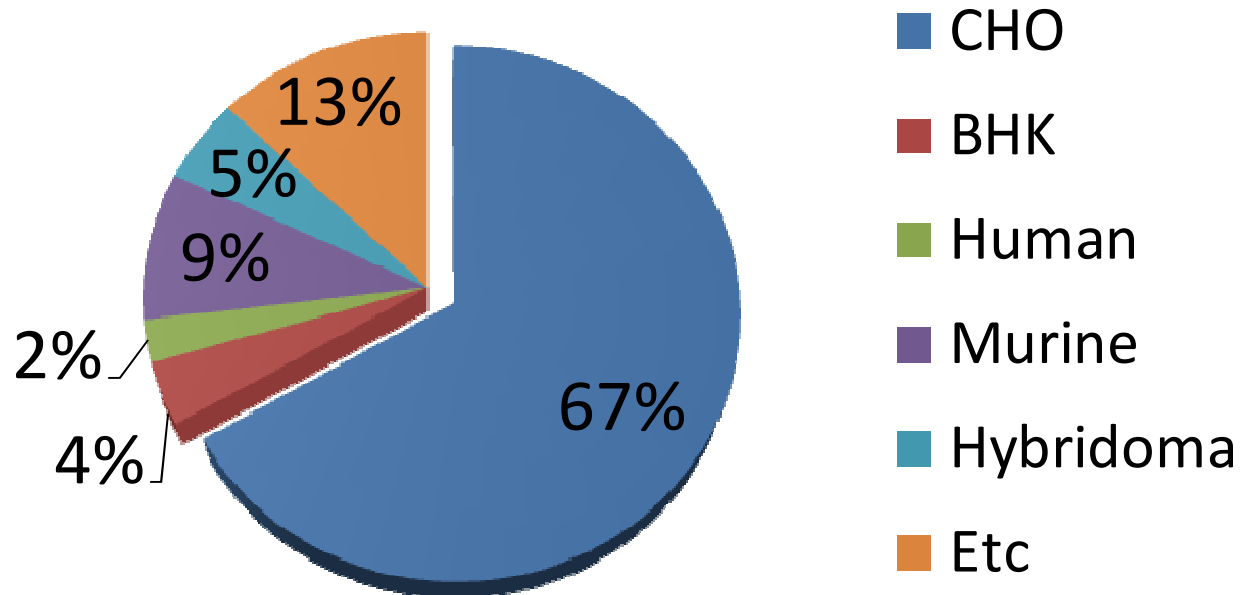
University of Delaware

Metabolic Engineering IX

June 7, 2012



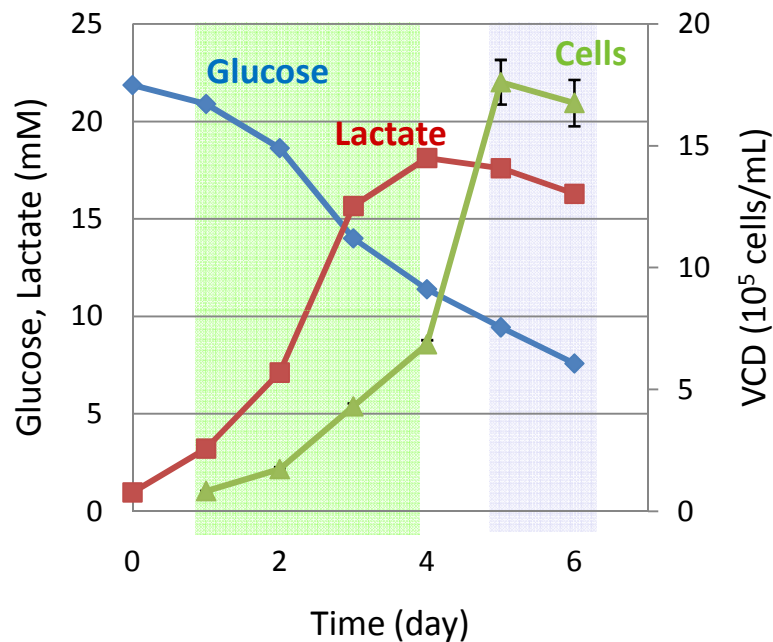
CHO cells



- **Most popular cell line to produce biotherapeutics**
- **CHO metabolism is still poorly understood**
- **New insights needed for medium optimization and cell line screening**

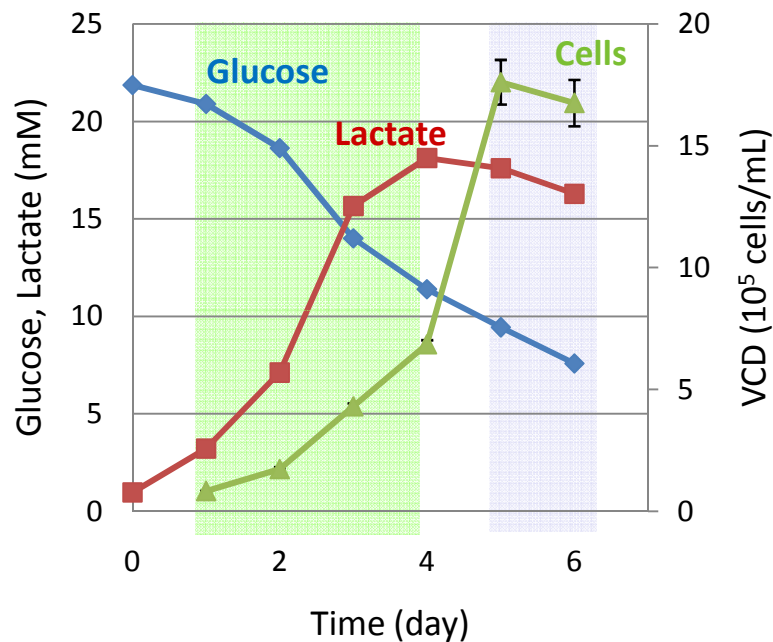
Flux analysis in CHO cells

Metabolism changes in time

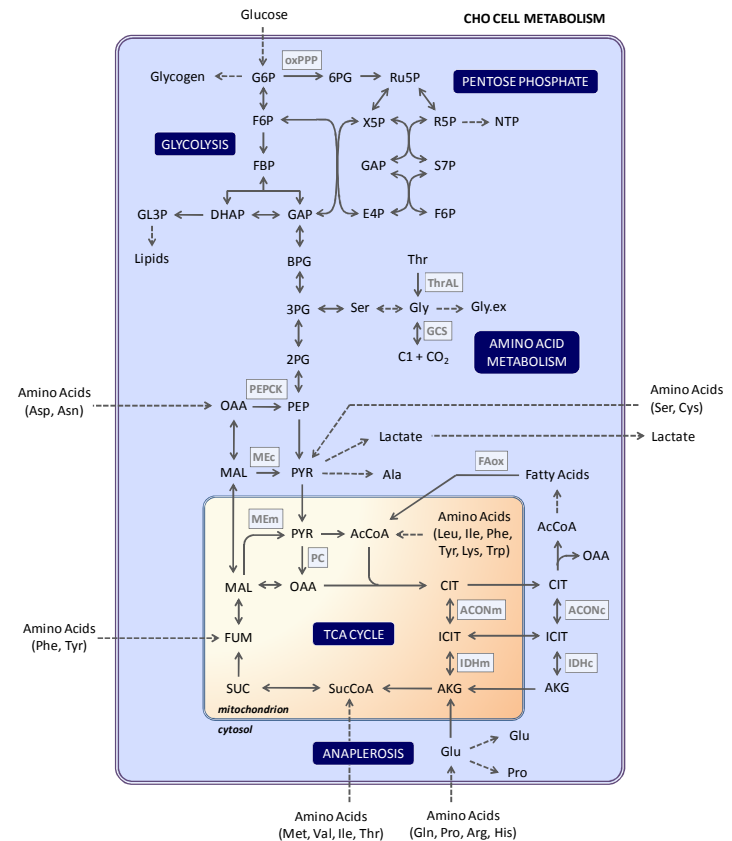


Flux analysis in CHO cells

Metabolism changes in time



Metabolism is complex



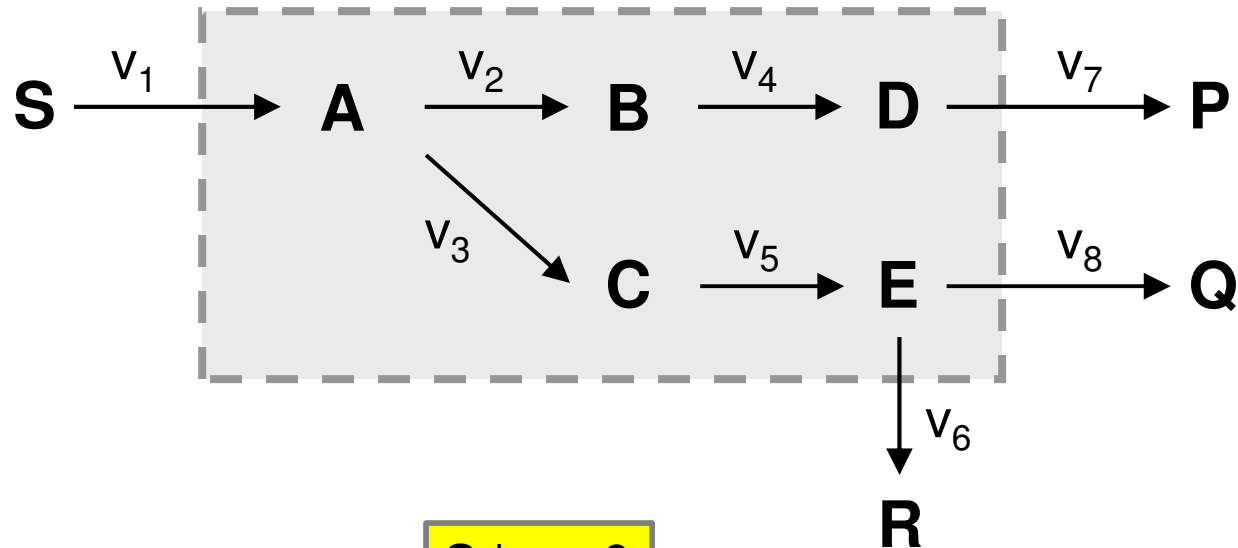
Metabolic Flux Analysis in CHO cells

Table 1. Overview of metabolic flux analysis studies in CHO cells

Cell line	Culture method	Flux analysis method	Major achievements	Year [Ref.]
γ-CHO	Continuous	MFA	MFA validated the metabolism of amino acids derived from peptide in serum-free media.	1999 [101]
γ-CHO	Continuous	MFA	Carbon utilization efficiency was estimated by MFA. IFN-γ glycosylation was related to TCA cycle flux, not glycolysis.	1999 [102]
CHO TF 70R	Continuous	MFA	The efficiency of carbon utilization was estimated by MFA and linked to reduced production rate of t-PA.	2001 [103]
CHO-320	Batch	MFA + kinetic model	Macroscopic dynamical modeling approach was linked to a simplified network model for MFA.	2004 [110]
CHO-320	Batch	MFA + kinetic model	Dynamic modeling was linked to MFA to estimate fluxes during cell growth, transition and stationary phase.	2006 [112]
CHO TF 70R	Batch	MFA	Co-feeding of glucose and galactose resulted in metabolic shift from lactate production to consumption.	2006 [104]
Unknown	Perfusion	MFA	Intracellular fluxes were estimated by quasi real-time MFA in perfusion culture.	2006 [107]
Unknown	Perfusion	MFA	Error propagation from measurements to metabolic fluxes was determined for MFA.	2009 [106]
Unknown	Perfusion	¹³ C-MFA	MFA and ¹³ C-MFA were compared. Flux agreement required αPPP and PC fluxes to be set by ¹³ C-MFA data.	2010 [114]
Super-CHO	Batch	MFA	Differences in CHO cell metabolism and hybridoma cell metabolism were identified using MFA.	2010 [109]
CHO-320	Batch	MFA	To improve flux observability, the number and type of available measurements were optimized for MFA.	2010 [108]
GS-CHO SF18	Fed-batch	MFA and ¹³ C-MFA	αPPP flux was estimated by ¹³ C-MFA. MFA was used to estimate fluxes in the rest of network model.	2011 [115]
Unknown	Fed-batch and continuous	MFA	Amino acid composition of culture medium was optimized using MFA. By-product levels were reduced and cell density and antibody production were enhanced.	2011 [100]
CHO-K1	Fed-batch	MFA + kinetic model	MFA was integrated with a kinetic model to simulate metabolic dynamics in fed-batch cultures.	2011 [111]
dhfr-CHO	Fed-batch	MFA + kinetic model	Kinetic models for growing and non-growing subpopulations of cells were integrated with a simplified MFA model.	2011 [113]
CHO-K1	Fed-batch	¹³ C-MFA and ¹³ C-NMFA	Metabolic fluxes were determined for growth phase and stationary phase in a fed-batch culture using ¹³ C-based MFA.	2011 [105]

Ahn and Antoniewicz, *Biotechnol J*, 7: 61-74, 2012

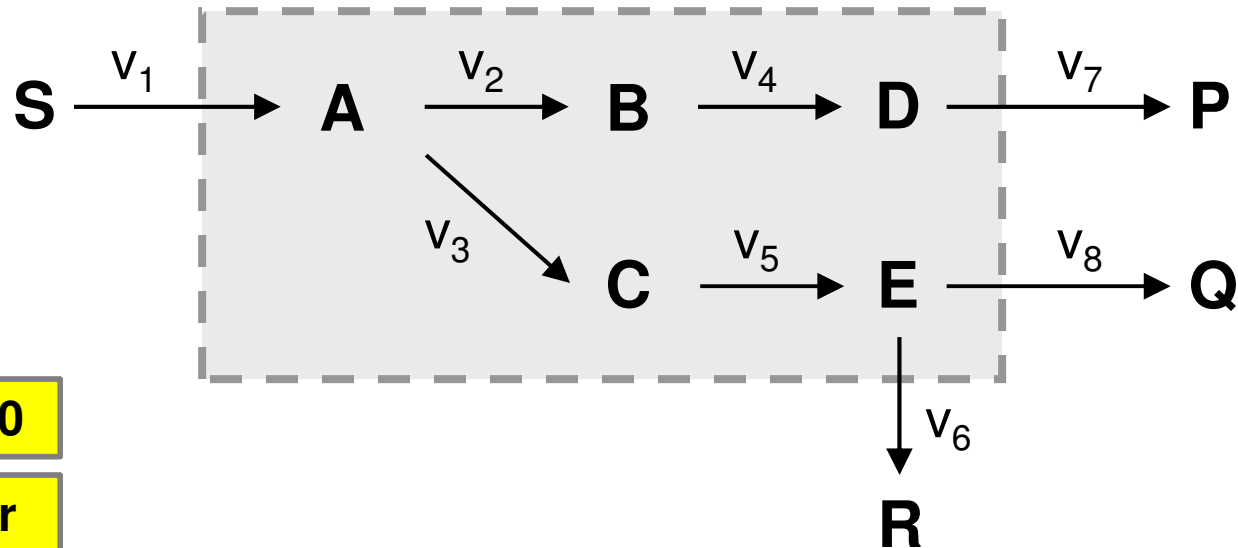
Metabolic Flux Analysis (MFA)



$$S * v = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{A} \\
 \text{B} \\
 \text{C} \\
 \text{D} \\
 \text{E}
 \end{array}
 \begin{pmatrix}
 v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_4 & v_5 & v_6 & v_7 & v_8 \\
 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1
 \end{pmatrix}
 *
 \begin{pmatrix}
 v_1 \\
 v_2 \\
 v_3 \\
 v_4 \\
 v_5 \\
 v_6 \\
 v_7 \\
 v_8
 \end{pmatrix}
 =
 \begin{pmatrix}
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0
 \end{pmatrix}$$

Metabolic Flux Analysis (MFA)



$$S \cdot v = 0$$

$$R \cdot v = r$$

	v_1	v_2	v_3	v_4	v_5	v_6	v_7	v_8	
A	1	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \\ v_5 \\ v_6 \\ v_7 \\ v_8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ r_S \\ r_P \\ r_Q \\ r_R \end{pmatrix}$
B	0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	
C	0	0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	
D	0	0	0	1	0	0	-1	0	
E	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	-1	
S	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
R	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	

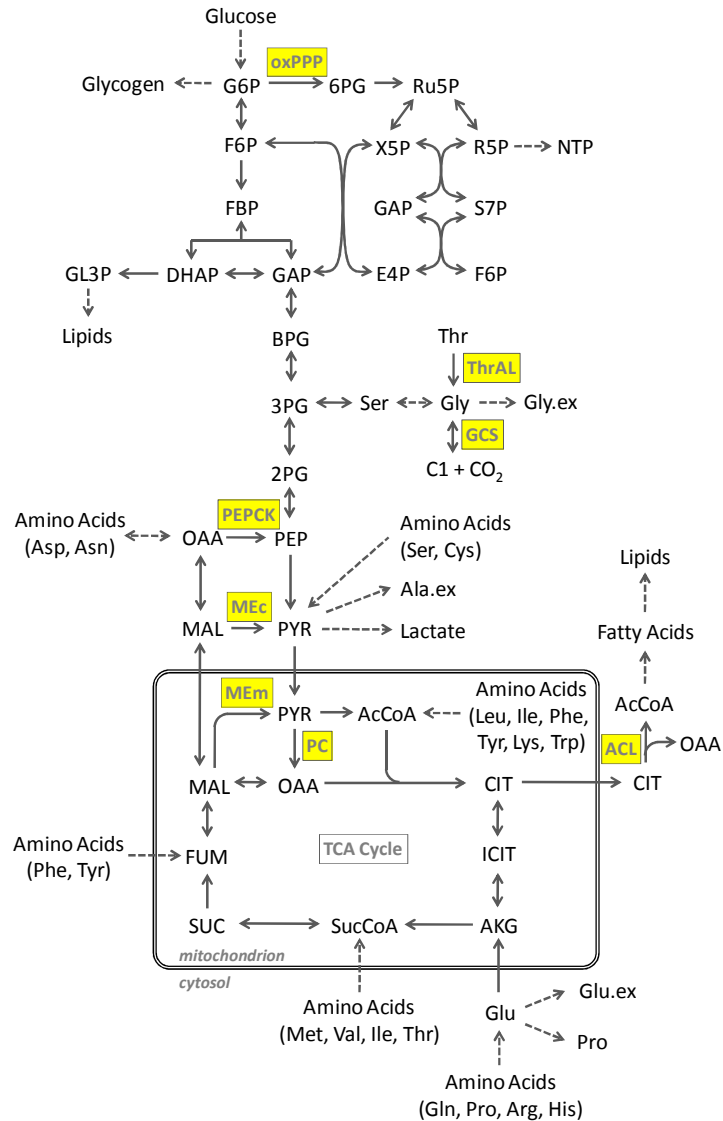
Metabolic Flux Analysis (MFA)

