

Méthodes Formelles pour la Biologie des Systèmes

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Two Lectures

Formal Methods for Systems Biology

1. Introduction to Chemical Reaction Networks (CRNs)
TD enzymatic Lotka-Volterra oscillator
2. Continuous semantics by ordinary differential equations
TD enzyme kinetics
3. Formal behaviours in temporal logics and model-checking
TD robustness and parameter search

**Systems Biology:
How to build and validate
CRN models ?**

The Cell: a Chemical Analog Computer

1. Turing completeness of continuous CRNs
TD synthesis of oscillators and switches
2. Logical circuits for diagnosis
TD doctor in the cell

**Synthetic Biology:
How to program with CRNs ?**

Biochemical Kinetics

Study of the concentration of chemical substances as a function of time.

Molecular species: A_1, \dots, A_m

$|A|$ = Number of molecules A

$[A]$ = $|A| / \text{Volume}$ (e.g. unit ML^{-1}) Concentration of A in the solution
noted also A by abuse of notation

Molecular solutions: S, S', \dots :

multiset of molecules

linear expression with stoichiometric coefficients: $c_1 * A_1 + \dots + c_n * A_n$

Reactions given with rate functions: f for $S \Rightarrow S'$

Mass Action Law Kinetics

Assumption: infinite diffusion speed, dilute solutions, low concentrations

Law: The number of reactions per time unit is proportional to the number of reactant molecules present in the solution

The rate of a reaction $A + B \Rightarrow C$ is $k[A][B]$ for some reaction rate constant k

Continuous semantics: the time evolution of concentrations obeys the ODE

$$dA/dt = -k A B \quad dB/dt = -k A B \quad dC/dt = k A B$$

Stochastic semantics: SSA with same assumption of perfect diffusion

- infinite diffusion speed

Multi-agent semantics: simulation of diffusion

- finite diffusion speed for macromolecules

Interpretation of Rate Constants

Complexation rate constant: *probability of reaction upon collision*
specificity, affinity, position of matching surfaces and energy of bonds

Decomplexation rate constant: *total energy of the bonds*

Diffusion speeds:

small molecules > substrates > enzymes

cells are 10-100 μm long, full of compartments

average travel in one random walk *for one enzyme*:

1 μm in 1s, 2 μm in 4s, 10 μm in 100s

500000 random collisions per second with a substrate concentration of 10^{-5}

50000 random collisions per second with a substrate concentration of 10^{-6}

Possibility of fast computations compared to DNA computation



Reaction Rate Functions

Mass action law kinetics

$k \cdot A$ for $A \Rightarrow B$

$k \cdot A \cdot B$ for $A + B \Rightarrow C$

$k \cdot A^m \cdot B^n$ for $m \cdot A + n \cdot B \Rightarrow R$



Guldberg and Waage, 1864

Henri-Michaelis-Menten kinetics

$V_m \cdot A / (K_m + A)$ for $A \Rightarrow B$

Hill kinetics

$V_m \cdot A^n / (K_m + A^n)$ for $A \Rightarrow B$



Archibald Hill 1910



Henry 1903,



Michaelis and Menten 1913



Origin and justification of these other rate functions?

come from reductions of mass action law CRNs

Continuous Semantics of a CRN

To a set of reactions $\{ f_i \text{ for } S_i \Rightarrow S'_i \}_{i=1,\dots,n}$ given with rate functions f_i

one associates the Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE) over $\{A_1, \dots, A_k\}$

$$dA_k/dt = \sum_{i=1}^n (r_i(A_k) - l_i(A_k)) * f_i = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i(A_k) * f_i$$

