Artificial Biochemistry

Luca Cardelli

Microsoft Research

Understanding Adaptive Multi-Component Systems Rostock 2006-11-10

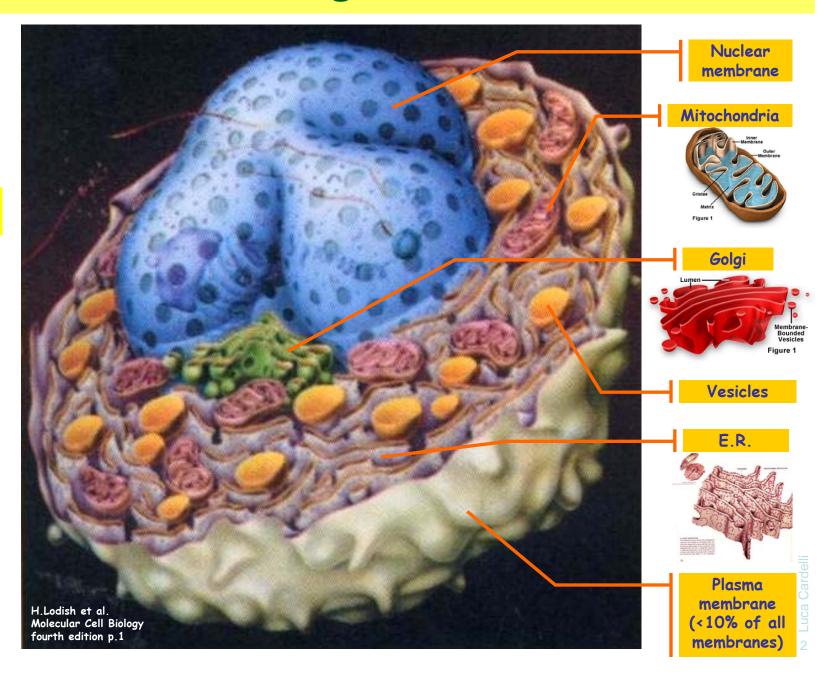
http://LucaCardelli.name

Reverse-Engineer This!

Eukaryotic Cell

(10~100 trillion in human body)

Membranes everywhere





...and Model It

- Even if we understood it, how would we model it?
 - Millions of differential equations? Hmmm..
- And we will have to model it in order to understand it.
- What's different about modeling these systems?

Stochastic Collectives

Stochastic Collectives

• "Collective":

- A large set of interacting finite state automata:
 - Not quite language automata ("large set")
 - Not quite cellular automata ("interacting" but not on a grid)
 - Not quite process algebra ("finite state" and "collective")
 - Cf. "multi-agent systems" and "swarm intelligence"

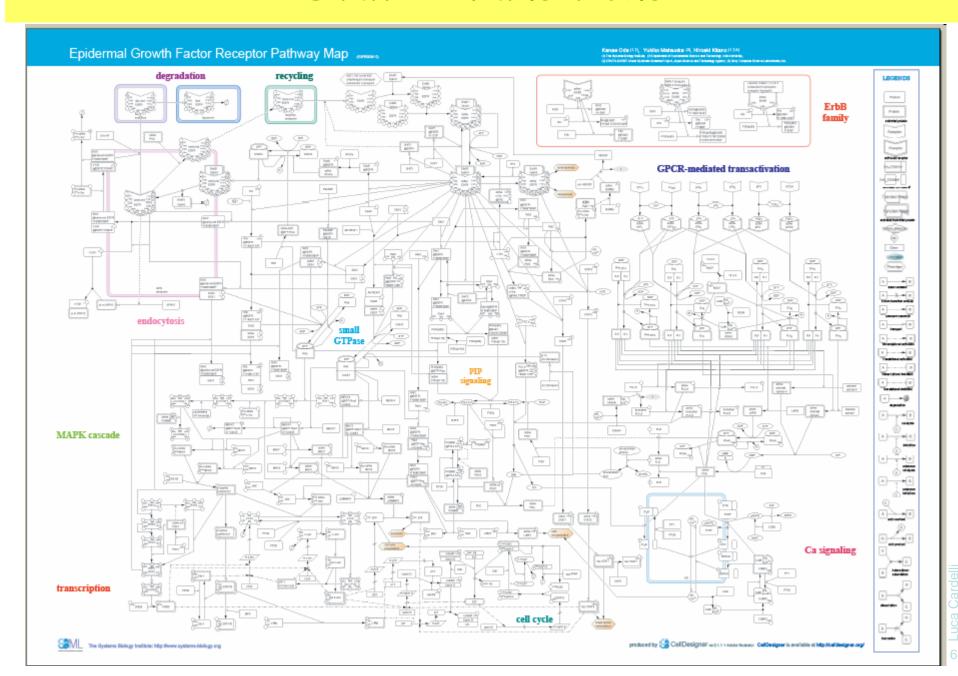
"Stochastic":

- Interactions have rates
 - Not quite discrete (hundreds or thousands of components)
 - Not quite continuous (non-trivial stochastic effects)
 - Not quite hybrid (no "switching" between regimes)

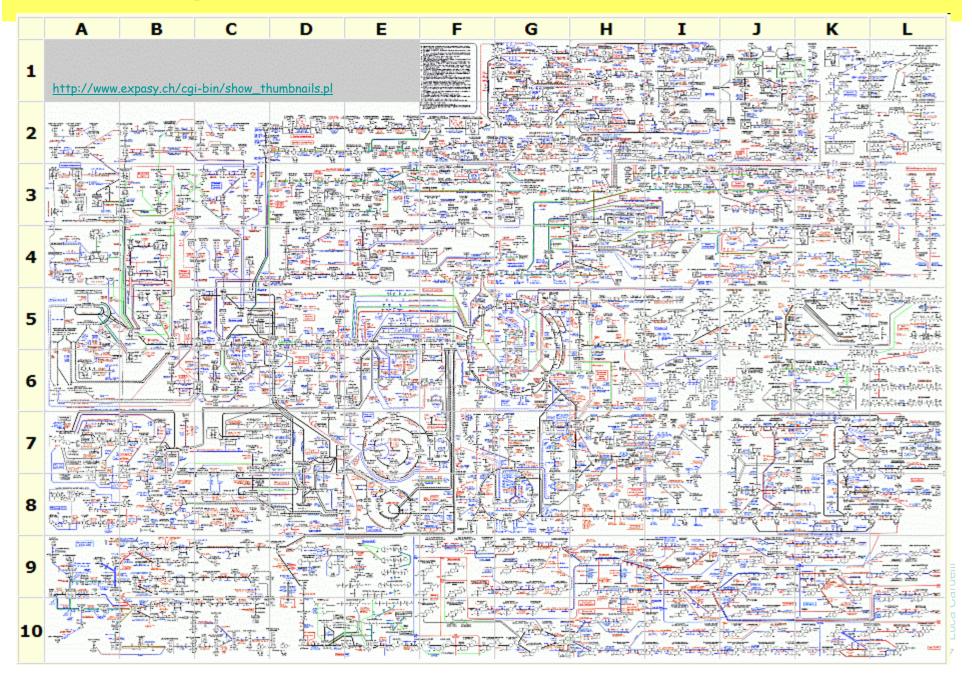
Very much like biochemistry

- Which is a large set of stochastically interacting molecules/proteins
- Are proteins finite state and subject to automata-like transitions?
 - Let's say they are, at least because:
 - Much of the knowledge being accumulated in Systems Biology is described as state transition diagrams [Kitano].

