



UNIVERSITÀ
di **VERONA**

Dipartimento
di **INFORMATICA**

Bubble-Flip – A New Generation Algorithm for Prefix Normal Words

*Ferdinando Cicalese, Zsuzsanna Lipták and **Massimiliano Rossi***
Department of Computer Science – University of Verona

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Prefix Normal Words



Prefix Normal Words

Definition

Prefix Normal Words

binary words

no factor has more 1s than the prefix of the same length

Fici, Lipták, "On prefix normal words". DLT [2011]

$w = 1101000110110$ **not** prefix normal

There is a factor of **length 5** with **>3 1s**.

Prefix Normal Words

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#1s
length

$w = 1101000110110$

Diagram illustrating the binary word $w = 1101000110110$. The word is divided into two segments of length 5. The first segment (prefix) contains 3 ones, and the second segment contains 4 ones. The total number of ones in the word is 7. The word is labeled **not prefix normal**.

$u = 1101000100110$ **prefix normal**

Is there a factor of length 1 with **>1 1s?** **no**

Is there a factor of length 2 with **>2 1s?** **no**

Is there a factor of length 3 with **>2 1s?** **no**

⋮

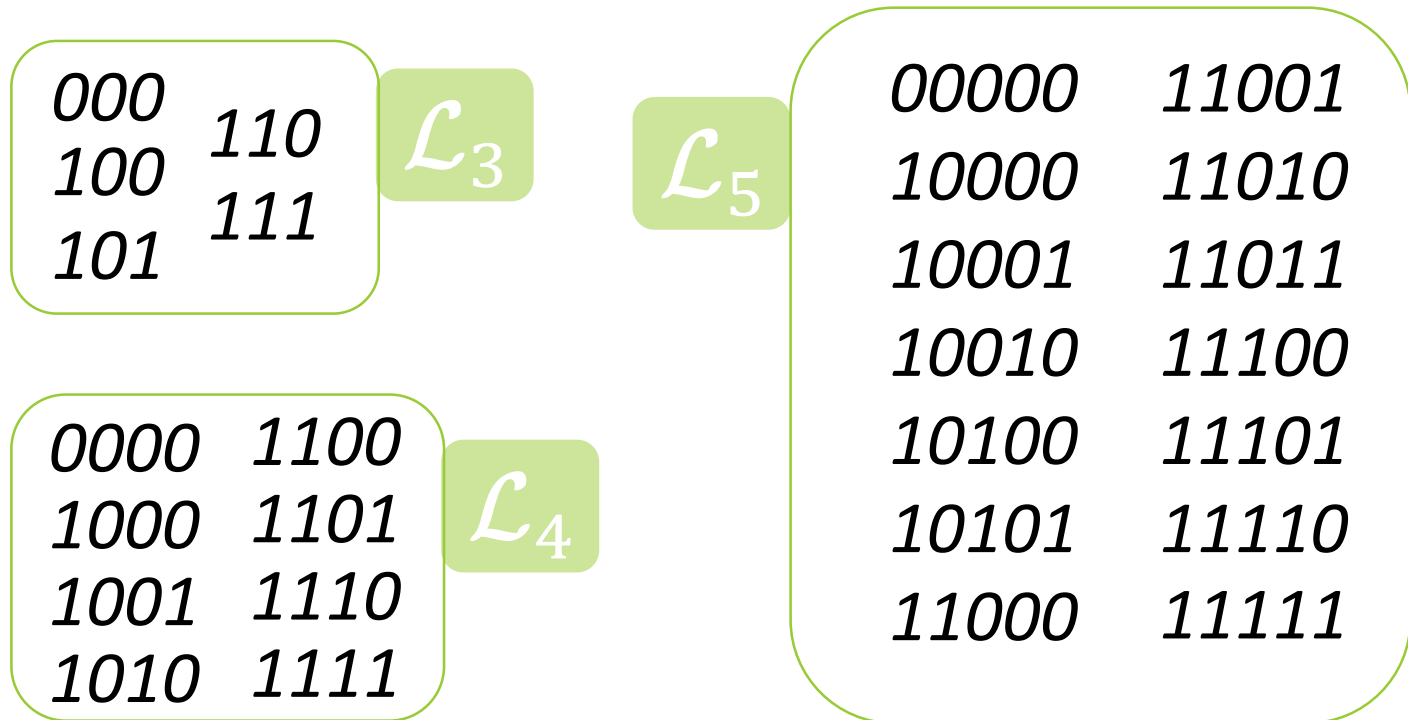
Is there a factor of length 7 with **>3 1s?** **no**

