HAL
open science

Waiting time distributions for pattern occurrence in a constrained sequence

Valeri T. Stefanov, Wojciech Szpankowski

To cite this version:

Valeri T. Stefanov, Wojciech Szpankowski. Waiting time distributions for pattern occurrence in a constrained sequence. Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science, 2007, Vol. 9 no. 1 (1), pp.305–320. 10.46298/dmtcs.382 . hal-00966498

HAL Id: hal-00966498

https://inria.hal.science/hal-00966498v1

Submitted on 26 Mar 2014

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science DMTCS vol. **9:1**, 2007, 305–320

Waiting Time Distributions for Pattern Occurrence in a Constrained Sequence

Valeri T. Stefanov[1] and Wojciech Szpankowski[2†]

[1] *School of Mathematics and Statistics, The University of Western Australia, Crawley (Perth) 6009, Australia.*
[2] *Department of Computer Science, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907, U.S.A.*
[1] `stefanov@maths.uwa.edu.au`
[2] `spa@cs.purdue.edu`

received 15th February 2007, revised 30nd October 2007, accepted 5th November 2007.

A binary sequence of zeros and ones is called a (d, k)-sequence if it does not contain runs of zeros of length either less than d or greater than k, where d and k are arbitrary, but fixed, non-negative integers and $d < k$. Such sequences find an abundance of applications in communications, in particular for magnetic and optical recording. Occasionally, one requires that (d, k)-sequences do not contain a specific pattern w. Therefore, distribution results concerning pattern occurrence in (d, k)-sequences are of interest. In this paper we study the distribution of the waiting time until the r-th occurrence of a pattern w in a random (d, k)-sequence generated by a Markov source. Numerical examples are also provided.

Keywords: pattern; probability generating function; (d, k)-sequence

1 Introduction

In many communication systems, including magnetic and optical recording ones, one must restrict the structure of a bit stream (binary sequence) to a class of sequences satisfying certain constraints. The simplest constrained binary sequences are those in which runs of zeros (between two consecutive 1's) must have length at least d and at most k, where $d < k$. Such sequences are called (d, k)-sequences (cf. [18, 19, 32]). For example, in $(1, 4)$-sequence 11 and 00000 are forbidden runs. In some situations, as observed in [20], one needs to avoid certain *patterns* in (d, k)-sequences. In this paper, for a *given* pattern (word) w ($w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_m$) we study the exact distribution of the waiting time until the $r-$th occurrence of the pattern w in a random (d, k)-sequence generated by a Markov source.

Pattern matching is a well studied problem. It is motivated by applications in communication theory as well as computational biology where one looks for over-represented or under-represented patterns in order to find useful signals. In general, for a given set of patterns $\mathcal{W} = \{W_1, \dots, W_K\}$, where the W_i are words of the same length, one searches for all $\mathcal{W}$ occurrences in a *text* of length n. (In this

†The work of this author was supported in part by the NSF Grants CCR-0208709, CCF-0513636, DMS-0503742, and NIH Grant R01 GM068959-01.

1365–8050 © 2007 Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science (DMTCS), Nancy, France

paper we only consider a single pattern of length m that we denote by w.) In computer science literature several fast algorithms (e.g., Knuth-Morris-Pratt and Boyer-Moore algorithms) were designed to search for such patterns. Here, we are rather interested in the distribution theory associated with the number of $\mathcal{W}$ occurrences in a probabilistic framework where the (constrained) text is generated randomly (a Markov source in our case).

The pattern matching problem (in a probabilistic framework) goes back, at least, to Feller. The number of word occurrences in a random text has been intensively studied over the last two decades, with significant progress in this area being reported [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31]. For instance, Guibas and Odlyzko [14] revealed the fundamental role played by autocorrelation sets and their associated polynomials. Li [15] and Gerber and Li [13] introduced martingale techniques to the area and combined the latter with a relevant Markov chain embedding. Markov chain embeddings have been widely used by a number of authors (see [6, 10, 11] and the references in [2, 12]). Blom and Thorburn [5] made connections with Markov renewal theory and Biggins and Cannings [4] elaborated on these. Stefanov and Pakes [29] introduced exponential family methodology to the area and Stefanov [27] extended it in combination with suitable Markov renewal embeddings. Régnier and Szpankowski [22, 23] established that the number of occurrences of a word is asymptotically normal under a diversity of models that include Markov chains. Nicodème, Salvy, and Flajolet [21] showed generally that the number of places in a random text at which a 'motif' (i.e., a general regular expression pattern) terminates is asymptotically normally distributed. Bender and Kochman [3] studied a generalized pattern $\mathcal{W}$ occurrences using (in nutshell) the deBruijn graph representation that allowed the authors to establish the central limit theorem, but without explicit mean and variance. Recent surveys on pattern matching can be found in Lothaire [18] (Chaps. 6 and 7). To the best of our knowledge, the distribution theory associated with pattern occurrence in a constrained sequence, such as a (d, k)-sequence, has not been treated in the literature.

A brief description of our problem and methodology follows. Let N_n be the number of w ($w = w_1 \dots w_m$) occurrences in a binary sequence, of length n, generated by a two-state Markov chain X. Throughout the paper such sequences will be called *unconstrained sequences* whereas (d, k)-sequences will be called *constrained sequences*. By Y_r we define the waiting time until the r-th occurrence of the pattern w in an unconstrained sequence. Bearing in mind that the initial symbol at time zero counts to the sequence length we have

$$P(N_n \geq r) = P(Y_r \leq n - 1) \tag{1}$$

for all $r, n \geq 1$. This basic renewal equation is the starting point of two different approaches to the analysis of pattern occurrences, on finite alphabets, in unconstrained sequences as surveyed in Chaps. 6 and 7 of [18]. For example, [3, 14, 21, 22, 23] analyze N_n, whereas the authors of [24, 28, 31] study the waiting time Y_r, for unconstrained sequences. In the case of constrained sequences we may be interested in either the distribution of N_n given the sequence is constrained up to time n, or the distribution of Y_r given the sequence is constrained up to time Y_r. In other words, denoting by $\bar{N}_n^{(d,k)}$ the number of runs of zero of length either *less* than d or *greater* than k in an unconstrained sequence of length n, the probabilities of interests are $P(N_n \geq r | \bar{N}_n^{(d,k)} = 0)$ $(= P(Y_r \leq n - 1 | \bar{N}_n^{(d,k)} = 0))$ and $P(Y_r \leq n - 1 | \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)} = 0)$ $(= P(N_n \geq r | \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)} = 0))$. Clearly $P(N_n \geq r | \bar{N}_n^{(d,k)} = 0)$ is not equal to $P(Y_r \leq n - 1 | \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)} = 0)$. Also the evaluation of each of these two conditional probabilities lead to two different problems. For the

latter probability we also have

$$P(Y_r \leq n-1|\bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)}=0) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} P(Y_r = i,\ \bar{N}_i^{(d,k)}=0)}{\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} P(Y_r = i,\ \bar{N}_i^{(d,k)}=0)}.$$

In the present paper we deal with $P(Y_r \leq n-1|\bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)}=0)$, whereas in a forthcoming paper we will treat $P(N_n \geq r|\bar{N}_n^{(d,k)}=0)$. Of course, the latter probability is of relevance in situations when the constrained sequence has been observed up to time n whereas the former is such when the constrained sequence is observed up to an $r-$th occurrence of the pattern of interest.