where $l_i(A)$ is the stoichiometric coefficient of A in S_i

$r_i(A)$ is the stoichiometric coefficient of A in S'_i

$m_i = r_i - l_i$ is the net stoichiometric vector of reaction i

In matrix form: $\dot{x} = M \cdot f(x)$

Solution $x(t)$ by numerical integration

Steady states: concentrations x such that $M \cdot f(x) = 0$ non-linear problem

Elementary modes: fluxes v such that $M \cdot v = 0$ linear problem

Numerical Integration Methods

$$dX/dt = f(X) \text{ with initial conditions } X_0$$

Idea: discretize time $t_0, t_1=t_0+\Delta t, t_2=t_1+\Delta t, \dots$ and compute a trace

$$(t_0, X_0), (t_1, X_1), \dots, (t_n, X_n) \dots$$

Forward Euler's method: $t_{i+1}=t_i + \Delta t \quad X_{i+1}=X_i+f(X_i)*\Delta t$

$$\text{estimation error}(X_{i+1})=|f(X_i)-f(X_{i+1})|*\Delta t$$

Midpoint method (Runge-Kutta): intermediate computation at $\Delta t/2$

Adaptive step size: $\Delta t_{i+1} = \Delta t_i/2$ while $\text{error} > \text{error}_{\max}$, otherwise $\Delta t_{i+1} = 2*\Delta t_i$

Implicit method (Rosenbrock): solve $X_{i+1}=X_i+f(X_{i+1})*\Delta t$ by root finding

Biocham-3: Rosenbrock method implemented in Prolog

Biocham-4: GSL library with implicit method by default,

not as good as Biocham-3 \rightarrow back to Biocham-3 implementation

+ Events: hybrid systems (both continuous ODE and discrete event transitions)

Single Enzymatic Reaction

An enzyme E binds to a substrate S to catalyze the formation of product P:



Mass action law kinetics ODE:

$$dE/dt =$$

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$$dS/dt =$$

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$$dS/dt = -c_1ES+c_2C$$

$$dC/dt =$$

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Mass action law kinetics ODE:

$$dE/dt = -c_1ES+(c_2+c_3)C$$

$$dS/dt = -c_1ES+c_2C$$

$$dC/dt = c_1ES-(c_3+c_2)C$$

$$dP/dt =$$

Single Enzymatic Reaction

An enzyme E binds to a substrate S to catalyze the formation of product P:



Mass action law kinetics ODE:

$$dE/dt = -c_1ES + (c_2 + c_3)C$$

$$dS/dt = -c_1ES + c_2C$$

$$dC/dt = c_1ES - (c_3 + c_2)C$$

$$dP/dt = c_3C$$

Two **conservation laws** (i.e. species s.t. $\sum_{i=1}^n M_i = \text{constant}$ since $\sum_{i=1}^n dM_i/dt = 0$):

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Two **conservation laws** (i.e. species s.t. $\sum_{i=1}^n M_i = \text{constant}$ since $\sum_{i=1}^n dM_i/dt = 0$):

$$E+C=\text{constant}=E_0+C_0, \quad S+C+P=\text{constant}=S_0+C_0+P_0,$$

we can eliminate E and P and get the equivalent parametric system

$$dS/dt = -c_1(E_0+C_0-C)S + c_2C$$

$$dC/dt = c_1(E_0+C_0)S - (c_1S + c_2 + c_3)C$$

we shall further assume $C_0=0$, $P_0=0$

Slow/Fast Time Scales

Hydrolysis of benzoyl-L-arginine ethyl ester by trypsin (protein of 247 amino acids)

present(E,1e-8). present(S,1e-5).

