

# *Generalized Lyndon words*

Francesco DOLCE



INSTITUT  
DE RECHERCHE  
EN INFORMATIQUE  
FONDAMENTALE

université  
**PARIS**  
PARIS 7  
**DIDEROT**

joint work with  
Antonio RESTIVO and Christophe REUTENAUER

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## *Generalized lexicographical order*

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### Examples

- Classical order  $(<)$  :  $a <_n b$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

$$a < aa < ab < aba < baa < bab$$



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- Classical order ( $<$ ) :  $a <_n b$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .
- Alternate order ( $<_{alt}$ ) :  $\begin{cases} a <_n b & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \\ b <_n a & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

$$a <_{alt} ab <_{alt} aa <_{alt} b <_{alt} bba <_{alt} ba$$

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- Alternate order ( $<_{alt}$ ) :  $\begin{cases} a <_n b & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \\ b <_n a & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$
- Prime order ( $<_\pi$ ) :  $\begin{cases} b <_n a & \text{if } n \text{ is prime} \\ a <_n b & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

$$aba <_\pi abaa <_\pi aab <_\pi bab <_\pi baab$$

# Generalized lexicographical order

*inverse order*

The *inverse (generalized) order*  $\tilde{<}_\pi$ , obtained by reversing all the orders  $<_n$ , is also a generalized order.

## Examples

- $aba <_\pi aab <_\pi bab <_\pi baa$
- $baa \tilde{<}_\pi bab \tilde{<}_\pi aab \tilde{<}_\pi aba.$

## *Infinite order*

$$u \prec v \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u^\omega < v^\omega \\ u^\omega = v^\omega \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{or} \\ \text{and } |u| > |v|. \end{array}$$

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When  $|u| = |v|$  one has  $u < v \Leftrightarrow u^\omega < v^\omega$ . In general, this is not true.

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$ab < aba$  but  $(ab)^\omega > (aba)^\omega$ .

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$(ab)^\omega <_\pi a^\omega <_\pi b^\omega <_\pi (ba)^\omega$ .

$u^\omega = v^\omega \iff u$  and  $v$  are power of a common word ( $\iff uv = vu$ ).

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### Proposition [Reutenauer (2015)]

Let  $<_g$  be a generalized order.

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A word  $w \in A^+$  is a (*classical*) *Lyndon word* if for any nontrivial factorization  $w = uv$  one has  $w < vu$ .

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- $acab$  is a  $<_{alt}$ -Lyndon word (*Galois word*).

$$(acab)^\omega <_{alt} (abac)^\omega <_{alt} (baca)^\omega <_{alt} (caba)^\omega$$

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Classical Lyndon words are unbordered. This is not true for generalized Lyndon ones.

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Theorem [Reutenauer (2005), D., Restivo, Reutenauer (2018)]

A word  $w$  is a generalized Lyndon word if and only if for any non trivial factorization  $w = uv$  one has :

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Example [ $acb (<_{alt})$ , ]

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Example [ $acab (<_{alt})$ ,  $cab (\tilde{<})$ ]

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- $(cab)^\omega \tilde{<} b^\omega$  ,  $(ab)^\omega$

## *Factorization into generalized Lyndon words*

Theorem [Reutenauer (2005), D., Restivo, Reutenauer (2018)]

Each word  $w \in A^+$  can be factorized in a unique way as  $w = l_1 l_2 \cdots l_n$ , with  $l_i$  generalized Lyndon words s.t.  $l_1^\omega \geq_g l_2^\omega \geq_g \cdots \geq_g l_n^\omega$ .

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### Example

- The factorization in classical Lyndon word of  $acaabaa$  is  $(ac)(aab)(a)(a)$ , since

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Moreover,  $\ell_n$  is

- the shortest suffix  $s$  of  $w$  s.t.  $s^\omega$  is minimum,
- the longest suffix of  $w$  which is a generalized Lyndon word.

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## Classical Lyndon words

### Proposition

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### Theorem [Bergman (1969)]

If  $u^\omega < v^\omega$  then  $u^\omega < (uv)^\omega < (vu)^\omega < v^\omega$ .

