

Star and Star Height Problems for Trace Monoids.

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- ▶ D. Kirsten and G. Richomme. Decidability Equivalence between the Star Problem and the Finite Power Problem in Trace Monoids. *Theory of Computing Systems*, 34:3:193-227, 2001.
- ▶ D. Kirsten. The Star Problem and the Finite Power Property in Trace Monoids: Reductions Beyond C4. *Information and Computation*, 176:1:22-36, 2002.

Recognizability:

Mezei/Wright 1967

$L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)$ is *recognizable*

\iff

\exists *automaton* $[Q, h, F]$ with a finite monoid Q ,
an epimorphism $h : \mathbb{M}(A, D) \rightarrow Q$,
 $F \subseteq Q$, and $L = h^{-1}(F)$.

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or equivalently:

$\iff L$ is def. by a star-connected rational exp. (Ochmański 1984)

$\iff L$ is definable in MSOL. (Thomas 1990)

$\iff L$ is saturated by a finite congruence.

\iff the syntactic monoid of L is finite.

$\iff [L]^{-1} \subseteq A^*$ is recognizable.

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Theorem 1:

Mezei 1974

Let $\mathbb{M}(A, D) = \mathbb{M}(A_1, D_1) \times \mathbb{M}(A_2, D_2)$.

$L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)$ is recognizable $\iff \bigcup_{\text{fin}} L_i \times R_i$

for recognizable $L_i \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A_1, D_1)$
and recognizable $R_i \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A_2, D_2)$.

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 $F \subseteq Q$, and $L = h^{-1}(F)$.

Closure properties:

$\cup, \cap, \bar{}$, inverse homomorphisms, finite sets, concatenation.

Not closed under iteration and homomorphisms.

Example: $L = \{(a, b)\} \subseteq (a^* \times b^*)$

$$L^* = \{(a^n, b^n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

$$[L^*]^{-1} = \{w \in A^* \mid |w|_a = |w|_b\}$$

Star problem:

Ochmański 1984

Given: recognizable trace language L

Question: Is L^* recognizable?

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Question: Does some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ exist, such that
 $L^* = L^0 \cup L^1 \cup \dots \cup L^n = L^{0,\dots,n}$?
... Finite Power Property (FPP)

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Lemma 2:

Let $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)$ be recognizable.

L has FPP $\implies L^*$ recognizable. □

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- ▶ Ochmański 1990
- ▶ Sakarovitch 1992: The star problem is decid. in $\mathbb{M}(A, D)$ if $\begin{matrix} a & \xrightarrow{c} \\ & b \end{matrix}$ does not occur in (A, D) .

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- ▶ Métivier/Richomme 1994:
The FPP is decidable for connected, recognizable languages L .
- ▶ Richomme 1994: Both problems are decidable in $\mathbb{M}(A, D)$ if $\begin{matrix} a \text{---} c \\ b \text{---} d \end{matrix}$ does not occur in (A, D) . $\dots \{a, c\}^* \times \{b, d\}^* = \mathbf{C4}$

Some results:

Theorem 3:

Kirsten 1999

Let $\mathbb{M} = \mathbb{M}_1 \times \mathbb{M}_2$ be a trace monoid and $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}$ be a recognizable language with $L \subseteq (\mathbb{M}_1 \setminus 1) \times (\mathbb{M}_2 \setminus 1)$.

Then, L^* is recognizable **iff** L has the FPP.

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Then, L^* is recognizable **iff** L has the FPP. □

Theorem 4:

Kirsten/Richomme 2001

The trace monoids with a decidable star problem are exactly the trace monoids with a decidable FPP. □

Some more results:

Theorem 5:

Richomme 1994

If the star problem is decidable in \mathbb{M} , then it is decidable in $\mathbb{M} \times b^*$. □

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Theorem 6:

Richomme 1994

Let $\mathbb{M}(A, D)$ be a trace monoid.

The star problem is decidable in $\mathbb{M}(A, D)$ iff it is decidable for

- ▶ $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(B, D)$ for every strict $B \subset A$.
- ▶ $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)_{=A}$. □

Remark:

$$\mathbb{M}(A, D)_{=A} = \mathbb{M}(A, D) \setminus \bigcup_{B \subset A} \mathbb{M}(B, D)$$

More recent results:

Let $\mathbb{K}_n = \{a_1, b_1\}^* \times \{a_2, b_2\}^* \times \cdots \times \{a_n, b_n\}^*$, i.e., $\mathbb{K}_2 \cong C4$.

Theorem 7:

Kirsten 2002

Let $n > 0$ and assume the decidability of the star problem in \mathbb{K}_n .
Then, the star problem is decidable in any trace monoid without \mathbb{K}_{n+1} submonoid. \square

Corollary:

Either the star problem is decidable in every trace monoid,
or there is some $n > 1$ such that the trace monoids with an undecidable star problem are characterized by a \mathbb{K}_n submonoid. \square

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- ▶ Decidability in C4 is still open.
- ▶ Reductions from \mathbb{K}_{n+1} to \mathbb{K}_n .

