

# *Return words and palindromes in specular sets*

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en Mathématiques



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based on a joint work with

V. Berthé, C. De Felice, V. Delecroix,  
J. Leroy, D. Perrin, C. Reutenauer, G. Rindone

► return words



► return words



► palindromes



# Outline

## Introduction

1. Specular sets
2. Return words
3. Palindromes

## Conclusions

The *extension graph* of a word  $w \in S$  is the undirected bipartite graph  $\mathcal{E}(w)$  with vertices  $L(w) \sqcup R(w)$  and edges  $B(w)$ , where

$$L(w) = \{a \in A \mid aw \in S\},$$

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$$B(w) = \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid awb \in S\}.$$

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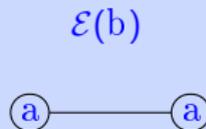
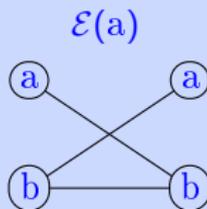
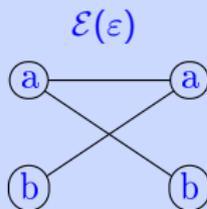
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### Example (Fibonacci)

$S = \{\varepsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, aab, aba, baa, bab, \dots\}$ .



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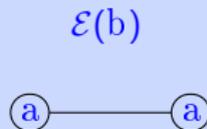
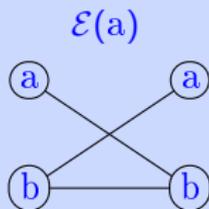
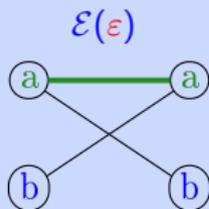
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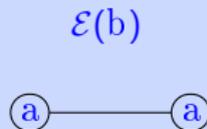
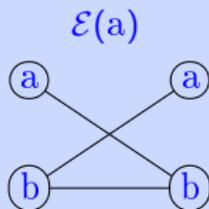
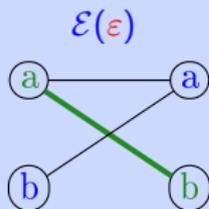
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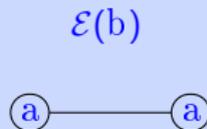
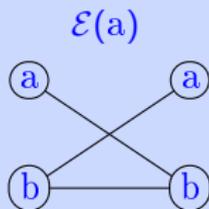
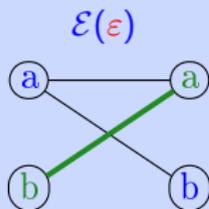
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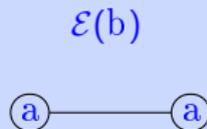
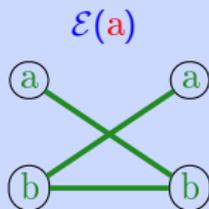
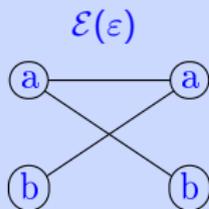
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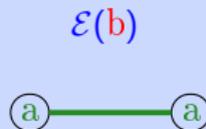
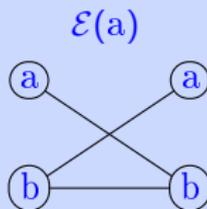
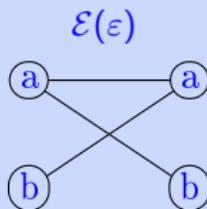
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$S = \{\varepsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, aab, aba, baa, bab, \dots\}$ .



A factorial set  $S$  is called a *tree set* of *characteristic*  $c$  if  $\mathcal{E}(w)$  is a tree for any nonempty  $w \in S$ , and  $\mathcal{E}(\varepsilon)$  is a union of  $c$  trees.

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## Theorem

Families of (uniformly) recurrent tree sets of characteristic 1 :

- ▶ Factors of Arnoux-Rauzy (*Sturmian*) words ;

[Berthé, De Felice, D., Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014)]

- ▶ Natural coding of regular interval exchanges.

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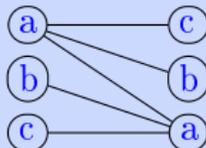
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## Example (Tribonacci)

$\mathcal{E}(\varepsilon)$



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A word is  $\theta$ -*reduced* if it has no factor of the form  $a\theta(a)$  for  $a \in A$ .

