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# Diffusion-Driven Instability and Pattern Formation in Reaction-Diffusion-ODE Systems

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## Motivation

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**Figure 1:** Casually sitting Egyptian Goose



**Figure 2:** Close-up view of Egyptian Goose skin.



Figure 1: Casually sitting Egyptian Goose



Figure 2: Close-up view of Egyptian Goose skin.

Turing Pattern: stable, regular, spatially-heterogeneous, stationary solution to a Reaction-Diffusion (RD) equation, e.g.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u(t, x) = D_u \nabla^2 u(t, x) + f(u, v) \quad t, x \in (0, T) \times \Omega$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} v(t, x) = D_v \nabla^2 v(t, x) + g(u, v) \quad t, x \in (0, T) \times \Omega$$

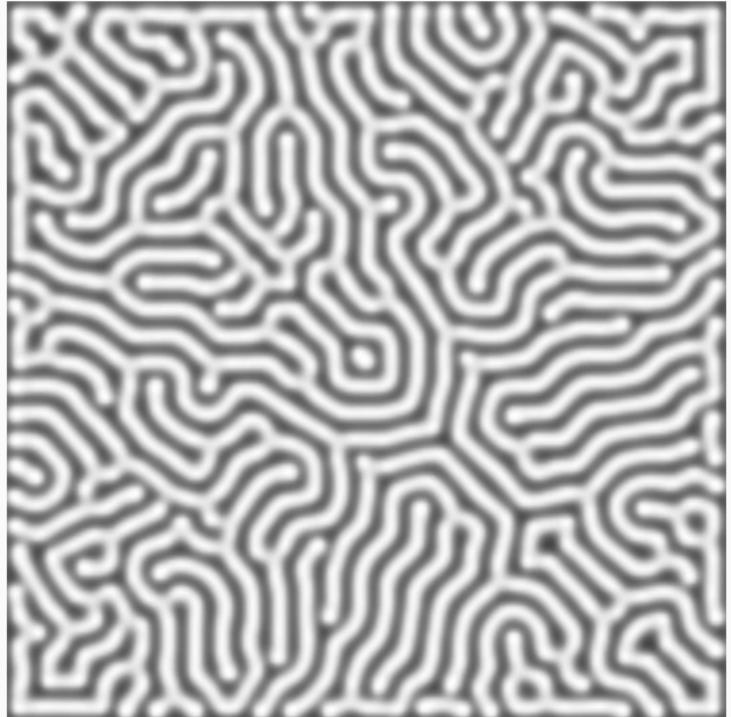
+ Boundary and Initial Conditions

**Example:** Gray-Scott model (1984)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u = D_u \nabla^2 u - uv^2 + F(1 - u)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} v = D_v \nabla^2 v + uv^2 - (F + k)v$$

$\Omega = (0, 1)^2$  with zero-flux boundary condition.



**Figure 3:** Simulation of the Gray-Scott model with feed parameter  $F = 0.029$ , and kill-rate  $k = 0.057$

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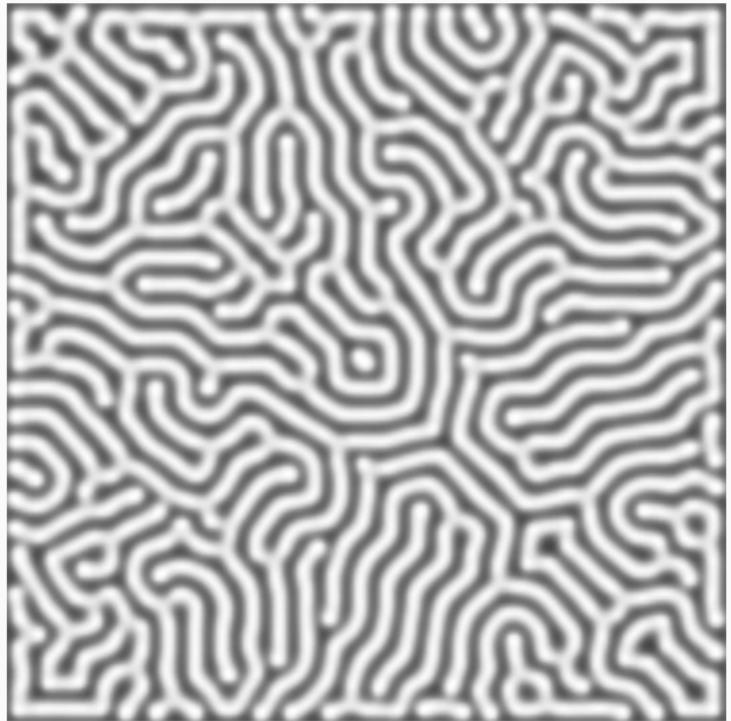
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**Method (DDI):**

1. Find stable constant steady state  $(\bar{u}, \bar{v})$  when  $(D_u, D_v) = (0, 0)$ .
2. Linear stability analysis.
3. Find  $D_u, D_v$  making  $(\bar{u}, \bar{v})$  unstable in presence of diffusion.
4. Solutions to the perturbed IVP with initial condition  $(u_0, v_0) = (\bar{u} + \xi_1, \bar{v} + \xi_2)$  converge to patterned solution.