Metabolic flux analysis is only as reliable as your data and modeling assumptions

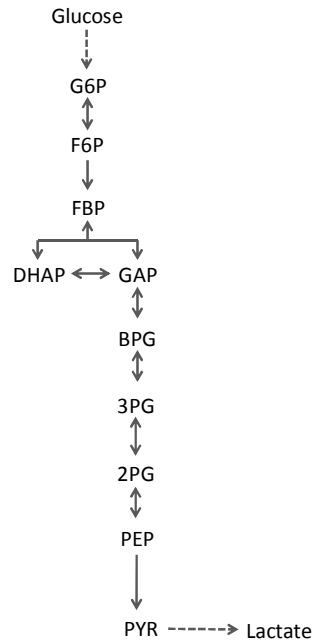
- **Observability Problem**

- If $\text{rank}(\text{data}) = \text{number of fluxes}$ → all fluxes can be determined
- If $\text{rank}(\text{data}) < \text{number of fluxes}$ → not all fluxes can be uniquely determined

Model of CHO metabolism

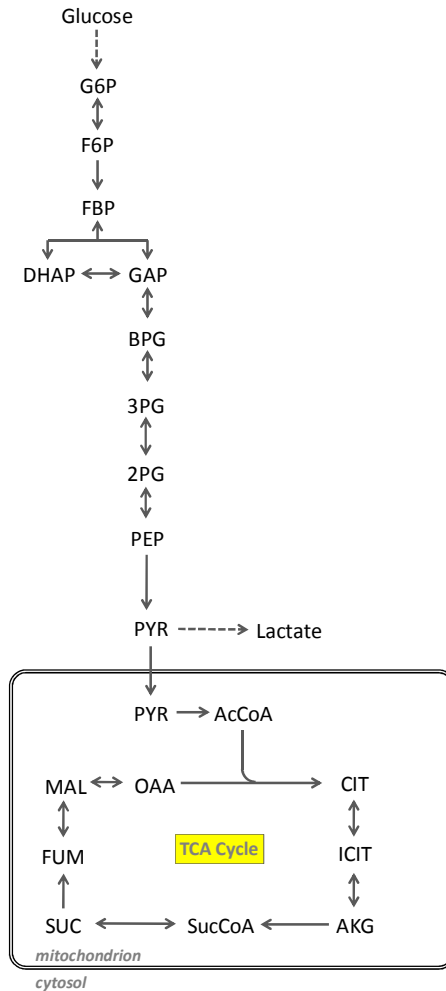


Model of CHO metabolism



- External Measurements
 - Glucose

Model of CHO metabolism

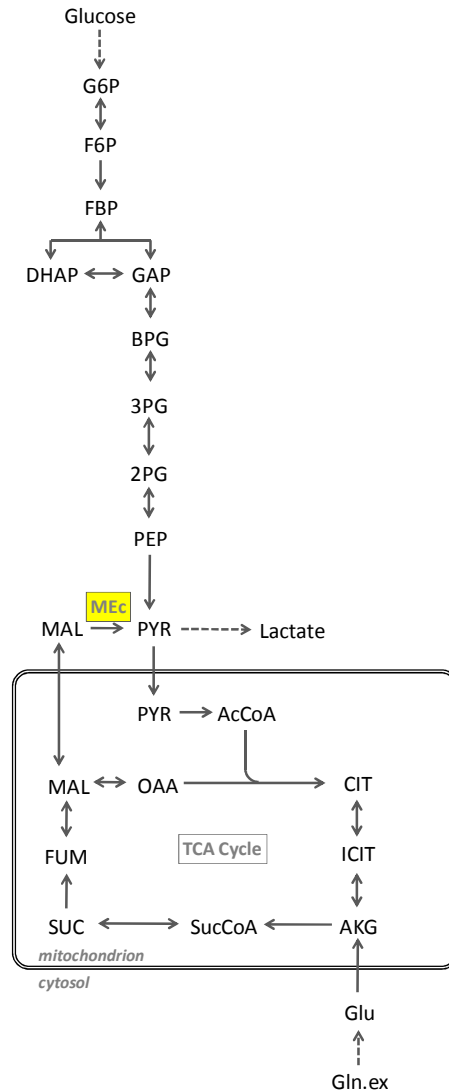


- External Measurements

- Glucose

- Lactate

Model of CHO metabolism



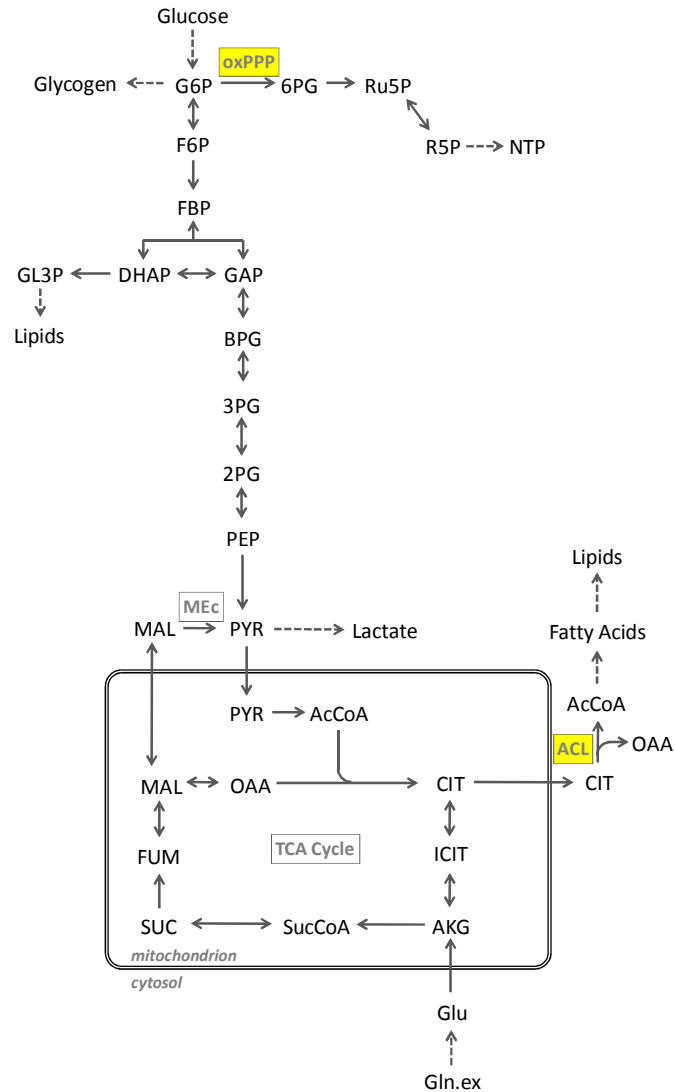
- External Measurements

- Glucose

- Lactate

- Glutamine

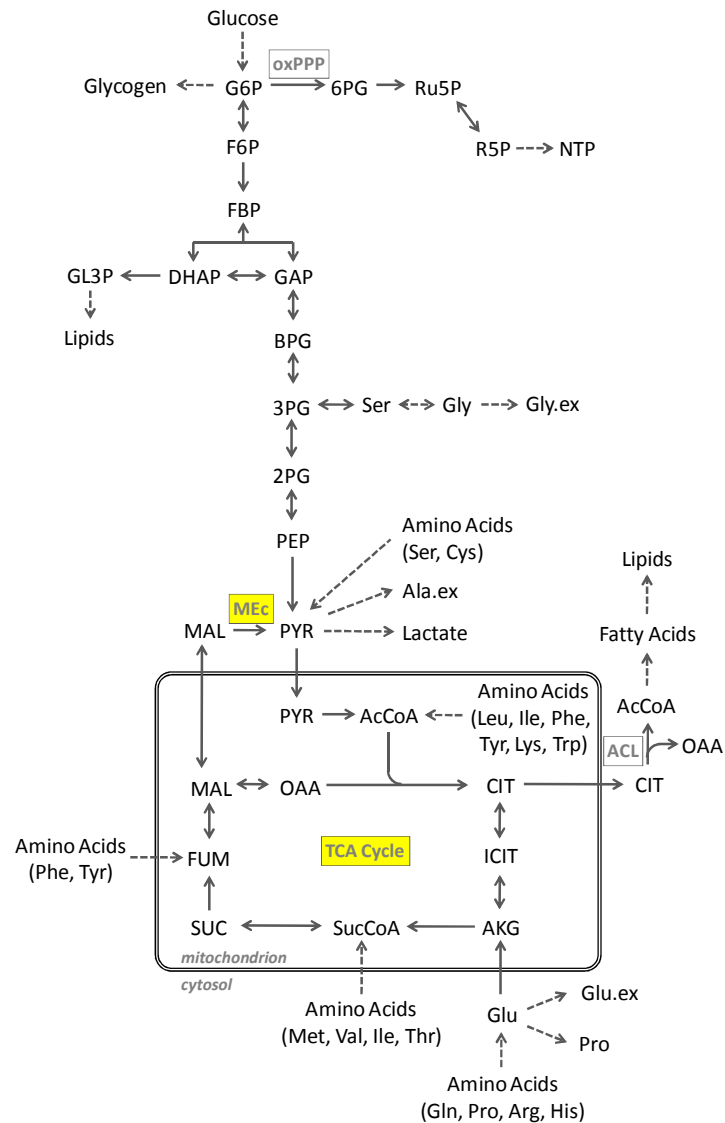
Model of CHO metabolism



External Measurements

- Glucose
- Lactate
- Glutamine
- Growth rate

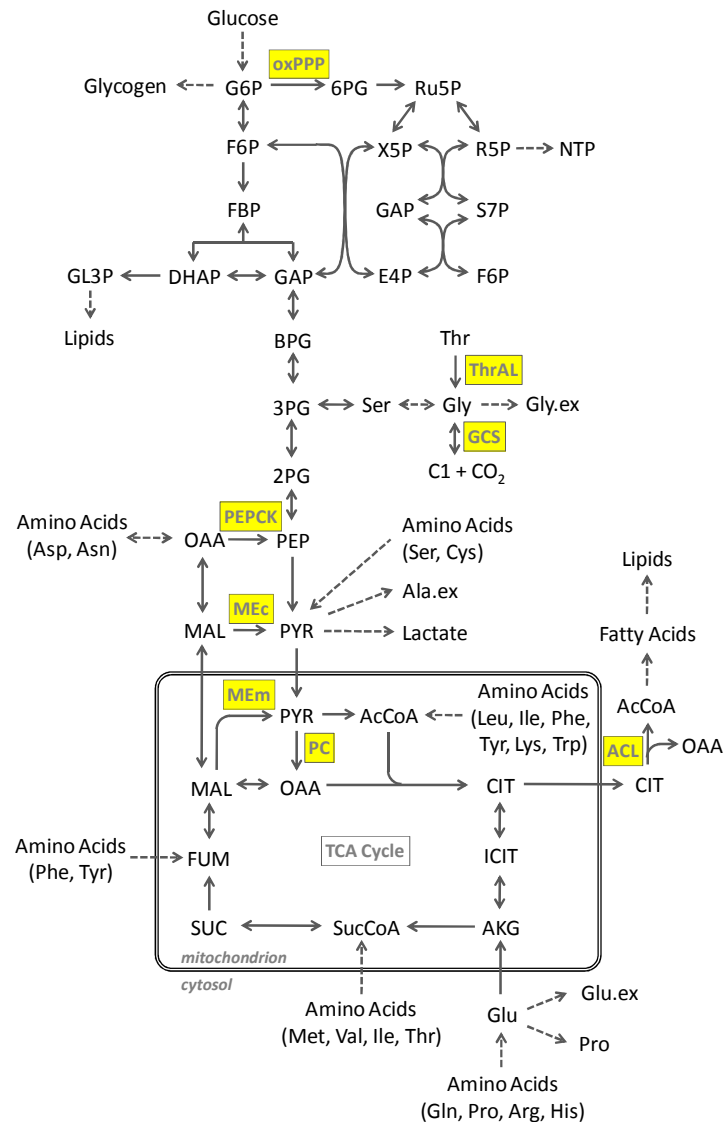
Model of CHO metabolism



External Measurements

- Glucose
- Lactate
- Glutamine
- Growth rate
- Amino acids

Model of CHO metabolism



External Measurements

- Glucose
- Lactate
- Glutamine
- Growth rate
- Amino acids

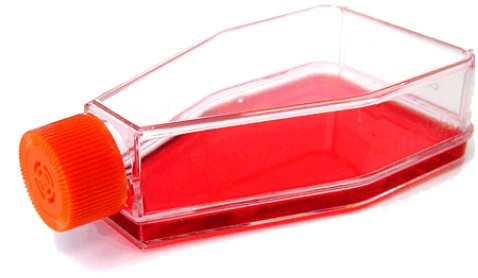
¹³C-Labeling GC-MS

- Typical 200+ mass isotopomers measured

CHO Cell Culture

- **CHO cell fed-batch culture**

- CHO-K1 cells (ATCC CCL-61) in T-25 flasks
- Humidified incubator, 5% CO₂, 37 deg.C



- **Medium composition**

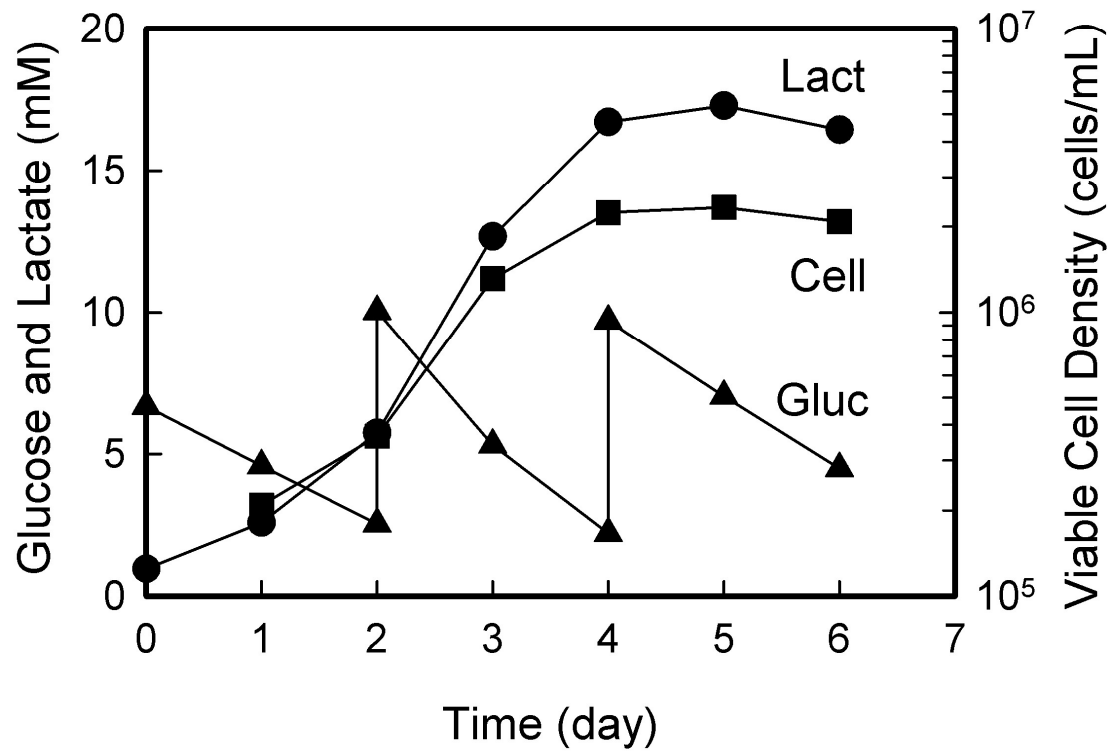
- DMEM + 10% FBS + 1% PS
- 6.7 mM [1,2-¹³C]glucose

- **Measurements**

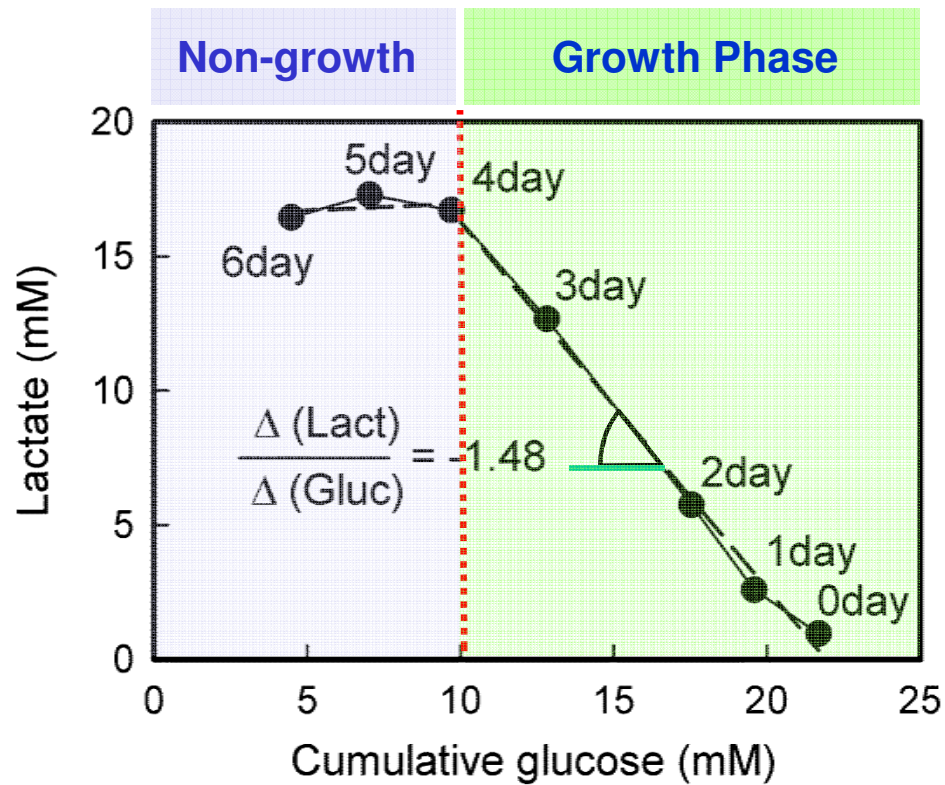
- Glucose, lactate (YSI)
- Amino acid concentrations (GC-MS)
- ¹³C-Labeling of intracellular metabolites (GC-MS)



