



Mathematical Biology - Lecture 4 — biochemical kinetics

molecular and cellular biology

- molecular and cellular biology – frontier between the physical sciences and the life sciences
- kinetics of chemical processes: metabolism, information transmission, defence mechanisms, transport of essential substances, mechanical work
- complexity in biochemical reactions – conventional wisdom about equilibrium – Prigogine – complexity possible when far from equilibrium – metabolism

chemical kinetics

law of mass action: Guldberg, Waage and van't Hoff



chemical affinity or reaction force: $\alpha[A]^a[B]^b$

developed a dynamical view of the chemical reaction based on chemical affinity but too complicated – so study of equilibrium conditions

at equilibrium, forward and backward reactions go at a rate such that there is no more change:

$$k_+[A][B] = k_-[C][D]$$

dynamics of chemical processes



$$\frac{d[C]}{dt} = -\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -\frac{d[B]}{dt} = k[A][B]$$



$$\frac{d[C]}{dt} = -\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -\frac{d[B]}{dt} = k_+[A][B] - k_-[C]$$

Michaelis-Menten kinetics

Victor Henri – chemistry of enzyme reactions – Michaelis and Menten
– hydrolysis of sucrose and fructose catalysed by invertase

substrate S, enzyme E, complex C, product P



forward rates: k_1, k_2

backward rate: k_{-1}

$$\frac{dS}{d\tau} = k_{-1}C - k_1SE; \quad \frac{dE}{d\tau} = (k_{-1} + k_2)C - k_1SE$$

