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# On the Accepting Power of 2-Tape Büchi Automata

Olivier Finkel

Equipe de Logique Mathématique  
U.F.R. de Mathématiques, Université Paris 7  
2 Place Jussieu 75251 Paris cedex 05, France  
finkel@logique.jussieu.fr.

**Abstract.** We show that, from a topological point of view, 2-tape Büchi automata have the same accepting power than Turing machines equipped with a Büchi acceptance condition. In particular, for every non null recursive ordinal  $\alpha$ , there exist some  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ -complete and some  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ -complete infinitary rational relations accepted by 2-tape Büchi automata. This surprising result gives answers to questions of Simonnet [Sim92] and of Lescow and Thomas [Tho90,LT94].

**Keywords:** 2-tape Büchi automata; infinitary rational relations; Cantor topology; topological complexity; Borel hierarchy; complete sets.

## 1 Introduction

In the sixties, automata accepting infinite words were firstly considered by Büchi in order to study decidability of the monadic second order theory S1S of one successor over the integers [Büc62]. Then the so called  $\omega$ -regular languages have been intensively studied and have found many applications for specification and verification of non terminating systems, see [Tho90,Sta97,PP04] for many results and references. On the other hand, rational relations on finite words were also studied in the sixties, and played a fundamental role in the study of families of context free languages [Ber79]. Investigations on their extension to rational relations on infinite words were carried out or mentioned in the books [BT70,LS77]. Gire and Nivat studied infinitary rational relations in [Gir81,GN84]. These relations are sets of pairs of infinite words which are accepted by 2-tape finite Büchi automata with asynchronous reading heads. The class of infinitary rational relations, which extends both the class of finitary rational relations and the class of  $\omega$ -regular languages, and the rational functions they may define, have been much studied, see for example [CG99,BCPS00,Sim92,Sta97,Pri00].

Notice that a rational relation  $R \subseteq \Sigma_1^\omega \times \Sigma_2^\omega$  may be seen as an  $\omega$ -language over the alphabet  $\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2$ .

A way to study the complexity of languages of infinite words accepted by finite machines is to study their topological complexity and firstly to locate them with regard to the Borel and the projective hierarchies. This work is analysed

for example in [Sta86,Tho90,EH93,LT94,Sta97]. It is well known that every  $\omega$ -language accepted by a Turing machine with a Büchi or Muller acceptance condition is an analytic set and that  $\omega$ -regular languages are boolean combinations of  $\Pi_2^0$ -sets hence  $\Delta_3^0$ -sets, [Sta97,PP04].

The question of the topological complexity of relations on infinite words also naturally arises and is asked by Simonnet in [Sim92]. It is also posed in a more general form by Lescow and Thomas in [LT94] (for infinite labelled partial orders) and in [Tho89] where Thomas suggested to study reducibility notions and associated completeness results.

Every infinitary rational relation is an analytic set. We showed in [Fin03a] that there exist some infinitary rational relations which are analytic but non Borel, and in [Fin03c] that there are some  $\Sigma_3^0$ -complete and some  $\Pi_3^0$ -complete infinitary rational relations, using a coding of  $\omega^2$ -words by pairs of infinite words. Using a different coding we proved in [Fin03d] that there exist such infinitary rational relations which have a very simple structure and can be easily described by their sections. Using this very simple structure, we constructed also some infinitary rational relations, accepted by 3-tape Büchi automata, which are  $\Sigma_4^0$ -complete.

On the other hand we recently proved in [Fin05a,Fin05b] that the Borel hierarchy of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Büchi real time 1-counter automata is equal to the Borel hierarchy of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Büchi Turing machines. In particular, for each non null recursive ordinal  $\alpha$ , there exist some  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ -complete and some  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ -complete  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Büchi real time 1-counter automata.

Using a simulation of real time 1-counter automata we prove in this paper a similar result: the Borel hierarchy of the class of infinitary rational relations is equal to the Borel hierarchy of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Büchi real time 1-counter automata which is also equal to the Borel hierarchy of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Büchi Turing machines. In particular, for each non null recursive ordinal  $\alpha$ , there exist some  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ -complete and some  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ -complete infinitary rational relations. This gives answers to questions of Simonnet [Sim92] and of Lescow and Thomas [Tho90,LT94].

