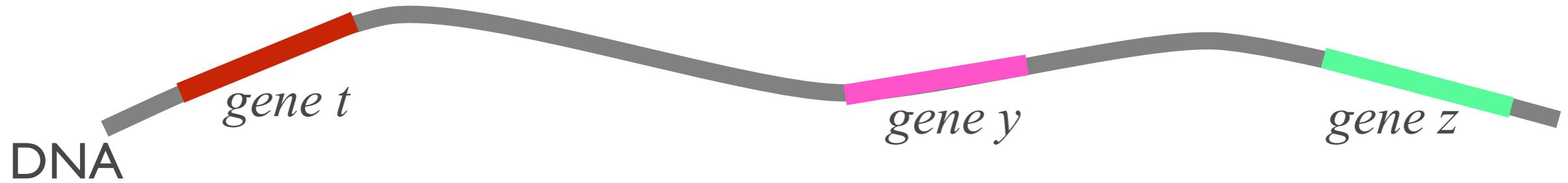


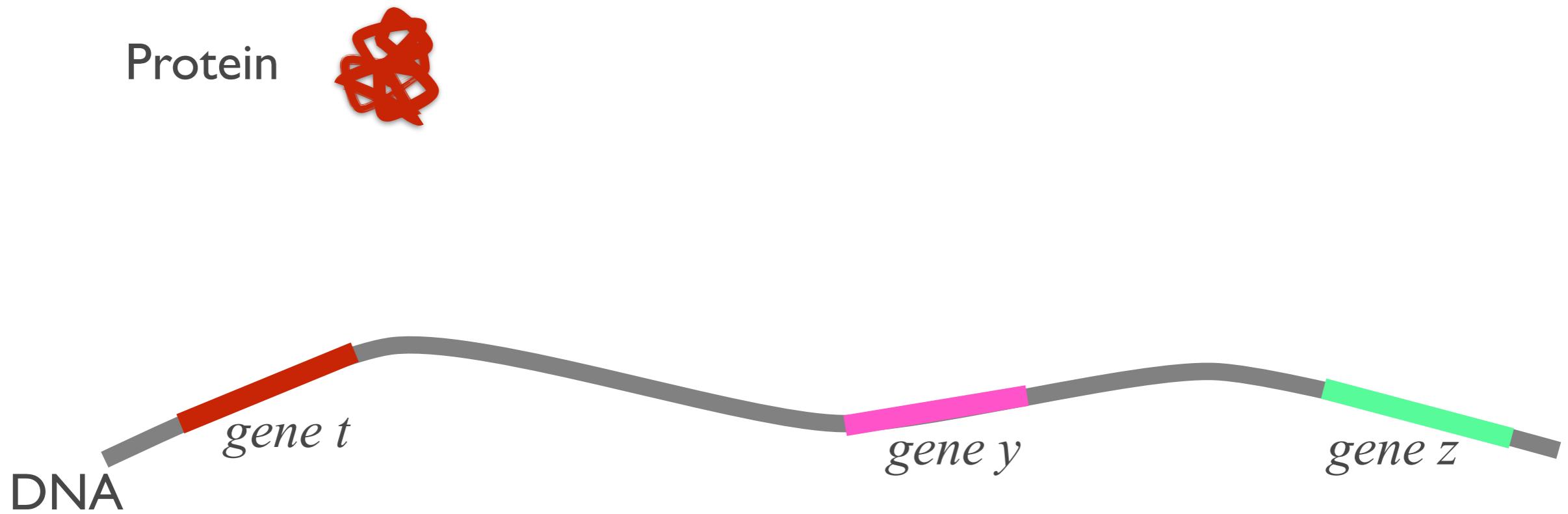
Basics on Metabolic network analysis

Jérémie Bourdon
LS2N, Université de Nantes

A simplistic illustration

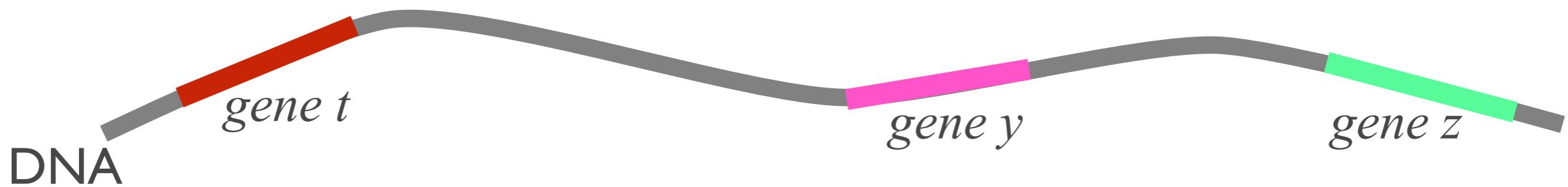
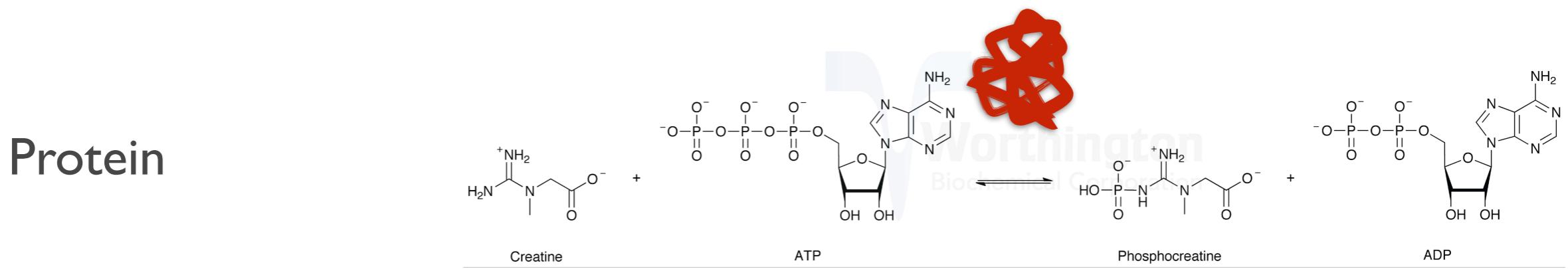


A simplistic illustration



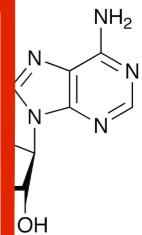
A simplistic illustration

Creatine kinase catabolizes the chemical reaction



A simplistic illustration

Creatine kinase catabolizes the chemical reaction



Major issue #3:

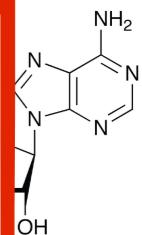
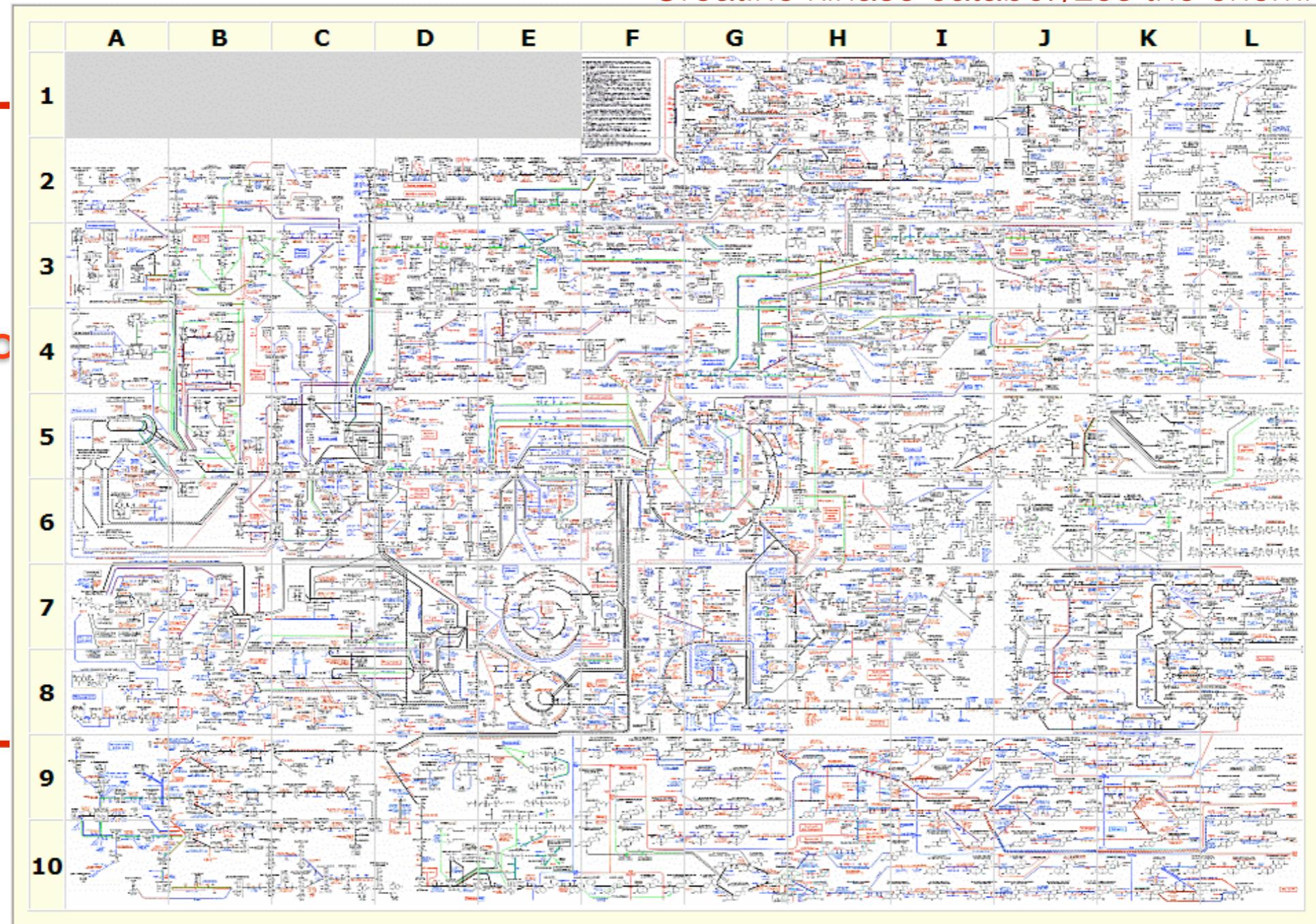
How to understand/predict/enhance the biochemical functioning/
productions of a cell/tissue/organism ?

Systems Biology : Metabolic network analysis

A simplistic illustration

Creatine kinase catabolizes the chemical reaction

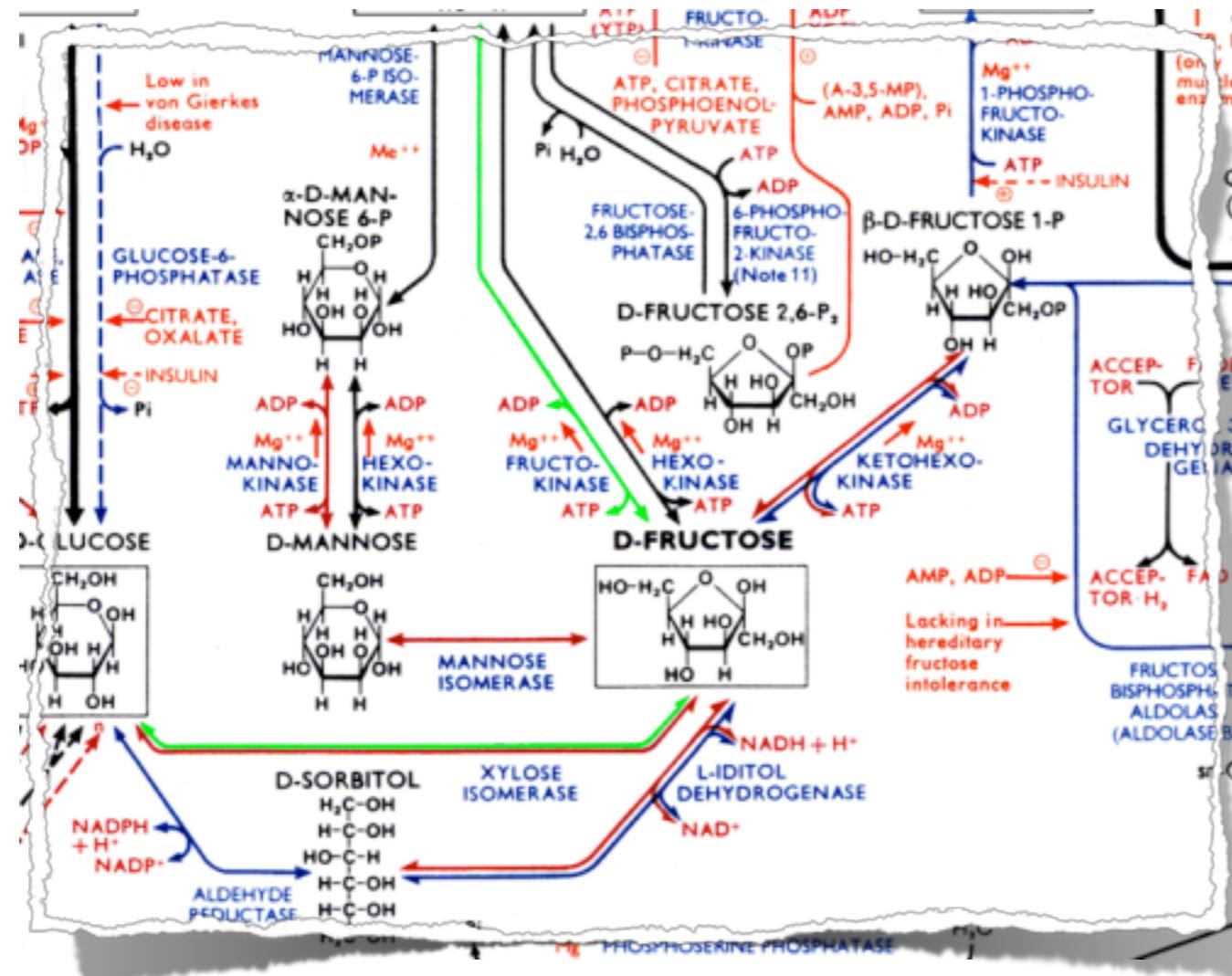
Holding on to the
reaction



A few words on metabolism

- Bio-chemical network = set of (bio)-chemical reactions that can appear in a living system.
- Some of these reactions can be catabolized by enzymes.
- Metabolism = biological process that we aim at modelling (sub-set of bio-chemical reactions dealing with metabolites (CO_2 , O_2 , Glucose,.....))
- Metabolic Network = incomplete mathematical abstraction of the metabolism.

A few words on metabolism



f (bio)-chemical reactions stem.

