

Supporting Information – S1 Text

(with Tables A, B, C)

featuring the article

Feedbacks, Bifurcations, and Cell Fate Decision-Making in the p53 System

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Overview of mathematical models of the p53 system

Generation of oscillations

Bar-Or et al. [S1] found that oscillations arise due to the existence of the negative feedback loop coupling p53 with its inhibitor Mdm2 and proposed a three-component model with a hypothetical intermediate which introduces time delay between accumulation of p53 and accumulation of its inhibitor Mdm2, explaining the observed damped oscillations. Later, when Lahav et al. [S2] and Geva-Zatorski et al. [S3] demonstrated experimentally that single cells can exhibit undamped oscillations of p53 and Mdm2 levels, Ma et al. [S4] attributed time delays to the processes of Mdm2 transcription and translation, which resulted in the model featuring limit cycle oscillations. Later, Batchelor et al. [S5] demonstrated experimentally that oscillations require recurrent initiation of ATM pulses by Wip1 and proposed a model based on two negative feedback loops: one coupling p53 with Mdm2, the other involving p53, ATM, Chk2, and Wip1.

In the theoretical study from Tyson group, Ciliberto et al. [S6] introduced a positive feedback (in which p53 inhibits indirectly nuclear translocation of Mdm2, while Mdm2 degrades p53 in the nucleus) and demonstrated that it leads to more robust oscillations arising with non-zero amplitude either in the saddle–node–loop (SNL, also known as saddle node on invariant circle, SNIC) or in the cyclic fold bifurcation accompanying the subcritical Hopf bifurcation. However, the problem with SNL bifurcation is that in this bifurcation oscillations arise with infinite period while the period of oscillations in cells seems to be similar and roughly conserved, see Hat et al. [S7] for discussion.

p53 and cell fate decisions

Wee and Aguda (2006) [S8] demonstrated that the presence of the positive feedback following the scheme $p53 \rightarrow PTEN \dashv Pip3 \rightarrow Akt \rightarrow Mdm2 \dashv p53$ introduces bistability that can be harnessed to control cell fate decisions.

Tyson group, extending their previous work [S6], proposed a small three-component model in which the positive feedback arises from the assumption that p53 synthesis is positively regulated by cytoplasmic Mdm2 [S9]. This model exhibits limit cycle oscillation between two cyclic fold bifurcations associated with subcritical Hopf bifurcations. The model was combined with the apoptotic/cell cycle arrest model in which three forms of p53 were introduced: p53-killer (that activates apoptotic genes like PUMA, p53DINP1 and p53AIP1), p53-helper (that induces p21 and Wip1 production, blocks CDK activity) and p53-lurker (that induces p21 production). In the resulting model, pulses of p53 lead to cell cycle arrest and, if sustained, to cell death.

Later, we (Puszynski et al. 2008 [S10]) proposed a more complex model of p53 regulation, exhibiting both oscillations and bistability. We found that the intact p53 system can exhibit oscillations in response to DNA damage, which can be either terminated when DNA is repaired, or the system may switch to the apoptotic state of a high p53 level when DNA repair is not accomplished in sufficiently short time. The positive feedback loop considered earlier by Wee and Aguda (2006) [S8] allows for switching to the apoptotic state and works as a clock. The cell can return to homeostasis if DNA repair is accomplished before the signal is relayed through the PTEN-controlled loop which inhibits Mdm2. We demonstrated that PTEN-deficient cells (such as MCF-7 line cells) exhibit sustained oscillations without triggering apoptosis. The idea was explored later by Wee et al. (2009) [S11], who augmented the p53 regulatory core with an apoptotic module involving Bax, Bad, Bcl-2, and Bcl-XL.

