

Presenter Days (next week, 3 days)

- 2 Papers per lecture, no reviews due.
- Presenter Duties
 - 30 minutes talk with slides (laptop/download)
 - Both members should present together
 - Stick with the content of the paper
 - Possible Order: Motivation, Problem they tried to solve, Results, and then Methods.
 - Read up on background papers/authors for context.
 - Relate back to topics covered in class
 - If necessary, cover unfamiliar bag(e.g. ML), do some
 - Q&A session at the end of the class (15 min)

1

Self-Reconfigurable “Cellular” Robots

CS289

2

Science Fiction



3

Science Fiction



4

Science Fiction



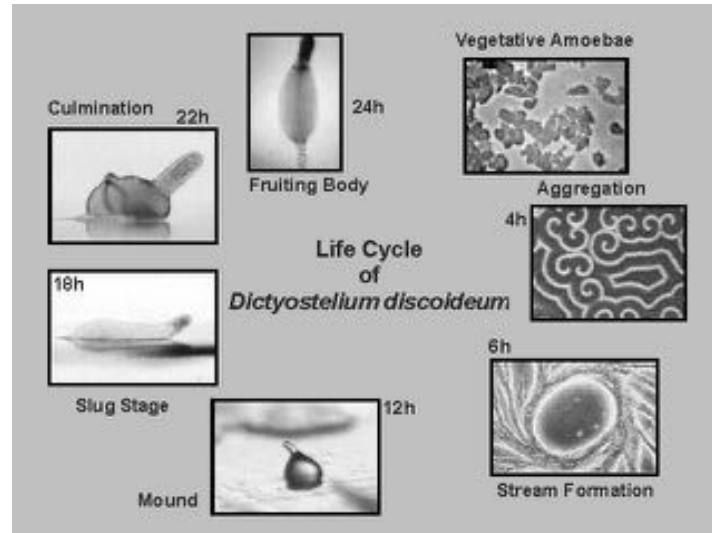
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Reality

Stranger than Fiction?

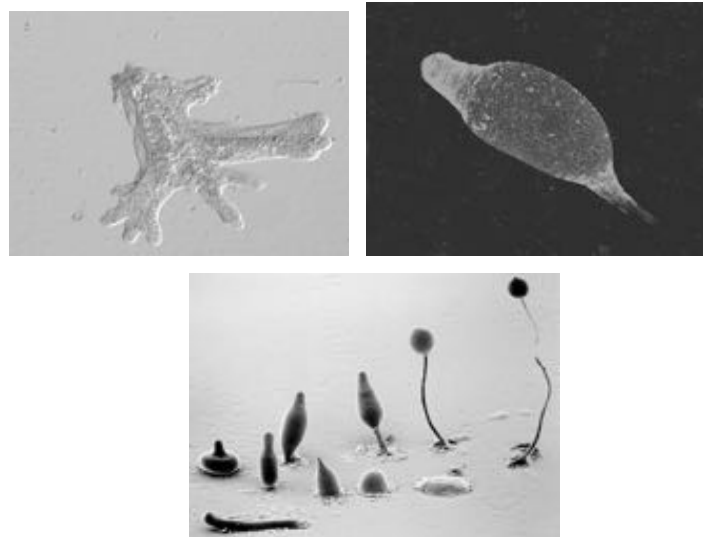
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Cellular Slime Mold



7

Cellular Slime Mold



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Army Ants, Bridges & Bivouacs!



Daniel Kronauer, Rockefeller Univ., Simon Garnier, NJIT; Scott Powell, G. Washington Univ

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Reality
to Robots....

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Challenges

What is a necessary & sufficient individual “module” to create interesting “collective” robots.

– **Mechanical Design Challenge**

- Movement, attachment, power

– **Programming Challenge**

- Global-to-local, scalable, robust

Both are closely linked.....

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Mechanical Design Challenge

- Historical
 - CEBOT (Fakuda), Fracta (Murata)
- Chain-style Robots
 - Polybot, Superbot, Mtran (Yim, Shen, Murata/Kurokawa)
- Lattice-style Robots
 - E.g. ATRON (Ostergaard, Stoy)
- Stochastic Robots
 - Programmable Parts, Molecube (Klavins, Lipson)
- Programmable Materials
 - Pebbles (Rus) Claytronics (Goldstein)
- Applications:
 - From Space Exploration to Novel Displays!



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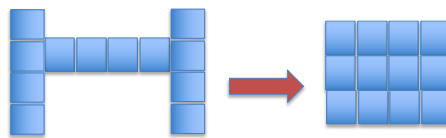
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Challenges

Programming Challenge => Many Approaches

1. **Centralized Planning**

1. Find minimum number of steps to transform shape A to B, given movement and other constraints (e.g. connectedness)
2. But, mostly NP hard and fragile.



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Challenges

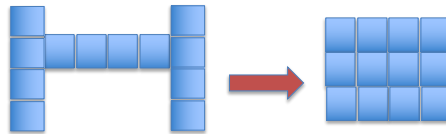
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2. But, mostly NP hard and fragile.

2. Decentralized:

1. Cellular Automata (ala Lindemayer grammars, Rus et al)
1. DevelBio-inspired (e.g. morphogen gradients, Shen et al)
2. Chemistry-Inspired ("tiles" that stick, Klavins et al)

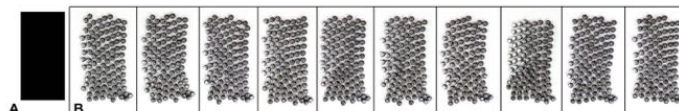


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Today's papers: Kilobots



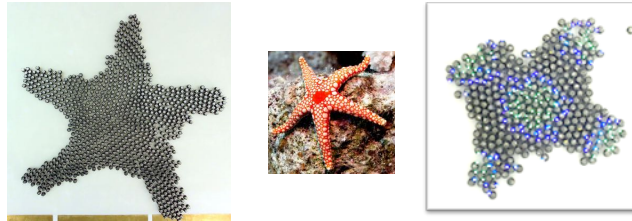
Michael Rubenstein,
Alex Cornejo, Nagpal,
Science 2014



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Discussions

In today's papers you saw two "approaches"
(1) Directed Growth & (2) Turing approach



What other approaches can you think of?
(relating back to the developmental biology chapter)

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Other Approaches

Directed Growth in 3D, with morphogens



Kasper Stoy, University of Southern Denmark, 2004

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Other Approaches

Shape Formation through Apoptosis

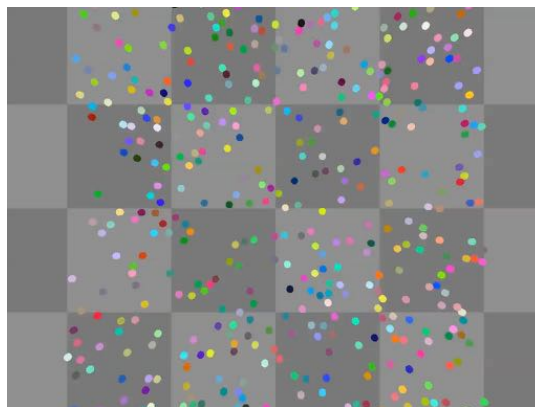


Keith Kotay and Daniela Rus, MIT (Pebbles project)
Gauci. Rubenstein, Nagpal, 2016

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Other Approaches

- Self-Regeneration after damage



Mike Rubenstein and Wei-Min Shen, University of Southern California, 2010

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