

Stochastic Simulation of Reaction-Diffusion Systems

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Presentation Summary

Why are we here?

(Some) comms engineers interested in reaction-diffusion systems

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- Applied comms engineering to chemical signalling in fluids
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Where are we going?

Understand and control communication in “small” natural systems

- 1 Background**
- 2 The AcCoRD Simulator**
- 3 Recent Feature Development**
 - Absorbing Surfaces
 - Mesoscopic Flow
- 4 On-Going Work**
 - Behavioural Dynamics
 - Information Transfer
- 5 Conclusions**

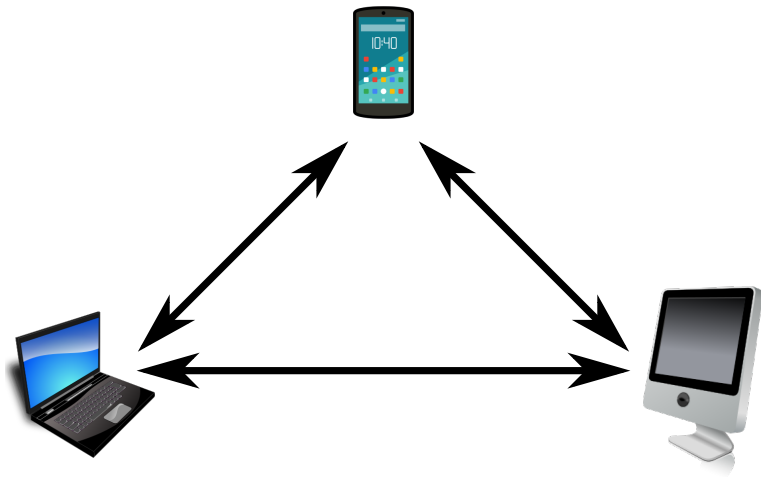
What is Communications Engineering?

Designing communication systems and measuring their performance



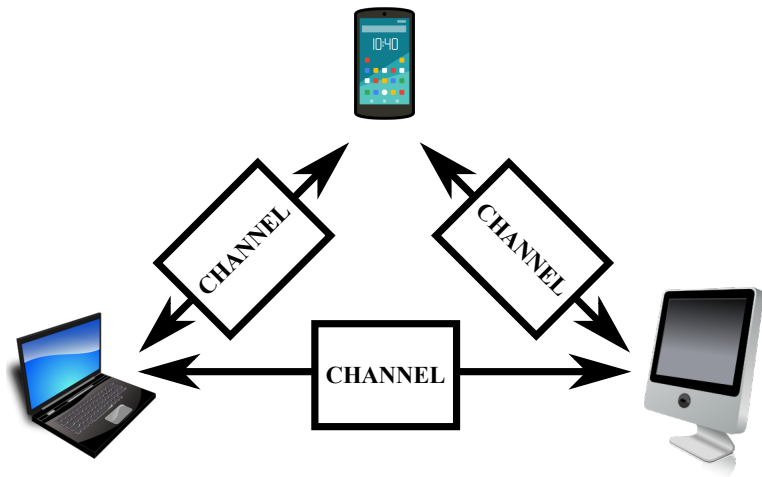
What are Communication Networks?

From conventional networks to molecular communication



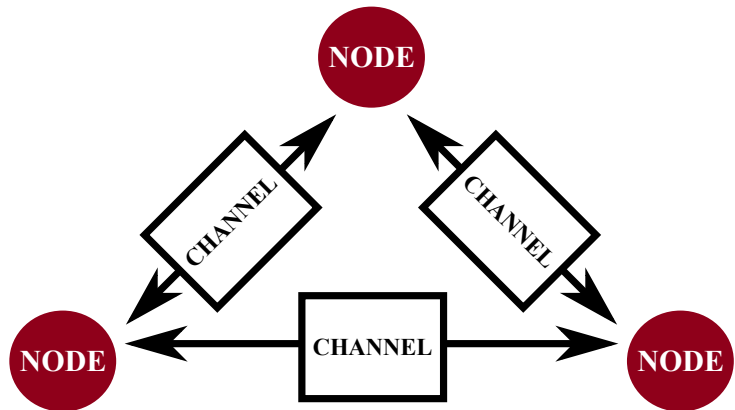
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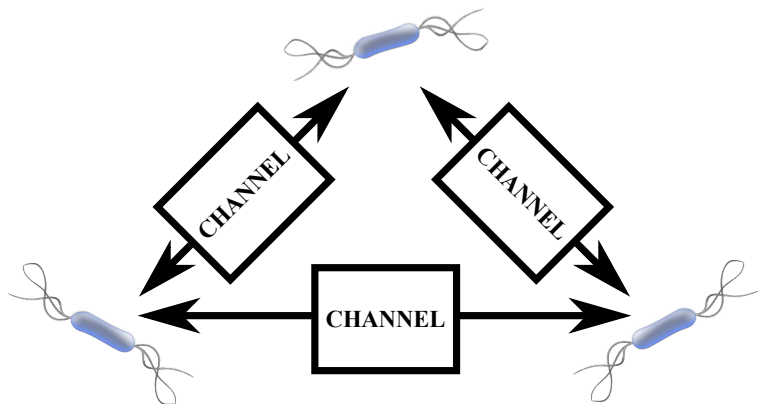
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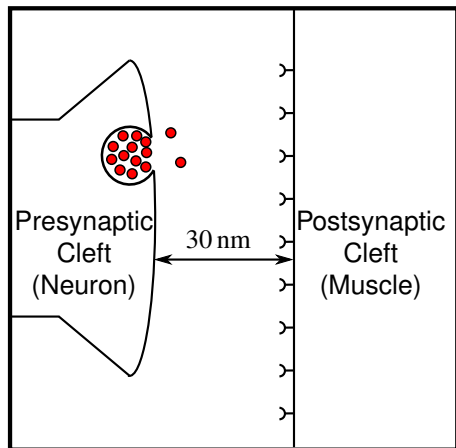
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Examples of Molecular Communication

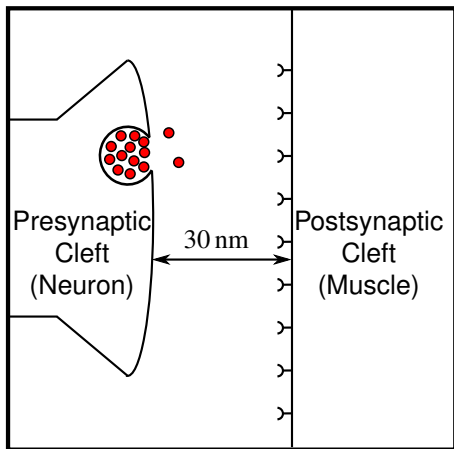
Neuromuscular Junction



Neurons control muscle contraction

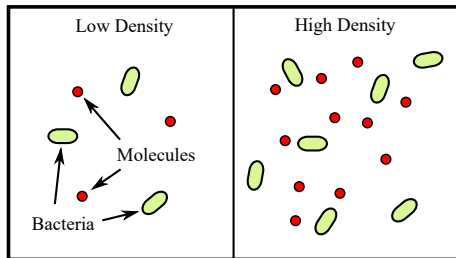
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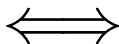
Quorum Sensing



Bacteria estimate population density

How Does Engineering Integrate?

