

# *Codes bifixes, combinatoire des mots et systèmes dynamiques symboliques*

*Bifix Codes, Combinatorics on Words and Symbolic Dynamical Systems*



**RDMath IdF**  
Domaine d'Intérêt Majeur (DIM)  
en Mathématiques



Francesco DOLCE

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# *Combinatorics on Words*



# Combinatorics on Words

- 011001
- ACGCCTAAT
- ♥♣♥♦♥♠♦
- 1221121221211211221211212211 ...



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- ACGCCTAAT
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- 1221121221211211221211212211 ...





# Combinatorics on Words

## Factor complexity

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l'mma be be be be l'mma l'mma be  
l'mma be be be be l'mma l'mma be  
l'mma be be be be l'mma l'mma be. [1]*

*Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?  
Caught in a landslide, no escape from reality.  
Open your eyes, look up to the skies and see.  
I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy,  
Because I'm easy come, easy go, little high,  
little low. [2]*

[1]. W. Adams, T. Brenneck, M. Deller, F. Duhamel, D. Foder, J.L. Gomez, K. Harris, A.P. Lindo, J. Tankel (2009).

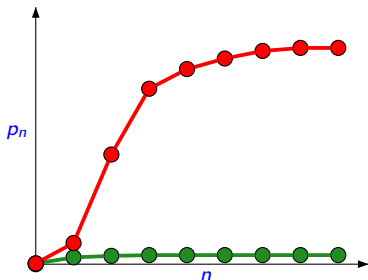
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# Codes

$$A = \{\bullet, -, \sqcup\}$$

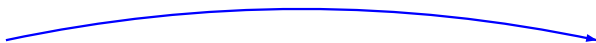
$\bullet - \sqcup$	$\bullet \bullet \bullet \sqcup$	$- - - \sqcup$	$\bullet \bullet \bullet - \sqcup$
$- \bullet \bullet \bullet \sqcup$	$\bullet \bullet \sqcup$	$\bullet - - - \sqcup$	$\bullet - - \sqcup$
$- \bullet - \bullet \sqcup$	$\bullet - - - \sqcup$	$- - \bullet - \sqcup$	$- \bullet \bullet - \sqcup$
$- \bullet \bullet \sqcup$	$- \bullet - \sqcup$	$\bullet - \bullet \sqcup$	$- \bullet - - \sqcup$
$\bullet \sqcup$	$\bullet - \bullet \bullet \sqcup$	$\bullet \bullet \bullet \sqcup$	$- - \bullet \bullet \sqcup$
$\bullet \bullet - \bullet \sqcup$	$- - \sqcup$	$- \sqcup$	
$- - \bullet \sqcup$	$\bullet - \sqcup$	$\bullet \bullet - \sqcup$	



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$- \bullet \bullet \bullet \_$	$\bullet \bullet \_$	$\bullet - - - \_$	$\bullet - - \_$
$- \bullet - \bullet \_$	$\bullet - - - \_$	$- - \bullet - \_$	$- \bullet \bullet - \_$
$- \bullet \bullet \_$	$- \bullet - \_$	$\bullet - \bullet \_$	$- \bullet - - \_$
$\bullet \_$	$\bullet - \bullet \bullet \_$	$\bullet \bullet \bullet \_$	$- - \bullet \bullet \_$
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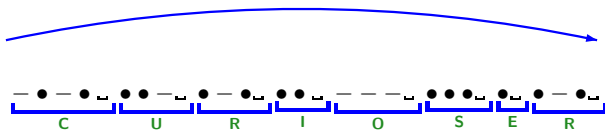


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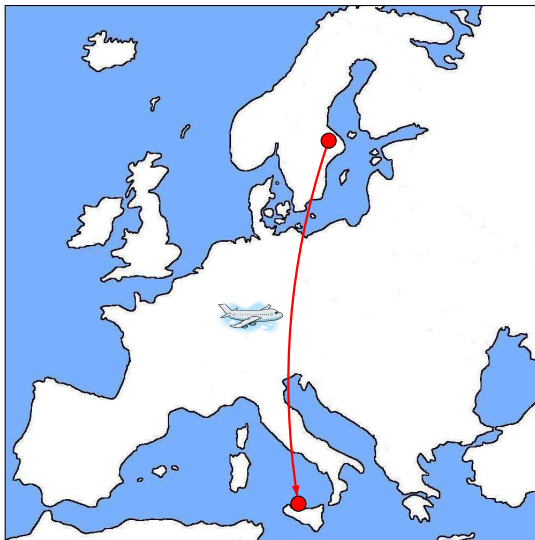
$A = \{\bullet, -, \_ \}$ ,  $B = \{A, B, \dots, Z\}$ ,

$f : B^* \rightarrow A^*$

A ↪ • - _	H ↪ • • • _	O ↪ - - - _	V ↪ • • • - _
B ↪ - • • • _	I ↪ • • _	P ↪ • - - - _	W ↪ • - - _
C ↪ - • - • _	J ↪ • - - - - _	Q ↪ - - • - _	X ↪ - • • - _
D ↪ - • • _	K ↪ - • - _	R ↪ • - • _	Y ↪ - • - - _
E ↪ • _	L ↪ • - • • _	S ↪ • • • _	Z ↪ - - • • _
F ↪ • • - • _	M ↪ - - _	T ↪ - _	
G ↪ - - • _	N ↪ • - _	U ↪ • • - _	



