LOOP-FREE SEQUENCING OF BOUNDED INTEGER COMPOSITIONS

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Abstract: We modify the Knuth-Klingsberg Gray code for unrestricted integer compositions to obtain a Gray code for integer compositions each of whose parts is bounded between zero and some positive integer. We also generalize Ehrlich's method for loop-free sequencing to implement this Gray code in $O(1)$ worst-case time per composition. The $(n\text{-}1)$-part compositions of r whose ith part is bounded by $n\text{-}i$ are the inversion vectors of the permutations of $\{1,...,n\}$ with r inversions; we thus obtain a Gray code and a loop-free sequencing algorithm for this set of permutations.

0. Introduction

An *n-part composition* of a non-negative integer r is an ordered n-tuple $(g_1,...,g_n)$ of non-negative integers whose sum is r. Such a composition is said to be $(m_1,...,m_n)$-*bounded* for an n-tuple $(m_1,...,m_n)$ of positive integers if $0 \le g_i \le m_i$ for all i. Bousquet [Bous] used bounded integer compositions to count planar maps with two faces as a function of the degrees of the vertices. Here we apply them to permutations with a fixed number of inversions. The *inversion vector* of a permutation $(p_1,...,p_n)$ is the ordered $(n\text{-}1)$-tuple $(g_1,...,g_{n-1})$, where g_i is the number of elements p_j such that $j > i$ but $p_j < p_i$. Evidently $0 \le g_i \le n\text{-}i$ for all i, so that the inversion tables for all the permutations of $\{1,...,n\}$ with r inversions are the $(n\text{-}1,...,2,1)$-bounded compositions of r. In Section 1 we discuss counting, ranking and lexicographical-order generation of bounded integer compositions. In particular, we show that if the $(n\text{-}1,...,2,1)$-bounded compositions of r are generated in inverse lexicographical order, then the corresponding permutations can be *sequenced* - transformed into their successors - in $O(n)$ worst-case time apiece. We also present a non-recursive formula for the number $M(n,r)$ of permutations of $\{1,...,n\}$ with r inversions and a practical algorithm for computing a single value of $M(n,r)$.

A *Gray code* is a family of lists of words such that in each list the number of letters by which each word differs from its successor is bounded independently of the length of the word. A recursive description of a Gray code for unbounded integer compositions was suggested by Knuth [Wi] and a non-recursive description was given by Klingsberg [Kl]. Each composition of r is obtained from its predecessor by raising one number by 1 and lowering another number by 1. When only the compositions which lie within a given n-tuple of bounds are selected from the list of unbounded compositions of r, each bounded composition is still obtained from its predecessor by raising one number by 1 and lowering another number by 1. This Gray code, like Klingsberg's, has the property that all the words in a list with a common suffix form an interval of consecutive words (we call such a list *suffix-partitioned*); so we can use Chase's method [Ch] to obtain a non-recursive description of a Gray code for bounded integer compositions: for each

suffix $(g_{i+1},...,g_n)$ we give the sequence of distinct values assumed by g_i in the interval in which that suffix is constant. If the $(n\text{-}1,...,2,1)$-bounded compositions of r are put into this order, then the corresponding permutations can be updated in $O(1)$ worst-case time apiece and each permutation is obtained from its predecessor by either two independent two-element transpositions or a three-element rotation. These results are presented in Section 2.

A *loop-free* algorithm is one that runs in $O(1)$ worst-case time. The obstacle to loop-free sequencing of a word in a Gray code is not changing the letters but finding the *pivot* - the index of the rightmost letter that must change to sequence the word. Ehrlich [Eh] solved this problem for several classical Gray codes. In [Wa1] and [Wa2] we showed that his method works for any suffix-partitioned word list with the additional property that for each suffix $(g_{i+1},...,g_n)$, g_i assumes at least two distinct values in the interval in which the suffix is constant. Many of the Gray codes in the literature, such as the Liu-Tang Gray code for combinations [LT] and the Knuth-Klingsberg Gray code are suffix-partitioned but do not have this additional property. Ad hoc methods can often be used to find the pivot in $O(1)$ time - for example, in [Wa1] we showed that the Liu-Tang Gray code can be sequenced in $O(1)$ time and $O(1)$ extra space because the pivot differs by at most 2 from one combination to the next and that the Knuth-Klingsberg Gray code can be sequenced in $O(1)$ time by storing the positions of the non-zero elements in a stack. This can also be done with our Gray code but it would require five auxiliary arrays. In Section 3 we generalize Ehrlich's method so that it works even if there are suffixes $(g_{i+1},...,g_n)$ for which g_i assumes a single value in the interval in which the suffix is constant provided that this interval contains only a single word. The Liu-Tang Gray code, the Knuth-Klingsberg Gray code and ours all have this property; so our generalization of Ehrlich's method works for them all, and in the case of our Gray code, only two auxiliary arrays are needed. In this way we can sequence n-permutations with r inversions in $O(1)$ worst-case time apiece. Computer time-trials indicate that loop-free sequencing actually does save some CPU time.

1. Enumeration, ranking and lexicographical order sequencing

The *rank* of an item in a list is the number of items that precede it in the list. For a prefix-partitioned word list, the rank of the item $(g_1,...,g_n)$ is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=0}^{g_i-1} \#(g_1,...,g_{i-1},j), \tag{1}$$

where $\#(g_1,...,g_{i-1},j)$ is the number of items in the list with prefix $(g_1,...,g_{i-1},j)$. In the case of $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded compositions of r, $\#(g_1,...,g_{i-1},j)$ is just the number of $(m_{i+1},...,m_n)$-bounded compositions of $r\text{-}(g_1+...+g_{i-1}+j)$, so that the ranking problem is reduced to enumeration.