⋮

Set of prefix normal words

$\mathcal{L}$: set of all finite prefix normal words

$\mathcal{L}_n$: set of all prefix normal words of length n



Basic Facts

Let $w \in \mathcal{L}$. Then

All prefixes of w are in $\mathcal{L}$

$w0 \in \mathcal{L}$

$\mathcal{L}$: set of all finite prefix normal words

$\mathcal{L}_n$: set of all finite prefix normal words of length n

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{\#1s} \\ w' = \overbrace{w_1 w_2 \cdots w_j w_{j+1}}^{k} \cdots \overbrace{w_{n-j+1} \cdots w_n 0}^{m \leq k} \\ \text{length} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{j+1} \end{array}$$

$w1 \in \mathcal{L}$ if and only if for all $1 \leq j < n$, we have

$$|w_1 \cdots w_{j+1}|_1 > |w_{n-j+1} \cdots w_n|_1$$

$$w'' = \overbrace{w_1 w_2 \cdots w_j w_{j+1}}^k \cdots \overbrace{w_{n-j+1} \cdots w_n 1}^{> k}$$

A new generation algorithm

Generation algorithm

i.e., an algorithm for visiting each object in $\mathcal{L}_n$

Previous generation algorithm

- Runs in amortized $O(n)$ time per word
- Conjectured run in amortized $O(\log n)$ time per word, but still open

Burcsi, Fici, Lipták, Ruskey, Sawada, CPM [2014]

New generation algorithm Bubble-Flip

- Runs in $O(n)$ time per word
- Gives **new insights into properties** of prefix normal words
- Makes steps towards answering conjecture from **CPM [2014]**

Cicalese, Lipták, Rossi, LATA [2018]

The Bubble-Flip Algorithm

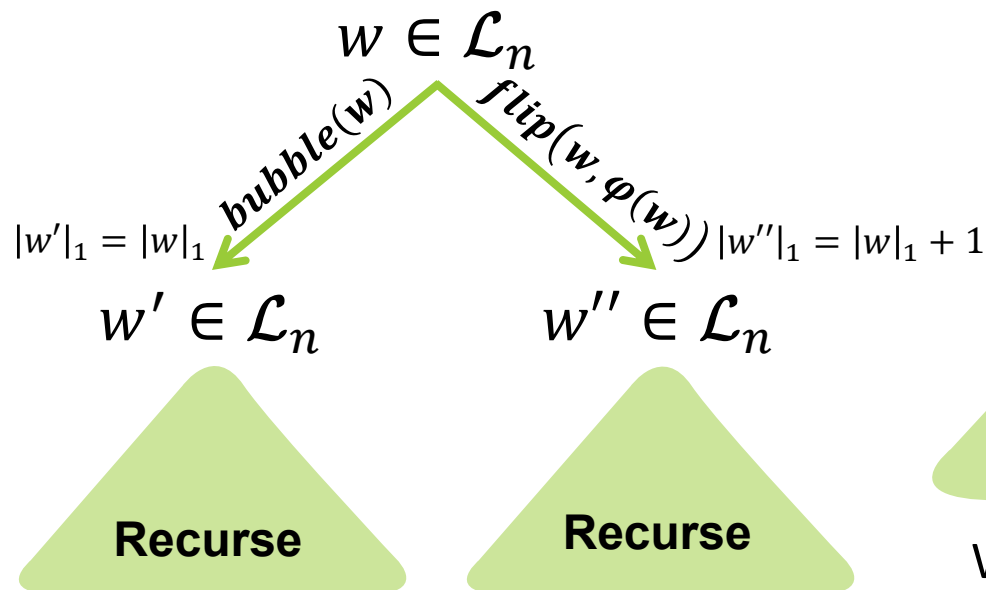


Basic Idea

Generation algorithm visits each object in $\mathcal{L}_n$ exactly once

Based on two operations *bubble*(w) and *flip*($w, \varphi(w)$)

