



On a Simple Mathematical Model for Epilepsy Motivated by Networks

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Abstract

Simple mathematical models motivated by networks are given for epilepsy. The coexistence solutions and their stability are derived.

Introduction

Epilepsy is one of the most common brain diseases [1]. Several approaches are used to model it e.g. dynamical systems [1] and networks [2]. In [2] a network is given or a 3-node graph one represents low (unexcited) cells(L). The second represents medium (M) and the third represent high (excited) cells (H). Here this system is approximated by the dynamical system:

$$\begin{aligned} dL/dt &= aL(1-L) - H \\ dM/dt &= bL - H \\ dH/dt &= -dH + M + cL \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where a, b, c, d are positive constants. The coexistence solution is

$$\begin{aligned} L &= 1 - b/a \\ H &= b(1 - b/a) \\ m &= (bd - c)(1 - b/a) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

It exists if $b/a < 1$ and $bd > c$ (3) and is locally asymptotically stable if

$$[d + a(2L - 1)][c + 1 + ad(2L - 1)] > b + a(2L - 1) \quad (4)$$

The model (1) can be reduced to a 2-species model as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} dL/dt &= aL(1-L) - H \\ dH/dt &= -dH + cL \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

and coexistence solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} L &= a - c/d \\ H &= (c/d)L \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

And is stable if $2L > 1$ (7) Healthy state exists if $H \ll L$. Now we introduce the drug resistant type in epilepsy [3]. The populations are low L, susceptible high Hs and resistant high Hr. The model is

$$\begin{aligned} dL/dt &= aL(1-L) - bHs - Hr \\ dHs/dt &= cL - HsHr \\ dHr/dt &= HsHr - dHr \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The coexistence solution is

$$\begin{aligned} Hs &= d \\ Hr &= (c/d)L \end{aligned}$$

$$L = \left\{ (a - c/d) \pm \sqrt{\left(a - \frac{c}{d} \right)^2 - 4bd} \right\} / 2$$

In the physically acceptable case $Hr \ll L$ hence $(c/d) \ll 1$, the coexistence solution is locally asymptotically stable.

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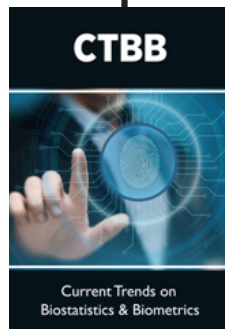
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