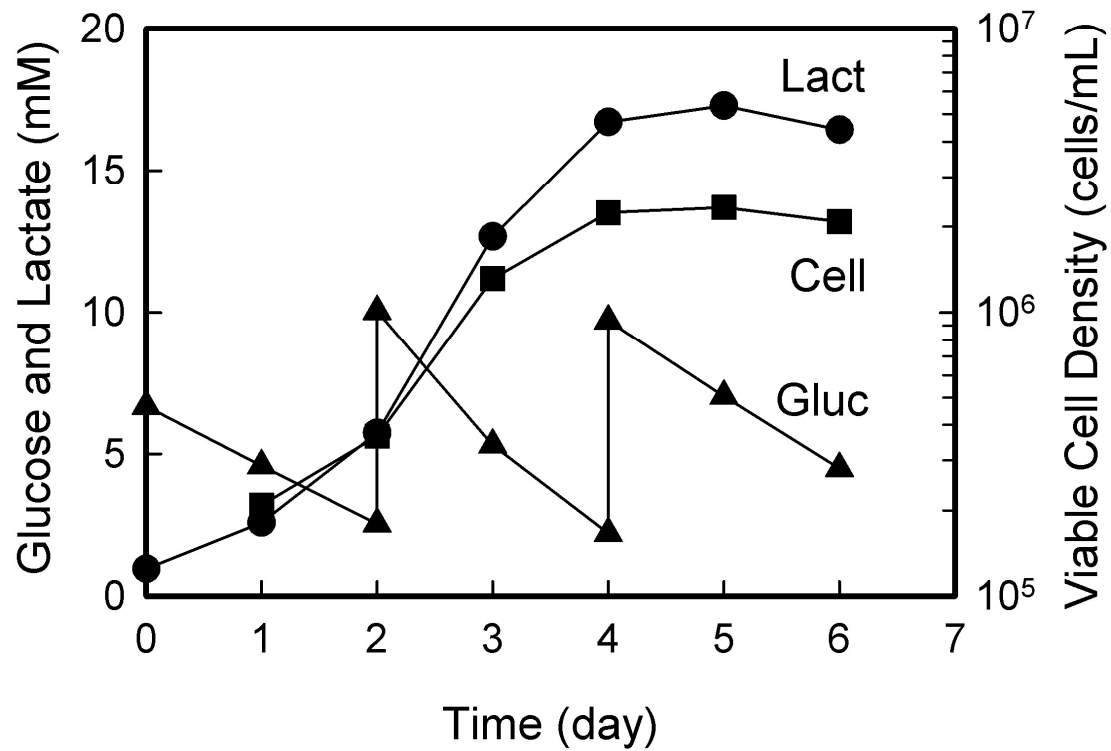
CHO Fed-batch culture



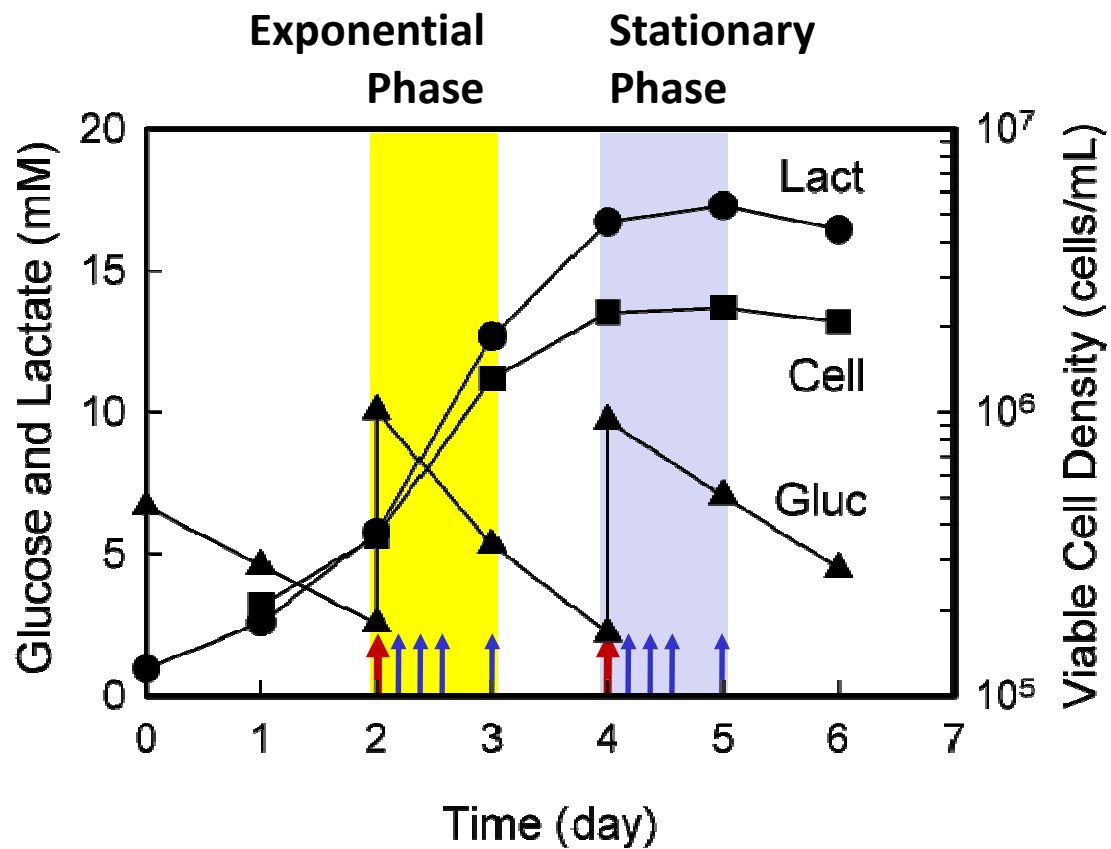
Shift in Lactate Metabolism



CHO Fed-batch culture



CHO Fed-batch culture

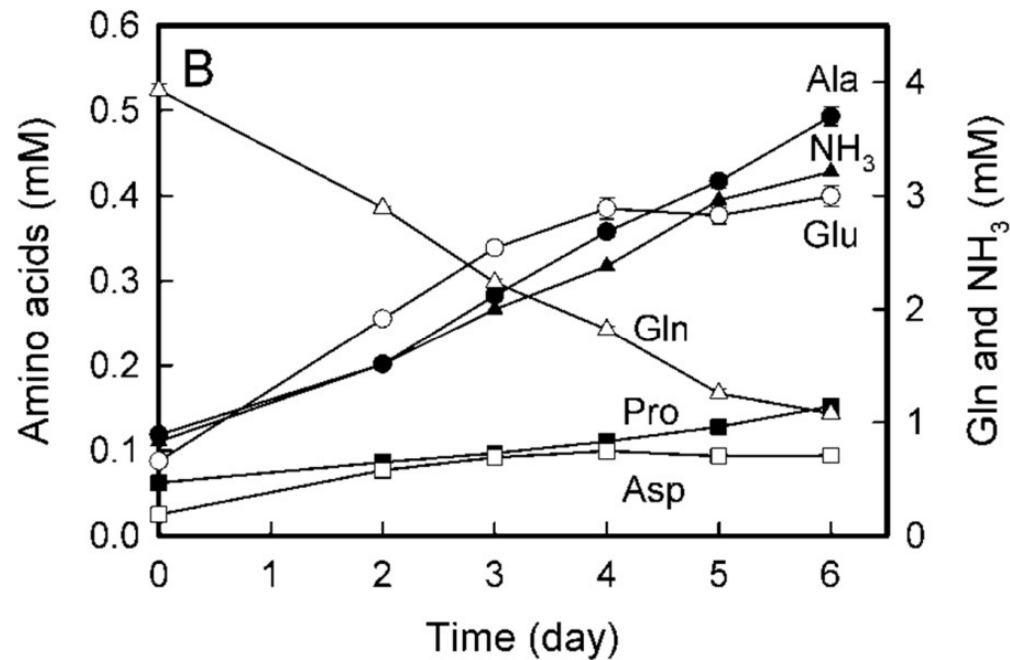


↑ [1,2-¹³C]glucose addition

↑ Metabolism quenching and GC-MS analysis

Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng, 2011

Extracellular metabolite profiling



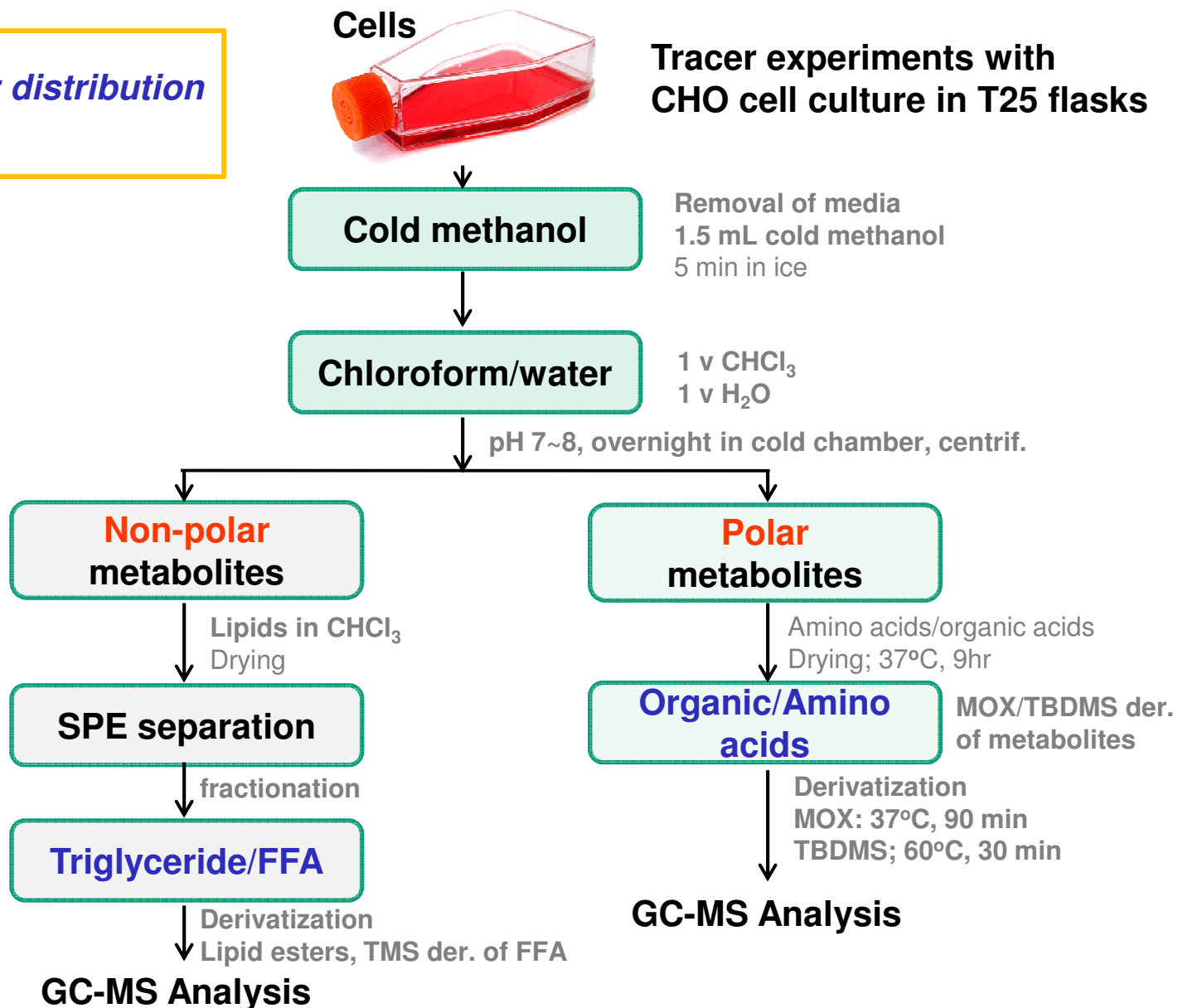
Biomass specific fluxes

Biomass specific uptake and excretion rates of extracellular metabolites (nmol/10⁶cells/hr)

	Exponential Phase	Stationary Phase
Glucose	-201	-48.8
Lactate	299	-2.5
NH ₃	24.5	5.2
Alanine	2.2	0.5
Glycine	2.8	0.6
Valine	-5.2	-0.1
Leucine	-7.0	-0.3
Isoleucine	-5.6	-0.3
Proline	-0.3	0.0
Methionine	-1.9	-0.1
Serine	-8.1	-0.9
Threonine	-4.4	-0.1
Phenylalanine	-2.7	-0.2
Aspartate	-0.0	-0.3
Glutamate	5.4	-0.4
Tyrosine	-0.9	-0.1
Glutamine	-35.0	-5.7

Intracellular Metabolite Analysis

Mass isotopomer distribution quantification

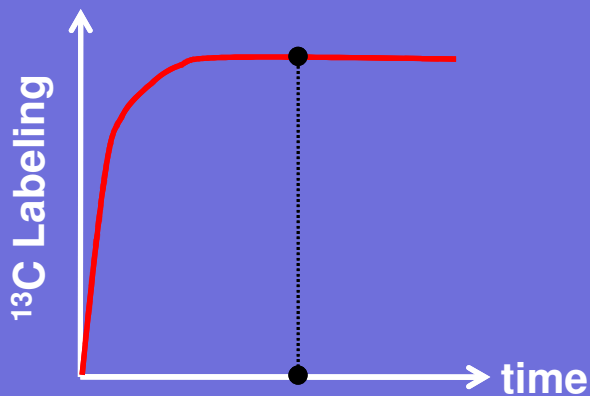


GC-MS Measurements

Metabolite	Base mass	Carbon atoms	Fragment formula
Organic acids			
Pyruvate	174	1-2-3	C ₆ H ₁₂ O ₃ NSi
Lactate	233	2-3	C ₁₀ H ₂₅ O ₂ Si ₂
Lactate	261	1-2-3	C ₁₁ H ₂₅ O ₃ Si ₂
Succinate	289	1-2-3-4	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ O ₄ Si ₂
Fumarate	287	1-2-3-4	C ₁₂ H ₂₃ O ₄ Si ₂
AKG	346	1-2-3-4-5	C ₁₄ H ₂₈ O ₅ NSi ₂
Malate	419	1-2-3-4	C ₁₈ H ₃₉ O ₅ Si ₃
PEP	453	1-2-3	C ₁₇ H ₃₈ O ₆ Si ₃ P
GAP	484	1-2-3	C ₁₈ H ₄₃ O ₆ NSi ₃ P
Glyc3P	571	1-2-3	C ₂₃ H ₅₆ O ₆ Si ₄ P
Citrate	459	1-2-3-4-5-6	C ₂₀ H ₃₉ O ₆ Si ₃
3PG	585	1-2-3	C ₂₃ H ₅₄ O ₇ Si ₄ P
Amino acids			
Alanine	232	2-3	C ₁₀ H ₂₆ ONSi ₂
Alanine	260	1-2-3	C ₁₁ H ₂₆ O ₂ NSi ₂
Glycine	246	1-2	C ₁₀ H ₂₄ O ₂ NSi ₂
Valine	260	2-3-4-5	C ₁₂ H ₃₀ ONSi ₂
Leucine	274	2-3-4-5-6	C ₁₃ H ₃₂ ONSi ₂
Isoleucine	274	2-3-4-5-6	C ₁₃ H ₃₂ ONSi ₂
Proline	286	1-2-3-4-5	C ₁₃ H ₂₈ O ₂ NSi ₂
Methionine	320	1-2-3-4-5	C ₁₃ H ₃₀ O ₂ NSi ₂ S
Serine	390	1-2-3	C ₁₇ H ₄₀ O ₃ NSi ₃
Threonine	404	1-2-3-4	C ₁₈ H ₄₂ O ₃ NSi ₃
Phenylalanine	302	1-2	C ₁₄ H ₃₂ O ₂ NSi ₂
Aspartate	302	1-2	C ₁₄ H ₃₂ O ₂ NSi ₂
Aspartate	390	2-3-4	C ₁₇ H ₄₀ O ₃ NSi ₃
Aspartate	418	1-2-3-4	C ₁₈ H ₄₀ O ₄ NSi ₃
Glutamate	330	2-3-4-5	C ₁₆ H ₃₆ O ₂ NSi ₂
Glutamate	432	1-2-3-4-5	C ₁₉ H ₄₂ O ₄ NSi ₃
Glutamine	431	1-2-3-4-5	C ₁₉ H ₄₃ O ₃ N ₂ Si ₃
Tyrosine	302	1-2	C ₁₄ H ₃₂ O ₂ NSi ₂

