Free idempotent generated semigroups and their maximal subgroups

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General Algebra and Its Applications – GAIA 2013 Melbourne, Australia, July 17, 2013



I'm free like a river Flowin' freely to infinity I'm free to be sure of what I am and who I need not be I'm much freer - like the meaning Of the word 'free' that crazy man defines Free - free like the vision that The mind of only you are ever gonna see

Stevie Wonder: Free

Many natural semigroups are idempotent-generated  $(S = \langle E(S) \rangle)$ :

► The semigroup T<sub>n</sub> \ S<sub>n</sub> of singular (non-invertible) transformations on a finite set (Howie, 1966);

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#### Hence:

What can we say about the structure of the free-est idempotent-generated (IG) semigroup with a fixed structure/configuration of idempotents ???

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Alternatively, biordered sets can be described as relational structures  $(E(S), \leq^{(l)}, \leq^{(r)})$  with two quasi-orders and several simple rules/axioms (Easdown, Nambooripad, '80s).

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- ► To every semigroup S with idempotents E associate the free-est semigroup IG(E) whose idempotents form the same biordered set as in S.
- ► To every regular semigroup S with idempotents E associate the free-est regular semigroup RIG(E) in whose idempotents form the same biordered set as in S.

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$$\mathsf{RIG}(E) := \langle E \mid \mathsf{IG}, ehf = ef (e, f \in E, h \in S(e, f)) \rangle.$$

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$$RIG(S) = \langle e, f, z \mid IG, ef = fe = z \rangle = S.$$

$$S = \langle e_{ij} \mid e_{ij}e_{kl} = e_{il} \ (i, j, k, l \in \{1, 2\}) \rangle:$$

$e_{11}$	<i>e</i> <sub>12</sub>
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$$\operatorname{RIG}(S) = \operatorname{IG}(S).$$

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So, understanding IG(E) is essential in understanding the structure of arbitrary IG semigroups.

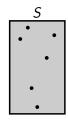
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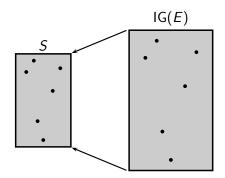
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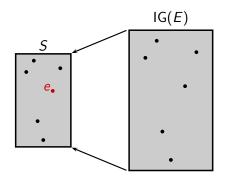
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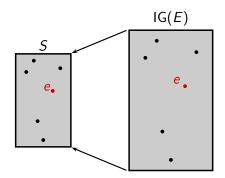
Which groups arise as maximal subgroups of IG(E) (and thus of RIG(E))?

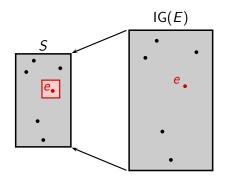
### The big picture

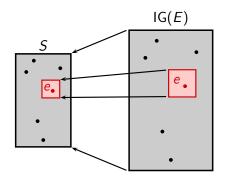


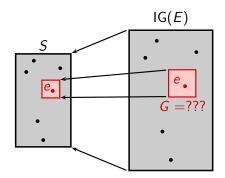




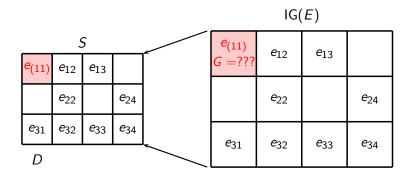








#### Let's zoom in



Presentation for a max. subgroup of IG(E): Generators

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e <sub>31</sub>	e <sub>32</sub>	e <sub>33</sub>	e <sub>34</sub>	

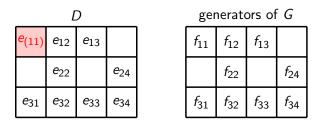
generators of G

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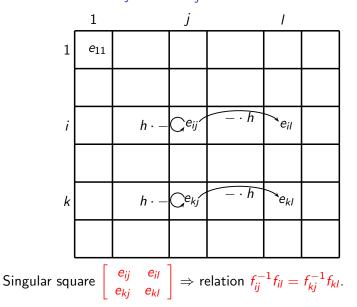
*G* is generated by a set in 1-1 correspondence with  $D \cap E(S)$ .



