

Enumeration in the lattice of q -decreasing words

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Nathanaël HASSLER

joint work with Jean-Luc BARIL and Sergey KIRGIZOV

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q -decreasing words

Let $q > 0$ be a real number and $n \geq 0$ an integer.

Definition

A q -decreasing word of length n is a binary word of length n such that:
every maximal factor of the form $0^a 1^b$ satisfies either $a = 0$ or $q \cdot a > b$.

Let \mathcal{W}_n^q be the set of q -decreasing words of length n .

Example: $\mathcal{W}_4^1 = \{0000, 0001, 0010, 1000, 1001, 1100, 1110, 1111\}$.

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Proposition

When q is a positive integer, \mathcal{W}_n^q is enumerated by the $(q+1)$ -generalized Fibonacci numbers F_{n+1}^{q+1} , where F_n^q is defined by

$$F_n^q = F_{n-1}^q + F_{n-2}^q + \dots + F_{n-q}^q,$$

with initial conditions $F_n^q = 0$ for $n < 0$ and $F_0^q = 1$.

- J.-L Baril, S. Kirgizov and V. Vajnovszki (2022).
 - ▶ Introduced q -decreasing words
 - ▶ Bijection between \mathcal{W}_n^q and binary words with length n avoiding 1^{q+1} when q is an **integer**
 - ▶ 1-Gray code for \mathcal{W}_n^1 (answering a conjecture of Egecioglu and Irišič)

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- S. Dovgal and S. Kirgizov (2025).
 - ▶ Growth rate of $|\mathcal{W}_n^q|$ for any positive real number q

Theorem - Dovgal, Kirgizov (2025)

For any real positive q , the number of q -decreasing words of length n satisfies as $n \rightarrow \infty$

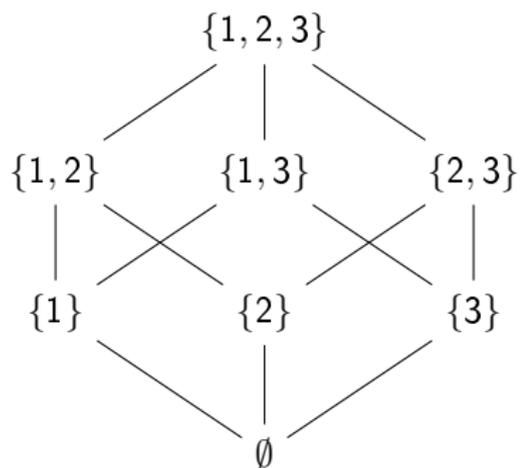
$$|\mathcal{W}_n^q| \sim C_q \cdot \Phi(q)^n$$

for some constant C_q and where Φ is a function such that

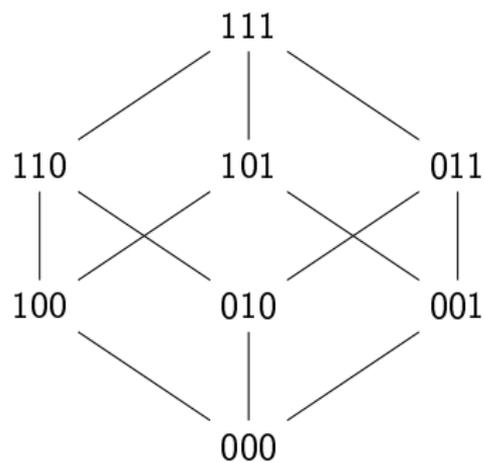
- Φ is strictly increasing,
- Φ is discontinuous at every positive rational point,
- for any integer k , $\Phi(k)$ is the $(k + 1)$ -bonacci constant.

Example: $\Phi(1) = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$, $\Phi(2)$ is the tribonacci constant.

The boolean lattice



Inclusion order



Componentwise order

Figure: The Hasse diagram of the boolean lattice of size 3.

The poset of q -decreasing words

For $v = v_1 v_2 \dots v_n$ and $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$ two q -decreasing words, we have

$$v \leq w \iff v_i \leq w_i \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

Theorem

The poset $\mathbb{W}_n^q := (\mathcal{W}_n^q, \leq)$ is a lattice.

