### An Albebraic Approach to Internet Routing Lectures 04 — 08

Timothy G. Griffin

timothy.griffin@cl.cam.ac.uk Computer Laboratory University of Cambridge, UK

> Michaelmas Term 2009

T. Griffin (cl.cam.ac.uk)

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# Outline



- 2 Lecture 05: More Semiring constructions
- 3 Lecture 06: Beyond Semirings
- 4 Lecture 07: Advanced Constructions I
- 5 Lecture 08: Routing without distribution?
- 6 Bibliography

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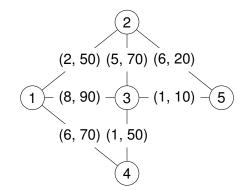
# Lexicographic Semiring, example continued

 $sp \stackrel{\times}{\times} bw$ Let  $(S, \oplus, \otimes, \overline{0}, \overline{1}) = sp \stackrel{\times}{\times} bw.$ 

$$\begin{array}{rcl} sp &=& (\mathbb{N}^{\infty}, \mbox{ min}, \ +, \ \infty, \ 0) \\ bw &=& (\mathbb{N}^{\infty}, \mbox{ max}, \mbox{ min}, \ 0, \ \infty) \\ sp \times bw &=& (\mathbb{N}^{\infty} \times \mathbb{N}^{\infty}, \mbox{ min} \times \mbox{ max}, \ + \times \mbox{ min}, \ (\infty, \ 0), \ (0, \ \infty)) \end{array}$$

$$(17, 10) \oplus (21, 100) = (17, 10)$$
  
 $(17, 10) \oplus (17, 100) = (17, 100)$   
 $(17, 10) \otimes (21, 100) = (38, 10)$   
 $(17, 10) \otimes (17, 100) = (34, 10)$ 

### Sample instance for $sp \times bw$



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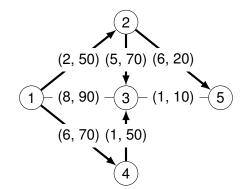
### The adjacency matrix

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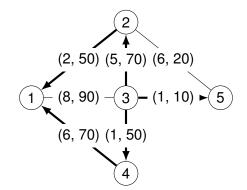
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### Shortest-path DAG rooted at 1



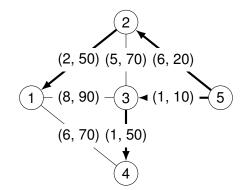
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### Shortest-path DAG rooted at 3



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### Shortest-path DAG rooted at 5



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### The routing matrix

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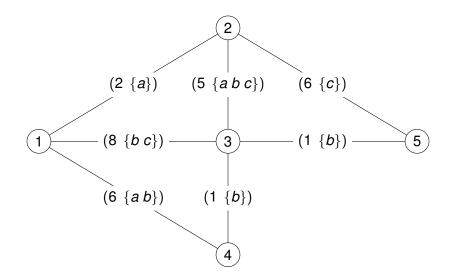
# A Strange Lexicographic Semiring

sp  $\times$  oneforall Let  $(S, \oplus, \otimes, \overline{0}, \overline{1}) = \text{sp } \times \text{oneforall}.$ 

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \text{sp} & = & (\mathbb{N}^{\infty}, \ \min, \ +, \ \infty, \ 0) \\ & \text{oneforall} & = & (\mathbf{2}^{\{a, \ b, \ c\}}, \ \cup, \ \cap, \ \{\}, \ \{a, \ b, \ c\}) \\ & \text{sp} \ \vec{\times} \ \text{oneforall} & = & (\mathbb{N}^{\infty} \times \mathbf{2}^{\{a, \ b, \ c\}}, \ \min \vec{\times} \cup, \ + \times \cap, \ (\infty, \ \{\}), \ (0, \ \{a, \ b, \ c\}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (17, \{a\}) \oplus (21, \{b\}) &=& (17, \{a\}) \\ (17, \{a\}) \oplus (17, \{b\}) &=& (17, \{a, b\}) \\ (17, \{a\}) \otimes (21, \{b\}) &=& (38, \{\}) \\ (17, \{a\}) \otimes (17, \{b\}) &=& (34, \{\}) \end{array}$$

