Mathematical model of T-cell signaling

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What are T-cells = T lymphocytes = thymocytes ?

T-cells govern the adaptive immune response in vertebrates. T-cells are activated by foreign antigens (peptides).

Two main types of T-cells: helper and cytotoxic.

Helper T-cells: when activated secrete cytokines inducing B-cells to proliferate and mature into antibody secreting cells.

Cytotoxic (killer) T-cells: when activated induce apoptosis in cells on which they recognize foreign peptides. They act on fast scale of order of few minutes.



Figure 1 Cell surface molecules involved in T cell recognition. Molecules thought to play key roles in T cell recognition, as discussed in the text.

Davis et al. 2003

Helper and cytotoxic T-cells receptors ($\alpha\beta$ TCRs)



Kuhns et al. 2005

Two problems

Diffcult: Why endogenous peptides bind to T-cell receptors for shorter time than foreign peptides?

Easy: How longer binding time of foreign peptides leads to discrimination between endogenous and foreign peptides ?

Only binding of foreign peptides leads to T-cell activation.

(Not as) Easy problem

I) 10 000 peptides/T-cell with disociation time of $3s \rightarrow No$ T-cell activity

II) 3 peptides /T-cell with disociation time of $20s \rightarrow \text{High T-cell}$ activity

$$\frac{d TP}{dt} = b \times T \times P - d \times TP$$
$$TP = b \times T \times \frac{P}{d}$$

TP – number of bound T-cell receptors, T-number of free receptors, P- number of free peptides

Kinetic proofreading



Discus antagonisms

Feedbacks

Kinetic proofreading



Rabinowitz 1996, Stefanova 2003, Altan-Bonnet 2005

Mathematical representation

1. Deterministic: 34 ordinary differential equations.

4. Stochastic: 87 reactions simulated using direct stochastic simulation algorithm SSN, Gillespie 1977.

Deterministic simulation (less than 1s)



continued



continued



Stochastic simulations, Gillespie algorithm (10min)



continued



continued



Discrimination of endogenous and foreign peptides



Erkpp for stimulation with 5 foreign peptides Deterministic (blue) versus Stochastic (red & black)



Erkpp for stimulation with 100 foreign peptides Deterministic (blue) versus Stochastic (red)



Erkpp for stimulation with 500 foreign peptides Deterministic (blue) versus Stochastic (red)



Bifurcation diagram



Deterministic and stochastic trajectories



Summary of the current model

Kinetic proofreading, positive and negative feedbacks

1) Bistability

+

2) Stochastic versus deterministic modeling