

Graphical Conditions for Rate Independence in Chemical Reaction Networks



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Analog Computations with Chemical Reaction Networks (CRN)

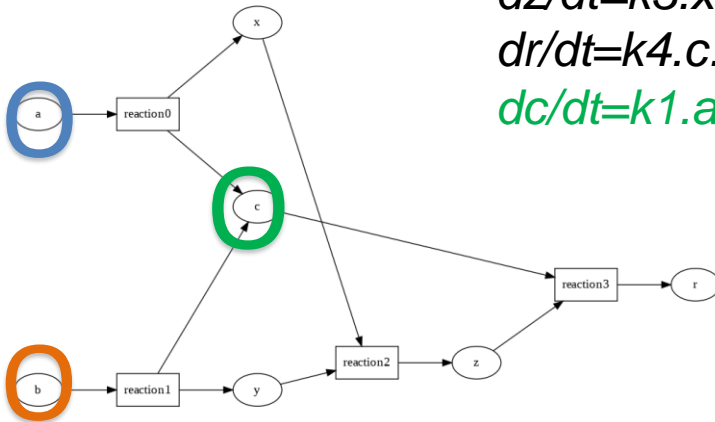
CRN:

$k_1 \cdot a$ for $a \Rightarrow x + c$

$k_2 \cdot b$ for $b \Rightarrow y + c$

$k_3 \cdot x \cdot y$ for $x + y \Rightarrow z$

$k_4 \cdot c \cdot z$ for $c + z \Rightarrow r$



ODE

$da/dt = -k_1 \cdot a$

$db/dt = -k_2 \cdot b$

$dx/dt = k_1 \cdot a - k_3 \cdot x \cdot y$

$dy/dt = k_2 \cdot b - k_3 \cdot x \cdot y$

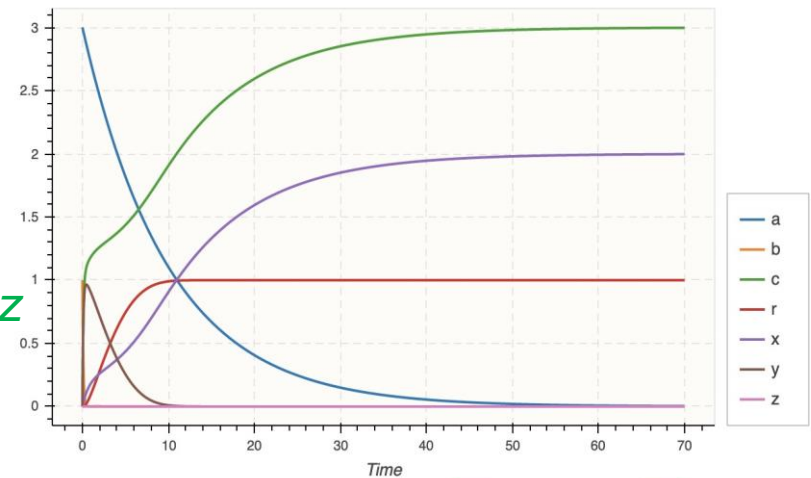
$dz/dt = k_3 \cdot x \cdot y - k_4 \cdot c \cdot z$

$dr/dt = k_4 \cdot c \cdot z$

$dc/dt = k_1 \cdot a + k_2 \cdot b - k_4 \cdot c \cdot z$

Input: a, b Initialization: $x=y=z=r=c=0$

Output: c



Computed function at steady state:

$c(\infty) = \max(a(0), b(0))$

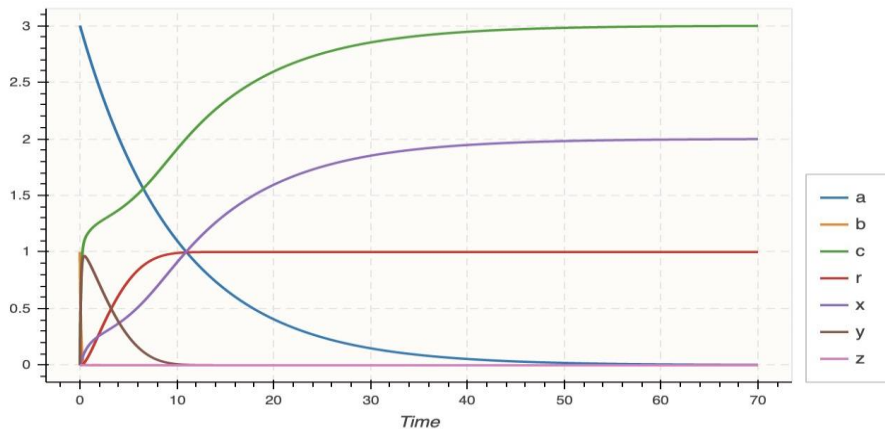
Theorem [F, Le Guludec, Bournez, Pouly CMSB 2017]