$E \ll S$

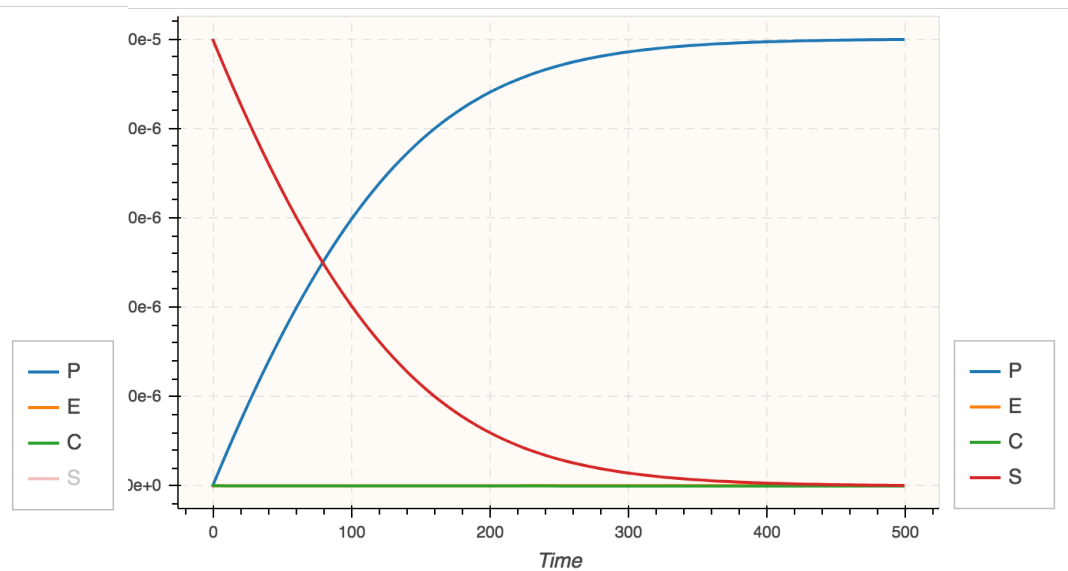
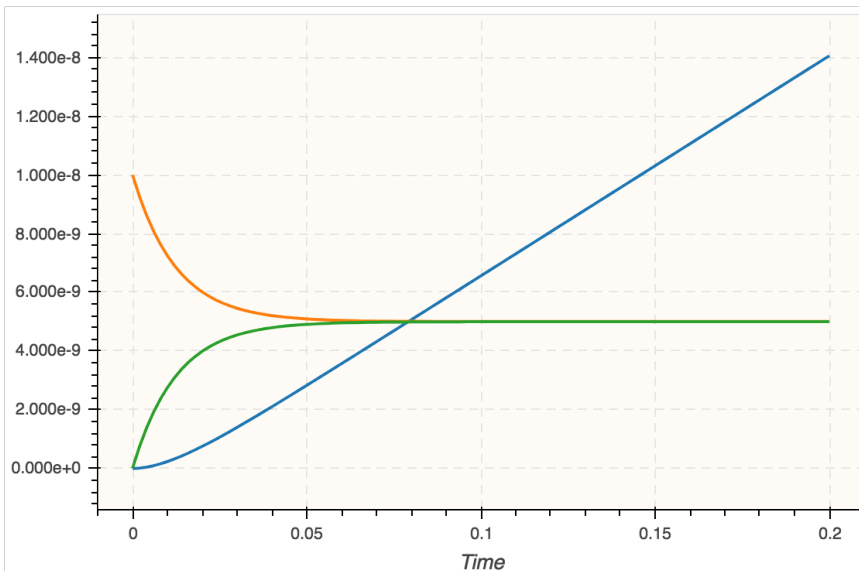
parameter(c1=4e6, c2=25, c3=15).

$c1 \gg c2, c3$

$c1 * E * S$ for $E + S \Rightarrow C$. $c2 * C$ for $C \Rightarrow E + S$. $c3 * C$ for $C \Rightarrow E + P$.

Complex formation $5e-9$ in $0.1s$

Product formation $1e-5$ in $400s$



Michaelis Menten Reduction

Assume $dC/dt=0\dots$

$V_m \cdot S / (K_m + S)$ for $S \Rightarrow P$.

