

A Systems Approach to Modeling Cell-Specific Metabolic Networks

Dr. Sayed-Amir Marashi

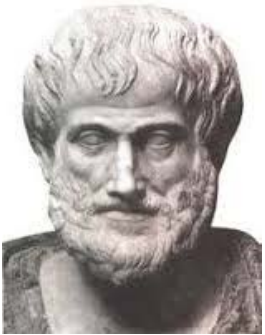
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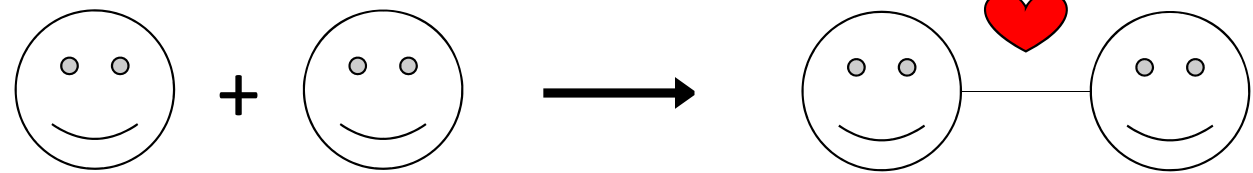
Systems Biology

An Introduction

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

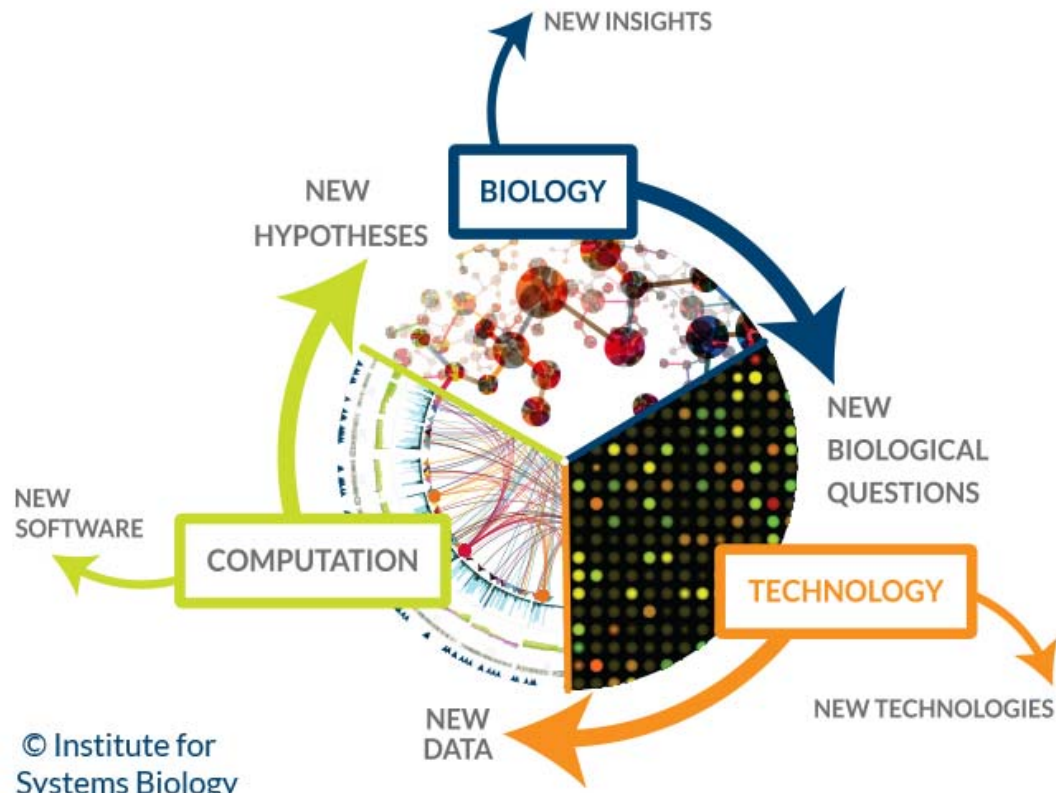


Aristotle

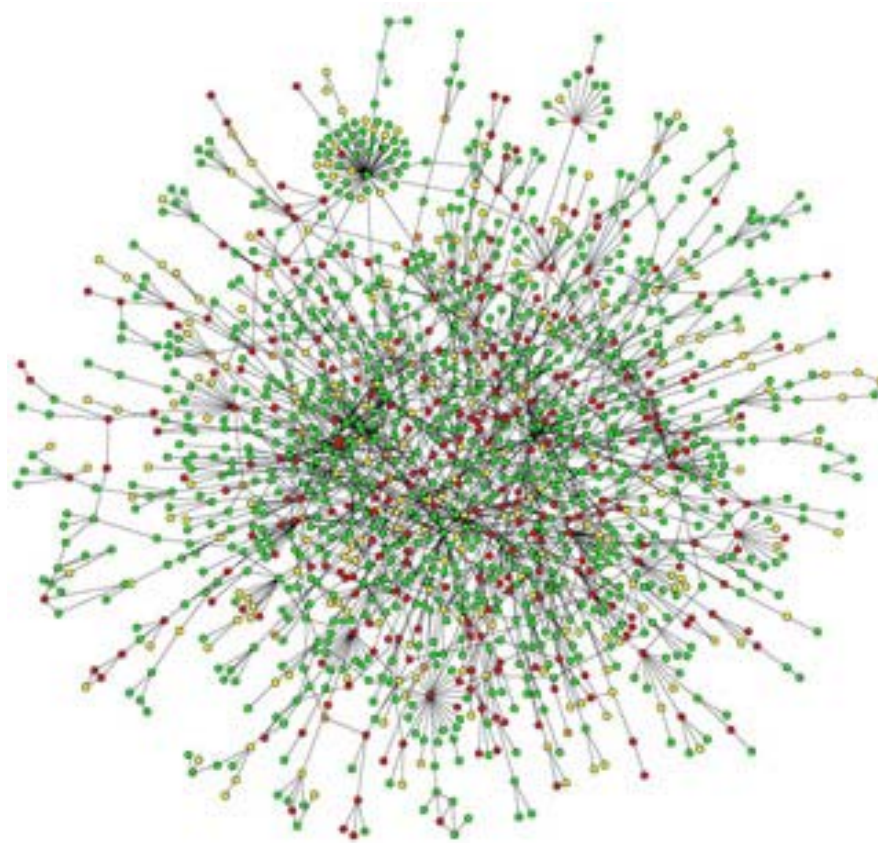


Systems Science

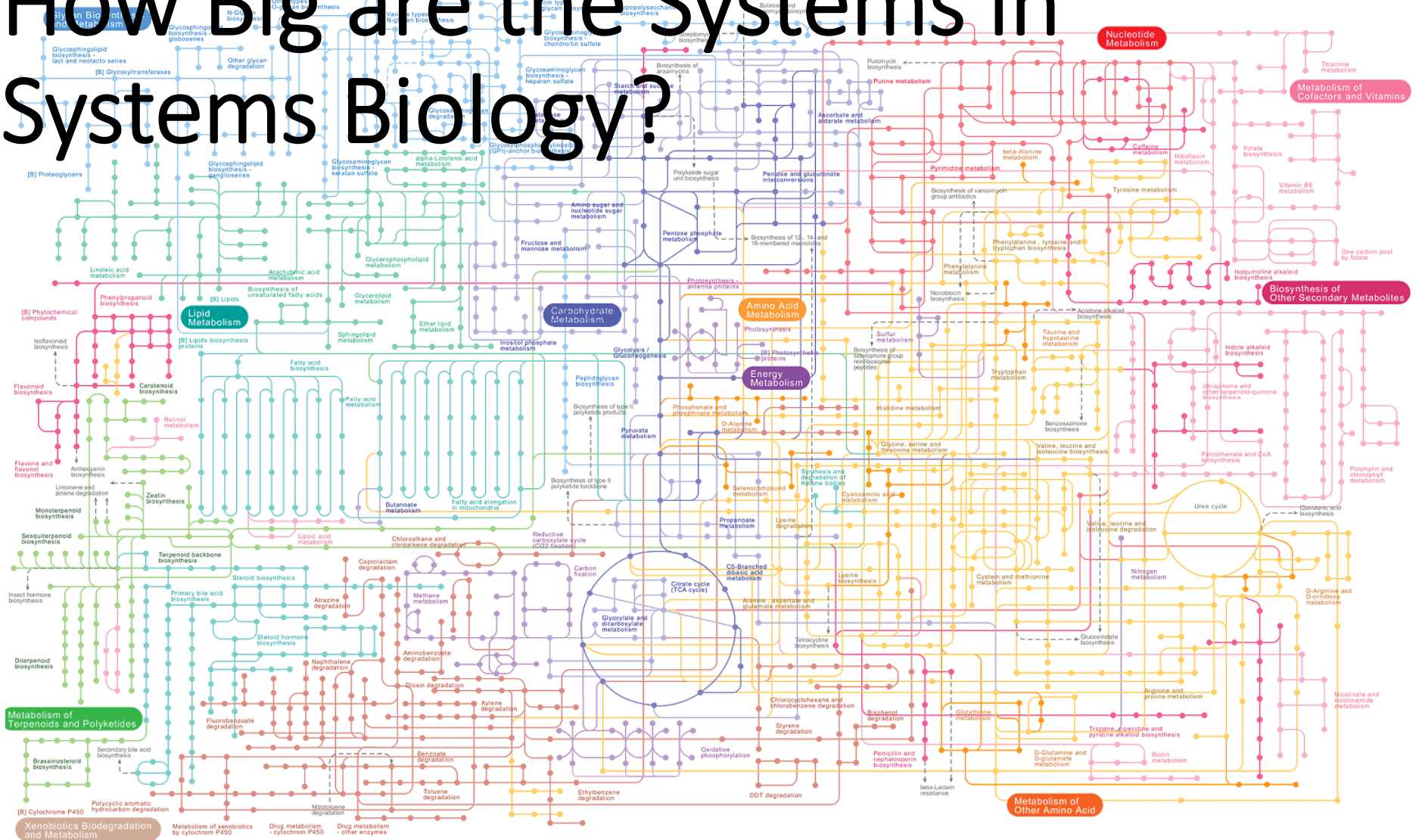
What is Systems Biology?



How Big are the Systems in Systems Biology?



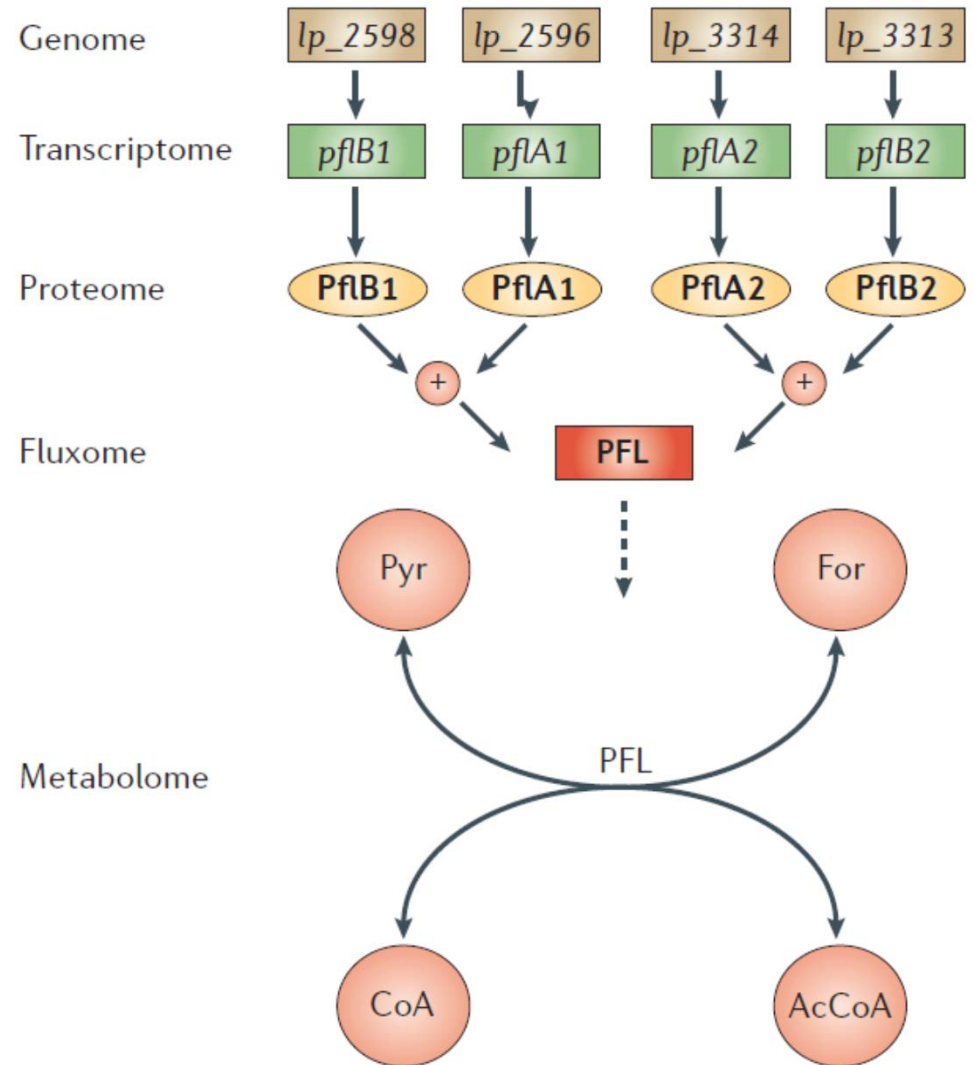
How Big are the Systems in Systems Biology?



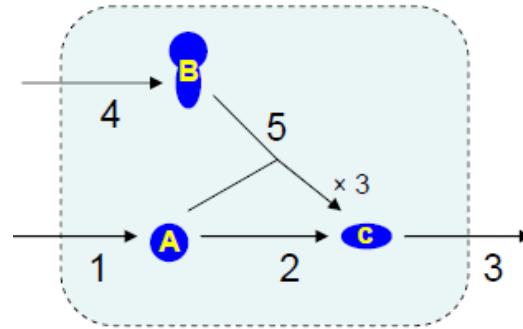
Analysis of Metabolic Networks

A Constraint-Based Approach

Central Dogma



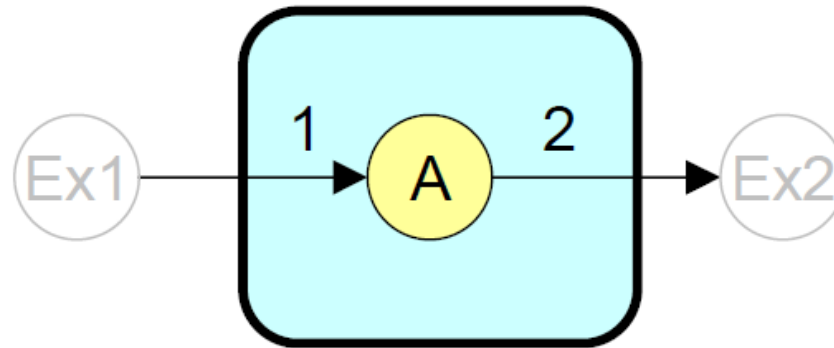
A toy metabolic network



Stoichiometric Coefficients

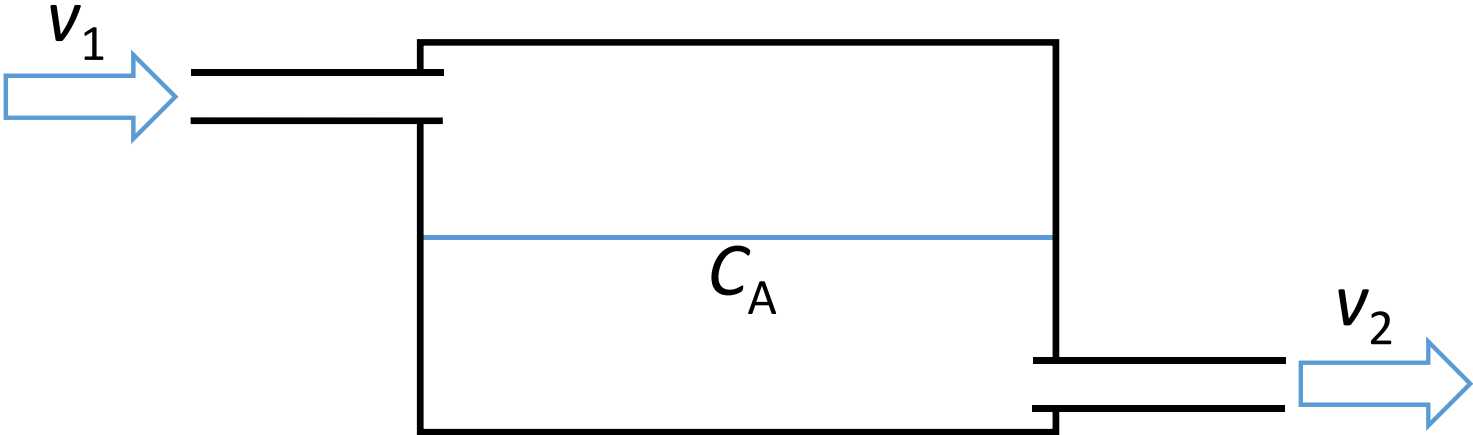


Reaction fluxes at steady state conditions

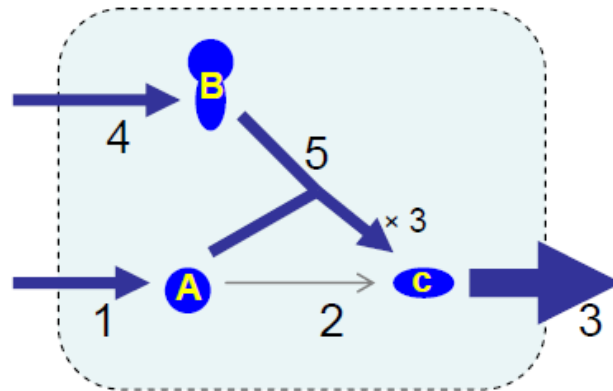
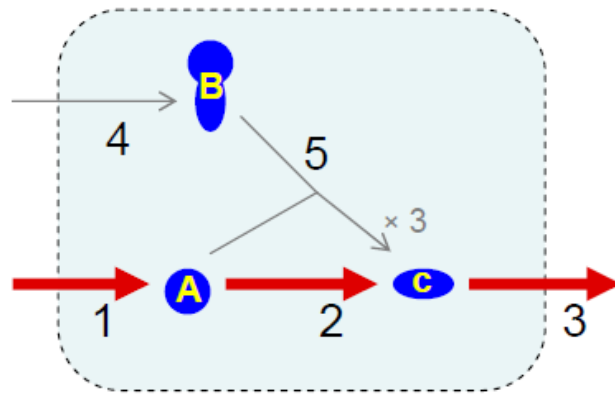


$$v_1 = v_2 \rightsquigarrow \frac{dC_A}{dt} = 0$$

A metaphor!



