

Université Paris 7

Habilitation à diriger des recherches

Rewriting methods in higher algebra

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1. Introduction

Rewriting in monoids, from Thue to Squier

1.1. The word problem for monoids

Definition [Thue 1914]

A monoid M has a **decidable word problem** if there exist

- a finite generating set X for M ($\exists \pi : X^* \twoheadrightarrow M$, $X^* =$ free monoid)
- an algorithm that decides, for all $u, v \in X^*$, if $\pi(u) = \pi(v)$ or not

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Examples

$$\mathbb{N}^n \simeq \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \mid (a_i a_j = a_j a_i)_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \rangle^+$$

- $X = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$
- Count the a_i 's in u and v ▶ Decidable word problem

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$$T \simeq \langle a, b, c, d, e \mid ac = ca, ad = da, bc = cb, bd = db, \\ eca = ce, edb = de, cca = cca \rangle^+$$

- ▶ Undecidable word problem [Tseitin 1958]

1.2. Rewriting theory

Basic rewriting notions [Thue 1914, Newman 1943, ...]

$X = (X_0 | X_1)$ is a presentation (by generators and relations) of a monoid M

u **reduces into** v if u can be transformed into v by using
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X is **confluent** if $\forall u \begin{array}{c} \rightarrow v \\ \rightarrow w \end{array} \exists \begin{array}{c} v \rightarrow u' \\ w \rightarrow u' \end{array}$

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Proposition

If X is a **convergent** (= terminating + confluent) presentation of M , then:

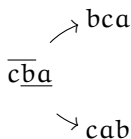
- 1 Every $u \in X_0^*$ has a unique normal form \hat{u}
- 2 The monoid M is isomorphic to $(\text{Red}(X), (u, v) \mapsto \widehat{uv})$

1.2. Rewriting theory

Example

$$\mathbb{N}^3 \simeq \langle a, b, c \mid ba \rightarrow ab, ca \rightarrow ac, cb \rightarrow bc \rangle^+$$

- Termination: $u \rightarrow v$ implies $\|u\| = \|v\|$ and $u \geq_{\text{lex}} v$
- Confluence: one **critical branching** (= min. overlap of two relations)

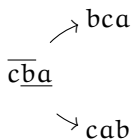


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Proposition (Newman's lemma & Theorem of critical branchings)

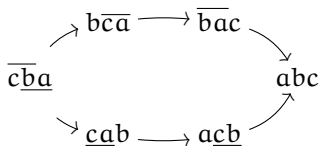
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Example (The standard presentation)

$$M \simeq \langle M \setminus \{1\} \mid (a|b \rightarrow ab)_{a,b \neq 1} \rangle^+$$

$a|b$ = product in the free monoid M^* over M

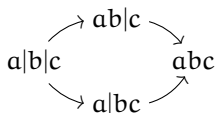
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- Termination: if $u \rightarrow v$, then $\|u\| \geq \|v\|$
- Confluence: one (confluent) critical branching for all $a, b, c \in M \setminus \{1\}$



- ▶ Every monoid admits a convergent presentation

1.3. Rewriting vs. the word problem

Theorem ()

Finite convergent presentation \implies Decidable word problem

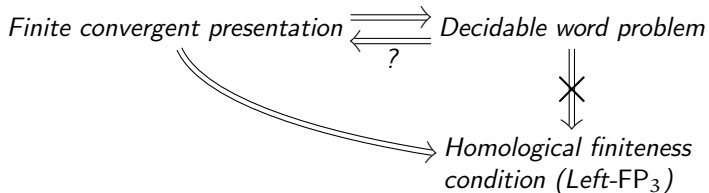
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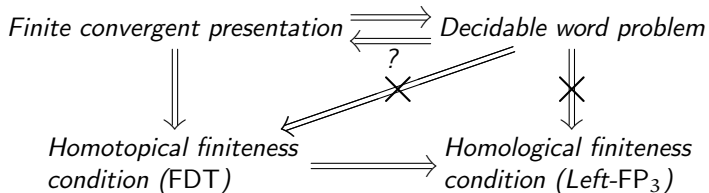
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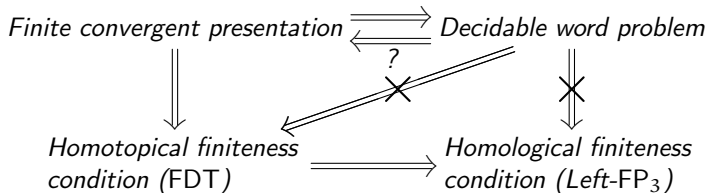
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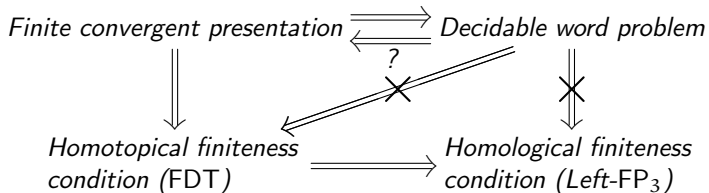


