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A 5678

Siebert letter^{etc}

one page

3 seqs

71

(SIS)

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To Mr. N.J.A.Sloane
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Dear Mr. Sloane,
it was a pleasure for me to work with your useful handbook.
Let me make some remarks:

Seq. 71 is the so-called Morse symbolic trajectory, or Morse sequence discovered by Morse (1). It has some interesting features: to be free of cubes, i.e. no block A appears three times consecutively (AAA) in the sequence and, moreover, to be irreducible in the sense of Thue (2).

Now, it turns out to be possible to construct unending sequences of three symbols 1,2,3 which are free of squares or, equivalently, irreducible. I think none of them is in the table:

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1,2,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,2,1,3,2,3,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,2,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,3,2,3,
1,2,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,2,1,3,... (see (3), p.14)

1,2,3,1,3,2,1,2,3,2,1,3,1,2,3,1,3,2,1,3,1,2,3,2,... (see (4), p.5)

1,2,3,1,2,1,3,2,3,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,2,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,3,2,3,1,2,1,3,2,
3,1,3,2,1,2,3,1,3,2,3,1,2,1,3,2,... ,

where the last sequence is to obtain from Seq. 71 by replacing a 1 (resp. a 2) by a 3 iff the predecessor is a 1 (resp. a 2). There are many other sequences of such a type, but I think the sequences mentioned above are the most canonically constructible ones.

For references see p.2.

Finally, let me note that I'd like to receive the supplements to your book.

Yours

Gert Siebert

(1) Morse, Harold Marston, Recurrent geodesics on a surface of negative curvature, Transactions 22(1921), 84-100

(2) Thue, Axel, Über die gegenseitige Lage gleicher Teile gewisser Zeichenketten, Kristiania: Dybwad in Komm. 1912 (Skrifter utg. av Videnskapsselskapet i Kristiania 1. Mat.-nat. Kl. 1912, Nr.1.)

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(3) " , Über unendliche Zeichenreihen, Kristiania: Dybwad 1906 (same Skrifter, 1906, Nr.7.)

(4) Morse and Hedlund, Unending chess, symbolic dynamics and a problem in semigroups, Duke Math. J. 11(1944), 1-7