

Support Material

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Abstract. This is the supporting material for this article.

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1 ldd

Lemma 1.1. *Given a network G (3.1) with a one-dimensional stoichiometric subspace, suppose $\text{cap}_{\text{pos}}(G) < +\infty$. Let $g(z)$ be the function defined in (??). For any given $\{d_i\}_{i=1}^s$, κ_1 and κ_2 , x is a stable positive steady state of G if and only if the real point z satisfies $g(z) = \ln(-\frac{\lambda\kappa_2}{\kappa_1})$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) < 0$, where x and z satisfy the equalities in (4.7).*

Proof. In bi-reaction network, equation (2.3) is transformed into

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_s \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{N} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \kappa_1 \prod_{i=1}^s x_i^{\alpha_{i1}} \\ \kappa_2 \prod_{i=1}^s x_i^{\alpha_{i2}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

By (??), we have

$$f_i = \gamma_i \cdot l(x_1, \dots, x_s), \text{ where } l(x_1, \dots, x_s) := \kappa_1 \prod_{i=1}^s x_i^{\alpha_{i1}} + \lambda \kappa_2 \prod_{i=1}^s x_i^{\alpha_{i2}}. \quad (1.1)$$

Since G has a one-dimensional stoichiometric subspace, $\text{rank}(\text{Jac}_f) = 1$. So the only non-zero eigenvalue is $\rho = \text{tr}(\text{Jac}_f) = \gamma_1 \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_1} + \dots + \gamma_s \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_s}$.

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According to definitions in section 2.2, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_s)^T$ is a stable positive steady state if and only if

$$l(x_1, \dots, x_s) = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

$$x_i > 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq s, \quad (1.3)$$

$$\rho = \gamma_1 \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_1} + \dots + \gamma_s \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_s} < 0. \quad (1.4)$$

Let

$$\hat{l}(z) := l(\gamma_1(z+d_1), \dots, \gamma_s(z+d_s)). \quad (1.5)$$

By (1.1),

$$\hat{l}(z) = \kappa_1 \prod_{i=1}^s (\gamma_i(z+d_i))^{\alpha_{i1}} + \lambda \kappa_2 \prod_{i=1}^s (\gamma_i(z+d_i))^{\alpha_{i2}}.$$

By (3.3),

$$\hat{l}(z) = \kappa_1 \prod_{i=1}^s (\gamma_i(z+d_i))^{\alpha_{i2}} \left(\prod_{i=1}^s (\gamma_i(z+d_i))^{\alpha_i} + \frac{\lambda \kappa_2}{\kappa_1} \right).$$

By (??),

$$\hat{l}(z) = \kappa_1 \prod_{i=1}^s (\gamma_i(z+d_i))^{\alpha_{i2}} \left(e^{g(z)} + \frac{\lambda \kappa_2}{\kappa_1} \right). \quad (1.6)$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dl}{dz}(z) &= \gamma_1 \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_1} + \dots + \gamma_s \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_s} \Big|_{x_i = \gamma_i z + d_i} \\ &= \kappa_1 \prod_{i=1}^s (\gamma_i(z+d_i))^{\alpha_{i2}} \left[e^{g(z)} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) + \left(e^{g(z)} + \frac{\lambda \kappa_2}{\kappa_1} \right) \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{\alpha_{i2}}{z+d_i} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

Then we prove the necessity and sufficiency. We assume x and z satisfy the equalities in (4.7):

\Rightarrow) If (1.2)–(1.4) hold, by (1.6), we have $e^{g(z)} + \frac{\lambda \kappa_2}{\kappa_1} = 0$. So $g(z) = \ln \left(-\frac{\lambda \kappa_2}{\kappa_1} \right)$. Then by (1.7), we have $e^{g(z)} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) < 0$. So $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) < 0$.

\Leftarrow) If $g(z) = \ln \left(-\frac{\lambda \kappa_2}{\kappa_1} \right)$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) < 0$, by (1.6), we have $\hat{l}(z) = 0$. Then by (1.7), we have $\frac{dl}{dz}(z) < 0$. By (1.2)–(1.4), it indicates that x is a stable positive steady state. \square

Lemma 1.2. *Given a network G (2.1) with a one-dimensional stoichiometric subspace, suppose $\text{cap}_{\text{pos}}(G) < +\infty$. $g(z)$ is defined as in (??). G admits multistability if and only if there exist $\{d_i\}_{i=1}^s \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $K \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the equation $g(z) = K$ has at least 2 solutions z_1 and z_2 satisfying $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$.*

Proof. G admits multistability if and only if there exist $\{d_i\}_{i=1}^s, \kappa_1$ and κ_2 such that G has at least 2 stable positive steady state.

By Lemma (1.1), the above condition holds if and only if: $g(z) = \ln(-\frac{\lambda\kappa_2}{\kappa_1})$ has at least 2 solutions z_1 and z_2 satisfying $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$.

Let $K = \ln(\frac{\lambda\kappa_2}{\kappa_1})$ and we come to the conclusion. \square

Proof of Lemma 4.1:

Proof. By Corollary 1.2, G admits multistability if and only if there exist $\{d_i\}_{i=1}^s$ and K such that the equation $g(z) = K$ has at least 2 solutions z_1 and z_2 satisfying $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$.

For $i=1,2$, let $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_i) = -t_i < 0$. According to the continuity of functions, for $\min\{\frac{t_1}{2}, \frac{t_2}{2}\}$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that when $z \in (z_i - \delta, z_i + \delta)$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) \in (-\frac{3}{2}t_i, -\frac{1}{2}t_i)$ and $(z_1 - \delta, z_1 + \delta) \cap (z_2 - \delta, z_2 + \delta) = \emptyset$.

