

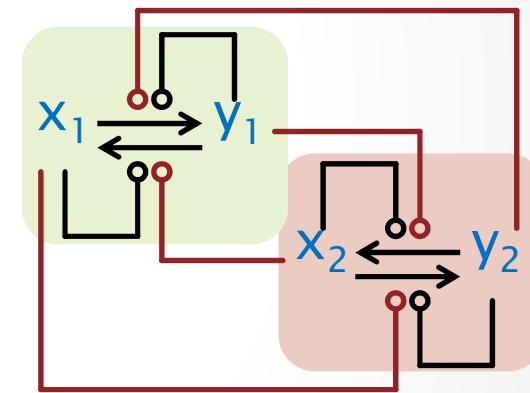
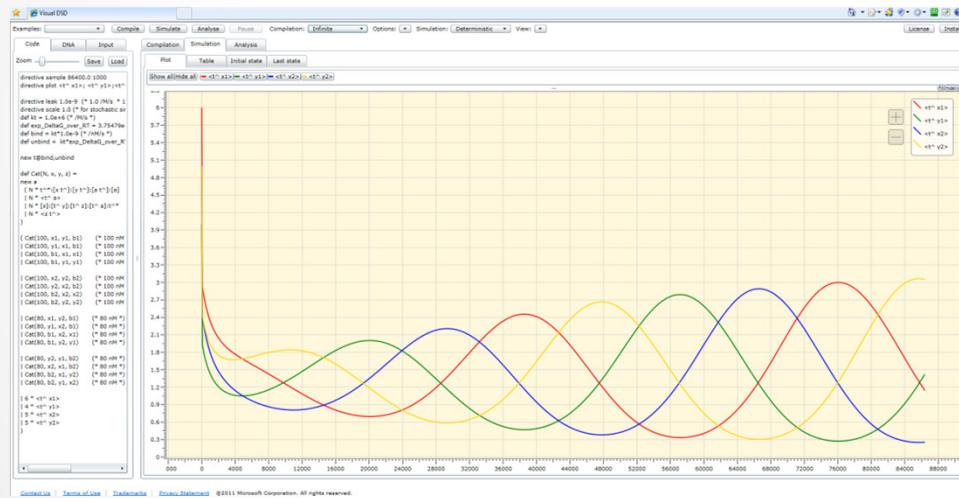
# Network Transformations of Switches and Oscillators

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Cambridge 2011-08-02  
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# Motivation

- Building synthetic (DNA) oscillators

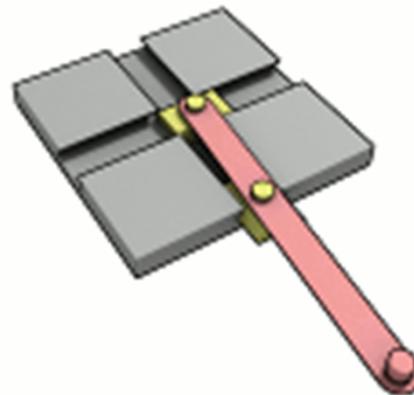
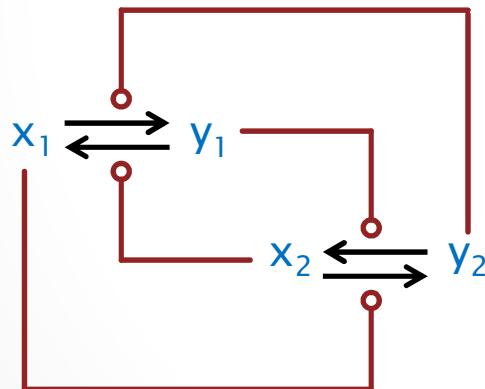


DSD simulation

# The Trammel of Archimedes

- A device to draw ellipses

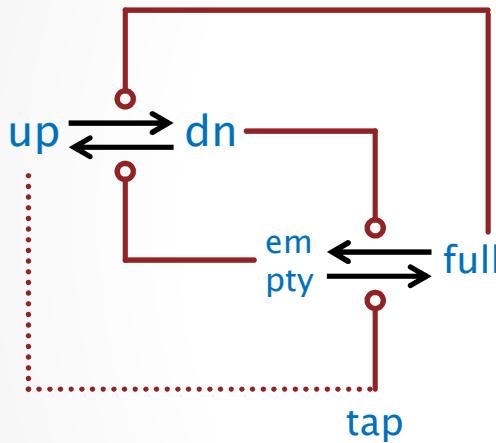
- Two interconnected switches.
- Note that amplitude is kept constant by mechanical constraints.
- When one switch is on (off) it flips the other switch on (off).  
When the other switch is on (off) it flips the first switch off (on).



[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trammel\\_of\\_Archimedes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trammel_of_Archimedes)

# The Shishi Odoshi

- A Japanese scarecrow (scare-deer)
  - Used by Bela Novak to illustrate the cell cycle switch.



empty + tap  $\rightarrow$  tap + full  
up + full  $\rightarrow$  full + dn  
full + dn  $\rightarrow$  dn + empty  
dn + empty  $\rightarrow$  empty + up

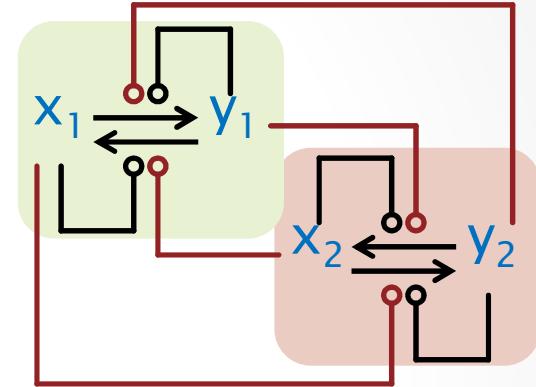


<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbvecTlftcE&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

To make it into a full trammel (dotted line), we could make the up position mechanically open the tap (i.e. take up = tap)

# The Cell Cycle

- Feedback speeds
  - fast (post-translational)
  - slow (transcriptional)
- Some feedbacks may be missing
- Switches are asymmetric
  - One switch is usually simpler than that, just causing a negative feedback
  - One switch is usually more sophisticated than that, because of biochemical constraints



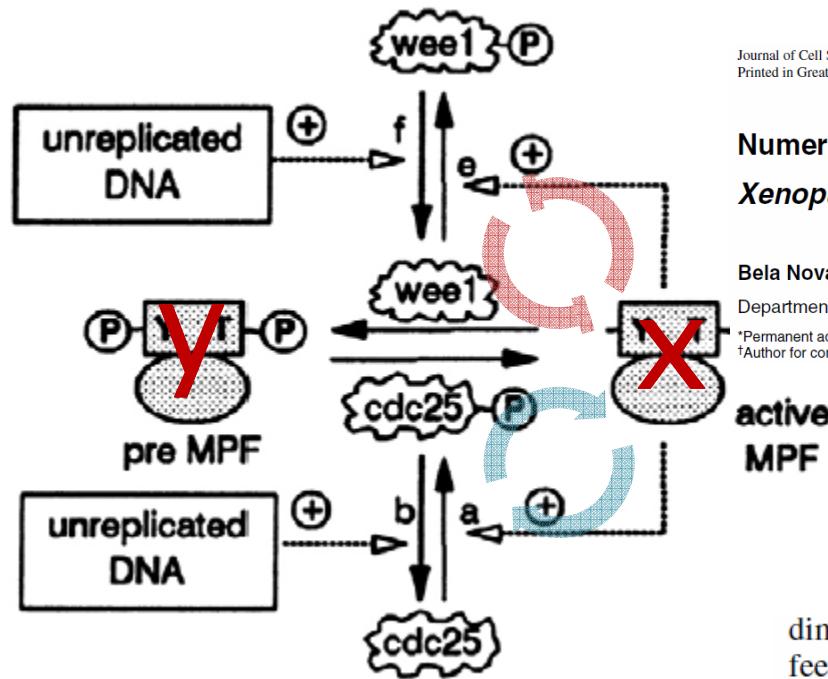
# Outline

- Questions that nature has answered
  - Building ‘good’ bistable systems
  - Building ‘switches’ (switchable bistable system)
  - Building switches with hysteresis (needed for good oscillators)
  - Building limit-cycle oscillators
  - Building robust oscillators that resist parameter variations
- Engineering solutions to the same problems
  - Are they related?
  - In nature there are chemical constraints
    - Not all reactions can be easily implemented
    - Not all molecules can perform all functions we want them to
- From the point of view of network structure
  - Transforming a network and preserve some function
  - “Program transformations”

# Switches

# The Cell Cycle Switch

Why this network structure?



Journal of Cell Science 106, 1153-1168 (1993)  
Printed in Great Britain © The Company of Biologists Limited 1993

Numerical analysis of a comprehensive model of M-phase control in *Xenopus* oocyte extracts and intact embryos

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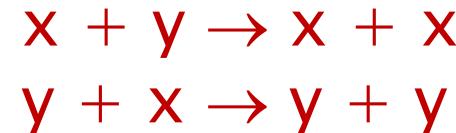
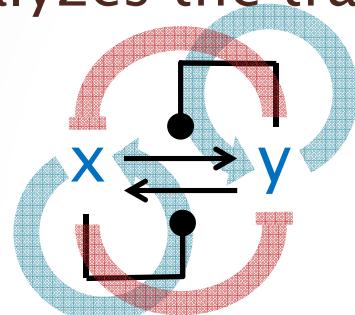
- Double positive feedback on x
- Double negative feedback on x
- No feedback on y

Why on earth .... ??

dimers is left off the diagram to keep it simple.) (B) Positive feedback loops. Active MPF stimulates its own production from tyrosine-phosphorylated dimers by activating Cdc25 and inhibiting Wee1. We suspect that these signals are indirect, but intermediary enzymes are unknown and we ignore them in this paper. The signals from active MPF to Wee1 and Cdc25 generate an autocatalytic instability in the control system. We indicate also an 'external' signal from unreplicated DNA to Wee1 and Cdc25, which can be used to control the efficacy of the positive feedback loops. The letters a, b, e and f are used to label the rate constants for these reactions in Fig. 2. (C) Negative feedback loop. Active

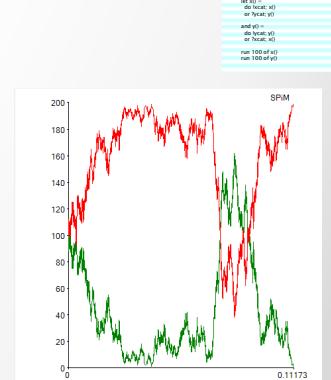
# A Bad Algorithm

- Direct x–y competition
  - x catalyzes the transformation of y into x
  - y catalyzes the transformation of x into y



- This system is bistable, but
  - Convergence to a stable state is slow (a random walk).
  - Any perturbation of a stable state can initiate a random walk to the other stable state.
  - With 100 molecules of x and y, convergence is quick, but with 10000 molecules, even at the same concentration, you will wait for a long time.

```
derivative sample 0.0032  
1000  
draw(x=plot(X), y= b)  
value = 1.0  
new_val=abs(deriv)  
new_val<0.001  
if new_val<0.001  
let X0 =  
do Nscec(X0)  
new_val = 0.0  
and(y0 = 0.0  
or Nscec(X0)  
run 100 of X0  
run 100 of y0)
```



# A Very Good Algorithm

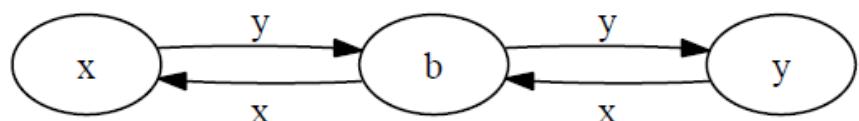
- Approximate Majority
  - Decide which of two populations is in majority
- A fundamental ‘population protocol’
  - Agents in a population start in state x or state y.
  - A pair of agents is chosen randomly at each step, they interact (“collide”) and change state.
  - The whole population must eventually agree on a majority value (all x or all y) with probability 1.

Dana Angluin · James Aspnes · David Eisenstat

## A Simple Population Protocol for Fast Robust Approximate Majority

We analyze the behavior of the following population protocol with states  $Q = \{b, x, y\}$ . The state  $b$  is the blank state. Row labels give the initiator’s state and column labels the responder’s state.

	x	b	y
x	(x, x)	(x, x)	(x, b)
b	(b, x)	(b, b)	(b, y)
y	(y, b)	(y, y)	(y, y)



# Properties

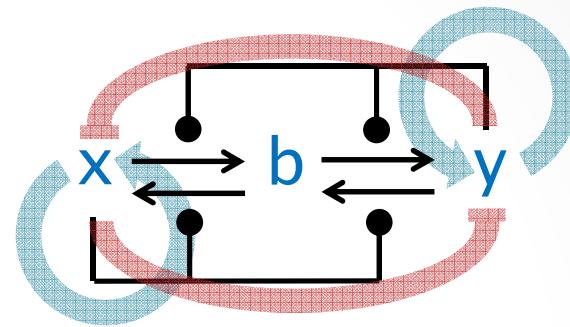
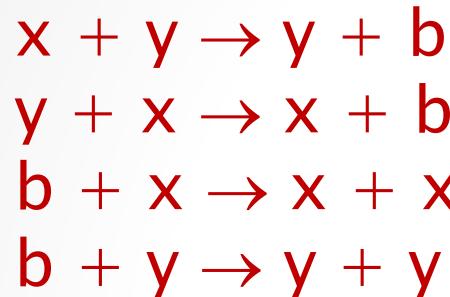
- Using martingales, we show that with high probability,
  - The number of state changes before converging is  $O(n \log n)$
  - The total number of interactions before converging is  $O(n \log n)$
  - The final outcome is correct if the initial disparity is  $\omega(\sqrt{n \log n})$
- This algorithm is the fastest possible
  - Must wait  $\Omega(n \log n)$  steps in expectation for all agents to interact

[Angluin et al.]

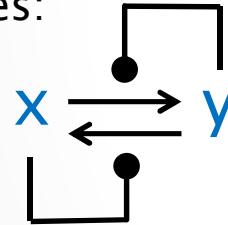
“Parallel time” is the number of steps divided by the number of agents. Hence the algorithm terminates with high probability in  $O(\log n)$  steps per agent.

N.B. this bound holds even if the x,y populations are initially of equal size!

# Chemical Implementation

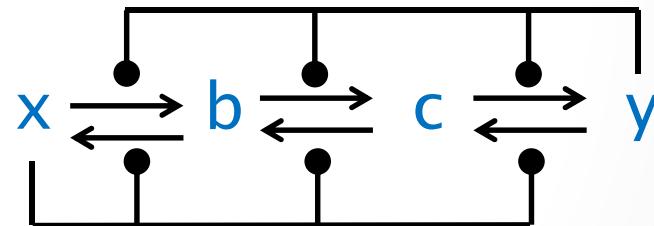


Alternatives:



This too is a bistable system, but:

- It converges slowly, by a random walk, hence  $O(n^2)$ .
- It is unstable: any random fluctuation from an all-x or all-y state can send it (by a random walk) to the other state.



This one gives no significant improvement over the above.

# Majority of $x > y$

```
directive sample 0.0002 1000
directive plot x0; y0; b0

val r = 0.1
new xy@r:chan new yx@r:chan
new bx@r:chan new by@r:chan

let x0 =
  do ?xy; b0
  or !yx; x0
  or !bx; x0

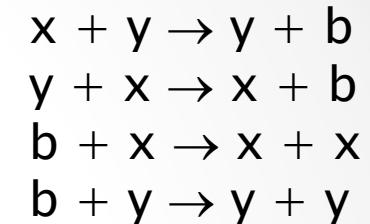
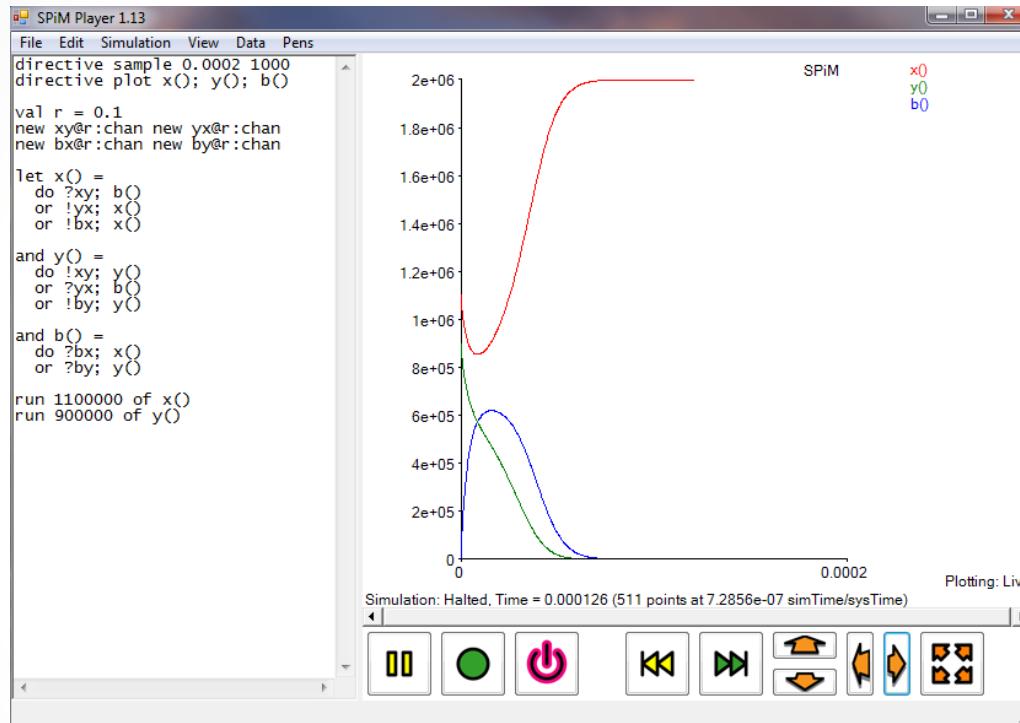
and y0 =
  do !xy; y0
  or ?yx; b0
  or !by; y0

and b0 =
  do ?bx; x0
  or ?by; y0

run 1000000 of x0
run 1000000 of y0
```

2000k molecules  
1100k x  
900k y

Gillespie simulation  
of the chemical  
reactions in SPiM.



