A word over an alphabet $[k]$ can be represented by a bargraph, where the height of the $i$-th column is the size of the $i$-th part. If North is in the direction of the positive $y$-axis and East is in the direction of the positive $x$-axis, a light source projects parallel rays from the North-West direction, at an angle of 45 degrees to the $y$-axis. These rays strike the cells of the bargraph. We say a cell is lit if the rays strike its West facing edge or North facing edge or both. With the use of matrix algebra we find the generating function that counts the number of lit cells. From this we find the average number of lit cells in a word of length $n$.

1. Introduction

We define $[k] = \{1, 2, 3, \cdots, k\}$ to be a (totally ordered) alphabet on $k$ letters. A word $w$ of length $n$ on the alphabet $[k]$ is an element of $[k]^n$, for more information on words see [1] (for specific recent research, see [2–4]). A word can be represented by a bargraph which is a column-convex polyomino whose lower edge lies on the $x$-axis and in which the height of the $i$-th column in the bargraph equals the number of cells in the corresponding part of that word. Thus these bargraphs have column heights less than or equal to $k$.

We let North be the direction of the positive $y$-axis and East the direction of the positive $x$-axis. Suppose there is a light source at infinity in the North-West direction that sheds parallel light rays onto the bargraph.
A cell is defined to be lit if the ray of light hits the edge facing North or the edge facing West or both. We illustrate this in Figure 1: consider the word 53136624222, there are 11 lit cells. The unlit cells, are said to be in the shade.

In this paper, the statistic of interest is the number of lit cells in a word over the alphabet \([k]\). We shall use generating functions together with matrix algebra to investigate this statistic. Moreover, the method we use is, to our knowledge, an innovation in the literature of the Temperley [5] method of adding a slice. The innovation (which may well be useful in other circumstances) is that instead of adding the element \(a\) to a single following element, we consider adding \(a\) to a complete block \(b_1b_2\cdots b_d\).

2. Generating function

Let \(C_k\) be the generating function for \(k\)-ary words (i.e., words on an alphabet \([k]\)) and let \(C_k(a)\) be the generating function for \(k\)-ary words, that start with a part of size \(a\), both marking the number of lit cells. Throughout this paper whenever we mention a word with a part of size \(a\), we will automatically mean its bargraph representation with corresponding column of height \(a\).

Each word starting with letter \(a\) can be decomposed according to the number \(d\) of parts following the first part \(a\) which are in the shade of column \(a\). Thus \(d = 0\), represents either the first case below (a single part) or the second case where there is no part following \(a\) which is totally in the shade. The third case of Figure 2 is where \(d \neq 0\); there are at least two columns, the first of which is \(a\) followed by \(d\) columns \(b_1b_2\cdots b_d\) which are totally in the shade. The first column that is partially shaded is the one following column \(b_d\), if it exists. So we group the word into subwords that start with the first partially lit column followed by a group of
In our generating function, $x$ marks the length of the word and $q$ the total number of lit cells. Thus

$$C_k(a) = \sum_{d=0}^{a} (a-1) \cdots (a-d)x^{d+1} \left[ q^a + q^{d+1}C_k(a-d) + q^d \sum_{j \geq a-d+1} C_k(j) \right]$$

$$= \sum_{d=0}^{a} \frac{(a-1)!x^{d+1}}{(a-d-1)!} \left[ q^a + q^{d+1}C_k(a-d) + q^d \sum_{j \geq a-d+1} C_k(j) \right].$$

Setting $d = a - i$ for $0 \leq a \leq k$ we have

$$\frac{C_k(a)}{(a-1)!} = \sum_{i=1}^{a} \frac{x^{a-i+1}}{(i-1)!} \left[ q^a + q^{a-i+1}C_k(i) + q^{a-i} \sum_{j \geq i+1} C_k(j) \right].$$

Hence for $1 \leq a \leq k$,

$$\frac{C_k(a)}{(a-1)!} - \frac{a}{xq} \frac{C_k(a-1)}{(q-1)!} = \frac{1}{(a-1)!} \left[ xq^a + xqC_k(a) + x \sum_{j=a+1}^{k} C_k(j) \right].$$

