An introduction to combinatorics

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An overview

- A brief overview
- Generating functions and a symbolic dictionary
- Combinatorics on words
- A detour to quasicrystals and tilings
- Analysis of Euclid's algorithm

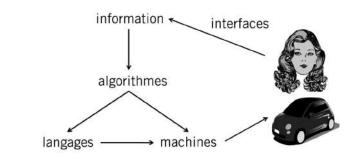


Image from G. Berry, Cours au collège de France

- Algorithmique, combinatoire, graphes, automates, systèmes dynamiques discrets.
- Calcul formel et calcul certifié, arithmétique des ordinateurs, codage et cryptographie.
- Logique, complexité algorithmique et structurelle, sémantique, modèles de calcul.
- · Programmation, génie logiciel, vérification et preuves.
- Recherche opérationnelle, aide à la décision, optimisation discrète et continue, satisfaction de contraintes, SAT.
- Systèmes de production, logistique, ordonnancement.
- Intelligence artificielle, système multi-agent, ingénierie / représentation et traitement des connaissances, représen traitement de l'incertitude, formalisation des raisonnements, fusion information.
- · Environnements informatiques pour l'apprentissage humain.
- Sûreté de fonctionnement, sécurité informatique, protection de la vie privée, réseaux sociaux.
- Réseaux, télécommunications, systèmes distribués, réseaux de capteurs.
- Internet du futur, intelligence ambiante.
- · Calcul distribué, grilles, cloud, calcul à haute performance, parallélisme, architecture et compilation, infrastructure
- · Cognition, modélisation pour la médecine, neurosciences computationnelles.
- Systèmes d'informations, web sémantique, masses de données, fouille de données, base de données, gestion de de d'informations, apprentissage.
- Bioinformatique.

Section 06, CNRS

What is combinatorics?

- Enumerative combinatorics
- Analytic combinatorics
- Algebraic combinatorics
- Probabilistic combinatorics
- Bijective combinatorics
- Extremal combinatorics
- Combinatorics on words
- Graph theory

What is combinatorics?

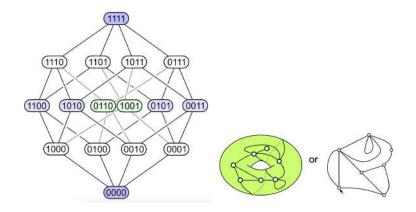
- Enumerative combinatorics (permutations, partitions, maps, etc.)
- Analytic combinatorics (complex analysis)
- Algebraic combinatorics
- Probabilistic combinatorics
- Bijective combinatorics
- Extremal combinatorics
- Combinatorics on words
- Graph theory
- Geometric combinatorics
- Topological combinatorics
- Arithmetic combinatorics

What is combinatorics?

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- Probabilistic combinatorics
- Bijective combinatorics
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- Graph theory
- Partition theory, Design theory, Order theory, Matroid theory
- Combinatorial optimization, Coding theory, Discrete and computational geometry, Combinatorics and dynamical systems
- Combinatorics and physics

Some influential people in France

- M.-P. Schützenberger
- M. Nivat
- P. Flajolet
- X. Viennot
- M. Bousquet-Mélou



Images from Wikipedia and G.Chapuy

On enumerative combinatorics

Most of the questions that we study start like this: given a set of discrete objects, equipped with a notion of size (say permutations on n elements), how many objects of size n are there? Of course you do not want a number for particular values of n but a formula or, more realistically, a characterisation (e.g. a recurrence relation) valid for general n.

Sometimes, more important than getting a counting formula for a certain problem is the fact that to arrive at such a formula requires information about the combinatorial structure under study. Hence, counting is sometimes just a pretext and the important thing is to understand, or discover, a structure in some discrete objects.

M. Bousquet-Mélou, EMS Newsletter 2017.

The objects that we (try to) count come from various branches of mathematics, including probability (of course the interaction with this area is particularly strong via discrete probability), algebra (e.g. in connection with representations of classical groups and algebras) and mathematical physics (via the study of discrete models, like the famous Ising model).

M. Bousquet-Mélou, EMS Newsletter 2017.

On enumerative combinatorics

Most French combinatorialists work in computer science departments. There are several reasons for that, partly historical but mostly scientific: there is no real boundary between some parts of theoretical computer science (e.g. the study of formal languages) and discrete mathematics. There is also a strong interaction between enumerative combinatorics and the study of the complexity of algorithms, as launched a long time ago by Don Knuth and pursued in France by Philippe Flajolet and his school. The rough idea is that in order to understand the complexity of an algorithm, one has to determine how many entries of a given length get processed in a given time – a well-posed bivariate counting problem.

M. Bousquet-Mélou, EMS Newsletter 2017.

Alea

- Study of discrete random structures coming from various disciplines: fundamental computer science and algorithmics, discrete mathematics and probability, statistical physics...
- Objects: trees, words, permutations, paths, cellular automata, etc.
- Methods: enumeration, asymptotic properties and analytic combinatorics, probabilistic properties, random generation...

Domaine un peu paradoxal, la combinatoire se présente comme

- simple et complexe
- pauvre et riche
- facile et difficile
- pure et appliquée

Elle occupe aujourd'hui une place quasi-centrale en mathématiques en particulier à cause de des interactions

algèbre, théorie des nombres, probabilités, topologie, géométrie algébrique

Informatique, mathématiques, physique (statistique)

Extrait de la description du cours au collège de France de Timothy Gowers, 2021.

Generating functions

Generating functions are used to describe families of combinatorial objects. Let \mathcal{C} denote the family of objects to count.

A combinatorial class is a set C, equipped with a size function $|.|: C \to \mathbb{N}$, such that for any *n* the set C_n of objects of size *n* is finite. Let c_n stand for its cardinality. The generating function of C is the formal power series

$$C(x)=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}c_nx^n.$$

There are various natural operations on generating functions such as addition, multiplication, differentiation, etc., which have a combinatorial meaning.

A symbolic dictionary

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- Disjoint union \longleftrightarrow addition
- Product \leftrightarrow pairs $C = A \times B$ with |(a, b)| = |a| + |b|
- Sequence $\mathcal{C} = \cup_{k \geq 0} \mathcal{A}^k \ c = a_1 \cdots a_k$

$$\longleftrightarrow C(x) = rac{1}{1 - A(x)} = \sum_{k \ge 0} A(x)^k \quad (\mathcal{A}_0 = \emptyset)$$

• Differentiation \longleftrightarrow expectation

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• Differentiation \longleftrightarrow expectation Example: Let C be the set of all finite binary words, with size given by the length. Then

$$A(x) = 2x, \ C(x) = \frac{1}{1 - A(x)} = \frac{1}{1 - 2x}, \ c_n = 2^n.$$

Let C_n be the number of binary trees that have *n* binary branching nodes, and hence n + 1 external nodes. A tree is a connected graph without cycle. A (complete) binary rooted plane tree is such that:

- there is a distinguished vertex, called the root;
- the tree is drawn from the root, so there is a natural genealogical structure, and in particular, a notion of children of a vertex;
- the children of every vertex are ordered from left to right.
- A complete binary tree is such that all vertices have arity 0 or 2.

https://www.irif.fr/~chapuy/
/chapuyCombinatoricsNotesMPRI.pdf

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Let C_n be the number of binary trees that have *n* binary branching nodes, and hence n + 1 external nodes.

$$c_0=1,\ c_1=1,\ c_2=2,\ c_3=5,\ c_4=14,\ c_5=42$$

AN INVITATION TO ANALYTIC COMBINATORICS

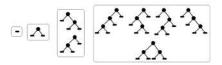


Figure 0.3. The collection of binary trees with n = 0, 1, 2, 3 binary nodes, with respective cardinalities 1, 1, 2, 5.

