Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality

Hans Zantema

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven and Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (until Sept 2022)

Numeration, June, 2024

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Sequences

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$$
\sigma \; = \; \sigma(0) \sigma(1) \sigma(2) \sigma(3) \cdots
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These are boring

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What are the simplest sequences that are not ultimately periodic?

 $\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}$

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A *morphism f* : $A \rightarrow A^+$ can be extended to strings and to sequences

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A *morphism f* : $A \to A^+$ can be extended to strings and to sequences

If $f(a) = au$, $u \neq \epsilon$, then f has a *unique fixed point* starting in a:

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Such a sequence is called *pure morphic*

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If $\tau : B \to A$ (called a *coding*) and σ is pure morphic over B, then $\tau(\sigma)$ is called *morphic* **YO A HE YEAR A BY YOUR**

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The *Thue-Morse* sequence

 $t = 0110100110010110...$

is defined by $t = f^{\infty}(0)$ for $f(0) = 01$, $f(1) = 10$

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{A}$

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The *Fibonacci* sequence

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It is morphic; it is easily shown not to be pu[re](#page-19-0) [mo](#page-21-0)[r](#page-14-0)[p](#page-15-0)[h](#page-20-0)[i](#page-21-0)[c](#page-0-0)

This talk

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Equivalent characterizations of the class of morphic sequences and the relation to numeration systems

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- Equivalent characterizations of the class of morphic sequences and the relation to numeration systems
- Visualization by turtle graphics

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- Equivalent characterizations of the class of morphic sequences and the relation to numeration systems
- Visualization by turtle graphics
- How to prove that two representations give the same sequence

The class of morphic sequences

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Just like the class of regular languages is closed under several operations and has several equivalent characterizations, one may expect that a similar robustness of the class of morphic sequences gives rise to equivalent characterizations

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Just like the class of regular languages is closed under several operations and has several equivalent characterizations, one may expect that a similar robustness of the class of morphic sequences gives rise to equivalent characterizations

We investigate some results in this direction, along the lines of similar characterizations of *automatic sequences*, being morphic sequences for which all $f(b)$ have the same length

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{F}$

Tree structure

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Tree structure

The recursive calls in the definition of morphic sequence give rise to a tree structure

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For the Fibonacci sequence fib this starts in

Every internal node labeled by a has $|f(a)|$ children, so Thue-Morse t gives a binary tree

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Every such f gives rise to a *numeration system*: numbering the nodes in a breadth-first way as we did gives rise to a bijection between $\mathbb N$ and the set of finite paths in the tree

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DFAO is DFA with *output*, that is, the symbol to be produced

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Every node $=$ state corresponds to a symbol a and has outgoing arrows labeled by $0, 1, \ldots, m-1$ where $m = |f(a)|$

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This mix-DFAO can be seen as a DFAO in which the transition function δ is *partial*

The alphabet is assumed to be of the shape $\{0, 1, \ldots, m-1\}$

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For fib the mix-DFAO reads

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Theorem

A sequence is morphic if and only if it is represented by a mix-DFAO

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Now we present such numeration systems in a much more general setting along the lines of the books Formal Languages, Automata and Numeration Systems by Michel Rigo

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It defines a representation function rep $_L : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow L$, being bijective and monotone wrt the genealogical order on L, that is, first look at the length, and then compare words of the same length lexicographically

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It defines a representation function rep $_L : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow L$, being bijective and monotone wrt the genealogical order on L, that is, first look at the length, and then compare words of the same length lexicographically

If L consists of the words not starting in 0 then this corresponds to the normal *m*-ary representation

$$
\sigma(i) = \mu(\delta(q_0, \mathsf{rep}_L(i)))
$$

for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$, where μ , δ , q_0 are the output function, transition function and initial state of the DFAO

 $\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} + \math$

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Theorem

A sequence is morphic if and only if it is L-automatic for some ANS L

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Here L-automatic allows much more freedom than the mix-DFAO representation we gave earlier

 $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right.$

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Theorem

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Both theorems are correct, in fact the proof that any morphic sequence is L-automatic in Rigo's book essentially uses the mix-DFAO representation as we did in our proof

 $(1 + \epsilon)$, $(1 + \epsilon)$, $(1 + \epsilon)$

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The terminology mix-DFAO was introduced in the LATA2013 paper by Endrullis, Grabmayer and Hendriks

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There it was used to define the *mix-automatic sequences* in which the sequence defined by a mix-DFAO is different: to compute $\sigma(i)$ the sequence rep(i) is entered to the mix-DFAO in reverse order