Flux distribution (= Flux vector)

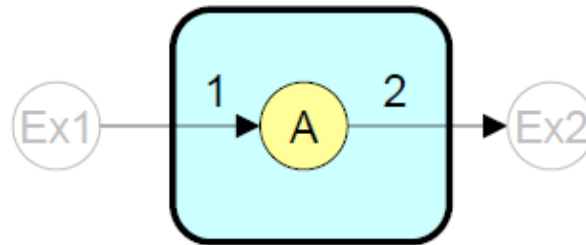


1 2 3 4 5

$$V^1 = (1, 1, 1, 0, 0)$$

$$V^2 = (1, 0, 3, 1, 1)$$

Flux Balance



The rate of increase in C_A can be computed as: $\frac{dC_A}{dt} = v_1 - v_2$

This network has the following stoichiometric matrix: $S = (+1 \ -1)$

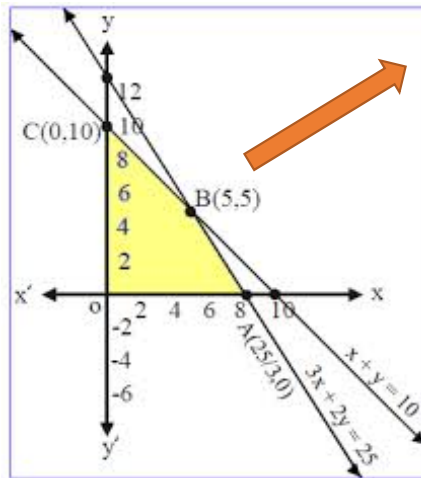
Here, any flux distribution is a 2-dimensional vector: $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Therefore, $\frac{dC_A}{dt} = S \cdot \vec{v}$. This equation is true for all networks.

Linear Constraints on Fluxes

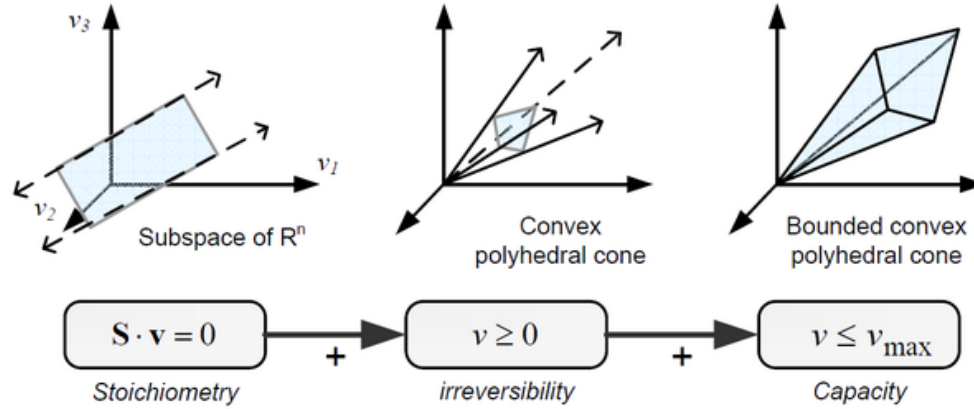
- Typically, it is assumed that the internal metabolites are not produced or consumed when the cells grow.
- Constant concentration of each metabolite means that the system is in **steady-state** conditions.
- This can be written as the following set of “linear” constraints:
$$\frac{d\vec{C}}{dt} = S \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}.$$
 These are the “**stoichiometric constraints**”.
- Additionally, the set of irreversible reactions, Irr , is known. This implies that we have a set of linear “**thermodynamic constraints**”:
 $v_i \geq 0$ for all $i \in Irr$.

Basic Concepts: Linear Programming

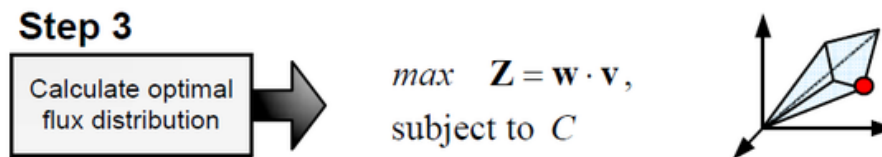
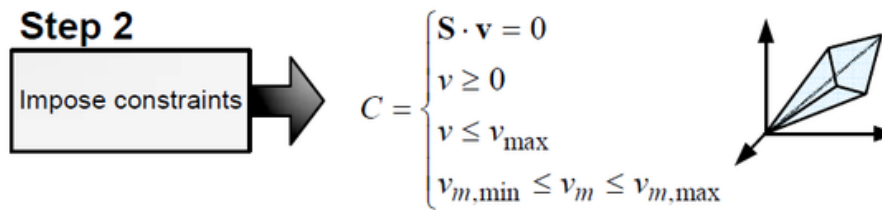
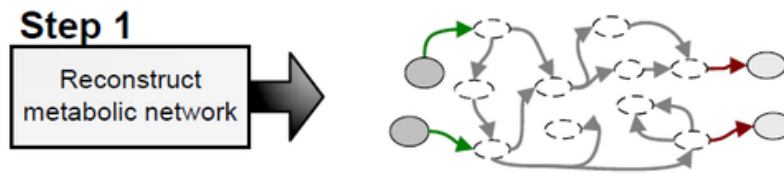


$$\begin{aligned} \text{max } & 1.1x + y \\ \text{subject to: } & 3x + 2y \leq 25 \\ & x + y \leq 10 \\ & x, y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Basic Concepts: Linear Programming

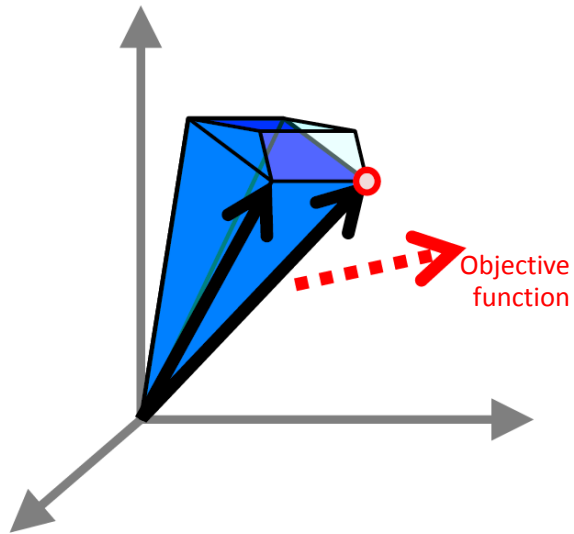


Basic Concepts: Flux Balance Analysis (FBA)



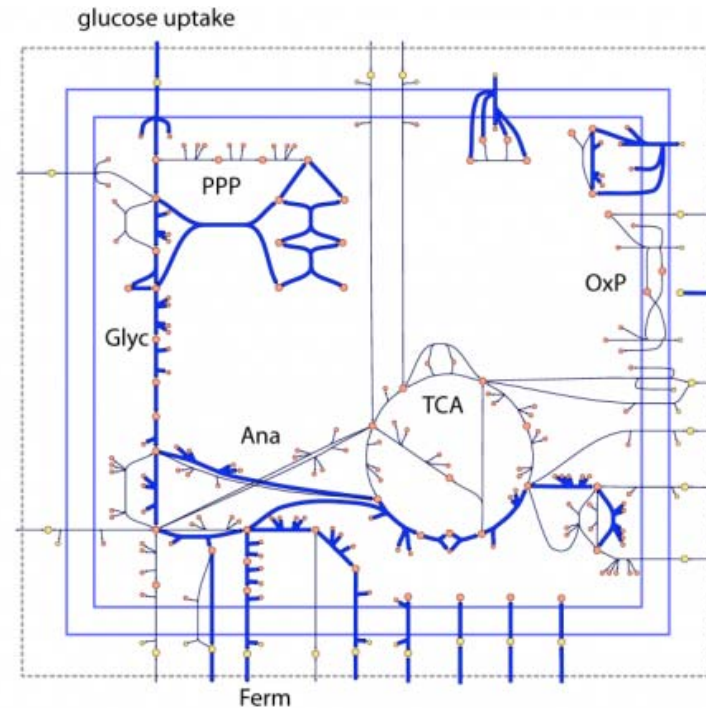
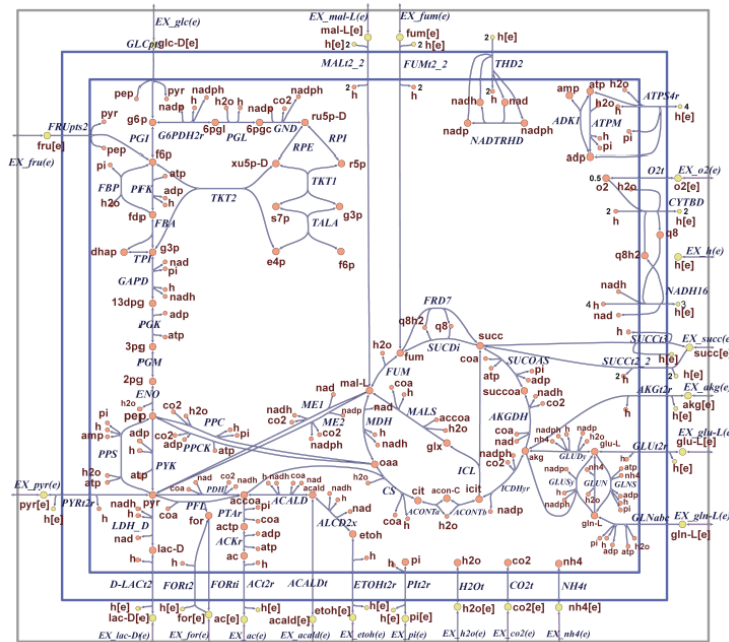
FBA \rightarrow **max:** objective function \rightarrow a feasible flux distribution
subject to: constraints

Flux Balance Analysis (FBA)



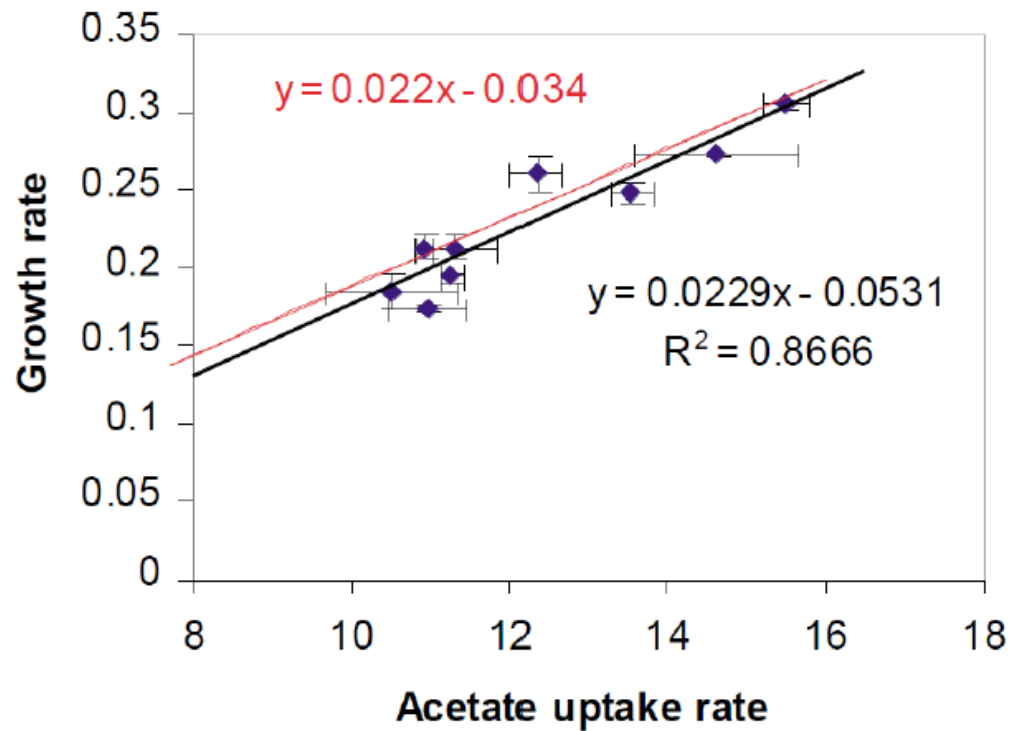
$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Max} & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{v} \\ \text{Subject to:} & \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \\ & 0 \leq v_i \quad \text{for any irreversible reaction } i \\ & \alpha_i \leq v_i \leq \beta_i \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, n \end{array}$$

Flux Balance Analysis (FBA)



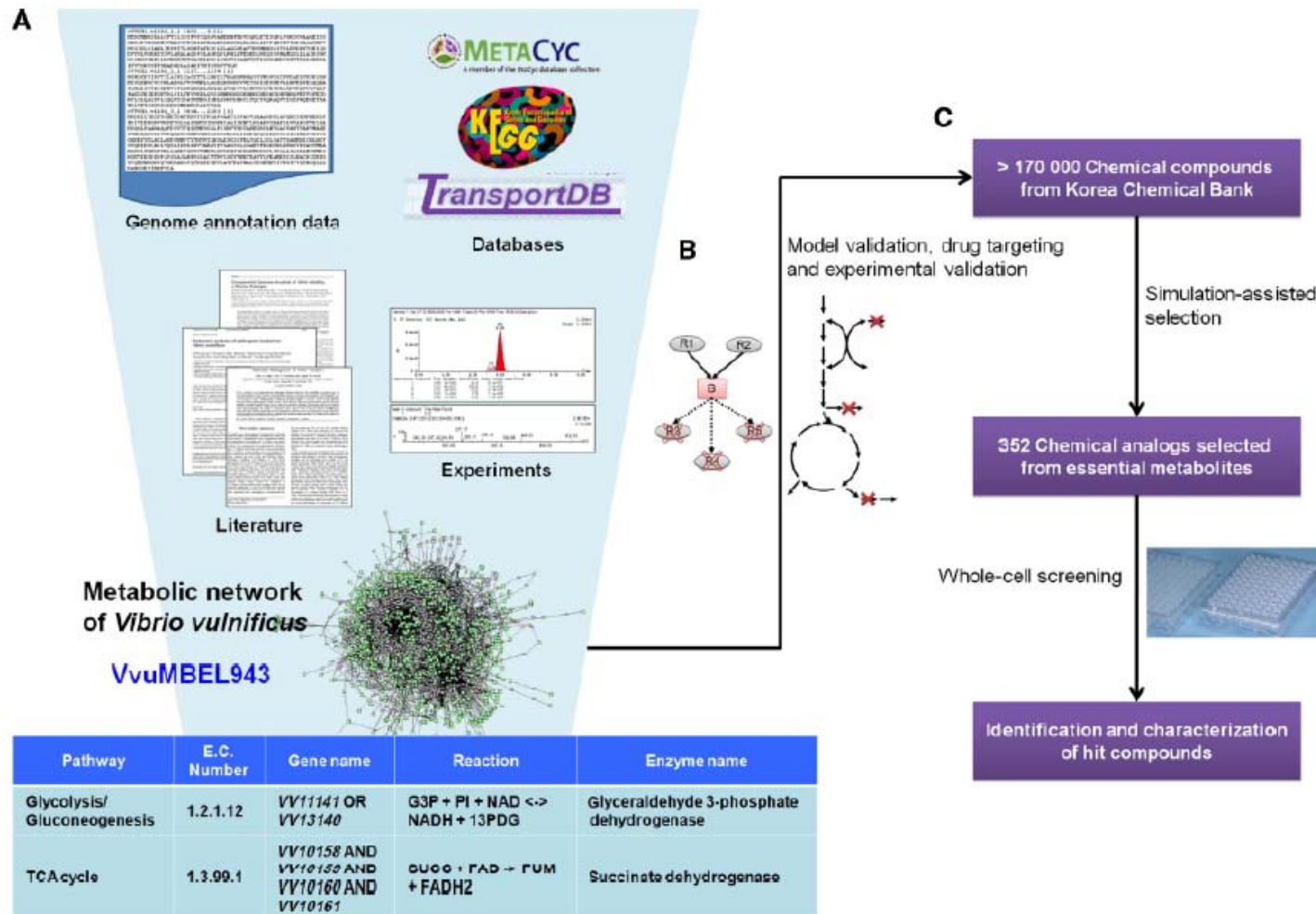
FBA \rightarrow max: objective function
 subject to: constraints \rightarrow a feasible flux distribution

Example: Modeling *E. coli* growth



Edwards et al., 2001, Nature Biotechnology, 19:125-130.

Application: Finding Drug Targets



Kim et al., 2011, Molecular Systems Biology, 7:460.