**Biological
Signalling**



**Communications and
Signal Processing**

Long-Term Question

How to design small systems with living and synthetic devices where we can predict and control behaviour?

Future Applications of Molecular Communication

Future Applications of Molecular Communication



Drug delivery

Future Applications of Molecular Communication



Drug delivery



In vivo Diagnostics

Future Applications of Molecular Communication



Drug delivery



In vivo Diagnostics



Lab-on-a-chip

Future Applications of Molecular Communication



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Chemical reactors

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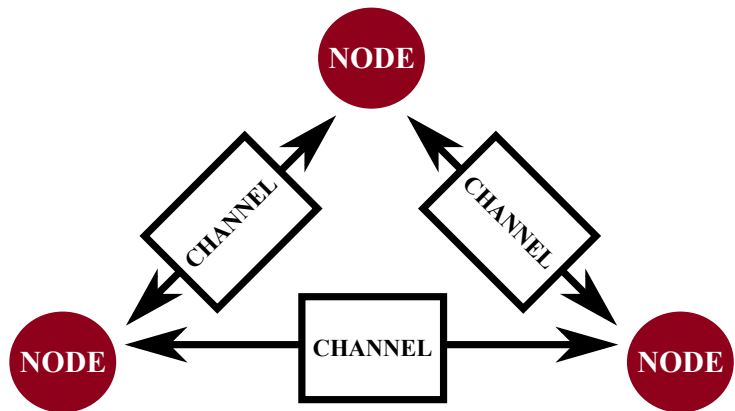
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Pollution monitoring

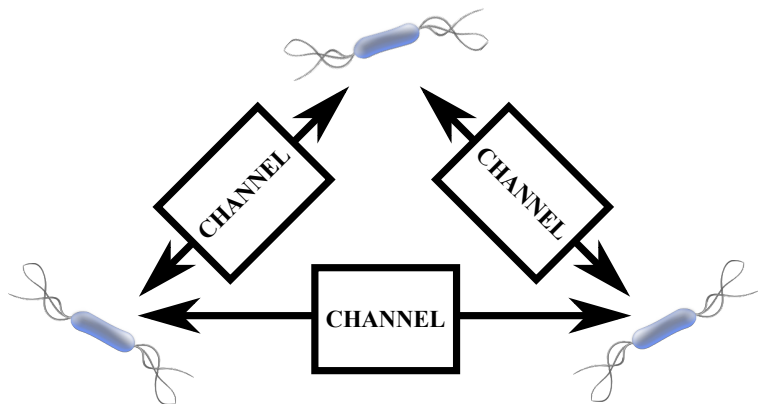
Molecular Communication Channels are Different

Nodes may be simple, molecules must be physically sent



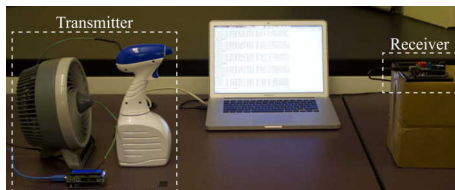
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Molecular Communication Experiments

Tabletop Signalling¹



¹Farsad, Guo, Eckford, *Proc. IEEE INFOCOM Workshops*, Apr. 2014

²Krishnaswamy et al., *Proc. IEEE ICC*, Jun. 2013

Molecular Communication Experiments

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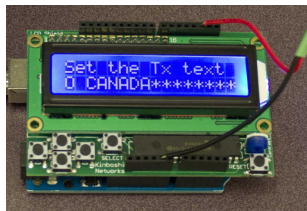
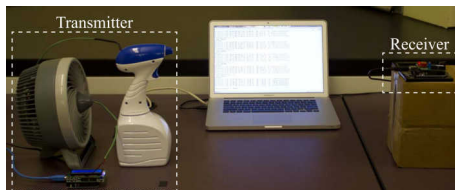


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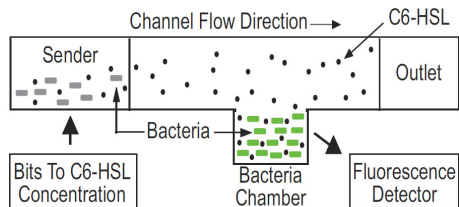
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Molecular Communication Experiments

Tabletop Signalling¹



Using Bacteria as Transceivers²



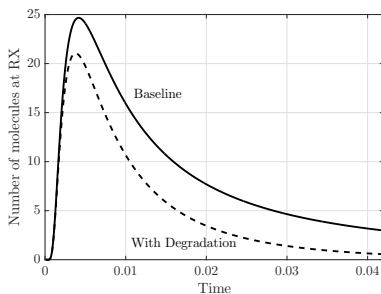
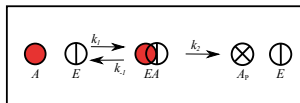
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Our Contributions to Channel Modelling

“Enhanced” Diffusion

Molecule Degradation¹



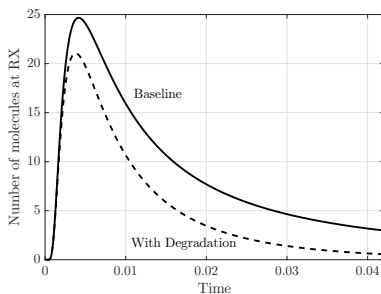
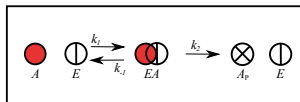
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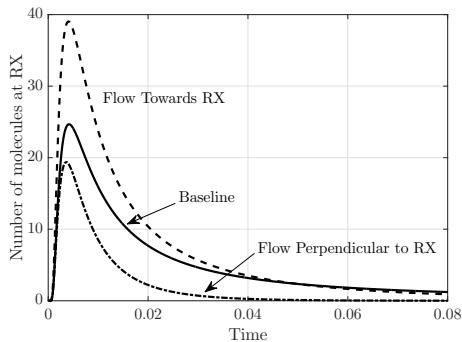
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Bulk Fluid Flow²



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Point-to-Point Model Accuracy

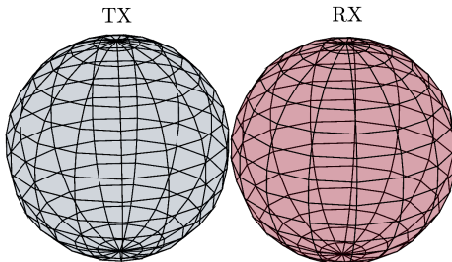


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Generic reasons for simulation:

- Test assumptions
- Verify expected behaviour
 - E.g., Channel response, bit error rate

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 - Physical space
 - Many phenomena
- Understand unfamiliar environments
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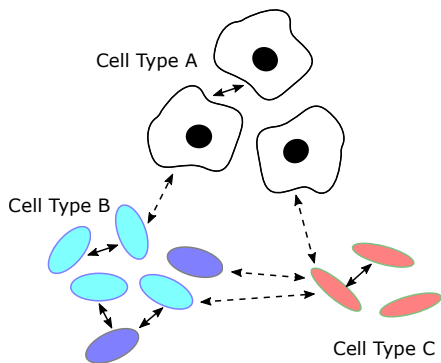
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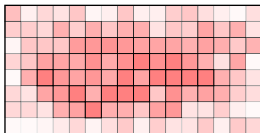
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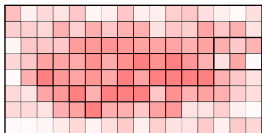
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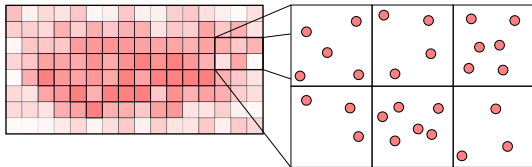
Scales of Molecular Simulations



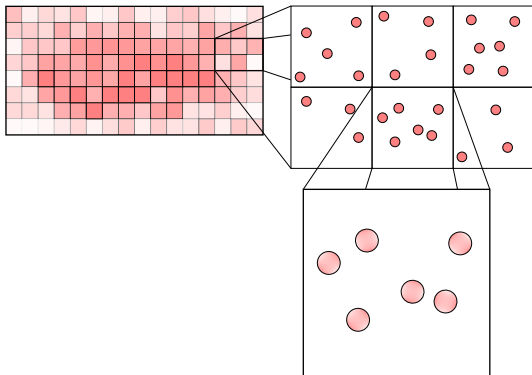
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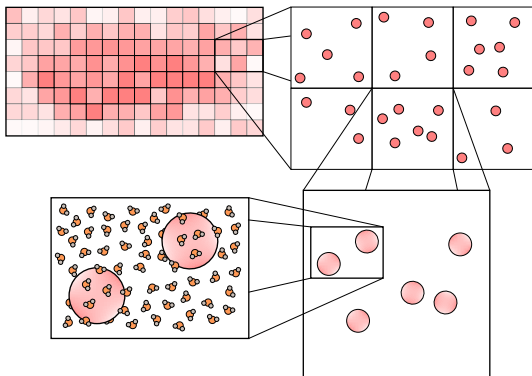
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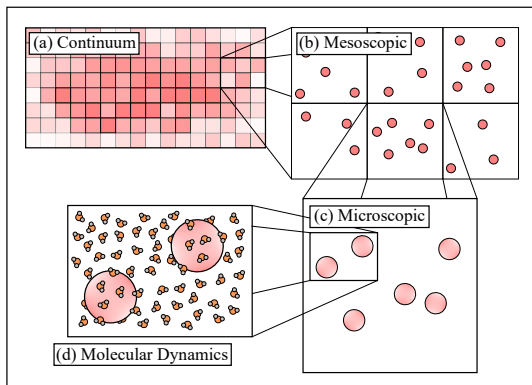
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Generic Simulators

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Advantages:

- Advanced “sandbox” tools
- Open source and commercial platforms
- Options for all physical scales
- Many are maturely developed

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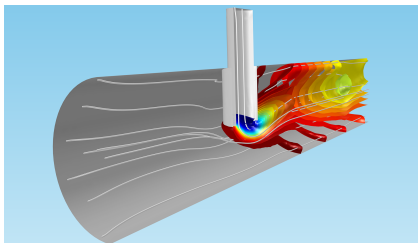
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Disadvantages (for molecular communication):

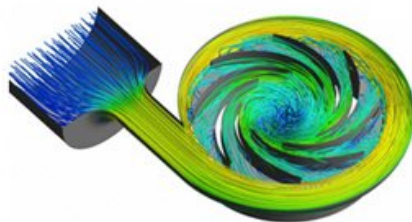
- Not designed for data transmission
- Not designed for channel statistics
- Not always spatially tunable

Popular Generic Simulators

Sample Commercial Platforms



COMSOL Multiphysics
(Continuum)¹



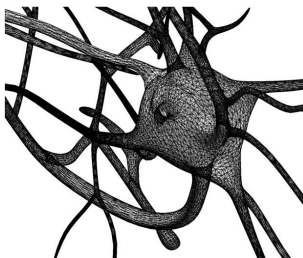
ANSYS (Continuum)²

Images: ¹<https://uk.comsol.com/multiphysics/what-is-mass-transfer>

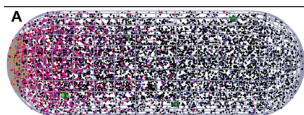
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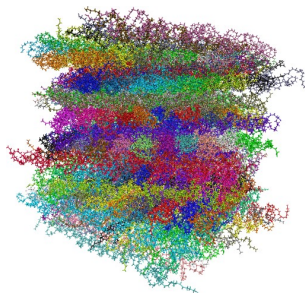
Sample Open Source Platforms



URDME (Mesoscopic)¹



Smoldyn
(Microscopic)²



LAMMPS (Mol.
Dynamics)³

Images: ¹<https://doi.org/10.1186/1752-0509-6-76>, ²<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1000705>,

³<https://lammps.sandia.gov/prepost.html>

Molecular Communication Simulators

Mol Comm Simulators – Developed within MC research community

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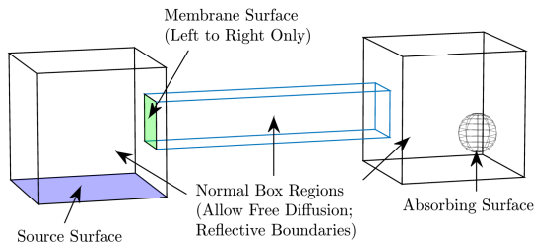
Disadvantages:

- Most are not generic solvers
 - Implement specific environments
- No options for all scales
 - Development focused on microscopic; some mesoscopic
- Not as maturely developed
- Not all readily accessible

Reaction-Diffusion Sandbox for Communications

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOGkKG8PsCE>

Noel, Cheung, Schober, Makrakis, Hafid, *Nano Commun. Networks*, Mar. 2017



AcCoRD (**A**ctor-based **C**ommunication via **R**eaction-**D**iffusion)