Dynamics very similar to that of [S10] was achieved in an elaborate model proposed by Zhang et al. (2011) [S12]. The important modification introduced by the group of Zhang (see also Zhang et al. (2009) [S13] and Zhang et al. (2010) [S14]) was the inclusion of distinct phosphorylation states of p53: p53_{ARRESTER} and p53_{KILLER} which regulate different groups of genes. The model of Zhang et al. [S12] encompasses also the negative feedback loop mediated by Wip1, introduced earlier by Batchelor et al. [S5]. This allowed to analyze the competition between the p53/PTEN/Akt/Mdm2 and the ATM/p53/Wip1 feedbacks during DNA repair, and attribute pro- and anti-apoptotic roles to PTEN and Wip1, respectively.

The model

The proposed model of the p53 regulatory network consists of three modules: p53 core, cell cycle arrest module and apoptotic module. The cell cycle arrest and apoptotic modules have been described in detail in the main text. The detailed scheme of the core module is presented in Figure S1. Here, we describe briefly considered interactions and provide references to the literature.

DNA damage leads to the activation of ATM by phosphorylation at Ser1981 [S15,S16]. Activated ATM phosphorylates p53 at Ser15 and Ser20 to the p53_{ARRESTER} form leading to its transcriptional activation and stabilization (reduction of the degradation rate) [S17–S23]. Simultaneously, ATM phosphorylates p53 inhibitor Mdm2 at Ser395 leading to its inactivation and destabilization (increase of the degradation rate) [S24]. Additionally, ATM phosphorylates SIAH1 at Ser19 leading to disruption of the HIPK2–SIAH1 complex resulting in HIPK2 accumulation [S25]. Kinase HIPK2 phosphorylates p53_{ARRESTER} at Ser46 to the p53_{KILLER} form [S26–S29]. p53_{ARRESTER} and p53_{KILLER} have different target genes. p53_{ARRESTER} induces synthesis of p53 inhibitor Mdm2 [S30,S31], anti-apoptotic phosphatase Wip1 [S32] and cell cycle suppressor p21 [S33]. In turn, p53_{KILLER} induces synthesis of pro-apoptotic protein Bax [S34] and pro-apoptotic phosphatase PTEN [S35].

Wip1 has 3 targets in the model; It dephosphorylates: ATM at Ser1981 [S36], Mdm2 at Ser395 (leading to its stabilization) [S37], and p53_{KILLER} at Ser46 to p53_{ARRESTER}. PTEN mediates long positive feedback loop that stabilizes p53: it dephosphorylates PIP3 to PIP2 while PIP3 enables membrane localization of pro-survival kinase Akt, allowing its activation via phosphorylation at Thr308 [S38–S40]. Activated Akt phosphorylates Mdm2 at Ser166 and Ser186 enabling its translocation to the nucleus [S41], where it ubiquitinates all forms of p53 promoting their degradation by the proteasome [S42,S43]. This way PTEN accumulation leads to inhibition of Akt [S39], which itself is the activator of p53 inhibitor Mdm2 [S43]. Action of PTEN is opposed by growth factor stimulation leading to activation of kinase PI3K that phosphorylates PIP2 to PIP3 [S44,S45].

There are three outcomes from the core module, p21, Bax, and phosphorylated Akt. p21 regulates cell cycle arrest module in such a way that increase of p21 above some threshold leads suppression of cell cycle, while decrease of p21 below some lower threshold allows cell to return to the cycle. Bax and Akt regulate apoptotic module, in such a way that simultaneous increase of Bax level and decrease of phosphorylated Akt level lead to the irreversible apoptosis.

Supporting Tables

Table A. Notation guide.

