Weather



Cancer





Financial markets





Problem:

- Wanted: prediction
- But: difficult
- Why?
 - → Complex systems, i.e. many "agents", feedback dynamics









Analyzing emergent behaviour in cellular automaton models of cancer invasion

NanoSeminarSeries

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Outline

- What is cancer?
- Why mathematical models?
- Lattice-gas cellular automaton: idea
- Glioma:
 - invasion speed, how to detect invisible cells?
 - how to identify cellular mechanisms?
 - emergence of invasion?
 - prediction?

Outlook:

Computer simulation of tumour growth: can it help?





What is cancer?

Cancer is a group of more than 100 diseases that develop across time and involve the uncontrolled division of cells.

Etymology:

Gk. karkinoma "a cancer," from karkinos "crab, Lt.: tumre "to swell" .



Metastatic cancer in the Jurassic

Bruce M Roteschild, Bian J Witzke, Ere-el Horstelovitz

Recognition of cancer in extreme antiquity has been limited to osteomas in mosasaurs and haemanglomas and growths of unclear origin in dirosaurs. We describe a metastatic cancer in a dirosaur.

Recognition of cancer in extreme antiquity (Measzonic vertebraise) has been limited to ceteomas in measure and haemangiomas and growths of unclear origin in dimensions.¹² Metastatic cancer has only occasionally been recognized in ancient human remains, and only clocumented in the very recent palaeontological record.¹



THE LANCET • Vol 354 • July 31, 1999



Tumor development



Why mathematical models and computer simulation?

Mathematical models can help to explain emergent (cooperative) behavior

Cancer development and invasion:

collective, emergent phenomenon arising from the interplay of healthy, malignant and cells of the immune system.





WHAT ARE THE RULES?





(sin (e^{cos × y})sinh x)

Systems analysis of biological systems



From: Westerhoff/Palsson, Nature Biotech. 22 (10), 2004



Glioma invasion: biomedical problem

• Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM): most frequent and malignant primary brain tumour



t= 0 months



t= 3 months



t= 6 months

- Current imaging techniques: identify max. 90% of glioma
- Usual therapy: resection followed by chemotherapy. Tumour recurrence is almost sure (see figure) due to the "invisible" part





How can we identify the "invisible" tumor cells?





Isolated invasive tumor cells at the tumor's front cannot be captured by imaging techniques

These cells usually are not removed by resection





Model: Cellular automaton







- Time: $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$
- State Space: $S = \{s_1, s_2, ...\}$

- Dynamics: rules
- Roots: J. v. Neumann, S. Ulam: self-reproducing systems,

J. Conway: Game of Life



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The rules:

1. Survival, if living cell has 2 or 3 neighbours,

- 2. Death, if living cell has less than 2 or more than 3 neighbours,
- 3. Birth, if dead cell has precisely 3 living neighbours.







Lattice-Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)







LGCA Dynamics

The temporal dynamics of the LGCA is defined by the application of three operators: propagation (P), re-orientation (O), cell kinetics (R)

$$\eta_i(\mathbf{r},k) \to \eta_i^{\mathrm{R} \circ \mathrm{O} \circ \mathrm{P}}(\mathbf{r},k)$$



Cell kinetics

- Stochastic birth/death process of tumor cells
- Birth (mitosis): occurs with a rate r_{M} and depends on local node density threshold θ_{M}
- Death (necrosis): occurs with a rate r_{N} and depends on local node density threshold $\,\theta_{N}$
- Markov process with transition probabilities:

$$\mathbb{P}(n \to n^{\mathrm{R}}) = \begin{cases} r_M \mathbb{P}(n \le \theta_M), n^{\mathrm{R}} = n + 1\\ r_N \mathbb{P}(n \ge \theta_N), n^{\mathrm{R}} = n - 1\\ 1 - r_M \mathbb{P}(n \le \theta_M) - r_N \mathbb{P}(n \ge \theta_N), n^{\mathrm{R}} = n \end{cases}$$





Simulation



To study the front dynamics, we simplify the 2D simulation geometry as...