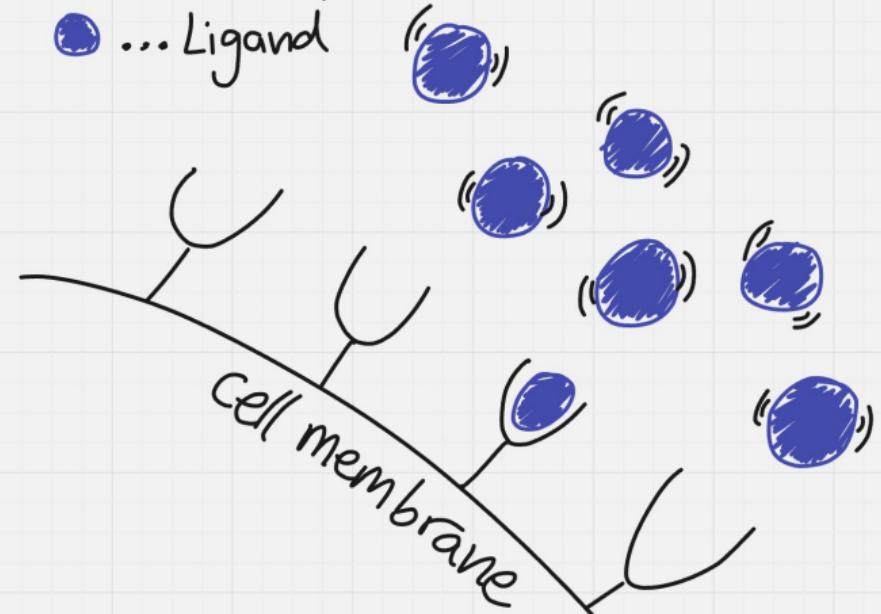
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## RD-ODE Systems:

Sometimes in Biology, we are led to model systems featuring both diffusing and non-diffusing components.

-C ... Receptor

● ... Ligand



$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = f(\psi, \bullet) \\ \frac{\partial \bullet}{\partial t} = g(\psi, \bullet) + d\nabla^2 \bullet \end{cases}$$

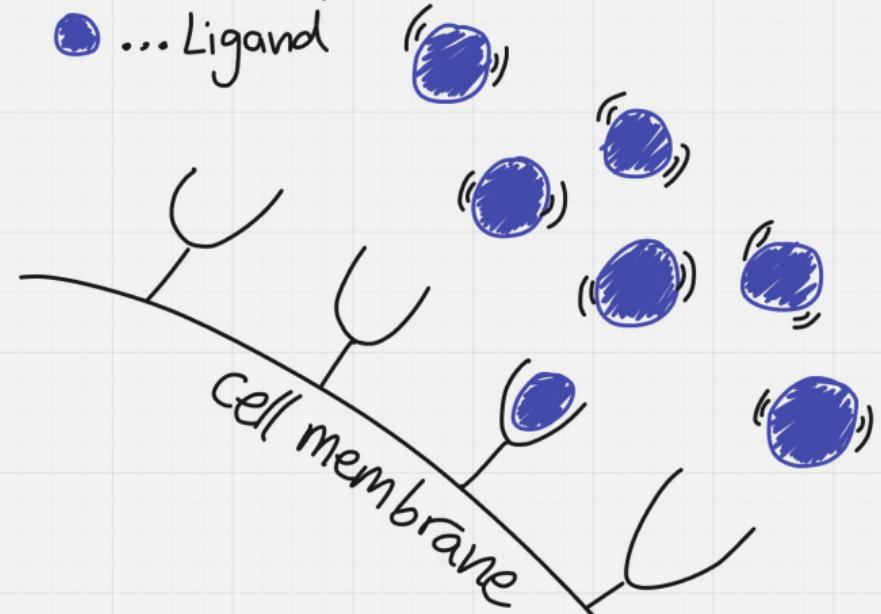
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When that happens, the differential operator degenerates and complexity increases drastically.

