

# AUTOMATICITY AND PRESENTATIONS OF SEMIGROUPS \*

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In this article, we make a survey of automaticity and presentations of semigroups.

## 1. Presentations of semigroups

**Definition 1** (1) *Let  $X$  be finite alphabets and  $R$  a subset of  $X^+ \times X^+$ . Then  $R$  is called a string-rewriting system.*

(2) *For  $u, v \in X^+$ ,  $(w_1, w_2) \in R$ ,  $uw_1v \Rightarrow_R uw_2v$ .*

*The congruence  $\mu_R$  on  $X^+$  generated by  $\Rightarrow_R$  is called the Thue congruence defined by  $R$ .*

(3) *A semigroup  $S$  is (finitely) presented if there exists a (finite) set of  $X$ , there exists a surjective homomorphism  $\phi$  of  $X^+$  to  $S$  and there exists a (finite) string-rewriting system  $R$  consisting of pairs of words over  $X$  such that the Thue congruence  $\mu_R$  is the congruence  $\{(w_1, w_2) \in X^* \times X^+ \mid \phi(w_1) = \phi(w_2)\}$ .*

*In this case, we say that  $S$  has a presentation by  $X$  and  $R$  denoted by  $S = \langle X : R \rangle$ .*

**Definition 2** *A semigroup  $S$  has a presentation with finite [ resp. regular, context-free ] congruence classes if there exists a finite set  $X$  and there exists a surjective homomorphism  $\phi$  of  $X^+$  to  $M$  such that for each word  $w \in X^+$ ,  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(w))$  is a finite [ resp. regular, context-free ] language.*

**Definition 3** *A semigroup  $S$  is called residually finite if for each pair of elements  $m, m' \in S$ , there exists a congruence on  $S$  such that the factor monoid  $S/\mu$  is finite and  $(m, m') \notin \mu$ .*

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\*This is an abstract and the paper will appear elsewhere.

**Definition 4** A semigroup  $S$  is called *residually finite* if for each pair of elements  $m, m' \in S$ , there exists a congruence on  $S$  such that the factor monoid  $S/\mu$  is finite and  $(m, m') \notin \mu$ .

**Result 1** ([9]). If a finitely generated semigroup  $S$  has a presentation with regular congruence classes, then  $S$  is residually finite.

**Definition 5** Let  $M$  be a monoid and  $m$  an element of  $M$ . The syntactic congruence  $\sigma_m$  on  $M$  is defined by  $s\sigma_m t$  ( $s, t \in M$ ) if and only if  $\{(x, y) \in M \times M \mid xsy = m\} = \{(x, y) \in M \times M \mid xty = m\}$ .

The factor monoid  $M/\sigma_m$  is called the syntactic monoid of  $M$  at  $m$ .

**Result 2** ([9]) Let  $S$  be a finitely generated semigroup.

Then  $S$  has a presentation with finite congruence classes if and only if the following are satisfied :

- (1)  $S$  has no idempotent.
- (2) For any  $s \in S$ ,  $S/\sigma_s$  is a finite nilpotent semigroup with a zero element 0.

## 2. Automatic semigroups

**Definition 6** Let  $X(2, \$) = (X \cup \{\$\}) \times (X \cup \{\$\}) - \{(\$, \$)\}$ , where  $\$$  is padding symbol.

$$\nu : X^* \times X^* \longrightarrow X(2, \$)^* \quad ((u, v) \mapsto (u\$, v\$^*))$$

$$\text{where } \max(|u|, |v|) = \max(|u\$|, |v\$^*|) \text{ and } \nu(\epsilon, \epsilon) = \epsilon.$$

$$\text{e.g. : } (abba, bbabab) \mapsto (a, b)(b, b)(b, a)(a, b)(\$, a)(\$, b)$$

**Definition 7** A semigroup  $S$  is called *automatic* if the following conditions hold ;

(1) There exists a regular language  $L(\subseteq X^*)$  and a surjective map  $\nu : L \rightarrow S$  ( $w \mapsto \overline{w}$ ).  $(X, L)$  is called a rational structure of  $S$ .

(2)  $A_a = \nu(\{(w, w') \in L \times L \mid \overline{wa} = \overline{w'}\})$  is a regular language over  $X(2, \$)$  for each  $a \in X \cup \{\epsilon\}$ .

In this case,  $(L, A_a (a \in X \cup \{\epsilon\}))$  is called an automatic structure.

