

# V24 – Kinetic Motifs in Signaling Pathways

- Types of kinetic motifs in signaling pathways
- Application to cell cycle
- Circadian clocks

CURRENT  
OPINION  
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**Sniffers, buzzers, toggles and blinkers: dynamics of regulatory and signaling pathways in the cell**

John J Tyson<sup>\*†</sup>, Katherine C Chen<sup>\*‡</sup> and Bela Novak<sup>§</sup>

*Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* **15** (2003) 221

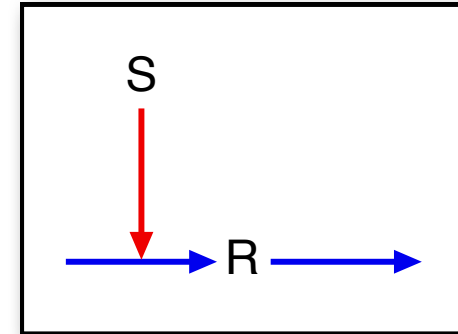
# Linear Response

E.g., protein synthesis and degradation (see lecture V8)

$S$  = signal (e.g., concentration of mRNA)

$R$  = response (e.g., concentration of a protein)

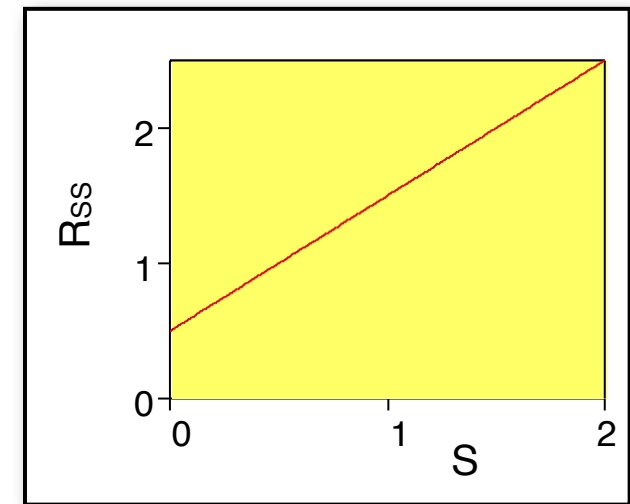
$$\frac{dR}{dt} = k_0 + k_1 S - k_2 R$$



At steady state (which implies  $S = \text{const}$ ):

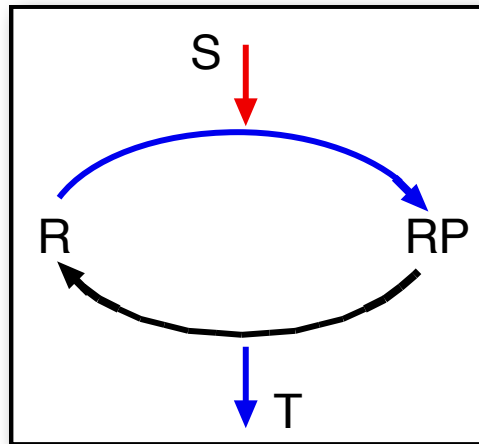
$$\left. \frac{dR}{dt} \right|_{R=R_{ss}} = 0 \Rightarrow R_{ss} = \frac{k_0 + k_1 S}{k_2} = \frac{k_0}{k_2} + \frac{k_1}{k_2} S$$

$R_{ss}$  linearly dependent on  $S$



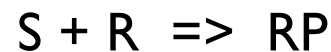
$$k_0 = 1, k_1 = k_2 = 2$$

# phosphorylation/dephosphorylation



„forward“: R is converted to phosphorylated form RP

„backward“: RP can be dephosphorylated again to R



with  $R_{\text{tot}} = R + RP$   
 ↑  
 phosphorylated form

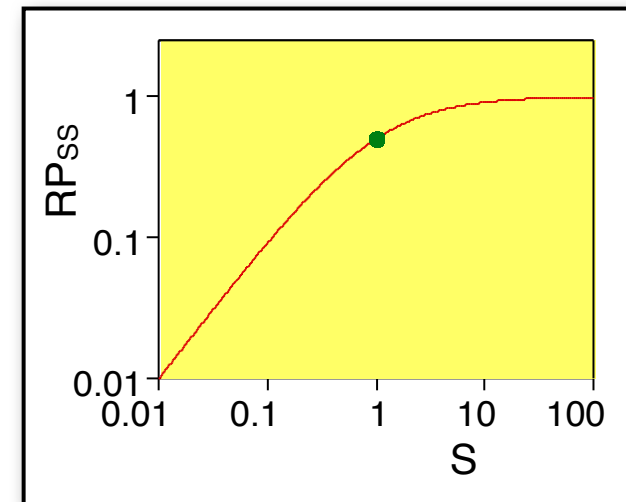
$$\frac{dRP}{dt} = k_1 SR - k_2 RP = k_1 S (R_{\text{tot}} - RP) - k_2 RP$$

Find steady state for RP: linear until saturation

$$RP_{ss} = \frac{k_1 R_{\text{tot}} S}{k_1 S + k_2} = \frac{R_{\text{tot}} S}{S + k_2/k_1} = \frac{R_{\text{tot}} S}{S + S_0}$$

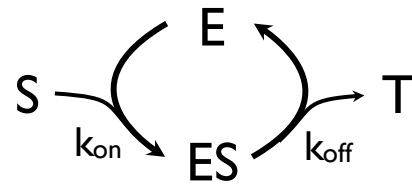
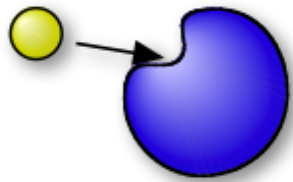
Output T proportional to RP level:

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k_2 RP$$



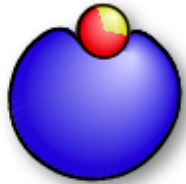
$R_{\text{tot}} = 1, S_0 = 1$

# Enzyme: Michaelis-Menten-kinetics

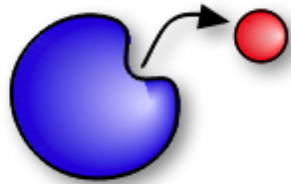


Reaction rate:

$$V = k_{off}ES$$



Steady state:  $k_{on}E \cdot S = k_{off}ES$



$$ES = \frac{k_{on}E \cdot S}{k_{off}} = \frac{E \cdot S}{K_M}$$

Total amount of enzyme is constant:

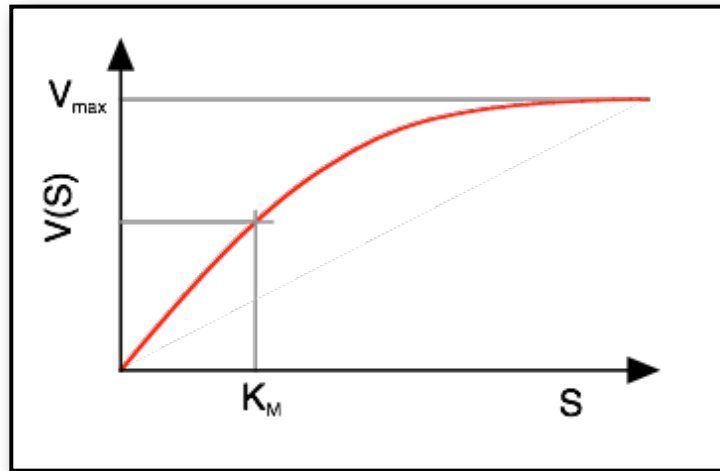
$$E_T = E + ES \quad \Rightarrow \quad ES = E_T \frac{S}{S + K_M}$$

turnover:  $V = V_{max} \frac{S}{S + K_M}$

# The MM-equation

Effective turnover according to MM:  $V = V_{max} \frac{S}{S + K_M}$

$$V_{max} = k_{off} E_T$$



$$K_M = \frac{k_{off}}{k_{on}}$$

Pro:

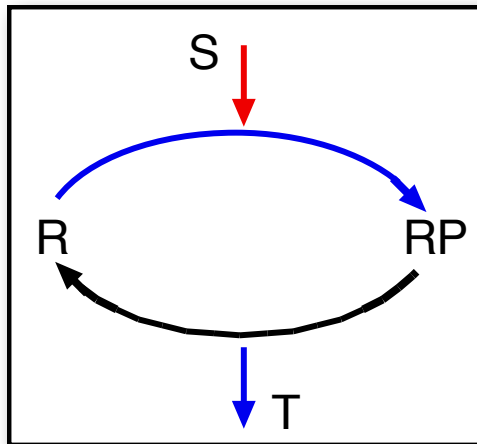
- analytical formula for turnover
- curve can be easily interpreted:  $V_{max}$ ,  $K_M$
- enzyme concentration can be ignored

Cons:

less kinetic information

$$k_{on}, k_{off}, E_T \Rightarrow V_{max}, K_M$$

# Sigmoidal Characteristics with MM kinetics



Same topology as before with Michaelis-Menten kinetics for phosphorylation and dephosphorylation.

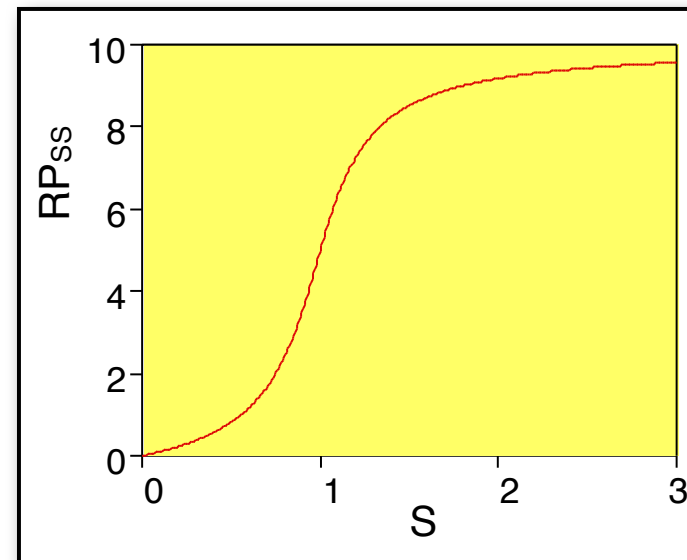
$$\frac{dRP}{dt} = \frac{k_1 S (R_t - RP)}{R_0 + (R_t - RP)} - \frac{k_2 RP}{RP_0 + RP} \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$$V = V_{max} \frac{S}{S + K_M} \quad \text{this means that } S = R_t - RP \quad K_M = R_0$$

Quadratic equation for RP

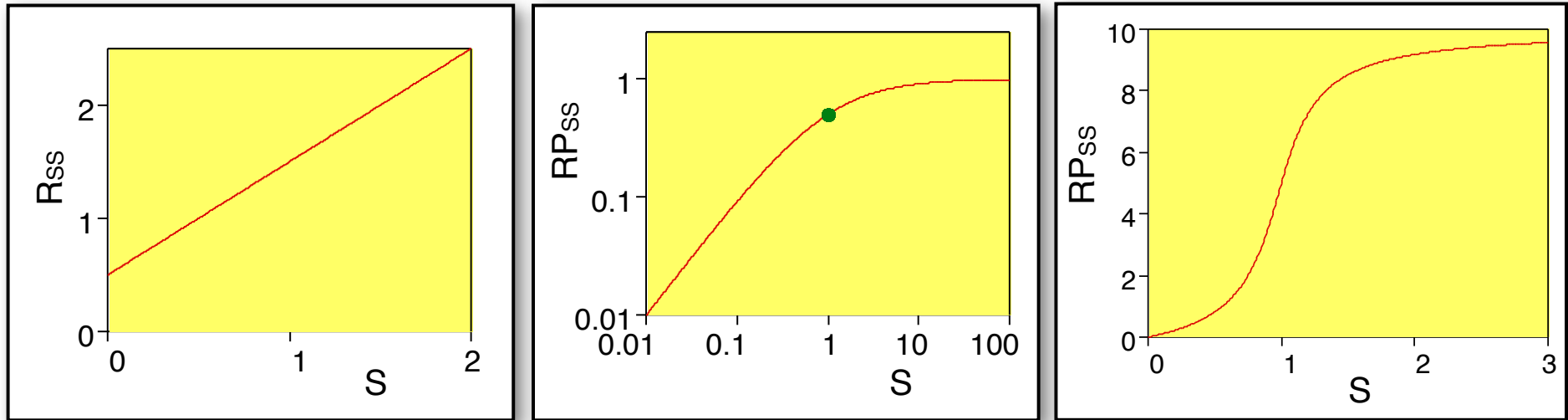
$$k_2 RP (R_0 + (R_t - RP)) = k_1 S (R_t - RP) (RP_0 + RP)$$