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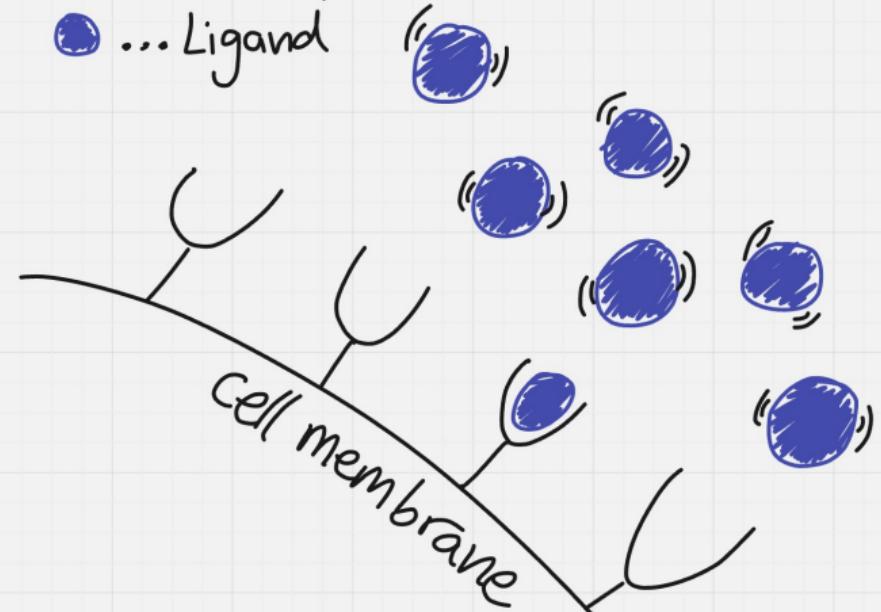
When that happens, the differential operator degenerates and complexity increases drastically.

A very natural question is the following:

"Can we still obtain patterns in systems of Reaction-Diffusion-ODE using the Turing mechanism (DDI)?

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## Patterned solutions in RD-ODE systems:

- **$m$  ODEs, 1 PDE:** All regular solutions are unstable.

But it is possible to construct stable  
*far-from-equilibrium* solutions to

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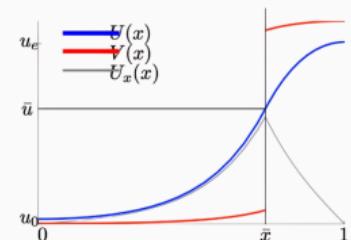
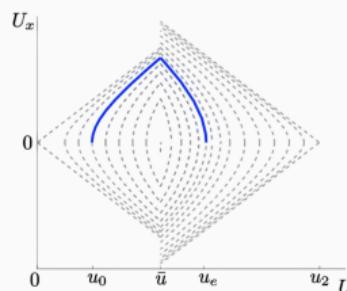
- Patterns are solution to

$$f(U, V) = 0; \quad D\nabla^2 V + g(U, V) = 0$$

- Implicit function theorem:  $U = h(V)$ , thus

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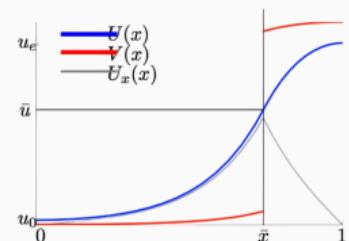
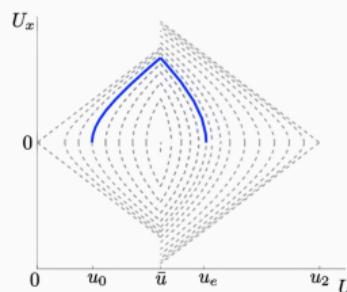
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## Theory

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**Framework:** Work on  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^p$  where zero-flux boundary conditions are assumed. Consider the system

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u = f(u, V) & \text{(non-diffusing)} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} V = D \nabla^2 V + g(u, V) & \text{(diffusing)} \end{cases}$$

**Notation:**

- $u$ : non-diffusive component ( $\dim u = m$ )
- $V$ : diffusing component ( $\dim V = n$ )
- $N = (f, g)$ : reaction terms
- $D$ : diffusion matrix ( $\text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n)$ )

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**Question:** What are sufficient and necessary conditions for DDI in the general system of Reaction-Diffusion-ODE?

