

# Algebraic Path Problems

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# Outline

## A few Motivating Examples

### Shortest Path Problems

- Single-Source Problem

- All-Pairs Problem

- Further Variants

### Semirings

- Types of Semirings

### The Algebraic Path Problem (APP)

- Some Definitions

- Examples revisited

- Methods to solve the APP

- Overview: Instances of the APP

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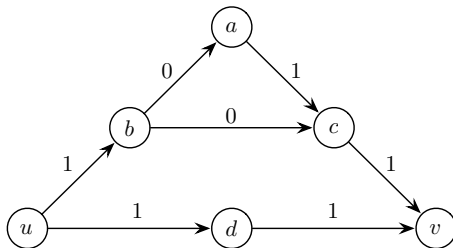
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# Is there a path from $u$ to $v$ ?



$$1 \wedge 1 = 1$$

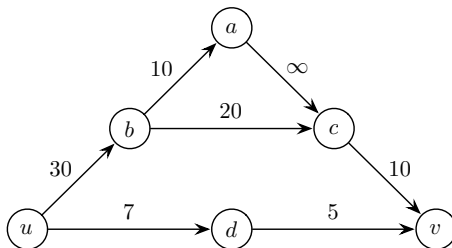
$$1 \wedge 0 \wedge 1 = 0$$

$$1 \wedge 0 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 = 0$$

$$\frac{1 \wedge 0 \wedge 1 \wedge 1}{\bigvee \{1, 0, 0\}} = 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  Transitive Closure (Connectivity)

# How long is the shortest path from $u$ to $v$ ?



$$7 + 5 = 12$$

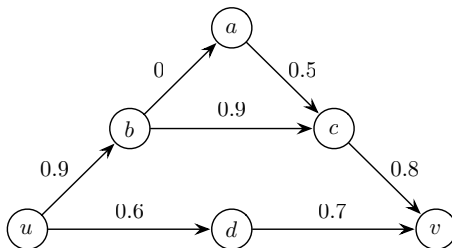
$$30 + 20 + 10 = 60$$

$$30 + 10 + \infty + 10 = \infty$$

$$\frac{\min\{\infty, 60, 12\}}{\quad} = 12$$

⇒ Shortest Path Problem

# The highest attainable reliability from $u$ to $v$ ?



$$0.6 \cdot 0.7 = 0.42$$

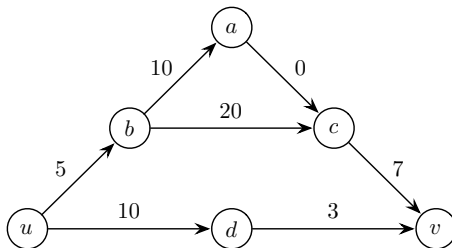
$$0.9 \cdot 0.9 \cdot 0.8 = 0.648$$

$$0.9 \cdot 0 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.8 = 0$$

$$\frac{}{\max\{0.42, 0.648, 0\}} = 0.42$$

⇒ Most Reliable Path Problem

# What is the maximum capacity from $u$ to $v$ ?



$$\min\{10, 3\} = 3$$

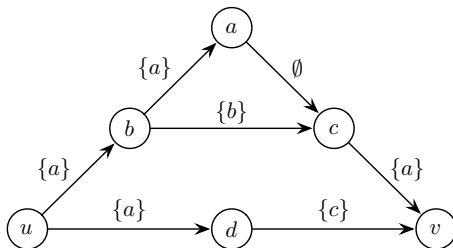
$$\min\{5, 20, 7\} = 5$$

$$\min\{5, 10, 0, 7\} = 0$$

$$\max\{3, 5, 0\} = 5$$

⇒ Maximum Capacity Path Problem

Which language takes the automaton from state  $u$  to state  $v$ ?



$$\{a\} \cdot \{c\} = \{ac\}$$

$$\{a\} \cdot \{b\} \cdot \{a\} = \{aba\}$$

$$\{a\} \cdot \{a\} \cdot \emptyset \cdot \{a\} = \emptyset$$

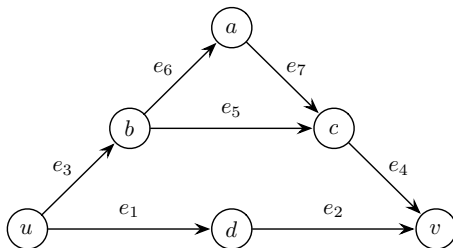
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$$\bigcup \{ac, aba, \emptyset\} = \{aba, ac\}$$

