Dynamic modelling of signalling pathways when ODEs are not feasible

Supplementary Material

Contents

S1 Waterfall Plot

Figure S1: Example of a waterfall plot used to identify the global optimum of the parameters for the dose-dependent RTF of the fits shown in Fig. 2. The parameter optimization initializes $n = 100$ times, each time starting with a random parameter vector within specified boundaries. In the waterfall plot, the objective function value of each of the n optimization runs corresponds to the y -axis value, ordered from smallest to largest objective function value. This results in a visualization of different merit levels, each level corresponding to a local optimum. The lowest level is assumed to be the global optimum.

S2 Motivation of Hill functions for describing dose dependencies

Hill functions provide a convenient and intuitive way to describe how the steady-state response of a biochemical system depends on the concentration of an input (like a drug or substrate). This relationship is rooted in the underlying ODEs that describe the system's dynamics as shown in the following. The formation of a complex C by binding of an activator A to a substrate S translates to

$$
[\dot{C}] = k_f[A][S] - k_b[C] \tag{1}
$$

using the law of mass action for the forward and backward reaction with two rate constants k_f and k_b . For the steady state $\overline{|C|} = 0$, the equation becomes

$$
[C] = \frac{k_f}{k_b}[A][S] \tag{2}
$$

By substituting $A = A_{total} - C$ the equation yields

$$
[C] = \frac{k_f}{k_b} (A_{\text{total}} - C)[S] \tag{3}
$$

and after solving for C we obtain

$$
[C] = \frac{k_f}{1 + \frac{k_f}{k_b}} [S] \tag{4}
$$

$$
= \frac{\frac{k_b}{k_f}k_f[S]}{\frac{k_b}{k_f} + \frac{k_b}{k_f}\frac{k_f}{k_b}[S]}
$$
\n
$$
(5)
$$

$$
= \frac{V_{\text{max}}[S]}{K_D + [S]}
$$
(6)

with $K_D := k_b/k_f$ and $V_{\text{max}} = k_b$. This result corresponds to a Hill function

$$
H([S]) = \frac{V_{\text{max}}[S]^h}{K_D^h + [S]^h} \tag{7}
$$

with Hill coefficient $h = 1$.

The steady state of the RTF is represented by the amplitude A of the sustained component. In the dose-dependent formulation, the Hill function $A(d)$, which describes how the amplitude A depends on the dose, follows the steadystate relationship typically derived from simple complex formation. More complex processes, as seen in biochemical systems, can also be described by Hill coefficients $h \neq 1$."

In more complex biochemical networks, also other parameters of the RTF can be described by Hill functions. Let's assume that the complex C regulates another target T via

$$
[\dot{T}] = k_t[C][T]. \tag{8}
$$

For the immediate effect on the target T, Taylor expansion of $[T](t)$ around time point $t = 0$ yields

$$
[T](t) \approx k_t[C](t)([T](t=0) + t[\dot{T}](t=0) + ...)
$$
\n(9)

$$
\approx k_t[C](t)[T](t=0) \text{ for } t \approx 0. \qquad (10)
$$

Thus, when $[C]$ has a dose-dependency that is described by a Hill function, the immediate effect on targets of C . described by rate α for the sustained component and β for the transient component also have a Hill dose-dependency described by a Hill function $\alpha(d)$ and $\beta(d)$.

In more complex regulation networks and for downstream targets, this effect might be delayed and is accordingly described by the retarded RTF and the time shift parameter τ . The dose-dependent RTF also has the flexibility to describe the dose-dependency of such a delayed response by the sigmoidal Hill function $\tau(d)$.

In strict mathematical terms, it cannot be shown that in complex signalling processes, all compounds can be described by Hill function of the RTF parameters. After all, the dose-dependent RTF approach is a phenomenological model.

