

Self-Organizing Approaches to System Coordination

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Outline

1 Self-organising Coordination

2 Biochemical Tuple Spaces

3 Service Ecosystems

4 Computational Fields

5 Theses

6 Bibliography



Motivation

New coordination models recently emerged

- Computational-**fields** in TOTA for pervasive computing [Mamei and Zambonelli, 2004]
- Biologically-inspired **clustering** of tuples in SwarmLinda [Menezes and Tolksdorf, 2004]
- Biologically-inspired **pheromone** infrastructures [Parunak et al., 2002]
- Infrastructures for service **ecosystems** [Zambonelli and Viroli, 2008]

A common view

- Addressing openness and dynamism of today and future networks
- The coordination space should not be “inert” ..
- ..but rather it should **self-organise** to tackle adaptiveness



Self-Organising Coordination [Viroli et al., 2009]

How should coordination laws be designed?

- 1 They should be “local”
- 2 They should be continuously fired
- 3 They should be stochastic

What are the goals of self-organisation?

- Making some global pattern/behaviour emerge
- Leading to intrinsic adaptiveness properties

How to find good coordination laws to this end?

- Several attempts to find a methodology
- But nothing better than take inspiration from nature



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Biochemical Tuple Spaces

We introduce the “biochemical tuple space” model

- a tuple space augmented with **chemical reactions**
- population of tuples evolves **exactly** as would happen in chemistry
- relying upon ideas of Computational Systems Biology

Motivations, applications

- emerging networks call for **self-organising coordination**
- we show an application scenario of **service ecosystems**



Biochemical Tuple Spaces

Main idea

- Tuple spaces + (bio)chemical reactions as coordination laws
- Tuples have a concentration (a.k.a. weight, or activity value) as in PROBLINCA [Bravetti et al., 2004]
- Concentration is evolved “exactly” as in chemistry [Gillespie, 1977]
- Some reactions can even fire a tuple from one space to another

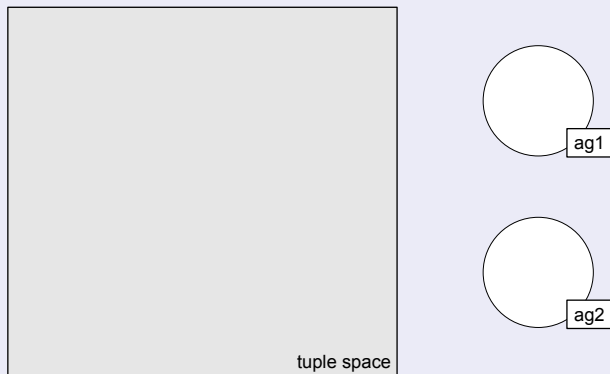
Why design coordination with biochemical metaphor?

- Chemistry fits coordination (Gamma) [Bonâtre and Le Métayer, 1996]
- Can get inspiration from natural/artificial biochemistry
- Can model population evolution (prey-predator, [Berryman, 1992])