$$\frac{dC}{d\tau} = k_1SE - (k_{-1} + k_2)C; \quad \frac{dP}{d\tau} = k_2C$$

Michaelis-Menten kinetics

$$\frac{d(E + C)}{d\tau} = 0; \quad E + C = E_0$$

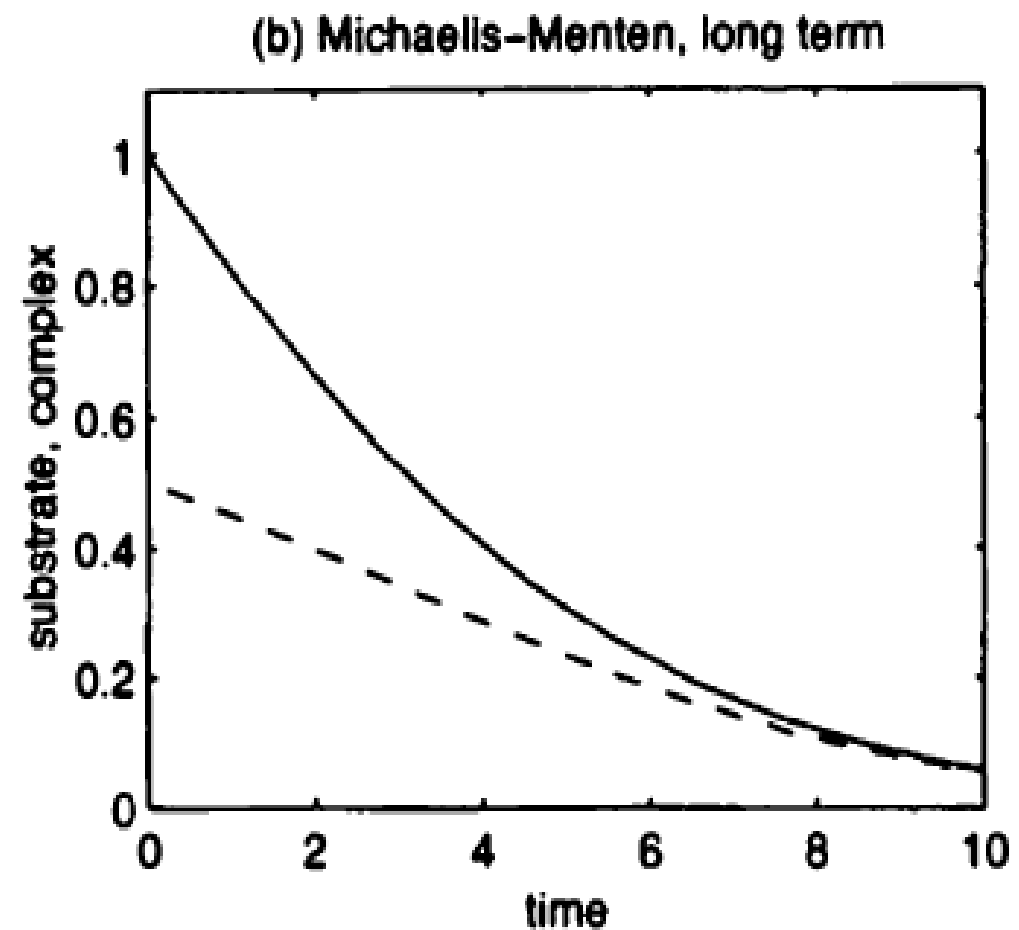
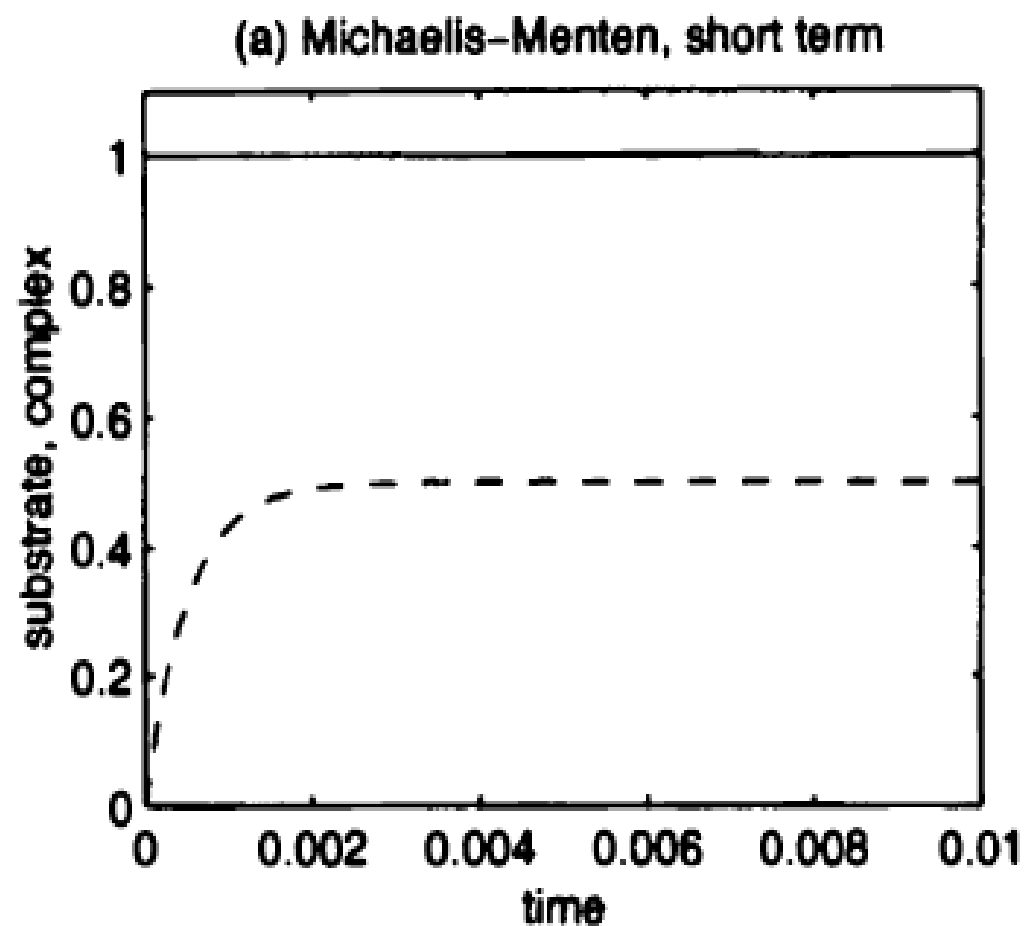
E_0 - conservation of total amount of enzyme in free and bound state

$$\frac{d(S + C + P)}{d\tau} = 0; \quad S + C + P = S_0$$

S_0 - conservation of substrate as itself, complex or product; enzyme is only a catalyst

Michaelis-Menten kinetics

$$\frac{dS}{d\tau} = k_{-1}C - k_1S(E_0 - C); \frac{dC}{d\tau} = k_1S(E_0 - C) - (k_{-1} + k_2)C$$
$$S(0) = S_0; E(0) = E_0; C(0) = P(0) = 0$$



Hydrolysis of benzoyl-L-arginine ethyl ester by trypsin

quasi-steady-state

different time scales of the reaction and different concentrations

concentration of complex rises very fast, substrate remains unchanged
concentrations of substrate and complex change at a slower time scale

Assuming $\frac{dC}{d\tau} = 0$, we can solve for the equilibrium concentration of complex

$$C = \frac{k_1 S E_0}{k_1 + k_2 + k_1 S} = \frac{S E_0}{K_m + S}$$

$$\frac{dS}{d\tau} = -k_2 C = -\frac{V_m S}{K_m + S}, \quad V_m = k_2 E_0; \quad K_m = \frac{k_{-1} + k_2}{k_1}$$

quasi-steady-state

saturation function: $Y(S) = \frac{C}{E+C} = \frac{S}{K_m+S}$

overall rate of the reaction $\frac{dP}{d\tau} = V_m Y(S) = \frac{V_m S}{K_m+S}$ - Michaelis-Menten
rate equation

