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# Algorithmic and combinatoric aspects of multiple harmonic sums

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Ordinary generating series of *multiple* harmonic sums admit a *full* singular expansion in the basis of functions  $\{(1-z)^{\alpha}\log^{\beta}(1-z)\}_{\alpha\in\mathbb{Z},\beta\in\mathbb{N}}$ , near the singularity  $z=1$ . A *constructive* proof of this result is given, and, by *combinatoric* aspects, an explicit evaluation of Taylor coefficients of functions in some *polylogarithmic* algebra is obtained. In particular, the *asymptotic expansion* of multiple harmonic sums is easily deduced.

**Keywords:** polylogarithms, polyzetas, multiple harmonic sums, singular expansion, shuffle algebra, Lyndon words ˆ

## 1 Introduction

Hierarchical data structure occur in numerous domains, like computer graphics, image processing or biology (pattern matching). Among them, quadtrees, whose construction is based on a recursive definition of space, constitute a classical data structure for storing and accessing collection of points in multidimensional space. Their characteristics (depth of a node, number of nodes in a given subtree, number of leaves) are studied by Laforest  $[12]$ , with probabilistic tools. In particular, she shows, for a quadtree of size N in a d-dimension space, that the probability  $\pi_{N,k}$  for the first subtree to have size k can be expressed as an algebraic combination of j-th order harmonic numbers  $H_j(N)$  and  $H_j(k)$ ,  $j \ge 1$ , defined by

$$
H_j(n) = \sum_{m=1}^{n} \frac{1}{m^j}.
$$
 (1)

For instance, for  $d = 3$ , one has

$$
\pi_{N,k} = \frac{[H_1(N) - H_1(k)]^2 + H_2(N) - H_2(k)}{2N}.
$$
\n(2)

Flajolet et al. [2] give this general expression for the splitting probability

$$
\pi_{N,k} = \sum_{N \ge i_1 \cdots \ge i_{d-1} > k} \frac{1}{i_1 \cdots i_{d-1}}.
$$
\n(3)

The probability  $\pi_{N,k}$  appears as a particular case of the following sum  $A_s(N)$  associated to the *multi-index*  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r)$ , which is strongly related to multiple harmonic sums  $H_s(N)$ :

$$
A_{s}(N) = \sum_{N \ge n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_r > 0} \frac{1}{n_1^{s_1} \dots n_r^{s_r}} \quad \text{and} \quad H_{s}(N) = \sum_{N \ge n_1 \ge \dots > n_r > 0} \frac{1}{n_1^{s_1} \dots n_r^{s_r}}. \tag{4}
$$

Let us note that there exist explicit relations, given by Hoffman [10] between the  $A_s(N)$  and  $H_s(N)$ . Indeed, let  $Comp(n)$  be the *set of compositions* of n, i.e. sequences  $(i_1, \ldots, i_r)$  of positive integers summing to n. If  $I = (i_1, \ldots, i_r)$  (resp.  $J = (j_1, \ldots, j_p)$ ) is a composition of n (resp. of r) then  $J \circ I = (i_1 + \ldots + i_{j_1}, i_{j_1+1} + \ldots + i_{j_1+j_2}, \ldots, i_{k-j_p+1} + \ldots + i_k)$  is a composition of n. By Möbius inversion, one has

$$
A_{\mathbf{s}}(N) = \sum_{J \in \operatorname{Comp}(r)} H_{J \circ \mathbf{s}}(N) \quad \text{and} \quad H_{\mathbf{s}}(N) = \sum_{J \in \operatorname{Comp}(r)} (-1)^{l(J)-r} A_{J \circ \mathbf{s}}(N), \tag{5}
$$

where  $l(J)$  is the number of parts of J.

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**Example 1.** *For*  $s = (1, 1, 1)$ *, since the set of compositions of* 3 *is*  $\{(1, 1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (3)\}$ *, we get*  $A_{1,1,1}(N) = H_{1,1,1}(N) + H_{1,2}(N) + H_{2,1}(N) + H_3(N),$ 

$$
H_{1,1,1}(N) = A_{1,1,1}(N) - A_{1,2}(N) - A_{2,1}(N) + A_3(N).
$$

Therefore, the  $A_s(N)$  are Z-linear combinations on  $H_s(N)$  (and *vice versa*). Thus, the remaining problem is to know the asymptotic behaviour of  $\pi_{N,k}$ , for  $N \to \infty$  [11]. For that, in this work, we are interested in the *combinatorial* aspects of these sums by use of a symbolic encoding by words. This enables then to transfer *shuffle relations* on words into algebraic relations between multiple harmonic sums, or between *polylogarithm* functions, defined for a multi-index  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r)$  by

$$
\text{Li}_s(z) = \sum_{n_1 > \dots > n_r > 0} \frac{z^{n_1}}{n_1^{s_1} \dots n_r^{s_r}}, \quad \text{for} \quad |z| < 1. \tag{6}
$$

These relations are recalled in Section 2. The reason to call upon polylogarithms is given in Section 3, since the generating function  $P_s(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} H_s(n) z^n$  of  $\{H_s(n)\}_{n \geq 0}$ , verifies

$$
P_s(z) = \frac{1}{1-z} Li_s(z).
$$
\n(7)

So, we set the polylogarithmic algebra of  $\{P_s\}_s$ , with coefficients in  $\mathcal{C} = \mathbb{C}[z, z^{-1}, (z-1)^{-1}]$ , and we then establish *exact* transfer results between a function g in this algebra and its Taylor coefficients  $[z^N]g(z)$ , in the C-algebra generated by  $\{N^k H_s(N)\}_{s, k\in\mathbb{Z}}$  in both directions. The main result of this paper is finally stated in Section 4, which gives a computation of the *full* singular expansion of g, in the basis of functions  $\{(1-z)^{\alpha} \log^{\beta}(1-z)\}_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}, \beta \in \mathbb{N}}$ , near the singularity  $z = 1$ . We deduce from this a *full* asymptotic expansion of its Taylor coefficients. These results are based on the analysis of the *noncommutative* generating series of functions of the form  $(7)$ , in particular on its infinite factorization indexed by *Lyndon words*.

