Emergence of Neo-conservatism in a Globalized World: Social Transformation

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Background

- July 2007, AKP won the general elections with 47% of the votes and became one-party government
- February 2008, AKP made a constitutional amendment to uphold the ban against turban in universities
- March 2008, an eminent scholar Serif Mardin raised the issue of neighborhood pressure.
- Huge discussion on whether Turkey will lose its secular character

Motivation

- Is there a basis for this FEAR?
- Why are the universities so important?
- Castles of secularism
- Future politics

What we do?

- Conditional decision making (Threshold model)
- Heterogenous agents
- Heterogenous spaces

Related Literature

- Rolfe (2004): Conditional decision making and first-movers
- Kuran (2001): Ethnification
- Lustick and Midownick (2004): Identities
- Deire and Jager (2006): Consumption patterns

How we differ

- Turban, as a symbol/code in a cultural context
- Neighborhood pressure
- Conformism
- Signaling
- Ostracism
- Parameters from surveys

Conditional Decision Making

- Each agent has k choices.
- Each agent can be one of s types.
- A type implies a certain set of weights for conditional decision making.

Conditional Decision Making

For a typical agent i that is of type r the probability of choosing t is given as

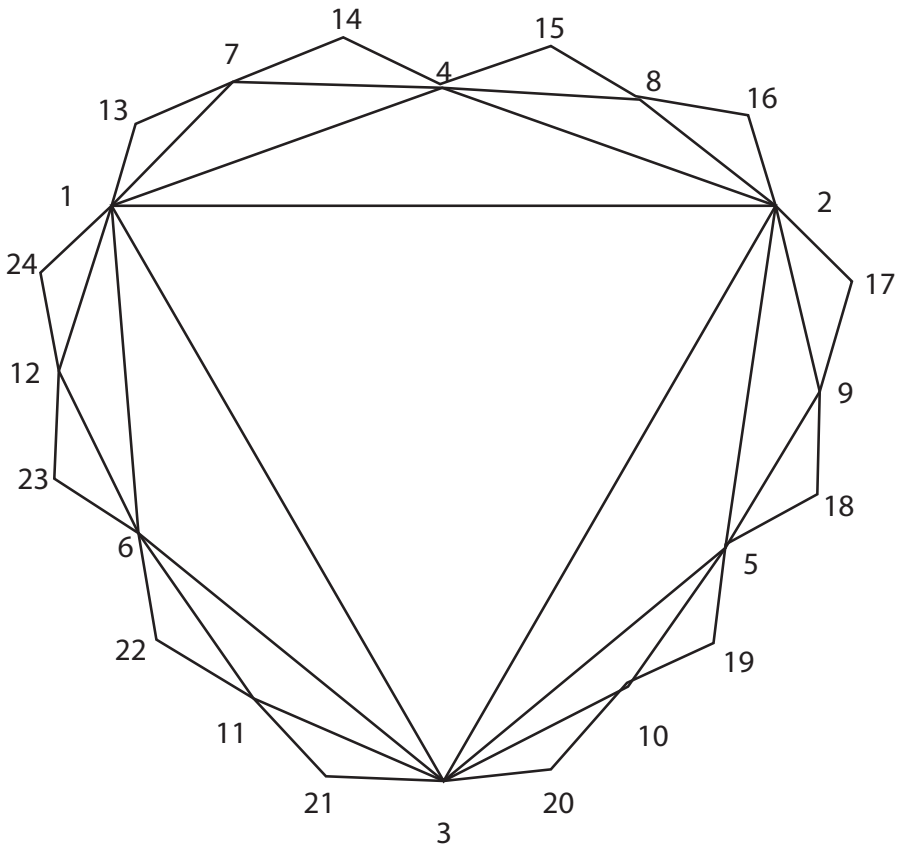
$$Pr_i[d = t] = \alpha_{i,t} + \beta_{i,t}\frac{n_i[d = t]}{n_i} + \gamma_{i,t}\frac{1}{1 + e^{a - b\frac{n_i[d=t]}{n_i}}} + \phi_{i,t}1[t]$$

where n_i is the number of links i has (number of neighbours), $n_i[d = t]$ is the number of neighbours of i with decision t and $1[t]$ is an indicator function such that

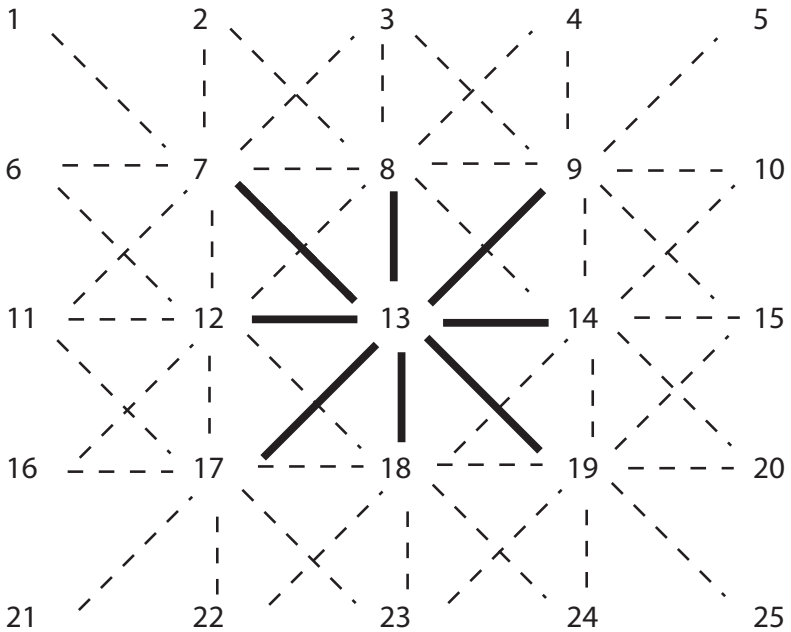
$$1[t] = 1, \text{if } \frac{n_i[d = t]}{n_i} > \textit{Threshold}$$

$$1[t] = 0, \text{otherwise}$$

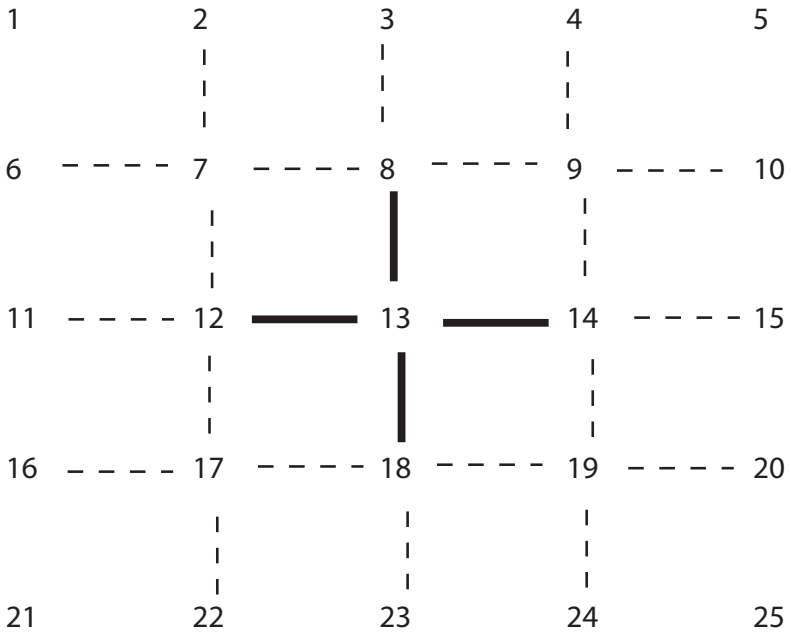
Neighborhood Type: Small World Implementation



