

Sequence Generation Problem on Communication-restricted Cellular Automata

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Abstract: Cellular automata (CA) are considered to be a non-linear model of complex systems in which an infinite one-dimensional array of finite state machines (cells) updates itself in a synchronous manner according to a uniform local rule. We study a sequence generation problem on a special restricted class of cellular automata having 1-bit inter-cell communications ($CA_{1\text{-bit}}$) and propose several state-efficient real-time sequence generation algorithms for non-regular sequences.

Key words: cellular automaton, sequence generation problem

1 Introduction

Cellular automata (CA) are considered to be a non-linear model of complex systems in which an infinite one-dimensional array of finite state machines (cells) updates itself in a synchronous manner according to a uniform local rule. We study a sequence generation problem on a special restricted class of cellular automata having 1-bit inter-cell communications ($CA_{1\text{-bit}}$) and propose several state-efficient real-time sequence generation algorithms for non-regular sequences. The 1-bit CA can be thought to be one of the most powerless and simplest models in a variety of CAs. First, in section 2, we introduce a cellular automaton with 1-bit inter-cell communication and define the sequence generation problem on $CA_{1\text{-bit}}$. In section 3, it is shown that infinite non-regular sequences such as $\{2^n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ and Fibonacci sequences can be generated in real-time by cellular automata with 1-bit inter-cell communication. Those sequence generation algorithms will be realized on the 1-bit CAs with a relatively small number of internal states. It is also shown that an infinite prime sequence can be generated in real-time by a cellular automaton having 1-bit inter-cell communications ($CA_{1\text{-bit}}$). The algorithm presented is based on the classical sieve of Eratosthenes, and its implementation will be made on a $CA_{1\text{-bit}}$ using 34 internal states and 71 transition rules.

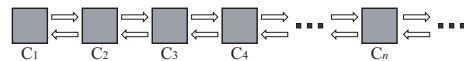


Figure 1: A one-dimensional cellular automaton with 1-bit inter-cell communication.

2 Sequence generation problem on $CA_{1\text{-bit}}$

A one-dimensional 1-bit inter-cell communication cellular automaton consists of an infinite array of identical finite state automata, each located at a positive integer point (See Fig. 1). Each automaton is referred to as a cell. A cell at point i is denoted by C_i , where $i \geq 1$. Each C_i , except for C_1 , is connected to its left- and right-neighbor cells via a left or right one-way communication link. These communication links are indicated by right- and left-pointing arrows in Fig. 1, respectively. Each one-way communication link can transmit only one bit at each step in each direction. One distinguished left-most cell C_1 , the communication cell, is connected to the outside world. A cellular automaton with 1-bit inter-cell communication (abbreviated by $CA_{1\text{-bit}}$) consists of an infinite array of finite state automata $A = (Q, \delta, F)$, where

1. Q is a finite set of internal states.
2. δ is a function, defining the next state of any cell and its binary outputs to its left- and right-neighbor cells, such that $\delta: Q \times \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow Q \times \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\}$, where $\delta(p, x, y) = (q, x', y')$, $p, q \in Q$, $x, x', y, y' \in \{0, 1\}$, has the following meaning. We assume that at step t the cell C_i is in state p and is receiving binary inputs x and y from its left and right communication links, respectively. Then, at the next step, $t+1$, C_i assumes state q and outputs x' and y' to its left and right communication links, respectively. Note that binary inputs to C_i at step t are also outputs of C_{i-1} and C_{i+1} at step t . A quiescent state $q \in Q$ has a property such that $\delta(q, 0, 0) = (q, 0, 0)$.

3. $F \subseteq Q$ is a special subset of Q . The set F is used to specify a designated state of C_1 in the definition of sequence generation.

Thus, the CA_{1-bit} is a special subclass of *normal* (i.e., *conventional*) cellular automata. We now define the **sequence generation problem** on CA_{1-bit} . Let M be a CA_{1-bit} , and let $\{t_n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ be an infinite monotonically increasing positive integer sequence defined for natural numbers, such that $t_n \geq n$ for any $n \geq 1$. We then have a semi-infinite array of cells, as shown in Fig. 1, and all cells, except for C_1 , are in the quiescent state at time $t = 0$. The communication cell C_1 assumes a special state r in Q and outputs 1 to its right communication link at time $t = 0$ for initiation of the sequence generator. We say that M generates a sequence $\{t_n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ in k linear-time if and only if the leftmost end cell of M falls into a special state in $F \subseteq Q$ and outputs 1 via its leftmost communication link at time $t = kt_n$, where k is a positive integer. We call M a *real-time* generator when $k = 1$.

3 Real-time generation of non-regular sequences

Arisawa[1], Fischer[3] and Korec[4] studied real-time generation of a class of natural numbers on the conventional cellular automata, where $O(1)$ bits of information were allowed to be exchanged at one step between neighboring cells. In this section we propose several 1-bit communication cellular algorithms which generate non-regular infinite sequences in real-time. The first sequence we consider is $\{2^n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$.

3.1 Sequence $\{2^n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

We show that the context-sensitive sequence $\{2^n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ can be generated in real-time by a 1-state CA_{1-bit} . A transition rule set for the CA_{1-bit} M generating the sequence is as follows: $M = \{Q, \delta\}$, where $Q = \{a, q\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(a, 0, 0) &= (a, 0, 0), & \delta(a, 0, 1) &= (a, 1, 0), \\ \delta(q, 0, 0) &= (q, 0, 0), & \delta(q, 0, 1) &= (q, 1, 1), \\ \delta(q, 1, 0) &= (q, 1, 1), & \delta(q, 1, 1) &= (q, 0, 0). \end{aligned}$$

The leftmost cell C_1 always assumes a state a and $C_i (i \geq 2)$ takes a state q at any step. Figure 2 shows some snapshots for the real-time generation of the sequence. Small black right and left triangles \blacktriangleright and \blacktriangleleft , shown in Fig. 2, indicate a 1-bit signal transfer in the right or left direction between neighbour cells. A symbol in a cell shows its internal state.

[**Theorem 1**] An infinite sequence $\{2^n | n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ can be generated by a 1-state CA_{1-bit} in real-time.

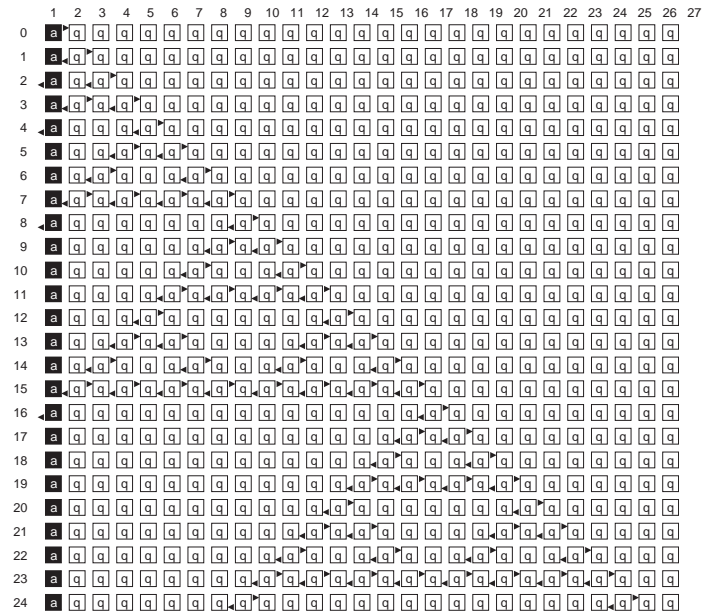


Figure 2: Snapshots for real-time generation of infinite sequence $\{2^n | n = 1, 2, \dots\}$.

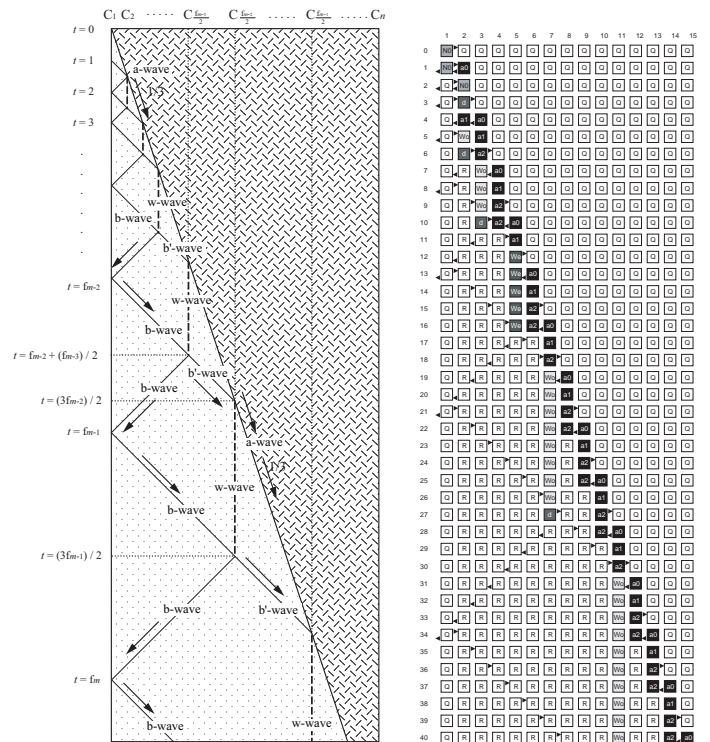


Fig. 3(a)

Fig. 3(b)

Figure 3: Time-space diagram for real-time generation of Fibonacci sequence(Fig. 3(a)) and snapshot for its computer simulation(Fig. 3(b)).

1	Q	R=0	R=1
L=0	(Q,0,0)	(Q,1,1)	
L=1	(a0,1,0)	--	

2	R	R=0	R=1
L=0	(R,0,0)	(R,1,0)	
L=1	(R,0,1)	--	

3	a0	R=0	R=1
L=0	(a1,0,0)	--	
L=1	(N0,1,0)	--	

4	a1	R=0	R=1
L=0	(a2,0,1)	(W0,0,0)	
L=1	(W0,0,1)	--	

5	a2	R=0	R=1
L=0	(a2,0,0)	(R,0,0)	
L=1	(W0,0,0)	(R,0,1)	

6	W0	R=0	R=1
L=0	(W0,0,0)	(W0,0,0)	
L=1	(R,1,1)	--	

7	W0	R=0	R=1
L=0	(W0,0,0)	(W0,0,0)	
L=1	(d,0,1)	--	

8	N0	R=0	R=1
L=0	(N0,1,1)	(Q,1,1)	
L=1	(d,0,1)	--	

9	d	R=0	R=1
L=0	(R,1,0)	--	
L=1	(a1,1,0)	--	

Table 1: Transition rules for real-time generation of Fibonacci sequence.

3.2 Fibonacci sequence

Next we consider Fibonacci sequence defined as $f_1 = 1, f_2 = 1, f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2} (n \geq 3)$. Real-time generation of Fibonacci sequence is described in terms of four waves: *a-wave*, *b-wave*, *b'-wave* and *w-wave*. The a-wave, generated by C_1 at time $t = 0$, propagates in the right direction at $1/3$ speed. The b-wave, generated on C_1 at time $t = 1$, oscillates between C_1 and w-wave and moves at $1/1$ speed between them. The w-wave, which is generated on the intersecting point of a- and b'-waves, remains there till the next b-wave's arrival. It acts as a *wall*. The b'-wave is a split version of b-wave as will be described later. Whenever the b-wave arrives at C_1 , C_1 takes a special state and outputs 1 to its left link. When the b-wave collides with w-wave from its left side, it is split into two b- and b'-waves. The former reflects there to the left and the latter proceeds in the right direction at $1/1$ speed. Simultaneously, the w-wave vanishes. The split b'-wave generates a new w-wave when it meets a-wave and it itself disappears simultaneously. Fig. 3(a) is a time-space diagram showing the interactions of four waves given above.

Now we show straightforwardly how the Fibonacci sequence can be generated in real-time. The first two values of the Fibonacci sequence are such that $f_1 = 1, f_2 = 1$. We can construct the CA_{1-bit} so that its left end cell outputs 1 at time $t = 1$. The output at time $t = 1$ is interpreted as two values given above. Let m be any natural number such that $m \geq 3$. We assume that at time $t = f_{m-2}$, C_1 outputs 1 to its left link and the w-wave keeps its position on $C_{f_{m-3}/2}$. Then, we can get the following observations: The b-wave, generated by C_1 at time $t = f_{m-2}$, collides with the w-wave at time $t = f_{m-2} + (1/2) \cdot f_{m-3}$, and simultaneously it splits into b- and b'-waves. The b'-wave, proceeding in the right direction, collides with the a-wave at time $t = (3/2) \cdot f_{m-2}$ on $C_{f_{m-2}/2}$. The new w-wave, having disappeared on $C_{f_{m-3}/2}$, will be generated on $C_{f_{m-2}/2}$ at time $t = (3/2) \cdot f_{m-2}$. The b-wave, reflecting in the left direction, arrives at C_1 at time $t = f_{m-2} + f_{m-3} = f_{m-1}$ and outputs 1 to its left link. Afterwards the b-wave will reach $C_{f_{m-2}/2}$ at time $t = (3/2) \cdot f_{m-1}$ and it can always find the new w-wave, since $t = (3/2) \cdot f_{m-1} - (3/2) \cdot f_{m-2} = (3/2) \cdot f_{m-3} > 0$. It

is easily seen by mathematical induction that the scheme given above can exactly generate the sequence in real-time. In Fig. 3(b) we show consecutive snapshots for the real-time generation of Fibonacci sequence on 1-bit CA with 9 internal states and 26 transition rules that is given in Table 1. Thus we have:

[**Theorem 2**] Fibonacci sequence can be generated by a CA_{1-bit} in real-time.

3.3 Prime sequence

Arisawa [1], Fischer [3] and Korec [4] studied real-time generation of a class of natural numbers on the conventional cellular automata, where $O(1)$ bits of information were allowed to be exchanged at one step between neighboring cells. Fischer [3] showed that prime sequences can be generated in real-time on the cellular automata with 11 states for C_1 and 37 states for $C_i (i \geq 2)$. Arisawa [1] also developed a real-time prime generator and decreased the number of states of each cell to 22. Korec [4] reported a real-time prime generator having 11 states on the same model. Umeo and Kamikawa [15] showed that the prime sequence can be generated in twice real-time by CA_{1-bit} having 54 internal states and 107 transition rules. In this section, we present a real-time prime generation algorithm on CA_{1-bit} . The algorithm is implemented on a CA_{1-bit} using 34 internal states and 71 transition rules. Our prime generation algorithm is based on the well-known sieve of Eratosthenes. Imagine a list of all integers greater than 2. The first member, 2, becomes a prime and every second member of the list is crossed out. Then, the next member of the remainder of the list, 3, is a prime and every third member is crossed out. In Eratosthenes' sieve, the procedure continues with 5, 7, 11, and so on. In our procedure, given below, for any odd integer $k \geq 3$, every $2k$ -th member of the list beginning with k^2 will be crossed out, since the k -th members less than k^2 (that is, $\{i \cdot k | 2 \leq i \leq k-1\}$) and $2k$ -th members beginning with k^2+k (that is, it is an even number such that $\{(k+2i-1) \cdot k | i = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$) should have been crossed out in the previous stages. Thus, every k -th member beginning with k^2 is successfully crossed out in our procedure. Those integers never being crossed out are the primes. Figure 3 is a time-space diagram that shows a real-time detection of odd multiples of three, five and seven. In our detection, we use two 1-bit signals a- and b-waves, which will be described later, and pre-set partitions in which these two 1-bit signals bounce around.

We now outline the algorithm. Each cross-out operation is performed by C_1 . We assume that the cellular space is initially divided by the partitions such that a special mark "w" is printed on cell C_{i^2} , for any positive integer $i \geq 1$. Those partitions will be used to generate reciprocating signals for the detection of odd multiples of, for example, three, five, and seven. We denote a subcellular space sandwiched by C_k and C_ℓ as S_i , where $k = i^2$,

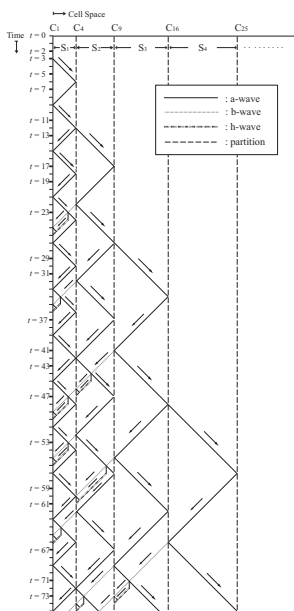


Figure 4: An h-wave that inhibits the reflection of 1-bit b-wave at the left end of each partition.

$\ell = (i + 1)^2$ for any $i \geq 1$, and call it the i -th partition. Note that S_i contains $(2i + 2)$ cells, including both ends. The way to set up the partitions in terms of 1-bit communication will be described in Lemma 2.

[Lemma 1] Let M be a $CA_{1\text{-bit}}$. We assume that the initial array of M is partitioned into infinite blocks such that a special symbol “ w ” is marked on cells C_{i^2} , for any positive integer $i \geq 1$. The array M given above can generate the i -th prime at time $t = i$.

(Proof) Consider a unit speed (1-cell/1-step) signal that reciprocates between the left and right ends of S_i , which is shown as the zigzag movements in Fig. 4. This signal is referred to as the *a-wave*. At every reciprocation, the a-wave generates a *b-wave* on the left end of S_i . The b-wave continues to move to C_1 at unit speed to the left through S_{i-1} , S_{i-2} , ..., S_2 , and S_1 . The b-wave generated at the left end of S_i is responsible for notifying C_1 of odd multiples of odd integer $(2i + 1)$ such that $(2j + 1)(2i + 1)$ for any positive integer $j \geq i$. In addition, the a-wave, on the second trip to the right end of S_i , initiates a new a-wave for S_{i+1} .

We assume that the initial a-wave for S_i is generated on the left end of S_i at time $t = 3i^2$. Then, as is shown in Fig. 4, the b-wave reaches C_1 at step $t = (2i + 1)^2 + 2j \cdot (2i + 1)$, where $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Moreover, the initiation of the first a-wave for S_{i+1} is successfully made at step $t = 3(i + 1)^2$ at the left end of S_{i+1} . We observe from Fig. 4 that the following signals are generated at the correct time. At time $t = 3$, the first a-wave starts toward the right from the cell C_1 . At time $t = 6$, the a-wave arrives at the right end of S_1 , and then is reflected toward the

left and reaches C_1 at $t = 9$. The a-wave again proceeds toward the right at unit speed and reaches the right end of S_1 . The first a-wave for S_2 is generated here. By mathematical induction, we see that the first a-wave for S_i can be generated on the left end of S_i at time $t = 3i^2$ for any $i \geq 1$. In this way, the b-wave generated at the left end of S_i notifies C_1 of odd multiples of $(2i + 1)$ that are greater than $(2i + 1)^2$. Multiples of $(2i + 1)$ that are less than $(2i + 1)^2$ have been detected in the previous stages (See Fig. 4).

Whenever a left-traveling a-wave generated on S_i and the left-traveling b-wave generated on S_j ($j \geq i + 1$) start simultaneously at the right end of S_i , they are merged into one a-wave. Otherwise, the b-wave meets a reflected a-wave in S_i . Two kinds of unit speed left-traveling 1-bit signals exist in S_i ($i \geq 1$), that is, an a-wave that is reciprocating on S_i and a b-wave that is generated on S_j ($j \geq i + 1$). These two left-traveling 1-bit signals must be distinguished, since the latter does not produce a reciprocating a-wave. In order to avoid the reflection of the b-wave at the left end of each partition, we introduce a new *h-wave*, as shown in Fig. 4. Whenever a right-traveling a-wave and a left-traveling b-wave meet on a cell in S_i , the h-wave is newly generated at the next step on the cell in which they meet and, one step later, the h-wave begins to follow the left-traveling b-wave at unit speed. The h-wave stops the reflection of the b-wave at the left end of S_i , and then both waves disappear. A left-traveling a-wave and b-wave generated on S_j ($j \geq i + 1$) always move with at least one cell interleaved between them. This enables the h-wave to be generated and transmitted toward the left. The left end cell C_1 has a counter that operates in modulo 2 and checks the parity of each step in order to detect every multiple of two. C_1 outputs a 1-bit signal to its left link if and only if it has not received any 1-bit signal from its right link at its previous step t . Then, t is exactly prime.

In this way, the initially partitioned array given above can generate the prime sequence in real-time. In the next lemma, we show that the partition in the cellular space can be set up in time.

[Lemma 2] For any $i \geq 3$, the partition S_i can be set up in time. Precisely, the right end cell C_k of the i -th partition S_i , where $k = (i + 1)^2$, can be marked at step $t = 3i^2 + 2i + 3$.

(Proof) For the purpose of setting up the partitions in the cellular space in time, we introduce seven new waves: *c-wave*, *d-wave*, *e-wave*, *f-wave*, *g-wave*, *u-wave* and *v-wave*. The direction in which these waves propagate and their propagation speeds are as follows:

Wave	Direction	Speed
c-wave	right	1/2
d-wave	right	1/1
e-wave	right	1/3
f-wave	left	1/1
g-wave	right	1/1
u-wave	stays at a cell for only four steps and acts as a delay	0
v-wave	left	1/1

The u-wave always stays at a cell for only four steps and acts as a delay for the generation of v-wave. Both operations for setting up the partitions and the generation and propagation of a- and b-waves described in the previous lemma are performed in parallel on the array. We make a small modification to the a-wave. The first reciprocation of the a-wave in each S_i ($i \geq 3$) is replaced by the c-, d-, e-, f-, u- and v-waves.

For any $i \geq 3$, we assume that:

- **A₁**: The c- and d-waves in S_{i-1} arrive simultaneously at cell C_k , where $k = i^2$, and prints “w” as a right partition mark of S_{i-1} on the cell at time $t = 3i^2 - 4i + 4$. The marking itself acts as a left partition of S_i .
- **A₂**: The g-wave in S_{i-1} hits the right end of S_{i-1} at time $t = 3i^2 - 2i$ and generates the c-wave in S_i .
- **A₃**: The a-wave in S_{i-1} hits the right end of S_{i-1} at time $t = 3i^2$ and generates the d- and e-waves for S_i at time $t = 3i^2 + 2$.

Then, the following statements can be obtained.

- **S₁**: The c- and d-waves in S_i arrive at the right end cell of S_i , C_k , where $k = (i + 1)^2$, and the marker “w” is printed on the cell C_k at time $t = 3(i + 1)^2 - 4(i + 1) + 4 = 3i^2 + 2i + 3$.
- **S₂**: At time $t = 3i^2 + 2i$, the both c'- and d-waves meet on the cell C_k , where $k = i^2 + 2i - 2$. Let Δ_1, Δ_2 be any integer such that $0 \leq \Delta_1 \leq 4i + 3$, $0 \leq \Delta_2 \leq 2i + 1$, respectively. At time $t = 3i^2 - 2i + \Delta_1$, the 1/2-speed c-wave stays at $C_{i^2 + \lfloor \Delta_1/2 \rfloor}$. On the other hand, the 1/1-speed d-wave stays at $C_{i^2 + \Delta_2}$ at step $t = 3i^2 + 2 + \Delta_2$. Therefore, the distance between cells where the both c- and d-waves are staying at step $t = 3i^2 + 2i$ is 2. In order to make those two waves have contact at this step, we introduce a new wave. The c-wave being propagated generates at every two steps a left-traveling 1/1-speed tentacle-like wave that will disappear one step later after its emergence. The signal is referred to as the *c'-wave*. The c'-wave acts as a look-ahead signal that notifies the d-wave of its timing of f-wave generation. At time $t = 3i^2 + 2i$, the both c'- and d-waves meet on the cell C_k , where $k = i^2 + 2i - 2$. When the two

waves meets, the f-wave is generated there simultaneously.

- **S₃**: The left-traveling 1/1-speed f-wave, generated at $C_{i^2 + 2i - 2}$ at step $t = 3i^2 + 2i$, meets the 1/3-speed e-wave on C_ℓ , $\ell = i^2 + i - 1$ at step $t = 3i^2 + 3i - 1$. This statement can be easily proved by a simple calculation. The g- and u-waves will be generated simultaneously on the cell in which the f- and e-waves meet.
- **S₄**: The u-wave remains at C_ℓ , $\ell = i^2 + i - 1$ for only four steps, and then generates a v-wave at step $t = 3i^2 + 3i + 3$.
- **S₅**: The g-wave hits the right end of S_i at step $t = 3(i + 1)^2 - 2(i + 1) = 3i^2 + 4i + 1$ and generates the c-wave for S_{i+1} .
- **S₆**: The v-wave hits the left end of S_i and generates the first a-wave in S_i at step $t = 3i^2 + 4i + 2$. The first a-wave hits the right end of S_i at step $t = 3(i + 1)^2 = 3i^2 + 6i + 3$ and initiates the generation of d- and e-waves at step $t = 3(i + 1)^2 + 2 = 3i^2 + 6i + 5$. The a-wave for the 2nd, 3rd, ... reciprocations in S_i are generated at the same timing, as is shown in Fig. 4.

Thus, the partition setting for the right end of S_i ($i \geq 3$) is made inductively. The first two markings on cells S_1 and S_2 at times $t = 7$ and 18, respectively, and the generation of c-, d- and e-waves at the left end of S_2 at steps 8 and 14 are realized in terms of finite state descriptions. Thus, we can set up those entire partitions inductively in time.

In addition to Lemma 2, the generation of a- and b-waves and a number of additional signals in S_1 and S_2 , as shown in Fig. 5, are also implemented in terms of finite state descriptions. Figure 5 is our final time-space diagram for the real-time prime generation algorithm. We have implemented the algorithm on a computer. Each cell has 34 internal states and 71 transition rules. The transition rule set is given in Table 1. We have tested the validity of the rule set from $t = 0$ to $t = 20000$ steps. In Fig. 6, we show a number of snapshots of the configuration from $t = 0$ to 50. The readers can see that the first fifteen primes can be generated in real-time by the left end cell. Based on Lemmas 1 and 2, we obtain the following theorem.

[Theorem 3] A prime sequence can be generated by a $CA_{1\text{-bit}}$ in real-time.

4 Conclusions

A sequence generation problem on a special restricted class of cellular automata having 1-bit inter-cell communications ($CA_{1\text{-bit}}$) has been studied. Several state-efficient real-time sequence generation algorithms for non-regular sequences have been proposed.

