

Kinetic modeling and Metabolic Control Analysis to understand the control and regulation of metabolic pathways

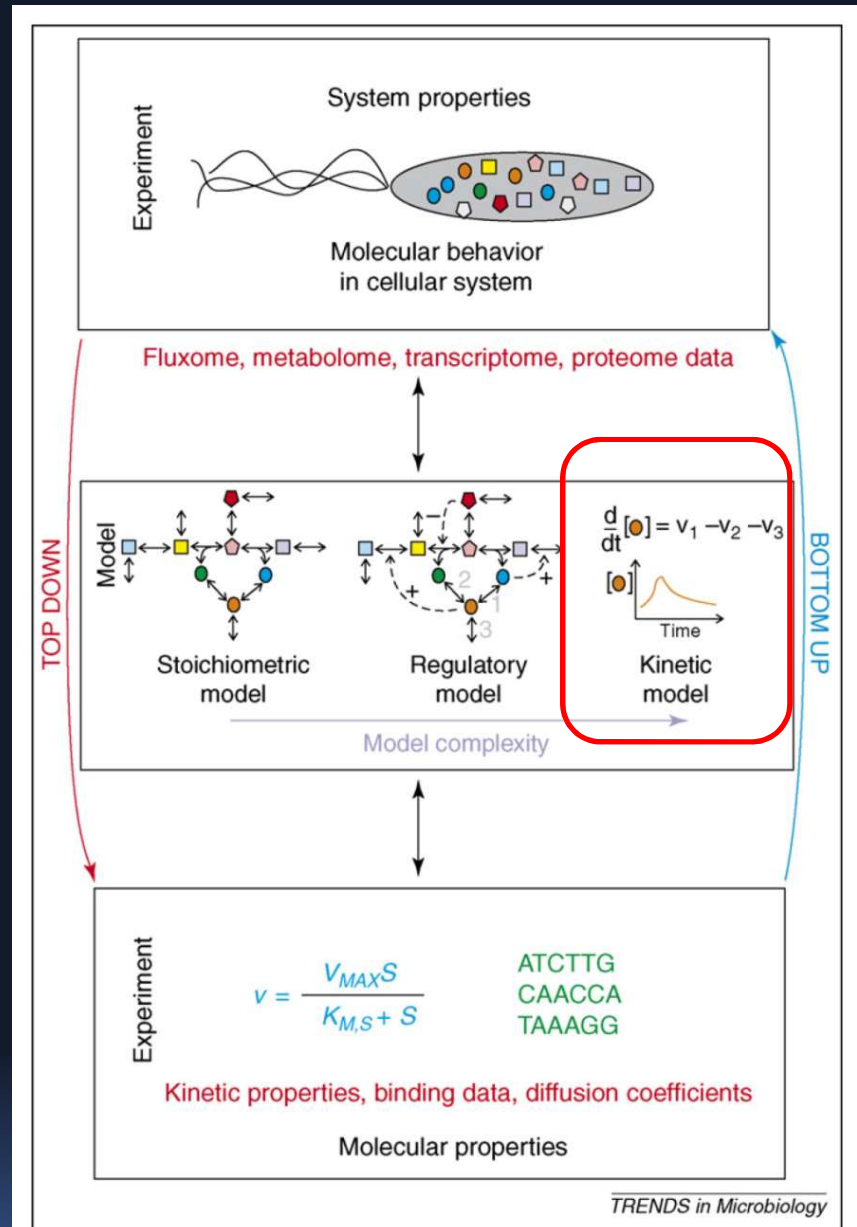
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Systems Biology aim: to build computational models of complex cellular networks

Top-Down strategy

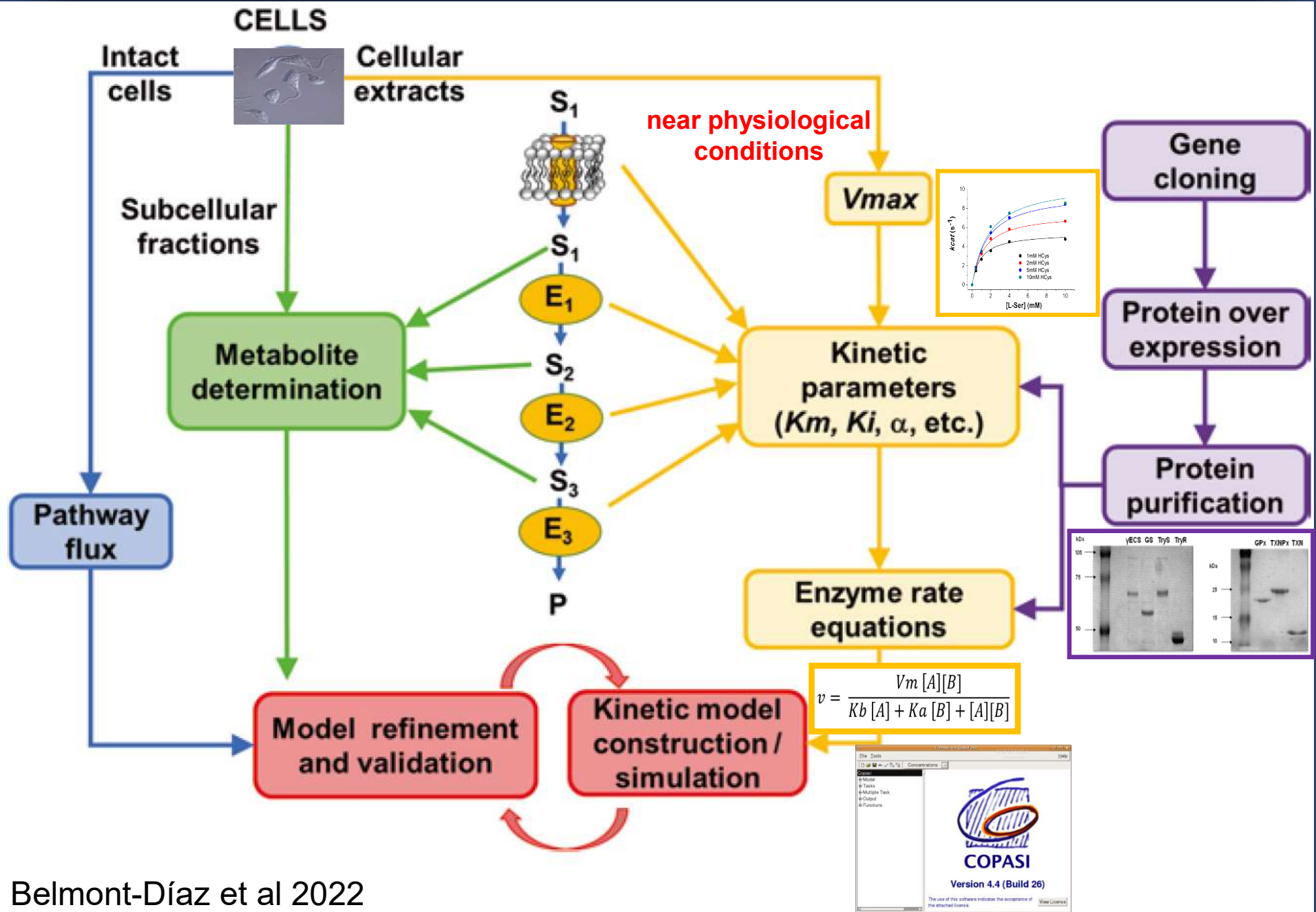
- Uses high-throughput “omic” data.
- Describes behavior patterns and cause-effect relationships of macromolecules.



Bottom-Up (kinetic modeling)

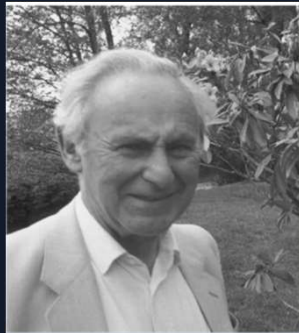
- Based on the kinetic properties from the individual enzymes, thermodynamic parameters
- Allow to elucidate the underlying controlling and regulatory mechanisms

What is needed to build a kinetic model of a metabolic pathway?



What is Metabolic Control Analysis?