Neighborhood Type:Moore



Neighborhood Type: Von Neumann



Experiment 1 Threshold Model

- One type of agent, with equal weights to neighbour effects: $\forall i, \alpha_i = \gamma_i = \phi_i = 0, \beta_1 = 1$
- Three possible choices (trends)
- 10000 agents.
- Moore Neighborhood.
- Equal Random Initialization.
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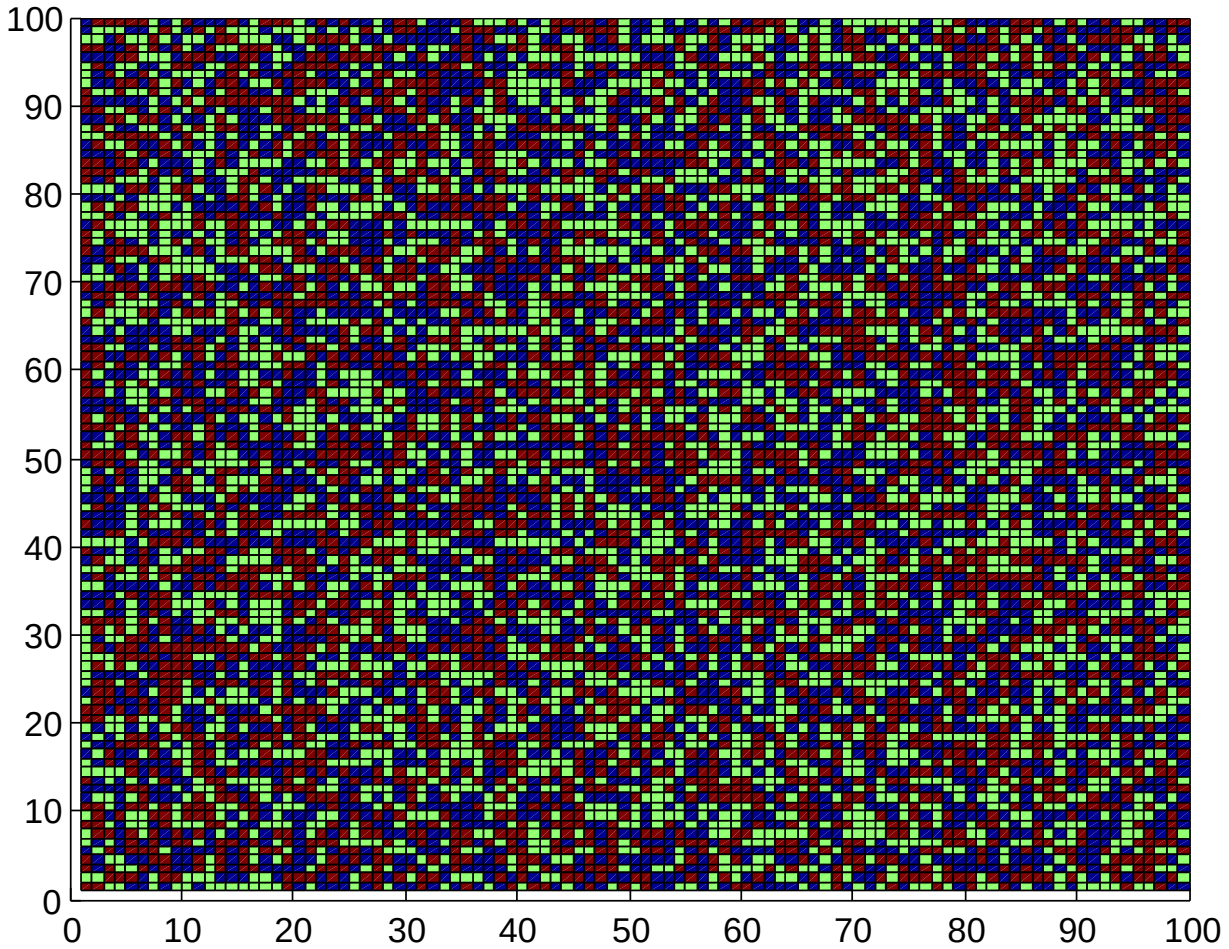
Period 1



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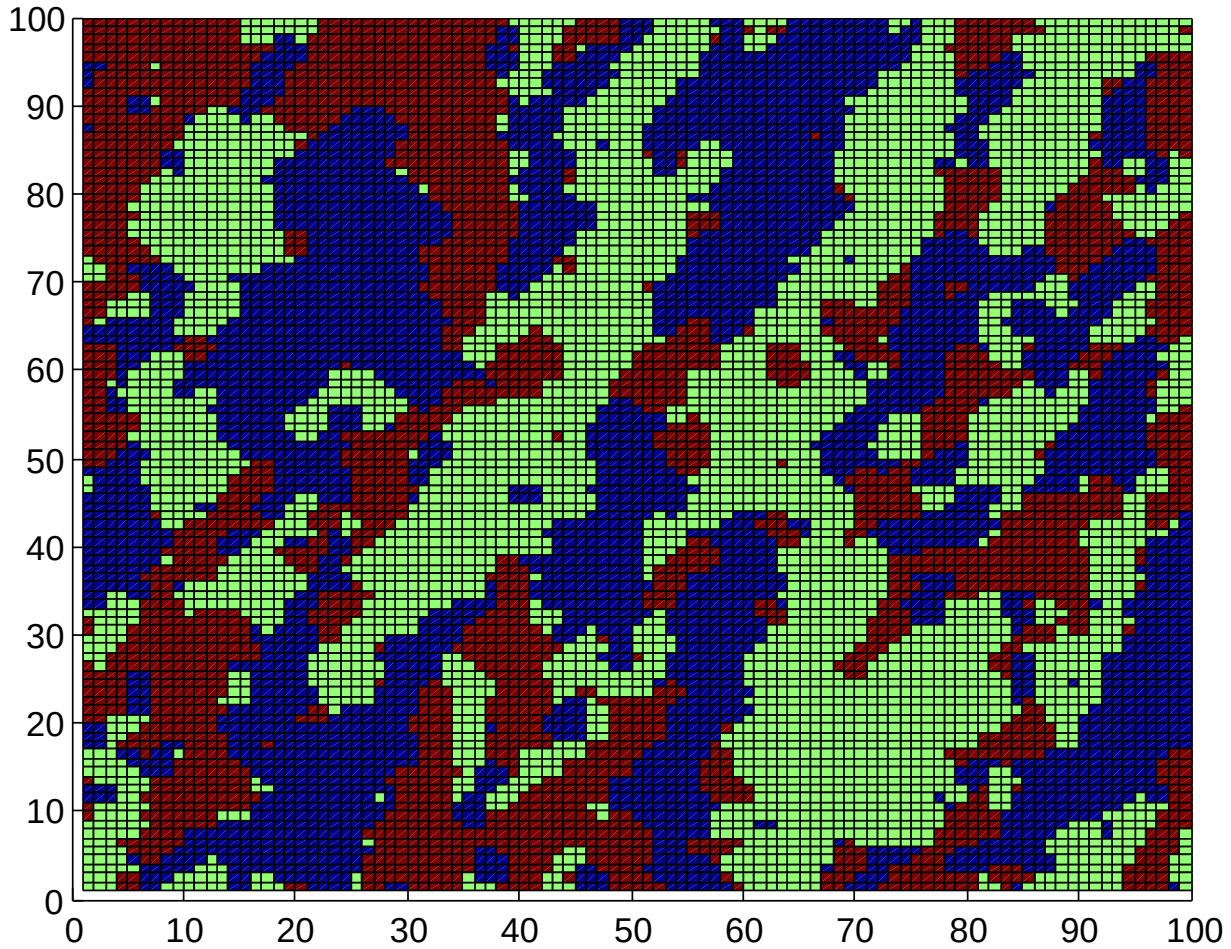
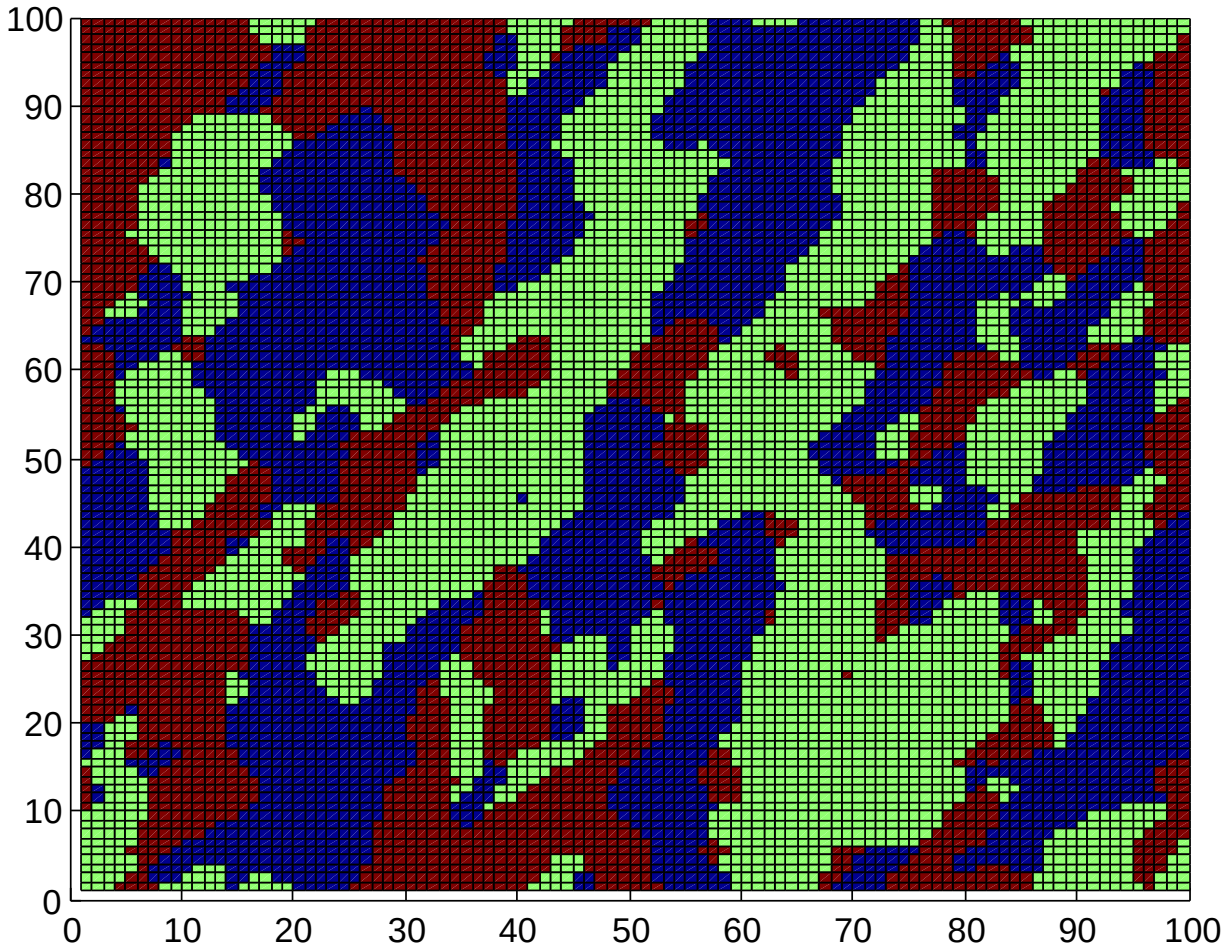


