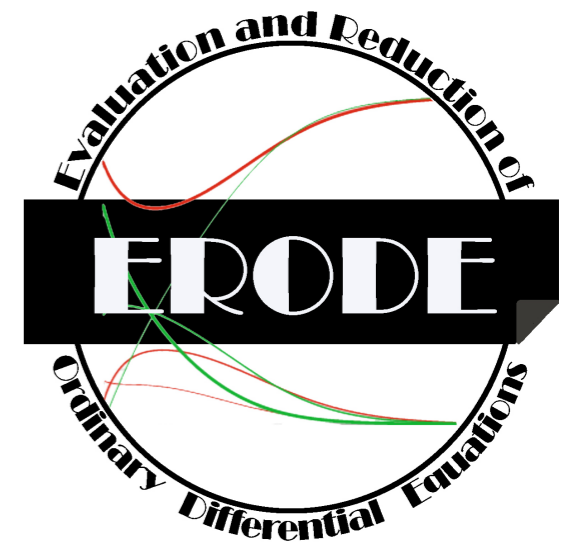




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<https://www.ero.de.eu/>

MIRCO TRIBASTONE

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# LUMPING AND EXPANDING REACTION NETWORKS

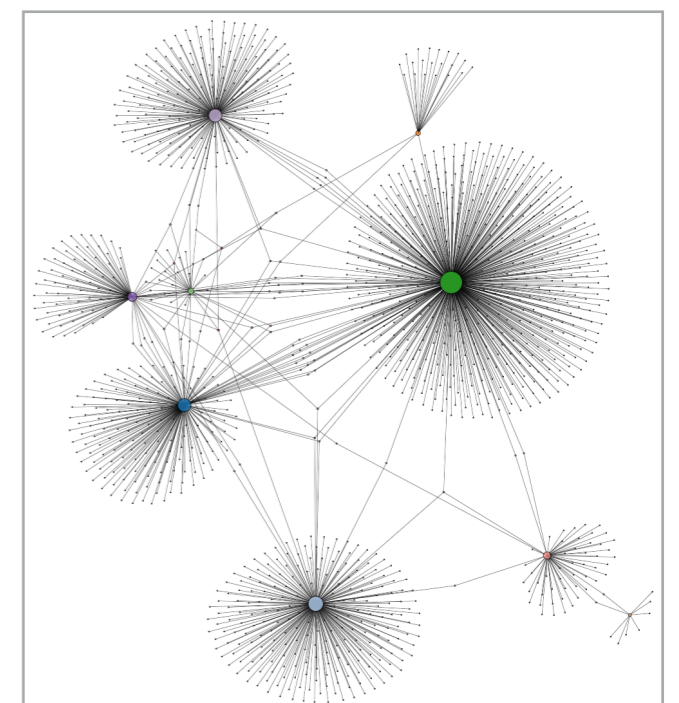
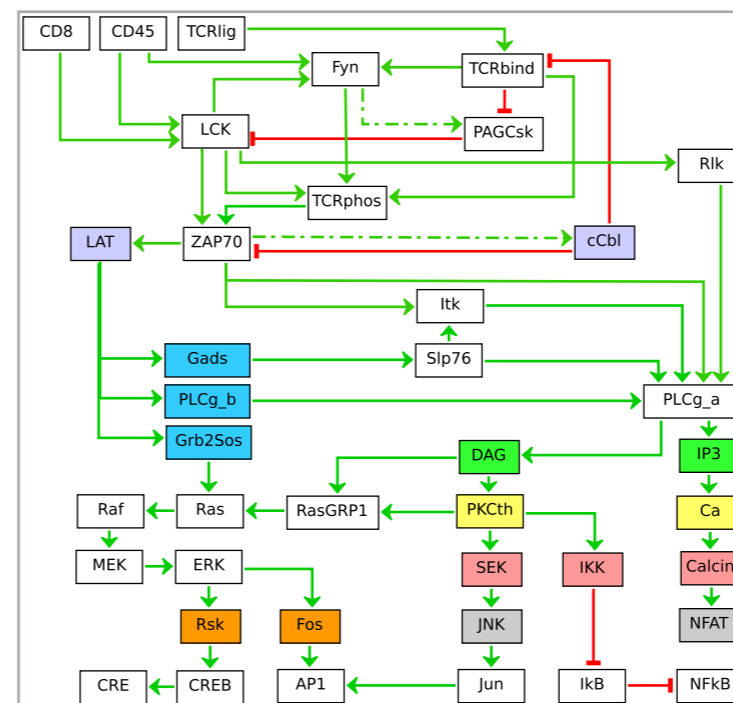
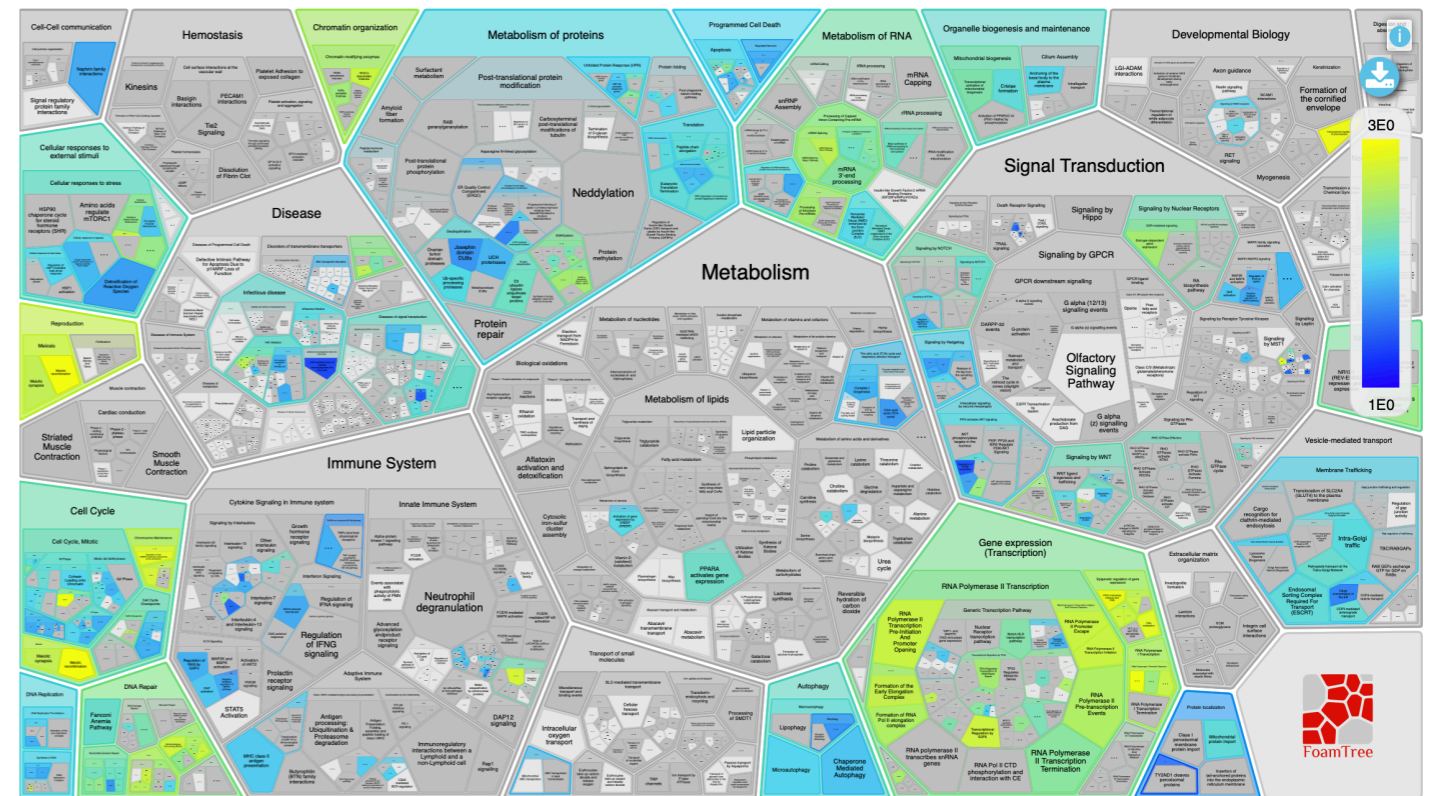
**CMSB 2023**


**14 September 2023**

# REACTION NETWORKS

► Fundamental model of interaction in many natural and engineering sciences:


- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Epidemiology
- ...