- Henrik Kacser and James A Burns (Edinburgh, Scotland) 1973



- Molecular basis of dominance

- Reinhart Heinrich and Tom Rapoport (Berlin, Germany) 1973



- Mathematical modeling of glycolysis in erythrocytes

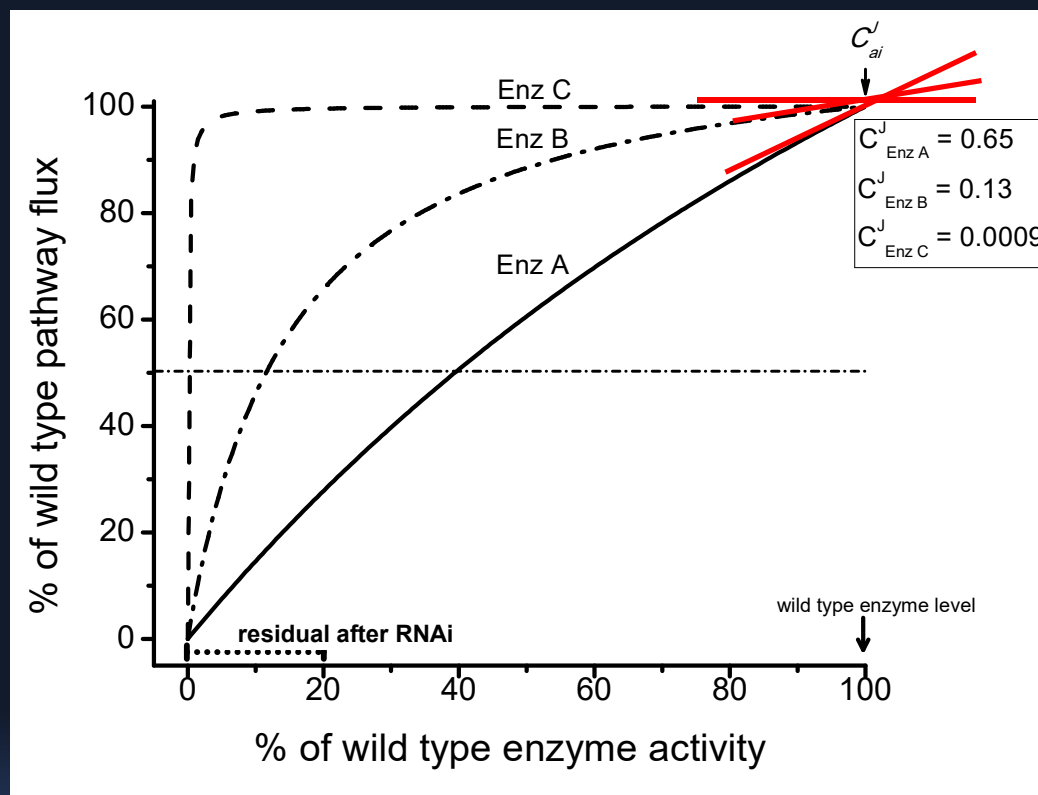
In metabolic pathways there is not a unique rate-limiting step or bottleneck reaction

Metabolic Control Analysis (MCA) *

*Saavedra et al 2019 Curr Med Chem doi: 10.2174/0929867325666180917104242

MCA allows to quantitatively determine the degree of control that each enzyme has on the pathway flux (**flux control coefficient; C_{ai}^J**)

- As the C_{ai}^J approaches to 1, means the enzyme has the highest control on flux
- The sum of all C_{ai}^J have to add up 1
- Usually there are two-three main controlling steps



The enzymes with the highest therapeutic potential are those with the highest C_{ai}^J

Kinetic modeling and MCA to understand the controlling mechanisms in metabolic pathways

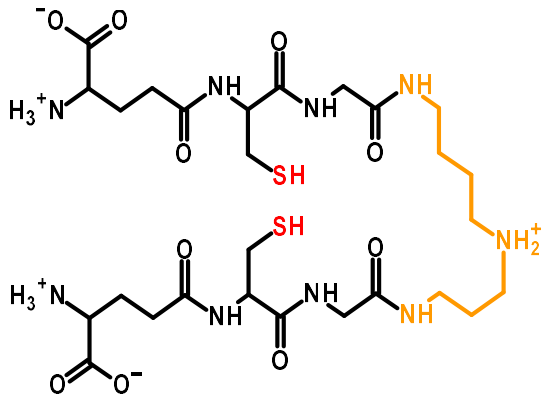
(and drug target prioritization for therapeutic intervention against parasites)

- Trypanothione metabolism in *Trypanosoma cruzi*
- Glycolysis in *Entamoeba histolytica*

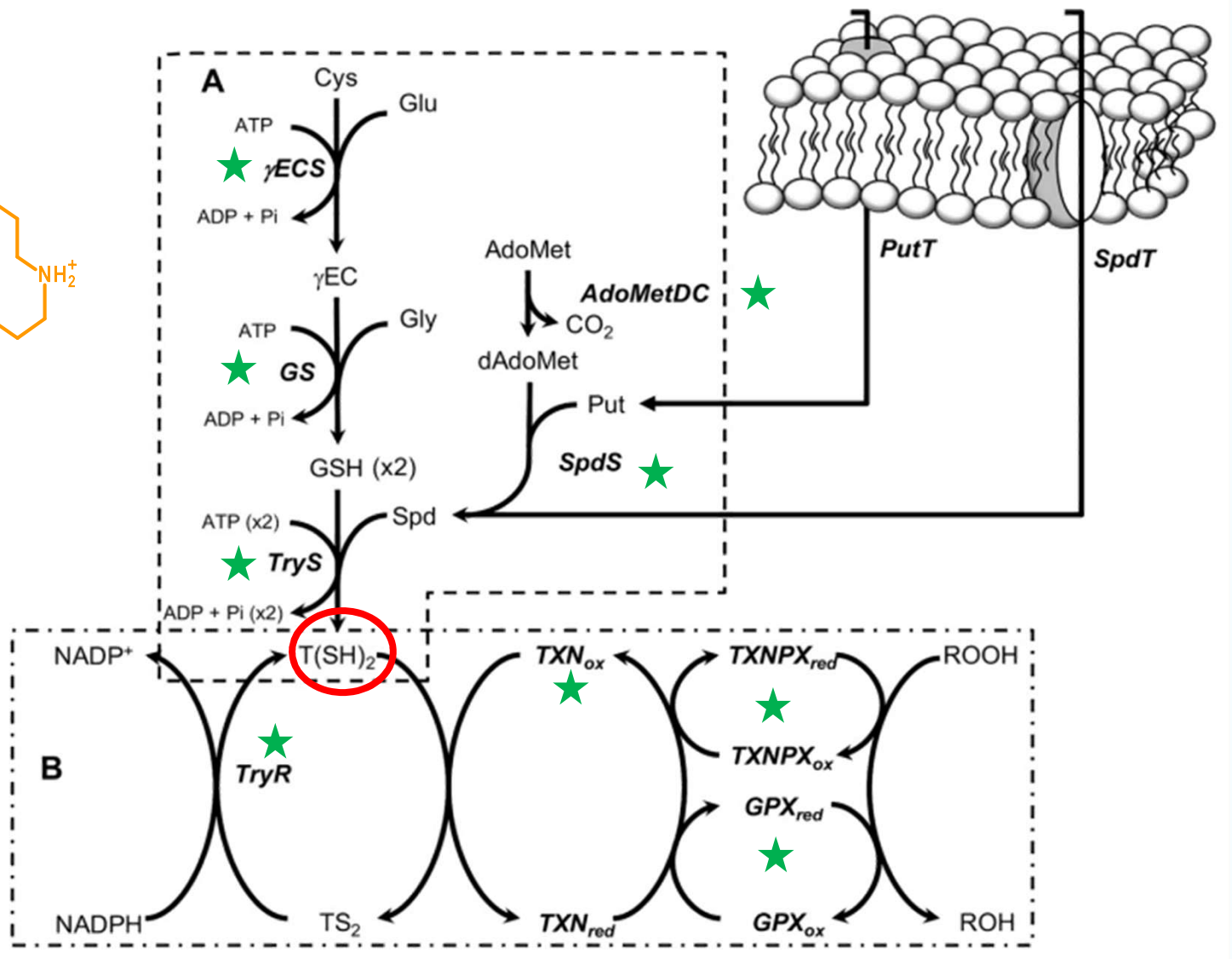
Tripanothione

T(SH)₂-dependent antioxidant metabolism in *Trypanosoma cruzi*

T(SH)₂



González-Chávez et al.
Redox Biology
26 (2019)
101231



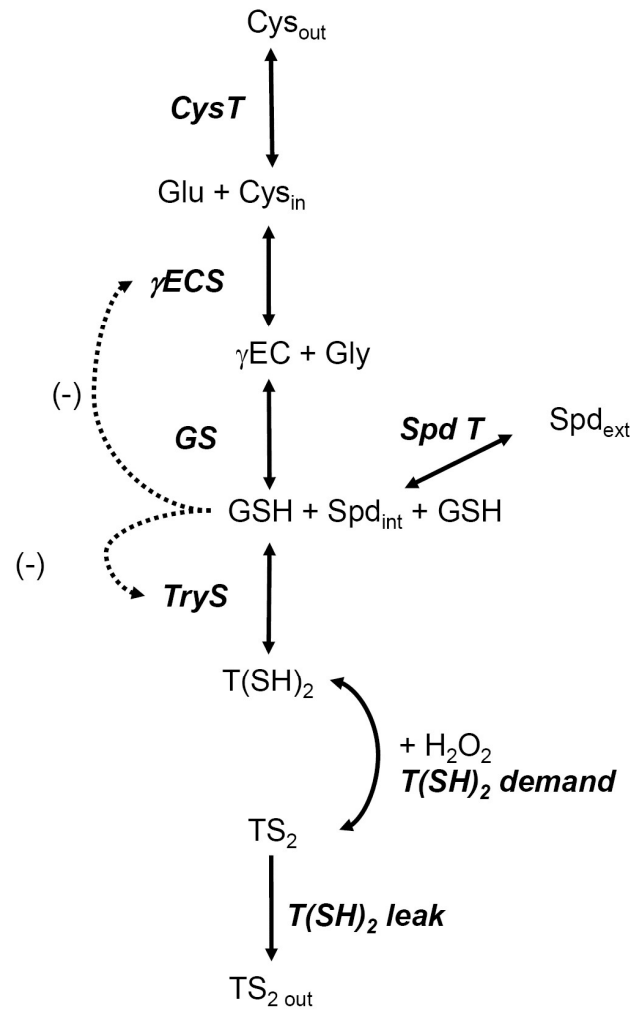
★ All essential as determined by knockdown or knockout, thus all proposed as putative drug targets