# Sample instance for sp $\vec{x}$ oneforall

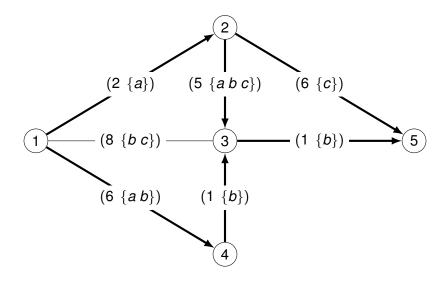


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# The adjacency matrix

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# Sample instance for sp $\vec{x}$ oneforall



Shotest paths — for the first component only — rooted at node 1

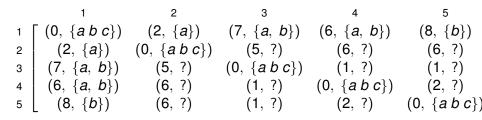
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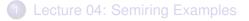
# The routing matrix

If  $\mathbf{R}(i, j) = (v, S)$  and  $x \in S$ , then there is at least one path of weight v from i to j with x in every arc weight along the path.



Please fill in the "?"...

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- 2 Lecture 05: More Semiring constructions
- 3 Lecture 06: Beyond Semirings
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# Challenge

Construct a semiring path so that if  $\mathbf{R}(i, j) = (v, W)$ , then W is a set of all paths from *i* to *j* with weight v.

The Free Monoid over (the set)  $\Sigma$ 

free(
$$\Sigma$$
) = ( $\Sigma^*$ ,  $\cdot$ ,  $\epsilon$ )

where

- Σ\* is the set of all finite sequences over Σ,
- · is concatenation,
- $\epsilon$  is the empty sequence.

Given the graph G = (V, E), we might consider using free(*E*) to represent paths.

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# A general construction

(S⊗, 1) a monoid.
 uniontimes(S, ⊗, 1) = (2<sup>S</sup>, ∪, ⊗<sub>×</sub>, {}, {1}), where

$$A \otimes_{\times} B = \{a \otimes b \mid a \in A, b \in B\}.$$

#### Claim

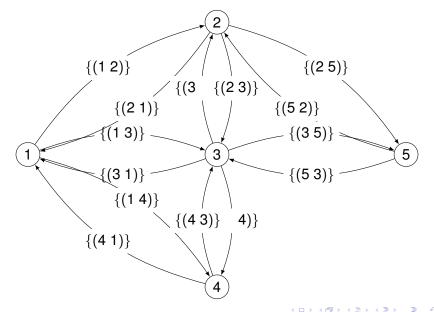
uniontimes( $S, \otimes, \overline{1}$ ) is a semiring

Will this work?

paths = uniontimes(free(E))

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### Sample instance for path



### But is there a problem?

paths is not q-stable, for any q

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But what about sp  $\vec{\times}$  paths?

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathrm{sp} &=& (\mathbb{N}^{\infty}, \ \mathrm{min}, \ +, \ \infty, \ \mathbf{0}) \\ \mathrm{paths} &=& (\mathbf{2}^{E^*}, \ \cup, \ \cdot_{\times}, \ \{\}, \ \{\epsilon\}) \\ \mathrm{sp} \stackrel{\times}{\times} \mathrm{paths} &=& (\mathbb{N}^{\infty} \times \mathbf{2}^{E^*}, \ \mathrm{min} \stackrel{\times}{\times} \cup, \ + \times \cdot_{\times}, \ (\infty, \ \{\}), \ (\mathbf{0}, \ \{\epsilon\})) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (17, \ \{(1,2)(2,3)\}) \oplus (17, \ \{(1,3)\}) &=& (17, \ \{(1,2)(2,3)\}) \\ (17, \ \{(1,2)(2,3)\}) \oplus (17, \ \{(1,3)\}) &=& (17, \ \{(1,2)(2,3), \ (1,3)\}) \\ (17, \ \{(1,2)(2,3)\}) \otimes (21, \ \{(3,4), \ (3,5)\}) &=& (38, \ \{(1,2)(2,3)(3,4), \ (1,2)(2,3)(3$$

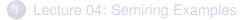
Show that this "works". What is going on? (on Exercises II list)

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# Path Weight with functions on arcs?

For graph G = (V, E), and path  $p = i_1, i_2, i_3, \cdots, i_k$ .

