# Weighted Automata with Ambiguity and Extensions

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CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE

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Weighted Automata with ambiguity and extensions

**ABRI** 

# Outline

- 1) Weighted Automata
- 2 Hankel Matrix
- 3 Ambiguity
- 4 Universality with Ambiguity
- 5 Introduction to Weighted Context-Free Grammar
- 6 Learning WCFG
  - Properties of WCFG

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- 2 Hankel Matrix
- 3 Ambiguity
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  - 7 Properties of WCFG

#### Automata



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#### Automata





#### Automata





#### Automata





Semiring  $S(\oplus, \odot, 0, 1)$ 

 $\frac{\text{Semiring}}{S(\oplus,\odot,0,1)}$ 

Examples:

- Natural Semiring :  $\mathbb{N}(+,\cdot,0,1)$
- Tropical Semiring:

 $\mathbb{N}_{\infty}(\min,+,\infty,0)$  Min-plus Semiring or  $\mathbb{N}_{-\infty}(\max,+,-\infty,0)$  Max-plus Semiring







Max-plus Semiring

Consider the word *bbab*:



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b b a b b b a b b b a b b a b 
$$1+1+0+0=2$$
  $0+1+0+0=1$   $0+0+0+1=1$ 

Output:  $max{2, 1, 1} = 2$ 



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Counting the length of the longest *b*-block

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Alternatively, we can see a weighted automata  $\mathcal{A}$  on a Semiring S like the following:

$$\mathcal{A} = \langle Q, \alpha \in S^Q, (\Delta(a) \in S^{Q \times Q})_{a \in \Sigma}, \eta \in S^Q \rangle$$
  

$$\mathcal{A} \text{ recognizes a function } f : \Sigma^* \to S, \text{ where}$$
  

$$f(a_1 \dots a_n) = \alpha \underbrace{\Delta(a_1) \dots \Delta(a_n)}_{\Delta(a_1 \dots a_n)} \cdot \eta$$

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#### This is called **Hankel Matrix**.

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- Any automaton recognizing f has at least rank $(H_f)$  many states,
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- Some more applications will follow...

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Counts the number of accepting runs of a word!

#### Counts the number of accepting runs of a word! If all words have maximum one accepting run - Unambiguous



# Counts the number of accepting runs of a word!

If all words have finitely many accepting run - Finite ambiguous



#### Counts the number of accepting runs of a word!

If the maximum degree of ambiguity is bounded by some polynomial in the length of the word - Polynomially ambiguous



#### Counts the number of accepting runs of a word! If the degree of ambiguity is not bounded- Exponentially ambiguous



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It can be shown that these are the only options for ambiguity of an automata.
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#### Lemma:

If there exists a word w that is not accepted by an unambiguous NFA M, then there exists a word w' such that  $|w'| \le |M|$  and w' is not accepted by M.

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*Proof Idea*: Let the shortest word be  $u = x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$ , where n > |M|.

$$H = \begin{array}{cccc} & u & \ddots & \ddots & \epsilon \\ & \epsilon \\ & x_1 \\ H = \begin{array}{cccc} x_1 x_2 \\ \vdots \\ & u \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & 0 & & & \\ & & 0 & & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\operatorname{rank}(H) > n > |M|$ 

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Clearly in co-NP. Can we do better?

**Linear Recurrence System:** Each term of a sequence is a linear function of earlier terms in the sequence.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(n) = f(n-1) + g(n-1) \\ g(n) = f(n-1) \\ f(0) = 0 \\ g(0) = 1 \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(n) = f(n-1) + f(n-2) \\ f(0) = 0 \\ f(1) = 1 \end{array} \right\}$$

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Fibonacci

An LRS of order k is a sequence  $(u_l)_{l \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that,

$$u_I = X \cdot A^I \cdot Y,$$

where,  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$  and  $X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{k}$ .

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$$\mathsf{Fibonacci sequence} \Rightarrow \mathit{F_I} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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We will use mainly the following two properties of LRS:

#### Theorem:

- The *l*-th term of an LRS of order *k* can be computed in time  $O(log(l) \cdot k^3)$ .
- Two LRS of order at most k are equal if and only if they agree on the first k terms.

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**States:**  $Q' = Q \cup Q^2 \cup \cdots \cup Q^p$  separated with at most (p-1) delimiters, **Transitions:** if for some state  $q \in Q$ ,  $q \xrightarrow{a} q_1 \& q \xrightarrow{a} q_2 \in \delta$  and  $q_1 < q_2$ , then  $q \xrightarrow{a} (q_1|q_2) \in \delta'$ ,

**Final state:** Final states of  $A_p$  will be  $(\underbrace{q_f | q_f | \cdots | q_f}_{p \text{ times}})$ 

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p times

The idea is, we use the powerset construction capped to sets of size at most p with a linear ordering on states.

Universality Problem:



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#### $A_p$ accepts all words that have at least p accepting runs on A.



 $A_p$  accepts all words that have at least p accepting runs on A. Also given the linear order on states,  $A_k$  is unambiguous, where k is the highest ambiguity.

 $\alpha(I)$  = the number of words of length *I* accepted by *A*,  $\alpha_p(I)$  = the number of words of length *I* having exactly *p* accepting runs over *A*.

 $\alpha(l)$  = the number of words of length l accepted by A,  $\alpha_p(l)$  = the number of words of length l having exactly p accepting runs over A.  $\Rightarrow \alpha(l) = \sum_{p=1}^k \alpha_p(l)$ 

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Note that:

• each word having exactly p runs induce one run of  $A_p$ 

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$$Acc_{p}(I) = No.$$
 of *I*-length paths in  $A_{p} = \sum_{j=p}^{k} {j \choose p} \alpha_{j}(I).$ 

Consider 
$$Acc = (Acc_1, Acc_2, \dots Acc_k)$$
 and  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots \alpha_k)$ .

