VUB AI-Lab / ULB IRIDIA, Winter 2015 "Current Trends in Artificial Intelligence" Course Series



Complex Systems, Bio-Inspiration and Morphogenetic Engineering: New Avenues Toward Self-Organized Architecture







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### **Erasmus Mundus**



# Systems that are self-organized <u>and</u> architectured

Flock of starlings above Rome



self-organized architecture / architectured self-organization



Ex1: SYMBRION: Symbiotic Evolutionary Robot Organisms (S. Kernbach, T. Schmickl, A. Winfield et al.)





Ex2: SWARMORPH: Morphogenesis with Self-Assembling Robots (M. Dorigo, R. O'Grady et al., IRIDIA, ULB)



Ex3: Project "GroCyPhy": Growing Cyber-Physical Systems (S. Stepney, J. Miller et al., York) Artist's impression of a garden of fully grown, growing, and pruned skyscrapers "Skyscraper Garden" © David A. Hardy/www.astroart.org 2012



planned actitivities: civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, companies, (building) architecture, enterprise architecture, urbanism collective motion, swarm intelligence, pattern formation, complex (social) networks, spatial communities



# **ARCHITECTURE & SELF-ORGANIZATION**

## 1. What Are Complex Systems?

- Decentralization
- Emergence
- Self-organization



### > Any ideas?



The School of Rock (2003) Jack Black, Paramount Pictures



## > Few agents, "simple" emergent behavior

- $\rightarrow$  ex: two-body problem
- ✓ fully solvable and *regular* trajectories for inverse-square force laws (e.g., gravitational or electrostatic)

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_{12}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = m_1 \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_1 \\ \mathbf{F}_{21}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = m_2 \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_2 \end{cases}$$

(Equation 1) (Equation 2)



**Two bodies with similar mass** Wikimedia Commons



**Two bodies with different mass** Wikimedia Commons



## **Few agents, complex emergent behavior**

- $\rightarrow$  ex: three-body problem
- ✓ generally no exact mathematical solution (even in "restricted" case  $m_1$  ( $\langle m_2 \approx m_3$ ): must be solved numerically → *chaotic* trajectories

NetLogo model: /Chemistry & Physics/Mechanics/Unverified



**Transit orbit of the planar circular restricted problem** Scholarpedia: Three Body Problem & Joachim Köppen Kiel's applet





## Few agents, complex emergent behavior

- → ex: more chaos (baker's/horseshoe maps, logistic map, etc.)
- ✓ chaos generally means a bounded, deterministic process that is aperiodic and sensitive on initial conditions → small fluctuations create large variations ("butterfly effect")
- ✓ even one-variable iterative functions:  $x_{n+1} = f(x_n)$  can be "complex"





> Many agents, simple rules, "simple" emergent behavior

- $\rightarrow$  ex: crystal and gas (covalent bonds or electrostatic forces)
- either highly ordered, *regular* states (crystal)
- ✓ or disordered, random, statistically *homogeneous* states (gas): a few global variables (P, V, T) suffice to describe the system



**Diamond crystal structure** Tonci Balic-Zunic, University of Copenhagen NetLogo model: /Chemistry & Physics/GasLab Isothermal Piston





## Many agents, simple rules, complex emergent behavior

- → ex: cellular automata, pattern formation, swarm intelligence (insect colonies, neural networks), complex networks, spatial communities
- ✓ the "clichés" of complex systems: a major part of this course and NetLogo models





### Many agents, complicated rules, complex emergent behavior

- → natural ex: organisms (cells), societies (individuals + techniques)
- agent rules become more "complicated", e.g., *heterogeneous* depending on the element's *type* and/or *position* in the system
- ✓ behavior is also complex but, paradoxically, can become more controllable, e.g., reproducible and programmable





## Many agents, complicated rules, "deterministic" behavior

- $\rightarrow$  classical engineering: electronics, machinery, aviation, civil construction
- ✓ artifacts composed of a immense number of parts
- ✓ yet still designed globally to behave in a limited and *predictable* (reliable, controllable) number of

Ways — "I don't want my aircraft to be creatively emergent in mid-air"

- not "complex" systems in the sense of:
  - little decentralization
  - no emergence
  - no self-organization



**Systems engineering** Wikimedia Commons, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systems\_engineering



> Many agents, complicated rules, "centralized" behavior

- $\rightarrow$  spectators, orchestras, military, administrations
- ✓ people reacting similarly and/or simultaneously to cues/orders coming from a *central cause*: event, leader, plan
- ✓ hardly "complex" systems: little decentralization, little emergence, little self-organization