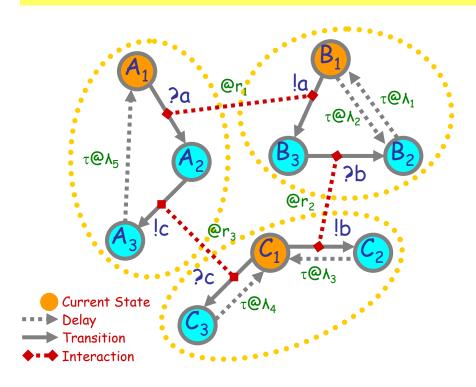
State Transitions



Even More State Transitions

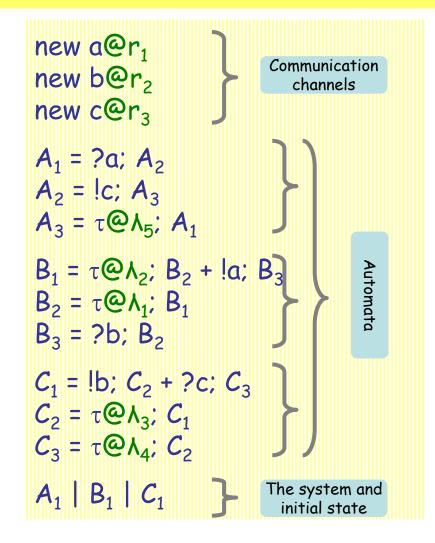


Interacting Automata



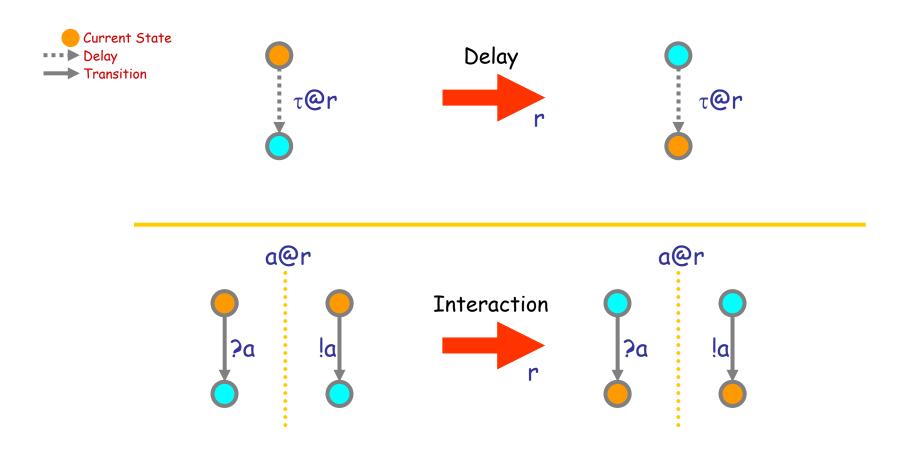
Communicating automata: a graphical FSA-like notation for "finite state restriction-free π -calculus processes". Interacting automata do not even exchange values on communication.

The stochastic version has *rates* on communications, and delays.



"Finite state" means: no composition or restriction inside recursion. Analyzable by standard Markovian techniques, by first computing the "product automaton" to obtain the underlying finite Markov transition system. [Buchholz]

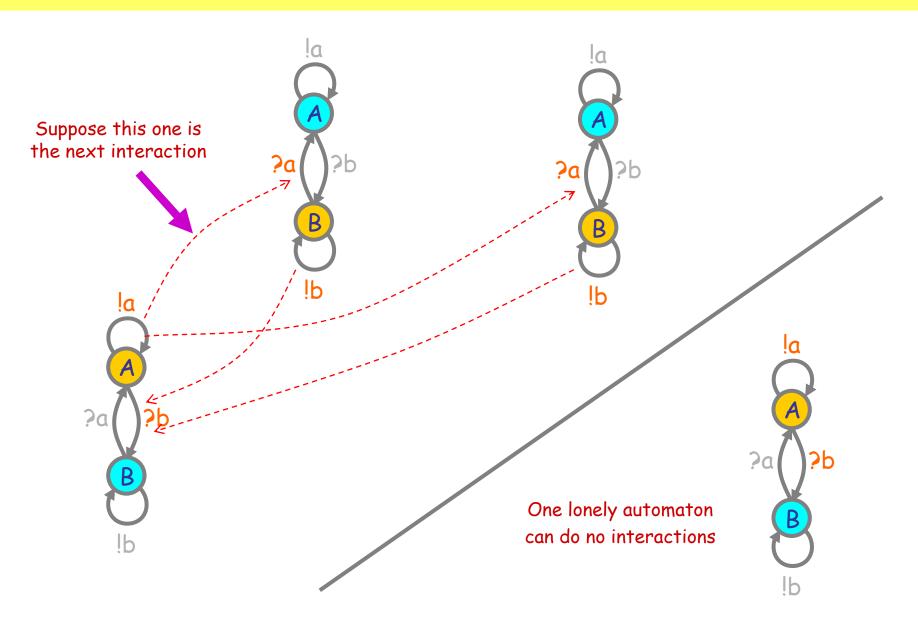
Interacting Automata Transition Rules



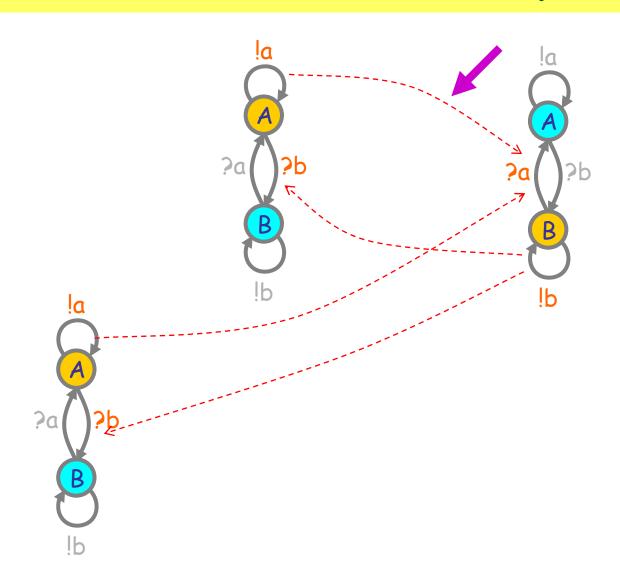
Q: What kind of mass behavior can this produce?