 $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \square & \rightarrow & \left\{ \bigoplus \bullet & \leftarrow \Xi \right. \right\} & \leftarrow \bot \Xi \end{array} \right.$

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There it was used to define the *mix-automatic sequences* in which the sequence defined by a mix-DFAO is different: to compute $\sigma(i)$ the sequence rep(i) is entered to the mix-DFAO in reverse order

Their main result is that the classes of morphic sequences and mix-automatic sequences are incomparable

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One more characterization of morphic sequences

Numbering the nodes of a tree by natural numbers yields a *parent* function $P : \mathbb{N}_{>0} \to \mathbb{N}$

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Numbering the nodes of a tree by natural numbers yields a *parent* function $P : \mathbb{N}_{>0} \to \mathbb{N}$

If the tree is rational, the corresponding function P is called a rational tree function

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For a sequence σ , a rational tree function P and a number n let $\sigma[n]$ be the subsequence of σ obtained by only keeping the elements of σ on positions k for which $P^m(k) = n$ for some m

Theorem

A sequence σ over Σ is morphic if and only if a rational tree function $P : \mathbb{N}_{>0} \to \mathbb{N}$ exists such that the set

 $\{\sigma[n] \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}\$

of subsequences of σ is finite.

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• Automatic sequences have several equivalent characterizations, based on automata (DFAO), morphic sequences and finiteness of kernel

 $\mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B}$

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- For morphic sequences we also gave a characterization by automata, essentially by DFAOs for which the transition function is *partial*

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- The characterization of automatic sequences by finiteness of the *kernel* is essentially about finiteness of a class of subsequences, we gave a similar characterization for morphic sequences

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- **•** Automatic sequences have several equivalent characterizations, based on automata (DFAO), morphic sequences and finiteness of kernel
- For morphic sequences we also gave a characterization by automata, essentially by DFAOs for which the transition function is partial
- The characterization of automatic sequences by finiteness of the kernel is essentially about finiteness of a class of subsequences, we gave a similar characterization for morphic sequences
- Feeding number representations in reverse direction into DFAO yields the same class of automatic sequences, for the variant for morphic sequences this is not the case

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Turtle figures

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For every $a \in A$ choose an angle $\alpha(a) \in \mathbb{R}$

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For every $a \in A$ choose an angle $\alpha(a) \in \mathbf{R}$

Then a sequence σ over A has a turtle curve:

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For every $a \in A$ choose an angle $\alpha(a) \in \mathbf{R}$

Then a sequence σ over A has a turtle curve:

Start in (0, 0) and draw a segment of unit length in the direction $\alpha(\sigma(0))$, by which the current direction is $\alpha(\sigma(0))$

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The *turtle figure* is defined to be the union of all resulting segments

As a first example, consider $f(0) = 0$, $f(1) = 10$, $f(2) = 210$, giving

$$
f^{\infty}(2) = 21010010^{3}10^{4}10^{5}1\cdots
$$

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This gives rise to the following turtle figure

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{A}$

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For instance, the *Thue-Morse* sequence

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One proves that if $2^n(\alpha(0) + \alpha(1))$ is a multiple of 360° = 2 π , then both $f^{n+2}(0)$ and $f^{n+2}(1)$ give rise to turtle figures that end where they started, both in position and angle

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Hence in that case the turtle figure of the infinite sequence $\mathbf{t} = f^{\infty}(0)$ draws these two finite turtle figures over and over again, so is finite

For instance, the Thue-Morse sequence

 $t = 0110100110010110...$

defined by $\mathbf{t} = f^{\infty}(0)$ for $f(0) = 01$, $f(1) = 10$ is composed from $f^3(0)=01101001$ and $f^3(1)=10010110$

One proves that if $2^n(\alpha(0) + \alpha(1))$ is a multiple of 360° = 2 π , then both $f^{n+2}(0)$ and $f^{n+2}(1)$ give rise to turtle figures that end where they started, both in position and angle

Hence in that case the turtle figure of the infinite sequence $\mathbf{t} = f^{\infty}(0)$ draws these two finite turtle figures over and over again, so is finite

We give a few examples of resulting turtle figures of **t** where $2^n(\alpha(0)+\alpha(1))$ is a multiple of 360°

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 $f(0) = 01$, $f(1) = 10$, $\alpha(0) = \frac{\pi}{8}$, $\alpha(1) = \frac{63\pi}{64}$

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 $f(0) = 01$, $f(1) = 10$, $\alpha(0) = \frac{3\pi}{16}$, $\alpha(1) = \frac{117\pi}{128}$

