

# An entropy-based method for the analysis of cross-diffusion PDEs

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Many multi-species systems in biology, chemistry, and physics can be described by reaction-diffusion systems:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t u - \operatorname{div}(A(u)\nabla u) &= f(u) \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ (A(u)\nabla u) \cdot \nu &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad u(0) = u^0 \quad \text{in } \Omega,\end{aligned}\tag{RD}$$

where  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is a bounded domain, and:

- $u = (u_1, \dots, u_n)^\top$  is the vector of the densities or concentrations of the species;
- $A(u) = (A_{ij}(u)) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is the diffusion matrix;
- $f = (f_1, \dots, f_n)$  is the vector of the reactions.

**Cross-diffusion**  $\equiv$  the diffusion matrix  $A(u)$  is not diagonal  
 $\Rightarrow$  some variables give contributions to the diffusion of other variables.

# ...and the trouble they make

Independent variables  $u_1 \dots u_n$  represent densities, concentrations  $\Rightarrow$  they should be nonnegative and bounded.

Cross-diffusion  $\Rightarrow$  no maximum principle  $\Rightarrow$  the proof of these properties is a challenging problem. Weak solutions may be unbounded.

Sometimes the diffusion matrix is neither symmetric nor positive definite  $\Rightarrow$  even the local-in-time existence of solutions may be nontrivial.

# The boundedness-by-entropy principle

**Boundedness-by-entropy principle:** a systematic method to prove the existence of global-in-time nonnegative bounded weak solutions to cross-diffusion systems possessing a formal **gradient-flow structure**:

$$\partial_t u - \operatorname{div} \left( B \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{H}}{\delta u} \right) = f(u).$$

- $B$  is a positive semidefinite matrix;
- $\frac{\delta \mathcal{H}}{\delta u}$  is the variational derivative of the entropy  $\mathcal{H}[u] = \int_{\Omega} h(u) dx$ ;
- $h : D \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is the entropy density.

Let us introduce the **entropy variable**:  $w = Dh(u)$ . The above system can be formulated as:

$$\partial_t u - \operatorname{div}(B(w) \nabla w) = f(u), \quad B(w) = A(u)(D^2 h(u))^{-1}.$$

This formulation makes only sense if  $Dh : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is invertible.

# The boundedness-by-entropy principle

There are two consequences of this formulation.

- 1 If  $f(u) \cdot w \leq 0$ , the entropy  $\mathcal{H}$  is a Lyapunov functional along solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\mathcal{H}}{dt} &= \int_{\Omega} \partial_t u \cdot w dx \leq - \int_{\Omega} \nabla w : B(w) \nabla w dx \\ &= - \int_{\Omega} \nabla u : (D^2 h) A(u) \nabla u dx \leq 0,\end{aligned}$$

taking into account that  $B(w)$  (or equivalently  $(D^2 h) A(u)$ ) is assumed to be positive semidefinite.

- 2 Because of the invertibility of  $Dh$ , the original variable satisfies  $u(x, t) = (Dh)^{-1}(w(x, t)) \in D$ , and if  $D$  is a bounded domain, we obtain automatically  $L^\infty$  bounds without the use of a maximum principle.

# The boundedness-by-entropy principle: key result

## Theorem (Boundedness-by-entropy principle)

Let  $D \subset (0, 1)^n$  be a bounded domain,  $u^0 \in L^1(\Omega; D)$ , and assume that:

**H1** There exists a convex function  $h \in C^2(D; [0, \infty))$  such that its derivative  $Dh : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is invertible.

**H2** There exist  $\alpha^* > 0$ ,  $m_1, \dots, m_n \in [0, 1]$  such that:

$$z^\top D^2 h(u) A(u) z \geq \alpha^* \sum_{i=1}^n u_i^{2(m_i-1)} z_i^2 \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad u \in D.$$

**H3** It holds  $A \in C^0(D; \mathbb{R}^{n \times n})$  and there exists  $c_f > 0$  such that for all  $u \in D$ ,  $f(u) \cdot Dh(u) \leq c_f(1 + h(u))$ .

Then there exists a weak solution  $u : \Omega \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow \overline{D}$  to (RD),

$$u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, \infty; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2)), \quad \partial_t u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, \infty; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2)').$$

For the proof see: A. Jüngel, *The boundedness-by-entropy principle for cross-diffusion systems* (2014).