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we recall the notion of 2-tape automata and of real time 1-counter automata with Büchi acceptance condition. In section 3 we recall definitions of Borel and analytic sets, and we prove our main result in section 4.

## 2 2-tape automata and 1-counter automata

We assume the reader to be familiar with the theory of formal ( $\omega$ )-languages [Tho90,Sta97]. We shall use usual notations of formal language theory.

When  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet, a *non-empty finite word* over  $\Sigma$  is any sequence  $x = a_1 \dots a_k$ , where  $a_i \in \Sigma$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , and  $k$  is an integer  $\geq 1$ . The *length* of  $x$  is  $k$ , denoted by  $|x|$ . The *empty word* has no letter and is denoted by  $\lambda$ ; its length is 0. For  $x = a_1 \dots a_k$ , we write  $x(i) = a_i$  and  $x[i] = x(1) \dots x(i)$  for  $i \leq k$

and  $x[0] = \lambda$ .  $\Sigma^*$  is the *set of finite words* (including the empty word) over  $\Sigma$ . The *first infinite ordinal* is  $\omega$ . An  $\omega$ -word over  $\Sigma$  is an  $\omega$ -sequence  $a_1 \dots a_n \dots$ , where for all integers  $i \geq 1$ ,  $a_i \in \Sigma$ . When  $\sigma$  is an  $\omega$ -word over  $\Sigma$ , we write  $\sigma = \sigma(1)\sigma(2) \dots \sigma(n) \dots$ , where for all  $i$ ,  $\sigma(i) \in \Sigma$ , and  $\sigma[n] = \sigma(1)\sigma(2) \dots \sigma(n)$  for all  $n \geq 1$  and  $\sigma[0] = \lambda$ .

The *prefix relation* is denoted  $\sqsubseteq$ : a finite word  $u$  is a *prefix* of a finite word  $v$  (respectively, an infinite word  $v$ ), denoted  $u \sqsubseteq v$ , if and only if there exists a finite word  $w$  (respectively, an infinite word  $w$ ), such that  $v = u.w$ . The *set of  $\omega$ -words* over the alphabet  $\Sigma$  is denoted by  $\Sigma^\omega$ . An  $\omega$ -*language* over an alphabet  $\Sigma$  is a subset of  $\Sigma^\omega$ . The complement (in  $\Sigma^\omega$ ) of an  $\omega$ -language  $V \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  is  $\Sigma^\omega - V$ , denoted  $V^-$ .

Infinitary rational relations are subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega \times \Gamma^\omega$ , where  $\Sigma$  and  $\Gamma$  are finite alphabets, which are accepted by 2-tape Büchi automata (2-BA).

**Definition 1.** A 2-tape Büchi automaton is a sextuple  $\mathcal{T} = (K, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, q_0, F)$ , where  $K$  is a finite set of states,  $\Sigma$  and  $\Gamma$  are finite alphabets,  $\Delta$  is a finite subset of  $K \times \Sigma^* \times \Gamma^* \times K$  called the set of transitions,  $q_0$  is the initial state, and  $F \subseteq K$  is the set of accepting states.

A computation  $\mathcal{C}$  of the 2-tape Büchi automaton  $\mathcal{T}$  is an infinite sequence of transitions

$$(q_0, u_1, v_1, q_1), (q_1, u_2, v_2, q_2), \dots, (q_{i-1}, u_i, v_i, q_i), (q_i, u_{i+1}, v_{i+1}, q_{i+1}), \dots$$

The computation is said to be *successful* iff there exists a final state  $q_f \in F$  and infinitely many integers  $i \geq 0$  such that  $q_i = q_f$ .

The *input word* of the computation is  $u = u_1.u_2.u_3 \dots$

The *output word* of the computation is  $v = v_1.v_2.v_3 \dots$

Then the input and the output words may be finite or infinite.

The infinitary rational relation  $R(\mathcal{T}) \subseteq \Sigma^\omega \times \Gamma^\omega$  accepted by the 2-tape Büchi automaton  $\mathcal{T}$  is the set of couples  $(u, v) \in \Sigma^\omega \times \Gamma^\omega$  such that  $u$  and  $v$  are the input and the output words of some successful computation  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

The set of infinitary rational relations will be denoted  $RAT_\omega$ .