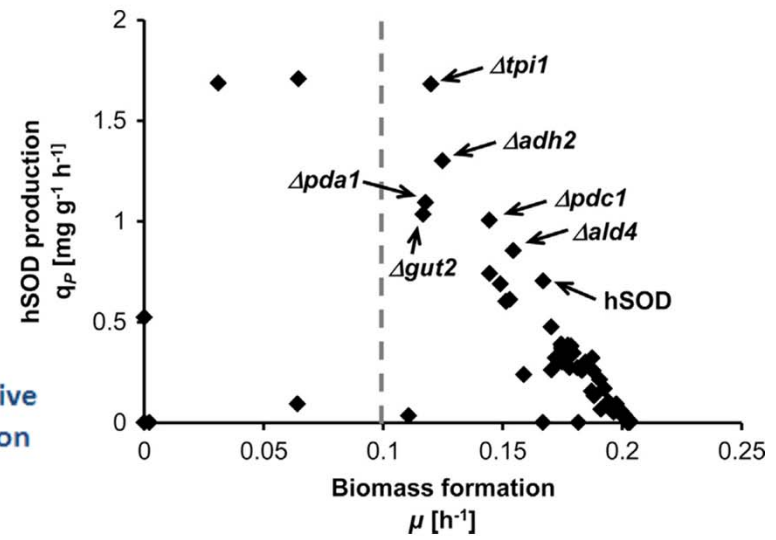
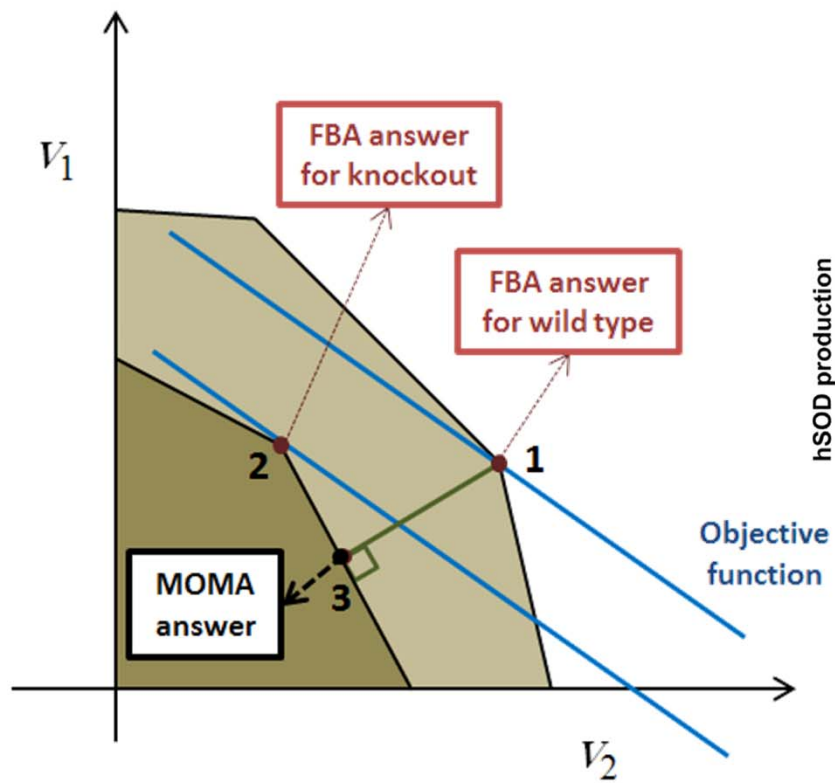
Recombinant Protein Production

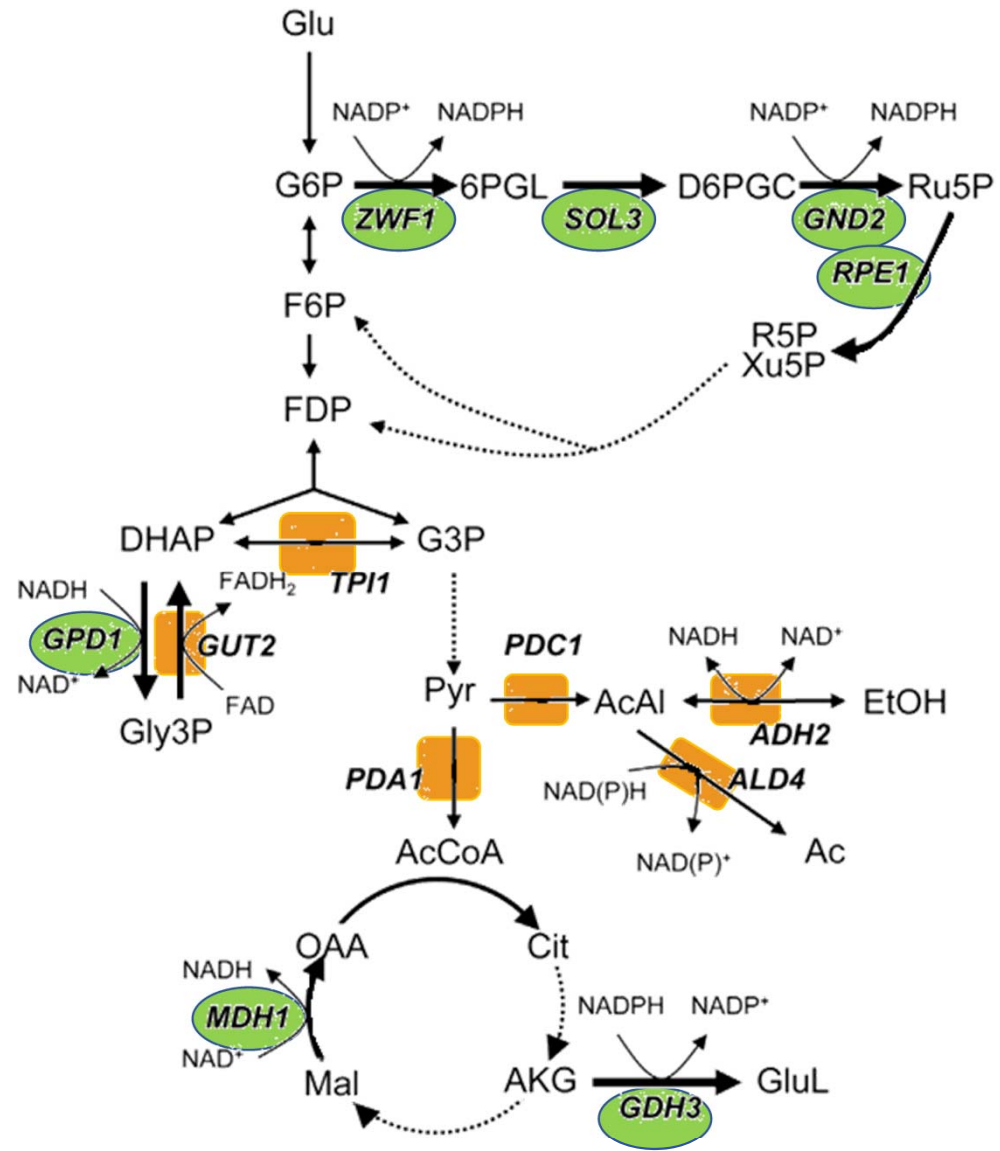
How metabolic modeling can help

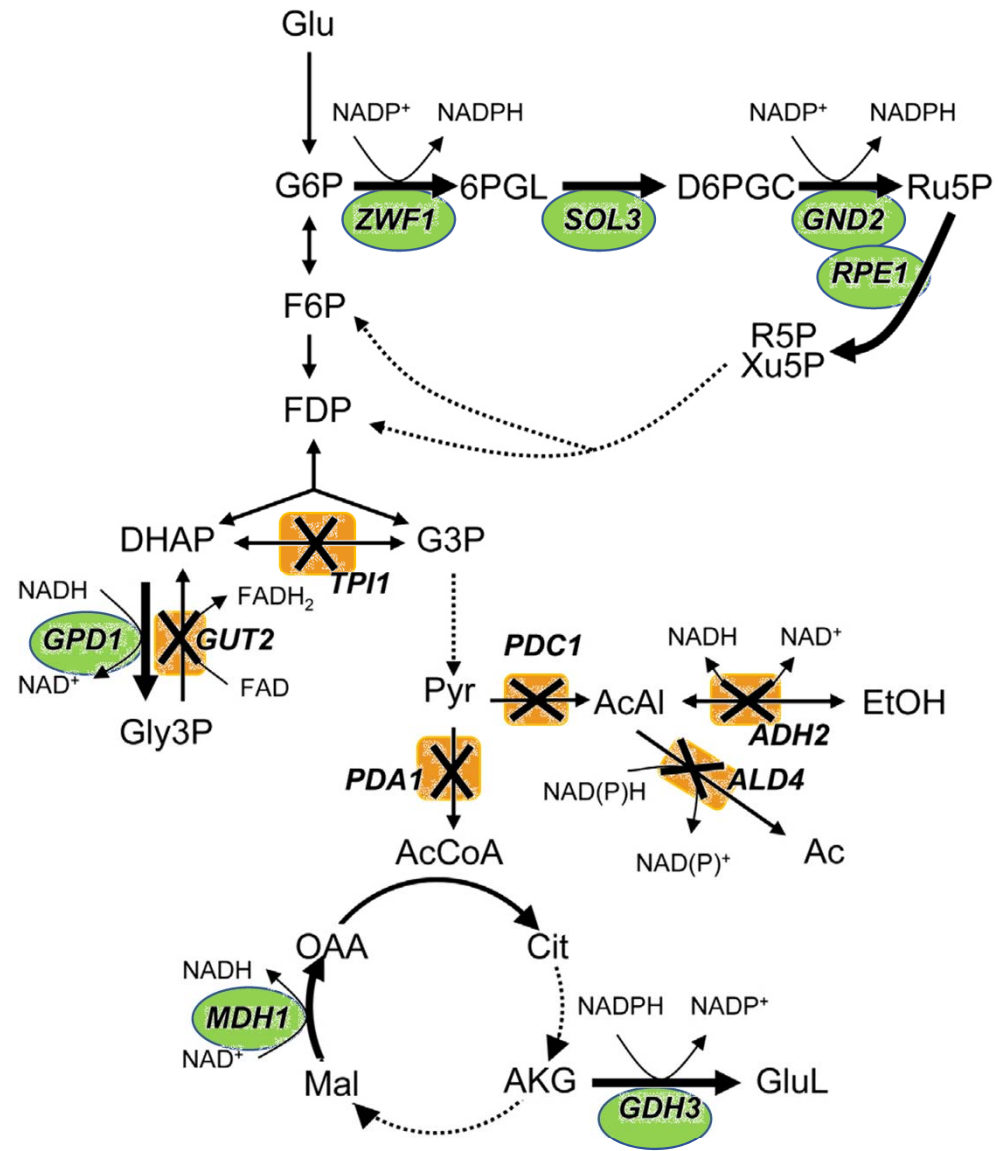
In silico prediction of gene manipulations

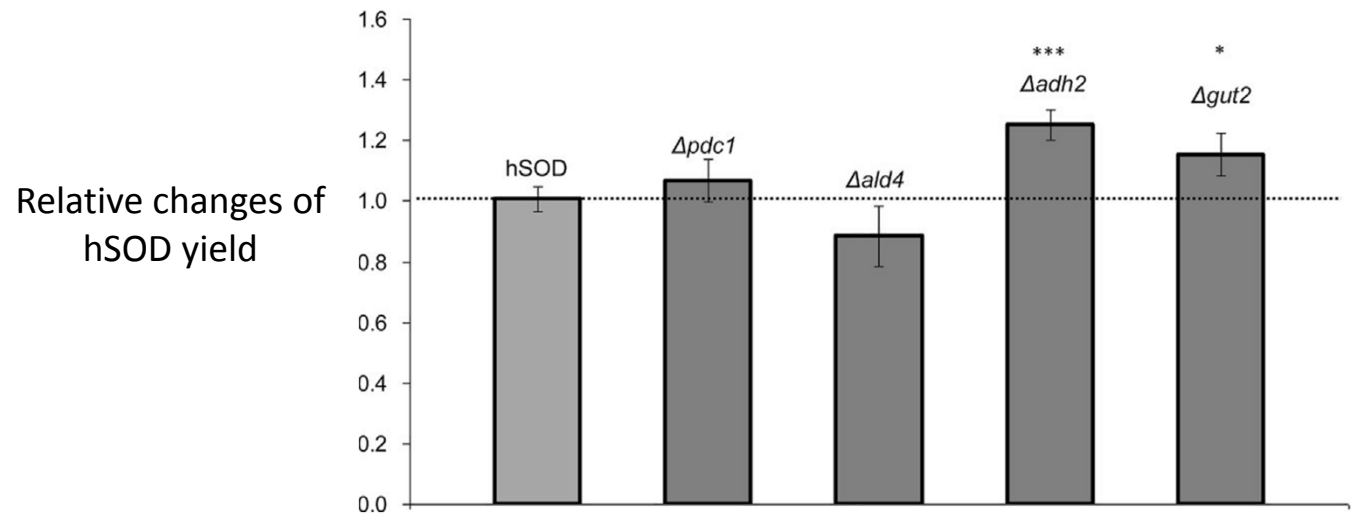
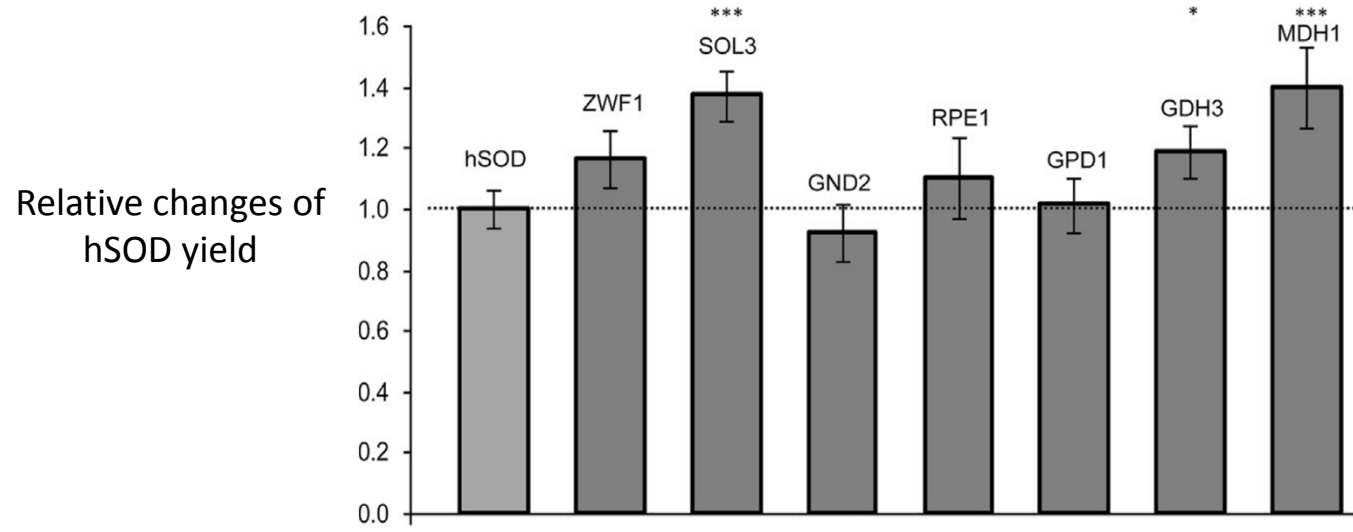
- “MOMA” for knock-out (Segrè *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 2002)
- “FSEOF” for over expression (Choi *et al.*, Appl. Environ. Microbiol., 2010)