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### More notation (less standard):

- $X := (u, v, w)$ : state variable
- $J(\cdot) := \nabla_{(u, v, w)} N(\cdot)$ : Jacobi matrix
- $J_{ij}(\cdot) := \begin{pmatrix} \partial_i N^i(\cdot) & \partial_j N^i(\cdot) \\ \partial_i N^j(\cdot) & \partial_j N^j(\cdot) \end{pmatrix}$ : principal minor
- $s(\cdot) := \sup_{\lambda \in \sigma(\cdot)} \{\text{Re } \lambda\}$  modulus of stability
- $\mathcal{L}(\cdot) := D \nabla^2(\cdot) + J(\cdot)$ : Linearized operator

**Assumption:** There exists a constant steady state  $\bar{X}$

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Linearized operator around steady state  $\bar{X}$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_{D_1, D_2}[\xi] = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \\ & D_1 & \\ & & D_2 \end{pmatrix}}_D \nabla^2 \xi + J(\bar{X})\xi$$

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**Spectrum on  $L^2(\Omega)^{m+l+k}$ :** With "a little bit" of work, we split the spectrum for  $D_1, D_2 > 0$

$$\sigma(\mathcal{L}_{D_1, D_2}) = \{\sigma(\partial_u f(\bar{X}))\} \cup \bigcup_{j=0}^{\infty} \sigma(\lambda_j D + J(\bar{X})\xi), \quad \lambda_j \in \sigma(-\Delta_N^\Omega)$$

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### Conditions for Diffusion-Driven Instability

We say the steady state  $\bar{X}$  exhibits DDI as steady state of the system if

1. The spectral bound  $s(\mathcal{L}_{0,0}) = s(J(\bar{X})) < 0$
2. The choice of  $D_1, D_2 > 0$  is such that  $s(\mathcal{L}_{D_1, D_2}) > 0$

Instability from the non-diffusing system:  $\sigma(\mathcal{L}_{D_1, D_2}) = \{\sigma(\partial_u f(\bar{X}))\} \cup \bigcup_{j=0}^{\infty} \sigma(\lambda_j D + J(\bar{X})\xi)$

### Theorem 2.3: Autocatalysis condition

Suppose  $s(J) < 0$ . The condition  $s(\partial_u f(\bar{X})) > 0$  is called *autocatalysis*. If satisfied,

- $\bar{X}$  exhibits DDI independently from  $D_1, D_2$
- Every stationary solution intersecting  $\bar{X}$  is unstable

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#### Proof (1st point)

- Follows from  $s(\mathcal{L}) \geq s(\partial_u f(\bar{X})) > 0$        $(\sup_{x \in A \cup B} \geq \sup_{x \in A})$

□

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- So  $s(\mathcal{L}^*) \geq s(\partial_u f(X^*)) \geq s(\partial_u f(X^*(x_0))) \geq s(\partial_u f(\bar{X})) > 0$  □

Instability from coupled sub-systems (non- and slow-diffusing):

**Main result: DDI when  $J_{12}$  unstable**

Suppose  $s(J) < 0$  and  $s(J_{12}) > 0$ . Then,  $\bar{X}$  exhibits DDI on the domain  $(0, L)$  if

1.  $\max\{d : d \in D_1\} \leq \tilde{d}$  for  $\tilde{d}$  sufficiently small ( $L = 1$ )
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- The eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{L}_{D_1, D_2}$  depend continuously on  $D_1$
- Result still holds when introducing a small  $D_1 > 0$

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Proof sketch:

- Temporarily set  $D_1 = \mathbf{0} = \text{diag}(0, \dots, 0)$
- For all  $\nu \in \sigma(J_{12})$ , there exists  $\{\mu_j\}_{j \geq 0} \subset \sigma_p(\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{0}, D_2})$  such that  $\mu_j \rightarrow \nu$  (non-trivial)
- The eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{L}_{D_1, D_2}$  depend continuously on  $D_1$
- Result still holds when introducing a small  $D_1 > 0$

□

**Remark:** The case  $D_2$  large is proved by writing  $D_2 = d\tilde{D}_2$ , rescaling the domain  $L = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$  and letting  $d \rightarrow \infty$ .

The simplest case:  $(m, l, k) = (1, 1, 1)$  : Possible to list explicit sufficient conditions for DDI.

System:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u = f(u, v, w) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} v = d_1 \nabla^2 v + g(u, v, w) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} w = d_2 \nabla^2 w + h(u, v, w) \end{cases}$$

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Suppose  $\bar{X}$  steady state with  $J(\bar{X}) < 0$ . Then,  $\bar{X}$  exhibits DDI on  $\Omega = (0, L)$  if

- $s(\partial_u f(\bar{X})) > 0$ ,  $d_1, d_2 > 0$  and  $L = 1$  (autocatalysis)

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## Application: Pattern Formation in receptor-based model

---

Consider the problem:

- Domain:  $\Omega = (0, L)$ ,  $L > 0$ , and Zero-flux boundary conditions
- Parameters:  $\mu_f, \mu_l, \mu_b, \mu_e, m_1, m_2, m_3 > 0$
- Equations:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u = -\mu_f u + m_1 \frac{uv}{1+uv} - \mu_b uv \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} v = d_1 \nabla^2 v - \mu_l v + m_2 \frac{uv}{1+uv} - \mu_b uv - vw \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} w = d_2 \nabla^2 w - \mu_e w + m_3 \frac{uv}{1+uv} \end{cases}$$