Eventually:  
**all x**  
**no y**  
**no b**

*All rates are equal.*

# Majority of x=y (!!)

```

directive sample 0.0002 1000
directive plot x0; y0; b0

val r = 0.1
new xy@r:chan new yx@r:chan
new bx@r:chan new by@r:chan

let x0 =
  do ?xy; b0
  or !yx; x0
  or !bx; x0

and y0 =
  do !xy; y0
  or ?yx; b0
  or !by; y0

and b0 =
  do ?bx; x0
  or ?by; y0

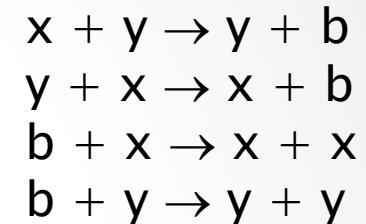
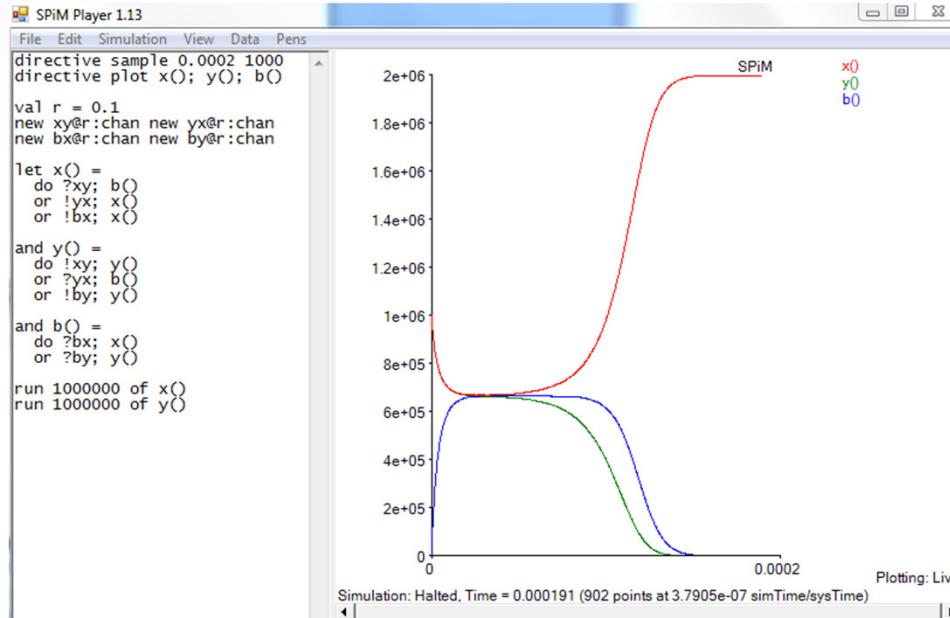
run 1000000 of x0
run 1000000 of y0

```

2000k molecules

Gillespie simulation  
of the chemical  
reactions in SPiM.

*All rates are equal.*



Eventually either:  
 all x      all y  
 no y      no x  
 no b      no b

The final majority is robust (insensitive to possible noise)  
because a significant majority always stays a majority:

The final outcome is correct if the initial disparity is  
 $\omega(\sqrt{n \log n})$

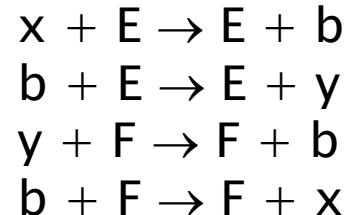
N.B. a deterministic (ODE) simulation with x=y  
would not converge ever!

# A Digression about Other Switches

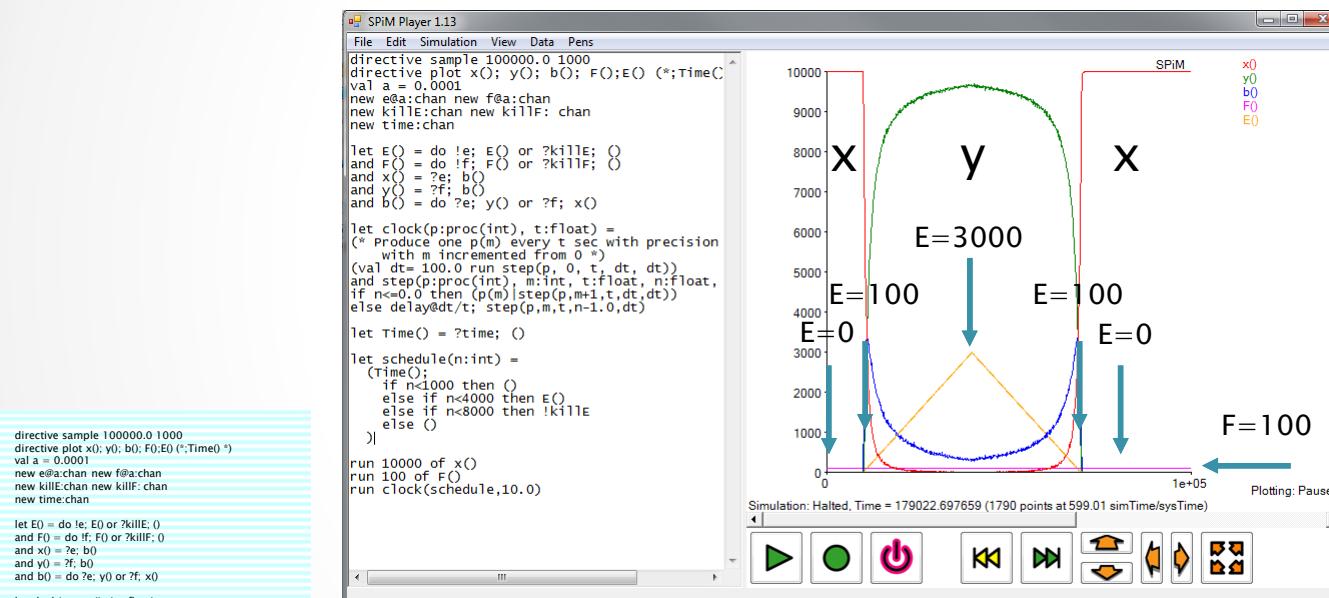
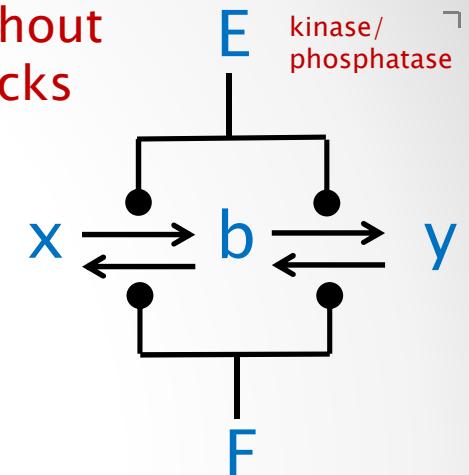
- The AM network is an ‘optimal’ switch in a computational sense. How does it compare with other switches?
- Let us first compare the ‘kernel’ of AM without feedbacks (i.e. ‘double phosphorylation’) with the Goldbeter–Koshland switch
- And then compare the full AM network with GK plus the same feedbacks as AM

# Double-Phosphorylation Switch

Ultrasensitive  
(but no hysteresis)



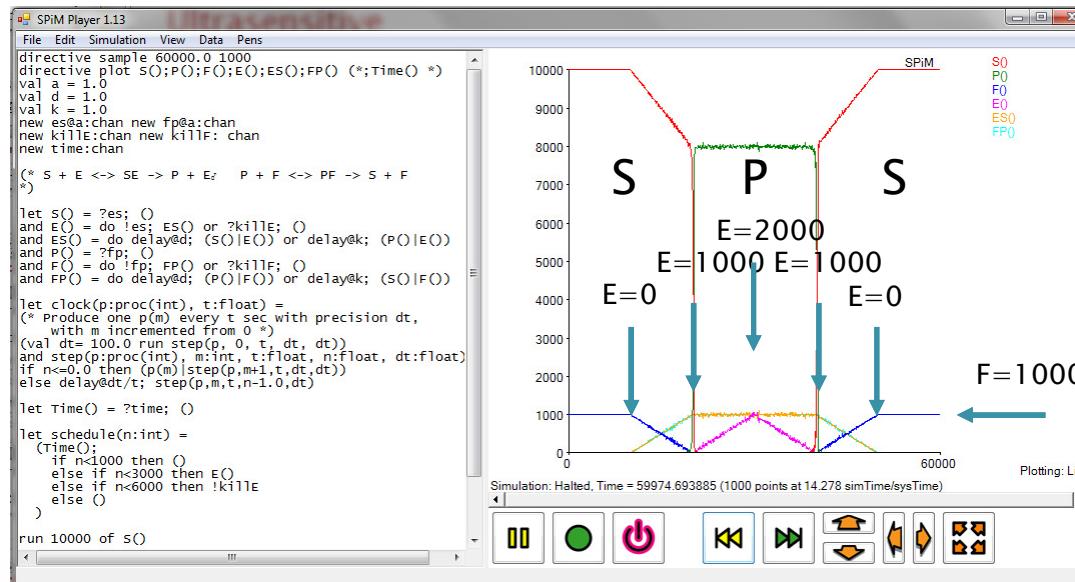
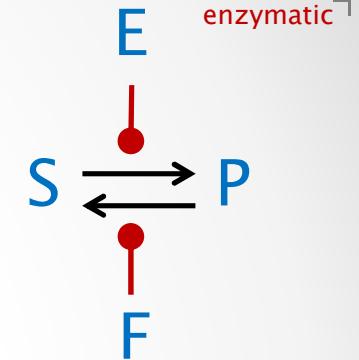
AM without  
feedbacks



Initially 10000 x, no y, 100 F, no E.  
E growing from 0 ( $t=100$ ) to 3000 ( $t=400$ ) then back to 0 ( $t=800$ )

# The Goldbeter–Koshland Switch

Ultrasensitive  
(but no hysteresis)



```
directive sample 6000.0 1000
directive plot S0;P0;F0;ES0;FP0 (*;Time0 *)
val a = 1.0
val d = 1.0
val k = 1.0
new es@a:chan new fp@a:chan
new kill1E:chan new kill1F: chan
new time:chan

(* S + E <-> SE -> P + E; P + F <-> PF -> S + F
*)

let s() = ?es; () and E() = do !es; ES() or ?kill1E; () and ES() = do delay@d; (S0|E0) or delay@k; (P0|E0) and P() = ?fp; () and F() = do !fp; FP0 or ?kill1F; () and FP() = do delay@d; (P0|F0) or delay@k; (S0|F0)

let clock(p:proc(int), t:float) =
(* Produce one p(m) every t sec with precision dt,
   with m incremented from 0 *)
  (val dt= 100.0 run step(p, 0, t, dt, dt))
  and step(p:proc(int), m:int, t:float, n:float, dt:float)
    if n<=0.0 then (p(m)|step(p,m+1,t,dt,dt))
    else delay@dt/t; step(p,p.m,t,n-1.0,dt)

let Time0 = ?time; ()

let schedule(n:int) =
(Time0;
  if n<1000 then E()
  else if n<3000 then E()
  else if n<6000 then !kill1E
  else ()
)

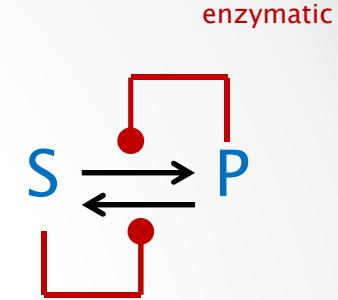
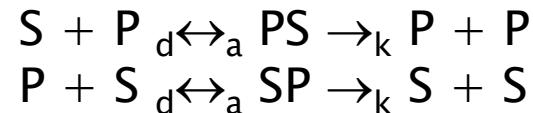
run 10000 of s()
```

Initially 10000 S, no P, 1000 F, no E.  
E growing from 0 ( $t=100$ ) to 2000 ( $t=300$ ) then back to 0 ( $t=500$ )  
The first switch happens at  $t=200$ , the second at  $t=400$ .

E/F ratio can be lower: GK is a ‘better’ more sensitive switch.

# Can GK do majority switching?

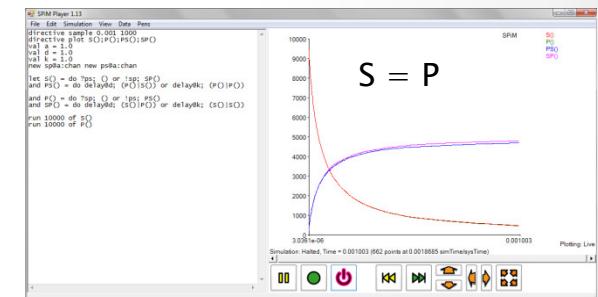
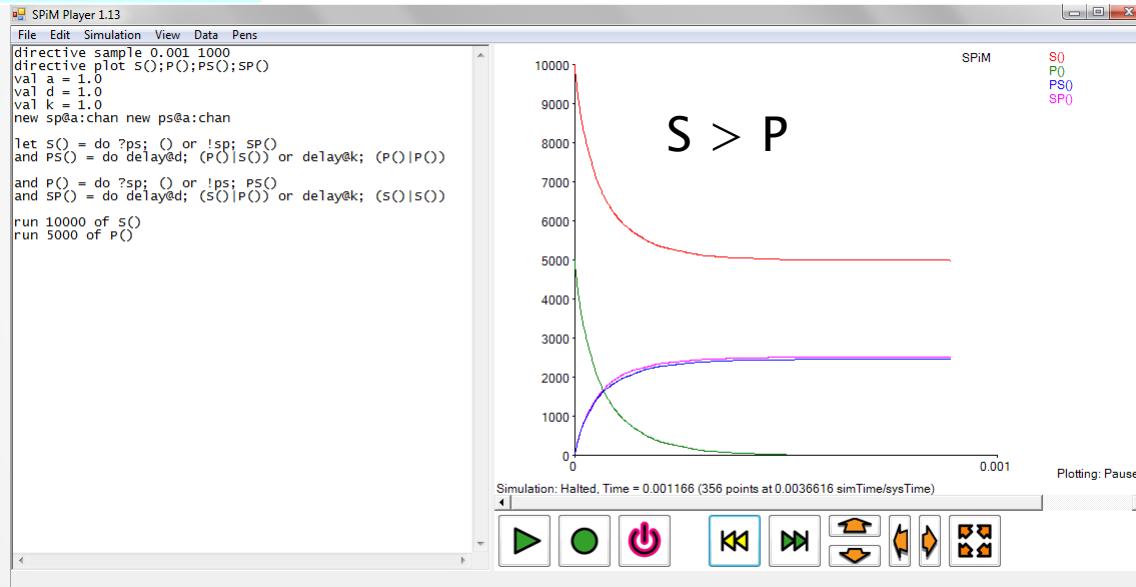
GK in "AM configuration"



```
directive sample 0.001 1000
directive plot S();P();PS();SP()
val a = 1.0
val d = 1.0
val k = 1.0
new sp@a:chan new ps@a:chan

let S() = do ?ps; () or !sp; PS()
and PS() = do delay@d; (P()|S()) or delay@k; (P0)|P()
and P0 = do ?sp; () or !ps; PS()
and SP() = do delay@d; (S0|P()); delay@k; (S0)|S()

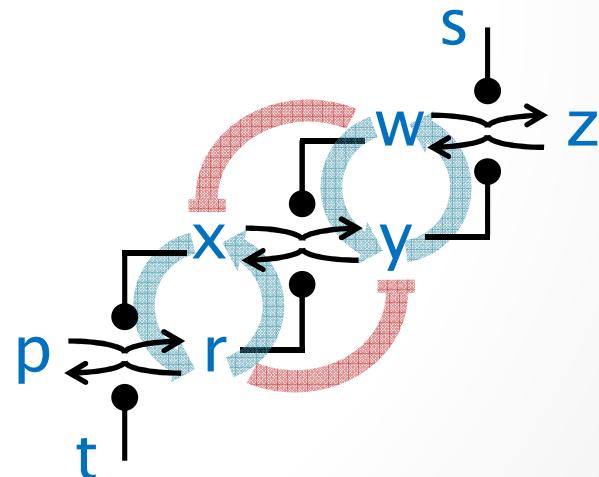
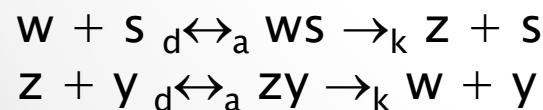
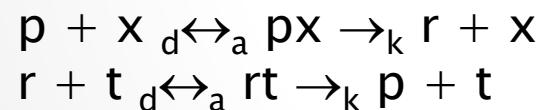
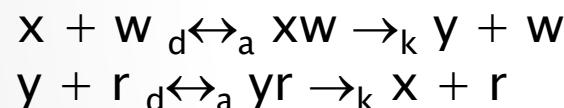
run 10000 of S()
run 10000 of P0
```



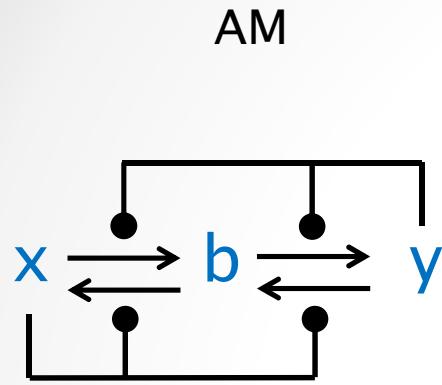
GK in "AM configuration" does not compute a majority.

