

# Reaction-diffusion systems

Tomáš Vejchodský

Based on lecture notes of Radek Erban

<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/courses/course/19651/material>

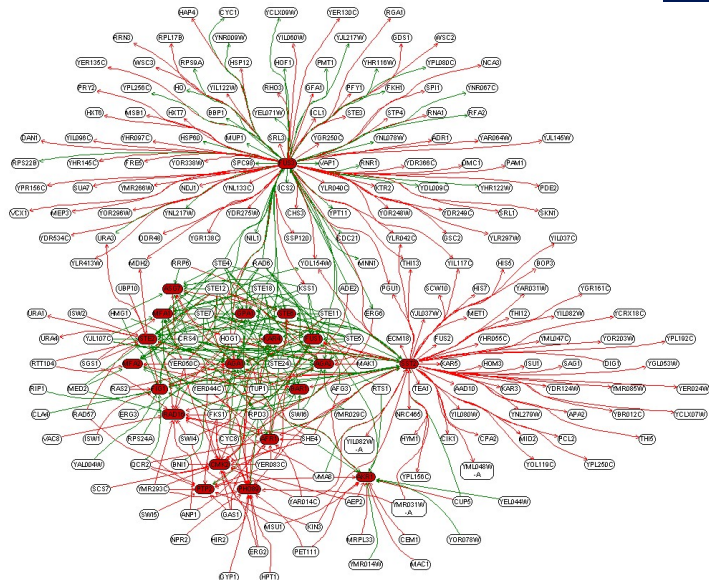
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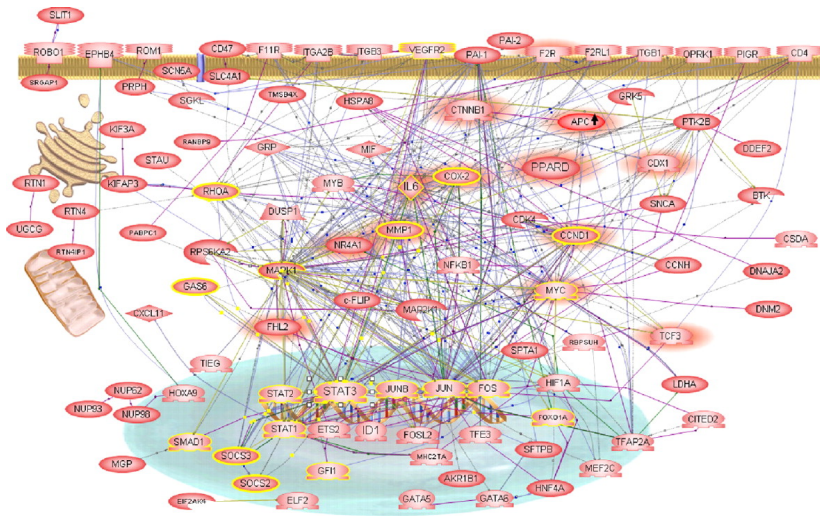
- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ Reaction kinetics: deterministic and stochastic models
- ▶ Models of diffusion
- ▶ Application to circadian rhythms
- ▶ Application to pattern formation

# Motivation – gene regulatory networks



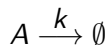
Neighbourhood of mating response genes [Rung, Schlitt, et al, 2002]

# Motivation – gene regulatory networks



Angiogenic signaling network. [Abdollahi et al, PNAS 2007]

## Degradation

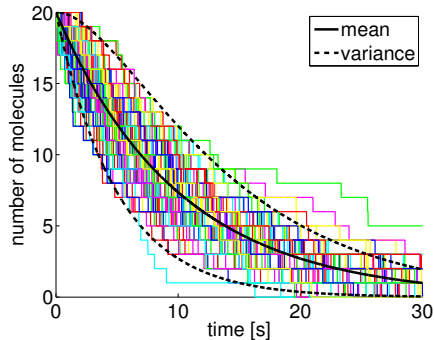
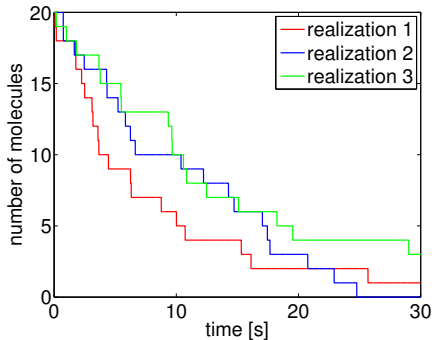


Naive stochastic simulation algorithm (SSA):

**Initialization:**  $\Delta t > 0$  small, for  $t = 0$  set  $A(0) = n_0$ .

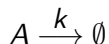
- (a1) Generate a random number  $r$  uniformly distributed in  $(0, 1)$
- (b1) If  $r < A(t)k\Delta t$  then  $A(t + \Delta t) = A(t) - 1$ ;  
else  $A(t + \Delta t) = A(t)$

# Naive SSA: degradation



$$k = 0.1, A(0) = 20, \Delta t = 0.005$$

naivessa\_mean\_anim.m



**Initialization:** set  $A(0) = n_0$ .

(a2) Generate a random number  $r$  uniformly distributed in  $(0, 1)$

(b2) Compute the next reaction time  $\tau = \frac{1}{A(t)k} \ln \left[ \frac{1}{r} \right]$

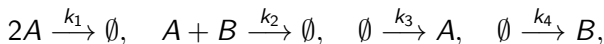
(c2) Update the number of molecules:  $A(t + \tau) = A(t) - 1$   
Set  $t := t + \tau$  and go to (a2)