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### Well-posedness of the problem

Let  $X_0 = (u_0, v_0, w_0) \in L^\infty(\Omega)^3$  be an initial condition such that

$$X_0 \in \left\{ X \in \mathbb{R}^3 : 0 \leq u_0 \leq \frac{m_1}{\min\{\mu_f, \mu_b\}}, \quad 0 \leq v_0 \leq \frac{m_2}{\min\{\mu_l, \mu_b, 1\}}, \quad 0 \leq w_0 \leq \frac{m_3}{\mu_e} \right\}.$$

Then, the associated IVP has a unique, non-negative, uniformly-bounded, global solution on  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \Omega$

**Proof:** The region defined above is a Bounded Invariant Rectangle

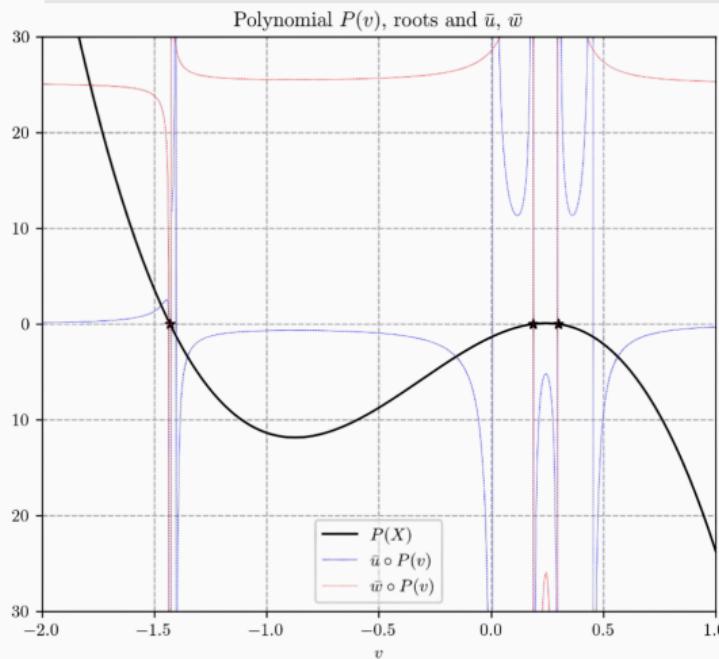
□.

## Equilibria

Constant steady states of the system are the points

$$\mathbf{0} = (0, 0, 0), \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}} = \left( \frac{m_1}{(\mu_f + \mu_b \varrho_i)} - \frac{1}{\varrho_i}, \varrho_i, \frac{m_3}{\mu_e} \left( 1 - \frac{\mu_f + \mu_b \varrho_i}{m_1 \varrho_i} \right) \right)$$

where  $\varrho_i$  are the (up to three) roots of a degree-three polynomial  $P$ .

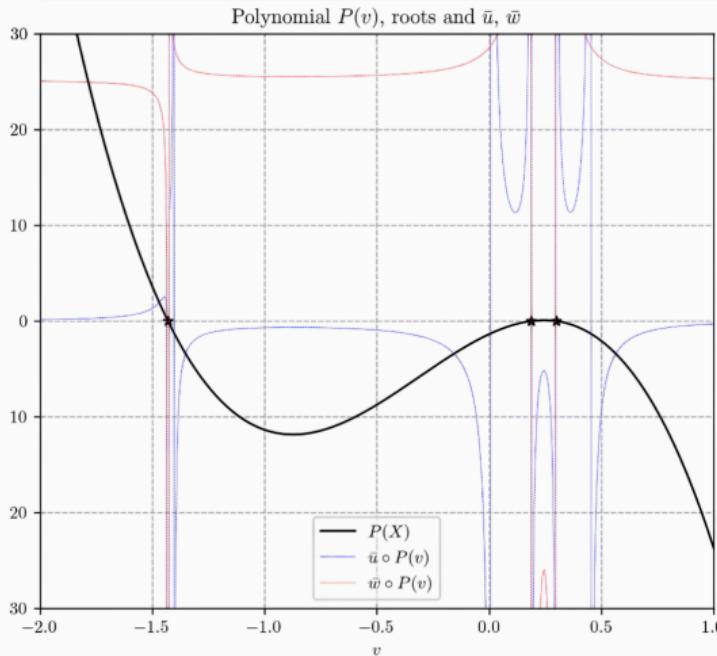


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**Proposition:** If parameters belong to

$$\Pi := \left\{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^7 : \mu_f, \mu_b, \mu_l, \mu_e \in (0, 1), m_1, m_2, m_3 \in (2, \infty), m_2 - \frac{m_3 \mu_f}{m_1 \mu_e} - 2 \sqrt{\mu_f \mu_l \frac{m_2}{m_1}} > 0 \right\}$$

