

Algebraic Path Finding

Timothy G. Griffin

Computer Laboratory
University of Cambridge, UK

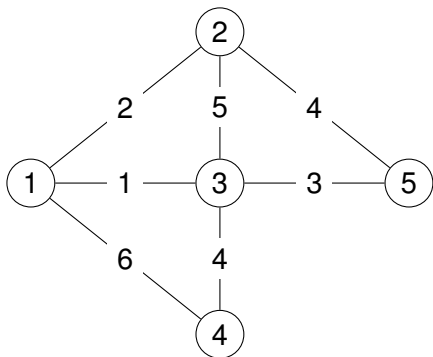
`timothy.griffin@cl.cam.ac.uk`

DIMACS Working Group on Abstractions for Network Services,
Architecture, and Implementation
23 May, 2012

Outline

- Q: Can we separate the WHAT from the HOW in (current) network routing protocols?
- A : “Algebraic path problems” from operations research may help...
- ... but the notion of “global optimality” is too limited.
 - ▶ “Local optimality” for algebraic path problems is a new concept, and it may have widespread applicability beyond routing — operations research, combinatorics, ...
 - ▶ Thank you BGP.
- Using these abstractions to build tools.
- Routing vs. forwarding still needs work....

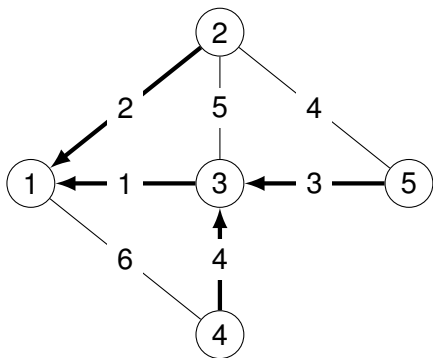
Shortest paths example, $sp = (\mathbb{N}^\infty, \min, +)$



The adjacency matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \infty & 2 & 1 & 6 & \infty \\ 2 & \infty & 5 & \infty & 4 \\ 1 & 5 & \infty & 4 & 3 \\ 6 & \infty & 4 & \infty & \infty \\ \infty & 4 & 3 & \infty & \infty \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Shortest paths example, continued



Bold arrows indicate the shortest-path tree rooted at 1.

The routing matrix

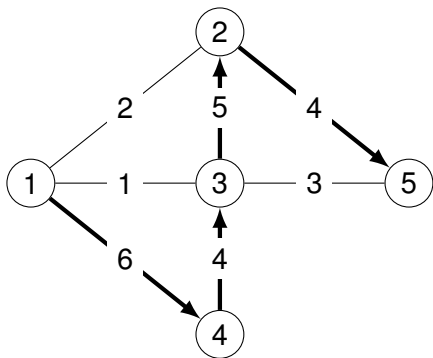
$$\mathbf{A}^* = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 7 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & 4 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 & 4 & 0 & 7 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Matrix \mathbf{A}^* solves this **global optimality** problem:

$$\mathbf{A}^*(i, j) = \min_{p \in P(i, j)} w(p),$$

where $P(i, j)$ is the set of all paths from i to j .

Widest paths example, $(\mathbb{N}^\infty, \max, \min)$



Bold arrows indicate the widest-path tree rooted at 1.

The routing matrix

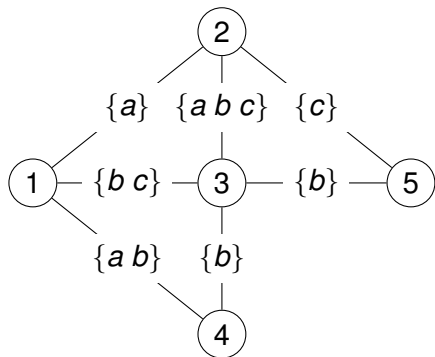
$$\mathbf{A}^* = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \infty & 4 & 4 & 6 & 4 \\ 4 & \infty & 5 & 4 & 4 \\ 4 & 5 & \infty & 4 & 4 \\ 6 & 4 & 4 & \infty & 4 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 4 & \infty \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Matrix \mathbf{A}^* solves this global optimality problem:

$$\mathbf{A}^*(i, j) = \max_{p \in P(i, j)} w(p),$$

where $w(p)$ is now the minimal edge weight in p .

Fun example, $(2^{\{a, b, c\}}, \cup, \cap)$



We want a Matrix \mathbf{A}^* to solve this global optimality problem:

$$\mathbf{A}^*(i, j) = \bigcup_{p \in P(i, j)} w(p),$$

where $w(p)$ is now the intersection of all edge weights in p .