Symbol	Description
<i>Core module</i>	
DNA _{DSB}	DNA damage due to IR: double strand breaks (DSBs)
ATM	kinase ATM
ATM _p	ATM phosphorylated at Ser1981 (upon DNA DSBs)
Wip1 _{gene}	state of the Wip1 gene: active/inactive
Wip1 _{mRNA}	Wip1 transcript
Wip1	phosphatase Wip1
SIAH1 _u	unphosphorylated SIAH1
SIAH1 _p	SIAH1 phosphorylated at Ser19
HIPK2	kinase HIPK2
p53 _{0p}	unphosphorylated p53
p53 _{ARRESTER}	p53 phosphorylated at Ser15, Ser20
p53 _{KILLER}	p53 phosphorylated at Ser15, Ser20 and additionally at Ser46
p53 _{s46}	p53 phosphorylated at Ser46 only
Mdm2 _{gene}	state of the Mdm2 gene: active/inactive
Mdm2 _{mRNA}	Mdm2 transcript
Mdm2 _{cyt_0p}	cytoplasmic, unphosphorylated Mdm2
Mdm2 _{cyt_2p}	cytoplasmic Mdm2 phosphorylated at Ser166 and Ser186
Mdm2 _{nuc_2p}	nuclear Mdm2 phosphorylated at Ser166 and Ser186
Mdm2 _{nuc_3p}	nuclear Mdm2 phosphorylated at Ser166, 186 and additionally at Ser395
PI3K	kinase PI3K
PTEN _{gene}	state of the PTEN gene: active/inactive
PTEN _{mRNA}	PTEN transcript
PIP2	bi-phosphatidylinositol
PIP3	tri-phosphatidylinositol
Akt _u	unphosphorylated AKT
Akt _p	Akt phosphorylated at Thr308
<i>Apoptotic module</i>	
Bax _{gene}	state of the Bax gene: active/inactive
Bax _{mRNA}	Bax transcript
Bax	unbound form of Bax
Bcl _{xL}	unbound form of Bcl-x _L
Bax : Bcl _{xL}	complex of Bax and Bcl-x _L
Bad _u	unbound, unphosphorylated Bad
Bad _p	Bad: unbound, phosphorylated at Ser75 and Ser99
Bcl _{xL} : Bad _u	complex of Bcl-x _L and Bad _u
14-3-3	unbound adapter protein 14-3-3
Bad _p : 14-3-3	complex of Bad _p and 14-3-3
proCasp	inactive caspase
Casp	active caspase
<i>Cell cycle arrest module</i>	
p21 _{gene}	state of the p21 gene: active/inactive
p21 _{mRNA}	p21 transcript
p21	unbound p21
CycE	unbound Cyclin E
p21: CycE	complex of p21 and Cyclin E
Rb1 _u	Rb1: unbound, unphosphorylated at Ser780
Rb1 _p	Rb1: unbound, phosphorylated at Ser780
Rb1 _u : E2F1	complex of unphosphorylated Rb1 and E2F1

Table B. List of parameters.

Parameter	Symbol	Value	Remarks	Ref.
Duration of the IR phase	IR_T	600 [s]	—	this study
IR dose	IR_{Gy}	1,2,3,4,10 [Gy]	—	this study
Number of DSBs per 1Gy of IR	DSB_{Gy}	10	—	[S4]*
Maximal number of DSBs	DSB_{max}	10^6	—	[S4]
Number of repair complexes	DSB_{rep}	20	—	[S4]
Total amount of Rb1	$Rb1_{tot}$	3×10^5 [mlcs/cell]	$Rb1_{tot} = Rb1_p(t) + Rb1_u(t) + Rb1_u \cdot E2F1(t)$	this study
Total amount of E2F1	$E2F1_{tot}$	2×10^5 [mlcs/cell]	$E2F1_{tot} = E2F1(t) + Rb1_u \cdot E2F1(t)$	this study
Total amount of Akt	Akt_{tot}	10^5 [mlcs/cell]	$Akt_{tot} = Akt_u(t) + Akt_p(t)$	this study
Total amount of PIP3 and PIP2	PIP_{tot}	10^5 [mlcs/cell]	$PIP_{tot} = PIP2(t) + PIP3(t)$	this study

*We consider only DSBs that undergo slow repair.

Table C. List of reactions.

