

α - β -Factorization and the Binary Case of Simon's Congruence

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Scattered Factors and Universality

Scattered Factor ($v \preceq w$) v is a *scattered factor* of w if v can be *embedded into* w

– Example

$aba \preceq \mathbf{aabbca}$ $acb \not\preceq aabbca$

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- Partial order compatible with concatenation: $u \preceq v$ and $x \preceq y$ imply $ux \preceq vy$
- If $v_1 v_2 \preceq u$ then $v_1 \preceq u_1$ and $v_2 \preceq u_2$ for some factorization $u = u_1 u_2$

Simon's Congruence

Simon's Congruence ($u \sim_k v$) u, v are k -congruent if $\forall w \in \Sigma^{\leq k}. w \preceq u \iff w \preceq v$

- $u \sim_k v$ if u, v have exactly the same scattered factors of length up to k
- Example: $abba \sim_2 baba$, $abaaba \sim_3 ababa$ but $aabb \not\sim_2 abba$

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- Example: $abba \sim_2 baba$, $abaaba \sim_3 ababa$ but $aabb \not\sim_2 abba$
- Congruence Relation: $u \sim_k v$ and $x \sim_k y$ imply $ux \sim_k vy$
- Finite index because Σ^*/\sim_k isomorphic to subset of $\mathcal{P}(\Sigma^{\leq k})$

Related Work

Automata and Formal Languages Σ^*/\sim_k recognizes k -piecewise testable languages

- Piecewise Testable Languages: Boolean combination of $L_v := \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid v \preceq w\}$
- Equivalently, unions of congruence classes of \sim_k for some k
- Simon's Theorem [Sim75]

Combinatorics on Words

- Combinatorial Structure of Classes [Sim72; Lot97; KKS15]
- Reconstruction problems [Lot97; Fle⁺21]
- Proofs for automata theory results [Klí11]

Algorithmic Problems

- SIMK and MAXSIMK [Héb91; FK18; Gaw⁺21]
- pattern matching problems w.r.t \sim_k [KKH22; Fle⁺23]

α - β -Factorization

w 

Universality ($\iota(w)$) Maximum $n \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\Sigma^{\leq n} \subseteq \text{ScatFact}(w)$

α - β -Factorization



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Arch Factorization [Héb91]

- Repeatedly take shortest prefixes containing Σ

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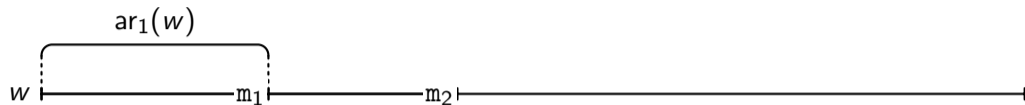


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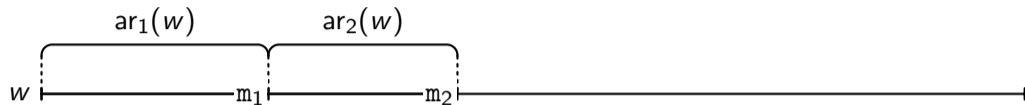


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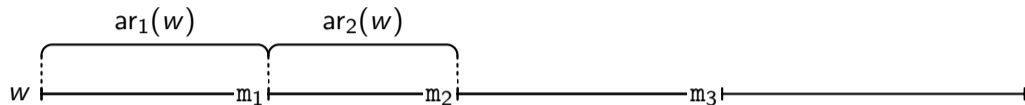


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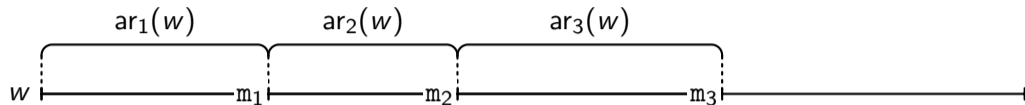