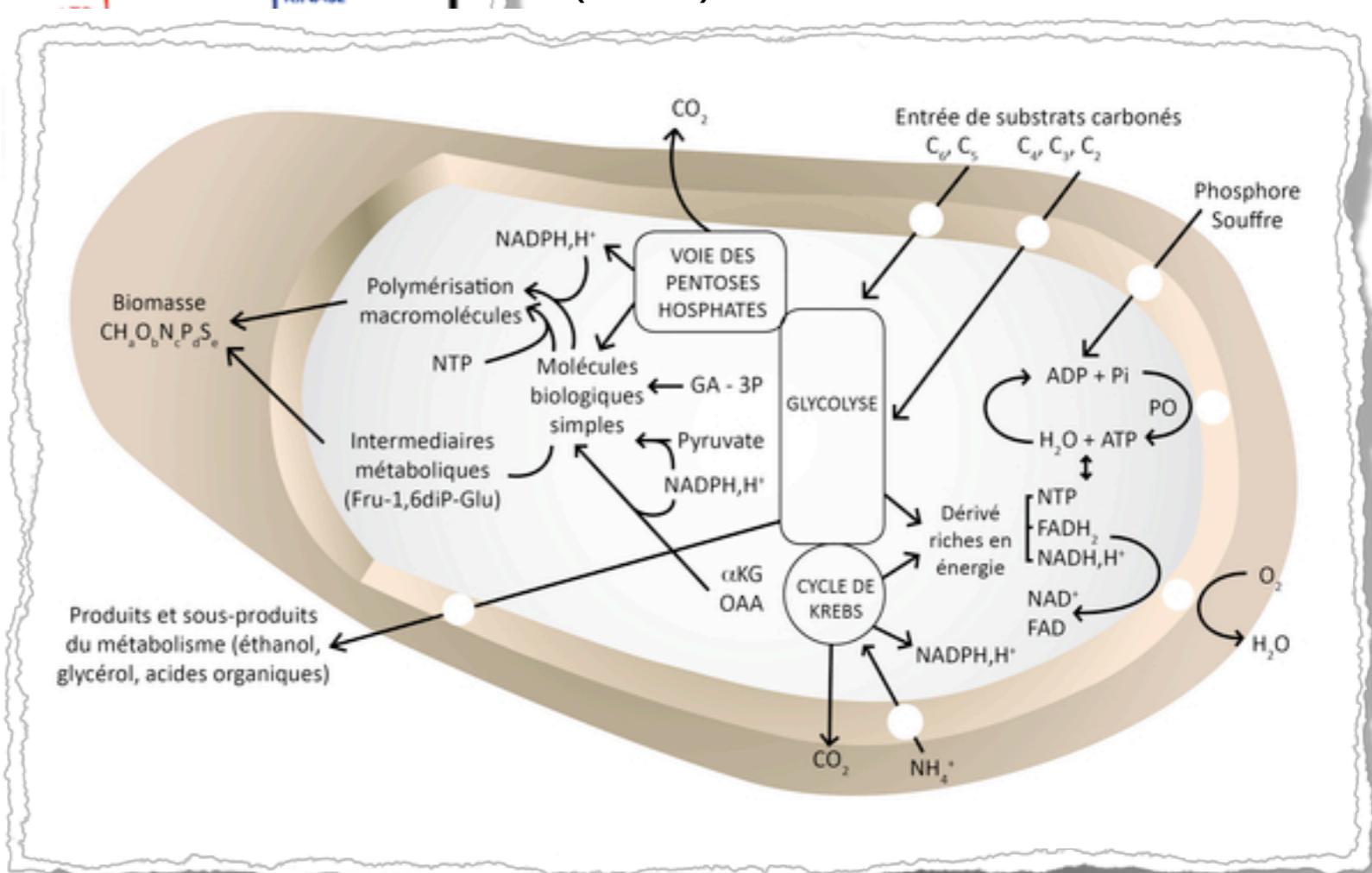
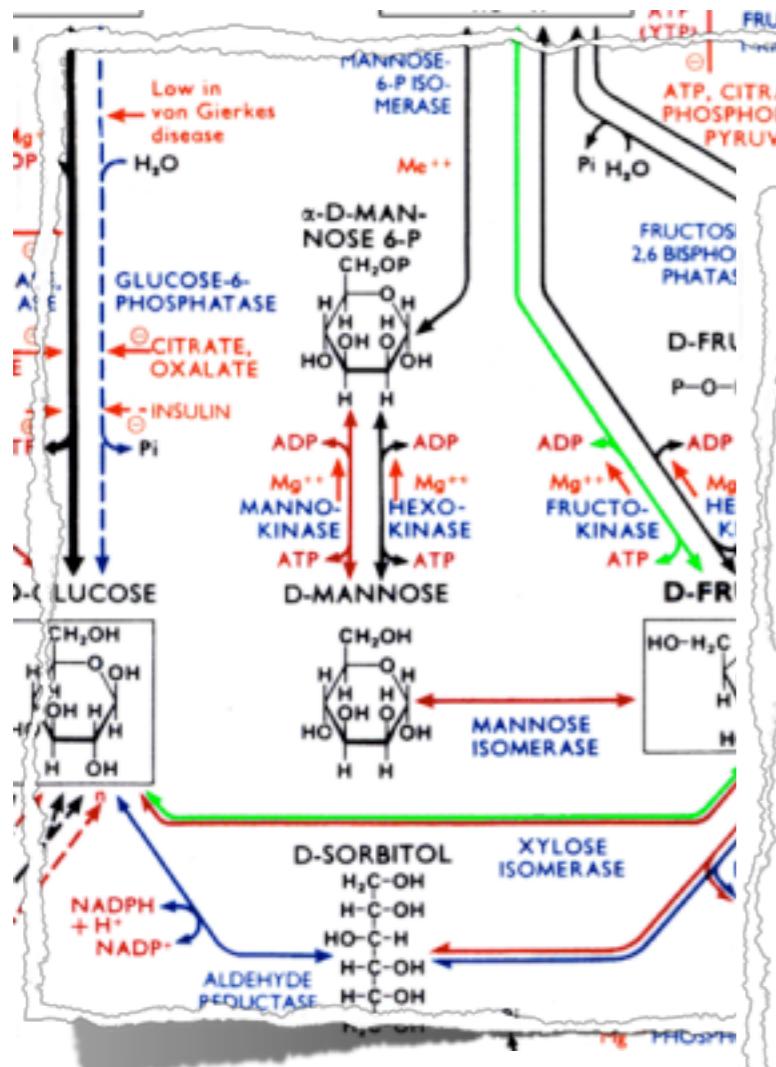
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- Metabolic Network = incomplete mathematical abstraction of the metabolism.

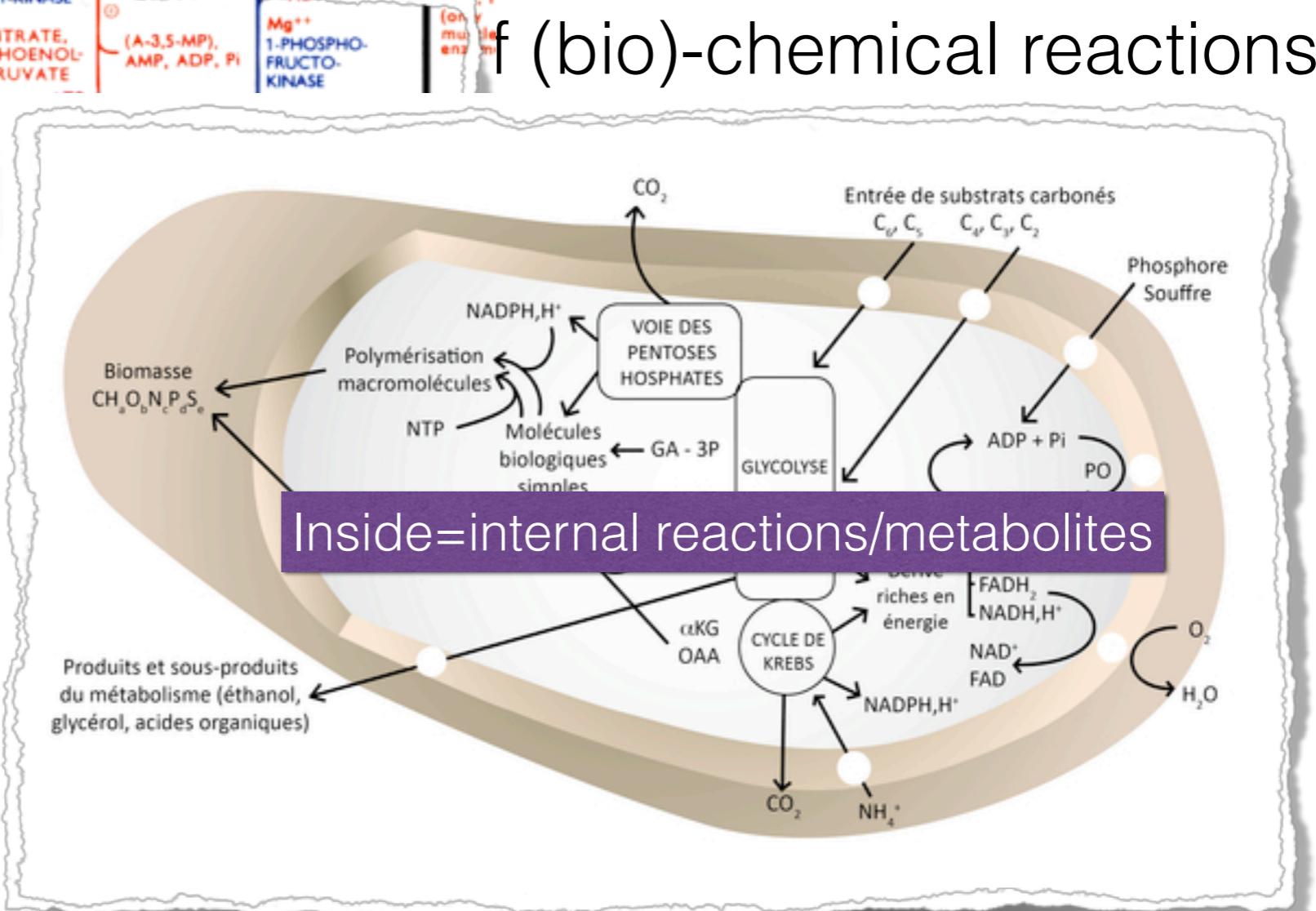
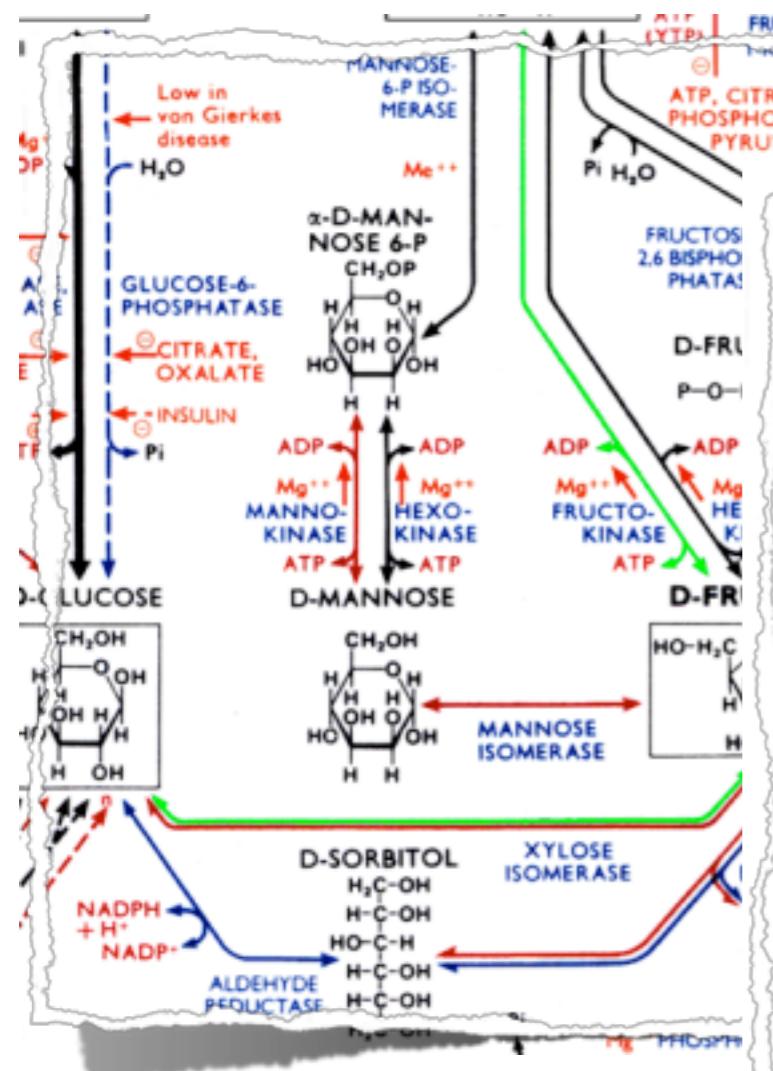
A few words on metabolism

of (bio)-chemical reactions



- Metabolic Network – incomplete mathematical abstraction of the metabolism.

