

The game of overlaps

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Definitions

A - alphabet

Repetition: xx , where $x \in A^+$

Overlap: $axaxa$, where $a \in A, x \in A^*$

Examples:

$A = \{0, 1, 2\}$

01210121 is a repetition

11 is a repetition

201120112 is an overlap

000 is an overlap

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Sparse overlap-free game

Ben: I want an overlap!

Ann: No overlaps!



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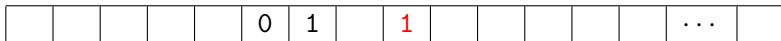
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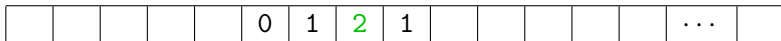
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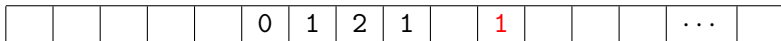
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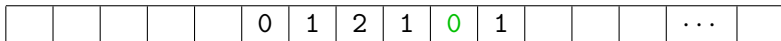
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Ben wins

Main result

Theorem (Grytczuk, Kosiński, Zmarz)

*There exists a winning strategy with finite description for **Ann** that allows her to win the sparse overlap-free game of any even length over a 4-letter alphabet (provided **Ben** starts the play).*

The result above is optimal – **Ben** can win the game that is played on a 3-letter alphabet in just 5 moves!

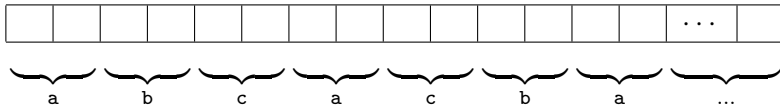
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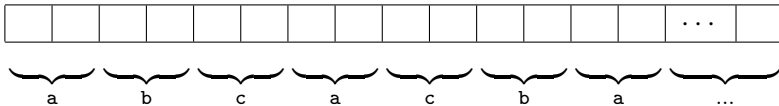
Ann's strategy



$$t = \underline{abcacbabcbacabcacbacabc} \dots = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \phi^i(a)$$

$$\phi = \begin{cases} a & \rightarrow abc \\ b & \rightarrow ac \\ c & \rightarrow b \end{cases}$$

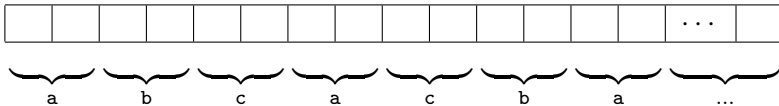
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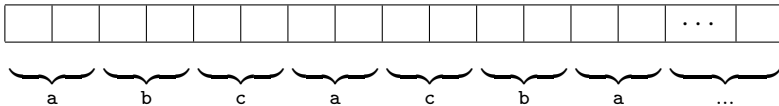
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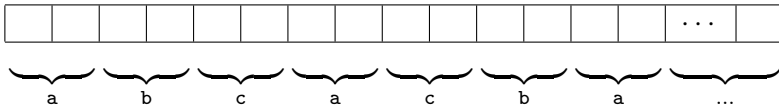
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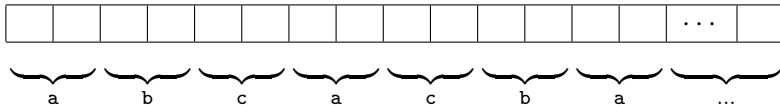
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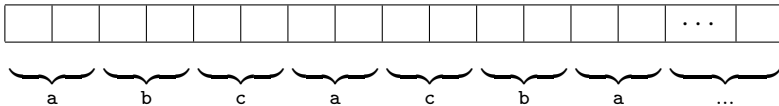
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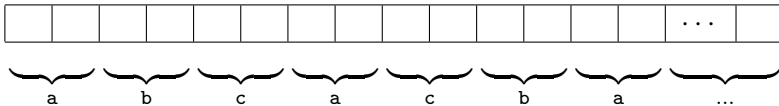
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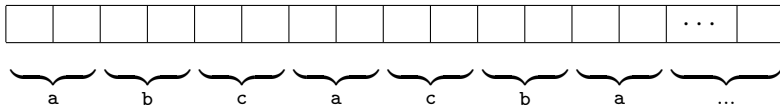
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t – an infinite Thue word without repetitions over a 3-letter alphabet

