

# Complexité palindromique des codages de rotations et conjectures

Sébastien Labbé

Laboratoire d'Informatique, de Robotique et de Microélectronique de Montpellier  
Université Montpellier 2  
Laboratoire de Combinatoire et d'Informatique Mathématique  
Université du Québec à Montréal

Séminaire Ernest  
Dynamique, Arithmétique, Combinatoire  
Institut de Mathématique de Luminy  
Marseille, 20 avril 2010

## 1 Introduction

- Complexité palindromique
- Mots pleins

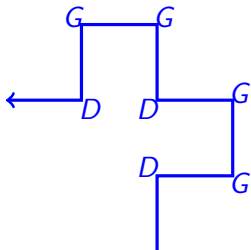
## 2 Codages de rotations sur deux intervalles sont pleins

- travail commun avec Blondin Massé, Brlek et Vuillon

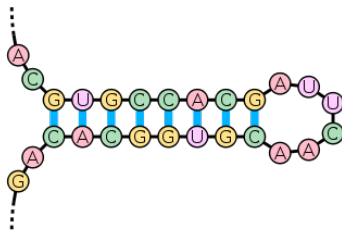
## 3 Conclusion

- Défaut palindromique
- Les 4 classes de complexité palindromique
- Conjecture de Hof, Knill et Simon
- Conjectures

# Palindromes

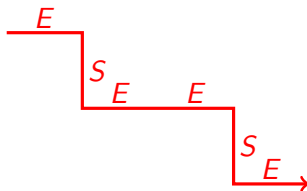


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# The Fibonacci word

We define  $f_{-1} = b$ ,  $f_0 = a$  and, for  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$f_n = f_{n-1}f_{n-2}.$$

Therefore, we have

$$f_0 = a$$

$$f_1 = ab$$

$$f_2 = aba$$

$$f_3 = abaab$$

$$f_4 = abaababa$$

$$f_5 = abaababaabaab$$

$$\vdots \quad \vdots$$

The infinite word  $f_\infty$  is called the **Fibonacci word**.

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$$w = a$$

---

Palindromes  $a$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$$w = a \ b$$

---

Palindromes       $a$   
                                  $b$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$$w = a \ b \ a$$

---

Palindromes

$a$

$b$

$a \ b \ a$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$$w = a \ b \ a \ a$$

---

Palindromes

$a$

$b$

$a \ b \ a$

$a \ a$



# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$w = a \ b \ a \ a \ b$

---

Palindromes

$a$

$b$

$a \ b \ a$

$a \ a$

$b \ a \ a \ b$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$w = a b a a b a$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $a b a$   
 $a a$   
 $b a a b$   
 $a b a a b a$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$w = a \ b \ a \ a \ b \ a \ b$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a$   
 $b \ a \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a \ a \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$w = a b a a b a b a$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $a b a$   
 $a a$   
 $b a a b$   
 $a b a a b a$   
 $b a b$   
 $a b a b a$

# Palindromes in the Fibonacci word

$w = a \ b \ a \ a \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a \ \dots$

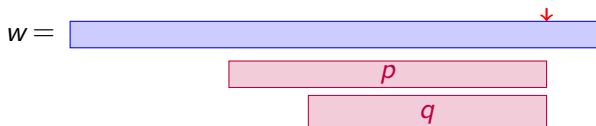
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Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a$   
 $b \ a \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a \ a \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a$

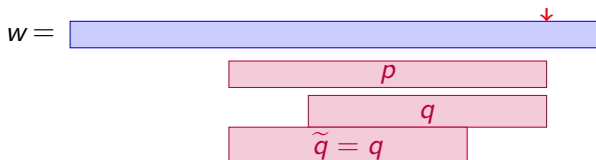
$\dots$

# Number of distinct palindrome factors



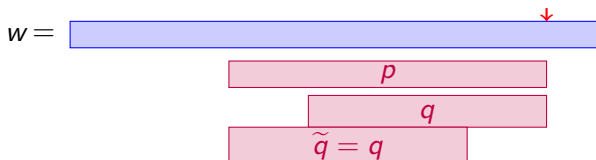
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- Then  $q$  has a **previous occurrence** in  $w$  which is a contradiction.

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- Then  $q$  has a **previous occurrence** in  $w$  which is a contradiction.

Theorem (Droubay, Justin and Pirillo, 2001)

Let  $w$  be a finite word. Then  $|\text{Pal}(w)| \leq |w| + 1$ .



Theorem (Droubay, Justin and Pirillo, 2001)

*Sturmian words*  $w$  realize the upper bound, i.e.  $|\text{Pal}(w)| = |w| + 1$ .

Definition (Brlek, Hamel, Nivat, Reutenauer, 2004)

A word  $w$  is called **full** if  $|\text{Pal}(w)| = |w| + 1$ .