Remark: This is not a sublattice of the boolean lattice. Indeed, in \mathbb{W}_3^1 ,

$$100 \vee 001 = 111 \neq 101.$$

An example

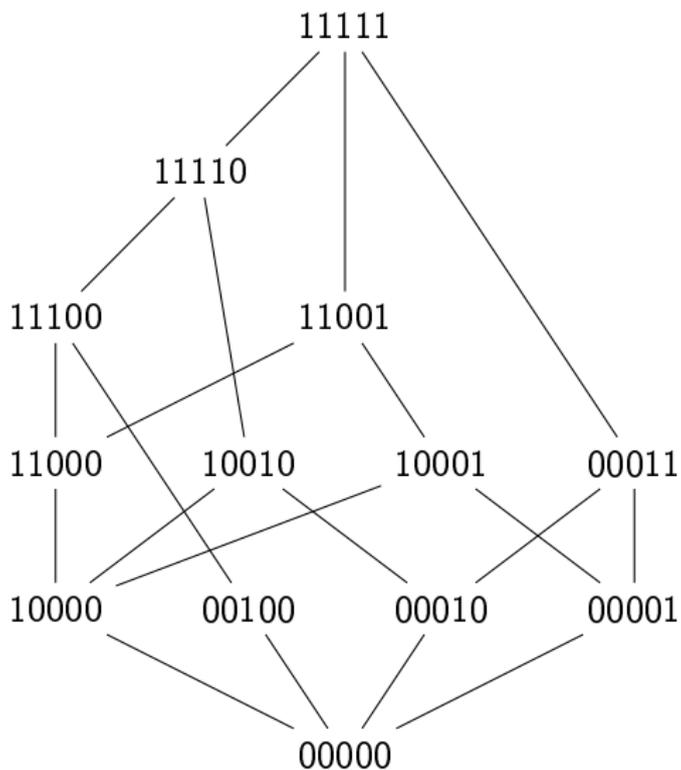


Figure: The lattice W_5^1 .

An example

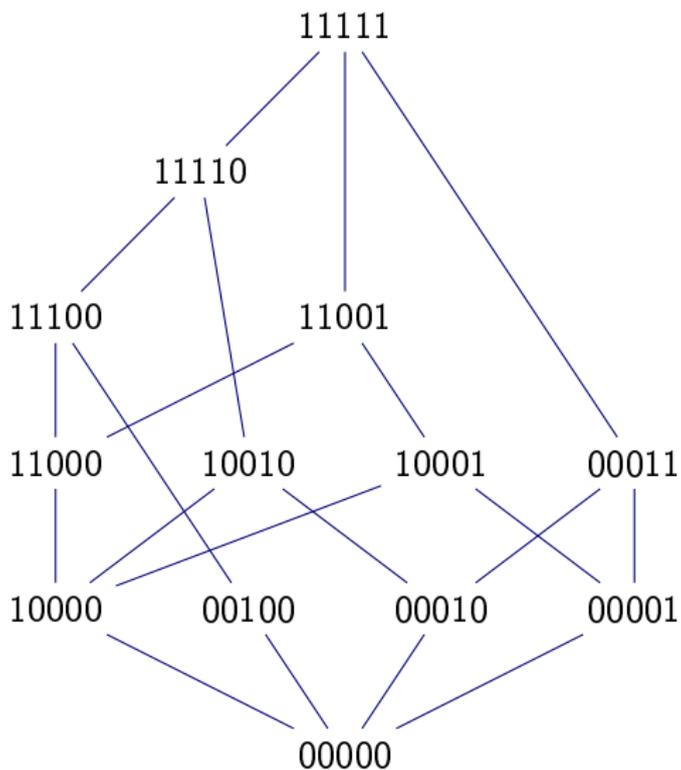


Figure: Coverings.

An example

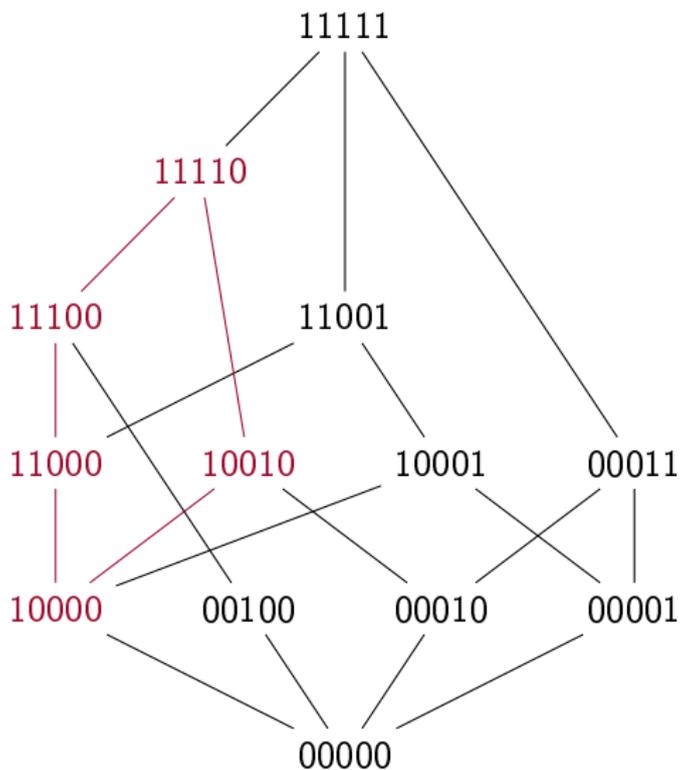


Figure: Intervals.