The enumerating generating function for $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded compositions is

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=0}^{m_i-1} x^j = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{n}(1-x^{m_i})\right)(1-x)^{-n}, \tag{2}$$

and the number #() of $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded compositions of r is just the coefficient of x^r in (2), which can be computed from the right side of (2) in $O(nr)$ time storing r large integers. The corresponding generating function for the number $M(n,r)$ of n-permutations with r inversions was found by MacMahon [Mac], after whom those numbers were named mahonians:

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=0}^{i-1} x^j = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{n}(1-x)^i\right)(1-x)^{-n}. \tag{3}$$

Kendall [Ken] evaluated tables of values of $M(n,r)$ by substituting into the recurrence

$$M(n,r) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r = 0, \\ M(n,r-1) + M(n-1,r) & \text{if } 1 \le r \le \min(n-1, n(n-1)/4), \\ M(n,r-1) + M(n-1,r) - M(n-1,r-n) & \text{if } n \le r \le n(n-1)/4, \\ M(n,n(n-1)/2-r) & \text{if } n(n-1)/4 < r \le n(n-1)/2. \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

If one wants to compute a single value of $M(n,r)$ rather than a whole table, then using the right side of (3) has the advantage that the numbers one has to store and compute with before multiplying by $(1-x)^{-n}$ are bounded by 2^n instead of $n!$.

Further economies can be made by using two formulae proved by Euler [Eul] (a combinatorial proof of the first identity was given by Franklin [Fra]):

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty}(1-x)^i\right) = 1+\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}(-1)^k\left(x^{k(3k-1)/2}+x^{k(3k+1)/2}\right). \tag{5}$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n}(1-x)^i = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty}(1-x)^i\right)\left(1+\frac{x^{n+1}}{(1-x)}+\frac{x^{2(n+1)}}{(1-x)(1-x^2)}+\cdots\right). \tag{6}$$

```
MahonQuick:=proc(n,r)
local a,b,i,k,Odd,nc2,i1,i2;
a:=table();
b:=table();
nc2:=n*(n-1)/2;
s:=min(r,nc2-r);
if s<0 then RETURN(0) fi;
                #expansion of (1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)...to ∞ from the Euler-Franklin formula (5)#
a[0]:=1;
for i from 1 to r do a[i]:=0 od;
k:=1; Odd:=true; i1:=1; i2:=2;
while i2<=r do
  if Odd then
    a[i1]:=-1; a[i2]:=-1;
  else
    a[i1]:=1; a[i2]:=1;
  fi;
  Odd:=not(Odd);
  k:=k+1; i1:=i2+2*k-1; i2:=i1+k;
od;
if i1<=r then
  if Odd then a[i1]:=-1 else a[i1]:=1 fi;
fi;
                        #expansion of (1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)...(1-x^n) from Euler's formula (6)#
for i from 0 to r do b[i]:=a[i] od;
i:=1; k:=n+1;
while k<=r do
  for i1 from i to r-k do a[i1]:=a[i1]+a[i1-i] od;
  for i1 from k to r do b[i1]:=b[i1]+a[i1-k] od;
  i:=i+1; k:=k+n+1;
od;
                                #m(n,r)=coefficient of x^r in (1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)...(1-x^n)(1-x)^-n#
                                #i1=coefficient of x^i in (1-x)^-n and i2=partial sum for m(n,r)#
i1:=1; i2:=b[r];
for i from 1 to r do
  i1:=i1*(n+i-1)/i; i2:=i2+i1*b[r-i];
od;
RETURN(i2);
end:
```

Algorithm 1

A Maple prodecure for computing the number $M(n,r)$ of permutations of $\{1,...,n\}$ with r inversions using Euler's formula for $(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)...(1-x^n)$ in terms of $(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)...$to ∞ and the Euler-Franklin expansion of $(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)...$to ∞.

Working up to the coefficient of x^r, first substitute into (5), then into (6), and finally multiply by $(1-x)^{-n}$. This takes $O(r+r^2/n)$ operations, which is asymtotically faster than (4) if $r =$

$o(n^2)$ and asymptotically equivalent to (4) in the worst case, which occurs when r = floor($n(n$-1)/4) because for fixed n, $M(n,r)$ is a symmetric unimodal function of r which reaches its maximum at that value. We programmed this method in Maple (see the source code in Algorithm 1) and compared it to (4) on a machine which allows 1 megabyte of computation space. Using the worst value of r for each n, (4) could calculate $M(n,r)$ for n only as large as 80 without exceeding the memory limits (and took almost three times as long as (5) and (6)), whereas (5) and (6) did it for n as large as 160.

Using (3) and (5), Knuth (see [Kn], page 16) found a non-recursive formula for $M(n,r)$ which is valid for $r \le n$. Using (6) as well, we can generalize this formula so that it works for any r. The coefficient of x^i in the term $1/(1-x)(1-x^2)...(1-x^m)$ in the sum in the right side of (6) is the number $D(i;1,2,...,m)$ of partitions of i whose parts do not exceed m, and Colman [Col] showed how an explicit formula for these numbers can be found for any i and m. We transfer the factor $(1-x)^{-1}$ from each term except 1 in the sum in (6) to the factor $(1-x)^{-n}$ of (3); now the coefficient of this term is $D(i;2,..,m) = D(i;1,..,m)-D(i-1;1,..,m)$, the number of partitions of i into parts ranging from 2 to m, whence the following non-recursive formula for $M(n,r)$:

$$M(n,r) = \binom{n+r-1}{n-1} + \sum_{k=1}^{f(r)} (-1)^k \left\{ \binom{n+r-1-k(3k-1)/2}{n-1} + \binom{n+r-1-k(3k+1)/2}{n-1} \right\} +$$

$$\binom{r-1}{n} + \sum_{k=1}^{f(r-n-1)} (-1)^k \left\{ \binom{r-1-k(3k-1)/2}{n} + \binom{r-1-k(3k+1)/2}{n} \right\} +$$

$$+ \sum_{m=2}^{\left\lfloor \frac{r}{n+1} \right\rfloor} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{r-m(n+1)} \binom{n+r-m(n+1)-i}{n} D(i;2,..,m) + \right.$$

$$\left. + \sum_{k=1}^{f(r-m(n+1))} (-1)^k \sum_{i=0}^{r-m(n+1)-k(3k-1)/2} D(i:2,..,m) \times \right.$$

$$\left. \times \left\{ \binom{n+r-m(n+1)-i-k(3k-1)/2}{n} + \binom{n+r-m(n+1)-i-k(3k+1)/2}{n} \right\} \right), \qquad (7)$$

where $f(r) = \left\lfloor \frac{1+\sqrt{1+24r}}{6} \right\rfloor$.

