

Final Project - Conway's Game of Life

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Parallel and Distributed Programming

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this project is to do an MPI implement of John Conway's Game of Life. The implementation will be tested on three different grids and running on up to 16 processors and the code will be written c/c++ language

2 Problem Description

The Game of Life is a Cellular Automaton (CA) model, that is visualized as cells on a square grid, developed by John Conway in the 1970s. The cells have two states, dead or alive, also each cell has 8 neighbors (Moore neighborhood) and the rules are:

- Any live cell with fewer than two live neighbours dies, as if caused by under population.
- Any live cell with two or three live neighbors lives on to the next generation.
- Any live cell with more than three live neighbors dies, as if by overpopulation.
- Any dead cell with exactly three live neighbors becomes a live cell, as if by reproduction.

3 Solution Method

The parallelization of the game will be done using message passing interface (MPI) for c/c++ programming language. The solution uses an odd-even send and receive scheme with standard blocking MPI commands such as MPI_Send and MPI_Recv. The scheme is set up so that even processes send, then receive and odd processes receive first, then send. The load on the processors is sliced up row-wise on the grid.

4 Experiments

4.1 Results

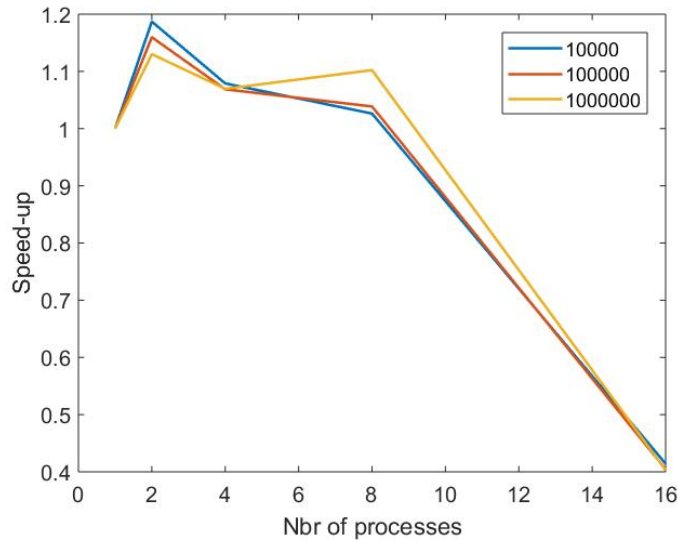


Figure 1: Plot of the Speed-up for 16x16 grid. Run in the computer lab 2510.

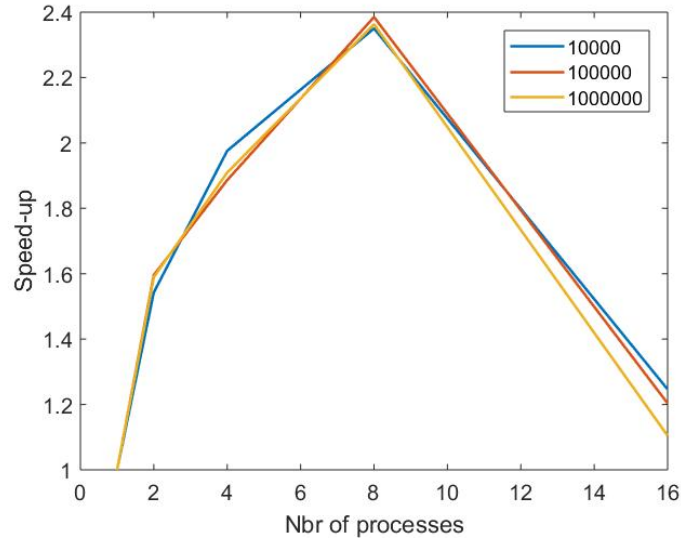


Figure 2: Plot of the Speed-up for 32x32 grid. Run in the computer lab 2510.

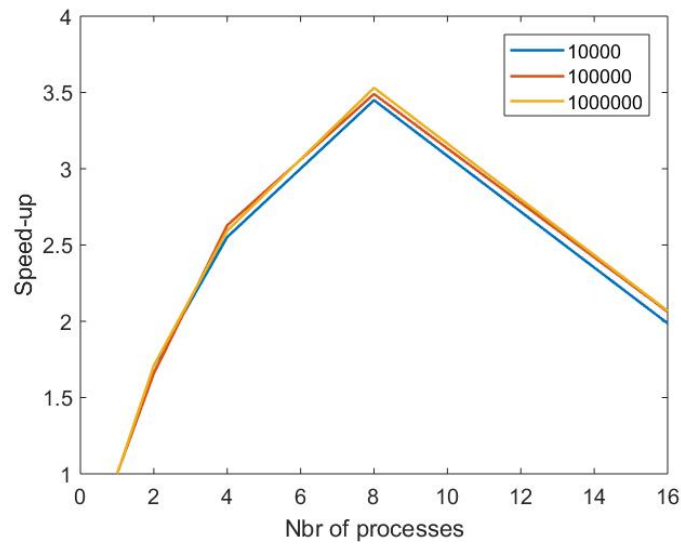


Figure 3: Plot of the Speed-up for 48x48 grid. Run in the computer lab 2510.

