

1 **TURING DEGREES OF LIMIT SETS OF CELLULAR**
2 **AUTOMATA**

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ABSTRACT. Cellular automata are discrete dynamical systems and a model of computation. The limit set of a cellular automaton consists of the configurations having an infinite sequence of preimages. It is well known that these always contain a computable point and that any non-trivial property on them is undecidable. We go one step further in this article by giving a full characterization of the sets of Turing degrees of cellular automata: they are the same as the sets of Turing degrees of effectively closed sets containing a computable point.

4 1. INTRODUCTION

5 Cellular Automata (CAs for short) are both discrete dynamical systems and
6 a model of computation. They were introduced in the late 1940s independently
7 by John von Neumann and Stanislaw Ulam to study, respectively, self-replicating
8 systems and the growth of quasi-crystals.

9 A d -dimensional CA consists of cells aligned on \mathbb{Z}^d that may be in a finite number
10 of states, and are updated synchronously with a local rule, i.e. depending only on a
11 finite neighborhood. All cells operate under the same local rule. The state of all
12 cells at some time step is called a configuration. CAs are very well known for being
13 simple systems that may exhibit complicated behavior.

14 A d -dimensional subshift of finite type (SFT for short) is a set of colorings of \mathbb{Z}^d
15 by a finite number of colors containing no pattern from a finite family of forbidden
16 patterns. Most proofs of undecidability concerning CAs involve the use of SFTs, so
17 both topics are very intertwined [Kar90; Kar92; Kar94a; Mey08; Kar11]. A recent
18 trend in the study of SFTs has been to give computational characterizations of
19 dynamical properties, which has been followed by the study of their computational
20 structure and in particular the comparison with the computational structure of
21 effectively closed sets, which are the subsets of $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on which some Turing machine
22 does not halt. It is quite easy to see that SFTs are such sets.

23 In this paper, we follow this trend and study the limit set $\Omega(\mathcal{A})$ of a CA \mathcal{A} ,
24 which consist of all the configurations of the CA that can occur after arbitrarily
25 long computations. They were introduced by Culik, Pachl, and Yu [CPY89] in
26 order to classify CAs. It has been proved that non-trivial properties on these sets
27 are undecidable by Kari [Kar94b] and Guillon and Richard [GR10] for CAs of all
28 dimensions. Limit sets of CAs are subshifts, and the question of which subshifts
29 may be limit sets of CA has been a thriving topic, see [Hur87; Hur90a; Hur90b;
30 Maa95; FK07; LM09; BGK11]. However, most of these results are on the language

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31 of the limit set or on simple limit sets. Our aim here is to study the configurations
 32 themselves.

33 In dimension 1, limit sets are effectively closed sets, so it is quite natural to com-
 34 pare them from a computational point of view. The natural measure of complexity
 35 for effectively closed sets is the Medvedev degree [Sim11], which, informally, is a
 36 measure of the complexity of the simplest points of the set. As limit sets always
 37 contain a uniform configuration (wherein all cells are in the same state), they always
 38 contain a computable point and have Medvedev degree $\mathbf{0}$. Thus, if we want to study
 39 their computable structure, we need a finer measure; in this sense, the set of Turing
 40 degrees is appropriate.

41 It turns out that for SFTs, there is a characterization of the sets of Turing degrees
 42 found by Jeandel and Vanier [JV13b], which states that one may construct SFTs
 43 with the same Turing degrees as any effectively closed set containing a computable
 44 point. In the case of limit sets, such a characterization would be perfect, as limit
 45 sets always contain a computable point¹. This is exactly what we achieve in this
 46 article:

47 **Theorem 1.** *For any effectively closed set S , there exists a cellular automaton \mathcal{A}*
 48 *such that*

$$\deg_T \Omega(\mathcal{A}) = \deg_T S \cup \{\mathbf{0}\}.$$

49 In the way to achieve this theorem, we introduce a new construction which gives
 50 us some control over the limit set. We hope that this construction will lead to other
 51 unrelated results on limit sets of CAs, as it was the case for the construction in
 52 [JV13b], see [JV13a].