Semiring Path Weight

Weight function  $w: E \rightarrow S$ 

 $w(p) = w(i_1, i_2) \otimes w(i_2, i_3) \otimes \cdots \otimes w(i_{k-1}, i_k).$ 

How about functions on arcs? Weight function  $w : E \to (S \to S)$ 

 $w(p) = w(i_1, i_2)(w(i_2, i_3)(\cdots w(i_{k-1}, i_k)(a)\cdots)),$ 

where *a* is some value originated by node  $i_k$ 

How can we make this work?

# Algebra of Monoid Endomorphisms ([GM08])

A homomorphism is a function that preserves structure. An endomprhism is a homomorphism mapping a structure to itself.

Let  $(S, \oplus, \overline{0})$  be a commutative monoid.

 $(S, \oplus, F \subseteq S \to S, \overline{0}, i, \omega)$  is a algebra of monoid endomorphisms (AME) if

- $\forall f \in F \ \forall b, c \in S : f(b \oplus c) = f(b) \oplus f(c)$
- $\forall f \in F : f(\overline{0}) = \overline{0}$
- $\exists i \in F \ \forall a \in S : i(a) = a$
- $\exists \omega \in F \ \forall a \in S : \omega(a) = \overline{0}$

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# Solving (some) equations over a AMEs

We will be interested in solving for x equations of the form

 $x = f(x) \oplus b$ 

Let

$$\begin{array}{rcl} f^0 &=& i\\ f^{k+1} &=& f \mathrel{\circ} f^k \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{rcl} f^{(k)}(b) &=& f^0(b) \ \oplus \ f^1(b) \ \oplus \ f^2(b) \ \oplus \ \cdots \ \oplus \ f^k(b) \\ f^{(*)}(b) &=& f^0(b) \ \oplus \ f^1(b) \ \oplus \ f^2(b) \ \oplus \ \cdots \ \oplus \ f^k(b) \ \oplus \ \cdots \end{array}$$

#### Definition (q stability)

If there exists a *q* such that for all b  $f^{(q)}(b) = f^{(q+1)}(b)$ , then *f* is *q*-stable. Therefore,  $f^{(*)}(b) = f^{(q)}(b)$ .

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# Key result (again)

#### Lemma

If f is q-stable, then  $x = f^{(*)}(b)$  solves the AME equation

 $x = f(x) \oplus b.$ 

Proof: Substitute  $f^{(*)}(b)$  for x to obtain

$$\begin{array}{rcl} f(f^{(*)}(b)) \oplus b \\ = & f(f^{(q)}(b)) \oplus b \\ = & f(f^{0}(b) \oplus f^{1}(b) \oplus f^{2}(b) \oplus \cdots \oplus f^{q}(b)) \oplus b \\ = & f^{1}(b) \oplus f^{1}(b) \oplus f^{2}(b) \oplus \cdots \oplus f^{q+1}(b) \oplus b \\ = & f^{0}(b) \oplus f^{1}(b) \oplus f^{1}(b) \oplus f^{2}(b) \oplus \cdots \oplus f^{q+1}(b) \\ = & f^{(q+1)}(b) \\ = & f^{(q)}(b) \\ = & f^{(*)}(b) \end{array}$$

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### AME of Matrices

Given an AME  $S = (S, \oplus, F)$ , define the semiring of  $n \times n$ -matrices over S,

 $\mathbb{M}_n(S) = (\mathbb{M}_n(S), \boxplus, G),$ 

where for  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{M}_n(S)$  we have

$$(\mathbf{A} \boxplus \mathbf{B})(i, j) = \mathbf{A}(i, j) \oplus \mathbf{B}(i, j).$$

Elements of the set *G* are represented by  $n \times n$  matrices of functions in *F*. That is, each function in *G* is represented by a matrix **A** with  $\mathbf{A}(i, j) \in F$ . If  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{M}_n(S)$  then define  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{B})$  so that

$$(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{B}))(i, j) = \sum_{1 \le q \le n}^{\oplus} \mathbf{A}(i, q)(\mathbf{B}(q, j)).$$

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### Here we go again...