Additional criteria for drug target prioritization

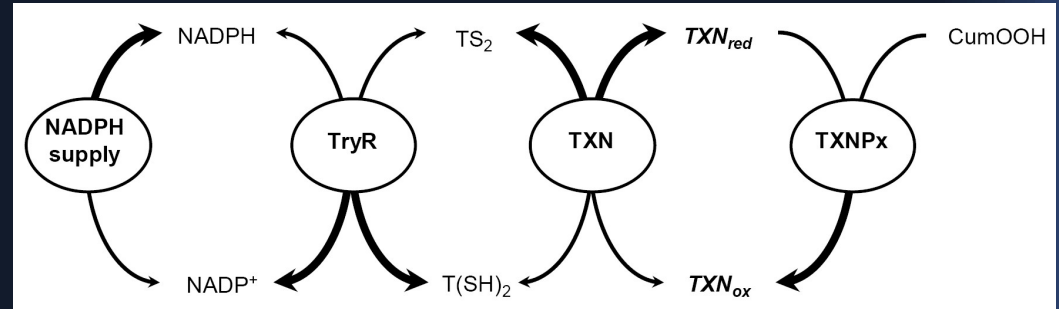
-identification of the main controlling steps by kinetic metabolic modeling and MCA

Reactions included in the kinetic models

Trypanothione synthesis



Trypanothione-dependent peroxide reduction pathway



Kinetic mechanisms

Random bi-bi

Random tri-uni

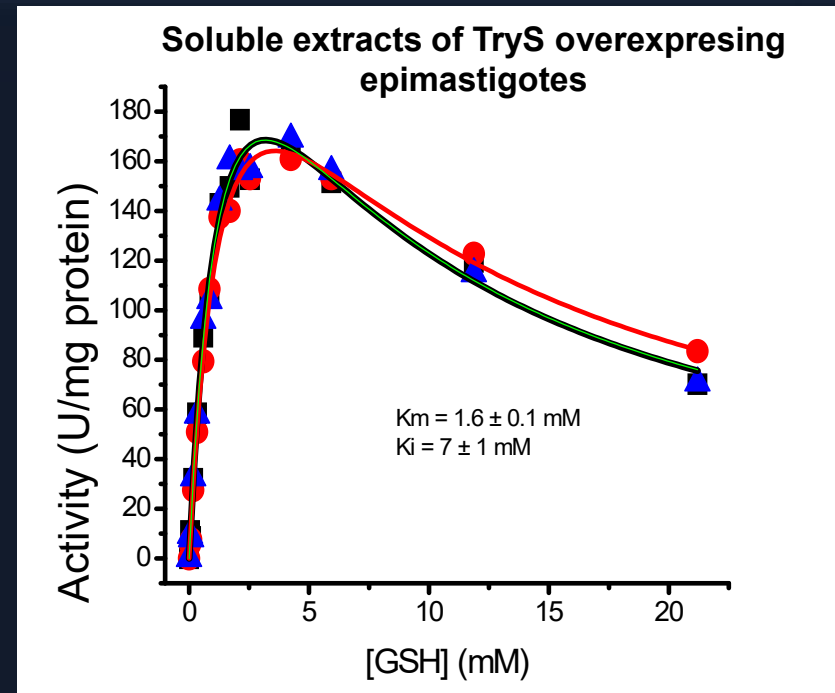
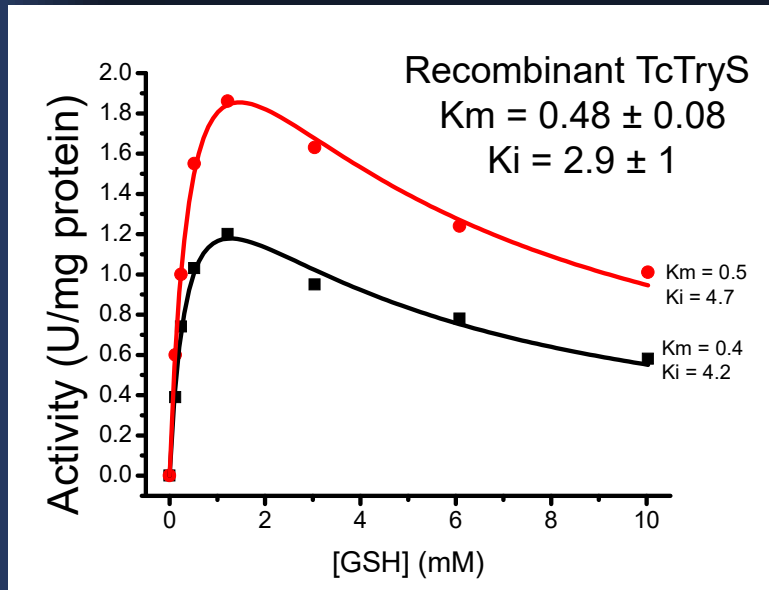
Ordered-bi

Ping pong

Haldane

Mass action

Regulatory loop: TryS inhibition by GSH

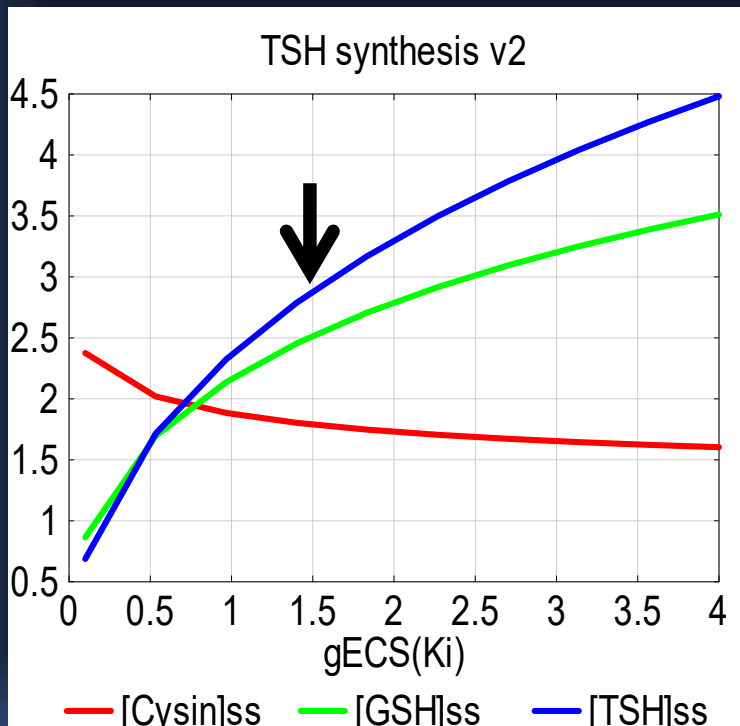
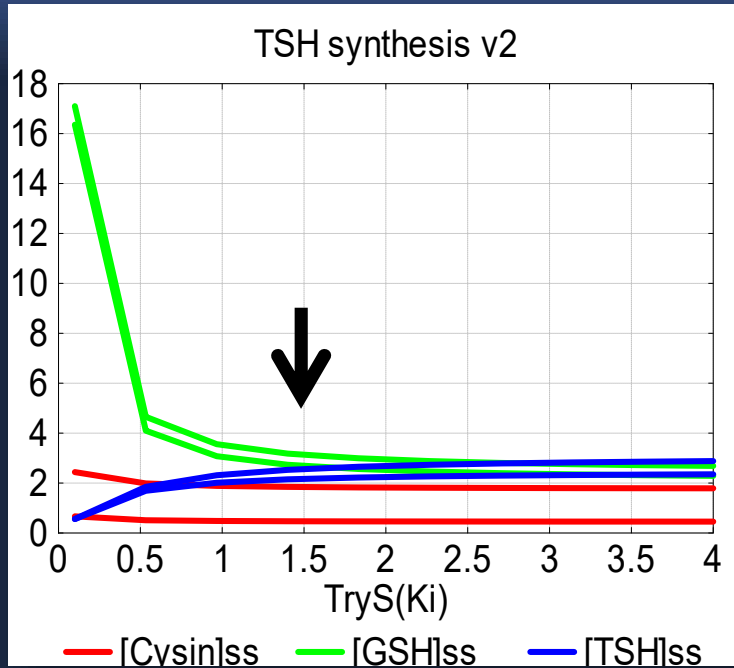