Finding a non-recursive formula from which a single value of $M(n,r)$ can be found in $O(nr)$ operations is still, as far as we know, an open problem.

For each prefix $(g_1,...,g_{i-1})$ of an $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded composition $(g_1,...,g_n)$ of r, g_n must be equal to $r-(g_1+...+g_{n-1})$, and for all $i < n$, the maximum value that g_i can take is $\min(m_i, r-(g_1+...+g_{i-1}))$ and the minimum is $\max(0, r-(g_1+...+g_{i-1})-(m_{i+1}+...+m_n))$. We call 0 the *fixed minimum*, m_i the *fixed maximum*, $r-(g_1+...+g_{i-1})-(m_{i+1}+...+m_n)$ the *mobile minimum* and

r-(g_1+...+g_{i-1}) the *mobile maximum*. If g_i attains its mobile maximum, then $g_j = 0$ for all $j > i$, and if g_i attains its mobile minimum, then $g_j = m_j$ for all $j > i$. In lexicographic order each g_i rises in steps of 1 from its minimum to its maximum, and in inverse lexicographic order it falls from its maximum to its minimum, in each interval of words in which the prefix (g_1,...,g_{i-1}) is constant. Sequencing any word list, including an (m_1,...,m_n)-bounded composition (g_1,...,g_n) of r, in lexicographic or inverse lexicographic order is done the way an odometer flips to the next kilometer: scan the word from right to left to find the pivot - the rightmost letter which is not at its last value (if there is none, then the word is the last one in the list), change g_i to its next value, and then scan from left to right replacing each g_j, $j > i$, by its first value. During each of those scans, the bounds can be updated in $O(1)$ time for each value of the index (i or j), so that sequencing is done in $O(n)$ worst-case time.

We choose inverse lexicographical order for the inversion vectors of permutations of {1,...,n} with r inversions; the corresponding permutations will also be in inverse lexicographical order. After the pivot g_i has fallen by 1, the suffix (g_{i+1},...,g_n) will be at its lexicographically largest value: for some k such that $i+1 \le k \le n$, $g_j = m_j$ for all j, $i < j < k$, and $g_j = 0$ for all $k > j$. In the corresponding permutation the following changes occur: p_i changes to the largest number smaller than p_i in $S(i) = \{1,...,n\}$-$\{p_1,...,p_{i-1}\}$; for all j such that $i < j < k$, p_j is the largest number in $S(j)$; p_k is the g_{k+1}st smallest number in $S(k)$; and for all $j > k$, p_j is the smallest number in $S(j)$. We store an auxiliary bit vector to represent the set $S(j)$, which is initialized at (0,...,0) and is updated in $O(1)$ time for each value of the index during the two scans. The next value of p_i, the set of values of p_j such that $i < j < k$, the value of p_k and the set of values of p_j such that $k < j \le n$ can each be computed in $O(n)$ worst-case time; so the same time bound holds for updating the entire permutation.

2. The Gray Code

Klingsberg's non-recursive description of Knuth's Gray code for unrestricted length-n compositions of r is essentially the following. The first composition is the lexicographically largest one (r,0,...,0). For each interval of words in which the suffix (g_{i+1},...,g_n) is fixed, g_i is bounded between 0 and r-(g_{i+1}+...+g_n), except that g_1 must be r-(g_2+...+g_n), and it rises in steps of 1 from its minimum to its maximum if (g_{i+1}+...+g_n) is even and falls in steps of 1 from its maximum to its minimum otherwise. Changing the prefix (g_1,...,g_{i-1}) from its old last value to its new first value entails changing either g_1 or g_{i-1} by 1. Klingsberg showed that one could determine which of these two numbers to change by scanning from left to right to find the second leftmost non-zero element; this loop can be avoided by storing the positions of all the non-zero elements on a stack [Wa1].

We modify that Gray code so that it generates the $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded compositions $(g_1,...,g_n)$ of r. The first composition is the lexicographically largest one. The *sequencing rule* is the same as Klingsberg's except for the bounds: the maximum value for g_i is now $\min(m_j, r-(g_{i+1}+...+g_n))$ and the minimum value is now $\max(0, r-(g_{i+1}+...+g_n)-(m_1+...+m_{i-1}))$. This assures that the list of words generated will be the sublist of the Knuth-Klingsberg Gray code consisting of those compositions which lie within the bounds.

The sequencing algorithm follows the same pattern as for lexicographical order. We scan from left to right to find the pivot (the smallest i such that g_i is not at its last value according to the sequencing rule). If no such i exists, then the current word is the last one. Otherwise, we change g_i to its next value (raising or lowering it by 1 according to the parity of $g_{i+1}+...+g_n$), and then scan from right to left beginning with i-1 to find the largest $j < i$ such that g_j is not at its first value and change g_j to its first value, which turns out, as we shall see below, to either lower or raise it by 1. As in the case of lexicographical order, this process takes $O(n)$ worst-case time.

