

# Relaxed Flux Balance Analysis: Recon 3

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## Introduction

We consider a biochemical network of  $m$  molecular species and  $n$  biochemical reactions. The biochemical network is mathematically represented by a stoichiometric matrix  $S \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n}$ . In standard notation, flux balance analysis (FBA) is the linear optimisation problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_v \quad & \rho(v) \equiv c^T v \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Sv = b, \\ & l \leq v \leq u, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a parameter vector that linearly combines one or more reaction fluxes to form what is termed the objective function, and where a  $b_i < 0$ , or  $b_i > 0$ , represents some fixed output, or input, of the  $i$ th molecular species.

Every FBA solution must satisfy the constraints, independent of any objective chosen to optimise over the set of constraints. It may occur that the constraints on the FBA problem are not all simultaneously feasible, i.e., the system of inequalities is infeasible. This situation might be caused by an incorrectly specified reaction bound or the absence of a reaction from the stoichiometric matrix, such that a nonzero  $b \notin \mathcal{R}(S)$ . To resolve the infeasibility, we consider a cardinality optimisation problem that seeks to minimise the number of bounds to relax, the number of fixed outputs to relax, the number of fixed inputs to relax, or a combination of all three, in order to render the problem feasible. The cardinality optimisation problem, termed *relaxed flux balance analysis*, is

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{v,r,p,q} \quad & \lambda \|r\|_0 + \alpha \|p\|_0 + \alpha \|q\|_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Sv + r = b \\ & l - p \leq v \leq u + q \\ & p, q, r \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denote the relaxations of the lower and upper bounds on reaction rates of the reaction rates vector  $v$ , and where  $r \in \mathbb{R}^m$  denotes a relaxation of the mass balance constraint. Non-negative scalar parameters  $\lambda$  and  $\alpha$  can be used to trade off between relaxation of mass balance or bound constraints. A non-negative vector parameter  $\lambda$  can be used to prioritise relaxation of one mass balance constraint over another, e.g., to avoid relaxation of a mass balance constraint on a metabolite that is not desired to be exchanged across the boundary of the system. A non-negative vector parameter  $\alpha$  may be used to prioritise relaxation of bounds on some reactions rather than others, e.g., relaxation of bounds on exchange reactions

rather than internal reactions. The optimal choice of parameters depends heavily on the biochemical context. A relaxation of the minimum number of constraints is desirable because ideally one should be able to justify the choice of bounds or choice of metabolites to be exchanged across the boundary of the system by recourse to experimental literature. This task is magnified by the number of constraints proposed to be relaxed.

## PROCEDURE: RelaxedFBA applied to Recon3.0model

TIMING: 20 seconds (computation), minutes - days (interpretation)

Recon 3D [[brunk\\_recon\\_nodate](#)] is the latest, most comprehensive, manually curated, genome-scale reconstruction of human metabolism. Recon3D is a reconstruction which currently encompasses ~3300 open reading frames, ~8000 unique metabolites, as well as ~12000 biochemical and transport reactions distributed over nine cellular compartments: cytoplasm [c], lysosome [l], nucleus [n], mitochondrion [m], mitochondrial intermembrane space [i], peroxisome [x], extracellular space [e], Golgi apparatus [g], and endoplasmic reticulum [r] [[thiele\\_protocol\\_2010](#), [brunk\\_recon\\_nodate](#)]. Recon3.0model is a flux balance analysis model and the largest stoichiometrically and flux consistent subset of Recon3D. That is, no internal reaction in Recon3.0model is mass imbalanced and furthermore, every internal and every external reaction is admits a non-zero steady state flux. In this example, we take Recon3.0model, set the lower bound on the biomass reaction to require the synthesis of biomass yet close all of the external reactions in the model. The resulting model is therefore infeasible, that is, no steady state flux vector satisfies the steady state constraints and the bound constraints for the resulting flux balance analysis problem, irrespective of the objective coefficients, so we use relaxed flux balance analysis to identify the minimal set of external reaction bounds that are required to be relaxed in order to make biomass synthesis feasible.

Load Recon3.0model, unless it is already loaded into the workspace.

```
global CBTDIR

%Load the model if recon3 is available replace the model name.
modelName = 'Recon2.0model.mat';
modelDirectory = getDistributedModelFolder(modelFileName); %Look up the
               folder for the distributed Models.
modelFileName= [modelDirectory filesep modelName]; % Get the full path.
               Necessary to be sure, that the right model is loaded
model = readCbModel(modelFileName);
modelOrig = model;
```

Identify the exchange reactions and biomass reaction(s) heuristically and close (a subset) of them

```
model = findSExRxnInd(model,size(model.S,1),1);

Found biomass reaction: biomass_reaction
Found biomass reaction: biomass_maintenance
Found biomass reaction: biomass_maintenance_noTrTr
ATP demand reaction is not considered an exchange reaction by default. It should be mass balanced:
DM_atp_c_    h2o[c] + atp[c]      ->      h[c] + adp[c] + pi[c]

if ~any(model.biomassBool)
    error('Could not heuristically identify a biomass reaction')
```

```
end
```

Add a linear objective coefficient corresponding to the biomass reaction

```
model.biomassBool=strcmp(model.rxns,'biomass_reaction');
model.c(model.biomassBool)=1;
```

Check that biomass production is feasible

```
FBAsolution = optimizeCbModel(model,'max');
if FBAsolution.stat == 1
    disp('Relaxed model is feasible');
    bioMassProductionRate=FBAsolution.x(model.biomassBool);
    fprintf('%g%s\n', bioMassProductionRate, ' is the biomass production
rate')
else
    disp('Relaxed model is infeasible');
end
```

```
Relaxed model is feasible
753.336 is the biomass production rate
```

Remove superfluous biomass reactions and display the size of the reduced model

```
model = removeRxns(model,
{'biomass_maintenance','biomass_maintenance_noTrTr'});
[m,n] = size(model.S);
fprintf('%6s\t%6s\n','#mets','#rxns'); fprintf('%6u\t%6u\n',m,n,
'totals.')
#mets      #rxns
5835      10598      totals.
```

