

# An Invitation to Pharmacostatics

Gilles Gnacadja

<http://math.GillesGnacadja.info/>

AMGEN

South San Francisco, California, USA

**Society for Mathematical Biology**

**2017 Annual Meeting**

**Minisymposium on Recent Advances in the  
Analysis of Biochemical Reaction Systems**

University of Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

17-20 July 2017

# Pharmacostatics?

## Pharmacology:

*Studying interactions between biological processes and therapeutic agents*

- ✓ Pharmacokinetics (PK):  
*How drugs distribute and metabolize in biological systems*
- ✓ Pharmacodynamics (PD):  
*How biological systems respond to drugs*
- ? Pharmacostatics (PS)

# Pharmacostatics

Pharmacostatics:

- ▶ Pharmacology in discovery-stage drug research
- ▶ **Characterization of equilibrium parameters and states of core interactions of physiologic and therapeutic interest**
- ▶ *Do “things” stick, how strongly, how much, etc?*

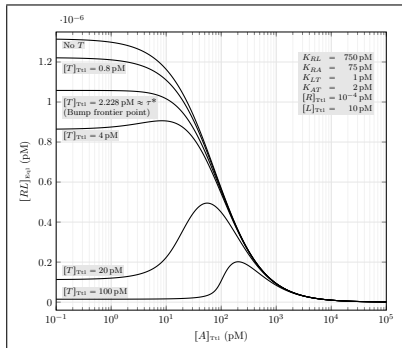
# Two Interesting Math Problems in Pharmacostatics

## Problem I

$$x_j + \sum_{\alpha \in I} \alpha_j a_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} = b_j$$

Calculate binding equilibrium

## Problem II



Anticipate non-monotone dose-response curves

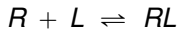
---

**Background:** Chemical Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions

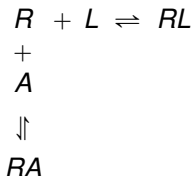
# This Presentation

- ▶ Background:  
    Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions
- ▶ Problem I:  
    Calculate binding equilibrium
- ▶ Problem II:  
    Anticipate non-monotone dose-response curves

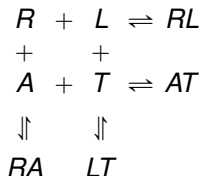
# Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions – Examples



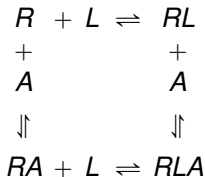
Reversible binding of a ligand  $L$  to a receptor  $R$



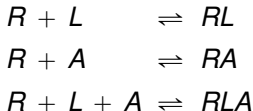
Reversible orthosteric binding of a ligand  $L$  and an antagonist to a receptor  $R$



Ligand  $L$  and antagonist  $A$  competing for the same site on receptor  $R$  and likewise on decoy receptor (or trap)  $T$

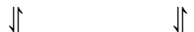


Reversible allosteric binding of a ligand  $L$  and modulator  $A$  to a receptor  $R$



“Normalized” network for equilibrium calculation

# Elementary Species, Composite Species, Composition



Elementary species:  $R, L, A$

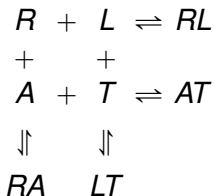
Composite species:  $RL, RA, RLA$

Composition:  $RL: (1, 1, 0)$

$RA: (1, 0, 1)$

$RLA: (1, 1, 1)$

# Elementary Species, Composite Species, Composition



Elementary species:  $R, L, A, T$

Composite species:  $RL, RA, LT, AT$

Composition:

$RL$ :	$(1, 1, 0, 0)$
$RA$ :	$(1, 0, 1, 0)$
$LT$ :	$(0, 1, 0, 1)$
$AT$ :	$(0, 0, 1, 1)$



# Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions – Formalism

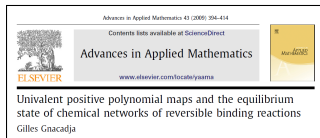
## Normal Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions

- ▶ Elementary species  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ ;  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$
- ▶ Composite species  $Y_\alpha$  of composition  $\alpha$  with respect to  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ;  $\alpha \in I$ ,  $I$  nonempty finite  $\subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n \setminus \{0_n, e_{n,1}, \dots, e_{n,n}\}$
- ▶ For each  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in I$ , the binding-dissociation reaction pair  $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i X_i \rightleftharpoons Y_\alpha$  and its equilibrium binding constant  $a_\alpha$

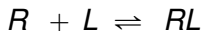
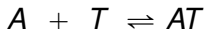
## Complete Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions

Sensibly support composite species as reactants in binding reactions

- ▶ Conservation of composition
- ▶ Detailed-balance equilibrium



# Dose-Response Functions



$$[A]_{\text{Total}} \mapsto [RL]_{\text{Equil}}$$

$$[A]_{\text{Total}} \mapsto [RL]_{\text{Equil}} + [RLA]_{\text{Equil}}$$

Dose-response function in general:

$$[X]_{\text{Total}} \mapsto [Y]_{\text{Equil}} \quad \text{or} \quad [X]_{\text{Total}} \mapsto [X']_{\text{Equil\_Total\_Bound}}$$

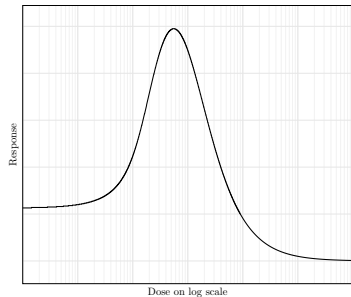
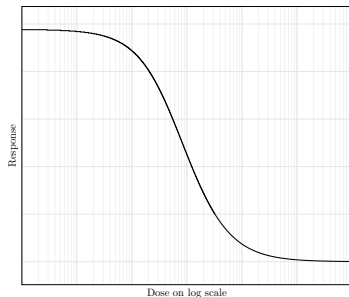
$X$ : An elementary species, the dose species

$Y$ : The response species, usually composite

$X'$ : An elementary species, usually one  
whose effect one seeks to antagonize

# Monotonicity of Dose-Response Functions

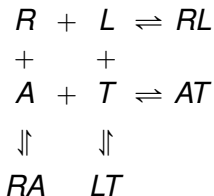
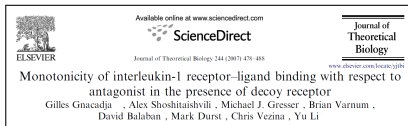
Dose-response functions  
usually are monotone  
with a sigmoid profile...



... but non-monotone  
dose-response functions  
do occur

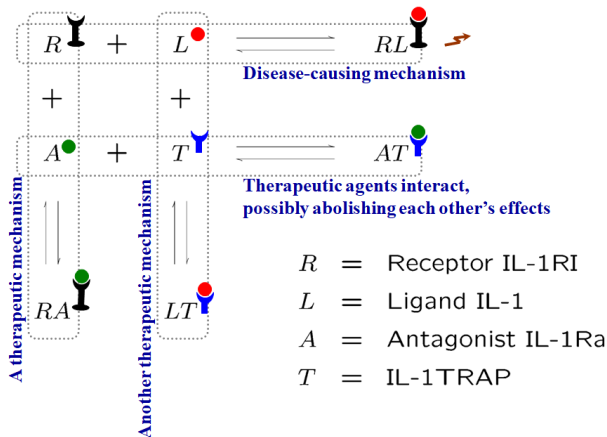
- ▶ Rare in published pharmacostatics work
- ▶ More awareness in toxicology area

# Non-Monotone Response: An Actual Case

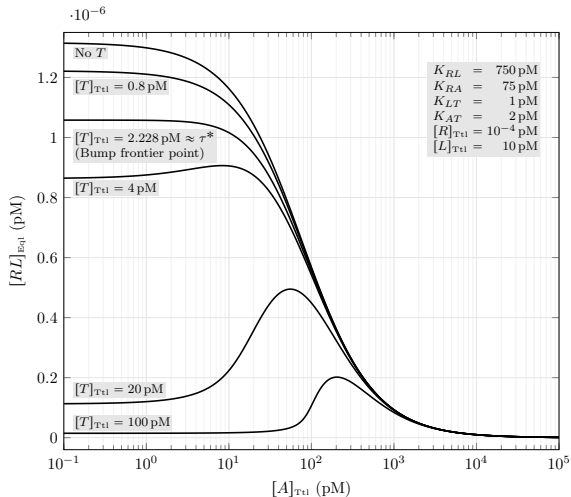
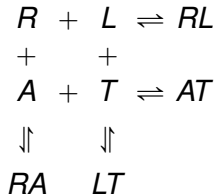


