

Symbolic Weighted Language Models and Quantitative Parsing over Infinite Alphabets

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Abstract

We propose a framework for weighted parsing over infinite alphabets. It is based on language models called Symbolic Weighted Automata (**swA**) at the joint between Symbolic Automata (**sA**) and Weighted Automata (**wA**), as well as Transducers (**swT**) and Visibly Pushdown (**sw-VPA**) variants. Like **sA**, **swA** deal with large or infinite input alphabets, and like **wA**, they output a weight value in a semiring domain. The transitions of **swA** are labeled by functions from an infinite alphabet into the weight domain. This is unlike **sA** whose transitions are guarded by boolean predicates over symbols in an infinite alphabet and also unlike **wA** whose transitions are labeled by constant weight values, and who deal only with finite automata. We present some properties of **swA**, **swT** and **sw-VPA** models, that we use to define and solve a variant of parsing over infinite alphabets. We also briefly describe the application that motivated the introduction of these models: a parse-based approach to automated music transcription.

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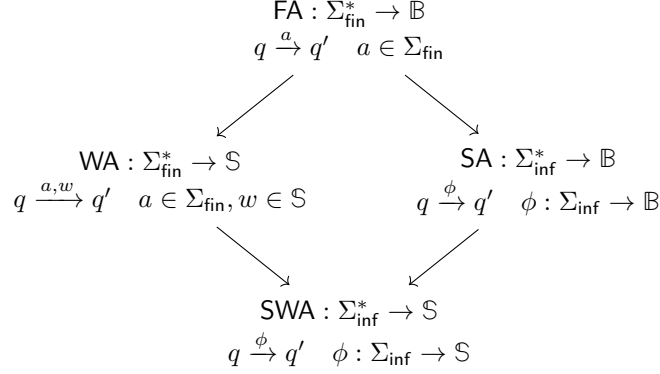
Acknowledgements I want to thank ...

1 Introduction

Parsing is the problem of structuring a linear representation on input (a finite word), according to a language model. Most of the context-free parsing approaches [15] assume a finite and reasonably small input alphabet. Such a restriction makes perfect sense in the context of NLP tasks such as constituency parsing, or of programming languages compilers or interpreters. Considering large or infinite alphabets can however be of practical interest, for instance, when dealing with large characters encodings such as UTF-16, *e.g.* for vulnerability detection in Web-applications [8], for the analysis (*e.g.* validation or filtering) of data streams or serialization of structured documents (with textual or numerical attributes) [26], or for processing timed execution traces [3].

The latter case is related to a study that motivated the present work: automated music transcription. Most representations of music are essentially linear. This is true for audio files, but also for widely used symbolic representations like MIDI. Such representations ignore the hierarchical structures that frame the conception of music, at least in the western area. These structures, on the other hand, are present, either explicitly or implicitly, in music notation [14]: music scores are partitioned in measures, measures in beats, and beats can be further recursively divided. It follows that music events do not occur at arbitrary timestamps, but respect a discrete partitioning of the timeline incurred by these recursive divisions. The *transcription problem* takes as input a linear representation (audio or MIDI) and aims at re-constructing these structures by mapping input events to this hierarchical rhythmic space. It can therefore be stated as a parsing problem [12], over an infinite alphabet of timed events.

Various extensions of language models for handling infinite alphabets have been studied.



■ **Figure 1** Classes of Symbolic/Weighted Automata. Σ_{fin} is a finite alphabet, Σ_{inf} is a countable alphabet, \mathbb{B} is the Boolean algebra, \mathbb{S} is a commutative semiring, $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ is a transition between states q and q' .

44 For instance, some automata with memory extensions allow restricted storage and comparison
 45 of input symbols, (see [26] for a survey), with pebbles for marking positions [25], registers [18],
 46 or the possibility to compute on subsequences with the same attribute values [2]. The
 47 automata at the core of model checkers compute on input symbols represented by large
 48 bitvectors [27] (sets of assignments of Boolean variables) and in practice, each transition
 49 accepts a set of such symbols (instead of an individual symbol), represented by Boolean
 50 formula or Binary Decision Diagrams. Following a similar idea, in symbolic automata
 51 (sA) [7, 8], the transitions are guarded by predicates over infinite alphabet domains. With
 52 appropriate closure conditions on the sets of such predicates, all the good properties enjoyed
 53 by automata over finite alphabets are preserved.

54 Other extensions of language models help in dealing with non-determinism, by the
 55 computation of weight values. With an ambiguous grammar, there may exist several
 56 derivations (*abstract syntax trees* – AST) yielding one input word. The association of one
 57 weight value to each AST permits to select a best one (or n bests). This is roughly the
 58 principle of *weighted parsing* approaches [13, 24, 23]. In *weighted language models*, like *e.g.*
 59 probabilistic context-free grammars and weighted automata (wA) [11], a weight value is
 60 associated to each transition rule, and the rule's weights can be combined with an associative
 61 product operator \otimes into the weight of an AST. A second operator \oplus , associative and
 62 commutative, is moreover used to resolve the ambiguity raised by the existence of several (in
 63 general exponentially many) AST associated to a given input word. Typically, \oplus will select
 64 the best of two weight values. The weight domain, equipped with these two operators shall
 65 be, at minima, a *semiring* where \oplus can be extended to infinite sums, such as the Viterbi
 66 semiring and the tropical min-plus algebra

67 In this paper, we present a uniform framework for weighted parsing over infinite input
 68 alphabets. It is based on *symbolic weighted* finite states language models (swM), generalizing
 69 the Boolean guards of sA into functions into an arbitrary semiring, and generalizing also wA,
 70 by handling infinite alphabets, see Figure 1.

71 In short, a transition rule $q \xrightarrow{\phi} q'$ from state q to q' of a swM, is labeled by a function ϕ
 72 associating to every input symbol a a weight value $\phi(a)$ in a semiring domain. The models
 73 presented here are finite automata called symbolic-weighted (swA), transducers (swT), and
 74 pushdown automata with a visibly restriction [1] (sw-VPA). The latter model of automata
 75 operates on *nested words* [1], a structured form of words parenthesized with markup symbols,

register: skip refs
and details, add
Mikolaj recent

Tu fais une
différence entre
model et automata?

This sentence (sym-
bols as variables)
is not immediately
clear to me. Maybe
a short example or
intuition?

modified

Tu veux dire: les
modèles formels que
tu combines?

corresponding to a linearization of trees. In the context of parsing, they can represent (weighted) AST of CF grammars. More precisely, a **sw-VPA** A associates a weight value $A(t)$ to a given nested word t , which is the linearization of an AST. On the other hand, a **swT** can define a distance $T(s, t)$ between finite words s and t over infinite alphabets. Then, the *SW-parsing* problem aims at finding t minimizing $T(s, t) \otimes A(t)$ (wrt the ranking defined by \oplus), given an input word s . The latter value is called the distance between s and A in [21].

Like weighted-parsing methods [13, 24, 23], our approach proceeds in two steps, based on properties of the **swM**. The first step is an intersection (Bar-Hillel construction [15]) where, given a **swT** T , a **sw-VPA** A , and an input word s , a **sw-VPA** $A_{T,s}$ is built, such that for all t , $A_{T,s}(t) = T(s, t) \otimes A(t)$. In the second step, a best AST t is found by applying to $A_{T,s}$ a best search algorithm similar to the shortest distance in graphs [20, 17].

The main contributions of the paper are: (i) the introduction of automata, **swA**, transducers, **swT** (Section 3), and visibly pushdown automata **sw-VPA** (Section 4), generalizing the corresponding classes of symbolic and weighted models, (ii) a polynomial best-search algorithm for **sw-VPA**, and (iii) a uniform framework (Section 5) for parsing over infinite alphabets, the keys to which are (iii.a) the **swT**-based definition of generic edit distances between input and output (yield) words, and (iii.b) the use, convenient in this context, of nested words, and **sw-VPA**, instead of syntax trees and grammars.

