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## DECOMPOSITION THEOREM ON INVERTIBLE SUBSTITUTIONS

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### 0. Introduction

The decomposition theorem of automorphisms of free group is well known, and we mention the statement in the case of rank 2.

**Theorem** ([1]). *Let  $G\{1, 2\}$  be a free group generated by symbols 1 and 2. Then any automorphism of  $G\{1, 2\}$  is decomposed by three automorphisms:*

$$\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 2 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \beta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \gamma : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 1 \\ 2 \rightarrow 2^{-1} \end{cases}.$$

Recently Zhi-Xiong Wen and Zhi-Ying Wen give the decomposition theorem of invertible substitutions of rank 2, where we say an automorphism  $\sigma$  is an invertible substitution if words  $\sigma(1)$  and  $\sigma(2)$  consist of the symbols 1 or 2.

**Theorem** ([2]). *Any invertible substitution is generated by three invertible substitutions:*

$$\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 2 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \beta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \delta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 21 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}.$$

In this paper we give a simple proof of the theorem and a geometrical characterization of invertible substitutions.

### 1. Proof of the theorem

Let us introduce the canonical homomorphism  $\mathbf{f} : G\{1, 2\} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^2$  as follows:

$$\mathbf{f}(i^{\pm 1}) := \pm e_i, \quad i = 1, 2$$

$$\mathbf{f}(W) := \mathbf{f}(s_1) + \mathbf{f}(s_2) + \cdots + \mathbf{f}(s_k) \quad \text{for } W = s_1 s_2 \cdots s_k \in G\{1, 2\}$$

where  $\{e_1, e_2\}$  be canonical basis in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . Then we know the following property.

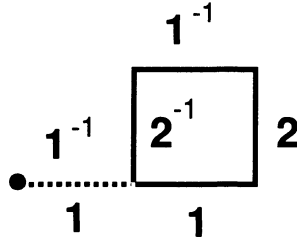


Fig. 1.  $\mathcal{K}[W]$ ,  $W = 1121^{-1}2^{-1}1^{-1}$

PROPERTY. Let us define the linear representation  $L_\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  by

$$L_\sigma = (\mathbf{f}(\sigma(1)), \mathbf{f}(\sigma(2))).$$

Then the following commutative relation holds:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G\{1, 2\} & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & G\{1, 2\} \\ \mathbf{f} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{f} \\ \mathbf{Z}^2 & \xrightarrow{L_\sigma} & \mathbf{Z}^2 \end{array}$$

A word  $W \in G\{1, 2\}$  is said to be closed if  $\mathbf{f}(W) = 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the family of polygon curve with integer vertices on  $\mathbf{R}^2$ , and let us define the geometrical realization map  $\mathcal{K} : G\{1, 2\} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$  by

$$\mathcal{K}[i^{\pm 1}] := \{\pm \lambda e_i \mid 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1\}, \quad i = 1, 2$$

and for  $W = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k \in G\{1, 2\}$

$$\mathcal{K}[w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k] := \bigcup_{i=1}^k \{\mathbf{f}(w_1 w_2 \cdots w_{i-1}) + \mathcal{K}[w_i]\}$$

where  $x + \mathbf{S} = \{x + s \mid s \in \mathbf{S}\}$ .

If the word  $W$  be a closed word, then the definition of  $\mathcal{K}[W]$  is modified slightly as follows:

$$\mathcal{K}[W] := \mathbf{f}(U) + \mathcal{K}[W_1]$$

where  $U$  is the longest word satisfying  $W = UW_1U^{-1}$ .(See Fig. 1.)

