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Negative loops, present in almost all prokaryotic and eukaryotic networks, are key to generating molecular oscillations. Here, we study the dynamics of 2-element negative loop motifs modeled by a new nonlinear system of ODE. The results reveal that a 2-element negative loop with a single positive and constant input leads to globally stable critical points while an interconnection with a positive loop admits limit cycles, Hopf bifurcations, and bistability but no tristability. The system of ODE, related to the Lotka-Volterra equations, offers insights on how the architecture of the network impacts its dynamics. (Received September 20, 2011)