Stefanov [28] provides an original approach for a recursive evaluation of the generating functions of the waiting time conditioned on seeing a portion of the pattern in an unconstrained sequence. Also the approach provides the joint generating functions of the aforementioned waiting time Y_r together with the associated counts of relevant events. This paper extends the analysis of [28] to constrained sequences. The case of constrained sequences, when the probability of interest is $P(Y_r \leq n-1|\bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)}=0)$, leads to more general type of events, associated with the above waiting time, than those considered in [28]. The key points of that extension are explained in **Idea of the Proof** inserted immediately after Theorem 1 in the next section.

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section we present our main theoretical results. These provide recursive formulae for computing the joint generating function of the waiting time until seeing the r-th occurrence of a pattern and the associated count of runs of zero of length either less than d or greater than k (the so called *forbidden patterns*). In the last section we provide numerical examples.

2 Main Results

We assume that the binary sequences are generated by a a two-state Markov chain X, $(X(n),\ n = 0,1,\ldots)$. Its transition probabilities are denoted by

$$P(X(k)=j|X(k-1)=i) = p_{i,j}, \qquad i,j=0,1.$$

Recall that $\bar{N}_n^{(d,k)}$ counts the number of the so called *forbidden* patterns up to time n. Denote by

$$G_{Y_r^{(s)}}(z_1,z_2) = \mathbf{E}[z_1^{Y_r^{(s)}} z_2^{\bar{N}_{Y_r^{(s)}}^{(d,k)}}]$$

the joint generating function of the waiting time, Y_r, until seeing the r-th occurrence of the pattern $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$, given the initial symbol of the sequence is s, and the associated count, $\bar{N}_{Y_r^{(s)}}^{(d,k)}$, of occurrences of runs of zeros of length either less than d or greater than k up to that waiting time.

Note that if $G_{Z_1,Z_2}(z_1,z_2)$ is the joint generating function of two nonnegative integer random variables, then for the generating function $G_{Z_1|Z_2=0}(z)$ of the conditional distribution of Z_1, given $Z_2=0$, we have

$$G_{Z_1|Z_2=0}(z) = \frac{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n P(Z_1=n, Z_2=0)}{P(Z_2=0)} = \frac{G_{Z_1,Z_2}(z,0)}{G_{Z_1,Z_2}(1,0)}.$$

Therefore, the joint generating function $G_{Y_r^{(s)}}(z_1, z_2)$ renders the generating function of the conditional distribution of Y_r given $\bar{N}^{(d,k)}_{Y_r^{(s)}} = 0$. Further assume that $\mathcal{Y}_1^{(s)}, \mathcal{Y}_2, \mathcal{Y}_3, \ldots$ are independent random variables such that $\mathcal{Y}_2, \mathcal{Y}_3, \ldots$ are identically distributed with the following distributions. The distribution of $\mathcal{Y}_1^{(s)}$ is equal to the conditional distribution of the waiting time Y_1 to see for the first time the pattern w, if the starting symbol is s ($s = 0$ *or* 1) and given no forbidden pattern has occurred up to time Y_1, that is, given $\bar{N}^{(d,k)}_{Y_1^{(s)}} = 0$. The distribution of $\mathcal{Y}_2$ is equal to the conditional distribution of the intersite distance between two consecutive occurrences of the pattern w given no forbidden pattern has occurred within that intersite distance. Then, in view of the strong Markov property, the conditional distribution of Y_r given $\bar{N}^{(d,k)}_{Y_r^{(s)}} = 0$, is equal to that of

$$\mathcal{Y}_1^{(s)} + \sum_{i \geq 2} \mathcal{Y}_i$$

and of course its generating function equals $G_{\mathcal{Y}_1^{(s)}}(z)(G_{\mathcal{Y}_2}(z))^{r-1}$, where

$$G_{\mathcal{Y}_1^{(s)}}(z) = \frac{G_m^{(s)}(z,0)}{G_m^{(s)}(1,0)} \qquad G_{\mathcal{Y}_2}(z) = \frac{G_m^{(intersite)}(z,0)}{G_m^{(intersite)}(1,0)}$$

and by $G_m^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ we denoted the joint generating function of the waiting time, Y_1, until the first occurrence of the pattern $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$,with initial symbol s, and the associated count, $\bar{N}^{(d,k)}_{Y_1}$, of occurrences of the so-called forbidden patterns, and with $G_m^{(intersite)}(z_1, z_2)$ we denoted the joint generating function of the intersite distance between two consecutive occurrences of the pattern w and the associated count of occurrences of the forbidden patterns.

The remaining part of the paper is devoted to a method for an explicit derivation of the joint generating functions $G_m^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ and $G_m^{(intersite)}(z_1, z_2)$. Recall that these generating functions are associated with unconstrained sequences.

Let $\nu_{i,j}$ be the transition time from state i to state j in the two-state Markov chain X introduced earlier, that is,

$$\nu_{i,j} = \inf\{n : X(n) = j | X(0) = i\}, \;\; ; \; i, j = 0, 1,$$

and let $I_{\nu_{i,j}}$ be the associated indicator function of the event "a run of zeros of length either less than d or greater than k has occurred during the transition time $\nu_{i,j}$." It is assumed that $\nu_{i,i} = 0$.

Introduce the functions $g_{i,j}(z_1, z_2)$ for $i, j = 0, 1$, as follows: Let

$$g_{i,j}(z_1, z_2) = \mathbf{E}[z_1^{\nu_{i,j}} z_2^{I_{\nu_{i,j}}}], \quad (i,j) \neq (1,0)$$

be the joint generating function of $(\nu_{i,j}, I_{\nu_{i,j}})$, if $i, j = 0, 1$ and $(i,j) \neq (1,0)$. Of course

$$g_{0,0}(z_1, z_2) = g_{1,1}(z_1, z_2) = 1,$$

because $\nu_{0,0} = \nu_{1,1} = 0$, and subsequently $I_{\nu_{0,0}} = I_{\nu_{1,1}} = 0$. We define $g_{1,0}(z_1, z_2)$ to be the generating function $G_{\nu_{1,0}}(z_1)$ of $\nu_{1,0}$, that is,

$$g_{1,0}(z_1, z_2) = G_{\nu_{1,0}}(z_1) = \frac{z_1 p_{1,0}}{1 - p_{1,1} z_1}. \tag{2}$$

The second identity comes from noticing that $\nu_{1,0}$ is a geometrically distributed random variable with probability of success $p_{1,0}$ and support $\{1, 2, \ldots\}$. In other words, the meaning of $g_{1,0}(z_1, z_2)$ is the same as that for the other $g_{i,j}(z_1, z_2)$ with the convention that $I_{\nu_{1,0}} = 0$. The reasons for defining $g_{1,0}(z_1, z_2)$ as if ignoring a possible occurrence of the event of interest within the passage time $\nu_{1,0}$, will become clear in the proof of Theorem 1 below.

