
QualitativeModelFitting

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QualitativeModelFitting (*qmf*) is a package designed for validating a model against arbitrary observations. The concept stems from that of unit testing in software development. Using *qmf*, each part of a model is tested by statements derived from literature or in house data. These statements are encoded as a *qmf* input string which is used together with an *antimony* string as input to the *qualitative_model_fitting.Runner* class.

Click below for more information on usage.

The qmf input string

qmf defines its own syntax for retrieving user input. In *qmf* this is known as an *input* or *observation* string. An input string is divided into blocks and each block has a type. For now, there are only *timeseries* blocks and an *observation* block. You can have as many *timeseries* blocks as you like, but there must only be one *observation* block.

1.1 The timeseries block

This is where you define the timeseries that you can use in later comparisons. Each timeseries block you specify requires a separate time series simulation with its own independent variables (i.e. starting conditions) and therefore the more you have, the longer the programs execution time.

The syntax of a *timeseries* block looks like this:

```
timeseries name {component1=amount1, component2=amount2, ...} 0, 100, 101
```

Spaces are ignored, so:

```
timeseries name {  
    component1=amount1,  
    component2=amount2,  
    ...} start, stop, num
```

is syntactically equivalent and sometimes preferred, when a *timeseries* has lots of independent variables. The *name* argument is a handle for this timeseries and is used later within the observation block to refer to it. The final three arguments are *start*, *stop* and *num* which are the *start* and *stop* points of numerical integration and *num* how many equally spaced time points to have between them.

1.1.1 Examples

```
timeseries SInactive {S=0} 0, 50, 51  
timeseries SActive {S=1} 0, 50, 51
```

These two timeseries encode the two situations where a hypothetical stimulus S is on in $SActive$ or off in $SInactive$. Both timeseries will be integrated from 0 to 50 using a wrapper around [tellurium](#) and [roadrunner](#) packages.

1.2 The Observation Block

As the name suggests, this is where we define our observations. Observations can be one of several types. The simplest look like the following:

```
name: statement
```

where

- *name*: The name of your observation. Arbitrary.
- *statement*: A binary comparison instruction

The *statement* has the following form:

- *clause operator clause*

Where:

- *operator*: One of the comparison operators ($>$, $<$, $>=$, $<=$, $==$, $!=$).
- *clause*: an entity for comparison (see below)

1.3 Clause

1.3.1 Constants and expressions

A *clause*, in analogy to part of a sentence, can have one of several forms. At its simplest, a clause can be a constant value or a numerical expression.

```
0
5*10
4 + 4*9
```

The usual precedent rules in math are applied correctly.

1.3.2 Model variables

More often, we want a particular model variable at a particular time:

```
model_component[timeseries_name]@t=x
```

Which will resolve to a single number representing the amount of *model_component* in condition *timeseries_name* at time x . For example we could do:

```
A[SActive]@t=0
```

Which returns that scalar number. Sometimes we do not want a scalar but the amount of a variable between two time points.


```
model_component[timeseries_name]@t=(x, y)
```

Which be resolved to a vector of numbers representing the amount of *model_component* in condition *timeseries_name* between the time ranges of *x* and *y*. Since a vector cannot directly be compared with a scalar, to use a range of values in a comparison we need to use a function (see below).

1.4 Functions

Functions can take two forms:

- *Type1*: Those which tell the *Runner* how to make a comparison between scalar and vector
- *Type2*: Those which convert vectors to scalars prior to making the comparison.

These two function types have a slightly different syntax:

Type1:

```
name: function(clause operator clause)
```

Type2:

```
name: function(clause) operator clause
```

Note: The *Type1* function type takes as argument the whole *clause operator clause* statement while the *Type2* function takes only a clause as argument.

Note: Point 2 here assumes that the first *clause* is the time interval clause and the second is a scalar.

Note: Comparing a vector with another vector (i.e. element wise) is not yet supported.

1.4.1 Type1 functions

There are two *Type1* functions: *any* and *all* which are analogous to Python's and *numpy* *any* and *all* functions. If you use the *all* function when comparing a vector and scalar, the function will return *True* if all of the elements in the vector meet the condition set by the operator and the other clause. The *any* function on the other hand will return *True* if any of the elements in the vector meet the conditions set by the operator and the other clause.

1.4.2 Type1 Function Examples

All of *A* in the *SActive* timeseries between 0 and 50 are *greater than* the amount of *A* in the *SInactive* timeseries at time 25.

```
all(A[SActive]@t=(0, 50) > A[SInactive]@t=25)
```

If *A* in the *SActive* timeseries at time 0 are *greater then* any of *B* between the bounaries of 13 and 19, return *True* else *False*

```
any(A[SActive]@t=0 > B[SActive]@t=(13, 19))
```

1.4.3 Type2 functions

Type 2 functions currently include:

- mean
- min
- max

Which are self explanatory in what they do.