# Chemical reactions of higher-order

order	reaction	propensity	units of $k$
0	$\emptyset \xrightarrow{k} A$	$k\nu$	$\text{m}^{-3}\text{sec}^{-1}$
1	$A \xrightarrow{k} \emptyset$	$A(t)k$	$\text{sec}^{-1}$
2	$A + B \xrightarrow{k} \emptyset$	$A(t)B(t)k/\nu$	$\text{m}^3\text{sec}^{-1}$
2	$2A \xrightarrow{k} \emptyset$	$A(t)(A(t) - 1)k/\nu$	$\text{m}^3\text{sec}^{-1}$
3	$A + B + C \xrightarrow{k} \emptyset$	$A(t)B(t)C(t)k/\nu^2$	$\text{m}^6\text{sec}^{-1}$
3	$2A + B \xrightarrow{k} \emptyset$	$A(t)(A(t) - 1)B(t)k/\nu^2$	$\text{m}^6\text{sec}^{-1}$
3	$3A \xrightarrow{k} \emptyset$	$A(t)(A(t) - 1)(A(t) - 2)k/\nu^2$	$\text{m}^6\text{sec}^{-1}$



# System with two species



Gillespie SSA:

(a4) Generate two random numbers:  $r_1, r_2 \sim U(0, 1)$

(b4) Compute propensities:

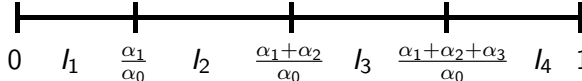
$$\alpha_1(t) = k_1 A(t)(A(t) - 1), \quad \alpha_2(t) = k_2 A(t)B(t),$$

$$\alpha_3 = k_3, \quad \alpha_4 = k_4, \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_0 = \alpha_1(t) + \alpha_2(t) + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$$

(c4) Next reaction time  $\tau = \frac{1}{\alpha_0} \ln \left[ \frac{1}{r_1} \right]$

(d4) Update the numbers of molecules:

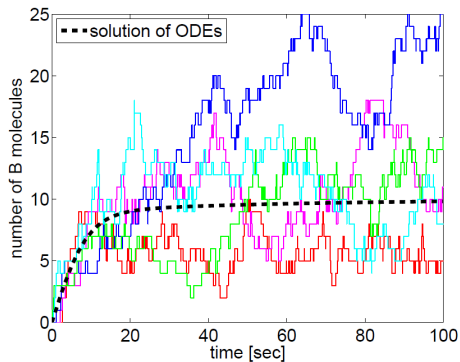
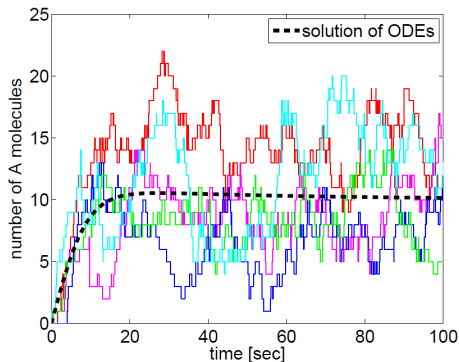
	$r_2 \in I_1$	$r_2 \in I_2$	$r_2 \in I_3$	$r_2 \in I_4$
$A(t + \tau)$	$A(t) - 2$	$A(t) - 1$	$A(t) + 1$	$A(t)$
$B(t + \tau)$	$B(t)$	$B(t) - 1$	$B(t)$	$B(t) + 1$



Set  $t := t + \tau$  and go to (a4)

# System with two species

## Trajectories



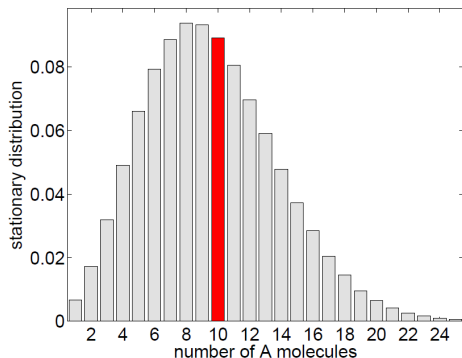
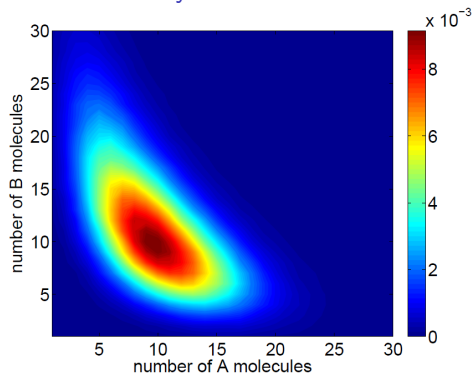
$$A(0) = B(0) = 0, k_1 = 10^{-3}, k_2 = 10^{-2}, k_3 = 1.2, k_4 = 1 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

$$A_s = 9.6, B_s = 12.2$$

$$a_s = 10, b_s = 10$$

# System with two species

## Stationary distribution



$$k_1 = 10^{-3}, \quad k_2 = 10^{-2}, \quad k_3 = 1.2, \quad k_4 = 1 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

$$A_s = 9.6, \quad B_s = 12.2$$

$$a_s = 10, \quad b_s = 10$$

# General Gillespie SSA

## Notation

$q$  ... number of chemical reactions

$\alpha_j(t)$  ... propensity function of  $j$ -th reaction,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, q$