### Recap: complex systems in this course

|    | Category                              | Agents /<br>Parts | Local Rules | Emergent<br>Behavior          | A "Complex<br>System"?                        |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|    | 2-body problem                        | few               | simple      | "simple"                      | NO                                            |
|    | 3-body problem,<br>low-D chaos        | few               | simple      | complex                       | NO – too small                                |
|    | crystal, gas                          | many              | simple      | "simple"                      | <b>NO</b> – few params suffice to describe it |
|    | patterns, swarms,<br>complex networks | many              | simple      | "complex"                     | <b>YES</b> – but mostly random and uniform    |
| ×. | structured<br>morphogenesis           | many              | complicated | complex                       | <b>YES</b> – reproducible and heterogeneous   |
|    | machines, crowds<br>with leaders      | many              | complicated | deterministic/<br>centralized | <b>COMPLICATED</b><br>– not self-organized    |



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### **Physical pattern formation: Convection cells**



**Rayleigh-Bénard convection cells** *in liquid heated uniformly from below* (Scott Camazine, http://www.scottcamazine.com)



**Convection cells in liquid (detail)** (Manuel Velarde, Universidad Complutense, Madrid)



**Schematic convection dynamics** (Arunn Narasimhan, Southern Methodist University, TX)



Hexagonal arrangement of sand dunes (Solé and Goodwin, "Signs of Life", Perseus Books)



Sand dunes (Scott Camazine, http://www.scottcamazine.com)



**Solar magnetoconvection** (Steven R. Lantz, Cornell Theory Center, NY)

thermal convection, due to temperature gradients, creates stripes and tilings at multiple scales, from tea cups to geo- and astrophysics



### **Biological pattern formation: Animal colors**



NetLogo fur coat simulation, after David Young's model of fur spots and stripes (Michael Frame & Benoit Mandelbrot, Yale University)

Mammal fur, seashells, and insect wings (Scott Camazine, http://www.scottcamazine.com)

animal patterns (for warning, mimicry, attraction) can be caused by pigment cells trying to copy their nearest neighbors but differentiating from farther cells



### Spatiotemporal synchronization: Neural networks





### <u>Swarm intelligence</u>: Insect colonies (ant trails, termite mounds)



http://taos-telecommunity.org/epow/epow-archive/ archive\_2003/EPOW-030811\_files/matabele\_ants.jpg



http://picasaweb.google.com/ tridentoriginal/Ghana



Harvester ant (Deborah Gordon, Stanford University)



## HOW?



*Termite mound* (J. McLaughlin, Penn State University)



http://cas.bellarmine.edu/tietjen/ TermiteMound%20CS.gif



**Termite stigmergy** (after Paul Grassé; from Solé and Good "Signs of Life", Perseus Books)

- ants form trails by following and reinforcing each other's pheromone path
- termite colonies build complex mounds by "stigmergy"



### **Collective motion: flocking, schooling, herding**



*Fish school* (Eric T. Schultz, University of Connecticut)



**Bison herd** (Center for Bison Studies, Montana State University, Bozeman)



Separation, alignment and cohesion ("Boids" model, Craig Reynolds, http://www.red3d.com/cwr/boids)

- coordinated collective movement of dozens or 1000s of individuals (confuse predators, close in on prey, improve motion efficiency, etc.)
- each individual adjusts its position, orientation and speed according to its nearest neighbors





### **Complex networks and morphodynamics: human organizations**

### organizations



(Thomas Thü Hürlimann, http://ecliptic.ch)

### global connectivity



urban dynamics



NSFNet Internet (w2.eff.org)

cellular automata model



NetLogo urban sprawl simulation "Scale-free" network model



NetLogo preferential attachment simulation



## All agent types: molecules, cells, animals, humans & tech





### **Categories of complex systems by range of interactions**





### Natural and human-caused categories of complex systems



#### **Emergence** on multiple levels of self-organization



large number of elementary agents interacting locally

simple individual behaviors creating a complex emergent collective behavior

decentralized dynamics: no blueprint or architect



# **ARCHITECTURE & SELF-ORGANIZATION**

### **1. What Are Complex Systems?**

- Decentralization
- Emergence
- Self-organization

## 2. CS Science & Eng: Toward Bio-Inspiration

Or how to control spontaneity

## Emergence

- $\checkmark$  the system has properties that the elements do not have
- $\checkmark$  these properties cannot be easily inferred or deduced
- $\checkmark$  different properties can emerge from the same elements

## > Self-organization

- ✓ the system's "order" increases without external intervention
- this originates purely from interactions among the agents (possibly via cues in the environment)

Counter-examples of emergence without self-organization
 ex: well-informed leader (orchestra conductor, military officer)
 ex: global plan (construction area), full instructions (program)