**Definition 2.** A (real time) 1-counter machine is a 4-tuple  $\mathcal{M} = (K, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0)$ , where  $K$  is a finite set of states,  $\Sigma$  is a finite input alphabet,  $q_0 \in K$  is the initial state, and the transition relation  $\Delta$  is a subset of  $K \times \Sigma \times \{0, 1\} \times K \times \{0, 1, -1\}$ . If the machine  $\mathcal{M}$  is in state  $q$  and  $c \in \mathbf{N}$  is the content of the counter then the configuration (or global state) of  $\mathcal{M}$  is  $(q, c)$ .

For  $a \in \Sigma$ ,  $q, q' \in K$  and  $c \in \mathbf{N}$ , if  $(q, a, i, q', j) \in \Delta$  where  $i = 0$  if  $c = 0$  and  $i = 1$  if  $c \neq 0$  then we write:

$$a : (q, c) \mapsto_{\mathcal{M}} (q', c + j)$$

$\mapsto_{\mathcal{M}}^*$  is the transitive and reflexive closure of  $\mapsto_{\mathcal{M}}$ .

Thus we see that the transition relation must satisfy:

if  $(q, a, i, q', j) \in \Delta$  and  $i = 0$  then  $j = 0$  or  $j = 1$  (but  $j$  may not be equal to  $-1$ ).

Let  $\sigma = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$  be a finite word over  $\Sigma$ . A sequence of configurations  $r = (q_i, c_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n+1}$  is called a run of  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $\sigma$ , starting in configuration  $(p, c)$ , iff:

- (1)  $(q_1, c_1) = (p, c)$
- (2) for each  $i \in [1, n]$ ,  $a_i : (q_i, c_i) \mapsto_{\mathcal{M}} (q_{i+1}, c_{i+1})$

Let  $\sigma = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \dots$  be an  $\omega$ -word over  $\Sigma$ . An  $\omega$ -sequence of configurations  $r = (q_i, c_i)_{i \geq 1}$  is called a run of  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $\sigma$ , starting in configuration  $(p, c)$ , iff:

- (1)  $(q_1, c_1) = (p, c)$
- (2) for each  $i \geq 1$ ,  $a_i : (q_i, c_i) \mapsto_{\mathcal{M}} (q_{i+1}, c_{i+1})$

For every such run,  $\text{In}(r)$  is the set of all states entered infinitely often during run  $r$ .

A run  $r$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $\sigma$ , starting in configuration  $(q_0, 0)$ , will be simply called “a run of  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $\sigma$ ”.

**Definition 3.** A (real time) Büchi 1-counter automaton is a 5-tuple

$$\mathcal{M} = (K, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F),$$

where  $\mathcal{M}' = (K, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0)$  is a (real time) 1-counter machine and  $F \subseteq K$  is the set of accepting states. The  $\omega$ -language accepted by  $\mathcal{M}$  is

$$L(\mathcal{M}) = \{ \sigma \in \Sigma^\omega \mid \text{there exists a run } r \text{ of } \mathcal{M} \text{ on } \sigma \text{ such that } \text{In}(r) \cap F \neq \emptyset \}$$

The class of (real time) Büchi 1-counter automata will be denoted **r-BC(1)**.

The class of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by real time Büchi 1-counter automata will be denoted **r-BCL(1) $_\omega$** .

### 3 Borel hierarchy

We assume the reader to be familiar with basic notions of topology which may be found in [Mos80,LT94,Kec95,Sta97,PP04]. There is a natural metric on the set  $\Sigma^\omega$  of infinite words over a finite alphabet  $\Sigma$  which is called the *prefix metric* and defined as follows. For  $u, v \in \Sigma^\omega$  and  $u \neq v$  let  $\delta(u, v) = 2^{-l_{\text{pref}(u,v)}}$  where  $l_{\text{pref}(u,v)}$  is the first integer  $n$  such that the  $(n+1)^{\text{st}}$  letter of  $u$  is different from the  $(n+1)^{\text{st}}$  letter of  $v$ . This metric induces on  $\Sigma^\omega$  the usual Cantor topology for which *open subsets* of  $\Sigma^\omega$  are in the form  $W.\Sigma^\omega$ , where  $W \subseteq \Sigma^*$ . A set  $L \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  is a *closed set* iff its complement  $\Sigma^\omega - L$  is an open set. Define now the *Borel Hierarchy* of subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$ :

