

# **The Depth of Compositions**

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**Abstract** In this paper we consider compositions of *n* as bargraphs. The depth of a cell inside this graphical representation is the minimum number of horizontal and/or vertical unit steps that are needed to exit to the outside. The depth of the composition is the maximum depth over all cells of the composition. We use finite automata to study the generating function for the number of compositions having a depth of at least *r*.

**Keywords** Composition · Automaton · Generating function

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# **1 Introduction**

A composition  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_m$  of  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  is an ordered collection of one or more positive integers whose sum is  $|\sigma| = \sigma_1 + \cdots + \sigma_m = n$ . For instance, the compositions of 3 are 3, 21, 12 and 111. The number of summands, namely *m*, is called the number of parts of the composition and *n* is called the weight of σ. It is well known that the number of compositions of *n* is given by  $2^{n-1}$  and the number of compositions of *n* with *m* parts is given by  $\binom{n-1}{m-1}$ *n*<sup>−1</sup>). Compositions have been studied extensively in recent years (for example, see [\[4\]](#page-7-0)).

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#### <span id="page-1-0"></span>**Fig. 1** The composition 34,543

<span id="page-1-1"></span>**Fig. 2** The 3 consecutive "peelings" of the inner site-perimeter of the composition 34543



Compositions can be represented as bargraphs where the lower edge lies on a horizontal axis (for instance, see  $[6,10,11]$  $[6,10,11]$  $[6,10,11]$  $[6,10,11]$ ). They are drawn on a regular planar lattice grid and are made up of square cells. So a composition is uniquely defined by the size of each part. The size of the composition is the total number of cells in the representing bargraph. We will study the depth of compositions, which are presented as bargraphs. Let  $\sigma$  be any composition and let *c* be any cell of  $\sigma$ . The depth of the cell *c*, denoted by  $depth(c)$ , is the minimum number of horizontal or vertical steps to exit  $\sigma$  starting from *c*. The depth of  $\sigma$  is defined as  $depth(\sigma) = \max_c depth(c)$ , where the maximum is over all cells *c* of  $\sigma$ . For example, the cell that is indicated by x in Fig. [1](#page-1-0) of the composition  $\sigma = 34543$ , needs three steps to exit  $\sigma$ . Moreover,  $depth(\sigma) = 3$  since all other cells require fewer than three steps to exit. An alternative conception of the depth of a composition is given by the size of its Durfee square, see [\[2](#page-7-4)].

Equivalently, the depth of a composition can be understood as the number of times the inner site-perimeter can be recursively removed or "peeled" from the composition until nothing remains, as shown below. The inner siteperimeter is defined as all cells in the composition whose depth is one, see [\[3](#page-7-5)[,7](#page-7-6)]. Each successive inner site-perimeter is coloured in Fig. [2.](#page-1-1)

The aim of this paper is to study the generating function for the number of compositions having a depth of at least *r*. To achieve our goals, we use finite automata technique (for such technique in enumerative combinatorics, for instance, we refer the reader to  $[1,5,8,9,12]$  $[1,5,8,9,12]$  $[1,5,8,9,12]$  $[1,5,8,9,12]$  $[1,5,8,9,12]$  $[1,5,8,9,12]$  $[1,5,8,9,12]$ .

## **2 Main results**

We say that the composition  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_s$  contains the composition  $\tau = \tau_1 \tau_2 \cdots \tau_m$  if there exist *j* such that  $0 \le j \le s - m$  and  $\sigma_{j+i} \ge \tau_i$  for all  $i = 1, 2, ..., m$ . For instance, the composition 4534 contains 234 but does not contain 144. For all  $r \geq 2$ , define

$$
\tau^{(r)} := r(r+1)\cdots(2r-2)(2r-1)(2r-2)\cdots(r+1)r.
$$

In Fig. [1,](#page-1-0) the illustration is for  $r = 3$ .

From the definitions, we can state the following fact.

**Proposition 1** *A composition*  $\sigma$  *satisfies depth*( $\sigma$ )  $\geq$  *r if and only if it contains*  $\tau$ <sup>(*r*)</sup>.