#### Path Weight

For graph G = (V, E) with  $w : E \to F$ The *weight* of a path  $p = i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_k$  is then calculated as

$$w(p) = w(i_1, i_2)(w(i_2, i_3)(\cdots w(i_{k-1}, i_k)(\omega_{\oplus})\cdots)).$$

adjacency matrix

$$\mathbf{A}(i, j) = \left\{ egin{array}{cc} w(i, j) & ext{if } (i, j) \in E, \ \omega & ext{otherwise} \end{array} 
ight.$$

We want to solve equations like these

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{X}) \boxplus \mathbf{B}$$

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# So why do we need Monoid Endomorphisms??

Monoid Endomorphisms can be viewed as semirings

Suppose  $(S, \oplus, F)$  is a monoid of endomorphisms. We can turn it into a semiring

where  $(f \oplus g)(a) = f(a) \oplus g(a)$ 

#### Functions are hard to work with....

• All algorithms need to check equality over elements of semiring,

• 
$$f = g$$
 means  $\forall a \in S : f(a) = g(a)$ ,

• S can be very large, or infinite.

# Lexicographic product of AMEs

$$(S, \oplus_S, F) \times (T, \oplus_T, G) = (S \times T, \oplus_S \times \oplus_T, F \times G)$$

Theorem ([Sai70, GG07, Gur08])

 $\mathsf{M}(S \stackrel{\scriptstyle{\scriptstyle{\times}}}{\scriptstyle{\times}} T) \iff \mathsf{M}(S) \land \mathsf{M}(T) \land (\mathsf{C}(S) \lor \mathsf{K}(T))$ 

#### Where

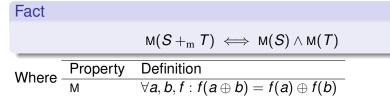
Property Definition

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{M} & \forall a, b, f : f(a \oplus b) = f(a) \oplus f(b) \\ \mathsf{C} & \forall a, b, f : f(a) = f(b) \Longrightarrow a = b \\ \mathsf{K} & \forall a, b, f : f(a) = f(b) \end{array}$ 

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### **Functional Union of AMEs**

$$(S, \oplus, F) +_m (S, \oplus, G) = (S, \oplus, F + G)$$



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# Left and Right

#### right

$$\mathsf{right}(S,\oplus,F) = (S,\oplus,\{i\})$$

#### left

$$\mathsf{left}(\mathcal{S},\oplus,\mathcal{F})=(\mathcal{S},\oplus,\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{S}))$$

where K(S) represents all constant functions over S. For  $a \in S$ , define the function  $\kappa_a(b) = a$ . Then  $K(S) = \{\kappa_a \mid a \in S\}$ .

#### Facts

The following are always true.

```
 \begin{split} &\mathsf{M}(\mathsf{right}(S)) \\ &\mathsf{M}(\mathsf{left}(S)) \\ &\mathsf{C}(\mathsf{right}(S)) \\ &\mathsf{K}(\mathsf{left}(S)) \end{split}
```

(assuming  $\oplus$  is idempotent)

# Scoped Product

#### $S\Theta T = (S \times \text{left}(T)) +_{m} (\text{right}(S) \times T)$

Theorem

 $\mathsf{M}(S\Theta T) \iff \mathsf{M}(S) \wedge \mathsf{M}(T).$ 

Proof.

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{M}(S \ominus T) \\ \mathsf{M}((S \times \mathsf{left}(T)) +_{\mathsf{m}} (\mathsf{right}(S) \times T)) \\ \Longleftrightarrow \mathsf{M}(S \times \mathsf{left}(T)) \land \mathsf{M}(\mathsf{right}(S) \times T) \\ \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{M}(S) \land \mathsf{M}(\mathsf{left}(T)) \land (\mathsf{C}(S) \lor \mathsf{K}(\mathsf{left}(T))) \\ \land \mathsf{M}(\mathsf{right}(S)) \land \mathsf{M}(T) \land (\mathsf{C}(\mathsf{right}(S)) \lor \mathsf{K}(T)) \\ \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{M}(S) \land \mathsf{M}(T) \end{array}$ 

Delta Product (OSPF-like?)

$$S\Delta T = (S \times T) +_{\mathrm{m}} (\mathsf{right}(S) \times T)$$

Theorem

$$\mathsf{M}(S\Delta T)\iff \mathsf{M}(S)\wedge\mathsf{M}(T)\wedge(\mathsf{C}(S)\vee\mathsf{K}(T)).$$

Proof.