Then we consider a certain d_i . For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we define $g_n(z)$ is the function which replaces d_i with $d_i + \frac{1}{n}$ in $g(z)$. Then we get a function sequence $\{g_n(z)\}$. We have that $\frac{dg_n}{dz}(z)$ uniformly converges to $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ in $(z_1 - \delta, z_1 + \delta) \cup (z_2 - \delta, z_2 + \delta)$. So for $\varepsilon = \frac{t_1}{2}$, there exists an integer N such that for $n > N$ and $z \in (z_1 - \delta, z_1 + \delta) \cup (z_2 - \delta, z_2 + \delta)$, $\left| \frac{dg_n}{dz}(z) - \frac{dg}{dz}(z) \right| < \frac{1}{2} \min\{t_1, t_2\}$, and hence, $\frac{dg_n}{dz}(z) < 0$.

Moreover, for $i=1,2$, $g_n(z_i - \delta) \rightarrow g(z_i - \delta)$, $g_n(z_i + \delta) \rightarrow g(z_i + \delta)$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $g(z_i - \delta) > 0$, $g(z_i + \delta) < 0$. So there exists $n > N$ such that $g_n(z_i - \delta) > 0$, $g_n(z_i + \delta) < 0$. Thus, $g_n(z) = K$ has a solution z_i^* in $(z_i - \delta, z_i + \delta)$ and $\frac{dg_n}{dz}(z_i^*) < 0$.

For any d_i , we can perform the above actions to change d_i , until d_i are distinct from each other. \square

Proof of Lemma 4.2:

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow : By Corollary 1.2, $g(z) = K$ has at least 2 real solutions. So, $g(z)$ is not monotonic, and there must be \tilde{z} such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}) > 0$.

\Leftarrow : If there exists \tilde{z} such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}) > 0$, then there exists a neighborhood $(\tilde{z} - \delta, \tilde{z} + \delta) \subseteq (p, q)$ such that for any $z \in (\tilde{z} - \delta, \tilde{z} + \delta)$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) > 0$. So, $g(z)$ is increasing in $(\tilde{z} - \delta, \tilde{z} + \delta)$. Let $K \in (g(\tilde{z} - \delta), g(\tilde{z} + \delta))$. Because $\lim_{z \rightarrow q^-} g(z) = -\infty$ and $g(\tilde{z} + \delta) > K$, the equation $g(z) = K$ has a solution in $(\tilde{z} + \delta, q)$. Note that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has finitely many solutions since it is rational. $g(z) = K$ has finitely many solutions in I . So, we can define

$$z_1 := \min\{z : g(z) = K, z > \tilde{z} + \delta\}, \quad (1.8)$$

Similarly,

$$z_2 := \max\{z : g(z) = K, z < \tilde{z} - \delta\}.$$

If $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) > 0$, then there exists $\delta_0 > 0$ such that $z_1 - \delta_0 \in (\tilde{z} + \delta, z_1)$ and $g(z_1 - \delta_0) < K$. So, $g(z) = K$ has a solution in $(\tilde{z} + \delta, z_1)$, which is a contradiction to (1.8). So, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) \leq 0$. Similarly, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) \leq 0$.

Note that for any $K \in (g(\tilde{z} - \delta), g(\tilde{z} + \delta))$, there exists $z_1, z_2 \in I (z_1 \neq z_2)$ such that $g(z_1) = g(z_2) = K$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) \leq 0$, and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) \leq 0$. When $K \neq K^*$, since $g(z_1) = K$ and $g(z_1^*) = K^*$, then $z_1 \neq z_1^*$. Similarly, $z_2 \neq z_2^*$. If for every $K \in (g(\tilde{z} - \delta), g(\tilde{z} + \delta))$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) = 0$ or $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) = 0$, then $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has infinitely many solutions, which is a contradiction to the fact that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ is rational. So, there exists K such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$. By Corollary 1.2, G admits multistability.

(ii) (1) \Rightarrow : By Corollary 1.2, there exist $z_1, z_2 (z_1 \neq z_2)$ satisfying $g(z_1) = K$, $g(z_2) = K$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$. Assume that $z_1 < z_2$. By $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$, there exists δ such that $z_1 + \delta < z_2$ and $g(z_1 + \delta) < K$. By $g(z_2) = K$, there exists $\tilde{z}_2 \in (z_1 + \delta, z_2)$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0$. Let $\tilde{z}_1 = z_1$. Then, \tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2 meet the requirements.

\Leftarrow : If there exist \tilde{z}_1 and \tilde{z}_2 such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0$ and $\tilde{z}_1 < \tilde{z}_2$.

Let

$$a := \inf\{z : \frac{dg}{dz}(z^*) \geq 0, \text{ for any } z^* \in [z, \tilde{z}_2]\}. \quad (1.9)$$

By $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0$, a is finite and $\tilde{z}_1 < a$. If $\frac{dg}{dz}(a) > 0$, then there exists a neighborhood of a such

that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) > 0$ in it, which is a contradiction to (1.9). Similarly, $\frac{dg}{dz}(a) < 0$ can also lead to a contradiction. So, $\frac{dg}{dz}(a) = 0$.

Because $\lim_{z \rightarrow p^+} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = +\infty$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ has a zero point in (p, a) . Note that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has finitely many solutions since it is rational. We can let

$$c = \max\{z : z < a, \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0\}. \quad (1.10)$$

By (1.9), we have

$$\frac{dg}{dz}(z) < 0 \text{ for any } z \in (c, a) \text{ and } \frac{dg}{dz}(z) \geq 0 \text{ for any } z \in (a, \tilde{z}_2). \quad (1.11)$$

There should be a graph.

Let $k_1 = g(a)$, $k_2 = \min\{g(c), g(\tilde{z}_2)\}$. By (1.11), $k_1 < k_2$. Then, we let $K \in (k_1, k_2)$. Since $g(\tilde{z}_2) > K$ and $\lim_{z \rightarrow q^-} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = -\infty$, $g(z) = K$ has at least one solution in (\tilde{z}_2, q) . So, we can let

$$z^* = \min\{z : g(z) = K, z \in (\tilde{z}_2, q)\}. \quad (1.12)$$

If $\frac{dg}{dz}(z^*) > 0$, then there exists a neighborhood $(z^* - \delta_0, z^* + \delta_0)$ to let $g(z)$ increase in it. So, $g(z) = K$ has solutions in (\tilde{z}_2, z^*) and it is a contradiction to (1.12). Thus, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z^*) \leq 0$. Note that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has finitely many solutions since it is rational. So, there exists $K \in (k_1, k_2)$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z^*) < 0$.

