STALLINGS AUTOMATA AND APPLICATIONS

BGSMATH GRADUATE COURSE

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Centre de Recerca Matemàtica
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Free groups

UNIVERSAL PROPERTY

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F is ***free over A*** $\boldsymbol{\subseteq F}$ (or ***A is a free basis for F***) $\Leftrightarrow$

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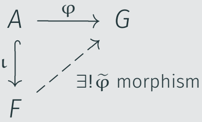

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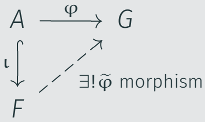

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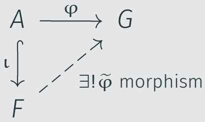

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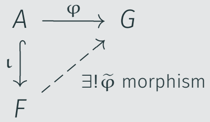

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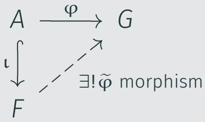

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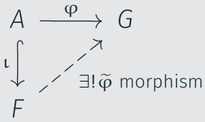

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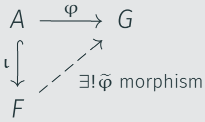

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Question

Which groups are free? Does there exist a free group over any set A?

THE RANK OF A FREE GROUP

Proposition

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The ***rank*** of a free group F_A is the cardinal of a (any) free basis of F_A, i.e., $\mathrm{rk}(F_A) = \#A$. If $\#A = r$ we write $\mathbb{F}_r \simeq F_A$.

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Remark

It is clear that $\mathbb{F}_1 \simeq \mathbb{Z}$, but we still do not know whether free groups of higher ranks

$$\mathbb{F}_2, F_3, \ldots, F_{\aleph_0}, F_{\aleph_1}, \ldots$$

do exist. Let us construct them combinatorially ...

construction of free groups (i)

Let $A = \{a_1, \ldots, a_r\}$ be a (possibly infinite) set called ***alphabet***.
Then, $\widetilde{A} = \{a_1, \ldots, a_r, a_1^{-1}, \ldots, a_r^{-1}\}$ is an ***involutive alphabet***
($\#\widetilde{A} = 2\#A$). Convention: $(a_i^{-1})^{-1} = a_i$.

CONSTRUCTION OF FREE GROUPS (I)

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A ***word*** on A is a finite sequence of letters from A, $w = a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_n}$, $n \geqslant 0$. For $n = 0$ we have the ***empty word***, denoted by $\mathbf{1}$.
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Observation

The set $A^* = \{a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_n} \mid n \geqslant 0\}$ with the operation of concatenation, $u \cdot v = uv$, is a monoid. Any subset $L \subseteq A^*$ is called a ***language***.

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Free equivalence: For $u, v \in \widetilde{A}^*$, define $\boldsymbol{u \sim^* v} \Leftrightarrow \exists$ a finite chain of elementary reductions/insertions $u = u_1 \sim u_2 \sim \cdots \sim u_n = v$.

Observation

The relation $\sim^*$ (or simply $\sim$) is an equivalence in $\widetilde{A}^*$. We denote the quotient by $\mathbb{F}_A = \widetilde{A}^*/\sim = \{[u] \mid u \in \widetilde{A}^*\}$ and $\widetilde{A}^* \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_A$, $u \mapsto [u]$.

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*$\mathbb{F}_A$ is a **group** with the operation $[u][v] = [uv]$. The trivial element is $[1]$, and $[a_{i_1}^{\epsilon_1} \cdots a_{i_n}^{\epsilon_n}]^{-1} = [a_{i_n}^{-\epsilon_n} \cdots a_{i_1}^{-\epsilon_1}]$.*

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So, we can think $\mathbb{F}_A$ as $R(A)$ with the operation $u \cdot v = \overline{uv}$, $u, v \in R(A)$.

Corollary

The map $A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{F}_A$, $a \mapsto [a]$ *is injective.*

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- S is a ***free family*** in G $\Leftrightarrow$ π_S is injective,
- S is a (free) ***basis*** of G $\Leftrightarrow$ π_S is bijective.

THE MEMBERSHIP PROBLEM

(Subgroup) Membership Problem, $\mathrm{MP}(\mathbb{F}_A)$

Given $u, v_1, \ldots, v_n \in \mathbb{F}_A$, decide whether $u \in H = \langle v_1, \ldots, v_n \rangle$;
if yes, express u as a word in $v_1, \ldots, v_n$.

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Example

Consider $\mathbb{FF}_2 = \langle a, b \rangle$ and the subgroup $H = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{FF}_2$,
where $v_1 = baba^{-1}$, $v_2 = aba^{-1}$, and $v_3 = aba^2$.
Is it true that $a \in H$?
is it true that $u = b^2aba^{-1}b^7a^{-2}b^{-1}a^2 \in H$?
If yes, express them as a (unique?) word on $\{v_1^{\pm 1}, v_2^{\pm 1}, v_3^{\pm 1}\}$.

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$$\left.\begin{array}{rcr} |v_1|_a & = & |baba^{-1}|_a = 0 \\ |v_2|_a & = & |aba^{-1}|_a = 0 \\ |v_3|_a & = & |aba^2|_a = 3 \end{array}\right\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad a \notin H.$$

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But $|u|_a = |b^2aba^{-1}b^7a^{-2}b^{-1}a^2|_a = 1 - 1 - 2 + 2 = 0$; so, $u \in H$?

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So, YES, $u \in H$!!!

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\end{aligned}
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So, YES, $u \in H$!!!

Question

Is this expression unique?

After some calculations . . .

$$
\begin{aligned}
&v_1 v_2^{-1} v_1 (v_1 v_2^{-1})^7 v_3^{-1} v_2^{-1} v_3 = \\
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So, YES, $u \in H$!!!

Question

Is this expression unique? How to find it/them systematically?

THE INTERSECTION PROBLEM

Subgroup Intersection Problem, $\mathrm{SIP}(\mathbb{F}_A)$

Given $u_1, \ldots, u_n; v_1, \ldots, v_m \in \mathbb{F}_A$, decide whether the intersection of $H = \langle u_1, \ldots, u_n \rangle$ and $K = \langle v_1, \ldots, v_m \rangle$ is finitely generated; if yes, compute generators for $H \cap K$.

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Example

Consider $\mathbb{F}_2 = \langle a, b \rangle$ and the subgroups

$$\begin{aligned} H = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_2, &\quad \text{and} \quad & K = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_2 \\ u_1 = b, &\quad & v_1 = ab, \\ u_2 = a^3, &\quad & v_2 = a^3, \\ u_3 = a^{-1}bab^{-1}a; &\quad & v_3 = a^{-1}ba. \end{aligned}$$

How to find generators (or just elements!) for $H \cap K$?

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How to find generators (or just elements!) for $H \cap K$?

Clearly, $H \ni u_2 = a^3 = v_2 \in K$. What else?

$$\begin{aligned} H = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle &\leqslant \mathbb{F}_2, \\ u_1 &= b, \\ u_2 &= a^3, \\ u_3 &= a^{-1}bab^{-1}a; \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} K &= \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_2 \\ v_1 &= ab, \\ v_2 &= a^3, \\ v_3 &= a^{-1}ba. \end{aligned}$$

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Is $H = \langle a^3,\ b^{-1}a^3b,\ a^{-1}ba^3b^{-1}a \rangle$?

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Is $H = \langle a^3,\ b^{-1}a^3b,\ a^{-1}ba^3b^{-1}a \rangle$? Do we need more generators?

Digraphs and automata

GOAL AND SEMINAL EXAMPLE

Let $A = \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$ and let $\mathbb{F}_n \simeq \mathbb{F}_A = \langle A \mid - \rangle$

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A bijection: $\{$'nice' drawings$\}$ $\leftrightarrow$ $\{$subgroups of $\mathbb{F}_A\}$.

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Example: Let $H = \langle \underbrace{a^{-1}bab^{-1}}_{u_1}, \underbrace{a^3}_{u_2}, \underbrace{abab^{-1}}_{u_3} \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_{\{a,b\}}$.

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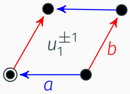

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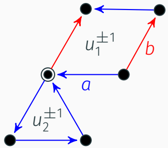

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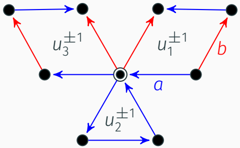

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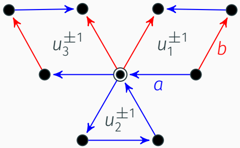

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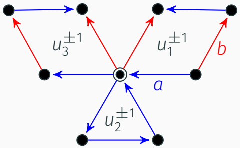
Consider the ***petal automata*** associated to the given generators, and identify the basepoints ⊙ to obtain the ***flower automaton*** $\mathrm{Fl}(u_1, u_2, u_3)$:



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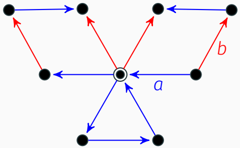

Fact:

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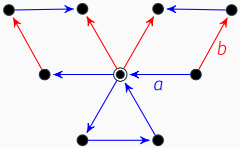

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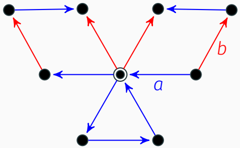

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Flower automata are natural 'drawings' associated to every subgroup of $\mathbb{F}_A$, are they 'nice'?

DIRECTED GRAPHS AND WALKS

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A ***directed graph*** (***digraph***) is a tuple $\Delta = (V, E, \iota, \tau)$, where:

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A ***walk*** in a digraph Δ is a finite sequence $\gamma = p_0 e_1 p_1 \cdots e_l p_l$ where $p_i \in V\Delta$, $e_i \in E\Delta$, $\iota e_i = p_{i-1}$ and $\tau e_i = p_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, l$.

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We denote by $W\Delta$ the ***set of walks*** in Δ.

LABELLED DIGRAPHS AND LANGUAGES

Definition

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Let Γ be an A-digraph and let $P, Q \in \mathrm{V}\Gamma$. Then,

$$\mathcal{L}_{P,Q}(\Gamma) = \left\{ w \in A^* \,:\, \exists \mathrm{p} \in P, \exists \mathrm{q} \in Q,\ \mathrm{p} \overset{w}{\rightsquigarrow} \mathrm{q} \right\}$$

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If $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{q} \in \mathrm{V}\Gamma$, then $\mathcal{L}_{\{\mathrm{p}\},\{\mathrm{q}\}}(\Gamma) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{p},\mathrm{q}}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\{\mathrm{p}\},\{\mathrm{p}\}}(\Gamma) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{p}}(\Gamma)$.

AUTOMATA

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An automaton $\Gamma = (\Delta, P, Q)$ is ***pointed*** if it has a unique common initial and terminal state (i.e., if $P = Q = \{\odot\}$).

INVOLUTIVE AUTOMATA

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An ***A-involutive automaton*** is an $A^{\pm}$-automaton with a labelled involution on its arcs; i.e., to every arc $\mathrm{e} \equiv \mathrm{p} \xrightarrow{a} \mathrm{q}$ we associate a unique arc $\mathrm{e}^{-1} \equiv \mathrm{p} \xleftarrow{a^{-1}} \mathrm{q}$ (the ***inverse*** of e) such that $\mathrm{e}' \neq \mathrm{e}$ and $(\mathrm{e}^{-1})^{-1} = \mathrm{e}$.

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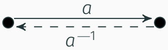
That is, labelled arcs appear by (mutually inverse) pairs.



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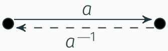

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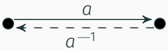

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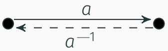

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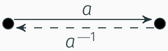

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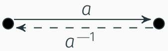

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From now on, automata = pointed involutive automata.

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i) $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathrm{p}}(\Gamma) = \{\overline{w} \in \mathbb{F}_A \,:\, \mathrm{p} \xrightarrow{w} \mathrm{p}\}$ *is a subgroup of* $\mathbb{F}_A$*,*

ii) $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathrm{p,q}}(\Gamma) = \{\overline{w} \in \mathbb{F}_A \,:\, \mathrm{p} \xrightarrow{w} \mathrm{q}\}$ *is a coset of* $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{\mathrm{p}}(\Gamma)$ *in* $\mathbb{F}_A$*.*

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If Γ is pointed then we say that $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{\odot}(\Gamma)$ is the ***subgroup recognized by*** Γ, and we write $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{\odot}(\Gamma) = \langle \Gamma \rangle$.

SOURCES OF REDUNDANCY

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Lemma

If Γ is involutive and deterministic and γ is a walk in Γ, then:

$$\gamma \text{ is reduced} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \ell(\gamma) \text{ is reduced}$$

and

$$\langle \Gamma \rangle \;=\; \{\ell(\gamma) \,:\, \gamma \equiv \odot \rightsquigarrow \odot \text{ reduced}\}$$

CORE AND REDUCED AUTOMATA

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Definition

An automaton Γ is ***reduced*** if it is deterministic and core.

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Proposition

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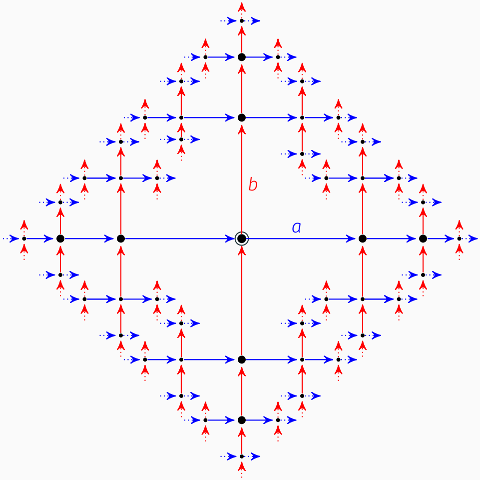
Remark: The Schreier automaton depends on the chosen generating set for G.

CAYLEY AUTOMATON OF $\mathbb{F}_2$

The Cayley automaton $\mathrm{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{\{a,b\}}, \{a, b\})$
(consisting in four ***Cayley branches*** adjacent to the basepoint ◉).



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Let Γ and Γ' be pointed A-automata.

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A ***homomorphism (of automata)*** between Γ and Γ' is a function $\phi\colon V\Gamma \to V\Gamma'$ such that:

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Corollary

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Stallings bijection

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Let Γ, Γ' be reduced (pointed and involutive) A-automata. Then,

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(i) $\phi \colon \Gamma \to \Gamma'$ is *well defined* by the determinism of Γ' (why?).

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Theorem (Stallings, 1983)

Let $\mathbb{F}_A$ be a free group with basis A. Then,

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \{\textit{subgroups of } \mathbb{F}_A\} & \leftrightarrow & \{\textit{(isom. classes of) reduced A-automata}\} \\ H & \mapsto & \mathrm{St}(H, A) \\ \langle \Gamma \rangle & \leftarrowtail & \Gamma \end{array}$$

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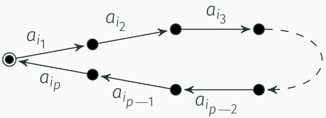

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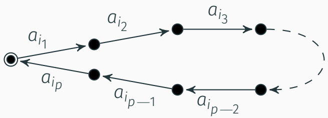

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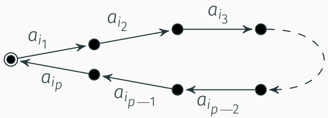

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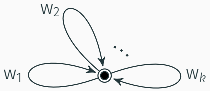

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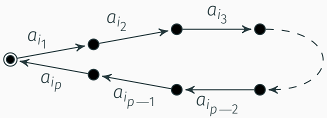

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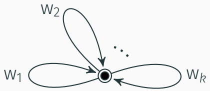

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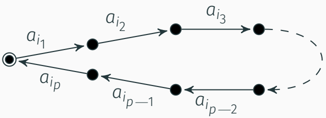

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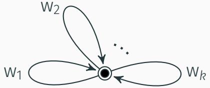

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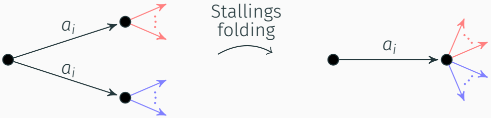

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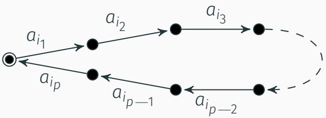

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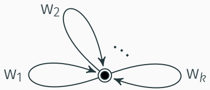

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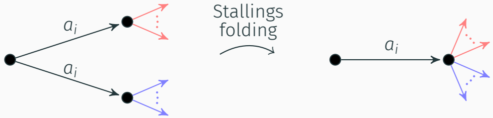

4. Keep folding until (necessarily) reaching $\mathrm{St}(H)$. (why?)

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Remark: the result of the folding process depends neither on the folding sequence *nor on the starting (finite) generating set* for H.