in more complicated cases, we use a technique of matched asymptotic expansions

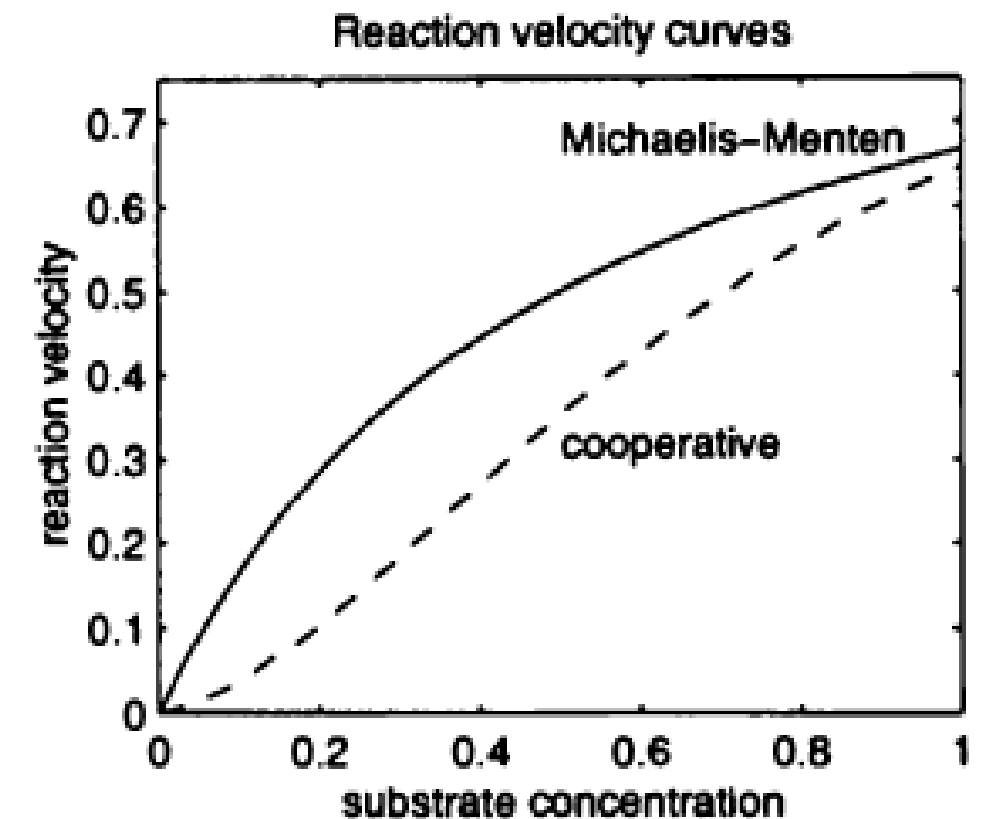
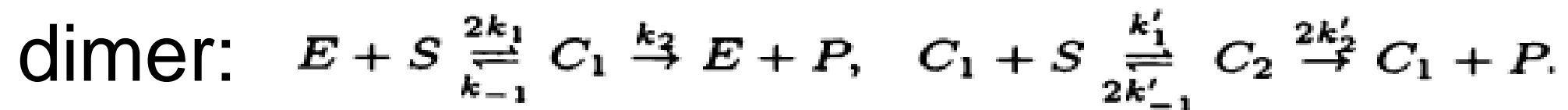
exercise in non-dimensionalising

Hill function

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x; \theta) = \frac{ax^n}{\theta^n + x^n}$$

Reaction velocity curve sigmoidal in many cases – co-operative phenomenon

Several identical binding units – protomers and one binding site for each ligand for each protomer



Hill function

$$\frac{dS}{d\tau} = -2k_1ES - k'_1C_1S + k_{-1}C_1 + 2k'_{-1}C_2$$

$$\frac{dE}{d\tau} = -2k_1ES + k_{-1}C_1 + k_2C_1$$

$$\frac{dC_1}{d\tau} = 2k_1ES - k_2C_1 - k'_1C_1S - k_{-1}C_1 + 2k'_{-1}C_2 + 2k'_2C_2$$

$$\frac{dC_2}{d\tau} = k'_1C_1S - 2k'_{-1}C_2 - 2k'_2C_2$$

$$\frac{dP}{d\tau} = k_2C_1 + 2k'_2C_2$$

$$E + C_1 + C_2 = E_0; S + C_1 + 2C_2 + P = S_0$$

Hill function

$$\text{saturation function } Y(S) = \frac{C_1 + 2C_2}{2(E + C_1 + C_2)} = \frac{S(K'_m + S)}{K_m K'_m + 2K'_m S + S^2}$$

$$V = \frac{dP}{d\tau} = \frac{2E_0 S (k_2 K'_m + k'_2 S)}{K_m K'_m + 2K'_m S + S^2} = V_m Y(S) \text{ if } k_2 = k'_2$$

Limiting case: Very little of the first complex present but non-negligible quantities of free enzyme and second complex

$$K'_m \ll S \ll K_m; \quad K^2 = K_m K'_m$$

$$V = V_m Y(S) = \frac{V_m S^2}{K^2 + S^2}$$