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# FROBENIUS NUMBER OF A LINEAR DIOPHANTINE EQUATION

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**ABSTRACT.** We denote by  $\mathbb{N}_0$  the set of nonnegative integers. Let  $d \geq 1$  and  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_d\}$  a set of positive integers. For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , we write  $s(n)$  for the number of solutions  $(x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$  of the equation  $a_1x_1 + \dots + a_dx_d = n$ . We set  $g(A) = \sup\{n \mid s(n) = 0\} \cup \{-1\}$  the Frobenius number of  $A$ . Let  $S(A)$  be the subsemigroup of  $(\mathbb{N}_0, +)$  generated by  $A$ . We set  $S'(A) = \mathbb{N}_0 \setminus S(A)$ ,  $N'(A) = \text{Card} S'(A)$  and  $N(A) = \text{Card} S(A) \cap \{0, 1, \dots, g(A)\}$ . Let  $p$  be a multiple of  $\text{lcm}(A)$  and  $F_p(t) = \prod_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{p}{a_i}-1} t^{ja_i}$ . We give an upper bound for  $g(A)$  and reduction formulas for  $g(A)$ ,  $N'(A)$  and  $N(A)$ . Characterizations of these invariants as well as numerical symmetric and pseudo-symmetric semigroups in terms of  $F_p(t)$ , are also obtained.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

We denote by  $\mathbb{N}_0$  (resp.  $\mathbb{N}$ ) the set of nonnegative (resp. positive) integers. Let  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_d\} \subset \mathbb{N}$ . We set  $\rho = \text{gcd}(A)$  and  $l = \text{lcm}(A)$ . For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , we write  $s(n)$  for the number of solutions  $(x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$  of the equation  $a_1x_1 + \dots + a_dx_d = n$ . We set  $g(A) = \sup\{n \mid s(n) = 0\} \cup \{-1\}$  the Frobenius number of  $A$ . Let  $S(A)$  be the subsemigroup of  $(\mathbb{N}_0, +)$  generated by  $A$ ,  $S'(A) = \mathbb{N}_0 \setminus S(A)$ ,  $N'(A) = \text{Card} S'(A)$  and  $N(A) = \text{Card} S(A) \cap \{0, 1, \dots, g(A)\}$ . We say that  $S(A)$  is symmetric (resp. pseudo-symmetric) if  $\text{gcd}(A) = 1$  and  $N'(A) = N(A)$  (resp.  $N'(A) = N(A) + 1$ ). The generating function of the  $s(n)$  is

$$\Phi(t) = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^d (1 - t^{a_i})}.$$

Indeed, we have

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^d (1 - t^{a_i})} = \prod_{i=1}^d \sum_{j \geq 0} t^{ja_i} = \sum_{n \in S(A)} s(n)t^n.$$

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For  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define the Frobenius polynomial

$$F_p(t) = \prod_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{p}{a_i}-1} t^{ja_i} = \frac{(1-t^p)^d}{\prod_{i=1}^d (1-t^{a_i})}$$

and we write

$$\Phi(t) = \frac{F_p(t)}{(1-t^p)^d}. \quad (1)$$

In theorem 3.1 we give formulas for  $g(A)$ ,  $N'(A)$  and  $N(A)$  in terms of  $F_p(t)$ . As a consequence we obtain an upper bound for the Frobenius number (corollary 3.2) which improves the upper bound given by Chrzastowski-Wachtel and mentioned in [9]. A characterization of numerical symmetric and pseudo-symmetric semigroups (corollary 3.4) is also obtained. In theorem 3.7 we prove reduction formulas for  $g(A)$ ,  $N'(A)$  and  $N(A)$ . The first one generalizes a Raczunas and Chrzastowski-Wachtel theorem [9]. As a consequence (corollary 3.10) we obtain a generalization of a Rödseth formula [10]. It is known that the Hilbert function of a graded module over a polynomial graded ring as well as  $s(n)$  are numerical quasi-polynomial functions. In examples 4.9 and 4.10 we give a description of these functions in terms of the Frobenius polynomial.

## 2 PRELIMINARIES

Given  $Q(t) = \sum_j q_j t^j \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  and an integer  $p \geq 1$ , there exists a unique sequence  $Q_0, \dots, Q_{p-1} \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r Q_r(t^p)$ . Namely,  $Q_r(t) = \sum_k q_{r+pk} t^k$ . The  $Q_r$  are called the  $p$ -components of  $Q$ . We denote by  $\omega(Q) = \inf\{j \mid q_j \neq 0\}$  the valuation of  $Q$  and  $\deg(Q) = \sup\{j \mid q_j \neq 0\}$  the degree of  $Q$ , with  $\omega(0) = +\infty$  and  $\deg(0) = -\infty$ . The following invariants will be associated with  $Q$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_p(Q) &= \sup\{\omega(t^r Q_r(t^p)) \mid 0 \leq r \leq p-1\} \text{ the } p\text{-valuation of } Q. \\ \delta_p(Q) &= \inf\{\deg(t^r Q_r(t^p)) \mid 0 \leq r \leq p-1\} \text{ the } p\text{-degree of } Q. \\ \Omega_p(Q) &= \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} \omega(Q_r). \\ \Delta_p(Q) &= \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} \deg(Q_r). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\omega_p(Q) = +\infty = \Omega_p(Q) \text{ and } \delta_p(Q) = -\infty = \Delta_p(Q) \text{ if } Q_r = 0 \text{ for some } r.$$

We fix an integer  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and we set

$$\widehat{Q}(t) = t^n Q(t^{-1}).$$

So we have  $\widehat{\widehat{Q}} = Q$  and

$$\deg(Q) + \omega(\widehat{Q}) = n = \deg(\widehat{Q}) + \omega(Q) \text{ if } Q \neq 0. \quad (2)$$

The  $p$ -components  $\widehat{Q}_r$  of  $\widehat{Q}$  can be deduced from the  $p$ -components of  $Q$ . Namely, we write  $n = p\lambda + \gamma$  with  $0 \leq \gamma < p$ , so we get

$$\widehat{Q}(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^{p\lambda+\gamma-r} Q_r(t^{-p}) = \sum_{r=0}^{\gamma} t^{\gamma-r} (t^p)^\lambda Q_r(t^{-p}) + \sum_{r=\gamma+1}^{p-1} t^{p+\gamma-r} (t^p)^{\lambda-1} Q_r(t^{-p}).$$