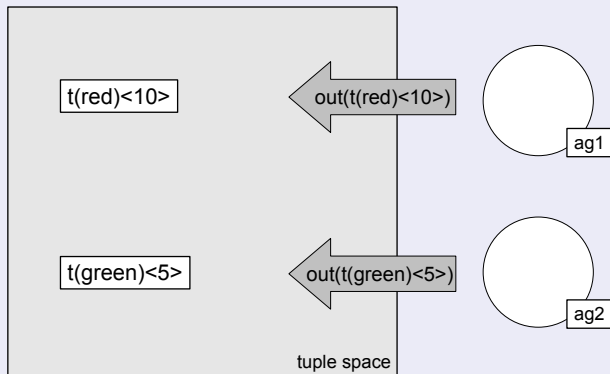
First settings

One tuple space, two agents



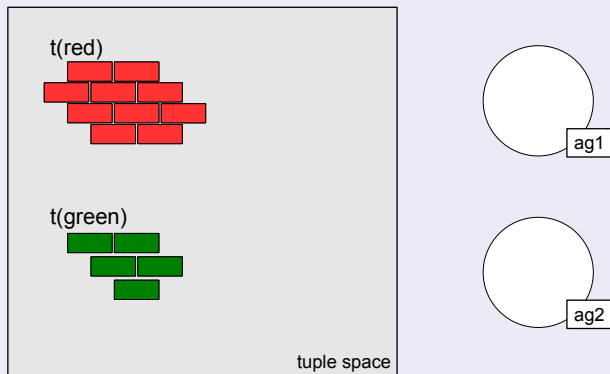
Inserting tuples

Primitive out: default concentration is 1



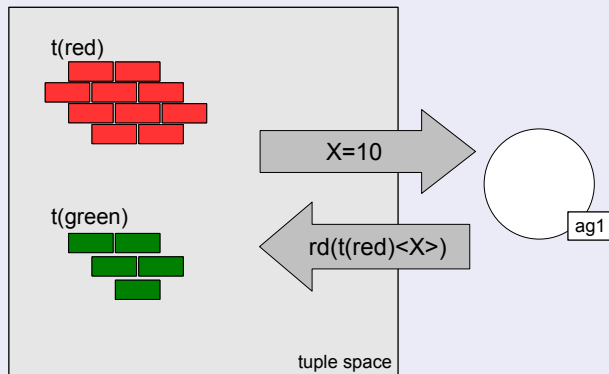
A pictorial representation

A tuple as substance of uniform molecules – but still a single tuple



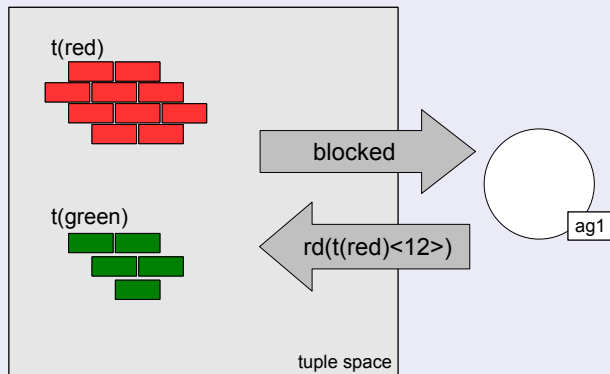
Reading Tuples

Primitive rd: reading current concentration



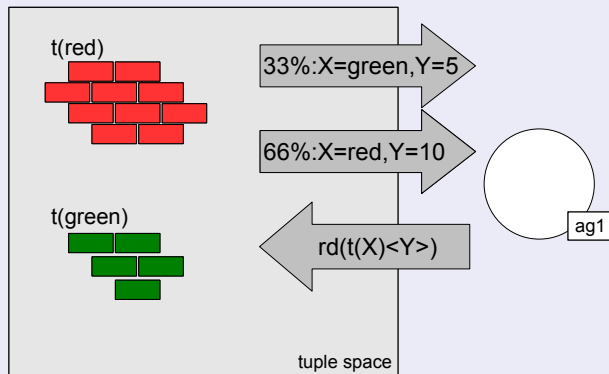
Reading Tuples

Primitive rd: reading a given amount – possibly blocking



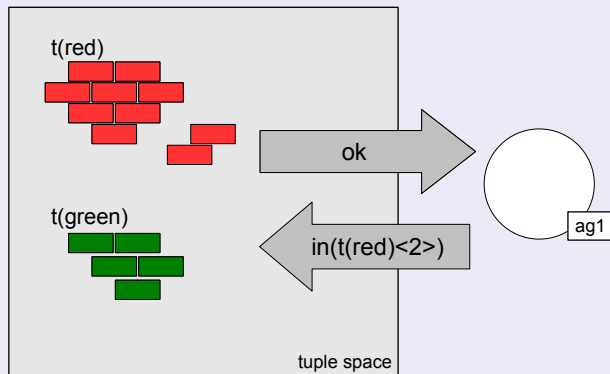
Reading Tuples

Primitive rd: concentration as probability, i.e., relevance



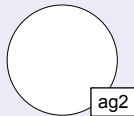
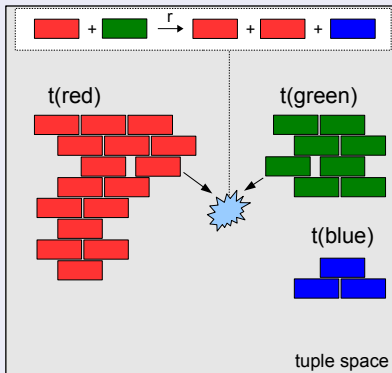
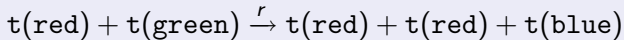
Removing Tuples

Primitive `in`: removing entirely or partially a tuple



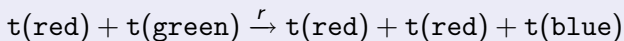
Installing Chemical Reactions

A chemical reaction, with tuples in place of molecules

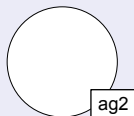
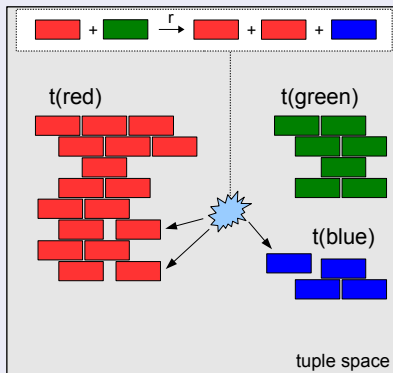


Firing Chemical Reactions

Reactions are executed over time according to [Gillespie, 1977]



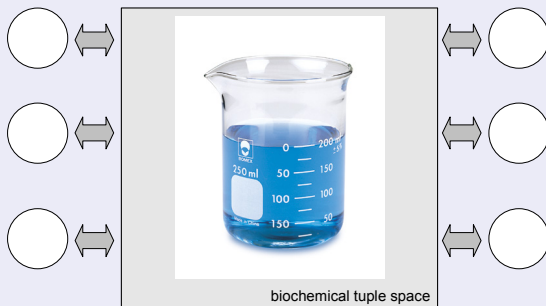
Transition (Markovian) rate: $r * \#t(\text{red}) * \#t(\text{green})$



A tuple space as a chemical solution

Coordination through an exact chemical solution of tuples

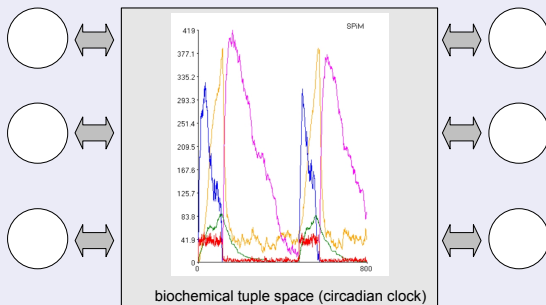
- The tuple space resembles a chemical solution in a glass
- Each tuple resembles a chemical substance
- Agents observe, insert and remove substances
- Tuple concentration drives the selection of chemical reactions



