

# Entropy Rates and Finite-State Dimension

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## Abstract

The effective fractal dimensions at the polynomial-space level and above can all be equivalently defined as the  $\mathcal{C}$ -entropy rate where  $\mathcal{C}$  is the class of languages corresponding to the level of effectivization. For example, pspace-dimension is equivalent to the PSPACE-entropy rate.

At lower levels of complexity the equivalence proofs break down. In the polynomial-time case, the P-entropy rate is a lower bound on the p-dimension. Equality seems unlikely, but separating the P-entropy rate from p-dimension would require proving  $P \neq NP$ .

We show that at the finite-state level, the opposite of the polynomial-time case happens: the REG-entropy rate is an upper bound on the finite-state dimension. We also use the finite-state genericity of Ambos-Spies and Busse (2003) to separate finite-state dimension from the REG-entropy rate.

However, we point out that a *block-entropy rate* characterization of finite-state dimension follows from the work of Ziv and Lempel (1978) on finite-state compressibility and the compressibility characterization of finite-state dimension by Dai, Lathrop, Lutz, and Mayordomo (2004).

As applications of the REG-entropy rate upper bound and the block-entropy rate characterization, we prove that every regular language has finite-state dimension 0 and that normality is equivalent to finite-state dimension 1.

## 1 Introduction

The effective fractal dimensions, introduced by Lutz [17, 18] using success sets of *gales*, can be equivalently formulated using growth rates of *martingales* [2] or log-loss of *predictors* [13] at all levels of complexity. At the polynomial-space, computable, and constructive levels of effectivization, each of these dimensions also admits an *entropy rate* characterization using the corresponding language class [14, 12]. More specifically, polynomial-space dimension is equivalent to the PSPACE-entropy rate, computable dimension is the DEC-entropy rate, and constructive dimension is the CE-entropy rate.

At lower levels of complexity the equivalence proofs for dimension and entropy rates break down. All we know in the polynomial-time case is that the P-entropy rate is a lower bound on the p-dimension. Equality seems unlikely, but it follows from recent work [15] that separating the P-entropy rate from p-dimension would require proving  $P \neq NP$ .

In this paper we investigate entropy rates at an even lower level of effectivization: finite-state dimension, which was introduced by Dai, Lathrop, Lutz, and Mayordomo [8]. We show in section

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3 that the opposite of the polynomial-time case happens at the finite-state level: the REG-entropy rate is an upper bound on the finite-state dimension. We also observe that the REG-entropy rate behaves more like an effective box-counting dimension than an effective Hausdorff dimension.

In section 4 we establish relationships between the finite-state genericity of Ambos-Spies and Busse [1] and the REG-entropy rate. In particular, an individual sequence is finite-state generic if and only if its REG-entropy rate is 1. By results on the finite-state dimension of frequency classes [8], this immediately implies a separation of finite-state dimension from the REG-entropy rate.

While finite-state dimension is not equivalent to the REG-entropy rate (and it does not seem to admit an entropy rate characterization using any other language class), we point out in section 5 that a *block-entropy rate* characterization of finite-state dimension for individual sequences follows from previous work. Ziv and Lempel [27] showed that the finite-state compressibility of a sequence is equivalent to its block-entropy rate. Combining this with the finite-state compressibility characterization of finite-state dimension [8] yields the equivalence. (In this introduction we are ignoring some asymptotic details involving the difference between dimension and strong dimension [3] that are handled in the body of the paper.) We also develop an extension of this characterization for classes of sequences.

In section 6 we give some applications of the REG-entropy rate upper bound and the block-entropy rate characterization, improving two results from [8]:

- (i) Any sequence has finite-state dimension 1 if and only if it is normal.
- (ii) Every regular language has finite-state dimension 0.

## 2 Preliminaries

We write  $\{0, 1\}^*$  for the set of all finite binary *strings* and  $\mathbf{C}$  for the *Cantor space* of all infinite binary *sequences*. A *language* is a subset of  $\{0, 1\}^*$ . In the standard way, a sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  can be identified with the language for which it is the characteristic sequence. The length of a string  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$  is  $|w|$ . For a language  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $A_{=n}$  is the set of all strings in  $A$  of length  $n$ . The string consisting of the first  $n$  bits of  $x \in \{0, 1\}^* \cup \mathbf{C}$  is denoted by  $x \upharpoonright n$  and the substring consisting of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  through  $j^{\text{th}}$  bits of  $x$  is  $x[i..j]$ . We write  $w \sqsubseteq x$  if  $w$  is a prefix of  $x$ . For a string  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $\mathbf{C}_w = \{S \in \mathbf{C} \mid w \sqsubseteq S\}$ .

### 2.1 Finite-State Dimension

Finite-state dimension was developed by Dai, Lathrop, Lutz, and Mayordomo [8] as a generalization of Hausdorff dimension [11]. Later, finite-state strong dimension was similarly introduced by Athreya, Hitchcock, Lutz, and Mayordomo [3] as a generalization of packing dimension [26, 25]. We now recall an equivalent formulation of all these dimensions using log-loss prediction [13, 3].

**Definition.** A *predictor* is a function  $\pi : \{0, 1\}^* \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that for all  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $\pi(w, 0) + \pi(w, 1) = 1$ .

**Definition.** Let  $\pi$  be a predictor,  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ , and  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ .

1. The *cumulative log-loss* of  $\pi$  on  $w$  is

$$\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, w) = \sum_{i < |w|} \log \frac{1}{\pi(w \upharpoonright i, w[i])}.$$

(We use the convention that  $\log \frac{1}{0} = \infty$ .)

