

Normal Subsequences of Automatic Sequences

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★ Thue-Morse sequence

Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

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Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

0

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Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

01

★ Thue-Morse sequence

Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

0110

★ Thue-Morse sequence

Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

01101001

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Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

0110100110010110

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$$t_0 = 0, \quad t_{2^n+k} = 1 - t_k \quad (0 \leq k < 2^n)$$

$$t_n = s_2(n) \bmod 2$$

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \varepsilon_i(n) q^i \quad \varepsilon_i(n) \in \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}, \quad s_q(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \varepsilon_i(n)$$

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$$t_0 = 0, \quad t_{2^n+k} = 1-t_k \quad (0 \leq k < 2^n) \quad \text{or} \quad t_{2k} = t_k, \quad t_{2k+1} = 1-t_k$$

$$t_n = s_2(n) \bmod 2$$

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \varepsilon_i(n) q^i \quad \varepsilon_i(n) \in \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}, \quad s_q(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \varepsilon_i(n)$$

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The letters 0 and 1 appear with asymptotic frequency $\frac{1}{2}$.

★ Thue-Morse sequence

- TM sequence is **not periodic** and **cubeless**.
- TM sequence is **almost periodic**:
Every appearing consecutive block appears infinitely many times with bounded gaps.
- **Subword complexity is linear**: $p_k \leq \frac{10}{3}k$
 p_k ... subword complexity (*number of different consecutive blocks of length k that appear in the TM sequence*).
- **Zero topological entropy** of the corresponding dynamical system:

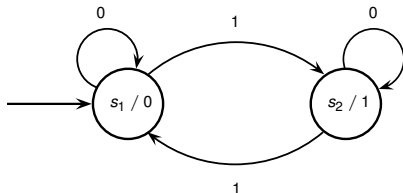
$$h = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log p_k = 0$$

- **Linear subsequences** $(t_{an+b})_{n \geq 0}$ have the same properties.
- The TM sequence and its linear subsequences are **automatic sequences**.

★ Thue-Morse sequence

Automaton that generates the Thue-Morse sequence:

$$t_n = \sum_{j \geq 0} \varepsilon_j(n) \bmod 2$$



★ Rudin-Shapiro sequence

Rudin-Shapiro sequence $(r_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

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Rudin-Shapiro sequence $(r_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

000100100001110100010010111000100001001000011101111...

$$r_0 = 0, \quad r_{2k} = r_k, \quad r_{2k+1} = \begin{cases} r_k & \text{if } k \text{ is even,} \\ 1 - r_k & \text{if } k \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

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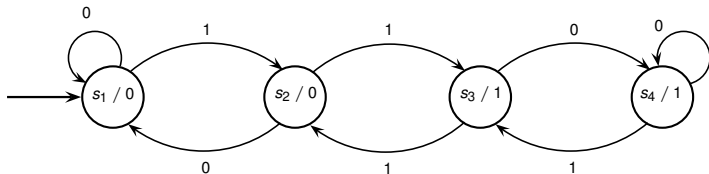
$$r_n = \sum_{i \geq 0} \varepsilon_i(n) \varepsilon_{i+1}(n) \pmod{2}$$

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \varepsilon_i(n) q^i \quad \varepsilon_i(n) \in \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$$

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Automaton that generates the Rudin-Shapiro sequence:

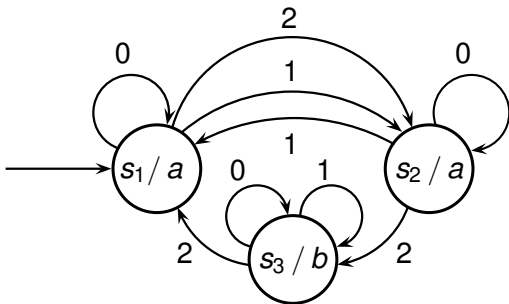
$$r_n = \sum_{j \geq 0} \varepsilon_j(n) \varepsilon_{j+1}(n) \pmod{2}$$



★ Automatic sequences

Definition

A sequence $(u_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is called a q -automatic sequence, if u_n is the output of an automaton when the input is the q -ary expansion of n .