# Dynamical Systems

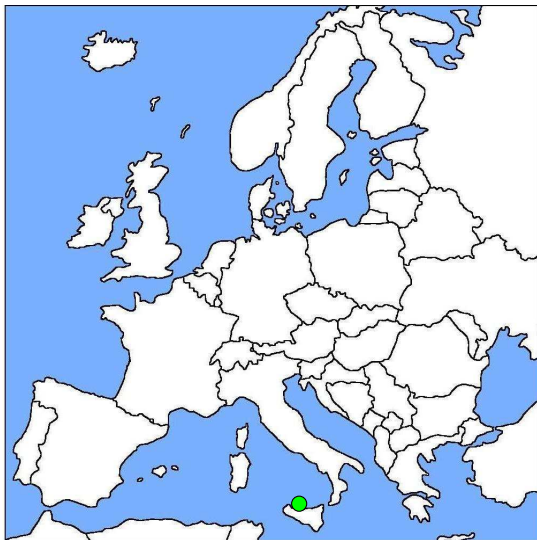


# *Dynamical Systems*



$: E \rightarrow E$

|

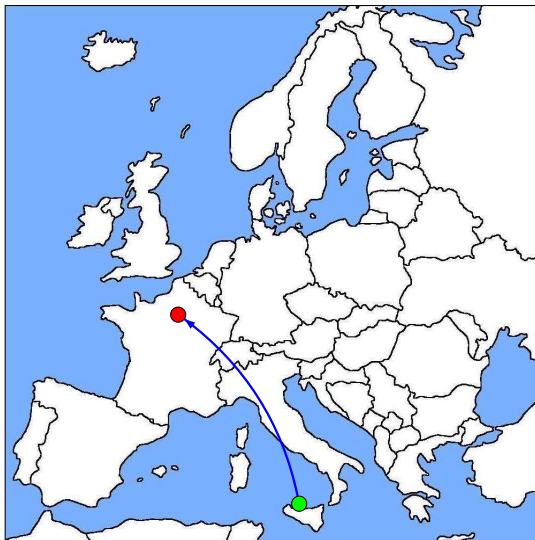


# Dynamical Systems



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I F

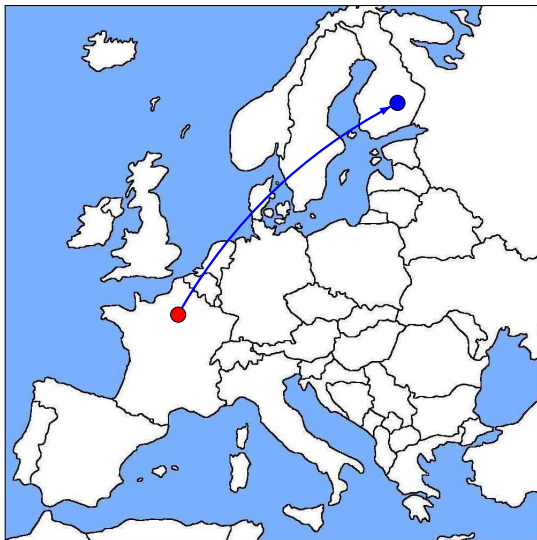


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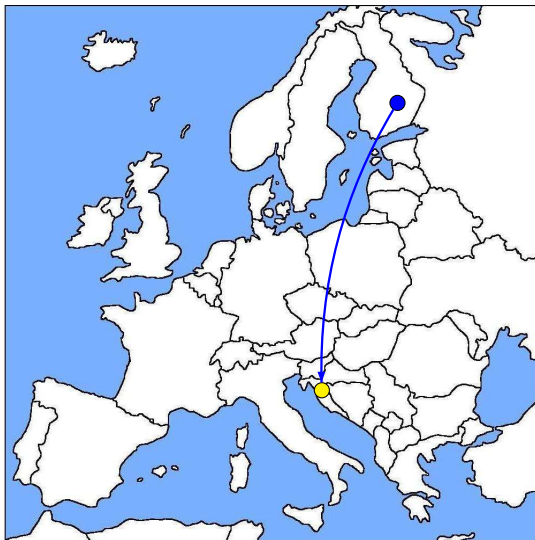


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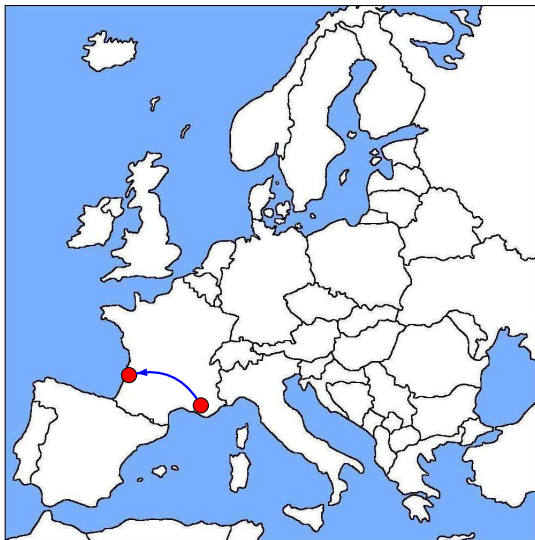


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# Dynamical Systems



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# Dynamical Systems



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# SUMMARY

- I. Motivation : “ *The Fibonacci Menace* ”
- II. Arnoux-Rauzy sets : “ *Attack of the Arnoux-Rauzy* ”
- III. Interval exchange sets : “ *Revenge of the IET* ”
  
- IV. Tree and neutral sets : “ *Two New Hopes* ”
- V. Bifix codes : “ *Bifix Codes Strike Back* ”
- VI. Return words : “ *Return of the Word* ”
  
- VII. To conclude : “ *The Audience Awakens* ”

# Fibonacci



$$x = \text{abaababaabaababa} \dots$$

$$x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi^n(a) \quad \text{where} \quad \varphi : \begin{cases} a \mapsto ab \\ b \mapsto a \end{cases}$$

# Fibonacci

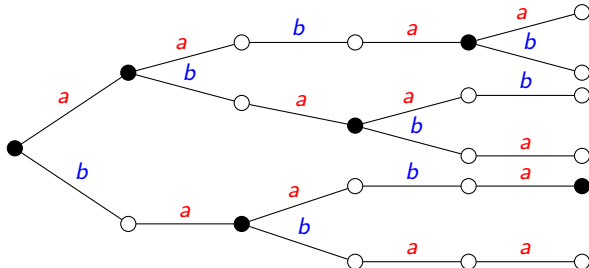


$$x = \text{abaababaabaababa} \cdots$$

The *Fibonacci set* (set of factors of  $x$ ) is a Sturmian set.