# Models with linear diffusivities

We show a class of cross-diffusion systems for  $n = 2$  species, whose diffusivities depend linearly on the solution and for which global bounded weak solutions exist.

$$A_{ij}(u) = \alpha_{ij} + \beta_{ij}u_1 + \gamma_{ij}u_2 \quad i, j = 1, 2, \quad (\text{LDIFF})$$

where  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $\beta_{ij}$ ,  $\gamma_{ij}$  are real numbers.

**Derivation:** master equation for a random walk on a lattice in the diffusion limit. Transition rates depending linearly on the species' densities.

# Models with linear diffusivities: examples

Examples of cross-diffusion systems with linear diffusivities:

- ion transport through narrow channels;
- population dynamics with complete segregation;
- **Most prominent example:** population systems of Shigesada-Kawasaki-Teramoto type (SKT) in several space dimensions:

$$A(u) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} + 2a_{11}u_1 + a_{12}u_2 & a_{12}u_1 \\ a_{21}u_2 & a_{20} + a_{21}u_1 + 2a_{22}u_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$f_i(u) = (b_{i0} - b_{i1}u_1 - b_{i2}u_2)u_i, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Models for two competitive species in heterogeneous environments.

$a_{ij} \geq 0$ ,  $i, j = 0, 1, 2$ .

$a_{11}, a_{22} \equiv$  self-diffusion,  $a_{12}, a_{21} \equiv$  cross-diffusion coefficients.

$b_{11}, b_{22} \equiv$  intra-specific,  $b_{12}, b_{21} \equiv$  inter-specific competition constants.



# Models with linear diffusivities: main result

## Theorem (Case of linear diffusivities)

Let  $D = \{(u_1, u_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : u_1 > 0, u_2 > 0, u_1 + u_2 < 1\}$ ,  
 $u^0 = (u_1^0, u_2^0) \in L^1(\Omega; \overline{D})$ ,  $A(u)$  given by (LDIFF) satisfying:

$$\alpha_{12} = \alpha_{21} = \beta_{21} = \gamma_{12} = 0, \quad \beta_{22} = \beta_{11} - \gamma_{21}, \quad (\text{C1})$$

$$\gamma_{11} = \gamma_{22} - \beta_{12}, \quad \gamma_{21} = \alpha_{22} - \alpha_{11} + \beta_{12}, \quad (\text{C2})$$

$$\alpha_{11} > 0, \quad \alpha_{22} > 0, \quad \beta_{12} < \alpha_{11} + \min\{\beta_{11}, \gamma_{22}\}, \quad (\text{C3})$$

$$\alpha_{11} + \beta_{11} \geq 0, \quad \alpha_{22} + \gamma_{22} \geq 0, \quad (\text{C4})$$

and let  $f_i(u) = u_i g_i(u)$ , where  $g_i(u)$  is continuous in  $\overline{D}$  and nonpositive in  $\{1 - \varepsilon < u_1 + u_2 < 1\}$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). Then there exists a weak solution  $u = (u_1, u_2) : \Omega \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow \overline{D}$  to (RD) satisfying

$$u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, \infty; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2)), \quad \partial_t u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, \infty; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2)').$$

If the population approaches its total capacity  $u_1 + u_2 = 1$ , the reaction terms are nonpositive and lead to a decrease of the population.

**Idea of the proof of Theorem 2:** apply the general existence result stated in Theorem 1.  $\Rightarrow$  Verify assumptions H1, H2, H3.

- Assumption H1 satisfied with entropy density:

$$h(u) = u_1(\log u_1 - 1) + u_2(\log u_2 - 1) + (1 - u_1 - u_2)(\log(1 - u_1 - u_2) - 1),$$

defined on  $D = \{(u_1, u_2) : u_1 > 0, u_2 > 0, u_1 + u_2 < 1\}$ .