► **Example 1** (Running example). Throughout the paper we illustrate our framework with music transcription examples: Given a *timeline* of musical events with arbitrary timestamps as input, parse it into a structured music score. In our example, input events are pairs $\langle \eta, \tau \rangle$ made of a symbol $\eta \in \Sigma$, where Σ stands for the set of MIDI message symbols [?] and $\tau \in \mathbb{Q}$ is a timestamp. The output of parsing is a representation of the sequence in Common Western Music Notation (CWMN) [14] where event symbols belong to the domain Δ of *pitch*s (e.g., A4, G5, etc.), temporal information is encoded as *durations* (whole ♩ , quarter, ♪ , eighth ♫ , etc), and notes are grouped in high-level structures (beams, measures, tuplets). The following inputs will be used:

1. $I_1 = [\langle e_1, 0.07 \rangle, \langle e_2, 0.72 \rangle, \langle e_3, 0.91 \rangle]$, over interval $[0, 1[$

2. $I_2 = [\langle e_3, 1.05 \rangle, \langle e_4, 1.36 \rangle, \langle e_5, 1.71 \rangle]$, over interval $[1, 2[$

There exists many possible parsings of $I_1 \cup I_2$ in music notation, among which $\text{♩} \text{♪} \text{♫}$ and $\text{♩} \text{♪} \text{♫}$. Weighted parsing associates a cost to each solution, and our framework aims at selecting the best one with respect to this cost. ◇

2 Preliminary Notions

Semirings

We shall consider semirings for the weight values of our language models. . A *semiring* $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, \otimes, 0, 1 \rangle$ is a structure with a domain \mathbb{S} , equipped with two associative binary operators \oplus and \otimes , with respective neutral elements 0 and 1 , and such that:

- \oplus is commutative: $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, 0 \rangle$ is a commutative monoid and $\langle \mathbb{S}, \otimes, 1 \rangle$ a monoid,
- \otimes distributes over \oplus : $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{S}$, $x \otimes (y \oplus z) = (x \otimes y) \oplus (x \otimes z)$, and $(x \oplus y) \otimes z = (x \otimes z) \oplus (y \otimes z)$,
- 0 is absorbing for \otimes : $\forall x \in \mathbb{S}$, $0 \otimes x = x \otimes 0 = 0$.

Intuitively, in the models presented in this paper, \oplus selects an optimal value from two given values, in order to handle non-determinism, and \otimes combines two values into a single value, in a chaining of transitions.

chap. intersection
in [15]

The notation $A_{T,s}$
has not been intro-
duced so far. It is
not clear why T is a
parameter there

expressiveness: VPA
have restricted
equality test. com-
parable to pebble
automata? → con-
clusion

The results are es-
tablished for a gen-
eral class of semir-
ings. They can be
instantiated for con-
crete cases

There is sometimes a
confusion in the text
between the struture
and the domain \mathbb{S} .
Not essential

A semiring \mathbb{S} is *commutative* if \otimes is commutative. It is *idempotent* if for all $x \in \mathbb{S}$, $x \oplus x = x$. Every idempotent semiring \mathbb{S} induces a partial ordering \leq_\oplus called the *natural ordering* of \mathbb{S} [20] defined, by: for all $x, y \in \mathbb{S}$, $x \leq_\oplus y$ iff $x \oplus y = x$. The natural ordering is sometimes defined in the opposite direction [10]; We follow here the direction that coincides with the usual ordering on the Tropical semiring *min-plus* (Figure 2). An idempotent semiring \mathbb{S} is called *total* if it \leq_\oplus is total i.e. when for all $x, y \in \mathbb{S}$, either $x \oplus y = x$ or $x \oplus y = y$.

is total necessary?

► **Lemma 2** (Monotony, [20]). *Let $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, 0, \otimes, 1 \rangle$ be an idempotent semiring. For all $x, y, z \in \mathbb{S}$, if $x \leq_\oplus y$ then $x \oplus z \leq_\oplus y \oplus z$, $x \otimes z \leq_\oplus y \otimes z$ and $z \otimes x \leq_\oplus z \otimes y$.*

To express the property of Lemma 2, we call \mathbb{S} *monotonic wrt \leq_\oplus* . Another important semiring property in the context of optimization is superiority [16], which corresponds to the *non-negative weights* condition in shortest-path algorithms [9]. Intuitively, it means that combining elements with \otimes always increase their weight. Formally, it is defined as the property (i) below.

► **Lemma 3** (Superiority, Boundedness). *Let $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, 0, \otimes, 1 \rangle$ be an idempotent semiring. The two following statements are equivalent:*

- i. for all $x, y \in \mathbb{S}$, $x \leq_\oplus x \otimes y$ and $y \leq_\oplus x \otimes y$
- ii. for all $x \in \mathbb{S}$, $1 \oplus x = 1$.

Proof. (ii) \Rightarrow (i) : $x \oplus (x \otimes y) = x \otimes (1 \oplus y) = x$, by distributivity of \otimes over \oplus . Hence $x \leq_\oplus x \otimes y$. Similarly, $y \oplus (x \otimes y) = (1 \oplus x) \otimes y = y$, hence $y \leq_\oplus x \otimes y$. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) : by the second inequality of (i), with $y = 1$, $1 \leq_\oplus x \otimes 1 = x$, i.e., by definition of \leq_\oplus , $1 \oplus x = 1$. ◀

In [16], when the property (i) holds, \mathbb{S} is called *superior wrt the ordering \leq_\oplus* . We have seen in the proof of Lemma 3 that it implies that $1 \leq_\oplus x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{S}$. Similarly, by the first inequality of (i) with $y = 0$, $x \leq_\oplus x \otimes 0 = 0$. Hence, in a superior semiring, it holds that for all $x \in \mathbb{S}$, $1 \leq_\oplus x \leq_\oplus 0$. Intuitively, from an optimization point of view, it means that 1 is the best value, and 0 the worst. In [20], \mathbb{S} with the property (ii) of Lemma 3 is called *bounded* – we shall use this term in the rest of the paper. It implies that, when looking for a best path in a graph whose edges are weighted by values of \mathbb{S} , the loops can be safely avoided, because, for all $x \in \mathbb{S}$ and $n \geq 1$, $x \oplus x^n = x \otimes (1 \oplus x^{n-1}) = x$.

► **Lemma 4.** *Every bounded semiring is idempotent.*

Proof. By boundedness, $1 \oplus 1 = 1$, and idempotency follows by multiplying both sides by x and distributing. ◀

Here the difference between \mathbb{S} as a structure and as a domain is blurred.

$j \in \mathbb{N}$: j is an element of \mathbb{N} , not the same as $j \subset \mathbb{N}$

We shall need below infinite sums with \oplus . A semiring \mathbb{S} is called *complete* [11] if it has an operation $\bigoplus_{i \in I} x_i$ for every family $(x_i)_{i \in I}$ of elements of $\text{dom}(\mathbb{S})$ over an index set $I \subset \mathbb{N}$, such that:

i. *infinite sums extend finite sums:*

$$\bigoplus_{i \in \emptyset} x_i = 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \bigoplus_{i \in \{j\}} x_i = x_j, \quad \forall j, k \in \mathbb{N}, j \neq k, \quad \bigoplus_{i \in \{j, k\}} x_i = x_j \oplus x_k,$$

ii. *associativity and commutativity:*

$$\text{for all } I \subseteq \mathbb{N} \text{ and all partition } (I_j)_{j \in J} \text{ of } I, \quad \bigoplus_{j \in J} \bigoplus_{i \in I_j} x_i = \bigoplus_{i \in I} x_i,$$

iii. *distributivity of product over infinite sum:*

$$\text{for all } I \subseteq \mathbb{N}, \quad \bigoplus_{i \in I} (x \otimes y_i) = x \otimes \bigoplus_{i \in I} y_i, \quad \text{and} \quad \bigoplus_{i \in I} (x_i \otimes y) = \left(\bigoplus_{i \in I} x_i \right) \otimes y.$$

results of this paper for semirings commutative, bounded, total and complete

	domain	\oplus	\otimes	\emptyset	$\mathbb{1}$
Boolean	$\{\perp, \top\}$	\vee	\wedge	\perp	\top
Counting	\mathbb{N}	$+$	\times	0	1
Viterbi	$[0, 1] \subset \mathbb{R}$	\max	\times	0	1
Tropical min-plus	$\mathbb{R}_+ \cup \{\infty\}$	\min	$+$	∞	0

■ **Figure 2** Some commutative, bounded, total and complete semirings.

