### A Visual Programming Language for Biological Processes

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## Biological Computing



# Systems Biology

- The Human Genome project: ●
	- Map out the complete genetic code in humans
	- To unravel the mysteries of how the human body functions  $\bigodot$
	- The code raised many more questions than answers
- Systems Biology:
	- Understand and predict the behaviour of biological systems
- Two complementary approaches: 0
	- Look at experimental results and infer system properties
	- Build detailed models of systems and test these in the lab  $\bigodot$
- Biological Modelling: 0
	- Conduct virtual experiments, saving time and resources
	- Clarify key mechanisms of how a biological system functions 0
	- Beginning to play a role in understanding disease $\bigodot$

### Large, Complex, Biological Models



# Biological Programming

- Complex Models:
	- Difficult to understand, maintain and extend
	- Hundreds of reactions, soon to be tens of thousands 0
	- Would not write a program as a list of 10000 instructions  $\bigodot$
- Modularity: ●
	- Need a way of decomposing a model into building blocks 0
	- Not your average computer programs 0
	- Massive parallelism, each instruction has a certain probability  $\bigodot$
	- Suggests a need for a biological programming language... $\bigodot$

#### Programming Languages for Biology

Languages for complex, parallel computer systems: Languages for complex, parallel biological systems:



 $\pi$ -calculus by [Milner et al. 1989]. Stochastic version by [Priami et al. 1995] First used in a biological context by [Regev et al. 2001]

## Language Development



#### Exact Stochastic Simulation Algorithm Graphical Representation and Execution Model



#### Graphical Editor and Simulator

and High()= (



GUI by Filippo Polo, MSR Cambridge

Phillips and Cardelli, 2004 Phillips, Cardelli and Castagna, 2006 Phillips and Cardelli, 2007

## SPIM: Stochastic  $\pi$  for Biology

- A variant of stochastic  $\pi$  calculus
	- Supports expressive power of  $\pi$
	- Graphical syntax and semantics
	- Biological constructs, e.g. complexation  $\bigodot$
	- Efficient implementation  $\bigodot$