"Tube" simulations



Traveling front



Observations

- The "tube" geometry allows for a 1D reduction of the system
- The front is well-defined as the mean position of the foremost cell
- The front relaxes to a time-invariant shape, which moves uniformly
- The front can be viewed as the macroscopic manifestation of the collective cell dynamics

For the analysis of the front dynamics, we derive a macroscopic description of our system





Analysis strategy



Macroscopic description (PDE)

• Using Taylor expansion, in combination with the scaling argument, we derive a macroscopic description of our system (PDE):

$$\partial_t \rho = \frac{m^2}{\tilde{b}\tau} \nabla^2 \rho + \frac{1}{\tau} F(\rho) \qquad \begin{array}{l} \text{B.C.:} \\ \text{x-axis: No flux} \\ \text{y-axis: Periodic} \end{array}$$

Diffusion coefficient:

$$D = \frac{m^2}{\tilde{b}\tau}$$

The above macroscopic description is valid for small mitotic rates

$$r_M \ll 1$$

0

• **Remark**: The reaction term F(ρ) is a \tilde{b} -th order polynomial for the variable ρ , where the first order term is multiplied by the birth rate r_M





Front speed vs simulations



The analytical front speed overestimates the values observed in simulations!!





Refined macroscopic analysis: Cut-off description

Refined macroscopic description of our LGCA: $\partial_t \rho = D \nabla^2 \rho + \frac{1}{\tau} F(\rho) \Theta(\rho - \delta) \text{ cut-off}$



Front speed vs simulations (rev.)



Invasive zone width



Answer to the "invisible cell" problem

RESDEN



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Can computers/simulations help?

- Organization principles of cancer growth
- Simulation of treatments
- Carcinogenesis: evolutionary models (mutations, microenvironment)
 - → Game-theoretic perspectives on somatic cancer evolution, D. Basanta, AD, 2008
- Pattern recognition: cancer surface, scaling analysis
- Genetic analysis: bioinformatics → cancer genes





Modeling pattern formation of interacting cell systems with CA

- Self-organization: single cell behavior → cooperative behavior
- Simulations & analysis: mean-field analysis, linear stability analysis...

Interactions:

local (e.g. adhesion, contact inhibition) and nonlocal (e.g. chemotaxis)

- **Resolution:** cell size and the fastest biological process to be modeled determine the spatio-temporal resolution
- Effect of fluctuations
- Microscopic/macroscopic observables
- Algorithm: parallel (large cell no.)





Cellular Automaton Modeling of Biological Pattern Formation

Characterization, Applications, and Analysis

Andreas Deutsch and Sabine Dormann

This book focuses on a challenging application field of cellular automata-pattern formation in biological systems, such as the growth of microorganisms, dynamics of cellular tissue and tumors, and formation of pigment cell patterns. These phenomena, resulting from complex cellular interactions, cannot be deduced solely from experimental analysis, but can be more easily examined using mathematical models, in particular, cellular automaton models.

While there are various books treating cellular automaton modeling, this interdisciplinary work is the first one covering biological applications. The book is divided into three parts: Part I deals with general principles, theories, and models of pattern formation; Part II examines cellular automaton modeling; and Part III explains various applications. The models and analytic techniques described may be extended to other exciting applications in biology, medicine, and immunology.

Key topics and features:

- Provides an introduction and historical account of the principles of biological pattern formation (morphogenesis)
- Gives an overview of mathematical modeling approaches to morphogenesis, and an introduction to cellular automata and analytic techniques
- A supplementary web based Java applet—*Cellular Automaton Simulator*—enables interactive simulation of various cellular automaton applications described in the book; available on the internet at: www.biomodeling.info
- Self contained presentation is accessible to a broad audience; only basic calculus and linear algebra are required
- Careful balance of theory, models, and applications useful to both experimentalists and theoreticians
- · Includes suggestions for further research topics

The book is aimed at researchers, practitioners, and students in applied mathematics, mathematical biology, computational physics, bioengineeting, and computer science interested in a cellular automaton approach to biological modeling. The book's accessible presentation and interdisciplinary approach make it suitable for graduate and advanced undergraduate courses and seminars in mathematical biology, biomodeling, and biocomputing.

Birkhäuser

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of Biological Pattern Formation

Cellular Automaton Modeling

Modeling and Simulation in Science, Engineering and Technology

Cellular Automaton Modeling of Biological Pattern Formation

Characterization, Applications, and Analysis

> Andreas Deutsch Sabine Dormann

BIRKHÄUSER

In: Modelling and Simulation in Science, Engineering and Technology, Series editor: N. Bellomo

2005

Outlook

Angiogenesis





•Pattern formation: Microorganisms





- **Biological development:** regeneration of corals, myotome formation
- Intracellular pattern formation: endocytosis (Mol. Syst. Biol. 2008)



• Mathematical analysis: comparison of cell-based models







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