

# General Theory of Static Response for Markov Jump Processes

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We consider Markov jump processes on a graph described by a rate matrix that depends on various control parameters. We derive explicit expressions for the static responses of edge currents and steady-state probabilities. We show that they are constrained by the graph topology (i.e., the incidence matrix) by deriving response relations (i.e., linear constraints linking the different responses) and topology-dependent bounds. For unicyclic networks, all scaled current responses are between zero and one and must sum to one. Applying these results to stochastic thermodynamics, we derive explicit expressions for the static response of fundamental currents (which carry the full dissipation) to fundamental thermodynamic forces (which drive the system away from equilibrium).

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**Introduction**—Nonequilibrium steady state (NESS) of Markov jump processes describe a plethora of phenomena [1] and understanding their response to external perturbations has crucial implications [2] across fields, such as biology [3–6], nanoelectronics [7,8], and deep learning [9]. When the Markov jump process is produced by thermal noise, near equilibrium, the response is simple and characterized by the dissipation-fluctuation relation (DFR) [10,11]. But far-from-equilibrium or for nonthermal processes, the response is significantly more involved; see Refs. [12–24]. Recently, for the static response, exact results [25–27] and tight bounds [28,29] have been derived assuming Arrhenius-like rates. Moreover, the bounds [25] only hold for local responses, i.e., when the perturbation and the observable are assigned to the same transition.

In this Letter, we build a general static response theory for any Markov jump processes, which describes both local and nonlocal responses for arbitrary parameterizations of the rate matrix. We identify a broad class of parametrizations that produce two types of linear constraints, which we call the summation response relation (SRR) and cycle response relation (CRR). The SRR restricts the responses of the edge flux and probability. The form of such constraints does not depend on the topology of the incidence matrix, but the values of the responses involved strongly depend on it. The CRR limits the sum of local responses by the number of fundamental (Schnakenberg [30]) cycles, which are essential topological characteristics. Moreover, the topology defines which static responses among all combinatorial configurations have universal (remarkably simple) bounds. In unicyclic networks, all responses are bounded; for multicyclic systems, our approach identifies bounded and

unbounded responses. In concrete examples considered, the sizes of bounded and unbounded sets are comparable. Finally, for Markov jump processes describing a system in contact with thermal reservoirs (i.e., stochastic thermodynamics), we derive an explicit expression for the static response of fundamental currents to fundamental thermodynamic forces. The former characterize the full dissipation and the latter drive the system out of equilibrium.

**Setup**—We consider a directed graph  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $N$  nodes and  $N_e$  edges and a Markov jump process over the discrete set  $\mathcal{S}$  of the  $N$  states corresponding to the nodes. Then, the edges  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  define possible transitions with the probability rates encoded in the rate matrix  $\mathbb{W}/\tau$ . In this description, the jump from  $n$  to  $m$  is the edge (arrow)  $+e$  with the source  $s(+e) = n$  and the tip  $t(+e) = m$ . For the reverse transition, we have  $-e$  with  $s(-e) = m$  and  $t(-e) = n$ . Choosing  $\tau = 1$  the nondiagonal elements  $W_{nm} = W_e \geq 0$  become the probabilities per unit of time assigned to the edges  $e$ . We assume that the matrix  $\mathbb{W}$  is irreducible [31] and that all transitions are reversible, i.e.,  $W_e \neq 0$  only if  $W_{-e} \neq 0$ . With the property of diagonal elements  $W_{ii} = -\sum_{j \neq i} W_{ij}$  the described system always exhibits a unique steady-state probability  $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_N)^T$  that satisfies

$$\mathbb{W} \cdot \boldsymbol{\pi} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (1)$$

with the normalization  $\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i = 1$ . We define the transition current along the edge  $e$  as  $j_e \equiv W_{+e} \pi_{s(+e)} - W_{-e} \pi_{s(-e)}$ . This definition has a matrix form  $\mathbf{j} = \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{\pi}$ , where the matrix  $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$  has elements  $\Gamma_{ei} \equiv W_{+e} \delta_{is(+e)} - W_{-e} \delta_{is(-e)}$  with the Kronecker symbol  $\delta$ . In analogy to linear chemical reaction networks [32–34], the rate matrix can be decomposed as  $\mathbb{W} = \mathbb{S} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}$ , where  $\mathbb{S}$  is the incidence matrix of the directed graph  $\mathcal{G}$  with the elements  $S_{ie} \equiv \delta_{is(-e)} - \delta_{is(+e)}$ .

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We introduce a parametrization  $\mathbb{W}(\mathbf{p})$  using the vector  $\mathbf{p} = (\dots, p, \dots)^T$  made of  $N_p$  control parameters  $p \in \mathbf{p}$ . Thus, the steady-state condition (1) can be written as

$$\mathbb{S} \cdot \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{p}) \equiv \mathbf{j}[\mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\pi}(\mathbf{p})]$  depends on  $\mathbf{p}$  both explicitly due to  $\mathbb{F}(\mathbf{p})$  and implicitly due to  $\boldsymbol{\pi}(\mathbf{p})$ . The central objects of this work are the static responses of a quantity  $q(\mathbf{p})$  (e.g., a probability  $\boldsymbol{\pi}$  or a current  $\mathbf{j}$ ) to perturbations of the parameters  $p$ , i.e., the elements of the vector  $\nabla_p q(\mathbf{p}) = (\dots, d_p q, \dots)^T$ . Our goal will be to obtain *explicit* relations for these responses enabling us to find relations among them. Many recent works considered edge perturbations where each element of  $\mathbf{p}$  acts on a rate associated with a given edge [25–27,35,36]. But often, perturbing physical quantities implies acting on rates associated with many edges. In this Letter, after an example, we go from generic perturbations to more specific ones, illustrating our findings at every stage using a physical model.

*Homogeneous parametrization*—We first provide a simple illustration of how a given parametrization can give rise to nontrivial relations among static responses: let us consider the parametrization  $\mathbf{h} = (\dots, h_p, \dots)^T$  of  $\mathbb{W}(\mathbf{h})$  such that

$$\mathbb{W}(\alpha \mathbf{h}) = \alpha^k \mathbb{W}(\mathbf{h}), \quad (3)$$

where  $k$  is the positive order of the homogeneous function. The fact that  $\mathbb{W}(\alpha \mathbf{h}) \boldsymbol{\pi}(\alpha \mathbf{h}) = \alpha^k \mathbb{W}(\mathbf{h}) \boldsymbol{\pi}(\alpha \mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{0}$  implies that  $\boldsymbol{\pi}(\mathbf{h}) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(\alpha \mathbf{h})$  since the solution of Eq. (1) is unique;  $\boldsymbol{\pi}(\mathbf{h})$  is therefore an homogeneous function of order zero of  $\mathbf{h}$  which implies the linear relation (Euler's theorem for  $k = 0$ )

$$\sum_p h_p \frac{d\boldsymbol{\pi}}{dh_p} = \mathbf{0}. \quad (4)$$

This in turn implies that the current is a homogeneous function  $\mathbf{j}[\alpha \mathbf{h}, \boldsymbol{\pi}(\alpha \mathbf{h})] = \alpha^k \mathbf{j}[\mathbf{h}, \boldsymbol{\pi}(\mathbf{h})]$ , which is equivalent to

$$\sum_p h_p \frac{d\mathbf{j}}{dh_p} = k\mathbf{j}. \quad (5)$$

Equations (4) and (5) are known in metabolic control analysis as summation theorems [37–40]. In that context, enzyme concentrations play the role of the homogeneous parameters.

*Matrix approach to static response*—We now turn to arbitrary parametrizations. Our strategy is to use  $\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i = 1$ , and thus  $d_p \pi_N = -\sum_{k=1}^{N-1} d_p \pi_k$ , to arrive at  $N-1$  independent equations for others  $d_p \pi_k$  with  $k \in \hat{S} \equiv S \setminus \{N\}$ . To solve this linear problem, we introduce

the matrix  $\mathbb{K} \equiv \hat{\mathbb{S}} \hat{\Gamma}$ , where  $\hat{\mathbb{S}} \equiv [S_{ke}]_{\{k,e\}}$  and  $\hat{\Gamma} \equiv [\Gamma_{ek} - \Gamma_{eN}]_{\{e,k\}}$  are reduced matrices with  $k \in \hat{S}$  and  $e \in \mathcal{E}$ . In Sec. A of the Supplemental Material [41] we prove that the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$  is invertible [see Eq. (A5)], and that the probability and current response matrices read

$$\mathbb{R}^\pi \equiv [d_p \pi_i]_{\{i,p\}} = - \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{K}^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J} \\ -\sum_k (\mathbb{K}^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J})_k^T \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6a)$$

$$\mathbb{R}^j \equiv [d_p j_e]_{\{e,p\}} = \mathbb{P} \mathbb{J}. \quad (6b)$$

Here,  $\sum_k (\mathbb{K}^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J})_k^T$  denotes the row that is the sum of all rows of the matrix  $\mathbb{K}^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J}$ ;  $\{i, p\}$  ( $\{e, p\}$ ) denote the sets of indexes  $i \in \mathcal{S}$  ( $e \in \mathcal{E}$ ) for rows and  $p \in \mathbf{p}$  for columns;  $\mathbb{J} \equiv [d_p j_e]_{\{e,p\}}$  is the steady state Jacobian