Period 3



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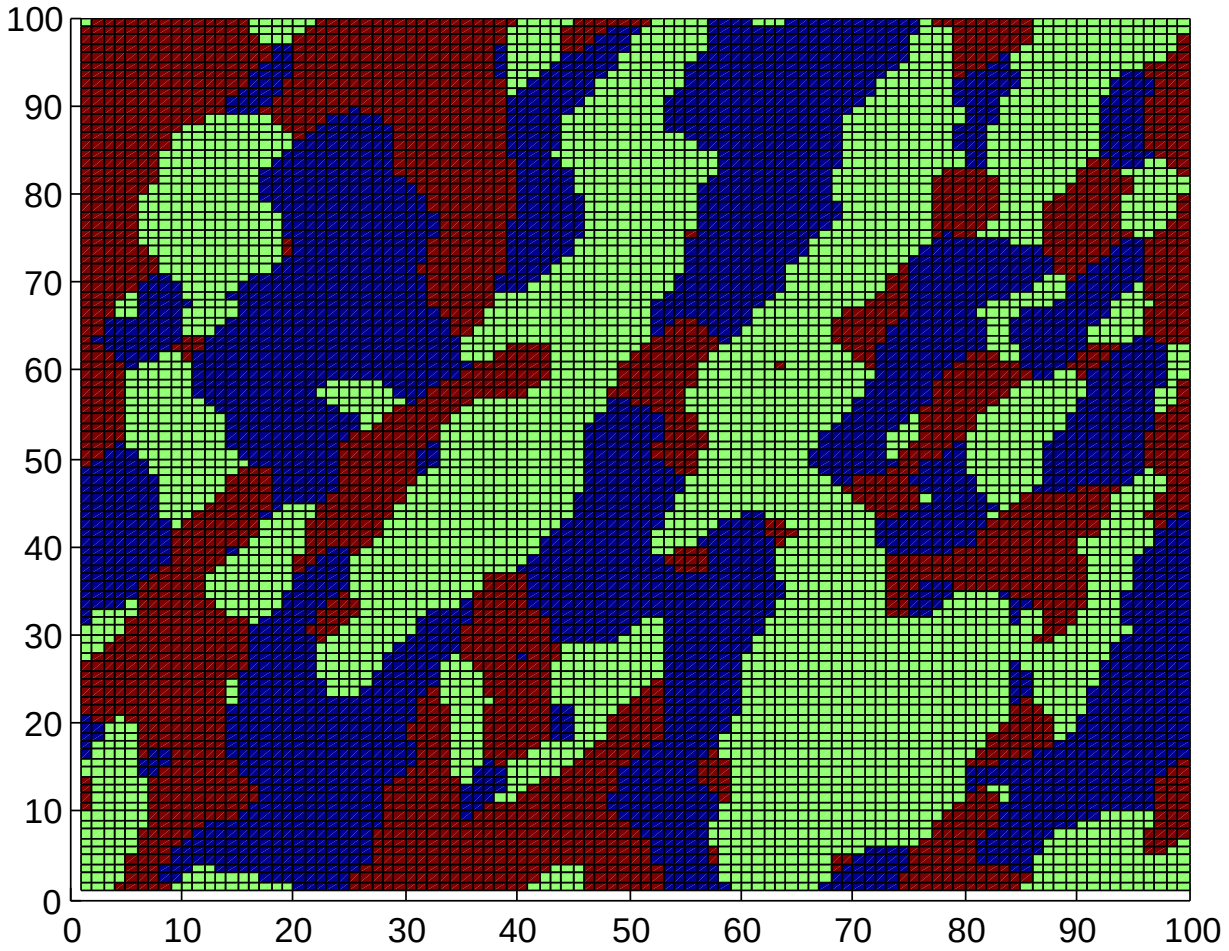

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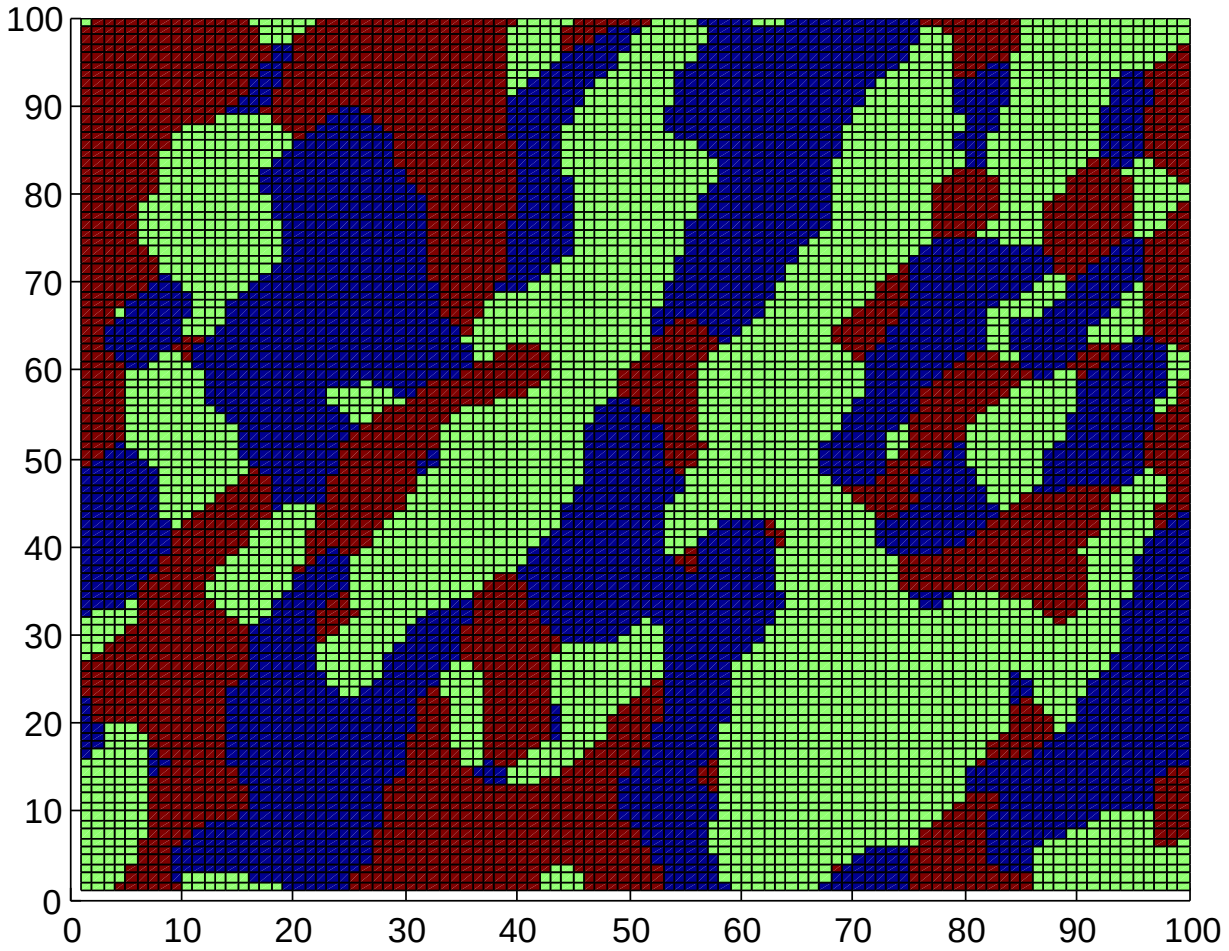