Since 2008, some authors say **rich** instead of full. Personally, I prefer to use the word **full** because it suggests that a limit is reached.

## More on the palindrome complexity

### Theorem (Brlek, Hamel, Nivat, Reutenauer, 2004)

A infinite periodic word  $\mathbf{w}$  is *full* if and only if

- $\mathbf{w} = (uv)^\omega$  with *both  $u$  and  $v$  are palindromes* and
- $(uv)^{1+e}$  is full where  $e = \lfloor \frac{||u|-|v||}{3} \rfloor / |uv|$ .

### Theorem (Bucci, De Luca, Glen, Zamboni, 2008)

An infinite word  $\mathbf{w}$  whose set of factors is closed under reversal is full if and only if

$$|\text{Pal}_n(\mathbf{w})| + |\text{Pal}_{n+1}(\mathbf{w})| = |\text{Fact}_{n+1}(\mathbf{w})| - |\text{Fact}_n(\mathbf{w})| + 2$$

for all  $n$ .

What about words that *are not full*?

# The Thue-Morse word

We define  $t_0 = a$  and, for  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$t_n = t_{n-1} \overline{t_{n-1}}.$$

so that

$$t_0 = a$$

$$t_1 = ab$$

$$t_2 = abba$$

$$t_3 = abbabaab$$

$$t_4 = abbabaabbaababba$$

$$t_5 = abbabaabbaababbabaababbaabbabaab$$

$$\vdots \quad \vdots$$

The infinite word  $t_\infty$  is called the **Thue-Morse word**.

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$$w = a$$

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Palindromes  $a$

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$$w = a \mathit{b}$$

---

Palindromes

$a$

$b$

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$$w = a \text{ } b \text{ } b$$

---

Palindromes

*a*

*b*

*b b*

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$$w = a b b a$$

---

Palindromes

*a*  
*b*  
*b b*  
*a b b a*

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$$w = a \ b \ b \ a \ b$$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $b \ b$   
 $a \ b \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$



# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$w = a \ b \ b \ a \ b \ a$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $b \ b$   
 $a \ b \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a$

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$w = a \ b \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $b \ b$   
 $a \ b \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a$

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$w = a \ b \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a \ b$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $b \ b$   
 $a \ b \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a$   
 $b \ a \ a \ b$

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$w = a \ b \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a \ b \ b \ \dots$

---

Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $b \ b$   
 $a \ b \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a$   
 $b \ a \ a \ b$

—  
...

There is **no** new palindrome at this position : a lacuna !

# Palindromes in the Thue-Morse

$w = a \ b \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a \ b \ b \ \dots$

---

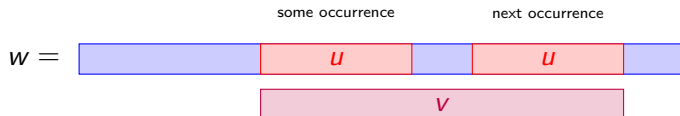
Palindromes

$a$   
 $b$   
 $b \ b$   
 $a \ b \ b \ a$   
 $b \ a \ b$   
 $a \ b \ a$   
 $a \ a$   
 $b \ a \ a \ b$

—  
...

There is **no** new palindrome at this position : a lacuna !  
Hence, the Thue-Morse word **is rich in palindromes** but **is not full**.

# Complete return words



We say that  $v$  is a **complete return word** of  $u$  in  $w$ , if  $v$  starts at an occurrence of  $u$  and ends at the end of the next occurrence of  $u$ .

## Fact

A word  $w$  is **full** if and only if every **complete return word** of a **palindrome** factor of  $w$  is a **palindrome**.

## Theorem (Blondin Massé, Brlek, Garon, L., 2008)

For  $n \geq 1$ , let  $L(n)$  be the index where the  $n$ -th interval of *lacunas* start in the Thue-Morse word and  $\ell(n)$  be its length. Then

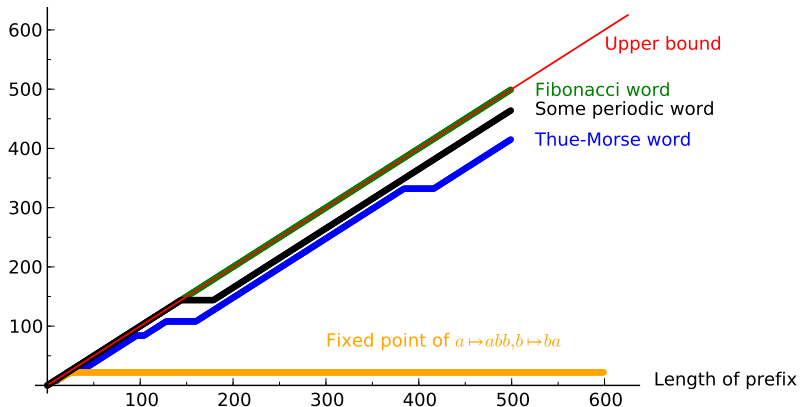
$$L(n) = \begin{cases} 2^{n+2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ 2^{n+2} + 2^{n+1}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\ell(n) = \begin{cases} 2^n, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ 2^{n-1}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