A few words on metabolism

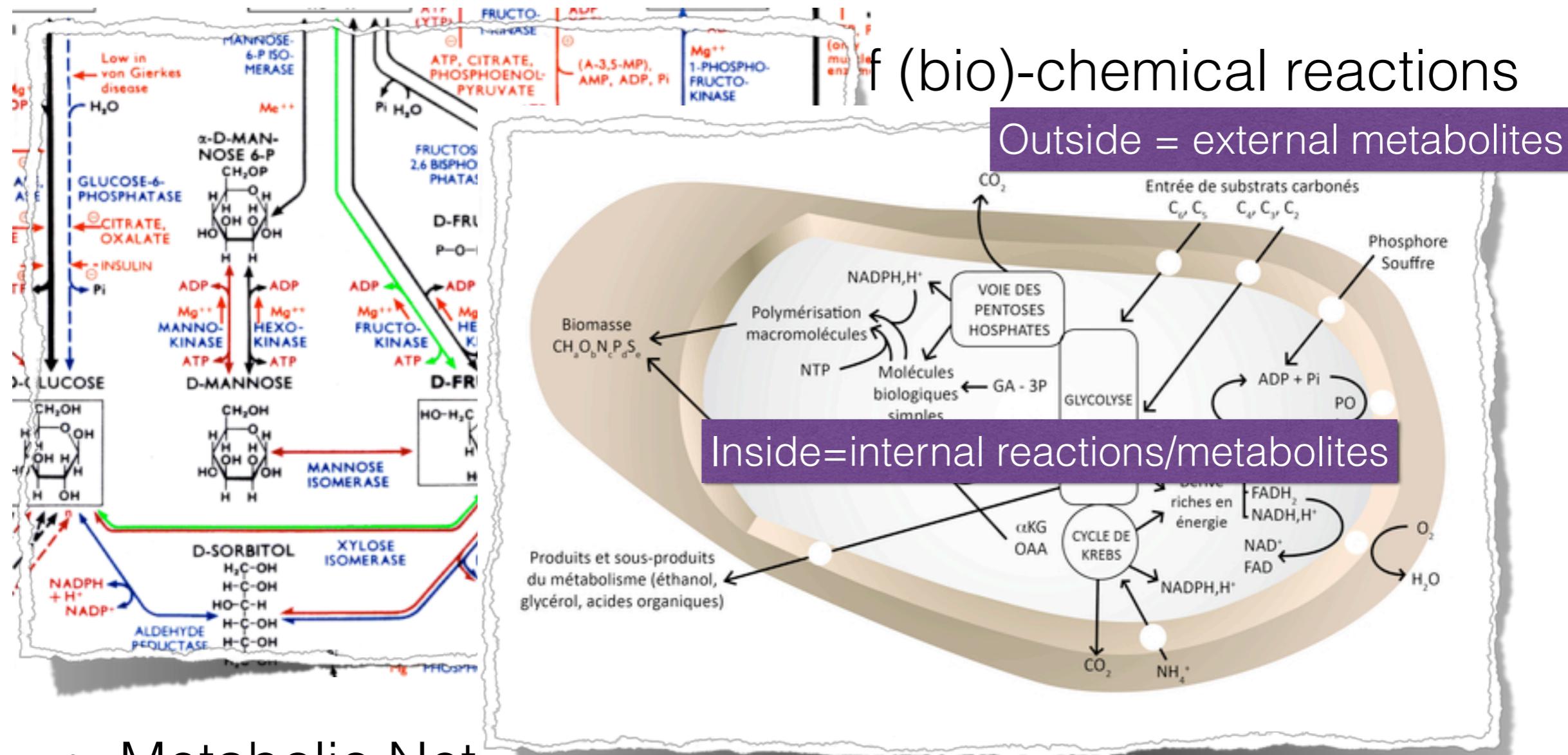


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A few words on metabolism

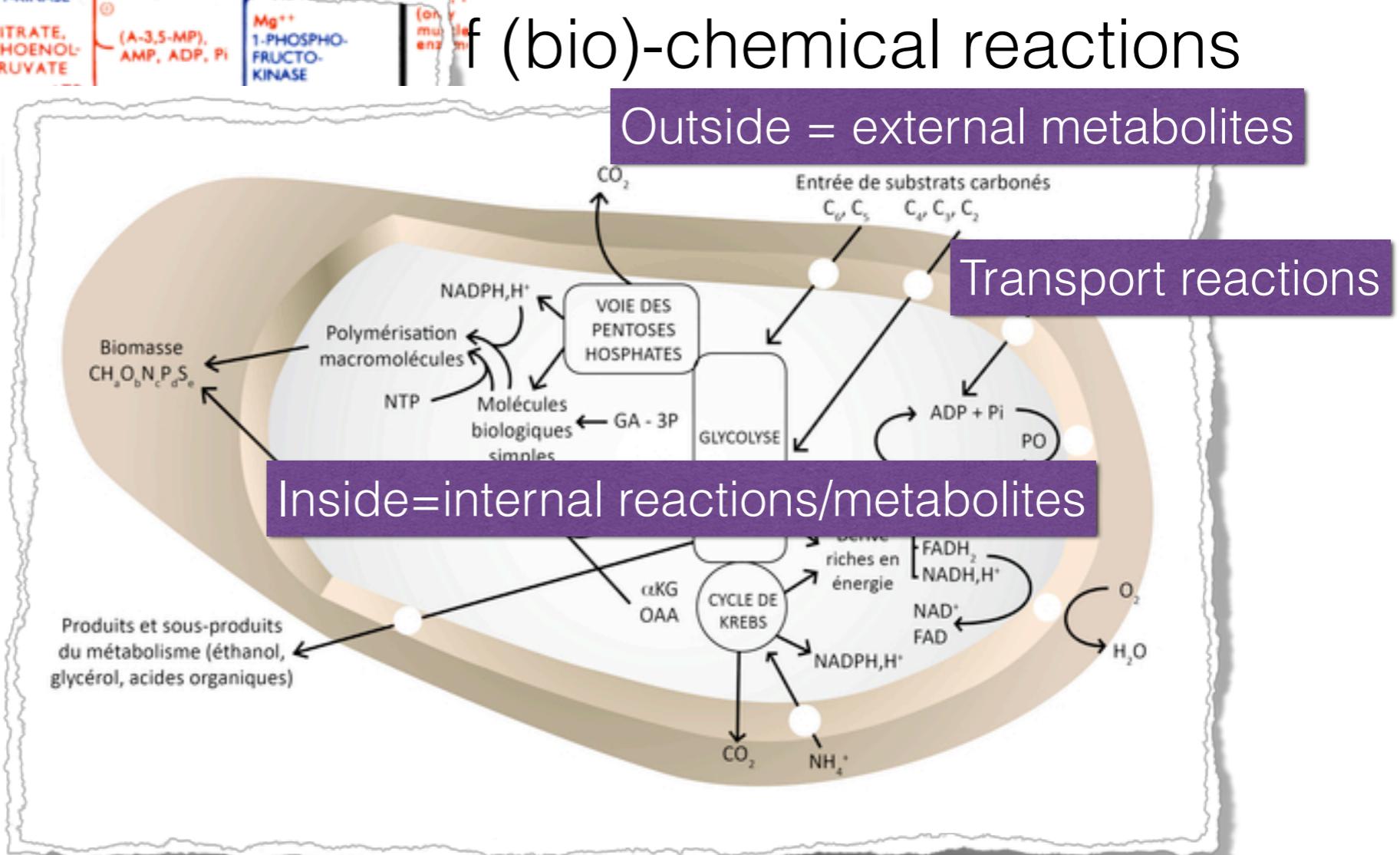
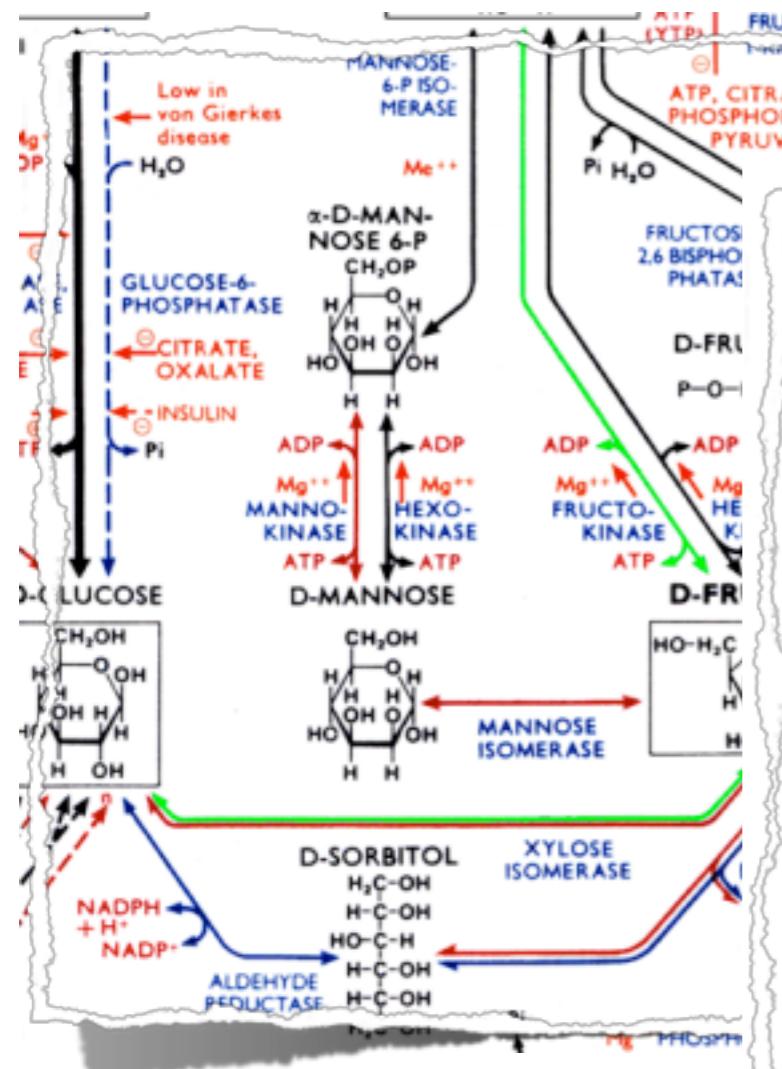
f (bio)-chemical reactions

Outside = external metabolites



- Metabolic Network – incomplete mathematical abstraction of the metabolism.

A few words on metabolism



- Metabolic Network – incomplete mathematical abstraction of the metabolism.

Mathematical modeling a very simple task !

Hypothesis 0: from now, we consider the metabolic network composed by (and only by) the possible biochemical reactions (the enzyme is present or it is not required).

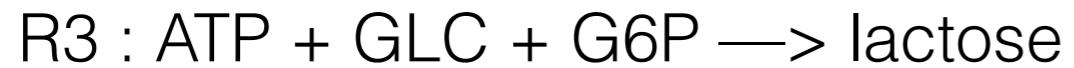


.....

	R1	R2	R3
GLC	-1	0	-1
ATP	-1	-1	-1
G6P	+1	-1	-1
G3P	0	+2	0
lactose	0	0	+1

Stoichiometric matrix S

Mathematical modeling a very simple task !



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Stoichiometric matrix S

The evolution of G6P concentration can be deduced by the speeds of reactions (i.e., fluxes) R1, R2 and R3

$$d[\text{G6P}](t)/dt = +1 * V_{R1} - 1 * V_{R2} - 1 * V_{R3}$$

Hypothesis 1: The metabolites can't accumulate in the cell.

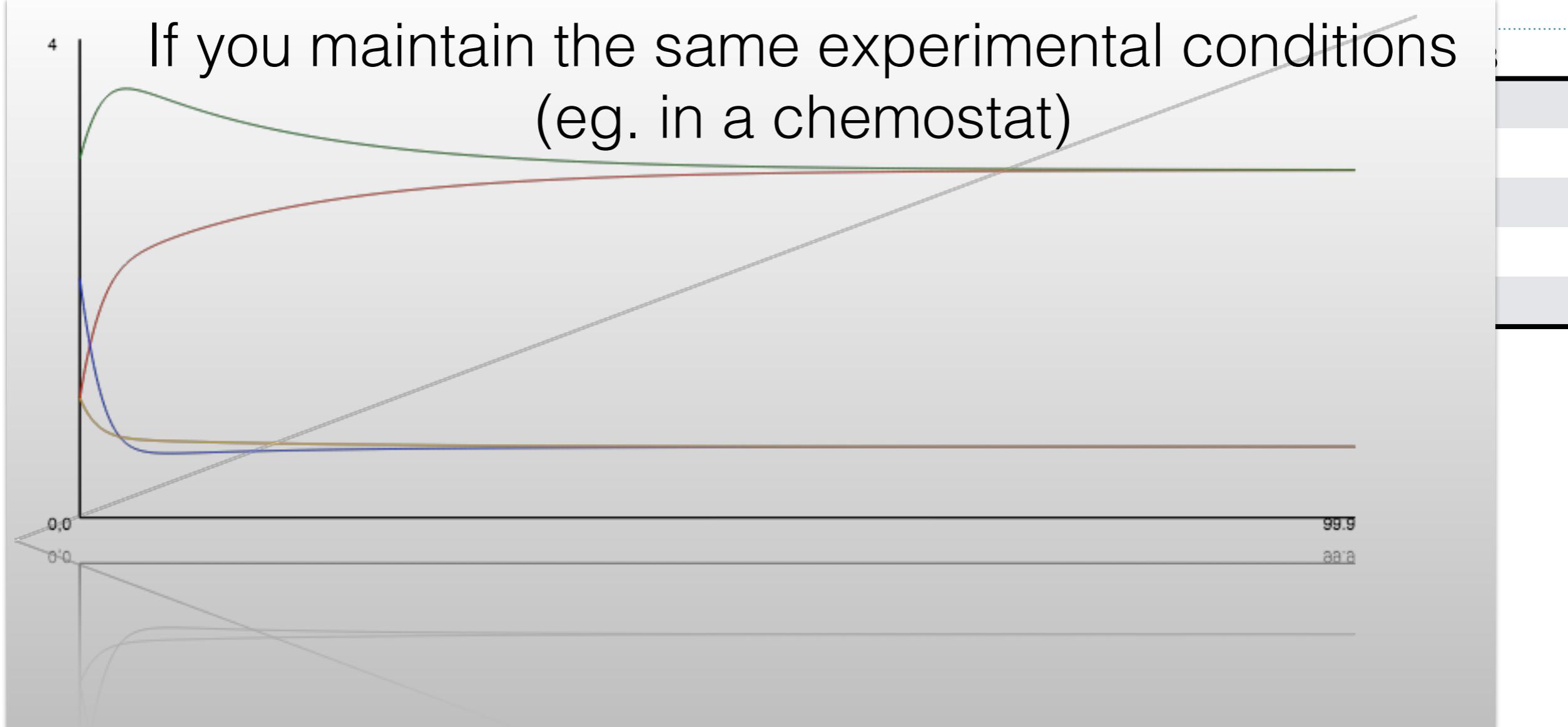
$$0 = d[\text{G6P}](t)/dt = +1 * V_{R1} - 1 * V_{R2} - 1 * V_{R3}$$

$$\text{i.e.,: } V_{R1} = V_{R2} + V_{R3}$$

NB : in a matrix notation, it rewrites as $S.v = 0$!

Mathematical modeling a very simple task !

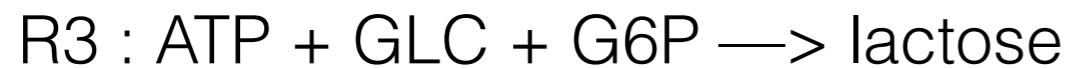
If you maintain the same experimental conditions
(eg. in a chemostat)



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Stoichiometric matrix S

The evolution of metabolites depends on the rates of reactions. Finding appropriate fluxes \approx solving systems of linear equations !!!
—> quite easy !

Hypothesis 1: The metabolites can't accumulate in the cell.

$$0 = d[\text{G6P}](t)/dt = +1 * V_{R1} - 1 * V_{R2} - 1 * V_{R3}$$

$$\text{i.e.,: } V_{R1} = V_{R2} + V_{R3}$$

NB : in a matrix notation, it rewrites as $S.v = 0$!

Mathematical modeling a very simple task !

Hypothesis 2 : There exists some thermodynamical constraints on the fluxes that imposes the reaction to be oriented (i.e., $V_R \geq 0$)

Hypothesis 2' : There exists some constraints due to the availability of the metabolic nutrient in the growth media (translates as $V_R \geq \text{constante}$ where R is a transport reaction)

Hypothesis 2'' : There exists some constraints the cell cannot be of infinite size.... (translates as $V_R \leq \text{constante}$)

The metabolic network is then described properly by giving its stoichiometric matrix S and some lower bound (lb) and upper bound (ub) such that $lb \leq v \leq ub$.

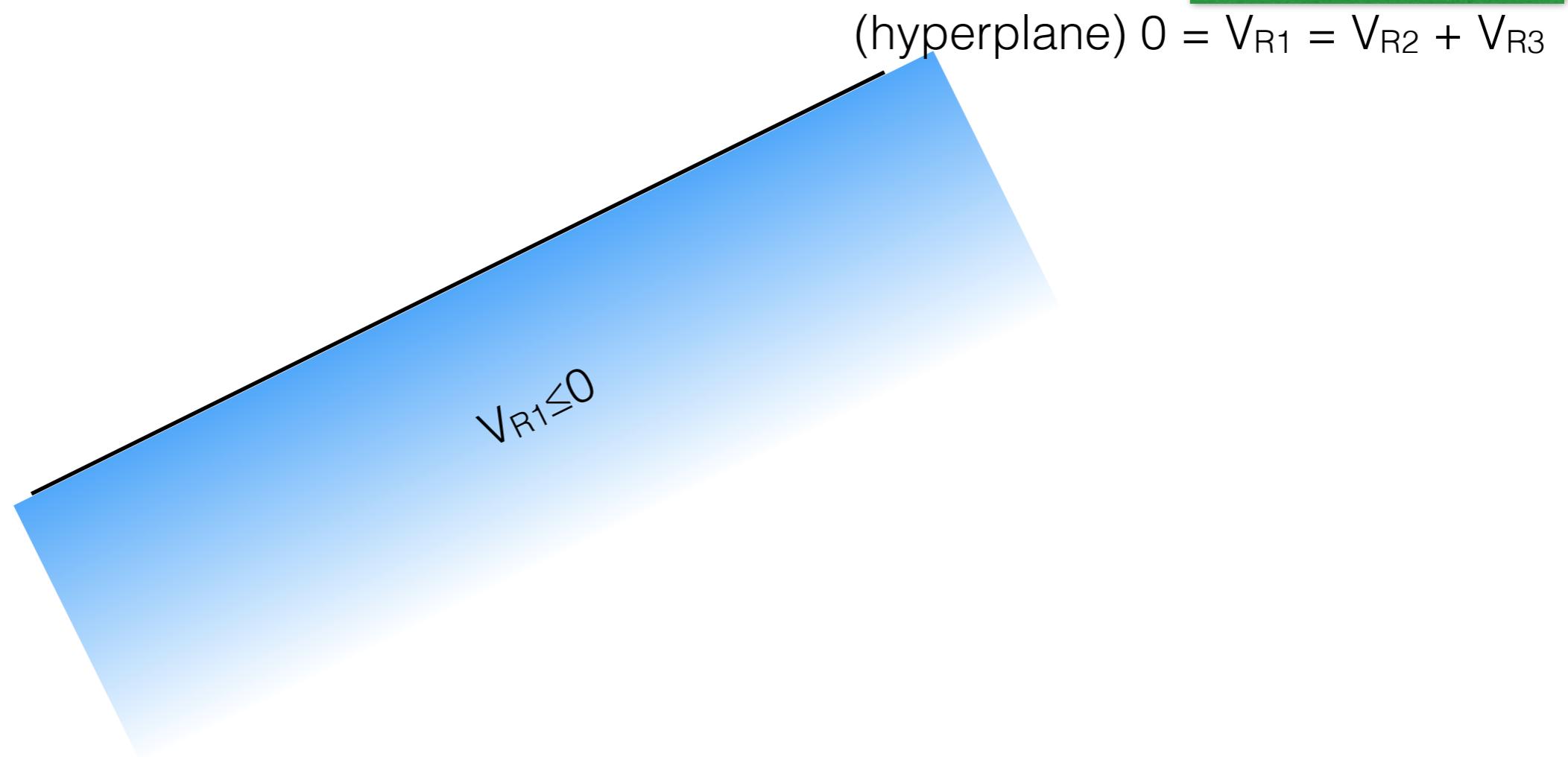
$$\begin{aligned} V_{R1} &= V_{R2} + V_{R3} \\ V_{R4} &= V_{R2} \\ V_{R3} &= V_{R4} - V_{R1} \\ V_{R2} &= V_{R1} + 2V_{R3} \\ \dots & \end{aligned}$$

The set of possible fluxes is
a convex polyhedron !

