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Cluster algebras, introduced in 2000, are a class of commutative rings with rich combinatorial structure. They are connected to many areas of mathematics and physics, including representation theory, dynamical systems, geometry, and string theory.

We establish a connection between cluster algebras from triangulated surfaces and binary words. Given a cluster variable, we associate to it a finite binary word. The subwords of this binary word are in bijection with the terms of the cluster variable. (Received September 25, 2017)