

A Complexity Approach to Tree Algebras: the Bounded Case

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joint work with Thomas Colcombet

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**Algebras are used to
characterize classes
of languages**

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Finite words

Monoids, semigroups

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HR-algebras, VR-algebras

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Objective: characterize classes that can be naturally defined using infinitely sorted algebras

Infinitely sorted tree algebras: FT_{Σ} -algebras

Let Σ be a ranked alphabet. The **free FT_{Σ} -algebra** has as carrier $(T_X)_{X \text{ finite}}$ where the X 's are finite sets of variables.

$$T_X = \{\text{trees in which all the variables of } X \text{ appear on the leaves}\}$$

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Objects

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Renaming

$$\sigma(x) = \sigma(y) = x$$

$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ / \quad \backslash \\ x \quad y \end{array} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \begin{array}{c} a \\ / \quad \backslash \\ x \quad x \end{array}$$

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Definition (Finite Tree algebras)

A **finite FT_{Σ} -algebra** \mathcal{A} consists of an infinite series of finite carrier sets A_X indexed by finite sets of variables X , together with operations:

Constants. $a(x_0, \dots, x_{n-1})^{\mathcal{A}} \in A_{\{x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}\}}$ for all $a \in \Sigma_n$ and variables x_i ,

Substitution. $\cdot_x^{\mathcal{A}}: A_X \times A_Y \rightarrow A_{X \setminus \{x\} \cup Y}$ for all finite X, Y and $x \in X$,

Renaming. $\text{rename}^{\mathcal{A}}[\sigma]: A_X \rightarrow A_Y$ for all surjective maps $\sigma: X \rightarrow Y$.

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Identities? $a(x, y) \cdot_y b \quad a(x, z) \cdot_z b$

We also define morphisms, congruences...

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Given a finite FT_{Σ} -algebra \mathcal{A} , there is a unique morphism from the free algebra to \mathcal{A} . It is called the **evaluation morphism of \mathcal{A}** .

Languages and complexity

Definition (Language recognized by an algebra)

A language L of finite trees over Σ is **recognized** by a finite FT_{Σ} -algebra \mathcal{A} if there is a set $P \subseteq A_{\emptyset}$ such that $L = \alpha^{-1}(P)$ in which α is the evaluation morphism of \mathcal{A} .

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Long term objective

Characterize the languages recognized by algebras of

- Bounded complexity (**This talk**)
- Polynomial complexity
- Exponential complexity
- ...

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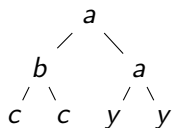
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Example: The language of all trees without b 's on the leftmost branch

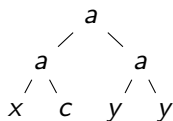
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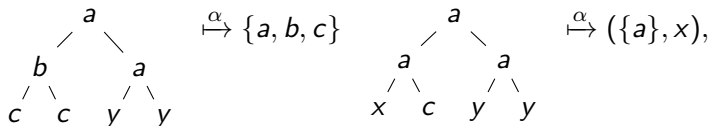
$\xrightarrow{\alpha} \{a, b, c\}$



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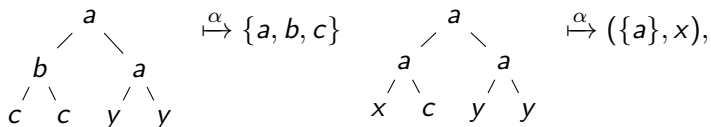
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This algebra has **linear complexity**.

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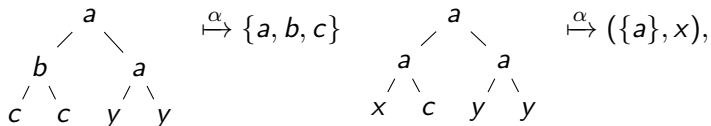
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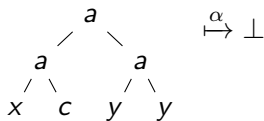
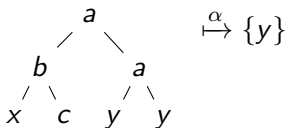
Better algebra: $A_X = X \uplus \{\perp, \top\}$ (it is the **syntactic algebra** of L)