- Flexible environmental design (“**sandbox**”)
- Generate *many* independent realizations
- Release molecules based on **modulated data**
- Track **number or locations** of molecules

Sandbox Environment Design with AcCoRD

AcCoRD: Actor-Based Communication via Reaction-Diffusion

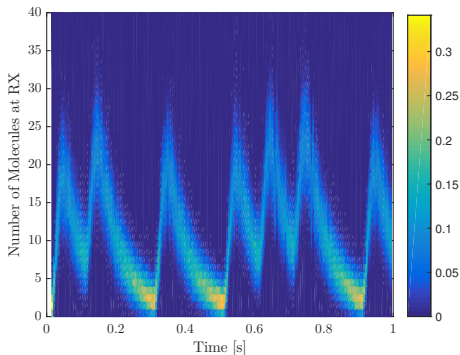
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Noel, Cheung, Schober, Makrakis, Hafid, *Nano Commun. Networks*, Mar. 2017

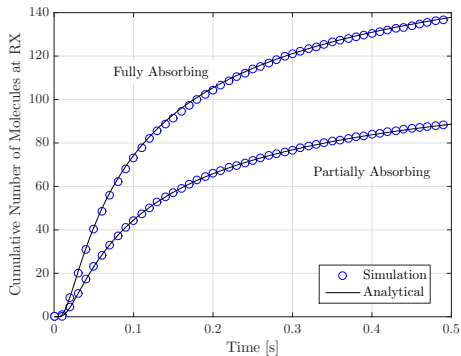
Github page: <https://github.com/adamjgnoel/AcCoRD>

Sample AcCoRD Results

Molecule Observation Distributions



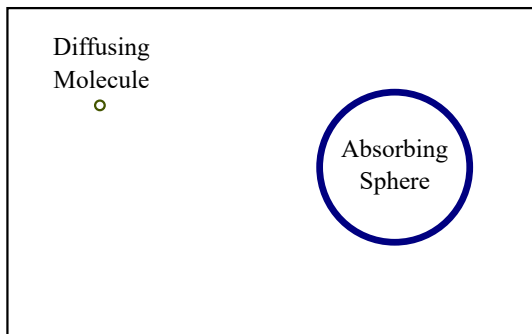
Mean Behaviour



- 1 Background
- 2 The AcCoRD Simulator
- 3 Recent Feature Development**
 - Absorbing Surfaces
 - Mesoscopic Flow
- 4 On-Going Work
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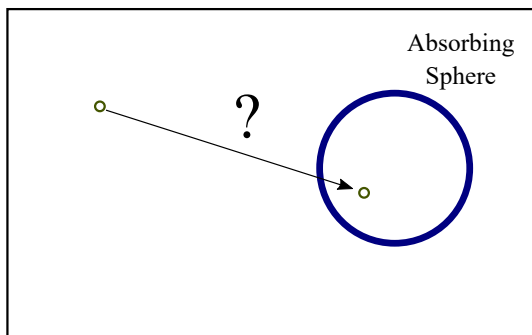
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Absorbing Surfaces



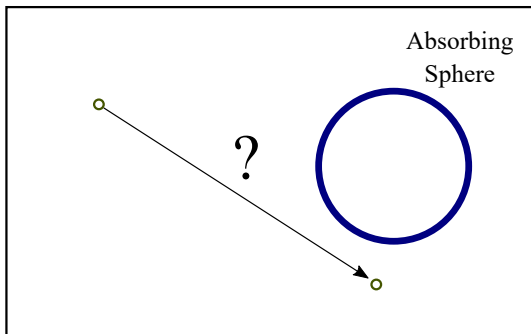
- Receivers commonly modelled as absorbing surfaces

Absorbing Surfaces

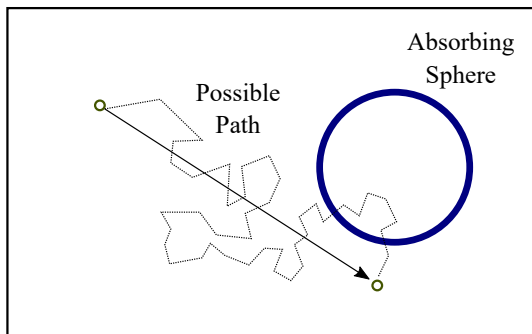


- Microscopic simulation - displacements are straight lines
- “Simplistic Monte Carlo” (SMC; Arifler and Arifler, 2017)
- Final point within absorbing object is obvious

Absorbing Surfaces

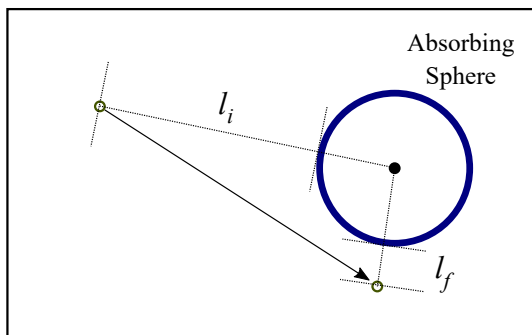


Absorbing Surfaces



- Need small time steps Δt to model path
- Absorption takes **LONG** time to simulate accurately

Absorbing Surfaces

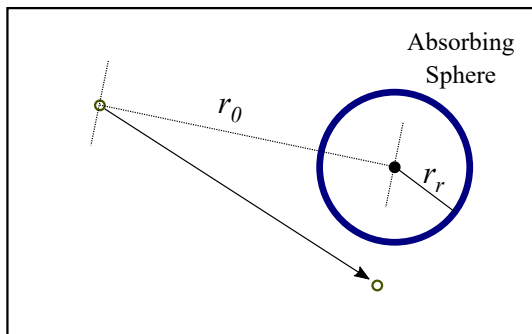


“Refined Monte Carlo” (RMC; Arifler and Arifler, 2017)

- Assume sphere is flat infinite plane and check absorption probability

$$\Pr_{\text{RMC}} = \exp\left(-\frac{l_i l_f}{D\Delta t}\right)$$

Absorbing Surfaces



“A priori Monte Carlo” (APMC)

- Check for absorption **BEFORE** diffusing

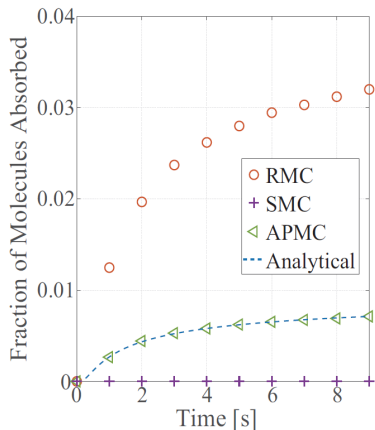
$$\text{Pr}_{\text{APMC}} = \frac{r_r}{r_0} \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{r_0 - r_r}{\sqrt{4D\Delta t}} \right)$$