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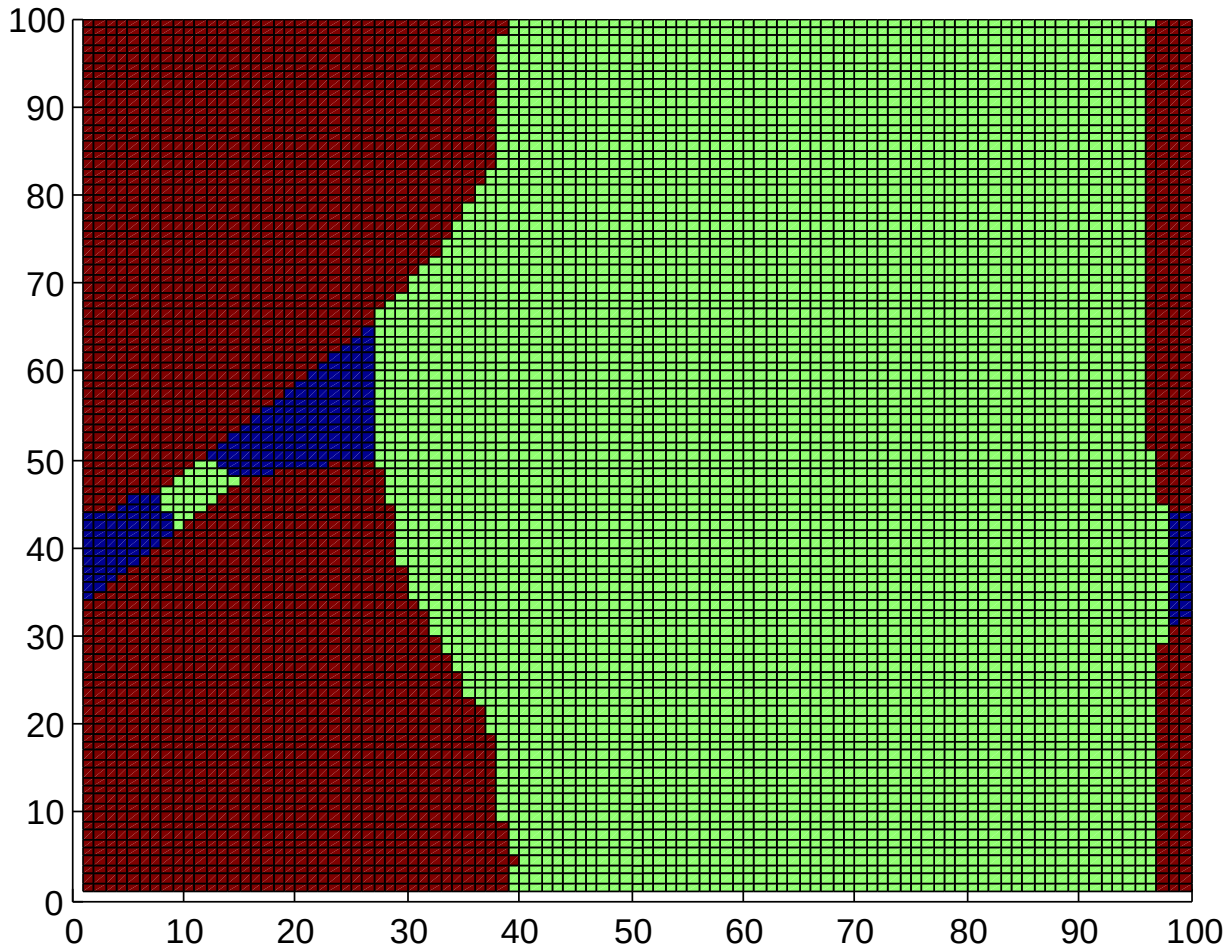

