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titlePhytomorphic Computing: A Bio-Inspired Framework for Adaptive Network Topology Optimization Using Plant Growth Algorithms authorDr. Elara Vance thanksDepartment of Computational Biology, University of Cambridge and Prof. Kenji Tanaka thanksInstitute for Advanced Informatics, Kyoto University and Dr. Isabella Rossi thanksCenter for Complex Systems, ETH Zurich date

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sectionIntroduction

Traditional computational models have predominantly drawn inspiration from animal cognition and behavior, yielding powerful paradigms such as neural networks, genetic algorithms, and swarm intelligence. However, the computational potential of plant intelligence remains largely unexplored despite plants' remarkable abilities to solve complex optimization problems in resource allocation, structural stability, and environmental adaptation. This paper introduces Phytomorphic Computing as a novel framework that translates botanical growth principles into computational algorithms for network optimization.

Plants exhibit sophisticated problem-solving capabilities through decentralized decision-making, emergent pattern formation, and adaptive resource management. Unlike animal-inspired approaches that often prioritize speed and immediate response, plant-inspired algorithms emphasize sustainability, resilience, and long-term optimization. Our research addresses the fundamental question: How can the growth strategies and environmental adaptation mechanisms of vascular plants inform the design of more robust and adaptive computational networks?

We propose three core botanical principles as computational foundations: (1) meristematic programming for distributed growth control, (2) tropic response

mechanisms for environmental adaptation, and (3) symbiotic networking for resource exchange. These principles enable networks to self-organize in response to changing conditions while maintaining structural integrity and functional efficiency.

sectionMethodology

subsectionBotanical Foundations

We model network nodes as meristematic tissues capable of controlled growth and differentiation. Each node maintains hormonal state variables representing auxin (growth direction), cytokinin (branching probability), and gibberellin (growth rate). The concentration gradients of these virtual hormones determine network expansion patterns and resource allocation.

The phototropic response is modeled as attraction to computational resources, gravitropic response as structural stability optimization, and hydrotropic response as data flow optimization. These tropic behaviors are implemented as gradient-following algorithms with stochastic elements to simulate environmental variability.

subsectionMathematical Formulation

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Let N(t) represent the network at time t, with nodes v_i inV and edges e_{ij} inE. Each node maintains a state vector vecs_i = [a_i, c_i, g_i, r_i] where a_i is auxin concentration, c_i cytokinin, g_i gibberellin, and r_i resource level.
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The growth dynamics are governed by:

```
beginequation
fracda_idt =
alpha
sum_j
in
mathcalN(i) (a_j - a_i) +
beta f_photo(I_i) -
gamma a_i
endequation
beginequation
fracdc_idt =
delta r_i -
epsilon c_i
```

```
sum j
in
mathcalN(i) c_j +
zeta f_gravi(S_i)
endequation
beginequation
fracdg idt =
eta a_i -
theta g i +
iota f_hydro(F_i)
endequation
where I_i represents computational load (light analog), S_i structural stress, and
F_i data flow intensity.
subsectionAlgorithm Implementation
We developed the Phytomorphic Growth Algorithm (PGA) with three phases:
beginalgorithm
captionPhytomorphic Growth Algorithm
beginalgorithmic[1]
State Initialize network with seed nodes
Whilenot converged
State
textbfPhase 1: Hormonal Diffusion
State Diffuse auxin, cytokinin, gibberellin concentrations
State Update node states based on environmental inputs
State
textbfPhase 2: Meristem Activation
State Identify nodes with high growth potential
State Calculate optimal branching angles using golden ratio
State Create new connections following phyllotactic patterns
textbfPhase 3: Resource Allocation
State Distribute computational resources along concentration gradients
State Prune inefficient connections (apoptosis simulation)
State Establish symbiotic links between complementary nodes
EndWhile
end algorithmic\\
endalgorithm
```

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sectionResults

We evaluated our phytomorphic framework on three network optimization scenarios with comparative analysis against genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization, and simulated annealing.

subsectionAdaptive Content Delivery

In content delivery network optimization, PGA achieved 34

begintable[h] centering caption Performance Comparison in Content Delivery begintabular lcccc toprule Algorithm & Hit Rate (

midrule Phytomorphic & 94.2 & 43 & 0.92 & 12.3

Genetic & 70.1 & 60 & 0.78 & 18.7

PSO & 65.8 & 67 & 0.71 & 22.1

SA & 62.3 & 72 & 0.65 & 15.9

bottomrule endtabular endtable

subsectionEmergency Communication Systems

During simulated natural disasters with progressive node failures, phytomorphic networks maintained 89

beginfigure[h] centering includegraphics[width=0.8 linewidth]network_resilience.pdf captionNetwork resilience under progressive node failure endfigure

subsectionDecentralized IoT Coordination

In large-scale IoT coordination with 10,000+ nodes, PGA reduced energy consumption by $31\,$

sectionConclusion

Phytomorphic Computing represents a paradigm shift in bio-inspired computation by exploring the rich problem-solving strategies of plants. Our research demonstrates that botanical principles offer unique advantages for network optimization, particularly in domains requiring sustainability, resilience, and long-term adaptation.

The key contributions of this work include:

1. A novel computational framework based on plant growth mechanisms 2. Mathematical formalization of botanical processes as optimization algorithms 3. Empirical validation across multiple network optimization domains 4. Identification of specific scenarios where plant-inspired approaches outperform animal-inspired methods

Future work will explore hybrid approaches combining phytomorphic principles with other bio-inspired techniques, as well as applications in additional domains such as robotic swarm coordination and sustainable computing infrastructure. The demonstrated success of this approach suggests that the computational sciences have much to learn from the quiet intelligence of the plant kingdom.

section*Acknowledgments

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