Physics Reports

Volume 529, Issue 2, 10 August 2013, Pages 199-264



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Markovian dynamics on complex reaction networks

J. Goutsias , G. Jenkinson

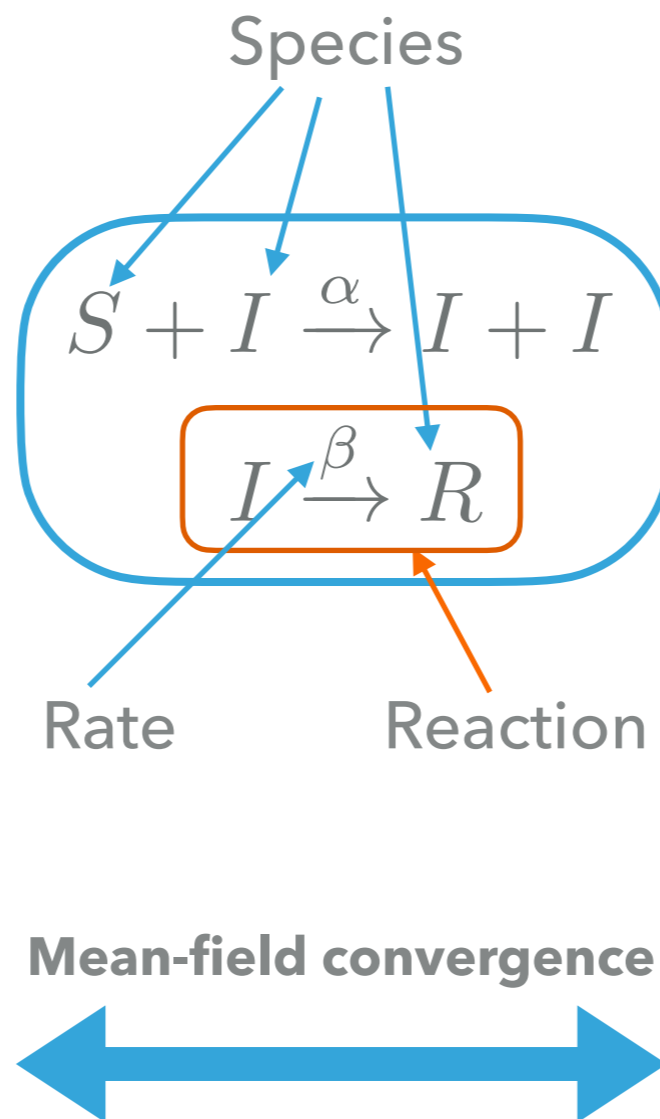
# NETWORK LUMPING

---

# MODELING DYNAMICS WITH REACTION NETWORKS

## STOCHASTIC SYSTEM

- ▶ The **chemical master equation**
- ▶ One state for each possible discrete configuration  $(n_S, n_I, n_R)$
- ▶ Model is a continuous-time Markov chain (**CTMC**)
- ▶ One equation for each state (solution is the probability of being in that state at any time point)



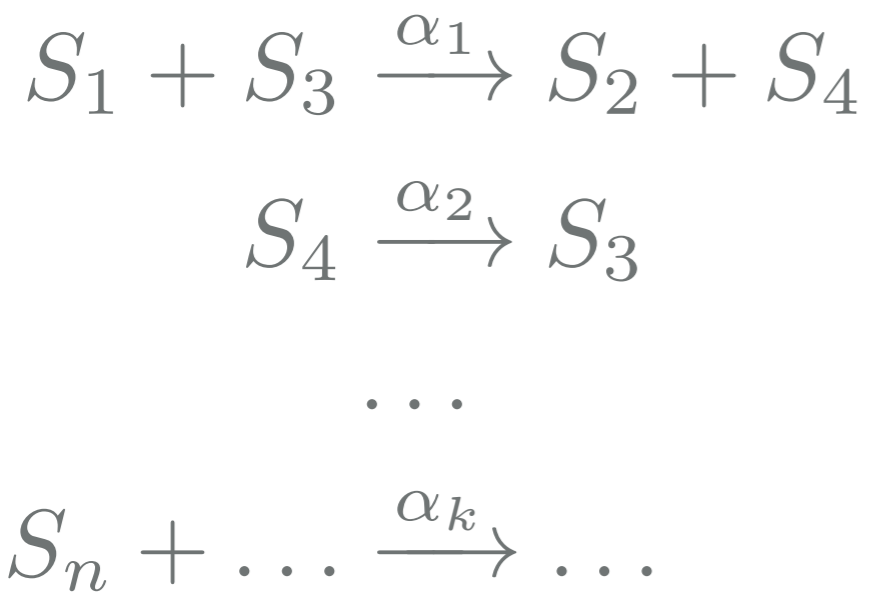
## DETERMINISTIC SYSTEM

- ▶ The **deterministic rate equation**
- ▶ One ordinary differential equation (ODE) for each species
- ▶ Polynomial ODEs (typically)
- ▶ Solution can be interpreted as an approximation of the average CTMC dynamics

**Problem: No closed form solutions in general. Numerical solutions heavily affected by the number of species and reactions**

# LUMPING REACTION NETWORKS

## ORIGINAL NETWORK

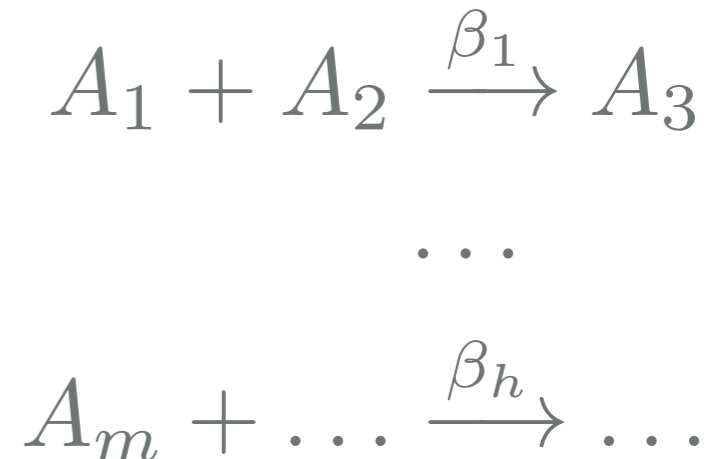


$$m \ll n$$

$$h \ll k$$



## REDUCED NETWORK



- ▶ **Exact or approximate**
- ▶ **Observable preserving**
- ▶ **Automatic**

- **Unifying approach that applies to both deterministic and stochastic interpretations of reaction networks**  
[Cardelli et al., POPL 2016, LICS 2017, PNAS 2017, Bioinformatics 2020]
- **Extensions/variants for other nonlinearities (min, exp, trig., etc.), differential-algebraic equations** [Tognazzi et al., IEEE Trans. Aut. Contr. 2021]
- **Similarly applicable to discrete-time analogues**

# EQUATING POLYNOMIAL ODES AND REACTION NETWORKS

- ▶ Each monomial in the derivative is an edge of a (labelled) bipartite multigraph: **a reaction**

$$\dot{x}_k = \dots + \alpha \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{p_i} + \dots$$

Stoichiometric  
coefficient

"Reaction rate"

**Continuous vs Discrete**

Species

REACTANTS

PRODUCTS



$\alpha$



- ▶ **Physical meaning not necessary, used only by lumping algorithm**

# LUMPING DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS/REACTION NETWORKS

---

- ▶ **Partition (i.e., an equivalence) of variables/species** such that each partition block can be associated with a single variable  
*[Okino and Mavrovouniotis, 1998]*
- ▶ The lumped preserves the original dynamics:
  - ▶ **Forward lumping** preserves **sums of the solutions**
  - ▶ **Backward lumping** identifies blocks with the **same solution** (aka "synchronization" in other works)
- ▶ Lumping is complementary to other techniques such as fast-slow decomposition (QE/QSSA)

# FORWARD LUMPING AT A GLANCE

## ORIGINAL SYSTEM

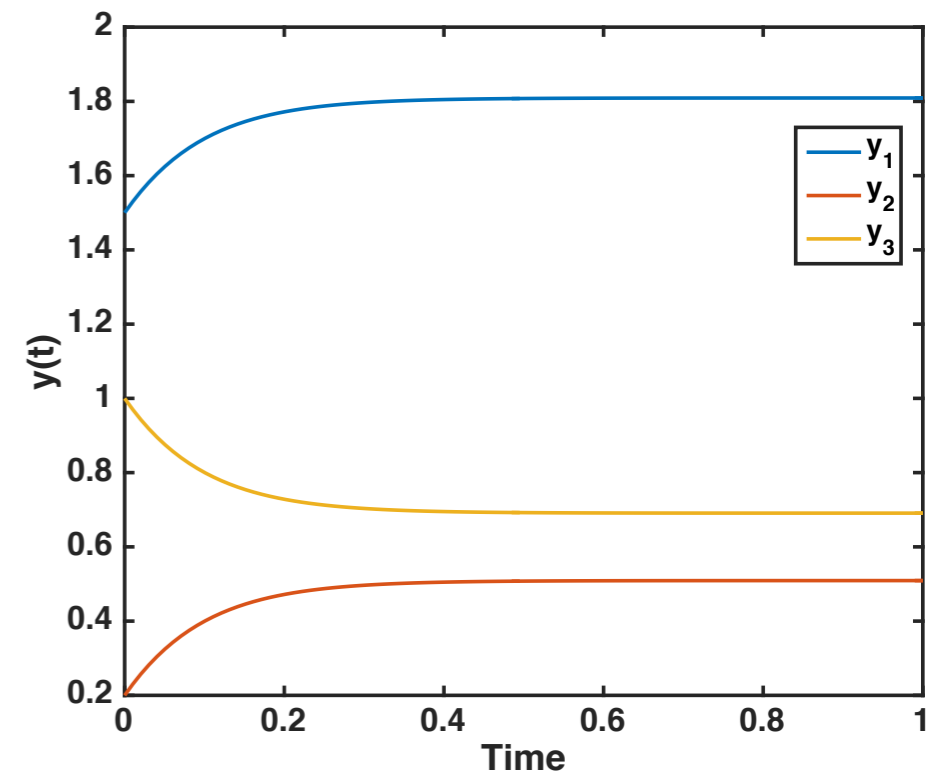
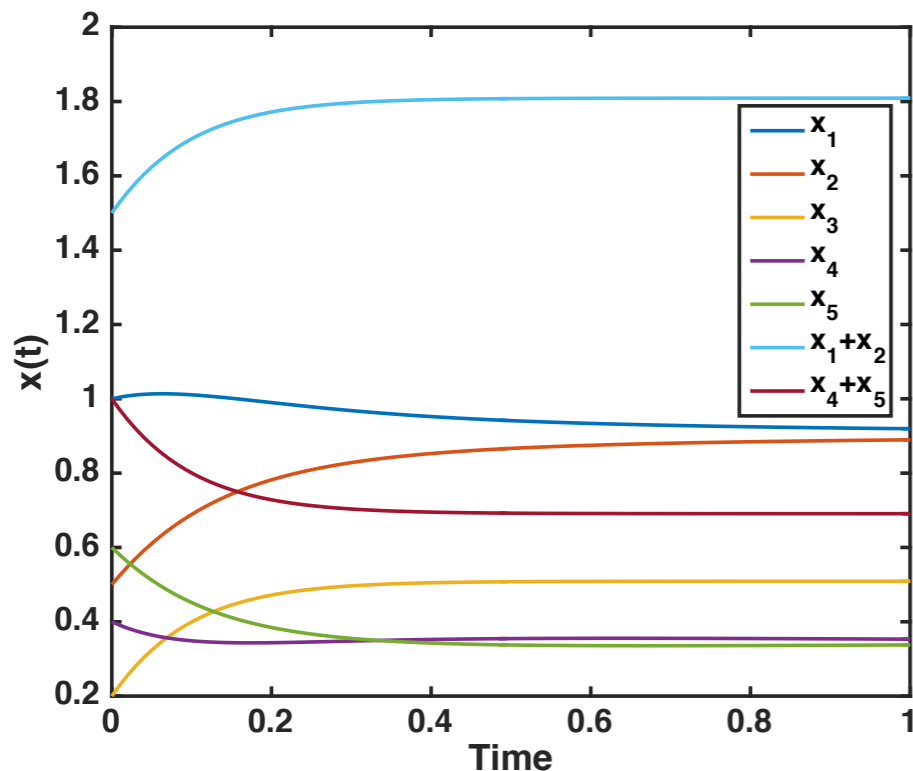
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_1 &= -x_1 + x_2 - 3x_1x_3 + 4x_4 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= +x_1 - x_2 - 3x_2x_3 + 4x_5 \\ \dot{x}_3 &= -3x_1x_3 + 4x_4 - 3x_2x_3 + 4x_5 \\ \dot{x}_4 &= 3x_1x_3 - 4x_4 \\ \dot{x}_5 &= 3x_2x_3 - 4x_5\end{aligned}$$