- Assumption H3 satisfied:  $f_i(u)(Dh)_i(u) \leq c$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

$$f_i(u)(Dh)_i(u) = g_i(u)u_i \log u_i - u_i g_i(u) \log(1 - u_1 - u_2).$$

$$g_i(u), u_i \log u_i \text{ bounded in } \overline{D} \Rightarrow g_i(u)u_i \log u_i \text{ bounded in } \overline{D}.$$

$$-u_i g_i(u) \log(1 - u_1 - u_2) \leq c_\varepsilon \text{ in } D^\varepsilon := \{0 < u_1 + u_2 \leq 1 - \varepsilon\}.$$

$$g_i(u) \leq 0 \text{ in } D \setminus D^\varepsilon \Rightarrow -u_i g_i(u) \log(1 - u_1 - u_2) \leq 0 \text{ in } D \setminus D^\varepsilon.$$

# Proving that H2 holds

Assumption H2 requires the matrix  $M(u) := (D^2 h(u))A(u)$  to be positive definite for  $u \in D$ . We have to deal with twelve parameters  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $\beta_{ij}$ , and  $\gamma_{ij} \Rightarrow$  the proof is not trivial .

In order to reduce the complexity of the problem, we assume that  $M(u)$  is symmetric, motivated by the Onsager symmetry principle in non-equilibrium thermodynamics. This yields seven conditions, and we are left with five parameters.

# Proving that H2 holds

By Sylvester's criterion, the positive semidefiniteness follows if the diagonal terms and the determinant of  $M(u)$  are nonnegative.

⇒ Three multivariate quadratic polynomials in  $(u_1, u_2)$  have to be nonnegative.

⇒ Use the strong maximum principle applied to such polynomials to get conditions on the coefficients.

We stress the fact that **the maximum principle is not needed to prove the  $L^\infty$  bounds but to solve the algebraic problem.**

# Verification of Hypothesis H2

We require that the matrix  $M(u)$  is symmetric. This leads to the conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{12} &= \alpha_{21} = \beta_{21} = \gamma_{12} = 0, & \beta_{22} &= \beta_{11} - \gamma_{21}, \\ \gamma_{11} &= \gamma_{22} - \beta_{12}, & \gamma_{21} &= \alpha_{22} - \alpha_{11} + \beta_{12},\end{aligned}$$

and we are left with the five parameters  $\alpha_{11}$ ,  $\alpha_{22}$ ,  $\beta_{11}$ ,  $\beta_{12}$ , and  $\gamma_{22}$ .

$$A(u) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_{22} \end{pmatrix} + u_1 \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{12} \\ 0 & \beta_{11} - \gamma_{21} \end{pmatrix} + u_2 \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{22} - \beta_{12} & 0 \\ \alpha_{22} - \alpha_{11} + \beta_{12} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Lemma (Positive semidefiniteness of $M$ )

*The matrix  $M(u)$  is positive semidefinite for all  $u \in D$  if and only if*

$$\alpha_{11} \geq 0, \quad \alpha_{22} \geq 0, \quad \beta_{12} \leq \alpha_{11} + \min\{\beta_{11}, \gamma_{22}\}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$\alpha_{11} + \beta_{11} \geq 0, \quad \alpha_{22} + \gamma_{22} \geq 0. \quad (\text{A2})$$

# Proof of lemma 3, step 1

*Step 1: conditions (A1), (A2) are necessary.* We first prove that the positive semidefiniteness of  $M(u)$  implies (A1), (A2) by studying  $M(u)$  close to the vertices of  $D$ . To this end, we define the matrix-valued functions, defined for  $s \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ :

$$F_1(s) = sM(s, s), \quad F_2(s) = sM(1 - 2s, s), \quad F_3(s) = sM(s, 1 - 2s).$$

We easily compute the limits:

$$F_i^0 \equiv \lim_{s \rightarrow 0^+} F_i(s) \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

Since  $M(u)$  is assumed to be positive semidefinite on  $D$ , also  $F_i^0$  must be positive semidefinite for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ .

Sylvester's criterion applied to  $F_1^0, F_2^0, F_3^0$  yields conditions (A1), (A2).

# Proof of lemma 3, step 2

*Step 2: Sign of the diagonal elements of  $M$ .*

**Claim.** If (A1), (A2) hold then one of the two coefficients  $M_{11}$  or  $M_{22}$  is positive in  $D$  unless  $M$  is positive semidefinite in  $D$ .

$$\begin{aligned}f_1(u_2, u_3) &\equiv (1 - u_2 - u_3)u_3M_{11}(1 - u_2 - u_3, u_2), & (u_2, u_3) \in D, \\f_2(u_1, u_3) &\equiv (1 - u_1 - u_3)u_3M_{22}(u_1, 1 - u_1 - u_3), & (u_1, u_3) \in D.\end{aligned}$$

Notice that:

- $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are nonnegative on  $\partial D$  (easy direct computations).
- $\Delta_{(u_2, u_3)}f_1 = -\Delta_{(u_1, u_3)}f_2 = \text{constant}$  in  $D$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$  either  $\Delta_{(u_2, u_3)}f_1 \leq 0$  or  $\Delta_{(u_1, u_3)}f_2 \leq 0$  in  $D$ .