From THE book Analytic combinatorics [Flajolet-Sedgewick]



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$$\mathcal{C} = \Box \cup (\mathcal{C}, \bullet, \mathcal{C})$$
 $C(z) = \sum_{n \ge 0} c_n z^n$
 $C(z) = 1 + zC(z)^2$ $C(z) = rac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4z}}{2z}$
 $c_n = rac{1}{n+1} {2n \choose n}$ $c_n \sim rac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} (1/4)^n n^{-3/2}$

These numbers are known as the Catalan numbers.

From singularities to asymptotic combinatorics

Let Q(x) be a polynomial with complex coefficients. Write

$$Q(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} (1 - \gamma_i x)^d$$

with distinct γ_i 's. Let

$$A(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \sum_{n} a_n x^n$$

be a formal power series, with P polynomial with $\deg(P) < \deg(Q)$. Then, for all n

$$a_n = R_1(n)\gamma_1^n + \cdots + R_k(n)\gamma_k^n$$

where R_1, \cdots, R_k are polynomials with deg $R_i < d_i$.

Combinatorics on words

A wide field of applications: automata theory, bio-informatics, computational biology, algorithms on strings, text compression, number theory, Schrödinger operators.

Among the main questions: existence of patterns (e.g., squarefree words), repetitions and regularities, counting configurations, statistical properties.



[Lothaire, Algebraic combinatorics on words, N. Pytheas Fogg, Substitutions in dynamics, arithmetics and combinatorics CANT Combinatorics, Automata and Number theory]

Unavoidable regularities and patterns

- The story starts with the work of A. Thue (1863–1922) with the existence of square-free infinite words.
- Thue was interested in finding long sequences with few repetitions.
- A word is square-free if it avoids the pattern *xx*.

Squares cannot be avoided on infinite binary words.

aa, ab, ba, bb

aba, bab

abaa, abab, baba, babb

The Thue-Morse substitution

Overlaps can be avoided on a binary alphabet. Consider the Thue-Morse substitution

$$\sigma: a \rightarrow ab, \ b \rightarrow ba$$

$$\sigma(a) = ab$$

 $\sigma^2(a) = abba$
 $\sigma^3(a) = abbabaab$

The infinite word $\sigma^{\infty}(a)$ is overlap-free: it has no factor of the form

uvuvu

for some words u, v with u nonempty

 $\sigma^\infty(a) = abbabaabbaababbabaababba \cdots$

The word *t* derived from the Thue–Morse by the inverse morphism $A \rightarrow abb, B \rightarrow ab, C \rightarrow a$ is square-free

 $t = ABCACBABCBA \cdots$

 $\sigma^\infty(\mathsf{a}) = \mathsf{abbabaabbaababbabaababba} \cdots$

 $\sigma^{\infty}a = abb \mid ab \mid a \mid abb \mid a \mid ab \mid abb \mid ab \mid ab \mid ab \mid ab \mid ab \mid abb \mid a \cdots$ The word *t* derived from the Thue–Morse by the inverse morphism $A \rightarrow abb, B \rightarrow ab, C \rightarrow a$ is square-free

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On Dejean's conjecture

- A repetition in a word w is a pair of words (p, q) such that pq is a factor of w, p is nonempty, and q is a prefix of pq.
- The exponent of a repetition (p, q) is $\frac{|pq|}{|q|}$.
- Squares are repetitions of exponent 2.
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- Dejean's conjecture has been proven in 2011 [Rao, 2011) and (Currie and Rampersad, 2011]: the repetition treshold, i.e., the largest avoidable fractional power in an infinite word on k letters is k/(k-1).

$$R(2) = 2, R(3) = 7/4, R(4) = 7/5, R(k) = \frac{k}{k-1}, k \ge 5$$

Let \mathcal{A} be a finite alphabet and let $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be an infinite word

 $u=abaababaabaabaabaabaabaab \cdots$

u = abaababaab aa babaababaab \cdots

aa is a factor, bb is not a factor

Toward symbolic dynamics

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The shift maps $u = (u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ to $(u_{n+1})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

u = abaababaabaabaabaabaabaab \cdots $S(u) = baabaabaabaabaabaabaabaab<math>\cdots$ Discrete dynamical system

A discrete dynamical system is given by a map T acting on a set X

$$T: X \to X$$

Discrete stands for discrete time The map T is the law of time evolution

We consider orbits/trajectories of points of X under the action of the map T

 $\{T^n x \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$

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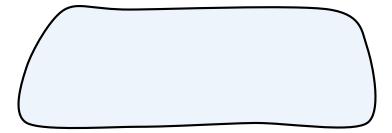
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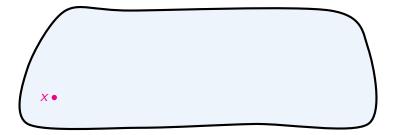
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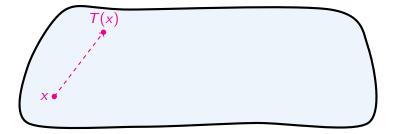
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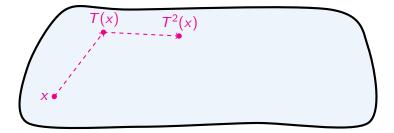
How well are the orbits distributed?

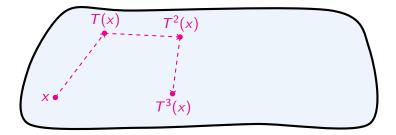


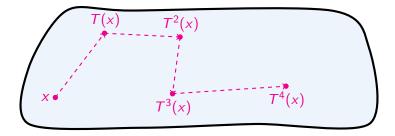


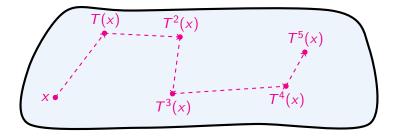


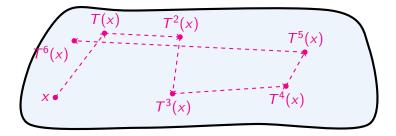
A trajectory for $T: X \to X$



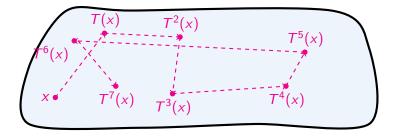








A trajectory for $T: X \to X$

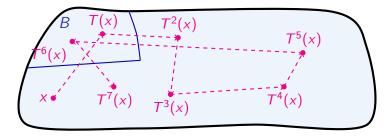


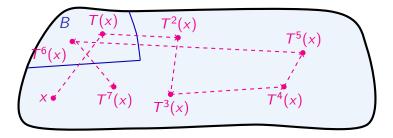
What's the point of this formalization?

