



# Morphisms of Reaction Networks

- Luca Cardelli, Microsoft Research & Oxford University
- Joint work with Attila Csikász-Nagy, Fondazione Edmund Mach & King's College London
- Iowa State University, Robert Stewart Distinguished Lecture, 2014-05-01



### Motivation

- Give substance to the claim that "cells compute"
  - Yes, but *what* do they compute?
- Catch nature red-handed in the act of running a computational task
  - Something that a computer scientist would recognize as an *algorithm*





### A Biological Implementation

#### Approximate Majority (AM)



Bistable Even when x=y (stochastically)

Fast O(log n) convergence time

Robust to perturbation above a threshold, initial majority wins *whp* 

Dana Angluin - James Aspnes - David Eisenstat A Simple Population Protocol for Fast Robust Approximate Majority 2007

#### Epigenetic Switch



#### Figure 1. Basic Ingredients of the Model



4

### Motivation (cont'd)

- We can claim that the epigenetic switch is a *direct* biological implementation of an algorithm
  - Although we may have to qualify that with some notion of approximation of the (enzymatic) kinetics
- In most cases the biological implementation seems more *indirect* or *obfuscated*
  - "Nature is subtle but not malicious Einstein" Ha! think again!
  - Other implementations of Approximate Majority seem convoluted and... approximate



### **Obfuscated Implementations**

• GW is a better cell cycle switch than [the traditional switch]



• GW is how the cell cycle switch "really works"



## Motivation (cont'd)

- When does a biologically messy network X "implement" some ideal algorithm Y?
  - $\cdot$  Pushed coauthors into thinking about approximate stochastic bisimulation metrics for CTMCs
  - But they didn't come back...
- · Some networks behave similarly because "their ODEs are just equivalent" [David S.]
  - When are CRNs "deterministically equivalent"?
  - Or better, when do trajectories of one CRN "collapse" into trajectories of another?
  - This can be answered on the *static structure* of CRNs as opposed to their kinetics.
  - Independently on rates and initial conditions (of one of the two networks).





#### Mutual Inhibition

• A recent paper suggests that all cellular switches in all phases of the cell cycle follow (abstractly) a mutual inhibition pattern:



#### Septation Initiation

• Other (inherently different) biological networks are based on mutual inhibition, and share characteristics with AM



11

### New Cell Cycle Network

- A new paper presents a more complete view of the cell cycle switch
- N.B. "phosphorylation network dynamics" is the same as our  $x_0-x_1-x_2$  motif

#### Phosphorylation network dynamics in the control of cell cycle transitions











#### Network Emulation: NCC emulates MI

 For any rates and initial conditions of MI we can find some rates and initial conditions of NCC such that the (18) trajectories of NCC retrace those (6) of MI



#### Emulations Compose: NCC emulates AM

• The (18) trajectories NCC can *always* retrace those (3) of AM









#### Emulation in Context



**AM-AM Oscillator** 



**AM-MI Oscillator** 





 $m \in MI \rightarrow AM$  is an emulation: it maps  $z \rightarrow x$  and  $\sim w \rightarrow x$ 

We can replace AM with MI in a context. The mapping m tells us how to wire MI to obtain an overall emulation:

Each influence crossing the dashed lines into x is replaced by a similar influence into both z and  $\sim w$ . The latter is the same as an opposite influence into w (shown).

Each influence crossing the dashed lines out of x is replaced by a similar influence from the same side of *either z or*  $\sim w$ . The latter is the same as a similar influence from the opposite side of w (shown), and the same as an opposite influence from the same side of w.

22





#### In separate work...

- $\cdot\,$  We produced a chemical implementation of AM using DNA gates
- I.e., a 'synthetic reimplementation' of the central cell-cycle switch.







#### A Theory of Network Emulation (with thanks to David Soloveichik)

- So far, evidence is empirical
  - Specific simulations based on a choice of parameters
- But indeed...
  - We can show that, GW, NCC, etc. are *exactly* and *always* as good as AM
  - Where *exactly* means *numerically* as good, not just in the same complexity class
  - · And *always* means for *any* choice of rates and initial conditions
- A network *emulates* another network:
  - When it can *exactly* reproduce the kinetics of another network for *any* choice of rates and initial conditions
  - We aim to show that the cell cycle switch can emulate AM in that sense
  - And moreover that the emulation is algorithmic: it is determined by network structure

#### When can a Network Emulate Another?

- What kind of morphisms guarantee emulation?
  - do they preserve network structure?
  - do they preserve stoichiometry?