By the **strong maximum principle**, there exists  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  such that  $f_i > 0$  in  $D$  unless  $f_i \equiv 0$  in  $D$ . This means that  $M_{ii} > 0$  in  $D$  unless  $M_{ii} \equiv 0$  in  $D$ .



# Proof of lemma 3, degenerate case

What if one of the coefficients  $M_{11}$  or  $M_{22}$  is identically zero in  $D$ ?

In such a case  $M$  is positive semidefinite in  $D$ . In fact, straightforward computations lead to:

$$M_{11} \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } D \quad \Rightarrow \quad M = \alpha_{22} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/u_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$M_{22} \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } D \quad \Rightarrow \quad M = \alpha_{11} \begin{pmatrix} 1/u_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and since  $\alpha_{11} \geq 0$  and  $\alpha_{22} \geq 0$ , the above matrices are positive semidefinite.

# Proof of lemma 3, step 3

*Step 3: Sign of the determinant of  $M$ .*

By Step 2, we can assume that one of the two coefficients  $M_{11}$  or  $M_{22}$  is positive in  $D$ .

$$\det M = \det((D^2 h)A) = \det(D^2 h) \det A.$$

Since  $\det D^2 h > 0$ , then  $\det M \geq 0$  if and only if  $\det A \geq 0$ .

# Proof of lemma 3, step 3

It is straightforward to see that  $\det A \geq 0$  on  $\partial D$  (direct computations).

Next, we consider the Hessian  $C = D^2 \det A(u)$  with respect to  $u$ . Since  $\det A$  is a (multivariate) quadratic polynomial in  $u$ ,  $C$  is a symmetric constant matrix satisfying

$$\det C = -(\beta_{11}\beta_{12} + \gamma_{22}(\alpha_{11} - \alpha_{22} - \beta_{12}))^2 \leq 0.$$

Thus, one of the two eigenvalues of  $C$  is nonpositive, say  $\lambda \leq 0$ . Let  $v \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$  be a corresponding eigenvector, i.e.  $Cv = \lambda v$ .

# Proof of lemma 3, step 3

Let  $u \in D$  be arbitrary. It exists a unique closed segment  $\sigma \subset \overline{D}$ ,

$$\sigma \parallel v, \quad u \in \sigma, \quad \partial\sigma \subset \partial D.$$

We can write  $\sigma = u + v\mathcal{I}$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathbb{R}$  suitable interval.

Let  $\phi(s) = \det A(u + sv)$  for  $s \in \mathcal{I}$ .

$$\Rightarrow \phi''(s) = v^\top C v = \lambda |v|^2 \leq 0 \quad \text{for } s \in \mathcal{I}.$$

$\Rightarrow \phi$  is concave and attains its minimum at the extreme points of  $\mathcal{I}$ .

$\Rightarrow \min_{\sigma} \det A = \min_{\partial\sigma} \det A$ . But  $\partial\sigma \subset \partial D$  and  $\det A \geq 0$  on  $\partial D$ .

$\Rightarrow \det A \geq 0$  on  $\sigma$ .  $u \in \sigma \Rightarrow \det A(u) \geq 0$ . □

# Verification of Hypothesis H2

## Lemma (Strict positive definiteness of $M$ )

*Let conditions (C1)–(C4) hold. Then there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and all  $u \in D$ ,*

$$z^\top M(u)z \geq \varepsilon \left( \frac{z_1^2}{u_1} + \frac{z_2^2}{u_2} \right).$$

*In particular, Hypothesis H2 is fulfilled with  $m_1 = m_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ :*

$$z^\top M(u)z \geq \alpha^* \sum_{i=1}^2 u_i^{2(m_i-1)} z_i^2 \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad u \in D.$$

# Proof of Lemma 4

The claim is equivalent to the positive semidefiniteness of the matrix  $M^\varepsilon := M - \varepsilon \Lambda$  for a suitable  $\varepsilon > 0$ , where

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 1/u_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/u_2 \end{pmatrix} = (D^2 h)P, \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - u_1 & -u_1 \\ -u_2 & 1 - u_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus we can write  $M - \varepsilon \Lambda = (D^2 h)A^\varepsilon$  with  $A^\varepsilon = A - \varepsilon P$ .

