

Modélisation probabiliste en biologie cellulaire et moléculaire

Thèse sous la direction de

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Outline

Bursting phenomenon in gene expression models

- Molecular biology

- Transcriptional/Translational Bursting

- Limiting model

Nucleation in Prion Polymerization Experiments

- Prion diseases

- Prusiner-Lansbury model

- In vitro experiments

- Study of the nucleation time

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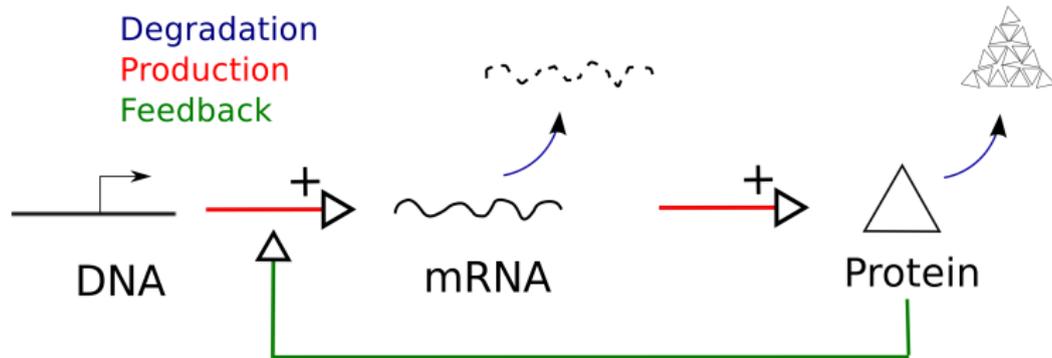
Prusiner-Lansbury model

In vitro experiments

Study of the nucleation time

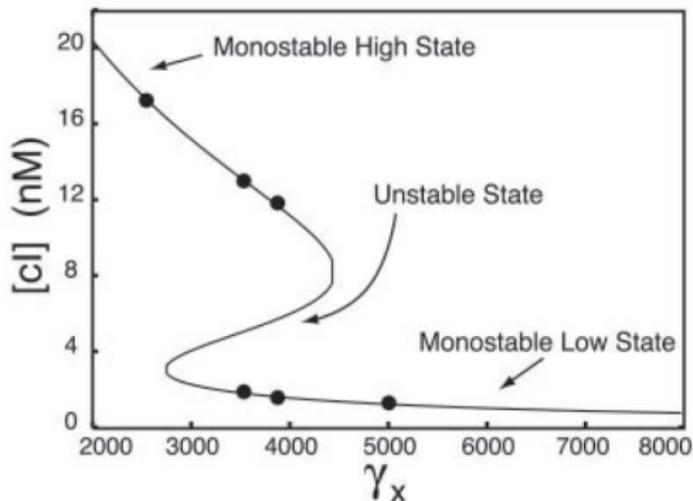
Central Dogma

- ▶ Expression of a gene through transcription/translation processes.



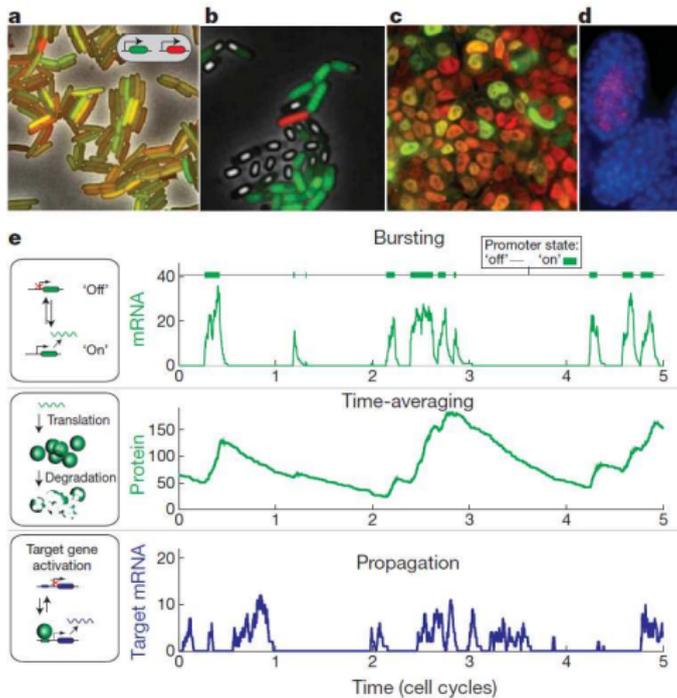
- ▶ Non-linear Feedback regulation.

- ▶ Bifurcation analysis in Ordinary Differential Equation.
- ▶ Application to synthetic biology.



[Goodwin, 1965],[Hasty et al., 2001].

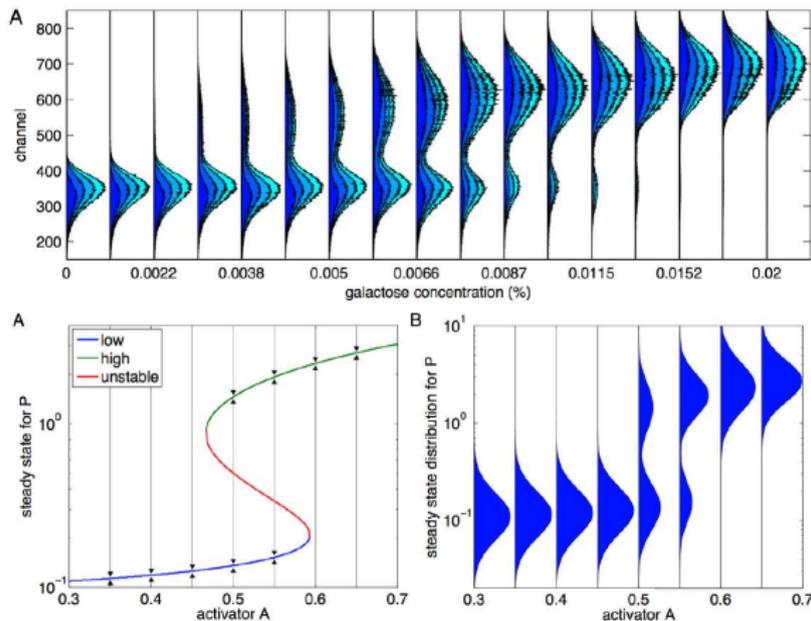
Stochasticity in molecular biology



[Eldar and Elowitz, 2010].