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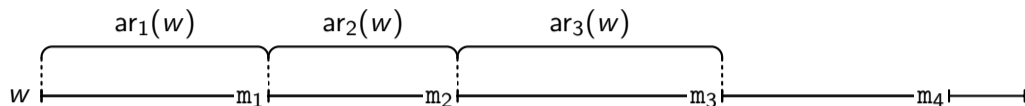


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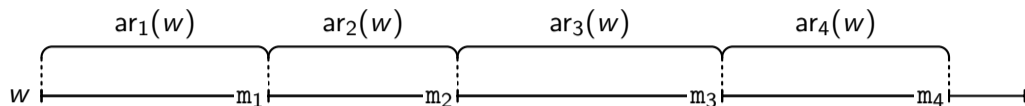


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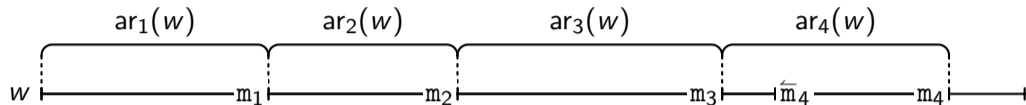


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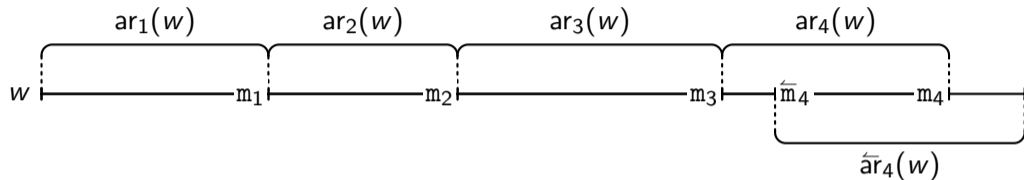
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- # Arches is $\iota(w)$ because some $m_1 m_2 \cdots m_{\# \text{Arches}} x$ does not occur

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α - β -Factorization [Fle⁺22] Arch fact. in both directions

