#### **Review Article**

# Bifurcations and control studies in Circadian Rhythms in *Drosophila*

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#### Abstract

Bifurcation analysis and Multiobjective Nonlinear Model Predictive Control (MNLMPC) calculations were performed on a model of circadian oscillations of the Period (PER) and Timeless (TIM) proteins in *Drosophila*. The MATLAB program MATCONT was used to perform the bifurcation analysis. The optimization language PYOMO was used along with the state-of-theart global optimization solvers IPOPT and BARON for the MNLMPC calculations. The bifurcation analysis revealed oscillation causing Hopf bifurcations while the MNLMPC calculations revealed the existence of spikes in the control profiles. Both Hopf bifurcation points and the control profile spikes were eliminated using an activation factor involving the hyperbolic tangent function.

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Background

Decroly, et al. [1] discovered the chaotic behavior in multiply regulated biochemical systems. Alamgir and Epstein [2] studied the oscillations in coupled chemical oscillators of the chlorite-bromate-iodide system. Aronson, et al. [3] studied the negative feedback defining a circadian clock. Baylies, et al. [4] conducted genetic, molecular, and cellular studies of the *per* locus and its products in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Crosthwaite, et al. [5] investigated the photo responses and the origins of circadian rhythmicity. Curtin, et al. [6] demonstrated how the temporally regulated nuclear entry of the *Drosophila period* protein contributes to the circadian clock. Dunlap [7] performed a genetic and molecular analysis of circadian rhythms. Edery, et al. [8.9] studied the phase shifting of the circadian clock by induction of the *Drosophila period* protein and its Temporal phosphorylation. Edmunds [10] discussed models and mechanisms for Circadian Timekeeping.

Eskin, et al. [11] investigated the requirement for protein synthesis to regulate the circadian rhythm by melatonin. Gekakis, et al. [12] demonstrated the Defective interaction between *timeless* protein and long-period mutant. Goldbeter [13] developed a model for circadian oscillations in the Drosophila period (PER) protein. Goldbeter [14] wrote a textbook in Biochemical Oscillations and Cellular Rhythms. Goodwin [15] minvestigated the oscillatory behavior in enzymatic control processes. Hall and co-workers [16-18] studied the molecular effects on biological rhythms. Hong and Tyson [19] investigated temperature compensation of the circadian rhythm in *Drosophila* based on dimerization of the PER protein. Huang, et al. [20] studied PER protein interactions and temperature compensation of a circadian clock in Drosophila. Khalsa, et al. [21] studied techniques for stopping the circadian pacemaker with inhibitors of protein synthesis Konopka and Benzer [22] investigated clock mutants of Drosophila melanogaster. Lee, et al. [23] discuss strategies for resetting the Drosophila clock by photic regulation of PER. and a PER-TIM complex. Leloup and Goldbeter [24] researched temperature compensation of circadian rhythms. Marus, et al. [25] studied the effect of constant light and circadian entrainment of perS flies. Myers, et al. [26] studied the light-induced degradation of TIMELESS and entrainment of the Drosophila circadian clock. Qiu and Hardin [27] showed that the per mRNA cycling is locked to lights-off under photoperiodic conditions that support the circadian feedback loop function. Rosbash [28] studied the molecular control of circadian rhythms. Rutila, et al. [29] discuss t the tim<sup>sl</sup> mutant of the Drosophila rhythm gene timeless manifests allele-specific interactions with period gene mutants. Saez and Young [30] discuss the regulation of nuclear entry of the Drosophila clock proteins period and timeless. Saunders, et al. [31] discuss the Light-pulse phase response curves for the locomotor activity rhythm in period mutants of Drosophila melanogaster. Sehgal, et al. [32] studied the loss of circadian behavioral rhythms and per RNA oscillations in the Drosophila mutant timeless. So and Rosbash [33] showed that posttranscriptional regulation contributes to Drosophila clock gene mRNA cycling. Taylor, et al. [34] demonstrate that inhibitors of protein synthesis on 80S ribosomes phase shift the Gonyaulax clock. Vosshall, et al. [35] show the existence of a block in nuclear localization of *period* protein by a second clock mutation, *timeless*. Young, et al. [36] discuss the molecular anatomy of a lightsensitive circadian pacemaker in Drosophila.