Figure 1 shows the speed-up of the Game of Life on a 16x16 grid for 10000, 100000 and 1000000 iterations. It also shows that the speed-up is largest for 2 processors, peaking at 1.2x and after 9 processors the speed-up becomes lower than 1. In figure 2 and Figure 3, the speed-up is shown for a 32x32 and 48x48 grid respectively. For both of the grids in Figure 2 and 3 the speed-up peaks at 9 processors. For the 32x32 grid the maximum speed-up is about 2.4x and for the 48x48 grid the speed-up is about 3.5. Figure 4,

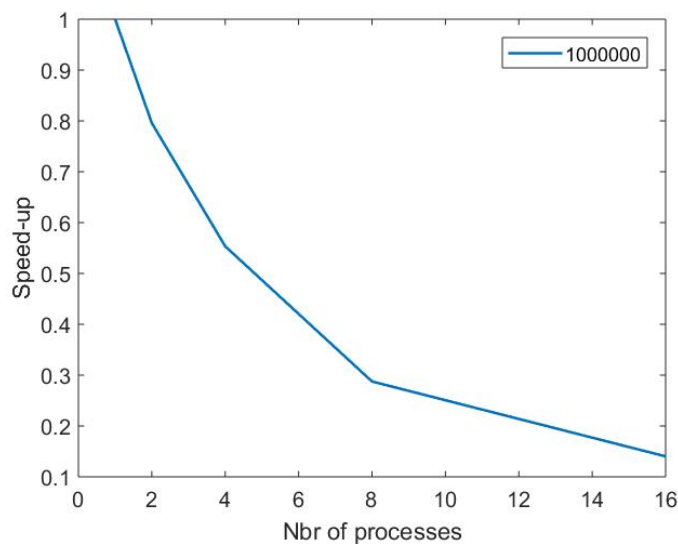


Figure 4: Plot of the Speed-up for 48x48 grid. Run on Milou cluster.

shows the speed-up when the 48x48 is run on the Milou-cluster for 100000 iterations and it shows a speed-up less than 1 throughout all of the number of processes.

4.2 Test of Solution

The graphic test output of the glider test is shown in the Appendix and it shows how the glider progresses from the initial state to state 5.

Figure 4 shows what the glider pattern progression should look like.

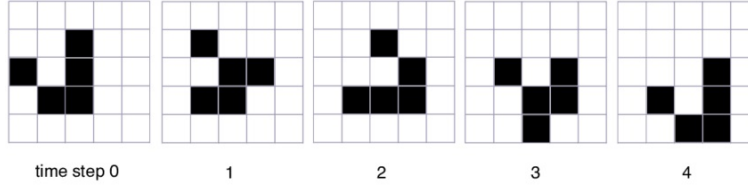


Figure 5: Diagram of the glider pattern that emerges from the rules of Game of Life.

5 Conclusions

From the results we can see that there is essentially no difference between the number of iterations in terms of speed-up. We can also conclude that the speed-up is largest for the 48x48 grid at 3.5x. It seems from Figure 2 and 3 that 9 processesors is optimal for this problem. Although while Figure 1 shows that 2 processors is optimal the 16x16 grid is too small too say much about the problem in general. The test on the Milou-cluster shows no speed-up at all, in fact it gets slower and slower the more processors are used.

From the graphical test we can observe a similar glider pattern compared to the one in the provided diagram, although the glider pattern is shifted in the test case it still exhibits the same characteristics as the diagram in Figure 5. That is, we can conclude that the solution behaves according to the rules of GoL and therefore the solution is correct based on this test.