$$G = \langle f_{ij} \ (e_{ij} \in D \cap E) \mid ??? \rangle$$

Typical relations:  $f_{ij}^{-1}f_{il} = f_{kj}^{-1}f_{kl}$ 

 $\bullet h = h^2$ 



#### Theorem (Nambooripad 1979; Gray, Ruškuc 2012) The maximal subgroup G of $e \in E$ in IG(E) or RIG(E) is defined by the presentation:

$$\langle f_{ij} \mid f_{i,\pi(i)} = 1$$
  $(i \in I),$   
 $f_{ij} = f_{il}$   $(if r_j e_{il} = r_l \text{ is a Schreier rep.}),$   
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**Proof:** Reidemeister–Schreier rewriting process followed by Tietze transformations.

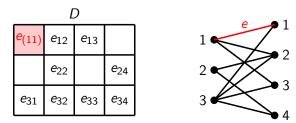
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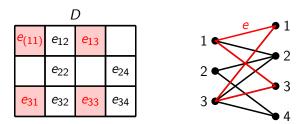
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Obviously, a clever choice of  $\ensuremath{\mathcal{T}}$  may speed up the computation.



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- ► This conjecture was proved false by Brittenham, Margolis, and Meakin in 2009 who obtained the groups Z ⊕ Z (from a particular 73-element semigroup) and F<sup>\*</sup> for an arbitrary field F.

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- Finally, Gray and Ruškuc (2012) proved that every group arises as a maximal subgroup of some free idempotent generated semigroup (!!!).

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### Remaining Question

Is every finitely presented group a maximal subgroup in some free idempotent generated semigroup over a finite regular semigroup?

Some or all maximal subgroups in IG(E(S)) have been calculated for the following S:

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- ► Endomorphism monoid of a free *G*-act: Gould, Yang.

Bands (aka idempotent semigroups)

# Theorem (ID)

For every left- or right seminormal band *B*, all maximal subgroups of IG(B) are free. For every variety **V** not contained in **LSNB**  $\cup$  **RSNB** there exists  $B \in \mathbf{V}$  such that IG(B) contains a non-free maximal subgroup.

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### Remaining Question

Which groups arise as maximal subgroups of IG(B), B a (finite) band?

# Bands (aka idempotent semigroups)

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Answer (ID, Ruškuc, 2013): All of them! (Resp. all finitely presented ones.)

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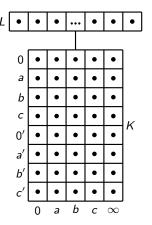
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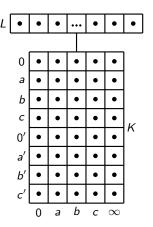
• 
$$I = \{0, a, b, c, 0', a', b', c'\};$$
  
•  $J = \{0, a, b, c, \infty\};$   
•  $T = T_I^* \times T_J;$   
• the minimal ideal:  $K = \{(\sigma, \tau) : \sigma, \tau \text{ constants}\};$ 

• K is an 
$$I \times J$$
 rectangular band.

B = K ∪ L, where L is a left zero semigroup.

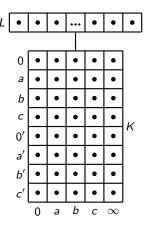


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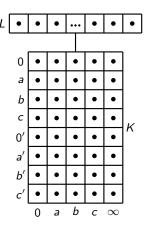
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,  $\tau^2 = \tau$ ;

• ker(
$$\sigma$$
) = {{0, a, b, c}, {0', a', b', c'}};

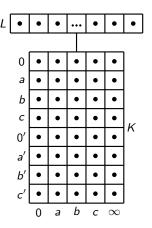


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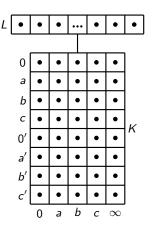
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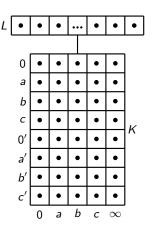
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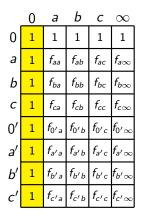
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- thus  $\tau$  is specified by  $(\infty)\tau$ .



