Automata and expressions

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Based on





Chapter I

Chapter 2

... much inspired by joint works with

Sylvain Lombardy (Univ. Bordeaux)

- How expressions can code for automata?, RAIRO-TIA 2005, Corr. 2010
- The validity of weighted automata, CIAA 2012 & IJAC 2013

and especially by the work on

• AWALI (formerly VAUCANSON, VAUCANSON2), a plateform for computing with weighted automata Chapter I

A Platonic view of Kleene Theorem

• A alphabet, i.e. a finite set of letters

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 Reg A* set of regular languages over A*

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- RegE A* set of regular expressions over A*
 Reg A* set of regular languages over A*
- Aut A* set of *finite automata* over A*
 Rec A* set of *recognizable languages* over A*







































Chapter II

From automata to expressions

- Problem seen from a theoretical point of view
- Problem seen from an experimental point of view

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Computing an expression from an automaton

- Problem seen from a theoretical point of view
- Problem seen from an experimental point of view



Computing the *star* of a matrix with entries in $\mathfrak{P}(A^*)$

Computing an expression from an automaton

- Problem seen from a theoretical point of view
- Problem seen from an experimental point of view



Computing the *star* of a matrix with entries in $\mathfrak{P}(A^*)$ Computing the *quasi-inverse* of a matrix with entries in $\mathfrak{P}(A^*)$
Theoretical point of view : methods of computations

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- 1. Direct computation of the entries of X^* :
- 2. Computation of $X^* \cdot T$ as a fixed point:
- 3. Iterative computation of X^* :
- 4. Recursive computation of X^* :

Theoretical point of view : methods of computations

1. Direct computation of the entries of X^* : state elimination method (Brzozowski–McCluskey)

- 2. Computation of $X^* \cdot T$ as a fixed point: solution of a system of linear equations
- 3. Iterative computation of X^* :

McNaughton-Yamada algorithm

4. Recursive computation of X^* : Conway(?) algorithm

Theoretical point of view : methods of computations

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$$a \qquad b(a b^* a)^* b$$

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Comparison between the expressions obtained with each method

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For each method, the actual computation

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Comparison between the expressions obtained

in each method with distinct orders

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Problem 1 Comparison between the expressions obtained with each method

For each method, the actual computation depends on an order on the set of states Problem 2 Comparison between the expressions obtained in each method with distinct orders

Trivial and natural identities

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{E} + 0 &\equiv \mathsf{0} + \mathsf{E} \equiv \mathsf{E} \ , \quad \mathsf{E} \cdot \mathsf{0} \equiv \mathsf{0} \cdot \mathsf{E} \equiv \mathsf{0} \ , \quad \mathsf{E} \cdot \mathsf{1} \equiv \mathsf{1} \cdot \mathsf{E} \equiv \mathsf{E} \ & (\mathbf{T}) \\ (\mathsf{E} + \mathsf{F}) + \mathsf{G} &\equiv \mathsf{E} + (\mathsf{F} + \mathsf{G}) \ , \quad (\mathsf{E} \cdot \mathsf{F}) \cdot \mathsf{G} \equiv \mathsf{E} \cdot (\mathsf{F} \cdot \mathsf{G}) \ & (\mathbf{A}) \\ \mathsf{E} \cdot (\mathsf{F} + \mathsf{G}) &\equiv \mathsf{E} \cdot \mathsf{F} + \mathsf{E} \cdot \mathsf{G} \ , \quad (\mathsf{E} + \mathsf{F}) \cdot \mathsf{G} \equiv \mathsf{E} \cdot \mathsf{G} + \mathsf{F} \cdot \mathsf{G} \ & (\mathbf{D}) \\ \mathsf{E} + \mathsf{F} &\equiv \mathsf{F} + \mathsf{E} \ & (\mathbf{C}) \end{split}$$

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Aperiodic identities.

$$\begin{array}{ll} {\sf E}^* \,\equiv\, 1 + {\sf E} \cdot {\sf E}^* \ , & {\sf E}^* \,\equiv\, 1 + {\sf E}^* \cdot {\sf E} & ({\sf U}) \\ ({\sf E} + {\sf F})^* \,\equiv\, {\sf E}^* \cdot ({\sf F} \cdot {\sf E}^*)^* \ , & ({\sf E} + {\sf F})^* \,\equiv\, ({\sf E}^* \cdot {\sf F})^* \cdot {\sf E}^* & ({\sf S}) \\ & ({\sf E} \cdot {\sf F})^* \,\equiv\, 1 + {\sf E} \cdot ({\sf F} \cdot {\sf E})^* \cdot {\sf F} & ({\sf P}) \end{array}$$

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Cyclic identities.

$$\mathsf{E}^* \equiv \mathsf{E}^{<\mathsf{n}} \cdot (\mathsf{E}^{\mathsf{n}})^* \tag{Z}_n$$

