

# A GENERALIZED DETAILED BALANCE RELATION

David Ruelle

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## References:

J.R. England “Statistical physics of self-replication.”  
[J. Chem. Phys. **139**, 121923 (2013)].

D. Ruelle “A generalized detailed balance relation.”  
[arXiv:1510.08357]

## (Usual) detailed balance

System  $M$  immersed in bath at inverse temperature  $\beta$ , pressure  $p$

$\pi_\tau(K \rightarrow J)$ : conditional probability that macrostate  $J$  of  $M$   
evolves in time  $\tau$  to macrostate  $K$

$$\frac{\pi_\tau(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi_\tau(J \rightarrow K)} = \exp[\beta(G(K) - G(J))]$$

( $G$  denotes the Gibbs Free Energy)

## “Proof” based on deterministic dynamics, and:

- equilibrium statistical mechanics  
(extended)
- definition of metastable states  
(long lifetime compared with local equilibration)
- time reversal symmetry  
(microscopic reversibility)

## Remarks:

- Detailed balance applies to systems far from equilibrium,  
no need to approximate deterministic by stochastic dynamics  
(only mixing implicit in local equilibration)
- Difference from other theories for nonequilibrium:  
conditions on dynamics are weak  
but no predictions on reaction rates

## Outline of 'proof'

$$\pi(J \rightarrow K) = \frac{\rho(\chi_J \cdot (\chi_K \circ f^\tau))}{\rho(\chi_J)}$$

$$\rho(\chi_J \cdot (\chi_K \circ f^\tau)) = \rho(\chi_K \cdot (\chi_J \circ f^\tau))$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\pi(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi(J \rightarrow K)} = \frac{\rho(\chi_J)}{\rho(\chi_K)}$$

and  $\rho \sim \exp(-\beta G)$

$\Rightarrow$  detailed balance

# Application to biology (England)

- Large system  $M$  (bacterium)
- Active bath (metastable solutes)

$$\frac{\pi(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi(J \rightarrow K)} \geq \exp[-\langle \Delta S \rangle - \beta \langle \Delta Q \rangle] \quad (*)$$

where

$\Delta Q$  = heat (enthalpy) transferred to bath in transition  $J \rightarrow K$

# Interpretation

Channels  $\alpha : (J, \alpha^{\text{in}}) \rightarrow (K, \alpha^{\text{out}})$

$$\pi(J \rightarrow K) = \sum_{\alpha} \pi^{\alpha}(J \rightarrow K) \quad , \quad \pi(K \rightarrow J) = \sum_{\alpha} \pi^{-\alpha}(K \rightarrow J)$$

$$\frac{\pi^{-\alpha}(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi^{\alpha}(J \rightarrow K)} = \exp[\beta \Delta^{\alpha} \mu] \cdot \exp[\beta(\Delta G + \Delta^{\alpha} G)] \quad (\dagger)$$

Define probabilities

$$p^{\alpha} = \frac{\pi^{\alpha}(J \rightarrow K)}{\pi(J \rightarrow K)}$$

then

$$\frac{\pi(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi(J \rightarrow K)} = \exp[\beta \Delta G] \sum_{\alpha} p^{\alpha} \exp[\beta(\Delta^{\alpha} G + \Delta^{\alpha} \mu)]$$



i.e.,

$$\frac{\pi(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi(J \rightarrow K)} = \exp[-\Delta S + \beta \Delta H] \sum_{\alpha} p^{\alpha} \exp[-\Delta^{\alpha} S + \beta \Delta^{\alpha} H] \quad (**)$$

and by convexity of the exponential we obtain (\*)

with

$$\langle \Delta S \rangle = \Delta S + \sum_{\alpha} p^{\alpha} \Delta^{\alpha} S \quad , \quad \langle \Delta Q \rangle = -\Delta H - \sum_{\alpha} p^{\alpha} \Delta^{\alpha} H$$

## Remarks

- Probabilities  $\bar{p}^\alpha : (K, \alpha^{\text{out}}) \rightarrow (J, \alpha^{\text{in}})$  given by

$$\bar{p}^\alpha = \frac{p^\alpha \exp[\beta(\Delta^\alpha G + \Delta^\alpha \mu)]}{\sum_\gamma p^\gamma \exp[\beta(\Delta^\gamma G + \Delta^\gamma \mu)]}$$

- Application of (\*\*\*) to self-replication:

More efficient replication corresponds to greater transfer  $-\Delta^\alpha Q$  of energy (enthalpy) to the bath

## Towards a proof

Hamiltonian  $H_\Lambda$  defines  $f^\tau$  and  $\rho(d\Omega)$

Macrostates  $J, K$  defined by acceptable subsets of phase space for:

- $\Omega|$  neighborhood  $V$  of  $M$  in  $\Lambda$
- metastability

(local equilibration includes thermalization and diffusion of solutes)

Central point: to prove (†) we use the fact that time  $\tau$  is large w.r.t. local equilibration (diffusion) time

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\pi^{-\alpha}(K \rightarrow J)}{\pi^\alpha(J \rightarrow K)} &= \frac{\rho(\chi_J^\alpha)}{\rho(\chi_K^{-\alpha})} = \frac{\rho(\chi_J^\alpha)}{\rho(\chi_K^\alpha)} \cdot \frac{\rho(\chi_K^\alpha)}{\rho(\chi_K^{-\alpha})} \\ &\approx \frac{\rho(\chi_J)}{\rho(\chi_K)} \cdot \exp[\beta(\Delta^\alpha G + \Delta^\alpha \mu)]\end{aligned}$$