Silent Transitions in Automata with Storage

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ICALP 2013

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Silent Transitions

ICALP 2013 1 / 20

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$$L = \{ucv^{\mathsf{rev}} \mid u \in \{a, b\}^*, v \leq u\}$$

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Example (Blind counter automaton)





$$L = \{ucv^{\mathsf{rev}} \mid u \in \{a, b\}^*, v \leqslant u\}$$

Example (Blind counter automaton)



Example (Partially blind counter automaton)



 $L = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid |p|_a \ge |p|_b \text{ for any prefix } p \text{ of } w\}$

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Silent Transitions

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A transition that reads no input is called *silent transition* or λ -transition.

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Important problem

- When can silent transitions be eliminated?
- Without silent transitions, decide membership using exponential number of storage computations.
- Elimination can be regarded as a precomputation.

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Question

For which storage mechanisms can we avoid silent transitions?

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Important problem

- When can silent transitions be eliminated?
- Without silent transitions, decide membership using exponential number of storage computations.
- Elimination can be regarded as a precomputation.

Question

For which storage mechanisms can we avoid silent transitions?

Known so far

- Pushdown automata (Greibach 1965)
- Blind counter automata (Greibach 1978)
- Partially blind counter automata (Greibach 1978 / Jantzen 1979)

Definition

A monoid is a set M together with a binary associative operation and neutral element $1 \in M$.

Common generalization: Valence Automata

Valence automaton over M:

• Finite automaton with edges $p \xrightarrow{w|m} q$, $w \in \Sigma^*$, $m \in M$.

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• Run $q_0 \xrightarrow{w_1|m_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{w_2|m_2} \cdots \xrightarrow{w_n|m_n} q_n$ is accepting for $w_1 \cdots w_n$ if

- q_0 is the initial state,
- q_n is a final state, and

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Language class

VA(M) languages accepted by valence automata over M.

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Language class

VA(M) languages accepted by valence automata over M.

 $\mathsf{VA}^+(\mathit{M})$ languages accepted by VA over M without silent transitions

By graphs, we mean undirected graphs with loops allowed.

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$$\mathbb{M}\Gamma = X_{\Gamma}^{*}/R_{\Gamma}$$

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$$\mathbb{M}\Gamma = X_{\Gamma}^{*}/R_{\Gamma}$$

Intuition

- \mathbb{B} : bicyclic monoid, $\mathbb{B} = \{a, \bar{a}\}^* / \{a\bar{a} = 1\}.$
- \mathbb{Z} : group of integers
- $\bullet\,$ For each unlooped vertex, we have a copy of $\mathbb B$
- \bullet For each looped vertex, we have a copy of $\mathbb Z$
- $\bullet~\ensuremath{\mathbb{M}\Gamma}$ consists of sequences of such elements
- An edge between vertices means that elements can commute





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Blind multicounter





Partially blind multicounter

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Silent Transitions







Pushdown





Blind multicounter



Pushdown





















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- any two looped vertices are adjacent
- no two unlooped vertices are adjacent





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Then $VA(\mathbb{M}\Gamma) = VA^+(\mathbb{M}\Gamma)$ if and only if Γ does not contain



as an induced subgraph.

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Negative case

By reduction to an undecidable problem from group theory (Lohrey, Steinberg 2008), we obtain:



as an induced subgraph. Then $VA(\mathbb{M}\Gamma)$ contains an undecidable language. Hence, $VA^+(\mathbb{M}\Gamma) \subsetneq VA(\mathbb{M}\Gamma)$.

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Positive case

Definition

Let $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$ be the smallest class of monoids such that

- $1 \in \mathcal{C}$
- if $M \in \mathcal{C}$, then $M \times \mathbb{Z} \in \mathcal{C}$
- if $M \in \mathcal{C}$, then $M * \mathbb{B} \in \mathcal{C}$

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Lemma

Let Γ be a graph such that

- any two looped vertices are adjacent
- no two unlooped vertices are adjacent
- • • does not appear as an induced subgraph

Then, $\mathbb{M}\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}$.

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Interpretation of $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$

- $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$ corresponds to the class of storage mechanisms obtained by
 - adding a blind counter $(M \times \mathbb{Z})$ and
 - building stacks $(M * \mathbb{B})$.

