

# Conjunctive grammars, cellular automata and logic

**Théo Grente**, Étienne Grandjean

AMACC - GREYC - Université Caen Normandie - Normandie Université

Automata 2021, Marseille France

# Conjunctive grammars

*“Context-free grammars may be thought of as a logic for inductive description of syntax in which the propositional connectives available. . .are restricted to disjunction only.”[Okhotin]*

**Conjunctive grammars** are an extension of context-free grammars by adding an explicit **conjunction** operation within the grammar rules.

## An example of conjunctive grammar

The following grammar generates the language  $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 1\}$ , known to not be context-free.

$$S \rightarrow AB&DC$$

$$A \rightarrow aA \mid a$$

$$B \rightarrow bBc \mid bc$$

$$C \rightarrow Cc \mid c$$

$$D \rightarrow aDb \mid ab$$

$$\underbrace{\{a^i b^j c^k \mid j = k\}}_{L(AB)} \cap \underbrace{\{a^i b^j c^k \mid i = j\}}_{L(DC)} = \underbrace{\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 1\}}_{L(S)}$$

## An example of conjunctive grammar

The following grammar generates the language  $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \geq 1\}$ , known to not be context-free.

$$S \rightarrow AB&DC$$

$$A \rightarrow aA \mid a$$

$$B \rightarrow bBc \mid bc$$

$$C \rightarrow Cc \mid c$$

$$D \rightarrow aDb \mid ab$$

Each rule of a conjunctive grammar  $G = (\Sigma, N, P, S)$  is of the form :

$$A \rightarrow \alpha_1 \& \dots \& \alpha_m, \text{ for } m \geq 1 \text{ and } \alpha_i \in (\Sigma \cup N)^+$$

## Binary normal form

Each conjunctive grammar can be rewritten in an equivalent **binary normal form** (extension of the Chomsky normal form for CFL).

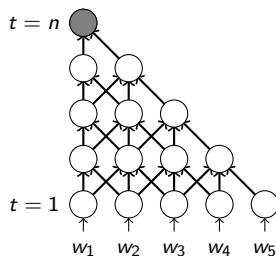
A conjunctive grammar  $G = (\Sigma, N, P, S)$  is in *binary normal form* if each rule in  $P$  has one of the two following forms :

- a long rule :  $A \rightarrow B_1 C_1 \& \dots \& B_m C_m$  ( $m \geq 1, B_i, C_j \in N$ );
- a short rule :  $A \rightarrow a$  ( $a \in \Sigma$ ).

# Real time cellular automata as language recognizers

Cellular automata as word acceptors :

- **Input** : the initial configuration of the CA is only determined by the input word ;
- **Output** : one specific cell called the *output cell* gives the output, “accept” or “reject”, of the computation ;
- **Acceptance** : an input word is *accepted* by the CA at time  $t$  if the output cell enters an accepting state at time  $t$ .

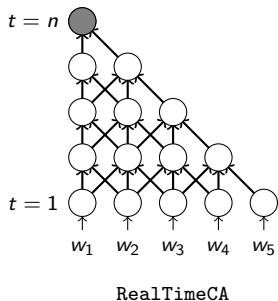


RealTimeCA

# Real time cellular automata as language recognizers

A word is **accepted in real time** by a CA if the word is accepted in minimal time for the output cell to receive each of its letters.

A language is **recognized in real time** by a CA if its the set of word that it accepts in real-time.



# Conjunctive grammars and cellular automata

$$\text{LinConj} = \text{Trellis}$$

LinConj is the **linear** restriction of conjunctive grammars.

Trellis is the **one-way** restriction of RealTimeCA.



# A question and its consequences

Is  $\text{Conj}$  a subset of  $\text{RealTimeCA}$ ?

- $\text{Conj} \subseteq \text{RealTimeCA}$  would imply that  $\text{Conj}$  and  $\text{CFL} \subseteq \text{DTIME}(n^2)$ .
- $\text{Conj} \not\subseteq \text{RealTimeCA}$  would imply that either  $\text{Conj} \subsetneq \text{DSPACE}(n)$  or  $\text{RealTimeCA} \subsetneq \text{DSPACE}(n)$ .

