Lecture 12: Epistasis and the General Problem

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So...the full complexity of interactions within systems.



Ronald Fisher 1890 - 1962 So, large-scale **non-linear dynamical systems**. First, we need a general theory of interactions...

	n = 1	n = 2 or 3	n >> 1	continuum
Linear	exponential growth and decay single step conformational change fluorescence emission pseudo first order kinetics	second order reaction kinetics linear harmonic oscillators simple feedback control sequences of conformational change	electrical circuits molecular dynamics systems of coupled harmonic oscillators equilibrium thermodynamics diffraction, Fourier transforms	Diffusion Wave propagation quantum mechanics viscoelastic systems
Nonlinear	fixed points bifurcations, multi stability irreversible hysteresis overdamped oscillators	anharmomic oscillators relaxation oscillations predator-prey models van der Pol systems Chaotic systems	systems of non- linear oscillators non-equilibrium thermodynamics protein structure/ function neural networks the cell ecosystems	Nonlinear wave propagation Reaction-diffusion in dissipative systems Turbulent/chaotic flows

A portion of core metabolism...



the essential characteristics of **complex systems**...

heterogeneity and non-linearity...

the essential characteristics of complex systems...



than the summed action of the parts

complex systems show...

heterogeneity and non-linearity...

so, for biological systems, what are the **relevant parts**? And what is the **extent of non-linearity** in the interactions between parts?

complex systems show...

heterogeneity and non-linearity...

so, for biological systems, what are the **relevant parts**? And what is the **extent of non-linearity** in the interactions between parts?

How can we design **a process** to systematically address these questions? For next time... What is the **extent of non-linearity** in the interactions between parts? We need a general formalism for "interactions"...

A general theory of **epistasis**



...in the context of proteins for clarity, but the ideas are completely general.

A general theory of **epistasis**



~100 amino acids

Epistasis is defined as the **non-independence** of the parts that make up a system.

۳.

r; Protein X's in thermal guilibrius with its surroundings. at some temp above absolute zero. Then due to thermal agethon , it will trist in some ensemble of states : x E { x , v , v , , v , ... , x , }

Protein X's in thermal equilibrium with its surroundings. at some temp above absolute zero. They due to thermal agether, it will trist in some ensemble of states : x € {x0, 4, 42, ..., XN} Take to as the lawed enongestate ... mod populated at equilibrium. we know that " P(x) = e AGv/let

Protein X's in thermal guilibrium with its surroundways. at some temp above absolute zero. Then due to thermal agithm , it will rest in some ensemble of states : XE { x0, 4, 42, ..., XN } Now ... we divide the properin into a bunch of parts ... say for convenience into all its M residues; re {r., r, r, r, ..., r, ... r, }

How many observations of free energies of the **parts r** do we need to guarantee knowledge of **states x**?



....the effect of a single part taken independently



....the effect of a two parts acting together



If we are measuring an **equilibrium state function**, then independence means additivity in that variable.

And, non-independence (or epistasis) means non-additivity

Thermodynamic additivity is **statistical independence**...



$$\frac{d_{0}}{d_{1}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d_{0}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d_{1}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d_{0}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d_{1}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d_{0}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d_{1}} = \frac{d_{0}}{d$$

Thermodynamic additivity is **statistical independence**...



$$\frac{x_{0}}{x_{1}} \xrightarrow{\Delta G_{i}} e^{\frac{x_{i}}{2}} \qquad \Delta G_{ij} : \Delta G_{i} : \Delta G_{i} - \Delta \Delta G_{ij}$$

$$\frac{\lambda_{0}}{x_{1}} \xrightarrow{\Delta G_{i}} e^{\frac{x_{i}}{2}} \qquad A_{i} \times e^{\frac{x_{i}}{2}} \qquad Mdependent, \quad \Delta \Delta G_{ij} : 0$$

$$\frac{\lambda_{0}}{\Delta G_{ij}} : \Delta G_{i} : \Delta G_{i} + \Delta G_{j}$$

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$$\frac{\lambda_{0}}{\Delta G_{i}} : \Delta G_{$$



....the effect of a two parts acting together





Stepty
$$x_0 \rightarrow x_n$$
 due to five of all residen $r_1 \dots r_m$

$$\Delta G_n = \sum \Delta G + \sum \Delta^2 G + \sum \Delta^3 G + \dots + \sum \Delta^n G + \dots + \sum \Delta^n G$$

$$\binom{M}{n} \binom{M}{2} \binom{M}{2} \binom{M}{3} \binom{M}{n} \binom{M}{n}$$

$$\binom{M}{n} = \frac{M!}{n!(M-n)!}$$

....the case of **all parts** acting cooperatively

Sor.