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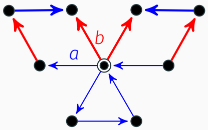

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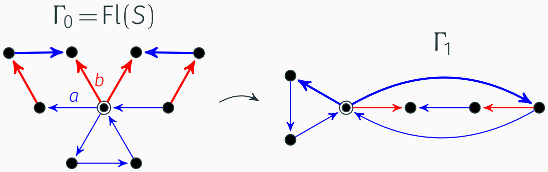

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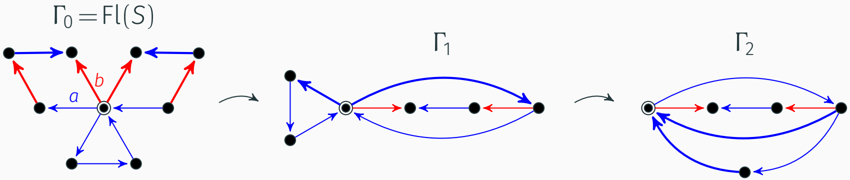

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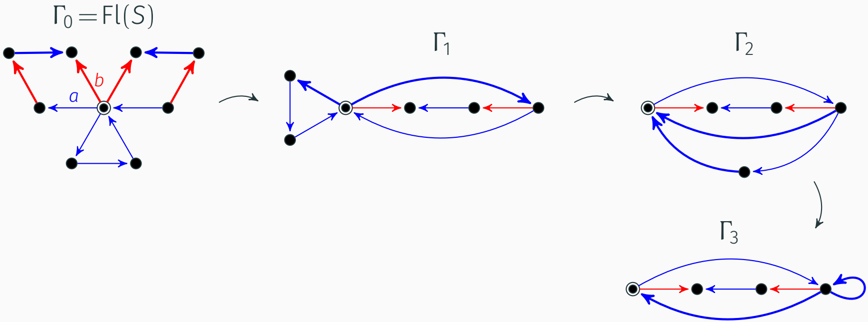

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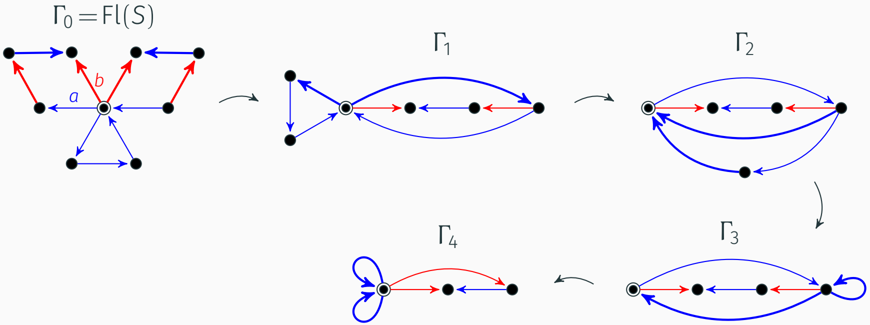

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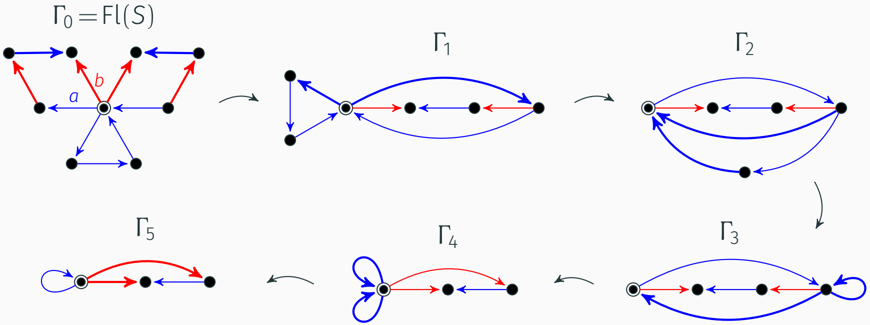

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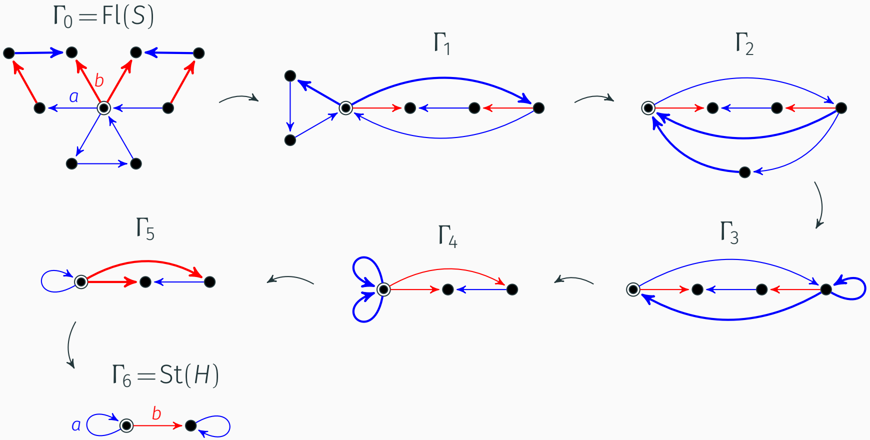

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$$\gamma \colon \odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_1^{\epsilon_1}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_2^{\epsilon_2}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \;\cdots\; \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_l^{\epsilon_l}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot$$

where $\mathrm{e}_1, \ldots, \mathrm{e}_l \in \mathrm{E}^+\Gamma \setminus \mathrm{E}T$ and $\epsilon_j = \pm 1$. Now consider

$$\gamma' \colon \odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_1^{\epsilon_1}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_2^{\epsilon_2}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot \;\cdots\; \odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_l^{\epsilon_l}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot$$

It is clear that $w = \overline{\ell}(\gamma) = \overline{\ell}(\gamma') = w_{\mathrm{e}_1}^{\epsilon_1} w_{\mathrm{e}_2}^{\epsilon_2} \cdots w_{\mathrm{e}_l}^{\epsilon_l} \in \langle S_T \rangle$.

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Let Γ be a connected A-automaton, let T be an spanning tree of Γ, and let

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Then,

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$$\overline{w} = \bar{\ell}\,(\odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_1^{\epsilon_1}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_2^{\epsilon_2}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot \cdots \odot \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \bullet \xrightarrow{\mathrm{e}_l^{\epsilon_l}} \bullet \overset{T}{\rightsquigarrow} \odot)$$

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If Γ is finite, then $\mathrm{rk}\langle\Gamma\rangle = \#(E^+ \setminus ET) < \infty$.

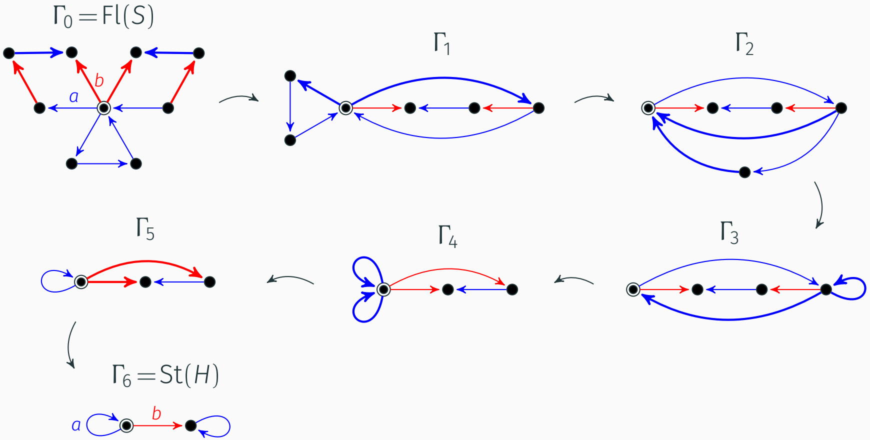
If $\mathrm{rk}\,\Gamma = \mathrm{rk}(\mathrm{core}(\Gamma)) < \infty$ then Γ is finite (why?).

Then, $\mathrm{rk}\langle\Gamma\rangle = \mathrm{rk}\,\Gamma = \#E\Gamma^+ - \#V\Gamma + 1$. □

EXAMPLE

Let $H = \langle \underbrace{a^{-1}bab^{-1}}_{u_1}, \underbrace{a^3}_{u_2}, \underbrace{abab^{-1}}_{u_3} \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_{\{a,b\}}$.

Then, we start by drawing the flower automaton $\mathrm{Fl}(u_1, u_2, u_3)$:



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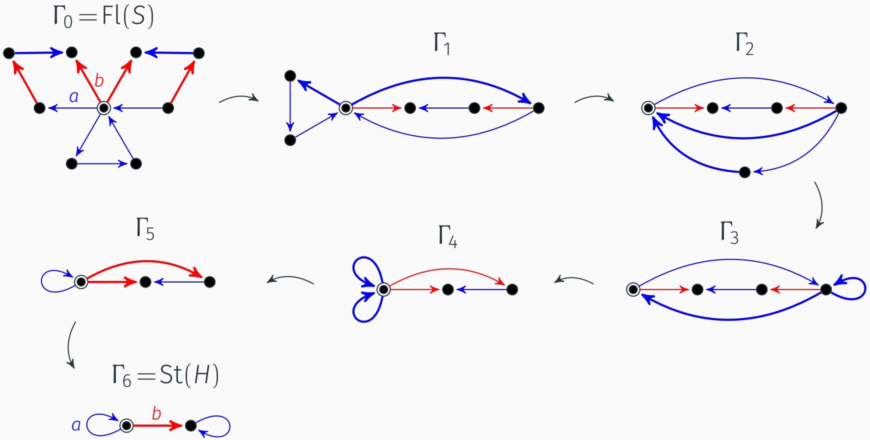

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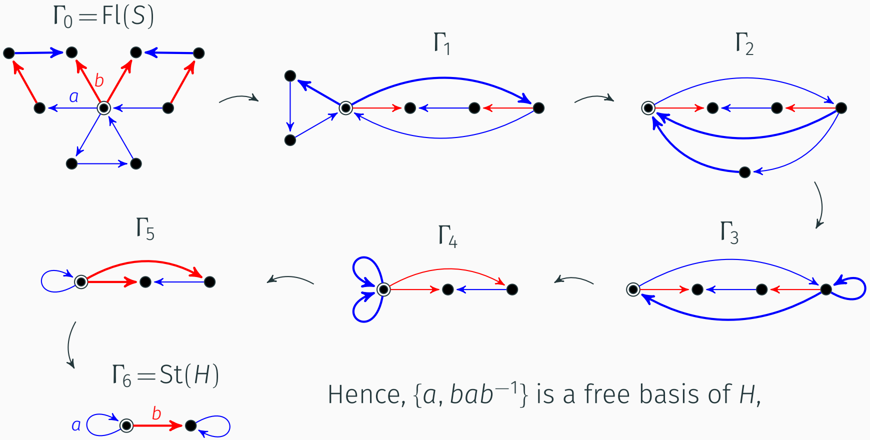

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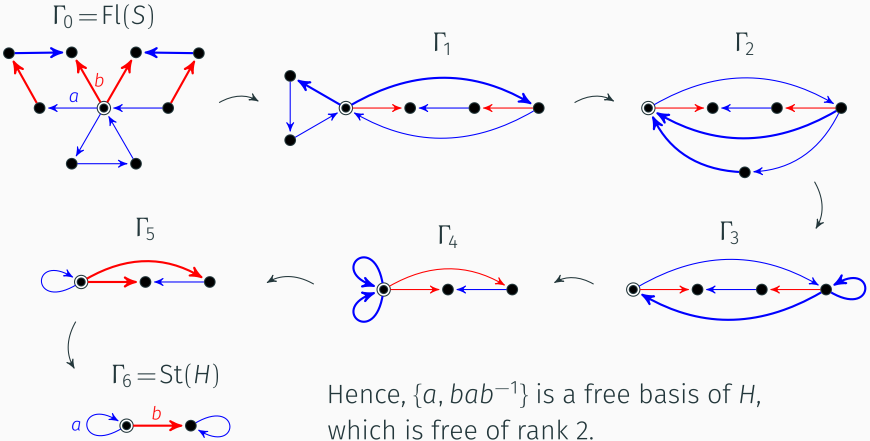

Hence, $\{a, bab^{-1}\}$ is a free basis of H, which is free of rank 2.

STALLINGS BIJECTION (FULL RESULT)

Let $\mathbb{F}_A$ be the free group with basis A.

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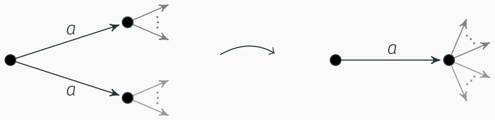

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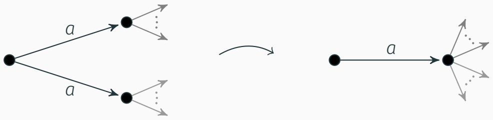

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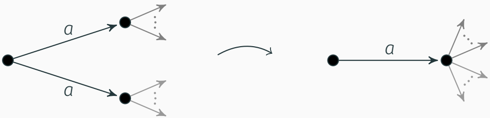

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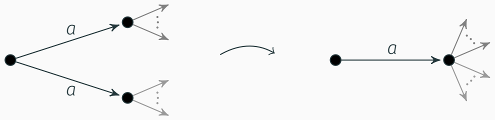

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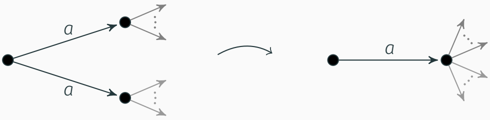

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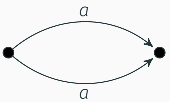

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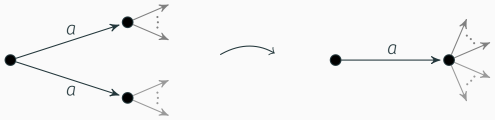

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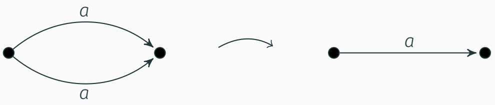

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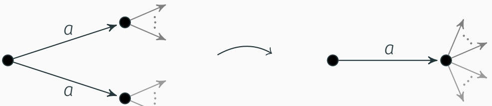

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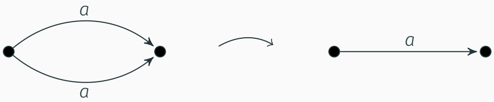

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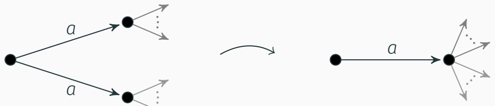

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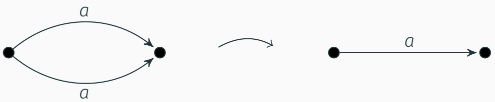

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Remark: If Γ is finite and $\Gamma \curvearrowright \Gamma'$ is a Stallings folding, then:

$$\mathrm{rk}(\Gamma') = \begin{cases} \mathrm{rk}(\Gamma) & \text{if } \Gamma \curvearrowright \Gamma' \text{ is open,} \\ \mathrm{rk}(\Gamma) - 1 & \text{if } \Gamma \curvearrowright \Gamma' \text{ is closed.} \end{cases}$$

FUNDAMENTAL GROUP AND LOSS

Corollary

Let Γ be a connected A-automaton, let T be an spanning tree of Γ, and let S_T be the set of T-petals of Γ. Then,

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Definition

If Γ is finite and $\Gamma \overset{\phi_1}{\curvearrowright} \Gamma_1 \overset{\phi_2}{\curvearrowright} \cdots \overset{\phi_p}{\curvearrowright} \Gamma_p = \overline{\Gamma}$ is a folding sequence, then the ***loss*** of Γ is:

$$\operatorname{loss}(\Gamma) = \operatorname{rk}(\Gamma) - \operatorname{rk}\langle \Gamma \rangle$$

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If Γ is finite and $\Gamma \overset{\phi_1}{\curvearrowright} \Gamma_1 \overset{\phi_2}{\curvearrowright} \cdots \overset{\phi_p}{\curvearrowright} \Gamma_p = \overline{\Gamma}$ is a folding sequence, then the ***loss*** of Γ is:

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Corollary

Let Γ be a connected A-automaton, let T be an spanning tree of Γ, and let S_T be the set of T-petals of Γ. Then,

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First applications

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FIRST APPLICATIONS

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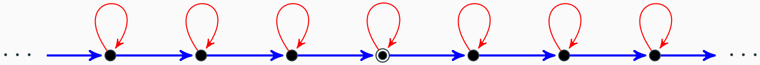

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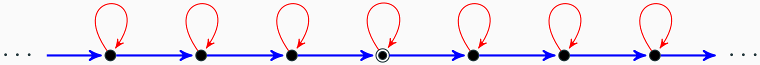

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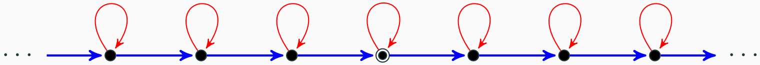

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How many different subgroups of $\mathbb{F}_2$ are there?