Remark

Finite convergent presentation \implies Homotopical finiteness condition

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Remark

~~Finite~~ convergent presentation \implies Homotopical construction:
coherent presentation

- ▶ Extract the essence of the proof: Squier's theorem
- ▶ Develop new rewriting methods in algebra

2. Squier's theorem

Coherence from convergence

2.1. Coherent presentations of monoids

Definition

Presentation X of a monoid $\rightsquigarrow X^* = \text{free (strict) monoidal groupoid}$

- Objects: elements of X_0^*
- Morphisms:
 - freely generated by the one-step reductions and their inverses

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & v\alpha w & \\ & \curvearrowright & \\ vuw & & vu'w \\ & \curvearrowleft & \\ & v\alpha^{-1}w & \end{array} \quad \text{for all } (u \xrightarrow{\alpha} u') \in X_1 \text{ and } v, w \in X_0^*$$

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- up to the relations

$$\begin{array}{ccc} fv & \rightarrow & u'v & \xrightarrow{u'g} & \\ uv & & = & & u'v' \\ ug & \rightarrow & uv' & \xleftarrow{fv'} & \end{array} \quad \text{for all } f : u \rightarrow u' \text{ and } g : v \rightarrow v'$$

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Let \mathcal{G} be a (strict) monoidal groupoid

Sphere of \mathcal{G} : pair $\cdot \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} \cdot$ of parallel morphisms of \mathcal{G}

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set of spheres of \mathcal{G}

An extension \mathcal{Y} of \mathcal{G} is **acyclic** if

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Definition

Extended presentation of a monoid M : triple $X = (X_0 | X_1 | X_2)$ s.t.

$(X_0 | X_1)$ presentation of M X_2 extension of $(X_0 | X_1)^*$

Elements of X_n are called **n-cells** of X

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$(X_0 | X_1)$ presentation of M

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Coherent presentation of M : extended presentation X of M s.t.

X_2 is acyclic

2.2. Squier's theorem

Theorem (Squier's theorem [G.-Malbos 2009, 2018])

If $X = (X_0 | X_1)$ is a convergent presentation of M , then

$$\text{Sq}(X) = \left(X_0 \mid X_1 \mid \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & f & v \\ u & \boxed{S_{f,g}} & \cdot \\ & g & w \end{array} \right) \right)$$

(f, g) critical branching of X

is a coherent presentation of M

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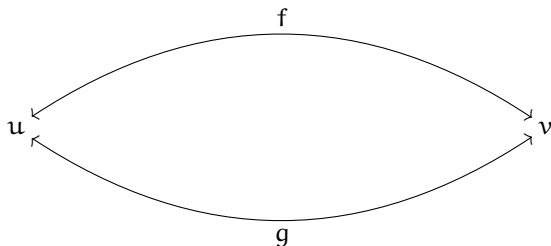
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Corollary (Squier 1994)

If M admits a finite convergent presentation, then M is "of finite derivation type" (FDT), i.e. it admits a finite coherent presentation

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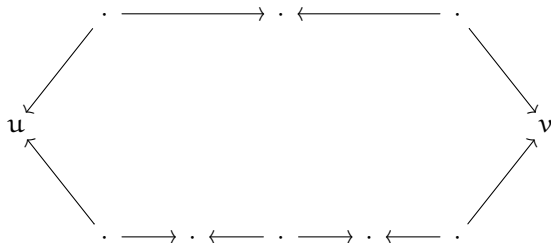
Sketch of proof



