

# Scattered subwords and composition of natural numbers

### Zoltán KÁSA

Sapientia Hungarian Univerity of Transylvania Department of Mathematics and Informatics, Târgu Mureş email: kasa@ms.sapientia.ro

# Zoltán KÁTAI

Sapientia Hungarian Univerity of
Transylvania
Department of Mathematics and
Informatics, Târgu Mureş
email: katai\_zoltan@ms.sapientia.ro

**Abstract.** Special scattered subwords in which the length of the gaps are bounded by two natural numbers are considered. For rainbow words the number of such scattered subwords is equal to the number of special restricted compositions of natural numbers in which the components are natural numbers from a given interval. Linear algorithms to compute such numbers are given. We also introduce the concepts of generalized scattered subword (duplex-subword) and generalized composition.

#### 1 Introduction

We define a special scattered subword [5] as a generalization of the d-subword [2] and supper-d-subword [4].

**Definition 1** Let n,  $d_1 \leq d_2$  and s be positive natural numbers, and let  $u = x_1 x_2 \dots x_n \in \Sigma^n$  be a word over an alphabet  $\Sigma$ . A word  $v = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_s}$ , where

$$i_1 \geq 1,$$
  
 $d_1 \leq i_{j+1} - i_j \leq d_2,$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, s - 1,$   
 $i_s \leq n,$   
is a  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subword of length  $s$  of  $u$ .

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For example, in the word aabcade the subwords abd, ace, ad are (2,4)-subwords.

**Definition 2** The number of different  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords of a word w is the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of w.

The (1, d)-complexity was studied in [2] and [3], the (d, n)-complexity in [4], while the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity in [5].

### 2 Computing the $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity by digraphs

The graph method was defined for the general case of scattered subwords in [5], and for this particular case can be used as follows to compute the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of a rainbow word.

Let G = (V, E) be a digraph attached to the rainbow word  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$  and positive integers  $d_1 \leq d_2$ , where

$$V = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\},$$

$$E = \{(a_i, a_j) \mid d_1 \leq j - i \leq d_2, i = 1, 2, \dots, n, j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$
The adjacency matrix  $A = (a_{ij})_{\substack{i = \overline{1,n} \\ j = \overline{1,n}}}$  of the digraph is defined by:

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } d_1 \le j - i \le d_2, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$
  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n, j = 1, 2, \dots, n.$ 

To compute the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity we use a Floyd-Warshall-type algorithm [5]:

```
\begin{aligned} & \text{FW}(A,n) \\ & 1 \quad W \leftarrow A \\ & 2 \quad \text{for } k \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \\ & 3 \quad & \text{do for } i \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \\ & 4 \quad & \text{do for } j \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \\ & 5 \quad & \text{do } w_{ij} \leftarrow w_{ij} + w_{ik}w_{kj} \\ & 6 \quad \text{return } W \end{aligned}
```

If R = I + W, where I is the unity matrix, then the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity is:

$$K(n; d_1, d_2) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} r_{ij}.$$

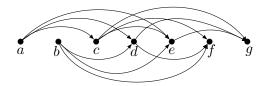


Figure 1: Graph for  $n = 7, d_1 = 2, d_2 = 4$ .

**Example 3** For digraph in Figure 1 we have the following adjacency matrix:

The above algorithm give us the matrix W, and by completing with 1's on the first diagonal we obtain the corresponding matrix R:

The complexity K(7;2,4) = 30 (the sum of all entries of the matrix R). The corresponding (2,4)-subwords are:

```
{a} {ac} {ad} {ace,ae} {adf,acf} {aeg,aceg,adg,acg}
```

{b} {bd} {be} {bdf,bf} {beg,bdg}

{c} {ce} {cf} {ceg,cg}

{d} {df} {dg}

{e} {eg}

{f}

{g}.

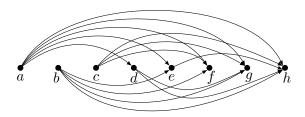


Figure 2: Graph for  $n = 8, d_1 = 3, d_2 = 7$ .

