
Avoiding additive powers - Algorithmic proofs

FLORIAN LIETARD

Supervisors : DAMIEN JAMET (LORIA) AND THOMAS STOLL (IECL)



Powers

An infinite word $w = 3141042103034243233412143213214 \dots$

Powers

An infinite word $w = 3141042103034243233412143213214 \dots$

w contains a (pure) square : same blocks

$$w = 314104210303424323341214 \cdot 321 \cdot 321 \cdot 4 \dots$$

Powers

An infinite word $w = 3141042103034243233412143213214 \dots$

w contains a **(pure) square** : same blocks

$$w = 314104210303424323341214 \cdot \mathbf{321} \cdot \mathbf{321} \cdot 4 \dots$$

w contains an **abelian square** : same blocks up to a permutation

$$w = 31410421030 \cdot \mathbf{342} \cdot \mathbf{432} \cdot 33412143213214 \dots$$

Powers

An infinite word $w = 3141042103034243233412143213214 \dots$

w contains a **(pure) square** : same blocks

$$w = 314104210303424323341214 \cdot \mathbf{321} \cdot \mathbf{321} \cdot 4 \dots$$

w contains an **abelian square** : same blocks up to a permutation

$$w = 31410421030 \cdot \mathbf{342} \cdot \mathbf{432} \cdot 33412143213214 \dots$$

w contains an **additive square** : same size and same sum

$$w = 31 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{410421}}_{\Sigma=12} \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{030342}}_{\Sigma=12} \cdot 43233412143213214 \dots$$

Powers

An infinite word $w = 3141042103034243233412143213214 \dots$

w contains a **(pure) square** : same blocks

$$w = 314104210303424323341214 \cdot \mathbf{321} \cdot \mathbf{321} \cdot 4 \dots$$

w contains an **abelian square** : same blocks up to a permutation

$$w = 31410421030 \cdot \mathbf{342} \cdot \mathbf{432} \cdot 33412143213214 \dots$$

w contains an **additive square** : same size and same sum

$$w = 31 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{410421}}_{\Sigma=12} \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{030342}}_{\Sigma=12} \cdot 43233412143213214 \dots$$

These notions can naturally be extended to higher powers, such as cubes ...

Avoidability

Objective

Construct infinite words over finite alphabets avoiding such patterns

Avoidability

Objective

Construct infinite words over finite alphabets avoiding such patterns

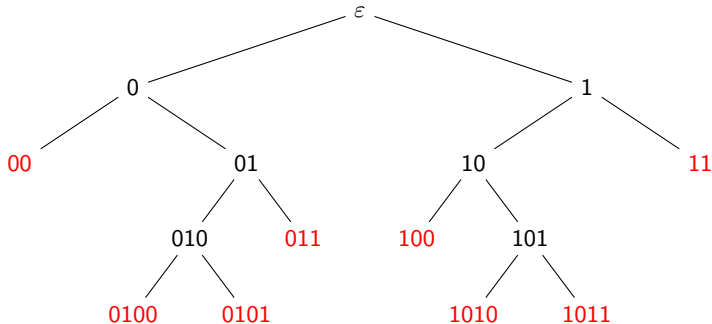
All words of size ≥ 4 over $\{0, 1\}$ contain squares

Avoidability

Objective

Construct infinite words over finite alphabets avoiding such patterns

All words of size ≥ 4 over $\{0, 1\}$ contain squares



But it is possible over $\{0, 1, 2\}$ (A. Thue, 1912)

State of the art

Problem : Find an infinite word avoiding pure/abelian/additive powers

	Pure	Abelian	Additive	
cubes	2 letters 1906	3 letters 1979	4 letters 2014	3 letters 2015
squares	3 letters 1912	4 letters 1992	?	



