

Decidability and S-adic dynamics

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Dyadisc3: Decidability and dynamical systems

S-adic expansions

- Let S be a set S of substitutions on the alphabet \mathcal{A}
- Let $s = (\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in S^{\mathbb{N}}$ a sequence of substitutions (directive sequence)
- Let $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of letters in \mathcal{A}

We say that the infinite word $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ admits $(\sigma_n, a_n)_n$ as an **S-adic representation** if

$$u = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}(a_n)$$

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The terminology comes from Vershik adic transformations
Bratteli diagrams

S stands for substitution, adic for the inverse limit

Topological isomorphism

What changes in terms of decidability from the substitutive case to S -adic case ?

One can decide whether two minimal substitution subshifts are topologically isomorphic
and even whether one is a factor of the other [\[Durand-Leroy\]](#)

Substitution Sturmian subshifts have quadratic parameters

What about Sturmian subshifts? Π_1

Outline

- Subshifts and computability
- Computability for S -adic systems
- Effectiveness for Sturmian shifts (higher-dimensional case)
- Recognizability

Subshifts and computability

A subshift can be described/presented

- by its language
- by its set of forbidden factors \leadsto presentation of a subshift

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Computability notions Computability of the set of forbidden words.

- Finite presentation: SFT/sofic
- Computably enumerable presentation: effectively closed

[Jeandel-Vanier] Enumeration reducibility

SFT and sofic subshifts

- Subshifts of **finite type (SFT)** are the subshifts defined by a **finite** set of forbidden patterns.
- **Sofic subshifts** are images of SFT under a factor map.
- A **factor map** $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ between two subshifts X and Y is a continuous, surjective map such that

$$\pi \circ T = T \circ \pi,$$

where T is the shift.

- A factor map is a sliding block code (defined by a local rule/CA) [\[Curtis-Hedlund-Lyndon\]](#).
- **Example:** add colorations. Take a larger alphabet for X : X is the SFT, Y is the sofic shift.

Computable subshifts

A hierarchy of subshifts

- SFT
- Sofic (we lose information through projection)

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Recursively enumerable: there exists a Turing machine which enumerates all elements of the language.

- Π_1^0 -computable or **effective**: the complement of the language is recursively enumerable (recursive).
- Σ_1^0 -computable: the language is recursively enumerable.
- Δ_1^0 -computable or **decidable** or **recursive**: its language is recursive (decidable).

Enumeration of forbidden factors

If an effective subshift is defined by a recursively enumerable set of forbidden factors, it can also be defined by a recursive =decidable set of forbidden factors.

- Indeed, let $(u_n)_n$ be the sequence of forbidden patterns generated by the Turing machine.
- One replaces $(u_n)_n$ by a sequence of forbidden patterns $(v_n)_n$ with increasing size defining the same shift. Indeed, when one enumerates $(u_n)_n$, if one adds a pattern w whose size is smaller than the previous ones, then, instead of adding w , one adds all the patterns that contain w whose size is larger than the size of the pattern previously added to $(v_n)_n$.
- The sequence (v_n) is recursively enumerable and increasing, it is thus recursive: indeed, to know if a pattern w is the sequence $(v_n)_n$, one enumerates all the patterns until being larger than the size of w .

About the computability of frequencies

Computable frequencies: there exists an algorithm that takes as input a pattern and a precision, and that outputs an approximation of this frequency with respect to this precision

~> Computable **pattern frequencies/shift-invariant measure**

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↪ Computable **pattern frequencies/shift-invariant measure**

Computability of **letter frequencies** does not say much on the algorithmic complexity of a subshift.

- Take a subshift $X \subset \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and consider the subshift Y obtained by applying to each configuration of X the substitution

$$0 \mapsto 01, 1 \mapsto 10.$$

The subshift Y admits letter frequencies (they are both equal to $1/2$), and it has the same algorithmic complexity as X .

Effectiveness for shifts

Fact [B.-Fernique-Sablik] Let X be a subshift.

- If X is effective and uniquely ergodic, then its invariant measure is computable and X is decidable.
- If X is minimal and its frequencies are computable, then its language is recursively enumerable.
- If X is minimal and effective, then X is decidable.

Remark Existence of frequencies implies unique ergodicity. Unique ergodicity means uniformity in the convergence.

Effectiveness for shifts

We assume X effective and uniquely ergodic. Let us prove that the frequency of any pattern is computable.

