

Supporting Material, File S5 Text

Homeostatic Controllers Compensating for  
Growth and Perturbations

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## Steady states and theoretical set-point for motif 1 autocatalytic controller

**Transporter-based compensatory flux with constant values of  $\dot{V}$  and  $k_3$  ( $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1\times 10^{-5}$ )**

The rate equations Eqs. 33-34 are rewritten in the following form

$$\dot{A} = \frac{k_2 E}{V} - k_3 \cdot A - A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \quad (\text{S1})$$

$$\dot{E} = k_4 \cdot E - k_6 \cdot A \cdot E - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \quad (\text{S2})$$

where in Eq. 34  $M/(k_5+M)=1.0$  and the term  $k_E^{in}-k_E^{out} \cdot E$  is neglected. In addition, sufficient  $M$  is present to avoid a controller breakdown as shown in phase 3 of Fig. 11.

Calculating  $\ddot{A}$  from Eq. S1 gives

$$\ddot{A} = \frac{k_2 \dot{E}}{V} - \frac{k_2 E \dot{V}}{V^2} - \dot{k}_3 \cdot A + A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S3})$$

Note that  $\ddot{V}=0$  since  $\dot{V}=\text{constant}$ . In addition we assume steady state in  $A$  such that  $\dot{A}=0$ .

Inserting Eq. S2 into Eq. S3 gives

$$\frac{k_2}{V} \left[ k_4 E - k_6 \cdot E \cdot A - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \right] - \frac{k_2 E \dot{V}}{V^2} - \dot{k}_3 A + A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S4})$$

Collecting terms gives

$$\underbrace{\frac{k_2 E}{V}}_{k_3 A_{ss}} \cdot k_4 - \underbrace{\frac{k_2 E}{V}}_{k_3 A_{ss}} \cdot k_6 \cdot A_{ss} - \frac{2E}{V} \left( \underbrace{\frac{\dot{V}}{V}}_{\rightarrow 0} \right) - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} + A_{ss} \left( \underbrace{\frac{\dot{V}}{V}}_{\rightarrow 0} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S5})$$

Rearranged we get

$$k_3 k_4 A_{ss} - k_3 k_6 A_{ss}^2 - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A_{ss} = \frac{k_3 k_4 - \dot{k}_3}{k_3 k_6} = A_{set}^{theor} - \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_3 k_6} \quad (\text{S6})$$

where  $A_{set}^{theor} = k_4/k_6$  for step-wise perturbations.

To show that the autocatalytic controller can manage a  $k_3$  perturbation of the form

$$k_3(t) = k_{3,0} + a \cdot t^n \quad (\text{S7})$$

we note that the ratio  $\dot{k}_3/k_3 \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , i.e.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_3} \right\} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{n \cdot a t^{n-1}}{k_{3,0} + a t^n} \right\} \stackrel{\text{L'Hôpital}}{=} n(n-1) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{1}{t} \right\} = 0 \quad (\text{S8})$$

such that the term  $\dot{k}_3/(k_3 k_6)$  in Eq. S6 goes to zero.

**Transporter-based compensatory flux with constant values of  $\dot{V}$  and  $k_3$  and non-negligible  $k_E^{in}$  and  $k_E^{out}$  terms ( $k_E^{in} = k_E^{out} = 10.0$ )**

Starting with rate equation 34 (now S9):

$$\dot{E} = k_4 \cdot E - k_6 \cdot A \cdot E + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out} \cdot E - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \quad (\text{S9})$$

Inserting Eq. S9 into Eq. S3 gives:

$$\ddot{A} = \frac{k_2}{V} \left[ k_4 E - k_6 \cdot E \cdot A + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out} \cdot E - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \right] - \frac{k_2 E \dot{V}}{V^2} - \dot{k}_3 A + A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right)^2 \quad (\text{S10})$$