=> sigmoidal characteristics  
(threshold behavior)  
often found in signalling cascades



$$R_t = 10, R_0 = RP_0 = 1, k_1 = k_2 = 1$$

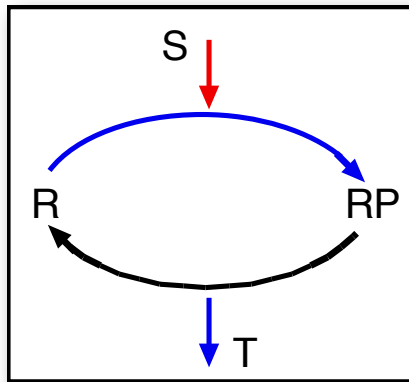
# Graded Response



Linear, hyperbolic, and sigmoidal characteristic give the same steady state response independent of the previous history  
=> no hysteresis

BUT: In fast time-dependent scenarios,  
delay may lead to a modified response

# Time-dependent Sigmoidal Response



Direct implementation:

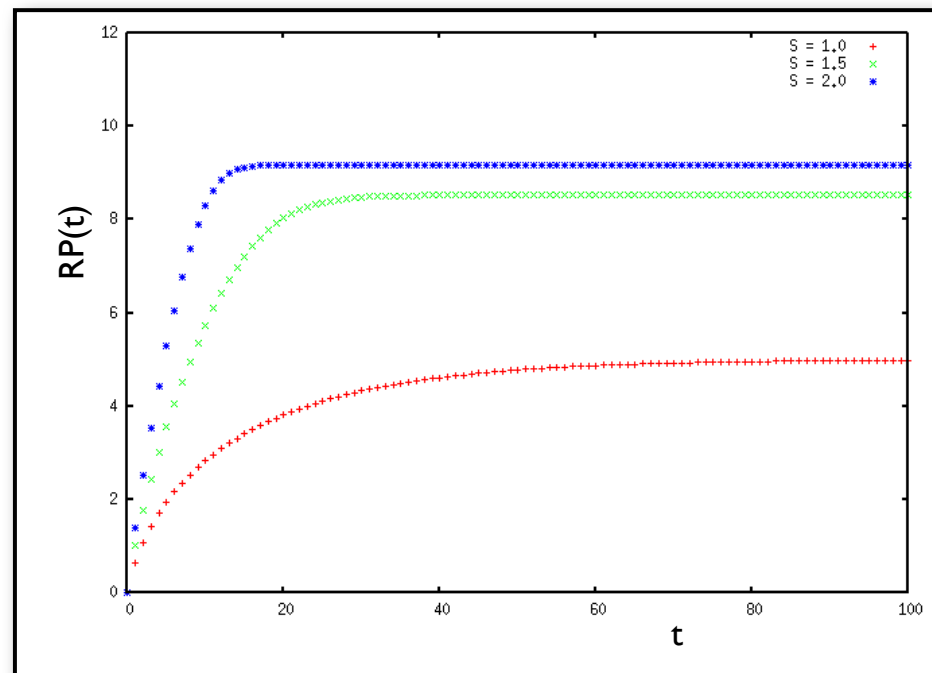
$$v_1 = \frac{Sk_1R}{R_0 + R} \quad v_2 = \frac{k_2RP}{RP_0 + RP}$$

Parameters:  $k_1 = 1 \text{ (mol s)}^{-1}$ ,  $k_2 = 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $R_0 = RP_0 = 1 \text{ mol}$

Initial conditions:  $R = 10 \text{ mol}$ ,  $RP = 0$

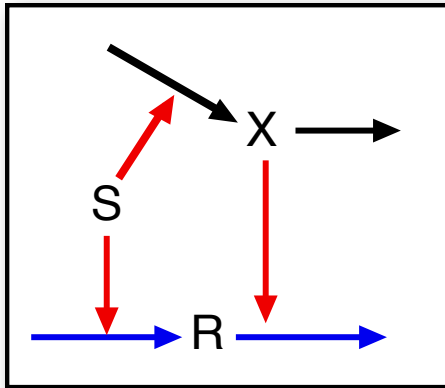
Time courses for  
 $S = 1, 1.5$ , and  $2$ ,  
 $RP(0) = 0$ :

equilibrium is reached  
faster for  
stronger signal





# Adaption - „sniffer“



Linear response modulated by a second species X

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = k_3 S - k_4 X$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = k_1 S - k_2 X R$$

Steady state:  $R_{ss}$  independent of S

$$X_{ss} = \frac{k_3}{k_4} S$$

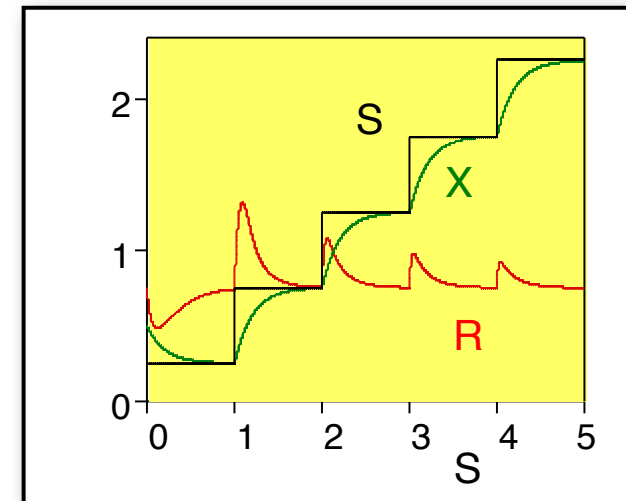
$$R_{ss} = \frac{k_1 k_4}{k_2 k_3}$$

R changes transiently when S changes, then goes back to its basal level.

found in smell, vision, chemotaxis, ...

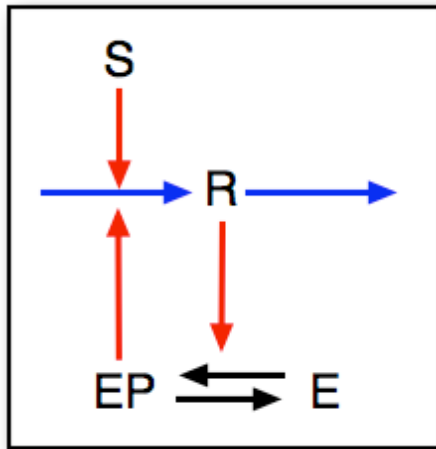
Note: response strength  $\Delta R$  depends on rate of change of S.

=> non-monotonous relation for  $R(S)$



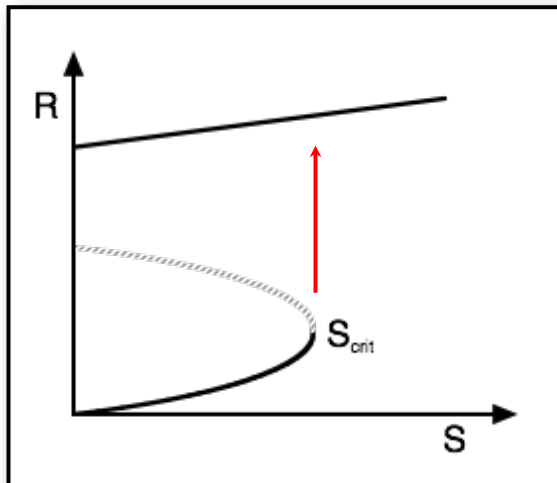
$$k_1 = 30, k_2 = 40, k_3 = k_4 = 5$$

# Positive Feedback



$$\frac{dR}{dt} = k_4 EP(R) + k_1 S - k_2 R$$

$$\frac{dEP}{dt} = \frac{k_3 R E}{EP_0 + EP} - \frac{k_5 EP}{E_0 + E}$$



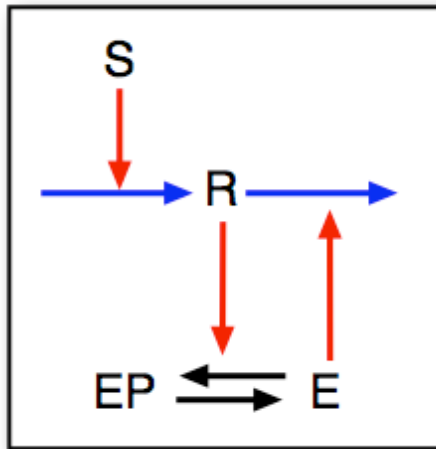
Feedback via R and EP

=> high levels of R will stay

**"one-way switch"** via bifurcation

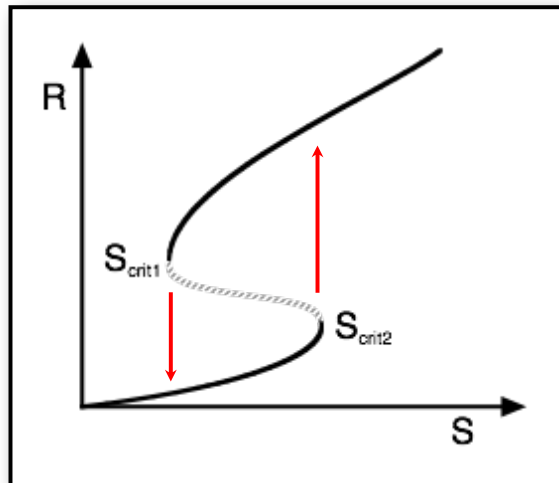
Found in processes that are "final":  
frog oocyte maturation, apoptosis, ...

# Mutual Inhibition - Toggle Switch



$$\frac{dR}{dt} = k_1 S - k_2 R - k_4 E(R)$$

$$\frac{dEP}{dt} = \frac{k_3 R E}{EP_0 + EP} - \frac{k_5 EP}{E_0 + E}$$



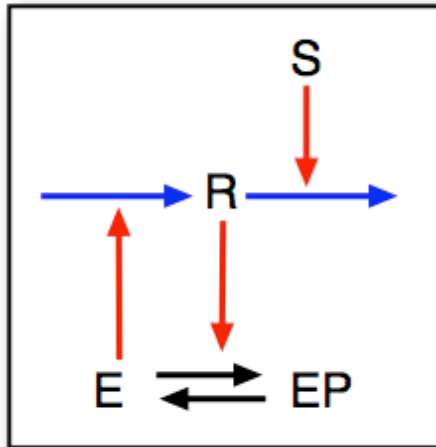
Sigmoidal "threshold" in  $E \rightleftharpoons EP$  leads to bistable response (hysteresis):

**toggle switch** (dt. Kippschalter)

Converts continuous external stimulus into two well defined stable states:

- lac operon in bacteria
- activation of M-phase promoting factor in frog eggs

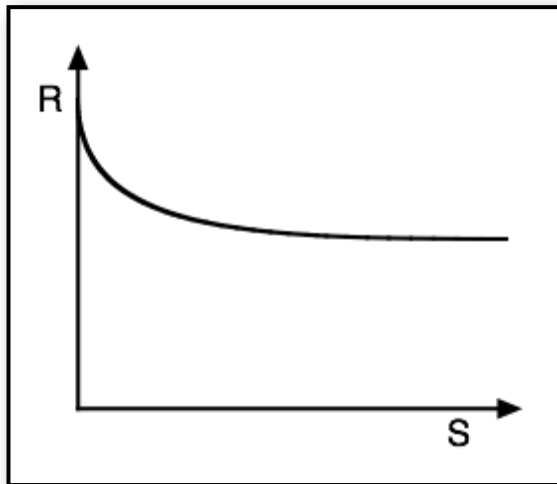
# Negative Feedback



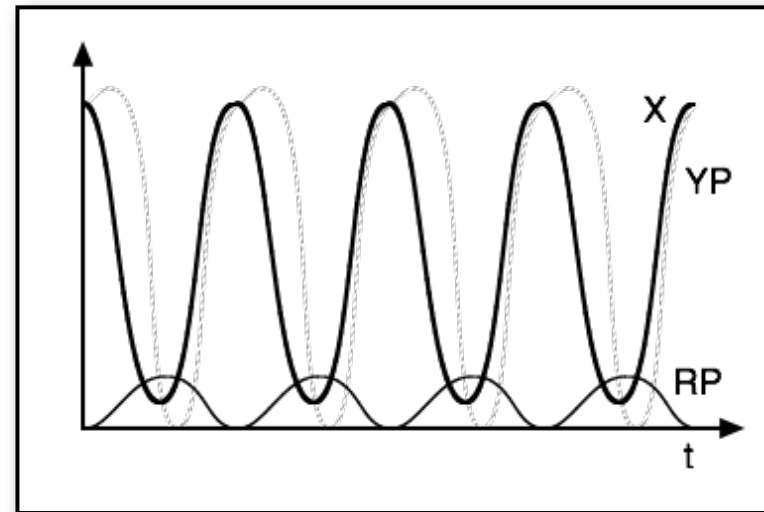
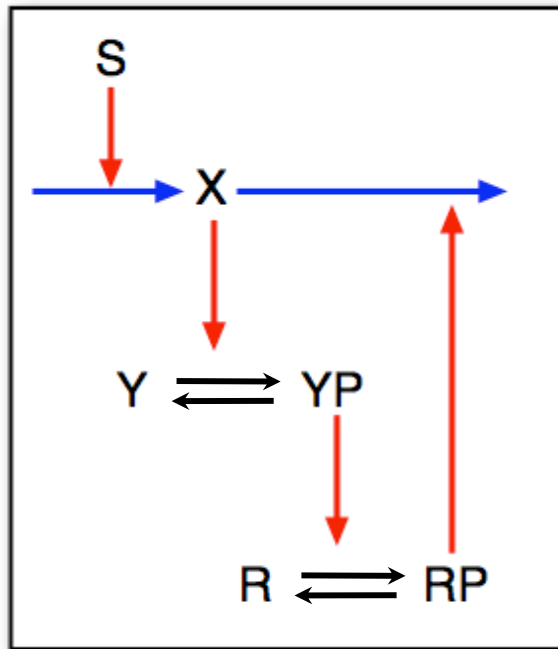
S controls the "demand" for R

