

Coalgebra: applications in automata theory and programming language design

Alexandra Silva

Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen and CWI

Chocola meeting, 16 May 2013

Coalgebra

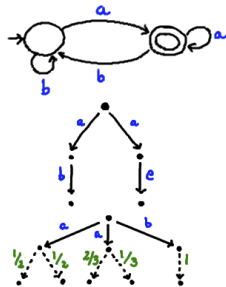
Specify and reason about systems.



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state-machines
 e.g. DFA, LTS, PA



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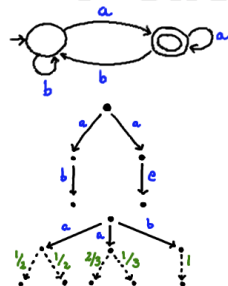
Syntax
 RE, CCS, ...

$$b^*a(b^*a)^*$$

$$a.b.0 + a.c.0$$

$$a.(1/2 \cdot 0 \oplus 1/2 \cdot 0) + \dots$$

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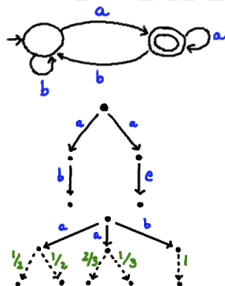
Axiomatization
 KA, ...

$$1 + a a^* = a^*$$

$$P + 0 = P$$

$$p.P \oplus p'.P = (p+p').P$$

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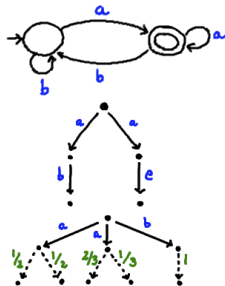
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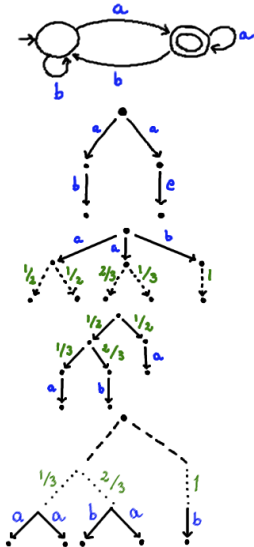
state-machines
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Can we do all of this **uniformly** in a single framework?

What do these things have in common?

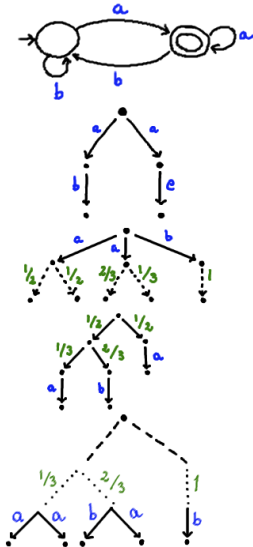
$$(S, t : S \rightarrow 2 \times S^A)$$



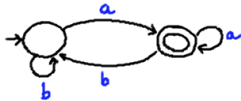
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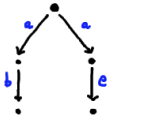
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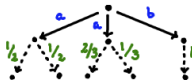
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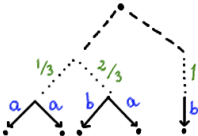
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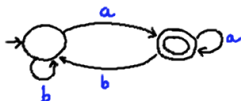
$$(S, t : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}S^A)$$



$$(S, t : S \rightarrow \mathcal{PD}_\omega(S)^A)$$



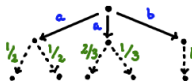
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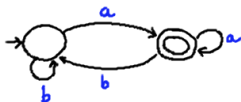
$$(S, t : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}D_\omega(S)^A)$$



$$(S, t : S \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_\omega(S) + (A \times S) + 1)$$



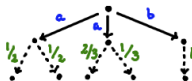
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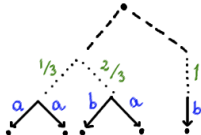
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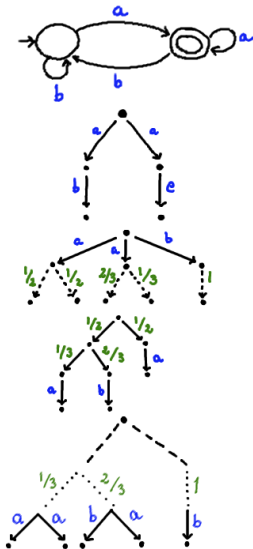


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$$(S, t : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(D_\omega(\mathcal{P}S)^A))$$

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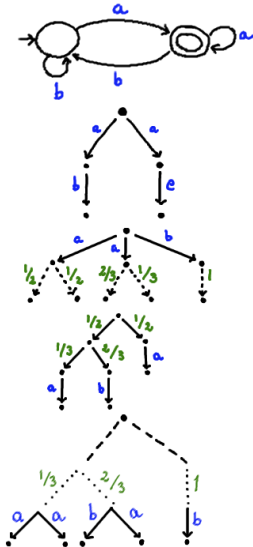
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$$(S, t : S \rightarrow TS)$$

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$$(S, t : S \rightarrow TS) \quad T\text{-coalgebras}$$

The power of T

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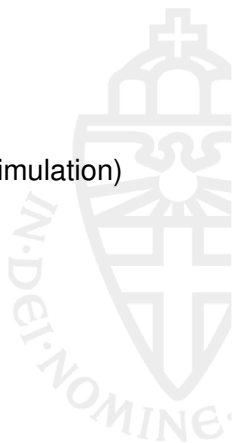


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The functor T determines:

- 1 notion of observational equivalence (coalg. bisimulation)
E.g. $T = 2 \times (-)^A$: language equivalence

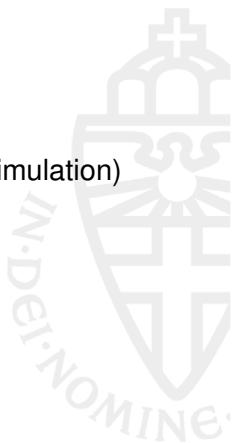


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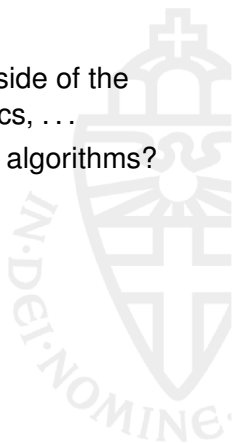
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E.g. $T = 2 \times (-)^A$: languages over $A - 2^{A^*}$
- 3 set of expressions describing finite systems
- 4 axioms to prove bisimulation equivalence of expressions

1 + 2 are classic coalgebra; 3 + 4 are recent work.

How about algorithms?

- Coalgebra has found its place in the semantic side of the world: operational/denotational semantics, logics, . . .
- Are there also opportunities for contributions in algorithms?



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YES WE CAN!

Brzowski's algorithm (co)algebraically



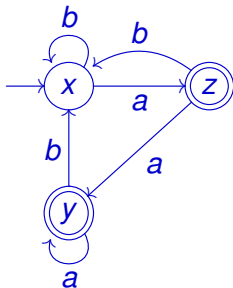
Motivation

- duality between reachability and observability (Arbib and Manes 1975): beautiful, not very well-known.
- combined use of algebra and coalgebra.
- our understanding of automata is still very limited; cf. recent research: universal automata, àtomata, weighted automata ([Sakarovitch](#), [Brzowski](#), . . .)

