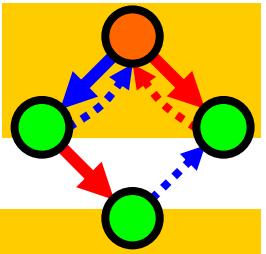
A useful theory is a compression of the data.
Leibniz, Discourse de métaphysique. Paraphrased by G.Chaitin.



Artificial Biochemistry

University of Trento – Information and Communication Technology
International Doctorate School – ICT Doctorate Course 21414
http://dit.unitn.it/edu/ict/courseinfo.xml?courseid=21414&year=2006

Luca Cardelli

Microsoft Research

The Microsoft Research - University of Trento
Centre for Computational and Systems Biology

Trento, 2006-05-22..26

www.luca.demon.co.uk/ArtificialBiochemistry.htm

Course Outline

One: Biology

0:15-1:45

- Course Intro
- Abstract Machines of Systems Biology

2:15-3:45

- Model Construction and Validation
- Probability Distributions (and SPiM intro)

Two: Stochastics

0:15-1:45

- Stochastic Communicating Automata
  - Case Studies: Epidemics
  - Case Studies: MHC Class I Flytrap

2:15-3:45

- Stochastic Collectives
  - Case Studies: Repressilator
- Varieties of Stochastic Calculi

Three: Chemistry

0:15-1:45

- Chemistry and Processes
  - Case Studies: Scaling Reactions
  - Case Studies: ERK Pathway

2:15-3:45

- From Processes to ODEs
  - Case Studies: Epidemics ODE
  - Case Studies: Groupies ODE
  - Case Studies: Tyson Cell Cycle

Aim: Modeling biological systems.

Four: Biochemistry

0:15-1:45

- Complexation
- PolyAutomata
  - Case Studies: MAPK Cascade

2:15-3:45

- Monopolin Circuits
  - Case Studies: Inverter ODE
- Dipolin and Thomas Circuits
  - Case Studies: François and Hakim

Five: Networks and Transport

0:15-1:45

- Gene Networks
  - Including: Guet & al.
- Bitonal Membrane Systems

2:15-3:15

- Brane Calculi
- Conclusions

Presentations available online as **PDF**:

www.luca.demon.co.uk/ArtificialBiochemistry.htm

Select text on PDF, e.g., to copy example code and URLs.
Zoom PDF, e.g., to see tiny example code.