# Palindrome complexity

Number of palindrome factors





## Partie 2

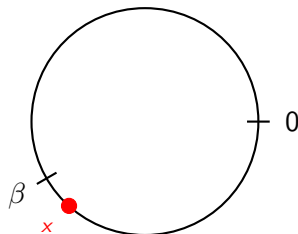
Les codages de rotation sur deux intervalles sont pleins

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# Codings of rotations

The **coding of rotations** of parameters  $(x, \alpha, \beta)$  is the word  $\mathbf{C} = c_0 c_1 c_2 \dots$  such that

$$c_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x + i\alpha \in [0, \beta) \\ 1 & \text{if } x + i\alpha \in [\beta, 1) \end{cases}$$

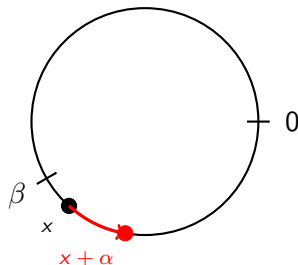


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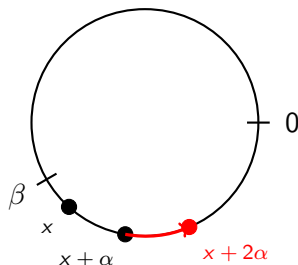


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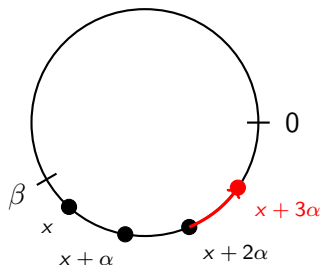


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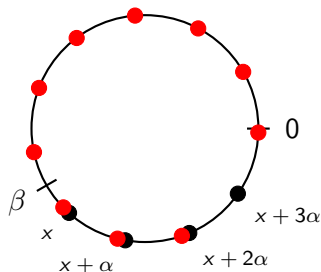


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# The different cases

Let  $\mathbf{C}$  be a coding of rotations of parameters  $(x, \alpha, \beta)$ .

- If  $\alpha$  is **rational**, then  $\mathbf{C}$  is **periodic**.
- If  $\beta = 1 - \alpha$  is **irrational**, then  $\mathbf{C}$  is **Sturmian**

$$|\text{Fact}_n(\mathbf{C})| = n + 1.$$

- If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are **rationally dependent**, then  $\mathbf{C}$  is **quasi-Sturmian**.

$$|\text{Fact}_n(\mathbf{C})| = n + k, \quad \text{for some constant } k.$$

- Otherwise,  $\mathbf{C}$  is a **Rote sequence**

$$|\text{Fact}_n(\mathbf{C})| = 2n, \quad \text{for large enough } n.$$

Theorem (Blondin Massé, Brlek, L., Vuillon, 2009)

*Every coding of rotations on two intervals is **full**.*

The proof is based on the following ideas :

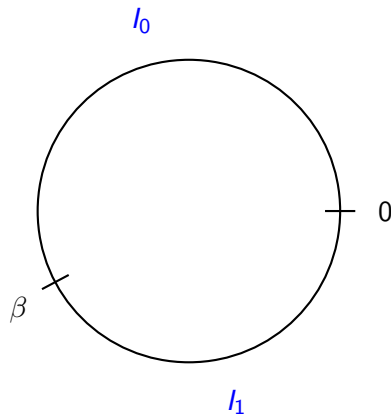
- 1 Return words
- 2 Interval exchange transformations
- 3 First return function
- 4 Many combinatorial results on those dynamical systems



# Idea of the proof

Let  $x = 0.102$ ,  $\alpha = 0.135$  and  $\beta = 0.578$ . Then

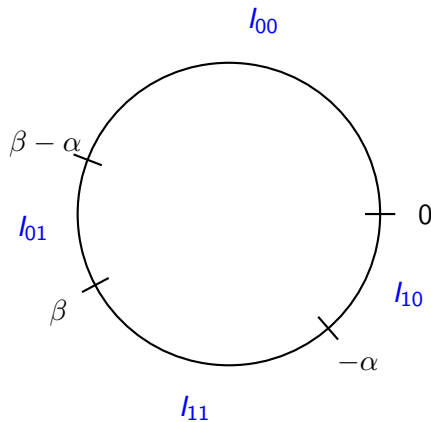
$\mathbf{C} = 0000111000011110000111000011100000111000 \dots$



