

# Dimension groups and recurrence for tree subshifts

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*Tilings and recurrence, CIRM*

Consider the shifts generated by

- a uniformly recurrent Arnoux-Rauzy word
- and a coding of a three-interval exchange

having the same letter frequencies

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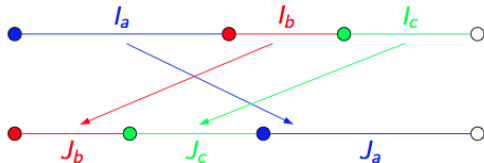
- a uniformly recurrent **Arnoux-Rauzy word**

Tribonacci word  $\sigma : 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 13, 3 \mapsto 1$

The frequencies of letters in  $\sigma^\infty(1)$  are  $(\alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3)$

$$\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^3 = 1$$

- and a coding of a **three-interval exchange**



having the same letter frequencies

Consider the **minimal and uniquely ergodic** shifts generated by

- a uniformly recurrent **Arnoux-Rauzy word**
- and a coding of a **three-interval exchange**

having the same letter frequencies

They both have factor complexity  $2n + 1$

Are the shifts the same?

- They are not topologically conjugate **Asymptotic pairs**
- But they are orbit equivalent
- They are even **strong orbit equivalent**

# Outline

- Strong orbit equivalence and dimension group
- Tree shifts and extension graphs
- Tree shifts and return words
- Dimension groups of tree shifts

Orbit equivalence

## Topological orbit equivalence

Two topological dynamical systems  $(X, S)$  and  $(Y, T)$  are **orbit equivalent** if there exists a homeomorphism  $h: X \rightarrow Y$  that **sends orbits to orbits**

$$h(\mathcal{O}_T(x)) = \mathcal{O}_S(h(x)) \quad \text{for all } x \in X$$

$$h(\{T^n(x) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}) = \{S^n(h(x)) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

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**Cocycle map** If  $(X, S)$  (and hence  $(Y, T)$ ) are **minimal**, there exists a unique map

$$n: X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{s.t. for all } x \in X \quad h \circ T(x) = S^{n(x)} \circ h(x)$$

There also exists a unique map  $m$

$$m: X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, \quad h \circ T^{m(x)}_X = S^m \circ h(x)$$

**Strong orbit equivalence** The cocycle maps have just **one point of discontinuity**

**Dye's theorem** Any two ergodic automorphisms of a Lebesgue space are orbit equivalent in the measure-theoretic sense



## Orbit equivalence and measures

Let  $(X, S)$  and  $(Y, T)$  be uniquely ergodic Cantor systems

Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be the corresponding invariant probability measures

**Theorem [Giordano-Putman-Skau]**  $(X, S)$  is **orbit equivalent** to  $(Y, T)$  if and only if

$$\{\mu(E) ; E \text{ clopen subset of } X\} = \{\nu(E) ; E \text{ clopen subset of } Y\}$$

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**Corollary** The **Tribonacci shift** is **orbit equivalent** to the shift generated by the **interval exchange of permutation (321)** with lengths  $(\alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3)$ , with  $\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^3 = 1$

**Proof**  $\langle \mu[w] ; w \text{ factor of the shift} \rangle = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha] \cap [0, 1]$

Strong orbit equivalence  
= dimension group

## Ordered group

An **ordered group** is a pair  $(G, G^+)$  consisting of an abelian group  $G$  together with a subset  $G^+$ , called the **positive cone**, satisfying

$$G^+ + G^+ \subset G^+, \quad G^+ \cap (-G^+) = \{0\}, \quad G^+ - G^+ = G$$

- Ex
- $(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathbb{N}^d)$
  - Continuous functions  $(C(X, \mathbb{Z}), C(X, \mathbb{N}))$  for  $(X, T)$  a shift

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- Continuous functions  $(C(X, \mathbb{Z}), C(X, \mathbb{N}), \mathbf{1})$  for  $(X, T)$  a shift