Example: The language of all trees with at least a b on every branch

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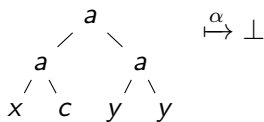
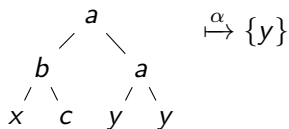
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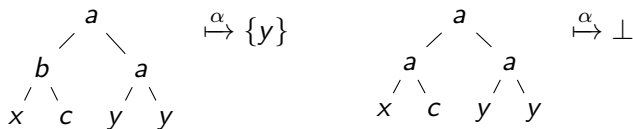
$$A_X = 2^X \uplus \{\perp\}$$

$$\text{vw}_b(t) = \{x \in X \mid x \text{ occurs on a branch that has no } b\text{'s}\}$$

$$\alpha(t) = \begin{cases} \perp & \text{if there is branch without a } b \text{ that ends with a constant} \\ \text{vw}_b(t) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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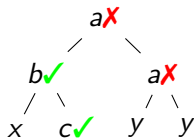
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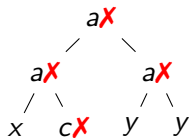
This algebra has **exponential complexity** and is syntactic for L

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$\mapsto^{\alpha} \{y\}$



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Languages recognized by top-down deterministic automata

All languages recognized by top-down deterministic automata are recognized by FT_{Σ} -algebras of **exponential complexity**.

$x' \quad c \checkmark \quad y \quad y$

$x' \quad c \times \quad y \quad y$

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Regular languages

A top-down nondeterministic automaton can be transformed into a FT_{Σ} -algebras of **doubly-exponential complexity** that recognizes the same language.

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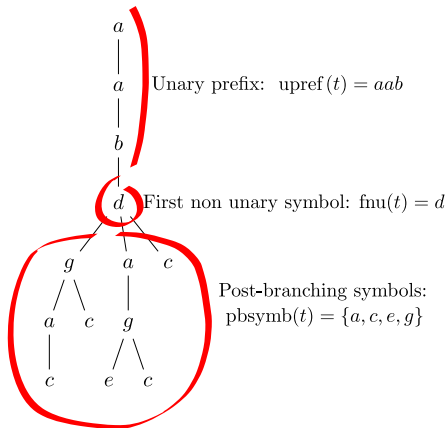
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Main result

Characterization theorem

A language of finite trees is recognized by an FT_{Σ} -algebra of bounded complexity if and only if it is a Boolean combination of languages of the following kinds:

- The language of finite trees with **unary prefix** in a given regular language of words $L \subseteq \Sigma_1^*$.
- The language of finite trees with **first non unary symbol** b for a fixed non unary symbol b .
- The language of finite trees with **post-branching symbols** B , for $B \subseteq \Sigma$.
- A regular language K of **bounded branching**.



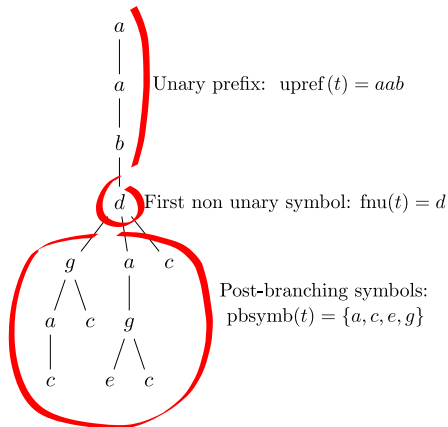
Bounded branching: $\exists k$ all trees in K have at most k branches

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Easy direction: any Boolean combination of a.-d. is recognized by an FT_{Σ} -algebra of bounded complexity.