S3 Illustration of Parameters

S3.1 Single-Dose RTF

As specified in Equations (1) and (3), the single-dose RTF is given by

$$
R(t_{\text{real}}, \theta^{R(t)}) = A\left(1 - e^{-\alpha t (t_{\text{real}}, \tau)}\right) + B\left(1 - e^{-\beta t (t_{\text{real}}, \tau)}\right) e^{-\gamma t (t_{\text{real}}, \tau)} + b,
$$

where

 $t(t_{\text{real}}, \tau) = \log_{10}(10^{t_{\text{real}} \times 10/T} + 10^{\tau}) - \log_{10}(1 + 10^{\tau}).$

Table S1 shows how the single-dose RTF is affected by its parameters.

Table S1: Parameters of the single-dose Retarded Transient Function (RTF) and their effects. For each described parameter, an example plot is provided, where the respective parameter is varied from low (blue) to high (red). Next to the example plots the used parameter values are listed.

Parameter	(Tea). Treat to the example plots the used parameter values are moted. Explanation	Illustration of the Effect on the RTF
\boldsymbol{A}	Amplitude of the sustained response. For clarity, in this example, $B = 0$ i.e., only the sustained part remains.	10 8 $A = 1$ to 10 $B=0$ RTF $\alpha=1$ $\tau=1$ $\overline{2}$ $b=0$ $\overline{2}$ 6 8 10 Λ time t
\boldsymbol{B}	Amplitude of the transient response. For illustration purposes, in this example is $A = 0$, i.e., only the transient part remains. Note that B is reached only if $\beta \gg \gamma$ since the transient response approaches ampli- tude B with rate β and, at the same time, decays with rate γ .	10 $A=0$ 8 $B=1$ to 10 6 RTF $\beta = 100$ $\gamma=0.1$ $\overline{2}$ $\tau=3$ $b=0$ $\overline{2}$ 66 8 10 $\overline{4}$ time t
α	The rate constant of the sustained response α controls how fast amplitude A of the sus- tained part is approached and, thus, corre- sponds to the steepness of slope of the sus- tained part. In this example $B = 0$, i.e., only the sustained part remains.	0.8 $A=1$ $0.6\,$ $B=0$ $\sum_{0.4}^{0.6}$ $\alpha = 1$ to 10 $\tau=3$ $0.2\,$ $b=0$ $\,2$ $\,6$ 8 10 $\mathbf{0}$ $\overline{4}$ time t

S3.2 Hill Function

As specified in Equation (4), the Hill equation is given by

$$
H(d)=M\frac{d^h}{K^h+d^h}
$$

.

Table S2 shows how the Hill equation is affected by its parameters.

Table S2: Parameters of the Hill equation and their effect. For each described parameter, an example plot is provided, where the respective parameter is varied from low (blue) to high (red). Next to the example plots the used parameter values are listed.

S3.3 Dose-Dependent RTF

As specified in Equations (1), and (3) to (11) the dose-dependent RTF is given by

$$
R(t_{\text{real}}, \theta^{R(t)}) = M_A \frac{d^{h_A}}{K_A^{h_A} + d^{h_A}} \left(1 - e^{-M_\alpha \frac{d^{h_\alpha}}{K_\alpha^{h_\alpha} + d^{h_\alpha}} t(t_{\text{real}}, \tau)} \right)
$$

+
$$
M_B \frac{d^{h_B}}{K_B^{h_B} + d^{h_B}} \left(1 - e^{-M_\beta \frac{d^{h_\beta}}{K_\beta^{h_\beta} + d^{h_\beta}} t(t_{\text{real}}, \tau)} \right) e^{-M_\gamma \frac{d^{h_\gamma}}{K_\gamma^{h_\gamma} + d^{h_\gamma}} t(t_{\text{real}}, \tau)} + b,
$$

with

$$
t(t_{\text{real}},\tau) = \log_{10}\left(10^{t_{\text{real}} \times 10/T} + 10^{M_{\tau}\left(1 - \frac{d^{h_{\tau}}}{K_{\tau}^{h_{\tau}} + d^{h_{\tau}}}\right)}\right) - \log_{10}\left(1 + 10^{M_{\tau}\left(1 - \frac{d^{h_{\tau}}}{K_{\tau}^{h_{\tau}} + d^{h_{\tau}}}\right)}\right) .
$$

Table S3 shows how the dose-dependent RTF is affected by its parameters.

