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Model-dependent and model-independent control of biological network models

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Cellular phenotypes arise from a complex molecular network

Network model: Dynamics of information propagation through cellular pathways and their connection to cellular behaviors





Many current challenges in cancer (drug resistance, combination treatments) can be tackled through mechanistic network modeling









J.G.T. Zañudo, Steinway, & Albert (2018). Curr. Opinion in Syst. Biol.



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Objective of my research

Use <u>network models</u> and <u>control methods</u> to predict

Nodes that block metastatic reprogramming (EMT in liver cancer)



SN Steinway, <u>JGT Zañudo</u>, et al. Cancer Res. (2014). SN Steinway^{*}, <u>JGT Zañudo^{*},</u> et al. npj Syst. Biol. & Appl. (2015).

Resistance mechanisms and drug combinations (PI3K inhibition in ER+ MBC)



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<u>JGT Zañudo</u>, et al. Cancer Convergence. (2017). <u>JGT Zañudo,</u> et al. bioRxiv. (2020). Control methods to connect the network structure to decision-making

Network structure + mathematical model



<u>J.G.T. Zañudo</u> et. al. PLoS Comp. Bio. 2015 <u>J.G.T. Zañudo</u> et. al. PNAS 2017 <u>J.G.T. Zañudo</u> et. al. Physical Biology 2019

Decision-making dynamics + <u>network-based control methods</u>





Network control: Control the internal state of a network and drive it towards a desired state.





Network control:

- Network + dynamic model
- Intervention + state $X \rightarrow$ state Y



Network control:

- Network + dynamic model
- Intervention + state $X \rightarrow state Y$



Linear

FVS control (Mochizuki et al., Zañudo et al.)

Stable motif control (Zañudo et al.)

Control & systems theory

Structural Controllability (Lin, Slotine, Shields, Pearson, Liu et al.)

Kalman controllability (Kalman et al., Luenberger et al)





Dynamics

Network control:



Structure

- Intervention + state $X \rightarrow state Y$







Realistic dynamics are **nonlinear** and have **dynamical attractors** (e.g. steady states) that correspond to stable patterns of activity:





Population dynamics - stable population sizes

Some definitions and references

Fiedler, B., Mochizuki, A., et al. (2013), *J. Dynamics and Differential Equations.* Mochizuki, A., Fiedler, B., et al. (2013), *J. Theor. Bio.* Zanudo J.G.T. & Albert R. et al. (2015), *PLoS Comp. Bio.* Zanudo J.G.T., Yang G., & Albert R. (2017), *PNAS*.

Dynamics

x(t) is a trajectory in:

- <u>An ODE system</u>: $\dot{x} = F(x), x \in \mathbb{R}^n, x_i \ge 0, F$ is dissipative,
- <u>A Boolean system</u>: $x(t + 1) = B(x(t)), x \in \{0,1\}^n, t \in \{0,1,2,...\}$

G is the graph induced by the dynamics.

- <u>ODE system</u>: $i \to j$ if $\partial F_j / \partial x_i \neq 0$, $i \to i$ only if $\partial F_i / \partial x_i > 0$
- <u>Boolean system</u>: $i \rightarrow j$ if any prime implicant of B_j depends on x_i

Attractor control

Let $x_{\mathcal{A}}$ be a fixed point (or the trajectory of a limit cycle) of the system

<u>Control approach</u>: we clamp the variables x_I , $I \subseteq \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ so that $x_k(t) = g_k(t)$ if $k \in I$, otherwise they follow their uncontrolled dynamic equation. The controlled system is denoted $x^*(t)$

<u>Attractor control</u>: $||x^*(t) - x_{\mathcal{A}}|| \to 0, \forall x^*(0), \text{ as } t \to \infty$

J.G.T. Zañudo Model-dependent and model-independent control of biological network models



Feedback vertex set control (FC)

• Dynamics:





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Feedback vertex set control (FC)

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- Feedback Vertex Set Control node set:
- Given a network, sufficient for control in each model (F_i)
- Only control set that works for every model (F_i) on the network



• What do we need to control?

Source nodes
 A node in every cycle (FVS)



Network

FC





Mochizuki et al. J. Theor. Biol. 335, 130- 146 (2013)

Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (28), 7234 - 7239 (2017)



• What do we need to control?

Source nodes
 A node in every cycle

- Finding exact minimal FVS is NP-hard
- Good heuristics to find near-minimal FVS

Topological ordering + simulated annealing (Galnier et al., J. of Heuristics 19, 2013): https://github.com/yanggangthu/FVS_python https://github.com/yanggangthu/FVS_cython

GRASP (Pardalos et al. J. Comb. Optim. 2, 1999) http://calgo.acm.org/ (Algorithm 815)

 Mochizuki et al. J. Theor.