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Idempotency identities.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathsf{E} + \mathsf{E} & \equiv & \mathsf{E} & & (\mathbf{I}) \\ (\mathsf{E}^*)^* & \equiv & \mathsf{E}^* & & (\mathbf{J}) \end{array}$$

 $\mathcal{A} = \langle \, Q, A, X, I, \, T \, \rangle$





- 1. State elimination method $E(\omega)$
- 2. Solution of a system of linear equations
- 3. McNaughton–Yamada algorithm
- 4. Recursive computation of X^*

 $C(\omega)$

 $M(\omega)$

 $S(\omega)$

 $\mathcal{A} = \langle Q, A, X, \{p\}, \{q\} \rangle$ ω ordering on Q

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 $E(\omega, p, q)$ $[S(\omega, q)]_{p}$ $[M(\omega)]_{p,q}$ $[C(\omega)]_{p,q}$

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Proposition

 $[S(\omega, q)]_p = E(\omega, p, q)$

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 $[\mathsf{C}(\omega)]_{p,q}$

Proposition (S. 03)

 $\mathbf{U} \vdash [\mathbf{M}(\omega)]_{p,q} \equiv \mathbf{E}(\omega, p, q)$

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 $\mathsf{E}(\omega, p, q)$ $[\mathsf{S}(\omega, q)]_p$ $[\mathsf{M}(\omega)]_{p,q}$

 $[\mathsf{C}(\omega)]_{p,q}$

Theorem (Conway 71, Krob 92, S.03) For any two orderings ω and ω' on Q

 $\mathbf{S} \wedge \mathbf{P}$ \vdash $\mathsf{E}(\omega, p, q) \equiv \mathsf{E}(\omega', p, q)$

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Conjecture

For any ordering ω on Qthere exists an ordering ω' such that $\mathbf{U} \vdash [C(\omega)]_{p,q} \equiv E(\omega', p, q)$

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For any recursive division τ of Qthere exists an ordering ω' such that $\mathbf{U} \vdash [C(\tau)]_{p,q} \equiv E(\omega', p, q)$

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Conclusion

Several algorithms, essentially ONE result (from a theoretical point of view)

The $\[Gamma]$ algorithms: an experimental point of view

The size of E computed from \mathcal{A} may be exponential in the number of states of \mathcal{A}

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 $\mathsf{E}_2 = (a + b(ab^*a)^*b)^*$

The $\[\]$ algorithms: an experimental point of view

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 $\mathsf{E}_2 = (a + b(ab^*a)^*b)^*$

 $\mathsf{E}_1 = a^* + a^* b (ba^*b)^* ba^* + a^* b (ba^*b)^* a (b + a (ba^*b)^* a)^* a (ba^*b)^* ba^*$

Heuristics for the ordering of states proves to be (very) useful.

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The naive heuristic

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- The naive heuristic
- The Delgado–Morais heuristic (CIAA 04)

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The proof of the heuristic is in the computing.

Chapter III

From expressions to automata

Computing an automaton from an expression





- Standard automaton of E
- Derived term automaton of E



Standard automaton of E

position, Glushkov

Derived term automaton of E



Standard automaton of E

 ${\sf Thompson} + {\sf closure}$

Derived term automaton of E



The \triangle algorithms

- Standard automaton of E
- Derived term automaton of E Brzozowski–Antimirov

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Definition of a standard automaton

$$\xrightarrow{i}_{c} \xrightarrow{\circ}_{c} \xrightarrow{\circ}_{c}$$

Definition of a standard automaton



Operations on standard automata

 $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B} \qquad \qquad \mathcal{A} \cdot \mathcal{B} \qquad \qquad \mathcal{A}^*$

Definition of a standard automaton

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet$$

Operations on standard automata

 $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}$ $\mathcal{A} \cdot \mathcal{B}$ \mathcal{A}^*

$$\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B} = \left\langle \left(1 \boxed{0} \boxed{0} \right), \begin{pmatrix} 0 \boxed{J} \boxed{K} \\ 0 \boxed{F} & 0 \\ 0 \boxed{0} \boxed{G} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c+d \\ U \\ V \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

Definition of a standard automaton

$$\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & &$$

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Definition of a standard automaton

Operations on standard automata

 $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}$ $\mathcal{A} \cdot \mathcal{B}$ \mathcal{A}^*

$$\mathcal{A}^* = \left\langle \left(1 \boxed{0} \right), \left(\boxed{0} \boxed{J} \\ H \right), \left(\boxed{1} \\ U \right) \right\rangle$$

with $H = U \cdot J + F$

Definition of a standard automaton

Operations on standard automata

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Definition of Δ_d

Recursive application of the operations

 $\Delta_{d}(\mathsf{E}) = \mathcal{S}_{\mathsf{E}}$

Definition of a standard automaton

$$\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & &$$

Operations on standard automata

$$\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}$$
 $\mathcal{A} \cdot \mathcal{B}$ \mathcal{A}^*

