

The First Multi-Cellular Model of Neuroblastoma

K. Y. Wertheim, R. Chisholm, P. Richmond, D. Walker

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INSIGNEO
Institute for *in silico* Medicine



PRIMAGE
Medical imaging
Artificial intelligence
Childhood cancer research



Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

Objectives

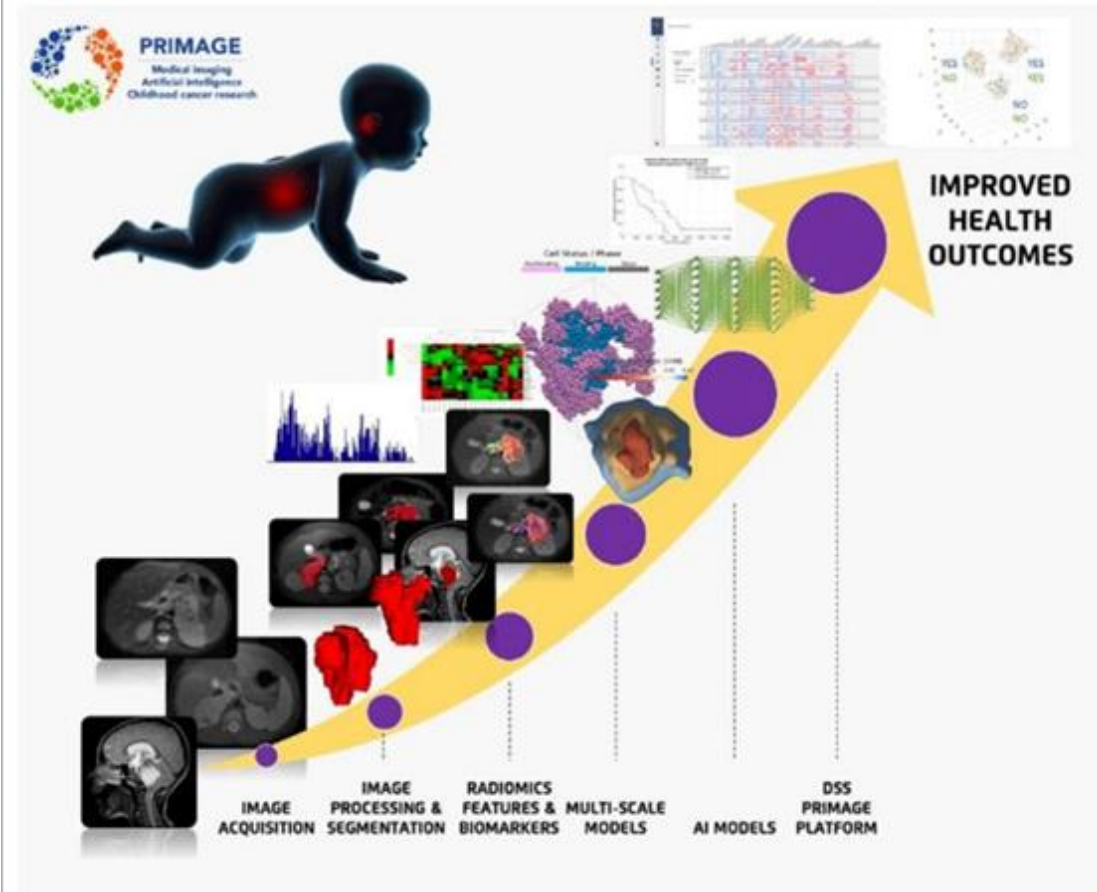
1. PRIMAGE project.
2. Scale separation strategy in the project.
3. The first multi-cellular model of neuroblastoma.
4. Model calibration using GPUs.

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Explainer





Decision support system for the clinical management of malignant solid tumours.

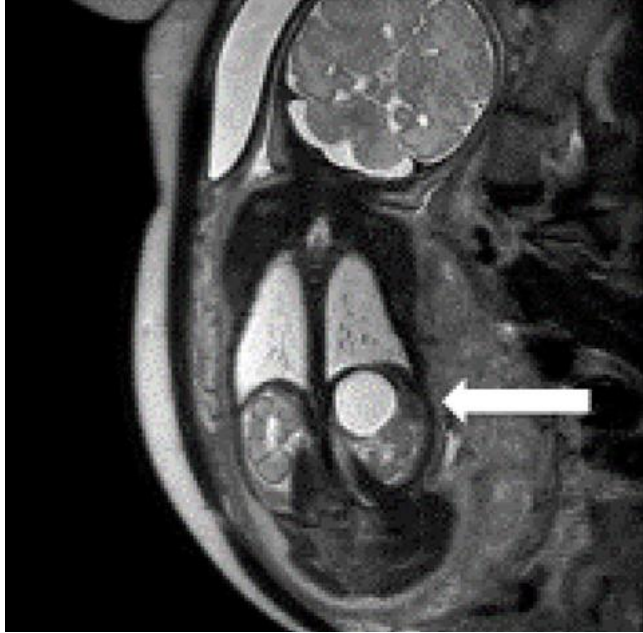
1. Image acquisition, processing, and segmentation.
2. Integrate radiomic features with other biomarkers, such as mutations and histology.
3. **Multiscale models: organ/tumour, tissue, and intracellular.**
4. Machine learning techniques extract insights from simulation results.

Martí-Bonmatí, Luis, et al. "PRIMAGE project: predictive in silico multiscale analytics to support childhood cancer personalised evaluation empowered by imaging biomarkers." *European radiology experimental* 4.1 (2020): 1-11.

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Neuroblastoma

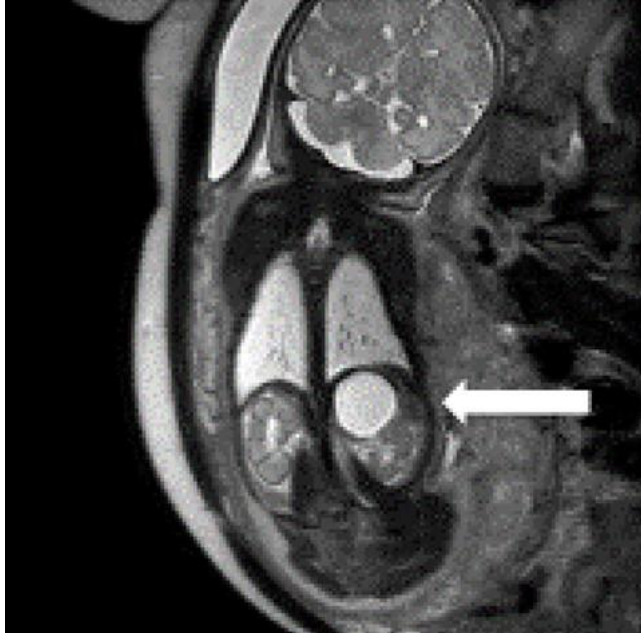


Louis, Chrystal U., and Jason M. Shohet. "Neuroblastoma: molecular pathogenesis and therapy." *Annual review of medicine* 66 (2015): 49-63.

Paediatric cancer:

- Most common extra-cranial solid tumour in children.
- 15 % of cancer-related deaths in children.
- Adrenal medulla is usually the primary site.

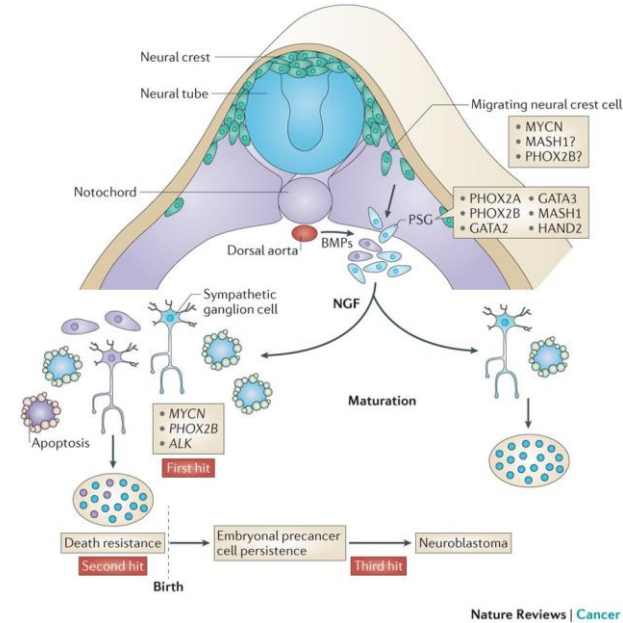
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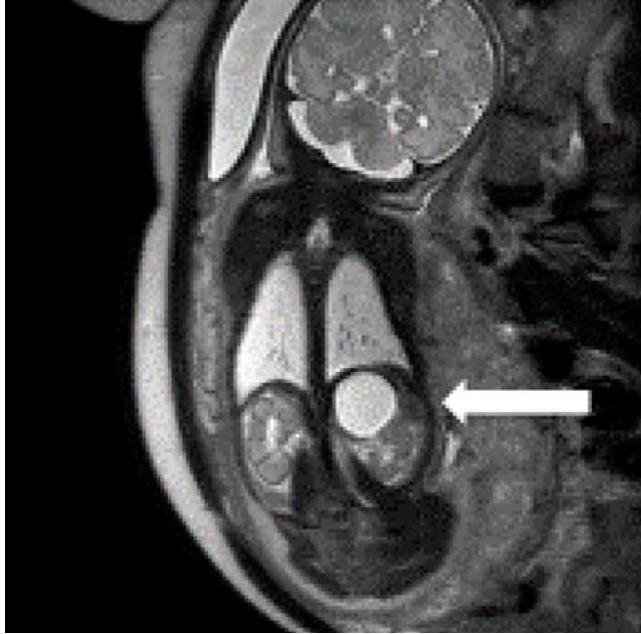


Marshall, Glenn M., et al. "The prenatal origins of cancer." *Nature Reviews Cancer* 14.4 (2014): 277-289.

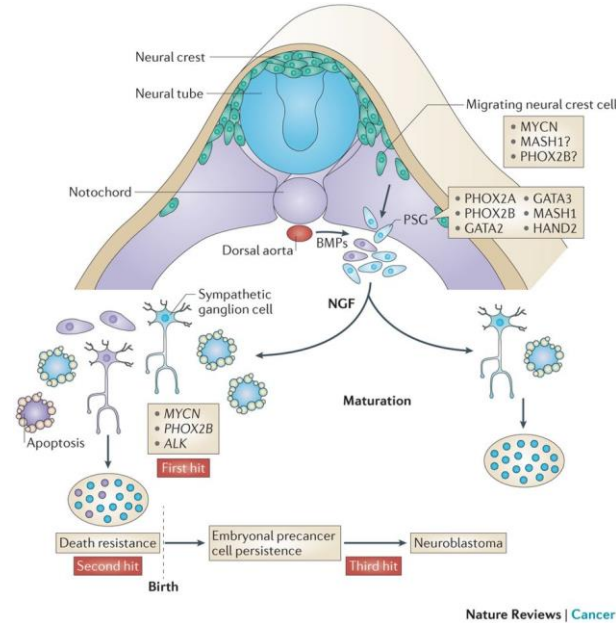
Neural crest:

- Transient structure during embryonic development.
- Migrate and differentiate into different cell types.
- Sympathetic nervous system.

Neuroblastoma



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INRG Stage	Age (months)	Histologic Category	Grade of Tumor Differentiation	MYCN	11q Aberration	Ploidy	Pretreatment Risk Group		
L1/L2		GN maturing; GNB intermixed					A Very low		
L1		Any, except GN maturing or GNB intermixed		NA			B Very low		
				Amp			K High		
L2	< 18	Any, except GN maturing or GNB intermixed		NA	No		D Low		
					Yes		G Intermediate		
	≥ 18		GNB nodular; neuroblastoma	Differentiating	NA	No		E Low	
				Poorly differentiated or undifferentiated	NA	Yes		H Intermediate	
M	< 18						F Low		
	< 12						NA	Diploid	I Intermediate
	12 to < 18						NA	Diploid	J Intermediate
	< 18						Amp		O High
	≥ 18								P High
MS	< 18				No		C Very low		
					Yes		Q High		
					Amp		R High		

Sokol, Elizabeth, and Ami V. Desai. "The Evolution of Risk Classification for Neuroblastoma." *Children* 6.2 (2019): 27.