MOMA





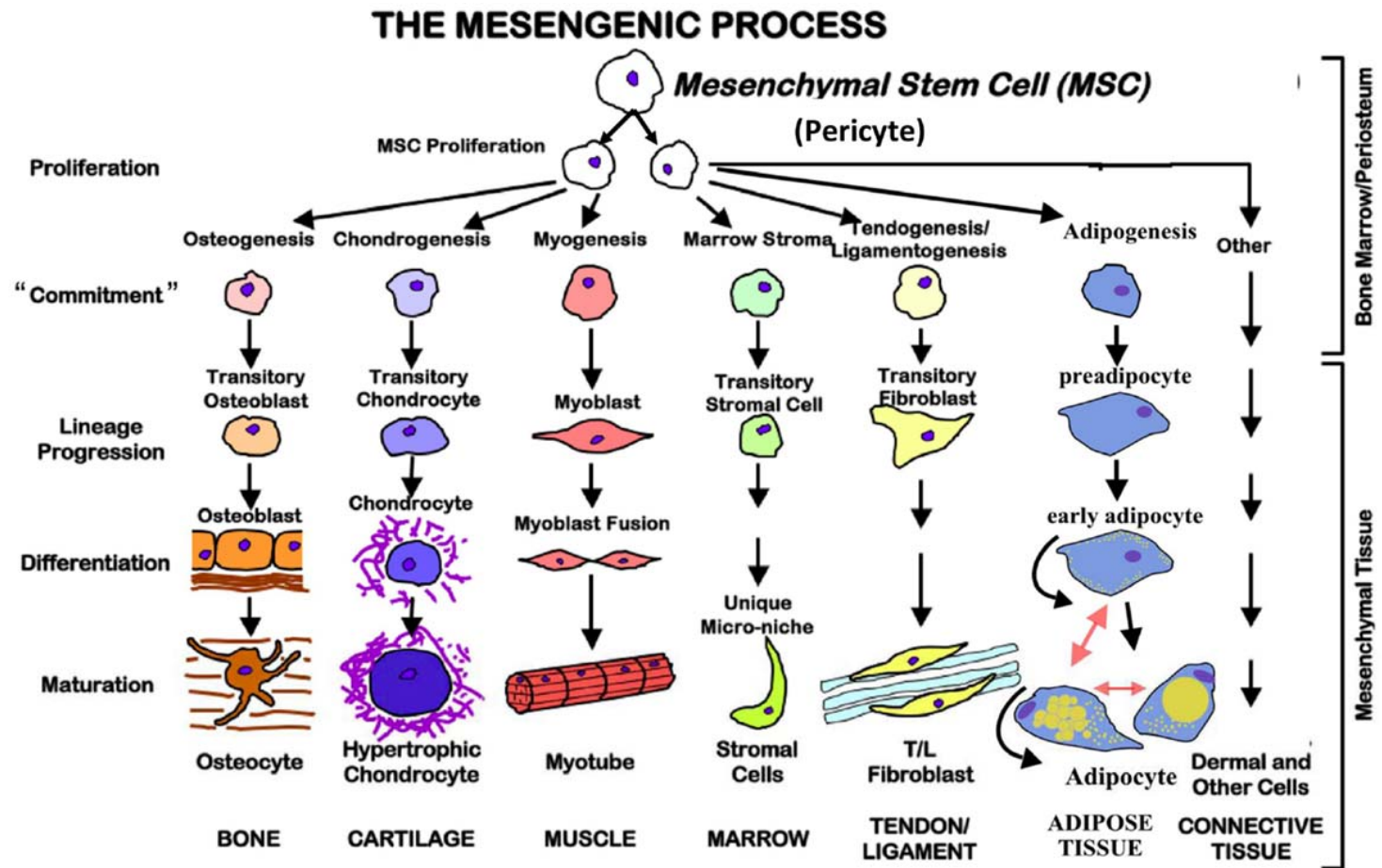




Modeling Stem Cell Metabolism

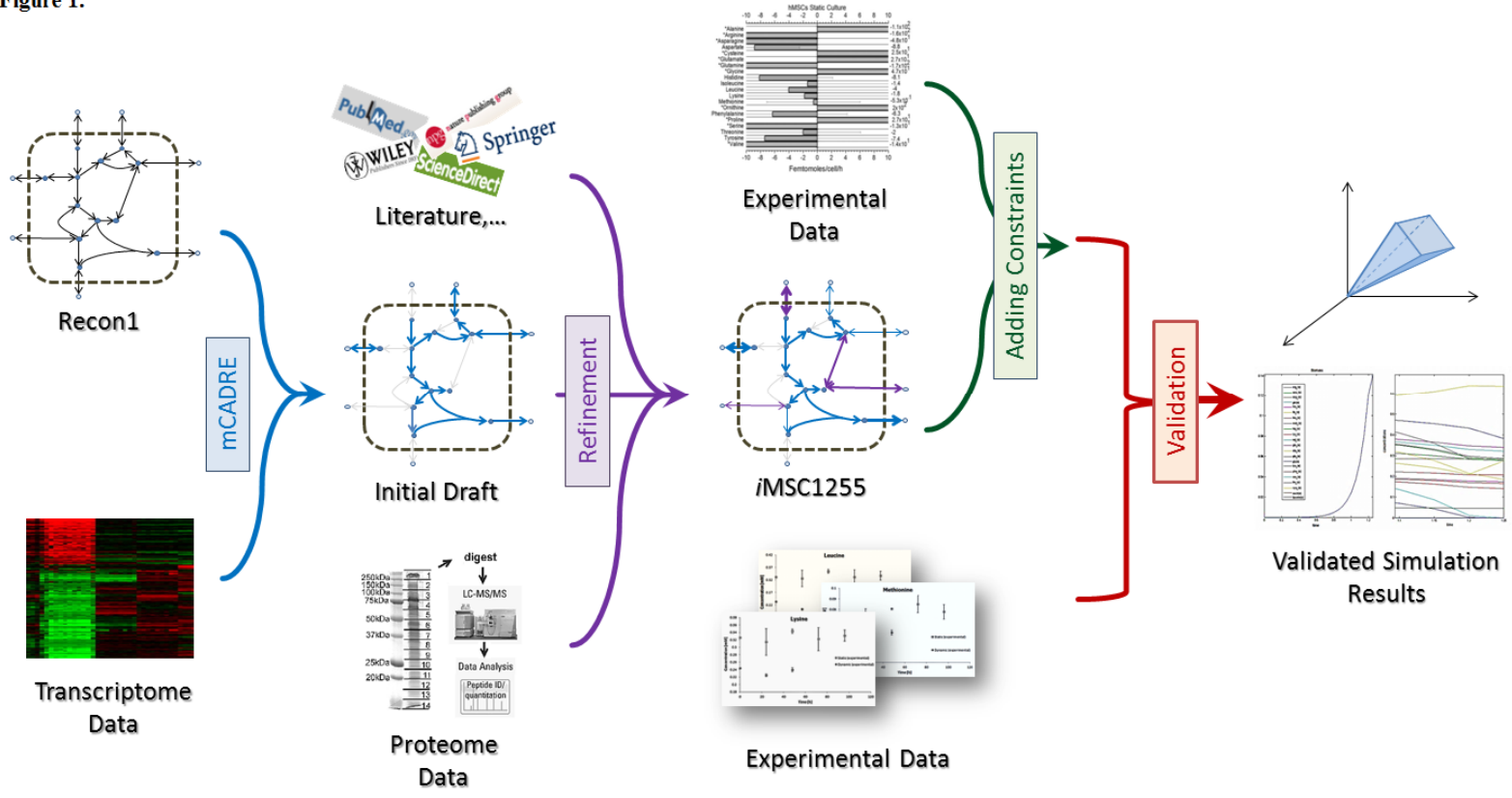
Application to MSCs

Mesenchymal Stem Cells

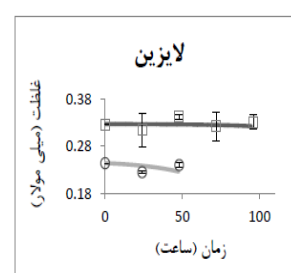
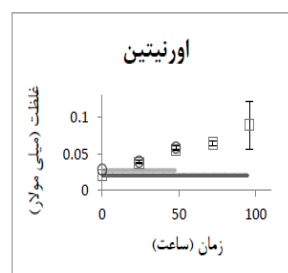
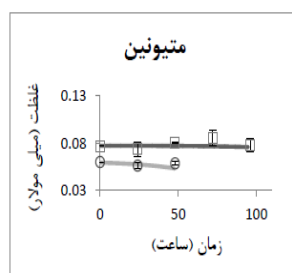
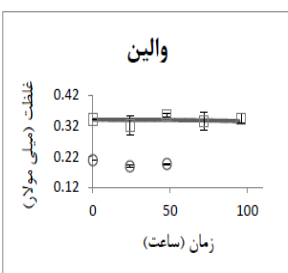
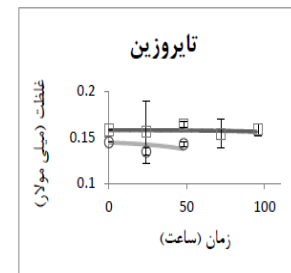
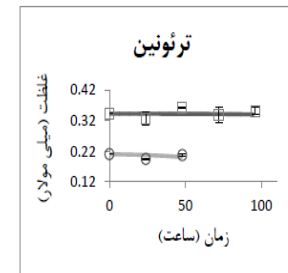
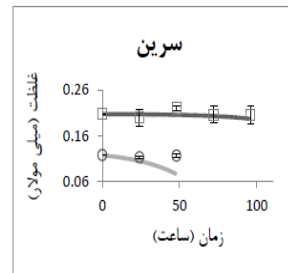
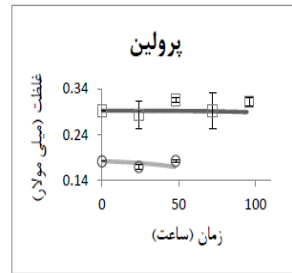
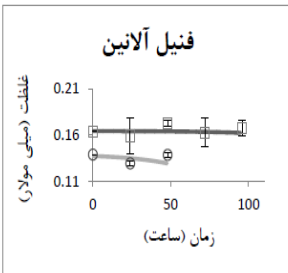
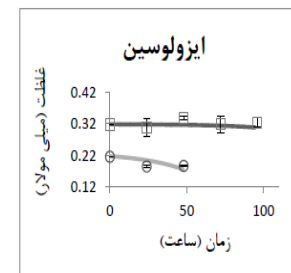
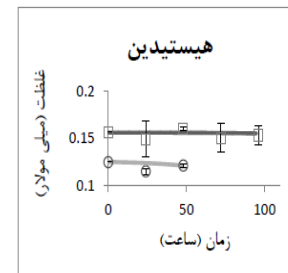
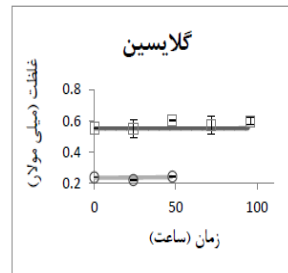
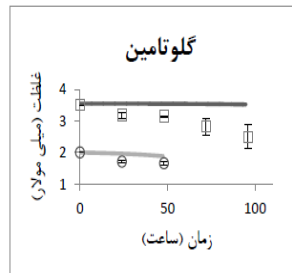
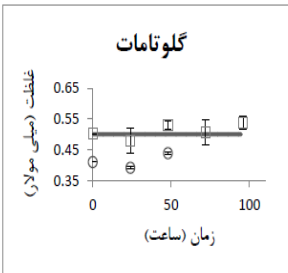
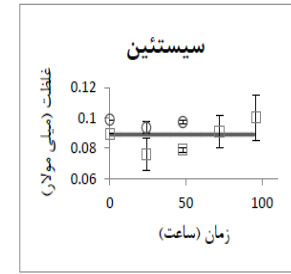
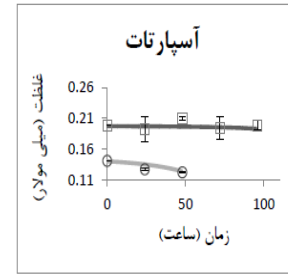
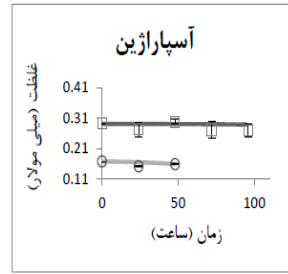
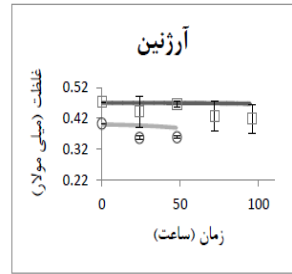
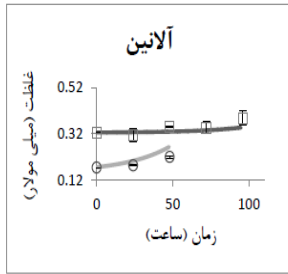


Stem Cell Metabolic Network

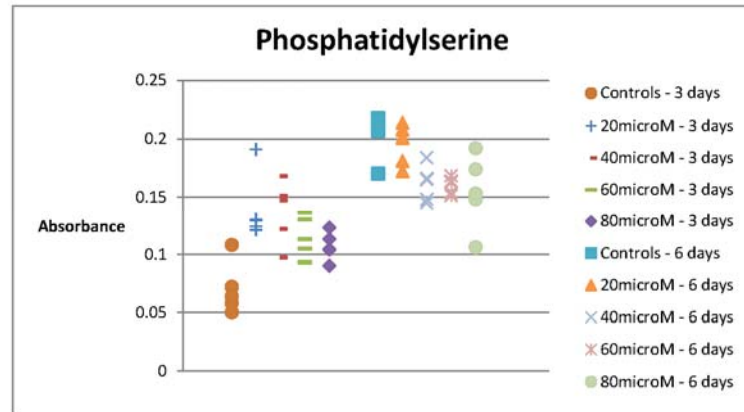
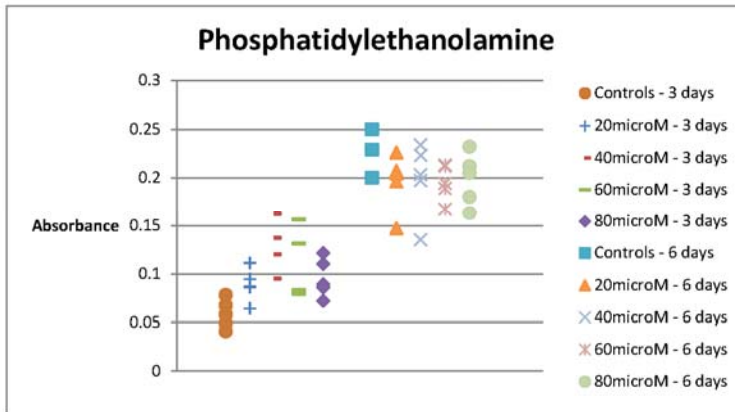
Figure 1.



Fouladiha et al., 2015, Cell Proliferation, 48:475-485.



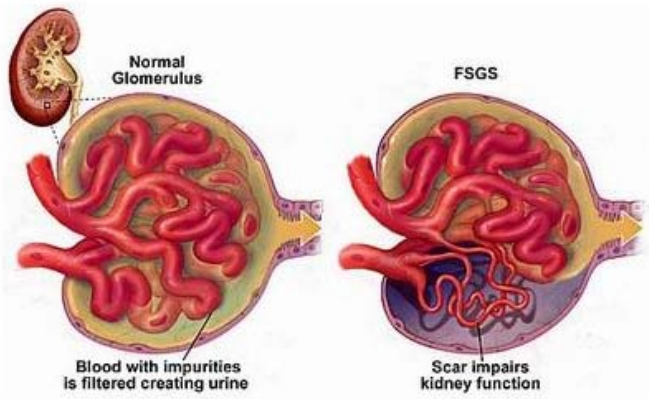
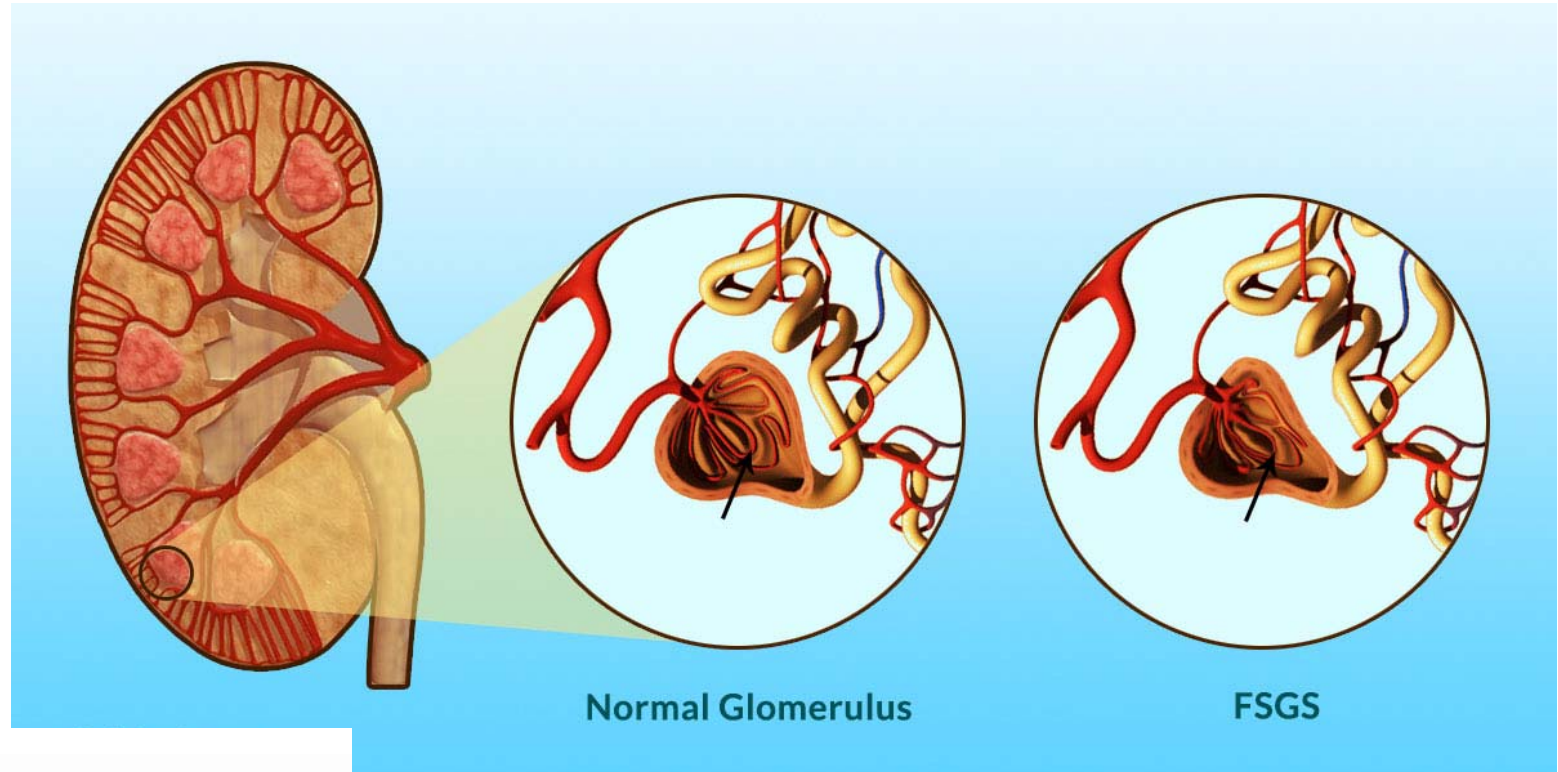
Speed up cell division



Modeling Kidney Metabolism

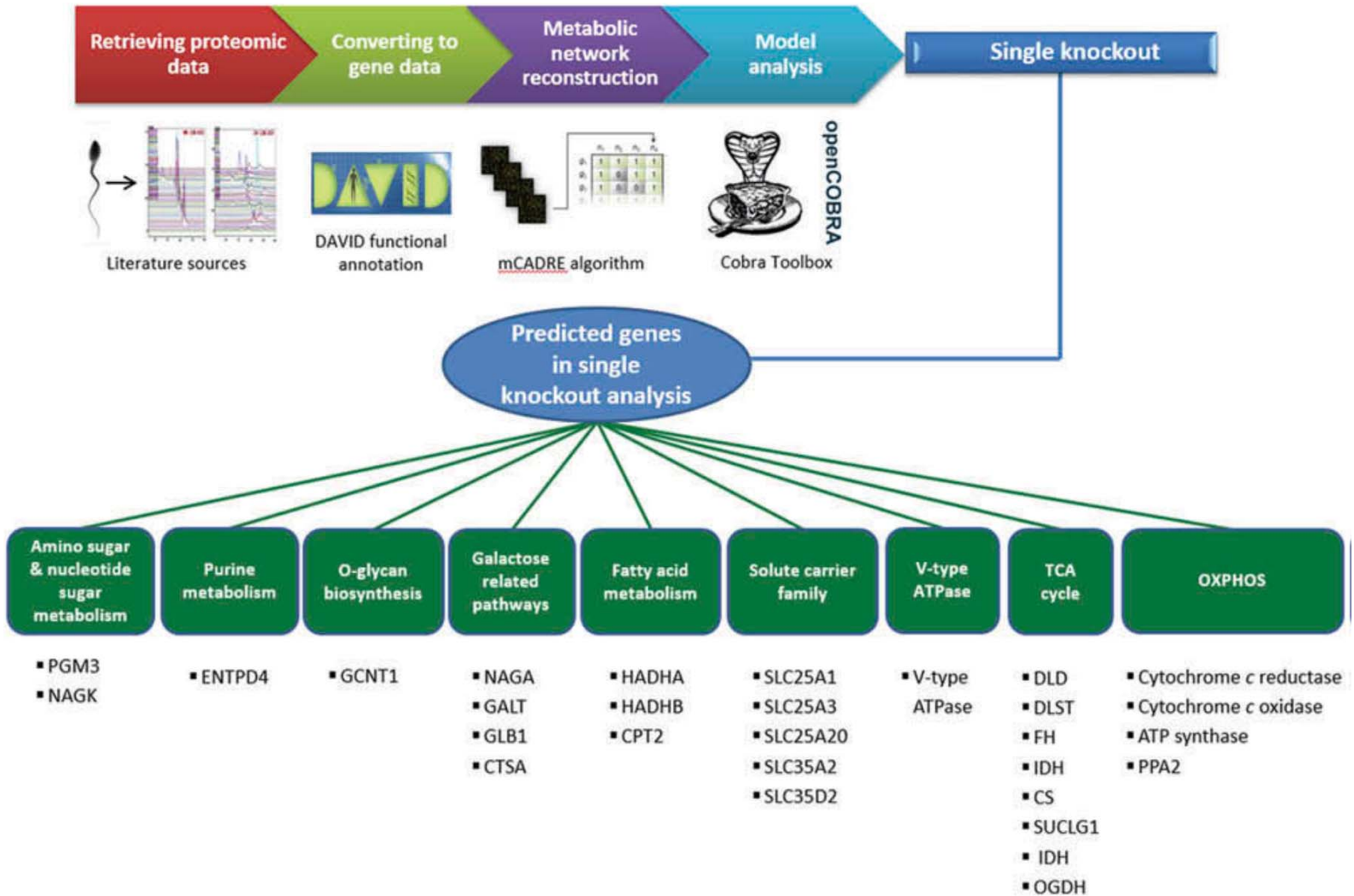
Application to FSGS

FSGS



Modeling Infertility Metabolism

Sperm metabolism

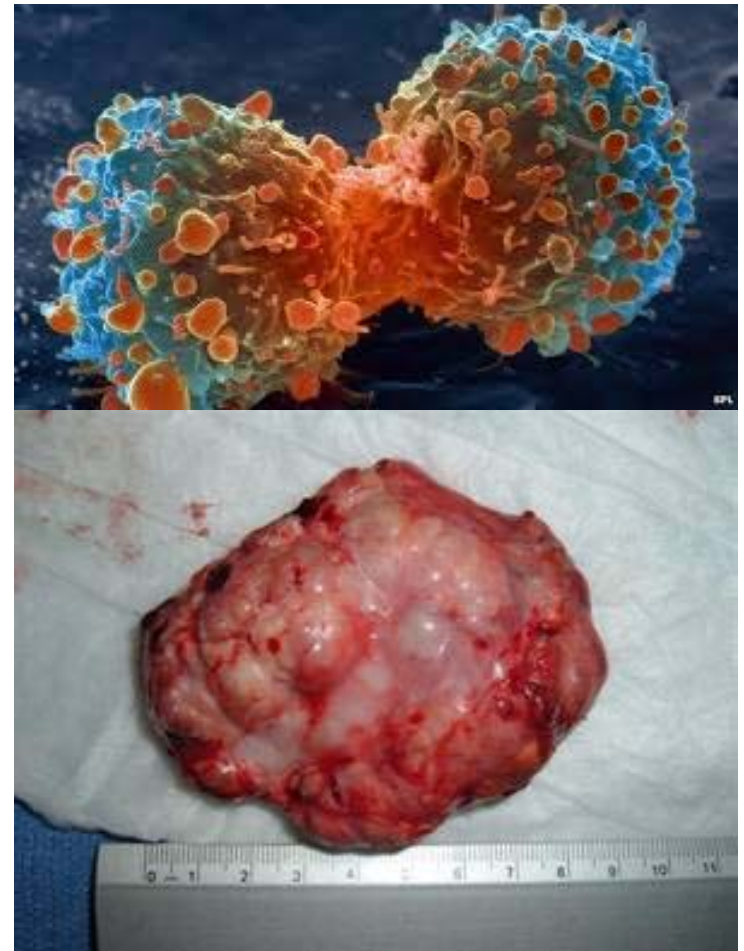


Asghari et al. (2017) *Syst. Biol. Reproduct. Med.* 63: 1.