$$\mathbb{J} = [\pi_{s(+e)} \partial_p W_e(\mathbf{p}) - \pi_{s(-e)} \partial_p W_{-e}(\mathbf{p})]_{\{e,p\}}, \quad (7)$$

and the matrix  $\mathbb{P} = [P_{ee'}]_{\{e,e'\}}$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{P} \equiv \left[ \delta_{ee'} - \sum_{x,x' \in \hat{S}} \hat{\Gamma}_{ex} (\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{xx'} S_{x'e'} \right]_{\{e,e'\}} = \mathbb{I} - \hat{\Gamma} (\hat{\mathbb{S}} \hat{\Gamma})^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}}, \quad (8)$$

with  $\mathbb{I}$  denoting the identity matrix. Matrix  $\mathbb{P}$  is idempotent [ $\mathbb{P}^2 = \mathbb{P}$ ] and is known as an oblique projection matrix [44]. Since  $\hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{P} = \mathbf{0}$ , we define  $\mathbb{B}$  via

$$\mathbb{P} \equiv \left[ \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{C}} c_\gamma^\gamma B_{\gamma e'} \right]_{\{e,e'\}} = \mathbb{C} \mathbb{B}, \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathbb{C} = (\dots, c_\gamma, \dots)$  is the matrix of the fundamental cycles  $c^\gamma$  defined as the right null vectors of the incidence matrix  $\mathbb{S} c^\gamma = \mathbf{0}$  ( $\mathbb{S}$  and  $\hat{\mathbb{S}}$  share the same  $N_c$  cycles). Equation (6) is crucial in what follows. It contains explicit expressions for the responses of all edges to arbitrary perturbations and contains information on how they are related to each other.

*Response relations*—For a vector  $\mathbf{p}$  such that the matrix  $\mathbb{J}$  in Eq. (7) is full row rank ( $\text{rk} \mathbb{J} = N_e$ , i.e.,  $N_p \geq N_e$ ), we can always find a right invertible matrix  $\mathbb{J}^+$  such that  $\mathbb{J} \mathbb{J}^+ = \mathbb{I}$ :

$$\mathbb{J}^+ \equiv \mathbb{J}^T (\mathbb{J} \mathbb{J}^T)^{-1}. \quad (10)$$

Multiplying both sides of Eqs. (6a) and (6b) by the vector  $\mathbb{J}^+ \mathbf{j}$ , we arrive at  $\mathbb{R}^\pi \mathbb{J}^+ \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbb{R}^j \mathbb{J}^+ \mathbf{j} = \mathbb{P} \mathbf{j} = \mathbb{J} \mathbf{j}$ . In coordinate form, these relations give rise to the SRRs:

$$\sum_{p \in \mathbf{p}} \phi_p d_p \pi_i = 0, \quad \sum_{p \in \mathbf{p}} \phi_p d_p j_e = j_e, \quad (11)$$

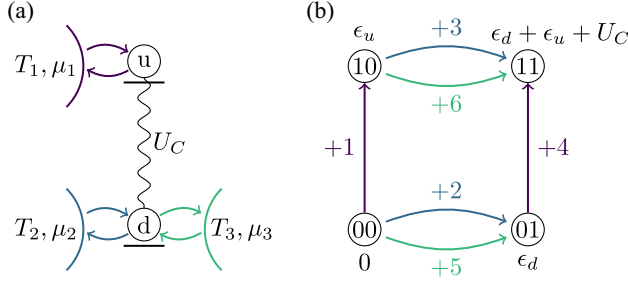


FIG. 1. (a) Double QDs  $u$  and  $d$  coupled with three reservoirs (purple, blue, green). The reservoirs have different temperatures  $T_i$  ( $\beta_i = 1/T_i$ ) and chemical potentials  $\mu_i$ , where  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . (b) Graph representation: Four states 00, 01, 10, and 11 have energies 0,  $\epsilon_u$ ,  $\epsilon_d$ , and  $\epsilon_d + \epsilon_u + U_C$ , respectively, where  $U_C$  is the Coulomb repulsion energy arising when the two dots are filled. The colored arrows show the transitions assigned to the corresponding reservoir. The transition rates read  $W_{\pm e} = \Gamma_e [1 + \exp(\pm \Psi_e)]^{-1}$ , where  $\Gamma_e$  are the tunneling rates and  $\Psi_e$  are the edge parameters (the potential assigned to the transition  $+e$ ):  $\Psi_1 = \beta_1(\epsilon_u - \mu_1)$ ,  $\Psi_2 = \beta_2(\epsilon_d - \mu_2)$ ,  $\Psi_3 = \beta_2(\epsilon_d + U_C - \mu_2)$ ,  $\Psi_4 = \beta_1(\epsilon_u + U_C - \mu_1)$ ,  $\Psi_5 = \beta_3(\epsilon_d - \mu_3)$ , and  $\Psi_6 = \beta_3(\epsilon_d + U_C - \mu_3)$ .

where  $\phi_p$  are elements of the vector

$$\phi \equiv \mathbb{J}^+ \cdot \mathbf{j}. \quad (12)$$

Equations (11) generalize Eq. (4) and (5) beyond homogeneous parameters with the only difference that the  $h_p$ 's are now replaced by the coefficients  $\phi_p$ . The structure of Eq. (11) is universal, and the parametrization as well as the topology of the graph are encoded only in the vector Eq. (12), which can be easily calculated explicitly using Eq. (7). The SRR for the current in Eq. (11) constrains the response of the edge fluxes. It implies that all flux responses of a given edge  $e$  vanish ( $d_p j_e = 0$  for all  $p \in \mathbf{p}$ ) only when that edge is at equilibrium, i.e., when  $j_e = 0$ .

Physical example: We consider the double quantum dots (QDs) model shown in Fig. 1(a) [45–48]. Each QD consists of a single electronic level with energy  $\epsilon_u$ , ( $\epsilon_d$ ), that can be solid or empty due to electron exchanges with the reservoirs. Electrons cannot be transferred between the two QDs, but when the two QDs are occupied, they interact with each other via a Coulomb repulsion energy  $U_C$ . The four many-body states of the system and their corresponding energy are shown in Fig. 1(b). In this case, the general explicit expressions for responses, Eq. (6), hold for any parametrization. But to satisfy the SRRs, we must have at least 6 independent model parameters ( $N_p \geq N_e = 6$  and  $\mathbb{J}$  must be full row rank): The set  $\{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_C\}$  is not large enough [Eq. (B2) in [41]], the set  $\{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_C, \mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3\}$  is not independent as  $\det \mathbb{J} = 0$  [Eq. (B3) in [41]], but the set  $\{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_C, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3\}$  would work as  $\det \mathbb{J} \neq 0$  [Eq. (B4) in [41]].

*Independent edge perturbations*—We now restrict our theory to systems with independent parameters at every edge, namely,  $\text{rk} \mathbb{J} = N_p = N_e$ . In this case, every element  $p_e$  of the vector  $\mathbf{p}$  is assigned to its own edge  $e$ , which implies that the matrix  $\mathbb{J}(\mathbf{p}) = \text{diag}(\dots, \partial_{p_e} j_e, \dots)$  is diagonal and  $\mathbb{J}^+ = \mathbb{J}^{-1}$ . Using Eq. (12), the coefficients  $\phi_e$  take the explicit form

$$\phi_e = \left( \frac{\partial j_e}{\partial p_e} \right)^{-1} j_e. \quad (13)$$

Since the matrix  $\mathbb{J}$  is diagonal, we can rewrite Eq. (6b) as

$$P_{ee'} = \left( \frac{\partial j_{e'}}{\partial p_{e'}} \right)^{-1} \frac{dj_{e'}}{dp_{e'}}. \quad (14)$$

This shows that the elements  $P_{ee'}$  are scaled responses where the scaling factor  $\partial_{p_{e'}} j_{e'}$  is controlled by the explicit dependence  $W_{\pm e}(\mathbf{p})$  and can be interpreted as the instantaneous response, as the edge probabilities  $\pi_{s(\pm e')}$  had no time to change. This means that  $P_{ee'}$  can be seen as the ratio between the complete and instantaneous response.

Physical example: For the QDs of Fig. 1, edge perturbation can be realized using the set  $\mathbf{\Gamma} = (\dots, \Gamma_e, \dots)^T$ . The set  $\{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_C, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3\}$  also works if controlled in such a way that the edge parameters  $\mathbf{\Psi} = (\dots, \Psi_e, \dots)^T$  are changed independently, see Sec. B of [41].