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Let  $\theta : a \mapsto a, b \mapsto d, c \mapsto c, d \mapsto b$ .

The  $\theta$ -reduction of the word  $daaacdb$  is  $dac$ .

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The set  $X = \{a, adc, b, cba, d\}$  is symmetric for  $\theta : b \leftrightarrow d$  fixing  $a, c$ .

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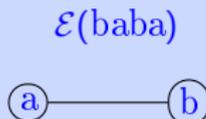
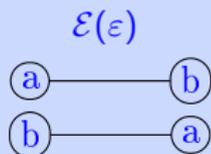
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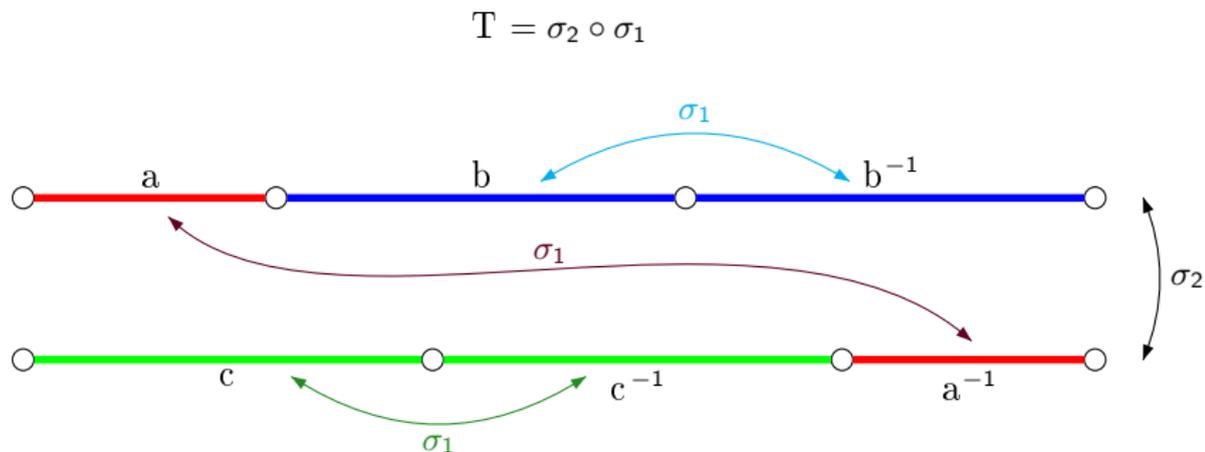


**Proposition** [using J. Cassaigne (1997)]

The factor complexity of a specular set is given by  $p_n = n(\text{Card}(A) - 2) + 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

