

Local dissipative Hamiltonian description of reversible reaction networks

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Abstract

In this letter we show that closed reversible chemical reaction networks with independent elementary reactions admit a global pseudo-Hamiltonian structure which is at least locally dissipative around any equilibrium point. The structure matrix of the Hamiltonian description reflects the graph topology of the reaction network and it is a smooth function of the concentrations of the chemical species in the positive orthant. The physical interpretation of the description is briefly explained and two illustrative examples are presented for global and local dissipative Hamiltonian description, respectively.

Keywords: Hamiltonian systems, Nonlinear systems, Reaction kinetic systems, Reaction networks

1 Introduction

The class of Hamiltonian systems as a special type of passive systems have gained significant interest during the last decade [5]. This interest is mainly originated from the fact that Hamiltonian systems have a number of advantageous properties from a control theoretic point of view. However, the Hamiltonian description of dynamical systems in an appropriate coordinates system is also extremely useful for the deep understanding of the underlying physical processes and the complex relations between the system's structure and the preservation or dissipation of energy-like quantities. Beside pure mechanical systems, well-known examples of Hamiltonian systems are LC-circuits [10, 4], electromechanical models [13] and even certain classes of distributed process systems [9]. The possibility to transform nonlinear control systems to Hamiltonian form via feedback has been studied in a recent paper [2].

A more general system class is the set of pseudo-Hamiltonian systems [3], where the algebraic system structure is the same as in the case of Hamiltonian systems, but the invariance or the decreasing nature of the Hamiltonian function cannot be proved globally from the properties of the structure matrix of the system. In [17], an effective general algorithm is presented for obtaining

the approximate dissipative Hamiltonian realization and constructing local Lyapunov functions for continuous time nonlinear systems.

One of the most significant achievements in the study of the dynamical properties of complex chemical reaction systems is [7], where (among other important results) the global stability of so-called 'deficiency zero' reaction networks is proved with a given Lyapunov function. It is important to note that the deficiency zero property is a structural feature of a certain class of reaction networks, therefore their stability does not depend on the system parameters. These ideas were recalled, extended and put into a control theoretic framework in [15]. In agreement with [7] (as they fall into the deficiency zero class) the closed and reversible reaction networks with independent elementary reactions are proved to be globally stable [8]. The thermodynamical foundations of the passivity properties of process systems (into which class reaction kinetic systems also belong) were defined in [18] and [1], where the storage function is derived from the entropy.

It is shown in [3] and [11] that Lyapunov-stable nonlinear systems can be algorithmically transformed to a special Hamiltonian form, but in this case, the structure matrix is generally nonsmooth at the equilibrium point, and not much physical insight is gained about the system structure.

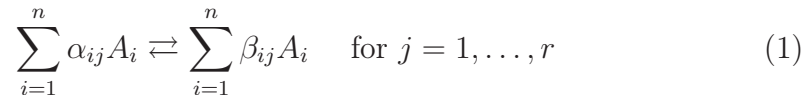
Based on the above mentioned results, the aim of this short paper is to show that closed reversible reaction networks admit a pseudo-Hamiltonian structure where the structure matrix is smooth in the positive orthant of the concentration space and it is negative definite in a neighborhood of any equilibrium point if the elementary reactions are independent.

2 Basic notions

2.1 The basic structure of reaction kinetic networks

In describing the underlying dynamic structure of reaction networks, we adopt the notation employed in [8] for the dissipative reaction network kinetics. We can distinguish between closed (isolated) and open kinetic networks depending on whether there is or not material exchange with the environment.

Let us consider the isolated and homogeneous isotherm systems where n chemical species participate on a r -step reaction network, represented by the following stoichiometric mechanism:



with α_{ij}, β_{ij} being the constant stoichiometric coefficients for specie A_i in the reaction step j . The linear combinations of the species in eq. (1), namely $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{ij} A_i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_{ij} A_i$ for $j = 1, \dots, r$ are called the complexes. All reactions are assumed to be reversible, with reaction rates obeying the *mass action law* [7]:

$$W_j(x) = k_j^+ \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\alpha_{ij}} - k_j^- \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\beta_{ij}}, \quad j = 1, \dots, r \quad (2)$$

where k_j^+ and k_j^- are the constants of the direct and inverse rates of the j -th reaction step, respectively, and $x_i > 0$ represents the concentration of the specie A_i . Each concentration evolves in time according to the ordinary differential equation:

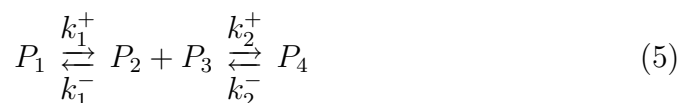
$$\dot{x}_i = \sum_{j=1}^r \nu_{ij} W_j(x), \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (3)$$

where $\nu_{ij} = \alpha_{ij} - \beta_{ij}$ is positive or negative depending on whether the specie i is a product or a reactant in the reaction j . The dynamic evolution of the network can then be represented by a set of ordinary differential equations which in compact matrix form is written as:

$$\dot{x} = \mathcal{N} \cdot W(x) \quad (4)$$

where $\mathcal{N} = [\nu_{ij}]$ is the $n \times r$ coefficient matrix whose columns are the so-called stoichiometric vectors $\nu_{.j} = \beta_{.j} - \alpha_{.j}$, and $W(x) \in \mathbb{R}^r$ denotes the vector of reaction rates.

The following simple example illustrates the above notions. Let the set of species be given by P_1, P_2, P_3 , and P_4 , while the set of complexes is $P_1, P_2 + P_3$, and P_4 . The reactions are



The α and β matrices are given by

$$\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \beta = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

from which \mathcal{N} can be calculated as

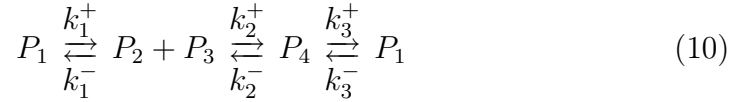
$$\mathcal{N} = \beta - \alpha = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

The reaction rates are given by

$$W_1(x) = k_1^+ x_1 - k_1^- x_2 x_3 \quad (8)$$

$$W_2(x) = k_2^+ x_2 x_3 - k_2^- x_4 \quad (9)$$

Now, let us modify the structure of (5) in such a way that there is a further reaction step between P_1 and P_4 :



Now, the modified stoichiometric matrix is

$$\mathcal{N}' = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

and the third reaction rate (in addition to (8) and (9)) reads

$$W_3(x) = k_3^+ x_4 - k_3^- x_1 \quad (12)$$

Observe that the columns of the original \mathcal{N} are linearly independent which means that \mathcal{N} is of maximal rank. In this case, we say that the elementary reactions (or the stoichiometric vectors) are independent. It is also visible,

that the rank of the modified \mathcal{N}' is only two, because the structure of the modified reaction is such that the third column of \mathcal{N}' is a linear combination of the columns of \mathcal{N} .

From now, we assume that $r \leq n$ and the columns of \mathcal{N} are linearly independent i.e., the rank of \mathcal{N} is exactly r . With this assumption, we only deal with a proper subclass of closed reversible reaction networks, since many reaction networks occurring in natural or technological systems contain linearly dependent column vectors in \mathcal{N} .

The reaction polyhedron. It is easy to see from (4) that any vector $c_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $k = 1, \dots, n - r$ belonging to the kernel of \mathcal{N}^T defines a linear first integral:

$$c_k^T x(t) = c_k^T x(0) =: C_k^0, \quad \forall t \geq 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, n - r, \quad (13)$$

since $c_k^T \dot{x} = 0$. It is also known that the positive orthant denoted by \mathbb{R}_n^+ is positively invariant for the dynamics (4) (see e.g., [8, 7]). For a given initial condition $x(0)$, equation (13) defines an r -dimensional invariant manifold \mathcal{M}_{x_0} which is a parallel translate of an r -dimensional subspace spanned by the column vectors of \mathcal{N} . The intersection of the positive orthant with \mathcal{M}_{x_0} is called the *reaction polyhedron* denoted by $\Omega(x_0)$:

$$\Omega(x_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_n^+ \mid c_k^T(x - x_0) = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, n - r\}, \quad (14)$$

that is also invariant for the system dynamics.

The equilibrium manifold. From the assumption $r \leq n$ and from the rank condition on \mathcal{N} it follows that $\dot{x} = 0 \Leftrightarrow W(x) = 0$, which determines the set of equilibrium points of the closed system. It is known from the stability theory of the studied subclass of reaction networks, that within each reaction polyhedron, there is exactly one equilibrium point which is globally stable in the space of positive concentrations (i.e., \mathbb{R}_+^n), and globally asymptotically stable if the system's dynamics is restricted to the r -dimensional reaction polyhedron. Therefore, assuming that the value of $x(0)$ is known, it is common to study the dynamics of (4) restricted to $\Omega(x_0)$ using the linear equations (13) [15]. From this it also follows that the minimal representation of a chemical reaction system (4) is r -dimensional. The equilibrium point of interest will be denoted by x^* throughout the paper.