(We need to understand that if want to understand biochemical systems.)

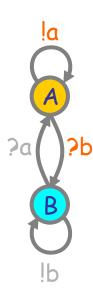
Interactions in a Population

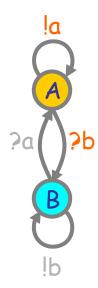


Interactions in a Population



Interactions in a Population

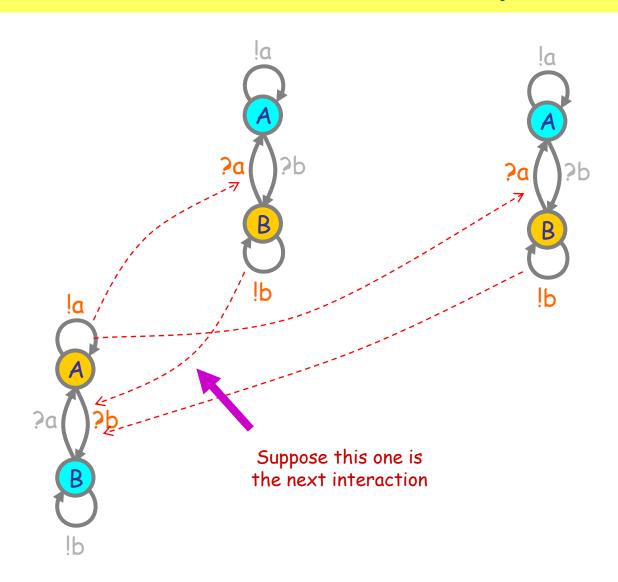






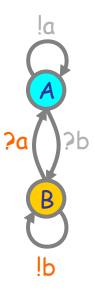


Interactions in a Population (2)



Interactions in a Population (2)

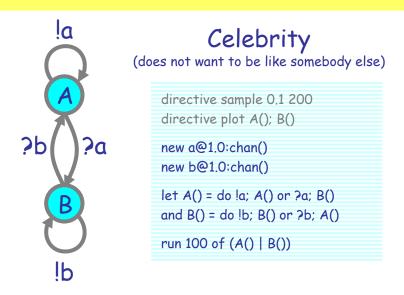




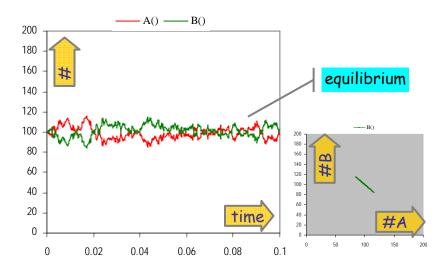




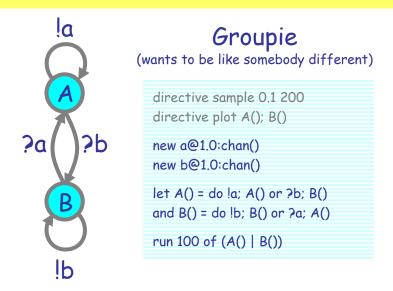
Groupies and Celebrities



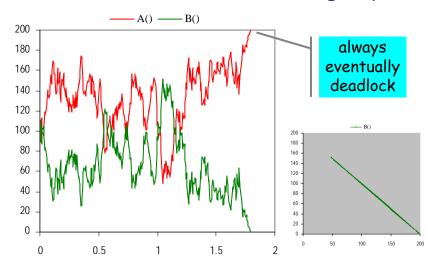
A stochastic collective of celebrities:



Stable because as soon as a A finds itself in the majority, it is more likely to find somebody in the same state, and hence change, so the majority is weakened.



A stochastic collective of groupies:

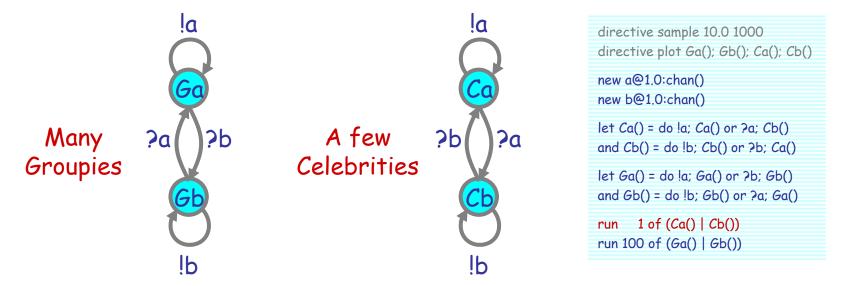


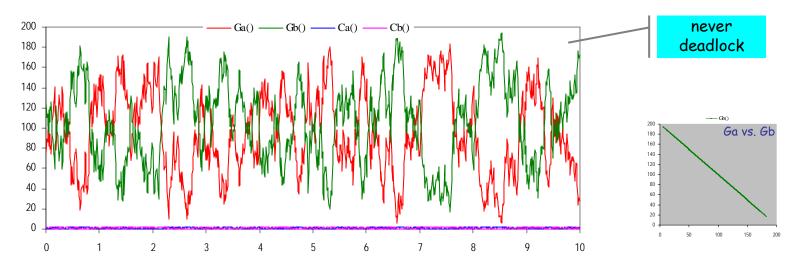
Unstable because within an A majority, an A has difficulty finding a B to emulate, but the few B's have plenty of A's to emulate, so the majority may switch to B. Leads to deadlock when everybody is in the same state and there is nobody different to emulate.