First close all exchange reactions, except the biomass reaction

```
model.SIntRxnBool(strcmp(model.rxns,'biomass_reaction'))=0;
model.lb(~model.SIntRxnBool)=0;
model.ub(~model.SIntRxnBool)=0;
```

Now force the biomass reaction to be active

```
model.lb(model.biomassBool) = 1;
model.ub(model.biomassBool) = 10;
```

Check if the model is feasible

```
FBAsolution = optimizeCbModel(model,'max', 0, true);
if FBAsolution.stat == 1
    disp('Model is feasible. Nothing to do.');
    return
else
    disp('Model is infeasible');
```

```
end
```

Model is infeasible

Relaxed flux balance analysis is implemented with the function relaxedFBA

```
% [solution] = relaxedFBA(model, relaxOption)
```

The inputs are a COBRA model and an optional parameter vector

```
% INPUTS:  
% model: COBRA model structure  
% relaxOption: Structure containing the relaxation options:  
% * internalRelax:  
%   * 0 = do not allow to relax bounds on internal reactions  
%   * 1 = do not allow to relax bounds on internal reactions with finite  
bounds  
%   * 2 = allow to relax bounds on all internal reactions  
%  
% * exchangeRelax:  
%  
%   * 0 = do not allow to relax bounds on exchange  
reactions  
%   * 1 = do not allow to relax bounds on exchange  
reactions of the type [0,0]  
%   * 2 = allow to relax bounds on all exchange  
reactions  
%  
% * steadyStateRelax:  
%   * 0 = do not allow to relax the steady state  
constraint S*v = b  
%   * 1 = allow to relax the steady state constraint  
S*v = b  
%  
%   * toBeUnblockedReactions - n x 1 vector indicating  
the reactions to be unblocked (optional)  
%   * toBeUnblockedReactions(i) = 1 : impose v(i) to be  
positive  
%   * toBeUnblockedReactions(i) = -1 : impose v(i) to  
be negative  
%   * toBeUnblockedReactions(i) = 0 : do not add any  
constraint  
%  
%   * excludedReactions - n x 1 bool vector indicating  
the reactions to be excluded from relaxation (optional)  
%   * excludedReactions(i) = false : allow to relax  
bounds on reaction i  
%   * excludedReactions(i) = true : do not allow to  
relax bounds on reaction i  
%  
%   * excludedMetabolites - m x 1 bool vector indicating  
the metabolites to be excluded from relaxation (optional)
```

```

%
% * excludedMetabolites(i) = false : allow to relax
steady state constraint on metabolite i
%
% * excludedMetabolites(i) = true : do not allow to
relax steady state constraint on metabolite i
%
% * lamda - trade-off parameter of relaxation on steady
state constraint
%
% * alpha - trade-off parameter of relaxation on bounds
%
% Note, excludedReactions and excludedMetabolites override all other
relaxation options.

```

Do not allow to relax bounds on any internal reaction

```
relaxOption.internalRelax = 0;
```

Allow to relax bounds on all exchange reactions

```
relaxOption.exchangeRelax = 2;
```

Do not allow to relax the steady state constraint  $S^*v = b$

```
relaxOption.steadyStateRelax = 0;
```

Set the tolerance to distinguish between zero and non-zero flux

```
feasTol = getCobraSolverParams('LP', 'feasTol');
relaxOption.epsilon = feasTol/100;%*100;
```

Set the trade-off parameter for relaxation of bounds (advanced user). A larger value of gamma will

```
relaxOption.gamma = 10;
```

Set the trade-off parameter for relaxation on steady state constraint (advanced user)

```
relaxOption.lambda = 10;
```

Call the relaxedFBA function, deal the solution, and set small values to zero

```

tic;
solution = relaxedFBA(model,relaxOption);
timeTaken=toc;
[v,r,p,q] = deal(solution.v,solution.r,solution.p,solution.q);
if 0
    p(p<relaxOption.epsilon) = 0;%lower bound relaxation
    q(q<relaxOption.epsilon) = 0;%upper bound relaxation
    r(r<relaxOption.epsilon) = 0;%steady state constraint relaxation
end

```

The output is a solution structure with a 'stat' field reporting the solver status and a set of fields matching the relaxation of constraints given in the mathematical formulation of the relaxed flux balance problem above.

```
% OUTPUT:
%     solution:      Structure containing the following fields:
%
%             * stat - status
%             * 1   = Solution found
%             * 0   = Infeasible
%             * -1 = Invalid input
%
%             * r - relaxation on steady state constraints S*v = b
%
%             * p - relaxation on lower bound of reactions
%
%             * q - relaxation on upper bound of reactions
%
%             * v - reaction rate
```

Summarise the proposed relaxation solution

```
if solution.stat == 1

    dispCutoff=relaxOption.epsilon;

    fprintf('%s\n',[ 'Relaxed flux balance analysis problem solved in '
num2str(timeTaken) ' seconds.' ])

    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(r), ' steady state constraints relaxed');

    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff & ~abs(q)>dispCutoff &
model.SIntRxnBool), ' internal only lower bounds relaxed');
    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(q)>dispCutoff & ~abs(p)>dispCutoff &
model.SIntRxnBool), ' internal only upper bounds relaxed');
    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff & abs(q)>dispCutoff &
model.SIntRxnBool), ' internal lower and upper bounds relaxed');

    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff & ~abs(q)>dispCutoff &
~model.SIntRxnBool), ' external only lower bounds relaxed');
    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(q)>dispCutoff & ~abs(p)>dispCutoff &
~model.SIntRxnBool), ' external only upper bounds relaxed');
    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff & abs(q)>dispCutoff &
~model.SIntRxnBool), ' external lower and upper bounds relaxed');

    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff | abs(q)>dispCutoff &
~model.SIntRxnBool), ' external lower or upper bounds relaxed');

    maxUB = max(max(model.ub), -min(model.lb));
    minLB = min(-max(model.ub), min(model.lb));
    intRxnFiniteBound = ((model.ub < maxUB) & (model.lb > minLB));
    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff & intRxnFiniteBound), ' finite
lower bounds relaxed');
    fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(q)>dispCutoff & intRxnFiniteBound), ' finite
upper bounds relaxed');
```

```

exRxn00 = ((model.ub == 0) & (model.lb == 0));
fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(p)>dispCutoff & exRxn00), ' lower bounds relaxed
on fixed reactions (lb=ub=0)');
fprintf('%u%s\n',nnz(abs(q)>dispCutoff & exRxn00), ' upper bounds relaxed
on fixed reactions (lb=ub=0');

else
    disp('relaxedFBA problem infeasible, check relaxOption fields');
end