53 The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we recall the usual definitions
 54 concerning CAs and Turing degrees. In Section 3 we give the reasons for each
 55 trait of the construction which allows us to prove theorem 1. In Section 4 we give
 56 the actual construction. We end the paper by a discussion, in Section 5, on the
 57 Cantor-Bendixson ranks of the limit sets of CAs. The choice has been made to have
 58 colored figures, which are best viewed on screen.

59

2. PRELIMINARY DEFINITIONS

60 A (1-dimensional) *cellular automaton* is a triple $\mathcal{A} = (Q, r, \delta)$, where Q is the
 61 finite set of *states*, $r > 0$ is the *radius* and $\delta : Q^{2r+1} \rightarrow Q$ the *local transition*
 62 *function*.

63 An element of $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ is called a *cell*, and the set $\llbracket i - r, i + r \rrbracket$ is the *neighborhood*
 64 of i (the elements of which are the *neighbors* of i). A *configuration* is a function
 65 $\mathbf{c} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow Q$. The local transition function induces a *global transition function* (that
 66 can be regarded as the automaton itself, hence the notation), which associates to
 67 any configuration \mathbf{c} its *successor*:

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{c}) : \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} & \rightarrow Q \\ i & \mapsto \delta(\mathbf{c}(i - r), \dots, \mathbf{c}(i - 1), \mathbf{c}(i), \mathbf{c}(i + 1), \dots, \mathbf{c}(i + r)). \end{cases}$$

68 In other words, all cells are finite automata that update their states in parallel,
 69 according to the same local transition rule, transforming a configuration into its
 70 successor.

¹Note that this is not the case for subshifts: there exist non-empty subshifts containing only non-computable points.

71 If we draw some configuration as a horizontal bi-infinite line of cells, then add its
 72 successor above it, then the successor of the latter and so on, we obtain a *space-time*
 73 *diagram*, which is a two-dimensional representation of some computation performed
 74 by \mathcal{A} .

75 A *site* $(i, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ is a cell i at a certain time step t of the computation we
 76 consider (hereinafter there will never be any ambiguity on the automaton nor on
 77 the computation considered).

78 The *limit set* of \mathcal{A} , denoted by $\Omega(\mathcal{A})$, is the set of all the configurations that can
 79 appear after arbitrarily many computation steps:

$$\Omega(\mathcal{A}) = \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{A}^k(Q^{\mathbb{Z}}).$$

80 For surjective CAs, the limit set is the set of all possible configurations $Q^{\mathbb{Z}}$, while
 81 for non-surjective CAs, it is the set of all configurations containing no orphan of any
 82 order, see [Hur90a]. An *orphan of order n* is a finite word w which has no preimage
 83 by $\mathcal{A}_{|Q|^{|w|}}^n$.

84 An *effectively closed set*, or Π_1^0 *class*, is a subset S of $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ for which there
 85 exists a Turing machine that, given any $x \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$, halts if and only if $x \notin S$.
 86 Equivalently, a class $S \subseteq \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is Π_1^0 if there exists a computable set L such that
 87 $x \in S$ if and only if no prefix of x is in L . It is then quite easy to see that limit
 88 sets of CAs are Π_1^0 classes: for any limit set, the set of forbidden patterns is the
 89 set of all orphans of all orders, which form a recursively enumerable set, since it is
 90 computable to check whether a finite word is an orphan.

91 For $x, y \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$, we say that $x \leq_T y$ if x is computable by a Turing machine
 92 using y as an oracle. If $x \leq_T y$ and $y \leq_T x$, x and y are said to be Turing-equivalent,
 93 which is noted $x \equiv_T y$. The *Turing degree* of x , noted $\deg_T x$, is its equivalence class
 94 under relation \equiv_T . The Turing degrees form a lattice whose bottom is $\mathbf{0}$, the Turing
 95 degree of computable sequences.

96 Effectively closed sets are quite well understood from a computational point of
 97 view, and there has been numerous contributions concerning their Turing degrees,
 98 see the book of Cenzer and Remmel [CR98] for a survey. One of the most interesting
 99 results may be that there exist Π_1^0 classes whose members are two-by-two Turing
 100 incomparable [JS72].

101 3. REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION

102 The idea to prove Theorem 1 is to make a construction embedding computations
 103 of a Turing machine that will check a read-only tape containing a member of the Π_1^0
 104 class S that will have to appear “non-deterministically”. The following constraints
 105 have to be addressed.

