Emergent Defect Dynamics in Two-Dimensional Cellular Automata AUTOMATA 2007 Fields Institute, Toronto

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When 'defect particles' collide, they coalesce or annihilate according to some emergent 'defect chemistry'.



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Turing regime: particle acts like moving 'head' of Turing machine.

Persistence of Defects

Let Φ be a CA, let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^{D}}$, and suppose $\mathbf{b} := \Phi^{100}(\mathbf{a})$ exhibits 'domains' and 'defects'.

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Idea: Some defects are manifestations of 'global structural properties' of **b** (relative to the topological dynamics of the underlying subshifts). If Φ 'respects' the underlying subshifts, then it must preserve these structural properties; hence the defects can neither be created nor destroyed, but only moved around and combined with other defects.

Interfaces

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Let Φ be a CA, let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, and let $\mathbf{b} := \Phi^{100}(\mathbf{a})$. Let $\mathbb{U} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $\mathbb{V} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ be two 'regular domains' in \mathbf{b} .

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If $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{U}}$ and $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{V}}$ belong to disjoint subshifts **X** and **Y** then the boundary between them is called an *interface*.



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Theorem: If Φ : $X \sqcup Y \longrightarrow X \sqcup Y$ is surjective, then any (X, Y)-interface will persist under iteration of Φ . \Box [MP, Fundamentae Informatica, 2007]



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If $b_{\mathbb U}$ and $b_{\mathbb V}$ belong to disjoint subshifts X and Y then the boundary between them is called an *interface*.

Theorem: If Φ : $X \sqcup Y \longrightarrow X \sqcup Y$ is surjective, then any (X, Y)-interface will persist under iteration of Φ . **Example:** (ECA #184) Let $\mathcal{A} = \{\Box, \blacksquare\}$. Let $X := \{...\blacksquare\blacksquare\blacksquare...\}$, $Y := \{....\Box\Box...\}$, and $Z := \{...\blacksquare\Box\Box\Box...\}$. If Φ is ECA 184, then $\Phi(X) = X$, $\Phi(Y) = Y$, and $\Phi(Z) = Z$.



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If $b_{\mathbb U}$ and $b_{\mathbb V}$ belong to disjoint subshifts X and Y then the boundary between them is called an interface.

Theorem: If $\Phi : \mathbf{X} \sqcup \mathbf{Y} \longrightarrow \mathbf{X} \sqcup \mathbf{Y}$ is surjective, then any (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) -interface will persist under iteration of Φ . **Example:** (ECA #184) Let $\mathcal{A} = \{\Box, \blacksquare\}$. Let $\mathbf{X} := \{...\blacksquare\blacksquare\blacksquare...\}$, $\mathbf{Y} := \{....\Box\Box\Box\ldots\}$, and $\mathbf{Z} := \{...\blacksquare\Box\blacksquare\Box\blacksquare\Box....\}$. If Φ is ECA 184, then $\Phi(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{X}, \ \Phi(\mathbf{Y}) = \mathbf{Y}, \ \text{and } \Phi(\mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z}$. This yields the following interfaces (as seen in space-time diagram of Φ):

Let Φ be a CA, let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, and let $\mathbf{b} := \Phi^{100}(\mathbf{a})$. Let $\mathbb{U} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $\mathbb{V} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ be two 'regular domains' in \mathbf{b} .

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Let Φ be a CA, let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, and let $\mathbf{b} := \Phi^{100}(\mathbf{a})$. Let $\mathbb{U} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $\mathbb{V} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ be two 'regular domains' in \mathbf{b} .

Suppose $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{U}}$ and $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{V}}$ belong to the *same* subshift **X**. Let $\mathbb{P} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ be a subgroup, and suppose **X** is **P**-periodic. (i.e. $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}$ and $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{P}$, $\sigma^{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$.)



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Let Φ be a CA, let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$, and let $\mathbf{b} := \Phi^{100}(\mathbf{a})$. Let $\mathbb{U} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $\mathbb{V} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ be two 'regular domains' in \mathbf{b} . Suppose $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{U}}$ and $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{V}}$ belong to the *same* subshift **X**. Let $\mathbb{P} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ be a subgroup, and suppose **X** is \mathbb{P} -periodic. (i.e. $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}$ and $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{P}$, $\sigma^{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$.) If $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{U}}$ and $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbb{V}}$ are 'out of phase' relative to this \mathbb{P} periodic structure, then the boundary between \mathbb{U} and \mathbb{V} is called a *dislocation*.