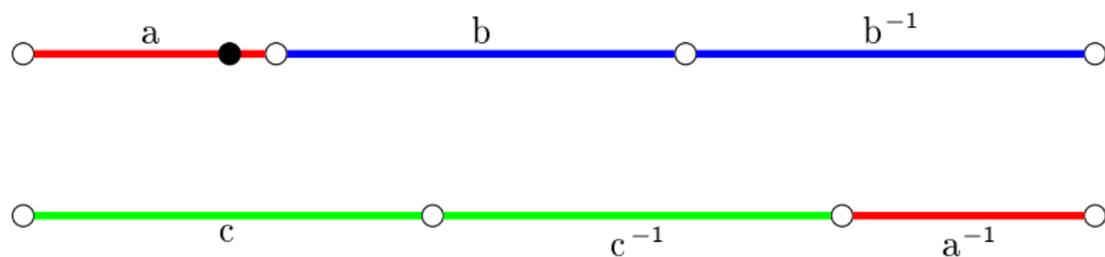
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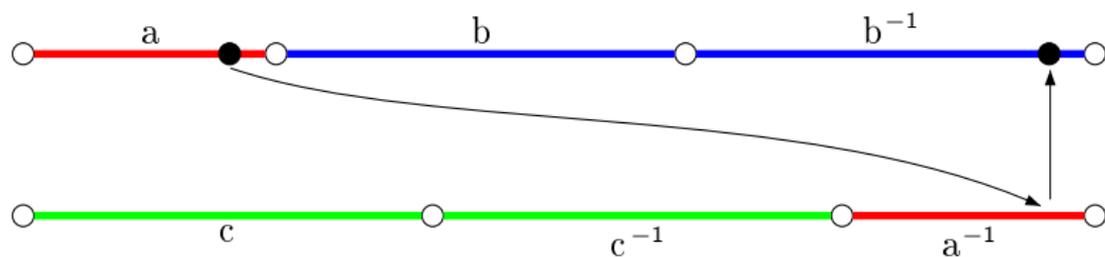
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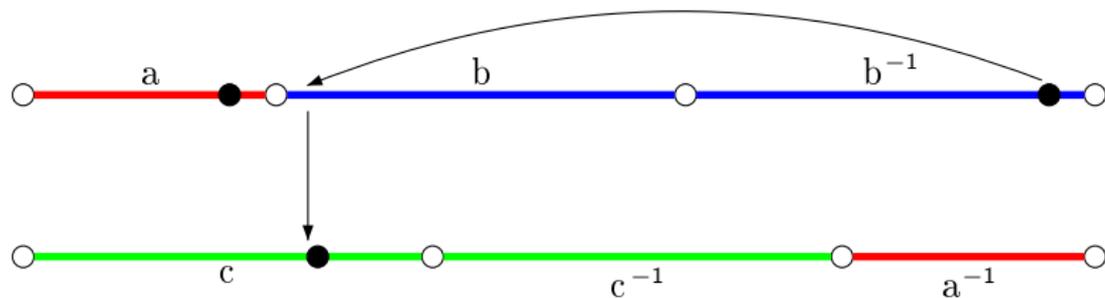
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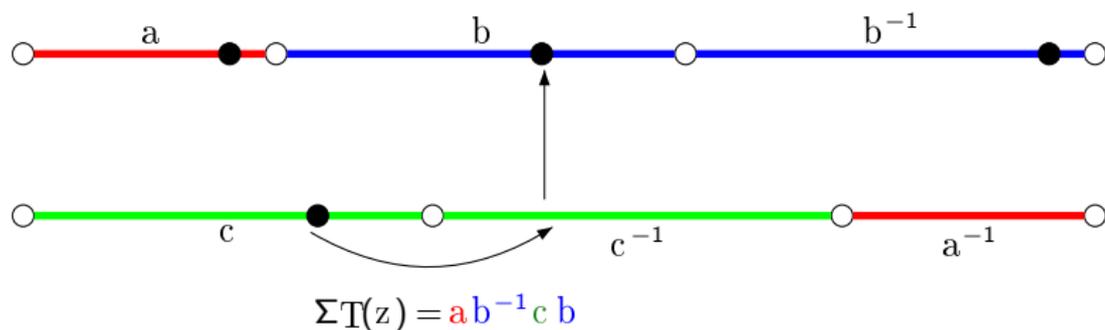
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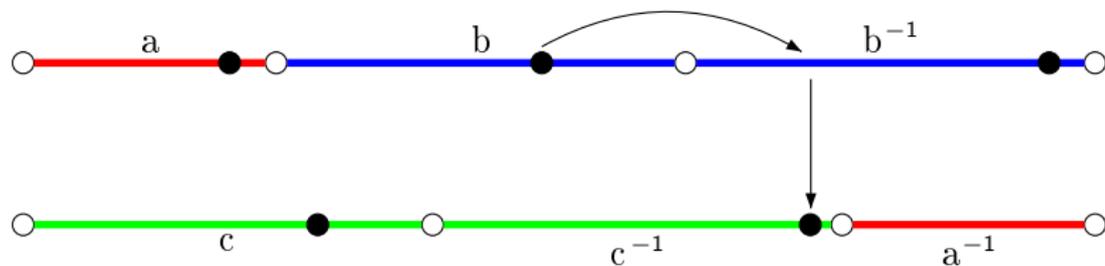
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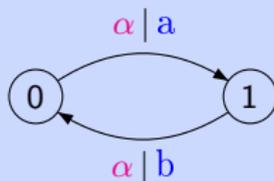
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A *doubling transducer* is a transducer with set of states  $\{0, 1\}$  such that :

1. the input automaton is a group automaton,
2. the output labels of the edges are all distinct.

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$$\Sigma = \{\alpha\}$$
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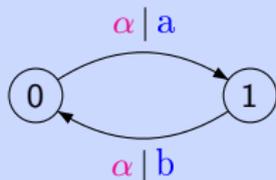
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A *doubling map* is a pair  $\delta = (\delta_0, \delta_1)$ , where  $\delta_i(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v}$  for a path starting at the state  $i$  with input label  $\mathbf{u}$  and output label  $\mathbf{v}$ .