## Definition

A *Sturmian* set is a factorial set of factor complexity  $p_n = n + 1$ .



# Fibonacci



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## Definition

A factorial set  $S$  is *recurrent* if for every  $u \in S$  there is a  $v \in S$  such that  $uvu$  is in  $S$ .

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## Proposition

Uniform recurrence  $\implies$  recurrence.

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## Definition

An *Arnoux-Rauzy* set is a factorial set closed by reversal with  $p_n = (\text{Card}(A) - 1)n + 1$  having a unique right special factor for each length.

# Fibonacci

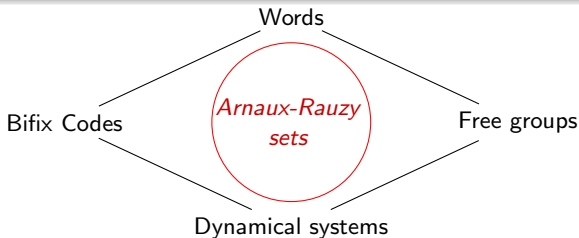


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[ J. Berstel, C. De Felice, D. Perrin, C. Reutenauer, G. Rindone : "Bifix codes and Sturmian words" (2012). ]

# *Fibonacci*

$$x = ab\ aa\ ba\ ba\ ab\ aa\ ba\ ba \dots$$

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$$f : \begin{cases} u \mapsto aa \\ v \mapsto ab \\ w \mapsto ba \end{cases}$$

# Fibonacci

$$f^{-1}(x) = v u w w v u w w \dots$$

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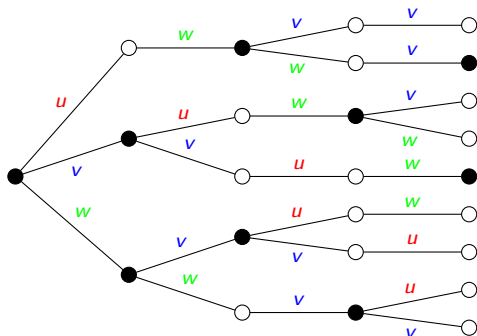
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Is the set of factors of  $f^{-1}(S)$  an Arnoux-Rauzy set?

# Fibonacci

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Is the set of factors of  $f^{-1}(S)$  an Arnoux-Rauzy set? **No!**



$n$	0 ,	1 ,	2 ,	3 ,	4 ,	...
$p_n$	1 ,	3 ,	5 ,	7 ,	9 ,	...



# *Fibonacci*

$$f^{-1}(x) = v u w w v u w w \dots$$

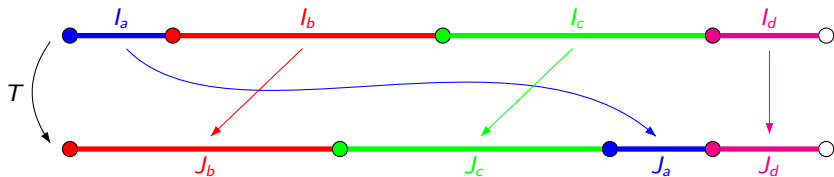


# Interval exchanges

Let  $(I_a)_{a \in A}$  and  $(J_a)_{a \in A}$  be two partitions of  $[0, 1[$ .

An *interval exchange transformation* (IET) is a map  $T : [0, 1[ \rightarrow [0, 1[$  defined by

$$T(z) = z + \alpha_z \quad \text{if } z \in I_a.$$

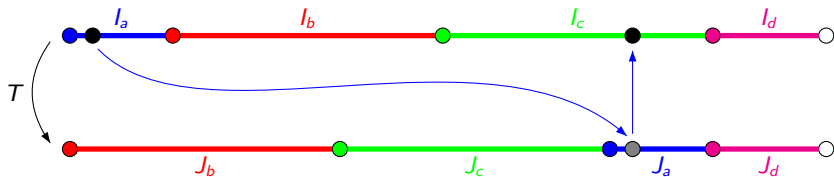


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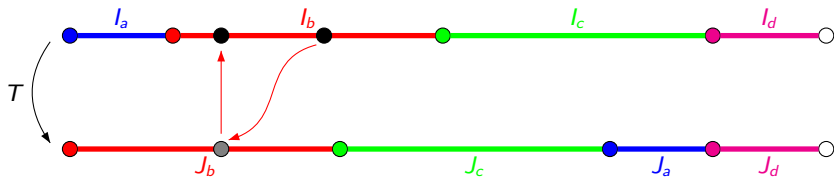


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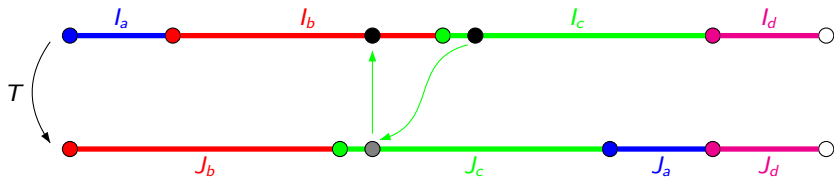


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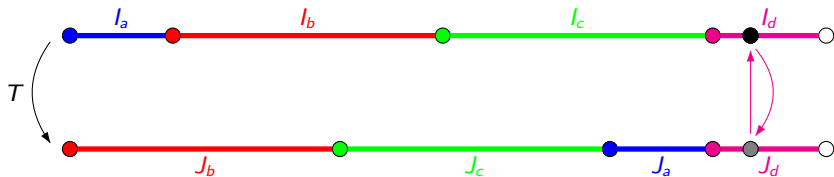


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$T$  is said to be *minimal* if for any point  $z \in [0, 1[$  the orbit  $\mathcal{O}(z) = \{T^n(z) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is dense in  $[0, 1[$ .