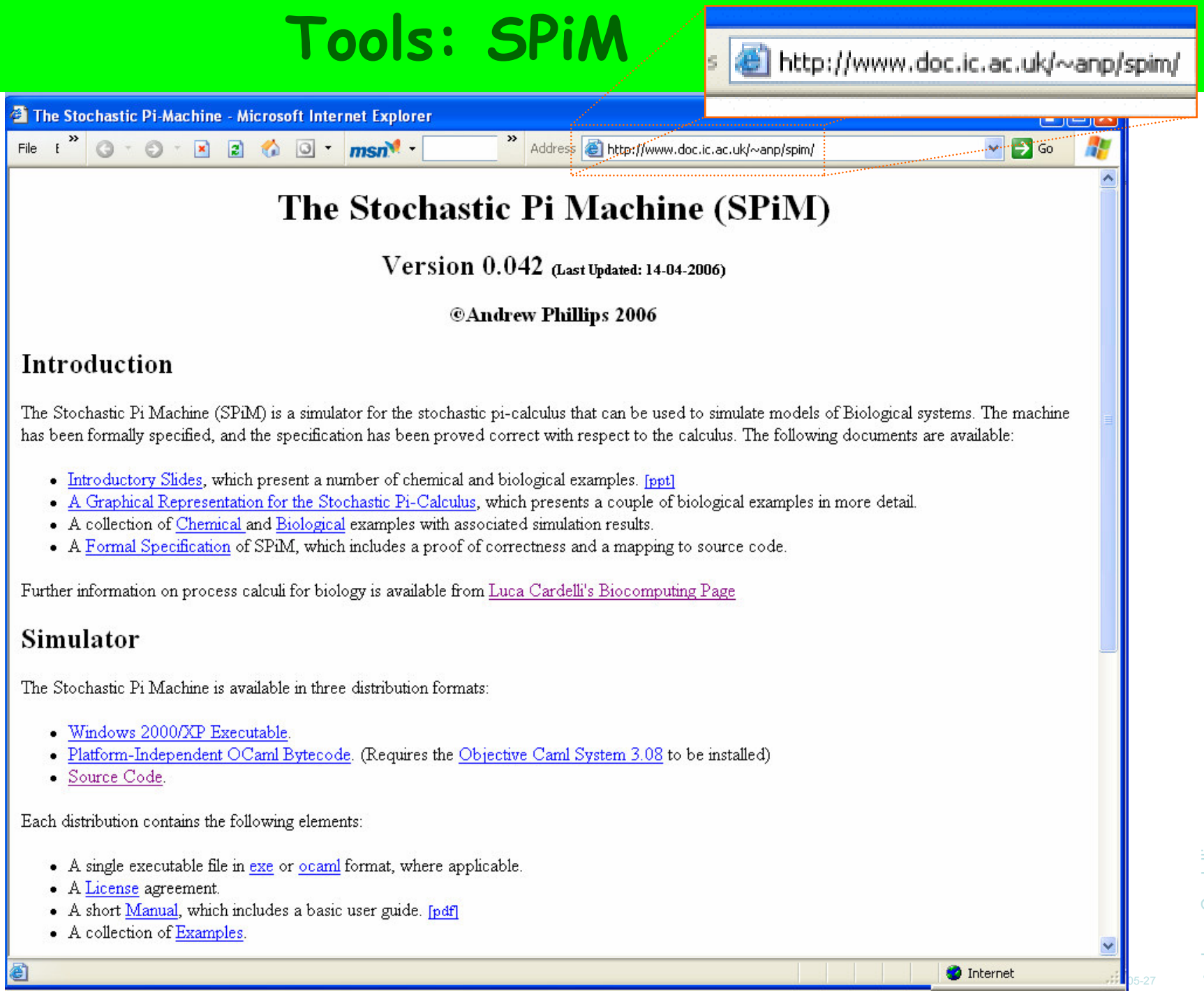
Online Sources

- General Background
  - Statistics
    - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/{Random_variable, Stochastic_process, Exponential_distribution}
    - Queueing Theory http://mia.ece.uic.edu/~papers/WWW/Flexi-Tunes/tarballs/queue.pdf
  - Chemistry
    - ChemGuide http://www.chemguide.co.uk/physmenu.html

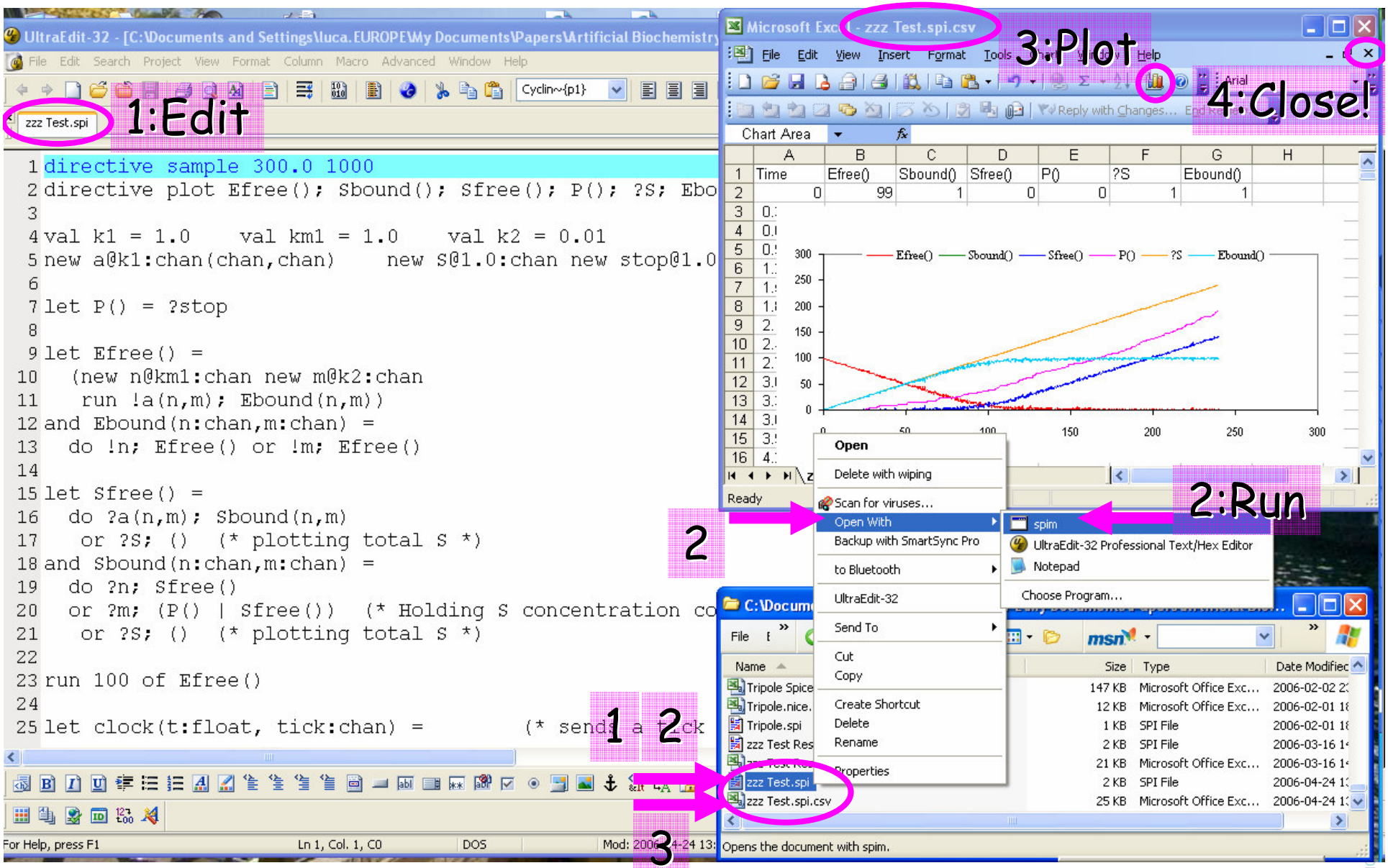
- Stochastic Process Algebra
  - A Compositional Approach to Performance Modelling. Jane Hillston. http://www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/pepa/book.pdf
  - Interactive Markov Chains. Holger Hermanns. Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 2428 (2002) http://link.springer.de/link/service/series/0558/tocs/t2428.htm
  - Markovian Process Algebra: Composition and Equivalence. Peter Buchholz. 2nd Workshop on Process Algebra and Performance Modelling, Erlangen, Germany, July 21-22 1994. http:/citeseer.ist.psu.edu/cache/papers/cs/5748/http:zSzzSzwww7.informatik.uni-erlangen.dezSzpapmzSzproceedingszSzBuc.pdf/buchholz94markovian.pdf