2. The *log-loss rate* of  $\pi$  on  $S$  is

$$\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, S) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, S \upharpoonright n)}{n}.$$

3. The *worst-case log-loss rate* of  $\pi$  on  $X$  is

$$\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, X) = \sup_{S \in X} \mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, S).$$

4. The *strong log-loss rate* of  $\pi$  on  $S$  is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi, S) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, S \upharpoonright n)}{n}.$$

5. The *worst-case strong log-loss rate* of  $\pi$  on a  $X$  is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi, X) = \sup_{S \in X} \mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi, S).$$

In [13, 3], the following definitions are shown equivalent to the original definitions of Hausdorff dimension and packing dimension. We refer to [10, 17, 3] for more background on these dimensions.

**Definition.** Let  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ . Let  $\Pi$  be the class of all predictors.

1. The *Hausdorff dimension* of  $X$  is

$$\dim_H(X) = \inf\{\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, X) \mid \pi \in \Pi\}.$$

2. The *packing dimension* of  $X$  is

$$\dim_P(X) = \inf\{\mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi, X) \mid \pi \in \Pi\}.$$

The finite-state dimensions may be similarly defined by using predictors that arise from finite-state gamblers.

**Definition.** A *finite-state gambler* (*FSG*) is a tuple  $G = (Q, \delta, \beta, q_0)$  where

- $Q$  is a nonempty, finite set of states,
- $\delta : Q \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow Q$  is the transition function,
- $\beta : Q \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$  is the *betting function*, which satisfies

$$\beta(q, 0) + \beta(q, 1) = 1$$

for all  $q \in Q$ , and

- $q_0 \in Q$  is the initial state.

An FSG  $G = (Q, \delta, \beta, q_0)$  defines a predictor  $\pi_G$  by

$$\pi_G(w, a) = \beta(\delta^*(w), a)$$

for all  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$  and  $a \in \{0, 1\}$ . Here  $\delta^* : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow Q$  is the standard extension of  $\delta$  to strings defined by the recursion

$$\delta^*(\lambda) = q_0,$$

$$\delta^*(wa) = \delta(\delta^*(w), a).$$

We say that a predictor  $\pi$  is *finite-state* if  $\pi = \pi_G$  for some FSG  $G$ .

**Definition.** Let  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ . Let  $\Pi(\text{FS})$  be the class of all finite-state predictors.

1. The *finite-state dimension* of  $X$  is

$$\dim_{\text{FS}}(X) = \inf\{\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi, X) \mid \pi \in \Pi(\text{FS})\}.$$

2. The *finite-state strong dimension* of  $X$  is

$$\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) = \inf\{\mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi, X) \mid \pi \in \Pi(\text{FS})\}.$$

The following holds for every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \dim_{\text{H}}(X) \leq \dim_{\text{FS}}(X) \\ &\quad | \wedge \quad | \wedge \\ \dim_{\text{P}}(X) &\leq \text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) \leq 1. \end{aligned}$$

We will also consider the finite-state dimensions of individual sequences.

**Definition.** Let  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ .

1. The *finite-state dimension* of  $S$  is  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = \dim_{\text{FS}}(\{S\})$ .
2. The *finite-state strong dimension* of  $S$  is  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(S) = \text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(\{S\})$ .

The following proposition states that changing an initial segment of a sequence does not change its finite-state dimension.

**Proposition 2.1.** *For all  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  and  $x, y \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(xS) = \dim_{\text{FS}}(yS)$  and  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(xS) = \text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(yS)$ .*

## 2.2 Entropy Rates

We now review entropy rates of languages and their relationship to dimension. The following concept dates back to Chomsky and Miller [6] and Kuich [16].

**Definition.** Let  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ . The *entropy rate* of  $A$  is

$$H_A = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |A_{=n}|}{n}.$$

Intuitively,  $H_A$  gives an asymptotic measurement of the amount by which every string in  $A_{=n}$  is compressed in an optimal code. The following equivalent definition of  $H_A$  is useful in some contexts.

**Lemma 2.2.** (Staiger [23]) *For any  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ ,*

$$H_A = \inf \left\{ s \left| \sum_{w \in A} 2^{-s|w|} < \infty \right. \right\}.$$

For any language  $A$  we define two classes of sequences  $A^{\text{i.o.}}$  and  $A^{\text{a.e.}}$ .

**Definition.** Let  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ .

1. The *i.o.-class* of  $A$  is  $A^{\text{i.o.}} = \{S \in \mathbf{C} \mid (\exists^\infty n) S \upharpoonright n \in A\}$ .
2. The *a.e.-class* of  $A$  is  $A^{\text{a.e.}} = \{S \in \mathbf{C} \mid (\forall^\infty n) S \upharpoonright n \in A\}$ .

The name  *$\delta$ -limit of  $A$*  and notation  $A^\delta$  have also been used for  $A^{\text{i.o.}}$  [23, 24].

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a class of languages and  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ .

1. The  *$\mathcal{C}$ -entropy rate* of  $X$  is

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{C}}(X) = \inf\{H_A \mid A \in \mathcal{C} \text{ and } X \subseteq A^{\text{i.o.}}\}.$$

2. The *strong  $\mathcal{C}$ -entropy rate* of  $X$  is

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{C}}^{\text{str}}(X) = \inf\{H_A \mid A \in \mathcal{C} \text{ and } X \subseteq A^{\text{a.e.}}\}.$$

Informally,  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$  is the lowest entropy rate with which every element of  $X$  can be covered infinitely often by a language in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

For all  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ , classical results (see [20, 23]) imply

$$\dim_H(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{ALL}}(X),$$

where ALL is the class of all languages and  $\dim_H$  is Hausdorff dimension. It is also known [3] that packing dimension is the corresponding strong entropy rate:

$$\dim_p(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{ALL}}^{\text{str}}(X).$$

Using other classes of languages gives equivalent definitions of the constructive, computable, and polynomial-space dimensions (see [14, 12, 3, 15] for definitions and more details): for all  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,

$$\text{cdim}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{CE}}(X), \dim_{\text{comp}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{DEC}}(X), \dim_{\text{pspace}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{PSPACE}}(X)$$

and

$$\text{cDim}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{CE}}^{\text{str}}(X), \dim_{\text{comp}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{DEC}}^{\text{str}}(X), \dim_{\text{pspace}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{PSPACE}}^{\text{str}}(X).$$

In the polynomial-time setting, all that we know is  $\mathcal{H}_P(X) \leq \dim_p(X)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_P^{\text{str}}(X) \leq \text{Dim}_p(X)$  always hold.

### 3 Regular Entropy Rate

In this section we study  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}$ , the regular entropy rate, and its relationships with box-counting dimension and finite-state dimension.

### 3.1 Upper Bound on Box-Counting Dimension

We will show that  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}$  is an upper bound on the box-counting dimension. For any set  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let

$$N_n(X) = |\{S \mid n \mid S \in X\}|$$

be how many distinct strings of length  $n$  are prefixes of elements of  $X$ . Then the (*upper*) *box-counting dimension* of  $X$  (see [10]) is

$$\overline{\dim}_B(X) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log N_n(X)}{n}.$$

We will use an everywhere version of the infinitely-often and almost-everywhere classes  $A^{\text{i.o.}}$  and  $A^{\text{a.e.}}$ .

**Definition.** For any  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ , let  $A^\square = \{S \in \mathbf{C} \mid (\forall n) S \mid n \in A\}$ .

Using  $A^\square$ , we can define a concept similar to the entropy rates.

**Definition.** For any  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$  and class  $\mathcal{C}$  of languages, let

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{C}}^\square(X) = \inf\{H_A \mid X \subseteq A^\square \text{ and } A \in \mathcal{C}\}.$$

When the class of languages is unrestricted in this definition, we get the box-counting dimension.

**Proposition 3.1.** *For every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\overline{\dim}_B(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{ALL}}^\square(X)$ .*

We will see that  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^{\text{str}}$  are *both* equivalent to  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^\square$ . First, we need some notation and a lemma.

**Notation.** For any  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ , let  $\text{pref}(A) = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid (\exists x \in A) w \sqsubseteq x\}$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** (Staiger [23]) *For every  $A \in \text{REG}$ ,  $H_A = H_{\text{pref}(A)}$ .*

Now we can see that the REG-entropy rate behaves like a finite-state box-counting dimension, and that there is no difference between it and the strong REG-entropy rate.

**Theorem 3.3.** *For every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^{\text{str}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^\square(X)$ .*

*Proof.* The inequalities  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) \leq \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^{\text{str}}(X) \leq \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^\square(X)$  are immediate from the definitions. Let  $s > \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X)$ . It suffices to show that  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^\square(X) \leq s$ . Let  $A \in \text{REG}$  such that  $H_A < s$  and  $X \subseteq A^{\text{i.o.}}$ . Then  $\text{pref}(A) \in \text{REG}$  and  $X \subseteq \text{pref}(A)^\square$ . By Lemma 3.2 we have  $H_{\text{pref}(A)} < s$ , so  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^\square(X) \leq s$ .  $\square$

By Proposition 3.1, it follows that the box dimension is a lower bound on the regular entropy rate.

**Corollary 3.4.** *For every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\overline{\dim}_B(X) \leq \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X)$ .*

### 3.2 Upper Bound on Finite-State Dimension

Next we show that the REG-entropy rate is always an upper bound on the finite-state strong dimension.

**Theorem 3.5.** *For any  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) \leq \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $X$  is empty, then the statement trivially holds, so assume  $X \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $t > s > \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}^{\square}(X)$  and let  $0 < \epsilon < t - s$ . It suffices to show that  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) \leq t$ . Let  $A \in \text{REG}$  such that  $X \subseteq A^{\square}$  and  $H_A < s$ . Since  $X$  is not empty, we have  $A \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $M = (Q, \delta, q_0, F)$  be a minimal DFA for  $A$ . For each  $q \in Q$ , let

$$W_q = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid \delta(q, w) \in F\}$$

and

$$m(q) = \sum_{w \in W_q} 2^{-s|w|}.$$

Since  $M$  is a minimal DFA, for each  $q$  there is some string  $x_q$  such that  $\delta(q_0, x_q) = q$ . Let

$$A(x_q) = \{w \in A \mid x_q \sqsubseteq w\} = x_q W_q.$$

We have

$$m(q) = 2^{s|x_q|} \sum_{w \in A(x_q)} 2^{-s|w|} \leq 2^{s|x_q|} \sum_{w \in A} 2^{-s|w|},$$

which is finite by Lemma 2.2. Note that for any  $q \in Q$ , we have

$$0W_{\delta(q,0)} \cup 1W_{\delta(q,1)} \subseteq W_q,$$

so

$$m(\delta(q, 0)) + m(\delta(q, 1)) \leq 2^s m(q).$$

Define a betting function  $\beta : Q \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$\beta(q, b) = \frac{m(\delta(q, b))}{m(\delta(q, 0)) + m(\delta(q, 1))}$$

if the denominator is not 0, and  $\beta(q, b) = \frac{1}{2}$  otherwise. Since  $\beta$  may not be rational-valued, let  $\hat{\beta} : Q \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$  be a betting function approximating  $\beta$  in the sense that for all  $q$  and  $b$ ,  $|\log \beta(q, b) - \log \hat{\beta}(q, b)| < \epsilon$ . Let  $G$  be the finite-state gambler  $G = (Q, \delta, \hat{\beta}, q_0)$ , and let  $\pi_G$  be the finite-state predictor associated with  $G$ .