This implies

$$(1) \quad C_k(a) = xq(a-1)C_k(a-1) + xq^a + xqC_k(a) + x \sum_{j \geq a+1} C_k(j),$$

i.e.,

$$(1 - xq)C_k(a) = xq^a + xq(a-1)C_k(a-1) + x \left( C_k - \sum_{j=1}^{a} C_k(j) \right).$$
since \( C_k = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{k} C_k(j) \). Thus

\[
(1 + x - xq)C_k(a) = x(q^a - 1) + xC_k + xq(a - 1)C_k(a - 1) - x \sum_{j=1}^{a-1} C_k(j).
\]

Now, consider the difference

\[
(1 - xq) [C_k(a) - C_k(a - 1)]
\]

(2) \( = (a - 1)xqC_k(a - 1) - (a - 2)xqC_k(a - 2) - xC_k(a) + xq^a - xq^{a-1} \).

Thus for \( 2 \leq a \leq k \),

\[
(1 + x - xq)C_k(a) = [1 + (a - 2)xqC_k(a - 1) - (a - 2)xqC_k(a - 2) + xq^{a-1}(q - 1)].
\]

We define \( \gamma, \alpha_a \) and \( \beta_a \) as indicated below in equation (3)

\[
\gamma (1 + x - xq)C_k(a)
\]

(3) \( = [1 + (a - 2)xqC_k(a - 1) - (a - 2)xqC_k(a - 2) + xq^{a-1}(q - 1)].
\]

We have for \( 2 \leq a \leq k \):

\[
\gamma C_k(a) - (1 + \alpha_a)C_k(a - 1) + \alpha_aC_k(a - 2) = \beta_a.
\]

Now, we write (4) in matrix form \( M_kV_k = b_k \) as

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
-1 - \alpha_3 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
\alpha_4 & -1 - \alpha_4 & \gamma & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\
0 & \cdots & \alpha_{k-1} & -1 - \alpha_{k-1} & \gamma & 0 \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & \alpha_k & -1 - \alpha_k & \gamma
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
C_k(2) \\
C_k(3) \\
C_k(4) \\
\vdots \\
C_k(k-1) \\
C_k(k)
\end{pmatrix}
= \begin{pmatrix}
\beta_2 + C_k(1) \\
\beta_3 - xqC_k(1) \\
\vdots \\
\beta_{k-1} \\
\beta_k
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

Note that \( \det M_k = \gamma^{k-1} \). By Cramer’s rule, for \( 2 \leq a \leq k \), we have

\[
C_k(a) = \frac{\begin{vmatrix}
\gamma & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \beta_2 + C_k(1) \\
-1 - \alpha_3 & \gamma & 0 & \cdots & \beta_3 - xqC_k(1) \\
\alpha_4 & -1 - \alpha_4 & \ddots & 0 & \ddots & \ddots \\
\vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\
0 & \cdots & \alpha_{a-1} & -1 - \alpha_{a-1} & \gamma & \beta_{a-1} \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & \alpha_a & -1 - \alpha_a & \gamma
\end{vmatrix}}{\gamma^{k-1}}.
\]

We shall represent the last expression by

\[
C_k(a) = \frac{A_aC_k(1) + B_a(q - 1)}{\gamma^{a-1}},
\]

(5)
where

\[
A_a = \begin{vmatrix}
\gamma & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\
-1 - \alpha_3 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 & -xq \\
\alpha_4 & 0 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \gamma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \alpha_a & -1 - \alpha_a & 0
\end{vmatrix}
\]

and

\[
B_a = \begin{vmatrix}
\gamma & 0 & \cdots & 0 & q \\
-1 - \alpha_3 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 & q^2 \\
\alpha_4 & 0 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \gamma & q^{a-2} \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \alpha_a & -1 - \alpha_a & q^{a-1}
\end{vmatrix}
\]

Putting \( a = 1 \) into (1) gives

\[
C_k(1) = xq + xqC_k(1) + x \sum_{j \geq 2} C_k(j)
\]

\[
= xq + xqC_k(1) + x[C_k - 1 - C_k(1)],
\]

which implies

\[
C_k(1) = \frac{x(q - 1)}{\gamma} + \frac{x}{\gamma} C_k. \tag{6}
\]

Summing equation (5) over \( a \) from 2 to \( k \) we get

\[
C_k - 1 - C_k(1) = \sum_{a=2}^{k} A_a \gamma^{-a-1} C_k(1) + \sum_{a=2}^{k} B_a \gamma^{-a-1} x(q - 1),
\]

and using (6)

\[
C_k - 1 - \frac{x(q - 1)}{\gamma} - \frac{x}{\gamma} C_k = \sum_{a=2}^{k} A_a \frac{x(q - 1)}{\gamma} + \frac{x}{\gamma} C_k + \sum_{a=2}^{k} B_a \gamma^{-a-1} x(q - 1).
\]