Experiment 1

- One type of agent, with equal weights to neighbour effects: $\forall i, \alpha_i = \gamma_i = \phi_i = 0, \beta_1 = 1$
- 10000 agents.
- Moore Neighborhood.
- Equal Random Initialization.
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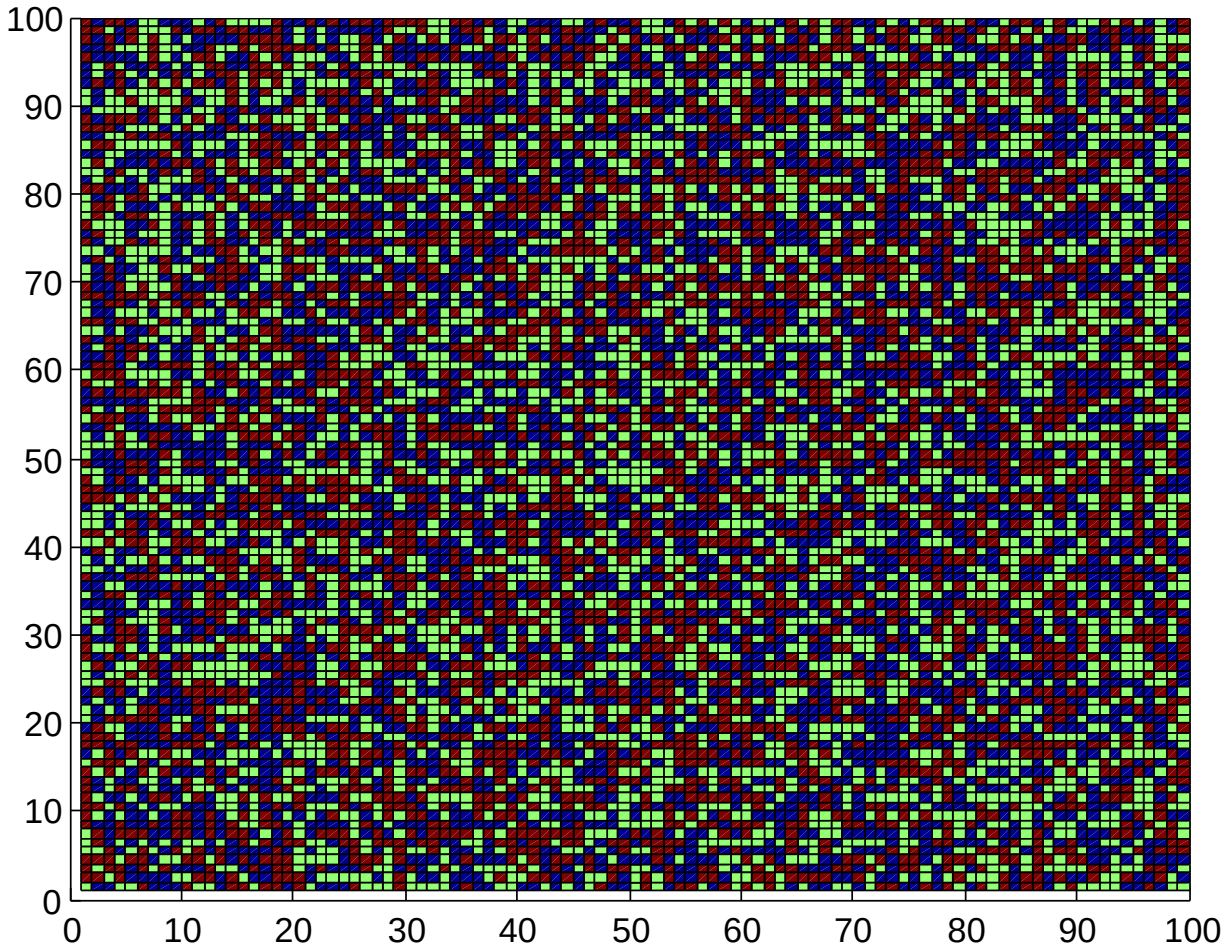
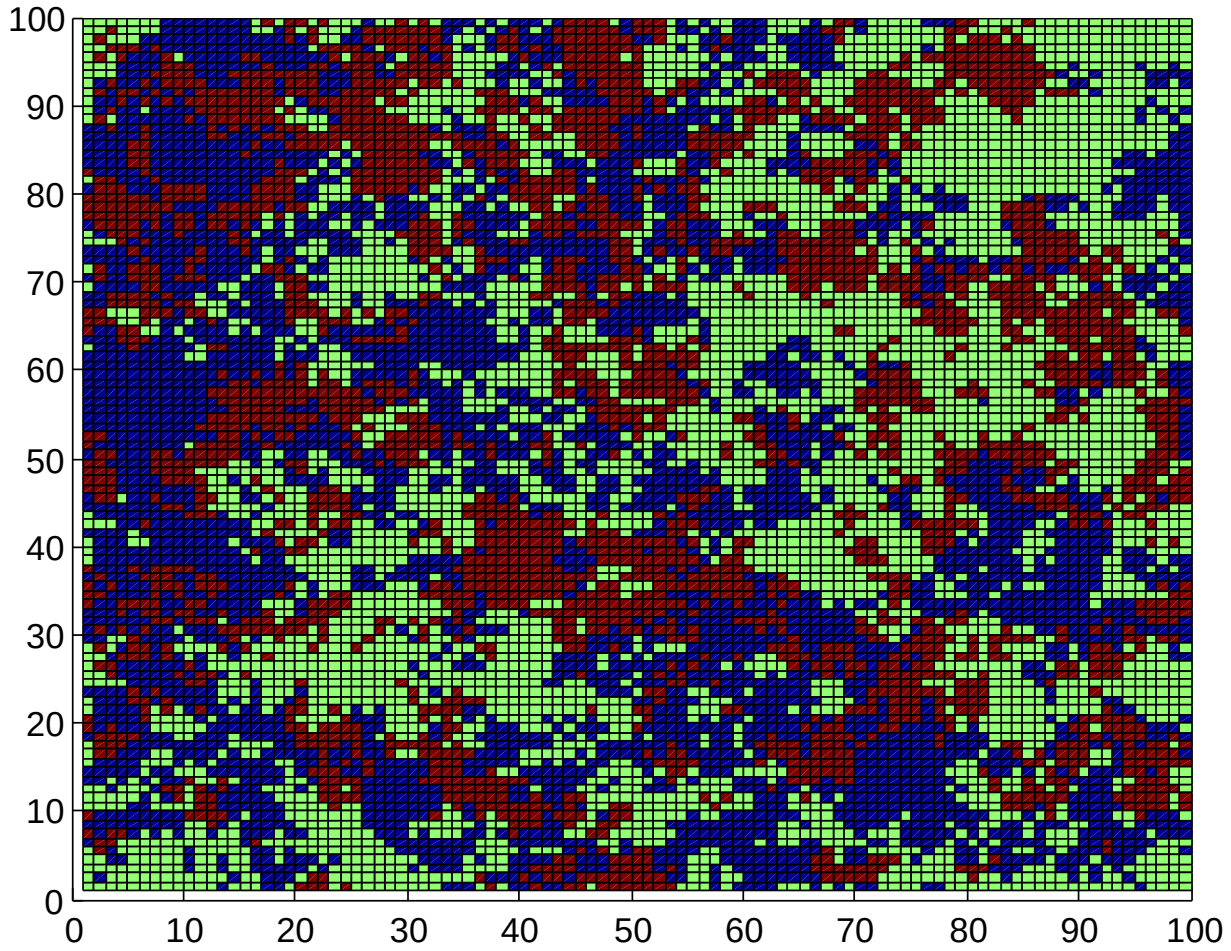
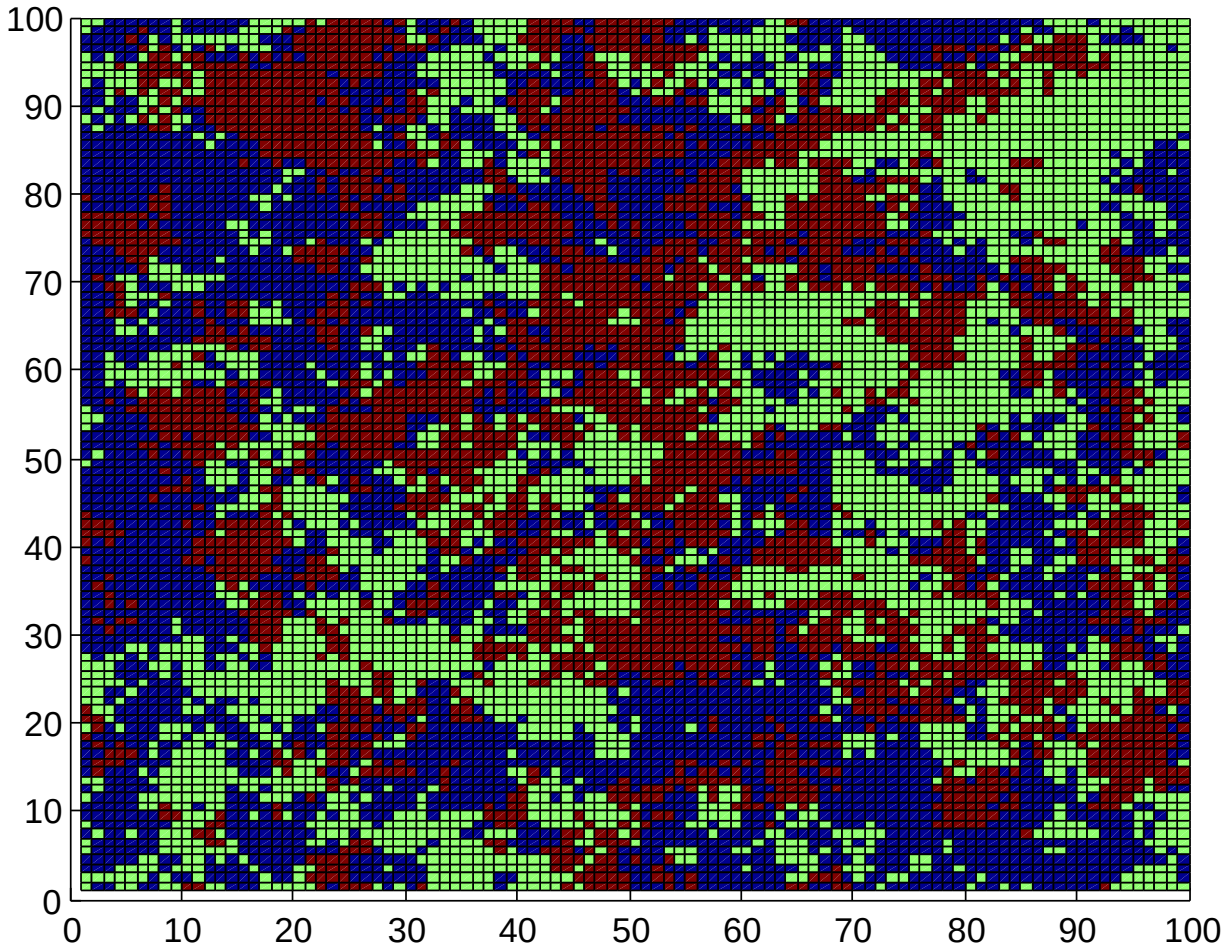