 The mathematical formalization of discrete dynamical system offers the framework of ergodic theory

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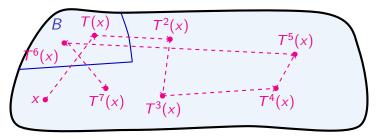
- The mathematical formalization of discrete dynamical system offers the framework of ergodic theory
- Topological dynamics describes the qualitative/topological behaviour of trajectories The map T is continuous and the space X is compact
- Ergodicity describes the long term statistical behaviour of orbits
 The space X is endowed with a probability measure and T is measurable (X, T, B, μ)





Among the first N points of the orbit of x, how many of them enter B?

How often do they visit B?



Let 1_B be the characteristic function of B

Among the first N points of the orbit of x, how many of them enter B? $\sum_{0 \le n < N} 1_B(T^n x)$

How often do they visit B? $\lim_{N\to\infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{0 \le n \le N} 1_B(T^n x)$

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{0 \le n < N} \mathbb{1}_B(T^n x) = \mu(P) \quad \text{ a.e. } x$$

We are given a dynamical system (X, T, \mathcal{B}, μ) with $T: X \to X$

- Average time values: one particle over the long term
- Average space values: all particles at a particular instant Ergodicity

$$\mu(B) = \mu(T^{-1}B)$$
 T-invariance
 $T^{-1}B = B \implies \mu(B) = 0$ or 1 ergodicity

Ergodic theorem space average time average

$$f \in L_1(\mu)$$
 $\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{0 \le n < N} f(T^n x) = \int f d\mu$ a.e.

Numeration dynamical systems are simple algorithms that produce digits in classical representation systems

• Decimal expansions

$$T: [0,1] \to [0,1], \ x \mapsto 10x - [10x] = \{10x\}$$

Numeration dynamics

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$$x_{1} = T(x) = 10x - [10x] = 10x - a_{1}$$

$$x = \frac{a_{1}}{10} + \frac{x_{1}}{10}$$

$$x_{2} = T(x_{1}) = T^{2}(x) \qquad a_{2} = \lfloor 10T(x) \rfloor$$

$$x = \frac{a_{1}}{10} + \frac{a_{2}}{10^{2}} + \frac{x_{2}}{10^{2}} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_{i} 10^{-i}$$

Numeration dynamics

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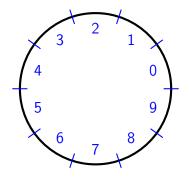
The map *T* produces the digits

$$a_n = \lfloor 10 T^{n-1}(x) \rfloor$$

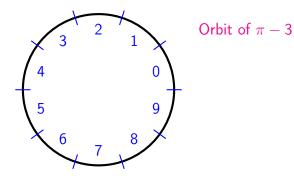
The action of T can be seen as a shift on the sequence of digits

$$x \sim a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 \cdots \qquad T(x) \sim a_2 a_3 a_4 \cdots$$

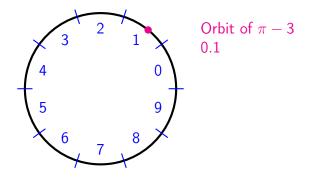
$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0, 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad T : x \mapsto 10 x \pmod{1}$$
$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{i}{10}, \frac{i+1}{10} \end{bmatrix} : 0 \le i \le 9 \right\}$$



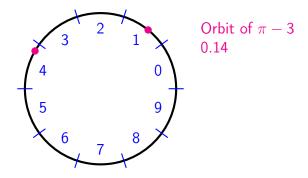
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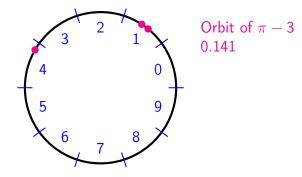
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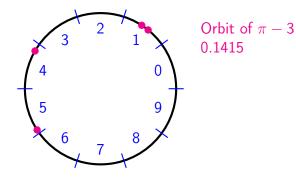
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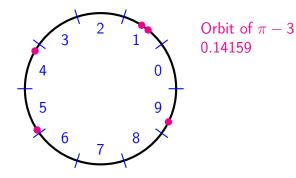
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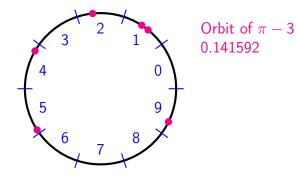
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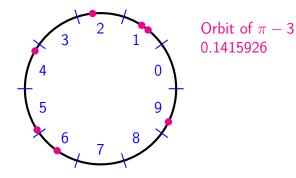
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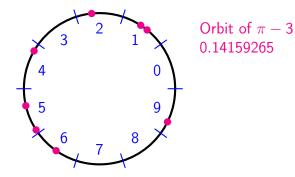
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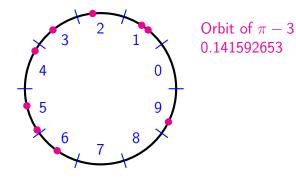
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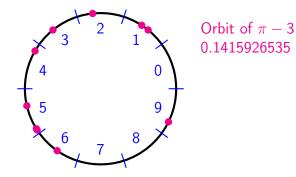
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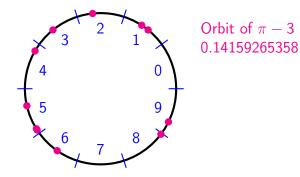
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$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} i\\10 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{i+1}{10} \begin{bmatrix} : 0 \le i \le 9 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$



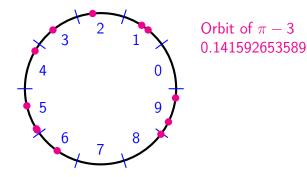
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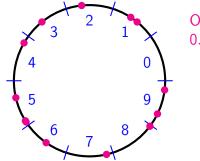
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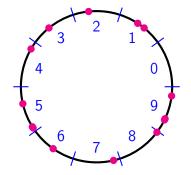


$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0, 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad T : x \mapsto 10 x \pmod{1}$$
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Orbit of $\pi - 3$ 0.1415926535897

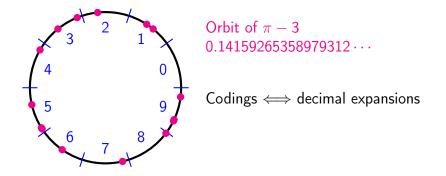
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Orbit of $\pi - 3$ 0.14159265358979312...