- More accurate for large time steps and when far from receiver

Wang, Noel, Yang, submitted to *IEEE Trans. NanoBiosci.*, Aug. 2018

Absorbing Surfaces

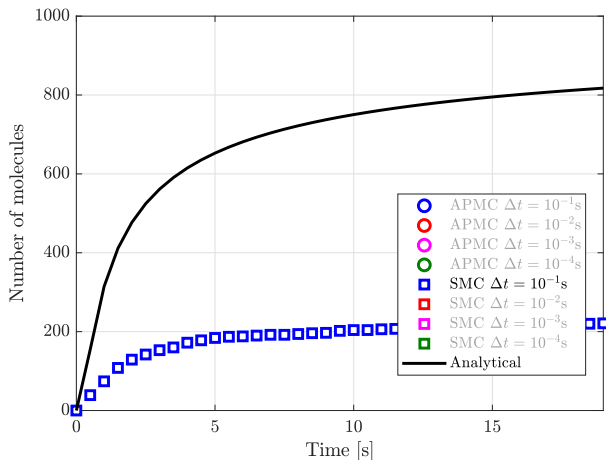
Performance



- Distance $r_0 = 50 \mu\text{m}$, receiver radius $r_r = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$

Absorbing Surfaces

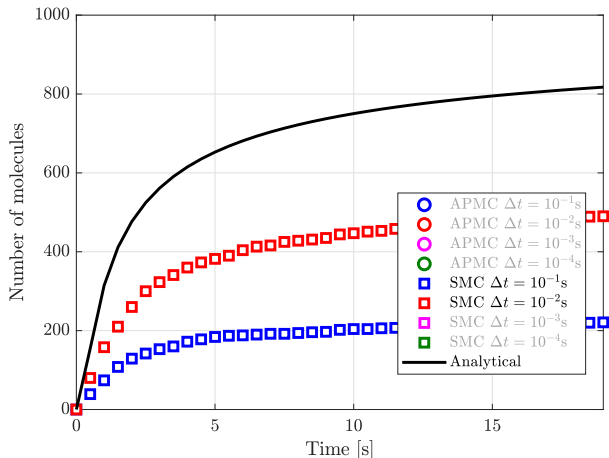
Performance with Different Δt



- Distance $r_0 = 50 \mu\text{m}$, receiver radius $r_r = 5 \mu\text{m}$

Absorbing Surfaces

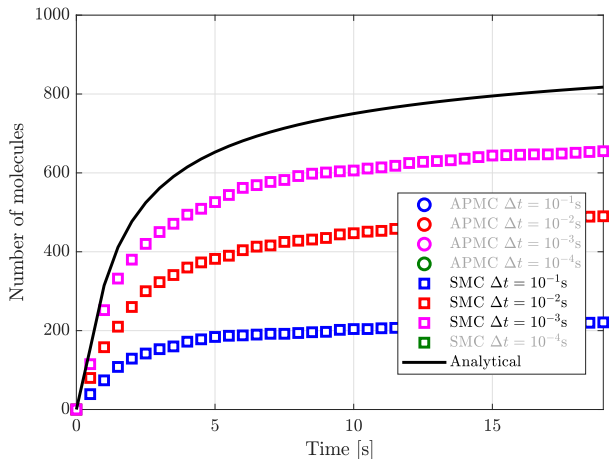
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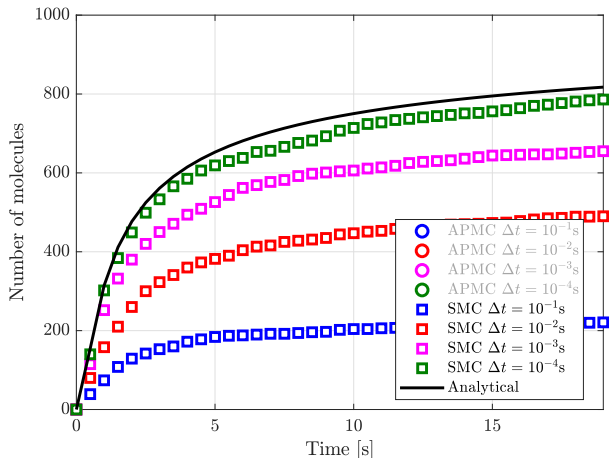
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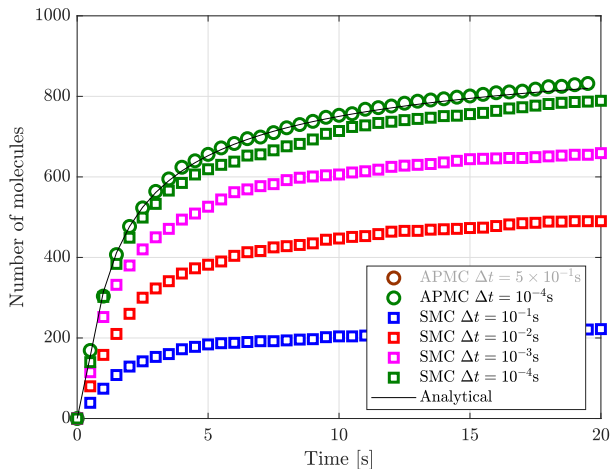
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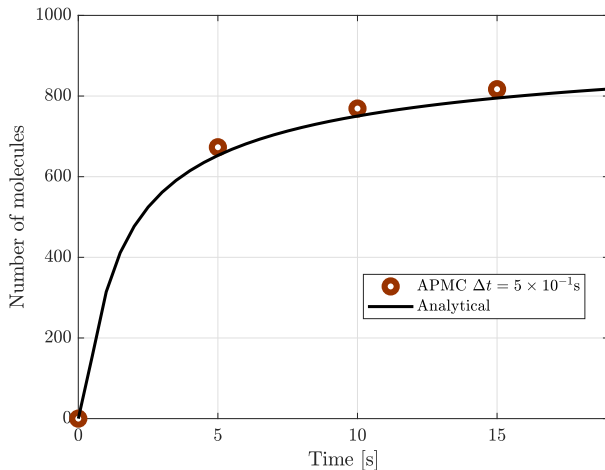
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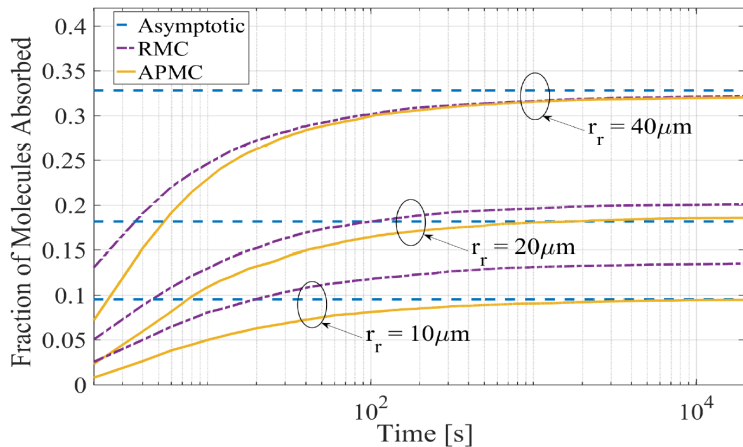
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Absorbing Surfaces