# Proof of Lemma 4

We observe that  $A^\varepsilon$  has the same structure as  $A$  with perturbed parameters:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_{22} \end{pmatrix} + u_1 \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{12} \\ 0 & \beta_{11} - \gamma_{21} \end{pmatrix} + u_2 \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{22} - \beta_{12} & 0 \\ \alpha_{22} - \alpha_{11} + \beta_{12} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$A^\varepsilon = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11}^\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_{22}^\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} + u_1 \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{11}^\varepsilon & \beta_{12}^\varepsilon \\ 0 & \beta_{11}^\varepsilon - \gamma_{21}^\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} + u_2 \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{22}^\varepsilon - \beta_{12}^\varepsilon & 0 \\ \alpha_{22}^\varepsilon - \alpha_{11}^\varepsilon + \beta_{12}^\varepsilon & \gamma_{22}^\varepsilon \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\alpha_{11}^\varepsilon = \alpha_{11} - \varepsilon, \quad \alpha_{22}^\varepsilon = \alpha_{22} - \varepsilon, \quad \beta_{11}^\varepsilon = \beta_{11} + \varepsilon, \\ \beta_{12}^\varepsilon = \beta_{12} + \varepsilon, \quad \gamma_{22}^\varepsilon = \gamma_{22} + \varepsilon.$$

From Lemma 4 we conclude that  $M^\varepsilon$  is positive semidefinite if and only if (A1), (A2) holds for the parameters  $(\alpha_{11}^\varepsilon, \alpha_{22}^\varepsilon, \beta_{11}^\varepsilon, \beta_{12}^\varepsilon, \gamma_{22}^\varepsilon)$  instead of  $(\alpha_{11}, \alpha_{22}, \beta_{11}, \beta_{12}, \gamma_{22})$ .

# Proof of Lemma 4

The following conditions must hold:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{11} - \varepsilon &\geq 0, & \alpha_{22} - \varepsilon &\geq 0, & \beta_{12} + \varepsilon &\leq \alpha_{11} + \min\{\beta_{11}, \gamma_{22}\}, \\ \alpha_{11} + \beta_{11} &\geq 0, & \alpha_{22} + \gamma_{22} &\geq 0.\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{11} &> 0, & \alpha_{22} &> 0, & \beta_{12} &< \alpha_{11} + \min\{\beta_{11}, \gamma_{22}\}, \\ \alpha_{11} + \beta_{11} &\geq 0, & \alpha_{22} + \gamma_{22} &\geq 0.\end{aligned}$$

This means that  $M^\varepsilon$  is positive semidefinite for a suitable  $\varepsilon > 0$  if and only if (C1)–(C4) hold. □



# A particular case: the SKT model

Remember the population systems of Shigesada-Kawasaki-Teramoto type (SKT):

$$A(u) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} + 2a_{11}u_1 + a_{12}u_2 & a_{12}u_1 \\ a_{21}u_2 & a_{20} + a_{21}u_1 + 2a_{22}u_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{A-SKT})$$

$$f_i(u) = (b_{i0} - b_{i1}u_1 - b_{i2}u_2)u_i, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Models for two competitive species in heterogeneous environments.

$$a_{ij} \geq 0, \quad i, j = 0, 1, 2.$$

$a_{11}, a_{22} \equiv$  self-diffusion,  $a_{12}, a_{21} \equiv$  cross-diffusion coefficients.

$b_{11}, b_{22} \equiv$  intra-specific,  $b_{12}, b_{21} \equiv$  inter-specific competition constants.

# About the SKT model

- The existence of global weak solutions without any restriction on the diffusivities (except positivity) is known in several space dimensions.<sup>1</sup>
- Upper bounds are known if one space dimension if  $a_{10} = a_{20}$ .<sup>2</sup>
- If cross-diffusion is weaker than self-diffusion (i.e.  $a_{12} < a_{22}$ ,  $a_{21} < a_{11}$ ), weak solutions are bounded and Hölder continuous.<sup>3</sup>
- In the triangular case  $a_{21} = 0$  the existence of global bounded solutions has been proved.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>L. Chen and A. Jüngel. Analysis of a multi-dimensional parabolic population model with strong cross-diffusion. *SIAM J. Math. Anal.* (2004).

