

1     **INHIBITION AND DAMAGE SCHEMES WITHIN THE SYNTHESIZING**  
2             **UNIT CONCEPT OF DYNAMIC ENERGY BUDGET THEORY**

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14    **KEYWORDS**

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## 20 HIGHLIGHTS

- 21 • Synthesizing Units (SU) process substrates and convert these into products
- 22 • Inhibition schemes for SUs are defined so as to be analogous to enzyme kinetics
- 23 • Damaging agents differ from inhibitors, but the difference may be small
- 24 • Damaging agents and inhibitors of SUs resemble impeding social interactions in feeding

## 26 ABSTRACT

27 Synthesizing Units (SU) concept plays an important role in organizing metabolism in Dynamic  
28 Energy Budget (DEB) theory. SUs are generalized units that bind and processes incoming  
29 streams of materials (substrates, generalized compounds, food, etc.) to yield one or more  
30 products. We use paradigms from enzyme kinetics to explore the impact of inhibitors and  
31 damaging agents on the dynamics of SUs requiring one or two substrates. Inhibitors interact  
32 reversibly with one or more SU states and thereby impede their functioning but otherwise do not  
33 have deleterious impact, whereas a damaging agent decommissions an SU, which then either  
34 needs to be replaced via *de novo* synthesis or to be repaired, implying the removal of any already  
35 bound substrate molecules. When substrate arrival rates are proportional to densities, single  
36 substrate SUs behave dynamically similar to their enzymatic counterparts; with a minor  
37 adjustment, this similarity holds when an inhibitor is present. The impact of a damaging agent on  
38 SU dynamics is similar to that of an inhibitor, if the mean time interval between damage events  
39 is long relative to the time it takes an SU with bound substrate to form a product. However,  
40 damage done to an SU with substrate(s) already bound implies an energetic loss if the substrate  
41 binding is an endergonic process. Those conclusions with single substrate SUs essentially carry  
42 over to SUs requiring two different substrates to form a product, though the mathematical  
43 formalisms involved are more complex. There are conceptual similarities between SUs subjected  
44 to damage or inhibition and individuals whose feeding activity is impeded by social interactions.  
45 Our formalism accounts for a marked variety of conceptual SUs, and types of inhibition and  
46 damage – ranging from enzymes and molecules to individuals and social interactions instigating  
47 a behavioral response.

48

## 49 1. INTRODUCTION

50 The synthesizing unit (SU) concept plays a fundamental role in organizing metabolism in  
51 Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) theory. An SU processes incoming streams of materials and  
52 convert these into one or more products. Incoming materials, called substrates, could be in the  
53 form of food items, composite compounds and simple molecules; similarly, products may  
54 include composite compounds, biomass and molecules (Kooijman, 1998, 2001). A DEB model  
55 describes the rates at which an organism acquires resources from its environment and utilizes the  
56 energy and nutrients therein for growth, maturation, maintenance and reproduction (Jusup et al.,  
57 2017; Kooijman, 2010; Sousa et al., 2008). In effect, SUs operate the fluxes in a DEB model,  
58 though, with the exception of the SU representing the feeding (or assimilation) machinery, they  
59 are implicit in presentations of the standard model for heterotrophs (but see Section 2.3.3 in  
60 Kooijman, 2010). In the standard model, the SUs describing utilization fluxes (i.e. growth,  
61 maintenance, maturation and reproduction) have a single substrate (reserve) and have dynamics  
62 fully specified by either demands (maintenance) or supply (maturation, reproduction and  
63 growth). However, SUs are indispensable tools for quantifying the processing of two or more  
64 substrates, such as in multivariate DEB models, and are therefore important for models  
65 describing autotrophy (Kooijman, 1998), syntrophic symbioses (Muller et al., 2009; Troost et al.,  
66 2005), ecological stoichiometry (Muller et al., 2001), diauxic growth (Kooijman and Troost,  
67 2007), among other phenomena. In addition, the SU concept has been used to incorporate the  
68 impact of toxic compounds and damaging agents on suborganismal processes into the DEB  
69 framework (Jager and Kooijman, 2005; Muller, 2011).

70 The multitude of types of substrates an SU may process points to an important characteristic: its  
71 concept is scalable from the enzymatic to the supra-organismal level. Indeed, an SU processing a  
72 single “substrate” resembles an enzyme with steady state kinetics akin to those of a Michaelis-  
73 Menten-Briggs-Haldane enzyme (ChemWiki, 2017; Segel, 1993), an animal feeding at a rate  
74 given by the Holling type II disc equation (Holling, 1959), or a population of microorganisms  
75 growing at a rate given by the Monod equation (Monod, 1942). The only mathematical  
76 difference between the dynamics of a single substrate SU in steady state and those of the other  
77 three models is that the former uses the substrate arrival flux as input variable, whereas the latter  
78 use substrate or prey densities; this difference disappears if arrival fluxes are proportional to

79 concentrations or densities. Accordingly, SUs conceptually generalize the acting agents in the  
80 other models (i.e. enzymes, animals and microbes), and, unlike Menten-Briggs-Haldane enzyme  
81 kinetics, can be used in inhomogeneous environments, such as cells and whole organisms, in  
82 which concentration measures are not well defined. In this paper, given the large existing  
83 knowledge about enzymatic processes, we use textbook enzyme kinetics as the paradigmatic  
84 framework to which we compare the dynamics of SUs impaired by detrimental agents, such as  
85 toxic compounds.

86 Our goals are twofold. Firstly, we demonstrate the applicability of well-studied inhibition  
87 mechanisms in enzyme kinetics to single and two substrate SUs. Inhibition is the process by  
88 which a compound reversibly binds to an enzyme and thereby impedes its activity; enzymatic  
89 activity is fully restored upon dissociation of the inhibitor. Enzymes and SUs exist in discrete  
90 states in which they either wait for the arrival of one or more substrates or process these  
91 substrates into products. Inhibitors target these states with potentially different affinities (see  
92 Figure 1 for examples with a single substrate SU). Thus, we extend and generalize the singular  
93 inhibition mode of a single substrate SU as described by Kooijman (Section 3.7.4; 2010).  
94 Secondly, we seek to extend inhibition models to include the impact of damaging agents. We  
95 define damage as the process by which a detrimental agent irreversibly destroys the functionality  
96 of an SU, which then either needs to be replaced through de novo synthesis or requires  
97 restoration through a repair process (see Figure 2 for examples with a single substrate SU).  
98 Arguably, toxic compounds more often impact organisms by damaging than inhibiting their  
99 metabolic machinery. Therefore, it is important to assess the quantitative differences between the  
100 impacts of inhibitors and those of damaging agents on single and two substrate SUs.

## 101 **2. THEORY**

102 This section develops formalism for inhibition, damage and repair mechanisms of SUs  
103 processing a single substrate, or two complimentary substrates in parallel or sequentially. We  
104 define *inhibition* as the processes by which an agent reversibly binds to an SU (see Figure 1).  
105 Since this process is conceptually similar to Michaelis-Menten-Briggs-Haldane enzyme kinetics,  
106 we will adopt the terminology used in the latter to define particular forms of inhibition. At the  
107 time of writing, definitions of some types of inhibition, in particular mixed forms, vary slightly  
108 among popular online sources; here we follow the terminology as used on ChemWiki (2017). A

109 *damaging agent* renders an SU dysfunctional, i.e. it needs to be repaired in order to regain  
110 functionality. The repair mechanism resets a dysfunctional SU to the unbound state (see Figure  
111 2). We define an SU in the unbound state as an SU without the required number of substrate  
112 molecules attached; it may have bound an inhibitor. Stages of SUs are discrete; stage transitions  
113 occur when a sufficient number of substrate, inhibitor or damaging agent molecules have  
114 associated with, dissociated from or been transformed by an SU in a certain stage.