## Message-Passing Approach

Chemical Reactions

SPiM Processes



## Compact, Modular Models

Chemical Reactions **SPIM Processes** 



## EGFR Model [Hornberg et. al 2005]

 $\top$ [EGFR]+[EGF]  $\leftrightarrow$  [EGF-EGFR] 2 [EGF-EGFR]+[EGF-EGFR] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR)2] 3 ((EGF-EGFR)21 ↔ ((EGF-EGFR\*)21 4 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2]+[Prot] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Prot] 5 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Prot] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2]+[Proti] 6  $EGFRI \leftrightarrow [EGFRI]$ 7  $[(EGF-EGFR<sup>*</sup>)2]$   $\rightarrow$   $[(EGF-EGFR<sup>*</sup>)2]$ .<br>8 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2]+[GAP] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]<br>9 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP] 10 [EGFRI]+[EGFI] ↔ [EGF-EGFRi] 11 [EGF-EGFRI]+[EGF-EGFRI] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi)2]<br>12 [(EGF-EGFRI)2] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2] 13 → [EGFR]<br>14 [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2]+ [GAP] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP] 15 [Proti] → [Prot]<br>16 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]+[Grb2] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2] 18 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GDP] ↔ ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP) 19 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP| ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GTP] 20 [Ras-GTP\*]+[(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] 21 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] → [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GDP]<br>22 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]+[Shc] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc] 23 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*] 24 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*]+[Grb2] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2] 25 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2]+[Sos] < → [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 26 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos)+[Ras-GDP] → [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] 27 I/EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDPI ↔ I/EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sosl + IRas-GTPI 28 Rafl+[Ras-GTP] ↔ [Raf-Ras-GTP] 29 [Raf-Ras-GTP] ↔ [Raf\*]+[Ras-GTP\*] 20 [Ras-GTP']+([EGF-EGFR')2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR')2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP]<br>31 [(EGF-EGFR')2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR')2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GDP] 32 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] <> [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]+[Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 33 [Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] ↔ [Grb2-Sos]+[Shc\*] 34 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos) ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]+[Grb2-Sos] 35 [Grb2-Sos]  $\leftrightarrow$  [Grb2] +[Sos] 36 [Shc\*]  $\leftrightarrow$  [Shc] 37 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]+[Shc\*] 38 [Shc\*]+[Grb2] ↔ [Shc\*-Grb2] 39 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP]+[Shc\*-Grb2] 40 [Shc\*-Grb2]+[Sos] ↔ [Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 41 [(EGF-EGFR<sup>\*</sup>)2-GAP-Shc\*] + [Grb2-Sos]  $\leftrightarrow$  [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 42 [Raf\*]+[Phosphatase1] ↔ [Raf\*-Phosphatase1] 43 [Raf\*-Phosphatase1]  $\rightarrow$  [Raf]+[Phosphatase1]<br>44 [MEK] + [Raf\*]  $\leftrightarrow$  [MEK-Raf\*] 45 [MEK-Raf\*] → [MEK-P] +[Raf\*] 46 [MEK-P]+[Raf\*] ↔ [MEK-P-Raf\*] 47 [MEK-P-Raf\*] → [MEK-PP] + [Raf\*] 48 [MEK-PP]+[Phosphatase2] ↔ [MEK-PP-Phosphatase2] 49 [MEK-PP-Phosphatase2] → [MEK-P] + [Phosphatase2] 50 [MEK-P]+[Phosphatase2] ↔ [MEK-P-Phosphatase2] 51 [MEK-P-Phosphatase2] → [MEK]+[Phosphatase2] 52 [ERK]+[MEK-PP] ↔ [ERK-MEK-PP] 53 [ERK-MEK-PP] → [ERK-P]+[MEK-PP] 54 [ERK-P]+[MEK-PP] ↔ [ERK-P-MEK-PP] 55 [ERK-P-MEK-PP] → [ERK-PP]+[MEK-PP] 56 [ERK-PP]+[Phosphatase3] ↔ [ERK-PP-Phosphatase3] 57 [ERK-PP-Phosphatase3] -> [ERK-P]+[Phosphatase3] 58 [ERK-P] + [Phosphatase3] ↔ [ERK-P-Phosphatase3]<br>59 [ERK-P-Phosphatase3] → [ERK]+[Phosphatase3] 60 [EGFRi]  $\rightarrow$  [EGFRideg] 61 [EGFi]→ [EGFideg] 62 [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 63 [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP]+[Grb2] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2] 64 (EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Grb2]+[Sos] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos] 65 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GDP] ↔ ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] 66 (EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GTPi] 67 [Ras-GTPI\*]+[(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos] <> [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTPi] 68 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] <> [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GDP] ou (LEGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP)+[Shq] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shq]<br>70 [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP)+[Shq] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shq]<br>71 [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shq] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR')2-GAP-Shq")<br>146 [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Gif)2-Sos-ERKi-PP] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRI\*) 146 ((EGF-EGFN")2-GAP-Gîn2-Sos-EHKI-PPJ ↔ ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sosjdeg+[ERKi-PP]<br>147 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-ERKI-PP] ↔ ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sosjdeg+[ERKi-PP]<br>148 [Sos-ERK-PPI] ↔ [Sosi]+[ERK-PPi]