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$$a \rightarrow \{01, 12, 23, 30\}$$

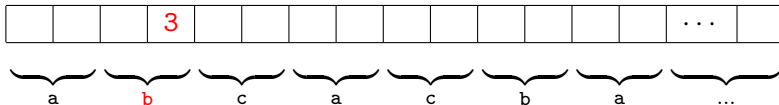
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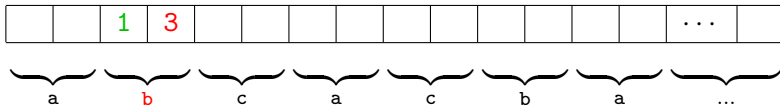
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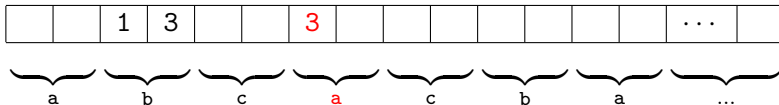
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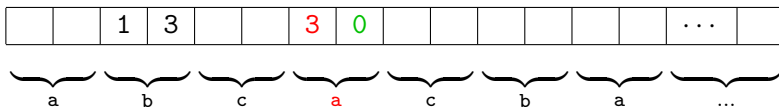
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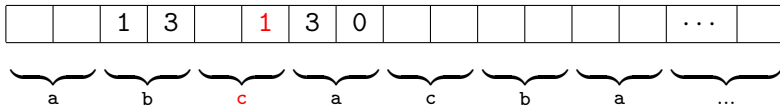
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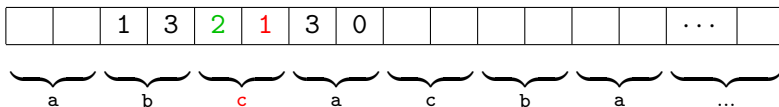
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Why does it work?

Suppose that an overlap $axaxa$ exists as a subword and $m = |x|$.

	...	a	x_1	x_2	...	x_m	a	x_1	x_2	...	x_m	a	...	
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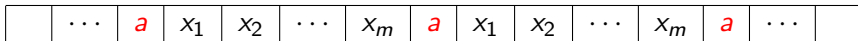
- m is odd

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 \underbrace{ax_1}_{r_1} & \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{r_2} & \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{r_3} & \underbrace{x_6x_7}_{r_4} & \underbrace{ax_1}_{r_1} & \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{r_2} & \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{r_3} & \underbrace{x_6x_7}_{r_4} & \text{or} \\
 \underbrace{ax_1x_2}_{s_1} & \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{s_2} & \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{s_3} & \underbrace{x_7a}_{s_4} & \underbrace{x_1x_2}_{s_1} & \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{s_2} & \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{s_3} & \underbrace{x_7a}_{s_4}
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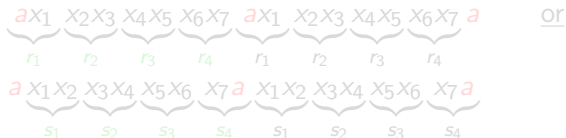
rr or ss – a subword of t
 t – an infinite Thue word without repetitions
 \Rightarrow contradiction

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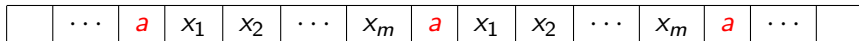
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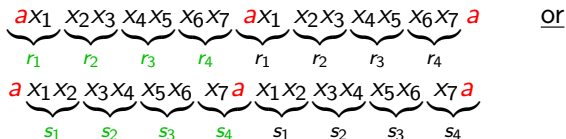
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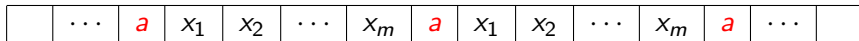
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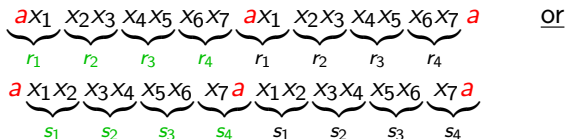
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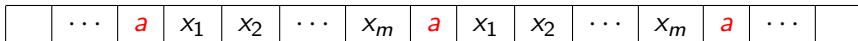
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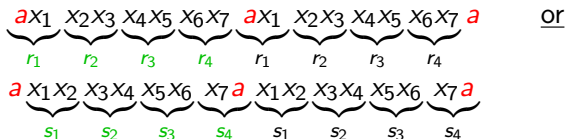
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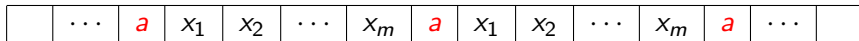