## Positive feedback, circularity

## creation of structure by amplification of fluctuations (homogeneity is unstable)

- ex: termites bring pellets of soil where there is a heap of soil
- ex: cars speed up when there are fast cars in front of them
- ex: the media talk about what is currently talked about in the media

## Decentralization

- ✓ the "invisible hand": order without a leader
  - ex: the queen ant is not a manager
  - ex: the first bird in a V-shaped flock is not a leader
- ✓ <u>distribution</u>: each agent carry a small piece of the global information
- ✓ <u>ignorance</u>: agents don't have explicit group-level knowledge/goals
- ✓ parallelism: agents act simultaneously

# 2. CS Science & Eng: Toward Bio-Inspiration

### A vast archipelago of precursor and neighboring disciplines

**complexity:** measuring the length to describe, time to build, or resources to run, a system

- **information theory** (Shannon; entropy)
- computational complexity (P, NP)
- Turing machines & cellular automata

→ Toward a unified "complex systems" science and engineering?

# dynamics: behavior and activity of a system over time

- nonlinear dynamics & chaos
- stochastic processes
- systems dynamics (macro variables)

adaptation: change in typical functional regime of a system

- evolutionary methods
- genetic algorithms
- machine learning

#### systems sciences: holistic (nonreductionist) view on interacting parts

- **systems theory** (von Bertalanffy)
- systems engineering (design)
- cybernetics (Wiener; goals & feedback)
- **control theory** (negative feedback)

# multitude, statistics: large-scale properties of systems

- graph theory & networks
- statistical physics
- agent-based modeling
- distributed AI systems



René Doursat: "Complex Systems Made Simple"

UNIVERSITÉ D'ENER THE COMPANY

institut**Cu** 



#### Pierre Baudot

Information Theory - Adaptation - Topology - Thermodynamics of perception.

#### mathematical neuroscience

#### René Doursat

Artificial development (self-assembly, pattern formation, spatial computing, evolutionary computation) - Mesoscopic neurodynamics (segmentation, schematization, categorization, perception, cognitive linguistics).

#### artificial life / neural computing

#### Marie-Noëlle Comin

Urban systems, networks of cities, innovation, Europe, EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, converging technologies, NBIC (nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science).



(2010)

**Researchers** 

#### Francesco Ginelli

Nonequilibrium statistical mechanics ( Active matter, collective motion, flockng, nonequilibrium wetting, directed percolation, long range interactions) - Dynamical system theory ( Lyapunov exponents, Lyapunov vectors, synchronization, stable chaos, spatiotemporal chaos, structural stability, hyperbolicity).

#### statistical mechanics / collective motion

urban systems / innovation networks



#### Ivan Junier

Bio-related: Genetic regulation - Cellular organization - DNA/chromatin modeling --omics (Genomics, Transcriptomics, proteomics,...) - Condensed matter theory -Inference problems in statistical physics - Network analysis (topology, geometry) -Dynamical behaviors of complex systems. Statistical physics: Out-of equilibrium syste Thermodynamic description of small system

structural genomics



#### Romain Reuillon

High performance computing - Grid computing - Scientific workflows - Model exploration - Distributed stochastic simulations - Paralell pseudo-random number generation - Coffee maker.

#### high performance computing

#### Jean-Baptiste Rouquier

Complex networks: communities, structure, dynamics. Links between fields. Large datasets.

Cellular automata: model of complex systems, perturbation, asynchronism, robustness.

#### complex networks / cellular automata

#### Camilo Melani

Grid Computing, Bioemergences Platform (workflow), Mophodynamics reconstruction, Images processing algorithms.

#### embryogenesis

#### David Chavalarias

Web mining and Quantitative Epistemology - Cognitive economics and modelling of cultural dynamics - Collective discovery and scientific discovery.

#### web mining / social intelligence

Srdjan Ostojic

Neuroscience théoriques - Spiking Neurons - Dynamiques Stochastic-ques.

#### spiking neural dynamics

#### Andrea Perna

Morphogenesis, Collective behavior, Spatial patterns, Spatial networks.

#### spatial networks / swarm intelligence

Fernando Peruani

Biophysique – Active Matter – Complex Networks.

#### active matter / complex networks

#### Francesco d'Ovidio

Applied nonlinear dynamics - Transport and mixing in geophysical flows - Interaction of physical and ecological processes in the ocean.

#### nonlinear dynamics / oceanography

### Taras Kowaliw Evolutionary computation, artificial development, computer vision, visualization and electronic art.



### computational evolution / development

#### Telmo Menezes

Complex network analysis and simulation - Social networks - Evolutionary search for multi-agent models, Genetic programming applied to programmable networks -Bio-inspired algorithms.

#### social networks





Resident



#### Bivas Mitra

Peer-to-Peer networks, Blog networks, Complex networks, Statistical mechanics, Networks modeling, Optical networks, Wireless Internet.