#### Chemical Reaction Networks

- A CRN is a pair (S, R) where
  - $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$  a finite set of species •  $R = \{r_1, \dots, r_m\}$  a finite set of *reactions*<sup>(\*)</sup>

• Reactions 
$$r = \rho \rightarrow^k \pi \in R$$
  
with complexes  $\rho, \pi \in \mathbb{N}^S$   
stoichiometric numbers  $\rho_s, \pi_s$  for  $s \in S$   
and rate constants  $k > 0$ 

• The stoichiometry of s in  $\rho \rightarrow^k \pi$  is:

$$\eta(s, \rho \to^k \pi) = \pi_s - \rho_s$$
  
$$\varphi(s, \rho \to^k \pi) = k \cdot (\pi_s - \rho_s)$$

$$S = \{A, B, C\}$$
$$R = \{r\}$$

$$r = 2A + B \to^{k} A + 3C$$
  

$$\rho_{A} = 2, \ \rho_{B} = 1, \ \rho_{C} = 0$$
  

$$\pi_{A} = 1, \ \pi_{B} = 0, \ \pi_{C} = 3$$



29

$$\eta(A,r) = -1$$
 net stoichiometry  
 $\varphi(A,r) = -k$  (instantaneous) stoichiometry

$${}^{(*)}\rho \to^k \pi, \rho \to^{k'} \pi \in R \quad \Rightarrow \quad k = k'$$

#### Species Maps and Reaction Maps

- · A species map is a map  $m_{\mathcal{S}} \in S \to \hat{S}$
- Lifted to a complex map:  $m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho)_{\hat{s}} = \sum_{s \in m_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}(\hat{s})} \rho_s$
- It induces a canonical reaction map  $m_{\mathcal{R}} \in R \to \hat{R}$  $m_{\mathcal{R}}(\rho \to^k \pi) = m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho) \to^k m_{\mathcal{S}}(\pi)$



the *fiber* of  $\hat{s}$ :  $m^{-1}(\hat{s})$ 

$$m_{\mathcal{S}}(s_0) = m_{\mathcal{S}}(s_1) = \hat{s}$$

$$r = s_0 + s_1 \rightarrow^1 s_1$$
  
where  $\rho_{s_0} = 1$ ,  $\rho_{s_1} = 1$ 

$$m_{\mathcal{R}}(r) = 2\hat{s} \rightarrow^{1} \hat{s}$$
  
becuase  $m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho)_{\hat{s}} = \rho_{s_0} + \rho_{s_1} = 2$ 

## CRN Morphisms

A CRN morphism from (S, R) to  $(\hat{S}, \hat{R})$ written  $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$ 

is a pair of maps  $m = (m_S, m_R)$ a species map  $m_S \in S \rightarrow \hat{S}$ a reaction map  $m_R \in R \rightarrow \hat{R}$ 

extended to a complex map  $m_{\mathcal{S}} \in \mathbb{N}^{S} \to \mathbb{N}^{\hat{S}}$ linearly:  $m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho)_{\hat{S}} = \sum_{s \in m_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}(\hat{s})} \rho_{s}$ 

(sometimes omitting the subscripts on m)





#### 3 Key Morphisms

- A morphism  $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  is
  - a CRN homomorphism if  $m_{\mathcal{R}}$  is determined by  $m_{\mathcal{S}}$ :

$$m_{\mathcal{R}} \big( \rho \to^k \pi \big) = m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho) \to^k m_{\mathcal{S}}(\pi)$$

• a *CRN reactant morphism* if  $m_{\mathcal{R}}$  is determined by  $m_{\mathcal{S}}$  on reactants.  $\exists \hat{k}, \hat{\pi}$ :

• a CRN stoichiomorphism if:

 $\varphi, \widehat{\varphi}$  are the respective stoichiometric matrices  $\rho, \widehat{\rho}$  are the respective reactant matrices  $m_{\mathcal{S}}, m_{\mathcal{R}}$  are the characteristic 0-1 matrices of  $m_{\mathcal{S}}, m_{\mathcal{R}}$  $m_{\mathcal{S}}(s, \widehat{s}) = 1$  if  $m_{\mathcal{S}}(s) = \widehat{s}$  else 0

$$\boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\varphi} = \widehat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot \boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

$$\omega \cdot m_{\mathcal{D}} = m_{\mathcal{S}} \cdot \widehat{\omega}$$

def.

