Hypatia Graduate School 2024 Basics on Chemical Reaction Networks

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ALICIA DICKENSTEIN (UBA)

BASICS ON CRN

OUR GOAL FOR THIS CLASS:

Define the main characters of this course.

OUR SETTING

- (Bio)chemical reaction networks define systems of ordinary differential equations with (in general, unknown) parameters
- We will assume: Mass Action Kinetics (MAK).
- The basic mathematical theory was developed by chemical engineers: Horn, Jackson y Feinberg and independently Volpert, since 1972.
- Tools from (real and complex) algebraic geometry are more recent: [Gatermann '01-'04], [Craciun, D., Shiu, Sturmfels '07], [Conradi et al. 2007-...], [Gunawardena et al, '08 -...], [Shiu-Sturmfels '10-...], [Feliu, Wiuf '10-...], [D., Pérez Millán '11-...], etc.

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• Consider the following chemical reaction to produce water from H_2 and O_2 (diatomic hydrogen and oxygen):

$$2H_2 + O_2 \xrightarrow{\kappa} 2H_2O$$

- The positive number κ denotes a reaction rate constant.
- We order the species (H_2, O_2, H_2O) and the complexes $\{2H_2 + O_2, H_2O\}$ in the vertices of this small directed graph (digraph). We associate: $2H_2 + O_2 \leftrightarrow (2, 1, 0), 2H_2O \leftrightarrow (0, 0, 2)$ with nonnegative integer vectors.
- The net production of each species in this reaction is given by the difference $(0,0,2) - (2,1,0) = (-2,-1,2) \in \mathbb{Z}^3$, which expresses the fact that 2 molecules of H_2 and one of O_2 are consumed and 2 molecules of water are created.

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EXAMPLE: T-CELL SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION MODEL

T-cell receptors bind to both self-antigens and foreign antigens. How can T-cells be sensitive and specific in recognizing self vs. foreign?

Model due to [McKeithan '95], immunologist; [Sontag '01]:



• A = T-cell receptor, B = MHC of antigen-presenting cell

• C = A bound to B, D = activated form of C



This CRN has:

- 4 *reactions* among the...
- m = 3 complexes A + B, C, and D which are composed by...
- s = 4 species A, B, C, and D.



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EXPLICIT EQUATIONS



The differential equations that govern $x(t) = (x_A(t), x_B(t), x_C(t), x_D(t))$ are:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \kappa_{12} x_A x_B \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \kappa_{21} x_C \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \kappa_{23} x_C \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \kappa_{31} x_D \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{dx_A}{dt} = -\kappa_{12}x_Ax_B + \kappa_{21}x_C + \kappa_{31}x_D = \frac{dx_B}{dt}$$
$$\frac{dx_C}{dt} = \kappa_{12}x_Ax_B - \kappa_{21}x_C - \kappa_{23}x_C$$
$$\frac{dx_D}{dt} = \kappa_{23}x_C - \kappa_{31}x_D$$

ALICIA DICKENSTEIN (UBA)

Two Norwegians in the XIX-th century

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It is derived from the idea that the reaction velocity is proportional to the probability of collision of reactants (+ independence assumption). This kinetics assumes that all the species are abundant and that they are well mixed.



BASICS ON CRN

CRN WITH MAK

- Starting data: a set of n species + a directed graph whose arrows represent a set of r reactions (labeled edges $i \xrightarrow{\kappa_{ij}} j$, where $\kappa_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ are the reaction rate constants) between m complexes in \mathbb{Z}^n . We also denote the reactions $y_i \xrightarrow{\kappa_{ij}} y_j$.
- View the concentrations x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n as functions of time t.
- *Mass-action kinetics* specified by the network *G* is the following autonomous system of ordinary differential equations:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{t}} = \sum_{\mathbf{y}_i \to \mathbf{y}_j} \kappa_{i,j} \, \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{y}_i} \, (\mathbf{y}_j - \mathbf{y}_i), \tag{1}$$

with $x^{y_i} = x_1^{y_{i1}} x_2^{y_{i2}} \cdots x_s^{y_{is}}$.

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$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sum_{(i,j)\in E} \kappa_{i,j} x^{y_i} (y_j - y_i).$$

$$\frac{dx_k}{dt} = f_k(x), k = 1, \dots, s, \qquad (2)$$

where f_1, \ldots, f_s are polynomials in $\mathbb{R}[x_1, \ldots, x_s]$. The steady states of the kinetic system (2) are the (nonnegative real) zeros of f_1, \ldots, f_n .

Basic important information

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BASIC IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As polynomials are C^1 -functions, for each initial condition $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ there is a unique solution curve (trajectory) $x(t) : I \to \mathbb{R}^n$ defined in an interval around 0 with $x(0) = x_0$. A trajectory need not converge, but if it does, its limit is a steady state (and in general, the ss drive the dynamics). If a solution is bounded, then x is defined over all $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$. In most cases, the rate constants are unknown (difficult or impossible to be determined), so we would like to infer dynamical properties of the system from the structure of the reaction network.