$(u_n)_{n \geq 0} : aaaaabaabaabaabaabbbaaabaabbbaaabaabbbaaaaaaba \dots$

★ Automatic sequences

- Sum-of-digits-function: $u_n = s_q(n) \bmod m$

- **q -additive function** modulo m : $u_n = f(n) \bmod m$

$$f(n) = \sum_{j \geq 0} f(\varepsilon_j(n)) \quad \text{and} \quad f(0) = 0.$$

- **q -block-additive function** modulo m : $u_n = f(n) \bmod m$

$$f(n) = \sum_{j \geq 0} f(\varepsilon_j(n), \varepsilon_{j+1}(n), \dots, \varepsilon_{j+k-1}(n)) \quad \text{and} \quad f(0, 0, \dots, 0) = 0.$$

★ Automatic sequences

- For every q -automatic sequence u_n (on an alphabet \mathcal{A}) there exists the **logarithmic density** (for every letter $a \in \mathcal{A}$)

$$\text{logdens}(u_n, a) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log N} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \frac{1}{n} \cdot \mathbf{1}_{[u_n=a]}$$

which is also computable.

- If the **densities**

$$\text{dens}(u_n, a) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \#\{n \leq N : u_n = a\}$$

exist then they coincide with the logarithmic densities.

- Every **subsequence** u_{an+b} along an **arithmetic progression** of an automatic sequence u_n is automatic, too.
- The **subword complexity** p_k of an automatic sequence is (at most) **linear**.

★ Subsequences of Automatic Sequences

★ General idea:

- 1 Start with an **automatic sequence** u_n that is uniformly distributed on the output alphabet.
(Recall: u_n has at most linear subword complexity)
- 2 Consider a relatively sparse **subsequence** u_{n_k} that has the same asymptotic frequencies.
(It is assumed that the average size of the gaps increases sufficiently fast so that one can expect **random properties**)
- 3 This subsequence should be **pseudo-random** (or **normal**) on the output alphabet

★ **Thue-Morse sequence along Piatetski-Shapiro sequence** $[n^c]$

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★ Thue-Morse sequence along Piatetski-Shapiro sequence $\lfloor n^c \rfloor$

Thue-Morse sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$:

011 10 11 0 11 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 ...

Mauduit and Rivat (1995, 2005): $1 < c < 4/3$, $1 < c < 7/5$,
Spiegelhofer (2014, 2015+), $1 < c < 1.42$, $1 < c < 1.5 \implies$

$$\#\{0 \leq n < N : t_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor} = 0\} \sim \frac{N}{2}$$

★ Subsequences along $\lfloor n^c \rfloor$

Theorem (Deshouillers, D. and Morgenbesser, 2012)

Let u_n be a q -automatic sequence (on an alphabet \mathcal{A}) and

$$1 < c < 7/5.$$

Then for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ the asymptotic density $\text{dens}(u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor}, a)$ of a in the subsequence $u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor}$ exists if and only if the asymptotic density of a in u_n exists and we have

$$\text{dens}(u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor}, a) = \text{dens}(u_n, a).$$

The same property holds for the logarithmic density.

★ Thue-Morse sequence along squares

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0 1 1 0 1 1 0 ...

Mauduit and Rivat (2009):

$$\#\{0 \leq n < N : t_{n^2} = 0\} \sim \frac{N}{2}$$

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Solution of a **Conjecture of Gelfond** (1968)

★ Subsequences along squares

Theorem (Müllner, 2016+)

Let u_n be a q -automatic sequence (on an alphabet \mathcal{A}) generated by a **strongly connected automaton** such that a zero input at the initial state is mapped to the initial state.

Then for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ the asymptotic density

$$\text{dens}(u_{n^2}, a)$$

exists (and can be computed).

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This also generalizes a result of *D.+Morgenbesser* (2012) on **invertible automatic sequences**, where the transitions on the automaton are invertible. The proof is based on a clever representation of automatic sequences and relies very much on a general method by *Mauduit and Rivat* (2015+) that was applied to the **Rudin-Shapiro sequence**.

★ Thue-Morse sequence along primes

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1 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 ...

Mauduit and Rivat (2010):

$$\#\{0 \leq p < N : t_p = 0\} \sim \frac{\pi(N)}{2}$$

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Related to the **Sarnak Conjecture**

★ Subsequences along primes

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Then for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$ the asymptotic density

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exists, where p_n denotes the n -th prime number.

