Monoids as Storage Mechanisms

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INFINI Group Seminar





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Example (Blind counter automaton)





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 $L = \{a^n b^n c^n \mid n \ge 0\}$

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Example (Partially blind counter automaton)



Example (Partially blind counter automaton)



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

Storage mechanisms

Automata models that extend finite automata by some storage mechanism:

- Pushdown automata
- Blind counter automata
- Partially blind counter automata
- Turing machines

Goal: General insights

Structure of storage \Leftrightarrow computational properties

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Framework

Abstract model with storage as parameter

Definition

A monoid is a set M with

- an associative binary operation $\cdot: M \times M \to M$ and
- a neutral element $1 \in M$ (a1 = 1a = a for any $a \in M$).

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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

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Language class

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

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Monoids as Storage Mechanisms

Questions

• For which storage mechanisms can we decide emptiness?

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- For which do we have a particular closure property?
- How is the complexity of decision problems affected?
- For which can we compute abstractions?

By graphs, we mean undirected graphs with loops allowed.

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Intuition

- \mathbb{B} : bicyclic monoid, $\mathbb{B} = \{a, \bar{a}\}^* / \{a\bar{a} = \varepsilon\}.$
- \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















 $\mathbb{B} * \mathbb{B} * \mathbb{B}$





Blind counter

Pushdown





















Blind counter









Blind counter











Blind counter











Blind counter










Blind counter







Partially blind counter

Infinite tape (TM)





Blind counter





Partially blind counter

Infinite tape (TM)



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Obstacle Pushdown + partially blind counters

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Obstacle



Pushdown + partially blind counters Decidability a long-standing open problem



• One can show: These can simulate pushdown + one counter



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Theorem (Z. 2015)

Let Γ be PPN-free. Then the following are equivalent:

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- Γ, minus loops, is a transitive forest.



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Decidable mechanisms, SC $^{\pm}$:

- Start with partially blind counters
- Build stacks
- Add blind counters



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Left open, SC⁺:

- Start with partially blind counters
- Build stacks
- Add partially blind counters
- ⇒ Generalize pushdown Petri nets and priority counter automata
- \Rightarrow New open problem



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Poof: Undecidability

Theorem (Wolk 1965)

An undirected graph is a transitive forest iff it avoids as induced subgraphs:



 \Rightarrow Show Turing completeness for C_4 and P_4

Poof: Decidability

Decidability

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Definition of SC^{\pm}

Smallest class with

- $\mathbb{B}^n \in \mathsf{SC}^{\pm}$
- if $M \in SC^{\pm}$, then $\mathbb{B} * M$, $\mathbb{Z} \times M \in SC^{\pm}$

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Reduction

 $\Psi(VA(M)) \subseteq Prio \text{ for every } M \in SC^{\pm}.$

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Priority counter machines

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Theorem (Reinhardt)

Reachability is decidable for priority counter machines.

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• if $M \in SC^{\pm}$, then $\mathbb{B} * M$, $\mathbb{Z} \times M \in SC^{\pm}$

Observations

• $VA(\mathbb{B}^n) \subseteq Prio$, hence $\Psi(VA(\mathbb{B}^n)) \subseteq \Psi(Prio)$.

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- $VA(\mathbb{B}^n) \subseteq Prio$, hence $\Psi(VA(\mathbb{B}^n)) \subseteq \Psi(Prio)$.
- If $\Psi(VA(M)) \subseteq Prio$, then $\Psi(VA(M \times \mathbb{Z})) \subseteq \Psi(Prio)$.

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- $VA(\mathbb{B}^n) \subseteq Prio$, hence $\Psi(VA(\mathbb{B}^n)) \subseteq \Psi(Prio)$.
- If $\Psi(VA(M)) \subseteq Prio$, then $\Psi(VA(M \times \mathbb{Z})) \subseteq \Psi(Prio)$.
- What about VA($\mathbb{B} * M$)?