It follows from the uniqueness of the  $p$ -components that

$$\widehat{Q}_r(t) = t^\lambda Q_{\gamma-r}(t^{-1}) \text{ for } 0 \leq r \leq \gamma \quad (3)$$

and

$$\widehat{Q}_r(t) = t^{\lambda-1} Q_{p+\gamma-r}(t^{-1}) \text{ for } r > \gamma. \quad (4)$$

So we obtain

$$\widehat{Q}_r = 0 \Leftrightarrow Q_{\gamma-r} = 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq r \leq \gamma \quad (5)$$

and

$$\widehat{Q}_r = 0 \Leftrightarrow Q_{p+\gamma-r} = 0 \text{ for } r > \gamma. \quad (6)$$

If  $\widehat{Q}_r \neq 0$ , we also deduce from (2)-(4) that

$$\lambda = \deg(\widehat{Q}_r) + \omega(Q_{\gamma-r}) \text{ when } 0 \leq r \leq \gamma \quad (7)$$

and

$$\lambda - 1 = \deg(\widehat{Q}_r) + \omega(Q_{p+\gamma-r}) \text{ when } r > \gamma. \quad (8)$$

Moreover, writing  $n = p\lambda + r + (\gamma - r) = p(\lambda - 1) + r + (p + \gamma - r)$  we get

$$n = \deg(t^r \widehat{Q}_r(t^p)) + \omega(t^{\gamma-r} Q_{\gamma-r}(t^p)) \text{ for } 0 \leq r \leq \gamma$$

and

$$n = \deg(t^r \widehat{Q}_r(t^p)) + \omega(t^{p+\gamma-r} Q_{p+\gamma-r}(t^p)) \text{ for } r > \gamma.$$

Hence

$$n = \delta_p(\widehat{Q}) + \omega_p(Q) = \delta_p(Q) + \omega_p(\widehat{Q}). \quad (9)$$

Furthermore, using (7) and (8) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{r=0}^{\gamma} \left( \deg(\widehat{Q}_r) + \omega(Q_{\gamma-r}) \right) + \sum_{r=\gamma+1}^{p-1} \left( \deg(\widehat{Q}_r) + \omega(Q_{p+\gamma-r}) \right) \\ &= (\gamma + 1)\lambda + (p - \gamma - 1)(\lambda - 1) = n - p + 1. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\Delta_p(\widehat{Q}) + \Omega_p(Q) = n - p + 1 = \Delta_p(Q) + \Omega_p(\widehat{Q}). \quad (10)$$

Given  $m, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we consider the following polynomials

$$N_{m,j}(t) = \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (t-j+i) \text{ if } m > 1, N_{m,j}(t) = 0 \text{ if } m \leq 0 \text{ and } N_{1,j}(t) = 1.$$

For  $Q(t) = \sum_j q_j t^j \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q(1) \neq 0$ , we define

$$V_m(Q, t) = \sum_j q_j N_{m,j}(t).$$

Furthermore, let  $Q_0, \dots, Q_{p-1} \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  be the  $p$ -components of  $Q$ . We consider the polynomials  $U_0, \dots, U_{p-1} \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  defined as follows  $U_r = 0$  if  $Q_r = 0$  and  $Q_r(t) = (1-t)^{i_r} U_r(t)$  with  $U_r(1) \neq 0$  otherwise. For all  $0 \leq r \leq p-1$ , we put  $m_r = m - i_r$  and we define the function

$$H_m(Q, \cdot) : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \text{ by } H_m(Q, r + pk) = V_{m_r}(U_r, k).$$

In order to illustrate these definitions we give the following examples.

**EXAMPLE 2.1** Let  $Q(t) = F_{12} = \frac{(1-t^{12})^2}{(1-t^2)(1-t^3)} = 1 + t^2 + t^3 + t^4 + t^5 + 2t^6 + t^7 + 2t^8 + 2t^9 + 2t^{10} + 2t^{11} + t^{12} + 2t^{13} + t^{14} + t^{15} + t^{16} + t^{17} + t^{19}$ .

We take  $p = 12, n = 19$  and  $m = 2$ .

We write  $Q(t) = (1+t^{12}) + t(2t^{12}) + t^2(1+t^{12}) + t^3(1+t^{12}) + t^4(1+t^{12}) + t^5(1+t^{12}) + 2t^6 + t^7(1+t^{12}) + 2t^8 + 2t^9 + 2t^{10} + 2t^{11}$ .

We see that the 12-components of  $Q(t)$  are  $Q_0(t) = Q_2(t) = Q_3(t) = Q_4(t) = Q_5(t) = Q_7(t) = (1+t), Q_1(t) = 2t$  and  $Q_6(t) = Q_8(t) = Q_9(t) = Q_{10}(t) = Q_{11}(t) = 2$ .

We also have

$$\widehat{Q}(t) = t^{19}Q(t^{-1}) = Q(t).$$

$$\omega_{12}(Q) = 13, \delta_{12}(Q) = 6, \Omega_{12}(Q) = 1, \Delta_{12}(Q) = 7.$$

$$N_{2,0}(t) = t+1, N_{2,1}(t) = t.$$

$$U_r = Q_r \text{ for all } r.$$

$$V_2(U_r, t) = 2t+1 \text{ for } r \in \{0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7\}, V_2(U_1, t) = 2t \text{ and } V_2(U_r, t) = 2(t+1) \text{ for } r \in \{6, 8, 9, 10, 11\}.$$

$$\text{We obtain } H_2(Q, 12k+r) = 2k+1 \text{ for } r \in \{0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7\}, H_2(Q, 12k+1) = 2k \text{ and } H_2(Q, 12k+r) = 2(k+1) \text{ for } r \in \{6, 8, 9, 10, 11\}.$$

**EXAMPLE 2.2** Let  $Q(t) = F_6(t) = 1 + t^2 + t^3 + t^4 + t^5 + t^7 = \frac{(1-t^6)^2}{(1-t^2)(1-t^3)}$ .

We take  $p = 6, n = 7$  and  $m = 2$ .

We obtain

$$\omega_6(Q) = 7, \delta_6(Q) = 0, \Omega_6(Q) = 1, \Delta_6(Q) = 1.$$

$$U_r = Q_r \text{ for all } r.$$

$$N_{2,0}(t) = t+1, N_{2,1}(t) = t.$$

$$V_2(U_r, t) = t+1 \text{ for } r \in \{0, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \text{ and } V_2(U_1, t) = t.$$

$$H_2(Q, 6k+r) = k+1 \text{ for } r \in \{0, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \text{ and } H_2(Q, 6k+1) = k.$$

$$\text{We observe that } H_2(F_6, \cdot) = H_2(F_{12}, \cdot).$$

Given  $\Phi(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[[t, t^{-1}]]$ , we write  $\Phi(t) = \sum_n \varphi(n)t^n$  and we introduce

$$g(\Phi) = \sup\{n \mid \varphi(n) = 0\}.$$

$$S'(\Phi) = \{n \geq 0 \mid \varphi(n) = 0\}.$$

$$S(\Phi) = \{0 \leq n \leq g(\Phi) \mid \varphi(n) \neq 0\}.$$

$$N'(\Phi) = \text{Card } S'(\Phi).$$

$$N(\Phi) = \text{Card } S(\Phi).$$

LEMMA 2.3 Given  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $Q(t) = \sum_j q_j t^j \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q(1) \neq 0$ , we consider  $\Phi(t) = \sum_n \varphi(n) t^n$  the expansion of  $(1-t)^{-m} Q(t)$  as a formal power series. Then, the following conditions hold

1.  $\varphi(n) = V_m(Q, n)$  for all  $n > \deg(Q) - m$ .
2. We suppose that  $m > 0$  and  $Q(t)$  has nonnegative coefficients. Then,
  - (a)  $\varphi(n) = 0 \Leftrightarrow n < \omega(Q)$ .
  - (b)  $g(\Phi) = \omega(Q) - 1$ .
  - (c)  $N'(\Phi) = \max\{\omega(Q), 0\}$ . In particular,  $N'(\Phi) = \omega(Q)$  if  $Q(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$ .

PROOF. 1. Suppose  $m > 0$ . We have  $\Phi(t) = (1-t)^{-m} Q(t) = (\sum_j q_j t^j) \sum_{j \geq 0} \binom{j+m-1}{m-1} t^j$ . So  $\varphi(n) = \sum_{j=\omega(Q)}^n q_j \binom{n-j+m-1}{m-1}$ . Moreover, we have

$$\binom{n-j+m-1}{m-1} = \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (n-j+i) \text{ if } n \geq j.$$

Hence  $\varphi(n) = V_m(Q, n)$  if  $n \geq \deg(Q)$ , in particular, the statement is true for  $m = 1$ . Now, suppose  $m > 1$  and  $\deg(Q) - m < n < \deg(Q)$  then  $-m < n - \deg(Q) \leq n - j < 0$  for all  $j$  such that  $n < j \leq \deg(Q)$ . It follows that there exists  $1 \leq i \leq m-1$  such that  $n - j + i = 0$  thus  $N_{m,j}(n) = 0$ . So we can write

$$V_m(Q, n) = \sum_{j=\omega(Q)}^n q_j N_{m,j}(n) = \sum_{j=\omega(Q)}^n q_j \binom{n-j+m-1}{m-1} = \varphi(n).$$

Furthermore, if  $m \leq 0$  then  $\varphi(n) = 0$  for  $n > \deg(Q) - m$  because  $\Phi(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  and  $\deg(Q) - m = \deg \Phi(t)$ .

2. Follows from the fact that  $\varphi(n) = \sum_{j=\omega(Q)}^n q_j \binom{n-j+m-1}{m-1} > 0$  if  $n \geq \omega(Q)$  and  $\varphi(n) = 0$  if  $n < \omega(Q)$   $\square$

THEOREM 2.4 Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ . Given  $Q(t) = \sum_j q_j t^j \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q(1) \neq 0$ , we consider  $\Phi(t) = \sum_n \varphi(n) t^n$  the expansion of  $(1-t^p)^{-m} Q(t)$  as a formal power series. Then the following conditions hold

1.  $\varphi(n) = H_m(Q, n)$  for all  $n > \deg(Q) - mp$ .
2. We suppose that  $m > 0$  and  $Q(t)$  has nonnegative coefficients. Then,
  - (a)  $\varphi(pk+r) = 0 \Leftrightarrow k < \omega(Q_r)$ .
  - (b)  $g(\Phi) = \omega_p(Q) - p = \deg(Q) - p - \delta_p(\hat{Q})$  where  $\hat{Q}(t) = t^{\deg(Q)} Q(t^{-1})$ .
  - (c)  $N'(\Phi) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} \max\{\omega(Q_r), 0\}$ .  
In particular,  $N'(\Phi) = \Omega_p(Q)$  if  $Q(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$ .

PROOF. We write  $\Phi(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r (1-t^p)^{-m} Q_r(t^p) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r (1-t^p)^{-m_r} U_r(t^p) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r \Phi_r(t^p)$  where  $\Phi_r(t) = (1-t^p)^{-m_r} U_r(t^p) = \sum_k \varphi_r(k) t^k$ . It follows from lemma 2.3.1, that  $\varphi(pk+r) = \varphi_r(k) = V_{m_r}(U_r, k)$  for all  $k > \deg(U_r) - m_r$ . Therefore,  $\varphi(n) = H_m(Q, n)$  for  $n > \deg(Q) - pm$  because  $n = pk+r > \deg(Q) - pm \geq$

$p(\deg(Q_r) - m) + r \Rightarrow k > \deg(Q_r) - m = \deg(U_r) - m_r$ .

2 (a) follows from lemma 2.3.2 (a).

b) We have  $g(\Phi) = \max\{pg(\Phi_r) + r \mid 0 \leq r \leq p-1\} = \max\{p(\omega(Q_r) - 1) + r \mid 0 \leq r \leq p-1\} = \omega_p(Q) - p$ . Moreover, if  $Q_r \neq 0$  for all  $r$  we have  $\omega_p(Q) - p = \deg(Q) - p - \delta_p(\hat{Q})$  by (9). Since  $\omega_p(Q) = +\infty = -\delta_p(\hat{Q})$  if  $Q_r = 0$  for some  $r$ , the equality is still true in this case.

c) Follows from lemma 2.3.2 (c)  $\square$

LEMMA 2.5 *Let  $\xi = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{p}}$  be a primitive  $p$ -th root of unity and  $Q(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r Q_r(t^p) \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$ . Then, the following conditions are equivalent*

1.  $Q(\xi^j) = 0$  for  $0 < j < p$ .
2.  $Q(1) = pQ_r(1)$  for  $0 \leq r \leq p-1$ .

PROOF. By successive substitutions of  $1, \xi, \dots, \xi^{p-1}$  for  $t$  in  $Q(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r Q_r(t^p)$  we obtain a Vandermonde linear system  $\sum_{r=0}^{p-1} \xi^{rj} Q_r(1) = Q(\xi^j)$  for  $j = 0, \dots, p-1$ . If  $Q(\xi) = \dots = Q(\xi^{p-1}) = 0$ , the unique solution is  $Q_r(1) = \frac{1}{p}Q(1)$  for every  $0 \leq r \leq p-1$ . Conversely, if  $\frac{Q(1)}{p}$  is the common value of the  $Q_r(1)$  then  $\frac{Q(1)}{p} \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} \xi^{rj} = 0 = Q(\xi^j)$  for  $j = 1, \dots, p-1$   $\square$

LEMMA 2.6 *Let  $p, q, u$  be positive integers and  $Q(t), K(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $p = qu$  and  $K(t^u) = Q(t)$ . We denote by  $Q_r$  (resp.  $K_s$ ) the  $p$ -components of  $Q$  (resp. the  $q$ -components of  $K$ ). Then,*

1.  $Q_{su} = K_s$  and  $Q_r = 0$  for all  $r \notin u\mathbb{Z}$ .
2. We set  $\xi = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{p}}$ , then the following conditions are equivalent
  - (a)  $Q(\xi^j) = 0$  for  $0 < j < q$ .
  - (b)  $Q(\xi^q) = qQ_r(1) = K(1)$  for all  $r \in u\mathbb{Z}$ .

PROOF. We can write  $Q(t) = K(t^u) = \sum_{s=0}^{q-1} t^{us} K_s(t^p)$ . It follows from the uniqueness of the  $Q_r$  that  $Q_{su} = K_s$  for  $0 \leq s < q$ . Now,  $Q(\xi^q) = K(1)$  and  $Q(\xi^j) = K(\alpha^j)$  with  $\alpha = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{q}} = \xi^u$ . We apply lemma 2.5  $\square$

For every  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , we set  $F_p(t) = \prod_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{p}{a_i}-1} t^{ja_i}$  the *Frobenius polynomial* of  $A$ . We write  $F_{p,r}$  for the  $p$ -components of  $F_p$ . It is easy to see that for  $n = \deg(F_p) = pd - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i$ , we have  $\widehat{F}_p(t) = t^n F_p(t^{-1}) = F_p(t)$ . Let us write  $p = q\rho$  and  $a_i = b_i\rho$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq d$ , where  $\rho = \gcd(A)$ . So we can write  $F_p(t) = K(t^\rho)$  with

$$K(t) = \frac{(1-t^q)^d}{\prod_{i=1}^d (1-t^{b_i})}.$$

Moreover, for  $0 < j < q$  the number  $\xi^j = e^{\frac{2ij\pi}{q}}$  is a root of  $\prod_{i=1}^d (1-t^{b_i})$  of multiplicity  $< d$  because  $\gcd(b_1, \dots, b_d) = 1$  whereas  $\xi^j$  is a root of  $(1-t^q)^d$  of multiplicity  $= d$ , then  $K(\xi^j) = 0$ . It follows from lemma 2.6 that  $F_{p,r} = K_{\frac{r}{\rho}}$  if  $r \in \rho\mathbb{Z}$  and  $F_{p,r} = 0$  otherwise. We also deduce that  $F_{p,r}(1) = \frac{1}{q}K(1) = \frac{\rho p^{d-1}}{\prod_{i=1}^d a_i}$  if  $r \in \rho\mathbb{Z}$   $\square$

### 3 FROBENIUS NUMBER AND NUMERICAL SEMIGROUPS

In the case of the Frobenius polynomial  $F_p$  we set  $\omega_p(F_p) = \omega_p(A)$ ,  $\delta_p(F_p) = \delta_p(A)$ ,  $\Omega_p(F_p) = \Omega_p(A)$ ,  $\Delta_p(F) = \Delta_p(A)$ .

**THEOREM 3.1** *For every  $p \in l\mathbb{N}$ , we have*

1.  $g(A) = \omega_p(A) - p = p(d-1) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i - \delta_p(A) = l(d-1) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i - \delta_l(A)$ .
2.  $N'(A) = \Omega_p(A) = \Omega_l(A)$ .
3.  $N(A) = \Delta_p(A) - \delta_p(A) = \Delta_l(A) - \delta_l(A)$ .

**PROOF.** We see that for every  $p \in l\mathbb{N}$ , the function  $\Phi(t) = (1 - t^p)^{-d} F_p(t) = \sum_n s(n)t^n$  is the generating function of the  $s(n)$  so  $g(A) = g(\Phi)$ .

1. follows from theorem 2.4.2 (b).
2. follows from theorem 2.4.2 (c).
3. is a consequence of (10)□

**COROLLARY 3.2**

1. *For every  $p \in l\mathbb{N}$ , we have*

$$g(A) = p(d-1) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i \text{ if and only if } \delta_p(A) = 0.$$

2.  $g(A) = +\infty$  if and only if  $\rho > 1$ .
3. If  $\rho = 1$ , we have the following upper bound for the Frobenius number

$$g(A) \leq l(d-1) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i.$$

4. If there exists  $h$  such that  $1 \leq h \leq d$  and  $\gcd(a_1, \dots, a_h) = 1$  then

$$g(A) \leq \text{lcm}(a_1, \dots, a_h)(h-1) - \sum_{i=1}^h a_i.$$

**REMARK 3.3** The upper bound we give in 3) improves the following inequality

$$g(A) \leq l(d-1)$$

proved by Chrzastowski-Wachtel and mentioned in [9].

**COROLLARY 3.4** Suppose  $\gcd(A) = 1$ . Then the following conditions hold

1.  $S(A)$  is symmetric  $\Leftrightarrow \Delta_p(A) = \Omega_p(A) + \delta_p(A)$  for some  $p \in l\mathbb{N} \Leftrightarrow \Delta_p(A) = \Omega_p(A) + \delta_p(A)$  for all  $p \in l\mathbb{N}$ .
2.  $S(A)$  is pseudo-symmetric  $\Leftrightarrow \Delta_p(A) + 1 = \Omega_p(A) + \delta_p(A)$  for some  $p \in l\mathbb{N} \Leftrightarrow \Delta_p(A) + 1 = \Omega_p(A) + \delta_p(A)$  for all  $p \in l\mathbb{N}$ .

We suppose  $\gcd(A) = 1$ . Let  $q_1, \dots, q_d$  be positive integers such that for all  $1 \leq i \leq d$ ,  $q_i$  is a divisor of  $\gcd(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_d)$ . So  $\gcd(q_i, q_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$  because  $\gcd(A) = 1$ . We set  $\hat{q} = \prod_{j=1}^d q_j$ ,  $\hat{q}_i = \prod_{j \neq i} q_j$ ,  $a_i = b_i \hat{q}_i$  and  $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_d\}$ . We have  $\gcd(B) = 1$  and  $l = \text{lcm}(A) = \hat{q} \text{lcm}(B)$ . For  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , we write  $p = \hat{q}u$  with  $u \in \text{lcm}(B)\mathbb{N}$ .

**THEOREM 3.5** *The following formulas hold*

1.  $\delta_p(A) = \hat{q} \delta_u(B)$ .
2.  $\omega_p(A) = \hat{q} \omega_u(B) + \sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1) a_i$ .
3.  $\Omega_p(A) = \hat{q} \Omega_u(B) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1) a_i - \hat{q} + 1 \right)$ .
4.  $\Delta_p(A) = \hat{q} \Delta_u(B) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1) a_i - \hat{q} + 1 \right)$ .

In order to prove this theorem we need a lemma.

**LEMMA 3.6** *Let  $q$  and  $c$  be two positive integers,  $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_{d-1}, c\}$ , and  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_{d-1}, c\}$  where  $a_1 = qb_1, \dots, a_{d-1} = qb_{d-1}$ . Suppose  $\gcd(A) = 1$  and choose  $p \in \text{lcm}(B)\mathbb{N}$  so  $\gcd(q, c) = 1$  and  $qp \in \text{lcm}(A)\mathbb{N}$ . Then, the following formulas hold*

1.  $\delta_{qp}(A) = q \delta_p(B)$ .
2.  $\omega_{qp}(A) = q \omega_p(B) + (q - 1)c$ .
3.  $\Omega_{qp}(A) = q \Omega_p(B) + \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)(c - 1)$ .
4.  $\Delta_{qp}(A) = q \Delta_p(B) + \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)(c - 1)$ .

**PROOF.** We denote by

$$F(t) = F_p(t) = \frac{(1 - t^p)^d}{(1 - t^c) \prod_{i=1}^{d-1} (1 - t^{b_i})} = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r F_r(t^p)$$

the Frobenius polynomial associated with  $B$  and

$$G(t) = G_{qp}(t) = \frac{(1 - t^{qp})^d}{(1 - t^c) \prod_{i=1}^{d-1} (1 - t^{a_i})} = \sum_{s=0}^{qp-1} t^s G_s(t^{qp})$$

the Frobenius polynomial associated with  $A$ . We see that

$$G(t) = (1 + t^c + \dots + t^{(q-1)c}) F(t^q) = (1 + t^c + \dots + t^{(q-1)c}) \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^{qr} F_r(t^{qp}).$$

So we obtain

$$G(t) = \sum_{\substack{k=ic+jq \\ 0 \leq i \leq q-1}} t^k F_j(t^{qp}) = \sum_{\substack{0 \leq k=ic+jq \leq qp-1 \\ 0 \leq i \leq q-1}} t^k F_j(t^{qp}) + \sum_{\substack{k > qp-1 \\ 0 \leq i \leq q-1}} t^{k-qp} t^{iq} F_j(t^{qp})$$

By identification we deduce that  $G_s(t^{qp}) = F_j(t^{qp})$  when  $s = ic + jq$  and  $G_s(t^{qp}) = t^{qp}F_j(t^{qp})$  when  $s = ic + jq - qp = ic - (p - j)q$ . In particular, we have  $\deg(G_s) = \deg(F_j)$  and  $\omega(G_s) = \omega(F_j)$  when  $s = ic + jq$  and  $\deg(G_s) = 1 + \deg(F_j)$  and  $\omega(G_s) = 1 + \omega(F_j)$  when  $s = ic + jq - qp$ . Therefore, for all  $s$  which can be written in the form  $s = ic + jq$  we get  $\deg(t^s G_s(t^{qp})) = ic + jq + qp \deg(F_j)$  and  $\omega(t^s G_s(t^{qp})) = ic + jq + qp \omega(F_j)$ . For all  $s$  which can be written in the form  $s = ic + jq - qp$ , we get  $\deg(t^s G_s(t^{qp})) = ic + jq - qp + qp(1 + \deg(F_j)) = ic + jq + qp \deg(F_j)$  and  $\omega(t^s G_s(t^{qp})) = ic + jq - qp + qp(1 + \omega(F_j))$ . It follows that  $\delta_{qp}(G) = \min\{ic + jq + qp \deg(F_j)\} = q \min\{j + p \deg(F_j)\} = q \delta_p(F)$  and  $\omega_{qp}(G) = \max\{ic + jq + qp \omega(F_j)\} = (q - 1)c + q \max\{j + p \omega(F_j)\} = q \omega_p(F) + (q - 1)c$ . We also have

$$\Omega_{qp}(G) = \sum_{s=ic+jq} \omega(G_s) + \sum_{s=ic+jq-qp} \omega(G_s) = \sum_{s=ic+jq} \omega(F_j) + \sum_{s=ic-jq} (\omega(F_j) + 1)$$

$= q \Omega_p(F) + N'(c, q) = q \Omega_p(F) + \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)(c - 1)$ . It follows that  $\Delta_{qp}(G) = \Omega_{qp}(G) + \delta_{qp}(G) = q(\Omega_p(F) + \delta_p(F)) + \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)(c - 1) \square$

**PROOF OF THEOREM 3.5.** By induction on the number  $h = d - k + 1$  such  $q_1 = q_2 = \dots = q_{k-1} = 1$ . If  $h = 1$  the result is given by lemma 3.6. Suppose that the result is true when  $q_1 = q_2 = \dots = q_{k-1} = 1$ . We choose  $p \in \text{lcm}(A)\mathbb{N}$  and we set  $v = \frac{p}{q_k}$ ,  $t_i = q_i$  for  $i \neq k$  and  $t_k = 1$ . Then, we get  $\hat{t}_i = \frac{\hat{q}_i}{q_k}$  for all  $i \neq k$ ,  $\hat{t}_k = \hat{q}_k$  and  $\hat{t} = \frac{\hat{q}}{q_k}$ . We also have  $\frac{a_i}{q_k} = \frac{b_i \hat{q}_i}{q_k} = b_i \hat{t}_i$  for all  $i \neq k$  and  $a_k = b_k \hat{t}_k$ . We put  $c_i = b_i \hat{t}_i$  for all  $i$  and  $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_d\}$ , thus  $a_i = q_k c_i$  for all  $i \neq k$  and  $a_k = c_k$ . It follows from lemma 3.6 and the induction hypothesis that

- 1)  $\delta_p(A) = q_k \delta_v(C) = q_k \hat{t} \delta_u(B) = \hat{q} \delta_u(B)$ .
- 2)  $\omega_p(A) = q_k \omega_v(C) + (q_k - 1)c_k = q_k \{\hat{t} \omega_u(B) + \sum_{i=1}^d (t_i - 1)c_i\} + (q_k - 1)c_k = \hat{q} \omega_u(B) + \sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i$ .
- 3)  $\Omega_p(A) = q_k \Omega_v(C) + \frac{1}{2}(q_k - 1)(a_k - 1) = q_k \{\hat{t} \Omega_u(B) + \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{i=1}^d (t_i - 1)c_i - \hat{t} + 1)\} + \frac{1}{2}(q_k - 1)(a_k - 1) = \hat{q} \Omega_u(B) + \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i - \hat{q} + 1)$ .
- 4)  $\Delta_p(A) = \Omega_p(A) + \delta_p(A) = \hat{q} \Delta_u(B) + \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i - \hat{q} + 1) \square$

**THEOREM 3.7** *The following formulas hold*

1.  $g(A) = \hat{q}g(B) + \sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i$ .
2.  $N'(A) = \hat{q}N'(B) + \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i - \hat{q} + 1)$ .
3.  $N(A) = \hat{q}N(B) + \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i - \hat{q} + 1)$ .

**REMARK 3.8** In formula 1) if we take  $q_1 = \dots = q_{d-1} = 1$  then we obtain a Brauer and Shockley formula [5] and if we take  $q_i = \text{gcd}(A \setminus \{a_i\})$  for all  $i$ , we obtain a Racunas and Chrzastowski-Wachtel formula [9]. Moreover formula 2) is a generalization of a Rödseth formula [10] which is obtained for  $q_1 = \dots = q_{d-1} = 1$ .

**THEOREM 3.9** *The following conditions hold*

1.  $S(A)$  is symmetric if and only if  $S(B)$  is symmetric.

2. If  $\hat{q} > 1$  then  $S(A)$  is not pseudo-symmetric.

**COROLLARY 3.10** *Suppose there exists  $i$  such that  $b_i = 1$  (i.e.  $a_i = \hat{q}_i$ ). Then,  $S(A)$  is symmetric and we have*

1. (a)  $g(A) = \sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i - \hat{q}$ .  
 (b)  $N(A) = N'(A) = \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{i=1}^d (q_i - 1)a_i - \hat{q} + 1)$ .
2. *Suppose, in addition, that  $b_i = 1$  (i.e.  $a_i = \hat{q}_i$ ) for all  $i$ . Then, we have*

- (a)  $g(A) = l(d - 1) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i$ .
- (b)  $N(A) = N'(A) = \frac{1}{2}(l(d - 1) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i + 1)$ .

**PROOF.** Since  $1 \in B$ , we have  $S(B) = \mathbb{N}_0$  then  $g(B) = -1$  and  $N(B) = N'(B) = 0$ . So 1. follows from theorem 3.7. To prove 2., we observe that  $q_i a_i = \hat{q} = l = \text{lcm}(A)$  if  $a_i = \hat{q}_i$  for all  $i$   $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.11** *Let  $b, d, h, v$  be positive integers such that  $b \geq d \geq 2$  and  $\text{gcd}(b, v) = 1$ . Let  $B = \{b, hb + v, \dots, hb + (i - 1)v, \dots, hb + (d - 1)v\}$ ,  $((b_1, \dots, b_d))$  is called an "almost" arithmetic sequence). Then,  $S(A)$  is symmetric  $\Leftrightarrow S(B)$  is symmetric  $\Leftrightarrow d = 2$  or  $b \equiv 2 \pmod{d - 1}$ .*

**PROOF.** We write  $b - 1 = \beta(d - 1) + \alpha$  with  $0 \leq \alpha < d - 1$ , and we use the following known formulas  $g(B) = \left(h \left\lfloor \frac{b-2}{d-1} \right\rfloor + h - 1\right) b + bv - v$  [8] and  $N'(B) = \frac{1}{2}\{(b - 1)(h\beta + v + h - 1) + h\alpha(\beta + 1)\}$  [11]  $\square$

**EXAMPLE 3.12** Let  $A = \{150, 462, 840, 1365\} = \{5(2 \times 3 \times 5), 11(2 \times 3 \times 7), 12(2 \times 5 \times 7), 13(3 \times 5 \times 7)\}$ . We set  $q_1 = 7, q_2 = 5, q_3 = 3, q_4 = 2$  and  $B = \{5, 11, 12, 13\}$ . This is an almost arithmetic sequence with  $b = 5, v = 1, h = 2, d = 4$ . We see that  $b \equiv 2 \pmod{d - 1}$  hence  $S(B)$  is symmetric and we have  $g(B) = 19, N'(B) = N(B) = 10$ . Moreover, it follows from theorem 3.9 that  $S(A)$  is symmetric. Using theorem 3.7 we obtain  $g(A) = 210 \times 19 + 6 \times 150 + 4 \times 462 + 2 \times 840 + 1365 = 9783$ .  $N'(A) = N(A) = 210 \times 10 + \frac{1}{2}(6 \times 150 + 4 \times 462 + 2 \times 840 + 1365 - 210 + 1) = 4892$ .

## 4 QUASI-POLYNOMIALS

**DEFINITION 4.1** *A quasi-polynomial  $P$  of period  $p$  and degree  $d$  is a sequence  $P = (P_0, \dots, P_{p-1})$  with  $P_r \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$  such that  $d = \sup\{\deg(P_r) \mid 0 \leq r \leq p - 1\}$ .*

A quasi-polynomial  $P$  is said to be *uniform* if all the  $P_r$  have the same degree  $d$  and the same leading coefficient  $c(P)$ . Given a function  $h : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we define  $h_r : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}, k \mapsto h(pk + r)$ . We say that  $h$  is a quasi-polynomial function if there exists a quasi-polynomial  $P = (P_0, \dots, P_{p-1})$  such that  $h_r(k) = P_r(k)$  for all  $k \gg 0$  and  $0 \leq r \leq p$ . We also say that  $h$  is  $P$ -quasi-polynomial. It is easily seen that a quasi-polynomial function  $h$  has a minimal period and every period of  $h$  is a multiple of this minimal period. Furthermore, for a fixed period  $p, h$  is a  $P$ -quasi-polynomial for a unique sequence  $P = (P_0, \dots, P_{p-1})$ . A  $P$ -quasi-polynomial  $h$  is said to be uniform if  $P$  is uniform. We write  $\deg(h) = \deg(P)$  and  $c(h) = c(P)$ . We denote by  $F(\mathbb{Z})$  the set of all functions  $h : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ . For every integer  $i \geq 0$  we consider the operators  $E^i$  and  $\Delta_i$ , which act as follows:

$(E^i h)(n) = h(n+i)$ ,  $(\Delta_i h)(n) = h(n+i) - h(n)$ . We set  $E^0 = I$ ,  $E^1 = E$  and  $\Delta_1 = \Delta$  so  $\Delta = E - I$ ,  $\Delta_0 = 0$  and  $\Delta_i = E^i - I$ . For  $a \geq 0$  and  $n \geq 1$ , we have  $(I + E^a + \dots + E^{(n-1)a}) \circ (E^a - I) = E^{na} - I = \Delta_{na}$ .

LEMMA 4.2 *Given  $h \in F(\mathbb{Z})$ , then the following identities hold*

1.  $(E^{pi} h)_r = E^i h_r$  for  $i \geq 0$ .
2.  $(\Delta_p^m h)_r = \Delta^m h_r$  for  $m \geq 0$ .

PROOF. 1. We write  $(E^{pi} h)_r(k) = (E^{pi} h)(pk+r) = h(p(k+i)+r) = h_r(k+i) = (E^i h_r)(k)$ .

2. We have  $\Delta_p^m = (E^p - I)^m = \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^{m-i} \binom{m}{i} E^{pi}$ . Therefore,  $(\Delta_p^m h)_r = \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^{m-i} \binom{m}{i} (E^{pi} h)_r = \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^{m-i} \binom{m}{i} E^i h_r = (E - I)^m h_r = \Delta^m h_r \square$

PROPOSITION 4.3 *A function  $h \in F(\mathbb{Z})$  is quasi-polynomial of period  $p$  and degree  $d$  if and only if there exists  $(c_0, \dots, c_{p-1}) \neq (0, \dots, 0)$  such that  $(\Delta_p^d h)_r(k) = c_r$  for all  $k \gg 0$  and  $0 \leq r \leq p-1$ .*

PROOF. Follows from lemma 4.2 and [6, lemma 4.1.2]  $\square$

COROLLARY 4.4 *For  $h \in F(\mathbb{Z})$ , if  $\prod_{i=1}^d (E^{a_i} - I)(h)(n) = 0$  for  $n \gg 0$ , then  $h$  is quasi-polynomial of period  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  and degree  $< d$ .*

PROOF. Follows from  $\Delta_p^d = (E^p - I)^d = (\prod_{i=1}^d (\sum_{j=0}^{\frac{p}{a_i}-1} E^{ja_i})) \circ (\prod_{i=1}^d (E^{a_i} - I)) \square$

EXAMPLE 4.5 Given  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $Q(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q(1) \neq 0$ . The function  $H_m(Q, \cdot)$  associated with  $Q$  is a  $P$ -quasi-polynomial of period  $p$ , where  $P = (P_0, \dots, P_{p-1})$  is given by  $P_r = V_{m_r}(U_r, \cdot)$ .

REMARK 4.6 Suppose  $m > 0$ . Then, we have

1.  $\deg(H_m(Q, \cdot)) = m - 1$ .
2.  $m_r > 0 \Rightarrow \deg(P_r) = m_r - 1$  and  $c(P_r) = \frac{U_r(1)}{(m_r-1)!}$ .
3. If  $Q(1) = pQ_r(1) \neq 0$  for all  $0 \leq r \leq p-1$ , then  $H_m(Q, \cdot)$  is uniform of degree  $m-1$  and its leading coefficient is  $c(H_m(Q, \cdot)) = \frac{Q_r(1)}{(d-1)!} = \frac{Q(1)}{p(d-1)!}$ .
4. Suppose  $p = qu$  and there exists  $K(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $K(t^u) = Q(t)$ , we set  $\xi = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{p}}$ . If  $Q(\xi^j) = 0$  for  $0 < j < q$  and  $Q(\xi^q) \neq 0$ . Then, the following conditions hold
  - (a)  $P_r = 0$  if  $r \notin u\mathbb{Z}$ .
  - (b)  $\deg(P_r) = m - 1$  and  $c(P_r) = \frac{Q_r(1)}{(m-1)!} = \frac{Q(\xi^q)}{p(m-1)!}$  if  $r \in u\mathbb{Z}$ .

PROPOSITION 4.7 *Let  $m > 0$  be an integer and  $h \in F(\mathbb{Z})$  be a function satisfying  $h(n) = 0$  for  $n \ll 0$ . We consider  $\Phi(t) = \sum_n h(n)t^n$ . Then, the following conditions are equivalent*

1.  $h$  is quasi-polynomial of period  $p$  and of degree  $m - 1$ .
2.  $(1 - t^p)^m \Phi(t) = Q(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$  and there exists a  $p$ -component  $Q_r$  of  $Q$  such that  $Q_r(1) \neq 0$ .
3. There exists a unique  $Q(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $\deg H_m(Q, \cdot) = m - 1$  and  $H_m(Q, n) = h(n)$  for  $n > \deg(Q) - pm$ .

In particular,  $h$  is a uniform quasi-polynomial function of period  $p$  and degree  $m - 1$  if and only if there exists a unique  $Q(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q(1) \neq 0$ ,  $Q(e^{j\frac{2\pi}{p}}) = 0$  for all  $0 < j < p$  and  $H_m(Q, n) = h(n)$  for  $n > \deg(Q) - pm$ . In this case, the leading coefficient is  $c(h) = \frac{Q(1)}{p^{(m-1)!}}$ .

PROOF. Assume 1. and set  $\Phi_r(t) = \sum_n h_r(n)t^n$  for all  $0 \leq r \leq p - 1$ . It follows from [6, 4.1.7] that  $(1 - t)^m \Phi_r(t) = Q_r(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$ . Since  $\deg(h) = m - 1 \geq 0$ , there exists  $0 \leq r \leq p - 1$  such that  $Q_r(1) \neq 0$ . Setting  $Q(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} t^r Q_r(t^p)$  we deduce 2.

2.  $\Rightarrow$  3. follows from theorem 2.4.

3.  $\Rightarrow$  1. follows from the definition of  $H_m$ .

The particular case follows from lemma 2.6 and remark 4.6  $\square$

COROLLARY 4.8 Let  $N(t)$  be an element of  $\mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $N(1) \neq 0$  and  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ . We set  $\Phi(t) = \sum_n h(n)t^n$  the expansion of

$$\frac{N(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^d (1 - t^{a_i})} = (1 - t^p)^{-d} N(t) F_p(t)$$

as a formal Laurent series. Then,  $h(n) = H_d(NF_p, n)$  for  $n > \deg(N) - \sum_{i=1}^d a_i$ . Moreover, if in addition  $\gcd(A) = 1$ , then  $h = H_d(NF_p, \cdot)$  is uniform of degree  $d - 1$  and its leading coefficient is  $c(h) = \frac{N(1)p^{d-1}}{(d-1)! \prod_{i=1}^d a_i}$ .

EXAMPLE 4.9 We write  $s(n)$  for the number of solutions of the equation  $a_1x_1 + \dots + a_dx_d = n$  in nonnegative integers we get  $s(n) = H_d(F_p, n)$  for all  $n \geq 0$  where  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ . In particular, if  $\gcd(A) = 1$  then  $n \mapsto s(n)$  is a uniform quasi-polynomial function of degree  $d - 1$  and of leading coefficient  $c(s) = \frac{p^{d-1}}{(d-1)! \prod_{i=1}^d a_i}$ .

For instance, the number of solutions of the equation  $2x_1 + 3x_2 = n$  is  $s(n) = H_2(F_6, n)$  (see example 2.2).

EXAMPLE 4.10 Let  $R_0$  be a commutative ring and  $R = R_0[t_1, \dots, t_d]$ . Suppose that  $R$  is  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded in such a way that every element of  $R_0$  is homogeneous of degree zero and each  $t_i$  is homogeneous of degree  $a_i$ . Let  $M = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} M_n$  be a finitely generated graded  $R$ -module such that the length  $l_{R_0}(M_n)$  of each  $M_n$  as an  $R_0$ -module is finite. The numerical function  $H^0(M, \cdot) : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, n \mapsto l_{R_0}(M_n)$  is called the Hilbert function of  $M$ . The iterated cumulative Hilbert functions are defined by  $H^{j+1}(M, n) = \sum_{i=0}^n H^j(M, i)$ . The Poincaré series of  $M$  is denoted by  $P_M(t) = \sum_n H^0(M, n)t^n$ . By the Hilbert-Samuel theorem [3, 4.2 Theorem 1] there exists  $Q_M(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$  such that  $Q_M(1) \neq 0$  and  $P_M(t) = \frac{Q_M(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^d (1 - t^{a_i})}$ . Moreover,

it is known that  $H^0(M, \cdot)$  is quasi-polynomial [2]. Given  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $j \geq 1$  we set  $a_{d+1} = \cdots = a_{d+j} = 1$ . So the generating function of the  $H^j(M, \cdot)$  is

$$\sum_n H^j(M, n)t^n = \frac{P_M(t)}{(1-t)^j} = \frac{Q_M(t)}{\prod_{i=1}^{d+j}(1-t^{a_i})}.$$

It follows from corollary 4.8 that  $H^j(M, n) = H_{d+j}(Q_M F_p, n)$  for all  $j \geq 0$  and  $n > \deg(Q_M) - \sum a_i$ . Moreover, if  $j > 0$  or  $j = 0$  and  $\gcd(A) = 1$  then  $H^j(M, \cdot)$  is a uniform quasi-polynomial function of degree  $d + j - 1$  and of leading coefficient  $c(H^j(M, n)) = \frac{Q_M(1)p^{d+j-1}}{(d+j-1)! \prod_{i=1}^d a_i}$ .

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