

Kleene Algebra and Kleene Algebra with Tests

Part II

December 8, 2015

Today – Completeness and Complexity

- Introduction to KAT
- Encoding Hoare logic
- Completeness for the equational theory
- Completeness for the Hoare theory (reasoning under assumptions)
- Completeness and incompleteness results for PHL
- Complexity (PSPACE completeness)
- Typed KA and KAT and relation to type theory

Kleene Algebra with Tests (KAT)

Axioms of Boolean Algebra

$$a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$$

$$a + b = b + a$$

$$a + 0 = a$$

$$a + a = a$$

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac$$

$$a0 = 0$$

$$\overline{a + b} = \bar{a} \bar{b}$$

$$\overline{\bar{a}} = a$$

$$a(bc) = (ab)c$$

$$ab = ba$$

$$a1 = a$$

$$aa = a$$

$$(a + b)c = ac + bc$$

$$a + 1 = 1$$

$$\overline{ab} = \bar{a} + \bar{b}$$

Kleene Algebra with Tests (KAT)

A Mix of Kleene and Boolean Algebra

$$(K, +, \cdot, *, -, 0, 1), \quad B \subseteq K$$

- $(K, +, \cdot, *, 0, 1)$ is a Kleene algebra
- $(B, +, \cdot, -, 0, 1)$ is a Boolean algebra
- $(B, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ is a subalgebra of $(K, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$
- p, q, r, \dots range over K
- a, b, c, \dots range over B

Kleene Algebra with Tests (KAT)

A Mix of Kleene and Boolean Algebra

$+$, \cdot , 0 , 1 serve double duty

- applied to **actions**, denote **choice**, **composition**, **fail**, and **skip**, resp.
- applied to **tests**, denote **disjunction**, **conjunction**, **falsity**, and **truth**, resp.
- these usages do not conflict!

$$bc = b \wedge c$$

$$b + c = b \vee c$$

Models of KAT

- Relational models
 - K = binary relations on a set X
 - B = subsets of the identity relation
- Trace models
 - K = sets of traces $s_0 p_0 s_1 p_1 s_2 \cdots s_{n-1} p_{n-1} s_n$
 - B = traces of length 0
- Language-theoretic models
 - K = sets of guarded strings over Σ, T
 - B = free Boolean algebra generated by T
- $n \times n$ matrices over K, B

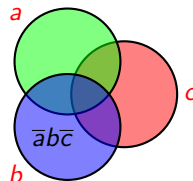
Guarded Strings over Σ, T [Kaplan 69]

Σ action symbols T test symbols

B = free Boolean algebra generated by T

At = atoms of $B = \{\alpha, \beta, \dots\}$

E.g. if $T = \{a, b, c\}$, then $\bar{a}b\bar{c}$ is an atom



Guarded strings $\alpha_0 p_0 \alpha_1 p_1 \alpha_2 \cdots \alpha_{n-1} p_{n-1} \alpha_n \in (\text{At} \cdot \Sigma)^* \cdot \text{At}$

Guarded strings are the join-irreducible elements of the free KAT on generators Σ, T

Standard Interpretation of KAT

Regular sets of guarded strings over Σ, T

$$A + B = A \cup B$$

$$AB = \{x\alpha y \mid x\alpha \in A, \alpha y \in B\}$$

$$A^* = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} A^n = A^0 \cup A^1 \cup A^2 \cup \dots$$

$$1 = \text{At}$$

$$0 = \emptyset$$

- $p \in \Sigma$ interpreted as $\{\alpha p \beta \mid \alpha, \beta \in \text{At}\}$
- $b \in T$ interpreted as $\{\alpha \mid \alpha \leq b\}$
- $\text{GS}(e) = \{\text{guarded strings represented by } e\}$

Modeling While Programs

$$\begin{aligned} p; q &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} pq \\ \text{if } b \text{ then } p \text{ else } q &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} bp + \bar{b}q \\ \text{while } b \text{ do } p &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (bp)^* \bar{b} \end{aligned}$$

KAT Subsumes Hoare Logic

$$\begin{aligned}\{b\} p \{c\} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} bp \leq pc \\ &\iff bp = bpc \\ &\iff bp\bar{c} = 0\end{aligned}$$

The Hoare while rule

$$\frac{\{bc\} p \{c\}}{\{c\} \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ p \ \{\bar{b}c\}}$$

becomes the universal Horn sentence

$$bcp\bar{c} = 0 \Rightarrow c(bp)^* \bar{b}\bar{b}c = 0$$

Deductive Completeness and Complexity

- The regular sets of guarded strings over Σ, T form the free KAT on generators Σ, T
- KAT is deductively complete over relational and trace models
- Subsumes propositional Hoare logic (PHL)
- KAT is deductively complete for all relationally valid Hoare-style rules

$$\frac{\{b_1\} p_1 \{c_1\}, \dots, \{b_n\} p_n \{c_n\}}{\{b\} p \{c\}}$$

(PHL is not!)