115 In order to simplify notation, we scale the rate at which substrates, inhibitors or damaging agents  
116 arrive at the SU,  $J_*$ , to the number of molecules of substrates, inhibitors or damaging agents  
117 needed to make product or inhibit or damage the SU,  $n_*$ , and to the binding probability,  $\rho_*$ , at  
118 which these molecules associate with the SU

$$119 \quad j_* = \frac{\rho_* J_*}{n_*} \quad (1)$$

120 Note that this notation deviates from the customary one in many DEB publications, in which  $j$   
121 represents a flux normalized to the amount of structural biomass; other notation in this study  
122 closely follows the one designed by Kooijman (2010).

123 We assume that arrival fluxes of substrates, inhibitors and damaging agents are constant. We also  
124 assume that the time scale of SU kinetics is much faster than, and hence decoupled from, those  
125 of whole-organism dynamics so that the relative abundance of SU states at any given time is  
126 assumed to change only due to kinetics. The SU production rates derived in the following  
127 subsections are thus applicable to dynamical systems, provided that arrival fluxes and the total  
128 number of SUs change slowly relative to SU kinetics (cf. ChemWiki, 2017; Kooijman, 1998;  
129 Segel, 1993). Mathematically, the formalism for all SU kinetic models in this paper is equivalent  
130 to that of a continuous time Markov chain (Kooijman, 1998), and the models' structure meets the  
131 requirements for the existence of a unique, stable steady state (see e.g. Karlin, 1966).

### 132 **2.1.1 Single substrate SUs: inhibition.**

133 Partial mixed inhibition is defined as the process whereby an inhibitor binds reversibly to both  
134 SUs in the unbound state and SUs with bound substrates but (1) with potentially different

135 dissociation parameters,  $k_i$  and  $k_{iA}$  (see Figure 1), an the inhibitor slows down the rate at which  
 136 processing SUs form product(s). A mathematically equivalent situation is where there are  
 137 different association affinities (i.e.  $\rho_*$  hidden in the arrival flux of inhibitor,  $j_{i*}$  – see Equation  
 138 1). This is the generic form of inhibition of enzyme kinetics shown in the top panel of Figure 1  
 139 (ChemWiki, 2017; recall that substrates bind irreversibly to SUs but reversibly to enzymes).

140 The balance equation of the fraction of SUs in the binding, processing, inhibited while in  
 141 binding, and inhibited while in the processing states (symbols represent states in this particular  
 142 order) dictates

$$143 \quad \theta_{\bullet} + \theta_A + \theta_{\bullet}^i + \theta_A^i = 1 \quad (2)$$

144 With the standard assumption of a rapid convergence to steady states of the fractions of SUs that  
 145 are in the binding, processing and inhibited states, we get

$$146 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\theta_{\bullet}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_A}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{\bullet}^i}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_A^i}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -j_A - j_i & j_m & k_i & j_{mi} \\ j_A & -j_m - j_{iA} & 0 & k_{iA} \\ j_i & 0 & -j_{Ai} - k_i & 0 \\ 0 & j_{iA} & j_{Ai} & -j_{mi} - k_{iA} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta_{\bullet} \\ \theta_A \\ \theta_{\bullet}^i \\ \theta_A^i \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (3)$$

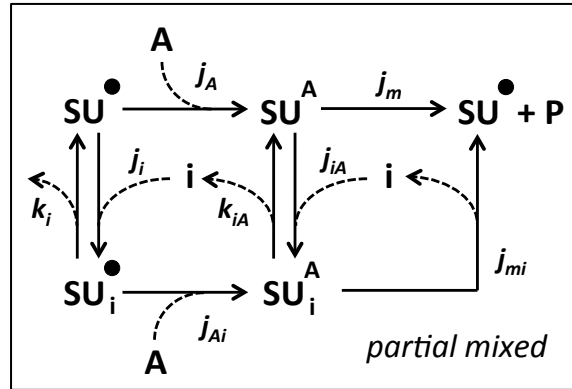
147 The rate at which an SU forms product,  $j_p$ ,

$$148 \quad j_p = j_m \theta_A + j_{mi} \theta_A^i, \quad (4)$$

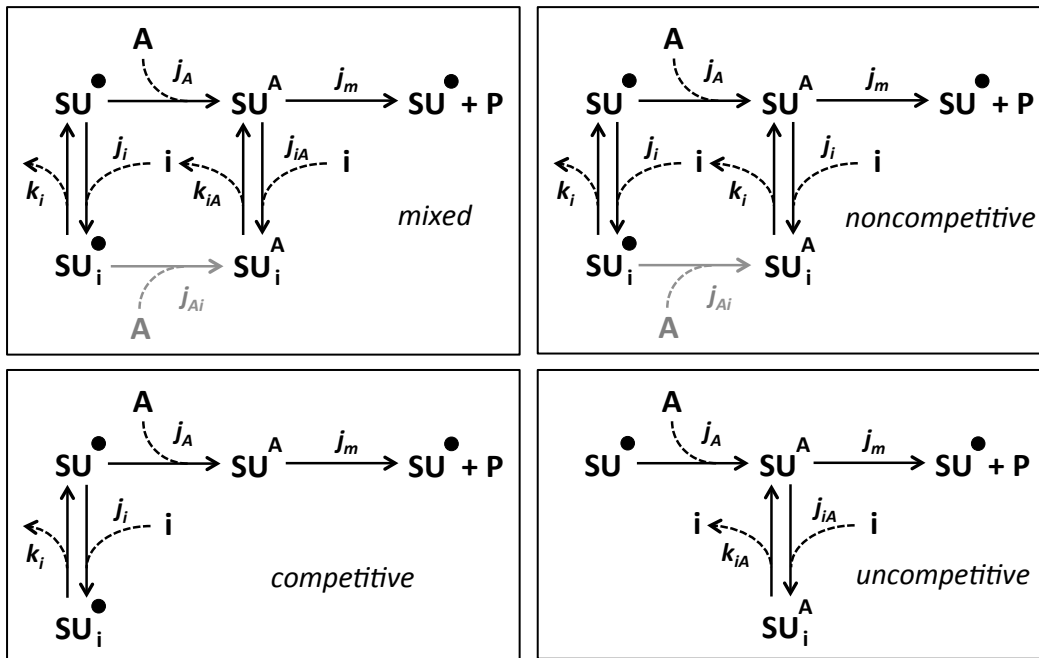
149 where  $\theta_A$  and  $\theta_A^i$  are obtained by solving Equation 3, recognizing that the fractions sum to one.  
 150 The explicit solutions are lengthy, meaning that their substitution into Equation 4 does not yield  
 151 an illuminating expression.

