



# Deciding Kleene Algebra with converse is PSPACE-complete

*Talk at the GeoCal meeting*

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# Introduction

$$(x^* + y) \cdot z$$

$$(x^* \cdot z) + (y \cdot z)$$

# Introduction

$$\forall S, \forall \sigma : \mathcal{R}eg_X \rightarrow \mathcal{R}el(S)$$

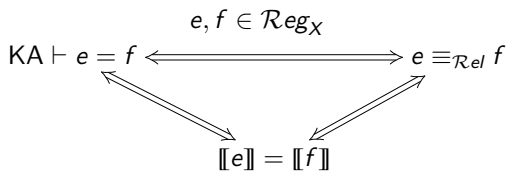
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (x^* + y) \cdot z & & (x^* \cdot z) + (y \cdot z) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \sigma((x^* + y) \cdot z) & = & \sigma((x^* \cdot z) + (y \cdot z))
 \end{array}$$

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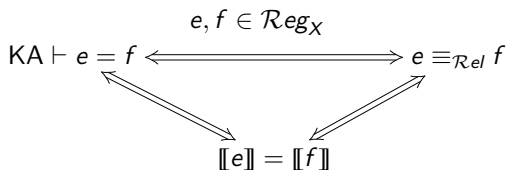
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$\forall S, \forall \sigma : \mathcal{R}eg_X \rightarrow \mathcal{R}el(S)$

# Introduction



# Introduction



What if we add a *converse* operation to regular expressions?

## Introduction

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & e, f \in \mathcal{R}eg_X & \\
 KA \vdash e = f & \longleftrightarrow & e \equiv_{\mathcal{R}el} f \\
 & \swarrow \quad \searrow & \\
 & \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket &
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & e, f \in \mathcal{R}eg_X^\vee & \\
 KAC \vdash e = f & \longleftrightarrow & e \equiv_{\mathcal{R}el^\vee} f \\
 & \swarrow \quad \searrow & \\
 & cl(\llbracket e \rrbracket) = cl(\llbracket f \rrbracket) &
 \end{array}$$

# Introduction

$$e, f \in \mathcal{Reg}_X^\vee$$

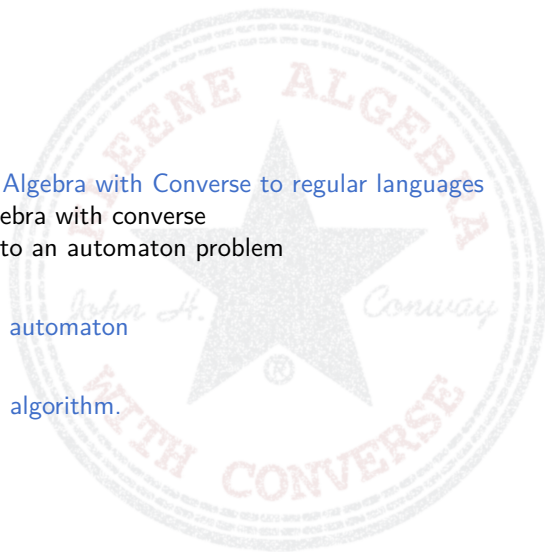
$$e \equiv_{\mathcal{Re}^N} f$$

$$cl(\llbracket e \rrbracket) = cl(\llbracket f \rrbracket)$$



# Plan

- 1 Introduction
- 2 From Kleene Algebra with Converse to regular languages
  - Kleene Algebra with converse
  - Reduction to an automaton problem
- 3 Closure of an automaton
- 4 The PSPACE algorithm.
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# Regular expressions with converse

## Regular expressions with converse over $X$

$$e, f \in \mathcal{R}eg_X^\vee ::= \emptyset \mid \mathbb{1} \mid x \in X \mid e + f \mid e \cdot f \mid e^* \mid e^\vee$$

# Regular expressions with converse

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$$e, f \in \mathcal{R}eg_X^\vee ::= \emptyset \mid \mathbb{1} \mid x \in X \mid e + f \mid e \cdot f \mid e^* \mid e^\vee$$

Given any map :

$$\sigma : X \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}el(S),$$

we can build uniquely a morphism

$$\hat{\sigma} : \mathcal{R}eg_X^\vee \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}el(S).$$