=> **homeostasis**

found in biochemical pathways,  
no transient changes in R for steps in S  
(cf. "sniffer")



# Negative Feedback with Delay



Cyclic activation  $X \Rightarrow YP \Rightarrow RP \Rightarrow X$   
 $\Rightarrow$  **Oscillations** (in a range of S)

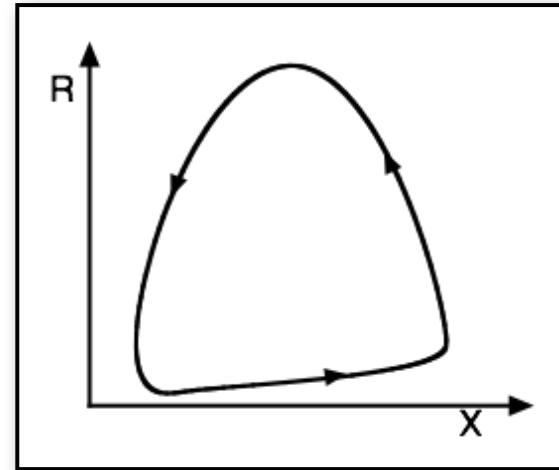
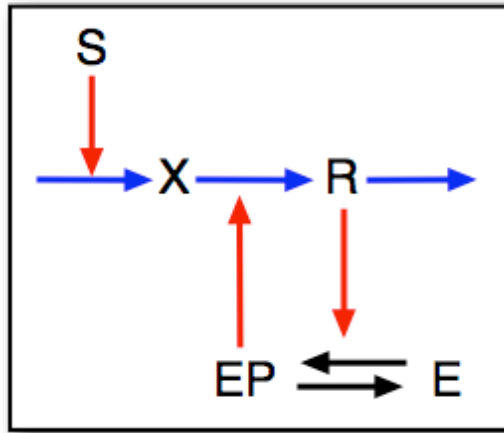
$$\frac{dX}{dt} = k_0 + k_1 S - k_2 X - k_7 RP X$$

$$\frac{dYP}{dt} = \frac{k_3 X Y}{Y_0 + Y} - \frac{k_4 YP}{YP_0 + YP}$$

$$\frac{dRP}{dt} = \frac{k_5 YP R}{R_0 + R} - \frac{k_6 RP}{RP_0 + RP}$$

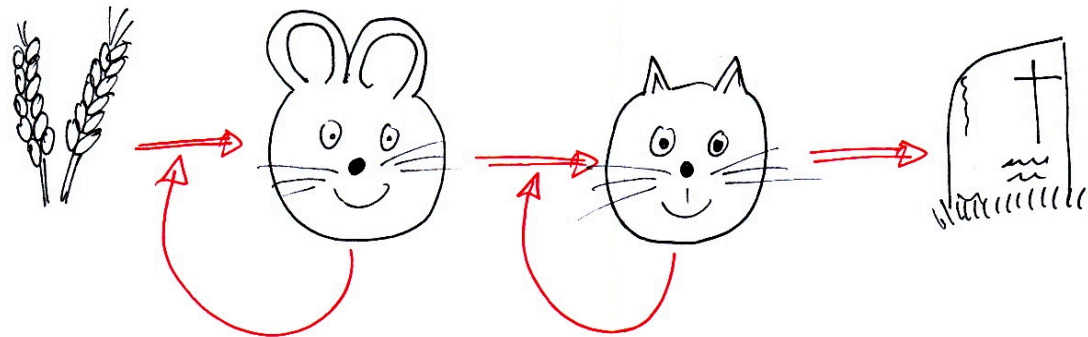
Proposed mechanism  
 for **circadian clocks**

# Substrate-Depletion Oscillations

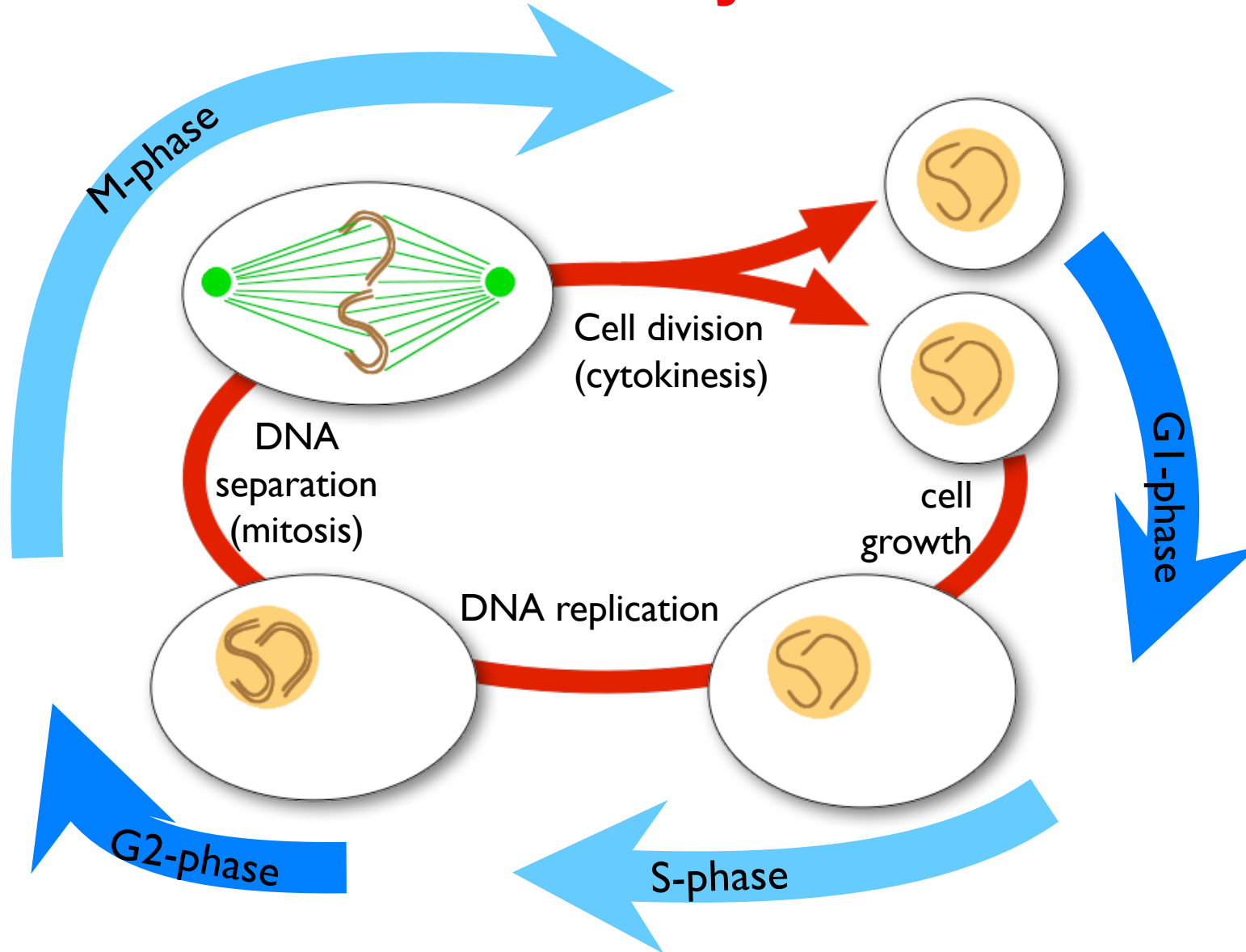


$R$  is produced in an **autocatalytic** reaction from  $X$ , finally **depleting**  $X$ ...

Similar to Lotka-Volterra system (autocatalysis for  $X$ , too):

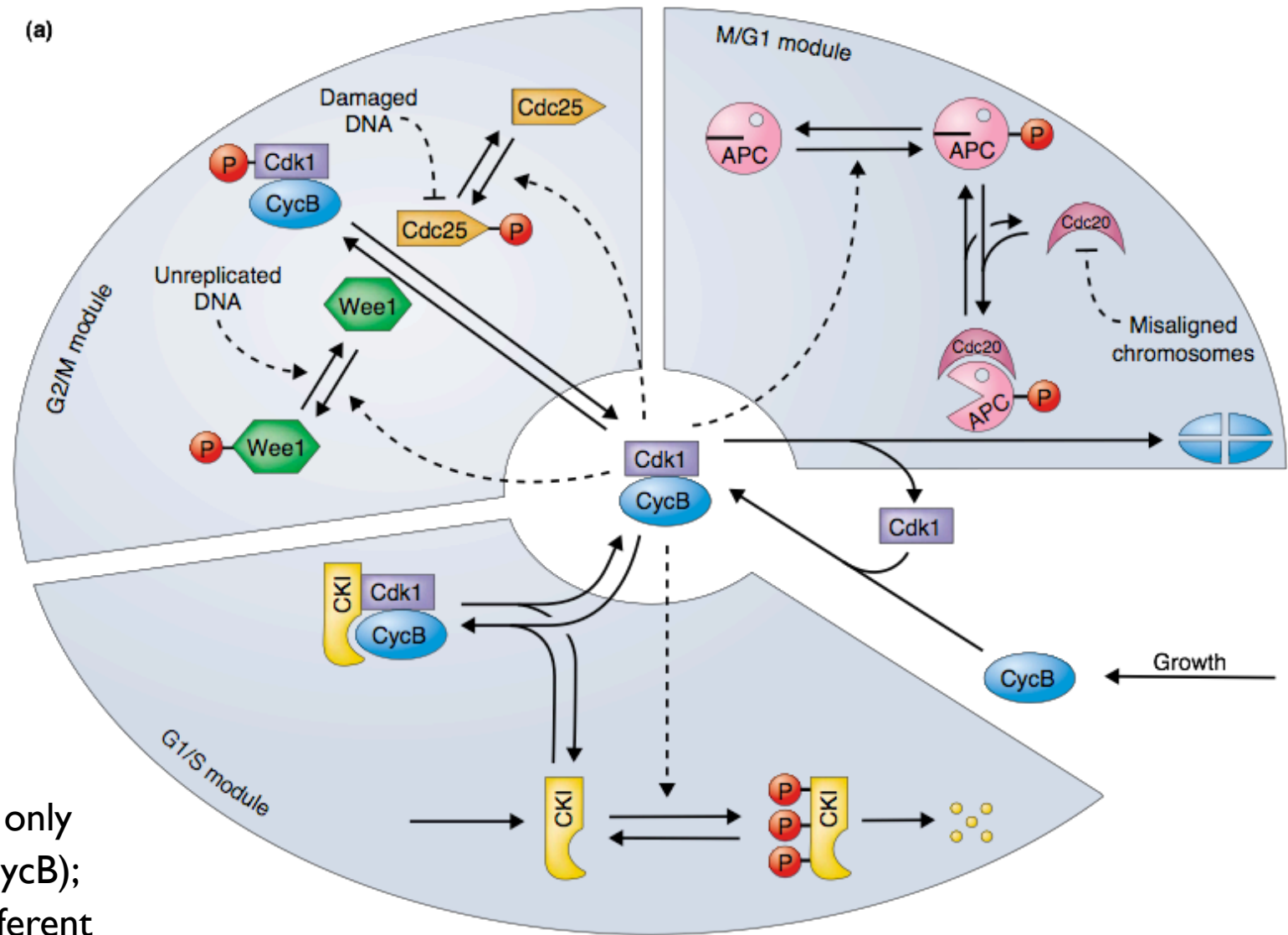


# The Cell Cycle



**When to take the next step???**

# Simplified Version of Cell Cycle Control System



cdc =  
"cell division cycle"

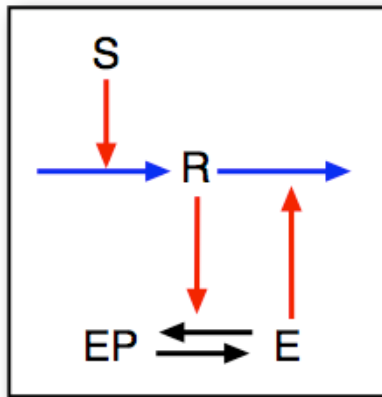
CdkI: cyclin  
dependent kinase I

Simplification: assume only  
one type of cyclins (CycB);  
in reality there are different  
ones