^{13}C -Labeling in Metabolites

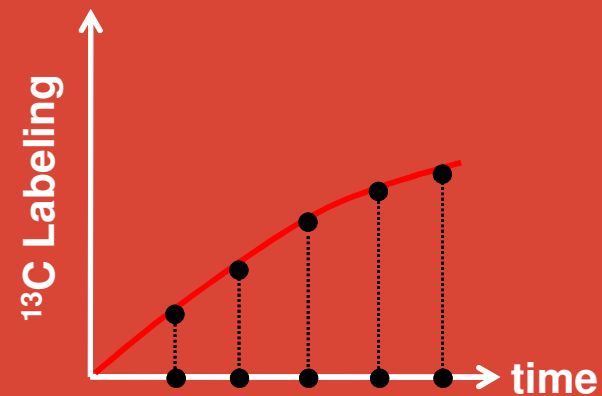
Isotopic steady state



Stationary ^{13}C -MFA

Wiechert et al., Met. Eng. 1999

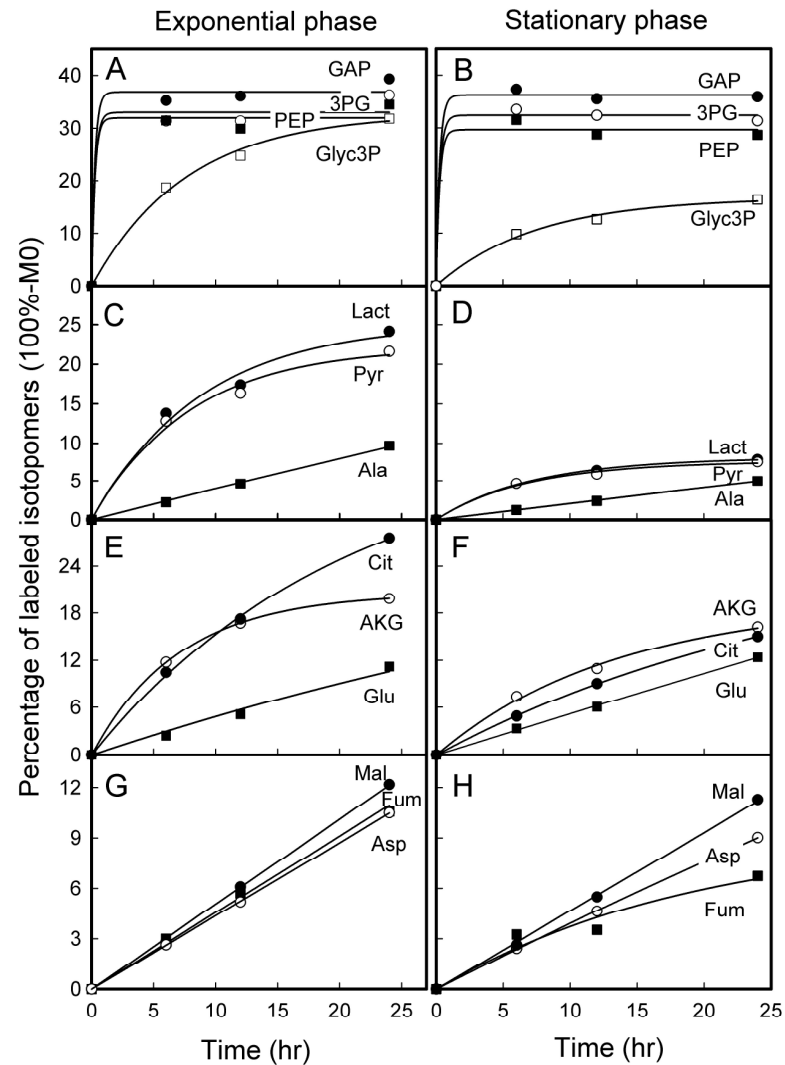
Isotopic non-steady state



Non-stationary ^{13}C -MFA

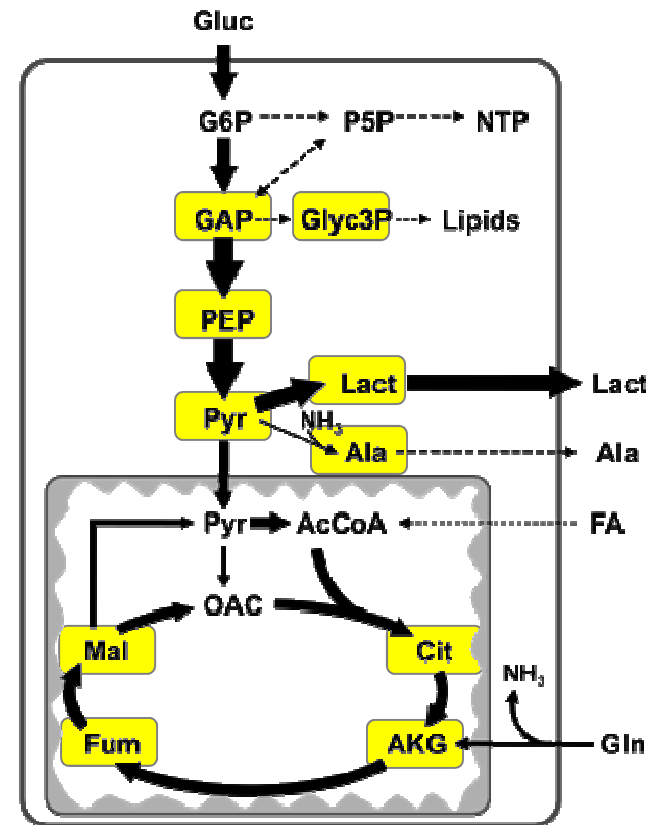
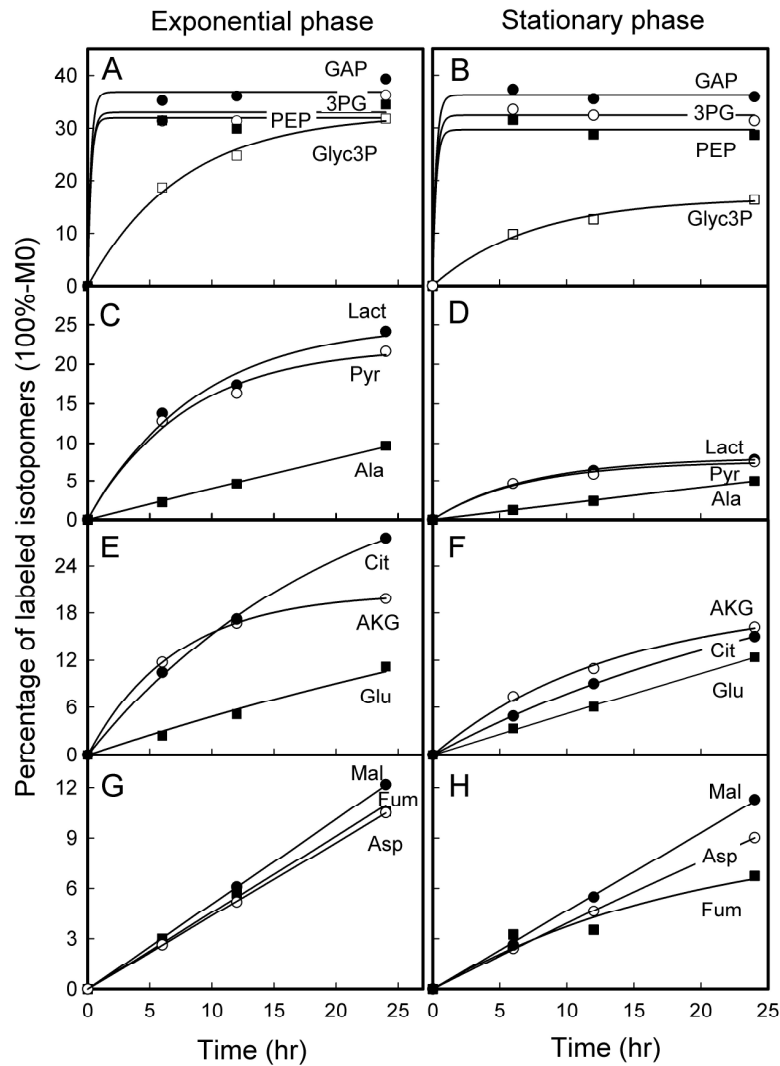
Young et al., Biotech. Bioeng. 2008

Labeling dynamics of intracellular metabolites



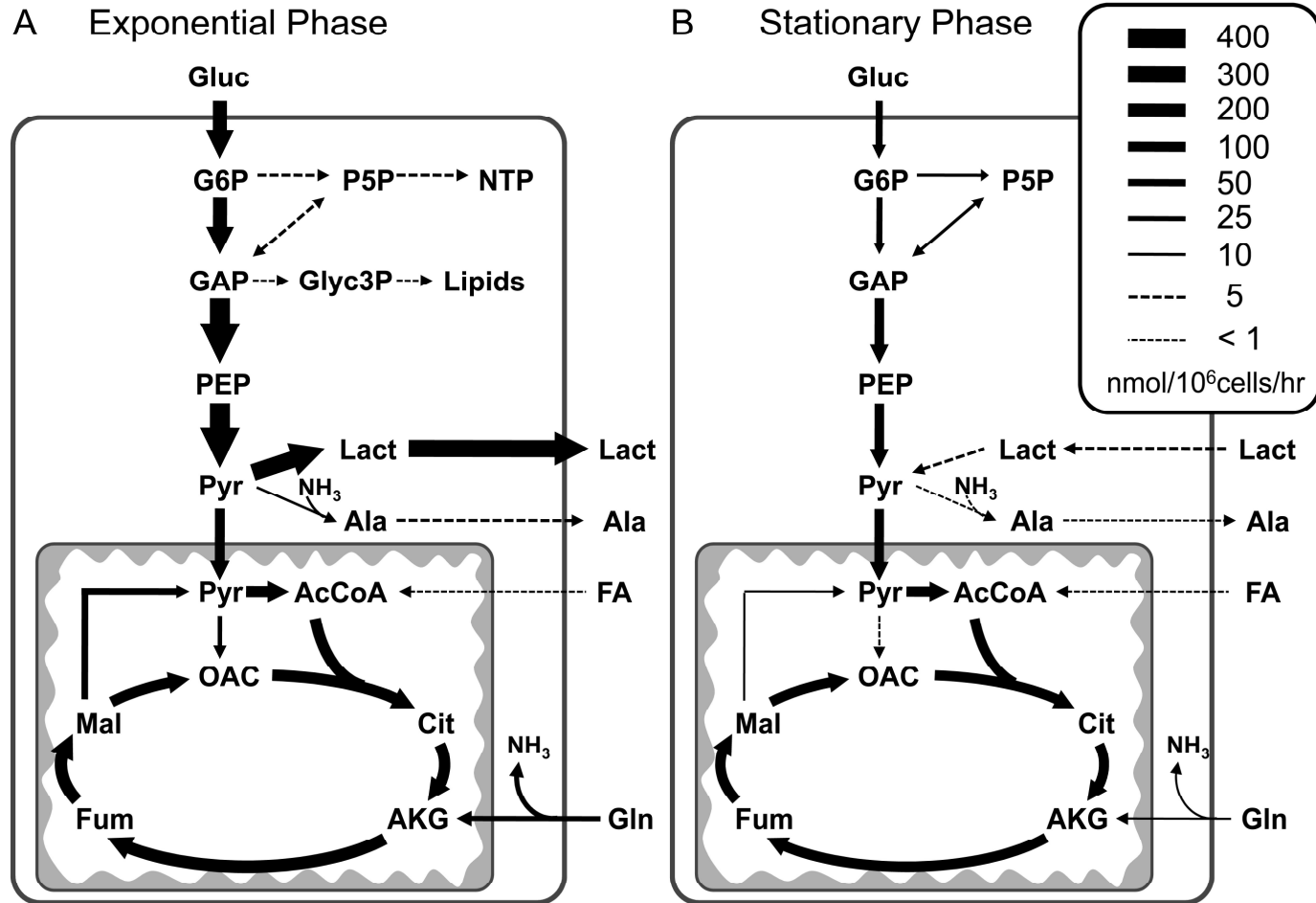
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng, 2011

Labeling dynamics of intracellular metabolites



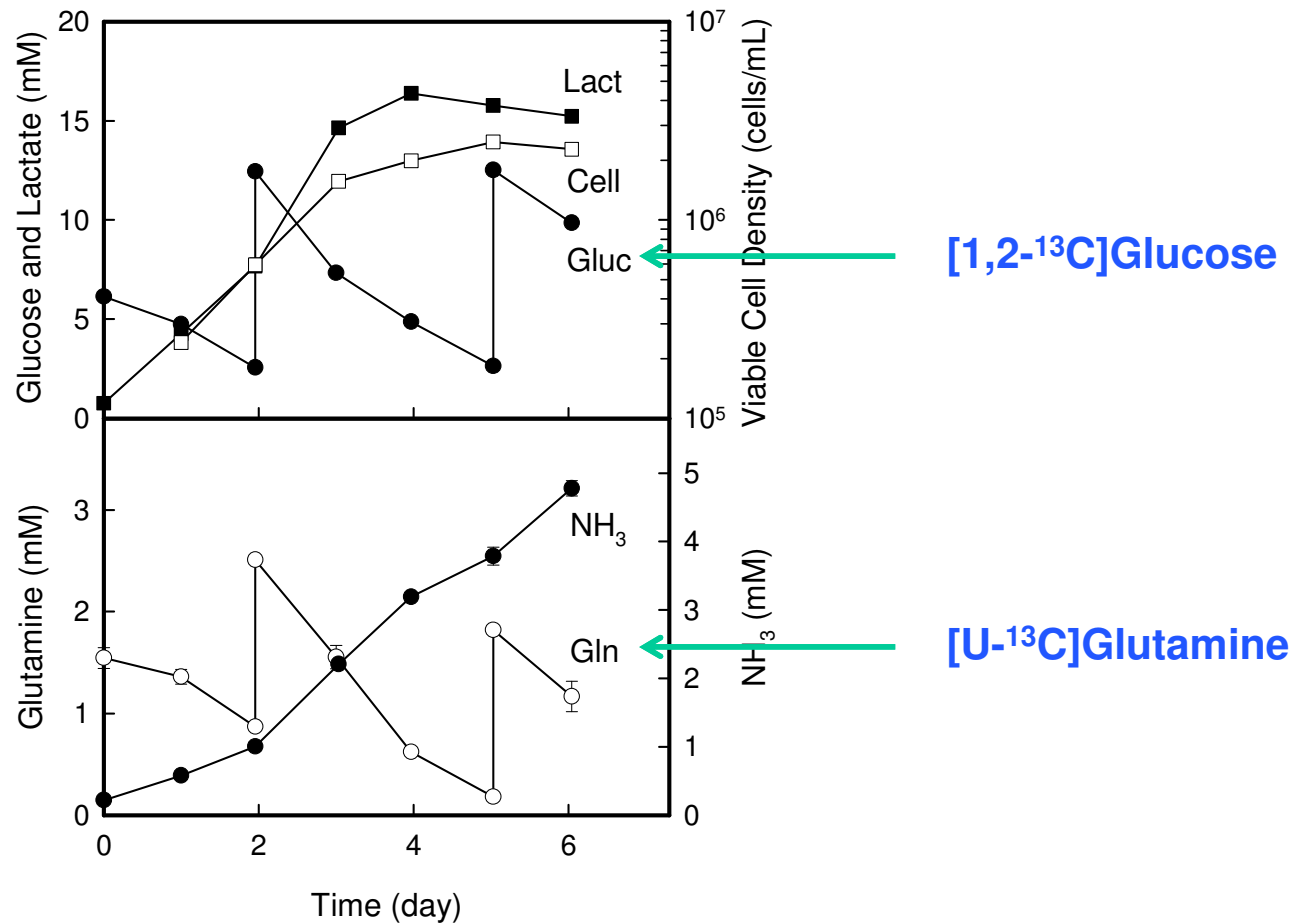
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng, 2011

Isotopic non-stationary ^{13}C -MFA



Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng, 2011

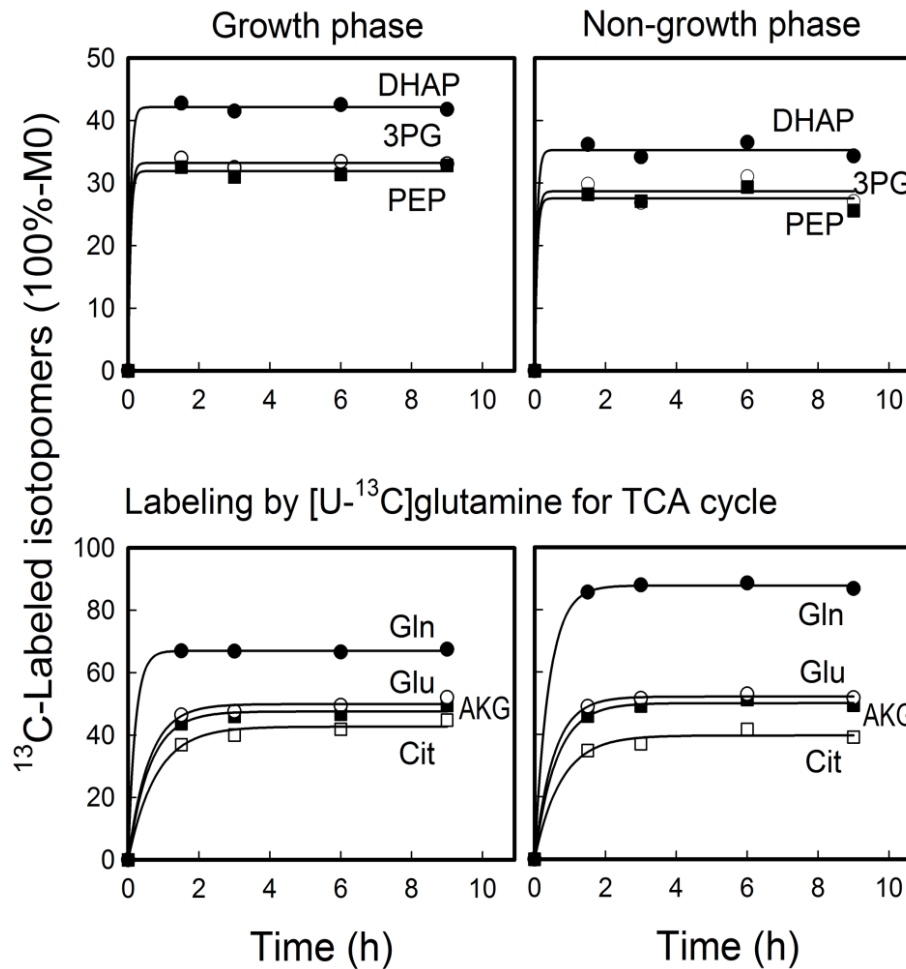
Parallel Labeling Experiments



Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

Isotopic steady state < 3 hr

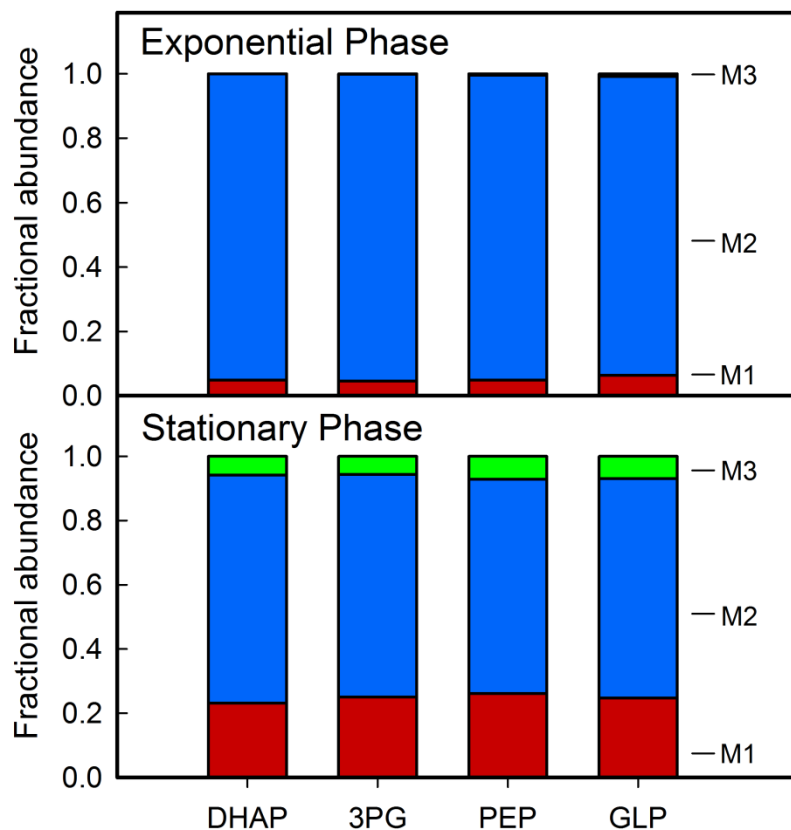
Labeling by [1,2-¹³C]glucose for glycolysis



