

# **Linear equivalence and ODE-equivalence for coupled cell networks**

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**Theory and Applications of Coupled Cell Networks  
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# Coupled cell networks

Stewart, Golubitsky, Pivato, and Török (2003, 2005) formalize the concept of a **coupled cell network** as a schematic representation of a coupled cell system:

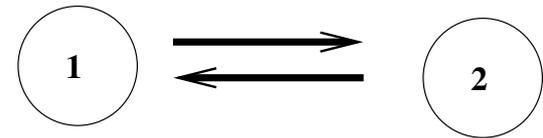
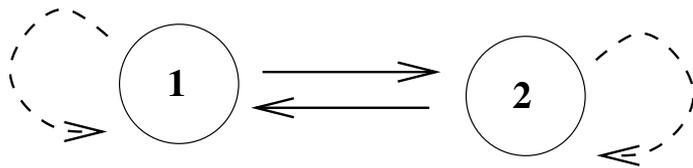
- The *architecture* of a coupled cell network is defined in terms of a *graph* that indicates which **cells** have the same **phase space**, **which cells are coupled to which**, and which **couplings** are the same.

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## Examples



# Coupled cell networks

- Associated with each network is a class of differential equations on the total phase space  $P$  of the coupled cell system, which correspond to *admissible vector fields* on  $P$ : the ODEs that are compatible with the network architecture and the choice of cell phase spaces.

# Coupled cell networks

The architecture of the network imposes constraints on the dynamics – many new phenomena become ‘generic’ for a given architecture (Golubitsky, Nicol and Stewart, 2004).

Important to understand how network topology constrains the associated dynamics.

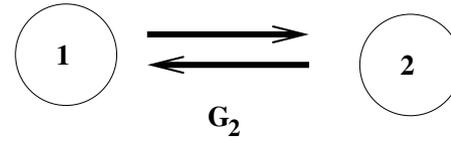
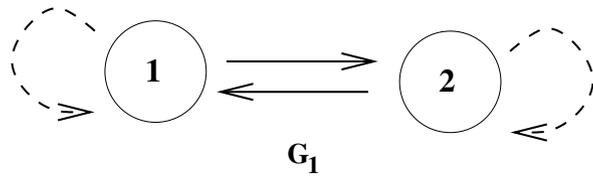
The combinatorial complexity is huge:  
Aldosray and Stewart (2004) enumerate identical-edge homogeneous networks;  
Leite (2005) studies three identical-edge homogeneous networks.

Topologically distinct networks have related dynamics.

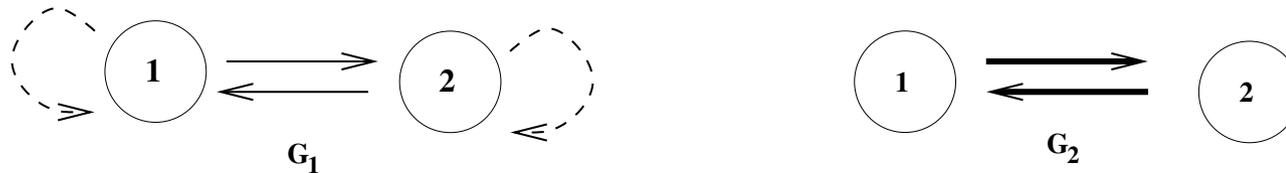
# Coupled cell networks

- Associated with each network is a class of differential equations on the total phase space  $P$  of the coupled cell system, which correspond to *admissible vector fields* on  $P$ .
- Non-isomorphic networks can correspond to the same space of admissible vector fields (for a suitable choice of cell phase spaces).