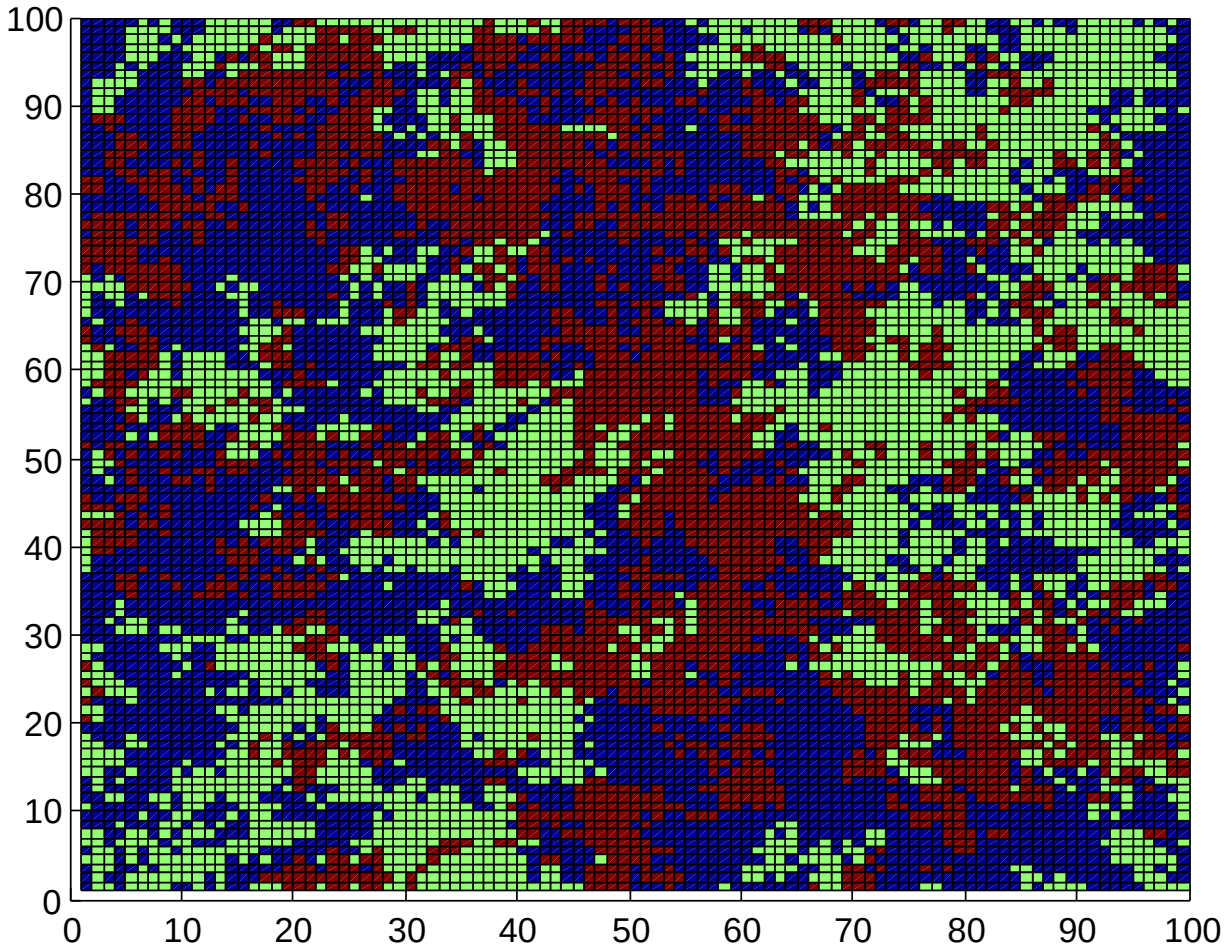
Period 10



Period 20



Period 30



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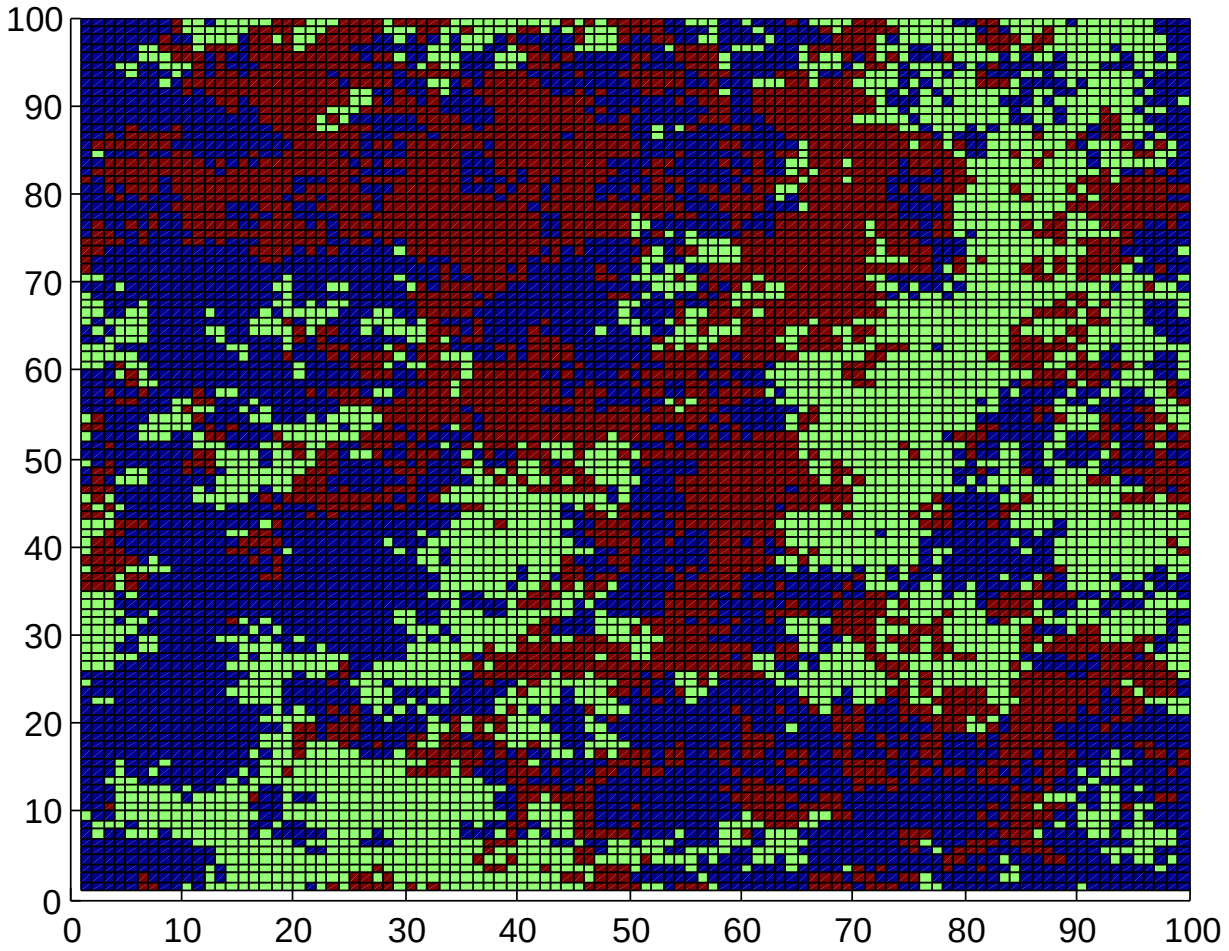

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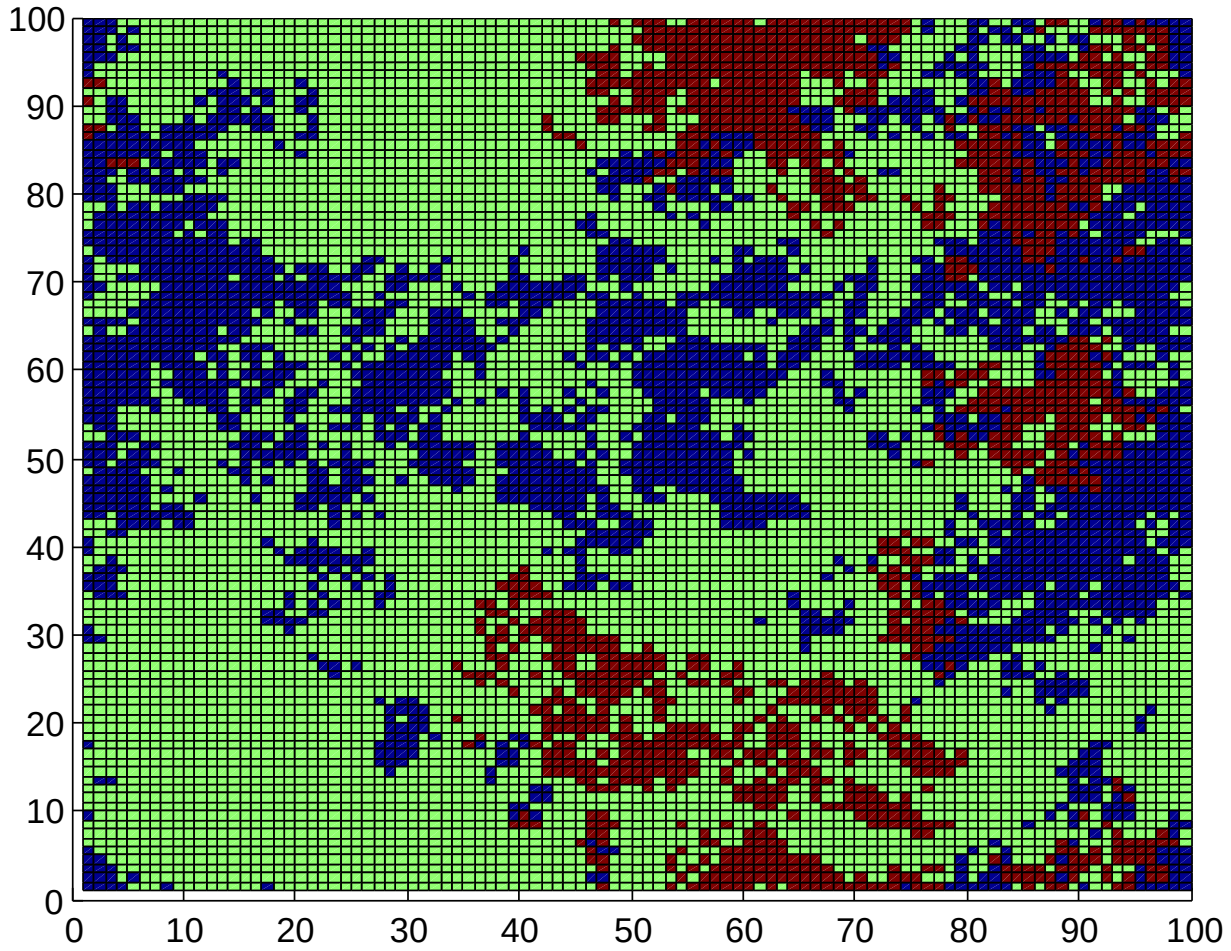