Table S3: Parameters of the dose-dependent Retarded Transient Function (RTF) and their corresponding Hill functions. In each row, one parameter is varied. For selected doses, the corresponding RTFs are plotted, where the colors (blue, red, or yellow) of the RTF plots are equal to the corresponding dots in the Hill graphs.

Parameter	and colors (brac, rea, or yenow) or and rule proto the equal to the corresponding trots in the finite, Explanation	Effect on Hill function		Effect on the RTF	
M_A	Maximum value or satura- tion of the Hill function for amplitude A of the sustained RTF part, reached for high doses. In this example $B =$ 0, i.e., only the sustained part is set to 0.	M_2 $\cal K$ $\overline{4}$ $\sqrt{3}$ \mathcal{A} $\overline{2}$ $1\over \vec{M}_1$ 3 \mathfrak{D} $5\,$ dose \boldsymbol{d}	$M = 1, 5$ $K=3$ $h=4$	E_2^3 \mathcal{D} Ω 8 time t	$B=0$ $\alpha=1$ $\tau = 2$ $b=0$
K_A	The so-called half maximum quantity K_A of the Hill func- tion specifies the dose for which the amplitude A of the sustained RTF part is 50% of the maximal ampli- tude M_A .	M K_1 K_2 0.8 0.6 0.4 $\rm 0.2$ $\overline{2}$ $\mathbf{1}$ \mathcal{R} $\mathbf{4}$ dose d	$M=1$ $K = 1, 1.5$ $h=4$	0.8 $\stackrel{\text{f.}}{\Xi}{}_{0.4}^{0.6}$ 0.2 $\overline{2}$ 10 $\overline{4}$ 6 8 time t	$B=0$ $\alpha=1$ $\tau = 2$ $b=0$
h_A	Hill coefficient h of the Hill function for amplitude A of the transient RTF Increasing h_A en- part. hances the sigmoidality of the Hill curve, making it steeper. This steepening ef- fect leads to a sudden in- crease of amplitude A of the transient RTF part, particu- larly for doses near K .	\overline{M} K^+ $\sqrt{3}$ $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ $h = 0.2$ $h=1$ $h=\sqrt{5}$ ۰ dose \boldsymbol{d}	$M=5\,$ $K=2.5$ $h =$ 0.2, 1, 5	$\mathop{\mathrm{H}}\limits_{2}^3$ $\,$ 8 $\,$ 10 6 time t	$A=0.5$ $\alpha = 10$ $\beta = 10$ $\gamma=1$ $\tau = 2$ $b=0$

S4 Boundaries and Confidence Intervals for all Scenarios

S4.1 Modelling doses individually

S4.1.1 Dose 1

Table S4: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 0 \text{ pM}$

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
А	0.00	0.01	15.64	$[-Inf, 1.06]$
α	-0.82	0.22	0.68	$[-Inf, Inf]$
b	-5.00	-5.00	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	4.79	4.79	$[-Inf, Inf]$

S4.1.2 Dose 2

Table S5: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 1 \text{ }\upmu\text{M}$

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
A	0.00	3.53	15.64	[2.22, 6.23]
α	-0.82	-0.53	0.68	$[-Inf, -0.10]$
b	-5.00	-5.00	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	4.79	4.79	$[3.45, \text{Inf}]$

S4.1.3 Dose 3

Table S6: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 2 \mu M$

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
А	0.00	4.81	15.64	[4.30, 5.40]
α	-0.82	0.14	0.68	$[-0.22, \text{Inf}]$
\boldsymbol{b}	-5.00	-5.00	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	3.71	4.79	$[3.04, \text{Inf}]$

S4.1.4 Dose 4

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value		Upper bound Confidence interval
\overline{A}	0.00	6.14	15.64	[5.62, 6.72]
α	-0.82	-0.01	0.68	$[-0.25, 0.41]$
b	-5.00	-5.00	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	2.97	4.79	[2.50, 3.54]

Table S7: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 3 \text{ pM}$

S4.1.5 Dose 5

Table S8: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 4 \text{ }\upmu\text{M}$