A tuple space as a chemical solution

Coordination through an exact chemical solution of tuples

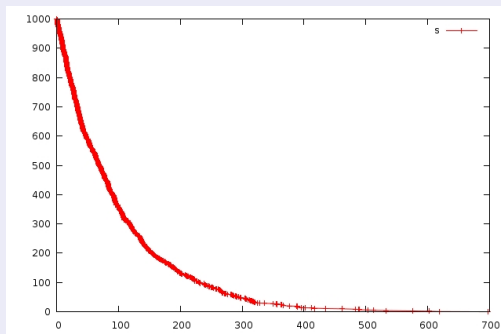
- The tuple space resembles a chemical solution in a glass
- Each tuple resembles a chemical substance
- Agents observe, insert and remove substances
- Tuple concentration drives the selection of chemical reactions



Decay example

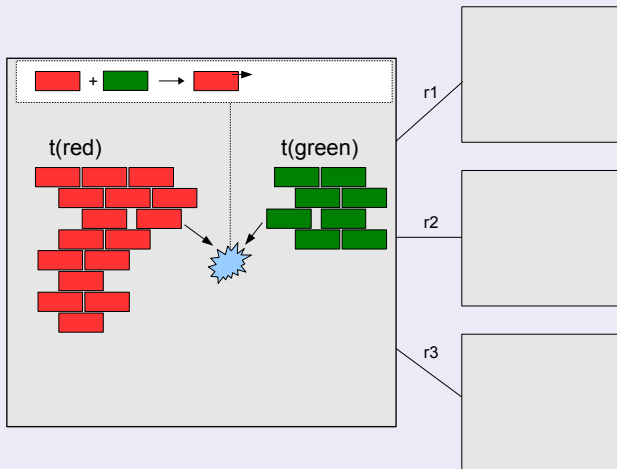
After installing reaction $t(X) \xrightarrow{0.01} 0$

- We let tuples decay (evaporate like pheromones)
- This is useful to enact time-pertinency
- An agent perceives that the tuple is fading until disappearing
- E.g. $t(s)$ represents the temporaneous publication of a service



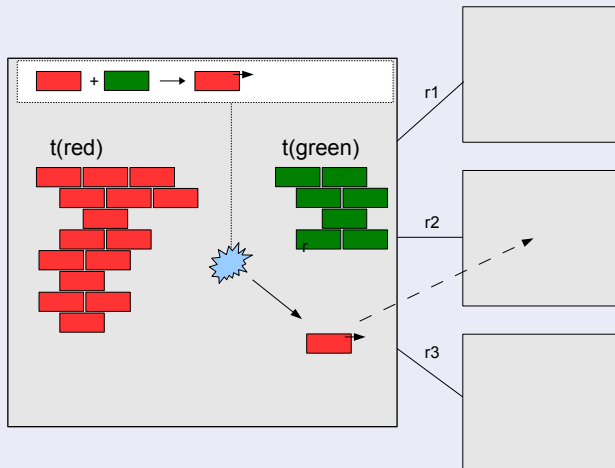
Tuple Transfer

Right-hand side of a reaction can have a firing tuple



From one node to a full biochemical network

Firing tuples are sent to any neighbour, probabilistically a la $S\pi$



On matching and rates

Overcoming discrete matching

- We use first-order terms for tuples and templates
- Matching is by substitution of variables, but it is ranked
- We use an application-dependent match function $\mu(t, t')$
 - ▶ yielding 0 is no match, 1 is perfect match, otherwise it is partial match
 - ▶ Chemical reactions are applied “modulo match ranking”
 - ▶ E.g. with $\mu = 0.5$, actual chemical rate is divided by 2
- A typical scenario of Web-based match-making (i.e. with preferences)

Example of general decay rule: $\text{DECAY} \xrightarrow{r_dec} 0$

- A specific tuple t decays with chemical rate $\mu(\text{DECAY}, t) * r_dec$
- E.g., t models a service publication, granted after paying money
- μ inspects how much it was paid, hence tuning service life-time

The calculus

Some credit

$\Sigma\pi$ -calculus, Ambient, Membrane Computing, stoKLAIM, ProbLinCa

Syntax

t	$::= \tau\langle n \rangle$	Tuple
T	$::= 0 \mid t \mid t^{\rightsquigarrow} \mid (T \mid T)$	Tuple set
L	$::= [T_i \xrightarrow{r} T_o]$	Chemical Law
S	$::= 0 \mid T \mid L \mid (S \mid S)$	Space
A	$::= \text{wait}(r) \mid \text{out}(\sigma, t) \mid \text{in}(\sigma, t) \mid \text{rd}(\sigma, t)$	Actions
P	$::= 0 \mid A.P \mid \text{call } D(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n)$	Process
C	$::= 0 \mid \llbracket S \rrbracket_\sigma \mid \sigma \xrightarrow{r} \sigma \mid P \mid (C \mid C)$	Configuration

Stochastic Transition System semantics: $C \xrightarrow{\lambda} C'$

- $C \xrightarrow{r} C'$, a CTMC transition with rate r (average duration $1/r$)
- $C \xrightarrow{r^*} C'$, a DTMC immediate transition with likelihood r