1906 - A.Thue

Über unendliche Zeichenreihen,
Skrifter udgivne af Videnskabselskabet i Christiania :
Mathematisk-naturvidenskabelig Klasse, 1-22, 1906



1912 - A.Thue

Über die gegenseitige Lage gleicher Teile gewisser Zeichenreihen,
Skrifter udgivne af Videnskabselskabet i Christiania :
Mathematisk-naturvidenskabelig Klasse, 1-67, 1912



1979 - F.M. Dekking

Strongly non-repetitive sequences and progression-free sets,
In *Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series A*, Volume 27, 181-185, 1979



1992 - V. Keränen

Abelian squares are avoidable on 4 letters,
In *Automata, Languages and Programming*, July 13 – 17,
41-52, 1992



2014 - J. Cassaigne, J. D. Currie, L. Schaeffer, J. Shallit

Avoiding Three Consecutive Blocks of the Same Size and Same Sum,
In *Journal of the ACM*, Volume 61, issue no.2, April 2014



2015 - M. Rao

On some generalizations of abelian power avoidability,
In *Theoretical Computer Science*, (601) 39-46, 2015

State of the art

A 4-letter morphism avoiding additive cubes [J. Cassaigne *et al.* 2014]

$$\varphi_0 : 0 \mapsto 03, \quad 1 \mapsto 43, \quad 3 \mapsto 1, \quad 4 \mapsto 01$$

$$\varphi_0^\infty(0) = 03143011034343031011011031430343430343430314301 \dots$$



J. Cassaigne, J. D. Currie, L. Schaeffer, J. Shallit (2014)

Avoiding Three Consecutive Blocks of the Same Size and Same Sum,
In *Journal of the ACM*, Volume 61, issue no.2, April 2014

It is possible to avoid additive cubes over a 4-letter alphabet with a morphism of size 2

State of the art

A 4-letter morphism avoiding additive cubes [J. Cassaigne *et al.* 2014]

$$\varphi_0 : 0 \mapsto 03, \quad 1 \mapsto 43, \quad 3 \mapsto 1, \quad 4 \mapsto 01$$

$$\varphi_0^\infty(0) = 03143011034343031011011031430343430343430314301 \dots$$



J. Cassaigne, J. D. Currie, L. Schaeffer, J. Shallit (2014)

Avoiding Three Consecutive Blocks of the Same Size and Same Sum,
In *Journal of the ACM*, Volume 61, issue no.2, April 2014

It is possible to avoid additive **cubes** over a 4-letter alphabet with a morphism of size 2

State of the art

A 4-letter morphism avoiding additive cubes [J. Cassaigne *et al.* 2014]

$$\varphi_0 : 0 \mapsto 03, \quad 1 \mapsto 43, \quad 3 \mapsto 1, \quad 4 \mapsto 01$$

$$\varphi_0^\infty(0) = 03143011034343031011011031430343430343430314301 \dots$$



J. Cassaigne, J. D. Currie, L. Schaeffer, J. Shallit (2014)

Avoiding Three Consecutive Blocks of the Same Size and Same Sum,
In *Journal of the ACM*, Volume 61, issue no.2, April 2014

It is possible to avoid additive **cubes** over a **4-letter alphabet** with a morphism of size 2

State of the art

A 4-letter morphism avoiding additive cubes [J. Cassaigne *et al.* 2014]

$$\varphi_0 : 0 \mapsto 03, \quad 1 \mapsto 43, \quad 3 \mapsto 1, \quad 4 \mapsto 01$$

$$\varphi_0^\infty(0) = 03143011034343031011011031430343430343430314301 \dots$$



J. Cassaigne, J. D. Currie, L. Schaeffer, J. Shallit (2014)

Avoiding Three Consecutive Blocks of the Same Size and Same Sum,
In *Journal of the ACM*, Volume 61, issue no.2, April 2014

It is possible to avoid additive **cubes** over a **4-letter alphabet** with a **morphism of size 2**

State of the art

A 3-letter word without additive cubes [M. Rao. 2015]

$$s_{\{0,1,5\}} : \{0, 1, 3, 4\}^* \longrightarrow \{0, 1, 5\}^*$$

0	\mapsto	{005015100100115010115, 005015100100115100115}
1	\mapsto	{005015100100105055115, 050015100100105055115}
3	\mapsto	{005015101155155055115, 050015101155155055115}
4	\mapsto	{005015155055155055115, 050015155055155055115}

$s_{\{0,1,5\}}(\varphi_0^\infty(0))$ avoids additive cubes



M. Rao (2015)

On some generalizations of abelian power avoidability,
In *Theoretical Computer Science*, (601) 39-46, 2015

Questions

	Pure	Abelian	Additive	
cubes	2 letters 1906	3 letters 1979	4 letters 2014	3 letters 2015
squares	3 letters 1912	4 letters 1992	?	

Do there exist :

- many 4-letter morphisms avoiding additive cubes ?
- morphic words without additive cubes but with non-abelian additive squares ?