Zeng and co-workers [37,38] conducted further research about the *Drosophila* circadian clock. Reitz, et al. [39], Mia, et al. [40], Parcha, et al. [41] and Teeple, et al. [42] studied the relationships between obesity and Circadian rhythms, while Tobeiha, et al. [43] and Festus, et al. [44] studied the effects of cardiovascular health on Circadian rhythms.

Leloup JC, Goldbeter [45] developed a model for circadian rhythms in *Drosophila* incorporating the formation of a complex between the PER and TIM proteins. In this work a) bifurcation analysis is performed on the Leloup Goldeter model for circadian rhythms in *Drosophila* to identify and eliminate the Hopf bifurcations and b) Multiobjective NonlinearMmodel Predictive Control(MNLMPC) calculations are performed to ensure maximum production of the required product while simultaneously minimizing all the unwanted by-products.

#### **Motivation and objectives**

Circadian rhythms are endogenous limit cycle oscillations characterized for 24 hours. They constitute the biological rhythms with the longest period known to be generated at the molecular level. Oscillations are caused by Hopf bifurcation point. Limit cycle oscillations occur because of Hopf bifurcations. These bifurcations cause spikes in control profiles when one tries to control the process to achieve maximum benefit. These spikes hinder optimization and control tasks. The motivation of this work is to eliminate the limit cycle causing Hopf bifurcations and the spikes in control profiles when dynamic optimization tasks are performed. Hence, the main objectives of this work are a) Identify the Hopf bifurcation points computationally perform bifurcation analysis using MATCONT (a Matlab software for performing bifurcation analysis) b) Use an activation factor involving the tanh function to eliminate these Hopf bifurcation points c) Perform Multiobjective Nonlinear Model Predictive Control(MNLMPC) calculations for the *Drosophila* circadian rhythms model (Leloup Goldeter; [45]) d) Demonstrate the existence of spikes in the control profile when these calculations are performed) Use the tanh function's activation factor to eliminate the control profile spikes. This paper is organized as follows. First, the *Drosophila* circadian rhythms model (Leloup Goldeter; [45]) details are presented. This is followed by describing the bifurcation analysis and Multiobjective Nonlinear Model Predictive Control(MNLMPC) procedures. The results and discussion section is then presented followed by the conclusions.

#### Drosophila circadian rhythms model

In this model, PER stands for period protein TIM stands for timeless protein.  $M_{p'} P_{o'} P_{1'} P_2$  stand for cytosolic concentration of PER mRNA, unphosphorylated PER, monophosphorylated PER and bisphosphorylated PER.  $M_{p'} T_{o'} T_{1'} T_2$  stand for cytosolic concentration of TIM mRNA, unphosphorylated TIM, monophosphorylated TIM and bisphosphorylated. C represents the complex formed by the degradation of  $P_2$  and  $T_2$  while  $C_N$  represents the nuclear form of the PER-TIM complex. The mRNAs are synthesized at rates of  $v_{SP'} v_{ST}$  with rate constants  $K_{sp}, K_{sT}$ . The subsequent degradation takes place at rates  $v_{mP'} v_{mT}$  with rate constants  $K_{mp}, K_{mT'} k_{1p}, k_{2p}, k_{3p}, k_{4p}$  are the kinase rate constants while  $k_{1T}, k_{2T}, k_{3T}, k_{4T}$  are the phosphatase rate constants.  $v_{1p}, v_{2p}, v_{3p}, v_{4p}$  represents the maximum kinase rate while  $v_{1T}, v_{2T}, v_{3T}, v_{4T}$  represents the maximum phosphatase rate. More details can be found in Leloup and Goldeter [45]. The base parameter values are

$$v_{sP} = v_{sT} = 1 \text{ nM h}^{-1}; v_{mP} = v_{mT} = 0.7 \text{ nM h}^{-1}; v_{mP} = v_{mT} = 0.7 \text{ nM h}^{-1}$$
  