Therefore

\[
C_k = \frac{1 + \frac{x(q - 1)}{\gamma} + x(q - 1) \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma} + \frac{B_a}{\gamma^{-a-1}}}{1 - \frac{x}{\gamma} \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma^{-a-1}}}.
\]
We now define

\[ A(z) := \sum_{k \geq 2} \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma^{a-1}} \right) z^k \]

and

\[ B(z) := \sum_{k \geq 2} \left( \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{B_a}{\gamma^{a-1}} \right) z^k. \]

Thus

\[ A(z) = \frac{A_2 z^2}{\gamma} + \left( \frac{A_2 z^3}{\gamma} + \frac{A_3 z^3}{\gamma^2} \right) + \left( \frac{A_2 z^4}{\gamma} + \frac{A_3 z^4}{\gamma^2} + \frac{A_4 z^4}{\gamma^3} \right) + \cdots \]

\[ = \frac{A_2}{\gamma \left( 1 - z \right)} + \frac{A_3}{\gamma^2 \left( 1 - z \right)} + \frac{A_4}{\gamma^3 \left( 1 - z \right)} + \cdots \]

\[ = \frac{\gamma}{1 - z} \sum_{j \geq 2} A_j \left( \frac{z}{\gamma} \right)^j \]

\[ = \frac{\gamma}{1 - z} A \left( \frac{z}{\gamma} \right), \]

where \( A(z) := \sum_{a \geq 2} A_a z^a \).

Similarly for \( B(z) \) we have \( B(z) = \frac{\gamma}{1 - z} B \left( \frac{z}{\gamma} \right) \), where \( B(z) := \sum_{a \geq 2} B_a z^a \).

We shall find expressions for \( A_a \) and \( B_a \) in the next two lemmas.

**Lemma 2.1.** For \( a \geq 2 \)

\[
A_a = \begin{vmatrix}
\gamma & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\
-1 - \alpha_3 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 & -xq \\
\alpha_4 & 0 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & \gamma & 0 \\
0 & \cdots & \alpha_a & -1 - \alpha_a & 0 \\
\end{vmatrix}
= \gamma^{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1} \left( \frac{-x}{\gamma} \right)^j \prod_{m=0}^{j} (1 - mq) \left( \begin{array}{c} a - 1 \\ j \end{array} \right). \]

**Proof.** Cofactor expansion using the bottom row yields

\[ A_a = (1 + \alpha_a) A_{a-1} - \alpha_a \gamma A_{a-2}, \]

where \( A_1 := 1 \) and \( A_2 := 1. \)
Multiplying by $\frac{z^{a-2}}{\gamma^a(a-2)!}$ and remembering that $\alpha_a = (a-2)xq$ and $\gamma = 1 + x - xq$ we have

$$\frac{A_a z^{a-2}}{\gamma^a(a-2)!} = \frac{A_{a-1} z^{a-2}}{\gamma^a(a-2)!} + \frac{xq A_{a-1} z^{a-2}}{\gamma^a(a-3)!} - \frac{xq A_{a-2} z^{a-2}}{\gamma^{a-1}(a-3)!}.$$  

These above expressions can be written as derivatives for $a \geq 2$

$$\frac{A_a z^a}{\gamma^a a!} = \gamma \left( \frac{A_{a-1} z^{a-1}}{\gamma^{a-1}(a-1)!} \right) + xq \left( \frac{A_{a-1} z^{a-1}}{\gamma^{a-1}(a-1)!} \right)' - \frac{xq z}{\gamma} \left( \frac{A_{a-2} z^{a-2}}{\gamma^{a-2}(a-2)!} \right)'.$$