For edge parametrization, we call the responses  $d_{p_e} j_e$  and  $P_{ee'}$  local (nonlocal) if the perturbation edge  $e'$  does (does not) coincide with the observation edge  $e$ . In Sec. C of [41] we prove that the diagonal elements of  $\mathbb{P}$  are bounded,

$$0 \leq P_{ee} \leq 1, \quad (15)$$

which implies the bounds for the local scaled responses

$$0 \leq \left( \frac{\partial j_e}{\partial p_e} \right)^{-1} \frac{dj_e}{dp_e} \leq 1. \quad (16)$$

This result extends a previous bounds obtained in Ref. [25] for specific parametrizations and perturbations of the rates.

Using the property of idempotent matrices  $\text{tr} \mathbb{P} = \text{rk} \mathbb{P} = N_c$ , we can further derive the following CRRs:

$$\sum_{e=1}^{N_e} \left( \frac{\partial j_e}{\partial p_e} \right)^{-1} \frac{dj_e}{dp_e} = N_c. \quad (17)$$

Since the lhs is the sum of local scaled responses that are bounded by Eq. (16), Eq. (17) show that if exactly  $N_c$  local sensitives are saturated, then the other ones must be zero. This will be illustrated in Fig. 3.

*Unicyclic networks*—We further restrict our theory to systems with a single cycle. Unicyclic systems play an

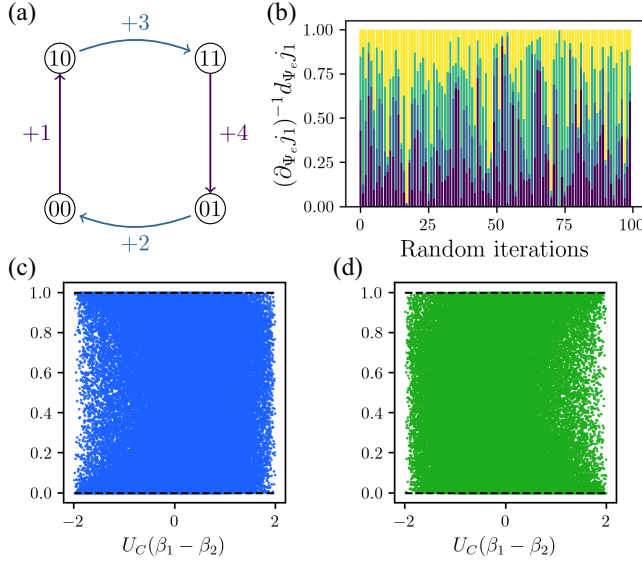


FIG. 2. (a) Unicyclic network obtained by removing the third reservoir from Fig. 1. (b) The heights of the purple, blue, green, and yellow bins correspond to the scaled responses of  $j_1$  to perturbation of  $\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_4$  for  $\Gamma_e, \beta_1, \beta_2$  randomly and homogeneously distributed in  $0 \leq \Gamma_e \leq 100$  and  $0 \leq \beta_1, \beta_2 \leq 2$ , with  $U_C = 1$ ,  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = 1$ . In (c), respectively, (d),  $(T_1 d_{\epsilon_u} j_1 + |\partial_{\Psi_1} j_1|) / (|\partial_{\Psi_1} j_1| + |\partial_{\Psi_4} j_4|)$ , respectively,  $(T_2 d_{\epsilon_d} j_1 + |\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3|) / (|\partial_{\Psi_2} j_2| + |\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3|)$ , bounded between 0 and 1.

important role in understanding molecular motors and metabolic networks; see, e.g., the dynein model in [49] and the biochemical switch in [28]. Choosing an edge orientation such that  $\mathbf{c}$  consists only of 1s and 0s and using Eqs. (2) and (9) for the unicyclic system, we have  $P_{ee'} = c_e B_{1e'}$  and  $j_e = \mathcal{J} c_e$ , where  $\mathcal{J}$  is the flux and  $c_e$  are the elements of the single cycle  $\mathbf{c}$ , that result in  $P_{ee'} = c_e / c_{e'} P_{e'e} = j_e / j_{e'} P_{e'e}$ . Using Eq. (14) and that if  $j_e, j_{e'} \neq 0$  then  $j_e = j_{e'}$ , we find  $P_{e'e} = P_{ee'} = (\partial_{p_e} j_{e'})^{-1} d_{p_e} j_e$  which results in the following bounds [see Eq. (15)]:

$$0 \leq \left( \frac{\partial j_{e'}}{\partial p_e} \right)^{-1} \frac{d j_e}{d p_e} \leq 1 \quad (18)$$

for any combinations of the perturbing  $e'$  and observing  $e$  edges. In addition, the SRR (11) for the unicyclic network becomes

$$\sum_{e=1}^{N_e} \left( \frac{\partial j_e}{\partial p_e} \right)^{-1} \frac{d j_{e'}}{d p_e} = 1. \quad (19)$$

Since scaled responses are non-negative and add up to one, the saturation of one automatically suppresses all the others.

Physical example: By removing the third reservoir (edge 5 and 6) and changing the orientation of the edges 2 and 4 in Fig. 1, the model becomes a four-state unicyclic

network, see Fig. 2(a). The histogram in Fig. 2(b) illustrates that the scaled responses to edge parameters  $\Psi$  are nonnegative and sum up to one as predicted by Eqs. (18) and (19). One also sees that they are typically shared between all edges, whereas when one tends to saturate, the other ones are suppressed. In Sec. D of [41] we derive the following tight bounds for the responses of any edge current  $j_e$  to the energy levels  $\epsilon_u$  and  $\epsilon_d$ :  $-\partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 \leq T_1 d_{\epsilon_u} j_e \leq |\partial_{\Psi_4} j_4|$  and  $-\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 \leq T_2 d_{\epsilon_d} j_e \leq |\partial_{\Psi_2} j_2|$ , which are illustrated for different values of the thermodynamic force  $U_C(\beta_1 - \beta_2)$  in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d).

**Multicycle systems**—Since the elements of  $\mathbb{C}$  can always be written using  $\{0, 1\}$ , the parametric dependence of the matrix  $\mathbb{P}$  is defined by the  $N_c N_e$  elements of the matrix  $\mathbb{B}$  in Eq. (9), which satisfies  $\mathbb{C} \mathbb{B} \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}$  due to Eq. (8). Matrix  $\mathbb{C}$  is full column rank and  $\mathbb{B} \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{I}_c$  is the identity matrix of size  $N_c$ . Defining  $\tilde{\mathbb{C}}$  as the invertible submatrix of  $\mathbb{C}$  and noting that it is always possible to define cycles such that  $\tilde{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{I}_c$ ,

$$\mathbb{B} \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{B} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{I}_c \\ \tilde{\mathbb{C}} \end{pmatrix} = (\tilde{\mathbb{B}}, \tilde{\mathbb{B}}) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{I}_c \\ \tilde{\mathbb{C}} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{I}_c, \quad \tilde{\mathbb{B}} = \mathbb{I}_c - \tilde{\mathbb{B}} \tilde{\mathbb{C}}, \quad (20)$$

which reduces the number of unknown elements of  $\mathbb{P}$  to  $\#var = N_c N_e - N_c^2 = N_c(N - 1)$  elements of  $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}$ .

For edge parametrization, the fact that the scaled responses are bounded [Eq. (16)] can be used to find the set of bounded nonlocal responses. For edge currents, it is equivalent to finding nondiagonal elements  $P_{ee'}$  that can be written in terms of only diagonal ones  $P_{ee}$  and thus be bounded. To do so, we define the number of independent diagonal elements as  $\#ide$ , which reduces the free variables of  $\mathbb{P}$  to  $\#var - \#ide$ . Since there is always at least one constraint on diagonal elements because  $\text{tr} \mathbb{P} = \text{rk} \mathbb{P}$ , we have  $\#ide \leq N_e - 1$ . A greater number of constraints arise in systems with disjoint cycles (i.e., cycles that do not share edges), see Sec. E of [41] with an illustration for proof-reading networks [6]. All nondiagonal elements are bounded when

$$\#var - \#ide = (N_c - 1)(N - 2) + (N_e - 1 - \#ide) = 0, \quad (21)$$

which is only possible if  $\#ide = N_e - 1$ , and thus if  $N_c = 1$  (unicyclic models) or if  $N = 2$  (two states models).