**Definition 4.** For a non-null countable ordinal  $\alpha$ , the classes  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  and  $\Pi_\alpha^0$  of the Borel Hierarchy on the topological space  $\Sigma^\omega$  are defined as follows:

$\Sigma_1^0$  is the class of open subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$ ,  $\Pi_1^0$  is the class of closed subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$ , and for any countable ordinal  $\alpha \geq 2$ :

$\Sigma_\alpha^0$  is the class of countable unions of subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$  in  $\bigcup_{\gamma < \alpha} \Pi_\gamma^0$ .

$\Pi_\alpha^0$  is the class of countable intersections of subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$  in  $\bigcup_{\gamma < \alpha} \Sigma_\gamma^0$ .

For a countable ordinal  $\alpha$ , a subset of  $\Sigma^\omega$  is a Borel set of *rank*  $\alpha$  iff it is in  $\Sigma_\alpha^0 \cup \Pi_\alpha^0$  but not in  $\bigcup_{\gamma < \alpha} (\Sigma_\gamma^0 \cup \Pi_\gamma^0)$ .

There are also some subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$  which are not Borel. In particular the class of Borel subsets of  $\Sigma^\omega$  is strictly included into the class  $\Sigma_1^1$  of *analytic sets* which are obtained by projection of Borel sets, see for example [Sta97,LT94,PP04,Kec95] for more details. The (lightface) class  $\Sigma_1^1$  of *effective analytic sets* is the class of sets which are obtained by projection of arithmetical sets. It is well known that a set  $L \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$ , where  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet, is in the class  $\Sigma_1^1$  iff it is accepted by a Turing machine with a Büchi or Muller acceptance condition [Sta97].

We now define completeness with regard to reduction by continuous functions. For a countable ordinal  $\alpha \geq 1$ , a set  $F \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  is said to be a  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\Pi_\alpha^0, \Sigma_1^1$ )-*complete set* iff for any set  $E \subseteq Y^\omega$  (with  $Y$  a finite alphabet):  $E \in \Sigma_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $E \in \Pi_\alpha^0, E \in \Sigma_1^1$ ) iff there exists a continuous function  $f : Y^\omega \rightarrow \Sigma^\omega$  such that  $E = f^{-1}(F)$ .  $\Sigma_n^0$  (respectively  $\Pi_n^0$ )-complete sets, with  $n$  an integer  $\geq 1$ , are thoroughly characterized in [Sta86].

## 4 Topology and infinitary rational relations

The first non-recursive ordinal, usually called the Church-Kleene ordinal, will be denoted below by  $\omega_1^{\text{CK}}$ .

We have proved in [Fin05a,Fin05b] the following result.

**Theorem 5.** *For every non null countable ordinal  $\alpha < \omega_1^{\text{CK}}$ , there exist some  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ -complete and some  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ -complete  $\omega$ -languages in the class  $\mathbf{r-BCL}(1)_\omega$ .*

We are going to prove a similar result for the class  $\text{RAT}_\omega$ , using a simulation of 1-counter automata.

We now first define a coding of an  $\omega$ -word over a finite alphabet  $\Sigma$  by an  $\omega$ -word over the alphabet  $\Gamma = \Sigma \cup \{A\}$ , where  $A$  is an additional letter not in  $\Sigma$ .

For  $x \in \Sigma^\omega$  the  $\omega$ -word  $h(x)$  is defined by :

$$h(x) = A.0.x(1).A.0^2.x(2).A.0^3.x(3).A.0^4.x(4).A \dots A.0^n.x(n).A.0^{n+1}.x(n+1).A \dots$$

Then it is easy to see that the mapping  $h$  from  $\Sigma^\omega$  into  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  is continuous and injective.

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $\Sigma$  be a finite alphabet and  $\alpha \geq 2$  be a countable ordinal. If  $L \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  is  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ -complete (respectively,  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ -complete) then*

$$h(L) \cup h(\Sigma^\omega)^-$$

*is a  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ -complete (respectively,  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ -complete) subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $L$  be a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$ -complete (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ -complete) subset of  $\Sigma^\omega$ , for some countable ordinal  $\alpha \geq 2$ .

