

Contents

CHAPTER 1 ■ Introduction	1
CHAPTER 2 ■ Transcription Networks: Basic Concepts	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 The Cognitive Problem of the Cell	5
2.3 Elements of Transcription Networks	7
2.3.1 Separation of Timescales	9
2.3.2 The Signs on the Edges: Activators and Repressors	12
2.3.3 The Numbers on the Edges: The Input Function	13
2.3.4 Logic Input Functions: A Simple Framework for Understanding Network Dynamics	15
2.3.5 Multi-Dimensional Input Functions Govern Genes with Several Inputs	16
2.3.6 Interim Summary	18
2.4 Dynamics and Response Time of Simple Gene Regulation	18
2.4.1 The Response Time of Stable Proteins Is One Cell Generation	21
Further Reading	22
Exercises	22
CHAPTER 3 ■ Autoregulation: A Network Motif	27
3.1 Introduction	27
3.2 Patterns, Randomized Networks, and Network Motifs	27
3.2.1 Detecting Network Motifs by Comparison to Randomized Networks	29
3.3 Autoregulation: A Network Motif	30
3.4 Negative Autoregulation Speeds the Response Time of Gene Circuits	31
3.5 Negative Autoregulation Promotes Robustness to Fluctuations in Production Rate	34
3.5.1 Positive Autoregulation Slows Responses and Can Lead to Bi-Stability	37

3.6 Summary	37
Further Reading	37
Exercises	38
CHAPTER 4 ■ The Feed-Forward Loop Network Motif	41
4.1 Introduction	41
4.2 The Number of Appearances of a Subgraph in Random Networks	42
4.3 The Feed-Forward Loop Is a Network Motif	45
4.4 The Structure of the Feed-Forward Loop Gene Circuit	46
4.5 Dynamics of the Coherent Type-1 FFL with AND Logic	49
4.6 The C1-FFL Is a Sign-Sensitive Delay Element	50
4.6.1 Delay Following an ON Step of S_x	51
4.6.2 No Delay Following an OFF Step of S_x	52
4.6.3 The C1-FFL Is a Sign-Sensitive Delay Element	52
4.6.4 Sign-Sensitive Delay Can Protect against Brief Input Fluctuations	52
4.6.5 Sign-Sensitive Delay in the Arabinose System of <i>E. coli</i>	54
4.6.6 The OR Gate C1-FFL Is a Sign-Sensitive Delay for OFF Steps of S_x	56
4.6.7 Interim Summary	56
4.7 The Incoherent Type-1 FFL	57
4.7.1 The Structure of the Incoherent FFL	57
4.7.2 Dynamics of the I1-FFL: A Pulse Generator	58
4.7.3 The I1-FFL Speeds the Response Time	62
4.7.4 Response Acceleration Is Sign Sensitive	63
4.7.5 Experimental Study of the Dynamics of an I1-FFL	63
4.7.6 Three Ways to Speed Your Responses (An Interim Summary)	64
4.8 Why Are Some FFL Types Rare?	65
4.8.1 Steady-State Logic of the I1-FFL: S_y Can Turn on High Expression	65
4.8.2 I4-FFL, a Rarely Selected Circuit, Has Reduced Functionality	65
4.9 Convergent Evolution of FFLs	68
4.10 Summary	69
Further Reading	70
Exercises	71
CHAPTER 5 ■ Temporal Programs and the Global Structure of Transcription Networks	75
5.1 Introduction	75

5.2 The Single-Input Module (SIM) Network Motif	76
5.3 SIMs Can Generate Temporal Expression Programs	77
5.4 Topological Generalizations of Network Motifs	81
5.5 The Multi-Output FFL Can Generate FIFO Temporal Order	83
5.5.1 The Multi-Output FFL Can Also Act as a Persistence Detector for Each Output	87
5.6 Signal Integration and Combinatorial Control: Bi-Fans and Dense Overlapping Regulons	88
5.7 Network Motifs and the Global Structure of Sensory Transcription Networks	89
Further Reading	92
Exercises	93
CHAPTER 6 ■ Network Motifs in Developmental, Signal Transduction, and Neuronal Networks	97
6.1 Introduction	97
6.2 Network Motifs in Developmental Transcription Networks	98
6.2.1 Two-Node Positive Feedback Loops for Decision Making	99
6.2.2 Regulating Feedback and Regulated Feedback	101
6.2.3 Long Transcription Cascades and Developmental Timing	102
6.2.4 Interlocked Feed-Forward Loops in the <i>B. subtilis</i> Sporulation Network	102
6.3 Network Motifs in Signal Transduction Networks	104
6.4 Information Processing Using Multi-Layer Perceptrons	106
6.4.1 Toy Model for Protein Kinase Perceptrons	106
6.4.2 Multi-Layer Perceptrons Can Perform Detailed Computations	111
6.5 Composite Network Motifs: Negative Feedback and Oscillator Motifs	115
6.6 Network Motifs in the Neuronal Network of <i>C. elegans</i>	118
6.6.1 The Multi-Input FFL in Neuronal Networks	122
6.6.2 Multi-Layer Perceptrons in the <i>C. elegans</i> Neuronal Network	125
6.7 Summary	127
Further Reading	128
Exercises	129
CHAPTER 7 ■ Robustness of Protein Circuits: The Example of Bacterial Chemotaxis	135
7.1 The Robustness Principle	135

