

An electrical and thermodynamical view of metabolism

Orkun S Soyer

ARM Workshop
Cambridge, 17 Sept 2018

COSS LAB



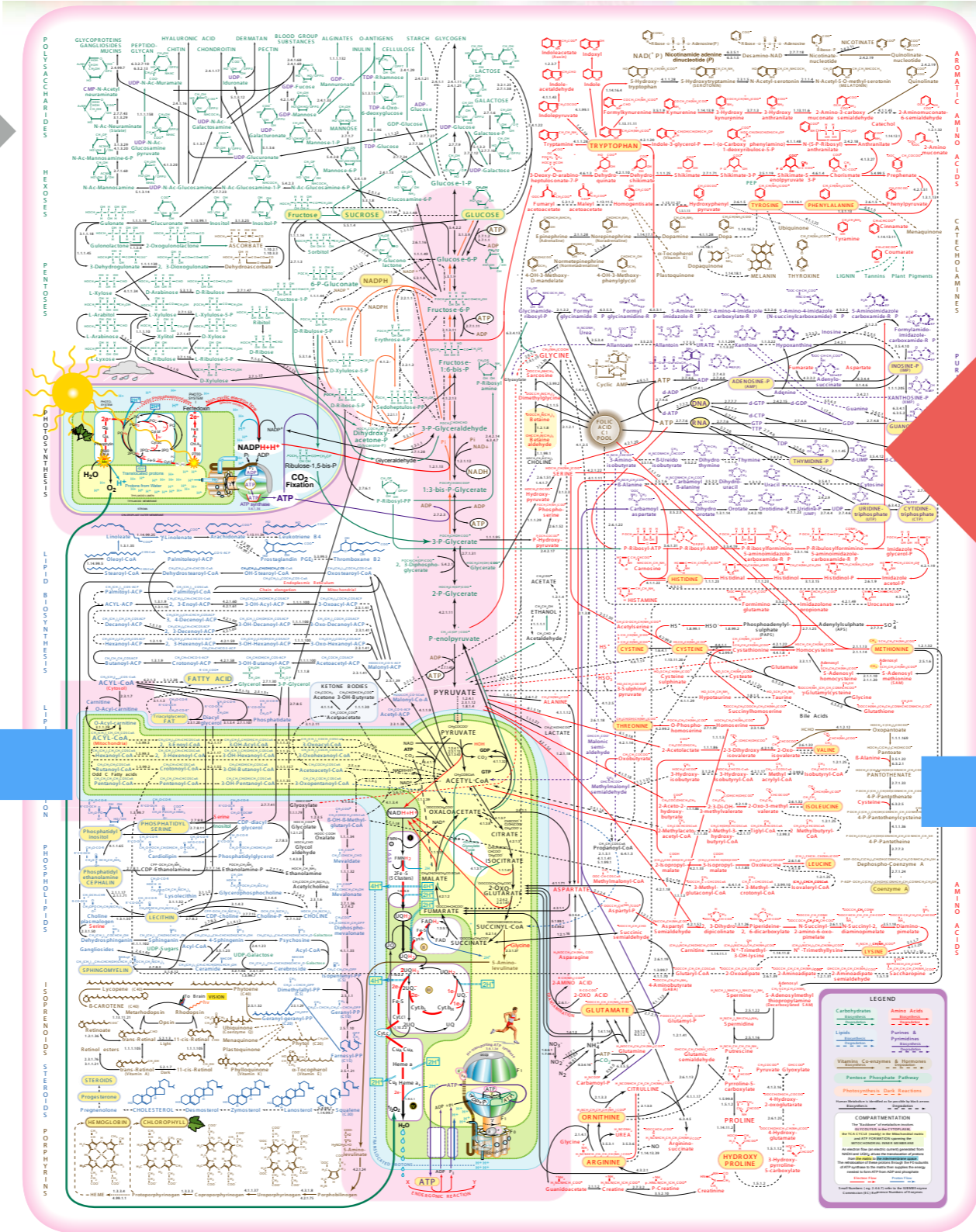
Bio Electrical Engineering
Innovation Hub @ Warwick



WARWICK
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Metabolism as a set of pathways

~~Self sufficient
'energy extractor'~~



Substrate

Syntrophs



Energy rich byproducts



Cross-feeders

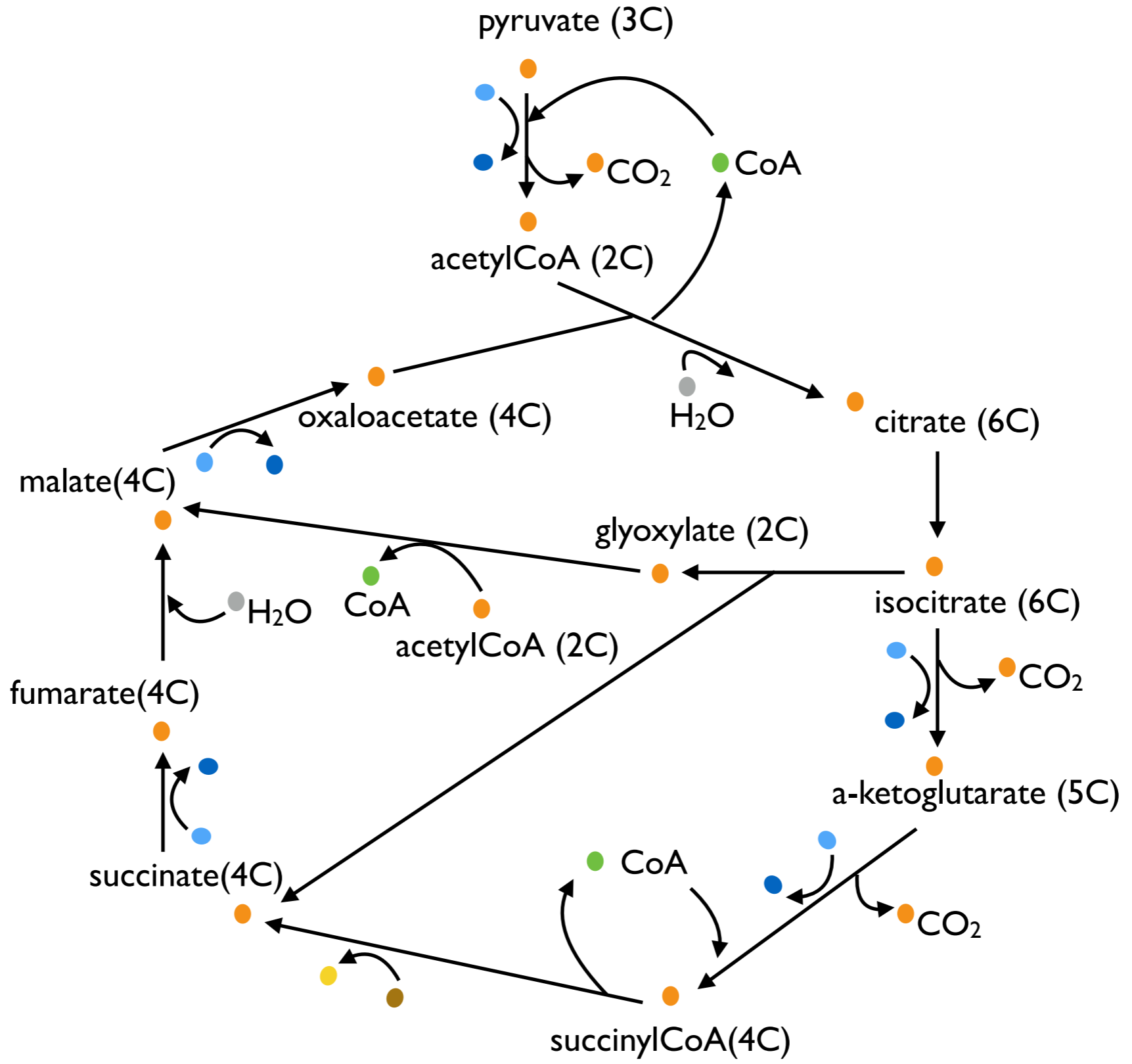
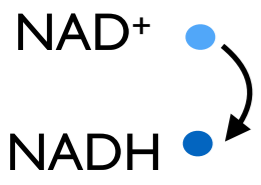
Auxotrophs



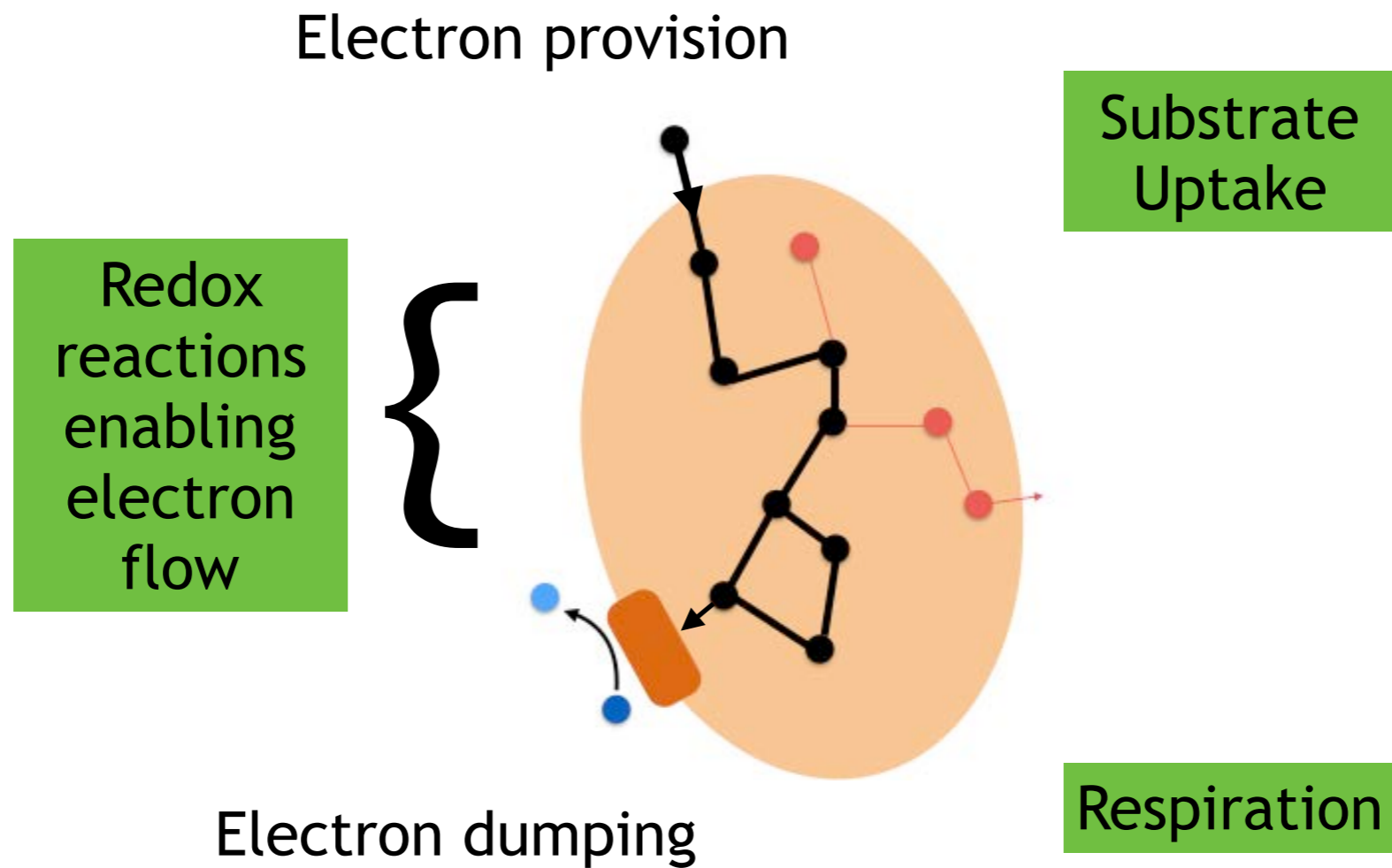
'Essential' co-factors

Overflow

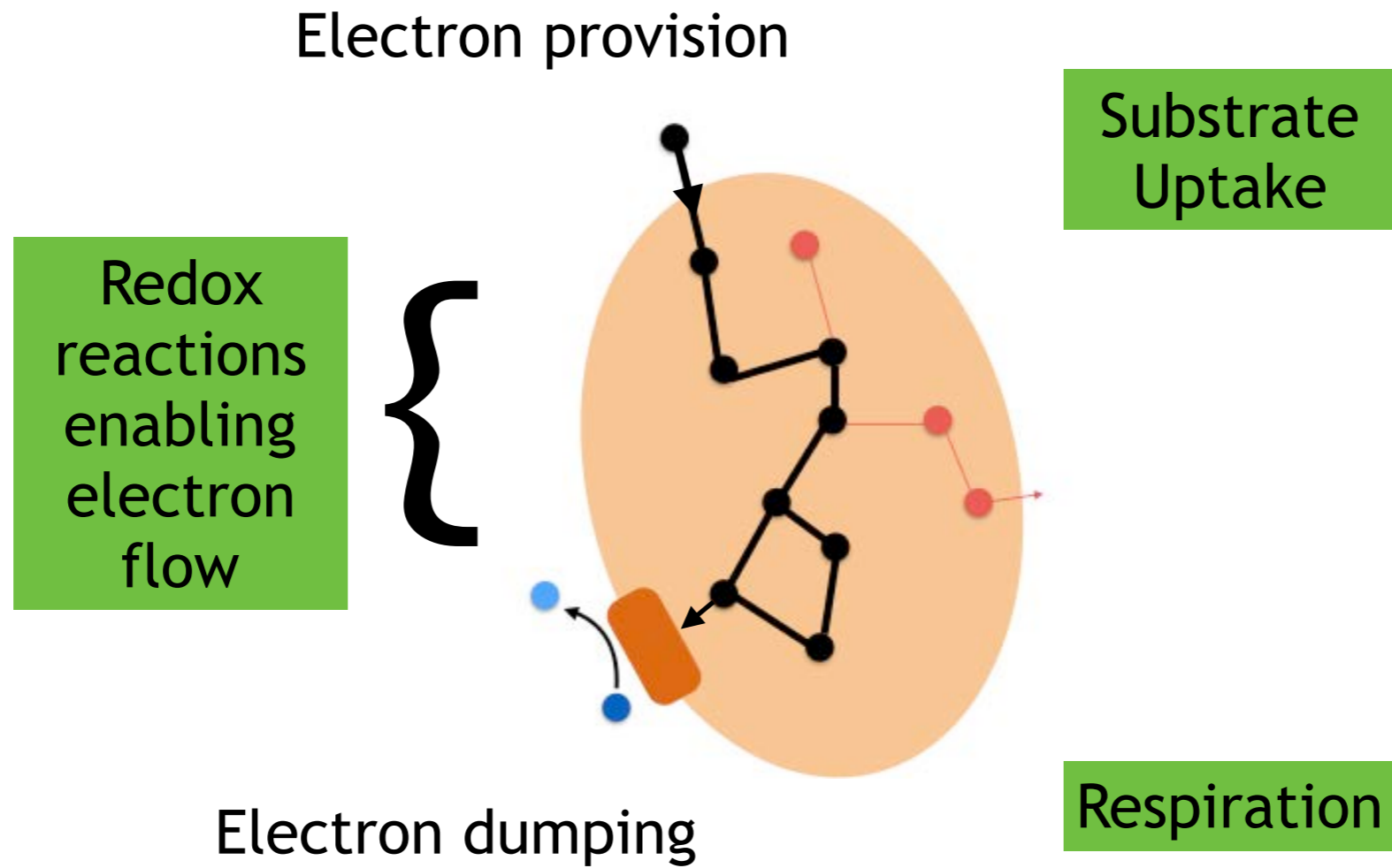
Waste



Metabolism as an electron flow system



Metabolism as an electron flow system



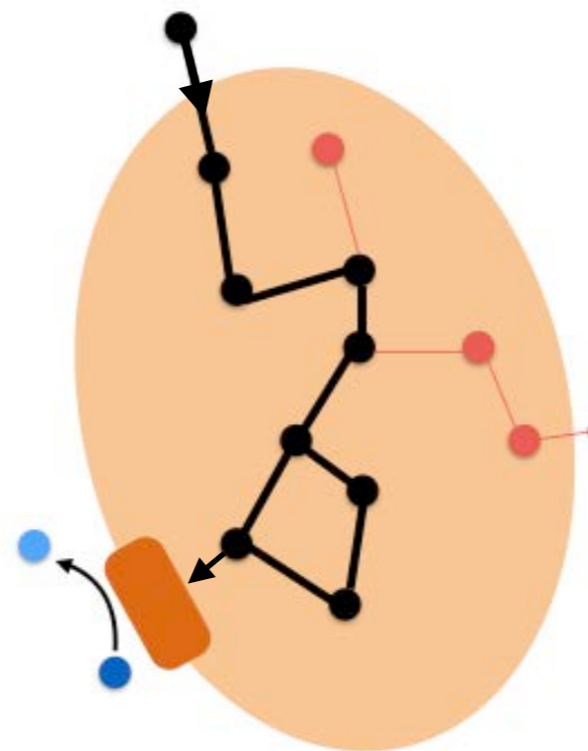
Limitations ?