Random Tri uni with mixed inhibition by GSH

$$\frac{V_m}{\alpha \cdot K_a \cdot K_b \cdot K_c \cdot \left(1 + \frac{I}{K_i}\right)} \cdot \left(\frac{A \cdot B \cdot C \cdot P}{K_{eq}} \right)$$

$$1 + \frac{A}{K_a} + \frac{B}{K_b} + \frac{C}{K_c} + \frac{A \cdot B}{\alpha \cdot K_a \cdot K_b} + \frac{A \cdot C}{\alpha \cdot K_a \cdot K_c} + \frac{B \cdot C}{\alpha \cdot K_b \cdot K_c} + \frac{A \cdot B \cdot C}{\alpha \cdot K_a \cdot K_b \cdot K_c} + \frac{A \cdot I}{\alpha \cdot K_a \cdot K_i} + \frac{B \cdot I}{\alpha \cdot K_b \cdot K_i} + \frac{C \cdot I}{\alpha \cdot K_c \cdot K_i} + \frac{P}{K_p}$$

mM tiol



Concentration control coefficients

TryS inhibition by GSH has local homeostatic effects on GSH

	$C^{[GSH]}_{ai}$	$C^{[TSH2]}_{ai}$
CysT	0.09	0.11
gECS	0.74	0.91
TryS	-0.74	0.18
TSH demand	-0.01	-0.22
TSH leak	-0.06	-0.98

γ ECS inhibition by GSH has higher homeostatic effects on $T(SH)_2$ than on GSH concentrations

Kinetic models simulations

T(SH)₂ synthesis

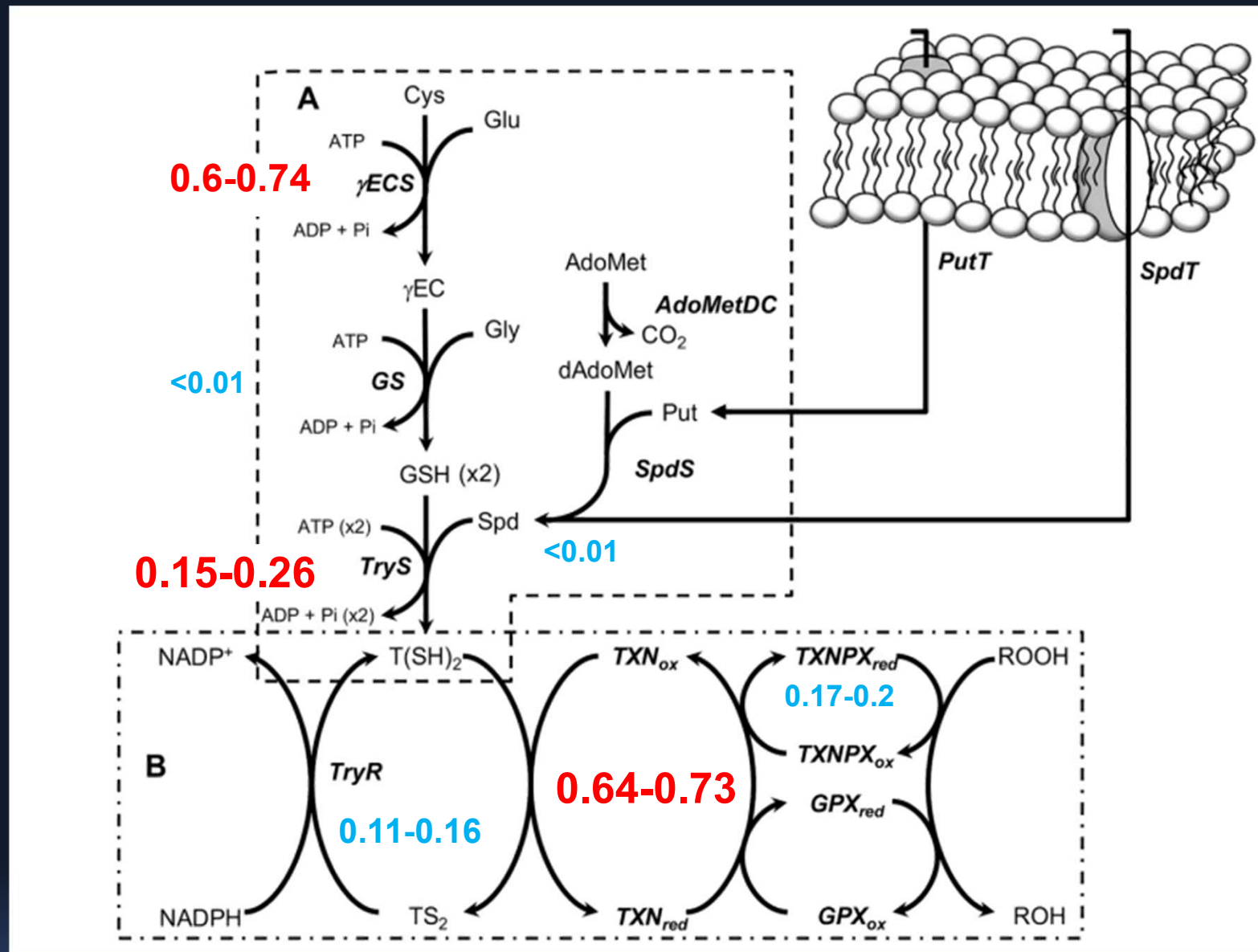
[Metabolite] (mM)	<i>In vivo</i>	Model
Cysin	1 ± 0.2	0.5
GSH	1.4±0.4	1.36
Spd	0.8±0.2	1.06
T(SH) ₂	0.9±0.4	0.75
pathway flux (nmol/min*mg cell protein)	0.6±0.2 (max)	0.12

Peroxide reduction

[Metabolite] (mM)	<i>Ex vivo</i>	Model
T(SH) ₂	0.45±0.4	0.465
TXN ox	0.022-0.078	0.083- 0.089
Pathway flux (nmol/min*mg cell protein)	11±5 (max)	6.1-7.8

❖ The models can simulate the pathways behaviors

Flux control coefficients (C^J_{ai}) of the antioxidant system in *T. cruzi* obtained by kinetic modeling



In vivo determination of the flux control coefficients in *T. cruzi* trypanothione metabolism