We proceed by defining $\tilde{A}(z) := \sum_{a \geq 1} \frac{A_a z^a}{\gamma^a a!}$, so that

$$\left( \frac{\tilde{A}(z)}{\gamma^a a!} \right)' = \gamma \left( \frac{\tilde{A}(z)}{\gamma^a a!} \right)' + xq z \left( \frac{\tilde{A}(z)}{\gamma^a a!} \right)'' - \frac{xq z}{\gamma} \tilde{A}'(z)$$

which implies

$$\tilde{A}'(z) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \tilde{A}'(z) + \frac{xq z}{\gamma} \tilde{A}'(z) - \frac{xq z}{\gamma} \tilde{A}'(z),$$

or

$$\frac{\tilde{A}''(z)}{\tilde{A}'(z)} = 1 - \frac{xq z}{\gamma - xq z} = 1 + \frac{1 - \gamma}{\gamma - xq z}.$$  

After integrating we have

$$\ln(\tilde{A}'(z)) = z + \ln(\gamma - xq z)^{1 - \gamma} + \ln C$$

which yields

$$\tilde{A}'(z) = C e^z (\gamma - xq z)^{1 - \gamma}.$$  

In order to find $C$, we put $z = 0$ and we know $\tilde{A}'(0) = \frac{A_1}{\gamma^!} = \frac{1}{\gamma}$, thus $C \gamma^{\frac{1}{\gamma} - 1} = \frac{1}{\gamma}$, which gives

$$C = \gamma^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}}.$$  

Thus

$$\tilde{A}'(z) = \gamma^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}} e^z (\gamma - xq z)^{\frac{1}{\gamma} - 1}$$

(8)

$$= \frac{e^z}{\gamma} \left( 1 - \frac{xq z}{\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma} - 1}.$$  

We now expand the above $\tilde{A}'(z)$ with $0 < q < 1$

$$\tilde{A}'(z) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{z^i}{i!} \left( \frac{1}{q} - 1 \right) \left( -\frac{xq z}{\gamma} \right)^j$$

(9)

$$= \frac{1}{\gamma} \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{j \geq 0} (-1)^j \frac{(\frac{1}{q} - 1)_j}{i!j!} \frac{x^j q^j z^{i+j}}{\gamma^j},$$
where the falling factorial is

\[ (a)_j := a(a - 1)(a - 2) \cdots (a - j + 1) \quad \text{and} \quad (a)_0 := 1. \]

Let us consider the term \( q^j (\frac{1}{q} - 1)_j \) separately

\[
q^j (\frac{1}{q} - 1)_j = q^j \left( \frac{1}{q} - 1 \right) \left( \frac{1}{q} - 2 \right) \cdots \left( \frac{1}{q} - j \right) = (1-q)(1-2q)\cdots(1-qj) = \prod_{m=0}^{j} (1-mq).
\]

Now since \( \tilde{A}(z) := \sum_{a \geq 1} \frac{A_a z^a}{\gamma^a(a-1)!} \),

\[
(10) \quad \tilde{A}'(z) = \sum_{a \geq 1} \frac{A_a z^a-1}{\gamma^a(a-1)!}.
\]

Comparing coefficient of \( z^{a-1} \) in (8) and (9) gives

\[
(11) \quad \frac{A_a}{\gamma^a(a-1)!} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1} \frac{(-1)^j x^j j! \prod_{m=0}^{j} (1-mq)}{j!(a-1-j)! \gamma^j},
\]

since \( i = a - 1 - j \). Hence we have the required result

\[
A_a = \gamma^{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1} \left( \frac{-x}{\gamma} \right)^j j! \prod_{m=0}^{j} (1-mq) \binom{a-1}{j}.
\]

A quick check indeed gives \( A_2 = \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{x(1-q)}{\gamma} \right) = 1 \). Now for \( B_a \), we have the following result.

**Lemma 2.2.** For \( a \geq 2 \)

\[
B_a = \begin{vmatrix}
\gamma & 0 & \cdots & 0 & q \\
-1-\alpha_3 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 & q^2 \\
\alpha_4 & 0 & \gamma & \cdots & 0 & q^3 \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\
0 & \cdots & \alpha_a & -1-\alpha_a & q^a-2 \\
0 & \cdots & 0 & \gamma & q^a-1
\end{vmatrix}
\]

\[
= q^a \sum_{l=0}^{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1-l} \frac{l}{a-l} \binom{a-1}{l,j,a-1-j,l} A_l (q-1)^a-1-j-l \prod_{m=0}^{j-1} (1+mq) \frac{x^j}{\gamma^j},
\]

where \( \binom{n}{a,b,c} := \frac{n!}{a!b!c!} \) and \( a + b + c = n \).
Proof. We expand this determinant by cofactor expansion along the bottom row. Thus
\[ B_a = q^{a-1}q^{a-2} + (1 + \alpha_a)B_{a-1} - \alpha_a \gamma B_{a-2} \]
with \( B_0 := 0 \) and \( B_1 := 0 \) and as before \( \alpha_a = (a-2)xq \) and \( \gamma = 1 + x - xq \).

