

# Densities of rational languages by example

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# Outline

- Part 1. Computing invariant probability measures
  - Invariant probability mesures
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  - Invariant measure on the Thue-Morse shift
- Part 2. Computing in finite monoids
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  - Parity of  $a$  in the Fibonacci shift
  - The Schützenberger representation

# recommended reading :))

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This book is the first self-contained exposition of the fascinating link between dynamical systems and dimension groups. The authors explore the rich interplay between topological properties of dynamical systems and the algebraic structures associated with them, with an emphasis on symbolic systems, particularly substitution systems. It is recommended for anybody with an interest in topological and symbolic dynamics, automata theory or combinatorics on words.

Intended to serve as an introduction for graduate students and other newcomers to the field as well as a reference for established researchers, the book includes a thorough account of the background notions as well as detailed exposition – with full proofs – of the major results of the subject. A wealth of examples and exercises, with solutions, serve to build intuition, while the many open problems collected at the end provide jumping-off points for future research.

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Dimension Groups and Dynamical Systems

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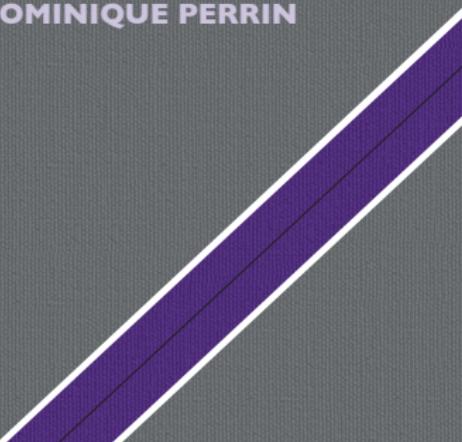
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Cambridge studies in advanced mathematics

Dimension Groups and Dynamical Systems

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# Stochastic processes

Let  $\mu: A^* \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be such that  $\mu(\varepsilon) = 1$  and

$$\mu(w) = \sum_{a \in A} \mu(wa)$$

for every  $w \in A^*$ . Thus, we can interpret  $\pi(wa)/\pi(w)$  as the probability of seeing the letter  $a$  after the word  $w$ .

Such a map  $\mu$  is called a **stochastic process** on  $A^*$ .

For  $L \subset A^*$ , we denote  $\mu(L) = \sum_{w \in L} \mu(w)$ .

A simple example is a Bernoulli process, defined by a morphism  $\mu: A^* \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $\sum_{a \in A} \mu(a) = 1$ . Equivalently,  $\mu(wa)/\mu(w)$  does not depend on  $w$ .

If  $\mu$  is a **uniform** Bernoulli process, that is if  $\mu(a) = 1/\text{card}(A)$ , then

$$\mu(w) = \frac{1}{\text{card}(A)^{|w|}}$$

# Probability measures

A Borel **probability measure** on a topological space  $X$  is a map  $\mu$  defined on the family of Borel sets of  $X$  such that  $\mu(X) = 1$  and

$$\mu(\cup_{n \geq 0} U_i) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \mu(U_n)$$

for every family of pairwise disjoint Borel sets  $U_n$ .

Let  $[w] = \{x \in A^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid x_{[0,|w|)} = w\}$  be the cylinder defined by the word  $w$ . Given a stochastic process  $\mu$ , there is a unique Borel probability measure  $\mu$  on  $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$  such that  $\mu([w]) = \mu(w)$  for every  $w \in A^*$ .

The **support** of  $\mu$  is the set

$$X = \{x \in A^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid \mu(w) > 0 \text{ for every } w \in \mathcal{L}(x)\}.$$

It is a closed subset and  $\mu(X) = 1$ . Thus  $\mu$  is a Borel probability measure on  $X$ .

## Prefix codes

A **prefix code** on  $A$  is a set  $C \subset A^*$  such that no word in  $C$  is a proper prefix of another word in  $C$ . A **suffix code** is the reversal of a prefix code.

For  $X \subset A^{\mathbb{Z}}$ , a prefix code  $C \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  is  **$X$ -maximal** if it is not properly included in a prefix code  $C' \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$ .

If  $\mu$  is a stochastic process, one has  $\mu(C) \leq 1$  for every prefix code  $C$  because the cylinders  $[w]$  for  $w \in C$  are disjoint.