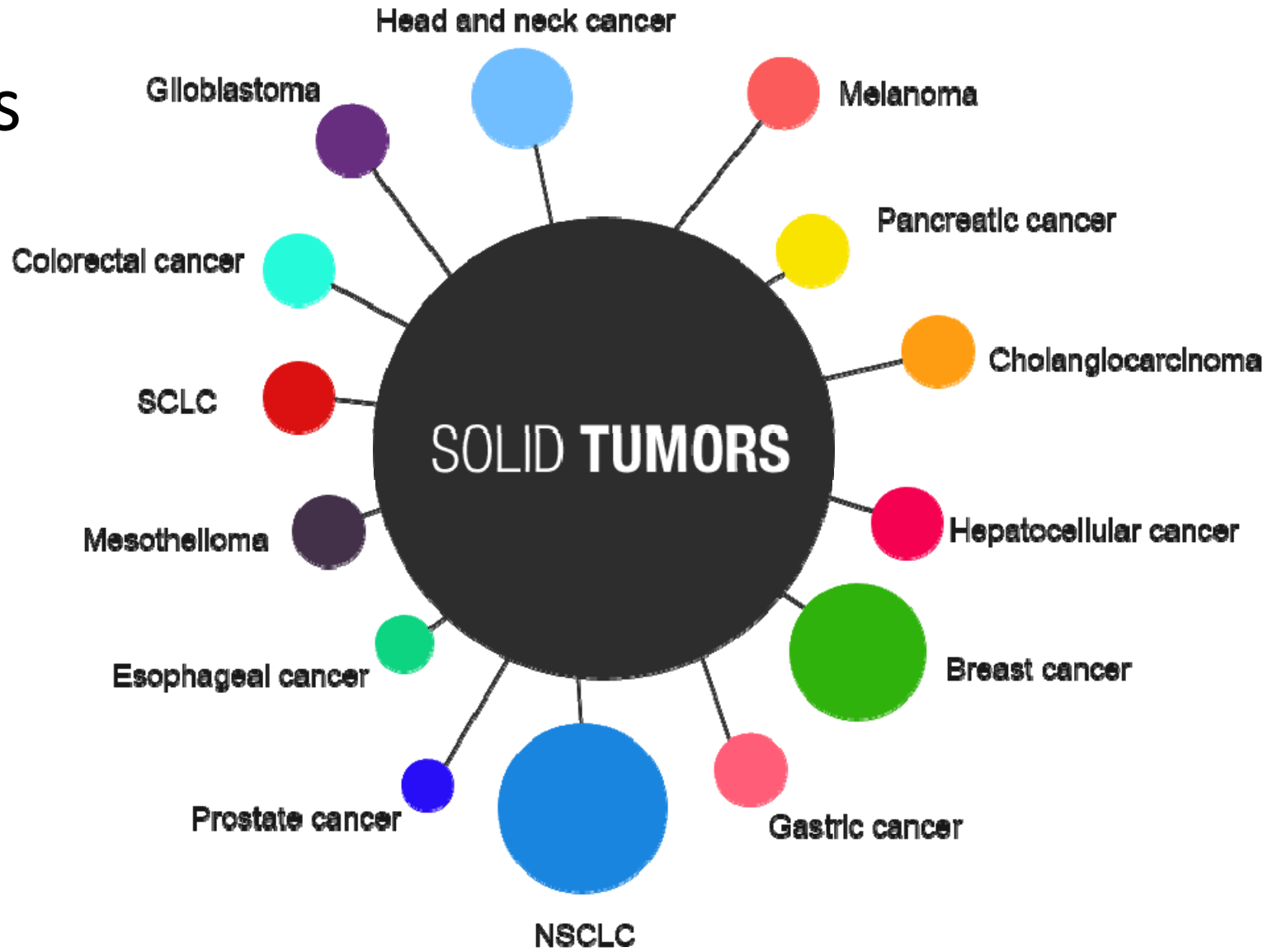
Modeling Cancer Metabolism

Introduction: Importance of Cancer

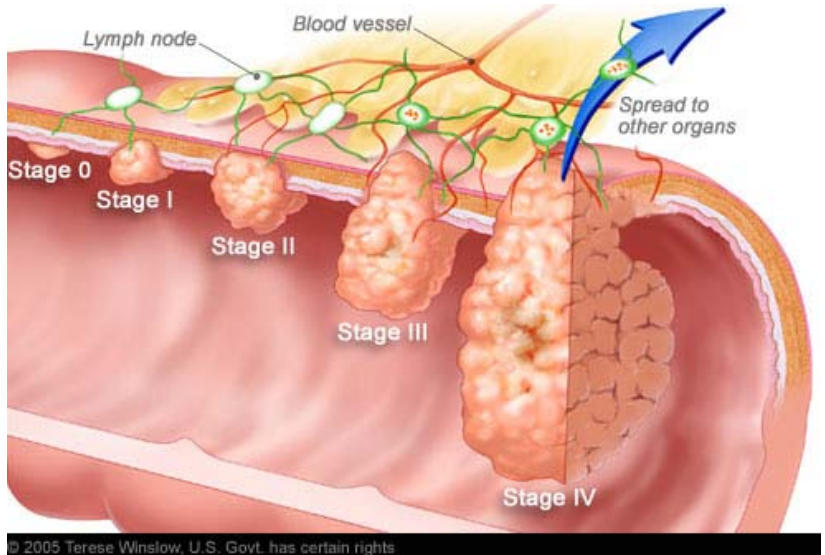
- Cancer is the uncontrolled growth and spread of cells.
- Its global burden has risen to **14.1** million new cases and **8.2** million deaths in per year.



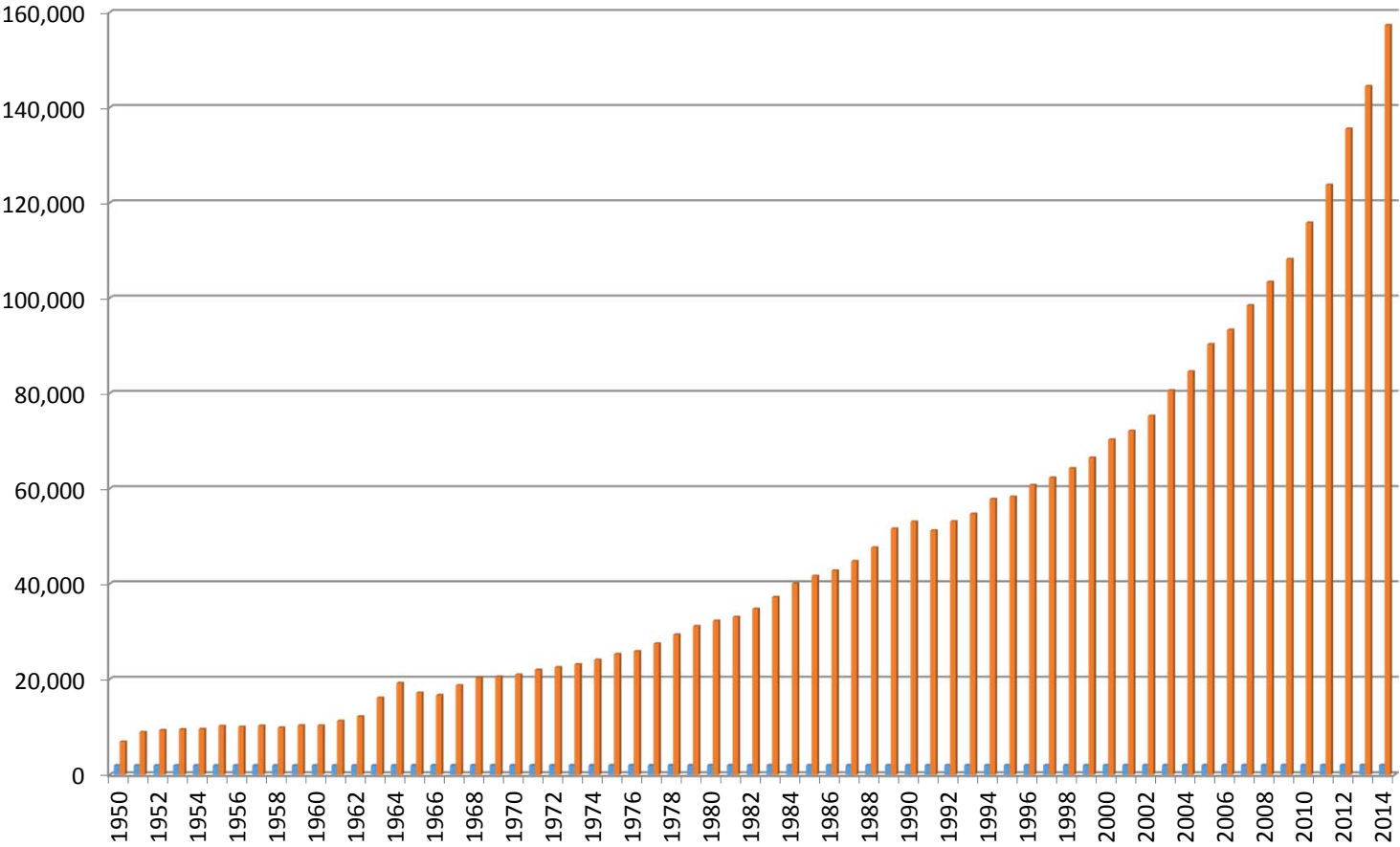
Solid Tumors



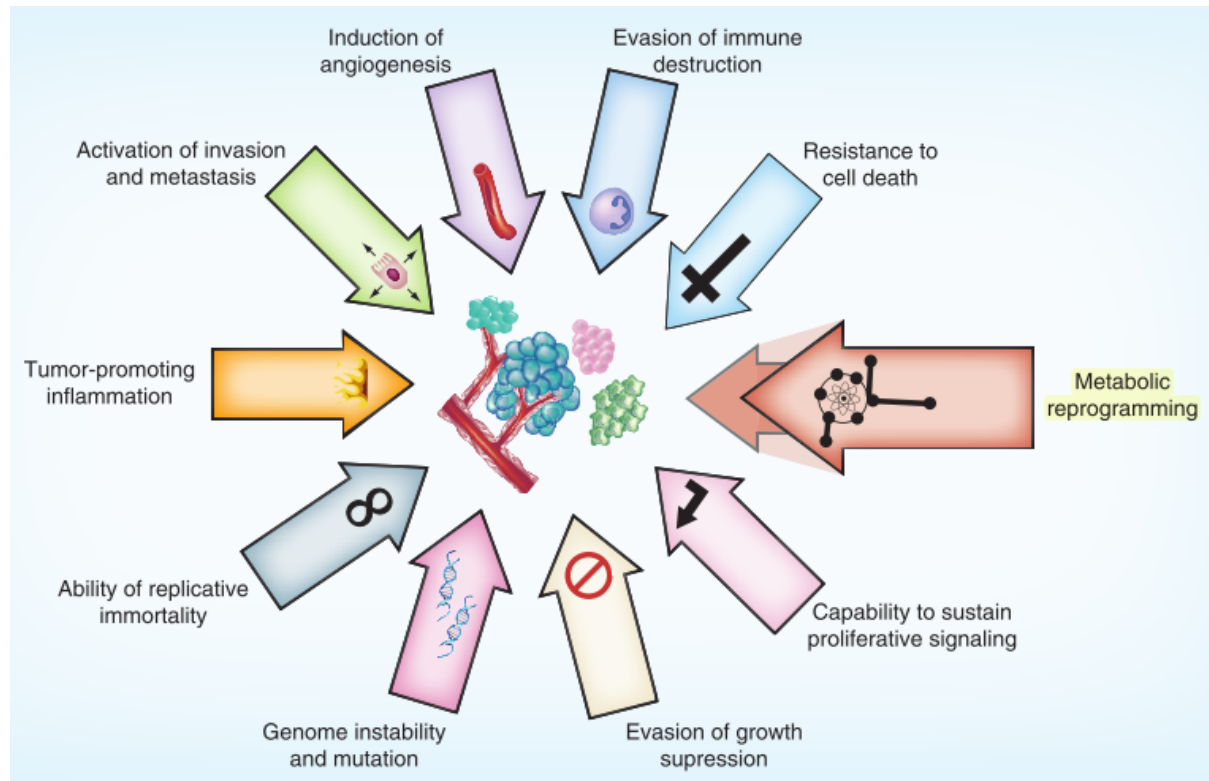
Solid Tumor Growth



Cancer-related publications based on PubMed



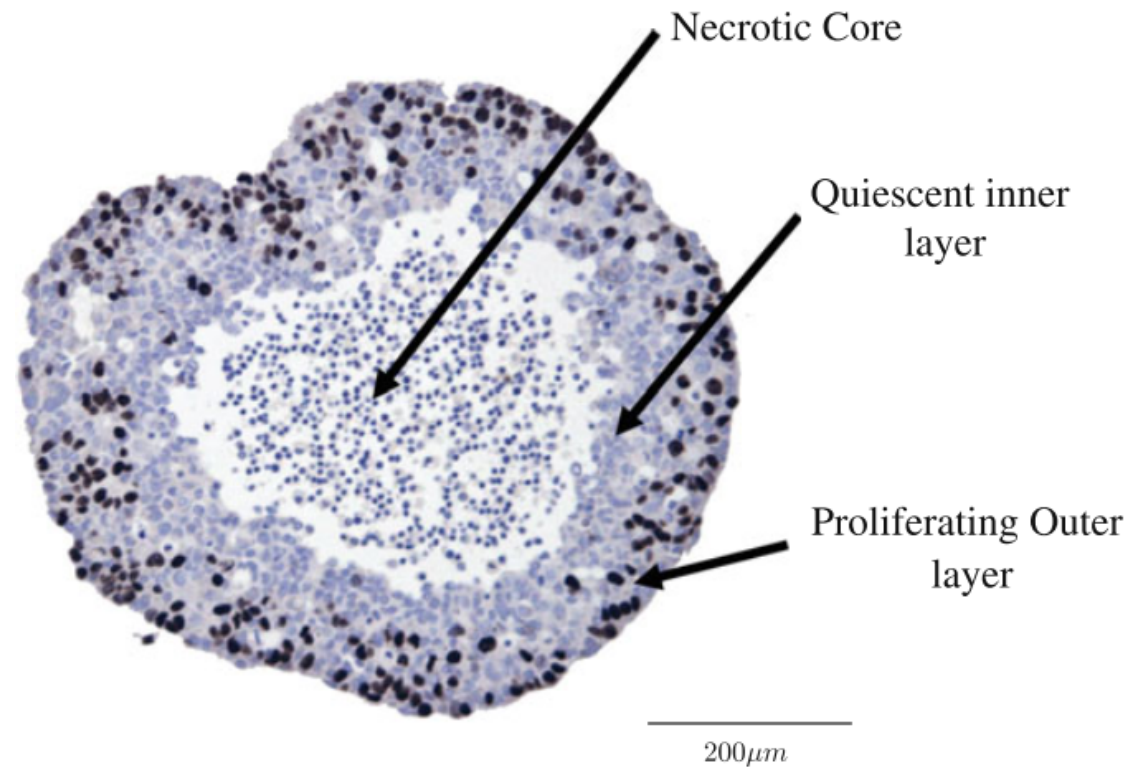
Hallmarks of Cancer



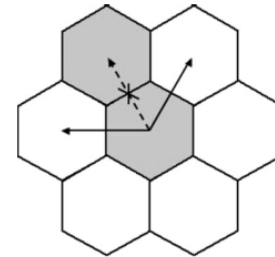
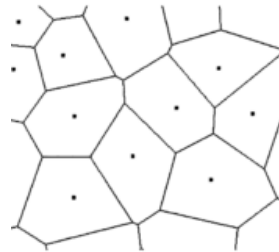
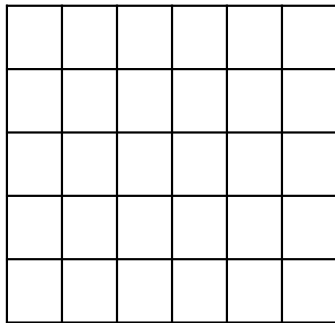
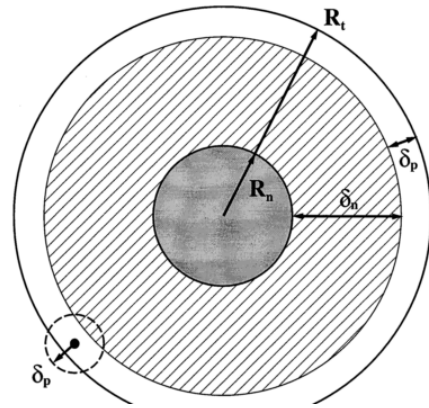
*Hanahan and Weinberg (2011) *Cell* 144: 646–674.

