

# Simple New Algorithms to Solve the FSSP

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# The Problem

- An old “inverse” problem
- Design a FLCA  $(Q, \delta)$  such that from any initial configuration  $Xq^*$

**Xq q q q q q q q q q**  
initial configuration (time 0)

the computation leads to the synchronized corresponding configuration  $F^*$

**FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF**  
synchronized configuration (time  $T(n)$ )

avoiding forbidden configurations as

.....**F**.....

# The problem

- Related to many others:
  - auto-reproductive machines
  - morphogenesis
  - distributed systems (dolev...)
  - graph traversal algorithms (kobayashi...)
- Recent studies suggest to think about a restatement of the problem:
  - reversible FS (morita...)
  - general insensitive FS (yunes...)
  - position insensitive FS (umeo, yunes...)

# History

(quest for minimality)

• Stated by Myhill (1957)

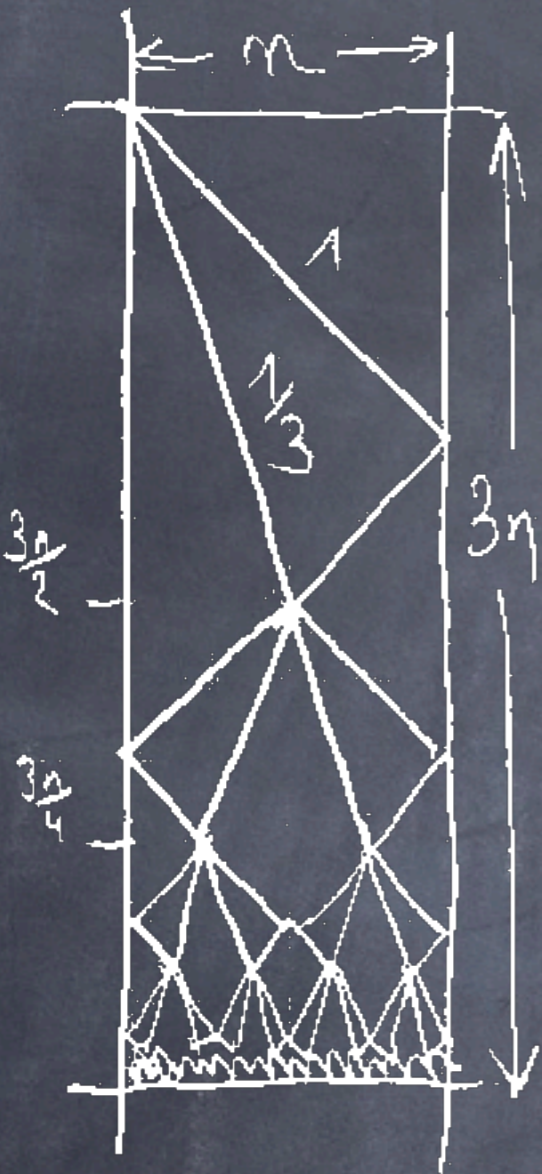
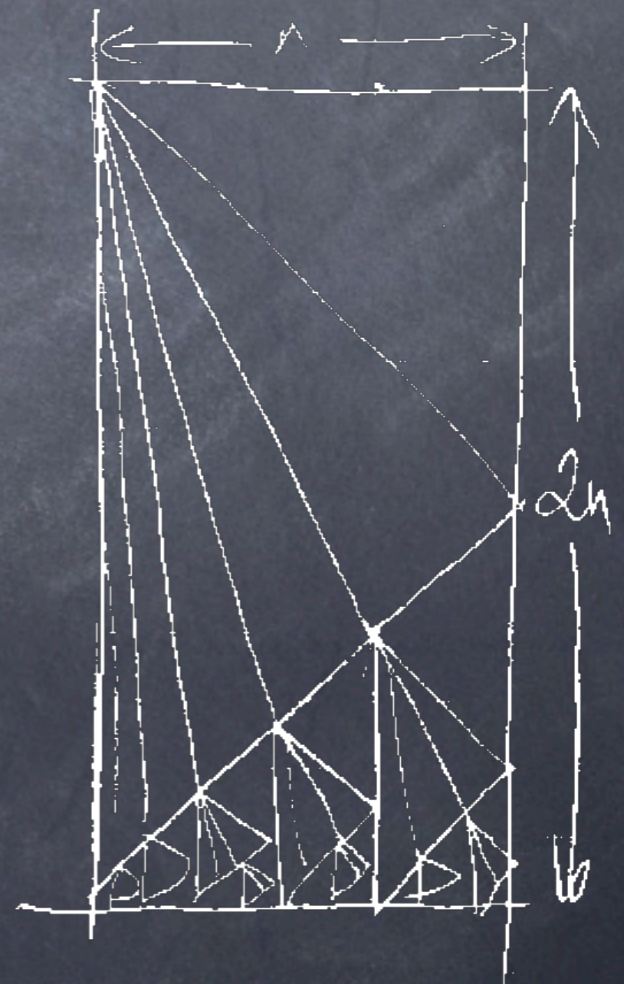
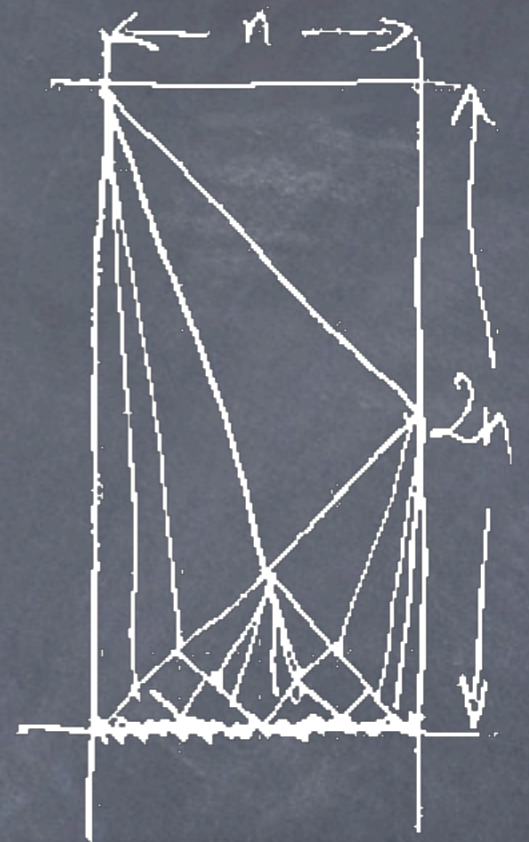
• 1st solution (unpublished) Goto (1962)