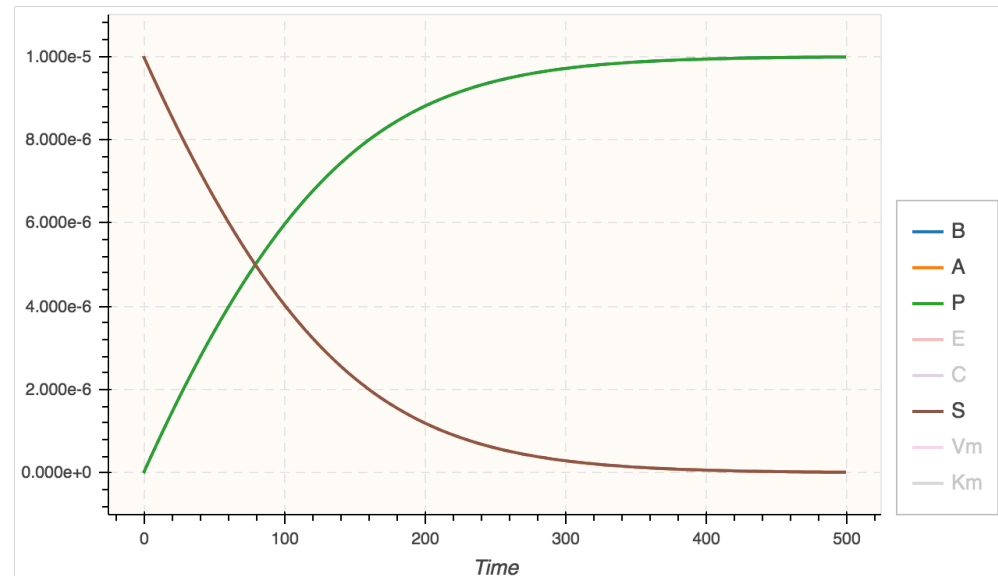
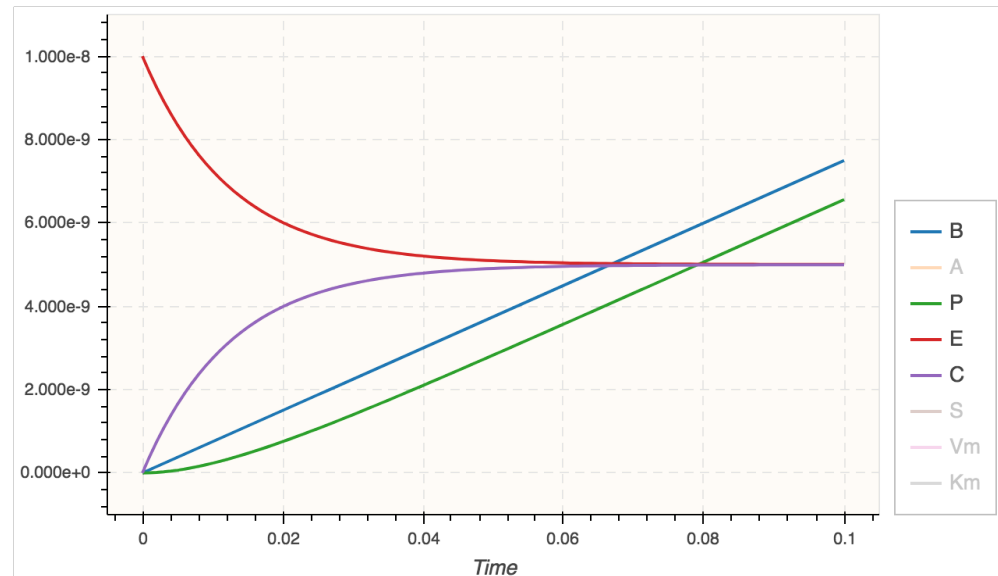
parameter($E_0=1e-8$).

function($V_m=c_2 \cdot E_0$).

function($K_m= (c_2+c_3)/c_1$).