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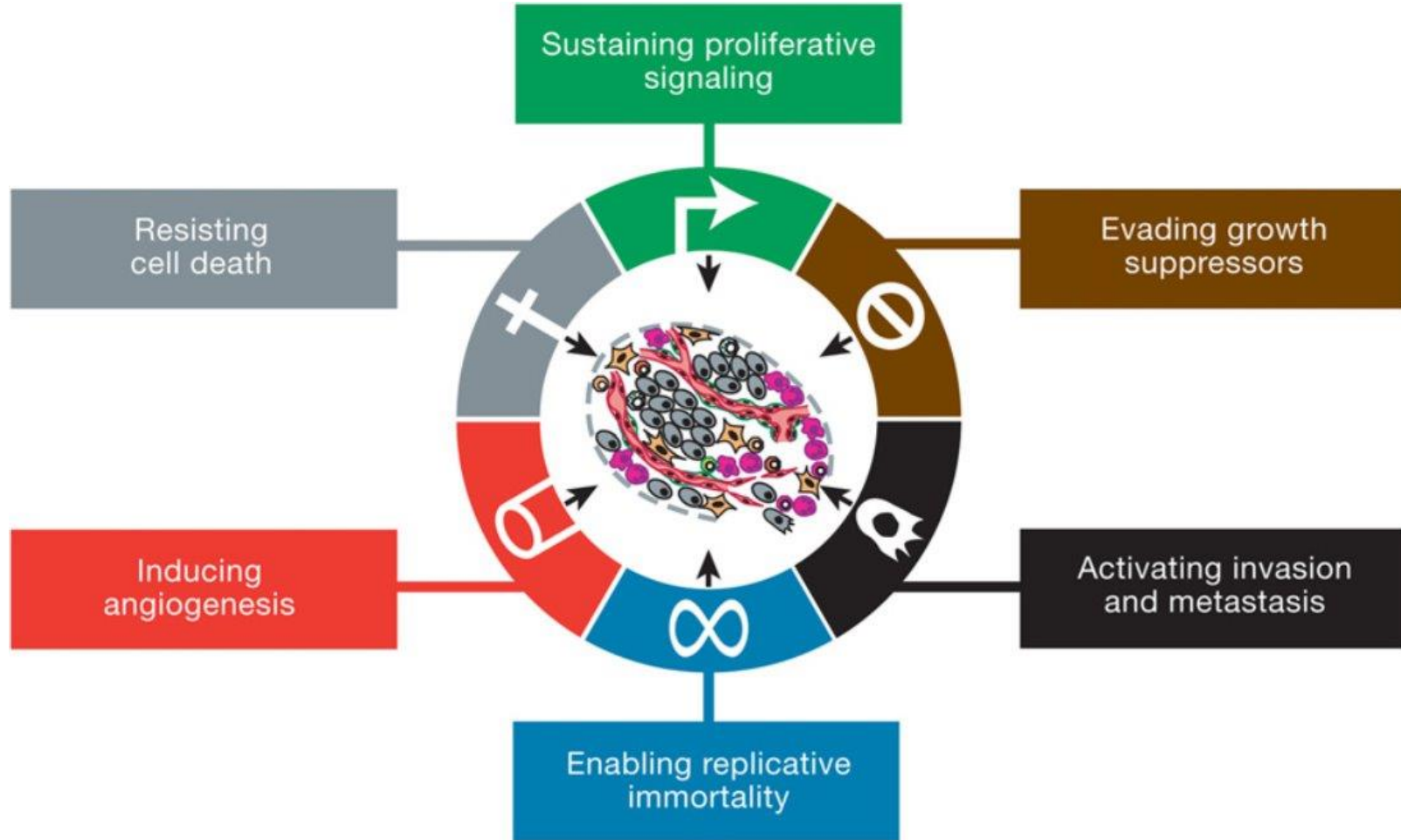
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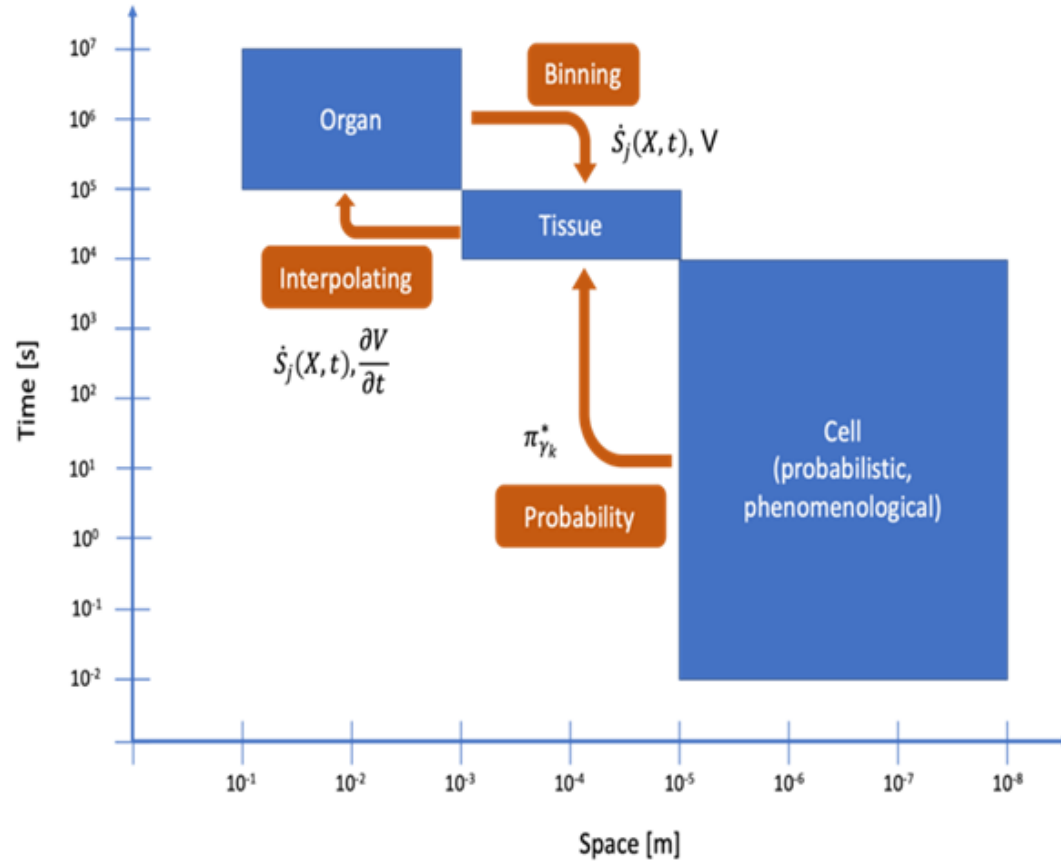
Heterogeneity:

- Spontaneous regression.
- Drug resistance and metastasis even after multi-modal treatment.
- MYCN amplification.
- < 50 % survival rate in high-risk cases.

Cancer hallmarks



Multiscale problem



Cannot describe biological phenomena spanning **nine orders of magnitude** in a single-scale model.

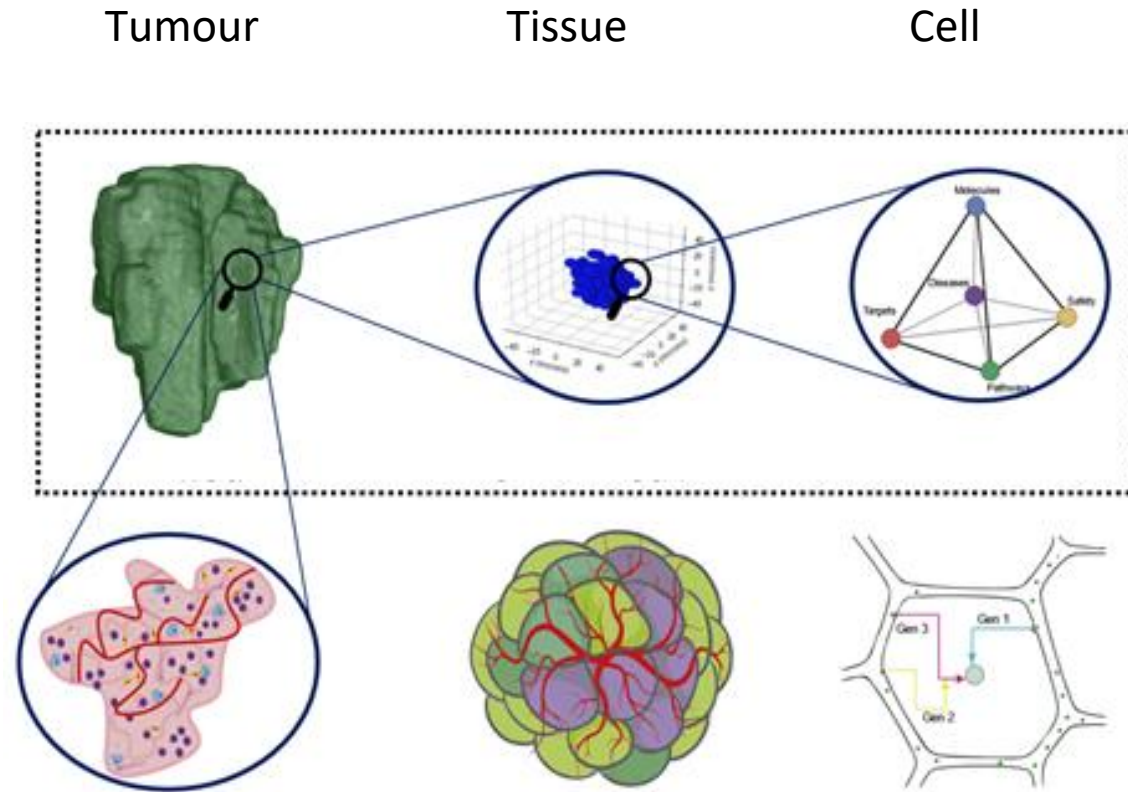
1. Experimental resolutions.
2. Model complexity.
3. Computational costs.

de Melo Quintela, B., Hervás-Raluy, S., Garcia-Aznar, J.M., Walker, D., Wertheim, K.Y., and Viceconti, M., 2021. A Theoretical Analysis of the Scale Separation in a Model to Predict Solid Tumour Growth. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. Manuscript under review and available upon request.



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UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Multiscale model



Partial differential equations.

**Discrete agents, continuous automaton, and
centre-based mechanical model.**

Statistical and machine learning models.

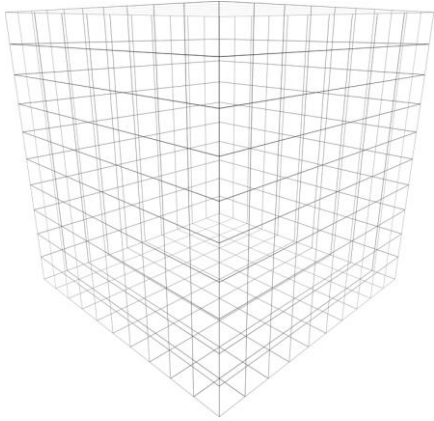
Finite element method.

Monte Carlo method.