**Lemma 1.** For any automorphism  $\theta$ , we have

$$(*) \quad \mathcal{K}[\theta(121^{-1}2^{-1})] = x + \mathcal{K}[121^{-1}2^{-1}] \text{ for some } x \in \mathbf{Z}^2.$$

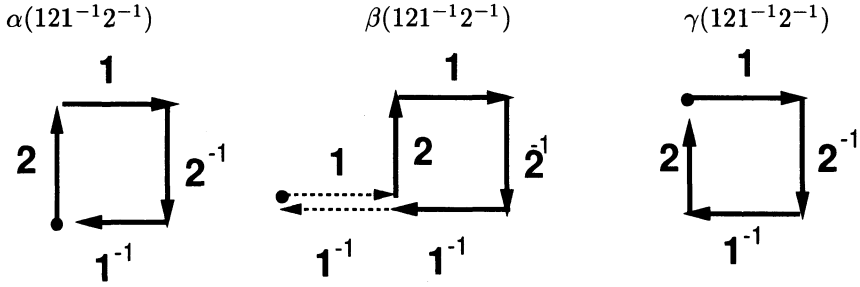


Fig. 2.  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})]$ ,  $\sigma = \alpha, \beta, \gamma$

Proof. From Nielsen’s theorem, any automorphism  $\sigma$  is decomposed by generators  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$ . On the other hand, it is easy to see that each generator of automorphisms satisfies (\*) property. Therefore any composition of generators also has (\*) property. (See Fig. 2.) □

**Sublemma 1.** *Let  $\sigma$  be an invertible substitution and let a linear representation  $L_\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  be*

$$L_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

Assume that  $\det L_\sigma = \pm 1$  and  $\max\{a, b, c, d\} = 1$ . Then the invertible substitution  $\sigma$  is determined by the composition of  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\delta$  as follows:

list of $L_\sigma$	list of $\sigma$	
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$	$\alpha\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 1 \\ 2 \rightarrow 2 \end{cases}$	
$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$	$\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 2 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}$	
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$	$\beta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}$	or
	$\delta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 21 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}$	
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$	$\alpha\delta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 2 \end{cases}$	or
	$\alpha\beta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 21 \\ 2 \rightarrow 2 \end{cases}$	
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$	$\beta\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 1 \\ 2 \rightarrow 12 \end{cases}$	or
	$\delta\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 1 \\ 2 \rightarrow 21 \end{cases}$	
$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$	$\alpha\delta\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 2 \\ 2 \rightarrow 12 \end{cases}$	or
	$\alpha\beta\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 2 \\ 2 \rightarrow 21 \end{cases}$	

The following sublemma is easily obtained from  $\det L_\sigma = \pm 1$ .

**Sublemma 2.** Let  $\begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$  be a linear representation of substitution  $\sigma$ . Assume that  $\det L_\sigma = \pm 1$  and  $\max\{a, b, c, d\} \geq 2$  then we have

$$\max\{a, b, c, d\} > \max\{\{a, b, c, d\} \setminus \max\{a, b, c, d\}\}.$$

**Lemma 2.** Let  $\sigma$  be a substitution and let  $\sigma(1)$  and  $\sigma(2)$  be  $\sigma(1) = W_1$  and  $\sigma(2) = W_2$ . Assume that

- (1) a linear representation  $L_\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  satisfies  $a > b \geq d \geq 0$  and  $a > c \geq d \geq 0$
- (2)  $\det L_\sigma = \pm 1$
- (3)  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})] = \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{K}[121^{-1}2^{-1}]$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}^2$

then there exists non empty word  $U$  such that

$$W_1 = W_2U \quad \text{or} \quad UW_2.$$

Before the proof of the lemma, we give a remark of the assumption (3). The word  $\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})$  is a closed word, therefore  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})]$  is a closed curve in general. And the assumption (3) says that the closed curve consists only of the boundary of unit square.

*Proof.* We can introduce the orientation of  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})]$  naturally by using the order of symbols in the word. And assume  $\det L_\sigma = 1$ , then the orientation of  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})]$  does not change from the orientation of  $\mathcal{K}[121^{-1}2^{-1}]$ .

- (1) The case of  $W_1 = 1W'_1$  and  $W_2 = 2W'_2$ .

Suppose  $|W_1| \leq 2$ , where  $|W_1|$  is the length of the word  $W_1$ , then we can determine the substitution  $\sigma$  by

$$\sigma : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 1 \\ 2 \rightarrow 2 \end{cases} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 2 \end{cases},$$

and these linear representations:

$$L_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad L_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is contradictory to the condition (1).