 $k_{sP} = k_{sT} = 0.9 \text{ h}^{-1}; v_{dP} = v_{dT} = 2 \text{ nM h}^{-1}; k_1 = 0.6 \text{ h} - 1, k_2 = 0.2 \text{ h} - 1, k_3 = 1.2 \text{ nM}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$   
 $k_4 = 0.6 \text{ h}^{-1}, K_{IP} = K_{IT} = 1 \text{ nM}, K_{dP} = K_{dT} = 0.2 \text{ nM}, n = 4$   
 $K_{1P} = K_{1T} = K_{2P} = K_{2T} = K_{3P} = K_{3T} = K_{4P} = K_{4T} = 2 \text{ nM}, k_d = k_{dC} = k \text{dN} = 0.01 \text{ h}^{-1}$   
 $v_{1P} = v_{1T} = 8 \text{ nM h}^{-1}, v_{2P} = v_{2T} = 1 \text{ nM h}^{-1}, v_{3P} = v_{3T} = 8 \text{ nM h}^{-1}, v_{4P} = v_{4T} = 1 \text{ nM h}^{-1}$ 

The equations that constitute this model are

$$\frac{dM_P}{dt} = V_{SP}\left(\frac{K_{IP}}{K_{IP}}^n + C_N^n\right) - V_{mP}\left(\frac{M_P}{K_{MP} + M_P}\right) - k_d M_P \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{dP_0}{dt} = k_{sP}M_P - V_{1P}\left(\frac{P_0}{K_{1P} + P_0}\right) + V_{2P}\left(\frac{P_1}{K_{1P} + P_1}\right) - k_d P_0$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

$$\frac{dP_1}{dt} = V_{1P}(\frac{P_0}{K_{1P} + P_0}) - V_{2P}(\frac{P_1}{K_{2P} + P_1}) - V_{3P}(\frac{P_1}{K_{3P} + P_1}) + V_{4P}(\frac{P_2}{K_{4P} + P_2}) - k_d P_1$$
(3)

$$\frac{dT_2}{dt} = V_{3T}\left(\frac{T_1}{K_{3T} + T_1}\right) - V_{4T}\left(\frac{T_2}{K_{4T} + T_2}\right) - V_{dT}\left(\frac{T_2}{K_{dT} + T_2}\right) + k_4C - k_3P_2T_2 - k_dT_2 \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{dP_2}{dt} = V_{3P}\left(\frac{P_1}{K_{3P} + P_1}\right) - V_{4P}\left(\frac{P_2}{K_{4P} + P_2}\right) - V_{dP}\left(\frac{P_2}{K_{dP} + P_2}\right) + k_4C - k_3P_2T_2 - k_dP_2 \tag{5}$$

$$\frac{dM_T}{dt} = V_{ST} \left( \frac{K_{IT}}{K_{IT}}^n + C_N^n \right) - V_{mT} \left( \frac{M_T}{K_{MT} + M_T} \right) - k_d M_T$$
(6)

$$\frac{dT_0}{dt} = k_{ST}M_T - V_{1T}\left(\frac{T_0}{K_{1T} + T_0}\right) + V_{2T}\left(\frac{T_1}{K_{1T} + T_1}\right) - k_d T_0$$
<sup>(7)</sup>

$$\frac{dT_1}{dt} = V_{1T}\left(\frac{T_0}{K_{1T} + T_0}\right) - V_{2T}\left(\frac{T_1}{K_{2T} + T_1}\right) - V_{3T}\left(\frac{T_1}{K_{3T} + T_1}\right) + V_{4T}\left(\frac{T_2}{K_{4T} + T_2}\right) - k_d T_1$$
(8)