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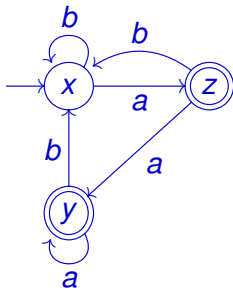
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- our understanding of automata is still very limited; cf. recent research: universal automata, àtomata, weighted automata (Sakarovitch, Brzozowski, . . .)
- joint work with Bonchi, Bonsangue, Rutten (Dexter's festschrift 2012)

Brzozowski algorithm (by example)

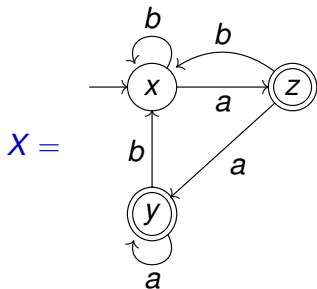


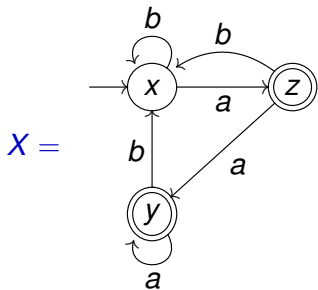
- initial state: x
- final states: y and z
- $L(x) = \{a, b\}^* a$

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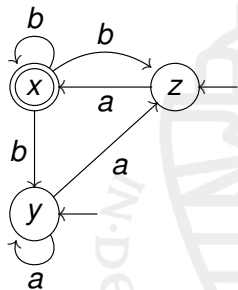


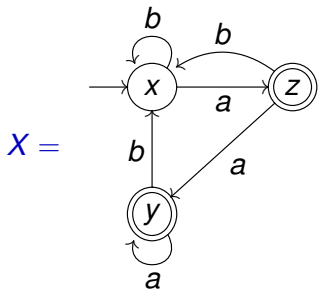
- initial state: x • final states: y and z
- $L(x) = \{a, b\}^* a$
- X is reachable but not minimal: $L(y) = \varepsilon + \{a, b\}^* a = L(z)$

Reversing the automaton: $rev(X)$ 

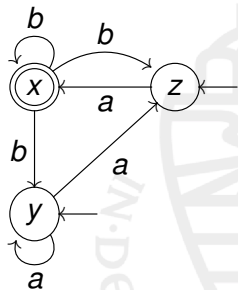
Reversing the automaton: $rev(X)$ 

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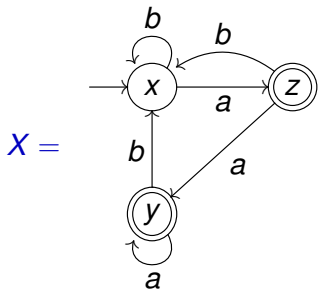


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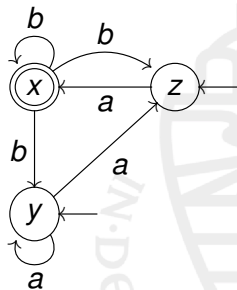
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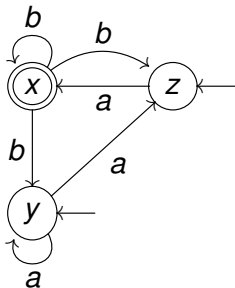
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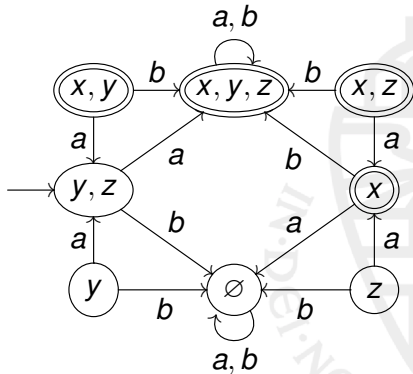
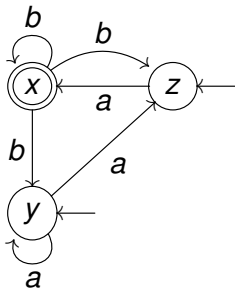
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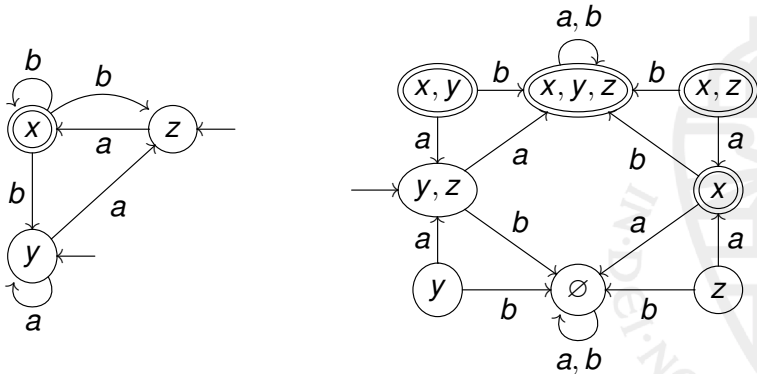


- transitions are reversed
- initial states \Leftrightarrow final states
- $rev(X)$ is non-deterministic

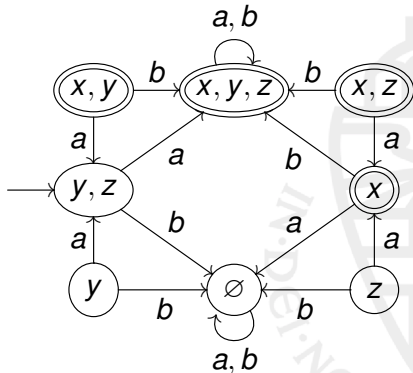
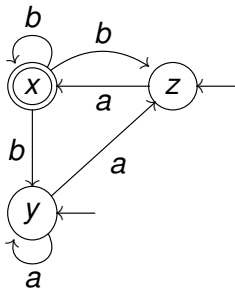
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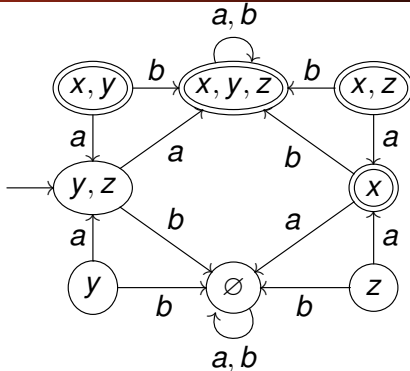
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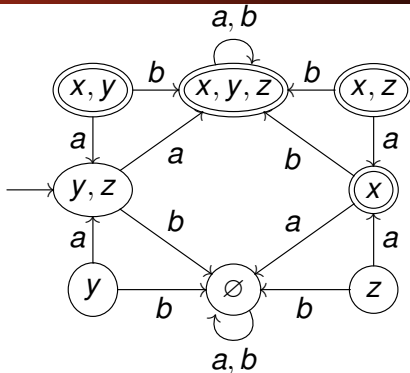
- new state space: $2^X = \{V \mid V \subseteq \{x, y, z\}\}$

- $V \xrightarrow{a} W$ $W = \{w \mid v \xrightarrow{a} w, v \in V\}$

The automaton $det(\text{rev}(X))$. . .

- . . . accepts the reverse of the language accepted by X :

$$L(\text{det}(\text{rev}(X))) = a\{a, b\}^* = \text{reverse}(L(X))$$

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- . . . and is observable!

Today's Theorem

If: a deterministic automaton X is **reachable** and accepts $L(X)$



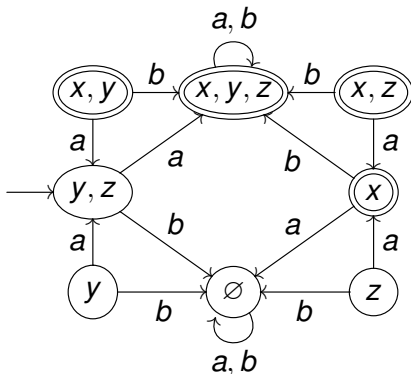
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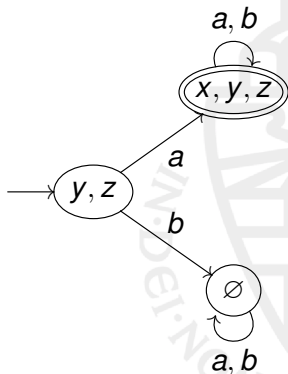
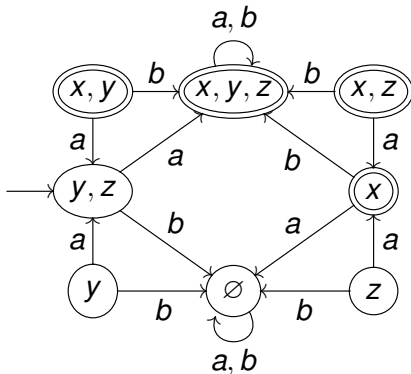
then: $\det(\text{rev}(X))$ is **minimal** and