Let  $w \in A$ . For each  $i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq |w|$ ), let  $q_i = \delta(q_0, w \upharpoonright i)$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}^{\log}(\pi_G, w) &= \sum_{i=0}^{|w|-1} -\log \pi_G(w \upharpoonright i, w[i]) \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^{|w|-1} -\log \hat{\beta}(q_i, w[i]) \\
&\leq \epsilon|w| + \sum_{i=0}^{|w|-1} -\log \beta(q_i, w[i]) \\
&= \epsilon|w| + \log \prod_{i=0}^{|w|-1} \frac{m(\delta(q_i, 0)) + m(\delta(q_i, 1))}{m(q_{i+1})} \\
&\leq \epsilon|w| + \log \prod_{i=0}^{|w|-1} \frac{2^s m(q_i)}{m(q_{i+1})} \\
&= (s + \epsilon)|w| + \log \frac{m(q_0)}{m(q_{|w|})}.
\end{aligned}$$

(The assumption  $w \in A$  is important here because it implies  $m(q_i)$  is always nonzero.) It follows that  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi_G, S) \leq t$  for any  $S \in A^\square$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{str}}^{\log}(\pi_G, X) \leq t$ , so  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) \leq t$ .  $\square$

## 4 Finite-State Genericity

This section establishes some connections between regular entropy rates and the finite-state genericity of Ambos-Spies and Busse [1]. From this we will see a separation of the regular entropy rate from finite-state dimension. We first recall the concepts we need from [1]. A function  $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$  is *finite-state computable* if there is a DFA  $M$  along with strings labeling each of the states such that  $f(w)$  is always the label for the state  $M$  is in after processing  $w$ .

**Definition.** Let  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ .

1.  $S$  meets a function  $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$  if for some  $n$  we have

$$(S \upharpoonright n)f(S \upharpoonright n) \sqsubseteq S.$$

2.  $S$  is *finite-state generic* if  $S$  meets every finite-state  $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$ .

Ambos-Spies and Busse prove that several other definitions are equivalent to this definition of finite-state genericity.

Recall that a set  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$  is *nowhere dense* if it is contained in the complement of a dense, open set. Equivalently,  $X$  is nowhere dense if

$$(\forall w)(\exists w' \sqsupseteq w)X \cap \mathbf{C}_{w'} = \emptyset.$$

In intuitive terms,  $X$  is full of holes: given any string  $w$ , we can always find an extension  $w'$  that is not a prefix of any sequence in  $X$ . We now define an effective version of nowhere density where a finite-state function can always identify one of these holes.

**Definition.** We say that  $X$  is *finite-state nowhere dense* if there is a finite-state function  $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$  such that

$$(\forall w)X \cap \mathbf{C}_{wf(w)} = \emptyset.$$

This concept leads to another definition of finite-state genericity.

**Proposition 4.1.** *A sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  is finite-state generic if and only if  $S$  is not contained in any finite-state nowhere dense set.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $S$  is not finite-state generic. Let  $f$  be a finite-state function which  $S$  does not meet. Then  $X_f = \{T \in \mathbf{C} \mid T \text{ does not meet } f\}$  is finite-state nowhere dense (via  $f$ ) and contains  $S$ .

Now assume that  $S$  is contained in some finite-state nowhere dense set  $X$ . Let  $f$  be a finite-state function showing that  $X$  is finite-state nowhere dense. Then  $S$  does not meet  $f$ , so  $S$  is not finite-state generic.  $\square$

## 4.1 Entropy Rates and Genericity

**Notation.** For any  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$  and  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , let

$$A_x = \{w \in A \mid x \sqsubseteq w\}$$

be the set of all extensions of  $x$  in  $A$ .

The following lemma is essentially a restatement of Lemma 3.2.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $A \in \text{REG}$  and suppose that for infinitely many  $n$ ,*

$$|\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n \mid A_x \neq \emptyset\}| \geq 2^{sn}.$$

*Then  $H_A \geq s$ .*

*Proof.* Recall from Lemma 3.2 that  $H_A = H_{\text{pref}(A)}$ . If  $A_x \neq \emptyset$ , then  $x \in \text{pref}(A)$ , so the hypothesis says  $|\text{pref}(A)_{=n}| \geq 2^{sn}$  for infinitely many  $n$ . Therefore  $H_{\text{pref}(A)} \geq s$ .  $\square$

We now show a relationship between the regular entropy rate and finite-state nowhere dense sets.