## 2 Background

#### 2.1 Combinatorics on words

To the multi-index s we can canonically associate the word  $u = x_0^{s_1-1}x_1...x_0^{s_r-1}x_1$  over the finite alphabet  $X = \{x_0, x_1\}$ . In the same way, s can be canonically associated to the word  $v = y_{s_1} \dots y_{s_r}$  over the infinite alphabet  $Y = \{y_i\}_{i\geq 1}$ . Moreover, in both alphabets, the empty multi-index will correspond to the empty word  $\epsilon$ . We shall henceforth identify the multi-index s with its encoding by the word u (resp. v). We denote by  $X^*$  (resp.  $Y^*$ ) the free monoid generated by  $X$  (resp. Y), which is the set of words over X (resp. Y). Noting  $\mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle$  (resp.  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle$ ) the algebra of noncommutative polynomials with coefficients in  $\mathbb C$ , we obtain so a concatenation isomorphism from the  $\mathbb C$ -algebra of multi-indexes into the algebra  $\mathbb C\langle X\rangle$ (resp.  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle$ ). The coefficient of  $w \in X^*$  in a polynomial  $S \in \mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle$  is denoted by  $(S|w)$  or  $S_w$ . The duality between polynomials is defined as follows

$$
(S|p) = \sum_{w \in X^*} S_w p_w, \ p \in \mathbb{C} \langle X \rangle.
$$
 (8)

The set of Lie monomials is defined by induction: the letters in  $X$  are Lie monomials and the Lie bracket [a, b] =  $ab - ba$  of two Lie monomials a and b is a Lie monomial. A Lie polynomial is a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear combination of Lie monomials. The set of Lie polynomials is called the *free Lie algebra*.

#### 2.2 Shuffle products

Let  $a, b \in X$  (resp.  $y_i, y_j \in Y$ ) and  $u, v \in X^*$  (resp.  $Y^*$ ). The *shuffle* (resp. *stuffle*) of  $u = au'$  and  $v = bv'$  (resp.  $u = y_i u'$  and  $v = y_j v'$ ) is the polynomial recursively defined by

$$
\epsilon \sqcup u = u \sqcup \epsilon = u \quad \text{and} \quad u \sqcup v = a(u' \sqcup v) + b(u \sqcup v'), \tag{9}
$$

$$
(\text{resp. } \epsilon \pm u = u \pm \epsilon = u \quad \text{and} \quad u \pm v = y_i(u' \pm v) + y_j(u \pm v') + y_{i+j}(u' \pm v')). \tag{10}
$$

**Example 2.**

$$
x_0 x_1 \dots x_1 = x_1 x_0 x_1 + 2x_0 x_1^2 \n y_2 \dots y_1 = y_1 y_2 + y_2 y_1 + y_3.
$$
\n(11)

This product is extended to  $\mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle$  (resp.  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle$ ) by linearity. With this product,  $\mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle$  (resp.  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle$ ) is a commutative and associative C-algebra.





### 2.3 Lyndon words and Radford's theorem

By definition, a *Lyndon word* is a non empty word  $l \in X^*$  (resp.  $\in Y^*$ ) which is lower than any of its proper right factors [14] (for the lexicographical ordering) i.e. for all  $u, v \in X^* \setminus {\epsilon}$  (resp.  $\in Y^* \setminus {\epsilon}$ ),  $l = uv \Rightarrow l < v$ . The set of Lyndon words of X (resp. Y) is denoted by  $\mathcal{L}yn(X)$  (resp.  $\mathcal{L}yn(Y)$ ).

**Example 3.** *For*  $X = \{x_0, x_1\}$  *with the order*  $x_0 < x_1$  *the Lyndon words of length*  $\leq 5$  *on*  $X^*$  *are (in lexicographical increasing order)*

$$
\{x_0, x_0^4x_1, x_0^3x_1, x_0^3x_1^2, x_0^2x_1, x_0^2x_1x_0x_1, x_0^2x_1^2, x_0^2x_1^3, x_0x_1, x_0x_1x_0x_1^2, x_0x_1^2, x_0x_1^3, x_0x_1^4, x_1\}.
$$

*For*  $Y = \{y_i, i \ge 1\}$ , with the order  $y_i < y_j$  when  $i > j$ , here are the corresponding Lyndon words over Y

 $\{y_5, y_4, y_4y_1, y_3, y_3y_2, y_3y_1, y_3y_1^2, y_2, y_2^2y_1, y_2y_1, y_2y_1^2, y_2y_1^3, y_1\}.$ 

#### **Theorem 1 (Radford, [13, 14]).** *Let*

$$
C_1 = \mathbb{C} \oplus (\mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle \setminus x_0 \mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle x_1) \quad and \quad C_2 = \mathbb{C} \oplus (\mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle \setminus y_1 \mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle)
$$

*be the sets of convergent polynomials over* X *and* Y *respectively. Then,*

$$
(\mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle, \mathbb{L}) \simeq (\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{L}yn(X)], \mathbb{L}) = (\mathcal{C}_1[x_0, x_1], \mathbb{L}),
$$
  

$$
(\mathbb{C}\langle Y\rangle, \mathbb{L}) \simeq (\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{L}yn(Y)], \mathbb{L}) = (\mathcal{C}_2[y_1], \mathbb{L}).
$$

**Example 4.**

$$
y_2y_4y_1 + y_2y_1y_4 + y_1y_2y_4 + y_2y_5 + y_3y_4 = y_4 \oplus y_2 \oplus y_1 - y_4y_2 \oplus y_1 - y_6 \oplus y_1 \in \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{L}yn(Y)]
$$
  
=  $y_2y_4 \oplus y_1 \in \mathbb{C}_2[y_1]$ 

## 2.4 Bracket forms and the dual basis

The *bracket form*  $Q_l$  of a Lyndon word  $l = uv$ , with  $l, u, v \in \mathcal{L}yn(X)$  and the word v being as long as possible, is defined recursively by

$$
\begin{cases} Q_l = [Q_u, Q_v] \\ Q_x = x \text{ for each letter } x \in X, \end{cases}
$$