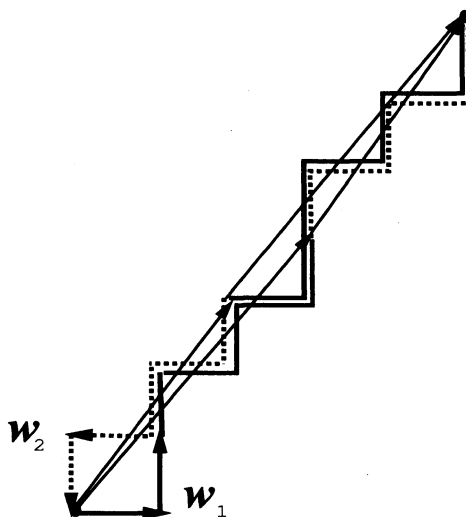
Let us assume that  $|W_1| \geq 3$ , then  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  must be decomposed as  $W_1 = 12W'_1$  and  $W_2 = 21W'_2$ . By the condition (3) we can easily see from the figure of  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})]$  that  $W_1$  is decomposed as  $W_1 = UW_2$ . (See Fig. 3.)

- (2) The case of  $W_1 = VW'_1$  and  $W_2 = VW'_2$ ,  $V \neq \emptyset$ .

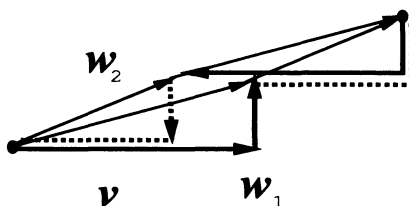
Assume that  $W'_2 = \emptyset$  then  $W_1$  is decomposed as  $W_1 = W_2U$ .

Assume that  $W'_2 \neq \emptyset$ , then we can find  $V$  such that  $W_1 = V1W''_1$  and  $W_2 = V2W''_2$ ,

(1)



(2)



(3)

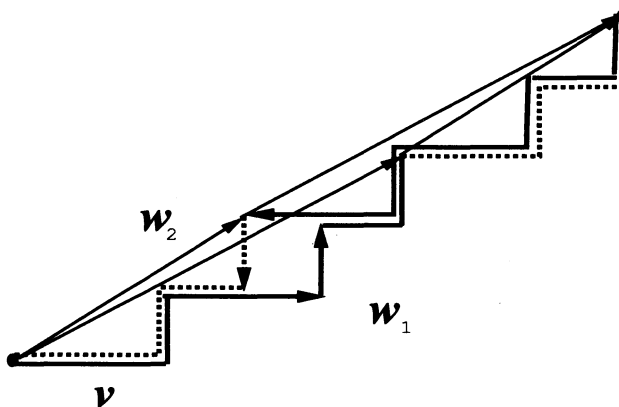


Fig. 3.  $\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})]$

and moreover we see that  $W_1''$  is not empty by the condition (1). Therefore by analogous discussion of case (1) we see that there exist  $U$  such that  $W_1 = UW_2$ . (See Fig. 3.)

We can consider the case of  $\det L_\sigma = -1$  by the same manner.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\sigma$  is an invertible substitution which satisfies the condition (1) of Lemma 2. Then  $\sigma$  can be decomposed by  $\sigma = \tau \circ \theta_i$  ( $i \in \{1, 2\}$ ) with some invertible substitution  $\tau$ , where  $\theta_i$  is given by*

$$\theta_1 = \beta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \theta_2 = \delta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 21 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}.$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 1, the invertible substitution  $\sigma$  satisfies the condition (3) of Lemma 2 and  $\sigma$  also satisfies the condition (2) from invertibility. So the word  $W_1$  is decomposed as  $W_1 = W_2U$  or  $UW_2$  by Lemma 2.

Let us assume that  $W_1 = W_2U$ . Define the substitution  $\tau$  as follows:

$$\tau : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow W_2 \\ 2 \rightarrow U \end{cases},$$

then we see that  $\sigma$  is decomposed as  $\sigma = \tau \circ \theta_1$ . Both  $\sigma$  and  $\theta_1$  are invertible, therefore  $\tau$  is also invertible.