**Theorem 4.3.** *For every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) < 1$  if and only if  $X$  is finite-state nowhere dense.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) < s < 1$ . Then there is an  $A \in \text{REG}$  with  $H_A < s$  and  $X \subseteq A^{\text{i.o.}}$ . By Lemma 4.2 we know that for some  $n_0$ , for all  $n \geq n_0$ ,

$$|\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n \mid A_x \neq \emptyset\}| < 2^{sn}. \quad (4.1)$$

Let  $M = (Q, \delta, q_0, F)$  be the minimal DFA that decides  $A$ . For each  $q \in Q$ , let  $w_q$  be a string of minimal length with  $\delta^*(q_0, w_q) = q$ . Define

$$w'_q = \begin{cases} w_q & \text{if } |w_q| \geq n_0 \\ w_q 0^{n_0 - |w_q|} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $l$  be large enough so that  $2^{s(|w'_q|+l)} < 2^l$  for all  $q \in Q$ . Then by (4.1), for each  $q \in Q$  there is some  $x_q \in \{0, 1\}^l$  with  $A_{w'_q x_q} = \emptyset$ . In each state  $q$ , our finite-state function outputs  $x_q$  if  $|w_q| \geq n_0$ ,  $0^{n_0-|w_q|} x_q$  if  $|w_q| < n_0$ . This function shows that  $X$  is finite-state nowhere dense.

For the other direction, assume that  $X$  is finite-state nowhere dense, and let  $f$  be a finite-state function witnessing this. We can assume that  $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^k$  for some  $k > 0$ . Let

$$A = \{x \mid (\forall m < |x|/k) (x \upharpoonright mk) f(x \upharpoonright mk) \not\sqsubseteq x\}.$$

Then  $X \subseteq A^{\text{i.o.}}$  and  $A$  is regular, so  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) \leq H_A$ . Now we will verify that  $H_A < 1$ . Let  $n$  be any length and write  $n = mk + l$  where  $l < k$ . An upper bound on  $|A_{=n}|$  is  $(2^k - 1)^m \cdot 2^l$ , so

$$\frac{\log |A_{=n}|}{n} \leq \frac{l + m \log(2^k - 1)}{n} \leq \frac{k}{n} + \frac{\log(2^k - 1)}{k}$$

and we obtain

$$H_A \leq \frac{\log(2^k - 1)}{k} < 1.$$

□

Combining Theorem 4.3 with Proposition 4.1, we obtain the following corollaries. We write  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(\{S\})$  for any sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ .

**Corollary 4.4.** *A sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  is finite-state generic if and only if  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) = 1$ .*

**Corollary 4.5.** *If a set  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$  contains a finite-state generic sequence, then  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(X) = 1$ .*

A sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  is *saturated* if it contains every finite binary string as a substring. Ambos-Spies and Busse [1] showed a sequence is finite-state generic if and only if it is saturated. Therefore Corollary 4.4 can be restated as follows.

**Corollary 4.6.** *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) = 1$  if and only if  $S$  is saturated.*

## 4.2 Separation of Dimension from Entropy Rates

We now separate the regular entropy rate from finite-state strong dimension. Recall from [8] that the class

$$\text{FREQ}_\alpha = \left\{ S \in \mathbf{C} \mid \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#(1, S \upharpoonright n)}{n} = \alpha \right\}$$

has finite-state dimension

$$\dim_{\text{FS}}(\text{FREQ}_\alpha) = \mathcal{H}(\alpha) = \alpha \log \frac{1}{\alpha} + (1 - \alpha) \log \frac{1}{1 - \alpha}$$

for every  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . In fact, the proof also shows that  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(\text{FREQ}_\alpha) = \mathcal{H}(\alpha)$ . Since  $\text{FREQ}_\alpha$  is dense for all  $\alpha$ , we obtain

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(\text{FREQ}_\alpha) = 1$$

from Theorem 4.3. Therefore (using  $\alpha \neq \frac{1}{2}$ ) we see that proper inequality can hold in Theorem 3.5.

In fact, the we can get the same separation for singletons. If we take a sequence  $S \in \text{FREQ}_\alpha$  that is saturated, then  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) = 1$  by Corollary 4.6 but  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(S) \leq \mathcal{H}(\alpha)$ .

## 5 Block-Entropy Rate

In this section we use a more general entropy notion, the block-entropy rate, to characterize the finite-state dimensions. This is interesting because the block-entropy rate considers only frequency properties of the sequence and does not involve finite-state machines.

### 5.1 Finite-State Dimension and Compressibility

First we recall the relationships between finite-state dimension and finite-state compressibility [8, 3].

**Definition.** A *finite-state compressor (FSC)* is a tuple  $C = (Q, \delta, \nu, q_0)$ , where

- $Q$  is a nonempty, finite set of states,
- $\delta : Q \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow Q$  is the transition function,
- $\nu : Q \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$  is the output function, and
- $q_0 \in Q$  is the initial state.

The *output* of  $C$  on an input  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$  is the string  $C(w)$  defined by the recursion

$$\begin{aligned} C(\lambda) &= \lambda, \\ C(xb) &= C(x)\nu(\delta^*(x), b), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$  and  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ , where  $\delta^*$  is defined as in Section 2. We say that  $C$  is *information-lossless* if the function  $w \mapsto (C(w), \delta^*(w))$  is one-to-one.

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the collection of all information-lossless finite-state compressors. For each  $k \in N$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_k$  be the collection of all  $k$ -state information-lossless finite-state compressors. For any  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ , define

$$\rho_{\text{FS}}(S) = \inf_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|C(S \upharpoonright n)|}{n}$$

and

$$R_{\text{FS}}(S) = \inf_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \min_{C \in \mathcal{C}_k} \frac{|C(S \upharpoonright n)|}{n}.$$

The quantity  $R_{\text{FS}}(S)$  was originally called  $\rho(S)$  in [27]. In [8],  $\rho(S)$  was modified to obtain  $\rho_{\text{FS}}(S)$  and a compressibility characterization of finite-state dimension.

**Theorem 5.1.** (Dai, Lathrop, Lutz, and Mayordomo [8]) *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,*

$$\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = \rho_{\text{FS}}(S).$$

Later, when strong dimension was introduced, it was shown that  $R_{\text{FS}}(S)$  characterizes finite-state strong dimension.