Since $g(c) > K$ and $g(a) < K$, $g(z) = K$ has a solution z_1 in (c, a) . According to (1.11), $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$. Let $z_2 = z^*$. Then, z_1 and z_2 meet the requirements.

(2) By (1), there exist \tilde{z}_1 and \tilde{z}_2 such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0$ and $\tilde{z}_1 < \tilde{z}_2$. So, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has at least one solution in $(\tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2)$. Note that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has finitely many solutions since it is rational. We can let

$$z_0 := \min\{z : \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0, z \in (\tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2)\}. \quad (1.13)$$

If $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z_0) < 0$, then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $z_0 - \delta > \tilde{z}_1$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_0 - \delta) > 0$. So, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has a solution in $(\tilde{z}_1, z_0 - \delta)$, which is a contradiction to (1.13). Thus, $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z_0) \geq 0$.

(iii) The proof is similar to the proof of (ii).

(iv) (1) By Corollary 1.2, there exist $z_1, z_2 (z_1 \neq z_2)$ satisfying $g(z_1) = K, g(z_2) = K, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$. Assume that $z_1 < z_2$. Because $g(z_1) = g(z_2)$, it is impossible that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) \leq 0$ when $z \in (z_1, z_2)$. So there exists $\tilde{z}_2 \in (z_1, z_2)$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0$. Let $\tilde{z}_1 = z_1$ and $\tilde{z}_3 = z_2$. Then, \tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2 and \tilde{z}_3 meet the requirements.

(2) By (1), there exist \tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2 and \tilde{z}_3 such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_3) < 0$ and $\tilde{z}_1 < \tilde{z}_2 < \tilde{z}_3$. So, there exist solutions of $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ in $(\tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2)$ and $(\tilde{z}_2, \tilde{z}_3)$ respectively. Note that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has finitely many solutions since it is rational. We can let

$$\begin{aligned} a &:= \max\{z : \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0, z \in (\tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2)\}, \\ b &:= \min\{z : \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0, z \in (\tilde{z}_2, \tilde{z}_3)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.14)$$

By (1.14), $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has no solution in (a, b) . By $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0$, we have

$$\frac{dg}{dz}(z) > 0, \text{ for any } z \in (a, b). \quad (1.15)$$

there should be a graph.

If $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(a) < 0$, then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $a + \delta < \tilde{z}_2$ and $\frac{dg}{dz}(a + \delta) < 0$. So, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has a solution in $(a + \delta, \tilde{z}_2)$, which is a contradiction to (1.14). Thus,

$$\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(a) \geq 0. \quad (1.16)$$

Since $\frac{dg}{dz}(a) = \frac{dg}{dz}(b)$, by Rolle's theorem, $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z)$ has a zero point in (a, b) . Note that $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z) = 0$ has finitely many solutions since it is rational. Let

$$z_0 = \min\{z : \frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z) = 0, z \in (a, b)\}. \quad (1.17)$$

Next, we prove that $\frac{d^3g}{dz^3}(z_0) \leq 0$. Assume that $\frac{d^3g}{dz^3}(z_0) > 0$. Then, there exists δ_0 such that $(z_0 - \delta_0, z_0 + \delta_0) \subseteq (a, b)$ and $\frac{d^3g}{dz^3}(z) > 0$ for any $z \in (z_0 - \delta_0, z_0 + \delta_0)$. So $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z_0 - \delta_0) < \frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z_0) = 0$.

Recall $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(a) \geq 0$ in (1.16). If $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(a) > 0$, then $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z)$ has a zero point in $(a, z_0 - \delta_0)$. It is a contradiction to (1.17). If $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(a) = 0$. Since $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z)$ has no zero point in $(a, z_0 - \delta_0)$, we have $\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z) < 0$ for any $z \in (a, z_0 - \delta_0)$. That means $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ is decreasing in $(a, z_0 - \delta_0)$. So $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_0 - \delta_0) < \frac{dg}{dz}(a) = 0$. It is a contradiction with (1.15).

(v) Let $w(z) = \frac{dg}{dz}(z) - a$. Then, the conclusion follows from (iv)(2).

□

2 zq

Lemma 2.1. *For any $\beta_1, \beta_2, e_1, e_2, x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfying*

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0, \\ x_i + e_j > 0 (i=1, 2, 3, j=1, 2), \\ e_1 \neq e_2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

There exist $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\frac{\beta_1}{x_1 + e_1} + \frac{\beta_2}{x_1 + e_2} = a + \frac{c}{x_1 + b}, \quad (2.2)$$

$$\frac{\beta_1}{x_2 + e_1} + \frac{\beta_2}{x_2 + e_2} = a + \frac{c}{x_2 + b}, \quad (2.3)$$

$$\frac{\beta_1}{x_3 + e_1} + \frac{\beta_2}{x_3 + e_2} = a + \frac{c}{x_3 + b}, \quad (2.4)$$

where

$$a > 0, b > \min\{e_1, e_2\}, \text{ and } \min\{\beta_1, \beta_2\} < c < \beta_1 + \beta_2. \quad (2.5)$$

Proof. Without loss of generality, assume $e_1 < e_2$. Define $\gamma(y) := \frac{1}{(x_1+y)(x_2+y)(x_3+y)}$. Notice that we can eliminate b and c from (2.2)–(2.4), and we get

$$a = \frac{(e_2 - e_1)^2 \beta_1 \beta_2 \gamma(e_1) \gamma(e_2)}{\beta_1 \gamma(e_1) + \beta_2 \gamma(e_2)} > 0. \quad (2.6)$$

Similarly, we can eliminate a and c from (2.2)–(2.4), and we get

$$b = \frac{e_1 \beta_1 \gamma(e_1) + e_2 \beta_2 \gamma(e_2)}{\beta_1 \gamma(e_1) + \beta_2 \gamma(e_2)}. \quad (2.7)$$