Physical/environmental limits on respiration

Managing the terminal electron sinks

Electron provision

Substrate Uptake



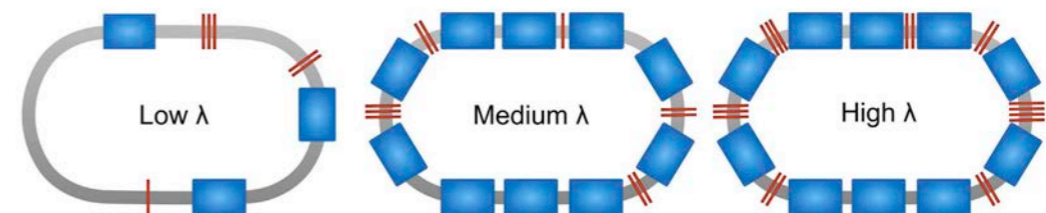
Electron dumping

Respiration

Trade-offs in space/enzyme allocation

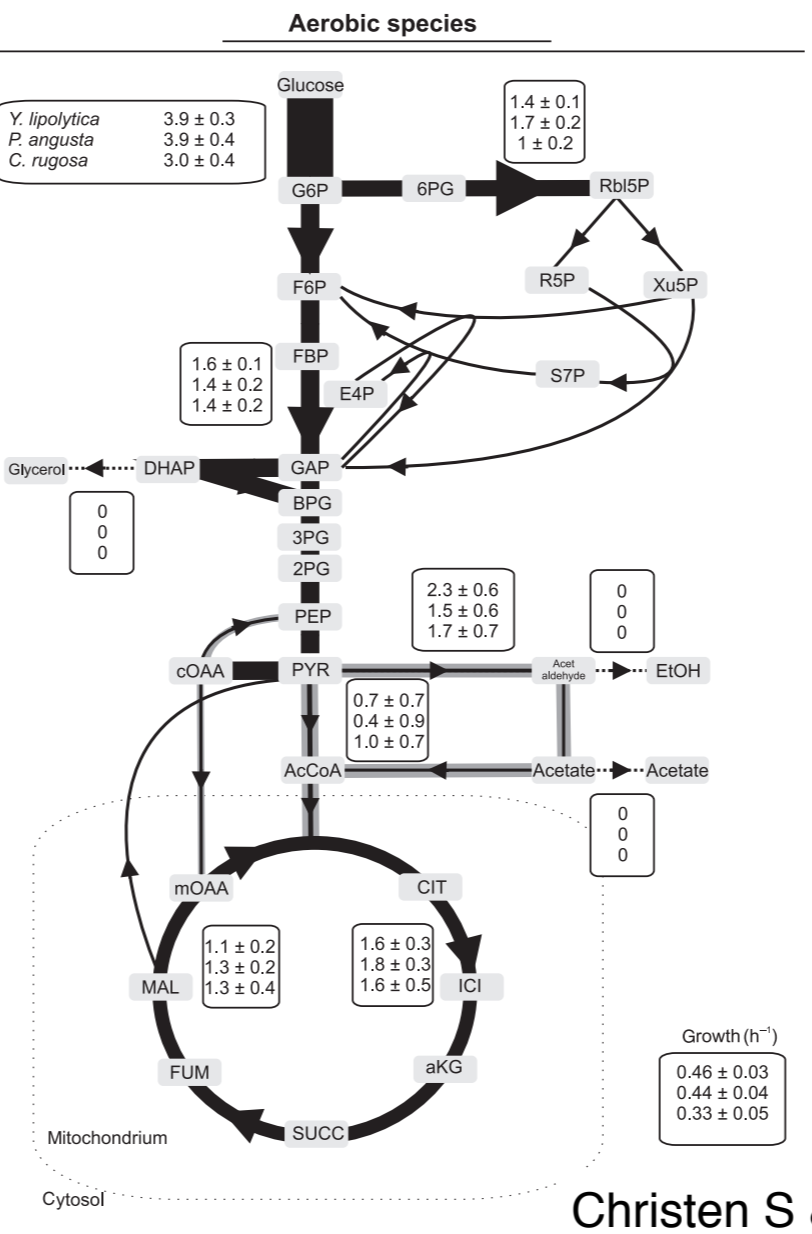
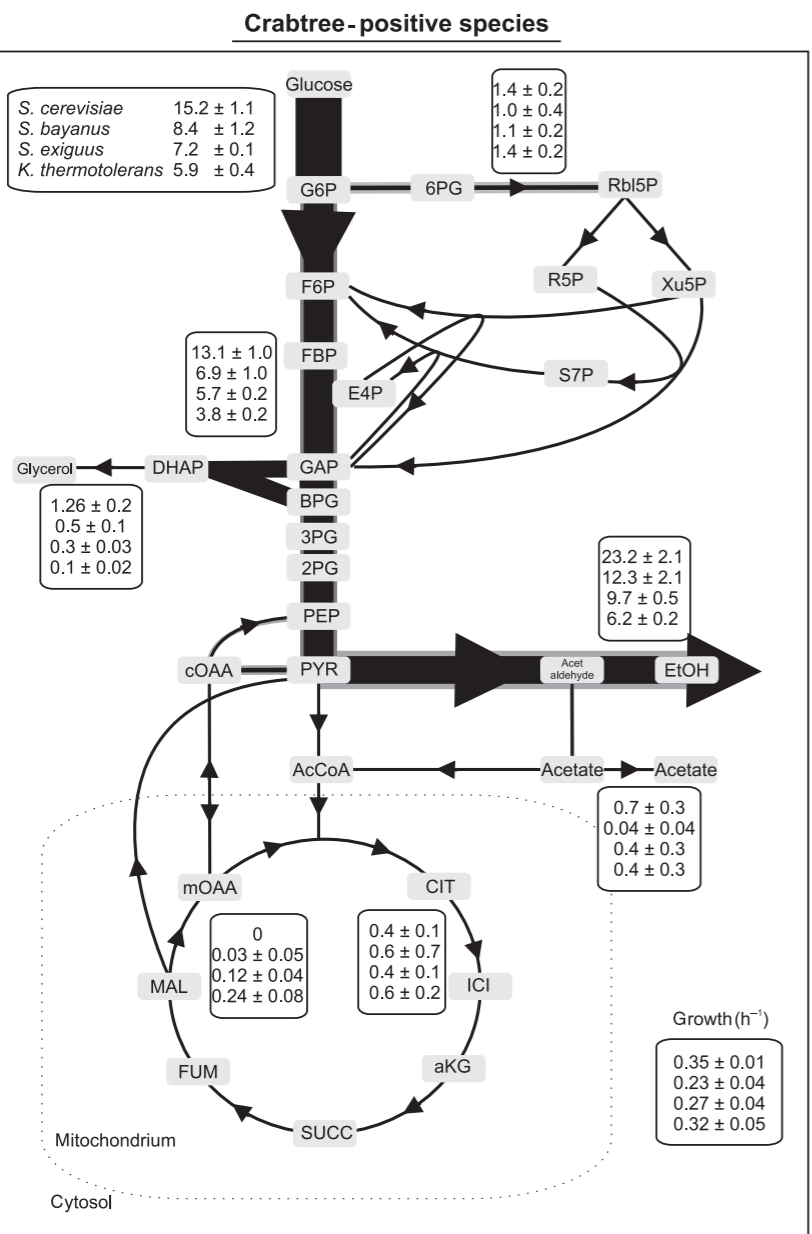
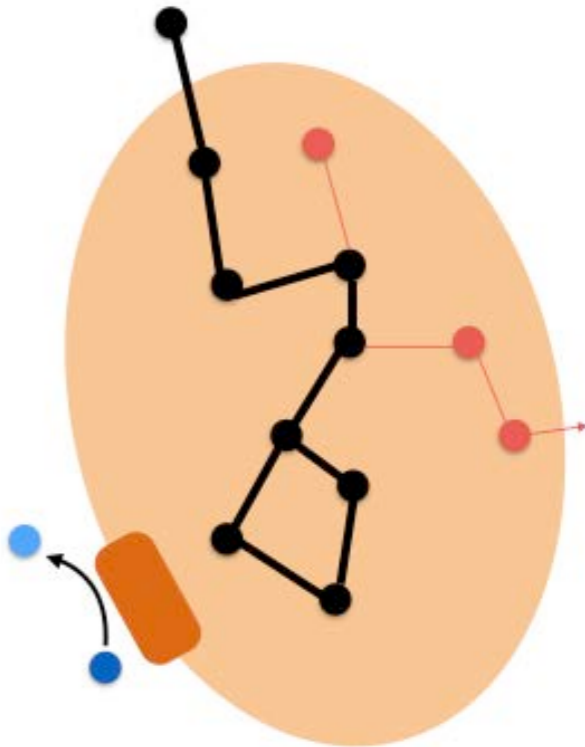
Szenk M, Dill KA, de Graff AMR, *Cell Systems* 5 (2017)

Basan M, et al. *Nature* 528 (2015)



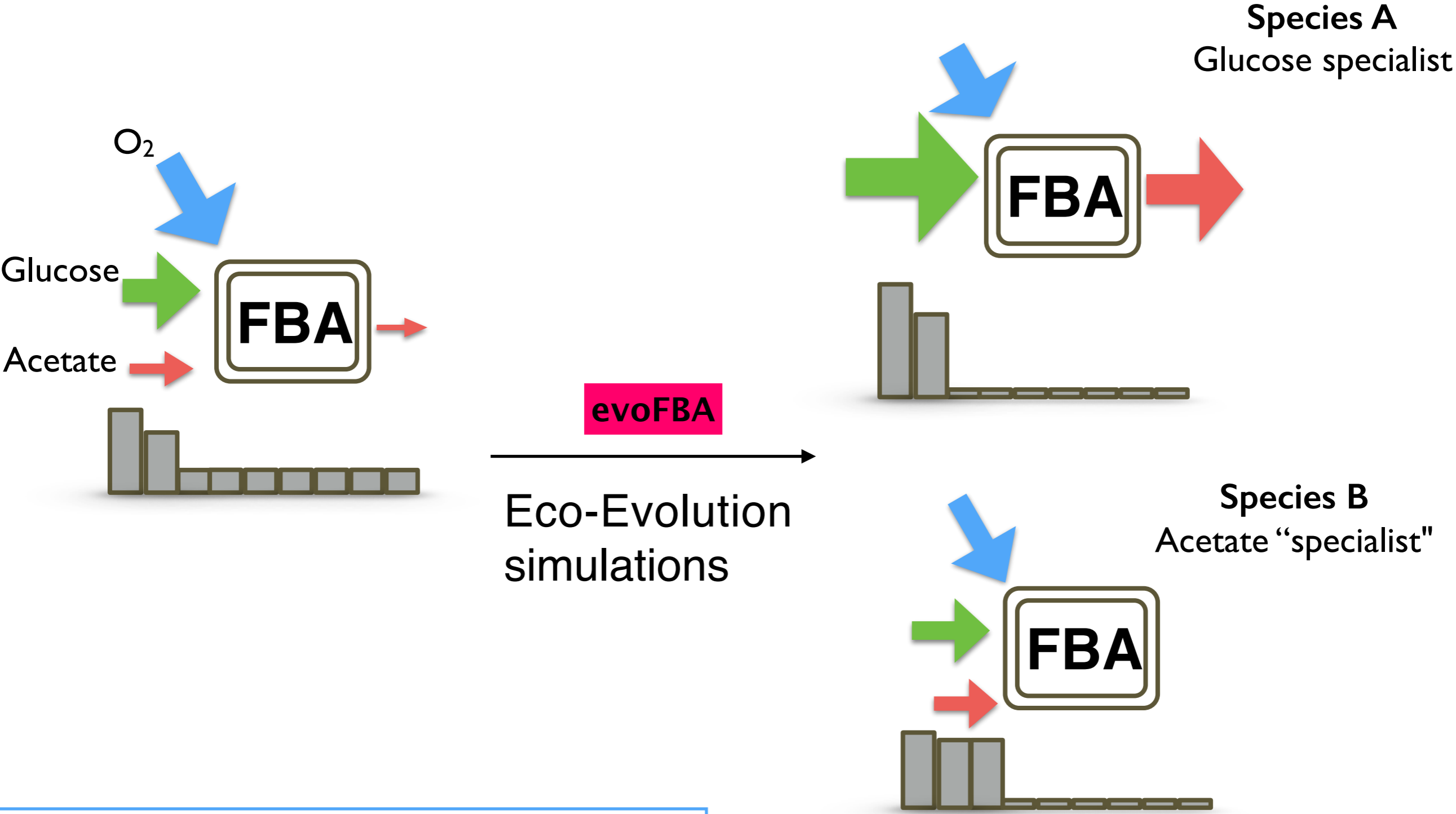
Overcoming respiratory limits with metabolic overflow

‘overflow metabolism’ (a.k.a Warburg effect and Crabtree effect in cancer and yeast cells) seems to be present in all cells where it is studied.