We proceed in a similar way to the proof for \( A_a \), by expressing the above equation in terms of derivatives.

\[
\left( \frac{B_a z^a}{\gamma a!} \right)'' = \frac{q}{\gamma^2} \left( a - 2 \right)! + \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( \frac{B_{a-1} z^{a-1}}{\gamma^{a-1}(a-1)!} \right)' + \frac{xq}{\gamma} \left( \frac{B_{a-1} z^{a-1}}{\gamma^{a-1}(a-1)!} \right)'' - \frac{xq}{\gamma} \left( \frac{B_{a-2} z^{a-2}}{\gamma^{a-2}(a-2)!} \right)'.
\]

We proceed by defining \( \tilde{B}(z) := \sum_{a \geq 0} \frac{B_a z^a}{\gamma a!} \), so that, summing over \( a \geq 2 \) we obtain

\[
\tilde{B}''(z) = \frac{q}{\gamma^2} e^{qz} + \frac{1}{\gamma} \tilde{B}'(z) + \frac{xq}{\gamma} \tilde{B}''(z) - \frac{xq}{\gamma} \tilde{B}'(z)
\]

which simplifies to

\[
\left( 1 - \frac{xqz}{\gamma} \right) \tilde{B}''(z) - \frac{1 - xqz}{\gamma} \tilde{B}'(z) = \frac{qe^{qz}}{\gamma^2}.
\]

Considering this equation as a first order differential equation, the solution \( \tilde{B}'(z) \) is

\[
\tilde{B}'(z) = \frac{q(-1 - x + xq + xqz) \frac{1}{4} - 1}{-1 - x + xq} e^z \int_0^z (-1 - x + xq + xqt)^{-\frac{1}{4}} e^{t(q-1)} dt
\]

\[
= \frac{q(-\gamma + xqz) \frac{1}{4} - 1}{-\gamma} e^z \int_0^z (-\gamma + xqt)^{-\frac{1}{4}} e^{t(q-1)} dt
\]

(12)

\[
= \frac{q}{\gamma^3} \left( 1 - \frac{xqz}{\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{4} - 1} e^z \int_0^z \left( 1 - \frac{xqt}{\gamma} \right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} e^{t(q-1)} dt.
\]

We proceed by focusing on the integral

\[
\int_0^z \left( 1 - \frac{xqt}{\gamma} \right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} e^{t(q-1)} dt = \int_0^z \sum_{i \geq 0} \frac{t^i(q-1)^i}{i!} \sum_{j \geq 0} \left( \frac{1}{q} - 1 + j \right) \left( \frac{xqt}{\gamma} \right)^j dt
\]

\[
= \int_0^z \sum_{i,j \geq 0} \frac{(q-1)^i \left( \frac{1}{q} - 1 + j \right) q^j x^j t^{i+j}}{\gamma^j i! j!} dt
\]

\[
= \sum_{i,j \geq 0} \frac{(q-1)^i \prod_{m=0}^{i-1} (1 + mq) x^j t^{i+j+1}}{\gamma^j i! j! (i + j + 1)}
\]
Shedding light on words

since

\[ q^j \left( \frac{1}{q} - 1 + j \right) = q^j \left( \frac{1}{q} - 1 + j \right) \left( \frac{1}{q} - 2 + j \right) \cdots \frac{1}{q} = 1(1 + q)(1 + 2q) \cdots (1 + (j - 1)q) = \prod_{m=0}^{j-1} (1 + mq). \]

Now by (8) and (10), we have

\[ \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( 1 - \frac{xqz}{\gamma} \right) \frac{1}{q - 1} = \frac{\tilde{A}'(z)}{\sum_{a \geq 1} A_{a} z^{a}}. \]