The relation  $\leq$  defined by  $g \leq h$  if and only if  $h - g \in G^+$  is a **partial order** compatible with the group operation

An **order unit** of the ordered group  $G$  is a nonnegative element  $\mathbf{1}$  such that for every  $g \in G^+$  there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $g \leq n\mathbf{1}$

## Dimension group

Definition [Elliot'76] A **dimension group** is a **direct limit** of ordered finitely generated free abelian groups (direct sums of copies of  $\mathbb{Z}$  ordered in the usual way)

$$\mathbb{Z}^{d_0} \xrightarrow{M_0} \mathbb{Z}^{d_1} \xrightarrow{M_1} \mathbb{Z}^{d_2} \xrightarrow{M_2} \mathbb{Z}^{d_3}$$

Each map  $\xrightarrow{M}$  is the multiplication by  $M$  with the matrices being nonnegative

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How to decompose a shift  $(X, T)$  as an **inverse** limit?

- Kakutani-Rohlin towers and Bratteli-Vershik maps  
[Herman-Putman-Skau]
- Return words [Durand-Host-Skau]
- Desubstitution and  $S$ -adic representations

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$$C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \text{ 😞} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad C(X, \mathbb{Z}) / \beta C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \text{ 😊}$$
$$\beta: C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow C(X, \mathbb{Z}), \quad f \mapsto f \circ T - f$$



## Dimension group of a shift

Let  $(X, T)$  be a **minimal shift**

- **Coboundaries**  $\beta: C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow C(X, \mathbb{Z}), f \mapsto f \circ T - f$
- Let  $H(X, T) = C(X, \mathbb{Z}) / \beta C(X, \mathbb{Z})$
- Let  $\mathbf{1}$  be the function that takes constant value 1
- The **dynamical dimension group** of  $(X, T)$  is the ordered group with order unit

$$K^0(X, T) := (H(X, T), H^+(X, T), [\mathbf{1}])$$

# Dimension groups are complete invariants for strong orbit equivalence

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**Theorem [Giordano-Putman-Skau]** Let  $(X, S)$  and  $(Y, T)$  be two minimal Cantor dynamical systems  
 $(X, S)$  is **strong orbit equivalent** to  $(Y, T)$  iff

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Infinitesimal subgroup of  $K^0(X, T)$

$$\text{Inf}(K^0(X, T)) = \left\{ [f] \in K^0(X, T); \int f d\mu = 0 \text{ for all } \mu \in \mathcal{M}(X, T) \right\}$$

$\mathcal{M}(X, T)$ : set of  $T$ -invariant probability measures on  $X$

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## Dimension group of the Tribonacci shift

Let  $(X, S)$  be the Tribonacci shift

Dimension group

$$K^0(X, S) = (H(X, S, \mathbb{Z}), H^+(X, S, \mathbb{Z}), [\mathbf{1}])$$

$$K^0(X, S) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}^3, \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \mid \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f} \rangle \geq 0\}, \mathbf{1})$$

with  $\mathbf{f} = (\alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3)$

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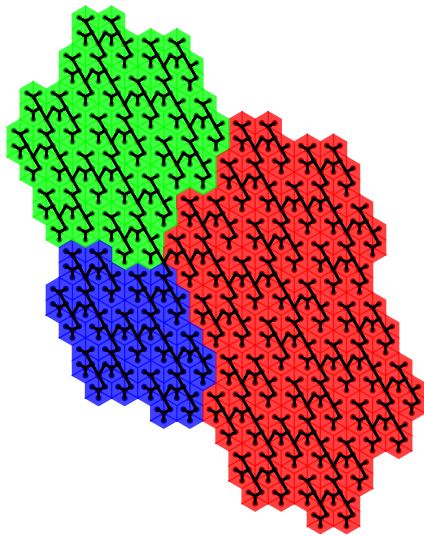
with  $\mathbf{f} = (\alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3)$

