

Supporting Information. Tang, J., and W.J. Riley. 2021. Finding Liebig's law of the minimum. *Ecological Applications*.

Appendix S2. Derivation of equation (8) of Figure 1c.

The dynamic equations that follow the schema in Figure 1c are

$$\frac{d[EA]}{dt} = k_A^+[E][A] - k_B^+[B][EA], \quad (S1)$$

$$\frac{d[EAB]}{dt} = k_B^+[EA][B] - k_2^+[EAB], \quad (S2)$$

$$[E]_T = [E] + [EA] + [EAB]. \quad (S3)$$

Now by applying the steady-state approximation to equations (S1) and (S2) and doing some rearrangement, we have

$$[EA] = \frac{k_A^+[A]}{k_B^+[B]} [E], \quad (S4)$$

$$[EAB] = \frac{k_B^+[B]}{k_2^+} [EA] = \frac{k_A^+[A]}{k_2^+} [E]. \quad (S5)$$

When equations (S4) and (S5) are entered into (S3), we find

$$[E] = \frac{[E]_T}{1 + \frac{k_A^+[A]}{k_B^+[B]} + \frac{k_A^+[A]}{k_2^+}}, \quad (S6)$$

which when combined with equation (S5) results in

$$[EAB] = \frac{[E]_T}{1 + \frac{k_2^+}{k_A^+[A]} + \frac{k_2^+}{k_B^+[B]}}, \quad (S7)$$

from which equation (8) in the main text can be obtained by calculating $k_2^+[EAB]$.