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{M}(S \ominus T) \\ \mathsf{M}((S \stackrel{\times}{\times} T) +_{\mathrm{m}} (\mathbf{right}(S) \stackrel{\times}{\times} T)) \\ \Longleftrightarrow \mathsf{M}(S \stackrel{\times}{\times} T) \land \mathsf{M}(\mathbf{right}(S) \stackrel{\times}{\times} T) \\ \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{M}(S) \land \mathsf{M}(\mathbf{left}(T)) \land (\mathsf{C}(S) \lor \mathsf{K}(T)) \\ \land \mathsf{M}(\mathbf{right}(S)) \land \mathsf{M}(T) \land (\mathsf{C}(\mathbf{right}(S)) \lor \mathsf{K}(T)) \\ \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{M}(S) \land \mathsf{M}(T) \land (\mathsf{C}(S) \lor \mathsf{K}(T)) \end{array}$ 

# How do we represent functions?

#### Definition (transforms (indexed functions))

A set of transforms  $(S, L, \triangleright)$  is made up of non-empty sets S and L, and a function

 $\rhd \in L \rightarrow (S \rightarrow S).$ 

We normally write  $l \triangleright s$  rather than  $\triangleright(l)(s)$ . We can think of  $l \in L$  as the index for a function  $f_l(s) = l \triangleright s$ , so  $(S, L, \triangleright)$  represents the set of function  $F = \{f_l \mid l \in L\}$ .

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### Examples

Example 1: Trivial

Let  $(S, \otimes)$  be a semigroup.

transform(
$$S, \oplus$$
) = ( $S, S, \triangleright_{\otimes}$ ),

where  $a \triangleright_{\otimes} b = a \otimes b$ 

Example 2: Restriction For  $T \subset S$ , Restrict $(T, (S, \oplus)) = (S, T, \triangleright_{\otimes})$ ,

where  $a \triangleright_{\otimes} b = a \otimes b$ 

# Example 3 : mildly abstract description of BGP's ASPATHs

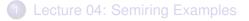
Let 
$$apaths(X) = (\mathcal{E}(\Sigma^*) \cup \{\infty\}, \ \Sigma \times \Sigma, \ \rhd)$$
 where

## Exercises II

- Complete the routing matrix for the instance of  $sp \times \tilde{s}$  one forall in Lecture 04.
- 2 Try to explain why our instance of  $sp \times paths$  (Lecture 05) has a finite routing matrix. Is the semiring 0-stable?
- **Oracle Prove that uniontimes**  $(S, \otimes, \overline{1})$  is a semiring.
- **(4)** Show that  $(F, \hat{\oplus}, \circ)$  from Lecture 06 is a semiring.
- Construct two interesting instances of the scoped product (Lecture 07!), each with adjacency and routing matrix.

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## Outline



- 2 Lecture 05: More Semiring constructions
- 3 Lecture 06: Beyond Semirings
- Lecture 07: Advanced Constructions I
- 5 Lecture 08: Routing without distribution?

6 Bibliography

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## Minimal Sets (finite anti-chains)

## $\min_{\leq}(A)$

Suppose that  $(S, \leq)$  is a pre-ordered set. Let  $A \subseteq S$  be finite. Define

$$\min_{\leq}(A) \equiv \{a \in A \mid \forall b \in A : \neg(b < a)\}$$

#### Example 1

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## Example 2

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (S, \leq) & = & (V^*, \leq) \\ V^* & = & \text{finite sequences of nodes from} \\ p \leq q & \Longleftrightarrow & \mid p \mid \leq \mid q \mid \\ \min_{\leq}(\{(1, \ 3, \ 17), \ (4, \ 5)\}) & = & \{(4, \ 5)\} \\ \min_{\leq}(\{(1, \ 3, \ 17), \ (4, \ 5), \ (7, \ 8)\}) & = & \{(4, \ 5), \ (7, \ 8)\} \end{array}$$

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## Minimal Sets (continued)

Suppose that  $(S, \leq)$  is a pre-ordered set.