Christen S & Sauer U, *FEMS* (2011)
Vemuri G, et al. *Appl Env Microbial* (2006)

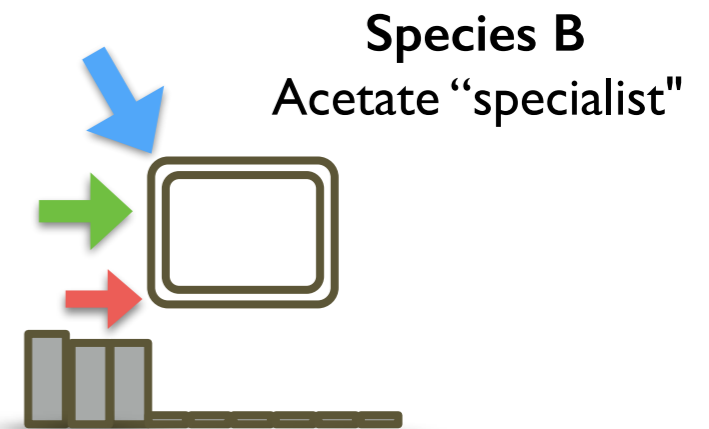
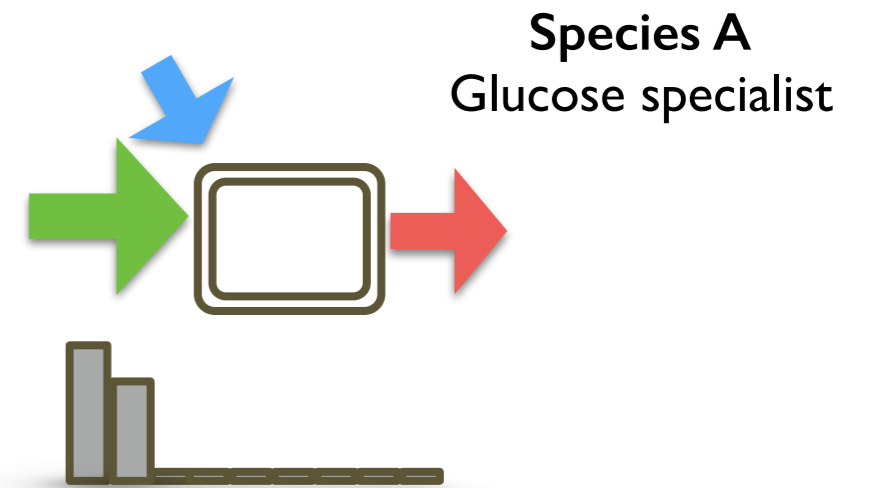
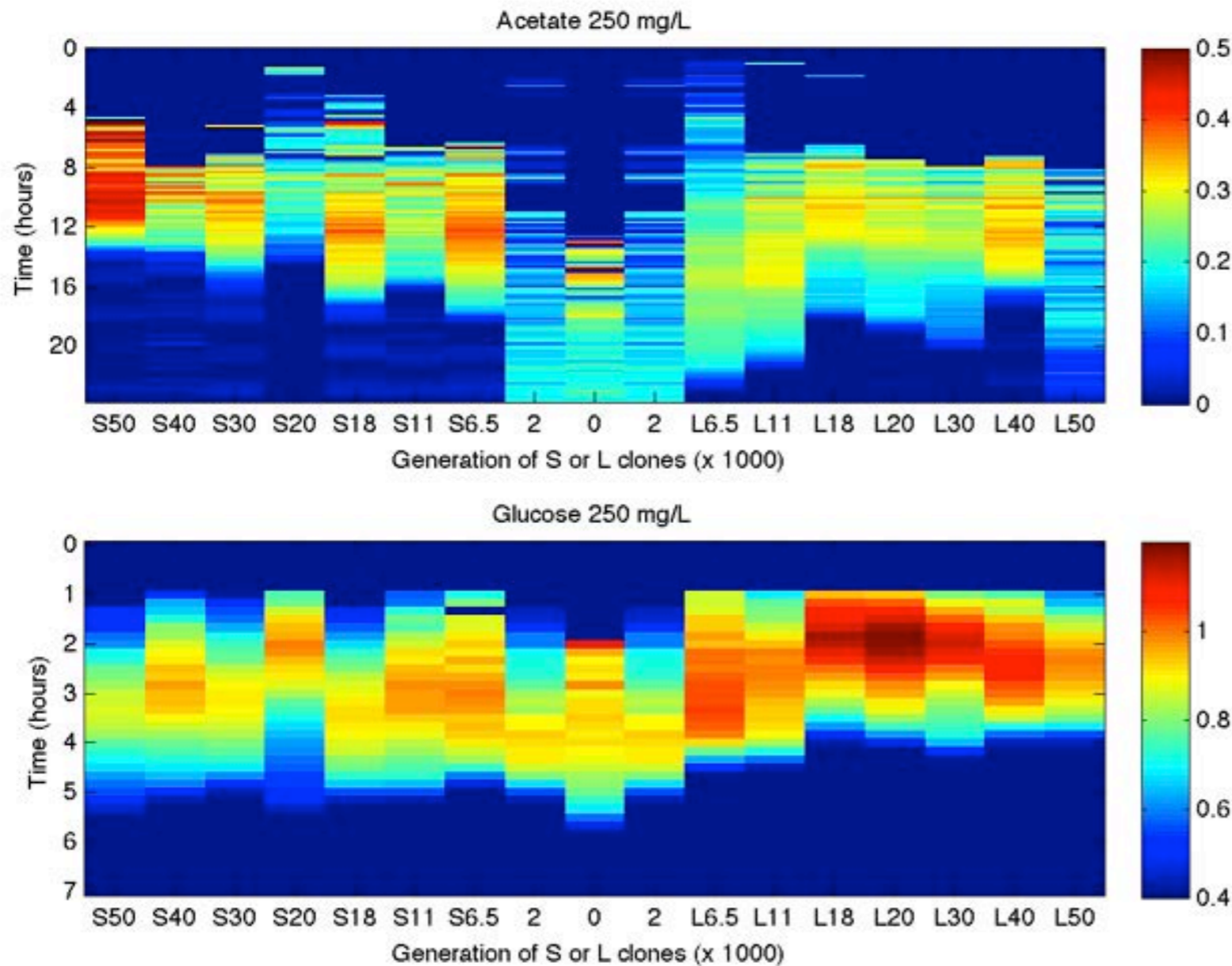
Overflow can emerge from trade-offs and can lead to cross-feeding

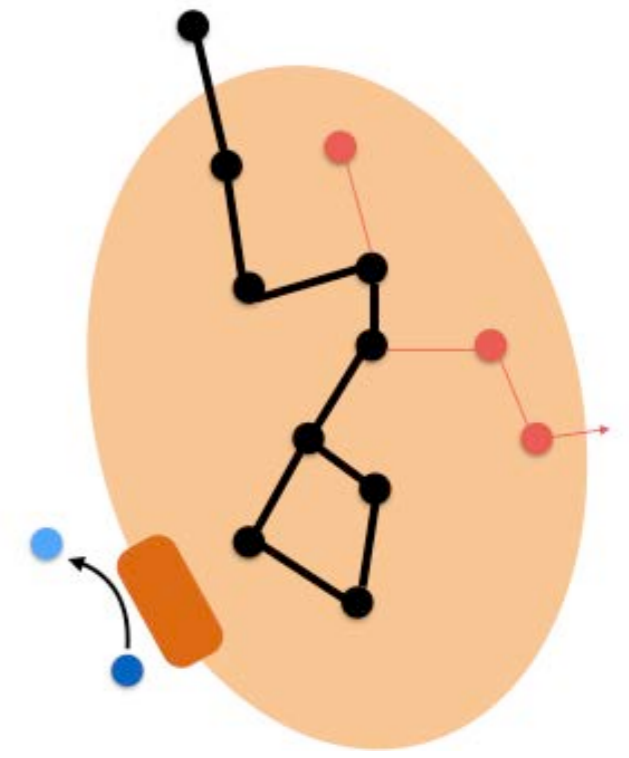
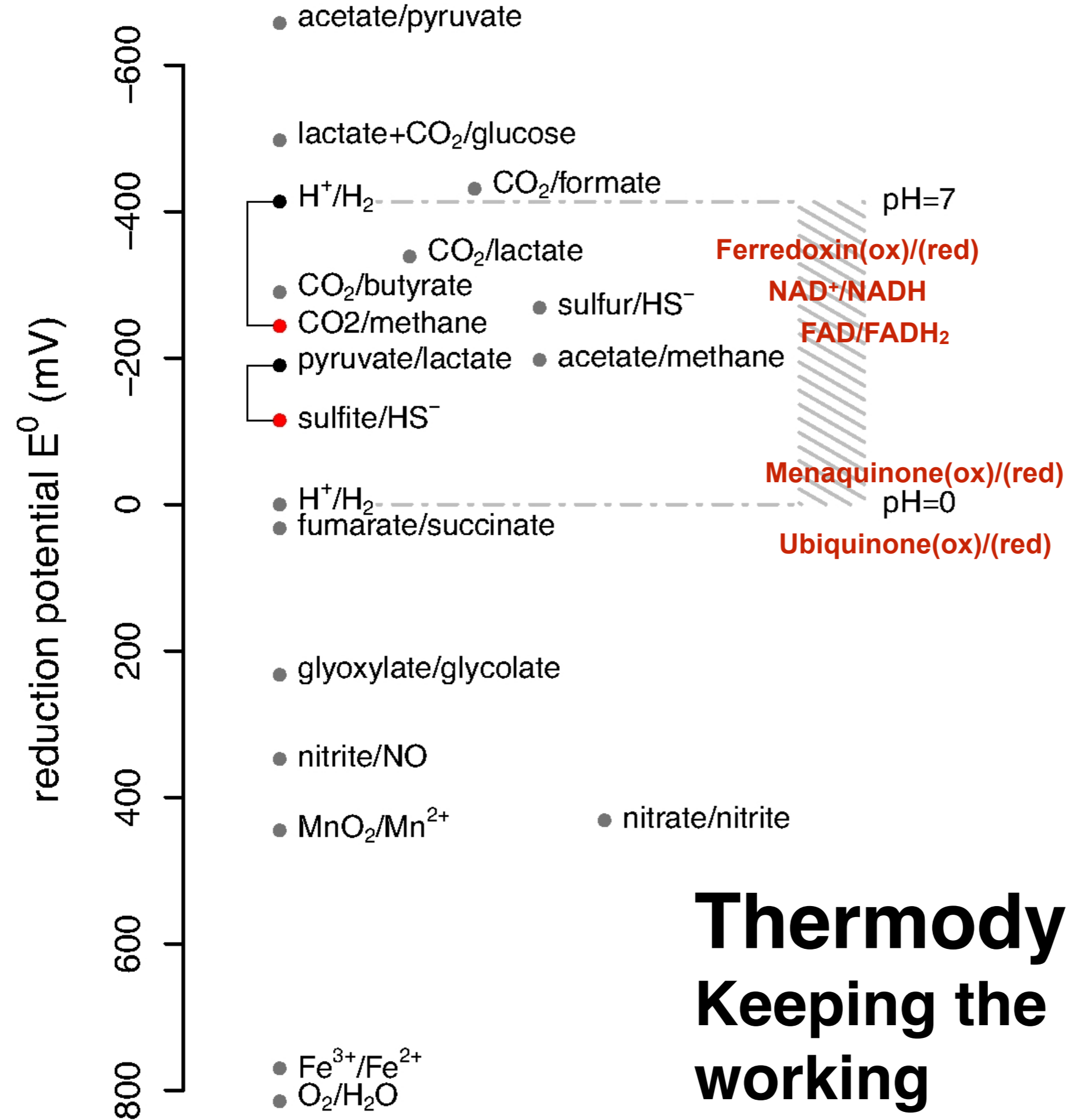


Overflow can lead to cross-feeding

Ecological and evolutionary dynamics of coexisting lineages during a long-term experiment with *Escherichia coli*

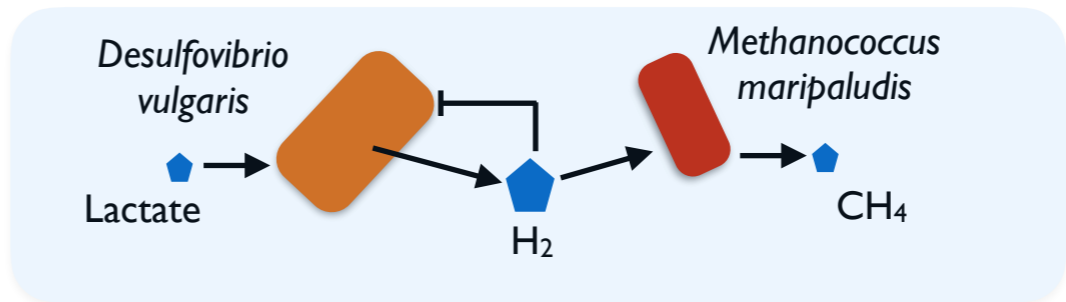
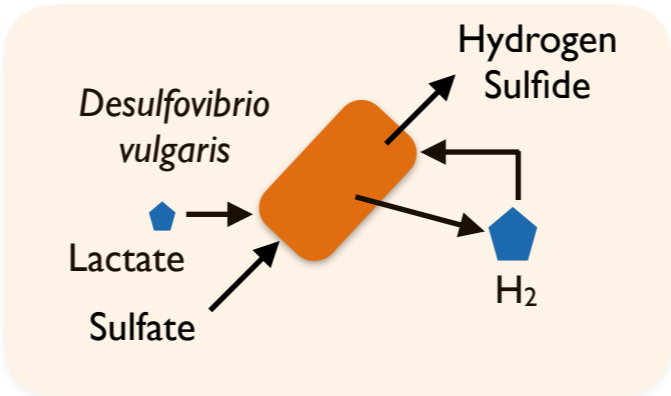
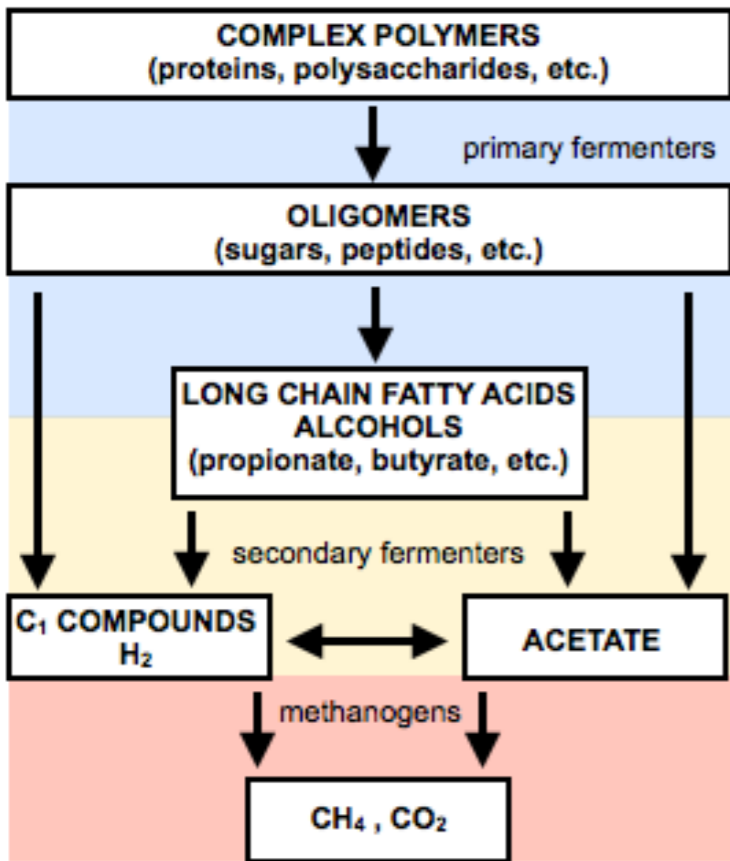
Mickaël Le Gac^{a,b}, Jessica Plucain^{a,b}, Thomas Hindré^{a,b}, Richard E. Lenski^{c,d,1}, and Dominique Schneider^{a,b,1}



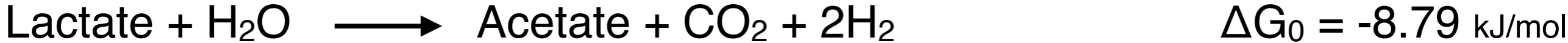
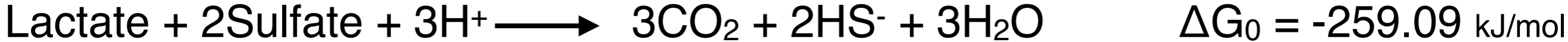


