

PHYSICAL SCIENCES - in ONCOLOGY







Cancer metastasis modeling at the Scripps Physical Science Oncology Center -Overview of several projects-



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# **Overview of models**







### Scripps PS-OC: `Mathematics and Physics of Cancer Metastasis'

Physical Sciences Oncology Center 2010-2015 National Cancer Institute



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### The `particles' in the bloodstream





### T.R. Ashworth 1869

-

May,

1869.]

District Dispensaries.

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These cancer cells were seen not only by the narrator, but by Dr. Robertson, Dr. Moloney, and Dr. Lawrence.

One of the tumours was forwarded to Professor Halford, who expressed himself to the effect that he had never seen one of a similar character, but that it was undoubtedly a rare species of cancer, and he kindly pointed out in the English Journal of Anatomy and Physiology 1008, page 241, a ucsu. of a tumour of the of the chorda dorsalis, by Professor Turner, not if not stientical in character, which was presented by Dr. The obson to the Museum of the University of Edinburgh.

The fact of cells identical with those of the cancer itself being seen in the blood may tend to throw some light upon the mode of origin of multiple tumours existing in the same person. Whether these cells came from an existing canter structure, or were formed in the block itself during life, or after death from the materies morth which which the line peres been seen, is known to exist there, frome investigation will pechaps point out. One thing is certains that if they came from an existing cancer structure, they a have passed throngh the greater part of the circulatory syste trei at the internal satilets vein of the sound leg

#### Anstralian Medical Journal, MAY, 1869.

#### DISTRICT DISPENSARIES.

In the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Melbourne Espiral appointed to inquire into the present system of Espiraing out-door rehef, it is recommended, among other manges, that branch establishments should be formed in poor as siturban municipalities, as a means of relieving une pressure of duties now performed at the Hospital itself, and within the report indirectly acknowledges are inefficiently performed. This extension of the operations of the leading characteristic Mathematical baseling been needed. It was urged years ago by Mr. Gilbee, and if his suggestion had been parts left of the only of the abases of this suggestion had been unique it good mary of the abases of this institution would have been avoided. It is simply a physical impossibility, as matters seen at present to be managed, to attend to the out-patients, as they solved be attended, and not to neglect the impatients. This would not be easy if even the honorary shaff attended regularly, but as the report itself admits that there is "great irregularity" in the attendance of the is meany staff, the duty of prescribing for the out-patients

These tumours on section, thirty hours after death, were found

These tumours being so numerous, and evidently malignant, it was determined to examine the blood also, in the belief that it might possibly throw some light upon their multiplication in different parts of the body. A portion was accordingly obtained from the internal saphena vein of the right leg which was quite free from any tumour.

This blood was dark and fluid, when viewed by the microscope a little of the magenta solution being added, it was seen to contain comparatively few red corpuscles these being mostly shrivelled and stellate, la ogregated;

toon masses, besides these some cells like white correlated; my larger, together with patches of granular matter which took the tor dye; but the most singular circumstance was that occasionally cells were seen exactly in shape, size, and appearance like to those of the tumours. On one examination three were seen in the field of at the same time. - (Fig III.)

#### HOSPITAL REPORTS.

Hospital Reports.

MELBOURNE HOSPITAL. A case of Cancer in which cells similar to those in the Tumours were seen in the blood after death. Reported by THOMAS RAMSDEN ASHWORTH, Resident Physician.

Richard J-, æt. 38, was admitted on Oct. 9th, 1868, suffering from what was understood to be "Rheumatism and Debility." He died of Marasmus on the 10th of the following March.

He had a number of subcutaneous tumours (about thirty) situated over the anterior wall of the thorax and abdomen, varying in size from that of a bean to that of a small orange. There was one between the scapulæ, and another on the inner side of the left thigh about four inches above the knee joint. In none of them had any softening as yet taken place.

to consist of a thick opaque jelly-like substance, of an amber colour, having a thin fibrous covering, and in places a delicate fibrous stroma running through the substance of the tumours themselves. Examined by the microscope, under a power of four hundred diameters, they presented an unusual structural character. The jellylike substance appeared perfectly transparent dotted over at nearly equal distances with what presented the appearance of cells containing one ormore nuclei (FigI.) Not being able to account for the appearance of these cells being equidistant from each other, some solution of magenta dye was added, and it was then seen that the cells were in reality only the nuclei containing nucleoli of large and beautifully pellucid cells, highly refractive, and not containing a trace of granular matter outside the nucleus. They were mostly circular in shape, a few being slightly ovoid. (Fig II.)