- 1 Consider a sphere (f, g) of X^*

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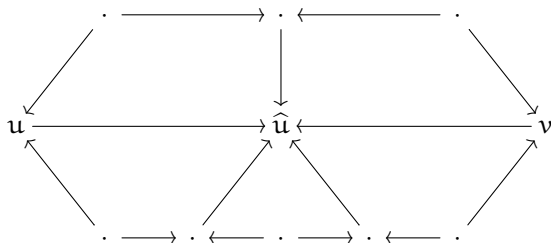
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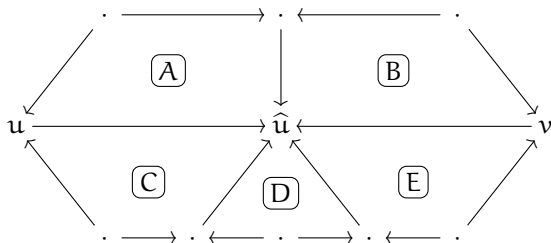
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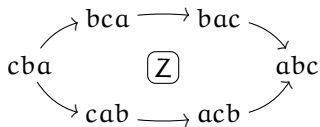
- 1 Consider a sphere (f, g) of X^*
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- 4 Tile each confluence diagram with 2-cells and equalities, by wellfounded induction and case analysis

2.3. Examples

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Convergent presentation, with one (confluent) critical branching Z :



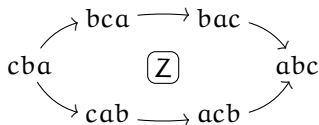
- ▶ $(a, b, c \mid ba \rightarrow ab, ca \rightarrow ac, cb \rightarrow bc \mid Z)$ coherent presentation of \mathbb{N}^3
- ▶ \mathbb{N}^3 is FDT

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- ▶ \mathbb{N}^3 is FDT

$$M \simeq \langle a, b, c, d, d' \mid ab \rightarrow a, da \rightarrow ac, d'a \rightarrow ac \rangle^+$$

- M has a decidable word problem
- M is not FDT [Lafont-Prouté 1991]
- ▶ M admits no finite convergent presentation

2.3. Examples

Example (The standard coherent presentation)

$$M \simeq \left\langle M \setminus \{1\} \mid \left(a|b \xrightarrow{\gamma_{ab}} ab \right)_{a,b \neq 1} \right\rangle^+$$

- Convergent presentation of M
- ▶ Coherent presentation of M :

$$\text{Std}(M) = \left(M \setminus \{1\} \mid \left(a|b \xrightarrow{\gamma_{ab}} ab \right)_{a,b \neq 1} \mid \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & ab|c & \\ \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowright \\ a|b|c & \boxed{\gamma_{abc}} & abc \\ \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowleft \\ & a|bc & \end{array} \right)_{a,b,c \neq 1} \right)$$

- ▶ Every monoid admits a coherent presentation

3. Interlude

Three applications of coherent presentations

3.1. Abelianisation

Theorem ()

If X is a presentation of a monoid M , then

$$0 \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z} \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z}M \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z}M[X_0] \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z}M[X_1]$$

is an exact sequence of $\mathbb{Z}M$ -modules, where:

$\mathbb{Z}M[X_i]$: free $\mathbb{Z}M$ -module over X_i

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If M admits a finite convergent presentation, then M is left-FP₃ (i.e. \mathbb{Z} admits a partial resolution of length 3 by f.g. projective $\mathbb{Z}M$ -modules)

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Variations [G.-Malbos 2009, 2013]

- Other possible coefficients: right/bi $\mathbb{Z}M$ -modules, natural systems
- X_2 also generates the module of identities among relations of X

3.2. Actions of monoids on categories

Definition and question [Deligne 1997]

- $\mathcal{A}ct(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{C}) = \mathit{MonCat}_{\text{ps}}(\mathcal{M}, \mathit{End}(\mathcal{C}))$ pseudomonoidal functors
- $\mathcal{A}ct'(\tilde{X}, \mathcal{C}) = \mathit{MonCat}_{\text{st}}(\tilde{X}, \mathit{End}(\mathcal{C}))$ strict monoidal functors
for X an extended presentation of \mathcal{M} , with $\tilde{X} = (X_0 | X_1)^* / X_2$

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- ▶ Characterise the X 's s.t. $\mathcal{A}ct(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{C}) \approx \mathcal{A}ct'(\tilde{X}, \mathcal{C})$, e.g.

