Week 8 of Introduction to Biological System Design

Feedforward Loops

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Pre-requisite: To get the best out of this notebook, make sure that you have basic understanding of ordinary differential equations (ODE) and Hill functions to model gene regulatory effects. For more information on ODE modeling you may refer to any standard book on engineering math and BFS for more information on Hill functions. You can learn more about how to numerically simulate ODEs deterministically from the week3_intro_ode.ipynb notebook. Further, it is also assumed that you have a working knowledge of gene expression processes, use of Hill functions for gene regulation, and biological system motifs. Computational examples with Hill functions are discussed in week4_hill_functions.ipynb whereas design choices underlying biological motifs are shown in week6_system_analysis.ipynb. This notebook builds on the code discussed in week6_system_analysis.ipynb to analyze feedforward loop motifs.

Disclaimer: Concepts demonstrated in this notebook have been inspired from the discussion on feedforward loops in Alon and Biocircuits Lecture by Elowitz and Bois.

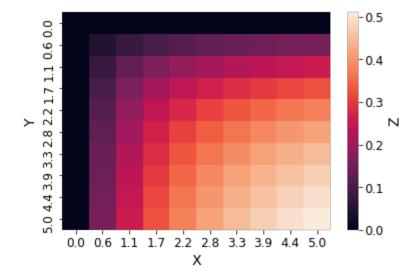
```
In [236... # To plot heatmaps in this notebook, you may need to
    # install a package called "seaborn"
# To install seaborn, run the following command
# (or install the package "seaborn" using the Anaconda Navigator search)
# !pip install seaborn
```

Coherent Feedforward Loops (CFFL)

Consider the motif where X --> Y --> Z and X --> Z indirectly as well.

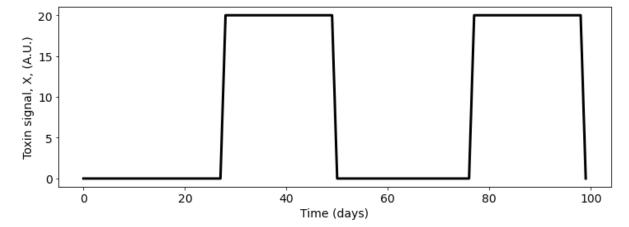
C1-FFL with AND logic

```
In [210...
         import numpy as np
         from scipy.integrate import odeint
         X = np.linspace(0, 5, 10)
         Y = np.linspace(0, 5, 10)
         timepoints = np.linspace(0,100,10)
         Z ss = np.zeros((len(X), len(Y)))
          # parameters:
         k = 1
         n X = 1
         K X = 2
         n Y = 1
         KY = 2
         d Z = 1
         for i, x0 in enumerate(X):
              for j, y0 in enumerate(Y):
                  initial condition = np.array([x0,y0,0])
                  solution = odeint(c1_ffl_and, y0 = initial_condition,
                                    t = timepoints,
                                    args = (k, n X, K X, n Y, K Y, d Z))
                  # Store steady-state value
                  Z ss[i,j] = solution[:,2][-1]
```



C1-FFL with AND logic exhibits delayed response

```
In [212... from scipy import signal
    timepoints = np.linspace(0, 100, 100, endpoint = True)
    max_toxin_value = 20 #arbitrary units
    toxin_signal = max_toxin_value*np.ones_like(timepoints) *\
    -1*signal.square(2*np.pi*2*timepoints, duty = 0.55)
    for i, s in enumerate(toxin_signal):
        if s < 0:
            toxin_signal[i] = 0
        fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
        ax.plot(toxin_signal, color = 'black', lw = 3)
        ax.set_xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.set_ylabel('Toxin signal, X, (A.U.)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.tick_params(labelsize = 14)</pre>
```

