# TWO DIMENSIONAL WORD WITH 2k MAXIMAL PATTERN COMPLEXITY 

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## 1. Introduction

For an infinite 1-dimensional word $\alpha=\alpha_{0} \alpha_{1} \alpha_{2} \cdots$ over a finite alphabet $A$, Teturo Kamae and Luca Zamboni [1] introduced the maximal pattern complexity as

$$
p_{\alpha}^{*}(k):=\sup _{\tau} \sharp\left\{\alpha_{n+\tau(0)} \alpha_{n+\tau(1)} \cdots \alpha_{n+\tau(k-1)} ; n=0,1,2, \ldots\right\}
$$

where the supremum is taken over all sequences of integers $0=\tau(0)<\tau(1)<\cdots<$ $\tau(k-1)$ of length $k$, and $\sharp S$ denotes the cardinality of the set $S$. They proved that $\alpha$ is eventually periodic if and only if $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)$ is bounded in $k$, while otherwise, $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \geq$ $2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$.

Teturo Kamae, Rao Hui and Xue Yu-Mei [3] considered the maximal pattern complexity for 2-dimensional words defined on $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$ and proved that either $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)$ is bounded in $k$ or $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \geq 2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$ if $\alpha$ satisfies a 2 -dimensional recurrence condition.

In this paper, we consider the maximal pattern complexity for 2 -dimensional words defined on

$$
\Omega:=\mathbb{N}^{2} \backslash\{(0,0)\}
$$

Let $\alpha=\left(\alpha(x, y)_{(x, y) \in \Omega)}\right) \in A^{\Omega}$ be a 2-dimensional word over $\mathbf{A}=\{0,1\}$ defined on $\Omega$. Let $\tau$ be a finite set in $\mathbb{Z}^{2}$ with $(0,0) \in \tau$ and $\sharp \tau=k$, which is called a $k$-window. For any $i \in \Omega$ with $i+\tau \subset \Omega$, we denote

$$
\alpha[i+\tau]:=(\alpha(i+j))_{j \in \tau} \in A^{\tau} .
$$

We also denote

$$
\begin{aligned}
& F_{\tau}(\alpha):=\{(\alpha[i+\tau] ; i \in \Omega \text { with } i+\tau \subset \Omega\} \\
& p_{\alpha}^{*}(k):=\sup \left\{\sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau) ; \tau: k \text {-window }\right\} \quad(k=1,2, \ldots) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Definition 1. $\alpha$ is called eventually 2-periodic if there exist $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}_{+}$and $a$, $b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $(x, y) \in \Omega, \alpha(x, y)=\alpha(x+p, y)$ holds if $x \geq a$ and $\alpha(x, y)=$ $\alpha(x, y+q)$ holds if $y \geq b$.

Definition 2. $\alpha$ is called minimal if for any positive integer $L$, there exists $N$ such that for any $(n, m) \in \Omega$ there exists $\left(n^{\prime}, m^{\prime}\right) \in \Omega$ with $\left|n-n^{\prime}\right| \leq N,\left|m-m^{\prime}\right| \leq N$ such that $\alpha\left(x+n^{\prime}, y+m^{\prime}\right)=\alpha(x, y)$ holds for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$ with $x<L, y<L$.

Definition 3. $\alpha$ is called sectionally periodic if for any $(a, b),(p, q) \in \Omega$, the word $\beta$ on $n \in \mathbb{N}$ defined by $\beta(n)=\alpha(a+n p, b+n q)$ is periodic.

In this paper, we characterize the words with bounded maximal pattern complexity. We give an example of word $\alpha$ with $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)=2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$ which is minimal and sectionally periodic.

## 2. Words with bounded maximal pattern complexity

Theorem 1. $\alpha$ is eventually 2-periodic if and only if $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)$ is bounded in $k$.
Proof. Assume that $\alpha$ is eventually 2-periodic. Take $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}_{+}$and $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $(x, y) \in \Omega, \alpha(x, y)=\alpha(x+p, y)$ holds if $x \geq a$ and $\alpha(x, y)=$ $\alpha(x, y+q)$ holds if $y \geq b$.

