Some Properties of the Singular Words of the Fibonacci Word

WEN Zhi-Xiong* and WEN Zhi-Ying†

ABSTRACT

In this note, we introduce the singular words of the Fibonacci infinite word and discuss their properties.Some applications are given also.

The combinatorial properties of the Fibonacci infinite word are of great interest in mathematics and physics, such as number theory, fractal geometry,formal language, computational complexity,quasicrystal etc. See [1,3,7,8,10]. Moreover, the properties of the subwords of the Fibonacci infinite word have been studied extensively by many authors [2,4,5,6,8,9]. In this note,we shall present some new properties of the subwords of the Fibonacci word: as we shall see, the most striking property of of these properties is that the adjacent singular words of the same order are positively separate.

This note will be organized as follows. After recalling some preliminary remarks on the Fibonacci word, we introduce the singular words and discuss their elementary properties. Then we establish two decompotions of the Fibonacci word in singular words (theorem 1,2) and their consequences. By using these results, we discuss the local isomophism of the Fibonacci word (theorem 4) and the overlap properties of the factors (theorem 6). Moreover we give also new proofs for the results on special words (theorem 5) and the power of the factors (theorem 3).

In this note, we use the following definitions and terminologies.

Let $A = \{a, b\}$ be an alphabet of two letters, and let A^* be the free monoid on A. The elements of A^* are called words. The neutral element of A^* called the empty word which we denote by ϵ. Let w be a word, we denote by $|w|$ the length of w, and we denote by $|w|_a$ (resp. $|w|_b$) the number of letters a (resp. b) appearing in w, we denote by $L(w)$ the vector $(|w|_a, |w|_b)$.

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*Department of Physics,Wuhan University,P.R .China

†Department of Mathematics, Wuhan University,P.R.China and Institute for Theoretical Physics , University of Nijmegen, Toernooiveld 6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands

An infinite word on A is a mapping $\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{N} \longrightarrow A$,and we write $\mathbf{x} = x_1x_2...x_n...$, where $x_i \in A$. The set of infinite words is denoted by A^ω.

A word v is a factor of a word w and we write $v \prec w$, if there exists $u, u' \in A^*$, such that $w = uvu'$. We say that v is a left (resp.right) factor of a word w and we note $v \lhd w$ (resp. $v \rhd w$), if there exist $u \in A^*$ such that $w = vu$ (resp. $w = uv$). The notions of factor, left factor are extended in a natural way to A^ω.

Let $w = x_1x_2...x_n$, we denote by $\overline{w}$ the mirror image of w, that is $\overline{w} = x_n...x_2x_1$. If $w = \overline{w}$, the word will be called a palindrome, the set of palindrome is denoted by $\mathcal{P}$. A word $w \in A^*$ is called primitive if $u = v^p, v \in A^*, p > 0$, implies $u = v$.

Let $w = x_1x_2...x_n \in A^*$, and let $1 \leq k \leq n$, we define $C_k(w) = x_{k+1}...x_nx_1...x_k$, the kth conjugation of the word w ,and we note $C(w) = \{C_k(w), 1 \leq k \leq |w|\}$. By convention, $C_{-k}(w) = C_{|w|-k}$.

Now let $\sigma : A \longrightarrow A^*$ be a morphism defined by $\sigma(a) = ab, \sigma(b) = a$, we define the nth iteration of σ by $\sigma^n = \sigma(\sigma^{n-1}), n \geq 2$. (By convention, we define $\sigma^0(a) = a, \sigma^0(b) = b$). Then the Fibonacci word F_∞ is obtained by iterating σ starting with the letter a (see [2]).

Let w be a word, we denote by $\Omega_n(w)$ the set of factors of w of the length n, where $|w| \geq n$, and we note simply $\Omega_n := \Omega_n(F_\infty)$.

Let $w = x_1x_2...x_n \in A^*$, we denote by w^{-1} the inverse word of w, that is $w^{-1} = x_n^{-1}...x_2^{-1}x_1^{-1}$. Let $w = uv$, then $wv^{-1} = u$ by convention.

One of the motivations of this note is as follows: we know that the Fibonacci word is related closely to the Fibonacci numbers (the Fibonacci number is defined by the recurrence formula $f_{n+2} = f_{n+1} + f_n$ with the initial condition $f_{-1} = f_0 = 1$). Consider the following decomposition of the Fibonacci word

$$\underline{a}\ \underline{b}\ \underline{aa}\ \underline{bab}\ \underline{aabaa}\ \underline{babaabab}\ \underline{aabaababaabaa}\ \underline{babaababaabaababaabab}...$$

That is, the length of the nth block in the decomposition is f_n, $n \geq -1$, then a question is posed naturally: what are these blocks? As we shall see, the theorem 1 will answer completely this question.

In this note, we shall use the following known facts which can be found in [2,4,7,8].

Property 1.

