

Supporting Information

S1 Appendix. Derivation of average acceptance rate.

Theorem 1 Let $\{\mathbf{X}_t\} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^\kappa$ be a DSCT Markov process, let \mathbf{X}_d be observational data of a single realization, $\{\mathbf{X}_t(\bar{\omega})\}$ for some fixed $\bar{\omega} \in \Omega$, at discrete times t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{N_t} , that is, $\mathbf{X}_d \in [\mathbf{X}_{t_1}(\bar{\omega}), \mathbf{X}_{t_2}(\bar{\omega}), \dots, \mathbf{X}_{t_{N_t}}(\bar{\omega})]$ and let A_ϵ denote the acceptance rate of ABC rejection with acceptance threshold ϵ and the metric ρ given by

$$\rho(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\}, \mathbf{X}_d) = \sum_{i=0}^{N_t} |\mathbf{X}_{t_i}(\omega) - \mathbf{X}_{t_i}(\bar{\omega})|_2^2. \quad (1)$$

Then, for fixed N_t , $A_\epsilon = O(\epsilon^\kappa)$.

Proof: The average acceptance rate is the probability of a simulation being accepted over all of parameter space. That is,

$$A_\epsilon = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{R}^M} p(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\}, \mathbf{X}_d) < \epsilon \mid \theta) p(\theta) d\theta d\omega. \quad (2)$$

We define a κN_t -dimensional ball of radius ϵ centered on \mathbf{X}_d as

$$B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d) = \{\omega \in \Omega : \rho(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\}, \mathbf{X}_d) < \epsilon\}.$$

Since $\int_{\Omega} p(\rho(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\}, \mathbf{X}_d) < \epsilon) d\omega = \int_{B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d)} p(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\}) d\omega$, we simplify Equation (2) to give

$$A_\epsilon = \int_{B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^M} p(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\} \mid \theta) p(\theta) d\theta d\omega = \int_{B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d)} p(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\}) d\omega. \quad (3)$$

Since $[\mathbb{N}^\kappa]^{N_t}$ is countable, then $p(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\})$ is bounded over $B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d)$. Let $c = \sup_{\omega \in B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d)} |p(\{\mathbf{X}_t(\omega)\})|$. It follows that

$$A_\epsilon \leq cV, \quad (4)$$

where V is the volume of the ball $B(\epsilon, \mathbf{X}_d)$. Under the definition of ρ , we have $V = O(\epsilon^{\kappa N_t})$. Therefore, for fixed N_t , $A_\epsilon = O(\epsilon^\kappa)$. \square