Slightly different early trajectory in 0.1 s

Same trajectory in 400 s



TD2: Enzyme Kinetics

BIOCHAM-4: version online <http://lifeware.inria.fr/biocham4/online/>

Michaelis-Menten enzymatic reaction CRN

- CRN of 3 reactions with mass action law kinetics
- Real parameter values for the hydrolysis of benzoyl-L-arginine ethyl ester by trypsin (protein of 247 amino acids)

```
In [1]: present(E,z). parameter(z=1e-8).  
present(S,s). parameter(s=1e-5).  
absent(C).  
absent(P).
```

```
In [2]: parameter(k1=4e6, k2=25, k3=15).
```

```
In [3]: k1*E*S for E+S => C.  
k2*C for C => E+S.  
k3*C for C => E+P.
```

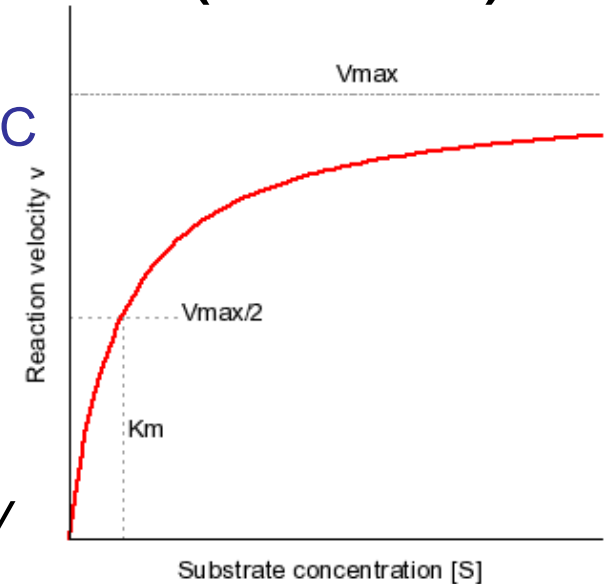
Quasi-Steady State Approximation (QSSA)

Assume quasi-steady state $dC/dt \approx 0 \approx c_1 E_0 S - (c_1 S + c_2 + c_3) C$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } C &= c_1 E_0 S / (c_1 S + c_2 + c_3) \\ &= E_0 S / (K_m + S) \end{aligned}$$

where $K_m = (c_2 + c_3) / c_1$

substrate concentration with half maximum velocity



$$\begin{aligned} \text{We get } dP/dt = -dS/dt &= -c_1 (E_0 + C_0 - C) S + c_2 C \\ &= V_m S / (K_m + S) \text{ where } V_m = c_3 E_0 \end{aligned}$$

maximum velocity at saturating substrate concentration

Michaelis-Menten kinetics: $V_m S / (K_m + S)$ for $S \Rightarrow P$

C and E are eliminated but sometimes E is re-injected as a variable...

$$c_3 * E * S / (K_m + S) \text{ for } S + E \Rightarrow E + P$$

(Weak) Justification by Preservation of Time Scales

“Time taken for a significant change”

$$\text{Time scale of } f(t) \approx \frac{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}{\left| \frac{df}{dt} \right|_{\max}}$$