⇒ Language accepted by a Finite State Automaton



What are the pathsets for the  $u, v$ -connectivity of the network?



$$e_1 \wedge e_2 = p_1$$

$$e_3 \wedge e_5 \wedge e_4 = p_2$$

$$e_3 \wedge e_6 \wedge e_7 \wedge e_4 = p_3$$

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$$\bigvee \{p_1, p_2, p_3\} = p_1 \vee p_2 \vee p_3$$

$\Rightarrow$  Structure Function for  $u, v$ -Connectivity

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# Single-Source Shortest-Paths Problem

- Given: weighted graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and  $s \in V$  the source of all considered paths
- Problem: compute for every  $v \in V$  the minimal weight of all paths from  $s$  to  $v$ ,  $d_{s,v}$
- Relaxation: relaxing an edge  $(u, v)$ 
  - test whether the shortest path to  $v$  found so far can be improved by going through  $u$ . If so, update the distance estimate of  $v$ .
  - formally: maintain a function  $\delta : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ , initialized as follows:

$$\delta(v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s = v, \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}, \forall v \in V$$

- define the operation  $relax(u, v)$ :

**if**  $\delta(v) > \delta(u) + \lambda(u, v)$  **then**  $\delta(v) := \delta(u) + \lambda(u, v)$

- NB: relaxation used by algorithms such as Dijkstra and Bellman-Ford

# Algorithms for the Single-Source Problem

- Dijkstra Algorithm

- input:  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ -weighted graph.
- output:  $\forall v \in V : \delta(v) = d_{s,v}$ .
- complexity:
  1. with priority queue (as linear list):  $\mathcal{O}(|V|^2 + |E|) = \mathcal{O}(|V|^2)$
  2. with binary heap:  $\mathcal{O}((|V| + |E|) \cdot \log|V|) = \mathcal{O}(|E| \cdot \log|V|)$
  3. with fibonacci heap:  $\mathcal{O}(|V| \cdot \log|V| + |E|)$

- Bellman-Ford Algorithm

- input:  $\mathbb{R}$ -weighted graph.
- output:
  1. graph does not contain negative-weighted cycles:  
 $\forall v \in V : \delta(v) = d_{s,v}$ .
  2. graph contains such cycles: stop with corresp. message
- complexity:  $\mathcal{O}(|V| \cdot |E|)$ , hence in the worst case:  $\mathcal{O}(|V|^3)$

# All-Pairs Shortest-Paths Problem

- Given: weighted graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , such that there are no negative weighted cycles.
- Initial data structure: weighted matrix  $W_G = (w_{u,v})$  where

$$w_{u,v} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u = v, \\ \infty & \text{if } u \neq v, (u,v) \notin E, \\ \lambda(u,v) & \text{if } u \neq v, (u,v) \in E \end{cases}$$

- Problem: compute the shortest distance matrix  $D = (d_{u,v})_{1 \leq u,v \leq n}$ .

# Algorithms for the All-Pairs Problem

- Iteration algorithm
  - complexity:  $\mathcal{O}(|V|^4)$
- Iteration algorithm with Doubling Up
  - complexity:  $\mathcal{O}(|V|^3 \cdot \log|V|)$
- Floyd-Warshall Algorithm
  - complexity:  $\mathcal{O}(|V|^3)$
- Johnson's Algorithm
  - uses Dijkstra and Bellman-Ford
  - well-suited for sparse graphs
  - complexity:  $\mathcal{O}(|V| \cdot |E| \cdot \log|V|)$  (in the simplest case)

# Further Variants of the Shortest Path Problem

- *Single-destination shortest-paths problem*: Find a shortest path to a given destination vertex (terminal)  $t$  from every other vertex  $v$ . NB: by reversing the direction of edges in the graph, the problem can be reduced to a single-source problem.
- *Single-pair shortest-path problem*: Find the shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$  for given vertices  $u$  and  $v$ . Special case of single-source and all-pairs problems. NB: no algorithm is known that is (asymptotically) faster than the best single-source algorithms in the worst case.
- *$k$ -shortest ( $k$ -best) paths problem*: Find the  $k$  shortest (different) paths (single-source or all-pairs problem)

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# Semiring

## Definition (Semiring)

A semiring is an algebraic structure  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  such that