# Relational equivalence

For  $e, f \in \mathcal{Reg}_X^\vee$  :

$$e \equiv_{\mathcal{Rel}^\vee} f$$

means that

$$\forall S, \forall \sigma : X \rightarrow \mathcal{Rel}(S), \hat{\sigma}(e) = \hat{\sigma}(f).$$

# The equational theory KAC

The equational theory KAC of regular algebras with converse over binary relations consists of the axioms of KA together with the following :

$$(a + b)^{\vee} = a^{\vee} + b^{\vee} \quad (1)$$

$$(a \cdot b)^{\vee} = b^{\vee} \cdot a^{\vee} \quad (2)$$

$$(a^*)^{\vee} = (a^{\vee})^* \quad (3)$$

$$a^{\vee\vee} = a \quad (4)$$

$$aa^{\vee}a \geq a \quad (5)$$

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# From $\mathcal{Reg}_X^\vee$ to $\mathcal{Reg}_X$

Let  $X$  be a finite alphabet. For  $e \in \mathcal{Reg}_X$ , we write  $\llbracket e \rrbracket \subseteq X^*$  for the *language denoted by  $e$* .

- $X' := \{x' \mid x \in X\}$  is a disjoint copy of  $X$ ,
- and  $\mathbf{X} := X \cup X'$ .

We apply the following rewriting system :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (a + b)^\vee \mapsto a^\vee + b^\vee \\ (a \cdot b)^\vee \mapsto b^\vee \cdot a^\vee \\ (a^*)^\vee \mapsto (a^\vee)^* \\ a^{\vee\vee} \mapsto a \end{array} \right.$$



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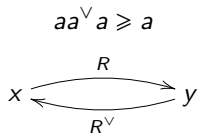
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We get  $\mathbf{e} \in \text{Reg}_X$ .

$$e, f \in \mathcal{Reg}_X : \quad e \equiv_{\mathcal{Rel}} f \quad \begin{matrix} \Rightarrow \\ \Leftarrow \end{matrix} \quad \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket$$

$$e, f \in \text{Reg}_X^V : \quad e \equiv_{\text{Rel}^V} f \quad \Rightarrow \quad \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket$$

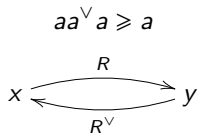
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$$e = aa^\vee a, f = a :$$

$$\llbracket e \rrbracket = \{aa'a\} \not\subseteq \{a\} = \llbracket f \rrbracket$$

$$e, f \in \mathcal{R}eg_X^\vee : \quad e \equiv_{\mathcal{R}el^\vee} f \quad \begin{matrix} \Rightarrow \\ \Leftarrow \end{matrix} \quad cl(\llbracket e \rrbracket) = cl(\llbracket f \rrbracket)$$



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## Reduction relation and closure

### Converse for words : $\bar{w}$

For a word  $w \in X^*$ , we define inductively  $\bar{w}$  :

$$\forall x \in X, \quad \bar{x} := x' \quad \left| \quad \bar{\epsilon} := \epsilon \right. \\ \forall x' \in X', \quad \overline{x'} := x \quad \left| \quad \overline{wx} := \bar{x} \bar{w}.$$



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$$\frac{}{u_1 \cdot w \bar{w} w \cdot u_2 \rightsquigarrow u_1 \cdot w \cdot u_2}$$

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## Example :

$aa'a = a\bar{a}a \rightsquigarrow a$ , so we have :  $cl(\{aa'a\}) = \{a, aa'a\} \supseteq \{a\}$ .

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# Closure

## Theorem <sup>a</sup>

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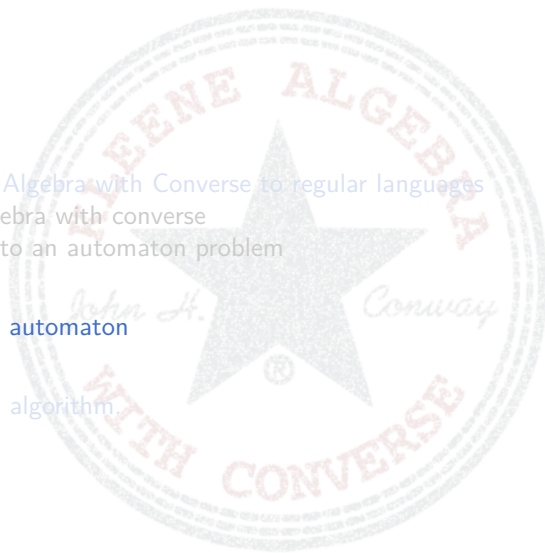
a. Bloom, S. L., Ésik, Z., and Stefanescu, G. (1995). [Notes on equational theories of relations.](#)