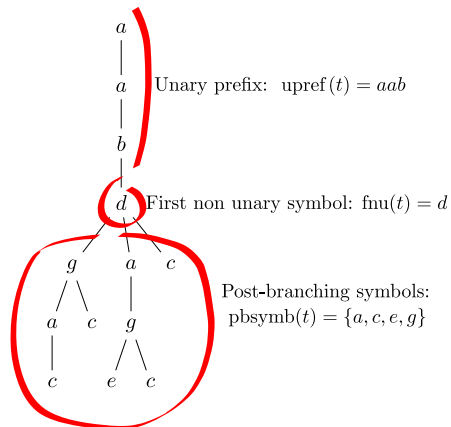
Easy direction of the characterization theorem

Lemma

The languages $\text{UPref}(L)$, $\text{FNU}(b)$ and $\text{PBSymb}(B)$ are recognized by algebras of bounded complexity for all $b \in \Sigma_{\neq 1}$, $B \subseteq \Sigma$ and $L \subseteq \Sigma_1^*$ that is regular.

Let $\varphi: \Sigma_1^* \rightarrow M$ recognize L .

$$A_X = M \times 2^{\Sigma_1} \times \Sigma_{\neq 1} \times 2^\Sigma$$



Easy direction of the characterization theorem

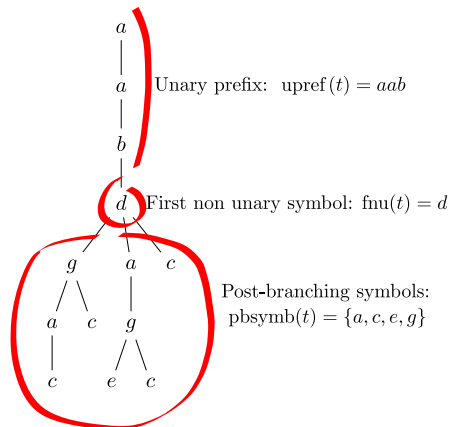
Lemma

The languages $\text{UPref}(L)$, $\text{FNU}(b)$ and $\text{PBSymb}(B)$ are recognized by algebras of bounded complexity for all $b \in \Sigma_{\neq 1}$, $B \subseteq \Sigma$ and $L \subseteq \Sigma_1^*$ that is regular.

Let $\varphi: \Sigma_1^* \rightarrow M$ recognize L .

$$A_X = M \times 2^{\Sigma_1} \times \Sigma_{\neq 1} \times 2^\Sigma$$

$$\alpha_1(t) = \varphi(\text{upref}(t))$$



Easy direction of the characterization theorem

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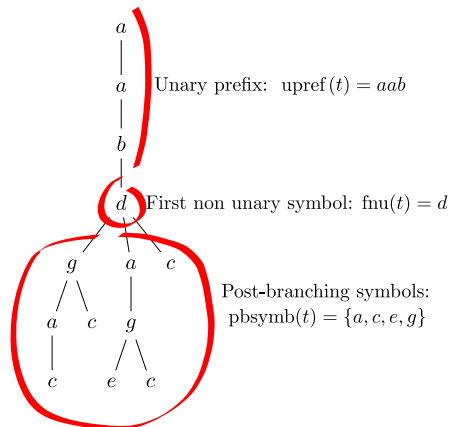
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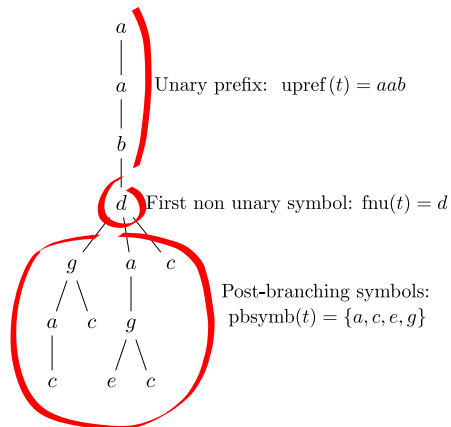
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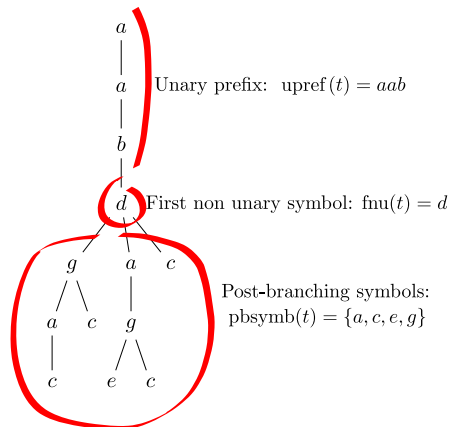
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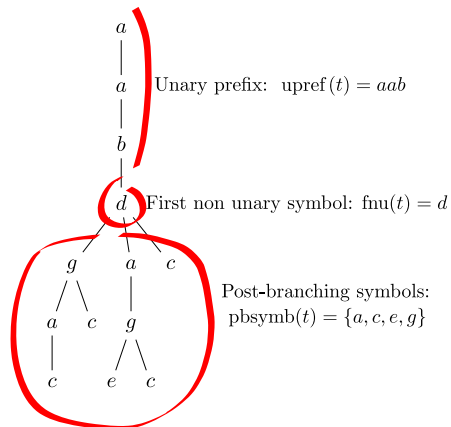
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A regular language K of bounded branching is recognized by an algebra of bounded complexity.