Label Theory

We shall now define the functions labeling the transitions of SW automata and transducers, generalizing the Boolean algebras of [7] from Boolean to other semiring domains. We consider *alphabets*, which are countable sets of symbols denoted Σ, Δ, \dots . Given a semiring $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, 0, \otimes, \mathbb{1} \rangle$, a *label theory* over \mathbb{S} is a set $\bar{\Phi}$ of recursively enumerable sets denoted Φ_Σ , containing unary functions of type $\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$, or $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, containing binary functions $\Sigma \times \Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$, and such that:

- for all $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta} \in \bar{\Phi}$, we have $\Phi_\Sigma \in \bar{\Phi}$ and $\Phi_\Delta \in \bar{\Phi}$
- every $\Phi_\Sigma \in \bar{\Phi}$ contains all the constant functions from Σ into \mathbb{S} ,
- for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{S}$ and $\phi \in \Phi_\Sigma$, $\alpha \otimes \phi : x \mapsto \alpha \otimes \phi(x)$, and $\phi \otimes \alpha : x \mapsto \phi(x) \otimes \alpha$ belong to Φ_Σ , and similarly for \oplus and for $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$
- for all $\phi, \phi' \in \Phi_\Sigma$, $\phi \otimes \phi' : x \mapsto \phi(x) \otimes \phi'(x)$ belongs to Φ_Σ
- for all $\eta, \eta' \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, $\eta \otimes \eta' : x, y \mapsto \eta(x, y) \otimes \eta'(x, y)$ belongs to $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$
- for all $\phi \in \Phi_\Sigma$ and $\eta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, $\phi \otimes_1 \eta : x, y \mapsto \phi(x) \otimes \eta(x, y)$ and $\eta \otimes_1 \phi : x, y \mapsto \eta(x, y) \otimes \phi(x)$ belong to $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$
- for all $\psi \in \Phi_\Delta$ and $\eta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, $\psi \otimes_2 \eta : x, y \mapsto \psi(y) \otimes \eta(x, y)$ and $\eta \otimes_2 \psi : x, y \mapsto \eta(x, y) \otimes \psi(y)$ belong to $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$
- similar closures hold for \oplus .

Intuitively, the operators \bigoplus_Σ return global minimum, wrt \leq_\oplus , of functions of Φ_Σ . When the semiring \mathbb{S} is complete, we consider the following operators on the functions of $\bar{\Phi}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \bigoplus_\Sigma : \Phi_\Sigma &\rightarrow \mathbb{S}, \quad \phi \mapsto \bigoplus_{a \in \Sigma} \phi(a) \\ \bigoplus_\Sigma^1 : \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta} &\rightarrow \Phi_\Delta, \quad \eta \mapsto (y \mapsto \bigoplus_{a \in \Sigma} \eta(a, y)) \quad \bigoplus_\Delta^2 : \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta} \rightarrow \Phi_\Sigma, \quad \eta \mapsto (x \mapsto \bigoplus_{b \in \Delta} \eta(x, b)) \end{aligned}$$

In what follows, we might omit the sub- and superscripts in $\otimes_1, \bigoplus_\Sigma^1, \dots$, when there is no ambiguity. We shall keep them only for the special case $\Sigma = \Delta$, i.e. $\eta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Sigma}$, in order to be able to distinguish between the first and the second argument.

► **Definition 5.** A label theory $\bar{\Phi}$ is complete when the underlying semiring \mathbb{S} is complete, and for all $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta} \in \bar{\Phi}$ and all $\eta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, $\bigoplus_\Sigma^1 \eta \in \Phi_\Delta$ and $\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta \in \Phi_\Sigma$.

The following facts are immediate.

► **Lemma 6.** For $\bar{\Phi}$ complete $\alpha \in \mathbb{S}$, $\phi, \phi' \in \Phi_\Sigma$, $\psi \in \Phi_\Delta$, and $\eta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$:

- i. $\bigoplus_\Sigma \bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta = \bigoplus_\Delta \bigoplus_\Sigma^1 \eta$
- ii. $\alpha \otimes \bigoplus_\Sigma \phi = \bigoplus_\Sigma (\alpha \otimes \phi)$ and $(\bigoplus_\Sigma \phi) \otimes \alpha = \bigoplus_\Sigma (\phi \otimes \alpha)$, and similarly for \oplus
- iii. $(\bigoplus_\Sigma \phi) \oplus (\bigoplus_\Sigma \phi') = \bigoplus_\Sigma (\phi \oplus \phi')$ and $(\bigoplus_\Sigma \phi) \otimes (\bigoplus_\Sigma \phi') = \bigoplus_\Sigma (\phi \otimes \phi')$
- iv. $(\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta) \oplus (\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta') = \bigoplus_\Delta^2 (\eta \oplus \eta')$, and $(\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta) \otimes (\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta') = \bigoplus_\Delta^2 (\eta \otimes \eta')$
- v. $\phi \otimes (\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta) = \bigoplus_\Delta (\phi \otimes_1 \eta)$, and $(\bigoplus_\Delta^2 \eta) \otimes \phi = \bigoplus_\Delta (\eta \otimes_1 \phi)$, and similarly for \oplus

partial application is needed?

notion of diagram of functions akin BDD for transitions in practice

mv appendix?

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197 vi. $\psi \otimes (\oplus_{\Sigma}^1 \eta) = \oplus_{\Sigma}(\psi \otimes_2 \eta)$, and $(\oplus_{\Sigma}^1 \eta) \otimes \psi = \oplus_{\Sigma}(\eta \otimes_2 \psi)$, and similarly for \oplus
 198

199 A label theory is called *effective* when for all $\phi \in \Phi_{\Sigma}$ and $\eta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, $\oplus_{\Sigma} \phi$, $\oplus_{\Delta} \oplus_{\Sigma} \eta$, and $\oplus_{\Sigma} \oplus_{\Delta} \eta$ can be effectively computed from ϕ and η .

∃ oracle returning ..200
in worst time com-
plexity T .

► **Example 7.** Consider the music transcription problem, with an input representing a music performance. In order to align the input with a music score, we must take into consideration the expressive timing of human performance that results in small time shifts between an input event and the corresponding notation event. These shifts can be weighted as the time distance between both, computed in the tropical semiring with a base function based on a given $\delta \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$.

$$\delta(< e_1, t_1 >, < e_2, t_2 >) = \begin{cases} |t_1 - t_2| & \text{if } e_1 = e_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

201

◇

3 SW Automata and Transducers

203 We follow the approach of [21] for the computation of distances, between words and languages,
 204 using weighted transducers, and extend it to infinite alphabets. The models introduced in
 205 this section generalize weighted automata and transducers [11] by labeling each transition
 206 with a weight function (instead of a simple weight value), that takes the input and output
 207 symbols as parameters. These functions are similar to the guards of symbolic automata [7, 8],
 208 but they can return values in a generic semiring, whereas the latter guards are restricted to
 209 the Boolean semiring.

210 Let \mathbb{S} be a commutative semiring, Σ and Δ be alphabets called respectively *input* and *output*,
 211 and $\bar{\Phi}$ be a label theory over \mathbb{S} containing Φ_{Σ} , Φ_{Δ} , $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$.

212 ► **Definition 8.** A symbolic-weighted transducer (*swT*) over Σ , Δ , \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$ is a tuple
 213 $T = \langle Q, \text{in}, \bar{w}, \text{out} \rangle$, where Q is a finite set of states, $\text{in} : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ (respectively $\text{out} : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$)
 214 are functions defining the weight for entering (respectively leaving) computation in a state,
 215 and \bar{w} is a triplet of transition functions $w_{10} : Q \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_{\Sigma}$, $w_{01} : Q \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_{\Delta}$, and
 216 $w_{11} : Q \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$.

217 We call *number of transitions* of T the number of pairs of states $q, q' \in Q$ such that w_{10} or
 218 w_{01} or w_{11} is not the constant 0. For convenience, we shall sometimes present transitions as
 219 functions of $Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times (\Delta \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$, overloading the function names, such that,
 220 for all $q, q' \in Q$, $a \in \Sigma$, $b \in \Delta$,

$$\begin{aligned} w_{10}(q, a, \varepsilon, q') &= \phi(a) & \text{where } \phi &= w_{10}(q, q') \in \Phi_{\Sigma}, \\ w_{01}(q, \varepsilon, b, q') &= \psi(b) & \text{where } \psi &= w_{01}(q, q') \in \Phi_{\Delta}, \\ w_{11}(q, a, b, q') &= \eta(a, b) & \text{where } \eta &= w_{11}(q, q') \in \Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}. \end{aligned}$$

222 The *swT* T computes on pairs of words $\langle s, t \rangle \in \Sigma^* \times \Delta^*$, s and t , being respectively called
 223 *input* and *output* word. More precisely, T defines a mapping from $\Sigma^* \times \Delta^*$ into \mathbb{S} , based on
 224 an intermediate function weight_T defined recursively, for every states $q, q' \in Q$, and every
 225 pairs of strings $\langle s, t \rangle \in \Sigma^* \times \Delta^*$, where au , and bv , denote the concatenation of the symbol
 226 $a \in \Sigma$ (resp. $b \in \Delta$) with a word $u \in \Sigma^*$ (resp. $v \in \Delta^*$).

added u and v def 226

$$227 \quad \text{weight}_T(q, \varepsilon, \varepsilon, q') = 1 \quad \text{if } q = q' \text{ and } 0 \text{ otherwise} \quad (1)$$

