IMFM

Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics Jadranska 19, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Preprint series Vol. 52 (2014), 1196 ISSN 2232-2094

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Ljubljana, March 6, 2014

On Isomorphism Classes of Generalized Fibonacci Cubes

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The generalized Fibonacci cube $Q_d(f)$ is the subgraph of the *d*-cube Q_d induced on the set of all strings of length *d* that do not contain *f* as a substring. It is proved that if $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$ then |f| = |f'|. The key tool to prove this result is a result of Guibas and Odlyzko about the autocorrelation polynomial associated to a binary string. It is also proved that there exist pairs of strings f, f' such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, where $|f| \ge \frac{2}{3}(d+1)$ and f' cannot be obtained from f by its reversal or binary complementation. Strings f and f' with |f| = |f'| = d - 1 for which $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$ are characterized.

1. INTRODUCTION

An element of $\{0, 1\}^d$ is called a *binary string* (henceforth just called a *string*) of length d, with the usual concatenation notation. For example, $0^{d-1}1$ is the string of length d consisting of d-1 0 bits followed by a single 1 bit. We will denote by $e_i = 0^{i-1}10^{d-i}$ the i^{th} unit string in $\{0, 1\}^d$.

Let $d \ge 1$ be a fixed integer. The *d*-cube Q_d is the graph whose vertices are the binary strings of length *d*, with an edge connecting vertices v_1 and v_2 if the underlying strings differ in exactly one position. Given a graph *G*, the set of vertices of *G* is denoted by V(G). We use $d_G(u, v)$ to denote the length of the shortest path connecting *u* and *v* in *G*. Lastly, we will write $G \cong H$ to signify that the graphs *G* and *H* are isomorphic.

Date: March 4, 2014

 $Key \ words \ and \ phrases.$ Fibonacci cube; generalized Fibonacci cube; graph isomorphism; combinatorics on words; autocorrelation polynomial

AMS 2010 Subject Classification. 05C60, 68R15

For a given string f and integer d, the generalized Fibonacci cube $Q_d(f)$ is the subgraph of Q_d induced by the set of all strings of length d that do not contain f as a consecutive substring. Indeed, this generalizes the notion of the d-dimensional Fibonacci cube $\Gamma_d = Q_d(11)$, which is the graph obtained from the d-cube Q_d by removing all vertices that contain the substring 11.

Fibonacci cubes were introduced by Hsu [2] as a model for interconnection networks. Like the hypercube graphs, Fibonacci cubes have several properties which make them ideal as a network topology, yet their size grows significantly slower than that of the hypercubes. Fibonacci cubes have been extensively investigated; see, for example, the recent survey by Klavžar [6] and even more recent papers of Klavžar and Mollard [7] and Vesel [14]. In the first of these papers, different asymptotic properties of Fibonacci cubes are established, while in the latter a linear recognition algorithm is designed for recognizing Fibonacci cubes, improving the previous best recognition algorithm of Taranenko and Vesel [12].

Later, Ilić, Klavžar, and Rho [3] introduced the idea of generalized Fibonacci cubes (as defined above). Under the same name, the graphs $Q_d(1^s)$ were studied by Liu, Hsu, and Chung [9] and Zagaglia Salvi [13]. The analysis of the properties of generalized Fibonacci cubes led to the study of several problems related to the combinatorics of words. To study their isometric embeddability into hypercubes, good and bad words were introduced by Klavžar and Shpectorov [8], where it was proved that about eight percent of all words are good. Isometric embeddability and hamiltonicity of generalized Fibonacci cubes motivated the ideas of the index and parity of a binary word, as defined by Ilić, Klavžar, and Rho [4, 5].

In this paper we consider the following fundamental question about the generalized Fibonacci cubes: for which binary strings f and f' and positive integers d are the generalized Fibonacci cubes $Q_d(f)$ and $Q_d(f')$ isomorphic? It is easy to see that if f' is the binary complement of f, or if f' is the reverse of f (the reverse of $f = f_1 \dots f_d$ is $f_d \dots f_1$), then $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$ for any dimension d. Hence we say that a pair of binary strings f, f' is trivial if f' can be obtained from f by binary complementation, reversal, or composition of these mappings. We are therefore only interested in the behavior of the other pairs, which we call the *non-trivial pairs*.