- The initial minority goes down to 0
- The initial majority goes down to  $\text{maj}_{t=0} - \text{min}_{t=0}$
- When  $\text{maj}_{t=0} \sim \text{min}_{t=0}$  the system cannot decide.

- Problem may be that the feedbacks put GK outside of zero-order regime.
- Hence, should check to see if GK works in the case of

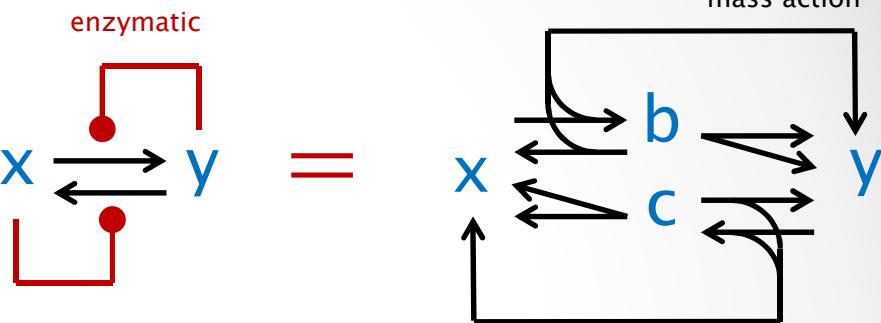


# 'Double phosphorylation' motif is key



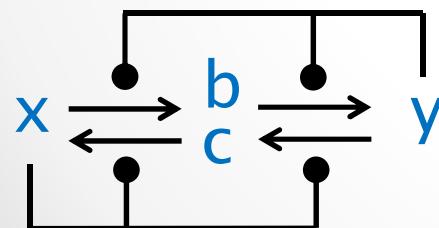
$\neq$

autocatalytic GK



$\neq$

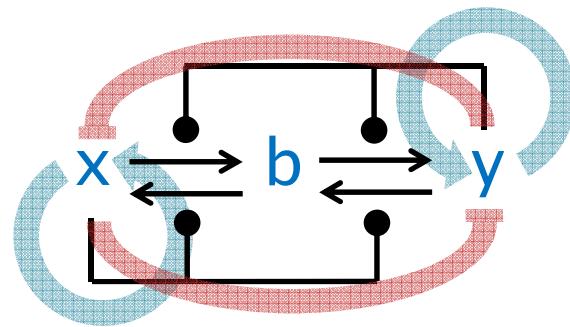
split-AM



It is not just a non-linearity of the x-y transition mechanism that matters:  
it is the 'double phosphorylation' network structure of AM, with a *common 'undecided'* state.

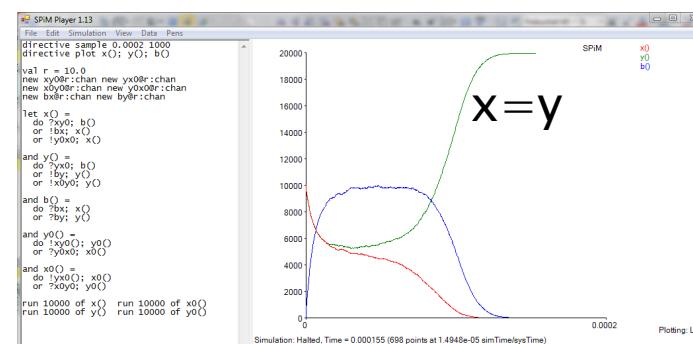
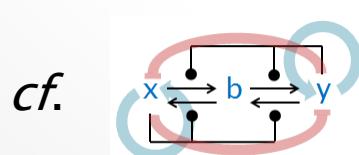
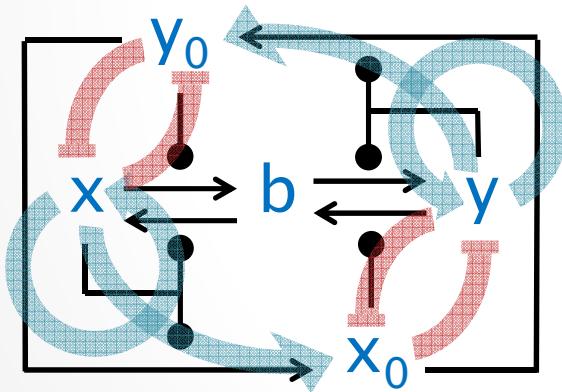
# Chemical Constraints

- The AM circuit is ‘chemically demanding’
  - It requires  $x$  molecules to be ‘next’ to  $y$  molecules because they interact directly
  - It requires both  $x$  and  $y$  to be catalysts, and in fact autocatalysts, and in fact each-other’s autocatalyst!



# Network Transformations

- An example of relaxing those constraints
  - This circuit works just as well as the original, but it no longer requires  $x$  to be ‘next’ to  $y$ . They no longer interact directly. Instead, they interact through an additional  $x_0$ - $y_0$  equilibrium.



```
directive sample 0.0002 1000
directive plot x0; y0; b0

val r = 10.0
new xy0@r:chan new yx0@r:chan
new x0y0@r:chan new y0x0@r:chan
new bx0@r:chan new by0@r:chan

let x0 =
  do ?xy0; x0
  or !bx0; x0
  or !y0x0; x0

and y0 =
  do ?yx0; y0
  or !by0; y0
  or !x0y0; y0

and b0 =
  do ?bx0; y0
  or !by0; y0

and y0O =
  do ?xy0O; y0O
  or !y0x0O; y0O
  or !x0y0O; y0O

and x0O =
  do ?yx0O; x0O
  or !x0y0O; x0O
  or !y0x0O; x0O

run 10000 of x0 run 10000 of x0O
run 10000 of y0 run 10000 of y0O

Simulation: Halted, Time = 0.000155 (698 points at 1.4948e-05 simTime/sysTime)
```

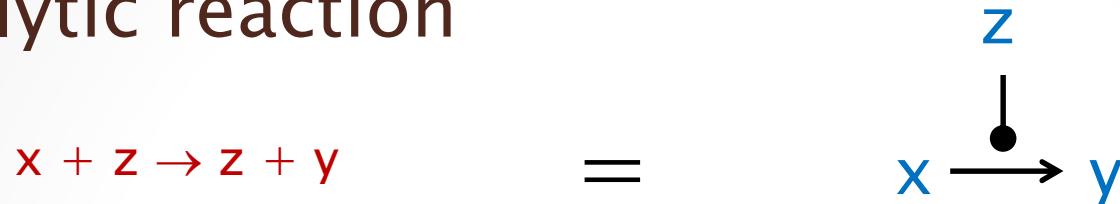
Luca Cardelli 2012-11-07 22

# Network Transformations

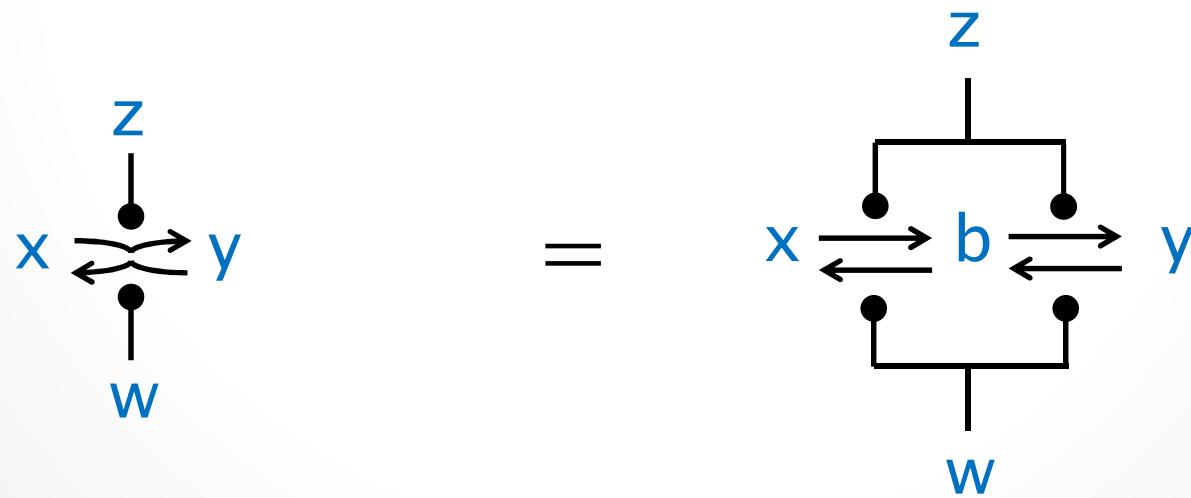
- Another example of relaxing constraints
  - Build an Approximate Majority network that requires only  $x$  to be a catalyst. How?
  - Enter the **Cell Cycle** switches...

# Some Notation

- Catalytic reaction

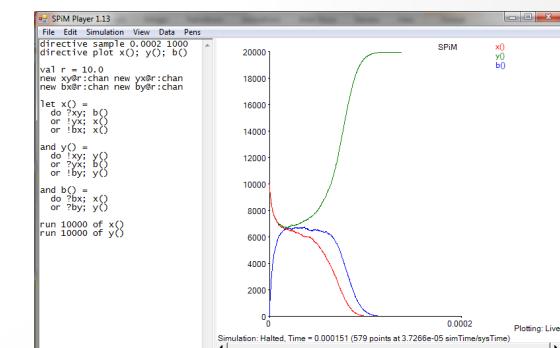
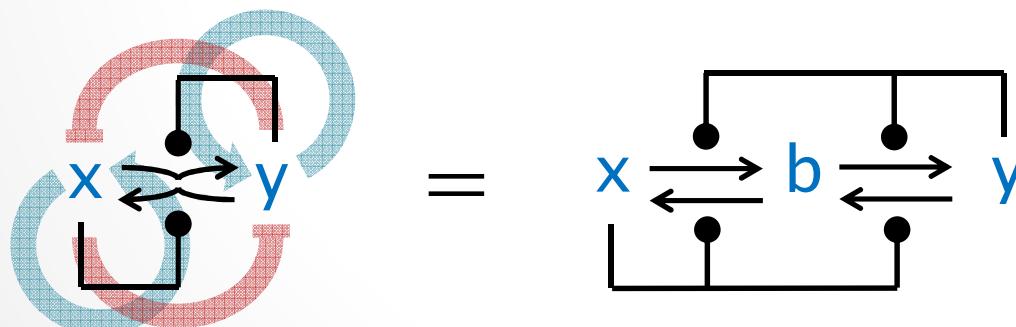


- Double ‘kinase–phosphatase’ reactions



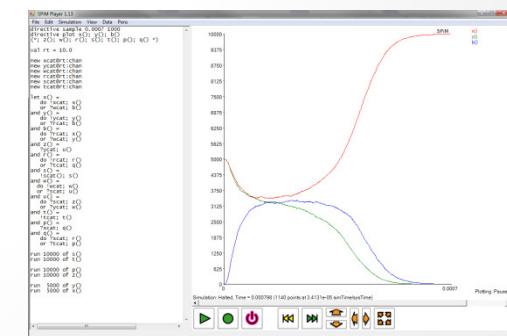
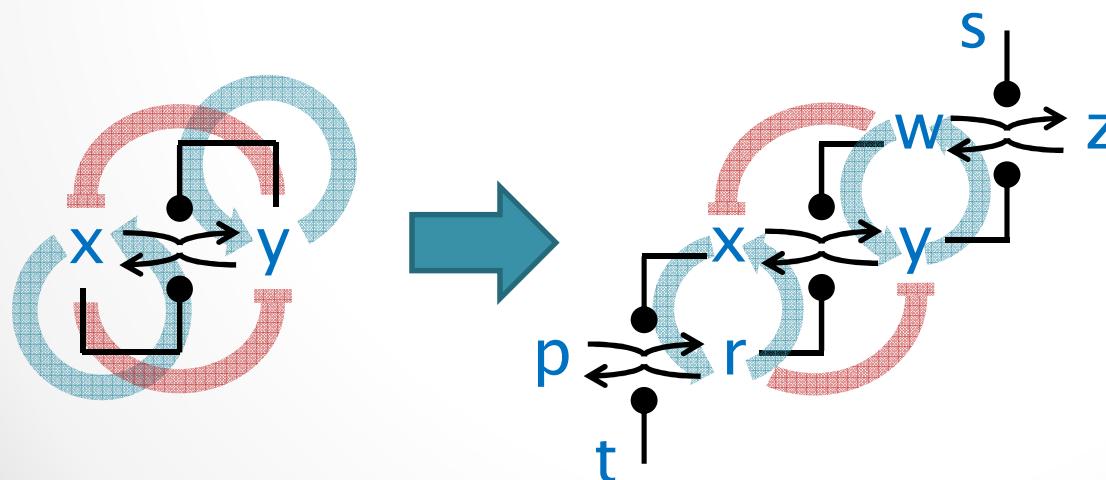
# Zero-Input Switches

- ‘Zero-input switch’ = majority circuit: just working off the initial conditions, with no other inputs.
- Step 1: the original AM Network

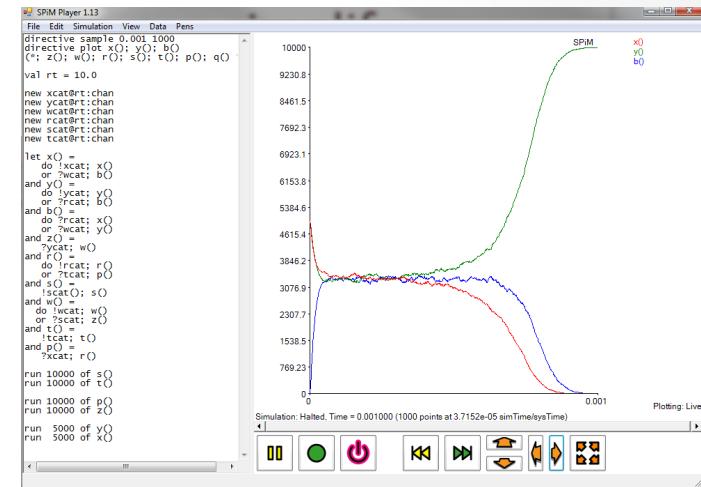
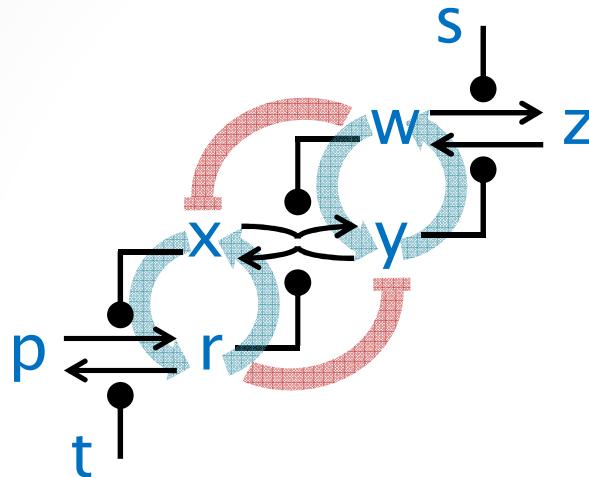


# Zero-Input Switches

- Step 2: remove auto-catalysis
  - By introducing intermediate species w, r.
  - Here w breaks the y auto-catalysis, and r breaks the x auto-catalysis, while preserving the feedbacks.
  - w and r need to ‘relax back’ (to z and t) when they are not catalyzed: s and t provide the back pressure.



# ... can simplify?



(it appears just slightly noisier/slower)

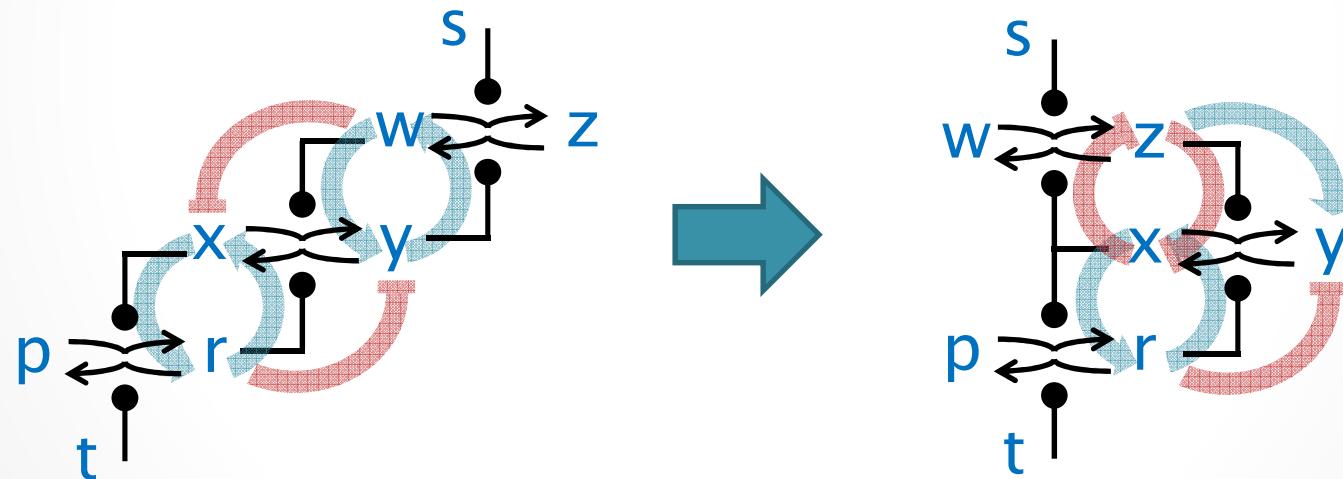
# ... no, it gets stuck!

