Minimal weight expansions in Pisot bases

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Abstract. For applications to cryptography, it is important to represent numbers with a small number of non-zero digits (Hamming weight) or with small absolute sum of digits. The problem of finding representations with minimal weight has been solved for integer bases, e.g. by the non-adjacent form in base 2. In this paper, we consider numeration systems with respect to a real base β which is a Pisot number. When β is the Golden Ratio, the Tribonacci number or the smallest Pisot number, we determine expansions with minimal number of digits ± 1 and give finite automata recognizing all these expansions. The average weight is lower than for the non-adjacent form.

In the general case of a base β which is a Pisot number satisfying a certain condition (D$'$), we prove that the expansions with minimal absolute sum of digits are recognizable by a finite automaton.

Keywords. Minimal weight, Beta-expansions, Pisot numbers, Fibonacci numbers, Automata.

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1 Introduction

Let A be a set of (integer) digits and $x = x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n$ be a word with letters x_j in A. The *weight* of x is the *absolute sum of digits* $\|x\| = \sum_{j=1}^{n} |x_j|$. The *Hamming weight* of x is the number of non-zero digits in x. Of course, when $A \subseteq \{-1, 0, 1\}$, the two definitions coincide.

Expansions of minimal weight in integer bases β have been studied extensively. When $\beta = 2$, it is known since Booth [5] and Reitwiesner [23] how to obtain such an expansion with the digit set $\{-1, 0, 1\}$. The well-known non-adjacent form (NAF) is a particular expansion of minimal weight with the property that the non-zero digits are isolated. It has many applications to cryptography, see in particular [20, 17, 21]. Other expansions of minimal weight in integer base are studied in [14, 16]. Ergodic properties of signed binary expansions are established in [7].

Non-standard number systems — where the base is not an integer — have been studied from various points of view. Expansions in a real non-integral base $\beta > 1$ have been introduced by Rényi [24] and studied initially by Parry [22]. Number theoretic transforms where numbers are represented in base the Golden Ratio have been introduced in [8] for application to signal processing and fast convolution. Fibonacci representations have been used in [19] to design exponentiation algorithms based on addition chains. Recently, the investigation of minimal weight expansions has been extended to the Fibonacci numeration system by Heuberger [15], who gave an equivalent to the NAF. Solinas [26] has shown how to represent a scalar in a complex base τ related to Koblitz curves, and has given a τ-NAF form, and the Hamming weight of these representations has been studied in [10].