#### Homework 2 comments

http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/mmi/jmoodie/flu2life.gif



http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/cells/viruses/influenzavirus

#### Homework 2 comments



# How Cells Decide Where to Go, What to Eat and What to Become: The Physics of Signaling and Regulation



#### David Rogers



Neutrophils: life as a hun

- Neutrophils cruise around looking for unwelcome invaders which they hunt a kill.
- When starved, amoeba can undertake program to form a collective in which s of the cells are sacrificed.
- The bottom line: signaling, detection a decision making are central to cellular

Ear the greater good. Disturbalium

#### How Cells Decide What to Become

#### Becoming a Sea Urchin



- After fertilization, sea urchin embryo undergoes a series of synchronized decisions and differentiation.
- Exquisite control in both space and time.
- The list of examples is virtually endless.





#### Forming the Gut

#### The Development of the Operon Concept: What Cells Eat and When They Die







# Gene Expression and the Central Dogma

- Managing the Great Polymer Langu
  The central dogma tells us about the connection between what Crick dubbed "the two great polymer languages".
- Gene expression refers to the chain of processes that relate the informational content of DNA to the protein consequences of that DNA.



# But, Genes Are Precisely Controlled: Transcriptional Regulation



- Regulation takes place very far upstreal In particular, the "decision" is made whether or not to produce mRNA.
- Question: What are the molecules that mediate this control?



### **Repressors: The Cartoon**

- Repressor molecules inhibit action of RNA polymerase.
- Repressors can be under the control of other molecules (i.e. inducers) that dictate when repressor is bound and not.



Figure 8-7 Essential Cell Biology, 2/e. (© 2004 Garland Science)

## Activators: The Cartoon

- Activator molecules enhance the action of RNA polymerase.
- Activators can be under the control of other molecules (i.e. inducers) that dictate when activator is bound and not.
- Activators "RECRUIT" the polymerase.



Adhesive interaction between RNAP and activator

But quantitative data demands more than cartoons!

# Quantitative Measurement of Gene Expression: When?

(Elowitz and Leibler)

- Measurement of when genes are expressed.
- An example: the repressilator, a transcriptional regulatory network which leads to a time varying concentration of various gene products.
- The idea: stick an engineered set of genes into the cell and then turn them on.



# Quantitative Measurement of Gene Expression: Where?

 Developmental biology is one of the most compelling arenas for thinking about spacetime gene expression.



#### Fruit fly embryo



#### Sea urchin embryo





*Battle crv* auantitative measurements demand auantitative models

# The Lac Operon: The Hydrogen Atom of **Gene Regulation**



Figure 8-9 Essential Cell Biology, 2/e. (© 2004 Garland Science)



"Tout ce qui est vrai pour le Colibacille est vrai pour l'élép

## The Single Molecule Census



## The Notion of Fold-Change

- The idea: by how many fold is the expression increased or decreased relative to some reference value.
- To measure fold-change one can measure the expression level (for example using fluorescent reporter molecules) for the case of interest and for the reference state.



# Statistical Mechanics of Promoter Occupancy

- The goal: compute the probability of promoter occupancy as a ratio of promoter occupied states to all of the states available to all of the polymerase molecules.
- Number of ways of arranging the polymerase molecules is a classic problem in statistics.

Non-specific DNA is RNAP's reservoir

RNAP





$$Z_{unbound} = \frac{N_{NS}!}{P!(N_{NS}-P)!} e^{-\beta P \epsilon_{pd}^{NS}}$$

## **Reckoning Promoter Occupancy**

 We construct the ratio of weights for bound and unbound states.



 $Z_{bound}$  $p_{bound}$  $Z_{bound}$ -

$$Z_{unbound} = \frac{N_{NS}!}{P!(N_{NS}-P)!}e^{-\beta P}$$

The Outcome:



## **Statistical Mechanics of Polymerase Binding: Basal Transcription**



- of helper molecules for ``normal'' promoters.
- *F<sub>reg</sub>* accounts for the presence of regulatory proteins and features such as looping.

the regulation factor



## Statistical Mechanics of a Single Repressor Binding Site



- Model predicts concentration dependence of repression for a single repressor binding site.
- Extent of repression depends upon the strength of the binding site.

## **Exploring Regulatory Diversity**



Key point: We can work out the regulation factor for ma other scenarios including other looping scenarios.



# How Should We Think About Regulation Quantitatively?

#### "Thermodynamic Models" – Equilibrium Notions



#### Rate Equation Perspectiv

 $\frac{d[mRNA_{Rep}]}{dt} = V_{mRNA-Rep} - (k_{d,mRNA-Rep} + \mu) \cdot [mRNA_{Rep}]$  $\frac{d[\operatorname{Re} p]}{dt} = V_{\operatorname{Re} p} - \left(k_{e,\operatorname{Re} p} + \mu\right) \cdot [\operatorname{Re} p]$  $\frac{d[mRNA_{ZYA}]}{dt} = V_{mRNA-ZYA} - (k_{d,mRNA-ZYA} + \mu) \cdot [mRNA_{ZYA}]$  $\frac{d[\beta gai]}{\omega_{t}} = V_{\beta gai} - (k_{a} + \mu) \cdot [\beta gai]$  $\frac{d[\text{Perm}]}{dt} = V_{\text{Perm}} - (k_{i} + \mu) \text{ [Perm]}$  $\frac{d[Lac_{int}]}{dt} = V_{t,Lac} - V_{tat,Lac} - V_{tac-Allo} - \mu \cdot \left[Lac_{ot}\right]$  $\frac{d[Allo]}{dt} \approx V_{Lac-Allo} - V_{cat,Allo} - \mu \cdot [Allo]$  $\frac{d[cAMP]}{dt} = V_{cAMP} - (k_{ex} + \mu) \cdot [cAMP]$  $\frac{d[Glu_{out}]}{dt} = (V_{out,Glu} - V_{t,Glu}) \cdot \mathbf{X}$  $\frac{d[Lac_{eat}]}{dt} = -V_{1,Lac} \cdot X$  $\frac{dX}{dt} = \mu X$  $\frac{d[Glu6P]}{dt} = V_{t,G|u} + 2 \cdot \left(V_{cal,Lac} + V_{cal,Aller}\right) - \frac{\mu}{\hat{Y}_{v,f,max}} - \mu \cdot [Glu6P]$ Wong, Gladney, and Keasling

## The Lambda Switch: The Other Hydrogen Atom of Gene Regulation







## **Bacteriophage and Their Genomes**

http://www.biochem.wisc.edu/inman/empics/0020b.j





## The Life Cycle of Bacteriophage Lambda