1). Let $F_n = \sigma^n(a)$, then $|\sigma^n(a)| = f_n$ and $|C(F_n)| = f_n$, where f_n is the nth Fibonacci number . That is, all conjugations of F_n are different each other ,in particular, for any $w \in C(F_n)$, we have

$$L(w) = L(F_n) = (f_{n-1}, f_{n-2})$$

moreover

$$C(F_n) = \{\overline{w}; w \in C(F_n)\};$$

2). $F_{n+1} = F_n F_{n-1}$;

3). For any $k \geq 1$, $\sigma^k(F_\infty) = F_\infty$, *that is*

$$F_\infty = F_k F_{k-1} F_k F_k F_{k-1} \cdots$$

4). For $n \geq 1$, $ab \triangleright F_{2n-1}, ba \triangleright F_{2n}$;

5). $b^2 \not\prec F_\infty, a^3 \not\prec F_\infty$;

6). Any factor of F_∞ *will appear infinitely many times in* F_∞.

7). $w \prec F_\infty$ if and only if $\overline{w} \prec F_\infty$.

Remark 1. In this note, we shall only use property 1 and not the other known results of the Fibonacci word. In particular, we shall prove again theorems 3 and 5 by using singular words.

Notice that by property 1.4, if $\alpha\beta \triangleright F_n$, then $\alpha \neq \beta$.

Lemma 1. *Let* $n \geq 2$, *and let* $\alpha\beta \triangleright F_n$, *then*

$$F_n = F_{n-2} F_{n-1} \alpha^{-1} \beta^{-1} \alpha\beta,$$

$$F_{n-2} F_{n-1} = F_n \beta^{-1} \alpha^{-1} \beta\alpha.$$

Proof. Notice that $\alpha\beta \triangleright F_n$, so $\beta\alpha \triangleright F_{n-1}$ by property 1.4. It is readily to check the case of $n = 2$ directly, suppose that the lemma is true for n, then by the hypothesis of the induction, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_{n+1} &= F_n F_{n-1} = F_{n-1} F_{n-2} F_{n-1} = F_{n-1} F_n \alpha^{-1} \beta^{-1} \alpha\beta \\ F_{n-1} F_n &= F_{n-1} F_{n-2} F_{n-1} \beta^{-1} \alpha^{-1} \beta\alpha = F_{n+1} \beta^{-1} \alpha^{-1} \beta\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Now Let $|w| = f_n$, then by property 1.3, w will be a factor of the following words: $F_n F_n, F_n F_{n-1} F_n, F_n F_{n-1}, F_{n-1} F_n$. If $w = u F_{n-1} v$ with $u \triangleright F_n$, $v \triangleleft F_n$ and $|v| \leq f_{n-2}$, then $w \prec F_n F_{n-1} F_{n-2} = F_n F_n$. On the other hand, evidently, $F_n F_{n-1} \prec F_n F_n$, thus the four cases above will be reduced to the cases $F_n F_n$ and $F_{n-1} F_n$.

On the other hand, by the property1.1, $\Omega_{f_n}(F_n F_n) = C(F_n)$. So, it is sufficient to determine the factors of $F_{n-1} F_n$.

Lemma 2. *Let* $\alpha\beta \triangleright F_n$ *and let* $w_n = \alpha F_n \beta^{-1}$, *then*

1). $w_n \notin C(F_n)$;

2). $\Omega_{f_n}(F_{n-1} F_n) = w_n \cup \{C_k(F_n); 0 \leq k \leq f_{n-1} - 2\}$, *in particular, as a factor,* w_n *appears only once in* $F_{n-1} F_n$.

Proof. 1). Since $\alpha \neq \beta$, $L(w_n) \neq L(F_n)$, which yields 1);

2). By lemma 1: if $\alpha\beta \rhd F_n$, then we have $F_{n-1}F_n = F_nF_{n-1}\alpha^{-1}\beta^{-1}\alpha\beta$. Since $F_{n-1} \lhd F_n$, the first f_{n-1} factors of length f_n of the word $F_{n-1}F_n$ are exactly $C_k(F_n), 1 \leq k \leq f_{n-1} - 2$, and the last factor is $F_n = C_{f_n}(F_n)$, the $(f_{n-1} + 1)$ th factor is $\alpha F_n \beta^{-1} = w_n$.

As we have seen, for any $n \geq 1$, the set Ω_{f_n} consists of the two parts: the first part consists exactly of all conjugations of F_n, the other is w_n, as we shall see, w_n posseses some interesting properties which play an important role in the studies of the factors of F_∞.

The word w_n is called the nth singular word of the Fibonacci word F_∞. For convenience, we define $w_{-2} = \epsilon, w_{-1} = a, w_0 = b$, and we denote by $\mathcal{S}$ the set of singular words of F_∞.