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If  $u^\omega < v^\omega$  then  $u^\omega < (uv)^\omega < (vu)^\omega < v^\omega$ .

### Theorem [Ufnarovskij (1995)]

$w$  is a Lyndon word if and only if for any nontrivial factorization  $w = ps$  one has  $p^\omega < w^\omega$ .

## Factorization into classical Lyndon words

### Theorem [Ufnarovskij (1995)]

Let  $w = l_1 l_2 \cdots l_n$  the unique non-increasing factorization of  $w$  in Lyndon word.  
Then

- $l_1^\omega > (l_2 \cdots l_n)^\omega$
- $l_1$  is the shortest nontrivial prefix  $p$  s.t.  $w = ps$  and  $p^\omega \geq s^\omega$ ,
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### Example ( $w = ac.aab.a.a$ )

- $(ac)^\omega > ((aab)(a)(a))^\omega$ ,
- $(ac)^\omega > (acaabaa)^\omega$ .



## Galois words



The *alternating lexicographical order*  $<_{alt}$  (w.r.t. an order  $<$ ) is the generalized lexicographical order defined by the sequence  $(<_n)_{n \geq 1}$  with

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### Example

Let  $a_i, b_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ .

$$a_1 a_2 a_3 \cdots <_{alt} b_1 b_2 b_3 \cdots \iff a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \frac{1}{\ddots}}} < b_1 + \frac{1}{b_2 + \frac{1}{b_3 + \frac{1}{\ddots}}}$$

## Galois words



The *alternating lexicographical order*  $<_{alt}$  (w.r.t. an order  $<$ ) is the generalized lexicographical order defined by the sequence  $(<_n)_{n \geq 1}$  with

$$<_n = \begin{cases} < & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \\ \approx & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

### Example

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A *Galois word* is a generalized Lyndon word for an alternating lexicographical order.

# Characterization of Galois words

## Proposition

The following conditions are equivalent for nonempty words  $u, v \in A^*$ .

- (1)  $u^\omega <_{alt} v^\omega$ ,
- (2)  $(uv)^\omega <_{alt} v^\omega$ ,
- (3)  $u^\omega <_{alt} (vu)^\omega$ ,
- (4)  $(uv)^\omega <_{alt} (vu)^\omega$ ,

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$$(5') \quad \begin{cases} u^\omega <_{alt} (uv)^\omega & \text{if } |u| \text{ is even} \\ u^\omega >_{alt} (uv)^\omega & \text{if } |u| \text{ is odd} \end{cases} ,$$

$$(6') \quad \begin{cases} (vu)^\omega <_{alt} v^\omega & \text{if } |v| \text{ is even} \\ (vu)^\omega >_{alt} v^\omega & \text{if } |v| \text{ is odd} \end{cases} .$$

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### Theorem [D., Restivo, Reutenauer (2018)]

$w$  is a Galois word if and only if for any nontrivial factorization  $w = ps$  one has

$$\begin{cases} p^\omega <_{alt} w^\omega & \text{if } |p| \text{ is even,} \\ p^\omega >_{alt} w^\omega & \text{if } |p| \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

## Factorization into Galois words

### Theorem [D., Restivo, Reutenauer (2018)]

Let  $w = g_1 g_2 \cdots g_n$  with  $g_i$  Galois words s.t.  $g_1^\omega \geq_{alt} g_2^\omega \geq_{alt} \cdots \geq_{alt} g_n^\omega$ .

Let  $m$  be the multiplicity of  $g_1$ .

Let  $p$  be the shortest nontrivial prefix of  $w$  s.t.

$$p^\omega \geq_{alt} w^\omega \text{ if } |p| \text{ is even} \quad \text{and} \quad p^\omega \leq_{alt} w^\omega \text{ if } |p| \text{ is odd.} \quad (\star)$$

Then

(i) if  $|g_1|$  is odd,  $m$  is even, and  $m < n$ , then  $p = g_1^2$ ,

(ii) otherwise,  $p = g_1$ .

### Example

Let  $w = (abb)(abb)(abaa)$ .

$((abb)^2)^\omega >_{alt} w^\omega$  and each proper prefix of  $(abb)^2$  does not satisfy condition  $(\star)$ .





