

# Carbon Tracing in Chemical Reaction Networks

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# Outline

My thesis

How to model a metabolic network

EMU Model

Considerations

Complexity

Conclusion

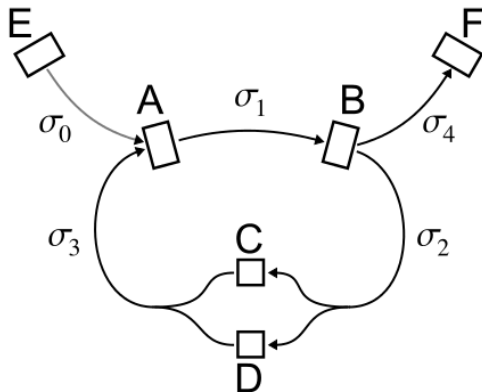
# My thesis

- ▶ Where can a specific carbon in substrates end up?
- ▶ Where could a specific carbon in products come from?
- ▶ Complexity questions

Extensions:

- ▶ For  $k$  specific carbons. . .
- ▶ Expand to probabilistic likelihood model
- ▶ Substrates with labeling distribution

## Reaction network

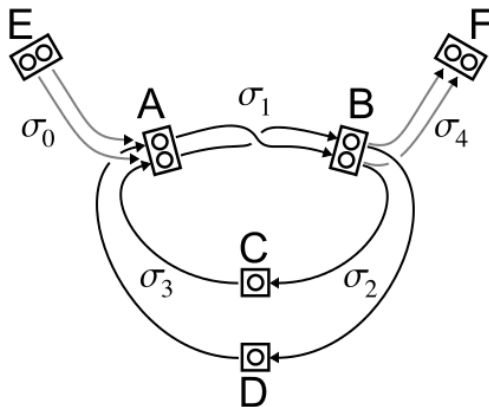


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Weitzel, Wiechert, and Nöh, 2007

## Atom transition network

“What is the probability that a carbon is labeled?”

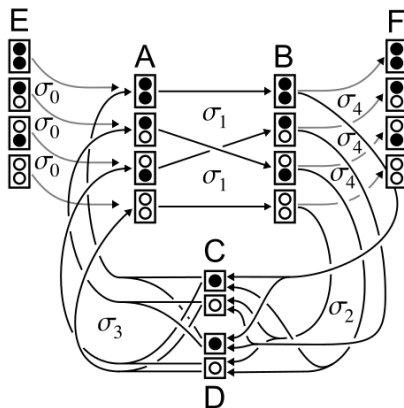


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Weitzel, Wiechert, and Nöh, 2007

# Isotopomer network

“What is the probability that a subset of carbons are labeled?”



Weitzel, Wiechert, and Nöh, 2007

## Why not just use isotopomer model?

- ▶ In the atom model the amount of information per molecule is  $n$ , where  $n$  is the carbon number.

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- ▶ In the atom model the amount of information per molecule is  $n$ , where  $n$  is the carbon number.
- ▶ In the isotopomer model this number explodes into  $2^n$ .



## Limitations of the atom labeling model

From isotopomer distribution to positional label enrichment:

$$A = (\textcircled{0}, \textcircled{1}, \textcircled{2}, \textcircled{3}) = (60\%, 25\%, 15\%, 0\%)$$

↓

$$A_1 = \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2} = 25\%$$

$$A_2 = \textcircled{2} + \textcircled{3} = 15\%$$

## Limitations of the atom labeling model

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Now what is the probability of **8**?

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$$A_1 \cdot A_2 = 3.75 \%$$

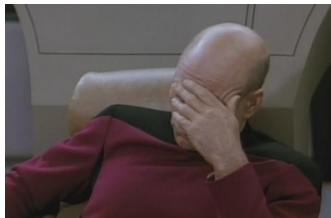
## Limitations of the atom labeling model

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Now what is the probability of **⚡**?

~~$$A_1 \cdot A_2 = 3.75\%$$~~



## Limitations of the atom labeling model

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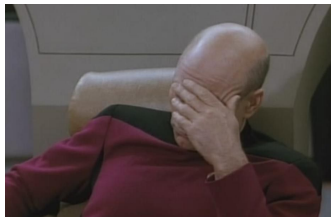
$$A_2 = 15\%$$

Now what is the probability of **⚡**?