- Equal-size initial conditions



# Zero-Input Switches

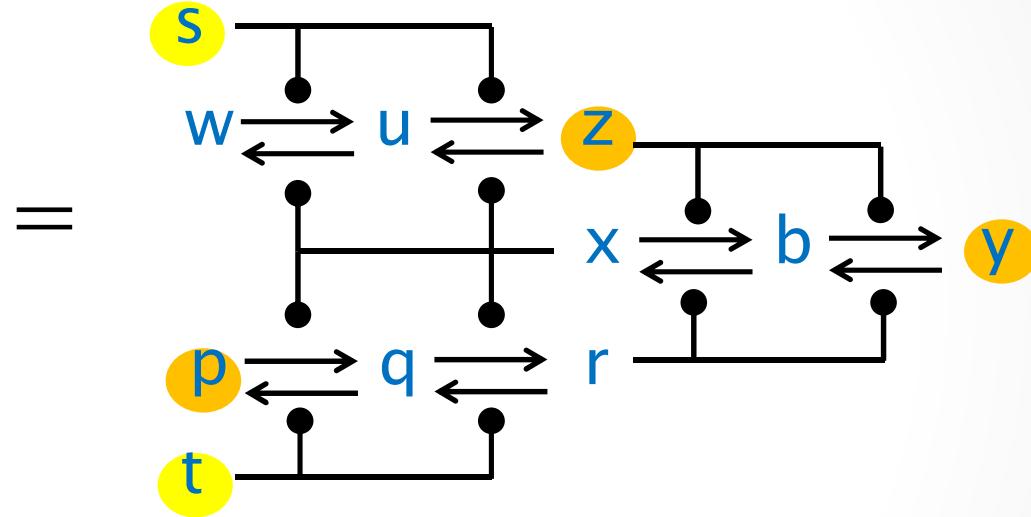
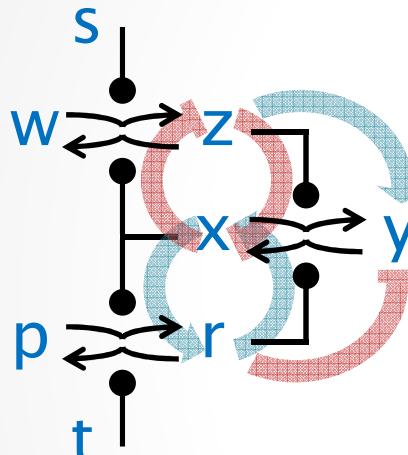
- Step 3: transform a double-positive loop on  $y$  into a double-negative loop on  $x$ .
  - Instead of  $y$  (actively) activating itself through  $w$ , we have  $z$  activating  $y$  (which is passive). To counteract, now  $x$  has to switch from inhibiting  $y$  to inhibiting  $z$ .



- So that  $y$  no longer catalyzes anything
  - All species have one active and one inactive form

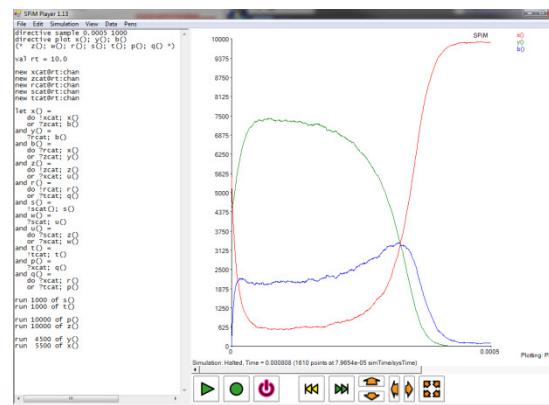
# Zero-Input Switches

- Still an AM circuit



(The equal-likelihood outcome here is around 4500 y vs 5500 x, and can be adjusted by s/t ratio)

*All rates are equal.*

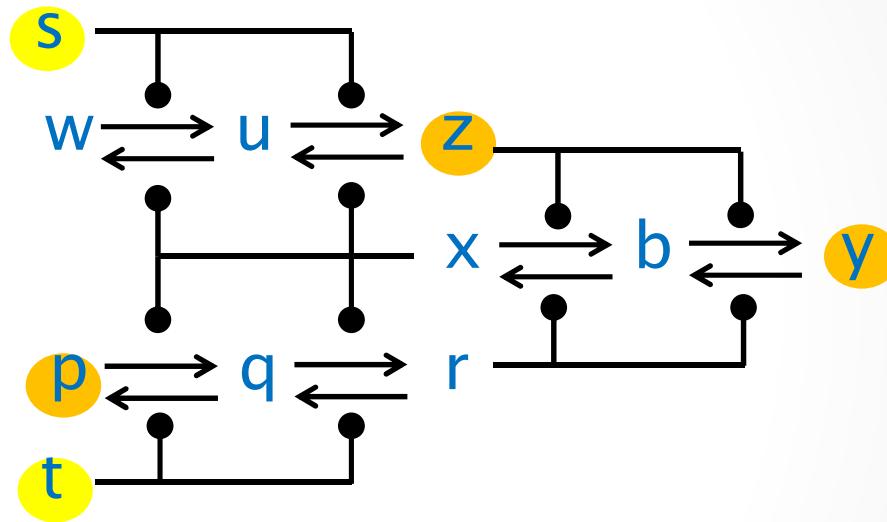
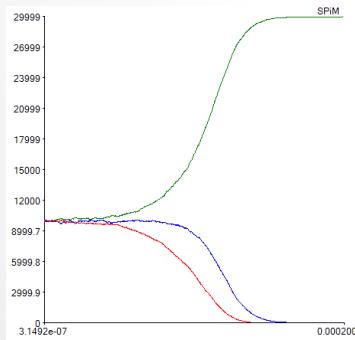
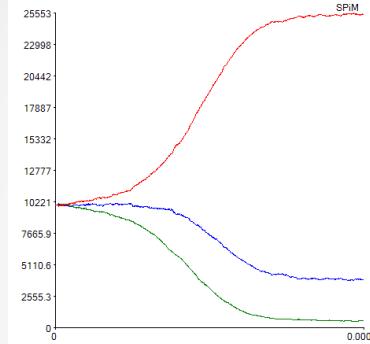


```

directive sample
0.0005 1000
directive plot x0; y0;
b0
(* z0; w0; r0; s0; t0;
p0; q0 *)
val rt = 10.0
new xcat@rt:chan
new zcat@rt:chan
new rcat@rt:chan
new scat@rt:chan
new tcat@rt:chan
let x0 =
do !xcat; x0
or ?zcat; b0
and y0 =
?rcat; b0
and b0 =
do ?rcat; x0
or ?zcat; y0
and z0 =
do !zcat; z0
or ?xcat; u0
and r0 =
do !rcat; r0
or ?zcat; u0
and s0 =
!scat(); s0
and q0 =
?scat(); u0
and u0 =
?scat(); u0
and t0 =
!tcat; t0
and p0 =
?xcat; q0
and q0 =
do ?xcat; r0
or ?cat; p0
run 1000 of s0
run 1000 of t0
run 10000 of r0
run 10000 of p0
run 4500 of y0
run 5500 of x0

```

# Equal-size initial conditions



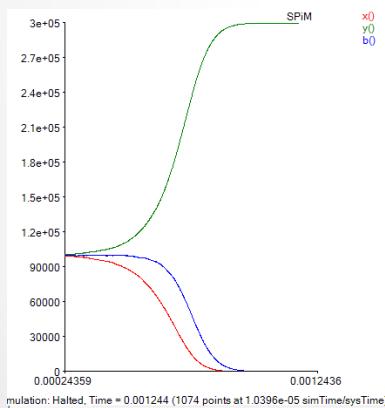
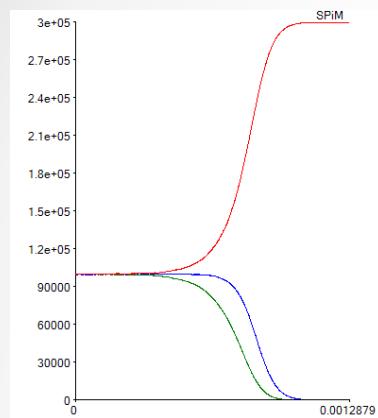
```

directive sample 0.0002 1000
directive plot x0; y0;
b0 (* z0; w0; r0; s0; t0;
p0; q0 *)
val rt = 10.0
new xcat@rt:chan
new zcat@rt:chan
new rcat@rt:chan
new scat@rt:chan
new tcat@rt:chan
let x0 =
do !xcat; x0
or ?zcat; b0
and y0 =
?rcat; b0
and z0 =
do ?zcat; z0
or ?xcat; u0
and r0 =
do !rcat; r0
or ?tcat; q0
and s0 =
!scat(); s0
and w0 =
?scat; u0
and u0 =
do ?xcat; z0
or ?zcat; w0
and t0 =
!tcat; t0
and p0 =
?xcat; q0
and q0 =
do ?xcat; r0
or ?tcat; p0
run 10000 of s0
run 10000 of t0
run 10000 of w0
run 10000 of u0
run 10000 of z0
run 10000 of p0
run 10000 of q0
run 10000 of r0
run 10000 of y0
run 10000 of b0
run 10000 of x0

```

All initial species = 10000. Probability of win seems to be x=y=50%  
Note that when x wins, the system does not terminate because x has active competition from s.

# AM Equal-size initial conditions



All initial species = 100000..

```
directive sample 0.002 1000
directive plot x0; y0; b0

val r = 0.1
new xy@r:chan new yx@r:chan
new bx@r:chan new by@r:chan

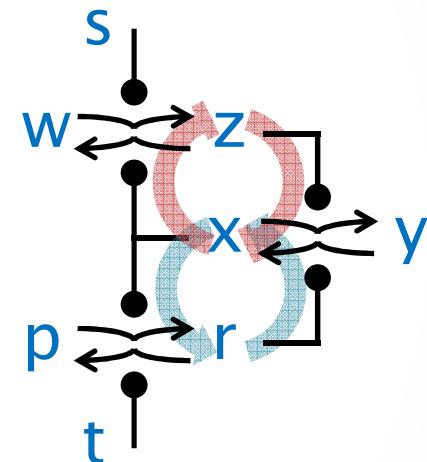
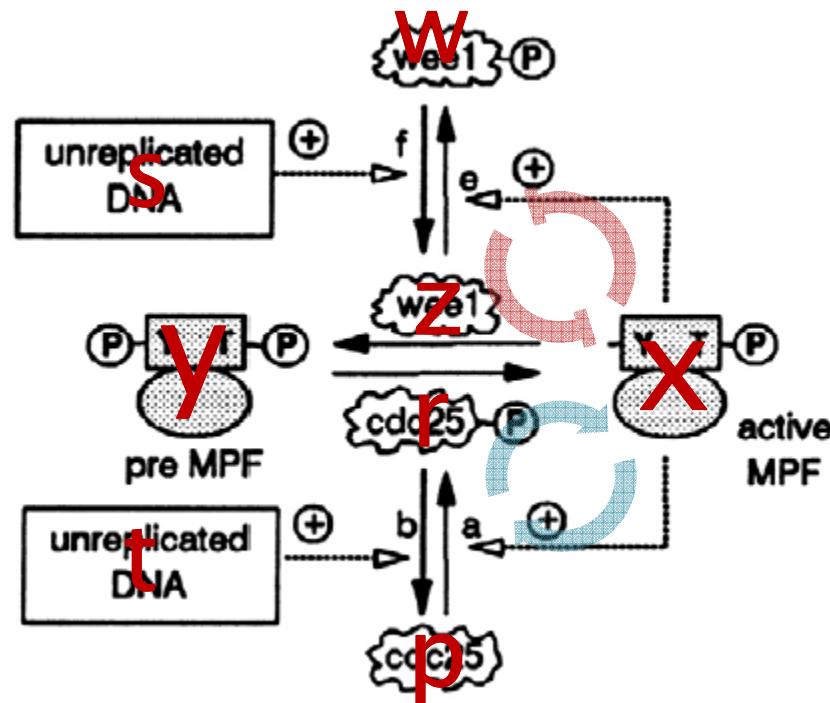
let x0 =
  do ?xy; b0
  or !yx; x0
  or !bx; x0

and y0 =
  do !xy; y0
  or ?yx; b0
  or !by; y0

and b0 =
  do ?bx; x0
  or ?by; y0

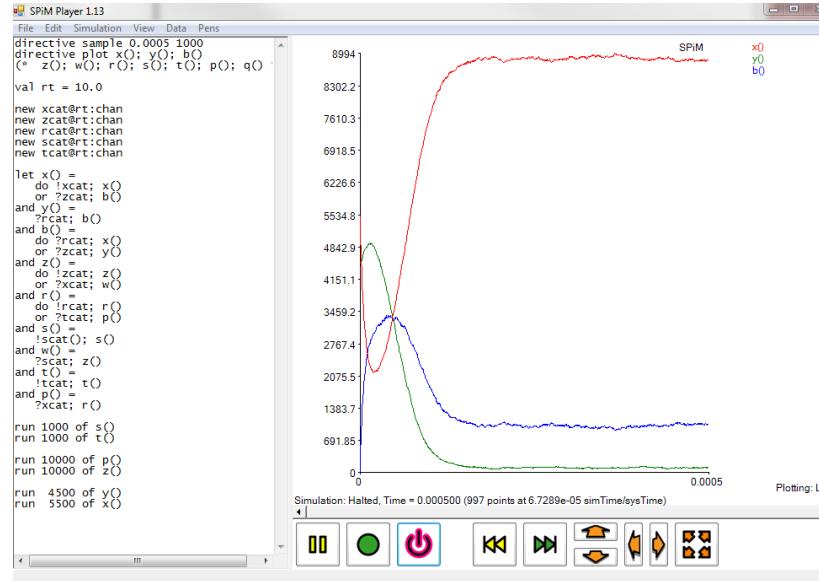
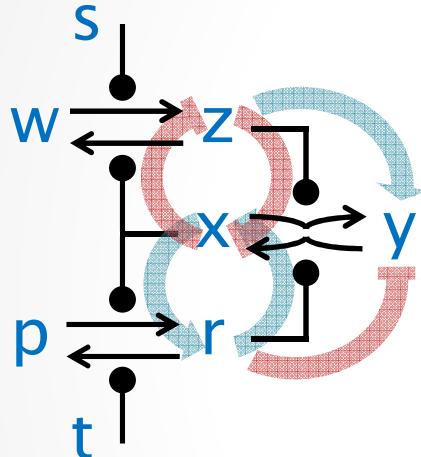
run 100000 of x0
run 100000 of b0
run 100000 of y0
```

# The Cell Cycle Switch



(Some of the bistable states can be enzymatic rather than AM.)

# ... can simplify?

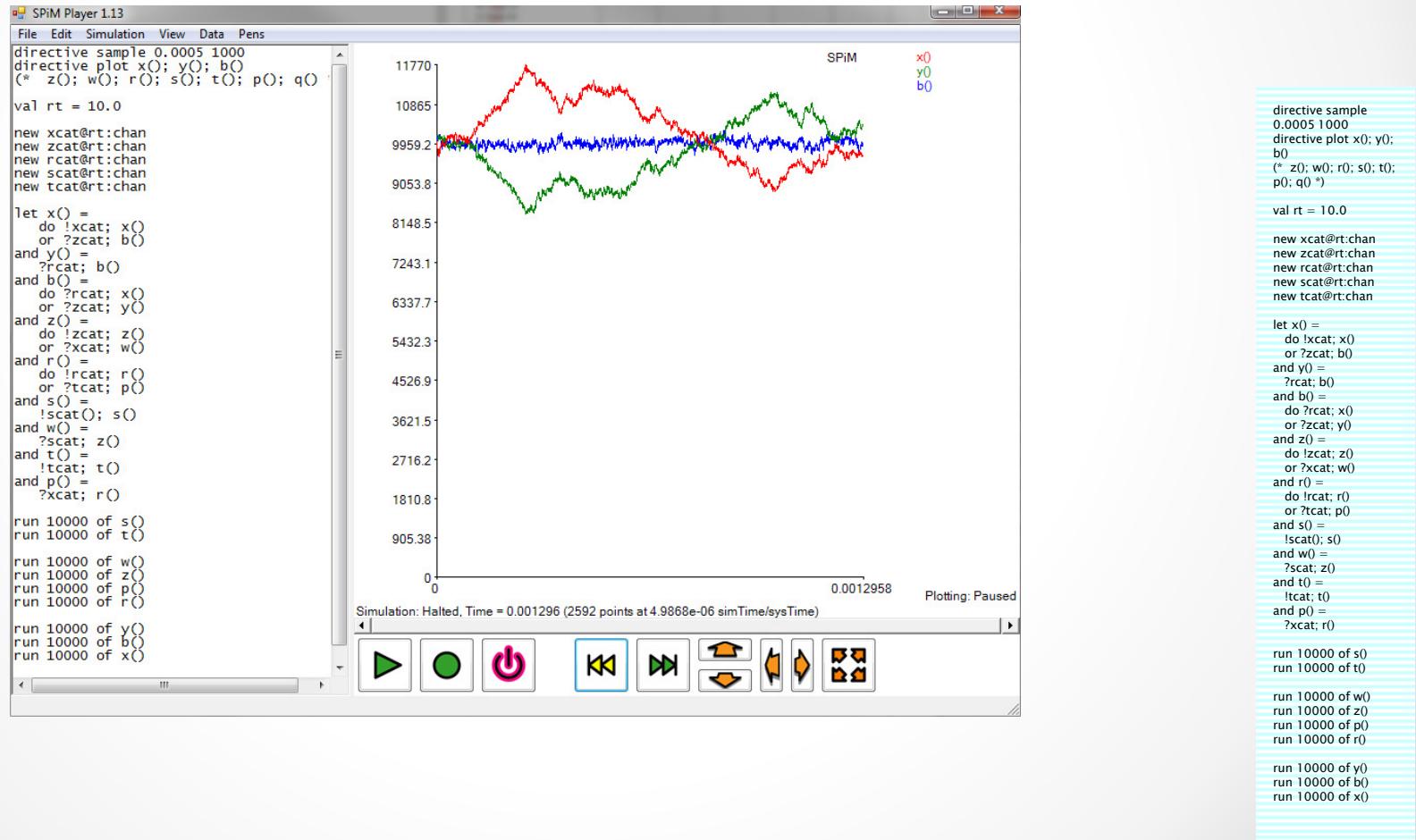


It works better  
than the original?!?