Beyond unicyclic and two-state models, only part of the possible responses are bounded by a linear combination of the local responses. To identify which ones, using Eqs. (9) and (20), we write

$$(\mathbb{I}_c - \tilde{\mathbb{B}} \tilde{\mathbb{C}})_{ee} = P_{ee}, \quad e \leq N_c, \quad (22a)$$

$$(\tilde{\mathbb{C}} \tilde{\mathbb{B}})_{ee} = P_{ee}, \quad e > N_c. \quad (22b)$$

This system of  $\#ide$  equations allows us to express  $\#ide$  elements  $\{B_{\gamma e}^{\text{lin}}\}$  as a linear combination of the bounded



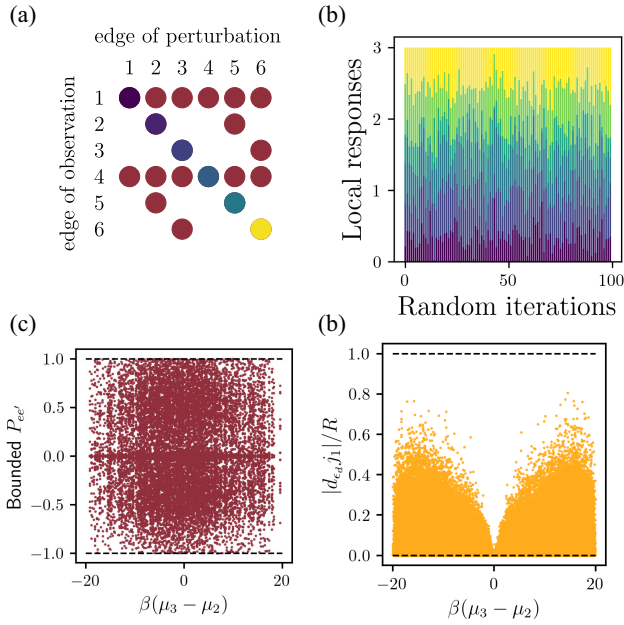


FIG. 3. For the model in Fig. 1: (a) The disks indicate the 20 bounded  $P_{ee'}$ 's out of 36. (b) Validity of the CRR [Eq. (17)] with  $N_c = 3$ . The heights of the color bins (from black to yellow) correspond to  $P_{ee'}$  for  $e = 1, \dots, 6$  and to randomly and homogeneously distributed  $0 \leq \epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_C \leq 5$ ,  $0 < \Gamma_e \leq 1000$  and  $-10 \leq \mu_2, \mu_3 \leq 10$ , with  $T_i = 1$ ,  $\mu_1 = 0$ . (c)  $P_{ee'}$  corresponding to the red disks in (a), as a function of the thermodynamic force  $\beta(\mu_3 - \mu_2)$ . (d) Physical responses  $|d_{ea} j_1|$  in units of  $R = \sum_{e \neq 1,4} |\partial_{\Psi_e} j_e|$ . Dashed lines denote our bounds.

diagonal elements  $\{P_{ee'}\}$ . The other elements  $\{B_{\gamma e'}\} \setminus \{B_{\gamma e}^{\text{lin}}\}$  are not restricted by the bounds in Eq. (15). Thus, the elements  $P_{ee'} = \sum_{\gamma} C_{e\gamma} B_{\gamma e'}$  are therefore bounded if they contain only terms from the set  $\{B_{\gamma e}^{\text{lin}}\}$ . This will be illustrated in Fig. 3.

**Thermodynamic responses**—The rates can be expressed in terms of their symmetric  $v_e \equiv \ln \sqrt{W_{+e} W_{-e}} = v_{-e}$  and antisymmetric  $w_e \equiv \ln \sqrt{W_{+e} / W_{-e}} = -w_{-e}$  parts as  $W_{\pm e} = \exp(v_e \pm w_e)$ . For the QDs of Fig. 1,  $v_e = \ln \Gamma_e$  and  $w_e = -\ln[1 + \exp(\Psi_e)]$ . This decomposition is used in stochastic thermodynamics (i.e., for open systems undergoing transitions caused by thermal reservoirs) because the antisymmetric part defines the energetics of the system [46,50]:

$$\ln \frac{W_{+e}}{W_{-e}} = \sum_{i \in S} E_i S_{ie} + \mathcal{F}_e, \quad \mathcal{F}_e = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{R}} X_{e\alpha} f_{\alpha}. \quad (23)$$

The lhs of Eq. (23) is the entropy change in the reservoirs caused by a transition  $e$ . It can always be split, in the rhs, as a change in the Massieu potential  $E_i$  of the state  $i$  and as a nonconservative contribution  $\mathcal{F}_e = -\mathcal{F}_{-e}$ . The latter can be expressed, in Eq. (23), as a sum over a subset of reservoirs  $\mathcal{R}$ , where each term consists of an amount of conserved quantities exchanged with the reservoirs during

a transition  $e$ ,  $X_{e\alpha}$ , multiplied by a conjugated (fundamental [46]) thermodynamic force,  $f_{\alpha}$  made of differences of intensive fields of the reservoirs such as inverse temperatures or chemical potentials [46]. Using Eqs. (23) and (14), we find

$$d_{f_{\alpha}} j_e = \sum_{\rho \in \mathcal{E}} d_{f_{\alpha}} \mathcal{F}_{\rho} d_{\mathcal{F}_{\rho}} j_e = \sum_{\rho \in \mathcal{E}} X_{\rho\alpha} P_{e\rho} \partial_{\mathcal{F}_{\rho}} j_{\rho}, \quad (24)$$

which can be obtained analytically for known  $\partial_{\mathcal{F}_{\rho}} j_{\rho}$ . Since the (fundamental [46]) currents exchanged with the different reservoirs are the elements of the vector  $\mathbf{I} = \mathbb{X}^T \mathbf{j}$ , their response to the thermodynamic forces read

$$\mathbb{R}^I \equiv [d_{f_{\alpha'}} I_{\alpha}]_{\{\alpha, \alpha'\}} = \mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{P} \mathbb{J}(\mathcal{F}) \mathbb{X} = \mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{R}^j \mathbb{X}, \quad (25)$$

where  $\alpha, \alpha' \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathbb{J}(\mathcal{F}) = \text{diag}(\dots, \partial_{\mathcal{F}_e} j_e, \dots)$ . Close to equilibrium,  $\mathbb{R}^I$  reduces to the semipositive definite Onsager matrix (Sec. F of [41]). The lack of symmetry of  $\mathbb{R}^I$  can thus be measured experimentally as  $|R_{\alpha\alpha'}^I - R_{\alpha'\alpha}^I|$  and used to determine if the system is far from equilibrium.

Let us now assume that  $w_e$  is independent of  $v_e$ . This is relevant, for example, for Arrhenius-like rates [25], as well as for electron transfer rates in CMOS transistors [51] or single electron tunneling rates in the wide-band approximation [48]. Equation (23) shows that  $w_e$  depends only on the perturbation of the energy and forces, but does not depend on the perturbation of the kinetic parameters. Such kinetic  $v_e$  and energy (thermodynamic forces)  $w_e$  perturbations will be constrained by Eq. (11). Calculating the partial derivatives  $\partial_{w_e} j_e = \tau_e$  and  $\partial_{v_e} j_e = j_e$ , we find  $\phi_e = j_e / \tau_e$  (respectively,  $\phi_e = 1$ ) for  $w_e$  (respectively,  $v_e$ ), where  $\tau_e \equiv W_e \pi_{s(+e)} + W_{-e} \pi_{s(-e)}$  is the edge traffic. Inserting  $\phi_e$  into Eq. (11), we arrive at the symmetric and antisymmetric SRRs

$$\sum_e \frac{j_e}{\tau_e} d_{w_e} \pi = \mathbf{0}, \quad \sum_e d_{v_e} \pi = \mathbf{0}, \quad (26a)$$

$$\sum_e \frac{j_e}{\tau_e} d_{w_e} \ln \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{1}, \quad \sum_e d_{v_e} \ln \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{1}. \quad (26b)$$

We note that unlike the antisymmetric parametrization, the symmetric one is homogeneous  $\mathbf{h} = (\dots, v_e, \dots)^T$  as the symmetric RSSs in Eq. (26) coincide with Eqs. (4) and (5).

**Physical example:** For the QDs in Fig. 1, we use Eq. (22) to find all the elements  $P_{ee'}$  that are linear combinations of diagonal elements and are thus bounded, see Sec. G of [41] and Fig. 3(a). The 6 local scaled responses,  $P_{ee}$ , sum to  $N_c = 3$  as predicted by the CRR [Eq. (17)], see Fig. 3(b). The nonlocal scaled responses can be negative, but those marked as disks in Fig. 3(a) are bounded as  $-1 \leq P_{ee'} \leq 1$ , see Eq. (G4) in [41] and Fig. 3(c). We use the properties of the matrix  $\mathbb{P}$  to bound the responses of the current to physical parameters in Sec. H

of [41]. We find that  $d_p j_\alpha = \sum_e P_{ae} \partial_p \Psi_e$  for  $\alpha = 1, 4$ , where  $-1 \leq P_{ae} \leq 1$ . We also find  $|d_{e_d} j_\alpha| \leq R$ , where  $R = |\partial_{\Psi_2} j_2| + |\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3| + |\partial_{\Psi_5} j_5| + |\partial_{\Psi_6} j_6|$ . This is illustrated numerically in Fig. 3(d) for different values of the thermodynamic force  $\beta(\mu_3 - \mu_2)$ , where we see that large responses arise far from equilibrium.

*Future studies*—Our approach provides powerful tools to identify networks that are highly sensitive or extremely resilient to perturbations. It is also ideally suited to study the responses of enzymatic changes (proofreading, sensing) in chemical reaction networks, in particular in conjunction with recently developed circuit theory [52]. Extending our approach to non-stationary response theory of Markov processes as in Refs. [35,36,53,54] is also an interesting perspective.

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# Supplemental Material for A General Theory of Static Response for Markov Jump Processes

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## Appendix A: Derivation of Eq. 6.