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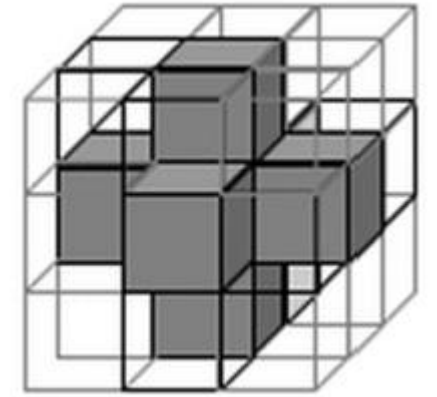
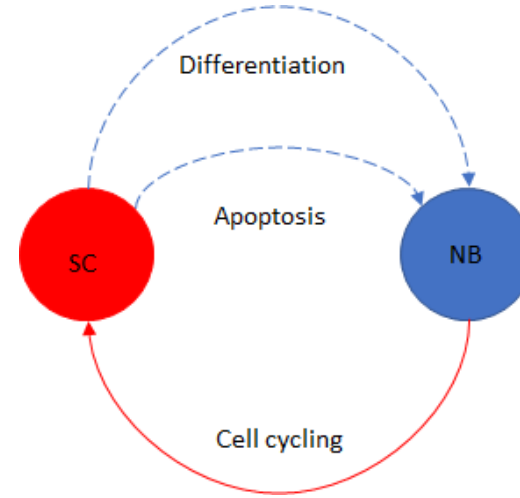
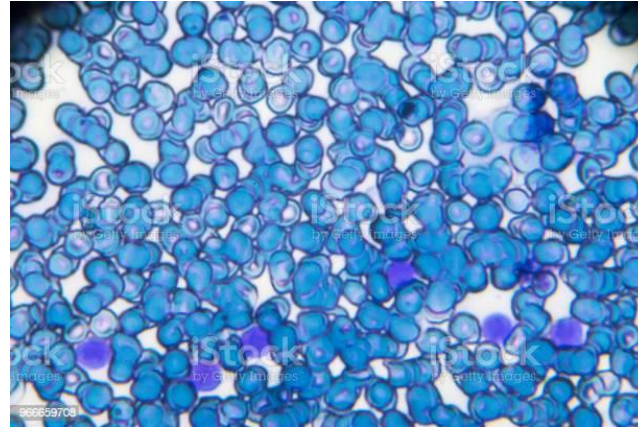
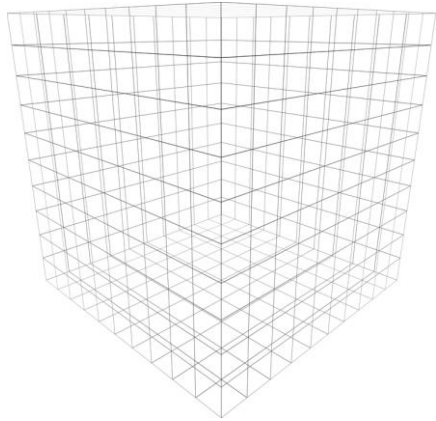
Model structure



Part 1: continuous automaton.

- Voxelate the tumour microenvironment.
- Spatial distributions of cells and matrix.
- Oxygen, nutrients, and chemotherapeutic drugs (uniform).
- Inflammation (uniform).

Model structure



Jjumba, Anthony, and Suzana Dragicevic. "Integrating GIS-based geo-atom theory and voxel automata to simulate the dispersal of airborne pollutants." *Transactions in GIS* 19.4 (2015): 582-603.

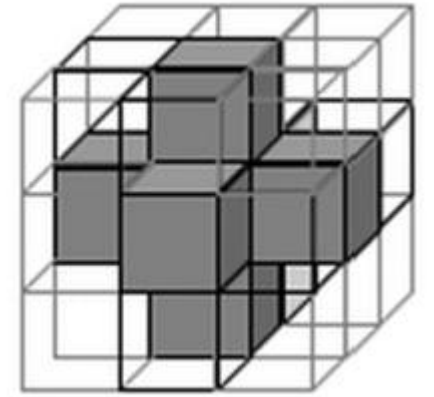
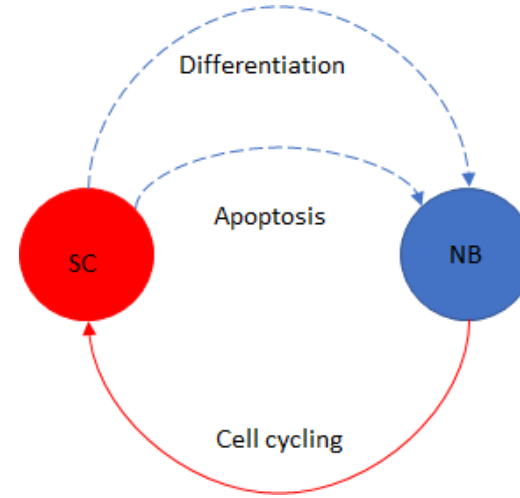
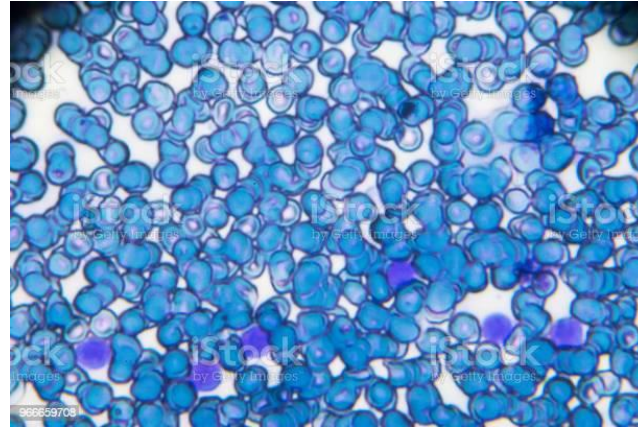
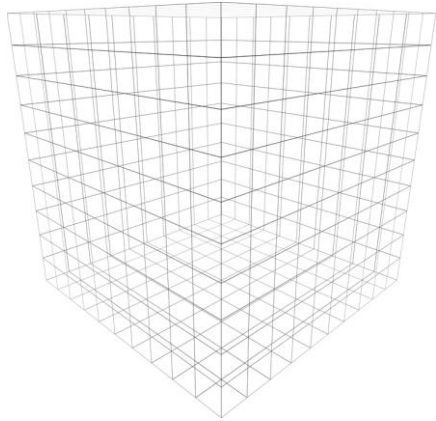
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Part 2: discrete agents.

- Neuroblasts and Schwann cells.
- 3D von Neumann neighbourhood in the continuous automaton.

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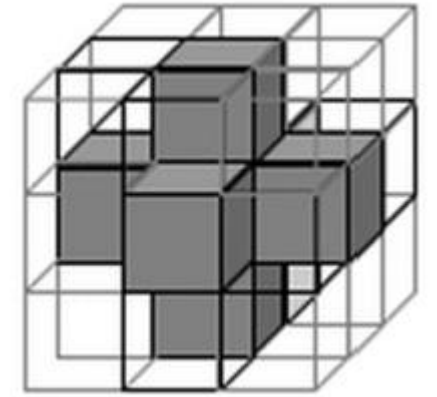
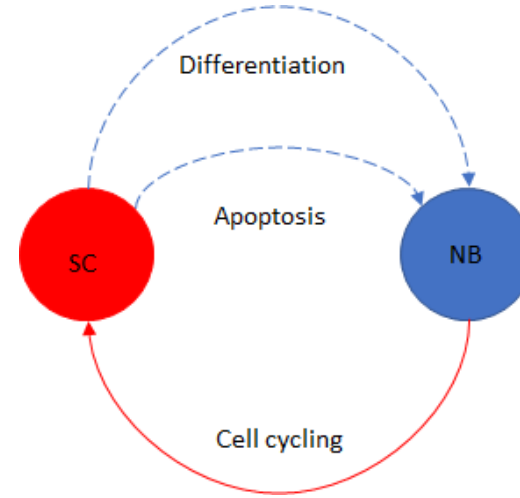
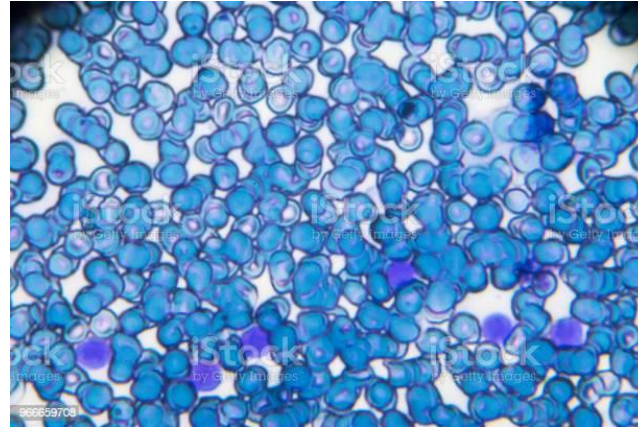
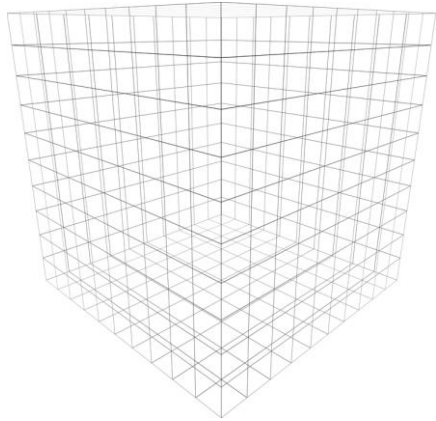
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- Neuroblasts and Schwann cells.
- 3D von Neumann neighbourhood in the continuous automaton.
- Mutations, gene expression levels, and DNA status (short telomeres, unreplicated, and generic damage).
- Cell cycling (proliferation and division).
- Cell death (apoptosis and necrosis).

Model structure



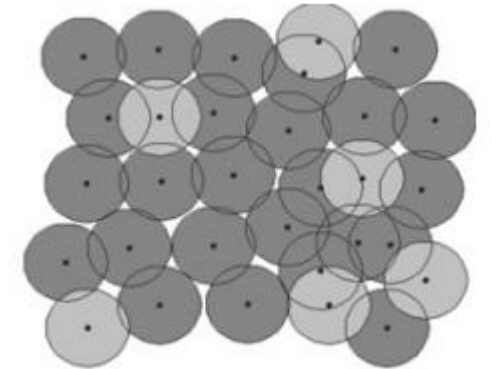
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Pathmanathan, P., et al. "A computational study of discrete mechanical tissue models." *Physical biology* 6.3 (2009): 036001.

Part 3: centre-based mechanical model.

- Cell migration resolves cell-cell overlap.
- Boundary conditions and matrix abundance.

Dynamic simulation

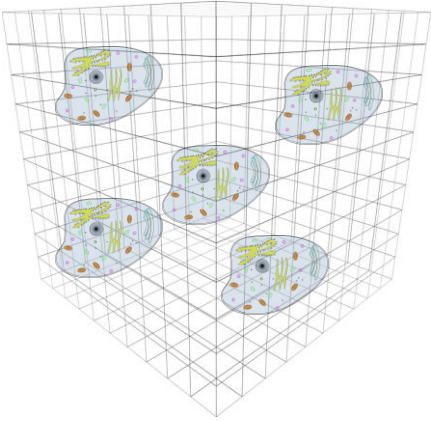
Tumour progression is a dynamic process.

To simulate it, split the process into smaller time steps, and use the model to predict the events occurring in each time step.

1 time step = 1 hour of the patient's life.

- Evaluate each cell individually.
- Consider mechanical forces within the cell population.
- Consider how the cell population collectively affects the tumour microenvironment.

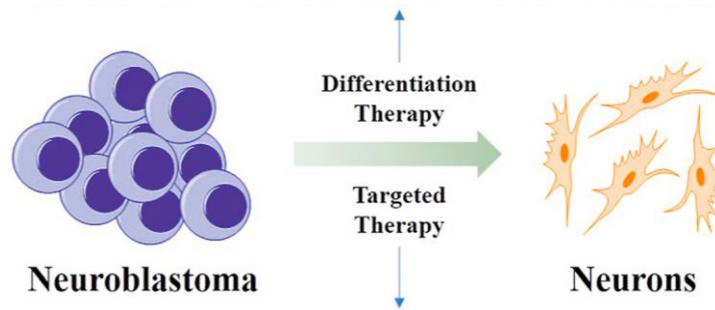
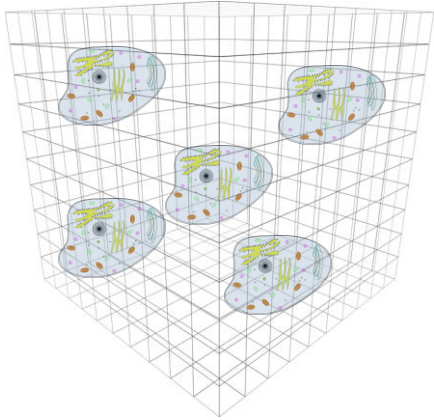
Dynamic simulation: single cell



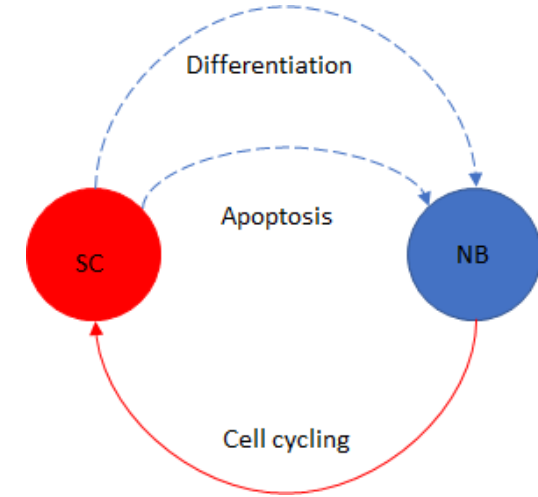
Each cell senses its microenvironment.