Je trouve qu'il y a beaucoup de notions à retenir (complete, effective) et ça devient difficile pour un lecteur non spécialiste. Est-ce que tout est nécessaire (je ne sais plus qui m'avait dit: un concept en plus, un point en moins.



$$\begin{aligned}
\text{weight}_T(q, s, t, q') = & \bigoplus_{\substack{q'' \in Q \\ s=au, a \in \Sigma}} w_{10}(q, a, \varepsilon, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_T(q'', u, t, q') \\
& \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{q'' \in Q \\ t=bv, b \in \Delta}} w_{01}(q, \varepsilon, b, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_T(q'', s, v, q') \\
& \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{q'' \in Q \\ s=au, t=bv}} w_{11}(q, a, b, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_T(q'', u, v, q')
\end{aligned}$$

We recall that, by convention (Section 2), an empty sum with \bigoplus is equal to $\mathbb{0}$. Intuitively, using a transition $w_{ij}(q, a, b, q')$ means for T : when reading respectively a and b at the current positions in the input and output words, increment the current position in the input word if and only if $i = 1$, and in the output word iff $j = 1$, and change state from q to q' . When $a = \varepsilon$ (resp. $b = \varepsilon$), the current symbol in the input (resp. output) is not read. Since $\mathbb{0}$ is absorbing for \otimes in \mathbb{S} , one term $w_{ij}(q, a, b, q'')$ equal to $\mathbb{0}$ in the above expression will be ignored in the sum, meaning that there is no possible transition from state q into state q' while reading a and b . This is analogous to the case of a transition's guard not satisfied by $\langle a, b \rangle$ for symbolic transducers.

The expression (1) can be seen as a stateful definition of an edit-distance between a word $s \in \Sigma^*$ and a word $t \in \Delta^*$, see also [22]. Intuitively, $w_{10}(q, a, \varepsilon, r)$ is the cost of the deletion of the symbol $a \in \Sigma$ in s , $w_{01}(q, \varepsilon, b, r)$ is the cost of the insertion of $b \in \Delta$ in t , and $w_{11}(q, a, b, r)$ is the cost of the substitution of $a \in \Sigma$ by $b \in \Delta$. The cost of a sequence of such operations transforming s into t , is the product, with \otimes , of the individual costs of the operations involved; and the distance between s and t is the sum, with \oplus , of all possible products. Formally, the weight associated by T to $\langle s, t \rangle \in \Sigma^* \times \Delta^*$ is:

$$T(s, t) = \bigoplus_{q, q' \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes \text{weight}_T(q, s, t, q') \otimes \text{out}(q') \quad (2)$$

► **Example 9.** Let us develop the example of comparison between music played by a performer, represented as a sequence $s \in \Sigma^*$ of events in the MIDI alphabet Σ , and a music score represented as a sequence $t \in \Delta^*$ in the CWMN alphabet Δ . We build a small weighted transducer model with two states q_0 and q_1 that calculates the distance between s and t .

If one performed event s_i corresponds to one notated event t_1 (for instance MIDI code 61 and pitch A4), the weight value computed by the swT is the time distance between both, as in Example 7, and is modeled by transitions w_{11} below. If we meet the music notation symbol '·' that represents continuation (such as instance in *ties* , or *dots* ) , it is skipped with no cost (transitions w_{01} or weight $\mathbb{1}$).

$$\begin{aligned}
w_{11}(q_0, d, \langle e, d' \rangle, q_0) &= |d' - d| & w_{11}(q_1, d, \langle e, d' \rangle, q_0) &= |d' - d| \\
w_{01}(q_0, \varepsilon, \langle -, d' \rangle, q_0) &= \mathbb{1} & w_{01}(q_1, \varepsilon, \langle -, d' \rangle, q_0) &= \mathbb{1} \\
w_{10}(q_0, d, \varepsilon, q_1) &= \alpha
\end{aligned}$$

We also must be able to take performing errors into account, while still being able to compare with the score, since a performer could, for example, play an unwritten extra note. This is modelled by the transition w_{10} with an arbitrary weight value $\alpha \in \mathbb{S}$, switching from state q_0 (normal) to q_1 (error). The transitions in the second column below switch back to the normal state q_0 . At last, we let q_0 be the only initial and final state, with $\text{in}(q_0) = \text{out}(q_0) = \mathbb{1}$, and $\text{in}(q_1) = \text{out}(q_1) = \mathbb{0}$.

reformulated this sentence

Comprends pas cette phrase

ccl to the ex

266 That way, an swT is capable of evaluating the differences between a score and a perform-
 267 ance, all the while ensuring that performance errors are plausible. \diamond

268 The *Symbolic Weighted Automata* are defined similarly as the transducers of Definition 8, by
 269 simply omitting the output symbols.

270 **► Definition 10.** A symbolic-weighted automaton (swA) over Σ , \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$ is a tuple $A =$
 271 $\langle Q, \text{in}, \text{w}_1, \text{out} \rangle$, where Q is a finite set of states, $\text{in} : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ (respectively $\text{out} : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$) are
 272 functions defining the weight for entering (respectively leaving) computation in a state, and
 273 w_1 is a transition function from $Q \times Q$ into Φ_Σ .

274 As above in the case of swT , when $\text{w}_1(q, q') = \phi \in \Phi_\Sigma$, we may write $\text{w}_1(q, a, q')$ for $\phi(a)$.
 275 The computation of A on words $s \in \Sigma^*$ is defined with an intermediate function weight_A ,
 276 defined as follows for $q, q' \in Q$, $a \in \Sigma$, $u \in \Sigma^*$,

$$277 \quad \text{weight}_A(q, \varepsilon, q) = 1 \quad (3)$$

$$278 \quad \text{weight}_A(q, \varepsilon, q') = 0 \quad \text{if } q \neq q'$$

$$279 \quad \text{weight}_A(q, au, q') = \bigoplus_{q'' \in Q} \text{w}_1(q, a, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A(q'', u, q')$$

281 and the weight value associated by A to $s \in \Sigma^*$ is defined as follows:

$$282 \quad A(s) = \bigoplus_{q, q' \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes \text{weight}_A(q, s, q') \otimes \text{out}(q') \quad (4)$$

Il me manque une explication: on construit un automate qui, étant donnée une partition t , renvoie la distance minimale avec n'importe quelle performance (distance donnée par un transducer)? Quel est le rôle de $A(s)$?

283 The following property will be useful to the approach on symbolic weighted parsing presented
 284 in Section 5.

► **Proposition 11.** Given a swT T over Σ , Δ , \mathbb{S} commutative, bounded and complete, and $\bar{\Phi}$ effective, and a swA A over Σ , \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$, there exists an effectively constructible swA $B_{A,T}$ over Δ , \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$, such that for all $t \in \Delta^*$, $B_{A,T}(t) = \bigoplus_{s \in \Sigma^*} A(s) \otimes T(s, t)$.

288 **Proof.** Let $T = \langle Q, \text{in}_T, \bar{\text{w}}, \text{out}_T \rangle$, where $\bar{\text{w}}$ contains w_{10} , w_{01} , and w_{11} , from $Q \times Q$ into
 289 respectively Φ_Σ , Φ_Δ , and $\Phi_{\Sigma, \Delta}$, and let $A = \langle P, \text{in}_A, \text{w}_1, \text{out}_A \rangle$ with $\text{w}_1 : Q \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_\Sigma$. The
 290 state set of $B_{A,T}$ will be $Q' = P \times Q$. The entering, leaving and transition functions of $B_{A,T}$
 291 will simulate synchronized computations of A and T , while reading an output word of Δ^* .
 292 Its state entering functions is defined for all $p \in P$, $q \in Q$ by $\text{in}'(p, q) = \text{in}_A(p) \otimes \text{in}_T(q)$. The
 293 transition function w'_1 will roughly perform a synchronized product of transitions defined by
 294 w_1 , w_{01} (T reading in output word and not an input word) and w_{11} (T reading both an input
 295 word and an output word). Moreover, w'_1 also needs to simulate transitions defined by w_{10} :
 296 T reading in input word and not an output word. Since $B_{A,T}$ will read only in the output
 297 word, such a transition corresponds to an ε -transition of swA , but swA have been defined
 298 without ε -transitions. Therefore, in order to take care of this case, we perform an on-the-fly
 299 suppression of ε -transition in the swA in construction, following the algorithm of [19].