$$L(\det(\text{rev}(X))) = \text{reverse}(L(X))$$

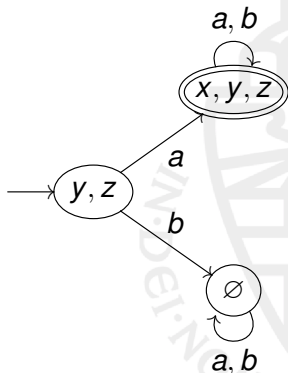
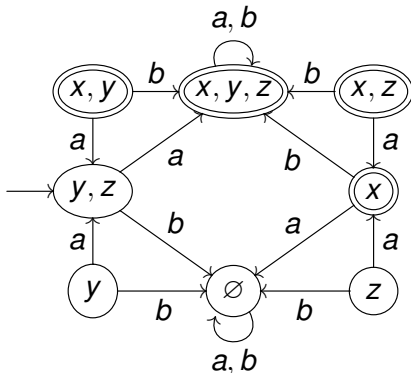


Taking the reachable part of $\text{det}(\text{rev}(X))$ 

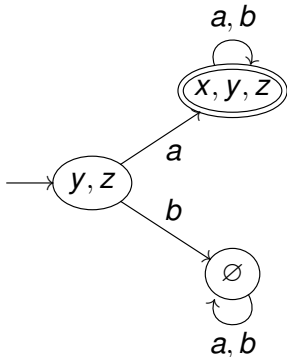
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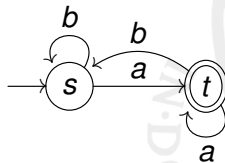
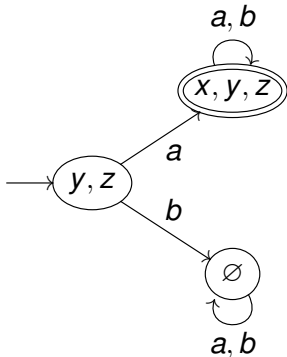


- $\text{reach}(\text{det}(\text{rev}(X)))$

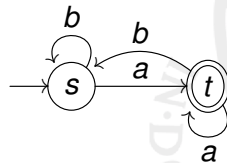
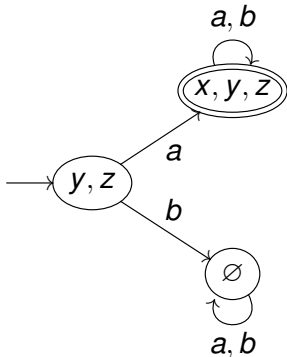
Taking the reachable part of $\det(\text{rev}(X))$ 

- $\text{reach}(\det(\text{rev}(X)))$ is reachable (by construction)

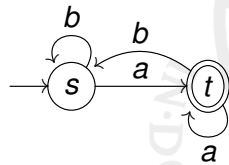
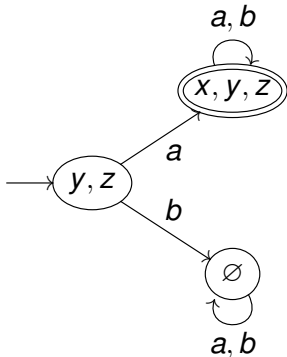
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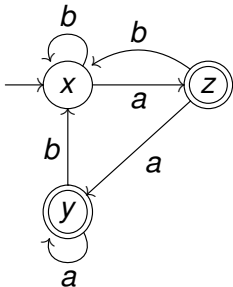


- . . . gives us $reach(det(rev(reach(det(rev(X))))))$

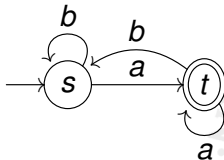
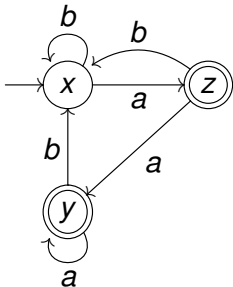
Repeating everything, now for $reach(det(rev(X)))$ 

- . . . gives us $reach(det(rev(reach(det(rev(X))))))$
- which is (reachable and) minimal and accepts $\{a, b\}^* a$.

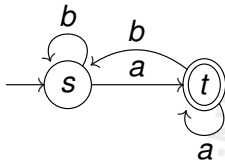
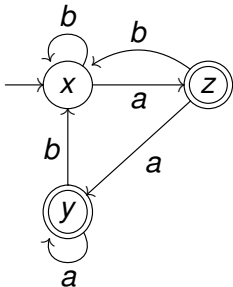
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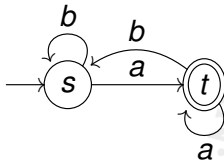
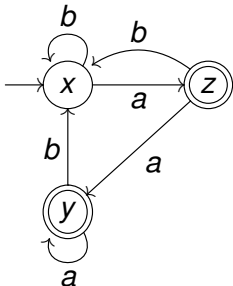


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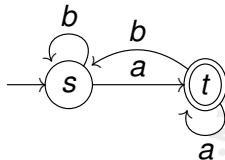
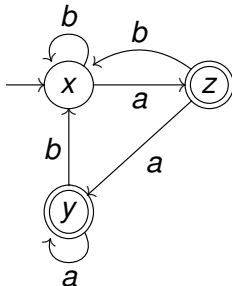
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- $reach(det(rev(reach(det(rev(X))))))$ also accepts $\{a, b\}^* a$

All in all: Brzozowski's algorithm



- X is reachable and accepts $\{a, b\}^* a$
- $reach(det(rev(reach(det(rev(X))))))$ also accepts $\{a, b\}^* a$
- . . . and is minimal!!

Goal of the day

- Correctness of Brzozowski's algorithm (co)algebraically
- Generalizations to other types of automata



(Co)algebra

algebras:

$$\begin{array}{c} F(X) \\ \downarrow f \\ X \end{array}$$

coalgebras:

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow f \\ F(X) \end{array}$$

Examples of algebras

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \\ \downarrow \\ + \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$



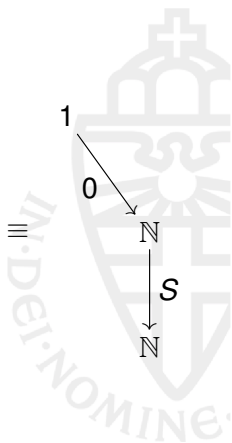
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$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \\ \downarrow + \\ \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 + \mathbb{N} \\ \downarrow [0, S] \\ \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

 \equiv

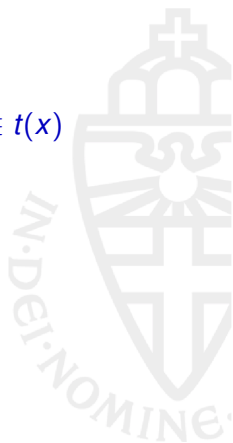
$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & & \mathbb{N} \\ \searrow 0 & & \swarrow S \\ & \mathbb{N} & \end{array}$$



Examples of coalgebras

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow t \\ \mathcal{P}(A \times X) \end{array}$$

$$x \xrightarrow{a} y \iff \langle a, y \rangle \in t(x)$$



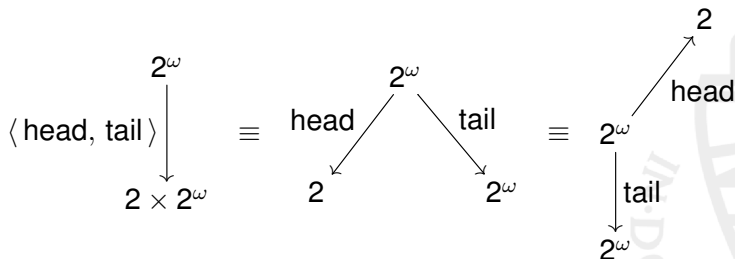
Examples of coalgebras

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow t \\ \mathcal{P}(A \times X) \end{array}$$

$$x \xrightarrow{a} y \iff \langle a, y \rangle \in t(x)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow \langle \text{Left}, \text{label}, \text{Right} \rangle \\ X \times A \times X \end{array}$$