~~$$A_1 \cdot A_2 = 3.75\%$$~~

$A_1$  and  $A_2$  are not independent.

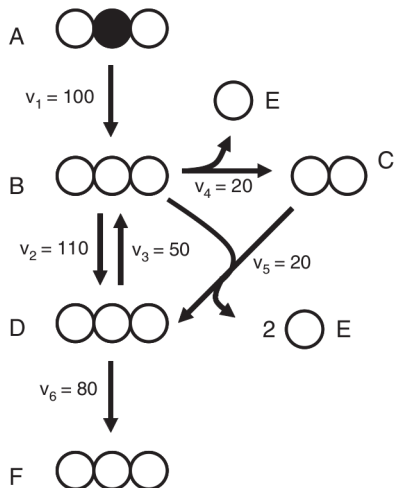
Information is lost!



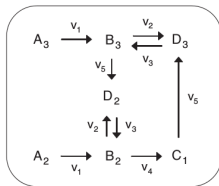
## EMU Model

*Here, we present a novel framework for the modeling of isotopic labeling systems that significantly reduces the number of system variables without any loss of information. . . We define an EMU of a compound to be a moiety comprising any distinct subset of the compound's atoms.*

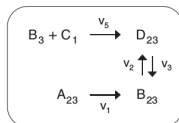
- ▶ The isotopomer model usually has  $\sim 10\times$  more information than needed.
- ▶ Find the minimal amount of information needed to simulate isotopic labeling.



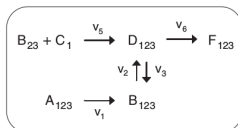
Reaction network for EMU size 1



Reaction network for EMU size 2



Reaction network for EMU size 3



Antoniewicz, Kelleher, and Stephanopoulos, 2007



## Stoichiometry matrices for steady state

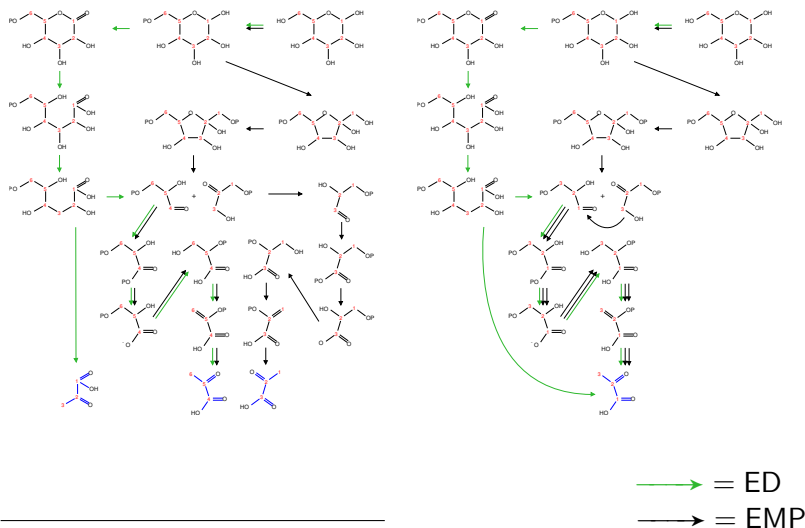
$$\begin{bmatrix} -v_4 & v_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1-v_3 & v_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & v_2 & -v_2-v_5 & v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -v_1-v_3 & v_3 \\ v_5 & 0 & 0 & v_2 & -v_2-v_5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ B_2 \\ D_2 \\ B_3 \\ D_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -v_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \\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

$$\begin{bmatrix} -v_5-v_2 & v_2 \\ v_3 & -v_1-v_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} D_{23} \\ B_{23} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -v_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -v_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B_3 \times C_1 \\ A_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