#### peer-to-peer networks



# Visualization of Research Networks of Main and Units of Milleton-Kelly, Eve Visualization of Research Networks

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# 2. CS Science & Eng: Toward Bio-Inspiration

## Between natural and engineered emergence



**CS science:** observing and understanding "natural", spontaneous emergence (including human-caused)  $\rightarrow$  Agent-Based Modeling (ABM)

# But CS computation is not without paradoxes:

- Can we plan autonomy?
- Can we control decentralization?
- Can we program adaptation?

**CS computation:** fostering <u>and</u> guiding complex systems at the level of their elements



CS engineering: creating and programming a new "artificial" emergence → Multi-Agent Systems (MAS)

# 2. CS Science & Eng: Toward Bio-Inspiration

## People: the ABM modeling perspective of the social sciences

- ✓ agent- (or individual-) based modeling (ABM) arose from the need to model systems that were too complex for analytical descriptions
- ✓ main origin: cellular automata (CA)
  - von Neumann self-replicating machines → Ulam's "paper" abstraction into CAs → Conway's Game of Life
  - based on *grid* topology
- $\checkmark$  other origins rooted in economics and social sciences
  - related to "methodological individualism"
  - mostly based on grid and *network* topologies
- $\checkmark$  later: extended to ecology, biology and physics
  - based on grid, network and 2D/3D *Euclidean* topologies
- $\rightarrow$  the rise of fast computing made ABM a practical tool






### > ICT: the MAS multi-agent perspective of computer science

- ✓ emphasis on software agent as a *proxy* representing human users and their interests; users state their prefs, agents try to satisfy them
  - ex: internet agents searching information
  - ex: electronic broker agents competing / cooperating to reach an agreement
  - ex: automation agents controlling and monitoring devices

### ✓ main tasks of MAS programming: agent design and society design

- an agent can be ± reactive, proactive, deliberative, social
- an agent is caught between (a) its own (sophisticated) goals and (b) the constraints from the environment and exchanges with the other agents
- $\rightarrow$  meta-design should blend both MAS and ABM philosophies
  - MAS: a few "heavy-weight" (big program), "selfish", intelligent agents ABM: many "light-weight" (few rules), highly "social", "simple" agents
  - MAS: focus on game theoretic gains ABM: focus on collective emergent behavior

### Getting ready to organize spontaneity

### a) Construe systems as self-organizing building-block games

 $\checkmark$  Instead of assembling a construction yourself, shape its building blocks in a way that they self-assemble for you—and come up with new solutions

### b) Design and program the pieces

 $\checkmark$  their potential to search, connect to, interact with each other, and react to their environment

### c) Add evolution

mutation

by variation (mutation) of the pieces' program and selection of the emerging architecture



### Exporting models of natural complex systems to ICT

already a tradition, but mostly in offline search and optimization



### > Exporting natural complex systems to ICT

… looping back onto unconventional physical implementation



### > A new line of bio-inspiration: biological morphogenesis

✓ designing multi-agent models for decentralized systems engineering



... or embedded in bioware, nanoware...

whether simulated in a Turing machine...



# **ARCHITECTURE & SELF-ORGANIZATION**

### 1. What Are Complex Systems?

- Decentralization
- Emergence
- Self-organization

Complex systems seem so different from architected systems, and yet...

# 4. Architects Overtaker by their Architecture

Designed systems that became suddenly complex

### 3. Architecture Without Architects

Self-organized systems that look like they were designed

2. CS Science & Eng: Toward Bio-Inspiration Or how to control spontaneity



### Simple"/random vs. architectured complex systems



biological patterns

ving cell

biology strikingly demonstrates the possibility of combining pure self-organization and elaborate architecture, i.e.: A CONTRACT

termite

mound

anima flocks

- physical patterns
- a non-trivial, sophisticated morphology

ant trails

- *hierarchical* (multi-scale): regions, parts, details
- modular: reuse of parts, quasi-repetition
- heterogeneous: differentiation, division of labor
- *random* at agent level, *reproducible* at system level



### Ex: Morphogenesis – Biological development





www.infovisual.info



Nadine Peyriéras, Paul Bourgine et al. (Embryomics & BioEmergences)

cells build sophisticated organisms by division, genetic differentiation and biomechanical selfassembly

### Ex: Swarm intelligence – Termite mounds



*Termite mound* (J. McLaughlin, Penn State University)



http://cas.bellarmine.edu/tietjen/ TermiteMound%20CS.gif



**Termite stigmergy** (after Paul Grassé; from Solé and Goodwin, "Signs of Life", Perseus Books)

termite colonies build sophisticated mounds by "stigmergy" = loop between modifying the environment and reacting differently to these modifications

