

# On free subsemigroups in automata semigroups

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(joint work with Iren Mitrofanov)

## I. Introduction

Why? Complexity from simple rules

- Exotic properties
  - f.g. infinite periodic groups
  - intermediate growth
  - amenable but not elementary amenable
- concrete
  - action on a rooted tree
  - residually finite
  - solvable word problem

## Questions

- What are they?
- What properties do they have?  
Link between automaton properties and properties of semigroup?

Thm (Klimann '17): A group generated by a bireversible automaton has exponential growth if it contains an elem of  $\infty$  order.

Duality group  $\leftrightarrow$  free subsemigroup

## II. Automata, (semi)groups and duality

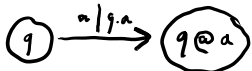
Def: A Mealy automaton is  $M = (Q, A, \tau)$

$Q, A$  finite sets,  $\tau: Q \times A \rightarrow A \times Q$   
states  $\nearrow$   $\nwarrow$  alphabet  
 $(q, a) \mapsto (q \cdot a, q @ a)$

Def: Moore diagram  $M = (Q, A, \tau)$

graph  $\Gamma$ ,  $V(\Gamma) = Q$

edges:  $q \in Q, a \in A$



$M = (Q, A, \tau)$

$\forall q \in Q \quad q \cdot : A \rightarrow A$

$\forall a \in A \quad @a : Q \rightarrow Q$

Def: If  $q \cdot : A \rightarrow A$  is bijective,  $M$  is invertible

If  $@a : Q \rightarrow Q$  is bijective,  $M$  is reversible

$M$  is bireversible if invertible + reversible +  $\tau$  is bij.

$\forall q \in Q \quad q \cdot : A^* \rightarrow A^* \quad q \cdot (a \cdot v) = (q \cdot a) \cdot (q @ a) \cdot v$

Def: The semigroup gen. by  $M = (Q, A, \tau)$  is

$S_M = Q^* / \text{Ker}(Q^* \rightarrow A^*) \cong S_M \leq A^*$

If  $M$  invertible,  $G_M = \langle S_M \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(A^*)$

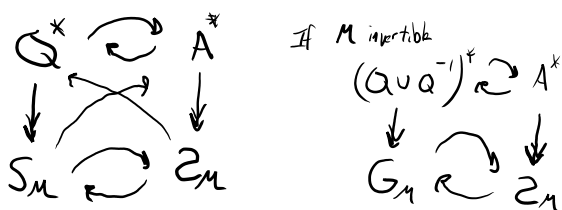
Duality:

$@a : Q^* \rightarrow Q^*$

Def:  $Z_M = A^* / \text{Ker}(g \cdot A^*)$  dual semigroup.

(Dual automaton:  $M = (Q, A, \tau), \partial M = (A, Q, \tilde{\tau})$ )  
 $Z_M$  anti-isomorphic  $S_{\partial M}$

Recap



Prop:

Dual action



Prop:  $S_M$  is finite  $\Leftrightarrow Z_M$  finite

Proof: Assume  $Z_M$  finite. Pick  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  large enough

claim  $g \in S_M$  is uniquely determined by its action on  $A^N$



Prop:  $M = (Q, A, \tau)$  invertible,  $u \in A^*$ ,  $[u] \in Z_M$ . TFAE

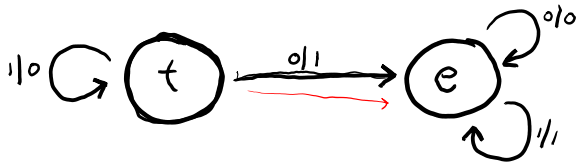
1)  $|G_M \cdot \underline{u}^\infty| < \infty$

2)  $|G_M \cdot [u^n]| < M \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

3)  $[u] \in Z_M$  is torsion.

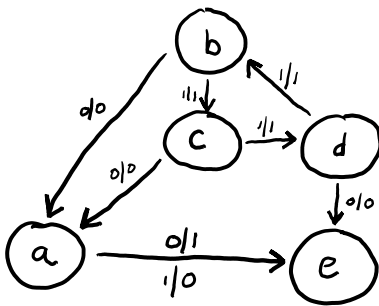
# Examples

1)  $Q = \{t, e\}$        $A = \{0, 1\}$

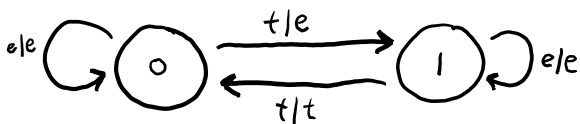


$t. 1101 = 0011$

2)  $Q = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$        $A = \{0, 1\}$



3)  $Q = \{0, 1\}$        $A = \{t, e\}$



### III. Free subsemigroups

Thm [F. - M. Hofmann '20]: If  $M$  is a reversible automaton, then,  $S_M$  contains a free subsemigroup

(non commutative)

$\Leftrightarrow S_M$  contains an element of  $\infty$  order.

Dual theorem: If  $M$  is invertible,  $S_M$  contains a free semigroup  $\Leftrightarrow \exists u \in A^*$  s.t.  $|G_M(u^\infty)| = \infty$ .

Proof: Case where  $A = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $G_M \curvearrowright A^n$  is transitive  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Assume no free semigroups in  $S_M$ .

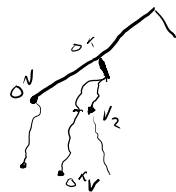
$\Rightarrow \exists v_1, v_2 \in A^*$  s.t.  $v_1 \neq v_2$  but  $[v_1] = [v_2]$

wlog, assume that  $|v_1| = |v_2|$  (if not, look at  $v_1, v_2$  and  $v_2 v_1$ )

Since  $G_M$  acts transitively, assume that  $v_1 = 0^N$   
 $v_2 = 0^k v_2'$

Let  $0^k v \in A^n$ ,  $n \geq N$

Claim:  $\exists w \in A^n$  s.t.  $[0^k v] = [0^{k+1} w']$   
 $w = 0^{k+1} w'$



$\exists g \in G_M$  s.t.  $g \cdot 0^k v = v_2 v_1$   $= [0^{k+2} w'] = \dots [0^{k_1 \cdot n - N + 1} z]$

$$g \cdot [0^k v] = [v_2][v_1] = [0^N][v_1]$$

$$[0^k v] = g^{-1}([0^N][v_1]) = [0^{k+1} w']$$

In short, how many elements of the form  $0^k v \in A^n$ ?

$$|A|^{n-k}$$

THANK YOU !