The topological space  $\Sigma^\omega$  is compact thus its image by the continuous function  $h$  is also a compact subset of the topological space  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ . The set  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  is compact hence it is a closed subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  and its complement

$$(h(\Sigma^\omega))^- = (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega - h(\Sigma^\omega)$$

is an open (i.e. a  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^0$ ) subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ .

On the other side the function  $h$  is also injective thus it is a bijection from  $\Sigma^\omega$  onto  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$ . But a continuous bijection between two compact sets is an homeomorphism therefore  $h$  induces an homeomorphism between  $\Sigma^\omega$  and  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$ . By hypothesis  $L$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset of  $\Sigma^\omega$  thus  $h(L)$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset of  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  (where Borel sets of the topological space  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  are defined from open sets as in the case of the topological space  $\Sigma^\omega$ ).

The topological space  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  is a topological subspace of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  and its topology is induced by the topology on  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ : open sets of  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  are traces on  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  of open sets of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  and the same result holds for closed sets. Then one can easily show by induction that for every ordinal  $\beta \geq 1$ ,  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\beta^0$ -subsets (resp.  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\beta^0$ -subsets) of  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  are traces on  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  of  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\beta^0$ -subsets (resp.  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\beta^0$ -subsets) of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ , i.e. are intersections with  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  of  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\beta^0$ -subsets (resp.  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\beta^0$ -subsets) of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ .

But  $h(L)$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset of  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  hence there exists a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset  $T$  of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  such that  $h(L) = T \cap h(\Sigma^\omega)$ . But  $h(\Sigma^\omega)$  is a closed i.e.  $\mathbf{\Pi}_1^0$ -subset (hence also a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset) of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  and the class of  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subsets of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  is closed under finite intersection thus  $h(L)$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ .

Now  $h(L) \cup (h(\Sigma^\omega))^-$  is the union of a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset and of a  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^0$ -subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  therefore it is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  because the class of  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-subsets of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  is closed under finite union.

In order to prove that  $h(L) \cup (h(\Sigma^\omega))^-$  is  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-complete it suffices to remark that

$$L = h^{-1}[h(L) \cup (h(\Sigma^\omega))^-]$$

This implies that  $h(L) \cup (h(\Sigma^\omega))^-$  is  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-complete because  $L$  is assumed to be  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\alpha^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\alpha^0$ )-complete.  $\square$

Let now  $\Sigma$  be a finite alphabet such that  $0 \in \Sigma$  and let  $\alpha$  be the  $\omega$ -word over the alphabet  $\Sigma \cup \{A\}$  which is defined by:

$$\alpha = A.0.A.0^2.A.0^3.A.0^4.A.0^5.A \dots A.0^n.A.0^{n+1}.A \dots$$

We can now state the following Lemma.

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $\Sigma$  be a finite alphabet such that  $0 \in \Sigma$ ,  $\alpha$  be the  $\omega$ -word over  $\Sigma \cup \{A\}$  defined as above, and  $L \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  be in  $\mathbf{r-BCL}(1)_\omega$ . Then there exists an infinitary rational relation  $R_1 \subseteq (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  such that:*

$$\forall x \in \Sigma^\omega \quad (x \in L) \text{ iff } ((h(x), \alpha) \in R_1)$$

**Proof.** Let  $\Sigma$  be a finite alphabet such that  $0 \in \Sigma$ ,  $\alpha$  be the  $\omega$ -word over  $\Sigma \cup \{A\}$  defined as above, and  $L = L(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$ , where  $\mathcal{A} = (K, \Sigma, \Delta, q_0, F)$  is a 1-counter Büchi automaton.

We define now the relation  $R_1$ . A pair  $y = (y_1, y_2)$  of  $\omega$ -words over the alphabet  $\Sigma \cup \{A\}$  is in  $R_1$  if and only if it is in the form