```

Relaxed flux balance analysis problem solved in 47.6492 seconds.  
0 steady state constraints relaxed  
0 internal only lower bounds relaxed  
0 internal only upper bounds relaxed  
0 internal lower and upper bounds relaxed  
497 external only lower bounds relaxed  
498 external only upper bounds relaxed  
107 external lower and upper bounds relaxed  
1102 external lower or upper bounds relaxed  
604 finite lower bounds relaxed  
605 finite upper bounds relaxed  
603 lower bounds relaxed on fixed reactions (lb=ub=0)  
605 upper bounds relaxed on fixed reactions (lb=ub=0)

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Given an infeasible problem,

$$Sv = b, \\ l \leq v \leq u,$$

the *relaxed flux balance analysis* problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{v,r,p,q} \quad & \lambda \|r\|_0 + \gamma \|p\|_0 + \gamma \|q\|_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Sv + r = b \\ & l - p \leq v \leq u + q \\ & p, q, r \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

will always find a solution. However, relaxedFBA offers the user the option to disallow relaxation of some of the constraints. If too many constraints are not allowed to be relaxed, then relaxedFBA will report an infeasible problem. The fields of relaxOption should be reviewed. For example, if relaxation of steady state constraints is not allowed, yet b is nonzero and not in the range of the stoichiometric matrix, then the relaxedFBA problem will be infeasible. To allow the relaxation of the steady state constraint,  $S^*v = b$ , then use

```
%relaxOption.steadyStateRelax = 1;
```

If relaxedFBA does return a solution, but it is not biochemcially realistic, then again review the fields of relaxOption, to allow or disallow relaxation of certain constraints. For example, to specifically disallow relaxation of the bounds on reaction with model.rxsns abbreviation 'myReaction', use

```
%relaxOption.excludedReactions=false(n,1);
```

```
%relaxOption.excludedReactions(strcmp(model.rxns, 'myReaction'))=1;
```

To specifically disallow relaxation of the steady state constraint on a molecular species with model.mets abbreviation 'myMetabolite', then use:

```
%relaxOption.excludedMetabolite=false(m,1);
%relaxOption.excludedMetabolite(strcmp(model.mets, 'myMetabolite'))=1;
```

Even if the set of relaxations are properly set, in a boolean sense, tweaking of the DCA card trade off parameters can help narrow down to a biochemically realistic solution, by iterating between the biochemical literature and the numerical results from relaxedFBA after tweaking the parameters. This flexibility is provided for the expert user. See relaxFBA\_cappedL1.m. A standard set of advanced parameters are:

```
%relaxOption.nbMaxIteration = 1000; %max number of iterations of the
cappedL1 problem
%relaxOption.gamma0 = 0; %trade-off parameter of 10 part of v
%relaxOption.gammal = 0; %trade-off parameter of 11 part of v
%relaxOption.lambda0 = 10; %trade-off parameter of 10 part of r
%relaxOption.lambdal = 0; %trade-off parameter of 11 part of r
%relaxOption.alpha0 = 10; %trade-off parameter of 10 part of p and q
%relaxOption.alpha1 = 0; %trade-off parameter of 11 part of p and q
%relaxOption.theta = 2; %parameter of capped 11 approximation
```

## ANTICIPATED RESULTS

relaxedFBA will return a set of steady state constraints, lower bounds, and upper bounds, that are required to be relaxed to ensure that the FBA problem is feasible. It is necessary to analyse the solution biochemically, to see if it makes sense to relax the suggested constraints. The following code will report a summary of the results.

```
if solution.stat == 1
    printFlag=0;
    lineChangeFlag=0;
    if 1
        dispCutoffLower=relaxOption.epsilon;
        dispCutoffUpper=inf;
    else
        %useful for numerical debugging
        dispCutoffLower=-10;
        dispCutoffUpper=10;
    end
    if any(r)
        fprintf( '\n%s\n', 'Steady state constraints relaxed' );
        for i=1:m
            if abs(r(i))>dispCutoffLower && abs(r(i))<dispCutoffUpper
                fprintf( '%s\n', model.mets{i} );
            end
        end
    else
        fprintf( '\n%s\n', 'No steady state constraints relaxed' );
    end
end
```

```

end
if any(p)
    fprintf( '%s\n' , 'Lower bounds relaxed');
    for j=1:n
        if abs(p(j))>dispCutoffLower && abs(p(j))<dispCutoffUpper &&
p(j)~=0
            rxnAbbrList=model.rxns(j);
            formulas = printRxnFormula(model, rxnAbbrList, printFlag,
lineChangeFlag);
            fprintf( '%6g\t%s' ,p(j),formulas{1});
        end
    end
else
    fprintf( '\n%s\n' , 'No lower bounds relaxed');
end
if any(q)
    fprintf( '\n%s\n' , 'Upper bounds relaxed');
    for j=1:n
        if abs(q(j))>dispCutoffLower && abs(q(j))<dispCutoffUpper &&
q(j)~=0
            rxnAbbrList=model.rxns(j);
            formulas = printRxnFormula(model, rxnAbbrList, printFlag,
lineChangeFlag);
            fprintf( '%6g\t%s' ,q(j),formulas{1});
        end
    end
else
    fprintf( '\n%s\n' , 'No upper bounds relaxed');
end
end

```

No steady state constraints relaxed  
Lower bounds relaxed

1000	datp[m] ->
1000	datp[n] ->
1000	dctp[n] ->
1000	dgtp[n] ->
1000	dttp[n] ->
1000	ethamp[r] ->
1000	gpi_sig[r] ->
1000	mem2emgacpail_prot_hs[r] ->
1000	Ser_Gly_AlA_X_Gly[1] ->
1000	10fthf7glu[e] ->
1000	4nph[e] ->
1000	5adtststerone[e] ->
1000	7dhhf[e] ->
1000	7thf[e] ->
1000	adp[e] ->
1000	adprbp[e] ->
1000	adrnl[e] ->
1000	ala_D[e] ->
1000	aqcobal[e] ->
1000	arachd[e] ->
1000	ascb_L[e] ->
1000	atp[e] ->
1000	bilglcur[e] ->