 $m_{\rm s}^{\rm T} \cdot \rho = \hat{\rho} \cdot m_{\rm p}^{\rm T}$ 

### **CRN Homomorphisms**

 $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  is a *CRN homomorphism* if  $m_{\mathcal{R}}$  is determined by  $m_{\mathcal{S}}$ :

 $m_{\mathcal{R}} \big( \rho \to^k \pi \big) = m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho) \to^k m_{\mathcal{S}}(\pi)$ 

It implies that stoichiometries are connected:

 $\boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\varphi} = \widehat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot \boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathrm{T}}$ 

 $\varphi, \widehat{\varphi}$  are the respective stoichiometric matrices  $m_S, m_R$  are the characteristic 0-1 matrices of  $m_S, m_R$  $m_S(s, \widehat{s}) = 1$  if  $m_S(s) = \widehat{s}$  else 0 Preserves the graph structure of the network: the reaction mapping is all made of canonical maps that 'agree' with the species mapping  $\forall \hat{s} \in \hat{S}, \forall r \in R$ :



It therefore preserves some of the stoichiometry:  $\varphi$  agrees with m when <u>summed over species</u>

 $m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho)_{\hat{s}} = \Sigma_{s \in m_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}(\hat{s})} \rho_s$ 

### **CRN Reactant Morphism**

 $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  is a *CRN reactant morphism* if  $m_{\mathcal{R}}$  is determined by  $m_{\mathcal{S}}$  on reactants.  $\exists \hat{k}, \hat{\pi}$ :

 $m_{\mathcal{R}} \big( \rho \to^k \pi \big) = m_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho) \to^{\hat{k}} \hat{\pi}$ 

iff  $(\rho, \widehat{\rho})$  are the respective reactant matrices):

$$\boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho} = \widehat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \cdot \boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

Preserves just the "left hand side" graph structure of the network, on the source side of the reaction edges



A homomorphism is a reactant morphism

# CRN Stoichiomorphisms

 $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  is a CRN stoichiomorphism if:

 $\boldsymbol{\varphi} \cdot \boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{R}} = \boldsymbol{m}_{\mathcal{S}} \cdot \widehat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$ 

That *can be checked on the syntax of the networks* without any consideration of the kinetics

Preserves the stoichiometry of the network:  $\varphi$  agrees with m when <u>summed over reactions</u>  $\forall s \in S, \forall \hat{r} \in \hat{R}$ :



Together with reactant morphism, this preserves *enough* of the stoichiometric structure to ensure the emulation property



## **CRN** Kinetics

```
A state of a CRN (S, R) is a v \in \mathbb{R}^{S}_{+}
```

The differential system of a CRN (S, R),  $F \in \mathbb{R}^S_+ \to \mathbb{R}^S$ 



Given by the law of mass action:

$$F(\boldsymbol{\nu})(s) = \Sigma_{r \in R} \ \varphi(s, r) \cdot [r]_{\boldsymbol{\nu}}$$

Usually written as a system of coupled concentration ODEs, integrated over time:  $\frac{dv_s}{dt} = F(v)(s)$ 

a vector of concentrations for each species

F(v)(s) gives the instantaneous change of concentration of a species in a given state

sum over all reactions of the stoichiometry of the species in the reaction times the mass action of the reaction in the state

the mass action of a reaction in state is the product of reagent concentrations according to their stoichiometric numbers:

$$[\rho \to^k \pi]_{\boldsymbol{v}} = \boldsymbol{v}^{\rho} = \Pi_{s \in S} \, \boldsymbol{v}_s^{\rho_s} \qquad _{37}$$

#### Kinetic Emulation

A morphism  $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  is a *CRN emulation* if for the respective differential systems  $F, \hat{F}, \forall \hat{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{\hat{S}}_+$ :

 $F(\widehat{\boldsymbol{v}} \circ m) = \widehat{F}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{v}}) \circ m$ 



That is:  $\forall s \in S$ .  $F(\hat{v} \circ m)(s) = \hat{F}(\hat{v})(m(s))$ 





if the derivative of s (in state  $\widehat{v} \circ m$ ) equals the derivative of m(s) (in state  $\widehat{v}$ )

if we *start* the two systems in states  $\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{\hat{v}} \circ \boldsymbol{m}$ (which is a *copy* of  $\boldsymbol{\hat{v}}$  according to  $\boldsymbol{m}$ ) and  $\boldsymbol{\hat{v}}$ resp., for each  $\boldsymbol{s}$  the solutions are equal and the derivatives are equal, hence they will have <u>identical trajectories</u> by determinism



#### Change of Rates Theorem

A change of rates for (S, R) is morphism  $\iota \in (S, R) \rightarrow (S, R')$ such that  $\iota(S)$  is the identity and  $\iota(\rho, \pi, k) = (\rho, \pi, k')$ .