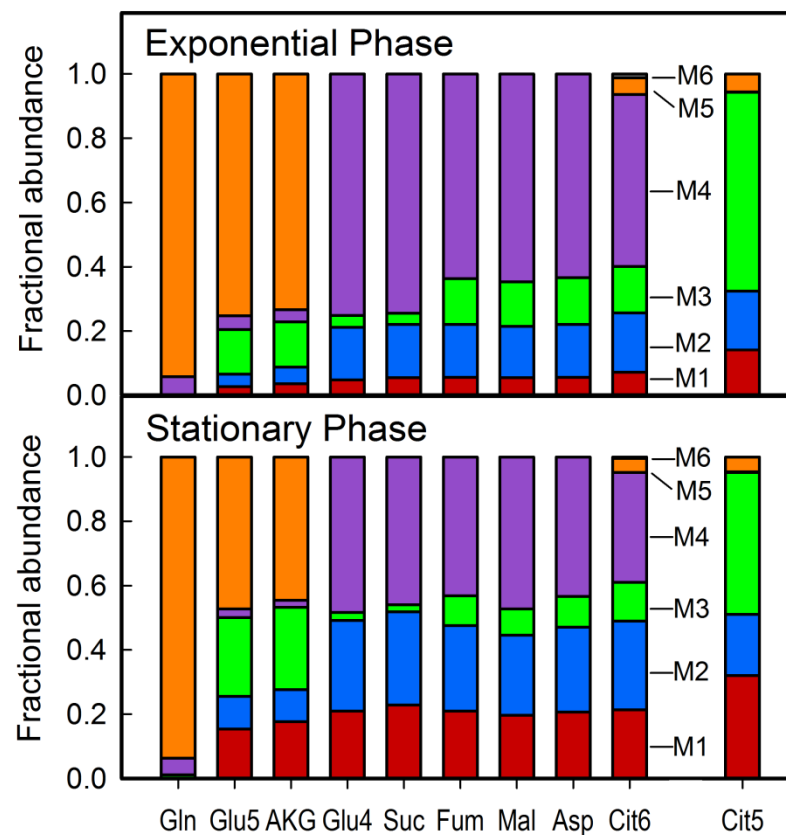
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

Intracellular Mass Isotopomers

[1,2-¹³C]Glucose

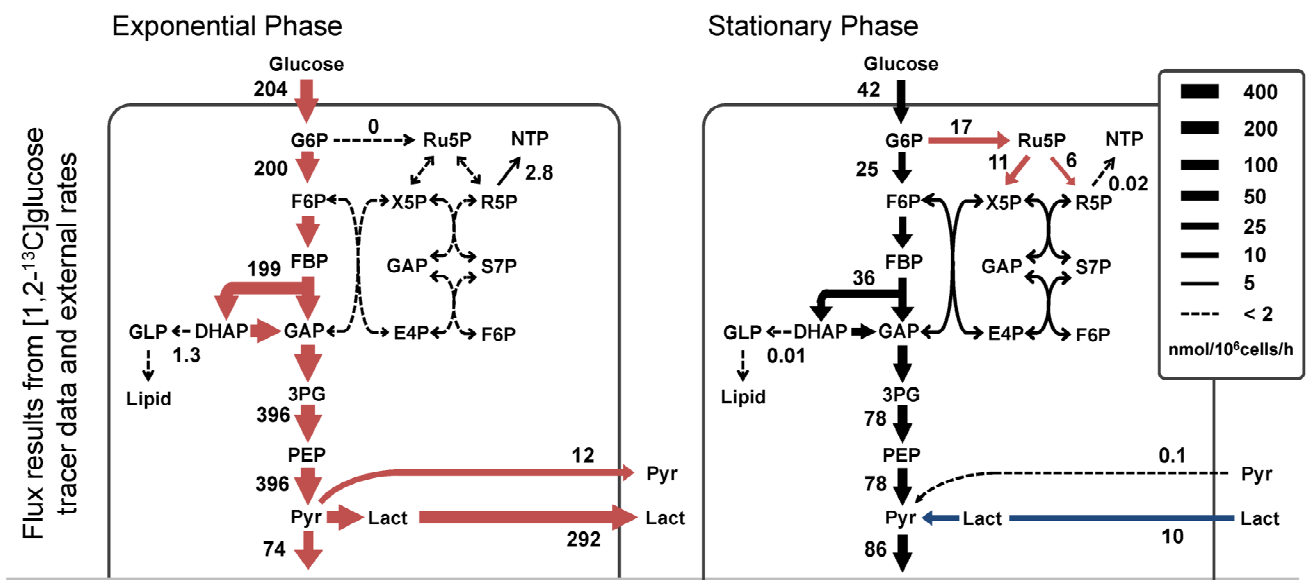


[U-¹³C]Glutamine



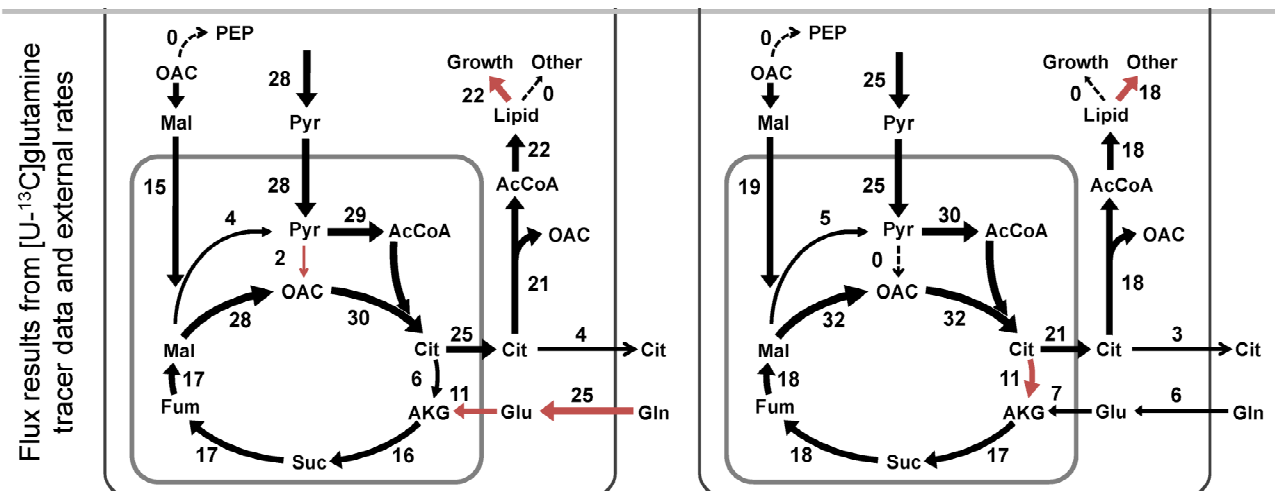
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

Metabolic Fluxes Growth vs. Stationary



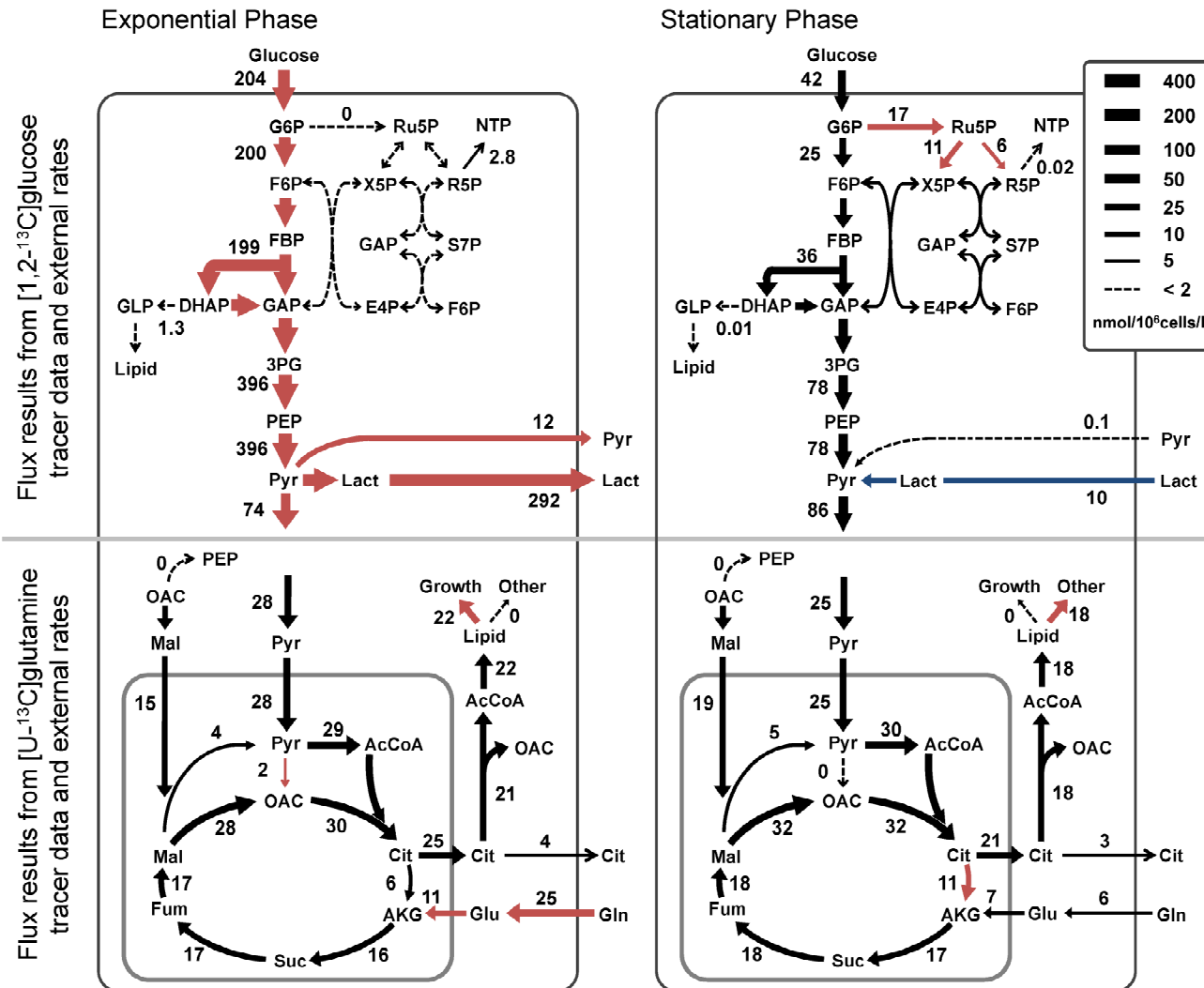
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

Metabolic Fluxes Growth vs. Stationary



Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

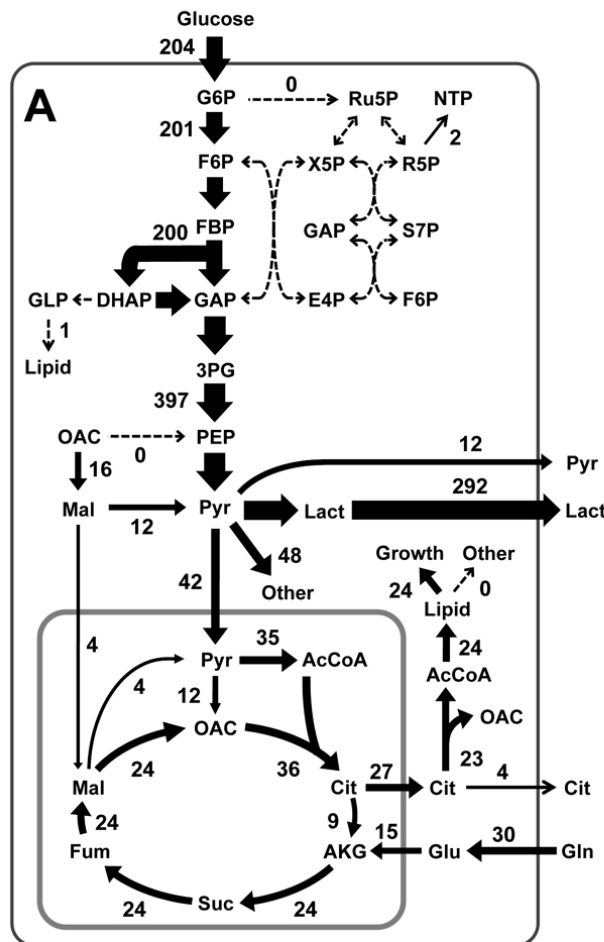
Metabolic Fluxes Growth vs. Stationary



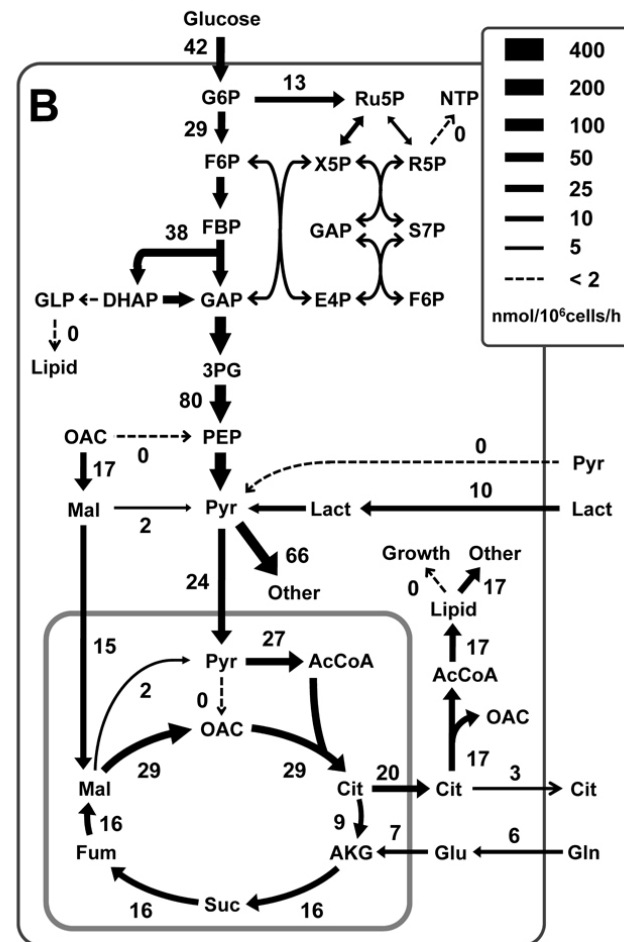
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

Combined ^{13}C -MFA of parallel experiments

Exponential Phase (day 2)



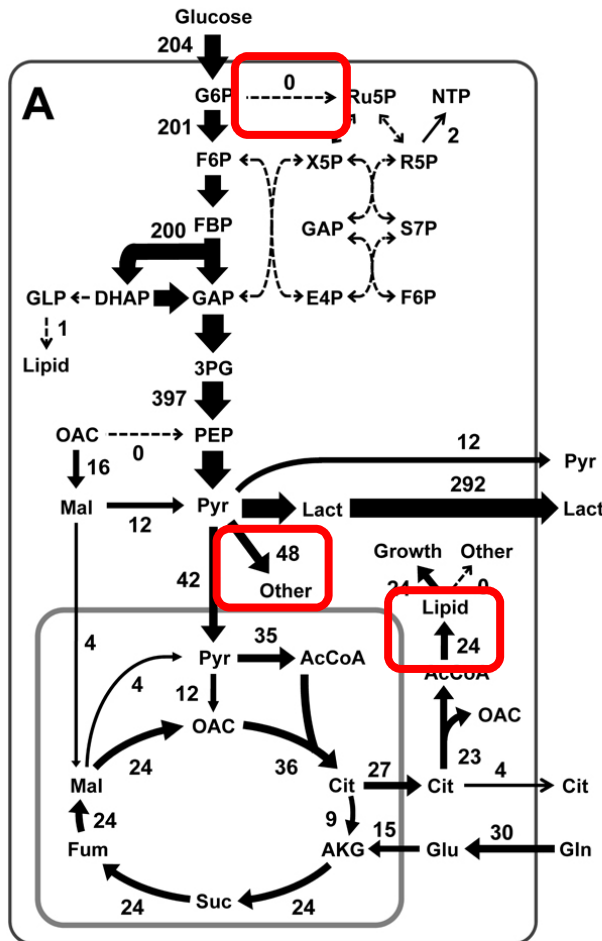
Stationary Phase (day 5)