Much more accurate measurements

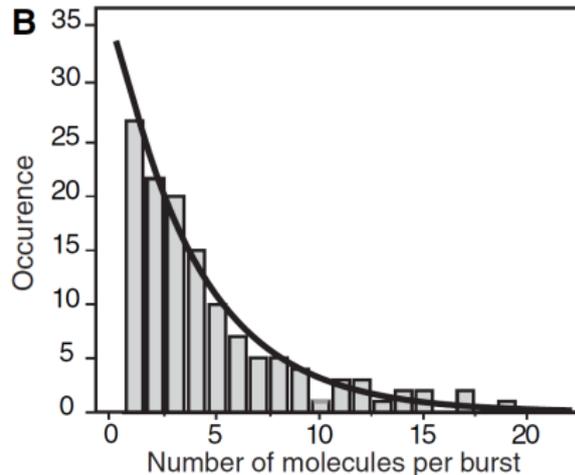
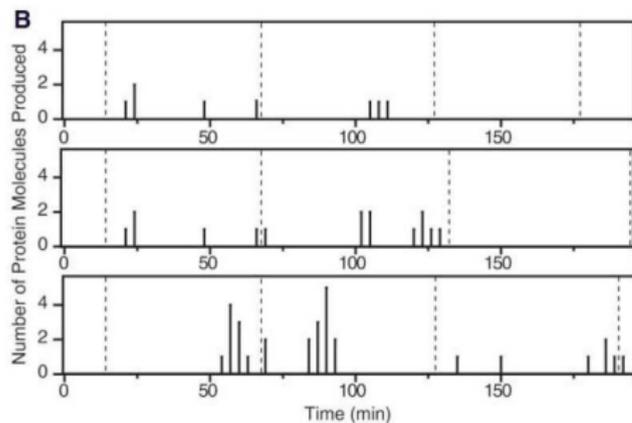
- ▶ Bifurcation can be studied on probability distributions.



[Song et al., 2010].

Much more accurate measurements

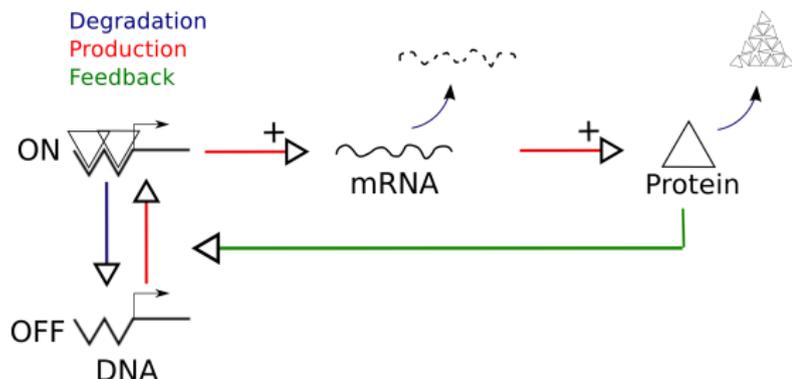
- ▶ Trajectories can be analyzed on single cells.



[Yu et al., 2006].

New Central dogma

- Take into account gene state switching. Interpretation as stochastic processes.



[Berg, 1978],
[Peccoud and Ycart, 1995],
[Kepler and Elston, 2001],
[Paulsson, 2005],
[Lipniacki et al., 2006],
[Paszek, 2007],

[Shahrezaei and Swain, 2008].

The bursting phenomena

Question 1) **When does the stochastic model predict burst phenomenon ?**

Question 2) **What can we say in such cases ?**

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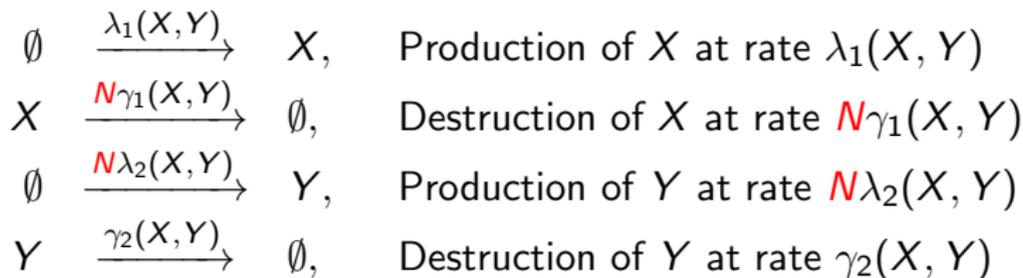
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We consider the following 2d stochastic kinetic chemical reaction model (X='mRNA', Y='Protein')



with $\gamma_1(0, Y) = \gamma_2(X, 0) = 0$ to ensure non-negativity.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{B}_N f(x, y) = & \lambda_1(x, y) [f(x + 1, y) - f(x, y)] \\
 & + N\gamma_1(x, y) [f(x - 1, y) - f(x, y)] \\
 & + N\lambda_2(x, y) [f(x, y + 1) - f(x, y)] \\
 & + \gamma_2(x, y) [f(x, y - 1) - f(x, y)].
 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (R.Y.)

If

- ▶ The degradation function on X satisfies

$$\inf_{x \geq 1, y \geq 0} \gamma_1(x, y) = \underline{\gamma} > 0.$$

- ▶ The production rate of Y satisfies $\lambda_2(0, y) = 0$, for all $y \geq 0$.
- ▶ λ_1 and λ_2 are linearly bounded by $x + y$, and either λ_1 or λ_2 is bounded.

Then, for all $T > 0$, $(X^N(t), Y^N(t))_{t \geq 0}$ converges in $L^1(0, T)$ to $(0, Y(t))$, whose generator is given by

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{B}_\infty \varphi(y) &= \lambda_1(0, y) \left(\int_0^\infty P_t(\gamma_1(1, \cdot) \varphi(\cdot))(y) dt - \varphi(y) \right) \\ &\quad + \gamma_2(0, y) [\varphi(y-1) - \varphi(y)], \\ P_t g(y) &= \mathbb{E} \left[g(Z(t, y)) e^{-\int_0^t \gamma_1(1, Z(s, y)) ds} \right], \\ Ag(z) &= \lambda_2(1, z) (g(z+1) - g(z)). \end{cases}$$

Sketch of the proof

- ▶ We first show tightness and convergence of X based on

$$N\underline{\gamma}\mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^t \mathbf{1}_{\{X^N(s)\geq 1\}} ds\right] \leq \mathbb{E}[X^N(0)] + \mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^t \lambda_1(X^N(s), Y^N(s)) ds\right].$$

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- ▶ We identify the limiting martingale problem

$$\lambda_2(x, y) [f(x, y+1) - f(x, y)] + \gamma_1(x, y) [f(x-1, y) - f(x, y)] \equiv 0$$

