# Prefix monoids of groups and right units of special inverse monoids

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#### Joint work with Robert D. Gray (UEA)



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Reason (the Magnus-Moldavansky hierarchy):

•  $G = \text{Gp}\langle A | r = 1 \rangle$  embeds into an HNN-extension of its (f.g.) subgroup  $L = \text{Gp}\langle A' | r' = 1 \rangle$  w.r.t. a pair of free ("Magnus") subgroups of *L*, where |r'| < |r|;

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- ▶ This suffices to reduce the WP for *G* to that of *L*;
- Eventually, we end up with a free group of finite rank, where we trivially solve the WP.
- NB. There is an older approach (Magnus' original) using amalgamated free products.

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NB. These presentations define right cancellative monoids.

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IgD & RDG (TrAMS, 2021): A kaleidoscope of sufficient conditions (via amalgamated products and HNN extensions) ensuring decidability for the PMP

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- If M happens to be E-unitary, the restriction of this map to R is a monoid isomorphism.
- Consequently, the RU-monoid of any *E*-unitary special inverse monoid (SIM) is group-embeddable.

Ivanov, Margolis & Meakin (JPAA, 2001): The (right cancellative) monoid  $Mon\langle A | aUb = aVc \rangle$  ( $b \neq c$ ) embeds (as the monoid of right units) into

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Surprise, surprise...!

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- Finally, a one-relator SIM M = Inv⟨a, b, t | ...⟩ is constructed so that u ∈ {a, b, a<sup>-1</sup>, b<sup>-1</sup>}\* represents an element of the "critical" undecidable f.g. submonoid of G ⇔ tut<sup>-1</sup> is a right unit in M.

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Still, this does not invalidate the IMM aprroach.

Guba (1997): For any monadic  $M = \text{Mon}\langle a, b \mid aUb = a \rangle$  constructs  $G_M = \text{Gp}\langle x, y, A \mid xWyx^{-1} = 1 \rangle$  (for some  $W \in (A \cup \{x, y\})^*$ ) such that the WP for M reduces to PMP for  $G_M$ .

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- w ∈ A<sup>+</sup> and undecidable submonoid membership problem for G (again, FGNB).

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- (4) What are the possible Schützenberger groups of these monoids?

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The Higman Embedding Theorem: A finitely generated group embeds into a f.p. group if and only if it is recursively presented.

- A finitely generated monoid embeds into a f.p. group if and only if it is group-embeddable and recursively presented.
- Every prefix monoid (of a f.p. group) is f.g.  $\implies$  it is recursively presented.

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Theorem (IgD, RDG, 2023):

For every group-embeddable recursively presented monoid M there is a natural number  $\mu_M$  such that

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is a prefix monoid (with  $|\Sigma_k| = k$ ) if and only if  $k \ge \mu_M$ .

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#### Also:

The class of groups of units of prefix monoids is precisely the recursively presented groups.

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- ► M (left/right) cancellative ⇒ every Sch-group embeds into the group of units of M.
- For every r.e. subgroup H of a f.p. group G there is a f.p. overgroup  $G_1 \ge G$  and and  $t \in G_1$  such that  $G \cap t^{-1}Gt = H$ .

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Theorem 2 (RDG, Kambites):

A group arises as a maximal subgroup (i.e. as a group  $\mathcal{H}$ -class) of a f.p. SIM  $\iff$  it arises as a r.e. subgroup of a f.p. group.

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In a way, this is a generalisation of the Ivanov-Margolis-Meakin result.

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In the remainder of the talk, I'll present two interesting phenomena in this vein discovered by IgD+RDG during this Spring's online sessions.

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- ▶ There is a finitely RC-presented monoid S in which the complement of the group of units  $S \setminus U$  is an ideal, and still U is not f.p.

Conclusion: RC-presentations are strange animals!

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$$p_i a p_i^{-1} p_i a^{-1} p_i^{-1} = 1 \qquad (a \in A, i = 0, 1, ..., k)$$
  

$$p_i u_i d^{-1} v_i^{-1} p_i^{-1} = 1 \qquad (i = 1, ..., k)$$

$$p_{0}dp_{0}^{-1} = 1$$

$$zbz^{-1}zb^{-1}z^{-1} = 1$$

$$z\left(\prod_{i=0}^{k} p_{i}^{-1}p_{i}\right)z^{-1} = 1.$$

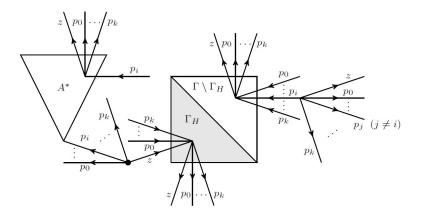
$$(b \in B)$$

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NB. For all  $u, v \in B^*$  s.t. u = v holds in S,  $u^{(z)} = v^{(z)}$  can be RC-derived. In fact,  $\langle b^{(z)} : b \in B \rangle \cong S$ .

For example, when we take  $T = \{a\}^*$  and  $S = \langle \emptyset \rangle = \{1\}$  (and a silly presentation for T, say a = a, to have k = 1) we get the RU-monoid

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This can be shown to be:

- not finitely RC-presented,
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Conclusion: There are non-finitely RC-presented RU-monoids out there!