Performance with Multiple Receivers (Limited Analytical Results)



- Distance $r_0 = 100\mu\text{m}$, $\Delta t = 0.2\text{ s}$

Wang, Noel, Yang, submitted to *IEEE Trans. NanoBiosci.*, Aug. 2018

1 Background

2 The AcCoRD Simulator

3 Recent Feature Development

Absorbing Surfaces

Mesoscopic Flow

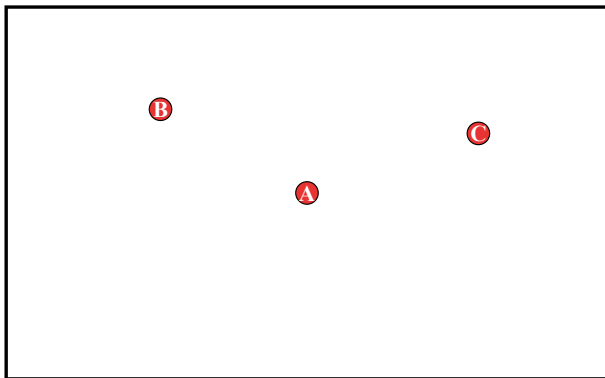
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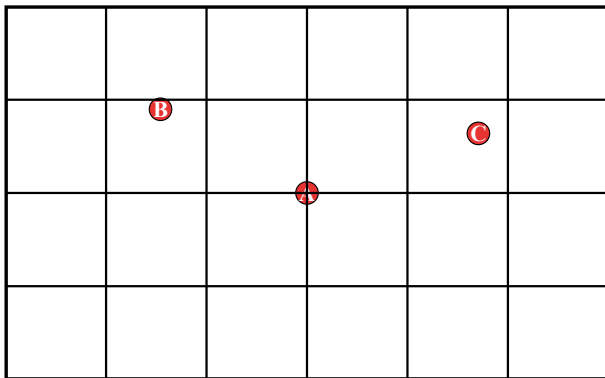
Mesososcopic Model



Divide fluid environment into **virtual subvolumes** (containers)

- Track number of molecules of each type in each subvolume
- Reaction and diffusion events change molecule counts

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Mesosopic Model

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0

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Mesosopic Model

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	2	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
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Mesosopic Model

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	2	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0

Divide fluid environment into virtual subvolumes (containers)

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Mesoscopic simulations need **rates** to predict when events occur

- Every event has a propensity α
 - α depends on the rate k , i.e., $\alpha = f(k)$
- For transitions between subvolumes, propensity is $\alpha = kU$
 - U – number of molecules of same type within subvolume

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Next event time is then

$$t_{\text{next}} = -\frac{\log u}{\alpha}$$

where u is a uniform RV $u \in (0, 1]$

- Different ways to deal with large number of potential events

Mesosopic Rates with Flow

- v – flow speed perpendicular to subvolume face (assume positive)
- D – diffusion coefficient
- k_w – transition rate in direction of flow
- k_a – transition rate against direction of flow

Diffusion Only ($v = 0$)

$$k_a = k_w = \frac{D}{h^2}$$

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“Naive” Flow Model

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“Naive” Flow Model

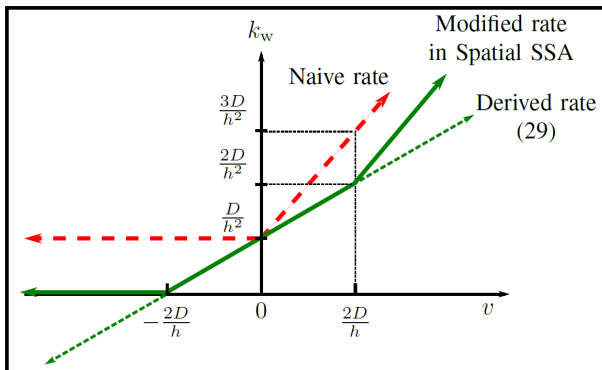
$$k_w = \frac{D}{h^2} + \frac{v}{h}$$
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Proposed Flow Model