The calculus

Semantics

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 C \mid C' & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & C \mid C'' \quad \text{if } C' \xrightarrow{\lambda} C'' \\
 out(\sigma, \tau\langle n \rangle).P \mid \llbracket S \rrbracket_{\sigma} & \xrightarrow{1\star} & P \mid \llbracket \tau\langle n \rangle \mid S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \\
 rd(\sigma, \tau\langle v \rangle).P \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle n \rangle \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} & \xrightarrow{\mu(\tau, \tau')\star} & P\{\tau/\tau'\}\{v/n\} \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle n \rangle \mid S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \\
 rd(\sigma, \tau\langle n \rangle).P \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle n+m \rangle \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} & \xrightarrow{\frac{n+m}{n}\mu(\tau, \tau')\star} & P\{\tau/\tau'\} \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle n+m \rangle \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \\
 in(\sigma, \tau\langle v \rangle).P \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle n \rangle \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} & \xrightarrow{\mu(\tau, \tau')\star} & P\{\tau/\tau'\}\{v/n\} \mid \llbracket S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \\
 in(\sigma, \tau\langle n \rangle).P \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle n+m \rangle \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} & \xrightarrow{\frac{n+m}{n}\mu(\tau, \tau')\star} & P\{\tau/\tau'\} \mid \llbracket \tau'\langle m \rangle \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \\
 wait(r).P & \xrightarrow{r} & P \\
 \llbracket \tau\langle n+1 \rangle \rightsquigarrow \oplus S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \mid \llbracket S' \rrbracket_{\sigma'} \mid \sigma \rightsquigarrow^r \sigma' & \xrightarrow{r(n+1)} & \llbracket \tau\langle n \rangle \rightsquigarrow \mid S \rrbracket_{\sigma} \mid \llbracket \tau\langle 1 \rangle \mid S' \rrbracket_{\sigma'} \mid \sigma \rightsquigarrow^r \sigma' \\
 \llbracket [T_i \xrightarrow{r} T_o] \mid T \mid S \rrbracket_{\sigma} & \xrightarrow{\mu(T_i, T)G(r, T, T|S)} & \llbracket [T_i \xrightarrow{r} T_o] \mid T_o\{T_i/T\} \mid S \rrbracket_{\sigma}
 \end{array}$$

Gillespie function $G(r, T, S)$

Markovian rate of a reaction with propensity r , reactants T , in system S

Some implementation fact

Gillespie “direct” simulation algorithm [Gillespie, 1977]

- 1 Compute the markovian rate r_1, \dots, r_n of reactions, let R be the sum
- 2 Choose one of them probabilistically, and execute its transition
- 3 Proceed again with (1) after $\frac{1}{R} * \ln \frac{1}{\tau}$ seconds, with $\tau = \text{random}(0, 1)$

Tuple Space implementation

- Prototyped on top of TuCSoN [Omicini and Denti, 2001]
- Tuple centres programmed with the above algorithm
- The maximum overall rate R should be small enough
- Should otherwise use approximated sim. techniques (τ -leaping)

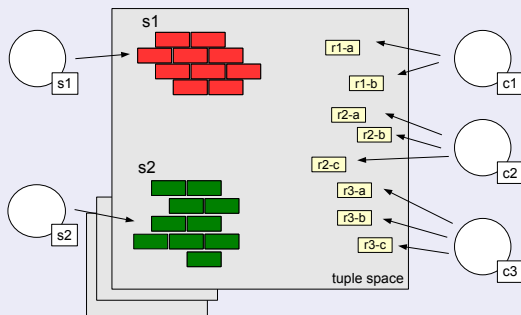


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The scenario of service ecosystems

Services and requests as tuples



Clients and services as “individuals of an ecology”

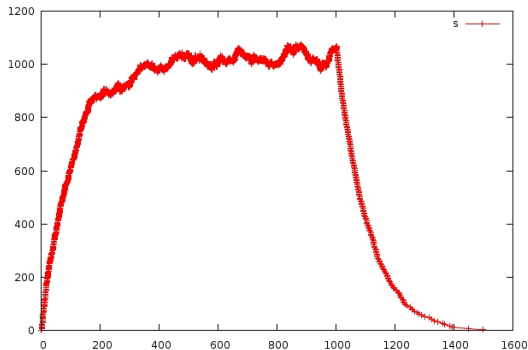
- Unused services fade until completely disappearing
- Concentration of a service increases upon usage
- Similar services compete for survival

Positive-Negative feedback

Idea: Service tuples decay, but can be sustained by a feedback token

- Decay rule: $\text{DECAY} \xrightarrow{r_dec} 0$
- Feed rule: $\text{publish}(\text{SER}) \xrightarrow{r_feed} \text{publish}(\text{SER}) + \text{SER}$

Example simulation: $r_dec = 0.01, r_feed = 10$



- time 0: Catalyst Token $\text{publish}(S)$ is inserted
- time 400: Service S reaches an equilibrium
- time 1000: The token is removed (or decays)
- time 1600: Service S vanishes

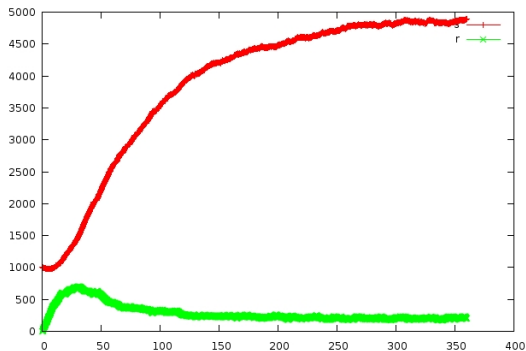
Feedback by using (a.k.a. prey-predator)