## REDUCED SYSTEM

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{Y}_1 &= -3Y_1Y_2 + 4Y_3 \\ \dot{Y}_2 &= -3Y_1Y_2 + 4Y_3 \\ \dot{Y}_3 &= +3Y_1Y_2 - 4Y_3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}Y_1 &= x_1 + x_2 \\ Y_2 &= x_3 \\ Y_3 &= x_4 + x_5\end{aligned}$$





# BACKWARD LUMPING

- ▶ Identifies variables that have equal solution when starting with equal initial conditions

## ORIGINAL SYSTEM

$$\dot{x}_1 = -3x_1x_2 + 4x_3$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -3x_1x_2 + 4x_3$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = +3x_1x_2 - 4x_3$$

$$x_1(0) = x_2(0)$$



$$Y_1 = x_1 = x_2$$

$$Y_2 = x_3$$

## REDUCED SYSTEM

$$\dot{Y}_1 = -3Y_1^2 + 4Y_2$$

$$\dot{Y}_2 = +3Y_1^2 - 4Y_2$$

## FORWARD AND BACKWARD LUMPING ARE NOT COMPARABLE

**Forward does not  
imply backward**

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_2 + 1$$

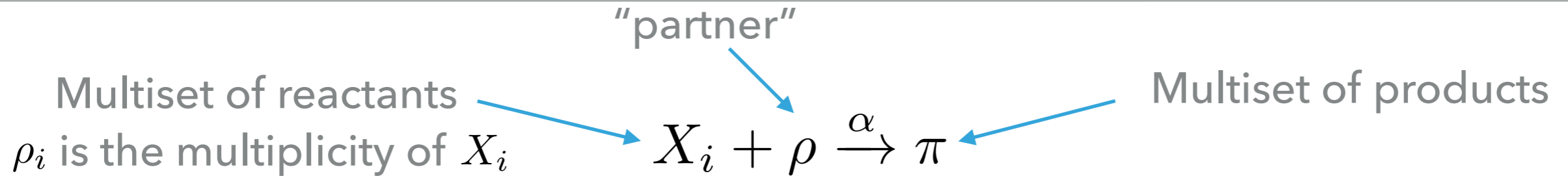
$$\dot{x}_2 = -x_1$$

**Backward does not  
imply forward**

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_1x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -x_1x_2$$

# FORWARD LUMPING



## FLUX NET STOICHIOMETRY

$$\phi(\rho, X_i) := \sum_{\text{all } \rho \xrightarrow{\alpha} \pi} \alpha(\pi_i - \rho_i)$$

## FORWARD RATE

$$\mathbf{fr}(X_i, \rho, G) := \frac{\sum_{X_j \in G} \phi(X_i + \rho, X_j)}{[X_i + \rho]!}, \quad [\rho]! := \binom{\sum_i \rho_i}{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_n}$$

- ▶ A partition of species is a forward equivalence if, for any two blocks  $H, H'$  and any two species  $X_i, X_j$  in  $H$  it holds that

$$\mathbf{fr}(X_i, \rho, H') = \mathbf{fr}(X_j, \rho, H')$$

for all multisets partners  $\rho$

- ▶ **Characterisation result**
- ▶ **Backward lumping defined similarly**

## Maximal aggregation of polynomial dynamical systems

Luca Cardelli<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Mirco Tribastone<sup>c,1,2</sup>, Max Tschaikowski<sup>c,1</sup>, and Andrea Vandin<sup>c,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Microsoft Research, Cambridge CB1 2FB, United Kingdom; <sup>b</sup>Department of Computing, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3QD, United Kingdom; and <sup>c</sup>Scuola IMT Alti Studi Lucca, 55100 Lucca, Italy

Edited by Moshe Y. Vardi, Rice University, Houston, TX, and approved July 28, 2017 (received for review February 16, 2017)

Ordinary differential equations (ODEs) with polynomial derivatives are a fundamental tool for understanding the dynamics of systems across many branches of science, but our ability to gain mechanistic insight and effectively conduct numerical evaluations is critical. This paper introduces a new method for aggregating variables in a single block. Furthermore, the freedom in choosing an arbitrary initial partition is instrumental to producing reductions that preserve the dynamics of desired original variables, which are then not aggregated.

# LUMPING BY PARTITION REFINEMENT

---

1. Start with a candidate initial partition of variables (this freedom allows us to preserve **observables**)
2. **Refine** (i.e., split) blocks of current partition until the lumping criterion is satisfied
3. Output is the **coarsest lumping** that refines the initial partition
  - ▶ If initial partition is the singleton one, the output is the **maximal lumping**
  - ▶ Algorithm runs in **polynomial time and space** wrt number of species and reactions

# EVALUATION AND REDUCTION OF ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

The screenshot displays the ERODE software interface. The top window shows the code for 'ExampleODE ode' and 'ExampleRN ode'. The 'ExampleODE ode' code includes parameters (r1=1.0, r2=2.0), initial conditions (Au=1.0, Ap=2.0, B=3.0, AuB=0, ApB=0), and differential equations for Au, Ap, B, AuB, and ApB. The 'ExampleRN ode' code includes parameters (r1=1.0, r2=2.0), initial conditions (Au=1.0, Ap=2.0, B=3.0, AuB=0, ApB=0), and reactions: Au -> Ap (r1), Ap -> Au (r2), Au + B -> AuB (3.0), AuB -> Au + B (4.0), Ap + B -> ApB (3.0), and ApB -> Ap + B (4.0). The bottom window shows a plot of 'Species/variable concentrations' vs 'Time' for 'ExampleRN - ODE solutions - All species/variables'. The plot shows the concentrations of Au, Ap, B, AuB, and ApB over time from -0.01 to 1.0. The concentrations of Au, Ap, B, AuB, and ApB all converge to a steady state value of approximately 0.5. The console output shows the results of solving the ODEs for ExampleRN, including the number of parameters (2), species (5), and reactions (6), and the time taken to solve (0.006 s).

```
begin model ExampleODE
begin parameters
r1 = 1.0 r2 = 2.0
end parameters
begin init
Au = 1.0
Ap = 2.0
B = 3.0
AuB ApB
end init
begin ODE
// C-style comments
d(Au) = -r1*Au + r2*Ap - 3*Au*B + 4*AuB
d(Ap) = r1*Au - r2*Ap - 3*Ap*B + 4*ApB
d(B) = -3*Au*B + 4*AuB - 3*Ap*B + 4*ApB
d(AuB) = 3*Au*B - 4*AuB
d(ApB) = 3*Ap*B - 4*ApB
end ODE
begin views
v1 = Au + Ap
v2 = AuB
end views
reduceBDE(reducedFile="ExampleODE_BDE")
end model

begin model ExampleRN
begin parameters
r1 = 1.0 r2 = 2.0
end parameters
begin init
Au = 1.0
Ap = 2.0
B = 3.0
AuB ApB
end init
begin reactions
Au -> Ap , r1
Ap -> Au , r2
Au + B -> AuB , 3.0
AuB -> Au + B , 4.0
Ap + B -> ApB , 3.0
ApB -> Ap + B , 4.0
end reactions
begin views
v1 = Au + Ap
v2 = AuB
end views
simulateODE(tEnd=1.0)
end model
```

Species/variable concentrations vs Time plot showing concentrations of Au, Ap, B, AuB, and ApB over time from -0.01 to 1.0. The concentrations of Au, Ap, B, AuB, and ApB all converge to a steady state value of approximately 0.5.

