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## On Numeration Systems and Automatic Sequences

Goals:

- Introduce  $k$ -automatic sequences.
- Decidable properties of them.
- Generalisations and their limits.

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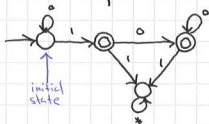
## ≡ preliminaries

alphabet  $A$ , say  $A = \{0, 1\}$

$A^* = \{\epsilon, 0, 1, 00, 10, \dots, 1001, \dots\}$  words over  $A$

language  $L \subseteq A^*$

language  $L \subseteq A^*$  is regular if it is accepted by a DFA (deterministic finite automaton)



⊙ = final  
○ = non-final

accepts words over  $\{0, 1\}$  with exactly one 1

## ≡ k-automatic sequences

k-automatic sequence = sequence obtained by feeding the base-k representations of integers to a DFAO (DFA with output)



~~rep<sub>2</sub>(n) (base-2): 0, 1, 10, 11, 100, 101, 110, ...~~  
~~x<sub>n</sub>: a, b, b, a, b, a, a, ...~~

counts if there is even number of 1's in the representation  
 Thue-Morse word, 2-automatic

- robust class of words of low complexity
- can be studied using automata theory, logic
- Allouche, Shallit: automatic Sequences

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## ≡ Properties of $k$ -automatic sequences

Important decidability result:

Thm (Charlier-Rampersad-Shallit 2012) Let  $k \geq 2$ .

If we can express a property of a  $k$ -automatic sequence  $x$  using quantifiers, logical operations, integer variables, the operations of addition, subtraction, indexing into  $x$  and comparison of integers or elements of  $x$ , then this property is decidable.

Reformulation of Büchi's Theorem: first-order theory of  $\langle \mathbb{N}, +, V_k \rangle$  is decidable.

$V_k(x) =$  largest power of  $k$  dividing  $x$

## ≡ Application

Detecting overlaps:  $\overbrace{abaabaa}$   $\overbrace{aanaa}$

$$(\exists i \geq 0)(\exists l \geq 1)(\forall j)(j \leq l \rightarrow x[i+j] = x[i+l+j])$$

↑  
position

↑  
length of repetition

Thue (1906): true for the Thue-Morse word

Shallit et al. (2010-): Can we use the decision procedure in practice?

YES! (surprisingly often)

Walmsley (Mousavi): Software implementing the decision procedure.

Proves that the Thue-Morse word is overlap-free in  $\sim 1.5$ .

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closure properties $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is  $k$ -recognizable if  $\text{rep}_k(x)$  is regular $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is  $k$ -definable if there exists a formula  $\phi(x)$  in  $\langle \mathbb{N}, +, \forall_k \rangle$  such that  $X = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : \langle \mathbb{N}, +, \forall_k \rangle \models \phi(n)\}$ Thm. (Büchi 1960) Let  $k \geq 2$ .  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is  $k$ -definable iff  $X$  is  $k$ -recognizable.core facts:  $\text{rep}_k(\{(x, y, x+y) : x, y \in \mathbb{N}\})$  regular,  
same for  $=, \forall_k$ Thm.  $x = x_0 x_1 \dots \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$  is  $k$ -automatic iff  
 $\text{fiber}_a(x) := \{i \in \mathbb{N} : x_i = a\}$  is  $k$ -definable  $\forall a \in A$ .

We have the following closure property.

Prop. Let  $k \geq 2, c > d \geq 0$ . If  $x = (x_i)_{i \geq 0} \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$  is  $k$ -automatic, then  $y = (y_{ci+d})_{i \geq 0}$  is  $k$ -automatic.Proof.  $\text{fiber}_a(x)$  is  $k$ -definable by  $\phi_{x,a} \forall a$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{fiber}_a(y) \text{ --- } \phi_{y,a}(i) := \phi_{x,a}(ci+d) \forall a$   
 $\Rightarrow y \text{ } k\text{-automatic}$   
 $\uparrow ci = \underbrace{i + \dots + i}_{c \text{ times, constant}}$ 

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≡ questions

- we can represent integers in noncanonical bases, can we generalize the results so far to such cases?

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## ≡ Positional numeration systems

A positional numeration system is an increasing sequence  $U = (U_n)_{n \geq 0}$  of integers s.t.

- $U_0 = 1$
- $C_U := \sup_{n \geq 0} \left\lceil \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} \right\rceil < \infty$

We represent  $n$  greedily as a word  $\overset{\text{rep}(n)}{\text{in } \{0, 1, \dots, C_U - 1\}^*}$ , as in the base- $k$  case.