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This also generalizes a result of D. (2014) on **invertible automatic sequences**.

★ Sarnak conjecture for automatic sequences

Theorem (Müllner, 2016+)

Let u_n be a complex valued q -automatic sequence.

Then we have

$$\sum_{n < N} \mu(n) u_n = o(N),$$

where $\mu(n)$ denotes the Möbius function.

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This generalizes several results by *Dartyge and Tenenbaum* (Thue-Morse); *Mauduit and Rivat* (Rudin-Shapiro); *Tao* (Rudin-Shapiro); *D.* (invertible); *Ferenczi, Kułaga-Przymus, Lemanczyk, and Mauduit* (invertible); *Deshouillers, D. and Müllner* (synchronizing).

★ Thue-Morse sequence along squares

$p_k^{(2)}$... subword complexity of $(t_{n^2})_{n \geq 0}$.

Conjecture (Allouche and Shallit, 2003)

$$p_k^{(2)} = 2^k$$

Equivalently: every block $B \in \{0, 1\}^k$, $k \geq 1$, appears in $(t_{n^2})_{n \geq 0}$.

[Moshe, 2007]: $p_k^{(2)} = 2^k$

Problem. What can be said about the frequency of a given block?

★ Thue-Morse sequence along squares

Definition

A sequence $(u_n)_{n \geq 0} \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is normal if for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and any $B = (b_0, \dots, b_{k-1}) \in \{0, 1\}^k$, we have

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \#\{i < N, u_i = b_0, \dots, u_{i+k-1} = b_{k-1}\} = \frac{1}{2^k}.$$

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Remark. There are only few (known) explicit examples of normal sequences.

★ Normal subsequences

Theorem (D.+Mauduit+Rivat 2013+)

The sequence $(t_{n^2})_{n \geq 0}$ is **normal**.

★ Normal subsequences

Theorem (Spiegelhofer 2014+, Spiegelhofer+Müllner 2015+)

Suppose that $1 < c < 3/2$. Then the sequence $(t_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor})_{n \geq 0}$ is **normal**.

★ Normal subsequences

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Suppose that $1 < c < 3/2$. Then the sequence $(t_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor})_{n \geq 0}$ is **normal**.

Theorem (Müllner 2015+)

Let $f(n)$ be a **q -block-additive function** and $(u_n = f(n) \bmod m)$ an automatic sequence with is uniformly distributed on the alphabet $\mathcal{A} = \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$.

Then the sequence $(u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor})_{n \geq 0}$ is **normal** for all c with $1 < c < 4/3$.
Furthermore if the subsequence $(u_{n^2})_{n \geq 0}$ is uniformly distributed on the alphabet $\mathcal{A} = \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$ then $(u_{n^2})_{n \geq 0}$ is **normal**.

★ Normal subsequences

Conjecture (1)

Suppose that $c > 1$ and $c \notin \mathbb{Z}$. Then for every automatic sequence u_n (on an alphabet \mathcal{A}) the asymptotic density $\text{dens}(u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor}, a)$ of $a \in \mathcal{A}$ in the subsequence $u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor}$ exists if and only if the asymptotic density of a in u_n exists and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \#\{n < N, u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor} = b_0, u_{\lfloor (n+1)^c \rfloor} = b_1, \dots, u_{\lfloor (n+k-1)^c \rfloor} = b_{k-1}\} \\ = \text{dens}(u_n, b_0) \cdot \text{dens}(u_n, b_1) \cdots \text{dens}(u_n, b_{k-1}) \end{aligned}$$

for every $k \geq 1$ and for all $b_0, \dots, b_{k-1} \in \mathcal{A}$.

★ Normal subsequences

Conjecture (2)

Let $P(x)$ be a positive integer valued polynomial and u_n an automatic sequence generated by a strongly connected automaton.

Then for every $a \in \mathcal{A}$ the densities $\delta_a = \text{dens}(u_{P(n)}, a)$ exist and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \#\{n < N, u_{P(n)} = b_0, u_{P(n+1)} = b_1, \dots, u_{P(n+k-1)} = b_{k-1}\} \\ = \delta_{b_0} \cdot \delta_{b_1} \cdots \delta_{b_{k-1}} \end{aligned}$$

for every $k \geq 1$ and for all $b_0, \dots, b_{k-1} \in \mathcal{A}$.