Experimental procedure

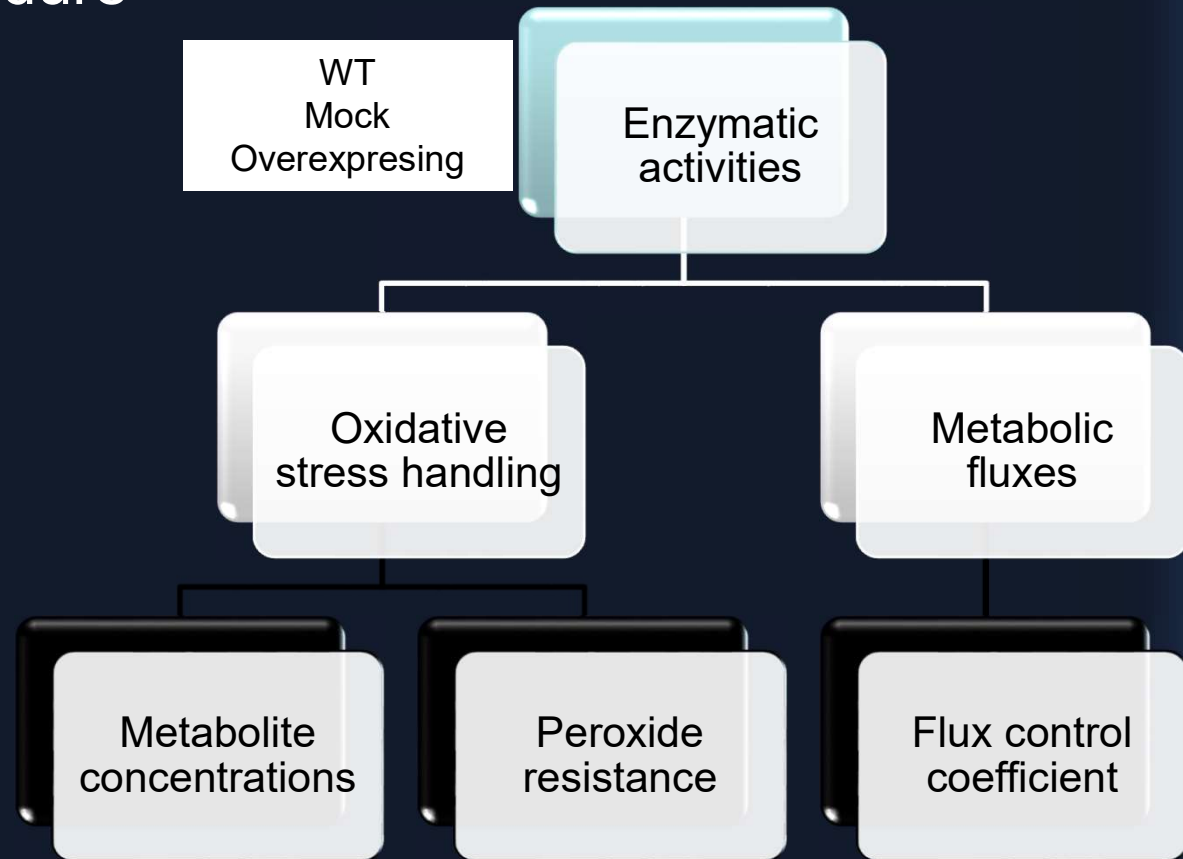
Gene constructions

1. pTREXn
2. γ ECS
3. TryS
4. TryR
5. TXN

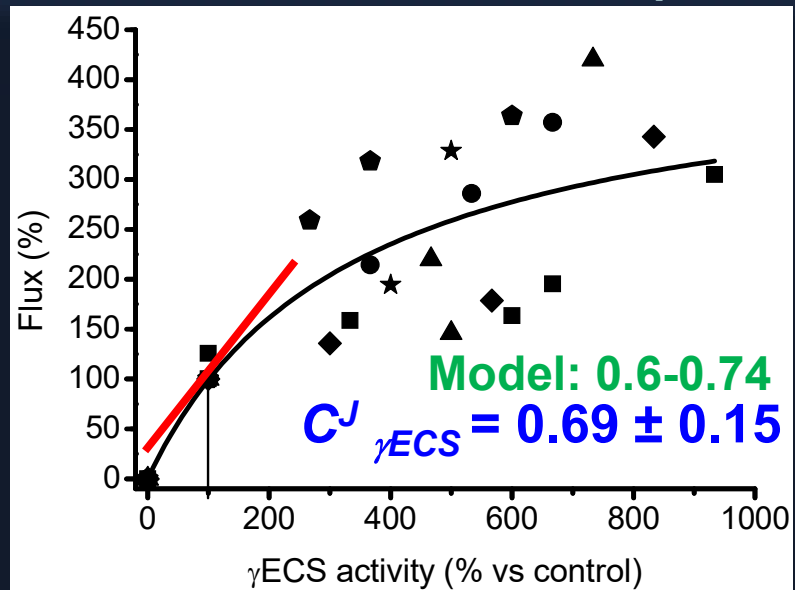
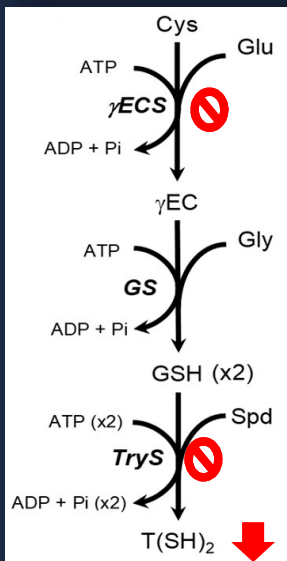
Transfection



Cloning

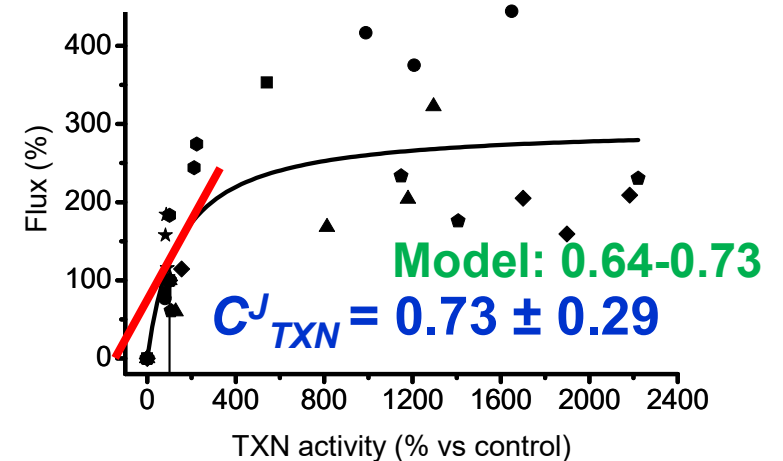
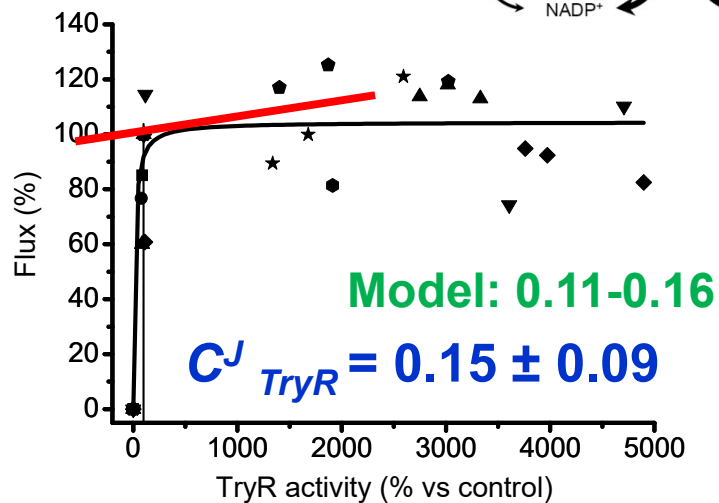
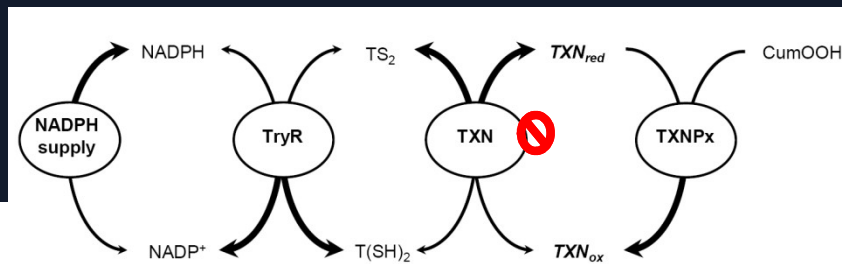


In vivo flux control coefficients are similar to those predicted by kinetic modeling



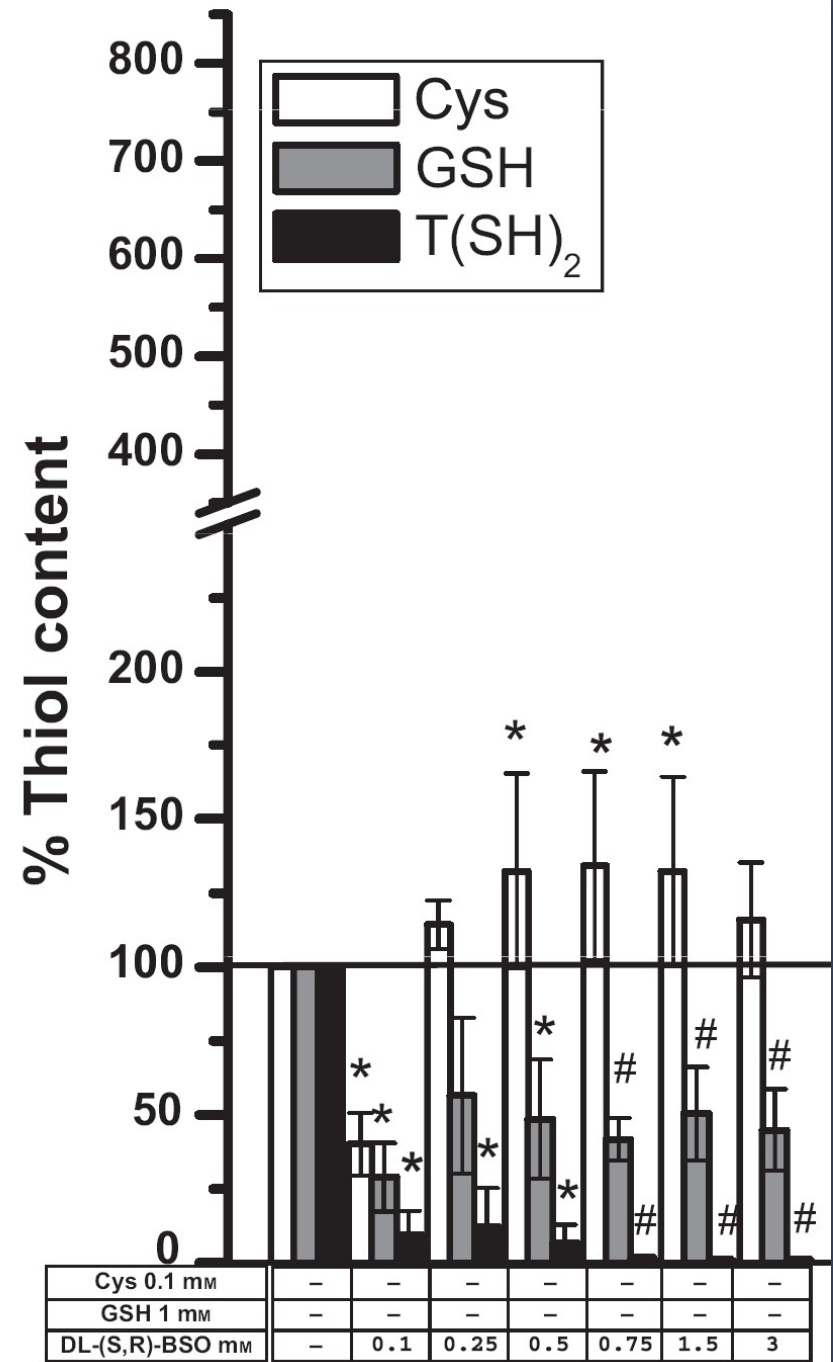
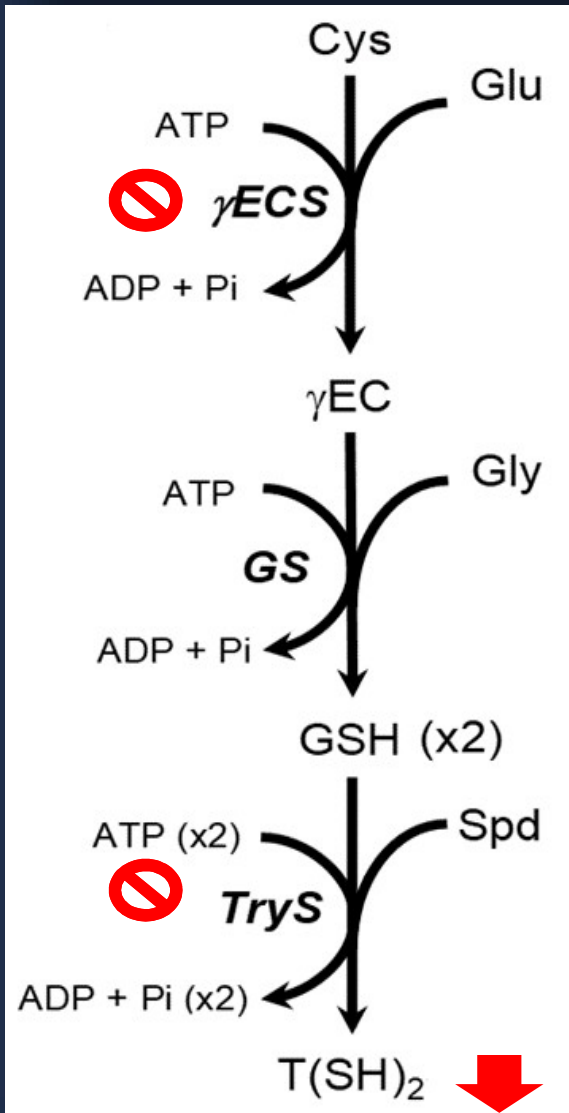
González-Chávez et al.
Redox Biology (2019) 101231

