



# Sequence Characterization of 3-Dimensional Riordan Arrays and Some Application

Roksana Słowik

**Abstract.** We propose the characterization of 3-dimensional Riordan arrays with use of three sequences that is analogous to the representation of 2-dimensional Riordan arrays with use of  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence. We also suggest an application of this representation for finding totally positive matrices.

**Mathematics Subject Classification.** Primary 05A15, 15B99, 15B05, 05A05.

**Keywords.** Riordan group, multi-dimensional Riordan array, 3-dimensional Riordan array, Riordan array, sequence characterization,  $A$ -sequence,  $Z$ -sequence.

## 1. Introduction

Let's recall that the Riordan group, introduced in [1], is a group of  $\mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0$  matrices that are identified with pairs of formal power series. Namely, denoting by  $\mathcal{F}_0$ —the ring of formal power series with nonzero free term, and by  $\mathcal{F}_1$ —the ring of formal power series with zero free term but nonzero the next term, the Riordan group  $\mathcal{R}$  consists of pairs  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$  with  $g \in \mathcal{F}_0$ ,  $f \in \mathcal{F}_1$ . The multiplication of these pairs is given by

$$\mathcal{R}(g_1(z), f_1(z)) * \mathcal{R}(g_2(z), f_2(z)) = \mathcal{R}(g_1(z) \cdot g_2(f_1(z)), f_2(f_1(z))),$$

and it coincides with multiplication of corresponding matrices.

Recently, one can observe an interest in multi-dimensional matrix algebra [2–4]. Here we would like to focus on three-dimensional matrices. The  $(2, 1)$ -product  $C = [c_{ijk}]$  of  $A = [a_{ijk}]$ ,  $B = [b_{ijk}]$ , is defined by the formula:

$$c_{ijk} = \sum_{x \geq 0} a_{ixk} b_{xjk}. \quad (1.1)$$

In this note we are interested in  $\mathcal{R}^{(3)}$ —the group of 3-dimensional Riordan arrays. It was proved by Cheon and Jin [5] that  $\mathcal{R}^{(3)}$  is an extension of  $\mathcal{R}$  by  $\mathcal{F}_0$ . In this group the matrices  $R = [r_{nkm}]_{n,k,m \in \mathbb{N}_0}$  are associated with the triples of series  $(g, f, h)$  with  $g, h \in \mathcal{F}_0, f \in \mathcal{F}_1$ . The multiplication of such triples is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathcal{R}(g_1(z), f_1(z), h_1(z)) * \mathcal{R}(g_2(z), f_2(z), h_2(z)) \\ &= \mathcal{R}(g_1(z) \cdot g_2(f_1(z)), f_2(f_1(z)), h_1(z) \cdot h_2(f_1(z))), \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

Each entry of  $R = [r_{nkm}]$  can be found from the relation:

$$r_{nkm} = [z^n]gf^kh^m, \tag{1.3}$$

where  $[z^n]f$  denotes the  $n$ -th coefficient in the series expansion of  $f$ .

Thanks to definition (1.3), multiplication (1.2) corresponds with matrix multiplication given by (1.1).

It is known (see [6,7]) that Riordan arrays can be uniquely determined by two sequences, called  $A$ -sequence and  $Z$ -sequence. More precisely, starting with  $r_{00} = g_0$ , all the other entries can be found using the relations:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{n+1,k+1} &= a_0r_{nk} + a_1r_{n,k+1} + a_2r_{n,k+2} + \dots, \\ r_{n+1,0} &= z_0r_{n0} + z_1r_{n1} + z_2r_{n2} + \dots. \end{aligned} \tag{1.4}$$

In this paper we wish to give an analogous presentation for 3-dimensional Riordan arrays. Namely, we propose  $A, Z,$  and  $H$ -sequence, that completely characterize Riordan array:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{n00} &= z_0r_{n-1,0,0} + z_1r_{n-1,1,0} + z_2r_{n-1,2,0} + \dots \\ r_{nk0} &= a_0r_{n-1,k+1,0} + a_1r_{n-1,k+2,0} + a_2r_{n-1,k+3,0} + \dots \\ r_{nkm} &= h_0r_{n,k,m-1} + h_1r_{n-1,k,m-1} + h_2r_{n-2,k,m-1} + \dots. \end{aligned} \tag{1.5}$$

We will show that the following theorem is true.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Any 3-dimensional Riordan array is completely characterized by its  $A, Z$  and  $H$  sequence given as in (1.5). Moreover*

$$f(z) = z \cdot A(f(z)), \quad g(z) = \frac{g_0}{1 - z \cdot Z(f(z))}, \quad H(z) = h(z). \tag{1.6}$$

After discussing the above presentation, we will propose how it can be used to obtain some totally positive Riordan arrays.

## 2. The Discussion

### 2.1. Sequence Characterization

To prove the main result, it suffices to notice that the below lemma holds.

