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PERIODICITY PROPERTIES OF SOME RECURRING SETS OF INTEGERS

H. J. A. Duparc

Consider sets of integers (u_n, v_n) $(n = 0, 1, \ldots)$ satisfying the relations

(1) $$Uu_n = Vv_n, \quad 0 \leqq u_n < m \quad (n = 0, 1, \ldots),$$

where m is a fixed given positive integer and where

$$U = U(E) = \sum_{h=0}^{s} c_h E^h \quad \text{and} \quad V = V(E) = \sum_{k=0}^{t} d_k E^k$$

are polynomials with integer coefficients in the operator E which transforms any u_n into u_{n+1} and any v_n into v_{n+1}.

Let the operators U and V satisfy the following conditions:

I. $c_s = \pm 1$; $d_t = m$;

II. U and V are relatively prime;

III. $V(X)$ has no roots with absolute value $\geqq 1$.

The condition I assures the possibility of determining u_n (for $n \geqq s$) and v_n (for $n \geqq t$) uniquely, once the preceding elements of the sequences (u_n) and (v_n) are known.

Since Uu_n is bounded, by (1) and by condition III also the sequence (v_n) is bounded. Consequently each of the sequences (u_n), (v_n) and (u_n, v_n) is periodic.

By condition III it follows after a little argument that (u_n) and (u_n, v_n) have the same period C. In case U is relatively prime to every cyclotomic polynomial in E, the sequence (v_n) also has the period C.

By condition II there exists an integer $M \neq 0$ (the resultant of U and V) and polynomials P and Q in E with integer coefficients such that

$$M = PU + QV.$$

Putting

(2) $$a_n = Pv_n + Qu_n \quad (n = 0, 1, \ldots)$$

one finds for $n = 0, 1, \ldots$

(3) $$Ua_n = UPv_n + QUu_n = UPv_n + QVv_n = Mv_n$$

and similarly

(4) $$Va_n = Mu_n.$$

From (2) and (4) it follows that the sequence (a_n) also has the period C. Further from (3) and (4) it follows that C is a common multiple of the periods mod M of the recurring sequences of which the characteristic polynomials are U and V respectively. Under some restrictions these periods are equal to the periods $C(U, M)$ and $C(V, M)$ of E modd $U(E)$, M and modd $V(E), M$ respectively. [1]

In some cases more can be said about C.

A. If $V = m$, then $M = m$ and one obtains again wellknown results on the period mod m of the recurring sequence $Uu_n = 0$. If moreover $U = -E + g$ one obtains the wellknown result that the repeated fraction found by conversion of u_0/m (with $(u_0, m) = 1$) into the number system of the base g is equal to the exponent of g mod m.

B. If $V = mE - d$, where $0 < d < m$, then it can be proved that under the above restrictions (which here require $(m, M) = (d, M) = 1$) the period C is equal to the exponent of md^{-1} mod M', where $M' = M/(a_0, M)$.

C. Many interesting further applications can be given to other cases which can be realised by some simple cyclic shifting circuits.

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[1] Cf. e.g. H. J. A. Duparc, Divisibility properties of recurring sequences, p. 48, thesis Amsterdam, 1953.

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