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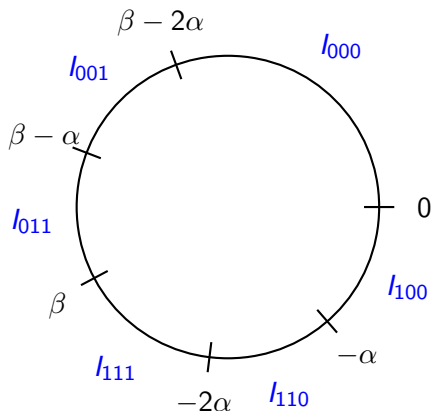
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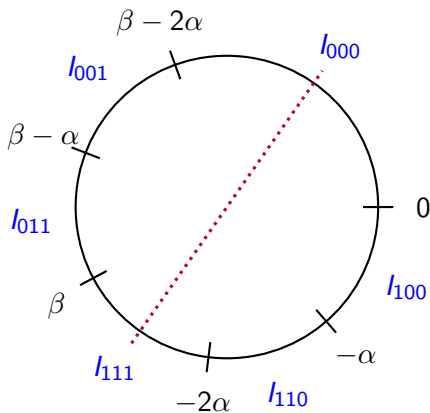
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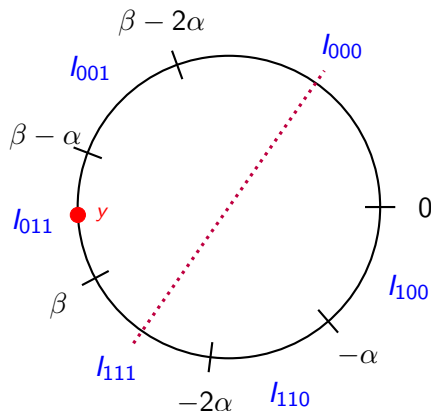
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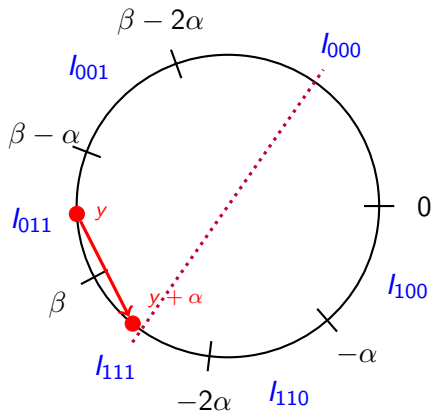
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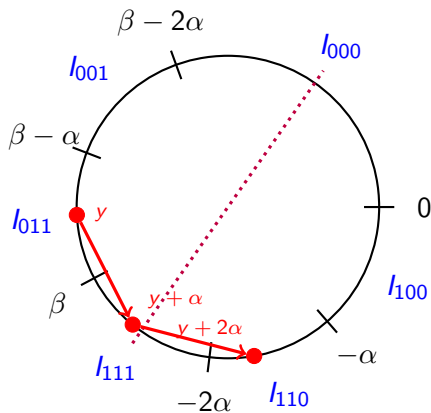
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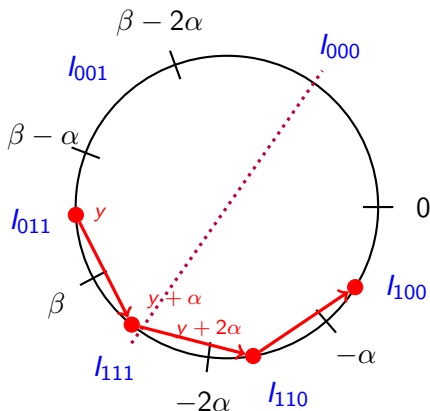
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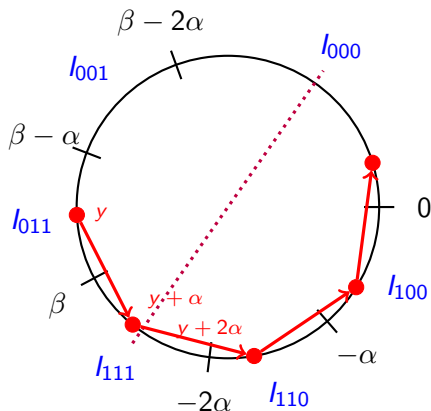