For $x \in \{a, b, c\}$, interpret $x \in \mathbf{A}^*(i, j)$ to mean that there is at least one path from i to j with x in every arc weight along the path.

Fun example, $(2^{\{a, b, c\}}, \cup, \cap)$

The matrix \mathbf{A}^*

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} \{a b c\} & \{a b c\} & \{a b c\} & \{a b\} & \{b c\} \\ \{a b c\} & \{a b c\} & \{a b c\} & \{a b\} & \{b c\} \\ \{a b c\} & \{a b c\} & \{a b c\} & \{a b\} & \{b c\} \\ \{a b\} & \{a b\} & \{a b\} & \{a b c\} & \{b\} \\ \{b c\} & \{b c\} & \{b c\} & \{b\} & \{a b c\} \end{bmatrix}$$

A few Semirings ($\mathcal{S}, \oplus, \otimes, \bar{0}, \bar{1}$)

A few examples

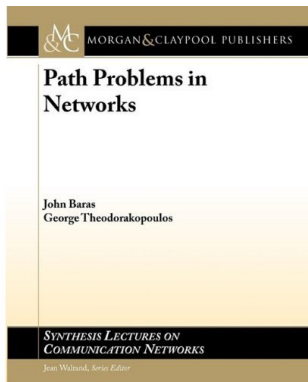
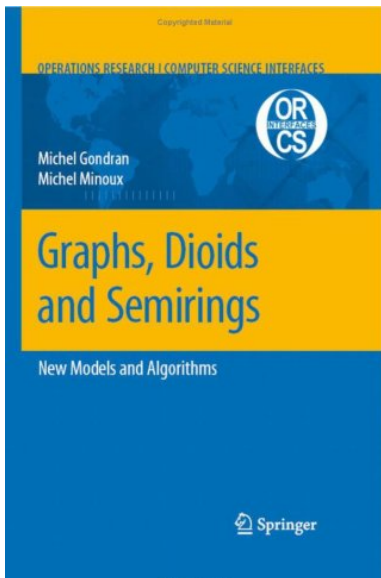
	\mathcal{S}	\oplus	\otimes	$\bar{0}$	$\bar{1}$	possible applications
sp	$\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$	min	+	∞	0	minimum-weight routing
bw	$\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$	max	min	0	∞	greatest-capacity routing
rel	[0, 1]	max	\times	0	1	most-reliable routing
use	{0, 1}	max	min	0	1	usable-paths
links	2^W	\cup	\cap	{}	W	shared link attributes
paths	2^W	\cap	\cup	W	{}	shared path attributes

Historically, a focus on **global optimality**

$$\mathbf{A}^*(i, j) = \bigoplus_{p: i \rightsquigarrow j} w(p)$$

where $w(p)$ is an \otimes -product of arc weights.

Recommended Reading



Assumptions

Semiring Axioms

ADD.ASSOCIATIVE	:	$a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$
ADD.COMMUTATIVE	:	$a \oplus b = b \oplus a$
ADD.LEFT.ID	:	$\bar{0} \oplus a = a$
MULT.ASSOCIATIVE	:	$a \otimes (b \otimes c) = (a \otimes b) \otimes c$
MULT.LEFT.ID	:	$\bar{1} \otimes a = a$
MULT.RIGHT.ID	:	$a \otimes \bar{1} = a$
MULT.LEFT.ANN	:	$\bar{0} \otimes a = \bar{0}$
MULT.RIGHT.ANN	:	$a \otimes \bar{0} = \bar{0}$
L.DISTRIBUTIVE	:	$a \otimes (b \oplus c) = (a \otimes b) \oplus (a \otimes c)$
R.DISTRIBUTIVE	:	$(a \oplus b) \otimes c = (a \otimes c) \oplus (b \otimes c)$

Distributivity in $sp = (\mathbb{N}^\infty, \min, +)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{L.DISTRIBUTIVE} &: a + (b \min c) = (a + b) \min (a + c), \\ \text{R.DISTRIBUTIVE} &: (a \min b) + c = (a + c) \min (b + c). \end{aligned}$$

