

# Some geometric and combinatorial properties of $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base $b \geq 2$

Yi-Jun XIAO

3 June 1997

## Abstract

In this paper, we study the geometric generation of the  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets. Based on some combinatorial methods, a generation property on  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets with an applications to a Sobol' sequence and the number of the  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in equivalent sense are given. We also present some symmetry properties of the Sobol' sequence and the Roth-Zaremba sequence.

**Key words:** Discrepancy,  $(0, m, 2)$ -net, Sobol' sequence, Roth-Zaremba sequence.

## 1 Introduction

Sequences of points in  $I^s = [0, 1]^s$  with even distribution or low discrepancy play a fundamental role in Quasi-Monte Carlo methods. The discrepancy is a well-known measure for the irregularity of distribution of a sequence and the  $(t, s)$ -sequences are among the best of low discrepancy sequences (see [8],[9], [1], [5] and [6]).

Recall some definitions concerning with the discrepancy and the  $(t, s)$ -sequences. Denote  $I^s = [0, 1]^s$  and let  $b \geq 2$  be an integer fixed.

**Definition 1.1** *The discrepancy of  $N$  points  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N$  in  $I^s$  is defined by*

$$D_N = \sup_{J \in \mathcal{J}} \left| \frac{A_N(J)}{N} - \lambda_s(J) \right|$$

where  $\mathcal{J}$  denotes the family of all subintervals of  $I^s$  of the form  $J = \prod_{i=1}^s [0, u_i]$ ,  $A_N(J)$  represents the number of  $n$ ,  $0 \leq n < N$ , for which  $\mathbf{x}_n \in J$  and  $\lambda_s$  stands for Lebesgue measure on  $I^s$ .

**Definition 1.2** *An elementary interval in base  $b$  of  $I^s$  is an interval of the form*

$$E = \prod_{i=1}^s \left[ \frac{a_i}{b^{d_i}}, \frac{a_i + 1}{b^{d_i}} \right),$$

with integers  $d_i \geq 0$  and  $0 \leq a_i < b^{d_i}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ .

**Definition 1.3** *Let  $0 \leq t \leq m$  be integers. A  $(t, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$  is a point set of  $b^m$  points in  $I^s$  such that every elementary interval in base  $b$  of volume  $b^{t-m}$  contains  $b^t$  points of this net.*

*A sequence  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots$ , of points in  $I^s$  is called a  $(t, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$  if for all integers  $k \geq 0$  and  $m > t$  the point set consisting of the  $\mathbf{x}_n$  with  $kb^m < n \leq (k+1)b^m$  is a  $(t, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$ .*

$(t, m, s)$ -nets in base  $b$  have very good geometrical properties illustrated in the following proposition (cf. [5]).

**Proposition 1.4** *Let  $P$  be a  $(t, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$ , let  $E$  be an elementary interval in base  $b$  with volume  $b^{-u}$ , where  $0 \leq u \leq m - t$ , and let  $T$  be an affine transformation from  $E$  onto  $I^s$ . Then the points of  $P$  that belong to  $E$  are transformed by  $T$  into a  $(t, m - u, s)$ -net in base  $b$ .*

A  $(t, s)$ -sequence has very low discrepancy, and according to [6], its discrepancy satisfies an effective bound  $D_N \leq C_s (\log N)^s / N + O((\log N)^{s-1} / N)$  with  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} C_s = 0$ .

However, the constructions of the  $(t, s)$ -sequences are often algebraic, such as Sobol' [8] with linear recurring relations over  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , Faure [1] with Pascal matrix triangle and Niederreiter [6] with polynomial over finite fields which generalize the Sobol' and Faure methods, thus we have not a clear idea of how the  $(t, s)$ -sequences are constructed geometrically and why they are more uniformly distributed except for their discrepancy properties?

The purpose of this paper is to study the geometric generation of the  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets which makes us to have a better idea on its structure.

We only consider the  $(0, m, s)$ -nets of  $I^s$  in equivalent sense as follows.

**Definition 1.5** Let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be two  $(0, m, s)$ -nets in base  $b$ . We say that  $R_1 \simeq R_2$  if for all  $x \in R_1$  such as  $x \in E = \prod_{i=1}^s [\frac{a_i}{b^m}, \frac{a_i+1}{b^m})$ , a elementary interval in base  $b$  with volume  $b^{-sm}$ , there is a  $y \in R_2$  such as  $y \in E$ .

It is easy to show that the above relation is an equivalent relation. Denote

$$\mathcal{F}_m^{s,b} = \{(\frac{i_1}{b^m}, \dots, \frac{i_s}{b^m}) \mid 0 \leq i_k \leq b^m - 1, 1 \leq k \leq s\}.$$

A  $(0, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$ ,  $R$ , is called a *normalized  $(0, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$*  if  $R \subset \mathcal{F}_m^{s,b}$ ; for each  $(0, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$  we can choose a unique representant in  $\mathcal{F}_m^{s,b}$ .

**Remark 1.6** If  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be two  $(0, m, s)$ -nets in base  $b$  such that  $R_1 \simeq R_2$ , then  $|D(R_1) - D(R_2)| \leq \frac{s}{b^m}$ . This property is also hold for the other version of discrepancy, such as  $L^p$ -discrepancy with  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .

To study the  $(0, m, s)$ -nets in equivalent sense, we need some notations.

**Notation :** Let  $s \geq 2$  and  $b \geq \sup(s-1, 2)$  be integers. For  $i_1, \dots, i_s = 0, 1, \dots, b-1$ , we note  $E_{i_1, \dots, i_s} = \prod_{k=1}^s [\frac{i_k}{b}, \frac{i_k+1}{b})$  the elementary interval in base  $b$  of volume  $b^{-s}$ , and  $T_{i_1, \dots, i_s}$  the affine transformations from  $E_{i_1, \dots, i_s}$  onto  $I^s$ . For any point set  $Q$  of  $I^s$ , we note  $T_{i_1, \dots, i_s}(Q \cap E_{i_1, \dots, i_s})$  by  $T_{i_1, \dots, i_s}(Q)$  to simplify the notation.

For  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , we note  $T_i^{proj}$  the projection from  $I^s$  to  $I^{s-1}$  defined by

$$T_i^{proj}(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_s) = (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_s) \quad \text{for all } (x_1, \dots, x_s) \in I^s.$$

We also need the following important characteristic lemma of a  $(0, m, s)$ -net. It can be proved easily by the definition of a  $(0, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$  and Proposition 1.3.

**Lemma 1.7** Let  $m \geq s$  be an integer. Then a set  $R$  of  $b^m$  points in  $I^s$  is a  $(0, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$  if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

- For all  $i_1, \dots, i_s \in \{0, 1, \dots, b-1\}$ ,  $T_{i_1, \dots, i_s}(R)$  is a  $(0, m-s, s)$ -net in base  $b$ .
- For  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ,  $T_i^{proj}(R)$  is a  $(0, m, s-1)$ -net in base  $b$ .

In this paper, we give the proof parts of the results announced in the Note [11] with some generalizations. First, we generalize the result on the generation of a  $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -net from a known  $(0, m, 2)$ -net with an applications to a Sobol' sequence in Section 2. In Section 3 we compute the number of all  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$  in equivalent sense, which brings us to introduce the notion of  $(0, m, 2)$ -sequence and ask some questions concerning it. In the end, some symmetry properties of the Sobol' sequence and the Roth-Zaremba sequence are presented in Section 4.

## 2 Generation of $(0, m, 2)$ -net with an application to a Sobol' sequence

The following theorem shows that a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base  $b$  can be self-generated from an original net and the number of such generation is large if  $b \geq 3$ .

**Theorem 2.1** *Let  $R_m$  be a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base  $b$  with  $m \geq 0$ . Then there are  $(b - 1)^{(m+1)b^m}$   $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$ , in equivalent sense, which include  $R_m$ .*

We call that a  $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -net in base  $b$ ,  $R_{m+1}$ , is generated by  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base  $b$ ,  $R_m$ , if  $R_m \supset R_{m+1}$ .

**Proof .** Denote  $N(b, m) = (b - 1)^{(m+1)b^m}$ . We will use induction on  $m$ .

For  $m = 0$ , the theorem is trivial.

For  $m = 1$ , decompose the  $I^2$  into  $b^2$  elementary intervals in base  $b$ ,  $E_{i_1, i_2}$ , with  $i_1, i_2 \in \{0, 1, \dots, b - 1\}$  and add one point in  $E_{i_1, i_2}$  if there is no point of  $R_1$ . Then, there are  $b - 1$  new points in each elementary interval of the form

$$\left[\frac{u}{b}, \frac{u+1}{b}\right) \times [0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad [0, 1) \times \left[\frac{v}{b}, \frac{v+1}{b}\right)$$

with  $u, v = 0, \dots, b - 1$ . We have  $(b - 1)!$  possibilities to place these  $b - 1$  new points in order that there is one and only one point in each elementary interval of the form

$$\left[\frac{ub+s}{b^2}, \frac{ub+s+1}{b^2}\right) \times [0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad [0, 1) \times \left[\frac{vb+t}{b^2}, \frac{vb+t+1}{b^2}\right)$$

where  $s, t = 0, \dots, b - 1$ . Thus, by Lemma 1.7 there are

$$(b - 1)!^b \times (b - 1)!^b = (b - 1)!^{2b}$$

possibilities to construct a  $(0, 2, 2)$ -net in base  $b$  containing  $R_1$ .

Suppose that the theorem is true until  $m - 1$ .

In the case of  $m$ , for each pair  $i_1, i_2 \in \{0, 1, \dots, b - 1\}$ ,

$$T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m) = Q_{i_1, i_2}(m - 2)$$

is a  $(0, m - 2, 2)$ -net in base  $b$ . By the hypothesis of the induction,  $Q_{i_1, i_2}(m - 2)$  can generate  $N_{b, m - 2}(0, m - 1, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$ . Let  $Q_{i_1, i_2}(m - 1)$  be one of such  $(0, m - 1, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$  and write

$$R = \cup_{i_1, i_2=0, 1, \dots, b-1} T_{i_1, i_2}^1(Q_{i_1, i_2}(m - 1)).$$

Then,  $R_m \subset R$  and there are  $b - 1$  points of  $R \setminus R_m$  in each elementary interval of the form

$$[\frac{u}{b^m}, \frac{u + 1}{b^m}) \times [0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad [0, 1) \times [\frac{v}{b^m}, \frac{v + 1}{b^m})$$

with  $u, v = 0, \dots, b^m - 1$ . As in the case of  $m = 1$ , there are  $(b - 1)!$  possibilities to place these  $b - 1$  points in order that there is one and only one point in each elementary interval of the form

$$[\frac{ub + s}{b^{m+1}}, \frac{ub + s + 1}{b^{m+1}}) \times [0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad [0, 1) \times [\frac{vb + t}{b^{m+1}}, \frac{vb + t + 1}{b^{m+1}})$$

with  $s, t = 0, \dots, b - 1$ , and the image of the new net by  $T_{i_1, i_2}$  is  $Q_{i_1, i_2}(m - 1)$  in equivalent sense.

Finally, together with Lemma 1.7 and the hypothesis of the induction,

$$N(b, m) = (N(b, m - 2))^{b^2} ((b - 1)!^{2b^m})$$

and the result follows.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2** *Let  $R_m$  be a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base 2 with  $m \geq 0$ . Then the  $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -net  $R_{m+1}$  in base 2 generated by  $R_m$  is unique in equivalent sense. Moreover,  $R_{m+1} \setminus R_m$  is a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net.*

**Corollary 2.3** *If  $R_m \supset \mathcal{F}_{m+1}^{2,2}$  is a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base 2, then the unique normalized  $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -net  $R_{m+1}$  generated by  $R_m$  satisfies  $R_m \subset R_{m+1}$ .*

**Remark 2.4** *In dimension 3, the above generation theorem of the net does not hold in base 2. For example, there is no  $(0, 2, 3)$ -net in base 2 which contains the  $(0, 1, 3)$ -net in base 2 defined by  $\{(0, 0, 0), (0.5, 0.5, 0.5)\}$ . This can be proved by using the projection nets on two dimensions, which are the same thanks to Theorem 2.1.*

Now, we give an application to two-dimensional Sobol' sequences which is a  $(0, 2)$ -sequence in base 2. Recall its definition. Let  $n \geq 0$  be an integer with  $n = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} n_j 2^j$ , then the Sobol' sequence is defined by

$$(\phi(n), \psi(n))_{n \geq 0} = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{n_j}{2^{j+1}}, \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{h_j}{2^{j+1}} \right),$$

where  $h_j = \sum_{i=j}^{\infty} \binom{i}{j} n_i \pmod{2}$ . Using the fact that the  $2^m$  first terms of Sobol' sequence is a normalized  $(0, m, 2)$  net in base 2, and Theorem 2.1, we can prove the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.5** *Let  $S_0 = \{(0, 0)\}$  be a  $(0, 0, 2)$ -net in base 2. For  $m \geq 1$ , let  $S_m$  denote the normalized  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base 2 generated by the normalized  $(0, m-1, 2)$ -net  $S_{m-1}$  in base 2. Then  $S_m$  is the set of  $2^m$  first terms of the Sobol' sequence.*

This proposition shows that the Sobol's sequence is a nature result of the characteristic of the  $(0, 2)$ -sequence in base 2 and the initial point  $(0, 0)$ .

### 3 Number of $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base $b$ and some questions

In the following, we compute the number of all different  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$  in equivalent sense.

**Theorem 3.1** *Let  $m \geq 0$  be an integer, then the number of the  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$  is  $b!^{mb^{m-1}}$ .*

**Proof .** We proceed by induction on  $m$ . Denote  $N(b, m) = b!^{mb^{m-1}}$ .

The result is trivial for  $m = 0, 1$ .

Suppose that the theorem is true until  $m - 1$ .

For  $m$ , all  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$  can be constructed as follows. Given  $b^2$  normalized  $(0, m - 2, 2)$ -net in base  $b$ ,  $Q_{i_1, i_2}$  with  $i_1, i_2 = 0, \dots, b - 1$ , denote

$$R_{i_1, i_2} = T_{i_1, i_2}^{-1} Q_{i_1, i_2}.$$

Then in every elementary intervals of volume  $\frac{1}{b^m}$  of the form

$$\left[\frac{u}{b^{m-1}}, \frac{u+1}{b^{m-1}}\right) \times \left[\frac{v}{b}, \frac{v+1}{b}\right) \quad \text{or} \quad \left[\frac{v}{b}, \frac{v+1}{b}\right) \times \left[\frac{u}{b^{m-1}}, \frac{u+1}{b^{m-1}}\right)$$

with  $u = 0, \dots, b^m - 1$  and  $v = 0, \dots, b - 1$ , there is one and only one point of the set  $R = \cup_{i_1, i_2=0}^{b-1} R_{i_1, i_2}$ . By Lemma 1.7, in order that  $R$  is a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base  $b$ , it suffices that 1)  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R) \simeq Q_{i_1, i_2}$ , and 2) only one point of  $R$  belongs to the elementary intervals of volume  $\frac{1}{b^m}$  of the form

$$\left[\frac{u}{b^m}, \frac{u+1}{b^m}\right) \times [0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad [0, 1) \times \left[\frac{v}{b^m}, \frac{v+1}{b^m}\right)$$

with  $u, v = 0, 1, \dots, b^m - 1$ . Under the condition of 1), there are  $b!$  possibilities to satisfy the condition 2) in each elementary interval of the form

$$\left[\frac{u}{b^{m-1}}, \frac{u+1}{b^{m-1}}\right) \times [0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad \left[\frac{v}{b^{m-1}}, \frac{v+1}{b^{m-1}}\right)$$

with  $u, v = 0, 1, \dots, b^{m-1} - 1$ . In addition that for each  $i_1, i_2 = 0, \dots, b - 1$  there are  $N_{b, m-2}$  possibilities to choose  $Q_{i_1, i_2}$ , so the number of all different  $R$  is

$$b! 2^{b^{m-1}} N_{b, m-2}^{b^2} = N_{b, m},$$

and the result follows. □

**Remark 3.2** 1. In the proof, we give indeed a formal method to construct all of  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base  $b$ .

2. Note that  $b!^{mb^{m-1}}$  is a very large number. For example, in the case  $b = 2$  and  $m = 4$ , we have  $2^{32}$   $(0, 4, 2)$ -nets in base 2. The usual discrepancy estimation is valid for all  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base  $b$  apart from the Roth sequence and the Zaremba sequence (see below). Thus it is interesting to find the  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base  $b$  with the lowest discrepancy.

Since there are so many  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets, to find the best one, we want first limit our research by introducing so called  $(0, m, 2)$ -sequence.

The following is given in dimension  $s$ .

**Definition 3.3** A finite sequence  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{b^m}$  of  $b^m$  points in  $I^s$  is called a  $(t, m, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$  if for all integers  $m \geq m' \geq t$  and  $b^{m-m'} > k \geq 0$  the point set consisting of the  $\mathbf{x}_n$  with  $kb^{m'} < n \leq (k+1)b^{m'}$  is a  $(t, m', s)$ -net in base  $b$ . A  $(t, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$  is called  $(t, m, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$  if it coincide with a point set consisting of a  $(t, m, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$ .

We have immediately the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.4** Let  $m \geq t + 2$ . A finite sequence  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{b^m}$  of  $b^m$  points in  $I^s$  is a  $(t, m, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$  if and only if

1. The point set  $\{\mathbf{x}_n \mid 1 \leq n \leq b^m\}$  is a  $(t, m, s)$ -net in base  $b$ .
2. For all  $0 \leq k \leq b - 1$ , the finite sequences,  $\mathbf{y}_n^k = \mathbf{x}_{n+kb^{m-1}}$ ,  $1 \leq n \leq b^{m-1}$  are  $(t, m - 1, s)$ -sequences in base  $b$ .

For  $s = 2$ , we have a result on the affine transformations of  $(0, m, 2)$ -sequence in base  $b$ .

**Proposition 3.5** Let  $m \geq 2$  be an integer and  $R_m$  be a  $(0, m, 2)$ -sequence in base  $b$ . Then for all  $i_1, i_2 \in \{0, 1, \dots, b - 1\}$ ,  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m)$  is a  $(0, m - 2, 2)$ -sequence in base  $b$ .

**Proof .** We show it by induction on  $m$ .

If  $m = 2$  and  $m = 3$ , it is obvious that the proposition is true.

Suppose that the proposition is hold until  $m - 1$ .

In the case of  $m$ , by Proposition 3.4, there exist two  $(0, m - 1, 2)$ -sequence in base  $b$ ,  $R_{m-1}^1$  and  $R_{m-1}^2$  such that  $R_m = R_{m-1}^1 \cap R_{m-1}^2$ . For all  $i_1, i_2 \in \{0, 1, \dots, b - 1\}$ , by the hypothesis of the induction.  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R_{m-1}^1)$  and  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R_{m-1}^2)$  are two  $(0, m - 3, 2)$ -sequences in base  $b$ . However

$$T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m) = T_{i_1, i_2}(R_{m-1}^1) \cup T_{i_1, i_2}(R_{m-1}^2)$$

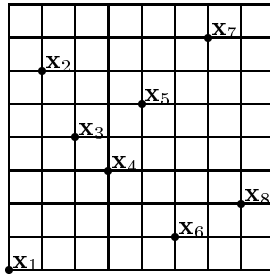
is a  $(0, m - 2, 2)$ -net in base  $b$ . Applying once Proposition 3.4, we have that  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m)$  is a  $(0, m - 2, 2)$ -sequence in base  $b$ .  $\square$



The examples of  $(t, m, s)$ -sequences in base  $b$  can be obtained by taking the first  $b^m$  terms in a  $(t, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$ . In one dimension, every  $(0, m, 1)$ -net in base  $b$  is a copy (in equivalent sense) of the first  $b^m$  terms of the Van der Corput sequence in base  $b$ , so it is a  $(0, m, 1)$ -sequence in base  $b$ . But if the dimension  $s \geq 2$ , whether all  $(t, m, s)$ -nets in base  $b$  are  $(t, m, s)$ -sequences in base  $b$ ?

It is easy to see that this is true for  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base 2 in the case  $m \leq 2$ . However, in the case of  $m = 3$ , we give the following negative example, which implies that for  $m \geq 3$  there exists a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net but not a  $(0, m, 2)$ -sequence in base 2.

**Example 3.6** Let  $R_3$  be the set of  $\mathbf{x}_1 = (0, 0)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_2 = (0.125, 0.75)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_3 = (0.25, 0.5)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_4 = (0.375, 0.375)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_5 = (0.5, 0.625)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_6 = (0.625, 0.125)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_7 = (0.75, 0.875)$  and  $\mathbf{x}_8 = (0.875, 0.25)$  as in the figure bellow:



It is easy to see that  $R_3$  is a  $(0, 3, 2)$ -net in base 2. If  $R_3$  is a  $(0, 3, 2)$ -sequence, then there are two disjoint  $(0, 2, 2)$ -nets noted by  $R_2^1$  and  $R_2^2$  such that  $R_2^1 \cup R_2^2 = R_3$ . We can suppose that  $\mathbf{x}_1$  belongs to  $R_2^1$ , then  $\mathbf{x}_3$  belongs to  $R_2^1$ . But in this case neither  $\mathbf{x}_5$  nor  $\mathbf{x}_6$  can be in  $R_2^1$ , it is impossible because there is not point of  $R_2^1$  in the elementary interval  $[0.5, 0.75) \times [0, 1)$  of volume  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Finally, for the Roth sequence and the Zaremba sequences, we do not know whether they are  $(0, m, 2)$ -sequences.

Thus, we want ask the following questions: 1) Whether  $(t, m, s)$ -sequences are more uniformly distributed than  $(t, m, s)$ -nets in base  $b$  which are not the sequences? 2) Can we generate a  $(t, m + 1, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$ , as well as a  $(t, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$  from any  $(t, m, s)$ -sequence in base  $b$ ? 3) In the equivalent sense of  $(0, m, s)$ -nets in base  $b$ , how many  $(0, m, s)$ -sequences are there in base  $b$ ?

## 4 Some symmetry properties of the Sobol' sequence and the Roth-Zaremba sequence

We first present a symmetric property of the  $2^m$  first terms of the Sobol' sequence  $S_m$ .

**Proposition 4.1** *For  $m \geq 1$ , we have*

$$T_{0,0}(S_m) \simeq T_{1,1}(S_m) \quad \text{and} \quad T_{0,1}(S_m) \simeq T_{1,0}(S_m).$$

This proposition can be shown using the following lemma on the succession symmetric property of a  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base 2.

**Lemma 4.2** *Let  $R_m$  be a normalized  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base 2 and let  $R_{m+1}$  be the unique normalized  $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -net in base 2 generated by  $R_m$ . If*

$$T_{0,0}(R_m) \simeq T_{1,1}(R_m) \quad \text{and} \quad T_{0,1}(R_m) \simeq T_{1,0}(R_m),$$

*then*

$$T_{0,0}(R_{m+1}) \simeq T_{1,1}(R_{m+1}) \quad \text{and} \quad T_{0,1}(R_{m+1}) \simeq T_{1,0}(R_{m+1}).$$

**Proof .** For any  $i_1, i_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $Q_{m-1}(i_1, i_2)$  be the normalized  $(0, m - 1, 2)$ -net in base 2 generated by the  $(0, m - 2, 2)$ -net in base 2,  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m)$ . Since  $T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m) \in \mathcal{F}_{m-1}^{2,2}$ , using the hypothesis of the lemma and Corollary 2.3, we have

$$Q_{m-1}(0, 0) = Q_{m-1}(1, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad Q_{m-1}(0, 1) = Q_{m-1}(1, 0) \quad (1)$$

Let  $P_{m-1}(i_1, i_2) = T_{i_1, i_2}^{-1}(Q_{m-1}(i_1, i_2) \setminus T_{i_1, i_2}(R_m))$ . Since  $Q_{m-1}(i_1, i_2) \in \mathcal{F}_{m-1}^{2,2}$ , we have  $P_{m-1}(i_1, i_2) \in \mathcal{F}_m^{2,2}$ . Because  $R_m$  is a normalized  $(0, m, 2)$ -net, for each point  $(x, y) \in P_{m-1}(i_1, i_2)$ , there exist a point of  $R_m$  with abscissa  $x$  and an anchor point of  $R_m$  with ordinate  $y$ . To construct a  $(0, m + 1, 2)$ -net in base 2, we transform  $(x, y)$  into  $(x + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}}, y + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}})$ . Denote the new points set by

$$P_m = \{(x + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}}, y + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}}) \mid (x, y) \in \cup_{i_1, i_2=0,1} P_{m-1}(i_1, i_2)\},$$

we have

$$T_{0,0}(P_m) \simeq T_{1,1}(P_m) \quad \text{and} \quad T_{0,1}(P_m) \simeq T_{1,0}(P_m),$$

which imply

$$T_{0,0}(P_m \cup R_m) \simeq T_{1,1}(P_m \cup R_m) \quad \text{and} \quad T_{0,1}(P_m \cup R_m) \simeq T_{1,0}(P_m \cup R_m).$$

It is clear that  $P_m \cup R_m \in \mathcal{F}_{m+1}^{2,2}$  satisfies the conditions of the Lemma 1.7, so it is a  $(0, m+1, 2)$ -net in base 2. Moreover, by Corollary 2.2 and Corollary 2.3,

$$P_m \cup R_m = R_{m+1}$$

□

Now, we give the definition of the Roth-Zaremba sequence (see [3], [4], [10] and [2]). For  $n = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i(n)b^i \in \mathbf{N}$ , let  $\phi_b^\Sigma(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sigma_i(a_i(n))b^{-i-1}$  be the generalized van der Corput sequences in base  $b$  where  $\Sigma = (\sigma_i)_{i \geq 0}$  being an infinite sequence of permutations of the set  $\{0, 1, \dots, b-1\}$ . Then, for each positive integer  $m$ , the Roth-Zaremba sequence is defined by

$$Z_{b,m} = \left( \frac{n}{b^m}, \phi_b^\Sigma(n) \right)_{0 \leq n \leq b^m - 1}.$$

In the case of  $\sigma_i = I$  with  $I$  the identity permutations of the set  $\{0, 1, \dots, b-1\}$  for all  $i \geq 0$ , we have the original Roth sequence  $R_{b,m} = \left( \frac{n}{b^m}, \phi_b(n) \right)_{0 \leq n \leq b^m - 1}$ . In the case of  $b = 2$ , and  $\sigma_i = (01)$  for  $i$  even,  $\sigma_i = I$  for  $i$  odd, we get the original Zaremba sequence.

**Proposition 4.3** *For the Roth-Zaremba sequence  $Z_{b,m}$ , we have, for all  $i, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, b-1\}$ ,*

$$T_{i,j}(Z_{b,m}) \simeq T_{0,0}(Z_{b,m}).$$

*For the original Roth sequence  $R_{b,m}$ ,*

$$T_{i,j}(R_{b,m}) \simeq R_{b,m-2}.$$

**Proof .** For  $0 \leq n \leq b^m - 1$ , write  $n = n_0 + n_1b + \dots + n_{m-1}b^{m-1}$  with  $n_0, n_1, \dots, n_{m-1} = 0, 1, \dots, b-1$ . We have

$$\frac{n}{b^m} = \frac{n_0}{b^m} + \dots + \frac{n_{m-1}}{b} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_b^\Sigma(n) = \frac{\sigma_0(n_0)}{b} + \dots + \frac{\sigma_{m-1}(n_{m-1})}{b^m}.$$

Thus  $(\frac{n}{b^m}, \phi_b^\Sigma(n)) \in P_{i,j} = [\frac{i}{b}, \frac{i+1}{b}] \times [\frac{j}{b}, \frac{j+1}{b}]$  if and only if  $n_{m-1} = i$  and  $\sigma_0(n_0) = j$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} T_{i,j}(Z_{b,m}) &= \{(b(\frac{n}{b^m} - \frac{i}{b}), b(\phi_b^\Sigma(n) - \frac{j}{b}))\}_{0 \leq n \leq b^m - 1, n_{m-1} = i, \sigma_0(n_0) = j} \\ &= \{(\frac{n_0}{b^{m-1}} + \dots + \frac{n_{m-2}}{b}, \frac{\sigma_1(n_1)}{b} + \dots + \frac{\sigma_{m-1}(n_{m-1})}{b^{m-1}})\}_{n_{m-1} = i, \sigma_0(n_0) = j} \\ &\simeq \{(\frac{n_1}{b^{m-2}} + \dots + \frac{n_{m-2}}{b}, \frac{\sigma_1(n_1)}{b} + \dots + \frac{\sigma_{m-2}(n_{m-2})}{b^{m-2}})\}_{n_1, \dots, n_{m-2} = 0, 1, \dots, b-1}. \end{aligned}$$

In the case of the Roth sequence,  $\sigma_i = I$  and

$$R_{b,m-2} = \{(\frac{n_1}{b^{m-2}} + \dots + \frac{n_{m-2}}{b}, \frac{n_1}{b} + \dots + \frac{n_{m-2}}{b^{m-2}})\}_{n_1, \dots, n_{m-2} = 0, 1, \dots, b-1},$$

therefore, the result follows.  $\square$

Applying Lemma 1.7, we can construct directly some “symmetric”  $(0, m, 2)$ -nets in base 2.

**Proposition 4.4** *Let  $R_m$  be a normalized  $(0, m, 2)$ -net in base 2, then we can construct a “symmetric”  $(0, m+2, 2)$ -net  $R_{m+2}$  in base 2 in the following meaning:*

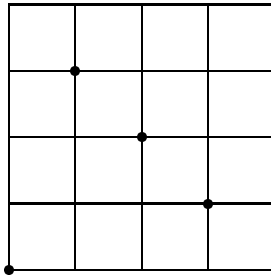
$$T_{0,0}(R_{m+2}) \simeq T_{1,1}(R_{m+2}) \simeq R_m$$

and

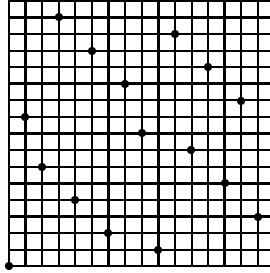
$$T_{0,1}(R_{m+2}) \simeq T_{1,0}(R_{m+2}) \simeq T^{\frac{1}{2^{m+1}}}(R_m).$$

where  $T^{\frac{1}{2^{m+1}}}(x, y) = (\{x + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}}\}, \{y + \frac{1}{2^{m+1}}\})$  with  $\{\cdot\}$  the fraction part of a real.

**Example 4.5** *Let  $R_2 = F_2$  as in the following figure.*



Then the figure of the  $R_4$  symmetric  $(0, 4, 2)$ -net in base 2 is as follows.



*Acknowledgement.* The author is grateful to L. Tang for her help.

## References

- [1] H. Faure, Discrepance de suites associées à un système de numération (en dimension  $s$ ) *Acta. Arithmetica.XLI. (1982)*, 337-351.
- [2] H. Faure, On the star-discrepancy of generalized Hammersly sequence in two dimensions, *Monatsh. Math. 101, (1986)*, 291-300.
- [3] H. Gabai, On the discrepancy of certain sequences *mod*1, *Illinois J. Math. 11 (1967)*, 1-12.
- [4] J. H. Halton and S.K.Zaremba, The extreme and  $L^2$  discrepancies of some plane sets, *Monatsh. Math. 73, (1969)*, 316-328.
- [5] H. Niederreiter, Point sets and sequences with small discrepancy, *Monatsh. Math. 104, (1987)*, 273-337.
- [6] H. Niederreiter, Random Number Generation and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods, *SIAM, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, (1992)*.
- [7] K. F. Roth, On the irregularities of distribution, *Mathematika, 1, (1954)*, 73-79.
- [8] I. M. Sobol', The distribution of points in a cube and the approximate evaluation of integrals, *Zh. Vychisl. Mat. i Mat. Fiz. 7 (1967)*, 784-802; *USSR Comput. Math. and Math. Phys. 7 (1967)*, 86-112.

- [9] S. Srinivasan, On two dimensional Hammersley sequences, *J. of Number Theory*, 10 (1978), 421-429.
- [10] B. E. White, Mean-square discrepancies of the Hammersly and Zaremba sequences for arbitrary radix, *Monatsh, Math.* 80 (1975), 219-229.
- [11] Y. J. Xiao, Quelques propriétés des  $(0, m, 2)$ -réseaux en base  $b \geq 2$ , *C.R.Acad. Sci. Paris, t. 323, Serie I, p. 981-984, 1996.*

CERMICS-ENPC, 6 ET 8, AV. BLAISE PASCAL, CITÉ DESCARTES, CHAMPS  
SUR MARNE 77455 MARNE-LA-VALLÉE CEDEX 2, FRANCE  
e-mail : xy@cermics.enpc.fr