Ambiguity Hierarchies of Rational Series

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The same concepts also studied for weighted tree automata.

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- Series defined by weighted first-order logics and their restrictions (M. Droste and P. Gastin, 2019).
- Unambiguous series over fields are exactly the Pólya series (J. P. Bell and D. Smertnig, 2021).

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Det(S, Σ) the set of all series realised by deterministic weighted automata over S and Σ.

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UnAmb(S, Σ) the set of all series realised by unambiguous weighted automata over S and Σ.

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Given a semiring S and alphabet Σ , denote by:

k-Amb(S,Σ), for k ≥ 1, the set of all series realised by k-ambiguous weighted automata over S and Σ.

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Given a semiring S and alphabet Σ , denote by:

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A trivial case: Det(S, Σ) = Rat(S, Σ) for all alphabets Σ when the semiring S is locally finite.

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 Motivation coming from the study of decision problems for linear recurrence sequences. Ambiguity Hierarchies over $\ensuremath{\mathbb{Q}}$

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$$\mathsf{Det}(\mathbb{Q}, \{a\}) \subsetneq \mathsf{UnAmb}(\mathbb{Q}, \{a\}) \subsetneq \mathsf{FinAmb}(\mathbb{Q}, \{a\}) \subsetneq \\ \subsetneq \mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{Q}, \{a\}) \subsetneq \mathsf{Rat}(\mathbb{Q}, \{a\}).$$

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$$\mathsf{k}\operatorname{\mathsf{-Amb}}(\mathbb{Q},\{a\}) \subsetneq (\mathsf{k}+1)\operatorname{\mathsf{-Amb}}(\mathbb{Q},\{a\}) \qquad \textit{for all } k \geq 1.$$

- Motivation coming from the study of decision problems for linear recurrence sequences.
- Techniques often largely dependent on the structure of Q.

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Expressive power of restricted ambiguity in weighted automata over abstract fields was left almost unexplored.

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- All inclusions are strict already for Σ = {a} when 𝔽 = Q (C. Barloy et al., 2020).

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- \mathcal{A} cannot be *k*-ambiguous, so $r \notin k$ -Amb($\mathbb{F}, \{a\}$).

Corollary

For any Σ , the inclusions k-Amb(\mathbb{F}, Σ) \subseteq (k + 1)-Amb(\mathbb{F}, Σ) for $k \geq 1$ are strict iff \mathbb{F} is not locally finite.

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 $\mathsf{FinAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ vs. $\mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$: Larger Alphabets

Theorem (K., submitted)

Let \mathbb{F} be a field that is not locally finite and Σ contain at least two letters. Then $FinAmb(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subsetneq PolyAmb(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$.

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Proof idea:

• Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ be of infinite multiplicative order.

• Let $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ and $(r, a_1 \dots a_t) = \sum_{k=1}^t a_k \alpha^{t-k}$.

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 $\mathsf{FinAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ vs. $\mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$: Larger Alphabets

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• p(x) divides some of the factors: a contradiction.

Corollary

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- ▶ It suffices to focus on proper subfields of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(S)}$, over which such a polynomial can be found.

Corollary

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Open Problem

What about other than algebraically closed (and locally finite) fields of characteristic p > 0?

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Conjecture

Let Σ be an alphabet containing at least two letters. Then the inclusion $PolyAmb(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq Rat(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ is strict if and only if the field \mathbb{F} is not locally finite.

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- Det(𝑘, Σ) ⊆ UnAmb(𝑘, Σ) ⊆ FinAmb(𝑘, Σ) both strict iff 𝑘 is not locally finite (regardless of Σ).
- FinAmb(𝔅,Σ) ⊆ PolyAmb(𝔅,Σ) strict for |Σ| ≥ 2 iff 𝔅 is not locally finite.
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- ▶ $\mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq \mathsf{Rat}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ understood only partially:
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The finite ambiguity hierarchy:

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- FinAmb(𝔅, {a}) ⊆ PolyAmb(𝔅, {a}) strict iff 𝔅 is of characteristic zero.
- ▶ $\mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq \mathsf{Rat}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ understood only partially:
 - \blacktriangleright Strict when $\mathbb F$ is of characteristic zero and not algebraically closed.
 - Not strict when $\Sigma = \{a\}$ and \mathbb{F} is algebraically closed.
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- ▶ $\mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq \mathsf{Rat}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ understood only partially:
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 - Not strict when $\Sigma = \{a\}$ and \mathbb{F} is algebraically closed.
 - Not strict when \mathbb{F} is locally finite.
 - Open in the remaining cases.

The finite ambiguity hierarchy:

Strict iff \mathbb{F} is not locally finite (regardless of Σ). FinSeq $(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq FinAmb(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$:

The ambiguity hierarchy:

- Det(𝑘, Σ) ⊆ UnAmb(𝑘, Σ) ⊆ FinAmb(𝑘, Σ) both strict iff 𝑘 is not locally finite (regardless of Σ).
- ► FinAmb(\mathbb{F}, Σ) ⊆ PolyAmb(\mathbb{F}, Σ) strict for $|\Sigma| \ge 2$ iff \mathbb{F} is not locally finite.
- FinAmb(𝔽, {a}) ⊆ PolyAmb(𝔼, {a}) strict iff 𝔼 is of characteristic zero.
- ▶ $\mathsf{PolyAmb}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq \mathsf{Rat}(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$ understood only partially:
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The finite ambiguity hierarchy:

• Strict iff \mathbb{F} is not locally finite (regardless of Σ). FinSeq $(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma) \subseteq FinAmb(\mathbb{F}, \Sigma)$:

• Strict iff \mathbb{F} is not locally finite and $|\Sigma| \geq 2$.

Thank you for your attention.