Now we discuss the properties of the singular words:

Property 2. *1). If $n \geq 1$, then*

$$L(w_n) = \begin{cases} (f_{n-1} + 1, f_{n-2} - 1) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ (f_{n-1} - 1, f_{n-2} + 1) & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases};$$

2). $w_n \nprec w_{n+1}$;

3). if $\alpha \rhd w_{n+1}$, then $w_{n+2} = w_n w_{n+1}\alpha^{-1}\beta$;

4). For $n \geq 1$,

$$C_{f_{n-1}-1}(F_n) = w_{n-2}w_{n-1}; C_{f_n-1}(F_n) = w_{n-1}w_{n-2}.$$

In particular, $w_{n-2} \prec C_k(F_n)$, if and only if $0 \leq k \leq f_{n-1} - 1$; $w_{n-1} \prec C_k(F_n)$, if and only if $f_{n-1} - 1 \leq k \leq f_n - 1$.

5). $w_n = w_{n-2}w_{n-3}w_{n-2}$, $n \geq 1$;

6). $w_n \in \mathcal{P}$, $n \geq -1$;

7). $aa \rhd w_{2n-1}, aa \lhd w_{2n-1}, b \rhd w_{2n}, b \lhd w_{2n}$; $n \geq 1$;

8). $C_k(w_n) \nprec F_\infty, n \geq 2, 1 < k < f_n$;

9). $w_n^2 \nprec F_\infty, n \geq 0$;

10). w_n can not be the product of two palindromes for $n \geq 2$;

11). if $n \geq 2$, then w_n is primetive;

12). for any $n \geq 1$, we have

$$w_n = w_n^*(\prod_{j=-1}^{n-2} w_j) = (\prod_{j=-1}^{n-2} w_{n-j-3})w_n^*$$

where $w_n^* = a$, if n is odd; and b if n is even.

13). $w_n \nprec (\prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j)$;

14). Let $k \geq -1$ and $p \geq 1$, let $u = \prod_{j=k}^{k+p} w_j$, then $u \notin \mathcal{S}$.

Proof. 1).If n is odd, then $a \rhd F_{n-1}$, $b \rhd F_n$, thus

$$L(w_n) = L(aF_nb^{-1}) = (f_{n-1}+1, f_{n-2}-1),$$

the case of n being even can be proved in the same way.

2). Let $\alpha \triangleright F_n$, then $\beta \triangleright F_{n+1}$, By the definition of w_n, it is easily to see that $w_n \not\prec F_{n+1}$, so $w_n \not\prec F_{n+1}\beta^{-1}$, on the other hand $w_n = \beta F_n\alpha^{-1} \neq \alpha F_n\beta^{-1}$.Since $w_{n+1} = \alpha F_{n+1}\alpha^{-1}$, thus $w_n \not\prec w_{n+1}$.

3). By definition , $w_{n+2} = \beta F_{n+2}\alpha^{-1}$. Then by lemma 1, we have $w_{n+2} = \beta F_nF_{n+1}\beta^{-1}\alpha^{-1}\beta = w_nw_{n+1}\alpha^{-1}\beta$.

4). Let $\alpha \triangleright F_n$, then $F_n = F_{n-1}F_{n-2} = (F_{n-1}\alpha^{-1})(\alpha F_{n-2}\beta^{-1})\beta$, so, the results follow from the definitions of singular word and conjugation of word.

5). Let $\alpha \triangleright F_n$, then $\alpha \triangleright F_{n-2}$ and $\beta \triangleright F_{n+1}$, $\beta \triangleright F_{n-1}$. thus

$$\begin{aligned} w_{n+1} &= \alpha F_{n+1}\beta^{-1} = \alpha F_{n-1}F_{n-2}F_{n-1}\beta^{-1} \\ &= (\alpha F_{n-1}\beta^{-1})(\beta F_{n-2}\alpha^{-1})(\alpha F_{n-1}\beta^{-1}) = w_{n-1}w_{n-2}w_{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha \triangleright F_n$, thus $\alpha \triangleright F_{n-2}$ and $\beta \triangleright F_{n+1}$, $\beta \triangleright F_{n-1}$.

6). We prove by induction. It is checked directly that the conclusion is true for $n \leq 2$. Now suppose that the conclution is true for $k \leq n$, then by 5), $\overline{w_{n+1}} = \overline{w_{n-1}w_{n-2}w_{n-1}} = \overline{w_{n-1}}\,\overline{w_{n-2}}\,\overline{w_{n-1}} = w_{n-1}w_{n-2}w_{n-1} = w_{n+1}$, that is, $w_{n+1} \in \mathcal{P}$.

7). This follows immediately from the definition of w_n and 6).

8) and 9) are followed from properties 1.5 and 2.6.

10). Let $w_n = uv$, where $u, v \in \mathcal{P}$. Since w_n is a palindrome, so $w_n = \overline{w_n} = \overline{uv} = uv = vu$. Therefore the $|u|$th conjugation of w_n will be a factor of F_∞. Then by 7), if $n \geq 2$, we have $a^4 \prec F_\infty$, or $b^2 \prec F_\infty$, which will contradict property 1.5.

11). Let $w_n = u^p$, with $u \in A^*$, and $p \geq 2$. Since $w_n \in \mathcal{P}$, so does u and u^{p-1}, hence $w_n = u^p = uu^{p-1}$ will be a product of two palindromes, but by 10), that is impossible.