- Biological Modeling
  - The Barrier of Objects: From Dynamic Systems to Bounded Organizations. Walter Fontana, Leo W. Buss. In J. Casti and A. Karlqvist, editors, Barriers and Boundaries, p. 56-116, 1996. http://www.santafe.edu/~walter/Papers/barrier.pdf
  - Biomolecular Processes as Concurrent Computation. Ehud Shapiro. An interdisciplinary course at Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, 2001. http://www.wisdom.weizmann.ac.il/~biopsi/bpcc2001/

Tools: SPiM


http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~anp/spim/
The Stochastic Pi-Machine - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File
Address
http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~anp/spim/
Go
The Stochastic Pi Machine (SPiM)
Version 0.042 (Last Updated: 14-04-2006)
©Andrew Phillips 2006
Introduction
The Stochastic Pi Machine (SPiM) is a simulator for the stochastic pi-calculus that can be used to simulate models of Biological systems. The machine has been formally specified, and the specification has been proved correct with respect to the calculus. The following documents are available:
Introductory Slides, which present a number of chemical and biological examples. [ppt]
A Graphical Representation for the Stochastic Pi-Calculus, which presents a couple of biological examples in more detail.
A collection of Chemical and Biological examples with associated simulation results.
A Formal Specification of SPiM, which includes a proof of correctness and a mapping to source code.
Further information on process calculi for biology is available from Luca Cardelli's Biocomputing Page
Simulator
The Stochastic Pi Machine is available in three distribution formats:
Windows 2000/XP Executable.
Platform-Independent OCaml Bytecode. (Requires the Objective Caml System 3.08 to be installed)
Source Code.
Each distribution contains the following elements:
A single executable file in exe or ocaml format, where applicable.
A License agreement.
A short Manual, which includes a basic user guide. [pdf]
A collection of Examples.
Internet

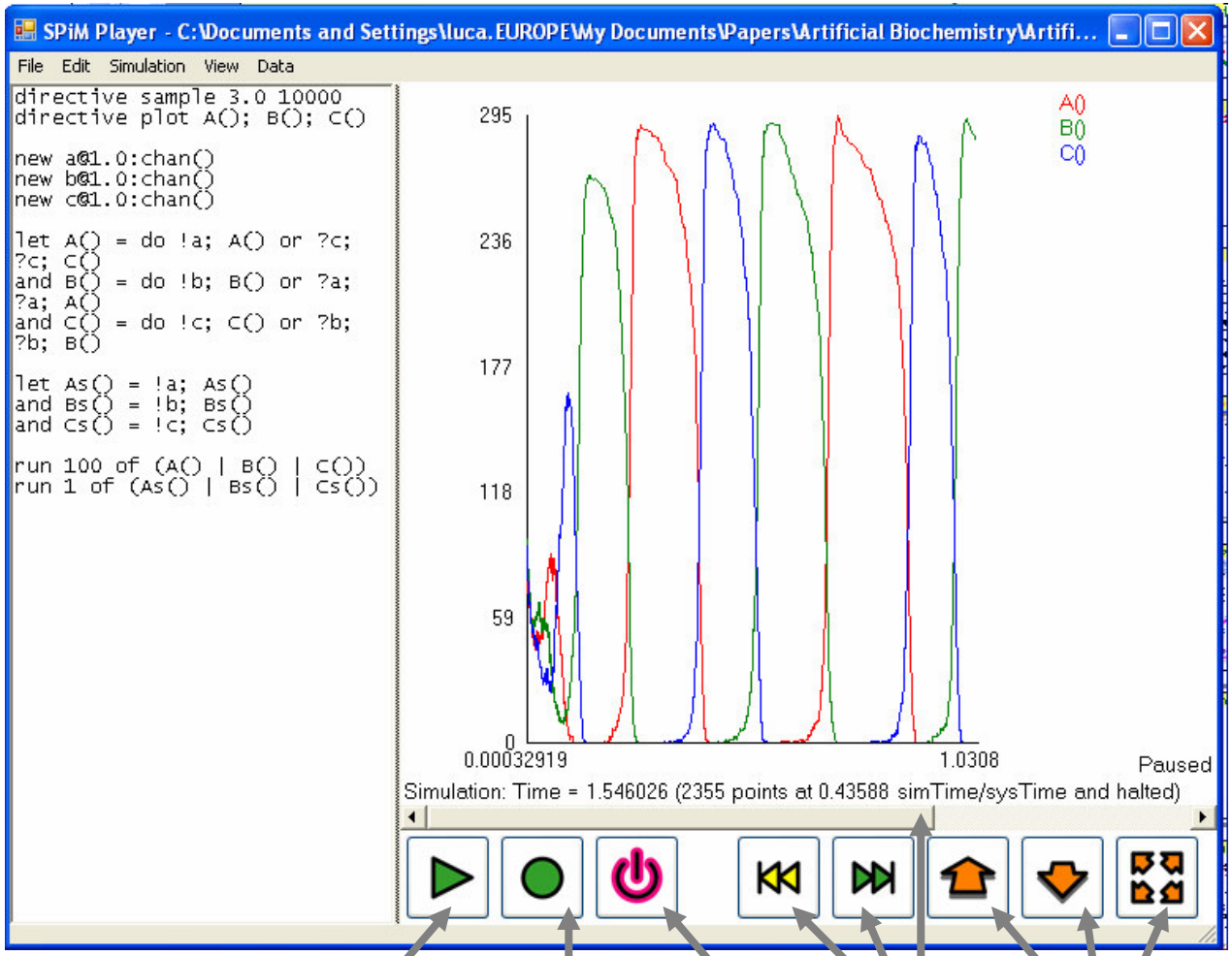
Tools: SPiM Development Cycle



Tools: SPiM Player

Windows binary available on USB stick (ask me).