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157 **Figure 1.** Scheme of the possible mechanisms whereby an inhibitor  $i$  may interact with a single substrate  
 158 SU with Michaelis-Menten-Briggs-Haldane enzyme kinetics as paradigm (note that, in enzyme kinetics,  
 159 substrate  $A$  binds reversibly to the SU - see ChemWiki (2017)). Solid arrows represent SU state  
 160 transitions, broken arrows substrate and inhibitor association and dissociation fluxes. The generic form in  
 161 enzyme kinetics is partial mixed inhibition, in which (1) inhibitors bind to enzymes in both the unbound  
 162 and processing state but with different binding and dissociation parameters, and (2) inhibited processing  
 163 enzymes form product at a rate lower than uninhibited ones. With mixed inhibition, enzymes with bound  
 164 inhibitors do not form product(s)  $P$ ; similar kinetics are obtained with SUs when substrate cannot bind to  
 165 inhibited SUs (marked in grey). Other notable special cases include noncompetitive inhibition (inhibitors  
 166 bind to SUs in the unbound and bound state with similar binding and dissociation parameters; unlike the  
 167 case in enzyme kinetics, marked in grey, substrate does not bind to inhibited SUs); competitive inhibition

168 (inhibitors only interact with SUs in the unbound state); and uncompetitive inhibition (inhibitors only  
 169 interact with SUs in the bound state).

170 Special cases arise when one or more of the SU states do not bind substrates and/or inhibitors,  
 171 and/or convert substrates into products (see four lower panels in Figure 1). In enzyme kinetics,  
 172 *mixed inhibition* is the situation where  $j_{mi} = 0$ . In order to obtain similar mathematical formalism  
 173 with SUs, which bind substrates irreversibly, we also need to assume that inhibited SUs cannot  
 174 bind substrates, i.e.  $j_{Ai} = 0$ . Then,

$$175 \quad j_p = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{j_m} \left( 1 + \frac{j_{iA}}{k_{iA}} \right) + \frac{1}{j_A} \left( 1 + \frac{j_i}{k_i} \right)} \quad (5)$$

176 In order to show that this reduces to the more standard representation of mixed inhibition in  
 177 enzyme kinetics, we make the concentration of substrate  $S$  and inhibitor  $I$  proportional to their  
 178 respective unscaled arrival fluxes, and use symbols commonly found in textbooks on enzyme  
 179 kinetics (with  $V$  substituted for  $j_p$  and  $V_{\max}$  for  $j_m$ ). This yields the form (ChemWiki, 2017)

$$180 \quad V = \frac{V_{\max} S}{S \left( 1 + \frac{I}{K_i} \right) + K_M \left( 1 + \frac{I}{K_{iA}} \right)} \quad (6)$$

181 with  $K_i \equiv \frac{\rho_i k_i}{n_i p_i}$ ,  $K_{iA} \equiv \frac{\rho_{iA} k_{iA}}{n_i p_i}$  and  $K_M \equiv \frac{\rho_A j_m}{n_A p_A}$ , in which  $p_*$  are proportionality constants  
 182 converting fluxes to concentrations.

183 Mixed inhibition of SUs reduces to *noncompetitive inhibition* when substrates do not affect the  
 184 binding and dissociation of inhibitors, i.e.  $j_i = j_{iA}$  and  $k_i = k_{iA}$ ,

$$185 \quad j_p = \frac{1}{\left( 1 + \frac{j_i}{k_i} \right) \left( \frac{1}{j_A} + \frac{1}{j_m} \right)} \quad (7)$$



186 Noncompetitive inhibition of SUs differs from noncompetitive inhibitions of enzymes in that the  
 187 former in the inhibited state cannot bind substrates. The fraction by which noncompetitive  
 188 inhibitors reduce SU performance is independent of the substrate arrival rate (see Figure 2A).  
 189 With *uncompetitive inhibition*, inhibitors only bind reversibly to SUs in the processing state, i.e.  
 190  $j_i = 0$ , which yields

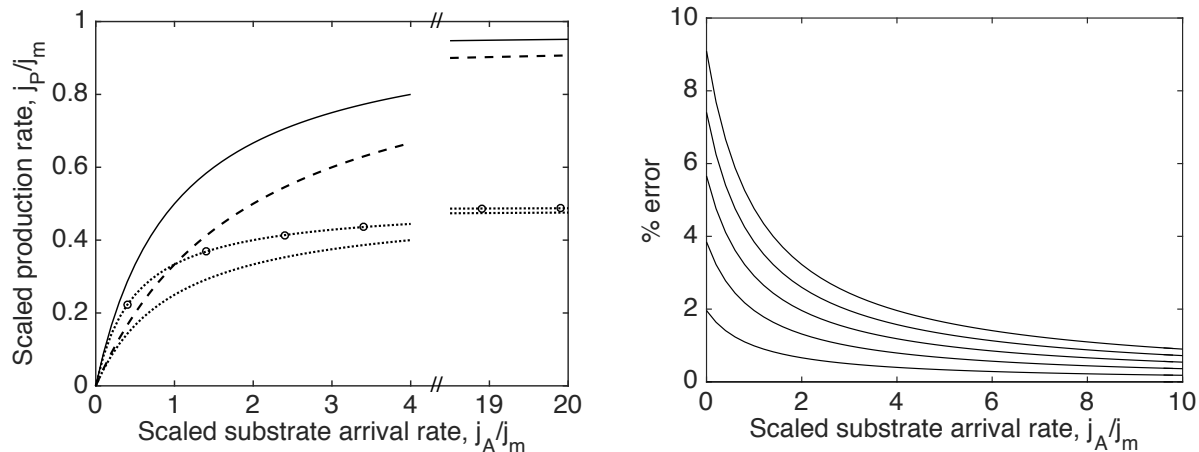
$$191 \quad j_p = \frac{1}{\left( \frac{1}{j_A} + \frac{1}{j_m} \left( 1 + \frac{j_{iA}}{k_{iA}} \right) \right)} \quad (8)$$

192 Conversely, when inhibitors only bind reversibly to SUs without substrates attached, for instance  
 193 by blocking the active site, we have *competitive inhibition*,  $j_{iA} = 0$

$$194 \quad j_p = \frac{1}{\left( \frac{1}{j_A} \left( 1 + \frac{j_i}{k_i} \right) + \frac{1}{j_m} \right)} \quad (9)$$

195 Uncompetitive and competitive inhibitions of SUs are similar to their counterparts in enzyme  
 196 kinetics. At high substrate levels, uncompetitive inhibitors resemble noncompetitive inhibitors  
 197 and competitive inhibitors are little effective (see Figure 2A). At low substrate levels, the impact  
 198 of competitive inhibitors on SU performance is relatively strong, while uncompetitive inhibitors  
 199 only have a marginal effect.

200 In conclusion, with a single substrate and with arrival fluxes of substrates and inhibitors  
 201 proportional to their respective concentrations, competitive and uncompetitive inhibition  
 202 mechanisms of SUs are mathematically similar to their counterparts in Michaelis-Menten-  
 203 Briggs-Haldane enzyme kinetics. Noncompetitive and mixed inhibitions of SUs are  
 204 mathematically similar to their counterparts in enzyme kinetics, provided the inhibited form of  
 205 the former cannot bind substrates.