Idea: Matching Service-Request sustains the service

- Use rule: $SER + REQ \xrightarrow{r_use} SER + SER + toserve(SER, REQ)$

Example simulation:

$r_dec = 0.01$, $r_use = 0.00005$, $request_arrival_rate = 50$



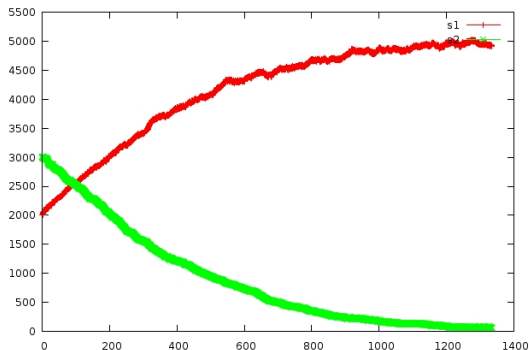
- time 0: Injection of requests raises service level
- time 30: Requests are tamed
- time 350: Unserved requests and service stabilise

Competition

What happens when more services can handle the same requests?

- higher concentration means higher match frequency
- some service may match better the request, being more proper

Example simulation: $r_use_1 = 0.06$, $r_use_2 = 0.04$



- time 0: The two services are in competition for the same requests
- time 100: The one with better use rate (better match) is prevailing
- time 1300: Service s2 lost competition and fades

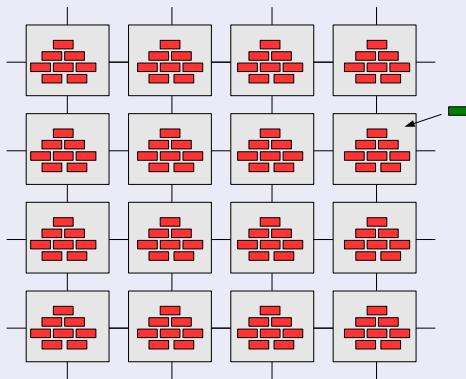
Spatial Diffusion and Competition

One service monopolises a network and its requests

Services continuously diffuse around, by rule:

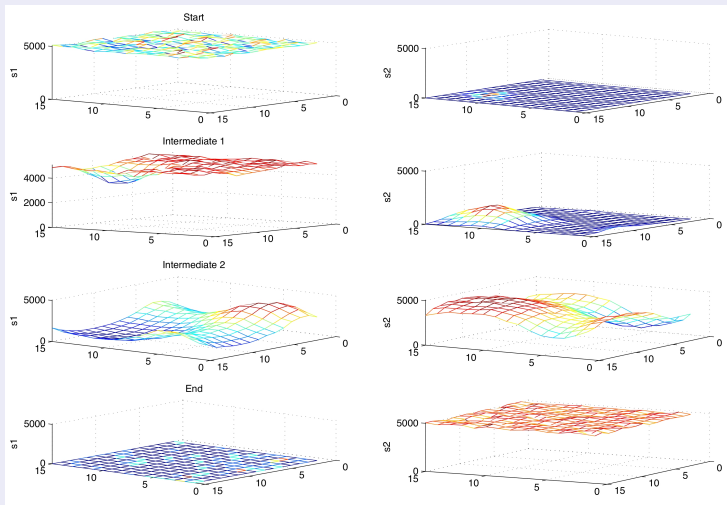
- Diffuse rule: $SER \xrightarrow{r_diff} SER \rightsquigarrow$

Scenario: a better service is injected in a node



Resembling a biological tissue scenario

Example Simulation: $r_use_1 = 0.05, r_use_2 = 0.1$



Properties

The coordination space achieves the following:

- self-adaptation: the best service is selected over time
- self-optimisation: unused services get disposed
- openness: can deal with incoming new services and requests



Service Composition

Service composition via chemical reaction

Two **matching** services can compose by rule:

- Compose rule:

$$\text{service}(S1) \mid \text{service}(S2) \xrightarrow{r\text{-join}} \text{service}(\text{compose}(S1, S2))$$

New composite services can be created

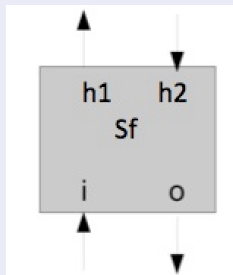
- Concentration of composing services is **decreased** by 1
- Concentration of resulting composite service is **increased** by 1
- Composite services can be recursively composed with other services

What concrete model for composition?



Concrete Model

Service representation via tuples



Service tuple:

```
service([sf(id502)],  
        [in(i),out(o),out(h1),in(h2)],  
        [[in(i),out(h1),in(h2),out(o)]]  
).
```

Arguments:

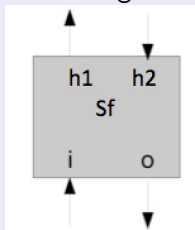
- identifier
- list of input/output ports
- list representing a sequence of ports



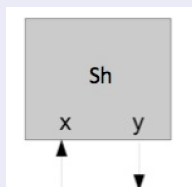
Composing Two Services (1)

Two matching services

One service for flight reservation



One service for hotel booking



S_f and S_h can be composed

- output port $h1$ matches input port x
- output port y matches input port $h2$

What chemical rules for composing them?



