### **Supplementary information**

# A system-level mechanistic explanation for asymmetric stem cell fates: *Arabidopsis thaliana* root niche as a study system

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## A. Supplementary Figures



**Supplementary Figure 1-** Attractor transitions caused by the upregulation (+) of individual regulators that are normally inactive in the initial attractor are shown at the edges of each transition.



**Supplementary Figure 2-** (a) Diagram showing the coupling of the intracellular regulatory network and the mobile variable  $SHR_m$ . The state of the network defines the production site of the mobile variable  $SHR_m$  in the pro-vascular cells (1, blue), SHR in the network is activated if a  $SHR_m$  activity threshold is surpassed (2, green), and the transport rate of  $SHR_m$  is regulated by the state of the network (3). (b) Analysis of  $SHR_m$  quantitative parameters and their effect on the number of  $SHR_m$ + cell layers (i.e., cells that surpass the  $SHR_m$  activity threshold) in the QC position. On the left we show the results of variations in  $SHR_m$  transport rate (for SCR/JKD positive cells and stele cells), and on the right the results of variations in

 $SHR_m$  synthesis rate and activity threshold. In each case, we explored 3,000 parameter sets taken at random from uniform distributions and plotted in gray, blue, or red the number of  $SHR_m$ + cell layers for each analyzed set. (c) A simulation without  $SHR_m$  mobility recovers a state in which the continuous variable  $SHR_m$  is found only in the pro-vascular cells, and no activity of endodermal and QC markers was recovered.



**Supplementary Figure 3-** (a) Simulation of the *pSCR::SHR* transgenic line: a single layer of QC cells below the pro-vascular cells was recovered, while the simulation of a QC periclinal division yields two QC cells. (b) The ectopic activation of SHR (blue) from the columella initials attractor does not activate WOX5 (orange), and therefore a transition to the QC attractor does not occur. (c) The frequency of morphologically identifiable QC periclinal divisions is significantly higher in 7 dpg plants than 5 dpg seedlings for the *pSHR:OsSHR2:GFP* and *pSHR:AtSHR:GFP* (\*Pearson's Chi-square test with Yates' continuity correction, P-value= 0.0004201 and 0.0006645, respectively). (d) Analysis of the frequency of GFP nuclear signal in 5 dpg and 7 dpg *pSHR:AtSHR:GFP* and *pSHR:OsSHR2:GFP* lines. At 5 dpg, most plants analysed have a single layer of GFP nuclear signal; non-significant differences were found between both lines (n.s.) (n=29 for pSHR:OsSHR2:GFP and n=17 for *pSHR:AtSHR:GFP*). At 7 dpg, the frequency of seedlings with multiple layers of GFP nuclear signal in the QC position is significantly higher in *pSHR:OsSHR2:GFP* and n=26 for *pSHR:AtSHR:GFP*, \*Fisher's exact test, P-value=0.0223).



**Supplementary Figure 4-** Simulation of QC cell divisions using three different initial QC cell (**a**,**b**) and neighbouring columella initial (**b**) configurations. For each configuration we simulated periclinal, anticlinal and oblique QC division axes, in WT and increased SHR transport conditions (*pSHR:OsSHR2*). We show in each case the SHRm distribution (above) and the activity of WOX5 (below).

# **B.** The updated regulatory network model of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* root apical meristem

We updated the Boolean model of the genetic-hormonal regulatory network (Figure 1B; García-Gómez et al., 2017) to consider the role of the MADS-box transcription factor XAANTAL1 (XAL1), the PLETHORA (PLT) transcription factors, as well as additional regulatory interactions among the pre-existing components of the network, according to recent experimental data (Table S1). The genes included in the model are: WUSCHEL-RELATED HOMEOBOX5 (WOX5), AUXIN RESPONSE FACTOR (ARFr) as a representative of all ARFs, AUXIN RESPONSE FACTOR5 (ARF5), AUXIN RESPONSE FACTOR10 (ARF10), XAL1, PLT, PHABULOSA (PHB), ARABIDOPSIS RESPONSE REGULATOR1 (ARR1), SHORT HYPOCOTYL2 (SHY2), AUX/IAA transcriptional regulator (AUXIAA), microRNA 165/6 (MIR166), MAGPIE (MGP), SCARECROW (SCR), JACKDAW (JKD), SHORTROOT (SHR), CLAVATA40 (CLE40); and the two hormones are: Auxin (AUX) and Cytokinin (CK).