- 106 • Since CAs are intrinsically deterministic, this non-determinism will have to
 107 come from the “past”, i.e. from the “limit” of the preimages.
- 108 • The oracle tape, the element of $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ that needs to be checked, needs to
 109 appear entirely on at least one configuration of the limit set.
- 110 • Each configuration of the limit set containing the oracle tape needs to have
 111 exactly one head of the Turing machine, in order to ensure that there really
 112 is a computation going on in the associated space-time diagram.
- 113 • The construction, without any computation, needs to have a very simple
 114 limit set, i.e. it needs to be computable, and in particular countable; this

115 to ensure that no complexity overhead will be added to any configuration
 116 containing the oracle, and that “unuseful” configurations of the limit set – the
 117 configurations that do not appear in a space-time diagram corresponding to
 118 a computation – will be computable.

- 119 • The computation of the embedded Turing machine needs to go backwards,
 120 this to ensure that we can have the non-determinism. And an error in the
 121 computation must ensure that there is no infinite sequence of preimages.
- 122 • The computation needs to have a beginning (also to ensure the presence of
 123 a head), so the construction needs some marked beginning, and the oracle
 124 and tapes have to disappear at this point, otherwise by compactness the
 125 part without any computation could be extended bi-infinitely to contain
 126 any member of $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$, thus leading to the full set of Turing degrees.

127 There are other constraints that we will discuss during the construction, as they
 128 arise.

129 In order to make a construction complying to all these constraints, we reuse, with
 130 heavy modifications, an idea of Jeandel and Vanier [JV13b], which is to construct
 131 a sparse grid. However, their construction, being meant for subshifts, requires to
 132 be completely rethought in order to work for CAs. In particular, there was no
 133 determinism in this construction, and the oracle tape did not need to appear on a
 134 single column/row, since their result was on two-dimensional subshifts.

135 4. THE CONSTRUCTION

136 **4.1. A self-vanishing sparse grid.** In order to have space-time diagrams that
 137 constitute sparse grids, the idea is to have columns of squares, each of these columns
 138 containing less and less squares as we move to the left, see fig. 1. The CA has three
 139 categories of states:

- 140 • a *killer state*, which is a spreading state that erases anything on its path;
- 141 • a *quiescent state*, represented in white in the figures; its sole purpose is to
 142 mark the spaces that are “outside” the construction;
- 143 • some *construction states*, which will be constituted of signals and background
 144 colors.

145 In order to ensure that just with the signals themselves it is not possible to
 146 encode anything non-computable in the limit set, all signals will need to have at all
 147 points in time different colors on their left and right, otherwise a killer state will
 148 arise. Here are the main signals.

- 149 • Vertical lines: serve as boundaries between columns of squares and form the
 150 left/right sides of the squares.
- 151 • SW-NE and SE-NW diagonals: used to mark the corners of the squares,
 152 they are signals of respective speeds 1 and -1 . Each time they collide with
 153 a vertical line (except for the last square of the row), they bounce and start
 154 the converse diagonal of the next square.
- 155 • Counting signal: will count the number of squares inside a column; every
 156 time it crosses the SW-NE diagonal of a square it will shift to the left. When
 157 it is superimposed to a vertical line, it means that the square is the last of
 158 its column, so when it crosses the next SE-NW diagonal, it vanishes and
 159 with it the vertical line.

- 160 • Starting signals: used to start the next column to the left, at the bottom of
161 one column. Here is how they work.
- 162 – The bottommost signal, of speed $-\frac{1}{4}$, is at the boundary between
163 the empty part of the space-time diagram and the construction. It is
164 started 4 time steps after the collision with the signal of speed $-\frac{1}{3}$.
- 165 – The signal of speed $-\frac{1}{3}$ is started just after the vertical line sees the
166 incoming SE-NW diagonal of the first square of the row on the right,
167 at distance 3^3 (the diagonal will collide with the vertical line 2 time
168 steps after the start of that signal).
- 169 – At the same time as the signal of speed $-\frac{1}{3}$ is created, a signal of
170 speed $-\frac{1}{2}$ is generated. When this signal collides with the bottommost
171 signal, it bounces into a signal of speed $\frac{1}{4}$ that will create the first
172 SE-NW diagonal of the first square of the row of squares of the left,
173 4 time steps after it will collide with the vertical line.