- Consider the following algorithm that takes as an argument the parameter ϵ for the precision. We consider a finite pattern p .
- At step n , one produces all 'square' patterns of size n that do not contain the n first forbidden patterns.
- For each of these square patterns, one computes the number of occurrences of p in it, divided by $(2n + 1)^d$.
- We continue until these quantities belong to an interval of length ϵ .
- This algorithm then stops (compactness=subshift + unique ergodicity=uniform frequencies), and taking an element of the interval provides an approximation of the frequency of p up to precision ϵ .

- It remains to prove that the algorithm stops. Suppose it does not, then, for all n , one can find two patterns of size n , x_n and x'_n , that do not contain the n first forbidden patterns and such that

$$||x_n|_p/(2n+1)^d - |x'_n|_p/(2n+1)^d| > e.$$

By compactness, we can extract two configurations x and x' that do not contain forbidden patterns (they thus belong to the subshift X) such that the frequency of p in x is distinct from the frequency of p in x' . This contradicts the unique ergodicity of X .

We assume X minimal with computable pattern frequencies. We prove that the language is recursively enumerable.

- Frequencies are positive by minimality.
- Even if the frequencies are computable, one cannot decide whether the frequency of a given pattern is equal to zero or not, hence we cannot decide whether this pattern belongs to the language or not.
- However, one can decide whether the frequency of a pattern is larger than a given value. This thus implies that the language is recursively enumerable.

Computability for S -adic systems

Geometrical substitutions and tilings

Let $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be an expanding linear map

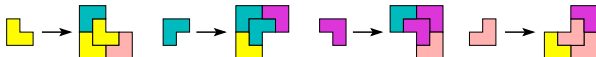
Principle One takes

- a finite number of prototiles $\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m\}$
- an **expansive** transformation ϕ (the **inflation** factor)
- a rule that allows one to divide each ϕT_i into copies of the T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m

A **tile-substitution** s with expansion ϕ is a map $T_i \mapsto s(T_i)$, where $s(T_i)$ is a patch made of translates of the prototiles and

$$\phi(T_i) = \bigcup_{T_j \in s(T_i)} T_j$$

Example



Effectiveness for S -adic subshifts

- Directive sequences
- Pattern frequencies/invariant measure
- Language
- Existence of (decorated) local rules (being sofic or an SFT)

There are mainly two difficulties which come from

- the notion of substitution in dimension d
- the S -adic framework

A natural viewpoint since the characterization of entropy as right-recursively enumerable numbers [[Hochman-Meyerovitch](#)]

Existence of local rules

A closed subset $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathfrak{S}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is **effectively closed** if the set of (finite) words which do not appear as prefixes of elements of \mathbf{S} is recursively enumerable.

One enumerates forbidden prefixes.

- **Theorem [Aubrun-Sablik]** We consider rectangular substitutions. The \mathbf{S} -adic subshift $X_{\mathbf{S}}$ is sofic if and only if it can be defined by a set of directive sequences \mathbf{S} which is effectively closed.

[Hochman 2009, Durand-Romashchenko-Shen 2010, Aubrun-Sablik 2013]

Every effective subshift X can be simulated by a higher dimensional sofic subshift

$X^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is the recoloring of a SFT

1D effective \leftrightarrow 2D SFT

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- A similar result for more general substitutions is expected
- The difficulty relies in the ability to exhibit a rectangular grid to use the simulation of a one-dimensional effective subshift by a two-dimensional sofic subshift

Effectiveness for S -adic shifts

Theorem [B.-Fernique-Sablik] Let X_S be a strictly ergodic S -adic subshift defined with respect to a directive sequence $S \in \mathfrak{S}^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that \mathfrak{S} satisfies the good growing property. The following conditions are equivalent:

- there exists a computable sequence S' such that $X_S = X_{S'}$;
- the unique invariant measure of X_S is computable;
- the subshift X_S is decidable.

Good growing substitution

- A finite set of substitutions \mathfrak{S} has a good growing property if
 - there are finitely many ways of gluing super-tiles: there exists a finite set of patterns $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathcal{A}^*$ such that if a pattern formed by a super-tile of order n surrounded by super-tiles of order n is in the language of $X_{\mathfrak{S}^{\mathbb{N}}}$, then it appears as the n -iteration of a pattern of \mathcal{P}
 - the size of the super-tiles of order n grows with n : for every ball of radius R , there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such a translate of this ball is contained in all the supports of super-tiles of order n .
- Non-trivial rectangular substitutions or geometrical tiling substitutions verify this property.