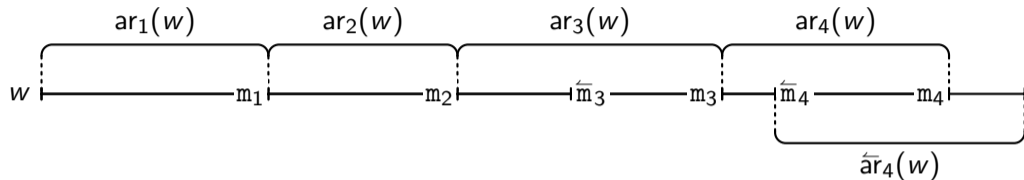
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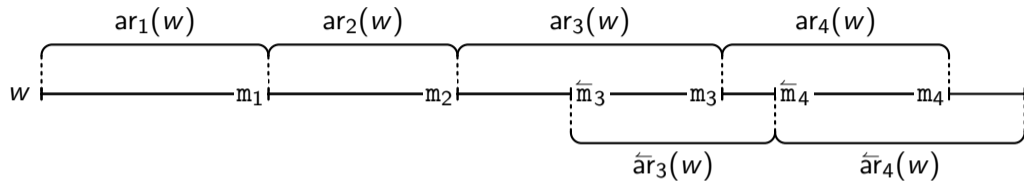
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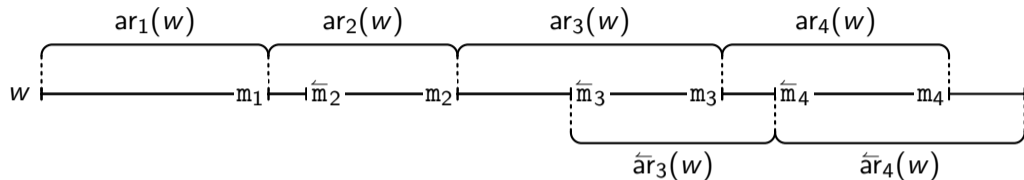
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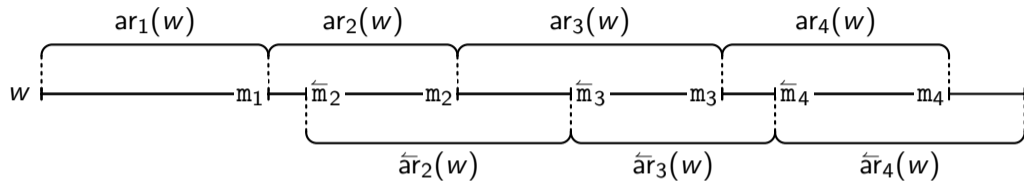
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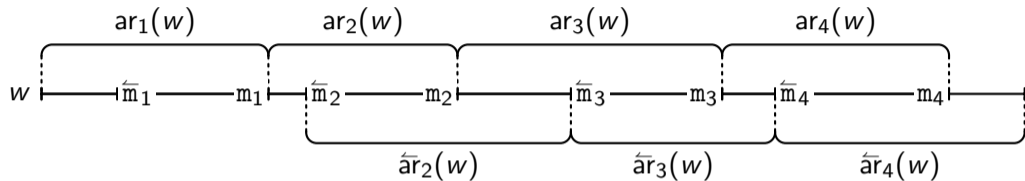
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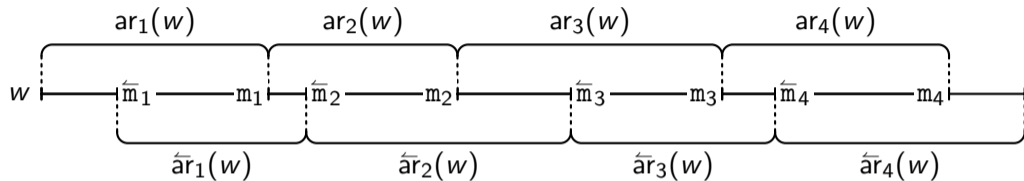
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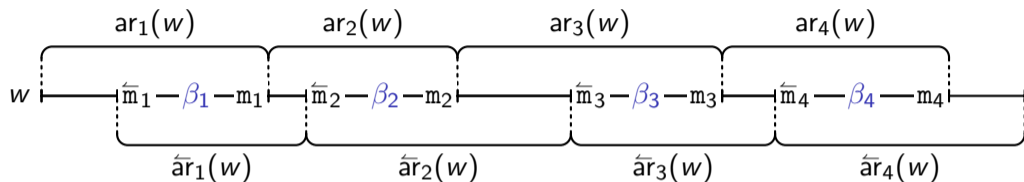
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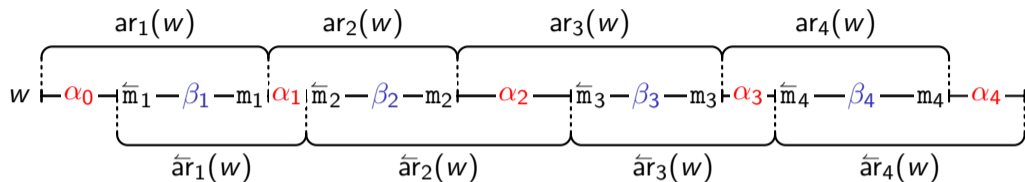
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α - β -Factorization [Fle⁺22] Arch fact. in both directions

- Arches and reverse arches always interleave
- First and last letter of β_i unique in β_i
- $\beta_i = m_i = \hat{m}_i$ or $\beta_i = \hat{m}_i \text{ core}_i m_i$ with $|\text{alph}(\text{core}_i)| \leq |\Sigma| - 2$

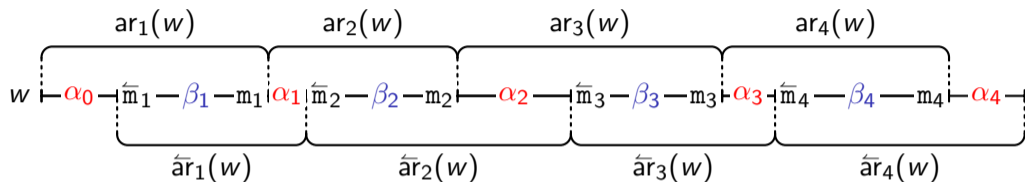
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- $|\text{alph}(\alpha)| < |\Sigma|$