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= A.u_1.v_1.x(1).A.u_2.v_2.x(2).A.u_3.v_3.x(3).A \dots A.u_n.v_n.x(n).A \dots \\ y_2 &= A.w_1.z_1.A.w_2.z_2.A.w_3.z_3.A \dots A.w_n.z_n.A \dots \end{aligned}$$

where  $|v_1| = 0$  and for all integers  $i \geq 1$ ,

$$u_i, v_i, w_i, z_i \in 0^* \text{ and } x(i) \in \Sigma \text{ and}$$

$$|u_{i+1}| = |z_i| + 1$$

and there is a sequence  $(q_i)_{i \geq 0}$  of states of  $K$  such that for all integers  $i \geq 1$ :

$$x(i) : (q_{i-1}, |v_i|) \mapsto_{\mathcal{A}} (q_i, |w_i|)$$

Moreover some state  $q_f \in F$  occurs infinitely often in the sequence  $(q_i)_{i \geq 0}$ . Notice that the state  $q_0$  of the sequence  $(q_i)_{i \geq 0}$  is also the initial state of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Let now  $x \in \Sigma^\omega$  such that  $(h(x), \alpha) \in R_1$ . We are going to prove that  $x \in L$ .

By hypothesis  $(h(x), \alpha) \in R_1$  thus there are finite words  $u_i, v_i, w_i, z_i \in 0^*$  such that  $|v_1| = 0$  and for all integers  $i \geq 1$ ,  $|u_{i+1}| = |z_i| + 1$ , and

$$h(x) = A.u_1.v_1.x(1).A.u_2.v_2.x(2).A.u_3.v_3.x(3).A \dots A.u_n.v_n.x(n).A \dots$$

$$\alpha = A.w_1.z_1.A.w_2.z_2.A.w_3.z_3.A \dots A.w_n.z_n.A \dots$$

Moreover there is a sequence  $(q_i)_{i \geq 0}$  of states of  $K$  such that for all integers  $i \geq 1$ :

$$x(i) : (q_{i-1}, |v_i|) \mapsto_{\mathcal{A}} (q_i, |w_i|)$$



and some state  $q_f \in F$  occurs infinitely often in the sequence  $(q_i)_{i \geq 0}$ .

on the other side we have:

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= A.0.x(1).A.0^2.x(2).A.0^3.x(3).A \dots A.0^n.x(n).A.0^{n+1}.x(n+1).A \dots \\ \alpha &= A.0.A.0^2.A.0^3.A.0^4.A \dots A.0^n.A \dots \end{aligned}$$

So we have  $|u_1.v_1| = 1$  and  $|v_1| = 0$  and  $x(1) : (q_0, |v_1|) \mapsto_{\mathcal{A}} (q_1, |w_1|)$ . But  $|w_1.z_1| = 1$ ,  $|u_2.v_2| = 2$ , and  $|u_2| = |z_1| + 1$  thus  $|v_2| = |w_1|$ .

We are going to prove in a similar way that for all integers  $i \geq 1$  it holds that  $|v_{i+1}| = |w_i|$ .

We know that  $|w_i.z_i| = i$ ,  $|u_{i+1}.v_{i+1}| = i + 1$ , and  $|u_{i+1}| = |z_i| + 1$  thus  $|w_i| = |v_{i+1}|$ .

Then for all  $i \geq 1$ ,  $x(i) : (q_{i-1}, |v_i|) \mapsto_{\mathcal{A}} (q_i, |v_{i+1}|)$ .

So if we set  $c_i = |v_i|$ ,  $(q_{i-1}, c_i)_{i \geq 1}$  is an accepting run of  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $x$  and this implies that  $x \in L$ .

Conversely it is easy to prove that if  $x \in L$  then  $(h(x), \alpha)$  may be written in the form of  $(y_1, y_2) \in R_1$ .

It remains to prove that the above defined relation  $R_1$  is an infinitary rational relation. It is easy to find a 2-tape Büchi automaton  $\mathcal{T}$  accepting the infinitary rational relation  $R_1$ .

**Lemma 8.** *The set*

$$R_2 = (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega - (h(\Sigma^\omega) \times \{\alpha\})$$

*is an infinitary rational relation.*

**Proof.** By definition of the mapping  $h$ , we know that a pair of  $\omega$ -words over the alphabet  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})$  is in  $h(\Sigma^\omega) \times \{\alpha\}$  iff it is in the form  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$ , where

$$\sigma_1 = A.0.x(1).A.0^2.x(2).A.0^3.x(3).A \dots A.0^n.x(n).A.0^{n+1}.x(n+1).A \dots$$

$$\sigma_2 = \alpha = A.0.A.0^2.A.0^3.A \dots A.0^n.A.0^{n+1}.A \dots$$

where for all integers  $i \geq 1$ ,  $x(i) \in \Sigma$ .