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = -k_4 C + k_3 P_2 T_2 + k_2 C_N - k_1 C - k_{dC} C \tag{9}$$

$$\frac{dC_N}{dt} = 2 - k_2 C_N + k_1 C - k_{dN} C_N$$
(10)

## **Bifurcation analysis**

Multiple steady-states and oscillatory behavior occur in various situations. Multiple steady states occur because of t Branch and Limit bifurcation points cause multiple steady-states. Hopf bifurcation points produce oscillatory behavior. Ions and limit cycles. The MATLAB program MATCONT. (Dhooge Govearts, and Kuznetsov [46], Dhooge Govearts, Kuznetsov, Mestrom and Riet, [47]) is commonly used software to locate limit points, branch points, and Hopf bifurcation points. Consider an ODE system

$$\dot{x} = f(x,\beta)$$

 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Defining the matrix A as

A =	$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} \end{vmatrix}$	$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2}$ $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2}$	$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_3}$ $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_3}$	$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_4} \cdots \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_4} \cdots$	$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n}$ $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_n}$	$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \beta}$ $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial \beta}$
	$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1}$	$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_2}$	$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_3}$	$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_4}$	$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n}$	$rac{\partial f_n}{\partial eta}$

 $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  is the bifurcation parameter. The matrix A can be written in a compact form as

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B \mid \partial f / \partial \beta \end{bmatrix}$$
(13)

The tangent at any point x; ( $v = [v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, \dots, v_{n+1}]$ ) must satisfy

$$Av = 0$$

(14)

(11)

The matrix B must be singular at both limit and branch points. The  $n+1^{\text{th}}$  component of the tangent vector  $V_{n+1} = 0$  at a limit point (LP) and for a branch point (BP) the matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} A \\ T \\ v \end{bmatrix}$  must be singular. At a Hopf bifurcation,  $\det(2f_x(x,\beta)@I_n) = 0$ (15)

@ indicates the bialternate product while  $I_n$  is the n-square identity matrix. Hopf bifurcations cause unwanted oscillatory behavior and should be eliminated because oscillations make optimization and control tasks very difficult. More details can be found in Kuznetsov [48,49] and Govaerts [50].

## Multiobjective nonlinear model predictive control

Flores Tlacuahuaz [51] first proposed the Multiobjective nonlinear model predictive control method that does not involve



weighting functions, nor does it impose additional constraints on the problem unlike the weighted function or the epsilon correction method(Miettinen, [52]). For a set of ODE

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = F(x, u)$$
(16)  

$$h(x, u) \le 0 \quad x^{L} \le x \le x^{U}; \quad u^{L} \le u \le u^{U}$$
let  $\sum_{\substack{t_{i=0} \\ t_{i=0} }}^{t_{i}=t_{f}} p_{j}(t_{i})$  (j = 12..n); be the variables that need to be minimized/maximized simultaneously,  $t_{j}$  being the final time value, and n the total number of variables that need to be optimized simultaneously. In this MNLMPC method dynamic optimization problems that independently minimize/maximize each variable  $\sum_{\substack{t_{i}=0 \\ t_{i=0} }}^{t_{i}=t_{f}} p_{j}(t_{i})$  are solved individually. The minimization/maximization of each  $\sum_{\substack{t_{i}=0 \\ t_{i=0} }}^{t_{i}=t_{f}} p_{j}(t_{i})$  will lead to the values  $p_{j}^{*}$ . Then the optimization problem that will be solved is
$$\min(\sum_{j=1}^{n} (\sum_{\substack{t_{i=0} \\ t_{i=0} }}^{t_{i}=t_{f}} p_{j}(t_{i}) - p_{j}^{*}))^{2}$$
(17)

