

## ASYMPTOTIC ABELIAN COMPLEXITIES OF CERTAIN MORPHIC BINARY WORDS

MARKUS A. WHITELAND

*Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Turku  
FI-20014 University of Turku, Turku, Finland  
mawhit@utu.fi*

### ABSTRACT

We study asymptotic Abelian complexities of morphic binary words. We complete the classification of upper Abelian complexities of pure morphic binary words initiated recently by F. Blanchet-Sadri, N. Rampersad, and N. Fox. We also study a class of morphic binary words having different asymptotic factor complexities despite having the same asymptotic Abelian complexity.

*Keywords:* morphic words, Abelian complexity, factor complexity

### 1. Introduction

The study of complexity measures of infinite words is a well-motivated and actively studied research area. The *factor complexity function*

$$\mathcal{P}_w : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

of an infinite word  $w \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$  counts, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the number of distinct factors of  $w$  of length  $n$ . The notion is a fundamental one in combinatorics of infinite words. This can be seen, for instance, from the theorem of M. Morse and G.A. Hedlund [14], which characterises *ultimately periodic* words as exactly the words admitting  $\mathcal{P}(n_0) \leq n_0$  for some  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ . For surveys on factor complexity we refer the reader to [3, 4].

Inspired by the notion of factor complexity, other complexity measures have been developed. One such measure is the *Abelian complexity* of infinite words, the topic of this note. For other related complexity measures, see for instance [10, 17, 20]. Two finite words  $u, v$  are said to be *Abelian equivalent*, denoted by  $u \sim v$ , if, for each letter  $a$ , the word  $u$  contains equally many  $a$ 's as the word  $v$ . Note that the Abelian equivalence is an equivalence relation on words. The *Abelian complexity function*

$$\mathcal{P}_w^{\text{ab}} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

of an infinite word  $w$  then counts, for each  $n$ , the number of distinct Abelian equivalence classes of length  $n$  occurring in the word  $w$ . (The subscript is omitted when  $w$