*Algebra Universalis*, 33(1) :98–126

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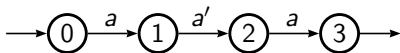


# Problem

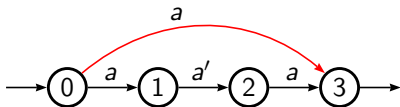
**Input** : an automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over  $\mathbf{X}$

**Output** : an automaton  $\mathcal{A}'$  over  $\mathbf{X}$  such that  $L(\mathcal{A}') = cl(L(\mathcal{A}))$ .

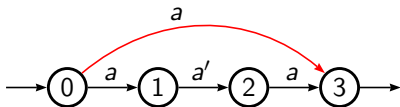
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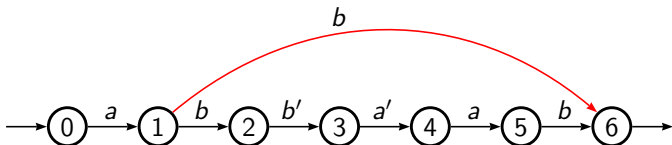
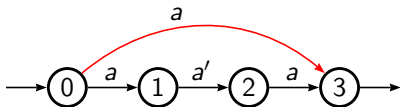
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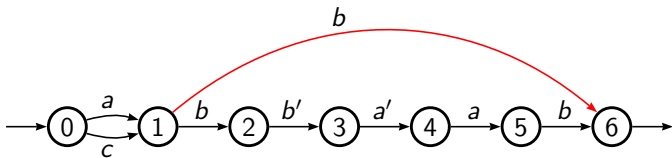
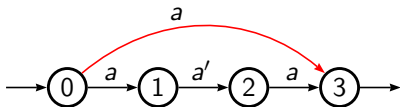
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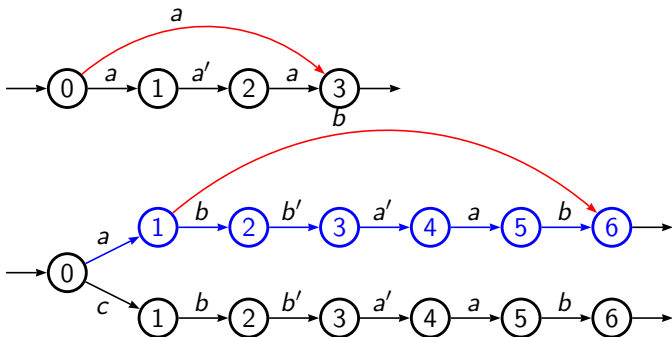
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## General idea

- Bloom, Ésik and Stefanescu give a construction, using the transitions monoid of the initial automaton, building a deterministic automaton with size  $2^{2^{n^2}}$  (if the initial automaton has size  $n$ ).



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  - ▶ and  $H'$  allows to jump from  $q_3$  to  $q_2$ .

$\Gamma(w)$ Definition :  $\Gamma(w)$ 

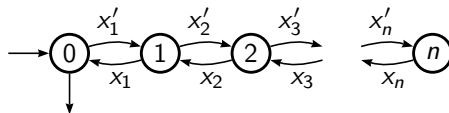
$$\Gamma(\epsilon) = \{\epsilon\}$$

$$\Gamma(wx) = (\{x'\} \cdot \Gamma(w) \cdot \{x\})^*$$

## Lemma

$$u \in \Gamma(w) \Leftrightarrow \exists v \in \text{suffixes}(w) : u \rightsquigarrow^* \bar{v}v$$

$\Gamma(x_n \cdots x_1)$  is recognised by the automaton :



