The bridge between regular cost functions and omega-regular languages



A quantitative extension of regular languages

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For all these questions, we do not care about precise values.

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Functions that are large on the same inputs are \approx -equivalent.



Example: f(u) = the length of longest block of consecutive a's

$$(a^{\texttt{small}}b)^*a^{\texttt{small}}$$
 complement $(a^*b)^*a^{\texttt{large}}(ba^*)^*$



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This work makes formal some similarities, and use it to factorizing proofs.

The bridge







Definition: For $L \subseteq A^{\omega}$,

 $L^{ol}: A^* \to \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ $u \mapsto \sup\{n : u = vw_1 \dots w_n v'$ $w_1, \dots, w_n \neq \varepsilon$ $v\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}^{\omega} \subseteq L\}$



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Lemma: For $L \subseteq A^{\omega}$ regular, L^{ol} is a regular cost function.



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 $\sup_{n} u \in [n] = \{u \in [n], j\} = \lim_{n \to \infty} u = u_n \text{ over } j \text{ where u be related by } u_n \text{ over } j \text{ (up to \apprd)}$

Büchi automaton

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max-prefix-distance (up to \approx)

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Hence $\alpha \{\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_n\}^{\omega}$ is a set of accepting runs. Hence $L^{ol}(u) \ge n$ is large.

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This witnesses that f(u) is large.

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Same automaton seen as max-prefix-distance (up to ≈)

Same automaton seen as max-prefix-B automaton (up to ≈)

Rabin automaton





Consequence: For all ω -regular like cost function, there exists effectively a B-deterministic a that recognizes it (up to \approx).



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I am interested in regular cost functions, not the special case of ω -regular like cost functions. So why do I care if this subclass inherits all the good properties and constructions of the regular languages of ω -words?

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(good-for-games automata [Henzinger&Piterman])

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 $\min block(a^{n_0}ba^{n_1}\dots ba^{n_k}) = \min(n_0,\dots,n_k)$

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These are as good as deterministic automata when run in a branching context (i.e. a tree or a game).

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Because (inspired from [Bojanczyk15]) :

determinization of ω-regular like cost functions positional determinacy of hierarchical B-games [C&Löding06]

historydeterminization of regular cost functions [C09,C11 unp]

Conclusion

We have provided a bridge from regular languages of infinite words to a subset of regular cost functions over finite words.

This allows to transport constructions and results from the well studied and simpler theory of regular languages of infinite words to cost functions over infinite trees.

In particular a new, simple and optimal proof for transforming Bautomata in historic-deterministic form can be derived (a central result for working on games and trees).

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TODO: Extend the approach to produce history deterministic S-automata.