 Biol. 335, 130- 146 (2013)

 Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (28), 7234 - 7239 (2017)



Mochizuki et al. J. Theor. Biol. 335 (2013) Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (2017)

• What is the control action?

J.G.T. Zañudo Model-dependent and model-independent control of biological network models



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Real networks require varying fraction of nodes for FVS control



Regulatory

- O Metabolic
- Foodweb
- 🔻 Neural
- 🔺 WWW
- Internet
- Circuits
- Trust
- Citations
- Social Commun
- Intra-organizational
- Power grid
- -- *nFC* = 0.25
- -- *nFC* = 0.5

n_S	Sources
n_{FVS}	Feedback vertex set
n_{FC} = n_S + n_{FVS}	FVS control

Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (28), 7234 - 7239 (2017)



Control fractions n_{FC} and n_{SC} are quite different for many networks



What happens when using FVS control on a real biological network model?



FC makes model-independent predictions (valid for all parameters)

Fruit fly segmentation network model



+ FC node set

FVS control trajectories



Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (28), 7234 - 7239 (2017)

1.0



FC makes **model-independent** predictions (valid for all parameters) Starting from FC, we can find **model-dependent** predictions

Fruit fly segmentation network model





FVS control trajectories

Time (a.u.)

FC node set (model-independent)

Reduced FC node set (model-dependent)

Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (28), 7234 - 7239 (2017)

Can we find a more principled way to do model-dependent attractor control?

Can we find a more principled way to do model-dependent attractor control?

Start with simplest nonlinear dynamics: Boolean systems

Note: the method I will describe is very similar to the one described earlier by Jun Pang







Cell fate A



Zañudo and Albert PLoS Comp. Biol. 11(4): e1004193 (2015).



Attractor control: Find subnetworks that stabilize in a fixed state





Zañudo and Albert PLoS Comp. Biol. 11(4): e1004193 (2015).



Attractor control: Find subnetworks that stabilize in a fixed state





Subnetworks that stabilize in a fixed state: stable motifs

Logical model

Stable motifs



• Stable motifs

<u>Zañudo</u> and Albert Chaos 23 (2) 025111 (2013).

- Identified on a logic-expanded network representation
- Network property: Intersecting positive feedback loops
- Dynamical property: Trap subspaces

Stable motifs and logical models

J.G.T. Zañudo Model-dependent and model-independent control of biological network models





Original logical network model

Stable motifs of the original network model

Reduced logical network models

Stable motifs of the reduced network models




e1004193 (2015).















Stable motifs are subnetworks and points of no return in the dynamics

Network and stable motifs

Stable motifs and dynamics





Stable cell states

What is the connection between stable motif control and FVS control?



Model-dependent (model-specific cycles)

vs Model-independent (all cycles)



JGT Zañudo et al. Physical Biology (2019).



Stable motif control (model-dependent) vs FVS control (model-independent)

Fruit fly Boolean network model

Controlled trajectories



Time (a.u.)



FVS control (model-independent)

Stable motif control (model-dependent)

JGT Zañudo and R Albert. PLoS Comp Biol. 11(4) (2015) Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (28), 7234 - 7239 (2017)



Stable motifs in continuous models might allow model-dependent attractor control predictions for continuous systems



Identifying (un)controllable dynamical behavior in complex networks Jordan C. Rozum@¹*, Réka Albert@^{1,2}

PLoS Comput Biol 14(12): e1006630



PHYSICAL REVIEW E

covering statistical, nonlinear, biological, and soft matter physics

General method to find the attractors of discrete dynamic models of biological systems

Xiao Gan and Réka Albert

Phys. Rev. E 97, 042308



Conclusions

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Structure-based control approach for networks with nonlinear dynamics:



- Stable motif control allows control when the model dynamics are specified
- Cycles in the network are crucial for nonlinear attractor control
- FVS control (model-independent) and stable motif control (modeldependent); complementary control approaches

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 Epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) is a natural developmental and wound-healing cellular process.



• EMT process is hijacked by cancer cells (initiation of invasion and metastasis).



Kalluri and Weinberg. J Clin Invest **119** (6) (2009).



Network representing the known regulation of EMT was curated from the literature.



EMT network model

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Model we built has two steady states (without external signals):

- Epithelial state (E)
- Mesenchymal state (M)

Epithelial + TGF $\beta \rightarrow$ Mesenchymal

Predicts activation of multiple signaling pathways during TGFβ induction

We experimentally test activation of certain pathways

J.G.T. Zañudo Mathematical models and control of cancer networks: metastatic reprogramming and cancer drug resistance

MICE



We validated model-directed activation of several signaling pathways and genes during TGF β -driven EMT





SN Steinway*, <u>JGT Zañudo*</u>, PJ Michel, D Feith, TP Loughran, R Albert. npj Syst. Biol. and Applic. 15014 (2015).