Console Output:

```
ERODE -ExampleRN-[15/05/2016 18-57-46-218]
*****
***** ERODE -ExampleRN-[15/05/2016 18-57-46-218] *****
*****
Reading ExampleRN...
Parameters: 2
Species: 5
Reactions: 6.
Solving ODEs of ExampleRN... completed in 0.006 (s).
```

<http://www.erode.eu/>

[TACAS'17]

# SOME BENCHMARKS

- ▶ Original CRN could not be solved on our machine

Original Model			Forward		Backward	
ID	Reactions	Vars	Vars	Time	Vars	Time
CRN1	<b>3,538,944</b>	<b>262,146</b>	222	<b>7.5 s</b>	222	<b>12.0 s</b>
CRN5	194,054	14,531	10,855	0.4 s	6,634	0.6 s
CRN13	24	18	18	4 ms	7	4 ms
AFF2	8,814,880	1,270,433	160,951	~ 10 min	639,509	~ 3 min

Sneddon M W, et al. (2011) Efficient modeling, simulation and coarse-graining of biological complexity with NFsim. In Nature Methods

# SOME BENCHMARKS

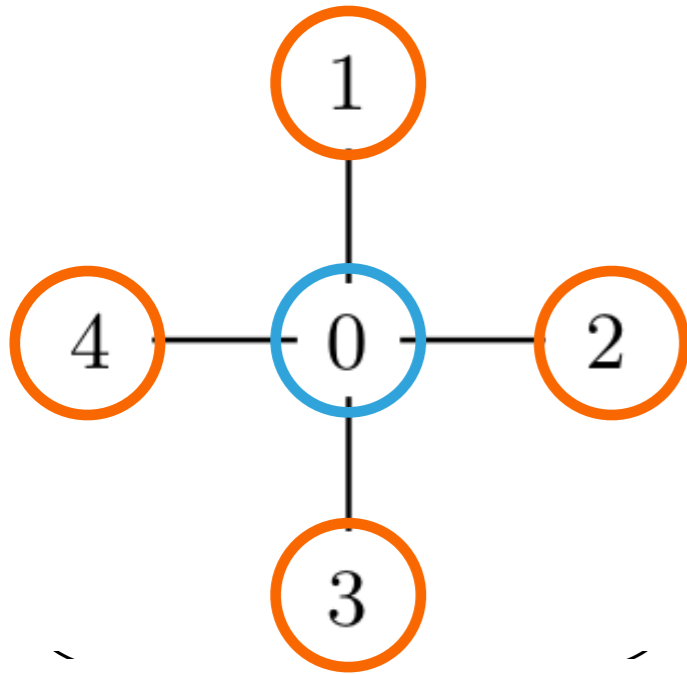
- ▶ Forward and backward equivalence are not comparable

Original Model			Forward		Backward	
ID	Reactions	Vars	Vars	Time	Vars	Time
CRN1	3,538,944	262,146	222	7.5 s	222	12.0 s
CRN5	194,054	14,531	<b>10,855</b>	0.4 s	<b>6,634</b>	0.6 s
CRN13	24	18	18	4 ms	7	4 ms
AFF2	8,814,880	1,270,433	160,951	~ 10 min	639,509	~ 3 min

Suderman R, et al. (2013) *Machines vs. ensembles: Effective MAPK signaling through heterogeneous sets of protein complexes*. In *PLOS Computational Biology*.

# EPIDEMICS SPREAD ON NETWORKS

## STAR NETWORK



## SIS DYNAMICS

$$I_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_0$$

$$I_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_1$$

$$I_2 \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_2$$

$$I_3 \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_3$$

$$I_4 \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_4$$

$$S_0 + I_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_0 + I_1$$

$$S_1 + I_0 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_1 + I_0$$

$$S_0 + I_2 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_0 + I_2$$

$$S_2 + I_0 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_2 + I_0$$

$$S_0 + I_3 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_0 + I_3$$

$$S_3 + I_0 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_3 + I_0$$

$$S_0 + I_4 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_0 + I_4$$

$$S_4 + I_0 \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_4 + I_0$$

## REDUCED SIS DYNAMICS



$$S_A + I_B \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_A + I_B$$

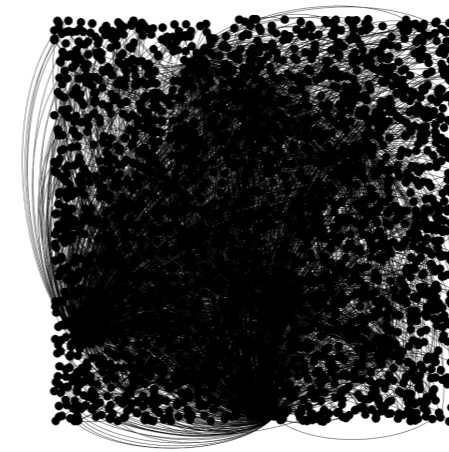
$$S_B + I_A \xrightarrow{\lambda} I_B + I_A$$

$$I_A \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_A$$

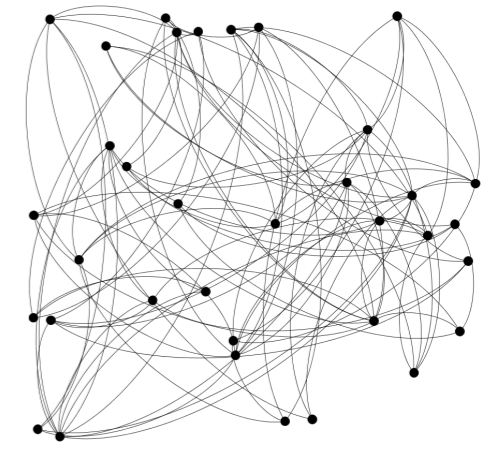
$$I_B \xrightarrow{\gamma} S_B$$

# NETWORK DYNAMICS EXAMPLES

<i>Network</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	$\hat{N}$	$\hat{E}$
tntp-ChicagoRegional	1 467	2 596	635	932
ego-facebook	2 888	5 962	35	104
as20000102	6 474	27 790	3 885	19 437
arenas-pgp	10 680	48 632	8 673	44 074
web-webbase-2001	16 062	51 186	5 253	24 232
as-caida20071105	26 475	106 762	13 393	69 184
ia-email-EU	32 430	108 794	6 262	53 228
topology	34 761	215 440	19 246	168 782
douban	154 908	654 324	59 524	462 128