Multiplication by 10 on [0, 1]

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0,1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad T : x \mapsto 10 x \pmod{1}$$
$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{i}{10}, \frac{i+1}{10} \end{bmatrix} : 0 \le i \le 9 \right\}$$



© Timo Jolivet

From numeration dynamics to symbolic dynamics

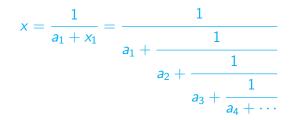
- Decimal expansion $T: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1], x \mapsto \{10x\}$
- Beta-transformation $T: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1], x \mapsto \{\beta x\}$
- Continued fractions $T: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1], x \mapsto \{1/x\}$

From numeration dynamics to symbolic dynamics

- Decimal expansion $T: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1], x \mapsto \{10x\}$
- Beta-transformation $T: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1], x \mapsto \{\beta x\}$

$$\beta > 1$$
 $x = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \beta^{-i}$

• Continued fractions $T: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1], x \mapsto \{1/x\}$



Word combinatorics vs. symbolic dynamics

Let $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be an infinite word.

• Word combinatorics

Study of the number of factors of a given length (factor complexity), frequencies, powers

• Symbolic dynamics Let

 $X_u := \overline{\{S^n u \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}}$ with the shift $S((u_n)_n) = (u_{n+1})_n$

 (X_u, S) is a symbolic dynamical system Study of invariant measures, recurrence properties, finding geometric representations, spectral properties From word combinatorics to symbolic dynamics

Let \mathcal{A} be a finite alphabet and let $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be an infinite word Let S stand for the shift map

$$X_u := \overline{\{S^n u \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

 (X_u, S) is a symbolic dynamical system

$$X_u = \{v ; \mathcal{L}_v \subset \mathcal{L}_u\}$$

This is the set of infinite words whose factors belong to the language \mathcal{L}_u of u, i.e., the set of factors of u

Symbolic dynamics

- 1898, Hadamard: Geodesic flows on surfaces of negative curvature
- 1912, Thue: Prouhet-Thue-Morse substitution

$$\sigma: a \mapsto ab, \ b \mapsto ba$$

• 1921, Morse: Symbolic representation of geodesics on a surface with negative curvature. Recurrent geodesics

Symbolic dynamics

- 1898, Hadamard: Geodesic flows on surfaces of negative curvature
- 1912, Thue: Prouhet-Thue-Morse substitution

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• 1921, Morse: Symbolic representation of geodesics on a surface with negative curvature. Recurrent geodesics

From geometric dynamical systems to symbolic dynamical systems and backwards

- Given a geometric system, can one find a good partition?
- And vice-versa?

A substitution on words: the Fibonacci substitution

Definition A substitution σ is a morphism of the free monoid $\sigma(uv) = \sigma(u)\sigma(v)$

Positive morphism of the free group, no cancellations

Example

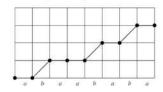
 $\sigma: 1 \mapsto 12, \ 2 \mapsto 1$ 1 12 121 12112 12112121 $\sigma^{\infty}(1) = 121121211212\cdots$

A substitution on words: the Fibonacci substitution Definition A substitution σ is a morphism of the free monoid $\sigma(uv) = \sigma(u)\sigma(v)$

Positive morphism of the free group, no cancellations

Example

 $\sigma: 1 \mapsto 12, \ 2 \mapsto 1 \quad \sigma^{\infty}(1) = 121121211211212 \cdots$



J. Berstel, D. Perrin / European Journal of Combinatorics 28 (2007) 996-1022

Fig. 3. The graphical representation of the Fibonacci word.

A substitution on words: the Fibonacci substitution Definition A substitution σ is a morphism of the free monoid $\sigma(uv) = \sigma(u)\sigma(v)$

Positive morphism of the free group, no cancellations

Example

 $\sigma: 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 1 \quad \sigma^{\infty}(1) = 121121211211212 \cdots$ Why the terminology Fibonacci word?

$$egin{aligned} &\sigma^{n+1}(1) = \sigma^n(12) = \sigma^n(1)\sigma^n(2) \ && \sigma^n(2) = \sigma^{n-1}(1) \ && \sigma^{n+1}(1) = \sigma^n(1)\sigma^{n-1}(1) \end{aligned}$$

The length of the word $\sigma^{n}(1)$ satisfies the Fibonacci recurrence

How to define a notion of order for an infinite word?

Consider the Fibonacci word

• There is a simple algorithmic way to construct it (cf. Kolmogorov complexity)

How to define a notion of order for an infinite word?

Consider the Fibonacci word

There are few local configurations = factors
 A factor is a word made of consecutive occurrences of letters
 ab is a factor, bb is not a factor of the Fibonacci word
 But

· · · aaaaaaaaaaaabaaaaaaaaaaa · · ·

has as many factors of length n as

The Fibonacci word has n + 1 factors of length n

How to define a notion of order for an infinite word?

Consider the Fibonacci word

• Consider frequencies of occurrences of factors Symbolic discrepancy

$$\Delta_N = \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}} ||u_0 u_1 \dots u_{N-1}|_i - N \cdot f_i|$$

if each letter *i* has frequency f_i in *u*

$$f_i = \lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{|u_0 \cdots u_{N-1}|_i}{N}$$

The Fibonacci word has bounded symbolic discrepancy

Complexity and periodicity

Let $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be an infinite word

The factor complexity $p_u(n)$ counts the number of factors of length n

Theorem [Morse-Hedlund 1940]

If there exists *n* such that $p_u(n) \le n$, then *u* is ultimately periodic

There exists T such that $u_n = u_{n+T}$ for all n large enough

Proof

- We can assume $p_u(1) \geq 2$
- There exists $1 \le k \le n-1$ such that $p_u(k) = p_u(k+1)$
- Every factor w of length k admits a unique letter a ∈ A such that wa is also a factor of u
- Take a factor of length k that occurs at least twice in u

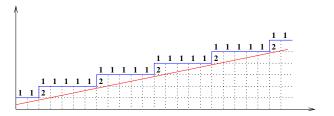
Sturmian words [Morse-Hedlund, 1940] $p_u(n) = n + 1$ for all n



A word $u \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is Sturmian if $p_u(n) = n+1$ for all n

The Fibonacci word has n + 1 factors of length n

- Sturmian words are the words having the lowest factor complexity among non-periodic words
- They are codings of discrete lines





Sturmian words are defined as the infinite words with factor complexity n + 1 for all n

0110110101101101

Sturmian words are defined as the infinite words with factor complexity n + 1 for all n

0110110101101101

11 and 00 cannot occur simultaneously



Sturmian words are defined as the infinite words with factor complexity n + 1 for all n

0110110101101101

One considers the substitutions

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_0 \colon 0 &\mapsto 0, \ \sigma_0 \colon 1 \mapsto 10 \\ \sigma_1 \colon 0 &\mapsto 01, \ \sigma_1 \colon 1 \mapsto 1 \end{aligned}$$

One has

 $0110110101101101 = \sigma_1(0101001010)$ $0101001010 = \sigma_0(011011)$ $011011 = \sigma_1(0101)$ $0101 = \sigma_1(00)$

Sturmian words are defined as the infinite words with factor complexity n + 1 for all n