To show that this sequencing process generates the next word according to the sequencing rule, it suffices to show that for all $k < j$, g_k is at its first value according to the sequencing rule. We recall that for i to be the pivot, g_k must be at its last value for all $k < i$. When g_i rises or falls by 1, the parity of $(g_i+...+g_n)$ changes, so that for all $k < i$, the numbers g_k, which had risen to their maximum value must now fall and numbers which had fallen to their minimum value must now rise. The maximum value of g_k is either fixed at m_k or it moves with $r-(g_{k+1}+...+g_n)$, falling by 1 if g_i rises by 1 and vice versa. Similarly, the minimum value of g_k is either fixed at 0 or it moves with $r-(g_{k+1}+...+g_n)-(m_1+...+m_{k-1})$, falling by 1 if g_i rises by 1 and vice versa. If g_k is at a fixed maximum or minimum, then it is now at its first value. But this cannot be the case for all $k < i$: if it is true for all k, $2 \le k < i$, then g_1, which was equal to the old value of $r-(g_2+...+g_n)$, must fall by 1 if g_i rises by 1 and vice versa. Let j be the largest number less than i such that g_j is at a mobile maximum or minimum (we call j the *secondary pivot*). Then to attain its first value it must move with the maximum or minimum, rising by 1 if g_i falls by 1 and vice versa. If g_j is at a mobile maximum, then $g_k = 0$ for all $k < j$, and if g_j is at a mobile minimum, then $g_k = m_k$ for all $k < j$. But then there is only one possible value for each g_k, $k < j$: if $g_k = 0$, then it cannot fall, and it cannot rise without pushing some number to its left below 0, and if $g_k = m_k$, then it cannot rise, and it cannot fall without pulling some number to its left above its bound. Each g_k, $k < j$, is at therefore its first value, so that the algorithm described in the previous paragraph does in fact generate the next word according to the sequencing rule. And since the sequencing rule makes each g_i vary between the same limits as with colexicographic order (lexicographic order with left-right reversal), every $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded composition $(g_1,...,g_n)$ of r will be generated exactly once.

composition	permutation	inverse
4 1 0 0	*5 2* 1 3 4	3 *2* 4 5 *1*
3 2 0 0	*4 3* 1 2 5	3 4 *2 1* 5
2 3 *0* 0	*3* 5 *1* 2 4	*3* 4 *1* 5 2
1 3 1 0	*2 5* 3 1 4	4 *1* 3 5 *2*
2 2 1 0	*3 4* 2 1 5	4 3 *1 2* 5
3 1 1 0	*4 2* 3 1 5	4 *2* 3 *1* 5
4 0 *1* 0	*5* 1 *3* 2 4	2 4 *3 5* 1
3 0 2 0	*4 1* 5 2 3	*2* 4 5 *1* 3
2 1 2 0	*3 2* 5 1 4	4 *2 1* 5 3
1 2 2 0	*2 4* 5 1 3	4 *1* 5 *2* 3
0 *3* 2 *0*	1 *5* 4 *2* 3	1 *4* 5 3 *2*
0 2 2 1	*1 4* 5 3 2	*1* 5 4 *2* 3
1 1 2 1	*2 3* 5 4 1	5 *1 2* 4 3
2 0 *2* 1	*3* 1 *5* 4 2	2 5 *1* 4 *3*
3 0 1 1	*4 1* 3 5 2	*2* 5 3 *1* 4
2 1 1 1	*3 2* 4 5 1	5 *2 1* 3 4
1 2 1 1	*2 4* 3 5 1	5 *1* 3 *2* 4
0 3 *1* 1	*1* 5 *3* 4 2	*1* 5 *3* 4 2
1 3 0 1	*2 5* 1 4 3	3 *1* 5 4 *2*
2 2 0 1	*3 4* 1 5 2	3 5 *1 2* 4
3 1 0 1	*4 2* 1 5 3	3 *2* 5 *1* 4
4 0 0 1	5 1 2 4 3	2 3 5 4 1

Table 1
Gray code for (4,3,2,1)-bounded compositions of 5, the corresponding permutations of {1,...,5} with 5 inversions and their inverses. The pivotal elements are in *italics*.

We choose to stick with Klingsberg's suffix-partitioned list rather than apply left-right reversal to make the list prefix-partitioned because when the bounded compositions of r are the inversion vectors of permutations with r inversions the permutations are easier to update. When one element g_k of an inversion vector rises or falls by 1, a transposition of two elements is induced in the corresponding permutation. One of these two elements is p_i and the other one is the element closest in value to p_i, larger if g_i rises and smaller if it falls, in the set $S(i)$. By using a suffix-partitioned list, we ensure that for the secondary pivot j, for all $k < j$ either $g_k = 0$ or else $g_k = m_k$, so that $S(j)$ is an interval and the element with which p_i swaps is either p_j+1 or p_j-1. For the pivot i, g_j will not necessarily be either 0 or m_j, in which case the set of values with which p_i is allowed to swap will fail to be an interval because of a single missing number: p_j. If $|p_i-p_j| \le 2$ and the smaller of these two values is supposed to rise, then performing the transpositions in the wrong order would force p_i to swap with p_j, which is not among the values with which p_i is allowed to swap, so that a 3-element rotation must be performed; otherwise, the two transpositions are independent. Table 1 illustrates the various cases that can arise: the first transformation consists of two independent transpositions, the second one is a 3-element rotation with $|p_i-p_j| = 2$ and the third is a 3-element rotation with $|p_i-p_j| = 1$. Once the two pivots are known, the permutation can be updated in $O(1)$ time provided that the inverse permutation is also