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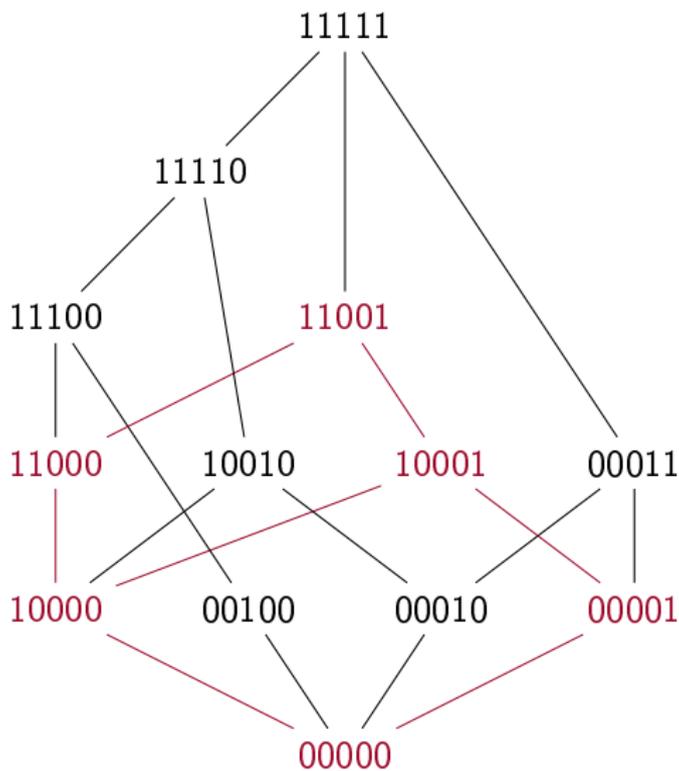


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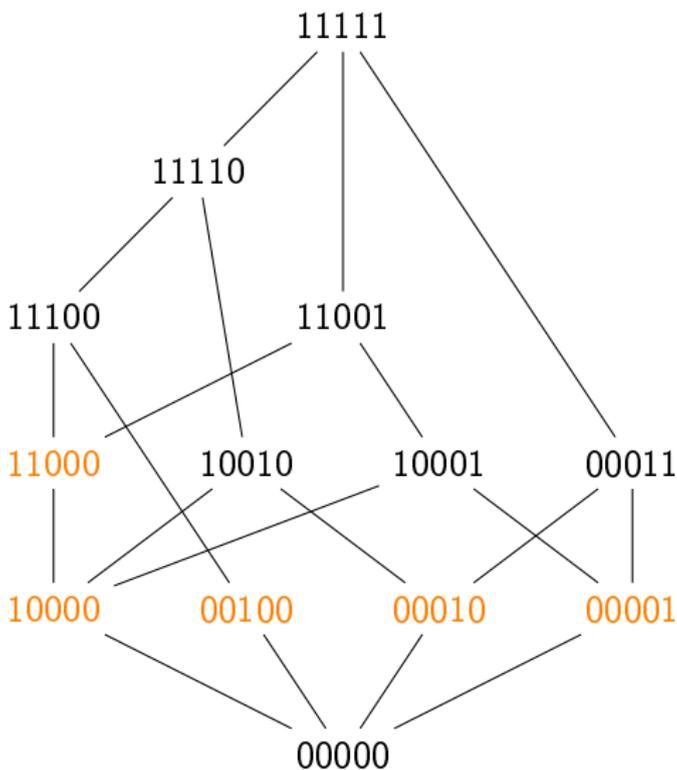


Figure: Join-irreducible elements.