Requires The 2.0 .NET runtime:
http://msdn.microsoft.com/netframework/downloads/updates/default.aspx



Play/ Pause plotting

Stop/ Continue simulation

Restart simulation

Scroll

Zoom

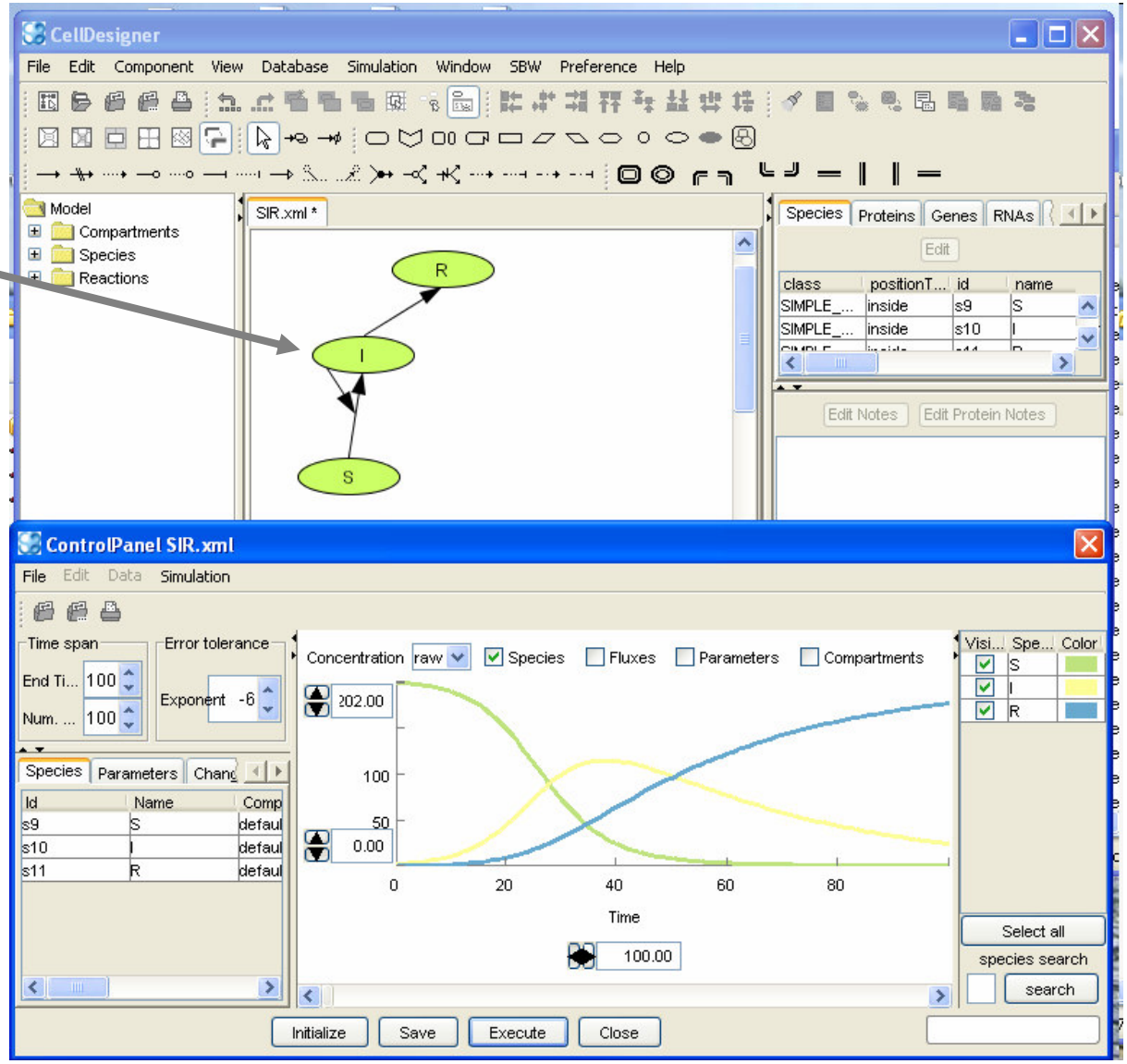
SPiM interactive GUI

```
directive sample 3.0 10000
directive plot A(); B(); C()

new a@1.0:chan()
new b@1.0:chan()
new c@1.0:chan()

let A() = do !a; A() or ?c; ?c; C()
and B() = do !b; B() or ?a; ?a; A()
and C() = do !c; C() or ?b; ?b; B()

let As() = !a; As()
and Bs() = !b; Bs()
and Cs() = !c; Cs()

run 100 of (A() | B() | C())
run 1 of (As() | Bs() | Cs())
```

Tools: CellDesigner

http://celldesigner.org/

This took me 30m to input!