Let  $(Y, T)$  be the interval exchange with permutation (321) and lengths  $(\alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3)$

$$K^0(Y, T) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}^3, \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \mid \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f} \rangle \geq 0\}, \mathbf{1})$$

Both shifts are strong orbit equivalent

# Tree shifts



# Tree words

We study a family of words

tree words

from the viewpoint of **word combinatorics**



# Tree words

We study a family of words

tree words

from the viewpoint of word combinatorics

but we also add more structure

- Topological and measure-theoretic  $\leadsto$  Symbolic dynamics and ergodic theory
- Algebraic  $\leadsto$  From free monoids to free groups Parageometric case [cf. T. Coulbois's lecture]

We want to

- find a common framework for natural generalizations of Sturmian words such as codings of interval exchanges or Arnoux-Rauzy words
- understand the role played by free groups for them
- define generalized continued fraction algorithms [cf. J. Cassaigne's lecture]  
Tool :  $S$ -adic expansions via return words

## Extension graphs

We consider the set of factors  $\mathcal{L}_u$  of  $u \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Let  $w \in \mathcal{L}_u$

$$\ell(w) = \{a \in A \mid aw \in \mathcal{L}_u\}$$

$$r(w) = \{a \in A \mid wa \in \mathcal{L}_u\}$$

$$e(w) = \{(a, b) \in A \times A \mid awb \in \mathcal{L}_u\}$$

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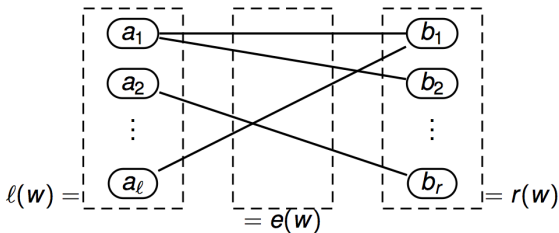
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The **extension graph** of the finite word  $w$  is the undirected graph  $G(w)$  having

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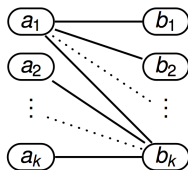
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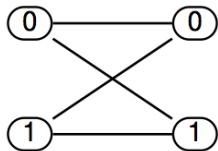
**Definition** We say that  $u \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$  is a **tree word** if the graph  $G(w)$  is a tree for any  $w \in \mathcal{L}_u$

**Tree** = undirected, acyclic and connected graph

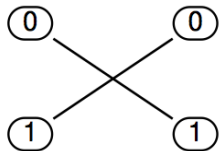
# The Thue-Morse word is not a tree word

$$\tau: 0 \mapsto 01, 1 \mapsto 10$$

$$u = \tau^\infty(0) = 01101001100101101001011001 \dots$$



$$w = 01$$

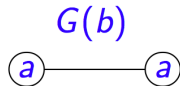
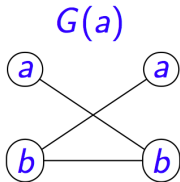
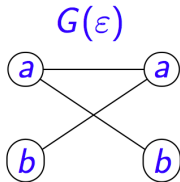


$$w = 010$$

# The Fibonacci word is a tree word

$$\sigma: a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto a$$

$$u = \sigma^\infty(a) = abaababaabaababaababaab \dots$$



The factors of length 2 are  $aa, ab, ba$

## Examples of tree words

Theorem [B., De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone]