Let $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathfrak{G}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be a closed subset. If $X_{\mathbf{S}}$ is effective, then there exists an effective closed subset $\mathbf{T} \subset \mathfrak{G}^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that $X_{\mathbf{S}} = X_{\mathbf{T}}$. The reciprocal is true if \mathfrak{G} has the good growing property.

We assume that the unique invariant measure of X_S is computable.

Let d stand for the cardinality of the alphabet of the substitutions in \mathfrak{S} . The letter frequency vector is in the cone defined by the product of the incidence matrices of the directive sequence.

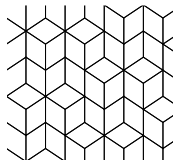
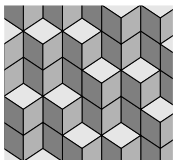
The letter frequency belongs to the cone

$$\bigcap_n M_1 \cdots M_n \mathbb{R}_+^d$$

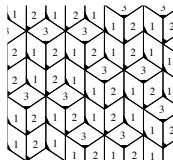
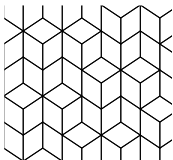
which is one-dimensional by unique ergodicity.

Given a precision ϵ , one can compute n such that the columns of $M_1 \cdots M_n$ are expected to be at a distance less than ϵ from the letter frequency vector. We fix a cylinder around the direction provided by the letter frequency vector with precision ϵ . Now we test finite products of n substitutions in \mathfrak{S} . We consider the cone obtained by taking the product of the incidence matrices, and check whether it intersects the cylinder. If it does not intersect the cylinder, one gets a forbidden product of substitutions, which proves that $\{S\}$ is effectively closed.

2D Sturmian words



From a discrete plane to a tiling by projection....



....and from a tiling by lozenges to a ternary coding

Two-dimensional Sturmian words

Theorem [B.-Vuillon]

Let $(u_{\mathbf{m}})_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \in \{1, 2, 3\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ be a **2d Sturmian word**, that is, a coding of a **discrete plane**. Then there exist $x \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $1, \alpha, \beta$ are \mathbb{Q} -linearly independent and $\alpha + \beta < 1$ such that

$$\forall \mathbf{m} = (m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2, U_{\mathbf{m}} = i \iff R_{\alpha}^m R_{\beta}^n(x) = x + m\alpha + n\beta \in I_i \pmod{1},$$

with

$$I_1 = [0, \alpha[, \quad I_2 = [\alpha, \alpha + \beta[, \quad I_3 = [\alpha + \beta, 1[$$

or

$$I_1 =]0, \alpha], \quad I_2 =]\alpha, \alpha + \beta], \quad I_3 =]\alpha + \beta, 1].$$

Coding of a \mathbb{Z}^2 -action

Effective $2d$ Sturmian shifts

Theorem [B.-Bourdon-Jolivet-Siegel] A $2d$ Sturmian shift is S -adic with an expansion provided by Brun continued fraction algorithm

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Theorem [B.-Fernique-Sablik] Let X be a $2d$ Sturmian shift. The following conditions are equivalent:

- its normal vector is computable;
- its unique invariant measure is computable;
- its language is decidable;
- Its Brun S -adic directive sequence is computable.

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Theorem [Fernique-Sablik] A Euclidean plane E admits **colored weak local rules** (there is a sofic shift that contains planar tilings with a slope parallel to E with a bounded thickness) if and only if it is **computable**.

Some decision problems
for substitutions

Decision problems for word substitutions

Some classical decision problems for primitive substitutions can be solved using return words and derived sequences [\[Durand\]](#)

Let \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} , be finite alphabets. We consider two morphisms $\sigma: \mathcal{A}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^*$, $\phi: \mathcal{A}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^*$; an infinite word of the form

$$\lim_n \sigma^n(u)$$

is a D0L word and

$$\phi(\lim_n \sigma^n(u))$$

an HD0L or morphic word, for u finite word.

Decision problems for word substitutions

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Let σ be a primitive substitution. It generates a minimal subshift X_σ . A **return word** to a word u of its language is a word w of the language such that

uw admits exactly two occurrences of u , with the second occurrence of u being a suffix of uw .

One can recode sequences of the subshift via return words, obtaining **derived sequences**.