A real function is Turing-computable (in Ptime) if and only if it can be computed by a CRN over a finite set of molecular species (with polynomial length trajectories)

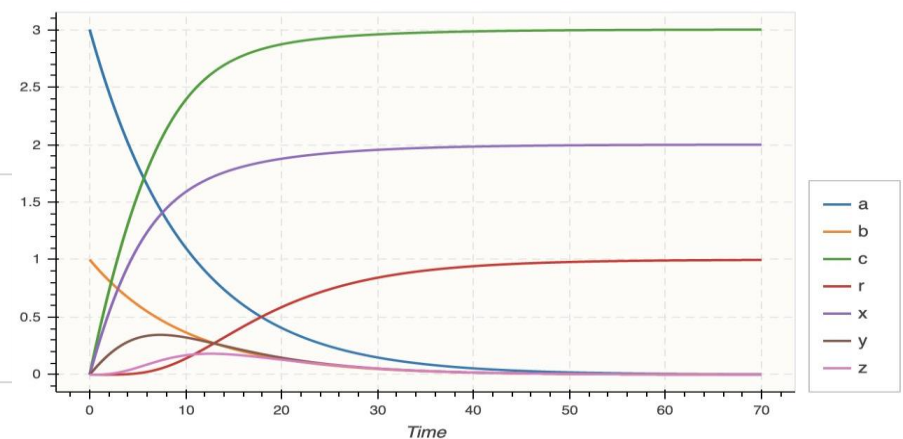
Rate-Independent CRN Computation

Input: $a(0)=3$ $b(0)=1$ Result $c^*=3$ independently of the reaction rates

$k_1=0.1, k_2=10.0, k_3=1, k_4=100.0$:



$k_1=0.1, k_2=0.1, k_3=0.1, k_4=0.1$:



The I/O function computed by that CRN structure is independent of the kinetics

$a \Rightarrow x+c$

$b \Rightarrow y+c$

$x+y \Rightarrow z$

$c+z \Rightarrow r$

$c^* = \max(a(0), b(0)) = a(0) + b(0) - \min(a(0), b(0))$

$x^* = \max(0, a(0) - b(0))$

$y^* = \max(0, b(0) - a(0))$

$r^* = \min(a(0), b(0))$

$z^* = 0, a^* = 0, b^* = 0$

**Absolute robustness
Ideal circuit designs
for synthetic biology**

Mathematical Characterization of the Functions Computed by Rate-Independent CRNs

Theorem [Chen-Doty-Soloveichik 2014 ITCS]

A real function is computable by a **rate-independent CRN** if and only if it is positive-continuous **piecewise linear** with rational coefficient.

Theorem [Chalk Kornerup Reeves Soloveichik 2018 CMSB]

A real function is computable by a **composable CRN** if and only if it is **superadditive** positive-continuous **piecewise rational linear**.

**Does not help to show that a given CRN is rate-independent
nor to design a rate-independent CRN**

**Graphical conditions on the CRN
ensuring rate-independence ?**

Simple Rate-Independent CRN Structures

$A \Rightarrow B$

output B: computes the *identity function* $B(\infty) = A(0) + B(0)$ rate-independent !

output A: computes the *zero function* $A(\infty) = 0$ rate-independent !

$A \Rightarrow C$

$B \Rightarrow C$

Harmless join

output C: computes the *sum* $C(\infty) = A(0) + B(0) + C(0)$ rate-independent

output A: computes the *zero function* $A(\infty) = 0$ rate-independent !

$C \Rightarrow A$

$C \Rightarrow B$

Harmfull fork

output A: computes $A(\infty) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} C(0) + A(0)$ not rate-independent !

$C \Rightarrow A$

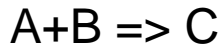
$C \Rightarrow B$

$B \Rightarrow C$

Harmless fork with a circuit

output A: computes the *sum* $A(\infty) = C(0) + B(0) + A(0)$ rate-independent !