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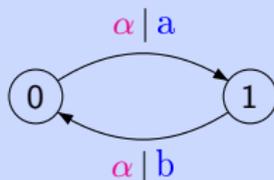
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The *image* of a set  $\mathbf{T}$  is  $\delta(\mathbf{T}) = \delta_0(\mathbf{T}) \cup \delta_1(\mathbf{T})$ .

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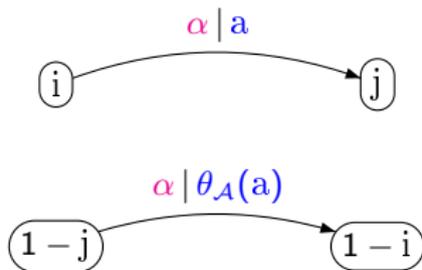
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Proposition [Berthé, De Felice, Delecroix, D., Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2015)]

The image of a tree set of characteristic 1 closed under reversal is a specular set with respect to  $\theta_{\mathcal{A}}$ .



Example (two doublings of Fibonacci on  $\Sigma = \{\alpha, \beta\}$ )

►  $\text{Fac}(\text{abaababa}\cdots) \cup \text{Fac}(\text{cdccdc}\cdots)$



$$\theta_{\mathcal{A}} : \begin{cases} a \mapsto c \\ b \mapsto d \\ c \mapsto a \\ d \mapsto b \end{cases}$$

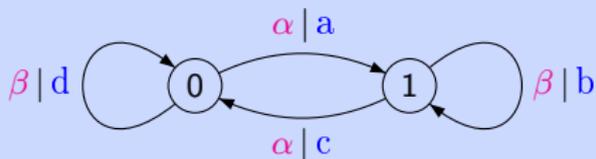
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$$\theta_{\mathcal{A}} : \begin{cases} a \mapsto a \\ b \mapsto d \\ c \mapsto c \\ d \mapsto b \end{cases}$$

A *right return word* to  $w$  in  $S$  is a nonempty word  $u$  such that  $wu \in S$ , starts and ends with  $w$  but has no  $w$  as an internal factor. Formally,

$$\mathcal{R}(w) = \{u \in A^+ \mid wu \in (A^+w \setminus A^+wA^+) \cap S\}.$$

### Example (Fibonacci)

$$\mathcal{R}(aa) = \{b\underline{aa}, \underline{b}abaa\}.$$

$$\varphi(a)^\omega = ab\underline{a}ab\underline{a}ba\underline{a}baab\underline{a}babaab\underline{a}baba\underline{a}baab\underline{a}babaab\underline{a}babaab \dots$$

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### Cardinality Theorem for Right Return Words [BDDDLPRR (2015)]

For any  $w$  in a recurrent specular set, one has

$$\text{Card}(\mathcal{R}(w)) = \text{Card}(A) - 1.$$

A *complete return word* to a set  $X \subset S$  is a word starting and ending with a word of  $X$  but having no internal factor in  $X$ . Formally,

$$CR(X) = S \cap (XA^+ \cap A^+X) \setminus A^+XA^+.$$

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$$CR(\{aa, bab\}) = \{\underline{aab}aa, \underline{aabab}, \underline{babaa}\}.$$

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$$\mathcal{CR}(\{aa, bab\}) = \{\underline{aab}aa, \underline{aab}ab, \underline{baba}a\}.$$

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### Cardinality Theorem for Complete Return Words [BDDDLPRR (2015)]

Let  $S$  be a recurrent specular set and  $X \subset S$  be a finite *bifix code*<sup>1</sup> with empty *kernel*<sup>2</sup>. Then,

$$\text{Card}(\mathcal{CR}(X)) = \text{Card}(X) + \text{Card}(A) - 2.$$

1. *bifix code* : set that does not contain any proper prefix or suffix of its elements.
2. *kernel* : set of words of  $X$  which are also internal factors of  $X$ .

Two words  $u, v$  *overlap* if a nonempty suffix of one of them is a prefix of the other.

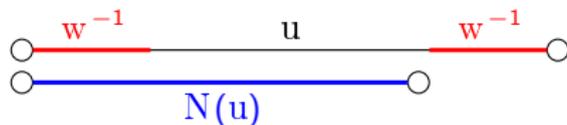


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Consider a word  $w$  not overlapping with  $w^{-1}$ .