Remark

Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{F}_A$. Then,

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Finitely generated free groups are Hopfian.

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The subgroup membership problem is solvable in $\mathbb{F}_A = \langle A \mid - \rangle$*: given* $v, u_1, \ldots, u_n \in (\widetilde{A})^*$*, it is decidable whether* $v \in H = \langle u_1, \ldots, u_n \rangle$*. In this case, we can compute* v *as a word in* $\{u_1, \ldots, u_n\}$*.*

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Let us recover the construction of the Stallings automaton $\mathrm{St}(H)$...

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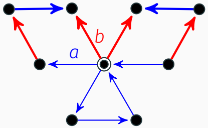

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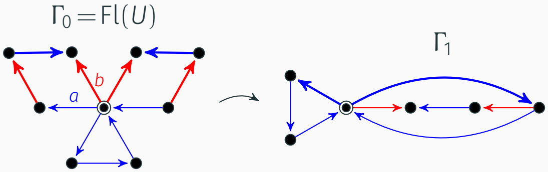

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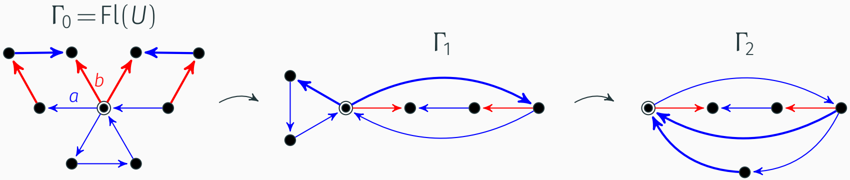

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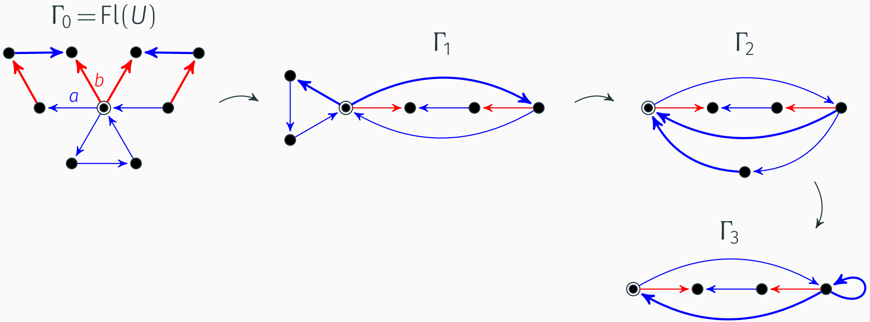

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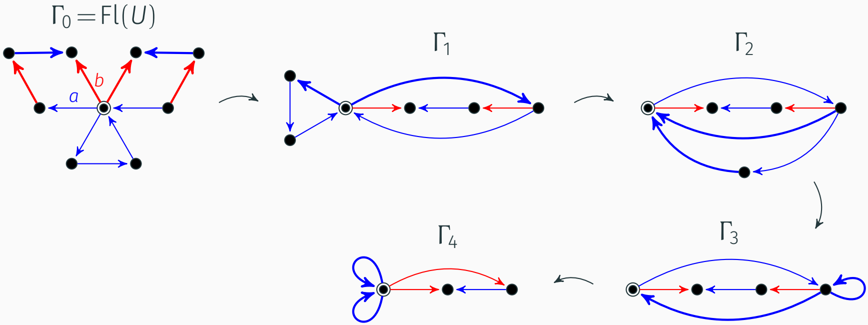

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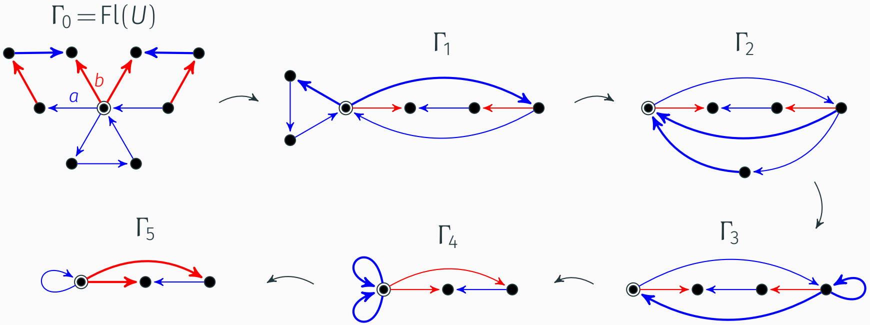

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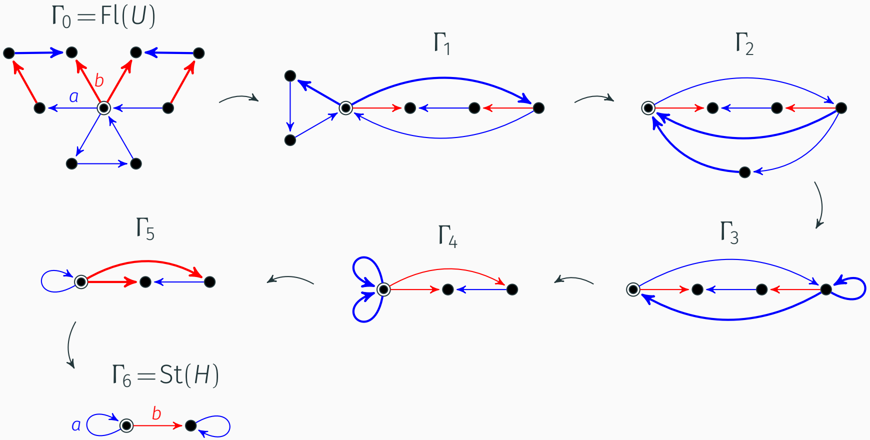

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Let us now express a as a word on $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}\ldots$

When $v \in H$, how to express v as a word in $\{u_1, \ldots, u_n\}$?

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Lemma

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Let $\mathcal{A} \curvearrowright \mathcal{A}'$ be an elementary Stallings folding and $\varphi \colon \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}'$ be the natural morphism. Then,

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When $v \in H$, how to express v as a word in $\{u_1, \ldots, u_n\}$?

(8) Look at the computed tower of foldings

$$\mathrm{Fl}(U) = \Gamma_0 \curvearrowright \Gamma_1 \curvearrowright \cdots \curvearrowright \Gamma_n = \mathrm{St}(H);$$

(9) realize v as (the label of) a $\odot$-path γ in $\mathrm{St}(H)$;

(10) lift γ up the tower of foldings (keeping the label) until $\mathrm{Fl}(U)$;

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(iii) *if the folding* $\mathcal{A} \curvearrowright \mathcal{A}'$ *is open, then* $\widetilde{\gamma}$ *is unique;*

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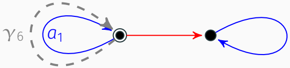
Clearly, $a \in H$ thanks to the walk $\gamma_6 = a_1$:



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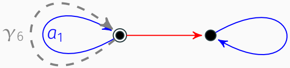
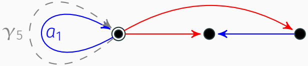


Lifting to Γ_5 (no interaction with the folded arcs), we get $\gamma_5 = a_1$:



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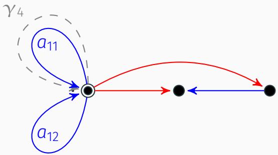
Lifting to Γ_4, we have multiple choices (since $\Gamma_4 \rightsquigarrow \Gamma_5$ is a closed folding); we get $\gamma_4 = a_{11}$:



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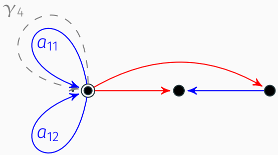

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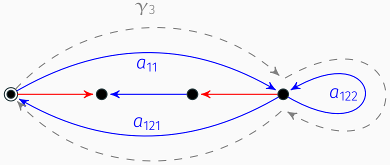

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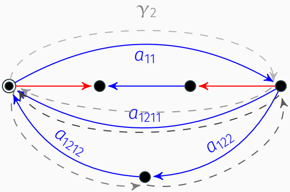

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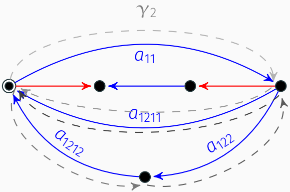
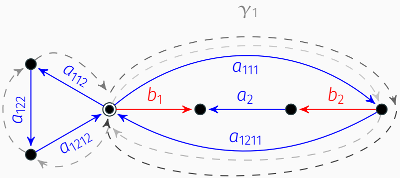
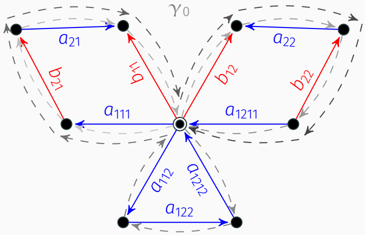


Lifting up to Γ_1, we get $\gamma_1 = a_{111} a_{1211} a_{1212}^{-1} a_{122}^{-1} a_{112}^{-1} a_{111} a_{1211}$:



Finally, lifting to $\Gamma_0 = \mathrm{Fl}(U)$, we get:

$$\gamma_0 = a_{111} b_{21} a_{21} b_{11}^{-1} b_{12} a_{22}^{-1} b_{22}^{-1} a_{1211} a_{1212}^{-1} a_{122}^{-1} a_{112}^{-1} a_{111} b_{21} a_{21} b_{11}^{-1} b_{12} a_{22}^{-1} b_{22}^{-1} a_{1211}$$



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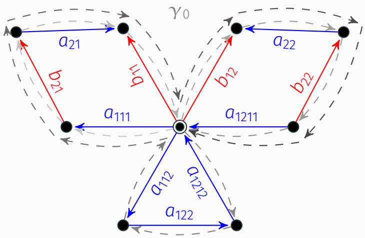

Factorizing through the visits to ◉, we get the desired word:

$$\begin{aligned} a &= (abab^{-1})(ba^{-1}b^{-1}a)(a^{-1}a^{-1}a^{-1})(abab^{-1})(ba^{-1}b^{-1}a) \\ &= u_2 u_3^{-1} u_1^{-1} u_2 u_3^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Taking $\gamma_4 = a_{12}$ (instead of $\gamma_4 = a_{11}$) at the closed folding, we get the alternative expression:

$$a = (a^{-1}bab^{-1})(ba^{-1}b^{-1}a^{-1})(aaa) = u_3 u_2^{-1} u_1.$$

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The responsible for this is the closed folding ...

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At every closed folding $\Gamma_i \curvearrowright \Gamma_{i+1}$, take the reduced non-trivial walk

reading the trivial element, $\bar{\ell}(\gamma) = 1$, and lift it up to $\mathrm{Fl}(U)$ getting a nontrivial relation $w_i(u_1, \ldots, u_n) = 1$.

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Proposition

Let $\{u_1, \ldots, u_n\}$ be a set of generators for the (free) subgroup $H = \langle u_1, \ldots, u_n \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$. Then,

$$H = \left\langle u_1, \ldots, u_n \mid w_i = 1 \text{ for each closed folding} \right\rangle$$

is a presentation for H with generators $\{u_1, \ldots, u_n\}$.

Definition

Let G be a group, $H \leqslant G$ a subgroup. An ***equation over H*** is an expression of the form $w(X) = h_0 X^{\epsilon_1} h_1 \cdots X^{\epsilon_n} h_n \in H * \langle X \rangle = H * \mathbb{Z}$, where $h_0, \ldots, h_n \in H$, $\epsilon_1, \ldots \epsilon_n = \pm 1$, and $h_i = 1 \Rightarrow \epsilon_i = \epsilon_{i+1}$, for $i = 1, \ldots, n-1$. The ***degree*** is n (for $n = 0$ it is a ***trivial*** equation).

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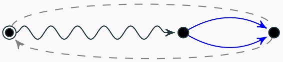

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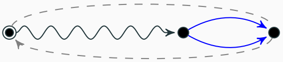

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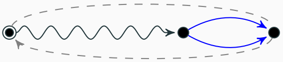

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Cosets and index

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DEFICIENCY AND SATURATION

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Remark: $\mathrm{Sch}(H)$ is a connected, deterministic, and saturated (but not necessarily core) automaton recognizing H.

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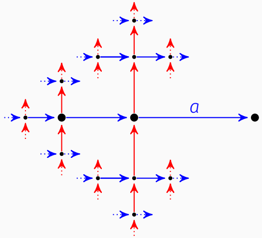

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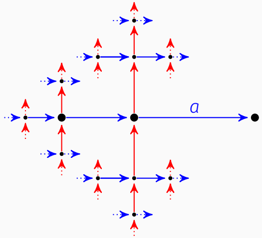

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Given a finite $S \subseteq \mathbb{F}_A$, we can compute the index of $\langle H \rangle$ in $\mathbb{F}_A$.
In particular, $\mathrm{FIP}(\mathbb{F}_A)$ is decidable.

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SCHREIER INDEX FORMULA

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FREE FACTORS AND HANDSHAKING LEMMA

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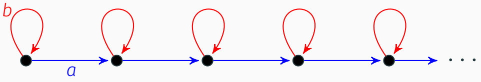

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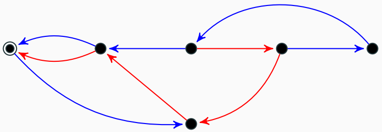

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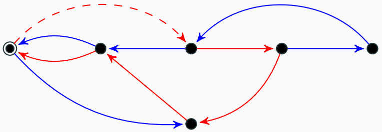

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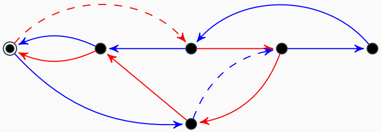

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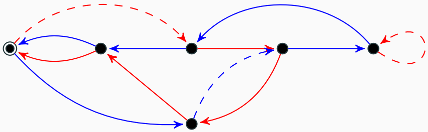

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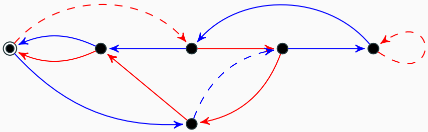

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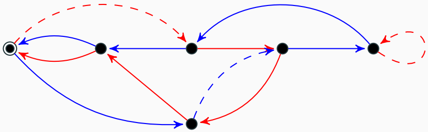

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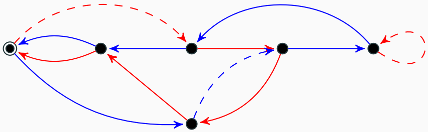

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Prove it using Stallings automata!

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Let $\{1\} \neq H \trianglelefteq \mathbb{F}_n$*, Then,*

$$H \text{ is finitely generated} \iff H \leqslant_{\mathrm{fi}} \mathbb{F}_n$$

SUBGROUP CONJUGACY

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Theorem

*The **subgroup conjugacy problem** $\mathrm{SCP}(\mathbb{F}_n)$ is decidable.*

$$\mathrm{SCP}(G) \equiv H \sim K\,?_{H,K \leqslant_{\mathrm{fg}} G}$$

Intersections

Subgroup Intersection Problem

Given $u_1, \ldots, u_k; v_1, \ldots, v_l \in \mathbb{F}_A$, decide whether the intersection of $H = \langle u_1, \ldots, u_k \rangle$ and $K = \langle v_1, \ldots, v_l \rangle$ is finitely generated; when this is the case, compute generators for $H \cap K$.