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For each *p*,  $Acc_p$  is LRS of order  $n^{O(k)} \Rightarrow \alpha_p$  is LRS of order  $n^{O(k)}$ 

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For each p,  $Acc_p$  is LRS of order  $n^{O(k)} \Rightarrow \alpha_p$  is LRS of order  $n^{O(k)} \Rightarrow$ Polynomial Time

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Weighted Context Free Grammar:

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- Always in Greibach Normal Form
- left most derivation tree

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```
S \rightarrow aAB \ 1
A \rightarrow b \ 1 \ |bA \ 2
B \rightarrow b \ 1 \ |bB \ 3
```

#### WCFG - nonlinear extension: $S \rightarrow aAB \ 1$ $A \rightarrow b \ 1 \ |bA \ 2$ $B \rightarrow b \ 1 \ |bB \ 3$

Consider abbb:



Weighted Automata with ambiguity and extensions





Weighted Context Free Grammars

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#### Parikh's Theorem:

Parikh Map : 
$$Pk(w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\#a_w, \#b_w, \ldots)$$

#### Parikh's Theorem

For every context-free grammar G, there is a regular language R such that Pk(L(G)) = Pk(L(R)).

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Parikh Map : 
$$Pk(w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\#a_w, \#b_w, \ldots)$$

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For every context-free grammar G, there is a regular language R such that Pk(L(G)) = Pk(L(R)).

Corollary: For every context-free grammar G on unary alphabet, there is a regular language R such that L(G) = L(R).







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Parikh's Theorem for WCFG :

Parikh image for a WCFG (G, W) :

$$Pk\llbracket G\rrbracket_W(u) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigoplus_{u' \in \llbracket u \rrbracket_{Pk}} \llbracket G\rrbracket_W(u')$$

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#### Note: Idempotent is really necessary!!

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Now, you can really believe, it is an extension !!

# Outline

- Weighted Automata
- 2 Hankel Matrix
- 3 Ambiguity
- 4 Universality with Ambiguity
- 5 Introduction to Weighted Context-Free Grammar
- 6 Learning WCFG
  - 7 Properties of WCFG

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To compute this function, they defined two functions:

Inside Function:  $\overline{\beta}_G(i \Rightarrow^* y)$  [Intuitively, denotes the weight of deriving y from a non-terminal i]

Outside Function:  $\overline{\alpha}_G(x; i; z)$ [Intuitively denotes the weight of derivation of the context $\langle x; z \rangle$ ]

Hence,  $\llbracket G \rrbracket_W(xyz) = \sum_{i \in V} \overline{\alpha}_G(x; i; z) \overline{\beta}_G(i \Rightarrow^* y).$ 

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$$H_{O \times I} = \langle x; z \rangle \begin{pmatrix} y \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ G \end{bmatrix}_{W} (xyz) \end{pmatrix}$$

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This matrix has finite rank. Surprisingly, their following theorem says, this is enough information to learn the WCFG.

#### Theorem [BCLQ]

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We now give a counter-example.

Precisely, the wrong claim is that for any  $f : (\Sigma^* \times \Sigma^*) \times \Sigma^+ \to \mathbb{R}$ , one can construct a weighted context-free grammar computing f with the number of non-terminals being the rank of  $H_f$ .

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We start from the function  $f : Tree(\Sigma) \to \mathbb{R}$  assigning 1 to the following two trees, and 0 to any other tree.





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But, no WCFG with 5 non-terminals accept this language.

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What went wrong??

There exists a natural extension for Fliess' theorem for Weighted tree automata by Bozapalidis and Louscou-Bozapalidou( [BL83]). Consider a function  $f : Tree(\Sigma) \to \mathbb{R}$ . A context is a tree over the signature  $\Sigma \cup \Box(0)$  with the restriction that  $\Box$  occurs only once.

A context *c* and a tree *t*, yield a tree c[t], where we substitute the leaf  $\Box$  in *c* by *t*.

Naturally the Hankel Matrix  $H_f \in \mathbb{R}^{Context(\Sigma) \times Tree(\Sigma)}$  such that  $H_f(c,t) = f(c[t])$  can be defined and the Fliess' theorem can be extended over this.

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$$\begin{cases} f(n) = f(n-1) + g(n-1) \\ g(n) = f(n-1) \\ f(0) = 0 \\ g(0) = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} f(n) = f(n-1) + f(n-2) \\ f(0) = 0 \\ f(1) = 1 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$
Fibonacci

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#### Intuitively, counting the number of paths!!

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$$S(n) = 3.A_1(n-1) + 2.A_3 * A_4(n-1)$$
, where  $f * g(k) = \sum_{i=0}^{k} f(i).g(k-i)$ 

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WCFG  $\Rightarrow$  Linear Recurrence System with finitely many Cauchy product.

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Notice that this is the generating function of the given weighted grammar.

#### Chomsky-Schützenberger Enumeration Theorem

If *L* is a context-free language admitting an unambiguous context-free grammar, and  $a_k := |L \cap \Sigma^k|$  is the number of words of length *k* in *L*, then  $G(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k$  is a power series over  $\mathbb{N}$  that is algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

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What happens if all the weights are not 1?

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## WCFG & mathematical characterization:

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#### Corollary

Given a WCFG on  $\mathbb{N}$  on a unary alphabet, the generating function  $P(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p_k x^k$  is algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

### Conclusion

**Further Questions:** 

- How to effectively learn a Weighted Context-Free Grammar?
- Better mathematical characterizations for functions realized by WCFG?

### References

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#### Nathanael Fijalkow.

Blog-post on fliess' theorem for minimising weighted automata.

# Thank you!!