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- ▶ We identify the limiting martingale problem

$$A^x g(y) = \lambda_2(x, y) [g(y+1) - g(y)],$$

for any $x \geq 1$. and we introduce the semigroup P_t^x

$$P_t^x g(y) = \mathbb{E}[g(Z_t^{x,y}) e^{-\int_0^t \gamma_1(x, Z_s^{x,y}) ds}].$$

Now for any bounded function g , define $f(0, y) = g(y)$ and

$$f(x, y) = \int_0^\infty P_t^x(\gamma_1(x, \cdot) f(x-1, \cdot))(y) dt.$$

Then

$$\lambda_2(x, y) [f(x, y+1) - f(x, y)] + \gamma_1(x, y) [f(x-1, y) - f(x, y)] \equiv 0.$$

- ▶ A similar proof for a (continuous state) PDMP model, of generator

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B}f(x, y) = & -N\gamma_1(x, y)\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + (N\lambda_2(x, y) - \gamma_2(x, y))\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \\ & + \lambda_1(x, y)\int_0^\infty (f(x+z, y) - f(x, y))h(z)dz. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ These proofs are based on a simple idea ([Debussche et al., 2011],[Kang and Kurtz, 2011]).
- ▶ Other proof : reduction on the Fokker-Planck equation.
- ▶ Different scalings lead to different models.

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We look at the stochastic process

$$dx = -\gamma(x)dt + dN(\lambda(x), h(x, \cdot)),$$

whose generator is

$$Af = -\gamma(x)f'(x) + \lambda(x) \left(\int_0^\infty f(x+y)h(x,y)dy - f(x) \right),$$

and evolution equation on densities

$$\frac{\partial u(t,x)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \gamma(x)u(t,x)}{\partial x} - \lambda(x)u(t,x) + \int_0^x u(t,y)\lambda(y)h(y,x-y)dy,$$

and with $\int_0^\infty h(x,y)dy = 1$, for all x .

Probabilistic techniques

If jumps are independent of positions, *i.e.* $h(x, y) = h(y)$, we have :

Proposition

Suppose $x \mapsto \lambda(x)$ is continuous on $(0, \infty)$, $\lambda(0) > 0$, $\gamma(x) = \gamma x$, $\mathbb{E}[h] < \infty$, and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\lambda(x)\mathbb{E}[h]}{\gamma x} < 1,$$

then there exist $\beta < 1$, $B < \infty$ and π (invariant measure) such that

$$\|P(t, x, \cdot) - \pi\|_V \leq BV(x)\beta^t, \quad x \in E, \quad t > 0,$$

where $\|\mu\|_f = \sup_{|g| \leq f} |\mu(g)|$ and $V(x) = x + 1$.

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$$\blacktriangleright Ax = -\gamma x + \lambda(x) \left(\int_0^\infty (x+y)h(y)dy - x \right) = -\left(1 - \frac{\lambda(x)\mathbb{E}[h]}{\gamma x}\right)\gamma x$$

Semigroup techniques

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial u(t, x)}{\partial t}}_{\frac{du}{dt}} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \gamma(x)u(t, x)}{\partial x} - \lambda(x)u(t, x)}_{Au = (A_0 - \lambda)u} + \underbrace{\int_0^x u(t, y)\lambda(y)h(y, x - y)dy}_{Bu = J(\lambda u)}$$

$$(A, D(A)) \Rightarrow S(t)u(x) = P_0(t)u(x)e^{-\int_0^t \lambda(\phi_r, x)dr}$$

Let $C = A + B$. Denote the resolvent $R_s^C u = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} S(t)u dt$.

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Let $C = A + B$. Denote the resolvent $R_s^S u = \int_0^\infty e^{-st} S(t)u dt$.

Theorem ([Tyran-Kamińska, 2009])

There is a minimal substochastic semigroup P generated by an extension of $(C, D(A))$, and which resolvent is given by

$$R_s^P u = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_s^S \sum_{k=0}^n (J(\lambda R_s^S))^k u,$$

and if $K = \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} J(\lambda R_\sigma^S)$ has a unique invariant density, then so does for P (and P is stochastic).

- Under good conditions, K is the transition operator for the discrete Markov chain “post-jump”, and has for kernel

$$\begin{cases} k(x, y) &= \int_0^x \mathbf{1}_{\{(0, y)\}}(z) h(z, y - z) \frac{\lambda(z)}{\gamma(z)} e^{Q(x) - Q(z)} dz, \\ Q(x) &= \int_x^{\bar{x}} \frac{\lambda(z)}{\gamma(z)} dz. \end{cases}$$

- Modulo integrability conditions, invariant density v^* for K and invariant density u^* for P are related through

$$\begin{cases} \gamma(x) u^*(x) = \int_0^x \bar{H}(z, x - z) \lambda(z) u^*(z) dz, & \bar{H}(z, x) = \int_x^\infty h(z, y) dy, \\ v^*(x) = \int_0^x h(z, x - z) \lambda(z) u^*(z) dz, \\ u^*(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma(x)} \int_x^\infty e^{Q(y) - Q(x)} v^*(y) dy, \\ v^*(x) = \int_0^x h(z, x - z) \frac{\lambda(z)}{\gamma(z)} e^{-Q(z)} \int_z^\infty v^*(y) e^{Q(y)} dy dz. \end{cases}$$

Condition for ergodicity in the exponential case

If jumps are independent of positions, *i.e.* $h(x, y) = h(y)$ and exponentially distributed, of mean b , *i.e.* $h(y) = \frac{1}{b}e^{-y/b}$, then

Theorem (M. Tyran-Kamińska, M. Mackey, R.Y.)

Under technical assumptions (for integrability), and if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\lambda(x)}{\gamma(x)} < \frac{1}{b},$$
$$Q(0) := \int_0^{\bar{x}} \frac{\lambda(z)}{\gamma(z)} dz = \infty,$$

