

1 **Title:** Mathematical expressions describing enzyme velocity and inhibition at high enzyme  
2 concentration

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21

22 **ABSTRACT**

23

24 Enzyme behaviour is typically characterised in the laboratory using very diluted solutions  
25 of enzyme. However, *in vivo* processes usually occur at  $[S_T] \approx [E_T] \approx K_m$ . Furthermore, the  
26 study of enzyme action usually involves analysis and characterisation of inhibitors and  
27 their mechanisms. However, to date, there have been no reports proposing mathematical  
28 expressions that can be used to describe enzyme activity at high enzyme concentration  
29 apart from the simplest single substrate, irreversible case. Using a continued fraction  
30 approach, equations can be easily derived to apply to the most common cases in  
31 monosubstrate reactions, such as irreversible or reversible reactions and small molecule  
32 (inhibitor or activator) kinetic interactions. These expressions are simple and can be  
33 understood as an extension of the classical Michaelis-Menten equations. A first analysis of  
34 these expressions permits to deduce some differences at high vs low enzyme  
35 concentration, such as the greater effectiveness of allosteric inhibitors compared to  
36 catalytic ones. Also, they can be used to understand catalyst saturation in a reaction.  
37 Although they can be linearised following classical approaches, these equations also show  
38 some differences that need to be taken into account. The most important one may be the  
39 different meaning of line intersection points in Dixon plots. All in all, these expressions may  
40 be useful tools for the translation *in vivo* of *in vitro* experimental data or for modelling *in*  
41 *vivo* and biotechnological processes.

42

43

## 44 INTRODUCTION

45

46 Enzymes in the laboratory are usually assayed in conditions that are considered close to  
47 the *in vivo* conditions but, actually, they may differ significantly in some aspects from those  
48 governing their action in the cell. This includes variations in pH, crowding and ionic  
49 strength, among others. Particularly, it is very frequent to observe that, *in vivo*, enzymes  
50 are catalysing reactions in conditions where the concentration of substrate is close to that  
51 of the enzyme. On the contrary, in the laboratory, a typical enzyme assay is done in  
52 conditions where the concentration of the enzyme is as low as possible. This difference is  
53 a major one to understand the real activity of enzymes *in vivo*, because although it is  
54 usually assumed there exists a linear relationship between enzyme concentration and  
55 activity [1] that is not necessarily the case. The usual approaches for prediction of the  
56 initial velocity of an enzyme reaction assume either a fast substrate-enzyme binding  
57 equilibrium (FE), as originally proposed by Michaelis and Menten [1] or, more often, a  
58 quasi-steady state for the variation in the concentration of the enzyme-substrate complex  
59 (QSS), as the modification introduced by Briggs and Haldane [2]. In addition, both  
60 approaches assume that the concentration of the enzyme is negligible compared to that of  
61 the substrate. This is an important assumption when deriving the rate expressions and the  
62 one that dictates how enzyme assays are done in the laboratory. Several mathematical  
63 approaches have been proposed to derive expressions that could be valid in conditions  
64 where the concentration of the enzyme and substrate are close [3–6]. Moreover, a so-  
65 called inverse Michaelis-Menten expression has been proposed for interfacial enzyme  
66 kinetics [7]. However, to the best of this researcher's knowledge, none yet have dealt with  
67 situations different from the simplest irreversible single substrate reaction.

68 In addition to an interest in describing the biochemistry of living organisms unperturbed, in  
69 pharmacology and biochemistry it is especially important the capacity to describe the  
70 effect of small molecules on enzyme activity, such as inhibitors and activators. Again, small  
71 molecules are assayed and characterised using low enzyme concentrations, but since  
72 target enzymes in the cell are in much closer ratios with their substrates, the effect of  
73 those small molecules *in vivo* may depart from the behaviour found *in vitro*.

74

75 From the point of view of the experimental biochemist, the mathematical expressions  
76 describing enzyme action *in vivo*, or in a biotechnological setting, should ideally use  
77 parameters that can be easily estimated in the laboratory. In addition, the possibility of

78 creating plots that can show differences between assay or living conditions can help in the  
79 interpretation of results. From the point of view of teaching biochemistry, the use of  
80 uncomplicated algebra and calculus is a bonus when explaining the derivation of those  
81 expressions.

82

83 In this study, I present a series of mathematical expressions useful to describe the velocity  
84 of monosubstrate enzyme reactions in different conditions when the concentration of the  
85 enzyme is near that of the substrate. Those can be used with estimates of parameters  
86 obtained in the laboratory at low enzyme-to-substrate concentration ratios to obtain  
87 biologically relevant conclusions.

88

## 89 **RESULTS**

90

### 91 ***Derivation of expressions for monosubstrate irreversible reactions***

92 The CF approximation to solving [ES] under QSS assumption leads to the expression  
93 (Supplemental Material 1, B):

94

$$95 \quad (1) \quad [ES] \approx \frac{[S_T] \cdot [E_T]}{K_m + [E_T] + [S_T]}$$

96 Expression (1) can be reduced to either that obtained using standard Michaelis-Menten  
97 assumptions (sMM) [2]

$$98 \quad (1b) \quad [ES] = \frac{[E_T][S]}{[S] + K_m}$$

99 or the inverse Michaelis-Menten (iMM) [7]

$$100 \quad (1c) \quad [ES] = \frac{[E][S_T]}{[E] + K_m}$$

101 in cases where  $[E_T] \ll [S_T]$  or  $[E_T] \gg [S_T]$ , respectively. Therefore, (7) can be understood  
102 as an extended Michaelis-Menten (eMM) bridging two extremes. Indeed, a comparison  
103 between the values estimated for [ES] using one as a token value for  $K_m$  show that  
104 expression (1) produces approximate values of [ES] ( $[ES]_a$ ) that show a similar behaviour  
105 to the real value throughout the range of  $[E_T]$  and  $[S_T]$  values (Figure 1A), although they  
106 underestimate the true value of [ES]. Greater accuracy can be obtained by higher degree  
107 approximants or a wise use of the sMM and iMM (Figure 1A and 1B). Nevertheless, a first  
108 degree approximant already provides a much closer approximation to the value of [ES]

109 than sMM or iMM approaches when the whole range of  $[S_T]$  and  $[E_T]$  is taken into account  
110 (Figure 1A and 1B). The relative value of the error for (1) was found never to exceed 0.4  
111 (Figure 1B), while that for sMM and iMM increased exponentially as conditions departed  
112 from the assumed ones for their derivation.

113 When  $[E_T]$  was assumed constant at a very low concentration (e.g.  $[E_T] = 0.001 \cdot K_m$ ), it  
114 could be observed that  $[ES]_a$  from both sMM and eMM produced curves that overlapped  
115 the values obtained using the exact solution (expression (11)) over the range  $0 \geq [S_T] \leq$   
116  $10 \cdot K_m$ , while iMM generated gross overestimations (Figure 1C). As  $[E_T]$  is increased, the  
117 curves generated by sMM and eMM separated from the true value of  $[ES]$ . For example, if  
118  $1 = [E_T] = K_m$ , sMM produced moderate overestimations while eMM underestimated the  
119 value of  $[ES]$  (Figure 1D). These deviations tended to asymptotically converge with the  
120 true value of  $[ES]$  at high  $[S_T]$ . This behaviour was exacerbated if greater  $[E_T]$  were  
121 contemplated (Figure 1E). A similar phenomenon can be observed if  $[S_T]$  is kept constant  
122 and curves are created over ranges of  $[E_T]$  similar to those used in Figures 1C to 1E for  
123  $[S_T]$  (data not shown). However, in that case, sMM is the expression providing gross  
124 overestimations, while iMM produces moderate overestimations, and eMM keeps on  
125 producing moderate underestimations of the true value of  $[ES]$ .