**Theorem 5.2.** (Athreya, Hitchcock, Lutz, and Mayordomo [3]) *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,*

$$\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(S) = R_{\text{FS}}(S).$$

## 5.2 Block Entropy and Compressibility

Let  $n, l \in \mathbb{N}$  where  $l$  divides  $n$ . Given a string  $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$  and a string  $w \in \{0, 1\}^l$ , let

$$N(w, x) = |\{0 \leq i < n/l \mid x[i l .. (i+1)l - 1] = w\}|$$

be the number of times  $w$  occurs in the length- $l$  blocks of  $x$ . The *relative frequency of  $w$  in  $x$*  is

$$P(w, x) = \frac{l}{n} N(w, x).$$

The  $l^{\text{th}}$  *block entropy of  $x$*  is

$$H_l(x) = \frac{1}{l} \sum_{w \in \{0, 1\}^l} P(w, x) \log \frac{1}{P(w, x)},$$

i.e., the normalized entropy of the distribution  $P(\cdot, x)$  on  $\{0, 1\}^l$ .

**Definition.** Let  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ .

1. The  $l^{\text{th}}$  *block-entropy rate of  $S$*  is

$$H_l(S) = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} H_l(S \upharpoonright kl).$$

2. The *block-entropy rate of  $S$*  is

$$H(S) = \inf_{l \in \mathbb{N}} H_l(S).$$

3. The  $l^{\text{th}}$  *upper block-entropy rate of  $S$*  is

$$\overline{H}_l(S) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} H_l(S \upharpoonright kl).$$

4. The *upper block-entropy rate of  $S$*  is

$$\overline{H}(S) = \inf_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \overline{H}_l(S).$$

Ziv and Lempel showed that the upper block-entropy rate corresponds to the finite-state compressibility of a sequence.

**Theorem 5.3.** (Ziv and Lempel [27]) *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $R_{\text{FS}}(S) = \overline{H}(S)$ .*

## 5.3 Block Entropy and Dimension

From Theorems 5.2 and 5.3, we have the following block-entropy rate characterization of finite-state strong dimension.

**Theorem 5.4.** *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(S) = \overline{H}(S)$ .*

Does the analogous characterization  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = H(S)$  hold for finite-state dimension? We will show that it does, establishing it as a corollary of a more general characterization theorem for classes of sequences.

For any  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  and compressor  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ , let

$$\rho_C(S) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|C(S \upharpoonright n)|}{n}$$

and let  $\overline{\rho_C}(S)$  be the corresponding lim sup. From the proofs of Theorems 5.1 and 5.2 in [8, 3] for individual sequences, it is straightforward to see the following for classes.

**Theorem 5.5.** *For every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,*

$$\dim_{\text{FS}}(X) = \inf_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \sup_{S \in X} \rho_C(S)$$

and

$$\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) = \inf_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \sup_{S \in X} \overline{\rho_C}(S).$$

We will also need the following three lemmas.

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . There exists a compressor  $C_l \in \mathcal{C}$  such that for all  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\rho_{C_l}(S) \leq H_l(S) + 2/l$  and  $\overline{\rho_{C_l}}(S) \leq \overline{H_l}(S) + 2/l$ .*

*Proof.* Fix  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . From Sheinwald's proof [22] of Theorem 5.3 we know that for every  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$  there is a compressor  $C_x \in \mathcal{C}_{2^l}$  (using Huffman coding) such that

$$\frac{|C_x(x)|}{|x|} \leq H_l(x) + \frac{1}{l}.$$

From the proof of Theorem 5.2 given in [3], we obtain a compressor  $C_l$  such that for all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_{2^l}$  and  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,

$$|C_l(x)| \leq |C(x)| + \frac{|x|}{l} + c_l,$$

where  $c_l$  is a constant. Therefore for all  $x$ ,

$$\frac{|C_l(x)|}{|x|} \leq H_l(x) + \frac{2}{l} + \frac{c_l}{|x|},$$

so we have  $\rho_{C_l}(S) \leq H_l(S) + 2/l$  for all  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ . The proof of the second inequality is analogous.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.7.** *Let  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  be a compressor. There is a constant  $c$  such that for all  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $H_l(S) \leq \rho_C(S) + (c + \log l)/l$  and  $\overline{H_l}(S) \leq \overline{\rho_C}(S) + (c + \log l)/l$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\sigma$  be the number of states in  $C$  and let  $r_C$  be the maximum number of bits that  $C$  outputs on a single transition. From Sheinwald's proof [22] of Theorem 5.3, we have

$$\overline{H_l}(S) \leq \overline{\rho_C}(S) + \frac{\log(\sigma^2(1 + lr_C))}{l}$$

for all  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  and  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Letting  $c$  be a constant such that  $c + \log l \geq \log(\sigma^2(1 + lr_C))$  establishes the second inequality. The proof of the first inequality is analogous.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.8.** *Let  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ . For all  $k, l \geq 1$ ,  $\overline{H_{kl}}(S) \leq \overline{H_l}(S)$  and  $H_{kl}(S) \leq H_l(S)$ .*

*Proof.* Ziv and Lempel [27] proved that the limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \overline{H_l}(S)$  exists for all  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ . From this proof we can extract the inequality

$$(l+m)H_{l+m}(x) \leq lH_l(x) + mH_m(x)$$

for all  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$  and  $l, m \geq 1$ . It follows by induction that for all  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$klH_{kl}(x) \leq klH_l(x),$$

i.e.,  $H_{kl}(x) \leq H_l(x)$ . From this  $\overline{H_{kl}}(S) \leq \overline{H_l}(S)$  follows immediately.