1000 biocyt[e] ->  
1000 cholate[e] ->  
1000 chsterol[e] ->  
1000 chtn[e] ->  
1000 cmp[e] ->  
1000 crmp\_hs[e] ->  
1000 crn[e] ->  
1000 crtssl[e] ->  
1000 cspg\_c[e] ->  
1000 dag\_hs[e] ->  
1000 dheas[e] ->  
1000 dlnlcg[e] ->  
0.15 eicostet[e] ->  
1000 estrones[e] ->  
1000 gbside\_hs[e] ->  
1000 gchola[e] ->  
1000 gluala[e] ->  
1000 glygn2[e] ->  
1000 glygn4[e] ->  
1000 gthrd[e] ->  
1000 gtp[e] ->  
1000 h2o2[e] ->  
1000 ha[e] ->  
1000 hdcea[e] ->  
1000 i[e] ->  
1000 idp[e] ->  
1000 imp[e] ->  
1000 ksi[e] ->  
1000 Lcystin[e] ->  
1000 leuktrA4[e] ->  
1000 leuktrF4[e] ->  
1000 lnlc[e] ->  
1000 lnlnc[e] ->  
1000 nadp[e] ->  
1000 ncam[e] ->  
1000 o2s[e] ->  
1000 ocdca[e] ->  
1000 ocdcea[e] ->  
1000 octa[e] ->  
1000 pe\_hs[e] ->  
1000 peplys[e] ->  
1000 prostgd2[e] ->  
1000 prostge1[e] ->  
1000 prostgf2[e] ->  
1000 ps\_hs[e] ->  
1000 ptdca[e] ->  
1000 retinol[e] ->  
1000 s212fn2m2masn[e] ->  
1000 spc\_hs[e] ->  
1000 sph1p[e] ->  
1000 sphs1p[e] ->  
1000 strch1[e] ->  
1000 strch2[e] ->  
1000 strdnc[e] ->  
1000 tag\_hs[e] ->  
1000 tchola[e] ->  
1000 thf[e] ->  
1000 thym[e] ->  
1000 triodthy[e] ->  
1000 ttdca[e] ->  
1000 utp[e] ->  
1000 vacc[e] ->  
1000 whhdca[e] ->  
1000 xoltri27[e] ->

```

1000  xylt[e]  ->
1000  pre_prot[r]  ->
1000  4abutn[e]  ->
1000  ctp[e]  ->
1000  dgmp[e]  ->
1000  dha[e]  ->
1000  dtpp[e]  ->
1000  fad[e]  ->
1000  fald[e]  ->
1000  HC00250[e]  ->
1000  HC01361[e]  ->
1000  HC01446[e]  ->
1000  cpppg1[e]  ->
1000  itp[e]  ->
1000  udpg[e]  ->
1000  HC00955[e]  ->
1000  C02470[e]  ->
1000  HC00822[e]  ->
1000  HC02193[e]  ->
1000  HC02195[e]  ->
1000  HC02196[e]  ->
1000  HC02191[e]  ->
1000  HC02194[e]  ->
1000  HC02203[e]  ->
1000  HC02217[e]  ->
1000  malcoa[e]  ->
1000  arachcoa[e]  ->
1000  CE4722[e]  ->
1000  CE4723[e]  ->
1000  CE4724[e]  ->
1000  CE2839[e]  ->
1000  CE2838[e]  ->
1000  23cump[e]  ->
1000  CE5788[e]  ->
1000  CE5798[e]  ->
1000  CE5787[e]  ->
1000  CE5791[e]  ->
1000  CE5867[e]  ->
1000  CE4633[e]  ->
1000  CE5854[e]  ->
1000  udpgal[e]  ->
1000  CE0074[e]  ->
1000  CE5853[e]  ->
1001  20.6508 h2o[c] + 20.7045 atp[c] + 0.38587 glu_L[c] + 0.35261 asp_L[c] + 0.036117 gtp[c] + 0.5056
1000  c101coa[c]  ->
1000  doco13ac[e]  ->
1000  octdececoa[c]  ->
1000  tetdec2coa[c]  ->
1000  tetdecelcoa[c]  ->
1000  5HPET[r]  ->
1000  taur[c]  ->
1000  pe_hs[r]  ->
1000  pmrcoa[r]  ->
1000  alaala[e]  ->
1000  bglc[e]  ->
1000  glygly[e]  ->
1000  gum[e]  ->
1000  leugly[e]  ->
1000  pect[e]  ->
1000  psyl[e]  ->
1000  slfcys[e]  ->
1000  dpcoa[e]  ->
1000  oh1[e]  ->
1000  q10[e]  ->

```

1000 Lcystin[c] ->  
1000 ncam[c] ->  
1000 pntr\_R[c] ->  
1000 34hpp[e] ->  
1000 3mob[e] ->  
1000 3mop[e] ->  
1000 4mop[e] ->  
1000 aicar[e] ->  
1000 cbasp[e] ->  
1000 2pg[e] ->  
1000 5hoxindoa[e] ->  
1000 cholp[e] ->  
1000 cyst\_L[e] ->  
1000 dmgly[e] ->  
1000 g3pc[e] ->  
1000 gudac[e] ->  
1000 hcys\_L[e] ->  
1000 icit[e] ->  
1000 pep[e] ->  
1000 xtsn[e] ->  
1000 3pg[e] ->  
1000 udpglcur[e] ->  
1000 nicrnt[e] ->  
1000 orot5p[e] ->  
1000 glyc3p[e] ->  
1000 acrn[e] ->  
1000 pcrn[e] ->  
1000 lneidccrn[e] ->  
1000 odecrn[e] ->  
1000 stcrn[e] ->  
1000 pmtrcn[e] ->  
1000 hdcecrn[e] ->  
1000 15HPET[e] ->  
1000 3mhis[e] ->  
1000 5HPET[e] ->  
1000 7dhchsterol[e] ->  
1000 aclys[e] ->  
1000 adpoh[e] ->  
1000 amet[e] ->  
1000 biliverd[e] ->  
1000 C02356[e] ->  
1000 CE0955[e] ->  
1000 CE1556[e] ->  
1000 CE2176[e] ->  
1000 CE7082[e] ->  
1000 forglu[e] ->  
1000 HC00900[e] ->  
1000 hmcr[e] ->  
1000 lnlccrn[e] ->  
1000 lthstrl[e] ->  
1000 mev\_R[e] ->  
1000 pe12\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pe13\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pe15\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pe161\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pe224\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pe226\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pedh203\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pelin1\_hs[e] ->  
1000 peole\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pepalm\_hs[e] ->  
1000 peste\_hs[e] ->  
1000 saccrp\_L[e] ->  
1000 xolest205\_hs[e] ->

