# Separation and Concatenations (2) 

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July 16, 2017

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Everything we know is captured by only four generic results:

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4. For any $\mathcal{C}$,
$\mathcal{C}$-separation decidable $\Rightarrow \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-membership decidable.

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Negation is hard, one negation can be circumvented.

This talk: We focus on $B P o l(\mathcal{C})$-separation.

## Separation for $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathcal{C})$ when $\mathcal{C}$ is finite

## BPol(C)-separation: Three main steps

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Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
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Our two closure operations have different properties:

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Our two closure operations have different properties:

- $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$ closed under $\cup, \cap$ and marked concatenation.
- Bool(C) closed under all Boolean operations but not marked concatenation.

Our techniques rely heavily on concatenation:
$\Rightarrow$ we like $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$ and hate $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathrm{C})$.

## Consequence

Even if our goal is $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathcal{C})$-separation, we prefer working with $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$.

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Meta argument for investigating separation
Learn more on $\mathcal{C}$ to investigate classes built on top of $\mathcal{C}$.
" C -separation decidable $\Rightarrow \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-membership decidable."

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Recycle this idea to get rid Boolean closure.

New Goal
Reduce $B \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-separation to a problem for $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$.

BPol(C)-separation: Three main steps (1)


Getting rid of Boolean closure


## $\operatorname{Bool}(\mathcal{D})$-separation $\Rightarrow$ tuple separation for $\mathcal{D}$

- We generalize the notion of separability to tuples of languages.


## Bool(D)-separation $\Rightarrow$ tuple separation for $\mathcal{D}$

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\left(L_{1}, L_{2}, \ldots, L_{n}\right) \cap K \quad \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} \quad\left(L_{1} \cap K, L_{2} \cap K, \ldots, L_{n} \cap K\right)
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Tuple $\mathcal{D}$-separability: inductive definition
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## Remarks

- When $n=2$, we recover the classical notion.
- The longer, the easier to separate.

Boolean closure theorem

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\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right)^{k} \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} \underbrace{\left(L_{1}, L_{2}, \ldots, L_{1}, L_{2}\right)}_{\text {length } 2 k}
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2. There exists $k \geq 1$ s.t. $\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right)^{k}$ is $\mathcal{D}$-separable.

Mission accomplished!
$\mathcal{D}=\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C}):$ reduction from $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathcal{C})$-separation to a problem for $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$.

Boolean closure theorem: proof of $2 \Rightarrow 1$
Induction on $k$ : $\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right)^{k} \mathcal{D}$-separable $\Rightarrow L_{1} \operatorname{Bool}(\mathcal{D})$-separable from $L_{2}$.

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(G \cap K) \cup(K \backslash H) \in \operatorname{Bool}(\mathcal{D}) \text { separates } L_{1} \text { from } L_{2}
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BPol(C)-separation: Three main steps (2)
Getting rid of Boolean closure


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\begin{gathered}
\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right) B \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C}) \text {-separable } \\
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Solving tuple $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-separation:
Input: $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right)$
Output: Is $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right) \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-separable?

Tuple Pol(C)-separation: Approach (1)

Our input $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right)$ is a tuple of $n$ regular languages.
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Rule \#1 for separation-like problems:
One always looks at several inputs simultaneously.

We use a set of inputs which has a special structure.

## Tuple Pol(C)-separation: Approach (2)

Input $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right)$ is a tuple of $n$ regular languages.
$\Rightarrow$ We have NFAs for these languages:

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L_{p, q}=\{w \mid p \xrightarrow{w} q\} \quad \text { ( } p, q \text { two states of these NFAs) }
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Given $n \geq 1$, we compute the set $\mathfrak{T}^{n}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathbf{L}^{n}$ of all tuples $\bar{L} \in \mathbf{L}^{n}$ which are not $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable.

Answer for $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right)$ can then be extracted from this information.

## Tuple Pol(C)-separation: Approach (3)

Given $n \geq 1$, we compute the set $\mathcal{T}^{n}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathbf{L}^{n}$ of all tuples $\bar{L} \in \mathbf{L}^{n}$ which are not $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable.

The algorithm uses two hypotheses on $\mathbf{L}$ :

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$\mathcal{C}$ is finite $\Rightarrow$ exists finest partition of $A^{*}$ into languages of $\mathcal{C}$ :


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Tuple $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-separation: C-compatibility


Any $H \in \mathbf{L}$ must be included in a class of this partition.