Let $\tau$ be a $k$-window. Let

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Omega_{1}:=\{i=(x, y) \in \Omega ; i+\tau \subset \Omega \cap[a, \infty) \times[b, \infty)\} \\
& \Omega_{2}:=\left\{i=(x, y) \in \Omega \backslash \Omega_{1} ; i+\tau \subset \Omega \cap[a, \infty) \times[0, \infty)\right\} \\
& \Omega_{3}:=\left\{i=(x, y) \in \Omega \backslash \Omega_{1} ; i+\tau \subset \Omega \cap[0, \infty) \times[b, \infty)\right\} \\
& \Omega_{4}:=\left\{i=(x, y) \in \Omega \backslash\left(\Omega_{1} \cup \Omega_{2} \cup \Omega_{3}\right) ; \quad i+\tau \subset \Omega\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

For any $i=(x, y) \in \Omega_{1}$, we have

$$
\alpha[i+(n p, m q)+\tau]=\alpha[i+\tau] \quad(\forall n, m=0,1,2, \ldots)
$$

Therefore, there exist at most $p q$ different elements among $\alpha[i+\tau]$ with $i=\Omega_{1}$.
For any $i=(x, y) \in \Omega_{2}$, we have

$$
\alpha[i+(n p, 0)+\tau]=\alpha[i+\tau] \quad(\forall n=0,1,2, \ldots)
$$

Hence, there exist at most $p b$ different elements among $\alpha[i+\tau]$ with $i=\Omega_{2}$.
In the same way, there exist at most $q a$ different elements among $\alpha[i+\tau]$ with $i=\Omega_{2}$. Finally, there exist at most $a b$ elements in $\Omega_{4}$.

Therefore, we have

$$
\sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau) \leq p q+p b+q a+a b=(p+a)(q+b) .
$$

Thus, $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \leq(p+a)(q+b)$ for $k=1,2, \ldots$, and hence, $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)$ is bounded in $k$.

Conversely, assume that $\sup _{k=1,2, \ldots} p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)=C<\infty$. There exist $k=1,2, \ldots$ and a $k$-window $\tau$ such that $\sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau)=C$. Take a positive integer $L$ such that $\tau$ is contained in a square of size $L \times L$. Let $\sigma$ be the $(L+1)^{2}$-window such that

$$
\sigma=\{(x, y) \in \Omega ; 0 \leq x \leq L, 0 \leq y \leq L\}
$$

and $\sigma^{\prime}$ be the $(L+2)^{2}$-window such that

$$
\sigma^{\prime}=\{(x, y) \in \Omega ; 0 \leq x \leq L+1,0 \leq y \leq L+1\} .
$$

Since

$$
C=\sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau) \leq \sharp F_{\alpha}(\sigma) \leq \sharp F_{\alpha}\left(\sigma^{\prime}\right) \leq C,
$$

we have $\sharp F_{\alpha}(\sigma)=\sharp F_{\alpha}\left(\sigma^{\prime}\right)=C$. This implies that each element $\xi \in F_{\alpha}(\sigma)$ has a unique extension in $F_{\alpha}\left(\sigma^{\prime}\right)$. Therefore, there exists a function $h: F_{\alpha}(\sigma) \rightarrow F_{\alpha}\left(\sigma^{\prime}\right)$ such that $h(\alpha[i+\sigma])=\alpha\left[i+\sigma^{\prime}\right]$ for any $i \in \Omega$.

In particular, there exist functions $f, g: F_{\alpha}(\sigma) \rightarrow F_{\alpha}(\sigma)$ such that

$$
\begin{align*}
& f(\alpha[i+\sigma])=\alpha[i+(1,0)+\sigma]  \tag{1}\\
& g(\alpha[i+\sigma])=\alpha[i+(0,1)+\sigma]
\end{align*}
$$

for any $i \in \Omega$.
Since $f$ is a transformation on a finite set, there exist $a \in \mathbb{N}$ and a period $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{+}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
f^{n+p}=f^{n} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

any $n=a, a+1, a+2, \ldots$ Since

$$
\alpha[(x, y)+\sigma]=f^{x}(\alpha[(0, y)+\sigma])
$$

by (1), it follows from (2) that

$$
\alpha[(x, y)+\sigma]=\alpha[(x+p, y)+\sigma]
$$

for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$ with $x \geq a$.
In particular, we have

$$
\alpha(x, y)=\alpha(x+p, y)
$$

for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$ with $x \geq a$. In the same way, we have

$$
\alpha(x, y)=\alpha(x, y+q)
$$

for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$ with $y \geq b$. Thus, $\alpha$ is eventually 2-periodic.