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{w} &= 6021062260101 \cdot \overbrace{06026}^{\Sigma=14} \cdot \overbrace{22622}^{\Sigma=14} \cdot 6021060101060101 \dots \\
 \mathbf{w}_0 &= 0314301103434 \cdot \overbrace{30310}^{\Sigma=7} \cdot \overbrace{11011}^{\Sigma=4} \cdot 0314303434303434 \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Apply it to other morphisms

$$\varphi_0(0) = 03 \quad \varphi_0(1) = 43$$

$$\varphi_0(3) = 1 \quad \varphi_0(4) = 01$$

The corresponding **incidence matrix** :

$$\text{Mat}(\varphi_0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Apply it to other morphisms

$$\varphi_0(0) = 03 \quad \varphi_0(1) = 43$$

$$\varphi_0(3) = 1 \quad \varphi_0(4) = 01$$

The corresponding **incidence matrix** :

$$\text{Mat}(\varphi_0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\varphi(6) = 60 \quad \varphi(2) = 10$$

$$\varphi(0) = 2 \quad \varphi(1) = 62$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi^n(6) = 602106226010106026226226021060101060101 \dots$$

Apply previous proof to other morphisms

Lemma

If a morphism is similar to φ_0 , then it fits the informatic proof developed by Cassaigne *et al.* in 2014.

Theorem (Jamet, L., Stoll)

Let w be a fixed point of a morphism similar to φ_0 . The following propositions are decidable :

- w avoids additive cubes
- in w , all additive squares are abelian squares

Apply previous proof to other morphisms

Lemma

If a morphism is similar to φ_0 , then it fits the informatic proof developed by Cassaigne *et al.* in 2014.

Theorem (Jamet, L., Stoll)

Let w be a fixed point of a morphism similar to φ_0 . The following propositions are decidable :

- w avoids additive cubes
- in w , all additive squares are abelian squares



M. Rao, M. Rosenfeld (2018)

Avoiding Two Consecutive Blocks of Same Size and Same Sum over \mathbb{Z}^2 ,
In *Siam Journal on Discrete Mathematics*, Volume 32, Number 4,
2381-2397, 2018

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words ?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$
- $\varphi^2(6) = 602$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$
- $\varphi^2(6) = 602$
- $\varphi^3(6) = 60210$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$
- $\varphi^2(6) = 602$
- $\varphi^3(6) = 60210$
- $\varphi^4(6) = 60210622$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$
- $\varphi^2(6) = 602$
- $\varphi^3(6) = 60210$
- $\varphi^4(6) = 60210622$
- $\varphi^5(6) = 60210622601010$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$
- $\varphi^2(6) = 602$
- $\varphi^3(6) = 60210$
- $\varphi^4(6) = 60210622$
- $\varphi^5(6) = 60210622601010$

Sketch of the proof

Why do we choose morphic words?

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(0) = 2 \\ \varphi(1) = 62 \\ \varphi(2) = 10 \\ \varphi(6) = 60 \end{array} \right.$$

- $\varphi^1(6) = 60$
- $\varphi^2(6) = 602$
- $\varphi^3(6) = 60210$
- $\varphi^4(6) = 60210622$
- $\varphi^5(6) = 60210622601010$

$w = 602106226010106026226226021060101060101$

$w[p]$	6	0	2	1	0	6	2	2	6	0	1	0	1	0
p	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
$\text{par}(p)$	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	6	7	7

Where the alphabet matters

Parikh vector

The Parikh vector $\psi(x)$ of a word x is :

$$\psi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} |x|_0 \\ |x|_1 \\ |x|_2 \\ |x|_6 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ example : } \psi(60210) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Where the alphabet matters

Parikh vector

The Parikh vector $\psi(x)$ of a word x is :

$$\psi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} |x|_0 \\ |x|_1 \\ |x|_2 \\ |x|_6 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ example : } \psi(60210) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

If b and c are two blocks with same length and same sum then the vector $\mathbf{v} = \psi(b) - \psi(c)$ belongs to the lattice

$$\mathfrak{L} := \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^4 : (1, 1, 1, 1) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ et } (0, 1, 2, 6) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0\}.$$

which depends on the chosen alphabet.