A tiny bit of "noise" can make a huge difference

Both Together

A way to break the deadlocks: Groupies with just a few Celebrities

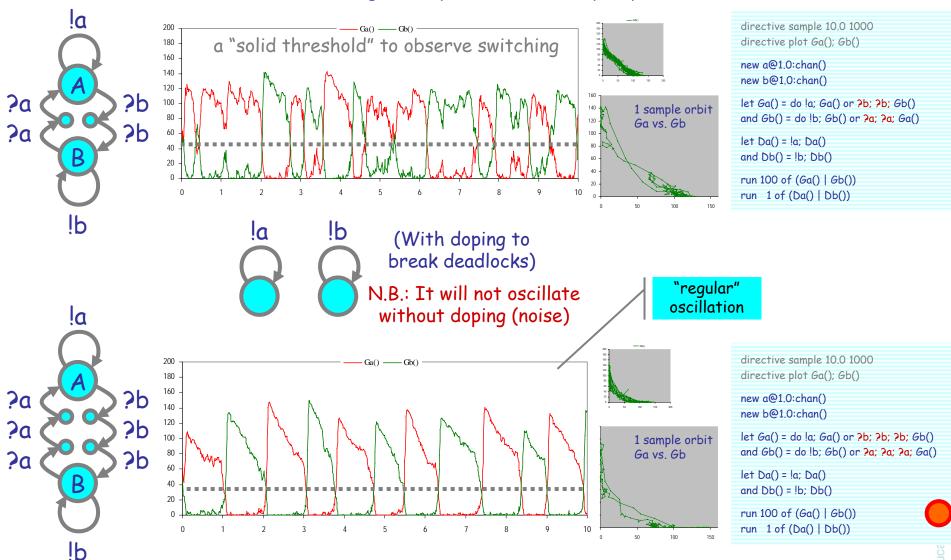




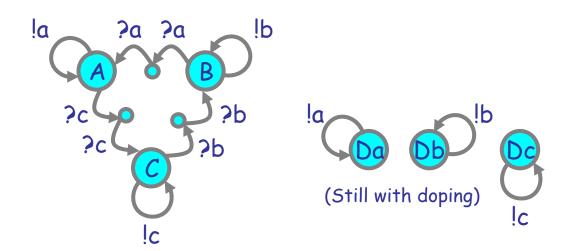
Regularity can arise not far from chaos

Hysteric Groupies

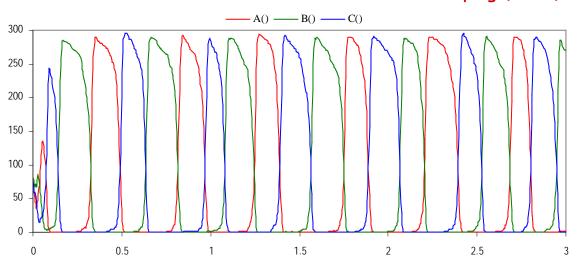
We can get more regular behavior from groupies if they "need more convincing", or "hysteresis" (history-dependence), to switch states.



Hysteric 3-Way Groupies



N.B.: It will not oscillate without doping (noise)



directive sample 3.0 1000
directive plot A(); B(); C()

new a@1.0:chan()

new b@1.0:chan()

let A() = do la; A() or ?c; ?c; C()

and B() = do lb; B() or ?a; ?a; A()

and C() = do !c; C() or ?b; ?b; B()

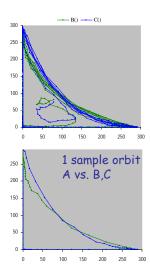
let Da() = !a; Da()

and Db() = !b; Db()

and Dc() = !c; Dc()

run 100 of (A() | B() | C())

run 1 of (Da() | Db() | Dc())



Semantics of Collective Behavior

"Micromodels": Continuous Time Markov Chains

- The underlying semantics of stochastic π -calculus (and stochastic interacting automata). Well established in many ways.
 - Automata with rates on transitions.
- "The" correct semantics for chemistry, executable.
 - Gillespie stochastic simulation algorithm
- Lots of advantages
 - Compositional, compact, mechanistic, etc.
- But do not give a good sense of "collective" properties.
 - Yes one can do simulation.
 - Yes one can do program analysis.
 - Yes one can do modelchecking.
 - But somewhat lacking in "analytical properties" and "predictive power".

"Macromodels": Ordinary Differential Equations

- They always ask:
 - "Yes, but how does you automata model relate to the 75 ODE models in the literature?"
- Going from processes/automata to ODEs directly:
 - In principle: just write down the Rate Equation: [Calder, Hillston]
 - Determine the set of all possible states 5 of each process.
 - Determine the rates of the transitions between such states.
 - Let [S] be the "number of processes in state S" as a function of time.
 - Define for each state S:
 - [S] = (rate of change of the number of processes in state S)

 Cumulative rate of transitions from any state S' to state S, times [S'],

 minus cumulative rate of transitions from S to any state S", times [S].
 - Intuitive (rate = inflow minus outflow), but often clumsy to write down precisely.
- But why go to the trouble?
 - If we first convert processes to chemical reactions, then we can convert to ODEs by standard means!



From Chemistry to ODEs

Chemical Reactions

$$A \rightarrow^{r} B_{1} + ... + B_{n}$$

$$A_{1} + A_{2} \rightarrow^{r} B_{1} + ... + B_{n}$$

$$A + A \rightarrow^{r} B_{1} + ... + B_{n}$$

Degradation

Asymmetric Collision $[A_i]^{\bullet} = -r[A_1][A_2]$

Symmetric Collision $[A]^{\bullet} = -r[A]([A]-1)$

$$[A]^{\bullet} = -r[A]$$

Exponential Decay

$$[A_i]^{\bullet} = -r[A_1][A_2]$$

Mass Action Law

$$[A]^{\bullet} = -r[A]([A]-1)$$

Mass Action Law

(assuming $A \neq B_i \neq A_j$ for all i,j)

No other reactions!

JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS

VOLUME 113. NUMBER 1

The chemical Langevin equation

Daniel T. Gillespiea)

Research Department, Code 4T4100D, Naval Air Warfare Center, China Lake, California 93555

Genuinely trimolecular reactions do not physically occur in dilute fluids with any appreciable frequency. Apparently trimolecular reactions in a fluid are usually the combined result of two bimolecular reactions and one monomolecular reaction, and involve an additional short-lived species.

Chapter IV: Chemical Kinetics

[David A. Reckhow, CEE 572 Course]

... reactions may be either elementary or nonelementary. <u>Elementary reactions</u> are those reactions that occur exactly as they are written, without any intermediate steps. These reactions almost always involve just one or two reactants. ... Non-elementary reactions involve a series of two or more elementary reactions. Many complex environmental reactions are non-elementary. In general, reactions with an overall reaction order greater than two, or reactions with some non-integer reaction order are non-elementary.

THE COLLISION THEORY OF **REACTION RATES**

www.chemguide.co.uk

The chances of all this happening if your reaction needed a collision involving more than 2 particles are remote. All three (or more) particles would have to arrive at exactly the same point in space at the same time, with everything lined up exactly right, and having enough energy to react. That's not likely to happen very often!

Trimolecular reactions:

$$A + B + C \rightarrow^{r} D$$

the measured "r" is an (imperfect) aggregate of e.g.:

$$A + B \leftrightarrow AB$$

$$AB + C \rightarrow D$$

Enzymatic reactions:

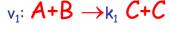
$$S \xrightarrow{E}_r P$$

the "r" is given by Michaelis-Menten (approximated steady-state) laws:

$$E + S \leftrightarrow ES$$

$$FS \rightarrow P + F$$

From Reactions to ODEs



$$v_2: A+C \rightarrow k_2 D$$

$$v_3$$
: $C \rightarrow k_3 E+F$

$$v_4$$
: $F+F \rightarrow k_4$ B



Stoichiometric matrix

Rate laws

$$[X]^{\bullet} = N \cdot I$$

[A]·	= -	·l ₁ -	را
------	-----	-------------------	----

$$[B]^{\bullet} = -I_1 + I_4$$

$$[C]^{\bullet} = 2|_{1} - |_{2} - |_{3}$$

$$[D]^{\bullet} = I_2$$

$$[E]^{\bullet} = I_3$$

$$[F]^{\bullet} = I_3 - 2I_4$$

Write the coefficients by columns

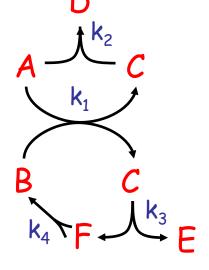
reactions

	2	V ₁	V ₂	V ₃	V ₄
	A	-1	-1		
	В	-1			1
	C	2	-1	-1	
	۵		1		
	Е			1	
	۴			1	-2
•	\				

Read the concentration changes from the rows

E.g.
$$[A]^{\bullet} = -k_1[A][B] - k_2[A][C]$$

Stoichiometric Matrix



CAVEAT: A deterministic approximation of a stochastic system (i.e. possibly misleading)