- Nutrients, including oxygen.
- Chemotherapeutic drugs.
- Cell counts in 3D von Neumann neighbourhood.
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Dynamic simulation: single cell



Jin, Zegao, et al. "Development of differentiation modulators and targeted agents for treating neuroblastoma." *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* (2020): 112818.



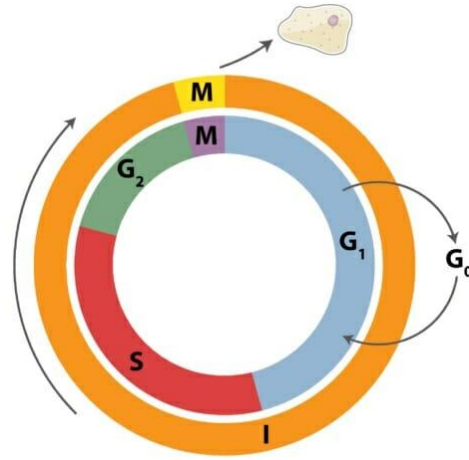
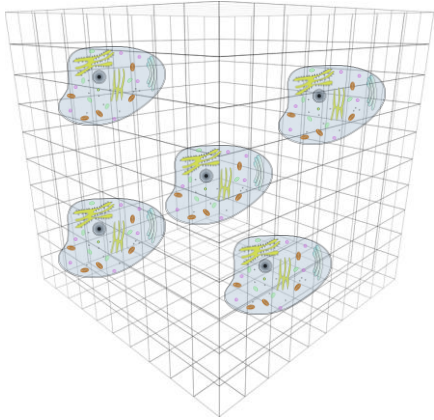
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The cell modifies its behaviour.

- Differentiation.

Dynamic simulation: single cell



<https://biologydictionary.net/cell-cycle/>

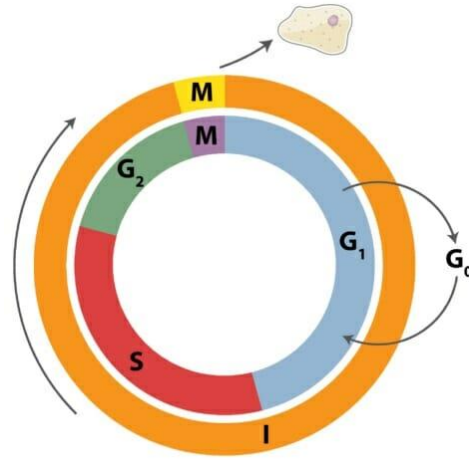
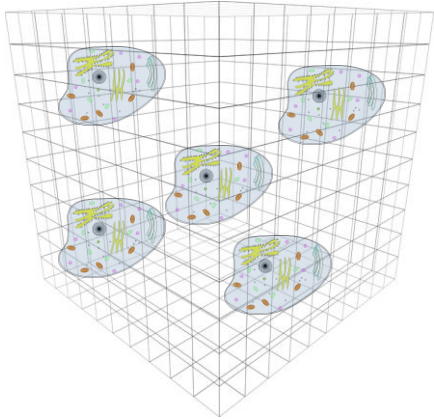
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The cell modifies its behaviour.

- Differentiation.
- Cycling and division.

Dynamic simulation: single cell



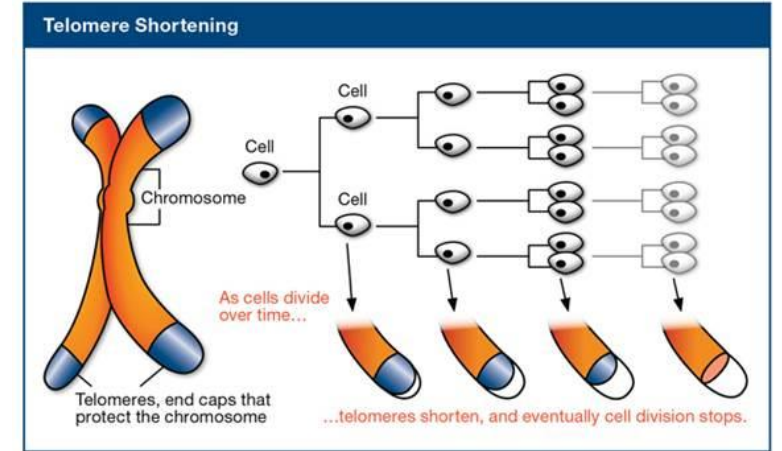
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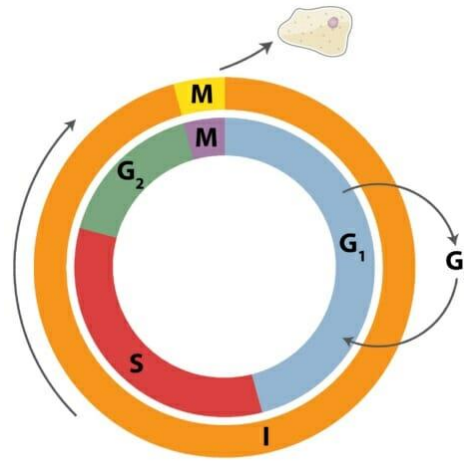
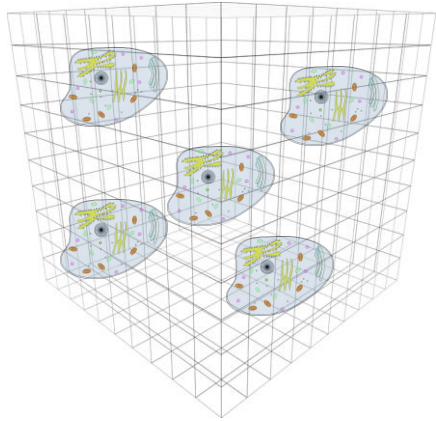


<https://sphweb.bumc.bu.edu/otlt/mph-modules/ph/aging/aging3.html>

The cell updates its attributes.

- Telomere shortening and repair.

Dynamic simulation: single cell



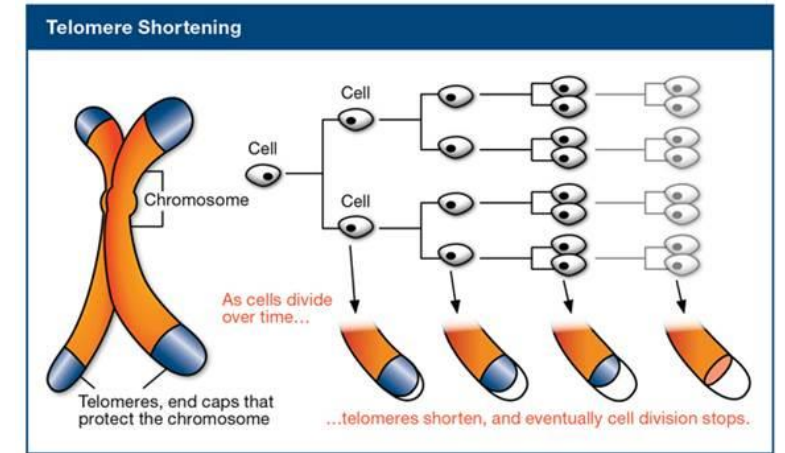
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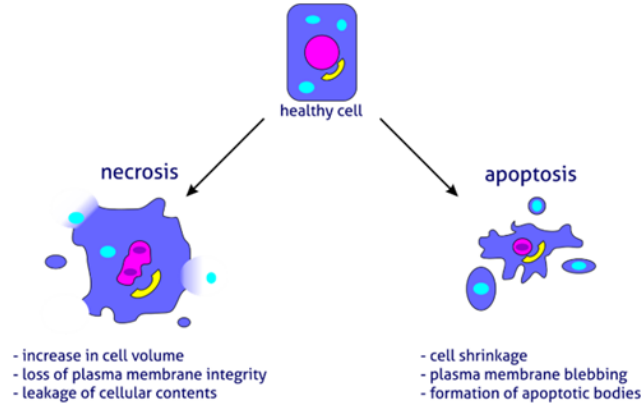
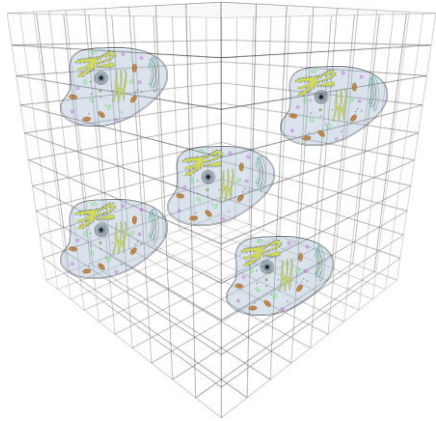


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The cell updates its attributes.

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- DNA damage and unreplcated DNA.

Dynamic simulation: single cell



What is the difference between necrosis and apoptosis?. Ptglab.com.
<https://www.ptglab.com/news/blog/what-is-the-difference-between-necrosis-and-apoptosis/>. Published 2021. Accessed February 24, 2021.

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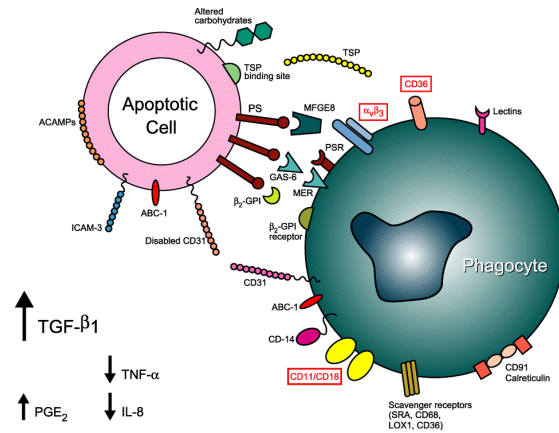
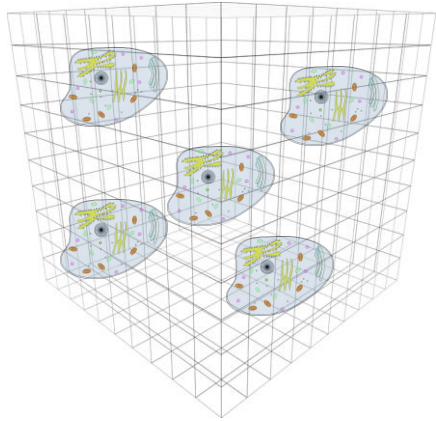
The cell modifies its behaviour.

- Differentiation.
- Cycling and division.
- Apoptosis and necrosis.

The cell updates its attributes.

- Telomere shortening and repair.
- DNA damage and unreplicated DNA.

Dynamic simulation: single cell



Maderna, Paola, and Catherine Godson. "Phagocytosis of apoptotic cells and the resolution of inflammation." *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA)-Molecular Basis of Disease* 1639.3 (2003): 141-151.

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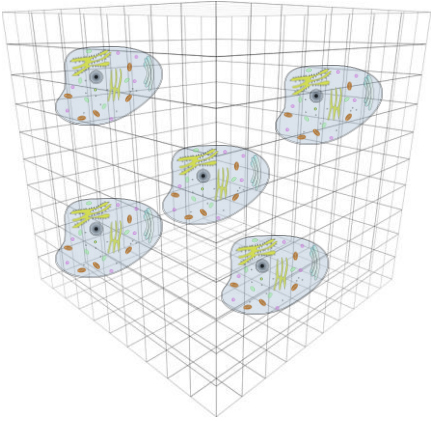
The cell modifies its behaviour.

- Differentiation.
- Cycling and division.
- Apoptosis and necrosis.
- Removal.

The cell updates its attributes.

- Telomere shortening and repair.
- DNA damage and unreplicated DNA.