Modeling Solid Tumors

- The goal of modeling is to:
 - model tumor growth rate
 - model composition of tumor
 - predict the effect of drugs
 - (predict other phenotypes)

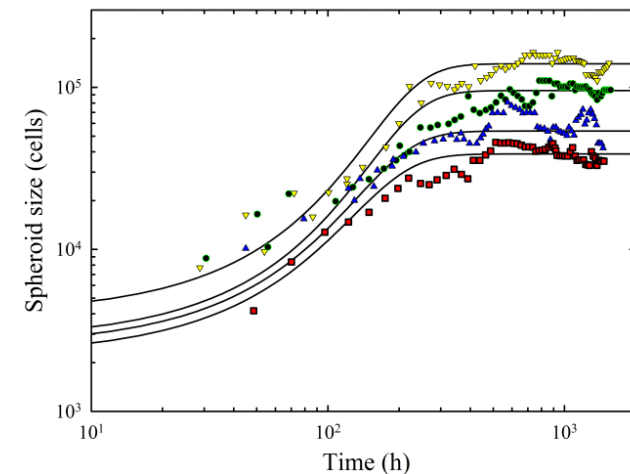


Continuous vs. Discrete Models



Continuous Models

- Describe the numerical changes of the variables that represent the system
- Give information about the overall tumor morphology
- Neglect the influences of individual cells in the environment
- Employ classical differential equations-based models
- Shortcoming in simulating emergent behavior
- Assume homogeneity of system components



Exponential-linear

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dV}{dt} = a_0 V, & t \leq \tau \\ \frac{dV}{dt} = a_1, & t > \tau \\ V(t=0) = V_0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dV}{dt} = aV \left(1 - \left(\frac{V}{K} \right)^\alpha \right) \\ V(t=0) = 1 \text{ mm}^3 \end{cases}$$

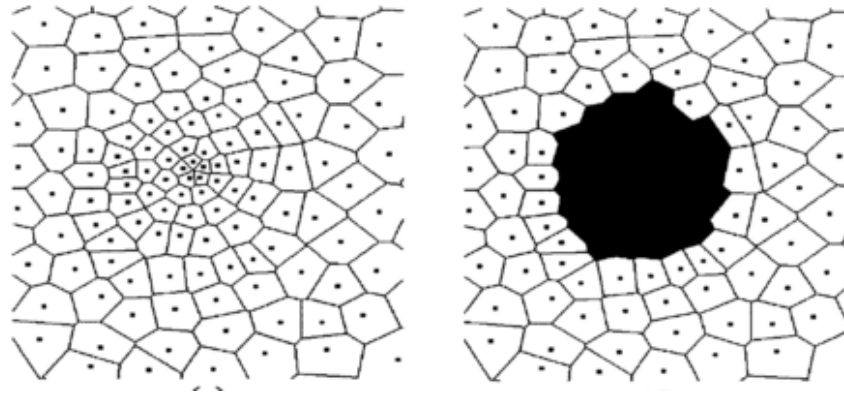
Generalized logistic

$$V(t) = \frac{V_0 K}{(V_0^\alpha + (K^\alpha - V_0^\alpha) e^{-aat})^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}$$

Gompertz model

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dV}{dt} = a e^{-\beta t} V \\ V(t=0) = 1 \text{ mm}^3 \end{cases} \longrightarrow V(t) = e^{\frac{a}{\beta} (1 - e^{-\beta t})}$$

Example of Discrete models: Adaptive Lattice



Kansal, A., et al. (2000) *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 203:367-382.

Example of Hybrid models: Inclusion of Metabolism

- Intracellular and extracellular pH (H^+ production) and lactate concentration and their effects on cells
- Incorporation of NHE and MCT transporters

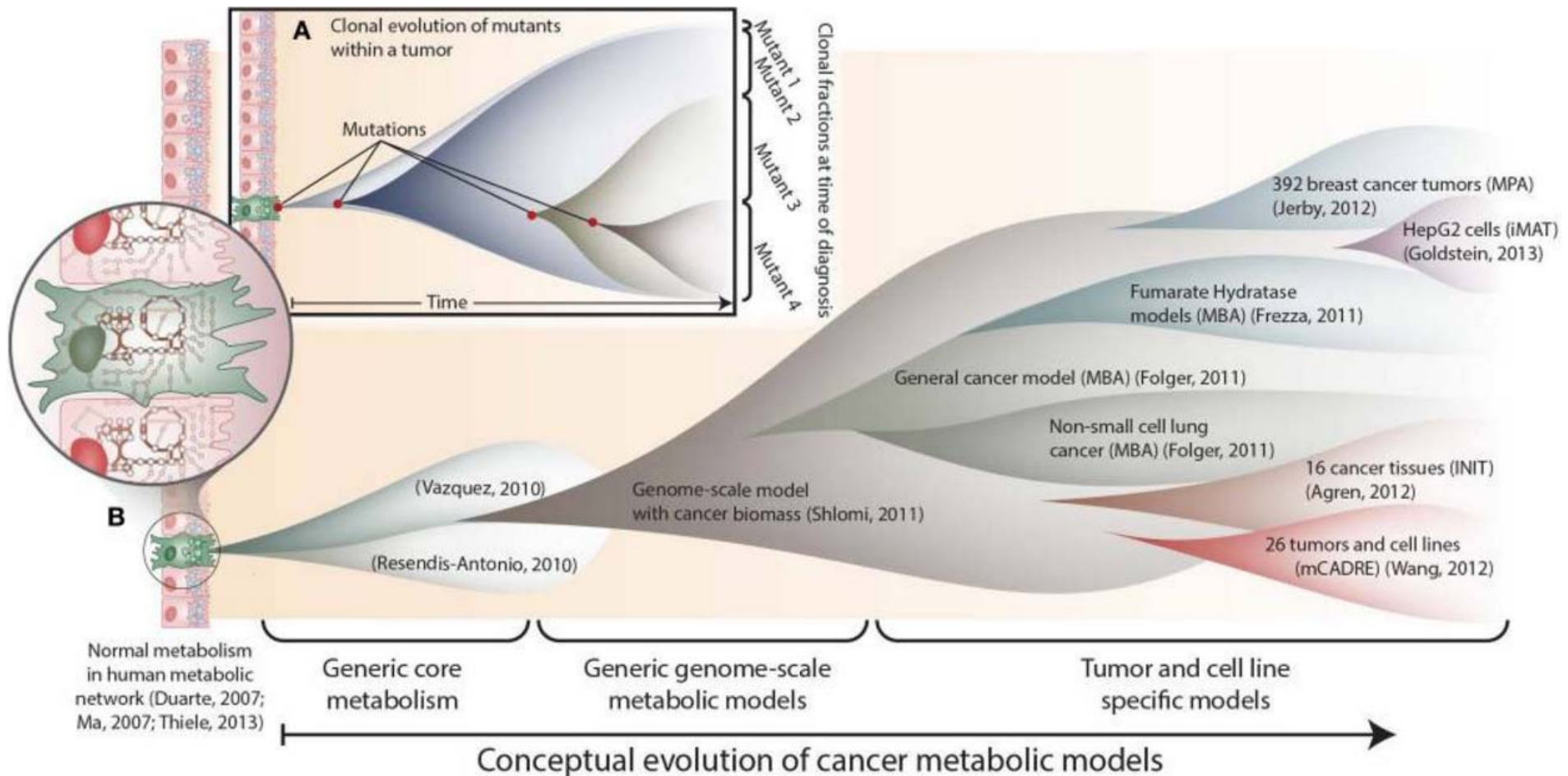
$$\frac{dH_I(\mathbf{x}, t)}{dt} = \frac{2\Phi_G J(V^s - V(\mathbf{x}, t))}{H_I(\mathbf{x}, t) + b} + d_1 + \phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial H_E(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} = D_H \nabla^2 H_E(\mathbf{x}, t) - \phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\frac{dL_I(\mathbf{x}, t)}{dt} = \frac{2\Phi_G J(V^s - V(\mathbf{x}, t))}{H_I(\mathbf{x}, t) + b} + d_4 - \alpha_4 L_I(\mathbf{x}, t) - \theta(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

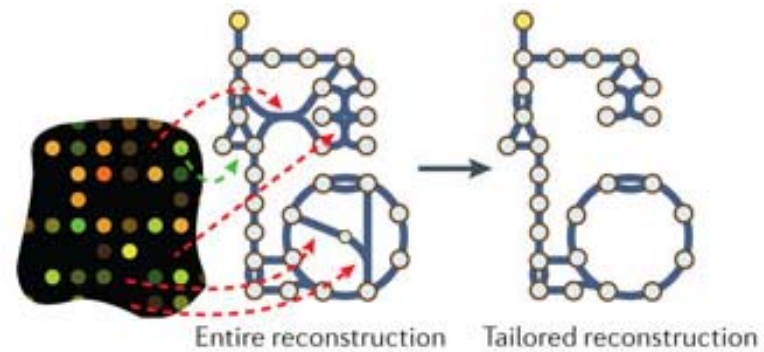
$$\frac{\partial L_E(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} = D_L \nabla^2 L_E(\mathbf{x}, t) + \theta(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

Metabolic Network Models of Cancer



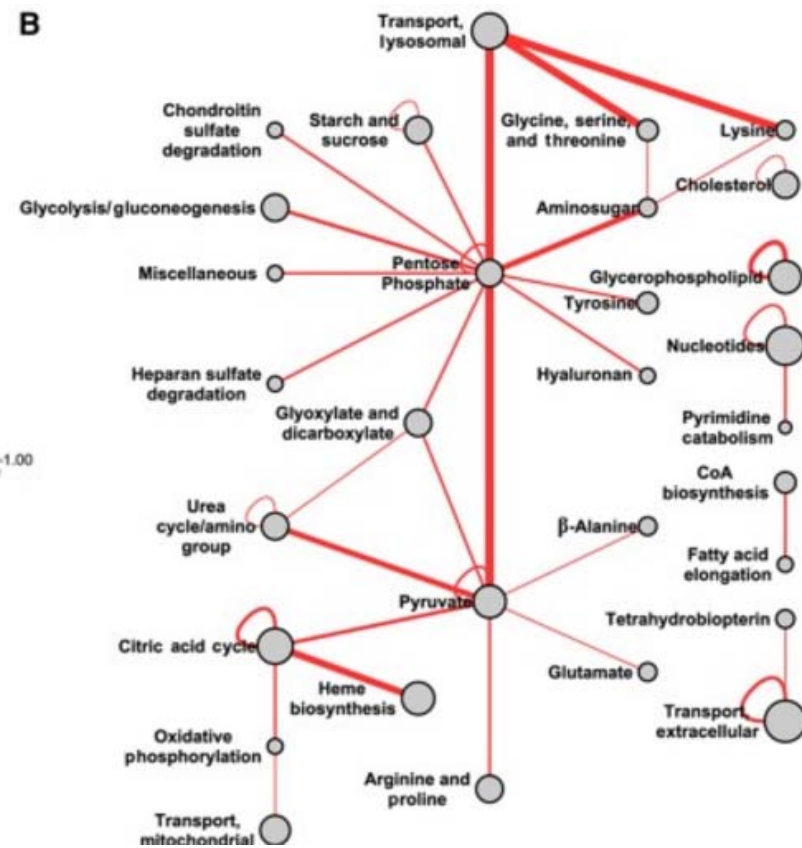
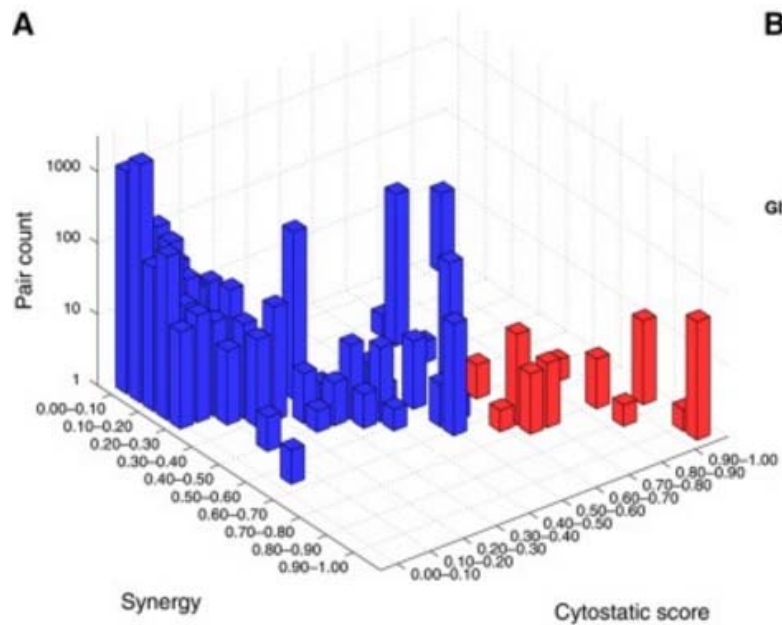
Lewis and Abdel-Haleem (2013) *Front Physiol* 4: 237.

Generic Cancer Metabolic Model



MBA Algorithm [Jebry et al., *Mol. Syst. Biol.* 6 (2010) 401]

Predictions of the Generic Cancer Metabolic Model



Another Generic Cancer Metabolic model

- Developed by blockade of tumor suppressor genes of Recon1
- Includes 3788 reactions, 2766 metabolites, 404 uptake reactions

**Molecular
BioSystems**



PAPER

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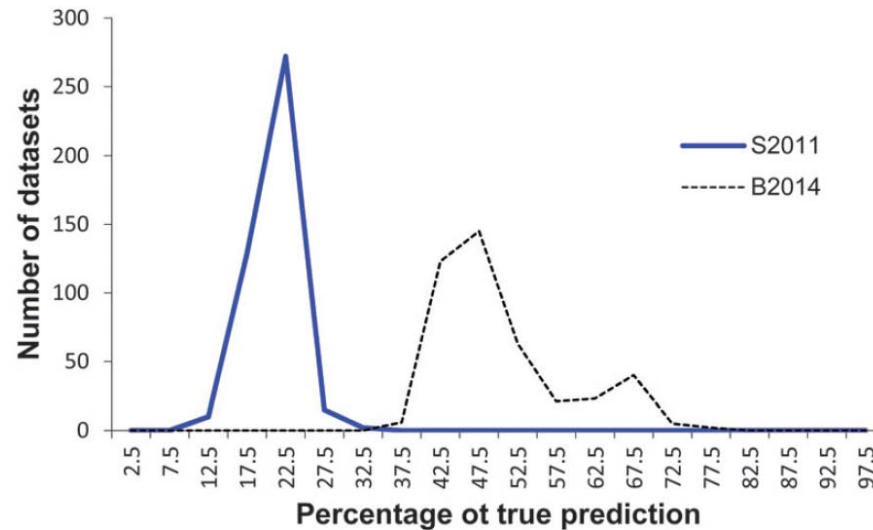
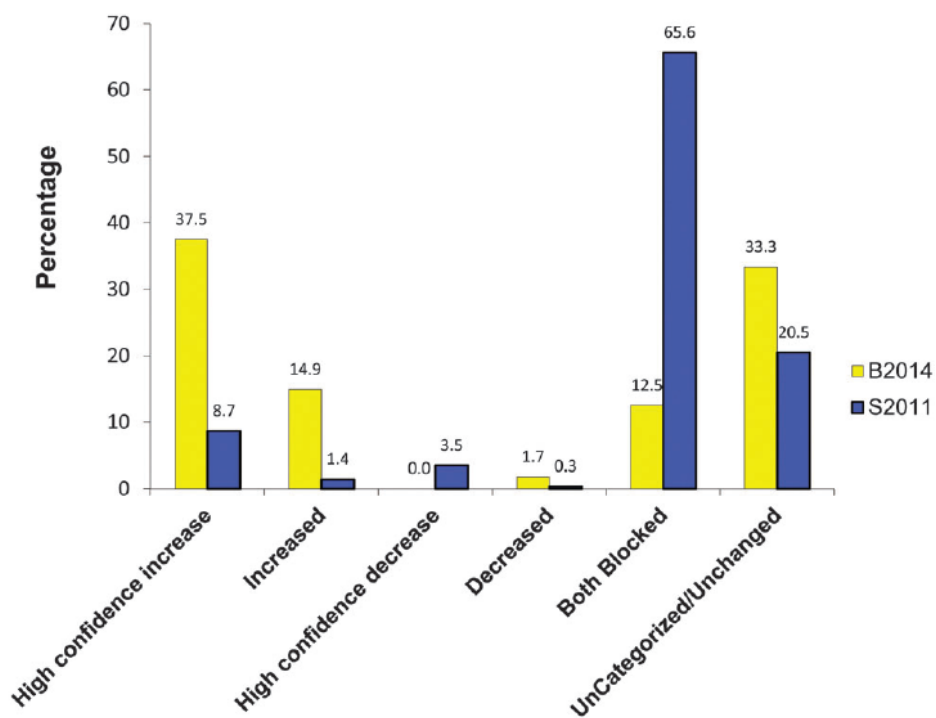
Reconstruction of a generic metabolic network model of cancer cells†

Cite this: *Mol. BioSyst.*, 2014, 10, 3014

Mahdieh Hadi and Sayed-Amir Marashi*

Hadi and Marashi (2014) *Molecular BioSystems* 10: 3014-3021.

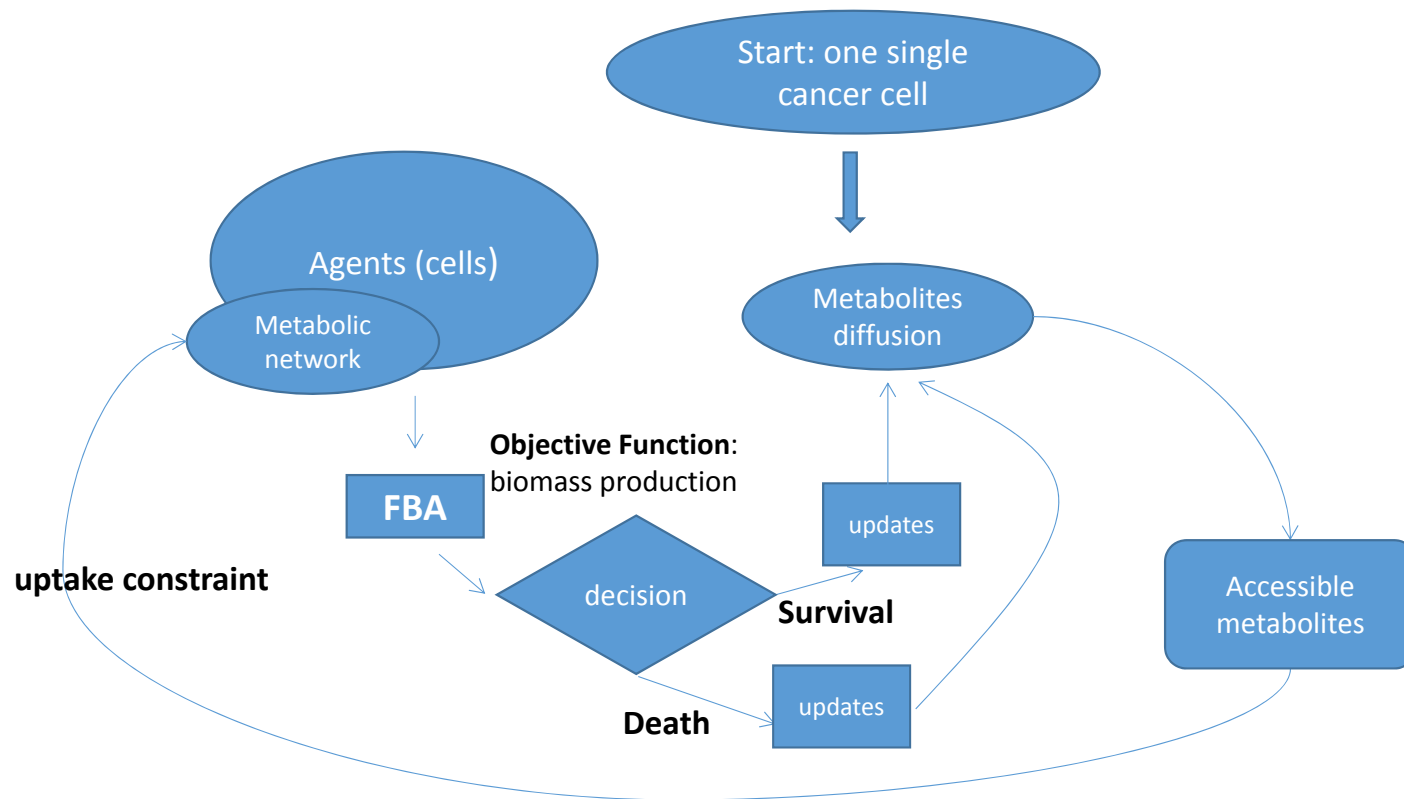
Comparing the Two Generic Models



Our New Approach for Modeling Solid Tumors

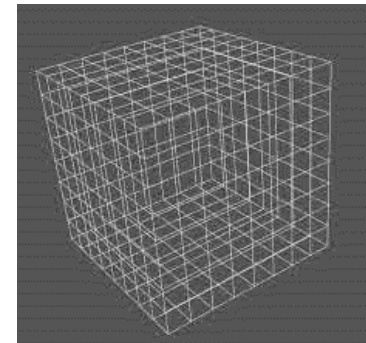
Constraint-based model of cancer integrated in cellular automata model