So that the expression for \( \tilde{B}'(z) \) in equation (12)

\[ \tilde{B}'(z) = \frac{q}{\gamma^2} \left( 1 - \frac{xq}{\gamma} \right) \frac{1}{q - 1} e^z \int_0^z \left( 1 - \frac{xqt}{\gamma} \right) \frac{1}{q(t - 1)} e^{\frac{t(q-1)}{\gamma}} \] dt

becomes

\[ \sum_{a \geq 1} \frac{B_a z^{a-1}}{\gamma^a(a-1)!} = \frac{q}{\gamma} \sum_{a \geq 1} A_a z^{a-1} \frac{A(q-1)^a(1 + mq) x^i z^{i+j+1}}{\gamma^j!j!(i+j+1)} \sum_{i,j \geq 0} \frac{A(q-1)^a(1 + mq) x^i}{\gamma^{(l+1)}(l+1)!l!(i+j+1)} z^{i+j+l}, \]

where we define \( A_0 := 0 \). Setting \( i + j + l = a - 1 \) and comparing the coefficient of \( z^{a-1} \) we have,

\[ B_a = q^{a-1} \sum_{l=0}^{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1-l} \frac{A(q-1)^a(1 + mq) x^i}{\gamma^{(l+1)}(l+1)!l!(a - j - l)!(a - l)} \]

\[ = \frac{q^{a-1}}{a^a} \sum_{l=0}^{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1-l} \frac{a - 1}{a - l} \frac{A(q-1)^a(1 + mq) x^i}{\gamma^{(l+1)}(l+1)!l!(a - j - l)!(a - l)} \prod_{m=0}^{l-1} (1 + mq), \]

where \( \binom{n}{a,b,c} := \frac{n!}{a!b!c!} \) and \( a + b + c = n \).

Now recall, equation (7),

\[ C_k = \frac{1 + \frac{x(q-1)}{\gamma} + x(q-1) \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma^2} + \frac{B_a}{\gamma^2+1}}{1 - \frac{e}{\gamma} \sum_{a=1}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma^2+1}}, \]

which can be formulated knowing the results for \( A_a \) and \( B_a \) from the two Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. Thus we have the following result.
Theorem 2.3. The generating function for words on an alphabet \([k]\) counting the number of lit cells where \(x\) marks the size of the word and \(q\) marks the number of lit cells is

\[
C_k = \frac{1 + \frac{x(q-1)}{q} + x(q-1)\sum_{a=2}^{k} \left[ \frac{A_a}{q^a} + \frac{B_a}{q^a+1} \right]}{1 - \frac{x}{q} \sum_{a=1}^{k} \frac{A_a}{q^a+1}},
\]

where

\[
A_a = \gamma^{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{j!} \right)^j \Gamma(a-1, \frac{1}{\gamma}) = \frac{\gamma^{a-1}}{a-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{j!} \right)^j \Gamma(a-1, \frac{1}{\gamma}+j),
\]

\[
B_a = q^{a-1} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a-l} \left( \frac{1}{a(l+j,a-l-1)} \right) \frac{A_a x^j (q-1)^{a-1-j-l}}{\gamma^{l+j}} \prod_{m=0}^{j-1} (1 + mq),
\]

and \(\gamma = 1 + x - xq\).

3. Expected number of lit squares

To find the expected number of lit cells in a word of size \(n\), we use the generating function \(C_k\) for \(k\)-ary words (i.e., words on an alphabet \([k]\)) found in Section 2. Using the standard technique, differentiating (7) and putting \(q = 1\) gives

\[
\left. \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \right|_{q=1} = \left[ x + x \sum_{a=2}^{k} \left( \frac{A_a}{q^a} + \frac{B_a}{q^a+1} \right) \right] \left( 1 - \frac{x}{q} \sum_{a=1}^{k} \frac{A_a}{q^a+1} \right) + x \left( \sum_{a=1}^{k} \frac{A_a}{q^a+1} \right)'.
\]

In order to find \(A_a|_{q=1}\) we use Lemma 2.1 and put \(q = 1\) which implies \(\gamma = 1 + x - xq = 1\). Thus

\[
\tilde{A}'(z)|_{q=1} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( 1 - \frac{xqz}{\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}-1} e^z|_{q=1} = e^z.
\]

Since \(\tilde{A}'(z) := \sum_{a \geq 1} \frac{A_a z^{a-1}}{a!} t^a\), and \(e^z = \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{z^j}{j!}\), this implies that \(A_a|_{q=1} = 1\).

