MIT Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences 9.641J, Spring 2005 - Introduction to Neural Networks Instructor: Professor Sebastian Seung

# Lateral inhibition

# Truth 3:

#### Lateral inhibition can create differences even where none exist.

# Decisionmaking

- Suppose that alternatives are graded on a single scale.
- Make decision by choosing the best.
- Could require amplification of small differences.
- Could require infinite amplification.

#### All-to-all inhibition

$$\dot{x}_i + x_i = \left[ b_i + \alpha x_i - \beta \sum_j x_j \right]^+$$



Consider  $\alpha$ >1.

## **Unconditional winner-take-all**



## Differential modes are unstable



#### Conditional multistability



# One possible winner

$$\frac{b_1 - b_2}{b_1} \ge \frac{\alpha - 1}{\beta}$$

## Any neuron can win

$$\frac{b_1 - b_N}{b_1} < \frac{\alpha - 1}{\beta}$$