It is classical that the set  $\mathcal{B}_1 = \{Q_l : l \in \mathcal{L}yn(X)\}\text{, ordered lexicographically, is a basis for the free }$ Lie algebra. Moreover, each word  $w \in X^*$  can be expressed uniquely as a decreasing product of Lyndon words:

$$
w = l_1^{\alpha_1} l_2^{\alpha_2} \dots l_k^{\alpha_k}, \quad l_1 > l_2 > \dots > l_k, \quad k \ge 0.
$$
 (12)

The Poincaré–Birkhoff–Witt basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{Q_w; w \in X^*\}$  and its dual basis  $\mathcal{B}^* = \{\mathcal{S}_w; w \in X^*\}$  are obtained from (12) by setting [14]

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{rcl}\mathcal{Q}_w &=& \mathcal{Q}_{l_1}^{\alpha_1} \mathcal{Q}_{l_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots \mathcal{Q}_{l_k}^{\alpha_k},\\ \mathcal{S}_w &=& \frac{\mathcal{S}_{l_1}^{\Box \alpha_1} \alpha_1 \dots \dots \alpha_{l_k}^{\Box \alpha_k}}{\alpha_1! \alpha_2! \dots \alpha_k!},\\ \mathcal{S}_l &=& x \mathcal{S}_w, \quad \forall l \in \mathcal{L}yn(X), \text{ where } l = xw, \ x \in X, \ w \in X^*.\end{array}\right.
$$

In [14], it is proved that B and  $\mathcal{B}^*$  are dual bases of  $\mathbb{C}\langle X\rangle$  i.e.  $(Q_u|\mathcal{S}_v) = \delta_u^v$ , for all words  $u, v \in X^*$ with  $\delta_u^v = 1$  if  $u = v$ , otherwise 0.

**Lemma 1.** *For all*  $w \in x_0 X^* x_1$ *, one has*  $S_w \in x_0 \mathbb{Z}\langle X \rangle x_1$ *.* 

*Proof.* The Lyndon words involved in the decomposition (12) of a word  $w \in X^*x_1$  (resp.  $w \in x_0X^*x_1$ ) all belong to  $X^*x_1$  (resp.  $x_0X^*x_1$ ).

## 2.5 Polylogarithms

Let  $C = \mathbb{C}[z, 1/z, 1/(z-1)]$  and let  $\omega_0$  and  $\omega_1$  be the two following differential forms

$$
\omega_0(z) = \frac{dz}{z} \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_1(z) = \frac{dz}{1 - z}.
$$
 (13)

One verifies the polylogarithm  $\text{Li}_s(z)$ , defined by Formula (6), is also the following *iterated integral* with respect to  $\omega_0$  and  $\omega_1$ 

$$
\text{Li}_\mathbf{s}(z) = \int\limits_{0 \to z} \omega_0^{s_1 - 1} \omega_1 \cdots \omega_0^{s_r - 1} \omega_1.
$$
 (14)

Thanks to the bijection from  $Y^*$  to  $X^*x_1$  previously explained, we can index the polylogarithms by the words of  $X^*x_1$ , or indistinctly by the words of  $Y^*$ . We can extend (14) over  $X^*$  by putting

$$
\text{Li}_{\epsilon}(z) = 1, \quad \text{Li}_{x_0}(z) = \log z, \quad \text{Li}_{x_i w}(z) = \int_{0 \to z} \omega_i(t) \,\text{Li}_w(t), \quad \text{for } x_i \in X, w \in X^*.
$$
 (15)

Therefore,  $\text{Li}_w$  verifies the following identity [4]

$$
\forall u, v \in X^*, \qquad \text{Li}_{u \text{ in } v} = \text{Li}_u \text{ Li}_v. \tag{16}
$$

The extended definition enables to construct the noncommutative generating series [4]

$$
L = \sum_{w \in X^*} \text{Li}_w w \tag{17}
$$

as being the unique solution of the *Drinfel'd equation*, i.e. the differential equation [4]

$$
d\mathbf{L} = [x_0\omega_0 + x_1\omega_1]\mathbf{L},\tag{18}
$$

.

satisfying the boundary condition

$$
L(\varepsilon) = e^{x_0 \log \varepsilon} + o(\sqrt{\varepsilon}), \quad \text{when} \quad \varepsilon \to 0^+.
$$
 (19)

**Proposition 1 ([5]).** Let  $\sigma$  be the monoid morphism defined over  $X^*$  by  $\sigma(x_0) = -x_1$  and  $\sigma(x_1) = -x_0$ . *Then,*

$$
L(1-z) = [\sigma L(z)] \prod_{l \in \mathcal{L}yn(X) \setminus \{x_0, x_1\}}^{\searrow} e^{\zeta(S_l)Q_l}
$$

**Example 5 ([5]).**

$$
\text{Li}_{x_0x_1^2}(1-z) = -\text{Li}_{x_0^2x_1}(z) + \text{Li}_{x_0}(z)\text{Li}_{x_0x_1}(z) - \frac{1}{2}\text{Li}_{x_0}^2(z)\text{Li}_{x_1}(z) + \zeta(3), \qquad i.e.
$$
  
\n
$$
\text{Li}_{2,1}(1-z) = -\text{Li}_3(z) + \log(z)\text{Li}_2(z) + \frac{1}{2}\log^2(z)\log(1-z) + \zeta(3).
$$

## 2.6 Harmonic sums

**Definition 1.** Let  $w = y_{s_1} \ldots y_{s_r} \in Y^*$ . For  $N \geq r \geq 1$ , the harmonic sum  $H_w(N)$  is defined as

$$
H_w(N) = \sum_{N \ge n_1 > \ldots > n_r > 0} \frac{1}{n_1^{s_1} \ldots n_r^{s_r}}.
$$

*For*  $0 \le N < r$ ,  $H_w(N) = 0$  *and, for the empty word*  $\epsilon$ *, we put*  $H_{\epsilon}(N) = 1$ *, for any*  $N \ge 0$ *.* 

Let  $w = y_{s_1} \dots y_{s_r} \in Y^*$ . If  $s_1 > 1$  then, by an Abel's theorem,

$$
\lim_{N \to \infty} \mathcal{H}_w(N) = \lim_{z \to 1} \mathcal{L}_w(z) = \sum_{n_1 > ... > n_r > 0} \frac{1}{n_1^{s_1} \dots n_r^{s_r}}.
$$

That is nothing but the polyzêta (or MZV [16])  $\zeta(w)$  and the word  $w \in Y^* \setminus y_1Y^*$  is said to be *convergent*. A polynomial of  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y \rangle$  is said to be convergent when it is a linear combination of convergent words. The *double* shuffle algebra of polyzêtas is already pointed out and extensively studied in [3].

