Pursue robust indefinite scalability

David H. Ackley Daniel C. Cannon University of New Mexico Computer Science

With Lance Williams & Thomas B. Jones and the Robust Physical Computation Group

HOTOS XIII Napa Valley, CA May 9, 2011

Computation must be born again

Instead of being born again, why not just GROW UP?

► OK, our answer **might** be wrong

Computation's Original Sin

Hardware Shall Be Reliable Software Shall Be Efficient

Efficiency and robustness are mortal enemies

A path to redemption: Indefinite scalability

- Mantra: Let space be space, let time be time
- Sacrificing:

X Fixed-width addresses, unique node names.
X Logarithmic global communication cost
X Clock and phase synchronization

- Embracing:
 - ✓Opportunistic reproduction for ||ism & robustness
 - Movability for configuration, manifest destiny, ...
 - ✓ Multilevel robustness: Up to the end-user

Strategy for universe domination

- Take 10⁻¹⁴ hit to move to hosted physics; using small von Neumann machines as the 'ether'
- Hosted processor/memory/communication are assigned to regions of space at run-time
- You as god: It's the **expressiveness**, stupid!
- Optimize 'periodic table', buy back 10^{X} for x=?
- Deploy at scale.
- Ever. Increasing. Scale.

Example: Software engineering as artificial chemistry



Demon Horde Sorting: Robust Computation Example



- Task: Flow sort endless data stream
- 'Maxwell's Demon' sorting elements stabilized by BC+DReg
- Surprise: Sorting quality vs data rate..

Demon Horde Sort: Accuracy and delivery versus data rate