- PSPACE-complete (thus no harder to decide than KA or PHL)

Automata with Tests

aka Automata on Guarded Strings

- A generalization of classical automata theory to include Booleans
- An ε -transition is really a 1-transition (i.e., an ordinary automaton with ε -transitions is an automaton with tests over the two-element Boolean algebra)
- Classical constructions of ordinary finite-state automata generalize readily
 - determinization
 - state minimization
 - Kleene's theorem

Deductive Completeness

The Equational Theory

We have defined several different but related classes of algebras:

- Kleene algebras (KA)
- star-continuous Kleene algebras (KA^*)
- closed semirings (CS)
- complete semirings or S -algebras (SA)
- relational models (Rel)
- trace models (Tr)
- language-theoretic models (Lan)
- Reg_Σ .

Will show: All these classes of models have the same equational theory over the signature $+, \cdot, *, 0, 1$ of Kleene algebra, and it is the same as the equational theory of the regular sets.

What are we talking about?

Let σ denote the signature $+, \cdot, *, 0, 1$ of Kleene algebra. A σ -algebra is any structure of signature σ . (Need not satisfy the axioms of Kleene algebra.)

Example: RExp_Σ can be regarded as a σ -algebra. The distinguished operations are defined syntactically; for example, $+$ takes regular expressions s and t and produces the regular expression $s + t$.

Homomorphisms and Interpretations

For σ -algebras C, C' , a **homomorphism** from $C \rightarrow C'$ is a map $h : C \rightarrow C'$ that commutes with all the distinguished operations and constants of σ ; that is, for all $x, y \in C$,

$$h(x + y) = h(x) + h(y)$$

$$h(xy) = h(x) \cdot h(y)$$

$$h(x^*) = h(x)^*$$

$$h(0) = 0$$

$$h(1) = 1.$$

Operators and constants on the left-hand side are interpreted in C and on the right-hand side in C' .

An **interpretation** is a homomorphism with domain RExp_Σ . Interpretations are uniquely determined by their values on Σ .

Equational Theories

Let s, t be regular expressions and $I : \text{RExp}_{\Sigma} \rightarrow C$ an interpretation.

We write $C, I \models s = t$ and say that $s = t$ **holds under** I and if $I(s) = I(t)$.

If \mathcal{A} is a family of interpretations C, I , we write $\mathcal{A} \models s = t$ and say that $s = t$ **holds in** \mathcal{A} if $C, I \models s = t$ for all $C, I \in \mathcal{A}$.

The **equational theory** of \mathcal{A} , denoted $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{A})$, is the set of equations that hold in \mathcal{A} .

Theorem

The following classes of algebras all have the same equational theory:

- *Kleene algebras (KA)*
- *star-continuous Kleene algebras (KA^{*})*
- *closed semirings (CS)*
- *complete semirings or S-algebras (SA)*
- *relational models (Rel)*
- *trace models (Tr)*
- *language-theoretic models (Lan).*

Moreover, for $s, t \in \text{RExp}_\Sigma$, $s = t$ is a member of this theory iff $R(s) = R(t)$, where $R : \text{RExp}_\Sigma \rightarrow \text{Reg}_\Sigma$ is the standard interpretation.

Equational Theories

Inclusions easy in one direction: since

$$\mathbf{KA} \supseteq \mathbf{KA}^* \supseteq \mathbf{CS} \supseteq \mathbf{SA} \supseteq \mathbf{Rel} \supseteq \mathbf{Tr} \supseteq \mathbf{Lan} \supseteq \{\mathcal{R}\}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{KA}) &\subseteq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{KA}^*) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{CS}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{SA}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{Rel}) \\ &\subseteq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{Tr}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{Lan}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\{\mathcal{R}\}). \end{aligned}$$

Completeness of Star-Continuity

We have argued

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}(\text{KA}) &\subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{KA}^*) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{CS}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{SA}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{Rel}) \\ &\subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{Tr}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{Lan}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\{\mathcal{R}\}).\end{aligned}$$