We proceed as follows. In the next section, we prove that if $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, then |f| = |f'|. We also prove that there exist non-trivial pairs of strings f, f' such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, where $|f| \ge \frac{2}{3}(d+1)$. In the last section, we prove that if |f| = d - 1, then $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$ if and only if f and f' have the same block structure. Several conjectures are posed along the way.

2. The Length of Forbidden Words

In this section we first prove that if $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, then |f| = |f'|. Then we pose the question whether there is some relation between |f| (= |f'|) and d provided that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$. To this end we prove that there exist non-trivial pairs f, f' such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$ and $|f| \ge \frac{2}{3}(d+1)$. We also conjecture that for any non-trivial pair f, f' such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, we must have $|f| \ge \frac{2}{3}(d+1)$.

The autocorrelation polynomial $p_f(z)$ associated to a binary string $f = f_1 \dots f_k \in \{0, 1\}^k$ is defined as

$$p_f(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} c_i z^i,$$

where $c_i = 1$ if the length k - i suffix of f is equal to the length k - i prefix of f, i.e., if $f_{i+1} \dots f_k = f_1 \dots f_{k-i}$, and $c_i = 0$ otherwise; see Flajolet and Sedgewick [10, p. 60]. Note that the autocorrelation polynomial of $f \in \{0, 1\}^k$ is of degree at most k - 1 and has degree k - 1 if and only if the last bit of f is equal to the first bit of f. Observe also that

$$p_{0^k}(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} z^i$$
 and $p_{0^{k-1}1}(z) = 1$. (1)

We note in passing that more generally, $p_f(z) = 1 + z + \cdots + z^{k-1}$ if and only if $f = 0^k$ or $f = 1^k$ and that $p_f(z) = 1$ if and only if every non-trivial suffix of f is different from the prefix of f of the same length. Such words were named *prime* in [5].

The following theorem establishes that only strings which have the same length can generate isomorphic generalized Fibonacci cubes.

Theorem 2.1. If $|f|, |f'| \le d$ and $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, then |f| = |f'|.

Proof. Set $n_d(f) = |V(Q_d(f))|$ and assume that |f| < |f'|. We will show that $n_d(f) < n_d(f')$, from which the theorem follows.

The key idea of the proof is to apply a result of Guibas and Odlyzko [1, p. 204] stating that if g and g' are binary strings such that $p_g(2) > p_{g'}(2)$, then $n_d(g) \ge n_d(g')$. Moreover, since the values $n_d(g)$ only depends on $p_g(z)$, cf. [10, Proposition 1.4], we also infer that if |g| = |g'| and $p_g(2) = p_{g'}(2)$, then $n_d(g) \ge n_d(g')$. It follows that if f is a binary string of length $k \le d$, then

$$n_d(0^{k-1}1) \le n_d(f) \le n_d(0^k)$$
. (2)

In addition, since 0^k is a strict substring of $0^k 1$ we infer that

$$n_d(0^k) < n_d(0^k 1)$$
. (3)

Combining (2) and (3) we conclude that

$$n_d(f) \le n_d(0^k) < n_d(0^k 1) \le n_d(f')$$

where the last inequality is due to the assumption that |f'| > k.

Hence, non-trivial pairs f, f' such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$ are of the same length. We next ask what is the relation of this length with the dimension of the corresponding generalized Fibonacci cubes. The following result could be the extremal case.

Theorem 2.2. If $k \ge 2$, then $Q_d(0^k 1^k) \cong Q_d(0^{k+1} 1^{k-1})$ for any $d \le 3k - 1$.