Note that

$$b - e_1 = \frac{(e_2 - e_1)\beta_2\gamma(e_2)}{\beta_1\gamma(e_1) + \beta_2\gamma(e_2)} > 0. \quad (2.8)$$

So, we have $b > e_1$. Notice that we can eliminate a from (2.2)–(2.3), and we get

$$c = (x_1 + b)(x_2 + b) \left(\frac{\beta_1}{(x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1)} + \frac{\beta_2}{(x_1 + e_2)(x_2 + e_2)} \right) \quad (2.9)$$

Then, by the fact that $b > e_1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} c &> (x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1) \left(\frac{\beta_1}{(x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1)} + \frac{\beta_2}{(x_1 + e_2)(x_2 + e_2)} \right) \\ &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{(x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1)}{(x_1 + e_2)(x_2 + e_2)} \\ &> \beta_1 \end{aligned}$$

So, $c > \min\{\beta_1, \beta_2\}$. Below we show that

$$c < \beta_1 + \beta_2. \quad (2.10)$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &:= \frac{(e_2 - e_1)^2(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + e_2 + 2e_1)}{(x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1)(x_3 + e_1)(x_1 + e_2)(x_2 + e_2)(x_3 + e_2)}, \\ \mathcal{G} &:= \frac{(e_2 - e_1)^2(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + e_1 + 2e_2)}{(x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1)(x_3 + e_1)(x_1 + e_2)(x_2 + e_2)(x_3 + e_2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Plugging (2.7) into (2.9), we have

$$\beta_1 + \beta_2 - c = \frac{\beta_1^2\beta_2}{(x_1 + e_1)(x_2 + e_1)(x_3 + e_1)}\mathcal{H} + \frac{\beta_1\beta_2^2}{(x_1 + e_2)(x_2 + e_2)(x_3 + e_2)}\mathcal{G}. \quad (2.11)$$

Obviously, $\mathcal{H} > 0$ and $\mathcal{G} > 0$. So, $c < \beta_1 + \beta_2$. □

Lemma 2.2. Let $G(z) := \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{z + d_i}$, where $d_i \in \mathbb{R}$, and $a_i > 0$. Let $M := \min_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} d_i$. Then, for any three different numbers z_1, z_2, z_3 satisfying $z_j > -M$ ($j = 1, 2, 3$), there exists $A, D, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$G_1(z_j) = \frac{A}{z_j + D} + \theta \text{ for } j = 1, 2, 3, \quad (2.12)$$

where

$$\min_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} a_i \leq A \leq \sum_{i=1}^n a_i, D \geq M, \theta \geq 0 \quad (2.13)$$

Proof. We prove the conclusion by induction.

For $n=1$, let $A=a_1, D=d_1, \theta=0$. Clearly, the conclusion holds.

Assume for $n=m$, the conclusion holds. Below, we prove that for $n=m+1$, the conclusion holds. Note that for $n=m+1$, we have $G(z) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{a_i}{z+d_i} + \frac{a_{m+1}}{z+d_{m+1}}$ and $M = \min_{i \in \{1, \dots, m+1\}} d_i$. Let $G^*(z) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{a_i}{z+d_i}$ and $M^* = \min_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} d_i$. Then, for any $z_j > M$, we have $z_j > M^*$. By hypothesis, there exist $A^*, D^*, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$G^*(z_j) = \frac{A^*}{z_j + D^*} + \theta^* \text{ for } j=1, 2, 3, \quad (2.14)$$

$$\min_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} a_i \leq A^* \leq \sum_{i=1}^m a_i, D^* > M^*, \theta^* \geq 0. \quad (2.15)$$

Since $G(z) = G^*(z) + \frac{a_{m+1}}{z+d_{m+1}}$, we have

$$G(z_j) = \frac{a_{m+1}}{z_j + d_{m+1}} + \frac{A^*}{z_j + D^*} + \theta^* \text{ for } j=1, 2, 3. \quad (2.16)$$

Let $\beta_1 = a_{m+1}, \beta_2 = A^*, e_1 = d_{m+1}, e_2 = D^*, x_j = z_j$ for $j=1, 2, 3$. Note that $\beta_1, \beta_2, e_1, e_2, x_j$ satisfy the conditions in (2.1). By Lemma 2.1, there exist $A, D, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\frac{a_{m+1}}{z_j + d_{m+1}} + \frac{A^*}{z_j + D^*} = \theta + \frac{A}{z_j + D} \text{ for } j=1, 2, 3 \quad (2.17)$$

$$\theta > 0, D > \min\{d_{m+1}, D^*\}, \text{ and } \min\{a_{m+1}, A^*\} < A < a_{m+1} + A^*. \quad (2.18)$$

By (2.16) and (2.17), we have

$$G(z_j) = \frac{A}{z_j + D} + \theta + \theta^* \text{ for } j=1, 2, 3. \quad (2.19)$$

By (2.15) and (2.18), it is straightforward to check that $\min_{i \in \{1, \dots, m+1\}} a_i \leq A \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m+1} a_i, D \geq M, \theta + \theta^* \geq 0$. Therefore, the conclusion holds. \square

Lemma 2.3. For any two sequences $\{a_i\}_{i=0}^n, \{e_i\}_{i=0}^n$ such that

$$a_i > 1, e_i > 1, \text{ and} \quad (2.20)$$

$$a_0 > \sum_{i=1}^n a_i. \quad (2.21)$$

the following inequalities can not hold simultaneously.

$$\frac{a_0}{e_0} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} - 1 \quad (2.22)$$

$$\frac{a_0}{e_0^2} \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} - 1 \quad (2.23)$$

$$\frac{a_0}{e_0^3} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^3} - 1 \quad (2.24)$$

Proof. We prove by [contradiction?](#). Assume that (2.22)–(2.24) hold. Notice that by (2.20), $a_0 > 0$ and $e_0 > 0$. So, by (2.24), we have

$$\sum_{i \in S_3} \frac{a_i}{e_i^3} \geq 1. \quad (2.25)$$

By (2.20), for any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, we have $e_i > 1$, and so,

$$\frac{a_i}{e_i^2} > \frac{a_i}{e_i^3}. \quad (2.26)$$

So, by (2.25), we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} > 1 \quad (2.27)$$