The Floyd-Warshall-type algorithm combined with the Latin square method can be used to obtain all nontrivial (with length at least 2)  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords of a given rainbow word  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$  of length n [5]. Let us consider a matrix  $\mathcal{A}$  with entries  $A_{ij}$  which are sets of words. Initially this entries are defined as:

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} \{a_i a_j\}, & \text{if } d_1 \leq j - i \leq d_2, \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n, j = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

If  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are sets of words,  $\mathcal{AB}$  is the set of concatenation of each word from  $\mathcal{A}$  with each word from  $\mathcal{B}$ :

$$\mathcal{AB} = \{ab \mid a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}\}.$$

If  $s = s_1 s_2 \dots s_p$  is a word, let us denote by 's the word obtained from s by erasing the first character: ' $s = s_2 s_3 \dots s_p$ . Let us denote by ' $A_{ij}$  the set  $A_{ij}$  in which we erase from each element the first character. In this case 'A is a matrix with elements ' $A_{ij}$ .

Starting with the matrix  $\mathcal{A}$  defined as before, the algorithm to obtain all nontrivial  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords is the following [5]:

```
\begin{aligned} & \text{FW-LATIN}(\mathcal{A}, n) \\ & 1 \quad \mathcal{W} \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \\ & 2 \quad \text{for } k \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \\ & 3 \quad & \text{do for } i \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \\ & 4 \quad & \text{do for } j \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \\ & 5 \quad & \text{do if } W_{ik} \neq \emptyset \text{ and } W_{kj} \neq \emptyset \\ & 6 \quad & \text{then } W_{ij} \leftarrow W_{ij} \cup W_{ik}'W_{kj} \\ & 7 \quad \text{return } \mathcal{W} \end{aligned}
```

The set of 
$$(d_1, d_2)$$
-subwords is  $\bigcup_{i,j \in \{1,2,\dots,n\}} W_{ij}$ .

**Example 4** For the digraph in Figure 2, when n = 8,  $d_1 = 3$ ,  $d_2 = 7$ , the initial matrix A is:

The result of the algorithm is:

## 3 Linear algorithm for the $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity

In this section linear algorithms to obtain  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity and  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords of rainbow words are given.

The following dynamic programming algorithm COMPLEXITY computes the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of rainbow word  $a_1 a_2 \ldots a_n$ . The element  $x_i$   $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$  of the array X stores the number of  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords ending in letter  $a_i$ . Letter  $a_i$  can be added to all  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords ending in letters from interval  $a_i - d_1 \ldots a_i - d_2$  (assuming that this interval exists). Consequently, value  $x_i$  can be computed as the sum of values  $x_i - d_1, \ldots, x_i - d_2$ . (lines 4, 5, 6) Since letter  $a_i$  itself is considered as a  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subword, element  $x_i$  is initialized with 1 (line 3). The  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of a rainbow word of length n is the sum of values  $x_i$   $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$  (lines 1 and 7).

7

8 return X, k

COMPLEXITY $(n, d_1, d_2)$ 1  $k \leftarrow 0$ 2 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to n3 do  $x_i \leftarrow 1$ 4 for  $j \leftarrow i - d_2$  to  $i - d_1$ 5 do if j > 0then  $x_i \leftarrow x_i + x_j$ 

 $k \leftarrow k + x_i$ 

Time complexity of this algorithm is  $\Theta(n)$ , because the inner loop is executed  $n(d_2 - d_1 + 1)$  times.

The following algorithm generates the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords of rainbow word  $a_1 a_2 \ldots a_n$ . Bidimensional array (of strings) Y stores the generated  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords. Array  $y_i$  has  $x_i$  element and stores the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords ending in letter  $a_i$ . Operation  $s \circ l$  (line 8) means that letter l is added to the end of string s.