Proof. Let $k \ge 2$ be a fixed integer and set $f = 0^{k}1^{k}$, $f' = 0^{k+1}1^{k-1}$, $G = Q_{3k-1}(f)$, and $G' = Q_{3k-1}(f')$. Let $X = V(Q_{3k-1}) \setminus V(G)$ and $X' = V(Q_{3k-1}) \setminus V(G')$. For any $0 \le i \le k$ let

$$X_i = \{ufv: |u| = i, |v| = k - 1 - i\}.$$

Then, by definition,

$$X = \bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1} X_i.$$

Let $w = w_1 \dots w_{3k-1}$ be an arbitrary vertex whose underlying string is in X_i . It then follows that $w_{k+1} \dots w_{2k-1} = 0^i 1^{k-i-1}$, and so $X_j \cap X_k = \emptyset$ holds for all $j \neq k$. Since $|X_i| = 2^{k-1}$, we have $|X| = k2^{k-1}$. With a parallel argument we infer that also $|X'| = k2^{k-1}$. This implies that |V(G)| = |V(G')|.

Consider now the mapping $\alpha: V(Q_{3k-1}) \to V(Q_{3k-1})$ defined by

 $\alpha(u_1 \dots u_{3k-1}) = u_1 \dots u_k \overline{u_{2k}} u_{k+1} \dots u_{2k-1} u_{2k+1} \dots u_{3k-1}.$

In particular, α fixes the first k and the last k-1 coordinates. Since transposition of coordinates, complementation of a coordinate, and any composition of such mappings are all automorphisms of a hypercube, α is an automorphism of Q_{3k-1} . Consider now G and G' as subgraphs of Q_{3k-1} and the restriction $\alpha|_G$ of α to G. Since |V(G)| = |V(G')|, it remains to prove that $\alpha|_G : V(G) \to V(G')$.

Suppose on the contrary that for some $u \in V(G)$ we have $\alpha|_G(u) = w \notin V(G')$. Then $w = x0^{k+1}1^{k-1}y$, where |x| = i for some $0 \le i \le k$, and |y| = k - i - 1. It is straightforward to see that $\alpha|_G^{-1}(w) = x0^k1^ky$. Since this is not a vertex of V(G) we have a contradiction.

We have thus proved the result for d = 3k - 1. Note that all of the above arguments also work for $2k + 1 \le d \le 3k - 2$ and when $d \le 2k$, the assertion is trivial.

Motivated by the last theorem we pose:

Conjecture 2.3. If f and f' are binary strings such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$, then $Q_{d-1}(f) \cong Q_{d-1}(f')$.

Conjecture 2.4. Let f, f' be a non-trivial pair such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$. Then $|f| \ge \frac{2}{3}(d+1)$.

We have verified these conjectures for small strings using the Sage package [11]. More precisely, we tested both conjectures for all $d \leq 12$ and all non-trivial pairs f, f'. See Appendix A for the corresponding procedures.

3. The Number of Blocks in Forbidden Words

In this section we characterize the binary strings f, f' of length d-1 for which $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$. It turns out that they are precisely the strings with the same block structure.

Let $\nu(f)$ denote one less than the number of blocks of $f = f_1 f_2 \dots f_{|f|}$. For example $\nu(0110) = 2$. When a bit is different from the previous bit we call its index an *index of bit change* and denote it by i_j . Therefore $f_{i_j-1} \neq f_{i_j}$ for $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{\nu(f)}$.

Theorem 3.1. Let $d \ge 2$ and let f, f' be binary strings of length d - 1. Then $\nu(f) = \nu(f')$ if and only if $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$.

Proof. Set $A = V(Q_d) \setminus V(Q_d(f))$. Then $A = \{\overline{f_1}f, f_1f, f_{|f|}, f\overline{f_{|f|}}\}$. Similarly set $A' = V(Q_d) \setminus V(Q_d(f')) = \{\overline{f'_1}f', f'_1f', f'f'_{|f|}, f'\overline{f'_{|f|}}\}$. Let $2 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_{\nu(f)} \leq d-1$ be the indices of bit change of f and let $2 \leq i'_1 < \cdots < i'_{\nu(f')} \leq d-1$ be the indices of bit change of f'. Since $(\overline{f_1}f)_{\tau} = (f_1f)_{\tau} = f_{\tau-1}$ for $2 \leq \tau \leq d-1$ and $(ff_{|f|})_{\tau} = (f\overline{f_{|f|}})_{\tau} = f_{\tau}$ for $2 \leq \tau \leq d-1$, the strings f_1f and $ff_{|f|}$ are different precisely for $\tau = i_j, 1 \leq j \leq \nu(f)$. It follows that $d_{Q_d}(f_1f, ff_{|f|}) = \nu(f)$ and by a parallel argument $d_{Q_d}(f'_1f', f'f'_{|f'|}) = \nu(f')$.