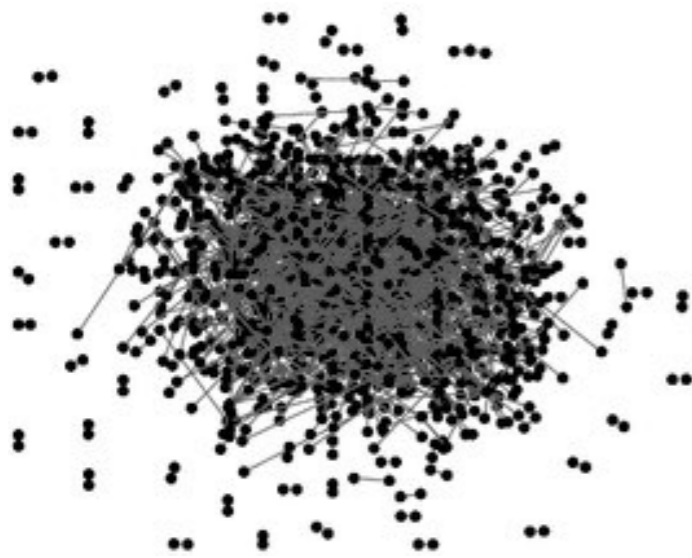
ego-facebook



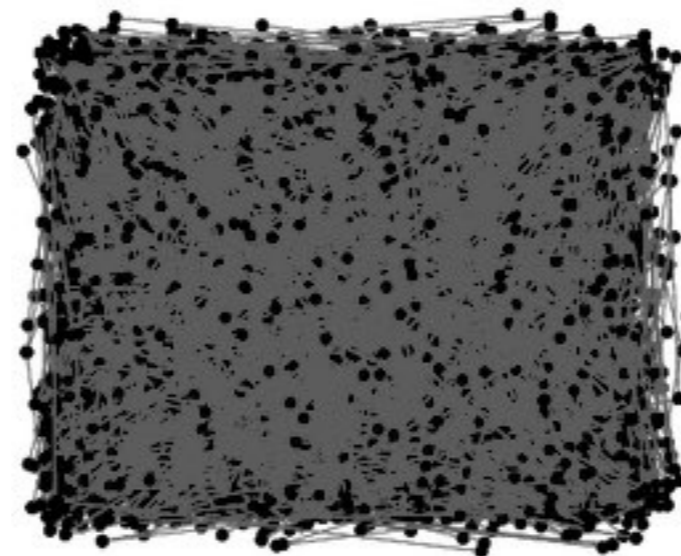
reduced ego-facebook

KONECT: The Koblenz Network Collection

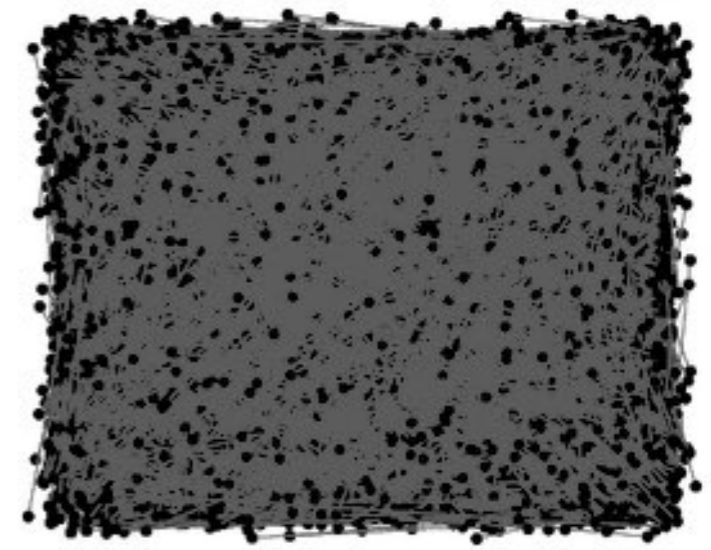
<http://konect.uni-koblenz.de/>



tntp-ChicagoRegional



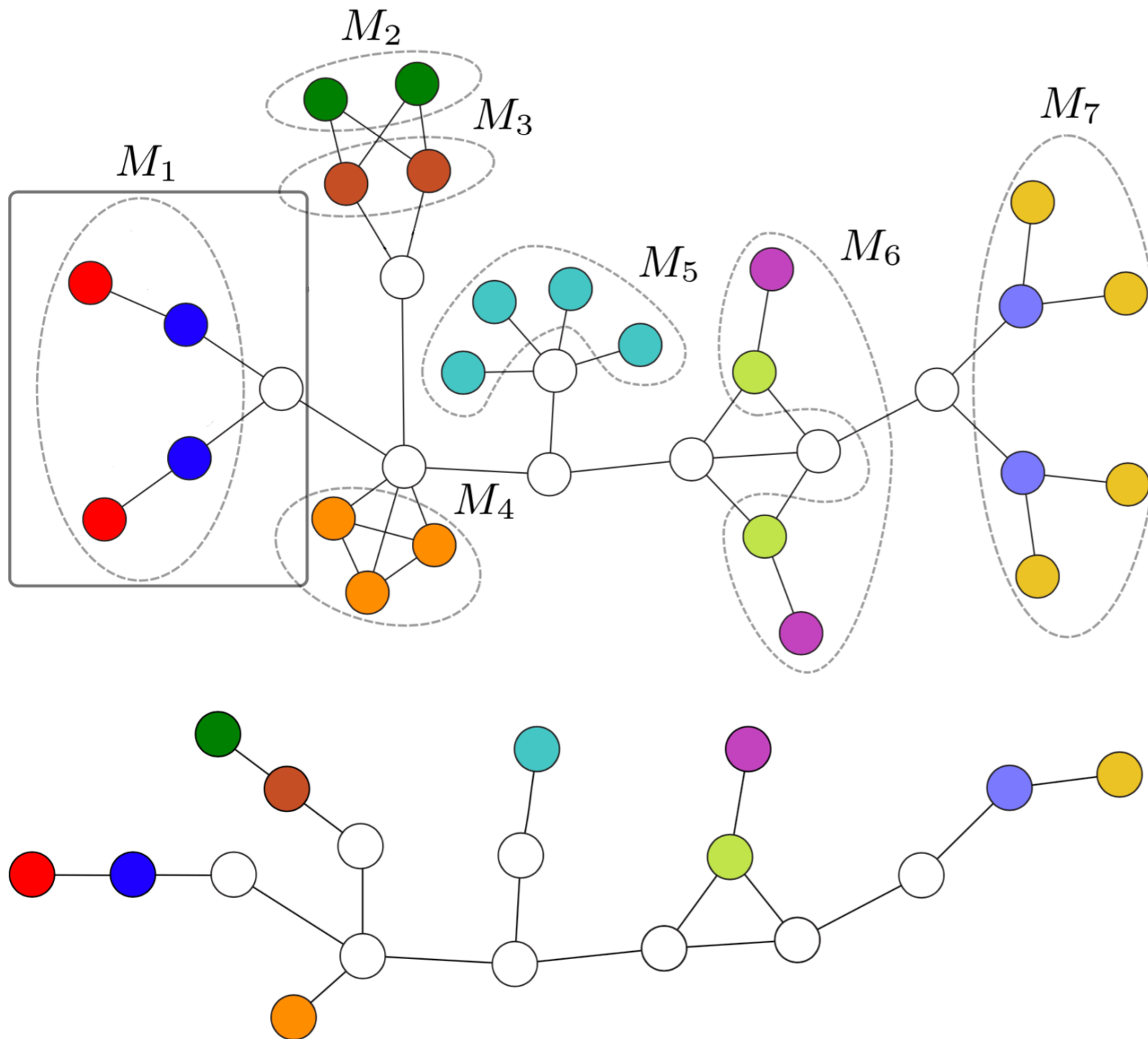
as20000102



arenas-pgp



# NETWORK DYNAMICS: A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION



Bari



Grammichele



Livorno

R.J. Sánchez García (2019) Exploiting symmetry in complex network analysis. Arxiv

# NETWORK EXPANSION

25



## Refining Mean-field Approximations by Dynamic State Truncation

FRANCESCA RANDONE, IMT School For Advanced Studies Lucca, Italy  
LUCA BORTOLUSSI, Università degli Studi di Trieste, Italy  
MIRCO TRIBASTONE, IMT School For Advanced Studies Lucca, Italy

Mean-field models are an established method to analyze large stochastic systems with  $N$  interacting objects by means of simple deterministic equations that are asymptotically correct when  $N$  tends to infinity. For finite  $N$ , mean-field equations provide an approximation whose accuracy is model- and parameter-dependent. Recent research has focused on refining the approximation by computing suitable quantities associated with expansions of order  $1/N$  and  $1/N^2$  to the mean-field equation. In this paper we present a new method for refining mean-field approximations. It couples the master equation governing the evolution of the probability distribution of a truncation of the original state space with a mean-field approximation of a time-inhomogeneous population process that dynamically shifts the truncation across the whole state space. We provide a result of asymptotic correctness in the limit when the truncation covers the state space; for finite truncations, the equations give a correction of the mean-field approximation. We apply our method to examples from the literature to show that, even with modest truncations, it is effective in models that cannot be refined using existing techniques due to non-differentiable drifts, and that it can outperform the state of the art in challenging models that cause instability due orbit cycles in their mean-field equations.

## PROCEEDINGS A

royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rspa



## Research

**Cite this article:** Waizmann T, Bortolussi L, Vandin A, Tribastone M. 2021 Improved estimations of stochastic chemical kinetics by finite-state expansion. *Proc. R. Soc. A* **477**: 20200964.  
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rspa.2020.0964>

Received: 6 December 2020

Accepted: 10 June 2021

## Improved estimations of stochastic chemical kinetics by finite-state expansion

Tabea Waizmann<sup>1</sup>, Luca Bortolussi<sup>2</sup>, Andrea Vandin<sup>3,4</sup> and Mirco Tribastone<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca 55100, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics and Geosciences, University of Trieste, Trieste 34127, Italy

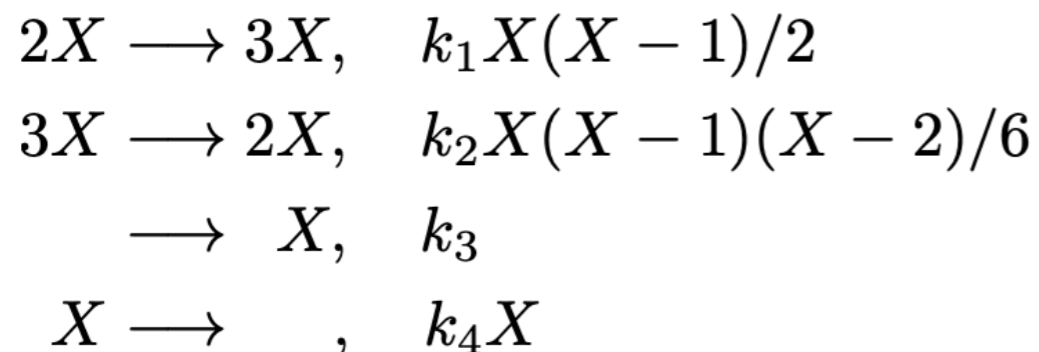
<sup>3</sup>Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa 56127, Italy

<sup>4</sup>Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, DTU Technical University of Denmark, Kgs. Lyngby 2800, Denmark

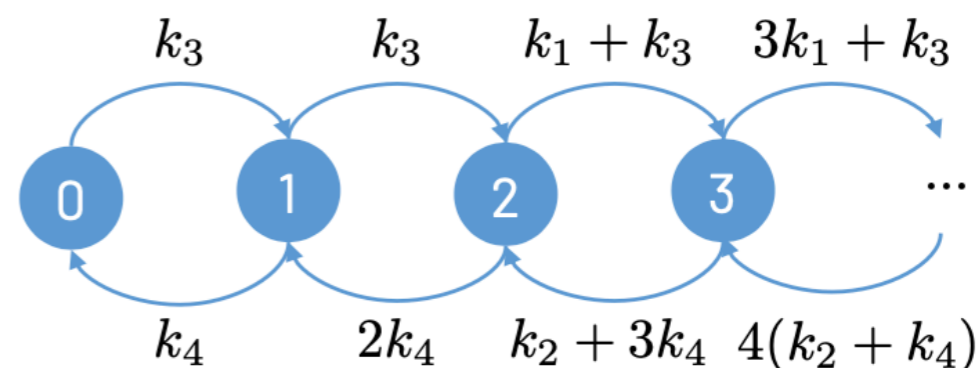
LB, 0000-0001-8874-4001; AV, 0000-0002-2606-7241; MT, 0000-0002-6018-5989