Set a rate law for each reaction (Degradation/Asymmetric/Symmetric)



X: chemical species

[-]: quantity of molecules

I: rate laws

k: kinetic parameters

N: stoichiometric matrix

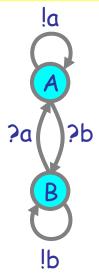
From Processes to Chemistry

Chemical Ground Form (CGF)

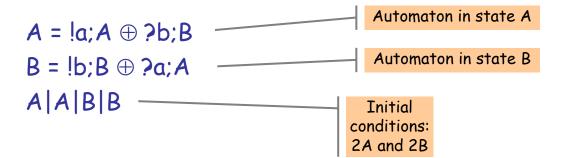
$$\begin{array}{lll} E::=X_1=M_1,\,...,\,X_n=M_n & \text{Definitions} & (n \geq 0) \\ M::=\pi_1;P_1\oplus ...\oplus \pi_n;P_n & \text{Molecules} & (n \geq 0) \\ P::=X_1\mid ...\mid X_n & \text{Solutions} & (n \geq 0) \\ \pi::=\tau_r\mid 2n_{(r)}\mid n_{(r)} & \text{Interactions} & (\text{delay, input, output}) \\ \textit{CGF}::=E,P & \text{Definitions with Initial Conditions} \end{array}$$

(To translate chemistry back to processes we need a bit more than simple automata: we may have "+" on the right of \rightarrow , that is we may need "|" after π .)

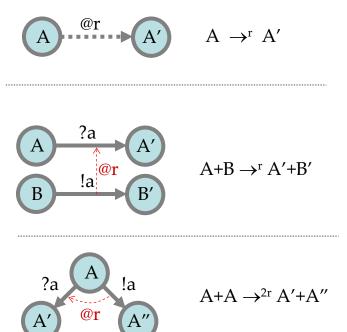
 \oplus is stochastic choice (vs. + for chemical reactions) 0 is the null solution (P|0 = 0|P = P) and null molecule (M \oplus 0 = 0 \oplus M = M) (τ_0 ;P = 0) X_i are distinct in E Each name n is assigned a fixed rate r: $n_{(r)}$



Ex: interacting automata (which are CGFs using "|" only in initial conditions):

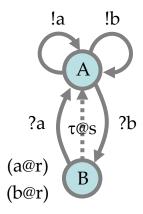


Automata to Chemistry



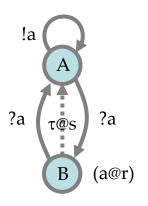
Process Rate Semantics

Same Chemistry

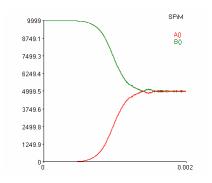


 $B \rightarrow^{s} A$ $A+B \rightarrow^{r} A+A$

 $A+A \rightarrow 2r A+B$

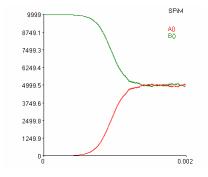


directive sample 0.002 10000 directive plot A(); B() new a@1.0:chan() new b@1.0:chan() let A() = do !a; A() or !b; A() or ?b; B() and B() = do delay@1.0; A() or ?a; A() run 10000 of B()

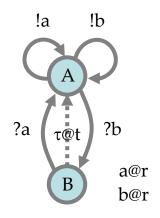


Same chemistry, hence equivalent automata

directive sample 0.002 10000 directive plot A(); B() new a@1.0:chan() let A() = do !a; A() or ?a; B() and B() = do delay@1.0; A() or ?a; A() run 10000 of B()



Same ODEs



$$\tau{:}\; B \to^t \; A$$

a:
$$A+B \rightarrow^r A+A$$

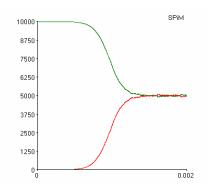
b:
$$A+A \rightarrow^{2r} A+B$$

directive sample 0.002 10000 directive plot A(); B()

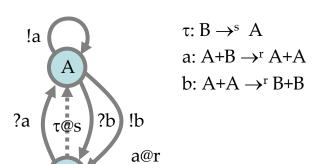
new a@1.0:chan()
new b@1.0:chan()

let A() = do !a; A() or !b; A() or ?b; B() and B() = do delay@1.0; A() or ?a; A()

run 10000 of B()



 $[A]^{\bullet} = t[B] + r[A][B] - r[A]([A]-1)$ $[B]^{\bullet} = -t[B] - r[A][B] + r[A]([A]-1)$



b@r/2

$$[A]^{\bullet} = t[B] + r[A][B] - r[A]([A]-1)$$

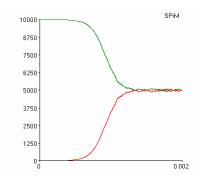
 $[B]^{\bullet} = -t[B] - r[A][B] + r[A]([A]-1)$

directive sample 0.002 10000 directive plot A(); B()

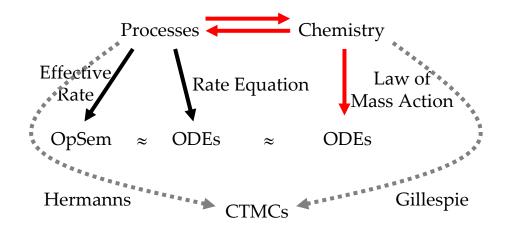
new a@1.0:chan() new b@0.5:chan()

let A() = do !a; A() or !b; B() or ?b; B() and B() = do delay@1.0; A() or ?a; A()

run 10000 of B()



Semantic Relationships



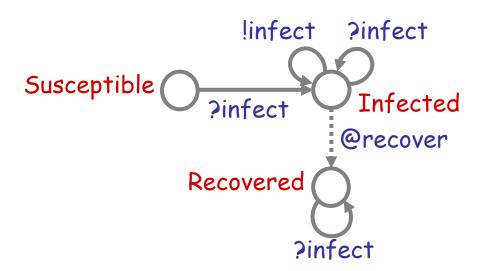


Epidemics

Kermack, W. O. and McKendrick, A. G. "A Contribution to the Mathematical Theory of Epidemics." *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. A* 115, 700-721, 1927.