6 Code

[illegible]


```

        local[j] = global_grid[i];
        j++;
    }

    if (nprocs > 1)
    {
        //odd-even send and recieve scheme
        if (my_rank%2 == 0)
        //even
        {
            for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            {
                first_in[i] = local[i + N];
            }

            //Send first row using non-blocking send function
            MPI_Send(&first_in, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank - 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD);

            for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            {
                last_in[i] = local[(N*(N/nprocs)) + i];
            }
            //Send last row
            MPI_Send(&last_in, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank + 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
        }
        else
        //odd
        {
            MPI_Recv(&last_out, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank + 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &stat)
            MPI_Recv(&first_out, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank - 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &stat)
        }
        if (my_rank%2 == 0)
        //even
        {
            MPI_Recv(&last_out, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank + 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &stat)
            MPI_Recv(&first_out, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank - 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &stat)
        }
        else
        //odd
        {
            for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            {
                first_in[i] = local[i + N];
            }
            MPI_Send(&first_in, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank - 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD);

            for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            {
                last_in[i] = local[(N*(N/nprocs))+i];
            }
            MPI_Send(&last_in, N, MPI_INT, mod(my_rank + 1, nprocs), 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
        }

        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        {
            local[i] = first_out[i];
        }
    }

```

```

        local[(N*((N/nprocs)+1))+i] = last_out[i];
    }
}

else
//if nprocs = 1, no sending
{
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    {
        local[i + GRID_SIZE + N] = global_grid[i];
    }
    for (int i = GRID_SIZE; i < GRID_SIZE + N; i++)
    {
        local[i - GRID_SIZE] = global_grid[i - N];
    }
}
//allocate memory for the temporary array
int*temp = (int*)malloc(N*((N/nprocs))*sizeof(int));

//run Game of Life
for (int k = N; k < N*((N/nprocs)+1); k++)
{
    int rows = N*(N/nprocs)+2;
    int r = k/N;
    int c = k%N;

    //we need to know the previous and the next row and column
    int p_row = mod(r - 1, rows); //previous row
    int p_col = mod(c - 1, N);     //previous column
    int n_row = mod(r + 1, rows); //next row
    int n_col = mod(c + 1, N);     //next column

    //count the nbr of neighbors of the current cell
    int sum = local[p_row*N+p_col]+local[p_row*N+c]+local[p_row*N+n_col]+local[r*N+p_col]+local[r*N+c]+local[r*N+n_col];

    //apply the rules of GoL
    if (local[k] == 1) //Alive cell = 1
    {
        if (sum < 2)
        {
            temp[k - N] = 0; //any alive cell with fewer than 2 alive neighbors dies
        }
        else if (sum > 3)
        {
            temp[k - N] = 0; //any alive cell with more than 3 alive neighbors dies
        }
        else
        {
            temp[k - N] = 1; //any dead cell with exactly 3 alive neighbors becomes an alive cell
        }
    }
    else
    {
        if (sum == 3)
        {
            temp[k - N] = 1; //cell lives on
        }
    }
}

```

```

        else
        {
            temp[k - N] = 0;
        }
    }
}

j = 0;
for (int i = my_rank*(GRID_SIZE/nprocs); i < (my_rank + 1)*(GRID_SIZE/nprocs); i++)
{
    global_grid[i] = temp[j];
    j++;
}

//Gather grid back to ROOT
MPI_Gather(temp, N*(N/nprocs), MPI_INT, &global_grid, N*(N/nprocs), MPI_INT, ROOT, MPI_COMM_

// Output the updated grid state
if (my_rank == ROOT)
{
    // printf("\nIteration %d: temp grid:\n", nGen);
    for (j = 0; j < GRID_SIZE; j++)
    {
        if (j%N == 0)
        {
            // printf("\n");
        }
        // printf("%d  ", global_grid[j]);
    }
    //printf("\n");
}
}

if (my_rank == ROOT)
{
    //Print the wall time after the last generation
    printf("Parallel game over after: %lf seconds\n", MPI_Wtime() - T1);
}

free(local); //Free up memory
MPI_Finalize(); //Finalize MPI
}

//Modulus function
int mod (int a, int b)
{
    if(b < 0)
    {
        return mod(a, -b);
    }
    int res = a%b;
    if(res < 0)
    {
        res+=b;
    }
    return res;
}