In order to enumerate the compositions that avoid (i.e., do not contain)  $\tau^{(r)}$ , we need the following notation and definitions. A *prefix* of a composition  $\sigma$  is a sub-composition  $\sigma'$  (possible empty) such that there exists a nonempty sub-composition  $\sigma''$  with  $\sigma = \sigma' \sigma''$ . Let  $\mathcal{V}_r$  be the set of all prefixes of  $\tau^{(r)}$ . For example,  $\mathcal{V}_3 = \{\epsilon, 3, 34, 345, 3454\}$ when  $\tau^{(3)} = 34543$  and  $\epsilon$  is the empty composition.



#### <span id="page-2-0"></span>**Fig. 3** The graph  $G_2$



<span id="page-2-1"></span>**Fig. 4** The graph *G*<sup>3</sup>

For given  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_m$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define the reduction  $red(\sigma k)$  of  $\sigma k$  to be  $\sigma' = \sigma'_1 \sigma'_2 \cdots \sigma'_{m'}$  if  $\sigma' \in \mathcal{V}_r$ , *m'* is maximal and  $\sigma_{m+1-m'+j} \ge \sigma'_j$  for all  $j = 1, 2, ..., m'$ , where  $\sigma_{m+1} = k$ . Otherwise, we say the reduction of *σk* is not defined. For instance, if  $\vec{r} = 3$  then  $red(245) = 34$  and  $red(613445) = 345$ .

Now let us define a directed graph (finite automata, for example, see [\[1](#page-7-7)[,5](#page-7-8)])  $G_r$  on the vertices  $V_r$  with edges between  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_m \in V_r$  and  $red(\sigma k)$  with weight  $x^{|\sigma k| - |red(\sigma k)|}$ , where  $red(\sigma k)$  is defined. For simplicity, if there are two edges between  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$  with weights w, w' then we just write as one edge with weight  $w + w'$ .

<span id="page-2-3"></span>*Example 1* Let  $r = 2$  ( $\tau^{(2)} = 232$ ). The graph  $G_r$  has three vertices  $\epsilon$ , 2, 23. Note that

- $red(\epsilon k) = \epsilon$  for  $k = 1$  and  $red(\epsilon k) = 2$  for all  $k \ge 2$ . Thus, there is an edge between  $\epsilon$  and  $\epsilon$  with weight *x* and there is an edge between  $\epsilon$  and 2 with weight  $x^2 + x^3 + \cdots = \frac{x^2}{1-x}$ . This corresponds to the generating function for adding a part *k* of size 2 or more.
- $red(21) = \epsilon$ ,  $red(22) = 2$  and  $red(2k) = 23$  for all  $k \ge 3$ . So there is an edge between 2 and  $\epsilon$  with weight *x*, there is an edge between 2 and 2 with weight  $x^2$ , and there is an edge between 2 and 23 with weight  $x^3/(1-x)$ .
- $red(231) = \epsilon$  and for  $k > 1$  *red*(23*k*) is not defined. So there is an edge between 23 and  $\epsilon$  with weight *x*.

Summarizing this information, we obtain the graph  $G_2$  as presented in Fig. [3.](#page-2-0)

<span id="page-2-4"></span>*Example 2* Let  $r = 3$  ( $\tau^{(2)} = 34543$ ). The graph  $G_r$  on its five vertices  $\epsilon$ , 3, 34, 345, 3454 is presented in Fig. [4.](#page-2-1)

To state our next observation, we define a weight of a path in the graph *Gr* to be the product of the weights of all the edges. For example, the weight of the path  $\epsilon$ , 3, 3, 34, 345,  $\epsilon$ , 3 is

<span id="page-2-2"></span>
$$
\frac{x^3}{1-x} \cdot x^3 \cdot \frac{x^4}{1-x} \cdot \frac{x^5}{1-x} \cdot (x+x^2) \cdot \frac{x^3}{1-x} = \frac{x^{19}(1+x)}{(1-x)^4}.
$$

**Proposition 2** *Set r*  $\geq$  2*. Then the generating function for the number of compositions of n with exactly m parts that avoid*  $\tau^{(r)}$  *is given by the total weight of all paths of length m starting from*  $\epsilon$  *in*  $G_r$ .