<u>JGT</u>

15014

How do we disrupt the network to suppress EMT and tumor invasion?

Computational interventions



So what?

Stable motifs help explain the interventions



We used network control theory to identify that TGF^β drives EMT through the activation of intersecting feedback loops (stable motifs)



White: ON Black: OFF



We used network control theory to identify that TGF^β drives EMT through the activation of intersecting feedback loops (stable motifs)





White: ON Black: OFF



Stable motifs explain why SMAD KD has minimal effect on EMT induction

1% reduction in EMT



SMAD knock out

White: ON Black: OFF



74 (21) (2014).

Stable motifs explain why SMAD KD has minimal effect on EMT induction



EMT network model

J.G.T. Zañudo Model-dependent and model-independent control of biological network models



Stable motifs explain why SMAD KD has minimal effect on EMT induction











CONCLUSIONS

- Model recapitulates known EMT dynamics and predicts novel pathway cross activation.
- Model predicts KO combinations that suppress TGFβ-driven EMT.
- Wet-lab experiments confirm many combinations suppress EMT.
- Stable motif analysis and control provides the motifs that drive EMT and the mechanism through which the KO combinations act.

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Thank you for your time! Questions, comments, suggestions? Complaints???

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References:

Fiedler, B., Mochizuki, A., et al. (2013), *J. Dynamics and Differential Equations.* Mochizuki, A., Fiedler, B., et al. (2013), *J. Theor. Bio.* Zanudo J.G.T. & Albert R. et al. (2015), *PLoS Comp. Bio.* Zanudo J.G.T., Yang G., & Albert R. (2017), *PNAS.*



Feedback vertex set control (FC)

Mochizuki et al. J. Theor. Biol. 335 (2013) Zañudo et al. PNAS 114 (2017)

- Structural:
 - Control nodes based solely on structure
 - Guarantees control for the ensemble of networks with a given structure

- Dynamics:
 - Nonlinear with decay
 - System attractors

Control actions:



- Any IC to a target system attractor
- Fix state variable of FVS & sources into their state in the target attractor

J.G.T. Zañudo Network-based dynamic modeling and control strategies in complex diseases



Boolean models: ON (active) or OFF (inactive)





Updating scheme: stochastic asynchronous (samples all timescales)

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t=0

t=1

t = 2

t=3

t=4

t = 5

t = 6

t = 7



Attractors of models of intracellular networks: stable cell states (e.g. healthy state, disease states, etc)





Saadatpour et. al. PloS Comput. 7 (11) (2011).

J.G.T. Zañudo Network-based dynamic modeling and control strategies in complex diseases



Attractors of models of intracellular networks: stable cell states (e.g. healthy state, disease states, etc)



Huang, S. Bioessays, 34(2) (2012)

Saadatpour et. al. PloS Comput. 7 (11) (2011).

Stable motifs and logical models

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Original logical network model

Stable motifs of the original network model

Reduced logical network models

Stable motifs of the reduced network models















Stable motif succession diagram

Black: ON

Grey: OFF



Waddington's epigenetic landscape

Marble rolling down



Stable cell states



- Stable motif control:
 - Fix stable motif states \rightarrow all initial conditions go to target attractor
 - Includes steps to reduce number of motifs and states



Simplify sequences (remove unnecessary motifs) Find subset of nodes require to activate motif

<u>J.G.T. Zañudo</u> and R. Albert. PLoS Comp. Biol. 11(4): e1004193 (2015).


- Our method:
- Network topology + function + network reduction.
- Finds all attractors* (formally, quasi-attractors).
- Tested on small, medium and large networks (~1000 nodes).
- The idea: Find subnetworks or motifs (stable motifs) that stabilize in a fixed state (i.e., that are partial fixed points).





• <u>Algorithm</u>:

(1) Network expansion: Adds information about combinatorial interactions and their sign through new nodes.

- Composite nodes: AND relationships (A, B = A and B).
- Complementary nodes: NOT relationships ((-A) = not A).



PENNSTATE.



(2) Identify stable motifs: Smallest strongly connected components that satisfy two properties.

(i) Contain either a node or its complement.

(ii) Contain all inputs of its composite nodes (if any)



Attractor-finding method

J.G.T. Zañudo Identification and control of the dynamical repertoire of intracellular networks



Stable motifs









Boolean network



$f_A = A \text{ AND } B$ $f_B = A \text{ OR } C \text{ OR NOT } E$ $f_C = (A \text{ AND } B) \text{ OR } D$ $f_D = (\text{NOT } B \text{ AND NOT } A)$ OR (D AND NOT A) OR (D AND NOT B) OR NOT E $f_E = E \text{ OR NOT } C$

Steps (1) + (2)



(3) Reduce network using stable motifs.











(3) Reduce network using stable motifs.



 $f_E = E \text{ OR NOT } C$



(3) Reduce network using stable motifs.