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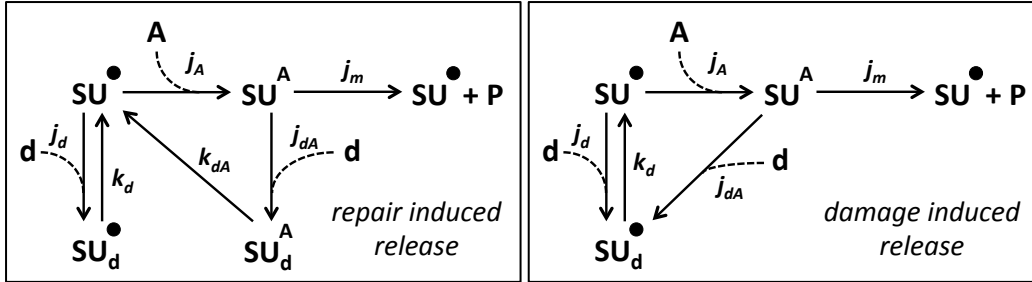
207 **Figure 2.** Performance of inhibited and damaged single substrate SUs. (A) Relative to uninhibited SUs  
 208 (solid line), a competitive inhibitor reduces the production rate of an SU especially at low substrate arrival  
 209 rates and has relatively little impact on SU performance at high substrate arrival rates (broken line). A  
 210 noncompetitive inhibitor scales down production rates evenly irrespective of substrate arrival rates (dotted  
 211 line). An uncompetitive inhibitor has relatively little impact on SU performance at low substrate levels,  
 212 while it approaches noncompetitive inhibition kinetics at high substrate arrival rates (dotted line with  
 213 circles). For all types of inhibition,  $j_{i^*}/k_{i^*} = 1$ . (B) The error made in assuming noncompetitive  
 214 inhibition kinetics for noncompetitive damage declines with increasing substrate arrival rates. From top to  
 215 bottom, the curves represent errors for  $j_{dA}/j_m = 0.1, 0.08, 0.06, 0.04$  and  $0.02$ , respectively.

### 216 2.1.2 Single substrate SUs: damage.

217 We consider agents that can *damage* a single substrate SU in both the unbound and processing  
 218 state but with a damaging potential that may depend on the state of the SU. We assume that a  
 219 damaged SU is dysfunctional but can be repaired to yield an SU in the unbound state. One could  
 220 think of, for instance, a superoxide radical that removes an iron atom from an enzymatic iron-  
 221 sulfur cluster, which is then subjected to a repair mechanism (Imlay, 2003); enzymes with iron-  
 222 sulfur clusters play an important role in redox reactions of, for example, the respiratory chain.  
 223 Thus, in our representation, damage mechanisms differ from those of inhibition in that a  
 224 damaged SU returns to the open binding state, regardless its state prior to impact. However, if  
 225 damage is inflicted only upon SUs in the binding stage, the resulting dynamics are identical to  
 226 those of competitive inhibition; compounds that inactivate enzymes by substituting cofactors  
 227 (e.g. Cd for Zn) may cause damage in this way. An SU damaged in the processing state loses

228 bound substrate before its functionality is restored. Release of bound substrate could be part of  
 229 the repair or damage process; we will to these possibilities as repair-induced release and damage-  
 230 induced release, respectively (see Figure 3).

231



232

233 **Figure 3.** Scheme of the possibilities at which a damaging agent  $d$  may interact with a single substrate  
 234 SU. Solid arrows represent SU state transitions (including repair), broken arrows substrate association and  
 235 damage fluxes. In contrast to an inhibited SU (see Figure 1), a damaged SU needs to be repaired to restore  
 236 its functionality; if damage is inflicted on an SU in the processing state, substrates are released either  
 237 during the repair process (repair-induced release) or as part of the damaging process (damage-induced  
 238 release). In analogy to inhibition, the generic form of damage is mixed damage, in which agents can  
 239 damage SUs in both the unbound and processing state but with different damaging probabilities and  
 240 repair parameters. Special cases include noncompetitive damage (agents damage SUs in the unbound and  
 241 bound state with similar probability and repair parameters); and uncompetitive damage (agents only  
 242 damage SUs in the bound state). The dynamics of competitive damage (agents only damage SUs in the  
 243 unbound state) are similar to those of competitive inhibition.

244 With repair-induced release, the balance equation of the fractions of SUs in the various states is

$$245 \quad \theta_{\bullet} + \theta_A + \theta_{\bullet}^d + \theta_A^d = 1 \quad (10)$$

246 with the dynamic equations in steady state being

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_A}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta^d}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_A^d}{dt} \end{array} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} -j_A - j_d & j_m & k_d & k_{dA} \\ j_A & -j_m - j_{dA} & 0 & 0 \\ j_d & 0 & -k_d & 0 \\ 0 & j_{dA} & 0 & -k_{dA} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta \\ \theta_A \\ \theta^d \\ \theta_A^d \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (11)
\end{aligned}$$

248 The solution of this system yields the mean production rate for the *mixed damage*,

$$\begin{aligned}
& j_p = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{j_m} \left( 1 + \frac{j_{dA}}{k_{dA}} \right) + \frac{1}{j_A} \left( 1 + \frac{j_d}{k_d} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{j_{dA}}{j_m} \right)} \quad (12)
\end{aligned}$$

250 In analogy with special cases of inhibition, Equation 12 reduces to *noncompetitive damage* when  
251  $j_d = j_{dA}$  and  $k_d = k_{dA}$ , and to *uncompetitive damage*  $j_d/k_d = 0$ . With *competitive damage*,  
252  $j_{dA}/k_{dA} = 0$ ; thus, competitive damage and inhibition are mathematically similar. The dynamics  
253 of mixed, noncompetitive and uncompetitive damage with repair induced release reduces to  
254 those of their respective forms of inhibition when  $j_m \gg j_{dA}$ , that is, the maximum rate at which  
255 an SU can form product is much greater than the rate at which agents can damage SUs in the  
256 processing state. It seems safe to assume that this condition is normally met in biologically viable  
257 systems (note that the system in Equation 11 presupposes viability). The relative error made in  
258 assuming inhibition for damage kinetics is greatest for the noncompetitive case. This error is less  
259 than 10% when  $j_{dA}/j_m \leq 0.1$  and becomes less significant with increasing substrate arrival rates  
260 (see Figure 2B).

261 With damage-induced release of substrates from a processing SU, the balance equation of the  
262 fractions of SUs in the various states is

$$\begin{aligned}
& \theta + \theta_A + \theta^d = 1 \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

264 The system in steady state is

$$\begin{aligned}
265 \quad & \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_A}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta^d}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -j_A - j_d & j_m & k_d \\ j_A & -j_m - j_{dA} & 0 \\ j_d & j_{dA} & -k_d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta \\ \theta_A \\ \theta^d \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

266 and the mean production rate of an SU

$$\begin{aligned}
267 \quad & j_p = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{j_m} \left( 1 + \frac{j_{dA}}{k_d} \right) + \frac{1}{j_A} \left( 1 + \frac{j_d}{k_d} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{j_{dA}}{j_m} \right)} \quad (15)
\end{aligned}$$