Reaction	Rate	Coeff(s)	Value
<i>Core module</i>			
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{IR} DNA_{DSB}$	$h_1 \cdot \frac{DSB_{Gy} \cdot IR_{Gy}}{IR_T} \cdot (DSB_{max} - DNA_{DSB})$	h_1 DSB_{Gy} IR_{Gy}	10^{-6} 10 1, 2, 3, 4, 10
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{Casp} DNA_{DSB}$	$h_2 \cdot Casp \cdot (DSB_{max} - DNA_{DSB})$	IR_T DSB_{max} h_2	600 10^6 10^{-13}
$DNA_{DSB} \rightarrow \emptyset$	$\frac{rep}{DNA_{DSB} + DSB_{rep}}$	rep DSB_{rep}	10^{-3} 20
$ATM \xrightarrow{DNA_{DSB}} ATM_p$	$p_1 \cdot \frac{DNA_{DSB}^h}{M_1^h + DNA_{DSB}^h}$	p_1 h M_1	3×10^{-4} 2 5
$ATM \xleftarrow{Wip1} ATM_p$	$d_1 \cdot Wip1$	d_1	10^{-8}
$SIAH-1 \xrightarrow{ATM_p} SIAH-1_p$	$p_2 \cdot ATM_p$	p_2	10^{-8}
$SIAH-1 \leftarrow SIAH-1_p$	d_2	d_2	3×10^{-5}