$\alpha_j(t) dt$  = probability that  $j$ -th reaction occurs in  $[t, t + dt)$

## Algorithm

(a5) Generate random numbers  $r_1, r_2$  uniformly distributed in  $(0, 1)$

(b5) Compute propensity  $\alpha_j(t)$  of each reaction and  $\alpha_0 = \sum_{j=1}^q \alpha_j$

(c5) Next reaction time  $\tau = \frac{1}{\alpha_0} \ln \left[ \frac{1}{r_1} \right]$

(d5) Compute which reaction occurs at time  $t + \tau$ . Find  $j$  such that

$$r_2 \geq \frac{1}{\alpha_0} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \alpha_i(t) \quad \text{and} \quad r_2 < \frac{1}{\alpha_0} \sum_{i=1}^j \alpha_i(t)$$

(e5) The  $j$ -th reaction takes place. Update numbers of molecules.  
 Set  $t := t + \tau$  and go to (a5)

Schlögl system

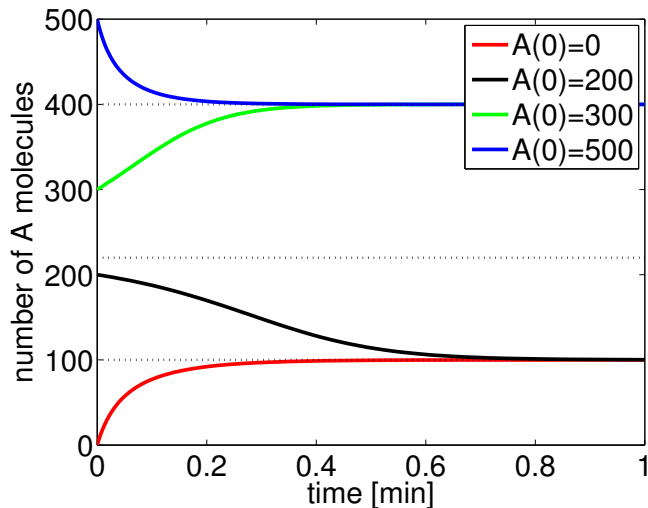


Concentration:  $a(t) = A(t)/\nu$

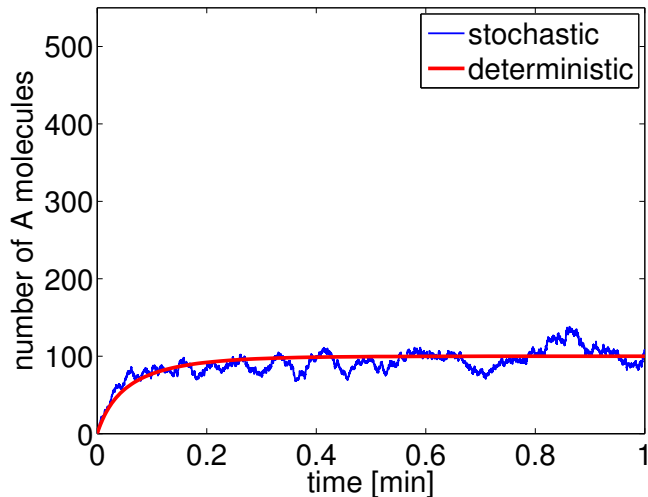
$$\frac{da}{dt} = -k_1 a^3 + k_2 a^2 - k_3 a + k_4$$

Average number of molecules:  $\bar{A}(t) = a(t)\nu$

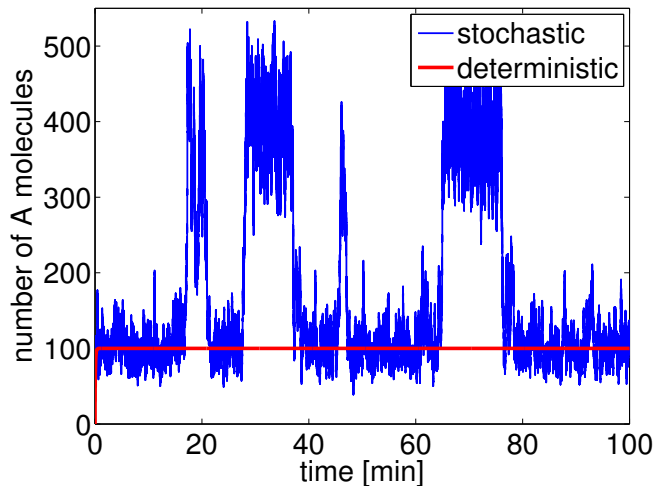
$$\frac{d\bar{A}}{dt} = -\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} \bar{A}^3 + \frac{k_2}{\nu} \bar{A}^2 - k_3 \bar{A} + k_4 \nu$$



$$\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}, \quad \frac{k_2}{\nu} = 0.18, \quad k_3 = 37.5, \quad k_4\nu = 2200 \quad [\text{min}^{-1}]$$