2.2 Generalized Hamiltonian systems

The form of generalized dissipative Hamiltonian systems we will use is defined in [5]. In the autonomous case, this system class is defined by the differential equations

$$\dot{x} = (J(x) - R(x))\mathcal{H}_x^T(x), \quad (15)$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathcal{H} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is the Hamiltonian function, $J(x)$ is an $n \times n$ skew symmetric matrix (i.e. $J^T(x) = -J(x)$), the energy conserving part of the system, and $R(x) = R^T(x)$ is the so called dissipation matrix. \mathcal{H}_x denotes the gradient of \mathcal{H} (row vector).

The time derivative of the Hamiltonian function is

$$\dot{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{H}_x(x)(J(x) - R(x))\mathcal{H}_x^T(x) = \quad (16)$$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{H}_x(x)J(x)\mathcal{H}_x^T(x)}_0 - \mathcal{H}_x(x)R(x)\mathcal{H}_x^T(x). \quad (17)$$

It is clear from (17) that the skew symmetricity of J implies that $y^T J(x)y = 0$, $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$, which means that \mathcal{H} is a conserved quantity (first integral) of the system if $R = 0$. These facts motivate us to use the notion of *generalized Hamiltonian systems*.

It is also visible from (17) that if $y^T R(x)y \geq 0$, $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (i.e. R is positive semidefinite), then the Hamiltonian function is nonincreasing. Of course, this property might not be satisfied globally, but only in some neighborhood of the equilibrium point.

It is important to note that in physical system models, the matrices $J(x)$ and $R(x)$ often reflect the physical structure or topology of the system [5].

A further important remark clarifies the connection between the generalized Hamiltonian and the GENERIC [16] structures. The general equation for the time-evolution of beyond-equilibrium systems is formalized in the so called GENERIC structure that accounts for the reversible and irreversible contributions of the total energy $E(x)$ and the entropy $S(x)$:

$$\dot{x} = L(x) \cdot E_x^T(x) + M(x) \cdot S_x^T(x), \quad (18)$$

where x is a set of independent variables required for a complete description of the system (e.g. energies, velocities, etc.) and E_x and S_x denote the

gradients of E and S , respectively. In addition, the skew-symmetric matrix $L(x)$ and the positive semi-definite $M(x)$ satisfy the so called degeneracy properties:

$$L \cdot S_x^T(x) = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$M \cdot E_x^T(x) = 0 \quad (20)$$

and the impositions of the First and Second Law of thermodynamics:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = 0 \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} \geq 0 \quad (22)$$

It is visible that taking into consideration eqs. (19)-(20), the algebraic structure of (15) matches the generic structure (18) with $L = J$, $M = R$ and \mathcal{H} being a thermodynamic potential constructed from the linear combination of the total energy and entropy of the system. However, the dissipative Hamiltonian structure does not require in general that the Hamiltonian function should be separated into two physically meaningful parts like E and S in the GENERIC framework.

3 Local Hamiltonian structure of reaction networks

Let us denote the forward and backward parts of the reaction rates in the following way

$$p_j(x) = k_j^+ \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\alpha_{ij}}, \quad q_j(x) = k_j^- \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\beta_{ij}}, \quad j = 1, \dots, r \quad (23)$$

We define the *reaction space* as follows (the x arguments are suppressed in p and q):

$$z_j = \ln p_j - \ln q_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, r \quad (24)$$

Note that the product RTz_j (with R being the gas constant and T the temperature) is the chemical affinity corresponding to the reaction step j [6].

In order to construct an invertible mapping between x and z , let us extend (24) with the conserved quantities as additional coordinate functions in the following way

$$\bar{z} = \Psi(x) \quad (25)$$

where

$$\bar{z}_j = z_j = \ln \left(\frac{k_j^+}{k_j^-} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\nu_{ij}} \right), \quad j = 1, \dots, r \quad (26)$$

$$\bar{z}_k = c_{k-r}^T \cdot x, \quad k = r + 1, \dots, n \quad (27)$$

We assume that we know the value of x at any time instant, therefore \bar{z}_k in (27) are known and constant. Furthermore, it is assumed that the Jacobian of Ψ is full rank at any $x_i > 0$, $i = 1, \dots, n$ and this implies that the inverse $x = \Psi^{-1}(z)$ exists in the whole positive orthant.