72 [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2]+[Sos]  $\leftrightarrow$  [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 73 [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos]+[Ras-GDP] <> [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] 74 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDPI → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] + [Ras-GTPi] 75 [Raf]+[Ras-GTPi] ↔ [Raf-Ras-GTPi] 76 IRaf-Ras-GTPil ↔ IRafi\*1+IRas-GTPi\*1 77 [Ras-GTPi\*]+[(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] 78 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP]  $\leftrightarrow$  ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos)+[Ras-GDP]<br>79 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP]  $\leftrightarrow$  [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos)+[Ras-GDP] Part Contract Part of the State Contract 82 (EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2 + [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP]+[Shc\*-Grb2] 83 [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*] + [Grb2-Sos] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 84 [Rafi\*]+[Phosphatase1] ↔ [Rafi\*-Phosphatase1] 85 [Rafi\*-Phosphatase1] → [Raf]+[Phosphatase1] 86 [MEK] + [Rafi\*] ↔ [MEK-Rafi\*] 87 [MEK-Rafi\*] → [MEKi-P] +[Rafi\*] 88 [MEKi-P]+[Rafi\*] ↔ [MEK-P-Rafi\*] 89 [MEK-P-Rafi\*] → [MEKi-PP] + [Rafi\*] 90 [MEKi-PP]+[Phosphatase2] ↔ [MEKi-PP-Phosphatase2] 91 [MEKi-PP-Phosphatase2] → [MEKi-P] + [Phosphatase2] 92 [MEKi-P]+[Phosphatase2] ↔ [MEKi-P-Phosphatase2] 93 [MEKi-P-Phosphatase2] → [MEK]+[Phosphatase2] 94 [ERK]+[MEKi-PP] ↔ [ERK-MEKi-PP] 95 [ERK-MEKi-PP] → [ERKi-P]+[MEKi-PP]<br>96 [ERKi-P]+[MEKi-PP] → [ERKi-P]+[MEKi-PP] 97 [ERKi-P-MEKi-PP] → [ERKi-PP]+[MEKi-PP] 99 [ERKi-PP]+[Phosphatase3] ↔ [ERKi-PP-Phosphatase3]<br>99 [ERKi-PP]+[Phosphatase3] → [ERKi-P]+[Phosphatase3] 100 [ERKi-P] + [Phosphatase3] ↔ [ERKi-P-Phosphatase3] 101 [ERKi-P-Phosphatase3] → [ERK]-[Phosphatase3]<br>101 [ERKi-P-Phosphatase3] → [ERK]-[Phosphatase3]<br>102 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP]<br>103 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc] 104 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*] 105 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos) → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos] 106 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Prot] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Prot] 107 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Prot] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[Proti] 198 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] → ((EGF-EGFR)\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP]<br>108 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP]→ ((EGF-EGFR)\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP-Prot]<br>109 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP]+[Prot] ↔ ((EGF-EGFR 110 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP-Prot] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP]+[Proti] 111 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] 112 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP|+[Prof] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP-Prof] 113 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP-Prot] → [ (EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP]+[Proti] 114 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2] 115 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2]+[Prot] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Prot] 116 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Prot] → [ (EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2]+[Proti] 117 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos) → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos] 118 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos)+[Prot] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Prot] 119 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Prot] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos]+[Proti]<br>120 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos]+[Proti] 121 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP|+|Prot| ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP-Prot| 122 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP-Prot] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP]+[Proti] 123 (EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP] 124 [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP]+[Prot] ↔ [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP-Prot] 125 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP-Prot] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP]+[Proti] 126 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[ERK-PP] → [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-ERK-PP]<br>126 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]+[ERK-PP] → [(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-ERK-PP] 128 I(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos1+IERK-PPI → I(EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-ERK-PPI 129 ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos]+[ERKi-PP] ↔ [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-ERKi-PP] 130 [Sos]+[ERK-PP] ↔ [Sos-ERK-PP]<br>131 [Sos]+[ERK-PP] ↔ [Sos-ERK-PP] 132 ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP) → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg]<br>133 ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2) → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 134 I(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Grb2-SosI → I(EGF-EGFRI\*)2deal 135 (EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 136 ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTP) → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 137 ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 138 [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 139 ((EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2] → [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2deg]<br>140 [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2] → [(EGF-EGFRI\*)2deg] 141 (EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GDP] → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deg] 142 ((EGF-EGFRi\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos-Ras-GTPI → [(EGF-EGFRi\*)2deq] 143 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos-ERK-PP) <> ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Grb2-Sos]deg+[ERK-PP]<br>144 ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Srb2-Grb2-Sos-ERK-PP) <> ((EGF-EGFR\*)2-GAP-Shc\*-Grb2-Sos]deg+[ERK-PP]<br>145 (Sos-ERK-PP) <> [Sos]+[ERK-PP]

## EGFR Model [Hornberg et. al 2005]



 $\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} \\ \hline \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} \\ \hline \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.078}} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{\textbf{0.07$ 

 $\frac{1}{\ln(\ln\ln t)}$ 

 $rac{1}{\sqrt{\sin^2 2\sin^2 2}}$ 

 $\frac{1}{\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]}\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]$ 

 $\overbrace{ \text{norm} \text{norm} }$ 

 $\begin{picture}(120,115) \put(0,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){150$ 

 $\frac{1}{15\hbar B}$ 

## Modular EGFR



## **Outline**

Basic Examples 0

Gene Networks ●

*C. elegans* Development

Immune System Modelling  $\bigcirc$ 

#### Basic SPiM Examples

Protein Production Protein Interaction Protein Binding

### **Production:**  $G \rightarrow$  produce  $G + P$   $P \rightarrow$  degrade  $\emptyset$



- A protein *P* can be produced with propensity 0.1
- Probability of a reaction depends on propensity
- Exact simulation: what happens next?





- Another protein *P* can be produced ●
- 100 times more likely to produce than degrade





And another...





- A protein *b* can be degraded at rate 0.001
- Low probability, but still possible





Eventually... 0





- Equilibrium at about 100 proteins.
- Propensities of both reactions are equal.