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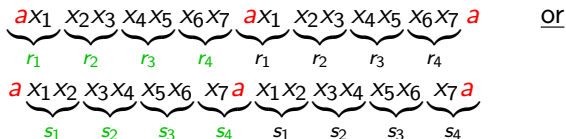
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Why does it work?

- m is even

$$\underbrace{ax_1}_{u_1} \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{u_3} \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{u_5} \underbrace{x_6a}_{u_7} \underbrace{x_1x_2}_{u_2} \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{u_4} \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{u_6} a \quad \text{or}$$

$$a \underbrace{x_1x_2}_{u_2} \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{u_4} \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{u_6} \underbrace{ax_1}_{u_1} \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{u_3} \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{u_5} \underbrace{x_6a}_{u_7}$$

$$a \xrightarrow{u_1} x_1 \xrightarrow{u_2} x_2 \xrightarrow{u_3} x_3 \xrightarrow{u_4} x_4 \xrightarrow{u_5} x_5 \xrightarrow{u_6} x_6 \xrightarrow{u_7} a$$

$$a \longrightarrow \{0 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 1, 1 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 2, 2 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 3, 3 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 0\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{a} \equiv +1 \pmod{4}$$

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$$\text{value} + \bar{u}_1 + \bar{u}_2 + \bar{u}_3 + \bar{u}_4 + \bar{u}_5 + \bar{u}_6 + \bar{u}_7 \equiv \text{value} \pmod{4}$$

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$$\text{value} + \bar{u}_1 + \bar{u}_2 + \bar{u}_3 + \bar{u}_4 + \bar{u}_5 + \bar{u}_6 + \bar{u}_7 \equiv \text{value} \pmod{4}$$

$$\bar{u}_1 + \bar{u}_2 + \bar{u}_3 + \bar{u}_4 + \bar{u}_5 + \bar{u}_6 + \bar{u}_7 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$$

Why does it work?

- m is even

$$\underbrace{aX_1}_{u_1} \underbrace{X_2X_3}_{u_3} \underbrace{X_4X_5}_{u_5} \underbrace{X_6a}_{u_7} \underbrace{X_1X_2}_{u_2} \underbrace{X_3X_4}_{u_4} \underbrace{X_5X_6}_{u_6} a \quad \text{or}$$

$$a \underbrace{X_1X_2}_{u_2} \underbrace{X_3X_4}_{u_4} \underbrace{X_5X_6}_{u_6} a \underbrace{X_1}_{u_1} \underbrace{X_2X_3}_{u_3} \underbrace{X_4X_5}_{u_5} \underbrace{X_6}_{u_7} a$$

$$a \xrightarrow{u_1} X_1 \xrightarrow{u_2} X_2 \xrightarrow{u_3} X_3 \xrightarrow{u_4} X_4 \xrightarrow{u_5} X_5 \xrightarrow{u_6} X_6 \xrightarrow{u_7} a$$

$$a \longrightarrow \{0 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 1, 1 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 2, 2 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 3, 3 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} 0\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{a} \equiv +1 \pmod{4}$$

$$b \longrightarrow \{0 \xrightarrow{\bar{b}} 2, 1 \xrightarrow{\bar{b}} 3, 2 \xrightarrow{\bar{b}} 0, 3 \xrightarrow{\bar{b}} 1\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{b} \equiv +2 \pmod{4}$$