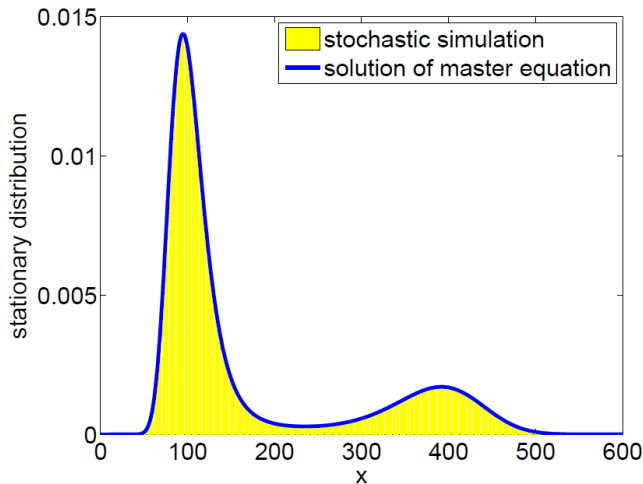


$$\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}, \quad \frac{k_2}{\nu} = 0.18, \quad k_3 = 37.5, \quad k_4\nu = 2200 \quad [\text{min}^{-1}]$$



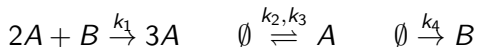
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Schnakenberg system



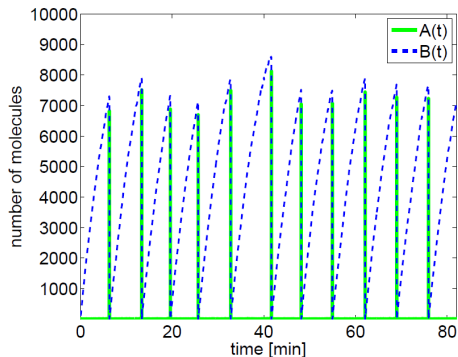
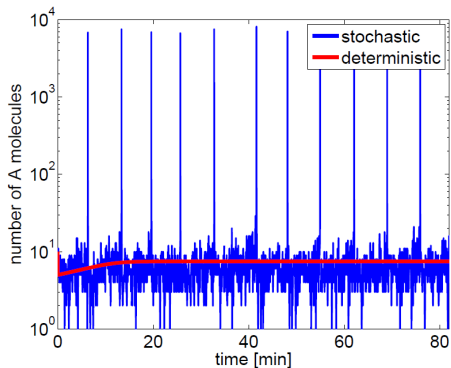
Concentration:

$$\frac{da}{dt} = k_1 a^2 b + k_2 - k_3 a$$
$$\frac{db}{dt} = -k_1 a^2 b + k_4$$

Average numbers of molecules:

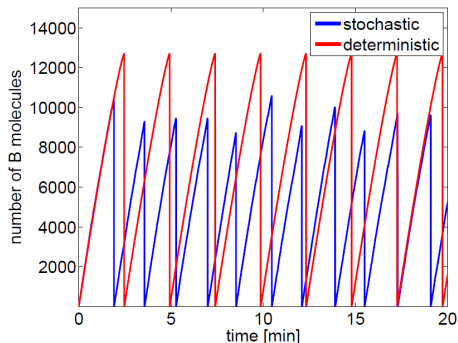
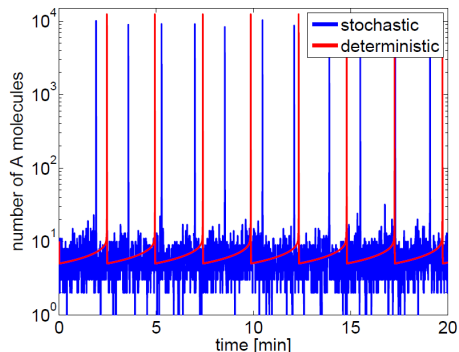
$$\frac{d\bar{A}}{dt} = \frac{k_1}{\nu^2} \bar{A}^2 \bar{B} + k_2 \nu - k_3 \bar{A}$$
$$\frac{d\bar{B}}{dt} = -\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} \bar{A}^2 \bar{B} + k_4$$

# Schnakenberg system



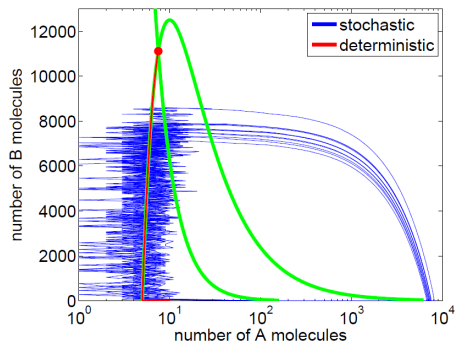
$$\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} = 4 \times 10^{-5}, \quad k_2\nu = 50, \quad k_3 = 10, \quad k_4\nu = 25 \quad [\text{sec}^{-1}]$$
$$A(0) = 10, \quad B(0) = 10$$

# Schnakenberg system

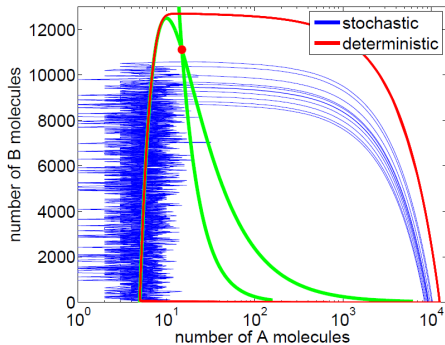


$$\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} = 4 \times 10^{-5}, \quad k_2\nu = 50, \quad k_3 = 10, \quad k_4\nu = 100 \quad [\text{sec}^{-1}]$$
$$A(0) = 10, \quad B(0) = 10$$

# Schnakenberg system



$$k_4\nu = 25 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$



$$k_4\nu = 100 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + f(X(t), t) dt + g(X(t), t) dW$$