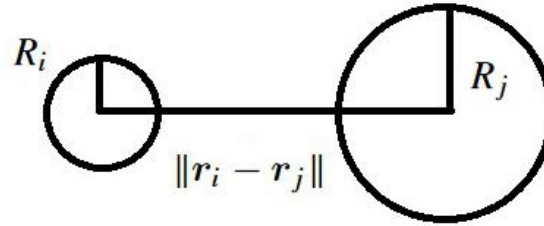
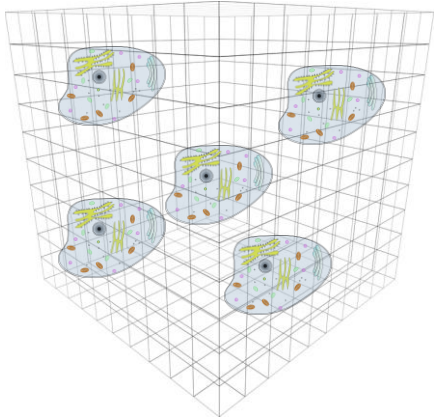
Dynamic simulation: cell-cell repulsion



Each cell senses its microenvironment.

- Nutrients, including oxygen.
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Dynamic simulation: cell-cell repulsion



$$\delta_{ij} = R_i + R_j - \|r_i - r_j\|$$

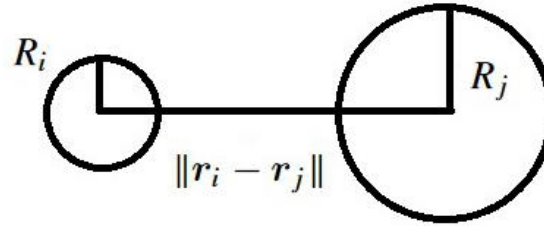
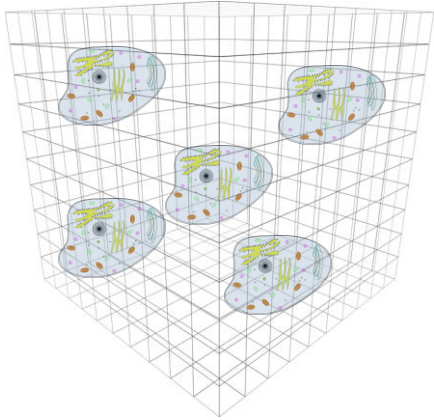
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Centre-Based mechanical model.

- A cell gets bigger as it progresses through the cell cycle.
- Cell-Cell overlap.

Dynamic simulation: cell-cell repulsion



$$\delta_{ij} = R_i + R_j - \|r_i - r_j\|$$

$$\delta_i = \sum_{j=1}^{N_j} \delta_{i,j} \quad |\mathbf{F}_i| = k_1 \delta_i$$

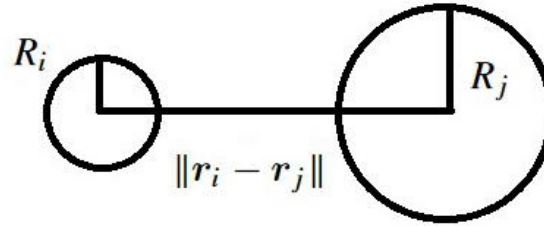
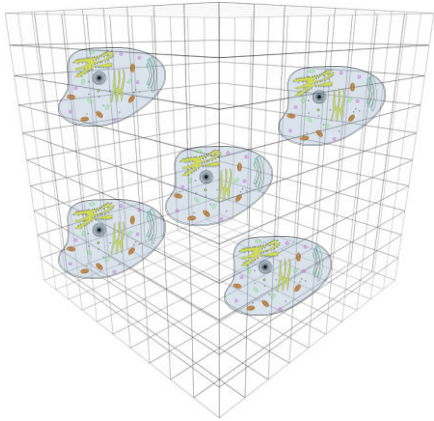
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Centre-Based mechanical model.

- A cell gets bigger as it progresses through the cell cycle.
- Cell-Cell overlap.
- Linear force law.

Dynamic simulation: cell-cell repulsion



$$\delta_{ij} = R_i + R_j - \|r_i - r_j\|$$

$$\delta_i = \sum_{j=1}^{N_j} \delta_{i,j} \quad |\mathbf{F}_i| = k_1 \delta_i$$

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \mu_{eff} \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i}{dt}$$

μ_{eff} scales with the abundance of matrix in the voxel.

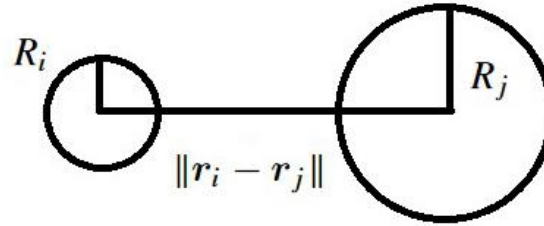
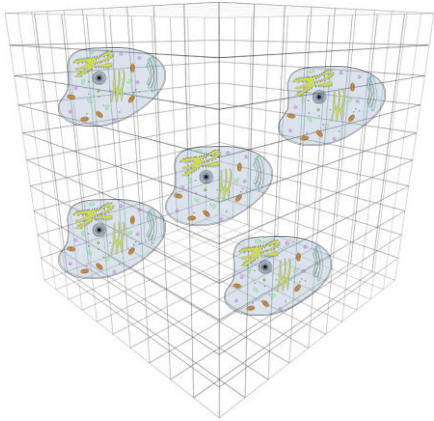
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Centre-Based mechanical model.

- A cell gets bigger as it progresses through the cell cycle.
- Cell-Cell overlap.
- Linear force law.
- Equation of motion.

Dynamic simulation: cell-cell repulsion



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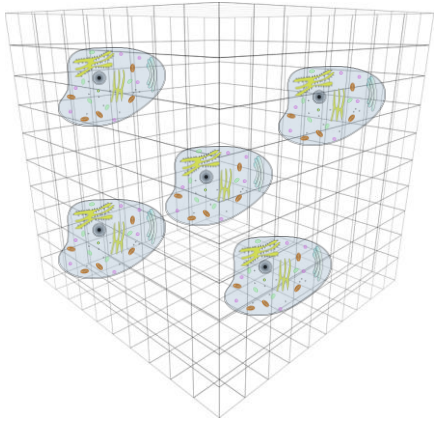
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Centre-Based mechanical model.

- A cell gets bigger as it progresses through the cell cycle.
- Cell-Cell overlap.
- Linear force law.
- Equation of motion.

Iterate these steps until convergence.

Dynamic simulation: collective phenomena



Each cell senses its microenvironment.

- Nutrients, including oxygen.
- Chemotherapeutic drugs.
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The cells modify their microenvironment.

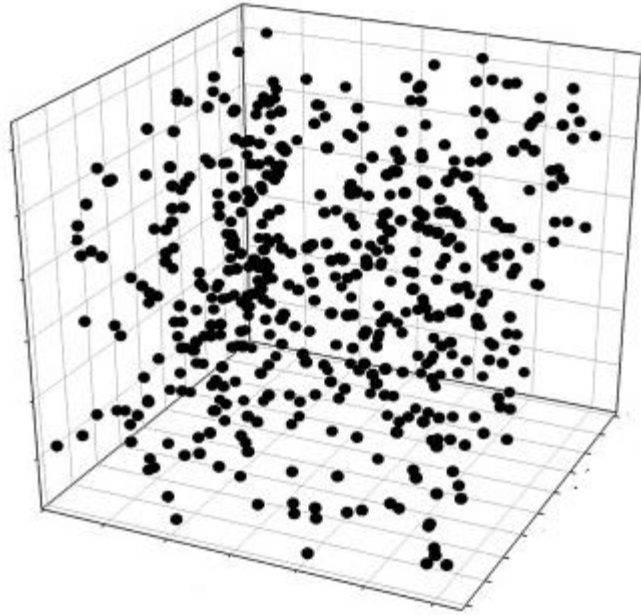
- Consume nutrients.
- Remodel the vasculature.
- Produce matrix.

Procedures in one time step

1. Each cell senses its microenvironment, modifies its behaviour, and updates its attributes.
2. Resolve cell-cell overlap using the centre-based mechanical model.
3. The cells collectively modify their microenvironment.

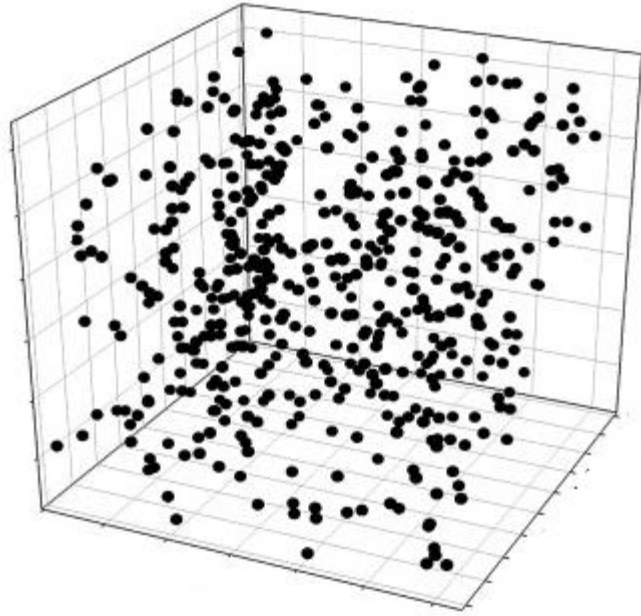
Objectives

1. PRIMAGE project.
2. Scale separation strategy in the project.
3. The first multi-cellular model of neuroblastoma.
4. Model calibration using GPUs.



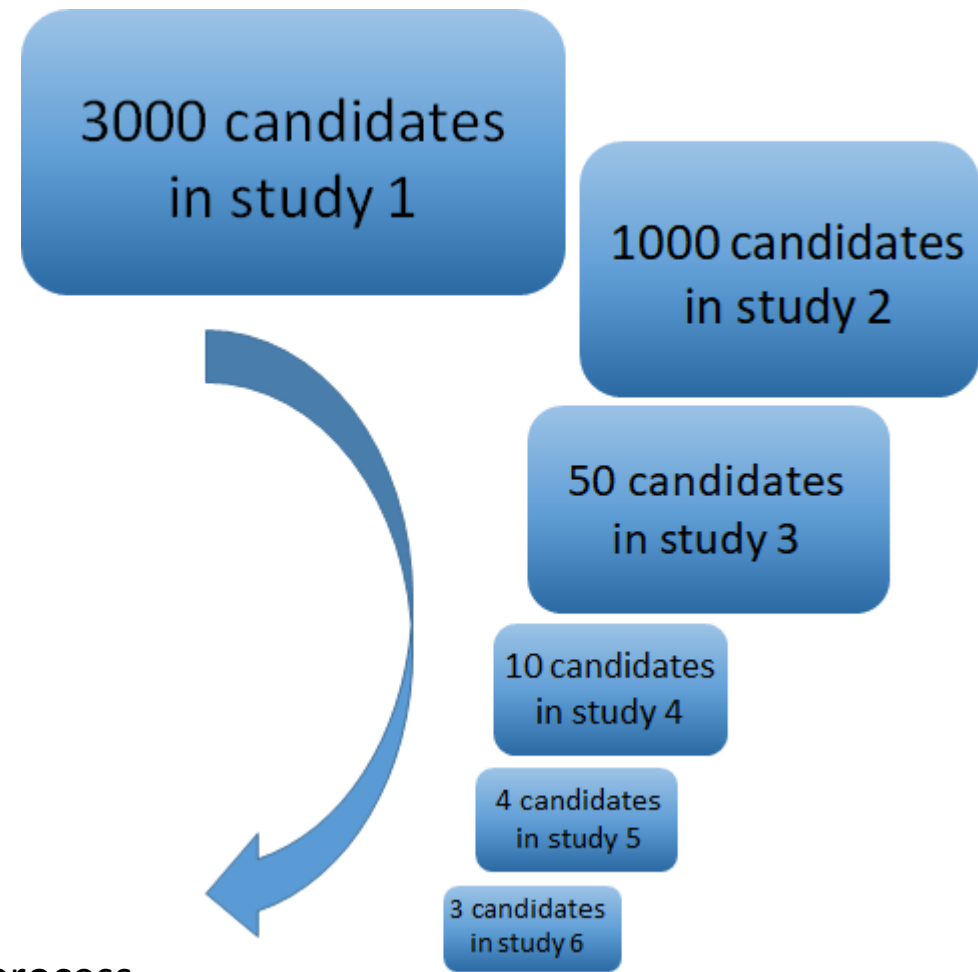
Lack of relevant data.