• McCarthy-Minsky  
 $T(n)=3n$

• Waksman (1966)  
 $T(n)=2n$

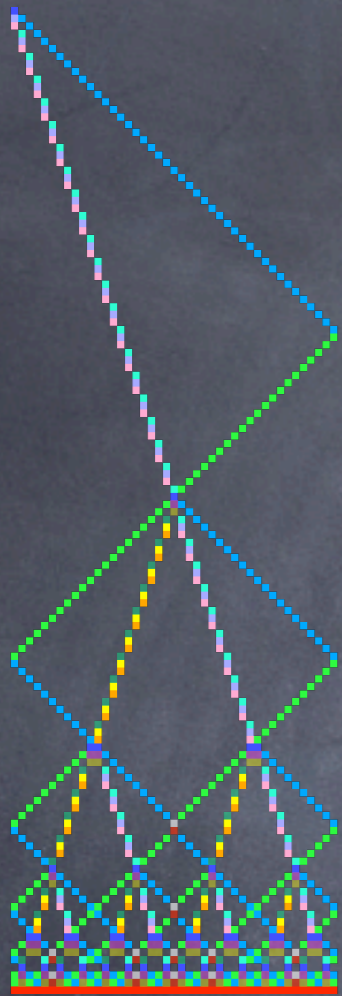
• Balzer (1967)  
 $T(n)=2n$

• Mazoyer (1986)  
 $T(n)=2n$



# History

(quest for minimality)



$|Q|=15$

• Stated by Myhill (1957)

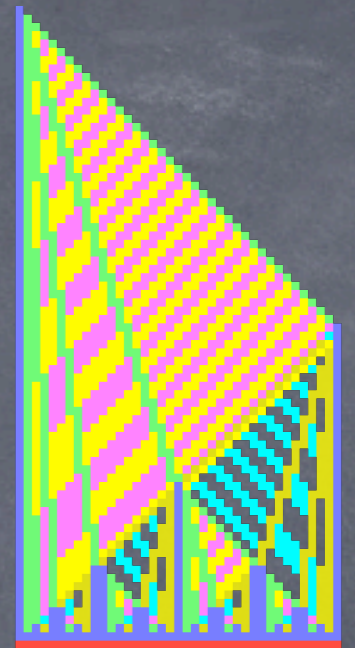
• 1st solution (unpublished) Goto (1962)

• McCarthy-Minsky  
 $T(n)=3n$   $W(n)=n \cdot \log(n)$

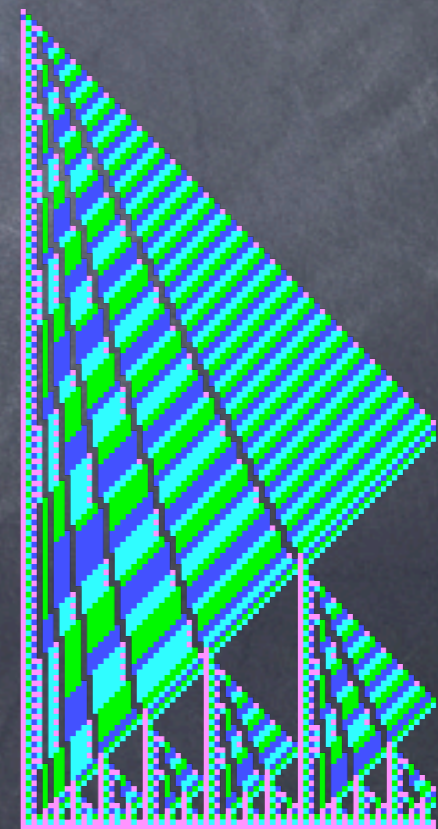
• Waksman (1966)  
 $T(n)=2n$   $|Q|=16$   $W(n)=n^2$

• Balzer (1967)  
 $T(n)=2n$   $|Q|=8$   $W(n)=n^2$

• Mazoyer (1986)  
 $T(n)=2n$   $|Q|=6$   $W(n)=n^2$



$|Q|=8$

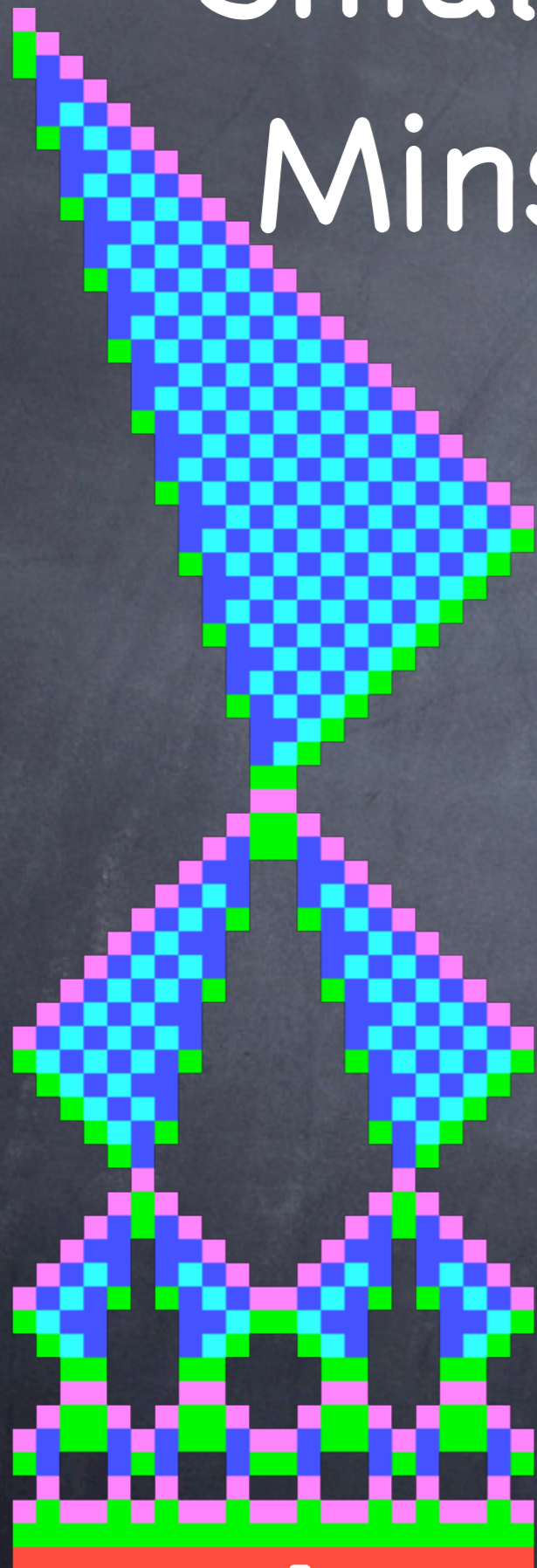


$|Q|=6$

# History (cnt'd)

Author	Year	Q	T(n)	W(n)
Goto	1962	>2000	2n	n.log(n)
Minsky	1967	~20	3n	n.log(n)
Waksman	1966	16	2n	n <sup>2</sup>
Balzer	1967	8	2n	n <sup>2</sup>
Gerken	1986	7	2n	n <sup>2</sup>
Mazoyer	1986	6	2n	n <sup>2</sup>
Yunès	1993	7	3n	n.log(n)
Settle	2002	6	3n	n <sup>2</sup>
Nogushi	2004	8	2n	n <sup>2</sup>
Umeo	2006	6	3n	n <sup>2</sup>
Yunès	2007	6	3n	n.log(n)