 $\mathcal{P}_{\min}(S, \leq) \equiv \{A \subseteq S \mid A \text{ is finite and } \min_{\leq}(A) = A\}$ 

The minset semigroup construction

$$\operatorname{minset}(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{S}}, \leq) = (\mathcal{P}_{\min}^{\leq}(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{S}}), \oplus_{\min}^{\leq})$$

is the semigroup where

$$A \oplus_{\min}^{\leq} B \equiv \min_{\leq} (A \cup B).$$

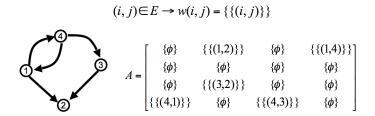
## Martelli's semiring ([Mar74, Mar76])

- A cut set C ⊆ E for nodes i and j is a set of edges such there is no path from i to j in the graph (V, E − C).
- *C* is minimal if no proper subset of *C* is a cut set.
- Martelli's semiring is such that A<sup>(\*)</sup>(i, j) is the set of all minimal cut sets for i and j.
- The arc (i, j) is has weight  $w(i, j) = \{\{(i, j)\}\}.$
- S is the set of all subsets of the power set of E.
- $X \oplus Y$  is  $\{x \cup y \mid x \in X, y \in Y\}$  with any non-minimal sets removed.
- $X \otimes Y$  is  $X \cup Y$  with any non-minimal sets removed.

#### Example

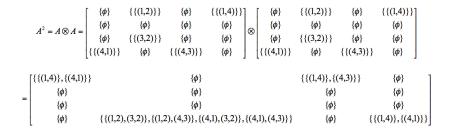
$$X = \{\{(2, 3\}, \{(1, 3), (2, 4)\}\} \\ Y = \{\{(1, 3), (2, 3\}, \{(1, 3), (2, 4)\}\} \\ X \oplus Y = \{\{(1, 3), (2, 3\}, \{(1, 3), (2, 4)\}\} \\ X \otimes Y = \{\{(2, 3\}, \{(1, 3), (2, 4)\}\} \}$$

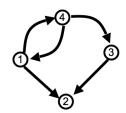
## Martelli



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## Martelli





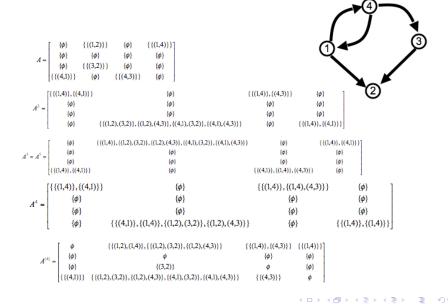
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An Albebraic Approach to Internet Routing Le

T. Griffin (cl.cam.ac.uk)

## Martelli



## More minset constructions (many details omitted ...)

#### For semirings

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Suppose that  $T = (S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is a semiring.

$$\operatorname{minsetL}(T) \equiv (\mathcal{P}_{\min}^{\leq^{L}}(S), \oplus_{\min}^{\leq^{L}}, \otimes_{\min}^{\leq^{L}})$$
$$\operatorname{minsetR}(T) \equiv (\mathcal{P}_{\min}^{\leq^{R}}(S), \oplus_{\min}^{\leq^{R}}, \otimes_{\min}^{\leq^{R}})$$
$$\operatorname{here} a \leq^{L} b \iff a = a \oplus b, a \leq^{R} b \iff b = a \oplus b, \text{ and}$$
$$\underset{\max}{\otimes^{\leq}} B = \min_{\leq} \{a \otimes b \mid a \in A, b \in B\}.$$

#### For ordered semigroups

Suppose that  $T = (S, \leq, \otimes)$  is a semiring.

$$\operatorname{minset}(T) \equiv (\mathcal{P}_{\min}^{\leq}(S), \oplus_{\min}^{\leq}, \otimes_{\min}^{\leq})$$

Yet another minset constructions (many details omitted ...)