$dW$  ... white noise,  $dW \approx \sqrt{\Delta t} \xi$ , with  $\xi \sim N(0, 1)$

## Simulation algorithm

$X(0) = x_0$ ,  $\Delta t > 0$  small

(a6)  $\xi \sim N(0, 1)$

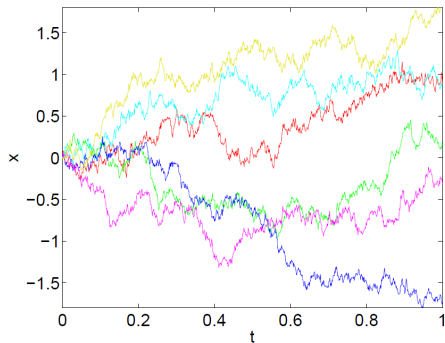
(b6)  $X(t + \Delta t) = X(t) + f(X(t), t)\Delta t + g(X(t), t)\sqrt{\Delta t}\xi$

Set  $t := t + \Delta t$  and go to (a6)

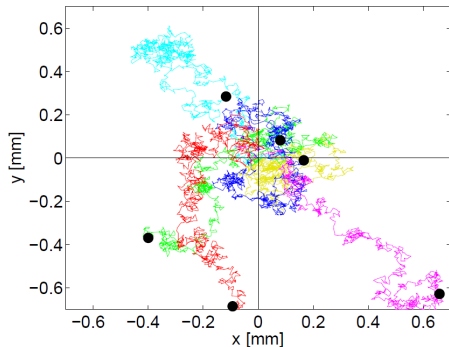
# Example 1: $f(x, t) = 0$ , $g(x, t) = 1$

Trajectories:

$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + dW$$



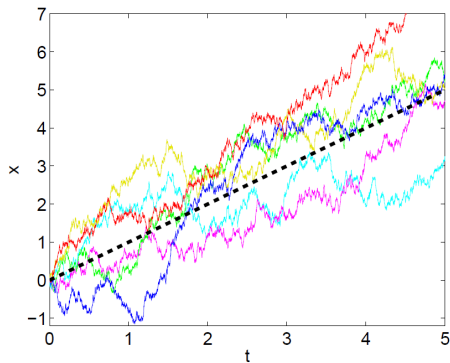
$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + dW_1$$
$$Y(t + dt) = Y(t) + dW_2$$



Example 2:  $f(x, t) = 1, g(x, t) = 1$

Trajectories:

$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + dt + dW$$





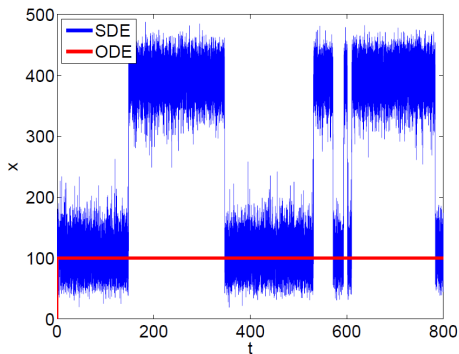
## Example 3: two favourable states

Trajectories:

$$f(x, t) = -k_1 x^3 + k_2 x^2 - k_3 x + k_4, \quad g(x, t) = k_5$$

$$k_1 = 10^{-3}, \quad k_2 = 0.75, \quad k_3 = 165, \quad k_4 = 10^4, \quad k_5 = 200,$$

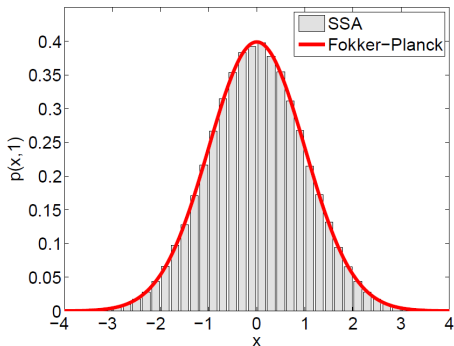
$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + f(X(t), t) dt + g(X(t), t) dW$$



# Example 1: $f = 0$ , $g = 1$ (revisited)

Stationary probability distribution:

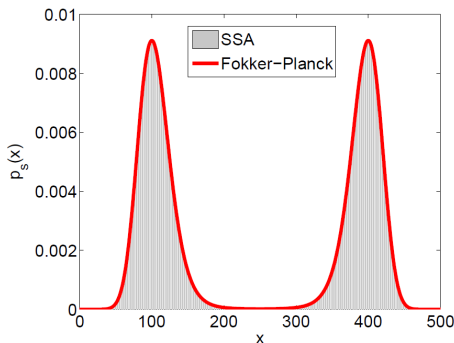
$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + dW$$



## Example 3: two favourable states (revisited)

Stationary probability distribution:

$$f(x, t) = -k_1 x^3 + k_2 x^2 - k_3 x + k_4, \quad g(x, t) = k_5$$
$$k_1 = 10^{-3}, \quad k_2 = 0.75, \quad k_3 = 165, \quad k_4 = 10^4, \quad k_5 = 200,$$
$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + f(X(t), t) dt + g(X(t), t) dW$$