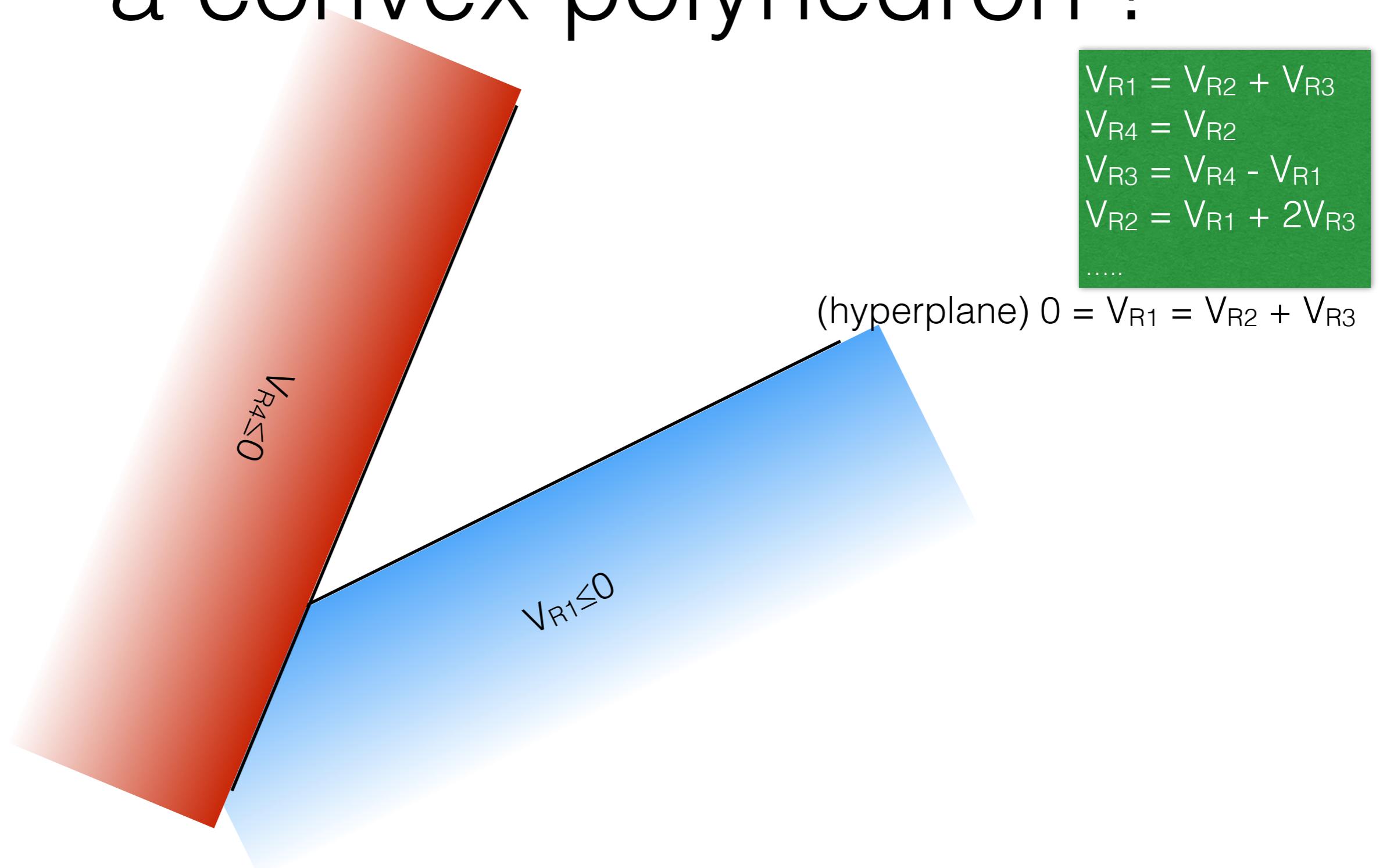
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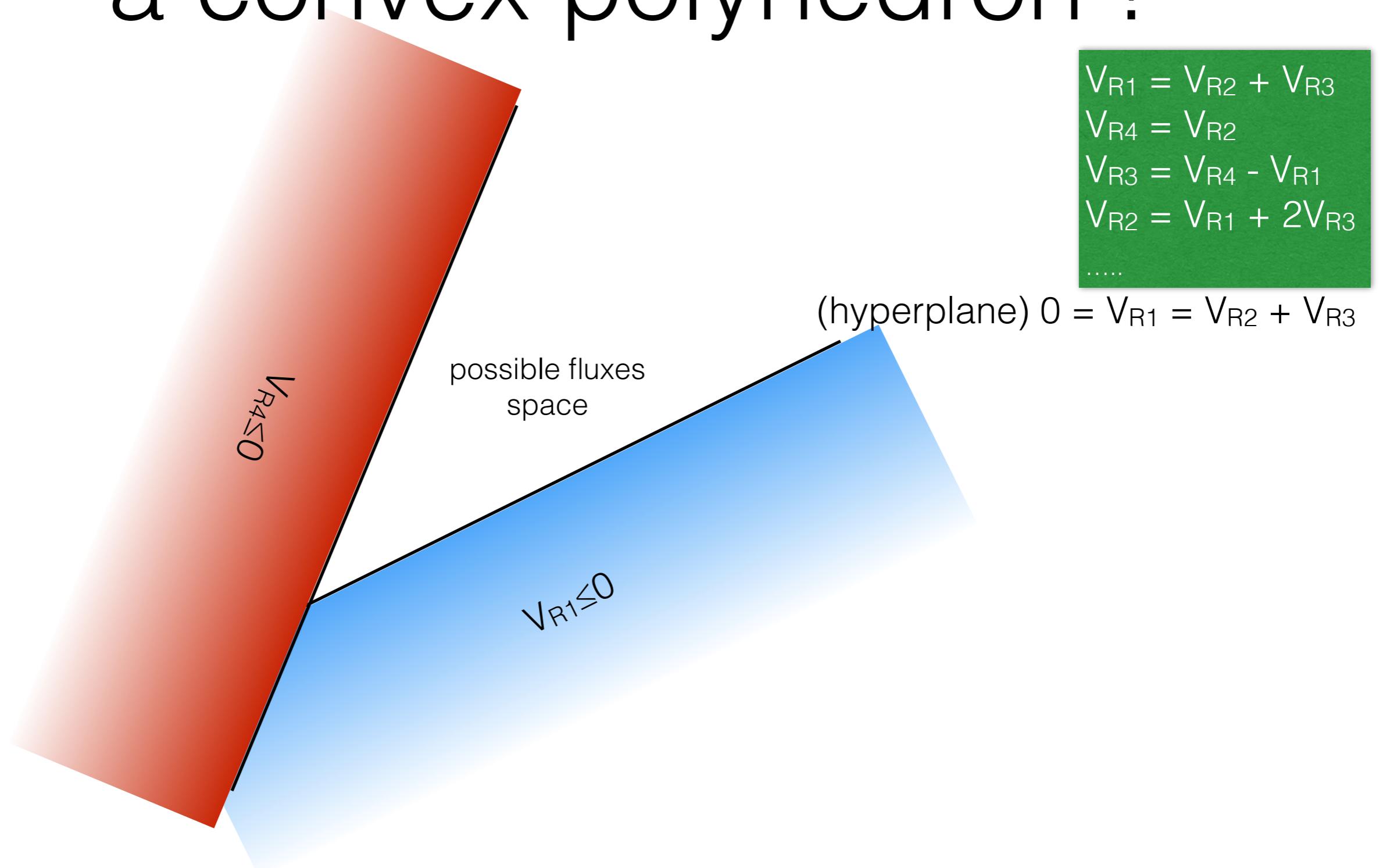
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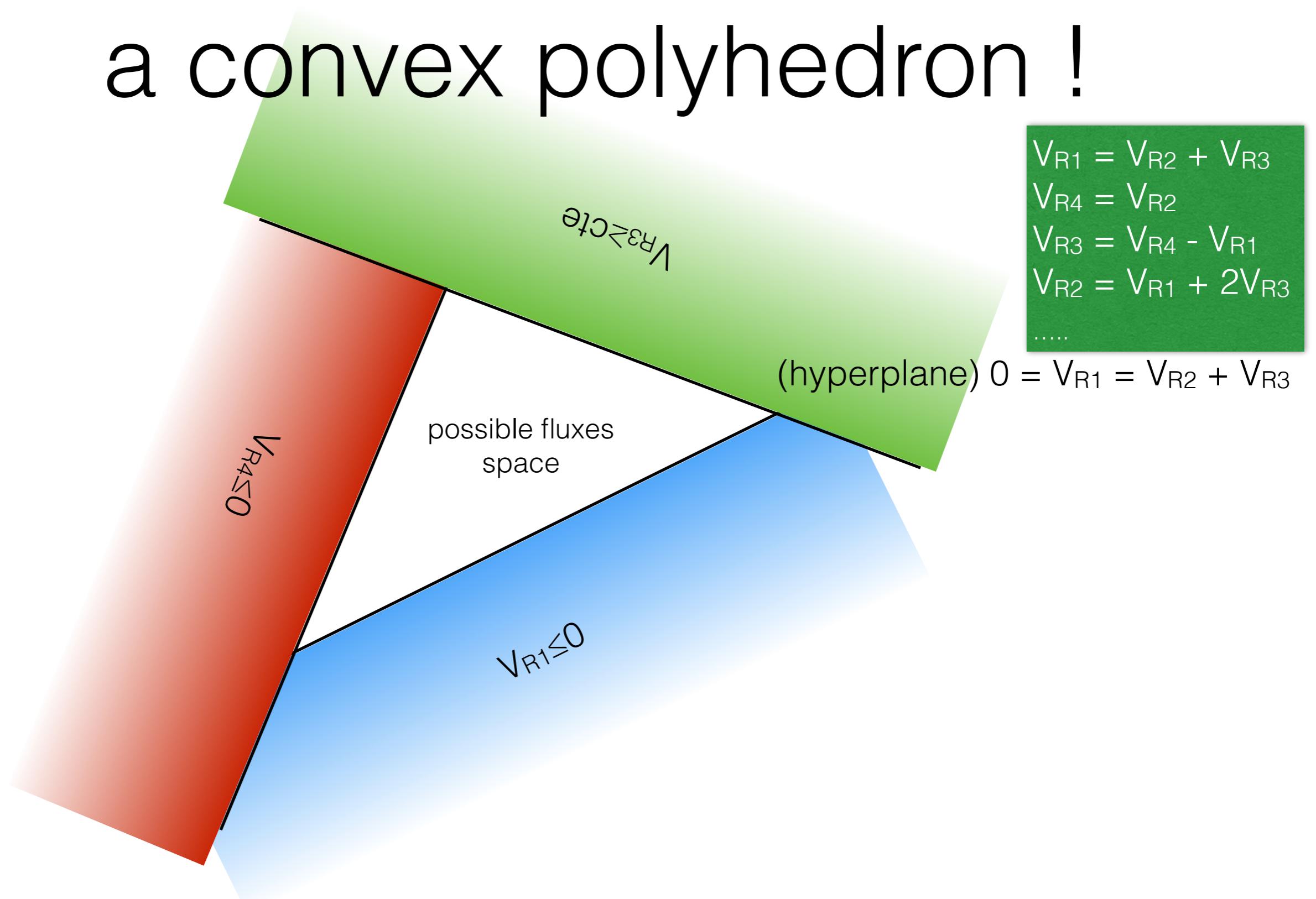
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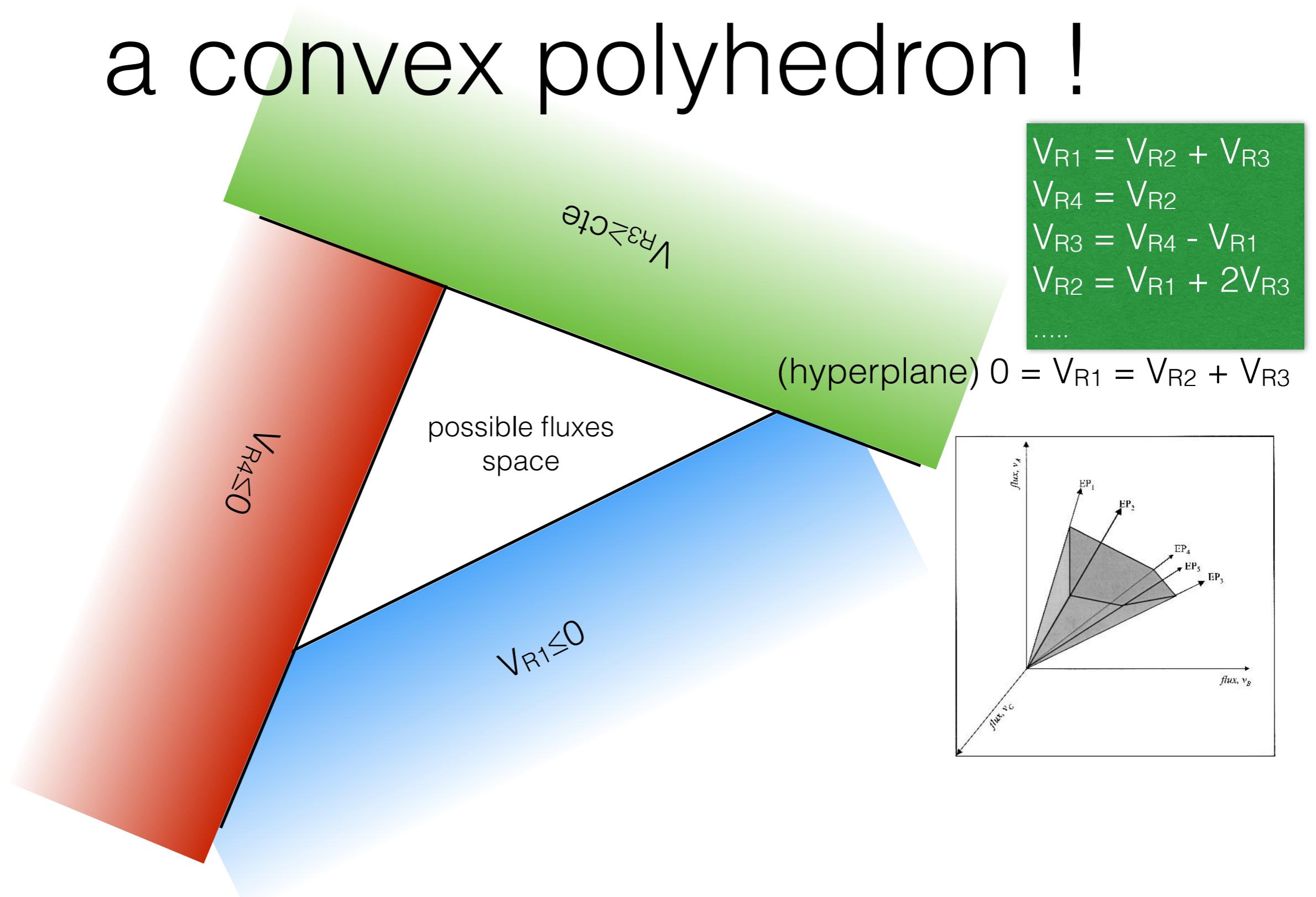
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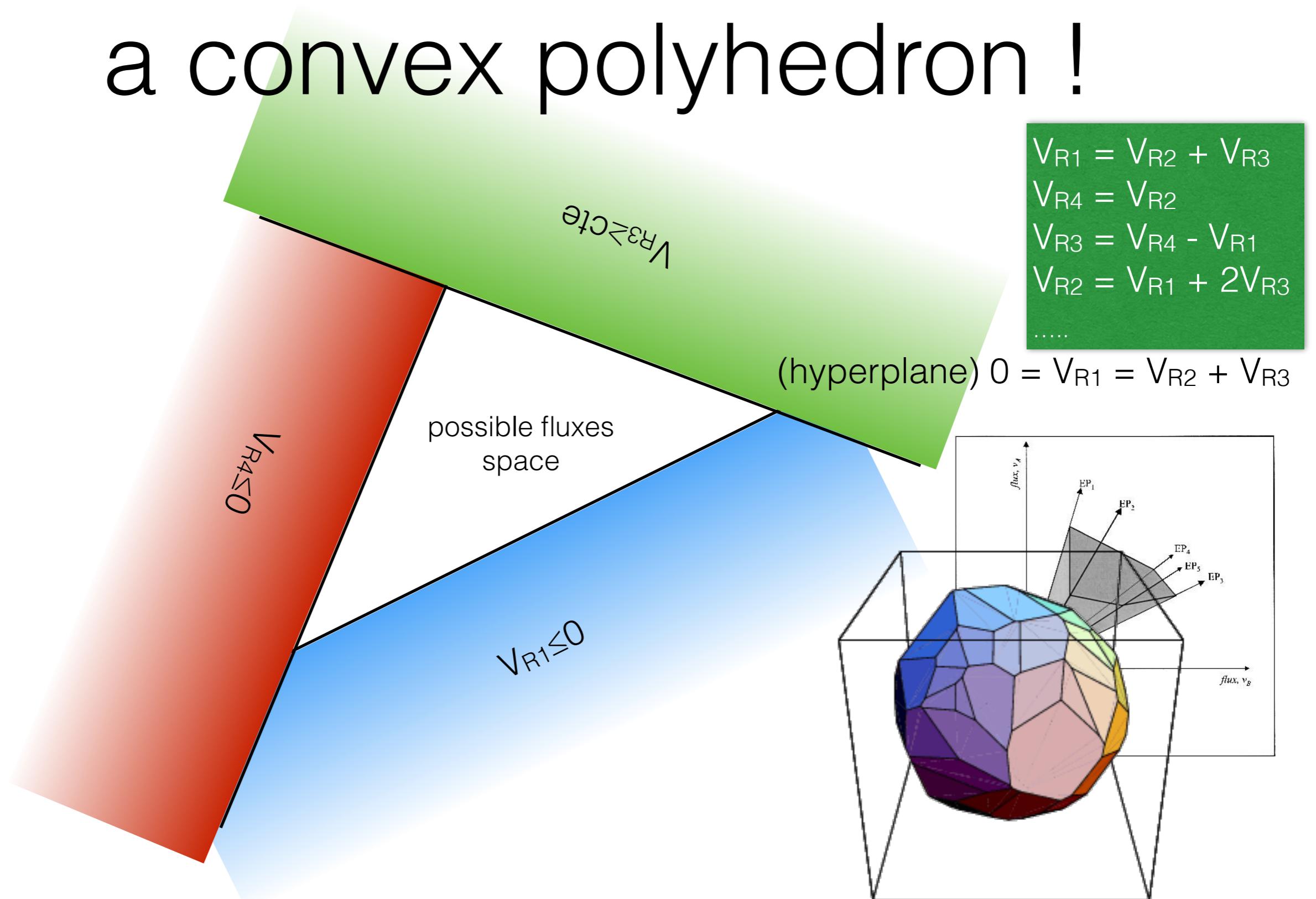
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The set of possible fluxes is a convex polyhedron !