The case of  $W_1 = UW_2$  is discussed analogously.  $\square$

Notice that in the case of Lemma 3 the linear representation  $L_\tau$  of  $\tau$  satisfies

$$L_\tau = \begin{pmatrix} c & a-c \\ d & b-d \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad a-c < a.$$

Therefore the following relation holds:

$$\max(\text{elements of } L_\sigma) > \max(\text{elements of } L_\tau).$$

**Theorem 1.** *Any invertible substitution of rank 2 is decomposed by three invertible substitutions:*

$$\alpha : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 2 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \beta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 12 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}, \quad \delta : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow 21 \\ 2 \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}.$$

*Proof.* Take any invertible substitution  $\sigma$ . By Sublemma 1 if  $\max(\text{elements of } L_\sigma) = 1$  then  $\sigma$  is decomposed by  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\delta$ . Consider the case of  $\max(\text{elements of } L_\sigma) \geq 2$ . By Sublemma 2 we take  $i_1, j_1 \in \{0, 1\}$  satisfying

$$L_{\alpha^{i_1} \circ \sigma \circ \alpha^{j_1}} = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}, \quad a > b \geq d \geq 0 \text{ and } a > c \geq d \geq 0.$$

By Lemma 3 there exist substitutions  $\tau'_1$  and  $\theta_{p_1}$  such that

$$\alpha^{i_1} \circ \sigma \circ \alpha^{j_1} = \tau'_1 \circ \theta_{p_1}.$$

Therefore the substitution  $\sigma$  is decomposed as

$$\sigma = \alpha^{i_1} \circ \tau'_1 \circ \theta_{p_1} \circ \alpha^{j_1}.$$

For  $\tau_1 := \alpha^{i_1} \circ \tau'_1$  let us continue the same procedure. Then there exists  $\tau_n$  such that  $\max(\text{elements of } L_{\tau_n}) = 1$ , and the substitution  $\sigma$  is decomposed as

$$\sigma = \tau_n \circ \theta_{p_n} \circ \alpha^{j_n} \circ \dots \circ \theta_{p_2} \circ \alpha^{j_2} \circ \theta_{p_1} \circ \alpha^{j_1}.$$

where  $p_k \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $j_k \in \{0, 1\}$ . □

Let us give a remark related to the uniqueness of decompositions. Define the invertible substitution  $\Theta$  by

$$\Theta = \beta \circ \alpha \circ \delta (= \delta \circ \alpha \circ \beta).$$

and replace every substitutions  $\beta \circ \alpha \circ \delta$  and  $\delta \circ \alpha \circ \beta$  in the decomposition of  $\sigma$  by  $\Theta$ . Then the substitution  $\sigma$  is decomposed uniquely by  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\Theta$  in our procedure. In fact, except the case of  $W_1 = W_2 U W_2$  we can determine which we take  $\sigma = \tau \circ \theta_1$  or  $\sigma = \tau \circ \theta_2$ . In the case of  $W_1 = W_2 U W_2$ ,  $\sigma$  can be decomposed as

$$\sigma = \tau \circ \delta \circ \alpha \circ \beta = \tau \circ \beta \circ \alpha \circ \delta.$$

Using the same discussion, we have the following result.

**Theorem 2** (geometrical characterization of invertible substitutions). *Let  $\sigma$  be a substitution. Then  $\sigma$  is invertible if and only if*

$$\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})] = \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{K}[121^{-1}2^{-1}] \text{ for some } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}^2$$

*Proof.* If  $\sigma$  is invertible then by Lemma 1

$$\mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})] = \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{K}[121^{-1}2^{-1}] \text{ for some } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}^2.$$

Oppositely, assume that

$$(**) \quad \mathcal{K}[\sigma(121^{-1}2^{-1})] = \mathbf{x} + \mathcal{K}[121^{-1}2^{-1}] \text{ for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}^2$$



then we know  $W_1 = W_2U$  or  $UW_2$  by Lemma 2. In the case of  $W_1 = W_2U$  (resp.  $W_1 = UW_2$ ) determine the substitution  $\tau$  (resp.  $\tau'$ ) such that

$$\tau : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow W_2 \\ 2 \rightarrow U \end{cases} \quad \left( \text{resp. } \tau' : \begin{cases} 1 \rightarrow W_2 \\ 2 \rightarrow U \end{cases} \right)$$

then  $\sigma = \tau \circ \theta_1$  (resp.  $\sigma = \tau' \circ \theta_2$ ) and  $\tau$  satisfies (\*\*) property. Continue the procedure, the substitution  $\sigma$  is decomposed by  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\delta$ . So  $\sigma$  is invertible. □

**2. Interval exchange transformations and invertible substitutions**

In this section, we discuss about the dynamical system called an interval exchange transformation associated with a substitution.