0110110101101101

One considers the substitutions

$$\sigma_0: 0 \mapsto 0, \ \sigma_0: 1 \mapsto 10$$

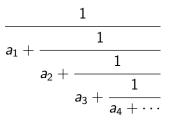
$$\sigma_1: 0 \mapsto 01, \ \sigma_1: 1 \mapsto 1$$

The Sturmian words of slope α are provided by an infinite composition of substitutions

$$\lim_{n\to+\infty}\sigma_0^{a_1}\sigma_1^{a_2}\cdots\sigma_{2n}^{a_{2n}}\sigma_{2n+1}^{a_{2n+1}}(0)$$

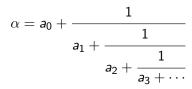
where the a_i are produced by the continued fraction expansion of α

We represent real numbers in (0, 1) as



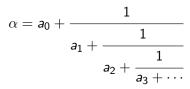
with partial quotients (digits) $a_i \in \mathbb{N}^*$

One represents α as

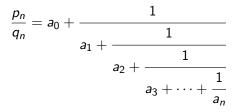


in order to find good rational approximations of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$

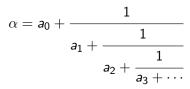
One represents α as



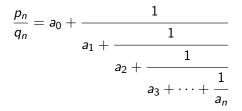
in order to find good rational approximations of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$



One represents α as



in order to find good rational approximations of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$



$$|\alpha - p_n/q_n] \le 1/q_n^2$$

[http://images.math.cnrs.fr/Nombres-et-representations.html]

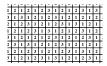
Complexity and periodicity

Theorem [Morse-Hedlund 1940]

If there exists n such that u has at most n factors of length n, then u is ultimately periodic

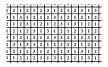
Nivat's conjecture

We now consider two-dimensional words $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ and rectangular factors



Nivat's conjecture

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Nivat's conjecture [ICALP-1997]

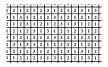
If there exists m, n such that u admits at most mn rectangular factors of size (m, n), i.e.,

 $p_u(m,n) \leq mn$

then *u* is periodic.

Nivat's conjecture

We now consider two-dimensional words $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ and rectangular factors



Nivat's conjecture [ICALP-1997]

If there exists m, n such that u admits at most mn rectangular factors of size (m, n), i.e.,

 $p_u(m,n) \leq mn$

then *u* is periodic.

Periodic means periodic along one direction. There exists a non-zero vector (s, t) such that $u(m, n) = u(m + s, n + t) \forall (m, n)$.

A word in $\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}^d}$ is fully periodic if and only if its rectangular factor complexity function is bounded.

Proof

- One has $p_u(1, \cdots, 1, n, 1, \cdots, 1) \leq C$ for all n.
- Apply Morse-Hedlund's theorem.

Nivat's conjecture is not an equivalence

There exist periodic words with high factor complexity

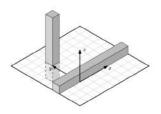
There exists u periodic such that $p_u(m, n) = 2^{m+n-1}$ for all (m, n).

- Take a 1D word x with factor complexity $p_x(n) = 2^n$ for all n (e.g., Champernowne construction).
- Define $u \in \{0,1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ by u(m,n) := x(0,m+n) for all (m,n).
- It has period (-1, 1).

Nivat's conjecture is a two-dimensional conjecture

Take d = 3Define $u \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^3}$ as

- $u_{m,0,0} = 1$ for all m
- $u_{0,n_0,p} = 1$ for all pwith $n_0 \neq 0$
- $u_{m,n,p} = 0$ otherwise



One has for $2 \le n \le n_0$

$$p_u(n, \cdots, n) = 2n^2 + 1 < n^3$$

Note that u is a sum of two periodic words

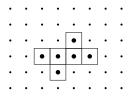
[©]Kari-Szabados

Nivat's conjecture is about rectangular factors

What about general patterns? [Cassaigne]

If $p_u(D) \leq |D|$ for some *D*, is *u* periodic?

Not necessarily, even if the pattern D is an *hv*-convex polyomino (if two points in the same row or column are in the pattern, then all integer points on the segment between them should be included too)



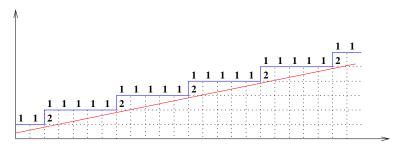
What about convex patterns (the trace in \mathbb{Z}^2 of convex sets in \mathbb{R}^2)?

Some results toward Nivat's conjecture

The following conditions imply periodicity

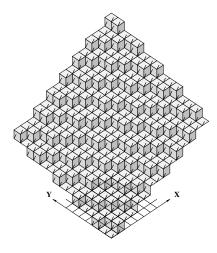
- $p_u(2, n) \le 2n$ or $p_u(n, 2) \le 2n$ for some n[Sander-Tijdeman 2002]
- $p_u(m, n) \leq \frac{1}{144}mn$ for some (m, n)[Epifanio-Koskas-Mignosi 2003]
- $p_u(m, n) \leq \frac{1}{16}mn$ for some (m, n) [Quas-Zamboni 2004] Combinatorial approach
- $p_u(m, n) \leq \frac{1}{2}mn$ for some (m, n) [Cyr-Kra 2015] Dynamical approach
- $p_u(m,3) \leq 3mn$ for some (m,n) [Cyr-Kra 2016]
- $p_u(m, n) \le mn$ for infinitely many pairs (m, n)[Kari-Szabados 2015] Algebraic approach

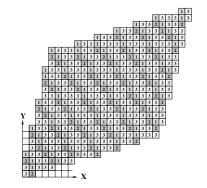
Sturmian words are the words that have n + 1 factors of length n for all n. They are codings of discrete lines



© Th. Fernique

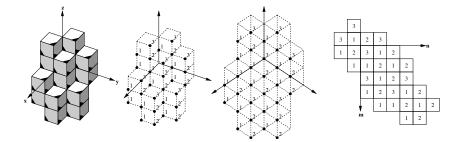
Discrete planes and 2D Sturmian words





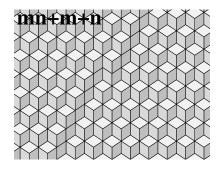
[©]Th. Fernique

Discrete planes and 2D Sturmian words



[©]Th. Fernique

2D Sturmian words [B.-Vuillon] $p_u(m, n) = mn + m + n$ for all (m, n)



2D Sturmian words are

- codings of discrete planes
- they have low complexity function
- quasicrystals

The geometry of discrete objects

can be

- algorithmic/computational ex: convex hull, Delaunay triangulation
- discrete/digital ex: discretization, segmentation, discrete convexity
- discrete differential ex: topological combinatorics, geometric estimators
- combinatorial ex: packings, hyperplane arrangements

Discrete geometry Digital geometry

Analysis of geometric problems on objects defined on regular lattices

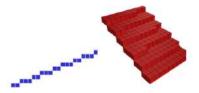


Discrete geometry Digital geometry

Analysis of geometric problems on objects defined on regular lattices



Among the most basic primitives one finds discrete lines and planes



Discrete geometry Digital geometry

Analysis of geometric problems on objects defined on regular lattices



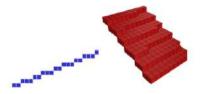
Example of application: segmentation into maximal discrete segments



Digital geometry

How to discretize a line in the space?