★ Limits of the method

Let u_n be an automatic sequence and $\phi(n)$ a positive sequences such that $\phi(n)/n$ is non-decreasing.

What can be said about $u_{\lfloor \phi(n) \rfloor}$?

- We cannot expect general results for exponentially growing sequences $\phi(n)$.
- If $\phi(n) = an + b$ with integers a, b then $u_{\phi(n)}$ is again an automatic sequence.
- If $\phi(n) = n \log_2 n$ then $t_{\lfloor \phi(n) \rfloor}$ behaves as the Thue-Morse sequence t_n but the limit

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \#\{n < N, t_{\lfloor n \log_2 n \rfloor} = b_0, t_{\lfloor (n+1) \log_2 (n+1) \rfloor} = b_1\}$$

does **not** exist. [Deshouilliers+D.+Morgenbesser (2012)]

★ General subsequences

Conjecture (3)

Suppose that $\phi(x)$ is a positive function such that $\log \phi(x) \sim c \log x$ for some $c > 1$ as well as $\phi'(x)/\phi(x) \sim c/x$ and $c_1/x^2 \leq \phi''(x)/\phi(x) \leq c_2/x^2$ (for some constants c_1, c_2 that have the same sign).

Then for every automatic sequence u_n (on an alphabet \mathcal{A}) that is generated by a strongly connected automaton the asymptotic densities

$$\text{dens}(u_{\lfloor \phi(n) \rfloor}, a)$$

and

$$\text{dens}(u_{\lfloor \phi(p_n) \rfloor}, a)$$

of $a \in \mathcal{A}$ exist.

(As above p_n denotes the n -th prime number.)

★ Proof methods

- Comparison of u_n and $u_{\lfloor \phi(n) \rfloor}$ by a *clever* partial summation
- Fourier analytic *sieving*
- Clever representation of automatic sequences

★ Clever partial summation

Proposition (Deshouilliers+D.+Morgenbesser)

Suppose that u_n is a complex valued automatic sequences and $1 < c < 7/5$. Then we have

$$\left| \sum_{n=0}^N u_{\lfloor n^c \rfloor} - \frac{1}{c} \sum_{n=0}^N n^{\frac{1}{c}-1} u_n \right| \ll N^{1-\delta},$$

where $\delta < (7 - 5c)/9$.

★ Clever partial summation

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where $\delta < (7 - 5c)/9$.

This generalizes a method by Mauduit and Rivat (2005) and uses Vaaler's approximation method as well as the double large sieve.

★ Fourier estimates

Truncated sum-of-digits function

$$s_{2,\lambda}(n + k2^\lambda) = s_2(n), \quad 0 \leq n < 2^\lambda, \quad k \geq 0.$$

Alternatively

$$s_{2,\lambda}(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lambda-1} \varepsilon_i(n),$$

where

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_i(n) 2^i \quad \varepsilon_i(n) \in \{0, 1\},$$

$s_{2,\lambda}$ is periodic with period 2^λ

★ Fourier estimates

Discrete Fourier transform

$$F_\lambda(h, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2^\lambda} \sum_{0 \leq u < 2^\lambda} e(\alpha s_{2,\lambda}(u) - hu2^{-\lambda})$$

of the function $n \mapsto e(\alpha s_{q,\lambda}(n))$; $e(x) = \exp(2\pi ix)$.

★ Fourier estimates

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$$F_\lambda(h, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2^\lambda} \prod_{0 \leq k < \lambda} \left(1 + e\left(\alpha - h2^{k-\lambda}\right) \right)$$

★ Fourier estimates

Lemma

$$\varphi(x) := 1 + e(x) \implies$$

$$\max_{0 \leq x < 1} |\varphi(\alpha - x)\varphi(\alpha - 2x)| \leq 4 e^{-c\|\alpha\|^2}.$$

for some constant $c > 0$. ($\|\alpha\| = \min\{|\alpha - k| : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$)

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Corollary

$$|F_\lambda(h, \alpha)| \leq 2^{-c\|\alpha\|^2 \lfloor m/2 \rfloor} |F_{\lambda-m}(h, \alpha)|$$