$\emptyset \rightarrow \text{HIPK2}$	s_8	s_8	3×10^{-5}
$\text{HIPK2} \xrightarrow{\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}, \text{SIAH1}} \emptyset$	$g_7 \cdot (\text{SIAH1}_u + \text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}})^2$	g_7	3×10^{-5}
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{p53_{\text{KILLER}}} \text{Wip1}_{\text{mRNA}}$	$s_1 \cdot \frac{q_0_{\text{Wip1}} + q_1_{\text{Wip1}} \cdot p53_{\text{KILLER}}^h}{q_2 + q_0_{\text{Wip1}} + q_1_{\text{Wip1}} \cdot p53_{\text{KILLER}}^h}$	s_1 q_0_{Wip1} q_1_{Wip1} h q_2	0.1 10^{-5} 3×10^{-13} 2 3×10^{-3}
$\text{Wip1}_{\text{mRNA}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_1	g_1	3×10^{-4}
$\emptyset \rightarrow \text{Wip1}$	$t_1 \cdot \text{Wip1}_{\text{mRNA}}$	t_1	3×10^{-5}
$\text{Wip1} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_8	g_8	3×10^{-13}
$\emptyset \rightarrow p53_{0p}$	s_6	s_6	300
$p53_{0p} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{101}	g_{101}	0.1×10^{-13}
$p53_{0p} \xrightarrow{\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}} \emptyset$	$g_{11} \cdot \text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}^2$	g_{11}	100×10^{-13}
$p53_{\text{ARRESTER}} \xrightarrow{\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}} \emptyset$	$g_{12} \cdot \text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}^2$	g_{12}	10^{-13}
$p53_{\text{KILLER}} \xrightarrow{\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}} \emptyset$			
$p53_{s46} \xrightarrow{\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}} \emptyset$			
$p53_{0p} \xrightarrow{\text{ATM}_p} p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}$	$p_3 \cdot \text{ATM}_p$	p_3	3×10^{-8}
$p53_{0p} \leftarrow p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}$	d_3	d_3	10^{-4}
$p53_{0p} \xrightarrow{\text{HIPK2}} p53_{s46}$	$p_4 \cdot \text{HIPK2}$	p_4	10^{-10}
$p53_{0p} \leftarrow p53_{s46}$	$d_4 \cdot \text{Wip1}$	d_4	10^{-10}
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}} \text{Mdm2}_{\text{mRNA}}$	$s_3 \cdot \frac{q_0_{\text{Mdm2}} + q_1_{\text{Mdm2}} \cdot p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}^h}{q_2 + q_0_{\text{Mdm2}} + q_1_{\text{Mdm2}} \cdot p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}^h}$	s_3 q_0_{Mdm2} q_1_{Mdm2} h q_2	0.1 10^{-4} 3×10^{-13} 2 3×10^{-3}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{mRNA}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_1	g_1	3×10^{-4}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{mRNA}} \rightarrow \text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.0p}}$	$t_3 \cdot \text{Mdm2}_{\text{mRNA}}$	t_3	0.1
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.0p}} \xrightarrow{\text{AKT}_p} \text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.2p}}$	$p_5 \cdot \text{Akt}_p$	p_5	10^{-8}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.0p}} \leftarrow \text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.2p}}$	d_5	d_5	10^{-4}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.2p}} \rightarrow \text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}}$	i_1	i_1	10^{-3}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}} \xrightarrow{\text{ATM}_p} \text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.3p}}$	$p_6 \cdot \text{ATM}_p$	p_6	10^{-8}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}} \xleftarrow{\text{Wip1}} \text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.3p}}$	$d_6 \cdot \text{Wip1}$	d_6	10^{-10}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.0p}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{14}	g_{14}	10^{-13}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{cyt.2p}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{15}	g_{15}	3×10^{-14}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.2p}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{16}	g_{16}	10^{-13}
$\text{Mdm2}_{\text{nuc.3p}} \rightarrow \emptyset$			
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{p53_{\text{KILLER}}} \text{PTEN}_{\text{mRNA}}$	$s_2 \cdot \frac{q_0_{\text{PTEN}} + q_1_{\text{PTEN}} \cdot p53_{\text{KILLER}}^h}{q_2 + q_0_{\text{PTEN}} + q_1_{\text{PTEN}} \cdot p53_{\text{KILLER}}^h}$	s_2 q_0_{PTEN} q_1_{PTEN} h q_2	0.03 10^{-5} 3×10^{-13} 2 3×10^{-3}
$\text{PTEN}_{\text{mRNA}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_2	g_2	3×10^{-4}
$\emptyset \rightarrow \text{PTEN}$	$t_2 \cdot \text{PTEN}_{\text{mRNA}}$	t_2	0.1
$\text{PTEN} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_6	g_6	10^{-13}
$\text{PIP2} \xrightarrow{\text{PI3K}} \text{PIP3}$	$p_8 \cdot \text{PI3K}$	p_8	3×10^{-9}
$\text{PIP2} \xleftarrow{\text{PTEN}} \text{PIP3}$	$d_7 \cdot \text{PTEN}$	d_7	3×10^{-7}
$\text{Akt} \xrightarrow{\text{PIP3}} \text{Akt}_p$	$p_{12} \cdot \text{PIP3}$	p_{12}	10^{-9}
$\text{Akt} \leftarrow \text{Akt}_p$	d_8	d_8	10^{-4}