Another generating function of relevance is the joint generating function of $(\nu_{0,1}, I_{\nu_{0,1}})$, given that exactly r zeros are preceding the starting state zero; it is assumed that these zeros are allowed to be counted towards the formation of the event marked by the indicator function $I_{\nu_{0,1}}$. Denote this joint generating function by $g_{r-0,1}(z_1, z_2)$. Clearly, $g_{r-0,1}(z_1, z_2)$ equals the joint generating function of $\nu_{0,1}$ and the indicator function of the event "a run of zeros of length either less than $d - r$ or greater than $k - r$ has occurred within that transition time".

Lemma 1 *The following explicit expressions hold for the joint generating functions $g_{0,1}(z_1, z_2)$ and $g_{r-0,1}(z_1, z_2)$:*

$$g_{0,1}(z_1, z_2) = p_{0,1} z_1 \left(\frac{z_2}{1 - p_{0,0} z_1} + (1 - z_2) \sum_{i=max(1,d)}^{k} (p_{0,0} z_1)^{i-1} \right) \tag{3}$$

$$g_{r-0,1}(z_1, z_2) = p_{0,1} z_1 \left(\frac{z_2}{1 - p_{0,0} z_1} + (1 - z_2) \sum_{i=max(1,d-r)}^{max(0,k-r)} (p_{0,0} z_1)^{i-1} \right) \tag{4}$$

where $max(i, j)$ is the maximal of the two integers i and j, and the convention $\sum_{i=1}^{0} = 0$ applies.

Proof: Denote by $p_i = P(\nu_{0,1} = i)$ and note that $p_i = p_{0,1} p_{0,0}^{i-1}$ because $\nu_{0,1}$ is geometrically distributed with probability of success $p_{0,1}$ and support $\{1, 2, \ldots\}$. Also note that $I_{\nu_{0,1}} = 0$ if and only if $d \leq \nu_{0,1} \leq k$. Thus, for the joint generating function $g_{0,1}(z_1, z_2)$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} g_{0,1}(z_1, z_2) &= \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} z_2 z_1^i p_i + \sum_{i=d}^{k} z_1^i p_i + \sum_{i=k+1}^{\infty} z_2 z_1^i p_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} z_2 z_1^i p_{0,1} p_{0,0}^{i-1} + \sum_{i=d}^{k} z_1^i p_{0,1} p_{0,0}^{i-1} + \sum_{i=k+1}^{\infty} z_2 z_1^i p_{0,1} p_{0,0}^{i-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying the above expression leads to (3) above. Similar arguments apply for the derivation of the expression for $g_{r-0,1}(z_1, z_2)$ and the details are therefore omitted. The proof of Lemma 1 is complete. □

We will derive simple recurrence relations leading to an exact evaluation of the joint generating function $G_m^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ and $G_m^{(intersite)}(z_1, z_2)$, which have been introduced above.

For the pattern of interest $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$, denote

$$\begin{aligned} I(s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_r) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_r) = (w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_r) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \\ \overline{I}(s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_r) &= 1 - I(s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_r), \qquad r = 1, 2, \ldots, m, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

that is, $I(s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_r) = I_{w_1}(s_1) I_{w_2}(s_2) \ldots I_{w_r}(s_r)$, where $I_{(\cdot)}(\cdot)$ is an indicator function. For the sake of brevity we introduce the following notation. For each $j, j = 2, 3, \ldots, m-1$, and each $a, a = 0, 1$, let

$$\begin{aligned}
L_1(1,a) &= 1 \\
L_1(j,a) &= I(w_2, w_3, \ldots, w_j, a) \\
L_2(j,a) &= \overline{I}(w_2, w_3, \ldots, w_j, a) I(w_3, w_4, \ldots, w_j, a) \\
\ldots &= \ldots \\
L_r(j,a) &= \overline{I}(w_2, w_3, \ldots, w_j, a) \ldots \overline{I}(w_r, w_{r+1}, \ldots, w_j, a) I(w_{r+1}, w_{r+2}, \ldots, w_j, a) \\
\ldots &= \ldots \\
L_j(j,a) &= \overline{I}(w_2, w_3, \ldots, w_j, a) \overline{I}(w_3, w_4, \ldots, w_j, a) \ldots \overline{I}(w_j, a), \qquad (6)
\end{aligned}$$

where it is assumed that $I(w_i, w_{i+1}, \ldots, w_j, a) = 1$ if $i > j$. Note that $L_r(j,a) = 1$ for $r < j$ if and only if none of $w_i w_{i+1} \ldots w_j a$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots r$, is a prefix to $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$, whereas $w_{r+1} w_{r+2} \ldots w_j a$ is such. Also, $L_j(j,a)$ is equal to one if and only if none of $w_i w_{i+1} \ldots w_j a$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots j$, is a prefix to $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$. In other words, the $L_i(j,a)$ are relevant indicator functions related to the self-overlapping structure of the pattern $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$. In passing we observe that our definition of $L_r(j,a)$ is related to the autocorrelation set and polynomial of Guibas and Odlyzko [14] (cf. also [18, 23]).

Let now $Y_1^{(s)}(w_1^j)$ be the waiting time to see the pattern $w_1^j = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_j$, given the initial state is s. Then we define by

$$G_j^{(s)}(z_1, z_2) = \mathbf{E}[z_1^{Y_1^{(s)}(w_1^j)} z_2^{\bar{N}^{(d,k)}_{Y_1(w_1^j)}}]$$

the joint generating function of $Y_1^{(s)}(w_1^j)$ and the associated count, $\bar{N}^{(d,k)}_{Y_1(w_1^j)}$, of forbidden patterns (runs of zeros of length either less than d or greater than k). Here we allow the first symbol, that is, s, to contribute to the pattern (of course this matters if $s = w_1$). Recall that for $j = m$ the joint generating function $G_m^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ has been introduced earlier. Let $G_j^{(r-0)}(z_1, z_2)$ be the joint generating function of the same quantities as above, given the initial state (assumed to be zero) is preceded by exactly r zeros and the latter zeros are allowed to count towards the formation of the relevant event concerning the forbidden patterns (in other words the length of the first zero run within the waiting time $Y_1^{(0)}(w_1^j)$ is increased by r); also the initial state zero is allowed to contribute to the pattern. Further, let $G_j^{(w_1 w_2 \ldots w_h)}(z_1, z_2)$ be the joint generating function of the same quantities as above, given the sub-pattern $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_h$ ($h \leq j$) has been reached.