For  $w = y_s w'$ , we have

$$
\zeta(w) = \sum_{l \ge 1} \frac{\mathcal{H}_{w'}(l-1)}{l^s},\tag{20}
$$

$$
H_w(N + 1) - H_w(N) = (N + 1)^{-s} H_{w'}(N)
$$
\n(21)

and, for any  $u, v \in Y^*$  [9]

$$
H_{u \perp v}(N) = H_u(N)H_v(N). \tag{22}
$$

## 3 Generating series

#### 3.1 Definition and first properties

**Definition 2 ([8]).** Let  $w \in Y^*$  and let  $P_w(z)$  be the ordinary generating series of  $\{\text{H}_w(N)\}_{N \geq 0}$ 

$$
\mathcal{P}_w(z) = \sum_{N \ge 0} \mathcal{H}_w(N) z^N.
$$

**Proposition 2 ([8]).** *Extended by linearity, the map*  $P : u \mapsto P_u$  *is an isomorphism from*  $(\mathbb{C}\langle Y \rangle, \pm)$ *to the Hadamard algebra of*  $({P_w}_{w \in Y^*}, \odot)$ *. Therefore, the map* H :  $u \mapsto H_u = {H_u(N)}_{N \geq 0}$  *is an isomorphism from*  $(\mathbb{C}\langle Y \rangle, \perp)$  *to the algebra of*  $(\{\mathbf{H}_w\}_{w \in Y^*}, \cdot)$ *.* 

*Proof.* The definition of the Hadamard product  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \odot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n z^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n b_n z^n$ , and the formula (22) gives P as an algebra morphism. Since the functions  $\{Li_w\}_{w\in X^*}$  are linearly independent over  $C$  [4], P is the expected isomorphism.  $\Box$ 

**Proposition 3 ([8]).** For every word  $w \in Y^*$  and for  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $|z| < 1$ , one has  $\text{Li}_w(z) =$  $(1 - z)P_w(z)$ .

*Proof.* For  $w = y_s w'$ , since  $P_w(z) = \sum_{N \geq 0} H_w(N) z^N$  and by using (21),

$$
(1-z)P_w(z) = H_w(0) + \sum_{N \ge 1} \frac{H_{w'}(N-1)}{N^s} z^N = \text{Li}_w(z).
$$

A direct consequence of this proposition and Identity (16) is

**Corollary 1.** For all  $u, v \in X^*$ , for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $|z| < 1$ ,  $P_u(z)P_v(z) = (1-z)^{-1}P_{u \perp v}(z)$ . **Example 6.** *Since*  $x_1 \perp x_0 x_1 = x_1 x_0 x_1 + 2x_0 x_1^2$  *then we get* 

$$
P_{1,2}(z) = (1-z)P_1(z)P_2(z) - 2P_{2,1}(z).
$$

 $\Box$ 

Proposition 3 allows to extend the definition of  $P_w$  over  $X^*$  as we have already extended the definition of  $\mathrm{Li}_w$  over  $X^*$ . Moreover,

**Definition 3 ([8]).** *Let* P *be the noncommutative generating series of*  $\{P_w\}_{w \in X^*}$  *:* 

$$
\mathbf{P} = \sum_{w \in X^*} \mathbf{P}_w w.
$$

**Proposition 4 ([8]).** Let  $\sigma$  be the monoid morphism defined over  $X^*$  by  $\sigma(x_0) = -x_1$  and  $\sigma(x_1) = -x_0$ . *Then*

$$
P(1-z) = \frac{1-z}{z} [\sigma P(z)] \prod_{l \in \mathcal{L}yn(X) \setminus \{x_0, x_1\}}^{\searrow} e^{\zeta(S_l)Q_l}.
$$

*Proof.* It follows immediately from Proposition 1.

#### **Example 7.**

$$
P_{2,1}(1-z) = \frac{1-z}{z} \left(-P_3(z) + \log(z)P_2(z) - \log^2(z)P_1(z) + \frac{\zeta(3)}{1-z}\right)
$$

*Thus,*

$$
\mathbf{P}_{2,1}(z)=-\frac{z}{1-z}\mathbf{P}_3(1-z)+\frac{z\log(1-z)}{1-z}\mathbf{P}_2(1-z)-\frac{1}{2}\frac{z\log^2(1-z)}{1-z}\mathbf{P}_1(1-z)+\frac{\zeta(3)}{1-z}.
$$

By Formula (22) and Proposition 2, for  $w \in Y^*$ , there exist a finite set I and  $(c_i)_{i \in I} \in \mathrm{C}_2^I$  such that the three following identities are equivalent

$$
w = \sum_{i \in I} c_i \uplus y_1^{\downarrow \sqcup i}, \tag{23}
$$

$$
P_w = \sum_{i \in I} P_{c_i} \odot P_{y_1}^{\odot i}, \qquad (24)
$$

$$
H_w = \sum_{i \in I} H_{c_i} H_{y_1}^i.
$$
 (25)

In particular, for  $w = y_1^k$ , we have,

**Lemma 2.** Let  $M = (m_{i,j})_{1 \leq i,j \leq k}$  be the matrix defined by  $m_{i,j} = \delta_{i,j+1}$  *(Kronecker symbol). Let*  $e_{i,j}$ *the matrix of size*  $k \times k$ , whose coefficients are all zero, except the one equal to 1 at line i and column j. *Let*

$$
A = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\frac{y_2}{2} & \frac{y_1}{2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \frac{(-1)^{k-1}y_k}{k} & \frac{(-1)^{k-2}y_{k-1}}{k} & \dots & \frac{y_1}{k} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} H_{y_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\frac{H_{y_2}}{2} & \frac{H_{y_1}}{2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \frac{(-1)^{k-1}H_{y_k}}{k} & \frac{(-1)^{k-2}H_{y_{k-1}}}{k} & \dots & \frac{H_{y_1}}{k} \end{pmatrix}.
$$

