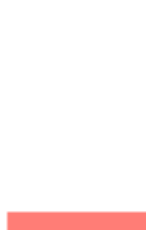
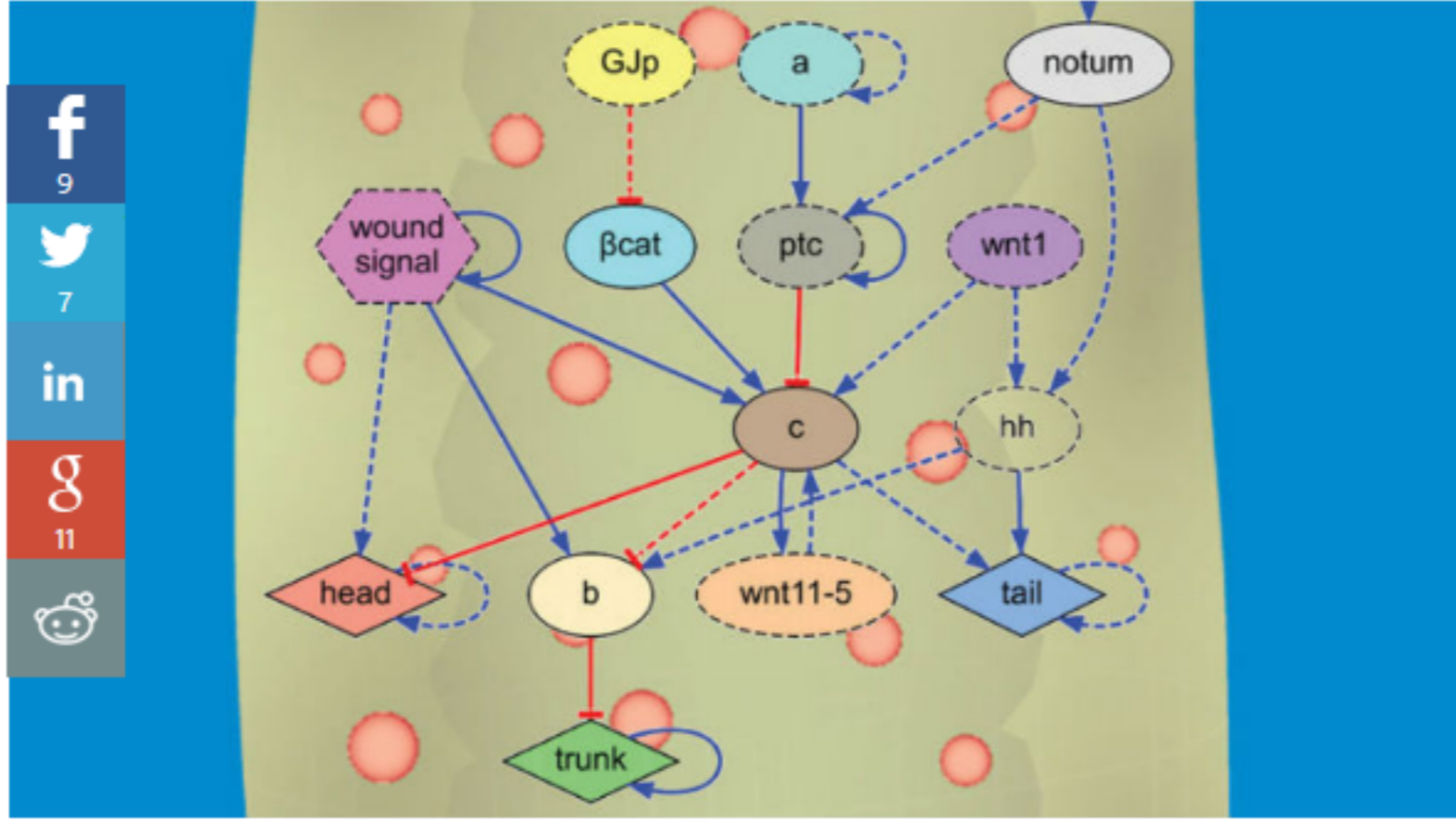


Computer solves a century-old problem in three days



05/06/2015

By Sead Fadilpašić, CONTRIBUTOR [Journalancer](#)
OUT OF OFFICE NEWS



A computer came up with a new scientific theory completely on its own, without human intervention.

TRENDING ARTICLES

- How to insert a tick symbol in Microsoft Word
- Car key attack takes hackers just 30 minutes to start engine
- How to tell if you've been hit by a DDoS attack, and 5 ways to be...
- Apple iPod touch 6th Generation review: The best ever?
- Fed up with Windows 10? Here's how to uninstall it
- Cheaters beware: Ashley Madison hackers leak data online
- How DevOps is transforming software architecture
- Is Marshmallow playing catching up with iOS 9?
- Windows 10 will block your pirated software
- Microsoft reveals the reason why there was no Windows 9

This is the first time something like this has happened, and its future applications are practically limitless.

SEE ALSO: [Unhappy meal: wearable tech pioneer assaulted at McDonald's in Paris](#)

The theory in question tries to solve one of biology's biggest mysteries: how a sliced up flatworm can regenerate into new organisms.

Computer scientists from the University of Maryland programmed a computer to randomly predict how a worm's genes formed a regulatory network capable of regeneration, before evaluating these predictions through simulation. **Popular Mechanics** writes in a report.

The computer took three days, in which it continuously predicted, simulated and evaluated different explanations, until finally it was able to come up with a core genetic network that explained how the worm's regeneration took place.

The study, *Inferring Regulatory Networks from Experimental Morphological Phenotypes*, done by researchers Michael Levin and Daniel Lobo, was first published in the journal PLOS on Thursday.

Levin and Lobo are quite adamant that what they programmed their computer to do "is not just statistics or number-crunching," Levin said to Popular Mechanics.

"The invention of models to explain what nature is doing is the most creative thing scientists do... this is the heart and soul of the scientific enterprise," he says. "None of us could have come up with this model; we [as a field] have failed to do so after over a century of effort."

SEE ALSO: [Russians tear down Steve Jobs memorial after Apple CEO Tim Cook comes out as gay](#)

The duo believes this approach could be used to create theories in any aspect of biology, including the process of cancer metastasis.

[Leave a comment on this article](#)

- Topics [Biology](#) [computer](#) [Flatworm](#) [problem](#) [science](#) [solution](#) [Theory](#)

[ITProPortal.com](#)
How to get faster Wi

[ITProPortal.com](#)
Russians tear down Steve Jobs memorial after Apple CEO Tim...

[ITProPortal.com](#)
Throwback Thursday: Why Apple is called Apple

[ITProPortal.com](#)
Unhappy meal: wearable tech pioneer assaulted at McDonald's...

[ITProPortal.com](#)
Check out this creepy vein

Recommended by [Outbrain](#)