Now for \(B_a|_{q=1}\), we use (12), where \(\tilde{B}(z) := \sum_{a \geq 0} \frac{B_a z^a}{a!} t^a\).

\[
\left. \tilde{B}'(z) \right|_{q=1} = e^z \int_0^z \frac{1}{1-xt} dt = -\frac{e^z}{x} [\ln(1-xt)]_0^z = -\frac{e^z}{x} \ln(1-xz) = \frac{1}{x} \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{z^i}{i!j} (xz)^j = \sum_{i,j \geq 0} \frac{x^j}{(j+1)!} e^{i+j+1}.
\]
Comparing the coefficient of $z^{a-1}$ yields

\[ B_a \big|_{q=1} = (a - 1)! \sum_{j=0}^{a-2} \frac{x^j}{(j + 1)(a - 2 - j)!} = \sum_{j=0}^{a-2} j! \frac{(a - 1)}{(j + 1)} x^j \]

with

\[ x \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma^a} \bigg|_{q=1} (k - 1)x \]

and

\[ \left( 1 - \frac{x}{\gamma} \sum_{a=1}^{k} \frac{A_a}{\gamma^{a-1}} \right)^2 \bigg|_{q=1} = (1 - kx)^2. \]

Now we know from (8),

\[ \sum_{a \geq 1} \frac{A_a z^{a-1}}{\gamma^a (a - 1)!} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( 1 - \frac{xqz}{\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma} - 1} e^z, \]

and therefore differentiating (15) with respect to $q$ and putting $q = 1$ gives

\[ \sum_{a \geq 1} \left( \frac{A_a}{\gamma^a} \right)' \bigg|_{q=1} z^{a-1} (a - 1)! = x e^z + e^z \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{xqz}{\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma} - 1} \right]' \bigg|_{q=1} = x e^z - \ln(1 - xz)e^z. \]

So

\[ [x - \ln(1 - xz)]e^z = \left( x + \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{x^{j+1}}{j + 1} \right) \sum_{i \geq 0} \frac{z^i}{i!}. \]

We also need $\sum_{a=1}^{k} \left( \frac{A_a}{\gamma^a} \right)' \bigg|_{q=1}$. We use (11), which yields

\[ \frac{A_a}{\gamma^a} = \frac{(a - 1)!}{\gamma} \sum_{j=0}^{a-1} (-1)^j x^j \prod_{m=0}^{j} (1 - mq) \frac{1}{j!(a - 1 - j)! \gamma^j}. \]

We first differentiate the terms that contain any $q$, (recall that $\gamma = 1 + x - xq$) and then put $q = 1$ to obtain

\[ \frac{\partial \prod_{a=0}^{a=q} (1 - mq)}{\partial q \sqrt{1+x-xq}} \bigg|_{q=1} = \begin{cases} (-1)^j (j - 1)! & \text{for } j \geq 1 \\ x & \text{for } j = 0. \end{cases} \]

Thus

\[ \sum_{a=1}^{k} \left( \frac{A_a}{\gamma^a} \right)' \bigg|_{q=1} = \sum_{a=1}^{k} x + \sum_{a=1}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{a-1} \frac{x^j (j - 1)!}{j!(a - 1 - j)!} \sum_{j=1}^{a-1} \frac{x^j (j - 1)!}{j!(a - 1 - j)!} = kx + \sum_{a=1}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{a-1} \frac{a - 1}{j} (j - 1)! x^j. \]
Now finally we need

\[ \sum_{a=2}^{k} \frac{B_a}{\gamma^{a-1}} \bigg|_{q=1} = \sum_{a=2}^{k} \sum_{j=0}^{a-2} j! \binom{a-1}{j+1} x^j \text{ from (14)} \]

\[ = 0! \left( \frac{1}{1} \right) x^0 \]

\[ + 0! \left( \frac{2}{1} \right) x^0 + 1! \left( \frac{2}{2} \right) x^1 + \ldots \]

\[ + 0! \left( \frac{k-1}{1} \right) x^0 + 1! \left( \frac{k-1}{2} \right) x^1 + \cdots + (k-2)! \left( \frac{k-1}{k-1} \right) x^{k-2} \]

\[ = 0! \left( \frac{k}{2} \right) x^0 + 1! \left( \frac{k}{3} \right) x^1 + 2! \left( \frac{k}{4} \right) x^2 + \cdots + (k-2)! \left( \frac{k}{k-2} \right) x^{k-2} \]

\[ = \sum_{i=2}^{k} \binom{k}{i} (i-2)! x^{i-2}. \]

Thus using (13) we have the following result.