### HD-CTC on a slide (Kuhn Lab TSRI)



# Circulating tumor cells (CTCs)



1. Metastatic entropy

# <u>Question</u>: What is the best metric to use to compare the complexity of different cancers?

# Metastatic signature of 4 cancer types



#### Lung



#### **Prostate**

Stoma

Sm Intestin

Lg Intestin

Diaphragn

Peritone

Heat

Thyroi

Shi

Testes

Bladder

Pancreas

Spleen

Pleura

Kidney

Adrenal

Live

Lung

Bon

0 20 40 60 80 # of Mets

100 120 140 10<sup>°</sup>

LN (dist)

LN (reg)

Gallbladder



Breast

Colon

10

10

10<sup>1</sup>

Anatomical Sites of Metastases (Ordered by m



10

20

# of Mets

101

Anatomical Sites of Metastases (Ordered by most-least frequent)

# Metastatic entropy



# Two main `drivers' of metastatic complexity

- 1. Number of metastatic sites `N'
  - Larger N increases complexity
- 2. Probabilistic distribution to those sites
  - More even distribution (flatter) increases complexity

# Metastatic entropy





 $p_i$  % metastatic tumors to site `i'

# Metastatic entropy





### Tumor entropy



### Tumor entropy







Primary	Ν	Entropy
Skin	30	2.9945
Breast	27	2.7798
Kidney	27	2.7554
Lung	27	2.7453
All	30	2.7136
Stomach	28	2.6099
Uterine	24	2.5709
Pancreatic	26	2.5540
Colorectal	28	2.4686
Cervical	26	2.3696
Ovarian	21	2.3275
Bladder	22	2.2301
Prostate	21	2.0960







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2. Markov chain/random walk models of metastatic progression

<u>Question</u>: What is the dynamical system that *drives* metastatic progression from a state of low-entropy to a high-entropy state?



# Google's Markov model

Random walkers on an IT network



Edge Weights: `Transition' probabilities

#### Main features:

- Nodes are web pages
- Nodes are linked by directed edges
- Edges have weights (transition probabilites)
- Nodal weights are obtained from edge weights

#### **Google uses the internet model to:**

- Perform simulated internet searches:
  - Individual searches with random walks
  - `Ensemble' searches with Monte Carlo simulations
- Run tests under different scenarios
- Calculate `average' number of steps from node i to node j

# **Our Cancer Progression Model**

Random walkers on an anatomical network

#### Lung cancer



#### Main features:

- Nodes are potential tumor sites
- Nodes are linked by directed edges
- Need to construct the edge weights

#### Similar uses for our model:

- Perform simulated cancer progression:
  - Individual progression with random walks
  - `Ensemble' progression with Monte Carlo simulations
- Run tests under different scenarios
- Calculate `average' number of steps from node i to node j (mean first-passage times)

# Markov Chain Basics

$$\vec{v}_{k+1} = \vec{v}_k A, (k = 0, 1, 2, ...)$$

- <u>States</u>: Lung, Breast, Liver, Adrenal, LN, ....Deceased
- <u>Initial state</u>:  $\vec{v}_0 = (1,0,0,0,...)$
- <u>Steady-state:</u>  $ec{v}_{\infty}=$  (0.18, 0.12, ....)
- $ec{v}_k$  is the state-vector with 50 entries reflecting possible metastatic tumor locations
- A is the transition matrix governing the transition probabilities from site to site

How to compute (estimate) the entries of the transition matrix A?

- Need *the transition probabilities* from site to site:
  - <u>Reconstruct</u> from steady-state info (autopsy data sets)
  - <u>Direct</u> empirical calculation (longitudinal data sets)

### **The Lung Cancer Network**



- 913 edges
- Lung: 27 outgoing edges
- Lung: 49 incoming edges

#	Name	#	Name
1	Adrenal	26	Omentum
2	Anus	27	Ovaris
3	Appendix	28	Pancreas
4	Bile Duct	29	Penis
5	Bladder	30	Pericardium
6	Bone	31	Peritoneum
7	Brain	32	Pharynx
8	Branchial Cyst	33	Pleura
9	Breast	34	Prostate
10	Cervix	35	Rectum
11	Colon	36	Retroperitoneum
12	Diaphragm	37	Salivary
13	Duodenum	38	Skeletal Muscle
14	Esophagus	39	Skin
15	Eye	40	Small Intestine
16	Gallbladder	41	Spleen
17	Heart	42	Stomach
18	Kidney	43	Testes
19	Large Intestine	44	Thyroid
20	Larynx	45	Tongue
21	Lip	46	Tonsil
22	Liver	47	Unknown
23	Lung	48	Uteris
24	Lymph Nodes (reg)	49	Vagina
25	Lymph Nodes (dist)	50	Vulva

DF

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# Convergence: Lung cancer





# Network diagrams for 4 cancer types



# Near Quoro regete cinrates steps



# Multi-directional pathway diagram: Lung



### Constructing metastatic pathways



### <u>The metastatic pathways</u>

Lung  $\rightarrow$  Bone  $\rightarrow$  Liver  $\rightarrow$  Deceased

Lung  $\rightarrow$  Adrenal  $\rightarrow$  Deceased

Lung  $\rightarrow$  Adrenal  $\rightarrow$  Bone  $\rightarrow$  Deceased Etc.