Here we derive the matrix expressions (6) for the probability and current responses to an arbitrary parameterisation  $\mathbf{p}$ . The total derivative  $d_p$  of Eq. (2) on  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{p}$  reads

$$\mathbb{S}(\partial_p \Gamma) \boldsymbol{\pi} + \mathbb{S} \Gamma d_p \boldsymbol{\pi} = \mathbf{0}. \quad (\text{A1})$$

Using  $\sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i = 1$  we find one of the derivatives, say the  $N$ th one, as  $d_p \pi_N = -\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} d_p \pi_i$ . Inserting it in the coordinate form of Eq. (A1) we arrive at:

$$\sum_{j \in \hat{S}} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} S_{ie} (\Gamma_{ej} - \Gamma_{eN}) d_p \pi_j = - \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \sum_{k \in \hat{S}} S_{ie} (\partial_p \Gamma_{ek}) \pi_k, \quad (\text{A2})$$

where  $\hat{S} = \mathcal{S} \setminus \{N\}$  denotes the space of  $N - 1$  states, or

$$\sum_{j \in \hat{S}} K_{ij} d_p \pi_j = - \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} S_{ie} J_{ep}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

where  $J_{ep} = \partial_p j_e$  are elements of the Jacobian defined in Eq. (7) and where we introduced the matrix

$$\mathbb{K} = \left[ \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} S_{ie} (\Gamma_{ej} - \Gamma_{eN}) \right]_{i,j \in \hat{S}} = \hat{\mathbb{S}} \hat{\Gamma}, \quad (\text{A4})$$

with  $\hat{\mathbb{S}} = [S_{ie}]_{i \in \hat{S}, e \in \mathcal{E}}$  and  $\hat{\Gamma} = [\Gamma_{ej} - \Gamma_{eN}]_{e \in \mathcal{E}, j \in \hat{S}}$ .

We proceed with the proof that the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$  is invertible. The auxiliary matrix  $\mathbb{K}_N$  coincides with  $\mathbb{W}$ , except the  $N$ th row, which is the row of ones. Therefore  $\det \mathbb{K}_N =$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} [W_{m,n}]_{m \in \hat{S}, n \in \mathcal{S}} \\ \mathbf{1}^\top \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{K} & [W_{mN}]_{m \in \hat{S}} \\ \mathbf{0}^\top & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \det \mathbb{K}. \quad (\text{A5})$$

Then, using the results of Ref. [1] for  $\det \mathbb{K}_N$ , we arrive at:

$$\det \mathbb{K} = \det \mathbb{K}_N = \prod_{i=1}^{N-1} \lambda_i \neq 0, \quad (\text{A6})$$

where  $\lambda_i$  are nonzero eigenvalues of the matrix  $\mathbb{W}$ , which implies that  $\mathbb{K}$  is invertible.

Multiplying Eq. (A3) by  $\mathbb{K}^{-1}$ , we find the responses  $d_p \pi_i$ . Using them to calculate  $d_p \pi_N$  and rewriting the result in matrix form, we arrive at Eq. (6a). Similarly, using Eq. (A1) we

can calculate the response of the current:

$$\begin{aligned} d_p \mathbf{j} &= \partial_p \mathbf{j} + \Gamma \partial_p \boldsymbol{\pi} = \partial_p \mathbf{j} + \left[ \sum_{i \in \hat{S}} (\Gamma_{ei} - \Gamma_{eN}) d_p \pi_i \right]_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \\ &= (\mathbb{I} - \hat{\Gamma} (\hat{\mathbb{S}} \hat{\Gamma})^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}}) \partial_p \mathbf{j} = \mathbb{P} \partial_p \mathbf{j}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A7})$$

which has the matrix form shown in Eq. (6b).

## Appendix B: Physical Parameters in Fig. 1

To calculate the Jacobian (7) for physical parameter  $\mathbf{p}$  from the model of Fig. 1, we apply the chain rule:

$$\mathbb{J} = \left[ \partial_p j_e \right]_{\{e,p\}} = \left[ \sum_{e'} \partial_{\Psi_{e'}} j_e \partial_p \Psi_{e'} \right]_{\{e,p\}} = \left[ \partial_{\Psi_e} j_e \partial_p \Psi_e \right]_{\{e,p\}}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

where we used that  $j_e$  explicitly depends on  $\Psi_e$  only.

(i) The set  $\mathbf{p}_1 = \{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_c\}$  results in the Jacobian

$$\mathbb{J}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 \\ \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 & \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 \\ 0 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

which has the rank  $\text{rk } \mathbb{J}_1 = 3$ . Since  $\text{rk } \mathbb{J}_1 < N_e = 6$ , the set  $\mathbf{p}_1$  does not satisfy the conditions of the response relations [Eq. 10].

(ii) The Jacobian of the set  $\mathbf{p}_2 = \{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_c, \mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3\}$  reads

$$\mathbb{J}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 & 0 & -\beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 & 0 & 0 & -\beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & 0 & -\beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & 0 \\ \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 & \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & -\beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 \\ 0 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 & 0 & 0 & -\beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

where  $N_p = N_e$ , but  $\text{rk } \mathbb{J}_2 = 4 < N_e = 6$  means that  $\mathbf{p}_2$  does not work for the response relations.

(iii) For the set  $\mathbf{p}_3 = \{\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_c, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3\}$  we have

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$$\mathbb{J}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 & 0 & (\epsilon_u - \mu_1) \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 & 0 & 0 & (\epsilon_d - \mu_2) \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & 0 & (\epsilon_d + U_C - \mu_2) \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & 0 \\ \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 & \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & (\epsilon_u + U_C - \mu_1) \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -(\epsilon_d - \mu_3) \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 \\ 0 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 & \beta_3 \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 & 0 & 0 & (\epsilon_d + U_C - \mu_3) \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B4})$$

which satisfies the conditions of summation relations with  $\text{rk } \mathbb{J}_3 = 6 = N_e$ . In addition for  $\mathbf{p}_2$  the following matrix is nonsingular:

$$\det([\partial_{\mathbf{p}_e} \Psi_e]_{\{e, e'\}}) \neq 0, \quad (\text{B5})$$

which implies that controlling  $d\mathbf{p}$  one can change  $d\Psi$  independently at every edge. Thus, for Fig. 1 it is possible to use  $\Psi$  as an edge perturbation. Since  $\mathbb{J}(\Psi)$  and  $\mathbb{J}(\Gamma)$  are diagonal, the two scaled responses are identical  $P_{ee'} = (\partial_{\Gamma_e'} j_{e'})^{-1} d_{\Gamma_e'} j_e = (\partial_{\Psi_e'} j_{e'})^{-1} d_{\Psi_e'} j_e$ .

### Appendix C: Proof of Eq. (15)

Here we prove the bounds in Eq. (15) of the main text. We introduce the projection matrix  $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{I} - \mathbb{P}$  with the diagonal elements defined by

$$\Pi_{ee} = \sum_{x, x' \in \hat{S}} \hat{\Gamma}_{ex}(\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{xx'} S_{x'e}. \quad (\text{C1})$$

One can see that Eq. (15) is equivalent to  $0 \leq \Pi_{ee} \leq 1$ . Our proof strategy is the following: first, we prove that all diagonal elements  $\Pi_{ee}$  are positive; then we show the upper bound  $\Pi_{ee} \leq 1$ . To do so for all edges  $e$  we distinguish two possible cases: (i) the edge  $e$  contains the state  $N$  as  $s(+e) = N$  or  $s(-e) = N$ ; (ii) the edge  $s(+e) = n$  and  $s(-e) = m$ , where  $n, m \neq N$ .

(i) *Edges with  $s(+e) = N$  or  $s(-e) = N$ .*—Let us consider the edge  $e$  with  $s(+e) = N$  and  $s(-e) = n$  which corresponds  $S_{Ne} = -1$ ,  $\Gamma_{eN} = W_{+e}$  and  $S_{ne} = 1$ ,  $\Gamma_{en} = -W_{-e}$ . We note that all elements of the row  $[\Gamma_{ex} - \Gamma_{eN}]_{x \in \hat{S}}$  are nonzero due to  $\Gamma_{eN} \neq 0$ . Then Eq. (C1) reads