Throughout the article it is assumed that the pattern of interest $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$ does not contain forbidden patterns. Each pattern of zeros and ones can be viewed as a sequence of alternating blocks of ones and zeros where the length of the i-th block is denoted by k_i and $k_i > 0$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots$ and $k_1 > 0$ if the initial symbol of the pattern is one whereas $k_1 = 0$ if the initial symbol is zero. For example, for the pattern 11100001100000 we have $k_1 = 3, k_2 = 4, k_3 = 2, k_4 = 5$, and for the pattern 001111100011 we have $k_1 = 0, k_2 = 2, k_3 = 5, k_4 = 3, k_5 = 2$.

Denote by J_1 and J_2 the following subsets of $\{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$, which are associated with the pattern

$w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_m$:

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{b} \{j : \sum_{i=1}^{n} k_{2i-1} + 1 \le j \le \sum_{i=1}^{n} k_{2i-1} + d - 1\}, \\ J_2 &= \bigcup_{n=1}^{b} \{j : j = \sum_{i=1}^{n} k_{2i}\}, \end{aligned}$$

where b is the number of zero blocks of the pattern w. For example, if the pattern of interest is 001111100011 and $d = 2, k = 5$ we get $J_2 = \{2, 10\}$, and $J_1 = \{1, 8\}$.

Note that

$$G_1^{(*)}(z_1, z_2) = g_{*,w_1}(z_1, z_2), \tag{7}$$

where $*$ stands for either 0 or 1, or $r - 0$. Actually, $G_1^{(*)}(z_1, z_2)$ has the same meaning as that of $g_{*,w_1}(z_1, z_2)$ unless $w_1 = 0$ and $* = 1$ (recall our definition of $g_{1,0}$ given in (2) above). For the latter case we formally assume that (7) holds and the reason for that assumption will become clear in the **Idea of Proof** of Theorem 1 below. Closed explicit expressions for $g_{i,j}(z_1, z_2)$ and $g_{r-0,1}(z_1, z_2)$ are found in Lemma 1 and prior to its statement. The formal proof is presented in the next section.

Theorem 1 *The following recurrence relations hold for the joint generating functions* $G_j^{(\cdot)}(z_1, z_2)$:
(i) *For* $j \notin (J_1 \cup J_2)$, *and* $h = 1, 2, \dots, j$, *and* $r = 1, 2, \dots$, *we have*

$$G_{j+1}^{(s)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j,w_{j+1}} z_1 G_j^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 A_j}, \tag{8}$$

$$G_{j+1}^{(w_1 w_2 \dots w_h)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j,w_{j+1}} z_1 G_j^{(w_1 w_2 \dots w_h)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 A_j}, \tag{9}$$

$$G_{j+1}^{(r-0)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j,w_{j+1}} z_1 G_j^{(r-0)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 A_j}, \tag{10}$$

where

$$A_j = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} L_i(j, 1 - w_{j+1}) G_j^{(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{j-i+1})}(z_1, z_2) + L_j(j, 1 - w_{j+1}) G_j^{(1-w_{j+1})}(z_1, z_2), \tag{11}$$

with the convention $\sum_{i=1}^{0} = 0$, *and the* $L_i(j, a)$ *have been introduced in (6).*
(ii) *For* $j \in J_1$, *and* $h = 1, 2, \dots, j$, *and* $r = 1, 2, \dots$, *we have*

$$G_{j+1}^{(s)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j,w_{j+1}} z_1 G_j^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 z_2 A_j}, \tag{12}$$

$$G_{j+1}^{(w_1 w_2 \dots w_h)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j,w_{j+1}} z_1 G_j^{(w_1 w_2 \dots w_h)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 z_2 A_j}, \tag{13}$$

$$G_{j+1}^{(r-0)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j,w_{j+1}} z_1 G_j^{(r-0)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 z_2 A_j}, \tag{14}$$

where A_j is as above.
(iii) *For $j \in J_2$, and $h = 1, 2, \ldots, j$, and $r = 1, 2, \ldots$, the same relations as those for $j \notin (J_1 \cup J_2)$ above hold after replacing A_j by B_j, where*

$$B_j = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} L_i(j, 1 - w_{j+1}) G_j^{(w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_{j-i+1})}(z_1, z_2) + L_j(j, 1 - w_{j+1}) G_j^{(k_{2n}-0)}(z_1, z_2), \tag{15}$$

and n is associated with j through $j = \sum_{i=1}^{n} k_{2i}$. Recall that $j \in J_2$ if and only if $j = k_1 + k_2 + \ldots + k_{2n}$ for some n, $n = 1, 2, \ldots$.

Idea of the Proof: The proof is based on a suitable extension of the methodology introduced in Stefanov [28]. The latter treated patterns formed on finite alphabets in strings generated by general discrete- and continuous-time models. In particular, Theorem 4.1 (cf. [28] p. 890) provides recurrence relations leading to exact evaluation of the joint generating function of the waiting time until reaching a pattern together with the associated counts of occurrences of the corresponding symbols of the alphabet. In this paper we deal with a simpler model (binary alphabet and discrete-time parameter) but the joint generating function of interest is that of the waiting time until reaching a pattern together with the associated count of occurrences of an event which is not as simple as the events considered in [28]. A careful scrutiny of [28] proofs reveals that the recurrence relations provided there are applicable to the joint generating function of the waiting time till reaching a pattern together with the associated count of occurrences of an 'event' if the following two conditions are satisfied concerning that 'event':

(i) the joint generating functions for the following quantities are available: the waiting time to reach a letter from another (or the same) letter of the alphabet together with the associated count of occurrences of the 'event' of interest.

(ii) All occurrences of the 'event' of interest are captured within the passage times between the states, that is, occurrence or non occurrence of the 'event' does not depend on the history prior to a passage time or the future after that passage time.