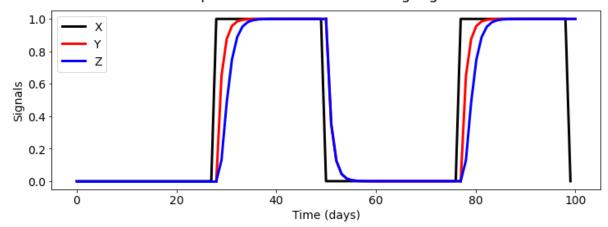


```
In [214...
         fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
         fig.suptitle('Response of C1-FFL (AND logic) to Pulsating Signal',
                       fontsize = 18);
         # parameters:
         k Y = 1
         k Z = 1
         n X = 3
         K X = 1
         n Y = 3
         K Y = 1
         dY = 1
         d Z = 1
         # Normalize the values
         def normalize(solution):
             Normalize by maximum value in the odeint solution
             except when the values are zero, to avoid division by zero.
             normalized solution = np.zeros like(solution.T)
             for i, val array in enumerate(solution.T):
                 max value = np.max(val array)
                 for j, val in enumerate(val array):
                      if max value == 0:
                          normalized solution[i, j] = val
                      else:
                          normalized solution[i, j] = val/max value
             return normalized solution.T
         ax.plot(toxin signal/np.max(toxin signal), color = 'black',
                 lw = 3, label = 'X')
         # For X = 0
         previous time = 0
         array nonzero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next time = array nonzero[0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([0, 0, 0]),
                            t = t_solve,
                            args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         normalized solution = normalize(solution)
         ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3, label = 'Y')
         ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3, label = 'Z')
         \# For X = \max toxin value
         previous time = next time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal == 0)[0]
         next time = array zero[np.where(array zero > previous time)][0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous_time, next_time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1_ffl_and, y0 = np.array([max_toxin_value, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k Y, k Z, n X, K X, n Y,
```

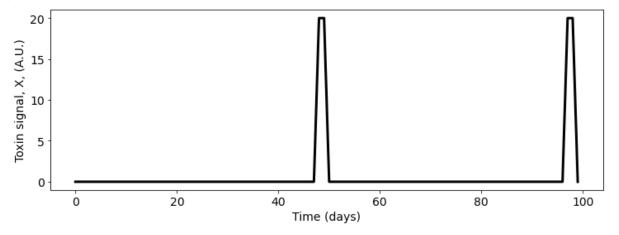
```
K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t_solve, normalized_solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
y ss = normalized solution[:,1][-1]
z ss = normalized solution[:,2][-1]
# For X = 0 again
previous time = next time
array_zero = np.where(toxin_signal != 0)[0]
next_time = array_zero[np.where(array_zero > previous_time)][0]
t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                      next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([0, y ss, z ss]),
                  t = t solve,
                  args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
# For X = max_toxin_value, again
previous_time = next_time
next_time = int(timepoints[-1]) # last point
t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                      next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([max toxin value, 0, 0]),
                  t = t_solve,
                  args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
ax.set xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
ax.set ylabel('Signals', fontsize = 14)
ax.tick params(labelsize = 14)
ax.legend(fontsize = 14)
```

Out[214]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1f1f39ecfd0>

Response of C1-FFL to Pulsating Signal



C1-FFL with AND logic filters short pulses

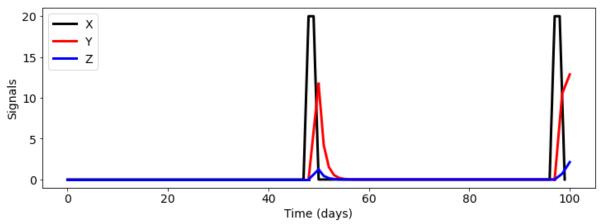


```
In [225...
         fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
         fig.suptitle('C1-FFL filters short pulses',
                       fontsize = 18);
         # parameters:
         k Y = 40
         k Z = 40
         n X = 3
         K X = 25
         n Y = 3
         K Y = 20
         d Y = 1
         d Z = 1
         # Plot X
         ax.plot(toxin signal, color = 'black',
                 lw = 3, label = 'X')
         # For X = 0
         previous time = 0
         array nonzero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next time = array nonzero[0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([0, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k Y, k Z, n X, K X, n Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3, label = 'Y')
         ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3, label = 'Z')
         # For X = max toxin value
         previous time = next time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal == 0)[0]
         next time = array zero[np.where(array zero > previous time)][0]
         t_solve = np.linspace(previous_time, next_time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([max toxin value, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k Y, k Z, n X, K X, n Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
         ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
         y ss = solution[:,1][-1]
         z ss = solution[:,2][-1]
         # For X = 0 again
         previous_time = next_time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next time = array zero[np.where(array zero > previous time)][0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([0, y ss, z ss]),
                            t = t_solve,
                            args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
```

```
ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
# For X = max toxin value, again
previous_time = next_time
next time = int(timepoints[-1]) # last point
t_solve = np.linspace(previous_time, next_time,
                      next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(c1 ffl and, y0 = np.array([max toxin value, 0, 0]),
                  t = t solve,
                  args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
ax.set xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
ax.set_ylabel('Signals', fontsize = 14)
ax.tick params(labelsize = 14)
ax.legend(fontsize = 14)
```