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Consider $\mathbb{F}_2 = \langle a, b \rangle$ and the subgroups

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$$u_1 = b, \qquad v_1 = ab,$$

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Just playing, we realized that $a^3,\ b^{-1}a^3b,\ a^{-1}ba^3b^{-1}a \in H \cap K$. What else?

Definition

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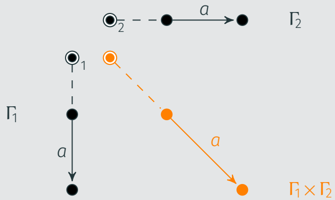

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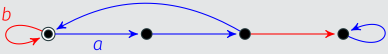

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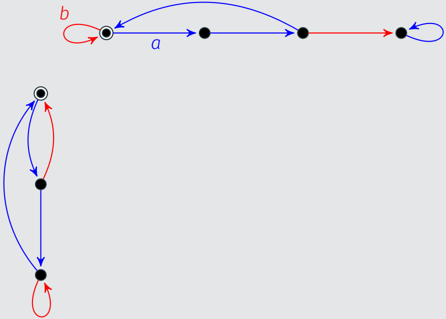

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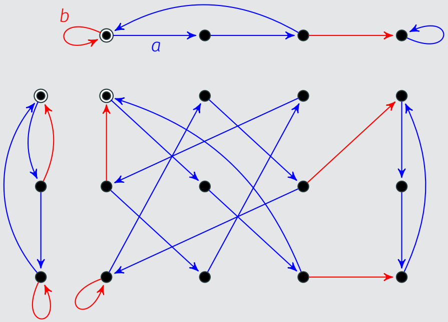

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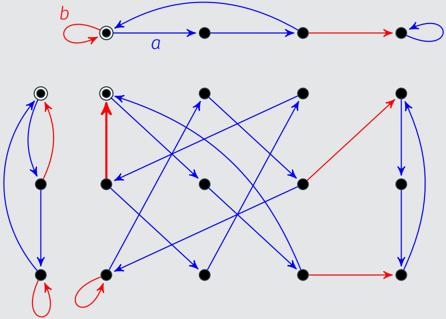

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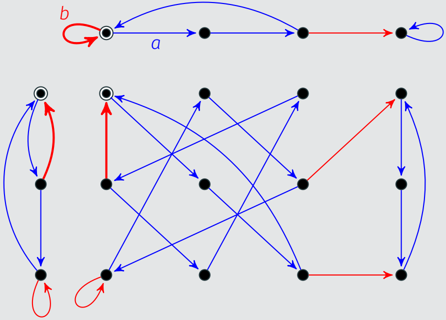

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Two immediate applications follow ...

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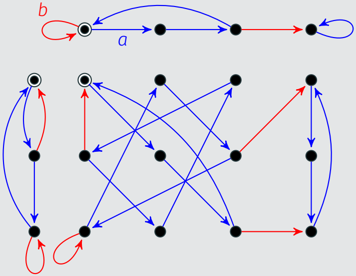

EXAMPLE (CONTINUATION)

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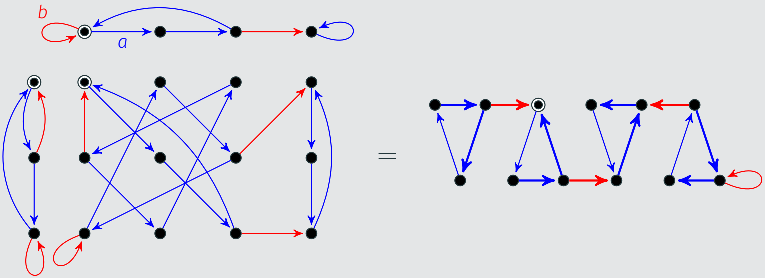

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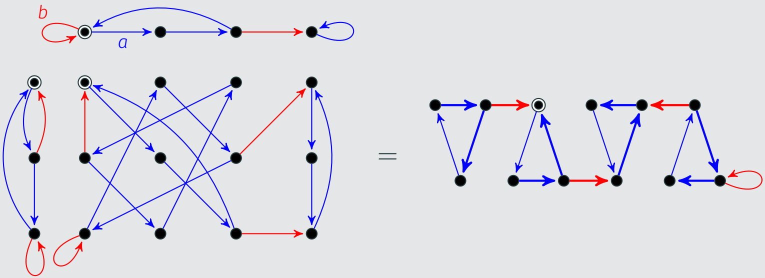

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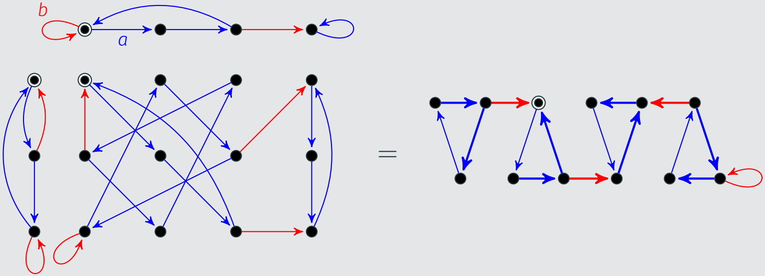

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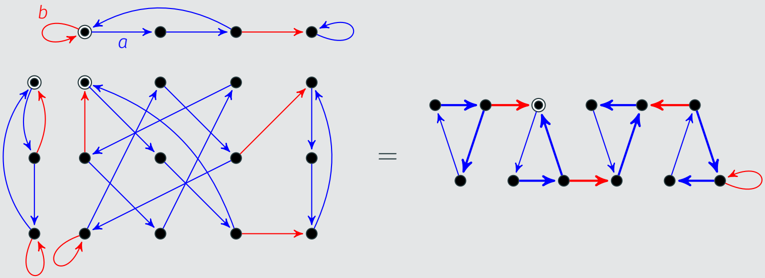

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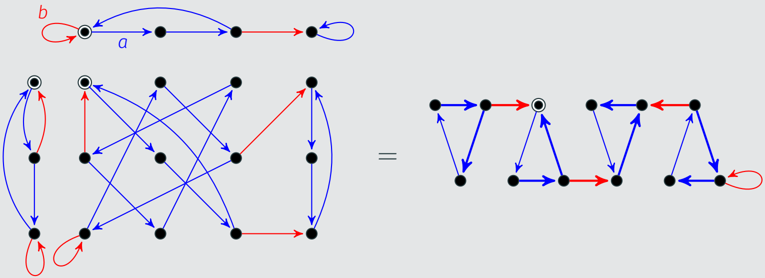

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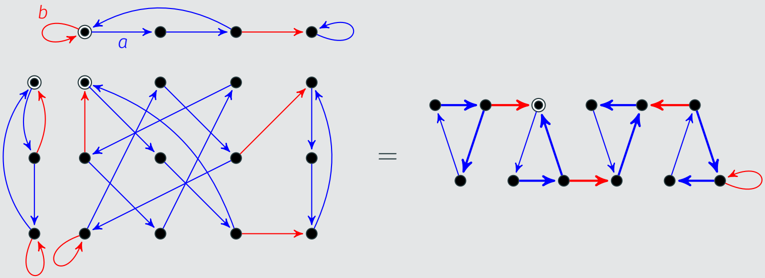

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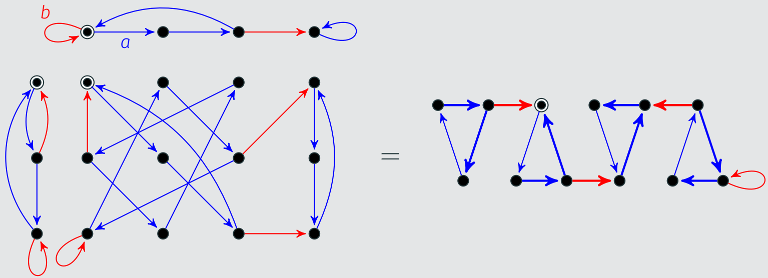

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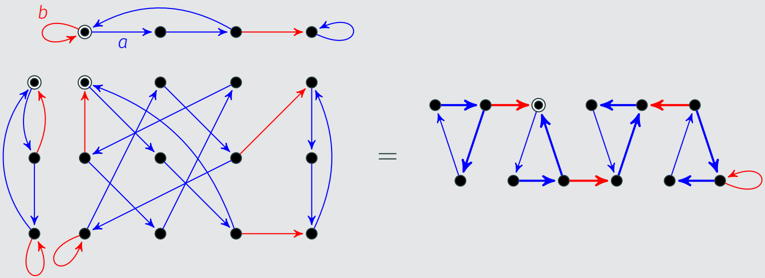

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Given $u, u_1, \ldots, u_k; v, v_1, \ldots, v_l \in \mathbb{F}_A$, decide whether the coset intersection $\langle u_1, \ldots, u_k \rangle u \cap \langle v_1, \ldots, v_l \rangle v$ is empty and, if not, compute a coset representative.

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Observation

If $\Gamma = \mathrm{St}(H)$ and $\gamma = \odot \overset{u}{\rightsquigarrow} p$, then $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{\odot,p}(\Gamma) = Hu$.

THE COSET INTERSECTION PROBLEM FOR FREE GROUPS

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MALNORMALITY (EXAMPLE)

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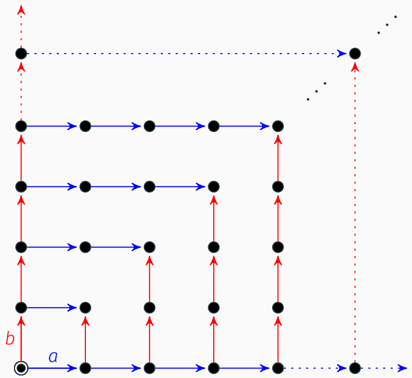

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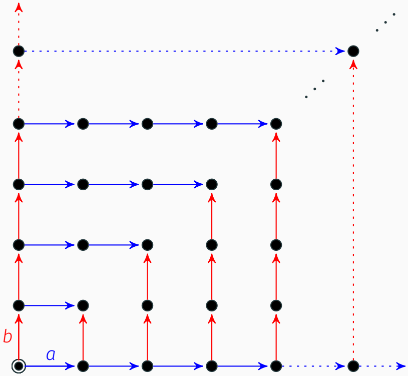

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Applying this fact twice, $H \cap H' \leqslant_{\text{f.f.}} K \cap H' \leqslant_{\text{f.f.}} K \cap K'$. $\square$

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Theorem (H. Neumann, 1956)

For $H, K \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$, $\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(H \cap K) \leqslant 2\, \widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(H)\, \widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(K)$.

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For $H, K \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$, $\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(H \cap K) \leqslant 2\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(H)\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(K)$.

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For $H, K \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$, $\quad \sum_{HwK \in H \backslash \mathbb{F}_A / K} \widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(H^w \cap K) \leqslant 2\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(H)\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(K)$,
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Theorem (J. Friedman, 2015; I. Mineyev, 2012)

The factor 2 can be removed in both theorems.

STRENGHTENED HANNA NEUMANN INEQUALITY

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- conjugating appropriately, we can assume that $\mathrm{St}(H)$ and $\mathrm{St}(K)$ have no vertices of degree 1;
- forget about the double cosets (till the end of proof) and let us show $\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(W)\leqslant 2\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathrm{St}(H))\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathrm{St}(K))$, where $W=\mathrm{St}(H)\times\mathrm{St}(K)$ and

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(W)=\sum_{C\text{ c.c. }W}\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(C)=\sum_{C\text{ c.c. }W}\max\{|EC|-|VC|,\ 0\}.$$

Lemma

Let X be a finite connected graph. Then,

(i) *if X is not a tree then* $\sum_{p \in VX} \big(d(p) - 2\big) = 2\,\widetilde{\mathrm{rk}}(X)$;

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Finally, let us link the connected components of W with the double cosets $H\backslash\mathbb{F}_A/K$, ...

Lemma

Let $(p, \odot), (p', \odot)$ be two vertices in W, and let $\odot \overset{x}{\rightsquigarrow} p$ and $\odot \overset{x'}{\rightsquigarrow} p'$ be walks in $\mathrm{St}(H)$. Then,
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$(p, \odot)$ and $(p', \odot)$ belong to the same c.c. of $W \Leftrightarrow HxK = Hx'K$.

Corollary

The following map is a bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha\colon H\backslash\mathbb{F}_A/K &\to \{\text{c.c. of } W\} \\ HxK &\mapsto \text{the c.c. containing } (p, \odot), \text{ where } \odot \overset{x}{\rightsquigarrow} p \\ H\bar{\ell}(\odot \rightsquigarrow p)K &\leftarrow C\text{ , where } (p, \odot) \in VC \end{aligned}$$

further satisfying that, for every $x \in \mathbb{F}_A$, $\langle \alpha(HxK) \rangle_{(p,\odot)} = H^x \cap K$.

Quotients of automata

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Definition

Let $H \leqslant K \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$. We say that $H \leqslant K$ is an ***algebraic extension***, denoted by $\boldsymbol{H \leqslant_{\mathbf{alg}} K}$, if H is not contained in any proper free factor of K, i.e., if

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Let $H \leqslant M_i \leqslant K \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$, for $i = 1, 2$. Then,

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For $H \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A$, we define $\mathcal{AE}(H) = \{K \leqslant \mathbb{F}_A \mid H \leqslant_{\mathsf{alg}} K\}$.

TAKAHASI'S THEOREM

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- Additionally, $\mathcal{AE}(H)$ will be computable...

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A morphism of reduced A-automata $f\colon \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2$ is called ***onto*** if every edge in Γ_2 is the image of at least one edge from Γ_1. Then, we say that Γ_2 is a ***quotient*** of Γ_1, and write $f\colon \Gamma_1 \twoheadrightarrow \Gamma_2$.

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Let Γ be a finite reduced A-automata, and let $\sim$ be an equivalence relation on $V\Gamma$. We denote by $\Gamma/{\sim}$ the new reduced A-automata resulting from identifying the vertices according to $\sim$, plus reduction.

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The ***fringe*** of a finite reduced A-automaton Γ, denoted by $\mathcal{O}(\Gamma)$, is the (finite) collection of all its reduced quotients:

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FRINGE OF A SUBGROUP

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Let $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{fg}} \mathbb{F}_A$. The ***fringe*** of H is

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Observation

For $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{fg}} \mathbb{F}_A$, we have $\mathcal{O}(H) = \{H_0,\, H_1, \ldots, H_k\}$, all f.g., computable, and with minimum and maximum, $H = H_0 \leqslant H_i \leqslant H_k = \langle A' \rangle \leqslant_{\mathsf{ff}} \mathbb{F}_A$, where $A' \subseteq A$ is the set of letters in use.

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- the resulting set is $\mathcal{AE}(H)$. □

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Example

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For the cleaning step we need:

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Given $H, K \leqslant_{\mathrm{fg}} \mathbb{F}_A$, it is algorithmically decidable whether $H \leqslant_{\mathrm{ff}} K$.

Proved by:

- Whitehead 1930's (classical; exponential time);
- Silva-Weil 2006 (using Stallings graphs; exponential time);
- Roig–V.–Weil 2007 (an improvement of Whitehead algorithm working in polynomial time);
- Puder 2011 (using Stallings graphs; exponential time).

Example

For $H = \langle a^{-1}b^{-1}ab \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_2$, we have $\mathcal{AE}(H) = \{H, \mathbb{F}_2\}$. In particular, $a^{-1}b^{-1}ab$ is almost primitive.

Observation

- $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{alg}} K_1$ and $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{alg}} K_2$ then $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{alg}} \langle K_1 \cup K_2 \rangle$;

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Theorem

For every extension $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{fg}} K \leqslant_{\mathsf{fg}} \mathbb{F}_A$ of f.g. subgroups, there exists a unique L such that $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{alg}} L \leqslant_{\mathsf{ff}} K$; it is called the ***K-algebraic closure of H*** *and denoted $L = Cl_K(H)$.*

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Observation

For $H \leqslant K$, $Cl_K(H)$ is the maximal algebraic extension of H contained in K; in particular, it is computable from given generators of H and K.