126

127 QSS assumption may not be appropriate in all cases. Nevertheless, the CF approach can  
128 also be used using FE assumptions and, in the present case, leads to the similar  
129 expression (supplemental material 1C):

130

131 (2) 
$$[ES] \approx \frac{[S_T] \cdot [E_T]}{K_s + [E_T] + [S_T]}$$

132

133 Expressions (1) and (2) can be used to provide rate laws for a monosubstrate irreversible  
134 reaction under the conditions stated (Table 1). In particular, under QSS assumption:

135

136 (3) 
$$\frac{d[P]}{dt} = \frac{V_{max} \cdot [S_T]}{K_m + [E_T] + [S_T]}$$

137

138 As it is easily observed in (3), the catalytic efficiency, i.e. the value of the kinetic constant  
139 for the reaction when it shows first order kinetics, is not  $V_{max}/K_m$  but  $V_{max}/(K_m + [E_T])$ . This

140 also leads to the observation that  $K_m$  does not coincide with either the concentration of  
 141 substrate providing  $1/2V_{max}$  or the abscissa value of the intersection point between the  
 142 lines describing the velocity of the reaction when first order and when zero order. In both  
 143 cases, it is easily demonstrated that the value for both is  $K_m+[E_T]$  (Figure 2A).

144

### 145 **Reversible monosubstrate reactions**

146 Most chemical reactions in a cell are reversible. The CF approach, assuming FE  
 147 conditions and two intermediate enzyme complexes ([ES] and [EP]), can be used to  
 148 calculate the velocity of a reversible enzyme-catalysed reaction in the presence of both  
 149 substrate and product (Table 1, Supplemental Material 1D). The expression derived is  
 150 similar to the one derived assuming  $[E_T] \ll [S_T]$ . Further, if  $[E_T] \approx 0$ , the eMM expression  
 151 can be reduced to the sMM one. However, if expression in Table 1 is rearranged to obtain  
 152 a single denominator, the additional term in  $[E_T]$  becomes very complex:

153

154 (4)

$$155 \quad v = \frac{(V_1[S_T]([E_T] + K_P) - V_2[P_T]([E_T] + K_S))}{[E_T]([E_T] + [S_T](1 + \frac{V_1}{V_2}) + [P_T](1 + \frac{V_2}{V_1}) + K_S + K_P) + [S_T]K_P(1 + \frac{V_1}{V_2}) + [P_T]K_S(1 + \frac{V_2}{V_1}) + [S_T][P_T]\frac{(V_1 + V_2)^2}{(V_1V_2)} + K_SK_P}$$

156

157

158 This tendency to complexity is shared with other approaches. Thus, in the hands of this  
 159 researcher, assuming other conditions, such as QSS, leads to expressions that depart  
 160 from the simplicity scope of this work (not shown). Nevertheless, those may still describe  
 161 the process accurately.

162

### 163 **Integrated form of the QSS, eMM expression for irreversible monosubstrate** 164 **reactions.**

165

166 Expression (3) is amenable to integration and, as expected, it also provides an expression  
 167 similar to that obtained using standard assumptions (Table 1 and Supplementary Material  
 168 1E):

169

$$170 \quad (5) \quad V_{max} \cdot t = [S_T^0] - [S_T^t] + (K_m + [E_T]) \ln \left( \frac{[S_T^0]}{[S_T^t]} \right)$$

171

172 Needless to say that, since there is necessarily no changes in the total amount of enzyme  
173 over time, no expression for the integrated form of (3) using  $[E_T]$  as a variable is  
174 meaningful.

175

### 176 **Reactions at constant $[S_T]$**

177 Similar to the iMM, velocity estimations by eMM at constant  $[S_T]$  shows a hyperbolic  
178 behaviour with respect to the amount of  $[E_T]$  in the system (Fig. 2A). Therefore, under  
179 those conditions, there exists a maximum asymptotic catalytic velocity attainable that can  
180 be defined as

$$181 \quad (6) \quad C_{max} = [S_T]k_3.$$

182 Similarly, we could define as Relative Catalytic Velocity (RCV) the *ad-hoc* parameter

$$183 \quad (7) \quad RCV = \frac{v_e - v_u}{C_{max}}$$

184 Where  $v_e$  is the experimentally observed enzyme-catalysed velocity,  $v_u$  is the velocity  
185 observed in the absence of enzyme under the same conditions, and  $C_{max}$  the maximum  
186 catalysed velocity attainable at the set  $[S_T]$ . Under most circumstances,  $v_u$  is several  
187 orders of magnitude smaller than both  $v_e$  and  $C_{max}$ , therefore, RCV may be safely  
188 approximated by the ratio  $v_e/C_{max}$ . Hence, RCV should obey:

$$189 \quad (8) \quad RCV = \frac{[E_T]}{[E_T] + [S_T] + K_m}$$

190 From this, it is possible to demonstrate that, at constant concentration of  $[S_T]$ , the  
191 concentration of enzyme needed to attain a certain proportion of  $C_{max}$  (RCV) would be:

$$192 \quad (9) \quad [E_T] = \frac{RCV}{1 - RCV} (K_m + [S_T])$$

193 This expression shows that, while RCV is small, the amount of  $[E_T]$  necessary to attain it  
194 increases in a near-linear fashion ( $[E_T] \approx RCV(K_m + [S_T])$ ), but as the values of RCV  
195 progress, the values for  $[E_T]$  increase exponentially (Figure 2B).

196 An example for the use of these expressions could be yeast soluble pyrophosphatase  
197 isoform 1 (Ipp1p). This is a well characterised enzyme that hydrolyses Mg•pyrophosphate  
198 into two orthophosphate molecules in a *bona fide* irreversible reaction. The  $K_m$  of that  
199 enzyme is typically estimated in the micromolar range, 8  $\mu$ M being reported earlier [8]. The  
200 concentration of the enzyme can be estimated as  $\sim 2 \mu$ M from the values reported for its

201 median abundance (42812 molecules/cell) and average cell volume ( $42 \mu\text{m}^3$ ) [9]. The  
202 pyrophosphate concentration in the cell is not precisely known, but probably ranges  
203 between 1 and  $100 \mu\text{M}$  [13], with  $10 \mu\text{M}$  being a safe option. Assuming these conditions to  
204 be representative of the cell ones, lpp1p would be working at  $\text{RCV} \approx 0.1$ . Similarly, figures  
205 ranging from 0.001 (Pyk2p) to 0.3 (Fba1p) can easily be obtained for many of the enzymes  
206 involved in yeast glycolysis [11].