We now show that

$$\mathcal{E}(\{\mathcal{R}\}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\text{KA}^*);$$

that is, if $\text{RExp}_\Sigma, R \models s = t$, then $\text{KA}^* \models s = t$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}(\text{KA}^*) &= \mathcal{E}(\text{CS}) = \mathcal{E}(\text{SA}) = \mathcal{E}(\text{Rel}) \\ &= \mathcal{E}(\text{Tr}) = \mathcal{E}(\text{Lan}) = \mathcal{E}(\{\mathcal{R}\}).\end{aligned}$$

(The proof for KA is harder.)

Completeness of Star-Continuity

Lemma

For any $s, t, u \in \text{RExp}_\Sigma$, the following holds in any star-continuous Kleene algebra K :

$$stu = \sup_{x \in R(t)} sxu.$$

In other words, if K is star-continuous, then under any interpretation $I : \text{RExp}_\Sigma \rightarrow K$, the supremum of the set

$$\{I(sxu) \mid x \in R(t)\}$$

exists and is equal to $I(stu)$.

Completeness of Star-Continuity

Proof: Induction on the structure of t . For the case * , we use the * -continuity axiom:

$$\begin{aligned} st^*u &= \sup_{n \geq 0} st^n u \\ &= \sup_{n \geq 0} \sup_{x \in R(t^n)} sxu \\ &= \sup_{x \in \bigcup_{n \geq 0} R(t^n)} sxu \\ &= \sup_{x \in R(t^*)} sxu. \end{aligned}$$

Completeness of Star-Continuity

Theorem

$KA^* \models s = t$ iff $R(s) = R(t)$.

Proof.

(\Rightarrow) is immediate, since Reg_Σ is a star-continuous Kleene algebra. Conversely, by two applications of the Lemma, if $R(s) = R(t)$, then under any interpretation in any star-continuous Kleene algebra,

$$s = \sup_{x \in R(s)} x = \sup_{x \in R(t)} x = t.$$



Free Algebras

Another way of saying this is that Reg_Σ is the **free star-continuous Kleene algebra on generators Σ** . The term **free** intuitively means that Reg_Σ is free from any equations except those that it is forced to satisfy in order to be a star-continuous Kleene algebra.

Formally, an algebra A of a class of algebras \mathcal{C} of the same signature is said to be **free on generators X for the class \mathcal{C}** if

- A is generated by X ;
- any function h from X into another algebra $B \in \mathcal{C}$ extends to a homomorphism $\hat{h} : A \rightarrow B$.

The extension is necessarily unique, since a homomorphism is completely determined by its action on a generating set.

Equivalently, every interpretation $I : \text{RExp}_\Sigma \rightarrow K$, where $K \in \text{KA}^*$, factors through R ; that is, there exists a homomorphism $h : \text{Reg}_\Sigma \rightarrow K$ such that $I = h \circ R$.

Completeness of KA

To show completeness of KA, we will encode some classical combinatorial constructions of the theory of finite automata algebraically:

- construction of a transition matrix representing a finite automaton equivalent to a given regular expression (Kleene 1956, Conway 1971)
- elimination of ε -transitions (Kuich and Salomaa 1986, Sakarovitch 1987)

We will add two other fundamental constructions:

- determinization of an automaton via the subset construction, and
- state minimization via equivalence modulo a Myhill-Nerode equivalence relation.

We then use the uniqueness of the minimal deterministic finite automaton to obtain completeness.

Finite Automata over a KA

A **finite automaton** over a KA K is represented by a triple $\mathcal{A} = (u, A, v)$, where $u, v \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and A is an $n \times n$ matrix over K for some n .

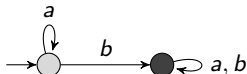
The **states** are the row and column indices. A **start state** is an index i for which $u(i) = 1$. A **final state** is an index i for which $v(i) = 1$. The matrix A is called the **transition matrix**.

The **language accepted by** \mathcal{A} is the element $u^T A^* v \in K$.

For automata over the free KA on generators Σ , this is essentially equivalent to the classical combinatorial definition. A similar definition can be found in (Conway 1971).