Ex.  $U = (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, \dots)$  (Fibonacci numbers)

$$7 = 5 + 2 = U_3 + U_1 = 1 \cdot U_3 + 0 \cdot U_2 + 1 \cdot U_1 + 0 \cdot U_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{rep}_U(7) = 1010$$

$$\text{also: } 7 = 3 + 2 + 2 = 1 \cdot U_2 + 2 \cdot U_1 + 0 \cdot U_0$$

$$\Rightarrow 120, \text{ not greedy}$$

$$\dots 011 \dots \rightarrow \dots 100 \dots$$

↑  
not greedy

$$\text{rep}_U(N) = 1\{0, 01\}^* \cup \{0\} \quad (\text{regular})$$

|    |     |    |      |     |       |
|----|-----|----|------|-----|-------|
| 0: | 0   | 4: | 101  | 8:  | 10000 |
| 1: | 1   | 5: | 1000 | 9:  | 10001 |
| 2: | 10  | 6: | 1001 | 10: | 10010 |
| 3: | 100 | 7: | 1010 | 11: | 10100 |

(count as in base 2, but skip when we have "11")

## ⑦. $\beta$ -expansions

Let us see next how to associate a "good" numeration system with a real  $\beta > 1$ .

$$T_\beta: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1], x \mapsto \beta x \bmod 1$$

$$\text{let } x_i = \lfloor \beta T_\beta^{i-1}(x) \rfloor \text{ for } i \geq 1, x_i \in \{0, \dots, \lceil \beta \rceil - 1\}$$

$(x_i)$  codes the orbit of  $x$  and  $x = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{x_i}{\beta^i}$  (also obtained by taking the greedy expansion of this form)

$d_\beta(x) = (x_i)_{i \geq 1}$ ,  $\beta$ -expansion of  $x$

Ex.  $\beta = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, \beta^2 - \beta - 1 = 0, x = 1$

$$x_1 = \lfloor \beta \rfloor = 1$$

$$T_\beta(x) = \beta - 1$$

$$x_2 = \lfloor \beta(\beta - 1) \rfloor = \lfloor \beta^2 - \beta \rfloor = 1$$

$$T_\beta^2(x) = \beta(\beta - 1) - 1 = 0$$

$$x_3 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow d_\beta(1) = 1100 \dots$$

Remark:  $\beta$  integer  $\Rightarrow d_\beta(x)$  is expansion of  $x$  in base  $\beta$

Def. If  $d_\beta(1)$  is ultimately periodic, then  $\beta$  is a Parry number. If  $d_\beta(1) = t_1 \dots t_m 00 \dots$  with  $t_m \neq 0$ , then we set  $d_\beta^*(1) = (t_1 \dots t_{m-1} (t_m - 1))^\omega$ , otherwise  $d_\beta^*(1) = d_\beta(1)$ .

let  $\beta$  be a Parry number and  $d_\beta^*(1) = t_1 t_2 \dots$

set

$$u_n = t_1 u_{n-1} + \dots + t_n u_0 + 1, n \geq 0$$

Parry numeration system  $U := (u_n)$  (associated with  $\beta$ )

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Why is a Parry numeration system "good"?

Answer: because then  $\text{rep}(N)$  is regular

Thm. (Parry 1960) Word  $w$  is a greedy expansion of an integer iff  $w \leq_{\text{lex}} \sigma^k(d_\beta^*(1)) \forall k$ .

↑  
explain

$\beta$  Parry number  $\Rightarrow d_\beta^*(1)$  contains finite information  
 $\Rightarrow$  checkable by a DFA

Ex.  $\beta = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ ,  $d_\beta(1) = 110\dots$ ,  $d_\beta^*(1) = (10)^\omega$



This is the earlier Fibonacci numeration system (same recurrence).

How to find  $\text{rep}(N)$ ?

A: Take the language accepted by the automaton (without leading 0's) and order in radix order.

Parry-automatic sequence = sequence obtained by feeding the representations of integers in a Parry numeration system to a DFA

use above DFA as DFA0, get the Fibonacci word

abaababaaba...

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## ≡ Pisot numeration systems

Def. An algebraic number is Pisot if its conjugates have modulus  $< 1$ .

Ex.  $\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$  is Pisot, conjugate  $\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx -0.61$ .

Thm. (Schmidt 1980) Pisot numbers are Parry numbers.

⇒ We have a numeration system associated with every Pisot number.

Thm. (Bruyère, Hansel 1997) Büchi's Thm for Pisot numeration systems:  $\langle \mathbb{N}, +, V_u \rangle$  decidable.