**Lemma 2.1.** *The groups*

1.  $\mathcal{R}_g^{(3)} := \{(g, f, 1) : g \in \mathcal{F}_0, f \in \mathcal{F}_1\},$

$$2. \mathcal{R}_h^{(3)} := \{(1, f, h) : h \in \mathcal{F}_0, f \in \mathcal{F}_1\}$$

are isomorphic with  $\mathcal{R}$ . Moreover

1.  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, 1)$  coincide with  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$ ,
2.  $H$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(1, f, h)$  coincide with  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(h, f)$ .

*Proof.* Clearly, the maps  $\phi_g : \mathcal{R}_g^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ ,  $\phi_h : \mathcal{R}_h^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$  given by

$$\phi_g(\mathcal{R}(g, h, 1)) = (g, h), \quad \phi_h(\mathcal{R}(1, f, h)) = (h, f)$$

establish the desired isomorphism, and the correspondence of sequences.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Comparing (1.4) and (1.5) one can notice that  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$  coincide with  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$ . Thus, we only need to check the last equality. Using (1.3) we get

$$\begin{aligned} r_{nkm} &= [z^n] g f^k h^m = \sum_{i=0}^n ([z^i] g f^k \cdot [z^{n-i}] h) = \sum_{i=0}^n r_{i,k,m-1} \cdot h_{n-i} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n h_j r_{n-j,k,m-1}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

For 2-dimensional Riordan arrays the following result was obtained by He and Sprugnoli.

**Theorem 2.2** [8, Thm.3.3,3.4]. *Let  $\mathcal{R}(g_1, f_1)$ ,  $\mathcal{R}(g_2, f_2)$  be 2-dimensional Riordan arrays with  $A$ ,  $Z$ -sequences:  $A_1, Z_1$  and  $A_2, Z_2$ , respectively. Then  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of the product  $\mathcal{R}(g_1, f_1) * \mathcal{R}(g_2, f_2)$  is equal to*

$$\begin{aligned} A(z) &= A_2(z) \cdot A_1 \left( \frac{z}{A_2(z)} \right), \\ Z(z) &= \left( 1 - \frac{z}{A_2(z)} Z_2(z) \right) \cdot Z_1(z) + A_1 \left( \frac{z}{A_2(z)} \right) \cdot Z_2(z). \end{aligned}$$

Based on the above one can prove the following.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}(g_1, f_1, h_1)$ ,  $\mathcal{R}(g_2, f_2, h_2)$  be 3-dimensional Riordan arrays with  $A$ ,  $Z$  and  $H$ -sequences:  $A_1, Z_1, H_1$  and  $A_2, Z_2, H_2$ , respectively. Then  $A$ ,  $Z$  and  $H$ -sequence of the product  $\mathcal{R}(g_1, f_1, h_1) * \mathcal{R}(g_2, f_2, h_2)$  is equal to*

$$\begin{aligned} A(z) &= A_2(z) \cdot A_1 \left( \frac{z}{A_2(z)} \right) \\ Z(z) &= \left[ 1 - \frac{z}{A_2(z)} Z_2(z) \right] \cdot Z_1 \left( \frac{z}{A_2(z)} \right) + A_1 \left( \frac{z}{A_2(z)} \right) \cdot Z_2(z) \\ H(z) &= H_2(z) \cdot H_1 \left( \frac{z}{H_2(z)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.1,  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$  coincide with  $A$  and  $Z$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$ , so two first equalities hold. By Theorem 1.1,  $h$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$  is equal to  $h$ , so from the definition and Lemma 2.1, we get that  $h$ -sequence of  $\mathcal{R}(g_1(z) \cdot g_2(f_1(z)), f_2(f_1(z)), h_1(z) \cdot h_2(f_1(z)))$  is the same as  $A$ -sequence of

$$\mathcal{R}(h_1(z) \cdot h_2(f_1(z)), f_2(f_1(z))) = \mathcal{R}(h_1(z), f_1(z)) * \mathcal{R}(h_2(z), f_2(z)).$$

Thus, using Theorem 2.2 again, we get the third equality. □

### 2.2. Possible Application

In this section we join the representation proposed in the first section with some other issue. Namely, the total positivity of a Riordan matrix. An infinite matrix is said to be totally positive (or shortly  $TP$ ) if all its minors are nonnegative. In particular, a Toeplitz matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_0 & & & & & \\ a_1 & a_0 & & & & \\ a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & & & \\ a_3 & a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & & \\ \vdots & & & & \ddots & \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with all } a_n \geq 0,$$

is totally positive if and only if  $a(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$  has only real (and nonpositive) zeros, and in this case  $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$  is called Pólya frequency sequence.

Let's get back to our matrices. It is obvious that fixing  $m$  in (1.3), one obtains a 2-dimensional Riordan array. It is called the  $m$ -th layer of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$ . According to (1.3), the  $m$ -th layer of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$  is equal to  $\mathcal{R}(gh^m, f)$ . From

$$\mathcal{R}(g(z)h^m(z), f(z)) = \mathcal{R}(h^m(z), z) * \mathcal{R}(g(z), f(z)) = (\mathcal{R}(h(z), z))^m * \mathcal{R}(g(z), f(z)),$$

and the fact that the product of  $TP$  matrices is a  $TP$  matrix, we get the following conclusion.

