# Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality

Hans Zantema

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

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# Sequences

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What are the simplest sequences that are *not* ultimately periodic?

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

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If  $\tau: B \to A$  (called a *coding*) and  $\sigma$  is pure morphic over B, then  $\tau(\sigma)$  is called *morphic* 

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The *Thue-Morse* sequence

 $\boldsymbol{t}=0110100110010110\cdots$ 

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

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For f(0) = 0, f(1) = 10, f(2) = 210,  $\tau(0) = 0$ ,  $\tau(1) = \tau(2) = 1$ we obtain

$$\tau(f^{\infty}(2)) = 11010010^3 10^4 10^5 1 \cdots$$

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It is morphic; it is easily shown not to be pure morphic and the second

# This talk

Hans Zantema Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality

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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

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#### The class of morphic sequences

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The class of morphic sequences is closed under several operations, like

- adding or removing a string at the front,
- applying morphisms,
- take arithmetic subsequence like even

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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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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

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#### 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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#### Tree structure

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For the Fibonacci sequence fib this starts in



Hans Zantema

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

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

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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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

The tree is *rational*, that is, has only finitely many distinct subtrees: one for every alphabet symbol

Sharing all equal subtrees gives rise to a finite representation, a *mix-DFAO* 

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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  $\delta$  is *partial* 

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

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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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An *abstract numeration system (ANS)* is a regular language *L* over the alphabet  $\{0, 1, ..., m-1\}$ 

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It defines a representation function  $\operatorname{rep}_L : \mathbb{N} \to L$ , 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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If L consists of the words not starting in 0 then this corresponds to the normal m-ary representation

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For such an ANS L a sequence  $\sigma$  is called <u>L-automatic</u> if there exists a partial DFAO such that

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

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

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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

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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

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

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

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

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

#### Theorem

A sequence  $\sigma$  over  $\Sigma$  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  $\sigma$  is finite.

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

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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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- 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

# Turtle figures

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Next for i = 1, 2, 3, ... continue by adding  $\alpha(\sigma(i))$  to the current direction and draw a segment in this direction

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

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

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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

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For instance, the *Thue-Morse* sequence

 $\boldsymbol{t}=0110100110010110\cdots$ 

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

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One proves that if  $2^n(\alpha(0) + \alpha(1))$  is a multiple of  $360^\circ = 2\pi$ , 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* 

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





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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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  $(f^n(0))^{\infty}$  is finite

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If moreover the turtle figure of  $f^n(1)$  ends in its initial position and angle, then the turtle curve of the sequence  $f^{\infty}(0)$ , being composed from  $f^n(0)$  and  $f^n(1)$  will be finite

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We will give a few examples of this

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

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

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# Fractal turtle figures

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

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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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f(0)=0101111, f(1)=110,  $lpha(0)=90^\circ$ ,  $lpha(1)=-90^\circ$ 

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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



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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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Example:

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Example:

It happens that fib is equal to  $ho(g^\infty(0))$  for g,
ho 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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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

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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:  $f^{\infty}(0) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ 

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

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

Then our claim follows from (0)

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

Then our claim follows from (0)

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

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

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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using

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

$$=f^{n-1}(01\ 001)=
ho(g^n(02))=
ho(g^{n+1}(0))$$
IH (0) and IH (2)

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

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)

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

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

Induction step proved, hence claim proved

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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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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

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, ..., n let  $w_i$  be the prefix in front of the first occurrence of i in  $g^{\infty}(0)$ , and write  $u_i = f^{\infty}(0)_{|g(w_i)|,|g(w_ii)|}$ 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  $g(i) = a_0 \cdots a_{k-1}$ 

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Then  $\tau(f^{\infty}(0)) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$ 

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If not, then the tool first replaces f by  $f^2$  or  $f^3$ , and similar for g, in order to obtain the same dominant eigenvalue

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

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$$g(0) = 01, g(1) = 2, g(2) = 31, g(3) = 04, g(4) = 0$$
  
 $ho(0) = 
ho(1) = 0, 
ho(2) = 
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Try to prove  $\tau(f^{\infty}(0)) = \rho(g^{\infty}(0))$  for some more complicated  $f, \tau$  for which even(fib) =  $\tau(f^{\infty}(0))$  by construction

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In trying to prove  $au(f^\infty(0)) = 
ho(g^\infty(0))$ , a proof was found after g was replaced by  $g^3$ 

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Improving the approach is a topic of ongoing research

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## Conclusions

Hans Zantema Morphic sequences: characterization, visualization and equality

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

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