http://mathworld.wolfram.com/Kermack-McKendrickModel.html

Epidemics



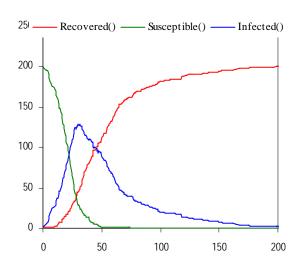
Developing the Use of Process Algebra in the Derivation and Analysis of Mathematical Models of Infectious Disease

R. Norman and C. Shankland

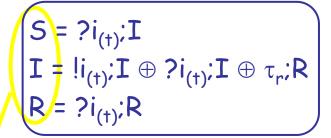
Department of Computing Science and Mathematics, University of Stirling, UK. {ces,ran}@cs.stir.ac.uk

Abstract. We introduce a series of descriptions of disease spread using the process algebra WSCCS and compare the derived mean field equations with the traditional ordinary differential equation model. Even the preliminary work presented here brings to light interesting theoretical questions about the "best" way to defined the model.

directive sample 500.0 1000 directive plot Recovered(); Susceptible(); Infected() new infect @0.001:chan() val recover = 0.03 let Recovered() = ?infect; Recovered() and Susceptible() = ?infect; Infected() and Infected() = do !infect; Infected() or ?infect: Infected() or delay@recover; Recovered() run (200 of Susceptible() | 2 of Infected())



ODE



Differentiating

"useless" reactions

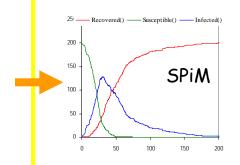
Automata match the standard ODE model!

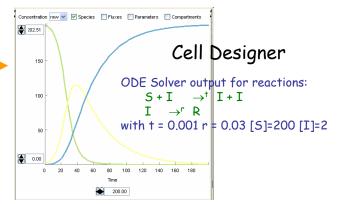
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -aIS$$

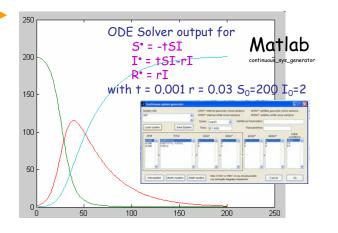
$$\frac{dI}{dt} = aIS - bI$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = bI$$

(the Kermack-McKendrick, or SIR model)!



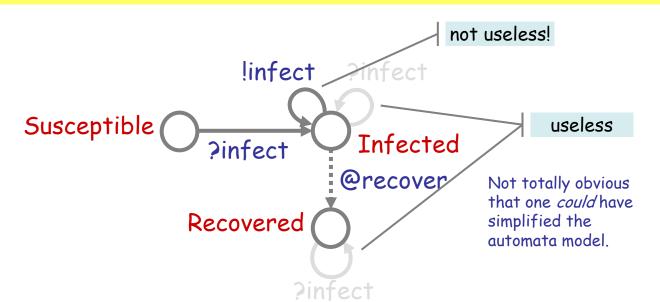


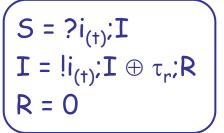






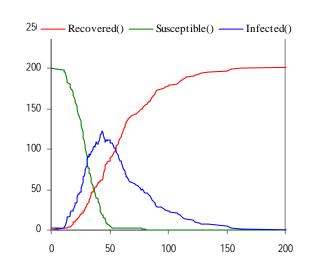
Simplified Model







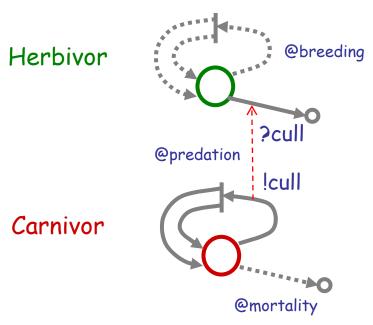
```
directive sample 500.0 1000
directive plot Recovered(); Susceptible(); Infected()
new infect @0.001:chan()
val recover = 0.03
let Recovered() =
 ()
and Susceptible() =
 ?infect; Infected()
and Infected() =
 do !infect; Infected()
 or delay@recover; Recovered()
run (200 of Susceptible() | 2 of Infected())
```

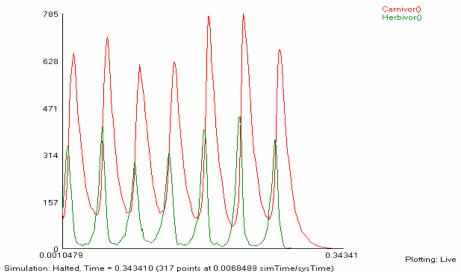


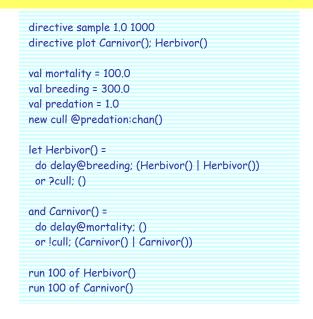
Same ODE, hence equivalent automata models.

Lotka-Volterra

Predator-Prey







An unbounded state system!

ODE

$$H = \tau_b; (H|H) \oplus ?c_{(p)}; 0$$

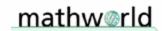
$$C = \tau_m; 0 \oplus !c_{(p)}; (C|C)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
H \rightarrow^{b} H + H \\
C \rightarrow^{m} 0 \\
H + C \rightarrow^{p} C + C
\end{array}$$

$$[H]^{\bullet} = b[H]-p[H][C]$$

 $[C]^{\bullet} = -m[C]+p[H][C]$

Lotka-Volterra Equations

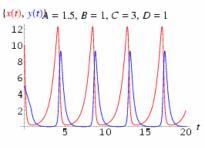


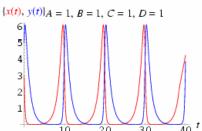
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Mathematica Notebook

The Lotka-Volterra equations describe an ecological predator-prey (or parasite-host) model which assumes that, for a set of fixed positive constants A (the growth rate of prey), B (the rate at which predators destroy prey), C (the death rate of predators), and D (the rate at which predators increase by consuming prey), the following conditions hold.

- 1. A prey population x increases at a rate dx = Ax dt (proportional to the number of prey) but is simultaneously destroyed by predators at a rate dx = -Bxy dt (proportional to the product of the numbers of prey and predators).
- 2. A predator population y decreases at a rate dy = -Cydt (proportional to the number of predators), but increases at a rate $dy = D \times y dt$ (again proportional to the product of the numbers of prey and predators).