## Complete trees

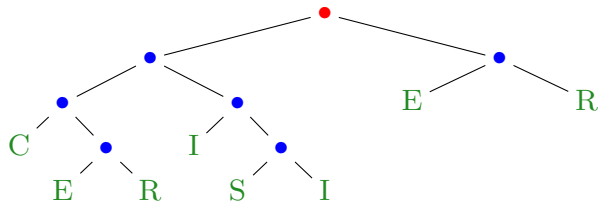
The set of *complete trees* over  $A$  is defined recursively as follows :

- each letter  $a \in A$  is a tree ;
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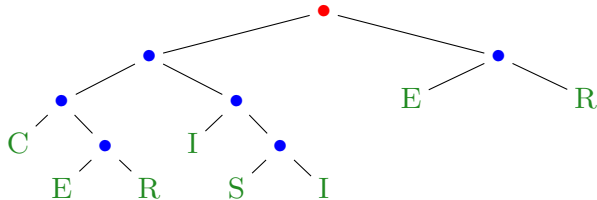


We will use the classical notions of *root*, *internal node* and *leaf* for a tree.

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We will use the classical notions of *root*, *internal node* and *leaf* for a tree.

The *foliage*  $\varphi(t)$  of a tree  $t$  is defined as :

- $\varphi(a) = a$  for any  $a \in A$ ,
- $\varphi((t_1, t_2)) = \varphi(t_1)\varphi(t_2)$  for any two trees  $t_1, t_2$ .

## *Left standard factorization*

Let  $w$  be a Lyndon word of length at least 2.

The *left standard factorization* of  $w$  is the factorization  $w = uv$ , where  $u$  is the longest nonempty proper prefix of  $w$  which is a Lyndon word.

### Example

The left standard factorization of  $abaacab$  is  $(abaac)(ab)$ .

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### Proposition

Both  $u$  and  $v$  are Lyndon words.

Moreover, either  $v$  is a letter or  $v = v_1v_2$ , and  $v_1 \leq u$ .

### Example

The left standard factorization of  $aabaacab$  is  $(aabaac)(ab)$ .

The left standard factorization of  $ab$  is  $(a)(b)$ , and  $a \leq aabaac$ .

## Left Lyndon tree



Let  $w \in A^+$  be a Lyndon word. Its *left Lyndon tree*  $\mathcal{L}(w)$  is defined as :

- $\mathcal{L}(a) = a$  for each letter  $a \in A$ ;
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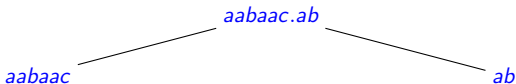
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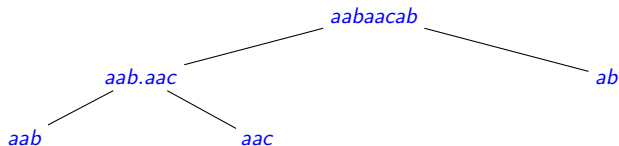


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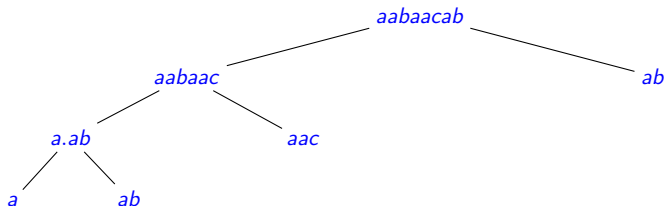


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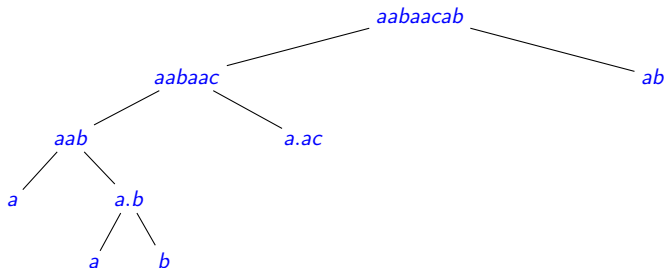


