# CROWD MODELLING BEHAVIOUR BASED ON MODIFIED MICROSCOPIC MODELS IN PANIC SITUATION

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A project report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Science (Computer Science)

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#### **ABSTRAK**

Dalam kelas mikroskopik, terdapat beberapa model yang boleh dijadikan asas untuk tujuan kerumunan simulasi supaya ia lebih realistik. Tujuan simulasi kerumunan adalah sebagai model yang merujuk kepada pergerakan objek di dalam satu persekitaran tertentu. Aplikasi simulasi kerumunan ini sangat meluas dan salah satunya digunakan dalam bidang sains computer yang mana ia melibatkan kajian mengenai perilaku kerumunan di dalam pelbagai situasi, seperti contoh dalam situasi panik. Dengan itu, projek ini akan menjurus kepada kajian melalui penulisan yang sudah sedia ada berkenaan dengan simulasi kerumunan dan yang boleh menghasilkan simulasi yang realistik berdasarkan model di bawah kelas mikroskopik iaitu 'Model Daya Sosial' (SF) yang boleh meniru perilaku individual dan kumpulan seperti yang berlaku ketika prosedur evakuasi kecemasan. Modifikasi yang dilakukan pada model asal hanya melibatkan perilaku pergerakan kurumunan yang bertujuan mencari jalan keluar dari sebuah bilik di dalam situatisi panik. Ini juga melibatkan visualisasi yang ringkas yang mana individual dalam kerumuman di wakili oleh satu objek iaitu menggunakan partikel. Akhir sekali, model yang telah dimodifikasi juga telah dibuktikan di mana ia juga sejajar dengan teori 'cepat-adalah-lambat'.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AB - Agent Based

ABM - Agent Based Model
CA - Cellular Automata

SF - Social Force

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#### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Introduction

In this modern era, human population had evolved and there are even questions: are we too many in this planet? Do we need to plan all the movement in computer graphics when it comes to crowd simulation? Do we need to have a huge database just to remember the movements of each individual? Could we just make a module to decide the movement intelligently?

The answer may lies on the growth of population in crowd nowadays. A crowd can be described as the collective behaviour of a large number of interacting agents with a common group objective (Olfati-Saber, 2004). Crowd simulation is to simulate the movement of many or large objects as well as characters. Needless to say, crowd simulation attempts to model the motions of objects within specific environment. Figure 1.1 shows that crowd simulation has been in research niche in different fields of study. Nowadays, crowd simulation is very essential and become

useful in many areas such as in education, entertainment, architecture, urban engineering, training, and virtual heritage. The applications of crowd simulation can be summarized as shown in Figure 1.2.

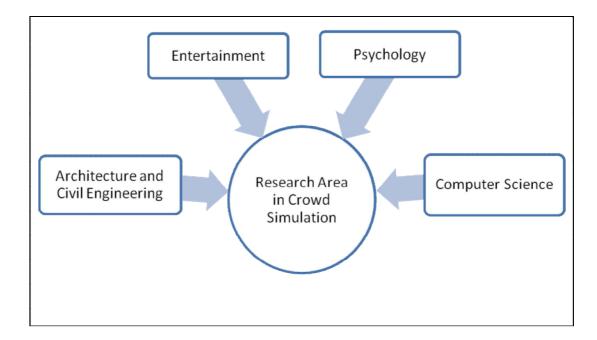
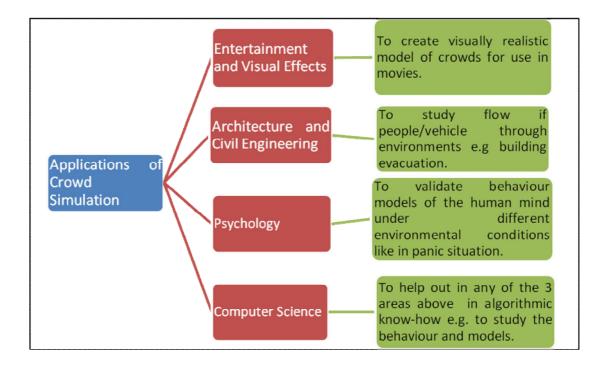


Figure 1.1: Crowd simulation niche research area



**Figure 1.2**: Applications of crowd simulation

There are various crowd simulation techniques which generally can be divided into two main categories, namely crowd visualization and crowd realism. So, what are the main differences between these two techniques? Table 1.1 below listed the differences between the crowd visualization and crowd realism.