Subwords $(n, d_1, d_2, A, X)$ 

```
for i \leftarrow 1 to n
2
          do y_{i1} \leftarrow a_i
3
                p \leftarrow 1
4
                for j \leftarrow i - d_2 to i - d_1
                      do if j > 0
5
6
                                then for k \leftarrow 1 to x_i
                                               do p \leftarrow p + 1
7
8
                                                    y_{ip} \leftarrow y_{jk} \circ a_i
9 return Y
```

The inner loop is executed  $n(d_2 - d_1 + 1) \max_i x_i$  times, so this is a pseudo-linear algorithm.

#### 4 Generalized scattered subwords

Definition 1 can be generalized for rainbow words as we choose letters not only going ahead in the word, but back too at every step.

**Definition 5** Let n,  $d_1 \leq d_2$  and s be positive natural numbers, and let

 $u = x_1 x_2 \dots x_n \in \Sigma^n$  be a rainbow word over an alphabet  $\Sigma$ . A rainbow word  $v = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_s}$ , where

$$i_1 \geq 1$$
,

$$d_1 \le |i_{j+1} - i_j| \le d_2$$
, for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, s - 1$ ,

$$i_s \leq n$$

is a duplex  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subword of length s of u.

It is worth to note that the definition is given only for rainbow words, and the duplex subwords are rainbow words too.

For example acfbe and beadfc both are duplex (2,4)-subwords of the word abcdef.

**Definition 6** The number of all duplex  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords of a word is the **duplex**  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of that rainbow word.

We denote the duplex  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of a rainbow word of length n by  $D(n; d_1, d_2)$ , and let  $x_i, y_i$  and  $z_i$  be the numbers of subwords starting, ending and starting or ending in letter  $a_i$ , respectively. Notice that  $0 \le d_2 - d_1 \le n - 1$ . For the minimum cases,  $d_2 - d_1 = 0$  ( $d_1 = d_2 = d, d = 1, \ldots, n - 1$ ) we have the following recursive formulas (where the sequences X and Y are identical):

$$x_i = 1,$$
 if  $0 < i \le d$   
 $x_i = x_{i-d} + 1,$  if  $d < i \le n$   
 $y_i = 1,$  if  $0 < i \le d$   
 $y_i = y_{i-d} + 1,$  if  $d < i \le n$   
 $v_i = x_i + y_i - 1.$ 

The duplex complexity D(n; d, d) is

$$D(n;d,d) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i.$$

By a simple computation we can obtain the generating functions  $F_d(z) = \sum_{n\geq 1} x_n z^n$ ,  $G_d(z) = \sum_{n\geq 1} v_n z^n$ ,  $H_d(z) = \sum_{n\geq 1} D(n;d,d)z^n$ :

$$F_d(z) = \frac{z}{(1-z)(1-z^d)}, \quad G_d(z) = \frac{z(1+z^d)}{(1-z)(1-z^d)},$$

$$H_d(z) = \frac{1}{1-z}G_d(z) = \frac{z(1+z^d)}{(1-z)^2(1-z^d)}.$$

Based on Proposition 4 in [5] it is easy to prove the following

**Proposition 7** For integers  $n, d \ge 1$ , where n = hd + m,  $0 \le m < d$ ,

$$D(n; d, d) = hn + (h+1)m.$$

The graph method for the case of duplex  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subwords can be defined as follows. Let G = (V, E) be a graph (with V the set of vertices, E the set of edges) attached to the rainbow word  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$  and integers  $d_1, d_2$ , where

$$V = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\},\$$
  
 $E = \{\{a_i, a_j\} \mid d_1 \leq |j - i| \leq d_2, i = 1, 2, \dots, n, j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}.$   
Using the attached graph, we can prove the following

#### **Proposition 8**

$$D(n; 1, n - 1) = n! \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{k!}.$$

