

D. Pattern Formation

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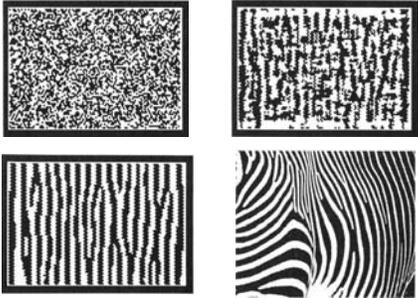
Differentiation & Pattern Formation



- A central problem in development: How do cells differentiate to fulfill different purposes?
- How do complex systems generate spatial & temporal structure?
- CAs are natural models of intercellular communication

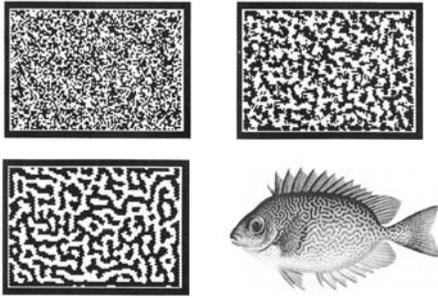
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Zebra



9/17/08 figs. from Camazine & al.: *Self-Org. Biol. Sys.* 3

Vermiculated Rabbit Fish



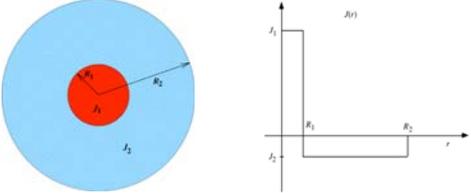
9/17/08 figs. from Camazine & al.: *Self-Org. Biol. Sys.* 4

Activation & Inhibition in Pattern Formation

- Color patterns typically have a characteristic length scale
- Independent of cell size and animal size
- Achieved by:
 - short-range activation \Rightarrow local uniformity
 - long-range inhibition \Rightarrow separation

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Interaction Parameters



- R_1 and R_2 are the interaction ranges
- J_1 and J_2 are the interaction strengths

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CA Activation/Inhibition Model

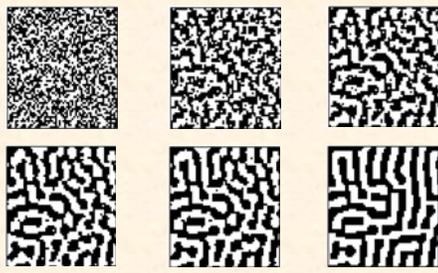
- Let states $s_i \in \{-1, +1\}$
- and h be a bias parameter
- and r_{ij} be the distance between cells i and j
- Then the state update rule is:

$$s_i(t+1) = \text{sign} \left[h + J_1 \sum_{r_{ij} < R_1} s_j(t) + J_2 \sum_{R_1 \leq r_{ij} < R_2} s_j(t) \right]$$

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Example

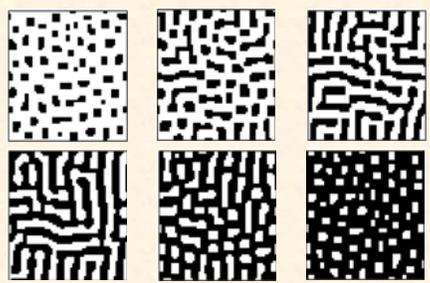
($R_1=1, R_2=6, J_1=1, J_2=-0.1, h=0$)



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figs. from Bar-Yam

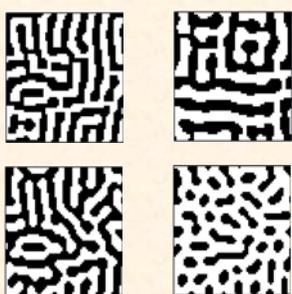
Effect of Bias

($h = -6, -3, -1; 1, 3, 6$)



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figs. from Bar-Yam

Effect of Interaction Ranges



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figs. from Bar-Yam

Demonstration of NetLogo Program for Activation/Inhibition Pattern Formation: Fur

[Run AICA.nlogo](#)

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Differential Interaction Ranges

- How can a system using strictly local interactions discriminate between states at long and short range?
- E.g. cells in developing organism
- Can use two different *morphogens* diffusing at two different rates
 - activator diffuses slowly (short range)
 - inhibitor diffuses rapidly (long range)

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Digression on Diffusion

- Simple 2-D diffusion equation:

$$\dot{A}(x, y) = c \nabla^2 A(x, y)$$
- Recall the 2-D Laplacian:

$$\nabla^2 A(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 A(x, y)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A(x, y)}{\partial y^2}$$
- The Laplacian (like 2nd derivative) is:
 - positive in a local minimum
 - negative in a local maximum

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Reaction-Diffusion System

diffusion

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = d_A \nabla^2 A + f_A(A, I)$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = d_I \nabla^2 I + f_I(A, I)$$

reaction

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{pmatrix} A \\ I \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d_A & 0 \\ 0 & d_I \end{pmatrix} \nabla^2 \begin{pmatrix} A \\ I \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} f_A(A, I) \\ f_I(A, I) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{c}} = \mathbf{D} \nabla^2 \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{c}), \text{ where } \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} A \\ I \end{pmatrix}$$