The set of possible fluxes is a convex polyhedron !



Why it is so important ?

From biology to computer science and back....

- There exists some very efficient algorithms that solves optimization problems when the solution is to be found in a convex polyhedron (=simplex).
- In computer science, it refers as Linear Programming (LP), Quadratic Programming (QP) or Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) depending on the shape of the function that has to be optimized in the convex polyhedron.

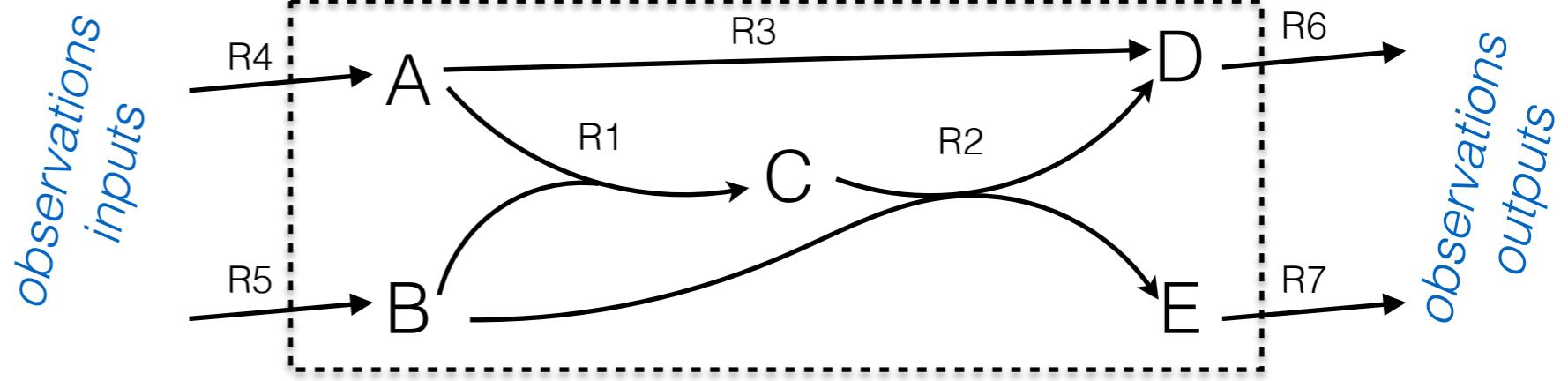
Why it is so important ?

From biology to computer science and back....

- There exist solvers optimized to be found in biological problems that can handle it and interpret the obtained results in a biological flavor
- In computer science, the solution is found by solving Quadratic Programming (QP) or Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) depending on the shape of the function that has to be optimized in the convex polyhedron.

Example

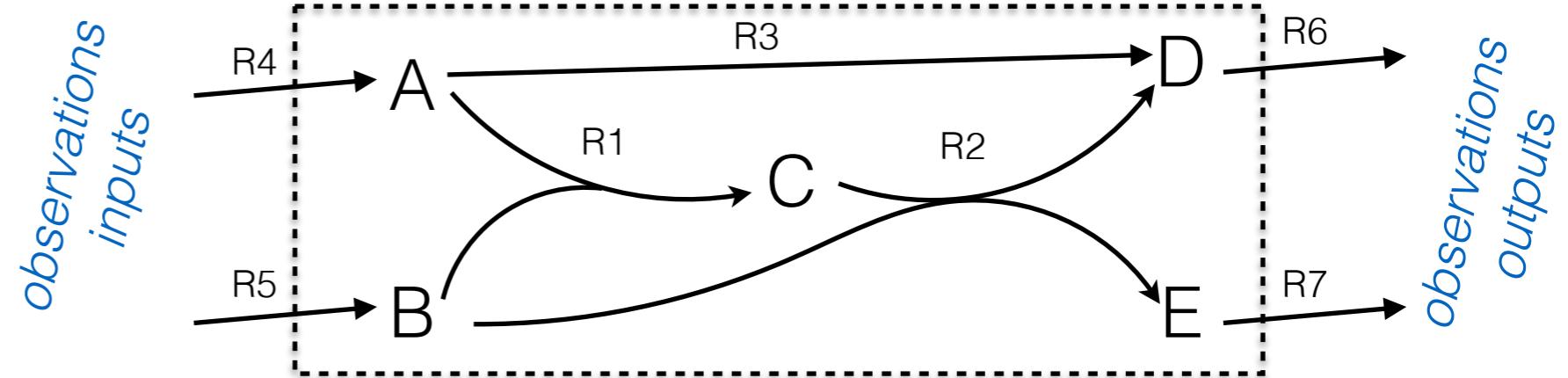
R1 : $2A + B \rightarrow C$
R2 : $B + C \rightarrow D + 2E$
R3 : $4A \rightarrow D$
R4 : $\rightarrow A$
R5 : $\rightarrow B$
R6 : $D \rightarrow$
R7 : $E \rightarrow$



- Question 1 : Write the stoichiometric matrix
Question 2 : Write the linear system that has to be solved
Question 3 : Suppose that we observe $V_4 = 1$ and $V_7 = 1$ and solve the system
Question 4 : Suppose that we observe $V_4 = 1$ and $V_7 = 2$ and solve the system
Question 5 : All the reactions are irreversible. Plot the solution set. Suppose now that $V_4 > 1$ and $V_7 > 1$.
Question 6 : One has $V_4 < 6$ and $V_7 < 4$. What is the solution that maximizes $V_4 + V_7$?

Example

$R1 : 2A + B \rightarrow C$
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 $R7 : E \rightarrow$



Question 1 : Write the stoichiometric matrix

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
A	-2	0	-4	1	0	0	0
B	-1	-1	0	0	1	0	0
C	+1	-1	0	0	0	0	0
D	0	+1	1	0	0	-1	0
E	0	+2	0	0	0	0	-1

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
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R6 : D \longrightarrow
 R7 : E \longrightarrow

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D	0	+1	1	0	0	-1	0
E	0	+2	0	0	0	0	-1

R6 : D → C R7 : E → B

for A : $V_4 = 2 V_1 + 4 V_3$

for B : $V_5 = V_1 + V_2$

for C : $V_1 = V_2$

for D : $V_2 + V_3 = V_6$

for E : $2 V_2 = V_7$

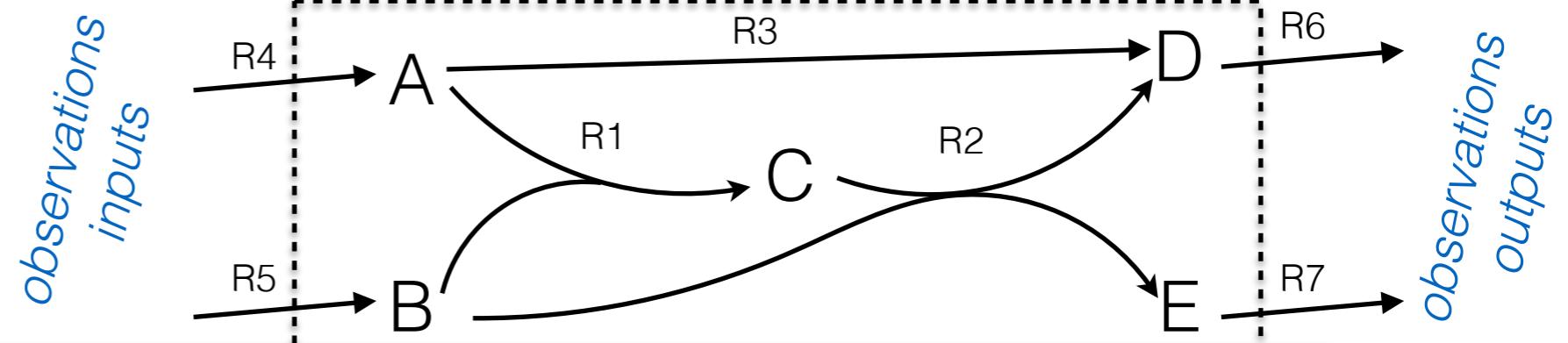
$V_1 = V_2, V_5 = V_7 = 2 V_2, V_6 = V_2 + V_3$ and $V_4 = 2 V_2 + 4 V_3$

only 2 unknowns but we must observe one of V_4 or V_6 and one of V_5 or V_7 .

*observations
outputs*

Example

$R1 : 2A + B \rightarrow C$
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 $R4 : \rightarrow A$
 $R5 : \rightarrow B$
 $R6 : D \rightarrow$



for A : $V4 = 2 V1 + 4 V3$
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 for C : $V1 = V2$
 for D : $V2 + V3 = V6$
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$V1 = V2, V5 = V7 = 2 V2, V6 = V2 + V3$ and $V4 = 2 V2 + 4 V3$

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$V_1 = V_2 = 0.5, V_3 = 0, V_4 = 1, V_5 = 1, V_6 = 0.5, V_7 = 1$

for A : $V_4 = 2V_1 + 4V_3$
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for C : $V_1 = V_2$
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$$V_1 = V_2 = 0.5, V_3 = 0, V_4 = 1, V_5 = 1, V_6 = 0.5, V_7 = 1$$

$$V_1 = V_2 = 1, V_3 = -0.25, V_4 = 1, V_5 = 2, V_6 = 0.75, V_7 = 1$$

The flux of an irreversible reaction is necessarily positive !!

$$V_1 = V_2, V_5 = V_7 = 2 V_2, V_6 = V_2 + V_3 \text{ and } V_4 = 2 V_2 + 4 V_3$$

↓ expresses by means of V_4 and V_7

$$V_1 = V_2 = V_7/2, V_3 = (V_4 - V_7)/4, V_5 = V_7 \text{ and } V_6 = (V_4 + V_7)/4$$

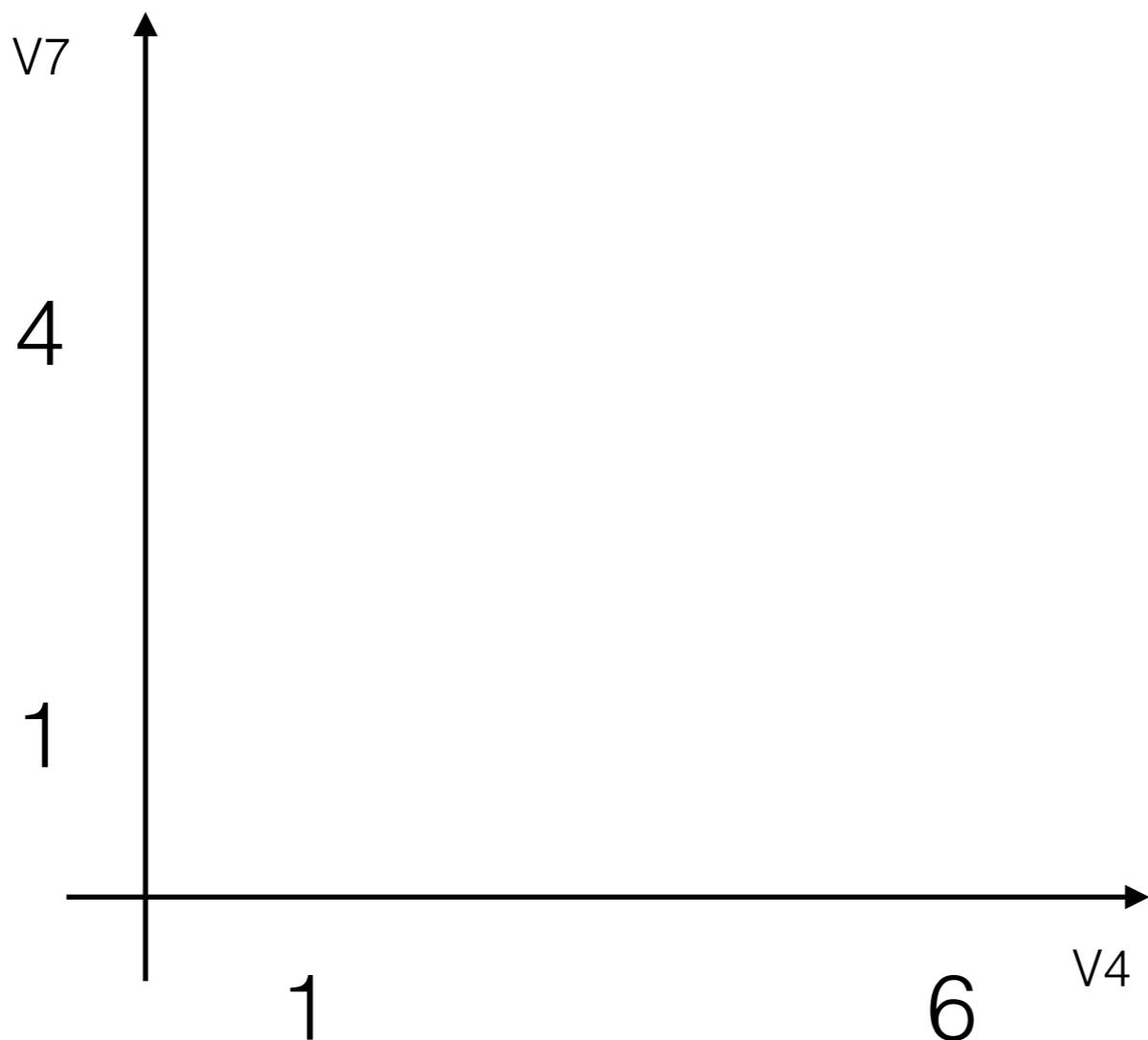
$$1 < V_4 < 6, 1 < V_7 < 4 \text{ and } V_1, \dots, V_6 > 0$$

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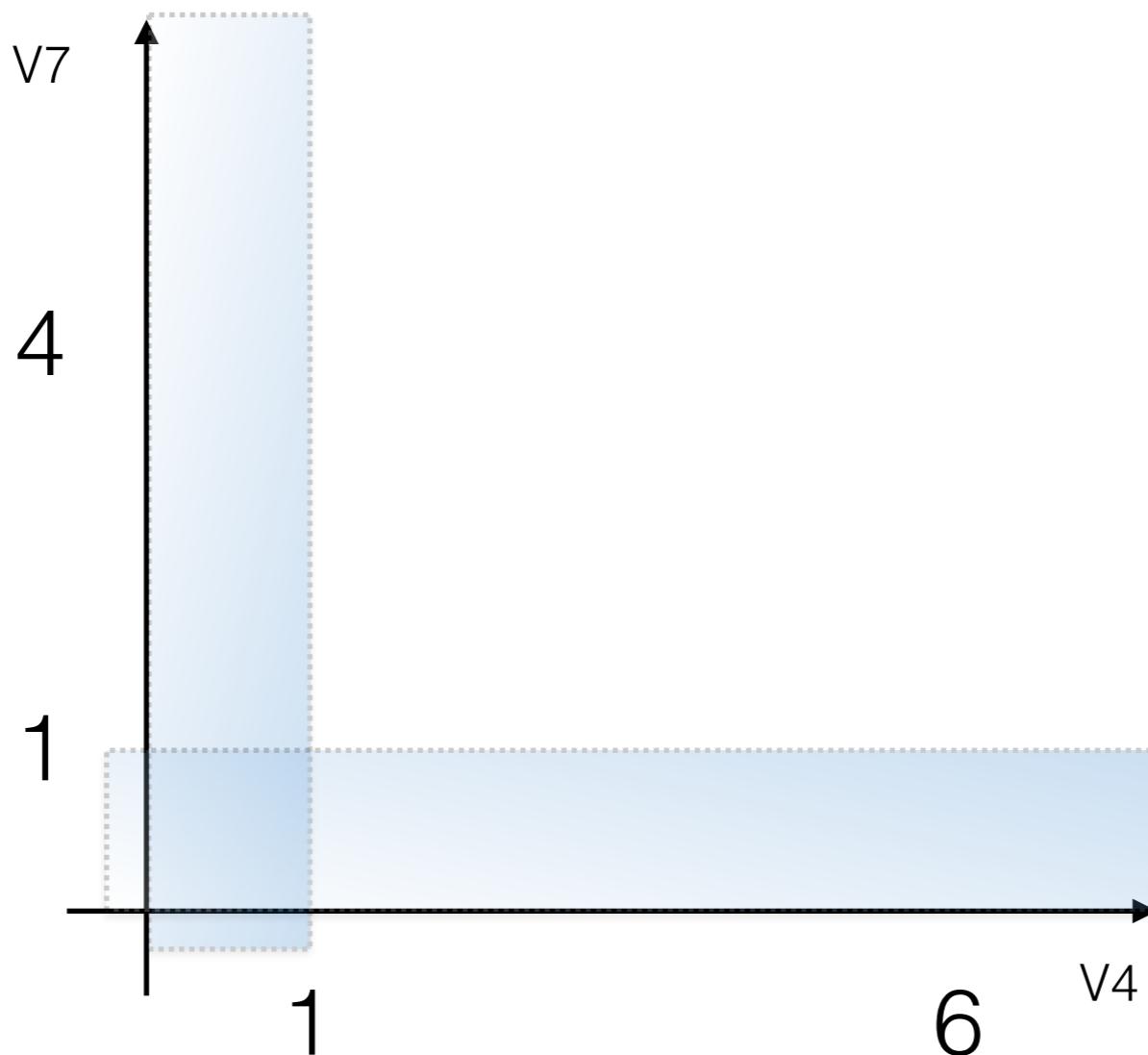


