On the Complexity of Limit Sets of Cellular Automata Associated with Probability Measures MFCS 2006

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 - lattice \mathbb{Z}
 - states set Σ
 - size of neighbourhood k
 - local updating rule $\delta_{\mathcal{A}}: \Sigma^k \to \Sigma$

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Main question

Knowing \mathcal{A} , what is the long term behaviour of $G_{\mathcal{A}}$?

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• "configurations that may appear arbitrarily late in the evolution"

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Ω_A is defined by:

$$oldsymbol{c}\in \Omega_{\mathcal{A}} \ \stackrel{ ext{def}}{\Longleftrightarrow} \ orall t, \exists oldsymbol{c}_0: oldsymbol{G}_{\mathcal{A}}{}^t(oldsymbol{c}_0) = oldsymbol{c}$$

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 is nilpotent $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}$ is a singleton.

Theorems (J. Kari, 90s)

- Nilpotency is undecidable.
- 2 Any property of limit sets is either trivial or undecidable.

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set-theoretic point of view

• complexity of Ω_A can come from a negligible set of configurations

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- fix a measure μ over $\Sigma^{\mathbb{Z}}$ (in this talk: a Bernouilli measure)

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- **Definition:** a CA is μ -quasi-nilpotent if its μ -limit set is a singleton
- ▶ Limit sets vs. µ-limit sets:
 - there is a μ -quasi-nilpotent CA with a non recursive limit set
 - it is undecidable to know whether a μ-quasi-nilpotent CA is nilpotent

Definitions (walls and bricks)

• A wall is a sequence $W = (u_i)$ of words such that :

 $|u_0| \ge |u_1| = |u_2| = \cdots$

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If A is a CA with neighbourhood size k and having a brick of size $\geq k$ then $L_{\mu}(A) = \{ bricks of A \}.$

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- **Known fact:** no brick of size $\geq k \iff$ sensitive to initial conditions
- ▶ Bricks theorem true for sensitive CA?

Example 2: the 'Just Glider' automaton



Definition:

- states move right at full speed in a background
- states move left at full speed in a background
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► Definition:

- states move right at full speed in a background
- states move left at full speed in a background
- when and meet they disappear

► Properties:

- $\Omega_A = \{ \text{configurations without any} = 0 \text{ on the left of a } \}$
- 2 $\mu(\blacksquare) = \mu(\blacksquare) \iff \mathcal{A}$ is μ -quasi-nilpotent

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▶ 4 evidences of high complexity:

Theorem (Not r.e.)

The set of μ -quasi-nilpotent CA is not recursively enumerable.

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Theorem

There is a CA with a non recursive persistent language.

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Proof sketch of theorem "Not r.e."

► Basic idea:

- For any Turing machine M, we construct a CA A such that:
 - A simulates M
 - A has an inalterable state '#'
 - If the set of bricks of A is $\#^*$.

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Simulation mechanism:

- correct simulations occur on segments delimited by two '#'
- e simulation for a limited duration
- a final state restart the simulation on the same segment
- the segment is destroyed (turn into #s) when:
 - the simulation time is over
 - an incorrect encoding is detected

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• start: sufficiently large segment



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If M halts...



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this gives a wall with a brick not in #*

• start: any empty segment

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- start: any empty segment
- during simulation: a *L* is generated permanently on the rightmost cell and moves left.
- *L* reaches the simulation head: the head is erased.

If *M* doesn't halt...

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- *L* reaches the simulation head: the head is erased.
- *L* reaches the right #: it turns into *D* which moves right to turn everything into #.
- similar mechanism for non-empty segments (details skipped)

If *M* doesn't halt...



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- **during simulation:** a *L* is generated permanently on the rightmost cell and moves left.
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 similar mechanism for non-empty segments (details skipped)



About proofs of the other theorems

Theorem (Not co-r.e.)

The set of μ -quasi-nilpotent CA is not co-recursively enumerable.

Theorem

It is undecidable to know whether a given word is persistent for a given CA.

Theorem

There is a CA with a non recursive persistent language.

- similar ingredients
- "Not co-r.e." is more tricky (details in article)
- results true in higher dimension
- proofs may be adapted for a fixed states set

- is there a Rice theorem for μ -limit sets?
- ► knowing more about the sequences $(\mu_t(u))$
 - oscillations?
 - convergence?
- are μ -limit sets of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{A}^t the same?
- cases of equality between limit set and µ-limit set?
 equality holds for surjective CA
- interesting sub-classes of CA where μ -limit sets are tractable?
- ► generalising to a broader class of measures (e.g. Markov measures)

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