12). It is easily to verify that $F_n = abF_0F_1...F_{n-3}F_{n-2}$.

If n is odd, then $b \triangleright F_n$, therefore

$$\begin{aligned} w_n &= aF_nb^{-1} = aab(aF_1b^{-1})(bF_2a^{-1})...(bF_{n-3}a^{-1})(aF_{n-2}b^{-1}) \\ &= aw_{-1}w_0w_1...w_{n-3}w_{n-2}. \end{aligned}$$

the case of n being even may be proved by the same manner.

13). If $w_n \prec \prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j$, then by 12), $w_n \prec w_n^{*}(\prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j) = w_{n+1}$, that will be in contradiction with 2).

14). Assume that $u = \prod_{j=k}^{k+p} w_j = w_m$ for some $m \geq 0$. Since w_{k+p} is a factor, $m > k+p$. On the other hand, by 12), $w_m \prec w_{k+p}^{*}(\prod_{j=-1}^{k+p} w_j) = w_{k+p+2}$, so $m = k+p+1$. By 13), this is impossible.

By an analogous argument with the property 2.12. we obtain the following result which answers the question posed in the introduction.

Theorem 1. $F_\infty = \prod_{j=-1}^{\infty} w_j$.

Proof . The proof is similar that of the property 2.12.

Now we are going to introduce another decomposion of F_∞ which will show the positively separate property of the singular words. For this aim, we establish firstly some lemmas.

Lemma 3. *Let* $w_n w_{n+1} = u_1 u_2 u_3$, *(or* $w_{n+1} w_n = u_1 u_2 u_3$*) with* $0 < |u_1| < f_n$ *and* $0 < |u_3| < f_{n+1}$, *then* $u_2 \notin \mathcal{S}$.

Proof. 1). By condition of the lemma, $2 \leq |u_2| \leq f_{n+2} - 2$, so $u_2 \neq w_{n+2}$;
2). Let $\alpha \triangleright F_n$, then $w_n w_{n+1} = \beta F_n F_{n+1} \beta^{-1}$. By lemma 2, $w_{n+1} = \alpha F_{n+1} \beta^{-1}$ appears only once in $F_n F_{n+1}$. Notice that $|u_3| \geq 1$, we get $u_2 \neq w_{n+1}$.
3). Let $|u_2| = f_n$. Since $|u_1| \leq f_n$ and $F_{n+1} = F_n F_{n-1}$, $u_2 \prec F_n F_n$. But by lemma 2, $w_n \not\prec F_n F_n$, thus $u_2 \neq w_n$.
4). Let $|u_2| = f_{n-1}$, since $w_n w_{n+1} = w_n w_{n-1} w_{n-2} w_{n-1}$, then we must have

$$u_2 \prec \alpha F_n F_{n-1} \alpha^{-1}.$$

By using lemma 2 , a discussion as in 2) yields $u_2 \neq w_{n-1}$.
The other cases will be reduced one of the four cases above, so by repeating this argument, we prove that, for any $k \geq 1$, $u_2 \neq w_k$, that is, $u_2 \notin \mathcal{S}$.

Now let $n \geq 0$ be fixed, we define a new alphabet $\Sigma_n = \{w_{n+1}, w_{n-1}\}$, and we note $W_k(\Sigma_n)$ (if no confusion happens, we write simply W_k) the kth singular word over Σ_n.

Lemma 4. *Let* $n \geq 0$ *and* $k \geq 1$, *then we have* $w_{n+2k} = w_n x_1 w_n x_2 \ldots w_n x_{f_{2k-2}} w_n$, $w_{2k+1} = y_1 w_n y_2 w_n \ldots y_{f_{2k-1}-1} w_n y_{f_{2k-1}}$, *where* $x_j, y_j \in \Sigma_n$, *moreover,* $x_1 x_2 \ldots x_{f_{2k-2}} = W_{2k-2}$ *and* $y_1 y_2 \ldots y_{f_{2k-1}} = W_{2k-1}$ *are the* $(2k-2)$*th and* $(2k-1)$*th singular words over* Σ_n.

Proof. For any fixed n,we prove the lemma by induction. We have by property 2.5,

$$\begin{aligned}
w_{n+2} &= w_n w_{n-1} w_n \\
w_{n+3} &= w_{n+1} w_n w_{n+1} \\
w_{n+4} &= w_n w_{n-1} w_n w_{n+1} w_n w_{n-1} w_n \\
w_{n+5} &= w_{n+1} w_n w_{n+1} w_n w_{n-1} w_n w_{n+1} w_n w_{n+1},
\end{aligned}$$

hence the conclusion is true for $k = 1, 2$. Now suppose that the conclusion is true for $k - 1$ and k, then

$$\begin{aligned}
w_{n+2(k+1)} &= w_{n+2k} w_{n+2k-1} w_{n+2k} \\
&= w_n x_1 \ldots w_n x_{f_{2k-2}} w_n y_1 w_n \ldots w_n y_{f_{2k-3}} w_n x_1 \ldots w_n x_{f_{2k-2}},
\end{aligned}$$

