

lec12.tex

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chapters 1-4 in Uri Alon's book "An introduction to systems biology."

1 last lecture

– Feed forward loops (FFL)

x promotes y promotes z and x promotes z

x \neg y \neg z & x \neg z

(called a delay element)

– GRNs (gene regulatory networks)

S1, S2, ..., Sn

the layer separating the signals from the genes (about 4500) is the transcription factors.

most common regulatory motif: auto-regulation, x \neg x or x \neg x

pros

shorter response times

good for homeostasis (can keep itself on a reasonable level)

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \beta f(x) - \alpha x \quad (1)$$

$$x(t_{1/2}) = \frac{\bar{x}}{2} \quad (2)$$

simple reg. : $t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{\alpha}$

self repression :

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{k}{x}\right)^2 \quad (3)$$

$t_{1/2} = [h = 1] = 0.2 \frac{\ln 2}{\alpha}$

you should know this for exam: calc half times and response times

2 FFL

x \neg y \neg z and x \neg z

$$y(t) = \bar{y}(1 - e^{-\alpha t}) \quad (4)$$

where

$$\bar{y} = \frac{\beta_y}{\alpha_y} \quad (5)$$

add or subtract Y_0 in some way to get the appropriate behavior as $t \leftarrow \infty$.

prob of binding is associated with a binding const. K_{yz} . In order to have enough binding of y^* , we must have a concentration above a threshold level. this causes a delay in the production of z . the same is not true for x , we assume the production of x^* is instantaneous.

effective response time for z is now response time plus delay, so $T_{ON} + \frac{\ln 2}{\alpha}$
we are assuming z behaves as an AND gate here.

now y is repressing z :

$x \rightarrow y \rightarrow z$ and $x \rightarrow z$

z starts growing immediately and then backs down. Called pulse.

easy to calc delay time T_{ON} .

$$y * (t = T_{ON}) = k_{yz} \quad (6)$$

gives

$$T_{ON} = \frac{1}{\alpha_y} \ln \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{k_{yz}}{\bar{y}}} \right) \quad (7)$$

size of k_{yz} is micromolar (??) $\frac{k_{yz}}{\bar{y}} \approx 1/3 \cdot 1/10$

Exam q: given a GRN, how does x affect z or what is the response time of z .

3 Feedback loops, FBL

4 Types of regulatory links

pretty obvious in the previous example.

Two main link types. The first is basically the previous:

i) binding to promoters. ex :

ii) small molecules binding to proteins and protein-protein binding. ex:

example of ii), the lac-operon.

when there's no lactose: lacrep blocks transcription of lac Z/Y/A.

lactose present: \rightarrow allo-lactose present \rightarrow lacrep falls off

this R-E-S system in fig 9 is a very common regulatory motif, e.g. metabolic regulation, stress-response systems.

4.1 Model R-E-S system

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dE}{dt} &= \beta_E f(R) - \alpha_E E \\ \frac{dS}{dt} &= \beta_S - \gamma_{ES} ES \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where R is "free R", not bound,

$$\frac{R_{free}}{k_{ER} + R_{free}} \quad (9)$$

R + S forms a complex RS. with

$$\frac{RS}{R_{tot}} = \frac{k_{RS}}{k_{RS} + S} \quad (10)$$

$$R \frac{k_{RS}}{k_{RS} + S} = \#R_{not \text{ bound by } S} \quad (11)$$

heat-shock response: when heat goes up in cell, they produce chaperone proteins that untwist proteins to avoid protein aggregates. This follows a similar regulation network.

common test for parkinsons : heat up e.coli, let cells divide and all the aggregates will be pushed to one side, collecting all aggregates in one cell .