## $\gamma(w)$

Consider an automaton  $\mathcal{A} = \langle Q, A, I, T, \Delta \rangle$ , we write

$$\Delta_x := \{(p, q) \mid p \xrightarrow{x} q \in \Delta\}.$$

### Definition : $\gamma(w)$

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(\epsilon) &= \text{Id}_Q \\ \gamma(wx) &= (\Delta_{x'} \circ \gamma(w) \circ \Delta_x)^*\end{aligned}$$

### Lemma

$$\begin{aligned}(p, q) \in \gamma(w) &\Leftrightarrow \exists u \in \Gamma(w) : p \xrightarrow{u} q \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists u : \exists v \in \text{suffixes}(w) : p \xrightarrow{u} q \wedge u \rightsquigarrow^* \bar{v}v\end{aligned}$$

### Histories

The set of histories is  $G := \{r \in \mathcal{R}el(Q) \mid \exists w \in \mathbf{X}^* : r = \gamma(w)\}$ .

# Closure Automaton

 $cl(\mathcal{A})$ 

$cl(\mathcal{A}) := \langle Q \times G, \mathbf{X}, I \times \gamma(\epsilon), F \times G, \Delta' \rangle$  with transitions  $\Delta'$  :

$$(q_1, \gamma(w)) \xrightarrow{x}_{cl(\mathcal{A})} (q_2, \gamma(wx)) \text{ if } (q_1, q_2) \in \Delta_x \circ \gamma(wx)$$

## Theorem

$$L(cl(\mathcal{A})) = cl(L(\mathcal{A}))$$



# Size

$$\Delta' : \{((q_1, \gamma(w)), x, (q_2, \gamma(wx))) \mid (q_1, q_2) \in \Delta_x \circ \gamma(wx)\}$$

We can see that this construction produces a non-deterministic automaton of size at most  $n \times 2^{n \times (n-1)}$ .

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Furthermore, it can be easily determinized :

$$\delta' : ((Q_1, \gamma(w)), x) \mapsto (Q_1 \cdot (\Delta_x \circ \gamma(wx)), \gamma(wx))$$

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This deterministic automaton has at most  $2^n \times 2^{n \times (n-1)} = 2^{n^2}$  states, which is significantly smaller than  $2^{2^{n^2}}$ , the size of the automaton from the original construction.

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# Automaton equivalence

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be two deterministic automata over some alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

## Theorem

$$L(\mathcal{A}) \neq L(\mathcal{B}) \Leftrightarrow \exists w \in (L(\mathcal{A}) \ominus L(\mathcal{B})) : |w| \leq |\mathcal{A}| \times |\mathcal{B}|.$$

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**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \langle Q_1, \Sigma, i_1, T_1, \delta_1 \rangle$

**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \langle Q_2, \Sigma, i_2, T_2, \delta_2 \rangle$

**output**: A Boolean, saying whether or not  $\mathcal{A}_1$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  recognise the same language.

```

1  $N \leftarrow (|Q_1| \times |Q_2|)$ ;
2  $(p_1, p_2) \leftarrow (i_1, i_2)$ ;
3 while  $N > 0$  do
4    $N \leftarrow N - 1$ ;                                /*  $N$  bounds the recursion depth */
5    $f_1 \leftarrow \text{is\_in}(p_1, T_1)$ ;
6    $f_2 \leftarrow \text{is\_in}(p_2, T_2)$ ;
7   if  $f_1 = f_2$  then
8      $x \leftarrow \text{random}(\Sigma)$ ;                    /* Non-deterministic choice */
9      $(p_1, p_2) \leftarrow (\delta_1(p_1, x), \delta_2(p_2, x))$ ;
10  else
11    return false;                                  /* A difference appeared for some word,  $L(\mathcal{A}_1) \neq L(\mathcal{A}_2)$  */
12  end
13
14 end
15 return true;                                       /* There was no difference,  $L(\mathcal{A}_1) = L(\mathcal{A}_2)$  */

```

# Automaton equivalence

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be two deterministic automata over some alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

## Theorem

$$L(\mathcal{A}) \neq L(\mathcal{B}) \Leftrightarrow \exists w \in (L(\mathcal{A}) \ominus L(\mathcal{B})) : |w| \leq |\mathcal{A}| \times |\mathcal{B}|.$$