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
А	0.00	5.20	15.64	[4.83, 5.55]
α	-0.82	0.68	0.68	$[-0.01, \text{Inf}]$
b	-5.00	-5.00	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	3.40	4.79	[2.49, 3.56]

S4.1.6 Dose 6

Table S9: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 5 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
A	0.00	6.57	15.64	[6.21, 6.95]
α	-0.82	0.68	0.68	$[0.35, \text{Inf}]$
\boldsymbol{b}	-3.08	-1.63	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	3.51	4.79	[3.05, 3.64]

S4.1.7 Dose 7

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
А	0.00	5.91	15.64	[5.57, 6.27]
α	-0.82	0.68	0.68	$[0.53, \text{Inf}]$
\boldsymbol{b}	-2.50	-1.63	-1.63	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-0.34	-0.34	-0.34	[NaN, NaN]
τ	-1.92	3.16	4.79	[2.95, 3.29]

Table S10: Single dose RTF: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters for dose $d = 6 \mu M$

S4.2 Modelling dose-dependent dynamics

Table S11: Dose Dependencies: Bounds and Confidence intervals for modeled parameters

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
K_A	-6.00	-0.07	1.78	$[-0.61, 0.20]$
K_{α}	-6.00	0.38	1.78	[0.09, 0.62]
K_{τ}	-6.00	1.26	1.78	$[0.97, \text{Inf}]$
M_A	0.00	7.01	15.64	[5.87, 8.11]
M_{α}	-1.28	0.68	0.68	$[0.47, \text{Inf}]$
M_{τ}	-1.92	4.22	4.79	$[3.13, \mathrm{Inf}]$
\boldsymbol{b}	-5.00	-5.00	0.89	$[-Inf, Inf]$
h_A	0.00	0.00	1.00	$[-Inf, 0.46]$
h_{α}	0.00	0.56	1.00	$[0.32, \text{Inf}]$
h_{τ}	0.00	0.00	1.00	$[-Inf, Inf]$
σ	-3.11	-0.32	0.40	[NaN, NaN]

S4.3 Modelling condition-dependencies

Parameter	Lower bound	Estimated value	Upper bound	Confidence interval
\mathcal{K}_A	-6.00	-0.37	1.78	$[-2.46, 0.04]$
K_{α}	-6.00	0.56	1.78	[0.44, 0.64]
K_{τ}	-6.00	0.91	1.78	$[0.87, \text{Inf}]$
M_A	0.00	6.55	15.64	[5.82, 7.48]
M_{α}	-1.28	0.68	0.68	$[0.53, \text{Inf}]$
M_{τ}	-1.92	4.79	4.79	$[4.63, \text{Inf}]$
\boldsymbol{b}	-5.00	-5.00	0.89	$[-Inf, -1.15]$
Δ_{K_A}	-3.00	1.76	3.00	$[0.47, \text{Inf}]$
$\Delta_{K_{\alpha}}$	-3.00	-0.24	3.00	$[-Inf, Inf]$
$\Delta_{K_{\tau}}$	-3.00	$0.12\,$	3.00	$[-0.98, 0.85]$
Δ_{M_A}	-3.00	3.00	3.00	$[0.82, \text{Inf}]$
$\Delta_{M_{\alpha}}$	-3.00	1.80	3.00	$[0.13, \text{Inf}]$
$\Delta_{M_{\tau}}$	-3.00	2.00	$3.00\,$	$[1.35, \text{Inf}]$
Δ_{h_A}	-3.00	-0.11	$3.00\,$	$[-1.17, 0.30]$
Δ_{h_α}	-3.00	0.59	$3.00\,$	$[0.14, \text{Inf}]$
Δ_{h_τ}	-3.00	-0.51	3.00	$[-Inf, 1.39]$
h_A	0.00	0.00	1.00	$[-Inf, Inf]$
h_α	0.00	0.40	1.00	[0.28, 0.48]
h_{τ}	0.00	1.00	1.00	$[0.08, \text{Inf}]$
σ	-3.11	-0.36	0.40	$[-0.42, -0.30]$

Table S12: Condition Dependencies: Bounds and Confidence interval for modeled parameters