Let \mathcal{A} recognize K . Let k be such that trees with more than k branches never belong to K .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathcal{A} & & A_{\emptyset} & & A_{\{x_0\}} & & \dots & A_{\{x_0, \dots, x_k\}} & \dots \\ \mathcal{A}' & A_{\emptyset} \times \{1, \dots, k-1, \perp\} & & A_{\{x_0\}} \times \{1, \dots, k-1, \perp\} & & \dots & & \{\perp\} & \dots \end{array}$$

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A Boolean combination of FT_{Σ} -algebras of bounded complexity has bounded complexity.

Structure of the proof of the hard direction

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A language of finite trees is recognized by an FT_{Σ} -algebra of bounded complexity if and only if it is a Boolean combination of languages of the following kinds:

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Ongoing: polynomial complexity, bounded orbit complexity...

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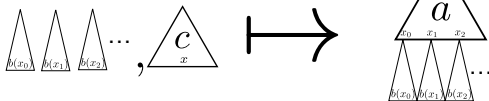
Lemma 1b: In a syntactic algebra of bounded complexity, $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ for large X .

Syntactic FT_{Σ} -algebras

Let \mathcal{A} be some FT_{Σ} -algebra and let $X = \{x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}\}$ be a finite set of variables. Define for all $a \in A_X$

$$\langle a \rangle: (A_{\emptyset})^X \times A_{\{x\}} \rightarrow A_{\emptyset}$$

$$(b, c) \mapsto c \cdot_x (a \cdot_{x_0} b(x_0) \dots \cdot_{x_{n-1}} b(x_{n-1}))$$

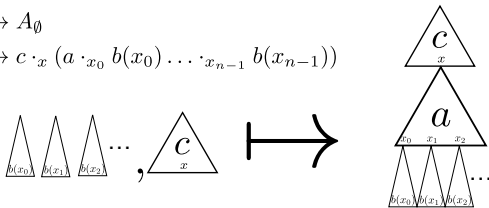


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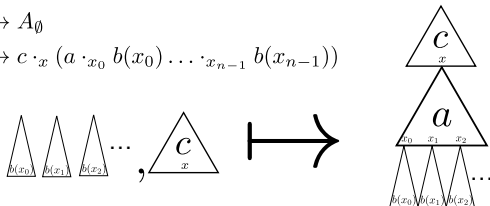
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Lemma

If \mathcal{A} is a syntactic algebra then $a = b$ iff $\langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle$, for all a, b in \mathcal{A} .

Corollary: A syntactic algebra is of complexity at most doubly-exponential:

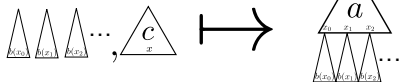
$$|A_X| \leq |A_{\emptyset}|^{|A_{\{x\}}|} |A_{\emptyset}|^{|X|}$$

Lemmas 1a and 1b

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In a syntactic algebra \mathcal{A} , there is an integer M such that for all X of cardinal at least M , either $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ or $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \{\text{id}_X\}$.