stored so that the positions of the elements $p_i \pm 1$ and $p_j \mp 1$ can be determined quickly. A pseudo-code for the updating algorithm is given as Algorithm 2. The first permutation can be computed from the first composition in $O(n)$ worst-case time: the first composition is of the form $(n\text{-}1,n\text{-}\text{-}2,...,n\text{-}i+1,g_i > 0,0,...,0)$ and the corresponding permutation is $(n,n\text{-}1,...,n\text{-}i+2,g_i+1,1,2,...,g_i,g_i+2,...,n\text{-}i+1)$.

```
procedure NextPerm(p,inverse:array; pivot1,pivot2:integer; down:boolean)
   a1:=p[pivot1]; a2:=p[pivot2];
   if (down) then {p[pivot1] decreases and p[pivot2] increases, normally by 1}
      a3:=a1-1; a4:=a2+1
   else       {p[pivot1] increases and p[pivot2] decreases, normally by 1}
      a3:=a1+1; a4:=a2-1
   end if;
  { Normally p[pivot1]=a1 swaps with the element a3 and p[pivot2]=a2 with a4, but if that would
          make p[pivot1] swap with p[pivot2], then instead they rotate with a third element of p. }
   if (a3=a2) then { p[pivot1] and p[pivot2] differ by 1 and would swap;
                          instead they rotate with the other element adjacent in value to p[pivot2]. }
      if (down) then a3:=a3-1 else a3:=a3+1 end if;
      b3:=inverse[a3];  { b3 is the index in p of the third element in the rotation }
      if (down) then p[pivot1]:=p[pivot1]-2; p[pivot2]:=p[pivot2]+1; p[b3]:=p[b3]+1
                else p[pivot1]:=p[pivot1]+2; p[pivot2]:=p[pivot2]-1; p[b3]:=p[b3]-1
      end if;
      inverse[a3]:=pivot1; inverse[a2]:=b3; inverse[a1]:=pivot2
   else if (a3=a4) then {p[pivot1] and p[pivot2] differ by 2 and would converge;
                                      instead they rotate with the element a3 between them in value. }
      b3:=inverse[a3]; { p[pivot1] and p[pivot2] rotate with p[b3] }
      if (down) then p[pivot1]:=p[pivot1]-2; p[pivot2]:=p[pivot2]+1; p[b3]:=p[b3]+1
                else p[pivot1]:=p[pivot1]+2; p[pivot2]:=p[pivot2]-1; p[b3]:=p[b3]-1
      end if;
      inverse[a2]:=pivot1; inverse[a1]:=b3; inverse[a3]:=pivot2
   else {p[pivot1] swaps with p[pivot1]±1 and p[pivot2] swaps with p[pivot2]•1 }
      b3:=inverse[a3];
      if (down) then p[pivot1]:=p[pivot1]-1; p[b3]:=p[b3]+1
                else p[pivot1]:=p[pivot1]+1; p[b3]:=p[b3]-1
      end if;
      inverse[a3]:=pivot1; inverse[a1]:=b3;
      b4:=inverse[a4];
      if (down) then p[pivot2]:=p[pivot2]+1; p[b4]:=p[b4]-1
                else p[pivot2]:=p[pivot2]-1; p[b4]:=p[b4]+1
      end if;
      inverse[a4]:=pivot2; inverse[a2]:=b4
   end if
end NextPerm.
```

Algorithm 2
Finding the next permutation in Gray code order and its inverse in $O(1)$ time
given the two pivots and the direction in which the first one changes.

3. Loop-free implementation

To find the pivot i the secondary pivot j and the direction in which p_i changes, a case-by-case analysis is necessary. In what follows, $d = p_{i+1}+...+p_n \bmod 2$, so that $d = 1$ means that p_i falls by 1 and p_j rises by 1, and $d = 0$ means vice versa. The individual cases are illustrated in Table 2. We recall that j is the largest index $< i$ such that after p_i changes to its next value, p_j is not at its first value, and that in scanning left from p_i "first value" alternates between "maximum" and "minimum" every time an odd number is passed.

(1): $0 < p_1 < m_1$. The maximum value for every other number is its fixed bound and the minimum value is 0, and every number between p_1 and p_i is either at its fixed maximum or minimum, both before and after p_i changes, and therefore at its first value, which implies that $j = 1$. There are two subcases (1.1) and (1.2) in which $i > 2$.

(1.1): $p_2 = 0$ and $p_3+...+p_n$ is odd. This subcase is further divided into two subsubcases.

(1.1.1): If p_i and its suffix have opposite parity, then every number encountered while scanning left from p_i is at its minimum value until an odd number is passed or until the index drops to 1, which implies that $p_{i-1} = ... = p_2 = 0$. See Case 1 ($d = 1$) and Case 2 ($d = 0$) in Table 2.

(1.1.2): If p_i and its suffix have the same parity, then every number met while scanning left from p_i is at its maximum value until an odd number is passed, and every number to *its* left is at its minimum value. This implies that there is some element p_k between p_2 and p_i which is at an odd bound, every number between p_k and p_i is at an even bound and every number between p_1 and p_k is 0. See Case 3 ($d = 1$) and Case 4 ($d = 0$).

(1.2): $p_2 = m_2$ and $p_3+...+p_n$ is even. Then p_i and its suffix must have the same parity, because otherwise every number to its left would have to be at its minimum value, which is 0, including p_2, which is $m_2 > 0$. Instead, every number between p_2 and p_i is at its maximum value, which is an even bound because if an odd bound were reached, every number to its left would be 0 including p_2. See Case 5 ($d = 1$) and Case 6 ($d = 0$).

(1.3): In all other cases, p_2 is not at its last value; so $i = 2$. See case 7 ($d = 1$) and case 8 ($d = 0$).

(2): $p_1 = ... = p_{f-1} = 0$ and $p_f > 0$ for some $f > 1$. The minimum value for every other number is 0, and the maximum value of every other number except possibly p_f is its fixed bound; so by the same argument used for (1) $j \le f$.

(2.1): Suppose that every number to the left of p_i is 0 ($f = i$). Then no number to the left of p_i can fall; so p_i cannot rise, and so d must be 1. If p_i is odd, then when it falls the first (maximum) value of p_{i-1} rises from 0 to 1; so $j = i$-1 (see Case 9). If p_i is even, then when its falls the first (minimum) value of every number from p_{i-1} to p_2 stays at 0; so $j = 1$ (see Case 10).

(2.2): Suppose that not every number to the left of p_i is 0 ($f < i$). Then p_i and its suffix must have the same parity: otherwise every number to its left would be at its minimum value, which is 0, including p_f. Instead, every number between p_f and p_i is at its maximum value - an even bound.