174 On top of the construction states, except on the vertical lines, we add a parity
175 layer $\{0, 1\}$: on a configuration, two neighboring cells of the construction must have
176 different parity bits, otherwise a killer state appears. On the left of a vertical line
177 there has to be parity 1 and on the right parity 0, otherwise the killer state pops up
178 again. This is to ensure that the columns will always contain an even number of
179 squares.

180 The following lemmas address which types of configurations may occur in the
181 limit set of this CA. First note that any configuration wherein the construction
182 states do not appear in the right order do not have a preimage.

183 **Lemma 4.1.** *The sequence of preimages of a segment ended by consecutive vertical*
184 *lines (and containing none) is a slice of a column of squares of even side.*

185 *Proof.* Suppose a configuration contains two vertical line symbols, then to be in the
186 limit set, in between these two symbols there needs to be two diagonal symbols, one
187 for the SE-NW one and one for SW-NE one, a symbol for the counting signal, and
188 in between these signals there needs to be the appropriate colors: there is only one
189 possibility for each of them. If this is not the case, then the configuration has no
190 preimage.

191 Also, the distance between the first vertical line and the SE-NW diagonal needs
192 to be the same than the distance between the second vertical line and the SW-NE
193 diagonal, otherwise the signals at the bottom – the ones starting a column, that
194 are the only preimages of the first diagonals – would have, in one case, created a
195 vertical line in between, and in the other case, not started at the same time on the
196 right vertical.

197 The side of the squares is even, otherwise the parity layer has no preimage. \square

198 **Lemma 4.2.** *A configuration of the limit set containing at least three vertical-line*
199 *symbols needs to verify, for any three consecutive symbols, that if the distance between*
200 *the first one and the second one is k , then the distance between the second one and*
201 *the third one needs to be $(k + 2)$.*

202 *Proof.* Let us take a configuration containing at least three vertical-line symbols,
203 take three consecutive ones. The states between them have to be of the right form
204 as we said above. Suppose the first of these symbols is at distance k_1 of the second

³That can be done, provided the radius of the CA is large enough.