### Complex systems can possess a strong architecture, too

- "complex" doesn't imply "homogeneous"...
  - $\rightarrow$  heterogeneous agents and diverse patterns, via positions
- ✓ "complex" doesn't imply "flat"...
  - → modular, hierarchical, detailed architecture
- ✓ "complex" doesn't imply "random"...
  - $\rightarrow$  **reproducible** patterns relying on programmable agents



→ cells and social insects have successfully "aligned business and infrastructure" for millions of years without any architect telling them how to



### Pattern Formation → Morphogenesis



"The stripes are easy, it's the horse part that troubles me" —attributed to A. Turing, after his 1952 paper on morphogenesis





### From centralized heteromy to decentralized autonomy

artificial systems are built exogenously, organisms endogenously
 grow





thus, future (SASO) engineers should "step back" from their creation and only set *generic* conditions for systems to self-assemble and evolve





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### At large scales, human superstructures are "natural" CS by their unplanned, spontaneous emergence and adaptivity... geography: cities, populations people: social networks wealth: markets, economy technology: Internet, Web At large scales, human superstructures are "natural" CS ... arising from a multitude of traditionally designed artifacts houses, buildings address books companies, institutions



### > At mid-scales, human artifacts are classically architected

- a goal-oriented, top-down process toward one solution behaving in a limited # of ways
  - specification & design: hierarchical view of the entire system, exact placement of elts
  - testing & validation: controllability, reliability, predictability, optimality



### New inflation: artifacts/orgs made of a huge number of parts

- the (very) "complicated" systems of classical engineering and social centralization
  - electronics, machinery, aviation, civil construction, etc.
  - spectators, orchestras, administrations, military (reacting to external cues/leader/plan)
- ✓ not "complex" systems:
  - little/no decentralization, little/no emergence, little/no self-organization



General

Colonel B

Captain A Captain B Captain C

Private A Private B

Colonel A

Sergeant A Sergeant B

Systems engineerin Wikimedia Commons

### Burst to large scale: de facto complexification of ICT systems

✓ ineluctable breakup into, and *proliferation* of, modules/components



### $\rightarrow$ trying to keep the lid on complexity won't work in these systems:

- cannot place every part anymore
- cannot foresee every event anymore
- cannot control every process anymore

... but do we still want to?

# Large-scale: de facto complexification of organizations, via techno-social networks

- ✓ ubiquitous ICT capabilities connect people and infrastructure in unprecedented ways
- ✓ giving rise to complex techno-social "ecosystems" composed of a multitude of human users and computing devices
- ✓ explosion in size and complexity in all domains of society:
  - healthcare
    energy & environment
  - education
    defense & security
  - businessfinance
- from a centralized oligarchy of providers of data, knowledge, management, information, energy
- to a dense heterarchy of *proactive participants: patients, students, employees, users, consumers, etc.*



 $\rightarrow$  in this context, impossible to assign every single participant a predetermined role



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Designed systems that became suddenly complex



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Self-organized systems that look like they were designed but were not

### 5. Morphogenetic Engineering

From cells and insects to robots and networks

2. CS Science & Eng: Toward Bio-Inspiration Or how to control spontaneity



### **5. Morphogenetic Engineering**







(a)



**Self-Organized Systems** Showing no Architecture





# **5. Morphogenetic Engineering**





Doursat, Sayama & Michel (2012, 2013)



(a)





# **5. Morphogenetic Engineering**





# Morphogenetic Engineering (ME) is about designing the agents of self-organized architectures... not the architectures directly

- ME brings a new focus in complex systems engineering
  - exploring the artificial design and implementation of decentralized systems capable of developing elaborate, heterogeneous morphologies without central planning or external lead

### Related emerging ICT disciplines and application domains

- ✓ amorphous/spatial computing (MIT, Fr.)
- ✓ *organic computing* (DFG, Germany)
- ✓ *pervasive adaptation* (FET, EU)
- ✓ *ubiquitous computing* (PARC)
- ✓ programmable matter (СМU)

### ME Workshops (MEW) and book

- o 1<sup>st</sup> MEW, Complex Systems Institute Paris, 2009
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> MEW (Special Session), ANTS 2010, ULB Bruxelles
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> MEW, ECAL 2011, Paris

- ✓ <u>swarm robotics</u>, modular/reconfigurable robotics
- mobile ad hoc networks, sensor-actuator networks
- ✓ <u>synthetic biology</u>, etc.
  - o Springer Book, 2012
  - $\circ~4^{th}$  MEW, Alife 2014, New York
  - 5<sup>th</sup> MEW, ECAL 2015, York, UK



