

# Lattice Universal Semigroup Varieties

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Jardafest, June 24th, 2010



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$$L(\mathcal{V})^d \cong \text{Con}_{fi}(\mathbf{F}_\infty(\mathcal{V})) \hookrightarrow \text{Con}(\mathbf{F}_\infty(\mathcal{V})) \hookrightarrow \Pi_\infty$$

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Ježek's result was quite important from the viewpoint of proof techniques used.

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For Ježek's result, the mere existence of such a sequence wasn't sufficient; he needed an infinite sequence of square-free words with an additional combinatorial property.

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## Definition

A word  $v \in \Sigma^+$  **encounters** a word  $p \in \Delta^+$  if there is a map  $h : \Delta \rightarrow \Sigma^+$  such that  $h(p)$  is a factor of  $v$ .

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Otherwise the word  $v$  is said to **avoid** the word  $p$ .

In particular, a word is square-free iff it avoids  $x^2$ .



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Ježek constructed such an antichain. He wrote that Thue's paper was not accessible to him so he did not know whether or not Thue already had this result. In fact, Thue had several constructions but none of them yield Ježek's result.

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Then  $\pi \mapsto \mathcal{V}_\pi$  is a dual isomorphism between  $\Pi_\infty$  and an interval in the subvariety lattice of the variety  $\mathcal{J}^2$  defined by  $x^2 \simeq 0$ .

Thus,  $\mathcal{J}^2$  is lattice universal and so is every variety containing  $\mathcal{J}^2$ .

# Further Questions

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Addressing these question has become possible only after a crucial progress in combinatorics on words was achieved by Bean, Ehrenfeucht, McNulty (1979) and Zimin (1982).

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# Avoidability Revisited

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Bean, Ehrenfeucht, McNulty and Zimin found efficient descriptions of (un)avoidable words. The BEM description is easier to use while Zimin's description is easier to formulate.

**Zimin's words**  $Z_n \in \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}^+$  are defined as follows:

$$Z_1 = x_1,$$

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## Theorem (Zimin, 1982)

A word  $w$  involving  $n$  different letters is unavoidable iff the word  $Z_n$  encounters  $w$ .

# Generalization

It is relatively easy to extend Ježek's theorem to any variety defined by an identity of the form  $w \simeq 0$  where  $w$  is an avoidable word or even by a system of identities  $w_i \simeq 0$  where all  $w_i$  are avoidable and involve only finitely many letters.

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For this, one should only show that for every avoidable word  $w$ , there exists an infinite antichain  $A_w$  such that all words in  $A_w$  involve only finitely many letters and avoid  $w$ ; then Ježek's argument applies.

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A construction for such an antichain  $A_w$  was found by Mikhailova in 2009.



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The variety  $\mathcal{M}_3$  defined by the identity

$$axb \cdot y \cdot bxa \cdot z \cdot bxa \cdot y \cdot axb \simeq bxa \cdot y \cdot axb \cdot z \cdot axb \cdot y \cdot bxa$$

is lattice universal while its subvariety defined by

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The local finiteness of the subvariety follows from the fact that the word  $axb \cdot y \cdot bxa \cdot z \cdot bxa \cdot y \cdot axb$  is unavoidable. The subvariety lattice of a locally finite variety is algebraic and hence it cannot contain  $\Pi_\infty$  as an interval.

## Theorem 1

Suppose that a semigroup variety  $\mathcal{V}$  is defined by identities depending on at most  $n$  letters and satisfies no non-trivial identity of the form  $Z_{n+1} \simeq w$ . Then  $\mathcal{V}$  is lattice universal.

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Our proof of Theorem 1 relies on constructing an infinite antichain  $A_{\mathcal{V}}$  such that  $\mathcal{V}$  satisfies no non-trivial identity of the form  $u \simeq v$  with  $u \in A_{\mathcal{V}}$ .

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$$\Sigma = \{a_{ij} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq r\}.$$

Let  $v_i$  be the word in  $i$ -th row of the matrix  $P_\Sigma$ .

# Construction Continued

Let  $v_i$  be the word in  $i$ -th row of the matrix  $P_\Sigma$ . We define the map  $\gamma : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma^+$  by  $\gamma(a_{ij}) = v_{(i-1)r+j}$ .

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## Theorem (Sapir, 1987)

Each word of the sequence  $\gamma^m(a_{11})$  avoids all avoidable words over  $n$  letters.

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If  $w = x_1 x_2 \dots x_\ell$  is a word, we denote by  $\overleftarrow{w} = x_\ell \dots x_2 x_1$  the **mirror image** of  $w$ . A word  $w$  is a **palindrome** if  $\overleftarrow{w} = w$ .