# REACTION NETWORKS AS MARKOV CHAINS

## Schlögl's system

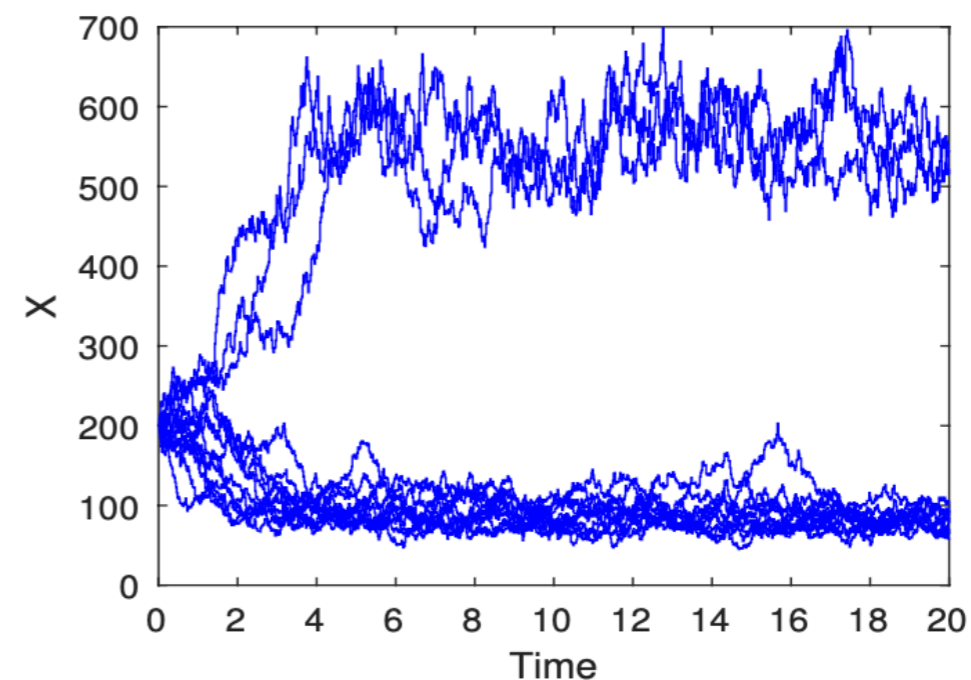


## Markov chain



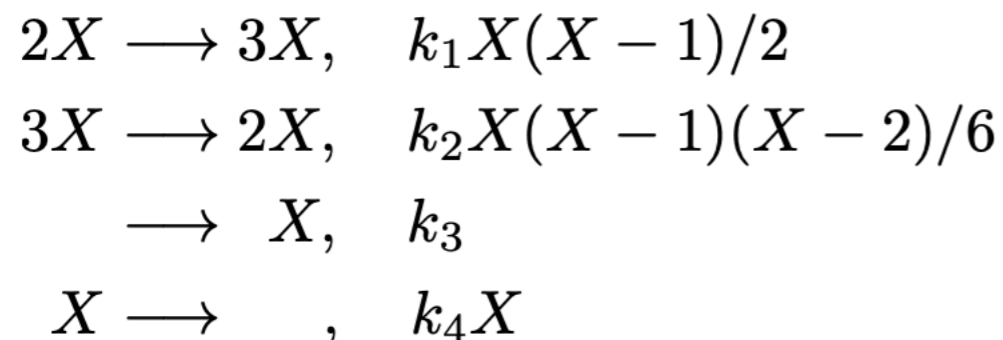
## Stochastic Simulation

- Holding time at each state is **exponentially distributed** with the sum of outgoing rates
- Probability of choosing a given transition after holding time equals its transition rate divided by the rate of the residence time



# MEAN-FIELD APPROXIMATION/LIMIT

## Schlögl's system



## Properties

- Self-consistent, **compact system** of equations (one per type of agent)
- Correct in the limit when the population levels go to infinity (**Kurtz's theorem**)
- Derivation can be generalized to obtain equations for higher-order moments (**moment-closure approximation**)

## Derivation

### Dynkin's Formula

$$\frac{d\mathbb{E}[X]}{dt} = \frac{k_1}{2} \mathbb{E}[X(X-1)] - \frac{k_2}{6} \mathbb{E}[X(X-1)(X-2)] + k_3 - k_4 \mathbb{E}[X]$$

*(large-scale approximation)*

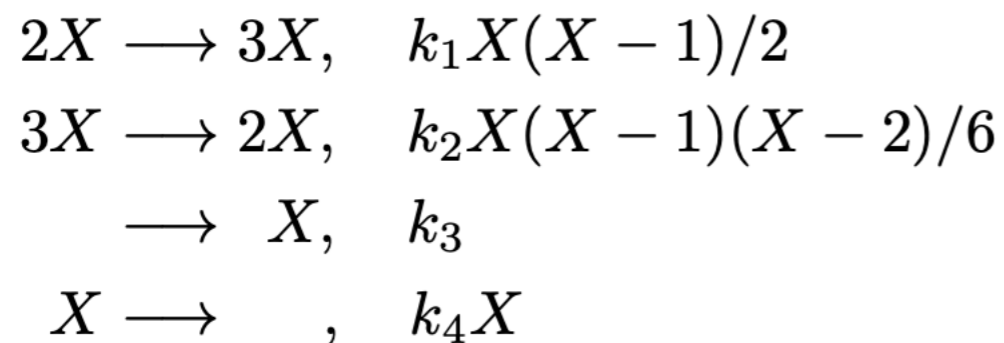
$$\approx \frac{k_1}{2} \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \frac{k_2}{6} \mathbb{E}[X^3] + k_3 - k_4 \mathbb{E}[X]$$

*(expectation of a function vs. function of the expectations)*

$$\approx \frac{k_1}{2} \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - \frac{k_2}{6} \mathbb{E}[X]^3 + k_3 - k_4 \mathbb{E}[X]$$

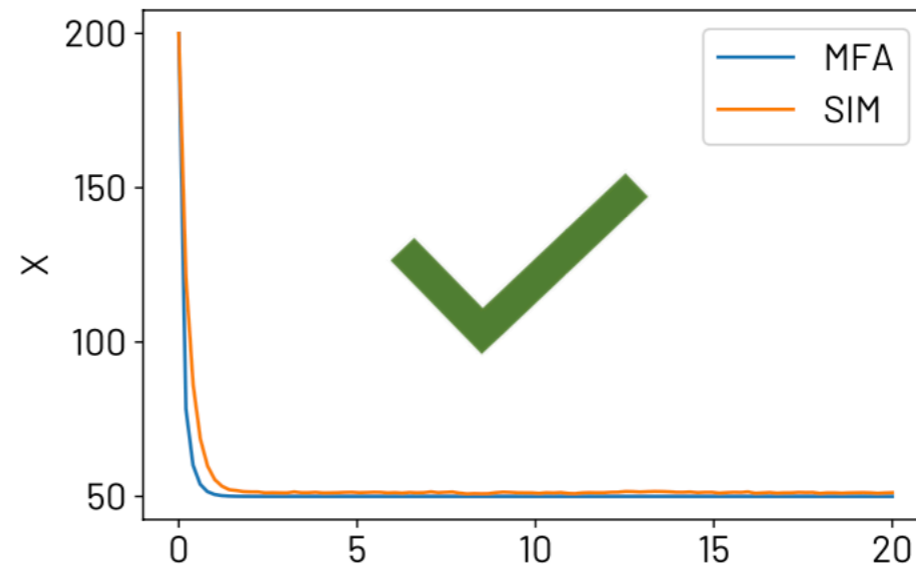
# APPROXIMATION QUALITY

## Schlögl's system

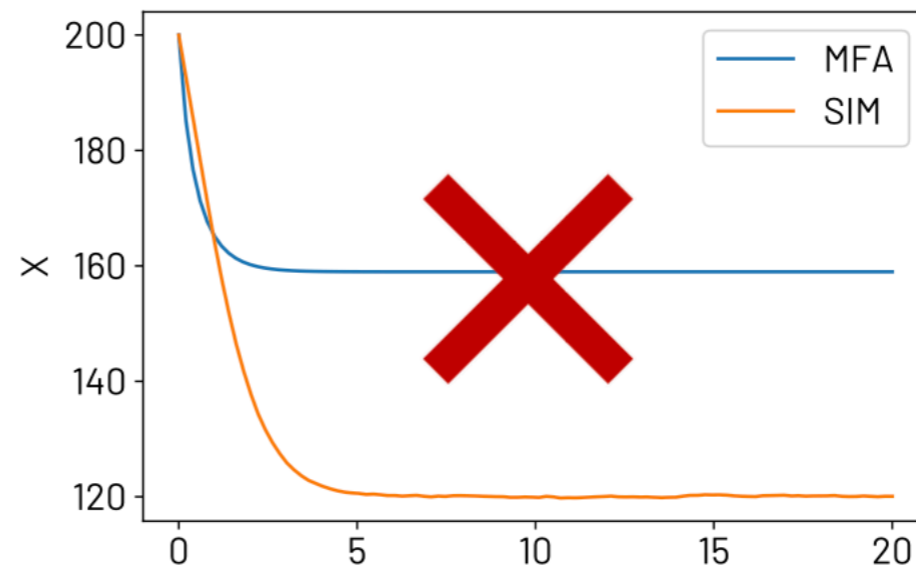


## Properties

- Quality of the approximation can be model- and parameter-dependent
- Always correct for linear systems and for a limited class of nonlinear systems
- Exact corrections available for special cases

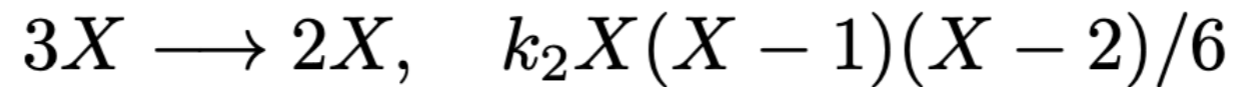


$k_1 = 0.03$   
 $k_2 = 0.0004$   
 $k_3 = 200$   
 $k_4 = 4.5$



$k_1 = 0.03$   
 $k_2 = 0.0001$   
 $k_3 = 200$   
 $k_4 = 3.5$

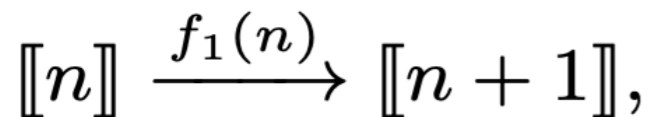
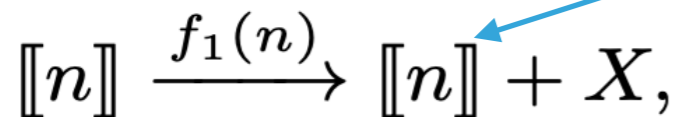
# FINITE STATE EXPANSION: SIMPLE EXAMPLE