Let  $X$  be the support of  $\mu$ . If  $C$  is a finite  $X$ -maximal prefix code, then  $\mu(X) = 1$  because  $X = \cup_{c \in C} [c]$ . Moreover, the **average length** of  $C$

$$\lambda(C) = \sum_{c \in C} |c| \mu(c)$$

is equal to  $\mu(P)$ , where  $P$  is the set of proper prefixes of the words of  $C$ .

## Invariant measures

A measure  $\mu$  on  $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is **invariant** if  $\mu(S^{-1}U) = \mu(U)$  for every Borel set  $U$ , where  $S$  denotes the shift transformation.

The measure  $\mu$  is invariant if the associated stochastic process satisfies

$$\mu(w) = \sum_{a \in A} \mu(aw)$$

for every  $w \in A^*$ .

The support of an invariant measure is closed and invariant. Thus, it is a shift space. Conversely, for every shift space  $X$ , there exists an invariant measure supported by  $X$ .

A Bernoulli measure is invariant.

# Ergodic measures

An invariant measure  $\mu$  is **ergodic** if every invariant Borel set has measure 0 or 1. As an equivalent condition,  $\mu$  is ergodic if and only if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \mu(U \cap S^{-i}V) = \mu(U)\mu(V)$$

for every pair  $U, V$  of Borel sets.

Every shift space has ergodic measures. If there is a unique invariant measure, it is ergodic. The shift is said to be **uniquely ergodic**. A Bernoulli measure is ergodic.

# Substitution shifts

Let  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow A^*$  be a substitution. The shift space  $X(\sigma)$  is the set of sequences  $x \in A^{\mathbb{Z}}$  such that all the blocks of  $x$  appear in some  $\sigma^n(a)$  for  $a \in A$  and  $n \geq 0$ .

The substitution  $\sigma$  is **primitive** if for every  $a \in A$ , there is  $n \geq 1$  such that every letter  $b \in A$  appears in  $\sigma^n(a)$ .

Theorem (Michel)

*Every primitive substitution shift is uniquely ergodic.*

# Computation of the unique invariant measure

The **composition matrix** of  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow A^*$  is the  $A \times A$ -matrix

$$M(\sigma)_{a,b} = |\sigma(b)|_a.$$

## Proposition

*If  $\sigma$  is primitive, and  $\mu$  is the unique invariant measure, then*

$$\mu([a])_{a \in A}$$

*is a right Perron eigenvector of  $M(\sigma)$ .*

## Relation to average length

Let  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow A^*$  be a primitive substitution. Let  $\mu$  be the unique invariant probability distribution on  $X(\sigma)$ . The **average length** of  $\sigma$

$$\lambda(\sigma) = \sum_{a \in A} |\sigma(a)|\mu(a)$$

is equal to the Perron eigenvalue  $\rho$  of  $M(\sigma)$ . Indeed,

$$\lambda(\sigma) = \sum_{a \in A} |\sigma(a)|\mu(a) = \sum_{a, b \in A} |\sigma(a)|_b \mu(a) = \rho \sum_{b \in A} \mu(b) = \rho.$$

# Recognizability of substitutions

Let  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow B^*$  be a substitution. Let  $X$  be a shift space on the alphabet  $A$  and let  $Y$  be the closure under the shift of  $\sigma(X)$ .

The substitution  $\sigma$  is **recognizable** in  $X$  if for every  $y \in Y$  there is exactly one pair  $(x, k)$  with  $x \in X$  and  $0 \leq k < |\sigma(x_0)|$  such that

$$y = S^k(\sigma(x)).$$

The following result is well known.

## Theorem (Mossé)

*Every primitive aperiodic substitution  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow A^*$  is recognizable in  $X(\sigma)$ .*

## Consequences of recognizability

If  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow B^*$  is recognizable in  $X$ , then it is a homeomorphism from  $X$  onto  $Y$ .

Therefore, by Kac's formula, if  $\sigma: A^* \rightarrow A^*$  is primitive and aperiodic, one has

$$\mu(\sigma(U)) = \mu(U)/\lambda$$

for every Borel set  $U$ , where  $\lambda$  is the Perron eigenvalue of  $M(\sigma)$ .