207

### 208 ***Linearisations of eMM expressions***

209 Although largely superseded by non-linear regression for parameter estimation,  
210 linearisations of the rate equations are still useful to show graphically differences between  
211 cases or reaction conditions. The CF and QSS-derived rate law (9), and its analogous  
212 obtained under FE assumption (Table 1), can also be linearised provided either  $[\text{E}_T]$  or  $[\text{S}_T]$   
213 are kept constant (Table 1 and Figure 2C and 2D). Among these linearisations are the  
214 most commonly ones, namely Lineweaver-Burk and Hanes linearisations. Also, similar to  
215 those linearisations, the slopes and intersection points are symmetrical, i.e., the  
216 intersection point from a Lineweaver-Burk plot is equivalent to the slope from a Hanes plot  
217 and vice-versa.

218

### 219 ***Inhibition and activation expressions.***

220 CFs were also used to derive expressions for the most common linear inhibition  
221 mechanisms under QSS assumptions (Supplementary Material 2). However, in this case, it  
222 was also assumed that  $[\text{I}] \gg [\text{E}_T] \approx [\text{S}_T]$ , which means that  $[\text{I}_T] \approx [\text{I}]$ . This assumption  
223 simplifies the expressions and may well be a real situation in the cell.

224 In all cases, the expressions derived were similar to those obtained under the sMM  
225 assumption of negligible concentration of enzyme (Table 2). Noticeably, the enzyme  
226 concentration in the denominator also formed a term with the concentration of inhibitor and  
227 its equilibrium constant in the case of allosteric inhibition mechanisms (uncompetitive and  
228 mixed uncompetitive-competitive). When  $[\text{ES}]_a$  was plotted versus the whole range of  $[\text{S}_T]$   
229 and  $[\text{E}_T]$ , it was observed that a competitive inhibitor at the same conditions of  
230 concentration and binding constant values, was much less effective than inhibitors with  
231 mechanisms that implied allosteric interactions (Figure 3A). This was also observed in  
232 plots with sMM expressions but it was less dramatic (data not shown). Further, using eMM  
233 expressions, a comparison between the expected behaviour of those types of inhibitors at  
234  $[\text{E}_T] \gg K_m$  and  $[\text{E}_T] \approx K_m$  revealed that, in the case of  $[\text{E}_T] \gg K_m$ , at  $[\text{S}_T]$  up to  $ca\ 2 \times K_m$ ,



235 competitive inhibitors are more effective than uncompetitive inhibitors. This was not  
236 surprising since sMM expressions already revealed that behaviour (data not shown).  
237 However, at  $[E_T] \approx K_m$ , uncompetitive inhibitors were more effective than competitive  
238 inhibitors in the whole  $[S_T]$  range (Figure 2B and 2C). On the other hand, mixed  
239 competitive-uncompetitive inhibitors showed an intermediate situation and were  
240 consistently predicted more effective than competitive inhibitors at any concentrations of  
241  $[E_T]$  and  $[S_T]$ , in agreement with known behaviour revealed by sMM expressions (data not  
242 shown).

243

#### 244 ***Non-linear inhibition, activation and linearisation of eMM inhibition expressions***

245 Similar to the previous eMM equations and to those obtained under sMM assumptions,  
246 eMM equations describing inhibition can be linearised to provide Lineweaver-Burk or  
247 Hanes plots (Figure 4). Further, similar to the non-inhibition situation, the values for the  
248 slopes and intercepts look transposed when comparing those two types of linearisation.  
249 Furthermore, the CF approach can be extended to the nonlinear types of inhibition or  
250 activation (Table 2). In the case of nonlinear small molecule-enzyme interactions,  
251 Lineweaver-Burk and Hanes linearisations provide straight lines similar to those obtained  
252 with sMM expressions. Moreover, when Dixon (DX) or Cornish-Bowden (CB) plots are  
253 used, bent lines are produced, in agreement with what is observed using sMM  
254 expressions.

255 Being probably the most informative, these types of plots were also checked for  
256 consistency with classical expressions in the case of linear inhibition. CB plots from eMM  
257 expressions produced straight lines that, in the case of allosteric inhibitors, intersected in  
258 the second or third quadrant or on the negative side of the abscissa (depending on the  
259 value of  $\alpha$ ); on the contrary, in the case of competitive inhibitors, parallel lines were  
260 observed (Figure 5). This is similar to what is described for sMM expressions [12]. The  
261 absolute value of the abscissa at the intersection point of the lines was estimated to be  
262 equal to the allosteric equilibrium constant for the binding of the inhibitor to the enzyme  
263 (Figure 5 and Table 3). All this is identical to what is found using sMM expressions.  
264 However, important differences were observed in Dixon plots. Intersection of the lines did  
265 not follow the pattern expected from sMM expressions. Thus, uncompetitive inhibition  
266 equations showed convergent lines on DX plots that crossed in the third quadrant (Figure  
267 5B) while parallel lines are typical from sMM equations. In appearance, competitive  
268 inhibition, mixed uncompetitive-competitive inhibition and non-competitive inhibition

269 expressions produce DX plots that agree with their sMM counterparts. However, the  
270 abscissa absolute values for the line intersection points are all dependent on the values of  
271  $K_m$  and  $[E_T]$  in the system (Table 3). Only in the case of non-competitive inhibition, the  
272 abscissa absolute value corresponds to  $K_i$ , as it is the case of sMM expressions.

273

## 274 **DISCUSSION**

275

276 Derivation of expressions predicting the velocity of monosubstrate enzyme-catalysed  
277 reactions was found possible using a simple algebraic approach. Further, the expressions  
278 were similar to those already in use (sMM) and could be reduced to those under the  
279 assumption of negligible concentration of  $[E_T]$ . This helps them to be understood as easy  
280 to use extensions of the classical expressions. Nevertheless, these equations only provide  
281 approximations to the real value, and, therefore, care should be taken that assumptions  
282 are valid when using them. In any case, the expression proposed to estimate the  
283 concentration of the ES complex in a single substrate irreversible reaction (1) is identical to  
284 those proposed earlier [3,4,13,14] and was found to approximate accurately the true value  
285 of  $[ES]$  from (11) provided  $(K_m + [E_T] + [S_T]) \gg [ES]$ . It is true that expressions (1) and (2)  
286 are not new but, to the best of this researcher's knowledge, this is the first report where the  
287 continued fraction approach was used to obtain them. This is a simple approach that is  
288 capable of different degrees of accuracy, if needed. Also, its simplicity may help students  
289 to understand how expressions are derived and experimental researchers to get familiar  
290 with them. Furthermore, a wide range of expressions are made available and not only an  
291 equation describing the simplest monosubstrate, irreversible case. That should open the  
292 possibility for their use in a wide variety of conditions and studies.

293 Some previous proposals were based on macroscopic parameters different from those  
294 experimental biochemists are used to obtain [15]. While the estimation of different  
295 parameters may just be a question of use and learning, undoubtedly the possibility of  
296 using the same approaches and parameters to extrapolate enzyme behaviour in  
297 conditions difficult to mimic in the test tube may be considered an advantage.

298 The introduction of  $[E_T]$  as a reactant in the denominator of the equations in this study  
299 leads to the concept of enzyme saturation in a reaction. This means that increasing the  
300 concentration of enzyme in a system above a certain amount may not result in meaningful  
301 increases in velocity. Therefore, equation (9) can be a useful tool to understand the cellular

302 effort needed to modulate cell concentrations of metabolites, the feasibility in each context  
303 of gene regulation of protein expression or to evaluate the investment needed to attain an  
304 acceptable velocity in a biotechnological setting.