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$Cl_K(H)$ depends on K, a very different behaviour from classical field extensions.

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Compare with M. Hall's Theorem.

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$\mathcal{V}$ is ***extension-closed*** if $V \trianglelefteq W$ with $V, W/V \in \mathcal{V} \Rightarrow W \in \mathcal{V}$.

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Let G be a group, and $\mathcal{V}$ be a pseudo-variety of finite groups. The ***pro-$\mathcal{V}$ topology on G*** can be defined in several equivalent ways:

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$$d(x, y) = 2^{-r(x,y)},$$

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Observation:

The pro-$\mathcal{V}$ top. is Hausdorff $\Leftrightarrow$ d is a metric $\Leftrightarrow$ G is residually-$\mathcal{V}$.

Proposition (Ribes, Zaleskiĭ)

Let $\mathcal{V}$ be an extension-closed pseudo-variety, and consider $\mathbb{F}_A$ with the pro-$\mathcal{V}$ topology. For a given $H \leqslant_{\mathsf{fg}} \mathbb{F}_A$,

$$H \text{ is } \mathcal{V}\text{-closed} \iff H \text{ is a free factor of a clopen subgroup.}$$

In particular, free factors of $\mathcal{V}$-closed subgroups are $\mathcal{V}$-closed.

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Problem

Find an algorithm to compute the solvable closure $Cl_{sol}(H)$ of a given $H \leqslant_{\mathrm{fg}} \mathbb{F}_A$.

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Theorem (Antolín–Jaikin-Zapirain, 2021)

Let $S \subseteq \mathrm{End}(G)$, where $G = \mathbb{F}_n$ or $G = \mathbb{S}_n$. Then, $\mathrm{Fix}(S)$ is inert.

Theorem (Martino–V. 2003)

The subgroup $\langle b, cacbab^{-1}c^{-1}\rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_3 = \mathbb{F}_{\{a,b,c\}}$ *is the fixed subgroup of* $\varphi\colon \mathbb{F}_3 \to \mathbb{F}_3$, $a \mapsto 1$, $b \mapsto b$, $c \mapsto cacbab^{-1}c^{-1}$, *but it is not the fixed subgroup of any set of automorphisms of* $\mathbb{F}_3$.

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- Gromov, Arjantseva, Ol'shanskii, Kapovich, Miasnikov, Schupp, Shpilrain, Ollivier, Jitsukawa, Bassino, Nicaud, W. ...

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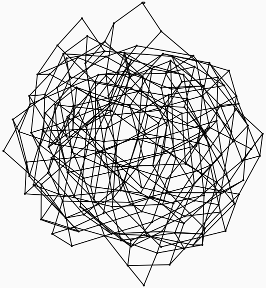

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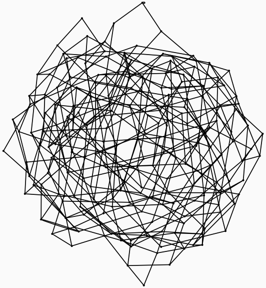

- Work by Bassino, Martino, Nicaud, V., W.

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- Random generation strategy: draw independently, uniformly at random, $|A|$ partial injections, select randomly a base point. This *almost* works...

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- Refer to the Bible: Ph. Flajolet, R. Sedgewick, *Analytic combinatorics*, Cambridge University Press, 2009

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- Example. The EGS of 1 point is z. A permutation is a labeled sequence of points: its EGS is $\frac{1}{1-z} = \sum \frac{n!}{n!} z^n$

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- cycle of size $\geqslant 1$ of $\mathcal{A}$-structures:

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Back to counting partial injections: a simple but disappointing idea

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- Yields a formula for the coefficients C_n, in terms of the PI_n

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Let $F(z, y)$ is a real function, analytic at $(0, 0)$. Let $J(z) = \sum_{n>0} j_n z^n$, $C(z) = \sum_{n>0} c_n z^n$ and $D(z) = \sum_{n>0} d_n z^n$ with $C(z) = F(z, J(z))$ and $D(z) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(z, J(z))$. If $j_{n-1} = o(j_n)$ and there exists $s \geqslant 1$ such that $\sum_{k=s}^{n-s} |j_k j_{n-k}| = \mathcal{O}(j_{n-s})$, then $c_n = \sum_{k=0}^{s-1} d_k j_{n-k} + \mathcal{O}(j_{n-s})$.

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Proposition

The probability that a size n tuple of partial injections is connected is $1 - \frac{2^r}{n^{r-1}} + o(\frac{1}{n^{r-1}})$: connectedness holds with probability tending to 1

HANDLING CORENESS: COUNT SEQUENCES

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- Let X_n be the random variable which counts the number of sequences in a partial injection of size n.

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Proposition (statistics on the number of sequences)

$\mathbb{E}(X_n) = \sqrt{n}(1+o(1))$ and $\sigma^2(X_n) = n(1+o(1))$

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A rejection algorithm to randomly generate a subgroup of $\mathbb{F}_r$:

Draw a random partial injection f_a of $[n]$, independently for each $a \in A$; if the $(f_a)_{a \in A}$ do not induce a Stallings automaton (with base vertex 1), reject and repeat.

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A rejection algorithm to randomly generate a subgroup of $\mathbb{F}_r$:

Draw a random partial injection f_a of $[n]$, independently for each $a \in A$; if the $(f_a)_{a \in A}$ do not induce a Stallings automaton (with base vertex 1), reject and repeat.

- The *expected* number of steps is at most 2
- (Forget the labeling of the graph)
- Still needed: an efficient random generation algorithm for partial injections

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Proposition

The number of size n subgroups in $\mathbb{F}_r$ is

$$\frac{1}{n!} PI_n^r \left(1 + o(1)\right) \quad \sim \quad n!^{r-1} \frac{n^{1-r/4} e^{2r\sqrt{n}}}{(2\sqrt{e\pi})^r}$$

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- Draw a size m of an orbit, decide whether it is a cycle or a sequence; and draw another random partial injection of size $n - m$

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SIZES OF COMPONENTS OF A PARTIAL INJECTION 1/2

- Pointing operator: selecting a vertex in a partial injection. The corresponding EGS is $\Theta\text{PInj}(z) = \sum_n \frac{nPI_n}{n!} z^n = z\frac{d}{dz}\text{PInj}(z)$

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- Now we can randomly generate a partial injection

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- It looks complicated...but it is fast!
- We are dealing with very large numbers: $PI_n \geqslant (n+1)!$ has size $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$: in the bitcost model, the precomputation is in $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$ and the cost of one generation is $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log^2 n)$

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- Comparing the number of size n saturated Stallings automata with the number of general Stallings automata yields the following probability: $\mathcal{O}(n^{r/4}e^{-2r\sqrt{n}}) = o(n^{-k})$

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MORE ASYMPTOTIC PROPERTIES

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With probablility tending to e^{-r}, H fails to contain a conjugate of a letter.

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- Variant: use the sphere rather than the ball.
- Easy to implement, and questionable (uniqueness).

THE CENTRAL TREE PROPERTY: FREE GENERATION

- The central tree property for $\vec{h} = (h_1, \ldots, h_k)$: small initial cancellation = St (H) consists of a central tree, and of one loop for each h_i connecting leaves of the tree.

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- If the central tree property holds, then $\vec{h}$ freely generates H.
- Also note: the central tree is usually very small: fix $f(n)$ an unbounded, non-decreasing function. In the few-generator model, generically (only), $\mathrm{lcp}(\vec{h}) < f(n)$.

- Recall: H is malnormal if $H^x \cap H = 1$ for every $x \notin H$. Equivalently, no word labels a closed walk at two different vertices of $\mathrm{St}(H)$.

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- Assume that the central tree property holds. A sufficient condition for *malnormality* can be expressed in terms of common factors occurring in the h_i:
- if $\mathrm{lcp}(\vec{h}) < \frac{1}{4} \min \vec{h}$ and no word of length $\frac{1}{8} \min \vec{h}$ occurs twice as a factor of the elements of $\vec{h}$ and $\vec{h}^{-1}$, then H is malnormal.

THE CENTRAL TREE PROPERTY: RIGIDITY

- Rigidity: if $\vec{g}$ and $\vec{h}$ have the central tree property and $H(\vec{g}) = H(\vec{h})$, then $\vec{g}$ and $\vec{h}$ coincide up to the order of their elements and replacing a word by its inverse.

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- So: picking a tuple of generators at random is — in practice — a method to randomly generate a subgroup in the sense that collisions are exponentially rare.
- The distribution of subgroups induced is radically different from the distribution based on drawing Stallings automata.
- Malnormality is generic in the word-based model, and negligible in the graph-based model.

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- [Bassino, Nicaud, W.] Whitehead minimality is exponentially generic in the few-generator model (Kapovich, Schupp, Shpilrain for cyclic subgroups)
  and it is also exponentially generic in the graph-based model.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS: AN ODD RESULT

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- Up to density 1/2, $\langle A \mid \vec{h} \rangle$ is generically infinite, hyperbolic (Gromov, Ol'shanskii, Ollivier).
- But the probability that $\mathbb{F}_A / \langle\langle H \rangle\rangle$ is trivial tends to 1 as the size of n grows to infinity.

- [Gilman, Miasnikov, Osin, 2010] Let G be hyperbolic, A-generated and let $k \geqslant 1$. Exponentially generically, a random k-tuple $\vec{h} = (h_1, \ldots, h_k)$ of elements of G freely generates the subgroup $H(\vec{h}) = \langle \vec{h} \rangle$ of G, and $H(\vec{h})$ is quasi-convex.

- [Kharlampovich, Miasnikov, W., 2017] Let $G = \langle A \mid R \rangle$, finite presentation. Assume that L is a language of representatives. Let $H \leqslant G$ and $\Gamma_L(H)$ be the fragment of the Schreier graph $S(G, H)$ spanned by the loops at H labeled by the L-representatives of the elements of H.

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- Computable if H is L-quasi-convex (semi-algorithm)
- Examples: quasi-convex subgroups of hyperbolic groups, all subgroups of virtually free subgroups.
- Generalizes work by Short, Gersten, Kapovich, Gitik, Markus-Epstein, Silva, Soler-Escriva, V.

- [Bassino, Nicaud, W.] The particular case of subgroups of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_2 * \mathbb{Z}_3 = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^3 = 1\rangle$: the Stallings automata are combinatorially nice enough and can be counted: statistics, random generation.

THE MODULAR GROUP

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- E.g., the expected isomorphism type of a subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ of size n is

$$\left(n^{\frac{1}{2}} + o(n^{\frac{1}{2}}), n^{\frac{1}{3}} + o(n^{\frac{1}{3}}), \frac{n}{6} - \frac{1}{3}n^{\frac{2}{3}} + o(n^{\frac{2}{3}})\right),$$

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  and there is strong concentration around these values.
- Also: counting and random generation of finite index subgroups (Stothers, 1970s), free subgroups, subgroups of a fixed isomorphism type.

Enriched Stallings automata

A group is ***free-abelian by free (FABF)*** if it is of the form

$$G_\alpha = \mathbb{F}_n \ltimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}^m = \left\langle \begin{matrix} x_1, \ldots, x_n \\ t_1, \ldots, t_m \end{matrix} \;\middle|\; \begin{matrix} t_i t_k = t_k t_i & \forall i, k \in [1, m] \\ x_j^{-1} t_i x_j = t_i \alpha_j & \forall i \in [1, m], \forall j \in [1, n] \end{matrix} \right\rangle ,$$

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- **Normal form:** $w\, t_1^{a_1} \cdots t_m^{a_m} = w\, t^{\mathbf{a}} \quad (w \in \mathbb{F}_n, \mathbf{a} = (a_1, \ldots, a_m) \in \mathbb{Z}^m)$.

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- If $\mathbf{A_1}, \mathbf{A_2}, \ldots, \mathbf{A_n} = \mathbf{I_m}$, then

$G_\alpha = \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ is a ***free-abelian times free (FATF)*** group.

SUBGROUPS OF FABF GROUPS

Let $H \leqslant G_\alpha = \mathbb{F}_n \ltimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}^m$ and consider the short exact sequence associated to G_α and its restriction to H:

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 & & \mathbb{Z}^m & \rightarrowtail & G_\alpha & \overset{\pi}{\twoheadrightarrow} \; (\overset{\sigma}{\dashleftarrow}) & \mathbb{F}_n \\
 & & \triangledown\!\!/ & & \vee\!\!/ & & \vee\!\!/ \\
L_H = H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m = & & \ker(\pi_{|H}) & \rightarrowtail & H & \overset{\pi_{|H}}{\twoheadrightarrow} \; (\underset{\sigma_H}{\dashleftarrow}) & H\pi
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Proposition

Let $H \leqslant G_\alpha = \mathbb{F}_n \ltimes_\alpha \mathbb{Z}^m$. Then,

$$H \simeq H\pi \ltimes_{\alpha_H} (H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m) \simeq \mathbb{F}_{n'} \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^{m'}$$

where $n' \in [0, \infty]$, $m' \in [0, m]$, and $(u)\alpha_H = \alpha_{u|H\cap\mathbb{Z}^m} \in \mathrm{GL}(H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m)$.

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Corollary

Subgroups of FABF (resp., FATF) groups are again FABF (resp FATF).

BASES

Recall that every subgroup $H \leqslant G_\alpha$ splits as:

$$H = H\pi\sigma \ltimes (H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m), \tag{1}$$

where $\sigma\colon H\pi \to G_\alpha$ is a section of $\pi_H\colon H \to H\pi$

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A ***'basis'*** of a subgroup $H \leqslant G_\alpha$ is a pair

$$(V\sigma; B) \; = \; (v_1 t^{\mathbf{c}_1}, v_2 t^{\mathbf{c}_2}, \ldots, v_{n'} t^{\mathbf{c}_{n'}}; t^{\mathbf{b}_1}, t^{\mathbf{b}_2}, \ldots, t^{\mathbf{b}_{m'}})$$

such that:

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Remark. Note that $V\sigma$ is a free basis of the subgroup $H\pi\sigma$, hence:

- A ***basis*** of H is the result of joining a basis of each factor in (1).

Let $H \leqslant G_\alpha = \mathbb{F}_n \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^m$ and let $w \in \mathbb{F}_n$.

Definition

The ***completion of w in H*** is $\mathbf{c}_H(w) = \{\, \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}^m \;:\; wt^{\mathbf{c}} \in H \,\} = (w)\pi^{\leftarrow}\tau$.

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If $\{v_1 t^{\mathbf{c}_1}, \ldots, v_{n'} t^{\mathbf{c}_{n'}}; t^{\mathbf{b}_1}, \ldots, t^{\mathbf{b}_{m'}}\}$ is a basis of $\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ and $w \in \mathbb{F}_n$, then

$$\mathbf{c}_H(w) \;=\; \begin{cases} \varnothing & \text{if } w \notin H\pi \\ w\phi\rho\mathbf{C} + L_H & \text{if } w \in H\pi\,, \end{cases}$$

where $\phi : H\pi \to \mathbb{F}_{n'}$ is the change of basis $x_i \mapsto x_i(v_j)$,
$\rho \colon \mathbb{F}_{n'} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{n'}$ is the abelianization map,
$\mathbf{C}$ is the $n' \times m$ integer matrix having $\mathbf{c}_i$ as ith row.