Examples of coalgebras



$$\text{head}((b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots)) = b_0$$

$$\text{tail}((b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots)) = (b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots)$$

Homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(Y) \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \end{array}$$



Homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(Y) \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow g \\ X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow g \\ F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(Y) \end{array}$$

Initiality, finality

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(A) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(X) \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow f \\ A & \xrightarrow{\exists! h} & X \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\exists! h} & Z \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\ F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(Z) \end{array}$$

Initiality, finality

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- initial algebras \leftrightarrow induction

Initiality, finality

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- initial algebras \leftrightarrow induction
- final coalgebras \leftrightarrow coinduction

Automata, (co)algebraically

- Automata are complicated structures:
part of them is algebra - part of them is coalgebra

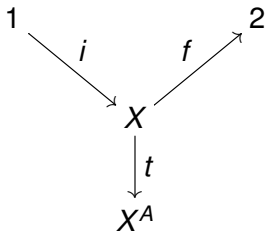


Automata, (co)algebraically

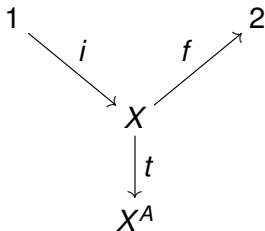
- Automata are complicated structures:
part of them is algebra - part of them is coalgebra
- (. . . in two different ways . . .)



A deterministic automaton



A deterministic automaton



where

$$1 = \{0\} \quad 2 = \{0, 1\} \quad X^A = \{g \mid g : A \rightarrow X\}$$

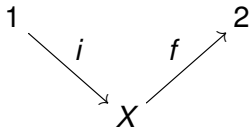
$$\textcircled{x} \xrightarrow{a} \textcircled{y} \iff t(x)(a) = y$$

$i(0) \in X$ is the initial state

$$\textcircled{\textcircled{x}} \text{ is final (or accepting)} \iff f(x) = 1$$

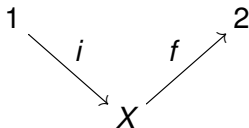
Automata: algebra or coalgebra?

- initial state: algebraic – final states: coalgebraic



Automata: algebra or coalgebra?

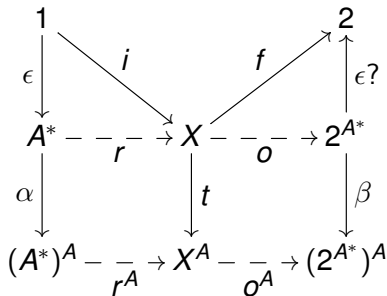
- initial state: algebraic – final states: coalgebraic



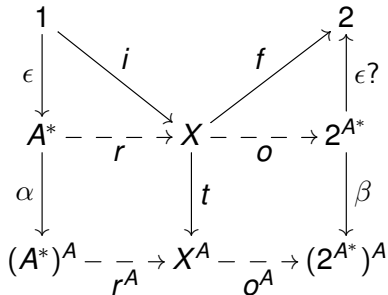
- transition function: both algebraic and coalgebraic

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{\underline{X \xrightarrow{t} X^A}} \\ X \longrightarrow (A \longrightarrow X) \\ \underline{\underline{X \times A \xrightarrow{t} X}} \end{array}$$

Automata: algebra **and** coalgebra!

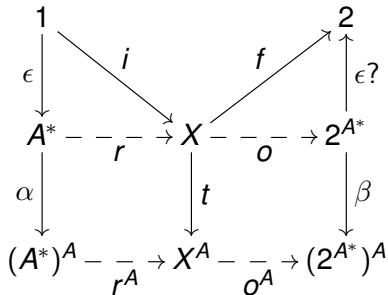


Automata: algebra **and** coalgebra!



To take home: this picture!! . . .

Automata: algebra **and** coalgebra!



To take home: this picture!! . . . which we'll explain next . . .

The “automaton” of languages

$$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \uparrow \epsilon? \\ 2^{A^*} \\ \downarrow \beta \\ (2^{A^*})^A \end{array}$$

$$\epsilon?(L) = 1 \leftrightarrow \epsilon \in L$$

$$2^{A^*} = \{g \mid g : A^* \rightarrow 2\} \cong \{L \mid L \subseteq A^*\}$$

$$\beta(L)(a) = L_a = \{w \in A^* \mid a \cdot w \in L\}$$

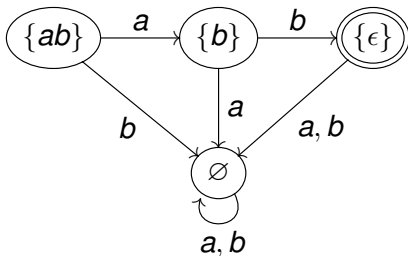
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- We say “automaton”: it does not have an initial state.

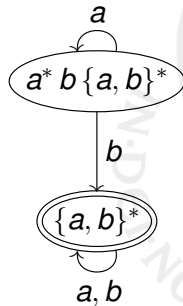
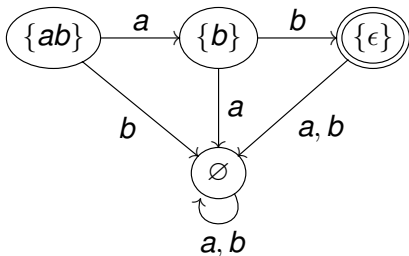
The automaton of languages

- transitions: $L \xrightarrow{a} L_a$ where $L_a = \{w \in A^* \mid a \cdot w \in L\}$
- for instance:



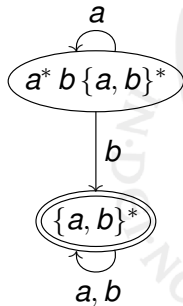
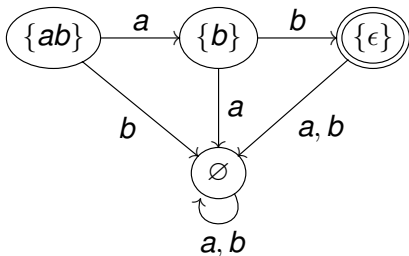
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The automaton of languages

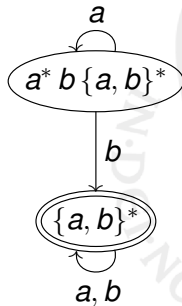
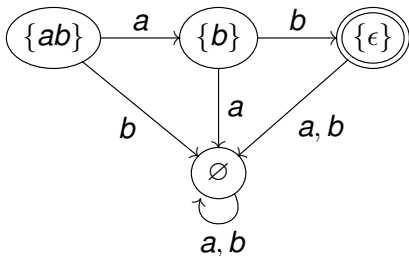
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- for instance:



- note: every **state** L accepts . . .

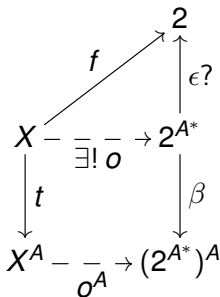
The automaton of languages

- transitions: $L \xrightarrow{a} L_a$ where $L_a = \{w \in A^* \mid a \cdot w \in L\}$
- for instance:



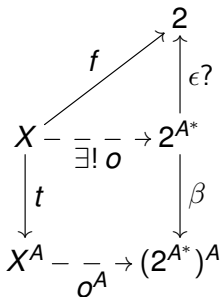
- note: every **state** L accepts the **language** L !!