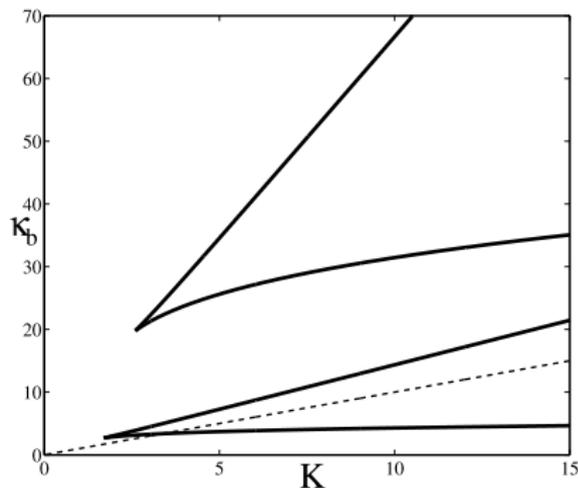
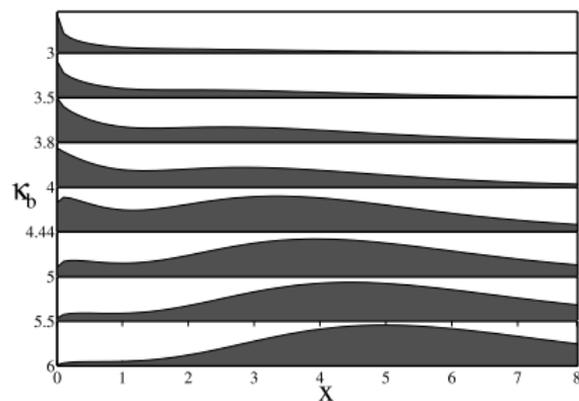
then P is ergodic with unique invariant density

$$u^*(x) = \frac{1}{c\gamma(x)} e^{-x/b - Q(x)}.$$

Bifurcation

This analytical approach allows us to deduce that the number of modes of the stationary state is linked to the solution of

$$\lambda(x) = \frac{\gamma(x)}{b} + \gamma'(x).$$



Further results (not developed here)

- ▶ This can be used to find $\lambda(x)$ and b from observations of (u^*, γ) .
- ▶ The convergence rate can be estimated from coupling techniques.

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- ▶ The convergence rate can be estimated from coupling techniques.

Perspectives

- ▶ Other jump size kernel h .
- ▶ Waiting time properties.
- ▶ Switch and bursting model.
- ▶ Include cell division and study population dynamics.
- ▶ Characterize oscillations in two-dimensional model.

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Prion Diseases

- ▶ Creutzfeldt-Jakob : First human prion disease described (1929).
- ▶ Mad cow disease, Scrapie.
- ▶ Kuru (New Guinea)



We may be skinny, but at least we're not MAD !



Prion Diseases

Epidemiology

- ▶ All prion diseases are transmissible, *i.e.* infectious.
- ▶ Some prion diseases are sporadic, they appear spontaneously, without cause.
- ▶ Some prion diseases are genetic.

Symptoms

- ▶ Affect the structure of the brain ;
- ▶ Convulsion, Dementia, Loss of balance ;
- ▶ Always fatal.

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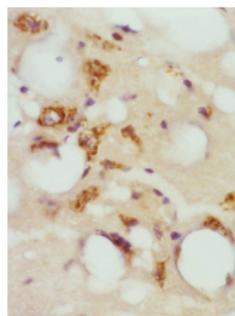
What is prion ?

A protein

- ▶ A protein called PRION is the cause of this disease
- ▶ It is neither a bacteria, nor an viroid like agent !
- ▶ Stanley Prusiner was awarded Nobel price in Physiology and Medicine in 1997 for his discovery.

Histopathology

- ▶ Accumulation of a protein in the amyloid form.
- ▶ Spongiosis.



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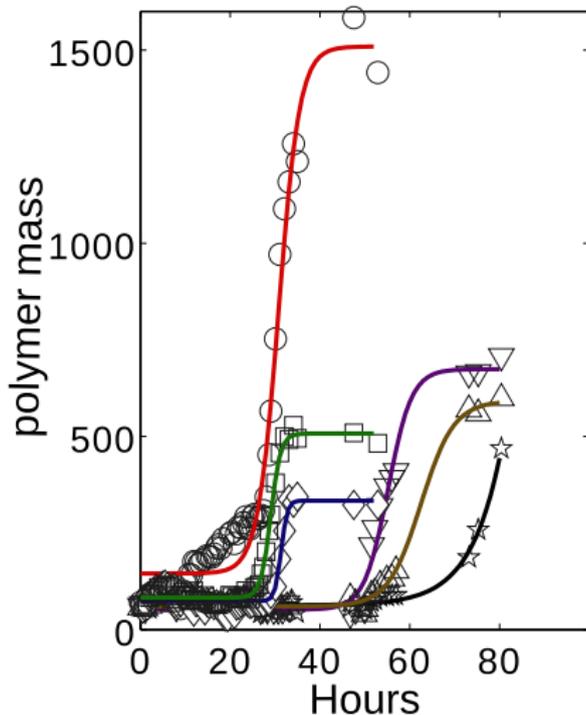
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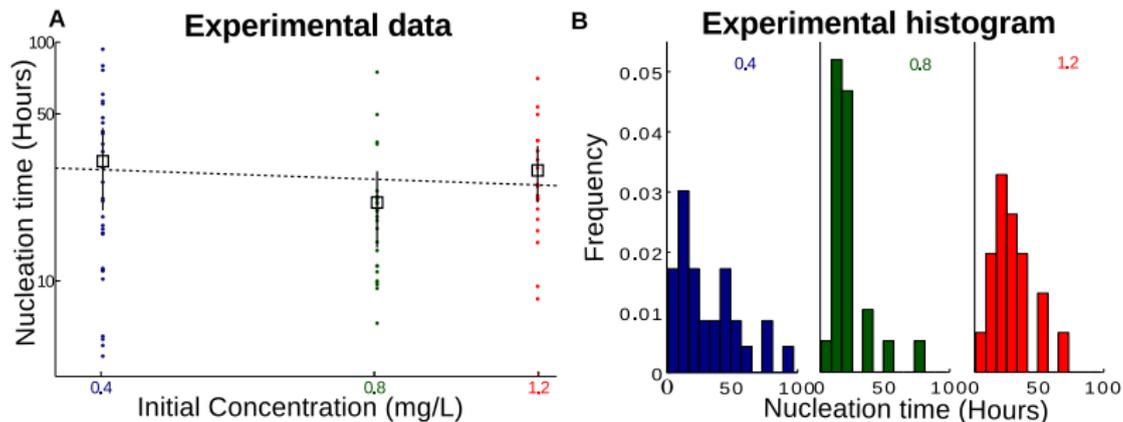
Study of the nucleation time

- ▶ *In vitro* spontaneous polymerization experiments.
- ▶ Time series of polymer mass.



Statistics of nucleation time

- ▶ Relation between the nucleation time and the initial concentration in log plots.



- ▶ Full distribution of the nucleation time.

Questions

- ▶ Can a probabilistic model reproduce the observed variability?
- ▶ Can it help to identify parameters?
- ▶ Can a model include different strain structures?

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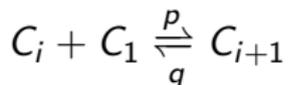
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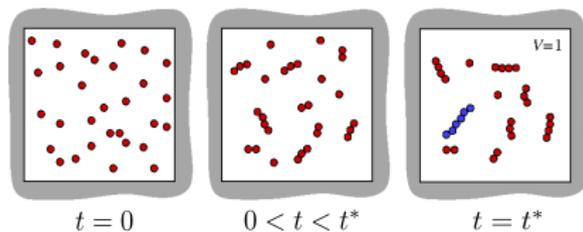
Study of the nucleation time

Reversible aggregation model



where

$C_i = \#\{\text{molecules of size } i\}$.