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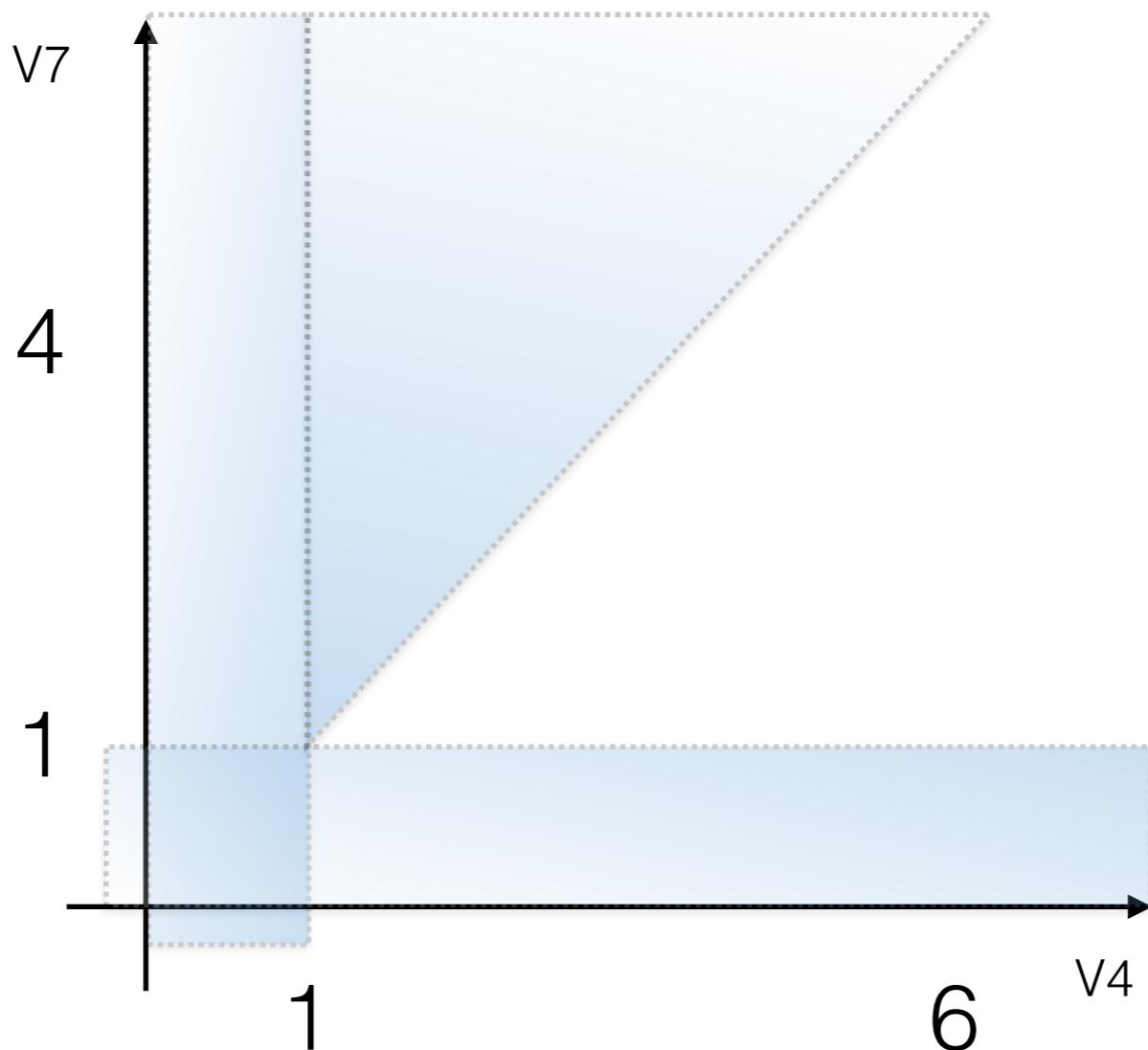


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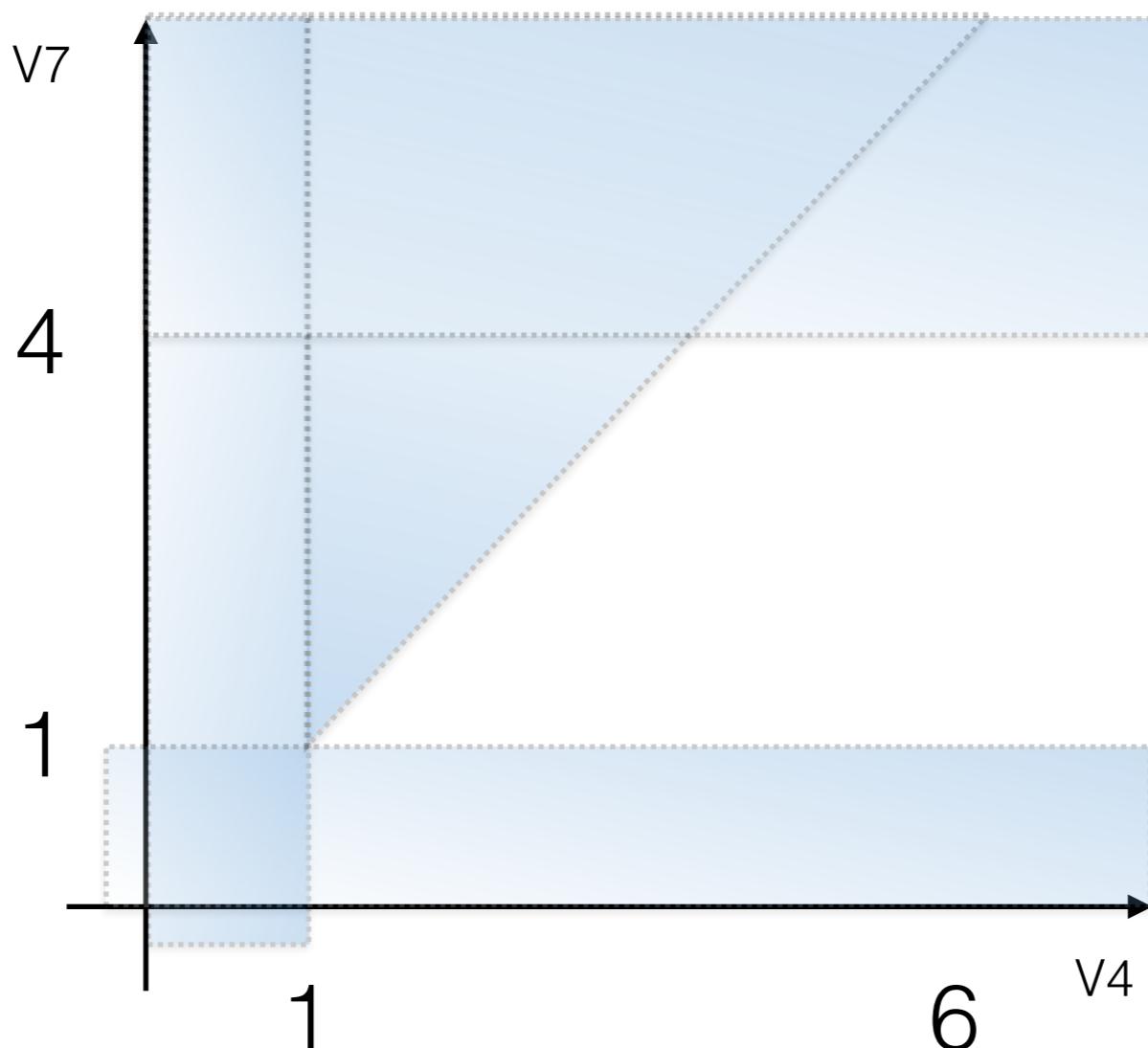


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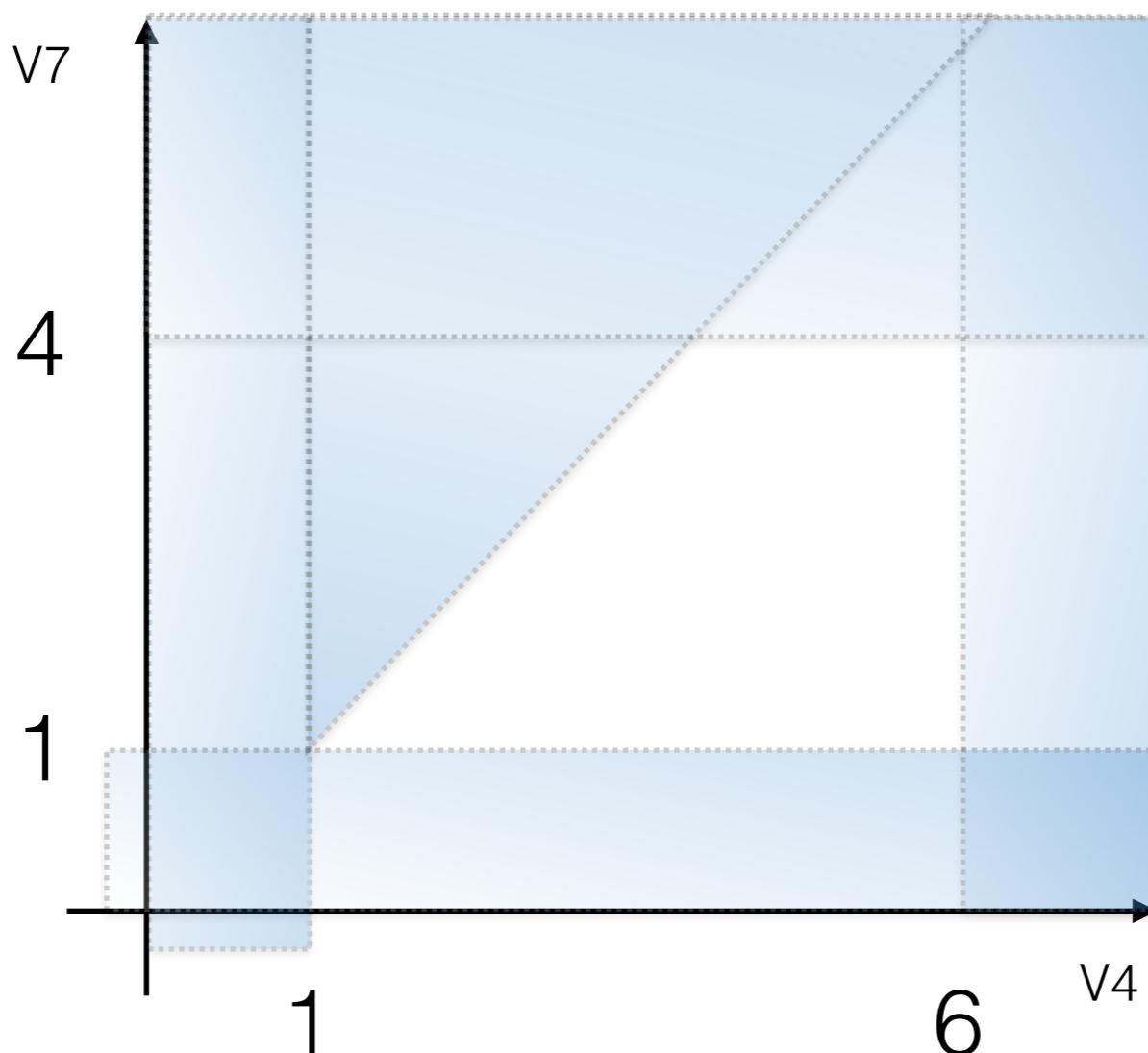


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$1 < V_4 < 6, 1 < V_7 < 4$ and $V_1, \dots, V_6 > 0$