- 20 fitting parameters.
- 3000 parametric combinations generated by Latin hypercube sampling.



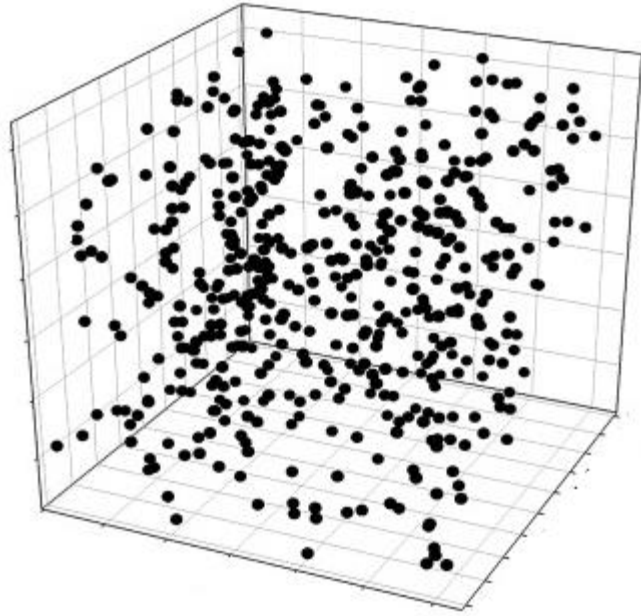
Lack of relevant data.

- 20 fitting parameters.
- 3000 parametric combinations generated by Latin hypercube sampling.



Selection process.

- Eliminated the 3000 candidates gradually in a tournament of 6 studies.
- Experiments and clinical observations.
- The set of parameters that describe the experiments and observations best.



Lack of relevant data.

- 20 fitting parameters.
- 3000 parametric combinations generated by Latin hypercube sampling.



Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

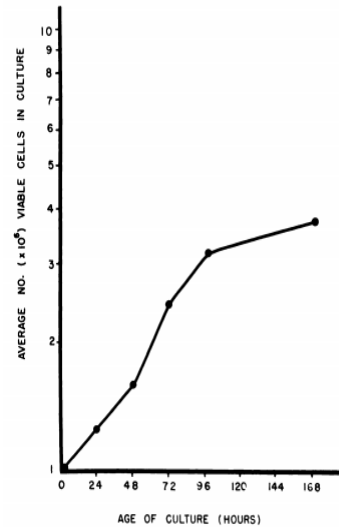
Selection process.

- 6 studies mimicking experiments and clinical observations.
- The parameters that describe the experiments and observations best.

Definition of a Continuous Human Cell Line Derived from Neuroblastoma¹

Joseph J. Tumilowicz, Warren W. Nichols, Jolanta J. Cholon, and Arthur E. Greene

Departments of Cytogenetics [J. J. T., W. W. N., J. J. C.], and Cell Biology [A. E. G.], Institute for Medical Research, Camden, New Jersey 08103



Study 1.

- Cell line derived from neuroblastoma tissue was grown in a growth medium.
- The cell population was tracked over time using hemocytometer.



Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to simulate tumour growth.
- Data fitting: residual sum of squares.
- Eliminated bottom 2000 combinations.

$$RSS = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

PAPER • OPEN ACCESS

The role of necrosis, acute hypoxia and chronic hypoxia in ^{18}F -FMISO PET image contrast: a computational modelling study

Daniel R Warren¹ and Mike Partridge¹

Published 23 November 2016 • © 2016 Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

[Physics in Medicine & Biology](#), Volume 61, Number 24

Citation Daniel R Warren and Mike Partridge 2016 *Phys. Med. Biol.* 61 8596

	Three-stage fit	95% CI	Direct fit	95% CI
Maximum oxygen consumption rate, q_{\max} (mmHg · s ⁻¹)	17.5	15.3–25.1	16.3	15.3–17.9
P_{O_2} for 50% drop in consumption, $P_{50,q}$ (mmHg)	2.7	0.0–12.5	1.6	1.2–2.1
Maximum misonidazole binding rate, $k_{b,0}$ ($\times 10^{-4}$ s ⁻¹)	4.5	3.9–4.9	4.4	2.5–5.3
P_{O_2} for 50% drop in binding, $P_{50,b}$ (mmHg)	1.4	0.3–2.6	1.4	1.1–2.5
P_{O_2} for 50% necrosis, $P_{50,n}$ (mmHg)	1.2	0.1–4.9	1.0	0.4–1.2

Study 2.

- Data-driven modelling study.
- Oxygen level at which 50 % of cells will die due to hypoxia.



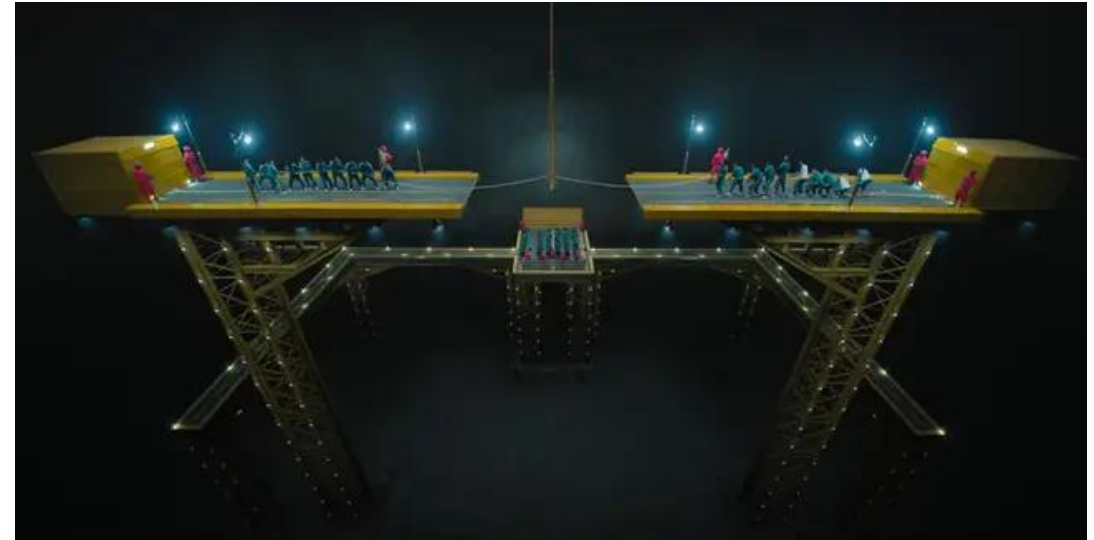
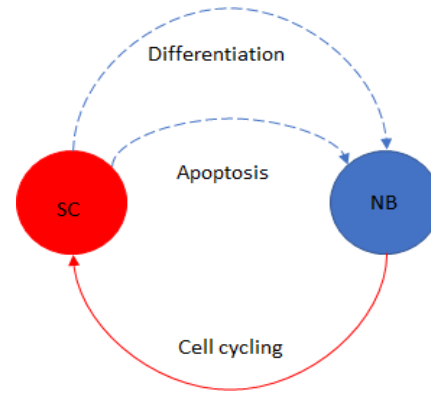
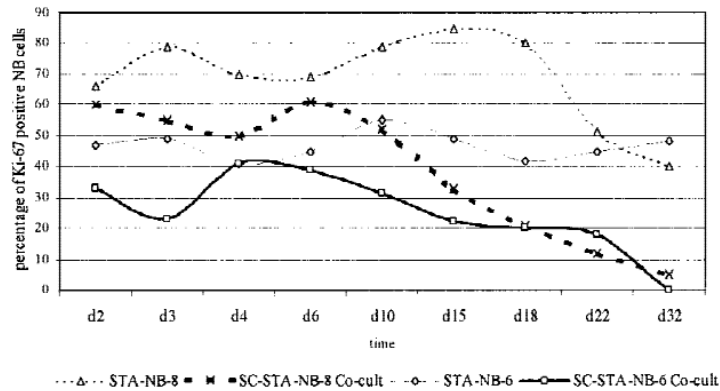
Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to simulate hypoxia.
- Death rate: how close to 50 %.
- Combined the results of studies 1 and 2.
- Top 50 combinations remained.

Neuroblastoma Cells Provoke Schwann Cell Proliferation In Vitro

Ingeborg M. Ambros, MD,^{1*} Andishe Attarbaschi, MD,¹ Silvia Rumpler,¹
Andrea Luegmayr,¹ Edvin Turkof, MD,² Helmut Gadner, MD,¹ and
Peter F. Ambros, PhD¹



Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

Study 3.

- Neuroblasts and Schwann cells were cocultivated.
- Fractions of proliferating neuroblasts and Schwann cells were tracked over time.
- Fraction of apoptotic neuroblasts was also measured at a point in time.

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to simulate the dynamics between the neuroblasts and Schwann cells.
- Data fitting: 3 residual sums of squares.
- Top 10 combinations remained.

$$RSS = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

Clinicopathological Characteristics of Ganglioneuroma and Ganglioneuroblastoma: A Report From the CCG and COG

Chizuko Okamatsu, MD,^{1,2} Wendy B. London, PhD,³ Arlene Naranjo, PhD,³ Michael D. Hogarty, MD,⁴
Julie M. Gastier-Foster, PhD,^{5,6} A. Thomas Look, MD,⁷ Michael LaQuaglia, MD,⁸ John M. Maris, MD,⁴
Susan L. Cohn, MD,⁹ Katherine K. Matthay, MD,¹⁰ Robert C. Seeger, MD,¹¹ Tsutomu Saji, MD,²
and Hiroyuki Shimada, MD, PhD^{1*}

TABLE V. Event-Free and Overall Survival for Tumor Category by Clinical Stage

Histological category	Overall, number of patients	Number with survival data	5-year, EFS ± SE (%)	EFS, <i>P</i> -value	5-year, OS ± SE (%)	OS, <i>P</i> -value
GN-maturing						
Stage 1, 2, 3	36	34	100		100	
Stage 4	0	0	—	NA	—	NA
GNB-intermixed						
Stage 1, 2, 3	187	179	94.1 ± 4.3		97.0 ± 3.2	
Stage 4	2	2	—	NA	—	NA
GNB-nodular FS						
Stage 1, 2, 3	56	55	92.6 ± 6.3		100	
Stage 4	3	3	100	NA	100	NA
GNB-nodular US						
Stage 1, 2, 3	116	114	80.1 ± 8.0		86.2 ± 7.0	
Stage 4	132	132	16.7 ± 5.8	<0.0001	35.9 ± 7.0	<0.0001

EFS, event-free survival; OS, overall survival; SE, standard error; NA, not applicable due to no event; —, No patients at risk at 5 years; GN-maturing, ganglioneuroma, maturing subtype; GNB-intermixed, ganglioneuroblastoma, intermixed; GNB-nodular FS, ganglioneuroblastoma, nodular—favorable subset; GNB-nodular US, ganglioneuroblastoma, nodular—unfavorable subset.



Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

Study 4.

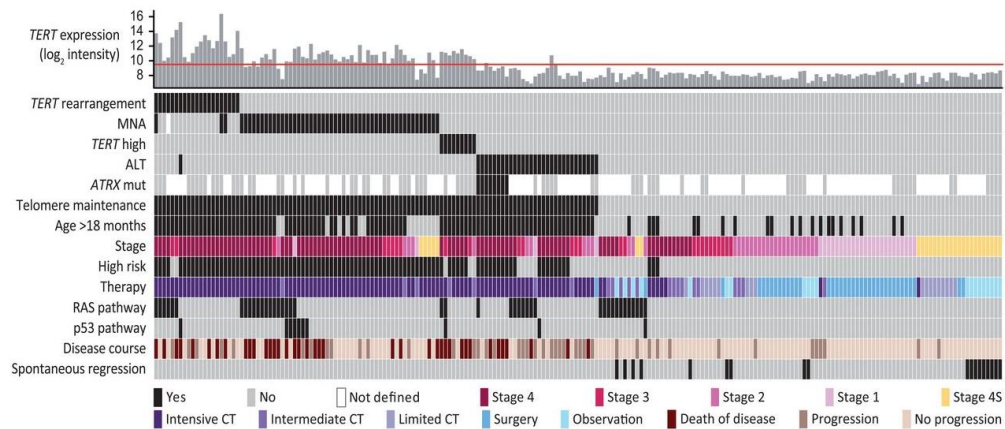
- Clinical observations.
- Neuroblastoma, nodular ganglioneuroblastoma, intermixed ganglioneuroblastoma, maturing ganglioneuroma, and mature ganglioneuroma.
- Clinical outcomes: regression, differentiation, and malignant (death, progression, and relapse).

