

Computing the translational hull of an arbitrary semigroup

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We can compute the translational hull of an arbitrary finite semigroup S by backtrack search. Let $R = \{r_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ be a minimal set of representatives of the \mathcal{L} - and \mathcal{R} -classes of S . We write left [right] translations on the left [right]. Let λ and ρ be the linked left and right translations to be constructed, respectively. Then all pairs λ and ρ are determined by the values $\lambda(r_i)$, $(r_i)\rho$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$.

To determine allowed values for λ and ρ we can backtrack search:

Algorithm 1 Backtrack search for linked pairs

Compute the multiplication table of S for faster checks

while there are more possibilities to check **do**

for $i = 1$ to n **do**

 Choose $\lambda(r_i)$ from the available values

for $s \in S^1$ **do**

 Set $\lambda(r_i s) = \lambda(r_i) s$

if a value has been overwritten **then**

 Backtrack

end if

for $i < j \leq n$ **do**

if $r_i s = r_j t$ for some $t \in S^1$ **then**

 Restrict possible values for $\lambda(r_j)$ using the translation condition $\lambda(r_j) t = \lambda(r_i) s$

if there are no possible values for $\lambda(r_j)$ **then**

 Backtrack

end if

end if

 Restrict possible values for $(r_j)\rho$ using the linked pairs condition $r_j \lambda(r_i s) = (r_j)\rho r_i s$

if there are no possible values for $(r_j)\rho$ **then**

 Backtrack

end if

end for

end for

 Choose $(r_i)\rho$ such that $r_i \lambda(r_i) = (r_i)\rho r_i$

 Propagate ρ and restrict, dually to λ .

end for

 Store λ and ρ , backtrack.

end while

To see that the produced λ , ρ are linked translations, let $a, b \in S$. Then $a = r_i x$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n$, $x \in S$. Since we backtracked if we found $r_k y = r_i x$ with $\lambda(r_k) y \neq \lambda(r_i) x$, we can choose

r_i freely. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda(a)b &= \lambda(r_i x)b \\ &= \lambda(r_i)xb \\ &= \lambda(r_i xb) \\ &= \lambda(ab)\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $a(b)\rho = (ab)\rho$.

Now $a = ur_i$, and $b = r_j x$ for some $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ and $u, s \in S^1$. By construction, $r_i \lambda(r_j) = (r_i)\rho r_j$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned}a\lambda(b) &= ur_i \lambda(r_j)x \\ &= u(r_i)\rho r_j x \\ &= (a)\rho b\end{aligned}$$

Note: instead of R , we could modify the algorithm to work with a set A which is minimal such that $AS = S$, $SA = S$, and then would have that $|A| \leq n$.