$T$  is said *regular* if the orbits of the separation points  $\neq 0$  are infinite and disjoint.

**Theorem** [M. Keane (1975)]

A regular interval exchange transformation is minimal.

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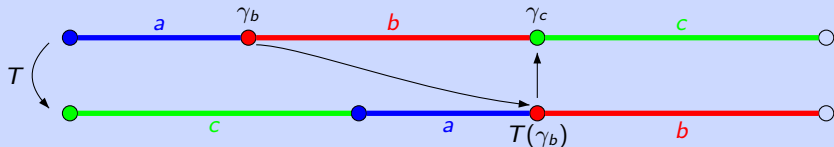
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**Example** (the converse is not true)



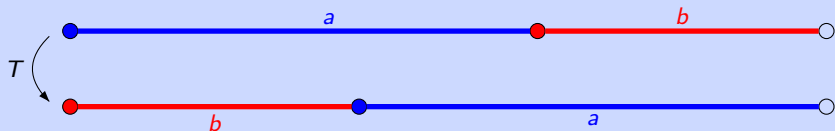


## Interval exchanges

The *natural coding* of  $T$  relative to  $z \in [0, 1[$  is the infinite word  $\Sigma_T(z) = a_0 a_1 \cdots \in A^\omega$  defined by

$$a_n = a \quad \text{if } T^n(z) \in I_a.$$

Example (Fibonacci,  $\alpha = (3 - \sqrt{5})/2$ )

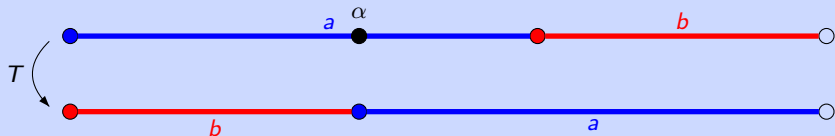


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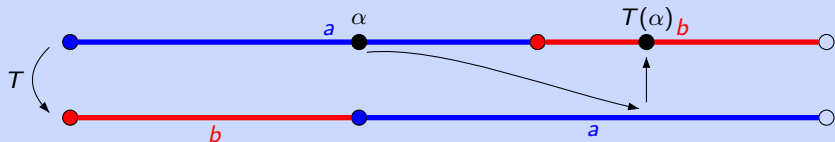
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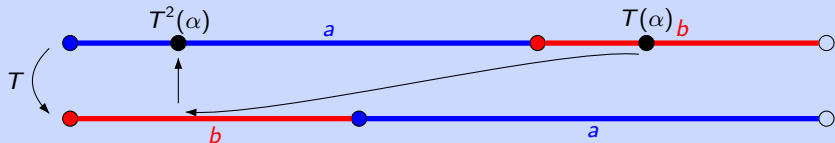
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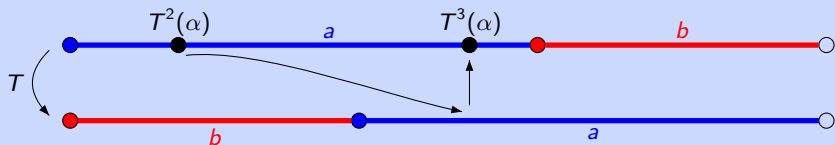
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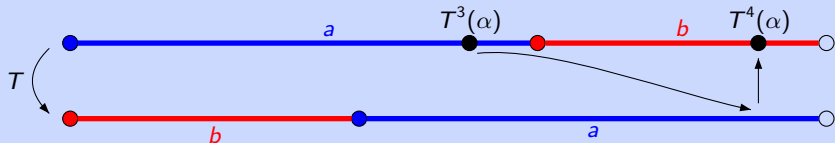
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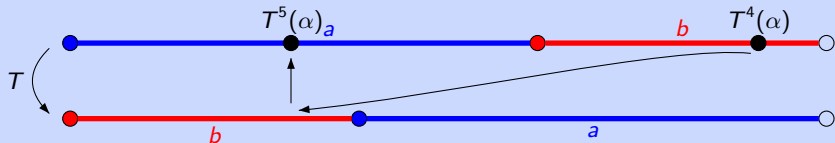
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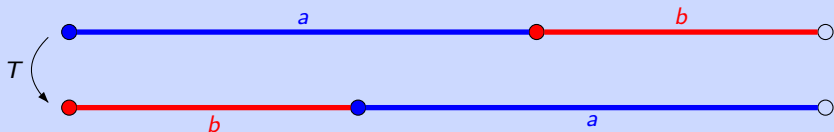
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## Interval exchanges

The set  $\mathcal{L}(T) = \bigcup_{z \in [0,1[} \text{Fac}(\Sigma_T(z))$  is said a (*minimal, regular*) *interval exchange set*.

Remark. If  $T$  is minimal,  $\text{Fac}(\Sigma_T(z))$  does not depend on the point  $z$ .