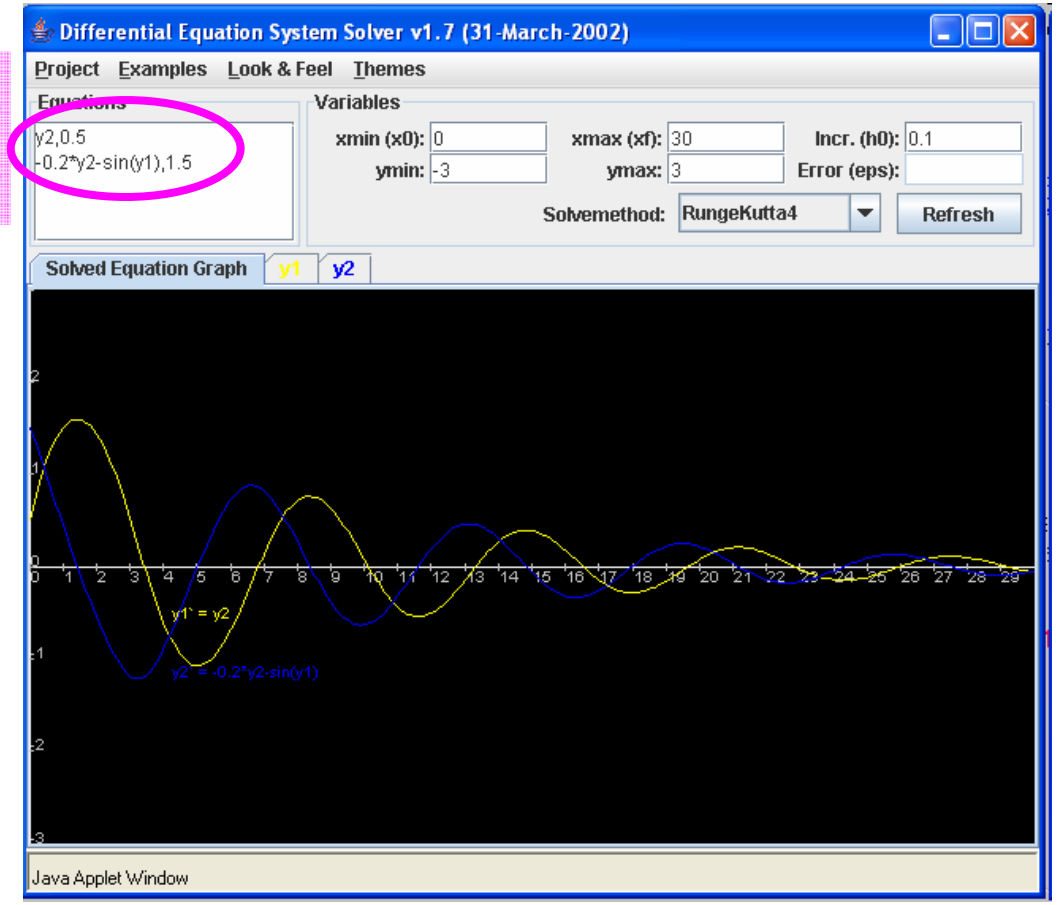


Tools: DESSolver ODE solver

- Applet or Download:
  - http://www.jens-langner.de/dessolver/
- Great when it works
  - Seems to have editing/refresh problems.

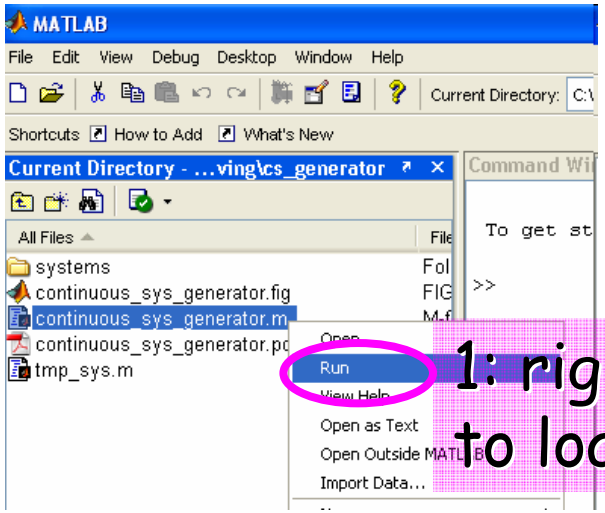
$dy1/dt = y2 \qquad y1_0 = 0.5$

$dy2/dt = -0.2*y2-\sin(y1) \qquad y2_0 = 1.5$

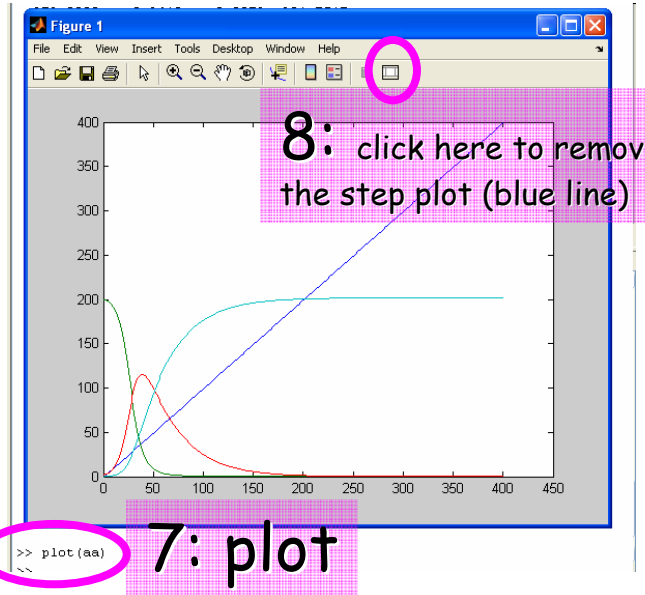


Tools: Matlab ODE solver (continuous_sys_generator)