$V_u(x)$  = largest base element  $U_n$  dividing  $x$   
 $V_u(x) = y \Leftrightarrow \text{rep}(x) = a_i \dots a_j 0^k, a_j \neq 0, y = U_j$

⇒ Thm of Charlier-Rampersad-Shallit for Pisot-automatic words

⇒ We can study the Fibonacci word with first-order logic.

Works in Walnut!

⇒ We get the same closure properties for Pisot-automatic words.

CONCLUSION: Pisot as "good" as  $k$ -automatic.

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### ≡ Extension beyond Pisot

Does this extend for non-Pisot Parry-automatic sequences?

NO (Frougny et al. : addition not necessarily regular)

In a sense: Pisot largest generalization for which we have the "good" properties of  $k$ -automatic sequences.

Next: Explicit example that the closure properties break for general Parry-automatic sequences.

(So that audience gets a feeling how such a result could be proved.)

Joint work with A. Masure and M. Rigo from the University of Liège.

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Explicit example

$$U := (U_n), \quad U_n = 3U_{n-1} + 2U_{n-2} + 3U_{n-3} \quad (4\text{-th degree})$$

$$U_0 = 1, \quad U_1 = 4, \quad U_2 = 15, \quad U_3 = 54$$

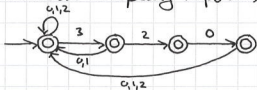
roots of char. polynomial:  $\beta \approx 3.616$ ,  $\beta \approx -1.057$   
 $\alpha, \bar{\alpha}$ ,  $|\alpha|, |\bar{\alpha}| < 1$

char. polynomial min. polynomial for  $\beta$   
 $\Rightarrow \beta$  not Pisot

$\beta$  is Parry number:  $dp(1) = 32030^w$

$\Rightarrow U$  is a Parry numeration system (recurrence and initial values match with the Parry construction)

automaton accepting  $rep_U(N)$ :



$$d_N^*(1) = (3202)^w$$

|    |     |
|----|-----|
| 0  | 20  |
| 1  | 21  |
| 2  | 22  |
| 3  | 23  |
| 10 | 30  |
| 11 | 31  |
| 12 | 32  |
| 13 | 100 |

characteristic sequence of  $(U_n)$ :

$$x = 0100100000000100 \dots$$

$x$  is  $U$ -automatic (we need to check if the input is of the form  $10\dots 0$ )

delete every second letter of  $x$ :

$$y = 001000 \dots$$

Claim:  $y$  not  $U$ -automatic (i.e. closure property breaks)

12.  $y$   $U$ -automatic  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} := \{\text{rep}_U(U_n/2) : U_n \text{ even}\}$  regular

Claim:  $\text{rep}_U(U_n/2)$  converges to  $d_\beta(\frac{1}{2})$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Proof: recurrence relation  $\Rightarrow U_{n-1} < U_n/2 < U_n, n > 1$

$\Rightarrow \text{rep}_U(U_n/2)$  word of length  $n$

say  $\text{rep}_U(U_n/2) = d_1 \dots d_k d_{k+1} \dots d_n$

extremal values for  $d_{k+1} \dots d_n$ :  $0^{n-k}, \text{rep}_U(U_{n-k-1})$

$\Rightarrow 0 \leq \frac{U_n}{2} - d_1 U_{n-1} - \dots - d_k U_{n-k} < U_{n-k} \quad | : U_n$

$\xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \leq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{d_1}{\beta} - \dots - \frac{d_k}{\beta^k} < \frac{1}{\beta^k} \quad (\text{recall: } U_n \sim \beta^n)$

$\Rightarrow d_\beta(\frac{1}{2}) = d_1 \dots d_k \dots$

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Claim:  $d_\beta(\frac{1}{2})$  ultimately periodic

Proof:  $\mathcal{L}$  regular, contains  $xy^jz \quad \forall j \geq 0$  (Pumping Lemma)

claim  
 $\Rightarrow d_\beta(\frac{1}{2})$  has prefix  $xy^j \quad \forall j \geq 0$

$\Rightarrow d_\beta(\frac{1}{2}) = xy^\omega$

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write  $\frac{1}{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{d_i}{\beta^i}$ ,  $(d_i)$  ultimately periodic

can be written as a polynomial in  $\beta$   
(because  $(d_i)$  is ultimately periodic)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{d_i}{\beta^i} \quad (\text{since } \beta, \beta' \text{ are conjugates}), \beta' \approx -1,03$$

$$= \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{21} \frac{d_i}{\beta^i}}_{< -2,20} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=22}^{\infty} \frac{d_i}{\beta^i}}_{\leq 3\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{22}} + \frac{1}{\beta^{24}} + \dots\right) < 2,33}$$

$$< 0,13 \quad \downarrow$$