**Corollary 2.4.** *If  $\mathcal{R}(g(z), f(z))$  and  $\mathcal{R}(h(z), z)$  are totally positive, then every layer of  $\mathcal{R}(g(z), f(z), h(z))$  is totally positive.*

Totally positive matrices were considered in the context of  $A$  and  $Z$  sequences.

It was first proved in [9] (see also [10, 11]) that every 2D Riordan array  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$  is induced by its production matrix

$$P_{\mathcal{R}(g,f)} = \begin{bmatrix} z_0 & a_0 & & & & \\ z_1 & a_1 & a_0 & & & \\ z_2 & a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & & \\ \vdots & & & & \ddots & \end{bmatrix}. \tag{2.1}$$

In particular, if we write  $U$  (as in [11]) for the shift matrix:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \\ \vdots & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix},$$

then  $P_{\mathcal{R}(g,f)}$  is the production matrix of the Riordan array  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$  if and only if  $U\mathcal{R}(g, f) = \mathcal{R}(g, f)P_{\mathcal{R}(g,f)}$ .

From [12] we know that if the production matrix  $P_{\mathcal{R}(g,f)}$  is  $TP$ , then  $\mathcal{R}(g, f)$  is  $TP$  as well. Thus, we finish with the following observation.

**Corollary 2.5.** *If  $P_{\mathcal{R}(g,f)}$  given by (2.1) is  $TP$  matrix and  $H$  is a Pólya frequency sequence, then every layer of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$  is a totally positive matrix.*

*Example.* It can be checked that for

$$A = (2, 3, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots), \quad Z = (3, 5, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

the production matrix  $P_{\mathcal{R}(g,f)}$  is  $TP$  (see [12]). Moreover,

$$H = (2, 5, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

is a Pólya frequency sequence. Thus, all the layers of  $\mathcal{R}(g, f, h)$

$$L_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & & \\ 3 & 2 & & & & & \\ 19 & 12 & 4 & & & & \\ 117 & 78 & 36 & 8 & & & \\ 741 & 504 & 272 & 96 & 16 & & \\ 4743 & 3266 & 1830 & 848 & 240 & 32 & \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & & & & & & \\ 11 & 4 & & & & & \\ 57 & 34 & 8 & & & & \\ 342 & 224 & 92 & 16 & & & \\ 2146 & 1448 & 740 & 232 & 32 & & \\ 13678 & 9376 & 5168 & 2208 & 560 & 64 & \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix},$$

$$L_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & & & & & & \\ 32 & 8 & & & & & \\ 177 & 88 & 16 & & & & \\ 1015 & 634 & 224 & 32 & & & \\ 6241 & 4156 & 1972 & 544 & 64 & & \\ 39511 & 26922 & 14412 & 5640 & 1280 & 128 & \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & & & & & & \\ 84 & 16 & & & & & \\ 530 & 216 & 32 & & & & \\ 3047 & 1740 & 528 & 64 & & & \\ 18297 & 11842 & 5128 & 1248 & 128 & & \\ 114464 & 77248 & 39596 & 14128 & 2880 & 256 & \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix},$$

$$L_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 16 & & & & & & \\ 208 & 32 & & & & & \\ 1512 & 512 & 64 & & & & \\ 9088 & 4624 & 1216 & 128 & & & \\ 54033 & 33264 & 13024 & 2816 & 256 & & \\ 333131 & 220882 & 106976 & 34752 & 6400 & 512 & \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_6 = \begin{bmatrix} 32 & & & & & & \\ 496 & 64 & & & & & \\ 4128 & 1184 & 128 & & & & \\ 26584 & 11936 & 2752 & 256 & & & \\ 159762 & 91728 & 32384 & 6272 & 512 & & \\ 974291 & 627092 & 284000 & 84096 & 14080 & 1024 & \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \dots$$

are totally positive.

### 3. Some Closing Comments

Let's finish this short note with some remarks about possible generalizations of the presented notions. In [13] the authors proposed extending the definition of 2-dimensional Riordan array given by

$$r_{nk} = [z^n]gf^k \quad n, k \in \mathbf{N}_0$$

to all  $n, k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and called them *recursive matrices* (in [14] they are also called complementary). Also in 3-dimensional case one can introduce 3-dimensional recursive matrix  ${}_Z R = [r_{nkm}]$  whose entries are given by (1.3) for all  $n, k, m \in$

$\mathbb{Z}$ . It is interesting that, by [15] (see Section 3 of this paper) for such  ${}_Z R$  the following identities hold:

$$r_{n+m,k+m,p} = \sum_{j=0}^{n-k} a_j^{(m)} r_{n,k+j,p},$$

$$r_{n+m,k+m,p} = \sum_{j=0}^{n-k} f_{j+m}^{(m)} r_{n-j,k,p},$$

where by  $a_j^{(m)}$  we mean  $[z^j]A^m$ .

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank anonymous referee for his/her remarks.

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Roksana Słowik  
Institute of Mathematics  
Silesian University of Technology  
Kaszubska 23  
44-100 Gliwice  
Poland  
e-mail: [roksana.slowik@gmail.com](mailto:roksana.slowik@gmail.com)

Received: March 4, 2019.

Accepted: August 20, 2019.

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