★ Fourier estimates

Proposition

Suppose that $F_\lambda(h, \alpha)$ satisfies the property

$$|F_\lambda(h, \alpha)| \leq 2^{-c\|\alpha\|^2 \lfloor m/2 \rfloor} |F_{\lambda-m}(h, \alpha)|$$

(for some $c > 0$. Then it follows that

$$\left| \sum_{n < N} e(\alpha s_2(n^2)) \right| \ll N^{1-c'\|\alpha\|^2}$$

(for some constant $c' > 0$) and consequently

$$\#\{0 \leq n < N : t_{n^2} = 0\} \sim \frac{N}{2}$$

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Proof methods: two applications of the Van-der-Corput inequality, a proper Fourier analysis and estimates for quadratic exponential sums.

★ Fourier estimates

Fourier term with correlations in order to handle blocks of length > 1 :

$$G'_\lambda(h, d) = \frac{1}{2^\lambda} \sum_{0 \leq u < 2^\lambda} e \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=0}^{k-1} \alpha_\ell s_{2,\lambda}(u + \ell d + i_\ell) - hu2^{-\lambda} \right),$$

where $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{k-1} \in \{0, 1\}$ and $I = (i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}) \in \mathcal{I}_k$:

$$\mathcal{I}_k := \{I = (i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}) : i_0 = 0, i_{\ell-1} \leq i_\ell \leq i_{\ell-1} + 1, 1 \leq \ell \leq k-1\}$$

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$$G'_\lambda(h, d) = \frac{1}{2^\lambda} \sum_{0 \leq u < 2^\lambda} e \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=0}^{k-1} \alpha_\ell s_{2,\lambda}(u + \ell d + i_\ell) - hu2^{-\lambda} \right),$$

where $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{k-1} \in \{0, 1\}$ and $I = (i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}) \in \mathcal{I}_k$:

$$\mathcal{I}_k := \{I = (i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}) : i_0 = 0, i_{\ell-1} \leq i_\ell \leq i_{\ell-1} + 1, 1 \leq \ell \leq k-1\}$$

Uniform upper bounds.

$$\max_{I \in \mathcal{I}_k} \left| G'_\lambda(h, d) \right| \ll 2^{-\eta m} \max_{J \in \mathcal{I}_k} \left| G_{\lambda-m}^J(h, \lfloor d/2^m \rfloor) \right|$$

(for some constant $\eta > 0$ and **odd** $K = \alpha_0 + \dots + \alpha_{k-1}$).

★ Fourier estimates

Proposition

Suppose that $G'_\lambda(h, d)$ satisfies the property

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(for some $\eta > 0$ and odd K). Then it follows that

$$\sum_{n < N} e \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=0}^{k-1} \alpha_\ell s_2((n+\ell)^2) \right) \ll N^{1-\eta'}$$

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For even K a corresponding property holds and so we get

$$\# \{0 \leq n < N : t_{n^2} = b_0, \dots, t_{(n+k-1)^2} = b_{k-1}\} \sim \frac{N}{2^k}.$$

★ Representation of automatic sequences

Combination of invertible and synchronizing automata:

Proposition (Müllner)

Suppose that \mathcal{A} is an automaton such that the input 0 maps the initial state of \mathcal{A} to itself and let $\mathbf{u} = (u_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be the corresponding automatic sequence.

*Then there exists a **synchronizing automaton** \mathcal{A}' and **permutation matrices** M_0, \dots, M_{q-1} such that*

$$u_n = f(u'_n, S(n)),$$

where u'_n is the automatic sequence related to \mathcal{A}' ,

$$S(n) = M_{\varepsilon_0(n)} M_{\varepsilon_1(n)} \cdots M_{\varepsilon_{\ell-1}(n)}$$

and f is a properly chosen function.

★ Synchronizing automatic sequences

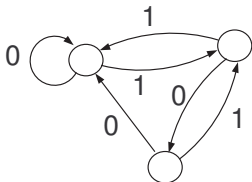
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An automaton \mathcal{A} is called **synchronizing** if there exists a **synchronizing word** w_0 on the input alphabet such that w_0 applied to all initial states terminates always in the same state of \mathcal{A} .

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synchronizing word = 00

Thank you!