# ... no, it gets stuck!

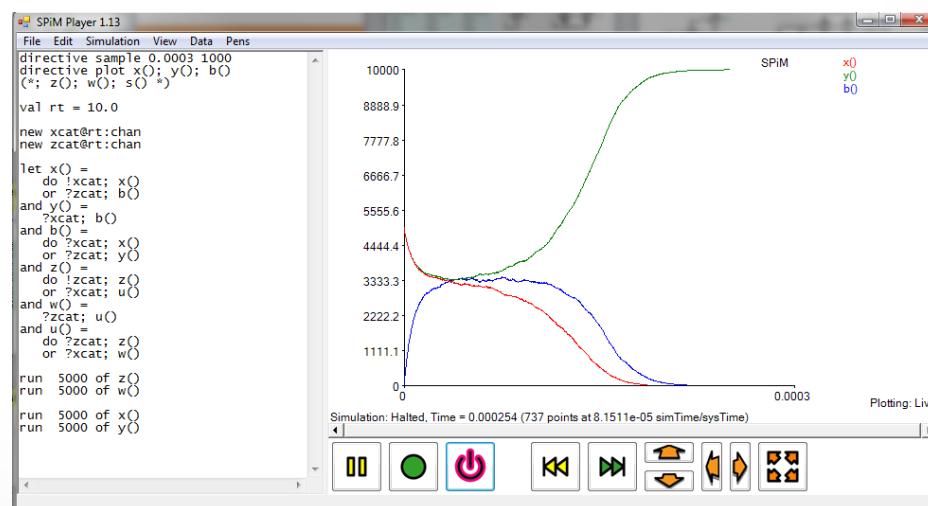
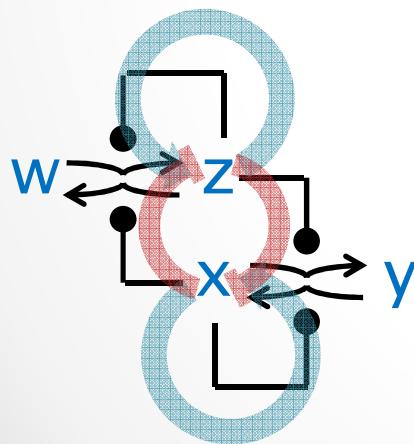
- Equal-size initial conditions



# More Zero-Input Switches

- Other designs

- A version with no external bias ( $s, t$ ) where  $y$  is still non-catalytic and  $x$  and  $z$  are self-catalytic.
- Both  $x$  and  $z$  have an ‘inactive’ form,  $y$  and  $w$ , although the both are double catalysts.



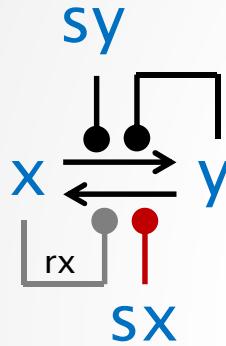
```
directive sample 0.0003 1000
directive plot x0; y0; b0
(*; z0; w0; s0 *)
val rt = 10.0
new xcat@rt:chan
new zcat@rt:chan
let x() =
  do !xcat; x()
  or ?zcat; b0
  and y0
  ?xcat; b0
and b() =
  do ?xcat; x()
  or ?zcat; y0
and z() =
  do !zcat; z()
  or ?xcat; u0
  and w0
  ?zcat; u0
and u() =
  do ?zcat; z()
  or ?xcat; w0
run 5000 of z0
run 5000 of w0
run 5000 of x0
run 5000 of y0
```

# • Equal-size initial conditions



# One-Input Switches

- Ultrasensitivity (none) and hysteresis (none) in trivial majority



```
directive sample 0.02 1000
directive plot x0; y0; sx0; sy0 (* b0; *)
```

```
val rt = 10.0
val rx = 5.0
new xcat@rt:chan
new ycat@rt:chan
new sxcat@rt:chan new sxkill:chan
new sycat@rt:chan new sykill:chan

let x0 =
  do lxcat; x0
  or ?ycat; y0
  or ?sxcat; sx0
  and y0 =
  do lycat; y0
  or ?xcat; x0
  or ?sxcat; sx0

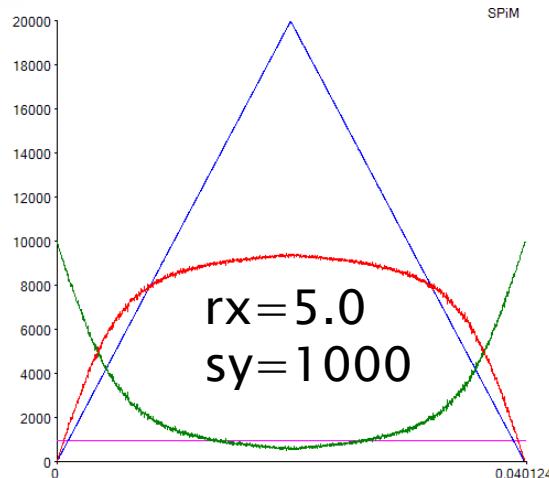
and sy0 = do !sycat; sy0 or ?sykill; 0
and sx0 = do !sxcat; sx0 or ?sxkill; 0

run 10000 of y0
run 1000 of sy0

let clock(p:proc(m:float)) =
  (* Prints p(m) every t sec with precision dt,
  with m incremented from 0 *)
  (val dt=100.0 run step(p, 0, t, dt, dt)
  and step(p:proc(m:int), m:int, t:float, n:float, dt:float) =
  if n<=0.0 then (p(m))step(p,m+1,t,dt,dt)
  else delay@dt/t; step(p,m,t,n-1.0,dt))

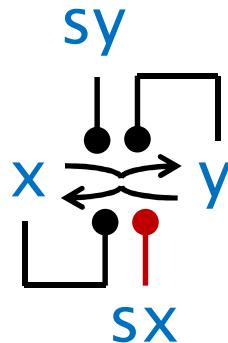
let schedule(n:int) =
  if n < 20000 then sx0
  else if n < 40000 then !sxkill;()
  else ()

run clock(schedule,0.000001)
```



# One-Input Switches

- Hysteresis in unbiased AM-like switches.
  - All rates are equal; constant amount of sy is sufficient for switch-back.



```
directive sample 0.02 1000
directive plot x0; y0; sx0; sy0 (* b0; *)

val rt = 1.0
val rx = 1.0
new xcat@r:chan
new ycat@r:chan
new sxcat@rt:chan new sxkill:chan
new sycat@rt:chan new sykill:chan

let x0 =
  do lxcat; x0
  or ?ycat; b0
  or ?sycat; b0
and y0 =
  do lycat; y0
  or ?xcat; b0
  or ?sxcat; b0
and b0 =
  do ?xcat; x0
  or ?sxcat; x0
  or ?ycat; y0
  or ?sycat; y0

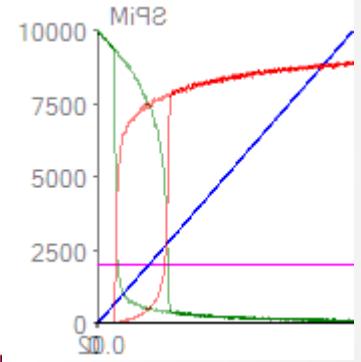
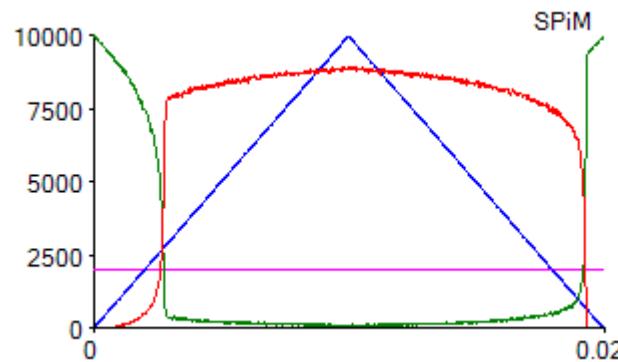
and sy0 = do !sycat; sy0 or ?sykill; 0
and sx0 = do !sxcat; sx0 or ?sxkill; 0

run 10000 of y0
run 2000 of sy0

let clock(p:proc(int), t:float) =
  (* Produce one p(m) every t sec with precision dt,
   * with m incremented from 0 *)
  (val dt = 1.00.0 run step(p, 0, t, dt, dt)
  and step(p:proc(int), m:int, t:float, n:float, dt:float) =
    if n <= 0.0 then (p(m) step(p,m+1,t,dt,dt))
    else delay@dt/t; step(p,m,t,n-1.0,dt))

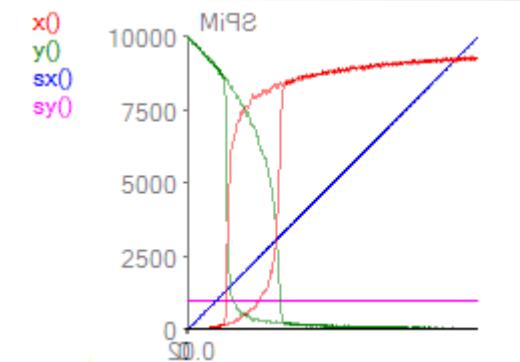
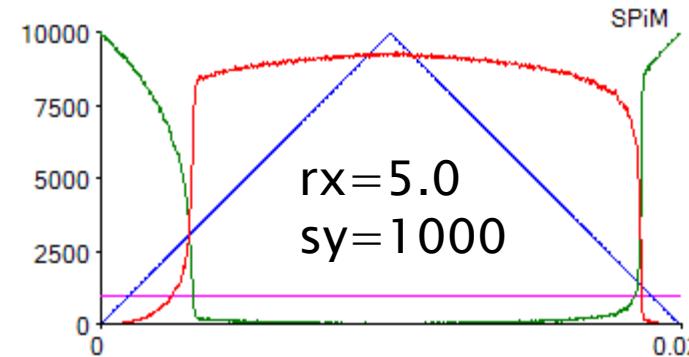
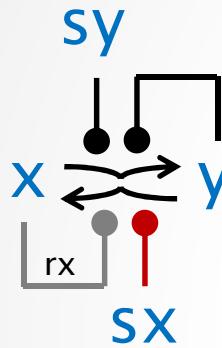
let schedule(n:int) =
  if n < 10000 then sx0
  else if n < 20000 then !sxkill;()
  else ()

run clock(schedule,0.000001)
```



# One-Input Switches

- Hysteresis in biased AM-like switches



```

directive sample 0.02 1000
directive plot x0; y0; sx0; sy0 (* b0; *)

val rt = 10.0
val rx = 5.0
new xcat@rt:chan
new ycat@rt:chan
new sxcat@rt:chan new sxkill:chan
new sycat@rt:chan new sykill:chan

let x0 =
  do lxcat; x0
  or ?ycat; b0
  or ?sycat; b0
and y0 =
  do lycat; y0
  or ?xcat; b0
  or ?sxcat; b0
and b0 =
  do ?xcat; x0
  or ?sxcat; x0
  or ?ycat; y0
  or ?sycat; y0

and sy0 = do lycat; sy0 or ?sykill; 0
and sx0 = do lsxcat; sx0 or ?sxkill; 0

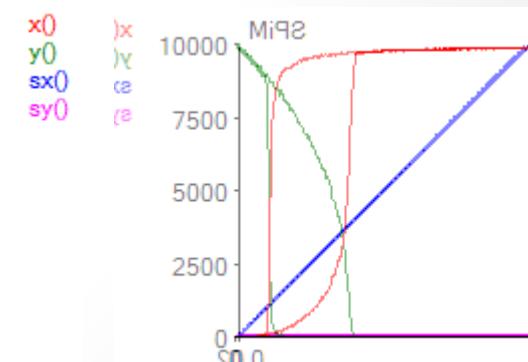
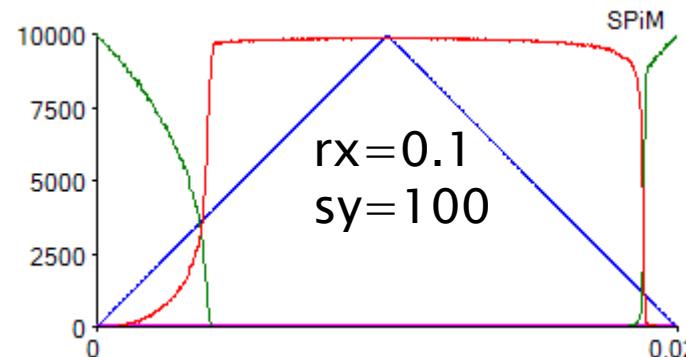
run 10000 of y0
run 1000 of sy0

let clock(p:proc(int), t:float) =
  (* Produce one p(m) every t sec with precision dt,
   * with m incremented from 0 *)
  (val dt = 100.0 run step(p, 0, t, dt, dt)
  and step(p:proc(int), m:int, t:float, n:float, dt:float) =
    if n <= 0.0 then (p(m) step(p,m+1,t,dt,dt))
    else delay@dt/t; step(p,m,t-n-1.0,dt))

let schedule(n:int) =
  if n < 10000 then sx0
  else if n < 20000 then !sxkill;()
  else ()

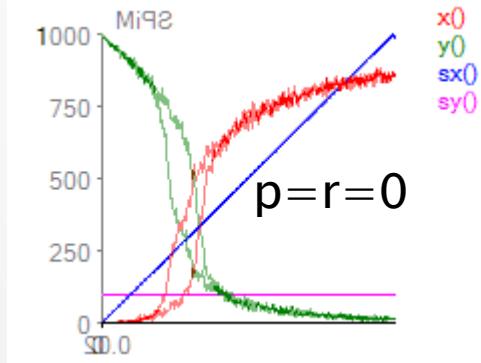
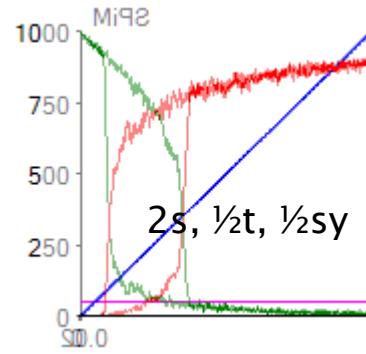
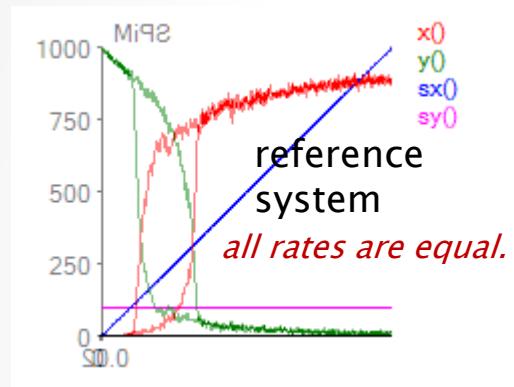
run clock(schedule,0.000001)

```

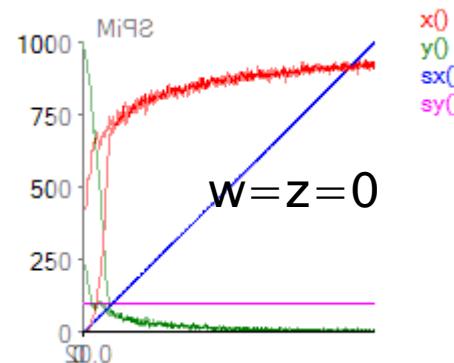


# One-Input Switches

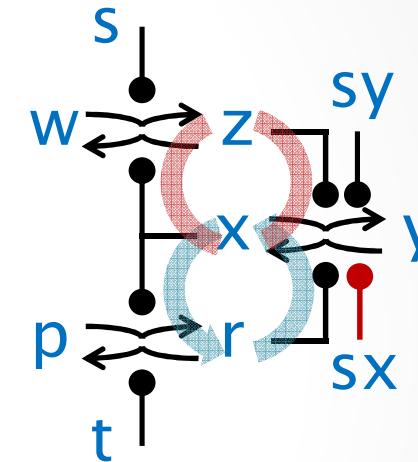
- Hysteresis vs. feedbacks in cell cycle switch