1.4.4 Type 2 function examples

The **mean**, **maximum** or **minimum** (respectively) of *A* in the *SActive* time series between time 0 and 50 is *greater than* the amount of *A* in the *SInactive* time series at time 0

```
mean(A[SActive]@t=(0, 50)) > A[SInactive]@t=0  
max(A[SActive]@t=(0, 50)) > A[SInactive]@t=0  
min(A[SActive]@t=(0, 50)) > A[SInactive]@t=0
```

class qualitative_model_fitting.**Runner** (*ant_str*, *obs_str*)

The manual interface into model validation

This interface is intended for iteratively checking whether your model reproduces your observations. The `manual_interface` is ideal for iteratively modifying a model and checking whether the required observations are met by your model.

This contrasts with the `automatic_interface` which will modify parameters automatically until it finds a set that complies with all observations.

Usage:

First get the antimony string for the model you want to test.

```
1 antimony_string = '''
2 model SimpleFeedback()
3     compartment Cell = 1;
4     var A in Cell;
5     var B in Cell;
6     var C in Cell;
7     const S;
8     const I;
9
10    A = 0;
11    B = 0;
12    C = 0;
13    S = 0;
14    I = 0;
15    BI = 0;
16
17    k1 = 0.1;
18    k2 = 0.1;
19    k3 = 0.1;
20    k4 = 0.1;
21    k5 = 10;
```

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```

22     k6 = 0.1;
23     k7 = 0.1;
24     k8 = 0.1;
25
26     R1: => A           ; Cell * k1*S;
27     R2: A =>           ; Cell * k2*A*C;
28     R3: => B           ; Cell * k3*A;
29     R4: B =>           ; Cell * k4*B;
30     R5: B + I => BI     ; Cell * k5*B*I;
31     R6: BI => B + I     ; Cell * k6*BI;
32     R7: => C           ; Cell * k7*B;
33     R8: C =>           ; Cell * k8*C;
34 end
35 '''

```

And then create an input string that defines your simulations and comparisons. There are described in more detail below.

```

1 input_string=''
2 timeseries None { S=0, I=0 } 0, 100, 101
3 timeseries S { S=1, I=0 } 0, 100, 101
4 timeseries I { S=0, I=1 } 0, 100, 101
5 timeseries SI { S=1, I=1 } 0, 100, 101
6 observation
7   Obs_basics1:   A[None]@t=0           >  A[None]@t=10
8   Obs_basics2:   A[S]@t=10             >  A[S]@t=0
9   Obs_basics3:   A[S]@t=25             >  A[SI]@t=25
10  Obs_mean:      mean(B[S]@t=(0, 100)) >  mean(B[SI]@t=(0, 100))
11  Obs_max:       max(B[SI]@t=(0, 100)) >  max(B[S]@t=(0, 100))
12  Obs_min:       min(B[SI]@t=(0, 100)) == 0
13  Obs_any:       any(B[SI]@t=(0, 100)) >  3)
14  Obs_all:       all(B[S]@t=(0, 100)) <  1) '''

```

Now we have a model and an input string we can use `Runner.run` to automatically check the validity of the statements in the input string.

```

>>> Runner(antimony_string, input_string).run()
      name                observation  evaluation
0  Obs_basics1                0 > 0          False
1  Obs_basics2          0.9779 > 0           True
2  Obs_basics3          1.5713 > 2.4536        False
3    Obs_mean            0.9376 > 0.1644         True
4    Obs_max             0.3675 > 1.3467        False
5    Obs_min                0 == 0          False
6    Obs_any  any(TimeInterval > 3)          False
7    Obs_all  all(TimeInterval < 1)          False

```

This is the first version of *qmf* and there are a number of planned features that are not yet supported. In no particular order, these are:

Todo:

- Build in full profile type analysis using a machine learning classification model. This would allow for profiles to be compared against (e.g.) a hyperbolic, transient or sigmoidal curve.
- Implement a cache system for performance improvements

- Implement the ‘between’ operator for implementing a rule that a component should be between x and y.
 - Implement the ‘almost’ operator for floating point comparisons
 - Implement the ‘start’ and ‘end’ operators for time intervals to abstract the need to always remember the end point of a simulation
 - Allow for assigning variables to collections so we can list species that have the same rules
 - Build in loops so we can do bulk validations
 - Build the steady state block
 - Build a dose response block
 - Build the sensitivity block
 - Build a plot block
-

R

Runner (*class in qualitative_model_fitting*), [7](#)