

Representations of graph monoids by regular rings

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Von Neumann regular rings

Graph
monoids

Regular rings,
 $\mathcal{V}(R)$

The
representation
problem

Graph
monoids and
quivers

- An associative ring R is (von Neumann) **regular**, if it satisfies $(\forall x \in R)(\exists y \in R)(xyx = x)$.

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- For a regular ring R , all matrix rings $M_n(R) := R^{n \times n}$ are also regular.

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- $M_n(R) \hookrightarrow M_{n+1}(R)$, via $x \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

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- $M_n(R) \hookrightarrow M_{n+1}(R)$, via $x \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.
- $M_\infty(R) := \varinjlim_{n < \omega} M_n(R)$ is also a regular ring (**without unit**).

Nonstable K-theory $\mathcal{V}(R)$

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- For a ring R , define an equivalence relation \sim on $\text{Idemp}(R)$ by $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow (\exists x, y)(a = xy \text{ and } b = yx)$.

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- $\mathcal{V}(R) := M_\infty(R)/\sim$ is a commutative monoid, with $[a] + [b] := [a + b]$ in case $a \perp b$.

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- $\mathcal{V}(R)$ is **conical**, that is, it has $x + y = 0 \Rightarrow x = y = 0$.

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- Any conical commutative monoid appears as some $\mathcal{V}(R)$ (Bergman 1974 + Bergman and Dicks 1978).

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- For R **regular**, the situation is far more complicated. . .

Refinement monoids

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- A commutative monoid M is a **refinement monoid**, if for all $a_0, a_1, b_0, b_1 \in M$, if $a_0 + a_1 = b_0 + b_1$, then there are $c_{i,j} \in M$ (for $i, j < 2$) such that

$$a_i = c_{i,0} + c_{i,1} \text{ and } b_i = c_{0,i} + c_{1,i} \quad (\text{for all } i < 2).$$

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- **Examples of conical refinement monoids:**

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- A $(\vee, 0)$ -semilattice is a (conical) refinement monoid iff it is **distributive**.

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- $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q} \mid \text{either } x = y = 0 \text{ or } x, y > 0\}$.
- The monoid of all isomorphism types of Boolean algebras, with $[A] + [B] := [A \times B]$ (*it is also a proper class*).

Refinement monoids and regular rings

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Theorem (Goodearl and Handelman, 1975)

For any regular ring R , $\mathcal{V}(R)$ is a conical refinement monoid.

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Representation problem (Goodearl 1995)

Which monoids appear as $\mathcal{V}(R)$, for a regular ring R ?

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Representation problem still open in cardinalities \aleph_0 and \aleph_1 ...

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Representation problem still open in cardinalities \aleph_0 and \aleph_1 ...
... **and even still open in the finite case!**

Row-finite quivers

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The
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Graph
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Definition

A **quiver** is a quadruple $E = (E^0, E^1, s, r)$, where E^0 (the **vertices**) and E^1 (the **edges**) are sets, $s: E^1 \rightarrow E^0$ (the **source map**) and $r: E^1 \rightarrow E^0$ (the **range map**).

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Think of each edge $e \in E^1$ as an arrow $e: s(e) \rightarrow r(e)$.

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Row-finiteness of E means: **every vertex of E emits finitely many edges.**

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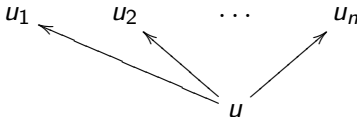
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Example:



Graph monoids

Graph
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Given a **row-finite** quiver, consider the commutative monoid $M(E)$ (**graph monoid of E**) defined by generators \bar{u} (for $u \in E^0$) and relations

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$$\bar{u} = \sum (\overline{r(e)} \mid e \in s^{-1}\{u\}),$$

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Graph monoids

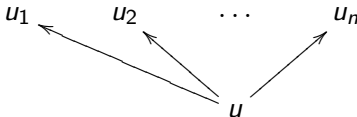
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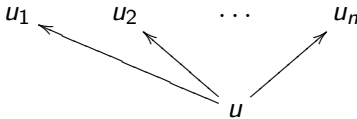
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For example, the quiver E



gives $M(E)$ defined by generators $\bar{u}, \bar{u}_1, \dots, \bar{u}_n$ and the unique relation

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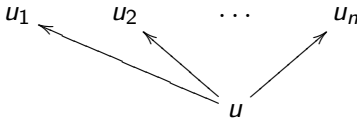
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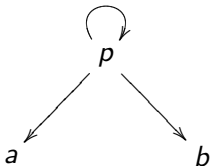
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$$\bar{u} = \bar{u}_1 + \dots + \bar{u}_n.$$

Examples of quivers and graph monoids

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The quiver



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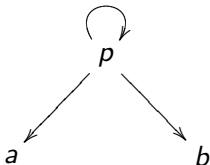
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Examples of quivers and graph monoids

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The quiver



has graph monoid defined by generators p , a , b , and the unique relation $p = p + a + b$.