Without pos-pos feedback



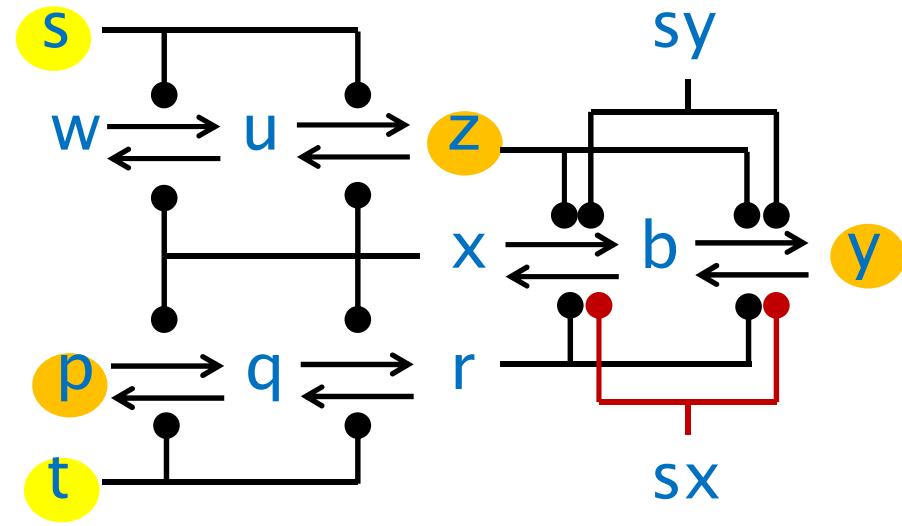
Without neg-neg feedback



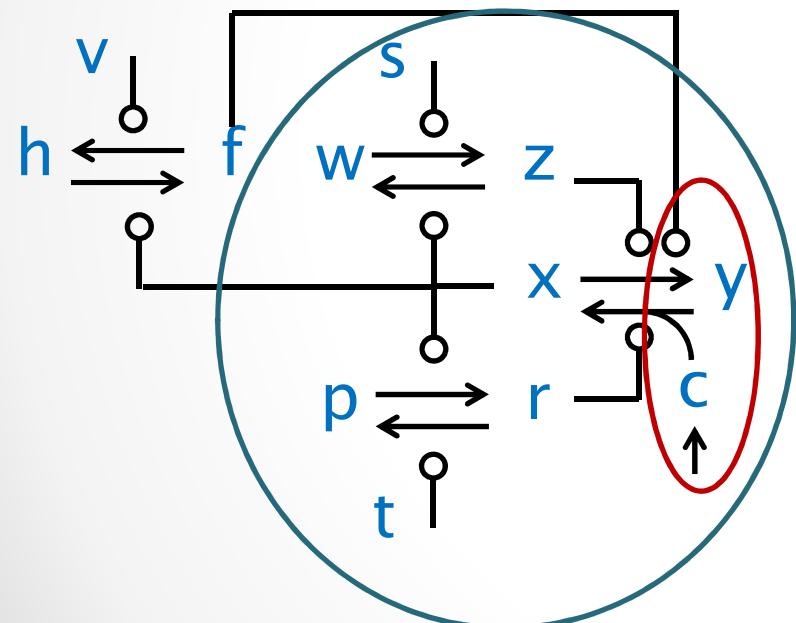
initial conditions:

1000 of y  
1000 of z  
1000 of p  
1000 of t  
200 of s  
100 of sy

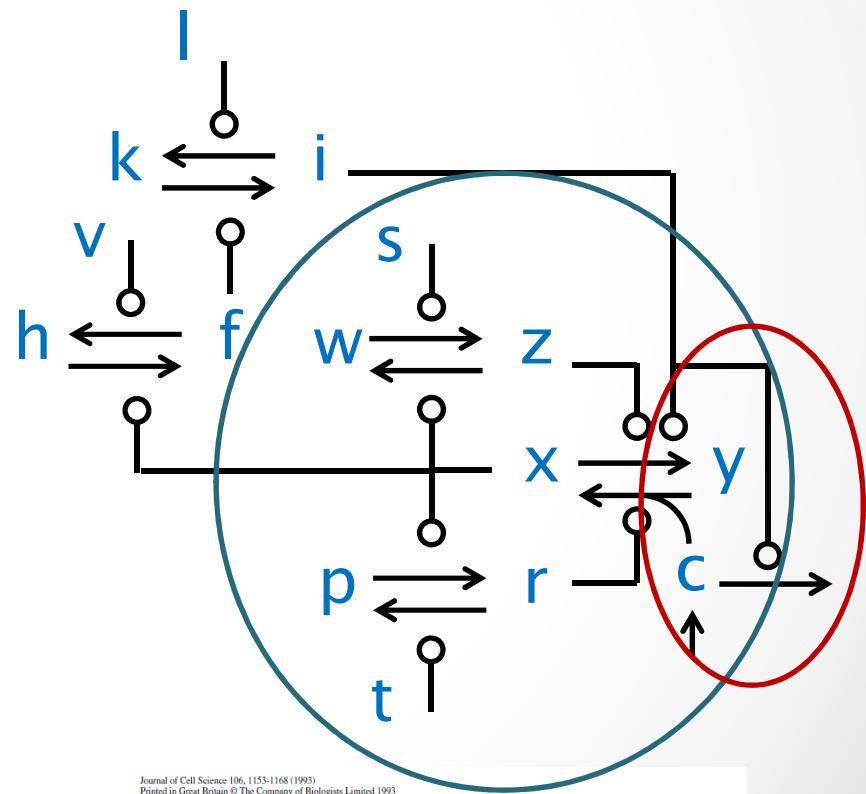
varying sx 0 to 1000 to 0



## Ferrell oscillator



## Novak-Tyson oscillator



Journal of Cell Science 106, 1153-1168 (1993)  
Printed in Great Britain © The Company of Biologists Limited 1993

Numerical analysis of a comprehensive model of M-phase control in  
*Xenopus* oocyte extracts and intact embryos

Bela Novak\* and John J. Tyson†

Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-0406, USA

Luca Cardelli

2012-11-07

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# Two-input Switches

- I had rediscovered (but not analyzed so well) the same system, while looking for a memory circuit.
- The point here was not computing majority, but switching easily and quickly and stably.

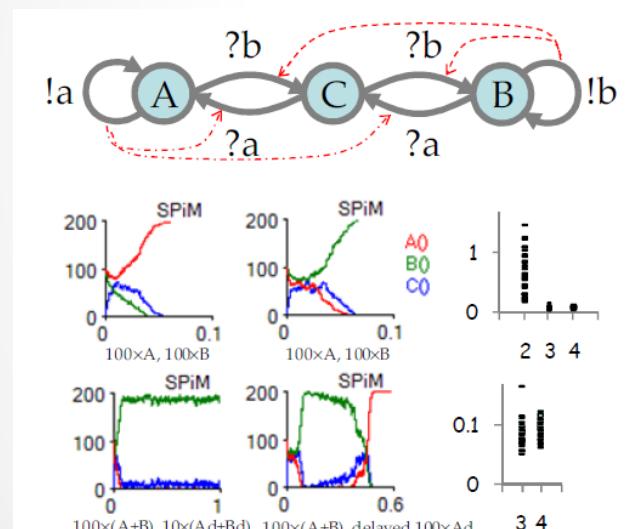
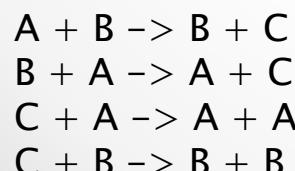


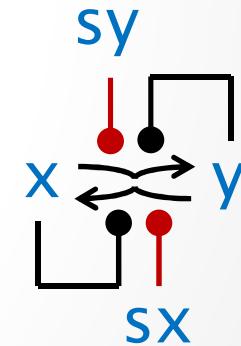
Figure 34 Memory Elements



## Artificial Biochemistry. Luca Cardelli

©2009 In A.Condon, D.Harel, J.N.Kok, A.Salomaa, E.Winfree (Eds.) Algorithmic Bioprocesses. Springer 2009. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-540-88869-7\_22. ISBN: 978-3-540-88868-0. Auxiliary Materials: [Simulations](#), [Figures](#).

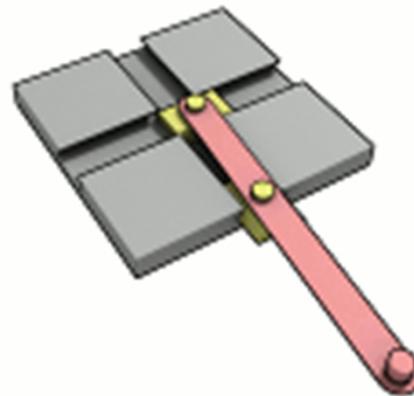
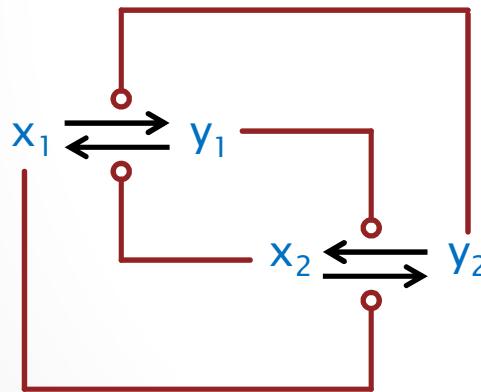
In Figure 34 we show a modified version of the groupies, obtained by adding an intermediate state shared by the two state transitions. This automaton has very good memory properties. The top-left and top-center plots show that it is in fact spontaneously bistable. The bottom-left plot shows that it is stable in presence of sustained 10% fluctuations produced by doping automata. The bottom-center plot shows that, although resistant to perturbations, it can be switched from one state to another by a signal of the same magnitude as the stability level: the switching time is comparable to the stabilization time. In addition, this circuit reaches stability 10 times faster than the original groupies: the top-right plot shows the convergence times of 30 runs each of the original groupies with 2 states, the current automaton with 3 states, and a similar automaton (not shown) with 4 states that has two middle states in series. The bottom-right plot is a detailed view of the same data, showing that the automaton with 4 states is not significantly faster than the one with 3 states. Therefore, we have a stable and fast memory element.



# Oscillators

# The Trammel of Archimedes

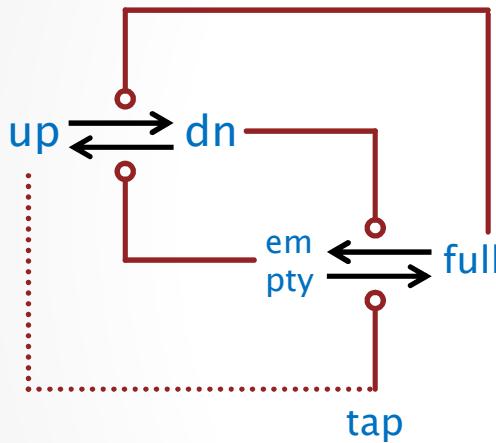
- A device to draw ellipses
  - Two interconnected switches.
  - When one switch is on (off) it flips the other switch on (off). When the other switch is on (off) it flips the first switch off (on).



[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trammel\\_of\\_Archimedes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trammel_of_Archimedes)

# The Shishi Odoshi

- A Japanese scarecrow (scare-deer)
  - Used by Bela Novak to illustrate the cell cycle switch.



empty + tap  $\rightarrow$  tap + full  
up + full  $\rightarrow$  full + dn  
full + dn  $\rightarrow$  dn + empty  
dn + empty  $\rightarrow$  empty + up

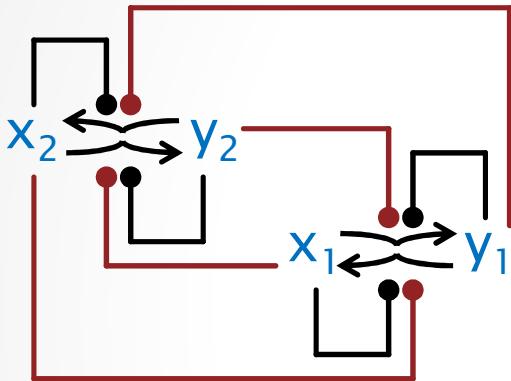


<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbvecTlftcE&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

To make it into a full trammel (dotted line), we could make the up position mechanically open the tap (i.e. take up = tap)

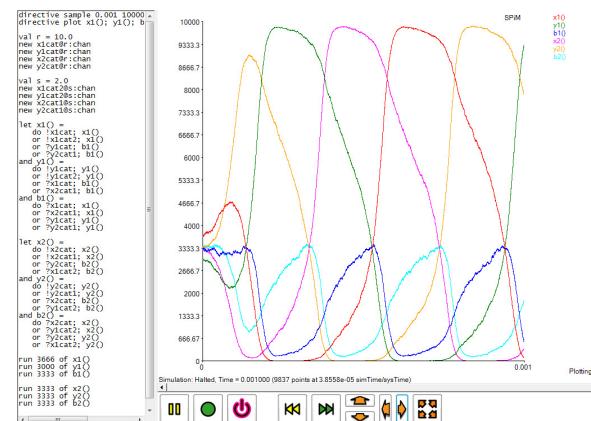
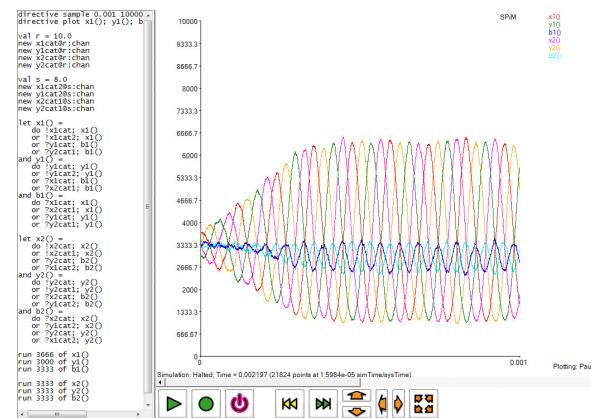
# The 2AM Limit-Cycle Oscillator

- Two AM switches in a Trammel pattern



The red reactions need to be slower (even slightly) than the black reactions, but otherwise the oscillation is robust. Oscillation stops at 10 vs. 10 and 1 vs. 10. Here the rates are 8(red) vs 10(black) top, and 2 vs 10, bottom.

(Simple limit-cycle oscillators in the literature have very critical rate ranges.)



```
directive sample 0.001 10000
directive plot x10; y10; b10;
y20;
```

```
val r = 10.0
new x1cat@r:chan
new y1cat@r:chan
new x2cat@r:chan
new y2cat@r:chan

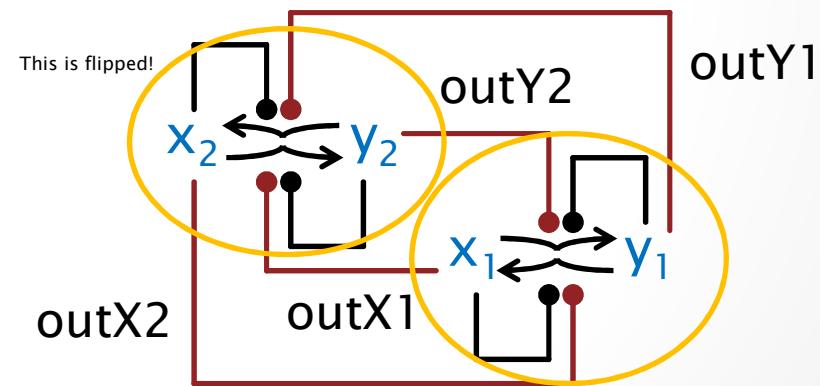
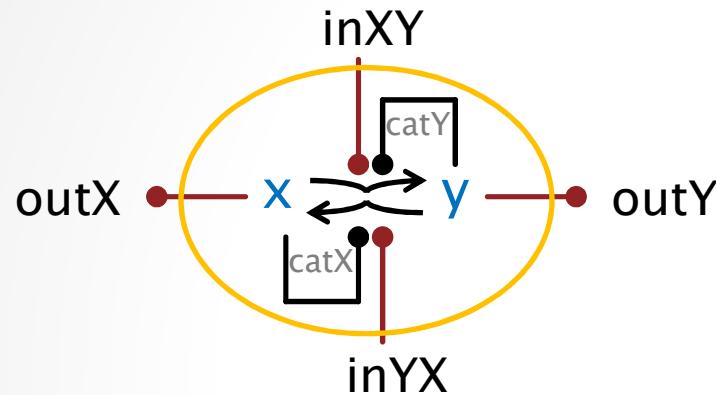
val s = 8.0
new x1cat2@r:chan
new y1cat2@r:chan
new x2cat2@r:chan
new y2cat2@r:chan
```

```
let x10 =
  do x1cat; x10
  or x1cat2; x10
  or y1cat; b10
  or y2cat; b10
and y10 =
  do y1cat; y10
  or y1cat2; y10
  or x1cat; b10
  or x2cat; b10
and b10 =
  do x1cat; x10
  or x2cat; x10
  or y1cat; y10
  or y2cat; y10
```