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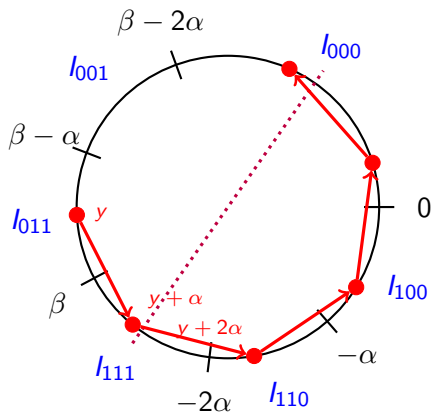
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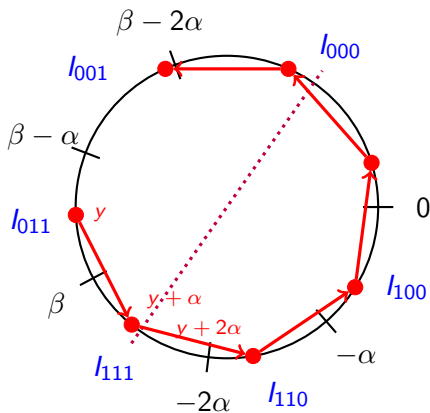
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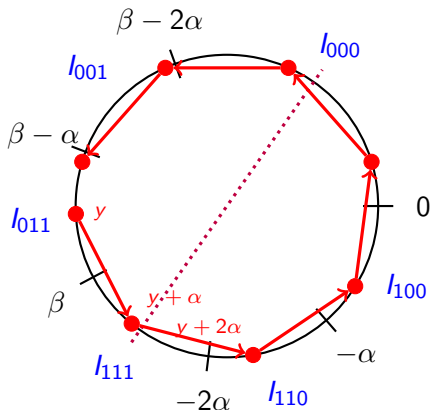
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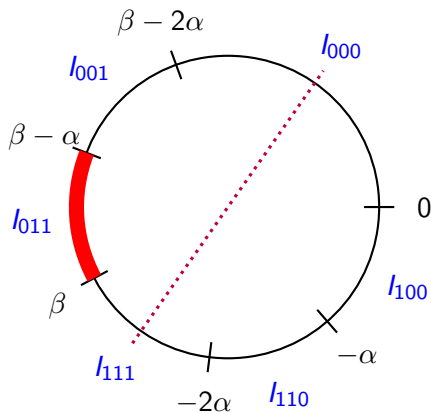
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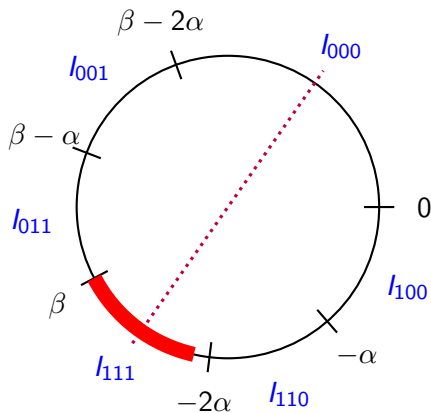
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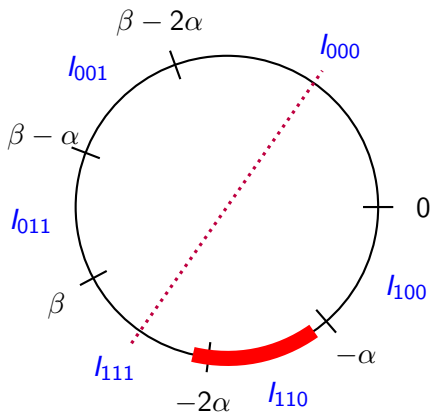
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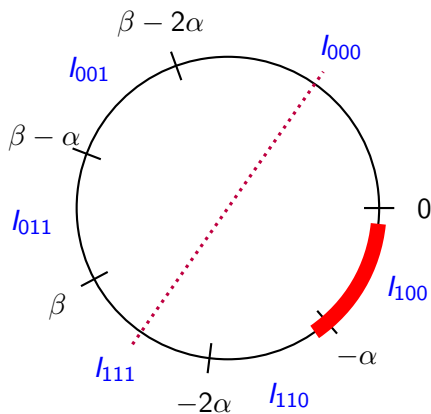
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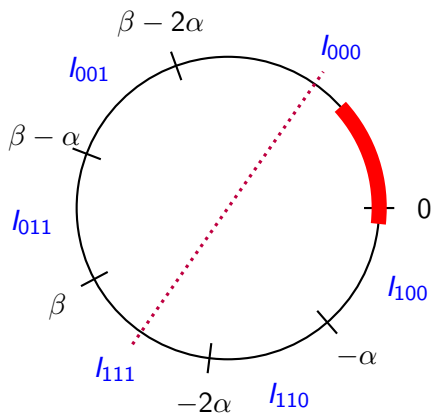