Recursive generation algorithm



Starting from
 $w = 110^{n-2}$

$\mathcal{L}_n \setminus \{0^n, 10^{n-1}\}$

We visit each object in $\mathcal{L}_n$

Operation *bubble*(*w*)

***bubble*(w)**: move rightmost 1 by one to the right

$w = 1101000100110000 \xrightarrow{\text{bubble}(w)} 1101000100101000$

Lemma

Let $w \in \mathcal{L}_n$. Then $bubble(w) \in \mathcal{L}_n$

Diagram illustrating the bubble sort step. It shows two strings, w and w' , with their binary representations. String w is 1000000 and string w' is 0100000 . The strings are partitioned into segments of length j and k . The rightmost one is highlighted in red. A green arrow labeled $\text{bubble}(w)$ points from w to w' , indicating a swap of the rightmost one.

Operation $flip(w, \varphi(w))$

Phi $\varphi(w)$: Minimum position j after the rightmost 1 such that $flip(w, j)$ is prefix normal (if such a j exists)

Rightmost one r

$w = 11010001001\mathbf{1}0000 \xrightarrow{flip(w, r+1)} 11010001001\mathbf{11}000$

$w = 1101000100110\mathbf{0}00 \xrightarrow{flip(w, r+2)} 1101000100110\mathbf{1}00$

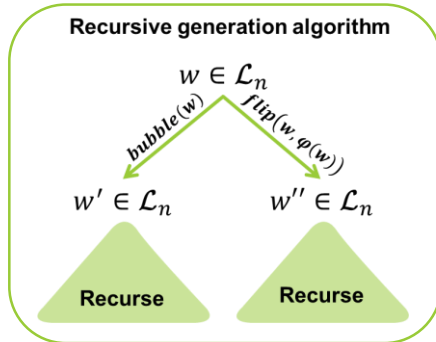
$w = 11010001001100\mathbf{0}0 \xrightarrow{flip(w, r+3)} 11010001001100\mathbf{1}0$