L. Chen and A. Jüngel. Analysis of a parabolic cross-diffusion population model without self-diffusion. *J. Diff. Eqs.* (2006).

<sup>2</sup>S.-A. Shim. Uniform boundedness and convergence of solutions to cross-diffusion systems. *J. Diff. Eqs.* (2002).

<sup>3</sup>D. Le. Global existence for a class of strongly coupled parabolic systems. *Ann. Math.* (2006).

<sup>4</sup>Y. Choi, R. Liu, and Y. Yamada. Existence of global solutions for the Shigesada-Kawasaki-Teramoto model with weak cross-diffusion. *Discrete Cont. Dynam. Sys.* (2003).

# The SKT model: bounded weak solutions

## Corollary (Bounded weak solutions to the (SKT) model)

*Let the assumptions of Theorem 2 hold except that the coefficients of  $A$ , defined in (A-SKT), are nonnegative and satisfy  $a_{10} > 0$ ,  $a_{20} > 0$  and:*

$$a_{21} = a_{11}, \quad a_{22} = a_{12}, \quad a_{20} - a_{10} = a_{11} - a_{22} \geq 0. \quad (\text{C-SKT})$$

*Furthermore, let  $f(u)$  be given by the Lotka-Volterra terms:*

$$\begin{aligned} f_i(u) &= (b_{i0} - b_{i1}u_1 - b_{i2}u_2)u_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \\ b_{10} &\leq \min\{b_{11}, b_{12}\}, \quad b_{20} \leq \min\{b_{21}, b_{22}\}. \end{aligned}$$

*Then there exists a bounded weak solution  $u = (u_1, u_2)$  to (RD) satisfying  $u_1, u_2 \geq 0$ ,  $u_1 + u_2 \leq 1$  in  $\Omega \times (0, \infty)$ , and*

$$u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, \infty; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2)), \quad \partial_t u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, \infty; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2)').$$

# The SKT model: bounded weak solutions

The novelty of this corollary is not the global existence result but the uniform boundedness of weak solutions.

With conditions (C-SKT), the diffusion matrix becomes

$$A(u) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} + 2a_{11}u_1 + a_{12}u_2 & a_{12}u_1 \\ a_{11}u_2 & a_{20} + a_{11}u_1 + 2a_{12}u_2 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$a_{12} = a_{11} + a_{10} - a_{20},$$

i.e., we are left with three parameters  $a_{10}$ ,  $a_{20}$ , and  $a_{11}$ .

- The cross-diffusion coefficient of one species is the same as the self-diffusion of the other species.
- The self-diffusion of species 1 is larger than that for species 2 .
- In the reaction term, the growth rates  $b_{10}$ ,  $b_{20}$  are not larger than the intra- and inter-specific competition rates.

# Proof Corollary 5

The corollary follows from Theorem 2 by specifying the diffusivities according to (A-SKT).

The requirement of the symmetry of  $H(u)A(u)$  leads to the conditions  $a_{11} = a_{21}$ ,  $a_{22} = a_{12}$ , and  $a_{20} - a_{10} = a_{11} - a_{22}$ , whereas (C3), (C4) become  $a_{10} > 0$ ,  $a_{20} > 0$ , and  $-a_{12} < a_{10} + 2 \min\{a_{20} - a_{10}, 0\}$ .

Taking into account that  $a_{10} \leq a_{20}$ , the last condition is equivalent to  $-a_{12} < a_{10}$ , and this inequality holds since  $a_{10}$  is positive.

Finally, Hypothesis H3 follows from the inequality  $g_i(u) = b_{i0} - b_{i1}u_1 - b_{i2}u_2 \leq b_{i0} - \min\{b_{i1}, b_{i2}\}(u_1 + u_2) \leq 0$  for  $1 - \varepsilon < u_1 + u_2 < 1$ , where  $\varepsilon = \min\{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2\}$  and  $\varepsilon_i = 1 - b_{i0} / \min\{b_{i1}, b_{i2}\} \in (0, 1)$ .

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