ASSUMPTION. Let us assume that the substitution  $\sigma$  satisfies the following properties:

- (1)  $\det L_\sigma = \pm 1$
- (2) the characteristic polynomial is irreducible.

Let  $\mu$  be the maximum eigenvalue of  $L_\sigma$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$  be column and row eigenvectors of  $\mu$ , that is,

$$L_\sigma \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \end{pmatrix} = \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad {}^t L_\sigma \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $l$  be the contracting invariant line of  $L_\sigma$ , then  $l$  is given by

$$l = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mid \left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0 \right\}.$$

Let  $\mathbf{l}_1$  and  $\mathbf{l}_2$  be unit segments spanned by  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ , that is,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{l}_1 &:= \{ \lambda e_2 \mid 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1 \} \\ \mathbf{l}_2 &:= \{ \lambda e_1 \mid 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1 \}. \end{aligned}$$

Let us consider a set of unit segments on lattice points:

$$S_\beta := \left\{ (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \times \{ \mathbf{l}_1, \mathbf{l}_2 \} \mid \begin{cases} (\mathbf{x}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}) \geq 0 \\ (\mathbf{x} - e_i, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}) < 0 \text{ if } \mathbf{l} = \mathbf{l}_i \end{cases} \right\}.$$

We call the union of elements of  $S_\beta$  the stepped curve of the line  $l$  and it is denoted by

$$S_\beta := \bigcup_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}) \in S_\beta} (\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{l}).$$

Let us consider the finite union of  $S_\beta$  as follows:

$$\mathcal{G} := \left\{ \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l})_\lambda \mid \begin{array}{l} \#\Lambda < +\infty, (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l})_\lambda \in S_\beta \\ (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l})_\lambda \neq (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l})_{\lambda'}, \text{ if } \lambda \neq \lambda' \end{array} \right\}.$$

DEFINITION. On the notation of

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(1) &= s_1 s_2 \cdots s_k, \\ \sigma(2) &= t_1 t_2 \cdots t_l \end{aligned}$$

and

$$L_\sigma^{-1} = (\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2)$$

let us define a map  $\Sigma_\sigma$  on  $\mathcal{G}$  as follows:  
for  $r = 1, 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_\sigma : (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_r) &\mapsto \left\{ \left\{ \sum_{j; s_j=r} \left( \sum_{i=j+1}^k \mathbf{f}_{s_i}, \mathbf{l}_1 \right) \right\} + \left\{ \sum_{j'; t_{j'}=r} \left( \sum_{i=j'+1}^l \mathbf{f}_{t_i}, \mathbf{l}_2 \right) \right\} \right\} \\ \Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_r) &:= L_\sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}) + \Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_r), \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}^2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\Sigma_\sigma\left(\sum_p (\mathbf{x}_p, \mathbf{l}_{r_p})\right) := \sum_p \Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_{r_p}).$$

The map  $\Sigma_\sigma$  is called the canonical form of  $\sigma$ .

REMARK. The canonical form of  $\sigma$  has another expression, which is for  $r = 1, 2$

$$\begin{aligned} &\Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_r) \\ &= \left\{ \left\{ \sum_{j; s_j=r} \left( -\sum_{i=1}^j \mathbf{f}_{s_i} + \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{l}_1 \right) \right\} + \left\{ \sum_{j'; t_{j'}=r} \left( -\sum_{i=1}^{j'} \mathbf{f}_{t_i} + \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{l}_2 \right) \right\} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of canonical form, Arnoux-Ito ([3]) gives following propositions.