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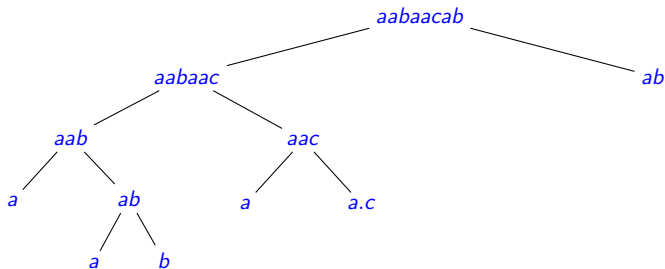


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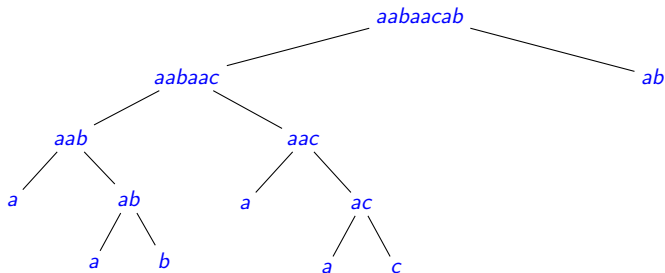


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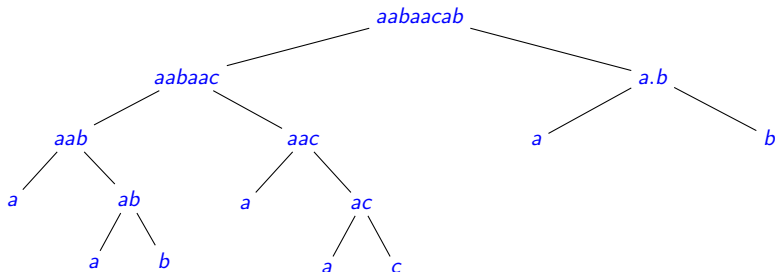


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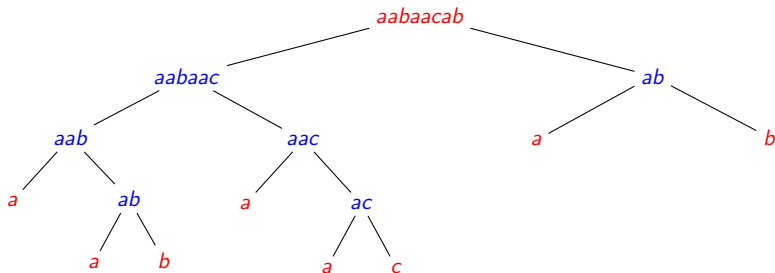


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Clearly  $\varphi(\mathcal{L}(w)) = w$ .

## *Prefix standardization*

$$u \prec v \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} u^\omega < v^\omega & \text{or} \\ u^\omega = v^\omega & \text{and } |u| > |v|. \end{cases}$$

### Example

$aa \prec a \prec ab \prec ba \prec b.$



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### Example

$w = aabaacab$

$a$   
 $aa$   
 $aab$   
 $aaba$   
 $aabaa$   
 $aabaac$   
 $aabaaca$   
 $aabaacab$

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$a.aaaaaaaa \dots$   
 $aa.aaaaaaaa \dots$   
 $aab.aabaaba \dots$   
 $aaba.aabaaa \dots$   
 $aabaa.aabaa \dots$   
 $aabaac.aaba \dots$   
 $aabaaca.aab \dots$   
 $aabaacab.aa \dots$

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$aa \prec a \prec ab \prec ba \prec b$ .