So it is easy to see that  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega - (h(\Sigma^\omega) \times \{\alpha\})$  is the union of the sets  $\mathcal{C}_j$  where:

- $\mathcal{C}_1$  is formed by pairs  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  where  $\sigma_1$  has not any initial segment in  $A.\Sigma^2.A.\Sigma^3.A$ , or  $\sigma_2$  has not any initial segment in  $A.\Sigma.A.\Sigma^2.A$ .
- $\mathcal{C}_2$  is formed by pairs  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  where  $\sigma_2 \notin (A.0^+)^{\omega}$ , or  $\sigma_1 \notin (A.0^+.\Sigma)^{\omega}$ .

- $\mathcal{C}_3$  is formed by pairs  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  where
 
$$\sigma_1 = A.w_1.A.w_2.A.w_3.A \dots A.w_n.A.u.A.z_1$$

$$\sigma_2 = A.w'_1.A.w'_2.A.w'_3.A \dots A.w'_n.A.v.A.z_2$$

where  $n$  is an integer  $\geq 1$ , for all  $i \leq n$   $w_i, w'_i \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $z_1, z_2 \in (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  and

$$u, v \in \Sigma^* \text{ and } |u| \neq |v| + 1$$

- $\mathcal{C}_4$  is formed by pairs  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  where
 
$$\sigma_1 = A.w_1.A.w_2.A.w_3.A.w_4 \dots A.w_n.A.w_{n+1}.A.v.A.z_1$$

$$\sigma_2 = A.w'_1.A.w'_2.A.w'_3.A.w'_4 \dots A.w'_n.A.u.A.z_2$$

where  $n$  is an integer  $\geq 1$ , for all  $i \leq n$   $w_i, w'_i \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $w_{n+1} \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $z_1, z_2 \in (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  and

$$u, v \in \Sigma^* \text{ and } |v| \neq |u| + 2$$

Each set  $\mathcal{C}_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq 4$ , is easily seen to be an infinitary rational relation  $\subseteq (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  (the detailed proof is left to the reader). The class  $RAT_\omega$  is closed under finite union thus

$$R_2 = (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega - (h(\Sigma^\omega) \times \{\alpha\}) = \bigcup_{1 \leq j \leq 4} \mathcal{C}_j$$

is an infinitary rational relation. □

We can now state the following result :

**Theorem 9.** *For every non null countable ordinal  $\gamma < \omega_1^{\text{CK}}$ , there exists some  $\Sigma_\gamma^0$ -complete and some  $\Pi_\gamma^0$ -complete infinitary rational relations in the class  $RAT_\omega$ .*

**Proof.** For  $\gamma = 1$  (and even  $\gamma = 2$ ) the result is already true for regular  $\omega$ -languages.

Let then  $\gamma \geq 2$  be a countable non null recursive ordinal and  $L = L(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  be a  $\Pi_\gamma^0$ -complete (respectively,  $\Sigma_\gamma^0$ -complete)  $\omega$ -language accepted by a (real time) Büchi 1-counter automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Let  $\Gamma = \Sigma \cup \{A\}$  and  $R_1 \subseteq \Gamma^\omega \times \Gamma^\omega$  be the infinitary rational relation constructed from  $L(\mathcal{A})$  as in the proof of Lemma 7 and let

$$R = R_1 \cup R_2 \subseteq \Gamma^\omega \times \Gamma^\omega$$

The class  $RAT_\omega$  is closed under finite union therefore  $R$  is an infinitary rational relation.

Lemma 7 and the definition of  $R_2$  imply that  $R_\alpha = \{\sigma \in \Gamma^\omega \mid (\sigma, \alpha) \in R\}$  is equal to the set  $\mathcal{L} = h(L) \cup (h(\Sigma^\omega))^-$  which is a  $\Pi_\gamma^0$ -complete (respectively,  $\Sigma_\gamma^0$ -complete) subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  by Lemma 6.

Moreover, for all  $u \in \Gamma^\omega - \{\alpha\}$ ,  $R_u = \{\sigma \in \Gamma^\omega \mid (\sigma, u) \in R\} = \Gamma^\omega$  holds by definition of  $R_2$ .