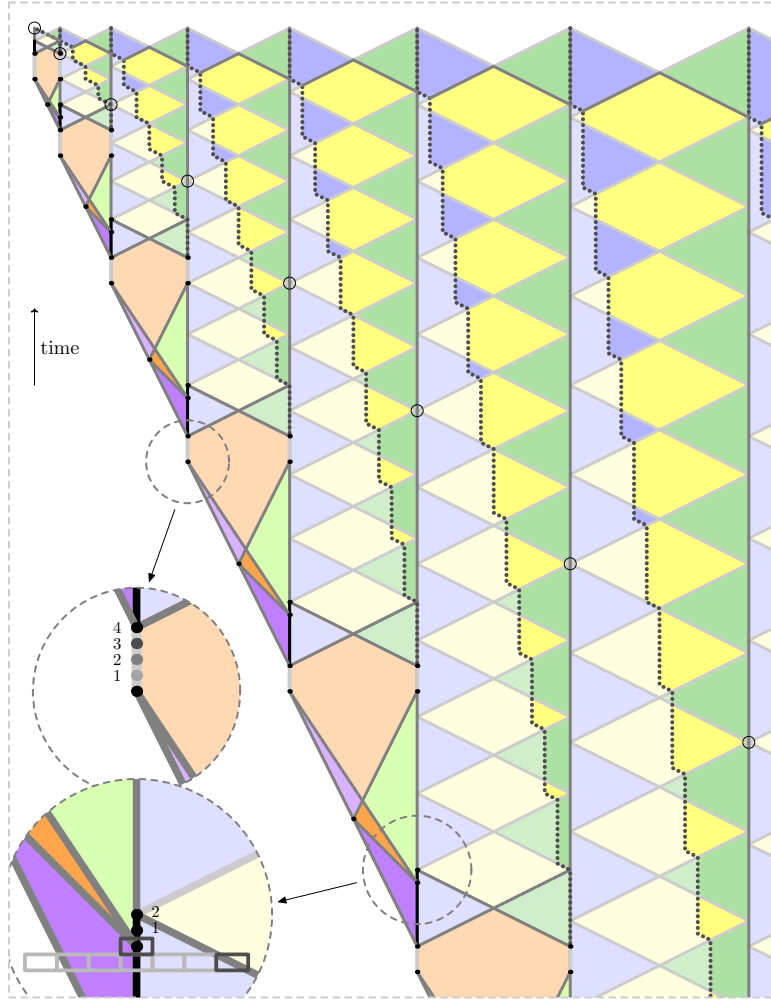


FIGURE 1. The sparse grid construction: it is based on columns containing a finite number of squares, whose number decreases when we go left. Note that the figure is squeezed vertically.

205 one, which is at distance k_2 of the third one. This means that the first (resp. second)
 206 segment defines a column of squares of side k_1 (resp. k_2). It is clear that the second
 207 column of squares cannot end before the first one.

208 Now let i be the position of the counting signal of the first column and j the
 209 distance between the SW-NE diagonal and the left vertical line. The preimage of
 210 the first segment ends $(k_1 i + j)$ (resp. $(k_1(i - 1) + j)$) steps before if the counting
 211 signal is on the left (resp. right) of the SW-NE diagonal. Then, the preimages of
 212 the left and right vertical lines of this column are the creating signals. Before the
 213 signal created on the right bounces on the one of speed $-\frac{1}{4}$ created on the left, it
 214 collides with the one of speed $-\frac{1}{3}$, thus determining the height of the squares on
 215 the right column of squares. So $k_1 = k_2 - 2$. \square

216 **Lemma 4.3.** *A configuration having two vertical line symbols pertaining to the*
 217 *limit set needs to verify one of the following statements.*

- 218 • *It is constituted of a finite number of vertical lines.*
- 219 • *It appears in the space-time diagram of fig. 1.*
- 220 • *It is constituted of an infinite number of vertical lines, then starting from*
 221 *some position it is equal on the right to some (shifted) line of fig. 1.*

222 *Proof.* We place ourselves in the case of a configuration of the limit set. Because
 223 of lemma 4.1, two consecutive vertical lines at distance k from each other define
 224 a column of squares. In a space-time diagram they belong to, on their left there
 225 necessarily is another column of squares, because of the starting signal generated
 226 at the beginning of the left vertical line, except when $k = 3$, in which case there is
 227 nothing on the left. In this column, the vertical lines are at distance $(k - 2)$, see
 228 lemma 4.2. So, if there is an infinite number of vertical lines, either it is of the
 229 form of fig. 1, or there is some killer state coming from infinity and “eating” the
 230 construction. \square

231 **4.2. Backward computation inside the grid.** We now wish to embed the com-
 232 putation of a reversible Turing machine inside the aforementioned sparse grid, which
 233 for this purpose is better seen as a lattice. The fact the TM is reversible allows us to
 234 embed it backwards in the CA. We will below denote by *TM time* (resp. *CA time*)
 235 the time going forward for the Turing machine (resp. the CA); on a space-time
 236 diagram, TM time goes from top to bottom, while CA time goes from bottom to
 237 top (cf. arrows in fig. 2a). That way, the beginning of the computation of the TM
 238 will occur in the first (topmost) square of the first (leftmost) column of squares.

239 We have to ensure that any computation of the TM is possible, and in particular
 240 ensure that such a computation is consistent over time; the idea is that at the first
 241 TM time step, i.e. the moment the sparse grid disappears, the tape is on each of
 242 the vertical line symbols, but since these all disappear a finite number of CA steps
 243 before, we have to compel all tape cells to shift to the right regularly as TM time
 244 increases.

245 Moreover, we want to force the presence of exactly one head (there could be
 246 none if it were, for instance, infinitely far right). To do that, the grid is divided
 247 into three parts that must appear in this order (from left to right): the left of the
 248 head, the right of the head (together referred to as the computation zone) and the
 249 unreachable zone (where no computation can ever be performed), resp. in blue,
 250 yellow and green in fig. 2a.