Spreaders & Sponges

# <u>Question</u>: Which metastatic sites would make the best `targets' for therapy ?



### Metastatic site as spreader or sponge





# The spreaders and sponges





# Spreader diagrams



Targeting the spreaders

# <u>Question</u>: What would be the response if we could therapeutically target the spreaders?

# Spreader $\rightarrow$ Absorbing state



### Entropy decrease, mfpt increase







3. CFD models of procoagulant CTCs in the bloodstream

- Cancer patients have a higher than average incidence of blood clot formation leading to stroke.
- CTCs express TF that triggers a complex chain of chemical reactions leading to thrombosis.

### **Experiment of fibrin formation**

### Coagulation process of fibrin formation by SW480 cell (McCarty Lab, OHSU)



Cell is ~12 um 60x real time DIC microscopy



### **Mathematical infrastructure**



### **Blood parameters in venous system**

- whole blood: density = 1060 kg/m^3 at 37C dynamic viscosity = 3\*10^-3 Pa s at 37C
- venules: flow rate: v = 0.03-0.1 cm/s diameter: d = 7-50 um

#### Diffusion coefficients for coagulation factors

Factor	Stokes Radius (nm	) C (nM)	$D^{20,plasma}(10^{-7}  cm^2  s^{-1})$	J/J <sup>∨⊪</sup>	
VII	<b>3.5</b> (Gladhaug et al. 1970)	<b>7-13</b> <sup>(Fair 1983)</sup>	5.1	1	
IX	4.1 <sup>(Suomela 1976)</sup>	40-142 <sup>(Yang 1978)*</sup>	4.4	3-22	
VIII	8.8 <sup>(Hoyer et al. 1981)</sup>	0.4-1 <sup>(Hoyer 1994)*</sup>	2	<<1	
Х		101-162 <sup>(Epstein 1984)</sup>	5	8-23	
V	9.5 <sup>(Esmon 1979)</sup>	12-42 <sup>(Kamphuisen 2000)</sup>	1.9	2-10	
	4.1 <sup>(Stenflo 1972)</sup>	1200-1730 <sup>(Legnani 200;</sup>	9 4.4	100-266	

\* calculated (FIX: 100% = 4.5 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>; FVIII: 100% = 0.2 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>)





### **CFD model of flow in channel**

#### **Breast cancer cell imaged from Kuhn Lab**



### Simulation of CTC under flow

#### **Blood velocity field**

#### **Thrombin concentration field**



#### Max velocity = 0.026 cm/s

Diffusion coefficient = 1e-7 cm<sup>2</sup>/s



### Simulation of CTC under flow

#### Thrombin field and velocity vectors

#### Adaptive mesh generation



![](_page_40_Picture_4.jpeg)

### **CFD model of branching venules**

#### **DIC image**

#### SW480 colon adenocarcinoma cells

![](_page_41_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Simulation of CTC cluster under flow

#### **Blood velocity field**

#### **Thrombin concentration field**

![](_page_42_Figure_3.jpeg)

Max velocity = 0.08 cm/s

Diffusion coefficient = 3e-7 cm^2/s

### Simulation of CTC cluster under flow

#### Particle tracking for thrombin field

Adaptive mesh generation

![](_page_43_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Patient sample to computational simulation

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

(a) DIC image of lung cancer cluster.

![](_page_44_Figure_3.jpeg)

(c) Shape of cluster is generated in computational domain (COMSOL).

![](_page_44_Picture_5.jpeg)

(b) Outline of cluster is obtained using Cell Profiler. Center of cluster is marked by white dot.

![](_page_44_Figure_7.jpeg)

(d) Cluster is placed in a branching venule, with the cluster centered vertically in the middle of the venule.

### Blood velocity field

### Mesh generation

![](_page_45_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_3.jpeg)

Maximum velocity ~0.008 cm^2/s

Upon reaching the "fork in the vessel", the cluster begins to deform and significantly obstructs the blood flow.

Complete mesh consists of 4872 domain elements and 346 boundary elements.