$$k_w = \frac{D}{h^2} + \frac{v}{2h}$$
$$k_a = \frac{D}{h^2} - \frac{v}{2h}$$

Mesoscopic Flow

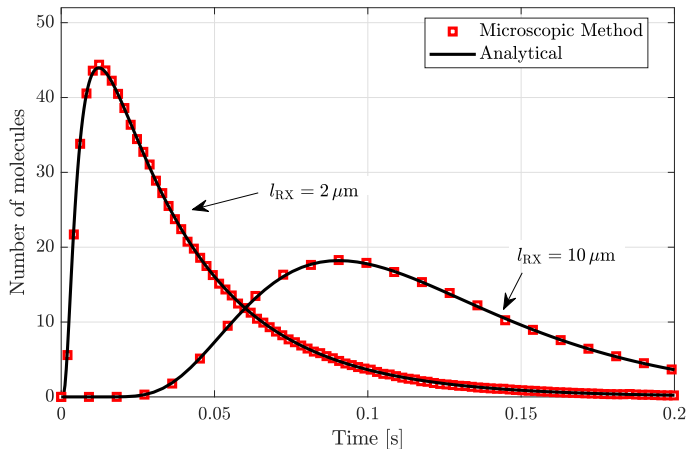
Implementation



- Need to make sure transition rates aren't negative

Mesososcopic Flow

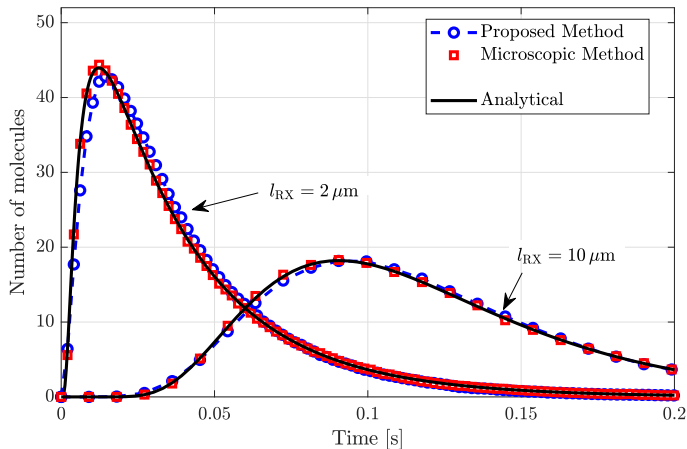
Performance



- Subvolume size $h = 1 \mu\text{m}$, flow speed $v = 0.1 \text{ mm/s}$

Mesososcopic Flow

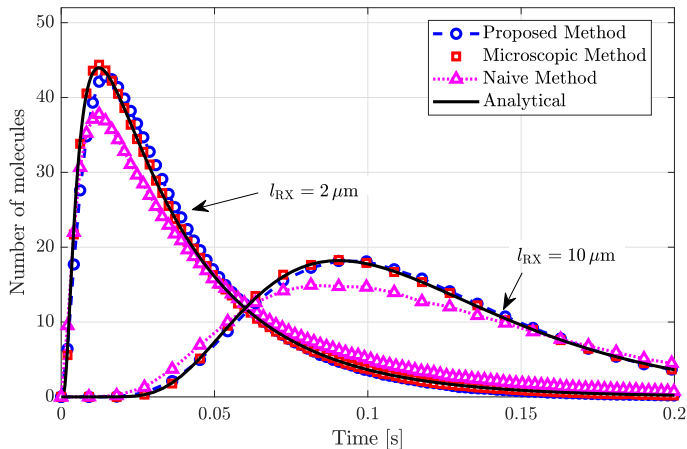
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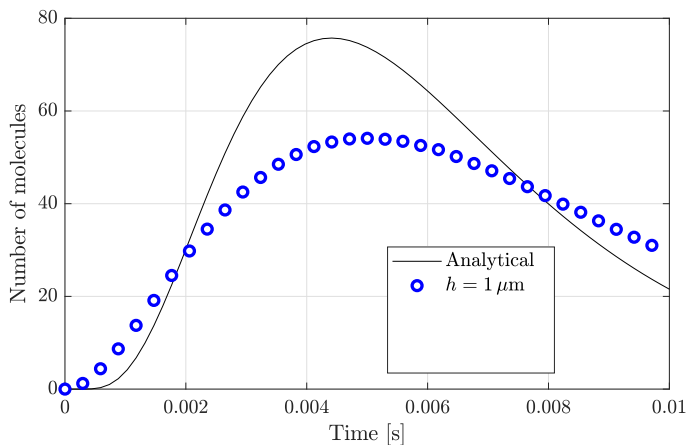
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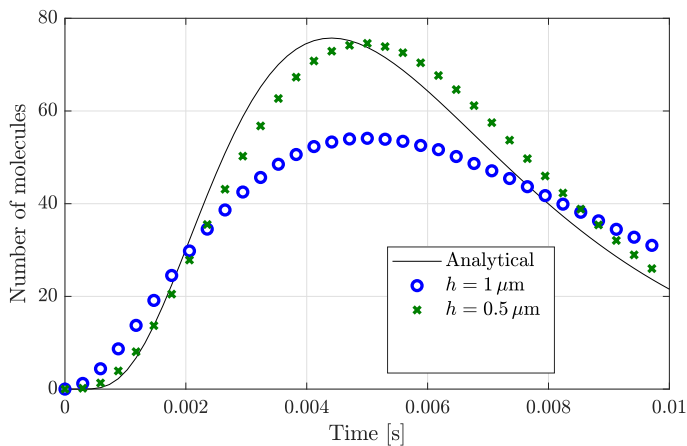
Dependence on Subvolume Size



- Flow speed $v = 0.4 \text{ mm/s}$, distance $l_{RX} = 2 \mu\text{m}$

Mesoscopic Flow

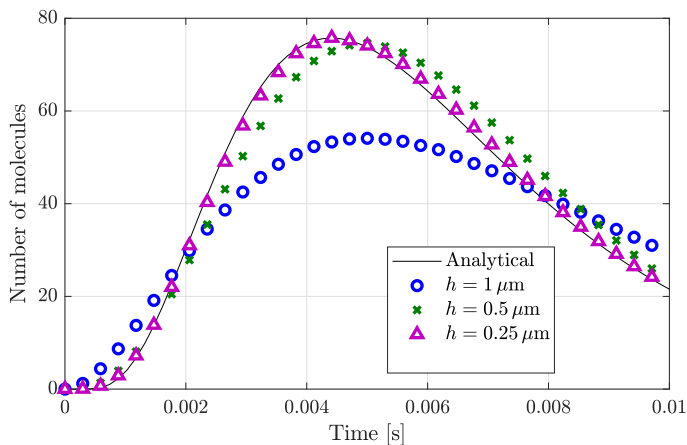
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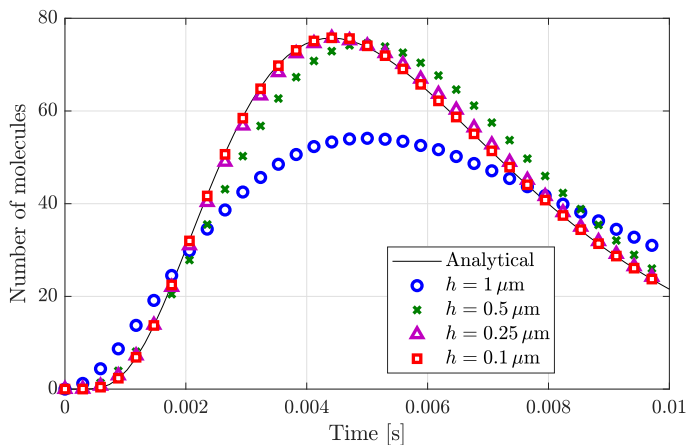
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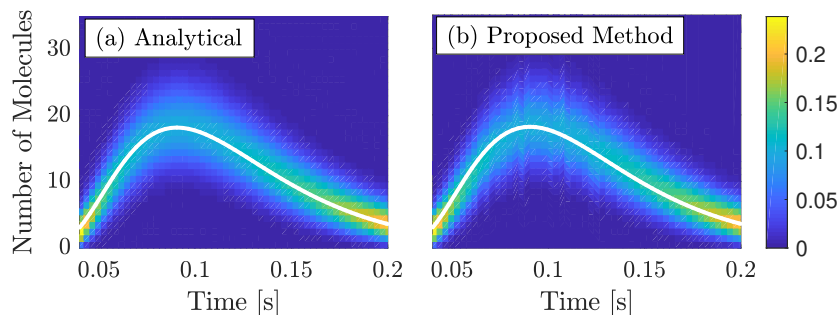
Dependence on Subvolume Size



- Flow speed $v = 0.4 \text{ mm/s}$, distance $l_{RX} = 2 \mu\text{m}$

Mesososcopic Flow

Time-Varying Statistics



- Flow speed $v = 0.1$ mm/s, distance $l_{RX} = 10$ μ m

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 - Behavioural Dynamics
 - Information Transfer
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Long Term Objectives

Question

How to design small systems with both living and synthetic devices where we can predict and control behaviour?