Note that nominating the event of interest to be a run of zeros of length either less than d or greater than k we get that condition (ii) is not satisfied in general. For example, in a passage time from state zero to state one the occurrence or non occurrence of our event of interest (a constrained zero-run) depends on the number of zeros just preceding the starting state zero. As for a passage time from state one to state zero, note that, on one hand, the occurrence or non occurrence of the event of interest is not affected by the outcomes preceding the initial state one. On the other hand, within that passage time a run of zeros of length 1 occurs (the last observation within such passage time is zero which is preceded by one), that is, the event of interest occurs if $d > 1$ and given we stop observing the generated random sequence with such passage time. If we do not stop observing the generated sequence at such passage time then the occurrence or non occurrence of the event of interest depends on the future outcomes (that is, on how many zeros will follow after the first zero achieved from sate one). Note that we stop observing the generated random sequences at occurrences of the pattern of interest, which we assume does not contain constrained zero-runs. That is, we do not stop observing the generated random sequence at a passage time from state one to state zero if $d > 1$. Therefore, within a passage time from state one to state zero we should not account for a possible occurrence of the event of interest, because such occurrence will be accounted for within the following passage time from state zero to state one. This is the reason for defining $g_{1,0}(z_1, z_2)$ to be equal to the generating function of $\nu_{1,0}$, as if assuming that within a passage

time from state one to state zero a constrained zero-run does not occur. By the same reason we assumed that $G_1^{(1)}(z_1, z_2) = g_{1,w_1}(z_1, z_2)$ if $w_1 = 0$ (cf. the comment prior to Theorem 1). In particular, we may assume that condition (i) above is satisfied for our problem because the relevant joint generating functions are provided in Lemma 1 and prior to it.

Further we show how the methodology in [28] can be extended to derive relevant recurrence relations for the case of the waiting time until reaching a pattern and the associated count of occurrences of constrained zero-runs.

Recall that we consider a pattern $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_m$ whose consecutive blocks of ones and zeros are of lengths $k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots$, respectively.

Assume first the pattern of interest consists of the first $k_1 + 1$ symbols of w. Note that in this case condition (ii) is satisfied because there are no zeros preceding an initial zero state at a passage time from state zero to state one. Therefore, the relations given by (8), (9), (10) for j, such that $1 \le j \le k_1$ are a special case of the recurrence relations in Theorem 4.1 of [28]. Since the model treated in [28] is more general and the uninitiated reader may find it not quite transparent how to write the relations for our special model here we provide the following hint. Delete the entries of $t_{w_{j+1}}$ and t_n, and replace $\phi_{w_j,w_{j+1}}(z_0)$ by z_1 in the corresponding recurrence relations in Theorem 4.1 of [28] to get the relations (8), (9), (10).

Assume now that the pattern of interest consists of the first $k_1 + 2 \quad (< k_1 + k_2)$ symbols. Then note that from the time epoch at which we have reached the subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+1}$ till reaching the pattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+2}$ one may miss counts of the event of interest (a run of zeros of length less than d) due to the following observation. Upon reaching $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+1}$ assume that in the next step the pattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+2}$ is not reached (that is, a mismatch occur at this stage). Thus, a run of zeros of length 1 ($< d$, of course given $d > 1$) has occurred and it will not be accounted for by the recurrence relations provided in [28]. To account for such occurrences one should multiply by z_2 the relevant joint generating functions each time such mismatch occurs. It is achieved by replacing the denominator $1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 A_j$ by $1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 z_2 A_j$ in the recurrence relations. Therefore, relations (12), (13), (14) hold for $j = k_1 + 1$.

Similarly, if the pattern consists of the first $k_1 + 3 \ (< k_1 + k_2)$ symbols then upon reaching the subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_+2}$ on the following step one may miss a count of the event of interest. More specifically, this is a run of zeros of length 2 ($< d$, of course given $d > 2$). To account for such occurrences of the event of interest again the denominator $1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 A_j$ is to be replaced by $1 - p_{w_j,1-w_{j+1}} z_1 z_2 A_j$. Clearly, the same argument applies if the pattern consists of the first $k_1 + j - 1 \ (< k_1 + k_2)$ symbols of w, where $j \le d$. Therefore, the recurrence relations (12), (13), (14) hold for j such that $k_1 + 1 \le j \le k_1 + d - 1$ (these j's belong to J_1). Further, note that for larger j, such that $k_1 + d \le j \le k_1 + k_2 - 1$ (note that such j's do not belong to $J_1 \cup J_2$) the recurrence relations given by (8), (9), (10) hold, because in mismatch situations constrained zero-runs do not occur.

Assume now that the pattern consists of the first $k_1 + k_2 + 1$ symbols of w. Then note that in a mismatch situation at the next step after reaching the sub-pattern consisting of the first $k_1 + k_2$ symbols, we are at state zero with exactly k_2 zeros preceding it. The method in [28] implies that $G_j^{(1-w_{j+1})}(z_1, z_2)$ (this is the generating function, in the expression for A_j, which accounts for the evolution of the sequence after such a mismatch situation, and given no overlap occurred after that mismatch) from the expression for A_j, given in (11), is to be substituted by $G_j^{(k_2-0)}(z_1, z_2)$ in order to account for all occurrences of the event of interest. That is, for $j = k_1 + k_2$, the relations (8), (9), (10) hold with $G_j^{(1-w_{j+1})}(z_1, z_2)$ replaced by $G_j^{(k_2-0)}(z_1, z_2)$ in the expressions for the A_j; that is, A_j is replaced by B_j.

For larger j ($j > k_1 + k_2$) similar arguments to those above apply.

3 Proof of Theorem 1

First, recall that the g.f., $G(z)$, of the geometric distribution on $\{0, 1, \ldots\}$, with probability of 'success' p, is given by $p/(1-qz)$, where $q = 1-p$. Also recall that for the g.f. of the random sum $Y = \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} Y_i$ we have

$$G_Y(\underline{\mathbf{z}}) = G_\nu(G_{Y_i}(\underline{\mathbf{z}})), \tag{16}$$

where $\underline{\mathbf{z}} = (z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_n)$ and the Y_i are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) random vectors with g.f. $G_{Y_i}(\underline{\mathbf{z}})$ and ν is a non-negative r.v., independent of the Y_i, with g.f. $G_\nu(z)$. If the distribution of ν is geometric then the random sum Y is called a geometric sum.

The following quantity is called briefly the first return time to the pattern $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_j$:

$$\inf\{n \geq 1 : X(n+1) \ldots X(n+1+j) = w_1 \ldots w_j | X(1) \ldots X(j) = w_1 \ldots w_j\}.$$

Recall that the pattern of interest is denoted by $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_m$. Note that $j \notin J_1 \cup J_2$ if and only if either $w_{j+1} = 1$, or $w_j w_{j+1} = 10$, or $w_{j+1} = 0$ and the number of zeros preceding w_{j+1}, in the block of zeros to which w_{j+1} belongs, is less than d (recall that d pertains to the term (d,k)-sequence).

