

Algebraic Confluences

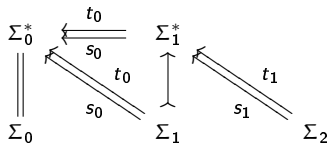
Part I. Homology and Rewriting

Philippe Malbos

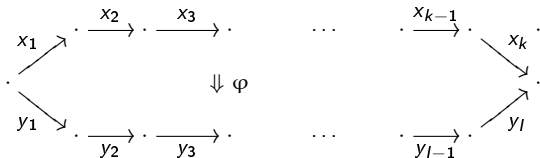
String Rewriting and the Word Problem

String Rewriting is 2-dimensional

- String rewriting system (Thue 1914) : **2-polygraph** (Street 1976, Burroni 1991) with only one 0-cell:



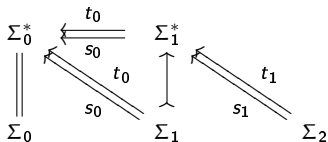
- $\Sigma_0 = \{ \cdot \}$
- Σ_1 set of **generators** : $s_0(x) \xrightarrow{x} t_0(x)$
- Σ_1^* free monoid of **strings** : $\cdot \xrightarrow{x_1} \cdot \xrightarrow{x_2} \cdot \dots \cdot \xrightarrow{x_k} \cdot$
- Σ_2 set of **rules** : $\varphi : u \Rightarrow v$



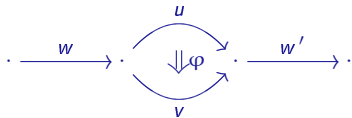
$$s_1(\varphi) = x_1 x_2 \dots x_k, \quad t_1(\varphi) = y_1 y_2 \dots y_l.$$

2-polygraphs

- Given a 2-polygraph Σ :



- A **rewriting step** of Σ is a 2-cell with shape



where $\varphi : u \Rightarrow v$ is a 2-cell of Σ_2 and w and w' are 1-cells of Σ_1^* .

- A **rewriting sequence** of Σ is a finite or infinite sequence

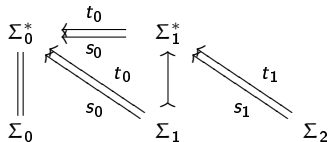
$$u_1 \xRightarrow{f_1} u_2 \xRightarrow{f_2} \dots \xRightarrow{f_{n-1}} u_n \xRightarrow{f_n} \dots$$

of rewriting steps.

- Rewriting sequences form a 2-category Σ_2^* .

2-polygraphs

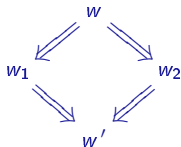
- Given a 2-polygraph Σ :



- Σ is **convergent** if it is
 - **terminating**, i.e., it does not generate any infinite reduction sequence

$$u_1 \Rightarrow u_2 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow u_n \Rightarrow \dots$$

- **confluent**, i.e., all of its branchings are confluent:



2-polygraphs and the Word Problem

- **Finite convergent presentations** give a method for solving the word problem algorithmically.
 - Given a 2-polygraph Σ .
 - Consider the monoid **M** presented by Σ , i.e., the quotient of the free monoid Σ_1^* by the congruence generated by Σ_2 :

$$\mathbf{M} = \Sigma_1^* / \Sigma_2.$$

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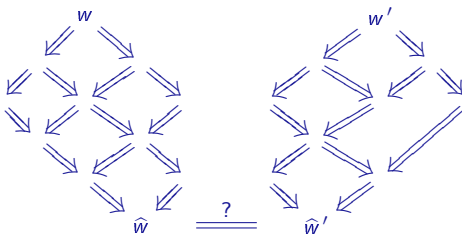
- The **word problem** for monoid **M**:
 - two 1-cells w and w' in Σ_1^* ,
 - does $w = w'$ in **M**?

2-polygraphs and the Word Problem

- **Finite convergent presentations** give a method for solving the word problem algorithmically.
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- The **word problem** for monoid **M**:
 - two 1-cells w and w' in Σ_1^* ,
 - does $w = w'$ in **M**?
- **Normal form algorithm** for finite and convergent 2-polygraphs:



Fact. Monoids having a finite convergent presentation are decidable.