Chap 2 – O'Grady, Christensen & Dorigo Chap 3 – Jin & Meng Chap 4 – Liu & Winfield Chap 5 – Werfel Chap 6 – Arbuckle & Requicha Chap 7 – Bhalla & Bentley Chap 8 – Sayama Chap 9 – Bai & Breen Chap 10 - Nembrini & Winfield Chap 11 - Doursat, Sanchez, Dordea, **Fourguet & Kowaliw** Chap 12 – Beal Chap 13 – Kowaliw & Banzhaf Chap 14 – Cussat-Blanc, Pascalie, Mazac, Luga & Duthen Chap 15 – Montagna & Viroli Chap 16 – Michel, Spicher & Giavitto Chap 17 – Lobo, Fernandez & Vico Chap 18 - von Mammen, Phillips, Davison,

Jamniczky, Hallgrimsson & Jacob

Chap 19 – Verdenal, Combes & Escobar-Gutierrez

### Morphogenetic Engineering







SWARMORPH

Part III. Developing

Part IV. Generating



Doursat, Sayama & Michel, Natural Computing (2013)

### **Broader Review of ME**

#### Category I. Constructing

(or "Assembling", "Fitting")

A small number of mobile agents or components attach to each other or assemble blocks to build a precise "stick-figure" structure. ... based on:

- Self-rearranging robotic parts
  - ex: Lipson (MOLECUBES)
  - ex: Murata (M-TRAN)
- Self-assembling mobile robots
  - ex: O'Grady, Dorigo (SWARMORPH)
  - ex: Symbrion
- Block constructions
  - ex: Werfel (TERMES)



### **Broader Review of ME**

Category II. Coalescing

(or "Synchronizing", "Swarming")

A great number of mobile agents flock and make together dense clusters, whose contours adopt certain shapes.

... based on:

- Robotic agents
  - ex: Mamei
  - ex: Alonso-Mora
- Software particles
  - ex: Sayama (SWARM CHEMISTRY)
  - ex: Bai, Breen
- Programming matter, computing in space
  - ex: Beal, Usbeck (Ркото)
  - ex: Goldstein (CLAYTRONICS)

### Morphogenetic Engineering



### **Broader Review of ME**

#### Category III. Developing

(or "Growing", "Aggregating")

The system expands from a single initial agent or group by division or aggregation, forming biological-like patterns or organisms.

... based on:

- Artificial (evolutionary)
   development
  - ex: Miller, Banzhaf (FRENCH FLAG)
  - ex: Doursat
- Developmental animats
  - ex: Joachimczak, Wrobel
  - ex: Schramm, Jin
- Morphogenetic patterning
  - ex: Kowaliw
  - ex: Nagpal, Coore (GPL)

### Morphogenetic Engineering



### **Broader Review of ME**

#### Category IV. Generating

(or "Rewriting", "Inserting")

The system expands by successive transformations of components in 3D space, based on a grammar of "rewrite" rules. ... based on:

- Biologically inspired grammars
  - ex: Lindemayer,
     Prusinkiewicz (L-SYSTEMS)
  - ex: Spicher, Michel, Giavitto (MGS)
- Graph and swarm
   grammars
  - ex: Sayama (GNA)
  - ex: von Mammen
- Evolutionary grammars
  - ex: Hornby, Pollack
  - ex: Lobo, Vico

### THREE STUDIES IN MORPHOGENETIC ENGINEERING

# Systems that are self-organized <u>and</u> architectured

### Embryogenesis to Simulated Development to Synthetic Biology



# Systems that are self-organized <u>and</u> architectured

### Embryogenesis to Simulated Development to Synthetic Biology







nonlinear optics imaging method (without dyes): based on natural "Second and Third Harmonic Generation" (SHG, THG) of photons by live tissue from a laser excitation

Emmanuel Beaurepaire's Optics & Bioscience Lab at Ecole Polytechnique Paris

<u>biological marker</u>
 <u>imaging method</u>:
 "Double Labelling"
 ubiquitous staining with
 two fluorescent proteins
 targeted at the cell
 nuclei and membranes

### Phenomenological reconstruction: BioEmergences workflow



image processing and reconstruction workflow: Emmanuel Faure,

Benoit Lombardot, Thierry Savy, Rene Doursat, Paul Bourgine (Polytechnique/CNRS), Matteo Campana, Barbara Rizzi, Camilo Melani, Cecilia Zanella, Alex Sarti (Bologna), Olga Drblíkova, Zuzana Kriva, Karol Mikula (Bratislava), Miguel Luengo-Oroz (Madrid)

### Morphogenesis essentially couples mechanics and genetics

[A] Cell mechanics ("self-sculpting")



### [A] Cell behavior: equations of motion



### [B] Cell types: GRN or "Waddingtonian" timeline







| Target cell type T | Axis id                                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intensity          | +1: mono N <sup>+</sup> -1: mono N <sup>-</sup><br>0: bipolar |

### [C] coupling
# $\textbf{MECAGEN} \rightarrow \textbf{Case Studies in the Zebrafish}$

- 3. How is the Zebrafish blastula shaped?
- → How does blastula shape emerge from cell-cell interactions?
- 5. Intercalation patterns
- → Are protrusions sufficient to drive epiboly ?