$$\varphi(w) = r + 3$$

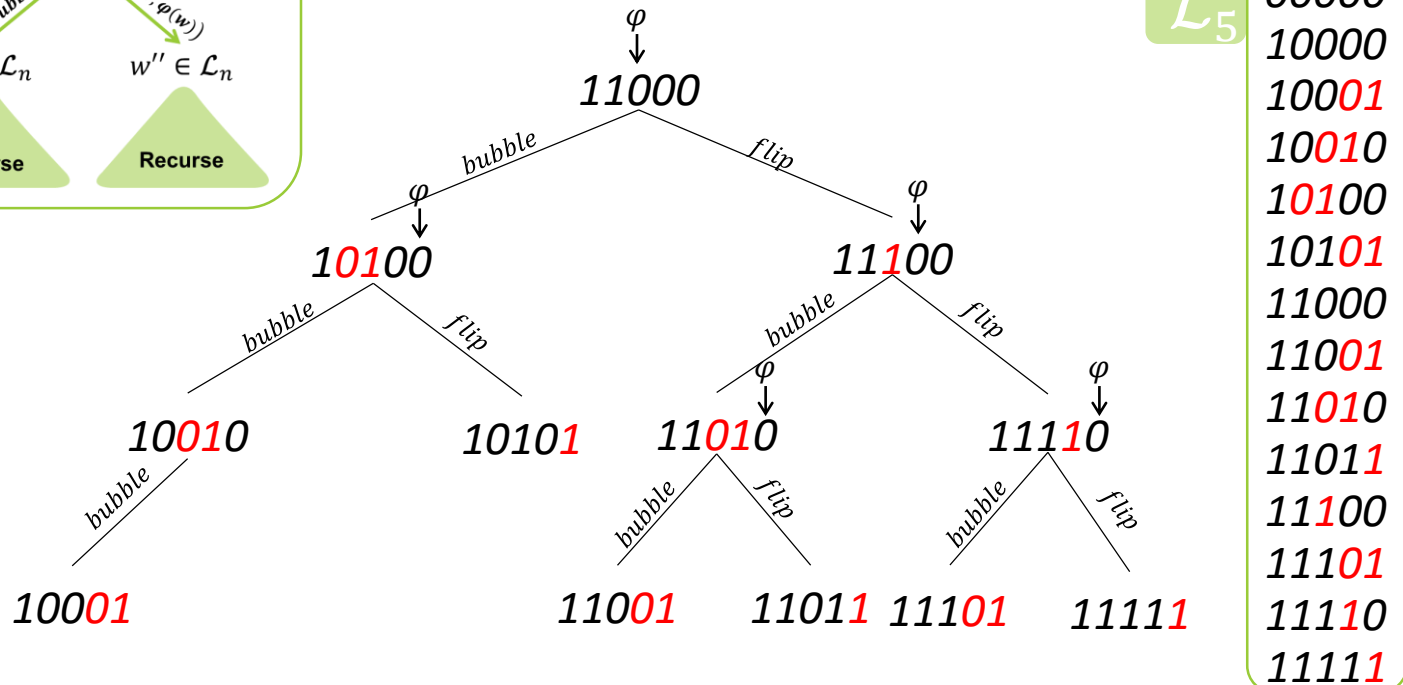
Fact

Let $w \in \mathcal{L}_n$. Then $flip(w, \varphi(w)) \in \mathcal{L}_n$ (by definition of $\varphi(w)$)

Bubble-Flip algorithm



In-order traversal



The in-order traversal visits the objects in lexicographic order

The post-order traversal generates a **Gray code**

Computation of φ

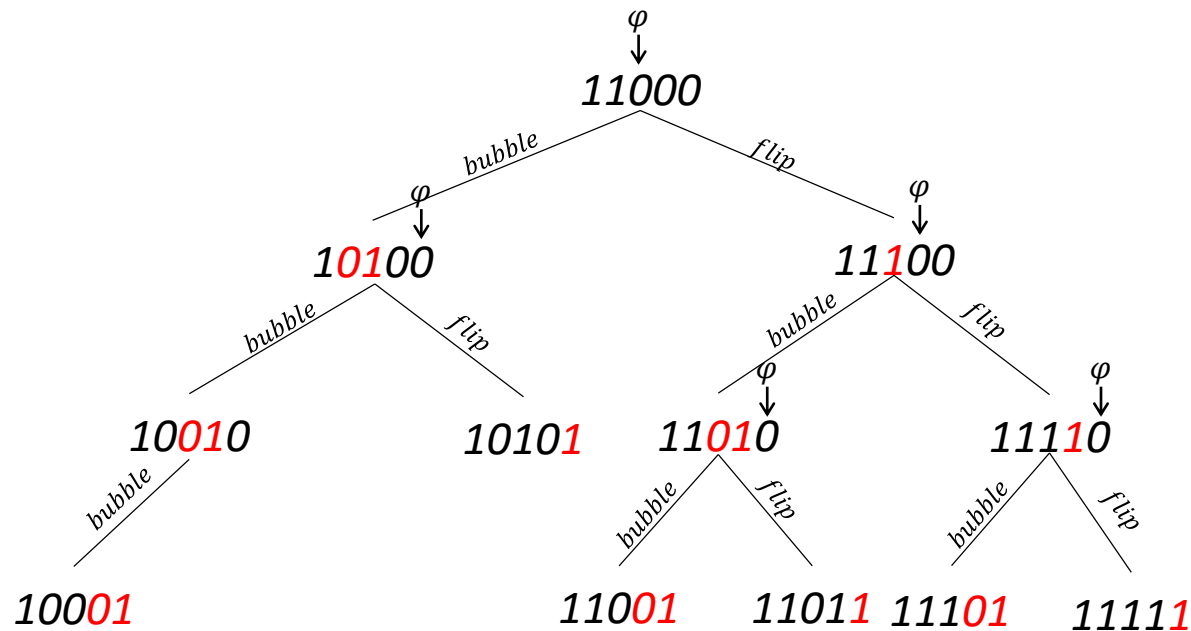
Phi $\varphi(w)$: Minimum position j after the rightmost 1 such that $\text{flip}(w, j)$ is prefix normal (if such a j exists)