User-defined  
"observation" bound

## Reaction expansion

Auxiliary tracked population

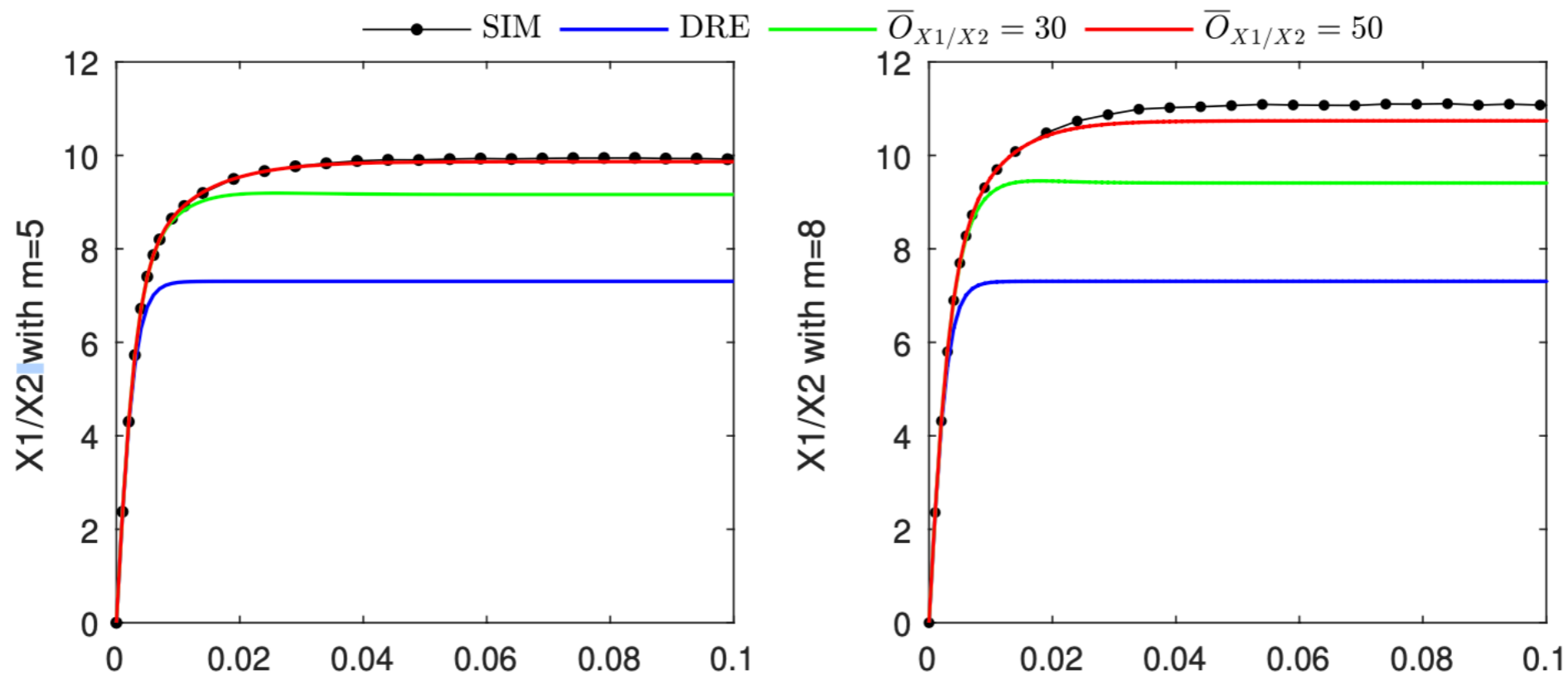
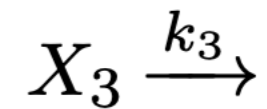
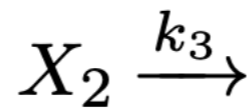
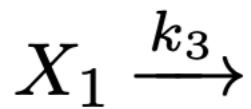
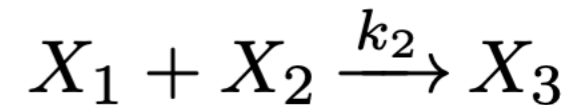
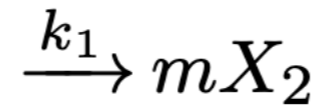
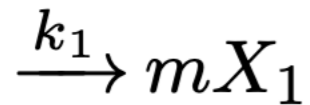


$$f_1(n) = [[n]] k_1 (X+n)(X+n-1)/2$$

$$n = \bar{O}_X$$

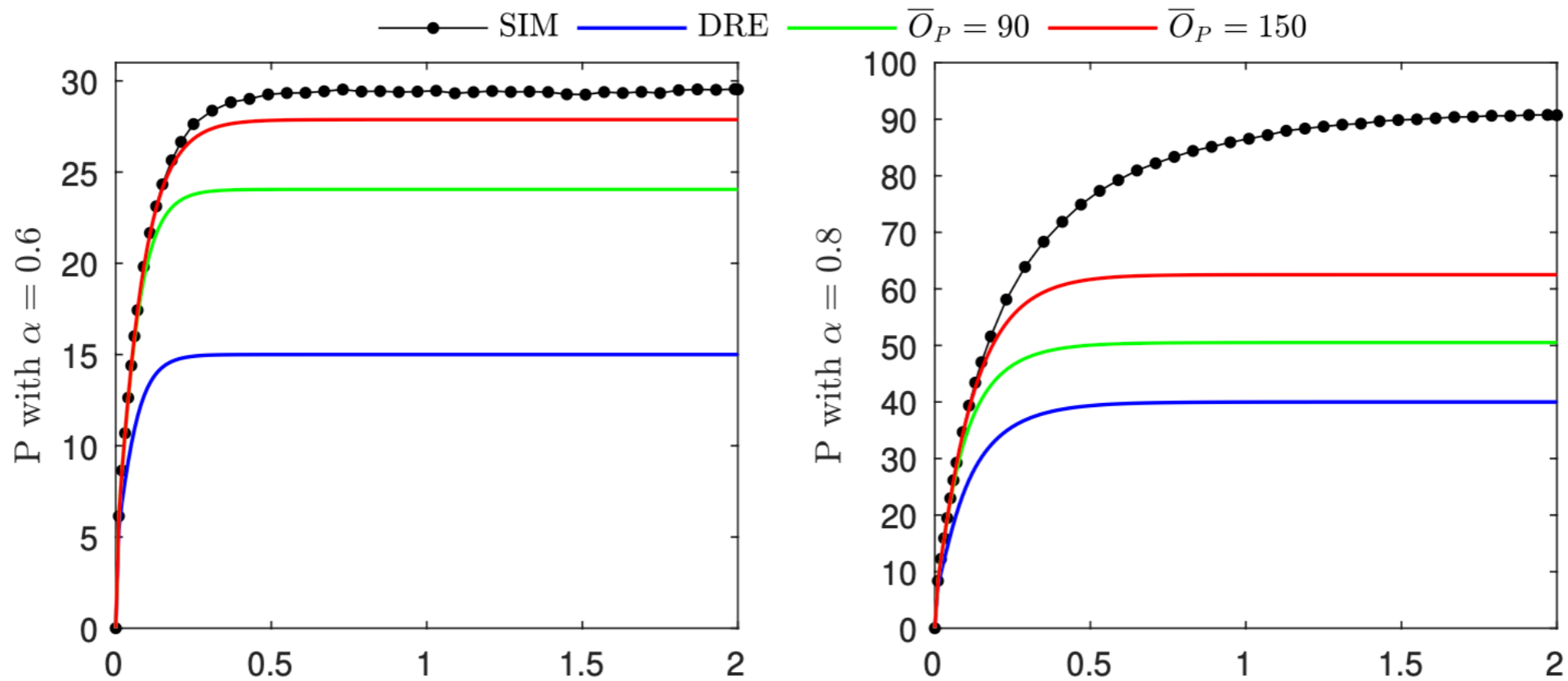
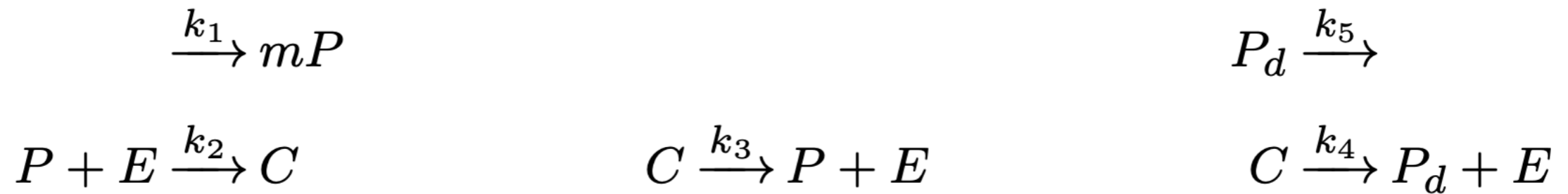
$$0 \leq n < \bar{O}_X$$