Macroscopic landmarks characterizing epiboly

- 6. Cell behaviors during gastrulation
- → How is cell division orientation and the polarization field during convergenceextension?



## **MECAGEN – Mechano-Genetic Model of Embryogenesis**

## > Validation and optimization: fitness and parameter search

• find the most "realist" simulation, i.e. closest to the phenomenal reconstruction



## **MECAGEN** $\rightarrow$ **Case Study in the Sea Urchin**





# **MecaGen Acknowledgments**



#### Julien Delile ex-Doctoral Student MECAGEN





# Nadine Peyriéras

Research Director, CNRS







Emmanuel Faure Research Engineer Arrived in 2005



Adeline Boyreau Engineer/Ingénieure d'Étude Arrived in 2012



Mathieu Bouyrie PhD Student/Doctorant Arrived in 2012



Barbara Rizzi CNRS TEFOR Arrived in 2010



Julien Dumont Engineer/Ingénieur d'Étude Arrived in 2013



Dimitri Fabrèges PhD Student/Doctorant Arrived in November 2010



Thierry Savy Research Engineer Arrived in 2006



Paul Villoutreix PhD Student/Doctorant Arrived in 2011



Adeline Rausch PhD Student/Doctorante Arrived in April 2013

# Systems that are self-organized <u>and</u> architectured

### Embryogenesis to Simulated Development to Synthetic Biology



Capturing the essence of morphogenesis in an Artificial Life agent model









$$B_i = \sigma(L_i(X, Y)) = \sigma(w_{ix} X + w_{iy} Y - \theta_i)$$

$$I_{k} = \prod_{i} |w'_{ki}| (w'_{ki}B_{i} + (1 - w'_{ki})/2)$$





### Bones & muscles: structural differentiation and properties





### **Locomotion and behavior by muscle contraction**

all 3D+t simulations: Carlos Sanchez (tool: ODE)





### Stair climbing challenge: 3 better body and limb sizes...







## > To be explored: qualitative mutations in limb structure



<u>all 2D+t simulations:</u> Rene Doursat (tool: Java)

Doursat (2009)



#### **Stereotyped Development**



#### **Environment-Induced Polyphenism**



Microevolutionary Polymorphism



**Macroevolution** 



# Morphogenetic Engineering Work-bot (MEWbot)









#### 🗞 Material used

- Arduino microcontrollers
- Infrared LEDs for communication
- \$ Inexpensive parts: step motors, etc. (≈ \$30/bot)





# MapDevo / MEWbot Acknowledgments



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CUA, Washington







PhD Student







# Systems that are self-organized <u>and</u> architectured

### Embryogenesis to Simulated Development to Synthetic Biology



# Introduction



### Synthetic biology's ambitions

- construct new biological functions and systems not found in nature (re-)build cells to make them
  - The formation of the second se
  - transform chemicals
  - create new materials
  - produce energy and food
  - improve human health and environment
  - process information, compute
  - create spatial structures (organs, buildings)
- introduce the engineering principles of abstraction & standardization into biology
- design and manufacture reusable biological components



#### Registry of Standard Biological Parts



- DNA sequences of defined structure and function
- sharing a common interface
- composed together and incorporated into living cells (plasmids)

| Part Number              | Function                                              | Notation |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| BBa_G00000               | BioBrick cloning site prefix                          |          |
| BBa_G00001               | BioBrick cloning site suffix                          | -00      |
| BBa_P1016                | ccdB positive selection<br>marker                     |          |
| BBa_150022               | minimal pUC-derived high<br>copy replication origin   |          |
| BBa_B0042                | translational stop sequence                           | •        |
| BBa_B0053 &<br>BBa_B0054 | forward transcriptional terminator                    | 0        |
| BBa_B0055 &<br>BBa_B0062 | reverse transcriptional terminator                    | •        |
| BBa_G00100               | forward sequencing primer<br>annealing site (VF2)     | -        |
| BBa_G00102               | reverse sequencing primer<br>annealing site (VR)      | ~        |
| BBa_B0045                | Nhel restriction site                                 |          |
| BBa_P1006                | ampicillin resistance marker<br>(reverse orientation) | A        |
| BBa_P1002                | ampicillin resistance marker                          | A        |
| BBa_P1003                | kanamycin resistance<br>marker                        | к        |
| BBa_P1004                | chloramphenicol resistance<br>marker                  | с        |
| BBa_P1005                | tetracycline resistance<br>marker                     | т        |
| BBa_150042               | pSC101 replication origin                             |          |
| BBa_150032               | p15A replication origin                               |          |

synbiotic





Simulation (based on the *Gro* Language): Jonathan Pascalie

Jang, Oishi, Egbert, Klavins, "Specification and simulation of multicelled behaviours", ACS Synthetic Biology, 2012.