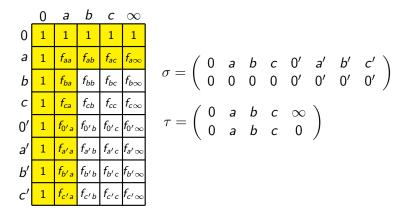
b а n С  $\infty$ 0  $f_{0a}$  $f_{0b}$  $f_{00}$  $f_{0c}$  $f_{0\infty}$ а  $f_{a0}$ f<sub>aa</sub> f<sub>ab</sub> f<sub>ac</sub>  $f_{a\infty}$ b f<sub>ba</sub>  $f_{bb}$  $f_{b0}$  $f_{bc}$  $f_{b\infty}$ С  $f_{c0}$ f<sub>ca</sub>  $f_{cb}$  $f_{cc}$  $f_{c\infty}$ f<sub>0'a</sub> 0  $f_{0'b} | f_{0'c} | f_{0'\infty}$  $f_{0'0}$  $f_{a'a}$   $f_{a'b}$   $f_{a'c}$   $f_{a'\infty}$ a  $f_{a'0}$  $f_{b'0} | f_{b'a} | f_{b'b} | f_{b'c} | f_{b'\infty}$ b  $f_{c'a} \mid f_{c'b} \mid f_{c'c}$  $t_{c' \propto}$ С c'0

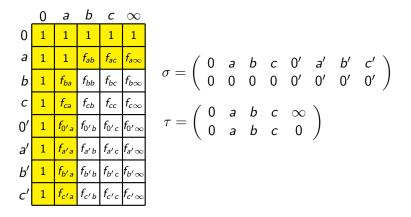
	0	а	b	С	$\infty$
0		1			
а	f <sub>a0</sub>	f <sub>aa</sub>	f <sub>ab</sub>	f <sub>ac</sub>	$f_{a\infty}$
b	$f_{b0}$	f <sub>ba</sub>	f <sub>bb</sub>	f <sub>bc</sub>	$f_{b\infty}$
с	$f_{c0}$	f <sub>ca</sub>	f <sub>cb</sub>	f <sub>cc</sub>	$f_{c\infty}$
0′	<i>f</i> <sub>0′0</sub>	$f_{0'a}$	$f_{0'b}$	f <sub>0'c</sub>	$f_{0'\infty}$
a'	f <sub>a'0</sub>	$f_{a'a}$	f <sub>a' b</sub>	f <sub>a'c</sub>	$f_{a'\infty}$
b'	$f_{b'0}$	$f_{b^{\prime}a}$	$f_{b'b}$	$f_{b'c}$	$f_{b'\infty}$
c′	$f_{c'0}$	f <sub>c'a</sub>	$f_{c'b}$	$f_{c'c}$	$f_{c'\infty}$

