

The chain relation in sofic subshifts

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - Shifts and subshifts
 - The chain relation
- 2 Characterisation of the chain relation
 - Linking graph
 - Theorem about chain relation
 - Corollaries

Basics

- We are interested in the structure of biinfinite words $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$.
- We can equip $A^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with a metric ϱ ; the distance $\varrho(x, y)$ of $x \neq y$ is equal to 2^{-n} where n is the absolute value of the first index where x differs from y .

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x

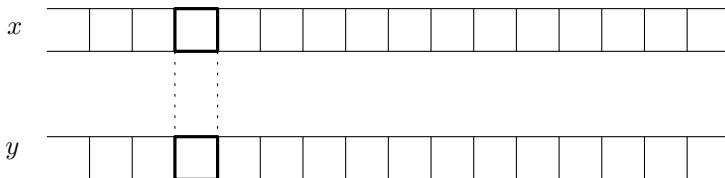
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

y

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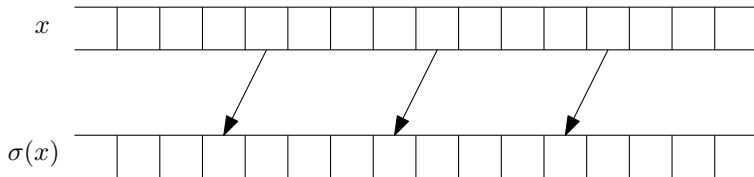
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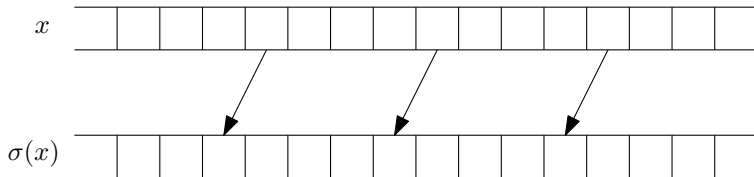
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Labelled graph

- *Labelled graph* is an oriented multidigraph whose edges are labelled by letters from A .
- $x \in \Sigma$ iff x has a *presentation* in G : There exists a biinfinite walk in G labelled by letters from x .
- Without loss of generality assume that G is *essential*, that is every vertex has at least one outgoing and at least one ingoing edge.

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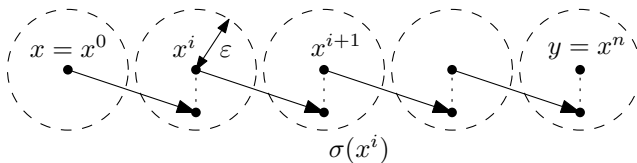
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- An ε -chain from the word x to the word y is sequence of words $x^0, x^1, \dots, x^n \in \Sigma$ such that $x^0 = x, x^n = y$ and $\rho(\sigma(x^i), x^{i+1}) < \varepsilon$.
- The words $x, y \in \Sigma$ are in the *chain relation* \mathcal{C} if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists an ε -chain (of nonzero length) from x to y .

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ε -chain in picture



ε -chain and jumps

Take the subshift $\{a^{-\infty}ba^{\infty}, a^{\infty}\}$. Let the empty space denote the boundary between zeroth and first letter. Then we can produce for example this ε -chain:

$\dots aab \quad aa \dots$
 $\dots aabaa \dots aa \quad aa \dots$
 Hop!
 $\dots aa \dots a \quad a \dots aabaa \dots$
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We have managed to shift the word to the right.

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- How to describe the chain relation in a general sofic subshift Σ ?
- The main idea: We can jump between some vertices of G .
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Linked vertices

- Call two vertices u, v of a labelled graph G *linked* if for any length n there exists a word w of length n that has presentations beginning in both u, v and not leaving the components of u, v .
- By joining all pairs of linked vertices we obtain the *linking graph* G/\approx .
- We have a natural projection of G onto G/\approx .