$$\mathcal{A}ct(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{C}) \simeq \mathcal{A}ct'(\widetilde{\text{Std}(\mathcal{M})}, \mathcal{C})$$

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Theorem (Gaussent-G.-Malbos 2015)

Let X be an extended presentation of a monoid M . TFAE:

- 1 X is a coherent presentation of M
- 2 \tilde{X} is a cofibrant approximation of M (for Lack's model structure)
- 3 $\text{MonCat}_{\text{ps}}(M, \mathcal{D}) \approx \text{MonCat}_{\text{st}}(\tilde{X}, \mathcal{D})$ for every strict monoidal category \mathcal{D} , and this equivalence is natural in \mathcal{D}

3.3. Categorical coherence theorems

Theorem

Rewriting and Squier's theorem generalise to n -categories [G.-Malbos 2009]

\rightsquigarrow Coherence theorems of (symmetric, braided) monoidal categories by rewriting [Huet 1985, G.-Malbos 2012]

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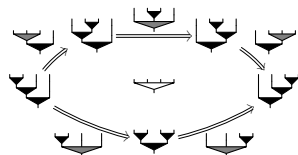
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Example

AsCat: strict monoidal $(2, 1)$ -category

generated by $|$, \blacktriangledown , $\blacktriangledown \blacktriangledown \rightleftarrows \blacktriangledown \blacktriangledown$

up to



- Associative category = strict monoidal 2-functor $\text{AsCat} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$

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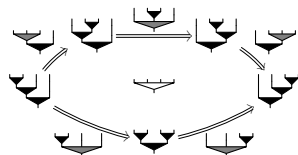
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- Associative category = strict monoidal 2-functor $\text{AsCat} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$
- $(| \mid \blacktriangledown \mid \blacktriangledown)$ is a convergent presentation (of the PRO of semigroups)
- ▶ $\{\blacktriangledown\}$ is acyclic
- ▶ In an associative category, all “structural” diagrams commute

4. Coherent presentations of Artin monoids

A concrete computation

4.1. Coxeter groups and Artin monoids

Definition

Coxeter group: group W with a presentation

$$W = \langle S \text{ finite} \mid (a^2 = 1)_{a \in S}, (bab \cdots = aba \cdots)_{a < b \in S} \rangle$$

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Coxeter group: group W with a presentation

$$W = \langle S \text{ finite} \mid (a^2 = 1)_{a \in S}, (bab \cdots = aba \cdots)_{a < b \in S} \rangle$$

Artin monoid associated to a Coxeter group W :

$$B^+(W) = \langle S \text{ finite} \mid (bab \cdots = aba \cdots)_{a < b \in S} \rangle^+$$

4.1. Coxeter groups and Artin monoids

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Examples

The permutation groups S_n , e.g. $S_3 = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^2 = 1, bab = aba \rangle$

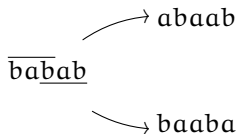
or $S_4 = \langle a, b, c \mid a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = 1, bab = aba, cbc = bcb, ca = ac \rangle$

The braid monoids $B_n^+ = B^+(S_n)$, e.g. $B_3^+ = \langle a, b \mid bab = aba \rangle^+$

4.2. Computation methodology

Problem

The presentation of $B^+(W)$ is not confluent in general, e.g. if $bab = aba$

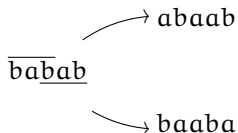


- ▶ Squier's theorem is not directly applicable

4.2. Computation methodology

Problem

The presentation of $B^+(W)$ is not confluent in general, e.g. if $bab = aba$



- ▶ Squier's theorem is not directly applicable

Solution

- 1 Add generators and relations \rightsquigarrow convergent presentation
- 2 Apply Squier's theorem \rightsquigarrow coherent presentation
- 3 Use Tietze moves to eliminate cells \rightsquigarrow smaller coherent presentation

4.2. Computation methodology

Example (B_3^+)

$(a, b \mid bab \xrightarrow{\alpha} aba \mid)$

4.2. Computation methodology

Example (B_3^+ with Kapur-Narendran presentation (1985))

$$\left(a, b, x \mid bx \xrightarrow{\alpha} xa, ab \xrightarrow{\beta} x \right)$$