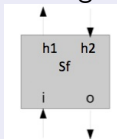
The Comprehensive Framework for Composition

$\text{service}(C^1, \text{in}(B^2) \oplus I, P) \mid \text{service}(C'^1, \text{out}(B'^2) \oplus I', P')$	
$\xrightarrow{r_comp}$	
$\text{service}(C \oplus C', \text{link}(\text{in}(B), \text{out}(B')) \oplus I \oplus I', P \oplus P')$	[COMPOSE]
$\text{service}(C, \text{in}(B^1) \oplus \text{out}(B'^1) \oplus I, P) \xrightarrow{r_link} \text{service}(C, \text{link}(\text{in}(B), \text{out}(B')) \oplus I, P)$	[LINK]
$\text{service}(C, I, P) \xrightarrow{r_dec} 0$	[DECAY]
$\text{service}(C, I, P)^1 \mid \text{request}(\text{ServiceDescription}^1, A)$	
$\xrightarrow{r_use}$	
$\text{service}(C, I, P) \mid \text{session}(X^f, A, C, I, P)$	[USE]
$\text{session}(X^f, A, C, I, []) \mid \text{service}(C, I, P) \xrightarrow{*} \text{service}(C, I, P) \mid \text{service}(C, I, P)$	[COMPLETE]
$\text{session}(X, A, C, \text{in}(B) \oplus I, [\text{in}(B) \mid T] \oplus P) \mid \text{input}(X, A, B, M)$	
$\xrightarrow{*}$	
$\text{session}(X, A, C, \text{in}(B) \oplus I, T \oplus P) \mid \text{accepted} - \text{input}(X, A, B, M)$	[INPUT]
$\text{session}(X, A, C, \text{out}(B) \oplus I, [\text{out}(B) \mid T] \oplus P) \mid \text{output}(X, A, B, M)$	
$\xrightarrow{*}$	
$\text{session}(X, A, C, \text{out}(B) \oplus I, T \oplus P) \mid \text{produced} - \text{output}(X, A, B, M)$	[OUTPUT]
$\text{session}(X, A, C, \text{link}(\text{in}(B), \text{out}(B')) \oplus I, [\text{out}(B') \mid T'] \oplus [\text{in}(B) \mid T] \oplus P) \mid$ $\text{produced} - \text{output}(X, A, B', M)$	
$\xrightarrow{*}$	
$\text{session}(X, A, C, \text{link}(\text{in}(B), \text{out}(B')) \oplus I, T' \oplus T \oplus P) \mid$ $\text{accepted} - \text{input}(X, A, B, M)$	[IN-OUT]
$\text{session}(X, A, C, I, P) \mid \text{abort}(X, A) \xrightarrow{*} 0$	[ABORT]

Composing Two Services (2)

From the two matching services ...

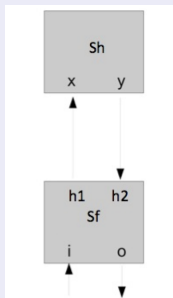
One service for flight reservation



One service for hotel booking



... to the composite service



```
service([sf(id502),sh(id103)],  
  [in(i),out(o),link(in(x),out(h1)),  
    link(in(h2),out(y))],  
  [ [in(i),out(h1),in(h2),out(o)],  
    [in(x),out(y)] ]  
).
```

An Example of Service Composition (1)

Scenario

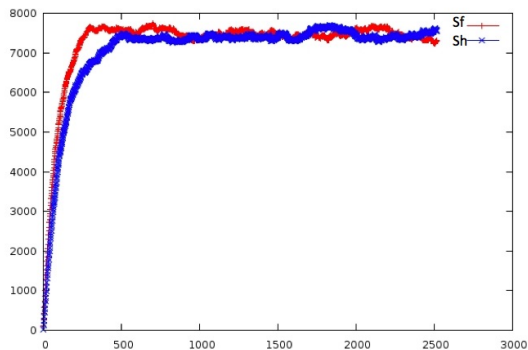
- Two services **sf** and **sh** for flight and hotel booking (respectively)
- Service decay rate $r_{decay} = 0.01$
- Three kinds of requests coming:
 - ▶ **rf** (flight reservation) and **rh** (hotel booking) served with $r_{use} = 1.0$
 - ▶ **rfh** asking for both a flight and a hotel: served by both **sf** and **sh** with $r_{use} = 0.3$ (partial match!)



An Example of Service Composition (2)

No composition:

$rh_arrival_rate = rf_arrival_rate = 25$, $r_{fh_arrival_rate} = 100$

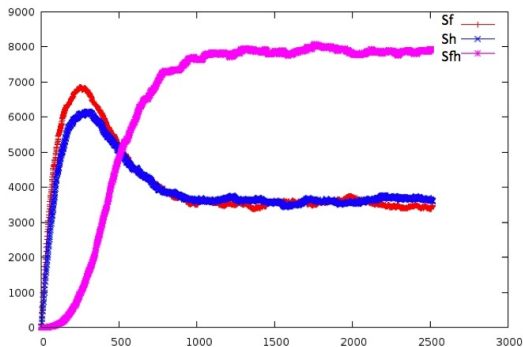


- The two services reach equilibrium
- Approximate activity level: 7500 per service



An Example of Service Composition (3)

sh and sf compose: composite service sfh is now available



- **sfh** serves only requests **rfh** with $r_{use} = 1.0$
- As a result, now **sfh** competes with **sf** and **sh**



Ongoing Works on Service Composition

Summing up ...