- $(S, \oplus)$  is a commutative monoid:
  - i.  $\oplus$  is commutative
  - ii.  $\oplus$  is associative
  - iii.  $\bar{0}$  is the neutral element for  $\oplus$
- $(S, \otimes)$  is a monoid:
  - iv.  $\otimes$  is associative
  - v.  $\bar{1}$  is the neutral element for  $\otimes$
- $\otimes$  distributes over  $\oplus$  (from right and left), i.e.  $\forall a, b, c \in A$ :
  - vi.  $a \otimes (b \oplus c) = (a \otimes b) \oplus (a \otimes c)$
- $\bar{0}$  annihilates  $\otimes$ , i.e.  $\forall a \in A$ :
  - vii.  $a \otimes \bar{0} = \bar{0}$

# Idempotent, Commutative, and Bounded Semirings

## Definition (Idempotent Semiring)

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *idempotent* if

$$\forall a \in S \text{ holds : } a \oplus a = a$$

## Definition (Commutative Semiring)

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *commutative* if

$$\forall a, b \in S \text{ holds : } a \otimes b = b \otimes a$$

## Definition (Bounded Semiring)

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *bounded* if

$$\forall a \in S : \bar{1} \oplus a = \bar{1} \quad (\bar{1} \text{ annihilates } \oplus)$$

# Ordered Semirings

## Definition (Ordered Semiring)

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *ordered* when its partial order relation  $\preceq$  is monotone w.r.t to both operations. Then we have:

$$a \preceq b \text{ and } a' \preceq b' \implies a \oplus a' \preceq b \oplus b' \text{ and } a \otimes a' \preceq b \otimes b'$$

Obtaining an ordered semiring:

- Take idempotent semiring and define partial order by

$$a \preceq b \iff a \oplus b = b \quad (\text{natural order})$$

- Take (partially or linearly) ordered semigroup  $(S, \otimes)$  with neutral element  $\bar{1}$ , and  $\oplus$  is the sup or inf operation (max or min in case of a total order). The order relation of an ordered semigroup is monotone w.r.t. the multiplication.

# Complete Semirings

## Definition (Complete Semiring)

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *complete* if the existence of (countable) infinite sums is guaranteed. In particular, for every countable subset of  $S$ , we require:

- infinite commutativity of  $\oplus$
- infinite associativity of  $\oplus$
- infinite distributivity ( $\otimes$  distributes over infinite sums)

# Closed Semirings

## Definition [Lehmann, 1977]

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *closed* if there is an additional unary operation  $*$ , called closure, such that

$$\forall a \in S : a^* = \bar{1} \oplus a \otimes a^* = \bar{1} \oplus a^* \otimes a$$

## Definition [Rote, 1989]

Consider a semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  and the iteration equation

$$x = \bar{1} \oplus a \otimes x, \tag{1}$$

where  $a, x \in S$ . If there is always a solution  $a^*$  of (1), i.e. a fixed point exists, then the semiring is called *closed*.

# Closed Semirings, cont.

## Definition [Mohri, 2002]

A semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  is called *k-closed* if

$$\forall a \in S : \bigoplus_{n=0}^{k+1} a^n = \bigoplus_{n=0}^k a^n$$

where  $k \geq 0$ .

NB: a bounded semiring is a special *k-closed* semiring, namely for  $k = 0$ .

(0-closeness = boundedness)

# Simple Semirings

## Definition (Simple Semiring)

A *simple* semiring is a semiring which is bounded and closed.

## Definition (Dijkstra Semiring)

A *Dijkstra* semiring is a simple semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  with the property

$$a \oplus b = \text{either } a \text{ or } b \quad \forall a, b \in S.$$

In other words, its natural order defined by

$$a \succcurlyeq b \iff a \oplus b = a$$

is a total order.

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# General Definition

## Definition (Algebraic Path Problem)

The *Algebraic Path Problem* consists in performing a special unary operation, called the *closure*, over a square matrix with entries in a semiring [Fink, 1992].

General distinction between:

- graph approach, and
- matrix approach.

# Graph Approach

Consider a semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$  and a graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ , where  $\lambda : E \rightarrow S$  is the weight function.