$$c \longrightarrow \{0 \xrightarrow{\bar{c}} 3, 1 \xrightarrow{\bar{c}} 0, 2 \xrightarrow{\bar{c}} 1, 3 \xrightarrow{\bar{c}} 2\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{c} \equiv +3 \pmod{4}$$

$$\text{value} + \bar{u}_1 + \bar{u}_2 + \bar{u}_3 + \bar{u}_4 + \bar{u}_5 + \bar{u}_6 + \bar{u}_7 \equiv \text{value} \pmod{4}$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 \underbrace{ax_1}_{u_1} & \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{u_3} & \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{u_5} & \underbrace{x_6a}_{u_7} & \underbrace{x_1x_2}_{u_2} & \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{u_4} & \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{u_6} & a \\
 \underbrace{ax_1x_2}_{u_2} & \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{u_4} & \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{u_6} & \underbrace{ax_1}_{u_1} & \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{u_3} & \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{u_5} & \underbrace{x_6a}_{u_7} & \\
 \hline
 \overline{u_1} + \overline{u_2} + \overline{u_3} + \overline{u_4} + \overline{u_5} + \overline{u_6} + \overline{u_7} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}
 \end{array}$$

or

Lemma

If w is a subword of t , then $||w|_a - |w|_c| \leq 1$, where $|w|_s$ denotes the number of times the letter s appears in w .

By lemma and counting the numbers of a , b , c in u :

$$\overline{u_1} + \overline{u_2} + \overline{u_3} + \overline{u_4} + \overline{u_5} + \overline{u_6} + \overline{u_7} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$$

\Rightarrow contradiction

Why does it work?

- m is even

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 \color{red}{a}x_1 & x_2x_3 & x_4x_5 & x_6\color{red}{a} & x_1x_2 & x_3x_4 & x_5x_6 & \color{red}{a} \\
 \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \\
 u_1 & u_3 & u_5 & u_7 & u_2 & u_4 & u_6 & \\
 \\
 \color{red}{a}x_1x_2 & x_3x_4 & x_5x_6 & \color{red}{a}x_1 & x_2x_3 & x_4x_5 & x_6\color{red}{a} & \\
 \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \\
 u_2 & u_4 & u_6 & u_1 & u_3 & u_5 & u_7 & \\
 \\
 \overline{u_1} + \overline{u_2} + \overline{u_3} + \overline{u_4} + \overline{u_5} + \overline{u_6} + \overline{u_7} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}
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 u_1 & u_3 & u_5 & u_7 & u_2 & u_4 & u_6 & \text{or} \\
 \color{red}{a}x_1x_2 & x_3x_4 & x_5x_6 & \color{red}{a}x_1 & x_2x_3 & x_4x_5 & x_6\color{red}{a} & \\
 \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5em}} & \\
 u_2 & u_4 & u_6 & u_1 & u_3 & u_5 & u_7 & \\
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 \underbrace{ax_1x_2}_{u_2} & \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{u_4} & \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{u_6} & \underbrace{ax_1}_{u_1} & \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{u_3} & \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{u_5} & \underbrace{x_6a}_{u_7} & & \\
 \overline{u_1} + \overline{u_2} + \overline{u_3} + \overline{u_4} + \overline{u_5} + \overline{u_6} + \overline{u_7} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}
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 \underbrace{ax_1x_2}_{u_2} & \underbrace{x_3x_4}_{u_4} & \underbrace{x_5x_6}_{u_6} & \underbrace{ax_1}_{u_1} & \underbrace{x_2x_3}_{u_3} & \underbrace{x_4x_5}_{u_5} & \underbrace{x_6a}_{u_7} & & \\
 \overline{u_1} + \overline{u_2} + \overline{u_3} + \overline{u_4} + \overline{u_5} + \overline{u_6} + \overline{u_7} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}
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If w is a subword of t , then $||w|_a - |w|_c| \leq 1$, where $|w|_s$ denotes the number of times the letter s appears in w .

By lemma and counting the numbers of a , b , c in u :

$$\begin{aligned}
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 &\Rightarrow \text{contradiction}
 \end{aligned}$$

The end

Questions?