Download: http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/loadFile.do?objectId=6703&objectType=file

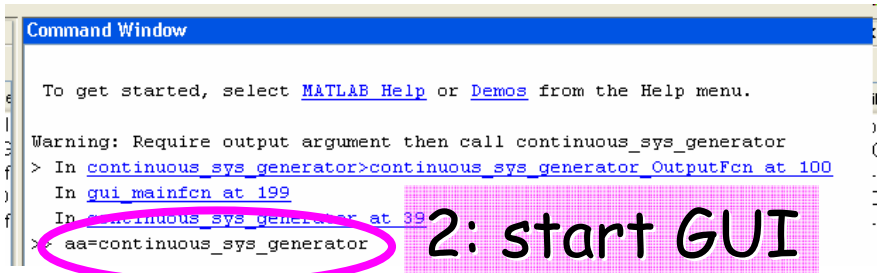


1: right-click to load package



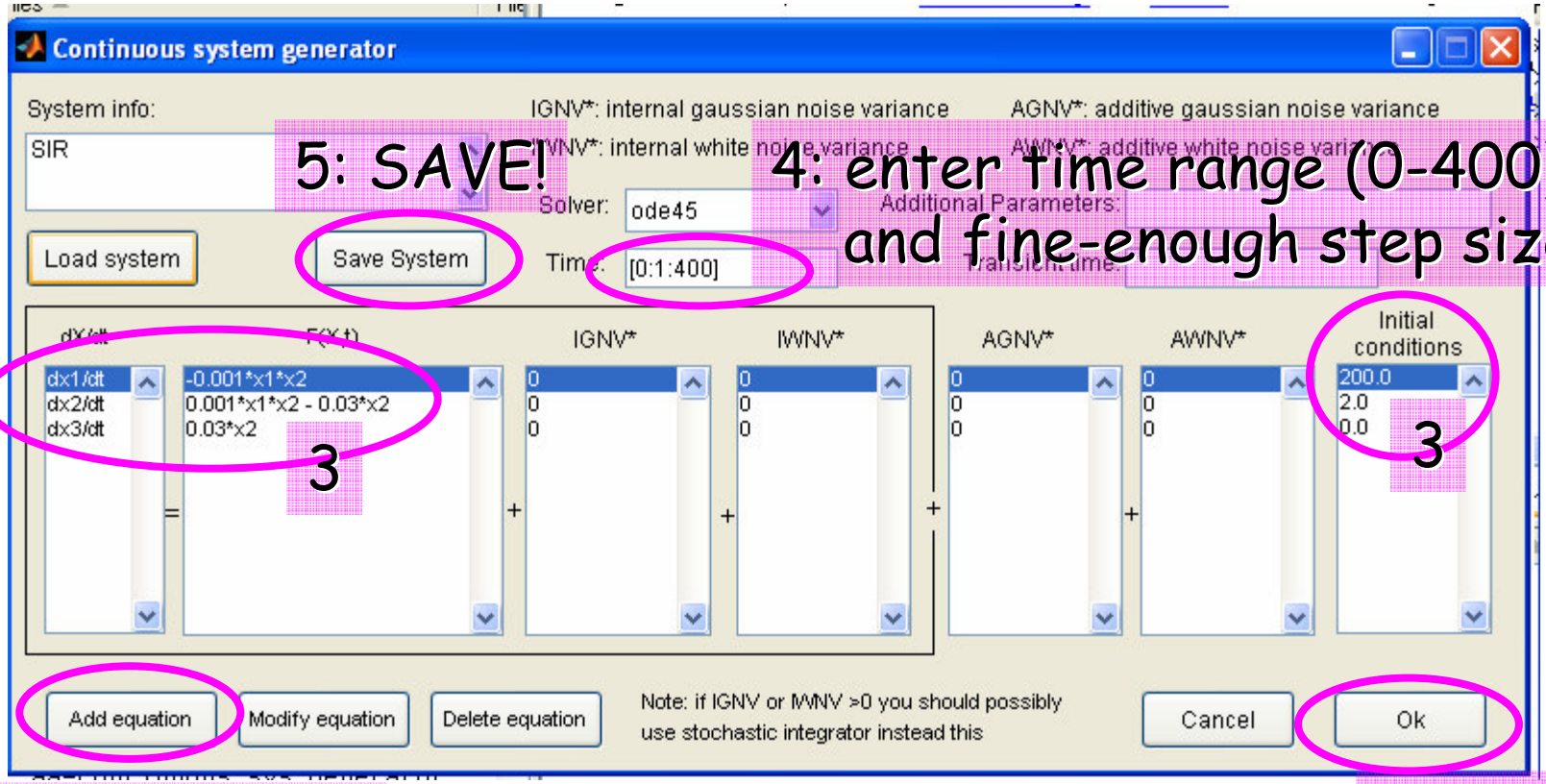
8: click here to remove the step plot (blue line)

7: plot



2: start GUI

Tools: Matlab ODE solver (continuous_sys_generator)



5: SAVE!

