

Lemma: If  $(\alpha, \alpha)(\beta, \beta) \neq 0$  and  $|\alpha| = |\beta|$ , then  $\alpha = \beta$ . Proof:  
 WOLOG suppose  $\alpha$  is a prefix of  $\beta$ . Then  $\alpha = \beta\beta'$  for some  $\beta'$ . But  $|\alpha| = |\beta|$ , so  $|\beta'| = 0$ , meaning  $\beta' = s(\beta)$ . Thus  $\alpha = \beta s(\beta) = \beta$ . An immediate consequence of this is that a proper filter contains at most one path of any given length.

Let  $E$  be a directed graph, and  $\alpha \in E^*$  such that  $|r^{-1}\{s(\alpha)\}| = \infty$ . Let  $X, Y \subseteq_{\text{fin}} E(S(E))$ , and  $Z$  be a finite cover of  $E^{X,Y}$ . If  $\xi_\alpha \in \mathcal{U}(X, Y)$ , then  $\xi_\alpha \cap Z \neq \emptyset$ . Proof:

First note:

$$\begin{aligned} E^{X,Y} &= \{e \in E(S(E)): e \leq x \ \forall x \in X \text{ and } ey = 0 \ \forall y \in Y\} \\ &= \{e \in E(S(E)): e \leq \min(X) \text{ and } ey = 0 \ \forall y \in Y\} \\ &= E^{\{\min(X)\}, Y} \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $\min(X) = (x, x)$ ,

$$E^{X,Y} = \{(xx', xx'): x' \in E^*, r(x') = s(x) \text{ and } (xx', xx')y = 0 \ \forall y \in Y\}$$

Consider the set  $C := \{(\alpha b, \alpha b): b \in E^1, s(\alpha) = r(b)\}$ . By the assumption that  $s(\alpha)$  is an infinite receiver,  $C$  is infinite. Given  $y \in Y$ , let  $\nu$  be the path corresponding to  $y$ . Since  $\xi_\alpha \in \mathcal{U}(X, Y)$ ,  $\nu$  is not a prefix of  $\alpha$ , and thus not a proper prefix of  $\alpha b$  for any  $b$ . Thus, if  $(\alpha b, \alpha b)y \neq 0$ ,  $\alpha b$  is a prefix of  $\nu$ . Then for  $\beta \neq b$ ,  $\alpha\beta$  cannot be a prefix of  $\nu$ . So there is at most one element of  $C$  such that  $(\alpha b, \alpha b)y \neq 0$ . By the assumption that  $Y$  is finite, all but finitely many elements of  $C$  are inside  $E^{\{(x,x)\}, Y}$ . Therefore, if  $Z$  is a cover of  $E^{X,Y}$ ,  $Z$  is an outer cover of the infinite set  $E^{X,Y} \cap C$ . Because  $Z$  is finite,  $\exists z \in Z$  with  $(\alpha b, \alpha b)z \neq 0$  for infinitely many  $(\alpha b, \alpha b) \in E^{X,Y} \cap C$ . If  $v$  is the path corresponding to  $z$ , then for every  $b$ , either  $v$  is a prefix of  $\alpha b$ , or  $\alpha b$  is a prefix of  $v$ . All the  $\alpha b$  are the same length with a different starting edge, so if one is a prefix of  $v$ , no other can be a prefix of  $v$ . So  $v$  is a prefix of  $\alpha b$  for infinitely many  $b$ . Thus  $|v| \leq |\alpha| + 1$ . If  $|v| = |\alpha| + 1$ , we have a contradiction:  $b = \beta$  for all  $(\alpha b, \alpha b), (\alpha\beta, \alpha, \beta) \in C$ . Thus  $|v| \leq |\alpha|$ , so  $v$  is a prefix of  $\alpha$ . Therefore  $z = (v, v) \in \xi_\alpha$ , so  $\xi_\alpha \cap Z \neq \emptyset$ .