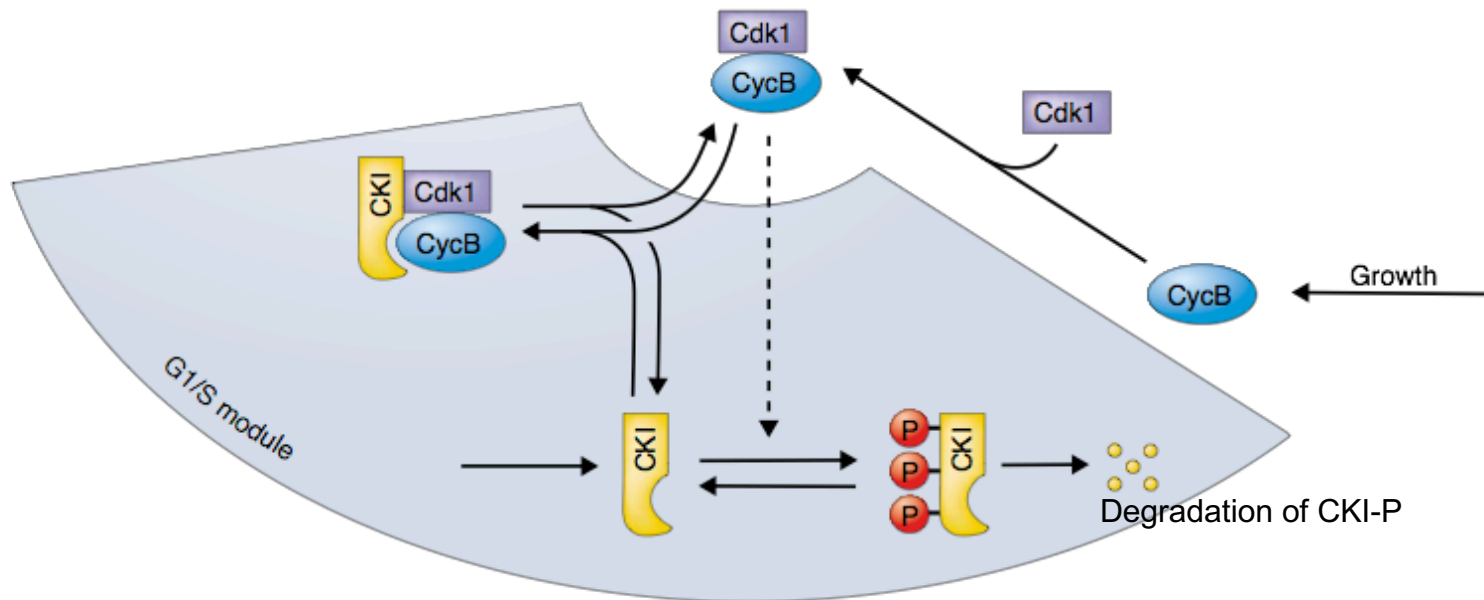
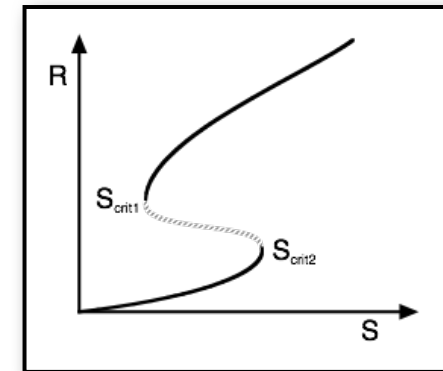
Tyson et al, *Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* **15** (2003) 221



# G1 => S — Toggle Switch

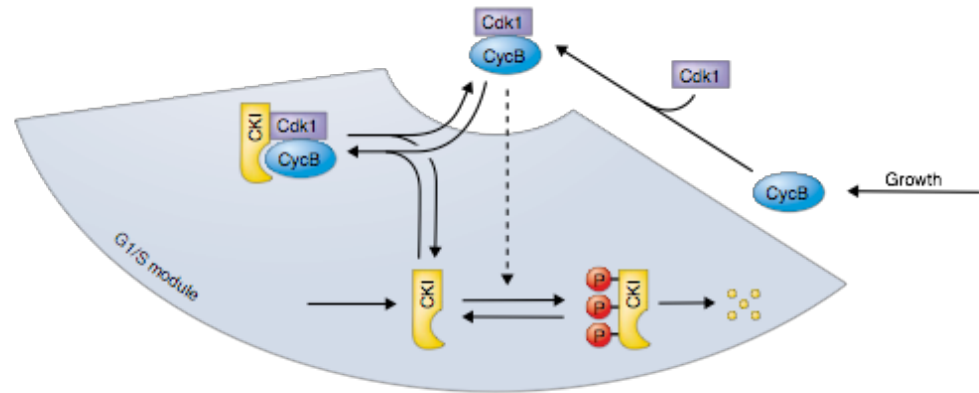
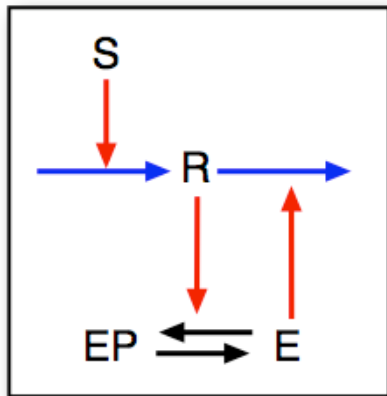


Mutual inhibition between  
Cdk1-CycB and CKI  
(cyclin kinase inhibitor)

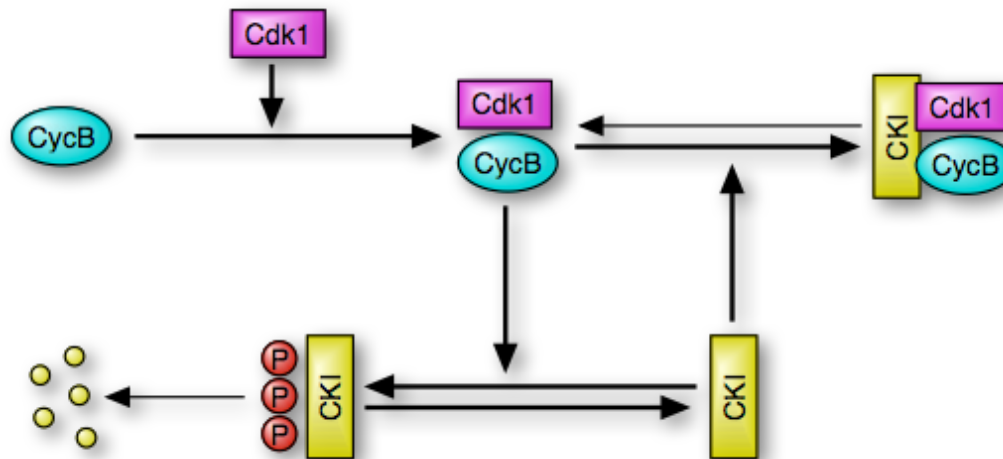


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# Mutual Inhibition

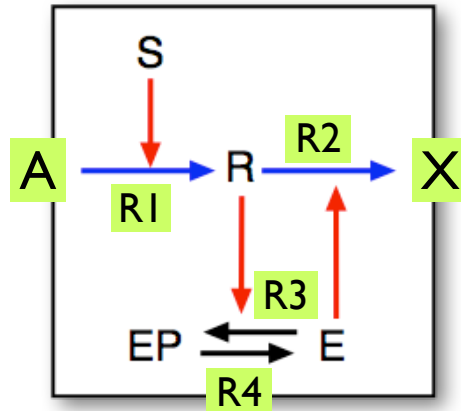


Assume: CycB:CdkI:CKI is stable  $\Leftrightarrow$  dissociation is very slow



$\Rightarrow$  same **topology**  
 $\Leftrightarrow$  same bistable **behavior** (?)

# Rate Equations: Toggle Switch



Stoichiometric  
matrix  
"(C)" = catalyst

	R1	R2	R3	R4
A	-1			
S	(C)			
R	1	-1	(C)	
E		(C)	-1	1
EP			1	-1
X		1		

$$\frac{dR1}{dt} = k_1 A S$$

$$\frac{dR2}{dt} = k_2 R E$$

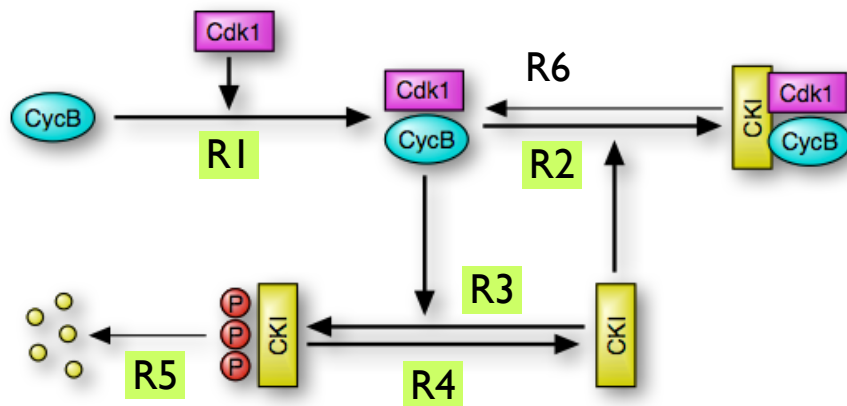
$$\frac{dR3}{dt} = \frac{k_3 R E}{E_0 + E}$$

$$\frac{dR4}{dt} = \frac{V_4 EP}{EP_0 + EP}$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{dR1}{dt} - \frac{dR2}{dt} = k_1 A S - k_2 R E$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dR4}{dt} - \frac{dR3}{dt}$$

# Rate Equations: G1/S Module



	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
CycB	-1					
Cdk1	-1					
CycB:Cdk1	1	-1	(C)			1
CKI		-1	-1	1		1
CKI:P <sub>3</sub>			1	-1		
CKI:P <sub>3</sub>					-1	
CycB:Cdk1:CKI		1				-1

$$\frac{dR1}{dt} = k_1 [\text{CycB}] [\text{Cdk1}]$$

$$\frac{dR2}{dt} = k_2 [\text{CycB:Cdk1}] [\text{CKI}]$$

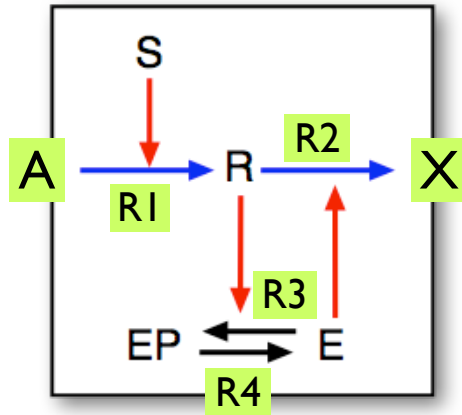
$$\frac{dR3}{dt} = \frac{k_3 [\text{CycB:Cdk1}] [\text{CKI}]}{K_3 + [\text{CKI}]}$$

$$\frac{dR4}{dt} = \frac{V_4 [\text{CKI:P}_3]}{K_4 + [\text{CKI:P}_3]}$$

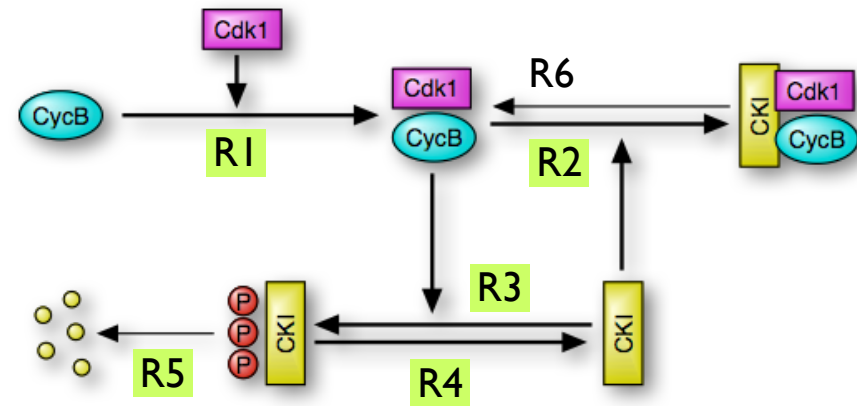
$$\frac{d[\text{CycB:Cdk1}]}{dt} = \frac{dR1}{dt} - \frac{dR2}{dt} + \frac{dR6}{dt}$$

$$\frac{d[\text{CKI}]}{dt} = \frac{dR4}{dt} - \frac{dR3}{dt} - \frac{dR2}{dt} + \frac{dR6}{dt}$$

# Comparison: Matrices



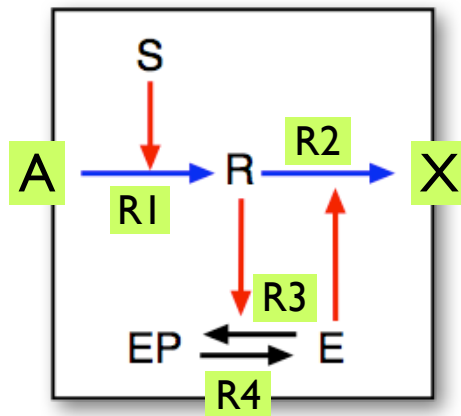
	R1	R2	R3	R4
A	-I			
S	(C)			
R	I	-I	(C)	
E		(C)	-I	I
EP			I	-I
X		I		