**Theorem 2.4.** The generating function \( \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \bigg|_{q=1} \) is given by

\[ \frac{x}{1 - kx} \left( k + \sum_{i=2}^{k} \binom{k}{i} (i-2)! x^{i-2} \right) + \frac{x}{(1 - kx)^2} \sum_{a=1}^{k} \left( x + \sum_{j=1}^{a-1} \binom{a-1}{j} (j-1)! x^j \right). \]

We write expressions for \( \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \bigg|_{q=1} \) for \( k = 1 \) to \( 8 \) in the table below:

| \( k \) | \( \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \bigg|_{q=1} \) |
|---|---|
| 1 | \( \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} \) |
| 2 | \( \frac{3x(1-x)}{(1-2x)^2} \) |
| 3 | \( \frac{x(6-11x-2x^2)}{(1-3x)^2} \) |
| 4 | \( \frac{2x(5-13x-5x^2-3x^3)}{(1-4x)^2} \) |
| 5 | \( \frac{x(15-50x-90x^2-34x^3-21x^4)}{(1-5x)^2} \) |
| 6 | \( \frac{x(21-85x-70x^2-114x^3-156x^4-120x^5)}{(1-6x)^2} \) |
| 7 | \( \frac{x(28-133x-140x^2-294x^3-588x^4-888x^5-720x^6)}{(1-7x)^2} \) |
| 8 | \( \frac{4x(9-49x-63x^2-161x^3-420x^4-936x^5-1500x^6-1260x^7)}{(1-8x)^2} \) |
We now extract the coefficients \( [x^n] \) for \( n \geq k - 1 \) from \( \left. \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \right|_{q=1} \).

\[
[x^n] \left. \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \right|_{q=1} = \sum_{i=2}^{k} \binom{k}{i} (i - 2)!k^{n+1-i} + (n + k - 1)k^{n-1}
+ \sum_{a=1}^{k-1} \sum_{i=1}^{a-1} (n - i) \binom{a-1}{i} (i - 1)!k^{n-1-i}.
\]

Interchanging the sum in the second term gives

\[
[x^n] \left. \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \right|_{q=1} = \sum_{i=2}^{k} \binom{k}{i} (i - 2)!k^{n+1-i} + (n + k - 1)k^{n-1}
+ \sum_{a=1}^{k-1} \sum_{i=1}^{a-1} (n - i) \binom{a-1}{i} (i - 1)!k^{n-1-i}
\]

This finally yields the following result.

**Theorem 2.5.** The total number of lit cells in words of size \( n \) is

\[
[x^n] \left. \frac{\partial C_k}{\partial q} \right|_{q=1} = k^n \left( \sum_{i=2}^{k} \binom{k}{i} (i - 2)!k^{1-i} + (n + k - 1)k^{-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{(i-k)(i-n)\binom{k}{i}(-1+i)!}{k^{i+1}(1+i)(1+i)} \right).
\]

After dividing by \( k^n \), we obtain the average number of lit cells to be

**Theorem 2.6.** As \( n \to \infty \), the average number of lit cells is asymptotic to \( c_k n \) where

\[
c_k = \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{(k-j)\binom{k}{j}(-1+j)!}{k^j(1+j)}.
\]

Values for \( c_k \) are shown below in an exact form and in a decimal form:
Corollary 2.7. As $k \to \infty$ we have $c_k \to 1$, thus we have on average one lit cell per column.

Proof. The terms in the sum of the expression for $c_k$ in Theorem 2.6 simplify to

\[
\frac{1}{k(k+1)} \frac{n!}{(n-k-1)!n^{k+1}}.
\]

For $k = O(n^{2/3})$ we apply Stirling’s formula $j! = \sqrt{2\pi j} \left( \frac{j}{e} \right)^j \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{j}\right)\right)$, as $j \to \infty$ with $j = n$ and $j = n - k$ to obtain for (17)

\[
\frac{e^{-1-kn^{-\frac{1}{2}}} - k^{n-k-n}n^{\frac{1}{2}+k-n}}{k(k+1)} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right) = \frac{1}{k(k+1)} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right).
\]

The contribution of the terms in (17) where $k > N^{\frac{2}{3}}$ are exponentially small. Therefore the sum is asymptotic to $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k(k+1)} + o(1) = 1 + o(1)$.

REFERENCES