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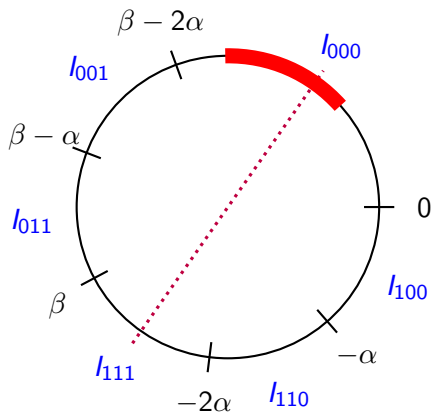
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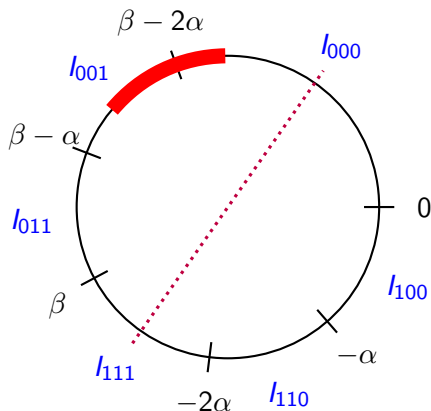
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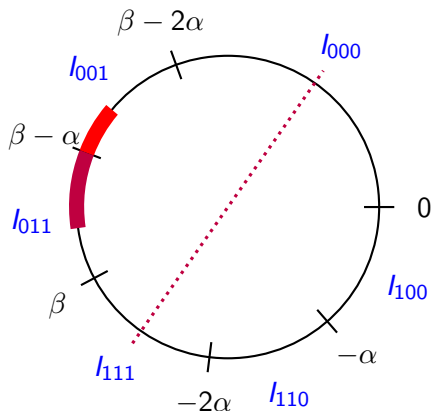
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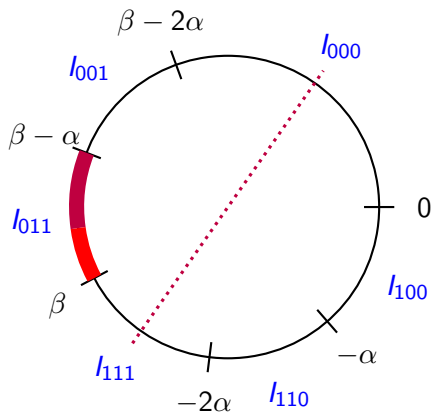
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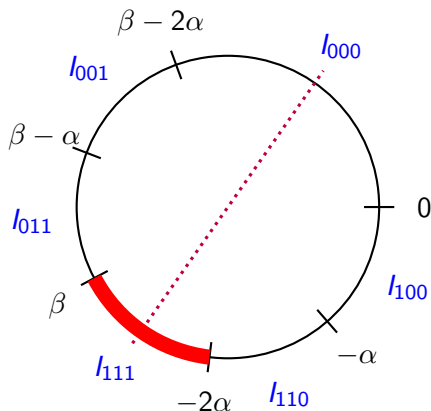
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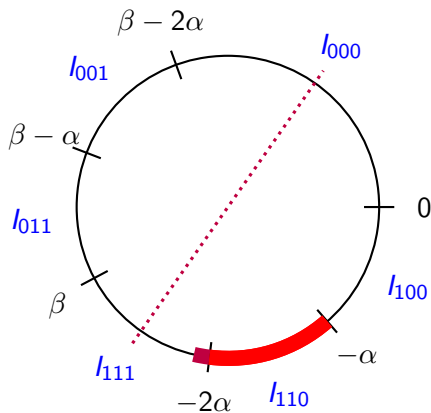
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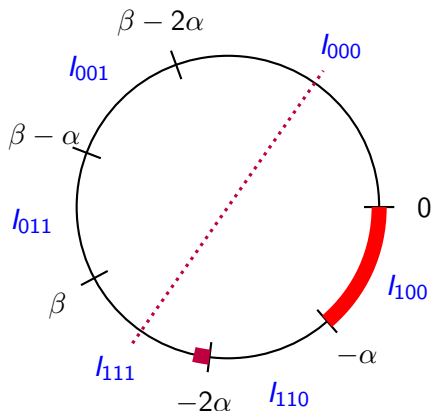
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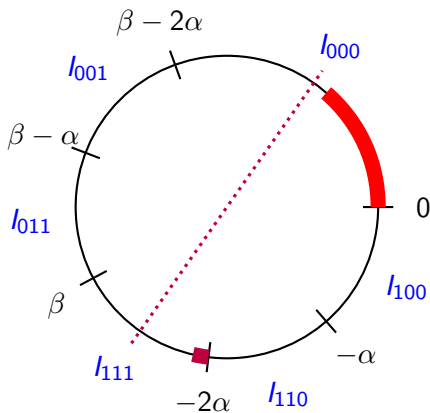