Finite Convergent Presentations

- Finitely presented monoids with a finite convergent presentation (Nivat, 1972, Book, Otto, Diekert, Jantzen, ... in eighties).
- **Knuth-Bendix completion algorithm**, 1970.
 - Input : a 2-polygraph Σ a well-founded ordering $>$ on Σ_1^*
 - Algorithm will try to compute a set of rules Σ_2^∞ such that
 - i) $u > v$ holds for each $u \Rightarrow v$ in Σ_2^∞ ,
 - ii) Σ_2^∞ is confluent,
 - iii) Σ_2^∞ and Σ_2 are Tietze equivalent.
- The algorithm will terminate if and only if there exists a finite set Σ_2' such **i), ii), iii)** hold.
 - Else it will run forever ... generating an infinite set of rules satisfying **i), ii), iii)**,
 - or it will fail when it encounters an unorientable 'equation'.

String Rewriting and the Word Problem

- [Jantzen](#), 1982, asked whether every string rewriting with a decidable word problem has an equivalent finite convergent string rewriting system.

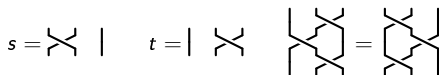
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Example. (Kapur-Narendran, 1985)

Artin's presentation of monoid of **positive braids on 3 strands**:

$$\mathbf{B}_3^+ = \langle s, t \mid sts = tst \rangle$$



1. \mathbf{B}_3^+ has a decidable word problem.
2. There does not exist finite convergent presentation of \mathbf{B}_3^+ with two generators.
3. But with three generators by adding a generator a standing for the product st .

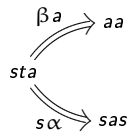
$$\Sigma = \langle s, t \mid tst \Rightarrow sts \rangle$$

$$\Sigma = \langle s, t, a \mid tst \Rightarrow sts \rangle$$

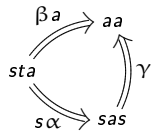
$$\Sigma = \langle s, t, a \mid tst \Rightarrow sts, st \stackrel{\beta}{\Rightarrow} a \rangle$$

$$\Sigma = \langle s, t, a \mid ta \stackrel{\alpha}{\Rightarrow} as, st \stackrel{\beta}{\Rightarrow} a \rangle$$

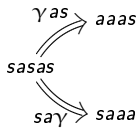
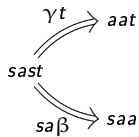
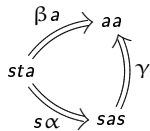
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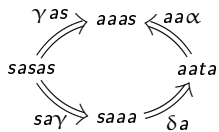
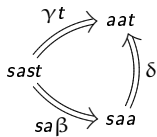
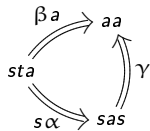
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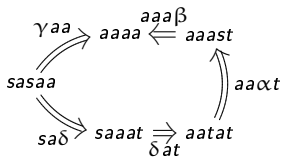
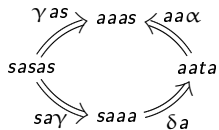
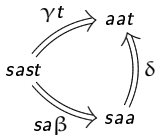
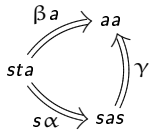
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String Rewriting and the Word Problem

Questions. ([Book](#), 1985, [Kapur-Narendran](#), 1985, [Jantzen](#), 1985, ...)

1. Does a finitely presented decidable monoid have a finite convergent presentation ?
2. Does rewriting is universal to decide the word problem in a finite presented monoid ?
3. What conditions a monoid must satisfy if it can be presented by a finite convergent rewriting system ?

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Answers. ([Squier](#), 1987)

1. No in general.
2. No.
3. Homological finiteness condition left-FP₃.

Homological Squier Theorem

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Fact. Rewriting is not universal to decide the word problem in finitely presented monoids.

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Theorem. (Squier, 1987)

- i) A monoid having a finite convergent presentation is of **homological type left-FP₃**.
- ii) There are finitely presented decidable monoids which are not of homological type left-FP₃.

Homological Squier Theorem

Definition.