# Small solutions using Minsky-McCarthy's scheme

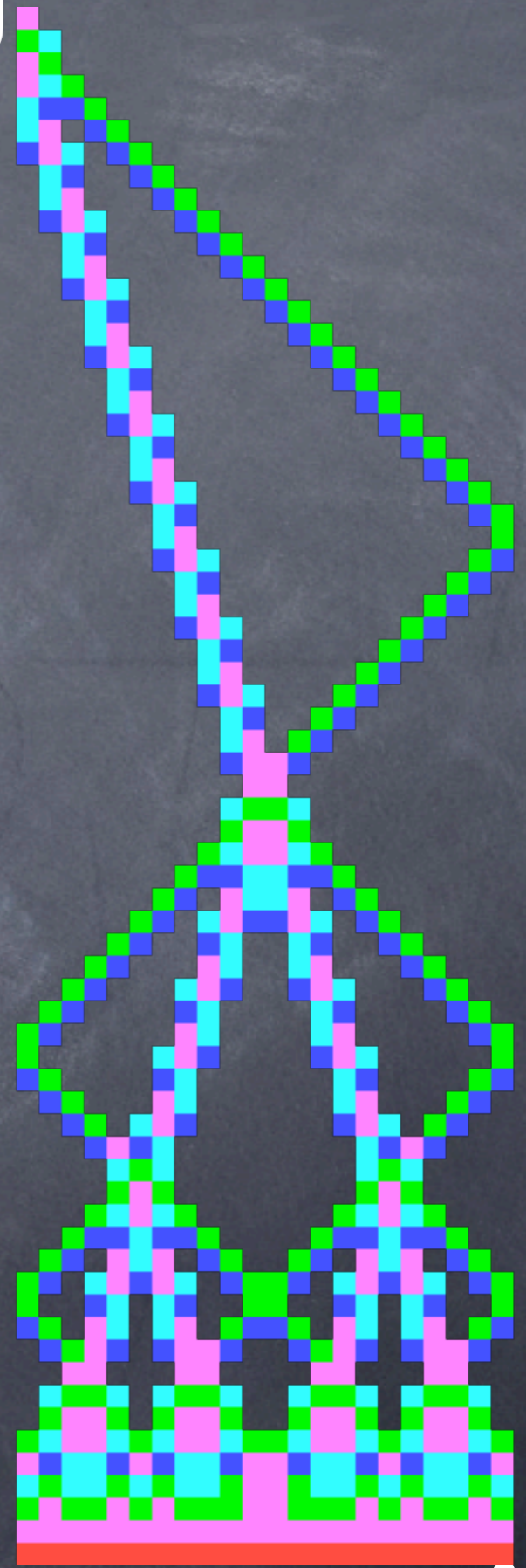


$$W(n) = n^2$$

Umeo [ACRI 2006]

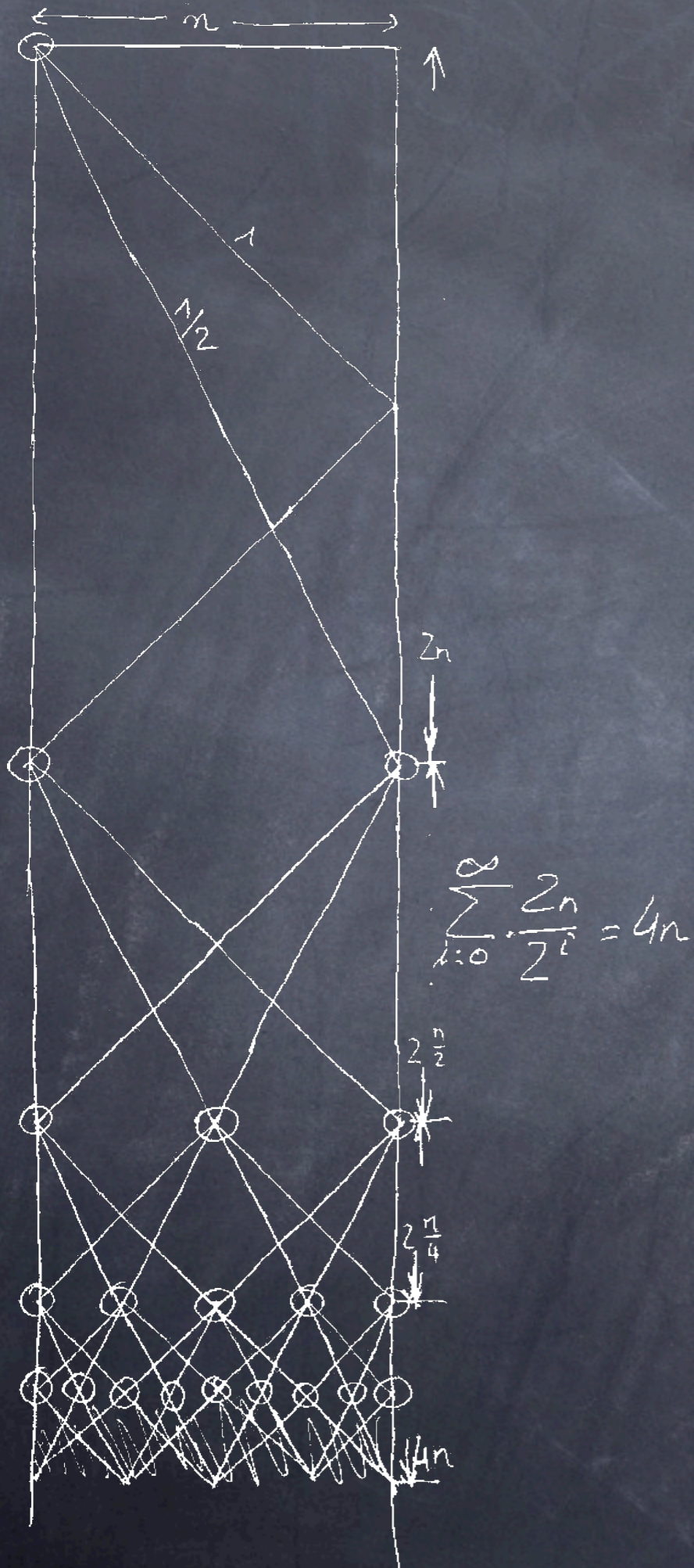
$|Q|=6$   
 $T(n)=3n$   
Symmetric

$$W(n) = n \cdot \log(n)$$



Yunès [RAIRO 2007]

# A New Scheme



with only 2 signals:  
slopes 1 & 2  $\Rightarrow T(n)=4n$

with the same scheme but  
different slopes we have  
slopes  $s$  &  $2s \Rightarrow T(n)=4sn$