(2.2.1): If p_i is odd it must fall because its suffix is odd too; so p_j must rise. If $p_f < m_f$, then it can rise, and so $j = f$ (see Case 11). Suppose that $p_f = m_f$. If p_i is odd, then after p_i falls, the suffix of p_{f-1} will be even; so its first value is its minimum 0, and the same will be true for all the numbers between p_i and p_1, and so $j = 1$ (Case 12). If p_i is even, then after p_i falls, the suffix of p_{f-1} will be odd; so its first value is its maximum, which rises to 1, and so $j = f$-1 (Case 13).

(2.2.2): If p_i is even it must rise because its suffix is even too; so p_j must fall. Since $p_f > 0$, it can fall, and so $j = f$ (Case 14).

(3): $p_1 = m_1,...,p_{f-1} = m_{f-1}$ and $p_f < m_f$ for some $f > 1$. The maximum value for every other number is its fixed bound, and the minimum value of every other number except possibly p_f is 0. Again, $j \leq f$.

(3.1): Suppose that every number to the left of p_i is at its bound ($f = i$). Then no number to the left of p_i can rise; so p_i cannot fall, and so d must be 0. If p_i is odd, then when it rises the first (minimum) value of p_{i-1} falls, and p_{i-1} can fall; so $j = i$-1 (Case 15). If p_i is even, then when it rises every number met while scanning left from p_i must be set to its maximum value until an odd number is passed or the index drops to 1. If one of the numbers between p_1 and p_i is odd, let k be the index of the rightmost such number; then $j = k$-1 (Case 16). Otherwise $j = 1$ (Case 17).

(3.2): Suppose that not every number to the left of p_i is at its bound ($f < i$).

(3.2.1): Suppose that p_i and its suffix have opposite parity. Then every number between p_f and p_i must be at its minimum value, which is 0. If p_i is odd (so that it rises and p_j falls) and $p_f = 0$ so that it can't fall, then $j = f$-1, because p_{f-1} can fall (Case 18). Otherwise $j = f$ whether p_i is odd and $p_f > 0$ (Case 19) or p_i is even (Case 20).

(3.2.2): Suppose that p_i and its suffix have the same parity. There must be some odd number between p_f and p_i; otherwise every number to the left of p_i would be at its bound. Let p_k be the rightmost such number. Then every number between p_k and p_i is at its maximum, an even

bound, p_k is at its maximum too, an odd bound, and every number between p_f and p_k is at its minimum, which is 0. If p_i is odd it must fall, and since $p_f < m_j$ it can rise; so $j = f$ (Case 21). If p_i is odd it must rise. If $p_f > 0$ it can fall; so $j = f$ (Case 22); otherwise $j = f$-1, because $p_{f\text{-}1}$ can fall (Case 23).

This exhausts all the cases.

Case 1: 0<g<m↑,0,0*,even>0↓,odd suffix
Case 2: 0<g<m↓,0,0*,odd<m↑,even suffix
Case 3: 0<g<m↑,0,0*,odd m,(even m)*,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 4: 0<g<m↓,0,0*,odd m,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix
Case 5: 0<g<m↑,m,(even m)*,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 6: 0<g<m↓,m,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix
Case 7: 0<g<m↑,>0↓,odd suffix
Case 8: 0<g<m↓,<m↑,even suffix
Case 9: 0*,0↑,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 10: 0↑,0*,even>0↓,odd suffix
Case 11: 0,0*,0<g<m↑,(even m)*,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 12: 0↑,0*,odd m,(even m)*,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 13: 0*,0↑,even m,(even m)*,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 14: 0,0*,>0↓,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix
Case 15: m*,m↓,odd<m↑,even suffix
Case 16: m*,m↓,odd m,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix
Case 17: m↓,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix
Case 18: m*,m↓,0,0*,odd<m↑,even suffix
Case 19: m,m*,0<g<m↓,odd<m↑,even suffix
Case 20: m,m*,g<m↑,0*,even>0↓,odd suffix
Case 21: m,m*,g<m↑,0*,odd m,(even m)*,odd↓,odd suffix
Case 22: m,m*,0<g<m↓,0*,odd m,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix
Case 23: m*,m↓,0,0*,odd m,(even m)*,even<m↑,even suffix

Table 2
The possible transformations of a bounded integer composition.
A number which is equal to its bound is represented by m.
An asterisk represents 0 or more repetitions of the same type of number.
The two pivotal elements have arrows to their right indicating the direction of the change.

It would be possible to implement the sequencing algorithm so that it runs in $O(1)$ worst-case time by storing the maximal intervals of zeros or numbers at their bounds on a stack. This would require, for each such interval, its left and right indices and an integer to indicate whether it consisted of zeros or, if not, had an even sum, for a total of three size-n variable arrays. In addition we would need two size-n fixed arrays: for each index i we would need to know the index of the nearest odd bound to its left and to its right. At most the top three items on the stack would have to be accessed to find i, j and d (the bound of three is attained in Cases 21-23 of

Table 2). But we did not do so because a more space-efficient implementation can be found by generalizing Ehrlich's method for loop-free pivot-finding.

Ehrlich's method cannot be used as it stands, because it works only if for each suffix $(g_{i+1},...,g_n)$, g_i assumes at least two distinct values in the interval in which the suffix is constant, whereas if g_{i+1} is at its mobile maximum or minimum, then g_i can assume only one value (0 or m_i) and in fact that interval consists of a single word. We generalize Ehrlich's method so that it works for this case too, provided that one can update in $O(1)$ worst-case time the smallest index q such that g_q can assume at least two distinct values. The pseudo-code is listed as Algorithm 3, and a correctness proof is included in the comments.