Thermodynamic limits
Keeping the 'redox ladder'
working

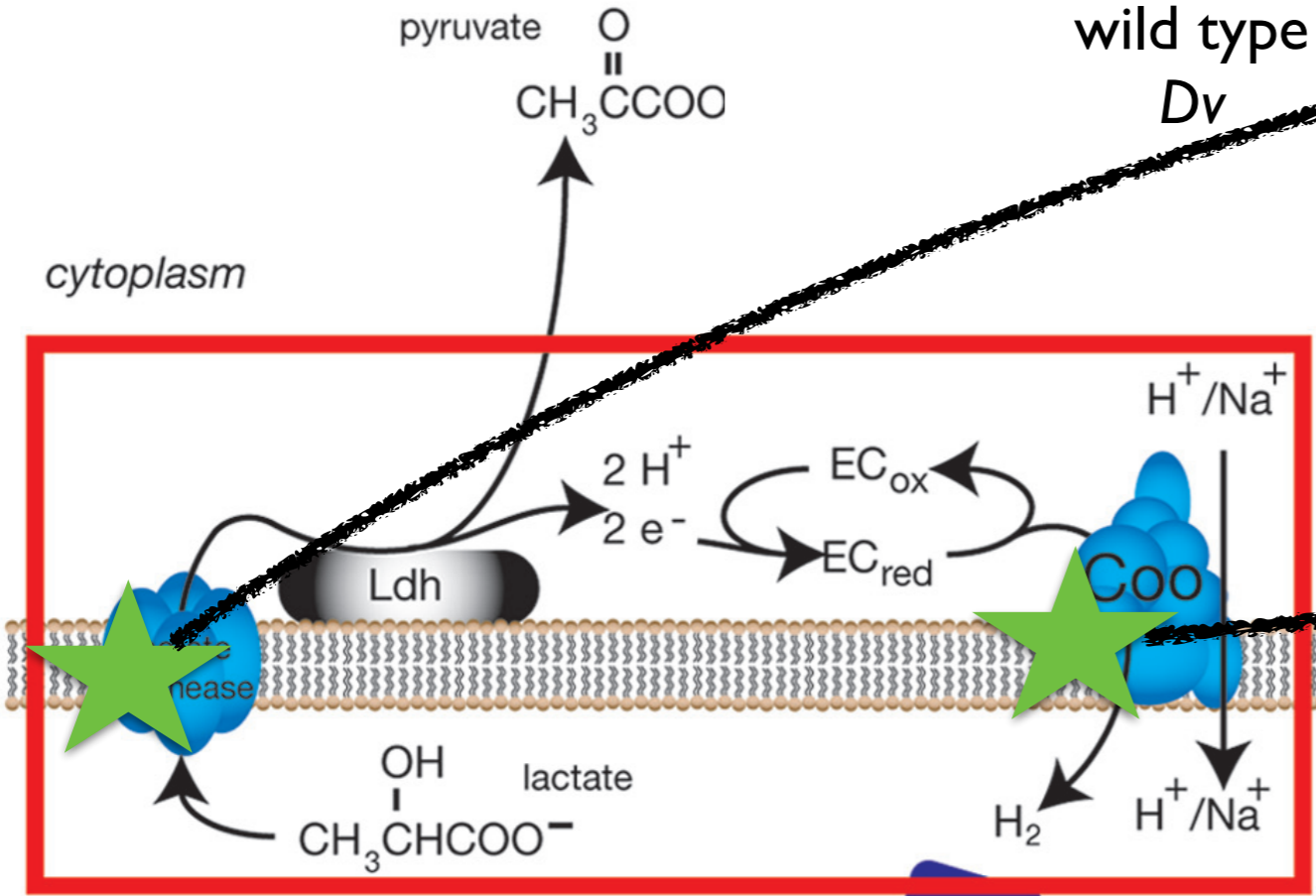
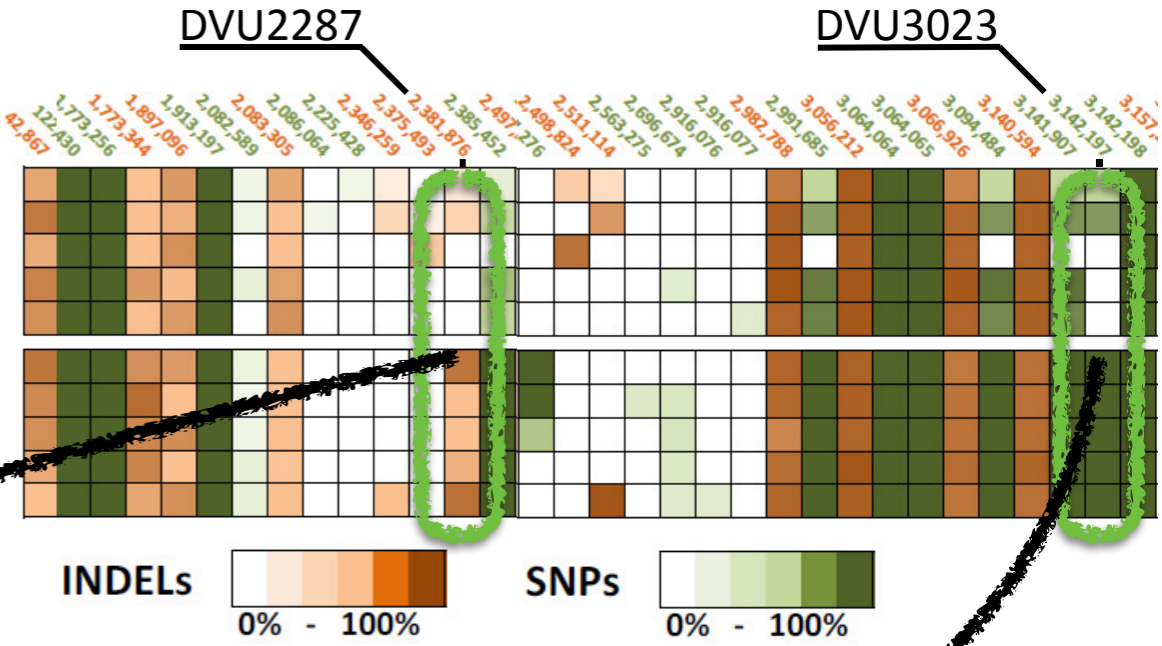
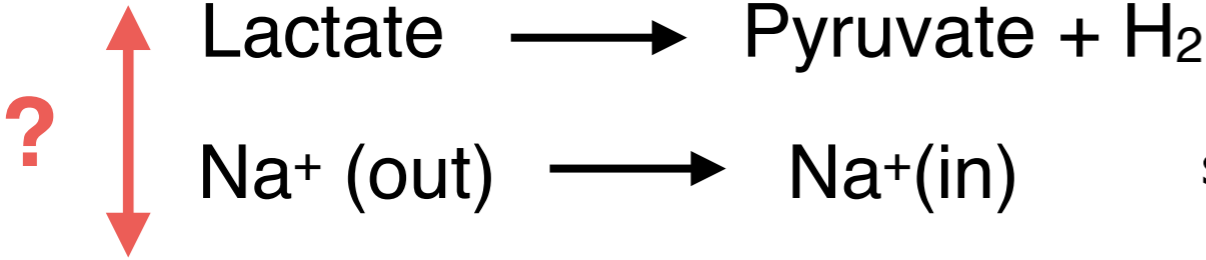
Overcoming respiratory & thermodynamics limits with syntrophy



Schink B *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev* 61:2 (1997)

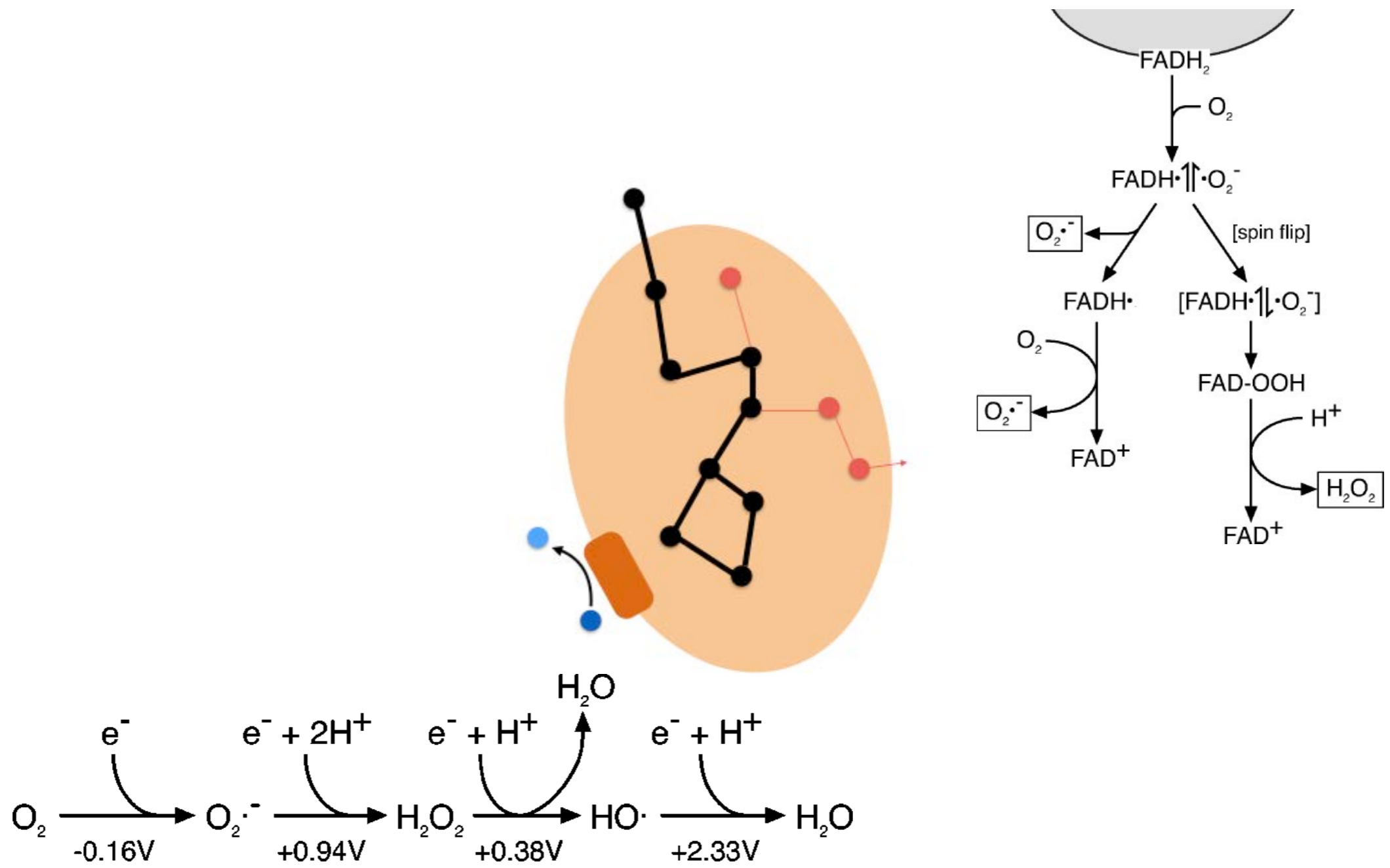


Syntrophy formation requires energy investment to overcome thermodynamic bottlenecks

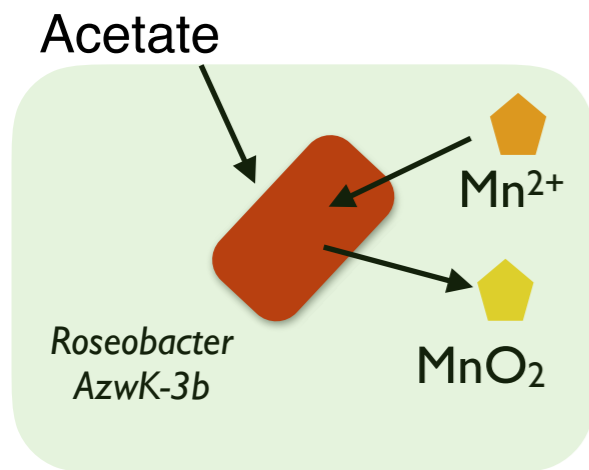


Grosskopf T. et al. *ISME J.* (2016).

Limits due to toxic byproducts of redox chemistry



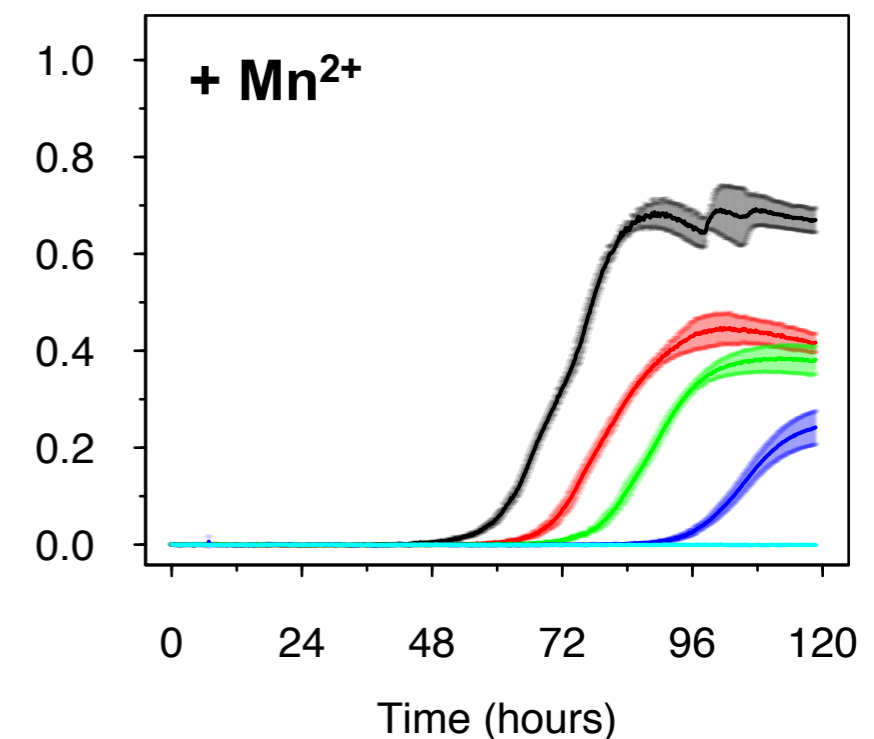
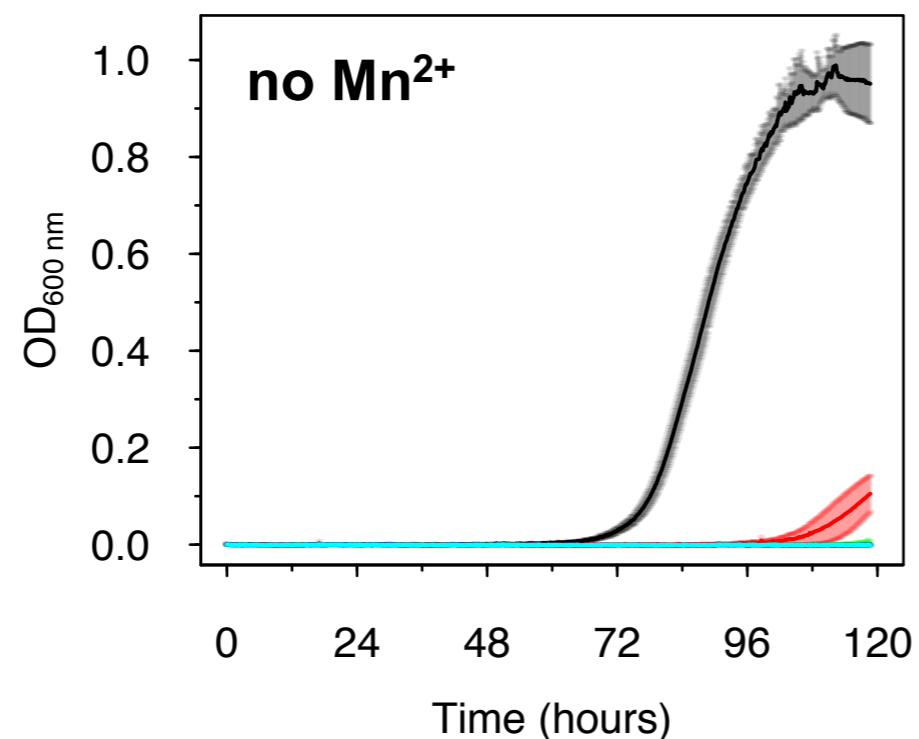
Overcoming toxic effects of respiration with metal oxidation



An ocean-dwelling bacterium that displays strong Mn oxidation.