α - β -Factorization



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- Arches and reverse arches always interleave
- First and last letter of β_i unique in β_i
- $\beta_i = m_i = \tilde{m}_i$ or $\beta_i = \tilde{m}_i \text{ core}_i m_i$ with $|\text{alph}(\text{core}_i)| \leq |\Sigma| - 2$
- $|\text{alph}(\alpha)| < |\Sigma|$

Key Idea Study properties of these factors in general

α - β -Factorization

2 Key Properties

- In the following always assume $\iota(w) < k$

Lemma

$w \sim_k \tilde{w}$ implies $\alpha_i \sim_{k-m} \tilde{\alpha}_i$ for all $0 \leq i \leq m$ where $m := \iota(w) = \iota(\tilde{w}) < k$.

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- The converse of the second statement holds as well, for that:

Lemma

Up to \sim_k , a factor of the form $\alpha_i \beta_i \cdots \alpha_j$ of w can be replaced by a $(k - \iota(w) + (j - 1))$ -equivalent one.

- Freely exchange α bordered factors w.r.t $\sim_{k-\ell}$ where ℓ is $\# \beta$ factors outside

α - β -Decomposition

Theorem

For $w, \tilde{w} \in \Sigma^*$ with $0 < m := \iota(w) = \iota(\tilde{w}) < k$, we have

$$w \sim_k \tilde{w} \iff \alpha_{i-1}\beta_i\alpha_i \sim_{k-m+1} \tilde{\alpha}_{i-1}\tilde{\beta}_i\tilde{\alpha}_i \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

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Proof Sketch. Apply Lemma 2 repeatedly (similar to Karandikar et al. [KKS15])

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□

Binary Case

Initial Observations

- We consider $\Sigma_2 := \{a, b\}$ and set $\bar{a} := b$ and $\bar{b} := a$

Lemma

For $w \in \Sigma_2^$ we have*

1. $\beta_i \in \{a, b, ab, ba\}$
2. *if $\beta_i = x$ then $\alpha_{i-1}, \alpha_i \in \bar{x}^+$*
3. *if $\beta_i = x\bar{x}$ then $\alpha_{i-1} \in x^*$ and $\alpha_i \in \bar{x}^*$*

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- We have an even stronger characterization in the binary case!

Lemma

For $w \sim_k \tilde{w}$ with $m := \iota(w) = \iota(\tilde{w}) < k$, we have $\beta_i = \tilde{\beta}_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$.

Binary Case

Some Characterizations

Theorem

For $w, \tilde{w} \in \Sigma_2^$ with $\iota(w), \iota(\tilde{w}) < k$ we have $w \sim_k \tilde{w}$ iff $m := \iota(w) = \iota(\tilde{w})$, $\alpha_i \sim_{k-m} \tilde{\alpha}_i$ for all $0 \leq i \leq m$, and $\beta_i = \tilde{\beta}_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$.*

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- By Simon [Sim72; Lot97], we have $|[w]_{\sim_k}| \in \{1, \infty\}$
- We can characterize these in the binary case easily

Theorem

For $w \in \Sigma_2^*$ we have $|[w]_{\sim_k}| = 1$ iff $\iota(w) < k$ and $|\alpha_i| < k - m$.

Enumeration of $|\Sigma_2^*/\sim_k|$

Core Idea Separate by $\iota(w)$, then use characterization

- Know all possibilities for α_i, β_j **but** not all combinations possible

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Observation Fixed k is problematic

- Given $w = \alpha_0\beta_1 \cdots \alpha_{\iota(w)}$ with α_i representing \sim_{k-m} class:
 - extend to $w' := w\beta\alpha$ for some matching β, α
 - α'_i only fixed up to \sim_{k-m-1}