In order to prove that  $R$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-complete set remark first that  $R$  may be written as the union:

$$R = \mathcal{L} \times \{\alpha\} \cup \Gamma^\omega \times (\Gamma^\omega - \{\alpha\})$$

We already know that  $\mathcal{L}$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-complete subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ . Then it is easy to show that  $\mathcal{L} \times \{\alpha\}$  is also a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-subset of  $(\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$ . On the other side it is easy to see that  $\Gamma^\omega \times (\Gamma^\omega - \{\alpha\})$  is an open subset of  $\Gamma^\omega \times \Gamma^\omega$ . Thus  $R$  is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-set because the Borel class  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ ) is closed under finite union.

Moreover let  $g : \Sigma^\omega \rightarrow (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega \times (\Sigma \cup \{A\})^\omega$  be the function defined by:

$$\forall x \in \Sigma^\omega \quad g(x) = (h(x), \alpha)$$

It is easy to see that  $g$  is continuous because  $h$  is continuous. By construction it turns out that for all  $\omega$ -words  $x \in \Sigma^\omega$ ,  $(x \in L) \iff ((h(x), \alpha) \in R) \iff (g(x) \in R)$ . This means that  $g^{-1}(R) = L$ . This implies that  $R$  is  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-complete because  $L$  is  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-complete.  $\square$

**Remark 10.** *The structure of the infinitary rational relation  $R$  can be described very simply by the sections  $R_u$ ,  $u \in \Gamma^\omega$ . All sections but one are equal to  $\Gamma^\omega$ , so they have the lowest topological complexity and exactly one section ( $R_\alpha$ ) is a  $\mathbf{\Pi}_\gamma^0$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\gamma^0$ )-complete subset of  $\Gamma^\omega$ .*

## 5 Concluding remarks

The Wadge hierarchy is a great refinement of the Borel hierarchy and we have proved in [Fin05a,Fin05b] that the Wadge hierarchy of the class  $\mathbf{r-BCL}(1)_\omega$  is equal to the Wadge hierarchy of the class of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Büchi Turing machines. Using the above coding and similar reasoning as in [Fin05b], we can easily infer that the Wadge hierarchy of the class  $RAT_\omega$  and the Wadge hierarchy of the class  $\mathbf{r-BCL}(1)_\omega$  are equal. Thus the Wadge hierarchy of the class  $RAT_\omega$  is also the Wadge hierarchy of the (lightface) class  $\Sigma_1^1$  of  $\omega$ -languages accepted by Turing machines with a Büchi acceptance condition. In particular their Borel hierarchies are also equal.

We have to indicate here a mistake in [Fin05a]. We wrote in that paper that it is well known that if  $L \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$  is a  $\Sigma_1^1$  set (i.e. accepted by a Turing machine with a Büchi acceptance condition), and is a Borel set of rank  $\alpha$ , then  $\alpha$  is smaller than  $\omega_1^{\text{CK}}$ . This fact, which is true if we replace  $\Sigma_1^1$  by  $\Delta_1^1$ , seemed to us an obvious fact, and was accepted by many people as true, but it is actually not true. Kechris, Marker and Sami proved in [KMS89] that the supremum of the

set of Borel ranks of (lightface)  $\Pi_1^1$ , so also of (lightface)  $\Sigma_1^1$ , sets is the ordinal  $\gamma_2^1$ . This ordinal is defined in [KMS89] and it is proved to be strictly greater than the ordinal  $\delta_2^1$  which is the first non  $\Delta_2^1$  ordinal. Thus it holds that  $\omega_1^{\text{CK}} < \gamma_2^1$ . The ordinal  $\gamma_2^1$  is also the supremum of the set of Borel ranks of  $\omega$ -languages in the class  $\mathbf{r-BCL}(1)_\omega$  or in the class  $RAT_\omega$ . Notice however that it is not proved in [KMS89] that every non null ordinal  $\gamma < \gamma_2^1$  is the Borel rank of a (lightface)  $\Pi_1^1$  (or  $\Sigma_1^1$ ) set, while it is known that every ordinal  $\gamma < \omega_1^{\text{CK}}$  is the Borel rank of a (lightface)  $\Delta_1^1$  set. The situation is then much more complicated than it could be expected. More details will be given in the full versions of [Fin05a] and of this paper.

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