300 Initially, for all $p_1, p_2 \in P$, and $q_1, q_2 \in Q$, let

$$301 \quad \text{w}'_1(\langle p_1, q_1 \rangle, \langle p_2, q_2 \rangle) = \text{w}_1(p_1, p_2) \otimes [\text{w}_{01}(q_1, q_2) \oplus \bigoplus_{\Sigma} \text{w}_{11}(q_1, q_2)].$$

302 Iterate the following for all $p_1 \in P$ and $q_1, q_2 \in Q$: for all $p_2 \in P$ and $q_3 \in Q$,

$$303 \quad \text{w}'_1(\langle p_1, q_1 \rangle, \langle p_2, q_3 \rangle) \oplus = \bigoplus_{\Sigma} \text{w}_{10}(q_1, q_2) \otimes \text{w}'_1(\langle p_1, q_2 \rangle, \langle p_2, q_3 \rangle)$$

proof correctness 304 and $\text{out}'(p_1, q_1) \oplus = \bigoplus_{\Sigma} \text{w}_{10}(q_1, q_2) \otimes \text{out}'(p_1, q_2)$ \blacktriangleleft

305 The construction time and size for $B_{A,T}$ are $O(\|T\|^3 \cdot \|A\|^2)$, where the sizes $\|T\|$ and $\|A\|$
 306 are their number of states.

revise with nb of tr.
and states

307 ► **Corollary 12.** *Given a swT T over $\Sigma, \Delta, \mathbb{S}$ commutative, bounded and complete, and $\bar{\Phi}$*
 308 *effective, and $s \in \Sigma^+$, there exists an effectively constructible swA $B_{s,T}$ over Δ, \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$,*
 309 *such that for all $t \in \Delta^*$, $B_{s,T}(t) = T(s, t)$.*

310 4 SW Visibly Pushdown Automata

311 The model presented in this section generalizes symbolic VPA (sVPA [6], generalizing them-
 312 selves VPA [1] to infinite alphabets) from Boolean semirings to arbitrary semiring weight
 313 domains. It will compute on nested words over infinite alphabets, associating to every such
 314 word a weight value. Nested words are able to describe structures of labeled trees, and in
 315 the context of parsing, they will be useful to represent AST.

see §5 and App.A

316 Let Ω be a countable alphabet that we assume partitioned into three subsets $\Omega_i, \Omega_c, \Omega_r$,
 317 whose elements are respectively called *internal*, *call* and *return* symbols. Let $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, \emptyset, \otimes, \mathbb{1} \rangle$
 318 be a commutative and complete semiring and let $\bar{\Phi} = \langle \Phi_i, \Phi_c, \Phi_r, \Phi_{ci}, \Phi_{cc}, \Phi_{cr} \rangle$ be a label
 319 theory over \mathbb{S} where Φ_i, Φ_c, Φ_r and Φ_{cx} (with $x \in \{i, c, r\}$) stand respectively for $\Phi_{\Omega_i}, \Phi_{\Omega_c},$
 320 Φ_{Ω_r} and $\Phi_{\Omega_c, \Omega_x}$.

321 ► **Definition 13.** *A Symbolic Weighted Visibly Pushdown Automata (sw-VPA) over $\Omega =$*
 322 *$\Omega_i \uplus \Omega_c \uplus \Omega_r, \mathbb{S}$ and $\bar{\Phi}$ is a tuple $A = \langle Q, P, \text{in}, \bar{w}, \text{out} \rangle$, where Q is a finite set of states, P*
 323 *is a finite set of stack symbols, $\text{in} : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ (respectively $\text{out} : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$) are functions defining*
 324 *the weight for entering (respectively leaving) a state, and \bar{w} is a sextuplet composed of the*
 325 *transition functions : $w_i : Q \times P \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_{ci}$, $w_i^e : Q \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_i$, $w_c : Q \times P \times Q \times P \rightarrow \Phi_{cc}$,*
 326 *$w_c^e : Q \times P \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_c$, $w_r : Q \times P \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_{cr}$, $w_r^e : Q \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_r$.*

327 Similarly as in Section 3, we extend the above transition functions as follows for all $q, q' \in Q$,
 328 $p \in P, a \in \Omega_i, c \in \Omega_c, r \in \Omega_r$, overloading their names:

$w_i : Q \times [\Omega_c \times P] \times \Omega_i \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$	$w_i(q, c, p, a, q') = \eta_{ci}(c, a)$	where $\eta_{ci} = w_i(q, p, q')$,
$w_i^e : Q \times \Omega_i \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$	$w_i^e(q, a, q') = \phi_i(a)$	where $\phi_i = w_i^e(q, q')$.
$w_c : Q \times [\Omega_c \times P] \times [\Omega_c \times P] \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$	$w_c(q, c, p, c', p', q') = \eta_{cc}(c, c')$	where $\eta_{cc} = w_c(q, p, p', q')$,
$w_c^e : Q \times [\Omega_c \times P] \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$	$w_c^e(q, c, p, q') = \phi_c(c)$	where $\phi_c = w_c^e(q, p, q')$.
$w_r : Q \times [\Omega_c \times P] \times \Omega_r \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$	$w_r(q, c, p, r, q') = \eta_{cr}(c, r)$	where $\eta_{cr} = w_r(q, p, q')$,
$w_r^e : Q \times \Omega_r \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$	$w_r^e(q, r, q') = \phi_r(r)$	where $\phi_r = w_r^e(q, q')$.

330 The intuition is the following for the above transitions. w_i^e, w_c^e , and w_r^e describe the cases
 331 where the stack is empty. w_i and w_i^e both read an input internal symbol a and change state
 332 from q to q' , without changing the stack. Moreover, w_i reads a pair made of $c \in \Omega_c$ and
 333 $p \in P$ on the top of the stack (c is compared to a by the weight function $\eta_{ci} \in \Phi_{ci}$). w_c and
 334 w_c^e read the input call symbol c' , push it to the stack along with p' , and change state from q
 335 to to q' . Moreover, w_c reads c and p at the top of the stack (c is compared to c'). w_r and w_r^e
 336 read the input return symbol r , and change state from q to to q' . Moreover, w_r reads and
 337 pop from stack a pair made of c and p , (c is compared to r).

moved this to the
beginning

338 Formally, the transitions of the automaton A are defined in term of an intermediate
 339 function weight_A , like in Section 3. A configuration, denoted by $q[\gamma]$, is here composed of a
 340 state $q \in Q$ and a stack content $\gamma \in \Gamma^*$, where $\Gamma = \Omega_c \times P$. Hence, weight_A is a function
 341 from $[Q \times \Gamma^*] \times \Omega^* \times [Q \times \Gamma^*]$ into \mathbb{S} . The empty stack is denoted by \perp , and the upmost
 342 symbol is the last pushed content. The following functions illustrate each of the possible

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cases, being : reading $a \in \Omega_i$, or $c \in \Omega_c$, or $r \in \Omega_r$ for each possible state of the stack (empty or not), to add to $u \in \Omega^*$.

intro to func

introduced the 6 cases

notation cp for $\langle c, p \rangle$?

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], \varepsilon, q'[\perp]) = \mathbb{1} \text{ if } q = q' \text{ and } \mathbb{0} \text{ otherwise} \quad (5) \\
 & \text{weight}_A\left(q \begin{bmatrix} \langle c, p \rangle \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix}, a u, q'[\gamma']\right) = \bigoplus_{q'' \in Q} w_i(q, c, p, a, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A\left(q'' \begin{bmatrix} \langle c, p \rangle \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix}, u, q'[\gamma']\right) \\
 & \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], a u, q'[\gamma']) = \bigoplus_{q'' \in Q} w_i^e(q, a, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A(q''[\perp], u, q'[\gamma']) \\
 & \text{weight}_A\left(q \begin{bmatrix} \langle c, p \rangle \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix}, c' u, q'[\gamma']\right) = \bigoplus_{\substack{q'' \in Q \\ p' \in P}} w_c(q, c, p, c', p', q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A\left(q'' \begin{bmatrix} \langle c', p' \rangle \\ \langle c, p \rangle \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix}, u, q'[\gamma']\right) \\
 & \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], c u, q'[\gamma']) = \bigoplus_{\substack{q'' \in Q \\ p \in P}} w_c^e(q, c, p, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A(q''[\langle c, p \rangle], u, q'[\gamma']) \\
 & \text{weight}_A\left(q \begin{bmatrix} \langle c, p \rangle \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix}, r u, q'[\gamma']\right) = \bigoplus_{q'' \in Q} w_r(q, c, p, r, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A(q''[\gamma], u, q'[\gamma']) \\
 & \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], r u, q'[\gamma']) = \bigoplus_{q'' \in Q} w_r^e(q, r, q'') \otimes \text{weight}_A(q''[\perp], u, q'[\gamma'])
 \end{aligned}$$

$c p$ to $\langle c, p \rangle$

The weight associated by A to $s \in \Omega^*$ is defined according to empty stack semantics:

$$A(s) = \bigoplus_{q, q' \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], s, q'[\perp]) \otimes \text{out}(q'). \quad (6)$$

todo example VPA

► **Example 14.** structured words with timed symbols... intro language of music notation? (markup = time division, leaves = events etc)

Every swA $A = \langle Q, \text{in}, w_1, \text{out} \rangle$, over Σ, \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$ is a particular case of sw-VPA $\langle Q, \emptyset, \text{in}, \bar{w}, \text{out} \rangle$ over Ω, \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$ with $\Omega_i = \Sigma$ and $\Omega_c = \Omega_r = \emptyset$, and computing with an always empty stack: $w_i^e = w_1$ and all the other functions of \bar{w} are the constant $\mathbb{0}$.