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 - extend to $w' := w\beta\alpha$ for some matching β, α
 - α'_i only fixed up to \sim_{k-m-1}
- Count for all k at once!
 - Increase k and $m = \iota(w)$ together: append $\beta\alpha$, consider result up to \sim_{k+1}
 - Fix difference $\Delta := k - m \geq 1$

Enumeration of $|\Sigma_2^*/\sim_k|$

a⁺

ε

b⁺

α_{i-1}

b

ba

ab

a

β_i

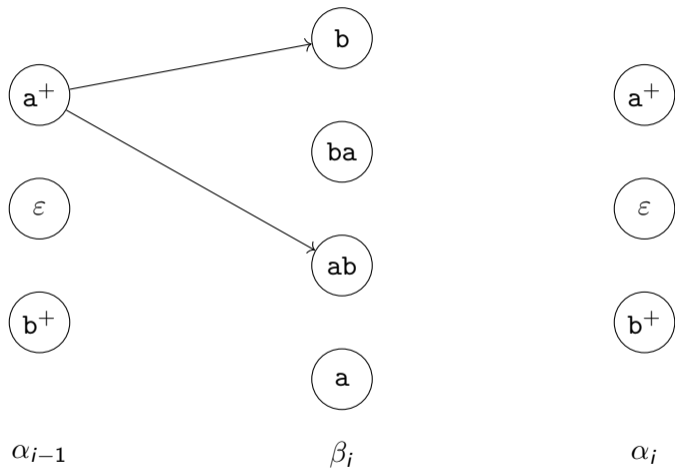
a⁺

ε

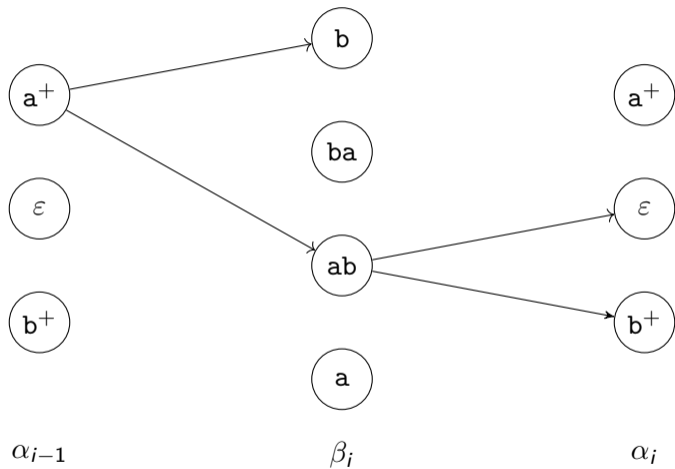