### Example (Fibonacci)



$$\mathcal{L}(T) = \{ \varepsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, aab, aba, baa, \dots \}$$

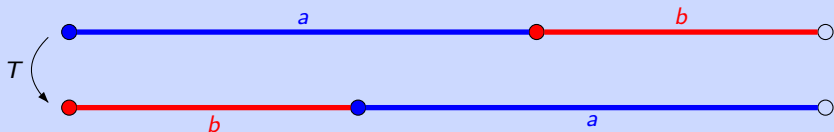


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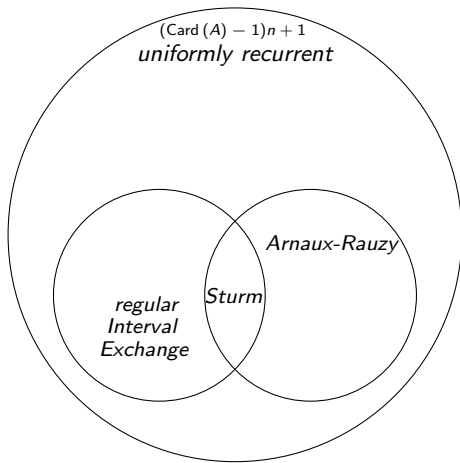


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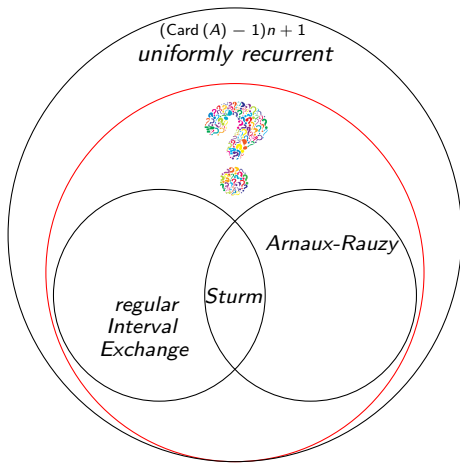
### Proposition

Regular interval exchange sets have factor complexity  $p_n = (\text{Card}(A) - 1)n + 1$ .

# Arnau-Rauzy and Interval Exchanges



# Arnau-Rauzy and Interval Exchanges



# SUMMARY

## IV. Tree and neutral sets : " *Two New Hopes* "

- Extension graphs and multiplicity
- Tree and neutral sets

## V. Bifix codes : " *Bifix Codes Strike Back* "

- Maximal bifix decoding
- Cardinality of bifix codes
- Finite index basis property

## VI. Return words : " *Return of the Word* "

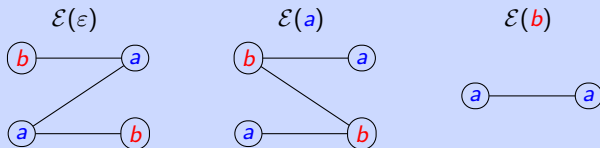
- Cardinality of return words
- Return theorem
- Derivation

## Extension graphs

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

$$\begin{aligned}L(w) &= \{a \in A \mid aw \in S\}, \\R(w) &= \{a \in A \mid wa \in S\}, \\B(w) &= \{(a, b) \in A \mid awb \in S.\}\end{aligned}$$

Example (Fibonacci,  $S = \{\varepsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, aab, aba, baa, bab, \dots\}$ )



## Extension graphs

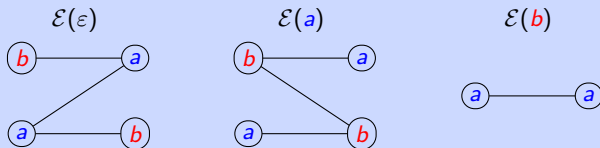
The *extension graph* of a word  $w \in S$  is the undirected bipartite graph  $\mathcal{E}(w)$  with vertices  $L(w) \sqcup R(w)$  and edges  $B(w)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}L(w) &= \{a \in A \mid aw \in S\}, \\R(w) &= \{a \in A \mid wa \in S\}, \\B(w) &= \{(a, b) \in A \mid awb \in S.\}\end{aligned}$$

The *multiplicity* of a word  $w$  is the quantity

$$m(w) = \text{Card}(B(w)) - \text{Card}(L(w)) - \text{Card}(R(w)) + 1.$$

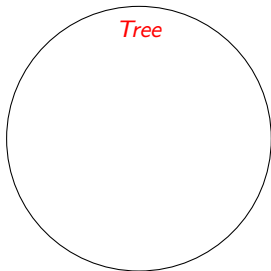
Example (Fibonacci,  $S = \{\varepsilon, a, b, aa, ab, ba, aab, aba, baa, bab, \dots\}$ )



## *Tree and neutral sets*

### Definition

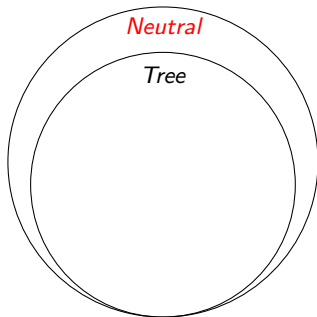
A factorial set  $S$  is called a *tree set* if the graph  $\mathcal{E}(w)$  is a tree for any nonempty  $w \in S$ .



## Tree and neutral sets

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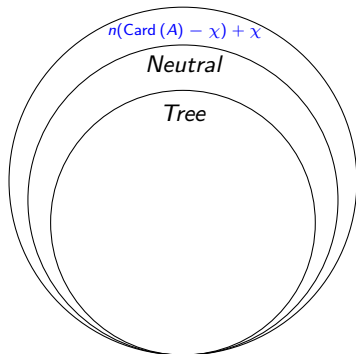


## Tree and neutral sets

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The *characteristic* of a neutral/tree set  $S$  is the quantity  $\chi(S) = 1 - m(\varepsilon)$ .