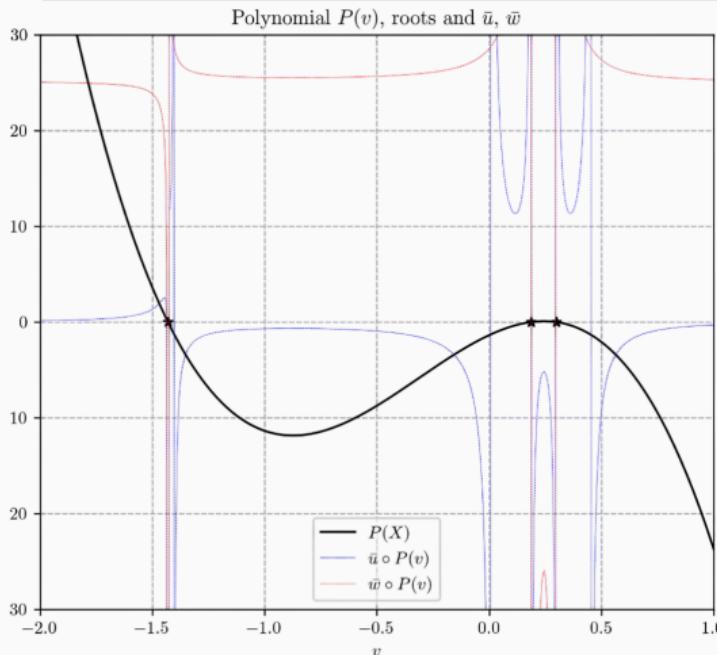
then steady states are  $(\mathbf{0}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_2)$ .

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then steady states are  $(\mathbf{0}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_2)$ .

Moreover, if  $-\text{tr}(J) \sum_{i < j} \det(J_{ij}) + \det(J) > 0$ ,  
then the system is bi-stable and we write  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} := \bar{\mathbf{x}}_2$ .

**Remark:** We can show  $s(\partial_u f(\bar{X})) < 0$  and that  $s(J_{13}) < 0$  too. Thus, DDI can occur if and only if  $s(J_{12}) > 0$ . This occurs when parameters satisfy the additional relation:

$$\Gamma := \left\{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^7 : 2\mu_l^2 - m_2\mu_l + \left( \frac{m_3\mu_f}{m_1\mu_e} \right)^2 + (3\mu_l - m_2) \frac{m_3\mu_f}{m_1\mu_e} > 0 \right\}$$

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### Theorem: Exact conditions for DDI

On the domain  $\Omega = (0, L)$ ,  $\bar{X}$  exhibits DDI if parameters  $\theta$  are in  $\Pi \cap \Gamma$  and

1.  $L > 0$ , the diffusion coefficient  $d_2 > 0$  is fixed and

$$\exists j \in \mathbb{N} : \quad 0 < d_1 < \frac{\det(J) - \det(J_{12}) d_2 \lambda_j}{\lambda_j (\det(J_{13}) - J_1 d_2 \lambda_j)}$$