*Proof* Let  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_m$  be any composition that avoids  $\tau^{(r)}$  with exactly *m* parts. From the definition of *red*, we find that the path corresponding to  $\sigma$  in  $G_r$  is given by

$$
\epsilon_{\overrightarrow{\sigma_1}}\sigma^{(1)}_{\overrightarrow{\sigma_2}}\sigma^{(2)}\cdots_{\overrightarrow{\sigma_m}}\sigma^{(m)},
$$

where  $\sigma^{(j)} = red(\sigma^{(j-1)}\sigma_j)$  with  $\sigma^{(0)} = \epsilon$ . On the other hand, for each  $\sigma^{(j)}$ ,  $j = 0, 1, ..., m$ , we can use the graph  $G_r$  and the above path to define unique elements  $\sigma_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, ..., m$  such that  $\sigma^{(j)} = red(\sigma^{(j-1)}\sigma_j)$ . Thus if σ follows from a path (as described above), then σ is a composition that avoids  $τ<sup>(r)</sup>$  with *m* parts. Thus, for each composition that avoids  $\tau^{(r)}$  there exists a unique path in  $G_r$  with weight  $x^{|\sigma|}$ . . **Experimental and the second state** 

Let  $A_r$  be the adjacency matrix of the directed graph  $G_r$ . By Proposition [2,](#page-2-2) we have that the generating function for the number of compositions with exactly *m* parts that avoid  $\tau^{(r)}$  is given by  $w^T \mathbf{A}_r^m v$ , where  $w = (1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)^T$ and  $v = (1, 1, \ldots, 1)^T$  are vectors with  $|\mathcal{V}_r| = 2r - 1$  coordinates. Thus, the generating function for the number of compositions that avoid  $\tau^{(r)}$  is given by, see [\[4](#page-7-0)]

$$
\sum_{m\geq 0} w^T \mathbf{A}_r^m v = w^T (I - \mathbf{A}_r)^{-1} v.
$$

<span id="page-3-1"></span>Hence, we obtain our main result,

**Theorem 1** *Let*  $r \geq 2$ *, the generating function for the number of compositions of n that avoid*  $\tau^{(r)}$  *is given by*  $w^T (I - A_r)^{-1} v$ , where I is the unit matrix and  $w = (1, 0, \ldots, 0)^T$  and  $v = (1, 1, \ldots, 1)^T$  are vectors of  $2r - 1$ *coordinates. Moreover, this generating function is a rational function in x.*

<span id="page-3-2"></span>*Example 3* From Examples [1](#page-2-3) and [2,](#page-2-4) we obtain

$$
\mathbf{A}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} x & \frac{x^2}{1-x} & 0 \\ x & x^2 & \frac{x^3}{1-x} \\ x & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{A}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} x + x^2 & \frac{x^3}{1-x} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x + x^2 & x^3 & \frac{x^4}{1-x} & 0 & 0 \\ x + x^2 & x^3 & x^4 & \frac{x^5}{1-x} & 0 \\ x + x^2 & x^3 & 0 & 0 & \frac{x^4}{1-x} \\ x + x^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.
$$

Hence, the generating function for the number of compositions of *n* that avoid  $\tau^{(2)} = 232$  is given by

$$
\frac{(1-x)^2 + x^3(1-x) + x^5}{(1-2x)(1-x) + x^3(1-2x) + x^5 - x^6},
$$

and the generating function for the number of compositions of *n* that avoid  $\tau^{(3)} = 34,543$  is given by

$$
\frac{(1-x)^4 + x^5(1-x)^3 + x^9(1-x)^2 + x^{13} - x^{14} + x^{16}}{(1-2x)(1-x)^3 + x^5(1-2x)(1-x)^2 + x^9(1-2x)(1-x) + x^{13}(1-2x) + x^{16} - x^{17} - x^{18}}.
$$

<span id="page-3-0"></span>Actually, from the definition of the graph  $G_r$ , we can state an explicit formula for the matrix  $A_r$ .