Looking for the steady state when  $V$  and  $k_3$  increase linearly ( $\dot{V}$  and  $\dot{k}_3$  are constant), the  $\dot{V}/V$  and  $\dot{V}/V^2$  terms are neglected by assuming that  $\dot{V} \ll V$ . For  $\dot{A}$  this leads to

$$\dot{A} = \frac{k_2 E}{V} - k_3 \cdot A - A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \approx \frac{k_2 E}{V} - k_3 \cdot A \quad (\text{S11})$$

which, when setting Eq. S11 to zero, gives the relationship between the steady state in  $A$ ,  $A_{ss}$ , and the changing  $E$ ,  $V$ , and  $k_3$  values, i.e.,

$$E = \left( \frac{k_3}{k_2} \right) \cdot V \cdot A_{ss} \quad (\text{S12})$$

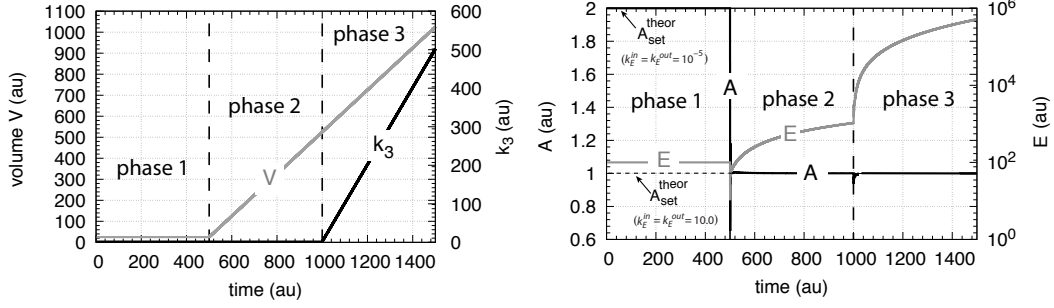
Setting Eq. S10 to zero, neglecting the  $\dot{V}/V$  and  $\dot{V}/V^2$  terms and inserting  $E$  from Eq. S12 into Eq. S10, results in the expression for  $A_{ss}$

$$A_{ss}^2 - A_{ss} \left( \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{k_E^{out}}{k_6} - \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_3 k_6} + \frac{k_2 k_E^{in}}{V} \right) = 0 \quad (\text{S13})$$

For increasing  $k_3$  and  $V$  the terms  $\dot{k}_3/k_3 k_6$  and  $k_2 k_E^{in}/V$  become small in comparison with  $(k_4 - k_E^{out})/k_6$  such that the new set-point is approximately

$$A_{ss} \approx \frac{k_4 - k_E^{out}}{k_6} \quad (\text{S14})$$

Fig. S1 illustrates the change in set-point for  $k_E^{in} = k_E^{out} = 10.0$ , using the rate constant values from Fig. 11. During the first phase the system is as in Fig. 11, with  $k_E^{in} = k_E^{out} = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ . In phases 2 and 3 the values of  $k_E^{in}$  and  $k_E^{out}$  are changed 10.0. Eq. S14 predicts a set-point of 1.0. In phase 2 of Fig. S1 the numerically calculated  $A_{ss}$  is 1.001, while in phase 3 this value is 0.9996, indicating that Eq. S14 describes the new set-point quite well.



**Figure S1.** Performance of the motif 1 autocatalytic controller (Eqs. 33-35). Phase 1: constant volume  $V$  and constant  $k_3$ . Initial concentrations and rate constant values (at steady state) as in Fig. 11:  $V_0=25.0$ ,  $\dot{V}=0.0$ ,  $A_0=2.0$ ,  $E_0=100.0$ ,  $M_0=1 \times 10^{12}$ ,  $k_2=1.0$ ,  $k_3=2.0$ ,  $k_3=0.0$ ,  $k_4=20.0$ ,  $k_5=1 \times 10^{-6}$ ,  $k_6=10.0$ , and  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1 \times 10^{-5}$ . The controller keeps  $A$  at its set-point at  $A_{set}^{theor}=k_4/k_6=2.0$ . Phase 2: rate constants remain the same as in phase 1, but  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$  and  $V$  increases linearly with  $\dot{V}=1.0$ . Phase 3:  $V$  continues to increase with the same rate and  $k_3$  increases with rate  $\dot{k}_3=1.0$ . The controller moves  $A$  towards the new set-point  $A_{set}^{theor}=(k_4-k_E^{out})/k_6=1.0$  in both phase 2 and phase 3. In comparison to Fig. 11 no breakdown in phase 3 occurs due to a high initial  $M$  concentration.