## 3. A word with $2 k$ maximal pattern complexity

A window $\tau^{\prime}$ is said to be an immediate extension of a window $\tau$ if $\tau^{\prime} \supset \tau$ and $\sharp \tau^{\prime}=\sharp \tau+1$.

The following Lemma 1 is proved in [2, Theorem 3] for words defined on $\mathbb{N}$. It remains true for words defined on $\Omega$.

Lemma 1. Let $\alpha \in\{0,1\}^{\Omega}$ be such that $p_{\alpha}^{*}(2)=4$. Assume that for any 2-window $\tau$ and for any immediate extension $\tau^{\prime}$ of $\tau$, it holds that $\sharp F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \leq \sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau)+$ 2. Then, we have $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \leq 2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$.

Define a 2 -dimensional word $\alpha \in\{0,1\}^{\Omega}$ by

$$
\alpha(x, y)= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } e_{2}(x)=e_{2}(y)  \tag{3}\\ 0 & \text { otherwise }\end{cases}
$$

for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$, where for $x \in \mathbb{N}, e_{2}(x)=n$ if and only if $2^{n} \mid x$ and $2^{n+1} \nmid x$. We also define $e_{2}(0)=\infty$.

Remark 1. The word $\alpha$ defined by (3) together with $\alpha((0,0))=0$ is the fixed point of the 2 -dimensional substitution

$$
\sigma: 0 \rightarrow \begin{array}{ll} 
& 0  \tag{4}\\
0 & 1 \\
0 & \text { and } \\
1 & \\
& \\
1 & 0
\end{array}
$$

so that $\alpha=\sigma^{\infty}(0)$.

Theorem 2. For $\alpha$ defined by (3), we have $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k)=2 k$ for any $k=1,2, \ldots$
Proof. First we prove that $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \geq 2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$. It is clear that $p_{\alpha}^{*}(1)=2$. For any $k=2,3, \ldots$, take a $k$-window $\tau:=\{(0,0),(1,1), \ldots,(k-1, k-1)\}$. Then, since

$$
\begin{aligned}
\alpha[(1,1)+\tau]= & (1,1, \ldots, 1) \\
\alpha\left[\left(2^{k}-n, 2^{k+1}-n\right)+\tau\right]= & (1, \ldots, 1, \stackrel{(n)}{0}, 1, \ldots, 1) \\
& (n=0,1, \ldots, k-1)
\end{aligned}
$$

$F_{\alpha}(\tau)$ contains $k+1$ elements containing the letter 0 at most once.
Now, let us consider the elements in $F_{\alpha}(\tau)$ containing the letter 0 at least twice. They are determined by $a \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $0 \leq a<2^{n}$ and $a+2^{n}<k$ since there exists a unique element in $F_{\alpha}(\tau)$ of the form

$$
\left(1, \ldots, 1, \stackrel{(a)}{0}, 1, \ldots, 1, \stackrel{\left(a+2^{n}\right)}{0}, * * *\right)
$$

which is realized as $\alpha\left[\left(2^{n}-a, 2^{n+1}-a\right)+\tau\right]$. There are exactly

$$
L:=\sum_{n=0}^{\left\lfloor\log _{2} k\right\rfloor} \min \left\{2^{n}, k-2^{n}\right\}
$$

number of elements of this type. Since

$$
\begin{aligned}
L & =\sum_{n=0}^{\left\lfloor\log _{2} k\right\rfloor-1} 2^{n}+k-2^{\left\lfloor\log _{2} k\right\rfloor} \\
& =2^{\left\lfloor\log _{2} k\right\rfloor}-1+k-2^{\left\lfloor\log _{2} k\right\rfloor}=k-1,
\end{aligned}
$$

we have $\sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau)=k+1+k-1=2 k$. Thus, $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \geq 2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$.
To prove that $p_{\alpha}^{*}(k) \leq 2 k(k=1,2, \ldots)$, it is sufficient by Lemma 1 to prove that for any 2-window $\tau$ and for any immediate extension $\tau^{\prime}$ of $\tau$, it holds that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sharp F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \leq \sharp F_{\alpha}(\tau)+2 . \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Take an arbitrary 2 -window $\tau=\left\{(0,0)=\tau_{0}, \tau_{1}\right\}$ and an arbitrary immediate extension $\tau^{\prime}=\left\{(0,0)=\tau_{0}, \tau_{1}, \tau_{2}\right\}$ of $\tau$.