## Theorem (Mikhaylova, Volkov, 2007)

Take  $d_1 \notin \Sigma$ . Then each word in the sequence of palindromes  $\sigma_m = \gamma^m(a_{11})d_1\overleftarrow{\gamma^m(a_{11})}$  avoids all avoidable words over  $n$  letters.

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Take  $d_2 \notin \{d_1\} \cup \Sigma$ . Then the sequence  $\eta_m = d_2\sigma_m d_2 d_1$  where  $m \geq r^2$  is our antichain  $A_\gamma$ .

## Theorem 2

Suppose that a lattice universal semigroup variety  $\mathcal{V}$  is defined by identities depending on at most  $n$  letters and all periodic groups in  $\mathcal{V}$  are locally finite. Then  $\mathcal{V}$  satisfies no non-trivial identity of the form  $Z_{n+1} \doteq w$ .

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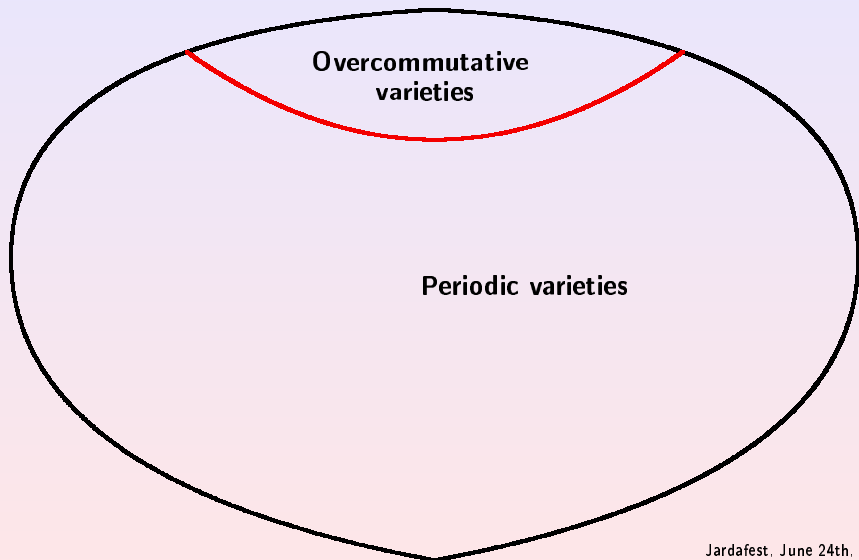
In other words, we have obtained a complete characterization of lattice universal semigroup varieties in the class of varieties defined by identities in finitely many letters and containing no infinite periodic groups with finitely many generators.

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In other words, we have obtained a complete characterization of lattice universal semigroup varieties in the class of varieties defined by identities in finitely many letters and containing no infinite periodic groups with finitely many generators. Given a finite set of identities that force periodic groups to be locally finite, we can effectively check whether or not these identities define a lattice universal variety.

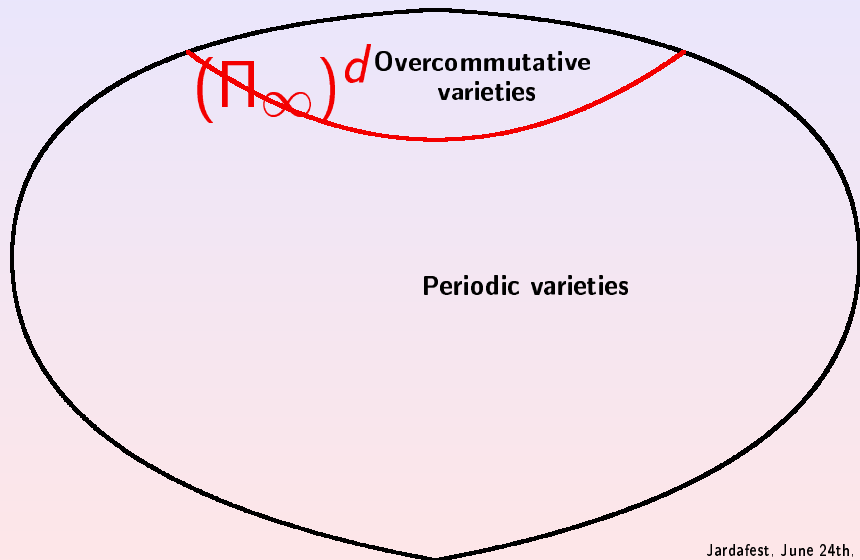
# Embedding $(\Pi_\infty)^d$ into the Lattice of Semigroup Varieties