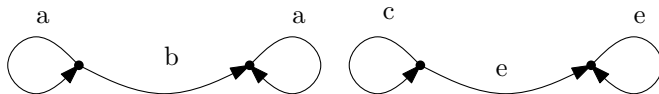
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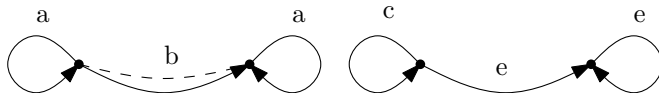
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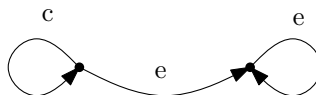
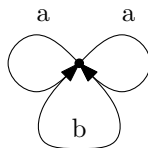
Linked vertices in picture



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Linking graph in picture



Components of G/\approx

- The components of the graph G/\approx can be partially ordered by the relation $K \leq L$ meaning “there exists a walk from K to L ”.
- For x infinite word define $\alpha(x)$ and $\omega(x)$ as the components of G/\approx where the image of a presentation of x begins and ends.
- The components $\alpha(x), \omega(x)$ are well-defined: They always exist and do not depend on the choice of presentation of x .

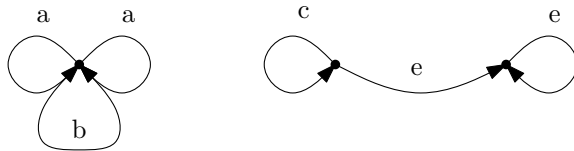
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Theorem about chain relation

Theorem

Let Σ be a sofic subshift, G its labelled graph. Let $x, y \in \Sigma$. Then $(x, y) \in \mathcal{C}$ iff $\omega(x) \leq \alpha(y)$ or $y = \sigma^n(x)$ for some $n > 0$.

Other properties of subshifts

- A subshift is *chain-transitive* if every two its words are in the chain relation.
- A subshift is *chain-mixing* if for every two words $x, y \in \Sigma$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ exists a k such that for all $n > k$ there exists an ε -chain from x to y of length n .
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Characterising chain transitive and chain mixing subshifts

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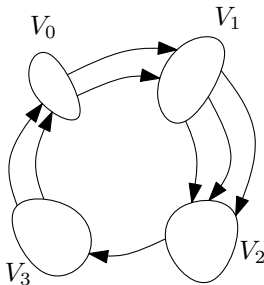
Intermezzo: Aperiodic graphs

A graph is *periodic* iff $V(G)$ can be partitioned into $n > 1$ disjoint sets of vertices V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{n-1} such that every edge $e \in E(G)$ leads from some $v \in V_k$ to some $u \in V_{k+1}$ for a suitable k .

A graph is *aperiodic* if it is not periodic.

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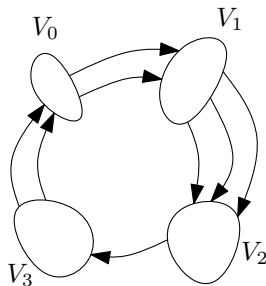
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Attractors

Informally, an attractor of a dynamic system is a closed set that attracts all trajectories from its neighbourhood.

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The attractors of the dynamic system (Σ, σ) are precisely all the subshifts described by the preimages of nonempty terminal subgraphs of G/\approx .

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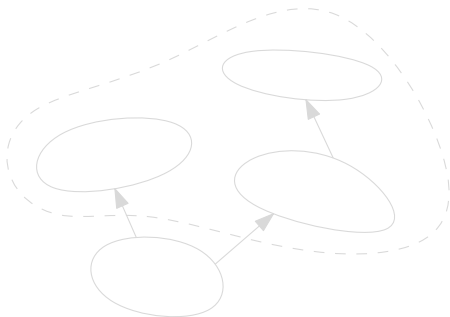
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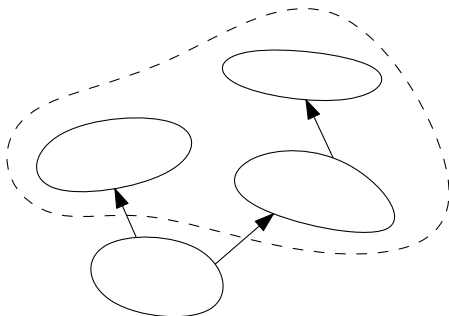
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Summary

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- Using this knowledge we can explicitly describe:
 - Chain transitivity
 - The chain-mixing property
 - The attractors of the subshift dynamic system
- All three above properties can be checked algorithmically.

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