The time-derivative of z_j is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}_j &= \frac{1}{p_j} \dot{p}_j - \frac{1}{q_j} \dot{q}_j = \frac{1}{p_j} \frac{\partial p_j}{\partial x} \dot{x} - \frac{1}{q_j} \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial x} \dot{x} = \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{x_1} (\alpha_{1j} - \beta_{1j}) \quad \frac{1}{x_2} (\alpha_{2j} - \beta_{2j}) \quad \dots \quad \frac{1}{x_n} (\alpha_{nj} - \beta_{nj}) \right] \dot{x} \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Using (4) and (28), the time derivative of the vector z can be written as

$$\dot{z} = -\mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x) \cdot \dot{x} = -\mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x) \mathcal{N} \cdot W(x), \quad (29)$$

where

$$\Gamma(x) = \text{diag} \left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \frac{1}{x_2}, \dots, \frac{1}{x_n} \right). \quad (30)$$

The rank of \mathcal{N} is always r and $x_i > 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$, therefore the matrix $\mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x) \mathcal{N}$ is nonsingular and positive definite at any fixed x , since it can be written as $P^T P$, where

$$P = (\Gamma(x))^{1/2} \mathcal{N}. \quad (31)$$

This means, that the system (29) is at equilibrium if and only if $W(x) = 0$ i.e. the unique equilibrium point in the z -coordinates is at $z_i = 0$, $i = 1, \dots, r$.

Furthermore, from eqs. (2), (23) and (24) the reaction rates can be expressed as

$$W_j = p_j - q_j = \exp(z_j) q_j - q_j = q_j [\exp(z_j) - 1] \quad (32)$$

Let us use the following notation:

$$F(x) = \text{diag}(q_1(x), \dots, q_r(x)) \quad (33)$$

Let the Hamiltonian function H be defined as

$$H(z) = \sum_{j=1}^r q_j^* [\exp(z_j) - z_j - 1] \quad (34)$$

where q_i^* denotes the value of q_i at the equilibrium point x^* . It is easy to show that H is globally convex and bounded from below, therefore it can be used as a Lyapunov function.

Using Eqs. (29), (32) and (34) we can write

$$\dot{z} = -\mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x) \mathcal{N} \cdot F(q) \cdot (F(q^*))^{-1} \cdot H_z^T(z) \quad (35)$$

or shortly

$$\dot{z} = -G(x) \cdot H_z^T(z) \quad (36)$$

where

$$G(x) = \mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x) \mathcal{N} \cdot F(q) \cdot (F(q^*))^{-1} \quad (37)$$

and H_z^T denotes the gradient transpose of H . Using the assumption that Ψ is invertible, (36) can be written as

$$\dot{z} = -G(\Psi^{-1}(\bar{z})) \cdot H_z^T(z) \quad (38)$$

It is easy to see, that $G + G^T$ is positive definite in a neighborhood of the equilibrium point, since it is smooth with respect to x in the positive orthant and

$$G(x^*) = \mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x^*) \mathcal{N} \cdot F(q^*) \cdot (F(q^*))^{-1} = \mathcal{N}^T \Gamma(x^*) \mathcal{N} \quad (39)$$

However, it cannot be guaranteed for an arbitrary reaction network that $G + G^T$ is positive definite in the whole concentration space. Therefore we can state the following proposition

Proposition 1 *For any closed reaction kinetic system of the form (4) with independent elementary reactions, there exists a neighborhood U around the equilibrium point $z^* = 0$, where the system admits a dissipative Hamiltonian description with Hamiltonian function (34).*

Physical interpretation The G matrix in the Hamiltonian description reflects the connectivity properties of the reaction network (\mathcal{N} together with the chemical composition of the complexes defines the graph structure of the system). It is also visible that $G(x^*)$ is symmetric and G loses its symmetry outside the equilibrium point. The Hamiltonian function \mathcal{H} contains the scaled chemical affinities, but it is rather an abstract construction and not the total energy of the system as in the case of most mechanical and electrical systems.