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$$M = \max(5, |A_\emptyset| + 1)$$

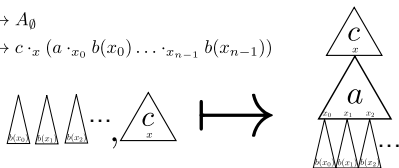
Suppose for the sake of contradiction that

$$|X| \geq M \text{ and}$$

$$\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Alt}(X)$$

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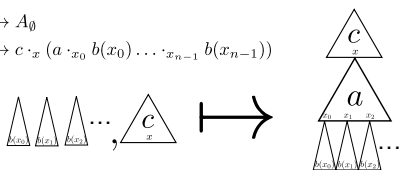
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Fix $a \in A_X$

$|X| \geq M$ and

$c \in A_{\{x\}}, b \in (A_\emptyset)^X$

$\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Alt}(X)$

$x \neq y$ with $b(x) = b(y)$

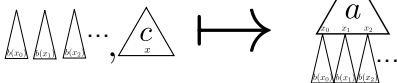
$\text{Im}(\varphi_X) = \{\text{id}_{A_X}, \tau\}$ $\langle \text{rename}^{\mathcal{A}}[t](a) \rangle(b, c) = \langle \tau(a) \rangle(b, c)$

$= \langle \text{rename}^{\mathcal{A}}[(x\ y)](a) \rangle(b, c)$

$= \langle a \rangle(b, c)$

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In a syntactic algebra of bounded complexity, $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ whenever X is large enough.

Suppose $|A_X| \leq k$ for all X and $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \{\text{id}_X\}$

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$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_X: \mathbf{Sym}(X) &\rightarrow \mathbf{Sym}(A_X) \\ \sigma &\mapsto \text{rename}^A[\sigma]\end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1 (Invariance under permutations)

A finite syntactic FT_Σ -algebra is of bounded complexity if and only if for all sufficiently large finite set of variables X , $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$.

Lemma 1a: In a syntactic algebra, $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \{\text{id}_X\}$ or $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ for large X .

Lemma, admitted: In a syntactic algebra, either $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \{\text{id}_X\}$ for large X , or $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ for large X .

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Lemma 1c: A syntactic algebra in which $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ for every sufficiently large X is of bounded complexity.

Lemma 1c

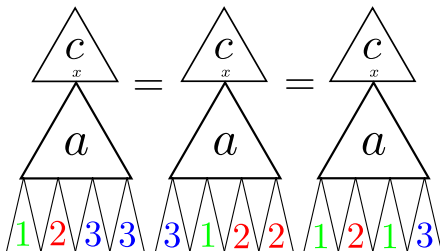
Lemma

Suppose that $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ whenever $|X| \in \{n, n-1\}$. Then for all $a \in A_X$ with $|X| = n$, and all $b, b' \in (A_\emptyset)^X$, $c \in A_{\{x\}}$

$$\langle a \rangle(b, c) = \langle a \rangle(b', c)$$

whenever $\text{Im}(b) = \text{Im}(b')$.

$$\langle a \rangle : (A_\emptyset)^X \times A_{\{x\}} \rightarrow A_\emptyset$$



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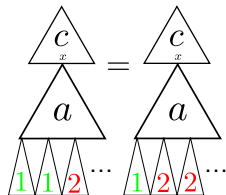
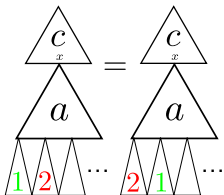
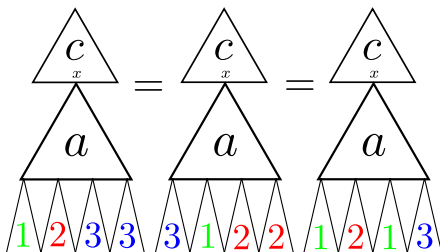
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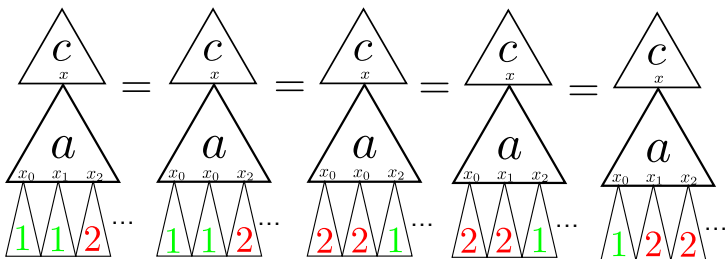
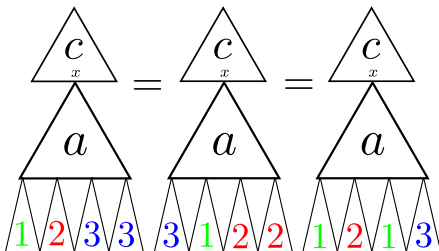
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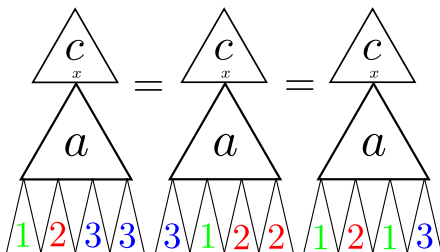
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Lemma 1c