The nucleation time is given by a waiting time problem,

$$T_{lag} = \inf\{t \geq 0 : C_N(t) = 1\},$$

with initial condition $C_1(0) = M$, $C_i(0) = 0$, $i \geq 2$.

N is the nucleus size.

Constant monomer formulation

If we suppose

$$C_1(t) \equiv M$$

We can solve exactly the probability distributions (Poisson) and we deduce

$$S(t) := \mathbb{P}\{C_N(s) = 0, s \leq t\} = \mathbb{P}\{C_N(t) = 0\} = e^{-c_N(t)},$$

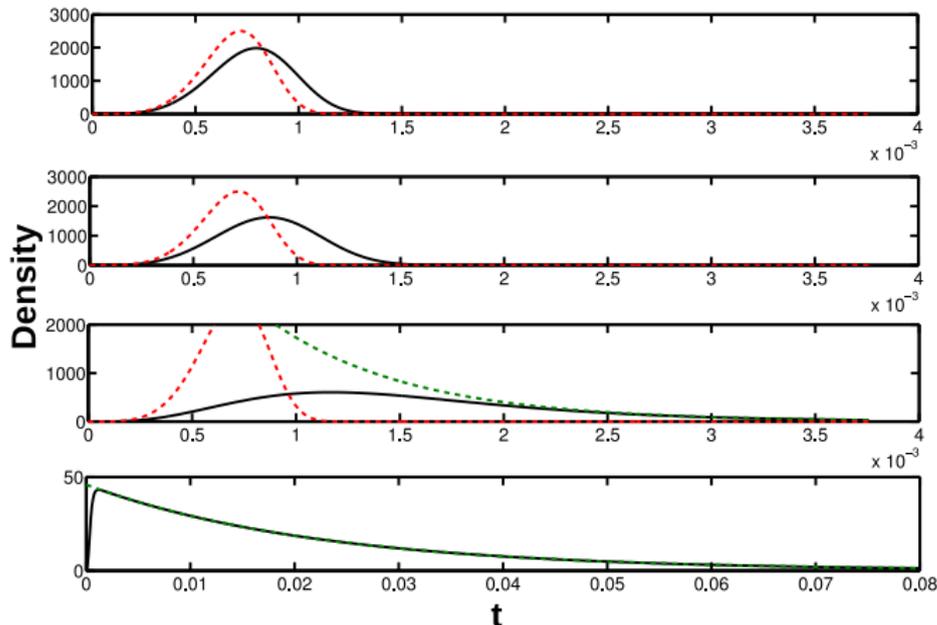
where $(c_i)_{i=2..N}$ are solution of the linear deterministic system (c_n is absorbing) :

$$\begin{cases} \dot{c}_2 &= pM(\frac{1}{2}M - c_2) - q(c_2 - c_3), \\ \dot{c}_i &= pM(c_{i-1} - c_i) - q(c_i - c_{i+1}), \quad 3 \leq i \leq N-2, \\ \dot{c}_{N-1} &= pM(c_{N-2} - c_{N-1}) - qc_{N-1}, \\ \dot{c}_N &= pMc_{N-1}. \end{cases}$$

Nucleation time distribution ($C_1(t) \equiv M$)

$$M \rightarrow \infty : \text{Weibull } \frac{M^N}{2(N-2)!} t^{N-2} \exp\left(-\frac{M^N}{2(N-1)!} t^{N-1}\right)$$

$$q \rightarrow \infty : \text{exponential } \frac{M^N}{2q^{N-2}} \exp\left(-\frac{M^N}{2q^{N-2}} t\right)$$