We can refine the initial input set to fulfill this condition.

Answer for the original input can be recovered from the refinement.

## Least fixpoint computation of $\mathscr{T}^{n}[\mathbf{L}]$

Given $n \geq 1$, we compute the set $\mathcal{T}^{n}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathbf{L}^{n}$ of all tuples $\bar{L} \in \mathbf{L}^{n}$ which are not $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable.
$\mathcal{T}^{n}[\mathbf{L}]$ is computed by induction on $n$ :

- $\mathcal{T}^{1}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathbf{L}$ is the set of nonempty languages in $\mathbf{L}$.


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Least fixpoint


- Computes $\mathfrak{T}^{n}[\mathbf{L}]$ from a subset of trivial tuples
- Adds more with operations until a fixpoint is reached.
- Requires having $\mathfrak{T}^{n-1}[\mathbf{L}]$ in hand.


## BPol(C)-separation: Three main steps (3)

Getting rid of Boolean closure

## Step 1

$\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right) B P o l(\mathcal{C})$-separable
iff
$\exists k\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right)^{k} \operatorname{Pol}(\mathbb{C})$-separable

Solving tuple $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separation:
Input: $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right)$ (regular)
Output: Is $\left(L_{1}, \ldots, L_{n}\right) \operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable?

Step 3
$B P o l(\mathrm{C})$-separation: Three main steps (3)
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Step 3
Reuse Step 2 as a subprocedure in our $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathrm{C})$ algorithm

## BPol(C)-separation - General approach

We continue to work with a set of languages $\mathbf{L}$ with appropriate properties.

We compute the set $\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathbf{L}^{2}$ of pairs $(K, L) \in \mathbf{L}^{2}$ which are not $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable.

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## By the previous steps

Given two languages $L_{1}, L_{2}$, TFAE:

1. $L_{1} B P o l(\mathcal{C})$-separable from $L_{2}$.
2. There exists $k \geq 1$ s.t. $\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right)^{k}$ is $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable.

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Given two languages $L_{1}, L_{2}$, TFAE:

1. $L_{1}$ is not $B \operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable from $L_{2}$.
2. For all $k \geq 1,\left(L_{1}, L_{2}\right)^{k}$ is not $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separable.

## BPol(C)-separation - General approach

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## By the previous steps

Given two languages $K, L \in \mathbf{L}$, TFAE:

1. $(K, L) \in \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{L}]$.
2. For all $k \geq 1$, $(K, L)^{k}$ not $\operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-separable, i.e. $(K, L)^{k} \in \mathcal{T}^{2 k}[\mathbf{L}]$.

## BPol(e)-separation - Greatest fixpoint

Given two languages $K, L \in \mathbf{L}$, TFAE:

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In particular, $\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathcal{T}^{2}[\mathbf{L}]$. Greatest fixpoint:
From $\mathfrak{T}^{2}[\mathbf{L}]$, remove elements with an operation until fixpoint.

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& \text { U। } \\
& \mathbf{T}_{1}
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## BPol(C)-separation - Greatest fixpoint

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In particular, $\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{L}] \subseteq \mathcal{T}^{2}[\mathbf{L}]$. Greatest fixpoint:
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Everything we know is captured by only four generic results:

1. $\mathcal{C}$ finite $\Rightarrow \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-separation decidable.
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$\operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separation and $B \operatorname{Pol}(\mathrm{C})$-separation are in PTime

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Future work
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A nontrivial corollary of the $\operatorname{BPol}(\mathrm{C})$-algorithm is as follows:
- For any $\mathcal{C}$, C-"something" decidable $\Rightarrow B P o l(\mathcal{C})$-membership decidable.


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We have the result,

- For any $\mathcal{C}$,
$\mathcal{C}$-separation decidable $\Rightarrow \operatorname{Pol}(\mathcal{C})$-membership decidable.
A nontrivial corollary of the $B P o l(\mathcal{C})$-algorithm is as follows:
- For any $\mathcal{C}$,

C-"something" decidable $\Rightarrow B P o l(\mathcal{C})$-membership decidable. $\mathcal{B} \Sigma_{2}(<)$-"something" seems to be decidable which would yield a membership algorithm for $\mathcal{B} \Sigma_{3}(<)$.


Czerwinski,Martens,Masopust'13
Place,Van Rooijen,Z.'13

## Thank You