In a thermodynamic sense, the local definiteness of $G+G^T$ is related to the so-called entropy production function given by the product of thermodynamic fluxes and forces:

$$\dot{B} = -z^T \cdot W = - \sum_{j=1}^r \ln \frac{p_j}{q_j} (p_j - q_j) \quad (40)$$

where the transformed entropy function B in the space of the chemical concentrations is defined as

$$B(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \left(\ln \left(\frac{x_i}{x_i^*} \right) - 1 \right) + x_i^* \quad (41)$$

It is known that B (which is a measure of the inner dissipation of the system) is globally convex in the positive orthant and it is nonincreasing in time (see, e.g. [8]). Therefore \dot{B} is globally negative semidefinite but it is only locally concave (as a function of the concentrations) in a neighborhood of the equilibrium point determined by the topology of the reaction network and the kinetic constants. \dot{B} loses its concavity in the so called far from equilibrium region of the concentration space [12]. This property can be a source of complex nonlinear behavior (e.g. multiple steady states or nonlinear oscillations) when the system is opened and the exchange of material with its environment is permitted that can be modeled as external manipulable (or disturbance) inputs [14].

4 Examples

4.1 Global dissipative Hamiltonian description

Let the reaction system with six species $P_{11}, P_{12}, P_{13}, P_{21}, P_{22}$, and P_{23} (together with the corresponding concentrations x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6 , respectively) and four complexes $P_{11} + P_{12}$, P_{13} , $P_{21} + P_{22}$ and P_{23} be given in the following form.



The matrices characterizing the reaction network are given by

$$\mathcal{N}^T = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (44)$$

$$\Gamma(x) = \text{diag}\left(\frac{1}{x_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{x_6}\right), \quad F(x) = \text{diag}(q_1(x), q_2(x)), \quad (45)$$

and

$$G(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(x_1^{-1} + x_2^{-1} + x_3^{-1})x_3}{x_3^*} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{(x_4^{-1} + x_5^{-1} + x_6^{-1})x_6}{x_6^*} \end{bmatrix} \quad (46)$$

We can see that G is globally positive definite in the whole positive orthant, which means that the reaction system admits a global dissipative Hamiltonian structure. Based on the above calculations, it is easy to see that any set of independent reactions of the type

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\delta_i} c_{ij} P_{ij} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{k_i^+} \\ \xleftarrow{k_i^-} \end{array} \sum_{l=\delta_i+1}^{n_i} c_{il} P_{il}, \quad \delta_i < n_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, r \quad (47)$$

defines a global dissipative Hamiltonian structure.

4.2 Local dissipative Hamiltonian description

4.2.1 Model of the reaction network

Consider the following simple reaction network with three species (P_1 , P_2 , P_3) and four complexes $P_1 + P_2$, P_3 , $P_2 + P_3$ and $2P_3$:



The matrix \mathcal{N} of the system is written as

$$\mathcal{N} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (50)$$

The forward and backward reaction rates are

$$p_1 = k_1^+ x_1 x_2, \quad q_1 = k_1^- x_3 \quad (51)$$

$$p_2 = k_2^+ x_2 x_3, \quad q_2 = k_2^- x_3^2 \quad (52)$$

From the above equations, the components of the vector W are calculated as

$$W_1 = p_1 - q_1 = k_1^+ x_1 x_2 - k_1^- x_3 \quad (53)$$

$$W_2 = p_2 - q_2 = k_2^+ x_2 x_3 - k_2^- x_3^2 \quad (54)$$

Using N and W , the equations of the reaction system are the following

$$\dot{x}_1 = k_1^- x_3 - k_1^+ x_1 x_2 \quad (55)$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = k_1^- x_3 - k_1^+ x_1 x_2 + k_2^- x_3^2 - k_2^+ x_2 x_3 \quad (56)$$

$$\dot{x}_3 = k_1^+ x_1 x_2 - k_1^- x_3 + k_2^+ x_2 x_3 - k_2^- x_3^2 \quad (57)$$

4.2.2 Dissipative Hamiltonian structure of the closed system

The coordinates-transformation Ψ is given by

$$\bar{z}_1 = \ln\left(\frac{p_1}{q_1}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{k_1^+}{k_1^-}x_1x_2x_3^{-1}\right) \quad (58)$$

$$\bar{z}_2 = \ln\left(\frac{p_2}{q_2}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{k_2^+}{k_2^-}x_2x_3^{-1}\right) \quad (59)$$

$$\bar{z}_3 = x_2 + x_3 \quad (60)$$

Then the inverse transformation Ψ^{-1} can be calculated as

$$x_1 = \frac{k_2^+k_1^-}{k_2^-k_1^+} \exp(\bar{z}_1 - \bar{z}_2) \quad (61)$$

$$x_2 = \frac{k_2^-z_3 \exp(\bar{z}_2)}{k_2^- \exp(\bar{z}_2) + k_2^+} \quad (62)$$

$$x_3 = \frac{k_2^+ \bar{z}_3}{k_2^- \exp(\bar{z}_2) + k_2^+} \quad (63)$$

We can see from eqs. (58)-(63) that Ψ and Ψ^{-1} are globally defined in the positive orthant of the space of concentrations.