*Then*

$$
\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_1^k \end{pmatrix} = A \prod_{\ell=1}^{k-1} \left[ M^{\ell} A ({}^t M)^{\ell} + \sum_{\iota=1}^{\ell} e_{\iota,\iota} \right] \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{H}_{y_1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{H}_{y_1^k} \end{pmatrix} = B \prod_{\ell=1}^{k-1} \left[ M^{\ell} B ({}^t M)^{\ell} + \sum_{\iota=1}^{\ell} e_{\iota,\iota} \right] \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.
$$

*Proof.* The formula  $y_1^k = (-1)^{k-1} k^{-1} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} (-1)^l y_1^l \leftrightarrow y_{k-l}$  [6] can be written matricially as follows

$$
\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_1^2 \\ \vdots \\ y_1^k \end{pmatrix} = A \sqcup \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon \\ y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_1^{k-1} \end{pmatrix} = A \sqcup \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & y_1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{(-1)^{k-2}y_{k-1}}{k-1} & \dots & \frac{y_1}{k-1} \end{pmatrix} \sqcup \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon \\ \epsilon \\ \vdots \\ y_1^{k-2} \end{pmatrix}.
$$

Here all powers and products are carried out with the stuffle product. Successively, we get the expected result. $\Box$ 

 $\Box$ 

The word  $y_1^k$  appears then as a computable stuffle product of words of length 1. Hence,

**Proposition 5.**  $H_{y_1^k}$  is a combination of  $\{H_{y_r}\}_{1 \leq r < k}$  which are algebraically independent.

*Proof.* The  $\{H_{y_r}\}_{1 \leq r \leq k}$  are algebraically independent according to Proposition 2, as image by the isomorphism H of the Lyndon words  $\{y_r\}_{1 \leq r \leq k}$ . By Lemma 2, we get the expected result.  $\Box$ 

#### **Example 8.** *Since*

$$
y_1^2 = \frac{y_1 \pm y_1 - y_2}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad y_1^3 = \frac{2(y_3 - y_1 \pm y_2) + (y_1 \pm y_1 - y_2) \pm y_1}{6}
$$

*then we have*

$$
H_{y_1^2} = \frac{H_{y_1}^2 - H_{y_2}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad H_{y_1^3} = \frac{2(H_{y_3} - H_{y_1} H_{y_2}) + (H_{y_1}^2 - H_{y_2}) H_{y_1}}{6}.
$$

Identities (23-25) give rise to two interpretations : (24) enables to decompose  $P_w$  in a basis of singular functions  $(1 - z)^{\alpha} \log^{\beta} (1 - z)$  while (25) enables to compute an asymptotic expansion of its Taylor coefficients in terms of  $N^a \log^b N$  (or equivalently in terms of  $N^a \text{H}_{y_1}^b(N)$ ). Before stating a theorem linking these two interpretations, we are interested in the action of  $C$  on Taylor coefficients; reciprocally, we are interested in the effects of changing Taylor coefficients on a function in  $\mathcal{C}[\{P_w\}_{w\in Y^*}]$ .

## 3.2 Operations on the generating functions  $P_w$

For  $f(z) = \sum_{n\geq 0} a_n z^n$ , we will henceforth denote  $[z^n] f(z) = a_n$  its *n*-th Taylor coefficient. Since multiplying or dividing by z acts very simply on  $[z^n]f(z)$ , we only have to study the effect of multiplying or dividing by  $1 - z$ .

$$
[zn](1-z)Pw(z) = Hw(n) - Hw(n-1).
$$
 (26)

$$
z^{n} \big| \frac{P_{w}(z)}{1-z} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} H_{w}(k)
$$
 (27)

$$
= \begin{cases} (n+1)\mathcal{H}_w(n) - \mathcal{H}_{y_{s-1}w'}(n) & \text{if } w = y_s w', \text{ with } s \neq 1\\ (n+1)\mathcal{H}_w(n) - \sum_{j=1}^n \mathcal{H}_{w'}(j-1) & \text{if } w = y_1 w'. \end{cases}
$$
(28)

and, more generally,

 $\sqrt{2}$ 

**Proposition 6.**

$$
[z^{n}](1-z)^{k}P_{w}(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{k} {k \choose j} (-1)^{j}H_{w}(n-j) \text{ and } [z^{n}] \frac{P_{w}(z)}{(1-z)^{k}} = \sum_{n \ge j_{1} \ge \cdots \ge j_{k} \ge 0} H_{w}(j_{k}).
$$

### 3.3 Operations on Taylor coefficients of  $P_w$

We are now to find how multiplying or dividing  $H_w(N)$  by N acts on  $P_w$ .

### 3.3.1 A particular case :  $w = \epsilon$

The simple case  $w = \epsilon$ , corresponding to  $H_{\epsilon}(N) = 1$ , can be studied and treated by the following **Proposition 7.** *For any*  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ *, one has* 

$$
n^{q} = \begin{cases} [z^{n}](1-z)P_{-q}(z) & \text{if } q < 0, \\ [z^{n}](1-z)^{-1} & \text{if } q = 0, \\ [z^{n}] \frac{z}{1-z} N_{q} \left(\frac{1}{1-z}\right) & \text{if } q > 0, \end{cases}
$$

*where*  $N_q$  *is defined by the following recurrence* 

$$
N_0(X) = 1
$$
, and  $N_q(X) = X \left( \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} (-1)^{q-1-j} {q \choose j} N_j(X) \right)$ .

