Contents

Preface .................................................................................................................. v

1 Natural computing paradigms and emergent computation ..................... 1
  1.1 Principles of natural computing ............................................................... 1
    1.1.1 Natural computing structures as hierarchies of interconnected cells .. 1
    1.1.2 The principle of optimal number of entities (Ockham’s razor) ........ 2
    1.1.3 Natural computing systems are dissipative systems ................. 3
    1.1.4 Transient nature of the behavioral complexity of natural systems .. 3
    1.1.5 Natural systems and recurrence .................................................. 3
    1.1.6 Emergence, complexity, and local activity of cells ................. 3
  1.2 Open problems and book description ..................................................... 4

2 Cellular nonlinear networks: state of the art and applications ............... 7
  2.1 Introduction ............................................................................................. 7
  2.2 Typical applications of cellular computers ......................................... 9
  2.3 Hardware platforms for implementing cellular computers ............ 12

3 Cellular and natural computing models and software simulation .......... 15
  3.1 Cellular systems: cells, neighborhoods, states and dynamics .......... 15
    3.1.1 Genes ......................................................................................... 17
    3.1.2 Discrete and continuous states and outputs .............................. 17
    3.1.3 Boundary conditions .................................................................. 17
  3.2 Major cellular systems paradigms ......................................................... 18
    3.2.1 The Cellular Neural Network (CNN) model ......................... 18
    3.2.2 The Generalized Cellular Automata ........................................ 19
    3.2.3 Reaction-Diffusion Cellular Nonlinear Networks ................. 20
  3.3 Matlab simulation of Generalized cellular automata
    and cellular neural networks ................................................................. 21
    3.3.1 Uncoupled GCAs ...................................................................... 21
    3.3.2 Coupled GCAs .......................................................................... 23
    3.3.3 Simulation of standard cellular neural networks ................. 25
  3.4 Nonlinear representation of cells .......................................................... 25
    3.4.1 Piecewise-linear representation and implementation ............ 26
    3.4.2 Extended families of cells ....................................................... 36
    3.4.3 Structured universes of cells ................................................... 37
  3.5 Modeling and simulation of semitotalistic cellular automata .......... 38
  3.6 Modeling and simulation of “Small-Worlds” systems ....................... 40
  3.7 A wider variety of cells, taxonomy and family labels .................. 41
  3.8 A CA simulator for all kind of cells .................................................. 43
x Contents

4 Emergence, locating and measuring it ................................................. 47
  4.1 Emergence: the software engineering of cellular computing systems ... 47
  4.2 Visual interpretation of emergent phenomena – classes of behaviors ... 48
  4.3 Semitotalistic cells: a first step in narrowing the search space .......... 57
  4.4 Clustering and transients and as measures of emergence ................. 60
    4.4.1 Visualizing complexity for an entire family of
    cellular systems – Wolfram classes revisited ................................. 66
  4.5 Simulation examples, properties, more accurate complexity measures ... 69
    4.5.1 Properties of complexity measures .......................... 71
    4.5.2 A composite complexity measure .......................... 74

5 Exponents of growth ........................................................................ 77
  5.1 Exponents of growth and their relationship to various emergent
  behaviors .................................................................................. 77
  5.2 Mutations for continuous state cellular systems ................................ 85
  5.3 Distribution of exponents of growth among families of genes .......... 87
  5.4 Influences of the “Small World” model ..................................... 89
    5.4.1 The “small worlds” model allows fine tuning of the
    “edge of chaos” .................................................................. 90
  5.5 On the independence between various measures of complexities ...... 92

6 Sieves for selection of genes according to desired behaviors .......... 95
  6.1 Introduction ............................................................................ 95
  6.2 Defining sieves ......................................................................... 96
  6.3 Examples and applications of the double sieve method ................. 99
    6.3.1 Intelligent life behaviors and uncertainty in using sieves .......... 99
    6.3.2 Classic “Life”: using sieves to locate similar behaviors .......... 101
    6.3.3 Other interesting emergent behaviors .............................. 104
    6.3.4 Sieves to locate feature extractors .................................... 107
    6.3.5 Pink-noise generators .................................................. 109
    6.3.6 Sieving and intelligence – evolving a list of interesting genes ... 110

7 Predicting emergence from cell’s structure ..................................... 113
  7.1 Introduction ............................................................................ 113
  7.2 Relationships between CA behavior and the Boolean
    description of the cell .................................................................. 114
  7.3 Parametrizations as tools to locate similar behaviors ..................... 116
  7.4 The theory of probabilistic exponents of growth .......................... 118
    7.4.1 Uncertainty index of a cell, active and expansion areas .......... 120
    7.4.2 Minimal set of cells to compute the probabilistic
    exponent of growth ................................................................ 121
    7.4.3 Computing the cells function of probability ....................... 123
    7.4.4 Computing the probabilistic exponent of growth ................. 124
  7.5 Exponents of growth and their significance .................................. 126
    7.5.1 Predicting behaviors from ID, an example .......................... 127
    7.5.2 Other properties of the probabilistic exponents of growth ....... 127
    7.5.3 Comparison with the experimental exponent of growth .......... 129
  7.6 Conclusions ............................................................................ 130
8 Applications of emergent phenomena ........................................ 133
8.1 Introduction ........................................................................ 133
8.2 Smart sensor for character recognition .................................. 134
  8.2.1 Motivation and general description ................................. 134
  8.2.2 Architecture and functionality of the CA-based sensor .... 136
  8.2.3 Feature extraction and classification ............................... 138
  8.2.4 Experimental results ..................................................... 140
8.3 Excitable membranes, for temporal sequence classification .......... 141
  8.3.1 Mapping variable-length signals into terminal states ........ 142
  8.3.2 Detecting genes to build EMTMs .................................... 144
  8.3.3 Experimental results in sound classification .................... 145
8.4 Image compression using CA-based vector quantization .......... 147
  8.4.1 Coding and decoding principle ...................................... 147
  8.4.2 Detecting the useful genes .......................................... 151
  8.4.3 Results and comparison with other compression standards ... 153
  8.4.4 Aspects on hardware implementation .............................. 156

References .............................................................................. 159

Index ......................................................................................... 165