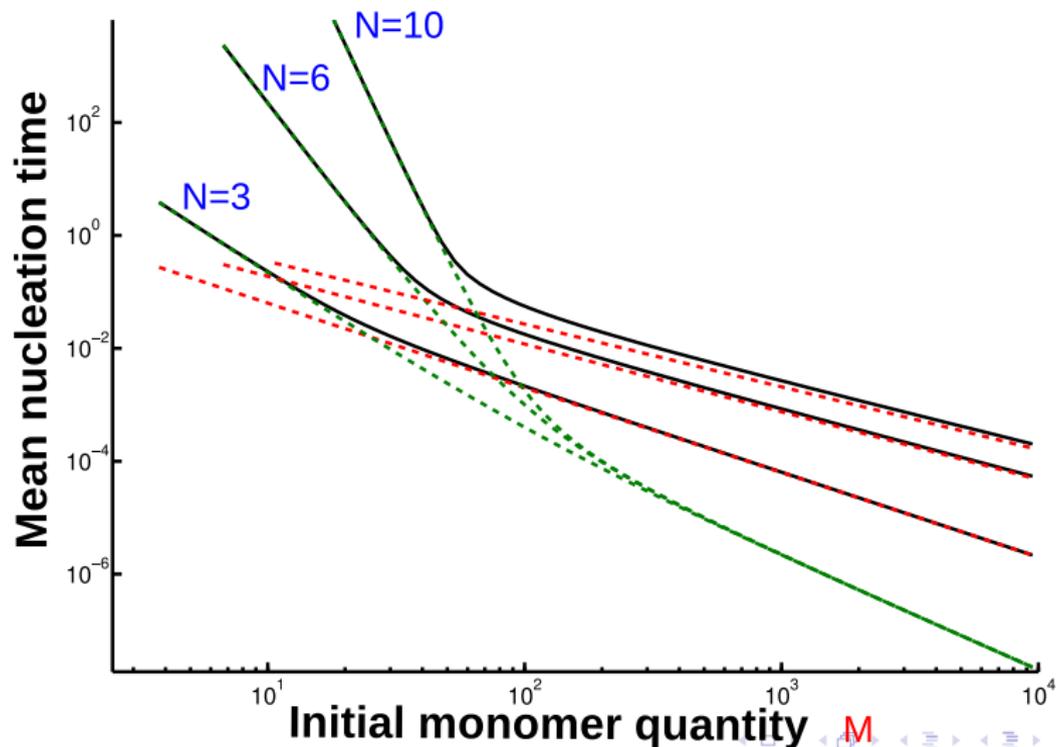


$$N = 6,$$

$$M = 1000,$$

$$q = \begin{cases} 10^2, \\ 10^3, \\ 4.10^3, \\ 10^4. \end{cases}$$

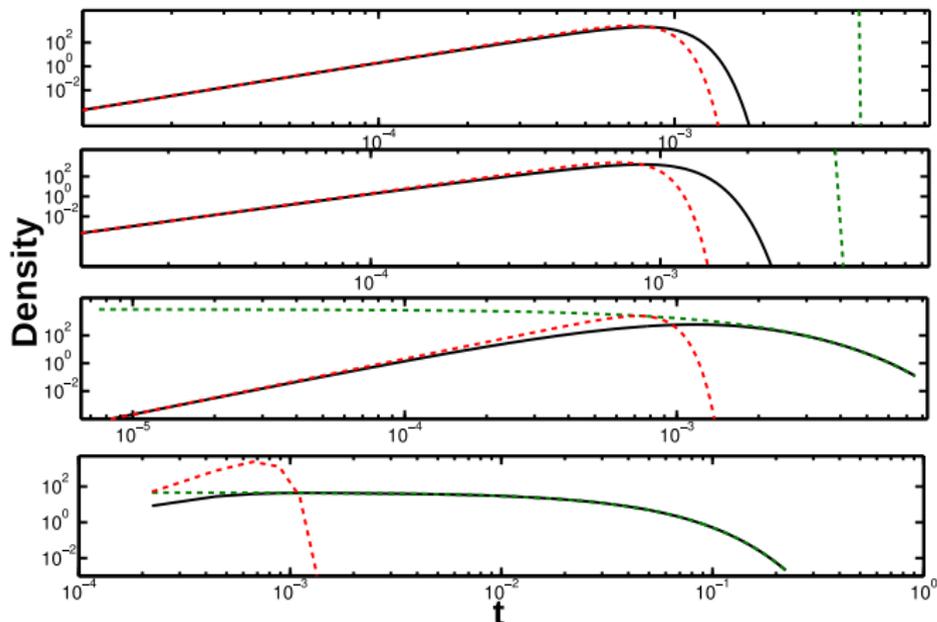
Mean nucleation time versus initial monomer quantity in log scale ($C_1(t) \equiv M$)



Nucleation time distribution in log scale ($C_1(t) \equiv M$)

$$M \rightarrow \infty : \text{Weibull } \frac{M^N}{2(N-2)!} t^{N-2} \exp\left(-\frac{M^N}{2(N-1)!} t^{N-1}\right)$$

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$$N = 6,$$

$$M = 1000,$$

$$q = \begin{cases} 10^2, \\ 10^3, \\ 4.10^3, \\ 10^4. \end{cases}$$

Mass conservative formulation

We now suppose

$$\sum_{i=1}^N iC_i(t) \equiv M.$$

Kolmogorov backward equations \Rightarrow Linear system on

$$S(t, \{C^0\}) = \mathbb{P}\{C_N(t) = 0 \mid C_i(0) = C_i^0\}$$

Problem : Dimension of the system

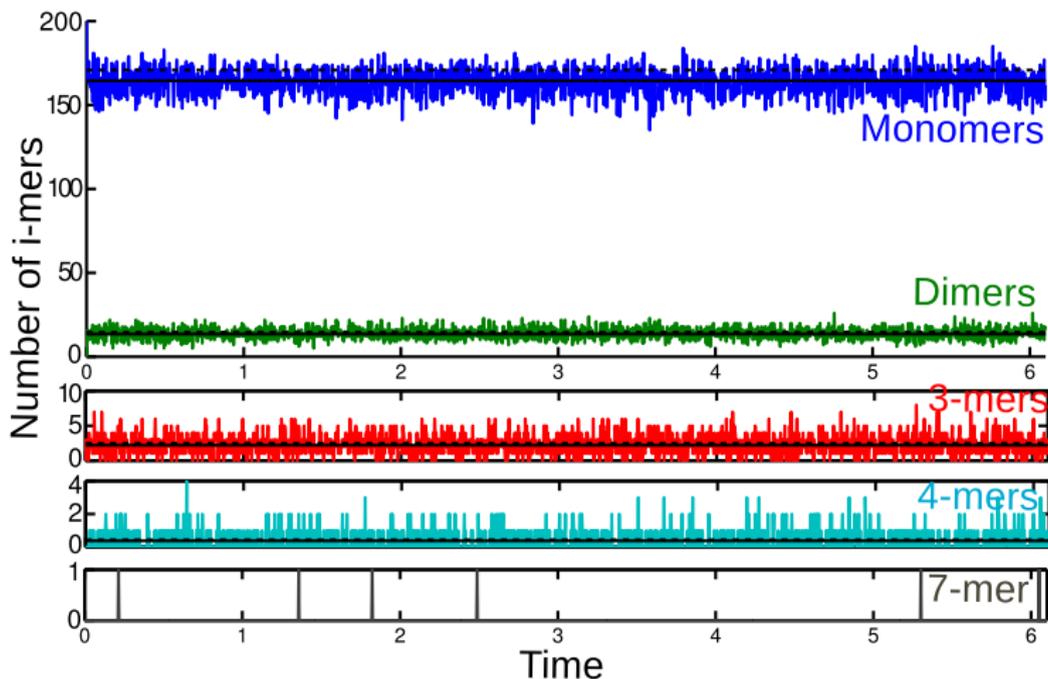
$$\#\{\text{configuration } \{C^0\}, \sum_{i=1}^N iC_i^0 = M, C_N^0 = 0\} \approx \frac{M^N}{N!}$$

In general, we look for approximate solution for extreme parameter values : $q \gg M$ and $q \ll M$. We use

- ▶ known deterministic solution ;
- ▶ time scale separation ;
- ▶ scaling laws ;
- ▶ phase space dimension reduction ;
- ▶ linear model ;
- ▶ numerical simulation.

Trajectories in the unfavorable case $q \gg M$

Pre-equilibrium hypothesis (ex : $M = 200, N = 8, q = 1000$).