Additional assumptions

Some subset of these axioms are typically assumed.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ADD.IDEMPOTENT} & : & a \oplus a & = a \\ \text{ADD.SELECTIVE} & : & a \oplus b & \in \{a, b\} \\ \text{ADD.LEFT.ANN} & : & \bar{1} \oplus a & = \bar{1} \\ \text{ADD.RIGHT.ANN} & : & a \oplus \bar{1} & = \bar{1} \\ \text{RIGHT.ABSORBTION} & : & a \oplus (a \otimes b) & = a \\ \text{LEFT.ABSORBTION} & : & a \oplus (b \otimes a) & = a \end{aligned}$$

With idempotency, \oplus induces natural (partial) orders

$$\begin{aligned} a \leq_l b & \equiv a = a \oplus b \\ a \leq_r b & \equiv b = a \oplus b \end{aligned}$$

If $\bar{1}$ is a \oplus -annihilator (Semiring is *bounded*)

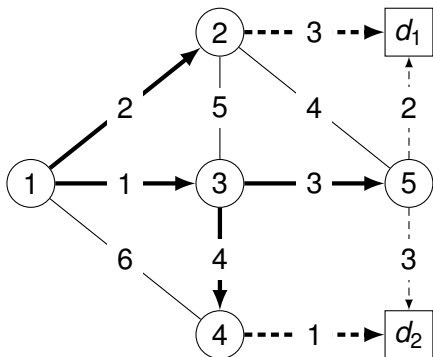
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{1} & \leq_l \bar{0} \\ \bar{0} & \leq_r \bar{1} \end{aligned}$$

Many variations on basic structures....

weight computation	weight summarization	
	algebraic	ordered
algebraic	(S, \oplus, \otimes)	(S, \lesssim, \otimes)
functional	$(S, \oplus, F \subseteq S \rightarrow S)$	$(S, \lesssim, F \subseteq S \rightarrow S)$

... and many variations on the basic algorithms (Dijkstra's, Bellman-Ford, ...).

Let's model LISP!



$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{matrix} & d_1 & d_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \infty & \infty \\ \mathbf{3} & \infty \\ \infty & \infty \\ \infty & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Mapping matrix

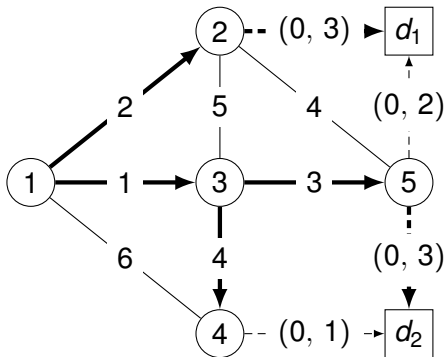
$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{matrix} & d_1 & d_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{6} \\ \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{7} \\ \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{5} \\ \mathbf{9} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Routing/Forwarding matrix

routing = path finding + mapping

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} * \mathbf{M}$$

More Interesting Example : Hot-Potato Idiom



$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{matrix} & d_1 & d_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \infty & \infty \\ (0, 3) & \infty \\ \infty & \infty \\ \infty & (0, 1) \\ (0, 2) & (0, 3) \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Mapping matrix

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{matrix} & d_1 & d_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} (2, 3) & (4, 3) \\ (0, 3) & (4, 3) \\ (3, 2) & (3, 3) \\ (7, 2) & (0, 1) \\ (0, 2) & (0, 3) \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Routing/Forwarding matrix

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A}^* \triangleright \mathbf{M}$$

$$\mathbf{R}(i, d) = \bigsqcup_q \mathbf{A}^*(i, q) \triangleright \mathbf{M}(q, d)$$

Working out the algebraic details

- A model of Internet routing using semi-modules. John N. Billings and Timothy G. Griffin. ReIMiCS11/AKA6, November 2009.
- Application to route redistribution and administrative distance.
 - ▶ On the interaction of multiple routing algorithms. M. Abdul Alim, Timothy G. Griffin. ACM CoNEXT 2011, December 2011.

Semiring limitations — some realistic metrics are not distributive!

Two ways of forming “lexicographic” combination of shortest paths sp and bandwidth bw .

Widest shortest paths

- metric values of form (d, b)
- d in sp
- b in bw
- consider d first, break ties with b
- is distributive (some details ignored ...)

Shortest Widest paths

- metric values of form (b, d)
- d in sp
- b in bw
- consider b first, break ties with d

Left-Local Optimality

Say that \mathbf{L} is a **left locally-optimal solution** when

$$\mathbf{L} = (\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{L}) \oplus \mathbf{I}.$$

That is, for $i \neq j$ we have

$$\mathbf{L}(i, j) = \bigoplus_{q \in V} \mathbf{A}(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{L}(q, j)$$

- $\mathbf{L}(i, j)$ is the best possible value given the values $\mathbf{L}(q, j)$, for all out-neighbors q of source i .
- Rows $\mathbf{L}(i, _)$ represents **out-trees from** i (think Bellman-Ford).
- Columns $\mathbf{L}(_, i)$ represents **in-trees to** i .
- Works well with hop-by-hop forwarding from i .

