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# Spiking Neural P Systems Research at Algorithms and Complexity Laboratory of the University of the Philippines Diliman

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## 1 Introduction

The Algorithms and Complexity laboratory (in short, ACLab) of Department of Computer Science, University of the Philippines Diliman consists of a subgroup of nine members, listed as authors in this report, working mainly on membrane computing. The website for ACLab is at <http://aclab.dcs.upd.edu.ph/> while the website of the subgroup for membrane computing is at <https://sites.google.com/site/aclabmcgroup/>. The membrane computing subgroup of ACLab consists of professor Henry N. Adorna, three assistant professors: Francis George C. Cabarle, Kelvin C. Buño, and Nestine Hope Hernandez (working on other P system models), with Richelle Ann Juayong having recently finished her PhD dissertation on P systems with energy.

Since 2009, ACLab has produced research on SN P systems (more details below). At present time, Kelvin Buño is in part working on dP Scheme which include distributed variants of P systems, which includes SN dP systems for his PhD work; for masters work, Jym Paul Carandang and John Matthew Villaflores are working on GPU simulators for SN P systems and their variants, while Ren Tristan dela Cruz is working on SN P systems with plasticity. Francis George C. Cabarle is doing postdoctoral research with Xiangxiang Zeng at Xiamen University (Xiamen, China). Henry N. Adorna is visting Linqiang Pan at Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Wuhan, China).

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Some of main the research directions of ACLab for SN P systems (and their variants) include: their syntax and semantics for computing, applications, or modelling; their representations as vectors and matrices, in order to perform linear algebra operations in describing the system evolution; their simulation algorithms and software simulators (both sequential and parallel); their computing power and efficiency with respect to other P systems and models of computation.

## 2 Works on spiking neural P systems

### 2.1 Matrix representations and algorithms for GPU simulations

The work on representing SN P systems as vectors and matrices started at BWMC2010 in [1], followed by a publication at CMC2010 in [2]. The earliest version of an SN P system simulator for graphics processing units (or GPUs) is in PCSC2011 in [3], followed by a journal version in [4]. Succeeding investigations by improving the simulation algorithm, software simulator, and GPUs include [5, 6]. Note that so far, these GPU simulators run on the CUDA hardware manufactured by NVIDIA corporation. The first and preliminary SN P system simulator using the open-standard software known as OpenCL is in [7].

Further improvements of the simulation and GPU simulator on NVIDIA CUDA hardware were afterwards referred to as CuSNP (short for CUDA for SN P systems) published as a preliminary work in [8], with following improvements reported at BWMC2016 in [9, 10, 11] with the most recent in [12]. Lastly, since SN P systems in general are sparse graphs, we have started to work on simulators that make better use of GPUs with sparse matrix representations in [13].

### 2.2 Variants of SN P systems

Since SN P systems and most of their variants are static and directed graphs<sup>2</sup> some variants inspired by dynamic graphs focusing on edge-centric evolution (hence, synapse-centric evolution for SN P systems) were introduced. The first variant are SN P systems with structural plasticity introduced in [14] allowed neurons to use only the standard spiking rules while making use of a second type of rule known as a plasticity rule. Plasticity rules allowed neurons to create or delete their own synapses, with further works in [15, 16, 17, 18, 19] including a quick survey in [20]. The second variant for edge-centric dynamism are SN P systems with scheduled synapses introduced [21], where in synapses can also (dis)appear in the system depending on a given schedule or duration.

Lastly, works on SN dP systems where the entire input is divided in parts, so that the parts enter into different components of the system (each component is an SN P system) are given in [22, 23].

<sup>2</sup> A few variants have dynamism, e.g. neuron division and budding following dynamic graphs, but such variants are mainly focused on evolving the neurons instead of the synapse only.

### 2.3 More on SN P systems and their computations, formal methods

Works comparing the structure and behaviour of SN P systems to other well-known models for concurrency such as Petri nets and process algebra are given in [22, 24, 25, 26].

Other works on describing the computation of SN P systems with respect to their ingredients (e.g. rule types, delays), other invariant properties include [1, 2, 27, 28, 29], and their lower bound simulation of finite automata in [30, 31].

A quick survey of SN P systems including work from ACLab is in [20], as well as in a bibliography of SN P systems literature as of February 2016 in <http://membranecomputing.net/IMCSBulletin/index.php?page=bibSNPsystemF>.

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