The automaton of languages is . . . final



$$o(x) = \{w \in A^* \mid f(x_w) = 1\}$$

$$= \text{the language accepted by } x$$

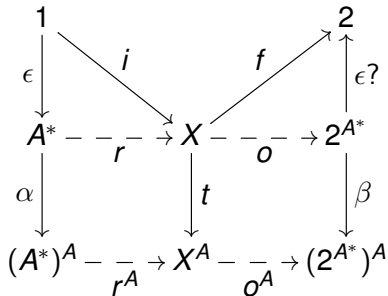
The automaton of languages is . . . **final**

$$o(x) = \{w \in A^* \mid f(x_w) = 1\}$$

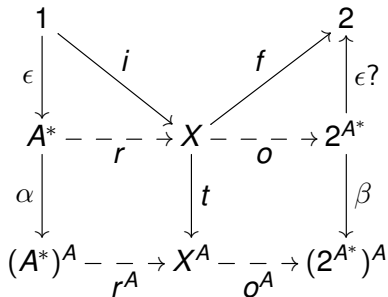
$$= \text{the language accepted by } x$$

where: x_w is the state reached after inputting the word w ,
and: $o^A(g) = o \circ g$, all $g \in X^A$.

Back to today's picture



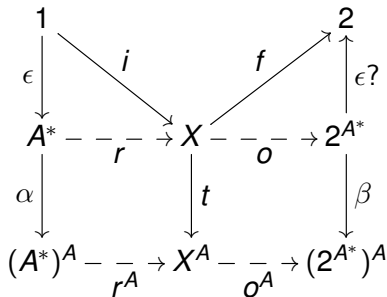
Back to today's picture



On the right: final coalgebra



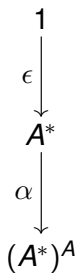
Back to today's picture



On the right: final coalgebra

On the left: initial algebra . . .

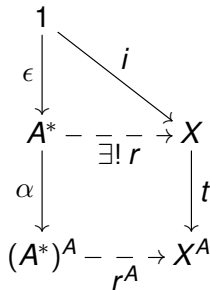
The “automaton” of words



ϵ is initial state

$$\alpha(w)(a) = w \cdot a$$

that is, transitions: $w \xrightarrow{a} w \cdot a$

The automaton of words is . . . **initial**

$i \in X$ = initial state
(to be precise: $i(0)$)

$r(w)$ = i_w
= the state **reached** from i
after inputting w

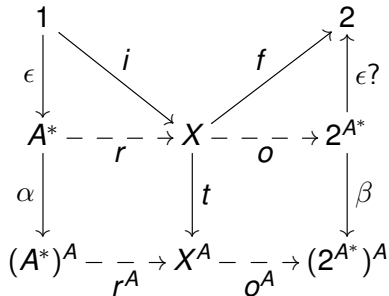
- Proof: easy exercise.
- Proof: formally, because A^* is an initial $1 + A \times (-)$ -algebra!

Duality

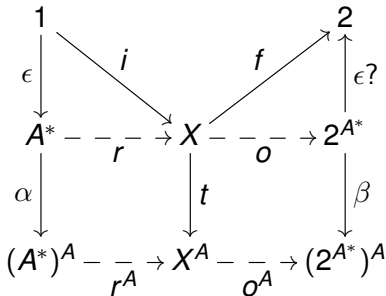
- Reachability and observability are dual:
Arbib and **Manes**, 1975.
- (here observable = minimal)



Reachability and observability



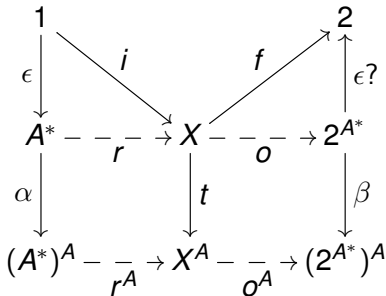
Reachability and observability



$r(w)$ = state reached
 on input w

$o(x)$ = language
 accepted by x

Reachability and observability

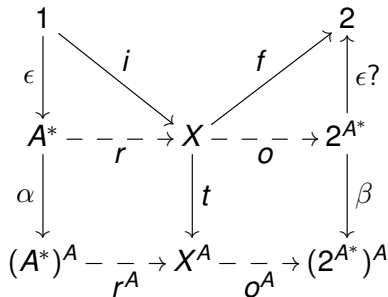


$r(w)$ = state reached
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- We call X **reachable** if r is **surjective**.

Reachability and observability



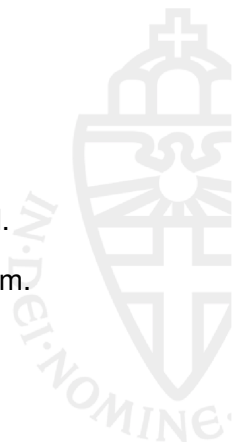
$r(w)$ = state reached
on input w

$o(x)$ = language
accepted by x

- We call X **reachable** if r is **surjective**.
- We call X **observable** (= minimal) if o is **injective**.

Reversing the automaton

- Reachability \leftrightarrow observability
- Being precise about homomorphisms is crucial.
- Forms the basis for proof Brzowski's algorithm.



Powerset construction

$$2^{(-)} : \quad \begin{array}{c} V \\ \downarrow g \\ W \end{array} \quad \mapsto \quad \begin{array}{c} 2^V \\ \uparrow 2g \\ 2^W \end{array}$$





Powerset construction

$$2^{(-)} : \begin{array}{c} V \\ \downarrow g \\ W \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} 2^V \\ \uparrow 2^g \\ 2^W \end{array}$$

where $2^V = \{S \mid S \subseteq V\}$ and, for all $S \subseteq W$,

$$2^g(S) = g^{-1}(S) \quad (= \{v \in V \mid g(v) \in S\})$$

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- This construction is **contravariant** !!

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$$2^g(S) = g^{-1}(S) \quad (= \{v \in V \mid g(v) \in S\})$$

- This construction is **contravariant** !!
- Note: if g is **surjective**, then 2^g is **injective**.

Reversing transitions

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow t \\ X^A \end{array}$$



Reversing transitions

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow t \\ X^A \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} X \times A \\ \downarrow \\ X \end{array}$$



Reversing transitions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \parallel & X \times A \\ t \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X^A & & X \end{array} \xrightarrow{2^{(-)}} \begin{array}{c} 2^{X \times A} \\ \uparrow \\ 2^X \end{array}$$



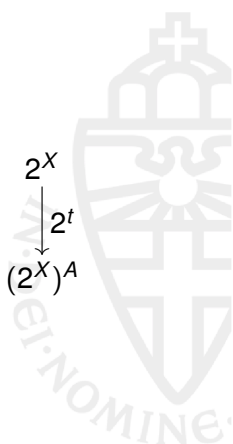
Reversing transitions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} X \\ \downarrow t \\ X^A \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} X \times A \\ \downarrow \\ X \end{array} & \xrightarrow{2^{(-)}} & \begin{array}{c} 2^{X \times A} \\ \uparrow \\ 2^X \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} (2^X)^A \\ \uparrow \\ 2^X \end{array} \end{array}$$

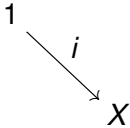


Reversing transitions

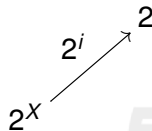
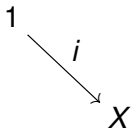
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
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 \end{array}$$



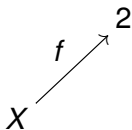
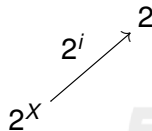
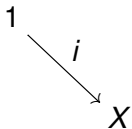
Initial \leftrightarrow final



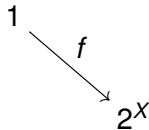
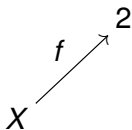
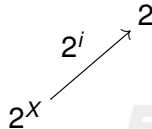
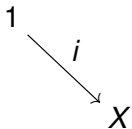
Initial \leftrightarrow final



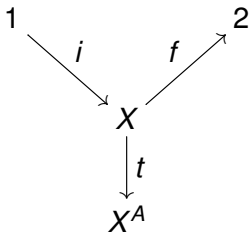
Initial \leftrightarrow final



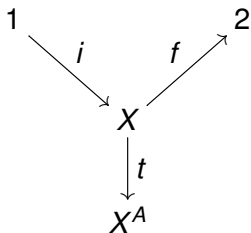
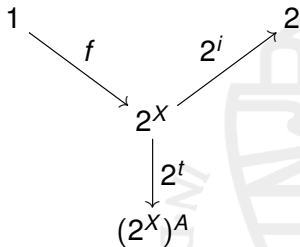
Initial \leftrightarrow final