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 $f(0) = 01$, $f(1) = 10$, $\alpha(0) = \frac{61\pi}{64}$, $\alpha(1) = \frac{33\pi}{1024}$

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More finite turtle figures

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目

Over the alphabet $\{0, 1\}$ for every f the sequence $f^{\infty}(0)$ is composed from $f^n(0)$ and $f^n(1)$, for any fixed n

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{A}$

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Over the alphabet $\{0,1\}$ for every f the sequence $f^{\infty}(0)$ is composed from $f^n(0)$ and $f^n(1)$, for any fixed n

If the turtle figure of $f^n(0)$ ends in a rational angle different from the initial angle, then the turtle figure of the periodic sequence $(f^n(0))$ [∞] is finite

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We will give a few examples of this

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 $f(0)=0101$, $f(1)=11$, $\alpha(0)=-132^{\circ}$ $\alpha(0)=-132^{\circ}$ $\alpha(0)=-132^{\circ}$, $\alpha(1)=33\frac{3}{4}$ $\alpha(1)=33\frac{3}{4}$ $\alpha(1)=33\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3\pi}{16}$ [16](#page-154-0)

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 $f(0) = 01$ $f(0) = 01$ $f(0) = 01$, $f(1) = 00$, $\alpha(0) = 140^{\circ}$, $\alpha(1) = -80^{\circ}$

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Fractal turtle figures

Hans Zantema [Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality](#page-0-0)

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目

Apart from all these finite turtle figures, also infinite turtle figures are of interest

 $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0$

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Apart from all these finite turtle figures, also infinite turtle figures are of interest

In particular *fractal turtle figures*, in its simplest form turtle figures of which the set P of end points of all the (infinitely many) end points of the segments have the following fractal property:

$$
cP \subseteq P
$$

for some magnifying factor $c > 1$, where the points in P are considered to be vectors with respect to some origin

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An immediate consequence of this definition is that every fractal turtle figure is infinite

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Example

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obtained as the turtle figure of $f^{\infty}(0)$ for $f(0) = 001111$, $f(1) = 10$, $\alpha(0) = 0$, $\alpha(1) = 90^{\circ}$, giving a magnifying factor $c = 2$

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obtained as the turtle figure of $f^{\infty}(0)$ for $f(0) = 001111$, $f(1) = 10$, $\alpha(0) = 0$, $\alpha(1) = 90^{\circ}$, giving a magnifying factor $c = 2$

Key idea: applying f causes scaling up factor c in turtle figure

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$f(0) = 011111$, $f(1) = 00$, $\alpha(0) = 45^{\circ}$, $\alpha(1) = -90^{\circ}$

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Sierpinsky triangle, obtained by $f(0) = 00001$, $f(1) = 11$, $\alpha(0)=120^{\circ}, \alpha(1)=0$

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More complicated criteria yield fractal turtle figures with rotation

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 $f(0) = 0101111$, $f(1) = 110$, $\alpha(0) = 90^{\circ}$, $\alpha(1) = -90^{\circ}$

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 $f(0) = 000110$, $f(1) = 100110$, $\alpha(0) = 70^{\circ}$, $\alpha(1) = -105^{\circ}$

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All these examples and underlying theory are presented in

Hans Zantema [Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality](#page-0-0)

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All these examples and underlying theory are presented in

This book is written for a wide audience, and apart from turtle graphics of morphic sequences it contains a general mathematical introduction to infinity, and many mathematical challenges

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 $\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \pmod{2} \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}$

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Example:

It happens that fib is equal to $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ for g, ρ defined by

$$
g(0)=02, g(1)=021, g(2)=102, \rho(0)=\rho(1)=0, \rho(2)=1
$$

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How to prove this?

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How to prove this?

 $\text{fib} = f^\infty(0)$ for $f(0) = 01, f(1) = 0$, also if f is replaced by f^2 :

 $f(0) = 010$, $f(1) = 01$

Example:

It happens that fib is equal to $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ for g, ρ defined by

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How to prove this?

