# Symbolic dynamics and bialgebras arXiv:2107.10734 

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## Plan

(1) Symbolic Dynamics
(2) Categories for symbolic dynamics
(3) Applications

4 Conclusion

## Edge shift

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. . . actactactact.actactactact . . .
. . . teamteam.teamteam . . .
. . . eeeeeeee.eeeeeeee . . .
. . . actactactact.eeeeeeee . . .
. . . actamteacte.amtamteact . . .

## Conjugacy

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More generally, choose a vertex to duplicate

- Duplicate the inputs
- Redistribute the outputs or vice-versa


## SSE

This can be defined directly on adjacency matrices:

## Definition

Two matrices $M$ and $N$ are 1-step equivalent if $M=R S$ and $N=S R$ for (nonnecessarily square) nonnegative integral matrices $R, S$

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Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& M=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
0 & 2 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right) N=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right) \\
& R=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right) S=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
0 & 1 & 0 \\
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Strong shift equivalence (SSE) is the transitive closure of 1 -step equivalence.

Graphs $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ represent conjugate edge shifts iff their adjacency matrices are SSE.

## History

Main open problem of symbolic dynamics: decide conjugacy/SSE

- Open since the 70s
- Decidable for matrices in $\mathbb{Z}$ (Krieger, 1980)
- (almost the) same as conjugacy in $G L_{n}(\mathbb{Z})$
- Decidable for one-sided edge-shifts (Williams, 1973)
- The rewriting system on graphs is confluent.


## Invariants

## Definition

An invariant is a function $\psi$ s.t. $\psi(M)=\psi(N)$ if $M$ and $N$ are SSE.

- To prove that $M$ and $N$ are NOT SSE, just find an invariant that distinguishes them
Examples:
- Trace of the matrix
- More generally, number of cycles of size $k$
- The entropy (exponential growth of the number of paths of size $n$ )

In this talk: A systematic way to find invariants

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## Goal

Build a category where arrows can represent matrices and equivalence classes of SSE.

## Starting point

## Folklore

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The bialgebra PROP is exactly the PROP of nonnegative integer matrices.
A commutative monoid $(\eta: 0 \rightarrow 1, \mu: 2 \rightarrow 1) \longrightarrow$


A cocommutative comonoid ( $\epsilon: 1 \rightarrow 0, \Delta: 1 \rightarrow 2$ )


Bialgebra rules



## Starting point

## Folklore

The bialgebra PROP is exactly the PROP of nonnegative integer matrices.
arrows $n \rightarrow m$ are exactly matrices of size $m \times n$.


## SSE

Technically, our matrices represent graph, so with inputs = outputs SSE states that $R S \equiv S R$, how can we simulate that?

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With a trace!

## Trace

Consider the traced bialgebra prop (the previous prop + a trace).

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In this prop, we can associate a scalar $t(M)$ to each matrix $M$. Is it true that $t(M)=t(N)$ iff $M$ and $N$ are SSE ?


## Flow equivalence

$M=\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0\end{array}\right)$ and $N=(1)$ satisfy $t(M)=t(N)$ but are not SSE.


## Flow equivalence

$t(M)=t(N)$ iff $M$ and $N$ are flow-equivalent, another equivalence notion coming from symbolic dynamics
(First observed by David Hillman, 1995)
We have lost a notion of time, that we need to recover

## Solution

We add a generator that is a morphism for both the monoid and the comonoid.


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Note: this new prop represents matrices in $\mathbb{Z}_{+}[t]$ rather than $\mathbb{Z}_{+}$

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## Theorem <br> In this prop, $t(M)=t(N)$ iff $M$ and $N$ are SSE.

Needs some new (easy) results in symbolic dynamics for the proof.

To recap: we need one bialgebra, a bialgebra morphism and a trace.

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## Applications

What do we gain from it ?

- If one knows a concrete representation of this prop, one can decide conjugacy
- One can find invariants !


## Methodology

- Let $\mathfrak{C}$ be our category.
- Let $\mathfrak{D}$ be any traced category that contains a bialgebra
- By the universal property, there is a functor from $\mathfrak{C}$ to $\mathfrak{D}$
- Using this functor, we can associate to each matrix $M$ an arrow $\psi(M)$ in $\mathfrak{D}$ s.t. $\psi(M)=\psi(N)$ if $M$ and $N$ are SSE.


## Good news/Bad news

Good news: There are a lot of bialgebras in the wild

## Bad news:

- Some of them are in categories that are not traced
- Some of them are Hopf algebras
- Hopf algebras represent matrices with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}$, not in $\mathbb{Z}_{+}$


## Example from algebra $1 / 2$

- If $M$ is a finite abelian monoid, $\mathbb{K}[M]$ has a structure of a bialgebra
- Product is the monoid product extended linearly
- Coproduct is the copy extended linearly


## Theorem

Let $\mathcal{M}$ be an additive monoid, and $h$ an homomorphism.
Then the number of solutions in $\mathcal{M}$ of the equation $h(M x)=x$ is an invariant for SSE.

## Example from algebra $2 / 2$

- $\mathbb{K}[X]$ has a structure of a bialgebra
- Product is the product of polynomials
- Coproduct is defined by $\Delta(X)=1 \otimes X+X \otimes 1$

Problem: no trace!

## Example from algebra $2 / 2$

- $\mathbb{K}[X]$ has a structure of a bialgebra
- Product is the product of polynomials
- Coproduct is defined by $\Delta(X)=1 \otimes X+X \otimes 1$

Solution: Replace $\mathbb{K}[X]$ by formal series in a complete semiring (like $\left.\mathbb{R}_{+} \cup\{+\infty\}\right)$.
If we take the morphism $h(X)=t X$ we get:

## Theorem

The quantity $f_{M}(t)=\frac{1}{\operatorname{det}(I-t M)}$ is an invariant for SSE
This is the well-known Zeta function of a subshift.

## Example from Category Theory

Let $\mathfrak{D}$ be a category with finite limits and colimits.

- Suppose one has a monoid $X$ in a $\mathfrak{D}$ wih a morphism $h$.
- It extends to a bialgebra using the diagonal map as a comonoid.

Problem: What if there is no trace in $\mathfrak{D}$ ?

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- Suppose one has a monoid $X$ in a $\mathfrak{D}$ wih a morphism $h$.
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Solution: Replace $\mathfrak{D}$ with cospan $(\mathfrak{D})$ which is a compact category.

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## Theorem

Let $M$ be a $n \times n$ matrix.
The object that is the coequalizer of $X^{n} \xrightarrow[h^{n} \circ M]{i d^{n}} X^{n}$ is an invariant for SSE.

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- Starting with the monoid $(\mathbb{Z},+)$ in the category of abelian groups, we obtain the Bowen-Franks group (1977)
- Starting with the monoid $(\mathbb{Z}[t],+)$ in the category of $\mathbb{Z}[t]$-modules, we obtain the dimension group of Krieger (1977)


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## Where to go from here ?

- We have a systematic way to find invariants
- Investigate new bialgebras to find new invariants!