Susan Stepney et al. (2012) GroCyPhy Project: Gardening cyber-physical systems.





# Gro Programming Language

The Gro language (E. Klavins) includes pre-programmed capabilities such as bacterial physics, cell behaviors, and diffusive chemical signals

Capable of simulating experiments involving the growth and self-organization of *E. Coli* colonies on agar dishes









# Our Model – Genome

synbiotic

- Bacterial dynamics is encapsulated in a finite state machine:
   Nodes (states) are the types into which bacteria differentiate
  - Each state corresponds to a set of actions executed by the bacteria
  - Edges (transitions) describe the conditions of differentiation
    - Conditions pertain to protein concentrations and time





# Genomic Representation – SBGP

### The Synthetic Biology Genetic Programming (SBGP) declarative language describes bacterial dynamics and environmental chemistry

| 519.1410 · [              |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ["A", 3, 0.4],            |  |
| ["B", 5, 0.01],           |  |
| ["C", 6, 0.5],            |  |
| ["D", 6, 0.5],            |  |
| ["E", 6, 0.5],            |  |
| ["F", 6, 0.5],            |  |
| ["G", 6, 0.5]             |  |
| ],                        |  |
|                           |  |
| "reactions" : [           |  |
| [["A", "B"], ["C"], 0.5], |  |
| [["D", "E"], ["F"], 0.5]  |  |
| ],                        |  |
|                           |  |
| "type" : [                |  |
| "INIT",                   |  |
| "INTER",                  |  |
| "CENTRAL".                |  |
| "EMIT".                   |  |
| "DEAD"                    |  |
| 1.                        |  |
| 37                        |  |
| "parameters" : {          |  |
| "P1" : 250.               |  |
| "P2" · 35                 |  |
| ).                        |  |
| 17                        |  |

"signals" .

```
"behavior" : {
 "INIT" : [{"EmitSignal" : ["A", "50"]}],
 "INTER" : [{"Ungrowth" : []}],
 "CENTRAL" : [{"Growth" : []}],
 "EMIT" : [{"EmitSignal" : ["A", "35"]}],
 "DEAD" : [{"EmitSignal" : ["B", "750"]},
 {"Die" : []}]
"transition" : [
 ["NA", "NA", "C1", "NA", "NA"],
 ["NA", "NA", "NA", "NA", "C2"],
 ["NA", "C3", "NA", "C4", "NA"],
 ["NA", "C5", "NA", "NA", "C2"],
 ["NA", "NA", "NA", "NA", "NA"]
],
"cond transition" : {
 "C1" : {"AfterCond" : ["0.01"]},
 "C2" : {"OR" : [
 {"LessThreshold" : ["A", "5"]},
 {"GreaterThreshold" : ["B", "0.2"]}
 "C3" : {"GreaterThreshold" : ["B", "0.2"]},
 "C4" : {"GreaterThreshold" : ["A", "25"]},
 "C5" : {"LessThreshold" : ["A", "25"]},
```





# Example: Homeostatic Growth

A leader cell (green cell) emits a diffusive morphogen
 Followers cells (yellow) divide while above a certain threshold
 Death occurs if followers detect morphogens below the threshold





500

400

Size 300

100

0

## Quantitative variations

Variations in the "survival threshold" (th) impact group size and crown's thickness







# Example: Shape Formation

- Cells emit a slowly diffusive morphogen
- Cells die if morphogen concentration falls below a certain threshold
- Dying cells also send a faster diffusive signal that reacts with the morphogen and degrades it.
- This rate difference creates a mechanism of border reinforcement
- Mechanical forces induced by contacts between bacteria support branching structures









After growth (a), organism morphology can be characterized by image analysis:

- (b) binary image and (c) Gaussian convolution to reduce contour irregularities
- (d) skeletonization, then pruning of short branches









# **Toward Building Complex Shapes**

Chemical species emitted by **black** cells react with ones emitted by **white** cells to product **green** cells' survival signals

Example of (guided)

evolutionary bifurcations

Random changes in spontaneous crown segmentation lead to differences in growth dynamics



<u>Simulation (based on *Gro*)</u>: Jonathan Pascalie Chemical species emitted by **black** cells react with the ones emitted by **white** cells to product **black** cells' survival signals







ynbiotic

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