Hansel et al *ASM* 72:5 (2006)

MnO_x revealed as mitigator of nitrite toxicity



Zerfass et al

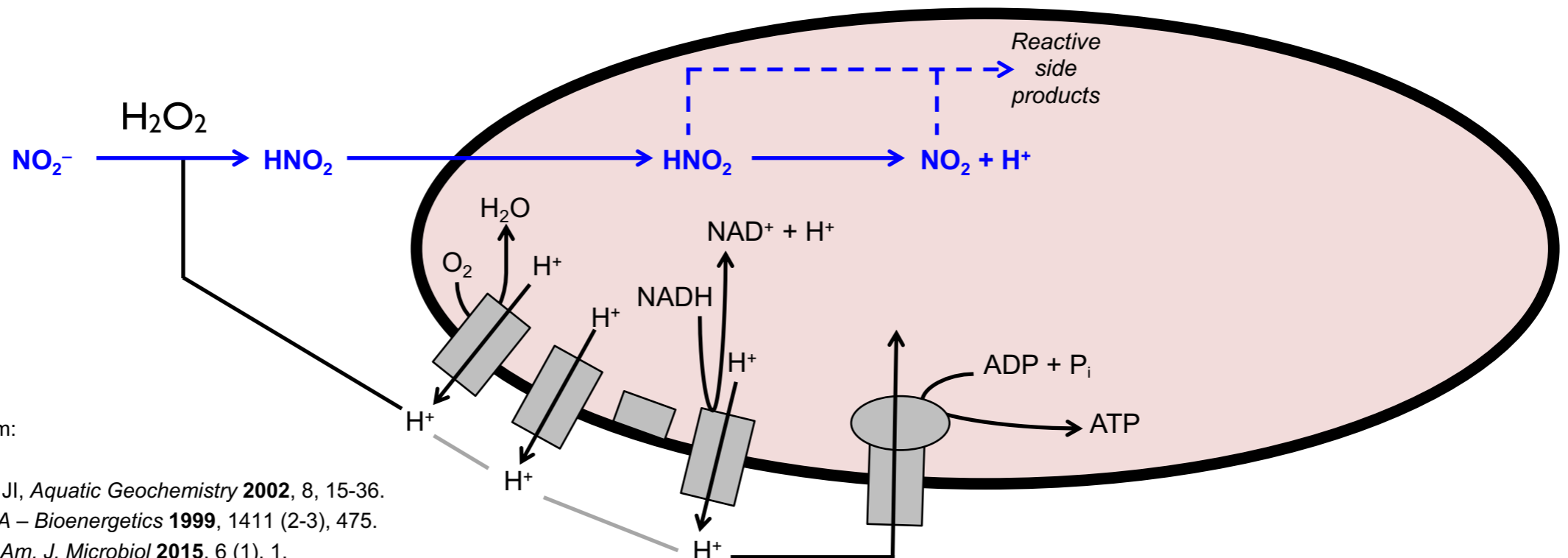
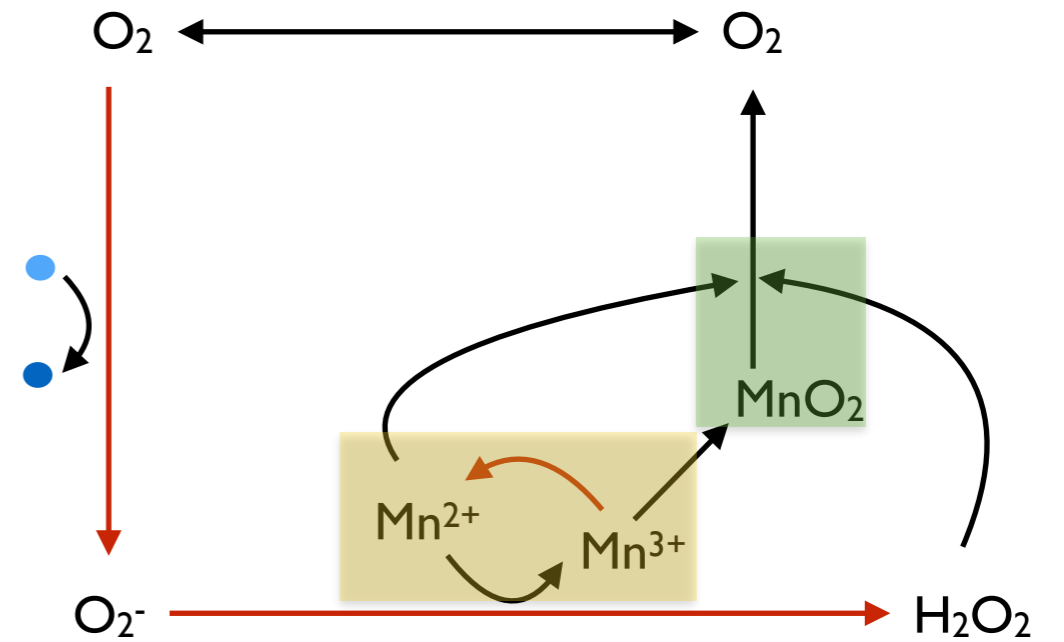
<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/early/2018/04/04/294975>

— Control – no NO₂⁻
— 0.25 mM NO₂⁻
— 0.5 mM NO₂⁻

— 1.0 mM NO₂⁻
— 2.0 mM NO₂⁻

Biogenic MnOx as a strong redox agent

MnO_x mediated H₂O₂ scavenging



With information from:

Luther III GW, Popp JI, *Aquatic Geochemistry* **2002**, 8, 15-36.

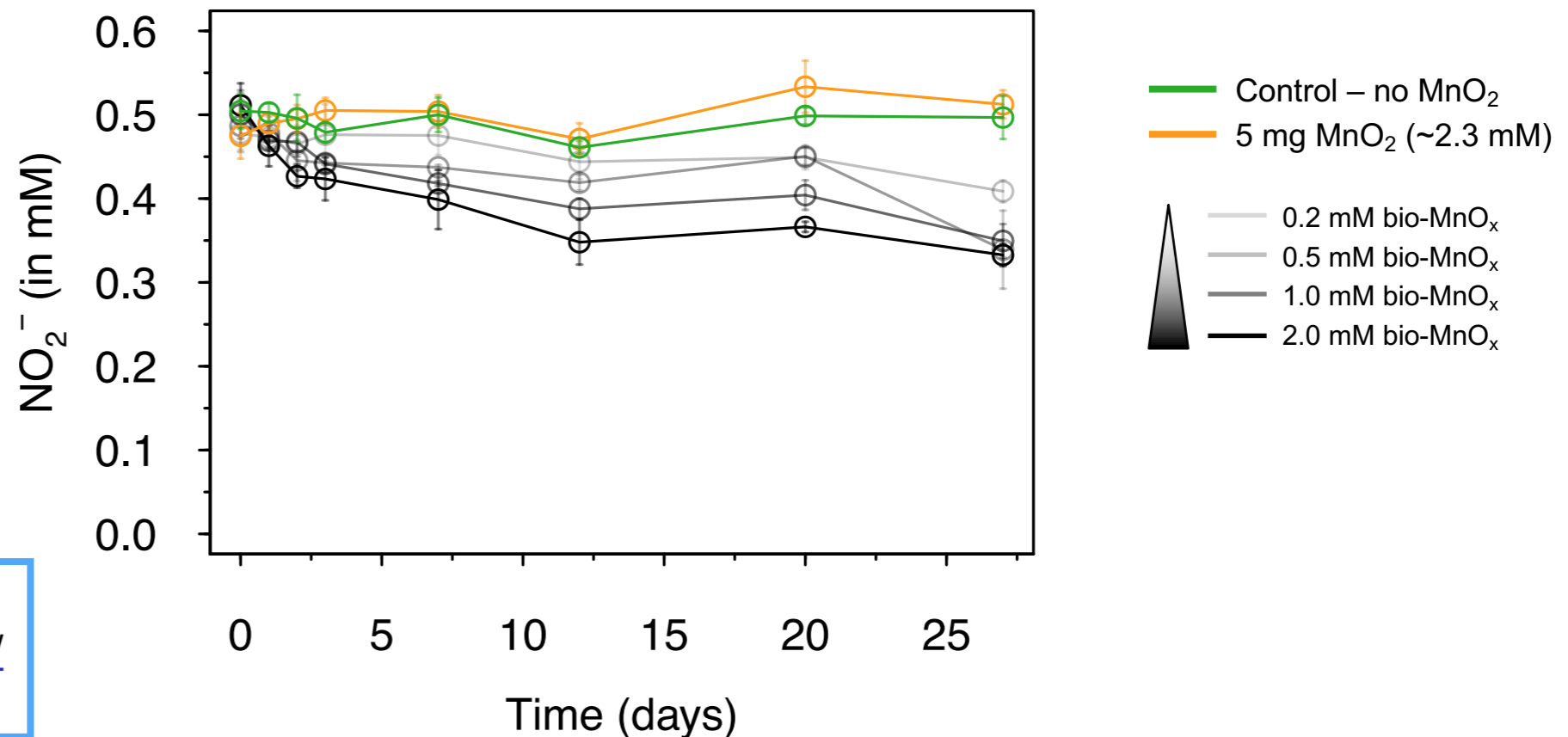
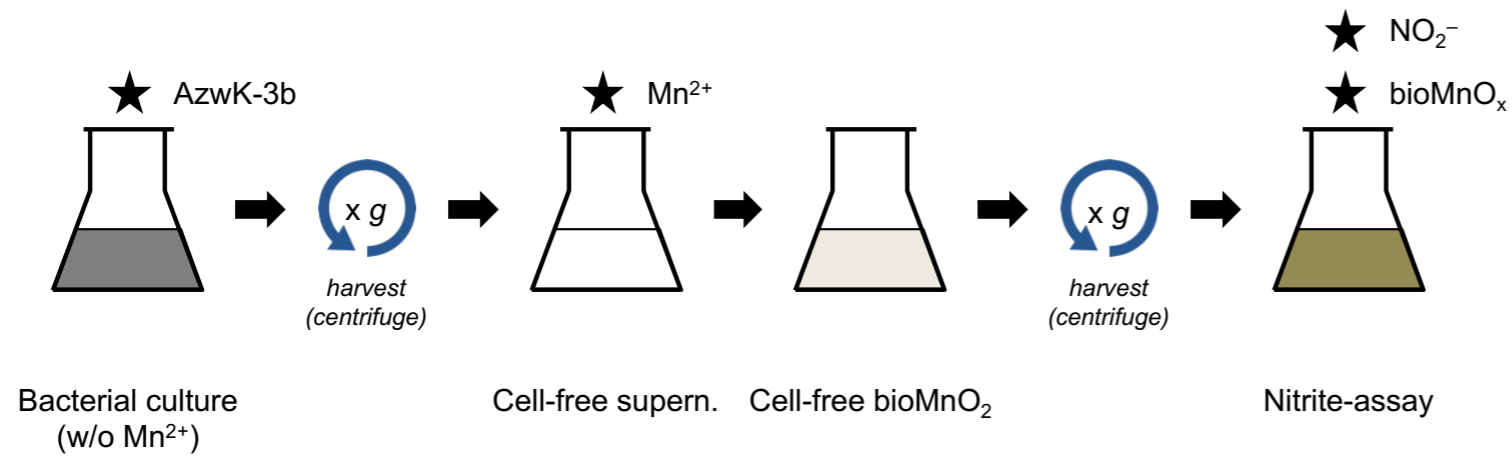
Cammack et al., *BBA – Bioenergetics* **1999**, 1411 (2-3), 475.

Müller-Herbst et al., *Am. J. Microbiol* **2015**, 6 (1), 1.

Michal G., Schomburg D., *Biochemical Pathways: An Atlas of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*. 2nd edition, Wiley **2012**.

Biogenic MnO_x as a strong redox agent

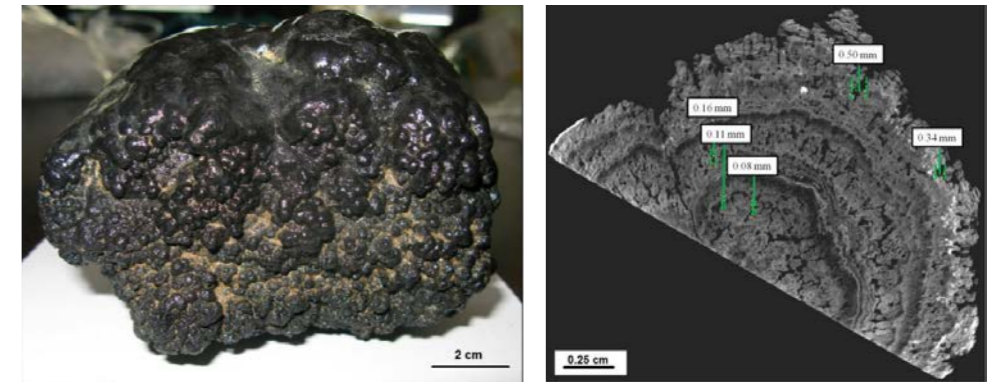
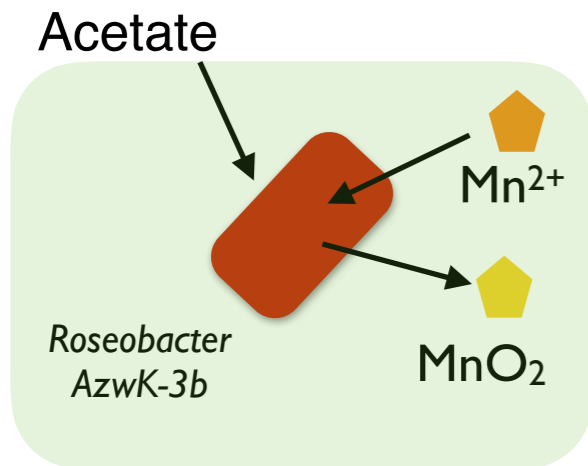
MnO_x mediated nitrite (NO₂⁻) scavenging