**Table 1.1**: Differences between crowd visualization and crowd realism (Helbing et.al, 2000)

Crowd Visualization	Crowd Realism
Purposely for entertainment and visual	Useful in Architecture and Civil
effects (see Figure 1.3).	Engineering.
The simulation does not require physical	The simulation must be physically
accuracy and the techniques can be	accurate as possible so as to study the
combined with motion captured	flow of people or crowd, like
animations.	evacuation situation (see Figure 1.4).
The algorithms created for this usually	Constantly compare the simulation
exploit Level-of-Detail (LOD).	results with experimental data.
Video games will have a real-time	Require only simple visualizations
obligation.	such as a single point per object.



**Figure 1.3**: Lord of the Rings Trilogy as an example of crowd visualization by using the tool "Massive"



**Figure 1.4**: Simulation of a ship evacuation, using the tool EXODUS as an example of crowd realism

In this project, it is focusing more on emergency or panic situation. Of course, life does not always flow smoothly when out of a sudden, an emergency situation erupts and the crowd may get to freak-out and gone hysterical. Also, when it comes to panic or emergency situation, it is hard to determine the path since the crowd can become irrational and uncontrolled.

Crowd simulation under panic evacuation situation is fairly important as we need to acknowledge several approaches done in this area. The simulation plays an important role as a platform to demonstrate the models in more visualize way and to achieve realism of crowd movement behaviour in escape panic situation. During an escape panic, few of characteristics (Altshuler et. al., 2005) will be shown such as listed below:

- 1) Individuals trying to move faster than normal.
- 2) Individuals push or interactions become physical.
- 3) Arching and clogging observed at exits.
- 4) Escape slowed by fallen or dead individuals serving as obstacles.
- 5) Tendency toward mass or copied behaviour.
- 6) Alternative or less used exits are overlooked

### 1.2 Problem Background

Generally, there are still three major problems as mentioned by Sun et. al., (2009) in the research area pertaining to crowd simulation as listed below:

- 1) The realism of the behaviours during the simulation
- 2) High-quality visualization
- 3) Computational cost

The realisms in the behaviour of large human crowds remain an immense challenge. With the purpose of achieving high level of realism, gestures and interaction between individual characters is very crucial (Murakami et. al., 2002). Most of the work has been done to simulate realistic behaviours (Nuria, 2006) meanwhile (Treuille, 2006) has worked on achieving real-time simulation for very large crowds. Yet, it is still less work that stress on changes of behaviour when crowd is in high density.

Why crowd modelling? Crowd modelling is very useful in handling crowds, so here it is emphasize more on panic situation. The model has to be constructed such that it can depict the human behaviour in 'virtual' scene like the one in evacuation scenario. This could be further enhanced with additional crowd behaviour such that to add more realism in the simulation. A recent research into crowd simulation has been inspired by the work of Reynolds (Reynolds, 1897). Therefore, numbers of modelling and simulations have been created to aid or visualize regarding crowd situation. Computer models for emergency and evacuation situations have been developed and most research into panics have been of empirical nature and carried out by social psychologists and others (Helbing, 2000). However, this area still need an in-depth exploration regarding the fundamental issues that must be resolved based on humans character in panic situation.

During panic situation, it is not necessarily the crowd will act as a 'crowd' but rather as a group of individual. As part of the crowd in panic situation, there will be a group of individuals who will act accordingly like following leader, relatives or friends. The existing crowd behaviour theories in panic situation comprise not only panic theory itself, but also include decision-making theory and urgency theory. However, there is still an issue in regards of human communication during this emergency condition and human relationship in aiding the decision making process during the simulation of evacuation in panic situation.

There already exist many crowd evacuation model in panic or emergency situation namely cellular automata models, lattice gas models, social force models, fluid-dynamic models, agent-based models, game theoretic models, and approaches based on experiments with animals. The division of crowd can be classified into macro level and micro level. On a macro level, crowd behaviour is essentially emergent phenomena caused by panic within a crowd. On micro level, crowd behaviours can be modelled as decision-making processes of individual humans influenced by panic. As such, the generalized force model which is used to describe crowd behaviour has been extended to cater for individualism.

The basic approach in panic is derived from Helbing et. al., (2000) proposed model; Social Forces Model. This model presents three basic forces namely attraction, repulsion and friction. The panic parameter must be taken into consideration such that it consists of panic, desired velocity, actual velocity, mass, radius, position (centre of mass) as referring to one individual only. Since it only cater for same individual's characteristic, Braun et.al, (2005) presented an agent-based modelling based on the social force model (Helbing et. al., 2000) to simulate impacts of different floors, walls, and obstacles on agents, and interactions among agents in emergency situations. In other words, this extension is to allow for dealing with different individuals and groups behaviour plus complex environment i.e. having multi-exit door, obstacles and many more.