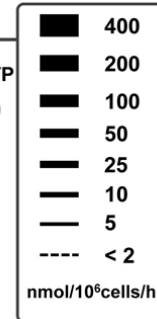
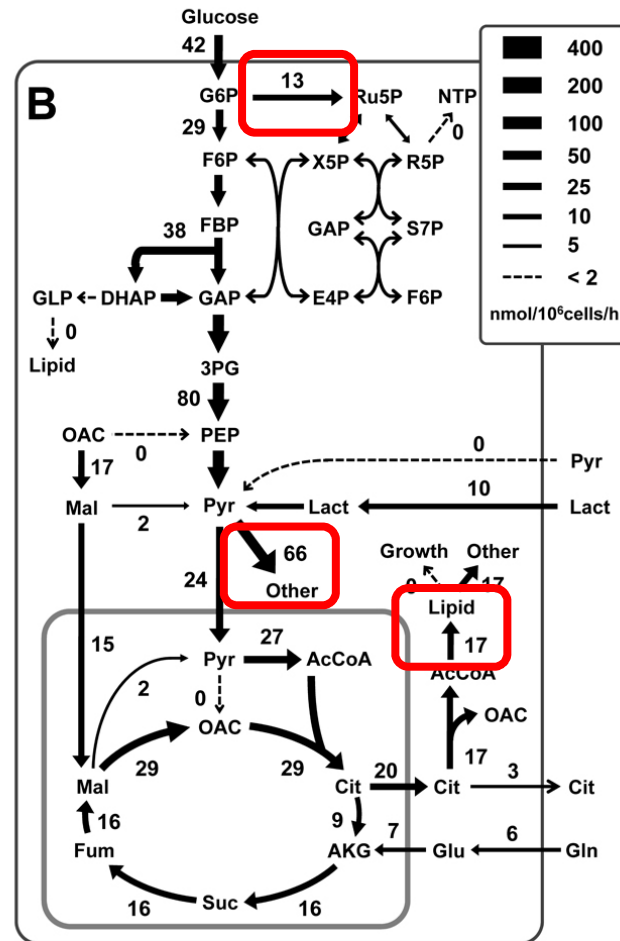
Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

Combined ^{13}C -MFA of parallel experiments

Exponential Phase (day 2)



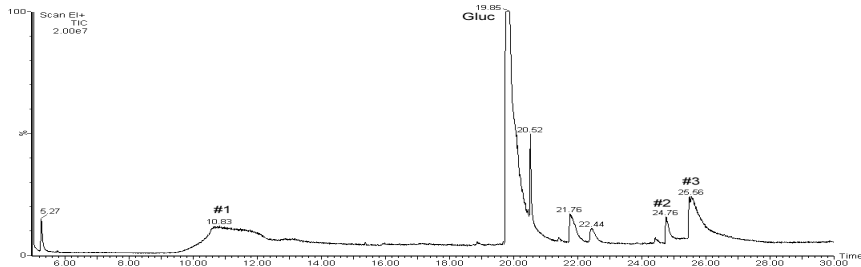
Stationary Phase (day 5)



Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

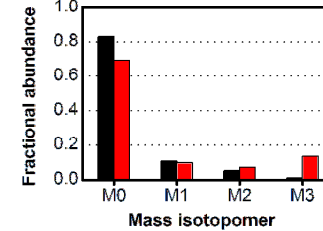
Validating loss of metabolites in glycolysis

Aldonitrile pentaacetate derivatization of media metabolites

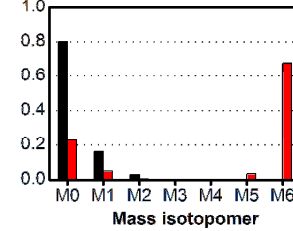


Natural Gluc
 [U]Gluc

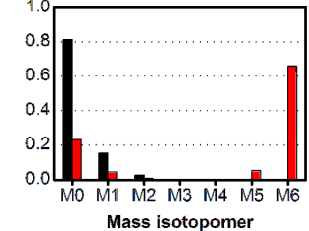
#1 peak
(M0, 189 m/z)



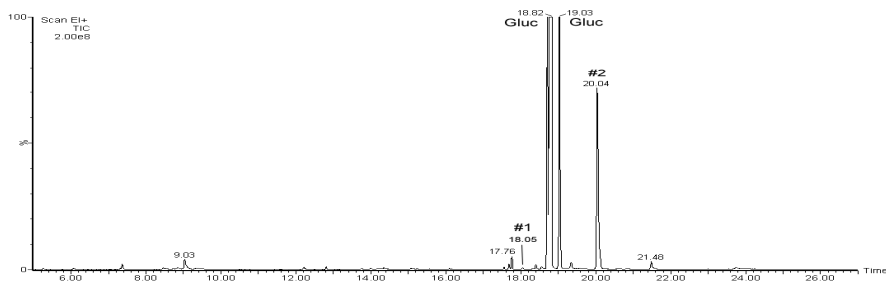
#2 peak
(M0, 345 m/z)



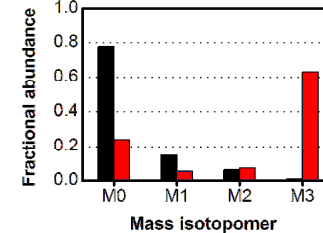
#3 peak
(M0, 345 m/z)



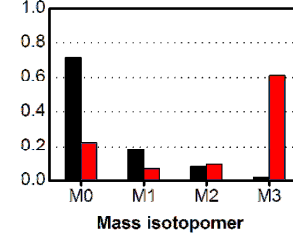
Methyloxime trimethylsilylation derivatization of media metabolites



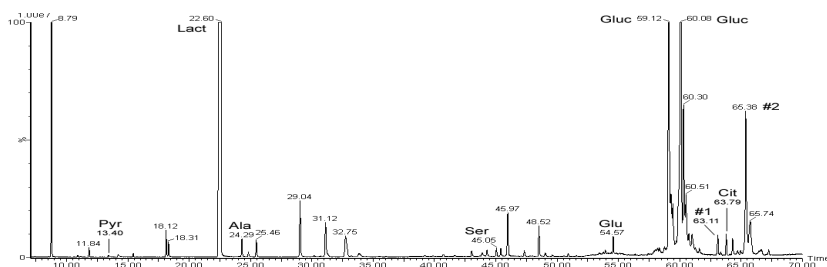
#1 peak
(M0, 217 m/z)



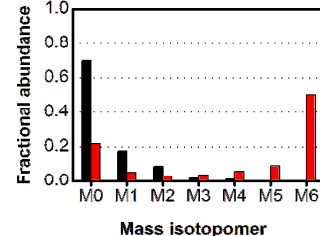
#2 peak
(M0, 217 m/z)



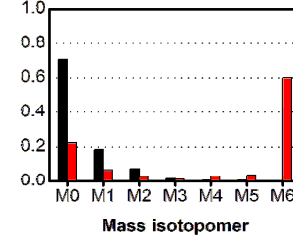
Methyloxime tert-butyldimethylsilylation derivatization of media metabolites



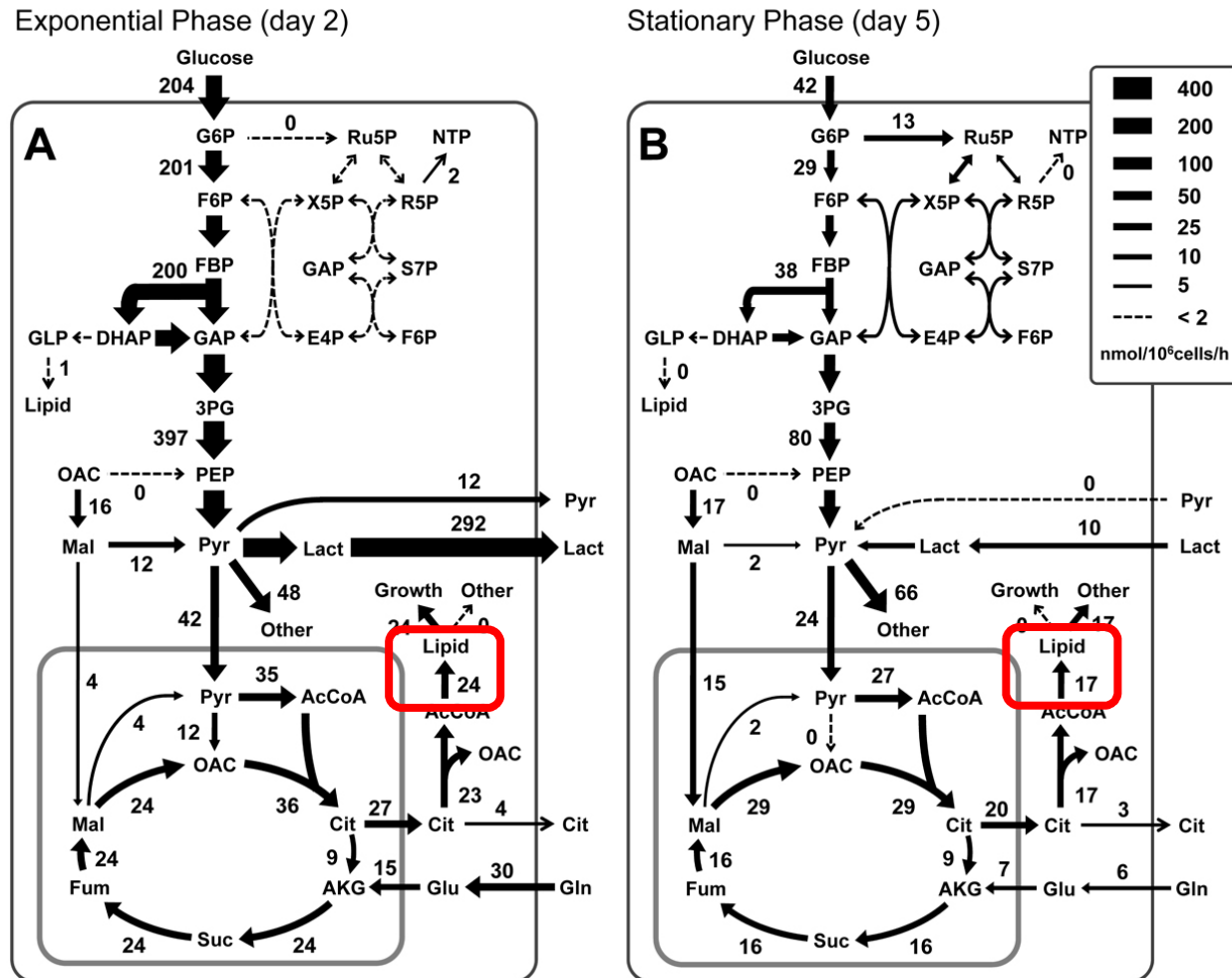
#1 peak
(M0, 315 m/z)



#2 peak
(M0, 344 m/z)

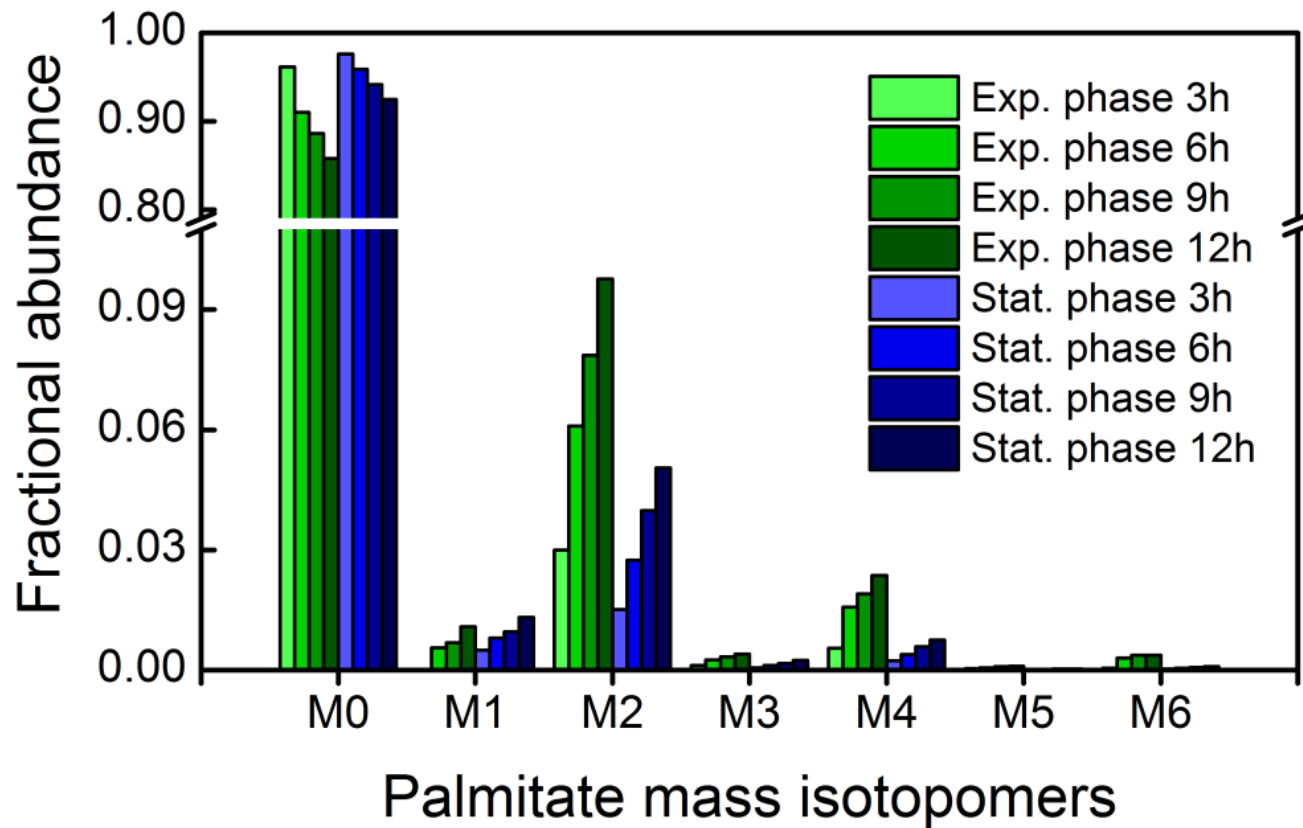


Validating Lipid Metabolism

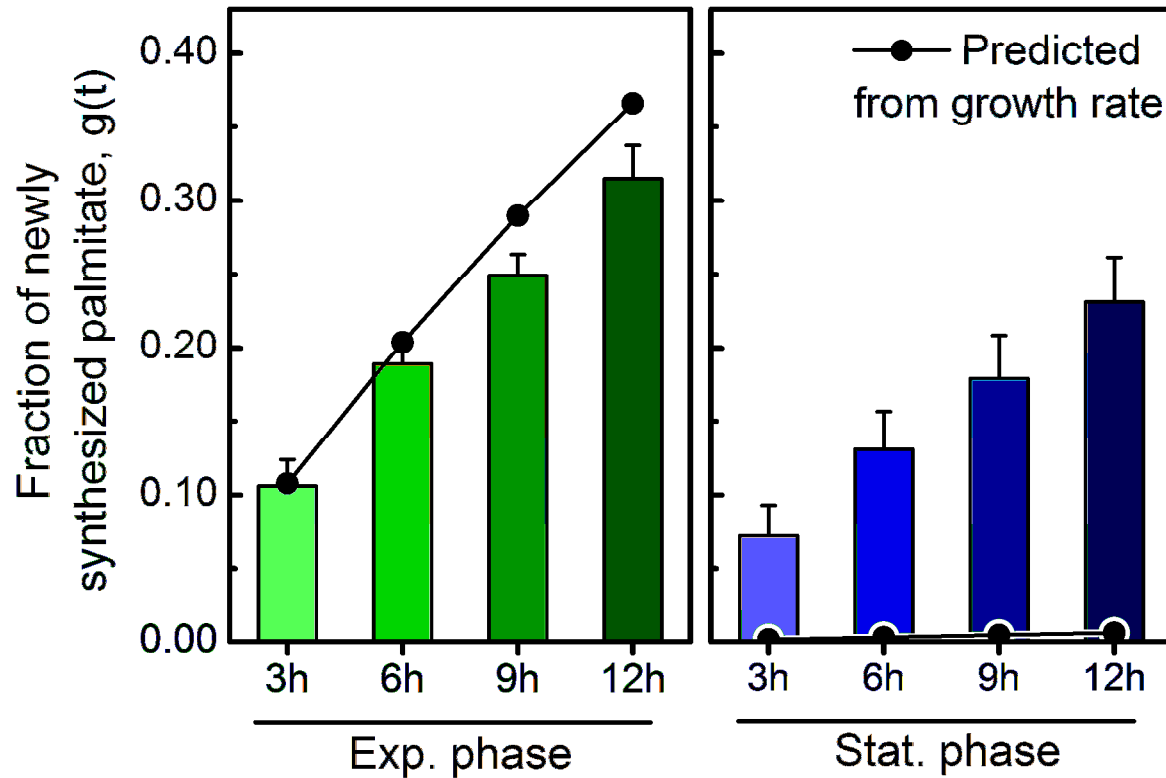


Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, Metab Eng (Submitted)