Decision problems for word substitutions

Some classical decision problems for primitive substitutions can be solved using return words and derived sequences [Durand]

- The HD0L ω -equivalence problem for primitive morphisms: it is decidable to know whether two HD0L words are equal.
- The decidability of the ultimate periodicity of HD0L infinite sequences: it is decidable to know whether an HD0L word is ultimately periodic.
- The uniform recurrence of morphic sequences is decidable.

Recognizability

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Let \mathcal{A} be a finite alphabet, let $T : \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ be the shift map.

Dynamic recognizability Let $\sigma : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^*$ be a substitution and $y \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$.

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- If $y = T^k \sigma(x)$ with $x \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, then we say that (k, x) is a **σ -representation of y** .
- If $0 \leq k < |\sigma(x_0)|$, then (k, x) is a **centered σ -representation of y** .

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We say that σ is **recognizable in X_σ** if each aperiodic $y \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ has at most one centered σ -representation in X_σ .

Recognizability for substitutions

Theorem [Mossé, 92 & 96] A primitive, aperiodic substitution σ is recognizable in X_σ .

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Theorem [Bezuglyi-Kwiatkowski-Medynets 2009] An aperiodic substitution σ is recognizable in X_σ .

Theorem [B.-Steiner-Thuswaldner-Yassawi] A substitution σ is recognizable in X_σ for aperiodic points.

Beyond substitutions: S -adic shifts

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For $0 \leq n < N$, let

$$\sigma_{[n,N)} = \sigma_n \circ \sigma_{n+1} \circ \cdots \circ \sigma_{N-1}.$$

For $n \geq 0$, the languages $\mathcal{L}_\sigma^{(n)}$ associated with σ are defined by

$$\mathcal{L}_\sigma^{(n)} = \{w \in \mathcal{A}_n^* : w \text{ is a subword of } \sigma_{[n,N)}(a), \text{ some } a \in \mathcal{A}_N, N > n\}.$$

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Set $X_\sigma = X_\sigma^{(0)}$ and call (X_σ, T) the **S -adic shift** generated by the **directive sequence** σ .

Recognizability for morphisms and S -adic shifts

- Given $X \subseteq \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and $\sigma : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^+$, we say that σ is **recognizable in X** if each $y \in \mathcal{B}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ has **at most** one centered σ -representation in X .

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If σ is recognizable in $\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ (for aperiodic points), we say that σ is fully recognizable (for aperiodic points).

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- The sequence σ is **recognizable** if it is recognizable at level n for each $n \geq 0$.
- If there is an $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that σ is recognizable at level n for each $n \geq n_0$, then we say that σ is **eventually recognizable**.

Full recognizability for morphisms

Theorem [B.-Steiner-Thuswaldner-Yassawi] Let $\sigma : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^+$ be a morphism such that

- $\text{rk}(M_\sigma) = |\mathcal{A}|$, or
- $|\mathcal{A}| = 2$, or
- σ is (rotationally) a left or right permutative morphism.

Then σ is fully recognizable for aperiodic points (at most one centred representation in $\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$).

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Theorem [B.-Steiner-Thuswaldner-Yassawi] Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a sequence of morphisms with $\sigma_n : \mathcal{A}_{n+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n^+$ with bounded alphabets. If each morphism σ_n satisfies one of

- $\text{rk}(M_{\sigma_n}) = |\mathcal{A}_{n+1}|$, or
- $|\mathcal{A}_{n+1}| = 2$, or
- σ_n is (rotationally) a left or right permutative morphism,

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Theorem[B.-Steiner-Thuswaldner-Yassawi] Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a sequence of morphisms with $\sigma_n : \mathcal{A}_{n+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n^+$ such that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\mathcal{A}_n| < \infty$ and $\sup_{n \geq 0} |\{\mathcal{L}_x : x \in X_\sigma^{(n)}\}| < \infty$. Then σ is eventually recognizable for aperiodic points.

Conclusion and perspectives

The following effectiveness notions for S -adic symbolic dynamical systems are intimately related

- Effectiveness of the directive sequences
- Computability of pattern frequencies/invariant measures
- Decidability of the language
- Existence of (colored) local rules (being sofic or an SFT)

How to extend these results?

- Substitutive subshifts
- S -adic subshifts
 - Dendric subshifts
 - Sturmian subshifts
 - Arnoux-Rauzy subshifts
 - Interval exchanges