Similarly to VPA [1] and sVPA [6], the class of sw-VPA is closed under the binary operators of the underlying semiring.

► **Proposition 15.** Let A_1 and A_2 be two sw-VPA over the same Ω, \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$. There exists two effectively constructible sw-VPA $A_1 \oplus A_2$ and $A_1 \otimes A_2$, such that for all $s \in \Omega^*$, $(A_1 \oplus A_2)(s) = A_1(s) \oplus A_2(s)$ and $(A_1 \otimes A_2)(s) = A_1(s) \otimes A_2(s)$.

Proof. The construction is essentially the same as in the case of the Boolean semiring [6].

complete proof

We shall now present a procedure for searching, for a sw-VPA A , a word of minimal weight for A , as stated in the following proposition.

► **Proposition 16.** For a sw-VPA A over Ω, \mathbb{S} commutative, bounded, total and complete, and $\bar{\Phi}$ effective, one can construct in PTIME a word $t \in \Omega^*$ such that $A(t)$ is minimal wrt the natural ordering for \mathbb{S} .

Let $A = \langle Q, P, \text{in}, \bar{w}, \text{out} \rangle$. We propose a Dijkstra algorithm computing, for every $q, q' \in Q$, the minimum, wrt \leq_\oplus , of the function $\beta_{q,q'} : t \mapsto \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], t, q'[\perp])$. Let us denote by $b_\perp(q, q')$ this minimum. By definition of \leq_\oplus , and since \mathbb{S} is total, it holds that:

$$b_\perp(q, q') = \bigoplus_{t \in \Omega^*} \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], t, q'[\perp]). \quad (7)$$

Since \mathbb{S} is complete, the infinite sum in (8) is well defined, and, it is the minimum in Ω^* , wrt \leq_\oplus , of the function $s \mapsto \text{weight}_A(q[\sigma], s, q'[\sigma])$. Hence, following (6), and the associativity and commutativity and distributivity for \otimes and \oplus , the minimum of $A(t)$ is

$$\bigoplus_{t \in \Omega^*} \bigoplus_{q, q' \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes \beta_{q,q'}(t) \otimes \text{out}(q') = \bigoplus_{q, q' \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes b_\perp(q, q') \otimes \text{out}(q').$$

In order to compute the above function $b_\perp : Q \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$, we shall use the auxiliary function $b_\top : Q \times P \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_c$. Intuitively, the function defined in (9) associates to $c \in \Omega_c$ the minimum weight of a computation of A starting in state q with a stack $\langle c, p \rangle \cdot \gamma \in \Gamma^+$ and ending in state q' with the same stack, such that the computation can not pop the pair made of c and p at the top of this stack, but may only read these symbols. Moreover, A may push another pair $\langle c', p' \rangle$ on the top of $\langle c, p \rangle \cdot \gamma$, following the third case of in the definition (5) of weight_A , and may pop $\langle c', p' \rangle$ later, following the fifth case of (5) (return symbol).

over Ω , \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$, the minimal weight for a word in Ω^* .

We distinguish two cases : when the stack is empty, and when it is not. In the case of an empty stack, let $b_\perp : Q \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ be such that :

$$b_\perp(q, q') = \bigoplus_{s \in \Omega^*} \text{weight}_A(q[\perp], s, q'[\perp]). \quad (8)$$

The term $q[\perp], s, q'[\perp]$ of this sum is the central expression in the definition (??) of $A(s_0)$, for the minimum s_0 of the function weight_A .

If the stack is not empty, let \top be a fresh stack symbol which does not belong to Γ , and let $b_\top : Q \times P \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_c$ be such that, for every two states $q, q' \in Q$ and stack symbol $p \in P$:

$$b_\top(q, p, q') : c \mapsto \bigoplus_{s \in \Omega^*} \text{weight}_A\left(q \left[\begin{array}{c} \langle c, p \rangle \\ \top \end{array} \right], s, q' \left[\begin{array}{c} \langle c, p \rangle \\ \top \end{array} \right] \right) \quad (9)$$

Algorithm 1 Best search for sw-VPA

initially let $\mathcal{Q} = (Q \times Q) \cup (Q \times P \times Q)$, and let $d_\perp(q_1, q_2) = d_\top(q_1, p, q_2) = \mathbb{1}$ if $q_1 = q_2$ and $d_\perp(q_1, q_2) = d_\top(q_1, p, q_2) = 0$ otherwise

while $\mathcal{Q} \neq \emptyset$ **do**

- extract** $\langle q_1, q_2 \rangle$ or $\langle q_1, p, q_2 \rangle$ from \mathcal{Q} such that $d_\perp(q_1, q_2)$, resp. $\bigoplus_{c \in \Omega_c} d_\top(q_1, p, q_2)(c)$, is minimal in \mathbb{S} wrt \leq_\oplus
- update** d_\perp with $\langle q_1, q_2 \rangle$ or d_\top with $\langle q_1, p, q_2 \rangle$ (Figure 3).

Algorithm 1 constructs iteratively markings $d_\perp : Q \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ and $d_\top : Q \times P \times Q \rightarrow \Phi_c$ that converges eventually to b_\top and b_\perp .

The infinite sums in the updates of d in Algorithm 1, Figure 3 are well defined since \mathbb{S} is complete. ** effectively computable by hypothesis that the label theory is effective**

The algorithm performs $2 \cdot |Q|^2$ iterations until P is empty, and each iteration has a time complexity $O(|Q|^2 \cdot |P|)$. That gives a time complexity $O(|Q|^4 \cdot |P|)$. It can be reduced by implementing P as a priority queue, prioritized by the value returned by d .

The correctness of Algorithm 1 is ensured by the invariant expressed in the following lemma.

introduced 2 cases for b

so ?

b_\top : mot bien par-
enthésé c/r

explication Fig. 3
suivant cas de (5)

complete **

detail with nb tr.
and states

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For all $q_0, q_3 \in Q$,

$$\begin{aligned}
d_{\top}(q_1, p, q_3) &\oplus= d_{\top}(q_1, p, q_2) \otimes \bigoplus_{\Omega_i} w_i(q_2, p, q_3) \\
d_{\perp}(q_1, p, q_3) &\oplus= d_{\perp}(q_1, q_2) \otimes \bigoplus_{\Omega_i} w_i^e(q_2, q_3) \\
d_{\top}(q_0, p, q_3) &\oplus= \bigoplus_{\Omega_c}^2 [(w_c(q_0, p, p', q_1) \otimes_2 d_{\top}(q_1, p', q_2)) \otimes_2 \bigoplus_{\Omega_r} w_r(q_2, p', q_3)] \\
d_{\perp}(q_0, q_3) &\oplus= \bigoplus_{\Omega_c} (w_c^e(q_0, p, q_1) \otimes d_{\top}(q_1, p, q_2) \otimes \bigoplus_{\Omega_r} w_r(q_2, p, q_3)) \\
d_{\perp}(q_1, q_3) &\oplus= d_{\perp}(q_1, q_2) \otimes \bigoplus_{\Omega_r} w_r^e(q_2, q_3) \\
d_{\top}(q_1, p, q_3) &\oplus= d_{\top}(q_1, p, q_2) \otimes d_{\top}(q_2, p, q_3), \text{ if } \langle q_2, \top, q_3 \rangle \notin P \\
d_{\perp}(q_1, q_3) &\oplus= d_{\perp}(q_1, q_2) \otimes d_{\perp}(q_2, q_3), \text{ if } \langle q_2, \perp, q_3 \rangle \notin P
\end{aligned}$$

■ **Figure 3** Update d_{\perp} with $\langle q_1, q_2 \rangle$ or d_{\top} with $\langle q_1, p, q_2 \rangle$.