Linear algebra

Let p be a position, we define

$$\sigma(p) = \psi(\mathbf{w}[0, p]) = \begin{pmatrix} |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_0 \\ |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_1 \\ |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_2 \\ |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_6 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ example : } \sigma(9) = \psi(602106226) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Linear algebra

Let p be a position, we define

$$\sigma(p) = \psi(\mathbf{w}[0, p]) = \begin{pmatrix} |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_0 \\ |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_1 \\ |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_2 \\ |\mathbf{w}[0, p]|_6 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ example : } \sigma(9) = \psi(602106226) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Lemma (J. Cassaigne *et al.*, 2014)

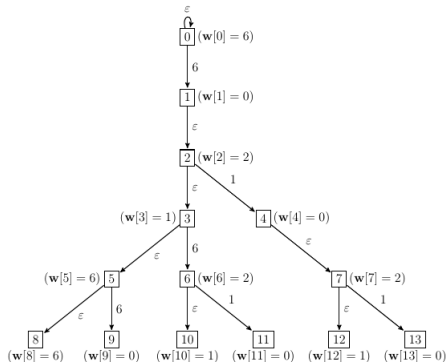
If q is a child of p and a the proper prefix linked to q (via the bijection), we get

$$\sigma(q) = M\sigma(p) + \psi(a)$$

Example :

$$\sigma(9) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{=\sigma(5)=\psi(60210)} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{=\psi(6)}$$

Walk on a tree



Corollary (J. Cassaigne et al., 2014)

If $\{p_i\}_{i=0}^{\infty}$ is the ancestral sequence of a position p and denoting a_i the proper prefix used to link p_i to p_{i+1} , we get : $\sigma(p_0) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} M^i \psi(a_i)$.

So, how does it work ?

- Using parents and graphs, we get bounds for $\mathbf{v} = \psi(b) - \psi(c)$
- Using the lattice, we get other bounds for \mathbf{v}
- \mathbf{v} lies in a ball of fixed radius
- This ball allow us to consider a finite subgraph
- We detect additive cubes by computing

So, how does it work ?

- Using parents and graphs, we get bounds for $\mathbf{v} = \psi(b) - \psi(c)$
- Using the lattice, we get other bounds for \mathbf{v}
- \mathbf{v} lies in a ball of fixed radius
- This ball allow us to consider a finite subgraph
- We detect additive cubes by computing

Using exactly the same arguments but considering two consecutive blocks rather than three, it is possible to detect additive squares

Statistics

Morphisms of size 2

- 32068 morphisms avoiding additive cubes, over 4-letters alphabets included in $\{0, 1, \dots, 25\}$
- Less than 5% with a fixed point containing additive non-abelian squares
- 23 morphisms avoiding additive cubes over $\{0, 1, 5, 25\}$
- 2 morphisms avoiding additive cubes over $\{0, 2, 5, 11\}$
- At least one morphism for each alphabet included in $\{0, 1, \dots, 25\}$ except $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ and $\{0, 1, 2, 4\}$.
- All morphisms avoiding additive cubes are similar to φ_0

Statistics

Proposition (M. Rao, M. Rosenfeld, 2018)

The following morphisms avoid additive cubes :

$$\varphi_1 : \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 001 \\ 1 \mapsto 041 \\ 2 \mapsto 41 \\ 4 \mapsto 442 \end{cases}$$

Morphisms of size 3

- 132 morphisms over 4-letters alphabets $\{0, 1, 2, c\}$ ($4 \leq c \leq 9$) avoiding additive cubes
- Not all similar to φ_0 : there is an other class
- 9 morphisms avoiding additive cubes over the alphabet $\{0, 1, 2, 4\}$, 5 are similar to φ_0

To be continued

It seems easy to find morphisms whose fixed points avoid additive cube for any 4-letters alphabet, except for $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$.

Problem 3. *Are additive cubes avoidable over $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$?*

(M. Rao, M. Rosenfeld, 2018)

To be continued

It seems easy to find morphisms whose fixed points avoid additive cube for any 4-letters alphabet, except for $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$.

Problem 3. *Are additive cubes avoidable over $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$?*

(M. Rao, M. Rosenfeld, 2018)

F.M. Dekking, 1979

The following morphism avoids additive-4-powers :

$$\varphi_0 : 0 \mapsto 011, \quad 1 \mapsto 0001$$

Jamet, L., Stoll, 2018

The following morphisms avoid additive-4-powers :

$$\varphi_1 : \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 22 \\ 1 \mapsto 12 \\ 2 \mapsto 10 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 32 \\ 1 \mapsto 2 \\ 2 \mapsto 01 \\ 3 \mapsto 31 \end{cases}$$

To be continued

Question 1 - M. Rao, M. Rosenfeld, 2018

Are additive cubes avoidable over $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$?