# Example



# Example



Admissible vector fields for  $G_1$ :

$$H(x_1, x_2) = (h(x_1, x_1, x_2), h(x_2, x_2, x_1))$$

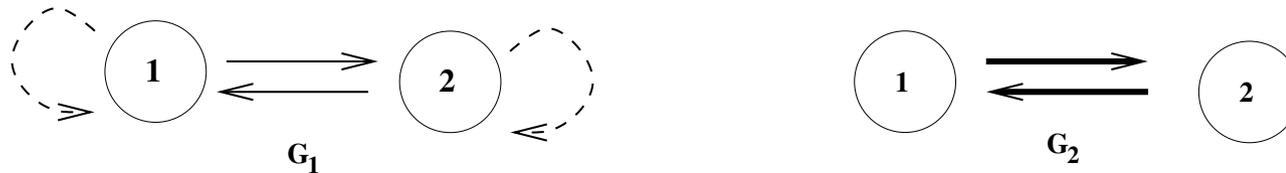
Admissible vector fields for  $G_2$ :

$$F(x_1, x_2) = (f(x_1, x_2), f(x_2, x_1))$$

$h : \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $f : \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  are any smooth

functions.

# Example



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Admissible vector fields for  $G_2$ :

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The set  $\{H\}$  of all  $H$  is the same as the set  $\{F\}$  of all  $F$ :

Given  $f$  we can set  $h(x, y, z) = f(x, z)$

Given  $h$  we can set  $f(a, b) = h(a, a, b)$

# Groupoid equivariance

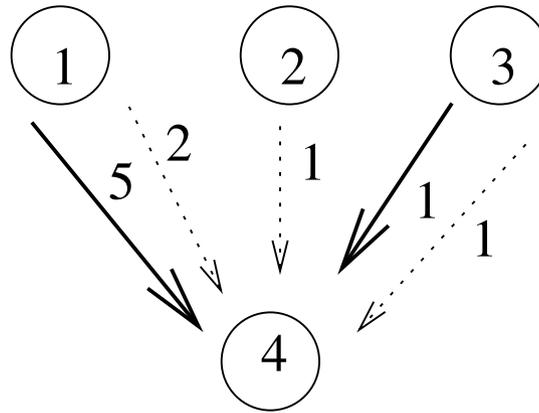
The admissible vector fields can be characterised in terms of an algebraic structure known as the *symmetry groupoid* of the network:

- The *input set*  $I(c)$  of a cell  $c$  consists of all cells coupled to  $c$ .
- Two input sets are *isomorphic* if there is a bijection between the input sets that preserves coupling types.
- *The symmetry groupoid* consists of all such isomorphisms between pairs of cells.

# Groupoid equivariance

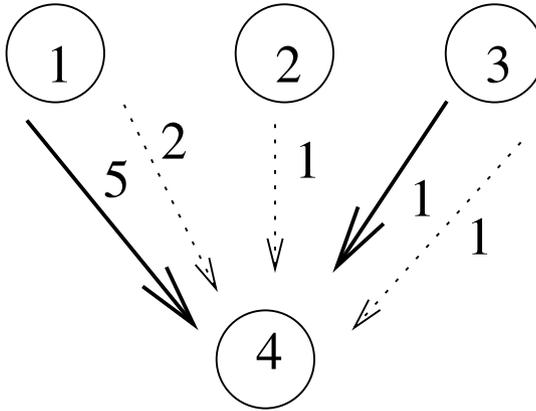
The admissible vector fields are those that are equivariant under a natural action of the groupoid on  $P$ , in a sense that generalizes the usual notion of equivariance under the action of a group.

# Example



The number  $k$  attached to the right of each edge symbolizes  $k$  edges of that type.

# Example



Admissible vector fields:

$$F(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \left( f(x_1), f(x_2), f(x_3), g \left( x_4, \overline{x_1^{(5)}}, \overline{x_1^{(2)}}, x_2, x_3 \right) \right)$$

$f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $g : (\mathbb{R}^k)^{11} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  are any smooth functions.

# ODE-equivalence

Non-isomorphic networks giving rise to the same space of admissible vector fields (for a suitable choice of cell phase spaces) are said to be **ODE-equivalent**.