1000 3moxtyr[e] ->  
1000 5aop[e] ->  
1000 alltn[e] ->  
1000 CE2510[e] ->  
1000 ddca[e] ->  
1000 glyc\_R[e] ->  
1000 Lcyst[e] ->  
1000 oaa[e] ->  
1000 ttdcea[e] ->  
1000 bgly[e] ->  
1000 retinal[e] ->  
1000 maltttr[e] ->  
1000 progly[e] ->  
1000 dhbpt[e] ->  
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1000 argalaala[e] ->  
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1000 argalathr[e] ->  
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1000 argcysgly[e] ->  
1000 argcysser[e] ->  
1000 argglupro[e] ->  
1000 argleuphe[e] ->  
1000 argphearg[e] ->  
1000 argpromet[e] ->  
1000 argserser[e] ->  
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1000 asnmetpro[e] ->  
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1000 aspmetasp[e] ->  
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1000 HC02197[c] ->  
1000 HC02198[c] ->  
1000 HC02220[c] ->  
1000 Tyr\_ggn[c] ->  
1000 c226coa[c] ->  
1000 chol[c] ->  
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1000 hdca[c] ->  
1000 lnlccoa[c] ->  
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1000 thmpp[c] ->  
1000 thmtp[c] ->  
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1000 vitd3[c] ->  
1000 dhcholestaneate[c] ->  
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1000 xol7ah3[c] ->  
1000 xol7aone[c] ->  
1000 7klitchol[c] ->  
1000 dchac[c] ->  
1000 CE1273[c] ->  
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1000 but[e] ->  
1000 cgly[e] ->  
1000 co2[e] ->  
1000 cytd[e] ->  
1000 dgsn[e] ->  
1000 din[e] ->  
1000 duri[e] ->  
1000 fe3[e] ->  
1000 fum[e] ->  
1000 glyleu[e] ->  
1000 glyphe[e] ->  
1000 glypro[e] ->  
1000 h[e] ->  
1000 h2o[e] ->  
1000 ins[e] ->  
1000 lac\_L[e] ->  
1000 lys\_L[e] ->  
1000 na1[e] ->  
1000 o2[e] ->  
1000 orn[e] ->  
1000 ppi[e] ->  
1000 pro\_L[e] ->  
1000 ser\_L[e] ->  
1000 so4[e] ->  
1000 thymd[e] ->  
1000 urea[e] ->  
1000 cys\_L[e] ->  
1000 his\_L[e] ->  
1000 thr\_L[e] ->  
1000 gln\_L[e] ->  
1000 phe\_L[e] ->  
1000 arg\_L[e] ->  
1000 nac[e] ->  
1000 cit[e] ->  
1000 etha[e] ->  
1000 fol[e] ->  
1000 glyc[e] ->  
1000 malt[e] ->  
1000 malttr[e] ->  
1000 rib\_D[e] ->  
1000 trp\_L[e] ->

1000 xyl\_D[e] ->  
1000 34dphpha[e] ->  
1000 ppa[e] ->  
1000 tre[e] ->  
1000 lcts[e] ->  
1000 ade[e] ->  
1000 etoh[e] ->  
1000 phpyr[e] ->  
1000 2h3mv[e] ->  
1000 2hiv[e] ->  
1000 sucsal[e] ->  
1000 3ityr\_L[e] ->  
1000 35diotyr[e] ->  
1000 13\_cis\_retn[e] ->  
1000 CE1617[e] ->  
1000 34dhoxmand[e] ->  
1000 CE5643[e] ->  
1000 n8aspmd[e] ->  
1000 13damp[p] ->  
1000 12ppd\_R[e] ->  
1000 xylu\_L[e] ->  
1000 xylu\_D[e] ->  
1000 CE0737[e] ->  
1000 hdd2crn[e] ->  
1000 mlthf[e] ->  
1000 sphgn[e] ->  
1000 coke[e] ->  
1000 hdl\_hs[e] ->  
1000 HC00005[e] ->  
1000 CE2172[e] ->  
1000 CE5629[e] ->  
1000 gd3\_hs[e] ->  
1000 gluside\_hs[e] ->  
1000 gm3\_hs[e] ->  
1000 cmpacna[e] ->  
1000 34dhpac[c] ->  
1000 ts3[c] ->  
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1000 k[g] ->  
1000 nal[r] ->  
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1000 CE1243[e] ->  
1000 CE5026[e] ->  
1000 CE1261[e] ->  
1000 gd1b\_hs[e] ->  
1000 nadh[e] ->  
1000 sbt\_D[e] ->  
1000 12dhchol[c] ->  
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1000 3dhdchol[c] ->  
1000 3dhlchol[c] ->  
1000 7dhcdchol[c] ->  
1000 7dhchol[c] ->  
1000 ca3s[c] ->  
1000 coprost[c] ->  
1000 dca3s[c] ->  
1000 gca3s[c] ->  
1000 gcdca3s[c] ->  
1000 gdca3s[c] ->  
1000 gudca3s[c] ->  
1000 hyochol[c] ->  
1000 icdchol[c] ->  
1000 isochol[c] ->