$$[A]_{\text{Total}} \mapsto [RL]_{\text{Equil}}$$

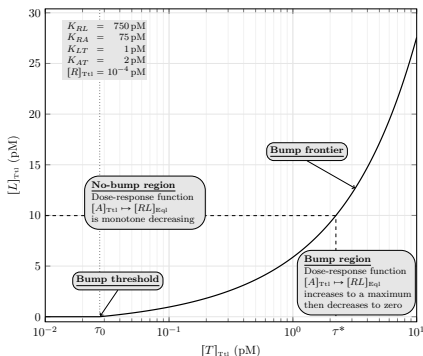
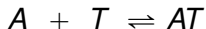
# Non-Monotone Response: An Actual Case



# Non-Monotone Response: An Actual Case



# Non-Monotone Response: An Actual Case



The bump frontier:

- ▶ A hypersurface in the 7-dimensional space with coordinate system  $(K_{RL}, K_{RA}, K_{LT}, K_{AT}, [R]_{\text{Total}}, [L]_{\text{Total}}, [T]_{\text{Total}})$
- ▶ Shown here is the 2-dimensional slice resulting from fixing  $K_{RL}, K_{RA}, K_{LT}, K_{AT}, [R]_{\text{Total}}$  as specified
- ▶ Bump threshold  $\tau_0 = K_{LT}K_{AT}/(K_{RA} - K_{AT})$ ;  
No bump if  $[T]_{\text{Total}} \leq \tau_0$ , regardless how much  $L$  there is
- ▶ No bump if  $K_{RA} \leq K_{AT}$

# Other Work on Non-Monotone Dose-Response

Applicable to functions of the kind  $[X]_{\text{Total}} \mapsto [Y]_{\text{Equil}}$

Published in IET Systems Biology  
Received on 10th July 2014  
Revised on 25th August 2014  
Accepted on 8th September 2014  
doi:10.1049/iet-syb.2014.0025

Special Issue celebrating the 10th anniversary  
of IET Systems Biology



## **A technique for determining the signs of sensitivities of steady states in chemical reaction networks**

*Eduardo D. Sontag*

J. CHEM. SOC. FARADAY TRANS., 1995, 91(2), 259–267

## **Response Reactions: A Way to Explain the Unusual Behaviour of Multiple Equilibrium Systems**

**Ilie Flishtik**

**István Nagyópai and Ivan Gutman**

Algebraic-combinatorial  
technique and algorithm

Multivariate analysis  
and algorithm

---

Anecdotal reports of investigative molecules having been discarded because of unexplainable dose-response curves



# Problem II: Anticipate non-monotone dose-response

## Problem II

*Characterize the complete networks of reversible binding reactions that are capable of producing non-monotone dose-response functions, and the precise conditions under which non-monotonicity does occur (i.e. something akin to the bump frontier).*

## Considerations for problem scope reduction

- ▶ “Complete networks” is small in the reaction network universe, but still quite large.
- ▶ Even in applicable networks, not all species would be worthy dose species.
- ▶ Short of a fully characterized bump frontier, a bump threshold would still be of interest.

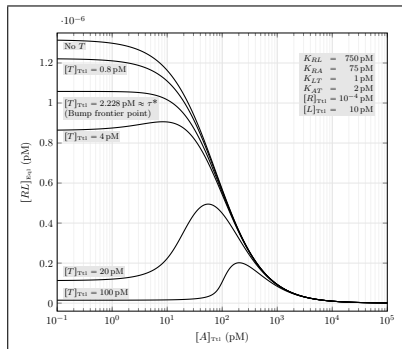
# Two Interesting Math Problems in Pharmacostatics

## Problem I

$$x_j + \sum_{\alpha \in I} \alpha_j a_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} = b_j$$

Calculate binding equilibrium

## Problem II



Anticipate non-monotone dose-response curves

---

**Background:** Chemical Networks of Reversible Binding Reactions