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Open Problems:

- ▶ Decidability in C4 is still open.
- ▶ Reductions from \mathbb{K}_{n+1} to \mathbb{K}_n .
- ▶ Complexity issues.
- ▶ Subclasses of recognizable languages (?)

Proposition 8:

Let (A, D) a dependence alphabet and let D be **transitive**.

Let n be the number of non-singleton components of (A, D) .

If the FPP is decidable in \mathbb{K}_n ,

then the FPP is decidable in $\mathbb{M}(A, D)$. □

Proof: ... obvious ...

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Proof: ... obvious ...

Let A_1, \dots, A_n be the non-singleton components of (A, D) ,
and b_1, \dots, b_m be the remaining letters.

$$\mathbb{M}(A, D) \cong A_1^* \times A_2^* \times \dots \times A_n^* \times b_1^* \times \dots \times b_m^*,$$

Reduction to $A_1^* \times A_2^* \times \dots \times A_n^*$ by Theorem 5,

injective homomorphism to \mathbb{K}_n . □

Proposition 9:

Let (A, D) a dependence alphabet.

If the FPP is decidable for recognizable $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, \text{tr}(D))_{=A}$,

then it is decidable for recognizable $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)_{=A}$. □

Proof of Theorem 7: via FPP by Theorem 4. . .

Let $\mathcal{C} = \left\{ (A, D) \mid \mathbb{M}(A, D) \text{ does not contain a } \mathbb{K}_{n+1} \right\}$.

\mathcal{C} is subalphabet closed.

To show: decidability of the FPP in $\mathbb{M}(A, D)$ for every $(A, D) \in \mathcal{C}$



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Let $(A, D) \in \mathcal{C}$ be arbitrary.

By induction, the FPP is decidable in $\mathbb{M}(B, D)$ for every $B \subset A$.

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By Prop. 9 for $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, \text{tr}(D))_{=A}$.

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By Prop. 9 for $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, \text{tr}(D))_{=A}$.

By Prop. 8 for \mathbb{K}_k , where k is the number of non-singleton components of $(A, \text{tr}(D))$, i.e., of (A, D) .

We have $k < n + 1$.

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Proof: ... inductive by Proposition 10 □

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Proof: ... inductive by Proposition 10 □

Proposition 10:

Let (A, D) be a dependence alphabet.

Let $a, b, c \in A$ such that $a-b-c$ but $\neg a-c$.

Let $D' = D \cup \{a-c\}$.

If the FPP is decidable for recognizable $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D')_{=A}$,
then it is decidable for recognizable $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)_{=A}$. □

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$$L \subseteq (\mathbb{M}(A, D))_{=A} b (\mathbb{M}(A, D))_{=A}.$$

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$$L \subseteq (\mathbb{M}(A, D))_{=A} b (\mathbb{M}(A, D))_{=A}.$$

⇓ L has FPP $\iff (L^3 \cup L^4 \cup L^5)$ has FPP.

FPP is decidable for recognizable $L \subseteq \mathbb{M}(A, D)_{=A}$.

Let $\langle \rangle : \mathbb{M}(A, D') \rightarrow \mathbb{M}(A, D)$ be the can. homomorphism.

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Proof Idea:

$\dots \leftarrow \dots$ $L = \langle \langle L \rangle^{-1} \rangle$. Homomorphisms preserve the FPP.

$\dots \Rightarrow \dots$

For every $n \geq 0$, $(\langle L \rangle^{-1})^n$ is closed under commut. of a and c , i.e.,

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Proof of Proposition 11:

Let $[Q, h, F]$ be an automaton such that $L = h^{-1}(F)$.

Let $g : \mathbb{M}(\Sigma, D) \rightarrow \mathbb{M}(\Sigma, D)$ defined by:

$$g(a) = a \quad \text{for } a \neq b \text{ and}$$

$$g(b) = b^{|Q|+1}$$

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$$g(a) = a \quad \text{for } a \neq b \text{ and}$$

$$g(b) = b^{|Q|+1}$$

g is injective and connected, thus $g(L)$ is recognizable.

$$L \text{ has FPP} \iff g(L) \text{ has FPP}$$

We consider $g(L)$.

Proof of Proposition 11:

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We consider $g(L)$.

Let $\# : Q \rightarrow \{1, \dots, |Q|\}$ an enumeration of Q , denoted by $\#q$.

$$L_1 = \bigcup_{q \in Q} g(h^{-1}(q)) \cdot b^{\#q}$$

$$L_2 = \bigcup_{m, p \in Q, mh(b)p \in F} b^{|\mathcal{Q}|+1-\#m} \cdot g(h^{-1}(p))$$

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$$T = b \mathbb{M} a (A \setminus b)^* \left\{ b^{|\mathcal{Q}|+1} \right\}^* b^{1, \dots, |\mathcal{Q}|} (A \setminus b)^* a \mathbb{M} b$$

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One can show: $g(L)$ has FPP $\iff L_2 L_1 \cup T$ has FPP.

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$$g(L)^* \subseteq (L_1 L_2)^* \subseteq \varepsilon \cup (L_1 L_2) \cup L_1 (L_2 L_1)^* L_2$$

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$$\text{i.e., } g(L)^* = g(L)^{0, \dots, n+1}.$$

□