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to predict the clinical outcomes for different histology types.
- Proportion of malignant outcomes.
- Only 4 combinations gave results resembling clinical observations.

A mechanistic classification of clinical phenotypes in neuroblastoma

Sandra Ackermann^{1,2*}, Maria Cartolano^{2,3*}, Barbara Hero⁴, Anne Welte^{1,2}, Yvonne Kahlert^{1,2}, Andrea Roderwieser^{1,2}, Christoph Bartenhagen^{1,2}, Esther Walter^{1,2}, Judith Gecht⁴, Laura Kerschke⁵, Ruth Volland⁴, Roopika Menon⁶, Johannes M. Heuckmann⁶, Moritz Gartgruber⁷, Sabine Hartlieb⁷, Kai-Oliver Henrich⁷, Konstantin Okonechnikov⁸, Janine Altmüller^{2,9}, Peter Nürnberg^{2,9,10}, Steve Lefever¹¹, Bram de Wilde¹¹, Frederik Sand^{1,2}, Fakhra Ikram^{1,2,12}, Carolina Rosswog^{1,2}, Janina Fischer^{1,2}, Jessica Theissen^{1,4}, Falk Hertwig^{1,2,13,14,15}, Aatur D. Singh¹⁶, Thorsten Simon¹, Wenzel Vogel^{17,18}, Sven Perner^{17,18}, Barbara Krug¹⁹, Matthias Schmidt²⁰, Sven Rahmann^{21,22}, Viktor Achter²³, Ulrich Lang^{23,24}, Christian Vokuhl²⁵, Monika Ortman²⁶, Reinhard Büttner²⁶, Angelika Eggert^{13,14,15}, Frank Speleman¹¹, Roderick J. O'Sullivan²⁷, Roman K. Thomas^{2,14,26,28}, Frank Berthold^{4*}, Jo Vandesompele^{11*}, Alexander Schramm^{29*}, Frank Westermann^{7*}, Johannes H. Schulte^{13,14,15,28*}, Martin Peifer^{2,3*}, Matthias Fischer^{1,2*†}



Study 5.

- Clinical observations.
- Different combinations of mutations.
- MYCN not amplified.
- Clinical outcomes: regression, differentiation, and malignant (death, progression, and relapse).



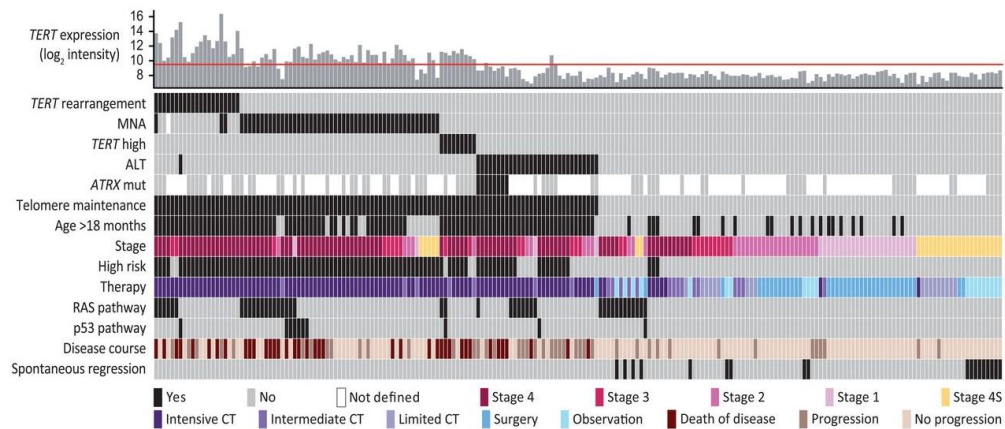
Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to predict the clinical outcomes given different mutations.
- Proportion of malignant outcomes.
- Only 3 combinations gave results resembling clinical observations.

A mechanistic classification of clinical phenotypes in neuroblastoma

Sandra Ackermann^{1,2*}, Maria Cartolano^{2,3*}, Barbara Hero⁴, Anne Welte^{1,2}, Yvonne Kahlert^{1,2}, Andrea Roderwieser^{1,2}, Christoph Bartenhagen^{1,2}, Esther Walter^{1,2}, Judith Gecht⁴, Laura Kerschke⁵, Ruth Volland⁴, Roopika Menon⁶, Johannes M. Heuckmann⁶, Moritz Gartgruber⁷, Sabine Hartlieb⁷, Kai-Oliver Henrich⁷, Konstantin Okonechnikov⁸, Janine Altmüller^{2,9}, Peter Nürnberg^{2,9,10}, Steve Lefever¹¹, Bram de Wilde¹¹, Frederik Sand^{1,2}, Fakhra Ikram^{1,2,12}, Carolina Rosswog^{1,2}, Janina Fischer^{1,2}, Jessica Theissen^{1,4}, Falk Hertwig^{1,2,13,14,15}, Aatur D. Singh¹⁶, Thorsten Simon¹, Wenzel Vogel^{17,18}, Sven Perner^{17,18}, Barbara Krug¹⁹, Matthias Schmidt²⁰, Sven Rahmann^{21,22}, Viktor Achter²³, Ulrich Lang^{23,24}, Christian Vokuhl²⁵, Monika Ortman²⁶, Reinhard Büttner²⁶, Angelika Eggert^{13,14,15}, Frank Speleman¹¹, Roderick J. O'Sullivan²⁷, Roman K. Thomas^{2,14,26,28}, Frank Berthold^{4*}, Jo Vandesompele^{11*}, Alexander Schramm^{29*}, Frank Westermann^{7*}, Johannes H. Schulte^{13,14,15,28*}, Martin Peifer^{2,3*}, Matthias Fischer^{1,2*†}



Study 6.

- Clinical observations.
- Different combinations of mutations.
- **MYCN amplified.**
- Clinical outcomes: regression, differentiation, and malignant (death, progression, and relapse).



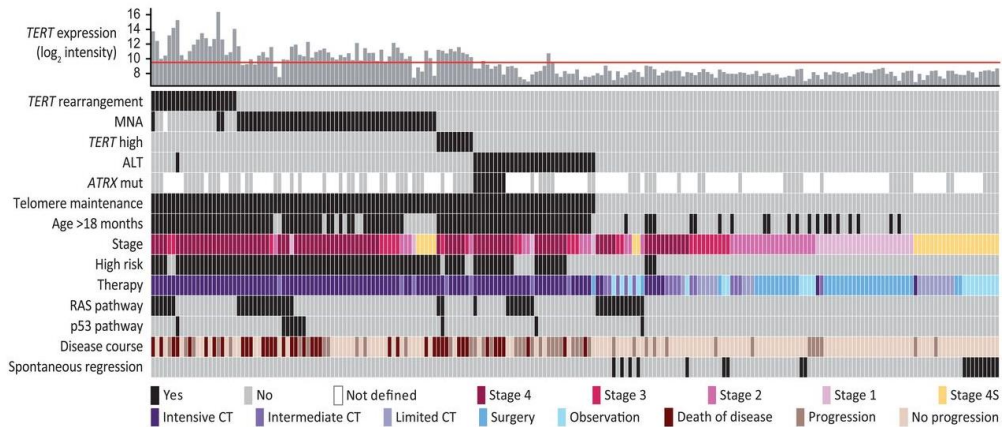
Squid Game. Created by Hwang Dong-hyuk, Netflix, 2021.

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to predict the clinical outcomes given different mutations.
- Proportion of malignant outcomes.
- **Results not conclusive.**
- **All studies taken together, candidate 564 was selected.**

A mechanistic classification of clinical phenotypes in neuroblastoma

Sandra Ackermann^{1,2*}, Maria Cartolano^{2,3*}, Barbara Hero⁴, Anne Welte^{1,2}, Yvonne Kahlert^{1,2}, Andrea Roderwieser^{1,2}, Christoph Bartenhagen^{1,2}, Esther Walter^{1,2}, Judith Gecht⁴, Laura Kerschke⁵, Ruth Volland⁴, Roopika Menon⁶, Johannes M. Heuckmann⁶, Moritz Gartgruber⁷, Sabine Hartlieb⁷, Kai-Oliver Henrich⁷, Konstantin Okonechnikov⁸, Janine Altmüller^{2,9}, Peter Nürnberg^{2,9,10}, Steve Lefever¹¹, Bram de Wilde¹¹, Frederik Sand^{1,2}, Fakhra Ikram^{1,2,12}, Carolina Rosswog^{1,2}, Janina Fischer^{1,2}, Jessica Theissen^{1,4}, Falk Hertwig^{1,2,13,14,15}, Aatur D. Singh¹⁶, Thorsten Simon¹, Wenzel Vogel^{17,18}, Sven Perner^{17,18}, Barbara Krug¹⁹, Matthias Schmidt²⁰, Sven Rahmann^{21,22}, Viktor Achter²³, Ulrich Lang^{23,24}, Christian Vokuhl²⁵, Monika Ortman²⁶, Reinhard Büttner²⁶, Angelika Eggert^{13,14,15}, Frank Speleman¹¹, Roderick J. O'Sullivan²⁷, Roman K. Thomas^{2,14,26,28}, Frank Berthold^{1*}, Jo Vandesompele^{11*}, Alexander Schramm^{29*}, Frank Westermann^{7*}, Johannes H. Schulte^{13,14,15,28*}, Martin Peifer^{2,3*}, Matthias Fischer^{1,2*†}



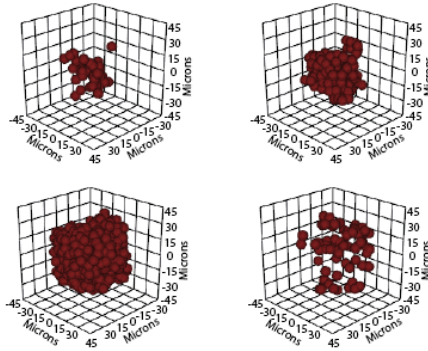
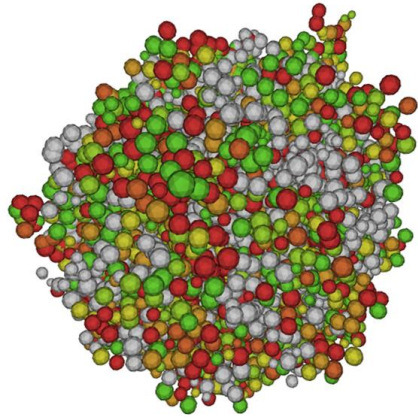
Study 6.

- Clinical observations.
- Different combinations of mutations.
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- Clinical outcomes: regression, differentiation, and malignant (death, progression, and relapse).