Let  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{U}'$  be  $\mathcal{U} = (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{l}_1) + (\mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{l}_2)$  and  $\mathcal{U}' = (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_1) + (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_2)$ . We define the geometrical realization map  $\mathbf{K} : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \{\text{polygons on } \mathbf{R}^2\}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K} : (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_r) &\mapsto \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{l}_r \text{ for } r = 1, 2 \\ \mathbf{K}[\sum_i (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{l}_{r_i})] &:= \bigcup_i (\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{l}_{r_i}), \end{aligned}$$

and let  $\Pi_{\alpha,\beta}$  be a projection from  $\mathbf{R}^2$  to the line  $l$  along  $\binom{1}{\alpha}$ .  
 Let us define domains, which is finite union of intervals on  $l$  in general, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{\alpha,\beta}[\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_i)] &= \mathbf{D}_i^{(0)'} \\ \Pi_{\alpha,\beta}[\mathbf{K}(e_i, \mathbf{l}_i)] &= \mathbf{D}_i^{(0)} \\ \mathbf{D}^{(0)} &:= \bigcup_{i=1,2} \mathbf{D}_i^{(0)} = \bigcup_{i=1,2} \mathbf{D}_i^{(0)'} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{\alpha,\beta}[\mathbf{K}(\Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_i))] &= \mathbf{D}_i^{(1)'} \\ \Pi_{\alpha,\beta}[\mathbf{K}(\Sigma_\sigma(e_i, \mathbf{l}_i))] &= \mathbf{D}_i^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{D}^{(1)} &:= \bigcup_{i=1,2} \mathbf{D}_i^{(1)} = \bigcup_{i=1,2} \mathbf{D}_i^{(1)'} . \end{aligned}$$

Then the following general interval exchange transformation on  $\mathbf{D}^{(0)}$  and  $\mathbf{D}^{(1)}$  are well-defined:

$$\begin{aligned} W_{(0)} : \mathbf{D}^{(0)} &\longrightarrow \mathbf{D}^{(0)} \\ x &\longmapsto x - \Pi_{\alpha,\beta} e_i \quad \text{if } x \in \mathbf{D}_i^{(0)} \\ W_{(1)} : \mathbf{D}^{(1)} &\longrightarrow \mathbf{D}^{(1)} \\ x &\longmapsto x - \Pi_{\alpha,\beta} f_i \quad \text{if } x \in \mathbf{D}_i^{(1)} , \end{aligned}$$

and the following propositions hold.

**Proposition 1** ([3]).

- (1)  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U} \supset \mathcal{U}$  and  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}' \supset \mathcal{U}'$

$$\text{Moreover, } \Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U} - \mathcal{U} = \Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}' - \mathcal{U}' .$$

- (2) Assume that  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_i) \in \mathcal{S}_\beta$  then we have  $\Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_i) \in \mathcal{G}$ .  
 (3) Assume that  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_i) \neq (\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{l}_j)$  then we have

$$\Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_i) \cap \Sigma_\sigma(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{l}_j) = \emptyset .$$

**Proposition 2** ([3]). Let  $W_{(1)}|_{\mathbf{D}^{(0)}}$  be the induced transformation of  $W_{(1)}$  to the set  $\mathbf{D}^{(0)}$ . Then we have

- (1)  $W_{(1)}|_{\mathbf{D}^{(0)}} = W_{(0)}$   
 (2)  $W_{(1)}|_{\mathbf{D}^{(0)}}$  has  $\sigma$ -structure, that is, for  $i = 1, 2$

$$\begin{aligned} W_{(1)}^{j-1} \mathbf{D}_1^{(0)} &\subset \mathbf{D}_{s_j}^{(1)} \text{ for } 1 \leq j \leq k \text{ and } W_{(1)}^k \mathbf{D}_1^{(0)} = \mathbf{D}_1^{(0)'} \\ W_{(1)}^{j'-1} \mathbf{D}_2^{(0)} &\subset \mathbf{D}_{t_{j'}}^{(1)} \text{ for } 1 \leq j' \leq l \text{ and } W_{(1)}^l \mathbf{D}_2^{(0)} = \mathbf{D}_2^{(0)'} . \end{aligned}$$