Stepty
$$x_0 \rightarrow x_n$$
 due to five of all residen $r_1 \dots r_m$
 $\Delta G_n = \sum \Delta G + \sum \Delta^2 G + \sum \Delta^3 G + \dots + \sum \Delta^n G + \dots + \sum \Delta^n G$
 $\binom{M}{n} \binom{M}{2} \binom{M}{2} \binom{M}{3} \binom{M}{n} \binom{M}{n}$

....the case of **all parts** acting cooperatively

A warning....!!

Note....epistasis is the non-independence of the parts that make up a system. But, it is sometimes **not obvious** what this means for parameters we might measure in general. Is independence necessarily additivity of a thing?

Needs to be validated...



So...a formal theory of epistasis in systems. We will use point mutagenesis in proteins as a case study...



Epistasis is important for **function**....

...and for evolution





epistasis can effectively block off mutational paths between functional genotypes...

...and for evolution





So...a formal theory of epistasis in systems. We will use point mutagenesis in proteins as a case study...

Orders of epistasis...



Fig. 1. Abstract representation of variants involved in (A) single mutant, (B) double mutant, and (C) triple mutant experiments. Genotypes are denoted as $g = \{g_N, ..., g_1\}$ with $g_i \in \{0, 1\}$, where '0' or '1' indicate the state of the mutable entity (e.g., the gene or the amino acid in the protein). Each genotype g has an associated phenotype y_g . The effect of a single, double, triple mutation is given by the red arrows. Two-way epistasis is defined as the differential effect of a mutation depending on the background in which it occurs, for example in (B) it is the phenotypic difference between mutating one position from '0' to '1' depending on the other position being either '0' or '1', i.e., $(y_{11} - y_{10}) - (y_{01} - y_{00})$.

Orders of epistasis...



The **fourth order epistasis** is the degree to which a third order epistasis depends on a fourth mutation...and so on. In general, n^{th} order epistasis is the difference of two *n*-1 dimensional epistases. I. The biochemical view of epistasis...



wild-type binding free energy (in kcal/mol)

 y_0

-8.17

In biochemistry the idea is to start with **one genotype** (the "wild-type") and use this as a reference for all effects of mutations....

The biochemical view of epistasis...





In biochemistry the idea is to start with **one genotype** (the "wild-type") and use this as a reference for all effects of mutations....




(in kcal/mol)

The single mutation experiment....



The effect of a single mutant....

$$arepsilon_1 = y_1 - y_0$$

a first-order term



A double mutation experiment....



$$\varepsilon_{11} = (y_{11} - y_{01}) - (y_{10} - y_{00})$$

The **second order epistasis** of two mutations is the degree to which the effect of one mutation depends on the background of a second...



$$\varepsilon_{111} = (y_{111} - y_{101} - y_{110} + y_{100}) - (y_{011} - y_{001} - y_{010} + y_{000})$$
The third order epistasis is the degree to which a second order

epistasis depends on a third mutation...



The **fourth order epistasis** is the degree to which a third order epistasis depends on a fourth mutation...



$$\begin{split} \Delta^{n} G_{1,\dots,n} &= \Delta G_{1,\dots,n}^{o} + (-1)^{1} \sum_{i_{1} < i_{2} < \dots < i_{n-1}}^{n} \Delta G_{i_{1},i_{2},\dots,i_{n-1}}^{o} \\ &+ (-1)^{2} \sum_{i_{1} < i_{2} < \dots < i_{n-2}}^{n} \Delta G_{i_{1},i_{2},\dots,i_{n-2}}^{o} + \dots + (-1)^{n} \Delta G_{0}^{o} \end{split}$$

In general, there is a hierarchical expansion of terms....



In matrix form....

 $ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$









...this is a **transform**, just like Fourier or Laplace. A one-to-one mapping between a space of phenotypes and epistases.

You've already been introduced to many transforms....



In general, a **transform** is a mapping of variables from one space to another. Why do this?



In general, a **transform** is a mapping of variables from one space to another. Why do this? Well...problems that are initially defined in one space - or one parametrization - might in fact be a lot simpler in another...

An example....

(LXXIV) times (XXVIII)

A multiplication problem in Roman numerals...







$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -kA \qquad , A(b) = A_0$$



The LaPlace transform....

