

Interdisciplinary Research Institute from interacting molecules to cellular regulatory networks



A compositional approach to

the stochastic dynamics of gene networks

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Gene networks as gene circuits:...engineered modules: a useful paradigm?



Reminder: let's build gene regulatory networks as gene circuits...



...gate reaction kinetics:

a input, G gate, G' "activated" gate, b output...

$$a + G \to_r G' + a ,$$

 $G \to_{\varepsilon} G + b$,

$$G' \to_{\eta} G, \quad G' \to_{\eta} G + b$$

 $a \rightarrow_{\delta} 0, \ b \rightarrow_{\delta} 0$

... Gate reactions \rightarrow kinetic ODE's...

$$\dot{a} = \varepsilon G - \delta a \quad \dot{G} = \eta N - (\eta + ra)G$$
 where $N = G + G' = const..$

...stationary state: a_0, G_0 .

fast relaxation of activated gate: $\eta \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\dot{a} = \frac{\varepsilon N}{1 + \nu a} - \delta a$$

where $\nu = r/\eta = O(1)$.

Hence: equivalent to standard approach. Here: Hill-coefficient = 1, larger values: more binding partners. ...in stochastic π -calculus

... a gene gate which transcribes constitutively:



 $null(b) = \tau_{\varepsilon}.(tr(b)|null(b))$ $tr(b) = !b.tr(b) + \tau_{\delta}.0$ ODE for comparison: $\dot{b} = \varepsilon N - \delta b$

...an inhibitory gate:



 $neg(a,b) = ?a.\tau_{\eta}.neg(a,b) + \tau_{\varepsilon}.(tr(b)|neg(a,b))$

...an excitatory gate:



 $pos(a,b) = ?a.\tau_{\eta}.(tr(b)|pos(a,b)) + \tau_{\varepsilon}.(tr(b)|pos(a,b))$

Conclusions:

- there is an exact mapping from reaction kinetics to π and to ODE (Cardelli);
- the ODE's to the compositional model are "equivalent" to the protein/mRNA approach;

Repressilator: ...reminder to EL-ODE modeling ...

$$\frac{dm_i}{dt} = -m_i + \frac{\alpha}{1 + p_j^h} + \alpha_0$$
$$\frac{dp_i}{dt} = -\beta(p_i - m_i)$$

 $i = (lacI, tetR, cI), \quad j = (cI, lacI, tetR)$

...the repressilator merits more discussion...

- in our model: Hill coefficient h = 1 but:
- h only slightly > 1 suffices for EL-dynamics (see Stadler et al., 2006: h = 4/3.)
- effects of stochasticity ? Known in principle, but not yet fully analyzed.



Build compositional ODE + π model for cell cycle dynamics.

Main feature: "zoom-in".

...example (trivial): protein degradation in the repressilator.