since $x_1x_2...x_{f_{2k-2}}$ and $y_1y_2...y_{f_{2k-3}}$ are respectively the $(2k-2)th$ and $(2k-3)th$ singular words W_{2k-2} and W_{2k-3} on Σ_n by the assumption of the induction. So by property 2.5,

$$x_1x_2...x_{f_{2k-2}}y_1y_2...y_{f_{2k-3}}x_1x_2...x_{f_{2k-2}} = W_{2k-2}W_{2k-3}W_{2k-2} = W_{2k},$$

is the $(2k)th$ singular word. The same discussion gives the proof for w_{n+2k+3}.

From lemmas 3 and 4, we get immediately

Corollary 1. *Let $m \geq n+2$, then there are exactly $m-n-2$ factors w_n appearing in w_m which are separated by w_{n-1} and w_{n+1} as in lemma 4.*

Let n be fixed, then by property 1.6, the word w_n will appear in F_∞ infinitely many times. We arrange these words as a sequence $w_{n,k}$, $1 \leq k < \infty$ according to the order of the appearence of w_n. We call $w_{n,k}$ the kth singular word of the order n.

Lemma 5. *Let $F_\infty = \prod_{j=-1}^{\infty} w_j$ be the decomposition as in theorem 1. Let u be any singular word of the order n (that is, $u = w_{n,k}$ for some k), then u must be contained completely in some w_m, where $m \geq n$.*

Proof. 1). From Property 2.13, $w_n \not\prec \prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j$;

2). If $u \prec (\prod_{j=-1}^{n} w_j)$, then by property 2.12, $u \prec (w_{n-1}^{*} \prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j)w_n = w_{n+1}w_n$, so by lemma 3, u must be w_n.

From 1) and 2), we only need to consider $u \prec \prod_{j=n}^{\infty}$.Since $|u| = |w_n|$, there exists m, $m \geq n$, such that, either $u \prec w_m$, or $u \prec w_m w_{m+1}$ with $u \not\prec w_n$ and $u \not\prec w_{n+1}$). But by lemma 3, the later case is impossible.

We thus finish the proof from the discussions above.

Now we can state our main result of this note.

Theeorem 2. *For any $n \geq 0$, we have*

$$F_\infty = (\prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j)w_{n,1}z_1w_{n,2}z_2...w_{n,k}z_kw_{n,k+1}...$$

where $\mathbf{z} = z_1z_2...z_n...$ is the Fibonacci word over Σ_n.

Proof. From theorem 1 and lemma 4, we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
F_\infty &= \Big(\prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j\Big) w_n w_{n+1} \Big(\prod_{j=n+2}^{\infty} w_j\Big) \\
&= \Big(\prod_{j=-1}^{n-1} w_j\Big) w_n w_{n+1} (w_n w_{n-1} w_n)(w_{n+1} w_n w_{n+1}) \ldots \\
&\quad (w_n x_1 w_n \ldots x_{f_{2k-2}} w_n)(y_1 w_n y_2 \ldots w_n y_{f_{2k-1}}) \ldots
\end{aligned}
$$

Notice that 1). by lemma 4, lemma 5 and corollary 1, all factors w_n of F_∞ (or the sequence $w_{n,k}, k \geq 1$) appear in the formula above;

2). by lemma 4, $x_1 \ldots x_{f_{2k-2}} = W_{2k-2}, y_1 \ldots y_{f_{2k-1}} = W_{2k-1}$. thus $\prod_{j=1}^{\infty} z_j = \prod_{j=-1}^{\infty} W_j$ is the Fibonacci word on Σ_n.

1) and 2) follow the theorem.

The following example illustrates the decomposion of S_∞ of the words w_1, w_2 and w_3:

$$abaa(bab)\underline{aabaa}(bab)\underline{aa}(bab)\underline{aabaa}(bab)\underline{aabaa}(bab)\underline{aa}(bab)\underline{aabaa}(bab)\underline{aa}(bab)\underline{aabaa}\ldots$$

Let $\mathbf{y} = y_1 y_2 \ldots y_n \ldots$ be an infinite word over $\{a, b\}$. Let $u, v \prec \mathbf{y}$, $u = y_k y_{k+1} \ldots y_{k+p}$ and $v = y_l y_{l+1} y_{l+m}$, where $l \geq k$, then the distance of the words u and v defined by

$$d(u, v) = \begin{cases} l - k - p & \text{if } l > k - p \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If $d(u, v) > 0$, we say that the words u and v are positively separate.

The theorem 2 has the following directe consequences:

Corollary 2. *The adjacent singular words of the same order are positively separate. More precisely, for any n and k, we have*

$$d(w_{n,k}, w_{n,k+1}) \in \{f_{n+1}, f_{n-1}\}.$$

Moreover, one of $d(w_{n,k}, w_{n,k+1})$ and $d(w_{n,k+1}, w_{n,k+2})$ is f_{n+1}.

