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Accuracy indices for assessing performance of different versions of Gillespie Algorithm for stochastic molecular simulations

Dynamics in population models at the molecular level are commonly described using the deterministic approach based on systems of coupled first-order ordinary differential equations (ODEs). Deterministic approach although fast in calculation is not always accurate for systems containing low-rate reactions particularly for species occurring in small quantities. To account for random fluctuations in numbers of molecular species numerous variants of stochastic Gillespie Algorithm has been introduced. There are already several survey studies comparing and summarizing different approaches in stochastic modeling of molecular mechanisms. In these studies the problem of accuracy of modeling is addressed at the level of simplifying hypotheses and their verification [3], [4]. In our talk we critically discuss several possibilities of assessing accuracy of different strategies of stochastic molecular modeling. We also propose a new, direct and precise method of comparing different stochastic modeling strategies based on comparisons of probability distributions of observed time instants of molecular events. By using our methods we compare several variants of stochastic simulation methods, direct, approximate and hybrid (numerical integration of ODEs and stochastic simulation) [5], [6]. We grade accuracies of predictions of different algorithms in terms of differences between conditional distributions of times of sequences of molecular events. In comparisons the basic version of the Gillespie algorithm is considered as an accurate one, predictions of other algorithms are analyzed based on its comparison to the basic version of the Gillespie Algorithm [1], [2]. Dedicated system written in C++ is used as a computational platform for calculation of models applying different approaches. Efficiency of system is also evaluated in comparison to common solutions.

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