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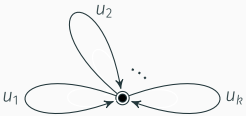

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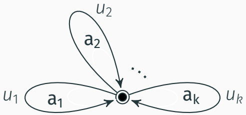

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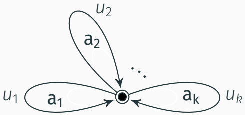

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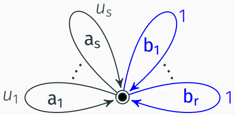

ENRICHED FLOWER AUTOMATA

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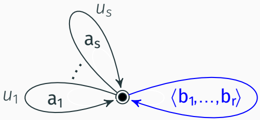
$\mathcal{F}_S \equiv$ 

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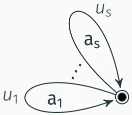

$\langle \mathsf{b}_1, \ldots, \mathsf{b}_r \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{Z}^m$

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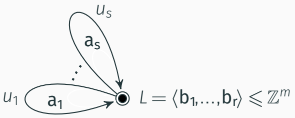

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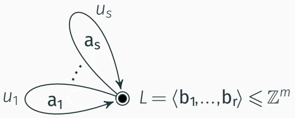

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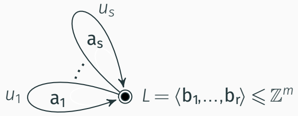
$\mathcal{F}_S \equiv$ 

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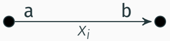

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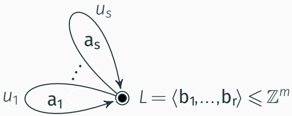
$\mathcal{F}_S \;\equiv$ 

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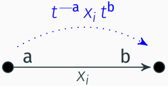

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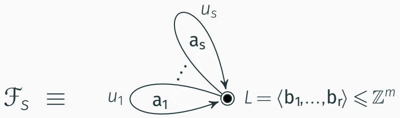

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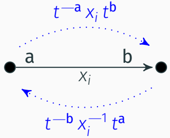

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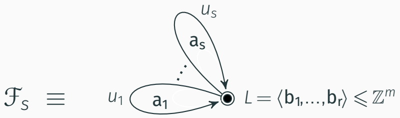

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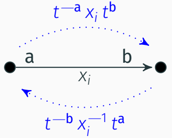

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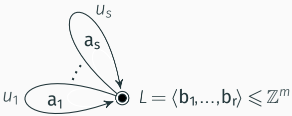
$\mathcal{F}_S \;\equiv$ 

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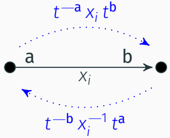

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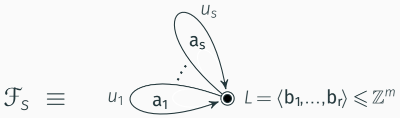

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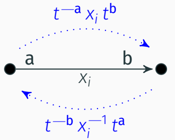

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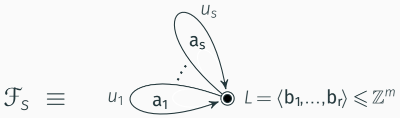

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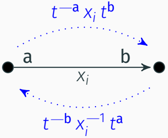

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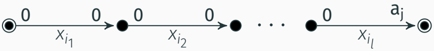

ENRICHED FLOWER AUTOMATA

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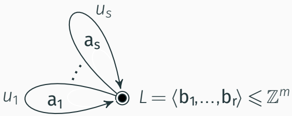

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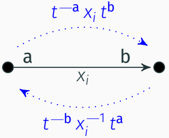

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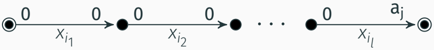

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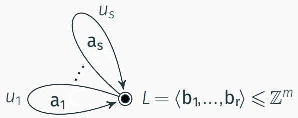

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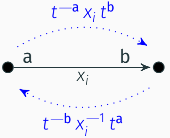

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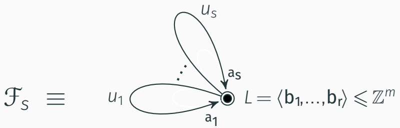

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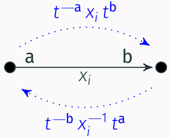

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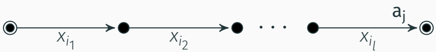

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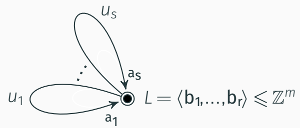

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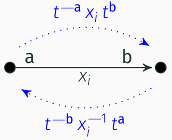

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- $\mathcal{F}_S$ is called the ***(enriched) flower automaton of S***.

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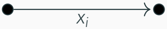

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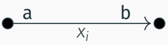

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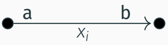

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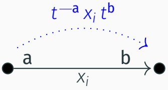

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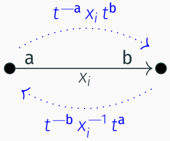

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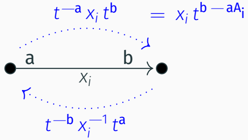

ENRICHED AUTOMATA

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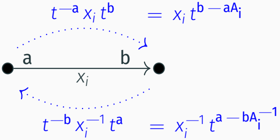

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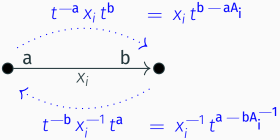

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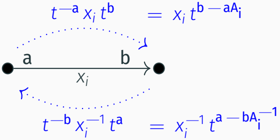

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The ***subgroup recognized*** by $\widehat{\Gamma}_L$ in G_α, denoted by $\langle \widehat{\Gamma}_L \rangle_\alpha$ is the set of α-enriched labels of ⊙-walks in $\widehat{\Gamma}$.

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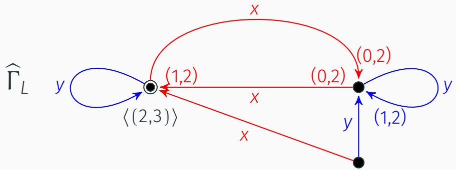

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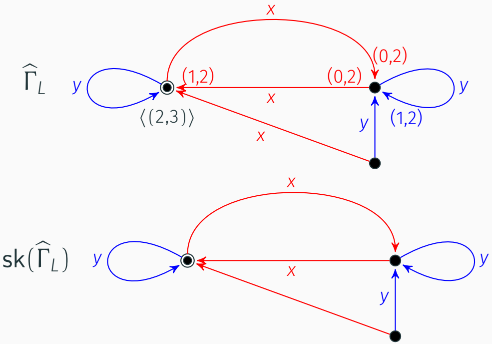

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As it happens in the free group, it is clear that

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In order to get rid of these redundancy we introduce different kinds of transformations ...

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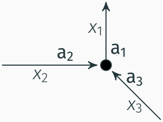

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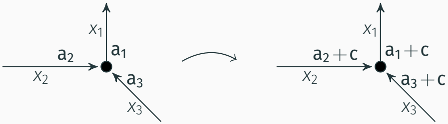

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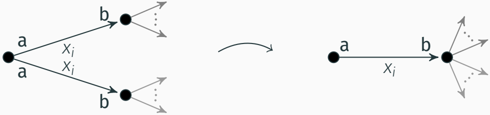

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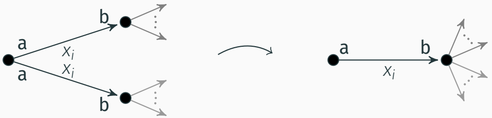

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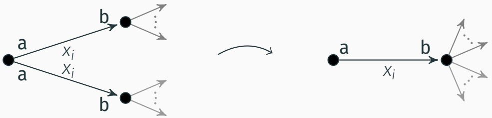

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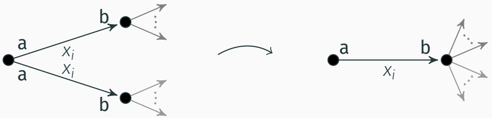

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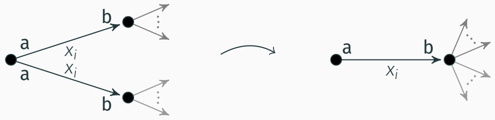

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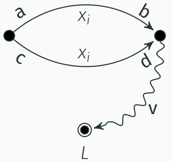

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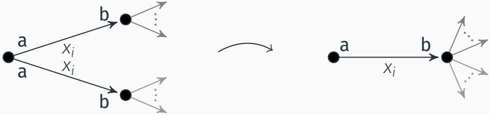

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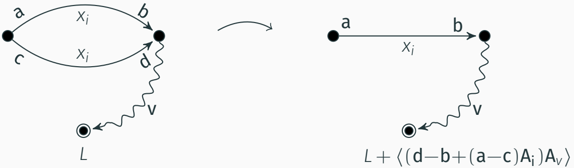

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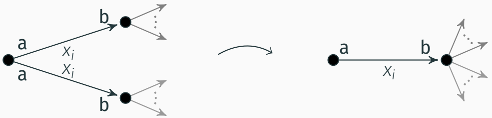

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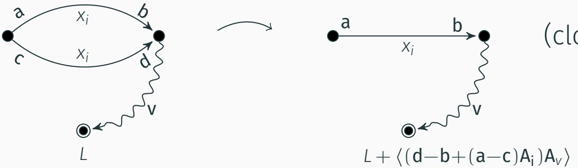

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Proof. Play with abelian transformations. □

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Theorem (D.–V.)

There exists a (computable) bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \{\, \textit{(f.g.) subgroups of } \mathbb{F}_n \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^m \,\} &\to \mathfrak{S} \subseteq \{\, \textit{(finite) enriched automata} \,\} \\ H &\mapsto \mathsf{St}\,(H) \end{aligned}$$

Corollary

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Membership Problem for $G = \langle X \mid R \rangle$, MP($G$)

Given $u, v_1, \ldots, v_k \in \mathbb{F}_X$, decide whether $u \in H = \langle v_1, \ldots, v_k \rangle_G$;
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The membership problem MP(G_α) is computable.

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1. Build an Stallings automaton $\widehat{\Gamma}_L = \mathrm{St}(\langle S \rangle)$;
2. try to read u as a label of a $\odot$-walk in $\widehat{\Gamma}_L$; if not possible, return NO;
3. if the final vertex is not $\odot$ return NO;
4. compute the completion $\mathbf{c}_w$ of w in $\widehat{\Gamma}_L$ and check whether $\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}_w \in L$. If so return YES, otherwise return NO. □

Intersections in $\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$

FREE-ABELIAN TIMES FREE GROUPS

A group is ***free-abelian times free (FATF)*** if it is of the form

$$\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m = \left\langle \begin{matrix} x_1, \ldots, x_n \\ t_1, \ldots, t_m \end{matrix} \;\middle|\; \begin{matrix} t_i t_k = t_k t_i & \forall i, k \in [1, m] \\ x_j^{-1} t_i x_j = t_i & \forall i \in [1, m], \forall j \in [1, n] \end{matrix} \right\rangle$$

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Normal form: $w\, t_1^{a_1} \cdots t_m^{a_m} = w\, t^{\mathbf{a}} \quad (w \in \mathbb{F}_n, \mathbf{a} = (a_1, \ldots, a_m) \in \mathbb{Z}^m)$.

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Let $H \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$. Then,

$$H \;\simeq\; H\pi \times (H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m) \;\simeq\; \mathbb{F}_{n'} \times \mathbb{Z}^{m'}$$

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$$H \text{ is finitely generated } \Leftrightarrow\; H\pi \text{ is finitely generated}$$

BASES

A basis for $H \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ has the form:

$$v_1 t^{\mathbf{a}_1}, \ldots, v_n t^{\mathbf{a}_{n'}}; t^{\mathbf{b}_1}, \ldots, t^{\mathbf{b}_{m'}}$$

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- $\{v_1, \ldots, v_{n'}\}$ is a basis of $H\pi$
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Lemma

If $\{v_1 t^{\mathbf{a}_1}, \ldots, v_{n'} t^{\mathbf{a}_{n'}}; t^{\mathbf{b}_1}, \ldots, t^{\mathbf{b}_{m'}}\}$ is a basis of H and $w \in \mathbb{F}_n$, then

$$\mathbf{c}_H(w) = \begin{cases} \varnothing & \text{if } w \notin H\pi \\ w\phi\rho\mathbf{A} + L & \text{if } w \in H\pi \end{cases},$$

where $\phi : H\pi \to \mathbb{F}_{n'}$ is the change of basis $x_i \mapsto x_i(v_j)$
$\rho : \mathbb{F}_{n'} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{n'}$ is the abelianization map,
$\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{a_i})_{i \in [1,n']}$ is an integral $n' \times m$ matrix.

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant_{\text{fg}} \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ and respective bases for them, then

$$H_1 = \{wt^{\mathsf{a}} \in \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m \mid w \in H_1\pi \text{ and } \mathsf{a} \in w\phi_1\rho_1\mathsf{A}_1 + L_1\},$$

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Remark

$$(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi \leqslant H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi \leqslant_{\text{fg}} \mathbb{F}_n$$

SUBGROUP INTERSECTION

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant_{\text{fg}} \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ and respective bases for them, then

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Remark

$$(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi \leqslant H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi \leqslant_{\text{fg}} \mathbb{F}_n$$

Let $H, H_1, H_2 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$, and $\begin{aligned} \pi \colon \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m &\to \mathbb{F}_n \\ u\, t^{\mathbf{a}} &\mapsto u \end{aligned}$

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1. $H \simeq H\pi \times (H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m)$.

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So,

$$(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi \leqslant H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n$$

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So, if H_1, H_2 are finitely generated:

$$(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi \leqslant H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n$$

Let $H, H_1, H_2 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$, and $\pi\colon \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m \to \mathbb{F}_n$
$$u\, t^{\mathbf{a}} \mapsto u$$

Remarks:

1. $H \simeq H\pi \times (H \cap \mathbb{Z}^m)$.
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INTERSECTIONS IN FTFA GROUPS

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Subgroup Intersection Problem for $G = \langle X \mid R \rangle$, SIP$(G)$

Input: $u_1, \ldots, u_k, v_1, \ldots, v_l \in (X^{\pm})^*$

Decide: $\langle u_1, \ldots, u_k \rangle \cap \langle v_1, \ldots, v_l \rangle$ is f.g.,
and if so, compute generators.

FREE-ABELIAN TIMES FREE GROUPS ARE NOT HOWSON

Lemma

The group $\mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}$ *is not Howson.*

FREE-ABELIAN TIMES FREE GROUPS ARE NOT HOWSON

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Example

Let $\mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{Z} = \langle x, y \mid - \rangle \times \langle t \mid - \rangle$, and consider the subgroups:

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Then:

$$\begin{aligned} H \cap K &= \{w(x,y) \mid w \in \mathbb{F}_2\} \cap \{w(xt,y) \mid w \in \mathbb{F}_2\} \\ &= \{w(x,y) \mid w \in \mathbb{F}_2\} \cap \{w(x,y)t^{|w|_x} \mid w \in \mathbb{F}_2\} \\ &= \{w(x,y)t^0 \mid w \in \mathbb{F}_2,\ |w|_x = 0\} \\ &= \langle x^{-k}yx^k,\ k \in \mathbb{Z} \rangle = \langle\langle y \rangle\rangle_{\mathbb{F}_2} \end{aligned}$$

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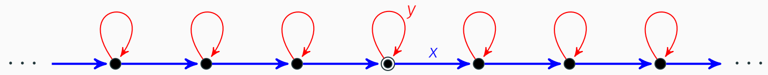
is **not finitely generated**, since its Stallings automaton is **infinite**:



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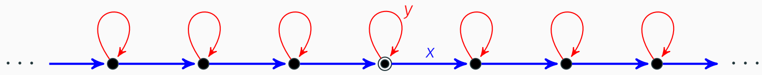
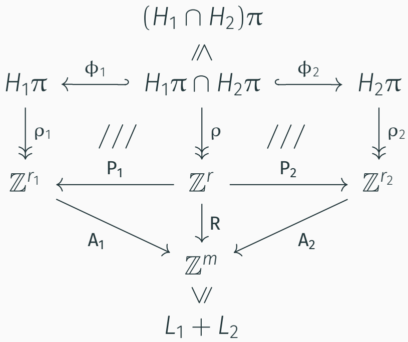


Remark: H and K are free groups with non-f.g. intersection...
doesn't this contradict Howson's property for free groups?