By (2.22) and (2.23), we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} - 1 \leq \frac{a}{e^2} = \frac{1}{a} \frac{a^2}{e^2} \leq \frac{1}{a} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} - 1 \right)^2 \quad (2.28)$$

Then, by (2.21) and (2.28), we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} - 1 \leq \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} - 1 \right)^2. \quad (2.29)$$

We multiply the both sides of (2.29) by $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i$, and we get

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} \right)^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} + 1, \quad (2.30)$$

which is equivalent to

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} a_i a_j \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j} \right)^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n a_i - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} + 1. \quad (2.31)$$

By (2.31) and (2.27), we have

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} a_i a_j \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j}\right)^2 < \sum_{i=1}^n a_i - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \left(1 - \frac{1}{e_i}\right)^2. \quad (2.32)$$

By (2.22) and (2.24), we have

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} - 1\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^3} - 1\right) \geq \frac{a^2}{e^4}. \quad (2.33)$$

By (2.23) and (2.27), we have

$$\frac{a^2}{e^4} \geq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} - 1\right)^2. \quad (2.34)$$

So,

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} - 1\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^3} - 1\right) \geq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} - 1\right)^2. \quad (2.35)$$

Note that (2.35) is equivalent to

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i}\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^3}\right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2}\right)^2 \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^3} - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e_i}\right)^2. \quad (2.36)$$

Note that

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i}\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^3}\right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i^2}\right)^2 = \sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} \frac{a_i a_j}{e_i e_j} \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j}\right)^2. \quad (2.37)$$

So,

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} \frac{a_i a_j}{e_i e_j} \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j}\right)^2 \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e_i}\right)^2. \quad (2.38)$$

By (2.32) and (2.38), we have

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} a_i a_j \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j}\right)^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{e_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e_i}\right)^2 < \sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} \frac{a_i a_j}{e_i e_j} \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j}\right)^2 \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \left(1 - \frac{1}{e_i}\right)^2. \quad (2.39)$$

Let

$$E_1(x, y) = (xy - x)(1 - x)^2(x - y)^2, \quad (2.40)$$

$$E_2(x, y, z) = (1 - x)^2(yz - x)(y - z)^2 + (1 - y)^2(xz - y)(x - z)^2 + (1 - z)^2(xy - z)(x - y)^2. \quad (2.41)$$

Note that (2.39) is equivalent to

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} a_i^2 a_j E_1\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}\right) + \sum_{i,j,k \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j \neq k} a_i a_j a_k E_2\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}, \frac{1}{e_k}\right) > 0. \quad (2.42)$$

By (2.20), we have

$$\frac{1}{e_i e_j} - \frac{1}{e_i} = \frac{1}{e_i} \left(\frac{1}{e_j} - 1\right) < 0. \quad (2.43)$$

So, for any $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, i \neq j$, we have

$$E_1\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{e_i e_j} - \frac{1}{e_i}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{e_i}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{e_i} - \frac{1}{e_j}\right) < 0. \quad (2.44)$$

So,

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} a_i^2 a_j E_1\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}\right) < 0 \quad (2.45)$$

By (2.20), we have

$$0 < \frac{1}{e_i} < 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n). \quad (2.46)$$

For any $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, i \neq j \neq k$, by Lemma 2.4, we have $E_2\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}, \frac{1}{e_k}\right) < 0$. Therefore, for any $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, i \neq j$, we have

$$E_2\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}, \frac{1}{e_k}\right) < 0. \quad (2.47)$$

Then, by (2.20), we have

$$\sum_{i,j,k \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j \neq k} a_i a_j a_k E_2\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}, \frac{1}{e_k}\right) < 0 \quad (2.48)$$

By (2.45), we have

$$\sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j} a_i^2 a_j E_1\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}\right) + \sum_{i,j,k \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}, i \neq j \neq k} a_i a_j a_k E_2\left(\frac{1}{e_i}, \frac{1}{e_j}, \frac{1}{e_k}\right) < 0, \quad (2.49)$$

which contradicts to (2.42). \square

Lemma 2.4. Let

$$E(x, y, z) = (1-x)^2(yz-x)(y-z)^2 + (1-y)^2(xz-y)(x-z)^2 + (1-z)^2(xy-z)(x-y)^2. \quad (2.50)$$

Then, for any

$$x, y, z \in (0, 1), \quad (2.51)$$

we have $E(x, y, z) < 0$.

Proof. Suppose that

$$x \leq y \leq z. \quad (2.52)$$

Below, we discuss two cases.

(1) Assume that

$$x \geq yz. \quad (2.53)$$

By (2.51) and (2.52), we have

$$xz - y \leq yz - y = y(z - 1) < 0. \quad (2.54)$$

Similarly, we have

$$xy - z < 0. \quad (2.55)$$

By (2.53), we have

$$E_2(x, y, z) = (1-x)^2(yz-x)(y-z)^2 + (1-y)^2(xz-y)(x-z)^2 + (1-z)^2(xy-z)(x-y)^2 < 0. \quad (2.56)$$

(2) Assume that

$$x < yz \quad (2.57)$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x} = & 2(1-x)(x-yz)(y-z)^2 + 2(1-y)^2(y-xz)(z-x) + 2(1-z)^2(z-xy)(y-x) \\ & + (1-x)(1-yz)(y-z)^2 + (y+z^2-2xz)(z-x)(1-y)^2 + (z+y^2-2xy)(y-x)(1-z)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.58)$$