**Result 3** ([1]) *An automatic semigroup with a rational structure  $(X, L)$  has a rational structure  $(X, L')$  with uniqueness.*

*That is, there exists a regular language  $L' (\subseteq L \subseteq X^*)$  and a bijective map  $: L' \rightarrow S$  ( $w \mapsto \bar{w}$ ).*

**Result 4** [1] *The followings hold ;*

- (1) *Automatic groups are finitely presented.*
- (2) *The semigroup  $\langle x, y : xy^i x = xyx (i > 2) \rangle$  is automatic but is not finitely presented.*

**Result 5** ([5]) *Automaticity of monoids is preserved by taking any change of generators.*

*However, this is not the case for semigroups.*

For  $w = a_1 \cdots a_n \in X^+$ ,

we denote  $w(t) = a_1 \cdots a_t$  if  $t \leq n$ ,  $w(t) = a_1 \cdots a_n$  if  $n < t$ .

**Definition 8** *A semigroup(group)  $S$  with a rational structure  $(X, L)$  has the fellow traveller property if there exists a constant  $k$  such that the Cayley graph  $\Gamma$  of  $S$  with generators  $X$ , whenever  $d(w(t), w'(t)) < k$  for all  $t \geq 1$  if  $d(w, w') \leq 1$ .*

( the distance function  $d(w, w') = \min\{|z| \mid z \in X^* \text{ with } \bar{wz} = \bar{w}' \text{ or } \bar{w} = \bar{w}'z\}$  )

**Result 6** (1) *A group  $G$  with a rational structure  $(X, L)$  is automatic if and if  $G$  has the fellow traveller property. (See [6])*

(2) *If A semigroup  $S$  with a rational structure  $(X, L)$  is automatic, then  $S$  has the fellow traveller property. (See [1])*

(3) *The semigroup  $S^0$  (an non-automatic semigroup  $S$  with an adjoined zero 0) has the fellow traveller property, but is not automatic. (See [1])*

### 3. Exsamples of automatic semigroups and non-automatic semigroups

**Example 1** *Finite groups, finite semigroups, Hyperbolic groups, finitely generated commutative groups.*

**Example 2** *Finitely generated commutative semigroups, hyperbolic semigroups are not always automatic.*

**Result 7** ([6]) *For the Baumslag-Solitar group  $BSG(m, n) = \langle x, y : yx^m = xy^n \rangle$ ,*

*we have*

- (1)  *$BSG(m, n)$  is not automatic if  $m \neq n$ .*
- (2)  *$BSG(m, n)$  is automatic if  $m = n$ .*

**Result 8** ([2]) *For the Baumslag-Solitar semigroup  $BS(m, n) = \langle x, y : yx^m = xy^n \rangle$ ,*

*we have*

- (1)  *$BS(m, n)$  is automatic if  $m > n$ .*
- (2)  *$BS(m, n)$  is left automatic if  $m > n$ .*
- (3)  *$BS(m, n)$  is non-automatic if  $m = n$ .*

**Result 9** ([3]) *The monogenic free semigroup  $FA_x$  does not have any rational structure with uniqueness.*

### 4. Automaticity and presentations with context-free congruence classes

**Result 10** ([3]) *Let  $S$  be a finitely generated subsemigroup of virtually free group  $G$ . Then  $S$  is a semigroup having a presentation with context-free congruence classes.*

**Result 11** ([3]) *Finitely generated subsemigroups of virtually free groups are automatic.*

**Result 12** *Bicyclic monoid  $\langle a, b : ba = \epsilon \rangle = \langle a, b, e : ba = e; ae = ea = a, be = eb = b \rangle$  is automatic and has a presentation with context-free congruence classes.*

**Result 13** ([1]) *The fundamental four-spiral semigroup  $SP_4 = \langle a, b, c, d : a^2 = a, b^2 = b, c^2 = c, d^2 = d,$*

*$ba = a, ab = b, bc = b, cb = c, dc = c, cd = d, da = d \rangle$  is automatic.*

*Moreover, every finitely generated subsemigroups of  $SP_4$  is automatic.*

## 5. Problems on commutative automatic semigroups

**Result 14** ([7]) *The finitely generated commutative semigroup  $\langle a, b, x, y : aax = bx, bby = ay, ab = ba, ax = xa, ay = ya, bx = xb, by = yb, xy = yx \rangle$  is not automatic.*

**Question.** *If a finitely generated commutative semigroup  $S$  has a presentation with finite congruence classes, then is  $S$  automatic?*

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