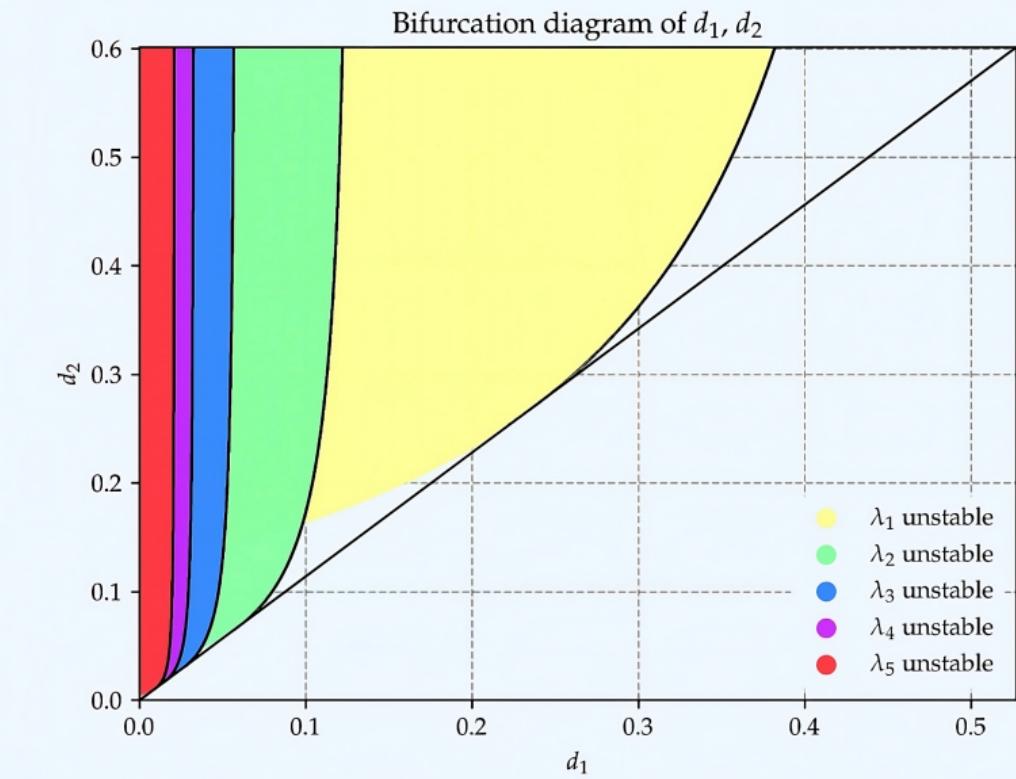
2.  $d_1 > 0$  fixed, and

$$\exists j \in \mathbb{N} : \quad L > \pi j \sqrt{\frac{J_1 d_1}{\det(J_{12})}}, \quad d_2 > \frac{\det(J) - \det(J_{13}) d_1 \lambda_j}{\lambda_j (\det(J_{12}) - J_1 d_1 \lambda_j)} > 0$$

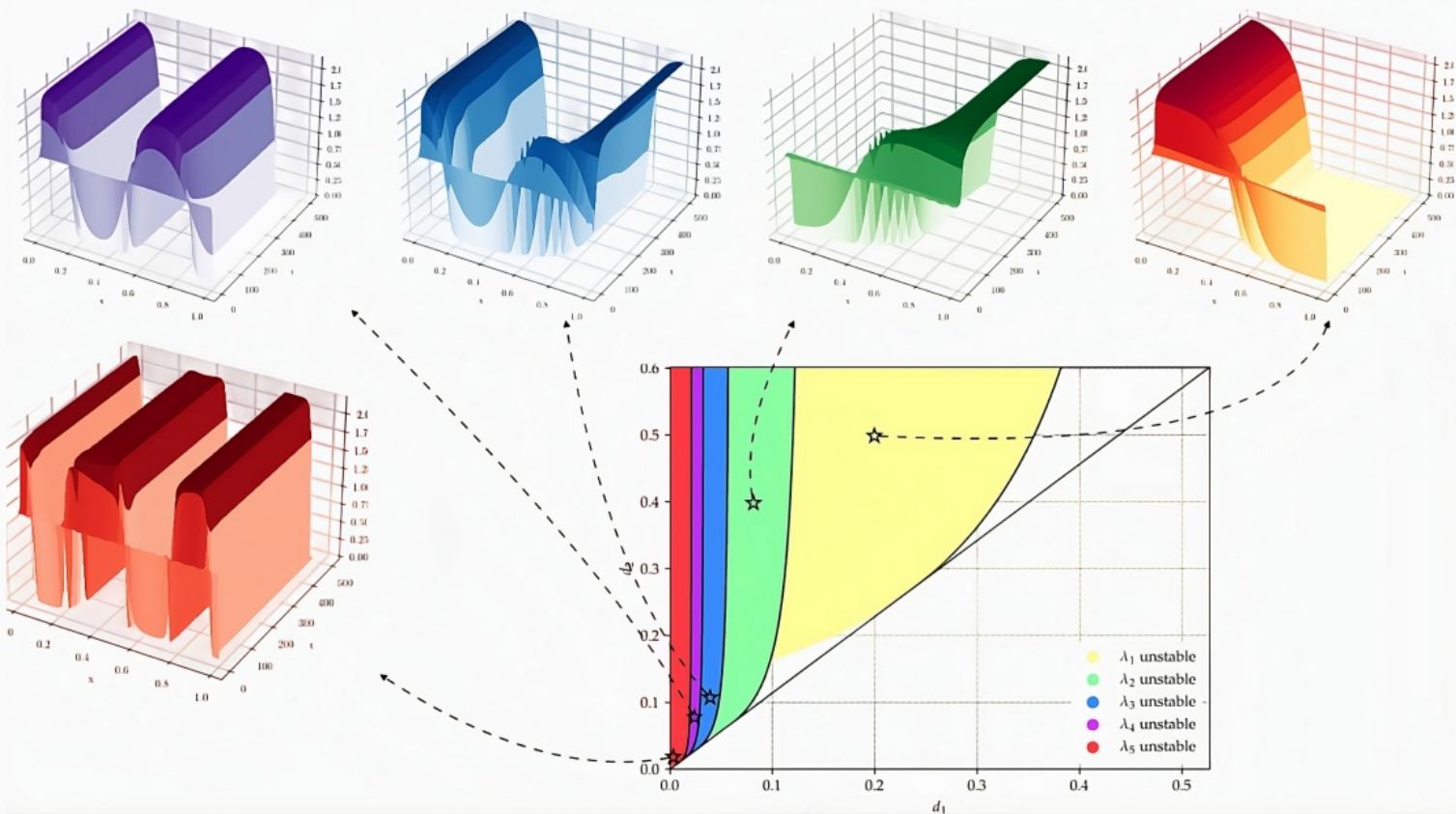
### Bifurcation diagram:

Plotting values of  $d_1, d_2$  such that  $\bar{X}$  exhibits DDI.

The patterned solution depend on the area the point  $(d_1, d_2)$  lies within.



## Numerical simulations:



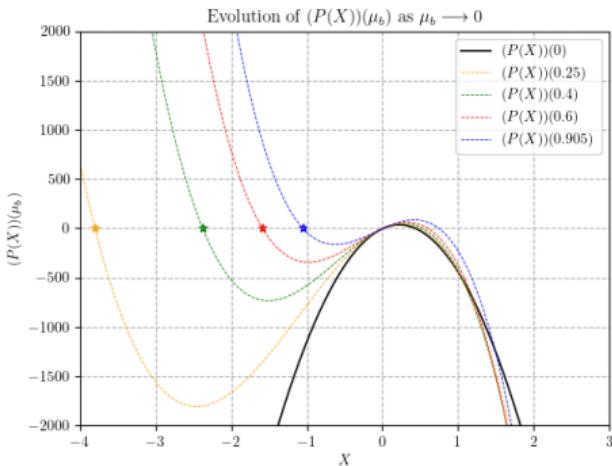
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS?

## ADDITIONAL SLIDES

$$\text{Why } (\star) : m_2 - \frac{m_3 \mu_f}{m_1 \mu_e} - 2\sqrt{\mu_f \mu_l \frac{m_2}{m_1}} > 0 ?$$

- When  $\mu_b \rightarrow 0$ ,  $P$  converges to an upside-down parabola  $Q$ .
- Condition  $(\star)$  ensures two things:
  1.  $\Delta_Q > 0$ , so  $Q$  has two roots
  2. These roots are both positive and are  $\mathcal{O}(\mu_b)$ -close to the roots of  $P$ <sup>1</sup>
- Introduce  $\mu_b > 0$  again, then  $P$  has three roots  $\varrho_1 < 0 < \varrho_2 < \varrho_3$
- $\varrho_2, \varrho_3$  define two additional nonnegative steady state besides the origin.



$$\text{Why } (\star\star) : -\text{tr}(J) \sum_{i < j} \det(J_{ij}) + \det(J) > 0?$$

- Ensures  $\bar{X}(\varrho_3)$  is stable  $\implies$  system is bistable.

---

<sup>1</sup>See next slide for proof of this claim.

**Proof:** The two positive roots of  $Q$  are  $\mathcal{O}(\mu_b)$ -close to  $\varrho_2, \varrho_3$ , while  $\varrho_1 \rightarrow -\infty$  as  $\mu_b \rightarrow 0$

- Write the roots  $\varrho_i := \sum_{k \geq k_0} a_k \mu_b^{k/d}$  for some  $d \geq 0$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- Newton Polygon yields

$$\varrho_1 = \frac{a_{-1}}{\mu_b} + c_1 + \mathcal{O}(\mu_b), \quad \varrho_2 = c_2 + \mathcal{O}(\mu_b), \quad \varrho_3 = c_3 + \mathcal{O}(\mu_b)$$

- Factorization  $P(v) := p_3 \prod_i (v - \varrho_i)$  and expansion  $P(v) := \sum_i p_i v^i$ . By power identification:

$$p_2 = -K \left( a_{-1} + \mu_b \sum_i c_i + \mathcal{O}(\mu_b^2) \right), \quad K > 0$$

- Hence, when  $\mu_b \rightarrow 0$ , we find  $a_{-1} = -p_2/K$
- Therefore, the roots  $\varrho_2, \varrho_3$  are  $\mathcal{O}(\mu_b)$  and  $\varrho_1$  is singular, in the sense

$$\varrho_1 = -\frac{p_2}{K} \frac{1}{\mu_b} + c_1 + \mathcal{O}(\mu_b) \xrightarrow{\mu_b \rightarrow 0} -\infty$$