305 Linearisations are used extensively by biochemists to show results and point to differences  
306 in enzyme action. The expressions presented in this work can also be linearised using, at  
307 least, some of the common approaches in use for sMM. They provide lines that, in most  
308 cases, behave just like the sMM ones. However, as other linearisations are tested,  
309 exceptions, like those observed in Dixon plots, may appear.

310 One particularity of these linearisations for a simple irreversible reaction is that, at least  
311 theoretically, it could be possible to estimate the value of  $k_3$  (or  $k_{cat}$ ) in non-pure samples,  
312 such as extracts. That determination would need sufficient different amounts of extract  
313 assayed for activity maintaining a constant  $[S_T]$ . The velocities obtained could be used in a  
314 plot of  $[E_T]/v$  vs  $[E_T]$ , where  $[E_T]$  can be expressed as fold over the sample having the  
315 smallest amount of extract. The reciprocal of the slope of that straight line would equal  
316  $[S_T]k_3$ . Since  $[S_T]$  is a known parameter in the assay,  $k_3$  could be estimated. Nevertheless,  
317 maintaining the QSS assumption valid in those experiments may well be the major hurdle.  
318 Optimally, to ensure accuracy of the estimation, several of the determinations should need  
319 to fall in the non-linear part of the curve. In other words, those determinations should need  
320 to be made in conditions where  $[S_T]$  is close to that of  $[E_T]$  and, thus, it can be very difficult  
321 to assume  $[P] \approx 0$  or that variations in  $[ES]$  are negligible during the assay. In any case, in  
322 special cases, it might be a possibility.

323 Although similar to the classical expressions, the equations presented here already  
324 revealed some differences that may be important to understand enzyme and inhibitor  
325 action *in vivo*. The value of  $K_m$  in sMM it is often described as (and sometimes used as a  
326 definition) the concentration of enzyme providing  $1/2V_{max}$ . On the other hand, the catalytic  
327 efficiency (the slope of the line describing first order kinetics), is a parameter often used to  
328 compare catalysis on different substrates and even isoenzyme performance. However,  
329 eMM equations showed that, in a general setting,  $[E_T]$  needs to be taken into account in  
330 those cases. While the issue of the  $K_m$  may not have important consequences in  
331 experimental biochemistry and the values of the catalytic efficiencies at  $[E_T] = 0$  could still  
332 be used to compare different catalytic situations, other differences may be more relevant.  
333 For example, the increase in inhibitory power of uncompetitive inhibitors that is only  
334 observed at  $[E_T] \approx [S_T] \approx K_m$ . That difference, together with the general differences in effect  
335 between allosteric and catalytic inhibitors predicted by these expressions, may be useful to

336 understand inhibitor action *in vivo* or to direct the search for new drugs in a more selective  
337 way.

338 Finally, these expressions cover only a small part of the situations that can be faced in  
339 relation to enzyme kinetics. Among the most important ones not covered by this work are  
340 multisubstrate reactions and allosteric or cooperative enzymes. Efforts are in place now to  
341 deduce equations able to attend to those cases. On the whole, the expressions proposed  
342 here may be useful tools for the translation *in vivo* of *in vitro* experimental data or for  
343 modelling *in vivo* and biotechnological processes.

344

## 345 **METHODS**

346

347 Let be [S], [P] and [E] the respective free concentrations of substrate, product and enzyme  
348 in the reaction depicted in Scheme 1. The microscopic kinetic constants are numbered  
349 using odd figures for those representing forward reactions with respect to product  
350 formation, while reverse reactions receive corresponding even numbering. Initial  
351 conditions for the reaction (t=0) are assumed and, therefore, [P] ≈ 0 is also assumed,  
352 leading to irreversibility of the reaction. Although incorrect, for simplicity's sake only, that  
353 last assumption is depicted by the corresponding microscopic kinetic constant as showing  
354 zero value in the scheme. The presence of high concentrations of enzyme has been  
355 approached by considering that the following mass conservation expression needs to be  
356 taken into account:  $[S_T] = [S] + [ES]$ , where  $[S_T]$  stands for total amount of substrate in the  
357 reaction. In the case of a reversible reaction,  $[P_T] = [P] + [EP]$  was also contemplated.  
358 These conservation laws are considered in addition to the usual expression for the  
359 conservation of enzyme,  $[E_T] = [E] + [ES]$ , where  $[E_T]$  stands for the total amount of  
360 enzyme in the system. Assuming QSS conditions for the concentration of the enzyme-  
361 substrate complex ([ES]), the following expression can be derived (a detailed process of  
362 derivation is shown in Supplemental Material 1A):

363

$$364 \quad (10) \quad \frac{d[P]}{dt} = 0 = [ES]^2 - [ES] \cdot (K_m + [E_T] + [S_T]) + [S_T] \cdot [E_T]$$

365

366 Solving this quadratic expression by regular means leads to

367

368 (11)  $[ES] = \frac{1}{2} \left( (K_m + [S_T] + [E_T]) \pm \sqrt{(K_m + [S_T] + [E_T])^2 - 4 \cdot [S_T] \cdot [E_T]} \right)$

369

370 However, a simpler approach to approximate (1) can be taken by using continued fractions  
371 (CF). This method uses simple algebra and has been used extensively in other areas  
372 [16,17]. In general, a quadratic expression where the coefficient for the quadratic term is  
373 one, i.e. an expression of the type:

374 (12)  $0 = x^2 + bx + c$

375 can be approximated for both negative and positive sign solutions as:

376 Positive sign solution (13)  $x = b - \frac{c}{x}$

377 Negative sign solution (14)  $x = \frac{c}{b - x}$

378 Recursive substitution of the variable  $x$  in the left side of the equality with the whole  
379 expression on that same side permits increasing degrees of approximation (for an  
380 example, see Supplemental Material 1B and Figure 1A). A first degree approximant can be  
381 obtained by neglecting the variable  $x$  in the left hand side of the equality. In this study, first  
382 degree approximants were used only. On the other hand, the negative sign solution of (11)  
383 is the only one valid in chemistry. This can be exemplified by the fact that, in the case of  
384 the positive sign, when  $[S_T] = 0$ , the value of  $[ES]$  is non-zero:

385

386 (15)  $[S_T] = 0, [ES] = K_m + [E_T]$

387

388 The CF approach for the negative sign solution has been used with (1) and all other  
389 reaction schemes treated in this study. Detailed derivation of the expressions can be found  
390 in Supplemental Material 1 and 2.

391

392

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398

399

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440  
441 **Supporting Information**

442  
443 ***Supplementary Materials 1.***

444 Derivation of the equations for the simple cases: The exact solution for irreversible QSS  
445 monosubstrate reaction, single monosubstrate irreversible FE eMM equation, single  
446 monosubstrate irreversible QSS eMM equation, reversible single monosubstrate FE eMM  
447 equation, and integrated QSS eMM equation.

448  
449 ***Supplementary Materials 2***

450 Derivation of the eMM equations for inhibition and activation under QSS. Competitive  
451 linear inhibition, uncompetitive linear inhibition, mixed competitive-uncompetitive linear  
452 inhibition, non-competitive linear inhibition, and general inhibition/activation model.