Interaction	Experimental evidence
WOX5 -> PLT	An epistatic genetic interaction has been described between <i>wox5</i> and <i>plt1 plt2</i> mutants
	(Ding and Friml, 2010), suggesting that these PLT transcription factors act downstream
	of WOX5. Additionally, the expression of the transcriptional reporter <i>PLT1::ERCFP</i> is
	reduced in the wox5 mutant background, this is very clear in the QC cells (Ding and
	Friml, 2010). Moreover, PLT1 expression is increased after the induction of WOX5
	expression in a p35S::WOX5:GR line (Ding and Friml, 2010).
ARF5 -> PLT	In situ analysis has shown that the expression of PLT1 and PLT2 is greatly reduced in
	mp mutants in embryonic and post-embryonic root development (Aida et al., 2004).
ARF -> PLT	The expression of PLT1 is further reduced in the embryos of the double mutant <i>mp nph4</i>
	(Aida et al., 2004), indicating a redundancy in the action of the auxin signaling pathway.
XAL1 -> PLT	The transcriptional reporter <i>PLT1::GUS</i> is reduced in the <i>xal1-2</i> mutant, particularly in
	the QC and the initial cells (García-Cruz et al., 2016).
ARF -> XAL1	XAL1 expression is induced in roots exogenously treated with auxins as indicated by
	GUS activity in the XAL1::GUS transgenic line (Tapia-López et al., 2008). In situ
	expression analysis indicated that XAL1 is expressed in the columella and the lateral
	root cap, and has a punctuated expression pattern in all the cells of the root meristem
	(Burgeff et al., 2002). We assumed that this regulation is mediated by the auxin signaling
	pathway.
PLT -> AUX	The induction of PLT2 expression coupled with a transcriptomic analysis of the QC cells
	uncovered genes involved in auxin transport and metabolism among the genes with
	induced expression (Santuari et al., 2016). PLT2 binds directly to the promoter of YUC3
	and YUC8, and accordingly, the <i>plt1 plt2</i> mutant has reduced auxin levels in root tips
	(Santuari et al., 2016). Moreover, induction of the <i>p35S:PLT2-GR</i> lines have increased
	auxin levels (Santuari et al., 2016).
PLT -> ARF5	PLT2 binds the promoter of ARF5, whose expression is induced upon DEX treatment of
	<i>35S:PLT2-GR</i> lines (Santuari et al., 2016).

PHB -> ARF5	ARF5 expression is reduced in roots with reduced PHB activity (Baima et al., 2014;
	Müller et al., 2015). PHB binds to the promoter of ARF5, and induces its expression in
	DEX-treated 35S:PHB-GR lines (Müller et al., 2015). The expression of ARF5 is only
	slightly reduced in roots with reduced PHB activity, thus it is likely that its expression
	depends on other factors as well (Müller et al., 2015).
PLT -> PHB	PLT2 directly regulates the expression of PHB in the root meristem (Santuari et al.,
	2016).
ARR1 -  PHB	Cytokinin exogenous treatment reduces the expression of PHB in the root meristem (Ioio
	et al., 2012).
	Cytokinin exogenous treatment reduces the expression of MIR165 in the root meristem
	(Ioio et al., 2012; Hao et al., 2012). In our previous model we incorporated this regulation
ARR1 -  MIR166	as CK – MIR166 (García-Gómez et al., 2017), but we reasoned that this regulation is
	mediated through the CK signaling pathway.
ARF5 -  MGP	An auxin maximum defines the position of the QC in the endodermal layer of the root
	meristem (Sabatini et al., 2003). We included this hypothetical negative link between the
	auxin pathway and the endodermis marker MGP to account for the role of auxin on the
	decision of becoming endodermis or QC cells. The regulatory network model with this
	hypothesis recovers the same fixed-point attractors as did the previous version, including
	a QC and a CEI/Endodermis attractor.
$SCR \rightarrow WOX5$	SCR and PLT form a complex with the Teocinte (CP21) and TCP22 transcriptional
PLT -> WOX5	regulators. This complex binds to WOX5 promoter and regulates its expression
	(Shimotohno et al., 2018).

**Supplementary Table S1.** New interactions included in the updated regulatory network model with respect to the version in García-Gómez and collaborators (2017).

The updated genetic-hormonal regulatory network model recovers 11 fixed-point attractors as did the previous published version of the model (Table S2; García-Gómez et al., 2017). These attractors correlate with the activity configurations observed in different cell types and behaviors along the root meristem, including the cells of the root stem cell niche. It also recovered two cyclic attractors when solved with the synchronic updating scheme. These cyclic attractors emerge due to a mutual inhibition between MIR166 and PHB, and of MGP and WOX5. The activity of these genes do not to oscillate in the root meristem, indicating that these attractors do not represent known cell states of the meristem. These attractors are not recovered by the asynchronic updating scheme nor the continuous model (both acknowledge differences in the updating of the nodes). Thus, the cyclic attractors might be an artifact of the synchronic updating scheme. We aimed to recover only fixed-point attractors so we tested the effect of a positive feedback loop in the regulation of the nodes involved in the cycles: MIR166, PHB, MGP and/or WOX5. We found that a positive feedback on MGP eliminated one of the cyclic attractors. This was accompanied by the appearance of a new fixed-point attractor similar to the endodermis of the transition domain but has no MGP activity.