**Example 9.**

$$
n = [z^n] \left( \frac{z}{(1-z)^2} \right) = [z^n] \left( \frac{1}{(1-z)^2} - \frac{1}{1-z} \right),
$$
  
\n
$$
n^2 = [z^n] \left( \frac{2z}{(1-z)^3} - \frac{z}{(1-z)^2} \right) = [z^n] \left( \frac{2}{(1-z)^3} - \frac{3}{(1-z)^2} + \frac{1}{1-z} \right).
$$

## 3.3.2 How to divide by  $n^k$ ?

Let  $w = y_{s_1} \cdots y_{s_r}$  and  $w' = y_{s_2} \cdots y_{s_r}$  be the suffix of w, of length  $r - 1$ . The expression  $n^{-k}H_w(n)$ , k positive integer, can be identified as follows

$$
n^{-k}H_w(n) = n^{-k}H_w(n-1) + n^{-s_1-k}H_{w'}(n-1)
$$
\n(29)

$$
= [zn] Liykw+ys1+kw'(z)
$$
\n(30)

$$
= [zn][(1-z)Pykw+ys1+kw'(z)].
$$
\n(31)

## 3.3.3 How to multiply by  $n^k$ ?

In order to study the effect of multiplying by  $n^k$ , k positive integer, we denote by  $\theta = z\partial/\partial z$  the Euler operator. Then for any integer  $k$ ,

$$
n^k \mathcal{H}_w(n) = [z^n] \theta^k \mathcal{P}_w(z). \tag{32}
$$

So, we just have to compute  $\theta^k P_w(z)$ . As in [7], let us introduce

**Definition 4.** For any word  $w = x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k}$  and for any composition  $\mathbf{r} = (r_1, \ldots, r_k)$ , let  $\tau_{\mathbf{r}}(w)$  be defined by  $\tau_{\mathbf{r}}(w) = \tau_{r_1}(x_{i_1}) \cdots \tau_{r_k}(x_{i_k})$  with,

$$
\tau_0(x_0) = x_0, \qquad \tau_r(x_1) = x_1,
$$
  
and, for  $r \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $\tau_r(x_0) = \theta^r x_0 = 0$  and  $\tau_r(x_1) = \theta^r \frac{zx_1}{1 - z} = \frac{r! x_1}{(1 - z)^{r+1}}.$ 

*We define the degree of* **r** *by*  $\deg(\mathbf{r}) = k$  *and its weight by*  $\text{wgt}(\mathbf{r}) = k + r_1 + \cdots + r_k$ .

By applying successively the operator  $\theta$  to L, we get

**Lemma 3.**  $\theta^l L = A_l L$ , where  $A_l$  is defined by

$$
A_l(z) = \sum_{\text{wgt}(\mathbf{r})=l} \sum_{w \in X^{\text{deg}(\mathbf{r})}} \prod_{i=1}^{\text{deg}(\mathbf{r})} \left( \sum_{j=1}^i r_i + j - 1 \right) \tau_{\mathbf{r}}(w).
$$

*Proof.* This is a consequence of the recurrence relation verified by  $A_l$ , which is  $A_0(z) = 1$ , and, for all  $l \in \mathbb{N}, A_{l+1}(z) = [\tau_0(x_0) + \tau_0(x_1)]A_l(z) + \theta A_l(z).$  $\Box$ 

This lemma enables to extract the expression of  $\theta^l \text{Li}_w$ , for any word  $w \in X^*$ .

**Example 10.**

$$
A_0(z) = 1,
$$
  
\n
$$
A_1(z) = x_0 + \frac{z}{1-z}x_1,
$$
  
\n
$$
A_2(z) = x_0^2 + \frac{z}{1-z}x_0 \pm x_1 + \frac{z^2}{(1-z)^2}x_1^2 + \frac{1}{(1-z)^2}x_1.
$$

 $So, for w = x_0^2 x_1,$ 

$$
\theta \operatorname{Li}_{x_0^2 x_1} = \left( (x_0 + \frac{z}{1 - z} x_1) \operatorname{L}(z) \middle| x_0^2 x_1 \right)
$$
  
\n
$$
= \operatorname{Li}_{x_0 x_1},
$$
  
\n
$$
\theta^2 \operatorname{Li}_{x_0^2 x_1} = \left( (x_0^2 + \frac{z}{1 - z} x_0 \cup x_1 + \frac{z^2}{(1 - z)^2} x_1^2 + \frac{1}{(1 - z)^2} x_1) \operatorname{L}(z) \middle| x_0^2 x_1 \right)
$$
  
\n
$$
= \operatorname{Li}_{x_1}.
$$

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**Lemma 4.** *Let*  $\perp$  *be the linear operator of*  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$  *defined by*  $\perp X^n = (n+1)X^{n+1} + nX^n$  *and*  ${B_l}_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \in$  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$  *defined by*  $B_0(X) = 1$  *and*  $B_{l+1}(X) = \perp B_l(X)$ *. Then* 

$$
\theta^l(1-z)^{-1} = (1-z)^{-1}B_l(z(1-z)^{-1}).
$$

Note that the head term of  $B_l$ ,  $l \geq 1$ , is  $l!X^l$  and its trail term is X.

**Example 11.**  $B_0(X) = 1$ ,  $B_1(X) = X$ ,  $B_2(X) = 2X^2 + X$ ,  $B_3(X) = 6X^3 + 6X^2 + X$ . **Proposition 8.** *With the notations of Lemma 4,*

$$
\theta^k \mathbf{P}(z) = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{\mathbf{wgt}(\mathbf{r})} \sum_{w \in X^{\deg(\mathbf{r})}} \prod_{i=1}^{\deg(\mathbf{r})} \left( \frac{\sum_{j=1}^i r_i + j - 1}{r_i} \right) \binom{k}{j} \tau_{\mathbf{r}}(w) B_j \left( \frac{z}{1-z} \right) \mathbf{P}(z).
$$

Using Leibniz formula, one has

$$
\theta^k P_w(z) = \sum_{j=0}^k {k \choose j} \theta^{k-j} \operatorname{Li}_w(z) \theta^j \frac{1}{1-z}
$$
\n(33)

$$
= \sum_{j=0}^{k} {k \choose j} B_j \left(\frac{z}{1-z}\right) \frac{1}{1-z} \theta^{k-j} \operatorname{Li}_w(z). \tag{34}
$$

Thanks to Lemma 3, we can extract the coefficient  $\theta^l$  Li<sub>w</sub> of w in  $\theta^l$ L : this can be written as C-linear combination of Li<sub>v</sub>, with  $|v| \le |w| - l$  (where |u| denotes the length of a word  $u \in X^*$ ). We deduce so the expression of  $\theta^k P_w$ .