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Example: Activation-Inhibition System

- Let σ be the logistic sigmoid function
- Activator A and inhibitor I may diffuse at different rates in x and y directions
- Cell is “on” if activator + bias exceeds inhibitor

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = d_{Ax} \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial x^2} + d_{Ay} \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial y^2} + k_A \sigma[m_A(A + B - I)]$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = d_{Ix} \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial x^2} + d_{Iy} \frac{\partial^2 I}{\partial y^2} + k_I \sigma[m_I(A + B - I)]$$

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NetLogo Simulation of Reaction-Diffusion System

- Diffuse activator in X and Y directions
- Diffuse inhibitor in X and Y directions
- Each patch performs:
 - stimulation = bias + activator – inhibitor + noise
 - if stimulation > 0 then
 - set activator and inhibitor to 100
 - else
 - set activator and inhibitor to 0

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Demonstration of NetLogo Program for Activation/Inhibition Pattern Formation

Run Pattern.nlogo

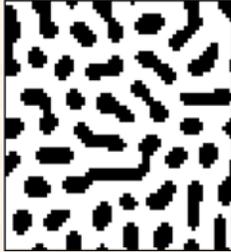
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Abstract Activation/Inhibition Spaces

- Consider two axes of cultural preference
 - E.g. hair length & interpersonal distance
 - Fictitious example!
- Suppose there are no objective reasons for preferences
- Suppose people approve/encourage those with similar preferences
- Suppose people disapprove/discourage those with different preferences
- What is the result?

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Emergent Regions of Acceptable Variation



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A Key Element of Self-Organization

- Activation vs. Inhibition
- Cooperation vs. Competition
- Amplification vs. Stabilization
- Growth vs. Limit
- Positive Feedback vs. Negative Feedback
 - Positive feedback creates
 - Negative feedback shapes

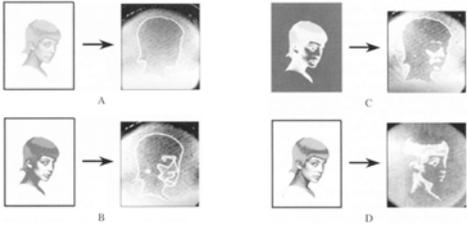
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Reaction-Diffusion Computing

- Has been used for image processing
 - diffusion \Rightarrow noise filtering
 - reaction \Rightarrow contrast enhancement
- Depending on parameters, RD computing can:
 - restore broken contours
 - detect edges
 - improve contrast

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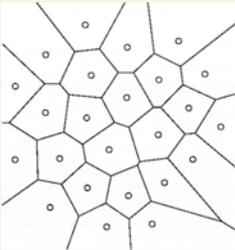
Image Processing in BZ Medium



- (A) boundary detection, (B) contour enhancement, (C) shape enhancement, (D) feature enhancement

9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky, *Comp. in Nonlinear Media & Autom. Coll.* 22

Voronoi Diagrams



- Given a set of generating points:
- Construct polygon around each gen. point of set, so all points in poly. are closer to its generating point than to any other generating points.

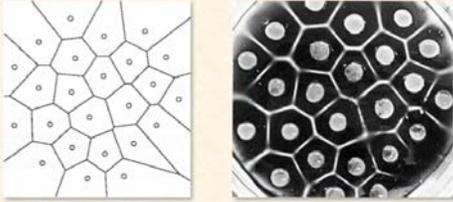
9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers* 23

Some Uses of Voronoi Diagrams

- Collision-free path planning
- Determination of service areas for power substations
- Nearest-neighbor pattern classification
- Determination of largest empty figure

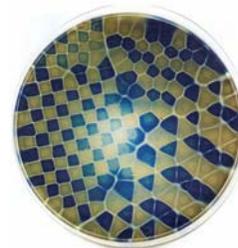
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Computation of Voronoi Diagram by Reaction-Diffusion Processor



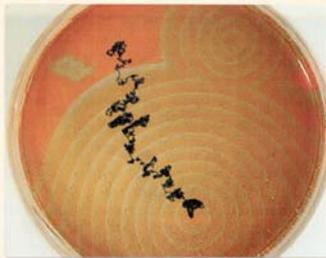
9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers* 25

Mixed Cell Voronoi Diagram



9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers* 26

Path Planning via BZ medium: No Obstacles



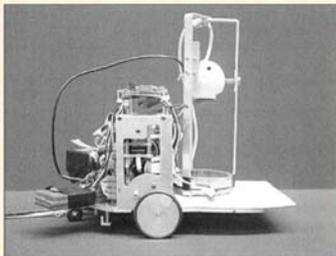
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Path Planning via BZ medium: Circular Obstacles



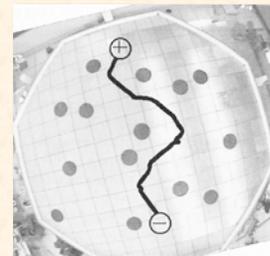
9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers* 28