1000 lca3s[c] ->  
1000 tca3s[c] ->  
1000 tcdca3s[c] ->  
1000 tdca3s[c] ->  
1000 thyochol[c] ->  
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1000 uchol[c] ->  
1000 udca3s[c] ->  
1000 hyochol[e] ->  
1000 am1ccs[e] ->  
1000 am1csa[e] ->  
1000 am9csa[e] ->  
1000 csa[e] ->  
1000 fvs[e] ->  
1000 glz[e] ->  
1000 lvst[e] ->  
1000 mhglz[e] ->  
1000 nfd[e] ->  
1000 nfdoh[e] ->  
1000 ptvstlac[e] ->  
1000 pvs[e] ->  
1000 tlacfvs[e] ->  
1000 tmdm1[e] ->  
1000 tripvs[e] ->  
1000 C13856[e] ->  
1000 M02956[e] ->  
1000 M00241[e] ->  
1000 M00008[e] ->  
0.05 M00017[e] ->  
1000 M00019[e] ->  
0.15 M00117[e] ->  
1000 M01197[e] ->  
0.05 M01207[e] ->  
1000 M01235[e] ->  
1000 M01238[e] ->  
1000 M02560[e] ->  
1000 h2co3[e] ->  
1000 M02837[e] ->  
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1000 thr\_L[c] ->  
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1000 val\_L[c] ->  
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1000 asn\_L[c] ->  
1000 asp\_L[c] ->  
1000 cys\_L[c] ->  
1000 gln\_L[c] ->  
1000 glu\_L[c] ->  
1000 pro\_L[c] ->  
1000 ser\_L[c] ->  
1000 tyr\_L[c] ->  
1000 gly[c] ->  
1000 4abut[1] ->  
1000 CE5026[c] ->  
1000 4glu56dihdind[c] ->  
1000 dopa[c] ->  
1000 srttn[c] ->  
1000 adrn1[c] ->

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1000  ach[c]  ->
1000  hista[c]  ->
1000  nrpphr[c]  ->
1000  Lkynr[c]  ->
1000  btn[m]  ->
Upper bounds relaxed
1000  13_cis_retn[n]  ->
1000  datp[m]  ->
1000  dgpi_prot_hs[r]  ->
1000  dgtp[m]  ->
1000  dttp[m]  ->
1000  melanin[c]  ->
1000  mem2emgacpail_prot_hs[r]  ->
1000  10fthf[e]  ->
1000  10fthf5glu[e]  ->
1000  10fthf6glu[e]  ->
1000  13_cis_retnqlc[e]  ->
1000  2hb[e]  ->
1000  34dhoxpeg[e]  ->
1000  34dhphe[e]  ->
1000  5adtststerones[e]  ->
1000  5dhf[e]  ->
1000  5mthf[e]  ->
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1000  6dhf[e]  ->
1000  6thf[e]  ->
1000  abt[e]  ->
1000  acetone[e]  ->
1000  ach[e]  ->
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1000  amp[e]  ->
0.1  arach[e]  ->
1000  arachd[e]  ->
1000  bhb[e]  ->
1000  bilirub[e]  ->
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1000  crtstrn[e]  ->
1000  crvnc[e]  ->
1000  dag_hs[e]  ->
1000  dhdascb[e]  ->
1000  dhf[e]  ->
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1000  dopa[e]  ->
1000  elaid[e]  ->
1000  estradiol[e]  ->
1000  fuc_L[e]  ->
1000  glyc_S[e]  ->
1000  glygn5[e]  ->
1000  gmp[e]  ->
1000  gsn[e]  ->
1000  hco3[e]  ->
1000  hdca[e]  ->
1000  hdcea[e]  ->
0.2  hexc[e]  ->
1000  hista[e]  ->
1000  hpdca[e]  ->
1000  inost[e]  ->
1000  ksi_deg1[e]  ->
1000  lac_D[e]  ->
1000  leuktrC4[e]  ->
1000  leuktrD4[e]  ->
1000  leuktre4[e]  ->
1000  lgnc[e]  ->
1000  lneldc[e]  ->