The dissipative Hamiltonian structure (36) for the model (55)-(57) is computed as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{z}_1 \\ \dot{z}_2 \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} & \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \\ \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} & \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \frac{x_3}{x_3^*} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{x_3^2}{(x_3^*)^2} \end{bmatrix} \cdot H_z^T(z) \quad (64)$$

where

$$H_z = \begin{bmatrix} k_1^- x_3^* (\exp(z_1) - 1) & k_2^- (x_3^*)^2 (\exp(z_2) - 1) \end{bmatrix} \quad (65)$$

For the forthcoming calculations, the values of the reaction rate constants k_1^+ , k_1^- , k_2^+ , k_2^- were chosen to be uniformly 1. The dissipativity region (i.e. the region inside which the matrix $G + G^T$ is positive definite) and the level sets of H for $x^* = [1 \ 5 \ 5]^T$ in the (x_1, x_2) and (z_1, z_2) planes can be seen in Figs 1 and 2, respectively. It is visible that the dissipative Hamiltonian description is valid in a wide neighborhood of the equilibrium point for the selected reaction polyhedron.

5 Conclusions

It has been shown in this paper that closed reversible reaction networks with independent elementary reactions admit a global pseudo Hamiltonian and a local dissipative Hamiltonian structure with clear physical meaning around any equilibrium point. The Hamiltonian structure has been described in a transformed coordinates system called the reaction space which is generally of lower dimension than the concentration space. The structure matrix which is a smooth function of the concentrations depends on the topology of the reaction network and the coefficients of the Hamiltonian function depend on the reaction polyhedron on which the system dynamics evolve. The theoretical results have been illustrated by two simple examples.

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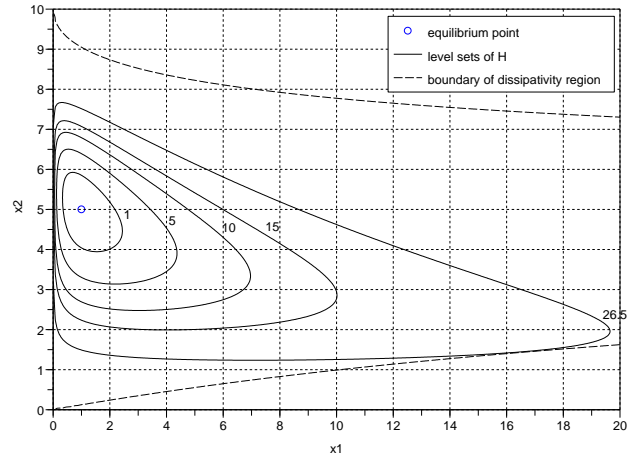


Figure 1: Dissipativity region and level sets of the Hamiltonian function in the (x_1, x_2) plane

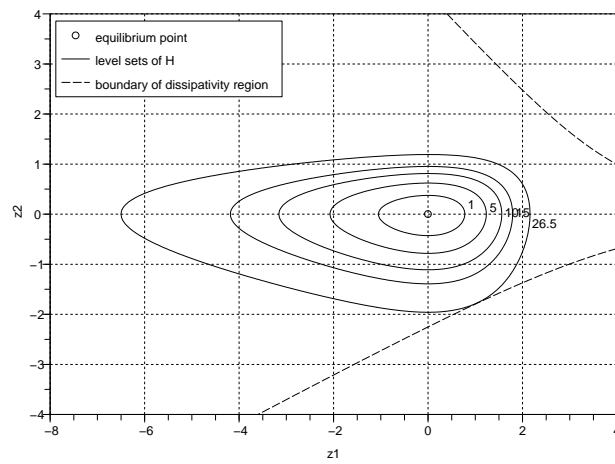


Figure 2: Dissipativity region and level sets of the Hamiltonian function in the (z_1, z_2) plane