

Knapsack problems in products of groups

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Based on joint work with E.Frenkel and A.Ushakov

Non-commutative discrete optimization

Basic idea:

Take a classic algorithmic problem from computer science (traveling salesman, Post correspondence, knapsack, ...) and translate it into group-theoretic setting.

Example: Post correspondence problem

Let A be an alphabet, $|A| \geq 2$.

The classic Post correspondence problem (PCP)

Given a finite set of pairs $(g_1, h_1), \dots, (g_k, h_k)$ of elements of A^* determine if there is a non-empty word $w(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in X^*$ such that $w(g_1, \dots, g_k) = w(h_1, \dots, h_k)$ in A^* .

Example: Post correspondence problem

Matching dominoes: top = bottom

g_{i_1}	g_{i_2}	g_{i_3}	\dots	g_{i_n}
h_{i_1}	h_{i_2}	h_{i_3}	\dots	h_{i_n}

Decidable if number of pairs is $k \leq 3$. Undecidable if $k \geq 7$.
Unknown if $4 \leq k \leq 6$.

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PCP in groups

Translating **PCP** to groups:

$A^* \rightsquigarrow$ f.g. group G ,

words $g_i, h_i \rightsquigarrow$ group elements g_i, h_i given as words in generators,

word $w \rightsquigarrow$ group word,

right?

The above is trivial:

(a) $w = xx^{-1}$. Only allow non-trivial reduced words.

(b) G abelian, $w = [x, y]$. Only allow words that are not identities of G .

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Example: Post correspondence problem

Variations of **PCP** in groups turn out to be closely related to:

- double-endo-twisted conjugacy problem
(find $w \in G$ s.t. $uw^\varphi = w^\psi v$),
- equalizer problem
(find the subgroup of elements g s.t. $\varphi(g) = \psi(g)$),
- hereditary word problem
(word problem in any quotient of G by a subgroup f.g. as a normal subgroup).

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The classic subset sum problem (**SSP**):

Given $a_1, \dots, a_k, a \in \mathbb{Z}$ decide if

$$\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k = a$$

for some $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_k \in \{0, 1\}$.

SSP for a group G :

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Classic **SSP** is pseudopolynomial

- If input is given in unary, **SSP** is in **P**,
- if input is given in binary, **SSP** is **NP**-complete.

The complexity of **SSP**(G) does not depend on a finite generating set, but may depend on a generating set if infinite ones are allowed.

For example:

SSP(\mathbb{Z})

- **SSP**(\mathbb{Z}) \in **P** if \mathbb{Z} is generated by $\{1\}$,
- **SSP**(\mathbb{Z}) is **NP**-complete if \mathbb{Z} is generated by $\{2^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

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Group	Complexity	Why
Nilpotent	P	Poly growth
$\mathbb{Z} \wr \mathbb{Z}$	NP -complete	\mathbb{Z}^ω , ZOE
Free metabelian	NP -complete	$\mathbb{Z} \wr \mathbb{Z}$
Thompson's F	NP -complete	$\mathbb{Z} \wr \mathbb{Z}$
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Knapsack problems in groups

Three principle Knapsack type (decision) problems in groups:

SSP subset sum,

KP knapsack,

SMP submonoid membership.

The knapsack problem in groups

The classic knapsack problem (**KP**):

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The knapsack problem (**KP**) for G :

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The knapsack problem in groups

The knapsack problem in groups is closely related to the **big powers method**, which appeared long before any complexity considerations.

The submonoid membership problem in groups

Submonoid membership problem (**SMP**):

Given a finite set $A = \{g_1, \dots, g_k, g\}$ of elements of G decide if g belongs to the submonoid generated by A , i.e., if $g = g_{i_1} \dots g_{i_s}$ for some $g_{i_j} \in A$.

If the set A is closed under inversion then we have the **subgroup membership problem** in G .

It makes sense to consider the bounded versions of **KP** and **SMP**, they are always decidable in groups with decidable word problem.