Corollary 3. *The left and the right adjacent word of the length f_{n-2k} of the singular word w_{n+1} are exactly w_{n-2k}.*

Let $w = x_k x_{k+1} \ldots x_{k+p}$ be a factor of F_∞, $k, p \geq 1$. If there is an integer l, $1 \leq l \leq p$, such thar $w = x_{k+l} x_{k+l+1} \ldots x_{k+l+p}$, then we say that w has overlap with $p-l$ as length of overlap. The above definition is equivalent to the following assertion: Let $u \prec F_\infty$, if there exist words x, y and z such that $u = xy = yz$ and $\hat{u}(y) := uz = xyz \prec F_\infty$. From corollary 2, we obtain immediately

Corollary 4. *For $n \geq 1$, w_n has no overlap.*

Corollary 5. *Let $u \prec F_\infty$ and let $f_n < |u| \leq f_{n+1}$, let w be one of the largest singular words contained in u (in the sence of order), then w appears only once in u, moreover, w must be one of the three following singular words: w_{n-1}, w_n and w_{n+1}.*

Proof. Suppose that the conclusion is not true. Then there will be another singular word of the same order contained in u which is adjacent to w and we denote by w'. Thus there is a word v, such that $wvw' \prec u$, (or $w'vw \prec u$.) By theorem 2, either v, or wvw', will be a singular word which has higher order than w, this is in contradiction with the hypothesis of w.
The second conclusion of the corollary follows from directly the property 2.4.

As applications of singular word, in particular,the positively separate property of the singular words, we are going to illustrate some examples in the following. Although some results are known (example 1 and example 3), but the proofs are new, moreover, these proofs show that the singular words play an important role in the studies of the factor of the Fibonacci word.

Example 1. Power of the factors. [2,5,6,8].

Theorem 3. *1). For any n, $w_n^2 \not\prec F_\infty$;*
2). for $0 \leq k \leq f_n - 1$, $(C_k(F_n))^2 \prec F_\infty$;
3). if $u \prec F_\infty$ with $f_{n-1} < |u| < f_n$, then $u^2 \not\prec F_\infty$;
4). if $0 \leq k \leq f_{n-1} - 2$,then $(C_k(F_n))^3 \prec F_\infty$;
5). if $f_{n-1} - 2 < k < f_n$, then $(C_k(F_n))^3 \not\prec F_\infty$;
6). for any $u \prec F_\infty$, $u^4 \not\prec F_\infty$.

Proof. 1). It follows from the properties 1.5 and 2.7; $w_n^2 \not\prec F_\infty$;
2). Let $C_k(F_n) = uv$ with $F_n = vu$. Then $u \triangleright F_n$ and $v \triangleleft F_n$. Since $(C_k(F_n))^2 = uvuv = uF_nv \prec (F_n)^3$, the conclusion $(C_k(F_n))^2 \prec F_\infty$ will follow from $F_n^3 \prec F_\infty$.
3). Suppose that w_k be the largest singular word contained in u as in corollary 5, and let $u = v_1 w_k v_2$. Assume that $u^2 = v_1 w_k v_2 v_1 w_k v_2 \prec F_\infty$, then $w_k \not\prec v_2 v_1$, otherwise by theorem 2 we shall have either $w_{k+1} \prec v_1$, or $w_{k+1} \prec v_2$, that will be in contradiction with the hypothesis of w_k. Thus two singular words of the order k above are adjacent, so by theorem 2 again, $v_2 v_1$ must be either w_{k+1}, or w_{k-1}. By property 2.4, u will be either a conjugation of

F_{k+2}, or of F_{k+1}. But these two cases are impossible because of the hypothesis of u.

4). Since $aaba \prec f_\infty$, so does $F_n F_n F_{n-1} F_n$.Let $\alpha\beta \triangleright F_{n-1}$, then by lemma 1, we have

$$F_n^2 F_{n-1} F_n = F_n^2 F_{n-1} F_{n-2} F_{n-1} \alpha^{-1}\beta^{-1}\alpha\beta = F_n^3 F_{n-1}\alpha^{-1}\beta^{-1}\alpha\beta \prec F_\infty,$$

notice that $F_{n-1} \triangleleft F_n$, hence if $0 \leq k \leq f_{n-1}-2$,then $(C_k(F_n))^3 \prec F_n^3 F_{n-1}\alpha^{-1}\beta^{-1} \prec F_\infty$.

5). Now suppose that $f_{n-1} - 1 < k < f_n$, then by property 2.4, $w_{n-1} \prec C_k(F_n)$. Let $C_k(F_n) = uw_{n-1}v$, then $vu = w_{n-2}$, thus

$$(C_k F_n)^3 = uw_{n-1}w_{n-2}w_{n-1}w_{n-2}w_{n-1}v,$$

Hence If $(C_k(F_n))^3 \prec F_\infty$, then the word $w_{n-1}w_{n-2}w_{n-1} = w_{n+1}$ will have overlap, but by corollary 5, this is impossible.