453

454 **Table 1.** Comparison of velocity expressions for monosubstrate enzyme-catalysed reactions.

	sMM	eMM	Linearisations (eMM)
FE (Irr.)	$v = \frac{V_{max} \cdot [S_T]}{[S_T] + K_S} \quad (16)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} \cdot [S_T]}{[E_T] + [S_T] + K_S} \quad (9)$	$\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{[S_T]} \cdot \frac{[E_T] + K_S}{V_{max}} + \frac{1}{V_{max}} \quad (17)$ $\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{[E_T]} \cdot \frac{[S_T] + K_S}{C_{max}} + \frac{1}{C_{max}} \quad (18)$ $\frac{[S_T]}{v} = [S_T] \frac{1}{V_{max}} + \frac{[E_T] + K_S}{V_{max}} \quad (19)$ $\frac{[E_T]}{v} = [E_T] \frac{1}{C_{max}} + \frac{[S_T] + K_S}{C_{max}} \quad (20)$
FE (Rev.)	$v = \frac{V_1[S]}{[S] \left(1 + \frac{V_1}{V_2}\right) + K_S} - \frac{V_2[P]}{[P] \left(1 + \frac{V_2}{V_1}\right) + K_P} \quad (21)$	$v = \frac{V_1[S_T]}{[E_T] + [S_T] \left(1 + \frac{V_1}{V_2}\right) + K_S} - \frac{V_2[P_T]}{[E_T] + [P_T] \left(1 + \frac{V_2}{V_1}\right) + K_P} \quad (22)$	
QSS (Irr.)	$v = \frac{V_{max} \cdot [S_T]}{[S_T] + K_m} \quad (23)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} \cdot [S_T]}{[E_T] + [S_T] + K_m} \quad (24)$	$\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{[S_T]} \cdot \frac{[E_T] + K_m}{V_{max}} + \frac{1}{V_{max}} \quad (25)$ $\frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{[E_T]} \cdot \frac{[S_T] + K_m}{C_{max}} + \frac{1}{C_{max}} \quad (26)$ $\frac{[S_T]}{v} = [S_T] \frac{1}{V_{max}} + \frac{[E_T] + K_m}{V_{max}} \quad (27)$ $\frac{[E_T]}{v} = [E_T] \frac{1}{C_{max}} + \frac{[S_T] + K_m}{C_{max}} \quad (28)$
QSS (Irr.)	$V_{max} \cdot t = [S_T^0] - [S_T^t] + K_m \ln \left( \frac{[S_T^0]}{[S_T^t]} \right) \quad (29)$	$V_{max} \cdot t = [S_T^0] - [S_T^t] + (K_m + [E_T]) \ln \left( \frac{[S_T^0]}{[S_T^t]} \right) \quad (11)$	$\frac{([S_T^0] - [S_T^t])}{t} = V_{max} - (K_m + [E_T]) \ln \left( \frac{[S_T^0]}{[S_T^t]} \right) \left( \frac{1}{t} \right) \quad (30)$



455 FE: Fast Equilibrium assumption, QSS: Quasi-steady state assumption, Irr.: Irreversible reaction, Rev.: Reversible reaction, sMM:

456 standard Michaelis-Menten, eMM: extended Michaelis-Menten

458 **Table 2.** Comparison of velocity expressions for monosubstrate, irreversible, enzyme-catalysed reactions affected by a non-covalent  
 459 modifier (inhibitor or activator). All expressions derived assuming QSS.

Mechanism		sMM	eMM
Linear inhibition	Competitive	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{[S_T] + K_m \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)} \quad (31)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{[E_T] + [S_T] + K_m \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)} \quad (32)$
	Uncompetitive	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{[S_T] \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right) + K_m} \quad (33)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{([E_T] + [S_T]) \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right) + K_m} \quad (34)$
	Mixed Competitive- Uncompetitive	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{[S_T] \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right) + K_m \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)} \quad (35)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{([E_T] + [S_T]) \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right) + K_m \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)} \quad (36)$
	Non-Competitive	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{([S_T] + K_m) \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)} \quad (37)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T]}{([E_T] + [S_T] + K_m) \left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)} \quad (38)$
General Activation or Inhibitor	All	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T] \left(1 + \frac{\beta [A]}{\alpha K_a}\right)}{[S_T] \left(1 + \frac{[A]}{\alpha K_a}\right) + K_m \left(1 + \frac{[A]}{K_a}\right)} \quad (39)$	$v = \frac{V_{max} [S_T] \left(1 + \frac{\beta [A]}{\alpha K_a}\right)}{([E_T] + [S_T]) \left(1 + \frac{[A]}{\alpha K_a}\right) + K_m \left(1 + \frac{[A]}{K_a}\right)} \quad (40)$

460 sMM: standard Michaelis-Menten, eMM: extended Michaelis-Menten

461

462

463 Table 3. Abscissa values for the intersection points of lines created using eMM linear

464 inhibition expressions in Dixon and Cornish-Bowden plots.

	Dixon ( $1/v$ vs $[I]$ )	Cornish-Bowden ( $[S_T]/v$ vs $[I]$ )
Competitive	$-K_i \frac{[E_T] + K_m}{K_m}$	No intersection
Uncompetitive	$-\alpha K_i \frac{[E_T] + K_m}{[E_T]}$	$-\alpha K_i$
Mixed Competitive-Uncompetitive	$-\alpha K_i \frac{[E_T] + K_m}{[E_T] + \alpha K_m}$	$-\alpha K_i$
Non-Competitive	$-K_i$	$-K_i$

465

466

467

468 **Figure Legends**

469

470 **Figure 1.** Estimation of enzyme-substrate complex concentration using different  
471 mathematical expressions. **A** Approximated  $[ES]$  ( $[ES]_a$ ) using the exact solution  
472 (expression (11) in main text; blue surface), extended Michaelis-Menten (eMM; expression  
473 (2) in main text; green surface), a second degree approximant (eMM, expression (19) from  
474 Supplemental Material 1; magenta surface), standard Michaelis-Menten (expression (1b)  
475 in main text, cyan surface) and inversed Michaelis-Menten (expression (1c) in main text;  
476 red surface). All surfaces calculated using  $K_m = 1$ . **B** Estimated error relative to the real  
477 value estimated with the exact solution and the extended Michaelis-Menten (eMM;  
478 expression (1); green surface), standard Michaelis-Menten (expression (1b); cyan surface)  
479 and inversed Michaelis-Menten (expression (1c); red surface). All surfaces calculated  
480 using  $K_m = 1$ . **C** Departure of  $[ES]_a$  from the exact solution at a constant low enzyme  
481 concentration ( $[E_T] = 0.001 \times K_m$ ). Solid black line: exact solution (expression (9) in main  
482 text); Dot-dashed black line: extended Michaelis-Menten (eMM; expression (1)); Dotted  
483 red line: standard Michaelis-Menten (expression (1b)); Dashed red line: inversed  
484 Michaelis-Menten (expression (1c)). **D** Departure of  $[ES]_a$  from the exact solution at a  
485 constant enzyme concentration similar to  $K_m$  ( $[E_T] = K_m$ ). Line identities as in C. **E**  
486 Departure of  $[ES]_a$  from the exact solution at a constant high enzyme concentration ( $[E_T] =$   
487  $100 \times K_m$ ). Line identities as in C. All lines in C, D, and E calculated using  $K_m = 1$ . Please  
488 note that eMM and sMM lines in panel C are obscured by the overlapping line  
489 corresponding to the exact solution.