- $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$: ring of monoid \mathbf{M} :
 - free \mathbb{Z} -module on \mathbf{M}
 - bilinear product extending product in \mathbf{M} :

$$\left(\sum_{u \in \mathbf{M}} \lambda_u u\right) \left(\sum_{v \in \mathbf{M}} \lambda_v v\right) = \sum_{w \in \mathbf{M}} \sum_{uv=w} \lambda_u \lambda_v w$$

- A monoid \mathbf{M} is of **homological type left-FP₃** if there exists a projective resolution

$$\dots \longrightarrow P_3 \longrightarrow P_2 \longrightarrow P_1 \longrightarrow P_0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

of $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$ -modules such that each P_i is a finitely generated $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$ -module, for $0 \leq i \leq 3$.

Objective. Construct a resolution of free $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$ -modules induced by a convergent polygraph Σ .

Homological Squier Theorem

Theorem. (Squier, 1987)

i) A monoid having a finite convergent presentation is of homological type left-FP₃.

Proof. (idea)

- Σ be a 2-polygraph, let $\mathbf{M} = \Sigma_1^*/\Sigma_2$.
- We construct an **exact sequence** of $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$ -modules

$$\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_2] \xrightarrow{\delta_2} \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_1] \xrightarrow{\delta_1} \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0$$

$$u \longmapsto 1$$

$$u[x] \longmapsto ux - u$$

$$u[l \Rightarrow r] \longmapsto u[l] - u[r]$$

with $[xy] = [x] + x[y]$, pour tous $x, y \in \Sigma_1^*$

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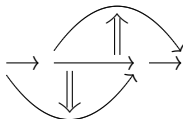
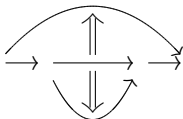
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1. ε surjective,

2. $\text{Im}\delta_1 = \ker \varepsilon$, $\text{Im}\delta_2 = \ker \delta_1$

3. The $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$ -module $\ker \delta_2$ of **homological 2-syzygies** is generated by **critical branchings**:



4. If Σ_2 is finite, then $\ker \delta_2$ is finitely generated.

Homological Squier Theorem

- $\ker \delta_2$ is generated by critical branchings.

Proof. (idea)

- Consider the free $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}$ -module $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_3]$ generated by the set of critical branchings Σ_3

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_3] & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_2] & \xrightarrow{\delta_2} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_1] & \xrightarrow{\delta_1} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & & & & & u & \longmapsto & 1 & & \\
 & & & & u[x] & \longmapsto & ux - u & & & & \\
 & & u[l \Rightarrow r] & \longmapsto & u[l] - u[r] & & & & & &
 \end{array}$$

- Define the boundary map

$$\delta_3 \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & uvw & \\ \varphi w \swarrow & & \searrow u\psi \\ u'w & \cong & uw' \\ f \searrow & & \swarrow g \\ & t & \end{array} \right) = [\varphi w *_1 f] - [u\psi *_1 g] = [\varphi]w + [f] - u[\psi] - [g].$$

where $uv \xrightarrow{\varphi} u'$ and $vw \xrightarrow{\psi} w'$ are rules in Σ_2 .

- Show that $\text{Im } \delta_3 = \ker \delta_2$.

Homological Squier Theorem: examples

Theorem. (Squier, 1987)

- i) There are finitely presented decidable monoids which are not of type left- FP_3 .

Homological Squier Theorem: examples

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- i) There are finitely presented decidable monoids which are not of type left-FP₃.

Example. (Squier, 1987) A finitely presented decidable monoid S_k which is not of type left-FP₃ :

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_0 &= \{\cdot\} & \Sigma_1 &= \{a, b, t, x_1, \dots, x_k, y_1, \dots, y_k\}, & k &\geq 2, \\ \Sigma_2 &= \{at^n b \Rightarrow 1, n \in \mathbb{N}, x_i a \Rightarrow atx_i, x_i t \Rightarrow tx_i, x_i b \Rightarrow bx_i, x_i y_i \Rightarrow 1\}\end{aligned}$$

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Example. (Stallings, 1963) A finitely presented decidable group that is not left-FP₃, (Bieri, 1976).