INTERSECTION DIAGRAM

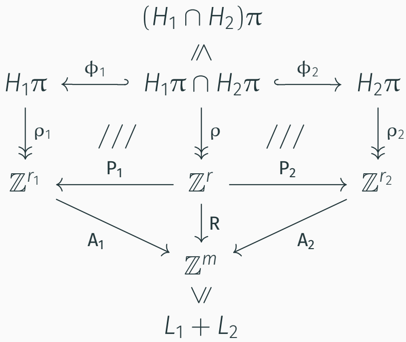
$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & (H_1 \cap H_2)\pi & & \\
 & & \rotatebox{90}{$\geqslant$} & & \\
H_1\pi & \xleftarrow{\ \phi_1\ } & H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi & \xhookrightarrow{\ \phi_2\ } & H_2\pi \\
\Big\downarrow\!\!\!\downarrow \rho_1 & /// & \Big\downarrow\!\!\!\downarrow \rho & /// & \Big\downarrow\!\!\!\downarrow \rho_2 \\
\mathbb{Z}^{r_1} & \xleftarrow{\ \mathsf{P}_1\ } & \mathbb{Z}^{r} & \xrightarrow{\ \mathsf{P}_2\ } & \mathbb{Z}^{r_2} \\
 & \searrow \mathsf{A}_1 & \Big\downarrow \mathsf{R} & \mathsf{A}_2 \swarrow & \\
 & & \mathbb{Z}^{m} & & \\
 & & \rotatebox{90}{$\leqslant$} & & \\
 & & L_1 + L_2 & &
\end{array}
$$

INTERSECTION DIAGRAM



$$
\begin{aligned}
(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi &= \{w \in H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi : \; \mathbf{c}_{H_1}(w) \cap \mathbf{c}_{H_2}(w) \neq \varnothing\} \\
&= \{w \in H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi : \; (w\phi_1\rho_1\mathbf{A_1} + L_1) \cap (w\phi_2\rho_2\mathbf{A_2} + L_2) \neq \varnothing\}
\end{aligned}
$$

INTERSECTION DIAGRAM



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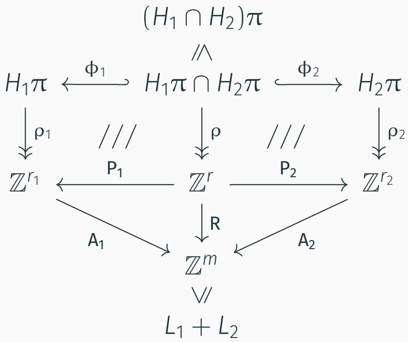

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&= \{w \in H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi :\ w\rho(\mathsf{P}_1\mathsf{A}_1 - \mathsf{P}_2\mathsf{A}_2) \in L_1 + L_2\}
\end{aligned}
$$

INTERSECTION DIAGRAM

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & (H_1 \cap H_2)\pi & & \\
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H_1\pi & \xhookleftarrow{\ \phi_1\ } & H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi & \xhookrightarrow{\ \phi_2\ } & H_2\pi \\
\Big\downarrow\!\!\downarrow \rho_1 & /// & \Big\downarrow\!\!\downarrow \rho & /// & \Big\downarrow\!\!\downarrow \rho_2 \\
\mathbb{Z}^{r_1} & \xleftarrow{\quad \mathbf{P}_1 \quad} & \mathbb{Z}^{r} & \xrightarrow{\quad \mathbf{P}_2 \quad} & \mathbb{Z}^{r_2} \\
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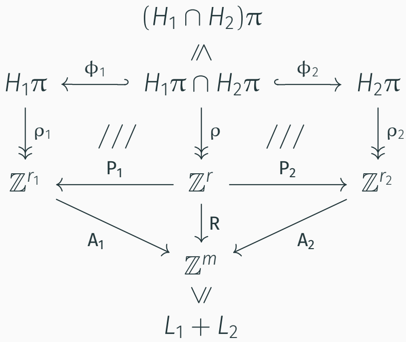
\end{aligned}
$$



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\end{aligned}$$

$$= (L_1 + L_2)\mathsf{R}^{\leftarrow}\rho^{\leftarrow} .$$

DECIDING INTERSECTIONS

We have:

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
\mathbb{F}_n \geqslant H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi \simeq \mathbb{F}_r & \xrightarrow{\quad \rho \quad} \!\!\!\!\rightarrow & \mathbb{Z}^r & \xrightarrow{\quad \mathsf{R} \quad} & \mathbb{Z}^m \\
\rotatebox{90}{$\geqslant$} & & \rotatebox{90}{$\geqslant$} & & \rotatebox{90}{$\geqslant$} \\
(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi \simeq \underbrace{(L_1 + L_2)\mathsf{R}^{\leftarrow}\rho^{\leftarrow}}_{M\rho^{\leftarrow}} & \longleftarrow\!\!\dashv & \underbrace{(L_1 + L_2)\mathsf{R}^{\leftarrow}}_{M} & \longleftarrow\!\!\dashv & L_1 + L_2
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\triangledown\!/ & & \triangledown\!/ & & \triangledown\!/ \\
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Theorem

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant_{\text{fg}} \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$. Then, TFAE:

1. *the intersection $H_1 \cap H_2$ is finitely generated;*
2. *the projection $(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi$ is finitely generated;*
3. *$(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi$ is either trivial, or has finite index in $H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi$,*
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Corollary

The subgroup intersection problem $\mathrm{SIP}(\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m)$ is decidable.

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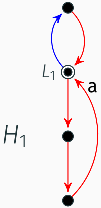

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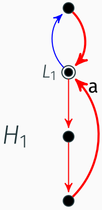

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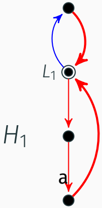

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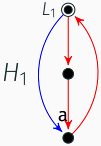

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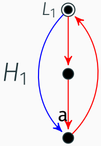

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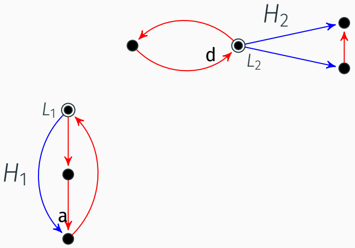

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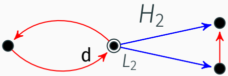

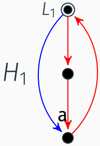

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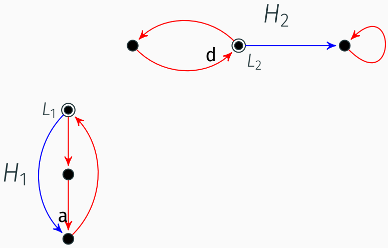

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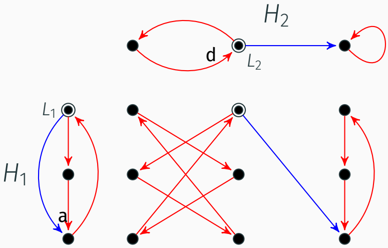

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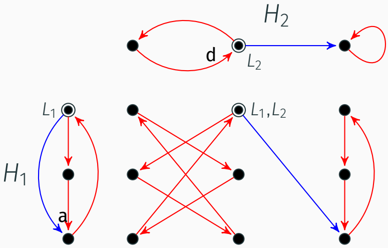

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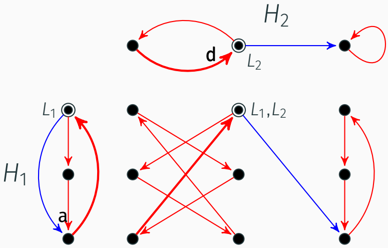

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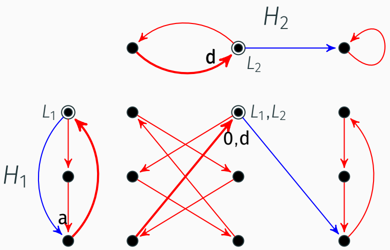

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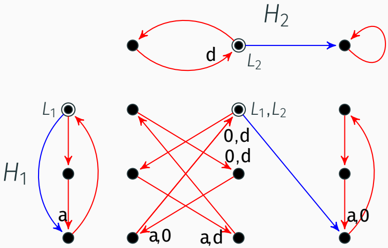

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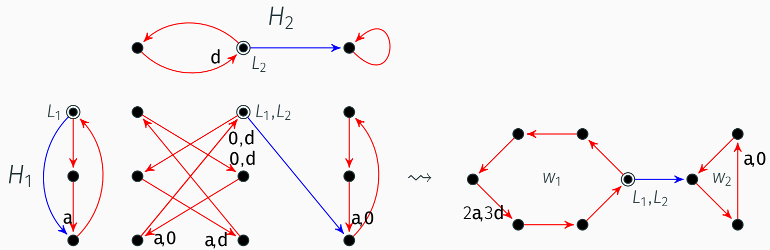

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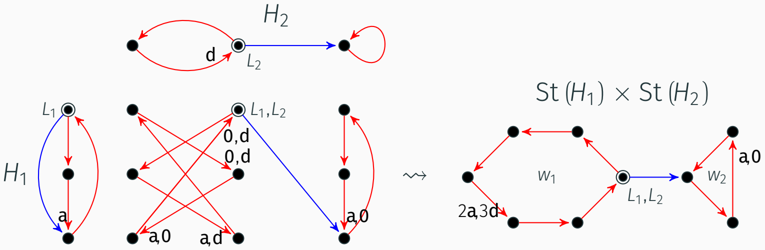

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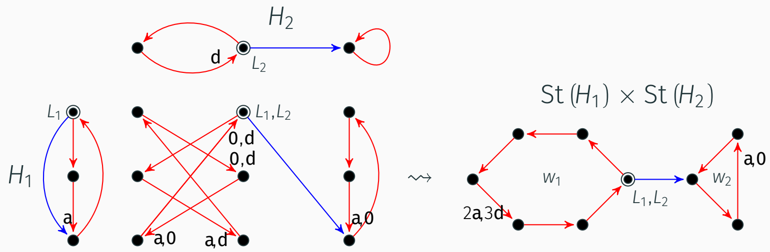

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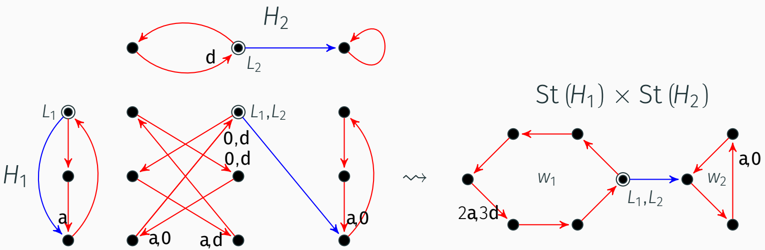

Claim:

$$H_1 \cap H_2 = \{\, u\, t^{\mathrm{a}} : u\, t^{\mathrm{a}} \text{ is componentwise-readable in } \mathrm{St}\,(H_1) \times \mathrm{St}\,(H_2) \,\}$$

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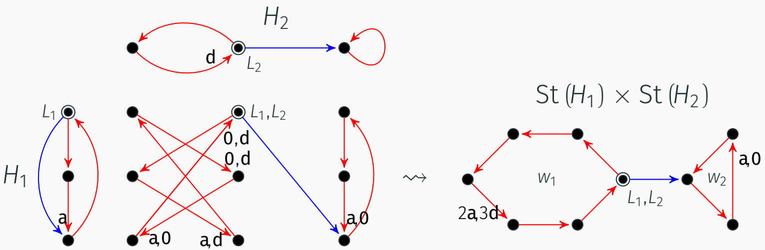

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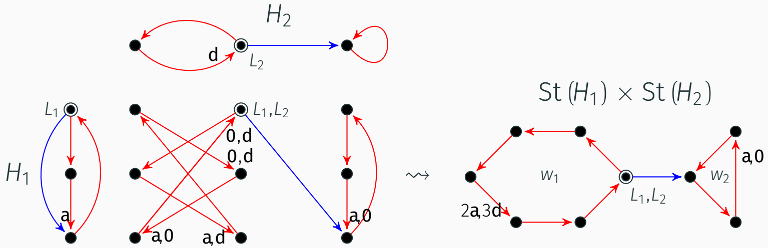

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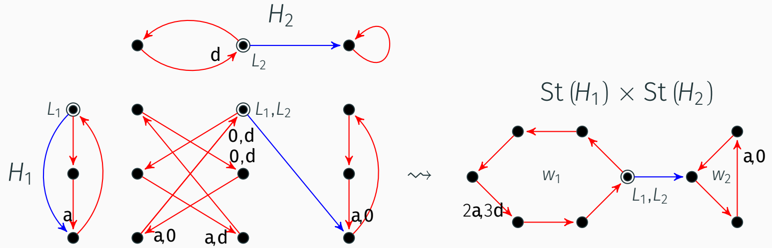

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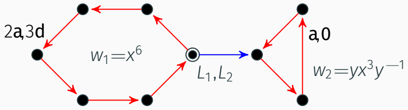
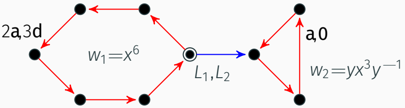
$$= (L_1 + L_2)\mathbf{R}^{\leftarrow} \rho^{\leftarrow}\,, \text{ where } \mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\mathsf{a}-3\mathsf{d} \\ \mathsf{a}-\mathsf{0} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \rho = \mathsf{ab}\,.$$

FROM STALLINGS TO CAYLEY





$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\mathbf{a}-3\mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{a}-\mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

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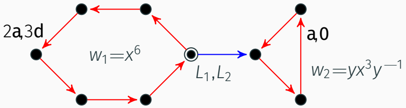

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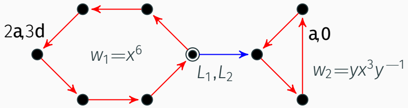
FROM STALLINGS TO CAYLEY



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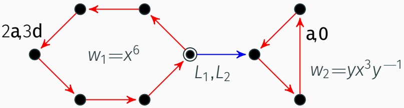

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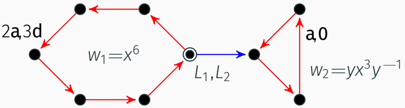

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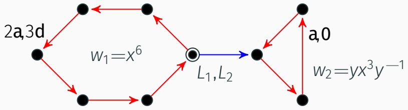

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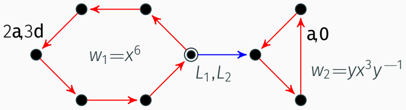
FROM STALLINGS TO CAYLEY



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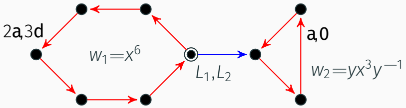

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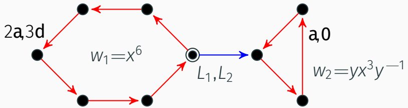

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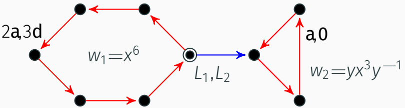

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&\simeq \mathrm{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}/\delta_1\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/\delta_2\mathbb{Z}, \{\mathbf{e}_i\mathbf{Q}\}_i)\,.
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem (D.–V.)

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$. *Then*

$$\mathrm{St}\,((H_1 \cap H_2)\pi, \{w_i(X)\}_i) \;=\; \mathrm{Cay}(\textstyle\bigoplus_{i=1}^{r} \mathbb{Z}/\delta_i\mathbb{Z}\,, \{\mathbf{e}_i\mathbf{Q}\}_i)\,,$$

where $r = \mathrm{rk}(H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi)$.

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Corollary

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$. *Then,*

$$H_1 \cap H_2 \text{ is f.g.} \Leftrightarrow \delta_i \neq 0, \text{ for all } i = 1, \ldots, r$$

Theorem (D.–V.)

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$$\mathrm{St}\left((H_1 \cap H_2)\pi, \{w_i(X)\}_i\right) = \mathrm{Cay}\left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^{r} \mathbb{Z}/\delta_i\mathbb{Z}, \{\mathbf{e}_i\mathbf{Q}\}_i\right),$$

where $r = \mathrm{rk}(H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi)$.

Corollary

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$. *Then,*

$$\begin{aligned} H_1 \cap H_2 \textit{ is f.g.} &\Leftrightarrow \delta_i \neq 0, \textit{ for all } i = 1, \ldots, r \\ &\Leftrightarrow |(H_1 \cap H_2)\pi : H_1\pi \cap H_2\pi| < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

INTERSECTION AUTOMATON

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Theorem (D.–V.)