Assume first that $\nu(f) = \nu(f')$. We may without loss of generality assume that $f_1 = f'_1 = 0$. Then $f_{|f|} = f'_{|f|}$. Let ϕ be a permutation of $\{1, \ldots, d\}$ such that $\phi(i_j) = i'_j$, $\phi(1) = 1$, $\phi(d) = d$. Set $\psi(x_1 \ldots x_d) = y_1 \ldots y_d$, where

$$y_{\tau} = \begin{cases} x_{\phi^{-1}(\tau)}; & \text{if } f_{\phi^{-1}(\tau)} = f_{\tau}' \\ \overline{x_{\phi^{-1}(\tau)}}; & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

As transposition of coordinates, complementation of a coordinate, and compositions of such mappings are automorphisms of a hypercube, ψ is an automorphism of Q_d . Also ψ sends the vertices of A to A'. Thus ψ is an isomorphism from $Q_d(f)$ to $Q_d(f')$.

To prove the converse assume that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$. We may without loss of generality assume that $\nu(f) \leq \nu(f')$.

Assume $\nu(f) = 0$. Then $f_1 f = f f_{|f|}$ and hence |A| = 3, while |A'| = 4 if $\nu(f') \neq 0$. Therefore $\nu(f') = 0$.

Assume $\nu(f) = 1$. Then note that the vertices from A induce a path on four vertices and hence $|E(Q_d(f))| = d2^{d-1} - (4d-3)$. If $\nu(f') > 1$, then the vertices from A' induce two disjoint copies of K_2 and hence $|E(Q_d(f'))| = d2^{d-1} - (4d-2) \neq |E(Q_d(f))|$. We conclude that $\nu(f') = 1$.

For the rest of the proof we can thus assume that $\nu(f) \geq 2$. The subgraph of Q_d induced on A consists of two edges $\{\overline{f_1}f, f_1f\}$ and $\{ff_{|f|}, f\overline{f_{|f|}}\}$ where $d(f_1f, ff_{|f|}) = \nu(f)$ and $d(\overline{f_1}f, f\overline{f_{|f|}}) = \nu(f) + 2$. Denote $\overline{f_1}f, f_1f, ff_{|f|}, f\overline{f_{|f|}}$ by a, b, c, d, respectively. Consider the shortest b, c-path constructed by changing from left to right the bits in which b and c differ:

$$b = f_1 f \to f_1 f + e_{i_1} \to f_1 f + e_{i_1} + e_{i_2} \to \dots \to f_1 f + e_{i_1} + \dots + e_{i_{\nu(f)}} = f f_{|f|} = c,$$

where addition is taken modulo 2.

Denote the *j*-th internal vertex $f_1f + e_{i_1} + \cdots + e_{i_j}$ of this path by x_j for $1 \le j \le \nu(f) - 1$. Similarly, denote $\overline{f'_1}f'$, $f'_1f'_j$, $f'f'_{|f|}$, $f'\overline{f'_{|f|}}$ by a', b', c', d', respectively. Set $k = \nu(f) - 1$, $\ell = \nu(f') - 1$, and recall that $k \ge 1$. Let $\psi : Q_d(f) \to Q_d(f')$ be an isomorphism and let $x'_j = \psi(x_j)$ for $1 \le j \le k$.

Assume k = 1. Then x_1 is of degree d - 2 and hence $\deg_{Q_d(f')}(x'_1) = d - 2$. This means that x'_1 is adjacent to two vertices among a', b', c', d'. As Q_d is bipartite, x'_1 is adjacent to one of a', b' and one of c', d'. If x'_1 is adjacent to b' and c', then $\ell + 1 = d_{Q_d}(b', c') \leq 2$ and hence $\ell = 1$. If x'_1 is adjacent to a' and c', then $\ell + 2 = d_{Q_d}(a', c') \leq 2$, a contradiction. Similarly we get contradictions if x'_1 is adjacent to d'.