## Heterodimerization



# CASE STUDIES

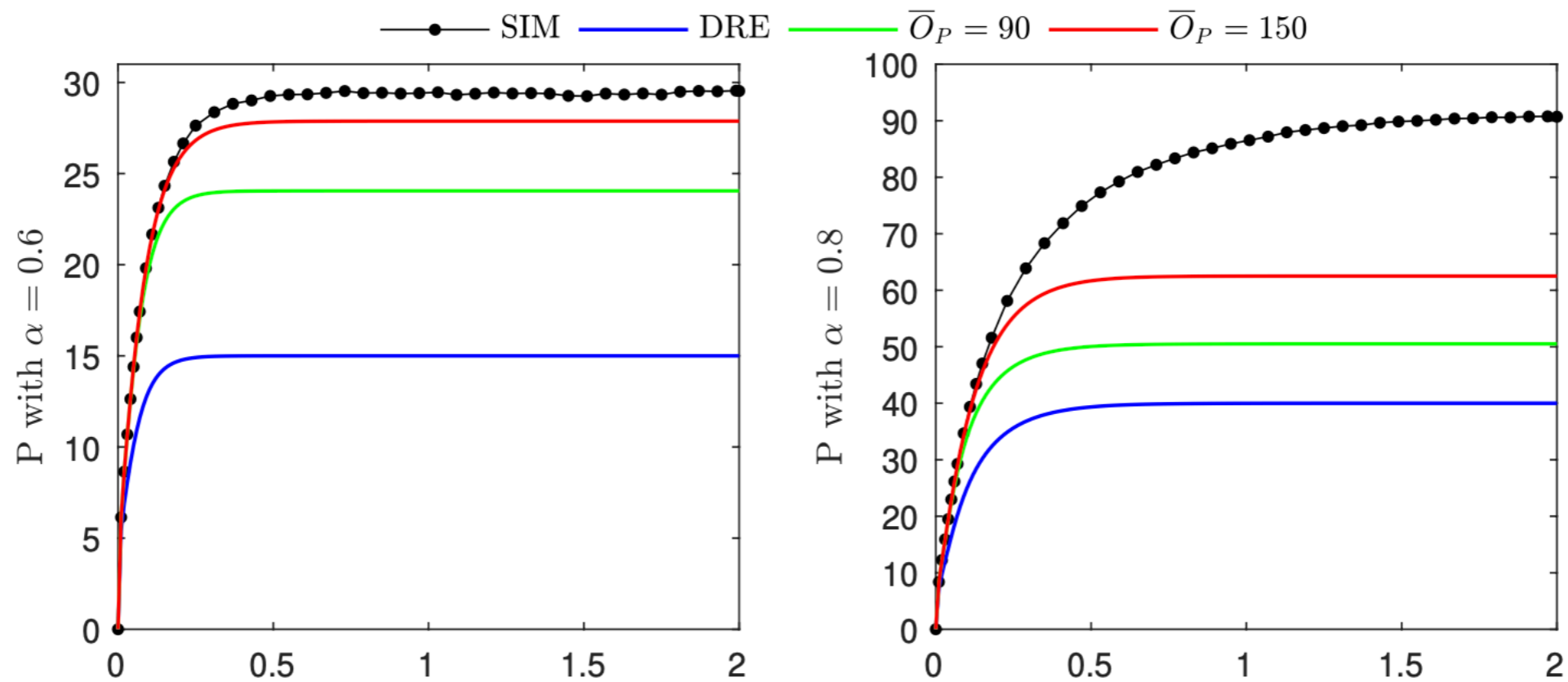
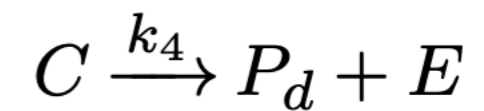
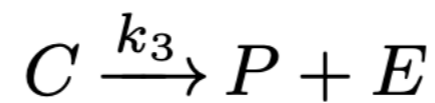
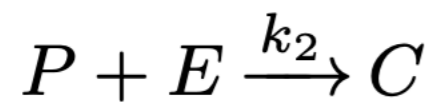
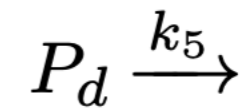
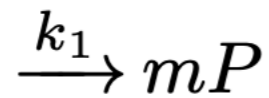
## Protein degradation



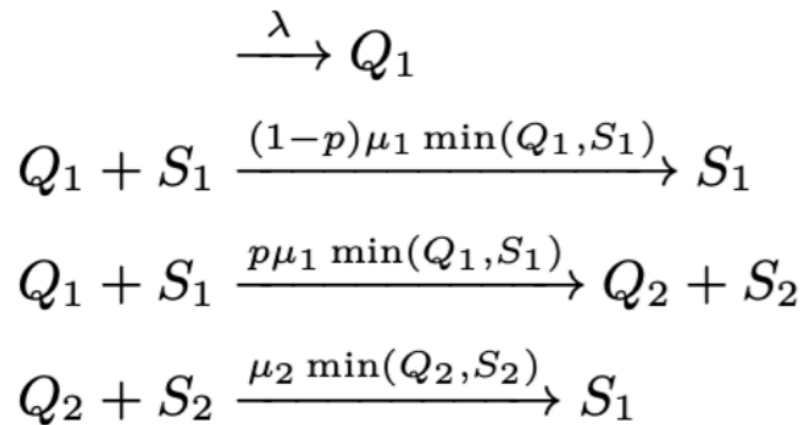


# CASE STUDIES

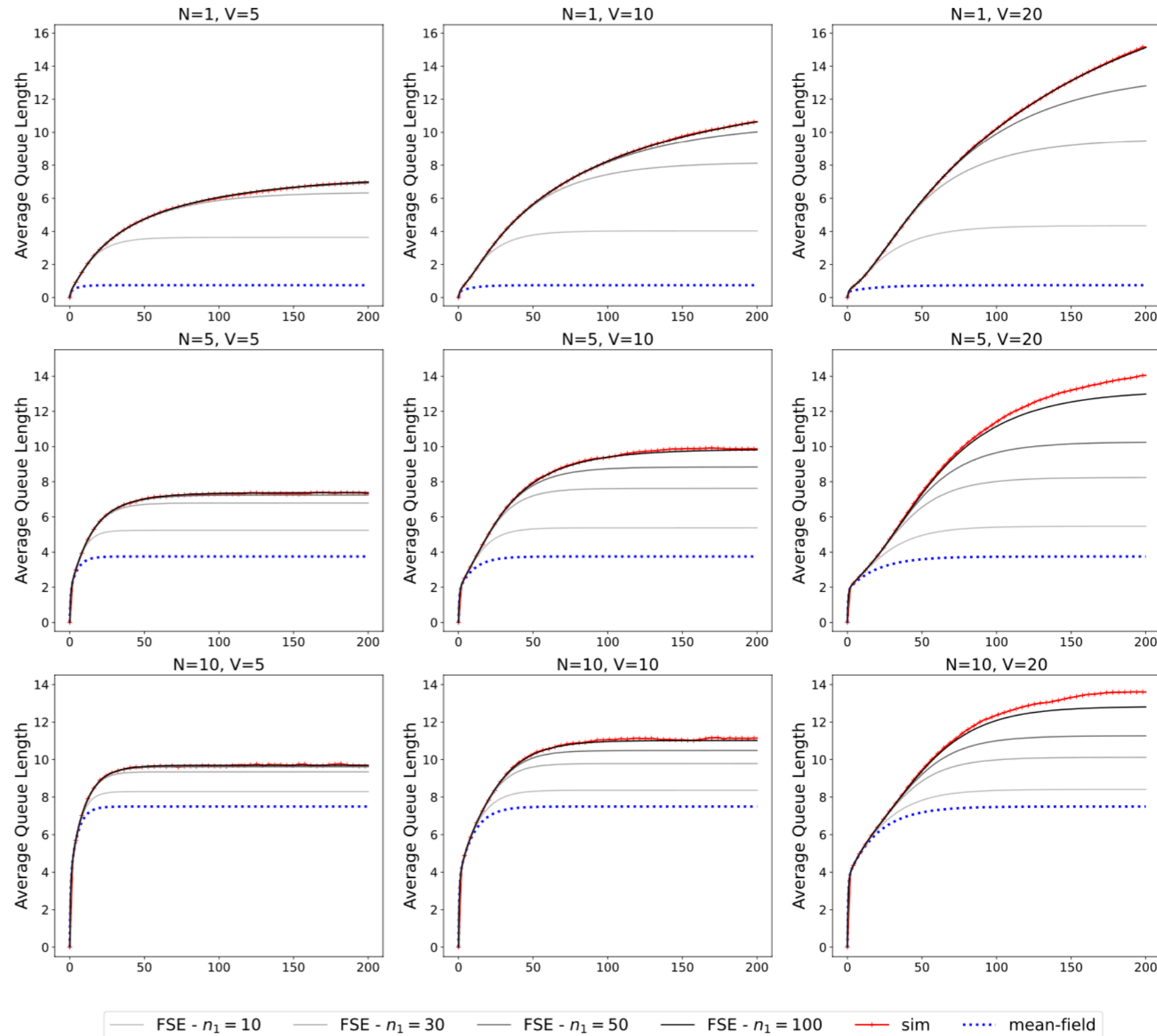
## Protein degradation



# Queueing System



- Textbook model with Poisson arrivals and Coxian-distributed service times with same mean and **increasing variance V**
- $N$  servers can simultaneously process client's requests
- Mean-field approximation is **insensitive to variance**
- Finite state expansion can track increasing variances



# OTHER ONGOING AND FUTURE WORK

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- ▶ **Approximate reductions** as perturbations of exact ones for polynomial ODEs [JLAMP 2022]
- ▶ Aggregation by arbitrary **linear mappings** [Bioinformatics 2021, **CMSB'23 - by Alexander later**]
- ▶ Lumping for **uncertain models** (Markov chains) [TAC 2023]
- ▶ Aggregation for **Boolean networks** [Vandin et al., CMSB'21, CMSB'22, LICS'23]
- ▶ **Generic framework for expanding** reaction networks! [SIGMETRICS'21]

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## ▶ **Main collaborators**

- ▶ **Luca Bortolussi** (Trieste), **Luca Cardelli** (Oxford), **Giorgio** and **Giovanni Bacci** (Aalborg), **Radu Grosu** (TU Vienna), **Alberto Lluch-Lafuente** (DTU Copenhagen), **Kim Larsen** (Aalborg), **Gleb Pogudin** (Paris), **Max Tschaikowski** (Aalborg), **Andrea Vandin** (Sant'Anna Pisa)

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