The Hybrid Model for Simulating Tumor



Modeling Characteristics

- 3D lattice
- Compartment attributes:
 - Occupation state
 - Necrosis state
 - Metabolites concentrations
- Agents (cancer cells) attributes:
 - Biomass value
 - Position
 - State (proliferation vs. quiescence)



Growth Medium in Flux Balance Analysis

- Major metabolites: **Oxygen and D-glucose**
- all uptake reactions blocked **except**:

The only 17 open uptake reactions		
vitamin D3	adenine	L-lysine *
L-arginine	phosphate	L-valine *
L-histidine *	L-tryptophan *	L-methionine *
L-leucine *	L-threonine *	O₂
D-glucose	L-aspartate	Sphinganine 1-p
L-phenylalanine *	L-isoleucine *	

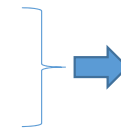
(* = essential amino acid) (**bold** = critical for biomass production by FBA)

The Link between Boundary Flux and External Concentration

- Inward flux constraints (lower/upper bounds):

- for **O₂** and **glucose**:

- 1) Maximum uptake capability
- 2) Extracellular metabolite concentration



Relating
metabolite
concentration to
uptake flux
constraint

$$Q_{Gluc,transmembrane} = \frac{Q_{Gluc,max}c_{Gluc}}{K_{m,Gluc} + c_{Gluc}}$$

$$Q_{Ox,transmembrane} = \frac{Q_{Ox,max}c_{Ox}}{K_{m,Ox} + c_{Ox}}$$

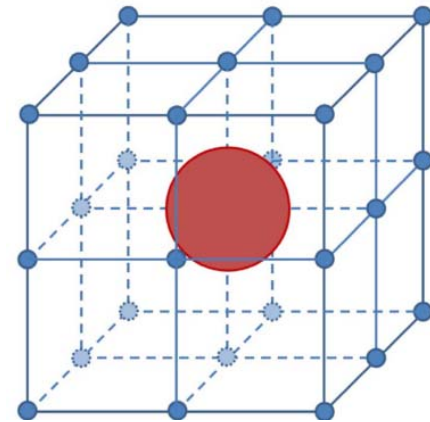
- for other nutrients:

- A bound reasonable according to their blood concentration and cellular uptake capacity

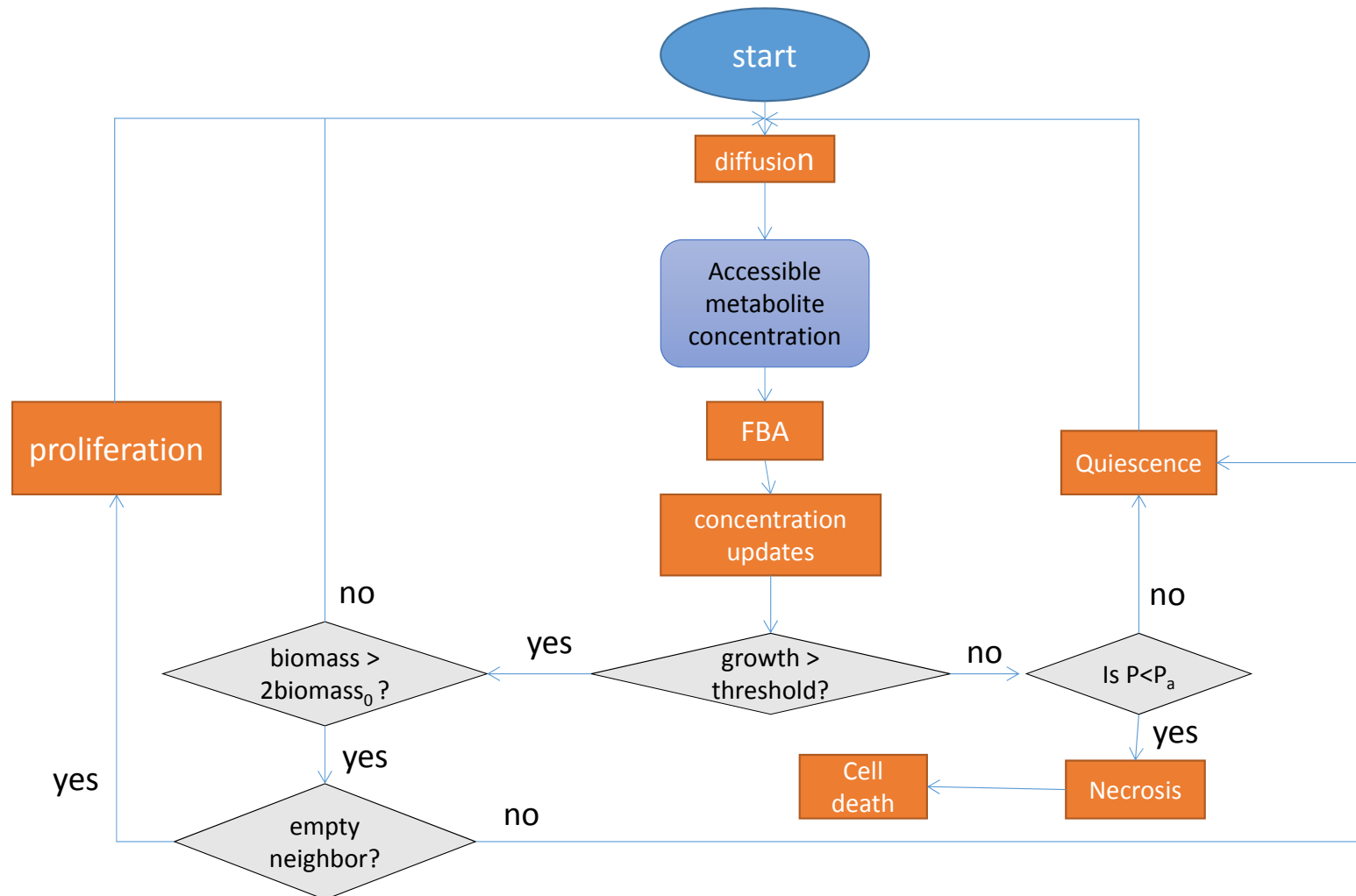
Diffusion / Metabolic fluxes

- **Boundary condition:** constant O_2 and glucose concentration
- PDE solving for diffusion: **Fick's equation**

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(D_e \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(D_e \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_e \frac{\partial C}{\partial z} \right)$$

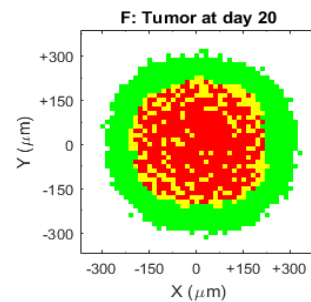
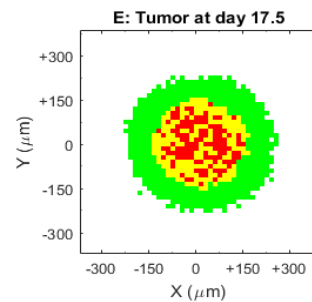
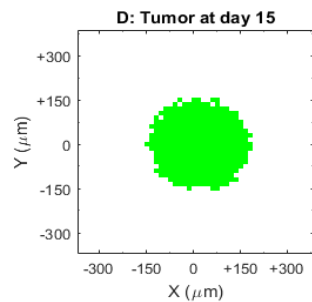
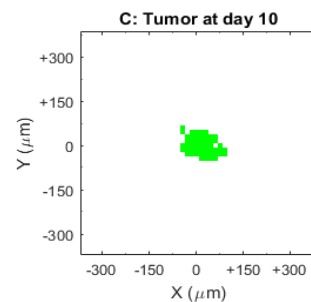
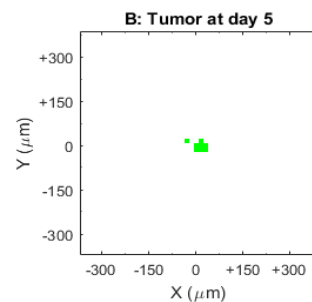
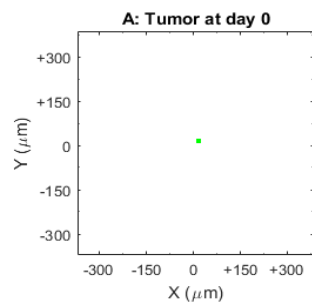
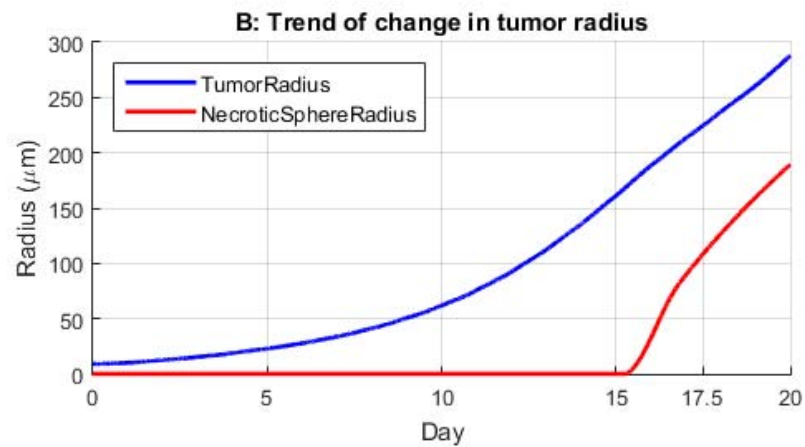
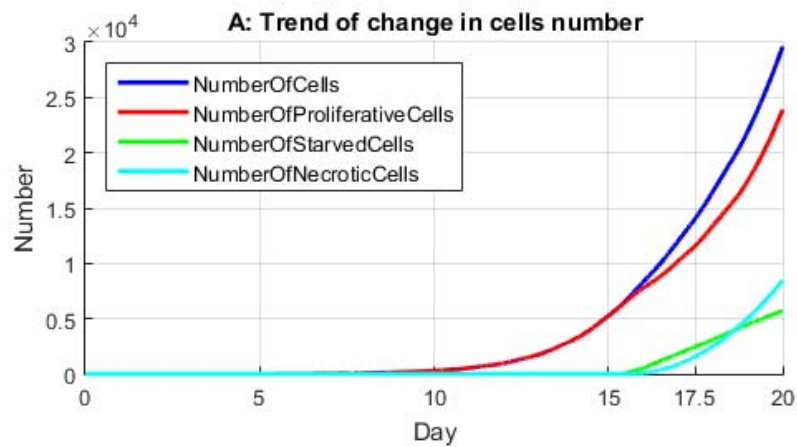


Cell 'fate' decision

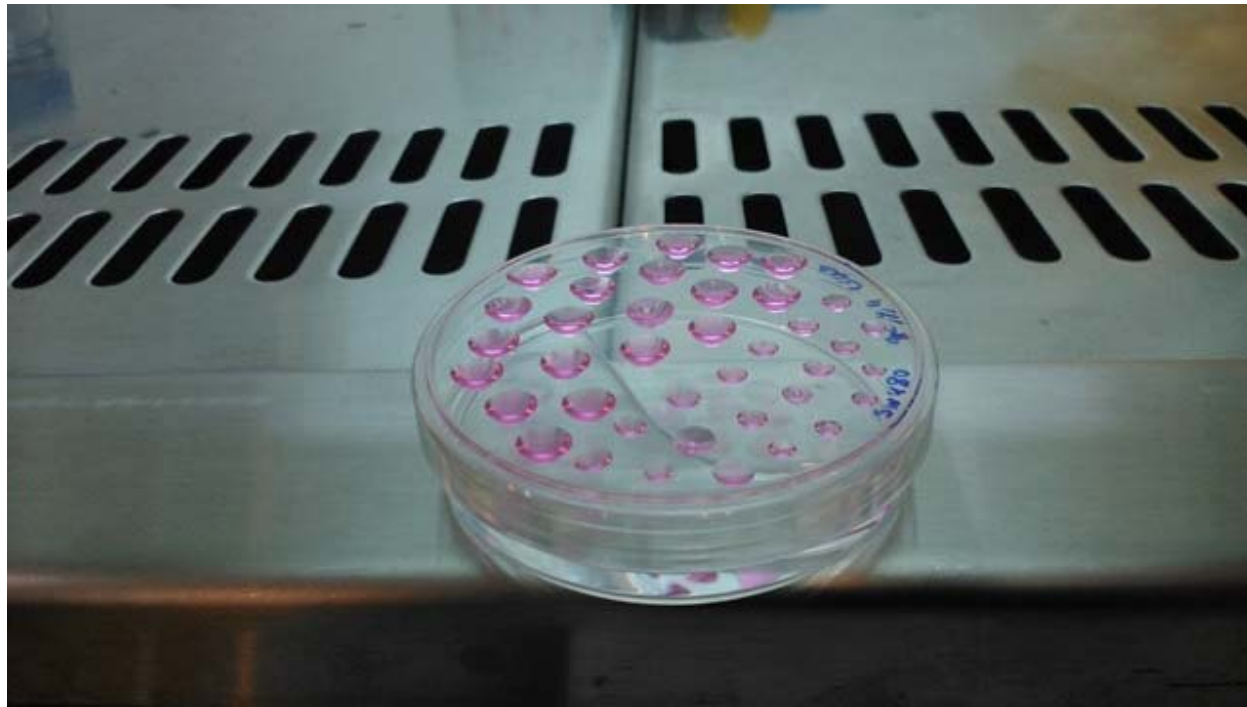


Results: *In silico* and *In vitro*

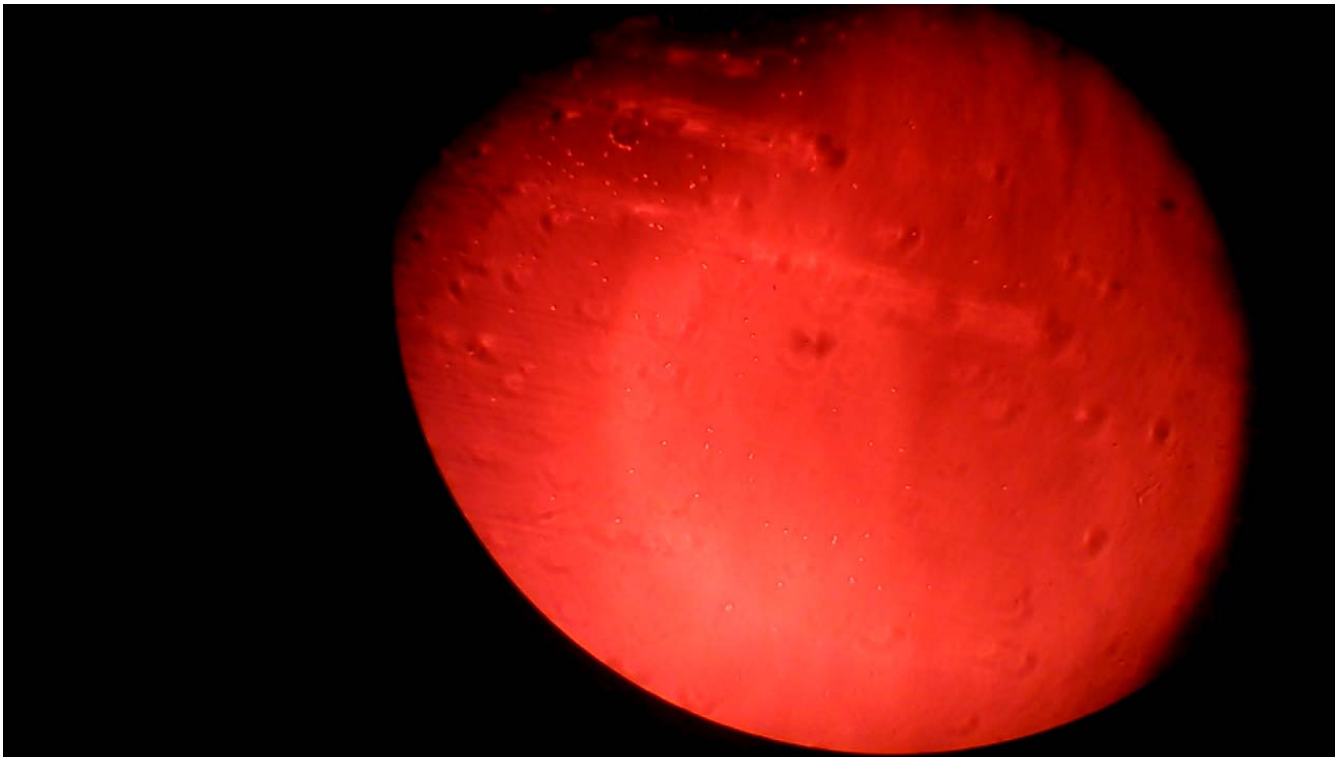
Modeling tumor growth for 20 days



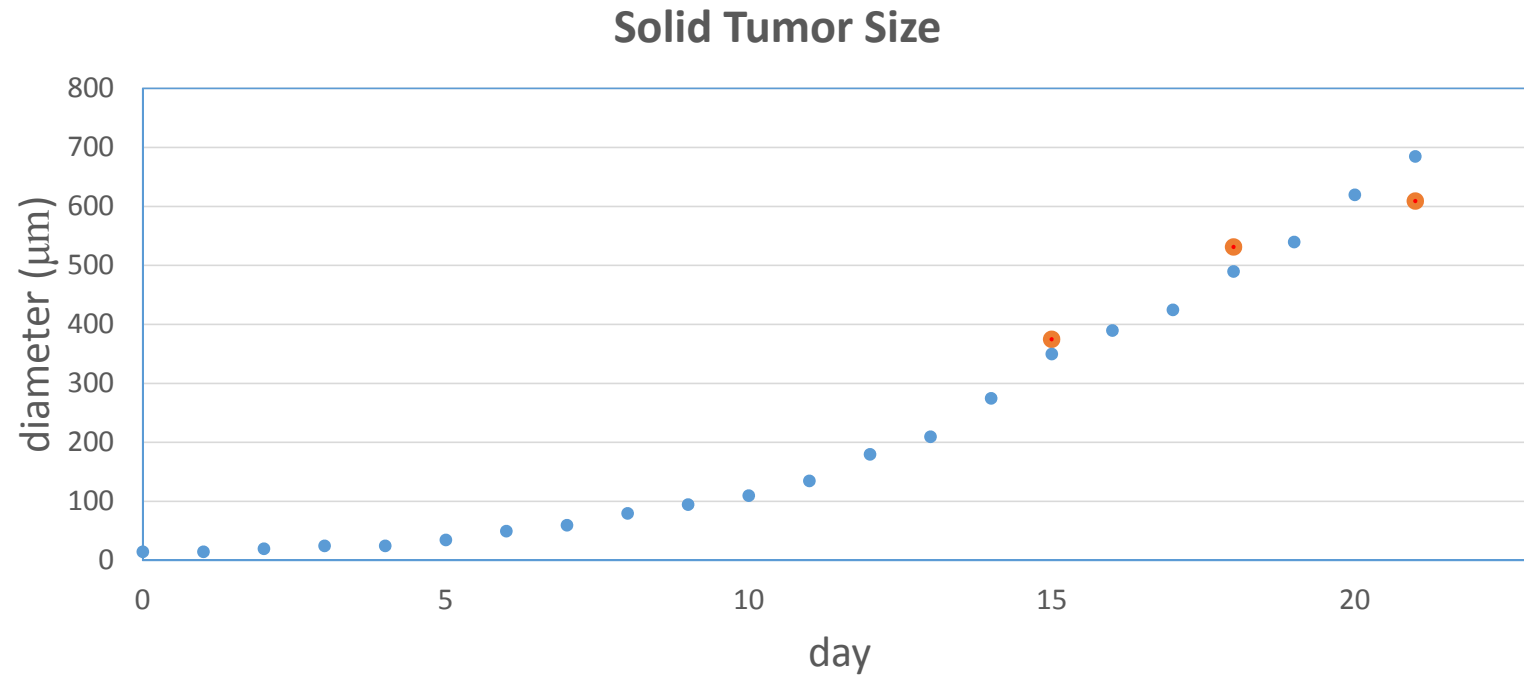
Development of Spheroids by Hanging Drop Method