## Gene Simulation



- Simulation results show evolution over time  $\color{red} \bullet$
- Level of protein *P* fluctuates around 100

$$
Xp = \overline{a}. X \qquad Y = \underline{a}. Yp
$$
  

$$
X = \underline{d}. Xp \qquad Yp = \overline{d}. Y
$$



- *Xp* and *Y* can interact on channel *a*
- *Xp* activates *Y* by sending its phosphate group



*X* and *Yp* can interact on channel *d* 0



Interactions can continue indefinitely...

## Interaction:  $Xp + Y$   $\rightarrow^a X + Yp$





- What happens if we mix 100*Xp* and 100*Y* ?
- Assume *rate*(*a*) =  $100s^{-1}$  and *rate*(*d*) =  $10s^{-1}$
- An *Xp* and *Y* protein can interact on channel *a*.





An additional *Xp* and *Y* protein can interact.





#### An *X* and *Yp* protein can interact 0





Eventually an equilibrium is reached...





At equilibrium when rate(*a*) $\cdot$ [*Xp*][*Y*]  $\approx$  rate(*d*) $\cdot$ [*X*][*Yp*]



- At equilibrium: 100s<sup>-1</sup>⋅[*Xp*][ Y] ≈ 10s<sup>-1</sup>⋅[*X*][ Y*p*] ●
- Approximately 24*Xp* and 76*X*

$$
X = \overline{b} \cdot X'
$$
  
\n
$$
Y = \overline{b} \cdot Y'
$$
  
\n
$$
Y' = \overline{b} \cdot Y'
$$
  
\n
$$
Y' = \overline{b} \cdot Y'
$$



#### *X* and *Y* can bind on channel  $+b$ ●



#### *X'* and *Y'* can unbind on channel -*b*



Binding and unbinding can continue indefinitely...





- What happens if we mix 100*X* and 100*Y* ?
- Assume *rate*( $+b$ ) = 100s<sup>-1</sup> and *rate*( $-b$ ) = 10s<sup>-1</sup>
- An *X* and *Y* protein can bind on channel <sup>+</sup>*b*.





#### An additional *X* and *Y* protein can bind.
## Binding:  $X + Y = b \leftrightarrow^{+b} XY'$





An *X'* and *Y'* protein can unbind on channel -*b*

## Binding:  $X + Y = b \leftrightarrow^{+b} XY'$





Eventually...

## Binding:  $X + Y = b \leftrightarrow^{+b} XY'$





At equilibrium when rate( $+b$ ) $\cdot$ [X][Y]  $\approx$  rate( $-b$ ) $\cdot$ ( $-b$ ) ([X'][Y'])

Binding:  $X + Y = b \leftrightarrow^{+b} XY'$ 



- At equilibrium: 100s*-*<sup>1</sup> [*X*][*Y*] = 10s*-*<sup>1</sup> [*X'Y'*] ●
- Approximately 3*X* and 97*X'Y'*

#### Programming Gene Networks

with Luca Cardelli (MSR Cambridge) Ralf Blossey (IRI Lille)

#### Repressilator [Elowitz and Leibler, 2000]

A gene network engineered in live bacteria.





© 2000 Elowitz, M.B., Leibler. S. A Synthetic Oscillatory Network of Transcriptional Regulators. Nature 403:335-338.

## Parameterised Gene Gate



\n- (a,b) = 
$$
\underline{a} \cdot B(a,b) + \text{produce.} (P(b) | G(a,b))
$$
\n- (a,b) =  $\underline{u} \cdot B(b) + \underline{d} \cdot B(a,b)$
\n- (b) =  $\overline{b} \cdot P(b) + \underline{d} \cdot B(a,b)$
\n



#### Repressilator [Elowitz and Leibler, 2000]

Modelled as a simple combination of gene gates: ●



© 2000 Elowitz, M.B., Leibler. S. A Synthetic Oscillatory Network of Transcriptional Regulators. Nature 403:335-338.