Example $E_1 = (a^*b + bb^*a)^*$



Definition of a standard automaton



Operations on standard automata

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Example $E_1 = a$



Definition of a standard automaton



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Definition of a standard automaton

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Example $E_1 = a^*b$



Definition of a standard automaton

$$\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & &$$

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Example $E_1 = a^*b \quad b$





 A^*

Definition of a standard automaton

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & &$$

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 Δ^*

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Definition of a standard automaton

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$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet$$

Operations on standard automata

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Proposition

Size of S_E is $\ell(E) + 1$

Proposition

The complexity of Δ_d is cubic

Definition (Brüggemann-Klein 92) E is *in star-normal form* (SNF) if and only if for any F such that F^* is a subexpression of E, c(F) = 0

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Theorem (B-K 92) Computation of E[•] is quadratic

The derived term automaton of an expression

- Standard automaton of E
- Derived term automaton of E Brzozowski–Antimirov

position, Glushkov Brzozowski–Antimirov



The Brzozowski derivatives

Preliminary Construction of A_L , the *minimal (deterministic) automaton* of Lby means of the *quotients* of L

The Brzozowski derivatives



Preliminary Construction of A_L , the *minimal (deterministic) automaton* of Lby means of the *quotients* of L
















































Definition (Brzozowski 64)

 $\mathsf{E} \in \mathsf{RegE}\,\mathsf{A}^* \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathsf{a}}\,\mathsf{E}$ is defined by induction.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} 0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial a} 1 = \emptyset, \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial a} b = \begin{cases} \{1\} & \text{if } b = a \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} (E+F) = \frac{\partial}{\partial a} E + \frac{\partial}{\partial a} F$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} (E+F) = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial a} E\right] \cdot F + c(E) \frac{\partial}{\partial a} F$$
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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} (E^*) = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial a} E\right] \cdot E^*$$

Theorem (Brzozowski 64)

For every E , there is a finite number of derivatives modulo **A** , **C** , and **I**



















Definition (Brzozowski 64 — Antimirov 96) $E \in \operatorname{Reg} E A^* \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial a} E$ is defined by induction.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} 0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial a} 1 = \emptyset, \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial a} b = \begin{cases} \{1\} & \text{if } b = a \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} (E+F) = \frac{\partial}{\partial a} E \cup \frac{\partial}{\partial a} F$$
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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} \left[\bigcup_{i \in I} E_i\right] = \bigcup_{i \in I} \frac{\partial}{\partial a} E_i, \qquad \left[\bigcup_{i \in I} E_i\right] \cdot F = \bigcup_{i \in I} (E_i \cdot F) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial f_a} E = \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial f} E\right)$$

Example
$$E_1 = (a^*b + bb^*a)^*$$

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial a}E_1 = \{a^*bE_1\}, \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial b}(E_1)^* = \{E_1, b^*aE_1\}, \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial a}a^*bE_1 = \{a^*bE_1\}, \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial b}a^*bE_1 = \{E_1\}, \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial a}(b^*aE_1)^* = \{E_1\}, \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial b}(b^*aE_1)^* = \{b^*aE_1\}.$



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Theorem (Antimirov 96)

\mathcal{A}_{E} is an NFA which accepts L(E) and has less than $\,\ell(\mathsf{E})+1\,$ states

$\begin{array}{l} \text{Theorem (Antimirov 96)} \\ \mathcal{A}_{\mathsf{E}} \ \ \textit{is an NFA which accepts } L(\mathsf{E}) \\ & and \ \textit{has less than } \ell(\mathsf{E})+1 \ \ \textit{states} \end{array}$

 $\mathcal{B}_{\mathsf{E}} \ = \mathsf{Determinization} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathcal{A}_{\mathsf{E}}$

Theorem (Antimirov 96) A_E is an NFA which accepts L(E)and has less than $\ell(E) + 1$ states

 \mathcal{B}_{E} = Determinization of \mathcal{A}_{E} almost true

Theorem (Antimirov 96) \mathcal{A}_{E} is an NFA which accepts L(E)and has less than $\ell(E) + 1$ states

Theorem (Champarnaud–Ziadi 02) A_E is a quotient of S_E







Theorem (Champarnaud–Ziadi 01) Computation of A_E is quadratic

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Observation Size of $A_{\rm F}$ much smaller than size of $S_{\rm F}$

when $\mathsf{E}=\mathsf{\Gamma}(\mathcal{A})$, for a certain \mathcal{A}

Theorem (Champarnaud–Ziadi 01) Computation of A_E is quadratic

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Observation} \\ \mbox{Even for } E = \Gamma(\mathcal{A}) \ , \\ \mbox{computation of } \mathcal{S}_E \ \ \mbox{followed by a quotient} \\ \mbox{more effective than computation of } \mathcal{A}_E \end{array}$