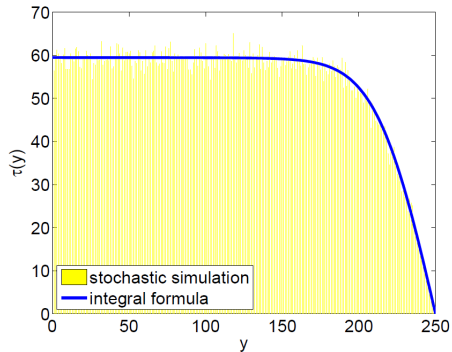
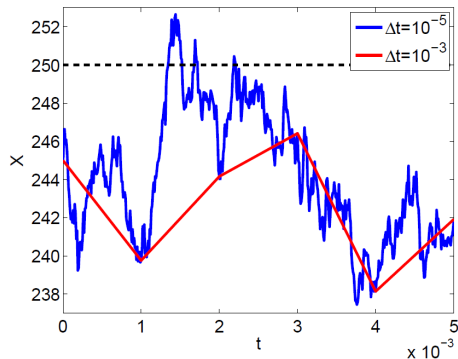


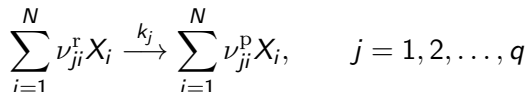
# Example 3: two favourable states (revisited)

Mean exit time:

$$\tau_{\text{sim}} = 64.7$$

$$\tau_{x_{s_1}} = 59.45$$





## Notation:

- ▶ Well mixed reactor:  $N$  chemical species,  $q$  reactions ( $R_1, \dots, R_q$ )
- ▶  $\mathbf{X} = [X_1, \dots, X_N]$ ,  $X_i(t)$  = number of molecules,  $i = 1, \dots, N$
- ▶  $\alpha_j(\mathbf{x})$  is propensity function of reaction  $R_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, q$   
( $\alpha_j(\mathbf{x}) dt$  = probability that one reaction  $R_j$  occurs in  $[t, t + dt)$ , given  $\mathbf{X}(t) = \mathbf{x}$ )
- ▶  $\nu_{ji} = \nu_{ji}^p - \nu_{ji}^r$ , change of  $X_i$  during reaction  $R_j$ ,
- ▶  $\boldsymbol{\nu}_j = [\nu_{j1}, \dots, \nu_{jN}]$
- ▶  $p(\mathbf{x}, t) =$  probability that  $\mathbf{X}(t) = \mathbf{x}$

Chemical master equation (CME) – **exact**

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} p(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{j=1}^q [\alpha_j(\mathbf{x} - \nu_j) p(\mathbf{x} - \nu_j, t) - \alpha_j(\mathbf{x}) p(\mathbf{x}, t)]$$

Chemical Langevin equation (CLE) – **approximate**

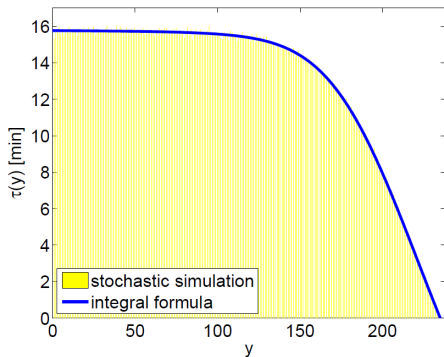
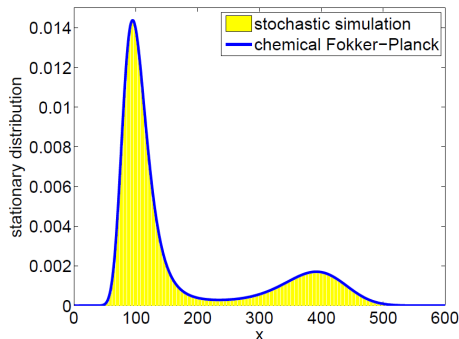
$$dX_i = f_i(\mathbf{X}(t)) dt + \sum_{j=1}^q d_{ji}(\mathbf{X}(t)) dW_j$$

where  $f_i(\mathbf{X}(t)) = \sum_{j=1}^q \nu_{ji} \alpha_j(\mathbf{X}(t))$ ,  $d_{ji}(\mathbf{X}(t)) = \nu_{ji} \sqrt{\alpha_j(\mathbf{X}(t))}$

Chemical Fokker-Planck equation (CFP)  $\Leftrightarrow$  **CLE**

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} p(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_k} \left[ \left( \sum_{j=1}^q d_{ji}(\mathbf{x}) d_{jk}(\mathbf{x}) \right) p(\mathbf{x}, t) \right] - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [f_i(\mathbf{x}) p(\mathbf{x}, t)]$$

# Schlögl system (revisited)



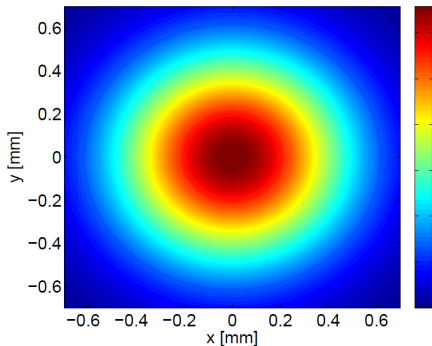
$$\frac{k_1}{\nu^2} = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}, \quad \frac{k_2}{\nu} = 0.18, \quad k_3 = 37.5, \quad k_4\nu = 2200 \quad [\text{min}^{-1}]$$
$$x_{S_1} = 95, \quad x_u = 235, \quad x_{S_2} = 392, \quad \tau(x_{S_1}) = 15.6$$