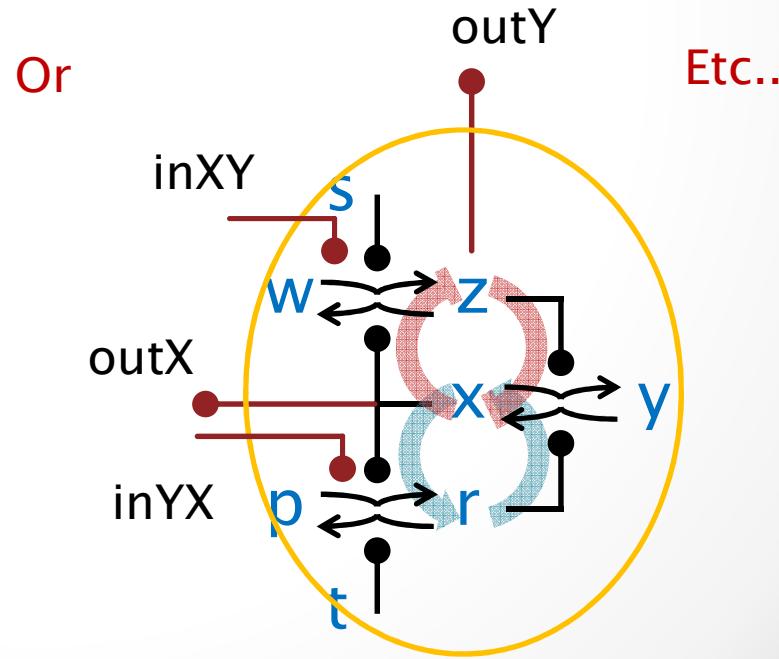
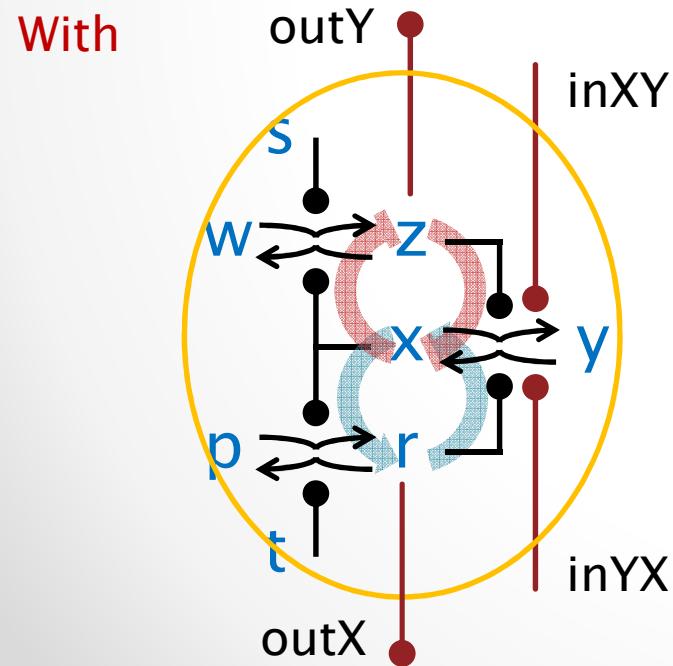
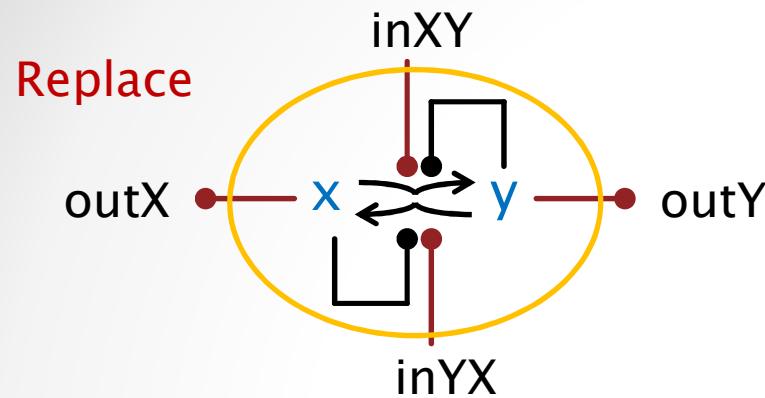
```
let x20 =
  do x2cat; x20
  or x2cat2; x20
  or y2cat; b20
  or x1cat2; b20
and y20 =
  do y2cat; y20
  or y2cat2; y20
  or x2cat; b20
  or y1cat2; b20
and b20 =
  do x2cat; x20
  or y1cat2; x20
  or y2cat2; y20
  or x1cat2; y20
```

```
run 3666 of x10
run 3000 of y10
run 3333 of x20
run 3333 of y20
run 3333 of b10
run 3333 of b20
```

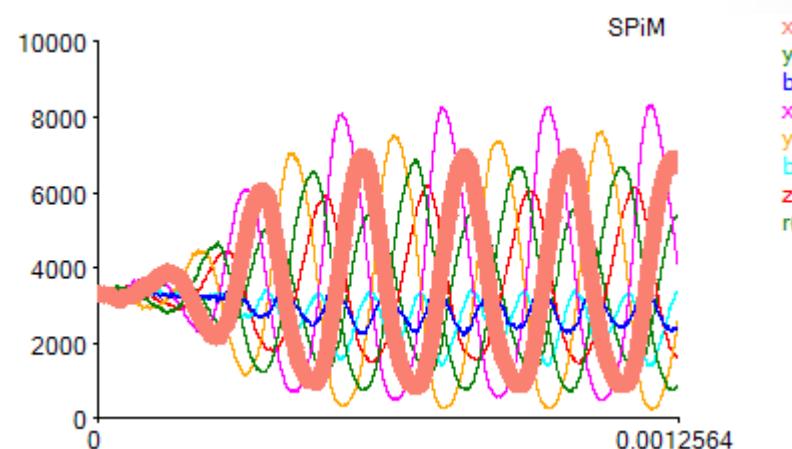
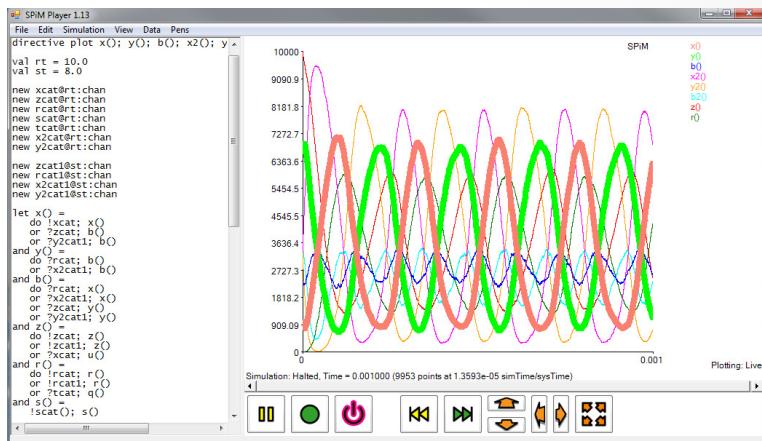
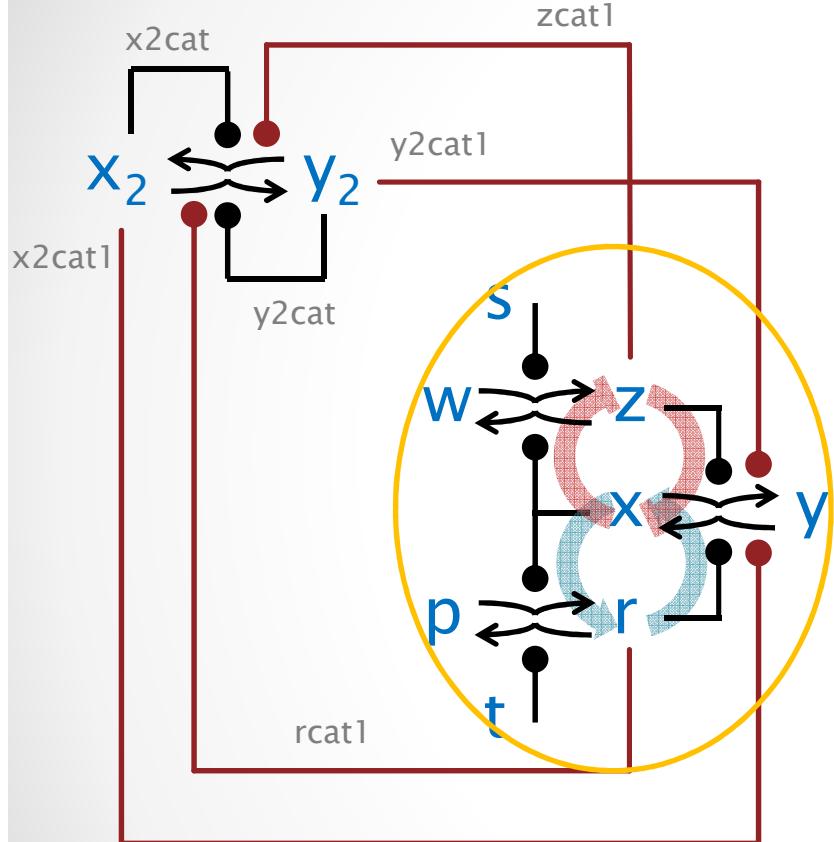
# The Switch Module



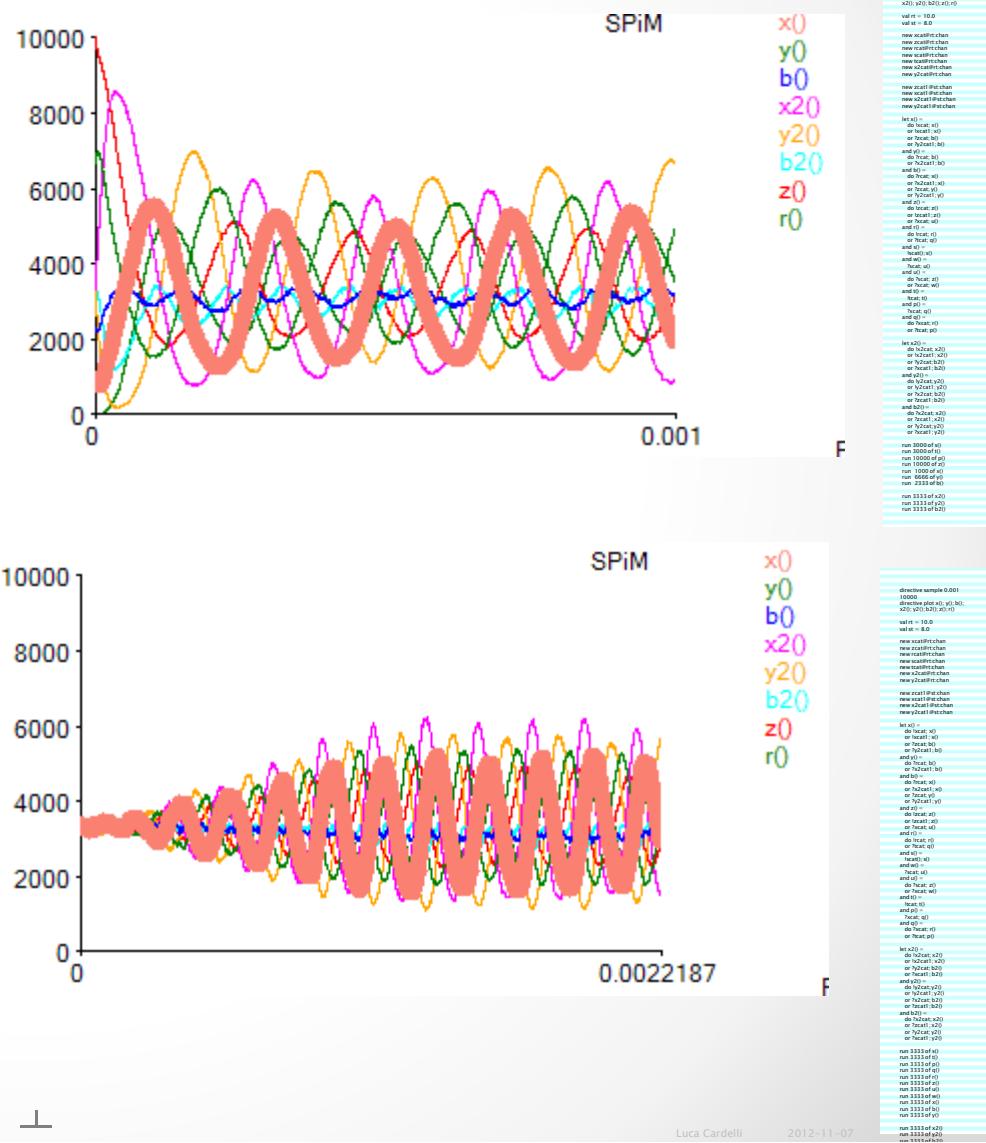
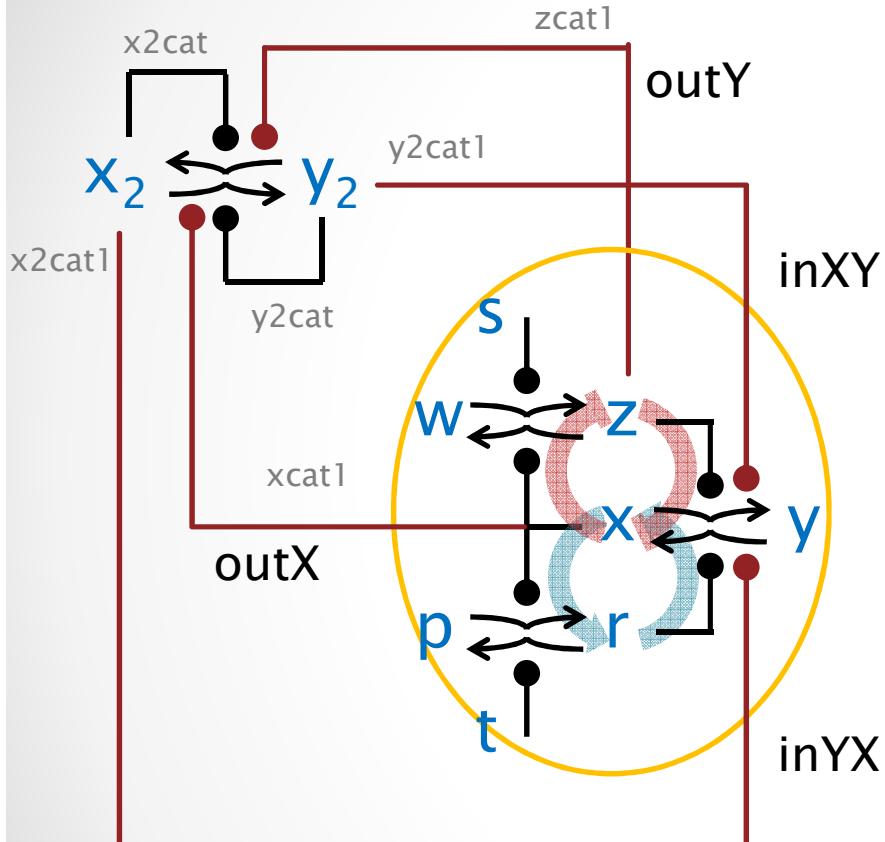
# Replacing Switch Modules



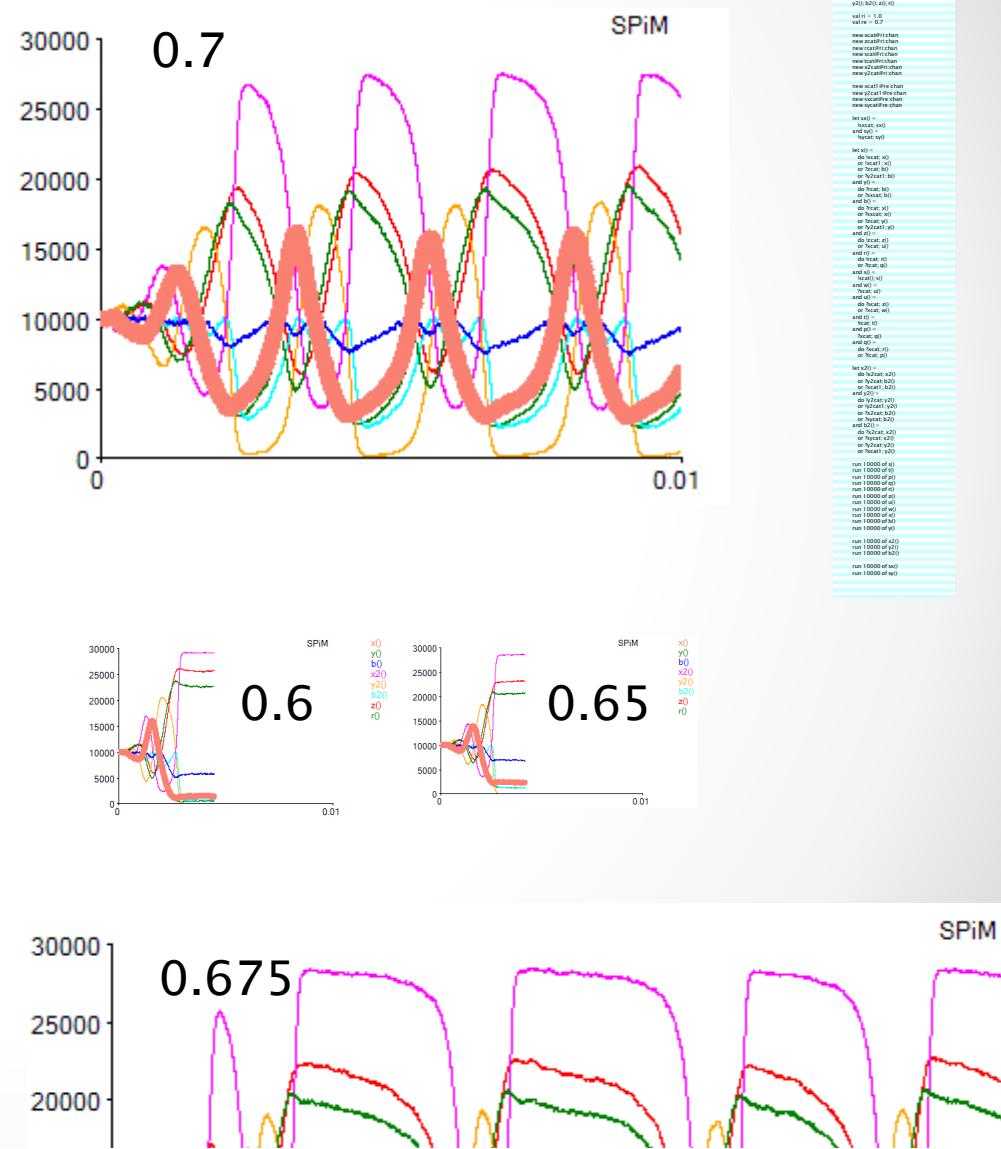
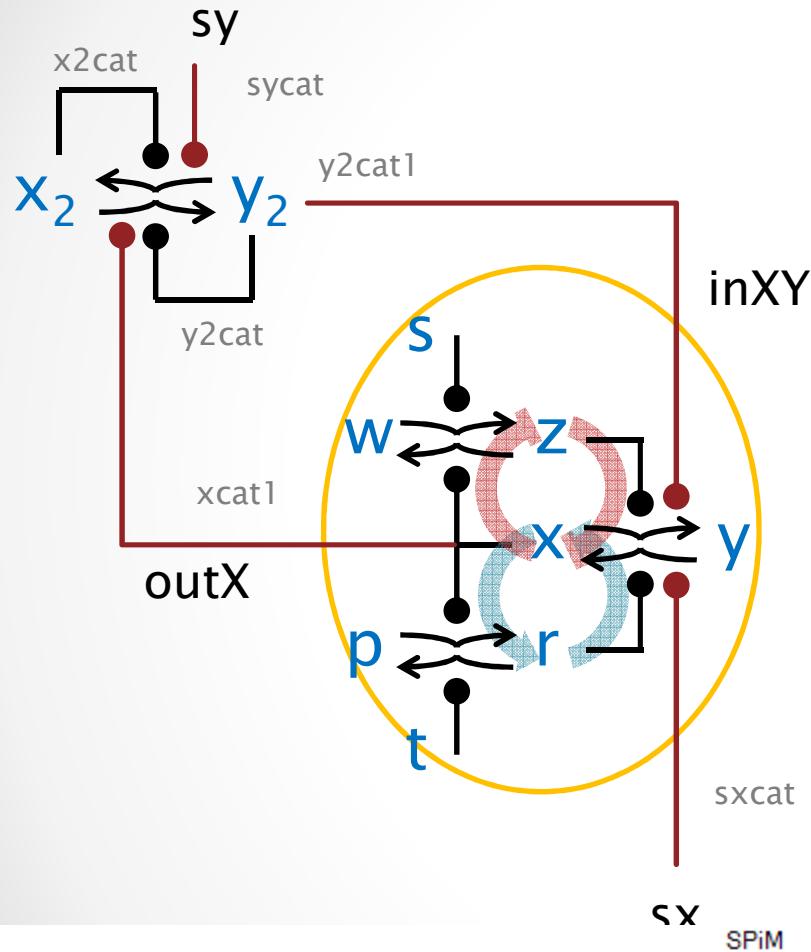
# Modified Oscillator 1