- There are the usual difficulties related to discrete geometry
- There are further difficulties due to the codimension > 1 for discrete lines

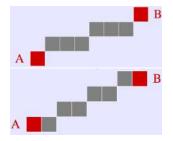


[D. Coeurjoly, Digital geometry in a Nutshell http://liris.cnrs.fr/david.coeurjolly/doku/doku.php]

Euclid first axiom

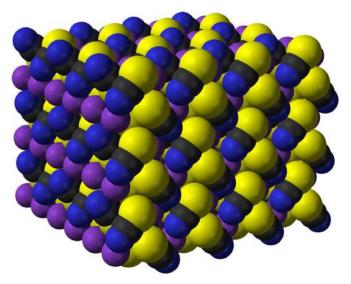
Given two points A and B, there exists a unique line that contains them

This is no more true in the discrete case



Words, tilings and quasicrystals

A crystal



A periodic arrangement of atoms

Quasiperiodicity and quasicrystals

Quasicrystals are solids discovered in 84 with an atomic structure that is both ordered and aperiodic [Shechtman-Blech-Gratias-Cahn]

An aperiodic system may have long-range order (cf. Aperiodic tilings [Wang'61, Berger'66, Robinson'71,...])

Which mathematical models for quasicrystals?

There are mainly two methods for producing quasicrystals

- Substitutions
- Cut and project schemes

[WHAT IS.. a Quasicrystal? M. Senechal]

Which models for quasicrystals?

"His discovery was extremely controversial. In the course of defending his findings, he was asked to leave his research group. However, his battle eventually forced scientists to reconsider their conception of the very nature of matter."

Aperiodic mosaics, such as those found in the medieval Islamic mosaics of the Alhambra Palace in Spain and the Darb-i Imam Shrine in Iran, have helped scientists understand what quasicrystals look like at the atomic level. In those mosaics, as in quasicrystals, the patterns are regular - they follow mathematical rules - but they never repeat themselves.

When scientists describe Shechtman's quasicrystals, they use a concept that comes from mathematics and art : the golden ratio.

© Communiqué de presse de l'Académie royale suédoise des sciences 2011

Cut and project schemes

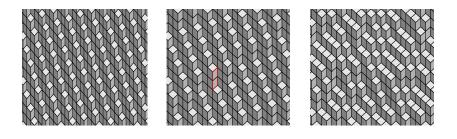
Projection of a "plane" slicing through a higher dimensional lattice

- The order comes from the lattice structure
- The nonperiodicity comes from the irrationality of the normal vector of the "plane"



Sturmian words are 1D quasicrystals

Toward long-range aperiodic order

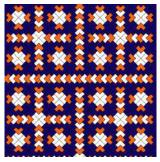


What is meant by quasiperiodicity?

The objects under consideration

• Infinite words (sequences with values in a finite alphabet)

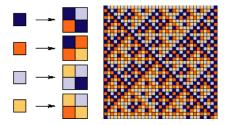




A tiling of the plane is a collection of tiles that covers the plane with no overlaps

Substitutions

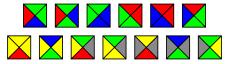
- Substitutions on words and symbolic dynamical systems
- Substitutions on tiles : inflation/subdivision rules, tilings and point sets

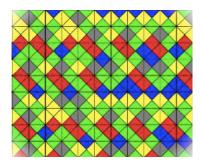


• Tilings Encyclopedia http://tilings.math.uni-bielefeld.de/ [E. Harriss, D. Frettlöh]

Wang tiles

These are square tiles with colors on each side and colors have to match.





A decision problem (1961)

Can one tile the plane with a given set of Wang tiles?

The Eternity game



A price of 2 millions of dollars! 256 Wang tiles to place on a 16×16 grid The number of solutions is estimated to 20 000

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternity_(jeu)

A conjecture

If a set of Wang tiles can pave the plane, it can pave it in a periodic way

We then can decide the domino problem

which turned to be false

There exist aperiodic sets of tiles!

https://www.lri.fr/~aubrun/exposes/SML_Aubrun.pdf http://images.math.cnrs.fr/Dominos-aperiodiques.html

Aperiodic sets of tiles

They only allow the production of aperiodic tilings

- Berger, 1964 20426 tiles (computability)
- Berger, 1964 104 tiles
- Robinson, 1967 52 tiles (computability and substitutions)
- Penrose, 1976 34 tiles (substitutions)

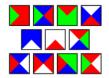
Aperiodic sets of tiles

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And the actual record is

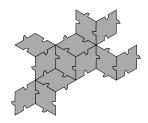
• E. Jeandel and M. Rao, 2015 11 tiles and 4 colors

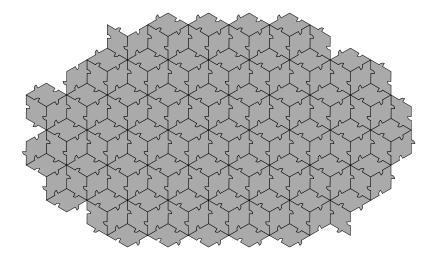














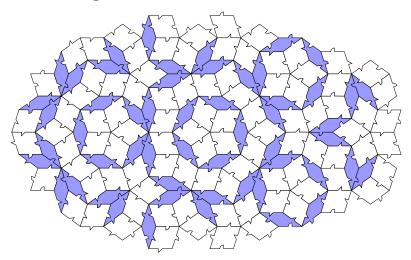












Combinatorics and analysis of algorithms

Analysis of algorithms

• Analysis of algorithms [Knuth'63]

probabilistic, combinatorial, and analytic methods

• Analytic combinatorics [Flajolet-Sedgewick]



generating functions and complex analysis, analysis of the singularities

Dynamical analysis of algorithms [Vallée]
 Transfer operators → Generating functions of Dirichlet type

Average analysis of algorithms

Remark: Worst case vs. average analysis of algorithms

Remark: Worst case vs. average analysis of algorithms

Elements for an average analysis

- \bullet An algorithm ${\cal A}$ whose inputs belong to some set Ω
- A cost function X : Ω → ℝ⁺ that describes the algorithm (bit complexity, size of the output, memory/space complexity, ...)

• A size function:
$$\Omega = \bigcup_n \Omega_n$$

 Each set Ω_n is endowed with a probability distribution (usually the uniform distribution)

We consider a cost function $X: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^+$

• [mean value] Compute the asymptotic mean value of X

$\mathrm{E}_n[X] \underset{n \to \infty}{\sim}$

ex: what is the average bit complexity of the algorithm when the input size n is large? Is it linear in n? Quadratic in n?