4.2. Computation methodology

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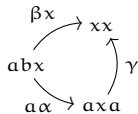
$$\left(a, b, x \mid bx \xrightarrow{\alpha} xa, ab \xrightarrow{\beta} x \right)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \beta x \rightarrow xx \\ abx \\ \alpha \rightarrow axa \end{array}$$

4.2. Computation methodology

Example (B_3^+ with Kapur-Narendran presentation (1985))

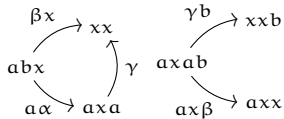
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4.2. Computation methodology

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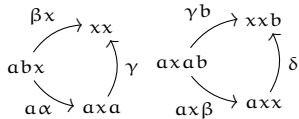
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4.2. Computation methodology

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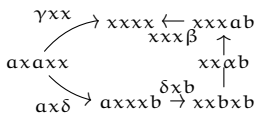
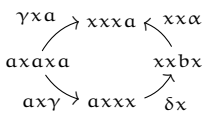
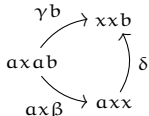
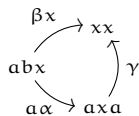
$$\left(a, b, x \mid bx \xrightarrow{\alpha} xa, ab \xrightarrow{\beta} x, axa \xrightarrow{\gamma} xx, axx \xrightarrow{\delta} xxb \mid \right)$$



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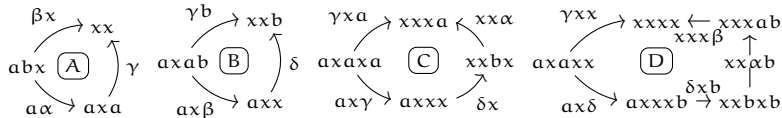
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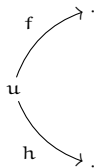
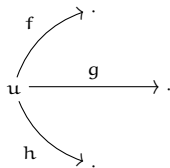
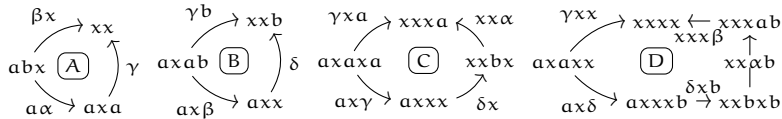
$$\left(a, b, x \mid bx \xrightarrow{\alpha} xa, ab \xrightarrow{\beta} x, axa \xrightarrow{\gamma} xx, axx \xrightarrow{\delta} xxb \mid A, B, C, D \right)$$