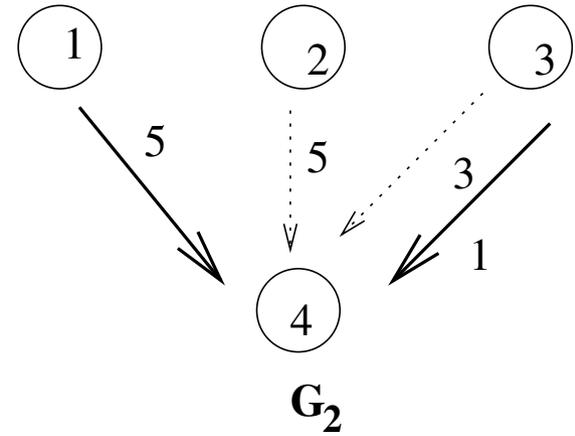
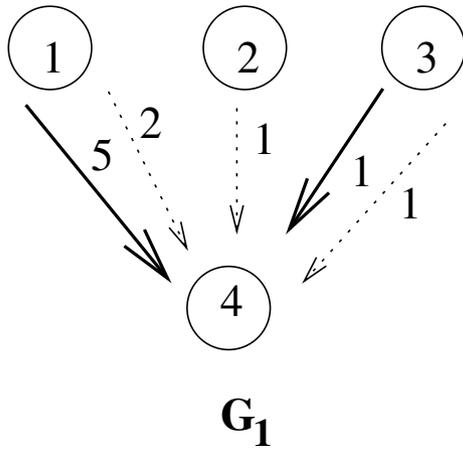
This phenomenon raises the prospect of simplifying the network structure while preserving some (in this case, all) of its dynamical features.

# Linear equivalence

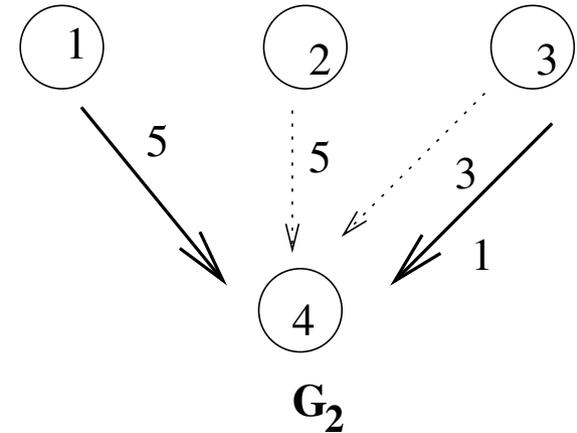
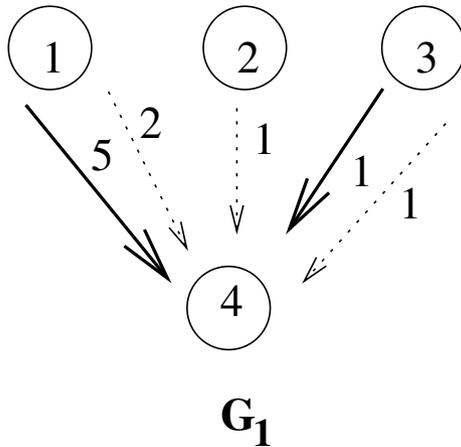
We make a start on this question: we determine necessary and sufficient conditions for networks to be ODE-equivalent. We prove:

- ODE-equivalence reduces to *linear equivalence*, where two networks (with suitably identified phase spaces) are linearly equivalent if they determine the same space of *linear admissible vector fields*.
- When deciding linear equivalence, it can without loss of generality be assumed that *each cell phase space is 1-dimensional*.

# Example



# Example



Choose all cell phase spaces to be  $P_c = \mathbb{R}$ .

Linear  $G_1$ -admissible vector fields from  $\mathbb{R}^4$  to  $\mathbb{R}^4$  have the form:

$$(aY_1, aY_2, aY_3, bY_4 + c(5Y_1 + Y_3) + d(2Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3))$$

where  $a, b, c, d$  are real constants.