On a macroscopic level, crowd behaviour is essentially emergent phenomena caused by panic within a crowd. On microscopic level, crowd behaviours can be modelled as decision-making processes of individual humans influenced by panic. A generalized force model (Helbing et. al., 2000) that used to describe the crowd behaviour such that it takes individual parameters like panic, desired, velocity, actual velocity, mass, radius position(centre of mass). These parameters later will be converted in symbol as a mathematical notation for the purpose of computing the model in evacuation simulation. We will elaborate on this model in Chapter 2.

The issues still remain whereby existing models somehow still lack of crucial human behaviour in regards of panic or emergency situation. Helbing et. al., (2000) have shown that in a space with multi-exit, people usually clog at one exit and ignore the other alternatives, so what the situations would be if each agent could make their own judgments, rather than simply randomly walking or following his neighbours. This means, we need to add more behaviour and characteristic i.e. decision making process in order to analyze the time taken for particular evacuation or egress procedure. The said models which falls under microscopic level are also known as particle model since the agent (humanoid) will be simulated as particle, not fluid motion.

#### 1.3 Problem Statement

There are two fundamental issues in simulating the crowd modelling behaviour in panic situation:

In certain situation of crowd, there might have a problem in modelling an escape panic like what Helbing et. al., (2000) had shown in a situation even when

there is a space or room with multi-exit, people usually clog at one exit and ignore the other alternatives, but the situation may give different result if the individual in the crowd have its own way of judgment, for example go the other way and find its own exit.

Secondly, crowd in immense density and differences in individual social forces during panic situation evacuation may result in varied such that the time taken for the crowd as a whole will be affected (fast or slow).

## 1.4 Project Objectives

The objectives for this project are as follows:

- 1. To study the differences in crowd's movement characteristic in panic situation with and without Anti-Arching component.
- 2. To modify the existing crowd movement simulation so as to liberate the arching and clogging behaviour and look more realistic during emergency evacuation.
- 3. To prove that the proposed Anti-Arching Algorithm is realistic based on its consistency with the "faster-is-slower" effect.

## 1.5 Scope Of The Study

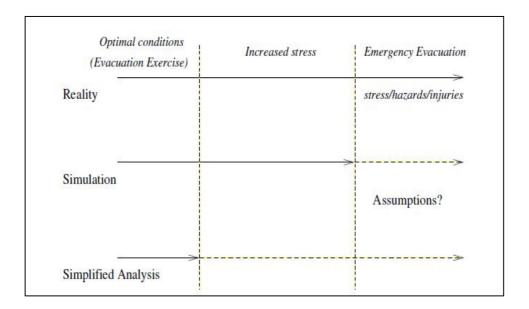
The scope of this project will be as follows:

- 1. The simulation of the crowd takes into consideration in escape panic or emergency situation only, not under normal situation.
- 2. The environment of the crowd will be simulated in one room specified by 10m x 10m length with 1.2m door width's size.
- 3. The crowd of people will be represented by particles with specific crowd numbers is set to 100 particles in this panic scenario.
- 4. The crowd realism element will consider only on crowd movement behaviour.
- 5. The proposed technique will focus on the enhancement of the previous crowd behaviour model in escape panic situation under microscopic level.
- 6. The crowd simulation will be in simple visualization as single point per object.

## 1.6 Significance Of The Study

This project intends to achieve all objectives according to the scope and to study crowd movement simulation in escape panic situation. Why should we simulate the crowd movement? The answer is outlined in Figure 1.5 as conceptualized by Kl"upfel (2003). The figure explains that an analysis that has been simplified can fundamentally wrap the same variety as an evacuation exercise. An infuriating occurrence such as dangers can be included through extrapolation of the output result. Meanwhile, a simulation allows for the conscription of those influences by adapting certain parameters, for example the extrapolation is made on the input

and leads to the output which is different from best possible case.



**Figure 1.5**: The conceptual model of simulating crowd movement and evacuation (Kl¨upfel, 2003)

The modification that has been made should be able to incorporate realism in terms of crowd movement whereby the particle movement can resemble human searching for other door or exit behaviour because in real situation people tend to focus on other exits. This will generate a much more realism in crowd simulation in escape panic.

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