Right-Local Optimality

Say that \mathbf{R} is a **right locally-optimal solution** when

$$\mathbf{R} = (\mathbf{R} \otimes \mathbf{A}) \oplus \mathbf{I}.$$

That is, for $i \neq j$ we have

$$\mathbf{R}(i, j) = \bigoplus_{q \in V} \mathbf{R}(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{A}(q, j)$$

- $\mathbf{R}(i, j)$ is the best possible value given the values $\mathbf{R}(q, j)$, for all in-neighbors q of destination j .
- Rows $\mathbf{L}(i, _)$ represents **out-trees from i** (think Dijkstra).
- Columns $\mathbf{L}(_, i)$ represents **in-trees to i** .

With and Without Distributivity

With distributivity

For (bounded) semirings, the three optimality problems are essentially the same — locally optimal solutions are globally optimal solutions.

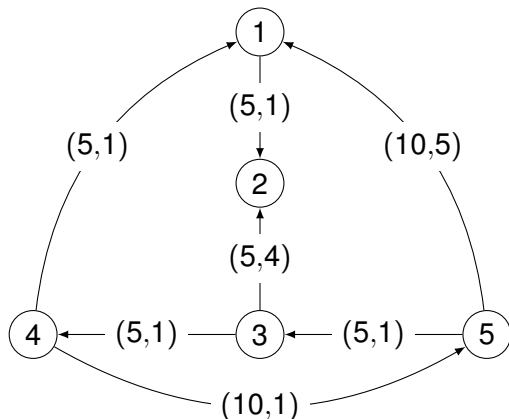
$$\mathbf{A}^* = \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{R}$$

Without distributivity

It may be that \mathbf{A}^* , \mathbf{L} , and \mathbf{R} exists but are all distinct.

Health warning : matrix multiplication over structures lacking distributivity is not associative!

Example



(bandwidth, distance) with lexicographic order (bandwidth first).

Global optima

$$\mathbf{A}^* = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccccc} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{array} & \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} (\infty, 0) & (5, 1) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) \\ (0, \infty) & (\infty, 0) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) \\ (5, 2) & (5, 3) & (\infty, 0) & (5, 1) & (5, 2) \\ (10, 6) & (5, 2) & (5, 2) & (\infty, 0) & (10, 1) \\ (10, 5) & (5, 4) & (5, 1) & (5, 2) & (\infty, 0) \end{array} \right] , \end{array}$$

Left local optima

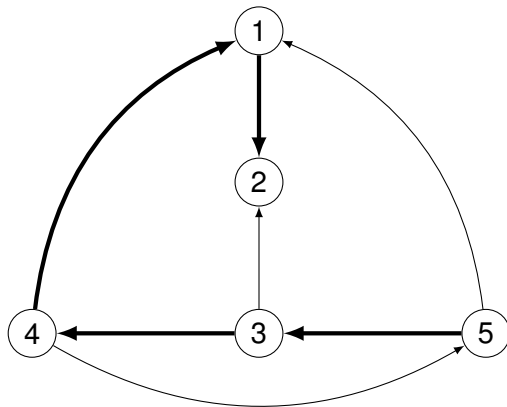
$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{array} \begin{array}{ccccc} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} (\infty, 0) & (5, 1) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) \\ (0, \infty) & (\infty, 0) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) \\ \mathbf{(5, 7)} & (5, 3) & (\infty, 0) & (5, 1) & (5, 2) \\ (10, 6) & (5, 2) & (5, 2) & (\infty, 0) & (10, 1) \\ (10, 5) & (5, 4) & (5, 1) & (5, 2) & (\infty, 0) \end{array} \right], \end{array}$$

Entries marked in **bold** indicate those values which are not globally optimal.