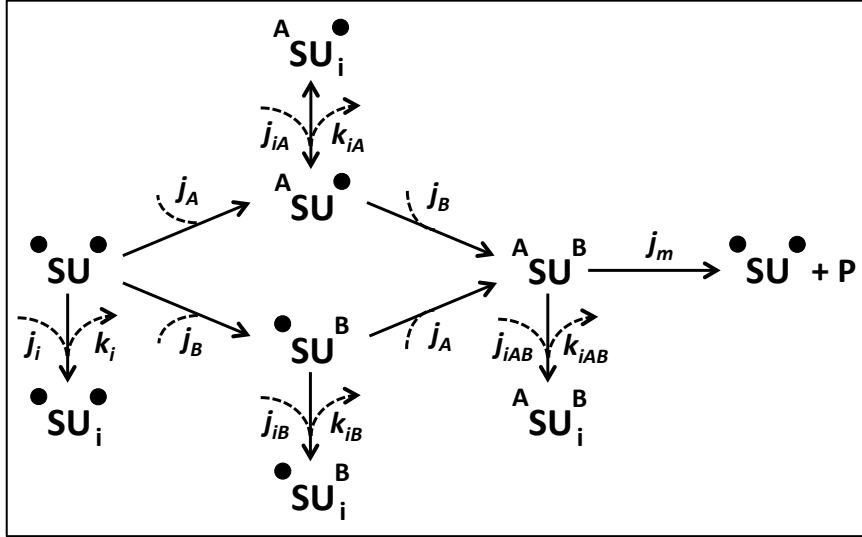
268 which is equivalent to Equation 12 when  $k_d = k_{dA}$ . Thus, Equation 12 can serve as a general  
269 model of damage dynamics with a single substrate SU.

270 In conclusion, damage models of single substrate SUs reduce to variants of inhibition models if  
271 the mean processing time (i.e the reciprocal of  $j_m$ ) is short relative to the mean time interval  
272 between damage events (i.e. the reciprocal of  $j_d$ ).

273

274 **2.2.1 SU parallel processing of 2 complementary substrates: inhibition.**

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276

277 **Figure 4.** Scheme of the possibilities at which an inhibitor  $i$  may interact with an SU processing 2  
 278 complementary substrates in parallel. Solid arrows represent SU state transitions, broken arrows substrate  
 279 and inhibitor association and dissociation fluxes.

280 In absence of an inhibitor, an SU processing two complementary substrates in parallel can be in  
 281 four different states (see Figure 4). An inhibitor may target an SU in any of those states,  
 282 implying that the balance equation of the fractions of SUs in those eight states must obey

283 
$$\theta_{..} + \theta_{A.} + \theta_{.B} + \theta_{AB} + \theta_{.i} + \theta_{A.i} + \theta_{.B.i} + \theta_{AB.i} = 1 \quad (16)$$

284 in which subscripted dots 'A' and 'B' denote empty binding sites, bound substrate A and B,  
 285 respectively. For simplicity's sake, we ignore the possibility that inhibited SUs bind substrates,  
 286 but use the terminology of enzyme kinetics in order to maintain mathematical congruency (see  
 287 subsection 2.1.1) The system in steady state is

288 
$$\mathbf{d}_\theta = \mathbf{M}\Theta = \mathbf{0} \quad (17)$$

289 with

290 
$$\mathbf{d}_\Theta = \left( \begin{array}{cccccccc} \frac{d\theta_{..}}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{A.}}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{.B}}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{AB}}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{..}^i}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{A.}^i}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{.B}^i}{dt} & \frac{d\theta_{AB}^i}{dt} \end{array} \right)^T, \quad (18)$$

291 
$$\Theta = \left( \theta_{..} \quad \theta_{A.} \quad \theta_{.B} \quad \theta_{AB} \quad \theta_{..}^i \quad \theta_{A.}^i \quad \theta_{.B}^i \quad \theta_{AB}^i \right)^T \quad (19)$$

292 and

293 
$$\mathbf{M} = \left( \begin{array}{cccccccc} -j_A - j_B - j_i & 0 & 0 & j_m & k_i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ j_A & -j_B - j_{iA} & 0 & 0 & 0 & k_{iA} & 0 & 0 \\ j_B & 0 & -j_A - j_{iB} & 0 & 0 & 0 & k_{iB} & 0 \\ 0 & j_B & j_A & -j_m - j_{iAB} & 0 & 0 & 0 & k_{iAB} \\ j_i & 0 & 0 & 0 & -k_i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & j_{iA} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -k_{iA} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & j_{iB} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -k_{iB} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & j_{iAB} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -k_{iAB} \end{array} \right) \quad (20)$$

294 The solution of this system yields the mean production rate of an SU with mixed inhibition

295 
$$j_p = j_m \theta_{AB} = \left( \frac{c_{iAB}}{j_m} + \frac{c_{i.B}}{j_A} + \frac{c_{iA.}}{j_B} - \frac{c_{iA.} + c_{i.B} - c_{i..}}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (21)$$

296 in which  $c_{iXY} \equiv 1 + \frac{j_{iXY}}{k_{iXY}}$  are inhibition factors with  $X$  and  $Y$  representing  $A$ ,  $B$ , or a dot. These

297 factors are not compound parameters but are defined for notational convenience. In

298 noncompetitive inhibition, inhibitors interact with SUs independent of the state of the latter, i.e.

299  $c_{i..} = c_{iA.} = c_{i.B} = c_{iAB} = c$ , which leads to

300 
$$j_p = \frac{1}{c} \left( \frac{1}{j_m} + \frac{1}{j_A} + \frac{1}{j_B} - \frac{1}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (22)$$

301 As with single substrate SUs, a noncompetitive inhibitor simply scales the production rate of a 2  
 302 substrate SU, meaning that the relative strength of a noncompetitive inhibitor is independent of  
 303 substrate availability.

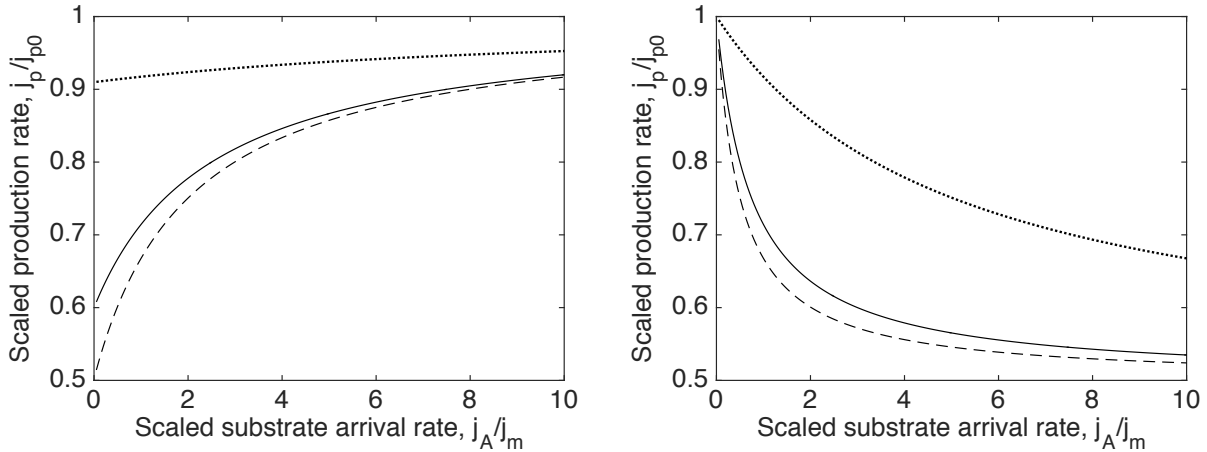
304 If inhibitors target SUs only in certain states, the inhibition factors for the unaffected states need  
 305 to be set to unity,  $c_{iXY} = 1$ . For instance, if the action of an inhibitor is only to compete with the  
 306 binding site of substrate  $A$  and substrate  $B$  does not affect inhibition kinetics,  $c_{iA\bullet} = c_{iAB} = 1$  and  
 307  $c_{i\bullet\bullet} = c_{i\bullet B} = c$ , we have partial competitive inhibition with the mean production rate being

$$308 \quad j_p = \left( \frac{1}{j_m} + \frac{c}{j_A} + \frac{1}{j_B} - \frac{1}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (23)$$