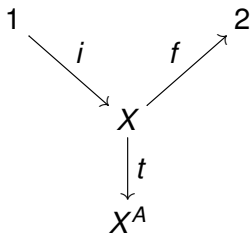
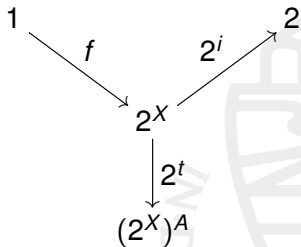
Reversing the entire automaton



Reversing the entire automaton

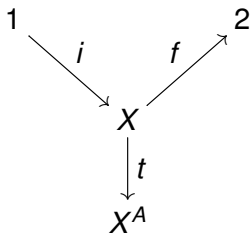
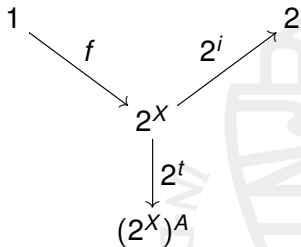
 $\xrightarrow{2(-)}$ 

Reversing the entire automaton

 $\xrightarrow{2(-)}$ 

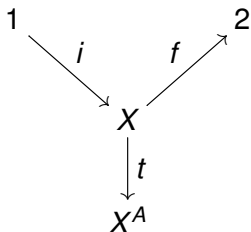
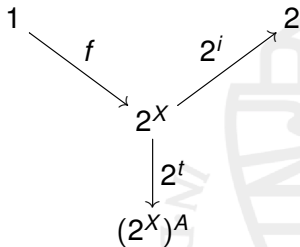
- Initial and final are exchanged . . .

Reversing the entire automaton


 $\xrightarrow{2(-)}$


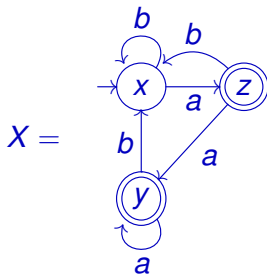
- Initial and final are exchanged . . .
- transitions are reversed . . .

Reversing the entire automaton

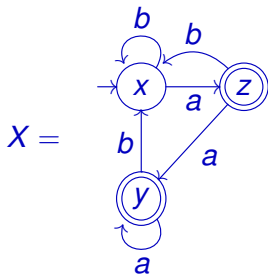
 $\xrightarrow{2(-)}$ 

- Initial and final are exchanged . . .
- transitions are reversed . . .
- and the result is again deterministic!

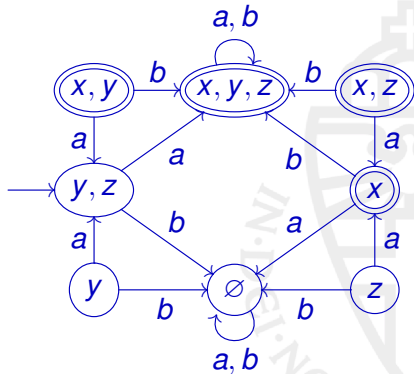
Our previous example



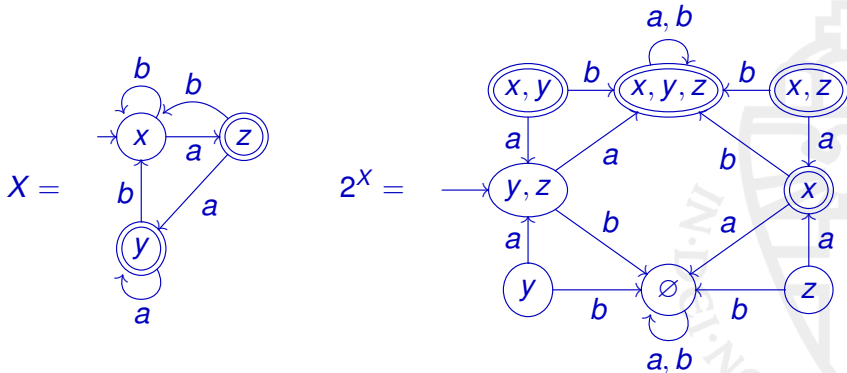
Our previous example



$2^X =$



Our previous example



- Note that X has been reversed and determinized:

$$2^X = \det(\text{rev}(X))$$

Proving today's Theorem

If: a deterministic automaton X is **reachable** and accepts $L(X)$



Proving today's Theorem

If: a deterministic automaton X is **reachable** and accepts $L(X)$

then: $2^X (= \text{det}(\text{rev}(X)))$ is **minimal/observable** and

$$L(2^X) = \text{reverse}(L(X))$$

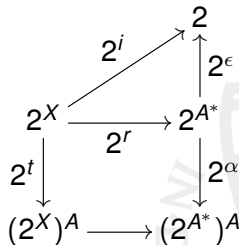
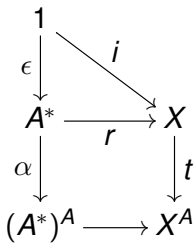


Proof: by reversing $A^* \xrightarrow{r} X$

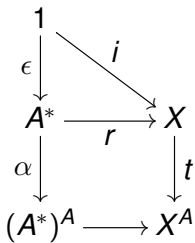
$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & & \\ \epsilon \downarrow & \searrow i & \\ A^* & \xrightarrow{r} & X \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow t \\ (A^*)^A & \longrightarrow & X^A \end{array}$$



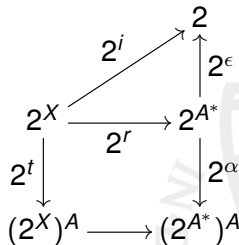
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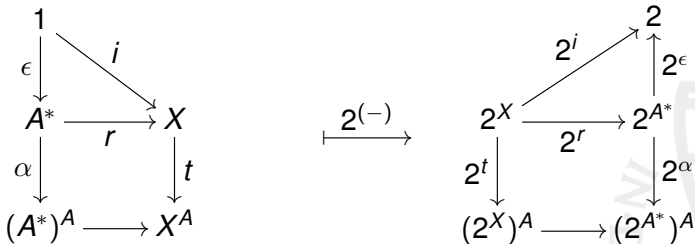


$\xrightarrow{2(-)}$



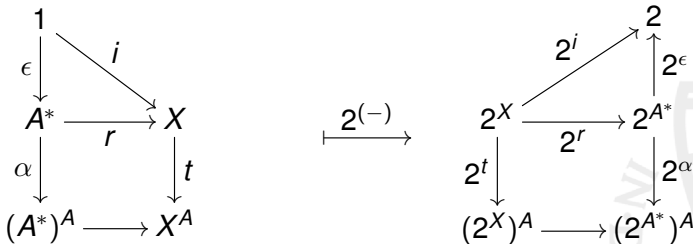
- X becomes 2^X

Proof: by reversing $A^* \xrightarrow{r} X$



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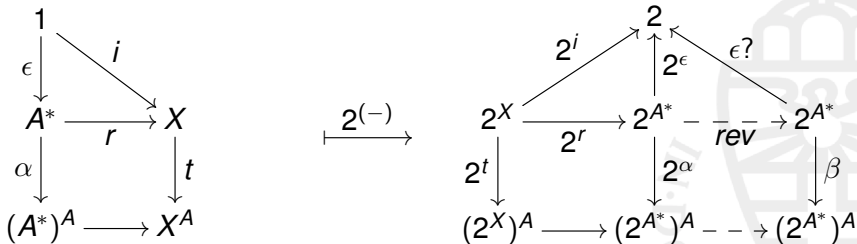
- X becomes 2^X
- initial automaton A^* becomes (almost) final automaton 2^{A^*}
- r is **surjective** \Rightarrow 2^r is **injective**