The set-point (Eq. S14) is also defended for step-wise perturbations in  $V$  or  $k_3$ . For  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$  a change of  $k_3$  from 2.0 to 8.0 ( $V$  kept constant at 25.0 and other rate constants remain as in Fig. S1) shows a numerical  $A_{ss}$  value of 1.005, while the same  $A_{ss}$  value is observed for a step-wise change of  $V$  from 25.0 to 100.0, while  $k_3$  is kept constant at 2.0.

### Transporter-based compensatory flux with exponentially increasing values of $\dot{V}$ and $\dot{k}_3$ and non-negligible $k_E^{in}$ and $k_E^{out}$ terms ( $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$ )

The autocatalytic rate of  $V$  is described by the equation

$$\dot{V} = \kappa V \quad (\text{S15})$$

where  $\kappa$  is a constant ( $=0.1$ ) and related to the doubling time of  $V$  by  $\ln 2/\kappa$ . Similarly, the autocatalytic increase of  $k_3$  is described by

$$\dot{k}_3 = \zeta k_3 \quad (\text{S16})$$

where  $\ln 2/\zeta$  is the doubling time of  $k_3$ . In accordance with Eq. 48,  $\zeta=0.2$ .

The rate equations for  $A$  and  $E$  take the form (assuming again that sufficient  $M$  is always present and  $M/(k_3+M)=1.0$ ):

$$\dot{A} = \frac{k_2 E}{V} - k_3 \cdot A - \kappa \cdot A \quad (\text{S17})$$

$$\dot{E} = k_4 \cdot E - k_6 \cdot A \cdot E + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out} \cdot E - \kappa \cdot E \quad (\text{S18})$$

Setting  $\dot{A}=0$  and calculating  $\ddot{A}=0$  gives

$$\ddot{A} = \frac{k_2 \dot{E}}{V} - \frac{k_2 \dot{V}}{V^2} - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} - \underbrace{\kappa \dot{A}_{ss}}_{=0} = 0 \quad (\text{S19})$$

Inserting Eq. S18 into Eq. S19, and substituting the relationship between growing  $E$ ,  $V$ ,  $k_3$  and the steady state in  $A$  ( $A_{ss}$  from Eq. S17),

$$E = \frac{V}{k_2} (k_3 + \kappa) A_{ss} , \quad (\text{S20})$$

into the equation of  $\ddot{A}$ , we get:

$$\ddot{A} = k_4 (k_3 + \kappa) A_{ss} - k_6 (k_3 + \kappa) A_{ss}^2 + \frac{k_2 k_9}{V} - k_E^{out} (k_3 + \kappa) A_{ss} - \kappa (k_3 + \kappa) A_{ss} - \zeta k_3 A_{ss} - \frac{k_2 \kappa}{V} = 0 \quad (\text{S21})$$

Rearranging leads to a quadratic equation in  $A_{ss}$

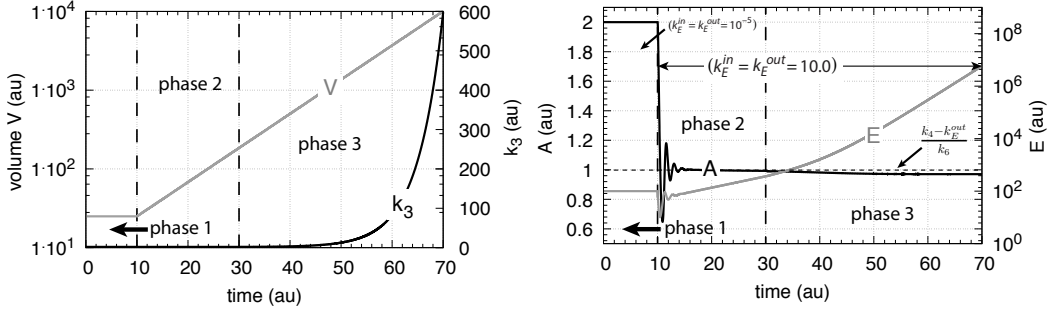
$$A_{ss}^2 - \left( \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{k_E^{out}}{k_6} - \frac{\kappa}{k_6} - \frac{\zeta k_3}{k_6 (k_3 + \kappa)} \right) A_{ss} - \underbrace{\frac{k_2}{V} (k_9 - \kappa)}_{\rightarrow 0} = 0 \quad (\text{S22})$$