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

## EXAMPLE

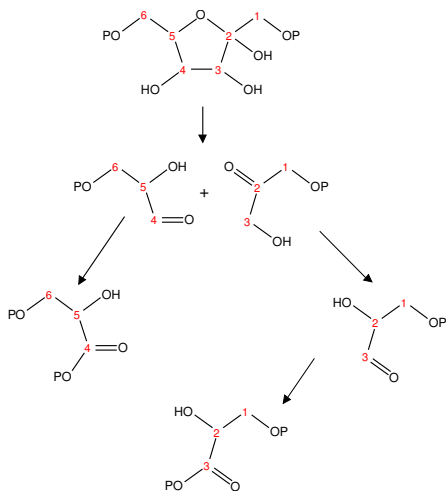
# Limitations of the isotopomer model



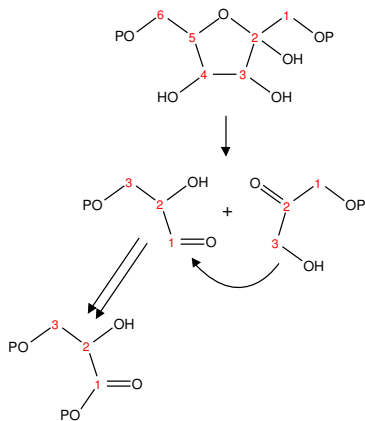
Andersen et al., 2014

# Limitations of the isotopomer model

## Ideal Model

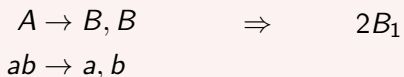


## EMU Model



## Limitations of the isotopomer model

### The fundamental problem



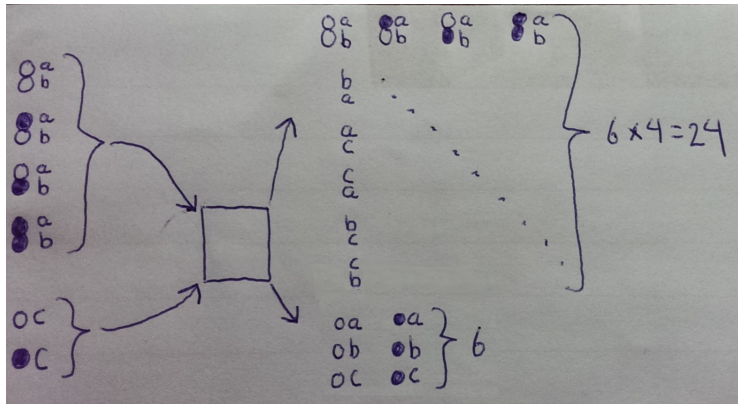
When backtracking from a  $B_1$ , does it origin from  $A_1$  or  $A_2$ ?

## Limitations of the isotopomer model

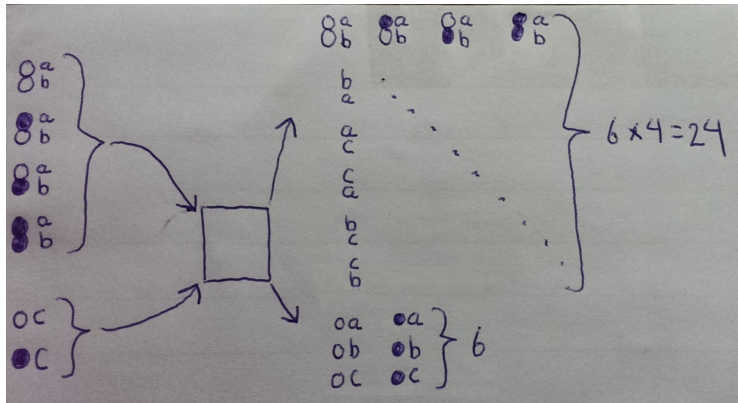
### The fundamental problem



When backtracking from a  $B_1$ , does it origin from  $A_1$  or  $A_2$ ?  
Some sort of global labeling is missing, information is lost



Could be modelled with  $2^n P(t, n) = \frac{2^n t!}{(t-n)!}$  states per molecule, where  $t$  is the sum of carbon numbers of all input substrates.



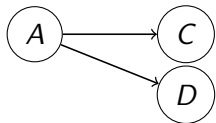




# Considerations

## False positives

Be aware of false positives (if they can exist?)

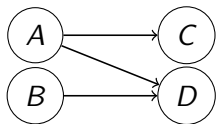


*A* can go to both *C* or *D*.

# Considerations

## False positives

Be aware of false positives (if they can exist?)



*A* can go to both *C* or *D*.

*B* can only go to *D*, so *A* must go to *C*.