A tree word  $u$  on  $k$  letters has  $(k - 1)n + 1$  factors of length  $n$



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Sturmian words

and generalizations of Sturmian words on a  $k$ -letter alphabet

- Arnoux-Rauzy words [Combinatorial generalization](#)

$$l(w) = r(w) = 3$$

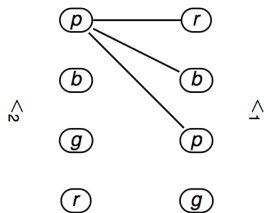
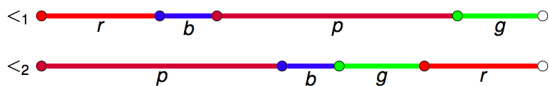
- Codings of interval exchanges [Geometric generalization](#)

$$l(w) = r(w) = 2 \text{ for } w \text{ large enough}$$

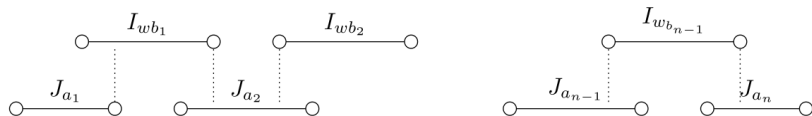
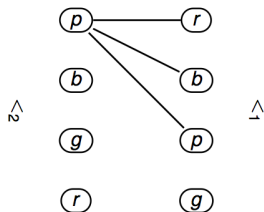
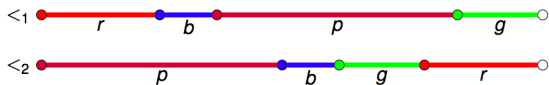
- Cassaigne-Selmer's substitutions [Arithmetic generalization](#)

# Interval exchanges are tree words

Extension graph for  $\varepsilon$



# Interval exchanges are tree words



Tree sets and return words

## Return words

Let  $\mathcal{L}_u$  be the set of factors of  $u \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$

We assume  $u$  **uniformly recurrent**

factors occur infinitely often with bounded gaps

Let  $w \in \mathcal{L}_u$ . A **return word** to  $w$  is a finite word  $v$  in  $\mathcal{L}_u$  such that  $wv$  ends with  $w$  and  $wv$  contains exactly two occurrences of  $w$

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**Example** Let  $\mathcal{L}_u$  be the set of factors of the **Fibonacci word**

$a|ba|a|ba|ba|a|ba|a|ba|ba|a|ba|ba|a|ba|a|ba|ba|a|ba|ba|a|ba|ba|a \dots$

$a$  and  $ba$  are return words to  $a$

$w$	$a$	$b$	$aa$	$ab$	$ba$
$R_F(w)$	$a, ba$	$ab, aab$	$baa, babaa$	$ab, aab$	$ba, aba$

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$R_F(aa) = \{baa, babaa\}$  is a basis of the free group on  $\{a, b\}$

$$a = (baa)(babaa)^{-1}(baa)$$

$$b = (baa)a^{-1}a^{-1}$$

## Tree words and $F_d$

Let  $u \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$  be a **uniformly recurrent** tree word over an alphabet of **cardinality  $d$**  and let  $\mathcal{L}_u$  be the set of its factors.

**Theorem** [B., De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone]

Let  $w$  be a factor of  $u$ . The set of return words to  $w$  is a basis of the free group  $F_d$ .

The decoding of a uniformly recurrent tree word  $u$  with respect to the return words of a given factor is again a tree word 😊

↷  $S$ -adic expansions



# Tree sets are $S$ -adic

**Positive automorphism**  $\sigma$  of the free group  $F_A$ :  $\sigma(a) \in A^+$ ,  $\forall a \in A$

**Elementary positive automorphisms**  $\mathcal{S}_e$

- permutations
- $\alpha_{a,b}(a) = ab$ ,  $\alpha_{a,b}(c) = c$  if  $c \neq a$
- $\tilde{\alpha}_{a,b}(a) = ba$ ,  $\tilde{\alpha}_{a,b}(c) = c$  if  $c \neq a$

**Theorem** [B., De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone] If  $X$  is a minimal tree shift over the alphabet  $A$ , then it admits a **primitive**  $\mathcal{S}_e$ -adic representation

$$u = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma_1 \circ \sigma_2 \circ \cdots \circ \sigma_n(1), \quad (\sigma_n)_n \in \mathcal{S}_e^{\mathbb{N}}$$