	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
CycB	-I					
Cdk1	-I					
CycB:Cdk1	I	-I	(C)			I
CKI		-I	-I	I		I
CKI:P <sub>3</sub>			I	-I		
CKI:P <sub>3</sub>					-I	
CycB:Cdk1:CKI		I				-I

Difference: catalysts vs. substrates

# Comparison: Equations



$$\frac{dR1}{dt} = k_1 A S$$

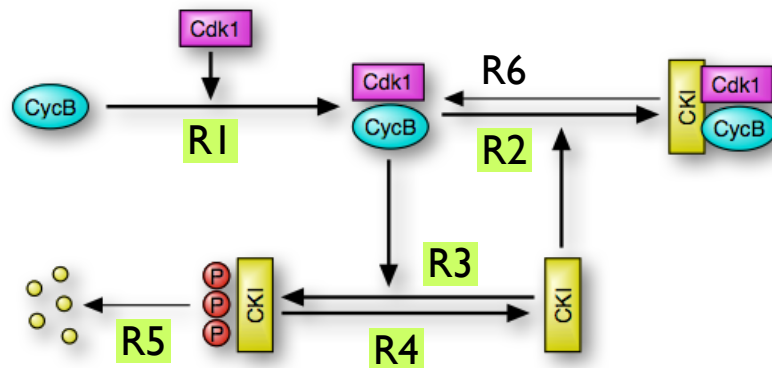
$$\frac{dR2}{dt} = k_2 R E$$

$$\frac{dR3}{dt} = \frac{k_3 R E}{E_0 + E}$$

$$\frac{dR4}{dt} = \frac{V_4 EP}{EP_0 + EP}$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{dR1}{dt} - \frac{dR2}{dt} = k_1 A S - k_2 R E$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dR4}{dt} - \frac{dR3}{dt} = \frac{k_3 R E}{E_0 + E} - \frac{V_4 EP}{EP_0 + EP}$$



$$\frac{dR1}{dt} = k_1 [\text{CycB}] [\text{Cdk1}]$$

$$\frac{dR2}{dt} = k_2 [\text{CycB:Cdk1}] [\text{CKI}]$$

$$\frac{dR3}{dt} = \frac{k_3 [\text{CycB:Cdk1}] [\text{CKI}]}{K_3 + [\text{CKI}]}$$

$$\frac{dR4}{dt} = \frac{V_4 [\text{CKI:P}_3]}{K_4 + [\text{CKI:P}_3]}$$

$$\frac{d[\text{CycB:Cdk1}]}{dt} = \frac{dR1}{dt} - \frac{dR2}{dt} + \frac{dR6}{dt}$$

$$\frac{d[\text{CKI}]}{dt} = \frac{dR4}{dt} - \frac{dR3}{dt} - \frac{dR2}{dt} + \frac{dR6}{dt}$$

Rename species => same rate equations => same behavior

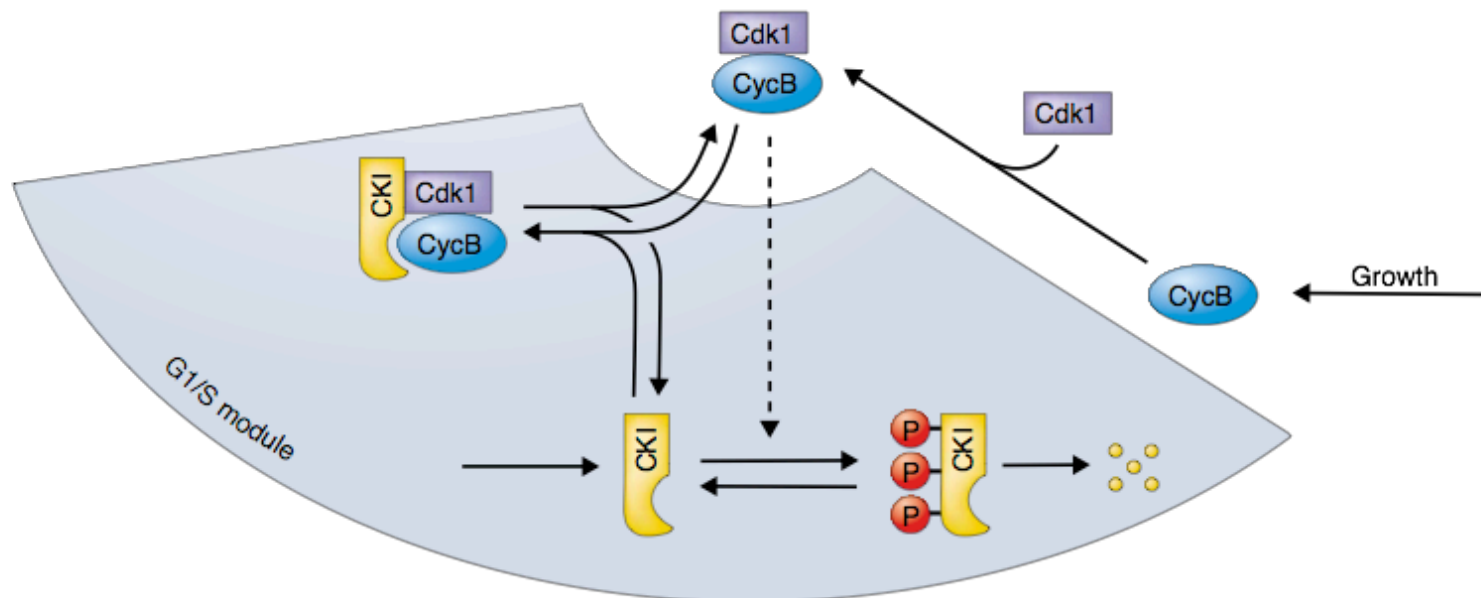
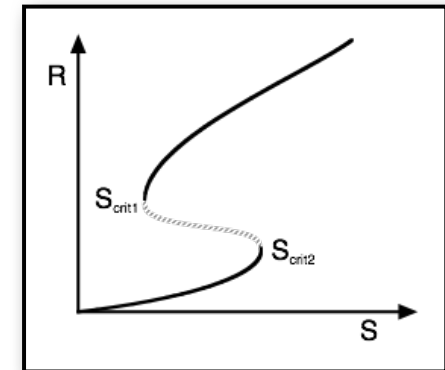
# Predicted Behavior: $G1 \Rightarrow S$

Signal: cell growth = concentration of CycB, Cdk I

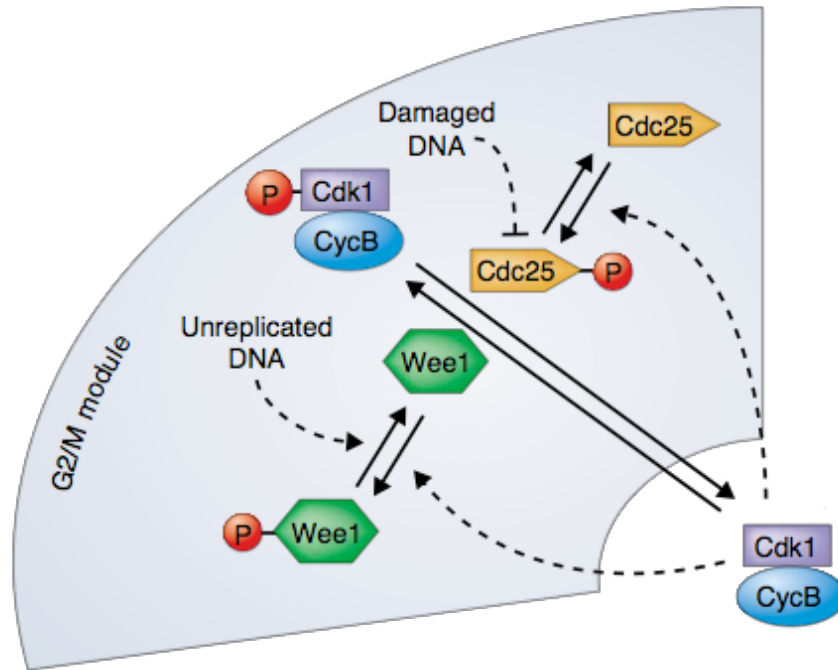
Response: activity (concentration) of CycB:Cdk I

## Toggle switch:

=> above critical cell size, CycB:CdkI activity will switch on

Tyson et al, *Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* **15** (2003) 221

# G2 => M



**Dual toggle** switch:

- **mutual activation** between CycB:CdkI and Cdc25 (phosphatase that activates the dimer)
- **mutual inhibition** between CycB:CdkI and WeeI (kinase that inactivates the dimer)

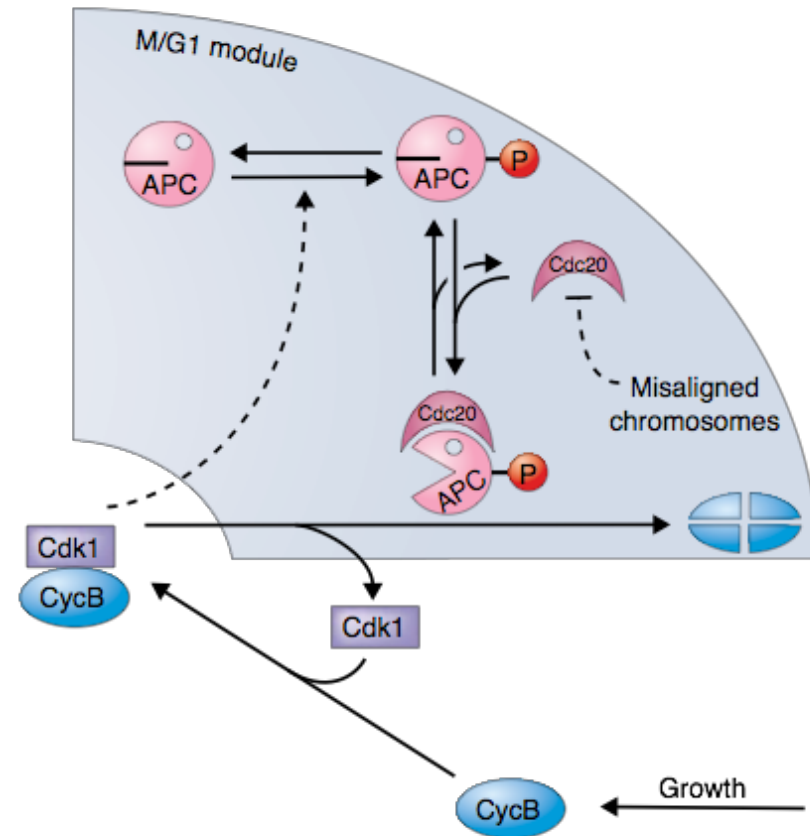
=> when the cell **grows** further during the second gap phase G2, the activity of CycB:CdkI will **increase** by a further **step**



# M => G1

## Negative feedback loop oscillator

- i) CycB:CdkI activates anaphase promoting complex (APC)
- ii) APC-P activates Cdc20
- iii) Cdc20:APC-P degrades CycB



## Behavior:

at a critical cell size

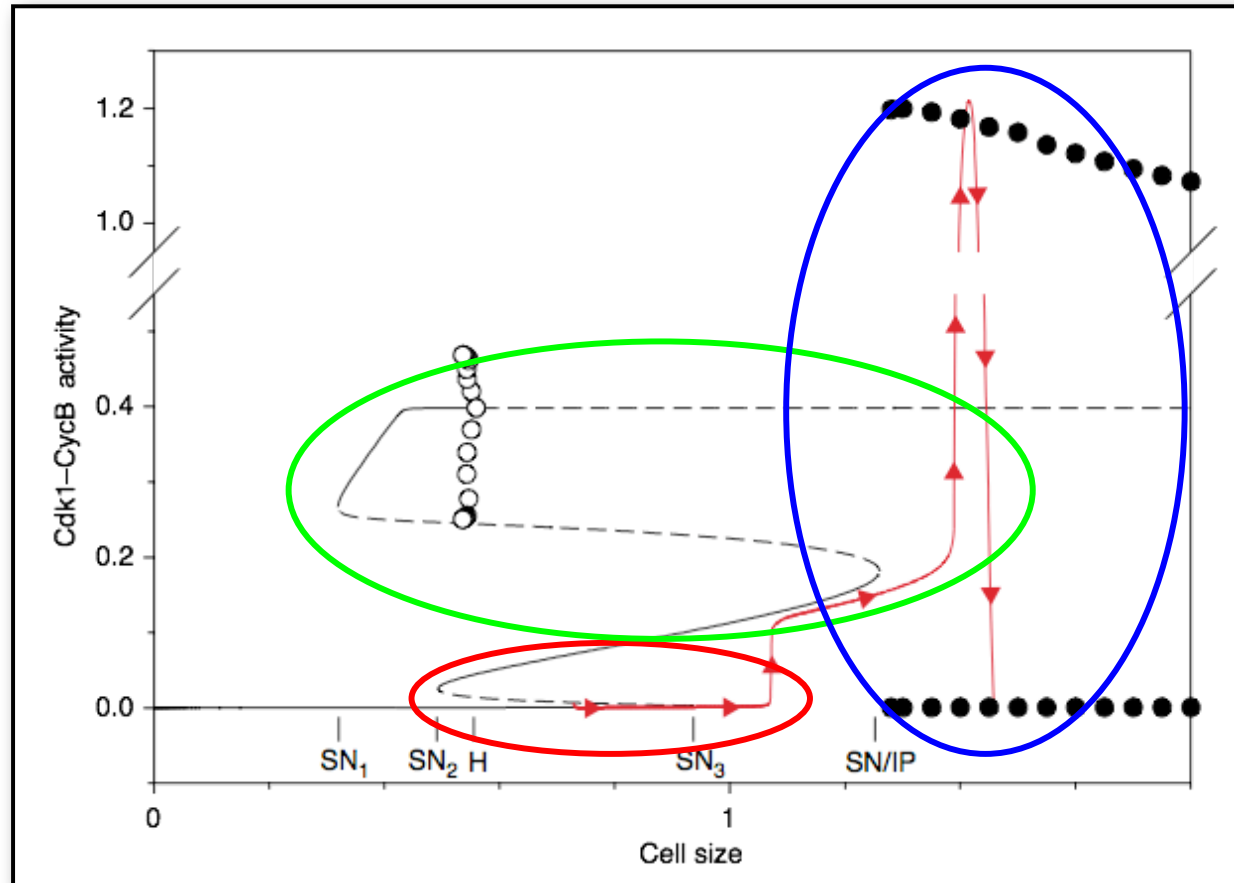
CycB:CdkI activity increases and **decreases** again

