

Additional File 1

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Discrete Mathematical Equations Governing HPA axis

According to Chaouiya et al. [1], the image function might be written as;

$$y_i = \sum_{I \subseteq q(i)} K_{i,I} \left[\prod_{j \in I} S^{u_{ij}}(x_j, w_{ij}) \prod_{j \in q(i) \setminus I} (1 - S^{u_{ij}}(x_j, w_{ij})) \right]. \quad (1)$$

The image function simply states that when there is no active interaction modulating x_i , the image is equal to its basal value $K_{i\emptyset} = D(k_{i\emptyset})$ and when more than one interaction is applied concurrently, the image is equal to their joint logical parameter (e.g. $K_{1,12} = D(k_{11} + k_{12})$ when both variable 1 and 2 are modulating variable 1). According to Eq. 1, the corresponding ODE model of the HPA axis can be expressed in a generalized discrete form as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} y_2 = & \left[K_{2\emptyset} (1 - S^{\alpha_{21}}(x_1, \theta_{21})) (1 - S^{\alpha_{24}}(x_4, \theta_{24})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{21} (S^{\alpha_{21}}(x_1, \theta_{21})) (1 - S^{\alpha_{24}}(x_4, \theta_{24})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{24} (1 - S^{\alpha_{21}}(x_1, \theta_{21})) (S^{\alpha_{24}}(x_4, \theta_{24})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{2,14} (S^{\alpha_{21}}(x_1, \theta_{21})) (S^{\alpha_{24}}(x_4, \theta_{24})) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_3 = & \left[K_{30} (1 - S^{\alpha_{32}}(x_2, \theta_{32})) (1 - S^{\alpha_{35}}(x_5, \theta_{35})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{32} (S^{\alpha_{32}}(x_2, \theta_{32})) (1 - S^{\alpha_{35}}(x_5, \theta_{35})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{35} (1 - S^{\alpha_{32}}(x_2, \theta_{32})) (S^{\alpha_{35}}(x_5, \theta_{35})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{3,25} (S^{\alpha_{32}}(x_2, \theta_{32})) (S^{\alpha_{35}}(x_5, \theta_{35})) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$y_4 = \left[K_{40}(1 - S^{\alpha_{43}}(x_3, \theta_{43})) \right] + \left[K_{43}(S^{\alpha_{43}}(x_3, \theta_{43})) \right] \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_5 = & \left[K_{50}(1 - S^{\alpha_{54}}(x_4, \theta_{54}))(1 - S^{\alpha_{55}}(x_5, \theta_{55})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{55}(S^{\alpha_{55}}(x_5, \theta_{55}))(1 - S^{\alpha_{54}}(x_4, \theta_{54})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{54}(1 - S^{\alpha_{55}}(x_5, \theta_{55}))(S^{\alpha_{54}}(x_4, \theta_{54})) \right] \\ & + \left[K_{5.54}(S^{\alpha_{55}}(x_5, \theta_{55}))(S^{\alpha_{54}}(x_4, \theta_{54})) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Where the indices 1 - 5 correspond to the state variables Stress, CRH, ACTH, CORT and the receptor R respectively.

References

- [1] C. Chaouiya, E. Remy, B. Moss, and D. Thieffry. Qualitative Analysis of Regulatory Graphs : A Computational Tool Based on a Discrete Formal Framework. *Positive Systems*, pages 119–126, 2003.