4: enter time range (0-400) and fine-enough step size (1)

3

3

3: enter ODEs

6: run

Methods: Reactive Systems

- Reactive Systems. A generic term for the mathematical study of:

  Entities that react to their environment and to each other.

- Particularly as distinguished from mathematical (I/O) functions

  A reactive system "computes", but does not compute a function:
  it computes reactions to stimuli,
  and produces stimuli for further reactions.

- And as distinguished from mathematical (passive) objects

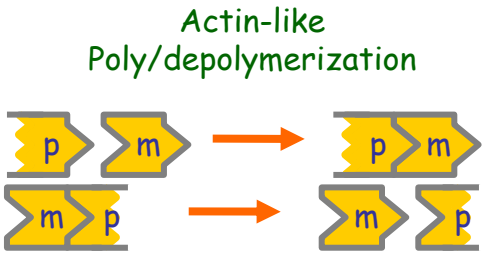
  A reactive system is normally the composition of subsystems
  each reactive and each forming the other subsystem's environment.

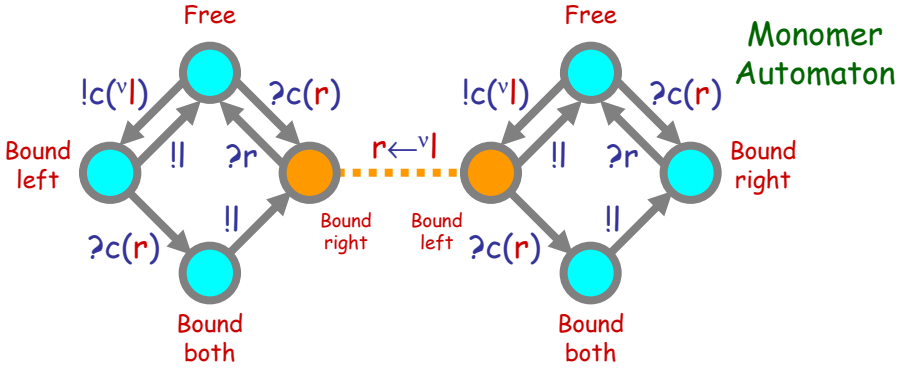
- A (still mathematical) answer to questions like:
  - What does the internet compute?
  - What does a bacterium compute?

N.B.: "reactive system" is a popular term, and sometimes defined more narrowly.

Methods: Why π-calculus, in particular

- Well studied, compact, precise, and general
  - A "programming language" first, a mathematical model second
  - Syntax (configurations): P ::= 0 | P+P | P|P | ?n(n).P | !n(n).P | (νn)P | *P
  - Semantics (reactions): (P' + !n(m).P) | (Q' + ?n(m').Q) → P | Q{m'←m}
- Binary interactions
  - Chemistry is based on binary "collisions".
- Reactive and compositional
  - Each subsystem is a separate (composition of) automata interacting with the environment (more automata)
- Dynamic network evolution and species evolution
  - Each subsystem can create fresh connections or spawn new subsystems
- Compact description of combinatorics (like any programming language)
  - $(Bit_1 \mid Bit_2 \mid \ldots \mid Bit_n)$ where Bit is a 2-state subsystem
    - A system with 2^n configurations (i.e. "different chemical species")
- Complexation/polymerization
  - The most characteristic feature of π-calculus (fresh names) models "sticking"





Basic References

Biology

[MCB] Molecular Cell Biology, Freeman.

[MBC] Molecular Biology of the Cell, Garland.

[Ptashne] A Genetic Switch.

[Davidson] Genomic Regulatory Systems.