For increasing  $k_3$  the term  $\zeta k_3 / (k_6 (k_3 + \kappa))$  approaches  $\zeta / k_6$ , while for increasing large  $V$  the last term in Eq. S22 vanishes.

When both  $V$  and  $k_3$  increase exponentially the set-point becomes

$$A_{ss} \approx \frac{k_4 - k_E^{out} - \kappa - \zeta}{k_6} \quad (\text{S23})$$

In comparison with linear growth (Eq. S14) exponential growth gives additional offsets in the set-point, which depend on  $\kappa$  and  $\zeta$ , i.e., on how fast the exponential growth in  $V$  or  $k_3$  occurs. This is shown in Fig. S2 where the perturbation profile of Fig. 14 and the rate constant values from Fig. 11 (Fig. 15c) are applied, except that  $k_E^{in}$  and  $k_E^{out}$  are changed in phases 2 and 3 from  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  to 10.0.



**Figure S2.** Performance of the motif 1 autocatalytic controller (Eqs. 33-35) with transporter based compensatory flux applying the perturbation profile from Fig. 14. Phase 1: constant volume  $V$  and constant  $k_3$ . Initial concentrations and rate constant values (at steady state) as in Fig. 11:  $V_0=25.0$ ,  $\dot{V}=0.0$ ,  $A_0=2.0$ ,  $E_0=100.0$ ,  $M_0=1 \times 10^{12}$ ,  $k_2=1.0$ ,  $k_3=2.0$ ,  $k_3=0.0$ ,  $k_4=20.0$ ,  $k_5=1 \times 10^{-6}$ ,  $k_6=10.0$ , and  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1 \times 10^{-5}$ . The controller keeps  $A$  at its set-point at  $A_{set}^{theor}=k_4/k_6=2.0$ . Phase 2: rate constants remain the same as in phase 1, but  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}$  are both changed to 10.0 and  $V$  increases exponentially with  $\dot{V}=\kappa V$  ( $\kappa = 0.1$ ). Phase 3:  $V$  continues to increase exponentially and  $k_3$  starts to increase exponentially with the rate law  $\dot{k}_3=\zeta k_3$  ( $\zeta = 0.2$ ). The controller moves  $A$  towards a new steady state dependent on  $\kappa$  and/or  $\zeta$  as outlined by Eq. S23. For comparison the set-point  $k_4 - k_E^{out}/k_6$  ( $=1.0$ ) for linear growth is indicated as a dashed line showing the offset from  $k_4 - k_E^{out}/k_6$  due to exponential growth.

**Cell-internal compensatory flux with constant values of  $\dot{V}$  and  $\dot{k}_3$**   
( $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1\times 10^{-5}$ )

Assuming that  $N$  and  $M$  are sufficiently high to avoid controller breakdown by low  $N$  and  $M$  values, the rate equations for  $A$  and  $E$  are in this case (neglecting the  $k_E^{in}-k_E^{out}\cdot E$  term with  $k_E^{in} = k_E^{out} = 1\times 10^{-5}$ ):

$$\dot{A} = k_2\cdot E - k_3\cdot A - A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \quad (\text{S24})$$

$$\dot{E} = k_4\cdot E - k_6\cdot A\cdot E - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \quad (\text{S25})$$

Calculating  $\ddot{A}$  and setting it to zero gives

$$\ddot{A} = k_2\dot{E} - \dot{k}_3A + A \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S26})$$

Inserting Eq. S25 into Eq S26

$$\ddot{A} = k_2 \left[ k_4 \underbrace{E}_{k_3A_{ss}/k_2} - k_6\cdot A \cdot \underbrace{E}_{k_3A_{ss}/k_2} - \underbrace{E}_{k_3A_{ss}/k_2} \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \right] - \dot{k}_3A_{ss} + A_{ss} \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S27})$$