b⁺

α_i

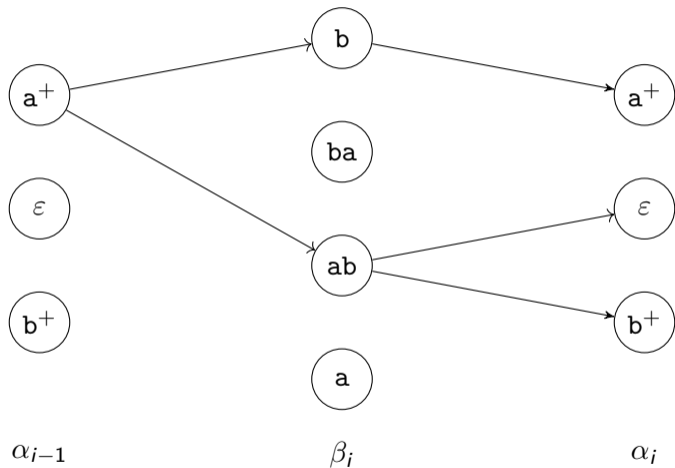
Enumeration of $|\Sigma_2^*/\sim_k|$



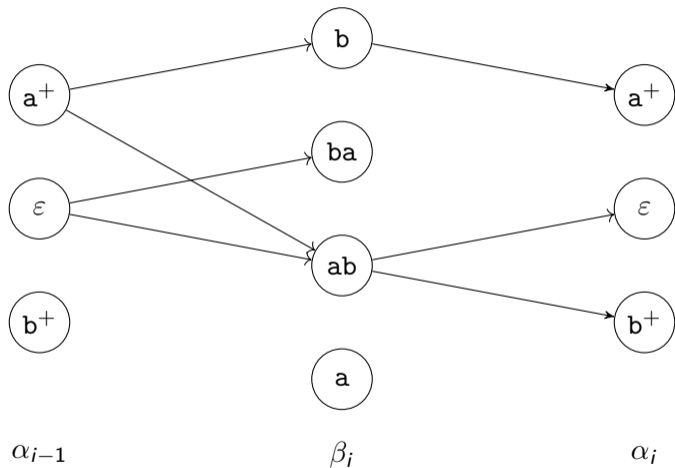
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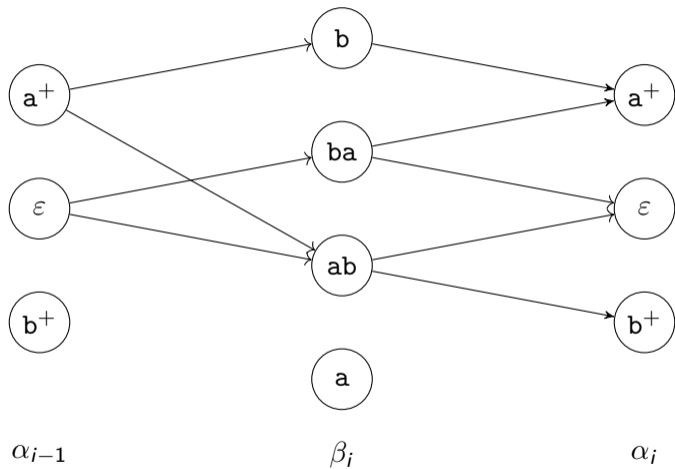
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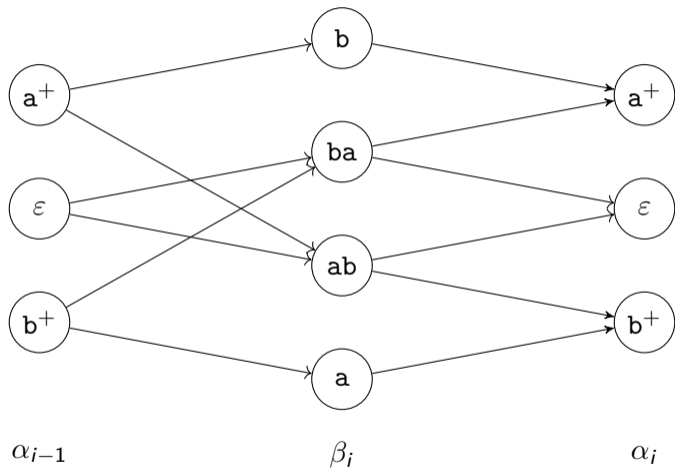
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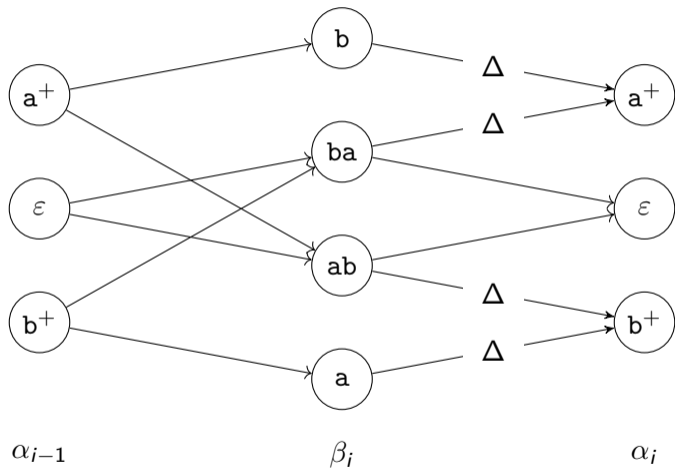
Enumeration of $|\Sigma_2^*/\sim_k|$