^{13}C -Labeling in Lipids

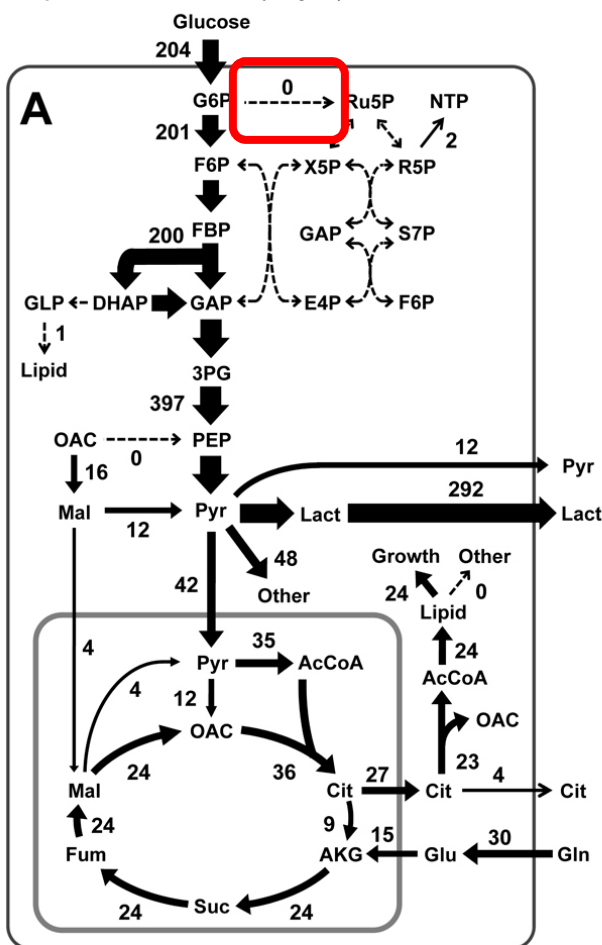


De novo lipid biosynthesis

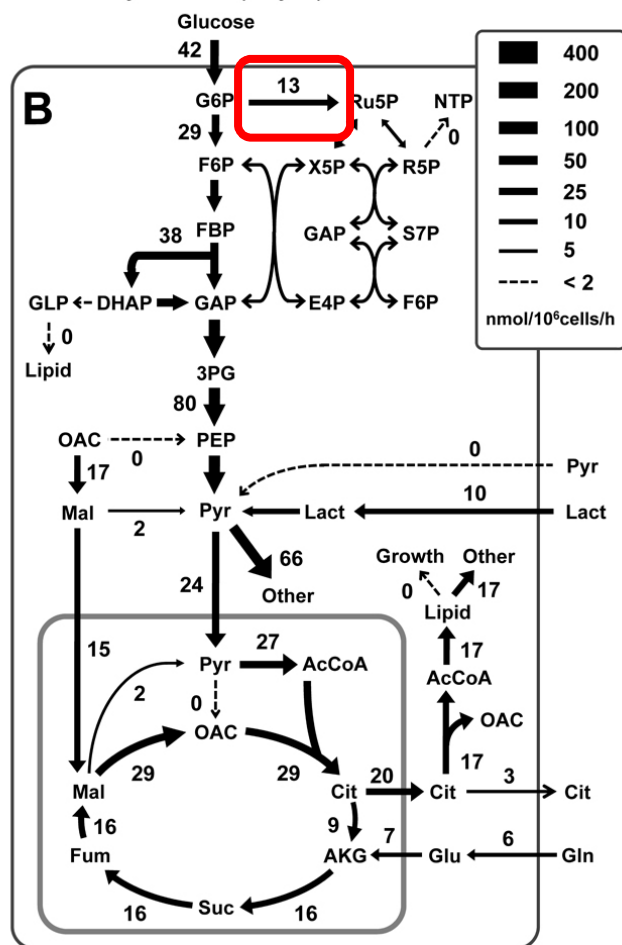


Validating Pentose Phosphate Pathway

Exponential Phase (day 2)



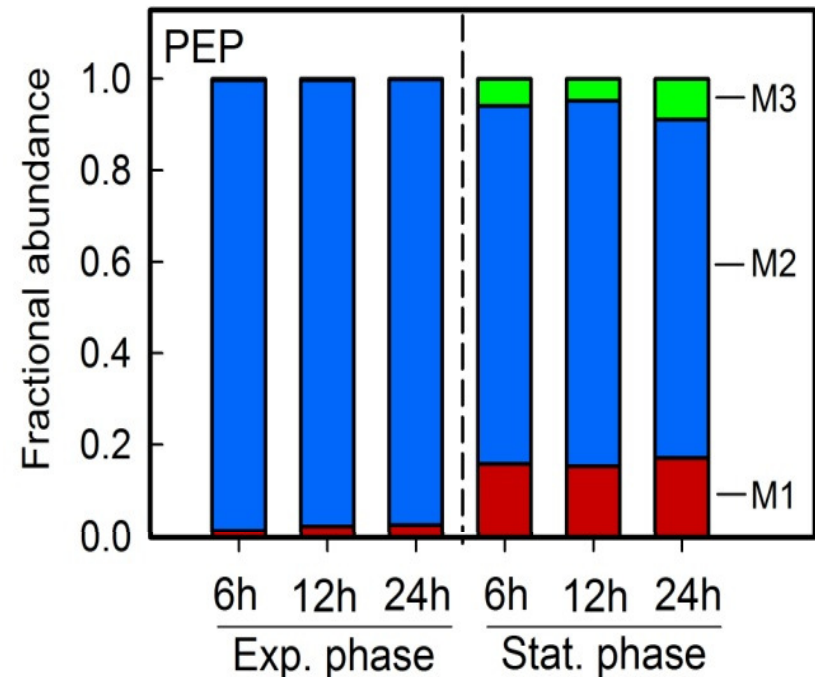
Stationary Phase (day 5)



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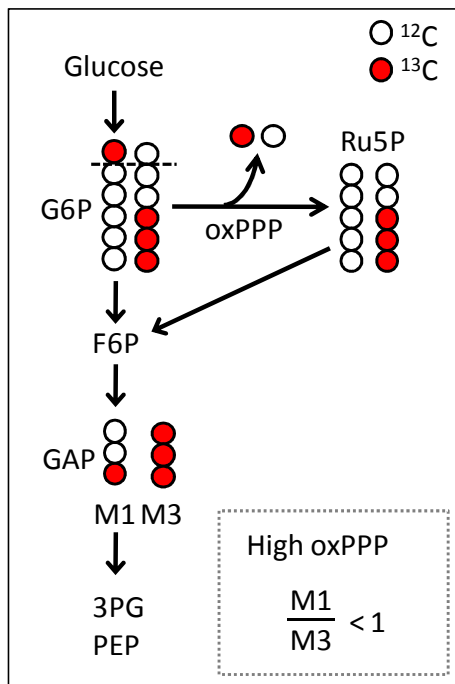
Estimating oxPPP flux using ^{13}C -MFA

- **[1,2- ^{13}C]glucose tracer**
 - Glycolysis produces M2
 - oxPPP produces M1
 - non-oxPPP produces M3
- **Exponential growth phase**
 - Low oxPPP (1% of glucose)
- **Stationary phase**
 - Increased oxPPP (20% of glucose)

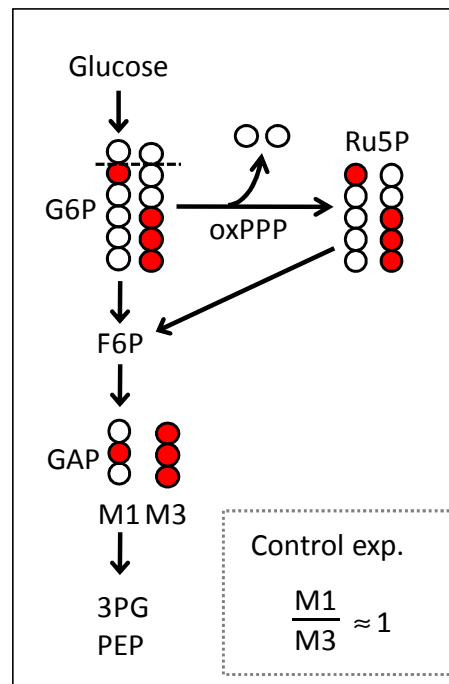


Parallel Labeling Experiments for PPP

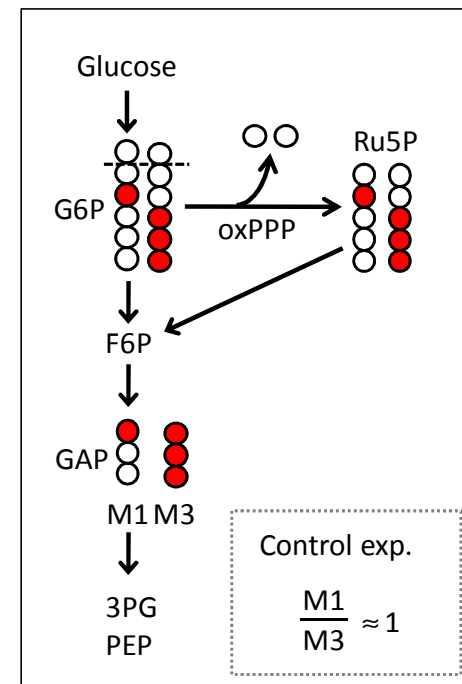
[1]+[4,5,6]Gluc



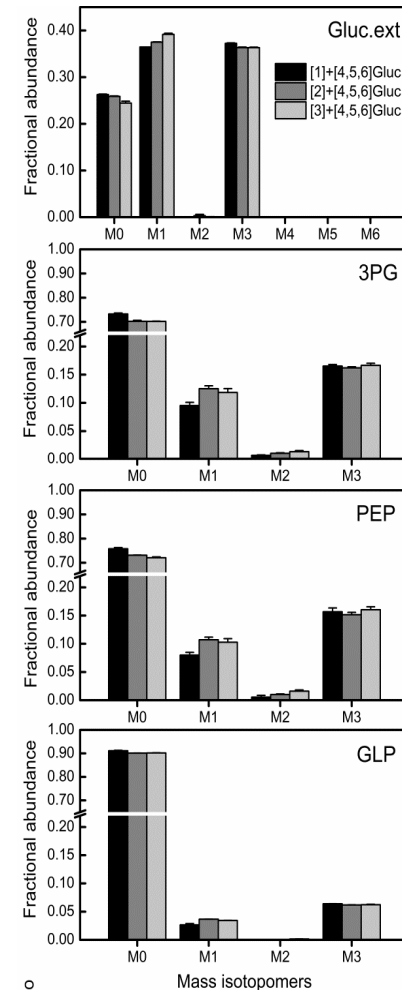
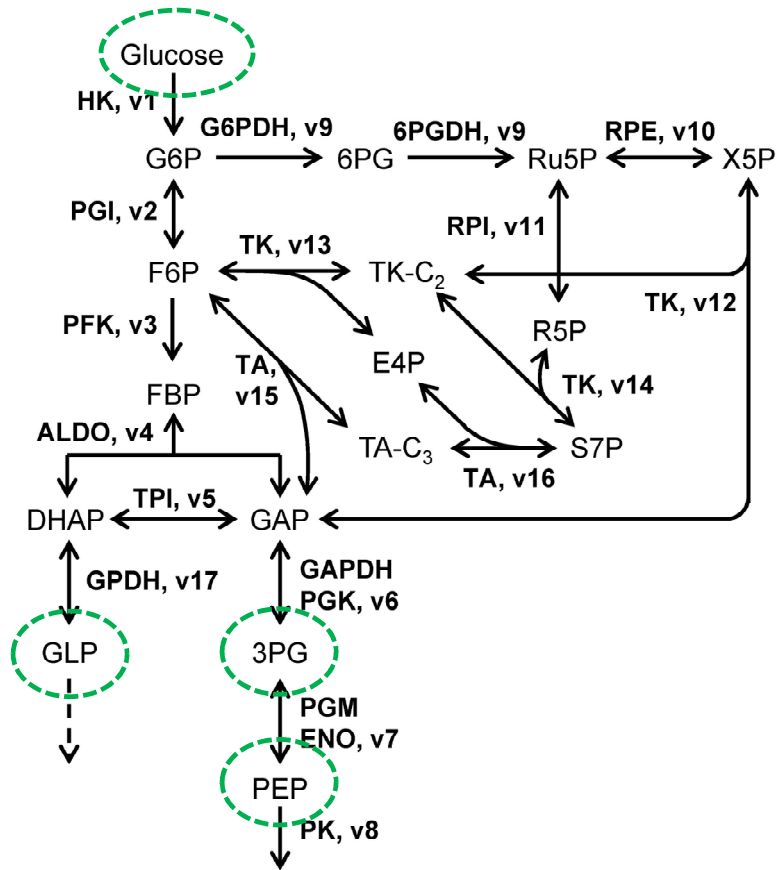
[2]+[4,5,6]Gluc



[3]+[4,5,6]Gluc

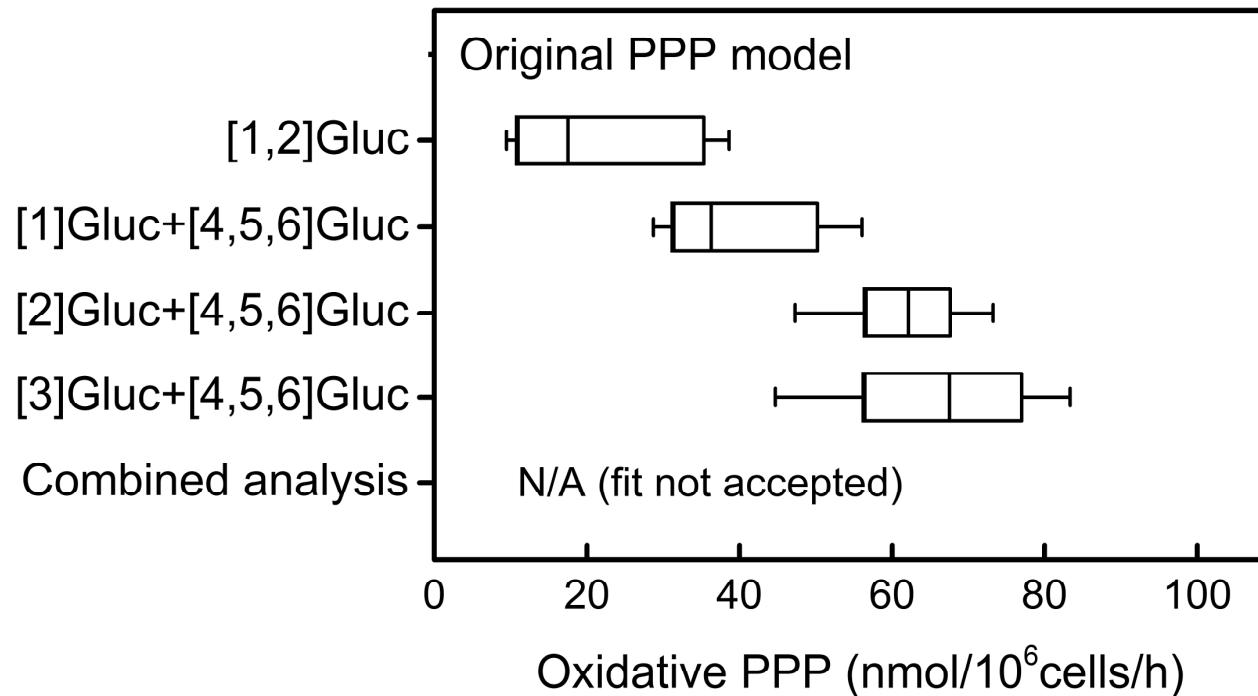


Mass Isotopomer Distributions

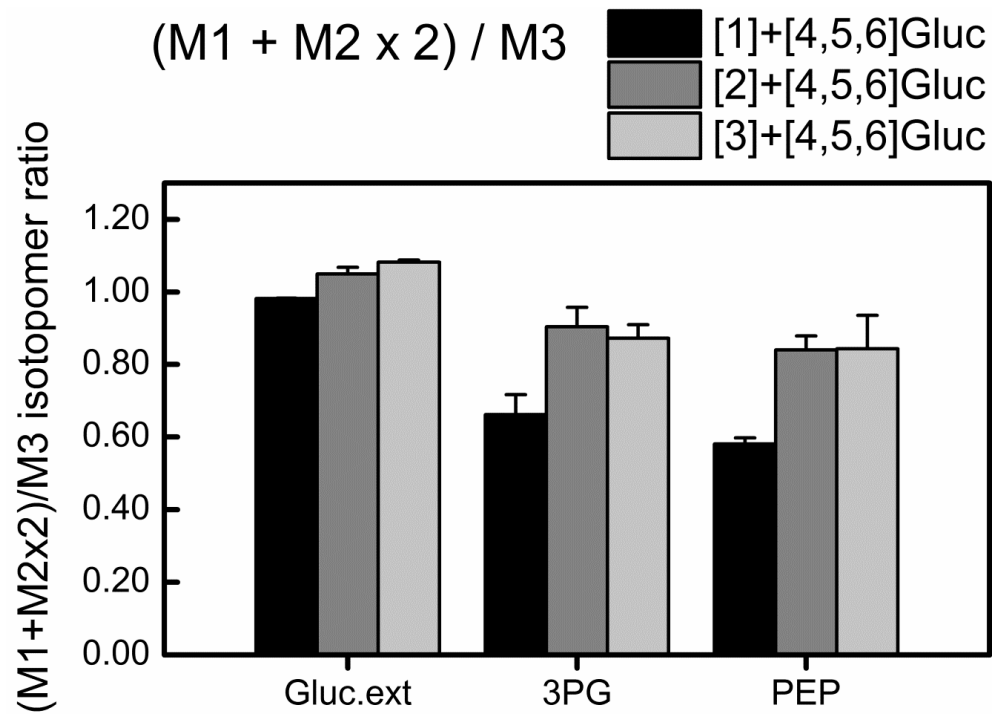


Ahn WS & Antoniewicz MR, J Biol Chem (Submitted)

