

## L4 Input/Output Relationships

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### Recall...

SynBio decomposes complex problems into subsystems in a hierarchy

Chassis → Systems → Devices → Parts → DNA

*Need to specify the relationships between inputs and outputs (I/O)  
i.e. how do systems interact?*

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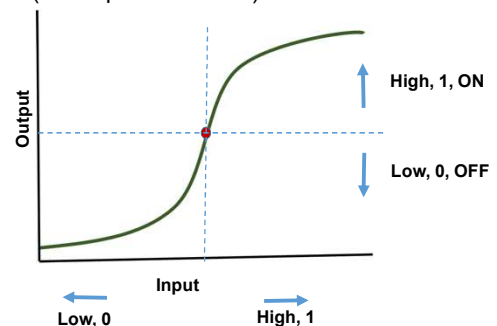
### This lecture....

- Define inputs and outputs
- Logic gates and truth tables
- Gene circuits for logic gates
- More complex functions

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### Input/Output is “binary”

Biological response defined by characteristic transfer functions (IO response curves)



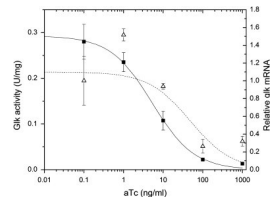
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## What are inputs? Outputs?

No universal definition or "common carrier"

Examples:

- ligand/inducer concentration
- Protein concentration
- Protein activity
- RNA transcripts
- PoPS: (RNAP) polymerases per second or polymerase 'flux'  $\propto$  trxn rate
- RiPS: Ribosome initiations per second  $\propto$  trln rate

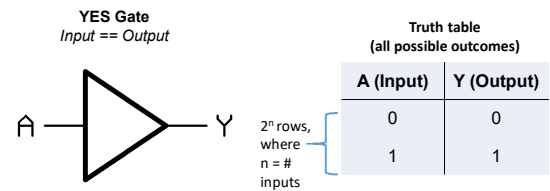


Solomon, Sanders, Prather, *ME* 2012.

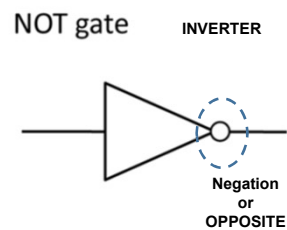
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## Logic Gates

Basic elements in digital computing that determine the relationships b/n inputs and outputs

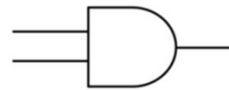


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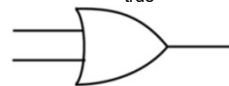


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**AND gate**      True when all inputs true

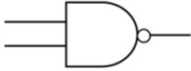


**OR gate**      True when any input true



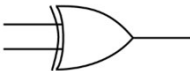
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**NAND gate**



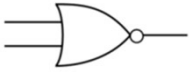
False when all inputs true

**XOR gate "Exclusive OR"**




True when only one input true

**NOR gate**



True when neither input true

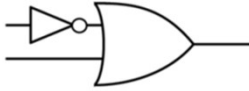
**XNOR gate**




True when both inputs are the same

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**IMPLY (A IMPLY B)**




INPUT		OUTPUT
A	B	
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	1	1




If A is true then is B true?

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**N-IMPLY (B N-IMPLY A)**



INPUT		OUTPUT
A	B	
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	1	0

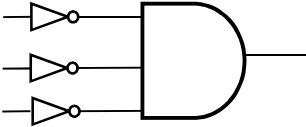


TRUE only when A is true and B is not

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**All computations are combinations of these logic gates**

Functions can be represented by other logic gates



Truth table?  
Equivalent logic gate?

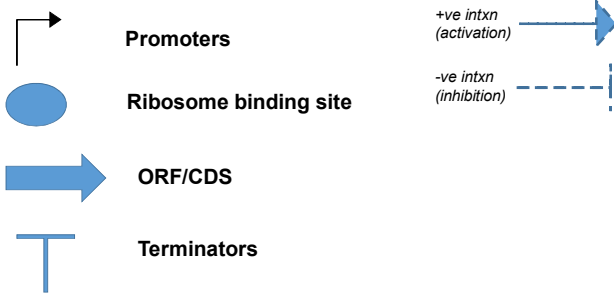
**DeMorgan's Laws**

**NOT (A AND B) == NOT(A) OR NOT(B)**

**NOT (A OR B) == NOT(A) AND NOT(B)**

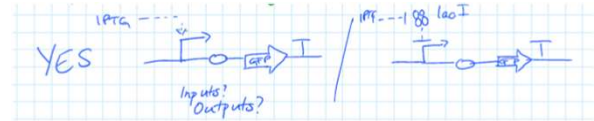
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## Gene circuits implement these IO relationships



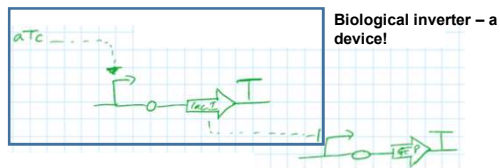
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## The *lac* operon is a YES gate



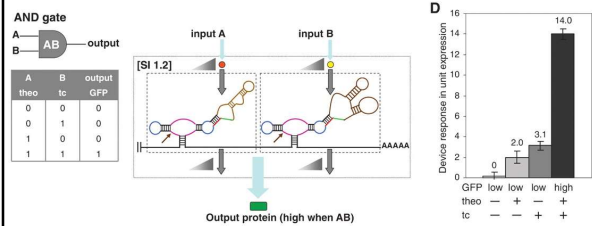
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What kind of gate is this?  
What are the inputs? Outputs?



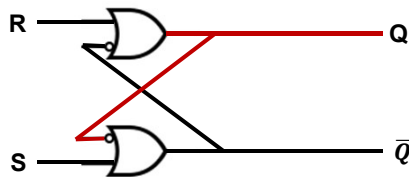
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## Programs can also be implemented with proteins and RNA

Winn & Smolke, *Science*, 2008

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## Combining logic gates give complex phenotypes

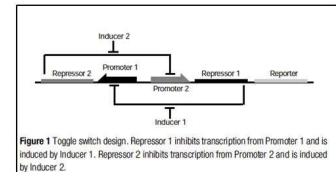
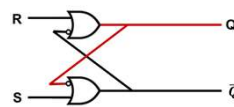


*This circuit can remember its state!!!!*

R	S	Q	$\bar{Q}$
0	0	Q	$\bar{Q}$
0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1

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## How do we implement this biologically?



**Figure 1** Toggle switch design. Repressor 1 inhibits transcription from Promoter 1 and is induced by Inducer 1. Repressor 2 inhibits transcription from Promoter 2 and is induced by Inducer 2.

Gardner, Cantor, Collins, Nature, 2000

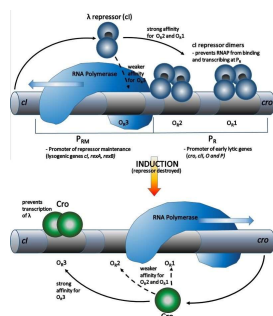
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## Engineering principles help discover biological design

Toggle switches are found in nature

- Decision between viral lytic phase vs lysogenic phase

*Engineering principles create rich biological phenotypes*



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## Next time....

- What properties must we have to design these systems?

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