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## Example

$w =$  **aa***baacab*  
1

**aa**

*a*.aaaaaaaaa ···  
**aa**.aaaaaaaaa ···  
aab.aabaaba ···  
aaba.aabaaa ···  
aabaa.aabaa ···  
aabaac.aaba ···  
aabaaca.aab ···  
aabaacab.aa ···

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## Example

$w =$  **a**abaacab  
21

$aa \prec a$

a.aaaaaaaaa ···  
aa.aaaaaaaaa ···  
aab.aabaaba ···  
aaba.aabaaa ···  
aabaa.aabaa ···  
aabaac.aaba ···  
aabaaca.aab ···  
aabaacab.aa ···

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## Example

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21 3

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa$

*a*.aaaaaaaaa ···  
aa.aaaaaaaaa ···  
aab.aabaaba ···  
aba.aabaaa ···  
**a**baa.aabaa ···  
aabaac.aaba ···  
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## Example

$w =$  ***aabaacab***  
21 43

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa \prec aaba$

*a*.aaaaaaaa...  
*aa*.aaaaaaaa...  
*aab*.aabaaba...  
***aaba***.aabaaa...  
*aabaa*.aabaa...  
*aabaac*.aaba...  
*aabaaca*.aab...  
*aabaacab*.aa...

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## Example

$w =$  ***abaacab***  
21543

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa \prec aaba \prec aab$

*a*.aaaaaaaa...  
*aa*.aaaaaaaa...  
***aab***.***abaaba***...  
*aaba*.*aabaaa*...  
*aabaa*.*aabaa*...  
***abaac***.***aaba***...  
***aabaaca***.***aab***...  
***aabaacab***.***aa***...



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## Example

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21543 6

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa \prec aaba \prec aab \prec aabaaca$

*a*.aaaaaaaa...  
*aa*.aaaaaaaa...  
*aab*.aabaaba...  
*aaba*.aabaaa...  
*aabaa*.aabaa...  
***aabaac***.aaba...  
***aabaaca***.aab...  
*aabaacab*.aa...

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## Example

$w =$  **aabaacab**  
2154376

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa \prec aaba \prec aab \prec aabaaca \prec aabac$

a.aaaaaaaa...  
aa.aaaaaaaa...  
aab.aabaaba...  
aaba.aabaaa...  
aabaa.aabaa...  
**aabaac.aaba**...  
aabaaca.aab...  
aabaacab.aa...

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## Example

$w =$  ***aabaacab***  
21543768

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa \prec aaba \prec aab \prec aabaaca \prec aabac \prec w$

*a*.aaaaaaaaa...  
*aa*.aaaaaaaaa...  
*aab*.aabaaba...  
*aaba*.aabaaa...  
*aabaa*.aabaa...  
*aabaac*.aaba...  
*aabaaca*.aab...  
***aabaacab*.aa...**

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## Example

$w =$  *aabaacab*  
21543768

$aa \prec a \prec aabaa \prec aaba \prec aab \prec aabaaca \prec aabac \prec w$

*a.aaaaaaaaa* ···  
*aa.aaaaaaaa* ···  
*aab.aabaaba* ···  
*aaba.aabaaa* ···  
*aabaa.aabaa* ···  
*aabaac.aaba* ···  
*aabaaca.aab* ···  
*aabaacab.aa* ···

## *Left Cartesian tree*

Theorem [Ufnarovskij (1995)]

$w$  is a Lyndon word if and only if for any nontrivial factorization  $w = ps$  one has  $p^\omega < w^\omega$ .



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$abaacab \longleftrightarrow 21543768$



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7

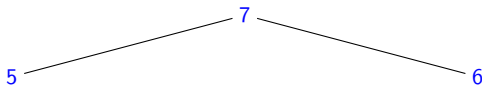


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$aabaacab \longleftrightarrow 2154376$