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• [limit law] what is the limit law of X

$$\frac{X - \operatorname{E}_n[X]}{\sigma_n(X)} \mathop{\to}\limits_{n \to \infty}$$

ex: what is asymptotically the probability that X is in the interval [a, b]?

On the Euclidean algorithm

We start from two positive integers u_0 and u_1

$$u_0 = u_1 \left[\frac{u_0}{u_1} \right] + u_2$$
$$u_1 = u_2 \left[\frac{u_1}{u_2} \right] + u_3$$
$$\vdots$$
$$u_{m-1} = u_m \left[\frac{u_{m-1}}{u_m} \right] + u_{m+1}$$
$$u_{m+1} = \gcd(u_0, u_1)$$
$$u_{m+2} = 0$$

Euclid algorithm and continued fractions

We start with two coprime integers u_0 and u_1

 $u_0 = u_1 a_1 + u_2$

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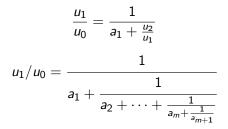
$$u_{m-1} = u_m a_m + u_{m+1}$$

 $u_m = u_{m+1} a_{m+1} + 0$
 $u_{m+1} = 1 = \gcd(u_0, u_1)$

Euclid algorithm and continued fractions

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On the number of Euclidean divisions for Euclid's algorithm

- Lamé (1850): the worst case is linear w.r.t. the input binary size
- Heilbron (69) and Dixon (70): the mean number of divisions is linear w.r.t. the input binary size
- Hensley (1994): the number of divisions follows a gaussian limit law

Number of steps for the Euclid algorithm

Let L(u, v) stand for number of steps with 0 < v < u

• Worst case

 $L(u, v) = O(\log v)$ ($\leq 5 \log_{10} v$, Lamé 1844)

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• Mean case $0 < v < u \le N$ gcd(u, v) = 1Consider

$$\Omega_m := \{(u_1, u_2) \in \mathbb{N}^2, \ 0 \le u_1, u_2 \le m\}$$

endowed with the uniform distribution

$$\mathbb{E}_{N}[L] \sim \frac{12\log 2}{\pi^{2}} \cdot \log N$$

[see Knuth, Vol. 2]

Number of steps for the Euclid algorithm

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$$\mathbb{E}_{\textit{N}}[\textit{L}] \sim rac{12\log 2}{\pi^2} \cdot \log \textit{N} + \eta + O(\textit{N}^{-\gamma})$$

 η Porter's constant

asymptotically normal distribution

[Heilbronn'69, Dixon'70, Porter'75, Hensley'94, Baladi-Vallée'05...]

Formal power series with coefficients in \mathbb{F}_q

Formal power series

Let q be a power of a prime number p

We have the correspondence

•
$$\mathbb{Z} \sim \mathbb{F}_q[X]$$

•
$$\mathbb{Q} \sim \mathbb{F}_q(X)$$

•
$$\mathbb{R} \sim \mathbb{F}_q((X^{-1}))$$

$$f = a_n X^n + a_{n-1} X^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0 + a_{-1} X^{-1} + \cdots$$

Laurent formal power series

Formal power series

Let
$$f \in \mathbb{F}_q((X^{-1}))$$
 $f \neq 0$
 $f = a_n X^n + a_{n-1} X^{n-1} + \cdots \qquad a_n \neq 0$

Degree deg f = n
Distance $|f| = q^{\deg f}$

Ultrametric space

 $|f+g| \leq \max(|f|, |gl)$

No carry propagation!

Generating functions

 $\Omega = \{ (P, Q) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]^2 : Q \text{ monic}, P = 0 \text{ or deg } P < \deg Q \}$

$$\Omega_{m} = \{ (P, Q) \in \Omega : \deg Q = m \}$$

• Generating function

$$T_{\Omega}(z) := \sum_{m \ge 0} |\Omega_m| z^m = \sum_{(P,Q) \in \Omega} z^{\deg(Q)}$$

• Fact

$$ert \Omega_m ert = q^{2m}$$
 $au_\Omega(z) := \sum_{m \geq 0} ert \Omega_m ert z^m = rac{1}{1-q^2 z}$

A fundamental bijection

Euclid algorithm \rightsquigarrow (*P*, *Q*) is uniquely determined by

partial quotients (A_1, \dots, A_L) + gcd (monic)

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Euclid algorithm \rightsquigarrow (P, Q) is uniquely determined by

partial quotients (A_1, \dots, A_L) + gcd (monic)

$$\deg (Q) = \sum \deg (A_i) + \deg (\gcd)$$

Ultrametricity!

A fundamental bijection

Euclid algorithm $\sim (P, Q)$ is uniquely determined by

partial quotients (A_1, \dots, A_L) + gcd (monic)

$$\mathsf{deg}\;(Q) = \sum \mathsf{deg}\;(A_i) + \mathsf{deg}\;(\mathsf{gcd})$$

Ultrametricity!

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G} &= \{ P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : \deg P \geq 1 \} \\ \mathcal{U} &= \{ P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : P \text{ is monic} \} \\ \end{aligned}$$

 $\mathsf{Fact} \qquad \Omega = \mathtt{Seq}(\mathcal{G}) \times \mathcal{U}$

 $ext{Seq}(\mathcal{G}){:=}$ finite sequences of elements of \mathcal{G}

 $\Omega = \{(P,Q) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]^2 : Q \text{ monic}, P = 0 \text{ or deg } P < \deg Q\}$

Generating functions

$$\begin{split} \Omega &= \{(P,Q) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]^2 : Q \text{ monic}, P = 0 \text{ or deg } P < \deg Q\} \\ \mathcal{G}_m &= \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : \deg P \geq 1, \deg (P) = m\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{quotients} \\ \mathcal{U}_m &= \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : P \text{ is monic}, \deg (P) = m\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{gcd} \end{array} \end{split}$$

• Generating function

$$egin{aligned} & U(z) := \sum_{m \geq 0} |\mathcal{U}_m| z^m = rac{1}{1-qz} \ & G(z) := \sum_{m \geq 0} |\mathcal{G}_m| z^m = (q-1) \left(rac{1}{1-qz} - 1
ight) = rac{(q-1)qz}{1-qz} \ & egin{aligned} & \mathcal{G}(z) \end{pmatrix} & \times \mathcal{U} \\ & & & & \mathcal{T}_\Omega(z) = \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} \mathcal{G}^k(z)\right) \times \mathcal{U}(z) = rac{1}{1-\mathcal{G}(z)} \times \mathcal{U}(z) \\ & & & & \mathcal{T}_\Omega(z) = \sum rac{1}{1-q^2z}, & |\Omega_m| = q^{2m} \end{aligned}$$



