

EVOLUTIONARY TASK FORCE

SUMMARY OF WEEK 15 (7 - 13 FEBRUARY 2012)

The main organizing principle remained the grand TODO list that specifies the steps towards the demo of Grand-Challenge 2. See <http://symbrion-ec.wikidot.com/summary:2> for the actual version on the wiki.

We briefly considered to terminate the sub-task forces (that formed the main organizing principle previously), but deemed them useful and decided to keep them.

A personal change: from now on, Nicolas will act as the spokesperson of the Morphogenesis sub-task force. Many thanks to Michele for doing it so far! She will continue the investigations into the hybrid cellular automaton approach. An important next step is to have the indicators completed about the implicit approaches. Graz and INRIA are cooperating on this.

During the weekly Skype meeting we have also discussed the joint publications. The deadlines of the SAB and ALIFE conferences are in a few weeks, offering a good opportunity. However, we felt that it was still too early. The PPSN conference (deadline by the end of March) is much more feasible. We will return to this issue by the end of February.

S/T substance:

Integration of all approaches into Robot3D is still the main priority. The foremost bottleneck is the alignment and actual docking of two robots. This lies on the critical path to a successful demo: all scenarios need this feature. Vojta, Lutz, Berend, and Wenguo are working on this.

There is still no decision about an implicit approach to morphogenesis, but there is a joint effort for making solid comparisons.

Computing hardware:

The initial inventory of computers we can use for experimentation and demonstration is ready. The present "fleet" is rather small, just 3 machines:

- VU - Berend: 8 cores, 2.5 Ghz, 16 GB RAM (Ubuntu 11.10);
- Graz - Juergen: 2 cores, 2.1 GHz, 2GB RAM (Ubuntu 11.04);
- CTU - Vojta: 2 cores, 2.8 GHz, 4 GB RAM (FreeBSD 8.2).

The lack of powerful computing hardware could become a big problem. Once we finish integration we will have to run many computationally very demanding experiments. Vojta will find out if it is possible to run our simulator on a cluster. Meanwhile ...

An open call to all partners: if you have a machine we could use (part time, for a limited period) please email Vojta at vonasek@labe.felk.cvut.cz