Once we know the pivot i, we can determine which of the 23 cases applies to the current bounded composition, find j and d and update g_i, g_j and f (defined as 1 + the length of a prefix of zeros or of numbers equal to their bounds, or 1 if neither such prefix exists) in $O(1)$ worst-case time. The variable q of Algorithm 3 is equal to f if $f > 1$; otherwise $q = 2$. This follows from the observation that every number in a prefix of zeros or of numbers equal to their bounds can neither rise nor fall unless some number to its right moves, whereas the number following a maximal prefix of zeros can fall and the number following a maximal prefix of numbers equal to their bounds can rise, and if $0 < g_1 < m_1$ then g_1 is determined by its suffix but g_2 is not. Algorithm 4 shows the entire updating procedure. It requires only two auxiliary arrays: the variable array e from Algorithm 3 and a fixed array L, where $L[i]$ is the largest index $j < i$ such that $m[j]$ is odd, or 0 if no such index exists. We recall that the initial composition is the lexicographically largest one; the initial value of the array e (in terms of q defined above) and of the Boolean variable Done are given in Algorithm 3. All the arrays including L can be initialized in $O(n)$ time.

Algorithms 2 and 4, as well as inverse lexicographical order generation and Gray code generation without loop-free sequencing, were programmed in C and tested (source codes are available from the author on request). When the 25598185 permutations of {1,...,12} with 33 inversions were generated, loop-free sequencing ran 27% faster than Gray code generation without loop-free sequencing and 19% faster than inverse lexicographical order generation. It would appear that loop-free sequencing affords some speed-up if it is sufficiently optimised.

We note that Ruskey [Ru] proved the existence of a different Gray code for bounded integer compositions. The problem of implementing loop-free sequencing of this Gray code is still open.

{q is the smallest index such that g[q] assumes at least two values, determined by the sequencing rule, in the interval of words in which the current suffix of g[q] is constant}

initial value: Done is **false**, e[1] = the initial value of q and e[i]=i for i from 2 to n+1;

{**invariant:** If (g[i],...,g[j-1]) is a *z-word* - that is, a maximal subword of letters, each at its last value - for some j>i, then e[i]=j; otherwise e[i]=i.}

{The invariant holds initially because each g[i] is at its first value, which is equal to its last value for all i<q but not for q. Assume it holds before the updating algorithm is executed.}

```
Procedure Update(n,q:integer; g:array[1..n]; e:array[1..n+1]; Done:boolean}
   i:=e[1];
   if i>n then                    {Each g[j] is at its last value; so the current word is the last one.}
      Done:=true; return
   end if;
                  {Otherwise i is the pivot - the smallest index such that g[i] is not at its last value.}
   g[i]:=its next value;
   for j:=i-1 downto 1 do g[i]:=its first value end for;          {O(1) changes for a Gray code}
   update q;
   e[1]:=q;          {Since g[i] changed, q≤i.  For each j<q, g[j] is at its first value = its last
value.}
   if g[i] is at its last value then
                                                {If e[i+1]=i+1, then g[i+1] is not at at last value,
                                                  because g[i] wasn't at its last value until now.
                        Otherwise, i+1 and e[i+1]-1 are the smallest and largest indices of a z-word.}
      if i=q then
                                                {If e[i+1]=i+1, the z-word beginning at index 1
                                  which used to end at index i-1 (or not exist, if i=1) now ends at index i;
            otherwise it merges with the z-word beginning at index i+1 and ending at index e[i+1]-1,
                                                  and in either case it ends at index e[i+1]-1.}
         e[1]:=e[i+1]
      else
                                  {g[i] now begins a z-word.  If e[i+1]=i+1, that z-word ends at index i.
                                   Otherwise, it prolongs to the left the subword beginning at index i+1
                                  and ending at index e[i+1]-1.  In either case, it ends at index e[i+1]-1.}
         e[i]:=e[i+1]
      end if;                                   {The invariant holds for every index from 1 to
i}
      e[i+1]:=i+1;
                                       {Since g[i] is at its last value, g[i+1] cannot begin a z-word;
                                                  so the invariant now holds for i+1 too,
                                     and since no change is made beyond i+1, it holds everywhere.}
   end if
                  {If g[i] is not at its last value, then either q=1 and g[1] does not begin a subword,
                                  or else q>1 and the subword beginning at index 1 ends at index q-1.
                                       In either case, the invariant holds for every index up to q,
                                     and since no change is made beyond q, it holds everywhere.}
end Update.          {In all cases, if the invariant holds before execution, then it holds
afterwards.}
```