Example. (Abels, 1979) A finitely presented decidable group that is not left-FP₃, (Bieri, 1980) :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \star & \star & \star \\ 0 & \star & \star & \star \\ 0 & 0 & \star & \star \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_4(\mathbb{Z}[1/p]), \quad p \text{ a prime.}$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

- Let \mathbf{M} be a monoid.

First step: - Compute a convergent presentation $\Sigma = (\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2)$ of \mathbf{M} .

- Consider the set of **critical pairs** Σ_3 , of **critical triples** Σ_4 .

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Second step: from Squier's resolution

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc}
 \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_4] & \xrightarrow{\delta_4} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_3] & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_2] & \xrightarrow{\delta_2} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_1] & \xrightarrow{\delta_1} & \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M} & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & \mathbb{Z} \\
 & & & & & & & & u & \longmapsto & 1 \\
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construct a complex $\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}[\Sigma_*] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}\mathbf{M}} \mathbb{Z}$ of free abelian groups:

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 & & & & & & [x] & \longmapsto & x & & \\
 & & & & [l \Rightarrow r] & \longmapsto & [l] - [r] & & & &
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with

$$\delta_3 \left(\begin{array}{cc} \varphi w & u \psi \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ f & g \end{array} \right) = [\varphi] + [f] - [g] - [\psi].$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

Third step: Compute homology groups.

$$\mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_4] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_4} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_3] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_3} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_2] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_2} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_1] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_1} \mathbb{Z}$$

$$H_0(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$H_1(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \ker \bar{\delta}_1 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_2$$

$$H_2(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \ker \bar{\delta}_2 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_3$$

$$H_3(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \ker \bar{\delta}_3 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_4$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

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$$H_3(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \ker \bar{\delta}_3 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_4$$

Conclusion: If $H_3(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z})$ is not finitely generated, then \mathbf{M} does not have a finite convergent presentation.

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

Example (Lafont-Prouté, 1991) Consider monoid

$$\mathbf{M} = \langle a, b, c, d, d' \mid ab = a, da = ac, d'a = ac \rangle$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

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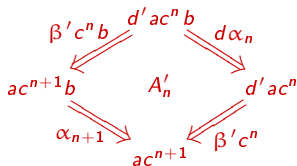
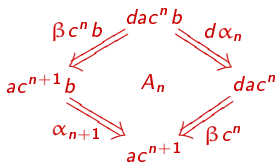
$$\mathbf{M} = \langle a, b, c, d, d' \mid ab = a, da = ac, d'a = ac \rangle$$

First step: Compute a convergent presentation (Knuth-Bendix)

$$\Sigma_1 = \{a, b, c, d, d'\}$$

$$\Sigma_2 = \{ac^n b \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} ac^n, n \in \mathbb{N}, da \xrightarrow{\beta} ac, d'a \xrightarrow{\beta'} ac\}$$

$$\Sigma_3 = \{A_n, A'_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\} \text{ with}$$



$$\Sigma_4 = \emptyset \text{ (no critical triple).}$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

Example (Lafont-Prouté, 1991) Consider monoid

$$\mathbf{M} = \langle a, b, c, d, d' \mid ab = a, da = ac, d'a = ac \rangle$$

Second step: Compute complex

$$0 \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_4} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_3] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_3} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_2] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_2} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_1] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_1} \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\bar{\delta}_1(a) = \bar{\delta}_1(b) = \bar{\delta}_1(c) = \bar{\delta}_1(d) = \bar{\delta}_1(d') = 0.$$

$$\bar{\delta}_2(ac^n b \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} ac^n) = [ac^n b] - [ac^n] = [a] + n[c] + [b] - [a] - n[c] = [b],$$

$$\bar{\delta}_2(da \xrightarrow{\beta} ac) = [da] - [ac] = [d] + [a] - [a] - [c] = [d] - [c],$$

$$\bar{\delta}_2(d'a \xrightarrow{\beta'} ac) = [d'a] - [ac] = [d'] + [a] - [a] - [c] = [d'] - [c].$$

$$\bar{\delta}_3 \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & \beta c^n b & dac^n b \\ & \swarrow & \searrow d\alpha_n \\ ac^{n+1} b & A_n & dac^n \\ & \searrow \alpha_{n+1} & \swarrow \beta c^n \\ & ac^{n+1} & \end{array} \right) = [\beta] + [\alpha_{n+1}] - [\beta] - [\alpha_n] = [\alpha_{n+1}] - [\alpha_n],$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