Zerfass et al

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/early/2018/04/04/294975>

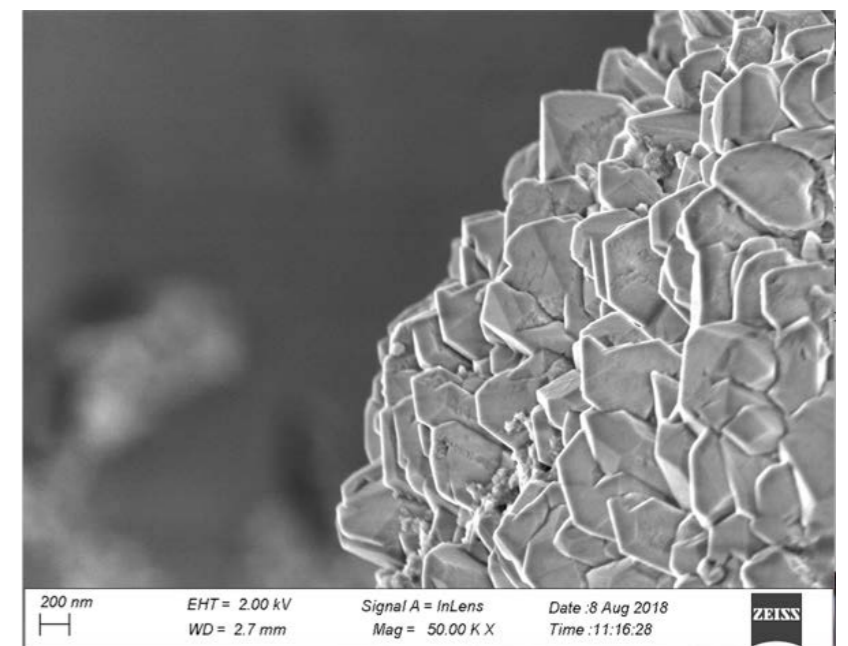
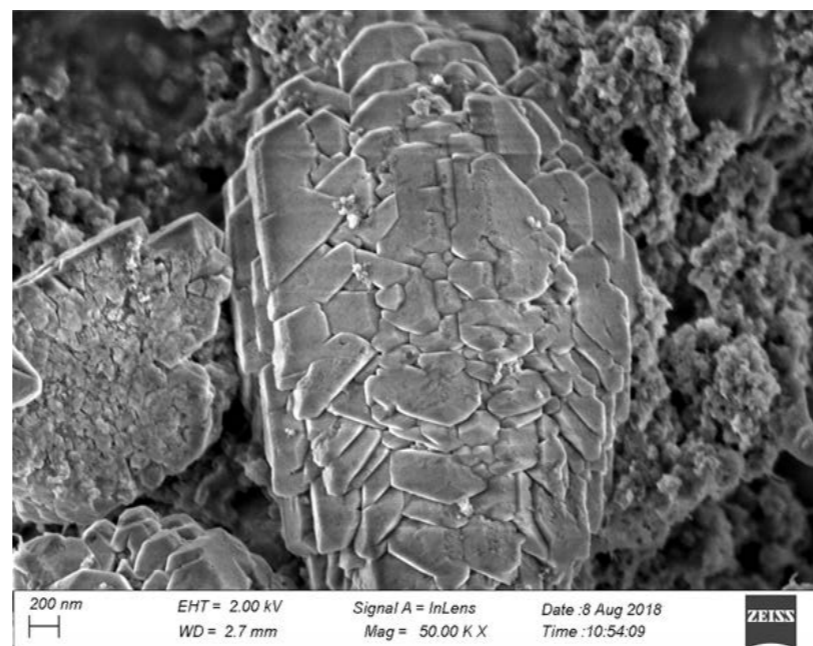
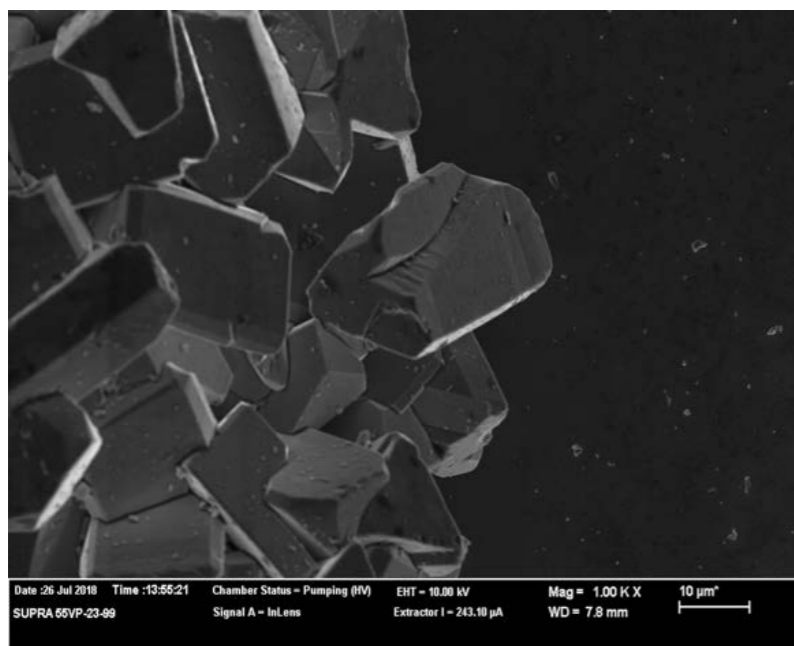
Biogenic MnOx as a strong redox agent



Polymetallic (Mn-rich) nodules of biogenic origin.

Blöthe et al., *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2015**, 49, 7692.

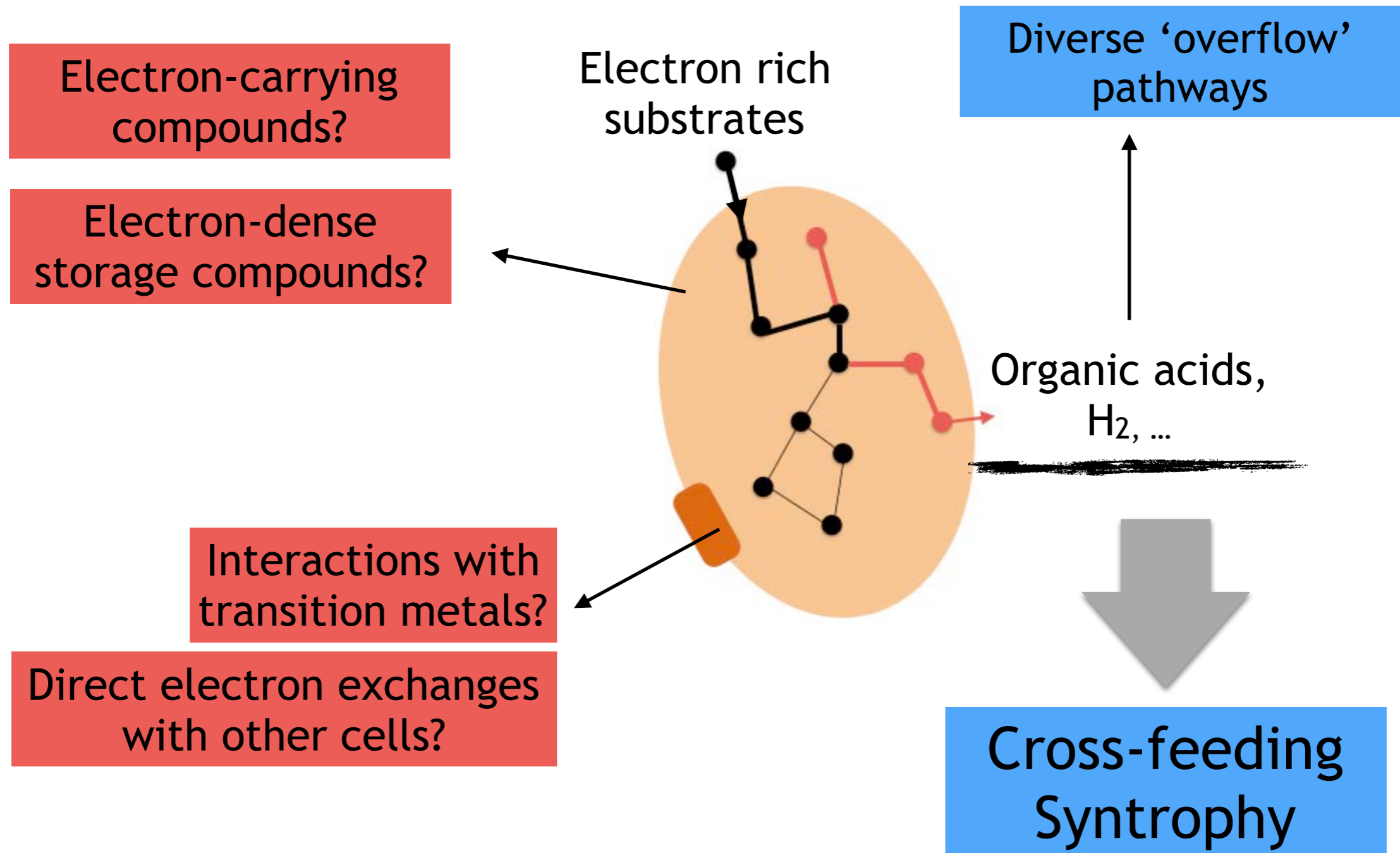
MnO_x is a strong oxidizer that is used in batteries among other applications. Synthetic MnO_x has low reactivity when 'aged' and readily dissolves upon oxidizing action



Kremin C and Zerfass C, Unpublished results

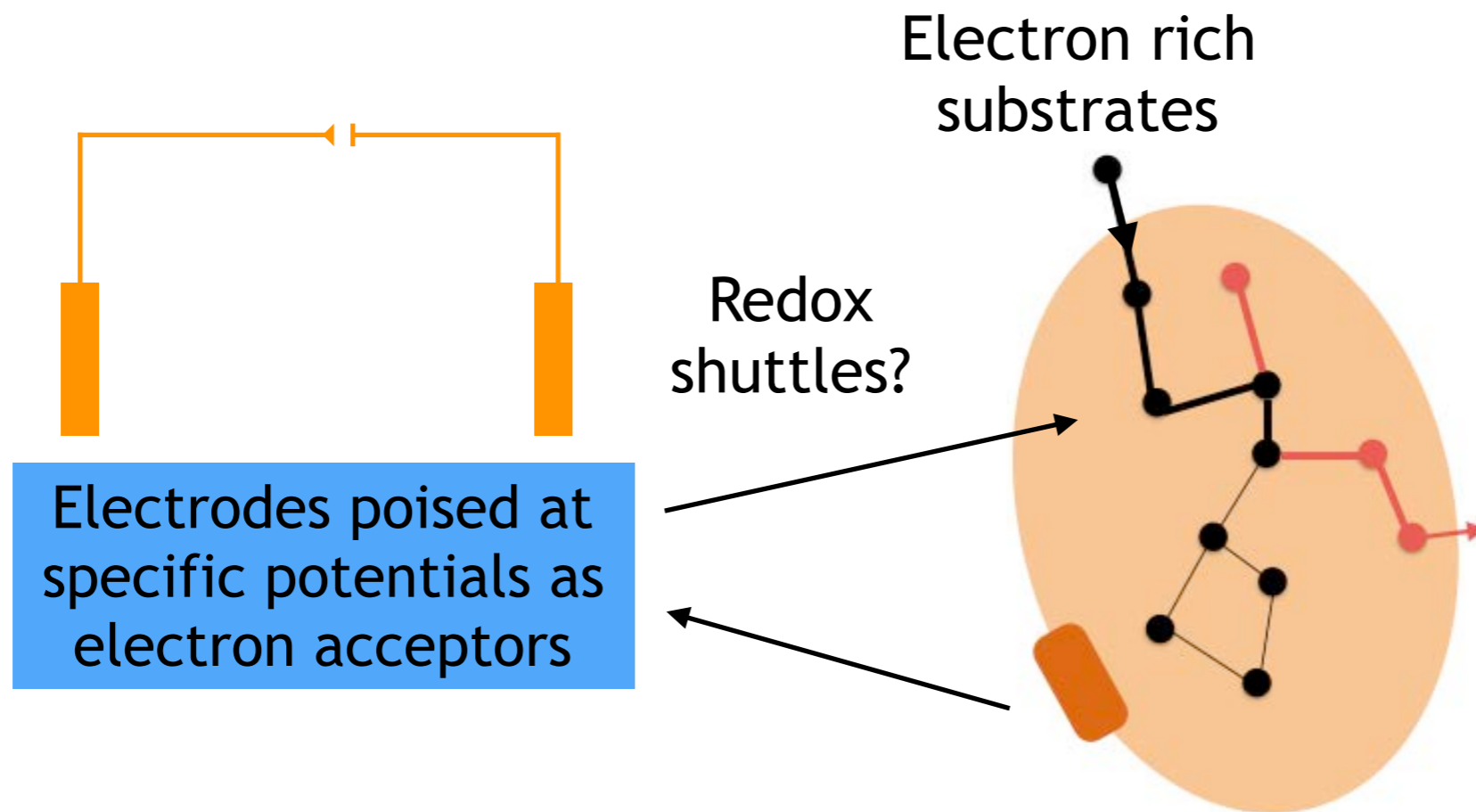
Metabolism as an electron flow system

Keeping up the electron flow



Consequences for engineering and study of metabolism

Controlling/influencing the electron flow with external electrons (electronic metabolism)



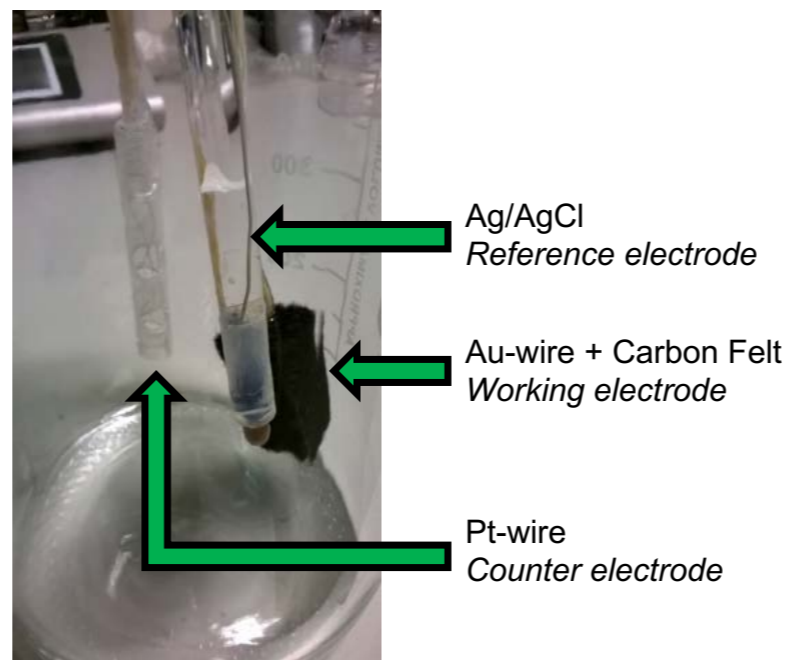
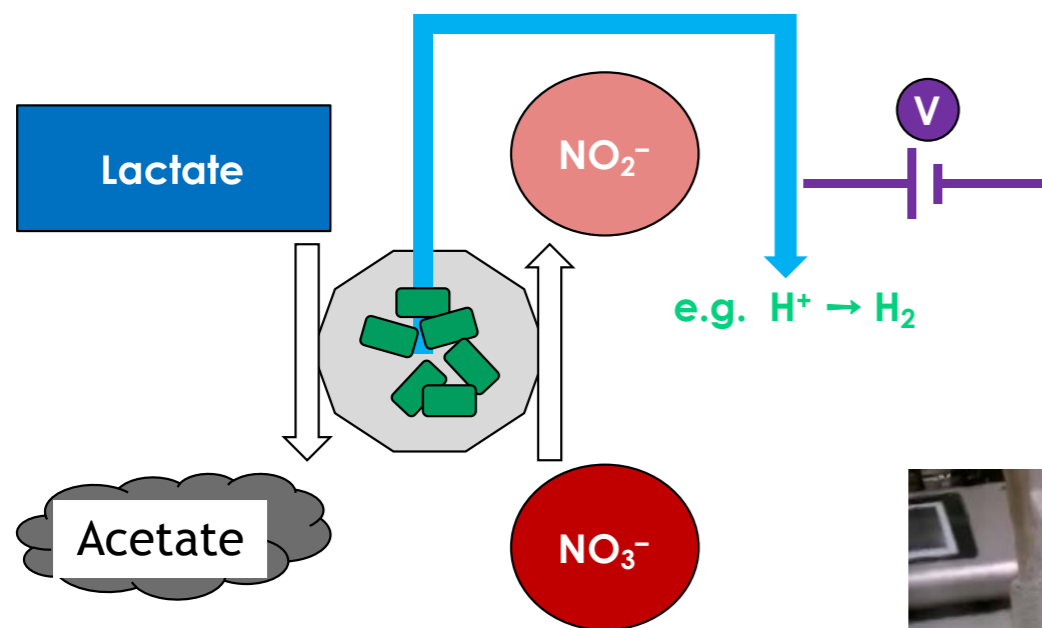
Electromicrobiology

Lovley D, *An. Rev. Of Microbiology* (2012)

Kato S, *Microbes Environ* 30 (2015)