Experiment 3

- One type of agent, with equal weights to neighbour effects: $\forall i, \alpha_i = \gamma_i = \phi_i = 0, \beta_1 = 1$
- 10000 agents.
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- Equal Random Initialization.
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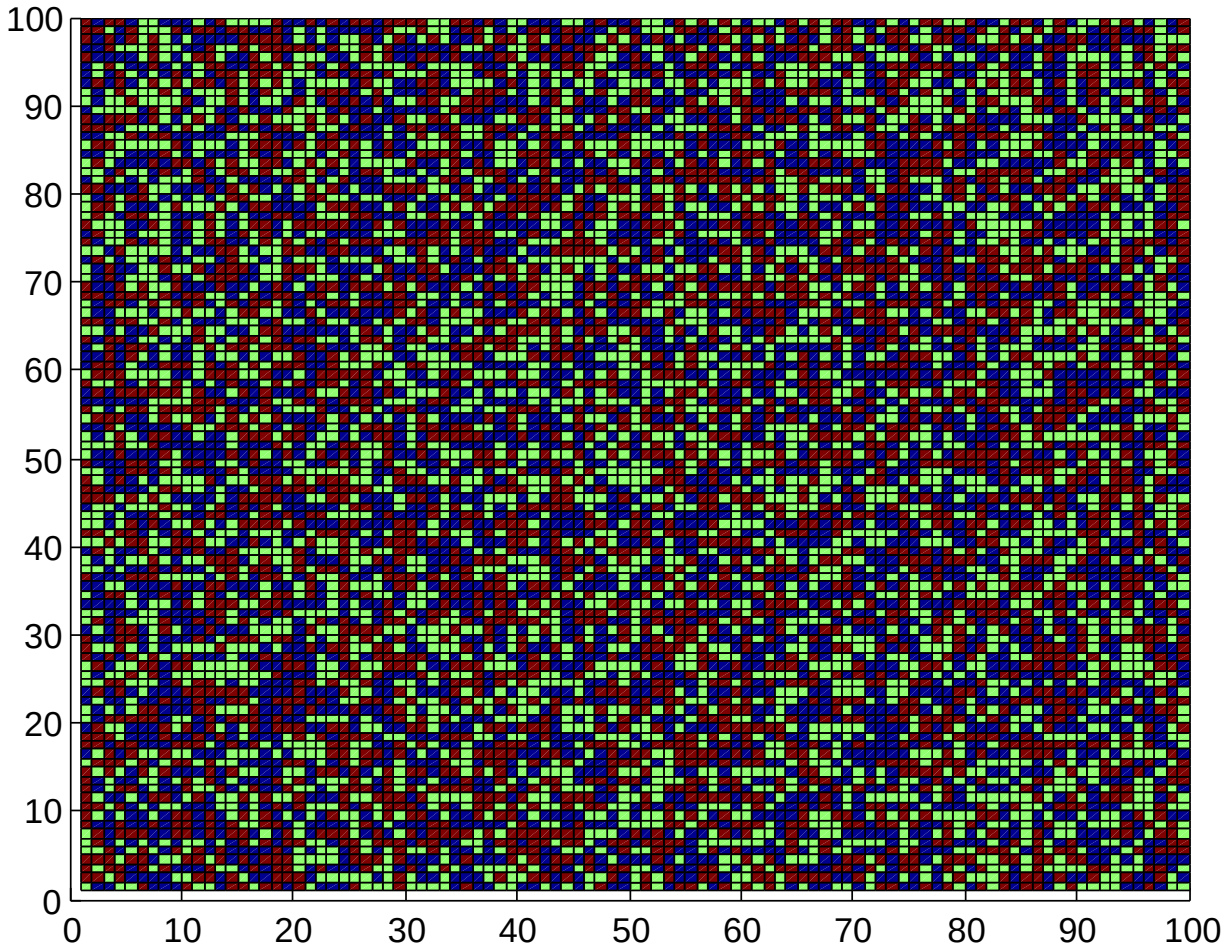

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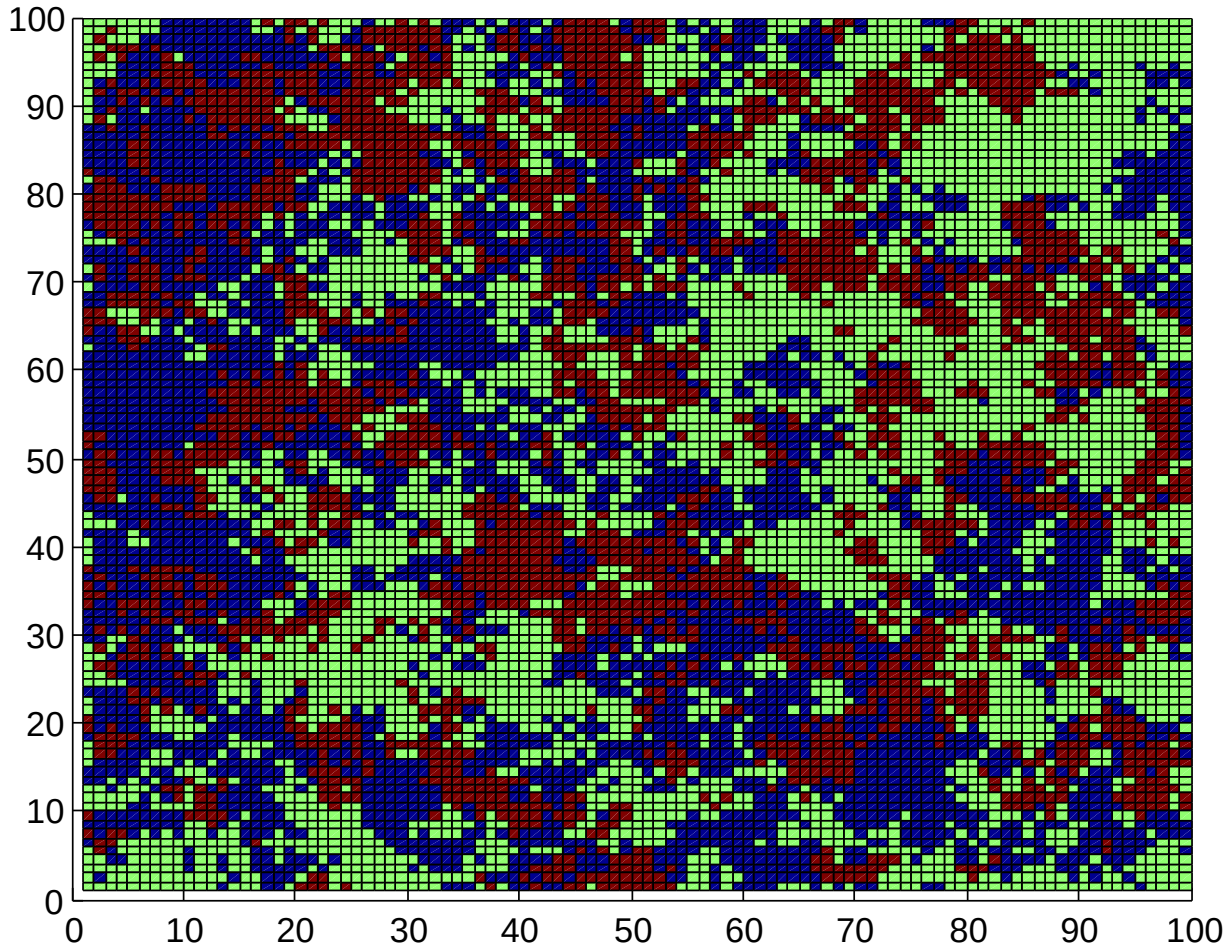

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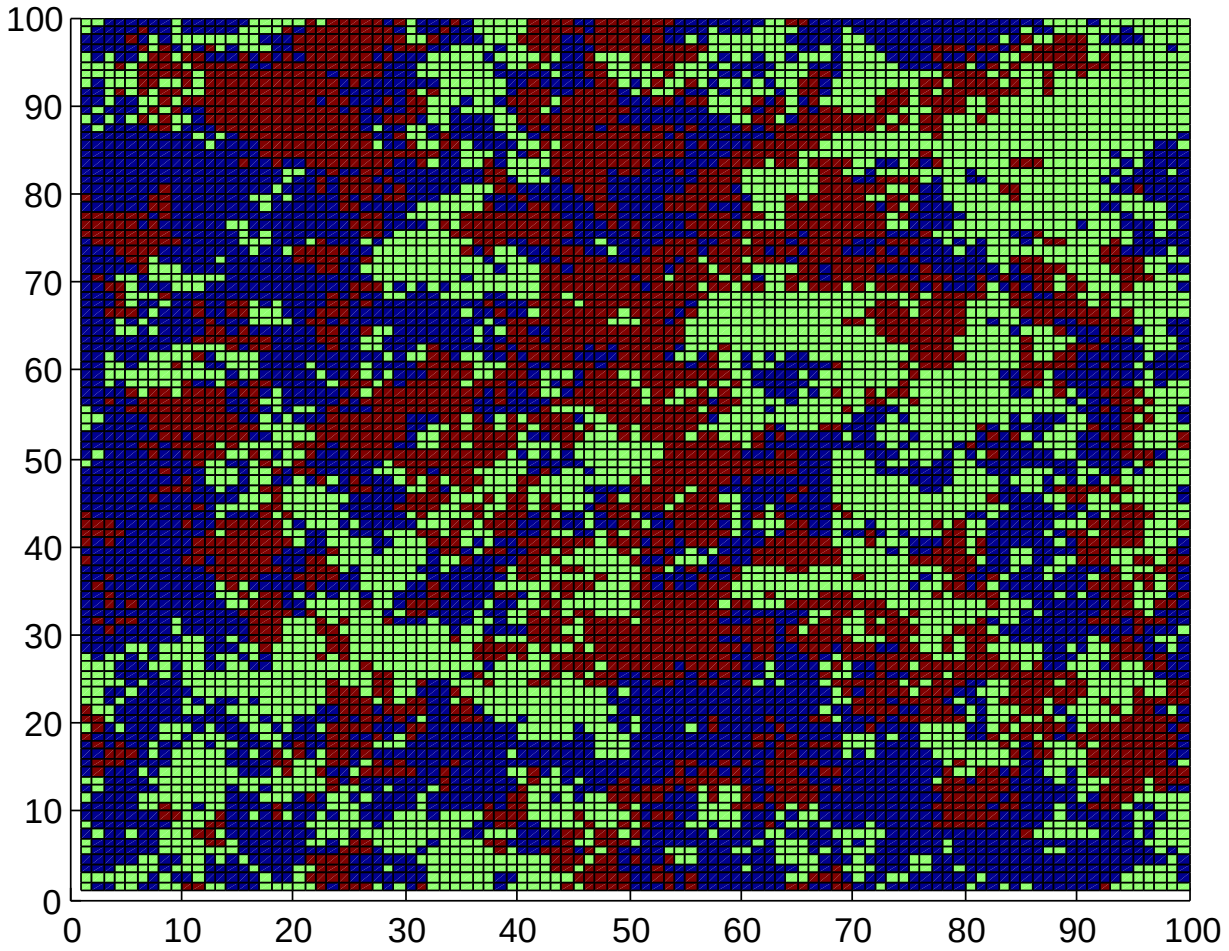

