Decidability of dendricity (through a construction of Durand)

France Gheeraert based on a joint work with Julien Leroy

June 2025



1. Introduction

• A letter is an element from a finite set (called alphabet).

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- A word is a sequence of letters, it can be finite or infinite.
- A finite word is a factor of a longer word if it appears consecutively in it.
- The factor complexity of an infinite word is the function
 p: ℕ → ℕ counting, for each *n*, the number of different
 factors of length *n*.

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21021022102102202210210 · · ·

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and many generalizations:

- Arnoux-Rauzy or episturmian words
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- codings of interval exchanges on the circle
- dendric words

• ...

$x = 0010011001001001101100 \cdots$

 $\mathcal{E}_{x}(10)$

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A word is *bispecial* if it has at least 2 left extensions and 2 right extensions.

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An infinite word is *eventually dendric* if all but finitely many of its factors are dendric. The *threshold* is the smallest N such that all factors of length at least N are dendric.

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- stable under application of any morphism (Espinoza)

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We consider morphic words: $x = \tau(\sigma^{\omega}(a))$ where τ is non-erasing and σ is primitive and prolongeable on a.

Take the words

$$\mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\omega}(0) = 012010120120101201201201201 \cdots$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\tau}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\omega}(0)) = 1101111011110111101111011 \cdots$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}: \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 1 \\ 1 \mapsto 1 & \text{and} & \boldsymbol{\sigma}: \\ 2 \mapsto 0 & \end{array} \colon \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 01 \\ 1 \mapsto 2 \\ 2 \mapsto 01 \end{cases}$$

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- the empty word is not dendric in x,
- 11 is not dendric in y... but are x and y eventually dendric?

.

2. Durand's construction

 $0120101201201012010120120\cdots$



0120101201201012010120120										
012	01	012	012	01	012	01	012	012	0	
\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow		
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0		

Definition

The derived sequence of x with respect to its first letter a is the unique sequence D(x) such that there exists an injective morphism θ satisfying:

- for any letter $b, \ heta(b) \in a(\mathcal{A} \setminus a)^*$,
- $x = \theta(D(x)).$

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Here, $\theta(0) = 012$, $\theta(1) = 01$.

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So, if we choose the θ_i such that $D^{(n)}$ starts with a 0,

$$x = \lim_{n \to \infty} \theta_1 \dots \theta_n(0)$$

This means that the sequence (θ_i) entirely determines x, it is an *S*-adic representation.

Proposition (Durand)

For any morphic word x,

- 1. D(x) is morphic,
- 2. θ and generating morphisms for D(x) can be algorithmically computed.

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4. Set
$$\theta : i \mapsto r_i$$
 and $\varphi : i \mapsto j_1 \cdots j_n$ if

$$\sigma(\mathbf{r}_i)=\mathbf{r}_{j_1}\cdots\mathbf{r}_{j_n}.$$

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Then $D(x) = \varphi^{\omega}(0)$ and $x = \theta(D(x))$.

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Then $D(x) = \varphi^{\omega}(0)$ and $x = \theta(D(x))$.

Important: θ depends on x, φ depends on σ .

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- we may need to consider a power of σ ;
- we have a coding for D(x) that identifies indices i, j if $\tau(r_i) = \tau(r_j)$.

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If x is morphic, then

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So we can the compute the sequence (θ_i) .

- $\mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\omega}(\mathbf{0})$:
 - $\theta_1 : \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{012}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{01}, \ \varphi_1 : \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{01}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{0}$

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 \rightarrow $(\theta_i) = \theta_1 \theta_2 \theta_2 \theta_2 \dots$

- $\mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\omega}(\mathbf{0}):$ $\theta_1: \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{0}\mathbf{12}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{0}\mathbf{1}, \ \varphi_1: \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{0}\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{0}$ $\theta_2: \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{0}\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{0}, \ \varphi_2: \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{0}\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{0}$ $\rightarrow (\theta_i) = \theta_1\theta_2\theta_2\theta_2\dots$ $\mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\tau}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\omega}(\mathbf{0})):$
 - $\theta_1 : 0 \mapsto 1, 1 \mapsto 10, \ \rho_1 : 0, 2 \mapsto 0, 1 \mapsto 1, \\ \varphi_1 : 0 \mapsto 01, 1 \mapsto 0201, 2 \mapsto 02$
- $\mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\omega}(\mathbf{0})$:
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- $heta_3 \colon 0 \mapsto 011, 1 \mapsto 0$, $arphi_3 \colon 0 \mapsto 010, 1 \mapsto 01$
- $heta_4 : \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{01}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{0}, \ \varphi_4 : \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{010}, \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{01}$

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- $\theta_3 \colon 0 \mapsto 011, 1 \mapsto 0$, $\varphi_3 \colon 0 \mapsto 010, 1 \mapsto 01$
- $\theta_4: 0 \mapsto 01, 1 \mapsto 0, \varphi_4: 0 \mapsto 010, 1 \mapsto 01$

 \rightarrow $(\theta_i) = \theta_1 \theta_2 \theta_3 \theta_4 \theta_4 \theta_4 \dots$

Corollary If we can apply Durand's construction on $x = \tau_1(\sigma_1^{\omega}(a))$ and $y = \tau_2(\sigma_2^{\omega}(b))$, then we can decide whether x = y.

