# On the Dynamics of Bounded-Degree Automata Networks 

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AUTOMATA 2023

## Automata Networks

abstract definition

■ $Q$ : alphabet

- $n$ : number of components

■ $Q^{n}$ : space of configurations
■ $F: Q^{n} \rightarrow Q^{n}$ : global map (finite dynamical system)
■ orbits: $x, F(x), F^{2}(x), \ldots$

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■ graph of dynamics $G_{\text {dyn }}=\left(Q^{n},\left\{(x, F(x)): x \in Q^{n}\right\}\right)$
■ considered up to isomorphism

## Automata Networks

concrete definition
■ $G_{\text {com }}=(V, E)$ a communication graph
■ $|V|=n$
■ local maps: $\delta_{v}: Q^{N^{-}(v)} \rightarrow Q$
■ global map: $F: Q^{V} \rightarrow Q^{V}$ such that

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F(x)_{v}=\delta_{v}\left(x_{\mid N^{-}(v)}\right)
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- minimal communication graph = interaction graph


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What are the possible $G_{\mathrm{dyn}}$ when constraining $G_{\mathrm{com}}$ ?

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## General question

What are the possible $G_{\text {dyn }}$ when constraining $G_{c o m}$ ?

■ this talk: $G_{\text {com }}$ is of bounded degree (wrt $n$ ).

## 3 examples of $G_{\mathrm{dyn}}$



1 cycle
$2^{n}$


1 cycle +1 fixed point
$\left(2^{n}-1\right)+1$


1 cycle + constant size tree

$$
\left(2^{n}-C\right)+C
$$

## 3 examples of $G_{\mathrm{dyn}}$




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## Question

Which one can be realized with bounded degree $G_{\text {com }}$ ?

## Bounded degree dynamics

Impossibility results

- fix some degree $d$

■ $q=|Q|$
■ $\mathcal{F}(n, q, d)$ : maps over $Q^{n}$ with $G_{\text {com }}$ of degree $\leq d$

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■ remark: bounded degree $G_{d y n}$ are sparse among all $G_{\mathrm{dyn}}$, even among bijections

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## Proposition

If $F \in \mathcal{F}(n, q, d)$ is not the identity, then it has at most $q^{n}-q^{n-d}$ fixed points.

## Theorem

If $F \in \mathcal{F}(n, q, d)$ is not bijective, then its rank is at most $q^{n}-\frac{n}{d+1}$.

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■ key proof ingredient: $k$-balance

## Bounded degree dynamics

## Complexity of recognition

- problem BDD
- $d$ is any fixed parameter
- input: $G_{\text {dyn }}$ given by Boolean circuits describing map $F$
- question: can $G_{d y n}$ be realized by $G_{\text {com }}$ of degree $\leq d$ ?


## Bounded degree dynamics

Complexity of recognition

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## Theorem <br> BDD is PSPACE and co-NP-hard.

- $\triangle$ dynamics are up to isomorphism

■ without isomorphism, we get a co-NP-complete problem

## Question

Is BDD NP-hard? higher in the polynomial hierarchy?

## Bounded degree dynamics <br> Global picture

## Bounded degree dynamics

Global picture



- sparse


## Bounded degree dynamics

Global picture


■ sparse / complex to recognize

## Bounded degree dynamics

Global picture



■ sparse / complex to recognize / non-bij. are far from bij.

## Bounded degree dynamics

Global picture


■ sparse / complex to recognize / non-bij. are far from bij.
■ what bijections can be realized?

## Realization results

■ Feedback shift registers
■ $g:\{0,1\}^{n} \rightarrow\{0,1\}$
■ $F_{g}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=\left(x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}, g(x)\right)$
■ "almost degree 1"


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## Proposition


by FSR of degree $n$

by FSR of degree $n$ or LFSR of degree 2 for some $n$

## Work in progress

## Aracena's conjecture



Unpublished theorem (Bridoux-Richard)
For FSR, the above $G_{\text {dyn }}$ requires degree $n$.