Thus, we have an enlightening interpretation of the fact that  $(\mu(a))_{a \in A}$  is a left eigenvector of  $M(\sigma)$ : there is a partition of  $X(\sigma)$  in clopen sets  $S^k \sigma([a])$  for  $a \in A$  and  $0 \leq k < |\sigma(a)|$ . Therefore

$$1 = \sum_{a \in A} |\sigma(a)| \mu(\sigma(a)) = \sum_{a \in A} |\sigma(a)| \mu(a) / \lambda$$

## The $k$ -th higher block shift

Let  $X$  be a shift space on  $A$ . Let  $u \mapsto \langle u \rangle$  be a bijection from the set  $\mathcal{L}_k(X)$  of blocks of length  $k$  of  $X$  onto an alphabet  $A_k$ . The  **$k$ -th higher block shift**  $X^{(k)}$  is the image of  $X$  under the map  $\gamma_k$  defined by  $y = \gamma_k(x)$  if

$$y_n = \langle x_n x_{n+1} \cdots x_{n+k-1} \rangle \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z})$$

For  $X = X(\sigma)$ , one has  $X^{(k)} = X(\sigma_k)$  where  $\sigma_k$  is the  **$k$ -th higher block presentation** of a non-erasing substitution  $\sigma$ .

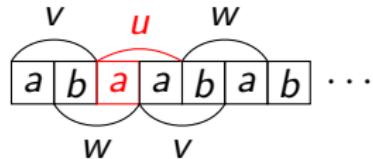
Let  $u \in \mathcal{L}_k(\sigma)$  and let  $a$  be the first letter of  $u$ . Set  $s = |\sigma(a)|$ . If  $\sigma(u) = b_1 b_2 \cdots b_\ell$  with  $b_i \in A$ , then

$$\sigma_k(\langle u \rangle) = \langle b_1 b_2 \cdots b_k \rangle \langle b_2 b_3 \cdots b_{k+1} \rangle \cdots \langle b_s \cdots b_{s+k-1} \rangle.$$

The vector  $\mu(u)_{u \in \mathcal{L}_k(X)}$  is a right Perron eigenvector of  $M(\sigma_k)$ .

# Example

Let  $\sigma: a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto a$  be the Fibonacci substitution. Set  $u = \langle aa \rangle$ ,  $v = \langle ab \rangle$ ,  $w = \langle ba \rangle$ . Then  $\sigma_2: u \mapsto vw, v \mapsto vw, w \mapsto u$  generates  $X(\sigma)^{(2)}$ .



# The invariant measure on the Fibonacci shift

Let  $\sigma: a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto a$  be the Fibonacci substitution and let  $X = X(\sigma)$  be the Fibonacci shift. Then

$$M(\sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Its eigenvalues are the roots  $\lambda = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$  and  $\hat{\lambda} = (1 - \sqrt{5})/2$  of  $z^2 = z + 1$ . Then  $[\lambda^{-1} \quad \lambda^{-2}]^t$  is a right eigenvector for the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Thus  $\mu(a) = \lambda^{-1}$  and  $\mu(b) = \lambda^{-2}$ .

Let us compute  $\mu(u)$  for  $u \in \mathcal{L}_2(X)$ . Set  $u = \langle aa \rangle$ ,  $v = \langle ab \rangle$ ,  $w = \langle ba \rangle$ . Then

$$\sigma_2: u \mapsto vw, v \mapsto vw, w \mapsto u$$

and thus

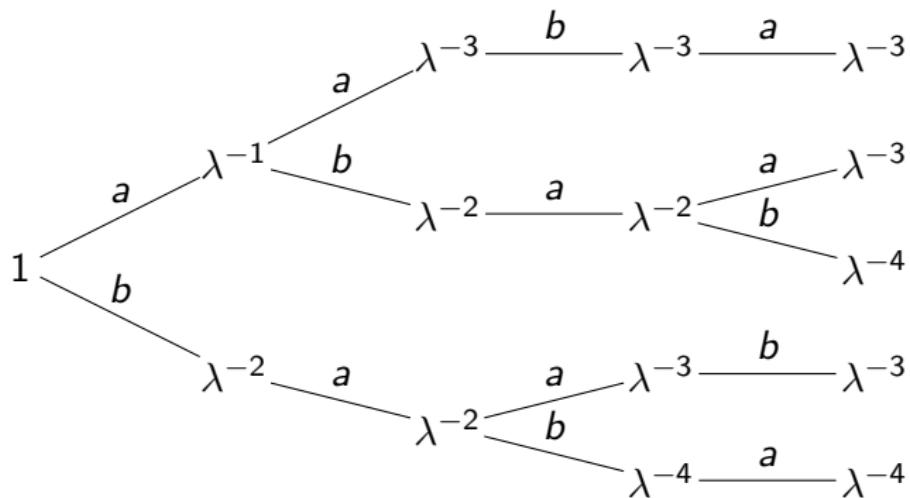
$$M(\sigma_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