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Every dislocation can be labelled with a *displacement* in $\Delta := \mathbb{Z}^2/\mathbb{P}$. **Theorem:** If $\Phi : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{X}$ is surjective, then any **X**-dislocation persists under iteration of Φ , and its displacement is unchanging. **Example:** (ECA#62) Let **X** := [...**D D D D** ...]. If Φ is ECA #62, then $\Phi|_{\mathbf{X}} = \sigma$, so (**X**, Φ) is 3-periodic in both space and time, and $\Delta \cong \mathbb{Z}_{/3}$.

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iteration of Φ , and its displacement is unchanging. $\Box_{[Fundamentae Informatica, 2007]}$ (ECA#62) Let **X** Example: :=[...∎∎□ ∎∎□...]. If Φ is ECA #62, then $\Phi_{|_{\mathbf{X}}} = \sigma$, so (\mathbf{X}, Φ) is 3-periodic in both space and time, and $\Delta \cong \mathbb{Z}_{/3}$. Here are two dislocations in **X** and their displacements:

Some subshifts have *height functions*, which represent any admissible configuration as a smoothly varying 'landscape'.

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Some subshifts have *height functions*, which represent any admissible configuration as a smoothly varying 'landscape'. An infinite domain boundary is a *gap* if the 'heights' on opposite sides asymptotically diverge. **Example:** (Square Ice) Let $\mathcal{I} := \left\{ \begin{array}{c} & & \\ & & \\ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} & & \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} & & & \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} & & & \\ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} & & & \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} & &$

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Some subshifts have *height functions*, which represent any admissible configuration as a smoothly varying 'landscape'. An infinite domain boundary is a gap if the 'heights' on opposite sides asymptotically diverge. Let $\mathfrak{I}_{\mathfrak{ce}} \subset \mathcal{I}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ be the subshift of all 'tooth-in-groove' tilings. Define $h_1, h_2 : \mathcal{I} \longrightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ by $h_1(\left\{ \begin{array}{c} * \\ * \\ * \end{array} \right\}) := +1 =: h_2(\left\{ \begin{array}{c} * \\ * \\ * \end{array} \right\})$ and $h_1(\left[\begin{smallmatrix} * & -1 \\ * & -1 \end{smallmatrix}\right]) := -1 =: h_2(\left[\begin{smallmatrix} * & -1 \\ * & * \end{smallmatrix}\right])$ ('*' means 'anything'). Define $H: \mathbb{Z}^2 \times \mathfrak{I}_{\mathfrak{ce}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ so that, $\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathfrak{I}_{\mathfrak{ce}}, \forall \mathbf{z} = (z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$,

Gaps and Cohomology



A height function on a subshift **X** is actually a \mathbb{Z} -valued *cocycle* on **X**.

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If Φ is a CA and $\Phi(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{X}$, then Φ induces a homomorphism Φ_* on the \mathbb{Z} -cohomology group of \mathbf{X} .

Theorem: If Φ_* is surjective, then all gaps persist under Φ . $\Box_{[ErThDySy,2007]}$

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Example: A gap in dominos



Using a suitable height function, the domain boundary to the left can be visualized as follows:

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Example: A gap in dominos



Example: Another gap in dominos

Using the same height function, the domain boundary to the right can be visualized as follows:



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Example: Another gap in dominos

Using the same height function, the domain boundary to the right can be visualized as follows:



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- However, some codimension-two defects still have a nontrivial cohomological signature, which renders them 'indestructible' under CA dynamics.

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Example: Recall $H : \mathfrak{I}_{ce} \times \mathbb{Z}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ $h_1(\begin{bmatrix} * & * \\ & & \\$


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Theorem: If Φ_* is surjective, then all poles persist under Φ . $\Box_{[ErThDySy,2007]}$

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- 4. If Φ is likely candidate, then look for domain boundaries, interfaces, and dislocations in **b**.

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Thus, $f(1/2) \approx 1$, and f(x) = 0 for all x > 1/2. Also, $f(x) \approx 0$ for all x < 1/2, but may see f(x) > 0 for some x < 1/2, because of defects.



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(e.g. maximal-entropy measure on subshift with topological entropy η).
If k is 'large' enough, then SMB Theorem says $p(\mathbf{b}) \approx 2^{-\eta k^2}$ for roughly $2^{\eta k^2}$ distinct $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{K}}$, and $p(\mathbf{a}) \approx 0$ for all other $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{K}}$.

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Should look like stationary measure on subshift, but with nonzero probability of inadmissible 'defective' blocks. Thus, $f(2^{-\eta k^2}) \approx 1$, and f(x) = 0 for all $x > 2^{-\eta k^2}$. Also, $f(x) \approx 0$ for all $x < 2^{-\eta k^2}$, but may see f(x) > 0 for some $x \in [0, 2^{-\eta k^2}]$ (because of defects). Admissible blocks Defect
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Each x value represents a log probability between $2^0 = 1$ and 2^{-18} . Each y value represents one of the 256 distinct '3-cell nhood' CA.