- Exploited the chemical-inspired tuple-space model to ...
- ... devise a model for **service composition and competition**
- → Prototype implementation in TuCSoN

Work in progress

- Tune reaction rates
- Introduce semantic matching
- Finalize the prototyped implementation
- Find case studies



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Computational Fields

Scenario

- A *spatially distributed network* made of ...
- ...many *computing devices*, usually defined as *nodes*

Computational Fields

- simply put: a *function mapping each node to a value*
- this *value* denotes some relevant aspects of the system state locally to each node

→ A dynamically evolving spatial data structure



Relevance for Pervasive Systems

Two Important Aspects

- Computational fields intrinsically support two important requirements of pervasive systems:
 - ▶ *context-awareness*
 - ▶ *self-adaptation*

Context-Awareness

- local field value in a node depends on the state of the surrounding nodes



Relevance for Pervasive Systems

Two Important Aspects

- Computational fields intrinsically support two important requirements of pervasive systems:
 - ▶ *context-awareness*
 - ▶ *self-adaptation*

Self-Adaptation

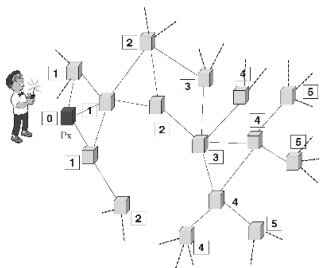
- value mapping occurs on a neighborhood-basis so as to adapt to changes in the network
 - ▶ node *failures* and *mobility*, etc.



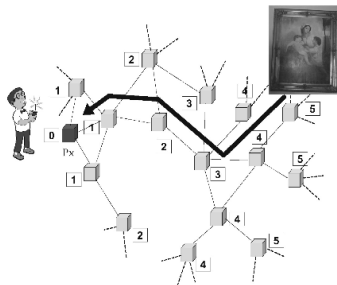
Uses in Pervasive Domains (I)

Finding Art Pieces in a Big Museum

From [Mamei and Zambonelli, 2009]



(a)



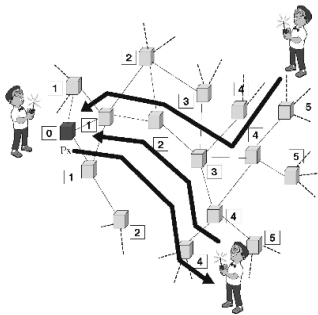
(b)



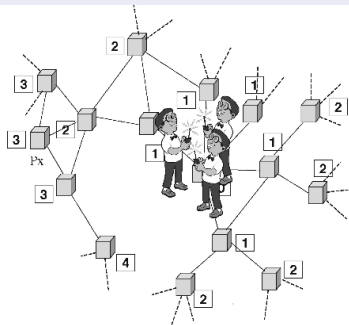
Uses in Pervasive Domains (II)

Discovering in a Big Museum

From [Mamei and Zambonelli, 2009]



(c)



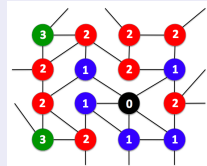
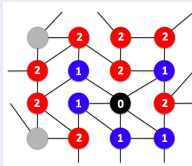
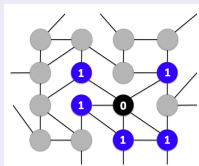
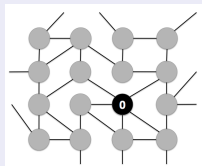
(d)



Examples of Computational Field Algorithms

Gradient

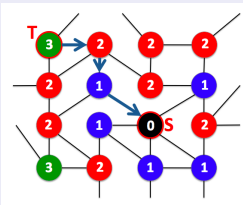
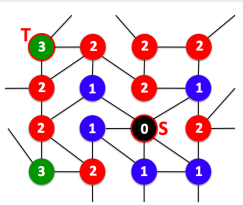
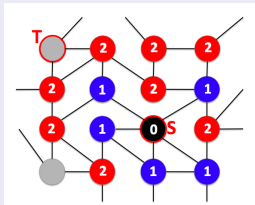
- A computational field where the field value in a specific node depends exclusively on some *notion of distance* from the source node of the gradient
- Example of uses in pervasive systems:
 - ▶ find the shortest path to a device in the network
 - ▶ build virtual communication channels between devices that need to communicate



Examples of Computational Field Algorithms

Gradient Descent

- A gradient diffusing over the network until reaching a target device (e.g. containing information of interest): the sought information can then follow downhill the gradient until reaching the gradient source
- Example of uses in pervasive systems:
 - ▶ data retrieval in spatial settings
 - ▶ device discovery



Modelling and Verifying Computational Fields (I)

Our Specification Language

<i>Spec</i>	$::= \overline{vdef} \ \overline{rl}$	Specification
<i>rl</i>	$::= \overline{p} \dashv\dashv Exp \dashv\dashv \overline{u};$	Rule
<i>vdef</i>	$::= X : [lb..up];$	Variable Definition
<i>p</i>	$::= c \mid a$	Precondition
<i>c</i>	$::= Exp \ opb \ Exp$	Boolean Condition
<i>a</i>	$::= N := \&neigh[c]$	Neighborhood Assignment
<i>u</i>	$::= V' = Exp$	Update
<i>Exp</i>	$::= Re \mid V \mid Exp \ op \ Exp \mid neigh[Exp]$	Numeric Expressions
<i>opb</i>	$::= \geq \mid \leq \mid > \mid < \mid = \mid \neq$	Boolean Operators
<i>op</i>	$::= + \mid - \mid * \mid /$	Math Operators
<i>neigh</i>	$::= any \mid min \mid max$	Neighborhood Functions
<i>V</i>	$::= X \mid N.X \mid @.X$	Variables