# Example

Linear  $G_2$ -admissible vector fields from  $\mathbb{R}^4$  to  $\mathbb{R}^4$  have the form:

$$(eY_1, eY_2, eY_3, hY_4 + j(5Y_1 + Y_3) + l(5Y_2 + 3Y_3))$$

where  $e, h, j, l$  are real constants.

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R} \{Y_4, 5Y_1 + Y_3, 2Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3\} = \\ \mathbb{R} \{Y_4, 5Y_1 + Y_3, 5Y_2 + 3Y_3\} \end{aligned}$$

The coupled cell networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are ODE-equivalent.

# Linear equivalence and minimality

Our results classify ODE-equivalence in terms of a linear algebra invariant; the characterization of linearly equivalent networks reduces to a combinatorial condition in linear algebra.

Aguiar and D. (2005) characterize the minimal networks for ODE-classes.

# Formal definitions

**Definition** (Golubitsky *et al.*, 2005) A *coupled cell network*  $G$  consists of:

- (a) A finite set  $\mathcal{C} = \{1, \dots, n\}$  of *nodes* (or *cells*).  
An equivalence relation  $\sim_{\mathcal{C}}$  on the nodes in  $\mathcal{C}$ .  
The *type* or *cell label* of cell  $c$  is the  $\sim_{\mathcal{C}}$ -equivalence class  $[c]_{\mathcal{C}}$  of  $c$ .
- (b) A finite set  $\mathcal{E}$  of *edges* or *arrows*.  
An equivalence relation  $\sim_E$  on the edges in  $\mathcal{E}$ .  
The *type* or *coupling label* of edge  $e$  is the  $\sim_E$ -equivalence class  $[e]_E$  of  $e$ .
- (c) Two maps  $\mathcal{H} : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{T} : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ .  
For  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  we call  $\mathcal{H}(e)$  the *head* of  $e$  and  $\mathcal{T}(e)$  the *tail* of  $e$ .  
Equivalent edges have equivalent tails and heads.

$$G = (\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{E}, \sim_{\mathcal{C}}, \sim_E)$$

# Formal definitions

**Definition** (Golubitsky *et al.*, 2005)

(a) The *input set* of  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  is

$$I(c) = \{e \in \mathcal{E} : \mathcal{H}(e) = c\}$$

(b) The relation  $\sim_I$  of *input-equivalence* on  $\mathcal{C}$  is defined by  $c \sim_I d$  if and only if there exists a bijection  $\beta : I(c) \rightarrow I(d)$  that preserves edge type: for every input edge  $i \in I(c)$

$$i \sim_E \beta(i)$$

The set of all such bijections from cell  $c$  to cell  $d$  is  $B(c, d)$ .

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When  $c = d$  we have

$$B(c, c) = \mathbf{S}_{K_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbf{S}_{K_{r(c)}}$$

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The set of all such bijections from cell  $c$  to cell  $d$  is  $B(c, d)$ .

$$\mathcal{B}_G = \bigcup_{c, d \in \mathcal{C}} B(c, d) \text{ symmetry groupoid of the network } G$$

# Formal definitions

To each cell  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  we associate a *cell phase space*  $P_c$  (a nonzero finite-dimensional real vector space). Assume

$$[c]_{\mathcal{C}} = [d]_{\mathcal{C}} \implies P_c = P_d$$

The *total phase space* is

$$P = \prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}} P_c$$

with coordinate system

$$x = (x_c)_{c \in \mathcal{C}}$$

on  $P$ .

# Formal definitions

**Definition** (Golubitsky *et al.*, 2005) Let  $G$  and  $\mathcal{B}_G$  the symmetry groupoid. For a given choice of the  $P_c$ , a (smooth) vector field  $f : P \rightarrow P$  is  $\mathcal{B}_G$ -equivariant if:

- (a) *Domain Condition*: For any  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  the component  $f_c(x)$  depends only on the internal phase space variable  $x_c$  and the coupling phase space variables  $x_{\mathcal{T}(I(c))}$ :

$$f_c(x) = \hat{f}_c(x_c, x_{\mathcal{T}(I(c))})$$

for some smooth function  $\hat{f}_c : P_c \times P_{\mathcal{T}(I(c))} \rightarrow P_c$ .