$$C^J_{TryS} = 0.15-0.26$$



**γ ECS, TRYS AND TXN INHIBITION
WILL AFFECT THE ANTIOXIDANT
DEFENSE IN *T. CRUZI***

Parasites treated with BSO decreases T(SH)₂ because it inhibits γ ECS and TryS inhibition

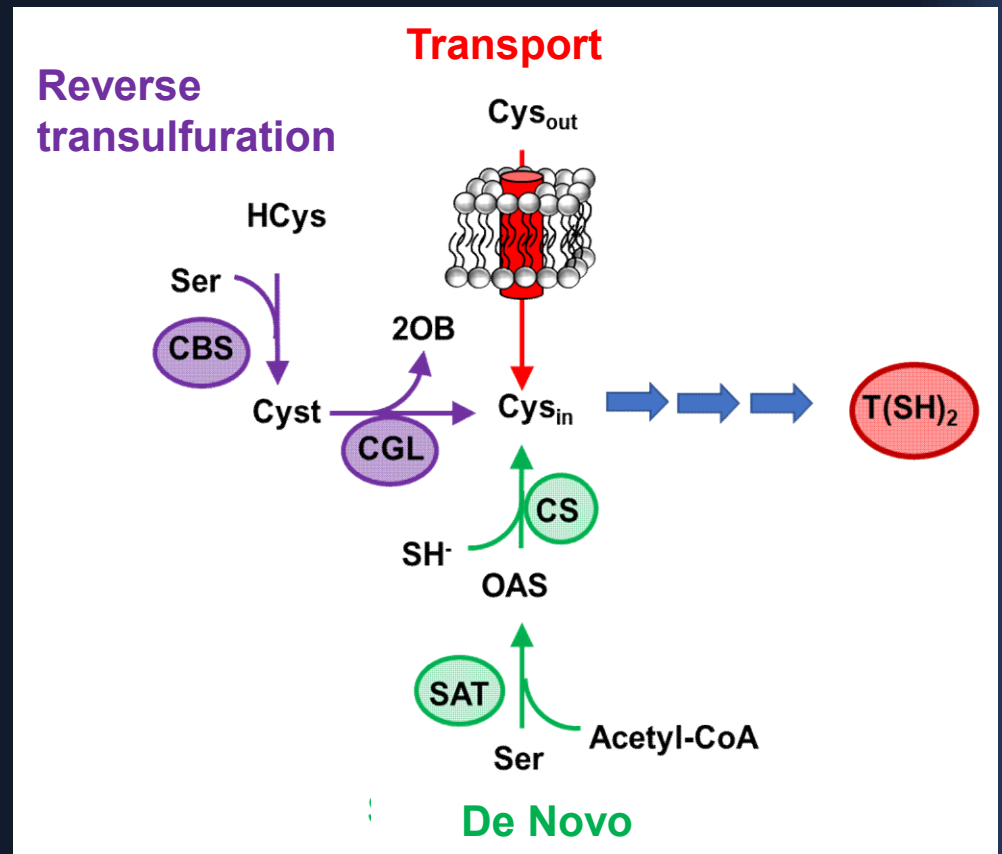
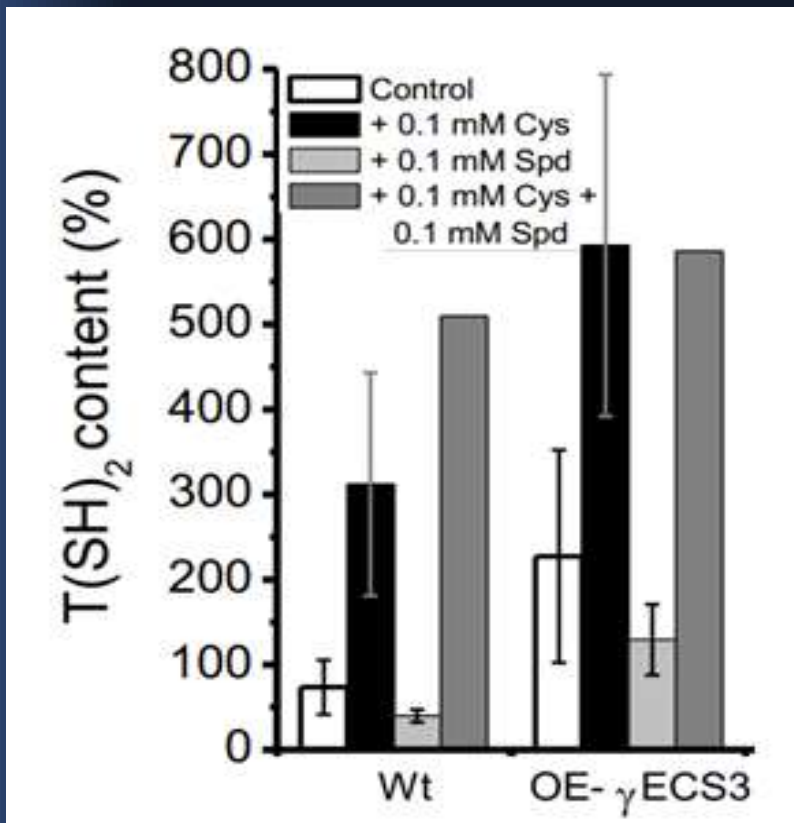


Vazquez et al 2017. *FEBS Lett*

According to the model, cysteine is limiting for T(SH)₂ biosynthesis

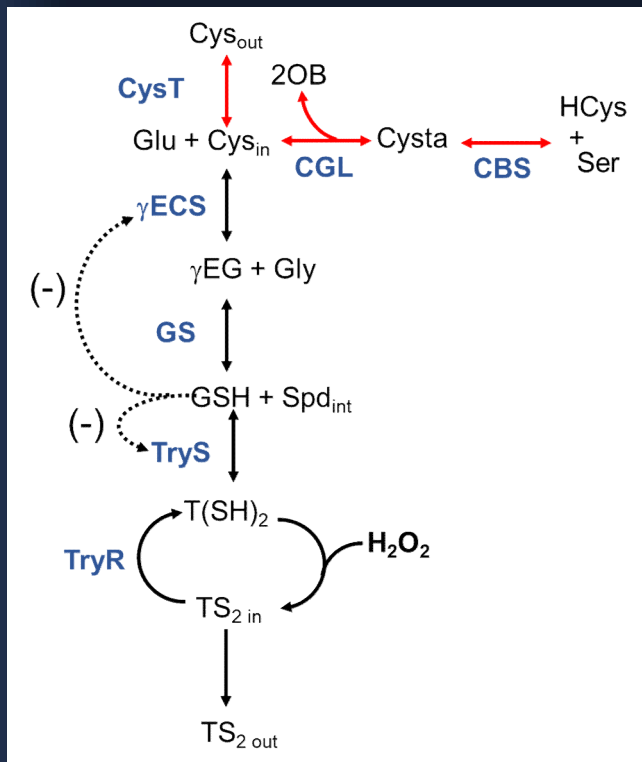
Epimastigotes supplied with cysteine (Cys) but not with spermidine (Spd), increased T(SH)₂ content.