From the steady state condition of Eq. S24, we use approximately (for large  $V$ )  $E = k_3A_{ss}/k_2$ . Collecting terms in Eq. S27

$$k_3k_4A_{ss} - k_3k_6A_{ss}^2 - \dot{k}_3A_{ss} = 0 \quad (\text{S28})$$

Dividing by  $A_{ss}$  gives

$$A_{ss} = \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_3k_6} \quad (\text{S29})$$

where  $k_4/k_6=A_{set}^{theor}$ .



**Cell-internal compensatory flux with linearly increasing values of  $\dot{V}$  and  $k_3$  and non-negligible  $k_E^{in}$  and  $k_E^{out}$  terms ( $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$ )**

The rate equation for  $A$  is described by Eq. S24, while the rate equation for  $E$  now includes the  $k_E^{in}-k_E^{out}\cdot E$  term:

$$\dot{E} = k_4 \cdot E - k_6 \cdot A \cdot E + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out} \cdot E - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \quad (\text{S30})$$

Inserting Eq. S30 into the expression for  $\ddot{A}$  (Eq. S26) gives:

$$\ddot{A} = k_2 \left[ k_4 E - k_6 \cdot A \cdot E + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out} \cdot E - E \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right) \right] - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} + A_{ss} \left( \frac{\dot{V}}{V} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S31})$$

Setting  $\dot{A}=0$  (Eq. S24), neglecting the  $A\dot{V}/V$  term, we get the (approximate, for large  $V$ ) relationship between increasing  $E$  and  $k_3$  while  $A$  is kept at its steady state, i.e.,

$$E = \left( \frac{k_3}{k_2} \right) A_{ss} \quad (\text{S32})$$

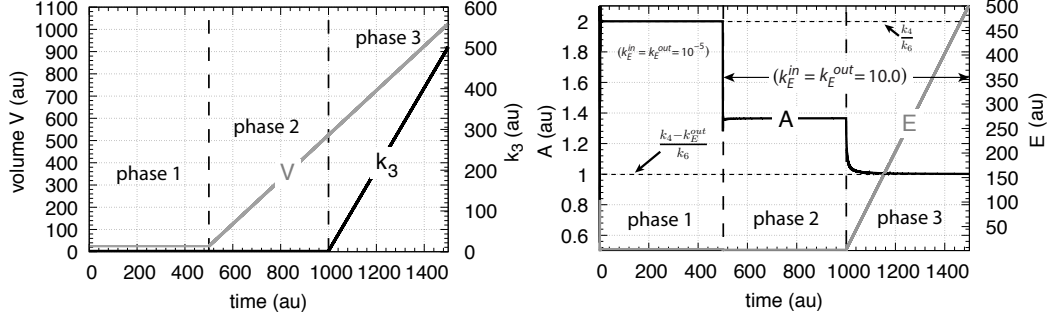
Inserting  $E$  from Eq. S32 into Eq. S31, neglecting the terms containing  $\dot{V}/V$  gives

$$k_3 k_4 A_{ss} - k_3 k_6 A_{ss}^2 + k_2 k_E^{in} - k_3 k_E^{out} A_{ss} - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} = 0 \quad (\text{S33})$$

Rearranging Eq. S33 gives Eq. 61:

$$A_{ss}^2 - A_{ss} \left( \frac{k_4 - k_E^{out}}{k_6} - \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_3 k_6} \right) - \frac{k_2 k_E^{in}}{k_3 k_6} = 0 \quad (\text{S34})$$

Fig. S3 shows the behavior for linearly increasing  $V$  and  $k_3$ . When only  $V$  increases in phase 2 the controller moves  $A$  to the  $A_{ss}$  value described by the solution of Eq. S34. Although this steady state in  $A$  is dependent on the value of  $k_3$ , it is independent of how fast  $V$  grows. Finally, in phase 3  $k_3$  starts to grow and the controller moves  $A_{ss}$  to the set-point  $(k_4 - k_E^{out})/k_6$  independent of the (linear) growth rate of  $k_3$  (see, however, the chapter below when  $V$  and  $k_3$  grow exponentially and  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$ ).