To prove (5), we divide into 3 cases according to the parity of $\tau_{1}$
Case 1: $\tau_{1} \in e \times e$
Case 2: $\tau_{1} \in e \times o$
Case 3: $\tau_{1} \in o \times o$,
where " $e$ " stands for the set of even numbers, while " $o$ " stands for the set of odd numbers. By symmetry, we can reduce the case $\tau_{1} \in o \times e$ to Case 2 .

Lemma 2. (i) In Case $1, F_{\alpha}(\tau)=\{(0,0),(0,1),(1,0),(1,1)\}$ holds.
(ii) In Case 2, $F_{\alpha}(\tau)=\{(0,0),(0,1),(1,0)\}$ holds.
(iii) In Case 3, $F_{\alpha}(\tau)=\{(0,0),(0,1),(1,0),(1,1)\}$ holds.

Proof. Let $\tau_{1}=(u, v)$.
(i) Let $(u, v) \in e \times e$. For $(x, y) \in e \times o$, we have $\alpha[(x, y)+\tau]=(0,0)$. If $u=v$, then by taking integers $N$ and $M$ with $e_{2}(u)<N<M$, we have $\alpha\left[\left(2^{N}, 2^{M}\right)+\tau\right]=(0,1)$. If $u \neq v$, then assuming that $u<v$ without loss of generality, we have $\alpha[(v-u, 0)+\tau]=$ $(0,1)$. If $u \neq v$, then we have $\alpha\left[\left(2^{N} v-u, 2^{N} v-u\right)+\tau\right]=(1,0)$ for a sufficiently large integer $N$. If $u=v$, then by taking integers $N$ and $M$ with $e_{2}(u)<N<M$, we have $\alpha\left[\left(2^{N}-u, 2^{M}-v\right)+\tau\right]=(1,0)$. Finally, for $(x, y) \in o \times o$, we have $\alpha[(x, y)+\tau]=(1,1)$. (ii) Let $(u, v) \in e \times o$. Then, $\alpha[(2,4)+\tau]=(0,0), \alpha[(v, u)+\tau]=(0,1), \alpha[(1,1)+\tau]=$
$(1,0)$, while $\alpha[(x, y)+\tau]=(1,1)$ is impossible since either $x$ and $y$ have different parities or $x+u$ and $y+v$ have different parities.
(iii) Let $(u, v) \in o \times o$. For $(x, y) \in e \times o$, we have $\alpha[(x, y)+\tau]=(0,0)$. We also have $\alpha[(2,4)+\tau]=(0,1)$ and $\alpha\left[\left(2^{N}-u, 2^{M}-v\right)+\tau\right]=(1,0)$ for integers $N$ and $M$ such that $u+v<2^{N}<2^{M}$. Moreover, $\alpha[(2,2)+\tau]=(1,1)$.

We divide the above 3 cases into the following 10 subcases according to the parity of $\tau_{2}$

Case 1-1: $\tau_{1} \in e \times e, \tau_{2} \in e \times e$
Case 1-2: $\tau_{1} \in e \times e, \tau_{2} \in e \times o$
Case 1-3: $\tau_{1} \in e \times e, \tau_{2} \in o \times o$
Case 2-1: $\tau_{1} \in e \times o, \tau_{2} \in e \times e$
Case 2-2: $\tau_{1} \in e \times o, \tau_{2} \in e \times o$
Case 2-3: $\tau_{1} \in e \times o, \tau_{2} \in o \times e$
Case 2-4: $\tau_{1} \in e \times o, \tau_{2} \in o \times o$
Case 3-1: $\tau_{1} \in o \times o, \tau_{2} \in e \times e$
Case 3-2: $\tau_{1} \in o \times o, \tau_{2} \in e \times o$
Case 3-3: $\tau_{1} \in o \times o, \tau_{2} \in o \times o$.
Lemma 3. (i) In Case 1-2, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset\{0,1\}^{3} \backslash\{(0,1,1),(1,0,1),(1,1,1)\}$.
(ii) In Case 1-3, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset\{0,1\}^{3} \backslash\{(0,1,0),(1,0,0)\}$.
(iii) In Case 2-1, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset F_{\alpha}(\tau) \times\{0,1\} \backslash\{(0,1,1)\}$.
(iv) In Case 2-2, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset F_{\alpha}(\tau) \times\{0,1\} \backslash\{(1,0,1)\}$.
(v) In Case 2-3, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset F_{\alpha}(\tau) \times\{0,1\} \backslash\{(1,0,1)\}$.
(vi) In Case 2-4, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset F_{\alpha}(\tau) \times\{0,1\} \backslash\{(0,1,1)\}$.
(vii) In Case 3-1, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset\{0,1\}^{3} \backslash\{(0,0,1),(1,0,0)\}$.
(viii) In Case 3-2, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset\{0,1\}^{3} \backslash\{(0,1,1),(1,0,1),(1,1,1)\}$.
(ix) In Case 3-3, $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \subset\{0,1\}^{3} \backslash\{(0,0,1),(0,1,0)\}$.