”Electronic control” of cell metabolism

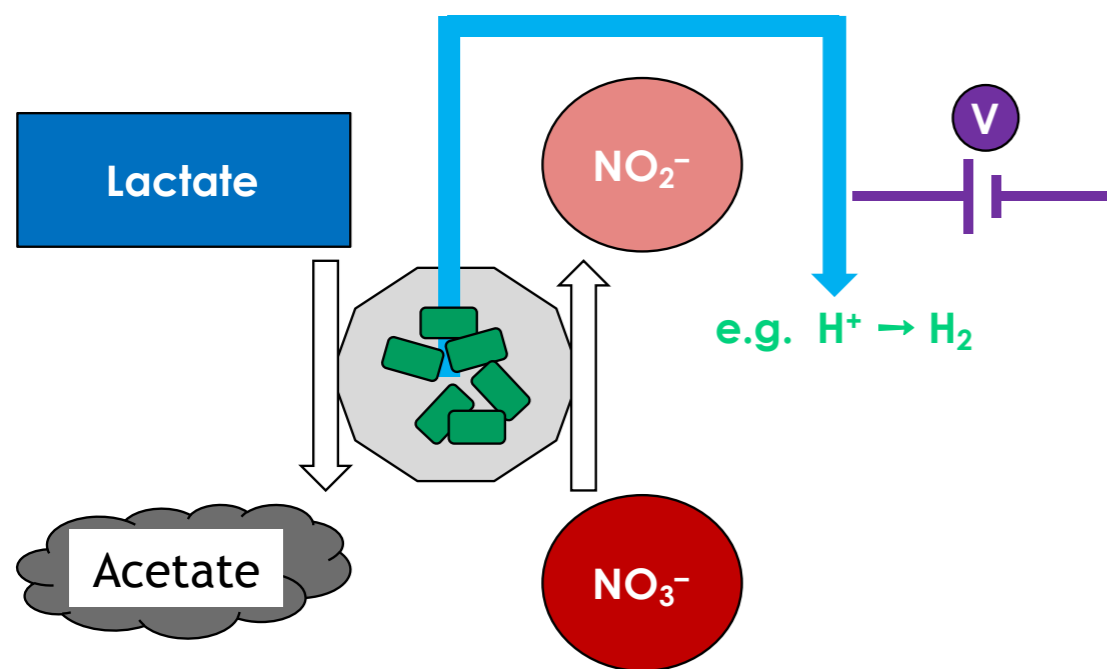
Control of respiration in *Shewanella oneidensis* using electrodes poised at specific potentials



Christian Zerfass

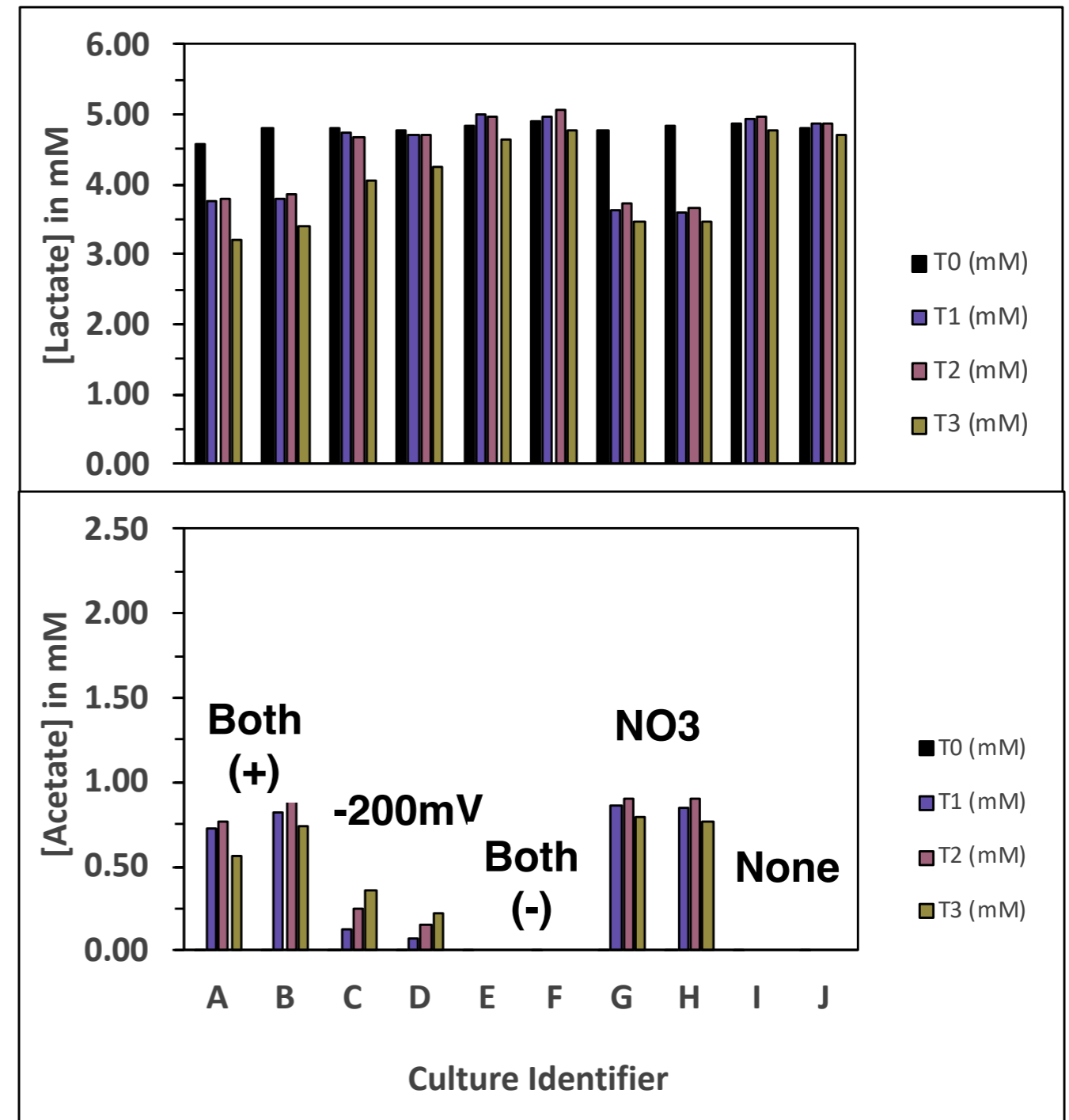
"Electronic control" of cell metabolism

Control of respiration in *Shewanella oneidensis* using electrodes poised at specific potentials



Christian Zerfass

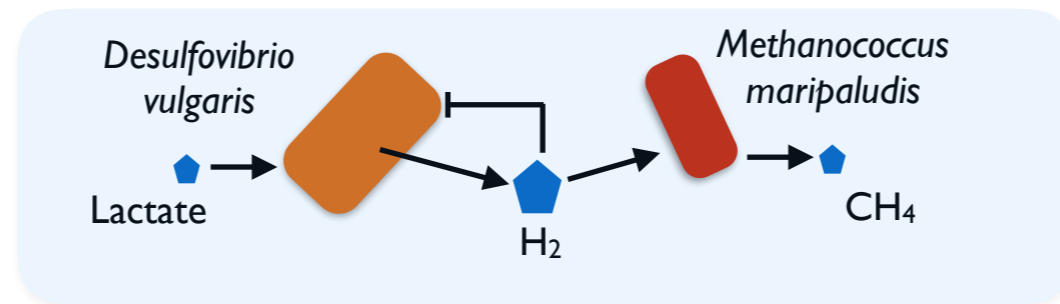
Unpublished data



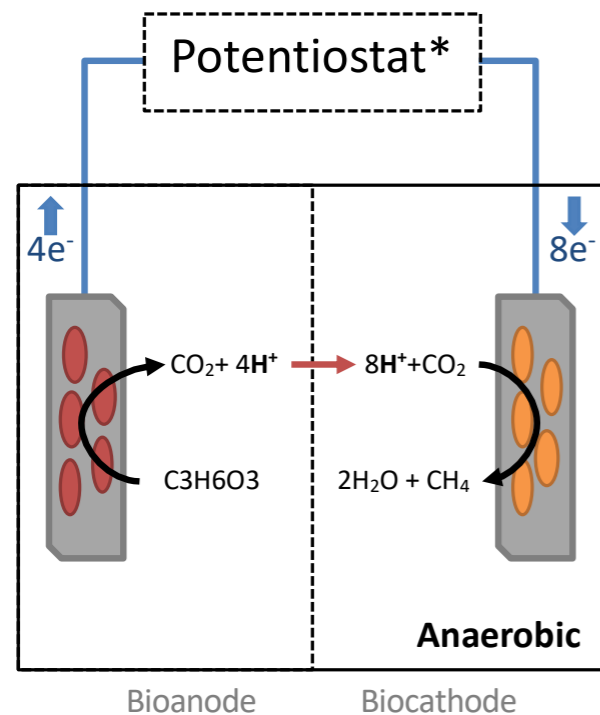
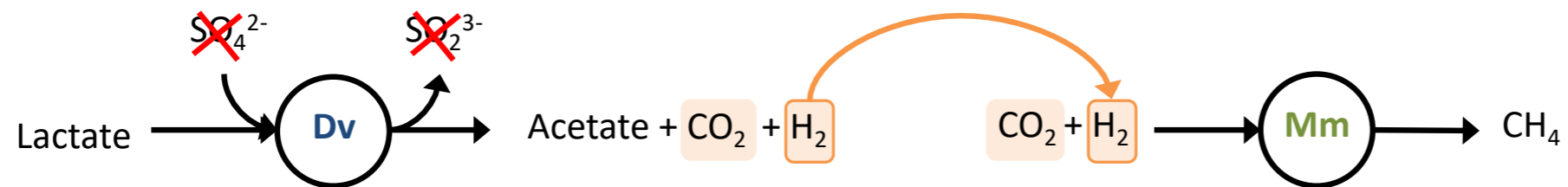
Electrical measurement of metabolism?



Andrea
Martinez-Vernon

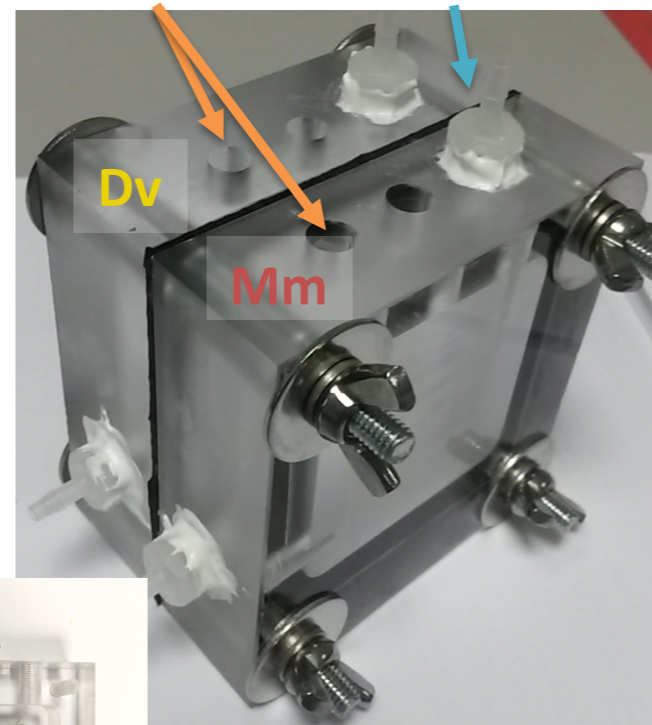


Control/study of syntrophy across wires!

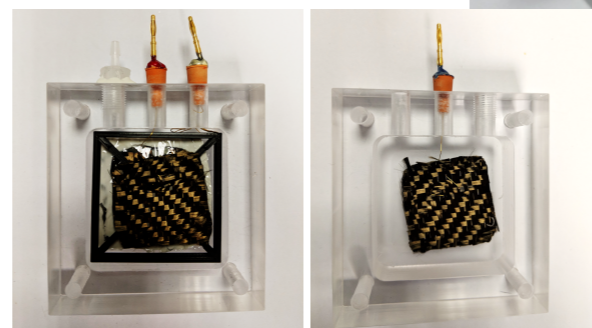
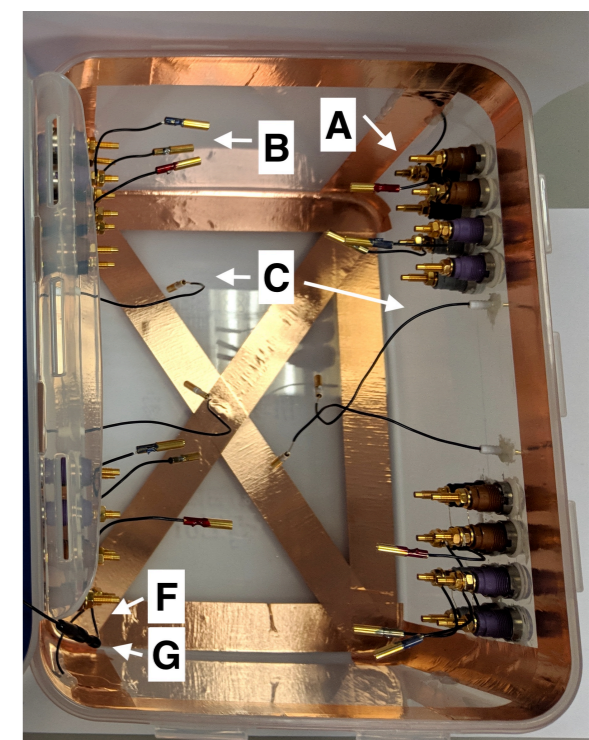
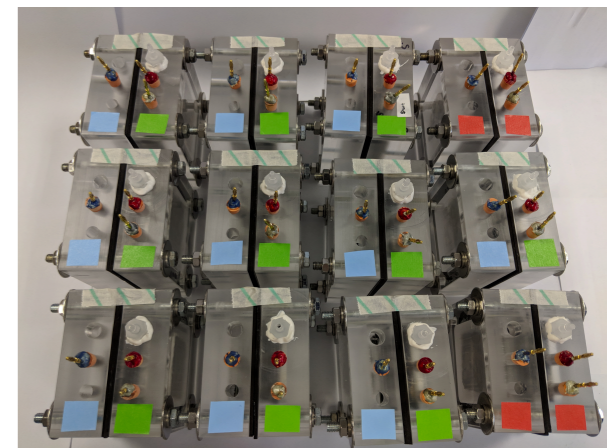