An example

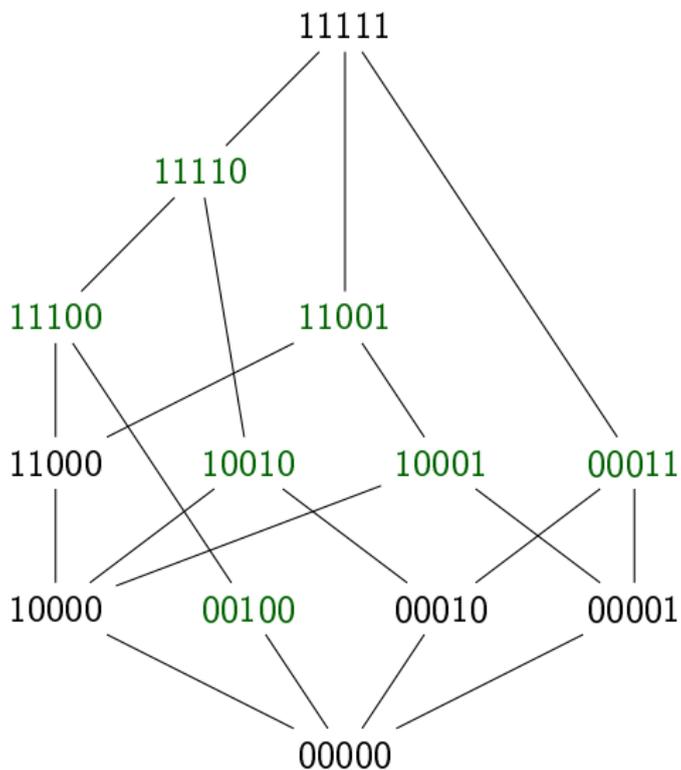


Figure: Meet-irreducible elements.

Structure of q -decreasing words

Any word $w \in \mathcal{W}_n^q$ can be written

$$w = 1^m 0^{a_1} 1^{b_1} \dots 0^{a_k} 1^{b_k} 0^\ell,$$

with

- $m, \ell \geq 0$,
- $q \cdot a_i > b_i \geq 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$,

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Theorem - Kirgizov (2022)

The generating function $W_q(x)$ for the number of q -decreasing words depending on their length is given by

$$W_q(x) = \frac{1}{(1-x) \left(1 - \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^{1+i+\lfloor \frac{i}{q} \rfloor}\right)}.$$

Furthermore, when $q = c/d$ is a rational number, we have

$$W_{c/d}(x) = \frac{1 - x^{c+d}}{(1-x) \left(1 - x^{c+d} - \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} x^{1+i+\lfloor \frac{di}{c} \rfloor}\right)}.$$

Intervals

Definition

An interval $I = [v, w]$ is called *prime* whenever w is prime, i.e. $w = 0^a 1^b$ with $q \cdot a > b \geq 1$.

Let $P_q(x)$ be the generating function for the number of prime intervals.

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$$w = 1 \dots 1 \quad 0^{a_1} 1^{b_1} \quad \dots \quad 0^{a_k} 1^{b_k} \quad 0 \dots 0$$

$$v = \nu \quad \nu_1 \quad \dots \quad \nu_k \quad 0 \dots 0$$

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Proposition

For any real $q > 0$, the generating function $I_q(x)$ for the number of intervals in \mathbb{W}_n^q is given by

$$I_q(x) = \frac{W_q(x)}{(1-x)(1-P_q(x))}.$$

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Theorem

Let $q = c/d$ be a positive rational number, and define the polynomial $\Pi_{c/d}(x) = 1 - x^{c+d} - \sum_{k=0}^{c-1} x^{1+k+\lfloor \frac{dk}{c} \rfloor}$. Let $\rho = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{c}}$, then

$$P_q(x) = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{c(c+d+2)} a_k x^{1+k+\lfloor \frac{dk}{c} \rfloor}}{(1-x)(1-x^{c+d})^2 \prod_{k=0}^{c-1} \Pi_q(\rho^k x^{1+\frac{d}{c}})},$$

where

$$\sum_{k=0}^{c(c+d+2)} a_k x^k = x(1-x^{c+d} + (1-x)\Pi_q(x))(1+\dots+x^{c-1})^2 \prod_{k=1}^{c-1} \Pi_q(\rho^k x).$$

Corollary

Let $r = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{c+d}}$. There exists a nonzero polynomial $T \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ with degree at most $c + d - 1$ such that

$$[x^n]P_q(x) \underset{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} T(r^n) \cdot \Phi(q)^{\frac{cn}{c+d}}.$$

Example:

$$P_1(x) = \frac{x^3(x^4 - 2)}{(x - 1)^2(x + 1)(x^4 + x^2 - 1)}$$

$$[x^n]P_1(x) \sim c \cdot (1 + (-1)^n) \cdot \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n/2}$$

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with $c = \frac{1}{40} \left(30 + 14\sqrt{5} + (25 + 11\sqrt{5})\sqrt{-2 + 2\sqrt{5}}\right)$.