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{ee} &= \sum_{x \in \hat{S}} \hat{\Gamma}_{ex}(\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{xn} S_{ne} \\ &= -W_{-e}(\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{nn} - W_{+e} \sum_{x \in \hat{S}} (\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{xn} \\ &= \underbrace{-W_{-e} \frac{M_{nn}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}}}_{T_1} - \underbrace{W_{+e} \sum_{x \in \hat{S}} \frac{(-1)^{n+x} M_{nx}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}}}_{T_2}, \quad (\text{C2}) \end{aligned}$$

where the  $M_{ij}(\mathbb{K})$  is the  $i$ th minor of the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$  and where we use  $(\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ji}(\mathbb{K}) / \det \mathbb{K}$ . Using Eq. (A3) we

write the elements of  $\mathbb{K}$  as the following:

$$K_{ij} = \sum_{e' \in \mathcal{E}} S_{ie'} (\Gamma_{e'j} - \Gamma_{e'N}), \quad (\text{C3})$$

and proceed analyzing the dependence of the elements in Eq. (C3) on the rates  $W_{\pm e}$ . Using Eq. (C3) for  $i, j \in \hat{S}$  we notice that only one element of  $\mathbb{K}$  depends on  $\Gamma_{en} = -W_{-e}$  namely

$$K_{nn} = S_{ne}(\Gamma_{en} - \Gamma_{eN}) + \dots = -W_{-e} + \dots, \quad (\text{C4})$$

where the symbol  $\dots$  denotes the contribution which does not depend on the parameter of interest (in this case  $W_{-e}$ ). Also, Eq. (C3) shows that  $\Gamma_{eN} = W_{+e}$  contributes to all elements  $K_{nj}$  in the  $n$ th row of the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$ :

$$K_{nj} = -W_{+e} + \dots, \quad (\text{C5})$$

where  $\dots$  denotes the terms which do not depend on  $W_{+e}$ . Calculating the determinant of  $\mathbb{K}$  with respect to the  $n$ th row, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \det \mathbb{K} &= \sum_j (-1)^{n+j} K_{nj} M_{nj}(\mathbb{K}) \\ &= -W_{-e} M_{nn}(\mathbb{K}) - W_{+e} \sum_{x \in \hat{S}} (-1)^{n+x} M_{nx}(\mathbb{K}) + Q_1, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C6})$$

where  $Q_1$  does not depend on  $W_{\pm e}$ . Furthermore, since the  $n$ th row of  $\mathbb{K}$  does not contribute to the minors  $M_{nj}(\mathbb{K})$ , they do not depend on  $W_{\pm e}$ .

The sign of the determinant is defined by the size of the system as  $\text{sgn } \det \mathbb{K} = (-1)^{N-1}$ ; see Eq. (A5). Since  $Q_1$  does not depend on  $W_{\pm e}$ , calculating the sign of Eq. (C6) with  $W_{\pm e} = 0$  we arrive at

$$\text{sgn } Q_1 = \text{sgn } \det \mathbb{K} = (-1)^{N-1}. \quad (\text{C7})$$

We notice that the sign of the term  $T_1$  does not depend on  $W_{-e}$ . We use this property to find the sign of  $T_1$  considering the limit  $W_{-e} \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\text{sgn } T_1 = -\text{sgn } \lim_{W_{-e} \rightarrow \infty} W_{-e} \frac{M_{nn}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}} = 1, \quad (\text{C8})$$

where we use  $\det \mathbb{K} \rightarrow -W_{-e} M_{nn}$  as the rate  $W_{-e}$  tends to infinity [see Eq. (C6)]. Similarly, we find  $\text{sgn } T_2$  calculating

the limit  $W_{+e} \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\text{sgn } T_2 = -\text{sgn} \lim_{W_{+e} \rightarrow \infty} W_{+e} \sum_{x \in \hat{S}} \frac{(-1)^{n+x} M_{nx}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}} = 1. \quad (\text{C9})$$

Combining Eqs. (C2), (C8), and (C9) we arrive at  $\Pi_{ee} \geq 0$  for  $s(+e) = N$ . The case  $s(-e) = N$  can be considered in a similar way. Thus, we have  $\Pi_{ee} \geq 0$  for the edges of case (i). To find an upper bound, we rewrite Eq. (C2) using Eqs. (C6) and (C7) as:

$$\Pi_{ee} = 1 - \left| \frac{Q_1}{\det \mathbb{K}} \right| \leq 1. \quad (\text{C10})$$

Thus,  $\Pi_{ee} \geq 0$  and Eq. (C10) result in  $0 \leq \Pi_{ee} \leq 1$  for case (i). In terms of the original matrix  $\mathbb{P}$  we have  $0 \leq P_{ee} \leq 1$ .

(ii) *Edges with  $s(\pm e) \neq N$ .*—Let us consider the edge  $e$  with  $s(+e) = n$  and  $s(-e) = m$ , where  $n, m \neq N$ . In this case, we have  $\Gamma_{eN} = 0$  and the row  $[\Gamma_{ex} - \Gamma_{eN}]_{x \in \hat{S}}$  contains only two non-zero elements  $\Gamma_{en} = W_{+e}$  and  $\Gamma_{em} = -W_{-e}$ ; and the column  $[S_{xe}]_{x \in \hat{S}}$  has two nonzero elements  $S_{ne} = -1$  and  $S_{me} = 1$ . Therefore, the diagonal elements read

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{ee} &= \sum_{i,j=n,m} \Gamma_{ei}(\mathbb{K}^{-1})_{ij} S_{je} \\ &= \underbrace{-W_{+e} \frac{M_{nn}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}} + (-1)^{n+m} W_{+e} \frac{M_{mn}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}}}_{T_3} \\ &\quad + \underbrace{(-1)^{m+n} W_{-e} \frac{M_{nm}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}} - W_{-e} \frac{M_{mm}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}}}_{T_4}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C11})$$

To proceed, we analyze the dependence of the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$  on the rates  $W_{\pm e}$ . We find that two elements of  $\mathbb{K}$  depend on  $W_{+e}$  namely

$$K_{nn} = S_{ne} \Gamma_{en} + \dots = -W_{+e} + \dots, \quad (\text{C12a})$$

$$K_{mn} = S_{me} \Gamma_{en} + \dots = W_{+e} + \dots, \quad (\text{C12b})$$

and another two elements depend on  $W_{-e}$  namely

$$K_{nm} = S_{ne} \Gamma_{em} + \dots = -W_{-e} + \dots, \quad (\text{C13a})$$

$$K_{mm} = S_{me} \Gamma_{em} + \dots = -W_{-e} + \dots. \quad (\text{C13b})$$

Therefore, the dependence of the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$  on  $W_{+e}$  (resp.  $W_{-e}$ ) is encoded in the  $n$ th column (resp.  $m$ th column). For this reason, the minors  $M_{nn}(\mathbb{K})$  and  $M_{mn}(\mathbb{K})$  (resp.  $M_{nm}(\mathbb{K})$  and  $M_{mm}(\mathbb{K})$ ) do not depend on  $W_{+e}$  (resp.  $W_{-e}$ ). Thus, the signs  $\text{sgn } T_3$  and  $\text{sgn } T_4$  can be found by considering the limits  $W_{+e} \rightarrow \infty$  and  $W_{-e} \rightarrow \infty$ , respectively.

For  $T_3$  we calculate the  $\det \mathbb{K}$  in the respect to the  $n$ th column and use Eq. (C12):

$$\begin{aligned} \det \mathbb{K} &= \sum_i (-1)^{i+n} K_{in} M_{in}(\mathbb{K}) \\ &= -W_{+e} M_{nn}(\mathbb{K}) + (-1)^{n+m} W_{+e} M_{mn}(\mathbb{K}) + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C14})$$

where the dots denote the contribution which does not depend on  $W_{+e}$ . Inserting Eq. (C14) in  $T_3$  from Eq. (C11) and calculating the sign in the limit  $W_{+e} \rightarrow \infty$  we arrive at

$$\text{sgn } T_3 = \lim_{W_{+e} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-W_{+e} M_{nn}(\mathbb{K}) + (-1)^{n+m} W_{+e} M_{mn}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}} = 1. \quad (\text{C15})$$

For  $T_4$  we calculate  $\det \mathbb{K}$  in the respect to the  $m$ th column and use Eq. (C13) to find

$$\begin{aligned} \det \mathbb{K} &= \sum_i (-1)^{i+n} K_{im} M_{im}(\mathbb{K}) \\ &= (-1)^{n+m} M_{nm} W_{-e}(\mathbb{K}) - W_{-e} M_{mm}(\mathbb{K}) + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C16})$$

where the dots denote the terms which do not depend on  $W_{-e}$ . Inserting Eq. (C16) in  $T_4$  from Eq. (C11) and calculating the sign in the limit  $W_{-e} \rightarrow \infty$  we arrive at

$$\text{sgn } T_4 = \lim_{W_{-e} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+m} W_{-e} M_{nm}(\mathbb{K}) - W_{-e} M_{mm}(\mathbb{K})}{\det \mathbb{K}} = 1. \quad (\text{C17})$$

Using Eqs. (C11), (C15), and (C17), we prove that all diagonal elements  $\Pi_{ee} \geq 0$  are positive.