In this paper we prove two weakened versions of this question.

# Overview

- 1 Over a unary alphabet
- 2 Over a general alphabet
- 3 Conclusion

# Expression power

Conjunctive grammars over a unary alphabet generate more than regular languages [Jez].

Example of the language  $\{a^{4^n} \mid n \geq 0\} \subset \{a\}^+$ , generated by the grammar :

$$A_1 \rightarrow A_1 A_3 \ \& \ A_2 A_2 \mid a$$

$$A_2 \rightarrow A_1 A_1 \ \& \ A_2 A_{12} \mid A_{1'} A_{1'}$$

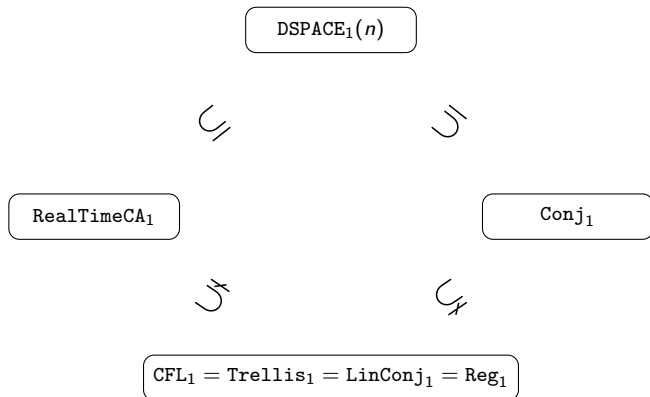
$$A_3 \rightarrow A_1 A_2 \ \& \ A_{12} A_{12} \mid A_{1'} A_{2'}$$

$$A_{12} \rightarrow A_1 A_2 \ \& \ A_3 A_3$$

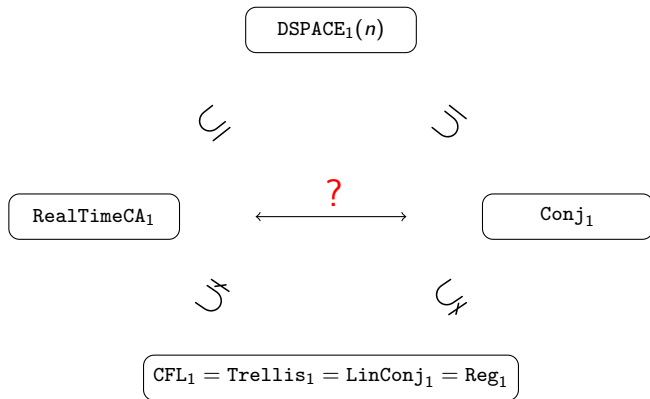
$$A_{1'} \rightarrow a$$

$$A_{2'} \rightarrow A_{1'} A_{1'}$$

## Context



## Context



# Our result

$$\text{Conj}_1 \subseteq \text{RealTimeCA}_1$$

The inclusion  $\text{Conj} \subseteq \text{RealTimeCA}$  holds when restricted to unary languages.

$$\text{DSPACE}_1(n)$$

$$\cup$$

$$\text{RealTimeCA}_1$$

$$\cup$$

$$\text{Conj}_1$$

$$\cup$$

$$\text{CFL}_1 = \text{Trellis}_1 = \text{LinConj}_1 = \text{Reg}_1$$

# Logic as a bridge from grammars to CA

- Computation of CA is **deterministic** → **Horn formulae**
- Computation of CA is **local** → **predecessor operator**
- Computation on **2 dimensions** (time and space) → **2 variables** (with a symmetric role in the logic)

# Our logic

pred-ESO-HORN is the set of formulae of the form  $\forall x \forall y \psi(x, y)$  where  $\psi$  is a **conjunction of Horn clauses** of one the three following forms :

- *an input clause* :  $\min(x) \wedge (\neg) \min(y) \wedge Q_s(y) \rightarrow R(x, y)$  with  $s \in \Sigma$  ;
- *a computation clause* :  $\delta_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \delta_r \rightarrow R(x, y)$  where each  $\delta_h$  is a conjunction  $S(x - i, y - j) \wedge x > i \wedge y > j$ , with  $i, j \geq 0$  ;
- *a contradiction clause* :  $\max(x) \wedge \max(y) \wedge R(x, y) \rightarrow \perp$ .



# Expressing unary conjunctive grammars in our logic

Rules of a grammar  $G = (\{a\}, N, P, S)$  in binary normal form :

- $A \rightarrow B_1 C_1 \& \dots \& B_m C_m$  ( $m \geq 1, B_i, C_j \in N$ );
- $A \rightarrow a$ .

The grammar is expressed in our logic by using three types of binary predicates :

- $\text{Maj}_A(x, y) \iff \lceil \frac{y}{2} \rceil \leq x \leq y$  and  $a^x \in L(A)$ ;
- $\text{Min}_A(x, y) \iff \lceil \frac{y}{2} \rceil \leq x < y$  and  $a^{y-x} \in L(A)$ ;
- $\text{Sum}_{BC}(x, y) \iff$  there is some  $x'$  with  $\lceil \frac{y}{2} \rceil \leq x' \leq x$  such that either  $a^{x'} \in L(B)$  and  $a^{y-x'} \in L(C)$ , or  $a^{y-x'} \in L(B)$  and  $a^{x'} \in L(C)$ .

$(x, y)$  corresponds to the concatenations  $a^x a^{y-x}$  and  $a^{y-x} a^x$ .

# Expressing unary conjunctive grammars in our logic

Rules of a grammar  $G = (\{a\}, N, P, S)$  in binary normal form :

- $A \rightarrow B_1 C_1 \& \dots \& B_m C_m$  ( $m \geq 1, B_i, C_j \in N$ );
- $A \rightarrow a$ .

$(x, y)$  corresponds to the concatenations  $a^x a^{y-x}$  and  $a^{y-x} a^x$ .

## Sample of clauses

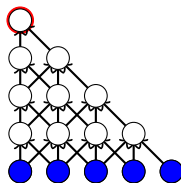
- $\text{Maj}_{B_i}(x, y) \wedge \text{Min}_{C_i}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{Sum}_{B_i C_i}(x, y)$ ;
- $\text{Min}_{B_i}(x, y) \wedge \text{Maj}_{C_i}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{Sum}_{B_i C_i}(x, y)$ ;
- $\neg \text{min}(x) \wedge \text{Sum}_{B_i C_i}(x-1, y) \rightarrow \text{Sum}_{B_i C_i}(x, y)$ ;
- $x = y \wedge \text{Sum}_{B_1 C_1}(x, y) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{Sum}_{B_m C_m}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{Maj}_A(x, y)$ .

# Equivalence of our logic with real time CA

Logic

pred-ESO-HORN

Cellular Automata



RealTimeCA

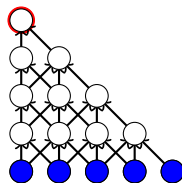
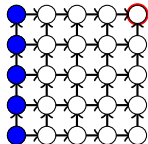
# Equivalence of our logic with real time CA

Logic

Grid-Circuit

Cellular Automata

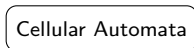
pred-ESO-HORN



RealTimeCA

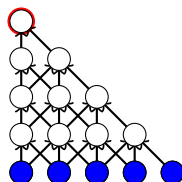
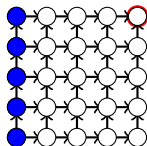
# Equivalence of our logic with real time CA

Normalization



pred-ESO-HORN

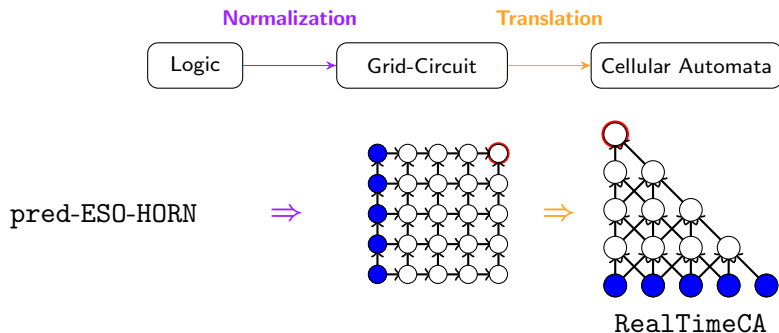
⇒



RealTimeCA

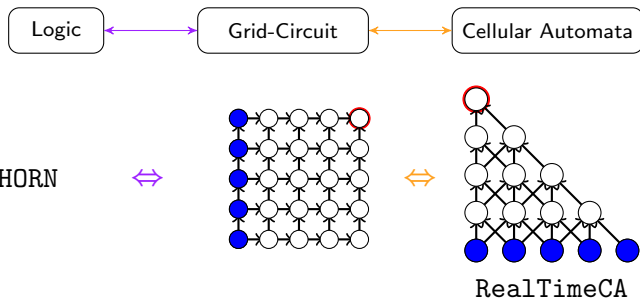
- The logic of the grid-circuit corresponds to a **normalized** version of our starting logic.

# Equivalence of our logic with real time CA



- The logic of the grid-circuit corresponds to a normalized version of our starting logic.
- The computation of the grid-circuit is local and uniform as for a CA  $\Rightarrow$  direct translation of the grid-circuit into a CA.

# Equivalence of our logic with real time CA



- The logic of the grid-circuit corresponds to a **normalized** version of our starting logic.
- The computation of the grid-circuit is local and uniform as for a CA  $\Rightarrow$  direct **translation** of the grid-circuit into a CA.

# Computation example

## Grammar

```
A1->A1.A3&A2.A2|a
A2->A1.A1&A2.A6|A'.A'
A3->A1.A2&A6.A6|A'' .A'
A6->A1.A2&A3.A3
A' ->a
A''->A'.A'
□
```



# Computation example

## Grammar $\rightarrow$ Formula

```

H(x)Gmin(y)→Eq(x,y)
-min(x)6-min(y)6Eq(x-1,y-1)→Eq(x,y)
min(x)Gmin(y)→Minmin(x,y)
min(x)6-min(y)Gminmin(x,y-1)→V-2X(x,y)
-min(x)6-min(y)6V-2X(x-1,y-1)→V-2X-1(x,y)
-min(x)6-min(y)6V-2X-1(x,y-1)→V-2X(x,y)
V-2X(x,y)→V-2X(x,y)
-min(x)6V-2X(x-1,y)→V-2X(x,y)
-min(y)6Mj(A1)(x,y-1)6V-2X(x,y)→Mj(A1)(x,y)
-min(y)6Mj(A1)(x,y-1)6V-2X(x,y)→Min(A1)(x,y)
-min(x)6-min(y)6Mj(A1)(x-1,y-1)→Min(A1)(x,y)
Mj(A1)(x,y)Gmin(A1)(x,y)→Sum(A1A1)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A1A1)(x-1,y)→Sum(A1A1)(x,y)
Mj(A1)(x,y)Gmin(A2)(x,y)→Sum(A1A2)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A1A2)(x-1,y)→Sum(A1A2)(x,y)
Mj(A1)(x,y)Gmin(A2)(x,y)→Sum(A1A2)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A1A3)(x-1,y)→Sum(A1A3)(x,y)
Mj(A1)(x,y)Gmin(A3)(x,y)→Sum(A1A3)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A1A3)(x-1,y)→Sum(A1A3)(x,y)
Mj(A1)(x,y)Gmin(A^)(x,y)→Sum(A^A^)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A^A^)(x-1,y)→Sum(A^A^)(x,y)
Mj(A1)(x,y)Gmin(A^A^)(x,y)→Sum(A^A^A^)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A^A^A^)(x-1,y)→Sum(A^A^A^)(x,y)
-min(x)6Eq(x,y)6Sum(A2A2)(x-1,y)6Sum(A1A3)(x-1,y)→Mj(A1)(x,y)
min(x)Gmin(y)→Mj(A1)(x,y)
-min(y)6Mj(A2)(x,y-1)6V-2X(x,y)→Mj(A2)(x,y)
-min(y)6Mj(A2)(x,y-1)6V-2X(x,y)→Min(A2)(x,y)
-min(x)6-min(y)6Mj(A2)(x-1,y-1)→Min(A2)(x,y)
Mj(A2)(x,y)Gmin(A1)(x,y)→Sum(A1A2)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A1A2)(x-1,y)→Sum(A1A2)(x,y)
Mj(A2)(x,y)Gmin(A2)(x,y)→Sum(A2A2)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A2A2)(x-1,y)→Sum(A2A2)(x,y)
Mj(A2)(x,y)Gmin(A3)(x,y)→Sum(A2A3)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A2A3)(x-1,y)→Sum(A2A3)(x,y)
Mj(A2)(x,y)Gmin(A6)(x,y)→Sum(A2A6)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A2A6)(x-1,y)→Sum(A2A6)(x,y)
Mj(A2)(x,y)Gmin(A^)(x,y)→Sum(A^A^)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A^A^)(x-1,y)→Sum(A^A^)(x,y)
Mj(A2)(x,y)Gmin(A^A^)(x,y)→Sum(A^A^A^)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A^A^A^)(x-1,y)→Sum(A^A^A^)(x,y)
-min(x)6Eq(x,y)6Sum(A^A^A^)(x-1,y)→Mj(A2)(x,y)
-min(x)6Eq(x,y)6Sum(A2A6)(x-1,y)6Sum(A1A3)(x-1,y)→Mj(A2)(x,y)
-min(y)6Mj(A3)(x,y-1)6V-2X(x,y)→Mj(A3)(x,y)
-min(y)6Mj(A3)(x,y-1)6V-2X(x,y)→Min(A3)(x,y)
-min(x)6-min(y)6Mj(A3)(x-1,y-1)→Min(A3)(x,y)
Mj(A3)(x,y)Gmin(A1)(x,y)→Sum(A1A3)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A1A3)(x-1,y)→Sum(A1A3)(x,y)
Mj(A3)(x,y)Gmin(A2)(x,y)→Sum(A2A3)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A2A3)(x-1,y)→Sum(A2A3)(x,y)
Mj(A3)(x,y)Gmin(A3)(x,y)→Sum(A3A3)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A3A3)(x-1,y)→Sum(A3A3)(x,y)
Mj(A3)(x,y)Gmin(A6)(x,y)→Sum(A3A6)(x,y)
-min(x)6Sum(A3A6)(x-1,y)→Sum(A3A6)(x,y)
Mj(A3)(x,y)Gmin(A^)(x,y)→Sum(A^A^)(x,y)

```

[--> add prod](#)    [Top L1](#)    [Fundamental1](#)  
 For information about GNU Emacs and the GNU system, type C-h C-a.

# Computation example

## Grammar $\rightarrow$ Formula $\rightarrow$ Normalized formula

```

min(x) & min(y) --> Eq(x,y)
min(x) & min(y) --> MinMin(x,y)
min(x) & min(y) --> Maj(A1)(x,y)
min(x) & min(y) --> Maj(A)(x,y)min(x) & -min(y) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Yc2X(x,y)
min(x) & -min(y) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Yc2X(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A1)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Min(A1)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Min(A2)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Min(A6)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A')'(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Min(A')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Min(A''')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A1)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Maj(A1)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Maj(A2)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A3)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Maj(A3)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Maj(A6)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A')(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Maj(A')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Maj(A''')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) --> Sum(A''')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A')(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Sum(A')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A')(x,y-1) --> Sum(A'A6)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A3)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A')'(x,y-1) --> Sum(A'A3)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A')'(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Sum(A'A''')(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) --> Sum(A''A6)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A3)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) --> Sum(A''A3)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A''')(x,y-1) --> Sum(A''A2)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA6)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A3)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA3)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA2)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A1)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A6)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA1)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A3)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA3)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA2A2)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A1)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA1A1)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A1)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA1A2)(x,y)
-min(y) & Maj(A1)(x,y-1) & min(x) & MinMin(x,y-1) & Maj(A2)(x,y-1) --> Sum(AA1A1)(x,y) --> Yc2X(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A1A1)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A1A1)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A1A2)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A1A2)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A1A3)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A1A3)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A1A6)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A1A6)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A1)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A1)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A1)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A1)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A2)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A2)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A3)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A3)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A6)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A6)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A2)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A2)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A3)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A3)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A3)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A3)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A3)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A3)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A6)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A6)(x,y)
-min(x) & Sum(A'A6)(x-1,y) --> Sum(A'A6)(x,y)

```

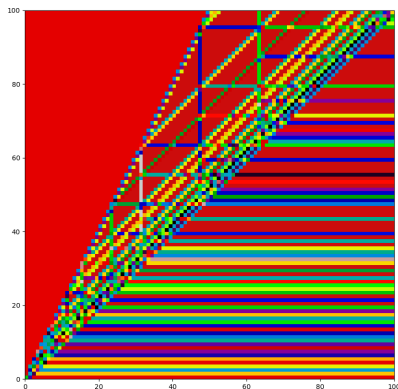
```

--> an.grie Top LSE (Fundamental)
Overwrite mode disabled in current buffer

```

# Computation example

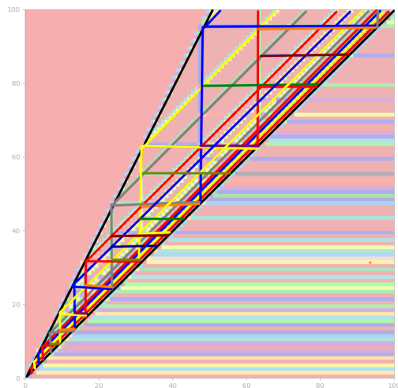
Grammar  $\rightarrow$  Formula  $\rightarrow$  Normalized formula  $\rightarrow$  **Grid circuit**

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_1 &\rightarrow A_1A_3 \ \& \ A_2A_2 \mid a \\
 A_2 &\rightarrow A_1A_1 \ \& \ A_2A_{12} \mid A_1', A_1' \\
 A_3 &\rightarrow A_1A_2 \ \& \ A_{12}A_{12} \mid A_1', A_2' \\
 A_{12} &\rightarrow A_1A_2 \ \& \ A_3A_3 \\
 A_1' &\rightarrow a \\
 A_2' &\rightarrow A_1', A_1'
 \end{aligned}$$


# Computation example

Grammar  $\rightarrow$  Formula  $\rightarrow$  Normalized formula  $\rightarrow$  Grid circuit  $\rightarrow$  CA

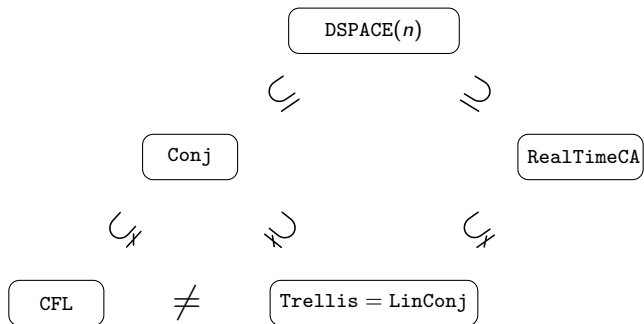
$A_1 \rightarrow A_1 A_3 \ \& \ A_2 A_2 \mid a$   
 $A_2 \rightarrow A_1 A_1 \ \& \ A_2 A_{12} \mid A_1', A_1'$   
 $A_3 \rightarrow A_1 A_2 \ \& \ A_{12} A_{12} \mid A_1', A_2'$   
 $A_{12} \rightarrow A_1 A_2 \ \& \ A_3 A_3$   
 $A_1' \rightarrow a$   
 $A_2' \rightarrow A_1' A_1'$



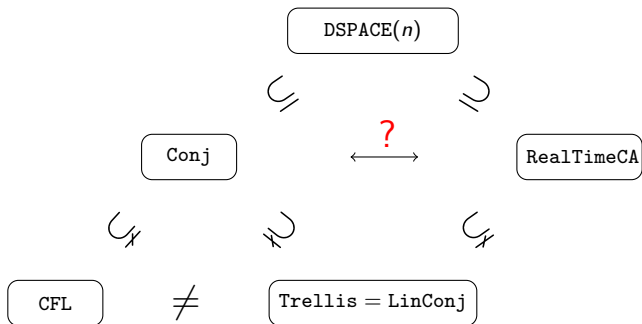
# Overview

- 1 Over a unary alphabet
- 2 Over a general alphabet
- 3 Conclusion

## Context



## Context



# Our result

$$\text{Conj} \subseteq \text{RealTime2OCA}$$

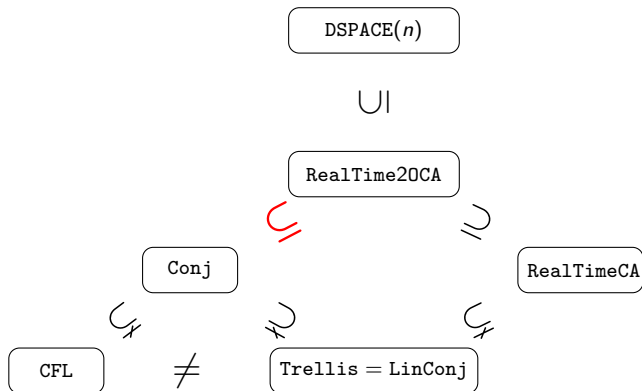
`RealTime2OCA` : real time of 2 dimensional one-way cellular automata



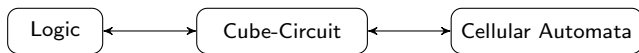
## Our result

$$\text{Conj} \subseteq \text{RealTime2OCA}$$

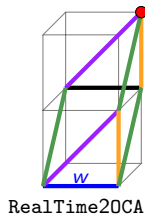
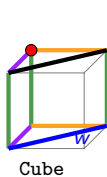
RealTime2OCA : real time of 2 dimensional one-way cellular automata



# The method



incl-pred-ESO-HORN



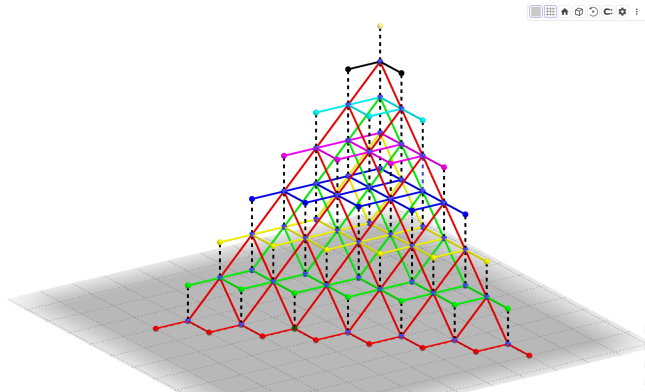
## Remarks on the logic

- Conjunction of Horn clauses ;
- 3 variables with asymmetric roles : 2 variables for an induction on intervals, 1 for predecessor induction.

$$([x + a, y - b], z - c) \rightarrow ([x, y], z)$$

- Expressing conjunctive grammars :  $(x, y, z)$  corresponds to the concatenations  $w_x \dots w_{x+z-1} w_{x+z} \dots w_y$  and  $w_x \dots w_{y-z} w_{y-z+1} \dots w_y$ .

# Signals diagram



# Overview

- 1 Over a unary alphabet
- 2 Over a general alphabet
- 3 Conclusion

# Conclusion

- Two inclusions :  $\text{Conj}_1 \subseteq \text{RealTimeCA}_1$  and  $\text{Conj} \subseteq \text{RealTime2OCA}$ .
- The grid : natural way to see the induction of the problem.
- Use of logic to program cellular automata.

# Open questions

- The question whether  $\text{Conj} \subseteq \text{RealTimeCA}$  or not is still open.
- Better understanding of the expressive power of conjunctive grammars.
- Exact characterizations of  $\text{Conj}$ ? Through logic? Through computational complexity?