Algorithm 3

Generalization of Ehrlich's *O*(1)-time pivot-finding algorithm to wordlists in which all the words with a common suffix form an interval of consecutive words in which the letter preceeding the suffix may take a single value if the interval consists of a single word.

```
Procedure NextComp(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n]; e:array[1..n+1]; Done:boolean)
                                {The array g is the length-n composition of r bounded by the array m,
                              i is the pivot, j is the secondary pivot, Done means g is the last composition,
                                   d=1 means g[i] goes down and g[j] goes up and d=0 means vice versa,
                                  f is 1 + the length of a prefix of zeros or elements of g at their bounds.}
   i:=e[1];
   if i>n then Done:=true; return; end if;
   if f=1 then {0<g[1]<m[1]}
      Cases_1-8(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else if g[1]=0 then
      Cases_9-14(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else {g[1]=m[1]}
      Cases_15-23(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   end if; {end of all the cases; now e gets updated}
   if f=1 then e[1]:=2 else e[1]:=f end if; {This is the variable q of Algorithm 3}
   if g[i]=m[i] or g[i]=0 or f=i then {g[i] is at its last value, a mobile limit if f=i}
      if i=e[1] then e[1]:=e[i+1] else e[i]:=e[i+1] end if;
      e[i+1]:=i+1
   end if {end of updating e}
end NextComp.

Procedure Cases_1-8(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 }
   j:=1;
   if i>2 then { either g[2]=0 or g[2]=m[2] }
      Cases_1-6(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else          { 0<g[2]<m[2] }
      Cases_7-8(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   end if
end Cases_1-8.

Procedure Cases_1-6(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 and i>2 }
   if g[2]=0 then
      Cases_1-4(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else {g[2]=m[2]}
      Cases_5-6(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   end if
end Cases_1-6.

Procedure Cases_1-4(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 and i>2 and g[2]=0 }
   if g[i-1]=0 then
      Cases_1-2(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else {g[i-1]=m[i-1]}
      Cases_3-4(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   end if
end Cases_1-4.
```

```
Procedure Cases_1-2(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 and i>2 and g[2]=0 and g[i-1]=0 }
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 2}
      d:=0; inc(g[i]); dec(g[1]);
      if g[1]=0 then f:=i; end if
   else {Case 1}
      d:=1; dec(g[i]); inc(g[1]);
      if g[1]=m[1] then f:=2 end if
   end if
end Cases_1-2.

Procedure Cases_3-4(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 and i>2 and g[2]=0 and g[i-1]=m[i-1] }
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 3}
      d:=1; dec(g[i]); inc(g[1]);
      if g[1]=m[1] then f:=2 end if
   else {Case 4}
      d:=0; inc(g[i]); dec(g[1]);
      if g[1]=0 then f:=L[i] end if
   end if
end Cases_3-4.

Procedure Cases_5-6(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 and i>2 and g[2]=m[2] }
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 5}
      d:=1; dec(g[i]); inc(g[1]);
      if g[1]=m[1] then f:=i; end if
   else {Case 6}
      d:=0; inc(g[i]); dec(g[1]);
      if g[1]=0 then f:=2; end if
   end if
end Cases_5-6.

Procedure Cases_7-8(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ f=1 and i=2 }
   if r-g[1]-g[2] is odd then {Case 7}
      d:=1; dec(g[2]); inc(g[1]);
      if g[1]=m[1] then f:=2; end if
   else {Case 8}
      d:=0; inc(g[2]); dec(g[1]);
      if g[1]=0 then f:=2; end if
   end if
end Cases_7-8.
```

```
Procedure Cases_9-14(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=0 }
   if i=f then
      Cases_9-10(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else
      Cases_11-14(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   end if
end Cases_9-14.

Procedure Cases_9-10(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=0 and i=f }
   d:=1;
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 9}
      dec(g[i]); j:=i-1; g[j]:=1;
      if g[1]<m[1] then dec(f) end if
   else {Case 10}
      dec(g[i]); j:=1; g[1]:=1;
      if m[1]=1 then f:=2 else f:=1 end if
   end if
end Cases_9-10.

Procedure Cases_11-14(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
 { g[1]=0 and i>f }
   if g[i] is odd then
      Cases_11-13(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else {Case 14}
      d:=0; inc(g[i]); j:=f; dec(g[f]);
      if g[f]=0 then inc(f) end if
   end if
end Cases_11-14.
```

```
Procedure Cases_11-13(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=0 and i>f and g[i] is even }
   d:=1; dec(g[i]);
   if g[f]<m[f] then {Case 11}
      j:=f; inc(g[f])
   else {Case 12 or 13}
      if g[f] is odd then {Case 12}
         j:=1; g[1]:=1;
         if m[1]>1 then
            f:=1
         else
            if f>2 or g[j]<m[j] then f:=2 else f:=i end if
         end if {end of Case 12}
      else {Case 13}
         j:=f-1; g[j]:=1;
         if j>1 or m[1]>1 then
            dec(f)
         else
            if g[f]=m[f] then f:=i end if
         end if {end of Case 13}
      end if {end of Cases 12 and 13}
   end if
end Cases_11-13.

Procedure Cases_15-23(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=m[1] }
   if i=f then
      Cases_15-17(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else if g[i-1]<m[i-1] then
      Cases_18-20(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   else
      Cases_21-23(n,r,f,i,j,d,g,m)
   end if
end Cases_15-23.

Procedure Cases_15-17(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=m[1] and i=f }
   d:=0;
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 15}
      inc(g[i]); j:=i-1; dec(g[j]);
      if g[1]>0 then dec(f) end if
   else {Case 16 or 17}
      inc(g[i]);
      j:=L[i]-1;
      if j<1 {Case 17 else Case 16} then j:=1 end if;
      dec(g[j]);
      if g[1]=0 then f:=2 else f:=j end if
   end if
end Cases_15-17.
```

```
Procedure Cases_18-20(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=m[1] and i>f and g[i-1]<m[i-1] }
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 18 or 19}
      d:=0; inc(g[i]);
      if g[f]>0 then {Case 19}
         j:=f; dec(g[j])
      else {Case 18}
         f:=f-1; j:=f; dec(g[j]);
         if g[1]=0 then f:=i end if
  else {Case 20}
      d:=1; dec(g[i]);
      j:=f; inc(g[j]);
      if g[j]=m[j] then inc(f) end if
   end if
end Cases_18-20.

Procedure Cases_21-23(n,r,f,i,j,d,: integer; g,m:array[1..n])
{ g[1]=m[1] and i>f and g[i-1]=m[i-1] }
   if g[i] is odd then {Case 21}
      d:=1; dec(g[i]); j:=f; inc(g[j]);
      if g[j]=m[j] then
         if g[j+1]>0 then f:=i else inc(f) end if
      end if {end of Case 21}
   else {Case 22 or 23}
      d:=0; inc(g[i]);
      if g[f]>0 then {Case 22}
         j:=f; dec(g[j])
      else {Case 23}
         j:=f-1; dec(g[j]);
         if g[1]=0 then f:=L[i] else dec(f)
      end if {end of Cases 22 and 23}
   end if
end Cases_21-23.
```

Algorithm 4

Loop-free updating of the $(m_1,...,m_n)$-bounded composition $(g_1,...,g_n)$ of r
using Ehrlich's variable auxiliary array e and the static auxiliary array L.
The two pivots i and j and the direction variable d are returned for use in Algorithm 2.

Acknowledgment: I wish to thank Greg Egan for pointing out two errors in the pseudocode of Algorithm 4. I have fixed them in this version.

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