406 ► **Lemma 17.** For all $\langle q_1, q_2 \rangle \notin Q$, $d_{\perp}(q_1, q_2) = b_{\perp}(q_1, q_2)/$

407 The proof is by contradiction, assuming a counter-example minimal in the length of the
408 witness word.

409 ► **Lemma 18.** For all $\langle q_1, p, q_2 \rangle \notin Q$, $d_{\top}(q_1, p, q_2) = b_{\top}(q_1, p, q_2)$,

410 For computing the minimal weight of a computation of A , we use the fact that, at the
411 termination of Algorithm 1, $\bigoplus_{s \in \Omega^*} A(s) = \bigoplus_{q, q' \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes d_{\perp}(q, q') \otimes \text{out}(q')$.

412 In order to obtain effectively a witness (word of Ω^* with a computation of A of minimal
413 weight), we require the additional property of convexity of weight functions.

414 ► **Proposition 19.** For a sw-VPA A over Ω , \mathbb{S} commutative, bounded, total and complete,
415 and $\bar{\Phi}$ effective, one can construct in PTIME a word $t \in \Omega^*$ such that $A(t)$ is minimal wrt
416 the natural ordering for \mathbb{S} .

417 5 Symbolic Weighted Parsing

418 Let us now apply the models and results of the previous sections to the problem of parsing
419 over an infinite alphabet. Let Σ and $\Omega = \Omega_i \uplus \Omega_c \uplus \Omega_r$ be countable input and output
420 alphabets, let $\langle \mathbb{S}, \oplus, \mathbb{0}, \otimes, \mathbb{1} \rangle$ be a commutative, bounded, and complete semiring and let $\bar{\Phi}$
421 be an effective label theory over \mathbb{S} , containing Φ_{Σ} , Φ_{Σ, Ω_i} , as well as Φ_i , Φ_c , Φ_r , Φ_{cr} (following
422 the notations of Section 4). We assume given the following input:

- 423 – a swT T over Σ , Ω_i , \mathbb{S} , and $\bar{\Phi}$, defining a measure $T : \Sigma^* \times \Omega_i^* \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$,
- 424 – a sw-VPA A over Ω , \mathbb{S} , and $\bar{\Phi}$, defining a measure $A : \Omega^* \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$,
- 425 – an input word $s \in \Sigma^*$.

426 For all $u \in \Sigma^*$ and $t \in \Omega^*$, let $d(u, t) = T(u, t|_{\Omega_i})$, where $t|_{\Omega_i} \in \Omega_i^*$ is the projection of t
427 onto Ω_i , obtained from t by removing all symbols in $\Omega \setminus \Omega_i$. *Symbolic weighted parsing* is the
428 problem, given the above input, to find $t \in \Omega^*$ minimizing $d(s, t) \otimes A(t)$ wrt \leq_{\oplus} , i.e. s.t.

$$429 \quad d(s, t) \otimes A(t) = \bigoplus_{t' \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)} d(s, t') \otimes A(t') \quad (10)$$

total?

430 Following the terminology of [21], **sw**-parsing is the problem of computing the distance (10)
 431 between the input s and the output weighted language of A , and returning a witness t .

432 ► **Proposition 20.** *The problem of Symbolic Weighted parsing can be solved in PTIME in*
 433 *the size of the input **swT** T , **sw-VPA** A and input word s , and the computation time of the*
 434 *functions and operators of the label theory.*

435 **Proof.** (sketch) We follow a *Bar-Hillel* construction, for parsing by intersection. Let us first
 436 extend the **swT** T over Σ, Ω_i into a **swT** T' over Σ and Ω (and the same semiring and label
 437 theory \mathbb{S} and $\bar{\Phi}$), such that for all $u \in \Sigma^*$, and $t \in \Omega^*$, $T'(u, u) = T(u, t|_{\Omega_i})$. The transducer
 438 T' simply skips every symbol $b \in \Omega \setminus \Omega_i$, by the addition to T , of new transitions of the
 439 form $w_{01}(q, \varepsilon, b, q')$. Then, using Corolary 12, we construct from the input word $s \in \Sigma^*$ and
 440 T' a **swA** $B_{s, T'}$, such that for all $t \in \Omega^*$, $B_{s, T'}(t) = d(s, t)$. Next, we compute the **sw-VPA**
 441 $B_{s, T'} \otimes A$, using Proposition 15. It remains to compute a best nested-word $t \in \Omega^*$ using the
 442 best-search procedure of Proposition 19. ◀

443 The **sw**-parsing generalizes the problem of searching the best derivation (AST) of a weighted
 444 CF-grammar G that yields a given input word w . The latter problem, sometimes called *weighted*
 445 *parsing*, (see *e.g.* [13] and [23] for general weighted parsing frameworks) corresponds to **sw**-
 446 parsing in the case of finite alphabets, a transducer T computing the identity and some
 447 **sw-VPA** A obtained from G . Indeed, the *depth-first* traversal of an AST τ yields a well-
 448 parenthesised word $\text{lin}(\tau)$ over an alphabet $\Omega = \Omega_i \uplus \Omega_c \uplus \Omega_r$, assuming *e.g.* that Ω_i contains
 449 the symbols labelling the leaves of τ (symbols of rank 0), and Ω_c and Ω_r contain respectively
 450 one left and right parenthesis \langle_b and \rangle_b for each symbol b labelling inner nodes of τ (symbols
 451 of rank > 0). We show in Appendix A how to construct a **sw-VPA** A such that $A(\text{lin}(\tau))$ is
 452 the weight the AST τ of G .

454 Conclusion

455 We have introduced weighted language models (SW transducers and visibly pushdown
 456 automata) computing over infinite alphabets, and applied them to the problem of parsing
 457 with infinitely many possible input symbols (typically timed events). This approach extends
 458 conventional parsing and weighted parsing by computing a derivation tree modulo a generic
 459 distance between words, defined by a SW transducer given in input. This enables to consider
 460 finer word relationships than strict equality, opening possibilities of quantitative analysis via
 461 this method.

462 Ongoing and future work include

- 463 – The study of other theoretical properties of SW models, such as the extension of the best
 464 search algorithm from 1-best to n -best [17], and to k -closed semirings [20] (instead of *bounded*,
 465 which corresponds to 0-closed).
- 466 – ...there is room to improve the complexity bounds for the algorithms ... modular approach
 467 with oracles ...
- 468 – present here an offline algorithm for best search, semi-online implementation for AMT
 469 (bar-by-bar approach) with an on-the-fly automata construction.

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2 lines Application
to Automated Mu-
sic Transcription:
implementation \neq
but same principle,
on-the-fly automata
construction during
best search, for effi-
ciency.

TODO future work

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528 **A** Nested-Words and Parse-Trees

529 The hierarchical structure of nested-words, defined with the *call* and *return* markup symbols
530 suggest a correspondence with trees. The lifting of this correspondence to languages, of tree
531 automata and VPA, has been discussed in [1], and [4] for the weighted case. In this section,
532 we describe a correspondence between the symbolic-weighted extensions of tree automata
533 and VPA.

534 Let Ω be a countable ranked alphabet, such that every symbol $a \in \Omega$ has a rank
535 $\text{rk}(a) \in [0..M]$ where M is a fixed natural number. We denote by Ω_k the subset of all symbols
536 a of Ω with $\text{rk}(a) = k$, where $0 \leq k \leq M$, and $\Omega_{>0} = \Omega \setminus \Omega_0$. The free Ω -algebra of finite,
537 ordered, Ω -labeled trees is denoted by $\mathcal{T}(\Omega)$. It is the smallest set such that $\Omega_0 \subset \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$
538 and for all $1 \leq k \leq M$, all $a \in \Omega_k$, and all $t_1, \dots, t_k \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$, $a(t_1, \dots, t_k) \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$. Let us
539 assume a commutative semiring \mathbb{S} and a label theory $\bar{\Phi}$ over \mathbb{S} containing one set Φ_{Ω_k} for
540 each $k \in [0..M]$.

541 **► Definition 21.** A symbolic-weighted tree automaton (*swTA*) over Ω , \mathbb{S} , and $\bar{\Phi}$ is a triplet
542 $A = \langle Q, \text{in}, \bar{w} \rangle$ where Q is a finite set of states, $\text{in} : Q \rightarrow \Phi_{\Omega}$ is the starting weight function,
543 and \bar{w} is a tuple of transition functions containing, for each $k \in [0..M]$, the functions
544 $w_k : Q \times Q^k \rightarrow \Phi_{\Omega_{>0}, \Omega_k}$ and $w_k^e : Q \times Q^k \rightarrow \Phi_{\Omega_k}$.