Example

Consider the two-state automaton



Classically, this automaton accepts the set of strings over $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ containing at least one occurrence of b . In our formalism,

$$\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & a+b \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

Modulo the axioms of KA,

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & a+b \end{bmatrix}^* \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a^* & a^*b(a+b)^* \\ 0 & (a+b)^* \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= a^*b(a+b)^*. \end{aligned}$$

Simple Automata

Definition

Let $\mathcal{A} = (u, A, v)$ be an automaton over \mathcal{F}_Σ , the free Kleene algebra on free generators Σ . \mathcal{A} is said to be **simple** if A can be expressed as a sum

$$A = J + \sum_{a \in \Sigma} a \cdot A_a$$

where J and the A_a are 0-1 matrices. In addition, \mathcal{A} is said to be **ε -free** if J is the zero matrix. Finally, \mathcal{A} is said to be **deterministic** if it is simple and ε -free, and u and all rows of A_a have exactly one 1.

The automaton of the previous example is simple, ε -free, and deterministic.

Completeness

The first lemma asserts that Kleene's theorem is a theorem of KA.

Lemma

For every regular expression s over Σ (or more accurately, its image in the free KA under the canonical interpretation), there is a simple automaton (u, A, v) such that

$$s = u^T A^* v$$

is a theorem of KA.

Proof: By induction on the structure of s .

Completeness

For $a \in \Sigma$, the automaton

$$\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

suffices, since

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^* \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= a. \end{aligned}$$

Completeness

For $s + t$, let $\mathcal{A} = (u, A, v)$ and $\mathcal{B} = (x, B, y)$ be automata such that

$$s = u^T A^* v \qquad t = x^T B^* y.$$

Consider the automaton with transition matrix

$$\left[\begin{array}{c|c} A & 0 \\ \hline 0 & B \end{array} \right]$$

and start and final state vectors

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} u \\ x \end{array} \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} v \\ y \end{array} \right],$$

respectively. (Corresponds to a **disjoint union** construction.)

Completeness

Then

$$\left[\begin{array}{c|c} A & 0 \\ \hline 0 & B \end{array} \right]^* = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} A^* & 0 \\ \hline 0 & B^* \end{array} \right],$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\begin{array}{c|c} u^T & x^T \end{array} \right] \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c|c} A^* & 0 \\ \hline 0 & B^* \end{array} \right] \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c} v \\ y \end{array} \right] \\ = u^T A^* v + x^T B^* y \\ = s + t. \end{aligned}$$

Completeness

For st , let $\mathcal{A} = (u, A, v)$ and $\mathcal{B} = (x, B, y)$ be automata such that

$$s = u^T A^* v \quad t = x^T B^* y.$$

Consider the automaton with transition matrix

$$\left[\begin{array}{c|c} A & vx^T \\ \hline 0 & B \end{array} \right]$$

and start and final state vectors

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} u \\ 0 \end{array} \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ y \end{array} \right],$$

respectively. (Corresponds to forming the disjoint union and connecting the accept states of \mathcal{A} to the start states of \mathcal{B} .)

Completeness

Then

$$\left[\begin{array}{c|c} A & vx^T \\ \hline 0 & B \end{array} \right]^* = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} A^* & A^* vx^T B^* \\ \hline 0 & B^* \end{array} \right],$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{c|c} u^T & 0 \end{array} \right] \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c|c} A^* & A^* vx^T B^* \\ \hline 0 & B^* \end{array} \right] \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ y \end{array} \right] \\ &= u^T A^* vx^T B^* y \\ &= st. \end{aligned}$$

Completeness

For s^* , let $\mathcal{A} = (u, A, v)$ be an automaton such that $s = u^T A^* v$. First produce an automaton equivalent to the expression ss^* . Consider the automaton

$$(u, A + vu^T, v).$$

This construction corresponds to the combinatorial construction of adding ε -transitions from the final states of \mathcal{A} back to the start states. Using denesting and sliding,

$$\begin{aligned} u^T (A + vu^T)^* v &= u^T A^* (vu^T A^*)^* v \\ &= u^T A^* v (u^T A^* v)^* \\ &= ss^*. \end{aligned}$$

Once we have an automaton for ss^* , we can get an automaton for $s^* = 1 + ss^*$ by the construction for $+$ given above, using a trivial one-state automaton for 1.

Removing ε -Transitions

This construction models ε -closure.

Lemma

For every simple automaton (u, A, v) over the free KA, there is a simple ε -free automaton (s, B, t) such that

$$u^T A^* v = s^T B^* t.$$

Proof.