The bounded knapsack problem (**BKP**) for G :

decide, when given $g_1, \dots, g_k, g \in G$ and $1^m \in \mathbb{N}$, if $g =_G g_1^{\varepsilon_1} \dots g_k^{\varepsilon_k}$ for some $\varepsilon_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$.

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Bounded submonoid membership problem (**BSMP**) for G :

Given $g_1, \dots, g_k, g \in G$ and $1^m \in \mathbb{N}$ (in unary) decide if g is equal in G to a product of the form $g = g_{i_1} \cdots g_{i_s}$, where $g_{i_1}, \dots, g_{i_s} \in \{g_1, \dots, g_k\}$ and $s \leq m$.

SSP and BKP:

- **NP**-complete in $\mathbb{Z} \wr \mathbb{Z}$, free metabelian, Thompson's F , $BS(m, n)$, $m \neq \pm n$.
- **P**-time in f.g. v. nilpotent groups, hyperbolic groups, $BS(n, \pm n)$.

BSMP:

- **NP**-complete in $F_2 \times F_2$ (therefore **NP**-hard in any group that contains $F_2 \times F_2$, e.g. $B_{\geq 5}$, $GL(\geq 4, \mathbb{Z})$, partially commutative with induced \boxtimes .)
- **P**-time in f.g. v. nilpotent groups, hyperbolic groups.

KP:

- **P**-time in abelian groups, hyperbolic groups.

SSP vs group-theoretic constructions

What about group-theoretic constructions?

Q1 Does **SSP** carry from G, H to $G * H$?

A1 That's not the right question.

Q2 Does **SSP** in $G \times H$ behave like the word problem or like the membership problem?

A2 Both!

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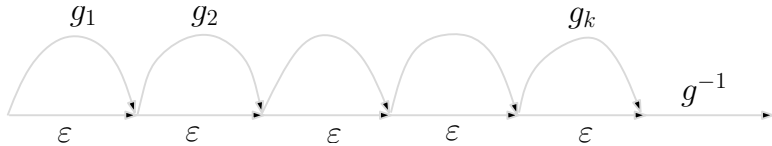
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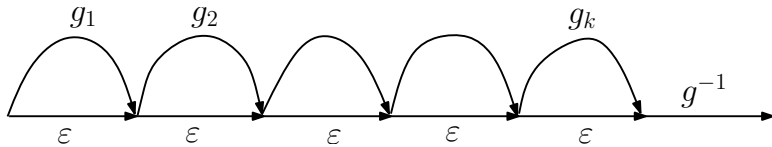
SSP and free products

What an instance of **SSP**(G) looks like?



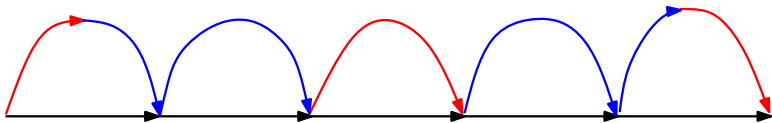
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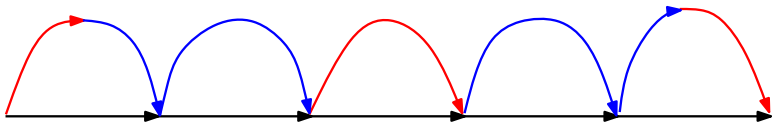
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Try to solve it using $\text{SSP}(G)$ and $\text{SSP}(H)$.

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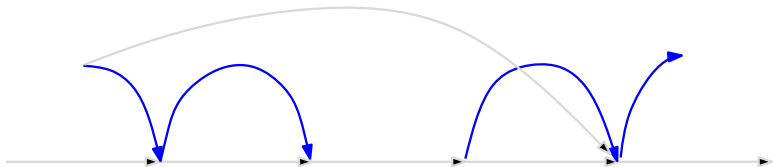
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Look at the G part:



Solve all occurring instances of $\text{SSP}(G)$:

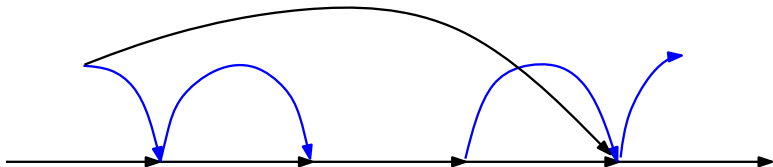


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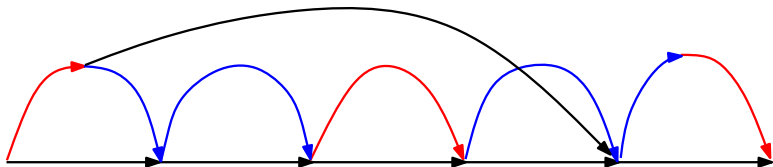


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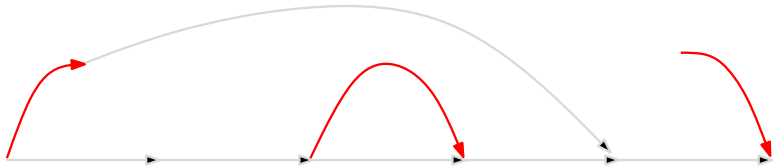


SSP and free products

Bring back H part:



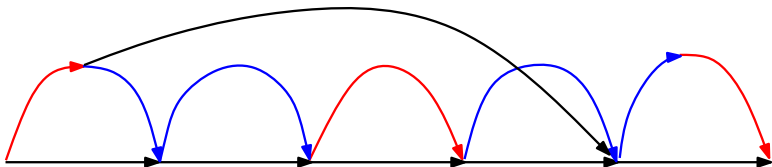
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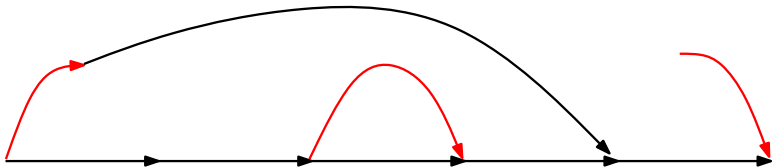
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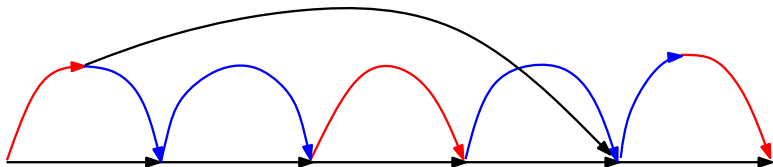
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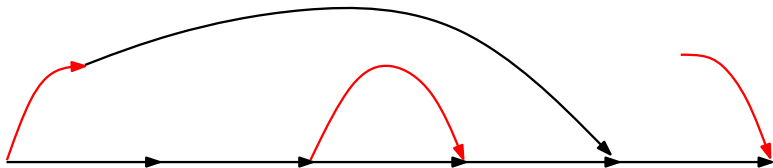
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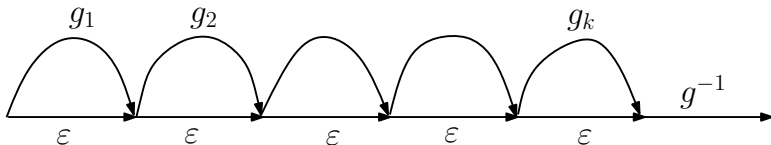
In this context, it is natural to consider so-called Acyclic Graph Problem:

The acyclic graph problem AGP(G, X)

Given an acyclic directed graph Γ labeled by letters in $X \cup X^{-1} \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ with two marked vertices, α and ω , decide whether there is an oriented path in Γ from α to ω labeled by a word w such that $w = 1$ in G .

AGP(G)

AGP(G) generalizes **SSP(G)** (i.e. **SSP(G)** is **P**-time reducible to **AGP(G)**):

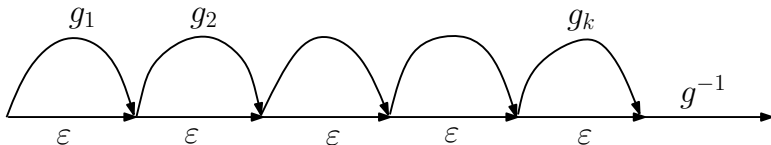


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Question

Does **AGP**(G) reduce to **SSP**(G)?