**Example 12.** *For*  $w = x_0^2 x_1$  *and*  $k = 2$ *,* 

$$
\theta^{2}P_{x_{0}^{2}x_{1}}(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{2} {2 \choose j} B_{j} \left(\frac{z}{1-z}\right) \frac{1}{1-z} \theta^{2-j} \operatorname{Li}_{w}(z)
$$
  
\n
$$
= \frac{1}{1-z} \operatorname{Li}_{x_{1}}(z) + 2 \frac{z}{1-z} \frac{1}{1-z} \operatorname{Li}_{x_{0}x_{1}}(z) + \left(2 \left(\frac{z}{1-z}\right)^{2} + \frac{z}{1-z}\right) \operatorname{Li}_{x_{0}^{2}x_{1}}(z)
$$
  
\n
$$
= P_{x_{1}}(z) + \frac{2z}{1-z} P_{x_{0}x_{1}}(z) + \frac{z^{2}+z}{1-z} P_{x_{0}^{2}x_{1}}(z).
$$
  
\n
$$
n^{2} \operatorname{H}_{3}(n) = [z^{n}] \left( P_{1}(z) + \frac{2z}{1-z} P_{2}(z) + \frac{z^{2}+z}{1-z} P_{3}(z) \right).
$$

## 4 The main theorem

Throughout the section, we will write

$$
f_n \sim \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} g_i(n)
$$
 for  $n \to +\infty$ ,

for a scale of functions  $(g_i)_{i\in\mathbb{N}}$  – i.e. verifying  $g_{i+1}(n) = O(g_i(n))$ , for all  $i$  – to express that

$$
f_n = \sum_{i=0}^{I} g_i(n) + O(g_{I+1}(n)),
$$
 for any  $I \ge 0$ .

In the same way, given a scale of functions  $(h_i)_{i\in\mathbb{N}}$  around  $z = 1$  (i.e. verifying  $h_{i+1}(1-z) =$ O  $(h_i(1-z))$ , when  $z \rightarrow 1$ ) we will write

$$
g(z) \sim \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} h_i(1-z)
$$
 for  $z \to 1$ ,

to mean

*So,* n

$$
g(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{I} h_i(1-z) + \mathcal{O}\left(h_{I+1}(1-z)\right) \text{ for all } I \ge 0.
$$

For  $w = y_1^k$ , we know the expression of  $[z^N]P_{y_1^k}(z) = H_{y_1^k}(N)$  is given by Lemma 2. From the second form of Euler-MacLaurin formula, involving the Bernoulli numbers  ${B_k}_{k\geq 0}$ , we get the following asymptotic expansions

$$
H_{y_1}(N) \sim \log N + \gamma - \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \frac{B_k}{k} \frac{1}{N^k},
$$
  
\n
$$
H_{y_r}(N) \sim \zeta(r) - \frac{1}{(r-1)N^{r-1}} - \sum_{k=r}^{+\infty} \frac{B_{k-r+1}}{k-r+1} {k-1 \choose r-1} \frac{1}{N^k}, \text{ for } r > 1.
$$

Thus, we can deduce the asymptotic expansions of  $H_{y_1^k}(N)$ , for  $N \to +\infty$ , from the asymptotic expansions of  $\{\mathrm{H}_{y_r}(N)\}_{1 \leq r < k}$ :

**Example 13.** *From Example 8, we can deduce then*

$$
H_{y_1^2}(N) = \frac{1}{2} (\log(N) + \gamma)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\log(N) + \gamma + 1}{N} - \frac{1}{12N^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right),
$$
  
\n
$$
H_{y_1^3}(N) = \frac{1}{6} \log^3(N) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma \log^2(N) + \frac{1}{2} (\gamma^2 - \zeta(2)) \log(N) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2) \gamma + \frac{1}{3} \zeta(3) + \frac{1}{6} \gamma^3 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{\log^2(N)}{N}
$$
  
\n
$$
+ \frac{1}{2} (\gamma + 1) \frac{\log(N)}{N} + \frac{1}{4} (2\gamma + \gamma^2 - \zeta(2)) \frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{24} \frac{\log^2(N)}{N^2} - \left(\frac{1}{8} + \frac{\gamma}{12}\right) \frac{\log(N)}{N^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right).
$$

Let us see in the general case how to reach the Taylor expansion of  $g \in \mathcal{C}[(P_w)_{w \in Y^*}]$ . **Theorem 2.** Let  $g \in \mathcal{C}[(P_w)_{w \in Y^*}]$ . There exist  $a_j \in \mathbb{C}, \alpha_j \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\beta_j \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$
g(z) \sim \sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} a_j (1-z)^{\alpha_j} \log^{\beta_j} (1-z), \text{ for } z \to 1.
$$

*Therefore, there exist*  $b_i \in \mathbb{C}, \eta_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  *and*  $\kappa_i \in \mathbb{N}$  *such that* 

$$
[z^{n}]g(z) \sim \sum_{i=0}^{+\infty} b_{i}n^{\eta_{i}} \log^{\kappa_{i}}(n), \text{ for } n \to \infty.
$$

*Proof.* Considering Corollary 1, we only have firstly to obtain the asymptotic expansion for the case  $g(z) = P_w(z)$ . Indeed, we get then the expansions of  $f(z)g(z)$ , for  $f \in C$  by remarking that  $z =$ 1 – (1 – z) and that  $z^{-1} = \sum_{n\geq 0} (1-z)^n$ .

The first expansion can be derived from Proposition 4 which links the behaviour of  $P_w$  around  $z = 1$ to the behaviour of some algebraic combination of functions  $\{P_u\}_{u\in X^*}$  around  $z=0$ . Moreover, by Radford theorem 1, we can assume that each word  $u$  involved in this combination is a Lyndon word and so belongs to  $x_0 X^* x_1 \cup \{x_0, x_1\}$ . But, remind that, in this case, we have  $P_u(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} H_u(n) z^n$  and that  $P_{x_0}(z) = (1 - z)^{-1} \log(z)$ . So, the expected first expansion follows.