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$$c_{\Delta}(\ell) := \left| \{w \in \Sigma_2^* \mid \iota(w) = \ell\} / \sim_{\Delta+\ell} \right| = \left\| \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \Delta & \Delta & \Delta \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ \Delta & \Delta & \Delta \end{array} \right]^{\ell} \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c} \Delta \\ 1 \\ \Delta \end{array} \right] \right\|_1$$

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- Using some linear algebra, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} c_\Delta(-1) &= 1 & c_\Delta(0) &= 2 \cdot \Delta + 1 \\ c_\Delta(\ell + 2) &= 2 \cdot (\Delta + 1) \cdot c_\Delta(\ell + 1) - 2 \cdot \Delta \cdot c_\Delta(\ell). \end{aligned}$$

Enumeration of $|\Sigma_2^*/\sim_k|$

Theorem

For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$|\Sigma_2^*/\sim_k| = 1 + \sum_{\Delta=1}^k c_{\Delta}(k - \Delta).$$

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1, 4, 16, 68, 312, 1560, 8528, 50864, 329248, 2298592, 17203264, 137289920,
1162805376, 10409679744, 98146601216, 971532333824, 10068845515264, ...

Towards Σ_3

Modi Always $|\beta_i| = 1$ or $\beta_i = \overleftarrow{m}_i$ core; m_i but

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$$\text{b}^n \text{a} \cdot \text{ab}^{k-2} \text{c} \cdot \varepsilon \not\sim_k \text{b}^n \text{a} \cdot \text{ab}^{k-1} \text{c} \cdot \varepsilon$$

$$\text{b}^n \text{ab} \cdot \text{ab}^{k-2} \text{c} \cdot \varepsilon \sim_k \text{b}^n \text{a} \cdot \text{ab}^{k-1} \text{c} \cdot \varepsilon$$

Towards Σ_3

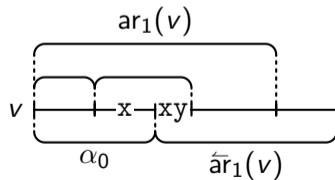
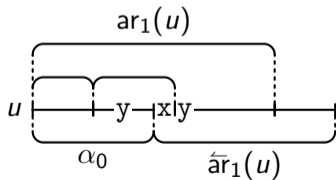
Modi Always $|\beta_i| = 1$ or $\beta_i = \bar{m}_i \text{ core}_i m_i$ but

$$abab \cdot abc \cdot c \sim_3 abab \cdot bac \cdot c$$

Core Always $|\text{alph}(\text{core}_i)| \leq 1$ but

$$b^n a \cdot ab^{k-2} c \cdot \varepsilon \not\sim_k b^n a \cdot ab^{k-1} c \cdot \varepsilon$$

$$b^n ab \cdot ab^{k-2} c \cdot \varepsilon \sim_k b^n a \cdot ab^{k-1} c \cdot \varepsilon$$



Card	$\text{alph}(\alpha_0)$	$\text{alph}(\alpha_1)$	β RegExp
2-2	$\{a, b\}$	$\{a, c\}$	ba^*c
	$\{a, b\}$	$\{a, b\}$	c
2-1	$\{a, b\}$	$\{c\}$	$(a^+b \mid b^+a)c$
	$\{a, b\}$	$\{a\}$	ba^*c
2-0	$\{a, b\}$	\emptyset	$(a^+b \mid b^+a)c$
1-1	$\{a\}$	$\{b\}$	$ab^+c \mid ac^+b \mid ca^+b$
	$\{a\}$	$\{a\}$	ba^*c
1-0	$\{a\}$	\emptyset	$ba^*c \mid ab^+c$
0-0	\emptyset	\emptyset	ab^+c

- $a, b, c \in \Sigma_3$ different; permutation of modi occurs only in case 3 and 5
- length of core_i determined by $\iota(\alpha_i)$, $\text{alph}(\alpha_i)$, $\text{re}(\alpha_0)$, $\tilde{\text{re}}(\alpha_1)$ (depends on k)

Questions?

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