subject to 
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = F(x, u);$$

This will provide the control values for various times. The first obtained control value is implemented and the rest are ignored. The procedure is repeated until the implemented and the first obtained control values are the same or if the Utopia

point  $\begin{pmatrix} t_i = t_f \\ \sum_{t_i=0} p_j(t_i) = p_j^* \end{pmatrix}$ ; for all j) is achieved. The optimization package in Python, Pyomo (Hart, et al. [53]), where the differential

equations are automatically converted to algebraic equations will be used. The resulting optimization problem was solved using IPOPT (Wächter and Biegler [54]). The obtained solution is confirmed as a global solution with BARON (Tawarmalani, M. and N. V. Sahinidis [55]).

# **Results and discussion**

For the three bifurcation parameters  $k_{sp}$ ,  $k_{dN}$ ,  $v_{mP}$ ; the bifurcation analysis revealed Hopf bifurcation points that disappeared when the bifurcation parameters were modified with the activation factor involving the tanh function. The bifurcation parameters  $k_{sp}$ ,  $k_{dN}$ , each resulted in one Hopf bifurcation point, while  $v_{mP}$  resulted in two Hopf bifurcation points. The bifurcation parameters were treated as time dependent variables while the other parameters were the base parameters. Whenks  $k_{sP}$  was the bifurcation parameter the Hopf bifurcation point was found at the point  $x = (M_p, P_o, P_1, P_2, M_{TP}, T_o, T_1, T_2, C, C_N, k_{sP}) = (0.311096 0.847336 1.070162 6.587611 0.311096 0.082204 0.076131 0.030362 0.375862 1.073892 6.559451). The limit cycle resulting from this Hopf bifurcation point is shown in Figure 1a. The Hopf bifurcation point and the limit cycle disappeared when <math>k_{sP}$  was modified to  $k_{sP}$  tanh( $k_{sP}$ ) / 10 (Figure 1b).







When  $k_{dN}$  was the bifurcation parameter the Hopf bifurcation point was found at the point  $x = (M_p, P_o, P_1, P_2, M_{\eta}, T_o, T_1, T_2, C, C_N, k_{dN}) = (3.291832 \ 1.453513 \ 1.441881 \ 1.434564 \ 3.291832 \ 1.453513 \ 1.441881 \ 1.434564 \ 2.175841 \ 0.816001 \ 1.399881)$ . The limit resulting from this Hopf bifurcation point is shown in Figure 2a. The Hopf bifurcation point and the limit cycle disappeared when  $k_{dN}$  was modified to  $k_{dN} \tanh(k_{dN}) / 40$  (Figure 2b) When  $v_{mP}$  was the bifurcation parameter 2 Hopf bifurcation points was found at  $x = (M_{p}, P_{0}, P_{1}, P_{2}, M_{T}, T_{0}, T_{1}, T_{2}, C, C_{N}, v_{mp}) = (0.546958 \ \overline{0.149307} \ \overline{0.138973} \ \overline{0.062696} \ \overline{2.117375} \ \overline{0.760434} \ \overline{0.880921}$ 2.514633 0.296267 0.846478 0.894904) and at (0.410086 0.109841 0.101970 0.043180 2.179160 0.795708 0.957074 3.642237 0.295544 0.844413 0.980167). The limit cycles resulting from these Hopf bifurcation points are shown in Figures 3a and 3b. The Hopf bifurcation points and the limit cycles disappeared when  $v_{mp}$  was modified to  $v_{mp} \tanh(v_{mp}) / 320$  (Figure 3c). For the MNLMPC calculations  $(k_{sp.} k_{dN.} v_{mp})$  were the time-dependent control variables while the other parameters were the base values.  $P_{TSUM} = \sum_{t_i=0}^{t_i=t_f} (P_1(t_i) + P_2(t_i) + T_1(t_i) + T_2(t_i))$  was minimized first and the minimum value obtained was zero. Then  $t_i=t_f$  $M_{TSUM} = \sum_{t_{i=0}}^{t_i=t_f} (M_T(t_i))$  was maximized and the resulting maximum value was 10. The objective function for the MNLMPC minimized was  $(M_{TSUM} - 10)^2 + (P_{TSUM} - 0)^2$ . The first obtained control values of  $(k_{sp}, k_{dN}, v_{mp})$  was implemented, the remaining discarded and the procedure was repeated until there was no difference between the implemented and the first obtained control values. These are the MNLMPC control values. When no activation factor was used, the MNLMPC control values were  $(k_{sp} k_{dN} v_{mp}) = (1.4140861276802486 \ 0.9640332102915072 \ 0.6100640938226989)$ .when  $k_{sp}$  was modified to  $k_{sp} \tanh(k_{sp}) / k_{sp}$ 10 when  $k_{dN}$  was modified to  $k_{dN} \tanh(k_{dN}) / 40$  and when  $v_{mP}$  was modified to  $v_{mP} \tanh(v_{mP}) / 320$ , and the same procedure was followed, the resulting MNLMPC control values were  $(k_{sP}, k_{dN}, v_{mP}) = (4.999999140881666, 0.0013130511044215727, 0.0013130511044215727)$ 4.9999568900984945). Figures 4a-4f show the various MNLMPC profiles when no activation factor was used. The profiles obtained when  $k_{sp}$  was modified to  $k_{sp} \tanh(k_{sp}) / 10$  when  $k_{dN}$  was modified to  $k_{dN} \tanh(k_{dN}) / 40$  and when  $v_{mp}$  was modified to  $v_{mp}$  tanh $(v_{mp})$  / 320 are shown in Figures 5a-5f. Figures 4c, 4d, and 4e show spikes in the control profiles. These spikes disappeared when the activation factor with the tanh function was implemented. The tanh activation function is used in neural nets (Dubey, et al. [56]; Kamalov, et al. [57] and Szandała) and [58] optimal control problems (Sridhar [59]) to eliminate spikes