We will prove the validity of (8), (9) and (10) first for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, k_1$. Recall that k_1 is the length of the first block of ones of the pattern of interest w. Of course these j's do not belong to the set $(J_1 \cup J_2)$. Now consider the subpattern $w_1 w_2$ consisting of the first two symbols of the pattern w, of course assuming that $k_1 \geq 1$. Note that the joint generating function of the first return time to state w_1 and the associated count of the forbidden patterns within that return time, conditional on not entering state w_2 at the first step, is

$$H_1(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_1, 1-w_2} z_1 g_{1-w_2, w_1}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p w_1, w_2}. \tag{17}$$

Actually, (17) is derived via conditioning on the first step. It is easy to see, using the strong Markov property and applied to the consecutive entry times to state w_1, that the joint distribution of the waiting time to reach the pattern $w_1 w_2$ from state s and the associated count of forbidden patterns up to that waiting time, is the same as the joint distribution of

$$K_1 + e_1 + \sum_{i=0}^{\nu_1} Y_{i,1}$$

where e_1 is the unit vector $(1, 0)$, the $Y_{i,1}$ are i.i.d. (two-dimensional) random vectors, also independent of K_1, and ν_1 is a geometric random variable, independent of the $Y_{i,1}$ and K_1 with a probability of 'success' p_{w_1, w_2}. Further, the (two-dimensional) random vector K_1 has the same joint distribution as that of the waiting time to reach w_1 from state s, and the associated count of forbidden patterns, that is, its joint g.f. $G_{K_1}(z_1, z_2)$ is equal to $g_{s, w_1}(z_1, z_2)$. The random vector $Y_{i,1}$ has a joint generating function given by $H_1(z_1, z_2)$. Thus, in view of (16) and (17) and recalling that $G_1^{(s)}(z_1, z_2) = g_{s, w_1}(z_1, z_2)$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned} G_2^{(s)}(z_1, z_2) &= g_{s, w_1}(z_1, z_2) \left(\frac{p_{w_1, w_2} z_1}{1 - (1 - p_{w_1, w_2}) H_1(z_1, z_2)} \right) \\ &= \frac{p_{w_1, w_2} z_1 G_1^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_1, 1-w_2} z_1 G_1^{(1-w_2)}(z_1, z_2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the same arguments as those above we get that for $r = 1, 2, \ldots$

$$G_2^{(w_1)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_1,w_2} z_1 G_1^{(w_1)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_1,1-w_2} z_1 G_1^{(1-w_2)}(z_1, z_2)},$$

$$G_2^{r-0)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_1,w_2} z_1 G_1^{r-0)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_1,1-w_2} z_1 G_1^{(1-w_2)}(z_1, z_2)}.$$

That is, noting that $A_1 = G_1^{(1-w_2)}(z_1, z_2)$ (cf. (11)), we get that (8), (9) and (10) hold for $j = 1$.

Now consider the subpattern $w_1 w_2 w_3$ assuming that $k_1 \geq 2$ (that is $j = 2$). Similarly to the preceding case (when $j = 1$), conditioning on the first step, note that the joint generating function of the first return time to the subpattern $w_1 w_2$ and the associated count of the forbidden patterns within that return time, conditional on not entering state w_3 at the first step, is given by

$$H_2(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_2,1-w_3} z_1 \left(L_1(2, 1 - w_3) + L_2(2, 1 - w_3) G_2^{(1-w_3)}(z_1, z_2) \right)}{1 - p_{w_2,w_3}}, \tag{18}$$

where the $L_i(j, a)$ have been introduced in (6). Again using the strong Markov property and applied to the consecutive entry times to the subpattern $w_1 w_2$, we get that the joint distribution of the waiting time to reach the subpattern $w_1 w_2 w_3$ from state s and the associated count of forbidden patterns up to that waiting time, is the same as the joint distribution of

$$K_2 + e_1 + \sum_{i=0}^{\nu_2} Y_{i,2}$$

where e_1 is the unit vector $(1, 0)$, the $Y_{i,2}$ are i.i.d. random vectors, also independent of K_2, and ν_2 is a geometric random variable, independent of the $Y_{i,2}$ and K_2 with a probability of 'success' p_{w_2,w_3}. Further, the random vector K_2 has the same joint distribution as that of the waiting time to reach $w_1 w_2$ from state s, and the associated count of forbidden patterns, that is, its joint g.f. $G_{K_2}(z_1, z_2)$ is equal to $G_2^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$. The random vector $Y_{i,2}$ has a joint generating function given by $H_2(z_1, z_2)$. Therefore, similarly to the preceding case, and using (18) we get that

$$\begin{aligned} G_3^{(s)}(z_1, z_2) &= \frac{p_{w_2,w_3} z_1 G_2^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - (1 - p_{w_2,w_3}) H_2(z_1, z_2)} \\ &= \frac{p_{w_2,w_3} z_1 G_2^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_2,1-w_3} z_1 \left(L_1(2, 1 - w_3) + L_2(2, 1 - w_3) G_2^{(1-w_3)}(t) \right)}. \end{aligned}$$

That is, (8) holds for $j = 2$. Likewise, (9) and (10) hold for $j = 2$. The same arguments, as those used in the cases for $j = 1, 2$ apply to any j such that $1 \leq j \leq k_1$. Therefore (8), (9) and (10) hold for $j = 1, 2, \ldots k_1$.

Now consider the case when $j \in J_1$. First, we will consider the j's belonging to $\{j : \sum_{i=1}^{1} k_{2i-1} + 1 \leq j \leq \sum_{i=1}^{1} k_{2i-1} + d - 1\}$, that is, for $j = k_1 + 1, k_1 + 2, \ldots, k_1 + d - 1$. Let $j = k_1 + 1$, that is, we consider

the subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+2}$. Again, conditioning on the first step, note that the joint generating function of the first return time to the subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+1}$ and the associated count of the forbidden patterns within that return time, conditional on not entering state w_{k_1+2} at the first step, is given by

$$H_{k_1+1}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_{k_1+1}, 1-w_{k_1+2}} z_1 z_2 A_{k_1+1}}{1 - p_{w_{k_1+1}, w_{k_1+2}}}, \tag{19}$$

where the A_j and $L_i(j, a)$ have been introduced in (11) and (6), respectively. Actually, $H_{k_1+1}(z_1, z_2)$ differs from its counterparts $H_j(z_1, z_2)$, $j \le k_1$, (cf. (17) and (18)) by the presence of z_2 in front of A_{k_1+1}. The presence of z_2 accounts for unaccounted otherwise occurrence of a forbidden pattern (a zero run of length less than d) at the first step when one fails to reach in one step the state w_{k_1+2} from the already reached subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+1}$. Further, similarly to the preceding cases and applying the strong Markov property to the consecutive entry times to the subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+1}$, one gets that