A *mixed return word* to  $w$  is the word  $N(u)$  obtained from  $u \in \mathcal{CR}(\{w, w^{-1}\})$  erasing the prefix if it is  $w$  and the suffix if it is  $w^{-1}$ .

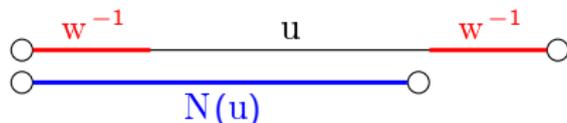


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### Cardinality Theorem for Mixed Return Words [BDDDLPRR (2015)]

Let  $S$  be a recurrent specular set and  $w \in S$  such that  $w, w^{-1}$  do not overlap. Then,

$$\text{Card}(\mathcal{MR}(w)) = \text{Card}(A).$$

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Theorem [X. Droubay, J. Justin, G. Pirillo (2001)]

A word of length  $n$  has at most  $n + 1$  palindrome factors.

A word with maximal number of palindromes is *rich*.

A factorial set is *rich* if all its elements are rich.

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Theorem [A. Glen, J. Justin, S. Widmer, L.Q. Zamboni (2009)]

Let  $S$  be a recurrent set closed under reversal.

$S$  is rich  $\iff$  every complete return word to a palindrome is a palindrome.

## Theorem

Families of rich sets :

- ▶ Factors of Arnoux-Rauzy (*Sturmian*) words.

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- ▶ Natural coding of regular interval exchanges defined by a symmetric permutation.

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Theorem [Berthé, De Felice, Delecroix, D., Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2016)]

Recurrent tree sets of characteristic 1 closed under reversal are rich.

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### Theorem [Š. Starosta (2011)]

Let  $\gamma_\sigma(w)$  be the number of transpositions of  $\sigma$  affecting  $w$ . Then,

$$\text{Card}(\text{Pal}_\sigma(w)) \leq |w| + 1 - \gamma_\sigma(w).$$

A word (set) is  $\sigma$ -rich if the equality holds (for all its elements).

Let  $G$  be a group of morphisms and antimorphisms, containing at least an antimorphism. A word  $w$  is a  $G$ -*palindrome* if there exists a nontrivial  $g \in G$  s.t.  $w = g(w)$ .

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Let  $G = \langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$ , with  $\sigma : A \leftrightarrow R, E \leftrightarrow T, I \leftrightarrow M, O \leftrightarrow U$  and  
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**Theorem [E. Pelantová, Š. Starosta (2014)]**

A set  $S$  closed under  $G$  is  $G$ -rich if for every  $w \in S$ , every complete return word to the  $G$ -orbit of  $w$  is fixed by a nontrivial element of  $G$ .

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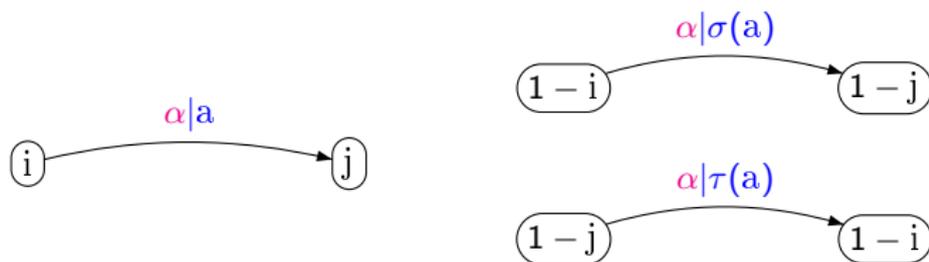
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Theorem [Berthé, De Felice, Delecroix, D., Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2016)]

The specular set obtained as image under a doubling transducer  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $G_{\mathcal{A}}$ -rich.

$$G_{\mathcal{A}} = \{\text{id}, \sigma, \tau, \sigma\tau\} \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$$

with  $\sigma$  an antimorphism and  $\tau$  a morphism.



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- ▶ New family of  $G$ -rich sets.

Specular sets obtained by doubling maps are  $G_{\mathcal{A}}$ -rich.

# *Further Research Directions*

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- ▶ New classes of  $G$ -rich sets (or new groups  $G$ ).



**Děkuji**