<i>Apoptotic module</i>			
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{p53_{\text{KILLER}}} \text{Bax}_{\text{mRNA}}$	$s_4 \cdot \frac{q_{0_{\text{Bax}}} + q_{1_{\text{Bax}}} \cdot p53_{\text{KILLER}}^h}{q_2 + q_{0_{\text{Bax}}} + q_{1_{\text{Bax}}} \cdot p53_{\text{KILLER}}^h}$	s_4 $q_{0_{\text{Bax}}}$ $q_{1_{\text{Bax}}}$ h q_2	0.03 10^{-5} 3×10^{-13} 2 3×10^{-3}
$\text{Bax}_{\text{mRNA}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_4	g_4	3×10^{-4}
$\emptyset \rightarrow \text{Bax}$	$t_4 \cdot \text{Bax}_{\text{mRNA}}$	t_4	0.1
$\text{Bax} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_9	g_9	10^{-13}
$\text{Bax} \rightarrow \text{Bclx}_L$	b_1	b_1	3×10^{-5}
$\text{Bax} \leftarrow \text{Bclx}_L$	u_1	u_1	10^{-3}
$\text{Bax: Bclx}_L \rightarrow \text{Bclx}_L$	g_{16}	g_{16}	10^{-13}
$\text{Bclx}_L + \text{Bad}_u \rightarrow \text{Bclx}_L: \text{Bad}_u$	b_2	b_2	3×10^{-3}
$\text{Bclx}_L + \text{Bad}_u \leftarrow \text{Bclx}_L: \text{Bad}_u$	u_2	u_2	10^{-3}
$\text{Bclx}_L: \text{Bad}_u \xrightarrow{\text{Akt}_p} \text{Bclx}_L$	$p_7 \cdot \text{Akt}_p$	p_7	3×10^{-9}
$\text{Bad}_u \xrightarrow{\text{AKT}_p} \text{Bad}_p$	$p_7 \cdot \text{Akt}_p$	p_7	3×10^{-9}
$\text{Bad}_u \leftarrow \text{Bad}_p$	d_9	d_9	3×10^{-5}
$\text{Bad}_p + 14\text{-}3\text{-}3 \rightarrow \text{Bad}_p: 14\text{-}3\text{-}3$	b_3	b_3	3×10^{-3}
$\text{Bad}_p + 14\text{-}3\text{-}3 \leftarrow \text{Bad}_p: 14\text{-}3\text{-}3$	u_3	u_3	10^{-3}
$\text{Bad}_p: 14\text{-}3\text{-}3 \rightarrow \text{Bad}_u + 14\text{-}3\text{-}3$	d_9	d_9	3×10^{-5}
$\emptyset \rightarrow \text{proCasp}$	s_7	s_7	30
$\text{proCasp} \xrightarrow{\text{Bax, Casp}} \text{Casp}$	$a_1 \cdot \text{Bax} + a_2 \cdot \text{Casp}^2$	a_1 a_2	3×10^{-10} 10^{-12}
$\text{proCasp} \rightarrow \emptyset$			
$\text{Casp} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{17}	g_{17}	3×10^{-13}
<i>Cell cycle arrest module</i>			
$\emptyset \xrightarrow{p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}} p21_{\text{mRNA}}$	$s_5 \cdot \frac{q_{0_{p21}} + q_{1_{p21}}} \cdot p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}^h}{q_2 + q_{0_{p21}} + q_{1_{p21}}} \cdot p53_{\text{ARRESTER}}^h$	s_5 $q_{0_{p21}}$ $q_{1_{p21}}$ h q_2	0.1 10^{-5} 10^{-13} 2 3×10^{-3}
$p21_{\text{mRNA}} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_5	g_5	3×10^{-4}
$\emptyset \rightarrow p21$	$t_5 \cdot p21_{\text{mRNA}}$	t_5	0.1
$p21 \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{19}	g_{19}	3×10^{-13}
$p21 + \text{CycE} \rightarrow p21: \text{CycE}$	b_5	b_5	10^{-5}
$p21 + \text{CycE} \leftarrow p21: \text{CycE}$	u_6	u_6	10^{-14}
$p21: \text{CycE} \rightarrow \emptyset$	g_{20}	g_{20}	10^{-13}
$\text{Rb1} \xrightarrow{\text{CycE}} \text{Rb1}_p$	$p_9 \cdot \text{CycE}$	p_9	3×10^{-6}
$\text{Rb1} \leftarrow \text{Rb1}_p$	$\frac{d_{12}}{M_2 + \text{Rb1}_p}$	d_{12} M_2	10^4 10^5
$\text{Rb1}_u + \text{E2F1} \rightarrow \text{Rb1}_u: \text{E2F1}$	b_4	b_4	10^{-5}
$\text{Rb1}_u + \text{E2F1} \leftarrow \text{Rb1}_u: \text{E2F1}$	u_5	u_5	10^{-14}
$\text{Rb1}_u: \text{E2F1} \xrightarrow{\text{CycE}} \text{Rb1}_p + \text{E2F1}$	$p_{10} \cdot \text{CycE}$	p_{10}	3×10^{-6}

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