
Contents

Preface	ix
Epigraph	xiii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 What is feedback control?	1
1.2 Feedback control in biological systems	4
1.2.1 The tryptophan operon feedback control system	5
1.2.2 The polyamine feedback control system	6
1.2.3 The heat shock feedback control system	7
1.3 Application of control theory to biological systems: A historical perspective	10
References	11
2 Linear systems	17
2.1 Introduction	17
2.2 State-space models	18
2.3 Linear time-invariant systems and the frequency response	20
2.4 Fourier analysis	26
2.5 Transfer functions and the Laplace transform	30
2.6 Stability	33
2.7 Change of state variables and canonical representations	35
2.8 Characterising system dynamics in the time domain	36
2.9 Characterising system dynamics in the frequency domain	40
2.10 Block diagram representations of interconnected systems	42
2.11 Case Study I: Characterising the frequency dependence of osmo-adaptation in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	47
2.11.1 Introduction	48
2.11.2 Frequency domain analysis	48
2.11.3 Time domain analysis	50
2.12 Case Study II: Characterising the dynamics of the <i>Dictyostelium</i> external signal receptor network	54
2.12.1 Introduction	55
2.12.2 A generic structure for ligand-receptor interaction networks	55

2.12.3	Structure of the ligand–receptor interaction network in aggregating <i>Dictyostelium</i> cells	57
2.12.4	Dynamic response of the ligand–receptor interaction network in <i>Dictyostelium</i>	60
References		63
3	Nonlinear systems	67
3.1	Introduction	67
3.2	Equilibrium points	69
3.3	Linearisation around equilibrium points	72
3.4	Stability and regions of attractions	78
3.4.1	Lyapunov stability	78
3.4.2	Region of attraction	81
3.5	Optimisation methods for nonlinear systems	85
3.5.1	Local optimisation methods	87
3.5.2	Global optimisation methods	89
3.5.3	Linear matrix inequalities	91
3.6	Case Study III: Stability analysis of tumour dormancy equilibrium	93
3.6.1	Introduction	94
3.6.2	Model of cancer development	95
3.6.3	Stability of the equilibrium points	96
3.6.4	Checking inclusion in the region of attraction	97
3.6.5	Analysis of the tumour dormancy equilibrium	100
3.7	Case Study IV: Global optimisation of a model of the tryptophan control system against multiple experiment data	105
3.7.1	Introduction	106
3.7.2	Model of the tryptophan control system	106
3.7.3	Model analysis using global optimisation	109
References		110
4	Negative feedback systems	115
4.1	Introduction	115
4.2	Stability of negative feedback systems	119
4.3	Performance of negative feedback systems	122
4.4	Fundamental tradeoffs with negative feedback	127
4.5	Case Study V: Analysis of stability and oscillations in the p53-Mdm2 feedback system	132
4.6	Case Study VI: Perfect adaptation via integral feedback control in bacterial chemotaxis	137
4.6.1	A mathematical model of bacterial chemotaxis	138
4.6.2	Analysis of the perfect adaptation mechanism	142
4.6.3	Perfect adaptation requires demethylation of active only receptors	145
References		148

5	Positive feedback systems	151
5.1	Introduction	151
5.2	Bifurcations, bistability and limit cycles	151
5.2.1	Bifurcations and bistability	151
5.2.2	Limit cycles	154
5.3	Monotone systems	158
5.4	Chemical reaction network theory	161
5.4.1	Preliminaries on reaction network structure	162
5.4.2	Networks of deficiency zero	164
5.4.3	Networks of deficiency one	166
5.5	Case Study VII: Positive feedback leads to multistability, bifurcations and hysteresis in a MAPK cascade	168
5.6	Case Study VIII: Coupled positive and negative feedback loops in the yeast galactose pathway	175
	References	182
6	Model validation using robustness analysis	185
6.1	Introduction	185
6.2	Robustness analysis tools for model validation	187
6.2.1	Bifurcation diagrams	187
6.2.2	Sensitivity analysis	188
6.2.3	μ -analysis	192
6.2.4	Optimisation-based robustness analysis	195
6.2.5	Sum-of-squares polynomials	196
6.2.6	Monte Carlo simulation	198
6.3	New robustness analysis tools for biological systems	199
6.4	Case Study IX: Validating models of cAMP oscillations in aggregating <i>Dictyostelium</i> cells	202
6.5	Case Study X: Validating models of the p53-Mdm2 System	204
	References	206
7	Reverse engineering biomolecular networks	211
7.1	Introduction	211
7.2	Inferring network interactions using linear models	211
7.2.1	Discrete-time vs continuous-time model	213
7.3	Least squares	216
7.3.1	Least squares for dynamical systems	220
7.3.2	Methods based on least squares regression	223
7.4	Exploiting prior knowledge	226
7.4.1	Network inference via LMI-based optimisation	227
7.4.2	MAX-PARSE: An algorithm for pruning a fully connected network according to maximum parsimony	229
7.4.3	CORE-Net: A network growth algorithm using preferential attachment	231
7.5	Dealing with measurement noise	231

7.5.1	Total least squares	232
7.5.2	Constrained total least squares	233
7.6	Exploiting time-varying models	236
7.7	Case Study XI: Inferring regulatory interactions in the innate immune system from noisy measurements	239
7.8	Case Study XII: Reverse engineering a cell cycle regulatory subnetwork of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> from experimental microarray data	243
7.8.1	PACTLS: An algorithm for reverse engineering partially known networks from noisy data	244
7.8.2	Results	247
	References	250
8	Stochastic effects in biological control systems	255
8.1	Introduction	255
8.2	Stochastic modelling and simulation	256
8.3	A framework for analysing the effect of stochastic noise on stability	259
8.3.1	The effective stability approximation	260
8.3.2	A computationally efficient approximation of the dominant stochastic perturbation	261
8.3.3	Analysis using the Nyquist stability criterion	263
8.4	Case Study XIII: Stochastic effects on the stability of cAMP oscillations in aggregating <i>Dictyostelium</i> cells	266
8.5	Case Study XIV: Stochastic effects on the robustness of cAMP oscillations in aggregating <i>Dictyostelium</i> cells	271
	References	276
	Index	279