G(lac,tet) | G(tet,lambda) | G(lambda,lac) | G(tet,gfp)





# Graphical Programming



## How does the oscillator work?

 $G(a,b) | G(b,c) | G(c,a)$  $\bigcirc$ 





## Oscillator: 0s



- Initially there is one copy of each gene 0
- Any one of the proteins can be produced at rate 0.1 0

## Oscillator: 5.568177s



The *b* protein can block the *c* gene at rate 1 0

### Oscillator: 6.329912s



- Now no *c* protein can be produced. 0
- But an *a* protein can still be produced at rate 0.1 0

## Oscillator: 11.62149s



The *a* protein can block the *b* gene at rate 1 0

## Oscillator: 13.21617s



- Now no *b* or *c* protein can be produced. 0
- A *b* protein can degrade at rate 0.001 0

# **Oscillator**



Meanwhile, lots of *a* protein is produced 0

# **Oscillator**



- The *a* protein dominates 0
- Equilibrium between transcription and degradation ●
- Eventually, the *c* or *a* gene unblocks at rate 0.0001

# **Oscillator**



- Suppose the *a* gene unblocks ●
- There is a high probability that it will block immediately

## Oscillator: 11039.31s



Eventually, the *c* gene unblocks at rate 0.0001

## Oscillator: 11039.77s



- There is nothing to block the *c* gene. 0
- The *c* protein can now take over... ●
- Eventually... 0

## Oscillator Simulation



- Alternate oscillation of proteins: *b*, *c*, *a*, *b* ●
- Oscillations in a particular order

# Analysing Simulation Traces

- A simulation trace can be visualised as a sequence of messages exchanged between parallel processes.
- Can debug a biological system in a similar way to a 0 communication protocol. Causality, critical paths...



#### Repressilator Trace



#### A Gene Gate in 3D



#### The Repressilator in 3D



# Graphical Debugging



GUI by Rich Williams, MSR Cambridge

## Parameter Analysis

Range of parameters for good oscillations (produce=0.1): produce/degrade > 1000, unblock > degrade, block > 100\*produce







Blossey, Cardelli, Phillips, 2007

## Model Refinement:

Different behaviour, same network G(a,b) | G(b,c) | G(c,a) 0



#### Cooperativity improves robustness

Proteins form complexes before repressing 0



Blossey, Cardelli, Phillips, 2007

# Cooperativity Simulations

#### $\color{red} \bullet$





#### Monomers **Canadian Career** Tetramers





Blossey, Cardelli, Phillips, 2007

## Bacteria Logic Gates [Guet et al., 2002]



© 2002 AAAS. Reprinted with permission from Guet et al. Combinatorial Synthesis of Genetic Networks. Science 296 (5572): 1466 - 1470

- 3 genes: tetR, lacI,  $\lambda$ cI ●
- 5 promoters: PL1, PL2, PT,  $P\lambda$ -,  $P\lambda$ + ⊖
- 125 possible networks consisting of 3 promoter-gene units
- 2 inputs: IPTG (represses Lac), aTc (represses Tet)  $\bigodot$
- 1 output: GFP (linked to  $P_{\lambda-}$ ) ●

## Gene with protein inhibitor









## Bacteria Logic Gates

- Model 125 networks using just 2 modules: 0
- Enables modular simulation and analysis
- Can easily refine the modules without rewiring the networks. ●



#### A Computational Model of C. elegans Vulval Development

with Rosie Bloxsom (Cambridge University) Tim Labeeuw (Cambridge University) Jasmin Fisher (MSR Cambridge) Hillel Kugler (MSR Cambridge)

# *C. elegans* Nematode Worm

- Model organism for development ⊖
- 1mm long, about 1000 cells
- Completely transparent, can observe growth



#### *C. elegans* VPC Differentiation








## Simplified Model of AC and VPC





#### Network of AC and 6 VPC



#### AC | V(3,s3,s4,low) | V(4,s4,s5,low) | V(5,s5,s6,med) | V(6,s6,s7,high) | V(7,s7,s8,med) | V(8,s8,s9,low)

# Population Plot



## Geometric Plot





# Refined VPC Model



# Simulation Results





#### A Computational Model of MHC class I Antigen Presentation

with Luca Cardelli (MSR Cambridge) Leonard Goldstein (Cambridge University) Tim Elliott (Southampton University) Joern Werner (Southampton University)

# MHC: A Biological Virus Scanner



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# MHC: A Biological Virus Scanner

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# Investigate the Role of Tapasin



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# MHC I Structure

Interaction of MHC I with peptide $\bigodot$ 





# SPiM Peptide Editing Model

Graphs describe the behaviour components Assume low, medium and high affinity peptides







#### Model Parameters

#### MHC spends < 2h on average in the ER.  $\bigodot$



# Simulations Match Experiments

- MHC needs to present stable peptides
- Improved selection with tapasin. How?