Assume $k \geq 2$. Then the vertices x_1 and x_k of $Q_d(f)$ are of degree d-1. Considering that $x_1 \to \cdots \to x_k$ is a path in $Q_d(f)$, we see that $d_{Q_d(f)}(x_1, x_k) = k-1$. Therefore the vertices x'_1 and x'_k of $Q_d(f')$ are of degree d-1 and $d_{Q_d(f')}(x'_1, x'_k) = k-1$. We distinguish three cases.

Case 1: $(x'_1 \text{ and } x'_k \text{ are adjacent to a common vertex among } a', b', c', d')$ Now, $k - 1 = d_{Q_d}(x'_1, x'_k) \leq 2$ and hence $k \leq 3$. Also, k is odd as Q_d is bipartite, and thus k = 3. Considering that $x_1x_2x_3$ is a shortest path in Q_d , it follows that x_1 and x_3 have distance two and hence have a common neighbor which is different from x_2 in Q_d . Call it u. Then, u is not a, b, c, or d because of its distances from x_1 and x_3 . Therefore $u \in Q_d(f)$. Set $u' = \psi(u)$. Then $u' \in Q_d(f')$ and hence $d_{Q_d}(x'_1, u') \leq d_{Q_d(f')}(x'_1, u') = d_{Q_d(f)}(x_1, u) = 1$, which means that $d_{Q_d}(x'_1, u') = 1$. Similarly, $d_{Q_d}(x'_3, u') = 1$. Hence in Q_d, x'_1 and x'_3 have three common neighbors: u', x'_2 , and one of a', b', c', d'. This is a contradiction, because hypercubes are $K_{2,3}$ -free.

From now on we regard that x'_1 and x'_k are not adjacent to a common vertex among a', b', c', d'.

Case 2: $(x'_1 \text{ and } x'_k \text{ are either adjacent to } a' \text{ and } b' \text{ or adjacent to } c' \text{ and } d')$ We may without loss of generality assume the first. Then $k - 1 = d_{Q_d}(x'_1, x'_k) \leq 3$ and hence $k \leq 4$. Also, k is even as Q_d is bipartite. Therefore k = 2 or k = 4. We distinguish two subcases.

Case 2a: (k = 2)

It is well-known that in Q_d a given edge lies in d-1 cycles of length 4. Among the 4-cycles containing the edge x_1x_2 , one contains b and another contains c. This means that there are d-3 cycles of length 4 containing the edge x_1x_2 in $Q_d(f)$. Among the 4-cycles containing the edge $x'_1x'_2$, only one contains a' and b' together, and no other contains a', b', c', or d'. This means that there are d-2cycles of length 4 containing the edge $x'_1x'_2$ in $Q_d(f')$, a contradiction.

Case 2b: (k = 4)

It is known that for two given vertices at distance three, there are exactly three internally vertexdisjoint shortest paths in Q_d , and therefore there are such paths between x_1 and x_4 . Let $R = x_1 u v x_4$ be any one of them which is different from $x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4$. Considering the distances of u, v from x_1, x_k , we obtain that $u, v \in Q_d(f)$ and hence R is a path in $Q_d(f)$. Therefore $\psi(R)$ is a path in $Q_d(f')$. By the assumption that k = 4, there is also an x'_1, x'_4 -path through a' and b', implying that there are (at least) four internally disjoint shortest paths between x'_1 and x'_4 in Q_d , which is a contradiction.

Case 3: $(x'_1 \text{ is adjacent to one of } a' \text{ and } b' \text{ while } x'_k \text{ is adjacent to one of } c' \text{ and } d', \text{ or vice versa})$

Firstly, assume that x'_1 is adjacent to b' while x'_k is adjacent to c'. Then

$$\ell + 1 = d_{Q_d}(b', c') \leq d_{Q_d}(b', x'_1) + d_{Q_d}(x'_1, x'_k) + d_{Q_d}(x'_k, c') = 2 + d_{Q_d}(x'_1, x'_k) \leq 2 + d_{Q_d(f')}(x'_1, x'_k) = 2 + d_{Q_d(f)}(x_1, x_k) = k + 1$$

Hence, under this assumption $\ell = k$.