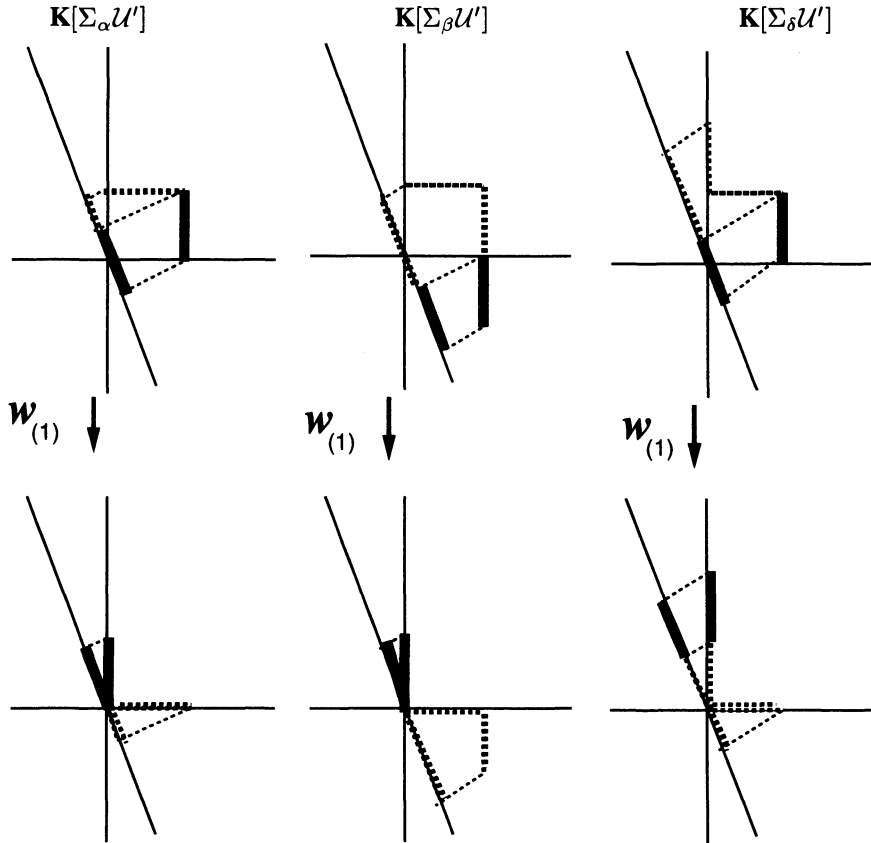


Fig. 4.  $W_{(1)}$

Using the decomposition theorem in section one, we obtain the following other characterization of invertible substitutions.

**Theorem 3.** *A substitution  $\sigma$  is an invertible substitution if and only if the interval exchange transformation  $W_{(1)}$  associated with  $\sigma$  is 2-state interval exchange transformation.*

*Proof.* If  $\sigma$  is an invertible substitution then from the decomposition theorem the substitution  $\sigma$  is decomposed by the generators  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\delta$ . So it is enough to show that the interval exchange transformations associated with  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\delta$  are 2-state interval exchange transformations. (See Fig. 4.)

Oppositely, assume the interval exchange transformation  $W_{(1)}$  associated with  $\sigma$  is 2-state interval exchange transformation. Without the loss of a generality, we assume that  $L_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$  satisfies  $a > b \geq d$  and  $a > c \geq d$  by taking  $\alpha^i \circ \sigma \circ \alpha^j$  if necessary

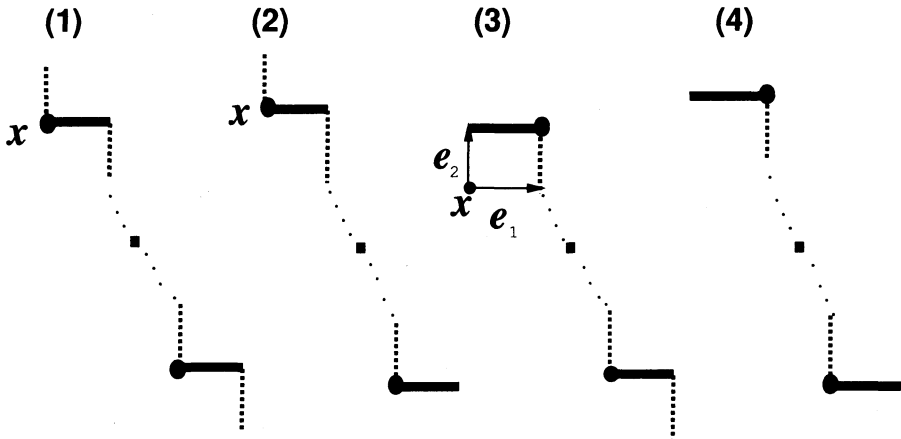


Fig. 5.  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$

where  $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$ .