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -kA, \quad h(s) = A_{0}$$
Step 1. Make a transformation
$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -kA, \quad h(s) = A_{0}$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -kA, \quad h(s) = -k$$





...this is a **transform**, just like Fourier or Laplace. A one-to-one mapping between a space of phenotypes and epistases. What kind of transform? wait...







 $ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$

for 3 mutations...third order





$$ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$$

for 3 mutations...third order



 $\varepsilon_{011} = (y_{011} - y_{001}) - (y_{010} - y_{000})$



$$ararepsilon = G\,ar y$$

for 3 mutations...third order



 $\varepsilon_{111} = \left[(y_{111} - y_{101}) - (y_{110} - y_{100}) \right] - \left[(y_{011} - y_{001}) - (y_{010} - y_{000}) \right]$



$$ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$$

A recursive **generative function** for nth-order epistasis....

$$G_{n+1} = \begin{pmatrix} G_n & 0 \\ -G_n & G_n \end{pmatrix}$$
 with $G_0 = 1$



$$oldsymbol{G}_{n+1} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{G}_n & 0 \ -oldsymbol{G}_n & oldsymbol{G}_n \end{pmatrix} ext{ with } oldsymbol{G}_0 = 1$$

for **n = 0**...zeroth order (wild-type)





$$oldsymbol{G}_{n+1} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{G}_n & 0 \ -oldsymbol{G}_n & oldsymbol{G}_n \end{pmatrix} ext{ with } oldsymbol{G}_0 = 1$$

for **n** = 1...first order (a single mutation experiment)





$$oldsymbol{G}_{n+1} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{G}_n & 0 \ -oldsymbol{G}_n & oldsymbol{G}_n \end{pmatrix} ext{ with } oldsymbol{G}_0 = 1$$

for **n** = 2...second order (a double mutation experiment)

$\left(\varepsilon_{000}\right)$		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		$\langle y_{000} \rangle$
ε_{001}		-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		y_{001}
ε_{010}		-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		y_{010}
ε_{011}		1	-1	-1	1	0	0	0	0	J.	y_{011}
ε_{100}	_	-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	*	y_{100}
ε_{101}		1	-1	0	0	-1	1	0	0		y_{101}
ε_{110}		1	0	-1	0	-1	0	1	0		y_{110}
$\langle \varepsilon_{111} \rangle$		$\sqrt{-1}$	1	1	-1	1	-1	-1	1)		$\langle y_{111} \rangle$



$$oldsymbol{G}_{n+1} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{G}_n & 0 \ -oldsymbol{G}_n & oldsymbol{G}_n \end{pmatrix} ext{ with } oldsymbol{G}_0 = 1$$

for **n = 3**...third order (a triple mutation experiment)

$ \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{000} \\ \varepsilon_{001} \\ \varepsilon_{010} \\ \varepsilon_{011} \end{pmatrix} $		$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{array} $	0 0 0 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0		$\begin{pmatrix} y_{000} \\ y_{001} \\ y_{010} \\ y_{011} \end{pmatrix}$
$ \begin{array}{c} \varepsilon_{100} \\ \varepsilon_{101} \\ \varepsilon_{110} \\ \varepsilon_{111} \end{array} $	=	-1 1 1 -1	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{array} $	$0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1$	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{array} $	0 0 0 1	*	$y_{100} \\ y_{101} \\ y_{110} \\ y_{111}$



 $ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$







genotype ¹	free	interaction	mutant
THG	$energy^2$	term ³	cycle
	$ar{y}$		$\bar{\gamma}$
000	-8.17	***	-8.17
001	-7.58	**1	0.59
010	-6.13	*1*	2.05
011	-6.24	*11	-0.70
100	-5.96	1**	2.22
101	-7.70	1*1	-2.33
110	-7.67	11*	-3.76
111	-8.45	111	1.67
		1	

In this view...

(1) Large third order effect....all three mutations represent a collectively cooperative group.





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In this view...

- (1) Large third order effect....all three mutations represent a collectively cooperative group.
- (2) Large first order effects of the H372A and T-2F single mutations





genotype ¹	free	interaction	mutant
THG	$energy^2$	term ³	cycle
	\bar{y}		$\bar{\gamma}$
000	-8.17	***	-8.17
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110	-7.67	11*	-3.76
111	-8.45	111	1.67

In this view...

- (1) Large third order effect....all three mutations represent a collectively cooperative group.
- (2) Large first order effects of the H372A and T-2F single mutations
- (3) Large second order epistatic coupling between G330T and T-2F

Another view of epistasis...background averaging!