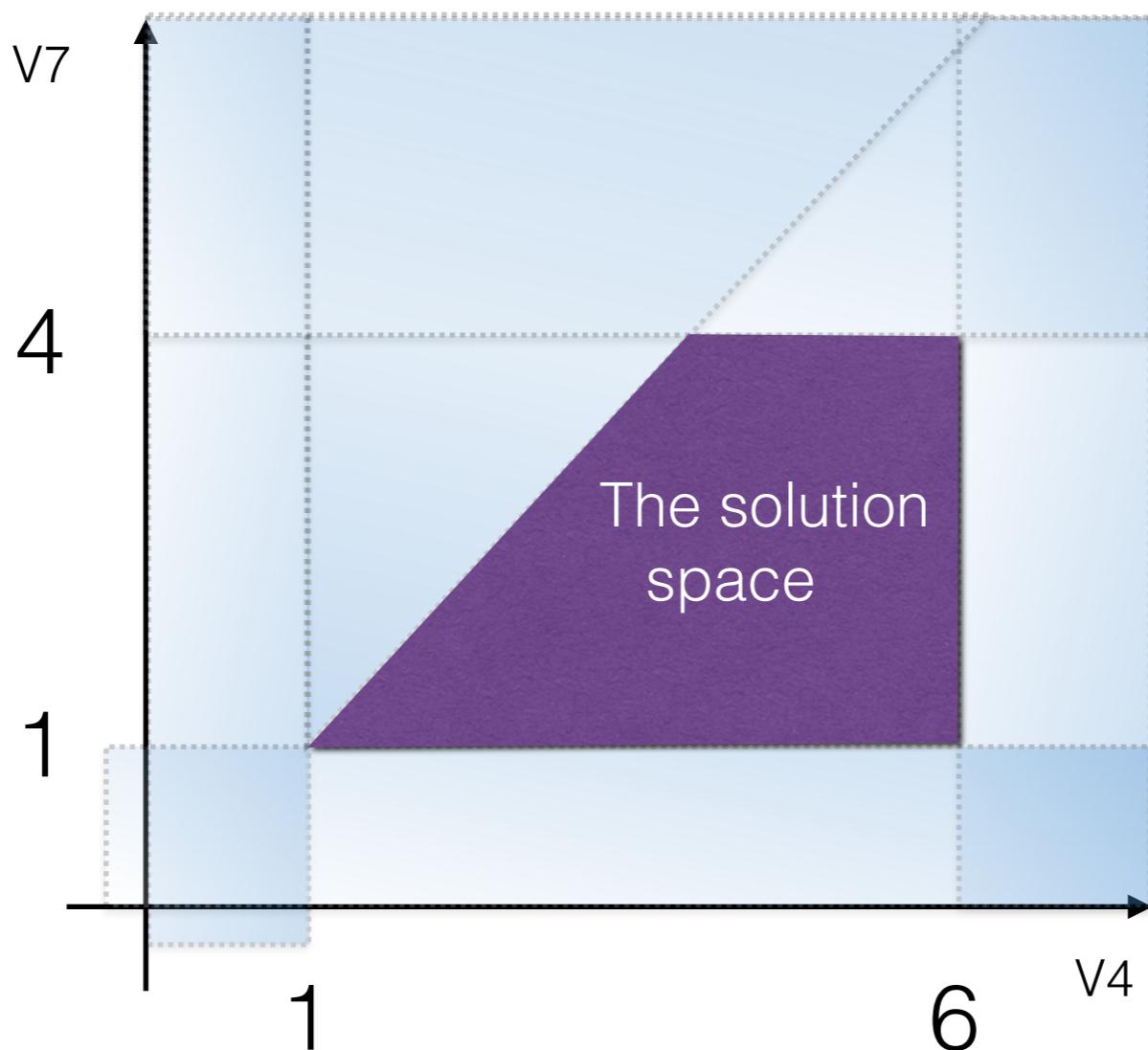


$$V_1 = V_2, V_5 = V_7 = 2V_2, V_6 = V_2 + V_3 \text{ and } V_4 = 2V_2 + 4V_3$$

↓ expresses by means of V_4 and V_7

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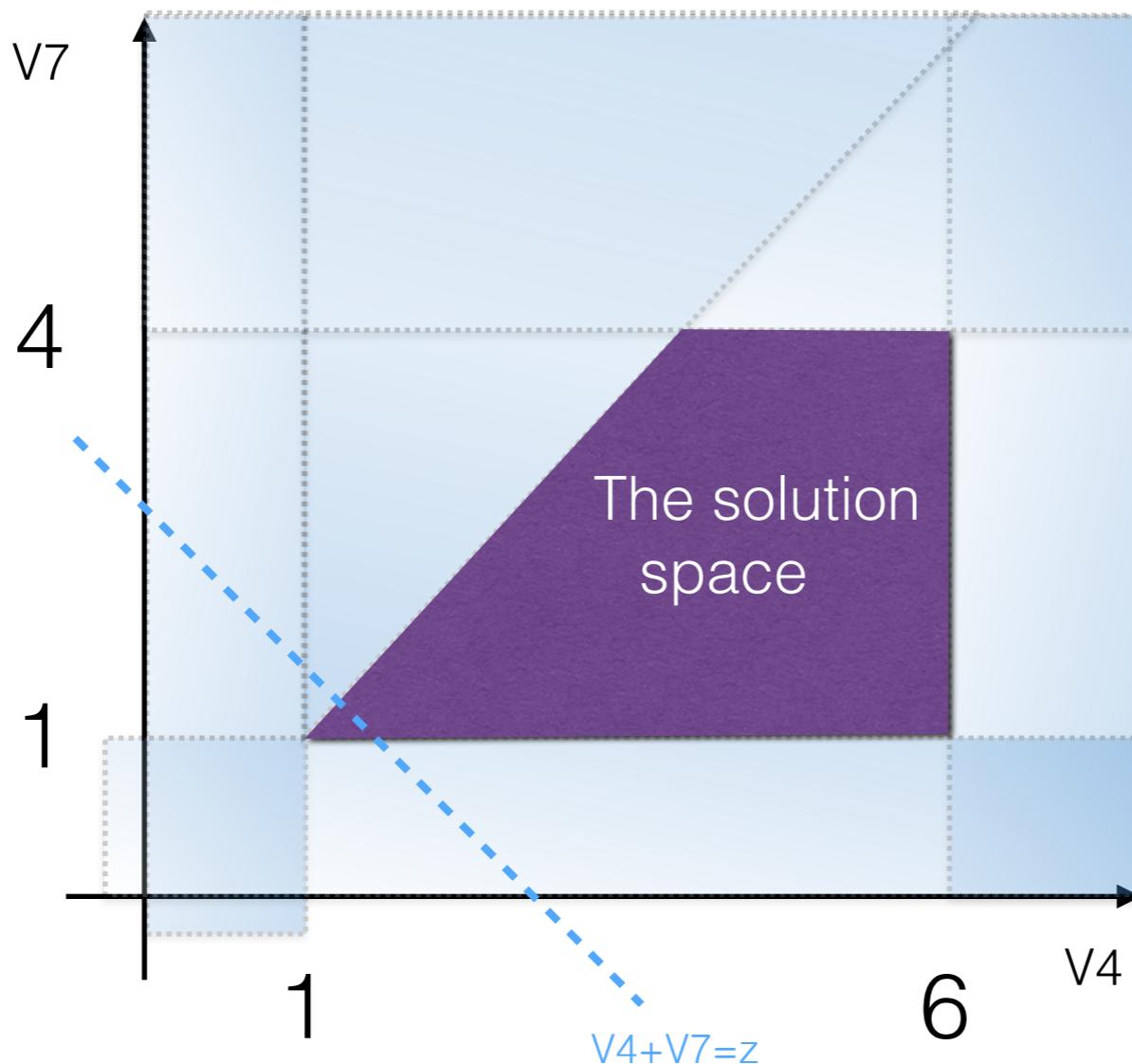


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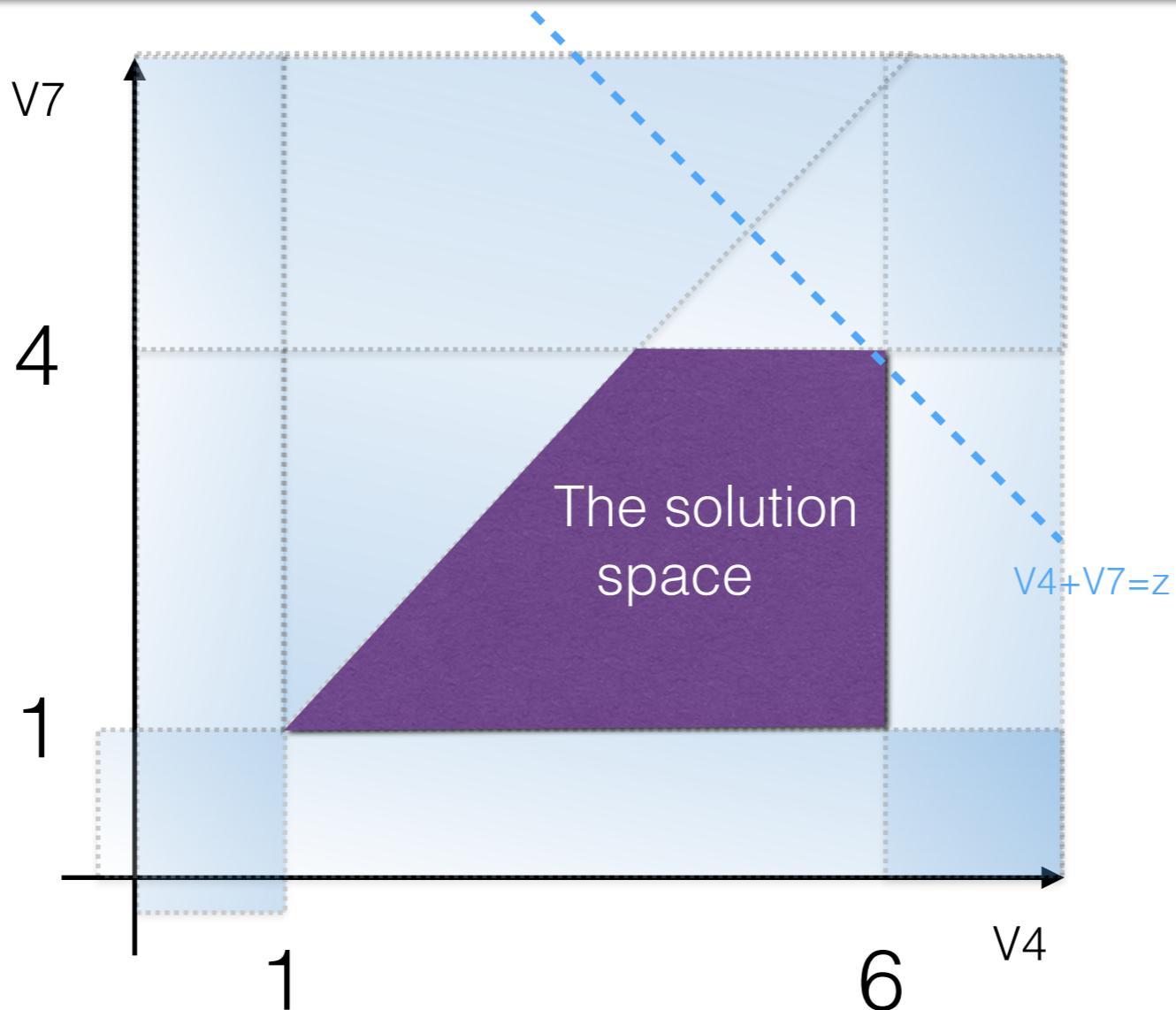


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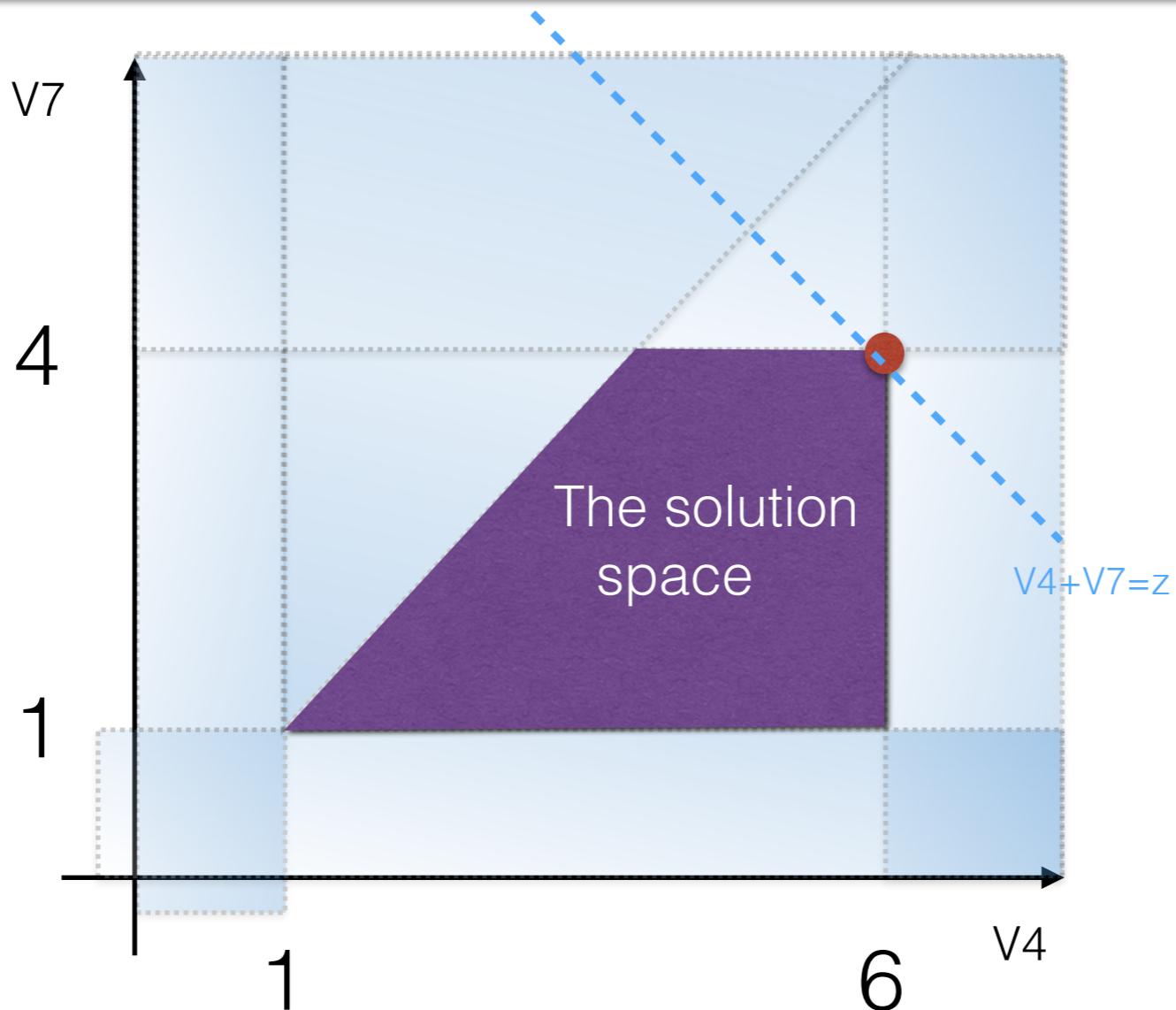


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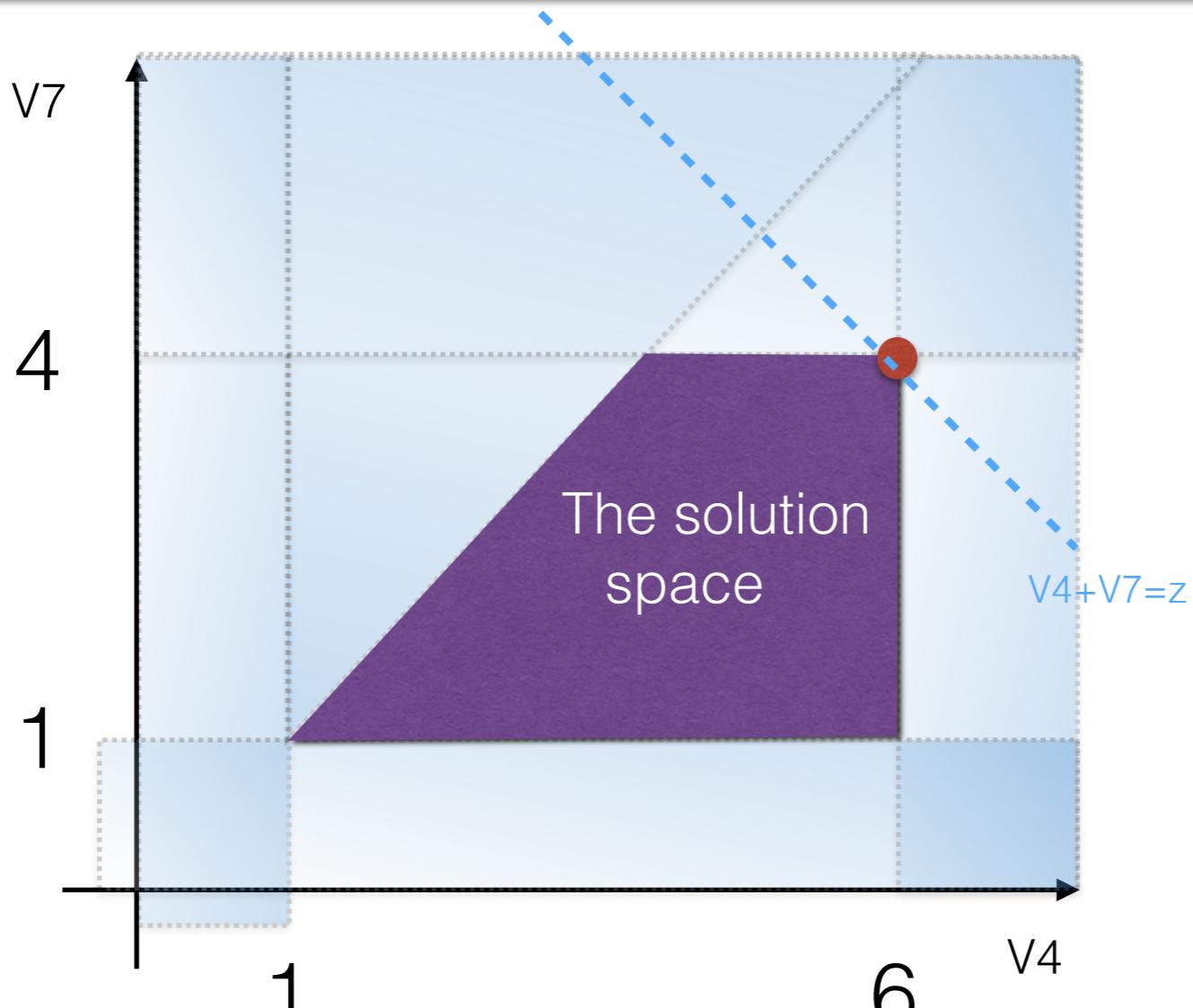


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$$1 < V_4 < 6, 1 < V_7 < 4 \text{ and } V_1, \dots, V_6 > 0$$