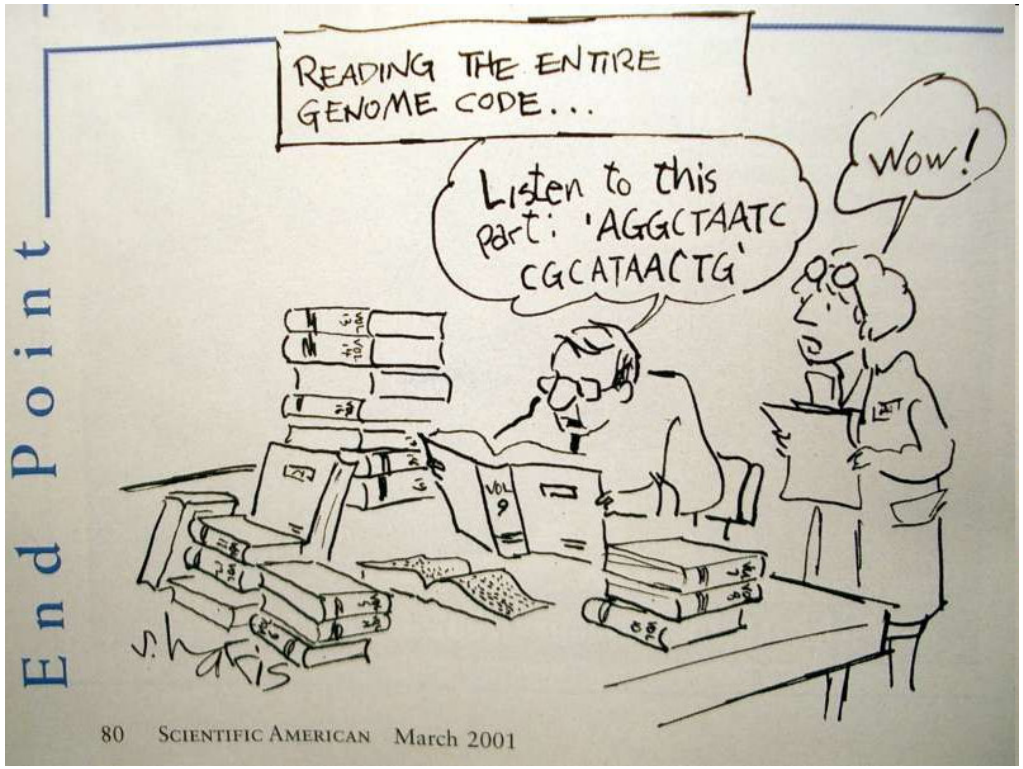
Computing

[Milner] Communicating and Mobile Systems: the Pi-Calculus.

[Regev] Computational Systems Biology: A Calculus for Biomolecular Knowledge (Ph.D. Thesis).

www.luca.demon.co.uk/BioComputing.htm

End Point

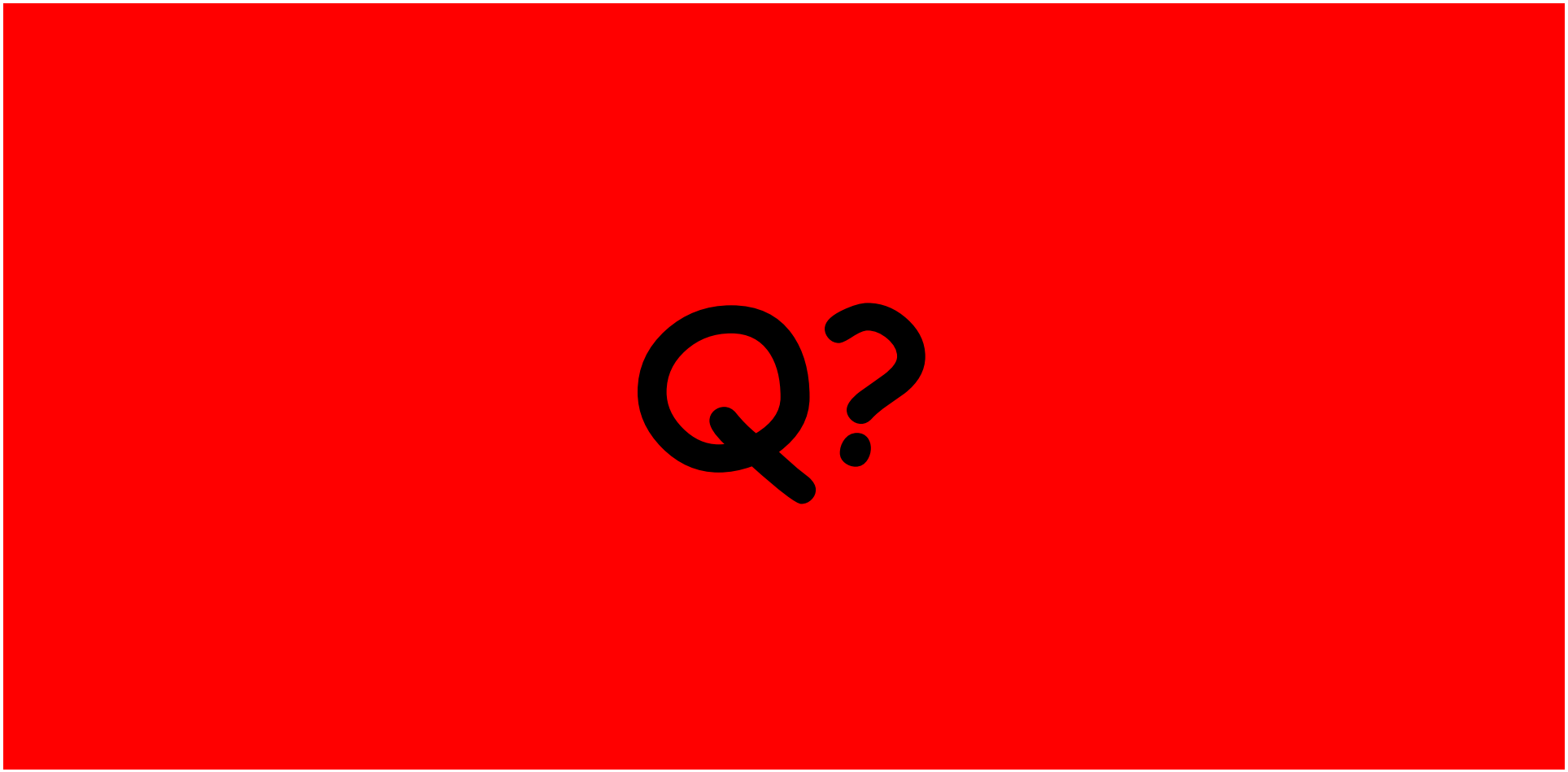


Q: "The data are accumulating and the computers are humming, what we are lacking are the words, the grammar and the syntax of a new language..."

D. Bray (TIBS 22(9):325-326, 1997)

A: "The most advanced tools for computer process description seem to be also the best tools for the description of biomolecular systems."

E.Shapiro (Lecture Notes)


Q?