Question 2

If φ is a morphism avoiding additive cubes on a 4 letter alphabet, do there exist integers k and n such that :

$$\varphi^k \simeq \varphi_0^n$$

Question 3

Is there an infinite word over a finite alphabet without additive squares ?

To be continued

Question 1 - M. Rao, M. Rosenfeld, 2018

Are additive cubes avoidable over $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$?

Question 2

If φ is a morphism avoiding additive cubes on a 4 letter alphabet, do there exist integers k and n such that :

$$\varphi^k \simeq \varphi_0^n$$

Question 3

Is there an infinite word over a finite alphabet without additive squares ?

Thank you for your attention

Context and motivations

Uniformly k -repetitive semigroups

A semigroup S is **uniformly- k -repetitive** if for all morphisms $\varphi : \Sigma^+ \rightarrow S$ and for all words $w \in \Sigma^+$ long enough, there exists a factor $w_1 \cdots w_k$ in w such that

$$\varphi(w_1) = \cdots = \varphi(w_k) \text{ and } |w_1| = \cdots = |w_k|$$

Context and motivations

Uniformly k -repetitive semigroups

A semigroup S is **uniformly- k -repetitive** if for all morphisms $\varphi : \Sigma^+ \rightarrow S$ and for all words $w \in \Sigma^+$ long enough, there exists a factor $w_1 \cdots w_k$ in w such that

$$\varphi(w_1) = \cdots = \varphi(w_k) \text{ and } |w_1| = \cdots = |w_k|$$

Question of Pirillo and Varricchio (1994)

Is \mathbb{N}^+ uniformly k -repetitive for $k \geq 2$?

Context and motivations

Uniformly k -repetitive semigroups

A semigroup S is **uniformly- k -repetitive** if for all morphisms $\varphi : \Sigma^+ \rightarrow S$ and for all words $w \in \Sigma^+$ long enough, there exists a factor $w_1 \cdots w_k$ in w such that

$$\varphi(w_1) = \cdots = \varphi(w_k) \text{ and } |w_1| = \cdots = |w_k|$$

Question of Pirillo and Varricchio (1994)

Is \mathbb{N}^+ uniformly k -repetitive for $k \geq 2$?

Partial answer (J. Cassaigne *et al.*)

\mathbb{N}^+ is not uniformly 3-repetitive



J. Justin, 1972

Généralisation du théorème de Van der Waerden sur les semi-groupes répétitifs,
In *Journal of combinatorial theory (A)*, Volume 12, 357-367, 1972.



G. Pirillo, S. Varricchio, 1994

On uniformly repetitive semigroups,
In *Semigroup Forum*, Volume 49, 125-129, 1994.

Context and motivations

The Prouhet-Tarry-Escott problem :

Given $N \geq 1$ and $k \geq 0$ integers, does there exist a partition of $\{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$ into two disjoint subsets I and J such that :

$$\sum_{x \in I} x^i = \sum_{y \in J} y^i \quad \forall 0 \leq i \leq k$$

Context and motivations

The Prouhet-Tarry-Escott problem :

Given $N \geq 1$ and $k \geq 0$ integers, does there exist a partition of $\{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$ into two disjoint subsets I and J such that :

$$\sum_{x \in I} x^i = \sum_{y \in J} y^i \quad \forall 0 \leq i \leq k$$

If N is a multiple of 2^{k+1} , then a solution is I to be the set of all n for which $t_n = 0$ and J those of all n for which $t_n = 1$ where $t_0 t_1 t_2 t_3 \dots$ is the Thue-Morse sequence :

$$T = 01101001100101101001011001101001 \dots$$



E. Prouhet, 1851

Mémoires sur quelques relations entre les puissances et les nombres,
In *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Sér. I*, 33, 225, 1851

Our approach

- Want to find other morphic words on other alphabets
- Compute to get some intuition
- In w_0 all additive squares are abelian squares : sufficient to show that w_0 avoids abelian cubes

Our approach

- Want to find other morphic words on other alphabets
- Compute to get some intuition
- In w_0 all additive squares are abelian squares : sufficient to show that w_0 avoids abelian cubes

Our experimental results

- We find 5% of morphic words with additive and non-abelian squares
- All morphisms are similar to φ_0