This gives the coupled differential equations

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = Ax - Bxy \tag{1}$$

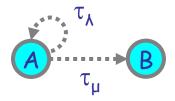
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -Cy + Dxy, \tag{2}$$

Automata match the Lotka-Volterra model (with B=D)

Laws by ODEs

Idle Delay Law by ODEs

$$A = \tau_{\lambda}; A \oplus \tau_{\mu}; B = A = \tau_{\mu}; B$$



$$A = \tau_{\lambda}; A \oplus \tau_{\mu}; B$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
A \to^{\Lambda} & A \\
A \to^{\mu} & B
\end{pmatrix}$$

$$[A]^{\bullet} = -\mu[A]$$

 $[B]^{\bullet} = \mu[A]$

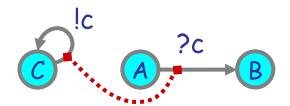
$$A = \tau_{\mu}; B$$

$$A \rightarrow^{\mu} B$$

$$[A]^{\bullet} = -\mu[A]$$

 $[B]^{\bullet} = \mu[A]$

Idle Interaction Law by ODEs

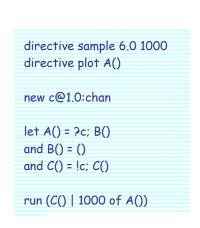


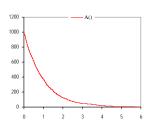
$$A = ?c;B$$

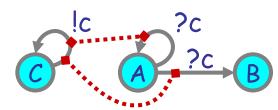
$$C = !c;C$$

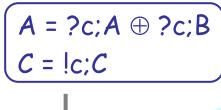
$$\downarrow$$

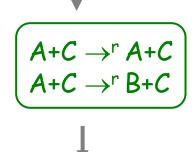
$$A+C \rightarrow^{r} B+C$$











It may seem like A should decrease half as fast, but NO! Two ways to explain:

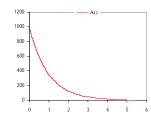
- -State A is memoryless of any past idling.
- Activity on c is double

directive sample 6.0 1000 directive plot A()

new c@1.0:chan

let A() = do ?c; B() or ?c; A() and B() = () and C() = !c; C()

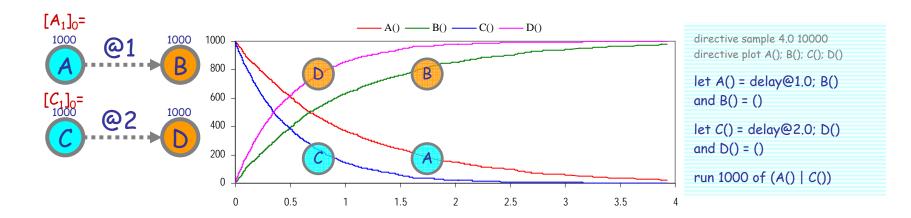
run (C() | 1000 of A())

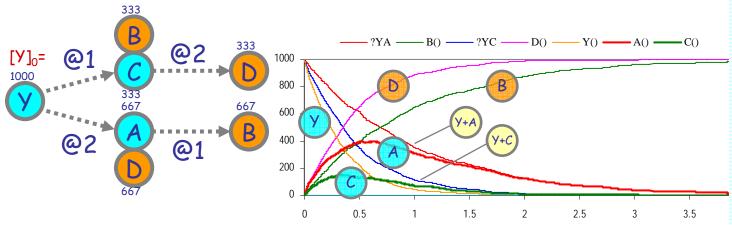


Hermanns: Interactive Markov Chains. Sec 4.1.2

Asynchronous Interleaving

$$\tau_{\lambda}$$
; B | τ_{μ} ; D = τ_{λ} ; (B | τ_{μ} ; D) + τ_{μ} ; (τ_{λ} ; B | D)





Amazingly, the B's and the D's from the two branches sum up to exponential distributions

directive sample 4.0 10000 directive plot ?YA; B(); ?YC; D(); Y(); A(); C() new YA@1.0:chan new YC@1.0:chan let A() = do delay@1.0; B() or ?YA and B() = ()let C() = do delay@2.0; D() or ?YC and D() = ()let Y() = do delay@1.0; (B() | C()) or delay@2.0; (A() | D()) or ?YA or ?YC run 1000 of Y()

Asynchronous Interleaving Law by ODEs

$$\tau_{\lambda}$$
; B | τ_{μ} ; D = τ_{λ} ; (B | τ_{μ} ; D) + τ_{μ} ; (τ_{λ} ; B | D)

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_1 = \tau_{\lambda}; B \\ C_1 = \tau_{\mu}; D \\ A_1 \mid C_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
A_1 \to^{\wedge} B \\
C_1 \to^{\mu} D \\
A_1 + C_1
\end{pmatrix}$$

$$[A_{1}]^{\bullet} = -\lambda[A_{1}]$$

$$[B]^{\bullet} = \lambda[A_{1}]$$

$$[C_{1}]^{\bullet} = -\mu[C_{1}]$$

$$[D]^{\bullet} = \mu[C_{1}]$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
Y = \tau_{\Lambda}; (B \mid C_2) \oplus \tau_{\mu}; (A_2 \mid D) \\
C_2 = \tau_{\mu}; D \\
A_2 = \tau_{\Lambda}; B \\
Y
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
Y \to^{\Lambda} B + C_{2} \\
Y \to^{\mu} A_{2} + D \\
C_{2} \to^{\mu} D \\
A_{2} \to^{\Lambda} B \\
Y$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases}
[Y]^{\bullet} = -\Lambda[Y] - \mu[Y] \\
[A_{2}]^{\bullet} = \mu[Y] - \Lambda[A_{2}] \\
[B]^{\bullet} = \Lambda[Y] + \Lambda[A_{2}] \\
[C_{2}]^{\bullet} = \Lambda[Y] - \mu[C_{2}] \\
[D]^{\bullet} = \mu[Y] + \mu[C_{2}]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} [Y+A_2]^{\bullet} = -\lambda[Y+A_2] \\ [B]^{\bullet} = \lambda[Y+A_2] \\ [Y+C_2]^{\bullet} = -\mu[Y+C_2] \\ [D]^{\bullet} = \mu[Y+C_2]$$

Want to show that B and D on both sides have the "same behavior" (equal quantities of B and D produced at all times)

$$[Y+A_2]^{\bullet} = [Y]^{\bullet}+[A_2]^{\bullet}$$

$$= -\lambda[Y]-\mu[Y]+\mu[Y]-\lambda[A_2]$$

$$= -\lambda[Y]-\lambda[A_2]$$

$$= -\lambda[Y+A_2] \qquad [Y+A_2] \text{ decays exponentially!}$$

[B] and [D] have equal time evolutions on the two sides provided that $[A_1]=[Y+A_2]$ and $[C_1]=[Y+C_2]$. This imposes the constraint, in particular, that $[A_1]_0=[Y+A_2]_0$ and $[C_1]_0=[Y+C_2]_0$ (at time zero). The initial conditions of the right hand system specify that $[A_2]_0=[C_2]_0=0$ (since only Y is present). Therefore, we obtain that $[A_1]_0=[C_1]_0=[Y]_0$.

So, for example, if we run a stochastic simulation of the left hand side with 1000*A1 and 1000*C1, we obtain the same curves for B and D than a stochastic simulation of the right hand side with 1000*Y.