**Figure S3.** Performance of the motif 1 autocatalytic controller (Eq. 59 and Eqs. 34-35). Phase 1: constant volume  $V$  and constant  $k_3$ . Initial concentrations and rate constant values:  $V_0=25.0$ ,  $\dot{V}=0.0$ ,  $A_0=2.0$ ,  $E_0=100.0$ ,  $N_0=M_0=1 \times 10^{12}$ ,  $k_2=1.0$ ,  $k_3=2.0$ ,  $k_3=0.0$ ,  $k_4=20.0$ ,  $k_5=1 \times 10^{-6}$ ,  $k_6=10.0$ , and  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1 \times 10^{-5}$ . The controller keeps  $A$  at its set-point at  $A_{set}^{theor}=k_4/k_6=2.0$ . Phase 2: rate constants remain the same as in phase 1, but  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$  and  $V$  increases linearly with  $\dot{V}=1.0$ . The numerical value of  $A_{ss}$  is 1.3656 and independent of how fast  $V$  grows. This value is in excellent agreement with the solution of the quadratic equation (1.3660). Phase 3:  $V$  continues to increase with the same rate and  $k_3$  starts to grow with rate  $\dot{k}_3=1.0$ . The controller moves  $A$  now towards the new set-point  $(k_4-k_E^{out})/k_6=1.0$ .

### Cell-internal compensatory flux with exponential increase of $\dot{V}$ and $\dot{k}_3$ ( $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1 \times 10^{-5}$ )

We have the same rate equations as above (Eqs. S24-S25) with  $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=1 \times 10^{-5}$  (which we neglect in the analytical approach here). Since  $V$  and  $k_3$  both grow exponentially we can write

$$\dot{V} = \kappa V \quad \& \quad \dot{k}_3 = \zeta k_3 \quad (\text{S35})$$

where  $\kappa$  and  $\zeta$  are constants. The rate equations are (assuming sufficient amounts of  $N$  and  $M$ , and, for the sake of simplicity, we set  $N/(k_7 + N)=M/(k_5 + M)=1.0$ )

$$\dot{A} = k_2 \cdot E - k_3 \cdot A - \kappa A \quad (\text{S36})$$

$$\dot{E} = k_4 \cdot E - k_6 \cdot A \cdot E - \kappa E \quad (\text{S37})$$

Assuming steady state in  $A$  ( $\dot{A}=0$ ) we can write from Eq. S36

$$E = \left( \frac{k_3 + \kappa}{k_2} \right) A_{ss} \quad (\text{S38})$$

where  $E$  increases in relationship with  $k_3$  in order to keep  $A$  at its steady state.

Calculating  $\ddot{A}$  and noting that  $\dot{A}=0$  and that  $\zeta$  and  $\kappa$  are constants, gives

$$\ddot{A} = k_2 \dot{E} - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} = k_2 [k_4 E - k_6 \cdot A_{ss} \cdot E - E \cdot \kappa] - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} = 0 \quad (\text{S39})$$

Inserting the expression for  $E_{ss}$  from Eq. S38 into Eq. S39 and collecting terms gives

$$A_{ss} = \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{\kappa}{k_6} - \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_6(k_3 + \kappa)} \quad (\text{S40})$$

In Eq. S40  $k_4/k_6$  is the theoretical set-point  $A_{set}^{theor}$  the controller defends when step-wise perturbations are applied. The term  $\kappa/k_6$  is the offset from  $A_{set}^{theor}$  due to the exponential increase of  $V$ , while the term  $\dot{k}_3/(k_6(k_3 + \kappa))$  is the offset due to the exponential increase of  $k_3$ . This last term can be reduced to the ratio  $\zeta/k_6$  by using  $\dot{k}_3 = \zeta k_3$  and observing that

$$\lim_{k_3 \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\dot{k}_3}{k_6(k_3 + \kappa)} = \lim_{k_3 \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\zeta k_3}{k_6(k_3 + \kappa)} \stackrel{\text{L'Hôpital}}{=} \frac{\zeta}{k_6} \quad (\text{S41})$$