Finally, we find an upper bound for  $\Pi_{ee}$ . We modify the matrix  $\mathbb{K}$  adding the  $m$ th row to the  $n$ th row. In the result, the new  $n$ th row does not depend on  $W_{\pm e}$ ; see Eqs. (C12) and (C13). This operation does not change the determinant  $\det \mathbb{K}$  that allows to write it using the  $m$ th row

$$\det \mathbb{K} = W_{+e} \alpha + W_{-e} \beta + Q_2, \quad (\text{C18})$$

where  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $Q_2$  are quantities which do not depend on  $W_{\pm e}$ . Equation (C18) shows that  $\det \mathbb{K}$  is the linear function of  $W_{\pm e}$ . From the other hand, an explicit dependence of  $\det \mathbb{K}$  on  $W_{+e}$  (resp. on  $W_{-e}$ ) is described by Eq. (C14) (resp. Eq. (C16)). Thus Eq. (C18) must have the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \det \mathbb{K} &= W_{+e} (-M_{nn}(\mathbb{K}) + (-1)^{n+m} M_{mn}(\mathbb{K})) + \\ &\quad + W_{-e} ((-1)^{n+m} M_{nm}(\mathbb{K}) - M_{mm}(\mathbb{K})) + Q_2. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C19})$$

Since  $Q_2$  does not depend on  $W_{\pm e}$  we have  $\text{sgn } \det \mathbb{K} = \text{sgn } Q_2$ , which gives us:

$$\Pi_{ee} = 1 - \left| \frac{Q_2}{\det \mathbb{K}} \right| \leq 1, \quad (\text{C20})$$

where we used Eqs. (C11) and (C19). Combining  $\Pi_{ee} \geq 0$  and Eq. (C20) we have  $0 \leq \Pi_{ee} \leq 1$  for case (ii). Moving back to the original projection matrix  $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{I} - \mathbb{P}$ , we prove Eq. (15).

#### Appendix D: Physical Perturbations: Unicyclic

Here we show an example of how the properties of matrix  $\mathbb{P}$  can be used to bound the current responses in a unicyclic network to physical parameters. We consider the network

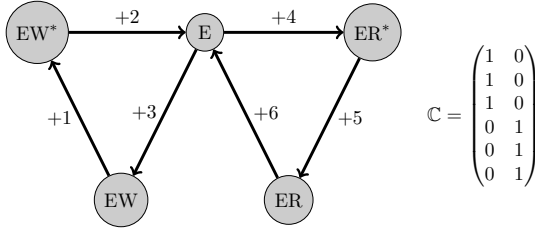


FIG. S1. Model of proofreading [2]. The enzyme E is involved in two complex reactions with wrong EW\*, EW and right ER\*, ER species. The matrix  $\mathbb{C}$  is block diagonal and vectors  $\mathbf{c}^i$  are orthogonal.

from Fig. 2 with  $\Psi_1 = \beta_1(\epsilon_u - \mu_1)$ ,  $\Psi_2 = -\beta_2(\epsilon_d - \mu_2)$ ,  $\Psi_3 = \beta_2(\epsilon_d + U_C - \mu_2)$ ,  $\Psi_4 = -\beta_1(\epsilon_u + U_C - \mu_1)$  and  $W_{\pm e} = \Gamma_e(1 + \exp(\pm \Psi_e))^{-1}$ , where the signs  $\Psi_2$  and  $\Psi_4$  are different from those in Fig. 1 due to the orientation changes. For example, we calculate the responses  $d_{\epsilon_u j_e}$  and  $d_{\epsilon_d j_e}$ . From Eq. (6b) we have

$$(d_{\epsilon_u j_e} \ d_{\epsilon_d j_e}) = (P_{11} \ P_{22} \ P_{33} \ P_{44}) \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 \\ 0 & \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 \\ -\beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{D1})$$

where we used the property  $P_{ee'} = P_{e'e'}$  for unicyclic networks. In terms of the elements, Eq. (D3) reads

$$d_{\epsilon_u j_e} = P_{11} \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 - P_{44} \beta_1 \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4, \quad (\text{D2a})$$

$$d_{\epsilon_d j_e} = -P_{22} \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 + P_{33} \beta_2 \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3, \quad (\text{D2b})$$

To proceed we notice that

$$\partial_{\Psi_e} j_e = -\Gamma_e \left[ \frac{\pi_{s(+e)} \exp(\Psi_e)}{(1 + \exp(\Psi_e))^2} + \frac{\pi_{s(-e)} \exp(-\Psi_e)}{(1 + \exp(-\Psi_e))^2} \right] \leq 0, \quad (\text{D3})$$

which with the bounds  $0 \leq P_{ee} \leq 1$  give us

$$-|\partial_{\Psi_1} j_1| \leq T_1 d_{\epsilon_u j_e} \leq |\partial_{\Psi_4} j_4|, \quad (\text{D4a})$$

$$-|\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3| \leq T_2 d_{\epsilon_d j_e} \leq |\partial_{\Psi_2} j_2|. \quad (\text{D4b})$$

We want to note that if the response  $T_1 d_{\epsilon_u j_e}$  (resp.  $T_2 d_{\epsilon_d j_e}$ ) is saturated, then we have  $T_2 d_{\epsilon_d j_e} = 0$  (resp.  $T_1 d_{\epsilon_u j_e} = 0$ ), due to  $\sum_e P_{ee} = 1$ . Similarly, one can find bounds for the other parameters  $\beta_i, \mu_i$ .

#### Appendix E: Independent diagonal elements

Here, we show that  $\#ide$  is defined by the topology of the cycles in the graph  $\mathcal{G}$ . Using row and column permutations, the matrix  $\mathbb{C}$  can be deduced from the block diagonal shape:

$$\mathbb{C} = \text{diag}(\dots, \mathbb{C}_i, \dots), \quad (\text{E1})$$

where  $\mathbb{C}_i$  are full column rank matrices and all other elements except those matrices are zero. The examples in the main text have only one block  $\mathbb{C}_1 = \mathbb{C}$ . The blocks in

Eq. (E1) correspond to the cycles without common edges; see Fig. S1. We prove that every diagonal block in Eq. (E1) adds one constraint to the diagonal elements, or equivalently  $\#ide = N_e - N_b$ , where  $N_b$  is the number of blocks  $\mathbb{C}_i$  (disconnected cycles in  $\mathcal{G}$ ). Consider the block  $\mathbb{C}_i$  of size  $n_i \times \gamma_i$ . We use the decomposition  $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{B}$  for block  $\mathbb{C}_i$  as  $\mathbb{P}_i = \mathbb{C}_i \mathbb{B}_i$ , where  $\mathbb{B}_i$  and  $\mathbb{P}_i$  are diagonal blocks of the matrices  $\mathbb{B}$  and  $\mathbb{P}$ , respectively. In addition, we can use the condition  $\mathbb{B}\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{I}$  in block form as  $\mathbb{B}_i \mathbb{C}_i = \mathbb{I}_{\gamma_i}$ , where  $\mathbb{I}_{\gamma_i}$  is the identity matrix of size  $\gamma_i$ . Calculating the trace of the block  $\mathbb{P}_i$ , we find

$$\text{tr } \mathbb{P}_i = \text{tr } \mathbb{C}_i \mathbb{B}_i = \text{tr } \mathbb{B}_i \mathbb{C}_i = \text{tr } \mathbb{I}_{\gamma_i} = \gamma_i, \quad (\text{E2})$$

which implies the linear constraint on the diagonal elements of  $\mathbb{P}$ , which consist of the block  $\mathbb{P}_i$ .

#### Appendix F: Close to equilibrium.

Here the goal is to consider Eq. (25) close to equilibrium. Local detailed balance (23) implies that at equilibrium, when  $\mathcal{F}_e = 0$ , the steady state probability satisfies detailed balance

$$\frac{W_{+e}^{\text{eq}}}{W_{-e}^{\text{eq}}} = \frac{\pi_{s(-e)}^{\text{eq}}}{\pi_{s(+e)}^{\text{eq}}} \quad (\text{F1})$$

where

$$\pi_i^{\text{eq}} = \frac{\exp(E_i)}{\sum_{j \in S} \exp(E_j)}, \quad (\text{F2})$$

and as a result all edge currents vanish  $j_e^{\text{eq}} = 0$ . The local detailed balance (23) can therefore be rewritten as

$$\frac{W_{+e}}{W_{-e}} = \frac{\pi_{s(-e)}^{\text{eq}}}{\pi_{s(+e)}^{\text{eq}}} \exp(\mathcal{F}_e). \quad (\text{F3})$$

Taking the derivative with respect to  $\mathcal{F}_e$ , we find that

$$\partial_{\mathcal{F}_e} W_{+e} = \left( \frac{\partial_{\mathcal{F}_e} W_{-e}}{W_{-e}} + 1 \right) W_{+e}. \quad (\text{F4})$$