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**Primitive:** for all  $k$ , there exists  $\ell$  such that  $\sigma_k \cdots \sigma_\ell$  is such that the image of any letter contains all the letters

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- Primitive  $S$ -adic words  $u$  generated by a set of substitutions over a **finite alphabet** have **zero entropy**
- But it is possible to construct  $S$ -adic words generated by positive elementary automorphisms with **high factor complexity** among zero entropy words

[Cassaigne-Leroy-Pytheas Fogg]

Orbit equivalent tree shifts

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Let  $(X, T)$  be a **minimal shift**

- **Coboundaries**  $\beta: C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow C(X, \mathbb{Z}), f \mapsto f \circ T - f$
- Let  $H(X, T) = C(X, \mathbb{Z}) / \beta C(X, \mathbb{Z})$
- Let  $\mathbf{1}$  be the function that takes constant value 1
- The **dynamical dimension group** of  $(X, T)$  is the ordered group with order unit

$$K^0(X, T) := (H(X, T), H^+(X, T), [\mathbf{1}])$$

# Dimension groups are complete invariants for strong orbit equivalence

Dimension group

$$K^0(X, S) := (H(X, S), H^+(X, S), [\mathbf{1}])$$

$$H(X, S) = C(X, \mathbb{Z}) / \beta C(X, \mathbb{Z})$$

**Theorem [Giordano-Putman-Skau]** Let  $(X, S)$  and  $(Y, T)$  be two minimal Cantor dynamical systems

$(X, S)$  is **strong orbit equivalent** to  $(Y, T)$  iff

$$K^0(X, S) \simeq K^0(Y, T)$$

**Infinitesimal subgroup** of  $K^0(X, T)$

$$\text{Inf}(K^0(X, T)) = \left\{ [f] \in K^0(X, T); \int f d\mu = 0 \text{ for all } \mu \in \mathcal{M}(X, T) \right\}$$

$(X, S)$  is **orbit equivalent** to  $(Y, T)$  iff

$$K^0(X, S) / \text{Inf}(K^0(X, S)) \simeq K^0(Y, T) / \text{Inf}(K^0(Y, T))$$

## Image group and infinitesimals

Let  $\mathcal{M}(X, T)$  be the set of  $T$ -invariant probability measures on  $X$

$$I(X, T) = \bigcap_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}(X, T)} \left\{ \int f d\mu; f \in C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \right\}$$

An ordered group with unit: the image subgroup of  $K^0(X, T)$

$$(I(X, T), I(X, T) \cap \mathbb{R}^+, 1)$$

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If  $(X, T, \mu)$  is uniquely ergodic

$I(X, T) =$  additive group generated by  $\mu[w]$ ,  $w \in \mathcal{L}_X$

$$K^0(X, T) / \text{Inf}(K^0(X, T)) \simeq (I(X, T), I(X, T) \cap \mathbb{R}^+, 1)$$

## Infinitesimals of a tree shift: orbit equivalence

Let  $(X, S, \mu)$  be a uniquely ergodic and minimal tree shift

$$I(X, S) = \left\{ \int f d\mu; f \in C(X, \mathbb{Z}) \right\}$$

Theorem [B.-Cecchi-Dolce-Durand-Leroy-Perrin-Petite]

$$I(X, S) = \sum_{a \text{ letter in } \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{Z}\mu([a])$$

Proof

- For any  $\alpha \in I(X, T) \cap (0, 1)$ , there exists a clopen set  $U$  such that  $\alpha = \mu(U)$
- **Tree shift and extension graph** The measure of any cylinder is in

$$\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{Z}\mu([a])$$

Frequencies of letters determine frequencies of factors

$\neq$

Thue-Morse  $\mathbb{Z}[1/2]$  dyadic rationals

## Tree shifts and invariant measures

**Theorem [B.-Cecchi-Dolce-Durand-Leroy-Perrin-Petite]** Let  $(X, T)$  be a **minimal tree shift** on a  $d$ -letter alphabet  $\mathcal{A}$ , let  $\mu$  and  $\mu'$  be two  $T$ -invariant measures on  $X$