**Proposition 3** *Let*  $r \geq 2$  *and*  $A_r = (a_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq 2r-1}$ *. Then* 

$$
a_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{r-1} x^k, & j = 1, \\ \frac{x^{r-1+i}}{1-x}, & j = i+1, i = 1, 2, ..., r, \\ \frac{x^{3r-1-i}}{1-x}, & j = i+1, i = r+1, r+2, ..., 2r-2, \\ x^{r-2+j}, & 2 \le j \le r, j \le i \le 2r-j, \\ 0, & otherwise. \end{cases}
$$

Define  $f_s = x + x^2 + \cdots + x^s$  and define  $\delta_X$  to be 1 if *X* holds and 0 otherwise. Let  $\mathbf{L}_r = (\ell_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq 2r-1}$  be a lower triangular matrix and  $U_r = (u_{ij})_{1 \le i, j \le 2r-1}$  be a upper triangular matrix such that  $\ell_{11} = \cdots = \ell_{(2r-1)(2r-1)} = 1$ ,  $u_{11} = 1 - f_{r-1}$ ,  $u_{ij} = 0$  for all  $j \ge i + 2$ , and

$$
\ell_{ij} = -\frac{f_{r-1}}{1 - f_{r-1}} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r}{2}}}{(1-x)^{j-1} \prod_{s=2}^j u_{ss}} - \sum_{k=0}^{j-2} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r+j-2-k}{2}} \delta_{i \le 2r - j + k}}{(1-x)^k \prod_{s=j-k}^j u_{ss}},
$$
\nfor  $j+1 \le i \le 2r-1, 2 \le j \le r+1,$  (2.1)

<span id="page-4-3"></span><span id="page-4-0"></span>
$$
\ell_{ij} = \frac{x^{\binom{2r-1}{2} - \binom{3r-1}{2}}}{(1-x)^{i-r-1}\Pi^j} \ell_{i(r+1)}, \quad \text{for } j+1 \le i \le 2r-1, \ r+2 \le j \le 2r-2,\tag{2.2}
$$

$$
u_{ij} = (1-x)^{j-r-1} \prod_{k=r+2}^{j} u_{kk}
$$
\n
$$
u_{i(i+1)} = \begin{cases} -\frac{x^{r-1+i}}{1-x}, & i = 1, 2, ..., r, \\ x^{3r-1-i}, & i = x+1, x+2, ..., 2x-2 \end{cases}
$$
\n
$$
(2.3)
$$

$$
u_{i(i+1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1-x}{1-x}, & i = r+1, r+2, \dots, 2r-2. \\ \frac{x^{3r-1-i}}{1-x}, & i = r+1, r+2, \dots, 2r-2. \end{cases}
$$
\n
$$
u_{ii} = \begin{cases} 1 - x^{r-2+i} + \ell_{i(i-1)} \frac{x^{r-2+i}}{1-x}, & i = 2, 3, \dots, r, \end{cases}
$$
\n(2.4)

<span id="page-4-1"></span>
$$
u_{ii} = \begin{cases} 1 - x^{r-2+i} + \ell_{i(i-1)} \frac{x^{2r-1}}{1-x}, & i = 2, 3, ..., r, \\ 1 + \ell_{i(i-1)} \frac{x^{3r-i}}{1-x}, & i = r+1, ..., 2r-1. \end{cases}
$$
(2.4)

For instance,

$$
\mathbf{L}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{x}{1-x} & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{x}{1-x} & \frac{x^3}{x^4 - x^3 + 2x - 1} & 1 \end{pmatrix}
$$

and

$$
\mathbf{U}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - x & -\frac{x^2}{1 - x} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-x^4 + x^3 - 2x + 1}{(1 - x)^2} & -\frac{x^3}{1 - x} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{-x^6 + x^5 - 2x^4 + x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x + 1}{(-x^4 + x^3 - 2x + 1)(1 - x)} \end{pmatrix}.
$$

<span id="page-4-2"></span>**Theorem 2** *For all r*  $\geq$  2*, I* − **A**<sub>*r*</sub> = **L**<sub>*r*</sub>**U**<sub>*r*</sub>*, where I is the unit matrix.* 

*Proof* Define  $b_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{2r-1} \ell_{ik} u_{kj}$ . By Proposition [3,](#page-3-0) we have to show that  $b_{ij} = \delta_{i=j} - a_{ij}$ . Clearly, by [\(2.1\)](#page-4-0)–[\(2.4\)](#page-4-1), we have  $b_{11} = \ell_{11}u_{11} = 1 - f_{r-1} = 1 - a_{11}$ ,  $b_{12} = \ell_{11}u_{12} = -a_{12}$ , and  $b_{1j} = \ell_{11}u_{1j} = 0 = a_{1j}$  for all  $j = 3, 4, \ldots, 2r - 1$ . Moreover,  $b_{i1} = \ell_{i1}u_{11} = -f_{r-1} = -a_{i1}$ , for all  $i = 2, 3, \ldots, 2r - 1$ .