251 The vertices of our lattice are the top left corners of the squares, each one marked
 252 by the rebound of a SE-NW diagonal on a vertical line, while the top right corners
 253 will just serve as intermediate points for signals. More precisely, if we choose
 254 (arbitrarily) the top left corner of the first square of the first column to appear at
 255 site $(0, 0)$, then for any $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, the respective sites for the top left and top right
 256 corners of $s_{i,j}$, the $(j + 1)$ -th square of the $(i + 1)$ -th column, are the following
 257 (cf. fig. 2a):

$$\begin{cases} s_{i,j}^{\ell} = (i(i + 1), -2(i + 1)j) \\ s_{i,j}^r = ((i + 1)(i + 2), -2(i + 1)j). \end{cases}$$

258 Fig. 2b illustrates a computation by the TM, with the three aforementioned zones,
 259 as it would be embedded the usual way (but with reverse time) into a CA, with
 260 site $(i, -t)$ corresponding to the content of the tape at $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and TM time $t \in \mathbb{N}$.

261 Fig. 2c represents another, still simple, embedding, which is a distortion of the
 262 previous one: the head moves every even time step within a tape that is shifted
 263 every odd time steps, so that instead of site $(i, -t)$, we have two sites, $(i + t, -2t)$
 264 and $(i + t, -2t - 1)$, resp. the *computation site* (big circle on fig. 2c) and the *shifting*
 265 *site* (small circle on fig. 2c). The head only reads the content of the tape when it
 266 lies on a computation site. This type of embedding can easily be realized forwards
 267 or backwards (provided the TM is reversible).

268 Our embedding, derived from the latter, is drawn on fig. 2a. The “only” difference
 269 is the replacement of sites $(i + t, -2t)$ and $(i + t, -2t - 1)$ by sites $s_{i,t}^\ell$ and $s_{i,t+1}^\ell$.
 270 Notice that as the number of squares in a column is always finite, each square can
 271 “know” whether its top left corner is a computation or a shifting site with a parity bit.
 272 More precisely, the j -th square (from bottom to top) of a column has a computation
 273 site on its top left if and only if j is even.

274 Let $s_{i,j}$ be a square of our construction. $s_{i,j}^\ell$ is either a computation site or a
 275 shifting site. In the latter case, it is supposed to receive the content of a cell of
 276 the TM tape with an incoming signal of speed -1 . All it has to do is to send it
 277 to $s_{i,j-1}^\ell$ (at speed 0), which is a computation site. In the former case, however,
 278 things are slightly more complicated. The content of the tape has to be transmitted
 279 to $s_{i-1,j-1}^\ell$ (which is a shifting site). To do that, a signal of speed 0 is sent and
 280 waits for site $s_{i-1,j}^r$, which sends the content to $s_{i-1,j-1}^\ell$ with a signal of speed -1
 281 along the SE-NW diagonal. The problem is to recognize which s^r site is the correct
 282 one. Fortunately, there are only two possibilities: it is either the first or the second
 283 s^r site to appear after (in CA time, of course) $s_{i,j}^\ell$ on the vertical line. The first case
 284 corresponds exactly to the unreachable zone (where $j \leq i$), hence the result if the
 285 three zones are marked. The lack of other cases is due to the number of s_i squares,
 286 which is only $2(i + 1)$.

287 Another issue is the superposition of such signals. Here again, there are only
 288 two cases: in the unreachable zone there is none, whereas in the computation zone
 289 a signal of speed 0 from a computation site can be superimposed to the signal of
 290 speed 0 sent by the shifting site just above it. As aforesaid, there is no other case
 291 because of the limited number of s_i squares. Thus, there is no problem to keep the
 292 number of states of the CA finite, since the number of signals going through a same
 293 cell is limited to two at the same time.

294 While the two parts of the computation zones are to be separated by the presence
 295 of a head, the unreachable zone is at the right of signal a which is sent from any
 296 computation site that has two diagonals (one from the left and one from the right)
 297 below it (indicated as circles on fig. 1), goes at speed 0 until the next s^r site, then
 298 at speed 1 (along SE-NW diagonals) to the second next shifting site, and finally
 299 at speed 0 again, to the next computation site (cf. fig. 2a), which also has two
 300 diagonals below it if the grid contains no error.

301 Now only the movements of the head remain to be described (in black on fig. 2a).
 302 Let $s_{i,j}^\ell$ be a computation site containing the head.