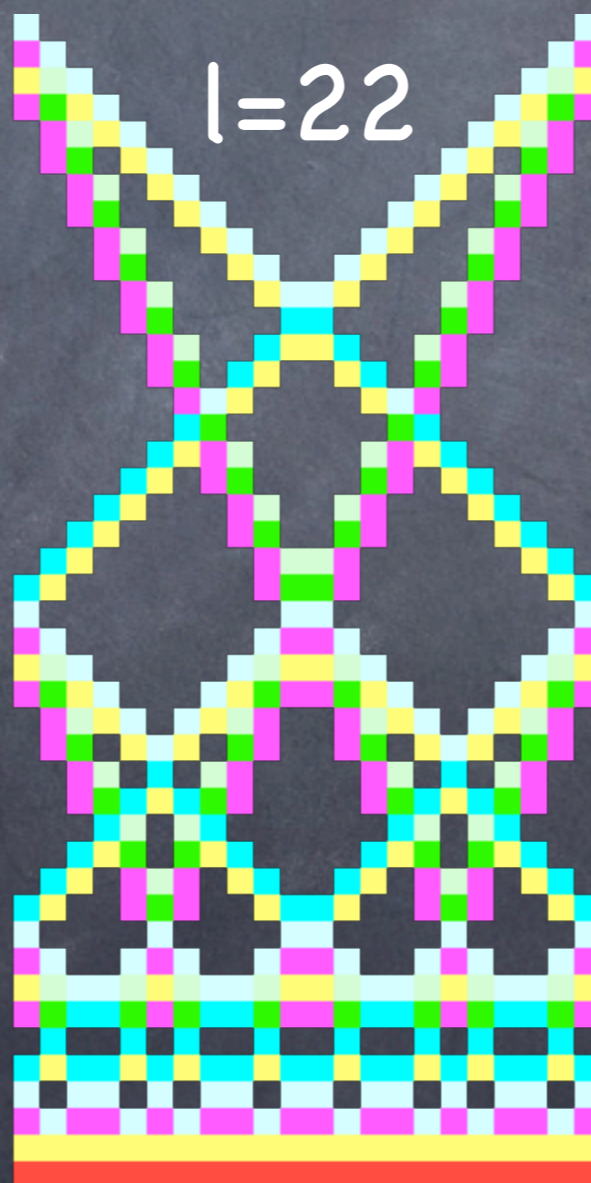
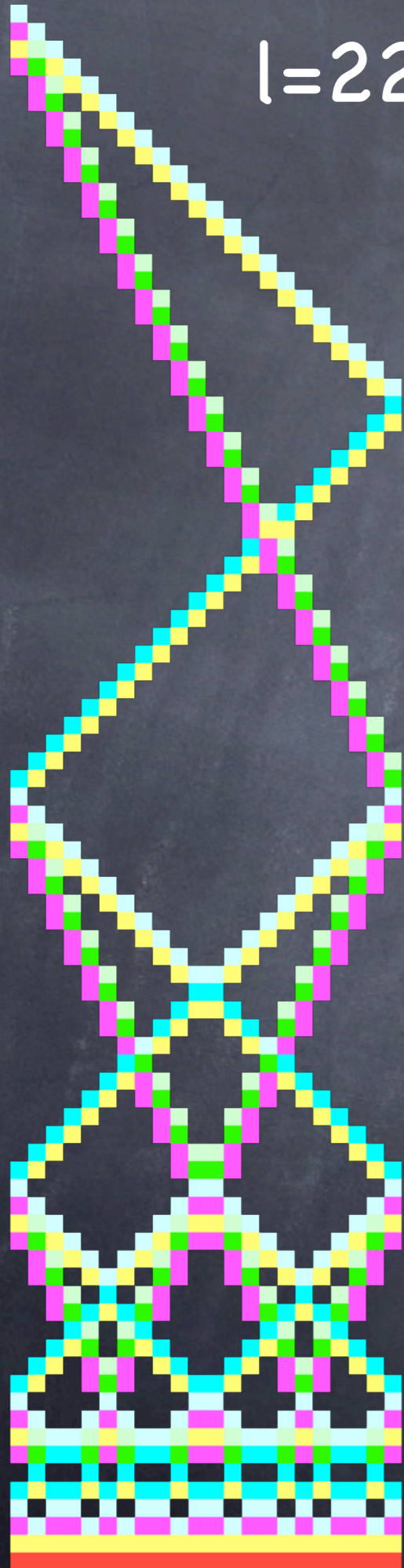
$l=22$

$l=22$

An implementation

$$T(n)=4n \quad |Q|=8$$

Symmetric, 195 rules



# A(nother) new scheme

with 2 signals:

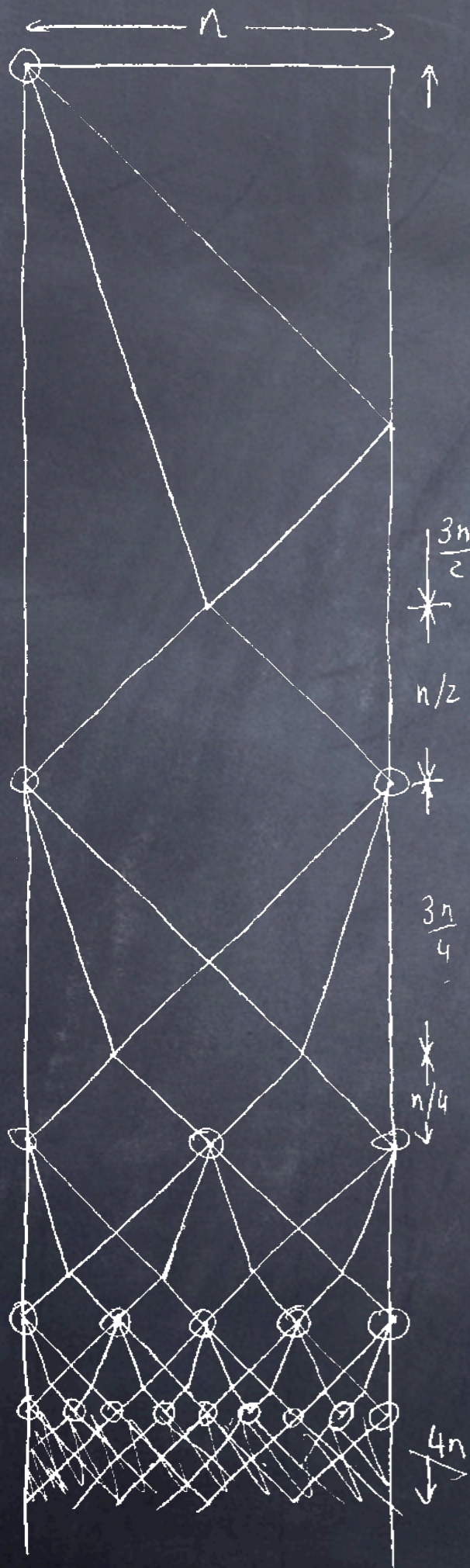
slopes 1 & 3  $\Rightarrow T(n)=4n$

generalizing with three  
signals of slopes 1, 3 & s

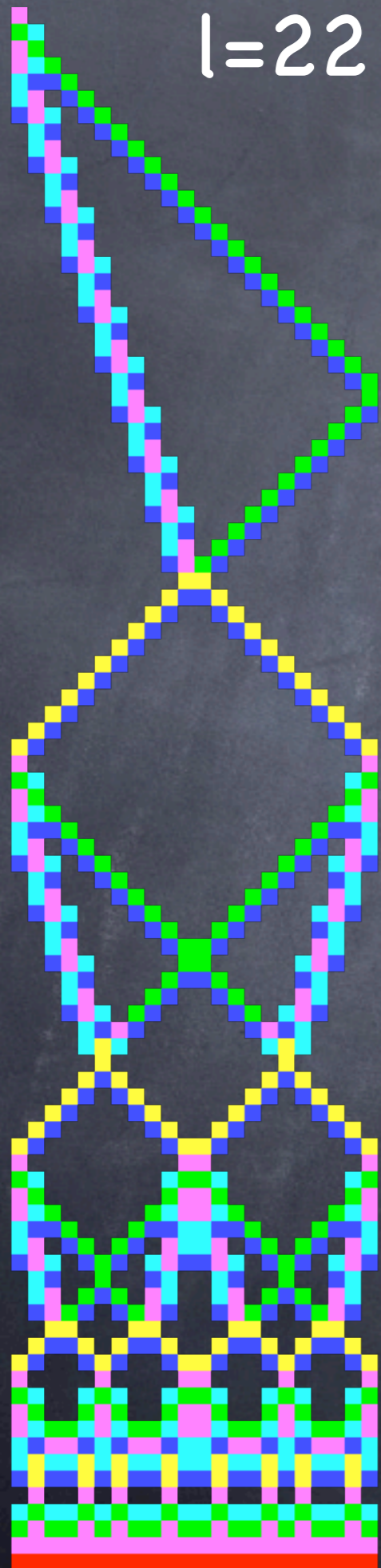
we have  $T(n)=(3+s)n$

another generalization  
could use two signals of  
slopes s & 3s so that

$T(n)=4sn$



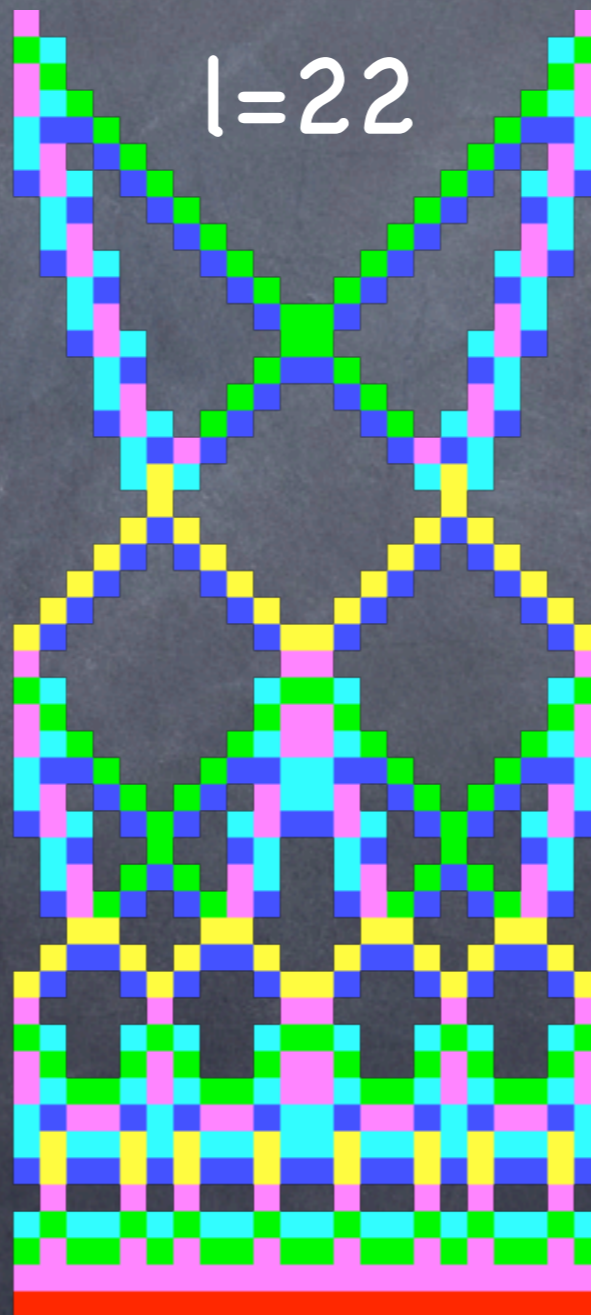
$l=22$



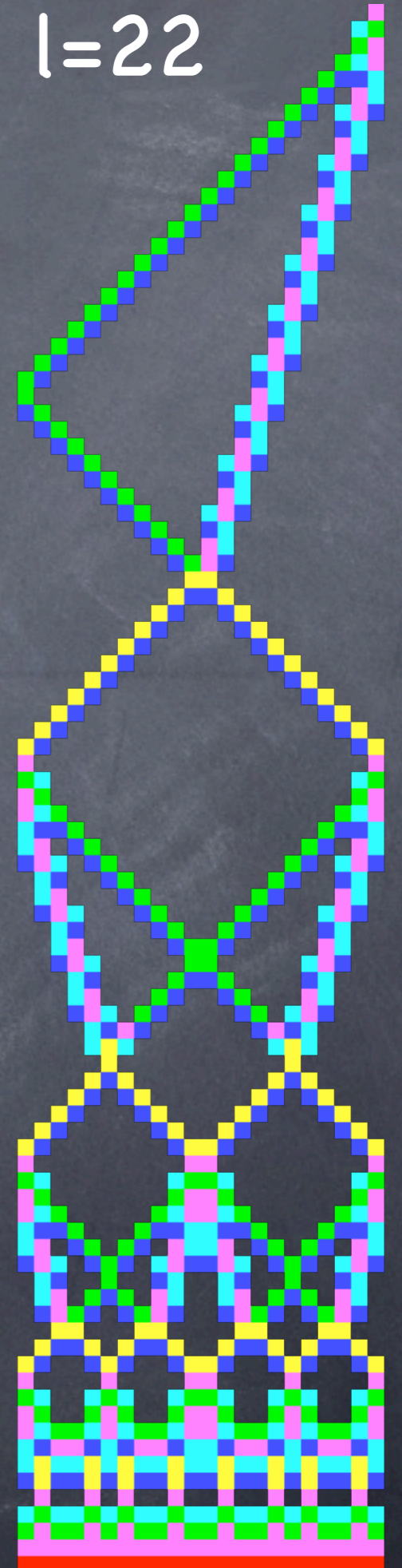
$$T(n)=4n \quad |Q|=7$$

Symmetric, 162 rules

$l=22$



$l=22$



$l=22$

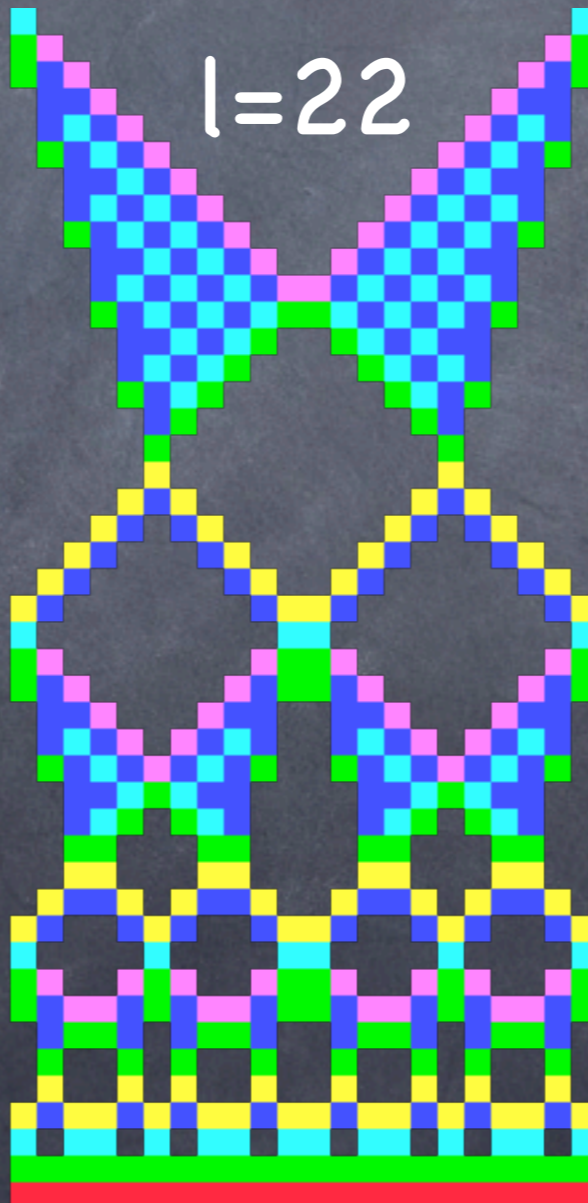


$$T(n) = 4n \quad |Q| = 7$$

based on Umeo's [ACRI 2006]