Proof. Let $\tau_{1}=(u, v), \tau_{2}=\left(u^{\prime}, v^{\prime}\right)$ and $(x, y) \in \Omega$.
(i) Since either $x$ and $y$ have different parities or $x+u^{\prime}$ and $y+v^{\prime}$ have different parities, $(1,0,1),(1,1,1)$ do not belong to $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)$. Moreover, since either $x+u$ and $y+v$ have different parities or $x+u^{\prime}$ and $y+v^{\prime}$ have different parities, $(0,1,1)$ does not belong to $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)$.
(ii) Note that $\alpha[(x, y)+\tau] \in\{(1,0),(0,1)\}$ implies $(x, y) \in e \times e$. Since $(x, y) \in$ $e \times e$ implies $\alpha\left((x, y)+\left(u^{\prime}, v^{\prime}\right)\right)=1,(0,1,0)$ and $(1,0,0)$ do not belong to $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)$.
(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(viii) They follow by applying the parity argument in the proof of (i).
(vii) It follows by the same argument as in the proof of (ii).
(ix) Note that $\alpha((x, y)+(u, v)) \neq \alpha\left((x, y)+\left(u^{\prime}, v^{\prime}\right)\right)$ implies $(x, y) \in o \times o$. Since $(x, y) \in o \times o$ implies that $\alpha((x, y))=1,(0,0,1),(0,1,0)$ does not belong to $F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)$.

Lemma 4. (i) For any subcase except for Case 1-1, we have (5).
(ii) For any subcase except for Case 1-1, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sharp\left(F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \backslash\{(0,0,0),(1,1,1)\}\right) \leq 4 . \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. Clear from Lemma 2 and Lemma 3.

Now we consider Case 1-1. Assume that $\tau_{1} \in e \times e, \tau_{2} \in e \times e$. Then, we have $\alpha\left[(x, y)+\tau^{\prime}\right]=(1,1,1)$ if $(x, y) \in o \times o$ and $\alpha\left[(x, y)+\tau^{\prime}\right]=(0,0,0)$ if $(x, y) \in$ $e \times o \cup o \times e$. Hence we have

$$
F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)=\left\{\alpha\left[(x, y)+\tau^{\prime}\right] ;(x, y) \in e \times e\right\} \cup\{(0,0,0),(1,1,1)\} .
$$

Let $\tau^{\prime} / 2:=\left\{0, \tau_{1} / 2, \tau_{2} / 2\right\}$. Since $e_{2}(x)=e_{2}(y)$ is equivalent to $e_{2}(2 x)=e_{2}(2 y)$, we have $\alpha\left[(x, y)+\tau^{\prime}\right]=\alpha\left[(x / 2, y / 2)+\tau^{\prime} / 2\right]$ for any $(x, y) \in e \times e$. Therefore, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)=F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime} / 2\right) \cup\{(0,0,0),(1,1,1)\} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $\tau^{\prime} / 2$ is of Case $1-1$, we can apply (7) again.
By applying (7) repeatedly, we have

$$
F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right)=F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime} / 2^{e}\right) \cup\{(0,0,0),(1,1,1)\}
$$

with $\tau^{\prime} / 2^{e}$ not of Case $1-1$. Then, by (ii) of Lemma 4, we have $\sharp F_{\alpha}\left(\tau^{\prime}\right) \leq 6$. Thus, we have (5) by Lemma 2, which complete the proof of Theorem 2.