We don't know. But in all G with **P**-time **SSP**(G) that we know, **AGP**(G) is also **P**-time, by essentially the same arguments:

- **AGP**(virtually f.g. nilpotent) $\in \mathbf{P}$ by polynomial growth,
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AGP plays nicely with free products:

Theorem

Let G, H be finitely generated groups. Then **AGP**($G * H$) is **P**-time Cook reducible to **AGP**(G), **AGP**(H).

Proof: same as what we tried to do with **SSP**, only this time it works.

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Corollary

If G, H are finitely generated groups such that $\mathbf{AGP}(G)$, $\mathbf{AGP}(H) \in \mathbf{P}$ then $\mathbf{AGP}(G * H) \in \mathbf{P}$.

Corollary

\mathbf{SSP} , \mathbf{BKP} , \mathbf{BSMP} , \mathbf{AGP} are polynomial time decidable in free products of finitely generated virtually nilpotent and hyperbolic groups in any finite number.

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What about Knapsack Problem $\mathbf{KP}(G * H)$?

Difficulty: put a bound on exponents n_i in

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We can do it in

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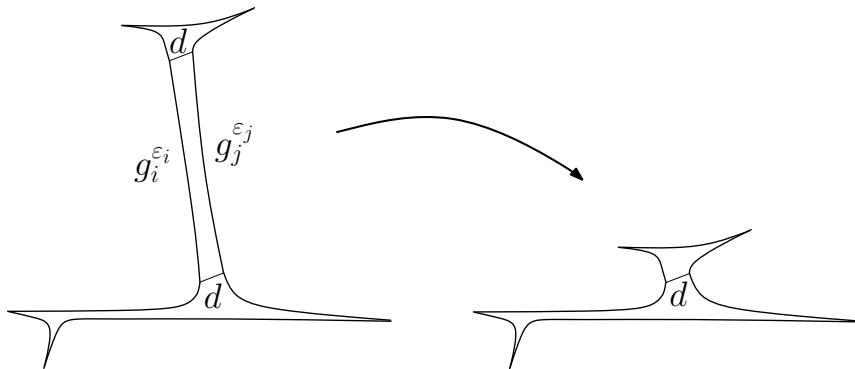
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KP and free products

In hyperbolic groups:



KP and free products

Similar argument works in free products, which gives

Theorem

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\mathbf{KP} is polynomial time decidable in free products of finitely generated abelian and hyperbolic groups in any finite number.

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AGP($G \times H$) is decidable whenever **WP**(G), **WP**(H) are decidable. What about complexity?

AGP($F_2 \times F_2$) is **NP**-complete since **BSMP**($F_2 \times F_2$) is, by a variation of Mikhailova construction.

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Is **SSP**($F_2 \times F_2$) **NP**-complete?

Answer: we don't know... but we know about **SSP**($F_2 \times F_2 \times \mathbb{Z}$)!

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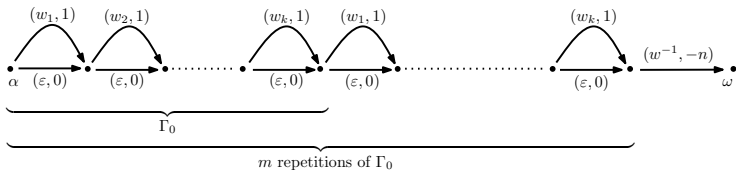
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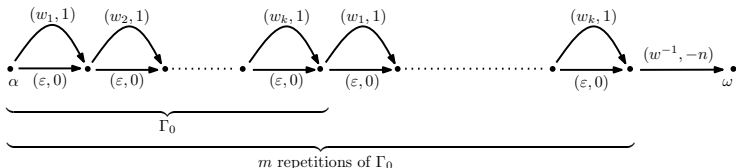


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