Below we first prove when for any $y, z \in (0, 1)$, $\frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x} > 0$. By (2.51), we have

$$(1-x)(1-yz)(y-z)^2 > 0. \quad (2.59)$$

In fact, since (2.51) and (2.57), we have

$$y+z^2-2xz > y+z^2-2yz^2 = y(1-z^2) + z^2(1-y) > 0, \quad (2.60)$$

$$x < yz < z. \quad (2.61)$$

So, we have

$$(y+z^2-2xz)(z-x)(1-y)^2 > 0. \quad (2.62)$$

Similarly, we have

$$(z+y^2-2xy)(y-x)(1-z)^2. \quad (2.63)$$

By (2.59)–(2.63), we have

$$\frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x} > 2(1-x)(x-yz)(y-z)^2 + 2(1-y)^2(y-xz)(z-x) + 2(1-z)^2(z-xy)(y-x) \quad (2.64)$$

Recall that by (2.61), we have $x < z$. Similarly, we have $x < y$. By (2.51), we have $x+y > z(x+y)$ i.e. $y-xz > yz-x$. Similarly, $z-xy > yz-x$. So, by (2.64), we have

$$\frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x} > 2(yz-x)((1-y)(z-x)^2 + (1-z)(y-x)^2 - (1-x)(y-z)^2) \quad (2.65)$$

$$= 2(yz-x)(y+z-2x)(1-y)(1-z). \quad (2.66)$$

Note that by (2.51) and (2.57), we have

$$y+z-2x > y+z-2yz = y(1-z) + z(1-y) > 0. \quad (2.67)$$

Then by (2.51) and (2.57), we have $\frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x} > 0$. By (2.57), we have $E_2(x, y, z) < E_2(yz, y, z)$.

Notice that by (2.41), we have

$$E_2(yz, y, z) = (1-y)^2 y(z^2-1)(x-z)^2 + (1-z)^2 z(y^2-1)(x-y)^2. \quad (2.68)$$

By (2.51), we have $E_2(yz, y, z) < 0$. So, when $x, y, z \in (0, 1)$, we have $E_2(x, y, z) < 0$.

□

2.0.1 When S_2, S_3 and S_4 are non-empty

According to Theorem 3.1(c)(2), we assume that S_2, S_3 and S_4 are non-empty. By (4.8), we have

$$g(z) = - \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(z+d_i).$$

Let

$$h(z) = -g(-z) = \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \ln(z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(-z+d_i).$$

We will prove by 3.1(c)(1) and Corollary 1.2. Notice that $\frac{dh}{dz}(z) = \frac{dg}{dz}(-z)$. Let $I^* = \{-z | z \in I\}$. Then there exists $z_1, z_2 \in I$, for which $g(z_1) = 0, g(z_2) = 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$ if and only if there exists $z_1^*, z_2^* \in I^*$, for which $h(z_1^*) = 0, h(z_2^*) = 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_1^*) < 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_2^*) < 0$. Since we have proved Theorem 3.1(c)(1), by Corollary 1.2, there exists $z_1^*, z_2^* \in I^*$, for which $h(z_1^*) = 0, h(z_2^*) = 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_1^*) < 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_2^*) < 0$ if and only if $\sum_{i \in S_2} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} \{a_i\}$. By Corollary 1.2, G admits multistability if and only if $\sum_{i \in S_2} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} \{a_i\}$.

2.0.2 When S_1, S_2 and S_4 are non-empty

According to Theorem 3.1(c)(3), we assume that S_1, S_2 and S_4 are non-empty. By (4.8), we have

$$g(z) = \sum_{i \in S_1} a_i \ln(z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(z+d_i).$$

Let

$$h(z) = -g(-z) = -\sum_{i \in S_1} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(-z+d_i).$$

Similarly, by 3.1(c)(4) and Corollary 1.2, G admits multistability if and only if there exists a subset S_1^* of S_1 , $\sum_{i \in S_4} \{a_i\} > \sum_{i \in S_1^*} a_i > \min_{i \in S_4} \{a_i\}$.

3 c'

3.0.1 When S_2, S_3 and S_4 are non-empty

According to Theorem 3.1(c)(2), we assume that S_2, S_3 and S_4 are non-empty. By (4.8), we have

$$g(z) = -\sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(z+d_i).$$

Let

$$h(z) = -g(-z) = \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \ln(z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(-z+d_i).$$

We will prove by 3.1(c)(1) and Corollary 1.2. Notice that $\frac{dh}{dz}(z) = \frac{dg}{dz}(-z)$. Let $I^* = \{-z | z \in I\}$. Then there exists $z_1, z_2 \in I$, for which $g(z_1) = 0, g(z_2) = 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$ if and only if there exists $z_1^*, z_2^* \in I^*$, for which $h(z_1^*) = 0, h(z_2^*) = 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_1^*) < 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_2^*) < 0$. Since we have proved Theorem 3.1(c)(1), by Corollary 1.2, there exists $z_1^*, z_2^* \in I^*$, for which $h(z_1^*) = 0, h(z_2^*) = 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_1^*) < 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_2^*) < 0$ if and only if $\sum_{i \in S_2} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} \{a_i\}$. By Corollary 1.2, G admits multistability if and only if $\sum_{i \in S_2} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} \{a_i\}$.

3.0.2 When S_1, S_2 and S_4 are non-empty

According to Theorem 3.1(c)(3), we assume that S_1, S_2 and S_4 are non-empty. By (4.8), we have

$$g(z) = \sum_{i \in S_1} a_i \ln(z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(z+d_i).$$

Let

$$h(z) = -g(-z) = - \sum_{i \in S_1} a_i \ln(-z + d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(z + d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(-z + d_i).$$

Similarly, by 3.1(c)(4) and Corollary 1.2, G admits multistability if and only if there exists a subset S_1^* of S_1 , $\sum_{i \in S_4} \{a_i\} > \sum_{i \in S_1^*} a_i > \min_{i \in S_4} \{a_i\}$.