7.2 Bacterial Chemotaxis, or How Bacteria Think	136
7.2.1 Chemotaxis Behavior	136
7.2.2 Response and Exact Adaptation	137
7.3 The Chemotaxis Protein Circuit of <i>E. coli</i>	140
7.3.1 Attractants Lower the Activity of X	141
7.3.2 Adaptation Is Due to Slow Modification of X That Increases Its Activity	142
7.4 Two Models Can Explain Exact Adaptation: Robust and Fine-Tuned	142
7.4.1 Fine-Tuned Model	143
7.4.2 The Barkai-Leibler Robust Mechanism for Exact Adaptation	146
7.4.3 Robust Adaptation and Integral Feedback	148
7.4.4 Experiments Show That Exact Adaptation Is Robust, Whereas Steady-State Activity and Adaptation Times Are Fine-Tuned	149
7.5 Individuality and Robustness in Bacterial Chemotaxis	149
Further Reading	151
Exercises	152
CHAPTER 8 ■ Robust Patterning in Development	159
8.1 Introduction	159
8.2 Exponential Morphogen Profiles Are Not Robust	161
8.3 Increased Robustness by Self-Enhanced Morphogen Degradation	163
8.4 Network Motifs That Provide Degradation Feedback for Robust Patterning	165
8.5 The Robustness Principle Can Distinguish between Mechanisms of Fruit Fly Patterning	166
Further Reading	172
Exercises	172
CHAPTER 9 ■ Kinetic Proofreading	175
9.1 Introduction	175
9.2 Kinetic Proofreading of the Genetic Code Can Reduce Error Rates of Molecular Recognition	176
9.2.1 Equilibrium Binding Cannot Explain the Precision of Translation	177
9.2.2 Kinetic Proofreading Can Dramatically Reduce the Error Rate	180
9.3 Recognizing Self and Non-Self by the Immune System	182
9.3.1 Equilibrium Binding Cannot Explain the Low Error Rate of Immune Recognition	183
9.3.2 Kinetic Proofreading Increases Fidelity of T-Cell Recognition	185

9.4 Kinetic Proofreading May Occur in Diverse Recognition Processes in the Cell	187
Further Reading	188
Exercises	188
CHAPTER 10 ■ Optimal Gene Circuit Design	193
10.1 Introduction	193
10.2 Optimal Expression Level of a Protein under Constant Conditions	194
10.2.1 The Benefit of the LacZ Protein	195
10.2.2 The Cost of the LacZ Protein	196
10.2.3 The Fitness Function and the Optimal Expression Level	197
10.2.4 Laboratory Evolution Experiment Shows That Cells Reach Optimal LacZ Levels in a Few Hundred Generations	199
10.3 To Regulate or Not to Regulate: Optimal Regulation in Variable Environments	201
10.4 Environmental Selection of the Feed-Forward Loop Network Motif	203
10.5 Summary	207
Further Reading	207
Exercises	208
CHAPTER 11 ■ Demand Rules for Gene Regulation	215
11.1 Introduction	215
11.2 The Savageau Demand Rule	217
11.2.1 Evidence for the Demand Rule in <i>E. coli</i>	217
11.2.2 Mutational Explanation of the Demand Rule	219
11.2.3 The Problem with Mutant-Selection Arguments	220
11.3 Rules for Gene Regulation Based on Minimal Error Load	220
11.4 The Selection Pressure for Optimal Regulation	222
11.5 Demand Rules for Multi-Regulator Systems	223
11.6 Summary	228
Further Reading	230
Exercises	230

CHAPTER 12 ■ Epilogue: Simplicity in Biology	233
APPENDIX A ■ The Input Function of a Gene: Michaelis–Menten and Hill Equations	241
A.1 Binding of a Repressor to a Promoter	241
A.2 Binding of a Repressor Protein to an Inducer: Michaelis–Menten Equation	244
A.3 Cooperativity of Inducer Binding and the Hill Equation	245
A.4 The Monod, Changeux, and Wyman Model	247
A.5 The Input Function of a Gene Regulated by a Repressor	247
A.6 Binding of an Activator to Its DNA Site	248
A.6.1 Comparison of Dynamics with Logic and Hill Input Functions	250
A.7 Michaelis–Menten Enzyme Kinetics	250
Further Reading	251
Exercises	251
APPENDIX B ■ Multi-Dimensional Input Functions	253
B.1 Input Function That Integrates an Activator and a Repressor	253
Exercises	255
APPENDIX C ■ Graph Properties of Transcription Networks	257
C.1 Transcription Networks Are Sparse	257
C.2 Transcription Networks Have Long-Tailed Output Degree Sequences and Compact Input Degree Sequences	257
C.3 Clustering Coefficients of Transcription Networks	259
C.4 Quantitative Measures of Network Modularity	259
APPENDIX D ■ Cell-Cell Variability in Gene Expression	261
Further Reading	264
GLOSSARY	265
BIBLIOGRAPHY	271
INDEX	295