has the eigenvector

$$[\lambda^{-3} \quad \lambda^{-2} \quad \lambda^{-2}]^t$$

Thus  $\mu(aa) = \lambda^{-3}$ ,  $\mu(ab) = \lambda^{-2}$  and  $\mu(ba) = \lambda^{-2}$ .

# The invariant probability measure on the Fibonacci shift



# The Thue-Morse shift

Let  $\sigma: a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto ba$  be the Thue-Morse substitution. The matrix

$$M(\sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

has  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$  as eigenvector for the eigenvalue 2. Set  $u = \langle aa \rangle$ ,  $v = \langle ab \rangle$ ,  $w = \langle ba \rangle$ ,  $t = \langle bb \rangle$ . We find

$$\sigma_2: u \mapsto vw, v \mapsto vt, w \mapsto wu, t \mapsto wv$$

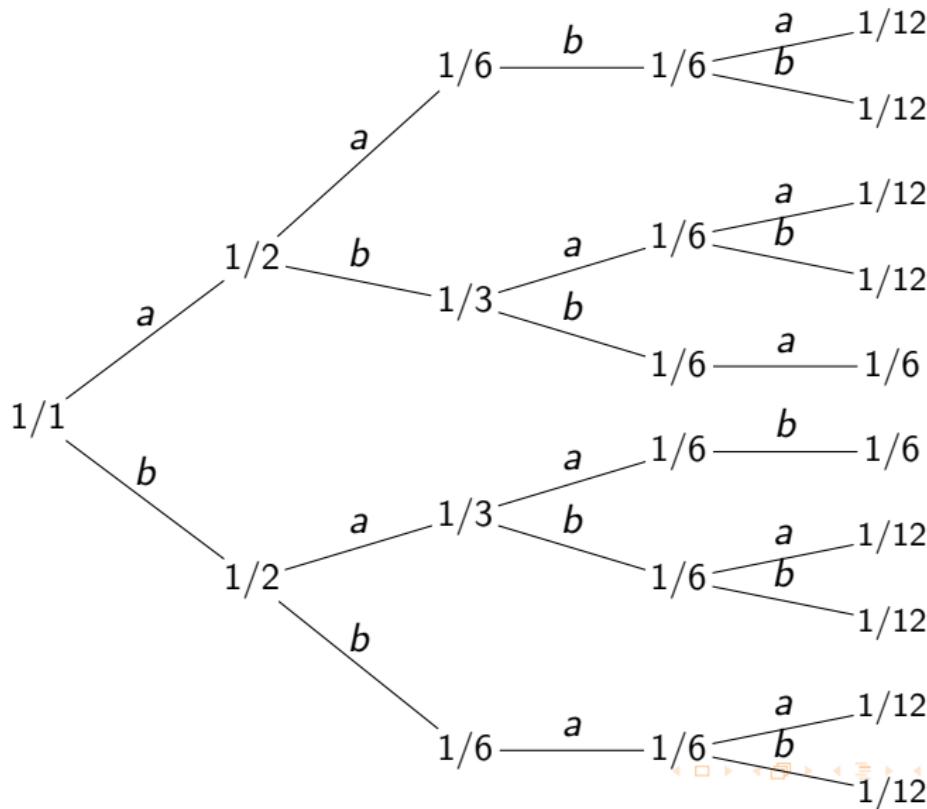
and thus

$$M(\sigma_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

with right eigenvector

$$\left[ \frac{1}{6} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{6} \right]^t$$

# The invariant probability measure on the TM shift



# Computing in finite monoids

Recall the Green relations in a monoid  $M$ .