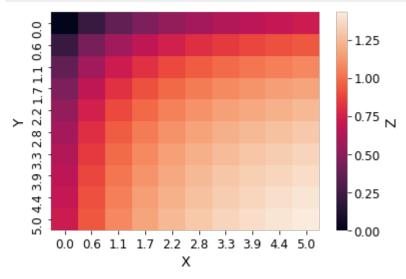
Out[225]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1f1f4fa6e80>

C1-FFL filters short pulses



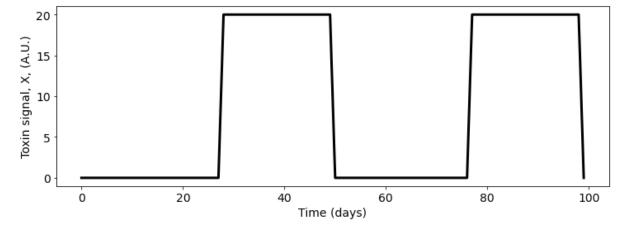
C1-FFL with OR logic

```
In [227...
         X = np.linspace(0, 5, 10)
         Y = np.linspace(0, 5, 10)
         timepoints = np.linspace(0,100,10)
         Z ss = np.zeros((len(X), len(Y)))
          # parameters:
         k = 1
         n X = 1
         K X = 2
         n_Y = 1
         KY = 2
         d_Z = 1
         for i, x0 in enumerate(X):
              for j, y0 in enumerate(Y):
                  initial\_condition = np.array([x0,y0,0])
                  solution = odeint(c1 ffl or, y0 = initial condition,
                                    t = timepoints,
                                    args = (k, n_X, K_X, n_Y, K_Y, d_Z))
                  # Store steady-state value
                  Z_ss[i,j] = solution[:,2][-1]
```



C1-FFL with OR logic exhibits delayed response

```
In [232... from scipy import signal
    timepoints = np.linspace(0, 100, 100, endpoint = True)
    max_toxin_value = 20 #arbitrary units
    toxin_signal = max_toxin_value*np.ones_like(timepoints) *\
    -1*signal.square(2*np.pi*2*timepoints, duty = 0.55)
    for i, s in enumerate(toxin_signal):
        if s < 0:
            toxin_signal[i] = 0
        fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
        ax.plot(toxin_signal, color = 'black', lw = 3)
        ax.set_xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.set_ylabel('Toxin signal, X, (A.U.)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.tick_params(labelsize = 14)</pre>
```

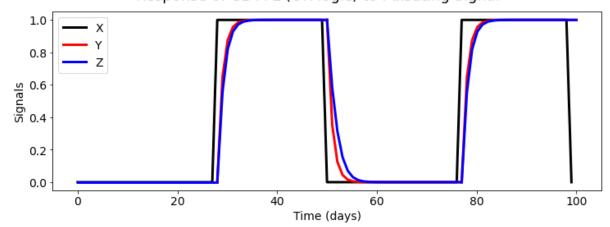


```
In [235...
         fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
         fig.suptitle('Response of C1-FFL (OR logic) to Pulsating Signal',
                       fontsize = 18);
         # parameters:
         k Y = 1
         k Z = 1
         n X = 1
         K X = 1
         n Y = 1
         K Y = 1
         dY = 1
         d Z = 1
         # Normalize the values
         def normalize(solution):
             Normalize by maximum value in the odeint solution
             except when the values are zero, to avoid division by zero.
             normalized solution = np.zeros like(solution.T)
             for i, val array in enumerate(solution.T):
                 max value = np.max(val array)
                 for j, val in enumerate(val array):
                      if max value == 0:
                          normalized solution[i, j] = val
                      else:
                          normalized solution[i, j] = val/max value
             return normalized solution.T
         ax.plot(toxin signal/np.max(toxin signal), color = 'black',
                 lw = 3, label = 'X')
         # For X = 0
         previous time = 0
         array nonzero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next time = array nonzero[0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1 ffl or, y0 = np.array([0, 0, 0]),
                            t = t_solve,
                            args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         normalized solution = normalize(solution)
         ax.plot(t_solve, normalized_solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3, label = 'Y')
         ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3, label = 'Z')
         \# For X = \max toxin value
         previous time = next time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal == 0)[0]
         next_time = array_zero[np.where(array_zero > previous_time)][0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous_time,next_time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(c1_ff1_or, y0 = np.array([max_toxin_value, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k Y, k Z, n X, K X, n Y,
```

```
K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
y ss = normalized solution[:,1][-1]
z ss = normalized solution[:,2][-1]
# For X = 0 again
previous_time = next_time
array zero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
next time = array zero[np.where(array zero > previous time)][0]
t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                      next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(c1 ffl or, y0 = np.array([0, y ss, z ss]),
                  t = t solve,
                  args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
# For X = max toxin value, again
previous time = next_time
next time = int(timepoints[-1]) # last point
t_solve = np.linspace(previous_time, next_time,
                      next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(c1 ffl or, y0 = np.array([max toxin value, 0, 0]),
                  t = t solve,
                  args = (k Y, k Z, n X, K X, n Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t solve, normalized solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
ax.set xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
ax.set ylabel('Signals', fontsize = 14)
ax.tick params(labelsize = 14)
ax.legend(fontsize = 14)
```