**Proof.** In this case the attached graph is a complete graph on n vertices, and D(n; 1, n-1) - n is equal to the number of all paths in this graph. In [9] the sequence A007526 is defined by the formula  $a_n = n(a_{n-1} + 1)$ , and "for  $n \ge 1$ , a(n) is the number of non-empty sequences with n or fewer terms, each a distinct element of  $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ ". So, a(n) is the sum of the number of all paths and the number of all vertices. For  $a_n$  in [9] the following formula is

given too: 
$$a_n = n! \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{k!}$$
. From this:

$$D(n; 1, n - 1) = n! \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{k!}.$$

The duplex  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity of a rainbow word of length n is equal to the number of paths in the attached graph (NumberOfPaths). The following modified DFS algorithm (based on [8]) generates all paths in the attached graph G and prints the corresponding duplex subwords. Global arrays DE-GREE, PREVIOUS and COLOR have elements indexed from 1 to n. Element  $degree_i$  stores the degree of vertex i (corresponding to letter i). Arrays PRE-VIOUS and COLOR are initiated with zero. Element  $previous_i$  stores the previous vertex of vertex i on the current path. We use array COLOR to avoid cycles. Bi-dimensional array NEIGHBOUR stores the neighbor-lists of the vertices of graph G. Element  $neighbor_{ik}$  stores the k-th neighbor of vertex i. Procedure DFS(i) prints all distinct paths starting with root-vertex  $a_i$  (line

		n								
$d_1$	$d_2$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81	100
1	2		15	42	101	224	469	944	1849	3552
1	3			64	227	716	2111	6058	16971	46546
1	4				325	1434	5707	21244	76487	273580
1	5					1956	10437	50624	229541	1000106
1	6						13699	86114	495161	2662784
1	7							109600	794607	5299996
1	8								986409	8110482
1	9									9864100
2	2		5	8	13	18	25	32	41	50
2	3			16	45	106	225	474	983	2000
2	$\mid 4 \mid$				69	264	853	2432	6683	18560
2	5					378	1855	7708	28209	97200
2	6						2497	14832	75865	343674
2	7							19184	133497	812746
2	8								167513	1334960
2	9									1635970
3	3			6	9	12	17	22	27	34
3	4				17	36	91	194	389	756
3	5					62	243	912	2783	7390
3	6						345	1914	9405	37448
3	7							2524	17295	103560
3	8								21901	174694
3	9									214930
4	4				7	10	13	16	21	26
4	5					18	37	64	153	306
4	6						63	186	699	2580
4	7							290	1559	8832
4	8								2075	15794
4	9									19660
5	5					8	11	14	17	20
5	6						19	38	65	100
5	7							64	187	482
5	8								291	1204
5	9									1722
6	6						9	12	15	18
6	7							20	39	66
6	8								65	188
6	9									292

Table 1: Duplex  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity for rainbow words of length n

3). Procedure PrintCurentPathTo(i) prints the currently generated path from the current root-vertex to vertex  $a_i$  (line 8).

```
DuplexSubwords()
 1 NumberOfPaths \leftarrow 0
 2 for i \leftarrow 1 to n
        do DFS(i)
   PRINT(NumberOfPaths)
DFS(i)
 1 color_i \leftarrow 1
    for k \leftarrow 1 to degree_i
 3
        do j \leftarrow neighbor_{ik}
 4
            if color_i = 0
               then previous_i \leftarrow i
 5
 6
                      DFS(j)
    NumberOfPaths \leftarrow NumberOfPaths + 1
    PRINTCURRENTPATHTo(i)
   color_i \leftarrow 0
10 previous_i \leftarrow 0
PRINTCURRENTPATHTo(i)
 1 if previous_i \leftarrow 0
       then PrintCurrentPathTo(previous_i)
   PRINT(a_i)
```

## 5 $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity and $(d_1, d_2)$ -compositions

Compositions [1, 6, 7] are partitions in which the order of the summands (components) does matter. A  $(d_1, d_2)$ -composition is a restricted composition in which the components are natural numbers from the interval  $[d_1, d_2]$ .