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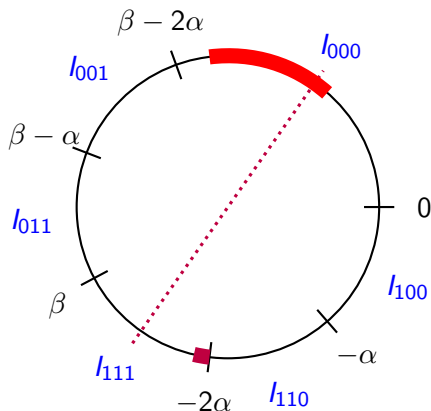
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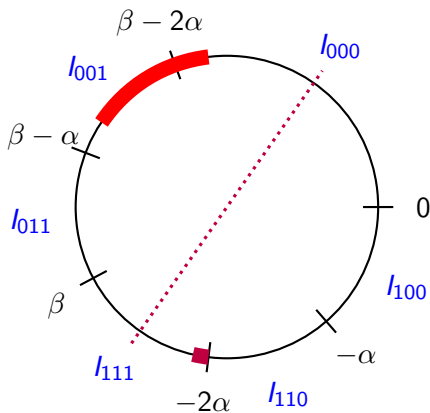
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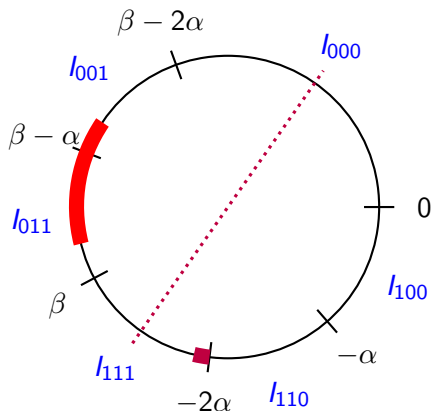
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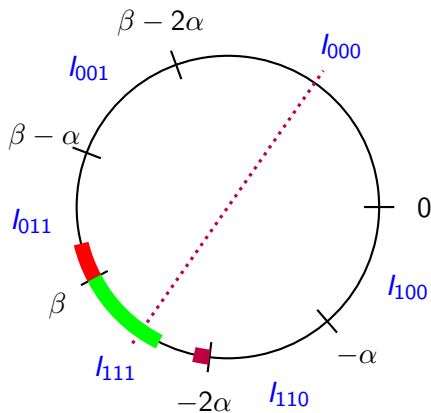
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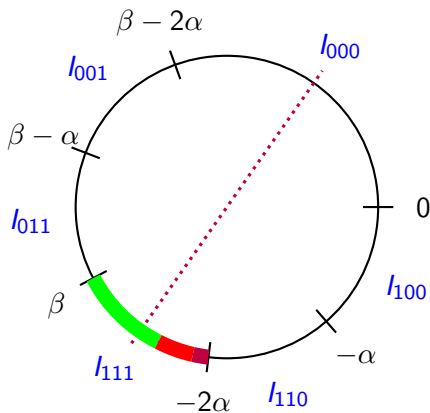
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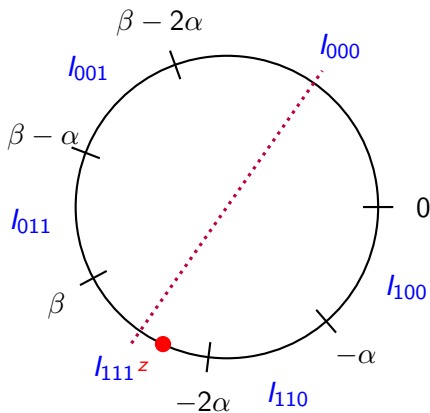
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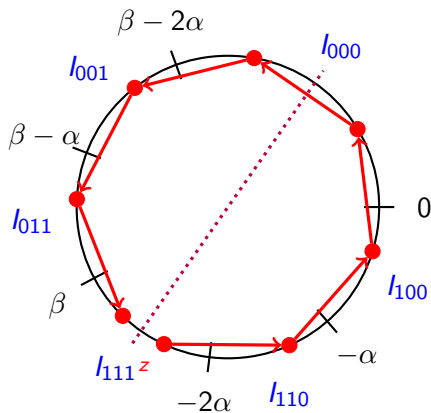
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## Partie 3

### Conclusion

- Défaut palindromique
- Les 4 classes de complexité palindromique
- Conjecture de Hof, Knill et Simon
- Conjectures

Brlek, Hamel, Nivat, Reutenauer (2004) also defined the **defect** of a finite word  $w$  as

$$D(w) = |w| + 1 - |\text{Pal}(w)|.$$

This definition is extended to **infinite words**  $\mathbf{w}$  by setting  $D(\mathbf{w})$  to be the maximum of the defect of its factors : it may be finite or infinite.