- $m\mathcal{R}n \Leftrightarrow mM = nM \Leftrightarrow m, n \text{ generate the same right ideal}$
- $m\mathcal{L}n \Leftrightarrow Mm = Mn \Leftrightarrow m, n \text{ generate the same left ideal.}$
- $m\mathcal{J}n \Leftrightarrow MmM = MnM \Leftrightarrow m, n \text{ generate the same ideal.}$
- $m\mathcal{H}n \Leftrightarrow m\mathcal{R}n \text{ and } m\mathcal{L}n.$

When  $M$  is a monoid of partial mappings from a set  $Q$  to itself, the Green relations have natural interpretations. The **kernel** of  $m$  is the equivalence relation on  $Q$  defined by  $p \equiv q$  if  $pm = qm$ . Likewise the **image**  $\text{Im}(m)$  of  $m$  is the set of  $q \in Q$  of the form  $pm$  for some  $p \in Q$ . If  $m\mathcal{R}n$ , then  $m$  and  $n$  have the same kernel. Symmetrically, if  $m\mathcal{L}n$ , then  $m$  and  $n$  have the same image. Finally, if  $m\mathcal{J}n$ , then  $m, n$  have the same rank (where *rank* means the cardinality of the image).

A  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J$  is **regular** if it contains an idempotent. We have

- All  $\mathcal{H}$ -classes contained in  $J$  have the same number of elements.
- Each  $\mathcal{H}$ -class containing an idempotent is a group and there is one in each  $\mathcal{R}$ -class and each  $\mathcal{L}$ -class.
- All groups in  $J$  are isomorphic to the **Schützenberger group** of  $J$ .

When  $M$  is a group, it is a single  $\mathcal{H}$ -class.

# The $\mathcal{J}$ -class $J_X(M)$

Let  $X$  be a shift space on  $A$  and let  $\varphi: A^* \rightarrow M$  be a morphism onto a finite monoid  $M$ . Let  $K_X(M)$  be the intersection of all two-sided ideals  $I$  of  $M$  such that  $I \cap \varphi(\mathcal{L}(X)) \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $J_X(M)$  be the  $\mathcal{J}$ -class

$$J_X(M) = \{m \in M \mid MmM = K_X(M)\}.$$

## Proposition

Let  $X$  be an irreducible shift space on  $A$  and let  $\varphi: A^* \rightarrow M$  be a morphism onto a finite monoid  $M$ . Then

- 1  $K_X(M)$  is an ideal of  $M$  which meets  $\varphi(\mathcal{L}(X))$ .
- 2  $J_X(M) = \{m \in K_X(M) \mid MmM \cap \varphi(\mathcal{L}(X)) \neq \emptyset\}$ .
- 3  $J_X(M)$  is either the minimal ideal  $K(M)$  of  $M$ , or the unique 0-minimal ideal in the quotient of  $M$  by the largest ideal of  $M$  which does not meet  $\varphi(\mathcal{L}(X))$ .

# $X$ -degree of an automaton

When the monoid  $M$  is the monoid of transitions of a deterministic automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , the  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J_X(M)$  has a simple definition in terms of ranks of the mappings. The minimal rank of the elements of  $\varphi(\mathcal{L}(X))$  as partial mappings is called the  **$X$ -degree** of the automaton, denoted  $d_X(\mathcal{A})$ .

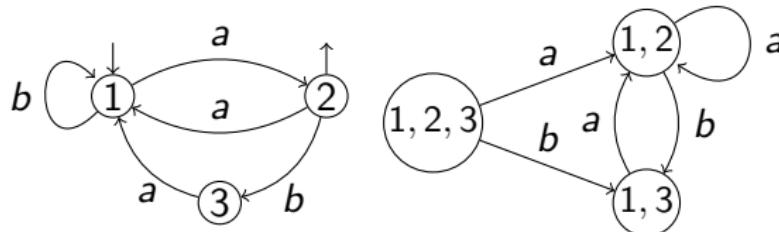
The  $X$ -degree of an automaton is computable provided  $J_X(M)$  is computable, using the following statement.

