

TITLE: Trapezoidal words

ABSTRACT. In 1999 Aldo de Luca introduced two characteristic parameters for a finite word w on the alphabet $A = \{a,b\}$: the first one, denoted by K_w , is the minimum natural number K such that w has a suffix of length K which is not extendible in w ; the second one, denoted by R_w , is the minimum natural number R such that w has no right special factors of length R . A right special factor of w is a factor u such that ua and ub are both factors of w . My talk is about trapezoidal words. They can be defined in terms of right special factors and in terms of the parameters R_w and K_w . I will list some of their properties and explain why they deserve this name. Some recent results on them are contained in a joint paper with Alessandro De Luca, the main one being a characterization of right special and strictly bispecial trapezoidal words, as done by Aldo de Luca and Filippo Mignosi for finite Sturmian words.

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