Let $\mathbb{K} = \{0, 1, 2\}^2$, and let p_y be the empirical probability distribution on $\Phi_v^{100}(\mathbf{a})$, where $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ is random initial condition.



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The height at (x, y) is $2^x \cdot \# \{ \mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{K}} ; p_y(\mathbf{c}) \approx 2^x \}.$

The ridge at the far end is caused by CA which preserve the uniform measure. The red and purple ridges in the right-hand corner are caused by CA which converge to small, periodic background patterns with EDD.

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The ridge at the far end is caused by CA which preserve the uniform measure. The red and purple ridges in the right-hand corner are caused by CA which converge to small, periodic background patterns with EDD. The red spike in right corner is caused by 'nilpotent' CA (where all initial conditions converge to the all-zero or all-one configurations).

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The red ridge (over $x = 2^{-9}$) is caused by CA which preserve the uniform measure.

There are about 40 of these.



In this 'mountain range' region, the CA do not converge quickly to any low-entropy subshift; there is no indication of EDD.

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The low ridges are caused by CA which begin to show the statistical signature of EDD.



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The red 'wall' in the right corner is caused by *nilpotent* CA, which converge to a constant (all-zeros or all-ones) configuration. There are 46 of these.

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There are 14 with stripes and 8 with checkerboard.



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The low blue mounds further left are caused by the low-probability defects.

The probability landscape of Triangle CA



Now, each y value represents one of the 32768 distinct 'triangle' CA. The picture is very similar to the landscape for 3-cell CA.

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Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 0-8191



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The red ridge is caused by CA which preserve the uniform measure. There are about 3000 of these.

Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 0-8191



The red ridge is caused by CA which preserve the uniform measure. There are about 3000 of these.

The red ridge gradually flattens out into CA which 'almost' (but not quite) preserve the uniform measure.

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Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 8192-16383



This 'mountain range' is caused by CA do not converge quickly to any low-entropy subshift; they exhibit no strong statistical signature of EDD.

Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 16384-24575



The mountain range continues into the third region.

Note: the picture suggests that 3×3 blocks occur with a wide range of frequencies, but this is probably an artifact of small sample size. Each CA was simulated on a 512×512 grid, so there are only $512^2 = 262\,144$ samples per CA, which is insufficient to accurately estimate a probability distribution on the $2^9 = 512$ distinct 3×3 blocks.

Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 24576-32768



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The red 'wall' in the right-hand corner is caused by nilpotent CA. There are around 3700 of these.

Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 24576-32768



The red 'wall' in the right-hand corner is caused by nilpotent CA. There are around 3700 of these.

The red and purple 'teeth' near the red wall are caused by CA with EDD. The far right row of (red) teeth is caused by CA whose background pattern has cardinality 2. (1126 with stripes and 563 with checkerboard).
Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 24576-32768



The red and purple 'teeth' near the red wall are caused by CA with EDD. The far right row of (red) teeth is caused by CA whose background pattern has cardinality 2. (1126 with stripes and 563 with checkerboard). The next row of (purple) teeth are cause by CA whose background pattern has cardinality 3-8. (There are around 300 of these).

Triangle CA landscape; Closeup 24576-32768



The far right row of (red) teeth is caused by CA whose background pattern has cardinality 2. (1126 with stripes and 563 with checkerboard). The next row of (purple) teeth are cause by CA whose background pattern has cardinality 3-8. (There are around 300 of these). The low blue mounds further left are caused by the low-probability defects.

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There are 4 294 967 296 distinct VN CA local rules. This graph was obtained by randomly sampling 30000 of them. Now, each *y* value represents one of these 30000 random VN CA. The picture is similar to the landscape for 3-cell and triangle CA, but the proportion of CA with EDD is much smaller.

von Neumann CA landscape; Closeup 0-7500



The red ridge is caused by VN CA which preserve uniform measure.

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von Neumann CA landscape; Closeup 7500-15000



The red ridge (caused by CA which almost preserve uniform measure) continues into this frame.

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von Neumann CA landscape; Closeup 15000-22500



This 'mountain range' is caused by CA which don't rapidly converge to any low-entropy subshift; they exhibit no strong statistical signature of EDD.

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von Neumann CA landscape; Closeup 22500-30000



The red spike in the right-hand corner is caused by nilpotent CA. The purple teeth next to the red spike are caused by CA exhibiting EDD.

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The probability landscape of Moore CA



Of the more than 25000 Moore CA we tested, *none* exhibited a strong statistical signature of EDD.

Indeed, it appears that the vast majority 'almost-preserve' the uniform measure.