A finite syntactic algebra such that $\text{Ker}(\varphi_X) = \mathbf{Sym}(X)$ for all sufficiently large set of variables X has bounded complexity.

For all a , $\langle a \rangle$ must be chosen in a set of at most $|A_\emptyset|^{|A_{\{x\}}|} 2^{|A_\emptyset|}$ functions.

Lemma: for all a, b , $a = b$ if and only if $\langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle$.

Structure of the proof of the hard direction

Characterization theorem

A language of finite trees is recognized by an FT_{Σ} -algebra of bounded complexity if and only if it is a Boolean combination of languages of the following kinds:

- The language of finite trees with unary prefix in a given regular language of words $L \subseteq \Sigma_1^*$.
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- A regular language K of bounded branching.

- In syntactic algebras of bounded complexity, the elements of A_X are invariant under permutations for large X .
The converse is also true.
- For all finite trees s and t with sufficiently many branches, if $\text{upref}(s) = \text{upref}(t)$, $\text{fnu}(s) = \text{fnu}(t)$ and $\text{pbsymb}(s) = \text{pbsymb}(t)$ then \mathcal{A} does not distinguish between s and t .
- A language recognized by an algebra of bounded complexity is a Boolean combination of a.-d.

Lemma 2 (Trees with many branches) 1/2

Fix a syntactic FT_{Σ} -algebra \mathcal{A} of bounded complexity, with evaluation morphism α . Write $s \simeq_{\mathcal{A}} t$ if $\alpha(s) = \alpha(t)$.

Permutation lemma

If a tree $t(x, y)$ has sufficiently many branches then, for all trees t_1, t_2 ,

$$t(t_1, t_2) \simeq_{\mathcal{A}} t(t_2, t_1)$$

Duplication lemma

If a tree $t(x, y, z)$ has sufficiently many branches then, for all trees t_1, t_2 ,

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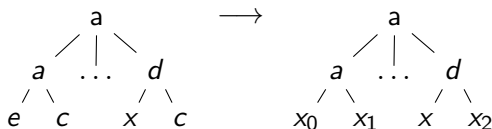
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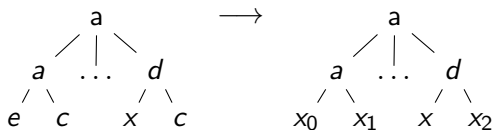
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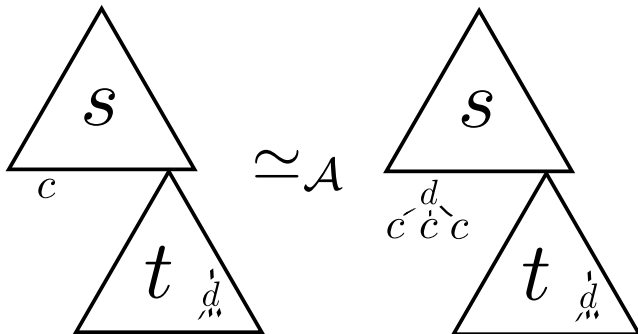
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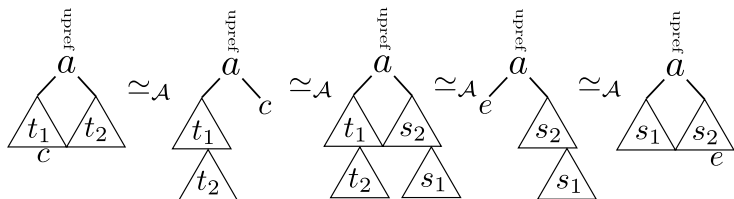
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