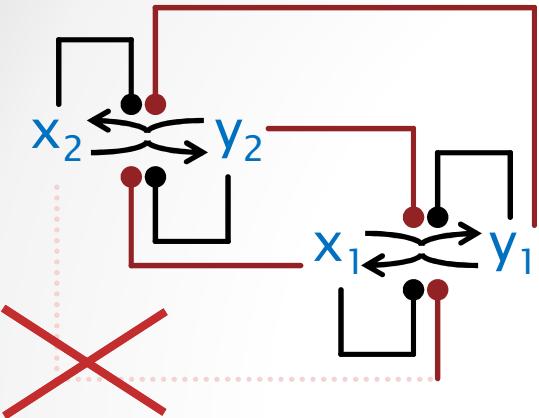
# Modified Oscillator 2



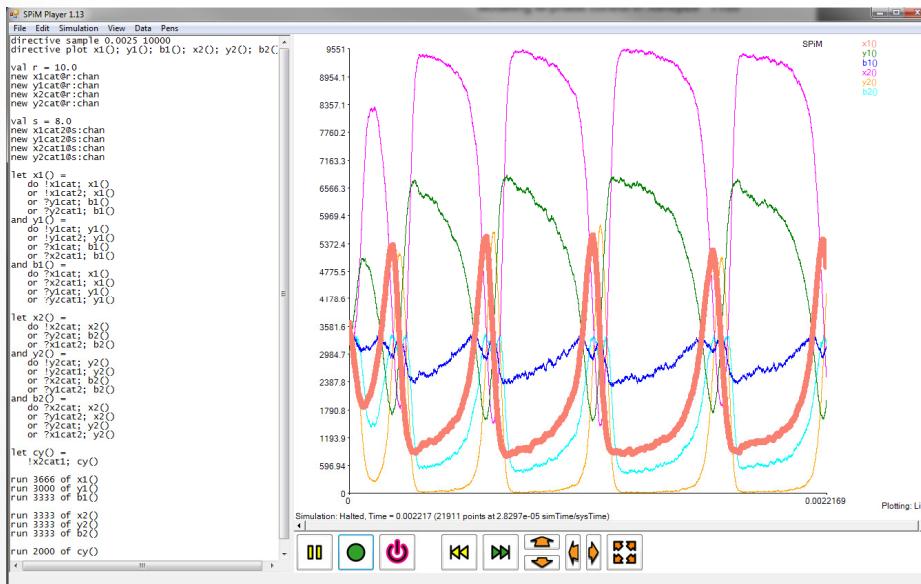
# Modified Oscillator 3



# Constant-Influx Oscillator



As in the Shishi Odoshi  
(and the cell cycle)



```

directive sample 0.001 10000
directive plot x1O; y1O; b1O; x2O;
y2O; b2O

```

```

val r = 10.0
new x1cat@r:chan
new y1cat@r:chan
new x2cat@r:chan
new y2cat@r:chan
val s = 8.0
new x1cat2@s:chan
new y1cat2@s:chan
new x2cat1@s:chan
new y2cat1@s:chan

```

```

let x1O =
  do |x1cat; x1O|
  or |x1cat2; x1O|
  or |?y1cat; b1O|
  or |?y2cat1; b1O|
  and y1O =
  do |y1cat; y1O|
  or |y1cat2; y1O|
  or |?x1cat2; b1O|
  or |?x2cat1; b1O|
  and b1O =
  do |x1cat; x1O|
  or |?x2cat1; x1O|
  or |?y1cat; y1O|
  or |?y2cat1; y1O|
  let x2O =
  do |x2cat; x2O|
  or |y2cat; y2O|
  or |?x1cat2; b2O|
  and y2O =
  do |y2cat; y2O|
  or |?x1cat1; b2O|
  or |?x2cat1; b2O|
  and b2O =
  do |x2cat; x2O|
  or |?y1cat; y2O|
  or |?y2cat; y2O|
  or |?x1cat2; y2O|
  let cyO =
  !x2cat1; cyO
  
```

```

run 3666 of x1O
run 3000 of y1O
run 3333 of b1O

```

```

run 3333 of x2O
run 3333 of y2O
run 3333 of b2O

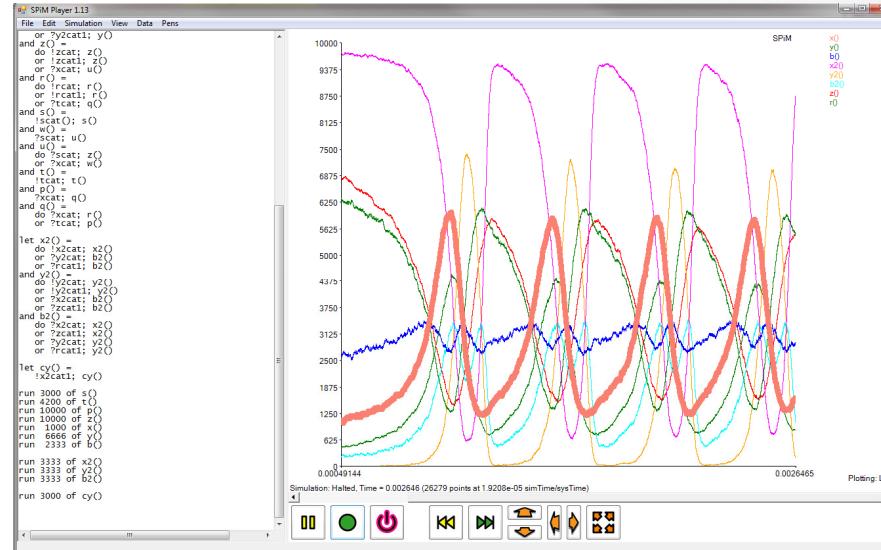
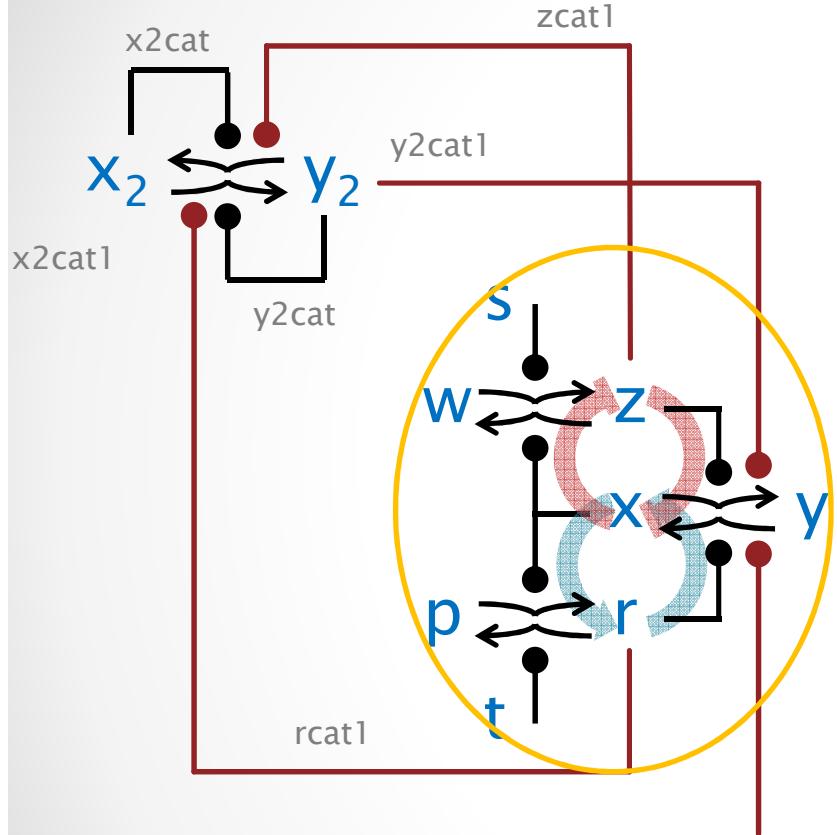
```

```

run 2000 of cyO

```

# Constant influx



Still working fine with the replaced switch.

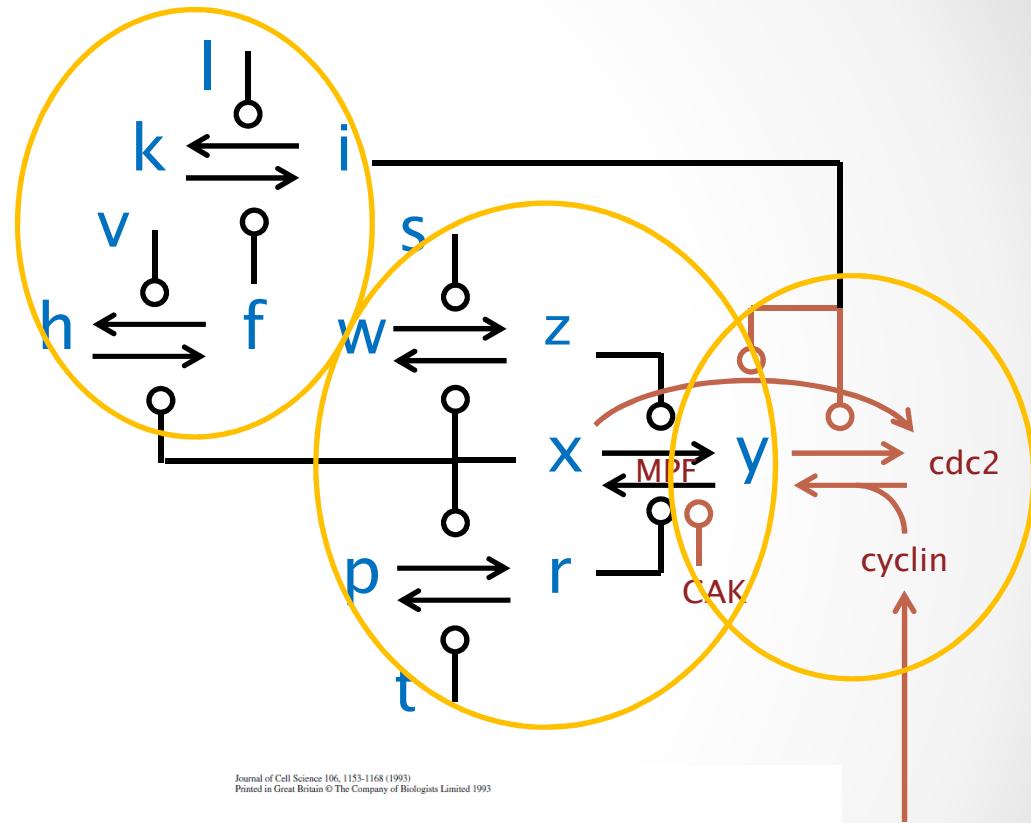
```

directive sample 0.001
directive sample 0.001
directive sample 0.001
x20; y20; z20; b20; r20;
val id = 0;
val id = 0;
new wcat1;
new xcat1;
new ycat1;
new zcat1;
new rcat1;
new pcat1;
new tcat1;
new scat1;
new x2cat1;
new y2cat1;
new z2cat1;
new r2cat1;
new p2cat1;
new t2cat1;
let x0() =
    do x2cat1; x0();
run 3000 of s0;
run 4200 of x0;
run 10000 of p0;
run 1800 of z0;
run 1000 of r0;
run 6666 of y0;
run 3333 of b0;
run 3333 of x20;
run 3333 of y20;
run 3000 of cy0;

```

# The Novak-Tyson Oscillator

- First switch
  - Is the ‘transformed’ AM switch in one-input configuration (driven by constant influx of cyclin).
- Second switch
  - Is a simple two-stage switch working as a delay (the first switch is so good in terms of hysteresis that the second switch is not very critical for oscillation).
- Connection
  - The feedback from second to first switch is a bit complex, since both x and y are repressed by degrading cyclin. And there are more details still.



Journal of Cell Science 106, 1153-1168 (1993)  
Printed in Great Britain © The Company of Biologists Limited 1993

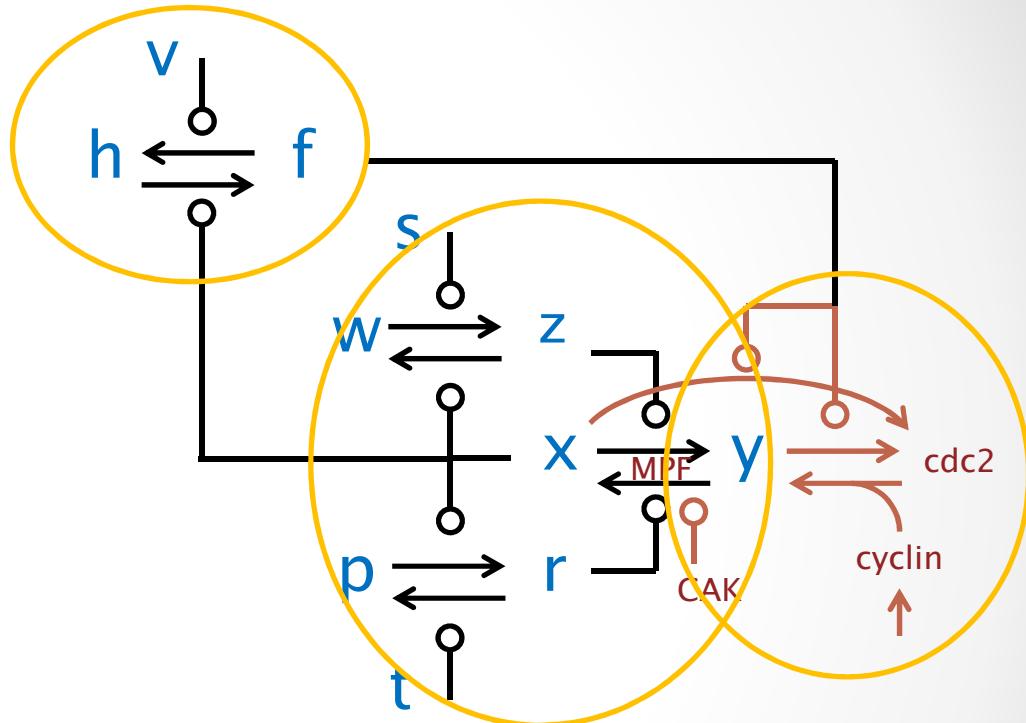
Numerical analysis of a comprehensive model of M-phase control in  
*Xenopus* oocyte extracts and intact embryos

Bela Novak\* and John J. Tyson†

Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-0406, USA

# One of Ferrell's Oscillators

- Second switch
  - Replaced by a one-stage switch. The oscillation still works, but is it harder to obtain (parameter tuning).



Cell, Vol. 122, 565–578, August 26, 2005, Copyright ©2005 by Elsevier Inc. DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2005.06.016

## Systems-Level Dissection of the Cell-Cycle Oscillator: Bypassing Positive Feedback Produces Damped Oscillations

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Stanford University School of Medicine  
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Stanford, California 94305

*cyclin B* mRNA cycle faster 1  
(Hartley et al., 1996). The occur  
to the cyclin-dependent kinase  
proper circumstances, this comp  
and phosphorylates mitotic subs  
sition from interphase to mitosi  
mitosis back to interphase is driv

# Conclusions

# Conclusions

- A vast literature on cell cycle switching
  - Ferrell et.al., Novak-Tyson et.al., etc.  
Mostly ODE based analysis, plus noise
  - Many bistable transitions have different implementations in different cell cycle phases and organisms (phosphorylation, enzymes, synthesis/degradation, etc.)
  - We focused on a mechanism that can only be seen stochastically (quick majority switching with  $x=y$ )
- A range of ‘network transformation’
  - Can explain the structure of some natural networks
  - From some non-trivial underlying algorithms
  - Discovering the transformation can elucidate the structure and function of the networks
  - But how can we say that these transformations ‘preserve (essential) behavior’?

# Acknowledgements

- David Soloveichik
- Attila Csikasz–Nagy