Percentage of CA presenting EDD signature

One puzzling phenomenon is that the proportion of CA exhibiting EDD declines very sharply as the neighbourhood size increases.

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CA with larger neighbourhoods have even less. The proportion of EDD in CA with the Moore neighbourhood (9 cells) is virtually zero.

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Filtered image (g)



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(The search for this *periodicity group* \mathbb{P} can be automated.)

The distribution of periodic structures: 3-Cell CA



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The empirical frequency of periodic patterns in 3-cell CA.

The distribution of periodic structures: 3-Cell CA



The empirical frequency of periodic patterns in 3-cell CA. The height of box (i,j) is the number of 3-cell CA whose EDD has an (i,j)-periodic regular domain.

The distribution of periodic structures: Triangle CA



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The empirical frequency of periodic patterns in triangle CA.
The distribution of periodic structures: Triangle CA



The empirical frequency of periodic patterns in triangle CA. The height of box (i, j) is the logarithm of the number of \triangle CA whose EDD has an (i, j)-periodic regular domain.

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Note: graph is not symmetric; e.g. height $(0,3) \neq$ height(3,0). This is because the triangle neighbourhood is not rotationally symmetric.

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The distribution of periodic structures: von Neumann CA



The empirical frequency of periodic patterns in von Neumann CA.

The distribution of periodic structures: von Neumann CA



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(i.e. \mathbb{D} has exactly one representative of every coset in \mathbb{Z}^2/\mathbb{P}).

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The frequency of interfaces: 3-Cell CA



For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, this graph shows the number of the 256 distinct 3-Cell CA whose emergent defect dynamics exhibits at least n distinct periodic subshifts (and hence, n(n-1)/2 possible interface types).

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The frequency of interfaces: Triangle CA



For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, this graph shows the log-number of the 32768 distinct Triangle CA whose emergent defect dynamics exhibits at least *n* distinct periodic subshifts (and hence, n(n-1)/2 possible interface types).

The frequency of interfaces: vN CA



For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, this graph shows the log-number out of a random sample of 3276 vN CA whose emergent defect dynamics exhibits at least *n* distinct periodic subshifts (and hence, n(n-1)/2 possible interface types).



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How can we mathematically model the motion of this boundary?

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2. Mathematical description of vertex motion.

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► We have surveyed only 2-dimensional boolean CA (i.e. A = {0,1}). What is the distribution of EDD in CA with larger alphabets? What about higher dimensions?

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- Automated search uncovered many CA with 'interfaces' and 'dislocations'.

Emergent defect dynamics seems to be ubiquitous in two-dimensional CA. Even in the simplest classes of two-dimensional CA, our automated search uncovered a menagerie of examples.

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Open Questions:

- ► We have surveyed only 2-dimensional boolean CA (i.e. A = {0,1}). What is the distribution of EDD in CA with larger alphabets? What about higher dimensions?
- Why is EDD frequent in CA with smaller neighbourhoods (e.g. triangle), yet very rare in CA with larger neighbhourhoods (e.g. Moore)?
- Automated search uncovered many CA with 'interfaces' and 'dislocations'.

However, we have no algorithm to automatically detect 'gaps' or 'poles' (this requires the automatic detection of a height function). Thus we have no idea of their frequency.

- Defect Particle Kinematics in One-Dimensional Cellular Automata, M. Pivato, Theoretical Computer Science, 377, (#1-3), May 2007, pp.205-228. http://arxiv.org/abs/math.DS/0506417
- Algebraic Invariants for Crystallographic Defects in Cellular Automata, M. Pivato, Ergodic Theory & Dynamical Systems, 27 (#1), February 2007, pp. 199-240. http://arxiv.org/abs/math.DS/0507167
- Spectral Domain Boundaries in Cellular Automata, Fundamenta Informaticae, 78 (#3), 2007, pp.417-447.
 http://arxiv.org/abs/math.DS/0507091

Please go to http:euclid.trentu.ca/Defect to obtain:

- The complete slides for this talk.
- The raw data on EDD in two-dimensional CA.
- The source code for the software we used to obtain this data.

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Introduction

ECA #62, 184, 110, 18, etc. Past empirical/theoretical work

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Algebraic invariants

Interfaces Dislocations Gaps Poles Methodology

Statistical Signature of EDD CA search spaces Landscape: 3-cell CA Landscape: Triangle CA Landscape: von Neumann CA Landscape: Moore CA EDD vs. Nhood size Filtering images to see domain boundaries Identifying periodic structures The statistics of periodic structures Detecting interfaces & dislocations Statistics of Interfaces

Boundary dynamics

1D CA representation of boundary Caveats

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Conclusion