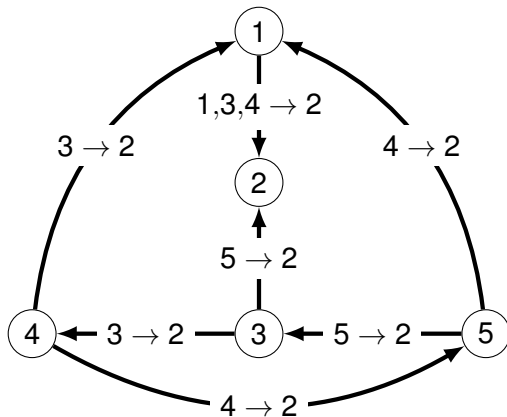
Right local optima

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccccc} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} (\infty, 0) & (5, 1) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) \\ (0, \infty) & (\infty, 0) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) & (0, \infty) \\ (5, 2) & (5, 3) & (\infty, 0) & (5, 1) & (5, 2) \\ (10, 6) & (5, 6) & (5, 2) & (\infty, 0) & (10, 1) \\ (10, 5) & (5, 5) & (5, 1) & (5, 2) & (\infty, 0) \end{array} \right], \end{array}$$

Left-locally optimal paths to node 2



Right-locally optimal paths to node 2



Bellman-Ford can compute left-local solutions

(Unmodified) Bellman-Ford iterations

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{A}^{[0]} &= \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{A}^{[k+1]} &= (\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{A}^k) \oplus \mathbf{I},\end{aligned}$$

Bellman-ford iterations must be modified to ensure only cycle-free paths are inspected.

- $(S, \oplus, \bar{0})$ is a commutative, idempotent, and selective monoid,
- $(S, \otimes, \bar{1})$ is a monoid,
- $\bar{0}$ is the annihilator for \otimes ,
- $\bar{1}$ is the annihilator for \oplus ,
- Left strictly inflationarity, L.S.INF : $\forall a, b : a \neq \bar{0} \implies a < a \otimes b$
- Here $a \leq b \equiv a = a \oplus b$.

Convergence to a unique left-local solution is guaranteed. Currently no polynomial bound is known on the number of iterations required.

MTNS observation : Dijkstra's algorithm computes local optima!

Input : adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} and source vertex $i \in V$,
Output : the i -th row of \mathbf{R} , $\mathbf{R}(i, _)$.

begin

$S \leftarrow \{i\}$

$\mathbf{R}(i, i) \leftarrow \bar{1}$

for each $q \in V - \{i\}$: $\mathbf{R}(i, q) \leftarrow \mathbf{A}(i, q)$

while $S \neq V$

begin

find $q \in V - S$ such that $\mathbf{R}(i, q)$ is \leq_{\oplus}^L -minimal

$S \leftarrow S \cup \{q\}$

for each $j \in V - S$

$\mathbf{R}(i, j) \leftarrow \mathbf{R}(i, j) \oplus (\mathbf{R}(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{A}(q, j))$

end

end

The goal

Given adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} and source vertex $i \in V$, Dijkstra's algorithm will compute $\mathbf{R}(i, _)$ such that

$$\forall j \in V : \mathbf{R}(i, j) = \mathbf{I}(i, j) \oplus \bigoplus_{q \in V} \mathbf{R}(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{A}(q, j).$$

Main invariant

$$\forall k : 1 \leq k \leq |V| \implies \forall j \in S_k : \mathbf{R}_k(i, j) = \mathbf{I}(i, j) \oplus \bigoplus_{q \in S_k} \mathbf{R}_k(i, q) \otimes \mathbf{A}(q, j)$$

Routing in Equilibrium. João Luís Sobrinho and Timothy G. Griffin.
The 19th International Symposium on Mathematical Theory of
Networks and Systems (MTNS 2010).

Minimal subset of semiring axioms needed right-local Dijkstra

Semiring Axioms

$$\text{ADD.ASSOCIATIVE} : a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$$

$$\text{ADD.COMMUTATIVE} : a \oplus b = b \oplus a$$

$$\text{ADD.LEFT.ID} : \bar{0} \oplus a = a$$

$$\text{MULT.ASSOCIATIVE} : a \otimes (b \otimes c) \neq (a \otimes b) \otimes c$$

$$\text{MULT.LEFT.ID} : \bar{1} \otimes a = a$$

$$\text{MULT.RIGHT.ID} : a \otimes \bar{1} \neq a$$

$$\text{MULT.LEFT.ANN} : \bar{0} \otimes a \neq \bar{0}$$

$$\text{MULT.RIGHT.ANN} : a \otimes \bar{0} \neq \bar{0}$$

$$\text{L.DISTRIBUTIVE} : a \otimes (b \oplus c) \neq (a \otimes b) \oplus (a \otimes c)$$

$$\text{R.DISTRIBUTIVE} : (a \oplus b) \otimes c \neq (a \otimes c) \oplus (b \otimes c)$$