6). The conclusion follows from an analogous argument with 5).

Remark 2. From theorem 3.2, we see that, any conjugation of F_n, $n \geq 0$, is not separated positively. This is an important difference between the conjugations of F_n and w_n.

Example 2. Local isomorphism.

Let $u = u_1u_2...u_n...$ and $v = v_1v_2...v_n...$ be two infinite words over the alphabet {a,b}. We say that u and v are locally isomorphic if any factor (or its mirror image) of u is also factor of v and vice versa. (By the property 1.7, for the Fibonacci word, we don't need to consider mirror images of the factors). If u and v are locally isomophic, we shall write $u \simeq v$. The notion of local isomorphism is very useful in the studies of the energy spectra of one-dimensional quasicrystals [11].

By using the properties of the singular words of the Fibonacci word, we can easily obtained the following results of the local isomorphim of the Fibonacci word.

Theorem 4. *1). If we change a finite number of letters of F_∞, then the obtained infinite word F'_∞ is not locally isomorphic to F_∞.*

2). Let $u \in A^*$, then $F_\infty \simeq uF_\infty \Longleftrightarrow \exists m > -1$, such that $u \triangleright w_m w_m^*$, where w_m^* is defined as in property 2.12.

3). For any $k \geq 1$, define $T^k(F_\infty) = x_{k+1}x_{k+2}...$, then $T^k(F_\infty \simeq F_\infty)$.

Proof. 1). Let $F_\infty = (\prod_{j=-1}^{\infty} w_j)$ as in theorem, because we only change a finite number of letters of F_∞, we can find an integer m and words $u, v \in A^*$, such that

$$F'_\infty = uv(\prod_{j=m}^{\infty} w_j)$$

where $|v| = f_{m-1}$, $v \neq w_{m-1}$.Therefore by corollary 3, $vw_m \not\prec F_\infty$, that is $F_\infty \not\simeq F'_\infty$.

2). From theorem 1 and property 2.12, for any $k > 0$ and $m \geq 0$

$$w_{2m}aF_\infty = w_{2m}a(\prod_{j=-1}^{2m+2k-1} w_j)(\prod_{j=2m+2k}^{\infty} w_j) = w_{2m}w_{2m+2k+1}(\prod_{j=2m+2k}^{\infty} w_j),$$

then, by corollary 3, $w_{2m}w_{2m+2k+1} \prec F_\infty$, that is, for any $v \prec w_{2m}aF_\infty$, we can find an integer k, such that $v \prec w_{2m}w_{2m+2k+1}$, so $v \prec F_\infty$. The case of $w_{2m+1}b$ can be proved in the same way. That is, if $u \triangleright w_m w^*_m$ for some m, then $F_\infty \simeq uF_\infty$. If u is not a right factor of any $w_m w^*_m$, then by the discussions similar that of 1), we see that $uF_\infty \not\simeq F_\infty$.

3). The proof follows from the property 1.6.

Example 3. Study of special words of F_∞.

Berstel [2] introduced the special words of F_∞ as follows : if $ua, ub \prec F_\infty$, then the word u is called a speccial word of F_∞. The following theorem is due to Berstel [2] which we shall give another proof by using singular word.

Theorem 5 *A word $w \prec F_\infty$ is a special word if and only if, for some $n \geq 0$, $w \triangleright \overline{F}_n$.*

Proof. It is easily checked that, for any $n \geq 0$, $\overline{F}_n$ is a special word, therefore the theorem is reduced to show that, for any $n \geq 0$, $|\Omega_n| = n + 1$.

Now let $u \prec F_\infty$ and let $f_k < |u| \leq f_{k+1}$. By an analogous argument with that for lemma, it is readily to see that the word u must be one of the three following forms: $u = sw_nt$, $|st| \leq f_{n-1}$; $u = sF_nt$, $s, t \neq \epsilon$, $|st| \leq f_{n-1}$; $s \triangleright F_n, t \triangleleft F_n$; $u = st$, $s \triangleright F_n, t \triangleleft F_n$.

In the first case, by corollary 3, the factors $s \triangleright w_{n-1}$ (resp. t) are determined uniquely. Moreover, since w_n has no overlap, if $s \neq s'$, then $sw_nt \neq s'w_nt'$. Hence there are exactly $|u| - f_k + 1$ different words sw_nt which correspond with $|s| = 0, 1, ..., n - f_k$.

In the two later cases, from property 1.1, it is readily to prove that there are exactly f_k different factors of length $|u|$ of $(F_k)^3$.

Summarize the discussions above, we get $|\Omega_{|u|}| = f_k + (|u| - f_k + 1) = |u| + 1$.

Example 4. Overlap of the subwords of the Fibonacci word.

In this example, we shall determine the factors which have overlap.