```

}

7 Appendix

7.1 The command prompt output

```
1 16x16
2
3 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 10000
4 Parallel game over after: 0.050105 seconds
5
6 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 10000
7 Parallel game over after: 0.042209 seconds
8
9 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 10000
10 Parallel game over after: 0.046437 seconds
11
12 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 10000
13 Parallel game over after: 0.048822 seconds
14
15 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 10000
16 Parallel game over after: 0.120987 seconds
17
18 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 100000
19 Parallel game over after: 0.483419 seconds
20
21 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 100000
22 Parallel game over after: 0.416835 seconds
23
24 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 100000
25 Parallel game over after: 0.452337 seconds
26
27 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 100000
28 Parallel game over after: 0.465415 seconds
29
30 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 100000
31 Parallel game over after: 1.195265 seconds
32
33 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 1000000
34 Parallel game over after: 4.836294 seconds
35
36 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 1000000
37 Parallel game over after: 4.279489 seconds
38
39 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 1000000
40 Parallel game over after: 4.521821 seconds
41
42 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 1000000
43 Parallel game over after: 4.387478 seconds
44
45 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 1000000
46 Parallel game over after: 12.004856 seconds
```

```

47
48 32x32
49
50 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 10000
51 Parallel game over after: 0.191365 seconds
52
53 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 10000
54 Parallel game over after: 0.124039 seconds
55
56 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 10000
57 Parallel game over after: 0.096842 seconds
58
59 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 10000
60 Parallel game over after: 0.081426 seconds
61
62 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 10000
63 Parallel game over after: 0.153559 seconds
64
65 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 100000
66 Parallel game over after: 1.912307 seconds
67
68 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 100000
69 Parallel game over after: 1.198324 seconds
70
71 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 100000
72 Parallel game over after: 1.013816 seconds
73
74 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 100000
75 Parallel game over after: 0.801756 seconds
76
77 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 100000
78 Parallel game over after: 1.589086 seconds
79
80 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 1000000
81 Parallel game over after: 19.085168 seconds
82
83 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 1000000
84 Parallel game over after: 12.008185 seconds
85
86 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 1000000
87 Parallel game over after: 9.994661 seconds
88
89 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 1000000
90 Parallel game over after: 8.076402 seconds
91
92 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 1000000
93 Parallel game over after: 17.280834 seconds
94
95 48x48
96
97 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 10000
98 Parallel game over after: 0.507366 seconds
99
100 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 10000
101 Parallel game over after: 0.297148 seconds
102
103 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 10000

```

```
104 Parallel game over after: 0.198794 seconds
105
106 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 10000
107 Parallel game over after: 0.147087 seconds
108
109 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 10000
110 Parallel game over after: 0.255395 seconds
111
112 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 100000
113 Parallel game over after: 5.053464 seconds
114
115 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 100000
116 Parallel game over after: 3.048049 seconds
117
118 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 100000
119 Parallel game over after: 1.922138 seconds
120
121 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 100000
122 Parallel game over after: 1.448096 seconds
123
124 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 100000
125 Parallel game over after: 2.449751 seconds
126
127 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 1 ./gameoflife 1000000
128 Parallel game over after: 50.493111 seconds
129
130 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 2 ./gameoflife 1000000
131 Parallel game over after: 29.532493 seconds
132
133 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 4 ./gameoflife 1000000
134 Parallel game over after: 19.468946 seconds
135
136 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 8 ./gameoflife 1000000
137 Parallel game over after: 14.302638 seconds
138
139 nibe7223@hedenius:~/Documents$ mpirun -np 16 ./gameoflife 1000000
140 Parallel game over after: 24.407654 seconds
```

Output on milou

```
1 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ mpicc -O3 -o gameoflife gameoflife.c -lm -std=c99
2 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ sbatch gameoflife.sh
3 Submitted batch job 12235743
4 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ mpirun -np 1 --map-by core ./gameoflife 1000000
5 Parallel game over after: 46.102480 seconds
6 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ mpirun -np 2 --map-by core ./gameoflife 1000000
7 Parallel game over after: 57.935312 seconds
8 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ mpirun -np 4 --map-by core ./gameoflife 1000000
9 Parallel game over after: 83.313487 seconds
10 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ mpirun -np 8 --map-by core ./gameoflife 1000000
11 Parallel game over after: 160.351554 seconds
12 [ohnahhh@milou1 ~]$ mpirun -np 16 --map-by core ./gameoflife 1000000
13 Parallel game over after: 328.793513 seconds
```

7.2 Output of the glider pattern test

Initial grid

```
1 {0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
2 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
3 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
4 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
5 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
6 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
7 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
8 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
9 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
10 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
11 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
12 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
13 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
14 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
15 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,
16 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0};
```

Iteration 0

```
1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
3 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
4 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
9 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
11 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
12 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
13 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
14 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
15 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
16 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

Iteration 1

1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Iteration 2

1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Iteration 3

1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

References

- [1] <http://faculty.ycp.edu/~dhovemey/spring2011/cs365/lecture/lecture7.html>
- [2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s_Game_of_Life
- [3] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glider_\(Conway%27s_Life\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glider_(Conway%27s_Life))