

Lemma: If $(\alpha, \alpha)(\beta, \beta) \neq 0$ and $|\alpha| = |\beta|$, then $\alpha = \beta$. Proof: WOLOG suppose α is a prefix of β . Then $\alpha = \beta\beta'$ for some β' . 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.

Theorem: $\hat{E}_0 = \{\xi_\alpha: \alpha \in E^*\} \cup \{\eta_x: x \in E^\infty\}$. Proof:

First we show that ξ_α and η_x are filters. Let α be a finite path and let x be an infinite path. Consider $(\beta, \beta), (\gamma, \gamma) \in \xi_\alpha$ with $|\beta| = m, |\gamma| = n$. Reading edges left to right, β contains the first m edges of α and γ contains the first n edges of α . Without loss of generality, assume $m \leq n$. We can extend β by the next $n - m$ edges of α to produce γ . Thus β is a prefix of γ , so $(\beta, \beta)(\gamma, \gamma) = (\gamma, \gamma) \in \xi_\alpha$. A similar argument shows that η_x is closed under multiplication.

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 ν be the path corresponding to y . Since $\xi_\alpha \in \mathcal{U}(X, Y)$, ν is not a prefix of α , and thus not a proper prefix of αb for any b . Thus, if $(\alpha b, \alpha b)y \neq 0$, αb is a prefix of ν . Then for $\beta \neq b$, $\alpha\beta$ cannot be a prefix of ν . 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 αb , or αb is a prefix of v . All the αb 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 αb 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 α . Therefore $z = (v, v) \in \xi_\alpha$, so $\xi_\alpha \cap Z \neq \emptyset$.