545 We define a transition function $w : Q \times (\Omega_{>0} \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times \Omega \times \bigcup_{k=0}^M Q^k \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ by:

$$\begin{aligned} 546 \quad w(q_0, a, b, q_1 \dots q_k) &= \eta(a, b) & \text{where } \eta &= w_k(q_0, q_1 \dots q_k) \\ w(q_0, \varepsilon, b, q_1 \dots q_k) &= \phi(b) & \text{where } \phi &= w_k^e(q_0, q_1 \dots q_k). \end{aligned}$$

547 where $q_1 \dots q_k$ is ε if $k = 0$. The first case deals with a strict subtree, with a parent node
548 labeled by a , and the second case is for a root tree.

549 Every swTA defines a mapping from trees of $\mathcal{T}(\Omega)$ into \mathbb{S} , based on the following intermediate
550 function $\text{weight}_A : Q \times (\Omega \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times \mathcal{T}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$

$$551 \quad \text{weight}_A(q_0, a, t) = \bigoplus_{q_1 \dots q_k \in Q^k} w(q_0, a, b, q_1 \dots q_k) \otimes \bigotimes_{i=1}^k \text{weight}_A(q_i, b, t_i) \quad (11)$$

552 where $q_0 \in Q$, $a \in \Omega_{>0} \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ and $t = b(t_1, \dots, t_k) \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$, $0 \leq k \leq M$.

553 Finally, the weight associated by A to $t \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$ is

$$554 \quad A(t) = \bigoplus_{q \in Q} \text{in}(q) \otimes \text{weight}_A(q, \varepsilon, t) \quad (12)$$

555 Intuitively, $w(q_0, a, b, q_1 \dots q_k)$ can be seen as the weight of a production rule $q_0 \rightarrow b(q_1, \dots, q_k)$
556 of a regular tree grammar [5], that replaces the non-terminal symbol q_0 by $b(q_1, \dots, q_k)$,
557 provided that the parent of q_0 is labeled by a (or q_0 is the root node if $a = \varepsilon$). The
558 above production rule can also be seen as a rule of a weighted CF grammar, of the form
559 $[a, b] q_0 := q_1 \dots q_k$ if $k > 0$, and $[a] q_0 := b$ if $k = 0$. In the first case, b is a label of the rule,
560 and in the second case, it is a terminal symbol. And in both cases, a is a constraint on the
561 label of rule applied on the parent node in the derivation tree. This features of observing
562 the parent's label are useful in the case of infinite alphabet, where it is not possible to
563 memorize a label with the states. The weight of a labeled derivation tree t of the weighted
564 CF grammar associated to A as above, is $\text{weight}_A(q, t)$, when q is the start non-terminal. We
565 shall now establish a correspondence between such derivation tree t and some word describing
566 a linearization of t , in a way that $\text{weight}_A(q, t)$ can be computed by a sw-VPA.

567 Let $\hat{\Omega}$ be the countable (unranked) alphabet obtained from Ω by: $\hat{\Omega} = \Omega_i \uplus \Omega_c \uplus \Omega_r$, with
 568 $\Omega_i = \Omega_0$, $\Omega_c = \{ \langle a \mid a \in \Omega_{>0} \rangle \}$, $\Omega_r = \{ a \mid a \in \Omega_{>0} \}$.

569 We associate to $\hat{\Omega}$ a label theory $\hat{\Phi}$ like in Section 4, and we define a linearization of trees of
 570 $\mathcal{T}(\Omega)$ into words of $\hat{\Omega}^*$ as follows:

571 $\text{lin}(a) = a$ for all $a \in \Omega_0$,

572 $\text{lin}(b(t_1, \dots, t_k)) = \langle_b \text{lin}(t_1) \dots \text{lin}(t_k)_b \rangle$ when $b \in \Omega_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq M$.

573 ► **Proposition 22.** *For all swTA A over Ω , \mathbb{S} commutative, and $\bar{\Phi}$, there exists an effectively*
 574 *constructible sw-VPA A' over $\hat{\Omega}$, \mathbb{S} and $\hat{\Phi}$ such that for all $t \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$, $A'(\text{lin}(t)) = A(t)$.*

575 **Proof.** Let $A = \langle Q, \text{in}, \bar{w} \rangle$ where \bar{w} is presented as above by a function We build $A' =$
 576 $\langle Q', P', \text{in}', \bar{w}', \text{out}' \rangle$, where $Q' = \bigcup_{k=0}^M Q^k$ is the set of sequences of state symbols of A , of
 577 length at most M , including the empty sequence denoted by ε , and where $P' = Q'$ and \bar{w} is
 578 defined by:

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 w_i(q_0 \bar{u}, \langle_c \bar{p}, a, \bar{u} \rangle) & = & w(q_0, c, a, \varepsilon) \quad \text{for all } c \in \Omega_{>0}, a \in \Omega_0 \\
 w_i^e(q_0 \bar{u}, a, \bar{u}) & = & w(q_0, \varepsilon, a, \varepsilon) \quad \text{for all } a \in \Omega_0 \\
 w_c(q_0 \bar{u}, \langle_c \bar{p}, \langle_d \bar{u}, \bar{q} \rangle \rangle) & = & w(q_0, c, d, \bar{q}) \quad \text{for all } c, d \in \Omega_{>0} \\
 579 \quad w_c^e(q_0 \bar{u}, \langle_c \bar{u}, \bar{q} \rangle) & = & w(q_0, \varepsilon, c, \bar{q}) \quad \text{for all } c \in \Omega_{>0} \\
 w_r(\varepsilon, \langle_c \bar{p}, c \rangle, \bar{p}) & = & \mathbb{1} \quad \text{for all } c \in \Omega_{>0} \\
 w_r^e(\bar{u}, c, \bar{q}) & = & \mathbb{0} \quad \text{for all } c \in \Omega_{>0}
 \end{array}$$

580 All cases not matched by one of the above equations have a weight $\mathbb{0}$, for instance $w_r(\bar{u}, \langle_c \bar{p}, d \rangle, \bar{q}) =$
 581 $\mathbb{0}$ if $c \neq d$ or $\bar{u} \neq \varepsilon$ or $\bar{q} \neq \bar{p}$. ◀

582 **Todo list**

583	register: skip refs and details, add Mikolaj recent	2
584	La figure 2 est citée avant la figure 1 mais apparait longtemps après. A corriger. . .	2
585	Tu fais une différence entre model et automata?	2
586	This sentence (symbols as variables) is not immediately clear to me. Maybe a short example or intuition?	2
588	modified	2
589	Tu veux dire: les modèles formels que tu combines?	2
590	chap. intersection in [15]	3
591	The notation $A_{T,s}$ has not been introduced so far. It is not clear why T is a parameter there	3
593	expressiveness: VPA have restricted equality test. comparable to pebble automata? → conclusion	3
595	The results are established for a general class of semirings. They can be instantiated for concrete cases	3
597	There is sometimes a confusion in the text between the struture and the domain \mathbb{S} . Not essential	3
599	is total necessary?	4
600	Here the difference between \mathbb{S} as a structure and as a domain is blurred.	4
601	$j \in \mathbb{N}$: j is en element of \mathbb{N} , not the same $s \ j \subset \mathbb{N}$	4
602	results of this paper: for semirings commutative, bounded, total and complete . . .	4
603	partial application is needed?	5
604	notion of diagram of functions akin BDD for transitions in practice	5
605	mv appendix?	5
606	Je trouve qu'il y a beaucoup de notions à retenir (complete, effective) et ça devient difficile pour un lecteur non spécialiste. Est-ce que tout est nécessaire (je ne sais plus qui m'avait dit: un concept en plus, un point en moins.	6
609	\exists oracle returning ... in worst time complexity T	6
610	added u and v def	6
611	reformulated this sentence	7
612	Comprends pas cette phrase	7
613	ccl to the ex	7
614	Il me manque une explication: on construit un automate qui, étant donnée une partition t , renvoie la distance minimale avec n'importe quelle performance (distance donnée par un transducer)? Quel est le rôle de $A(s)$?	8
617	proof correctness	8
618	revise with nb of tr. and states	9
619	see §5 and App.A	9
620	moved this to the beginning	9
621	intro to func	10
622	introduced the 6 cases	10
623	notation cp for $\langle c, p \rangle$?	10
624	$c \ p$ to $\langle c, p \rangle$	10
625	todo example VPA	10
626	complete proof	10
627	total?	11
628	introduced 2 cases for b	11
629	so ?	11

630 b_{\top} : mot bien parenthésé c/r 11

631 explication Fig. 3 suivant cas de (5) 11

632 complete ** 11

633 detail with nb tr. and states 11

634 total? 12

635 2 lines Application to Automated Music Transcription: implementation \neq but same
636 principle, on-the-fly automata construction during best search, for efficiency. . . . 13

637 TODO future work 13