**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \langle Q_1, \Sigma, i_1, T_1, \delta_1 \rangle$

**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \langle Q_2, \Sigma, i_2, T_2, \delta_2 \rangle$

**output**: A Boolean, saying whether or not  $\mathcal{A}_1$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  recognise the same language.

```

1  $N \leftarrow (|Q_1| \times |Q_2|);$ 
2  $(p_1, p_2) \leftarrow (i_1, i_2);$ 
3 while  $(N > 0)$  do
4    $N \leftarrow N - 1;$                                      /* N bounds the recursion depth */
5    $f_1 \leftarrow \text{is\_in}(p_1, T_1);$ 
6    $f_2 \leftarrow \text{is\_in}(p_2, T_2);$ 
7   if  $f_1 = f_2$  then
8      $x \leftarrow \text{random}(\Sigma);$                          /* Non-deterministic choice */
9      $(p_1, p_2) \leftarrow (\delta_1(p_1, x), \delta_2(p_2, x));$ 
10  else
11    return false;                                       /* A difference appeared for some word,  $L(\mathcal{A}_1) \neq L(\mathcal{A}_2)$  */
12  end
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14 end
15 return true;                                         /* There was no difference,  $L(\mathcal{A}_1) = L(\mathcal{A}_2)$  */

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**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \langle Q_1, \Sigma, i_1, T_1, \delta_1 \rangle$

**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \langle Q_2, \Sigma, i_2, T_2, \delta_2 \rangle$

**output**: A Boolean, saying whether or not  $\mathcal{A}_1$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  recognise the same language.

```

1  N ← (|Q1| × |Q2|);
2  (p1, p2) ← (i1, i2);
3  while N > 0 do
4      N ← N - 1;                                /* N bounds the recursion depth */
5      f1 ← is_in(p1, T1);
6      f2 ← is_in(p2, T2);
7      if f1 = f2 then
8          x ← random(Σ);                          /* Non-deterministic choice */
9          (p1, p2) ← (δ1(p1, x), δ2(p2, x));
10     else
11         return false;                          /* A difference appeared for some word, L(A1) ≠ L(A2) */
12     end
13
14 end
15 return true;                                  /* There was no difference, L(A1) = L(A2) */

```



# Automaton equivalence

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be two deterministic automata over some alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

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**input** :  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \langle Q_2, \Sigma, i_2, T_2, \delta_2 \rangle$

**output**: A Boolean, saying whether or not  $\mathcal{A}_1$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  recognise the same language.

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```

# A PSPACE algorithm for KAC

**input** : Two regular expressions with converse  $e, f \in \text{Reg}_X^\vee$   
**output**: A Boolean, saying whether or not  $\text{KAC} \vdash e = f$ .

- 1  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \langle Q_1, \mathbf{X}, l_1, T_1, \Delta_1 \rangle \leftarrow$  Glushkov' automaton recognising  $\llbracket e \rrbracket$ ;
- 2  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \langle Q_2, \mathbf{X}, l_2, T_2, \Delta_2 \rangle \leftarrow$  Glushkov' automaton recognising  $\llbracket f \rrbracket$ ;
- 3  $N \leftarrow (2^{(|e|+1)^2} \times 2^{(|f|+1)^2})$ ;
- 4  $((P_1, R_1), (P_2, R_2)) \leftarrow ((l_1, \text{Id}_{Q_1}), (l_2, \text{Id}_{Q_1}))$ ;
- 5 **while**  $N > 0$  **do**
- 6      $N \leftarrow N - 1$ ;
- 7      $f_1 \leftarrow \text{is\_empty}(P_1 \cap T_1)$ ;
- 8      $f_2 \leftarrow \text{is\_empty}(P_2 \cap T_2)$ ;
- 9     **if**  $f_1 = f_2$  **then**
- 10          $x \leftarrow \text{random}(\mathbf{X})$ ;
- 11          $(R_1, R_2) \leftarrow ((\Delta_1(x') \circ R_1 \circ \Delta_1(x))^*, (\Delta_2(x') \circ R_2 \circ \Delta_2(x))^*)$ ;
- 12          $(P_1, P_2) \leftarrow (P_1 \cdot (\Delta_1(x) \circ R_1), P_2 \cdot (\Delta_2(x) \circ R_2))$ ;
- 13     **else**
- 14         **return** false
- 15     **end**
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3  $N \leftarrow (2^{(|e|+1)^2} \times 2^{(|f|+1)^2})$ ;
4  $((P_1, R_1), (P_2, R_2)) \leftarrow ((l_1, \text{Id}_{Q_1}), (l_2, \text{Id}_{Q_2}))$ ;
5 while  $N > 0$  do
6    $N \leftarrow N - 1$ ;
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- 2  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \langle Q_2, \mathbf{X}, l_2, T_2, \Delta_2 \rangle \leftarrow$  Glushkov' automaton recognising  $\llbracket f \rrbracket$ ;
- 3  $N \leftarrow (2^{(|e|+1)^c} \times 2^{(|f|+1)^c})$ ;
- 4  $((P_1, R_1), (P_2, R_2)) \leftarrow ((l_1, \text{Id}_{Q_1}), (l_2, \text{Id}_{Q_1}))$ ;
- 5 **while**  $N > 0$  **do**
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- 3  $N \leftarrow (2^{(|e|+1)^2} \times 2^{(|f|+1)^2})$ ;
- 4  $((P_1, R_1), (P_2, R_2)) \leftarrow ((I_1, \text{Id}_{Q_1}), (I_2, \text{Id}_{Q_2}))$ ;
- 5 **while**  $N > 0$  **do**
- 6      $N \leftarrow N - 1$ ;
- 7      $f_1 \leftarrow \text{is\_empty}(P_1 \cap T_1)$ ;
- 8      $f_2 \leftarrow \text{is\_empty}(P_2 \cap T_2)$ ;
- 9     **if**  $f_1 = f_2$  **then**
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- 12          $(P_1, P_2) \leftarrow (P_1 \cdot (\Delta_1(x) \circ R_1), P_2 \cdot (\Delta_2(x) \circ R_2))$ ;
- 13     **else**
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- 15     **end**
- 16 **end**
- 17 **return** true

# A PSPACE algorithm for KAC

Let's write  $n$  and  $m$  for the sizes of  $e$  and  $f$ .

**input** : Two regular expressions with converse  $e, f \in \text{Reg}_X^\vee$   
**output**: A Boolean, saying whether or not  $\text{KAC} \vdash e = f$ .