Electrochemical set up
*voltage control

ELECTRODES GAS COLLECTION



Electrochemical cell

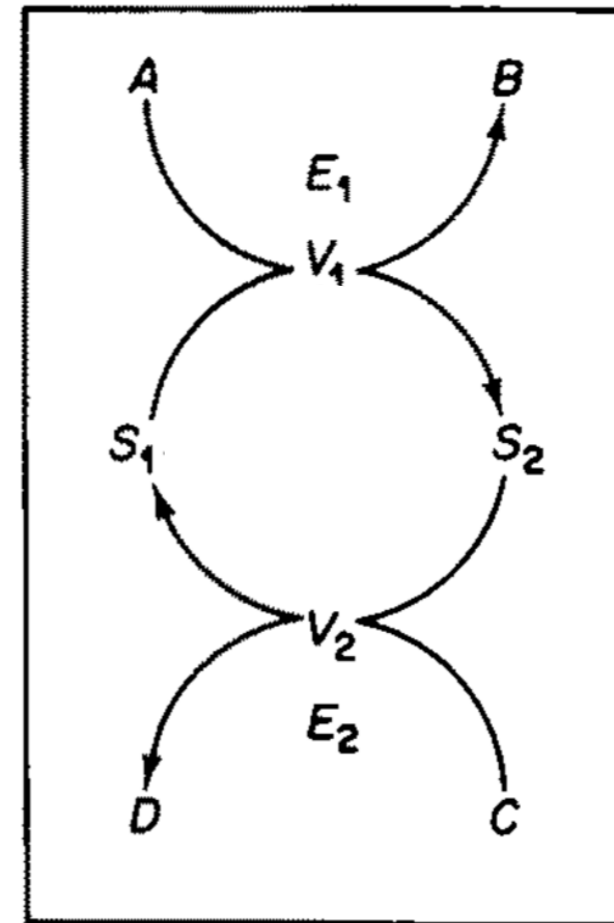
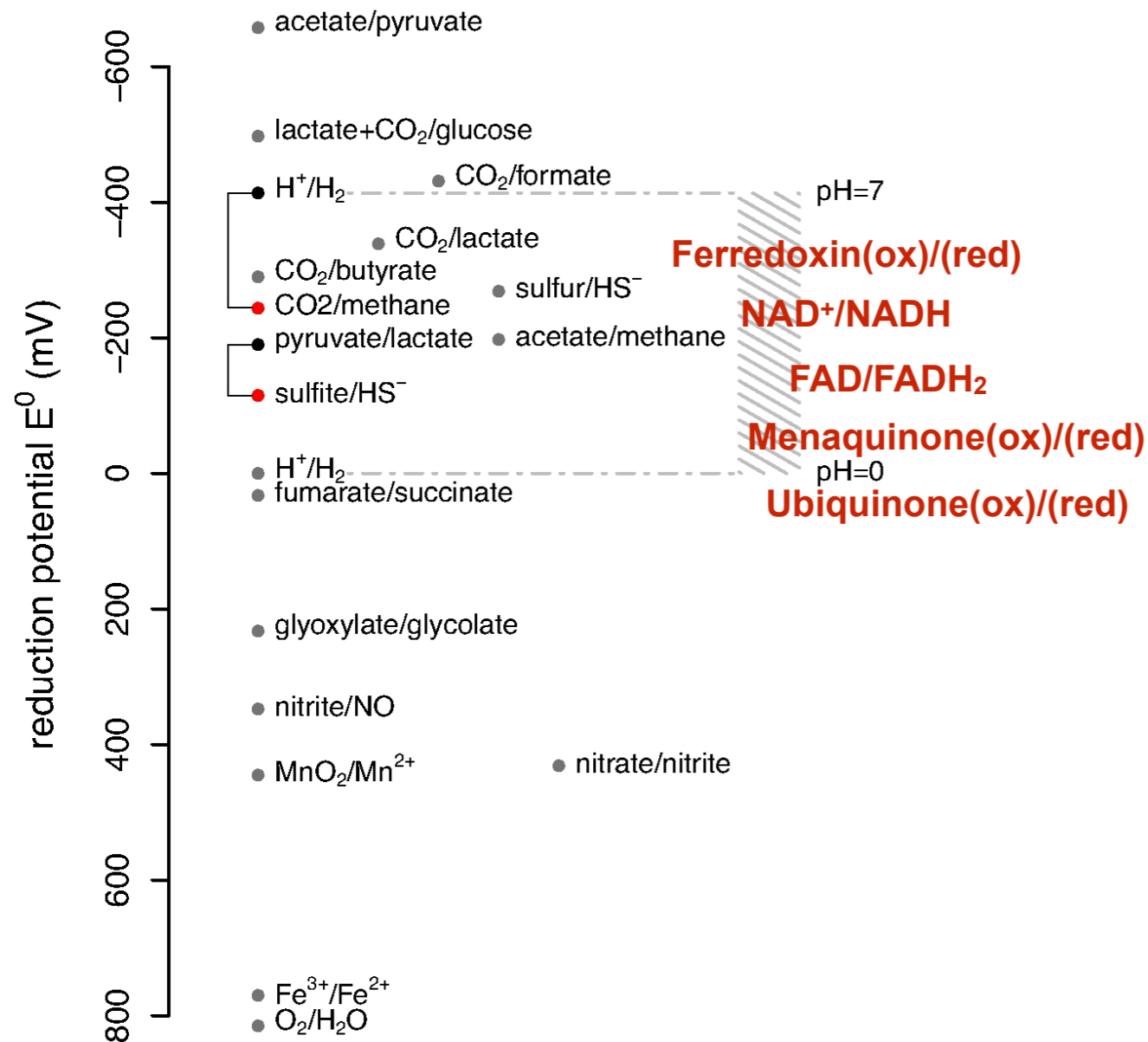


Modelling dynamics of coupled reactions

Coupled cycles, shared substrates/enzymes, and substrate feedbacks in redox systems



Clare Hayes



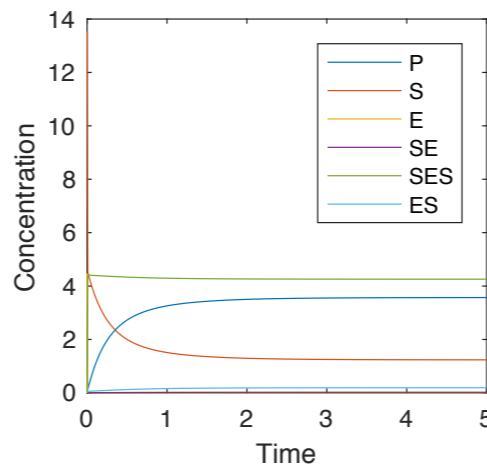
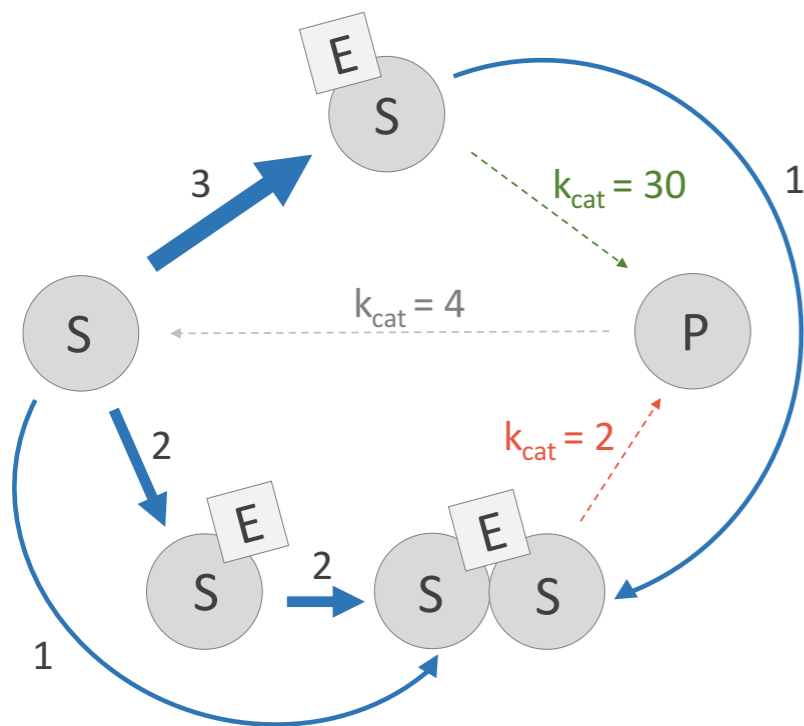
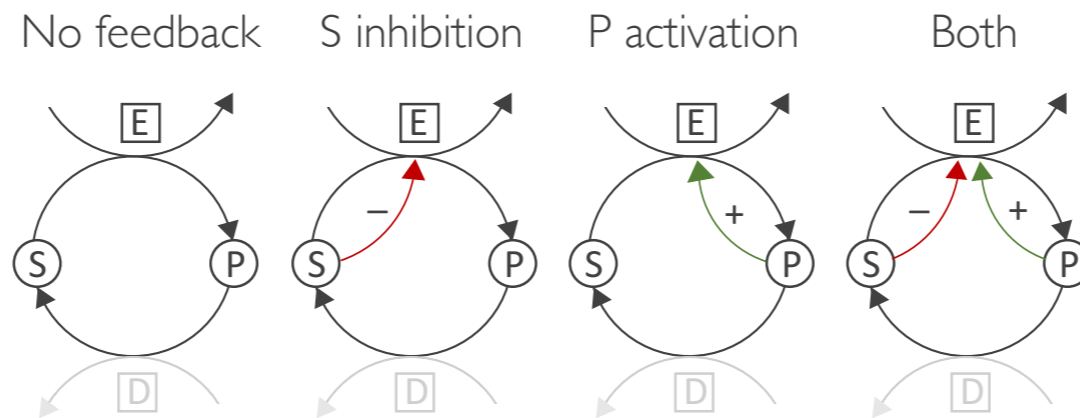
Hervagault & Canu. Journal of Theoretical Biology 127, 439-449 (1987).

Dynamics of coupled redox reactions

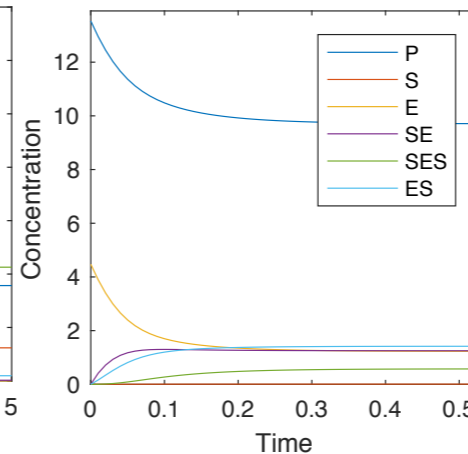
Substrate feedback in a cyclic reaction can generate bistability and oscillation



Clare Hayes



High S_0



Low S_0

Condition for bistability:

$$\frac{k_3}{k_8 + k_9} - 1 > K_m \frac{k_{10}}{k_{11}}$$

$$K_m = \frac{k_7 + k_8}{k_6}$$

Unpublished results

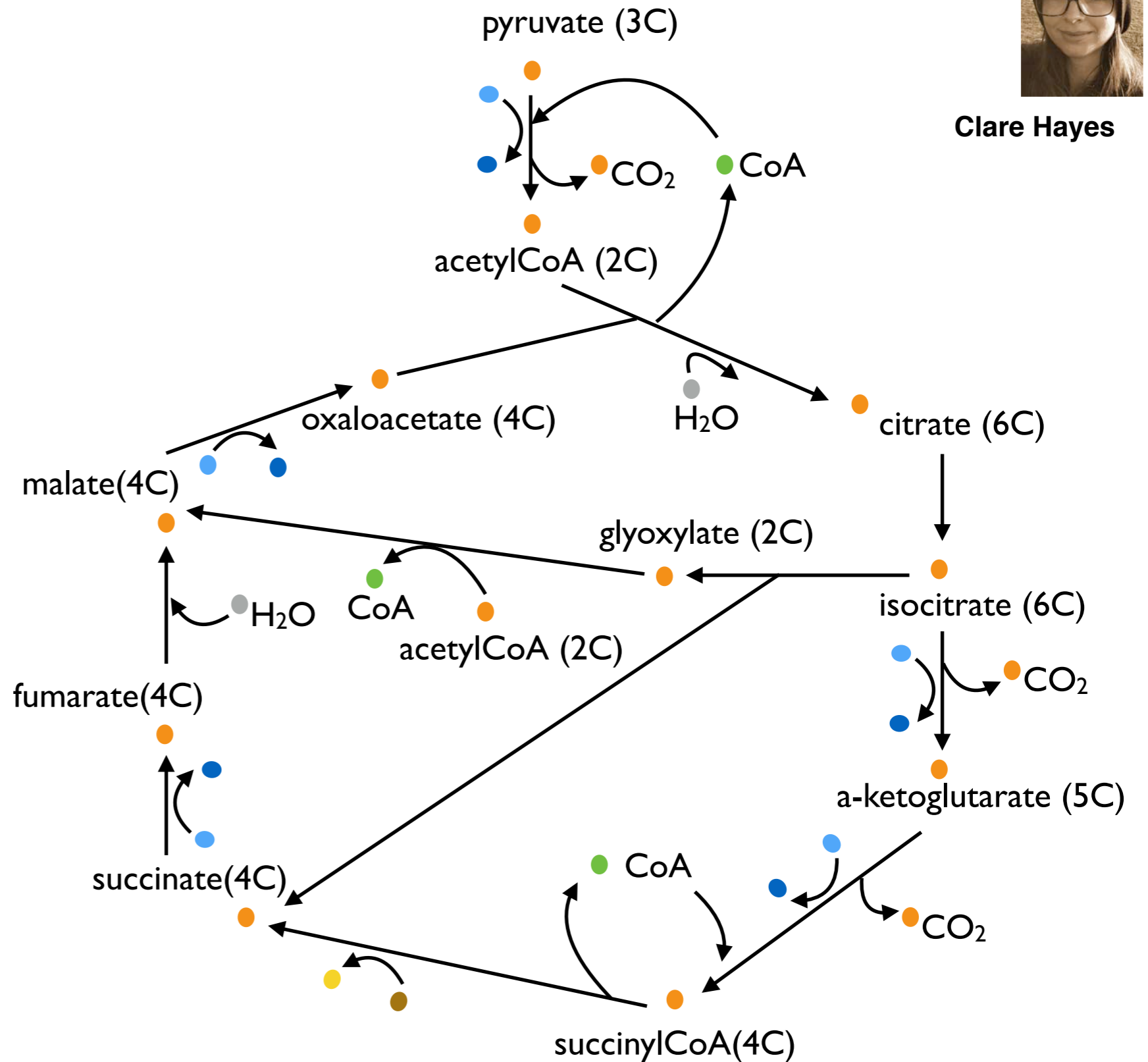
Electrochemically responsive bistable redox systems?



Clare Hayes

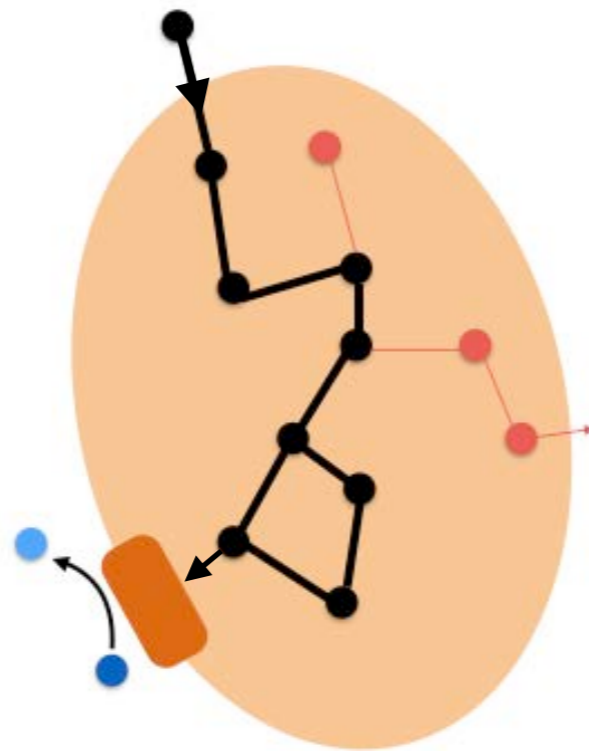


Electrodes poised at specific potentials as electron acceptors



PHYSIOLOGY IS ELECTRICITY!

Electron provision



Electron dumping

Metabolism ~ Electron Flow

Cell mechanics ~ Electrostatics

Motility

Division

Multi-cellular interactions

Spatial organisation

...



Bio Electrical Engineering Innovation Hub at Warwick

Innovator Club

Patrick R. Unwin



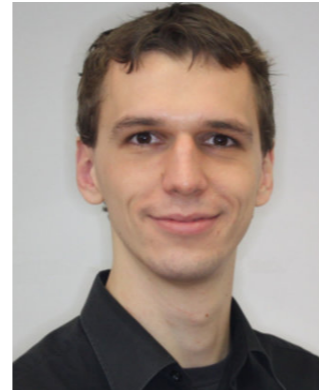
Murray Grant



Stefan Bon



Christian Zerfaß



Munehiro Asally



Gabriel Meloni



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Electrochemistry

Synthetic biology

Plant biology

Colloids chemistry

Electrical imaging

Microbial ecology

Molecular biology

Chemical engineering

Metabolic engineering

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<http://osslab.lifesci.warwick.ac.uk>

Christian Zerfass
Jing Chen

Andrea Martinez-Vernon
Clare Hayes
Kelsey Cremin
Allen Reed

Open PhD and PDRA positions

Collaborators

Munehiro Asally, Marco Polin, Pat Unwin,
Chris Quince, Joseph Christie-Oleza,
Patrick Schaefer (University of Warwick)
Angus Buckling (University of Exeter)
Dominique Schneider (University of
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Initiatives

**Bio Electrical Engineering
Innovation Hub @ Warwick**

Funders



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INTEGRATIVE SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

EPSRC & BBSRC Centre for Doctoral
Training in Synthetic Biology