Now let us show that  $b_{ii} = 1 - a_{ii}$ ; note that  $b_{ii} = u_{ii} + \ell_{i(i-1)}u_{i-1}$ , so by [\(2.1\)](#page-4-0)–[\(2.4\)](#page-4-1), we have  $b_{ii} = 1 - a_{ii}$ , as required.

Now we show that  $b_{ij} = -a_{ij}$  for all  $2 \le i < j \le 2r - 1$ : note that  $b_{ij} = \ell_{i(j-1)}u_{(j-1)j} + \ell_{ij}u_{jj}$ , so by  $(2.1)$ –[\(2.4\)](#page-4-1), we have  $b_i(i+1) = u_i(i+1) = -a_i(i+1)$  and  $b_{ij} = 0 = -a_{ij}$  for all  $j \ge i + 2$ .

Thus, it remains to show that  $b_{ij} = -a_{ij}$  for all  $2 \le j < i \le 2r - 1$ . We show only the cases  $2 \le j \le r$  and *j* + 1 ≤ *i* ≤ 2*r* − 1 since the other cases are similar. By [\(2.1\)](#page-4-0)–[\(2.4\)](#page-4-1) and  $b_{ij} = \ell_{i(j-1)}u_{(j-1)j} + \ell_{ij}u_{jj}$ , we see that

$$
b_{ij} = \left(\frac{f_{r-1}}{1 - f_{r-1}} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-2}{2} - \binom{r}{2}}}{(1 - x)^{j-2} \prod_{s=2}^{j-1} u_{ss}} + \sum_{k=0}^{j-3} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-2}{2} - \binom{r+j-3-k}{2}} \delta_{i \le 2r-j+k+1}}{(1 - x)^k \prod_{s=j-1-k}^{j-1} u_{ss}}\right) \frac{x^{r+j-2}}{1 - x}
$$

$$
- \left(\frac{f_{r-1}}{1 - f_{r-1}} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} + \binom{r}{2}}}{(1 - x)^{j-1} \prod_{s=2}^{j} u_{ss}} + \sum_{k=0}^{j-2} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r+j-2-k}{2}} \delta_{i \le 2r-j+k}}{(1 - x)^k \prod_{s=j-k}^{j} u_{ss}}\right) u_{jj}
$$

$$
= \frac{f_{r-1}}{1 - f_{r-1}} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r}{2}}}{(1 - x)^{j-1} \prod_{s=2}^{j-1} u_{ss}} + \sum_{k=1}^{j-2} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r+j-2-k}{2}} \delta_{i \le 2r-j+k}}{(1 - x)^k \prod_{s=j-k}^{j-1} u_{ss}}
$$

$$
-\frac{f_{r-1}}{1-f_{r-1}} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2}+\binom{r}{2}}}{(1-x)^{j-1} \prod_{s=2}^{j-1} u_{ss}} - \sum_{k=0}^{j-2} \frac{x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r+j-2-k}{2}} \delta_{i \leq 2r-j+k}}{(1-x)^k \prod_{s=j-k}^{j-1} u_{ss}}
$$
  
=  $-x^{\binom{r+j-1}{2} - \binom{r+j-2}{2}} = -x^{r+j-2} = -a_{ij}$ ,

as required.  $\Box$ 

<span id="page-5-0"></span>Moreover, by using similar techniques (but more complicated) as in the Proof of Theorem [2,](#page-4-2) we can state the following explicit formulas for  $u_{ss}$  and  $\ell_{s(s-1)}$ .