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$*. Then,*

1. *we can algorithmically decide whether* $H_1 \cap H_2$ *is f.g.*
2. *if so,* $\mathrm{St}(H_1 \cap H_2)$ *is computable.*

In particular, $\mathrm{SIP}(\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m)$ *is solvable.*

INTERSECTION SHOWCASE

$$H_1 = \langle t^{L_1}, x^3\, t^{\mathsf{a}}, yx \rangle,\ H_2 = \langle t^{L_2}, x^2\, t^{\mathsf{d}}, yxy^{-1} \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}^2$$

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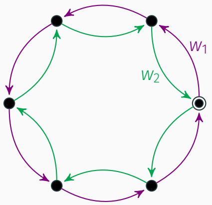

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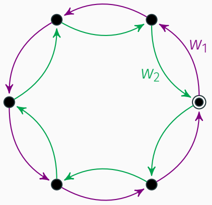

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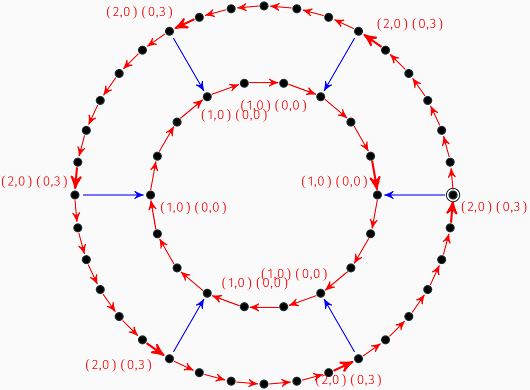

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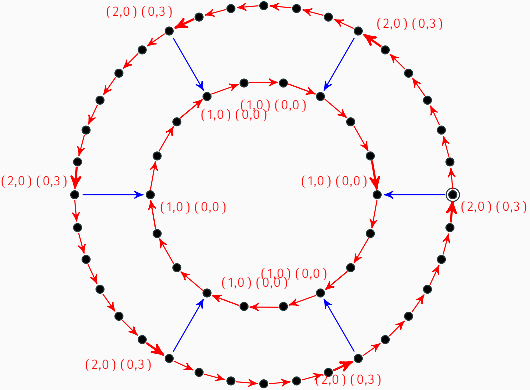

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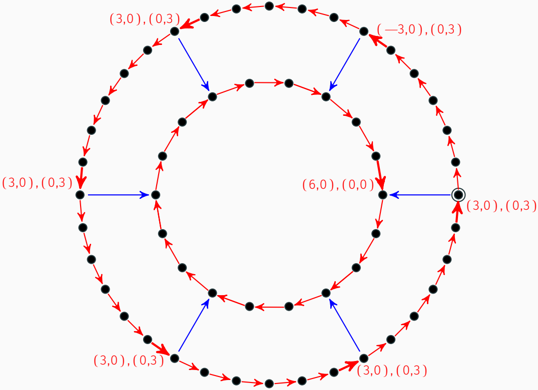

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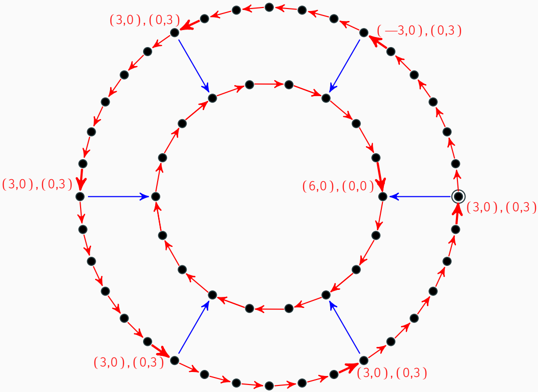

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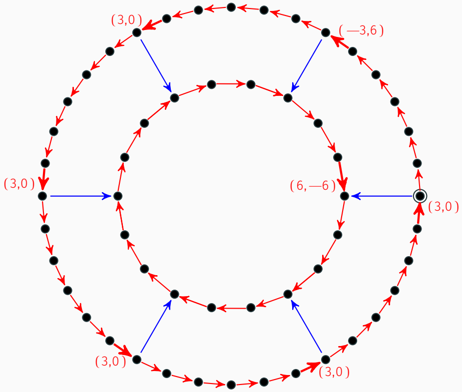

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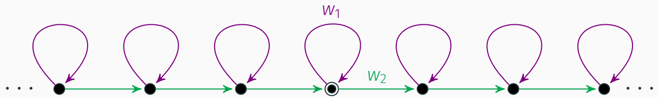

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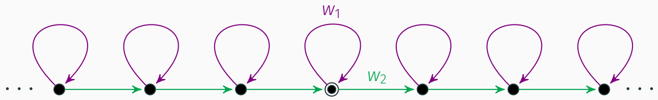

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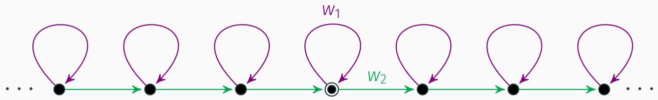

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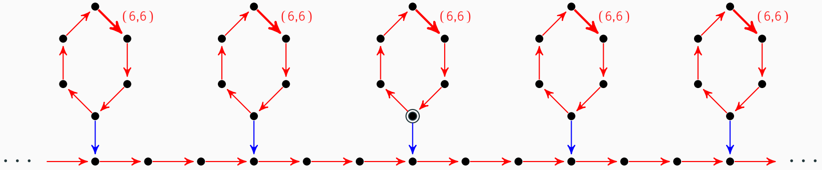

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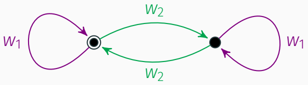

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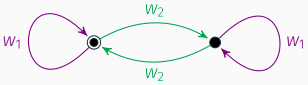

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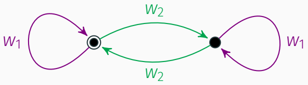

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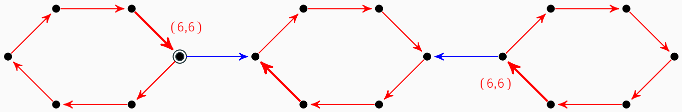

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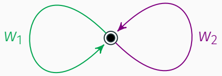

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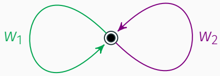

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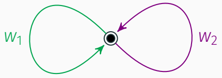

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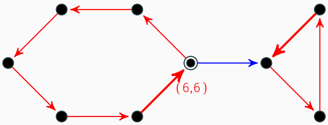

INTERSECTION SHOWCASE

$$H_1 = \langle t^{L_1}, x^3\, t^{\mathrm{a}}, yx \rangle,\ H_2 = \langle t^{L_2}, x^2\, t^{\mathrm{d}}, yxy^{-1} \rangle \leqslant \mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}^2$$

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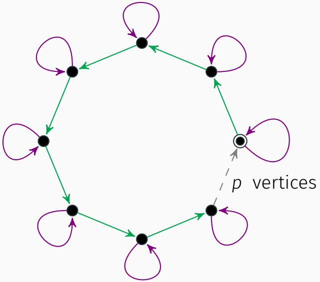

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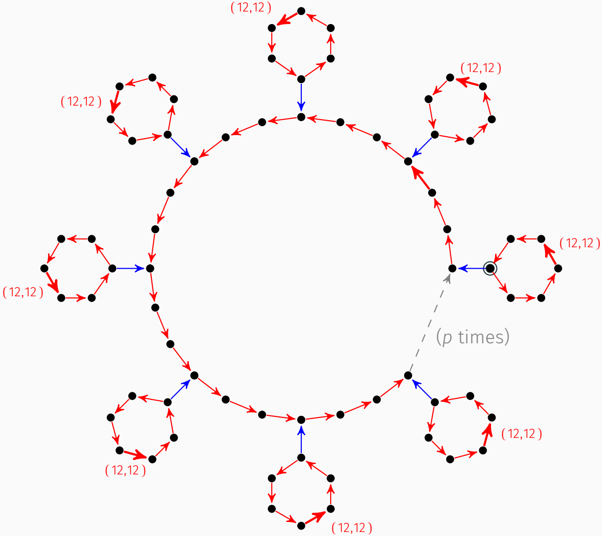

Multiple intersections in $\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$

WHAT ABOUT THE MULTIPLE VERSIONS?

Subgroup Intersection Problem in G, $\mathrm{SIP}(G)$

Given $H_1, H_2 \leqslant_{\mathrm{fg}} G$ (by finite sets of generators), decide whether $H_1 \cap H_2$ is finitely generated; if yes, compute generators for $H_1 \cap H_2$.

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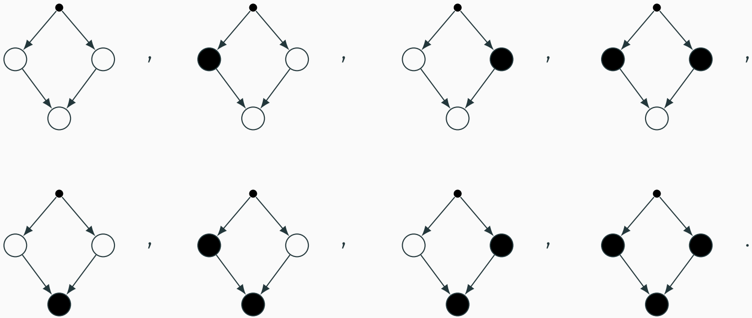
There are subgroups $H_1, H_2, H_3 \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ such that H_1, H_2, H_3 and $H_1 \cap H_2 \cap H_3$ are finitely generated, but $H_1 \cap H_2$, $H_1 \cap H_3$, $H_2 \cap H_3$ are not ...

MULTIPLE INTERSECTIONS

Let $H_1, H_2 \leqslant G$. There are $2^3 = 8$ possibilities for the finite/infinite generation of H_1, H_2, $H_1 \cap H_2$:



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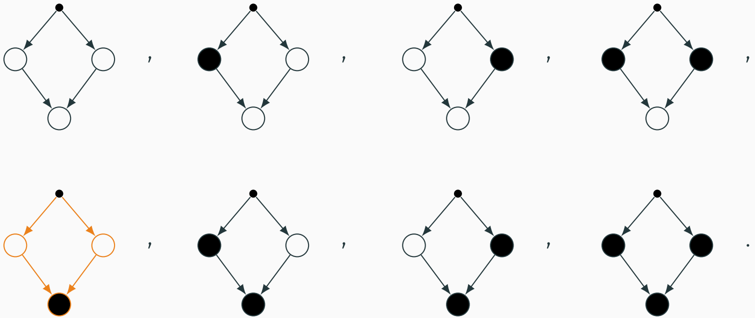

Observation

G is Howson $\Leftrightarrow$ the highlighted 2-configuration is not realizable.

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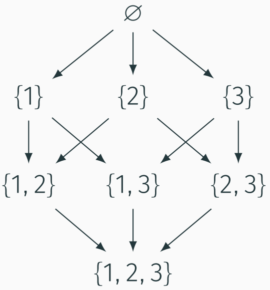
- $\chi_{\{I\}}$ is an ***almost*-0** k-configuration.

INTERSECTION CONFIGURATIONS



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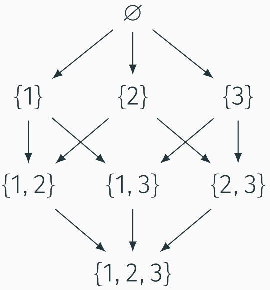

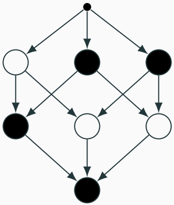

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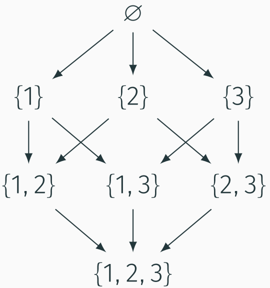

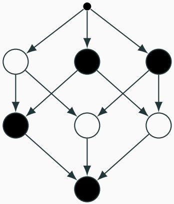

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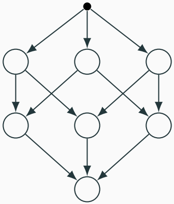

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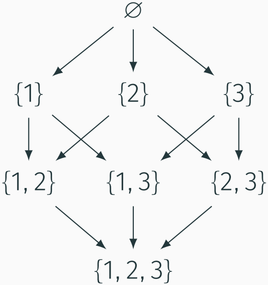

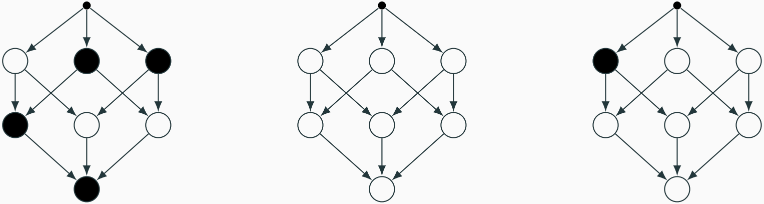

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REALIZABILITY

Let G be a group, and $k \geqslant 1$.

Definition

A k-configuration $\chi\colon \mathcal{P}([k]) \setminus \{\varnothing\} \to \{0, 1\}$ is ***realizable in G*** if there exist k subgroups $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \ldots, H_k\}$ of G (with possible repetitions) such that, for every $\varnothing \neq I \subseteq [k]$,

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- if a k-configuration χ is realizable in a free group $\mathbb{F}_n$, $n \geqslant 2$, then χ ***satisfies the Howson property***:

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Is it true that a k-configuration χ is realizable in a free group $\mathbb{F}_n$, $n \geqslant 2$ $\Leftrightarrow$ χ respects the Howson property?

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Does there exists a finitely presented intersection-saturated group?

THE MULTIPLE INTERSECTION PROBLEM IS COMPUTABLE

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Proposition

Let $M', M'' \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n$ be two subgroups of $\mathbb{F}_n$ in free factor position, i.e., such that $\langle M', M'' \rangle = M' * M''$. Then, for any $H_1', \ldots, H_k' \leqslant M' \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n$ and $H_1'', \ldots, H_k'' \leqslant M'' \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n$, then

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Remark: The same equality is not true, in general, in $\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$.

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Two subgroups $M', M'' \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$ are ***strongly complementary***, denoted by $\langle M', M'' \rangle = M' \circledast M''$, if

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Remark: It is not true without the hypotheses.

OBSTRUCTIONS TO REALIZABILITY

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Let χ *be a* k*-configuration for which* $\exists\ r \geqslant 2$ *non-empty subsets* $I_1, \dots, I_r \subseteq [k]$ *s.t.* $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, r\}$, $(I_1 \cup \cdots \cup \widehat{I_j} \cup \cdots \cup I_r)\chi = 0$ *but* $(I_1 \cup \cdots \cup I_r)\chi = 1$. *Then* χ *is not realizable in* $\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^{r-2}$.

OBSTRUCTIONS TO REALIZABILITY

Lemma

Let $H_1, \ldots, H_k \leqslant \mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$. If, for some $\varnothing \neq I, J \subseteq [k]$, H_I and H_J are f.g. whereas $H_{I \cup J} = H_I \cap H_J$ is not, then $\exists i \in I$, $\exists j \in J$ s.t. both $L_i, L_j \leqslant \mathbb{Z}^m$ have rank strictly smaller than m.

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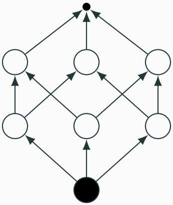
Example: An unrealizable configuration in $\mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}$:



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REALIZING k-CONFIGURATIONS

For a given set of indices $\varnothing \neq I \subseteq [k]$, let us compute H_I:

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which is again finitely generated.

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- *Case 3:* $I = [k]$. In this case,
  $H_I = (H_1 \cap \cdots \cap H_{k-1}) \cap H_k = \langle x, y \rangle \cap \langle x, yt^{\mathbf{e}_1}; t^{\mathbf{e}_2 - \mathbf{e}_1}, \ldots, t^{\mathbf{e}_{k-1} - \mathbf{e}_1} \rangle = \langle\langle x \rangle\rangle_{\mathbb{F}_2}$
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Lemma

Any almost-$\mathbf{0}$ k-configuration $\chi[I_0]$ is realizable in $\mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}^{|I_0|-1}$.

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Theorem (D.–Roy–V.)

For $k \geqslant 1$, every k-configuration χ is realizable in $\mathbb{F}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^m$, for every $n \geqslant 2$ and $m \gg 0$; more precisely, for $m = \sum_{(I)\chi=1}(|I|-1)$.

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Theorem (D.–Roy–V.)

There exist finitely presented intersection-saturated groups G.

BACK TO THE FREE CASE

Theorem (D.–Roy–V.)

A k-configuration χ is realizable in a free group $\mathbb{F}_n$, $n \geqslant 2$ if and only if χ satisfies the Howson property; i.e., if and only if

$$\forall\, \varnothing \neq I, J \subseteq [k],\ (I)\chi = (J)\chi = 0 \ \Rightarrow\ (I \cup J)\chi = 0.$$

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Thanks!