Commentary for S-system

A table of contents

1. Objectives ................................................................. 1
2. Introduction of S-system .................................................. 1
   2.1 S-system conversion ............................................... 1
   2.2 Sensitivity analysis .................................................. 2
       2.2.1 Logarithmic Gain of a metabolite .................... 2
       2.2.2 Logarithmic gain of a flux ............................... 2
       2.2.3 Sensitivity with respect to a rate constant ............ 3
       2.2.4 Sensitivity of dependent variables with respect to a kinetic order .......... 3
       2.2.5 Sensitivity of a flux to a rate constant ................ 4
       2.2.6 Sensitivity of a flux with respect to a kinetic order .. 4
   2.3 Stability analysis .................................................. 4
3 Process flow .............................................................. 5
1. Objectives
Sensitivity analysis shows how a biochemical system responds to perturbations or uncertainties. Among many methods for system analysis, the sensitivity and stability analysis is useful for characterizing the robustness of the mathematical at a steady-state level, and allows one to determine which parameters have the most effect on the model, or which factors cause to the system to oscillate. S-system is employed to analyze the various sensitivities and stability of the system at its steady state, because the use of S-system solves them in symbolic form. In this module, ordinary differential equations such as TT, CMA, GMA, and MM are converted into S-system to analyze the sensitivities and stability.

TT: ordinary transcription and translation equations
CMA : conventional mass action
GMA: general mass action
MM : simplified Michaelis-Menten equations

2. Introduction of S-system
We show how S-system is derived from ordinary differential equations, and how the stability and sensitivity are defined at the steady state.

2.1 S-system conversion
Ordinary differential equations are divided into the positive terms and negative terms:

\[
\frac{dX_i}{dt} = V_i^+ - V_i^- , \quad (i = 1,...,n+1,...,n+m) \quad (1),
\]

where \( V_i^+ \) is the sum of positive terms, and \( V_i^- \) is the sum of negative terms. Generally, S-system is given by:

\[
\frac{dX_i}{dt} = \alpha_i \prod_{j=1}^{n+m} X_j^{g_{ij}} - \beta_i \prod_{j=1}^{n+m} X_j^{h_{ij}} \quad (2),
\]

where \( X_1,...,X_n \) are the dependent variables, whose values vary with time, and \( X_{n+1},...,X_{n+m} \) are the independent variables, whose values are fixed as constants. When the concentrations of the dependent variables are given at the steady state, the coefficients \( (g_{ij}, h_{ij}, \alpha_i, \beta_i) \) of S-system are solved from Eqs. (1, 2) in symbolic form:

\[
g_{ij} = \frac{\partial V_i^+}{\partial X_j} \frac{X_j}{V_i^+} , \quad h_{ij} = \frac{\partial V_i^-}{\partial X_j} \frac{X_j}{V_i^-} \quad (3)
\]

\[
\alpha_i = \frac{V_i^+}{\prod_{j=1}^{n+m} X_j^{g_{ij}}} , \quad \beta_i = \frac{V_i^-}{\prod_{j=1}^{n+m} X_j^{h_{ij}}} \quad (4)
\]

where \( g_{ij} \) and \( h_{ij} \) are the kinetic order and \( \alpha_i \) and \( \beta_i \) are the rate constants. At the steady state:
\[
\frac{dX_i}{dt} = 0,
\]
we can take logarithms on both sides of Eq. (2), the equation reduces to a linear equation:
\[
\ln \alpha_i + \sum_{j=1}^{n+m} g_{ij} \ln X_j = \ln \beta_i + \sum_{j=1}^{n+m} h_{ij} \ln X_j,
\]
or
\[
\sum_{j=1}^{n} (g_{ij} - h_{ij}) \ln X_j = \ln \frac{\beta_i}{\alpha_i} - \sum_{j=n+1}^{n+m} (g_{ij} - h_{ij}) \ln X_j
\]
(5).

Substituting \( \ln X_j = y_j, \quad \ln \frac{\beta_i}{\alpha_i} = b_j \), The equations (5) is changed to the vector-matrix expression:
\[
(G_D - H_D)\bar{y}_D = \bar{b} - (G_1 - H_1)\bar{y}_1
\]
(6).

We substitute the matrices as follows,
\[
G_D - H_D = A_D, G_1 - H_1 = A_1
\]

We define five types of gains and sensitivities. The detailed derivation of them are described elsewhere. Here, we explain the mathematical definition of them.

2.2.1. Logarithmic Gain of a metabolite
In order to answer the question of how a relative change in an independent variable affect the steady-state concentration of a metabolite, the logarithmic gains of a metabolite \( L(\bar{X}_D, \bar{X}_1) \) is defined in terms of the coefficient matrices \( A_D^{-1} \) and \( A_1 \) as:
\[
L(\bar{X}_D, \bar{X}_1) = -A_D^{-1}A_1
\]
(9).

2.2.2. Logarithmic gain of a flux
In order to answer the question of how a relative change in a flux affect the steady-state concentration of a
metabolite, the logarithmic gains of a flux \( L(\tilde{V}_D, \tilde{X}_i) \) is defined in terms of the coefficient matrices \( A_d^{-1} \) and \( A_1 \) as:

\[
L(\tilde{V}_D, \tilde{X}_i) = G_I + G_D L(\tilde{X}_D, \tilde{X}_i)
\]  

(10).

2.2.3. Sensitivity with respect to a rate constant

In order to answer the question of how a relative change in a rate constant affect the steady state concentration of a metabolite, we solve the sensitivity with respect to rate constants, which is defined as:

\[
S(X_i, \alpha_j) = -\frac{\partial \ln X_i}{\partial \ln \alpha_j}
\]

(11), and

\[
S(X_i, \beta_j) = -\frac{\partial \ln X_i}{\partial \ln \beta_j}
\]

(12).