From

$$
(1-z)^{\alpha} \log(1-z)^{\beta} = (-1)^{\beta} \beta! (1-z)^{\alpha+1} P_{y_1^{\beta}}(z), \tag{35}
$$

we derive the second expansion by computing the Taylor coefficient  $[z^n](1-z)^\alpha \log^\beta(1-z)$ . Since we have already explained how the multiplication by  $(1 - z)^{\alpha}$  acts on the Taylor coefficients, we just have then to compute  $[z^n]P_{y_1^{\beta}} = H_{y_1^{\beta}}(n)$ . For this, we use Lemma 2 which completes our proof.  $\Box$ 

Unfortunately, in the general case, knowing even the complete expansion of  $[z^n]g(z)$  only enables to get an asymptotic expansion of  $g(z)$ , as  $z \to 1$  up to order 0 (i.e. the *singular part* of the expansion). Indeed, Taylor coefficients of all functions  $(1-z)^k$ ,  $k \ge 0$  eventually vanish as in the following identity :

$$
\frac{1}{n} = [z^n] \operatorname{Li}_1(z) = [z^n][\operatorname{Li}_1(z) + (1-z)^2], \qquad \text{as soon as } n > 2.
$$
 (36)

In fact, to obtain this singular part, it is sufficient to know the asymptotic expansion of  $[z^n]g(z)$  up to order  $2 - \epsilon, \epsilon > 0$  [15].

**Remark 1.** In the case of a finite sum  $\sum_{i \in I} b_i n^{\eta_i} \text{H}_1^{\kappa_i}(n)$ , we are able to construct the unique function  $f \in \mathcal{C}[(P_w)_{w \in Y^*}]$  *such that,* 

$$
\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \qquad [z^n]f(z) = \sum_{i \in I} b_i n^{\eta_i} \mathcal{H}_1^{\kappa_i}(n), \tag{37}
$$

*as illustrated in Examples 9 and 12.*

**Remark 2.** *Note that the proof of Theorem 2 gives an* effective *construction of the asymptotic expansion of Taylor coefficients. In particular, applied to*  $g(z) = P_w(z)$  *directly, it enables to find an asymptotic*  $\epsilon$ xpansion of  $H_w(N)$ , as shown in the corollary below. Another algorithm, based on Euler Mac-Laurin *formula, is available in [1].*

**Corollary 2.** Let  $\mathcal Z$  be the Q-algebra generated by convergent polyzêtas and let  $\mathcal Z'$  be the  $\mathbb Q[\gamma]$ -algebra *generated by Z. Then there exist algorithmically computable coefficients*  $b_i \in \mathcal{Z}'$ ,  $\kappa_i \in \mathbb{N}$  *and*  $\eta_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ *such that, for any*  $w \in Y^*$ ,

$$
\mathcal{H}_w(N) \sim \sum_{i=0}^{+\infty} b_i N^{\eta_i} \log^{\kappa_i}(N), \text{ for } N \to +\infty.
$$

**Example 14.** *From Example 7 we get, for*  $z \rightarrow 1$ 

$$
P_{2,1}(z) = \frac{\zeta(3)}{1-z} + \log(1-z) - 1 - \frac{\log^2(1-z)}{2} + (1-z)\left(-\frac{\log^2(1-z)}{4} + \frac{\log(1-z)}{4}\right) + O(|1-z|).
$$

*But*

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}\n[z^N]\zeta(3)(1-z)^{-1} & = & \zeta(3), \\
[z^N]\log(1-z) & = & -N^{-1}, \\
[z^N]\frac{\log^2(1-z)}{2} & = & [z^N]\frac{2!(1-z)P_{y_1^2}(z)}{2} \\
& = & [z^N](1-z)P_{y_1^2}(z) \\
& = & H_{y_1^2}(N) - H_{y_1^2}(N-1), \\
& \vdots\n\end{array}
$$

*We find finally, using Example 13 :*

$$
[zN]P2,1(z) = H2,1(N) = \zeta(3) - \frac{\log(N) + 1 + \gamma}{N} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\log(N)}{N^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right).
$$

*Otherwise, by Example 6,*

$$
P_{1,2}(z) = (1-z)P_1(z)P_2(z) - 2P_{2,1}(z)
$$
  
=  $(1-z)\frac{-\log(1-z)}{1-z}\frac{z}{1-z}\left(-P_2(1-z) + \log(1-z)P_1(1-z) + \frac{\zeta(2)}{z}\right) - 2P_{2,1}(z),$ 

*calculated thanks to Proposition 4. So,*

$$
[zN]P1,2(z) = H1,2(N) = \zeta(2)\gamma - 2\zeta(3) + \zeta(2)\log(N) + \frac{\zeta(2) + 2}{2N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right).
$$

**Corollary 3 ([8]).** For any  $w \in Y^*$ , the N-free term in the asymptotic expansion of  $H_w(N)$ , when  $N \to +\infty$ , is a polynomial  $q_w$  in  $\mathcal{Z}[\gamma]$ . This term is an element in  $\mathcal{Z}$ , if and only if w is a convergent *word.*

**Example 15.**  $q_{y_1y_2} = \zeta(2)\gamma - 2\zeta(3)$  *and*  $q_{y_2y_1} = \zeta(3) = \zeta(2, 1)$ *.* 

**Question.** *For any convergent word* w, are  $\zeta(w)$  and  $\gamma$  algebraically independent?

Now, let us go back to the  $A_s$  introduced in Section 1. We have seen that they are  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combinations on H<sub>s</sub>, hence we get their asymptotic expansions with coefficients in  $\mathcal{Z}'$ .

.

**Example 16.** *For*  $s = (1, 1, 1)$ *,* 

$$
A_{1,1,1}(N) = H_{1,1,1}(N) + H_{1,2}(N) + H_{2,1}(N) + H_3(N),
$$
  
\n
$$
= \frac{1}{6} \log^3(N) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma \log^2(N) + \frac{1}{2} [\gamma^2 + \zeta(2)] \log(N) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2) \gamma + \frac{1}{3} \zeta(3) + \frac{1}{6} \gamma^3 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{\log^2(N)}{N}
$$
  
\n
$$
+ \frac{1}{2} (\gamma - 1) \frac{\log(N)}{N} + \frac{1}{4} [\gamma^2 - 2\gamma + \zeta(2)] \frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{24} \frac{\log^2(N)}{N^2} + \frac{1}{24} (9 - 2\gamma) \frac{\log(N)}{N^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)
$$

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