309 Partial competitive inhibition is especially prevalent at low arrival rates of substrate  $A$  and  
 310 relatively high substrate levels of complementary substrate  $B$  (see Figure 5A). If  
 311  $c_{i\bullet\bullet} = c_{iA\bullet} = c_{i\bullet B} = 1$ , we have uncompetitive inhibition,

$$312 \quad j_p = \left( \frac{c_{iAB}}{j_m} + \frac{1}{j_A} + \frac{1}{j_B} - \frac{1}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (24)$$

313 which is relatively strong at high arrival levels of substrate  $A$  and  $B$  (see Figure 5b). Other  
 314 inhibition schemes, including hybrid ones, can be easily obtained by setting the appropriate  
 315 inhibition factors to unity.



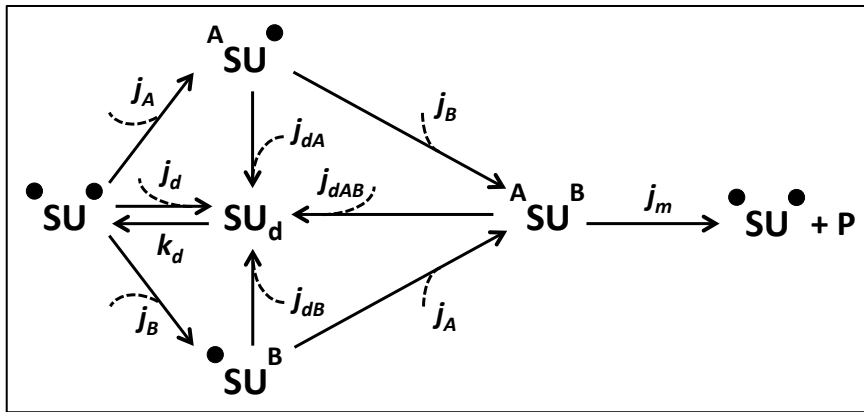
316



317 **Figure 5.** Production rates of 2 substrate SUs relative to uninhibited production rates with partial  
 318 competitive inhibition (A, Equation 23 with  $c=2$ ) and uncompetitive inhibition (B, Equation 24 with  
 319  $c_{iAB}=2$ ) with  $j_B = j_A$  (solid lines),  $j_B = 10j_A$  (broken lines) and  $j_B = 0.1j_A$  (dotted lines). Competitive  
 320 inhibition is especially felt at low substrate levels, whereas uncompetitive inhibition is relatively strong at  
 321 high substrate levels. With both types, the impact of inhibition diminishes with decreasing availability of  
 322 complementary substrate  $B$  (which does not compete with the inhibitor in the partial competitive  
 323 inhibition case), due to its relative dominance in determining SU performance at low levels. The  
 324 noncompetitive case is not illustrated here, as the relative strength of this inhibition type does not depend  
 325 on substrate availability (see Equation 22).

326 In sum, with two substrates processes in parallel, there are potentially four SU stages targeted by  
 327 inhibitors. The algebra becomes considerably more tedious, but the resulting dynamics for the  
 328 various types of inhibition are in line with those with a single substrate SU (see subsection  
 329 2.1.1).

330 **2.2.2 SU parallel processing of 2 complementary substrates: damage.**



331  
 332 **Figure 6.** Scheme of the possibilities at which a damaging agent  $d$  may interact with an SU processing 2  
 333 complementary substrates in parallel. Solid arrows represent SU state transitions (including repair),  
 334 broken arrows substrate association and damage fluxes. After repair a damaged SU is in the unbound  
 335 state.

336 With single substrate SUs, damage induced and repair induced release of substrate yield similar  
 337 models (see above). Since damage induction involves fewer SU states, we work out schemes for  
 338 two complementary substrates processed in parallel in which damage causes the instantaneous

339 release of bound substrates (see Figure 6). The balance equation for the fractions of SUs in the  
 340 five potential states is

$$341 \quad \theta_{..} + \theta_{A.} + \theta_{.B} + \theta_{AB} + \theta^d = 1 \quad (25)$$

342 The system in steady state is

$$343 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\theta_{..}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{A.}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{.B}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{AB}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta^d}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -j_A - j_B - j_d & 0 & 0 & j_m & k_d \\ j_A & -j_B - j_{dA} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ j_B & 0 & -j_A - j_{dB} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & j_B & j_A & -j_m - j_{dAB} & 0 \\ j_d & j_{dA} & j_{dB} & j_{dAB} & -k_d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta_{..} \\ \theta_{A.} \\ \theta_{.B} \\ \theta_{AB} \\ \theta^d \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (26)$$

344 If all SU states are prone to damage but with different probabilities, we have mixed damage, for  
 345 which the mean production rate is

$$346 \quad j_p = \left( \left( c_d + \frac{c_d j_{dB} + c_{dB} (j_B + j_{dA})}{j_A} + \frac{c_d j_{dA} + c_{dA} (j_A + j_{dB})}{j_B} + \frac{c_d j_{dA} j_{dB}}{j_A j_B} \right) \frac{\left( 1 + \frac{j_{dAB}}{j_m} \right)}{(j_A + j_B + j_{dA} + j_{dB})} + \frac{c_{dAB}}{j_m} \right)^{-1} \quad (27)$$

347 in which  $c_* \equiv 1 + \frac{j_*}{k_d}$  with ‘\*’ for ‘d’, ‘dA’, ‘dB’ or ‘dAB’. It seems reasonable to assume that, for

348 a viable system, the maximum processing rate and the arrival fluxes of substrates are much  
 349 higher than those of damaging agents. Then, Equation 27 simplifies to

$$350 \quad j_p = \left( \frac{c_{dAB}}{j_m} + \frac{c_{dB}}{j_A} + \frac{c_{dA}}{j_B} - \frac{c_{dA} + c_{dB} - c_d}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (28)$$

351 This is mathematically similar to mixed inhibition. Accordingly, expressions for noncompetitive,  
 352 competitive, uncompetitive and hybrid forms of damage are similar to those for corresponding  
 353 forms of inhibition.