## Proposition

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a deterministic automaton and let  $M = \varphi(A^*)$  be the transition monoid of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $X$  be an irreducible shift space. The  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J_X(M)$  contains all elements of  $\varphi(\mathcal{L}(X))$  of rank  $d_X(\mathcal{A})$ .*

# The parity of $aa$ in the Fibonacci shift

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the automaton represented below on the left. Let  $X$  be the Fibonacci shift. Inside  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ , the automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  recognizes (with  $i = 1$  and  $t = 2$ ) the blocks of  $X$  with an even number of  $aa$ .



1, 2	1, 3
$a, a^2$	$ab, a^2b$
$ba, ba^2$	$b, bab$

The action on subsets shown in the middle shows that  $d_X(\mathcal{A}) = 2$ . The  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J_X(M)$  is represented on the right.

# The Schützenberger representation

Let  $M$  be a finite monoid and let  $J$  be a regular  $\mathcal{J}$ -class. Let  $\Lambda$  be the set of  $\mathcal{H}$ -classes of  $J$  in the same  $\mathcal{R}$ -class  $R$ . We have an action of  $M$  on  $\Lambda$  defined by  $H \cdot m = Hm$  if  $Hm \subset J$  and  $\emptyset$  otherwise.

Let  $e \in J$  be an idempotent of  $R$  and let  $G$  be its  $\mathcal{H}$ -class. A **system of coordinates** of  $G$  is a family  $(r_H, r'_H)_{H \in \Lambda}$  of pairs of elements of  $M$  such that for every  $H \in \Lambda$ ,

$$er_H \in H, er_H r'_H = e$$

with  $r_G = r'_G = e$ . Set  $H * m = er_H m r'_H$ . The map

$$\lambda(m)_{H,K} = \begin{cases} H * m & \text{if } H \cdot m = K \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is a morphism from  $M$  to the monoid of  $\Lambda \times \Lambda$ -matrices with elements in  $G \cup \{0\}$ , called the **Schützenberger representation** of  $M$  on  $J$ .

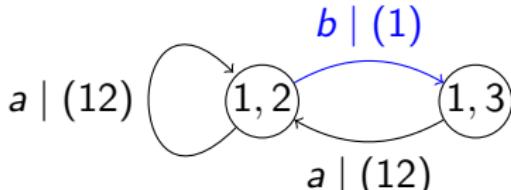
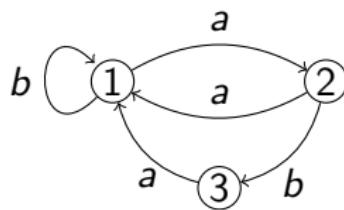
# Computation in the transition monoid of an automaton

When  $M$  is the transition monoid of a deterministic automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , the following simplifications occur:

- 1 The set  $\Lambda$  can be identified with the set  $\mathcal{I}$  of images of minimal cardinality (equal to  $d_X(\mathcal{A})$ ) of words in  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .
- 2 One can choose a system of coordinates of  $R$  such that  $H * \varphi(a) = e$  for every edge in a spanning tree of the graph with edges  $H \xrightarrow{a} H \cdot \varphi(a)$ .
- 3 For every  $m \in M$  such that  $G \cdot m = G$ , the permutation  $G * m$  is the restriction of  $m$  to the image of  $e$ .

## Example

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the automaton represented below on the left. Let  $\mu$  be the invariant probability measure on the Fibonacci shift.



1, 2	1, 3
a	ab
ba	b

The action on minimal images is shown in the middle. Then

$$\lambda(a) = \begin{bmatrix} (12) & 0 \\ (12) & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \lambda(b) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & (1) \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is the Schützenberger representation relative to  $e = \varphi(a^2)$  with  $r_{13} = \varphi(b)$ .

# An automaton of $X$ -degree 3

Let  $X$  be the Fibonacci shift. Consider the  $X$ -maximal prefix code  $C$  represented below with the states of the minimal automaton of  $C^*$  indicated.