490

491 **Figure 2.** Hyperbolic and linear plots of eMM expressions for monosubstrate irreversible  
492 reactions. **A.** Direct plots of the estimated velocities (equation (3)) at constant  $[E_T]$  (Dot-

493 dashed black line) or constant  $[S_T]$  (Dashed red line). Both lines calculated using  $K_m = 1$ .  
494 Value for the concentration of the constant reactant was set to one (1). To help  
495 visualisation,  $k_3 = 1$  was used for constant  $[E_T]$  while  $k_3 = 0.5$  was used for constant  $[S_T]$ .  
496 Other parameter values:  $[E_T] = [S_T] = K_m = 1$ . Cat. eff.: catalytic efficiency. **B** Concentration of  
497  $[E_T]$  as a function of Relative Catalytic Velocity (RCV). Line calculated using expression (8)  
498 from main text and  $K_m = [S_T] = 10$ . **C** Hanes plots of eMM rate expressions. Lines drawn  
499 using  $k_3 = K_m = [E_T] = 1$  (dot-dashed black line, expression (27)) or  $k_3 = K_m = [S_T] = 1$   
500 (dashed red line, expression (28)). **D** Lineweaver-Burk plots of eMM rate expressions.  
501 Lines drawn using  $k_3 = K_m = [E_T] = 1$  (dot-dashed black line, expression (25)) or  $k_3 = K_m =$   
502  $[S_T] = 1$  (dashed red line, expression (26)).

503

504 **Figure 3.** Behaviour of enzyme inhibition expressions obtained using CF approach. **A**  
505 Approximated  $[ES]$  ( $[ES]_a$ ) over  $[S_T]$  and  $[E_T]$ .  $[ES]_a$  obtained using extended Michaelis-  
506 Menten (eMM; expression (1); green surface), competitive inhibition (expression (32);  
507 magenta surface), uncompetitive inhibition (expression (34); blue surface) and mixed  
508 competitive-uncompetitive/non-competitive inhibition (expressions (36) and (38); cyan  
509 surface). **B** Velocity estimated from the different types of inhibition at a constant low  
510 concentration of  $[E_T] = 0.001 \times K_m$ . Solid black line, no inhibition (expression (3)); dashed  
511 red line, competitive inhibition (expression (32)); dot-dashed black line, uncompetitive  
512 inhibition (expression (34)); solid red line, mixed/non-competitive inhibition (expressions  
513 (36) and (38)). **C** Velocity estimated from the different types of inhibition at  $[E_T] = K_m$ . Solid  
514 black line, no inhibition (expression (9)); dashed red line, competitive inhibition (expression  
515 (32)); dot-dashed black line, uncompetitive inhibition (expression (34)); solid red line,  
516 mixed/non-competitive inhibition (expressions (36) and (38)). All surfaces and lines  
517 calculated using  $k_3 = K_m = 1$ ,  $[I] = 10$  and  $K_i = \alpha K_i = 9$ .

518

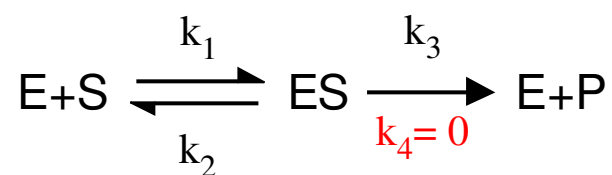
519 **Figure 4.** Plots of eMM and sMM linearised equations for total (linear) and partial (non-  
520 linear) inhibition mechanisms. All plots correspond to mixed uncompetitive-competitive  
521 inhibition as a general representative of all mechanisms. Linear inhibition corresponds to  
522 expressions (35) (sMM) and (36) (eMM); non-linear inhibition corresponds to expressions  
523 (39) (sMM) and (40) (eMM); values of parameters for all lines as follows:  $K_m = [E_T] = 1$ ,  
524  $k_3 = 0.75$ ,  $K_i = 10$ ,  $\alpha K_i = 5$  and  $\beta = 0$  (linear) or  $\beta = 0.25$  (non-linear). **A** Lineweaver-Burk plots.  
525 Solid black line, eMM non-linear inhibition; dotted black line, eMM linear inhibition; dash-  
526 dotted red line, sMM non-linear inhibition; dotted red line, sMM linear inhibition. **B** Hanes  
527 plots. Lines as in A. **C** Dixon plots, Lines as in A. **D** Cornish-Bowden plots. Lines as in A.

528

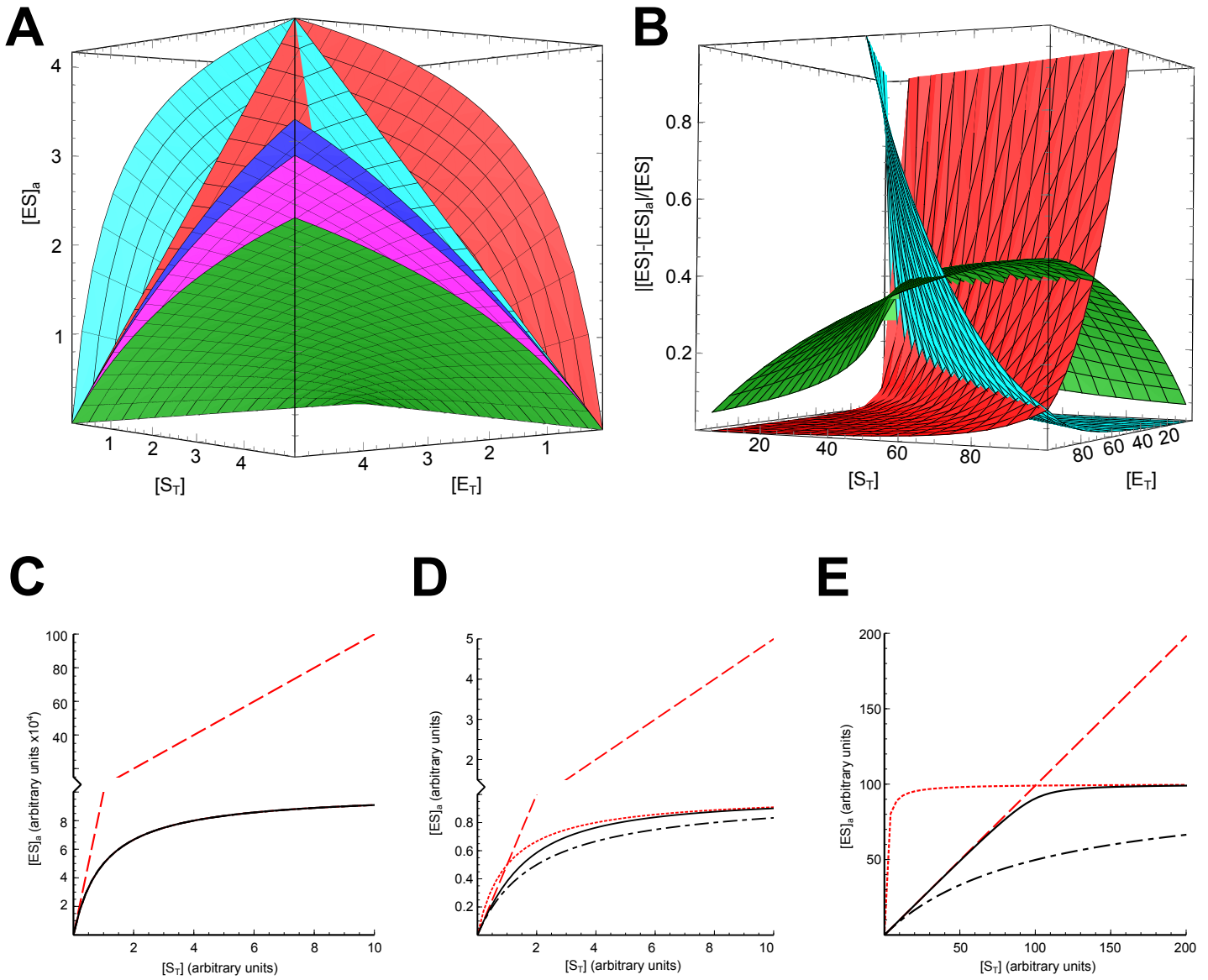
529 **Figure 5.** Dixon and Cornish-Bowden plots for eMM linear inhibition mechanisms. All lines  
530 drawn using equations (32) (competitive), (34) (uncompetitive), (36) (mixed competitive-  
531 uncompetitive) and (38) (non-competitive) with the following parameters:  $K_m = [E_T] = 1$ ,  $k_3$   
532  $= 2$ ,  $K_i = 10$ ,  $\alpha K_i = 5$ . Solid red lines,  $[S_T] = 0.5$ ; dash-dotted black lines  $[S_T] = 10$ . Panels **A**  
533 and **E**, competitive inhibition; panels **B** and **F**, uncompetitive inhibition, panels **C** and **G**,  
534 mixed competitive-uncompetitive inhibition; panels **D** and **H**, non-competitive inhibition.  
535 Panels **A** to **D**, Dixon plots; panels **E** to **H**, Cornish-Bowden plots.

