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An n^2 -bound for the ultimate equivalence problem of certain D0L systems over an n -letter alphabet. (English summary)

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A D0L system (Σ, g, w) consists of an alphabet Σ , a morphism $g: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ and a word w over Σ . It is called “growing” if for each a in Σ , we have $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} |g^i(a)| = \infty$, where $|x|$ denotes the length of x . Given two D0L systems (Σ, g_k, w_k) ($k = 1, 2$), the ultimate equivalence problem consists in deciding whether $g_1^i(w_1) = g_2^i(w_2)$ holds for all but finitely many $i \geq 0$.

The author shows that for growing D0L systems satisfying some technical restrictions, the ultimate equivalence problem is equivalent to deciding whether $g_1^{B+i}(w_1) = g_2^{B+i}(w_2)$ holds for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n^2 - 1$, where n is the number of symbols in Σ and B is a number bounded from above by a polynomial function in n and in some structural entities of the D0L systems such as $\max\{|g_k(a)|: a \in \Sigma, k = 1, 2\}$.

Reviewed by *Peter R. J. Asveld*

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