From the fact that  $a + b > c + d$ , that is,

the number of  $\mathbf{l}_1$  in  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}'] >$  the number of  $\mathbf{l}_2$  in  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$

and  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$  belongs in the stepped curve  $S_\beta$  from Proposition 1 (2), we see that there are no  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_2)$  such that  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_2)$  and  $(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{l}_2) \in \Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}'$ , and  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}$  has the same property by Proposition 1 (1). Let us consider 4 cases;

- The ends of  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$  are not constructed by  $\mathbf{l}_2 \cdots \cdots$  (1)
- One of the ends of  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$  is constructed by  $\mathbf{l}_2 \cdots \cdots$  (2) (3)
- Both of the ends of  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$  are constructed by  $\mathbf{l}_2 \cdots \cdots$  (4)

(See Fig. 5.)

The case of (4) is impossible since  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}$  does not contain both  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_2)$  and  $(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{l}_2)$  for any  $\mathbf{x}$ .

For the case of (1) and (2), if  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_2)$  is in  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}'$  then  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{l}_1)$  is also in  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}'$  from the connectedness of  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$ . So by the definition of  $\Sigma_\sigma$  we have

$$\{f_{s_k}, f_{s_k} + f_{s_{k-1}}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^k f_{s_i}\} \supset \{f_{t_l}, f_{t_l} + f_{t_{l-1}}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^l f_{t_i}\}.$$

Then there exists  $\sum_{i=j}^k f_{s_i}$  such that  $f_{t_l} = \sum_{i=j}^k f_{s_i}$  and by operating  $L_\sigma$  we have

$$\mathbf{f}(t_l) = \sum_{i=j}^k \mathbf{f}(s_i), \quad \mathbf{f}(t_l), \mathbf{f}(s_i) \in \{e_1, e_2\}.$$

Therefore we have

$$f(t_l) = f(s_k) \quad \text{and} \quad t_l = s_k.$$

Continue the same procedure, we obtain

$$t_l = s_k, t_{l-1} = s_{k-1}, \dots, t_1 = s_{k-l+1}.$$

This means that  $W_1$  is decomposed as  $W_1 = UW_2$ .

For the case of (3), if  $(x + e_2, l_2)$  is in  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}'$  then  $(x + e_1, l_1)$  is also in  $\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}'$  from the connectedness of  $\mathbf{K}[\Sigma_\sigma \mathcal{U}']$ . So by the remark we have

$$\{f_{s_1}, f_{s_1} + f_{s_2}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^k f_{s_i}\} \supset \{f_{t_1}, f_{t_1} + f_{t_2}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^l f_{t_i}\}.$$

Then by the same procedure as the case of (1) and (2),  $W_1$  is decomposed as  $W_1 = W_2U$ . Using same discussion as Lemma 3 in section one, there exists  $\theta_i$  and  $\tau$  which decompose  $\sigma$  as  $\sigma = \tau \circ \theta_i$ . And notice that

$$\Sigma_\sigma = \Sigma_{\theta_i} \circ \Sigma_\tau$$

we can say the substitution  $\tau$  also has 2-state interval exchange transformation, since the interval exchange transformations associated with  $\sigma$  and  $\theta_i$  are 2-state interval exchange transformations. Continue the same procedure, there exists  $\tau_n$  which satisfies that

$$\max(\text{elements of } L_{\tau_n}) = 1$$

and we obtain that

$$\sigma = \tau_n \circ \theta_{p_n} \circ \alpha^{j_n} \circ \dots \circ \theta_{p_2} \circ \alpha^{j_2} \circ \theta_{p_1} \circ \alpha^{j_1}$$

where  $p_k \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $j_k \in \{0, 1\}$ .

So the substituiton  $\sigma$  is invertible. □

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