Corollary

If we can apply Durand's construction on $x = \tau_1(\sigma_1^{\omega}(a))$ and $y = \tau_2(\sigma_2^{\omega}(b))$, then we can decide whether x = y.

Proof:

It suffices to check whether the associated sequences (θ_i) are equal since they only depend on the initial word and not on its morphic representation.

Alternative morphic representation

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \theta_0 \cdots \theta_{i-1} \left(\theta_i \cdots \theta_{j-1} \right)^{\omega} (0) \\ &= \alpha(\beta^{\omega}(0)) \end{aligned}$$

where α and β are return morphisms.

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Definition

A morphism α is a return morphism if there exists a word w such that

- $\bullet \ \alpha$ is injective over the letters
- for any letter a, α(a)w starts with w and contains no internal occurrence of w.

Alternative morphic representation

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$$= \boldsymbol{\alpha} (\boldsymbol{\beta}^{\omega}(\mathbf{0}))$$

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} : \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{11011110} \\ \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{110110} \\ \boldsymbol{\beta} : \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{010} \\ \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{00} \end{cases}$$

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Definition

A morphism α is a return morphism if there exists a word w such that

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$u \text{ in } \alpha(\beta^{\omega}(0))$ 11101101111011

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$u \text{ in } \alpha(\beta^{\omega}(0)) \quad a111011011110111011b$









• v is the parent of u, and u is <u>an</u> extended image of v



- *v* is the *parent* of *u*, and *u* is <u>an</u> *extended image* of *v*
- the extensions of a parent entirely determine the extensions of its extended images

3. Back to dendricity

Let $x = \theta(y)$ with θ a return morphism (for the word w).

Proposition (Berthé et al., G., Leroy) If x is eventually dendric of threshold N, then y is eventually dendric of threshold $\leq \max\{0, N - |w|\}$.

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 $\mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{\omega}(0)))$ eventually dendric $\iff \boldsymbol{\beta}^{\omega}(0)$ eventually dendric

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Proposition (Berthé *et al.*, G., Leroy) If x is eventually dendric of threshold N, then y is eventually dendric of threshold $\leq \max\{0, N - |w|\}$.

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A new example

We now consider $\mathbf{z} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\omega}(\mathbf{0}))$ where

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda} \colon \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 02 \\ 1 \mapsto 0 \\ 2 \mapsto 012 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \boldsymbol{\mu} \colon \begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 01002 \\ 1 \mapsto 0100201 \\ 2 \mapsto 01002010201 \end{cases}$$

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We need to determine

- whether $\mu^{\omega}(0)$ is dendric $\rightarrow z$ is eventually dendric,
- and if yes, whether its image under λ is dendric \rightarrow z is dendric.

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- gen. 1: factors whose parents are of gen. 0
- gen. *n*: factors whose parents are of gen. n-1

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Dendric extended images

If the parent is dendric, when are the extended images dendric?

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France Gheeraert

 $\mu(v)$ 01002010

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If the parent is dendric, when are the extended images dendric?



Proposition

If v is dendric, then its extended images are dendric if and only if, for any word s

- the left letters whose images end in s form a "connected subgraph" in ε(v);
- the right letters whose images (followed by 0100) start with s form a "connected subgraph" in ε(v).

Some graphs

Definition

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we define the graph G_n^L where

- the vertices are the letters;
- we have the edge (a, b) if, for all v of gen ≤ n, if a and b are left letters in E(v), they are connected by a length-2 path.

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Proposition

If the words of gen \leq n are dendric, then

- 1. the words of gen n + 1 are dendric iff, for any word s,
 - letters whose images end in s form a connected subgraph of G_n^L
 - letters whose images (followed by 0100) start with s form a connected subgraph of G^R_n;

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If the words of gen \leq n are dendric, then

- 1. the words of gen n + 1 are dendric iff, for any word s,
 - letters whose images end in s form a connected subgraph of G_n^L
 - letters whose images (followed by 0100) start with s form a connected subgraph of G^R_n;

2. we can then construct G_{n+1}^L and G_{n+1}^R based on G_n^L and G_n^R .



















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factors without parent:

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda} \colon \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} \mapsto \mathbf{020} \\ \mathbf{1} \mapsto \mathbf{00} \\ \mathbf{2} \mapsto \mathbf{0120} \end{cases}$$

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λ

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ε factors without parent: λ : $\begin{cases} 0 \mapsto 020 & 0 \\ 1 \mapsto 00 & 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 0120 & 0 \end{cases}$ $\begin{array}{cccc} G^L & G^R & G^L; \{0,1,2\} \text{ and } \{0,2\} \\ 0 & 0 & \text{are connected} \\ | & (| & \text{subgraphs}? \\ 1 & G^R; \{0,1,2\} \text{ is a} \\ | & connected \text{ subgraph}? \end{array}$ factors with parent:

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 \Rightarrow z is not dendric

- Dendric: apply an appropriate return morphism on a dendric example for which you know the graphs G^L and G^R
 - use the *S*-adic characterization (based on similar construction)

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Conclusion

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Thank you for your attention!