$$\begin{aligned} G^{(s)}_{k_1+2}(z_1, z_2) &= \frac{p_{w_{k_1+1}, w_{k_1+2}} z_1 G^{(s)}_{k_1+1}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - (1 - p_{w_{k_1+1}, w_{k_1+2}}) H_{k_1+1}(z_1, z_2)} \\ &= \frac{p_{w_{k_1+1}, w_{k_1+2}} z_1 G^{(s)}_{k_1+1}(z_1, z_2)}{1 - p_{w_{k_1+1}, 1-w_{k_1+2}} z_1 z_2 A_{k_1+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (12) holds for $j = k_1 + 1$. Likewise, one gets that (13) and (14) hold for $j = k_1 + 1$. Exactly the same arguments, as those used in the case for $j = k_1 + 1$ apply to any j such that $k_1 + 1 \le j \le k_1 + d - 1$. Therefore, (12), (13) and (14) hold for $j = k_1 + 1, k_1 + 2, \dots, k_1 + d - 1$. Consider now $j = k_1 + d, k_1 + d + 1, \dots, k_1 + k_2 - 1$. These j's do not belong to $J_1 \cup J_2$. Note that the relevant $H_j(z_1, z_2)$ is given by

$$H_j(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_j, 1-w_{j+1}} z_1 A_j}{1 - p_{w_j, w_{j+1}}}, \tag{20}$$

that is, (20) has the same form as that of (17) and (18). This is due to the observation that at the first step when w_{j+1} is not reached from the already reached subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_j$ a forbidden pattern does not occur (the reached zero run is of length at least d and of course less than k). Therefore, (8), (9) and (10) hold for $j = k_1 + d, k_1 + d + 1, \dots, k_1 + k_2 - 1$.

Consider now the case $j = k_1 + k_2$. This j belongs to J_2. Note that the relevant $H_j(z_1, z_2)$ for the joint g.f. of the first return time to the subpattern $w_1 w_2 \dots w_{k_1+k_2}$ and the associated count of the forbidden patterns within that return time, conditional on not entering state $w_{k_1+k_2+1}$ at the first step, is given by

$$H_{k_1+k_2}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{p_{w_{k_1+k_2}, 1-w_{k_1+k_2+1}} z_1 B_{k_1+k_2}}{1 - p_{w_{k_1+k_2}, w_{k_1+k_2+1}}}, \tag{21}$$

where B_j is given in (15). More specifically, note first that B_j differs from A_j only through the generating function associated with the indicator function $L_j(j, 1 - w_{j+1})$ (cf. (6)). This g.f. is $G_j^{(1-w_j)}$ for A_j and $G_j^{(k_{2n}-0)}$ ($n = 1$ for $j = k_1 + k_2$) for B_j, and it accounts for what happens after the first step given $L_j(j, 1 - w_{j+1}) = 1$. Further, note that conditioning on not entering state $w_{k_1+k_2+1}$ at the first step means that a run of zeros of length exactly $k_1 + k_2 + 1$ has been reached, that is after the first step the current state zero is preceded by exactly $k_1 + k_2$ zeros. After that first step is made one waits until

subpattern $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_{k_1+k_2}$ is reached. Therefore, noticing that after the first step no overlap occurs, that is

$$L_{k_1+k_2}(k_1+k_2, 1-w_{k_1+k_2+1}) = 1,$$

one can see that the relevant generating function which will capture all occurrences of forbidden patterns up to this waiting time is given by $G_{k_1+k_2}^{(k_2-0)}(z_1, z_2)$. Therefore, it is clear now that (8), (9) and (10) with A_j replaced by B_j hold for $j = k_1 + k_2$. Note that for the other j's from J_2, such as say $j = k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4$, an overlap may occur (for example if $k_4 < k_2$) after the first step but then the relevant g.f. ($G_{k_1+k_2+k_3+k_4}^{(w_1 w_2 \ldots w_{k_1+k_2})}$) in the expression for B_j will capture all occurrences of forbidden patterns. Recall that the indicator functions appearing in the expressions for A_j and B_j sum to 1.

It is easy to see that the same arguments as those used for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, k_1 + k_2$ apply for $j > k_1 + k_2$. The proof of Theorem 1 is complete. □

Remark 3.1 *Note that the generating functions $G_j^{(r-0)}(z_1, z_2)$ play a pivotal role, through the relevant entry in the expression for B_j, in the process of evaluating the relevant generating functions $G_j^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ and $G_j^{(w_1 w_2 \ldots w_h)}(z_1, z_2)$. Therefore, only $G_j^{(k_{2i}-0)}(z_1, z_2)$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots,$ are to be evaluated for each j.*

Theorem 1 provides a route for exact evaluation of the $G_j^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ and $G_j^{(w_1 w_2 \ldots w_h)}(z_1, z_2)$. In particular, these contain the generating functions of interest, that is $G_m^{(s)}(z_1, z_2)$ and $G_m^{(intersite)}(z_1, z_2)$. More specifically, note that $G_m^{(intersite)}(z_1, z_2)$ is equal to $G_m^{(w_1 w_2 \ldots w_h)}(z_1, z_2)$ for h such that $w_1 w_2 \ldots w_h$ is the longest prefix, which is also a suffix, to the pattern w.

4 Numerical Analysis

In this section, we present some numerical results. Using *Maple 9*, we derived explicit expressions for the joint generating functions given in Theorem 1 for the patterns in our numerical examples. These provided us with explicit expressions for the probability generating function $G_{\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}}(z)$ of $\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}$ and subsequently explicit expressions for the cumulative generating function of $\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}$, since the latter g.f. is equal to $G_{\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}}(z)/(1-z)$. Recall that the distribution of $\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}$, is equal to the conditional distribution of the waiting time until the r-th occurrence of the pattern of interest given there were no forbidden patterns up to time $\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}$. The relevant probabilities, that is $P(Y_r \leq n-1 | \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)} = 0)$, $(= P(N_n \geq r | \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)} = 0))$, are computed via a numerical inversion of the cumulative generating function $G_{\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}}(z)/(1-z)$. We used the numerical procedure introduced by Abate and Whitt [1]. This procedure is very ! fast and computes the exact probabilities with any given, in advance, accuracy. The computation was implemented on Powerbook G4 using *Maple 9.* The derivation of the expression for $G_{\mathcal{Y}_r^{(s)}}(z)/(1-z)$ is almost instantaneous.

In the example presented in Table 1 we compute the probabilities $P(N_n \geq r | \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(d,k)} = 0)$, $r = 1, 2, \ldots,$ with initial symbol $X_1 = 0$ *or* 1, for $w = 100100100$, for $d = 1$ and $k = 4$ and transition probabilities $p_{0,0} = 0.4$, $p_{0,1} = 0.6$, $p_{1,0} = 1$, $p_{1,1} = 0$. Note that if $d > 0$ then $p_{1,0} = 1$ because runs of 1's are not allowed in such sequences. Runs of 1's are allowed only in $(0, k)$-sequences.