Time/mins Time/mins

No Tapasin  $\star$  Tapasin  $\checkmark$ 



# Peptide Discrimination

- Consider a loaded peptide with unbinding rate *u*
- Competition between unbinding and egression
- Egression probability determined by off-rate
- Maximal discrimination as egress tends to 0 ●





# Parameter Space

- Maximal discrimination determined by off-rate
- High peptide turnover is a key factor



# Peptide Discrimination

- Tapasin adds a second filtering stage
- Egression probability determined by off-rate<sup>2</sup>











# Parameter Space

- Tapasin improves upper bound on discrimination
- Peptide editing is a 2-stage filter process







# Peptide Loading: Flytrap Model

MHC I captures peptides like a Venus Flytrap. ●



# Flytrap Peptide Editing Model

Extend the model with conformational change of **MHC** 







# Peptide Discrimination: Flytrap

- MHC can open and close several times 0
- But same upper bound on discrimination





# Key mechanisms identified

- MHC can delay egression to sample a wider range of peptides
- High peptide turnover is needed to maintain peptide distribution inside ER
- Tapasin holds open MHC and increases peptide off-rate to quickly select high affinity peptides
- Tapasin stabilises MHC to prevent degradation and increase presentation
- Tapasin increases peptide on-rate by anchoring MHC at entrance to ER?
- Tapasin shifts equilibrium to open conformation as a way of delaying egression?



## MHC Alleles: Model Predictions

#### Explanation for immune system variability  $\color{red} \bullet$



No TPN

 TPN

# Extending the Model

Include function of additional chaperones. ●



# Extendable,Maintainable Models

Build complex models by composing simpler components. The models are easier to extend and maintain.



# Verifying Biological Models

#### Can we replace one model with another?



MHC(bind,bindT)

degrade

# Modelling Immunodominance

- How peptides induce a dominant response
- From molecular mechanisms to global response patterns



T cell

**TCR** 

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#### SPiM Definition

**Syntax Semantics Graphics** 

# SPiM Syntax

*x \_ x \_ r* **Delay** at rate *r*  $M{:=}$   $\pi_1.P_1 + ... + \pi_N$  $(x_1,...,x_N)$ *D*::= *P* **Definition** of a process  $E ::= X_1(m_1) = D_1$  $X_N(m_N) = D_N$ 

 $\pi ::= x(m)$  **Receive** value *m* on channel *x n* **Send** value *n* on channel *x* (*m*) **Send** restricted value *m* on channel *x* **Choice** between actions  $P ::=$   $P_1 | ... | P_M$  **Parallel** composition of processes *X*(*n*) **Species** *X* with parameters *n P* **Restriction** of channels  $x_1, \ldots, x_N$  to *P M* **Definition** of a choice **Definitions** for  $X_i$  with parameters  $m_i$ 

#### *S*::= *E*,*P* **System** of *E* and *P*

# Graphical Syntax: Environment *E*





# Graphical Syntax: Process *P*



## Graphical Semantics: Delay



$$
X(m) = r.P1 + ... + \piN.PN
$$

$$
X(m)
$$

#### Graphical Semantics: Delay



$$
X(m) = r.P1 + ... + \piN.PN
$$
  

$$
X(m) \longrightarrow P1
$$

#### Graphical Semantics: Interaction



 $X(n) = \overline{x}$ *\_*  $P_1 + ... + \pi_N P_N$ ,  $Y(m) = \underline{x} . Q_1 + ... + \pi_M Q_M$ *X*(*n*) | *Y*(*m*)
## Graphical Semantics: Interaction



 $X(n) = \overline{x}$ *\_*  $P_1 + ... + \pi_N P_N$ ,  $Y(m) = \underline{x} . Q_1 + ... + \pi_M Q_M$  $X(n)$  |  $Y(m) \longrightarrow P_1/Q_1$ 

## Graphical Semantics: Binding



 $X(n) = \overline{x}$ *\_*  $Y(u) \cdot P_1 + \ldots + \pi_N \cdot P_N$ ,  $Y(m) = \underline{x}(u) \cdot Q_1 + \ldots + \pi_M \cdot Q_M$ *X*(*n*) | *Y*(*m*)

## Graphical Semantics: Binding



 $X(n) = \overline{x}$ *\_*  $Y(u) \cdot P_1 + \ldots + \pi_N \cdot P_N$ ,  $Y(m) = \underline{x}(u) \cdot Q_1 + \ldots + \pi_M \cdot Q_M$  $X(n) \mid Y(m) \longrightarrow (u) (P_1 / Q_1)$ 

## Graphical Syntax