- (b) *Pullback Condition*: For all  $c, d \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $\beta \in B(c, d)$

$$\hat{f}_d(x_d, x_{\mathcal{T}(I(d))}) = \hat{f}_c(x_d, \beta^* \left( x_{\mathcal{T}(I(d))} \right))$$

for all  $x \in P$ .

# Notation

Let  $G$  be a coupled cell network. For a given choice of the phase space  $P$ , define:

$\mathcal{F}_G^P$  the real vector space of all **smooth**  $G$ -admissible vector fields on  $P$ .

$\mathcal{P}_G^P$  the real vector space of the  $G$ -admissible **polynomial** vector fields on  $P$ .

$\mathcal{L}_G^P$  the real vector space of the  $G$ -admissible **linear** vector fields on  $P$ .

# ODE-equivalence

Given a coupled cell network  $G_i$  and a choice of total phase space  $P_i$  for  $G_i$ , denote by  $P_{i,c}$  the cell phase space corresponding to cell  $c$  of  $\mathcal{C}_i$ .

# ODE-equivalence

**Definition** Two coupled cell networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are *ODE-equivalent* if there is some bijection  $\gamma : \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_2$  such that:

1.  $\gamma$  preserves cell-equivalence and input-equivalence.
2. If we choose cell phase spaces  $P_c \neq 0$  for  $G_1$ , and define the corresponding choice of cell phase spaces for  $G_2$  by  $P_{2,\gamma(c)} = P_{1,c}$  so that the corresponding total phase spaces are

$$P_1 = \prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}_1} P_{1,c} \quad P_2 = \prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}_1} P_{2,\gamma(c)}$$

then:

3. The following condition is satisfied

$$\mathcal{F}_{G_1}^{P_1} = \mathcal{F}_{G_2}^{P_2}$$

# Linear equivalence

**Definition** Two coupled cell networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are *linearly equivalent* if there is some bijection  $\gamma : \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_2$  such that:

1.  $\gamma$  preserves cell-equivalence and input-equivalence.
2. If we choose cell phase spaces  $P_c \neq 0$  for  $G_1$ , and define the corresponding choice of cell phase spaces for  $G_2$  by  $P_{2,\gamma(c)} = P_{1,c}$  so that the corresponding total phase spaces are

$$P_1 = \prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}_1} P_{1,c} \quad P_2 = \prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}_1} P_{2,\gamma(c)}$$

then:

3. The following condition is satisfied

$$\mathcal{L}_{G_1}^{P_1} = \mathcal{L}_{G_2}^{P_2}$$

# Results

**Theorem** Two coupled cell networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are ODE-equivalent if and only if they are linearly equivalent.

**Corollary** The following conditions on two networks  $G_1, G_2$  are equivalent:

- (a)  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are  $\gamma$ -linearly equivalent.
- (b) With the identification  $\gamma : \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_2$ , the spaces  $\mathcal{L}_{G_1}^P$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{G_2}^P$  are equal for all  $P$ .
- (c) With the identification  $\gamma : \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_2$ , the spaces  $\mathcal{L}_{G_1}^P$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{G_2}^P$  are equal when all cell phase spaces are taken to be .

# Proof

Given two coupled cell networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  and a bijection  $\gamma : \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_2$  preserving cell-equivalence and input-equivalence, together with a choice of total phase space  $P_1$  for  $G_1$  and  $P_2$  for  $G_2$  according to the above definitions, prove that:

$$\bullet \mathcal{F}_{G_1}^{P_1} = \mathcal{F}_{G_2}^{P_2} \iff \mathcal{P}_{G_1}^{P_1} = \mathcal{P}_{G_2}^{P_2}$$

$$\bullet \mathcal{P}_{G_1}^{P_1} = \mathcal{P}_{G_2}^{P_2} \iff \mathcal{L}_{G_1}^{P_1} = \mathcal{L}_{G_2}^{P_2}$$

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