To show  $H_{kl}(S) \leq H_l(S)$ , let  $s > H_l(S)$ . Then there is an infinite set  $J \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $j \in J$ ,  $H_l(S \upharpoonright jl) < s$ . Fix  $k$ . For each  $j \in J$ , let  $j'$  be a multiple of  $k$  such that  $j \leq j' < j+k$ . Then as  $j$  becomes large,  $|H_l(S \upharpoonright j'l) - H_l(S \upharpoonright jl)| \rightarrow 0$ . For each  $j \in J$ ,  $H_{kl}(S \upharpoonright j'l) \leq H_l(S \upharpoonright j'l)$  from the previous paragraph, so it follows that  $H_{kl}(S) < s$ . This holds for all  $s > H_l(S)$ , so  $H_{kl}(S) \leq H_l(S)$ .  $\square$

We now give block-entropy rate characterizations of finite-state dimension and finite-state strong dimension for classes of sequences.

**Theorem 5.9.** *For every  $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$ ,*

$$\dim_{\text{FS}}(X) = \inf_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \sup_{S \in X} H_l(S)$$

and

$$\text{Dim}_{\text{FS}}(X) = \inf_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \sup_{S \in X} \overline{H_l}(S).$$

*Proof.* We prove the finite-state dimension characterization; the argument for strong dimension is analogous.

Let  $s > \dim_{\text{FS}}(X)$ . Then by Theorem 5.5 there is a compressor  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  such that for all  $S \in X$ ,  $\rho_C(S) < s$ . From Lemma 5.7 we have a constant  $c$  such that  $H_l(S) \leq s + (c + \log l)/l$  for all  $S \in X$  and  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Taking the infimum over all  $l$ , we have that the right-hand side is at most  $s$ . This holds for all  $s > \dim_{\text{FS}}(X)$ , so the  $\geq$  inequality holds.

Now let  $s$  be greater than the right-hand side. Then there is an  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $H_l(S) < s$  for all  $S \in X$ . From Lemma 5.8, we have  $H_{kl}(S) \leq H_l(S)$  for all  $S$ . Therefore from Lemma 5.6 we obtain for each  $k$  a compressor  $C_{kl}$  such that  $\rho_{C_{kl}}(S) \leq s + 2/kl$  for all  $S \in X$ . Taking the infimum over all  $k$ , we obtain  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(X) \leq s$  by Theorem 5.5.  $\square$

The dual of Theorem 5.4 follows immediately from Theorem 5.9.

**Theorem 5.10.** *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = H(S)$ .*

## 6 Applications

In this section we apply the upper bound of Theorem 3.5 and the equivalence of Theorem 5.10 to prove a few finite-state dimension results.

## 6.1 Normality

**Definition.** (Borel [5]) A sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  is *normal* if for every  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \left| \left\{ i < n \mid S[i..i+|w|-1] = w \right\} \right| = 2^{-|w|}. \quad (6.1)$$

Dai, Lathrop, Lutz, and Mayordomo [8] used the work of Schnorr and Stimm [21] to show that every normal sequence has finite-state dimension 1. We now use the block-entropy rate characterization to prove the converse, yielding that finite-state dimension 1 is equivalent to normality.<sup>1</sup> This result is analogous to Corollary 4.6 that equates saturation with REG-entropy rate 1.

**Theorem 6.1.** *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = 1$  if and only if  $S$  is normal.*

*Proof.* As mentioned above, we already know that  $S$  is normal implies  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = 1$  from [8]. Now assume that  $S$  is not normal. We will use Theorem 5.10 to show that  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) < 1$ .

Since  $S$  is not normal, there is some string  $w$  such that (6.1) fails. Let  $l = |w|$ . For each  $i$ , write  $x_i = S[i..i+l-1]$ . Then for some  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$(\exists^{\infty} n) \left| \frac{|\{i < n \mid x_i = w\}|}{n} - 2^{-|w|} \right| > \epsilon.$$

This implies that

$$(\exists m < l) (\exists^{\infty} k) \left| \frac{|\{j < k \mid x_{jl+m} = w\}|}{k} - 2^{-|w|} \right| > \frac{\epsilon}{l}.$$

Fix an  $m$  that satisfies the previous line. Obtain a sequence  $S'$  from  $S$  by removing the first  $m$  bits from  $S$ . Then

$$(\exists^{\infty} k) |P(w, S' \upharpoonright kl) - 2^{-|w|}| > \frac{\epsilon}{l}.$$

Whenever  $k$  satisfies the previous line,  $P(\cdot, S' \upharpoonright kl)$  is not uniform, so

$$(\exists^{\infty} k) H_l(S' \upharpoonright kl) < \delta$$

for some fixed  $\delta < 1$ . Therefore  $H_l(S') < \delta$  and we have

$$\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = \dim_{\text{FS}}(S') = H(S') \leq H_l(S') < 1$$

by Proposition 2.1 and Theorem 5.10. □

## 6.2 Regular Languages

A sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  is *rational* if there exist  $u, v \in \{0, 1\}^*$  such that  $S = uv^\infty$ . Let  $\mathbf{Q}$  be the set of all rational sequences.

**Theorem 6.2.** (Dai, Lathrop, Lutz, and Mayordomo [8])  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(\mathbf{Q}) = 1$ .