536

## Scheme 1

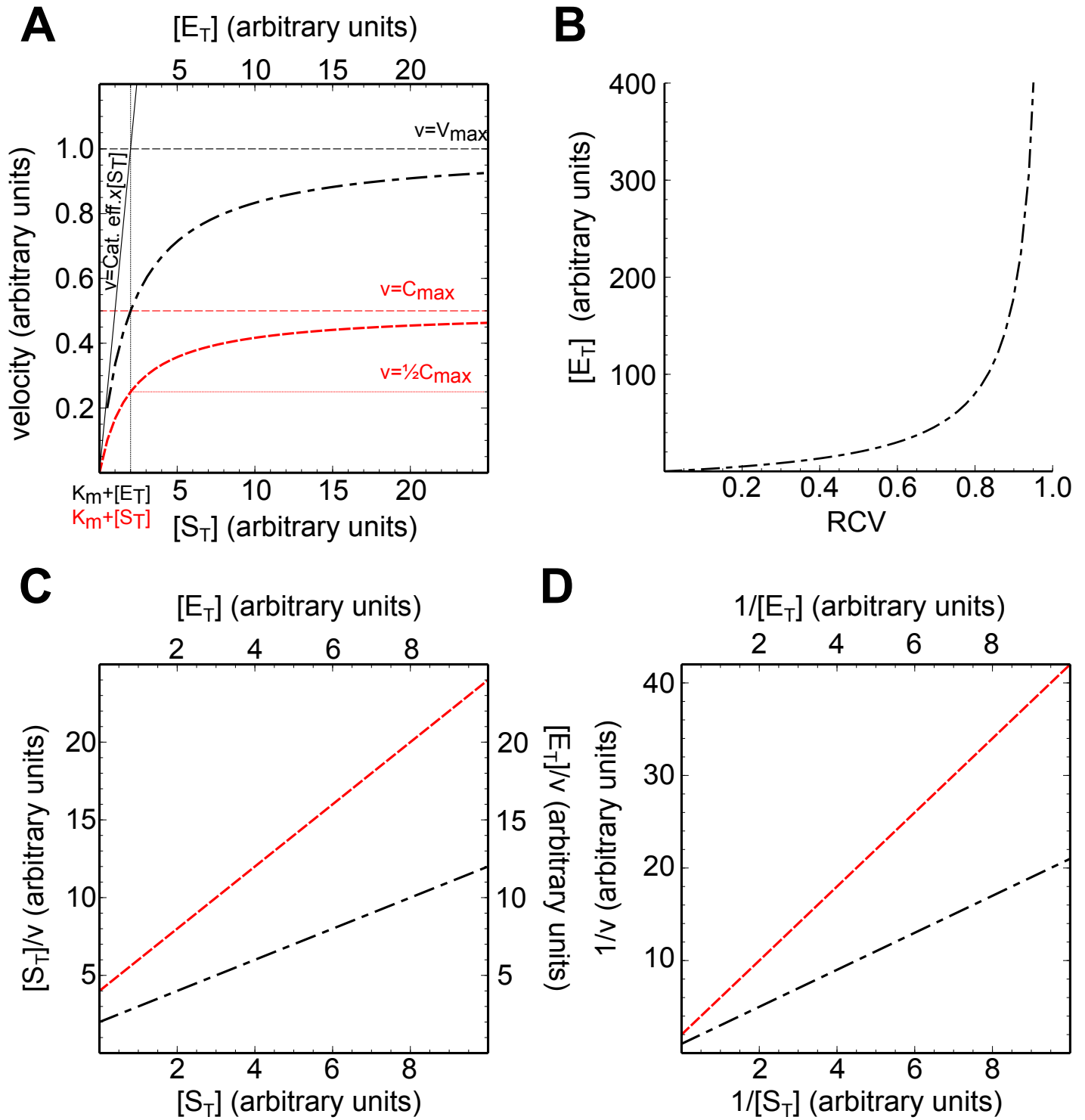


# Figure 1



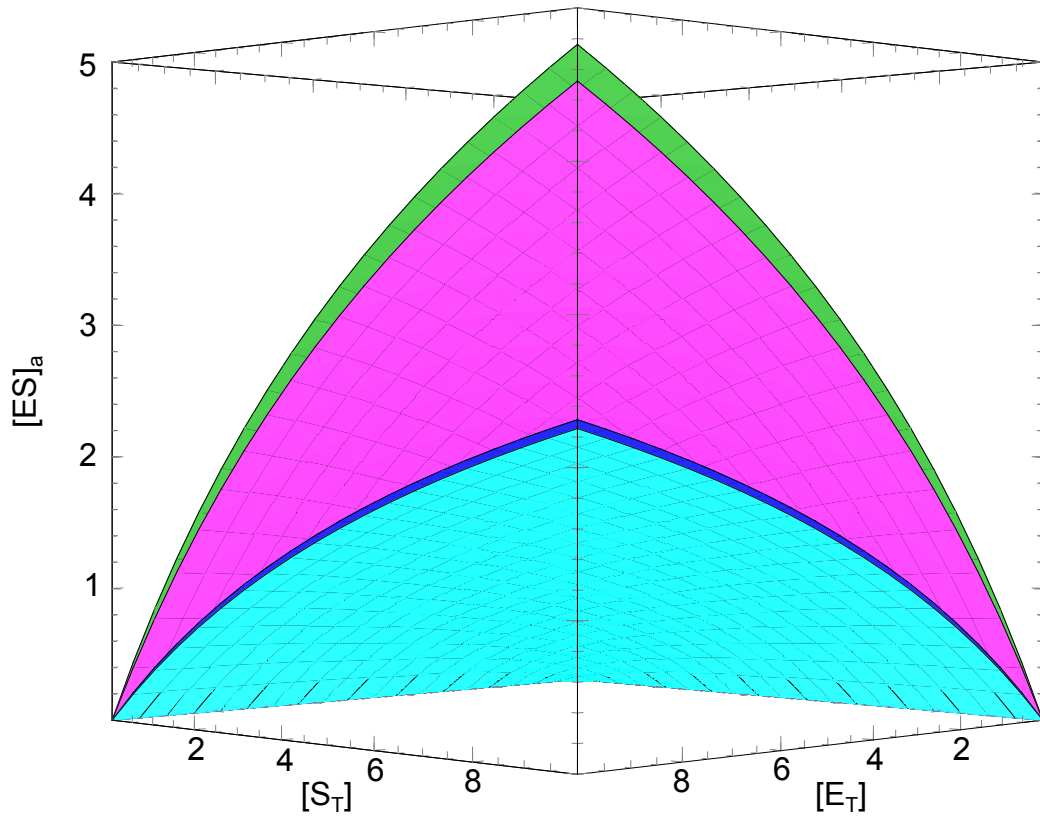


## Figure 2

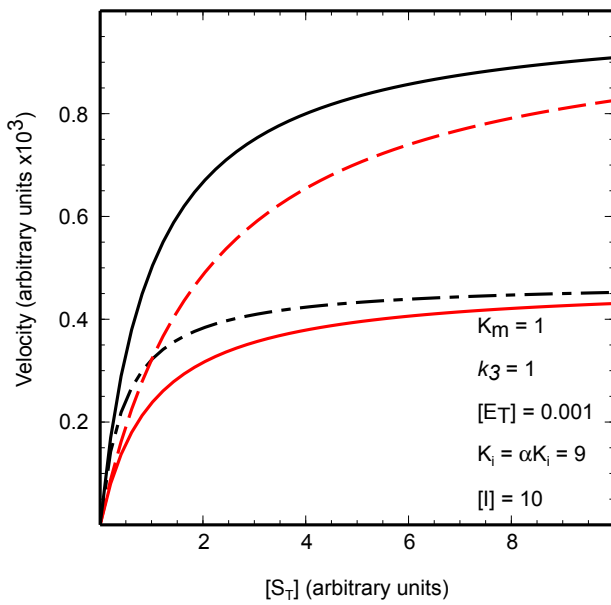