# Diffusion – position jump process

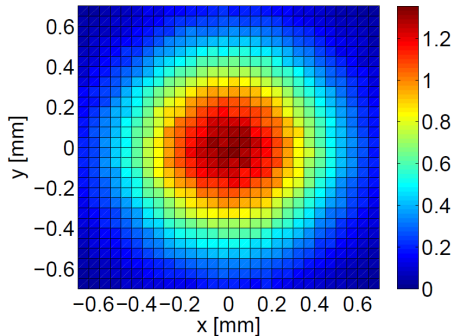
$$X(t + dt) = X(t) + \sqrt{2D} dW_x$$

$$Y(t + dt) = Y(t) + \sqrt{2D} dW_y$$

$$Z(t + dt) = Z(t) + \sqrt{2D} dW_z$$



$D = 10^{-4} \text{ mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$ ,  $t = 10 \text{ min}$



$10^6$  realizations



## Simulation algorithm

$X(0) = x_0$ ,  $\Delta t > 0$  small

(a7)  $\xi \sim N(0, 1)$

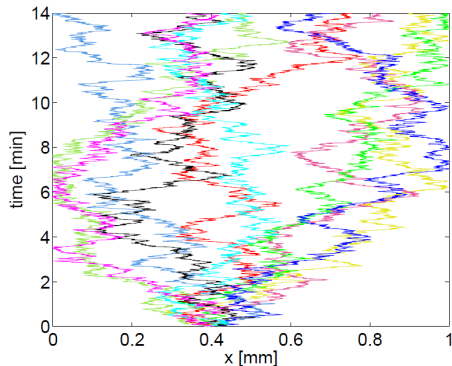
(b7)  $X(t + \Delta t) = X(t) + \sqrt{2D\Delta t}\xi$

(c7) If  $X(t + \Delta t) < 0$  then  $X(t + \Delta t) = -X(t) - \sqrt{2D\Delta t}\xi$

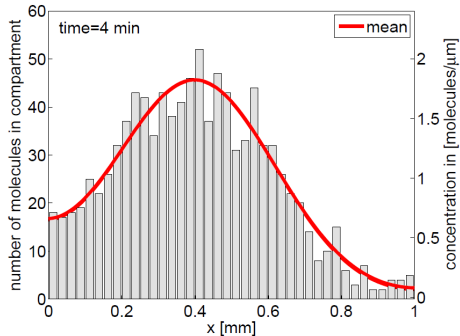
If  $X(t + \Delta t) > L$  then  $X(t + \Delta t) = 2L - X(t) - \sqrt{2D\Delta t}\xi$

Set  $t := t + \Delta t$  and go to (a7)

# Reflecting boundary condition

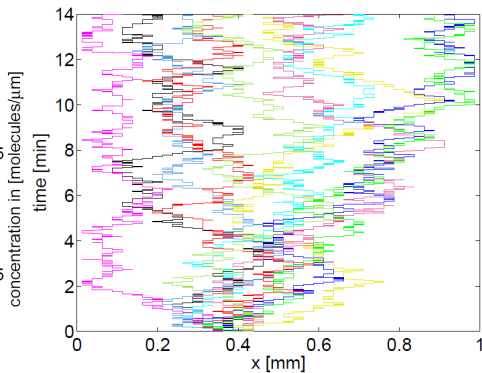
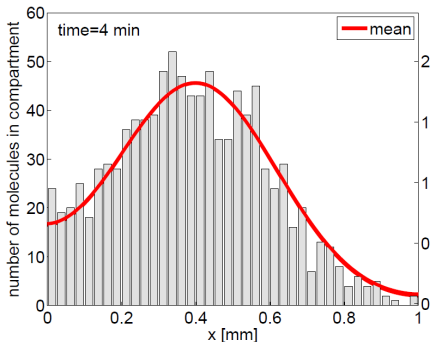


$$D = 10^{-4} \text{ mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}, \quad L = 1 \text{ mm},$$
$$X(0) = 0.4 \text{ mm}, \quad \Delta t = 0.1 \text{ sec}$$



$$t = 4 \text{ min}, \quad h = 25 \mu\text{m}$$

# Compartment based model



$t = 4 \text{ min}$

$K = 40, h = 1/K, d = D/h^2 = 0.16 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

$N_{\text{mol}} = 1000, A_{16}(0) = A_{17}(0) = 500$

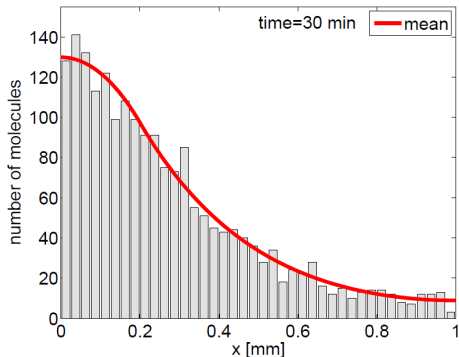
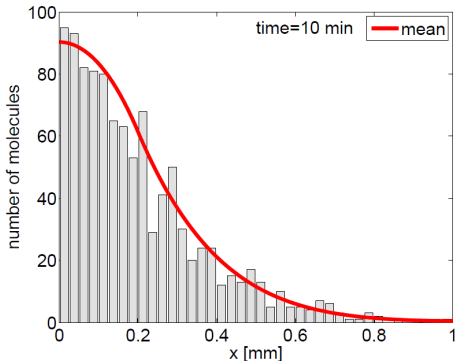
$a(0) = \delta_{0.4}(x)$