 $\text{fib} = f^\infty(0)$ for $f(0) = 01, f(1) = 0$, also if f is replaced by f^2 :

$$
f(0)=010,\;f(1)=01
$$

Claim to be proved: $f^{\infty}(0) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$

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$$
\begin{array}{c} (0) \ f^{n-1}(01)=\rho(g^n(0)) \\ (1) \ f^{n-1}(010)=\rho(g^n(1)) \\ (2) \ f^{n-1}(001)=\rho(g^n(2)) \end{array}
$$

 $\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \pmod{2} \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}$

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$$

Then our claim follows from (0)

 $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0$

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\begin{array}{c} (0) \ f^{n-1}(01) = \rho(g^n(0)) \\ (1) \ f^{n-1}(010) = \rho(g^n(1)) \\ (2) \ f^{n-1}(001) = \rho(g^n(2)) \end{array}
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Basis $n = 1$ of induction: $f^0(01) = 01 = \rho(g(0))$ $f^0(010) = 010 = \rho(g(1))$ $f^0(001)) = 001 = \rho(g(2))$

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Hence basis of induction proved

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$$
f^{n}(01)) = f^{n-1}(f(01)) = f^{n-1}(010 01)
$$

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$$
f^{n}(01)) = f^{n-1}(f(01)) = f^{n-1}(010 01)
$$

$$
= f^{n-1}(01\ 001) = \rho(g^n(02)) = \rho(g^{n+1}(0))
$$

using IH (0) and IH (2)

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using IH (0) and IH (2)
proving part (0)

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$$
f^{n}(010) = f^{n-1}(01001010) = \rho(g^{n}(021)) = \rho(g^{n+1}(1))
$$

using $IH (0)$ and $IH (2)$ and $IH (1)$

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using IH (0) and IH (2) and IH (1)

Induction step part (2):

 $f''(001) = f^{n-1}(01001001) = \rho(g^n(102)) = \rho(g^{n+1}(2))$

using $IH (1)$ and $IH (0)$ and $IH (2)$

$$
f^{n}(010) = f^{n-1}(01001010) = \rho(g^{n}(021)) = \rho(g^{n+1}(1))
$$

using IH (0) and IH (2) and IH (1)

Induction step part (2):

$$
f^{n}(001) = f^{n-1}(01001001) = \rho(g^{n}(102)) = \rho(g^{n+1}(2))
$$

using $IH (1)$ and $IH (0)$ and $IH (2)$

Induction step proved, hence claim proved

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{A}$

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That's not the case: I wrote a prototype tool that searches for a general pattern, and automatically generates the proof as we just gave it

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The general pattern is given by the following theorem in which the alphabet for g is $\{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$

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Theorem

For $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n$ let w_i be the prefix in front of the first occurrence of i in $g^{\infty}(0)$, and write $u_i = f^{\infty}(0)_{|g(w_i)|,|g(w_i i)|}$ For $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n$ assume that $\tau(u_i) = \rho(g(i))$ and $f(u_i) = u_{a_0} \cdots u_{a_{k-1}}$ for $g(i) = a_0 \cdots a_{k-1}$

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For $i = 0, 1, ..., n$ assume that $\tau(u_i) = \rho(g(i))$ and
 $f(u_i) = u_{a_0} \cdots u_{a_{k-1}}$ for $g(i) = a_0 \cdots a_{k-1}$
Then $\tau(f^{\infty}(0)) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$

 $\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}$

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 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{A}$

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As the proof is generated by a computer program, it also may work for much larger cases where checking the conditions is very laborious, and indeed it does

The origin of this research was in trying to find the smallest representation of even(fib) as a morphic sequence

Brute force computer search for a morphism g over $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ such that $|g(a)| \leq 2$ for all a and and the first N elements of even(fib) and $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ coincide for some big number N gave

$$
g(0) = 01, g(1) = 2, g(2) = 31, g(3) = 04, g(4) = 0
$$

$$
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$$

 $\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}$

Brute force computer search for a morphism g over $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ such that $|g(a)| < 2$ for all a and and the first N elements of even(fib) and $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ coincide for some big number N gave

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for which it was easily checked that even(fib) and $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ coincide for the first million elements, so making it very likely that even(fib) = $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$

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for which it was easily checked that even(fib) and $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ coincide for the first million elements, so making it very likely that even(fib) = $\rho(g^{\infty}(0))$

But how to prove this?

Try to prove $\tau(f^{\infty}(0)) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ for some more complicated f, τ for which even(fib) = $\tau(f^{\infty}(0))$ by construction

In trying to prove $\tau(f^{\infty}(0)) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$, a proof was found after ${\it g}$ was replaced by ${\it g}^3$

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Later the proof was generalized to the theorem and the tool was developed

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{A}$

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Improving the approach is a topic of ongoing research

Conclusions

Hans Zantema [Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality](#page-0-0)

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• We gave equivalent *characterizations* of morphic sequences:

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Conclusions

• We gave equivalent *characterizations* of morphic sequences:

by automata (mix-DFAOs) and by finiteness of a particular class of subsequences

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- We visualized morphic sequences by turtle figures

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- We gave an approach to automatically prove that two morphic sequences are equal

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Thank you

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