Example (Lafont-Prouté, 1991) Consider monoid

$$\mathbf{M} = \langle a, b, c, d, d' \mid ab = a, da = ac, d'a = ac \rangle$$

Third step: Compute homology groups:

$$H_0(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}.$$

$$H_1(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \ker \bar{\delta}_1 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_2 = \mathbb{Z}[a, b, c, d, d'] / ([b], [d] - [c], [d'] - [c]) = \mathbb{Z}[a, c] \simeq \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

$$H_2(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z}) = \ker \bar{\delta}_2 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_3 = 0 / \text{Im} \bar{\delta}_3 = 0.$$

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Conclusion:

- $H_3(\mathbf{M}, \mathbb{Z})$ is not finitely generated,
- hence \mathbf{M} is not of type left-FP₃,
- by Squier's theorem, \mathbf{M} does not have a finite convergent presentation.

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

Example (Lafont-Prouté 1991) Consider monoid

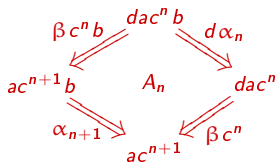
$$\mathbf{M} = \langle a, b, c, d \mid ab = a, da = ac \rangle$$

First step: Compute a convergent presentation (Knuth-Bendix)

$$\Sigma_1 = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

$$\Sigma_2 = \{ ac^n b \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} ac^n, n \in \mathbb{N}, da \xrightarrow{\beta} ac \}$$

$$\Sigma_3 = \{A_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\} \text{ with}$$



$$\Sigma_4 = \emptyset \text{ (no critical triple).}$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

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Second step: Compute complex

$$0 \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_4} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_3] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_3} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_2] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_2} \mathbb{Z}[\Sigma_1] \xrightarrow{\bar{\delta}_1} \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\bar{\delta}_1(a) = \bar{\delta}_1(b) = \bar{\delta}_1(c) = \bar{\delta}_1(d) = 0.$$

$$\bar{\delta}_2(ac^n b \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} ac^n) = [ac^n b] - [ac^n] = [a] + n[c] + [b] - [a] - n[c] = [b],$$

$$\bar{\delta}_2(da \xrightarrow{\beta} ac) = [da] - [ac] = [d] + [a] - [a] - [c] = [d] - [c].$$

$$\bar{\delta}_3 \left(\begin{array}{c} \beta c^n b \quad dac^n b \quad d\alpha_n \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \quad \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ ac^{n+1} b \quad A_n \quad dac^n \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \quad \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \alpha_{n+1} \quad ac^{n+1} \quad \beta c^n \end{array} \right) = [\beta] + [\alpha_{n+1}] - [\beta] - [\alpha_n] = [\alpha_{n+1}] - [\alpha_n].$$

Homological Squier Theorem in practice

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Conclusion: we cannot conclude ...

Monoid \mathbf{M} has the following convergent presentation:

$$\Sigma_1 = \{ a, b, c, d \}, \quad \Sigma_2 = \{ ab \Rightarrow a, ac \Rightarrow da \}.$$

Homological Squier Theorem, other proofs and generalisations

- [Anick](#), 1986 : infinite resolution for associative k -algebras presented by a finite Gröbner basis.
- [Kobayashi](#), 1990, [Groves](#), 1991, [Farkas](#) 1992, [Brown](#) 1992, [Cohen](#) 1993.
- [Guiraud-Malbos](#), 2012.

Toward another Finiteness Conditions

Fact. The homological finiteness condition left-FP_3 is not sufficient for a finitely presented decidable monoid to admit a finite convergent presentation.

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Example. (Squier, 1994) The monoid

$$S_1 = \langle a, b, t, x, y \mid at^n b \Rightarrow 1, xa \Rightarrow atx, xt \Rightarrow tx, xb \Rightarrow bx, xy \Rightarrow 1 \rangle.$$

- has a decidable word problem,
- is of homological type left-FP_3 ,
- does not have a finite convergent presentation,
- does not have **finite derivation type**.

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References

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