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1000 lnlncg[e] ->  
1000 lpchol\_hs[e] ->  
1000 mag\_hs[e] ->  
1000 meoh[e] ->  
1000 mercplaccys[e] ->  
1000 mthgxl[e] ->  
1000 nad[e] ->  
1000 nrpphr[e] ->  
0.1 nrvncc[e] ->  
1000 oagd3\_hs[e] ->  
1000 ocdca[e] ->  
1000 pchol\_hs[e] ->  
1000 pglyc\_hs[e] ->  
1000 prostge2[e] ->  
1000 rbt[e] ->  
1000 retfa[e] ->  
1000 retn[e] ->  
1000 Rtotal[e] ->  
1000 Rtotal2[e] ->  
1000 Rtotal3[e] ->  
1000 s2l2n2m2masn[e] ->  
1000 sl\_L[e] ->  
1000 tchola[e] ->  
1000 thmtp[e] ->  
1000 thyox\_L[e] ->  
1000 tmndnc[e] ->  
1000 tststerone[e] ->  
1000 tsul[e] ->  
1000 udp[e] ->  
1000 ump[e] ->  
1000 urate[e] ->  
1000 vitd3[e] ->  
1000 whtststerone[e] ->  
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1000 xolest2\_hs[e] ->  
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1000 ctp[e] ->  
1000 dgtp[e] ->  
1000 dtmp[e] ->  
1000 g1p[e] ->  
1000 isomal[e] ->  
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1000 HC01444[e] ->  
1000 HC01577[e] ->  
1000 HC01609[e] ->  
1000 HC01700[e] ->  
1000 orot[e] ->  
1000 prpp[e] ->  
1000 so3[e] ->  
1000 prostgh2[e] ->  
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1000 HC00822[e] ->  
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1000 HC02197[e] ->  
1000 HC02198[e] ->  
1000 HC02187[e] ->  
1000 HC02202[e] ->  
1000 HC02204[e] ->  
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1000 CE1943[e] ->  
1000 CE2915[e] ->  
1000 CE2916[e] ->  
1000 CE2917[e] ->  
1000 malthp[e] ->  
1000 CE2839[e] ->  
1000 3ump[e] ->  
1000 CE5786[e] ->  
1000 CE5789[e] ->  
1000 CE5797[e] ->  
1000 CE5868[e] ->  
1000 CE5869[e] ->  
1000 CE4881[e] ->  
1000 CE1926[e] ->  
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1000 galside\_hs[e] ->  
1000 CE1925[e] ->  
1000 3bcrn[e] ->  
1000 3hdececrn[e] ->  
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1000 3octdecelcrn[e] ->  
1000 c101crn[e] ->  
1000 c10crn[e] ->  
1000 c4dc[e] ->  
1000 c51crn[e] ->  
1000 c8crn[e] ->  
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1000 tetdecelcrn[e] ->  
1000 4abut[n] ->  
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1000 glgchlo[e] ->  
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1000 3uib[e] ->  
1000 56dura[e] ->  
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1000 acthr\_L[e] ->  
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1000 lyslyslys[e] ->  
1000 lyspheile[e] ->  
1000 lystrparg[e] ->  
1000 lysvalphe[e] ->  
1000 methislys[e] ->  
1000 metmetile[e] ->  
1000 pheasnmet[e] ->  
1000 pheglnphe[e] ->  
1000 phelysala[e] ->  
1000 phephe[e] ->  
1000 phepheasn[e] ->  
1000 phephethr[e] ->  
1000 phesertrp[e] ->  
1000 proargasp[e] ->  
1000 procys[e] ->  
1000 proglnpro[e] ->  
1000 prohis[e] ->  
1000 prohistyr[e] ->  
1000 proleuarg[e] ->  
1000 prolyspro[e] ->  
1000 propoarg[e] ->  
1000 propopro[e] ->  
1000 protrplys[e] ->  
1000 protrpthr[e] ->  
1000 serargala[e] ->  
1000 sercysarg[e] ->  
1000 serglyglu[e] ->  
1000 serphelys[e] ->  
1000 sertrphis[e] ->  
1000 thrargtyr[e] ->  
1000 thrasntryr[e] ->  
1000 thrglntryr[e] ->  
1000 thrhishis[e] ->  
1000 thrthrarg[e] ->  
1000 trpalapro[e] ->  
1000 trpargala[e] ->  
1000 trpaspasp[e] ->  
1000 trpglngln[e] ->  
1000 trpglugly[e] ->  
1000 trpglyleu[e] ->  
1000 trpglyval[e] ->  
1000 trphismet[e] ->  
1000 trpiletrp[e] ->  
1000 trplys[e] ->  
1000 trpmetarg[e] ->  
1000 trpprogly[e] ->  
1000 trpproleu[e] ->  
1000 trpthrtryr[e] ->  
1000 trptyrgin[e] ->  
1000 trptyrtryr[e] ->  
1000 tyralaphe[e] ->  
1000 tyrasparg[e] ->  
1000 tyrcysgly[e] ->

1000 tyrleuarg[e] ->  
1000 tyrthr[e] ->  
1000 tyrtrpphe[e] ->  
1000 tyrttyr[e] ->  
1000 tyrvalmet[e] ->  
1000 valarggly[e] ->  
1000 valleuphe[e] ->  
1000 valphearg[e] ->  
1000 valserarg[e] ->  
1000 valtrpphe[e] ->  
1000 valtrpval[e] ->  
1000 valval[e] ->  
1000 homoval[e] ->  
1000 pe\_hs[c] ->  
1000 adprbp[c] ->  
1000 mi145p[c] ->  
1000 band[c] ->  
1000 acgal[e] ->  
1000 acnam[e] ->  
1000 HC00342[e] ->  
1000 pa\_hs[e] ->  
1000 CE2934[e] ->  
1000 HC02191[c] ->  
1000 HC02193[c] ->  
1000 HC02194[c] ->  
1000 HC02195[c] ->  
1000 HC02196[c] ->  
1000 Tyr\_ggn[c] ->  
1000 btn[c] ->  
1000 coa[c] ->  
1000 fad[c] ->  
1000 lnlc[c] ->  
1000 lnlccoa[c] ->  
1000 nad[c] ->  
1000 odec oa[c] ->  
1000 pmtcoa[c] ->  
1000 retinol[c] ->  
1000 stcoa[c] ->  
1000 tag\_hs[c] ->  
1000 thf[c] ->  
1000 tmndnc[c] ->  
1000 dxtrn[e] ->  
1000 dhcholestane[e] ->  
1000 thcholstoic[e] ->  
1000 xol7ah3[e] ->  
1000 xol7ah3[c] ->  
1000 xol7aone[e] ->  
1000 7klitchol[e] ->  
1000 glcn[e] ->  
1000 acac[e] ->  
1000 adn[e] ->  
1000 akg[e] ->  
1000 asn\_L[e] ->  
1000 asp\_L[e] ->  
1000 co2[e] ->  
1000 dad\_2[e] ->  
1000 dcyt[e] ->  
1000 fe2[e] ->  
1000 gal[e] ->  
1000 glu\_L[e] ->  
1000 glyb[e] ->  
1000 glypro[e] ->  
1000 ile\_L[e] ->  
1000 ins[e] ->

1000 k[e] ->  
1000 lac\_L[e] ->  
1000 leu\_L[e] ->  
1000 mal\_L[e] ->  
1000 met\_L[e] ->  
1000 no2[e] ->  
1000 pi[e] ->  
1000 pro\_L[e] ->  
1000 ser\_L[e] ->  
1000 succ[e] ->  
1000 urea[e] ->  
1000 uri[e] ->  
1000 val\_L[e] ->  
1000 pnto\_R[e] ->  
1000 gly[e] ->  
1000 cys\_L[e] ->  
1000 ala\_L[e] ->  
1000 thr\_L[e] ->  
1000 gln\_L[e] ->  
1000 phe\_L[e] ->  
1000 tyr\_L[e] ->  
1000 for[e] ->  
1000 nh4[e] ->  
1000 ac[e] ->  
1000 acgam[e] ->  
1000 cit[e] ->  
1000 drib[e] ->  
1000 fru[e] ->  
1000 galt[e] ->  
1000 glcr[e] ->  
1000 glcur[e] ->  
1000 glyc[e] ->  
1000 hxan[e] ->  
1000 malt[e] ->  
1000 ptrc[e] ->  
1000 spmd[e] ->  
1000 trp\_L[e] ->  
1000 ura[e] ->  
1000 xan[e] ->  
1000 ppa[e] ->  
1000 pyr[e] ->  
1000 btn[e] ->  
1000 ade[e] ->  
1000 acald[e] ->  
1000 gua[e] ->  
1000 4abut[e] ->  
1000 taur[e] ->  
1000 phpyr[e] ->  
1000 CE4970[e] ->  
1000 CE4968[e] ->  
1000 vanillac[e] ->  
1000 2m3hvac[e] ->  
1000 3h3mglt[e] ->  
1000 3mglutac[e] ->  
1000 3mglutr[e] ->  
1000 mvlac[e] ->  
1000 ethmalac[e] ->  
1000 methsucc[e] ->  
1000 4ohbut[e] ->  
1000 agm[e] ->  
1000 T4hcinnm[e] ->  
1000 egme[e] ->  
1000 HC02020[e] ->  
1000 chsterols[e] ->