Theorem 3. The word $\alpha$ defined by (3) is minimal and sectionally periodic.
Proof. Take any positive integer $L$. Let $N$ be a positive integer such that $L<$ $2^{N}$. Take any $(n, m) \in \Omega$. Then, there exists $\left(n^{\prime}, m^{\prime}\right) \in \Omega$ with $\left|n-n^{\prime}\right| \leq 2^{N}$ and $\left|m-m^{\prime}\right| \leq 2^{N}$ such that $e_{2}\left(n^{\prime}\right) \geq N$ and $e_{2}\left(m^{\prime}\right) \geq N$. Then, since $e_{2}\left(x+n^{\prime}\right)=e_{2}(x)$ and $e_{2}\left(y+m^{\prime}\right)=e_{2}(y)$ for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$ with $x<L$ and $y<L$, we have $\alpha\left(x+n^{\prime}, y+m^{\prime}\right)=$ $\alpha(x, y)$ for any $(x, y) \in \Omega$ with $x<L$ and $y<L$. Thus, $\alpha$ is minimal.

Take any $(a, b),(p, q) \in \Omega$. Let $\beta$ be a word on $n \in \mathbb{N}$ defined by $\beta(n)=$ $\alpha(a+n p, b+n q)$.

Let us consider the case where $a+p=0$ or $b+q=0$. Without loss of generality, assume $a+p=0$. Then, we have $a=p=0$ and $b>0, q>0$. Hence, $\beta$ is periodic since $\beta(n)=0(n=0,1,2, \ldots)$.

Now assume that $a+p>0$ and $b+q>0$. Let us consider the case where $a q-b p=$ 0 . Suppose that $p=0$. Then, $a>0$ and $q>0$ since $a+p>0$ and $p+q>0$. This contradicts with $a q-b p=0$. Therefore, $p>0$. By the same reason, $q>0$. Since $q(a+n p)=p(b+n q)$ for $n=0,1,2, \ldots$, we have $e_{2}(q)+e_{2}(a+n p)=e_{2}(p)+e_{2}(b+n q)$ $(n=0,1,2, \ldots)$. Therefore, either $\beta(n)=1(n=0,1,2, \ldots)$ or $\beta(n)=0(n=$ $0,1,2, \ldots$ ) holds according as $e_{2}(q)=e_{2}(p)$ or not, and hence, $\beta$ is periodic.

Now assume that $a q-b p \neq 0$. Let $N$ be a positive integer such that $N>$ $e_{2}(|a q-b p|)$. Then, since $q(a+n p)-p(b+n q)=a q-b p(n=0,1,2, \ldots)$, we have $e_{2}(|q(a+n p)-p(b+n q)|)<N(n=0,1,2, \ldots)$. This implies that $\min \left\{e_{2}(q(a+n p)), e_{2}(p(b+n q))\right\}<N$, and hence, $\min \left\{e_{2}(a+n p), e_{2}(b+n q)\right\}<N(n=$ $0,1,2, \ldots)$. Therefore, if $e_{2}(a+n p)=e_{2}(b+n q)$, then $e_{2}(a+n p)=e_{2}(b+n q)<N$ holds, and hence, we have $e_{2}\left(a+\left(n+2^{N}\right) p\right)=e_{2}(a+n p)=e_{2}(b+n q)=e_{2}\left(b+\left(n+2^{N}\right) q\right)$.

If $e_{2}(a+n p)<e_{2}(b+n q)$, then either $e_{2}(a+n p)<e_{2}(b+n q) \leq N$ or $e_{2}(a+$ $n p)<N \leq e_{2}(b+n q)$ holds, and hence, we have $e_{2}\left(a+\left(n+2^{N}\right) p\right)=e_{2}(a+n p)<$ $\min \left\{e_{2}(b+n q), N\right\} \leq e_{2}\left(b+\left(n+2^{N}\right) q\right)$. In the same way, if $e_{2}(a+n p)>e_{2}(b+n q)$, then $e_{2}\left(a+\left(n+2^{N}\right) p\right)>e_{2}\left(b+\left(n+2^{N}\right) q\right)$.

Hence, we proved that $e_{2}(a+n p)=e_{2}(b+n q)$ holds if and only if $e_{2}\left(a+\left(n+2^{N}\right) p\right)=$ $e_{2}\left(b+\left(n+2^{N}\right) q\right)$ holds, so that $\beta(n)=\beta\left(n+2^{N}\right)(n=0,1,2, \ldots)$ and $\beta$ is periodic.

Thus, $\alpha$ is sectionally periodic.
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