# Considerations

## Identity reactions

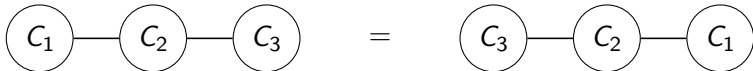
Identity reactions can be removed:



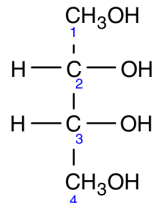
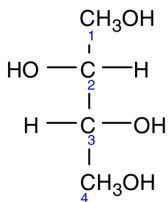
# Considerations

## Automorphisms

Indistinguishable carbons, due to automorphisms:



# (Bio)chemical equivalence



Name : (2R,3R)-butane-1,2,3,4-tetraol

(2S,3R)-butane-1,2,3,4-tetraol  
(i.e. erythritol)

Symmetry : Rotation axis

Center of inversion

C1 vs. C4 : Chemically and  
biochemically equivalent

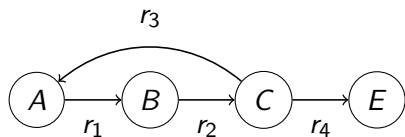
Chemically equivalent, but  
biochemically distinct

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Antoniewicz, Kelleher, and Stephanopoulos, 2007

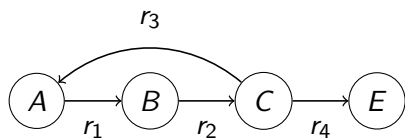
# Complexity

A digraph with infinite many non-simple paths.



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$$r_1 = (3, 4)$$

$$r_2 = (1, 5)$$

$$r_3 = (1, 2)$$

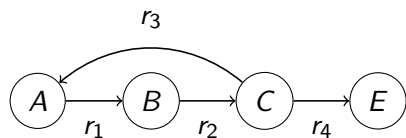
$$r_4 = ()$$

If we model reactions with permutations there are a finite number of non-simple paths before repeating itself.



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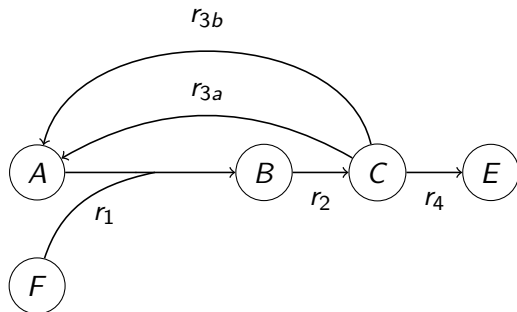
$$r_{312} = r_3 r_1 r_2 = (1, 2, 5)(3, 4)$$

$$|r_{312}| = \text{lcm}(3, 2) = 6$$

There are 6 ways to take the loop with distinct outcome.

# Complexity

Getting more complicated



## Flow of computation

- ▶ Generative chemistry
  - ▶ Input: substrates, targets, reactions
  - ▶ Output: reaction network
  - ▶ E.g. derive all glycolysis pathways.
- ▶ Compute integer flow solution.
- ▶ Chemistry happens sequentially, use Petri nets to capture time aspect
- ▶ Do reachability analysis with Petri nets
  - ▶ If possible: A concurrency graph is returned
- ▶ Trace carbon in each concurrency graph

# Conclusion

- ▶ Current models are lacking information about global labeling.
- ▶ By adding this, we can trace atoms through a reaction network.
- ▶ Improve simulation of real chemistry

# References I



Michael Weitzel, Wolfgang Wiechert, and Katharina Nöh. “The topology of metabolic isotope labeling networks”. In: BMC Bioinformatics 8.1 (2007), p. 315. DOI: 10.1186/1471-2105-8-315. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1471-2105-8-315>.



Maciek R. Antoniewicz, Joanne K. Kelleher, and Gregory Stephanopoulos. “Elementary metabolite units (EMU): A novel framework for modeling isotopic distributions”. In: Metabolic Engineering 9.1 (Jan. 2007), pp. 68–86. DOI: 10.1016/j.ymben.2006.09.001. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ymben.2006.09.001>.

## References II



Jakob Lykke Andersen et al. “50 Shades of Rule Composition”. In: Formal Methods in Macro-Biology. Springer Science + Business Media, 2014, pp. 117–135. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-10398-3\_9. URL: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-10398-3\\_9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-10398-3_9).