

Free Adequate Semigroups

Mark Kambites

School of Mathematics, University of Manchester

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Semigroup Theory

Philosophy

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- Combinatorial part: aperiodic (group-free) semigroups
- Interplay: wreath products

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- Interplay: the Rees matrix construction

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- *local structure is group-like (somebody else's problem);*
- *global structure is semilattice-like (somebody else's problem);*
- *interplay is (sometimes) manageable.*

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Question

What on earth does that mean?

Adequate Semigroups (Fountain 1979)

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Remark

The operations $x \mapsto x^+$ and $x \mapsto x^*$ are so fundamental that we consider left/right/two-sided adequate semigroups as algebras of signature $(2, 1)$ or $(2, 1, 1)$.

Free Objects

Let F be an algebra in a class \mathcal{C} of algebras.

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F is **free** in \mathcal{C} if there is a subset $\Sigma \subseteq F$ such that every function from Σ to an algebra $M \in \mathcal{C}$ extends uniquely to a morphism from F to M .

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Corollary

There is a free left/right/two-sided adequate semigroup of every rank.

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$$ae = (ae)^+ a \text{ and } ea = a(ea)^* \dots$$

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What happens without these identities?

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The Story So Far

*Branco, Gomes and Gould have recently studied free left and right adequate semigroups from a structural perspective, as part of their theory of **proper** adequate semigroups.*

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Our Aim

*A **geometric approach** (like Munn's) for the both the one-sided and two-sided cases.*

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- a (perhaps empty) directed path from the start to the end.

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A **base tree** is a Σ -tree with a single edge and with distinct start and end vertices.

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A **morphism** $\sigma : X \rightarrow Y$ of Σ -trees is a map which

- takes edges to edges;
- takes vertices to vertices;
- preserves incidence;
- preserves edge labels;
- takes the start vertex to the start vertex;
- takes the end vertex to the end vertex.

Definition

$UT(\Sigma)$ is the set of **isomorphism types** of Σ -trees.

Convention

We identify the isomorphism type of a base tree with the label of its edge, so $\Sigma \subseteq UT(\Sigma)$.

Algebra on Trees

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$UT(\Sigma)$ forms a semigroup under \times .

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Idempotent trees are not idempotent!

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Definition

The (isomorphism type of the) unique pruned image of a retract of X is denoted \overline{X} .

Algebra on Pruned Trees

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$\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ is the set of isomorphism types of **pruned** Σ -trees.

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Theorem

The map $X \mapsto \overline{X}$ is a surjective $(2, 1, 1)$ -morphism from $UT(\Sigma)$ to $T(\Sigma)$.

The Free Adequate Semigroup Revisited

Theorem

$T(\Sigma)$ is the free adequate semigroup on Σ .

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Theorem

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Corollary

Any $(2, 1)$ -identity which holds in every adequate semigroup also holds every left/right adequate semigroup.

Monoids

Remark

If we admit the **trivial** Σ -tree with one vertex and no edges, then we obtain the free left/right/two-sided adequate **monoid**.

Some Elementary Corollaries

Corollary

*The word problem for a finitely generated free left/right/two-sided adequate semigroup is in **NP**.*

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Corollary

One can (theoretically?!) decide whether a given identity holds in all left/right/two-sided adequate semigroups.

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No non-trivial free left/right/two-sided adequate semigroup is finitely generated as a semigroup.

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Every free adequate left/right/two-sided semigroup is \mathcal{J} -trivial (as a semigroup).

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- *There is a natural morphism from the free adequate semigroup to the free inverse semigroup, taking x^+ to xx^{-1} and x^* to $x^{-1}x$.*

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- *There is a natural morphism from the free adequate semigroup to the free inverse semigroup, taking x^+ to xx^{-1} and x^* to $x^{-1}x$.*
- *This can be interpreted as a **folding** operation on trees.*
- *Likewise the morphism from the free adequate semigroup **onto** the free ample semigroup.*

Residual Finiteness Properties

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A function $f : S \rightarrow T$ **separates** $X \subseteq S$ if $x \neq y \implies f(x) \neq f(y)$ for all $x, y \in X$.

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- Pairs of elements in F which cannot be separated in finite quotients correspond to identities which are satisfied in all finite algebras in \mathcal{C} , but **not** in all infinite algebras.
- So F is residually finite \iff every identity satisfied by all finite algebras in \mathcal{C} is also satisfied by all infinite \mathcal{C} -algebras.

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Question

Are free adequate semigroups residually finite?