Out[235]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1f1e1f91828>

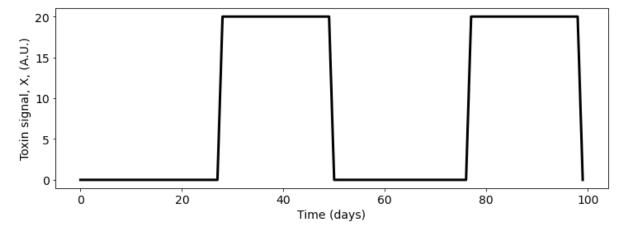
Response of C1-FFL (OR logic) to Pulsating Signal



Incoherent Feedforward Loops (IFFL)

Consider the motif where X --> Y --| Z and X --> Z indirectly as well.

```
In [241... from scipy import signal
    timepoints = np.linspace(0, 100, 100, endpoint = True)
    max_toxin_value = 20 #arbitrary units
    toxin_signal = max_toxin_value*np.ones_like(timepoints) *\
    -1*signal.square(2*np.pi*2*timepoints, duty = 0.55)
    for i, s in enumerate(toxin_signal):
        if s < 0:
            toxin_signal[i] = 0
        fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
        ax.plot(toxin_signal, color = 'black', lw = 3)
        ax.set_xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.set_ylabel('Toxin signal, X, (A.U.)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.tick_params(labelsize = 14)</pre>
```

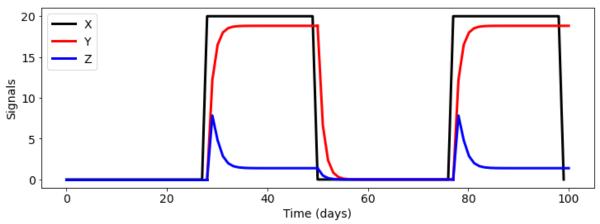


```
In [252...
         fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
         fig.suptitle('I1-FFL generates a pulse',
                       fontsize = 18);
         # parameters:
         k Y = 20
         k Z = 20
         n X = 4
         K X = 10
         n Y = 4
         K Y = 10
         d Y = 1
         d Z = 1
         # Plot X
         ax.plot(toxin signal, color = 'black',
                 lw = 3, label = 'X')
         # For X = 0
         previous time = 0
         array nonzero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next time = array nonzero[0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(i1 ffl, y0 = np.array([0, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3, label = 'Y')
         ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3, label = 'Z')
         # For X = max toxin value
         previous time = next time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal == 0)[0]
         next time = array zero[np.where(array zero > previous time)][0]
         t_solve = np.linspace(previous_time, next_time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(i1 ffl, y0 = np.array([max toxin value, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k Y, k Z, n X, K X, n Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
         ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
         y ss = solution[:,1][-1]
         z ss = solution[:,2][-1]
         # For X = 0 again
         previous_time = next_time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next time = array zero[np.where(array zero > previous time)][0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(i1 ffl, y0 = np.array([0, y ss, z ss]),
                            t = t_solve,
                            args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
```