These sensitivities are expressed using vectors and matrixes as

\[
S(\tilde{X}_D, \tilde{\alpha}) = -A_d^{-1}
\]

(13),

\[
S(\tilde{X}_D, \tilde{\beta}) = A_d^{-1}
\]

(14).

2.2.4. Sensitivity of dependent variables with respect to a kinetic order

In order to answer the question of how a relative change in a kinetic order affect the steady-state concentration of a metabolite, we define the sensitivity with respect to the kinetic order as follows,

\[
S(X_i, g_{ij}) = -\frac{\partial \ln X_i}{\partial \ln g_{ij}}
\]

(15),

\[
S(X_i, h_{ij}) = -\frac{\partial \ln X_i}{\partial \ln h_{ij}}
\]

(16).

The partial derivatives of Eq. (8) regarding \( g_{ij} \) are provided by:

\[
\frac{\partial A_D}{\partial g_{ij}} \tilde{y}_D + A_D \frac{\partial \tilde{y}_D}{\partial g_{ij}} = 0,
\]

(17)

or

\[
\frac{\partial \tilde{y}_D}{\partial g_{ij}} = -A_d^{-1} \frac{\partial A_D}{\partial g_{ij}} \tilde{y}_D
\]

(18).

Therefore,

\[
S(\tilde{X}_D, g_{ij}) = g_{ij} \frac{\partial \tilde{y}_D}{\partial g_{ij}} = -g_{ij} A_d^{-1} \frac{\partial A_D}{\partial g_{ij}} \tilde{y}_D
\]

(19).
2.2.5. Sensitivity of a flux to a rate constant

In order to answer the question of how a relative change in a rate constant affect the steady-state concentration of a flux, we define the sensitivity with respect to a rate constant.

We take logarithms in the first term of the right hand side of S-system:

\[ \ln V_i = \ln \alpha_i + \sum_{k=1}^{n+m} g_{ik} \ln X_k \] (21)

Here, we differentiate to both side regarding \( \ln \alpha_i \) to obtain:

\[ S(V_i, \alpha_i) = \delta_{\alpha_i} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} g_{ik} S(X_k, \alpha_i) \] (22)

In analogy, partial derivatives of Eq.(21) with respect to \( \ln \beta_i \) gives:

\[ S(V_i, \beta_i) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} g_{ik} S(X_k, \beta_i) \] (23).

2.2.6. Sensitivity of a flux with respect to a kinetic order

In order to answer the question of how a relative change in a kinetic order affect the steady-state concentration of a flux, we define the sensitivity with respect to a kinetic order.

The partial derivatives of Eq. (21) with respect of \( \ln g_{ij} \) is provided as:

\[ S(V_i, g_{ij}) = \delta_{g_{ij}} \ln X_j + \sum_{k=1}^{n} g_{ik} S(X_k, g_{ij}) \] (24).

In analogy, the partial derivatives of Eq. (21) with respect of \( \ln h_{ij} \) is provided as:

\[ S(V_i, h_{ij}) = \delta_{h_{ij}} \ln X_j + \sum_{k=1}^{n} h_{ik} S(X_k, h_{ij}) \] (25).

2.3 Stability analysis

Defining the equation:

\[ \delta X_k = X_k - X_{kS} \ (X_{kS} \text{ steady state}), \]

we apply the first order approximation to Eq. (2) to obtain:

\[ \delta X_j = \sum_{k=1}^{n} g_{ik} \alpha_i \prod_{j=1}^{n+m} X_j^{g_{ij}} |_{X_j=X_{jS}} \delta X_j - \sum_{k=1}^{n+m} h_{ik} \beta_i \prod_{j=1}^{n+m} X_j^{h_{ij}} |_{X_j=X_{jS}} \delta X_k \] (26),

or

\[ \delta X_j = \sum_{k=1}^{n} g_{ik} \frac{V^+_S}{X_{kS}} \delta X_k - \sum_{k=1}^{n} h_{ik} \frac{V^-_S}{X_{kS}} \delta X_k \] (27),

As \( V^+_S = V^-_S \), we define:
\[ f_{ik} = \frac{V_{iS}^+}{X_{kS}} = \frac{V_{iS}^-}{X_{kS}} \]

to deduce to:
\[ \delta X_i = \sum_{k=1}^{n} (g_{ik} - h_{ik}) f_{ik} \delta X_k \]

Stability at the steady state is investigated by solving the eigenvalues of the coefficient matrix consisting of:
\[ (g_{ik} - h_{ik}) f_{ik} . \]

3 Process flow
Fig. 1 shows the whole processes of the simulator, where the process flow of S-system mainly consists of three parts:
1) creation of the S-system coefficient file, which consists of the kinetic orders and rate constants that are solved in symbolic form at the steady state,
2) creation of the S-system parameter file (the coefficients and steady-state concentrations) necessary for sensitivity/stability analysis, which is made using the S-system coefficient function and the steady state concentrations.
3) simulation of S-system.

The checkdae module carries out the process of 1), following that the user function for ordinary differential equations (TT, CMA, GMA, MM) have been established. However, the checkdae module does not convert the differential and algebraic equations (DAEs), because they cannot be converted into S-system directly. The program module carries out the analysis of the sensitivities and stability of S-system by linking the S-system coefficient function to the steady-state concentrations. The concentrations at the steady state must be solved before this analysis.
Fig. 1 Process flow for S-system analysis