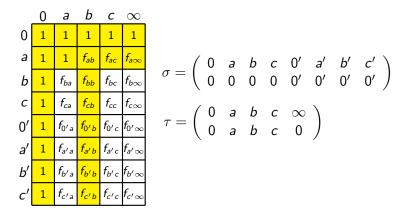
#### Initial relations

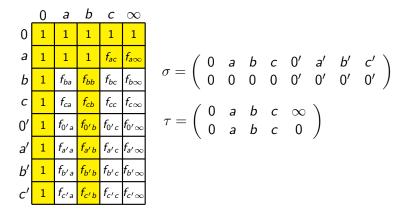


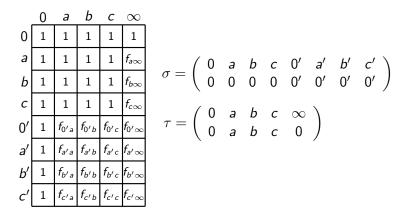
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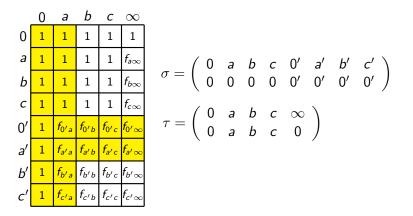


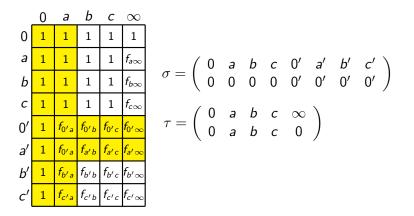


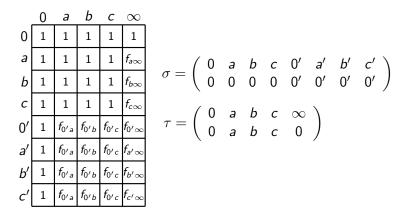


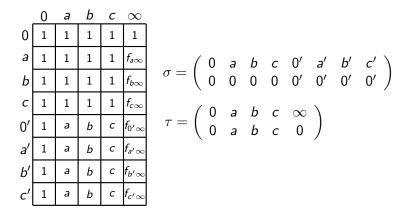


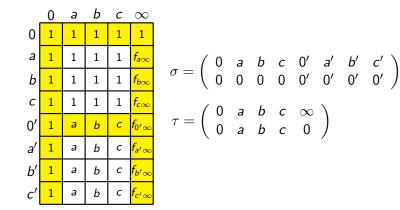


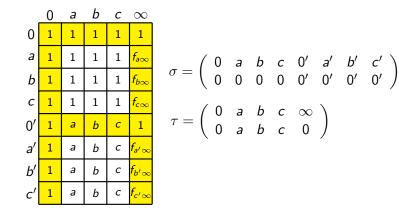


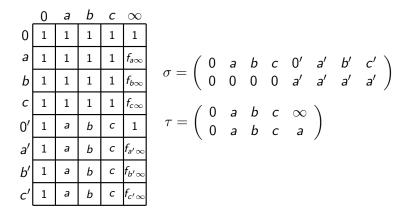


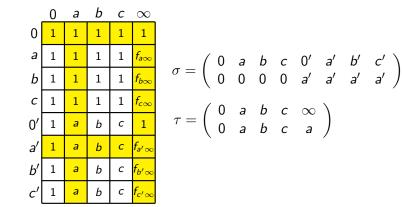


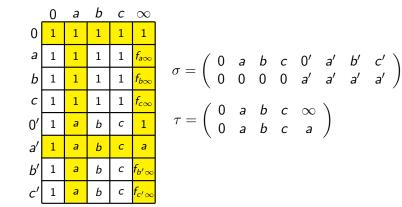


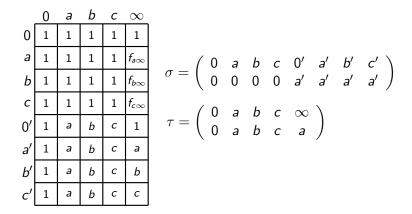


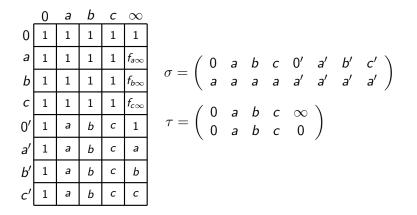


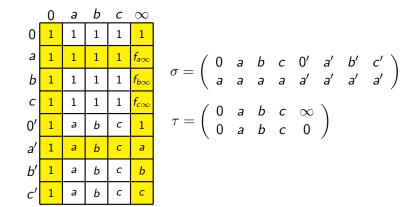


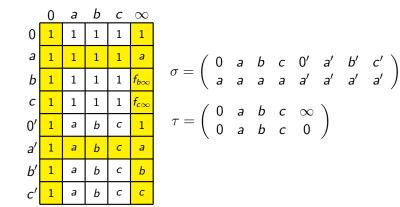


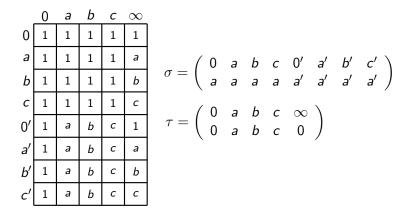


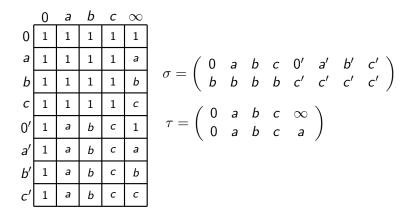


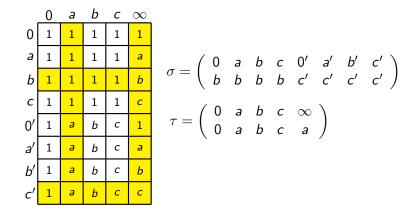


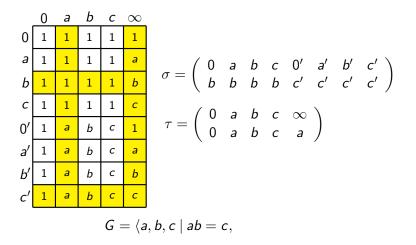


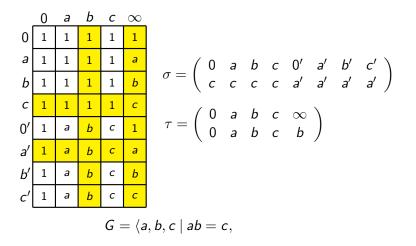


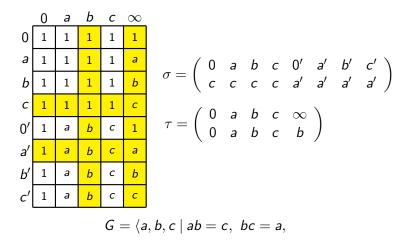


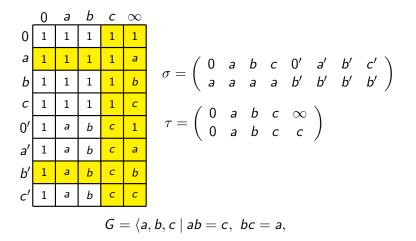


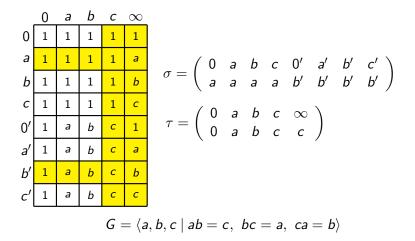












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For any group G there exists a band B such that IG(B) has a maximal subgroup isomorphic to G. Furthermore, if G is finitely presented, then B can be constructed to be finite.

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#### Remark

- B has two  $\mathcal{D}$ -classes, K and L.
- If  $G = \langle A | R \rangle$  with |A| = m, |R| = n, then
  - K is a  $(2m+2) \times (m+2)$  rectangular band;
  - L is a left zero semigroup of order 2m + n + 1.

Future directions: word problem

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Suppose S is a finite regular semigroup. The word problem for RIG(E) is solvable iff the word problem for each of its maximal subgroups is solvable.

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# Open Problem

What about finite bands?

# **THANK YOU!**

Questions and comments to: dockie@dmi.uns.ac.rs

Further information may be found at: http://people.dmi.uns.ac.rs/~dockie