### Concentration field of thrombin

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

Diffusion coefficient =  $1e-7 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ 

# Particles are tracking velocity field with concentration field shown

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_3.jpeg)

The particles clearly display the parabolic flow profile of the blood, and show that blood flow in the lower branch is slightly faster than in the upper branch.

# Particles are tracking concentration field $\frac{\partial \vec{q}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{c_0(C+\epsilon)} \left( \frac{\nabla C}{||\nabla C+\epsilon||} \right) \text{where } C_0 \text{ is a velocity scaling coefficient}$

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

The particles show that early in the simulation, the thrombin field closely resembles the shape of the cluster, whereas later in the simulation, the thrombin field is dictated by the blood vessel geometry.

4. Building low-dimensional deformation models of CTCs using `Active Shape Algorithms'

• Bridging the gap between experiment and computations

![](_page_49_Figure_2.jpeg)

### MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell in flow

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

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# Low-d deformation model of cancer cell release

![](_page_51_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Low-d deformation model of cancer cell release

- Active shape modeling gives principal modes of deformation
- Used to `train' parameters in an `empirical constitutive equation' for a low-dimensional model
- The model is then used in a stochastic Stokes flow simulation of cell release

![](_page_52_Figure_4.jpeg)

5. Cell-trafficking models based on evolutionary game theory

 Building a dynamical system on the anatomical network that tracks the evolutionary properties of different cell populations

# 22 anatomical sites for prostate cancer

![](_page_54_Figure_1.jpeg)

- 22 cell types
- Preoncogenic/Postoncogenic cancer Boolean (True or False)
- Each anatomical site has indigenous cell type
- Prostate is initially populated with cancerous & healthy cells

![](_page_54_Picture_6.jpeg)

# **Cell Attributes**

Location1,...23 (including circulation)Type1,...22Cell ID1,...,nPreonc/PostorBoolean: true/false

Birth time Death time Circulation time Parent Cell Previous Locations [1,23,2,23] Primary Tumor Site: 1 [Primary tumor cancer cells]

Birth Rate	$\mu^{(1)}$
Death Rate	β <sup>(1)</sup>
Mutation Rate	$\gamma^{(1)}$
<b>Circulation Rate</b>	$\lambda^{(1)}$

<u>Secondary Sites:</u> i = 2,...,22 [Healthy cells]

Birth Rate	$\mu^{(i)}$
Death Rate	β <sup>(i)</sup>
Mutation Rate	γ <sup>(i)</sup>
<b>Circulation Rate</b>	$\lambda^{(i)}$

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> location is circulation

# **Entering Circulation**

• Probability of entering entering site i

$$p_{(i)} = 1 - e^{-\lambda^{(i)}t}$$

![](_page_56_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Picture_4.jpeg)

# **Dynamics in Circulation**

- Holds many cell types at each time step
- Cell death can occur, but not birth
- No mutations
- No replicator equations
- Entering Circulation

$$p_{(i)} = 1 - e^{-\lambda^{(i)}t}$$

- Exiting Circulation
  - Based on Markov transition probabilities

Preoncogenic Prostate CellPostoncogenic Prostate Cell

![](_page_57_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_13.jpeg)

# Circulation

![](_page_58_Figure_1.jpeg)

• Prostate

$$p_1 = 1 - e^{-\lambda^{(i)}t}$$

Each anatomical site has indigenous cell type

- Healthy Prostate Cell
- Postoncogenic Prostate Cell
- Liver Cell

![](_page_58_Picture_8.jpeg)

# **Replicator Equations**

• Large cell population of n types, proportions given by the state vector, whose components sum to 1:

$$\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) \in S_n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i = 1$$

• Fitness landscape of cell type *i* given by:

$$f_i = (Ax)_i = a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{in}x_n$$

A = payoff matrix

**Ex:** 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Average fitness of the cell population:

 $\phi = \vec{x} \cdot \vec{f}$ 

 Replicator equation describing cell population dynamics:

$$\dot{x}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j f_j(\vec{x}) q_{ji} - \phi(\vec{x}) x_i$$

- Q is the mutation matrix
- Controls all mutation rates from type i to j.
- Each row must sum to 1.

Ex: Q allows  
no mutations. 
$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# **Neutral** Payoff Matrix

![](_page_60_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Sample Monte Carlo simulation

### Circulation and mutation in sponges and spreaders

![](_page_61_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### **Parameter Values**

- Mutation: 1.5
- Circulation: 1.0

- Remove from circulation: 1.5
- Birth/Death: 0
- Cancerous Birth: 0

![](_page_61_Picture_9.jpeg)

## Questions?

![](_page_62_Picture_1.jpeg)