Alternatively, assume that x'_1 is adjacent to a' while x'_k is adjacent to c'. Then,

$$\ell + 2 = d_{Q_d}(a', c') \leq d_{Q_d}(a', x'_1) + d_{Q_d}(x'_1, x'_k) + d_{Q_d}(x'_k, c') \leq 2 + d_{Q_d(f')}(x'_1, x'_k) = k + 1,$$

a contradiction. The other cases similarly lead to contradictions.

If $|f| = |f'| \le d - 2$, then $\nu(f) = \nu(f')$ in general no longer implies that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$. For instance, it can be checked that $Q_6(0110) \not\cong Q_6(0100)$ despite the fact that $\nu(0110) = \nu(0100)$. On the other hand we pose the following conjecture.

Conjecture 3.2. Let f, f' be a non-trivial pair such that $Q_d(f) \cong Q_d(f')$. Then $\nu(f) = \nu(f')$.

This conjecture has also been verified for all dimensions up to 12 (and all non-trivial pairs f, f'); see Appendix A for the Sage code.

Acknowledgments: This research was supported by the bilateral Korean-Slovenian project BI-KR/13-14–005 and the International Research & Development Program of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) of Korea(Grant number: NRF-2013K1A3A1A15003503). J.A. and S.K. are supported by the Ministry of Science of Slovenia under the grant P1-0297. J.L. and Y.R. are supported by the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology grant 2011-00253195.

J.P.'s research was sponsored by the National Science Foundation under Grant Number DMS-1301692. The United States Government is authorized to reproduce and distribute reprints notwithstanding any copyright notation herein.

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A. SAGE PROGRAMS SUPPORTING THE STATED CONJECTURES

In order to test our conjectures we define the function *isom_classes* that returns a dictionary whose entries are nontrivial pairs.

```
def genFib(d,f):
    G = graphs.CubeGraph(d)
    V = [v \text{ for } v \text{ in } G.vertices() \text{ if } v.find(f) != -1]
    G.delete_vertices(V)
    return G
def inv(f):
    return ''.join(['1' if e == '0' else '0' for e in f])
def nu(s):
    cur = s[0]
    ret = 0
    for i in range(1,len(s)):
        if s[i] != cur:
             ret+=1
             cur = s[i]
    return ret
def allStr(k):
    ret = set()
    for f in CartesianProduct(*[['0','1']]*k):
        f = ''.join(f)
        if inv(f) not in ret and f[::-1] not in ret and
        inv(f[::-1]) not in ret and inv(f)[::-1] not in ret:
             ret.add(f)
    return ret
def isom_classes(d):
    D = \{\}
    for k in range(3,d):
        for f in allStr(k):
             G = genFib(d, f)
             s = G.canonical_label().graph6_string()
             if s not in D:
                 D[s] = [f]
             else:
                 D[s] += [f]
    return D
```

Conjecture 2.3 was tested with the following method.

```
def testConj1(d):
    D = isom_classes(d)
    for key in D:
        for f1,f2 in Combinations(D[key],2):
        G1 = genFib(d-1,f1)
        G2 = genFib(d-1,f2)
        if not G1.is_isomorphic(G2):
            return False
    return True
sage: all(testConj1(i) for i in xrange(2,12))
True
```

Conjecture 2.4 was tested with the following method.

```
def testConj2(d):
    D = isom_classes(d)
    for key in D:
        if len(D[key]) > 1 and len(D[key][0]) < (2/3)*(d+1):
            return False
    return True
sage: all([testConj2(i) for i in xrange(3,12)])
True
```

Finally, Conjecture 3.2 was tested with the following method.

```
def testConj3(d):
    D = isom_classes(d)
    for key in D:
        if len(set([nu(f) for f in D[key]])) > 1:
            return False
    return True
sage: all([testConj3(i) for i in xrange(3,12)])
True
```