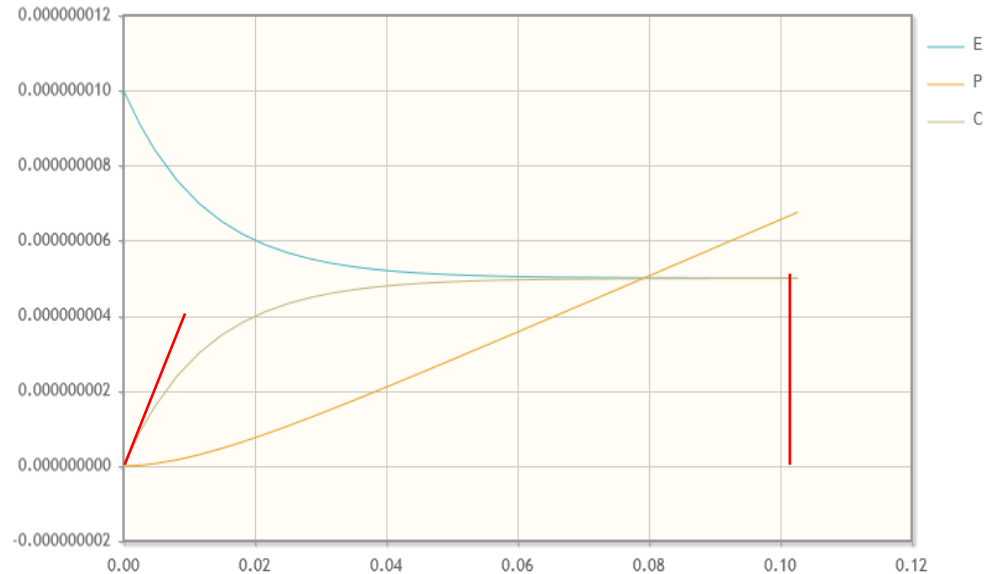
$$\text{Time scale of } C(t) \approx \frac{5e-8}{4e-8/0.01} = \frac{1}{80}$$

Formally, suppose $S(t)=S_0$ we get

$$dC/dt = c_1(E_0+C_0)S_0 - (c_1S_0+c_2+c_3) C$$

$$C(t) = (C_0 - \bar{C}) e^{-kt} + \bar{C} \text{ where } k = c_1S_0 + c_2 + c_3 \text{ and } \bar{C} = (E_0 + C_0)S_0 / (K_m + S_0)$$

Taking k^{-1} as time scale of e^{-kt} (i.e. decrease of $e^{-1} \approx 1/3$ in k^{-1} time)
gives in the Trypsin example $1/(10^{-5} \cdot 4 \cdot 10^6 + 25 + 15) = 1/80 = 0.0125s$



Validity Condition of QSSA

When the time scale of S is much longer than the time scale of C...

S varies from S_0 to 0

| $dS/dt = -c_1(E_0 - C)S + c_2C$ | is maximal when $S=S_0$, $C=C_0$

Time scale of S $\approx 1/(c_1E_0)$

In the Trypsin example $1/(4 \cdot 10^6 \cdot 10^{-8}) \approx 25s$

Validity condition: $c_1E_0 \ll k = c_1S_0 + c_2 + c_3$ (e.g. Trypsin: $4 \cdot 10^{-2} \ll 80$)

i.e. QSSA valid when $E_0 \ll S_0 + K_m$

in particular when $E_0 \ll S_0$ [Briggs and Haldane 1925]

Better justification by approximation in all time points [Tikhonov theorem]

Quasi-Equilibrium Approximation (QE)

Assume reaction equilibrium $c_1ES \approx c_2C$ (fast complexation/decomplexation cycle)

From $E = E_0 - C$ we get $c_1E_0S - c_1CS = c_2C$



$$C = c_1E_0S / (c_2 + c_1S)$$



$$C = E_0S / (K_d + S)$$

where $K_d = c_2 / c_1$

substrate concentration with half maximum velocity

Hence $dP/dt = -dS/dt = V_m S / (K_d + S)$

where $V_m = c_3 E_0$

maximum velocity at saturating substrate concentration

Michaelis-Menten quasi-equilibrium kinetics: $V_m S / (K_d + S)$ for $S \Rightarrow P$

justified when complex equilibrium reached on a fast time scale $c_3 / c_2 \ll 1$

Conclusion

Michaelis-Menten kinetics, Hill kinetics of order n and more general kinetics come from **reductions of elementary CRNs with Mass Action law kinetics**

QSS approximation: **projection on slow dynamics variables**

- fast dynamics species E, C act as **slaves of slow species S**

QE approximation: **elimination of fast reaction equilibria**

The slow/fast separation of the CRN dynamics may change over time

- resulting in a **hybrid automaton** of piece-wise reduced CRNs
- helps to understand the CRN dynamics

Using Michaelis-Menten kinetics in a CRN may be not justified (and wrong)