Referring to Fig. 25c, the numerical steady state is calculated at the end of phase 2 to be 1.99. The same offset of 0.01 is obtained for  $\kappa/k_6$  from Eq. S40 (rate constant values are found in Fig. 22). At the end of phase 3 in Fig. 25c the numerical  $A_{ss}$  value is 1.971, while the overall calculated offset from Eq. S40 is 1.97 which includes the exponential increase of  $k_3$  (Eq. 48) with a  $\zeta$  of 0.2.

**Cell-internal compensatory flux with exponentially increasing values of  $\dot{V}$  and  $\dot{k}_3$  and non-negligible  $k_E^{in}$  and  $k_E^{out}$  terms ( $k_E^{in}=k_E^{out}=10.0$ )**

The rate equations and conditions are the same as in the previous section, except that  $\dot{E}$  now includes the term  $k_E^{in}-k_E^{out}\cdot E$ , i.e.,

$$\dot{A} = k_2\cdot E - k_3\cdot A - \kappa A \quad (\text{S36})$$

$$\dot{E} = k_4\cdot E - k_6\cdot A\cdot E + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out}\cdot E - \kappa E \quad (\text{S42})$$

We calculate  $\ddot{A}$ , set  $\dot{A}$  and  $\ddot{A}$  to zero, and then insert Eq. S37 into the  $\ddot{A}$ -expression. Then all  $E$ 's are substituted with the expression from Eq. S38, which gives the equation for  $\ddot{A}$  and  $A_{ss}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{A} &= k_2\dot{E} - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} = k_2 \left[ k_4 E - k_6\cdot A_{ss}\cdot E + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out}\cdot E - E\cdot\kappa \right] - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} \\ &= k_2 \left[ k_4 \left( \frac{k_3+\kappa}{k_2} \right) A_{ss} - k_6\cdot A_{ss}\cdot \left( \frac{k_3+\kappa}{k_2} \right) A_{ss} + k_E^{in} - k_E^{out}\cdot \left( \frac{k_3+\kappa}{k_2} \right) A_{ss} - \kappa \left( \frac{k_3+\kappa}{k_2} \right) A_{ss} \right] \\ &\quad - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} \\ &= k_4(k_3+\kappa)A_{ss} - k_6(k_3+\kappa)A_{ss}^2 + k_2k_E^{in} - k_E^{out}(k_3+\kappa)A_{ss} - \kappa(k_3+\kappa)A_{ss} - \dot{k}_3 A_{ss} \\ &= -k_6(k_3+\kappa)A_{ss}^2 + A_{ss} \left[ k_4(k_3+\kappa) - k_E^{out}(k_3+\kappa) - \kappa(k_3+\kappa) - \dot{k}_3 \right] + k_2k_E^{in} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S43})$$

Dividing the last expression in Eq. S43 by  $-k_6(k_3+\kappa)$  gives

$$A_{ss}^2 - A_{ss} \left[ \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{k_E^{out}}{k_6} - \frac{\kappa}{k_6} - \frac{\zeta k_3}{k_6(k_3+\kappa)} \right] - \frac{k_2k_E^{in}}{k_6(k_3+\kappa)} = 0 \quad (\text{S44})$$

where  $\dot{k}_3$  has been substituted by  $\zeta k_3$  (see Eq. S35). When  $k_3$  becomes large the term  $k_3/(k_3+\kappa)$  goes to 1 and  $k_2k_E^{in}/k_6(k_3+\kappa)$  goes to 0, such that Eq. S44 can be written as:

$$A_{ss}^2 - A_{ss} \left[ \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{k_E^{out}}{k_6} - \frac{\kappa}{k_6} - \frac{\zeta}{k_6} \right] = 0 \quad (\text{S45})$$

and  $A_{ss}$  becomes:

$$A_{ss} = \frac{k_4}{k_6} - \frac{\kappa}{k_6} - \frac{\zeta}{k_6} - \frac{k_E^{out}}{k_6} \quad (\text{S46})$$