Meet-irreducible elements when $0 < q \leq 1$

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A word $w \in \mathbb{W}_n^q$ is meet-irreducible if and only if it has exactly one upper cover.

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$$\underbrace{000011}_{\in C} \underbrace{0001}_{\in B}$$

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Theorem

Let $q = c/d$ be a rational number with $0 < q \leq 1$. The generating function $M(x)$ for the number of meet-irreducible elements in \mathbb{W}_n^q is

$$M(x) = \frac{x^{2+\lfloor d/c \rfloor} (x-1)A - (x-1)A^2 + x^2}{(x-1) \left((1 - Ax^{2+\lfloor d/c \rfloor} + Ax^{3+\lfloor d/c \rfloor} + (x-1)(x+A-A^2)) \right)},$$

with

$$A = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^c x^{1+i+\lfloor \frac{id}{c} \rfloor}}{1 - x^{c+d}}.$$

Meet-irreducible elements when $q > 1$

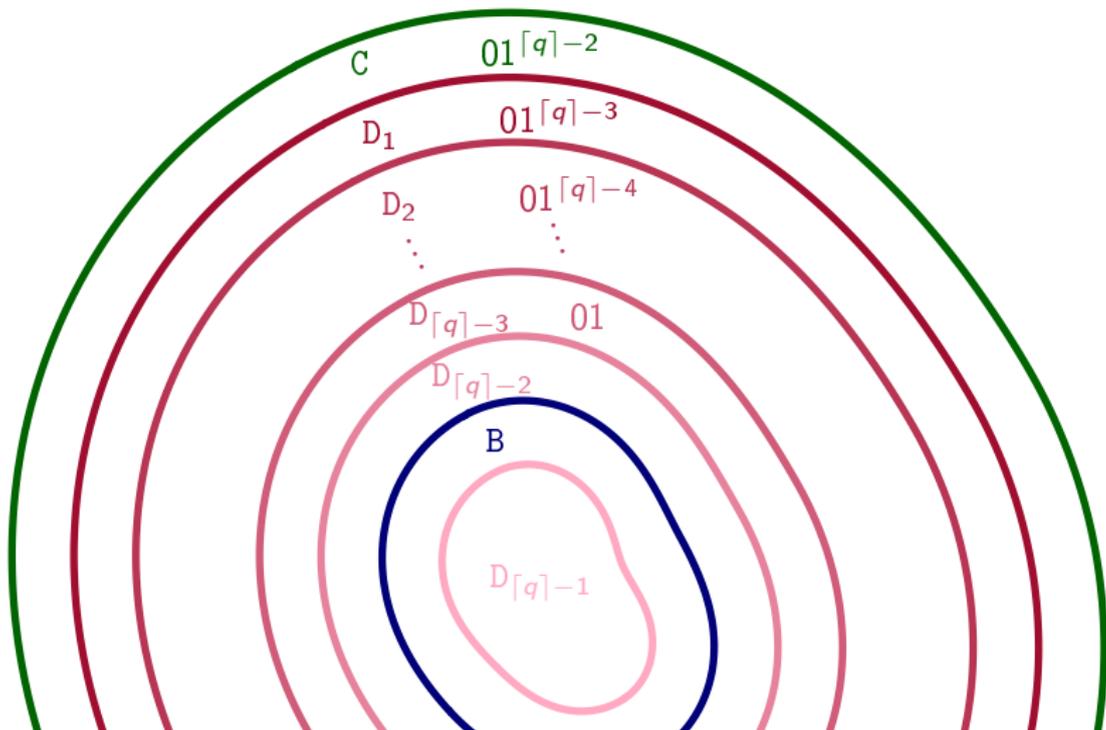


Figure: More sets and more forbidden patterns \rightarrow words over an alphabet of $2[q] + 1$ letters avoiding $[q]^2 + 2[q] - 1$ patterns

- 1 J.-L. Baril, S. Kirgizov and V. Vajnovszki, *Gray codes for Fibonacci q -decreasing words*, *Theoretical Computer Science*, 2022.
- 2 S. Kirgizov, *Q -bonacci words and numbers*, *Fibonacci Quarterly*, 2022.
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- 4 E. Barucci, A. Bernini, S. Bilotta and R. Pinzani, *Pattern avoiding and q -decreasing binary words*, *RAIRO-Theor. Inf. Appl.*, 2025.
- 5 J.-L. Baril, N. Hassler, S. Kirgizov, *Enumeration in the lattice of q -decreasing words*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2511.09480>.

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Thank you!