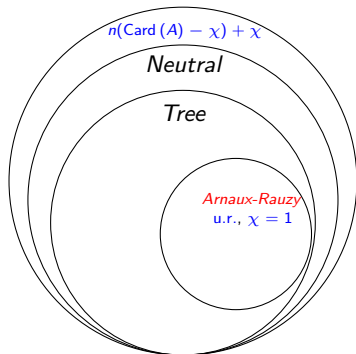
[ J. Cassaigne : "Complexité et facteurs spéciaux" (1997). ]

## Tree and neutral sets

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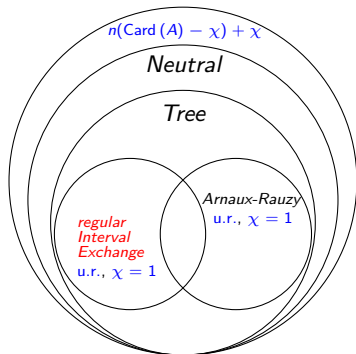
[ Berthé, De Felice, [Dolce](#), Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone : "Acyclic, connected and tree sets" (2014). ]

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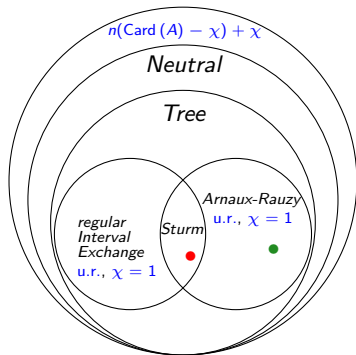
[ Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone : "Bifix codes and interval exchanges" (2015). ]

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● Fibonacci

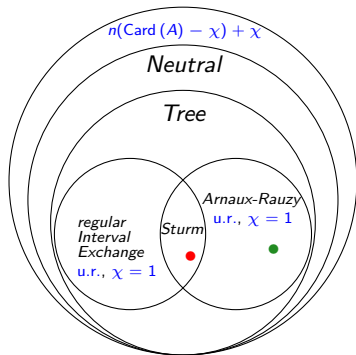
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- Fibonacci
- ? 2-coded Fibonacci
- Tribonacci
- ? 2-coded Tribonacci

# Bifix codes

## Definition

A *bifix code* is a set  $X \subset A^+$  of nonempty words that does not contain any proper prefix or suffix of its elements.

## Example

- $\{aa, ab, ba\}$
- $\{aa, ab, bba, bbb\}$
- $\{ac, bcc, bcbca\}$

# Bifix codes

## Definition

A *bifix code* is a set  $X \subset A^+$  of nonempty words that does not contain any proper prefix or suffix of its elements.

A bifix code  $X \subset S$  is *S-maximal* if it is not properly contained in a bifix code  $Y \subset S$ .

## Example (Fibonacci)

The set  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$  is an *S*-maximal bifix code.

It is not an  $A^*$ -maximal bifix code, since  $X \subset X \cup \{bb\}$ .

# Bifix codes

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A *coding morphism* for a bifix code  $X \subset A^+$  is a morphism  $f : B^* \rightarrow A^*$  which maps bijectively  $B$  onto  $X$ .

## Example

The map  $f : \{u, v, w\}^* \rightarrow \{a, b\}^*$  is a coding morphism for  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$ .

$$f : \begin{cases} u \mapsto aa \\ v \mapsto ab \\ w \mapsto ba \end{cases}$$



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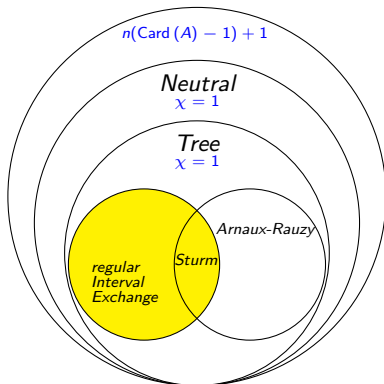
$$f : \begin{cases} u \mapsto aa \\ v \mapsto ab \\ w \mapsto ba \end{cases}$$

When  $S$  is factorial and  $X$  is an  $S$ -maximal bifix code, the set  $f^{-1}(S)$  is called a *maximal bifix decoding* of  $S$ .

# Maximal bifix decoding

Theorem [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014)]

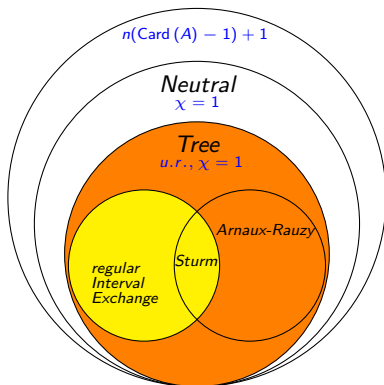
The family of **regular interval exchange sets** is closed under maximal bifix decoding.



# Maximal bifix decoding

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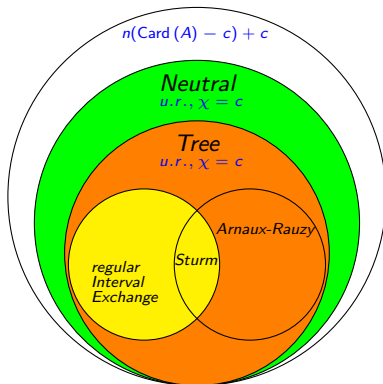
The family of (*uniformly*) recurrent **tree sets** of characteristic 1 is closed under maximal bifix decoding.