10 realizations

1 molecule

comp\_diff.m

# Compartment based reaction-diffusion



$t = 10 \text{ min}$

$$K = 40, h = 1/K, d = D/h^2 = 0.16 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

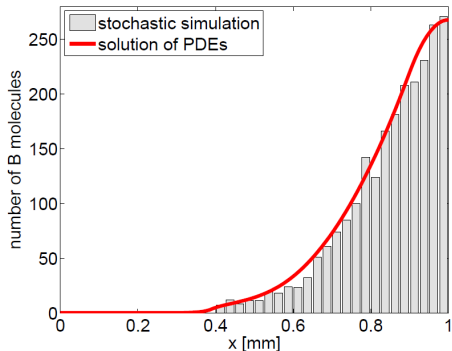
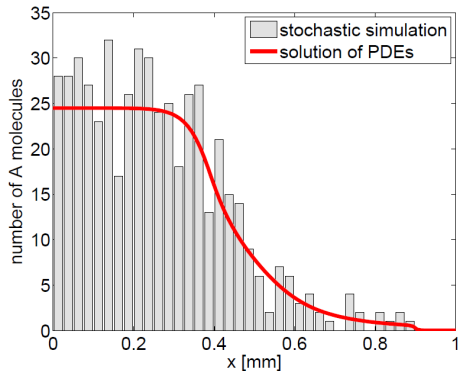
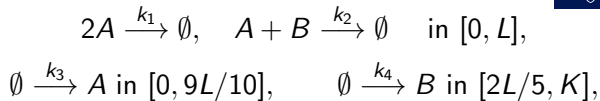
$$k_1 = 10^{-3} \text{ sec}^{-1}, k_p = 0.012 \mu\text{m}^{-1}\text{sec}^{-1}, k_2 = k_p h$$

$$A_i(0) = 0, a(0) = 0$$

$t = 30 \text{ min}$

compRD\_lin.m

# Compartment based reaction-diffusion



$t = 30 \text{ min}$

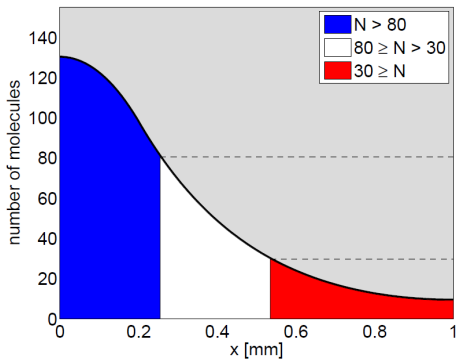
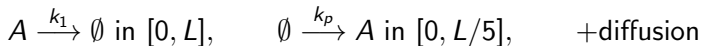
compRD\_nonlin.m

$K = 40, h = 1/K, d = D/h^2 = 0.16 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

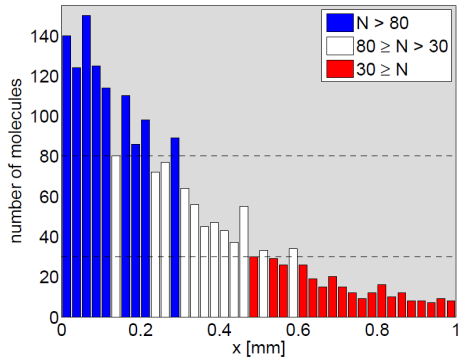
$k_1 = 10^{-3}, k_2 = 10^{-2}, k_3 = 1.2, k_4 = 1 \text{ sec}^{-1}$  per one compartment

$A(0) = B(0) = 0, \quad a(0) = b(0) = 0$

# Pattern formation – French flag



deterministic



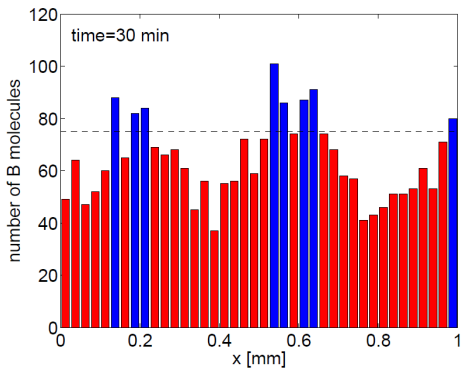
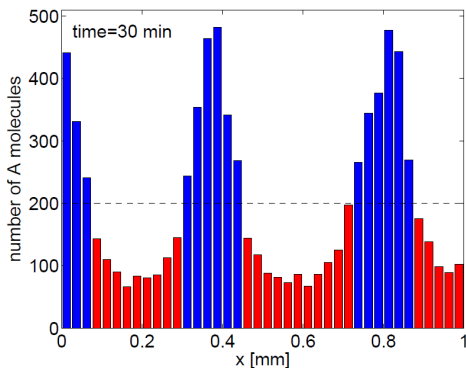
stochastic

# Pattern formation – Turing instability

## Schnakenberg system



+ diffusion  $D_A = 10^{-5}$ ,  $D_B = 10^{-3}$  [ $\text{mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$ ]



$$L = 1 \text{ mm}, K = 40, h = \frac{L}{K} = 25 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$
$$A_i(0) = a_s = 200, B_i(0) = b_s = 75$$

This presentation is based on “A practical guide to stochastic simulations of reaction-diffusion processes” written by R. Erban, S.J. Chapman, and P.K. Maini and on lecture notes “Stochastic modelling of biological processes” by R. Erban.

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Thank you for your attention

Tomáš Vejchodský

Based on lecture notes of Radek Erban

<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/courses/course/19651/material>

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