z is maximal when

$$V_1 = V_2 = 2, V_3 = 0.5, V_4 = 4, V_5 = 4, V_6 = 2.5 \text{ and } V_7 = 6$$

$$V_1 = V_2, V_5 = V_7 = 2V_2, V_6 = V_2 + V_3 \text{ and } V_4 = 2V_2 + 4V_3$$

↓ expresses by means of V_4 and V_7

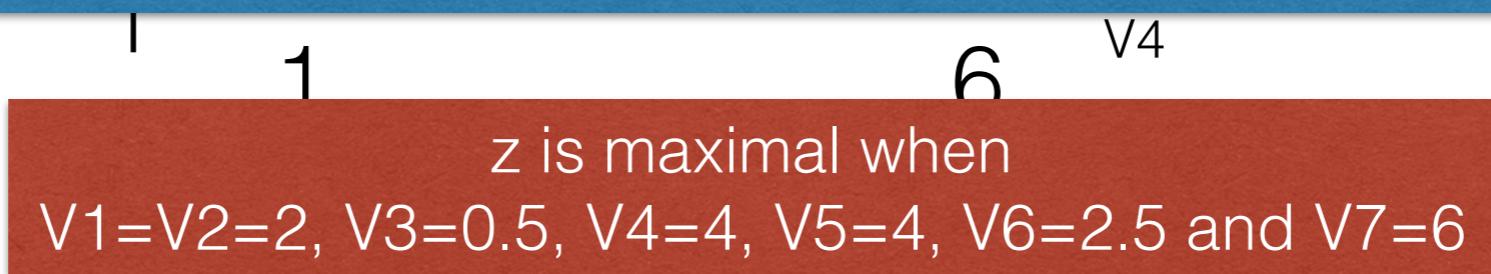
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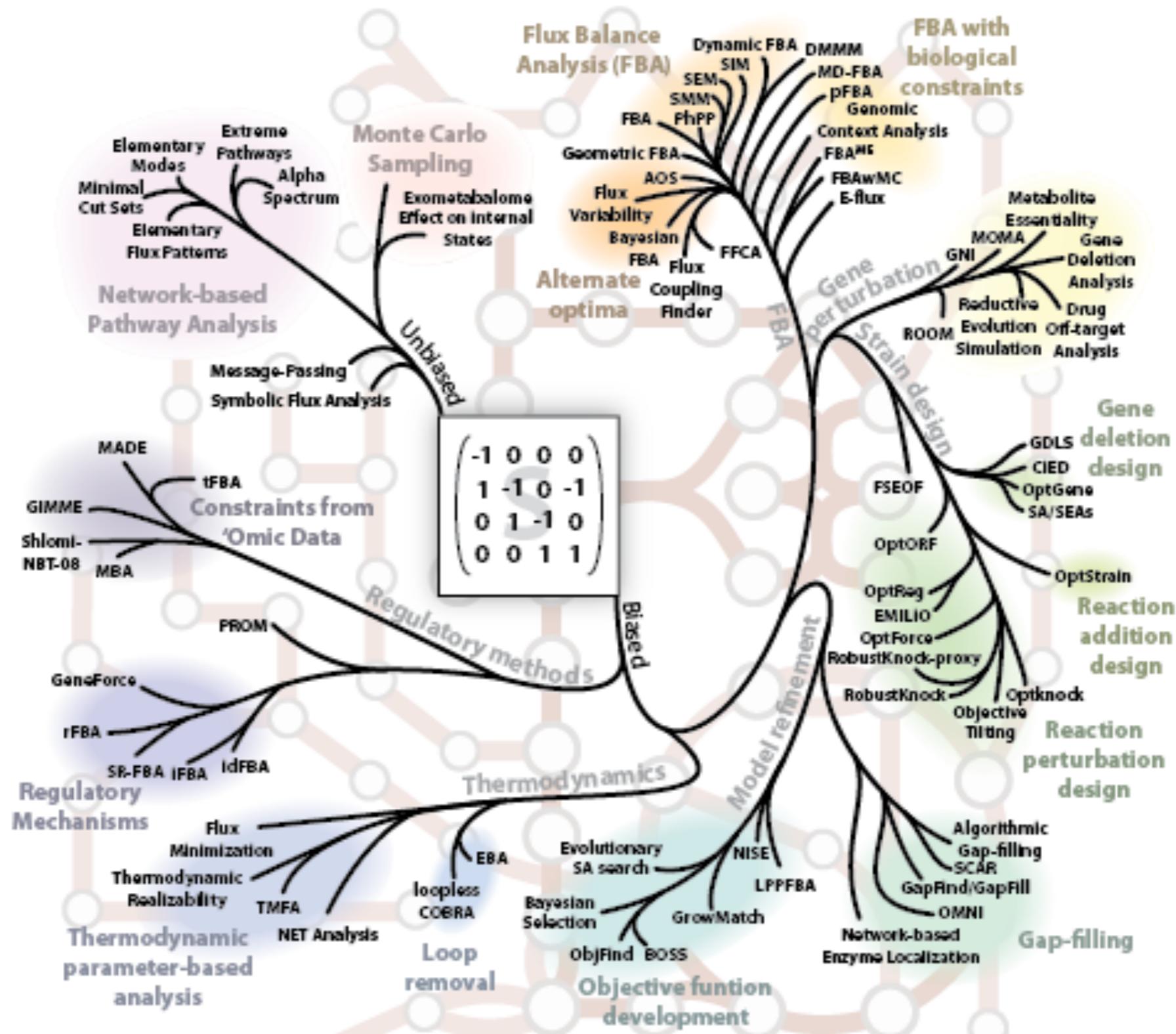


In higher dimensions,

1. The figure defined by inequalities on linear expressions is always convex (it is a convex polyhedra also known as a simplex)
2. The optimal value of a linear expression is always on a vertex of the simplex (or on a face for very particular objectives)
3. Very efficient algorithms (such as the simplex algorithm) can find these optima



Many tools



Focus 1 : Flux Balance Analysis

Objective : find an optimal flux vector (i.e., a flux vector for which a given objective function is maximal)

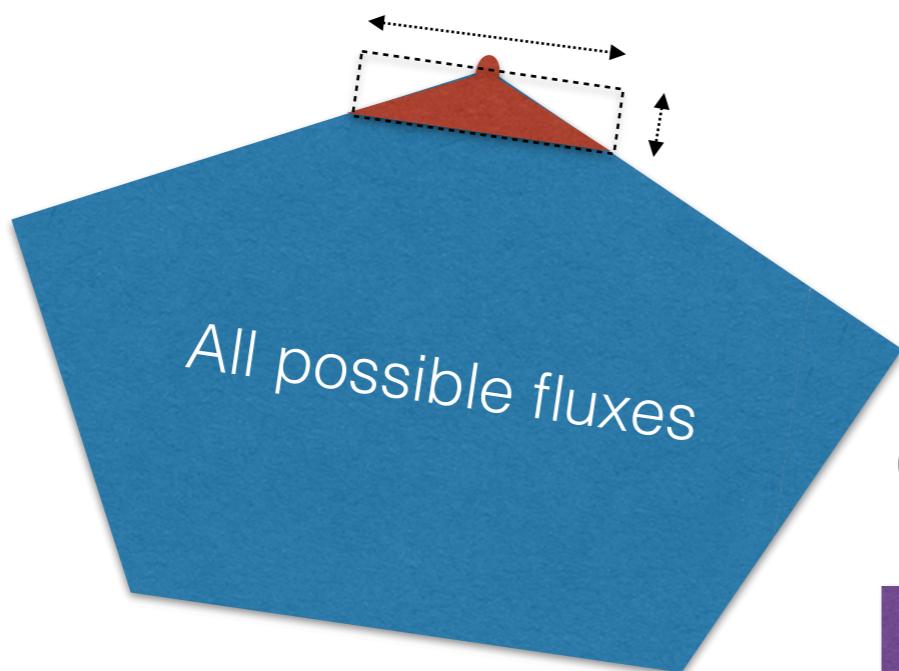


↑
Objective function (or vector)

Maximize_v obj(v)
s.t. $Sv = 0$
 $lb < v < ub$

Focus 2 : Flux Variability Analysis

Objective : Approximate the shape of the flux space around an optimal point

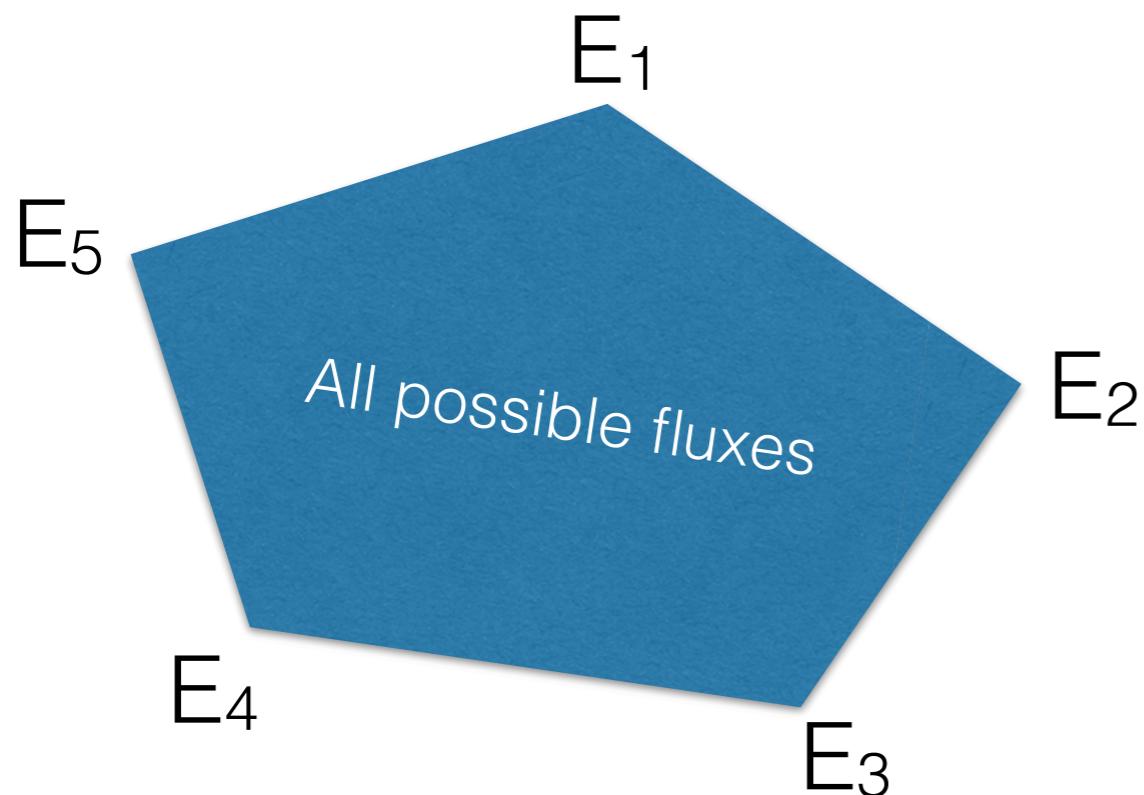


Objective function (or vector)

For all i , Min/Maximize_v v_i
s.t. $Sv = 0$
 $l_b < v < u_b$
 $f(v) > \alpha f_{fba}$

Focus 3 : Flux space description

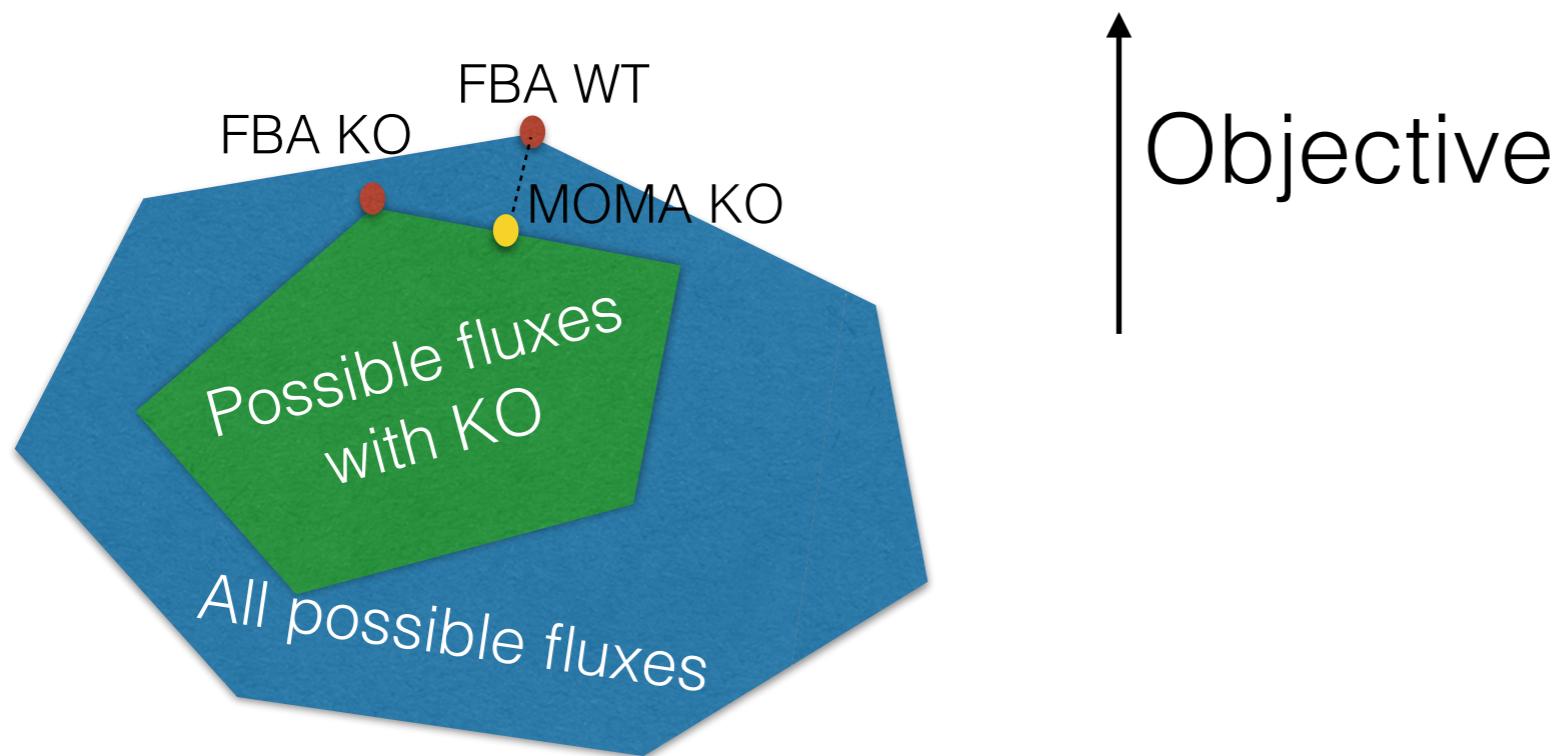
Objective : Describe (in an algebraic manner) the solution space in order to manipulate it. Several ways for defining an appropriate description (=basis)



Example problem :
Computes E_i such that
For all possible flux v
 $v = \sum_i \lambda_i E_i$
With $\lambda_i \geq 0$ unique
 $\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$

Focus 4 : Gene/reaction knockout

Objective : Study the effect of a gene/reaction knockout (with application to metabolic engineering)



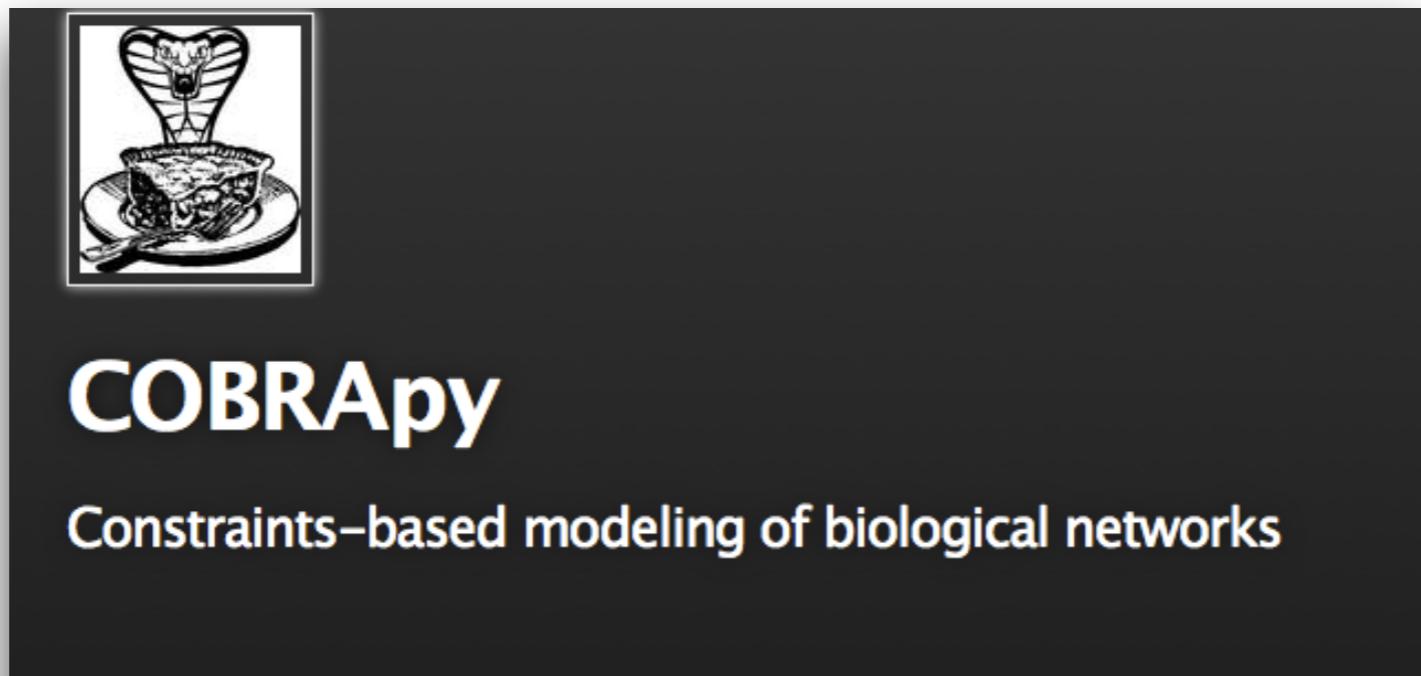
MOMA = minimization of metabolic adjustment

Why do we need a computer ?

- Current human metabolism has
 - 1,789 enzyme-encoding genes,
 - 7,440 reactions
 - 2,626 unique metabolites
- Study of the flux variations => $7440 * 2 * \text{FBA}$
- Study of single gene knock out => $1789 * \text{FBA}$
- Study of double gene knock out => $1789^2 * \text{FBA}$

Many tools

Many tools



The screenshot shows a software interface for COBRApy. At the top, there is a logo consisting of a snake coiled around a fork and knife, resting on a plate with a piece of pie. Below the logo, the word "COBRApy" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath that, the text "Constraints-based modeling of biological networks" is displayed in a smaller white font. The main body of the interface is white and contains three blue links: "Installation", "Documentation", and "Help". At the bottom, there is a footer bar featuring the Utah State University logo, the text "UC San Diego", and the text "systems biology research group" next to a circular icon.

COBRApy

Constraints-based modeling of biological networks

[Installation](#)

[Documentation](#)

[Help](#)

 Utah State University

UC San Diego  systems biology research group