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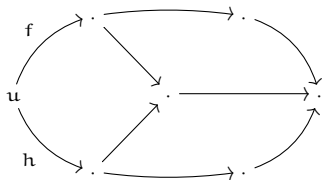
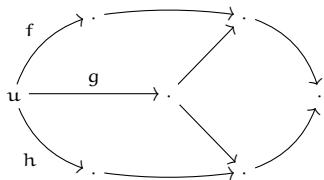
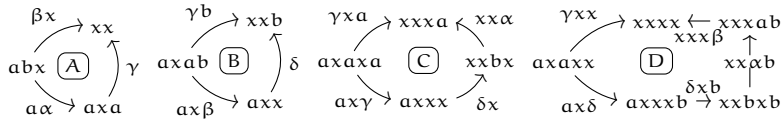
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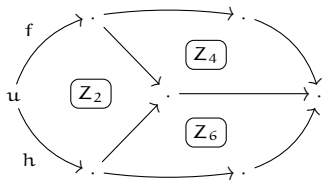
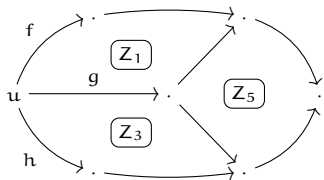
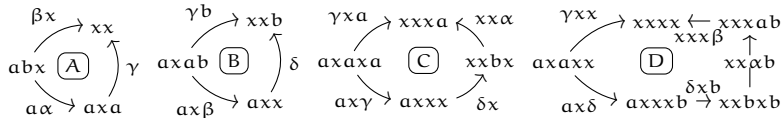
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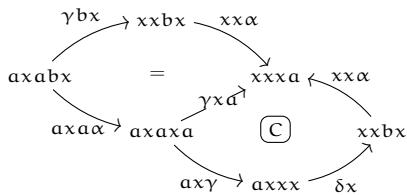
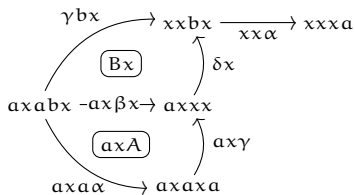
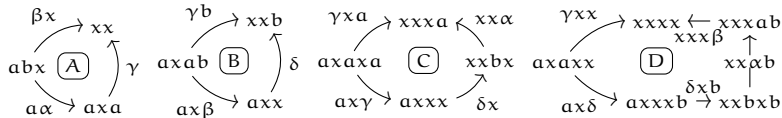
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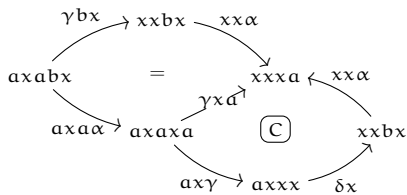
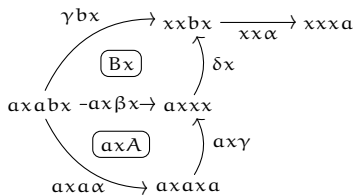
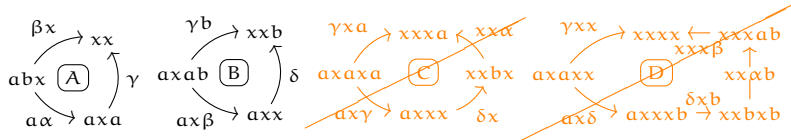
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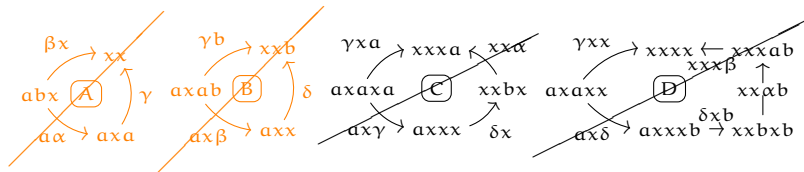
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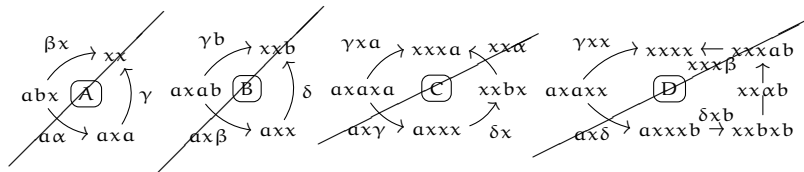
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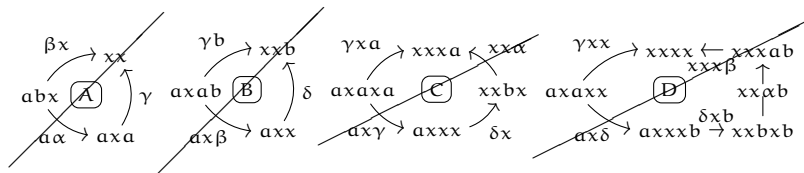
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4.2. Computation methodology

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Lemma

The monoid B_3^+ admits $(a, b \mid bab \rightarrow aba \mid \emptyset)$ as a coherent presentation

4.3. The Garside and Artin coherent presentations

Theorem (Gaussent-G.-Malbos 2015)

For every Coxeter group W , the Artin monoid $B^+(W)$ admits the following coherent presentations:

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ Gar}(W) = \left(W \setminus \{1\} \left| \left(u|v \xrightarrow{\gamma_{uv}} uv \right)_{u \hat{\ } v} \right. \right)$$

where $u \hat{\ } v$ means $l(uv) = l(u) + l(v)$ in W

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$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Art}(W) = \left(S \mid (bab \cdots \xrightarrow{Z_{ab}} aba \cdots)_{\substack{a < b \in S \\ |W_{ab}| < \infty}} \mid (Z_{abc})_{\substack{a < b < c \in S \\ |W_{abc}| < \infty}} \right)$$

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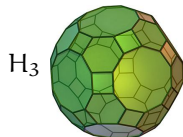
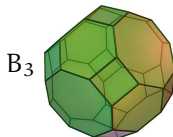
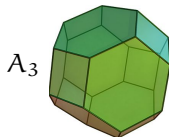
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where Z_{abc} is a (2D-projection of a) "Zamolodchikov" sphere that is entirely determined by the Coxeter type of W_{abc}



5. Higher Squier theory

From coherent presentations to polygraphic resolutions

5.1. Polygraphic resolutions

Definition (Street 1976, 1987; Burroni 1993)

A 0-polygraph is a set X \rightsquigarrow Free (strict) monoid(al 0-groupoid) X^*

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An n -polygraph is a family $X = (X_0 | \cdots | X_n)$ s.t.