```

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5 while  $N > 0$  do
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9   if  $f_1 = f_2$  then
10     $x \leftarrow \text{random}(\mathbf{X})$ ;
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13  else
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16 end
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```

Complexity annotations:

- $\mathcal{O}(n + m)$  (lines 1-2)
- $\sim \log(2^{n^2} \times 2^{m^2}) \sim \mathcal{O}(n^2 + m^2)$  (line 3)
- $\sim \log(n) + n^2 + \log(m) + m^2$   
 $\sim \mathcal{O}(n^2 + m^2)$  (line 4)
- $\mathcal{O}(\log(n))$  (line 8)
- $\mathcal{O}(n^2 + m^2)$  (line 11)
- $\mathcal{O}(n^2 + m^2)$  (line 12)

So we get a space complexity  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 + m^2)$ .

# So far

- New construction for deciding KAC.



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- New construction for deciding KAC.
- PSPACE complexity.
- Simpler correctness proofs.
- Toy implementation in OCAML of both constructions.
- COQ proof of confluence of the relation  $\rightsquigarrow$ .

## Further work

- Simpler proof of  $cl(\llbracket e \rrbracket) = cl(\llbracket f \rrbracket) \Rightarrow \text{KAC} \vdash e = f$ .

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- Simpler proof of  $cl(\llbracket e \rrbracket) = cl(\llbracket f \rrbracket) \Rightarrow \text{KAC} \vdash e = f$ .
- Formalize in Coq.
- Other extensions of Kleene Algebra : Action Algebra ( $-o$ ), Kleene Algebra with Intersection ( $\wedge$ )...

That's it!



Thank you!

The slides of this talk will be available online shortly on my webpage  
<http://perso.ens-lyon.fr/paul.brunet/kac.html>.

The content presented here has been accepted for publication in RAMICS 2014.



# Plan

- 1 Introduction
- 2 From Kleene Algebra with Converse to regular languages
  - Kleene Algebra with converse
  - Reduction to an automaton problem
- 3 Closure of an automaton
- 4 The PSPACE algorithm.
- 5 Conclusion

