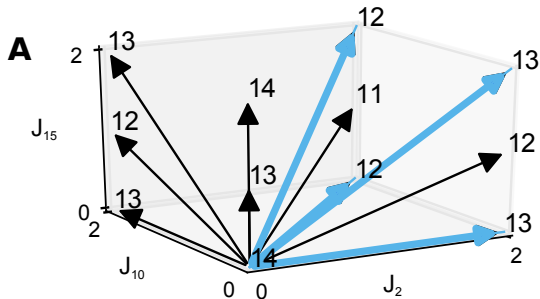
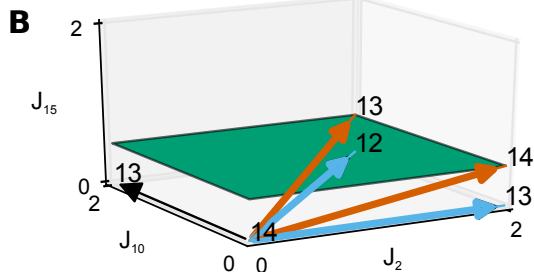


**without reversible-reaction splitting**

$$\min(P_L) = \text{EFM} = 11$$

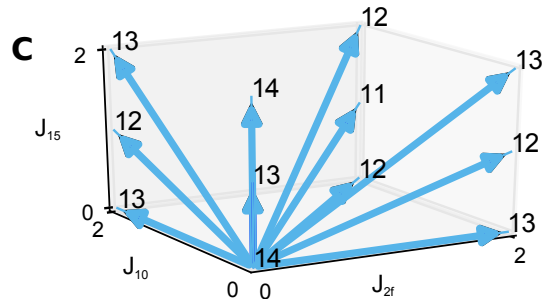


$$\min(P_L) = \text{EFM} = \text{Vertex} = 12$$

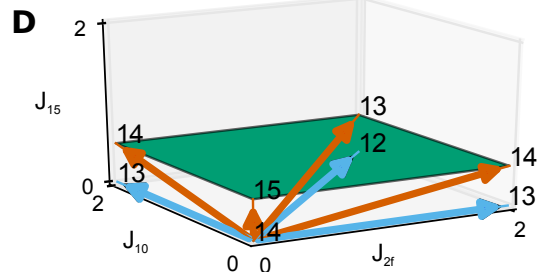


**with reversible-reaction splitting**

$$\min(P_L) = \text{EFM} = \text{Vertex} = 11$$



$$\min(P_L) = \text{EFM} = \text{Vertex} = 12$$



**Figure S4. Minimization of pathway length ( $P_L$ ) yields one or more vertices with reversible-reaction splitting.** Results for the model without and with reversible-reaction splitting are shown in panels A–B and C–D, respectively. Numbers at the arrows give the  $P_L$ . For each optimal-yield EFM and vertex, we determined its  $P_L$ . See Figure S3 for an explanation of e.g. the colors used. (A, C)  $\min(P_L)$  returns an optimal-yield EFM from which a corresponding vertex exists with reversible-reaction splitting. (B, D)  $\min(P_L)$  returns an optimal-yield EFM from which a corresponding vertex exists with and without reversible-reaction splitting. Adding the (non-zero) second flux constraint increased  $\min(P_L)$  by one. Infeasible optimal-yield EFMs which are not part of the optimal solution space are not shown.