## Figure 3

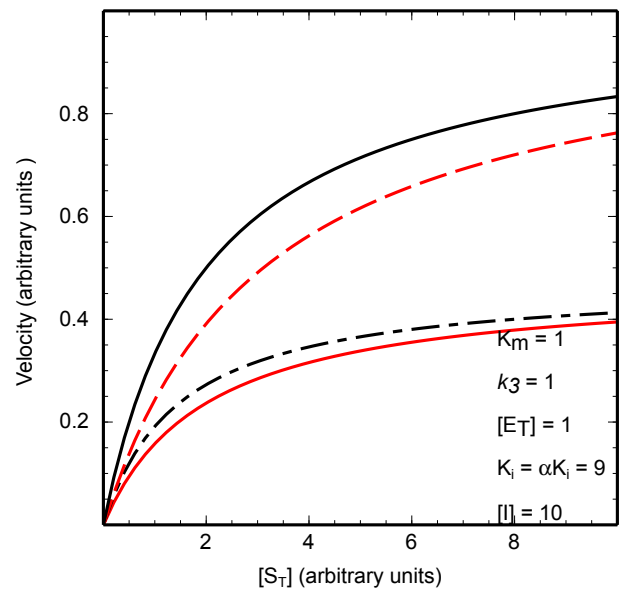
**A**



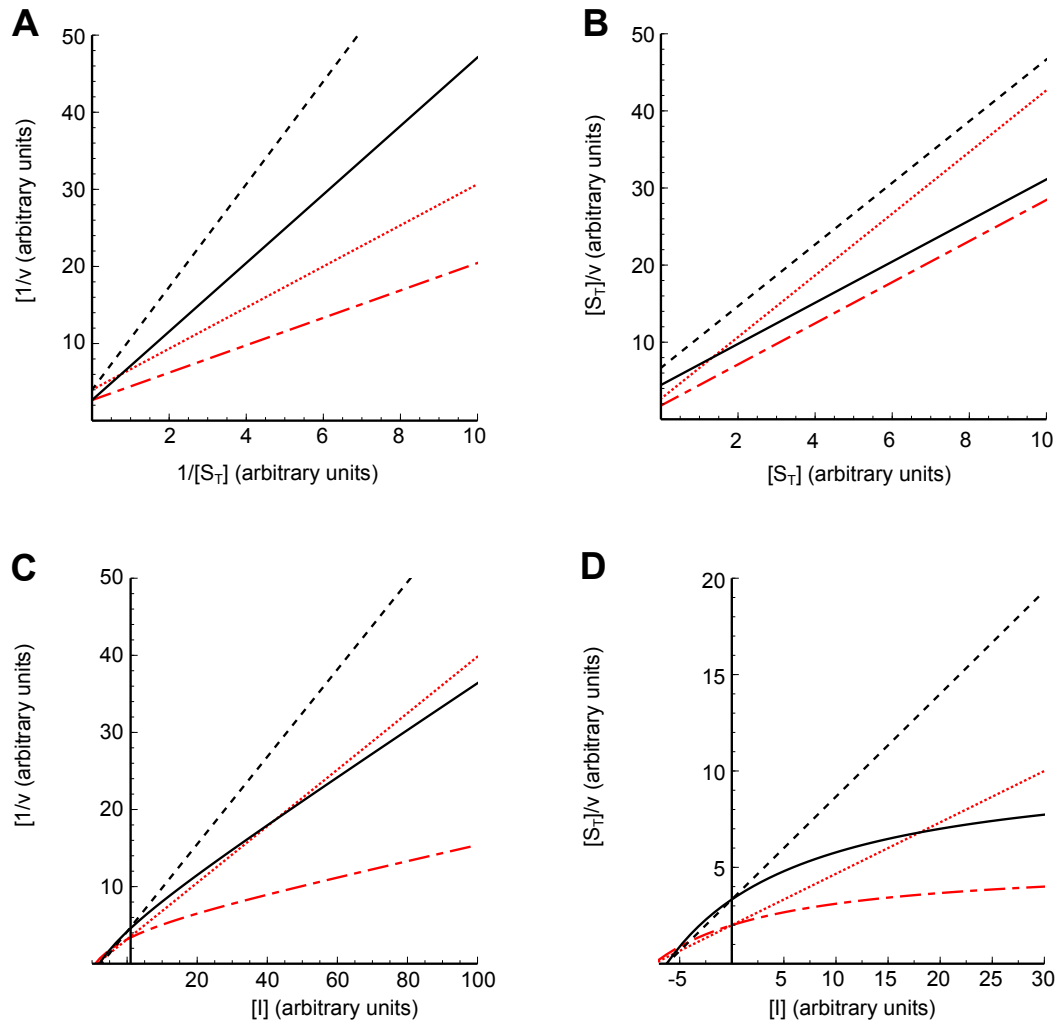
**B**



**C**



**Figure 4**



## Figure 5