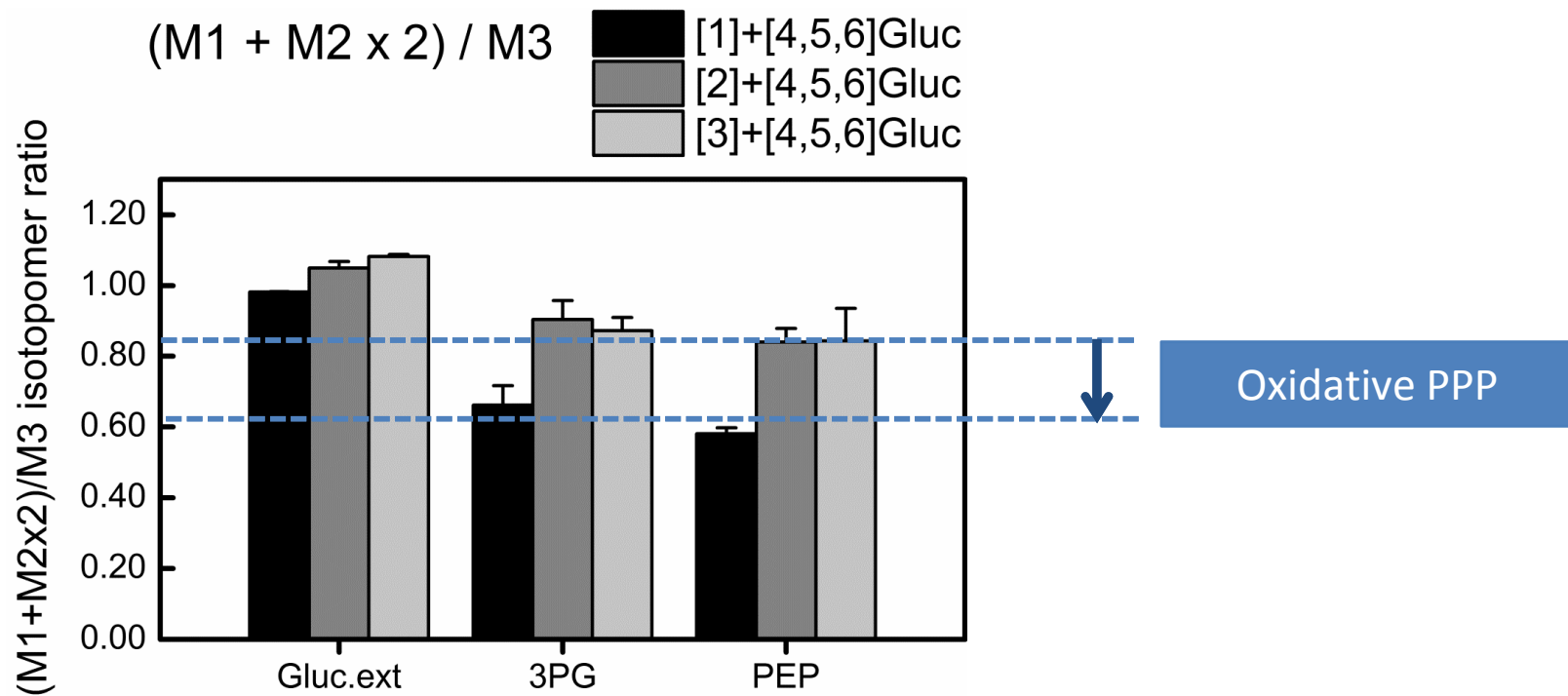
oxPPP estimated with different tracers



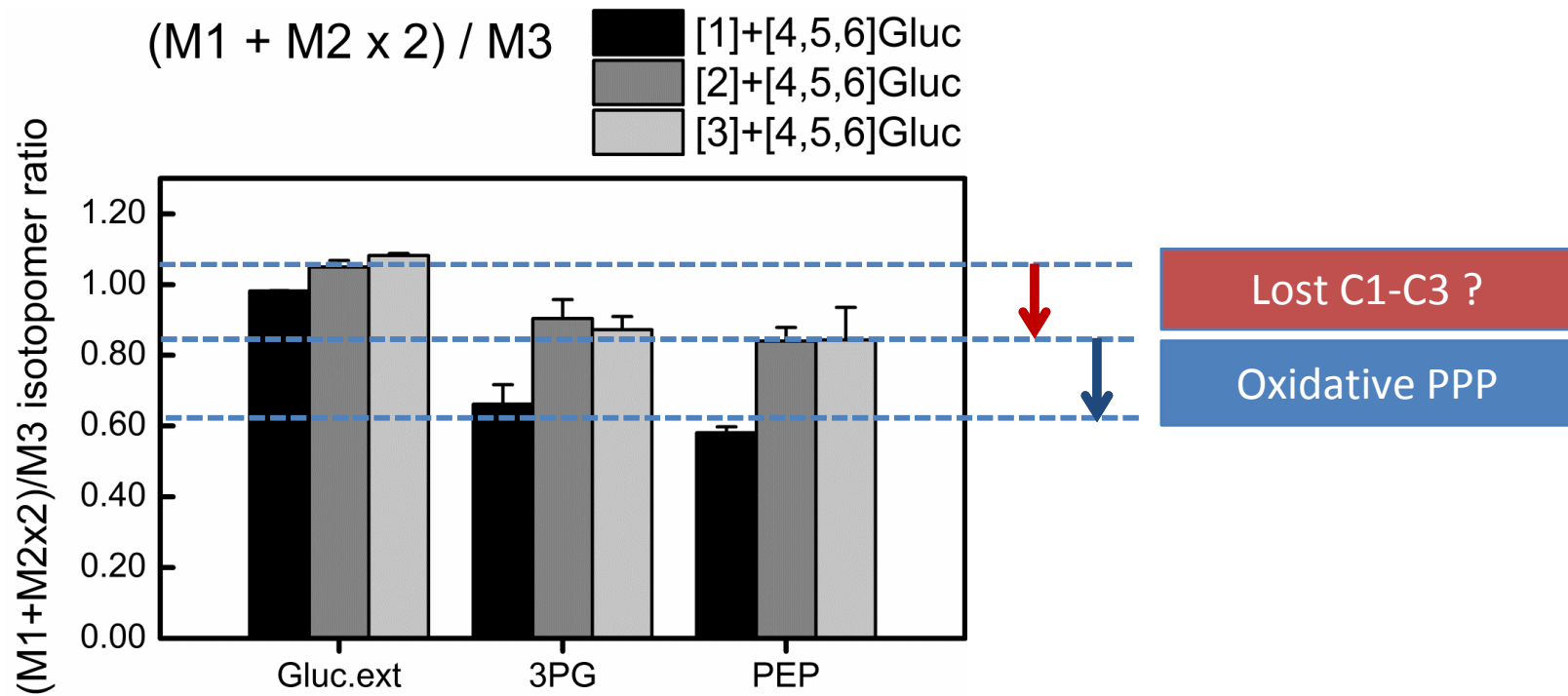
Mass isotopomer analysis



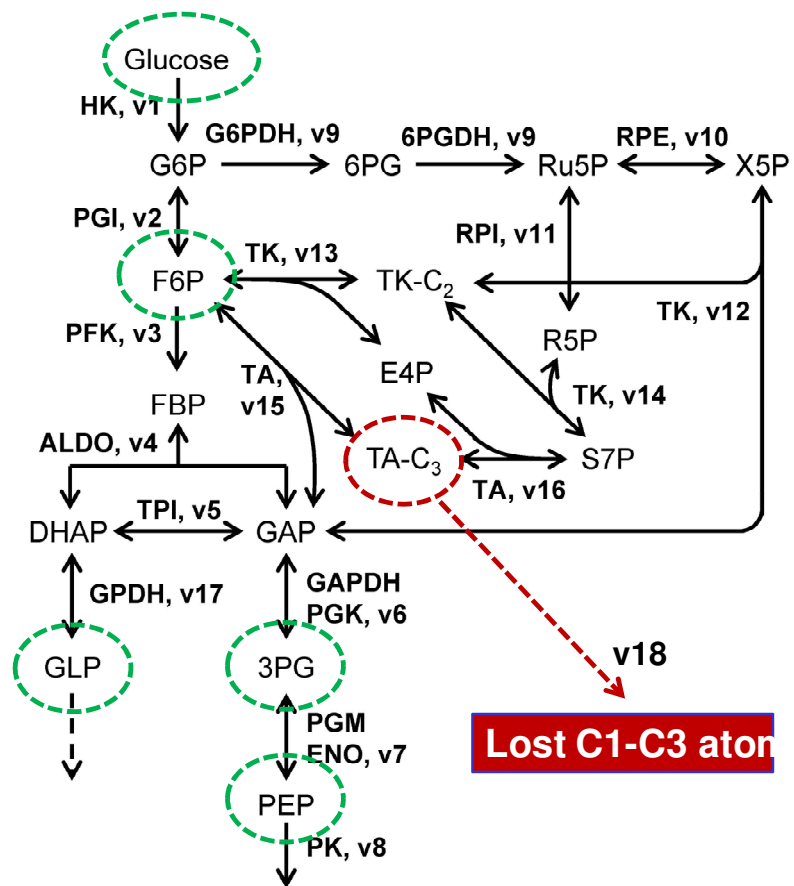
Mass isotopomer analysis



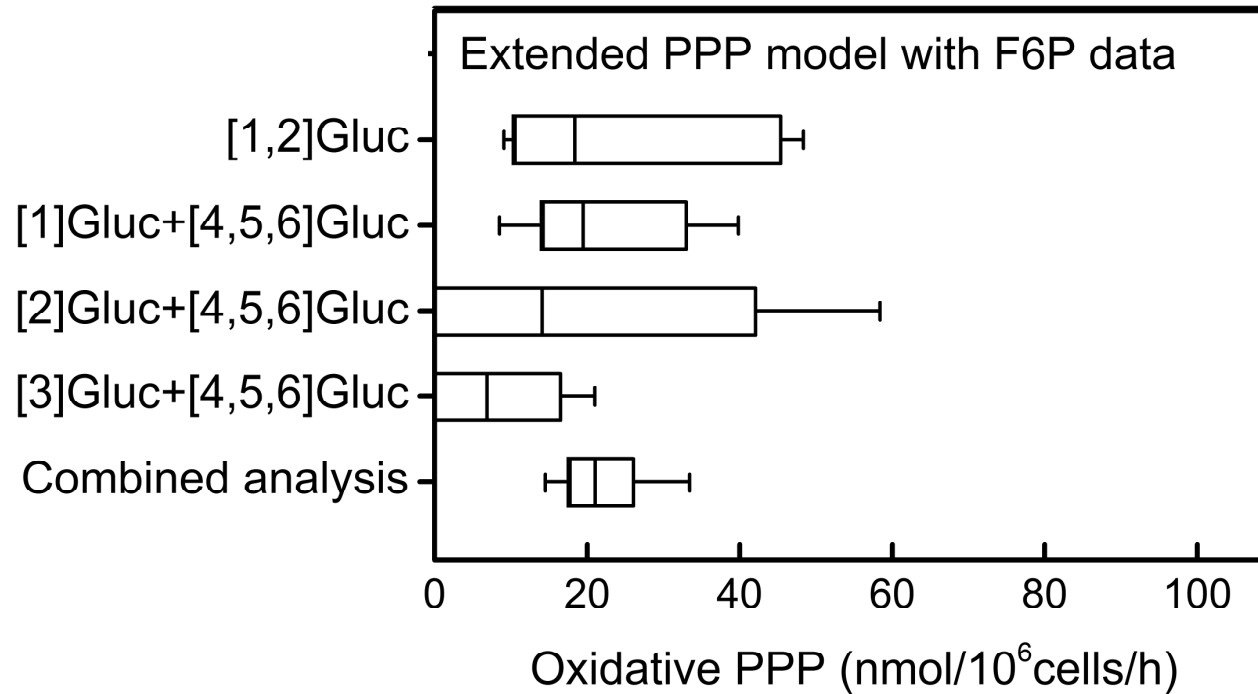
Mass isotopomer analysis



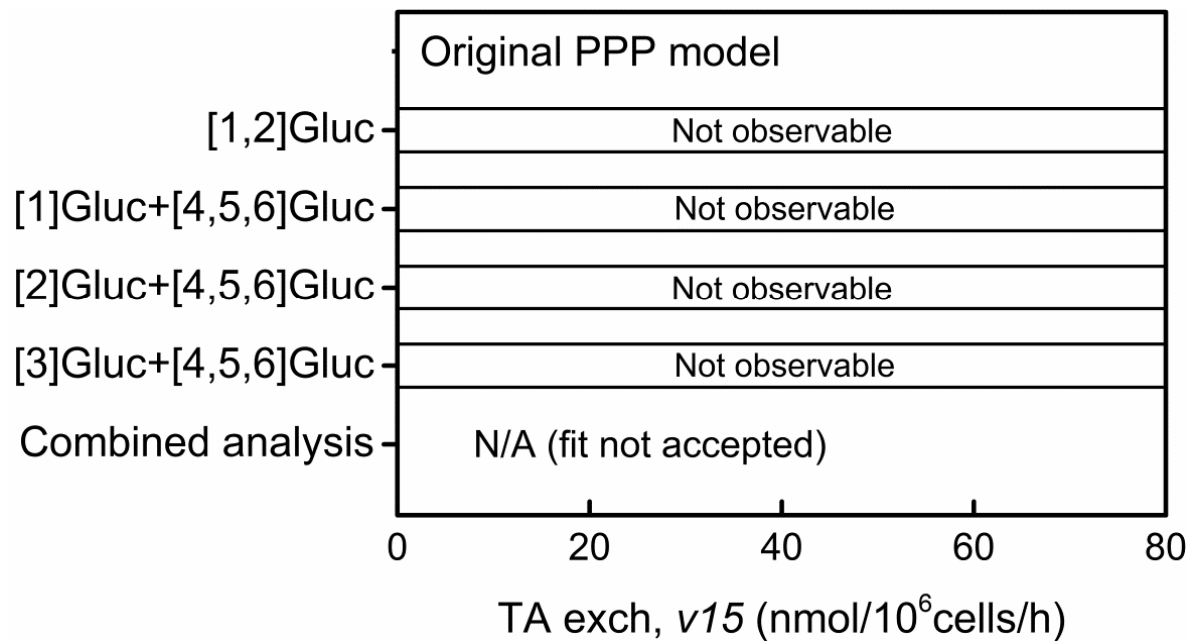
Loss of carbon atoms in non-oxPPP



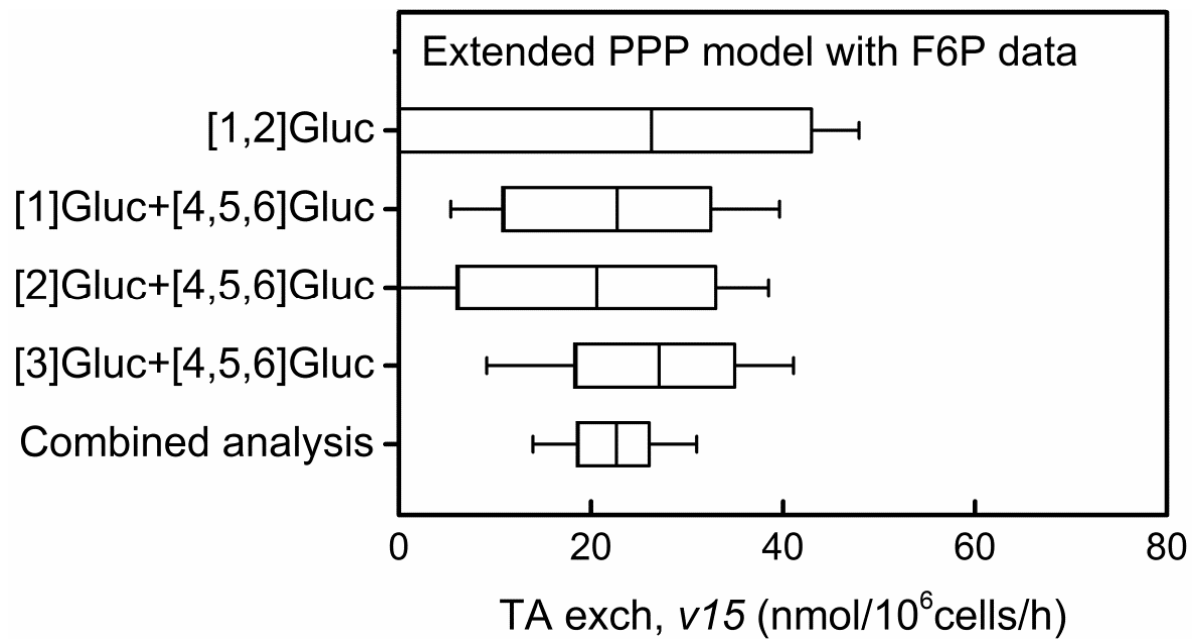
Validated oxPPP flux



Reversible non-oxPPP fluxes



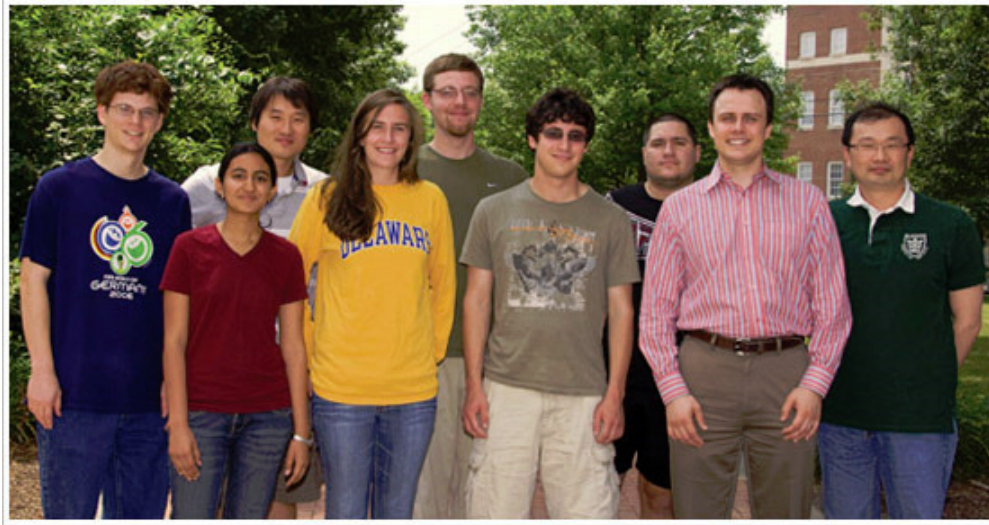
Reversible non-oxPPP fluxes



Conclusions CHO cells

- Flux analysis is only as reliable as the model
- ^{13}C -MFA for model validation
- In the transition from growth phase to stationary phase, CHO cells dramatically changed metabolism
- New insights into CHO metabolism:
 - Oxidative Pentose Phosphate
 - Lipid metabolism
 - Loss of carbon atoms in glycolysis

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