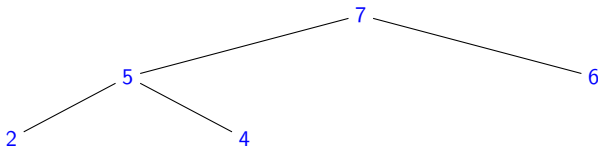


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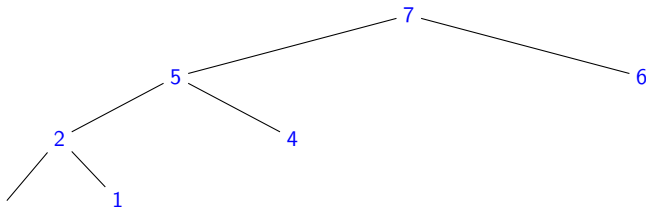
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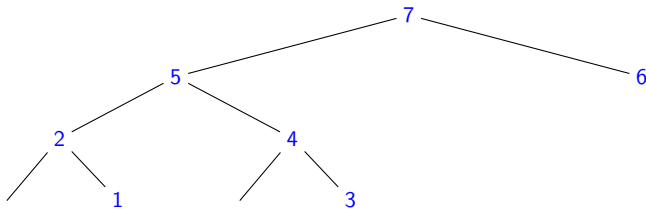
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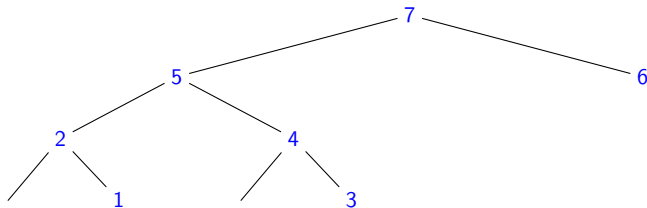
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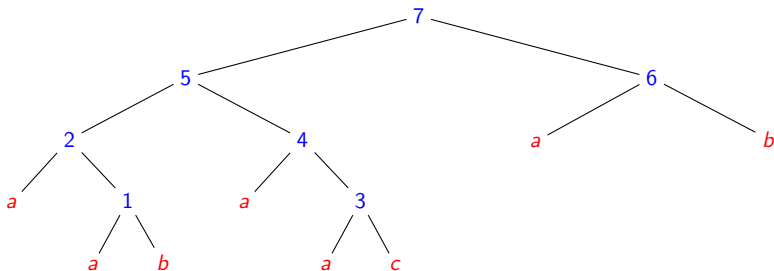
# Left Cartesian tree



Theorem [Ufnarovskij (1995)]

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We complete in such a way that  $\varphi(\mathcal{C}(w)) = w$ .

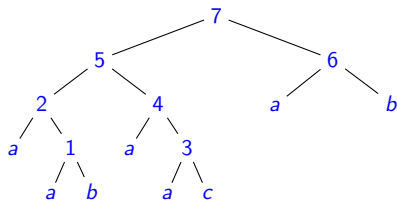
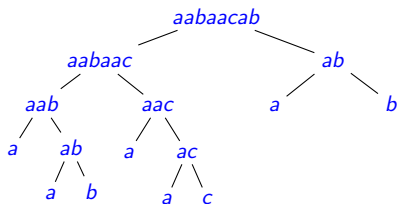
# Equivalence of trees



Theorem [D., Restivo, Reutenauer (2019)]

Let  $w$  be a Lyndon word. Then  $\mathcal{L}(w) = \mathcal{C}(w)$ .

$aabaacab \longleftrightarrow 2154376$



## Open problems

The non-increasing factorization in classical Lyndon words is the factorization in Lyndon words with minimal number of factors. This is not true for generalized Lyndon words.

### Example

The nonincreasing factorization in Galois words of  $w = ababab$  is  $(ab)(ab)(ab)$ .  
The word admits also the factorization  $w = (ababa)(b)$ .

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### Open Problem 1

Generalize Duval's algorithm to generalized Lyndon words.

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### Example

There are exactly 6 classical Lyndon words of length at most 2 (namely  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $ab$ ,  $aca$ ,  $bc$ ) and 5 words of length 2 prefixes of a Lyndon word (namely  $aa$ ,  $ab$ ,  $ac$ ,  $bb$ ,  $bc$ .)

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### Open Problem 2

Find a formula to count generalized Lyndon words of a given length.

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Moreover, each infinite word  $w$  could be factorized as either :

- $w = l_1 l_2 \dots$ , with  $l_i$  finite Lyndon words, and  $l_1^\omega \geq l_2^\omega \geq \dots$
- $w = l_1 \dots l_n s$ , with  $l_i$  finite Lyndon words,  $s$  infinite Lyndon words, and  $l_1^\omega \geq \dots \geq l_n^\omega \geq s$ .

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### Open Problem 3

Prove that each **infinite** word can be factorized in a unique way as a nonincreasing product of finite and infinite generalized Lyndon words.