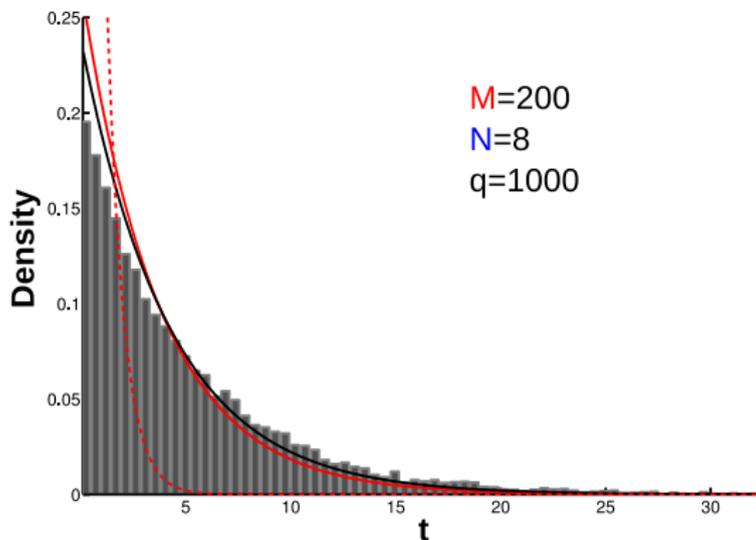


Nucleation time distribution in the unfavorable case

$q \gg M$: exponential law

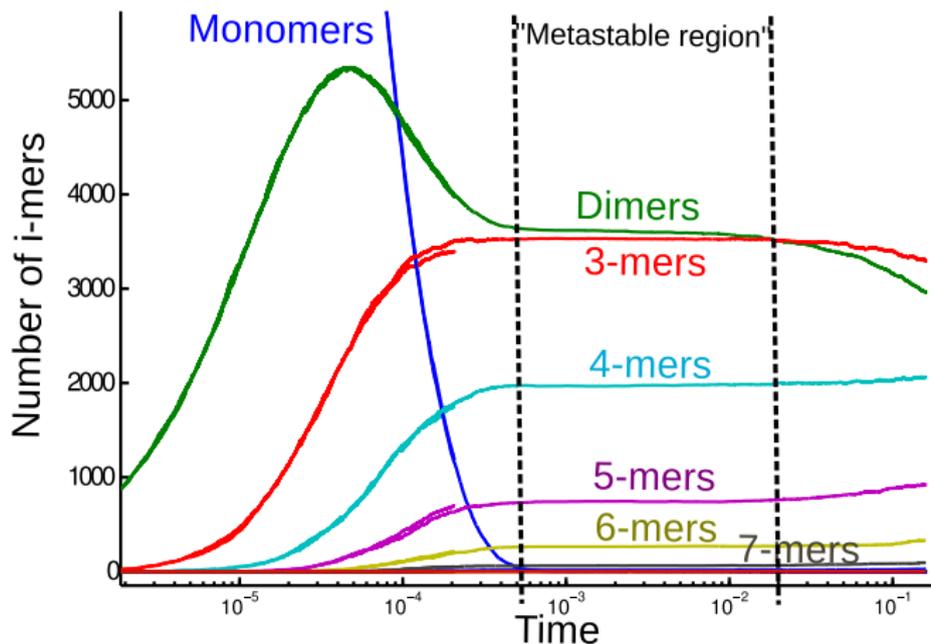
$T_{lag} \sim$ exponential law, of parameter

$$\langle C_1 C_{N-1} \rangle_{t \rightarrow \infty} (M) \approx c_1(t \rightarrow \infty) c_{N-1}(t \rightarrow \infty) \approx \frac{M^N}{2q^{N-2}}$$



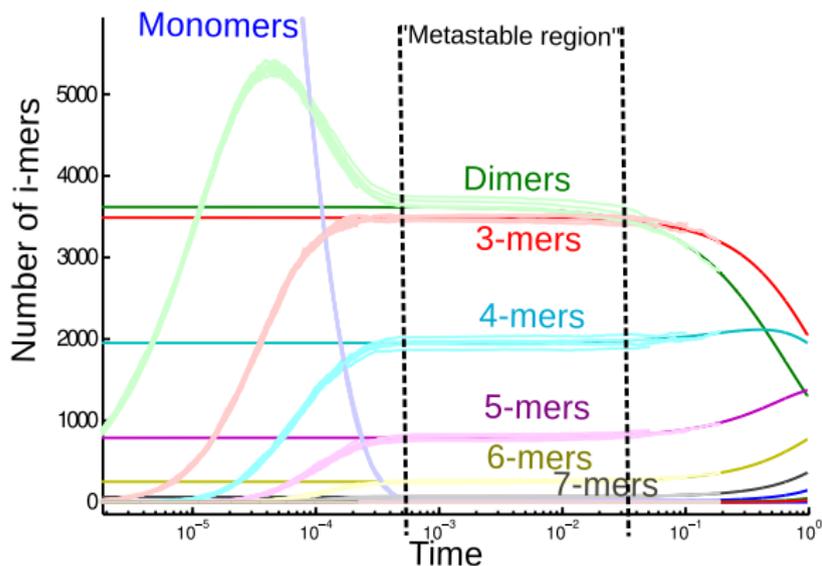
Trajectories in the favorable case $M \gg q$ and N large

“Metastable“ trajectory (ex : $M = 30000, N = 10, q = 1$).



Trajectories in the favorable case $M \gg q$ and N large

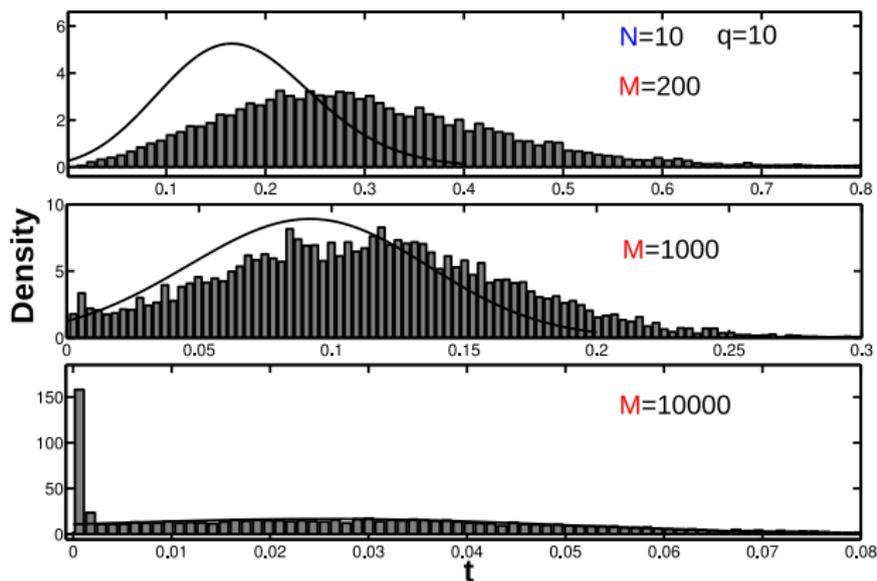
“Metastable” trajectory. Known phenomenon for the deterministic model ([Penrose, 1989],[Wattis, 2006])



1. irreversible aggregation (up to c_i^*)
2. slow "diffusion" with constant monomer $C_1(t) \equiv c_1^*$
3. convergence to equilibrium