# Maximal bifix decoding

Theorem [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014, 2015); Dolce, Perrin (2016)]

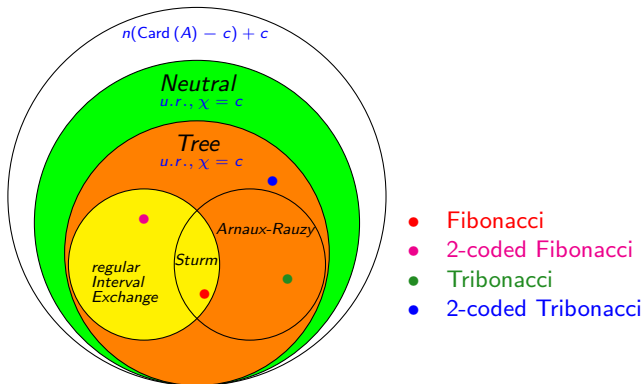
The family of (*uniformly*) recurrent **neutral sets** (resp. **tree sets**) of characteristic  $c$  is closed under maximal bifix decoding.



# Maximal bifix decoding

Theorem [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014, 2015); Dolce, Perrin (2016)]

The family of (uniformly) recurrent **neutral sets** (resp. **tree sets**) of characteristic  $c$  is closed under maximal bifix decoding.



# Parse and degree

## Definition

A *parse* of a word  $w$  with respect to a bifix code  $X$  is a triple  $(q, x, p)$  such that :

- $w = qxp$ ,
- $q$  has no suffix in  $X$ ,
- $x \in X^*$  and
- $p$  has no prefix in  $X$ .

## Example

Let  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$  and  $w = abaaba$ . The two possible parses of  $w$  are :

- $(\varepsilon, abaa, \varepsilon)$ ,
- $(a, baab, a)$ .



a b a a b a a

# Parse and degree

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- $q$  has no suffix in  $X$ ,
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- $p$  has no prefix in  $X$ .

The *S-degree* of  $X$  is the maximal number of parses with respect to  $X$  of a word of  $S$ .

## Example (Fibonacci)

- The set  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$  has *S-degree* 2.
- The set  $X = S \cap A^n$  has *S-degree*  $n$ .

## Cardinality of bifix codes

### Theorem [Dolce, Perrin (2016)]

Let  $S$  be a neutral set of characteristic  $c$ .

For any finite  $S$ -maximal bifix code  $X$  of  $S$ -degree  $n$ , one has

$$\text{Card}(X) = n(\text{Card}(A) - c) + c.$$

### Example (Fibonacci)

The  $S$ -maximal bifix codes  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$  and  $Y = \{a, bab, baab\}$  of  $S$ -degree 2 satisfy

$$\text{Card}(X) = \text{Card}(Y) = 2(2 - 1) + 1 = 3.$$



## Cardinality of bifix codes

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### Theorem [Dolce, Perrin (2016)]

Let  $S$  be a uniformly recurrent set.

If every finite  $S$ -maximal bifix code of  $S$ -degree  $n$  has  $n(\text{Card}(A) - c) + c$  elements, then  $S$  is neutral of characteristic  $c$ .

## *Finite index basis property*

### Example (Fibonacci)

The  $S$ -maximal bifix code  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$  of  $S$ -degree 2 is a basis of  $\langle A^2 \rangle$ . Indeed

$$bb = ba(aa)^{-1}ab$$

## Finite index basis property

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The  $S$ -maximal bifix code  $X = \{aa, ab, ba\}$  of  $S$ -degree 2 is a basis of  $\langle A^2 \rangle$ . Indeed

$$bb = ba(aa)^{-1}ab$$

Also  $S \cap A^3 = \{aab, aba, baa, bab\}$  is a basis of  $\langle A^3 \rangle$  :

$$aaa = aab(bab)^{-1}baa$$

$$abb = aba(baa)^{-1}bab$$

$$bba = bab(aab)^{-1}aba$$

$$bbb = bba(aba)^{-1}aab$$

## *Finite index basis property*

### Definition

A set  $S \subset A^+$  satisfies the *finite index basis property* if for any finite bifix code  $X \subset S$  :  
 $X$  is an  $S$ -maximal bifix code of  $S$ -degree  $d$  **if and only if** it is a basis of a subgroup of index  $d$  of the free group on  $A$ .

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**Theorem** [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014)]

A **regular interval exchange set** satisfies the finite index basis property.

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### Definition

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**Theorem** [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014, 2015)]

A (*uniformly*) recurrent **tree set** of characteristic **1** satisfies the finite index basis property.

# Finite index basis property

## Definition

A set  $S \subset A^+$  satisfies the *finite index basis property* if for any finite bifix code  $X \subset S$  :  
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A (*uniformly*) recurrent tree set of characteristic 1 satisfies the finite index basis property.

**Theorem** [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2015)]

A uniformly recurrent set satisfying the finite index basis property is a tree sets of characteristic 1.

## Return words

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,

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

Example (Fibonacci)

$$\mathcal{R}_S(b) = \{\underline{ab}, a\underline{ab}\}$$

$$\varphi(a)^\omega = aba\underline{b}aabaababaab\underline{a}baababaabaab \dots$$



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Example (Fibonacci)

$$\mathcal{R}_S(aa) = \{\underline{baa}, \underline{babaa}\}$$

$$\varphi(a)^w = abaa\underline{baba}baabababaa\underline{baba}babaabaab \dots$$

# Cardinality of return words

Theorem [L. Vuillon (2001)]

Let  $S$  be a **Sturmian set**. For every  $w \in S$ , one has

$$\text{Card}(\mathcal{R}_S(w)) = 2.$$

## Cardinality of return words

Theorem [L. Vuillon (2001); L. Balková, E. Pelantová, W. Steiner (2008)]

Let  $S$  be a recurrent **neutral set** of characteristic 1. For every  $w \in S$ , one has

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

# Cardinality of return words

**Theorem** [L. Vuillon (2001); L. Balková, E. Pelantová, W. Steiner (2008); [Dolce](#), Perrin (2016)]

Let  $S$  be a recurrent neutral set. For every  $w \in S$ , one has

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

## Cardinality of return words

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Let  $S$  be a recurrent neutral set. For every  $w \in S$ , one has

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

**Corollary**

A recurrent neutral set is uniformly recurrent.