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How general are these polynomial systems?

$$\frac{dx_k}{dt} = \sum \kappa_{i,j} \, x^{y_i} \, (y_{jk} - y_{ik}),$$

$$f_k(x) = \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\substack{\kappa_{i,j} \\ p_k(x)}} \kappa_{i,j} x^{y_i} y_{jk}\right)}_{p_k(x)} - \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\substack{\kappa_{i,j} \\ x_k q_k(x)}} \kappa_{i,j} x^{y_i} y_{ik}\right)}_{x_k q_k(x)},$$

where p_k, q_k have non negative coefficients.

HUNGARIAN LEMMA - V. HÁRS, J. TÓTH, 1979

A polynomial system of n real polynomials f_1, \ldots, f_n in n variables arises from a mass-action kinetics dynamical system if and only if there exists real polynomials $p_k, q_k, k = 1, \ldots, n$ with non negative coefficients such that $f_k = p_k - x_k q_k$ for all k.

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EXAMPLES AND NON-EXAMPLES

"Chaotic" Lorenz equations cannot come from a MAK modeling:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \alpha y - \alpha x$$
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \gamma x - y - xz$$
$$\frac{dz}{dt} = xy - \beta z$$

Many models in population dynamics, as the Lotka-Volterra predator-prey model or the standard epidemiological models are are of the MAK form: $\frac{dx}{dt} = ax - bxy,$ $\frac{dy}{dt} = cxy - dy, \quad a, b, c, d > 0.$

CRN in chemistry might have complexes with high coordinates. Usual models in systems biology, in particular enzymatic pathways, are of this form, with small coordinates (exponents).

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$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sum_{y_i \to y_j} \kappa_{i,j} x^{y_i} (y_j - y_i).$$

- The subspace $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ generated by the differences $\{y_j y_i \mid y_i \to y_j\}$ is known as the stoichiometric subspace.
- Clearly, $\frac{dx}{dt}$ is in $S \forall t$.
- Thus, a trajectory x(t) starting at a non-negative point x(0) defined in an interval I containing 0 lies in an affine linear space parallel to S.
- The (linear) equations of x(0) + S are linear conservation relations.



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Two-component signal transduction systems enable bacteria to sense, respond, and adapt to a wide range of environments, stressors, and growth conditions. It relies on phosphotransfer reactions.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} HK_{00} & \xrightarrow{k_1} HK_{p0} & \xrightarrow{k_2} HK_{0p} & \xrightarrow{k_3} HK_{pp} \\ \\ HK_{0p} + Htp & \xrightarrow{k_4} HK_{00} + Htp_p \\ \\ HK_{pp} + Htp & \xrightarrow{k_5} HK_{p0} + Htp_p \\ \\ \\ Htp_p & \xrightarrow{k_6} Htp, \end{array}$$

 $k = (k_1, \ldots, k_6)$ are positive rate constants.

The hybrid histidine kinase HK has two phosphorylable domains: the four possible states of HK are HK_{00} , HK_{P0} , HK_{0P} , HK_{PP} . Htp is the unphosphorylated histidine phosphotransferase protein, Htp_p the phosphorylated form.

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Call x_1, \ldots, x_6 the concentration of the species of the network:

$$X_{1} \xrightarrow{k_{1}} X_{2} \xrightarrow{k_{2}} X_{3} \xrightarrow{k_{3}} X_{4}$$

$$X_{3} + X_{5} \xrightarrow{k_{4}} X_{1} + X_{6}$$

$$X_{4} + X_{5} \xrightarrow{k_{5}} X_{2} + X_{6}$$

$$X_{6} \xrightarrow{k_{6}} X_{5}$$

$$(3)$$

Under mass-action kinetics, we get the following dynamical system

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_1}{dt} &= -k_1 x_1 + k_4 x_3 x_5, & \frac{dx_2}{dt} &= k_1 x_1 - k_2 x_2 + k_5 x_4 x_5, \\ \frac{dx_3}{dt} &= k_2 x_2 - k_3 x_3 - k_4 x_3 x_5, & \frac{dx_4}{dt} &= k_3 x_3 - k_5 x_4 x_5, \\ \frac{dx_5}{dt} &= -k_4 x_3 x_5 - k_5 x_4 x_5 + k_6 x_6, & \frac{dx_6}{dt} &= k_4 x_3 x_5 + k_5 x_4 x_5 - k_6 x_6 \end{aligned}$$

LINEAR DEPENDENCIES GIVE CONSERVATION RELATIONS

From $f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + f_4 = f_5 + f_6 = 0$, we get two conservation relations:

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = T_1,$$

$$x_5 + x_6 = T_2.$$

Thus, trajectories lie in a 4d-plane in 6d-space. Total amounts T_1, T_2 are determined by the initial conditions x(0).

Exercise: Is $S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^6 : x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = x_5 + x_6 = 0\}$?

LINEAR DEPENDENCIES GIVE CONSERVATION RELATIONS

From $f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + f_4 = f_5 + f_6 = 0$, we get two conservation relations:

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = T_1,$$

$$x_5 + x_6 = T_2.$$

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