*Remark.* We can use Theorem 5.9 to give an easy proof of Theorem 6.2. Let  $l \geq 1$ . Define a long string  $x$  by concatenating all  $2^l$  strings of length  $l$  together. Let  $S = x^\infty$ . Then  $S \in \mathbf{Q}$  and we have  $H_l(S) = 1$  since the frequency distribution for blocks of length  $l$  is nearly uniform for long prefixes of  $S$ . (It is exactly uniform at lengths that are multiples of  $|x|$ .) We can do this for every  $l$ , so  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(\mathbf{Q}) = 1$  by Theorem 5.9.

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<sup>1</sup>An anonymous referee pointed out that this converse can also be proved using [21].

Since every rational sequence is the characteristic sequence of a regular language [1], Theorem 6.2 implies the following.

**Theorem 6.3.**  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(\text{REG}) = 1$ .

In contrast, it is also shown in [8] that  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = 0$  for every *individual*  $S \in \mathbf{Q}$ . We will strengthen this in Theorem 6.7, showing the same for each individual regular language.

The *factor set*  $F_l(S)$  of a sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  is the set of all finite strings of length  $l$  that appear in  $S$ . The *factor complexity function* counts the number of factors for each  $l$ :

$$p_S(l) = |F_l(S)|.$$

We define an analog of entropy in terms of a sequence's factors:

$$h(S) = \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log p_S(l)}{l}.$$

This gives an upper bound on the regular entropy rate.

**Lemma 6.4.** *For every  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) \leq h(S)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $l \geq 1$  and let  $A_l = F_l(S)^*$ . Then  $A_l$  is regular and  $S \in A_l^{\text{i.o.}}$ , so

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) \leq H_{A_l} = \frac{\log p_S(l)}{l}.$$

This holds for all  $l$ , so  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) \leq h(S)$ . □

**Corollary 6.5.** *For any  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  with  $p_S(l) = 2^{o(l)}$ ,  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) = 0$ .*

Though “most” sequences are saturated, many well studied sequences satisfy the condition of Corollary 6.5. Specifically, this result gives a new proof that for any  $S \in \mathbf{Q}$ ,  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = 0$ . Sturmian sequences (see [4]),  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  that satisfy  $p_S(l) = l + 1$  for all  $l$ , also have finite-state dimension 0. Morphic sequences, sequences defined by an iteratively applied mapping  $\{0, 1\} \mapsto \{0, 1\}^*$  have dimension zero since their factor complexity function is quadratic [9].

Automatic sequences are sequences,  $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$  defined by a finite-state function,  $f : [n]_k \mapsto \Delta$  where  $\Delta$  is some finite output alphabet that is applied to each final state. Given the limited computation power of such a model, it is not surprising that  $k$ -automatic sequences are not too complex.

**Theorem 6.6.** (Cobham [7]) *For every automatic sequence  $S$ ,  $p_S(l) = O(l)$ . In particular,  $h(S) = 0$ .*

More precisely,  $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is defined by feeding a DFA with the canonical representation of  $n$  in base- $k$ . For our purposes, we only consider 2-automatic sequences with the same output alphabet  $\Delta = \{0, 1\}$ . In addition, we can equivalently consider  $(s_n)_{n \geq 0}$  where  $s_n$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  string in the standard enumeration since there exists a finite-state function  $g : [n]_2 \mapsto s_n$  (add 1 to  $[n]_2$  and drop the leading bit—this can be computed by a simple finite-state transducer). An output mapping of 1 for any  $s_n \in L$  and 0 otherwise defines the characteristic sequence of a regular language. For a generalization to any enumeration system see [19].

We now have the result promised earlier: regular languages have finite-state dimension 0.

**Theorem 6.7.** *For every  $A \in \text{REG}$ ,  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(A) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(A) = 0$ .*

### 6.3 Morphic Sequences

Automatic sequences are closely related to morphic sequences. A function  $\varphi : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$  is called a *morphism* if  $\varphi(xy) = \varphi(x)\varphi(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . The iterative application of a morphism  $\varphi$  is defined as  $\varphi^0(b) = b$  and  $\varphi^i(b) = \varphi(\varphi^{i-1}(b))$  for  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ . A morphism is *expanding* if  $|\varphi(b)| \geq 2$  for all  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ . We call a morphism  $k$ -uniform if  $|\varphi(b)| = k$  for all  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ . A 1-uniform morphism is called a *coding*. Morphisms can be very naturally applied to sequences  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ ,

$$\varphi(S) = \varphi(S[0])\varphi(S[1])\varphi(S[2])\dots$$

If  $\varphi(S) = S$  then  $\varphi$  is called a *fixed point morphism*.

The continued application of an expanding morphism may define a sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$ . If for some  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $x \in \{0, 1\}^+$ ,  $\varphi(b) = bx$  then we say that  $\varphi$  is *prolongable* on  $b$ . The sequence defined by such a morphism *converges* to

$$S = \varphi^\omega(b) = bx\varphi(x)\varphi^2(x)\varphi^3(x)\dots$$

which is also a fixed point of  $\varphi$ . That is,  $\varphi(\varphi^\omega(b)) = \varphi^\omega(b)$ . Such a sequence is called a *pure morphic sequence*. If there is a coding  $\tau : \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  such that  $S = \tau(\varphi^\omega(b))$  then it is simply a *morphic sequence*.

**Theorem 6.8.** (Ehrenfeucht and Rozenberg [9]) *The complexity of a sequence  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  that is a fixed point of any morphism (not necessarily of constant length) satisfies  $p_S(l) \in \mathcal{O}(l^2)$*

**Corollary 6.9.** *Let  $S \in \mathbf{C}$  be a morphic sequence. Then  $\dim_{\text{FS}}(S) = \mathcal{H}_{\text{REG}}(S) = 0$ .*

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