#### For "routing algebras"

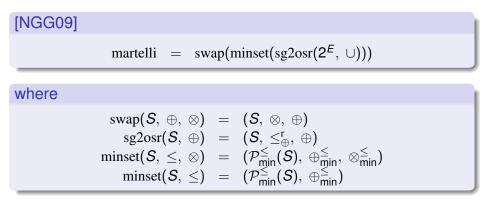
Suppose that  $T = (S, L, \leq, \rhd \in (L \times S) \rightarrow S)$  a routing algebra in the style of Sobrinho [Sob03, Sob05]. Then

$$\operatorname{minset}(T) \equiv (\mathcal{P}_{\min}^{\leq}(S), \ L, \ \oplus_{\min}^{\leq}, \ \rhd_{\min}^{\leq})$$

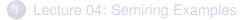
where  $\lambda \triangleright_{\min}^{\leq} A = \min_{\leq} \{\lambda \triangleright \mid a \in A\}$ 

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## Martelli's semiring expressed in a small language?



## Outline



- 2 Lecture 05: More Semiring constructions
- 3 Lecture 06: Beyond Semirings
- 4 Lecture 07: Advanced Constructions I
- 5 Lecture 08: Routing without distribution?

## 6 Bibliography

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## Local Optimality

Say that **R** is a locally optimal solution when

 $\mathbf{R} = (\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathbf{I}.$ 

That is, for  $i \neq j$  we have

$$\mathbf{R}(i, j) = \bigoplus_{q \in V} \mathbf{A}(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{R}(q, j) = \bigoplus_{q \in N(i)} w(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{R}(q, j),$$

where  $N(i) = \{q \mid (i, q) \in E\}$  is the set of neighbors of *i*.

In other words,  $\mathbf{R}(i, j)$  is the best possible value given the values  $\mathbf{R}(q, j)$ , for all neighbors q of i.

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## With Distributivity

A is an adjacency matrix over semiring S.

For Semirings, the following two problems are essentially the same — locally optimal solutions are globally optimal solutions.

Global Optimality	Local Optimality
Find <b>R</b> such that	Find <b>R</b> such that
$\mathbf{R}(i, j) = \sum_{p \in P(i, j)}^{\oplus} w(p)$	$R = (A \otimes R) \oplus I$

Prove this!

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# Without Distributivity

When  $\otimes$  does not distribute over  $\oplus$ , the following two problems are distinct.

Global Optimality	Local Optimality
Find <b>R</b> such that	Find <b>R</b> such that
$\mathbf{R}(i, j) = \sum_{p \in P(i, j)}^{\oplus} w(p)$	$\mathbf{R} = (\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{R}) \oplus \mathbf{I}$

#### **Global Optimality**

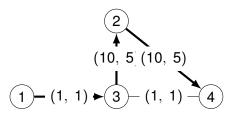
This has been studied, for example [LT91b, LT91a] in the context of circuit layout. I do not know of any application of this problem to network routing. (Yet!)

## Local Optimality

At a very high level, this is the type of problem that BGP attempts to solve!!

T. Griffin (cl.cam.ac.uk)

Example of local optima for  $bw \times sp$ 



- Node 1 would prefer the path 1 → 3 → 4 with weight (1, 2).
- But it is stuck with the best it can get: the path
   1 → 3 → 2 → 4, with weight (1, 11).

# What are the conditions needed to guarantee existence of local optima?

For a non-distributed structure  $S = (S, \oplus, \otimes)$ , can be used to find local optima when the following property holds.

Increasing

$$\mathsf{I}: \forall a, b \in S: a \neq \overline{\mathsf{0}} \implies a < b \otimes a$$

where  $a \leq b$  means  $a = a \oplus b$ .

#### Non-decreasing

In order to derive I we often need the non-decreasing property:

ND: 
$$\forall a, b \in S : a \leq b \otimes a$$

## Finding local optima with the iterative method

Think of the iterative version as a very abstract implementation of "vectoring"....

When distributivity holds we have  $A^{(k)} \otimes \mathbf{B} = A^{[k]}(\mathbf{B})$ .

#### Claim

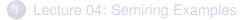
When *S* is increasing and  $\oplus$  is selective and idempotent, then  $A^{[k]}(B)$  converges to a locally optimal solution.

For various flavors of proof see [GG08, kCGG06, Sob03, Sob05]. OPEN PROBLEM : no bounds are yet known!

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## Outline



- 2 Lecture 05: More Semiring constructions
- 3 Lecture 06: Beyond Semirings
- 4 Lecture 07: Advanced Constructions I
- 5 Lecture 08: Routing without distribution?

6 Bibliography

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