Polymerization



Bidirectional

Polymerization

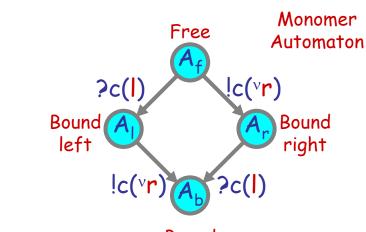
new c@µ new stop@1.0

 A_{free} = !c(${}^{\vee}$ rht_{Λ}); A_{brht} (rht)) + ?c(Ift); A_{hlft} (Ift)

 $A_{blft}(Ift) =$!c(\(^rht_{\lambda}\); $A_{bound}(Ift,rht)$)

 $A_{brht}(rht) =$?c(Ift); $A_{bound}(Ift,rht)$

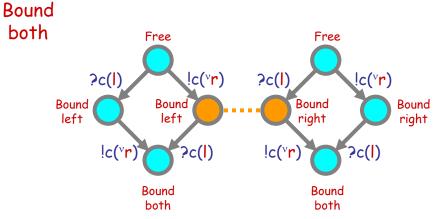
A_{bound}(Ift,rht) = ?stop

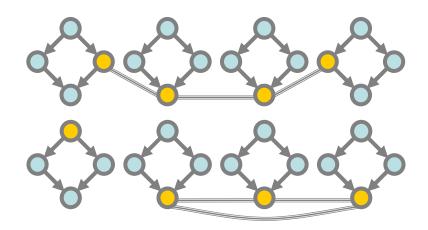


Polymerization is iterated complexation.

Communicating Automata Bound output !c('r') and input ?c(l) on automata transitions to model complexation





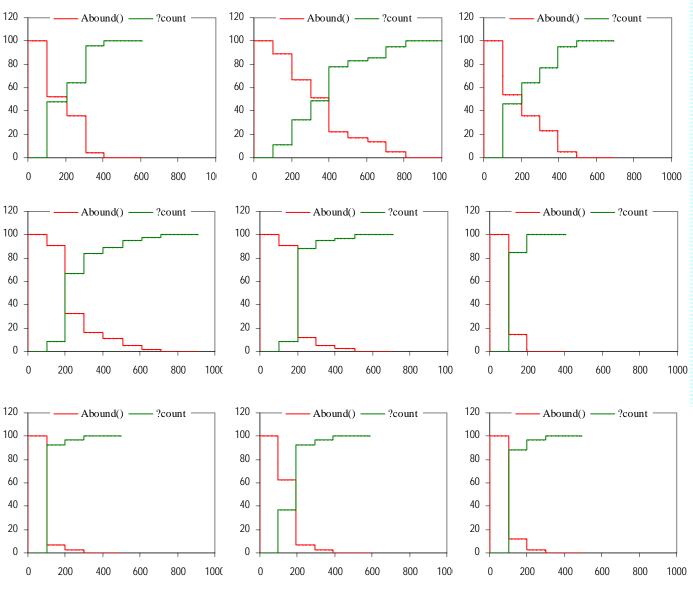




Bidirectional Polymerization

Circular Polymer Lengths

Scanning and counting the size of the circular polymers (by a cheap trick). Polymer formation is complete within 10t; then a different polymer is scanned every 100t.

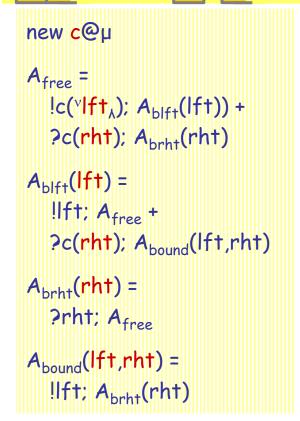


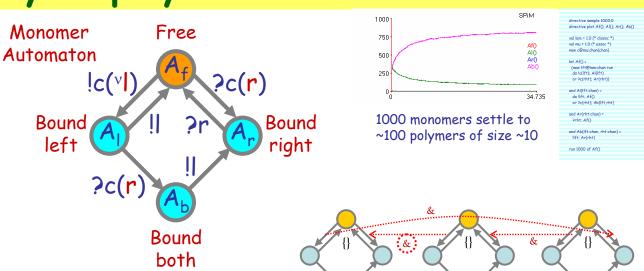
directive sample 1000.0 directive plot Abound(); ?count type Link = chan(chan) type Barb = chan val lam = 1000.0 (* set high for better counting *) val mu = 1.0 new c@mu:chan(Link) new enter@lam:chan(Barb) new count@lam:Barb let Afree() = (new rht@lam:Link run do !c(rht); Abrht(rht) or ?c(lft); Ablft(lft)) and Ablft(lft:Link) = (new rht@lam:Link run !c(rht); Abound(lft,rht)) and Abrht(rht:Link) = ?c(Ift); Abound(Ift,rht) and Abound(Ift:Link, rht:Link) = do ?enter(barb); (?barb | !rht(barb)) or 2|ft(barb); (2barb | !rht(barb)) (* each Abound waits for a barb, exhibits it, and passes it to the right so we can plot number of Abound in a ring *) let clock(t:float, tick:chan) = (* sends a tick every t time *) (val ti = t/1000.0 val d = 1.0/tilet step(n:int) = if n<=0 then !tick; clock(t,tick) else delay@d; step(n-1) run step(1000)) new tick:chan let Scan() = ?tick; !enter(count); Scan() run 100 of Afree() run (clock(100.0, tick) | Scan())

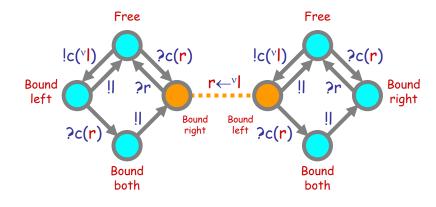
 $100xA_{free}$, initially. The height of each rising step is the size of a separate circular polymer. (Unbiased sample of nine consecutive runs.)

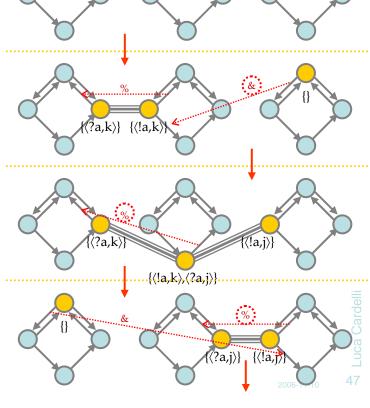
$\begin{array}{c|c} p & A & \longrightarrow & p & A \\ \hline > A & p & \longrightarrow & A & \searrow p \\ \hline \end{array}$

Actin-like Poly/Depolymerization









Conclusions

Conclusions

Compositional Models

- Accurate (at the "appropriate" abstraction level).
- Manageable (so we can scale them up by composition).

Interacting Automata

- Complex global behavior from simple components.
- Bridging individual and collective behavior.
- Connections to classical Markov theory, chemical Master Equation, and Rate Equation.

Mapping out "the whole system"

- A bit at a time, and simultaneously at different levels.
- For prediction and prevention.
- Through an "artificial biochemistry" (a scalable mathematical and computational modeling framework) to investigate "real biochemistry" on a large scale.