# **Proposition 4** *Let*  $r \ge 2$ *. Then*  $u_{jj} = \frac{\alpha_{j+1}}{(1-x)\alpha_j}$  *for all*  $j = 1, 2, ..., 2r - 1$ *, where*

$$
\alpha_{i} = x^{\binom{r+i-1}{2} - \binom{r+1}{2}} (1 - f_{r-1})
$$
\n
$$
+ \sum_{k=0}^{i-3} x^{\binom{r+i-1}{2} - \binom{r+i-1-k}{2}} (1 - 2x)(1 - x)^{i-3-k}, \quad 2 \le i \le r+1,
$$
\n
$$
\alpha_{r+i} = (1 - 2x)(1 - x)^{r+i-3} + \sum_{k=1}^{i} x^{2r(2k-1)-k^{2}-k+1} (1 - 2x)(1 - x)^{r+i-2k-2}
$$
\n
$$
+ \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} x^{4rk-k^{2}-2k} (1 - 2x)(1 - x)^{r+i-2k-3}
$$
\n
$$
+ \sum_{k=1}^{r-i-2} x^{2r(2i-1+k)-i(i+1+k)-k(k+1)/2-1} (1 - 2x)(1 - x)^{r-2-i-k}
$$
\n
$$
+ x^{r(3r+4i-7)/2+1-i(i+1)/2} (1 - f_{r-1}), \quad r+2 \le i \le 2r.
$$

*Moreover,*

$$
\ell_{i(i-1)} = \left(\frac{\alpha_{i+1}}{(1-x)\alpha_i} - 1 + x^{r-2+i}\right) \frac{1-x}{x^{r-2+i}}, \quad 2 \le i \le r,
$$
  

$$
\ell_{i(i-1)} = \left(\frac{\alpha_{i+1}}{(1-x)\alpha_i} - 1\right) \frac{1-x}{x^{3r-i}}, \quad r+1 \le i \le 2r-1.
$$

<span id="page-5-1"></span>**Theorem 3** *Set r* ≥ 2*. Let*  $x = (x_1, ..., x_{2r-1})^T$  *and*  $w = (1, 1, ..., 1)^T$  *be two vectors with*  $2r − 1$  *coordinates. The solution of the system of equation*  $(I - A_r)x = w$  *is given by* 

,

$$
x_i = (1 - x) \sum_{k=i}^{2r-1} \frac{y_k \alpha_i}{\alpha_{k+1}} \prod_{s=i}^{k-1} \left( x^{r-1+s} \delta_{s \le r} + x^{3r-1-s} \delta_{s \ge r+1} \right)
$$
  
where  $y_i = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \ell_{ij} y_j$  for all  $i = 1, 2, ..., 2r - 1$ .

*Proof* By Theorem [2,](#page-4-2) we have that  $I - A_r = L_r U_r$ . Let  $L_r y = w$  and  $U_r x = y$ . Then, for all  $i = 1, 2, ..., 2r - 1$ , we have  $y_i = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \ell_{ij} y_j$  and  $x_i = \frac{y_i}{u_{ii}} - \frac{u_{i(i+1)}}{u_{ii}} x_{i+1}$  with  $z_{2r} = 0$ . Thus, by induction on *i*, we see that

$$
x_i = \sum_{k=i}^{2r-1} (-1)^{k-i} y_k \frac{\prod_{s=i}^{k-1} u_{s(s+1)}}{\prod_{s=i}^k u_{ss}},
$$

which, by Proposition [4](#page-5-0) and [\(2.3\)](#page-4-3), completes the proof.  $\Box$ 

<span id="page-6-0"></span>By Theorems [1](#page-3-1)[–3](#page-5-1) and the fact that  $(1 - x)\alpha_1 = 1$ , we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 4** *The generating function for the number of compositions of n that avoid*  $\tau^{(r)}$  *is given by* 

$$
\sum_{k=1}^{2r-1} \frac{y_k}{\alpha_{k+1}} \prod_{s=1}^{k-1} \left( x^{r-1+s} \delta_{s \le r} + x^{3r-1-s} \delta_{s \ge r+1} \right),
$$
  
where  $y_i = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \ell_{ij} y_j$  for all  $i = 1, 2, ..., 2r - 1$  and  $\ell_{ij}$  and  $u_{ij}$  are given by (2.1)–(2.4).

Theorem [4](#page-6-0) has already been illustrated for  $r = 2$  and 3 in Example [3.](#page-3-2) Here we illustrate Theorem 4 for  $r = 4$  and 5.