- 303 • If the previous move of the head (previous because we are in CA time, that
 304 is, in reverse TM time) was to the left, the next computation site is the one
 305 just above, that is, $s_{i,j-2}^\ell$. The head is thus transferred by a simple signal
 306 of speed 0.
- 307 • If the previous move was to stand still, the next computation site is $s_{i-1,j-2}^\ell$.
 308 It can be reached by a signal of speed 0 until the second next s^r site, from

309 which a signal of speed -1 (along a SE-NW diagonal) is launched, to be
 310 replaced by another signal of speed 0 from $s_{i-1,j-1}^\ell$ on.
 311 • If the previous move was to the right, the next computation site is $s_{i-2,j-2}^\ell$.
 312 It can be reached by a signal of speed 0 until the second next s^r site, from
 313 which a signal of speed -1 (along a SE-NW diagonal) is launched, to be
 314 replaced by another signal of speed 0 from $s_{i-1,j-1}^\ell$ on, which itself waits for
 315 the next s^r site (which is $s_{i-2,j}^r$) to start another signal of speed 1 (along
 316 a SW-NE diagonal) that is finally succeeded to by a last signal of speed 0
 317 from $s_{i-2,j-1}^\ell$ on.

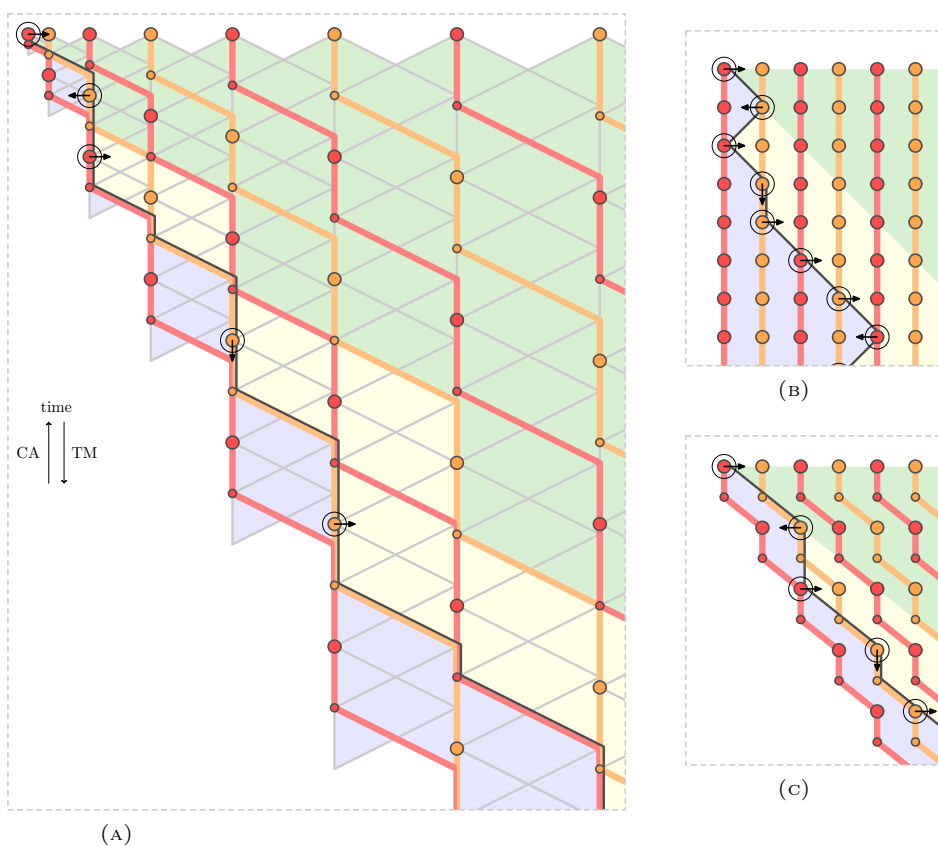


FIGURE 2. The embedding of a Turing machine computation in the sparse grid (2a), compared to the usual embedding (2b) and a slightly distorted one (2c). The paths followed by the content of each cell of the tape are in red and orange (two colors just to keep track of the signals), while the one of the head is in black. The arrows indicate the next move of the head (for TM time, going towards the bottom). The green background denotes the zone the head cannot reach, while the computation zone is in blue on the left of the head and in yellow on its right.