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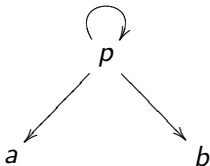
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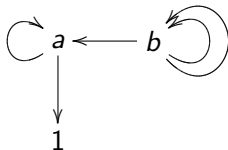
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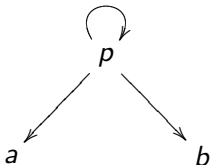
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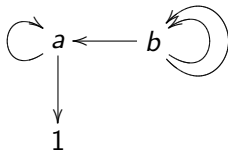
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The quiver



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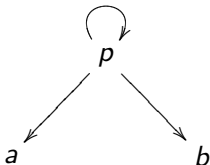
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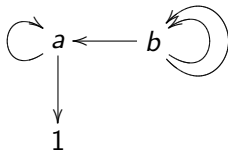
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$$a = a + 1, \quad b = 2b + a.$$

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Graph monoids and refinement monoids

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Theorem (Ara, Moreno, and Pardo 2007)

The graph monoid $M(E)$ is a conical refinement monoid, for any row-finite quiver E .

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In fact, $M(E)$ is a very special sort of conical refinement monoid.

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Graph monoids and refinement monoids

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$$2a = a + b = 2b \Rightarrow a = b \quad (\text{separativity});$$

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A representation result

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Let E be a row-finite quiver. Then there exists a regular ring R such that $\mathcal{V}(R) \cong M(E)$.

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Let E be a row-finite quiver. Then there exists a regular ring R such that $\mathcal{V}(R) \cong M(E)$.

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The latter cannot be said for all the instances of the representation problem.

Antisymmetric monoids, free primes

Graph
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Let M be a commutative monoid.

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- **Free prime**: $(n + 1)p \not\leq np$, for each positive integer n . In many (but not all) cases, this is equivalent to $2p \not\leq p$.

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- M is **primitive**, if it is an antisymmetric refinement monoid generated by its primes.

Antisymmetric monoids, free primes

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- $\text{Prime}(M) := \{p \in M \mid p \text{ is prime}\}$.
- M is **primitive**, if it is an antisymmetric refinement monoid generated by its primes.
- Equivalently, M is defined by generators and relations of the form $p_j = p_i + p_j$ ($\forall (i, j) \in \Gamma$).

Theorem (Ara, Perera, W 2008)

A finitely generated primitive monoid M is a graph monoid iff it is a retract of a graph monoid, iff for each $p \in \text{Prime}(M)$,

$$\{q \in \text{Prime}_{\text{free}}(M) \mid p \text{ covers } q \text{ in } \text{Prime}(M)\}$$

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If we want, in addition, the quiver to be **finite**: we need the set of all free primes to be an **upper subset** of M .

The strangest of all graph monoids. . .

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. . . it is $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\}$.

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Graph
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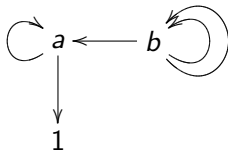
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It is a retract of the graph monoid of the following quiver:



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Graph
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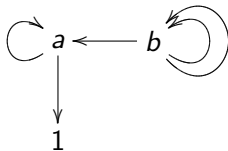
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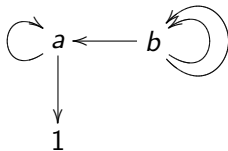
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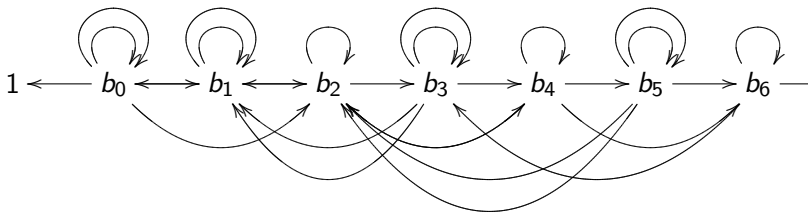
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Nevertheless...

A strange quiver

Graph
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... it can be represented by the following row-finite quiver:



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A strange quiver

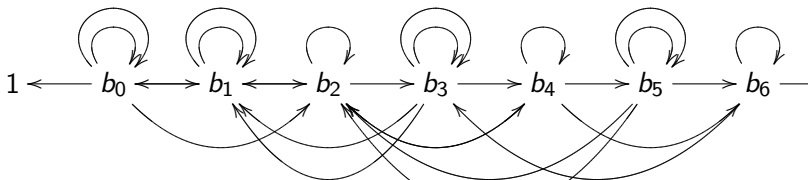
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... it can be represented by the following row-finite quiver:



Generators $1, b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots$, and relations

$$b_0 = 2b_0 + b_1 + b_2 + 1;$$

$$b_1 = b_0 + 2b_1 + b_2;$$

$$b_2 = b_2 + b_1 + b_3 + b_4;$$

$$b_3 = 2b_3 + 2b_1 + b_4;$$

... ..