4 b

4.0.1 When S_2 and S_3 are non-empty

According to Theorem 3.1(b)(2), we assume that S_2 and S_3 are non-empty. By (4.8), we have

$$\begin{aligned} g(z) &= - \sum_{i \in S_2} a_i \ln(-z + d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \ln(-z + d_i), \\ \frac{dg}{dz}(z) &= \sum_{i \in S_2} \frac{a_i}{-z + d_i} - \sum_{i \in S_3} \frac{a_i}{-z + d_i}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$\frac{d^2g}{dz^2}(z) = \sum_{i \in S_2} \frac{a_i}{(-z + d_i)^2} - \sum_{i \in S_3} \frac{a_i}{(-z + d_i)^2}.$$

First, we prove the sufficiency. Assume that the statement(2) in 3.1(b) holds, i.e., there is a subset S_2^* of S_2 , such that

$$\sum_{i \in S_3} a_i > \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} a_i. \quad (4.1)$$

There exists $q \in S_3$, such that $a_q = \min_{i \in S_3} a_i$. So,

$$\sum_{i \in S_3} a_i > \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i \quad (4.2)$$

$$\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i > a_q \quad (4.3)$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{for } i \in S_2^*, d_i = w_1 > 1, \\ &\text{for } i \in S_2 \setminus S_2^*, d_i = w_2 > 1, \\ &d_q = 1, \\ &\text{for } i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}, d_i = w_3 > 1 \\ &\text{where } d_i > 1 (i = 1, 2, 3). \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

Then,

$$\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = \frac{\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i}{-z+w_1} + \frac{\sum_{i \in S_2 \setminus S_2^*} a_i}{-z+w_2} - \frac{a_q}{-z+1} - \frac{\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i}{-z+w_3}.$$

Note that I defined in (??) is $(-\infty, 1)$. Let

$$h(z) = \frac{\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i}{-z+w_1} - \frac{a_q}{-z+1} - \frac{\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i}{-z+w_3}. \quad (4.5)$$

By [here need a lemma](#) Lemma 4.2(ii)(1), we only need to prove that there exist $z_1, z_2 \in I$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) > 0$ and $z_1 < z_2$. Then, we will choose appropriate number w_1, w_2 and w_3 to make it happen. We first choose w_3 . Note that by (4.4): ($w_1 > 1$)

$$h(z) < \frac{\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i - a_q}{-z+1} - \frac{\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i}{-z+w_3}. \quad (4.6)$$

Let the RHS of (4.6) be $H(z)$. We solve d from $H(z) < 0$, and we get

$$w_3 < \frac{\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i + ((\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i - a_q)z)/(-z+1)}{(\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i - a_q)/(-z+1)}. \quad (4.7)$$

Let $\mathcal{N}(z)$ and $\mathcal{D}(z)$ be the numerator and denominator of RHS of (4.7). By (4.3), we have for any $z \in (-\infty, 1)$, $\mathcal{N}(z) > 0$ and $\mathcal{D}(z) > 0$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{N}(z) - \mathcal{D}(z) \\ &= \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i - \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i, \end{aligned}$$

By (4.2), we have $\sum_{i \in S_3} a_i - \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i > 0$. So, there exists $z_1 \in (-\infty, 1)$ such that $\mathcal{N}(z_1) - \mathcal{D}(z_1) > 0$.

Hence,

$$\frac{\mathcal{N}(z_1)}{\mathcal{D}(z_1)} > 1.$$

By (4.7), there exists $w_3 > 1$, such that $H(z_1) < 0$. Note that for any $w_1 > 1$, we have (4.6). So for any $w_1 > 1$, we have $h(z_1) < 0$.

We solve w_1 from $h(z) > 0$, and we get

$$w_1 < \frac{\sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i + \frac{z}{-z+1} a_{3,1} + (\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i) \frac{z}{-z+w_3}}{\frac{a_{3,1}}{-z+1} + (\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i) \frac{1}{-z+w_3}}. \quad (4.8)$$

Let $\widetilde{\mathcal{N}}(z)$ and $\widetilde{\mathcal{D}}(z)$ be the numerator and denominator of RHS of (4.8).

$$\begin{aligned} & \widetilde{\mathcal{N}}(z) - \widetilde{\mathcal{D}}(z) \\ &= \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i - a_q + \left(\sum_{i \in S_3 \setminus \{1\}} a_i \right) \frac{z-1}{-z+w_3}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $w_3 > 1$, we have

$$\lim_{z_2 \rightarrow 1} \widetilde{\mathcal{N}}(z) - \widetilde{\mathcal{D}}(z) = \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i - a_q$$

By (4.3), the above limit is positive. Therefore, we can choose $z_2 \in (z_1, 1)$ such that

$$\frac{\widetilde{\mathcal{N}}(z_2)}{\widetilde{\mathcal{D}}(z_2)} > 1,$$

i.e. the RHS of (4.8) is greater than 1. So, we can choose appropriate $w_1 > 1$, such that $h(z_2) > 0$ and $h(z_1) < 0$. By (4.3) and (4.5), $\lim_{z \rightarrow -\infty} (-z)h(z) = \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i - \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i > 0$. Therefore, there exists $z_0 \in (-\infty, z_1)$, such that $h(z_0) > 0$. We can choose

$$w_2 = \max \left\{ \frac{2 \sum_{i \in S_2 \setminus S_2^*} a_i}{-h(z_1)} + z_1, 2 \right\}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) &= h(z_1) + \frac{\sum_{i \in S_2 \setminus S_2^*} a_i}{-z_1 + w_2} \leq \frac{h(z_1)}{2} < 0, \\ \frac{dg}{dz}(z_0) &> h(z_0) > 0, \\ \frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) &> h(z_2) > 0. \end{aligned}$$

[here need a lemma](#) According to 4.2 (ii)(1), G admits multistability.

\Leftrightarrow

We will prove that if there does not exist a subset S_2^* of S_2 such that

$$\sum_{i \in S_3} a_i > \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} a_i, \quad (4.9)$$

the network G does not admit multistability. We assume that G admits multistability, then we derive a contradiction.

Note that there does not exist a subset S_2^* of S_2 such that $\sum_{i \in S_3} a_i > \sum_{i \in S_2^*} a_i > \min_{i \in S_3} a_i$, then we have two cases.

(Case I) $|S_3|=1$.