Rate-Independent CRN Structures



output C: computes $C(\infty) = \text{minimum}(A(0), B(0)) + C(0)$ **rate-independent !**

output B: computes $B(\infty) = \max(0, B(0) - A(0))$ **rate-independent !**



output A: makes copies $A(\infty) = C(0) + A(0)$ **rate-independent !**

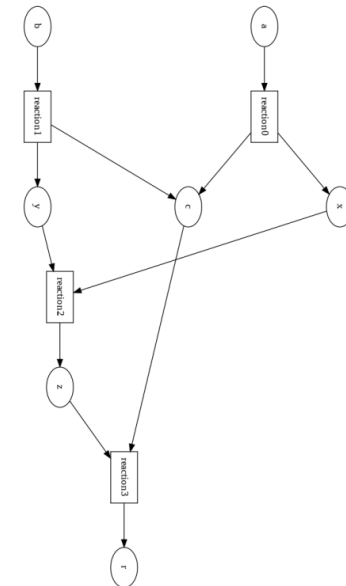


Definition A **funnel CRN** is a CRN that is:

- fork-free on species nodes
- circuit-free
- synthesis-free

Theorem A **funnel CRN** is **rate-independent** for any output species.

Sufficient condition, not a necessary condition (e.g. harmless fork with circuit)



Global Rate-Independence Condition

Lemma *The structure of a funnel CRN C is a DAG with no reaction source node*

Lemma *All steady fluxes of a funnel CRN C are equal to 0.*

Proof: by induction on the topological order of the graph.

Definition *We shall denote x_i^+ the total amount of species x_i available in an execution of the corresponding ODE system.*

$$x_i^+ = x_i^0 + \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{dx_i}{dt} = x_i^0 + \int_0^{+\infty} \sum_{P_j(x_i) > R_j(x_i)} (P_j(x_i) - R_j(x_i)) f_j$$

Theorem *The ODE system associated to a funnel CRN has a single steady state x^* that does not depend on the kinetic functions f_j of C .*

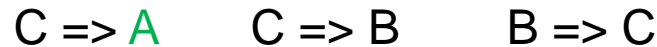
Corollary *A funnel CRN is globally rate-independent for all species.*

Theorem *Any function computable by a rate-independent CRN is computable by a funnel CRN.*

Proof: by Chen-Doty-Soloveichik's characterization and Ovchinnikov's max-min representation of piecewise linear functions

Rate-Independence for « Persistent » Outputs

The harmless-fork-with-circuit CRN is rate-independent on outputs A, B, C



Def. A species x

- is a **product of a CRN** if it can only increase: $\forall i R_i(x) \leq P_i(x)$
- is **structurally persistent** if it is covered by a **P-invariant** S , $\forall i S.R_i = S.P_i$, and does not belong to a **critical** (gets empty) **siphon** (when empty remains empty)

Theorem. Any CRN is rate-independent on its **structurally persistent products**.

Proof: P-invariant covering ensures boundedness and convergence for products.

The species reaching 0 are localized in siphons and exclude persistent outputs.

Implemented in BIOCHAM using Constraint Logic Programming for computing P-invariants and siphons [Nabli, Martinez, F, Soliman 2016 *Constraints*]

Evaluation on BioModels

590 CRNs from SBML models
(many not well-formed CRNs)
[F Gay Soliman 2011 TCS]

94 with rate-independent products
29 with non trivial rate-ind. products
2 globally rate-ind. CRNs

Size of those 29 models:

- 4-136 species
- 2-316 reactions

Constraint solving time:

- between 0.07 and 151 seconds
- except 2 timeouts >240s

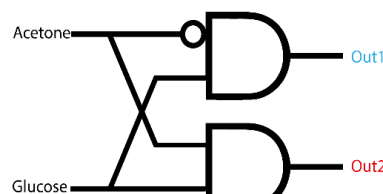
Biomodel#	#species	#reactions	#products	#RI	#NTRI	NTRI-product species	Time (s)
037	12	12	2	2	2	Yi, Pi	0.950
104	6	2	3	3	1	species_4	0.074
105	39	94	11	3	1	AggP_Proteasome	63.366
143	20	20	4	1	1	MLTH_c	3.333
178	6	4	1	1	1	lytic	0.139
227	60	57	2	1	1	s194	17.299
259	17	29	1	1	1	s10	2.308
260	17	29	1	1	1	s10	2.310
261	17	29	1	1	1	s10	2.297
267	4	3	1	1	1	lytic	0.086
283	4	3	1	1	1	Q	0.053
293	136	316	14	4	3	aggE3, aggParkin, AggP_Proteasome	>240
313	16	16	4	2	1	IL13_DecoyR	2.071
336	18	26	1	1	1	Ila	4.148
344	54	80	7	2	1	AggP_Proteasome	>240
357	9	12	1	1	1	T	0.561
358	12	9	4	2	1	Xa_ATIII	0.892
363	4	4	1	1	1	Ila	0.067
366	12	9	4	2	1	Xa_ATIII	0.901
415	10	5	7	7	7	s10, s11, s12, s13, s14, s9, s15	0.894
437	61	40	22	8	1	T	16.109
464	14	10	6	3	1	s12	2.282
465	16	14	5	5	1	s23	59.554
525	18	19	8	3	1	p18inactive	33.479
526	18	19	8	3	1	p18inactive	33.858
540	22	11	12	11	8	s14, s15, s16, s17, s18, s19, s20, s21	56.134
541	37	32	13	9	7	s14, s15, s16, s17, s18, s19, s21	31.573
559	90	136	18	2	2	s493, s502	150.954
575	76	58	9	1	1	DA_GSH	66.806

Conclusion

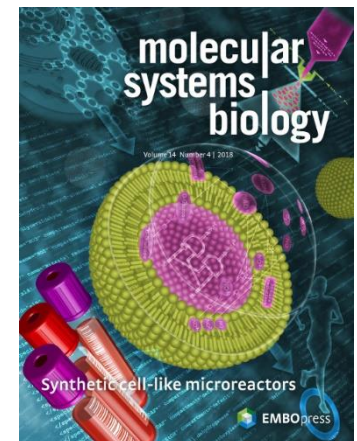
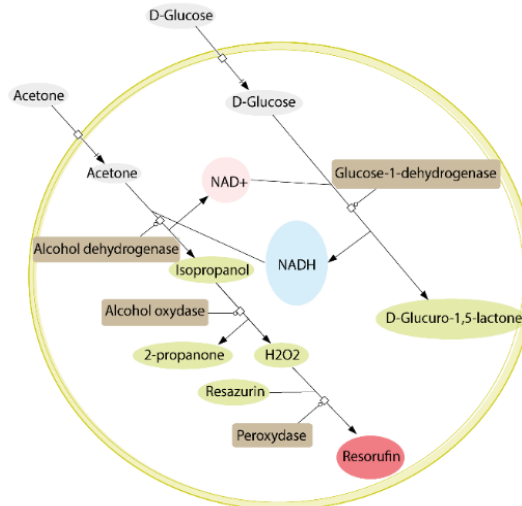
- Graphical conditions to ensure rate-independence of a CRN **on all species**
 - « funnel » CRN structure: fork-free, circuit-free, synthesis-free
- Graphical condition to ensure rate-independence **on CRN product species**
 - Non-standard use of Petri Net notions of P-invariant and siphon
 - NP-hard problems implemented in BIOCHAM by Constraint Logic Programming
- Scales-up to models in BioModels
 - Few timeouts for models with a hundred of species or reactions
 - Possible improvements using SAT solvers
- **Theory of analog computational complexity** beyond Ptime characterization?
 - Computational complexity class of rate-independent CRNs?
 - Low time complexity class of funnel CRNs?

Perspectives

- Rate-independence by design for Synthetic Biology
 - Graphical constraints for CRN design
 - **Constraint-based synthesis method**
- « Morally » rate-independent CRNs
 - **Rate-independent CRN kernel**
 - **Plus reverse reactions** breaking formal rate-independence (limited robustness)
 - Boolean function CRNs for diagnosis [Courbet Amar F Renard Molina 2018 MSB]



Glucose	Acetone	Out2	Out1
0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0
1	1	1	0



Lifeware team at INRIA Saclay

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Current collaborations:

- O. Bournez, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, A. Pouly, CNRS Univ. Paris
 - ANR difference project: Computing with Discrete Differential Equations
- F. Molina CNRS Sys2diag, Montpellier, J.H. Jiang, NTU, Taiwan
 - ANR-MOST BIOPSY project: Biochemical Programming Systems
- A. Weber, Univ. Bonn, T. Sturm, Inria Nancy, O. Radulescu, Montpellier, S. Walcher
 - ANR-DFG SYMBIONT project: Symbolic Methods for Biological Networks
- A. Ballesta, INSERM Villejuif