Reachable becomes observable

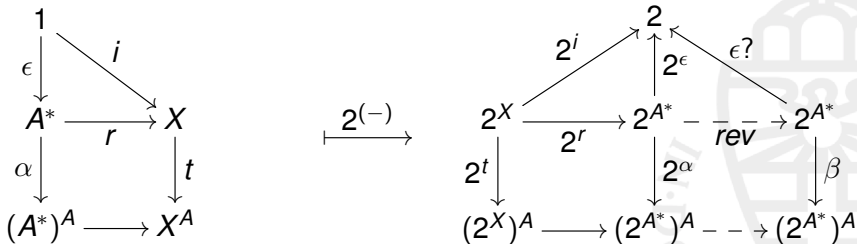
$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & & \\ \epsilon \downarrow & \searrow i & \\ A^* & \xrightarrow{r} & X \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow t \\ (A^*)^A & \longrightarrow & X^A \end{array}$$



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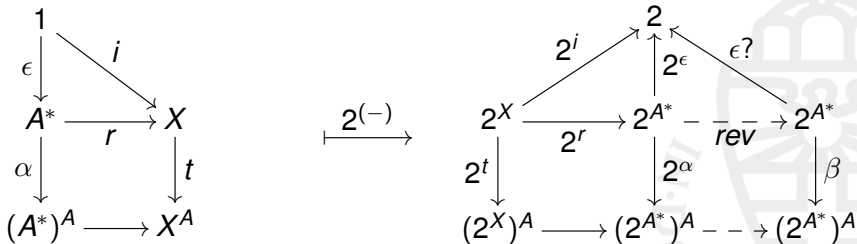


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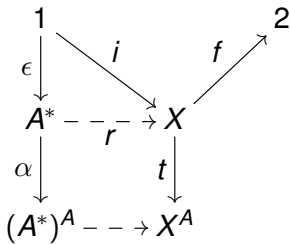
- If r is **surjective** then $(2^r$ and hence) $rev \circ 2^r$ is **injective**.

Reachable becomes observable

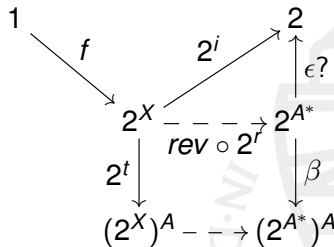
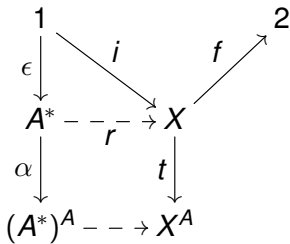


- If r is **surjective** then $(2^r$ and hence) $rev \circ 2^r$ is **injective**.
- That is, 2^X is observable (= minimal).

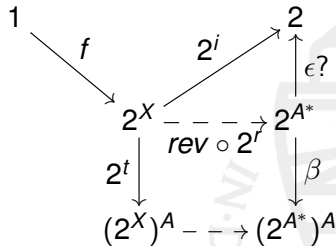
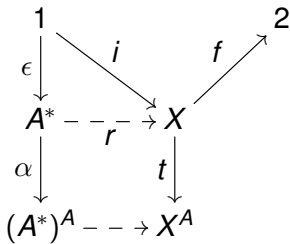
Summarizing



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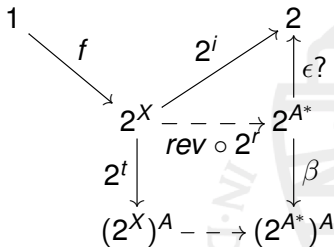
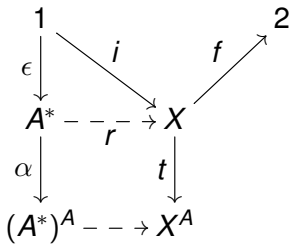


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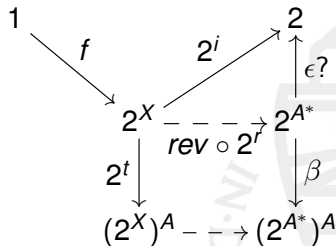
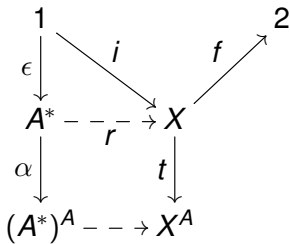
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Summarizing



- If: X is reachable, i.e., r is surjective
then: $rev \circ 2^r$ is injective, i.e., 2^X is observable = minimal.
- And: $rev(2^r(f)) = rev(o(i))$, i.e., $L(2^X) = reverse(L(X))$

Corollary: Brzowski's algorithm

- X becomes 2^X , accepting $\text{reverse}(L(X))$



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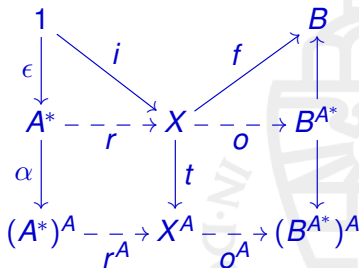
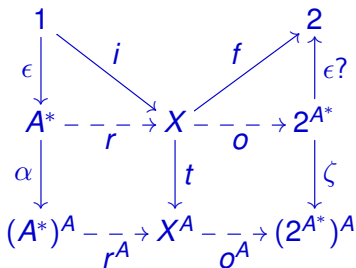


Corollary: Brzowski's algorithm

- X becomes 2^X , accepting $reverse(L(X))$
- take reachable part: $Y = reachable(2^X)$
- Y becomes 2^Y , which is minimal and accepts
 $reverse(reverse(L(X))) = L(X)$



Generalizations

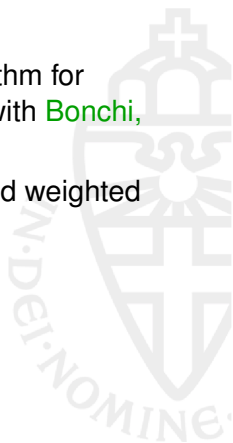


- A **Brzozowski** minimization algorithm for **Moore** automata.

$$B^X = \{\varphi \mid \varphi: X \rightarrow B\} \quad B^f(\varphi) = \varphi \circ f$$

Further generalizations

- Moore automata generalization: uniform algorithm for decorated traces and must testing (joint work with **Bonchi, Caltais and Pous**);
- Further generalizations to non-deterministic and weighted automata.



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- Further generalizations to non-deterministic and weighted automata.

Coalgebra is not only semantics but also algorithms!

CoCaml: Programming with Coinductive Types

(joint work with [Jean-Baptiste Jeannin](#) and [Dexter Kozen](#))



Computing with Coalgebraic Data

- Inductive datatypes and functions on those are well-understood; coinductive datatypes often considered difficult to handle, not many programming languages offer the constructs for them.
- OCaml offers the possibility of defining coinductive datatypes, but the means to define recursive functions on them are limited.
- Often the obvious definitions do not halt or provide the wrong solution.
- Even so, there are often perfectly good solutions (examples forthcoming!)
- We show how to extend the language to allow it!

Motivating example

```
type list = N | C of int * list
```

```
let rec ones = C(1, ones);; 1,1,1,1,...
```

```
let rec alt = C(1, C(2, alt));; 1,2,1,2,...
```



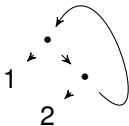
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Infinite lists but...regular:



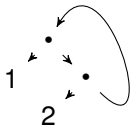
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```

Infinite lists but...regular:



A simple function:

```
let set l = match l with
```

```
| N -> N
```

```
| C(h, t) -> (insert h (set t));;
```

We expect `set ones = {1}` and `set alt = {1,2}`.

What is the problem?

- The function definition above will not halt in OCaml. . .
- even though it is clear what the answer should be;



What is the problem?

- The function definition above will not halt in OCaml. . .
- even though it is clear what the answer should be;
- Note that this is not a corecursive definition: we are not asking for a greatest solution or a unique solution in a final coalgebra,
- but rather a least solution in a different ordered domain from the one provided by the standard semantics of recursive functions.
- Standard semantics: least solution in the flat Scott domain with bottom element \perp representing nontermination
- Intended semantics: least solution in a different CPO, namely $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Z}), \subseteq)$ with bottom element \emptyset .