Pathways of Cys supply in *T. cruzi*



Kinetic model with the reverse transulfuration pathway of Cys synthesis

Ping pong kinetics



Intermediary (mM)	In vivo	Model
Cys in	1 ± 0.2	2.1
GSH	1.4 ± 0.4	1.8
TSH2	0.9 ± 0.4	1.36
Cysta	0.88 ± 0.5	2.2
Flux T(SH) ₂ synthesis	0.6 ± 0.2 max	0.18
Flux Cys synthesis	1.13 ± 0.3 max	0.4

Flux in nmoles /min*mg cell protein

C_{ai}^J on T(SH)₂ synthesis

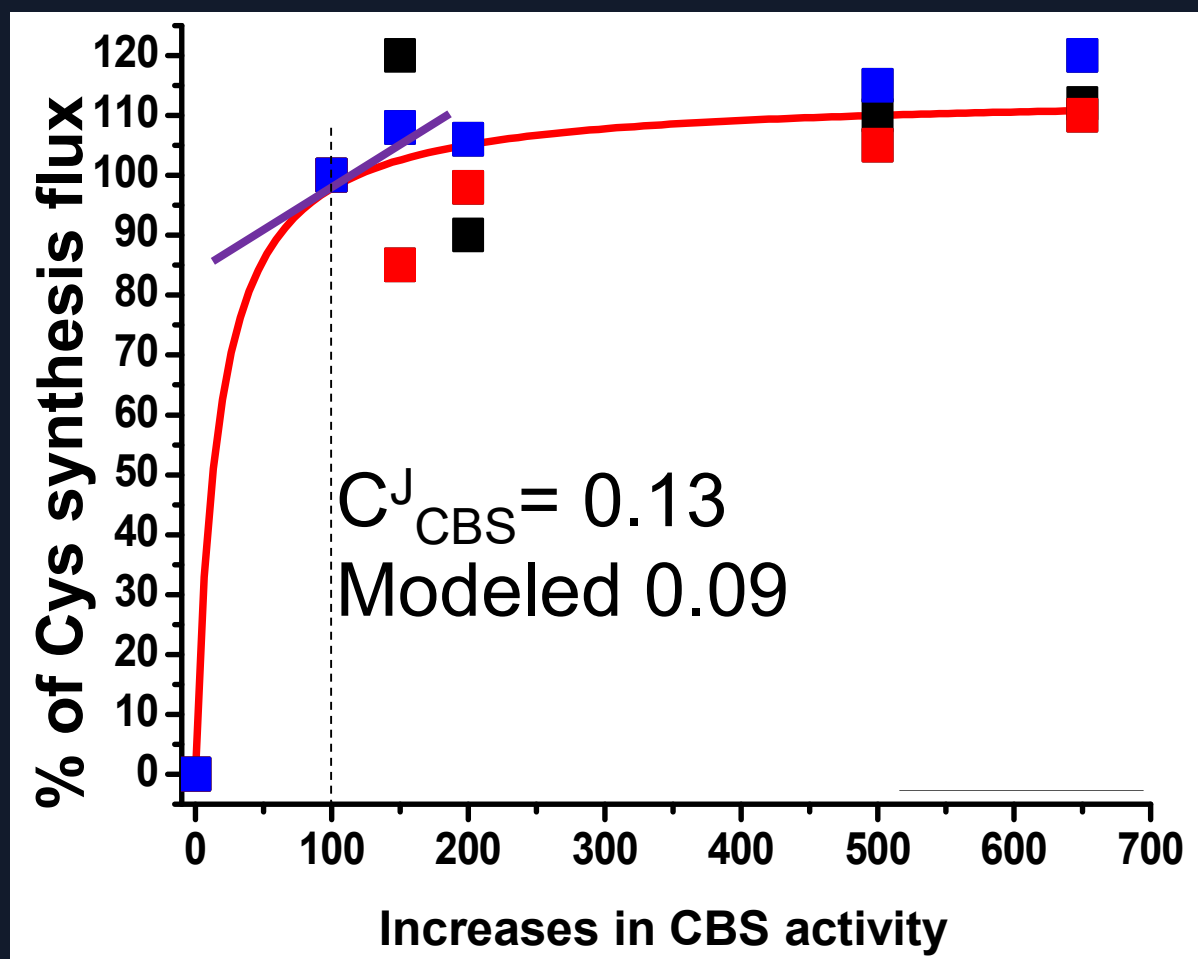
C^J CBS + CGL	0.05
C^J γECS	0.7
C^J TryS	0.21

C_{ai}^J on Cys synthesis

C^J CBS	0.09
C^J CGL	0.36
C^J γECS	0.34
C^J TryS	0.1

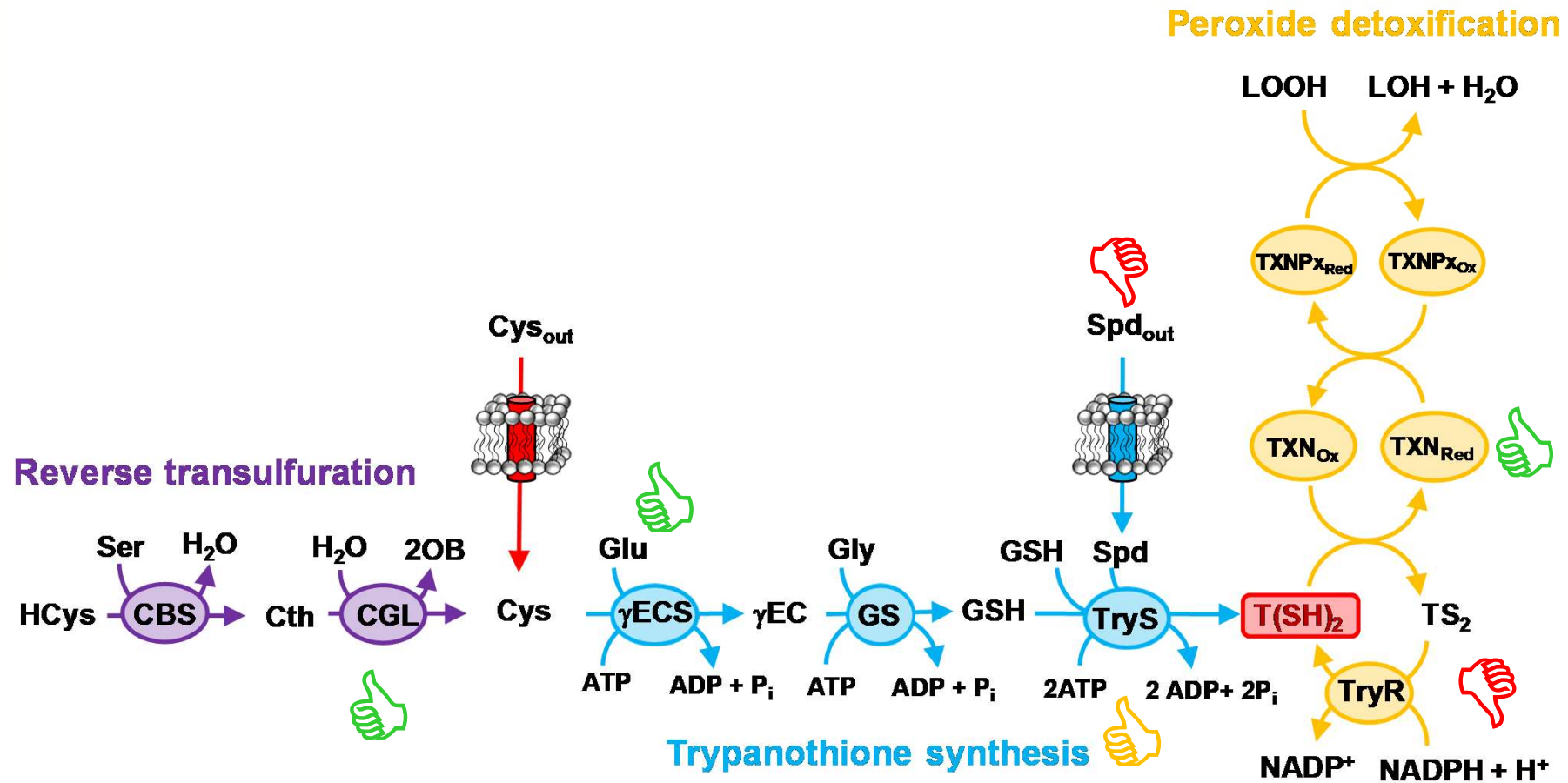
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Cystathionine β synthase flux control coefficient on Cys synthesis



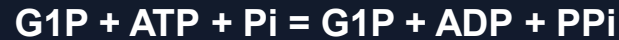
CGL has high control on Cys synthesis flux