318 **4.3. The computation itself.** As we said before, the computation will take place
 319 on the computation sites, which will contain two kinds of tape cells: one for the
 320 oracle and one for the work. In the unreachable zone there are only oracle cells,
 321 which do not change over time except for the shifting. Now we want to eliminate
 322 all space-time diagrams corresponding to rejecting computations of some Turing
 323 machine M . Bennett [Ben73] has proved that for any Turing machine, we can
 324 construct a reversible one computing the same function. So a first idea would just
 325 be to encode this reversible Turing machine in the sparse grid; however there is no
 326 way to guarantee that the work tape that was non-deterministically inherited from
 327 the past corresponds to a valid configuration and by the time the Turing machine
 328 “realizes” this it will be too late, there will already exist configurations containing
 329 some oracle that we would otherwise have rejected.

330 The solution to this problem is to use a robust Turing machine in the sense of
 331 Hooper [Hoo66], that is to say a Turing machine that regularly rechecks its whole
 332 computation. Kari and Ollinger [KO08] have constructed reversible such machines.
 333 In these constructions the machines constructed were working on a bi-infinite tape,
 334 which had the drawback that some infinite side of the tape might not be checked;
 335 here it is not the case, hence we can modify the machine so that on an infinite
 336 computation it visits all cells of the tape (we omit the details for brevity’s sake).

337 In terms of limit sets, this means that if some oracle is rejected by the machine,
 338 then it must have been rejected an infinite number of times in the past (CA time).
 339 So, only oracles pertaining to the desired class may appear in the limit set.

340 Furthermore, even if some killer state coming from the right eats the grid, at
 341 some point in the past of the CA, it will be in the unreachable zone, and stay
 342 there for ever, so the computation from that moment on even ensures that the
 343 oracle computed is correct. Though, that doesn’t matter, because in this case the
 344 configurations of the corresponding space-time diagram that are in the limit set are
 345 uniform both on the right and on the left except for a finite part in the middle, and
 346 are hence computable.

347 5. CANTOR-BENDIXSON RANK OF LIMIT SETS

348 The *Cantor-Bendixson derivative* of some set $S \subseteq \Sigma^{\mathbb{Z}}$, with Σ finite, is noted
 349 $\mathfrak{D}(S)$ and consists of all configurations of S except the isolated ones. A configuration
 350 \mathfrak{c} is said to be *isolated* if there exists a pattern P such that \mathfrak{c} is the only configuration
 351 of S containing p (up to a shift). For any ordinal λ we can define $S^{(\lambda)}$, the
 352 Cantor-Bendixson derivative of rank λ , inductively:

$$\begin{aligned} S^{(0)} &= S \\ S^{(\lambda+1)} &= \mathfrak{D}(S^{(\lambda)}) \\ S^{(\lambda)} &= \bigcap_{\gamma < \lambda} S^{(\gamma)}. \end{aligned}$$

353 The *Cantor-Bendixson rank* of S , denoted by $\mathfrak{CB}(S)$, is defined as the first
 354 ordinal λ such that $S^{(\lambda+1)} = S^{(\lambda)}$. In particular, when S is countable, $S^{(\mathfrak{CB}(S))}$ is
 355 empty. An element s is of rank λ in S if λ is the least ordinal such that $s \notin S^{(\lambda)}$.
 356 For more information about Cantor-Bendixson rank, one may skim [Kec95].

357 The Cantor-Bendixson rank corresponds to the height of a configuration cor-
 358 responding to a preorder on patterns as noted by Ballier, Durand, and Jeandal

359 [BDJ08]. Thus, it gives some information on the way the limit set is structured
 360 pattern-wise. A straightforward corollary of the construction above is the following.

361 **Corollary 5.1.** *There exists a constant $c \leq 10$ such that for any Π_1^0 class S , there*
 362 *exists a CA \mathcal{A} such that*

$$\mathfrak{CB}(\Omega(\mathcal{A})) = \mathfrak{CB}(S) + c.$$

363 Here the constant corresponds to the pattern overhead brought by the sparse-grid
 364 construction.

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