Motivating example c'd

We would like to use (almost) the same definition and get the intended solution. . .

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let set l = match l with
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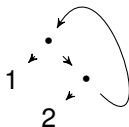
We change it to:

```
let corec[iterator(N)] set l = match l with
| N -> N
| C(h, t) -> insert h (set t);;
```

The construct `corec` with the parameter `iterator(N)` specifies to the compiler how to solve equations.

Motivating example c'd

For instance, for the infinite list `alt`:



the compiler will generate two equations:

```
set(x) = insert 1 (set(y))
```

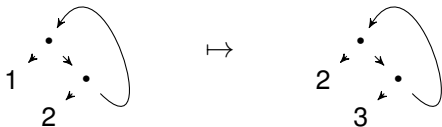
```
set(y) = insert 2 (set(x))
```

then solve them using `iterator` (least fixed point) which will produce the intended set `{1,2}`.

Motivating example c'd

```
let map f = match arg with  
| N -> N  
| C(h, t) -> C(f(h), map(f,t));;
```

We would like: `map plusOne alt` to produce the infinite list `2,3,2,3,...`:



This is not a least fixed point computation anymore but rather a solution in the final coalgebra.

Another Example

Free variables of a λ -term

```
type term =  
  | Var of string      x  
  | App of term *      (f e)  
term  
  | Lam of string *     $\lambda x.e$   
term  
  
let rec fv = function  
  | Var v -> {v}  
  | App(t1,t2) -> fv t1 U fv t2  
  | Lam(x,t) -> (fv t) - {x}
```



Another Example

But what about infinitary λ -terms (λ -coterms)?

```
type term =
```

```
  | Var of string      x
```

```
  | App of term *      (f e)
```

```
term
```

```
  | Lam of string *     $\lambda x.e$ 
```

```
term
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let rec fv = function
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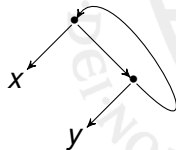
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  | Var v -> {v}
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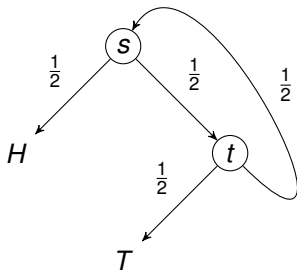
```
  | Lam(x,t) -> (fv t) - {x}
```

```
let rec t = App(Var "x", App(Var "y", t))
```

We would like: $fv\ t = \{x, y\}$ (again LFP).



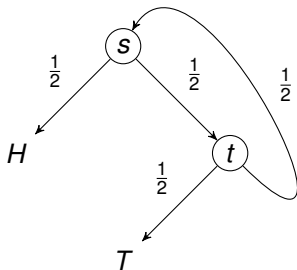
Probabilistic Protocols



$$\Pr_H(s) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{128} + \dots = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\Pr_H(t) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{64} + \frac{1}{256} + \dots = \frac{1}{3}$$

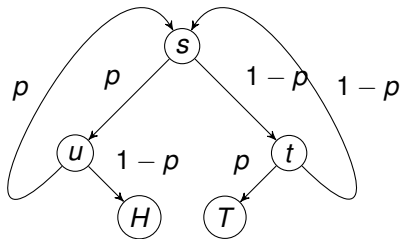
Probabilistic Protocols



$$\Pr_H(s) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr_H(t)$$

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The Von Neumann Trick



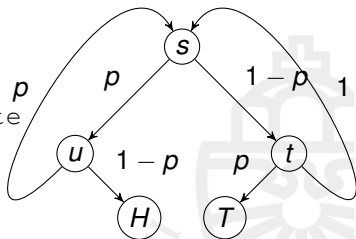
$$\Pr_H(s) = p \cdot \Pr_H(u) + (1 - p) \cdot \Pr_H(t)$$

$$\Pr_H(u) = (1 - p) + p \cdot \Pr_H(s)$$

$$\Pr_H(t) = (1 - p) \cdot \Pr_H(s)$$

The Von Neumann Trick

```
type state =  
  | H  
  | T  
  | Flip of float * state * state  
  
let rec pr_heads s = function  
  | H -> 1.  
  | T -> 0.  
  | Flip(p,u,v) ->  
    p *. (pr_heads u) +. (1 -. p) *. (pr_heads v)  
  
let rec s = Flip(.345,u,t)  
and u = Flip(.345,H,s)  
and t = Flip(.345,T,s)  
  
print p_heads s
```



Theoretical Foundations

- Well-founded coalgebras [Taylor 99]
- Recursive coalgebras [Adámek, Lücke, Milius 07]
- Elgot algebras [Adámek, Milius, Velebil 06]
- Corecursive algebras [Capretta, Uustalu, Vene 09]

Ingredients:

- Functor F (usually polynomial or power set)
- domain: an F -coalgebra (C, γ)
- range: an F -algebra (A, α)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{h} & A \\ \gamma \downarrow & & \uparrow \alpha \\ FC & \xrightarrow{Fh} & FA \end{array}$$

What about Non-Well-Founded Coalgebras?

The foundations existing so far were for unique solutions; we want alternative solutions.



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The foundations existing so far were for unique solutions; we want alternative solutions.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{h} & A \\ \gamma \downarrow & & \uparrow \alpha \\ FC & \xrightarrow{Fh} & FA \end{array}$$

- Even if (C, γ) is not well-founded, the diagram may still have a canonical solution, **provided (A, α) comes equipped with a method for solving systems of equations**
- The diagram specifies the system to be solved
- The variables are the elements of C and h is their interpretation in A

The general idea

The programmer specifies the equations as usual with an extra parameter, like in:

```
let corec[iterator(N)] set l = match l with  
| N -> N  
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```

The general idea

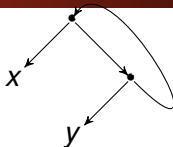
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```

The compiler generates equations and solves them using the extra parameter.

Free Variables of a λ -Coterm

The free variables
of

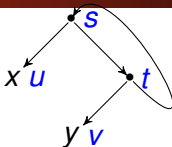


are $\{x, y\}$



Free Variables of a λ -Coterm

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are $\{x, y\}$

$$fv(s) = fv(u) \cup fv(t)$$

$$fv(t) = fv(v) \cup fv(s)$$

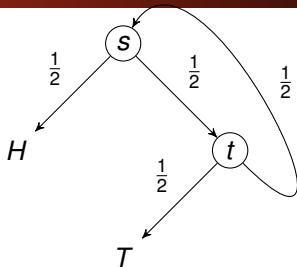
$$fv(u) = \{x\}$$

$$fv(v) = \{y\}$$

The least solution in $(\mathcal{P}(\text{Var}), \subseteq)$ is $\{x, y\}$

Standard semantics: $A \cup \perp = \perp$, whereas here $A \cup \emptyset = A$

Example: Probabilistic Protocols



$$\Pr_H(s) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr_H(t) \qquad \Pr_H(t) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr_H(s)$$

- Can calculate expected running times, higher moments, outcome functions similarly
- These are all **least solutions** in an appropriate ordered domain—in the above example, $([0, 1], \leq)$

Other Non-Well-Founded Examples

- static analysis, abstract interpretation
- p -adic arithmetic
- automata constructions



Implementation

- We implemented `corec` constructor which takes a solver as a parameter
- We implemented several general solvers: least fixed point, unique solution in a final coalgebra, gaussian elimination, ...

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- We implemented `corec` constructor which takes a solver as a parameter
- We implemented several general solvers: least fixed point, unique solution in a final coalgebra, gaussian elimination, ...
- Solvers are implemented directly in the interpreter, as transformers from an abstract syntax tree to another abstract syntax tree.
- Future: to provide tools to manipulate the abstract syntax tree allowing programmers to easily specify their solver.

CoCaml

- CoCaml offers new program constructs and functionalities to implement functions on coinductive structures.
- Examples illustrate the need for new constructs
- New constructs enable allow definitions very much in the style of standard recursive functions.

<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/Projects/CoCaml/>

Thanks!