In this view....there is **no reference sequence**. Values are averaged over all genotypes. For example...
Another view of epistasis...background averaging!



In biochemistry, the second order epistasis would be:

$$\varepsilon_{11} = (y_{11} - y_{01}) - (y_{10} - y_{00})$$

Another view of epistasis...background averaging!



In biochemistry, the second order epistasis would be:

$$\varepsilon_{11} = (y_{11} - y_{01}) - (y_{10} - y_{00})$$

In this view, it is an average in the background of two genotypes... y_{0**} and y_{1**}

$$\varepsilon_{*11} = \frac{[(y_{111} - y_{101}) - (y_{110} - y_{100})] + [(y_{011} - y_{001}) - (y_{010} - y_{000})]}{2}$$



Has a matrix form too....

 $ar{e} = Har{y}$

the background-averaged epistasis operator

...also a transform!



Has a matrix form too....

 $\bar{e} = H\bar{y}$





e_{***} e_{**1} e_{*1*} e_{*11} e_{1**} e_{1*1} e_{11*}	_	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{array} $	$1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1$	*	$egin{array}{c} y_{000} \ y_{001} \ y_{010} \ y_{011} \ y_{100} \ y_{101} \ y_{101} \ y_{110} \end{array}$
$e_{11*} \\ e_{111}$		$\begin{pmatrix} 1\\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$1 \\ -1$	$-1 \\ -1$	$-1 \\ 1$	$-1 \\ -1$	$-1 \\ 1$	1 1	$^{1}_{-1}$		$y_{110} \\ y_{111}$

$$\varepsilon_{*11} = \frac{[(y_{111} - y_{101}) - (y_{110} - y_{100})] + [(y_{011} - y_{001}) - (y_{010} - y_{000})]}{2}$$

Makes sense?



$$\varepsilon_{*11} = \frac{[(y_{111} - y_{101}) - (y_{110} - y_{100})] + [(y_{011} - y_{001}) - (y_{010} - y_{000})]}{2}$$
There is a weighting for number of terms over which the average is taken...









e _{***}		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		y_{000}
e_{**1}		1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1		y_{001}
e_{*1*}		1	1	-1	-1	1	1	-1	-1		y_{010}
e _{*11}	_	1	-1	-1	1	1	-1	-1	1		y_{011}
e _{1**}	—	1	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	-1	*	y_{100}
e _{1*1}		1	-1	1	-1	-1	1	-1	1		y_{101}
e_{11*}		1	1	-1	-1	-1	-1	1	1		y_{110}
e ₁₁₁ /		$\backslash 1$	-1	-1	1	-1	1	1	-1 /		y_{111}

$$\varepsilon_{***} = \frac{(y_{111} + y_{101} + y_{110} + y_{100} + y_{011} + y_{001} + y_{010} + y_{000})}{8}$$

 $ar{arepsilon} = V H ar{y}$the background averaged epistasis



$$\bar{\varepsilon} = V H \bar{y}.$$

the recursive **generative function** for nth-order background averaged epistasis...

$$V_{n+1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}V_n & 0\\ 0 & -V_n \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } V_0 = 1$$
$$H_{n+1} = \begin{pmatrix} H_n & H_n\\ H_n & -H_n \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } H_0 = 1$$



genotype ¹	free 2	interaction torm ³	mutant	bg. ave.
ing	energy ū	term	⊂ycie -⊽	epistasis Ē
000	-8.17	***	-8.17	-7.24
001	-7.58	**1	0.59	-0.51
010	-6.13	*1*	2.05	0.23
011	-6.24	*11	-0.70	0.13
100	-5.96	1**	2.22	-0.41
101	-7.70	1*1	-2.33	-1.50
110	-7.67	11*	-3.76	-2.92
111	-8.45	111	1.67	1.67

So...

(1) Large third order effect....all three mutations represent a collectively cooperative group.



genotype ¹	free	interaction	mutant	bg. ave.
THG	$energy^2$	term ³	cycle	epistasis
	\bar{y}		$\bar{\gamma}$	Ē
000	-8.17	***	-8.17	-7.24
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111	-8.45	111	1.67	1.67

So...

(1) Large third order effect....all three mutations represent a collectively cooperative group.

(2) First order effects of all mutations essentially negligible.

this is because of higher order epistasis...H372A has a 2.05 kcal/mol effect in the wild-type background and a -1.71 kcal/mol effect in the T-2F background!