Jardafest, June 24th, 2010



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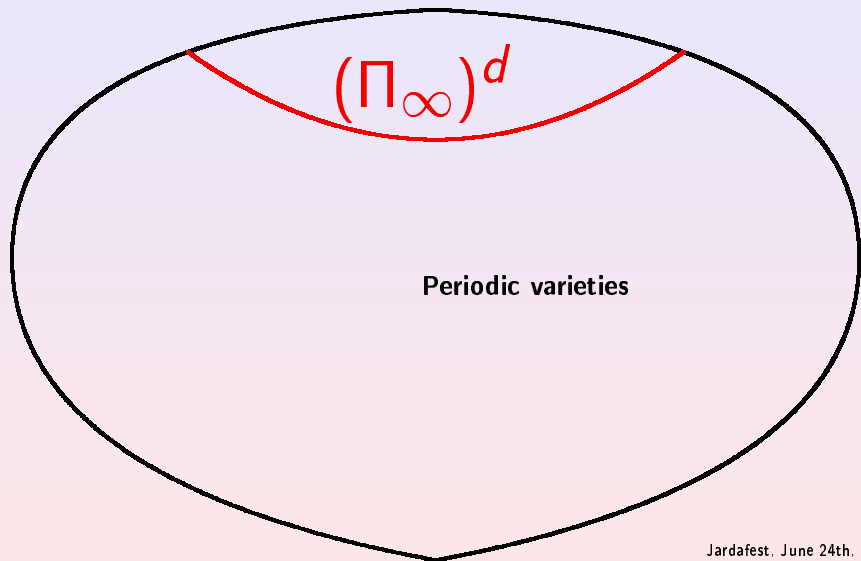


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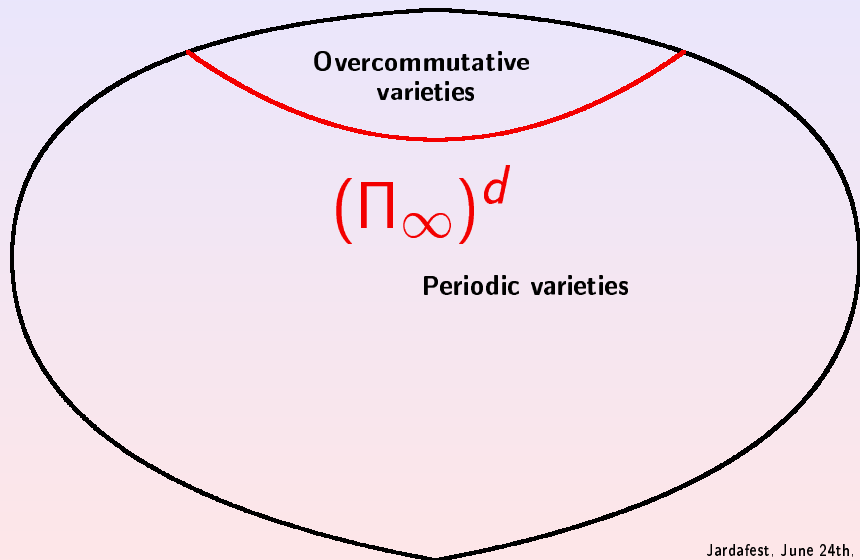
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# Embedding $(\Pi_\infty)^d$ into the Lattice of Periodic Varieties

Thus, if  $(\Pi_\infty)^d$  embeds into  $L(\mathcal{V})$  for some semigroup variety  $\mathcal{V}$ , it must embed into  $L(\mathcal{P})$  where  $\mathcal{P}$  is a periodic subvariety of  $\mathcal{V}$ .

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## Theorem (Sapir, 1987)

Suppose that a periodic semigroup variety  $\mathcal{P}$  is defined by identities depending on at most  $n$  letters and all groups in  $\mathcal{P}$  are locally finite. Then  $\mathcal{P}$  is locally finite iff  $\mathcal{P}$  satisfies a non-trivial identity of the form  $Z_{n+1} \simeq w$ .

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We have already seen that a lattice universal variety cannot be locally finite. Thus,  $\mathcal{P}$  (and hence  $\mathcal{V}$ ) satisfies no non-trivial identity of the form  $Z_{n+1} \simeq w$ .

A semigroup variety  $\mathcal{V}$  is said to be **finitely universal** if for each  $n$ , the lattice  $L(\mathcal{V})$  contains an interval dual to  $\Pi_n$ , the partition lattice on an  $n$ -element set.

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Classify all finitely universal semigroup varieties.

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Classify all semigroup varieties whose subvariety lattice satisfies a non-trivial lattice identity.

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# Conclusion

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