=> at low CycB:CdkI level, the G1/S toggle switches off again,

=> cell cycle completed

Tyson et al, *Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* **15** (2003) 221

# Overall Behavior



Cell divides at size 1.46

=> daughters start  
growing from  
size 0.73

=> switches to  
replication at  
size 1.25

G1/S toggle => bistability

M/G1 oscillator

G2/M toggle => bistability

Tyson et al, *Curr. Op. Cell Biol.* **15** (2003) 221

# Circadian clocks in mammals and plants

Most organisms (animals, plants, fungi and cyanobacteria) enhance their fitness by coordinating their development with daily environmental changes through molecular timekeepers (circadian clocks)

**Mammals** display circadian rhythms in behavioural and physiological processes, such as

- sleep
- feeding
- blood pressure and
- metabolism

Roles in **plants** e.g.:

- opening of flowers in the morning and their closure at night

Circadian rhythms are guided by **external light–dark signals** that are integrated through intrinsic central and peripheral molecular clocks

# Circadian rhythms

(1) Circadian rhythms are the subset of biological rhythms with period of 24 h. The term circadian combines the Latin words “circa” (about) and “dies” (day).

(2) Circadian rhythms are **endogenously generated** and **self-sustaining**.

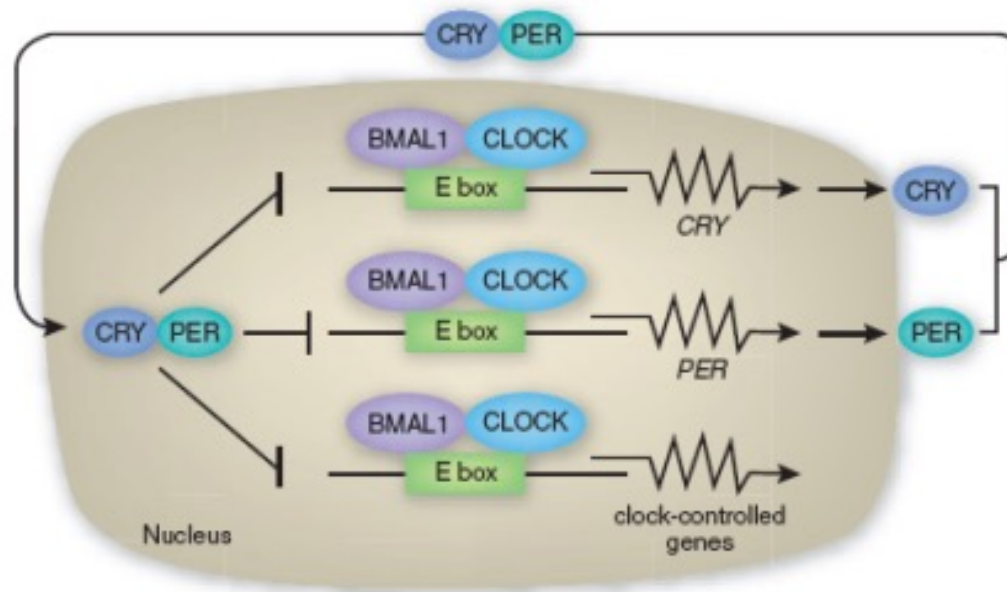
They persist under constant environmental conditions, typically constant light (or dark) and constant temperature.

Under these controlled conditions, the free-running period of **24 h** is observed.

(3) For all circadian rhythms the **period** remains relatively **constant** over a range of ambient temperatures.

This is thought to be one property of a general mechanism that buffers the clock against changes in cellular metabolism.

# Basic molecular elements of mammalian clocks



(a) 2 TFs **CLOCK** and **BMAL1** heterodimerize.

(b) BMAL1:CLOCK binds to the **E-boxes** in the promoters of  
-the *PER* and *CRY* genes,  
- and of clock-controlled genes,  
and activate their transcription.

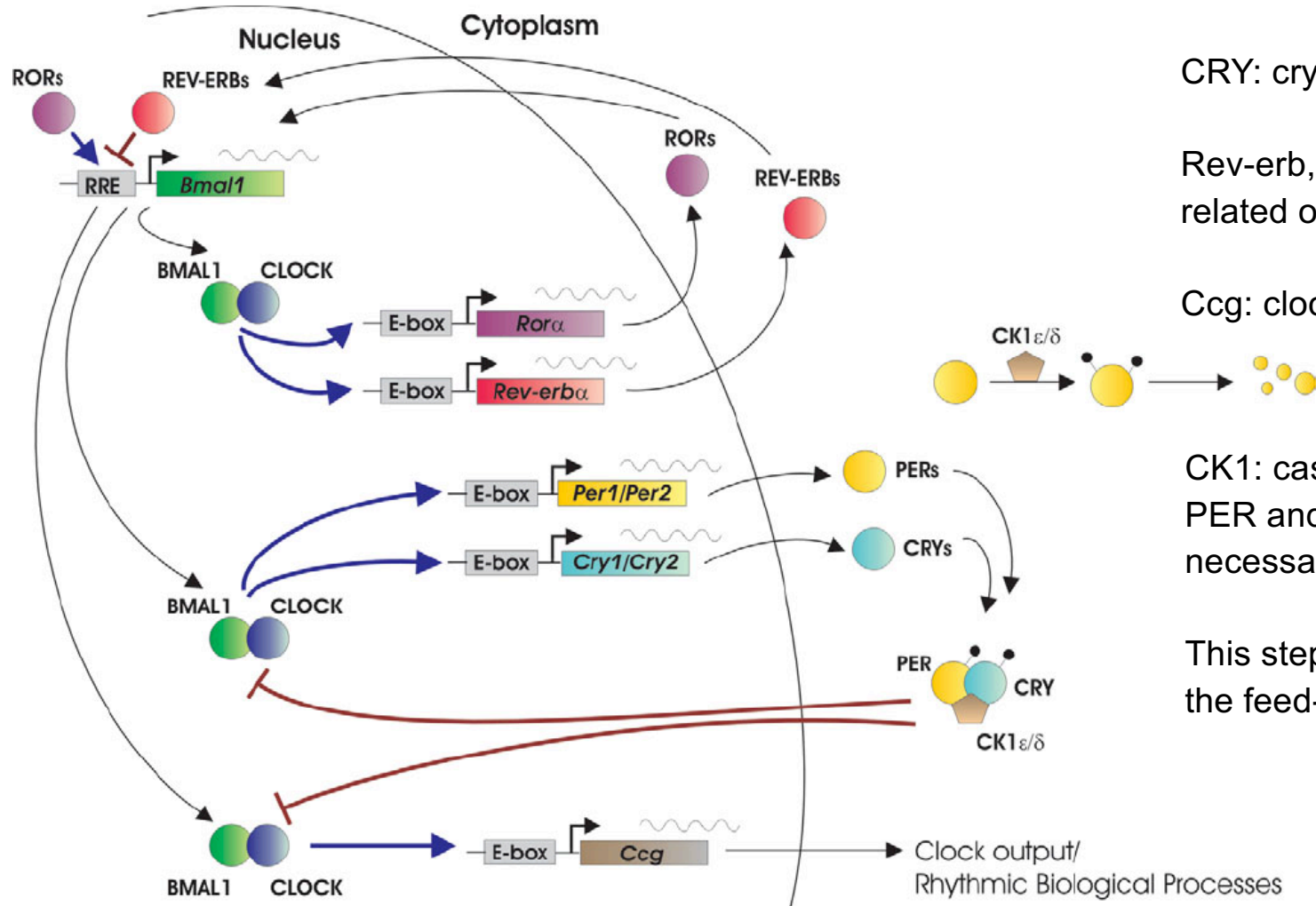
This is the **minimal scheme** for the mammalian clock.

It requires several interconnecting transcriptional, translational and post-translational loops to achieve gene expression with circadian periodicity

(c) The translated PER and CRY proteins dimerize in the cytosol, enter the nucleus and **inhibit** CLOCK-BMAL1–activated transcription.

Sancar,  
Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol. 15, 23 (2008)

# Circuit of circadian rhythms in mammals



PER: period

CRY: cryptochrome

Rev-erb, ROR: retinoic acid-related orphan nuclear receptors

Ccg: clock-controlled genes

CK1: casein kinase; phosphorylates PER and CRY; necessary for their dimerization

This step serves to slow down the feed-back cycle.

Figure 1. A network of transcriptional–translational feedback loops constitutes the mammalian circadian clock.

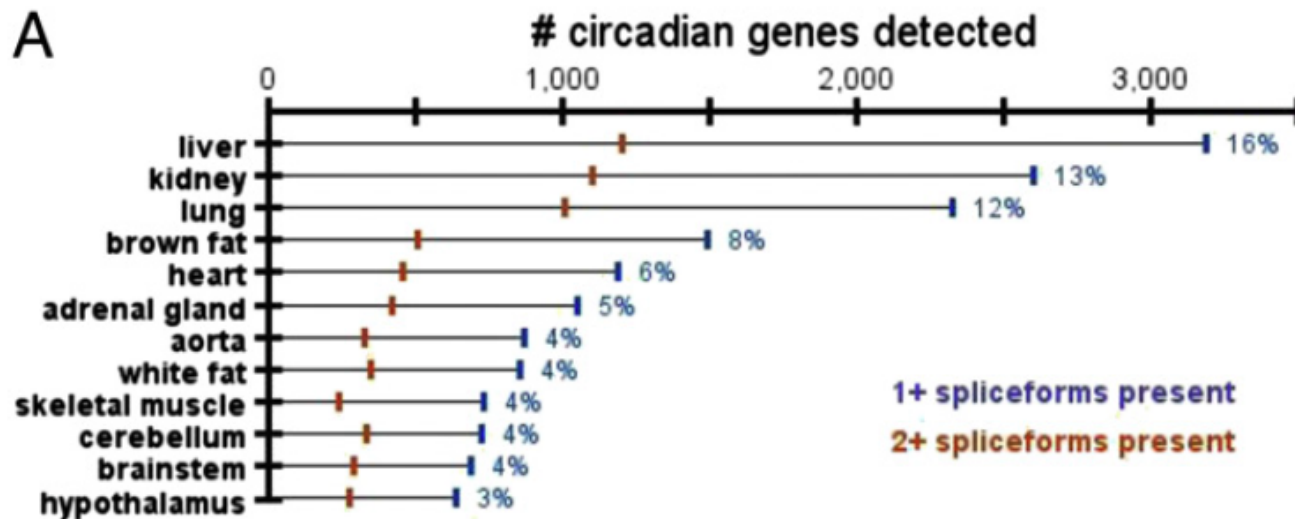
# Are circadian rhythms relevant for bioinformatics?