$(X_0 | \cdots | X_{n-1})$: $(n-1)$ -polygraph

X_n : extension of $(X_0 | \cdots | X_{n-1})^*$

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An **∞ -polygraph** is an increasing sequence $X = (X_0 | X_1 | \cdots)$ of n -polygraphs
 \rightsquigarrow Free monoidal ∞ -groupoid X^*

Definition (Métayer 2003)

A **polygraphic resolution** of a monoid M is an ∞ -polygraph X such that

- $(X_0 | X_1)$ is a presentation of M
- for every $n \geq 2$, the extension X_n of $(X_0 | \cdots | X_{n-1})^*$ is acyclic

5.2. Squier's polygraphic resolution

Theorem (G.-Malbos 2012, G. 2019)

If X is a convergent presentation of a monoid M , then M admits a polygraphic resolution $Sq(X)$ whose n -cells are the families $u_0 | \cdots | u_n$ of elements of $\text{Red}(X) \setminus \{1\}$ s.t. $u_0 \in X_0$ and, for every i ,

- 1 $u_i u_{i+1} \notin \text{Red}(X)$
- 2 every proper left-factor of $u_i u_{i+1}$ is reduced

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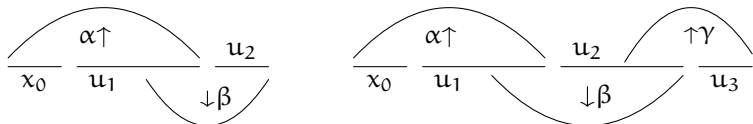
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Example

If the relations of X are “interreduced”, the cells of $Sq(X)$ are

- the $x_0 \in X_0$
- the $x_0 | u_1$ s.t. $x_0 u_1$ is the source of a relation
- the $x_0 | u_1 | \cdots | u_n$ s.t. $x_0 u_1 \cdots u_n$ is the source of a critical n -branching



5.2. Squier's polygraphic resolution

Squier theory for associative algebras

- 1 A rewriting theory for associative algebras
 - Strictly more general than Gröbner bases and PBW bases, e.g. $(x, y, z \mid xyz \rightarrow x^3 + y^3 + z^3)$ is convergent
- 2 Polygraphic resolutions in $\infty\mathcal{Gpd}(\mathcal{Alg})$ (instead of $\infty\mathcal{Gpd}(\mathcal{Mon})$)

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Ongoing and planned work

Generalise ∞ -categories, polygraphs and the model structure to

- $\infty\mathcal{Gpd}(\mathit{Mon}(\mathcal{C}))$, where \mathcal{C} is some monoidal category [with M. Fiore]
- $\infty\mathcal{Gpd}(\mathit{Mod}(\mathcal{A}))$, where \mathcal{A} is a projective sketch [with D. Ara]

5.3. Polygraphic resolution of Artin monoids

Conjecture

For every Coxeter group W , the Artin monoid $B^+(W)$ admits the following polygraphic resolutions:

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ Gar}(W) = \left\{ \left(\gamma_{u_0 \cdots u_n} \right)_{u_0 \begin{array}{c} \diagup \diagdown \\ \cdots \end{array} u_n} \right\} \qquad \gamma_{u_0 \cdots u_n} = n\text{-cube}$$

- *Generalises to monoids with a Garside family*

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$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Art}(W) = \left\{ (Z_I)_{I \subseteq S \text{ s.t. } |W_I| < \infty} \right\} \quad Z_I = \text{Zamolodchikov } |I|\text{-cell of } W_I$$

- Related to the Salvetti complex of $B(W)$
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Ongoing and planned work

- Resolutions $\text{Gar}(W)$ and $\text{Art}(W)$ of $kB^+(W)$ in $\text{dg}\mathcal{A}lg$ [with M. Picantin]
- Polygraphic versions [Postdoc A. Hadzihasanovic, PhD A. Đurić]

Merci