Inserting in Eq. (7), taking the equilibrium limit  $\mathcal{F}_e \rightarrow 0$ , using Eq. (F1) and introducing the equilibrium traffic  $\tau_e^{\text{eq}}$ , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} J_{ee}^{\text{eq}} &= \pi_{s(+e)}^{\text{eq}} \left( \frac{\pi_{s(-e)}^{\text{eq}}}{\pi_{s(+e)}^{\text{eq}}} \partial_{\mathcal{F}_e} W_{-e} + W_{+e}^{\text{eq}} \right) - \pi_{s(-e)}^{\text{eq}} \partial_{\mathcal{F}_e} W_{-e} \\ &= W_{+e}^{\text{eq}} \pi_{s(+e)}^{\text{eq}} = \frac{\tau_e^{\text{eq}}}{2}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F5a})$$

$$\mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} = \text{diag}(\dots, \frac{\tau_e^{\text{eq}}}{2}, \dots), \quad (\text{F5b})$$

which defines the equilibrium limit of the Jacobian in Eq. (25). Since by definition

$$\Gamma_{ei}\pi_i = \begin{cases} W_{+e}\pi_{s(+e)}, & i = s(+e) \\ -W_{-e}\pi_{s(-e)}, & i = s(-e) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad (\text{F6})$$

using Eq. (F5), we find that at equilibrium  $\Gamma_{ei}^{\text{eq}}\pi_i^{\text{eq}} = -S_{ie}J_{ee}^{\text{eq}}$  and the elements of the reduced matrix  $\hat{\Gamma}_{\text{eq}}$  can be written as

$$\hat{\Gamma}_{ei}^{\text{eq}} = -J_{ee}^{\text{eq}} \left( \frac{S_{ie}}{\pi_i^{\text{eq}}} - \frac{S_{Ne}}{\pi_N^{\text{eq}}} \right). \quad (\text{F7})$$

We note that Eq. (F7) implies that  $\sum_e \hat{\Gamma}_{ei}^{\text{eq}} (J_{ee}^{\text{eq}})^{-1} c_e^\gamma = 0$ , where  $c_e^\gamma$  are the elements of the cycle  $\mathbf{c}^\gamma$ . Therefore, in matrix form, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Gamma}_{\text{eq}}^\top \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}}^{-1} &= \mathbb{A} \hat{\mathbb{S}}, \\ \hat{\Gamma}_{\text{eq}} &= (\mathbb{A} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}})^\top, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F8})$$

where  $\mathbb{A}$  is the squared non-singular matrix of free parameters. Indeed, the matrix  $\mathbb{A}$  has size  $(N_s - 1) \times (N_s - 1)$  with the rank  $\text{rk } \mathbb{A} = \text{rk } \hat{\Gamma} = N_s - 1$ , that implies  $\det \mathbb{A} \neq 0$ . Inserting Eq. (F8) into Eq. (8) for the projection matrix, we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^{\text{eq}} &= \mathbb{I} - \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} \hat{\mathbb{S}}^\top \mathbb{A}^\top (\hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} \hat{\mathbb{S}}^\top \mathbb{A}^\top)^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \\ &= \mathbb{I} - \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} \hat{\mathbb{S}}^\top (\hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} \hat{\mathbb{S}}^\top)^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F9})$$

Using Eq. (F9), the response matrix (25) becomes

$$\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{R}_{\text{eq}}^I \mathbb{X}^\top (\mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} - \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} \hat{\mathbb{S}}^\top (\hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}} \hat{\mathbb{S}}^\top)^{-1} \hat{\mathbb{S}} \mathbb{J}_{\text{eq}}) \mathbb{X}, \quad (\text{F10})$$

which is the semi-positive definite symmetric Onsager matrix of nonequilibrium thermodynamics [3, 4].

## Appendix G: Calculations for Fig. 3a

Here we identify the subset of scaled responses marked as disks in Fig. 3a. This subset is defined by the elements of  $\mathbb{P}$

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{P}) = \{P_{ee'} : P_{ee'} = \sum_\rho v_\rho^{ee'} P_{\rho\rho}\}, \quad (\text{G1})$$

where all  $P_{ee'} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{P})$  can be expressed as the linear combinations of the diagonal elements. QDs model from Fig. 1 exhibits three fundamental cycles (see the graph in Fig. 1b). The topology of this model is defined by:

$$\mathbb{S} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \overline{\mathbb{C}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\mathbb{C}} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

which corresponds to  $\# \text{ide} = 5$ . Inserting  $\mathbb{S}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$  into Eq. (22) we find 5 independent equations, for example,

$$1 - (-\tilde{B}_{22}) = P_{22}, \quad (\text{G2a})$$

$$1 - (-\tilde{B}_{33}) = P_{33}, \quad (\text{G2b})$$

$$-\tilde{B}_{11} = P_{44}, \quad (\text{G2c})$$

$$-\tilde{B}_{12} - \tilde{B}_{22} = P_{55}, \quad (\text{G2d})$$

$$\tilde{B}_{13} - \tilde{B}_{33} = P_{66}, \quad (\text{G2e})$$

which result in

$$\tilde{\mathbb{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} -P_{44} & 1 - P_{55} - P_{22} & P_{66} + P_{33} - 1 \\ b_1 & P_{22} - 1 & b_2 \\ b_3 & b_4 & P_{33} - 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{G3})$$

where  $b_1 = \tilde{B}_{21}$ ,  $b_2 = \tilde{B}_{23}$ ,  $b_3 = \tilde{B}_{31}$ ,  $b_4 = \tilde{B}_{32}$  are free unbounded parameters. Using Eq. (G3) we calculate  $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{I} - \tilde{\mathbb{B}}\tilde{\mathbb{C}}, \tilde{\mathbb{B}})$  as

$$\mathbb{P} = \begin{pmatrix} P_{11} & -P_{22} - P_{55} + 1 & P_{33} + P_{66} - 1 & -P_{44} & -P_{22} - P_{55} + 1 & P_{33} + P_{66} - 1 \\ b_1 - b_2 + P_{22} - 1 & P_{22} & b_2 & b_1 & P_{22} - 1 & b_2 \\ b_3 + b_4 - P_{33} + 1 & b_4 & P_{33} & b_3 & b_4 & P_{33} - 1 \\ -P_{11} & P_{22} + P_{55} - 1 & -P_{33} - P_{66} + 1 & P_{44} & P_{22} + P_{55} - 1 & -P_{33} - P_{66} + 1 \\ -b_1 + b_2 - P_{11} - P_{22} + 1 & P_{55} - 1 & -b_2 - P_{33} - P_{66} + 1 & P_{44} - b_1 & P_{55} & -b_2 - P_{33} - P_{66} + 1 \\ -b_3 - b_4 + P_{11} + P_{22} + P_{33} - 1 & -b_4 - P_{22} - P_{55} + 1 & P_{66} - 1 & -b_3 - P_{44} & -b_4 - P_{22} - P_{55} + 1 & P_{66} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{G4})$$

which shows the bounded elements of  $\mathbb{P}$  as those which are expressed in terms of the diagonal elements without  $b_k$  with  $k = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

shown in Fig. 1. Using the expressions for  $\Psi_e$  from Fig. 1 with the constant temperature  $T_i = T$ , we find the Jacobian

## Appendix H: Physical perturbations: Multicyclic

Here we illustrate our approach to the perturbations of physical parameters (energy levels) in multicyclic model

for  $\mathbf{p} = (\epsilon_u, \epsilon_d, U_C)$  and calculate the responses [Eq. 6b]

$$[Td_{p_{e'}} j_e]_{e,e'} = \mathbb{P} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 & \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 \\ \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 & 0 & \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 \\ 0 & \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 & 0 \\ 0 & \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 & \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{H1})$$

where the derivatives  $\partial_{\Psi_e} j_e \leq 0$ ; see Eq. (D3). Using Eq. (G4), we find that the responses  $j_\alpha$  with  $\alpha = 1, 4$  are bounded to all perturbations of the all edge parameters  $\Psi_e$ . We exploit it to

find the bounds for  $Td_{p_j} j_1$ :

$$Td_{\epsilon_u} j_1 = P_{11} \partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 - P_{44} \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4, \quad (\text{H2a})$$

$$\partial_{\Psi_1} j_1 \leq Td_{\epsilon_u} j_1 \leq |\partial_{\Psi_4} j_4|, \quad (\text{H2b})$$

$$Td_{\epsilon_d} j_1 = (-P_{22} - P_{55} + 1) \partial_{\Psi_2} j_2 + (P_{33} + P_{66} - 1) \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 \\ + (-P_{22} - P_{55} + 1) \partial_{\Psi_5} j_5 + (P_{33} + P_{66} - 1) \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6, \quad (\text{H3a})$$

$$|Td_{\epsilon_d} j_1| \leq |\partial_{\Psi_2} j_2| + |\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3| + |\partial_{\Psi_5} j_5| + |\partial_{\Psi_6} j_6|, \quad (\text{H3b})$$

$$Td_{U_C} j_1 = (P_{33} + P_{66} - 1) \partial_{\Psi_3} j_3 - P_{44} \partial_{\Psi_4} j_4 \\ + (P_{33} + P_{66} - 1) \partial_{\Psi_6} j_6, \quad (\text{H4a})$$

$$Td_{U_C} j_1 \leq |\partial_{\Psi_3} j_3| + |\partial_{\Psi_4} j_4| + |\partial_{\Psi_6} j_6|, \quad (\text{H4b})$$

$$Td_{U_C} j_1 \geq -|\partial_{\Psi_2} j_2| - |\partial_{\Psi_6} j_6|. \quad (\text{H4c})$$

In addition, using Eq. (G4) we have similar expressions for the response  $d_{p_e} j_2 = -d_{p_e} j_1$ .

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