## A circadian gene expression atlas in mammals: Implications for biology and medicine

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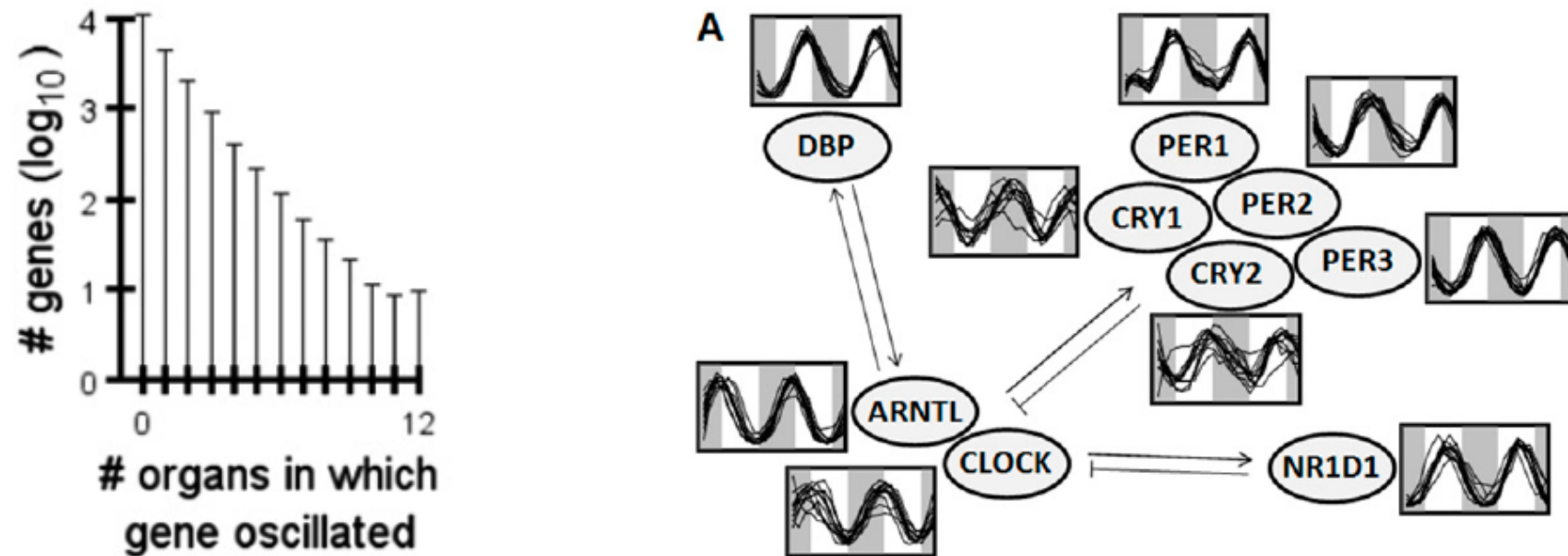
<sup>a</sup>Department of Pharmacology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104; and <sup>b</sup>Department of Biology, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO 63121

- RNA-seq and DNA arrays to quantify transcriptomes of 12 mouse organs at 2 hour/6 hour intervals
- **Circadian genes**: defined as genes that oscillate with 24 hour-period (project on sine/cosine functions)



Liver contained most circadian genes (-> metabolism), Brain tissue the fewest („the brain never sleeps“)

# Globally oscillating genes in mouse tissue



Only 10 genes oscillated in all organs:

*Arntl*, *Dbp*, *Nr1d1*, *Nr1d2*, *Per1*, *Per2*, and *Per3* (core clock factors – **as expected**), and *Usp2*, *Tsc22d3*, and *Tspan4*.

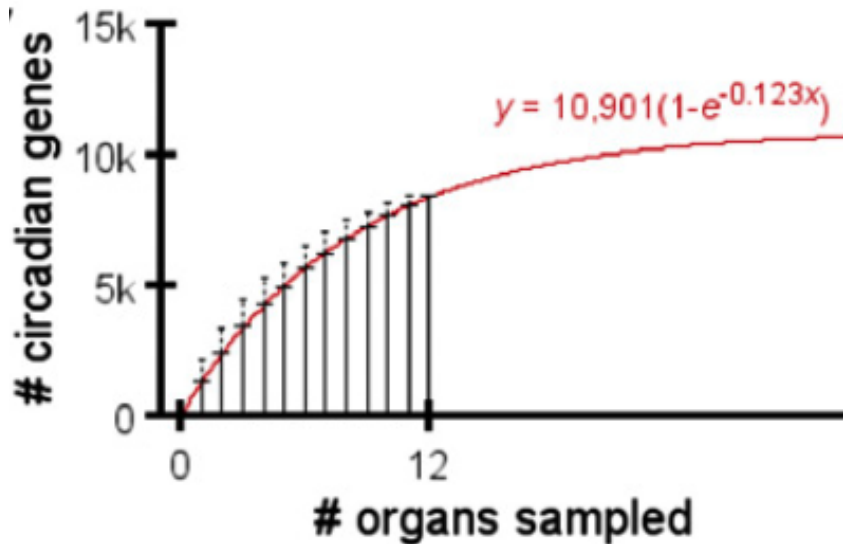
*Usp2* - Ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal hydrolase 2

*Tsc22d3* - TSC22 domain family protein 3

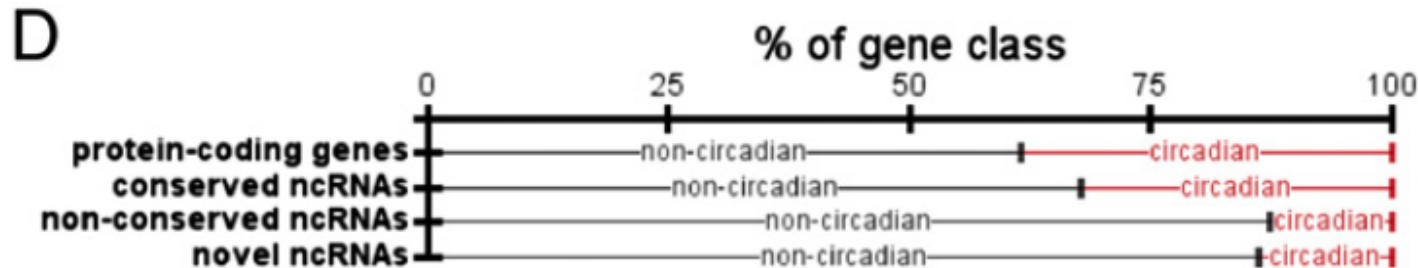
*Tspan4* - The protein encoded by this gene is a member of the transmembrane 4 superfamily, also known as the tetraspanin family.



# Overlap of genes/organs (B), how many expected (C)?



Extrapolation shows that 55% of all genes are expected to show circadian expression in some organ.



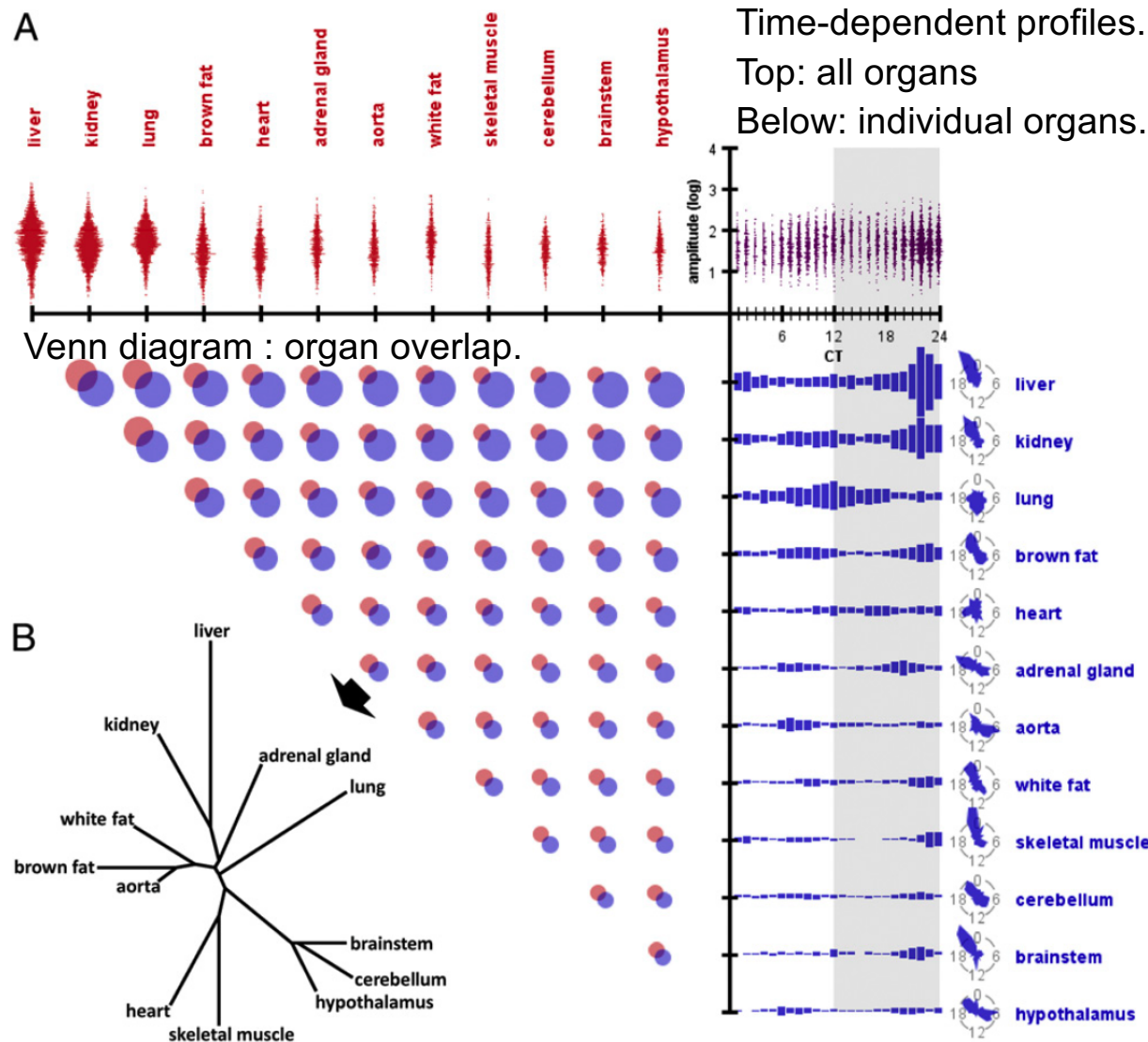
Also non-coding RNAs show circadian expression (at lower frequencies).

No individual ncRNA oscillated in more than five organs.

(ncRNA expression is known to be organ-specific).

Conserved ncRNAs means that they are conserved between human and mouse.

# (A) Phases + overlap, (B) similarity



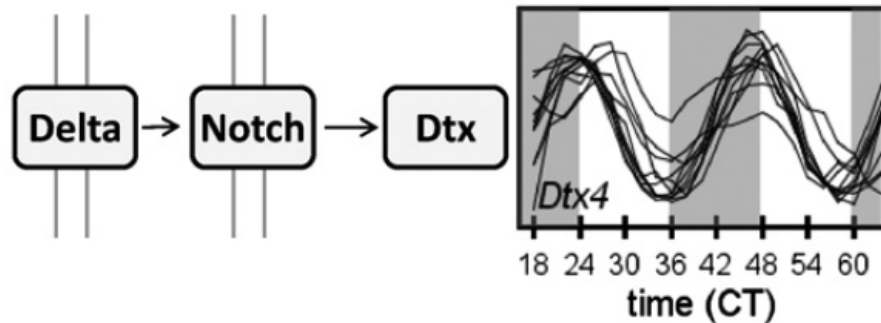
Most circadian genes show organ-specific expression (small overlap).

**Peaks** often at **dawn** and **dusk**.

Cluster tissues by similarity of peak phases

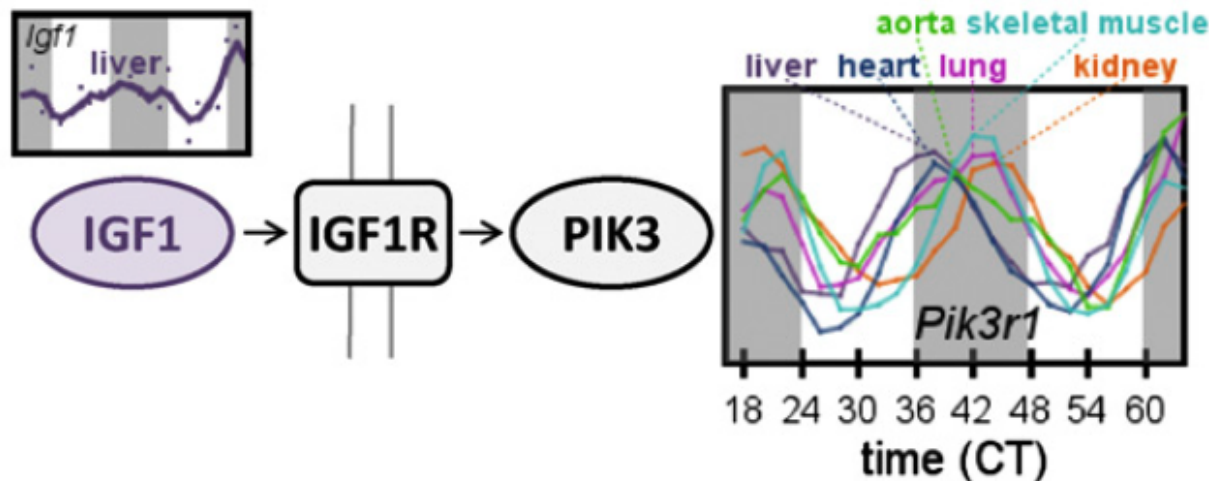
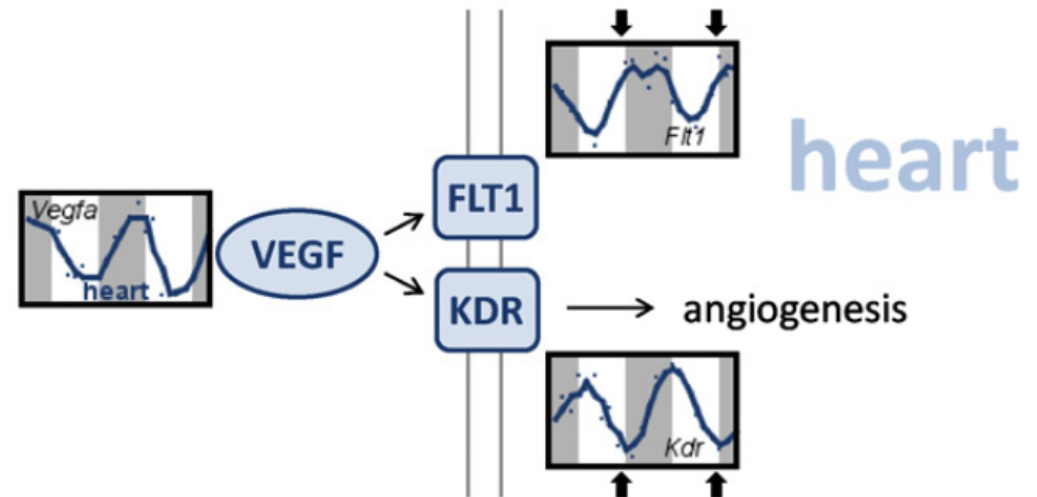
Tree in panel B shows that developmentally related organs tend to share circadian genes .