Modelling and Verifying Computational Fields (II)

Verification

- Computational Fields modelled via our specification language needs to be verified
- This can be done via *stochastic model checking*

Stochastic Model Checking

- Our Models will be translated into CTMC models, in particular into PRISM models
- This allows to perform *quantitative analysis* related on performance and costs



Modelling Gradient Descent

Model

```
pump   : [0..1];
field  : [0..MAX];
desc   : [0..1];

[]      pump=1 & field>0 -- 1.0 --> field'= 0;

[diff] pump=0          -- 1.0 --> field'= min[@.field]+1;

[move] desc=1 & N:=&any[@.field<field]
        -- (field-@.field)/@.field/sum((field-@.field)/@.field) -->
desc'=0 & N.desc'=1;
```



Time Required to Reach Gradient Source (I)

- As we are in a stochastic domain, this translates to: *which is the probability of reaching source within k time units?*
- This is expressed via the following CSL formula:

$P=?$ [true $U \leq k$ "descent_complete"]

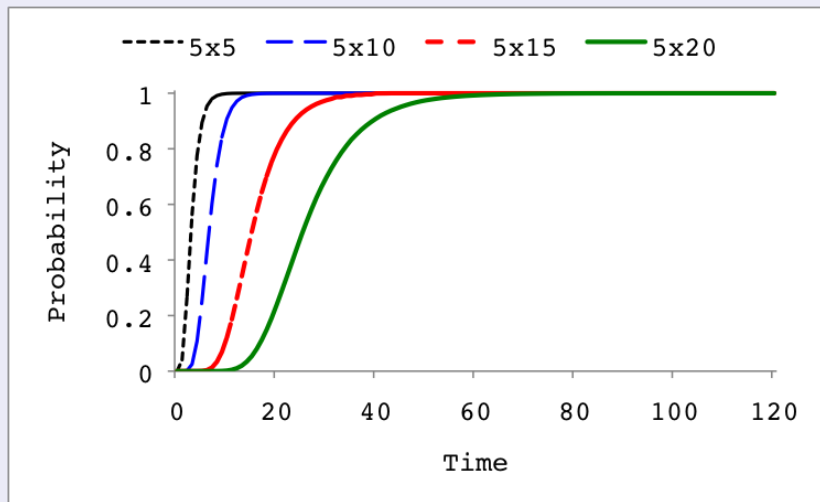
- Where descent_complete is a property specified on the model according to the syntax:

```
property "descent_complete" = exist[ pump=1 & desc=1 ];
```



Quantitative Verification: Performance

Time Required to Reach Gradient Source (II)



Number of Network Hops to Reach Gradient Source (I)

- As we are in a stochastic domain, this translates to: *which is the expected number of hops necessary to reach source?*
- This is expressed via the following CSL formula:

$R\{\text{hops}\}=? \ [F \ \text{"descent_complete"}]$

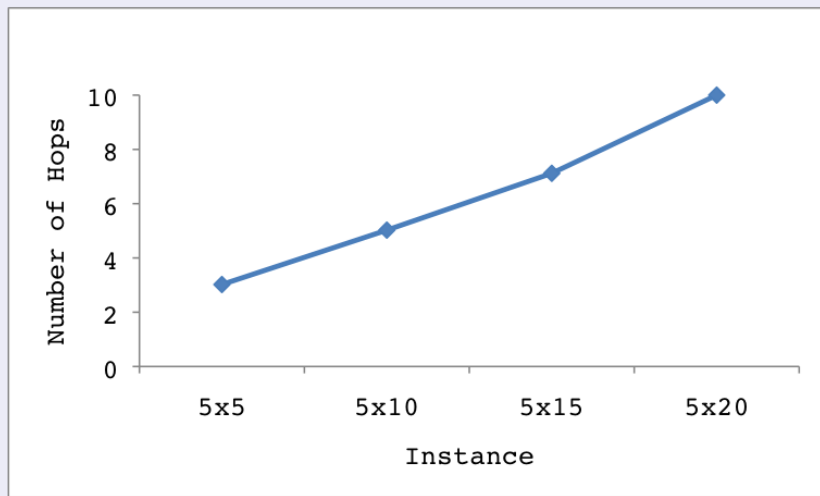
- Where the hops reward structure is specified on the model according to the syntax:

```
rewards "hops" = [move] true : 1;
```



Quantitative Verification: Cost

Number of Network Hops to Reach Gradient Source (II)



Outline

- 1 Self-organising Coordination
- 2 Biochemical Tuple Spaces
- 3 Service Ecosystems
- 4 Computational Fields
- 5 Theses**
- 6 Bibliography

Available Theses on the Presented Topics

Biochemical Tuple Spaces

- Implementation of a new framework explicitly supporting the biochemical tuple space model

Computational Fields

- Implementation of a framework for modelling and verifying computational fields

Model Checking

- Model checker for approximate model checking starting from simulation tools developed by our research group



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Self-Organizing Approaches to System Coordination

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