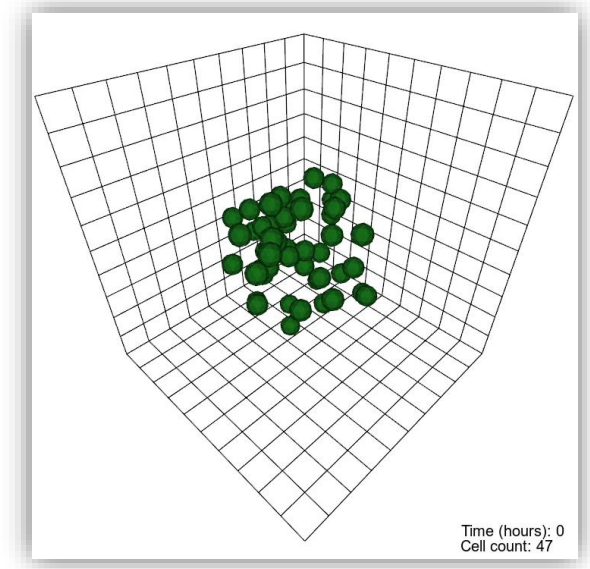
Index	MYCN_fn1	MAPK_RA	MAPK_RA	p53_fn	p73_fn	HIF_fn	P_cycle_s	P_DNA_d	P_DNA_c
677	0.277863	0.296396	0.081294	0.121137	0.168345	0.943243	0.529251	0.222474	0.990451
184	0.484521	0.518488	0.252074	0.676754	0.436464	0.658059	0.519606	0.614104	0.766484
2991	0.301635	0.87196	0.421385	0.797464	0.786514	0.234779	0.385223	0.219635	0.925318
825	0.892225	0.787593	0.215333	0.856983	0.718434	0.925868	0.25681	0.292857	0.988103
564	0.942648	0.377628	0.003161	0.19809	0.141042	0.59177	0.344412	0.772948	0.77149
1540	0.245592	0.997054	0.615927	0.603909	0.193378	0.311584	0.328683	0.659884	0.814463
2193	0.761934	0.675797	0.390508	0.893939	0.19777	0.760859	0.975454	0.337441	0.96006
1556	0.501221	0.879769	0.545846	0.085968	0.131161	0.13793	0.158815	0.126268	0.49899
675	0.69287	0.529858	0.232187	0.806742	0.69036	0.254842	0.541578	0.989668	0.97136
1892	0.547878	0.673346	0.579237	0.132174	0.816287	0.973364	0.553501	0.631952	0.871724
2307	0.832634	0.59399	0.204702	0.913315	0.654981	0.393086	0.472165	0.259098	0.90294
2198	0.485041	0.909258	0.218517	0.203592	0.042106	0.460479	0.623141	0.795116	0.95873
1106	0.815031	0.984735	0.400839	0.28017	0.267183	0.39705	0.947455	0.01568	0.10544
1173	0.878858	0.885345	0.418688	0.885488	0.656888	0.881137	0.887488	0.888141	0.48888

Results.

- Used each parametric combination to predict the clinical outcomes given different mutations.
- Proportion of malignant outcomes.
- **Results not conclusive.**
- **All studies taken together, candidate 564 was selected.**



FLAME GPU

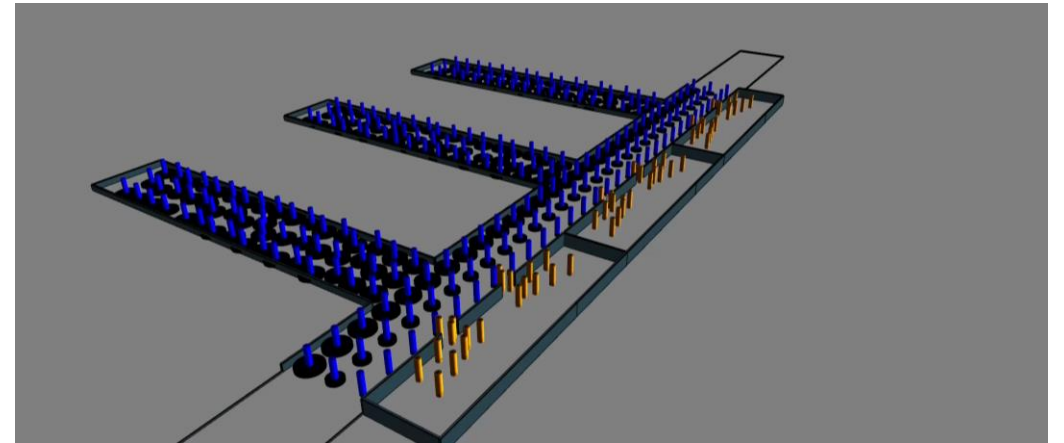
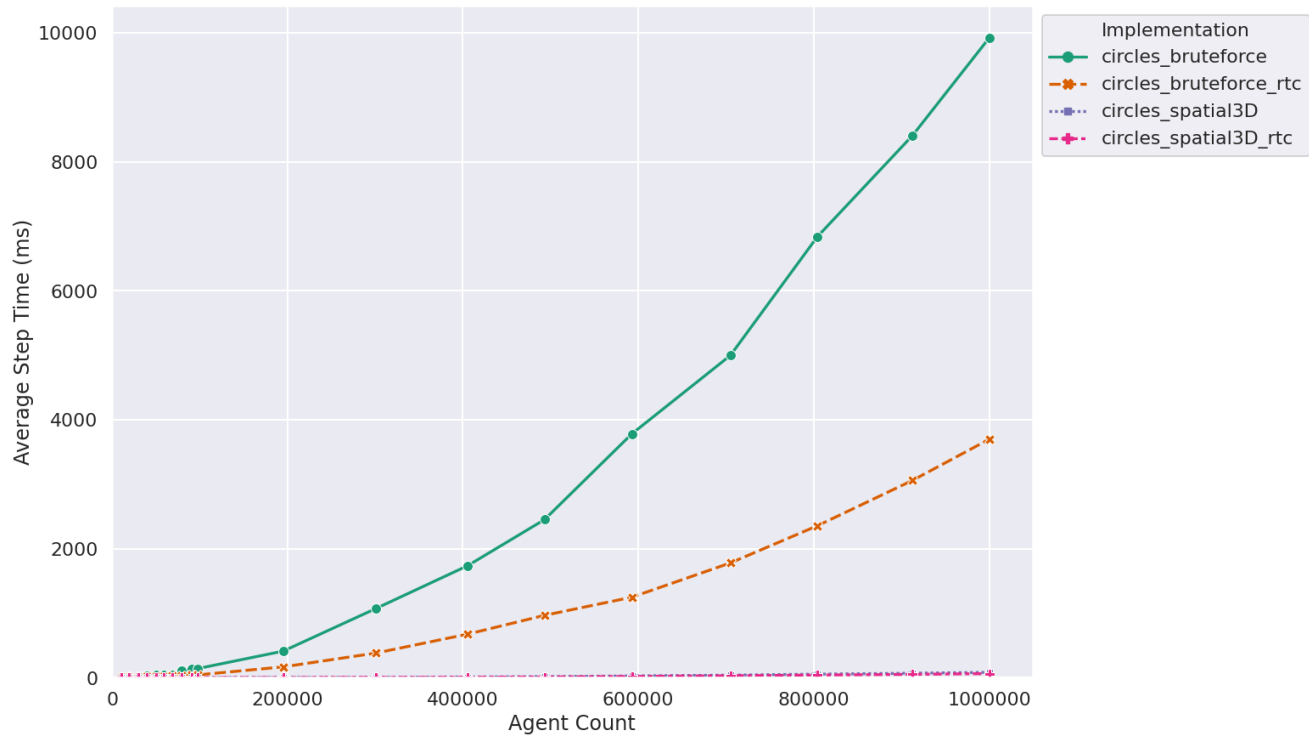


High computational costs.

- Millions of cells in > 4 months.
- Stochastic simulations.

High-Performance computing.

- Simulations on GPUs enabled by FLAMEGPU.
- Mapping of model descriptions to optimised CUDA code.

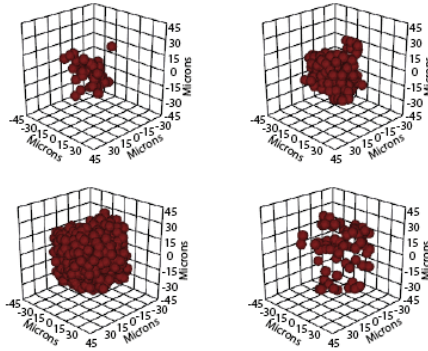
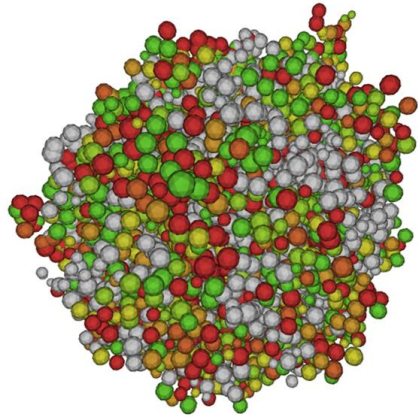


FLAMEGPU2.

- Modellers can focus on building the model without worrying about CUDA programming and GPU optimisation strategies.
- High performance: millions of agents.
- Visualisation in real time.
- C++ and Python APIs for model definition.

Applications.

- Neuroblastoma progression.
- Development of *in silico* trials for tuberculosis (Strituvad). 13 agent types, around 170 functions, and over 200 parameters.
- Understanding boarding and alighting at platform-train interface under social distancing guidelines.



FLAME GPU

Computational time.

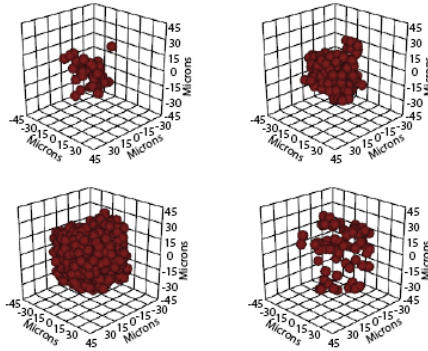
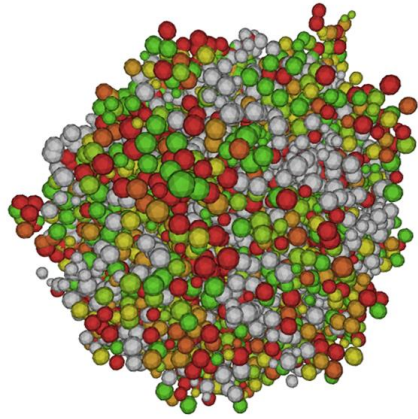
- 2 TITAN V GPUs, 1 TITAN XP GPU, and 1 TITAN RTX GPU.
- 3000 time steps took 5 to 10 minutes.
- **All 6 studies took around 40 days.**
- Impossible without GPUs.

High computational costs.

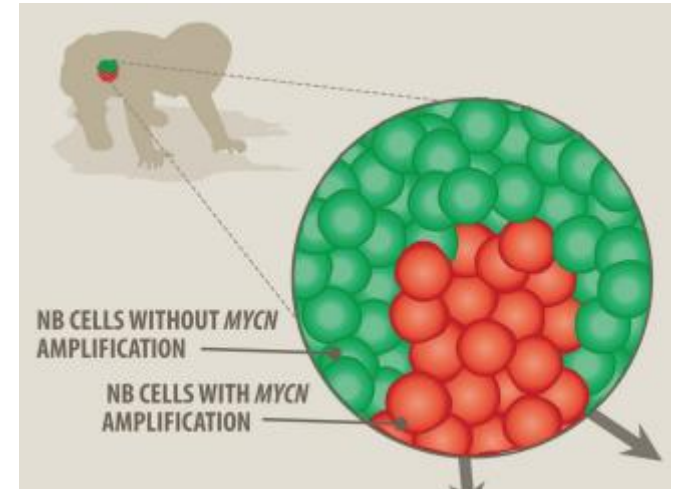
- Millions of cells in > 4 months.
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High-Performance computing.

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FLAME GPU



Bogen, Dominik, et al. "The genetic tumor background is an important determinant for heterogeneous MYCN-amplified neuroblastoma." *International journal of cancer* 139.1 (2016): 153-163.

High computational costs.

- Millions of cells in > 4 months.
- Stochastic simulations.

High-Performance computing.

- Simulations on GPUs enabled by FLAMEGPU.
- Mapping of model descriptions to optimised CUDA code.

Next steps.

- Introduce clones of cells with different mutations and simulate tumour progression.
- What are the factors that contribute to regression/differentiation?
- How can we manipulate these factors to induce regression/differentiation?

Take-Home Message 1.

The PRIMAGE project aims to build a decision support system for the clinical management of malignant solid tumours.

Take-Home Message 2.

Cancer hallmarks span 9 orders of magnitude in both space and time. Due to limits posed by experimental resolutions, model complexity, and computational costs, it is necessary to build separate models for the critical scales and orchestrate information flow between the models.

Take-Home Message 3.

We built the very first multi-cellular model of neuroblastoma by integrating a continuous automaton, discrete agents, and a centre-based mechanical model.

Take-Home Message 4.

The multi-cellular model has 20 fitting parameters. We calibrated them in a Squid Game–style tournament. We used Latin hypercube sampling to generate 3000 combinations of parameters, aggregated experimental and clinical data, and used the data to design 6 *in silico* studies performed on GPUs to assess the combinations.

International online workshop
Mathematical Modelling in Biomedicine
October 25 – 29, 2021 Moscow, Russia



INSIGNEO
Institute for *in silico* Medicine



PRIMAGE
Medical imaging
Artificial intelligence
Childhood cancer research



Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation