

















# Formulating cellular automata

Cellular automata:

$$\mathbf{z}_{t+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_t)$$
 for each t

- No inputs (although in practice inputs may be used)
- All variables in **z** are classified (although scalars are sometimes used)
- ${}^{\bullet}\,f$  is a function ('transition rule') of a direct neighbourhood and the cell itself only
- The change from t to t + 1 is not a function of time

What is f?













#### Life, also known as Game of Life

Transition rules (i.e. f)

 ${\scriptstyle \bullet}$  a dead cell with exactly three alive neighbors becomes a live cell (birth)

a live cell with two or three neighbors stays alive (survival)
in all other cases, a cell dies or remains dead



### LIFE in PCRaster

initial
Alive=uniform(1) gt 0.5;

dynamic -NumberOfAliveNeighbors=windowtotal(scalar(Alive),3)scalar(Alive); Alive=(NumberOfAliveNeighbors eq 3) or ((NumberOfAliveNeighbors eq 2) and Alive);

### Demo

game of life

edit tot.mod display ini.map aguila -2 alive000.001+1000 test0000.001+1000



## Self-organization

Internal organization of a system increases in complexity without being guided by an input variable

Emergent properties

Example: game of life

Many examples from ecology, sedimentology, land degradation