(Case II) Notice that $s_1=0$. Assume $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots \leq a_{s_2}$. There exists $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, s_2\}$, such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \leq \min_{i \in S_3} a_i < \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \leq a_{k+1} \leq \dots \leq a_{s_2}.$$

(Case I) Assume that $|S_3|=1$. Notice that $s_1=0$. Suppose $d_1 \leq d_2 \leq \dots \leq d_{s_2}$.

If $d_{s_2+1} < d_1$, notice that by (4.86), for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s_2-1\}$, $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_i^+} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = +\infty$ and $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_{i+1}^-} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = -\infty$. Note that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ is continuous in (d_i, d_{i+1}) . So, there exists $z_i \in (d_i, d_{i+1})$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_i) = 0$. Hence, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has at least $s_2 - 1$ solutions in $(d_{s_2+1}, +\infty)$. Since the numerator of $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ is a polynomial with degree s_2 , there are no more than s_2 null points in $(-\infty, +\infty)$.

Recall that $I = (-\infty, d_{s_2+1})$ defined in (??). Hence, there are no more than 2 solutions in I . By Linkexin, we have $\sum_{i \in S_2} a_i > a_{s_2+1}$. So, there exists R , for any $z < R$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) > 0$. Notice that $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_{s_2+1}^-} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = -\infty$. According to 4.2(ii)(1), newlemma there are at least 3 solutions in I , which is a contradiction.

If $d_{s_2+1} > d_1$, notice that by (4.86), for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s_2-1\}$, we have $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_i^+} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = +\infty$ and $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_{i+1}^-} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = -\infty$. Note that if $d_{s_2+1} \notin (d_i, d_{i+1})$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ is continuous in (d_i, d_{i+1}) . Therefore, if $d_{s_2+1} \notin (d_i, d_{i+1})$, there exists $z_i \in (d_i, d_{i+1})$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_i) = 0$. Hence, $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = 0$ has at least $s_2 - 2$ solutions in $(d_1, +\infty)$. Since the numerator of $\frac{dg}{dz}(z)$ is a polynomial with degree s_2 , there are no more than s_2 null points in $(-\infty, +\infty)$. Therefore there are no more than 3 null solutions in I . By (4.64), notice that $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_m^+} g(z) = -\infty$, $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_n^-} g(z) = +\infty$, $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_m^+} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = +\infty$, and $\lim_{z \rightarrow d_n^-} \frac{dg}{dz}(z) = +\infty$. By Lemma 4.2 (iv)(1), there exist $\tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2, \tilde{z}_3 \in I$ such that $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0$, $\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_3) < 0$ and $\tilde{z}_1 < \tilde{z}_2 < \tilde{z}_3$. So, there are at least 4 null points in I , which is a contradiction.

newlemma

(Case II) Assume there exists $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, s_2\}$, such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \leq \min_{i \in S_3} a_i \leq \sum_{i \in S_3} a_i \leq a_{k+1} \leq \dots \leq a_n. \quad (4.10)$$

As G admits multistability, I defined in (??) is not an empty set. So,

$$I = (d_m, d_n) \quad (4.11)$$

defined in (??), we have

$$d_m = -\infty \quad (4.12)$$

$$d_n = \min\{\min_{i \in S_2} d_i, \min_{i \in S_3} d_i\}. \quad (4.13)$$

Since G admits multistability, [newlemma](#)by Lemma 4.2 (iv) (1), there exist $\tilde{z}_1, \tilde{z}_2, \tilde{z}_3 \in I$, such that

$$\frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_1) < 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_2) > 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(\tilde{z}_3) < 0 \text{ and } \tilde{z}_1 < \tilde{z}_2 < \tilde{z}_3. \quad (4.14)$$

As G admits multistability, there exists $z_0 < z_1 < z_2$, $z_0, z_1, z_2 \in I$, for which $\frac{dg}{dz}(z_0) < 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) > 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$. $\frac{dg}{dz}(z) = \sum_{i \in S_2} \frac{a_{2,i}}{-z+d_i} - \sum_{i \in S_3} \frac{a_i}{-z+d_i}$. Let $w_1 = -z_0 + 1, a_1 = \frac{\min\{-\frac{dg}{dz}(z_0), -\frac{dg}{dz}(z_2)\}}{2}$. Let $h(z) = \frac{a_1}{z+w_1} + \sum_{i \in S_2} \frac{a_{2,i}}{-z+d_i} - \sum_{i \in S_3} \frac{a_i}{-z+d_i}$ and $I^* = (-w_1, M)$, then $z_0, z_1, z_2 \in I^*$ and $h(z_0) < 0, h(z_1) > 0, h(z_2) < 0$. According to 4.2.3, it lead to a contradiction.

4.0.2 When S_1 and S_4 are non-empty

As defined in (4.8):

$$g(z) := \sum_{i \in S_1} a_i \ln(z+d_i) - \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(z+d_i).$$

Let

$$h(z) = -g(-z) = - \sum_{i \in S_1} a_i \ln(-z+d_i) + \sum_{i \in S_4} a_i \ln(-z+d_i).$$

Notice that $\frac{dh}{dz}(z) = \frac{dg}{dz}(-z)$. Let $I^* = \{-z | z \in I\}$. Then there exists $z_1, z_2 \in I$, for which $g(z_1) = 0, g(z_2) = 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_1) < 0, \frac{dg}{dz}(z_2) < 0$ if and only if there exists $z_1^*, z_2^* \in I^*$, for which $h(z_1^*) = 0, h(z_2^*) = 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_1^*) < 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_2^*) < 0$. According to 4.0.1, there exists $z_1^*, z_2^* \in I^*$, for which $h(z_1^*) = 0, h(z_2^*) = 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_1^*) < 0, \frac{dh}{dz}(z_2^*) < 0$ if and only if there exists a subset S_1^* of S_1 , $\sum_{i \in S_4} \{|a_i|\}| > \sum_{i \in S_1^*} |a_i| > \min_{i \in S_4} \{|a_i|\}$. Therefore G admits multistability if and only if there exists a subset S_1^* of S_1 , $\sum_{i \in S_4} \{|a_i|\}| > \sum_{i \in S_1^*} |a_i| > \min_{i \in S_4} \{|a_i|\}$.

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