1000 CE1401[e] ->  
1000 melatn[e] ->  
1000 CE4890[e] ->  
1000 C09642[e] ->  
1000 mhista[e] ->  
1000 ppbng[e] ->  
1000 sphings[e] ->  
1000 CE1918[e] ->  
1000 aact[e] ->  
1000 N1aspmd[e] ->  
1000 fdp[e] ->  
1000 ldl\_hs[e] ->  
1000 HC00006[e] ->  
1000 HC00007[e] ->  
1000 HC00008[e] ->  
1000 HC00009[e] ->  
1000 gluside\_hs[e] ->  
1000 34dhpe[e] ->  
1000 sph1p[n] ->  
1000 sphs1p[n] ->  
1000 gd3\_hs[g] ->  
1000 na1[g] ->  
1000 na1[c] ->  
1000 retn[n] ->  
1000 Ser\_Gly\_AlA\_X\_Gly[r] ->  
1000 5cysgly34dhphe[e] ->  
1000 galgluside\_hs[e] ->  
1000 mem2emgacpail\_prot\_hs[e] ->  
1000 glc\_D[e] ->  
1000 cdca24g[c] ->  
1000 cdca3g[c] ->  
1000 dca24g[c] ->  
1000 hca24g[c] ->  
1000 hca6g[c] ->  
1000 hyochol[c] ->  
1000 lca24g[c] ->  
1000 lca3g[c] ->  
1000 12dhchol[e] ->  
1000 3dhcdchol[e] ->  
1000 3dhchol[e] ->  
1000 3dhdchol[e] ->  
1000 3dhlchol[e] ->  
1000 7dhcdchol[e] ->  
1000 7dhchol[e] ->  
1000 ca3s[e] ->  
1000 coprost[e] ->  
1000 dca3s[e] ->  
1000 gca3s[e] ->  
1000 gcdca3s[e] ->  
1000 gdca3s[e] ->  
1000 gudca3s[e] ->  
1000 icdchol[e] ->  
1000 isochol[e] ->  
1000 lca3s[e] ->  
1000 tca3s[e] ->  
1000 tcdca3s[e] ->  
1000 tdca3s[e] ->  
1000 thyochol[e] ->  
1000 tudca3s[e] ->  
1000 uchol[e] ->  
1000 udca3s[e] ->  
1000 3ispvs[e] ->  
1000 56dhpvs[e] ->  
1000 6epvs[e] ->

```

1000 6melvst[e] ->
1000 am1accs[e] ->
1000 am1alcs[e] ->
1000 am4n9cs[e] ->
1000 am4ncs[e] ->
1000 crglz[e] ->
1000 deoxfvs[e] ->
1000 dhglz[e] ->
1000 dspvs[e] ->
1000 nfdlac[e] ->
1000 nfd.npy[e] ->
1000 ptvst[e] ->
1000 thrfvs[e] ->
1000 tmdm5[e] ->
1000 M01807[e] ->
1000 M00503[e] ->
1000 M01820[e] ->
1000 M00510[e] ->
1000 M00003[e] ->
1000 M00010[e] ->
0.2 M02457[e] ->
0.05 M03045[e] ->
1000 M02561[e] ->
1000 M01111[e] ->
1000 M01966[e] ->
1000 M01989[e] ->
1000 gpi_sig[e] ->
1000 glu_L[c] ->
1000 tyr_L[c] ->
1000 CE4888[c] ->
1000 4abut[c] ->
1000 kynate[c] ->
1000 tym[c] ->
1000 cbl2[m] ->
1000 protein[c] ->

```

Generate a relaxed model and test if it is feasible.

```

if solution.stat == 1
    modelRelaxed=model;
    delta=0;%can be used for debugging, in case more relaxation is necessary
    modelRelaxed.lb = model.lb - p - delta;
    modelRelaxed.ub = model.ub + q + delta;
    modelRelaxed.b = model.b - r;

    FBAsolution = optimizeCbModel(modelRelaxed, 'max', 0, true);
    if FBAsolution.stat == 1
        disp('Relaxed model is feasible');
    else
        disp('Relaxed model is infeasible');
        solutionRelaxed = relaxedFBA(modelRelaxed,relaxOption);
    end
end

```

Relaxed model is feasible

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The relaxed model should be feasible. Indicated by 'Relaxed model is feasible'

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If the relaxed model is not feasible. If not, there could be a numerical issue due to the numerical tolerance of the linear optimisation solutions or due to the numerical tolerance on the relaxedFBA algorithm, both of which are by default set to the feasibility tolerance for the currently installed solver (typically 1e-6 for a double precision solver like Gurobi). If problems persist, examine the numerical properties of the constraints, esp wrt scaling, or try the dqqMinos solver.

```
%changeCobraSolver('dqqMinos','LP')
```

## REFERENCES

Ronan M T Fleming, Hulda S Haraldsdottir, Le Hoai Minh, Phan Tu Vuong, Thomas Hankemeier, Ines Thiele, Cardinality optimization in constraint-based modelling: application to human metabolism, *Bioinformatics*, Volume 39, Issue 9, September 2023, btad450, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btad450>