#### **Figure 3b:** Second Limit cycle when $v_{mp}$ is the bifurcation parameter.



**Figure 3c:** Both limit cycles disappear when  $v_{mp}$  is modified to vmp tanh $(v_{mp})/320$ .







**Figure 4d:** MNLMPC calculation  $k_{sp}$  vs. t no activation factor used.

















#### **Figure 5d:** MNLMPC calculation $k_{sp}$ vs. t with activation factor.



#### **Figure 5e:** MNLMPC calculation $v_{mp}$ vs. t with activation factor.



Figure 5f: MNLMPC calculation mt vs. t with activation factor.



in the optimal control profile. The tanh factor effectively eliminates spikes that occur in control profiles. Hopf bifurcation points cause oscillatory behavior. Oscillations are similar to spikes and the results demonstrate that the tanh factor also eliminates the Hopf bifurcation by preventing the occurrence of oscillations. Sridhar [60] explained with several exampleshow the activation factor involving the tanh activation function (where a bifurcation parameter u isreplaced by ( $u \tanh u/\varepsilon$ ) successfully eliminates the limit cycle causing Hopf bifurcation points.

While intermediate periodic oscillations in Circadian rhythm models have been shown, this article demonstrates that Hopf bifurcations cause these intermediate periodic oscillations. It is also shown that these Hopf bifurcations can be eliminated using the tanh activation factor. The spikes in the control profiles are also eliminated by the same activation factor.

# Conclusion

This work shows that intermediate Hopf bifurcations that cause limit cycles can occur in circadian models involving the Period (PER) and Timeless (TIM) proteins in *Drosophila*. Furthermore, the Hopf bifurcation points also cause spikes in the control profiles when Multiobjective nonlinear model predictive calculations are performed. These spikes make control tasks difficult. This research demonstrates that when an activation factor involving the tanh function is used, the oscillation causing Hopf bifurcations and the spikes in the control profiles are eliminated.

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