Additional axioms needed right-local Dijkstra

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ADD.SELECTIVE} & : & a \oplus b & \in \{a, b\} \\ \text{ADD.LEFT.ANN} & : & \bar{1} \oplus a & = \bar{1} \\ \text{ADD.RIGHT.ANN} & : & a \oplus \bar{1} & = \bar{1} \\ \text{RIGHT.ABSORBTION} & : & a \oplus (a \otimes b) & = a \end{aligned}$$

Need left-local optima?

$$\mathbf{L} = (\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{L}) \oplus \mathbf{I} \quad \iff \quad \mathbf{L}^T = (\mathbf{L}^T \hat{\otimes}^T \mathbf{A}^T) \oplus \mathbf{I}$$

where $\hat{\otimes}^T$ is matrix multiplication defined with as

$$a \hat{\otimes}^T b = b \otimes a$$

and we assume left-inflationarity holds, L.INF : $\forall a, b : a \leq b \otimes a$.

Tools? Metarouting Project

- Language of combinators for algebraic structures + library of verified algorithms.
- Vilius Naudžiūnas implemented prototype in Coq
- Allows users to instantiate generic algorithms with custom built algebras
- No theorem proving required of users — correctness check of instantiation is done by “type checking”

Our approach to defining a language of combinators

Starting with an initial set of properties \mathcal{P}_0 ...

- Define a language \mathcal{L} of combinators,
- a well-formedness condition $\text{WF}(E)$, for $E \in \mathcal{L}$,
- and a set of properties \mathcal{P} , with $\mathcal{P}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{P}$

so that properties are decidable for well-formed expressions:

$$\forall Q \in \mathcal{P} : \forall E \in \mathcal{L} : \text{WF}(E) \implies (Q(\llbracket E \rrbracket) \vee \neg Q(\llbracket E \rrbracket))$$

(The logic is constructive!)

Difficulty: increase expressive power while preserving decidability ...

Example: A bottleneck semiring¹

The idea ...

- arc weights from a partial order \leq
- path weight $w(p)$ = set of edges in p with maximal weight.
- $w(p) \leq w(q) \iff \forall x \in w(p), \exists y \in w(q), x \leq y$

... in Coq (so far abstract syntax only)

```
Definition s1 := sProduct sNatMin sNatMin
```

```
Definition s2 :=
```

```
  sFMinSetsUnion (pRightNaturalOrder s1)
```

```
Definition bottleneck :=
```

```
  bFMinSets (oRightNaturalOrder s2)
```

¹Originally defined in **Bottleneck shortest paths on a partially ordered scale.**, Monnot, J. and Spanjaard, O., 4OR: A Quarterly Journal of Operations Research, 2003

The language design methodology

For every combinator C and every property P

find $wf_{P,C}$ and $\beta_{P,C}$ such that

$$wf_{P,C}(\vec{a}) \Rightarrow (P(C(\vec{a})) \Leftrightarrow \beta_{P,C}(\vec{a}))$$

... which is then turned into two “bottom-up rules” ...

$$\begin{aligned} wf_{P,C}(\vec{a}) \wedge \beta_{P,C}(\vec{a}) &\Rightarrow P(C(\vec{a})) \\ wf_{P,C}(\vec{a}) \wedge \neg\beta_{P,C}(\vec{a}) &\Rightarrow \neg P(C(\vec{a})), \end{aligned}$$

Current development snapshot

name	signature	(positive) properties	constructors
Sets	(S)	3	9
Semigroups	(S, \oplus)	14	17
Preorders	(S, \leq)	4	5
Bisemigroups	(S, \oplus, \otimes)	22	20
Order semigroups	(S, \leq, \oplus)	17	6
Transforms	(S, L, \triangleright)	2	8
Order transforms	$(S, L, \leq, \triangleright)$	3	2
Semigroup transforms	$(S, L, \oplus, \triangleright)$	4	10

where $\triangleright \in L \rightarrow S \rightarrow S$.

This represents over 1700 bottom-up rules ...

One open problem

Relationship of Routing and Forwarding

- simple: routing = path finding + mapping
- reality: routing = path finding + mapping + forwarding
- The data plane uses paths in many different ways
 - ▶ exact match
 - ▶ best match
 - ▶ tunnels
 - ▶ ...
- We don't understand relationship
 - ▶ eBGP should be done with tunnels
 - ▶ are 2547 VPNs broken ?
 - ▶ subnetting
 - ▶ overlay/underlay