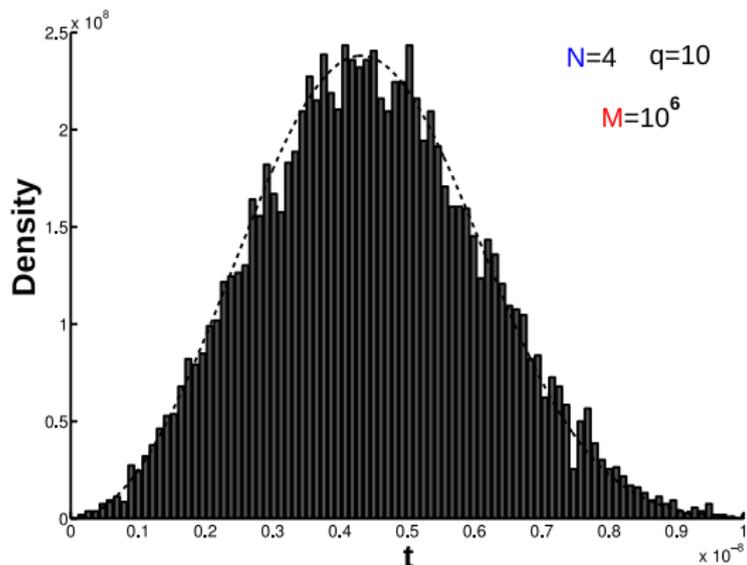
Nucleation time distribution in the favorable case $M \gg q$ and N large, $c_N^* < 1$: bimodal distribution

$c_N^* < 1$: Linear model with $C_1 \equiv c_1^*$, $C_i(0) = c_i^*$ (solid line).

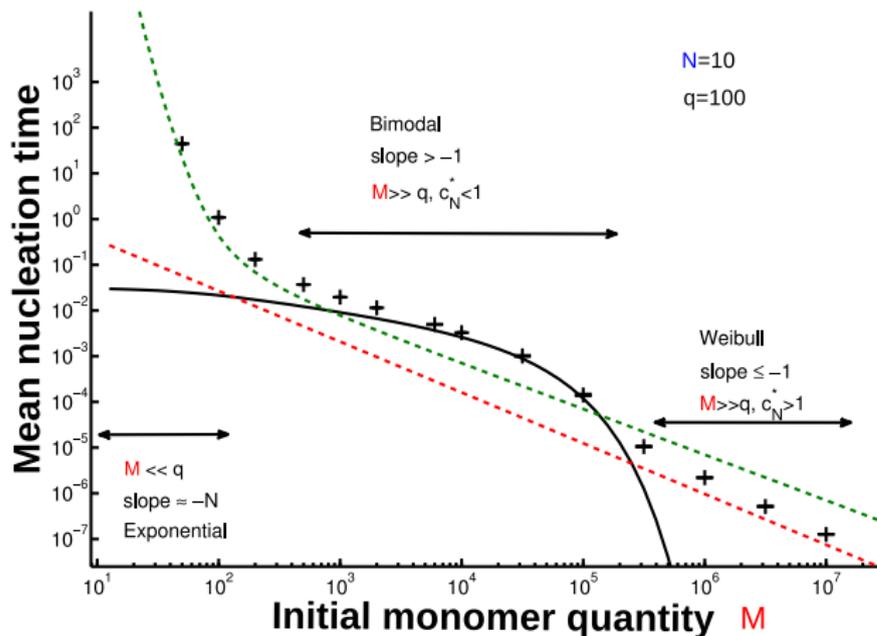


Nucleation time distribution in the favorable case $M \gg q$ and N small, $c_N^* > 1$: Weibull law

$c_N^* > 1$: Linear model with $C_1 \equiv M$, Weibull law (dashed line).

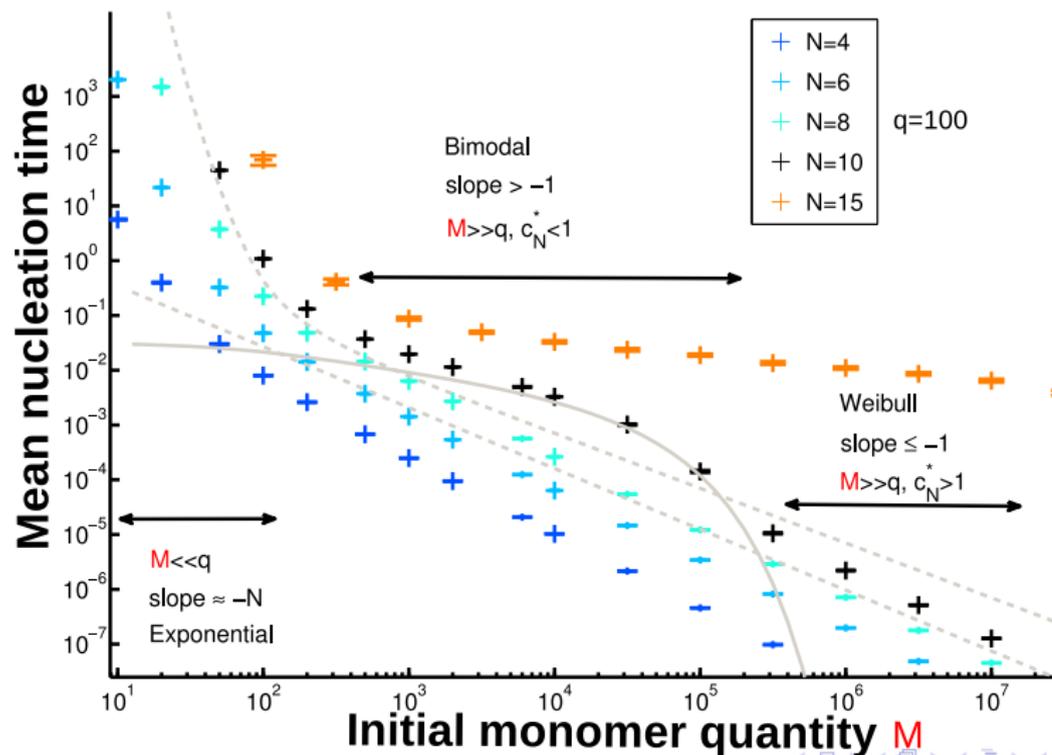


Mean nucleation time versus initial monomer quantity in log scale : 2 or 3 phases according nucleus size N



1. exponential
2. Linear model (starting from c_i^*)
3. Weibull

Mean nucleation time versus initial monomer quantity in log scale : 2 or 3 phases according nucleus size N



Conclusion/Perspectives

- ▶ Different behavior of the nucleation time
- ▶ Parameter Identifiability depending on parameter region

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Perspectives

- ▶ Different nucleation regime \Rightarrow Different polymerization regime
- ▶ Possibility to take into account different polymer structures
- ▶ Study the nucleation time for size-dependent rates

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