Enzymes with the highest therapeutic potential

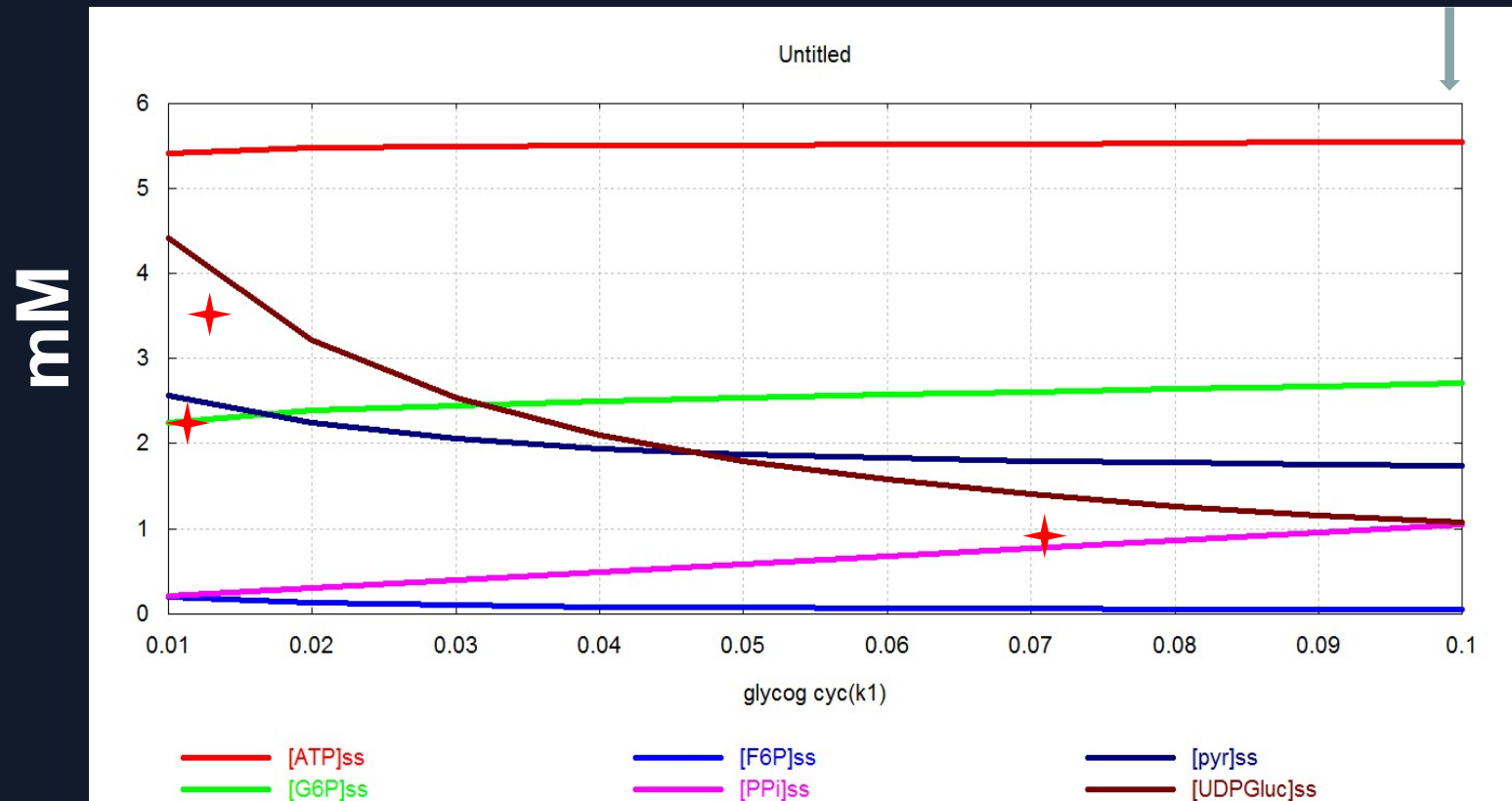


Kinetic modeling of *Entamoeba histolytica* glycolysis to understand its controlling mechanisms and identify putative drug targets

Glycogen cycling (variation in k1)



Conserved moiety $\text{ATP} + \text{ADP} + \text{AMP} + \text{UDPGlc}$



Kinetic modeling suggests that glycogen cycling might be the most important source of PPi

Unpublished results, do not copy or distribute

Enzyme/process	model	Titration with inhibitors in live cells*	Elasticity analysis in live cells **	
HXT	0.34	~0.7 (DOG)	0.72 -0.79	
HK	0.02			
Glycogen degradation	0.39			
HPI	0.01			
PGM	0.002			
UDPGlucPPiase Glycog synthase	-0.06 -0.03		-0.13 -> -0.22	
PPi-PFK	0.014			
ALDO	0.015			
TPI	0.0005			
GAPDH	0.01			
PGK	0.006			
PGAM	0.28		0.2-0.28	
ENO	0.03			
PPDK	0.001			
PFOR	0.0003	0.07 (DPI)		0.13
AldDH + ADH	0.16 + 0.05	0.33 (disulfiram)		0.18
AcCoAS	-0.09	-0.05 knock-down	-0.08	

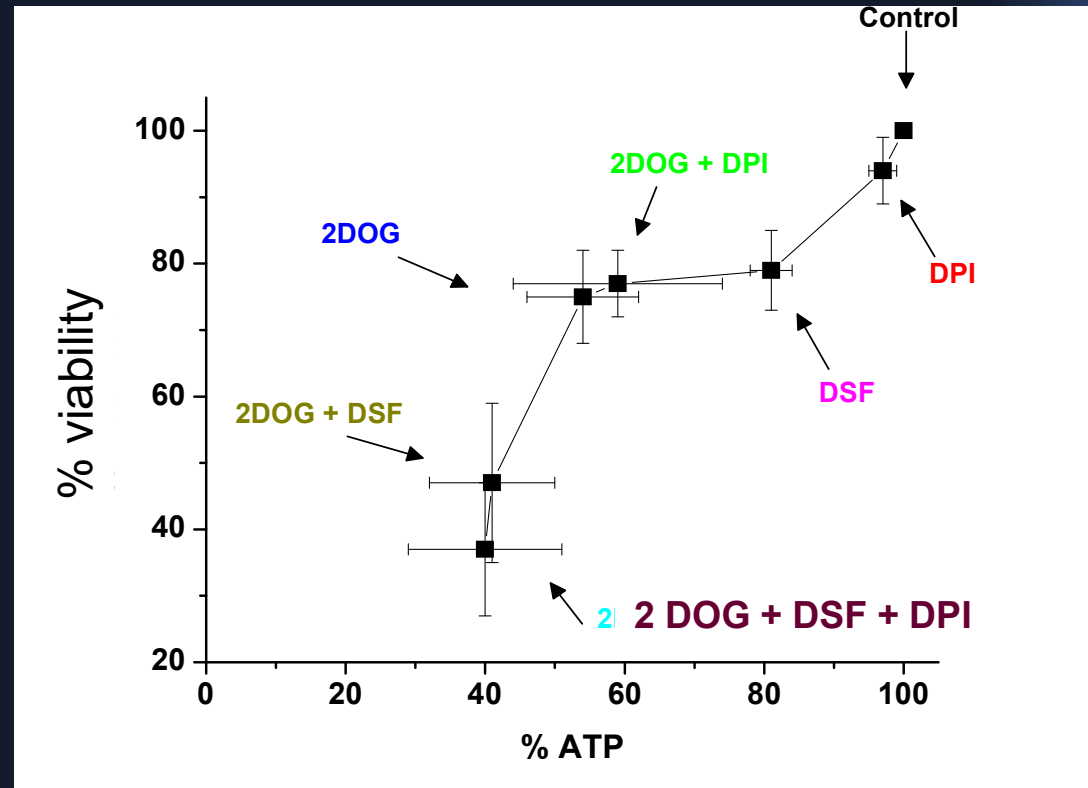
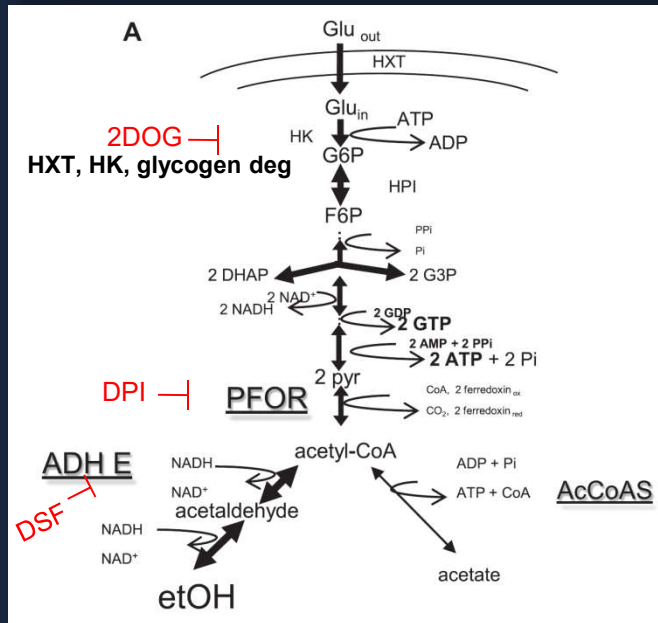
Flux control coefficients ($C^{J_{etoh}}_{vi}$) on EtOH flux determined through different MCA strategies

- Main controlling steps are: HXT, glycogen degradation, PGAM and ADHE
- The control of the pathway flux predicted by pathway modeling is similar to that determined in live cells.

Unpublished results, do not copy or distribute

*Pineda et al 2013 FEBS Lett
** Pineda et al 2015 FEBS J

Effect of the Inhibition of the main controlling steps of amebal glycolysis on ATP content and cell viability



10 mM glucose, 30 mM DOG, 50 nM DSF, 100 nM DPI, 2h

Pineda et al 2015 FEBS J

The most controlling enzymes can be proposed as relevant drug targets to decrease the glucose catabolism in amebas.

General conclusions

- **Kinetic modeling allows understanding of regulatory and controlling mechanisms of metabolic pathways**
- **Kinetic modeling and MCA helps to identify the main controlling steps which can be proposed as drug target candidates.**

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