It's not a general determinant of affinity!



genotype ¹ THG	free energy ²	interaction term ³	mutant cycle	bg. ave. epistasis
	\bar{y}		$\bar{\gamma}$	Ē
000	-8.17	***	-8.17	-7.24
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So...

- (1) Large third order effect....all three mutations represent a collectively cooperative group.
- (2) First order effects of all mutations essentially negligible.
- (3) Coupling of G330T and T-2F is lower

this is because of higher order epistasis...H372A has a 2.05 kcal/mol effect in the wild-type background and a -1.71 kcal/mol effect in the T-2F background!

Another case....



Table 3. Mean absolute values of interaction terms for the Shaker \mathbf{K}^+ channel

epistatic order ¹	$\begin{array}{c} {\rm mutant} \\ {\rm cycle} \\ \overline{\gamma} _{\rm mean} \end{array}$	bg. ave. epistasis $ \vec{e} _{mean}$
0	1.97(0.05)	8.33 (0.05)
1	6.94(0.26)	1.63(0.10)
2	7.91(0.42)	1.98(0.20)
3	11.08 (0.60)	1.79(0.40)
4	19.07(0.81)	19.07 (0.81)

¹Order over which the absolute values of epistatic terms are averaged. Errors on the mean are given in parentheses.

A high-order cooperativity in gating of the K+ channel pore....



$$ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$$

the biochemical view of epistasis is a "**local**" one... taking a single genotype as an arbitrary reference.





$$ar{arepsilon} = G\,ar{y}$$

the biochemical view of epistasis is a "**local**" one... taking a single genotype as an arbitrary reference.



...its like doing a **Taylor's** (local) expansion of the fitness landscape around a particular point (the reference genotype). A detailed analysis of a particular solution.



$\bar{\varepsilon} = V H \bar{y}.$

the background averaged view of epistasis is a "**global**" one...taking averages over all possible genotypes.

Fitness





$\bar{\varepsilon} = V H \bar{y}.$

the background averaged view of epistasis is a "global" one...taking averages over all possible genotypes.

Fitness



...its like doing a generalized **Fourier** expansion of the fitness landscape. A global analysis of all possible solutions given the design process.



 $ar{arepsilon} = VHar{y}.$

in fact, this mapping has a name....it is a generalized form of a Fourier transform called the **Hadamard transform**.

Fourier series...







a representation based on just **square** functions... with components just +1 and -1.



 $\bar{\varepsilon} = V H \bar{y}.$

...in general, **background averaging** seems like the right thing to do if we want to learn the general rules for specifying systems. Ok...so background averaged epistasis is what we want?

$\bar{\varepsilon} = VH\bar{y}.$

But...background averaging is a ridiculous concept in general. In examples, we analyzed single mutations at like 4 positions (2⁴). For 20 possible amino acids in a protein with 100 positions?

$\bar{\varepsilon} = V H \bar{y}.$

So...the bottom line is that we need **a general strategy** to learn the epistasis vector from a practical set of experiment. Can we do this?

heterogeneity and non-linearity...

For most systems, we don't know either the relevant parts, or the non-linear interactions between them. Why?

heterogeneity and non-linearity...

For most systems, we don't know either the relevant parts, or the non-linear interactions between them. Why?

(1) We do experiments in **specific model systems** under specific, carefully controlled experimental conditions in the laboratory....what does this do?

(2) We do experiments typically one the scale of **one part at a time**...single mutations, single gene knockouts, single drug applications, single cell recordings...what does this do?

....what is an optimal strategy to address this problem?

$$ar{arepsilon} = V H ar{y}$$
 .

So, large-scale **non-linear dynamical systems**. Next time....the problem of proteins

	n = 1	n = 2 or 3	n >> 1	continuum
Linear	exponential growth and decay single step conformational change fluorescence emission pseudo first order kinetics	second order reaction kinetics linear harmonic oscillators simple feedback control sequences of conformational change	electrical circuits molecular dynamics systems of coupled harmonic oscillators equilibrium thermodynamics diffraction, Fourier transforms	Diffusion Wave propagation quantum mechanics viscoelastic systems
Nonlinear	fixed points bifurcations, multi stability irreversible hysteresis overdamped oscillators	anharmomic oscillators relaxation oscillations predator-prey models van der Pol systems Chaotic systems	systems of non- linear oscillators non-equilibrium thermodynamics protein structure/ function neural networks the cell ecosystems	Nonlinear wave propagation Reaction-diffusion in dissipative systems Turbulent/chaotic flows