354 Of particular interest is damage caused by oxidizing agents. If one of the substrates, say  $A$ ,  
 355 oxidizes the SU, we have a hybrid competitive scheme. Assuming that damaging agents do not  
 356 interact with SUs with bound  $A$ ,  $c_{dA} = c_{dAB} = 1$ , and that substrate  $B$  does not interfere with the  
 357 damage process,  $c_d = c_{dB}$ , we have

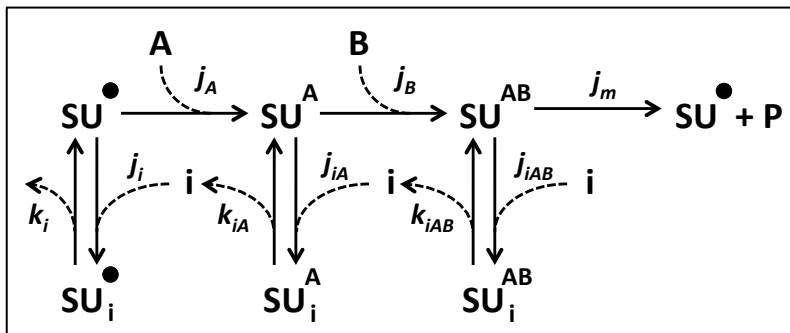
$$358 \quad j_p = \left( \frac{1}{j_m} + \frac{c_d}{j_A} + \frac{1}{j_B} - \frac{1}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (29)$$

359 Conversely, if  $A$  reduces the SU, we have an uncompetitive scheme. Assuming that damaging  
 360 agents only interact with SUs with bound  $A$ ,  $c_d = c_{dB} = 1$ , and that substrate  $B$  does not interfere  
 361 with the damage process,  $c_{dA} = c_{dAB} = c$ , we have,

$$362 \quad j_p = \left( \frac{c}{j_m} + \frac{1}{j_A} + \frac{c}{j_B} - \frac{1}{j_A + j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (30)$$

363 In sum, in line with damage models of single substrate SUs, damage models of parallel  
 364 processing 2 substrate SUs reduce to their respective variants of inhibition models if the mean  
 365 processing time and mean time interval between substrate binding events is short relative to the  
 366 mean time interval between damage events.

### 367 2.3.1 Inhibition of multiple substrate SUs: sequential processing.



368

369 **Figure 7.** Scheme of the possibilities at which inhibitor  $i$  may interact with an SU processing 2  
 370 complementary substrates in series. Solid arrows represent SU state transitions, broken arrows substrate  
 371 and inhibitor association and dissociation fluxes.

372 Many cellular processes proceed in a chain-like fashion, such as the respiratory chain and  
 373 glycolysis. In addition, several enzymes requiring multiple substrates bind those in sequential  
 374 order. Chains are often branched, intermediate products may be released, and the relative  
 375 abundance of enzymes may vary, all of which introduce complexity beyond the scope of this  
 376 paper. To retain presentational simplicity, we limit the presentation here to two substrates that  
 377 are being processed sequentially, noting that the formalism is easily generalized to  $n$  substrates.

378 Since there are potentially six states (see Figure 7), the balance equation is

$$379 \quad \theta_{\bullet} + \theta_{A_{\bullet}} + \theta_{AB} + \theta_{\bullet}^i + \theta_{A_{\bullet}}^i + \theta_{AB}^i = 1 \quad (31)$$

380 When the system is in steady state,

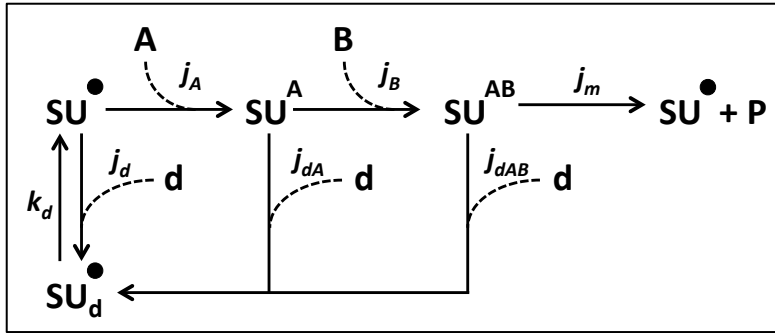
$$381 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\theta_{\bullet}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{A_{\bullet}}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{AB}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{\bullet}^i}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{A_{\bullet}}^i}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{AB}^i}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -j_A - j_i & 0 & j_m & k_i & 0 & 0 \\ j_A & -j_B - j_{iA} & 0 & 0 & k_{iA} & 0 \\ 0 & j_B & -j_m - j_{iAB} & 0 & 0 & k_{iAB} \\ j_i & 0 & 0 & -k_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & j_{iA} & 0 & 0 & -k_{iA} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & j_{iAB} & 0 & 0 & -k_{iAB} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta_{\bullet} \\ \theta_{A_{\bullet}} \\ \theta_{AB} \\ \theta_{\bullet}^i \\ \theta_{A_{\bullet}}^i \\ \theta_{AB}^i \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (32)$$

382 which implies the mean production rate is

$$383 \quad j_p = \left( \frac{c_{iAB}}{j_m} + \frac{c_i}{j_A} + \frac{c_{iA}}{j_B} \right)^{-1} \quad (33)$$

384 As in examples in subsection 2.2.1, with noncompetitive inhibition,  $c_i = c_{iA} = c_{iAB}$ , the inhibition  
 385 factor can be factored out. Uncompetitive inhibition arises when  $c_i = c_{iA} = 1$  and competitive  
 386 inhibition when  $c_{iAB} = 1$ . Thus, inhibition scenarios of SUs processing two complementary  
 387 substrates sequentially are analogous to those of processing two complementary substrates in  
 388 parallel.

389 **2.3.2 Damage of multiple substrate SUs: sequential processing.**



390

391 **Figure 8.** Scheme of the possibilities at which damaging agent  $d$  may interact with an SU processing 2  
 392 complementary substrates in series. Solid arrows represent SU state transitions (including repair), broken  
 393 arrows substrate association and damage fluxes.

394 As before, we assume that a damaged SU instantaneously releases any bound substrates. Then,  
 395 with a damaging agent, an SU processing two substrates sequentially exists in four potential  
 396 states (see Figure 8). The balance equation of fractions of SUs in a particular state is

397 
$$\theta_{\bullet} + \theta_{A\bullet} + \theta_{AB} + \theta^d = 1 \tag{34}$$

398 In steady state,

$$\begin{aligned}
399 \quad & \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{A^*}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta_{AB}}{dt} \\ \frac{d\theta^d}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -j_A - j_d & 0 & j_m & k_d \\ j_A & -j_B - j_{dA} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & j_B & -j_m - j_{dAB} & 0 \\ j_i & j_{dA} & j_{dAB} & -k_d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta \\ \theta_{A^*} \\ \theta_{AB} \\ \theta^d \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (35)
\end{aligned}$$

400 Accordingly, in the presence of a damaging agent, the mean production rate of an SU processing  
401 two substrates sequentially is

$$\begin{aligned}
402 \quad & j_p = \left( \left( \frac{c_d}{j_A} + \frac{c_{dA}}{j_B} + \frac{c_d j_{dA}}{j_A j_B} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{j_{dAB}}{j_m} \right) + \frac{c_{dAB}}{j_m} \right)^{-1} \quad (36)
\end{aligned}$$

403 If the maximum processing rate and the arrival fluxes of substrates are much higher than those of  
404 damaging agents, this expression reduces to

$$\begin{aligned}
405 \quad & j_p = \left( \frac{c_d}{j_A} + \frac{c_{dA}}{j_B} + \frac{c_{dAB}}{j_m} \right)^{-1} \quad (37)
\end{aligned}$$

406 which is mathematically similar to mixed inhibition with two sequentially processed substrates.  
407 Therefore, damage scenarios with two complementary sequentially processed substrates are  
408 similar to corresponding inhibition scenarios.