# Palindrome complexity classes

The palindrome complexity  $|\text{Pal}(\mathbf{w})|$  and defect  $D(\mathbf{w})$  divides the set of infinite words  $\mathbf{w}$  into **four classes** :

$ \text{Pal}(\mathbf{w}) $	$D(\mathbf{w})$	Examples
$\infty$	0	Sturmian words, Coding of rotation
$\infty$	$0 < D(\mathbf{w}) < \infty$	$(aababbaabbabaa)^\omega$
$\infty$	$\infty$	Thue-Morse word
finite	$\infty$	Fixed point of $a \mapsto abb, b \mapsto ba$

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finite	$\infty$	Fixed point of $a \mapsto abb, b \mapsto ba$

Conjecture (Blondin-Massé, Brlek, L., 2008)

*Let  $\mathbf{w}$  be the fixed point of a primitive morphism  $\varphi$ . If the defect of  $\mathbf{w}$  is such that  $0 < D(\mathbf{w}) < \infty$ , then  $\mathbf{w}$  is **periodic**.*

The conjecture can also be stated for (uniformly) recurrent words in general.

## Palindrome complexity classes : $|\text{Pal}(\mathbf{w})| = \infty$

A substitution is in **class  $P$**  if there is a palindrome  $p$  and for each  $\alpha \in \Sigma$  there is a palindrome  $q_\alpha$  such that  $\varphi(\alpha) = pq_\alpha$  (Hof, Knill and Simon, 1995).

### Conjecture (adaptated from Hof, Knill and Simon, 1995)

*Let  $\mathbf{w}$  be the fixed point of a primitive substitution. Then  $|\text{Pal}(\mathbf{w})| = \infty$  if and only if **there is a substitution  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}$  and  $\varphi$  is conjugate to a class  $P$  substitution.***

This conjecture was proved by B. Tan (2007) for the binary case and was generalized to  $f$ -pseudo-palindromes in the binary case for uniform morphisms (L., 2008).

# The Thue-Morse word palindrome complexity class

The 12381 primitive morphisms  $\varphi$  on  $\{a, b\}^*$  prolongable on  $a$  such that  $|\varphi(ab)| \leq 11$  group as follows :

$ \text{Pal}(\mathbf{w}) $	$D(\mathbf{w})$	First 12381 primitive morphisms
$\infty$	0	2649 (21%)
$\infty$	$0 < D(\mathbf{w}) < \infty$	$\approx 0$
$\infty$	$\infty$	58 (0.5%)
finite	$\infty$	9674 (78%)

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## Conjecture

Let  $\mathbf{w}$  be the fixed point of a primitive substitution. Then  $\mathbf{w}$  is such that  $|\text{Pal}(\mathbf{w})| = D(\mathbf{w}) = \infty$  if and only if there exists a morphism  $\varphi$  in class P such that  $\varphi(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}$  and "looks like" the Thue-Morse morphism.

# The Thue-Morse word palindrome complexity class

Below are the primitive morphisms  $\varphi$  on  $\{a, b\}^*$  prolongable on  $a$  such that  $|\varphi(ab)| \leq 10$  that generates a fixed point in the Thue-Morse palindrome complexity class :

$a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto ba$

$a \mapsto aababa, b \mapsto abb$

$a \mapsto aabbabba, b \mapsto ab$

$a \mapsto aabbaa, b \mapsto bab$

$a \mapsto abbabbaa, b \mapsto ba$

$a \mapsto ababaa, b \mapsto bba$

$a \mapsto aabbbbaa, b \mapsto bab$

$a \mapsto abbaab, b \mapsto ba$

$a \mapsto abbabb, b \mapsto bba$

$a \mapsto aababa, b \mapsto abbb$

$a \mapsto aabb, b \mapsto bbaa$

$a \mapsto abbba, b \mapsto baab$

$a \mapsto ababaa, b \mapsto bbba$

$a \mapsto abab, b \mapsto baba$

$a \mapsto abba, b \mapsto baaab$

$a \mapsto abbbba, b \mapsto baab$

$a \mapsto abba, b \mapsto baab$

$a \mapsto aab, b \mapsto baabaa$

$a \mapsto abbba, b \mapsto baaab$

$a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto baabba$

$a \mapsto aab, b \mapsto bababb$

$a \mapsto aaab, b \mapsto bababb$

$a \mapsto aba, b \mapsto bbaabb$

$a \mapsto abba, b \mapsto baaaab$

$a \mapsto abb, b \mapsto aababa$

$a \mapsto abbb, b \mapsto aababa$

$a \mapsto aba, b \mapsto bbaaabb$

$a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto aabbabba$

$a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto baabaabb$



This research was driven by computer exploration using the open-source mathematical software **Sage** [1] and its algebraic combinatorics features developed by the **Sage-Combinat** community [2], and in particular, F. Saliola, A. Bergeron and S. L.

The pictures have been produced using Sage and **pgf/tikz**.



W. A. Stein et al., *Sage Mathematics Software (Version 4.3.4)*, The Sage Development Team, 2010, <http://www.sagemath.org>.



The Sage-Combinat community, *Sage-Combinat : enhancing Sage as a toolbox for computer exploration in algebraic combinatorics*, <http://combinat.sagemath.org>, 2009.