For example, for the word abcdefg the (2,4)-subwords, which begin in a and end in g are: aeg, aceg, adg, acg, which correspond to the following compositions in which the components are the distances between the letters in the original word:

```
6 = 4 + 2 = 2 + 2 + 2 = 3 + 3 = 2 + 4.
```

In general, if  $a_1 a_{i_1} \cdots a_{i_s} a_{n+1}$  is a  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subword of the rainbow word  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{n+1}$ , then this subword corresponds to a composition:

$$n = (i_1 - 1) + (i_2 - i_1) + \ldots + (i_s - i_{s-1}) + (n + 1 - i_s).$$

Let us consider the following (2,4)-subwords:  $a_1a_5a_7$ ,  $a_1a_3a_5a_7$ ,  $a_1a_4a_7$ , and  $a_1a_3a_7$  of the word  $a_1a_2a_3a_4a_5a_6a_7$ . Then the corresponding (2,4)-compositions are

$$6 = 4 + 2 = 2 + 2 + 2 = 3 + 3 = 2 + 4$$
.

So, each  $(d_1, d_2)$ -subword of a rainbow word of length n + 1, which begins by the first, and ends by the last letter of the rainbow word, corresponds to a  $(d_1, d_2)$ -composition of n.

By a simple reasoning we can obtain a formula between the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -complexity and  $(d_1, d_2)$ -compositions. Let us denote the  $(d_1, d_2)$ -composition of n by  $C(n; d_1, d_2)$ .

**Proposition 9** *If*  $n \ge 1$ , then

$$K(n; d_1, d_2) = n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} iC(n-i; d_1, d_2)$$

**Example 10** If n = 7,  $d_1 = 2$  and  $d_2 = 4$ , then K(7; 2, 4) = 30.

$$C(6; 2, 4) = 4$$
, because  $6 = 2 + 2 + 2 = 2 + 4 = 3 + 3 = 4 + 2$ .

C(5; 2, 4) = 2, because 5 = 2 + 3 = 3 + 2.

C(4; 2, 4) = 2, because 4 = 2 + 2 = 4.

C(3;2,4) = 1, because 3 = 3.

C(2;2,4) = 1, because 3 = 2.

C(1;2,4)=0,

and 
$$K(7; 2, 4) = 7 + 1 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 2 + 4 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 1 + 6 \cdot 0 = 30$$
.

Similarly, if we extend the compositions to the case when instead of the natural numbers, we consider nonzero integers, a relation with the duplex subwords can be given.

**Definition 11** A generalized composition of a natural number is one way of writing this number as an ordered sum of nonzero integers, such that all partial sums<sup>1</sup> are positive and different. If the absolute value of the summands are from an interval  $[d_1, d_2]$ , we call this a generalized  $(d_1, d_2)$ -compositions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Partial sums are  $\sum_{i=1}^{k} s_i$ .

**Example 12** The generalized (2,4)-compositions of 6 are:

```
2+2-3+2+3
                         3+2-4+3+2
2+2-3+4-2+3
                         3+2-3+2+2
2 + 2 + 2
                         3+2-3+4
2+3-4+2+3
                         3 + 3
2+3-4+2+2
                         4-3+2+2-3+4
2+3-2-2+3+2
                         4 - 3 + 2 + 3
2 + 3 - 2 + 3
                         4 - 3 + 4 - 3 + 4
2 + 4
                         4 - 3 + 4 - 2 + 3
3-2+3-2+4
                         4-2+3-4+2+3
3 - 2 + 3 + 2
                         4-2+3-2+3
                         4 - 2 + 4
3-2+4-3+2+2
3-2+4-3+4
                         4 + 2.
3+2-4+3-2+4
```

If  $a_1a_{i_1}\cdots a_{i_s}a_{n+1}$  is a duplex  $(d_1,d_2)$ -subword of the rainbow word  $a_1a_2\cdots a_{n+1}$ , then this subword corresponds to a generalized  $(d_1,d_2)$ -composition:

$$n = (i_1 - 1) + (i_2 - i_1) + \ldots + (i_s - i_{s-1}) + (n + 1 - i_s).$$

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