If  $\mu$  and  $\mu'$  coincide on cylinders associated with letters, then they are equal

$$\mu([a]) = \mu'([a]) \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \mu(U) = \mu'(U) \quad \forall U \subseteq X \text{ clopen}$$

## Dimension group of a tree shift: strong orbit equivalence

Let  $(X, T)$  be a minimal tree shift on a  $d$ -letter alphabet

Dimension group

$$K^0(X, T) = (H(X, T, \mathbb{Z}), H^+(X, T, \mathbb{Z}), [\mathbf{1}])$$

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- $H(X, T, \mathbb{Z})$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}^d$
- If moreover  $(X, T)$  is **uniquely ergodic** and has **rationally independent letter frequencies**, then

$$K^0(X, T) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}^d, \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^d \mid \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f} \rangle \geq 0\}, \mathbf{1})$$

$\mathbf{f}$  denotes the letter frequency vector

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**Proof** Description by return words.

**Rem** For the  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  part, one can also use

Theorem [B., De Felice, Dolce, Leroy, Perrin, Reutenauer, Rindone]

For any  $n$ , the group described by the Rauzy graph  $G_n$  with respect to any vertex is the free group  $F_A$

## Orbit equivalent tree shifts

- Two tree shifts that are minimal and uniquely ergodic with the same additive group of letter frequencies are orbit equivalent
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## Orbit equivalent tree shifts

- Two **tree shifts** that are **minimal and uniquely ergodic** with the same additive group of **letter frequencies** are **orbit equivalent**
- If the letter frequencies are rationally independent, they are **strong orbit equivalent**
- All minimal tree shifts on a **three-letter alphabet** with the same group of letter frequencies are orbit equivalent
- In particular any **i.d.o.c. exchange of three intervals** is orbit equivalent to any **three-letter Arnoux-Rauzy** subshift, or to a **two-dimensional Sturmian shift**, provided they have all the same letter frequencies

## Tree shifts and recognizability

We are given  $X \subseteq \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$  and  $\sigma : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^+$

Centered  $\sigma$ -representation of  $y \in \mathcal{B}^{\mathbb{Z}}$

$$y = T^k \sigma(x), \quad x \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}, \quad 0 \leq k < |\sigma(x_0)|$$

The morphism  $\sigma$  is **recognizable in  $X$**  if each  $y \in \mathcal{B}^{\mathbb{Z}}$  has **at most** one centered  $\sigma$ -representation in  $X$

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Let  $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a sequence of morphisms  $\sigma_n : \mathcal{A}_{n+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n^+$

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**Theorem [B.-Steiner-Yassawi]** Let  $(X, T)$  be a **minimal tree shift**.

Let  $(X_{\sigma}, T)$  be a return word S-adic representation of  $(X, T)$ .

The sequence  $\sigma$  is **recognizable**.

The **natural Bratteli-Vershik system** associated with  $\sigma$  is properly ordered and is topologically conjugate to  $(X, T)$ . Its topological rank is bounded by the size of the alphabet of  $X$ .

# Tree shifts

- Minimal tree shifts on a  $k$ -letter alphabet have **linear factor complexity**  $(k - 1)n + 1$
- The class of minimal tree words is closed under decoding with respect to **return words**
- The set of return words forms a **basis of the free group  $F_A$**
- $S$ -adic generation by elementary positive automorphisms/**continued fraction algorithms**/recognizability
- **Orbit equivalence** is determined by the group of **letter frequencies**
- We develop **codes and automata theory** inside tree languages and provide **positive bases** of subgroups of the free group  $F_A$ .
- Any subgroup of finite index of the free group has a **positive basis** contained in a tree language
- Find suitable **geometric representations** for tree shifts  
cf. [Coulbois-Hilion-Lustig-Minervino] **parageometric substitutions/real trees and interval exchanges**