## Definition (Algebraic Path Problem)

*Algebraic Path Problem:* compute the sum of the weights of all paths from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  in terms of the semiring, for all pairs  $v_i, v_j$ :

$$d(v_i, v_j) = \bigoplus_{p \in \mathcal{P}_{i,j}} \lambda(p) \quad (\text{sum-weight function})$$

where  $\lambda(p) = \bigotimes_{k=i}^j \lambda(v_k, v_{k+1})$ . [Fink, 1992, Rote, 1989]

Prerequisites:

- Complete, idempotent Semiring

# Graph Approach, cont.

## Definition (Algebraic Path Problem)

*Algebraic Path Problem:* for a *complete semiring* and the graph  $G$ , compute explicitly the  $n \times n$ -matrix  $D = (d_{ij})$ , the “distance matrix”, such that

$$d_{ij} = \bigoplus_{p \in \mathcal{P}_{i,j}} \lambda(p)$$

where  $\lambda(p) = \bigotimes_{k=i}^j \lambda(v_k, v_{k+1})$ . [Vogler, 2006]

Prerequisites:

- Complete Semiring

# Matrix Approach

- Define addition and multiplication of  $n \times n$ -matrices  $A = (a_{ij})$  and  $B = (b_{ij})$  over the semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$ :

$$A \oplus B = (a_{ij} \oplus b_{ij}), \quad A \otimes B = (c_{ij}) \quad \text{where } c_{ij} = \bigoplus_{k=1}^n a_{ik} \otimes b_{kj}$$

- Define the  $k$ -th power of matrix  $A$ :

$$A^k = (d_{ij}) \quad \text{where } d_{ij} = \bigoplus_{r=0}^{k-1} a_{ir} \otimes a_{rj}, \quad A^0 = I$$

- Define the *closure* of the matrix  $A$ :

$$A^* = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} A^k \tag{2}$$

# Matrix Approach, cont.

## Definition (Algebraic Path Problem)

*Algebraic Path Problem*: given a matrix  $A$  over a semiring  $(S, \oplus, \otimes)$ , compute its closure  $A^*$  defined by (2).

- The closure operation on matrices satisfies the closure property [Lehmann, 1977]:

$$A^* = I \oplus A \otimes A^* = I \oplus A^* \otimes A$$

- The closure of a  $n \times n$ -matrix over a *simple* semiring may be computed as follows [Lehmann, 1977]:

$$A^* = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{n-1} A^k = I \oplus A \oplus A^2 \oplus \dots \oplus A^{n-1}$$

*NB: semiring does neither require completeness, idempotency, nor annihilation of  $\otimes$  by  $\bar{0}$ .*

# Examples revisited

## Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

### 1. Transitive Closure

- Graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$
- Boolean semiring:  $\text{Bool} = (\{0, 1\}, \vee, \wedge, 0, 1)$
- Satisfies properties of a Dijkstra semiring
- Problem of computing the transitive closure of  $G$ : APP over  $G$  and  $\text{Bool}$

# Examples revisited

Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

## 2. Shortest Path Problem

- Graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}$
- Tropical semiring:  $\text{Trop} = (\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}, \min, +, \infty, 0)$
- Satisfies properties of a Dijkstra semiring
- Problem of computing the length of the shortest path (for all pairs): APP over  $G$  and  $\text{Trop}$

# Examples revisited

Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

## 3. Maximum Reliability Path Problem

- Graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow [0, 1]$
- Viterbi semiring:  $\text{Viterbi} = ([0, 1], \max, \cdot, 0, 1)$
- Satisfies properties of a Dijkstra semiring
- Problem of computing the highest attainable reliability between two nodes: APP over  $G$  and  $\text{Viterbi}$



# Examples revisited

Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

## 4. Maximum Capacity Path Problem

- Graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}$
- Bottleneck semiring:  $\text{Bottle} = (\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}, \max, \min, 0, \infty)$
- Satisfies properties of a Dijkstra semiring
- Problem of computing the greatest transfer capacity between two nodes: APP over  $G$  and  $\text{Bottle}$

# Examples revisited

## Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

### 5. Language accepted by a Finite State Automaton (FSA)

- FSA  $M = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, F, q_0)$ , where  $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$
- Set of words which lead from state  $q_1$  to state  $q_2$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2) = \{\omega \in \Sigma^* \mid q_2 \in \bar{\delta}(q_1, \omega)\}, \text{ where } \bar{\delta} : Q \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow Q$$

$$\text{such that } \bar{\delta}(q, \epsilon) = \{q\} \text{ and } \bar{\delta}(q, \omega a) = \bigcup_{q' \in \bar{\delta}(q, \omega)} \delta(q', a)$$