Algebraic extensions

Let ${\mathcal C}$ be a language class. A ${\mathcal C}\text{-}grammar\ G$ consists of

- Nonterminals N, terminals T, start symbol $S \in N$
- Productions $A \rightarrow L$ with $L \subseteq (N \cup T)^*$, $L \in C$

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Theorem (Z. 2015) VA($\mathbb{B} * \mathbb{B} * M$) = Alg(VA(M)).

Theorem (van Leeuwen 1974)

If C is closed under rational transductions and Kleene star, then $\Psi(\mathsf{Alg}(\mathcal{C})) \subseteq \Psi(\mathcal{C}).$

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Monoids as Storage Mechanisms





Theorem (Lohrey and Steinberg 2008)

Let Γ be a graph in which every vertex is looped. Then emptiness is decidable for $\mathbb{M}\Gamma$ if and only if Γ , minus loops, is a transitive forest.

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Monoids as Storage Mechanisms

Abstractions: Semilinear Parikh images

Semilinear Parikh images

- Numerous applications.
- Parikh's Theorem: Pushdown automata
- Ibarra + Greibach: Blind counter automata

Question

For which monoids M are all languages in VA(M) semilinear?

Theorem (Buckheister, Z. 2013)

Let Γ be a graph. The following conditions are equivalent:

• All languages in $VA(\mathbb{M}\Gamma)$ are semilinear.

• Γ satisfies:

- **(**) Γ contains neither $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$ as an induced subgraph and
- ② Γ, minus loops, is a transitive forest.

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- $VA(M\Gamma) \subseteq VA(M)$ for some $M \in SC^-$.

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SC^{-}

Building stacks, adding blind counters



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For which monoids M is VA(M) closed under Boolean operations?

Motivation: Automatic structures

- Infinite structures described by finite automata
- Decidable first-order logic

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- Infinite structures described by finite automata
- Decidable first-order logic
- If VA(M) is Boolean closed and has decidable emptiness:
 - valence automata over M instead of finite automata
 - ⇒ new decidable structures?





Definition

- Rational transduction: set of pairs given by a finite state transducer.
- For rational transduction $T \subseteq X^* \times Y^*$ and language $L \subseteq X^*$, let

$$TL = \{ y \in Y^* \mid \exists x \in L : (x, y) \in T \}$$



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• C is a *full trio* if $LR \in C$ for each $L \in C$ and rational transduction R.



Fact Each VA(M) is a full trio.

$$T(A) = \{ (x, u \# v \# w) \mid u, v, w, x \in \{a, b\}^*, v \leq x \}$$

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Definition

Arithmetical hierarchy:

$$\Sigma_1 = \mathsf{RE}, \qquad \Sigma_{n+1} = \mathsf{RE}(\Sigma_n) \text{ for } n \ge 0, \qquad \mathsf{AH} = \bigcup_{n \ge 0} \Sigma_n.$$

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Theorem (Lohrey, Z. 2014)

If L is non-regular, then the smallest Boolean closed full trio containing L equals AH(L).

How to construct AH(L)

- Difficulty: Construct language of counter instructions
- Sequences over $\{+, -, 0\}$ that correspond to valid counter operations
- Only information about L: It is not regular

Idea

- Use Myhill-Nerode classes—infinitely many
- Encode counter values by Myhill-Nerode classes

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Important problem

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- Without silent transitions, membership in NP.
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Question

For which storage mechanisms can we avoid silent transitions?

Examples, again



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Monoids as Storage Mechanisms

Examples, again



Examples, again



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- $\mathbb{M}\Gamma \in SC^{-}$.



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Let Γ be a graph such that between any two distinct vertices, there is an edge. Then $VA(\mathbb{M}\Gamma) = VA^+(\mathbb{M}\Gamma)$ if and only if the number of unlooped nodes is ≤ 1 . In other words:

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

Conclusion

Valence automata

- Generalize various automata with storage
- Meaningful characterizations of computational properties
- Reveal natural models with interesting properties

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Thank you for your attention!