Node	Logical rule
СК	(PHB and not ARF) or not SHR
ARR1	not SCR and CK
SHY2	ARR1 and not AUX
AUXIAA	not AUX
ARF	not AUXIAA
ARF10	not (JKD and SHR) and not AUXIAA
ARF5	((PHB or PLT) and not (SHR and MGP)) and not SHY2 and not AUXIAA
XAL1	ARF
PLT	ARF5 or ARF or WOX5 or XAL1
AUX	1
SCR	SHR and JKD and SCR
SHR	SHR or (SCR and JKD)
MIR166	(SCR and SHR and not ARR1) or not PHB
PHB	((not ARR1 and PLT) or PHB) and not MIR166
IKD	not PHB and SHR and SCR
MGP	not ARE5 and SHR and SCR and MGP
WOX5	not ARE10 and ARE5 and not CLE40 and SCR and PLT
CLE40	not SHR

Supplementary Table S2. Logical rules of the root apical meristem regulatory network model.

				AUX									MIR					
	СК	ARR1	SHY2	IAA	ARF	ARF10	ARF5	XAL1	PLT	AUX	SCR	SHR	166	PHB	JKD	MGP	WOX5	CLE40
*QC	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
*CEI /																		
Endodermis PD	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Endodermis TD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
*P. Pro-vascular																		
PD	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
P. Pro-vascular																		
TD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
*C. Pro-vascular																		
PD	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
C. Pro-vascular																		
TD	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
*C. Pro-vascular																		
TD2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
C. Pro-vascular																		
TD3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
*Columella 1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Columella 2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cyclic CP PD	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0<->1	0<->1	0	0	0	0
Endodermis TD2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

**Supplementary Table S3.** Attractors recovered by the updated regulatory network model using a synchronic updating scheme. The continuous model recovers only the fixed-point attractors. For the analysis of this paper, we used the attractors recovered with the constitutive activity of auxin (shown with \* and in bold). The sum of the activity configurations of these attractors are: QC = 10, CEI = 9, P. pro-vascular PD = 8, C. Pro-vascular CP = 8, C. pro-vascular TD2 = 10, Columella = 10.

In the present work we study the cell-fate transition dynamics within the root SCN, where the auxin levels are highest in the root meristem. Thus, we fixed the activity of the node auxin (AUX) to 1 in the regulatory network model. The network model with the AUX node constitutively active recovered 6 fixed-point attractors under both discrete and continuous modelling approaches (shown in \* in Table S2). These attractors correspond to the following cells of the root SCN: QC, cortex/endodermis initials (CEI), peripheral provascular initials, central pro-vascular initials, and columella initials; the last attractor describes differentiating cells of the transition domain.

#### C. Decay rate variation analysis

The following tables, one per initial state (attractor), show the transitions caused by increasing the decay rate of a particular node (indicated above each plot). We plotted the decay rate in the x axis and in the y axis the sum of the activity of all nodes  $(\sum_{i=1}^{X} x_i)$  in the new attractor reached; this was used to detect sudden changes that may represent attractor transitions. Even when the two attractors yield the same sum, the transition can be seen as noticeable jumps. The final state at which the system converges is indicated at the right. To link an activity configuration to an attractor we expected a 100% similarity between the expected and recovered attractors (expected attractors in Supplementary Table S1). Otherwise, an attractor was associated to an expected cell type as long as the activity of the transcription factors known to underlie cell fate had the correct activity patterns. In the following tables we indicated with an asterisk (\*) the cases where the activity of the nodes does not match the activity configuration of an attractor; we also indicate the nodes with a different activity than expected with bold letters. Nodes' activity is reported in the following order: CK, ARR1, SHY2, AUXIAAR, ARFR, ARF10, ARF5, XAL1, PLT, AUX, SCR, SHR, MIR165, PHB, JKD, MGP, WOX5, and CLE40.































### D. Parameter h Variation

The parameter h determines the strength of the interactions and controls if the activation curve of the nodes resembles a step function, a logistic function or a straight line. We performed the decay rate analysis with three different h values (10, 50 and 100), the same for all nodes. The attractor transitions caused by increasing the decay rate of a particular node are the same with the three h analysed. We also performed simulations where each node has a different h (within the range 10-50), and again the transitions were the same. The results are presented in the following tables, one per initial state (attractor).











































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