**Theorem**: If  $m \in (S, R) \to (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  is a stoichiomorphism, then for *any* change of rates  $\hat{\iota}$  of  $(\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  there is a change of rates  $\iota$  of (S, R) such that  $\hat{\iota} \circ m \circ \iota^{-1}$  is a stoichiomorphism.

In fact,  $\iota$  changes rates by the ratio with which  $\hat{\iota}$  changes rates:  $\iota(\rho, \pi, k) = \left(\rho, \pi, k \cdot \frac{\hat{k}'}{\hat{k}}\right)$  where  $m(\rho, \pi, k) = (\hat{\rho}, \hat{\pi}, \hat{k})$  and  $\hat{\iota}(\hat{\rho}, \hat{\pi}, \hat{k}) = (\hat{\rho}, \hat{\pi}, \hat{k}')$ .

 $\begin{array}{c|c} R' & R & \hat{R} & \hat{R}' \\ \hline (\rho',\pi,k') & (\rho,\pi,k) & (\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}) & (\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}) & (\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}') \\ i(m^{-1}(\hat{r}^{-1}(\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}'))) & m^{-1}(\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}) & (\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}) & (\hat{\rho},\hat{\pi},\hat{k}') \end{array}$ 

a morphism that modifies rates only

thus, for *any rates* of  $(\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  we can match trajectories

40

#### Any Rates, Any Initial Conditions

- A stoichiomorphism  $m \in (S, R) \rightarrow (\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  that is also a homomorphism, determines an emulation for any choice of rates of  $(\hat{S}, \hat{R})$ .
- Those emulations can match any initial conditions of any choice of rates of  $(\hat{S}, \hat{R})$  with some initial conditions of some choice of rates of (S, R).
- Automatically substitutive for catalytic networks



### Corollaries

- By checking only static network and morphism properties we can learn that:
  - All these networks are (at least) bistable
  - (We do not have to reanalyze the steady states of all these dynamical systems)
  - All these networks can perform *exactly* as fast as AM
  - (We do not have to reprove the complexity bounds for all these networks)





## Interpretations of Stoichiomorphism

#### Explanation of network structure

• E.g. we know that the main function of Delta-Notch is to stabilize the system in one of two states. AM is the quintessential network that embodies fast robust bistability. The stoichiomorphism from Delta-Notch to AM "explains" what Delta-Notch (normally) does, and exactly how well it can do it.

#### Robust implementation of simpler function

Redundant symmetries are implicit in the stoichiomorphism relationships

#### Neutral paths in network space (evolution)

- If an evolutionary event happens to be a stoichiomorphism, or close to it, it will not be immediately selected against, because it is "kinetically neutral".
- This allows the network to increase its complexity without kinetic penalty.
- · Later, the extra degrees of freedom can lead to kinetic differentiation.
- But meanwhile, the organism can explore variations of network structure.

#### Network implementation (not abstraction!)

- Stoichiomorphisms are not about abstraction / coarse-graining that preserve behavior, on the contrary, they are about *refinement / fine-graining* that preserve behavior.
- They describe *implementations* of abstract networks, where the abstract networks themselves may not be (biologically) implementable because of excessive demands on species interactions.

## Network Emulation Morphisms

- What guarantees emulation?
  - Reactant morphism + stoichiomorphism: static, state-independent (structural) conditions
- How do you find them?
  - Emulation Theorem => they do not depend on initial conditions
  - Change of Rates Theorem => can look for rate-1 morphisms
  - E.g. test all possible rate-1 homomorphism between two networks to see if they are stoichiomorphisms

#### • How common are they?

• Likely relatively rare, but still many useful ones => richness of networks space

#### • How useful are they?

- Establish structural, algorithmic, (non-accidental) reasons for kinetic similarity
- Explain simple behavior "facets" of complicated networks
- Investigate evolutionary paths (maybe)

#### • How brittle are they?

- Will a perturbed trajectory of the source network converge to a trajectory of the target network?
- What about other reaction kinetics?
- What about stochastic?
  - Is there a CME Emulation Theorem?