Symmetric, 108 rules

$l=22$



$l=22$



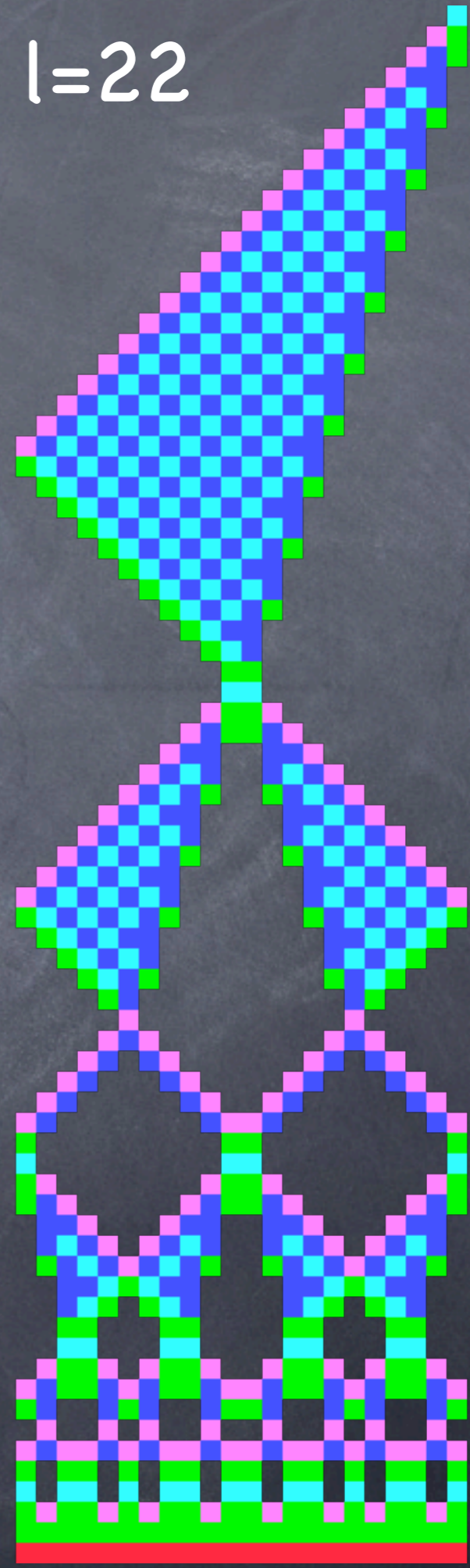
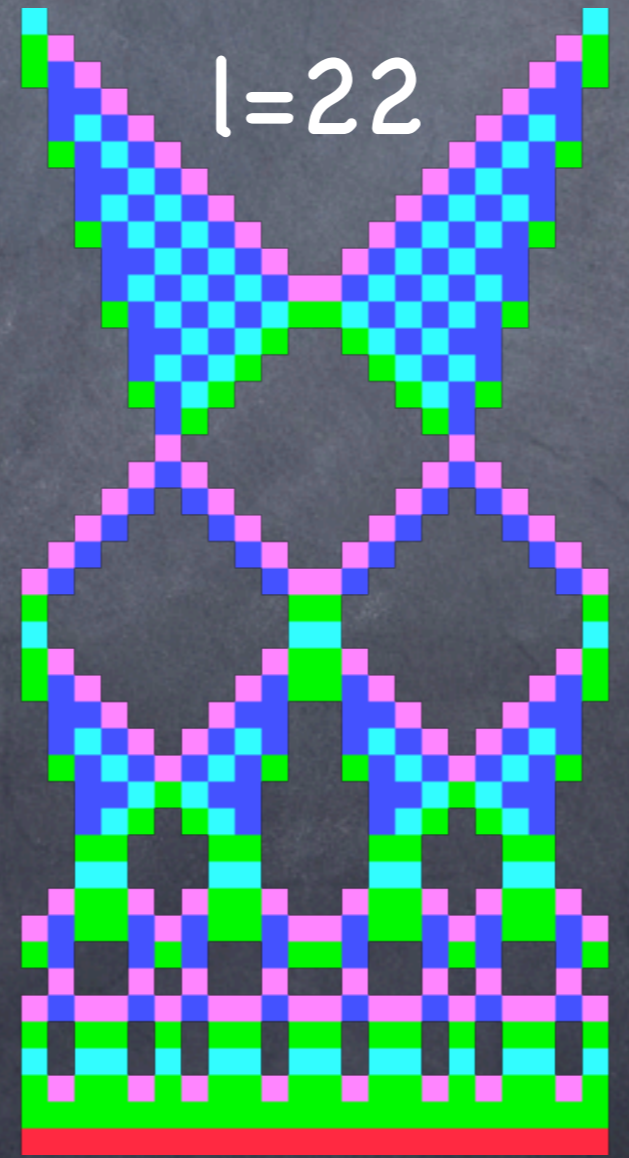
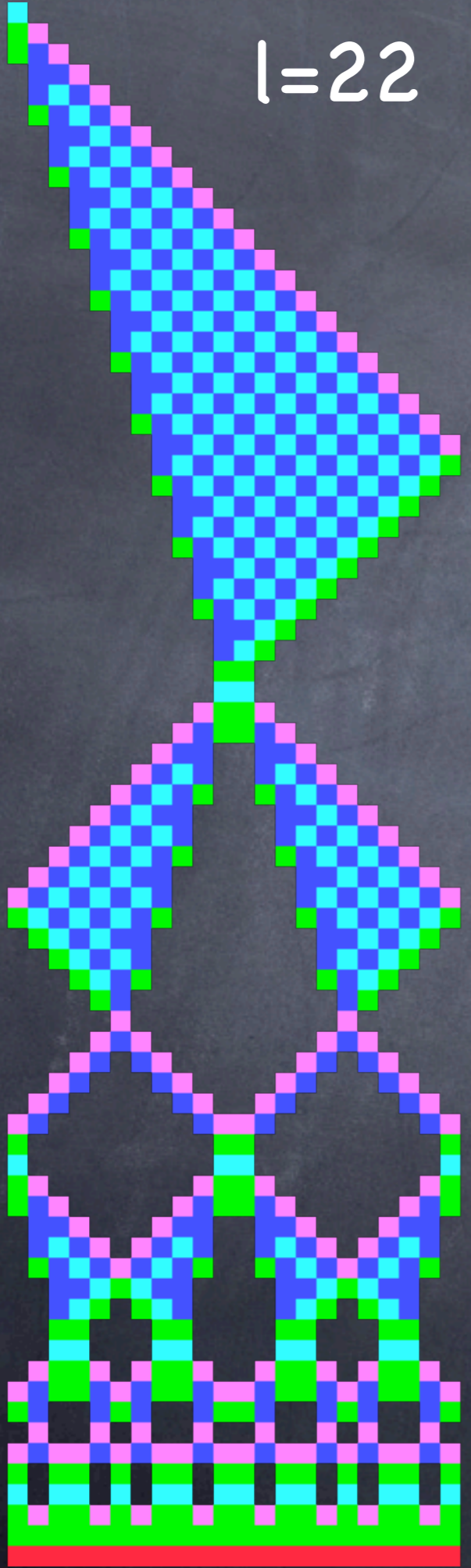
$l=22$