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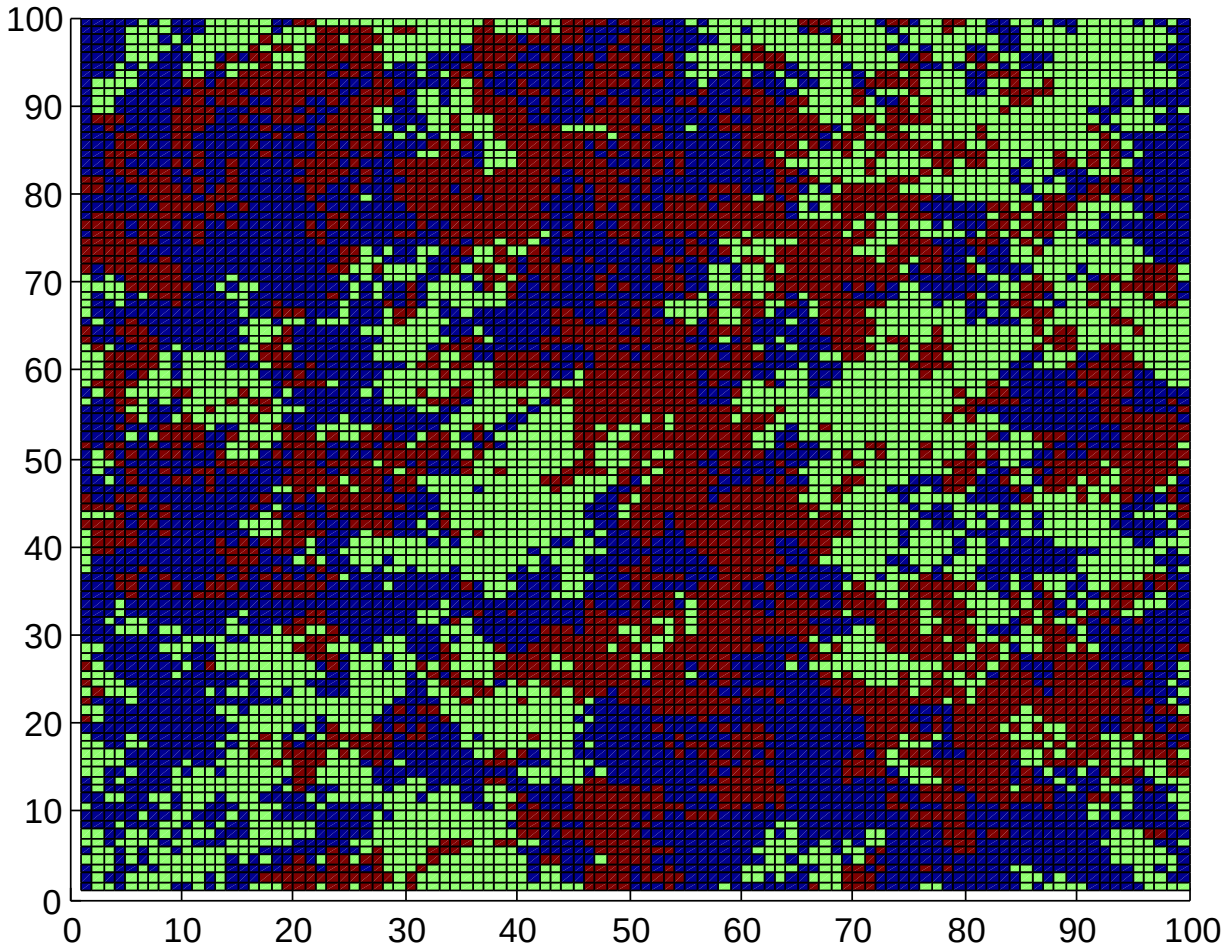

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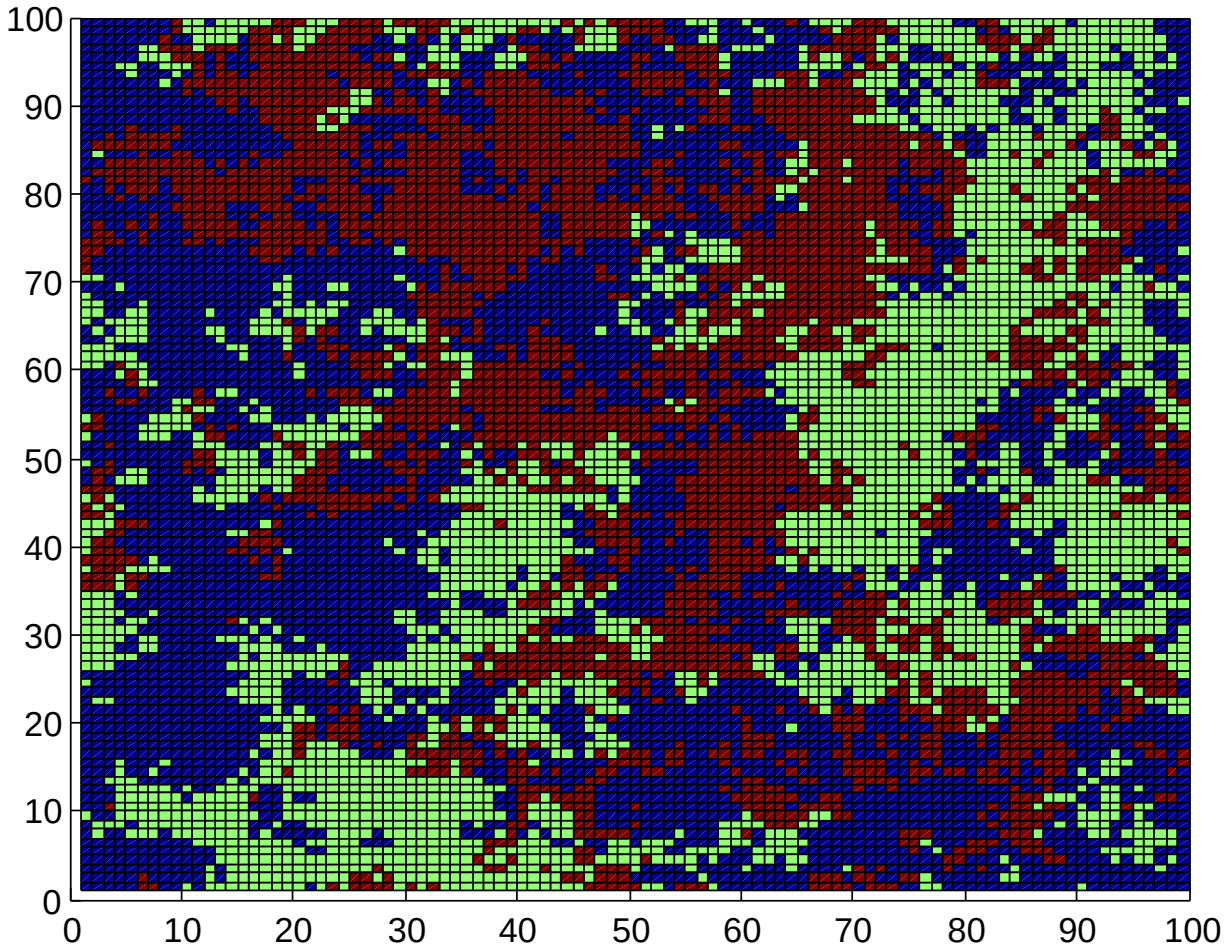

Period 10000