Write A as a sum $A = J + A'$ where J is 0-1 and A' is ε -free. Then

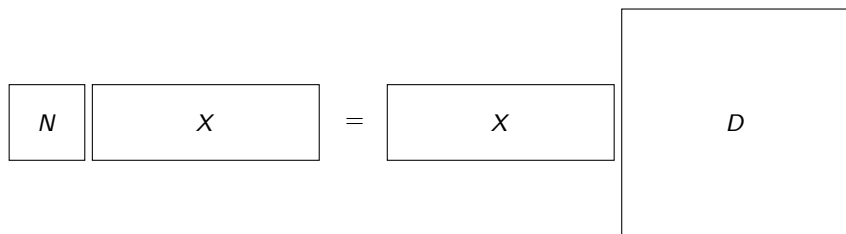
$$u^T A^* v = u^T (A' + J)^* v = u^T J^* (A' J^*)^* v$$

by denesting, so we can take

$$s^T = u^T J^* \qquad B = A' J^* \qquad t = v.$$

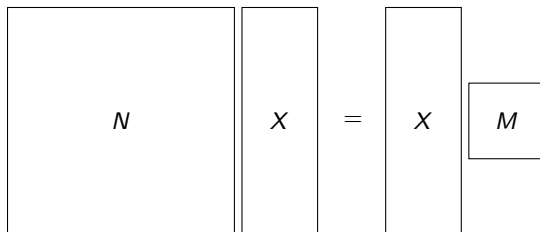
Then J^* is 0-1 and B is ε -free. □

Determinization



$$NX = XD \Rightarrow N^*X = XD^*$$

Minimization via a Myhill–Nerode Relation



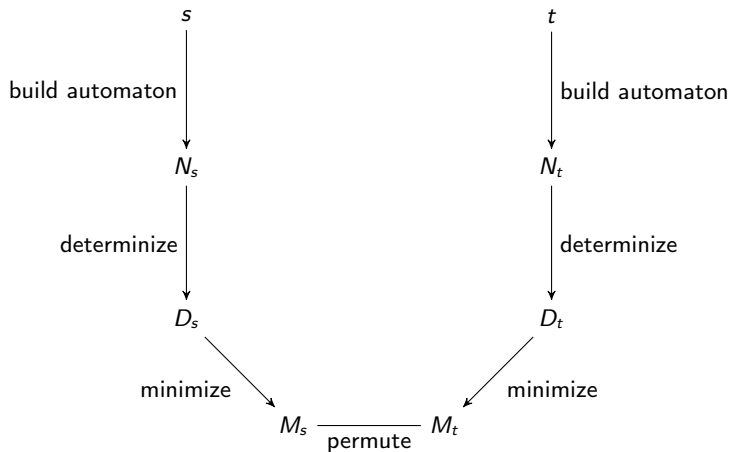
$$NX = XM \Rightarrow N^*X = XM^*$$

Isomorphic Automata

$$\boxed{P^{-1}} \quad \boxed{A} \quad \boxed{P} = \boxed{B}$$

$$(P^{-1}AP)^* = P^{-1}A^*P$$

Putting the Steps Together...



Completeness of KAT

Let $T = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ be the set of atomic tests. Let $\overline{T} = \{\overline{b}_1, \dots, \overline{b}_n\}$. Represent atoms as $c_1 c_2 \dots c_n$, where each $c_i \in \{b_i, \overline{b}_i\}$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then a guarded string can be regarded as a string in $(\Sigma \cup T \cup \overline{T})^*$.

Lemma

For every KAT term p , there is a KAT term \hat{p} such that

- $\text{KAT} \models p = \hat{p}$,
- $G(\hat{p}) = R(\hat{p})$.

Theorem

$\text{KAT} \models p = q \iff G(p) = G(q)$.

Proof.

(\Rightarrow) Immediate, since \mathcal{G} is a KAT.

(\Leftarrow) Suppose $G(p) = G(q)$. Since $\text{KAT} \models p = \hat{p}$ and \mathcal{G} is a KAT, $G(\hat{p}) = G(\hat{q})$. By the Lemma, $R(\hat{p}) = R(\hat{q})$. By the completeness of KA, $\text{KA} \models \hat{p} = \hat{q}$. By transitivity, $\text{KAT} \models p = q$. □

Eliminating Assumptions $s = 0$

An **ideal** of a KA or KAT is a subset $I \subseteq K$ such that

- 1 $0 \in I$
- 2 if $x, y \in I$, then $x + y \in I$
- 3 if $x \in I$ and $r \in K$, then xr and rx are in I
- 4 if $x \leq y$ and $y \in I$, then $x \in I$.