$l=22$

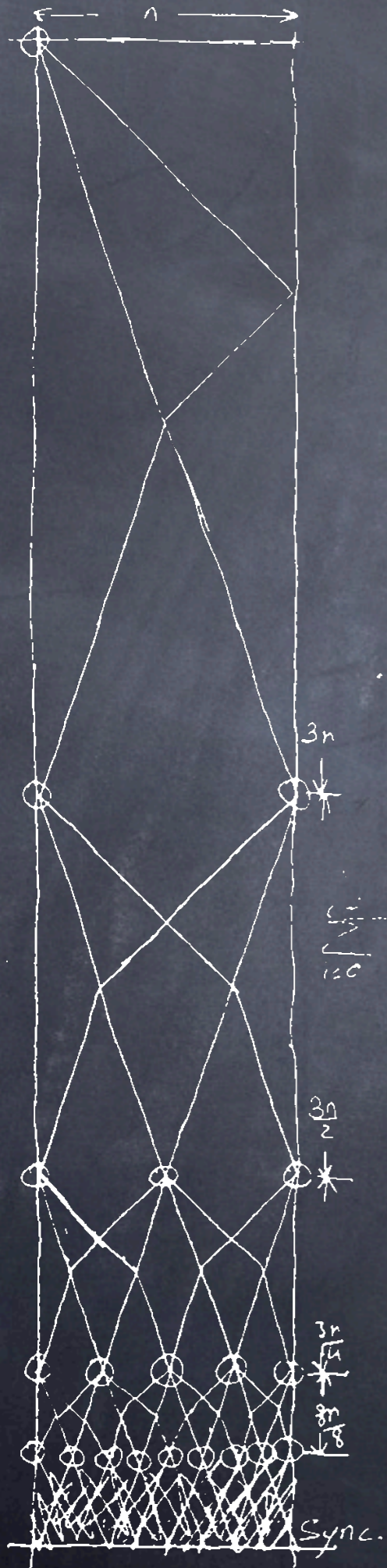
$$3n \leq T(n) \leq 4n \quad |Q|=6$$

Symmetric, 108 rules

$l=22$



# A(nother) new scheme



2 signals with slopes 1 & 3  
 $T(n) = 6n$

$l=22$

$l=23$

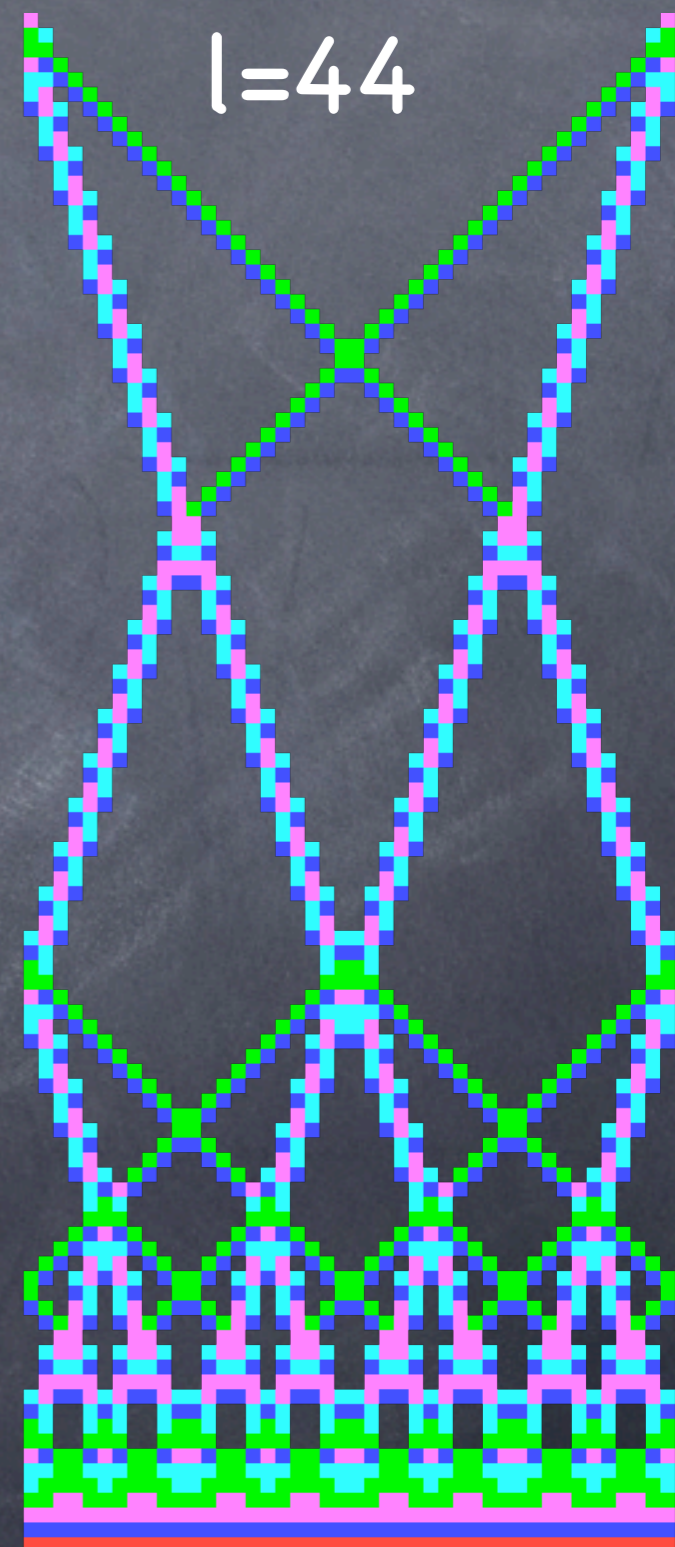
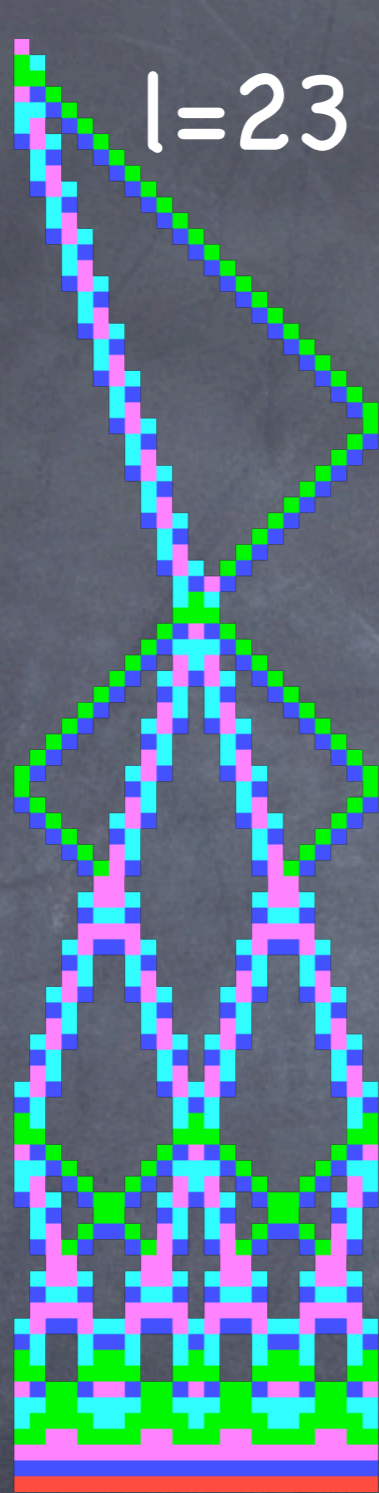
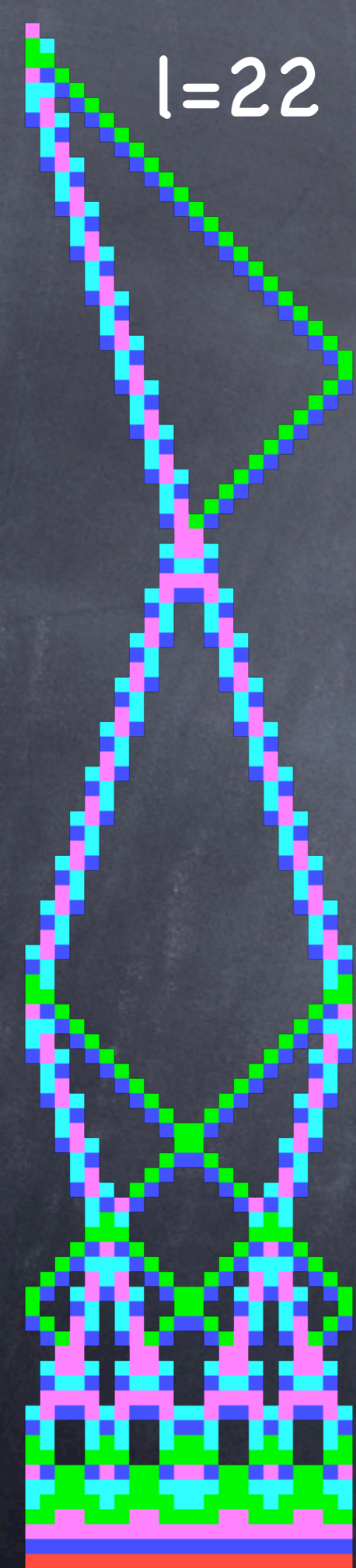
$$3n \leq T(n) \leq 6n$$