- **Easy** in quadratic time
- Can be computed in **linear** time:

$$w' = \underbrace{w_1 w_2 \cdots w_j}_{j} \underbrace{0 \cdots 0}_k \cdots \underbrace{w_{r-j+1} \cdots w_r}_{j} \underbrace{0 \cdots 0}_{< k} \text{X} 000000$$

$\overbrace{\hspace{10em}}^m$
 $\overbrace{\hspace{10em}}^{m+1}$

Analysis of Bubble-Flip algorithm



Computation cost (without outputting) per word:

- $bubble(w)$: $O(1)$
- $\varphi(w)$: $O(n)$
- $flip(w, \varphi(w))$: $O(1)$

Infinite prefix normal words

Infinite prefix normal words and operation flipext

Definition

Infinite Prefix Normal Words

infinite binary words

no factor has more 1s than the prefix of the same length

Let $w \in \mathcal{L}$. Then $w0^\omega$ is an **infinite prefix normal word**

Operation $\text{flipext}(w)$

extension version of $\text{flip}(w, \varphi(w))$

Let $w \in \mathcal{L}$. $\text{flipext}(w)$ is the finite word $w0^k1$, where

$k = \min\{j \mid w0^j1 \in \mathcal{L}\}$.

The infinite word $v = \text{flipext}^\omega(w) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{flipext}^{(i)}(w)$

$w = 110100010011 \xrightarrow{\text{flipext}^{(1)}(w)} 110100010011\mathbf{001}$

110100010011001001001100100100110010010011001001

Minimum density

Let $w \in \{0,1\}^* \cup \{0,1\}^\omega$. Then

Density

$$D(i) = \frac{|w_1 \cdots w_i|_1}{i}$$

Minimum density

$$\rho(w) = \inf\{D(i) \mid 1 \leq i\}$$

Iota (*minimum density prefix*)

$$\iota(w) = \min\{j \mid \forall i: D(j) \leq D(i)\} \quad \text{if it exists}$$

$\kappa(w) = 4$

$w = 110100010011$

$\iota(w) = 10$

Minimum density

$$\rho(w) = \frac{4}{10}$$

v $\rho(v) = \frac{1}{2}$

$10101010\cdots$ $\iota(v) = 2$

u $\rho(u) = \frac{1}{2}$

$110101010\cdots$ $\iota(u)$ is undefined

Results on infinite words generated by $\text{flipext}^\omega(w)$

Let $w \in \mathcal{L}$ and $v = \text{flipext}^\omega(w)$. Then

$\rho(v) = \rho(w)$, and as consequence $\iota(v) = \iota(w)$ and $\kappa(v) = \kappa(w)$

v is the **densest** prefix normal word with w as prefix

v is **ultimately periodic**. In particular,

- v can be written as $v = ux^\omega$

where $|x| = \iota(w)$, $|x|_1 = \kappa(w)$ and x is prefix normal.

Moreover if x not a suffix of u

- $|u| \leq \left(\binom{\iota}{\kappa} - 1 \right) m \iota$

where $\iota = \iota(w)$, $\kappa = \kappa(w)$ and $m = \left\lfloor \frac{|w|}{\iota} \right\rfloor$

Open problems - Generation algorithm

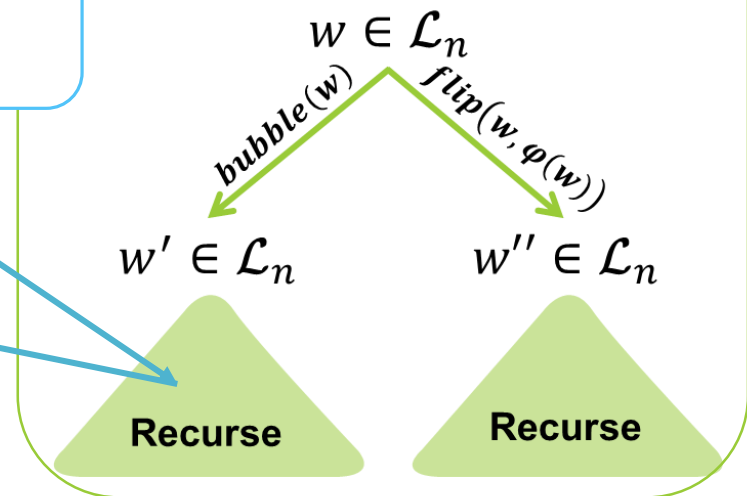
- **sublinear** time per word?
- Can we find $\varphi(\text{flip}(w, \varphi(w)))$ in sublinear time?
 - We can find $\varphi(\text{bubble}(w))$ in $O(1)$

**How many nodes
are there?**

How many prefix
normal words of
length n with a given
prefix are there?