Let c be a cost defined on the set \mathcal{G} of quotients

Additive costs

Let c be a cost defined on the set G of quotients Additive cost C on Ω

$$C(P,Q) := \sum_{i=1}^{L(P,Q)} c(A_i)$$

The A_i are the quotients

Example: C = 1 Number of steps

We introduce a further variable for the cost u



Let c be a cost defined on the set G of quotients

 \rightsquigarrow generating functions with two variables

Additive costs

Let c be a cost defined on the set G of quotients

$$S_c(z, u) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{G}} z^{\deg P} \cdot u^{c(P)} \qquad \mathcal{G} = \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : \deg P \ge 1\}$$

$$S_c(z,u) = \sum_{m,k} |\{P \in \mathcal{G}, \deg P = m, c(P) = k\}| z^m u^k$$

$$T_c(z, u) = \sum_{(P,Q)\in\Omega} z^{\deg Q} \cdot u^{C(P,Q)}$$

 $T_C(z,u) = \sum_{m,k} \left| \{ (P,Q) \in \Omega, \text{ deg } Q = m, \ C(P,Q) = k \} \right| z^m u^k$

Additive costs

Let c be a cost defined on the set \mathcal{G} of quotients

$$S_{c}(z, u) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{G}} z^{\deg P} \cdot u^{c(P)}$$
$$T_{c}(z, u) = \sum_{(P,Q) \in \Omega} z^{\deg Q} \cdot u^{C(P,Q)}$$

Fact

$$T_{\Omega}(z) = rac{1}{1-G(z)} \cdot U(z)$$
 $T_C(z,u) = rac{1}{1-S_c(z,u)} \cdot U(z)$

An example of an additive cost

$$\begin{split} \Omega &= \{(P,Q) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]^2 : Q \text{ monic}, \ P = 0, \text{ or deg } P < \deg Q \} \\ \mathcal{G} &= \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : \deg P \geq 1 \} \quad \mathcal{U} = \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : P \text{ is monic} \} \end{split}$$

An example of an additive cost

• c = 1, C = number of steps for Euclid algorithm

$$S_c(z,u) = u \cdot G(z)$$

$$G(z) = \frac{(q-1)qz}{1-qz} \qquad \mathcal{G} = \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : \deg P \ge 1\}$$
$$T_C(z, u) = \frac{1}{1-uG} \cdot U(z)$$

How to get expectations?

$$\begin{split} \Omega &= \{(P,Q) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]^2 : Q \text{ monic}, \ P = 0, \text{ or deg } P < \deg Q\} \\ \mathcal{G} &= \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : \deg P \geq 1\} \text{ partial quotients} \\ \mathcal{U} &= \{P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] : P \text{ is monic}\} \text{ gcd} \end{split}$$

$$T_{\Omega}(z)=rac{1}{1-G(z)}\cdot U(z), \quad T_C(z,u)=rac{1}{1-S_c(z,u)}\cdot U(z)$$

$$\mathcal{S}_c(z,u) = \sum_{m,k} |\{P \in \mathcal{G}, \text{ deg } P = m, c(P) = k\}| z^m u^k$$

 $T_{\mathcal{C}}(z,u) = \sum_{m,k} \left| \{ (P,Q) \in \Omega, \text{ deg } Q = m, \ \mathcal{C}(P,Q) = k \} \right| z^m u^k$

How to get expectations?

$$T_{\Omega}(z)=rac{1}{1-G(z)}\cdot U(z), \quad T_C(z,u)=rac{1}{1-S_c(z,u)}\cdot U(z).$$

$$S_c(z,u) = \sum_{m,k} |\{P \in \mathcal{G}, \deg P = m, c(P) = k\}| z^m u^k$$

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By taking derivatives w.r.t. u

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} T_C|_{u=1} = \sum_m k |\{(P, Q) \in \Omega, \deg Q = m, C(P, Q) = k\}|z^m$$
$$\mathbb{E}_m[C] = \frac{[z^m]\frac{\partial}{\partial u} T_C(z, u)|_{u=1}}{q^{2m}}$$
$$\rightsquigarrow \text{Expectation, variance, asymptotic Gaussian law}$$

Number of steps

$$T_{L}(z, u) = \frac{1}{1 - uG} \cdot U(z)$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} T_{L}|_{u=1} = G \left(\frac{1}{1 - G}\right)^{2} \cdot U(z)$$
Expectation
$$\mathbb{E}_{m}[L] = \frac{[z^{m}]\frac{\partial}{\partial u} T_{L}(z, u)|_{u=1}}{q^{2m}}$$

Number of steps

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Expectation $\mathbb{E}_{m}[L] = \frac{[z^{m}]\frac{\partial}{\partial u} T_{L}(z, u)|_{u=1}}{q^{2m}}$

Looking for singularities

$$G(z) = \frac{(q-1)qz}{1-qz} \quad \text{singularity } 1/q$$
$$\left(\frac{1}{1-G}\right)^2 = \frac{1-qz}{1-q^2z} \text{ singularity } 1/q^2$$
The smallest pole is $1/q^2$

Number of steps

$$T_L(z, u) = \frac{1}{1 - uG} \cdot U(z)$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} T_L|_{u=1} = G \left(\frac{1}{1 - G}\right)^2 \cdot U(z)$$

Expectation
$$\mathbb{E}_m[L] = \frac{[z^m]\frac{\partial}{\partial u}T_L(z,u)|_{u=1}}{q^{2m}}$$
 linear in m

$$T_{\Omega}(z) = rac{1}{1-G} \cdot U(z) = rac{1}{1-q^2 z}$$
 singularity $1/q^2 \rightsquigarrow q^{2m}$

 $\left(\frac{1}{1-G}\right)^2 = \frac{1-qz}{1-q^2z} \text{ singularity } 1/q^2 \text{ of order } 2 \rightsquigarrow mq^{2m}$

Costs for Euclid algorithm

• Theorem [Vallée-Lhote] L := number of steps

$$\mathbb{E}_m[L] = \frac{q-1}{q} \cdot m \qquad \mathbb{V}_m[L] = \cdot \frac{q-1}{q^2} \cdot m$$

Gaussian law

• Theorem [B.-Nakada-Natsui-Vallée] *N* := number of non-zero monomials

$$\mathbb{E}_m[\mathsf{N}] = 2 \cdot rac{q-1}{q} \cdot \mathsf{m} + O(1) \qquad \mathbb{V}_m[\mathsf{N}] = 2 \cdot rac{q-1}{q^2} \cdot \mathsf{m} + O(1)$$

Gaussian law

Asymptotic Gaussian law

Let R be a cost defined on Ω

$$\mathbb{P}_m\left[(P,Q)\in\Omega_m,\frac{R(P,Q)-a_m}{\sqrt{b_m}}\leq y\right]=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{-\infty}^y e^{-t^2/2}dt+r_m(y)$$

 $(r_m)_m$ is sequence of functions $r_m \colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, with

$$\lim_{m\to\infty}\sup\{r_m(y)\,:\,y\in\mathbb{R}\}=0$$

$$\mathbb{E}_m[R] \sim a_m, \quad \mathbb{V}_m[R] \sim b_m.$$

- Combinatorics is ubiquitous
- An interplay between discrete and continuous structures
 Concrete mathematics: A Foundation for Computer Science [Graham-Knuth-Patashnik]
- A domain of inter/transdisciplinarity