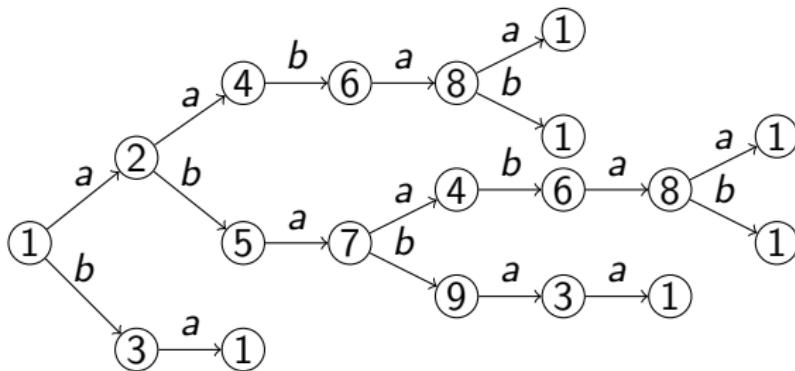
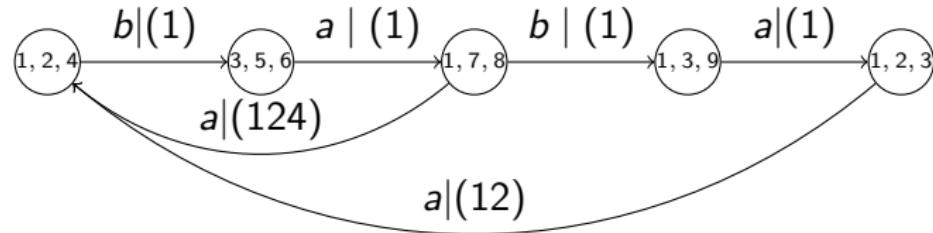


Figure: A prefix code of  $X$ -degree 3

It is not bifix because  $aabaa, abaabaa \in C$ .

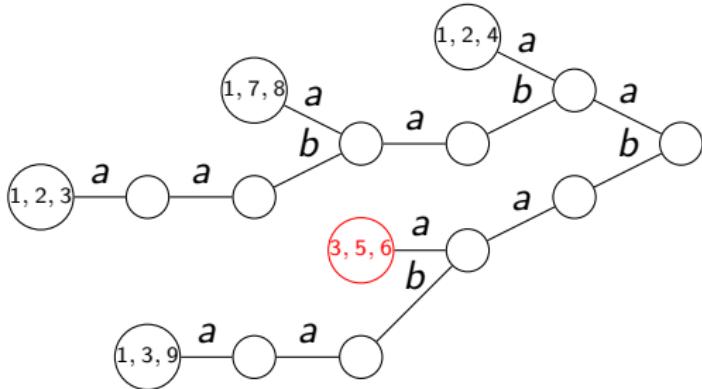
The  $X$ -minimal rank is 3 because the image of  $aa$  is  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and the action on the minimal images is indicated below.



**Figure:** A prefix code of  $X$ -degree 3

The group is transitive because  $baa$  defines the permutation  $(124)$ .

# Computation of the density of $C^*$



Let  $G$  be the above  $X$ -maximal suffix code. One has

$$J_X(M) = \varphi(A^*G) \cap \mathcal{L}(X) \text{ and}$$

$$\bigcup_{m \in J_X(M) \cap \varphi(C^*)} \varphi^{-1}(Mm) = A^*(G \setminus \{aab\}) \cap \mathcal{L}(X).$$

Therefore

$$\delta_\mu(C^*) = \frac{1 - \lambda^{-3}}{3} \equiv .$$

# Computation of $\lambda(C)$

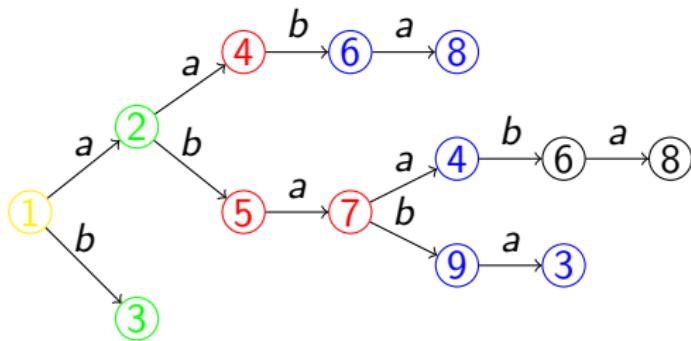


Figure: The set  $P$  of prefixes of  $C$ .

The yellow, green, red and blue sets are  $X$ -maximal suffix codes.  
Therefore,

$$\lambda(C) = 4 + \mu(abaab) + \mu(abaaba) = 4 + 2\lambda^{-3}.$$