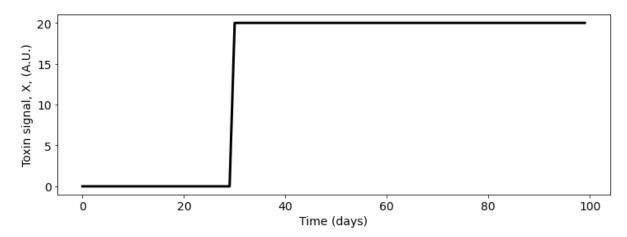
```
ax.plot(t solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
# For X = max toxin value, again
previous_time = next_time
next time = int(timepoints[-1]) # last point
t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                      next_time - previous time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(i1 ffl, y0 = np.array([max toxin value, 0, 0]),
                  t = t solve,
                  args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t_solve, solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
ax.set xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
ax.set ylabel('Signals', fontsize = 14)
ax.tick params(labelsize = 14)
ax.legend(fontsize = 14)
```

Out[252]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1f1f673d978>

I1-FFL generates a pulse



```
In [284...
    from scipy import signal
    timepoints = np.linspace(0, 100, 100, endpoint = True)
    max_toxin_value = 20 #arbitrary units
    toxin_signal = max_toxin_value*np.ones_like(timepoints) *\
    -1*signal.square(2*np.pi*1*timepoints, duty = 0.3)
    for i, s in enumerate(toxin_signal):
        if s < 0:
            toxin_signal[i] = 0
        toxin_signal[-1] = 20
        fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
        ax.plot(toxin_signal, color = 'black', lw = 3)
        ax.set_xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.set_ylabel('Toxin signal, X, (A.U.)', fontsize = 14)
        ax.tick_params(labelsize = 14)</pre>
```



```
In [285...

def unregulated(x, t, *args):
    k, d = args
    return k - d*x
```

```
In [292...
         fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (12,4))
         fig.suptitle('Response of I1-FFL to Pulsating Signal',
                       fontsize = 18);
         # parameters (IFFL):
         k Y = 1
         k Z = 1
         n X = 4
         K X = 1
         n Y = 4
         K Y = 1
         d Y = 0.5
         d Z = 0.5
         # parameters (unregulated):
         k = 1
         d = 0.5
         # Normalize the values
         def normalize(solution):
             Normalize by maximum value in the odeint solution
             except when the values are zero, to avoid division by zero.
             normalized solution = np.zeros like(solution.T)
             for i, val array in enumerate(solution.T):
                  max value = np.max(val array)
                  for j, val in enumerate(val array):
                      if max value == 0:
                          normalized_solution[i, j] = val
                          normalized solution[i, j] = val/max value
             return normalized solution.T
         # Plot X
         ax.plot(toxin_signal/np.max(toxin_signal), color = 'black',
                  lw = 3, label = 'X')
         # For X = 0
         previous time = 0
         array nonzero = np.where(toxin signal != 0)[0]
         next_time = array_nonzero[0]
         t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                                next_time - previous_time, endpoint = True)
         solution = odeint(i1_ffl, y0 = np.array([0, 0, 0]),
                            t = t solve,
                            args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                                    K Y, d Y, d Z ))
         normalized solution = normalize(solution)
         ax.plot(t_solve, normalized_solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3, label = 'Y')
         ax.plot(t_solve, normalized_solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3, label = 'Z')
         # For X = max_toxin_value
         previous_time = next_time
         array zero = np.where(toxin signal == 0)[0]
         next time = int(timepoints[-1])
```

```
t solve = np.linspace(previous time, next time,
                      next time - previous time, endpoint = True)
solution = odeint(i1_ff1, y0 = np.array([max_toxin_value, 0, 0]),
                  t = t_solve,
                  args = (k_Y, k_Z, n_X, K_X, n_Y,
                          K Y, d Y, d Z ))
normalized solution = normalize(solution)
ax.plot(t_solve, normalized_solution[:,1], 'r', lw = 3)
ax.plot(t_solve, normalized_solution[:,2], 'b', lw = 3)
unreg solution = odeint(unregulated, y0 = np.array([0]),
                        t = t solve,
                        args = (k,d)
unreg normalized solution = normalize(unreg solution)
ax.plot(t_solve, unreg_normalized_solution, color = 'orange', lw = 3)
y ss = normalized solution[:,1][-1]
z_ss = normalized_solution[:,2][-1]
ax.set xlabel('Time (days)', fontsize = 14)
ax.set_ylabel('Signals', fontsize = 14)
ax.tick params(labelsize = 14)
ax.legend(fontsize = 14)
```

Out[292]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x1f1f516de48>

Response of I1-FFL to Pulsating Signal