Recall that: Let $u \prec F_\infty$, if there exist words x, y and z such that $u = xy = yz$ and $\hat{u}(y) := uz = xyz \prec F_\infty$. Then we shall say that the word u has overlap with the overlap factor y(or overlap length $|y|$), the word $\hat{u}(y)$ is called the overlap of u with the overlap factor y. We denote by $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{F}_\infty) = \mathcal{O}$ the set of factors having overlap.

Evidently, if $u \in \mathcal{O}$, we have

$$|u| + 1 \leq |\hat{u}(y)| \leq 2|u| - 1 \qquad (*)$$

where y is any overlap factor of u.

Lemma 6. *Let $f_n < |u| \leq f_{n+1}$, and let $u \neq w_{n+1}$, then $u \in \mathcal{O}$ if and only if $w_n \not\prec u$.*

Proof. Let $w_n \prec u$ and write $u = sw_nt$. If $u \in \mathcal{O}$, notice that $w_n \notin \mathcal{O}$, thus overlap of u must be of the form sw_nvw_nt. By corollary 4,

$$|sw_nvw_nt| \geq |s| + |t| + 2f_n + f_{n-1} = |u| + f_{n+1} \geq 2|u|,$$

which is in contradiction with the inequality $(*)$.

Now suppose that $w_n \not\prec u$, then discuss as in theorem 5, we have either $u = sF_nt$, where $s, t \neq \epsilon$, $|s| + |t| \leq f_{n-1}, s \rhd F_n, t \lhd F_n$; or $u \prec (F_n)^2$.

In the first case, if $|t| = f_n - 1$, then $u = w_{n+1} \notin \mathcal{O}$. Now consider $|t| < f_n - 1$. Since $|s| + |t| \leq f_{n-1}, s \rhd F_n, t \lhd F_n$, we can write $F_n = txs$. Since $|t| < f_n - 1$, by theorem 3.4, $(C_{|t|}(F_n))^3 = (xst)^3 = xstxstxst \prec F_\infty$, that is, $u = sF_nt = stxst$ has overlap with overlap factor st.

In the second case, notice that $u \prec (F_n)^2$ and $|u| > f_n$, so if we write $u = st$, with $|t| = f_n$, then $t = C_k(F_n)$ for some k, and $s \rhd t$, thus $u = sxs$. On the other hand,since $u = sC_k(F_n) \prec (F_n)^2$, so $sxsxs = s(C_k(F_n))^2 \prec (F_n)^3 \prec F_\infty$, that is $u = sxs$ has overlap with overlap factor s.

Lemma 7. *If $u \in \mathcal{O}$, then the overlap of u is unique.*

Proof. Let $f_n < |u| \leq f_{n+1}$, and let w be the largest singular word contained in u. By corollary 6, w is one of w_{n-1}, w_n and w_{n+1}. Since $u \in \mathcal{O}$, w must be w_{n-1} from lemma 6 , so we can write $u = sw_{n-1}t$. Now suppose that there two different overlaps of u, then w_{n-1} will appear three times in one of these two overlap. Since $w_{n-1} \notin \mathcal{O}$, this overlap must be of the form $sw_{n-1}v_1w_{n-1}v_2w_{n-1}t$, then by an analogous argument with lemma 6, we shall get a contradiction of $(*)$.

From lemma 7 and the proof of the lemma 6, we obtain immedialtely

Corollary 6.

Let $f_n < |u| \leq f_{n+1}$, and let $u \in \mathcal{O}$, then $u = vv'v$, where $|v|$ is the overlap length.

Sumarize the results above, we have

Theorem 6. *Let $f_n < |u| \leq f_{n+1}$ and let $u \neq w_{n+1}, u \prec F_\infty$, then $u \in \mathcal{O}$ if and only if $w_n \not\prec u$. If $u \in \mathcal{O}$, then the overlap of u is unique and $u = vv'v$, where v is the factor of overlap and $|v| = |u| - f_n$.*
In particular, $C_k(F_{n+1}) \in \wr$ if and only if $0 \leq k \leq f_n - 2$.

Notice that: 1), $f_{n+1} < 2f_n < f_{n+2}, f_{n+2} < 3f_n < f_{n+3}$; 2), for any k, $w_{n+1} \not\prec (C_k(F_n))^2$; 3), fny k, $w_{n+2} \not\prec (C_k(F_n))^3$. We get immediately from theorem 6

Corollary 7. *For any k, $(C_k(F_n))^2 \in \mathcal{O}$, $(C_k(F_n))^3 \in \mathcal{O}$.*

Remark 3. If $w^2 \not\prec F_\infty$ and w has no overlap, then the adjaent words of w will be positively separate. Moreover we can prove that for these words, there is a decomposition similar to the singular words.

Let $w = abab$, by theorem 3.3 and theorem 6, $w^2 \prec F_\infty$ and $w \notin \mathcal{O}$, so w is separated positively. The following decomposion illustrats the remark above:

$$aba(abab)\underline{aaba}(abab)\underline{a}(abab)\underline{aaba}(abab)\underline{aaba}(abab)\underline{a}(abab)\underline{aaba}(abab)\underline{a}(abab)\ldots$$

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