- Graph  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ , where  $V = Q$ ,  $E = Q \times Q$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\Sigma^*)$
- Kleene semiring:  $\text{Kleene} = (\mathcal{P}(\Sigma^*), \cup, *, \emptyset, \{\epsilon\})$  (closed)
- Problem of determining  $\mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2)$  for all pairs of states  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ :  
APP over  $G$  and Kleene

# Examples revisited

Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

## 6. Two-Terminal Connectivity

- Network  $G = (V, E, \lambda)$ ,  $\lambda : E \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_n$
- $\mathcal{B}_n$  set of  $n$ -ary Boolean functions
- Semiring of Boolean functions:  $\text{BF} = (\mathcal{B}_n, \max, \min, 0, 1)$
- Simple semiring, but not a Dijkstra semiring
- Problem of computing the structure function for  $u, v$ -connectivity for all pairs  $u$  and  $v$ : APP over  $G$  and BF

# Examples revisited

## Examples of closed (or complete) semirings

### 7. Final example: matrix inversion

- Consider the (partial) closed semiring  $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$
- The closure of  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $x^* = \frac{1}{1-x}$ ,  $\forall x \neq 1$
- This semiring can be completed to a closed semiring. Requires  $\bar{0}$  to be not annihilating for  $\otimes$  [Lehmann, 1977].
- This semiring for matrix inversion cannot be described by the graph approach, since addition is not idempotent

# Methods to solve the APP

- Iterative methods (search for a fixed point):
  - Jacobi iteration
  - Gauss-Seidel iteration
- Direct methods
  - generalized versions of known algorithms, such as:
    - Warshall's algorithm for transitive closure
    - Warshall-Floyd algorithm for shortest path
    - Kleene's algorithm for regular expressions
    - Gauss-Jordan algorithm for matrix inversion
  - Aho's algorithm
  - Mahr's algorithm
  - Adapted versions of Knuth's and Dijkstra's algorithms

# The General Solution

## Generalized version of the Warshall-Floyd-Kleene (WFK) algorithm

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### Algorithm 1: Generalized WFK

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**Input:**  $x \times n$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$ ,  $a_{ij} \in S$ ,  $S$  is a closed semiring.

**Output:**  $C$ , the closure of  $A$ .

```

1 begin
2    $A^{(0)} \leftarrow A$ 
3   for  $k$  from 1 to  $n$  do
4     foreach  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$  do
5        $[A^{(k)}]_{ij} \leftarrow [A^{(k-1)}]_{ij} \oplus [A^{(k-1)}]_{ik} \otimes ([A^{(k-1)}]_{kk})^* \otimes [A^{(k-1)}]_{kj}$ 
6     end
7   end
8    $C \leftarrow I_n + A^{(n)}$ 
9 end

```

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- Intuitively,  $([A^{(k-1)}]_{kk})^*$  represents the “sum” of all cycles with nodes in  $\{1, \dots, k-1\}$  that pass through node  $k$  (length  $k-1$ )
- Complexity:  $\mathcal{O}(n^3 \cdot (T_{\oplus} + T_{\otimes} + T_{*}))$

# Overview: Instances of the APP

The APP generalizes many important problems (choice):

- Graph and Network Problems
  - transitive closure and transitive reduction
  - shortest distance problems (distance functions)
  - capacity problems (max flow, network capacity, tunnel-problem)
  - connectivity measures for reliability networks
  - stochastic communication network problems
- Linear Algebra
  - computing the inverse of a matrix
- Regular Language Problems
  - correspondance: regular expressions and finite state automata

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# Our Approach I

1. Computing the structure function from the APP point of view:
  - Semiring of Boolean functions
  - All-pairs connectivity  $\rightarrow$  generalized WKF-algorithm
  - Single-source connectivity  $\rightarrow$  e.g. Dijkstra
  - Generalized single-source connectivity  $\rightarrow$  JH-algorithm
2. Obtaining the structure function for two-terminal reliability ( $s, t$ -connectivity) as instance of the APP
3. Extending the APP
  - All-pairs APP
  - Single-source APP
  - Generalized single-source APP (source-to-any, source-to-all, ...)
4. Network reliability computation (computing the structure function) as projection problem in a VA

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