$$|Q|=6$$

$l=44$

$l=17$

Symmetric, 134 rules



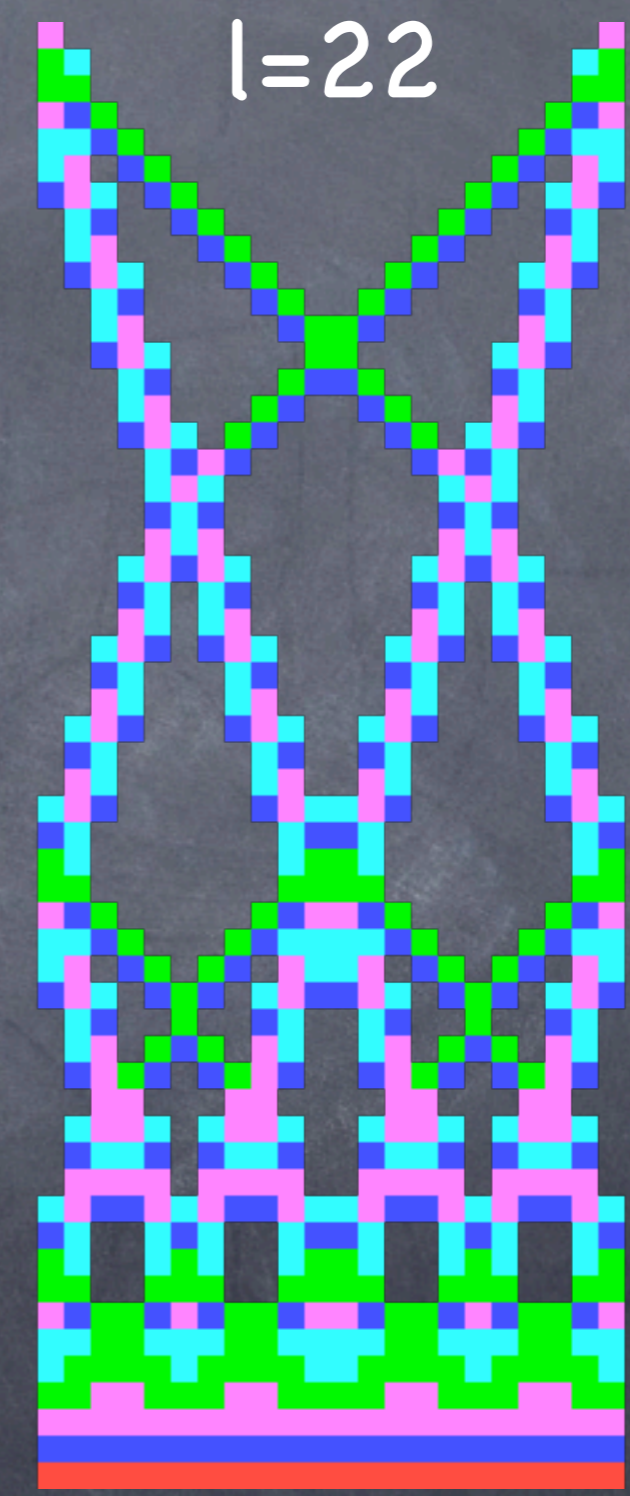
$l=22$

$l=23$

$$T(n) = 6n \quad |Q| = 6$$

$l=22$

$l=22$



Symmetric, 136 rules



# History (updt'd)

Author	Year	Q	T(n)	W(n)
Goto	1962	>2000	2n	n.log(n)
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Nogushi	2004	8	2n	n <sup>2</sup>
Umeo	2006	6	3n	n <sup>2</sup>
Yunès	2007	6	3n	n.log(n)
		8	4n	n.log(n)
		7	4n	n.log(n)
		6	3n/4n	n <sup>2</sup>
		6	6n	n.log(n)

# Some questions...

- Other simple linear-time scheme?
- Other 6 states (minimal-time) solutions?
- Zoo of few states linear-time solutions, what about polynomial-time, exponential-time?
- What kind of relation is there in between time, #states and #signals?