Mobile Robot with Onboard Chemical Reactor



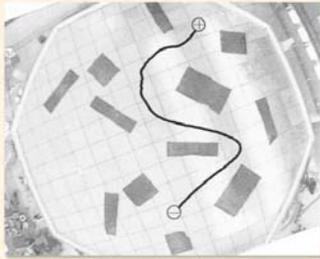
9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers* 29

Actual Path: Pd Processor



9/17/08 Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers* 30

Actual Path: Pd Processor

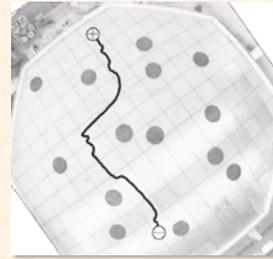


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Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers*

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Actual Path: BZ Processor



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Image < Adamatzky & al., *Reaction-Diffusion Computers*

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Segmentation

(in embryological development)

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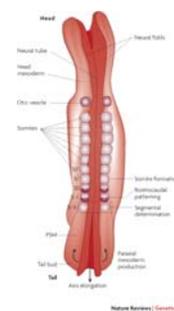
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Vertebrae

- Humans: 33, chickens: 55, mice: 65, corn snake: 315
- Characteristic of species
- How does an embryo “count” them?
- “Clock and wavefront model” of Cooke & Zeeman (1976).

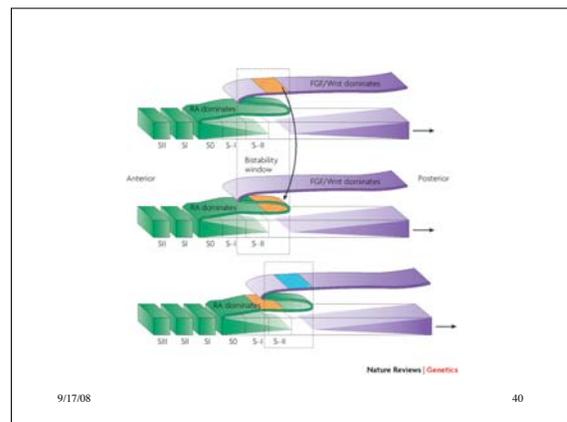
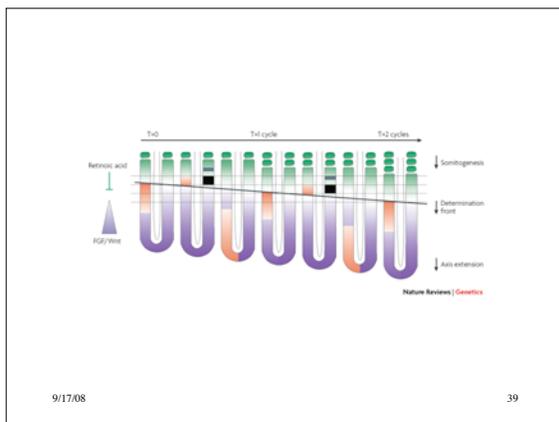
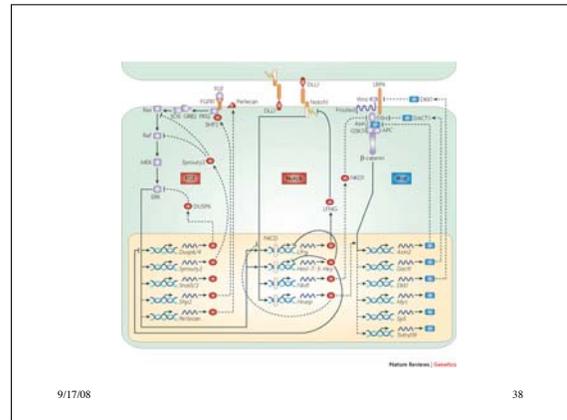
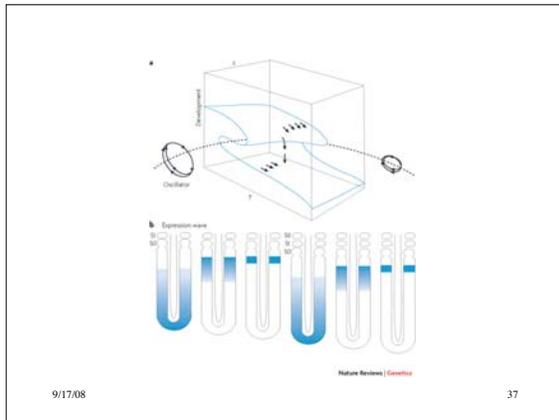
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NetLogo Simulation of Segmentation

Run Segmentation.nlogo

Segmentation References

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2. Dequéant, M.-L., & Pourquié, O. (2008). Segmental patterning of the vertebrate embryonic axis. *Nature Reviews Genetics* **9**: 370–82.
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2. Gerhardt, M., Schuster, H., & Tyson, J. J. "A Cellular Automaton Model of Excitable Media Including Curvature and Dispersion," *Science* **247** (1990): 1563-6.
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