TCS [2017]

Recursive generation algorithm



Open problems – Infinite Words

- Given w we can generate $flipext^{\omega}(w) = ux^{\omega}$:
 - We can find x in $O\left(|w| \cdot |ux^{m+1}|_1\right)$ where $m = \left\lfloor \frac{|w|}{\iota(w)} \right\rfloor$
 - Can we find x faster? i.e.: $O(|w|)$

We have reasons to believe that this is possible

- There exist infinite prefix normal words for all $\rho(v) \in \mathbb{R}$:
 - v is **ultimately periodic** then $\rho(v)$ is **rational**
 - $\rho(v)$ is **irrational** then v is **aperiodic**
- Are there any other periodicity properties?
- Are there any other properties about infinite words?

THANK YOU!



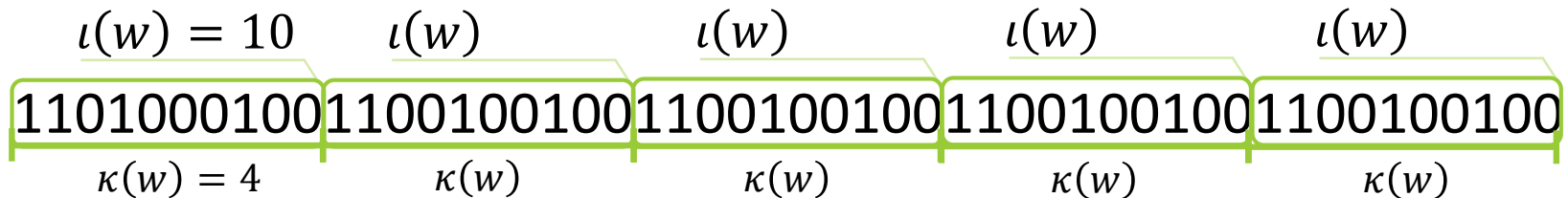
lota-factorization

lota-factorization of w

Is the factorization of w into ι -length factors.

$$w = u_1 u_2 \cdots u_r v \quad \text{and where } r = \lfloor |w|/\iota \rfloor, \quad |u_i| = \iota \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, r, \\ \text{and } |v| < \iota, \quad \text{for } w \text{ finite,}$$

$$w = u_1 u_2 \cdots \quad \text{and where } |u_i| = \iota \text{ for all } i, \quad \text{for } w \text{ infinite.}$$



Lemma

Let w be a finite or infinite prefix normal word, such that $\iota = \iota(w)$ exists.

Let $w = u_1 u_2 \cdots$ be the lota-factorization of w . **Then for all i , $u_i \geq_{\text{lex}} u_{i+1}$.**

lota-factorization properties

Lemma

Let w be a finite or infinite prefix normal word, such that $\iota = \iota(w)$ exists.
Let $w = u_1 u_2 \dots$ be the lota-factorization of w . **Then for all i , $u_i \geq_{lex} u_{i+1}$.**

$$w = \dots \underbrace{a_1 a_2 \dots a_j a_{j+1} \dots a_\iota}_{u_i} \overbrace{b_1 b_2 \dots b_j b_{j+1} \dots b_\iota}^{\leq \kappa} \dots \underbrace{\phantom{a_1 a_2 \dots a_j a_{j+1} \dots a_\iota b_1 b_2 \dots b_j b_{j+1} \dots b_\iota}}_{u_{i+1}}$$

Let $h = \min\{j \mid |a_{j+1} \dots a_\iota b_1 b_2 \dots b_j|_1 < \kappa\}$ then it holds that $a_h > b_h$

Since two consecutive factors have the same prefix, the first difference must be a 1 that turns into a 0. Then $u_i \geq_{lex} u_{i+1}$.