## 409 DISCUSSION

410 Conceptually, SUs resemble enzymes that convert an arbitrary number of different kinds of  
411 substrate into one or more products. Enzyme activity is driven by substrate availability and is  
412 subject to regulatory mechanisms, e.g. via inhibitors and activators, and to the deleterious impact  
413 of physical and chemical agents. Since enzyme kinetics has a long history and expansive  
414 literature, we have used paradigms from this field to explore the impact of inhibitors and  
415 damaging agents on the dynamics of SUs requiring one or two substrates. Inhibitors interact  
416 reversibly with SUs and thereby impede their functioning but otherwise do not have deleterious

417 impact, whereas a damaging agent decommissions an SU. The decommissioned SU then either  
418 needs to be replaced via *de novo* synthesis or be repaired, implying that any already bound  
419 substrate molecules will be removed. When substrate arrival rates are proportional to densities,  
420 single substrate SUs behave dynamically similar to their enzymatic counterparts (Kooijman,  
421 1998, 2001).

422 This similarity holds when an inhibitor is present, with a minor adjustment (i.e. with  
423 noncompetitive and mixed inhibition an inhibited enzyme but not an inhibited SU in the unbound  
424 state can bind substrate molecules - see Figure 1 for an overview of inhibition schemes). The  
425 impact of a competitive inhibitor is relatively strong at low substrate levels, whereas the opposite  
426 is true for uncompetitive inhibitor; a noncompetitive inhibitor scales down the SU production  
427 rate evenly along the axis of substrate arrival rates (see Figure 2A). If an agent can only damage  
428 an SU without bound substrate, its impact on the average production rate of an SU is  
429 mathematically similar to that of a competitive inhibitor. The impact of a damaging agent  
430 targeting other SU states is approximately equivalent to that of inhibitors targeting similar SU  
431 states, provided that the mean time interval between damage events is long relative to the time it  
432 takes an SU with bound substrate to form a product. When this is not the case, the additional  
433 temporal cost (of damage compared to inhibition) associated with the need to make up for the  
434 removal of substrates bound to damaged SUs further reduces the production rate. In endergonic  
435 processes, there is also an additional energy cost to make up for the lost binding of the substrate  
436 to the SU that got damaged. Those conclusions with single substrate SUs essentially carry over  
437 to SUs requiring two different substrates to form a product, though the mathematical formalisms  
438 involved are more complex and involve more parameters (depending on inhibition or damage  
439 scheme, 2-3 parameters for single substrate SUs and 2-5 parameters for two substrate SUs).

440 Several of the inhibition and damage schemes have previously been applied to model negative  
441 impacts of environmental stressors toxic impact within the DEB framework. For instance, we  
442 have used the noncompetitive inhibition function with a single substrate SU to model toxic  
443 impacts on feeding and assimilation in various organisms (Klanjscek et al., 2012, 2013; Miller et  
444 al., 2010; Miller et al., 2017; Muller et al., 2014; Muller et al., 2010a; Muller et al., 2010b).  
445 Since this function, which acts as a simple multiplier of the feeding and assimilation rate  
446 equations in DEB, can take only positive values, it has an advantage over the negative sloped

447 linear toxic effect function commonly used in DEBtox (Jager et al., 2010 and references therein).  
448 Photoinhibition in algae has been modeled using uncompetitive inhibition with a single substrate  
449 SU (Zonneveld, 1998) and mixed inhibition with an SU processing two complementary  
450 substrates in parallel (Muller, 2011). A competitive damage scheme forms the corner stone of the  
451 receptor kinetics model by Jager and Kooijman (2005) describing the impact of insecticides on  
452 the neurological circuit in guppies. The current presentation brings those models together in a  
453 single modeling framework and generalizes inhibition and damage mechanisms for SUs  
454 processing two complementary substrates.

455 We have considered the impact of inhibitors and damaging agents on SU dynamics in the context  
456 of a supply system, i.e. we have focused on the reduction of SU production rates due to the  
457 impeding impacts of these two types of agents. In contrast, for a demand system, it would be  
458 relevant to ask the question how many more SUs would be needed to neutralize the impact of an  
459 inhibitor or damaging agent, thereby addressing in part the energetic costs of inhibition and  
460 damage. In relative terms, the increase in SU capacity amounts to the ratio of the mean  
461 production rate of an SU in absence of inhibitors or damaging agents and the mean production  
462 rate of an SU with inhibitors or damaging agents. This ratio is the inverse of the dependent  
463 variable in Figure 5. Competitive inhibition (and damage) is relatively costly to compensate for  
464 at low substrate availabilities, whereas uncompetitive inhibition (and damage) is especially  
465 costly to remediate at high substrate availabilities. With noncompetitive inhibition (and  
466 approximately noncompetitive damage), regardless of substrate availability, the SU capacity  
467 increases linearly with the arrival rate of inhibitors. This agrees well with the maintenance toxic  
468 effect module in DEBtox (see e.g. Kooijman and Bedaux, 1996; Muller et al., 2010a).

469 There are obvious conceptual similarities between single substrate SUs and individuals feeding  
470 according to the Holling Type II functional response. Indeed, the mathematical approach taken in  
471 this paper was set out formally by Metz and van Batenburg (1985). Accordingly, models for  
472 inhibition and damage with single substrate SUs are relevant for describing the impeding effect  
473 social interactions can have on feeding activity (Kooijman and Troost, 2007). It is easy to see  
474 that competitive inhibition is conceptually similar to the situation in which conspecifics or  
475 individuals of another species impede the feeding activity of an animal. Indeed, the well-known  
476 model of DeAngelis *et al.* (1975) describing the impeding impact of social interactions on



477 feeding is mathematically equivalent to competitive inhibition by either conspecifics or by  
478 individuals of another species (assuming meeting rates are proportional to densities). Many  
479 elaborations of this approach have subsequently been developed (e.g. O'Neill et al., 1989); also  
480 at least one study on the effects of plant toxins on herbivores shows the importance of  
481 mechanisms (analogous to those discussed here) that impact maximum feeding rate (Swihart et  
482 al., 2009). Our uncompetitive damage scheme is conceptually similar to stealing prey from a  
483 predator, a situation which was modeled by Ruxton *et al.* (1992) using a chemical-reaction-like  
484 scheme conceptually similar to ours.

485 Our presentation generalizing the impact of inhibitors and damaging agents on one and two  
486 substrate SUs has several potential applications of special interest, such as in the context of  
487 describing the impact of oxidative stress on SU dynamics. If an oxidative agent damages an SU,  
488 for instance by removing a metallic cofactor, the resulting impact on SU dynamics is potentially  
489 described by the competitive damage scheme (Equation 9 for a single substrate SU and Equation  
490 29 for an SU processing two complementary substrates in parallel). Furthermore, the  
491 uncompetitive damage scheme for an SU processing two substrates sequentially has potential to  
492 describe the energetic loss implied by damage in cases the purpose of binding the first substrate  
493 (*cf.* ATP) is to increase the energy level of the SU. The formalism presented here can, therefore,  
494 account for a marked variety of conceptual SUs, and types of inhibition and damage – ranging  
495 from enzymes and molecules to individuals and social interactions instigating a behavioral  
496 response.

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505

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