# Three Examples



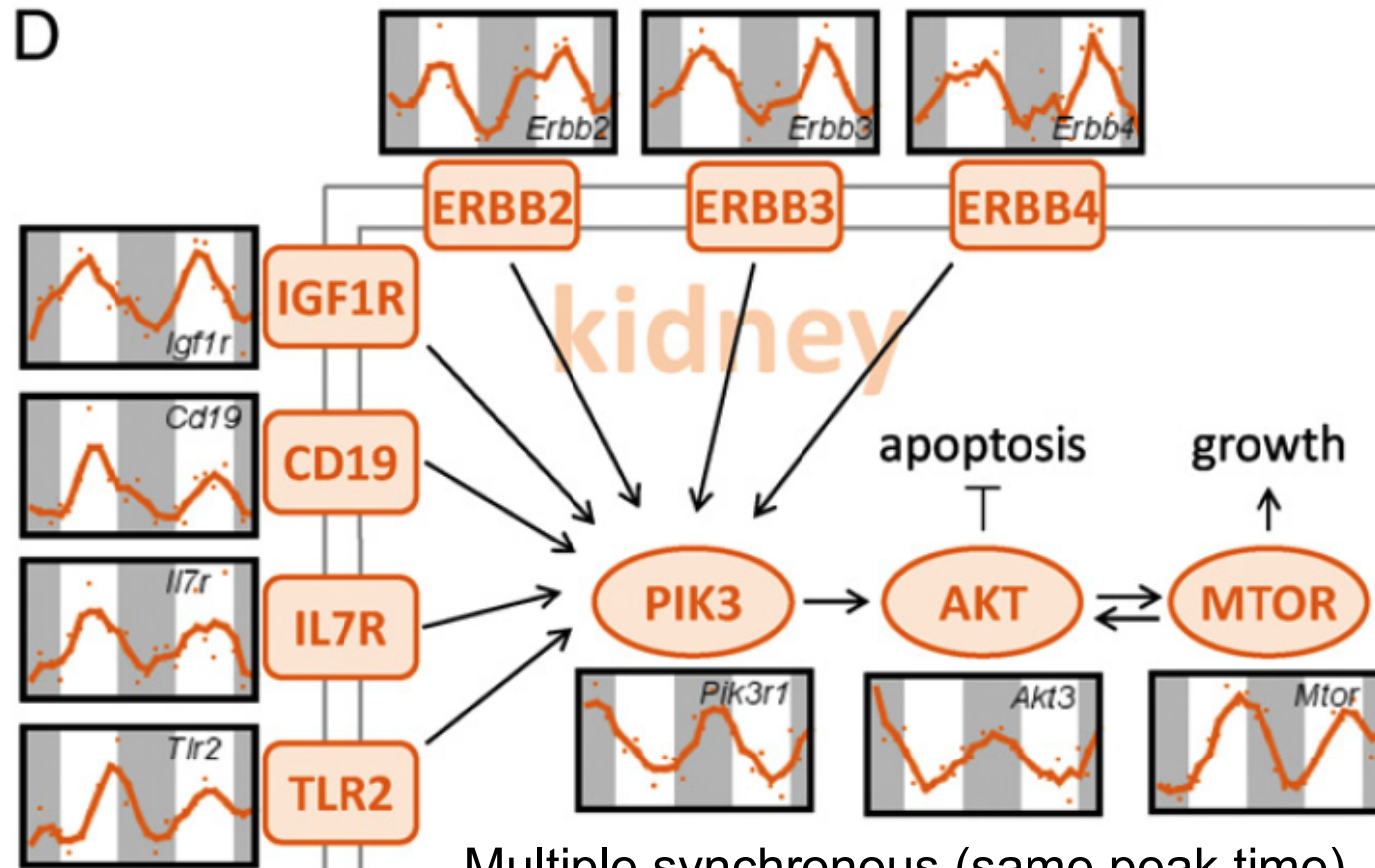
(1) *Dtx4*, a Notch pathway E3 ubiquitin ligase, oscillated in phase with *Arntl* in all organs

(2) Two VEGF-receptors FLT1 and KDR are expressed alternatively. Arrows: times of anti-phasing.



(3) IGF1 is most produced in liver → peaks at the same time throughout body. However PIK3r1 (regulatory subunit for PIK3) peaks at different times in different organs.

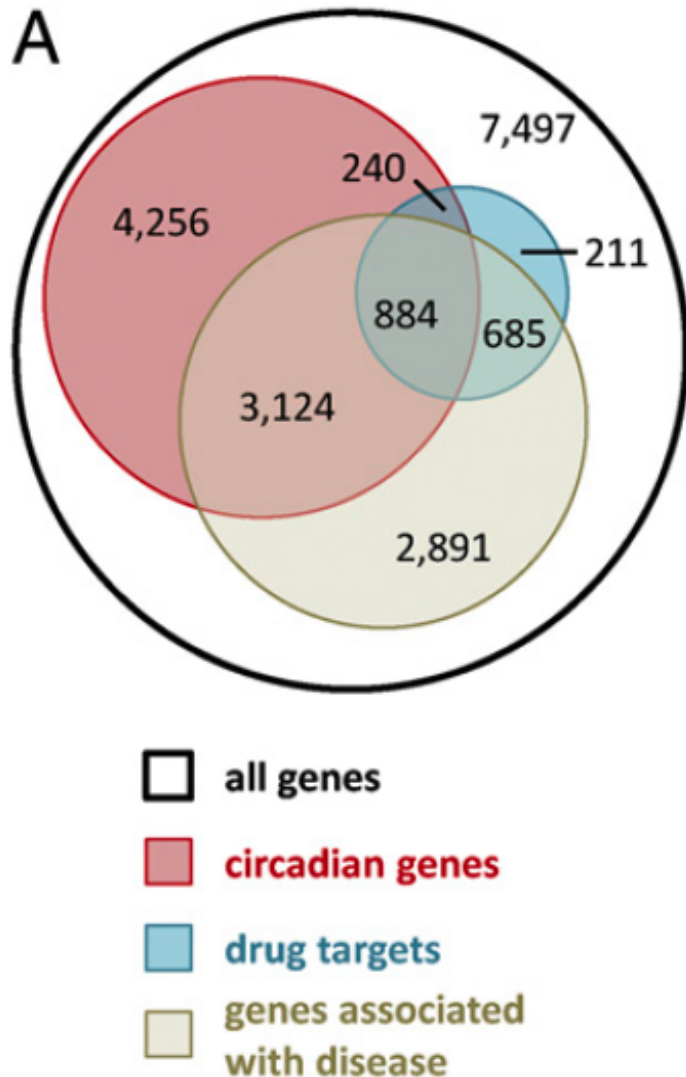
# Multiple coordinated pathways control PIK3-AKT-MTOR



Multiple synchronous (same peak time) receptors feed into PIK3-AKT-MTOR pathway that controls growth and apoptosis.

All of them oscillate only in **kidney**!

# Many drug-targets show circadian expression



Relevance: drug response will differ significantly depending on day/night time of application

Unclear whether these effects are taken into account during clinical studies



# Relevance: mouse -> humans, drugs

Table 1. Drugs of the top-100 best-seller list that target circadian genes and have half-life < 6h

Rank	Sales, \$	Trade name	Indications	Circadian-gene targets	Organs in which targets oscillate
2	1.46 b	Nexium	Gastritis, GERD, Esophagitis	<i>Atp4a</i>	L
5	1.28 b	Advair Diskus	Asthma, Chronic obstructive pulmonary di...	<i>Serpina6, Pgr, Nr3c2, Adrb2, Pla2g4a</i>	Lu, H, L, K, S, A
11	794 m	Rituxan	Rheumatoid arthritis, Non-Hodgkin's lymph...	<i>Fcgr2b, Ms4a1, Fcgr3</i>	L, K, S
20	538 m	Diovan	Hypertension, Heart failure	<i>Slc22a6, Agtr1a, Slco1b2, Car4, Kcnma...</i>	H, AG, L, K, S
27	431 m	Vyvanse	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	<i>Adra1b</i>	L
32	392 m	Tamiflu	Influenza	<i>Neu2, Neu1, Ces1g, Slc22a8, Slc15a1, ...</i>	Lu, L, BF, K, C
33	383 m	Ritalin	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	<i>Slc6a4</i>	AG, K
37	348 m	AndroGel	Hypogonadism	<i>Slc22a4, Slc22a3, Ar, Cyp1a1, Cyp2b10...</i>	Lu, H, BS, WF, AG...
38	346 m	Lidoderm	Pain	<i>Slc22a5, Cyp2b10, Egfr, Abcb1a</i>	Lu, H, AG, BF, L...
44	304 m	Seroquel XR	Bipolar disorder, Major depressive disor...	<i>Htr2c, Htr1b, Htr2a, Chrm2, Drd4, Adr...</i>	Lu, H, BS, WF, AG...
45	289 m	Viagra	Erectile dysfunction	<i>Cyp1a1, Pde6g, Abcc5, Abcc10, Pde5a, ...</i>	Lu, H, BS, WF, AG...
47	281 m	Niaspan	Hyperlipidemia	<i>Slco2b1, Slc22a5, Qprt, Slc16a1</i>	Lu, H, BS, AG, WF...
48	279 m	Humalog	Diabetes mellitus T2	<i>Igf1r</i>	K
49	274 m	Alimta	Mesothelioma, Nonsmall cell lung cancer	<i>Tyms, Atic, Gart, Slc29a1</i>	Lu, H, BS, BF, L...
54	267 m	Combivent	Asthma, Chronic obstructive pulmonary di...	<i>Slc22a5, Slc22a4, Chrm2, Adrb1, Adrb2</i>	Lu, H, BS, BF, K...
56	262 m	ProAir HFA	Asthma, Chronic obstructive pulmonary di...	<i>Adrb1, Adrb2</i>	Lu, K, S
62	240 m	Janumet	Diabetes mellitus T2	<i>Slc47a1, Slc22a2, Prkab1, Abcb1a, Dpp4</i>	H, BS, AG, Hy, L...
66	236 m	Toprol XL	Hypertension, Heart failure	<i>Slc22a2, Adrb1, Adrb2, Abcb1a</i>	Lu, H, AG, BF, L...
71	220 m	Vytorin	Hyperlipidemia	<i>Hmgcr, Cyp2b10, Soat1, Abcc2, Anpep, ...</i>	Lu, H, BS, AG, BF...
78	209 m	Aciphex	Gastritis, GERD, Esophagitis	<i>Cyp1a1, Atp4a, Abcg2</i>	Lu, H, BS, WF, L...
90	189 m	Lunesta	Insomnia	<i>Ptgs1, Tspo, Gabra3</i>	Lu, H, AG, K
98	173 m	Prilosec	Gastritis, GERD, Esophagitis	<i>Cyp1a1, Atp4a, Abcg2, Cyp1b1, Abcb1a</i>	Lu, H, BS, WF, AG...
99	171 m	Focalin XR	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	<i>Slc6a4</i>	AG, K

Rank and sales are based on USA 2013 Q1 data from [Drugs.com](http://Drugs.com). A, aorta; AG, adrenal gland; BF, brown fat; BS, brainstem; C, cerebellum; H, heart; Hy, hypothalamus; K, kidney; L, liver; Lu, lung; S, skeletal muscle; WF, white fat.

About half of top-100 drugs have half lives < 6 hours!