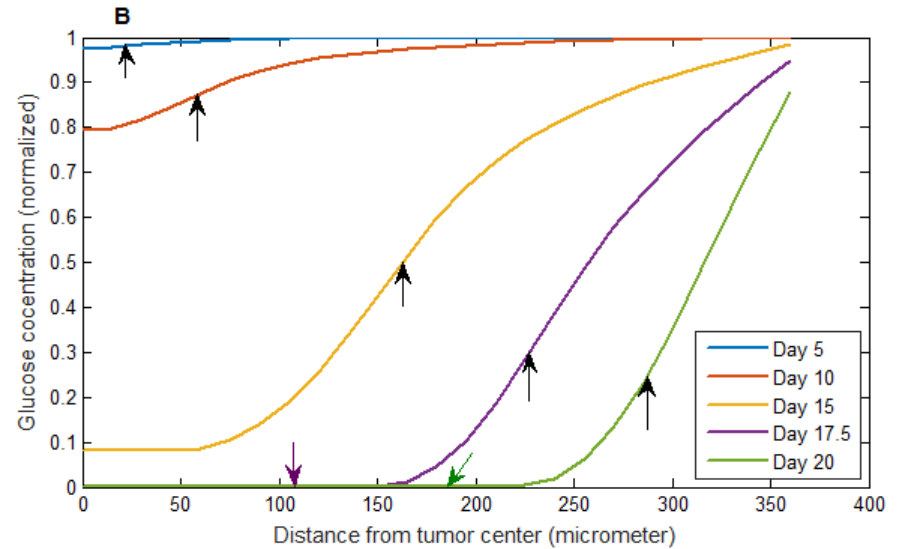
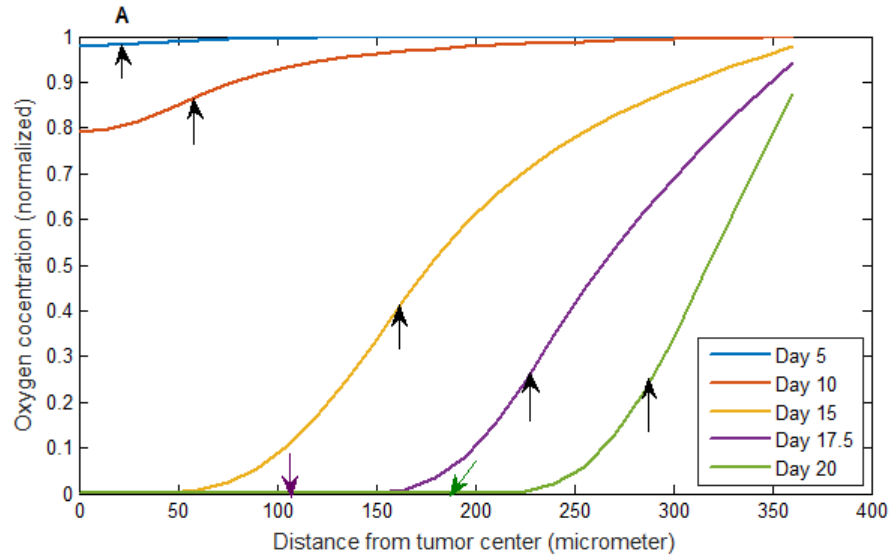
In vitro (Wet-Lab) Results



Agreement between *in silico* and *in vitro* results



Advantage of our Model: Metabolites profiles



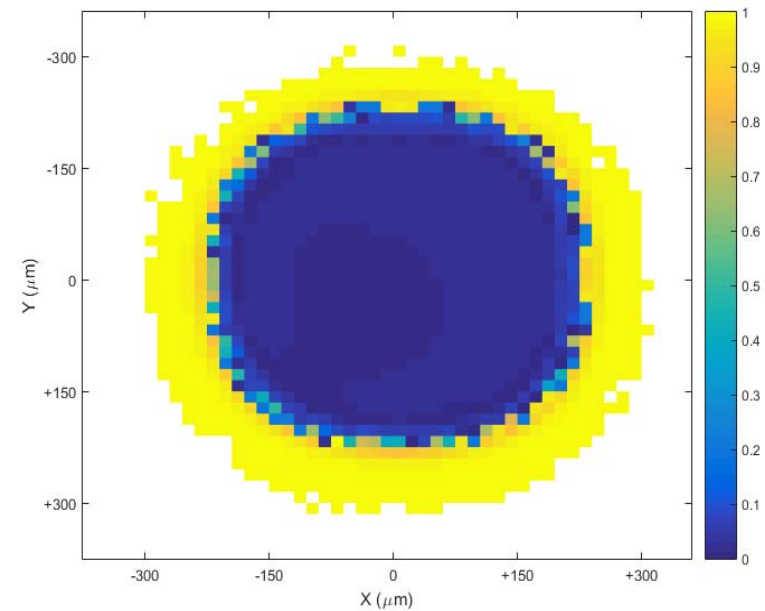
Advantage of our Model: Gene Expression Profiles

- 78 reactions were found:

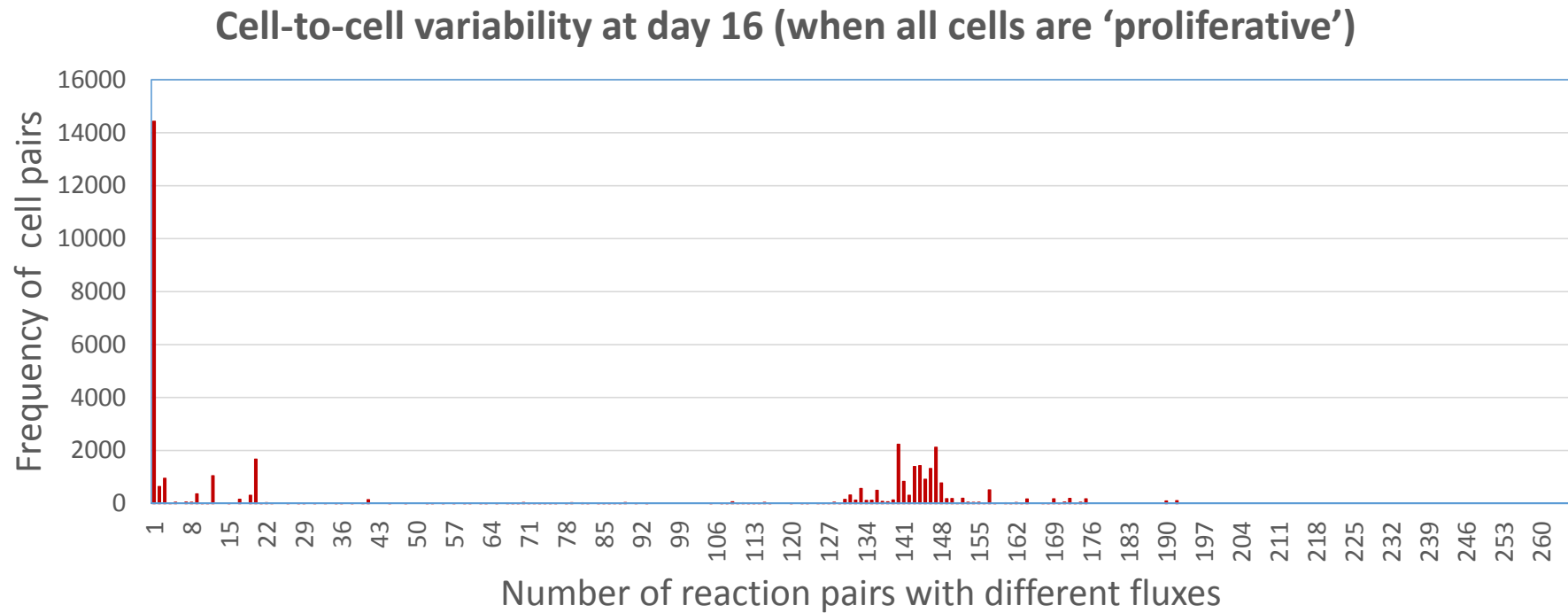
Flux in necrotic core = 0

Flux in surface cells > 0

Example: phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase



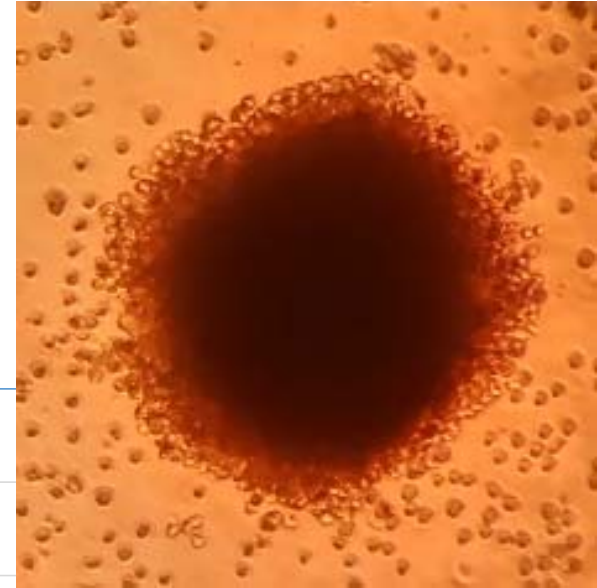
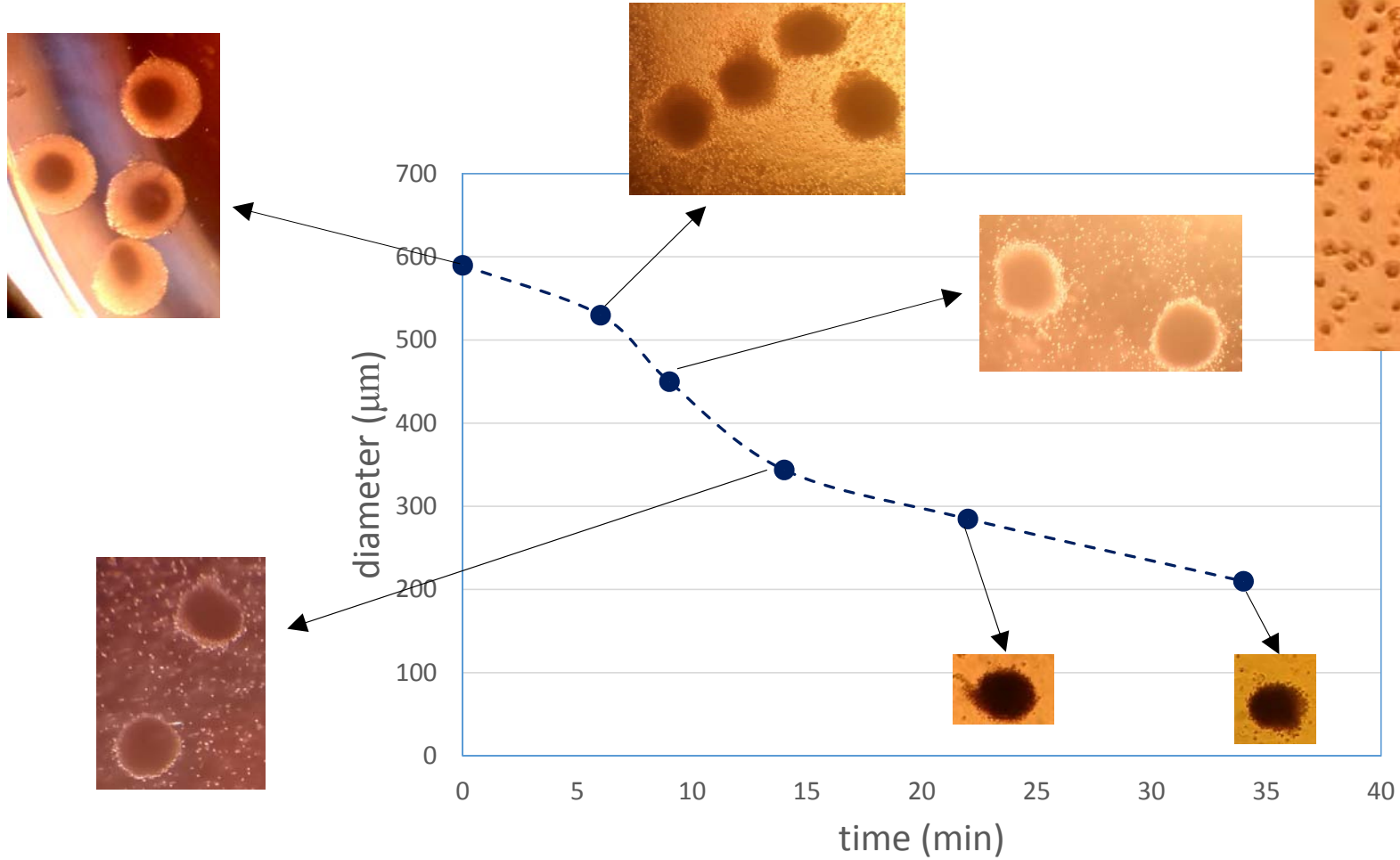
Advantage of our Model: Cell-to-Cell Variability



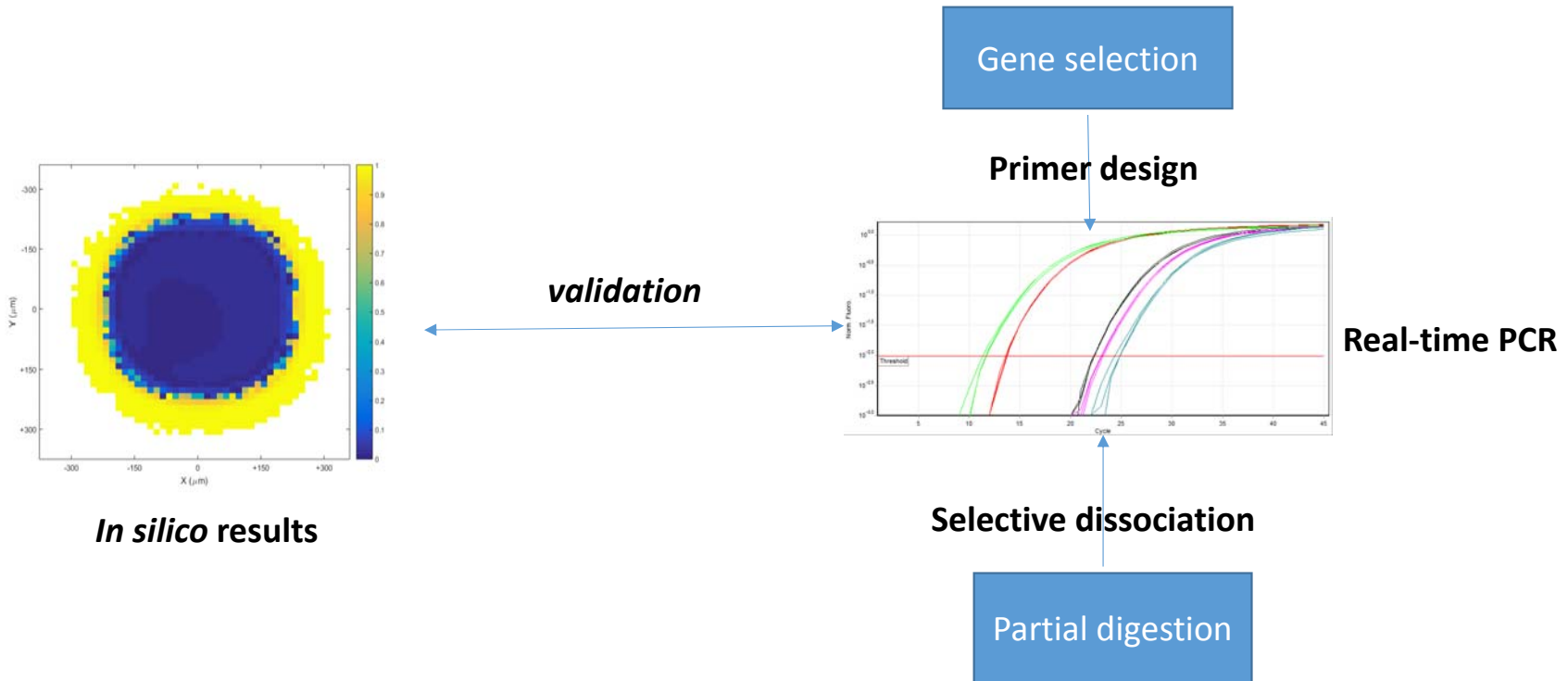
Next Steps

- Validating tumor growth rate
- Validating the number of proliferative, quiescent and necrotic cells
- Validating gene expression profiles of important oncogenes
- Investigating the source of cell-to-cell variability

Partial Digestion of Spheroids



Validation of Gene Expression Profiles



Thanks for your attention!