Tab. 1: Probabilities for the number of occurrences, N_n, of $w = 100100100$ in a random $(1,4)$-sequence of length $n = 500$ with $p_{0,0} = 0.4$, $p_{0,1} = 0.6$, $p_{1,0} = 1$, $p_{1,1} = 0$.

r	$P(N_n \geq r \mid \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(1,4)} = 0, X_1 = 0)$
1	0.9998229893
2	0.9988429172
3	0.9957604487
4	0.9885806721
5	0.9748567886
6	0.9521461776
7	0.9185406129
8	0.8731122847
9	0.8161570287
10	0.7491883799
11	0.6747088052
12	0.5958347059
13	0.5158705941
14	0.4379186414
15	0.3645829805
16	0.2977955830
17	0.2387616333
18	0.1880023708
19	0.1454637033
20	0.1106580150
21	0.0828116490
22	0.0609984853
23	0.0442483799
24	0.0316263751
25	0.0222837706
26	0.0154852671
27	0.0106177613
28	0.0071864591
29	0.0048032867
30	0.0031715243
31	0.0020694696
32	0.0013349299
33	0.0008515403

r	$P(N_n \geq r \mid \bar{N}_{Y_r}^{(1,4)} = 0, X_1 = 1)$
1	0.9998277951
2	0.9988712924
3	0.9958545122
4	0.9888098346
5	0.9753124330
6	0.9529272243
7	0.9197338459
8	0.8747731853
9	0.8182964131
10	0.7517679679
11	0.6776460655
12	0.5990149589
13	0.5191630134
14	0.4411925930
15	0.3677218233
16	0.3007062001
17	0.2413791679
18	0.1902906096
19	0.1474121477
20	0.1122769106
21	0.0841261739
22	0.0620430520
23	0.0450616861
24	0.0322475305
25	0.0227495761
26	0.0158285526
27	0.0108665930
28	0.0073639909
29	0.0049280424
30	0.0032579270
31	0.0021284793
32	0.0013746927
33	0.0008779885

References

[1] J. Abate, and W. Whitt, Numerical inversion of probability generating functions. *Operations Research Letters*, **12**, 245–251, 1992.

[2] N. Balakrishnan, and M. Koutras, *Runs and Scans with Applications*, Wiley, New York, 2002.

[3] E. Bender, and F. Kochman, The distribution of subword counts is usually normal. *European Journal of Combinatorics*, **14**, 265–275, 1993.

[4] J. D. Biggins, and C. Cannings, Markov renewal processes, counters and repeated sequences in Markov chains. *Advances in Applied Probability* **19**, 521-545, 1987.

[5] G. Blom, and D. Thorburn, How many random digits are required until given sequences are obtained? *Journal of Applied Probability* **19**, 518-531, 1982.

[6] S. Chadjiconstantinidis, D. L. Antzoulakos, and M. V. Koutras, Joint distributions of successes, failures and patterns in enumeration problems. *Advances in Applied Probability* **32**, 866-884, 2000.

[7] O. Chryssaphinou, and S. Papastavridis, The occurrence of a sequence of patterns in repeated dependent experiments. *Theory of Probability and its Applications* **35**, 167-173, 1990.

[8] M. Crochemore and W. Rytter, *Text Algorithms*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1994.

[9] J. Fan, T. L. Poo, and B. Marcus, Constraint Gain, *Transactions on Information Theory*, 50, 1989-1999, 2004.

[10] J. C. Fu, Distribution theory of runs and patterns associated with a sequence of multistate trials. *Statistica Sinica* **6**, 957-974, 1996.

[11] J. C. Fu, and Y. M. Chang, On probability generating functions for waiting time distributions of compound patterns in a sequence of multistate trials. *Journal of Applied Probability* **39**, 70-80, 2002.

[12] J. C. Fu, and W. Y. W. Lou, *Distribution Theory of Runs and Patterns and its Applications*, World Scientific, New Jersey, 2003.

[13] H. Gerber, and S-Y. R. Li, The occurrence of sequence patterns in repeated experiments and hitting times in a Markov chain. *Stochastic Processes and their Applications* **11**, 101-108, 1981.

[14] L. Guibas and A. M. Odlyzko. Periods in strings. *Journal of Combinatorial Theory*, 30:19–43, 1981.

[15] S-Y. R. Li, A martingale approach to the study of occurrence of sequence patterns in repeated experiments. *Annals of Probability* **8**, 1171-1176, 1980.

[16] D. E. Knuth, *The Art of Computer Programming. Sorting and Searching*, Vol. 3, Second Edition, Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1998.

[17] V. Kolesnik and V. Krachkovsky, Generating functions and lower bounds on rates for limited error-correcting codes, *Transactions on Information Theory*, 37, 778-788, 1991.

[18] M. Lothaire, editor. *Applied Combinatorics on Words*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2005.

[19] B. Marcus, R. Roth and P. Siegel, Constrained systems and coding for recording channels, Chap. 20 in *Handbook of Coding Theory* (eds. V. S. Pless and W. C. Huffman), Elsevier Science, 1998.

[20] B. Moision, A. Orlitsky and P. Siegel, On codes that avoid specific differences, *Transactions on Information Theory*, 47, 433-442, 2001.

[21] P. Nicodème, B. Salvy, and P. Flajolet, Motif Statistics, *European Symposium on Algorithms*, *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, No. 1643, 194–211, 1999.

[22] M. Régnier and W. Szpankowski, On the Approximate Pattern Occurrences in a Text, *Proc. Compression and Complexity of SEQUENCE'97*, IEEE Computer Society, 253–264, Positano, 1997.

[23] M. Régnier and W. Szpankowski. On pattern frequency occurrences in a Markovian sequence. *Algorithmica*, 22:631–649, 1998.

[24] G. Reinert, S. Schbath, and M. Waterman, Probabilistic and statistical properties of words: an overview. *Journal of Computational Biology*, 7, 1-46, 2000.

[25] S. Robin, and J. Daudin, Exact distribution of word occurrences in a random sequence of letters. *Journal of Applied Probability* **36**, 179-193, 1999.

[26] S. Robin, and J. Daudin, Exact distribution of the distances between any occurences of a set of words. *Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics* **36**, 895-905, 2001.

[27] V. T. Stefanov, On some waiting time problems. *Journal of Applied Probability* **37**, 756-764, 2000.

[28] V. T. Stefanov, The intersite distances between pattern occurrences in strings generated by general discrete- and continuous-time models: an algorithmic approach. *Journal of Applied Probability* **40,** 881-892, 2003.

[29] V. T. Stefanov, and A. G. Pakes, Explicit distributional results in pattern formation. *Annals of Applied Probability* **7**, 666-678, 1997.

[30] W. Szpankowski, *Average Case Analysis of Algorithms on Sequences*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 2001.

[31] M. Waterman, *Introduction to Computational Biology*, Chapman and Hall, London, 1995.

[32] E. Zehavi and J. Wolf, On runlength codes, *Transactions on Information Theory*, 34, 45-54, 1988.