Given I , define $x \lesssim y$ if there exists $z \in I$ such that $x \leq y + z$, and define $x \approx y$ if $x \lesssim y$ and $y \lesssim x$. Equivalently, we could define $x \approx y$ if there exists $z \in I$ such that $x + z = y + z$, and $x \lesssim y$ if $x + y \approx y$.

\lesssim is a preorder and \approx is an equivalence relation. Let $[x]$ denote the \approx -equivalence class of x and let K/I denote the set of all \approx -equivalence classes. The relation \lesssim is well-defined on K/I and is a partial order. Note also that $I = [0]$.

Eliminating Assumptions $s = 0$

Theorem

\approx is a KAT congruence and K/I is a KAT. If $A \subseteq K$ and $I = \langle A \rangle$, then K/I is initial among all homomorphic images of K satisfying $x = 0$ for all $x \in A$.

To show $ax \lesssim x \Rightarrow a^*x \lesssim x$:

If $ax \lesssim x$, then $ax \leq x + z$ for some $z \in I$. Then

$$a(x + a^*z) = ax + aa^*z \leq x + z + aa^*z = x + a^*z.$$

Applying the same rule in K , we have $a^*(x + a^*z) \leq x + a^*z$, therefore $a^*x \leq x + a^*z$. Since $a^*z \in I$, $a^*x \lesssim x$.

Eliminating Assumptions $s = 0$

Corollary

Let $\Sigma = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, $u = (a_1 + \dots + a_n)^$. Then $\text{KAT} \models r = 0 \Rightarrow s = t$ iff $\text{KAT} \models s + uru = t + uru$.*

Proof sketch: $\{y \mid y \leq uru\}$ is the ideal generated by r , so $s + uru = t + uru$ iff $s \approx t$ iff $s = t$ in \mathcal{G}/I .

Automata and coalgebras!

Exercises

- ❶ Prove that **while** b **do** $(p; \text{while } c \text{ do } q) =$
if b **then** $(p; \text{while } b + c \text{ do if } c \text{ then } q \text{ else } p)$ **else skip**.
- ❷ Prove that the following KAT equations and inequalities are equivalent:
 - ❶ $bp = bpc$
 - ❷ $bp\bar{c} = 0$
 - ❸ $bp \leq pc$
- ❸ Prove that the expression $bp = pc$ is equivalent to the two Hoare partial correctness assertions $\{b\} p \{c\}$ and $\{\bar{b}\} p \{\bar{c}\}$.

Exercises

- 4 Let Σ be a finite alphabet and K a Kleene algebra. A **power series in noncommuting variables Σ with coefficients in K** is a map $\sigma : \Sigma^* \rightarrow K$. The power series σ is often written as a formal sum

$$\sum_{x \in \Sigma^*} \sigma(x) \cdot x.$$

The set of all such power series is denoted $K\langle\langle\Sigma\rangle\rangle$. Addition on $K\langle\langle\Sigma\rangle\rangle$ is defined pointwise, and multiplication is defined as follows:

$$(\sigma \cdot \tau)(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{x=yz} \sigma(y) \cdot \tau(z).$$

Define 0 and 1 appropriately and argue that $K\langle\langle\Sigma\rangle\rangle$ forms an idempotent semiring. Then define $*$ as follows:

$$\sigma^*(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{x=y_1 \cdots y_n} \sigma(\varepsilon)^* \sigma(y_1) \sigma(\varepsilon)^* \sigma(y_2) \sigma(\varepsilon)^* \cdots \sigma(\varepsilon)^* \sigma(y_n) \sigma(\varepsilon)^*$$

where ε is the null string and the sum is over all ways of expressing x as a product of strings y_1, \dots, y_n . Show that $K\langle\langle\Sigma\rangle\rangle$ forms a KA.

- 5 Strassen's matrix multiplication algorithm can be used to multiply two $n \times n$ matrices over a ring using approximately $n^{\log_2 7} = n^{2.807\dots}$ multiplications in the underlying ring. The best known result of this form is by Coppersmith and Winograd, who achieve $n^{2.376\dots}$. Show that over arbitrary semirings, n^3 multiplications are necessary in general. (*Hint.* Interpret over Reg_Σ , where $\Sigma = \{a_{ij}, b_{ij} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$. What semiring expressions could possibly be equivalent to $\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} b_{jk}$?)