**Proof.** A recurrent set  $S$  is uniformly recurrent if and only if  $\mathcal{R}_S(w)$  is finite for all  $w \in S$ .

# Return Theorem

**Theorem** [Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014)]

Let  $S$  be a recurrent tree set of characteristic 1.

Then, for any  $w \in S$ , the set  $\mathcal{R}_S(w)$  is a basis of the free group on  $A$ .

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Then, for any  $w \in S$ , the set  $\mathcal{R}_S(w)$  is a basis of the free group on  $A$ .

**Example (Fibonacci)**

The set  $\mathcal{R}_S(aa) = \{baa, babaa\}$  is a basis of the free group. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} a &= baa (babaa)^{-1} baa \\ b &= baa a^{-1} a^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

# Derivation

## Example (Fibonacci)

$$\mathcal{R}_S(aa) = \{baa, babaa\}.$$

$$x = abaababaabaababaababaabaabaaba \dots$$



# Derivation

## Example (Fibonacci)

$$\mathcal{R}_S(aa) = \{baa, babaa\}.$$

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# Derivation

## Example (Fibonacci)

$\mathcal{R}_S(aa) = \{baa, babaa\}$ . Let  $f : B^* \rightarrow A^*$  defined by  $f(u) = baa$ ,  $f(v) = babaa$ .

$$x = abaababaaabaabababaaabaababaa \dots$$

$$f^{-1}(a^{-1}x) = uvuvvuvu \dots$$

## Definition

Let  $S$  be a recurrent,  $w \in S$  and  $f : B^* \rightarrow A^*$  a morphism such that  $B \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \mathcal{R}_S(w)$ .  
The set  $\mathcal{D}_f(S) = f^{-1}(w^{-1}S)$  is called the *derived set* of  $S$  with respect to  $f$ .

# Derivation

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## Theorem [J. Justin, L. Vuillon (2000)]

The family of **Sturmian sets** is closed under derivation.

# Derivation

## Example (Fibonacci)

$\mathcal{R}_S(aa) = \{baa, babaa\}$ . Let  $f : B^* \rightarrow A^*$  defined by  $f(u) = baa$ ,  $f(v) = babaa$ .

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**Theorem** [J. Justin, L. Vuillon (2000) ; Berthé, De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2014)]

The family of **regular interval exchange sets** is closed under derivation.



# SUMMARY

## VII. To conclude : " *The Audience Awakens* "

- Specular sets, linear involutions and a few other stuff
- Further research directions

# Specular sets

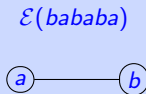
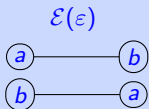


A *specular set* with respect to a linear involution  $\theta$  on an alphabet  $A$  is a :

- ▶ biextendable
- ▶ tree set of characteristic 2
- ▶  $\theta$ -reduced (no factor of the form  $a\theta(a)$  for  $a \in A$ )
- ▶  $\theta$ -symmetric (if  $w \in S$  then  $\theta(w) \in S$ )

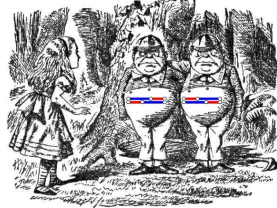
## Example

Let  $A = \{a, b\}$  and  $\theta$  be the identity on  $A$ . The set of factors of  $(ab)^\omega$  is a specular set.



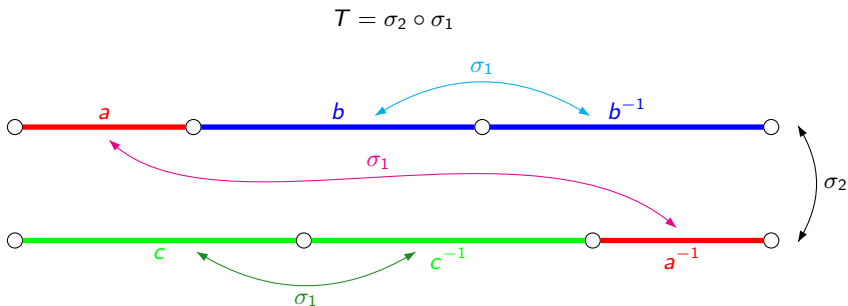


# Linear involutions



**Theorem** [Berthé, De Felice, Delecroix, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone (2015)]

The natural coding of a linear involution without connections is a specular set.



## *And a few other stuff*

*“Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!”*

- ▶ Weak/strong and acyclic/connected sets;
- ▶ Palindromes in tree and specular sets;
- ▶ Branching Rauzy induction;
- ▶ Interval exchanges over a quadratic field;
- ▶ ...



## Further research directions



- ▶ Decidability of the tree condition  
[ Work in progress with [Revekka Kyriakoglou](#) and [Julien Leroy](#) ]
- ▶ Converse of the Return Theorem  
[  $\mathcal{R}_S(w)$  basis of  $F_A$  for all  $w \in S \stackrel{?}{\implies} S$  is a tree set of  $\chi = 1$  ]
- ▶ Extension graphs and palindromic defect  
[  $D(u) > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(u)$  closed under reversal  $\implies \mathcal{E}(w)$  has a cycle ]
- ▶ Quasi-tree sets  
[ Sets with a finite number of non-neutral elements. ]
- ▶ Connections with profinite monoids/groups.  
[  $S$  tree of  $\chi = 1 \implies$  its Schützenberger group is a free profinite group ]

*Thank you  
for attending  
my ~~Tea Party!~~  
PhD defense*