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$\lambda\text{-}\mathsf{Elimination}\ \mathsf{I}$

Lemma

For $M \in C$, every language in VA(M) has semilinear Parikh image.

• $M \mapsto M \times \mathbb{Z}$, $M \mapsto M * \mathbb{B}$ preserve semilinearity

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λ -Elimination I

Definition

Let \mathcal{F} be a family. An \mathcal{F} -grammar is a quadruple G = (N, T, P, S) where

- N, T are disjoint alphabets,
- P is a finite set of pairs $A \rightarrow M$, with $A \in N$ and $M \subseteq (N \cup T)^*$, $M \in \mathcal{F}$,
- $S \in N$.

 $x \Rightarrow_G y$: if x = uAv and y = uwv for some $u, v, w \in (N \cup T)^*$ and $A \rightarrow M \in P$ with $w \in M$.

$$L(G) = \{ w \in T^* \mid S \Rightarrow^*_G w \}.$$

L is called *algebraic over* \mathcal{F} if there is an \mathcal{F} -grammar *G* such that L = L(G).

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λ -Elimination I

Theorem (van Leeuwen 1974)

Let \mathcal{F} be a family of semilinear languages. Then any language that is algebraic over \mathcal{F} is also semilinear.

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λ -Elimination I

Theorem (van Leeuwen 1974)

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Lemma

Every language in VA(M * M') is algebraic over $VA(M) \cup VA(M')$.

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$\lambda\text{-}\mathsf{Elimination}\ \mathsf{II}$

 \bullet Proceed by induction w.r.t. the definition of ${\cal C}$

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λ -Elimination II

- \bullet Proceed by induction w.r.t. the definition of ${\cal C}$
- Stronger hypothesis:

Definition

VT(M, C) Transductions $T \subseteq X^* \times C$ by valence transducers over M

 $VT^+(M, C)$ performed by λ -free transducers

M is called *strongly* λ *-independent* if

$$VT(M,C) = VT^+(M, C)$$

for every commutative monoid C.

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$$VT(M,C) = \Phi(VT^+(M,SL(C)))$$

for every commutative monoid C.

Observation

If *M* is strongly λ -independent, then VA⁺(*M*) = VA(*M*).

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Elimination of λ -transitions III

Definition

A subset $S \subseteq M$ is called *rational* if it is the homomorphic image of a regular language.

Rational subsets of $M \times C$

- For a given pair of non-λ-transitions, the set of (m, c) ∈ M × C applied in between is a rational set.
- Normal form for rational subsets of $M \times C$: first pop (+counter+output), then push (+counter+output)
- Modification of well-known technique for monadic rewriting systems
- Gluing in automata accepting semilinear sets

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Elimination of $\lambda\text{-transitions}$ IV

Construction for $VA^+(\mathbb{M}\Gamma) = VA(\mathbb{M}\Gamma)$

- Separate constructions for \mathbb{B} , $M \times \mathbb{Z}$, and $M * \mathbb{B}$.
- Transform the automaton so as to simulate the application of a rational set in one step.
- Representations of rational sets are encoded into the state or the monoid elements.
- When simulating cancellations, output semilinear sets.



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$$VA(\mathbb{B}^r \times \mathbb{Z}^s) = VA^+(\mathbb{B}^r \times \mathbb{Z}^s)$$
 iff $r \leq 1$.

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$VA(\mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{Z}^{s}) = VA^{+}(\mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{Z}^{s})$ already follows from the first theorem.

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Proving $VA^+(\mathbb{B}^r \times \mathbb{Z}^s) \subsetneq VA(\mathbb{B}^r \times \mathbb{Z}^s)$ for $r \ge 2$

• Use Greibach's and Jantzen's language

$$L_1 = \{wc^n \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^*, n \leq bin(w)\},\$$

$$bin(v0) = 2 \cdot bin(v), \quad bin(v1) = 2 \cdot bin(v) + 1, \quad bin(\lambda) = 0.$$

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- Languages in $VA^+(\mathbb{B}^r \times \mathbb{Z}^s)$ have polynomially many fooling sets
- L₁ has exponential number of fooling sets

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Thank you for your attention!

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