*Example 4* The generating function for the number of compositions that avoid  $\tau^{(4)} = 4{,}567{,}654$  is  $\frac{s(x)}{t(x)}$  where

$$
s(x) = 1 - 6x + 15x2 - 20x3 + 15x4 - 6x5 + x6 + x7 - 5x8 + 10x9 - 10x10
$$
  
+ 5x<sup>11</sup> - x<sup>12</sup> + x<sup>13</sup> - 4x<sup>14</sup> + 6x<sup>15</sup> - 4x<sup>16</sup> + x<sup>17</sup> + x<sup>19</sup> - 3x<sup>20</sup> + 3x<sup>21</sup>  
- x<sup>22</sup> + x<sup>24</sup> - 2x<sup>25</sup> + x<sup>26</sup> + x<sup>29</sup> - x<sup>30</sup> + x<sup>33</sup>,

and

$$
t(x) = 1 - 7x + 20x2 - 30x3 + 25x4 - 11x5 + 2x6 + x7 - 6x8 + 14x9 - 16x10
$$
  
+ 9x<sup>11</sup> - 2x<sup>12</sup> + x<sup>13</sup> - 5x<sup>14</sup> + 9x<sup>15</sup> - 7x<sup>16</sup> + 2x<sup>17</sup> + x<sup>19</sup> - 4x<sup>20</sup> + 5x<sup>21</sup>  
- 2x<sup>22</sup> + x<sup>24</sup> - 3x<sup>25</sup> + 2x<sup>26</sup> + x<sup>29</sup> - 2x<sup>30</sup> + x<sup>33</sup> - x<sup>34</sup> - x<sup>35</sup> - x<sup>36</sup>,

Thus as a series expansion, the generating function for the number of compositions of depth  $r \geq 4$  is

$$
\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - \frac{s(x)}{t(x)} = x^{37} + 9x^{38} + 47x^{39} + 187x^{40} + \cdots
$$

For example the nine compositions of 38 that contain 4,567,654 are: 14,567,654, 5,567,654, 4,667,654, 4,577,654, 4,567,754, 4,568,654, 4,567,664, 4,567,655 and 45,676,541. Similarly:

*Example 5* For  $r = 5$ , the generating function for the number of compositions that avoid  $\tau^{(5)} = 5{,}678{,}765$  is  $\frac{u(x)}{v(x)}$ where

$$
u(x) = 1 - 8x + 28x^{2} - 56x^{3} + 70x^{4} - 56x^{5} + 28x^{6} - 8x^{7} + x^{8} + x^{9} - 7x^{10} + 21x^{11}
$$
  
\n
$$
- 35x^{12} + 35x^{13} - 21x^{14} + 7x^{15} - x^{16} + x^{17} - 6x^{18} + 15x^{19} - 20x^{20} + 15x^{21}
$$
  
\n
$$
- 6x^{22} + x^{23} + x^{25} - 5x^{26} + 10x^{27} - 10x^{28} + 5x^{29} - x^{30} + x^{32} - 4x^{33} + 6x^{34}
$$
  
\n
$$
- 4x^{35} + x^{36} + x^{39} - 3x^{40} + 3x^{41} - x^{42} + x^{45} - 2x^{46} + x^{47} + x^{51} - x^{52} + x^{56},
$$

and

$$
v(x) = 1 - 9x + 35x2 - 77x3 + 105x4 - 91x5 + 49x6 - 15x7 + 2x8 + x9 - 8x10 + 27x11- 50x12 + 55x13 - 36x14 + 13x15 - 2x16 + x17 - 7x18 + 20x19 - 30x20 + 25x21- 11x22 + 2x23 + x25 - 6x26 + 14x27 - 16x28 + 9x29 - 2x30 + x32 - 5x33 + 9x34- 7x35 + 2x36 + x39 - 4x40 + 5x41 - 2x42 + x45 - 3x46 + 2x47 + x51 - 2x52 + x56- x57 - x58 - x59 - x60.
$$

As before the series expansion for generating function for the number of compositions of depth  $r \geq 5$  is

$$
\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - \frac{u(x)}{v(x)} = x^{61} + 11x^{62} + 68x^{63} + 312x^{64} + 1186x^{65} + \cdots
$$

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