Biology



**Communications and
Signal Processing**

Long Term Objectives

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Communications and
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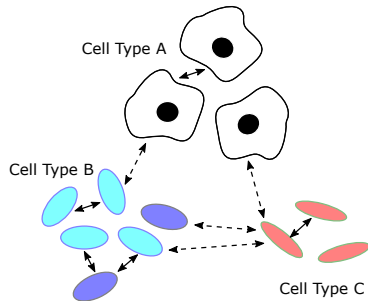
On-going topics

Use communications and signal processing tools to model:

- **Behavioural dynamics** of the system
- Devices' ability to **share information** (including living “devices”)

Behaviour in Microscopic Cellular Populations

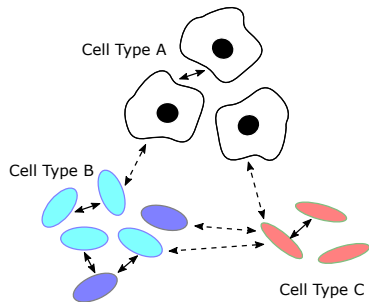
Heterogeneous Quorum Sensing



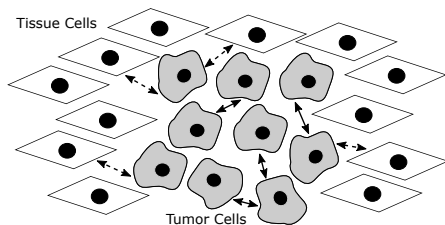
Noel, Fang, Yang, Makrakis, Eckford, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.04870>

Behaviour in Microscopic Cellular Populations

Heterogeneous Quorum Sensing

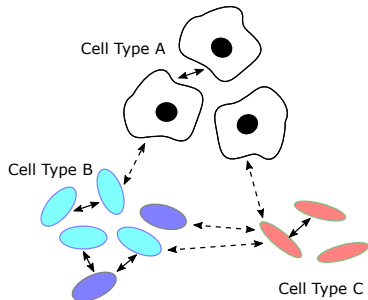


Tumour Growth and Development

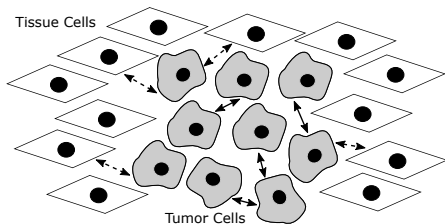


Behaviour in Microscopic Cellular Populations

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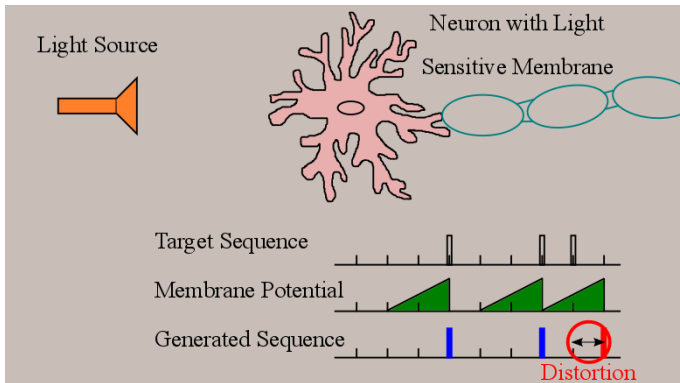


The Idea

Noisy signalling contributes uncertainty for us to mitigate or enhance

Information Theory in Biochemical Processes

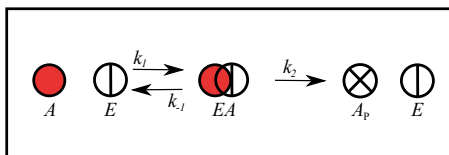
How much information is there?



- **Optogenetics** lets us externally stimulate neurons
- What are the limits to generate **any kind of spike train**?
- We are constrained by a neuron's membrane potential dynamics

Noel, Makrakis, Eckford, *IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng.*, Dec. 2018

Information Transfer in Chemical Reactions



- Biochemical reactions occur with **significant randomness**
 - Gillespie method initially intended for chemical reactions
- **How much information can be transmitted** in a reaction?
- How well can we **statistically characterize the evolution** of a chemical reaction?

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Communications engineering can be applied to reaction-diffusion modelling

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We want to predict and control behaviour in small natural environments

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Going Forward

Many open questions in behavioural dynamics and information transfer

Acknowledgements

- Primary collaborators on simulation work:
 - D. Makrakis (University of Ottawa)
 - J. Yang, Y. Wang (Australian National University)
- Funding
 - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

The End

Thank you for your time and attention!

Homepage: `www.warwick.ac.uk/adamnoel`

AcCoRD Simulator:

`www.warwick.ac.uk/adamnoel/software/accord/`

Point vs Spherical Receiver

$\bar{N}_{RX}(t)$ – number of molecules expected at RX as a function of time

3D Point Receiver Observation (Point TX) – “Classical” Result

$$\bar{N}_{RX}(t) = \frac{NV_{RX}}{(4\pi Dt)^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{d^2}{4Dt}\right)$$

3D Spherical Receiver Observation (Point TX)

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N}_{RX}(t) = & \frac{N}{2} \left[\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{r_{RX} - d}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right) + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{r_{RX} + d}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right) \right] \\ & + \frac{N}{d} \sqrt{\frac{Dt}{\pi}} \left[\exp\left(-\frac{(d + r_{RX})^2}{4Dt}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{(d - r_{RX})^2}{4Dt}\right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Point vs Volume Transmitter

1D Receiver Observation (Point TX)

$$\bar{N}_{\text{RX}}(t) = \frac{N}{2} \left(\operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{r_{\text{RX}} + d}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) - \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{d - r_{\text{RX}}}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) \right)$$

1D Receiver Observation (Volume TX)

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N}_{\text{RX}}(t) = \frac{N}{2r_{\text{TX}}} \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{Dt}{\pi}} \left[\exp \left(-\frac{(x_i + r_{\text{RX}})^2}{4Dt} \right) - \exp \left(-\frac{(x_i - r_{\text{RX}})^2}{4Dt} \right) - \exp \left(-\frac{(x_i + r_{\text{RX}})^2}{4Dt} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \exp \left(-\frac{(x_i - r_{\text{RX}})^2}{4Dt} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{2} \left[(x_i + r_{\text{RX}}) \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{x_i + r_{\text{RX}}}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - (x_i + r_{\text{RX}}) \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{x_i + r_{\text{RX}}}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) - (x_i - r_{\text{RX}}) \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{x_i - r_{\text{RX}}}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) + (x_i - r_{\text{RX}}) \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{x_i - r_{\text{RX}}}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$