

The quest for the clique numbers of commuting graphs of semigroups

Tânia Paulista



This work is funded by National Funds through the FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., under the scope of the projects UIDB/00297/2020 and UIDP/00297/2020 and the studentship 2021.07002.BD.

Commuting graphs of semigroups

Let S be a finite non-commutative semigroup.

The **commuting graph** of S , denoted $\mathcal{G}(S)$, is the simple graph such that:

- $S \setminus Z(S)$ is the set of vertices, where

$$Z(S) = \{x \in S : xy = yx \text{ for all } y \in S\}.$$

- $\{x, y\}$ is an edge if $x \neq y$ and $xy = yx$.

Commuting graphs of semigroups: example

$\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{S}(\{1, 2, 3\}))$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

(Full and partial) transformation semigroups

Let X be a finite set.

- **Full transformation semigroup** on X :

$$\mathcal{T}(X) = \{ \text{Functions } \beta : \text{Dom } \beta = X \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq X \}.$$

- **Partial transformation semigroup** on X :

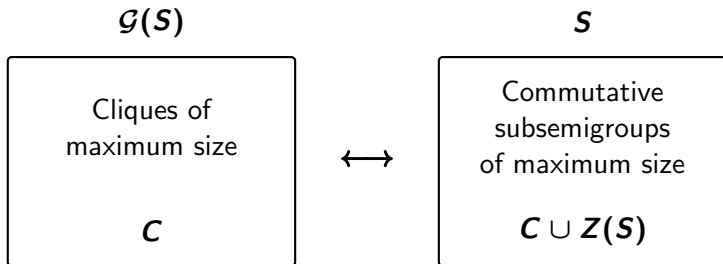
$$\mathcal{P}(X) = \{ \text{Functions } \beta : \text{Dom } \beta \subseteq X \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq X \}.$$

Clique number

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph.

- A **clique** is a subset $K \subseteq V$ such that $\{u, v\} \in E$, for all distinct $u, v \in K$.
- The **clique number** of G , denoted $\omega(G)$, is the largest integer r such that G has a clique K such that $|K| = r$.

Clique number of a commuting graph



Lemma

Let S be a finite non-commutative semigroup. We have

$$\omega(\mathcal{G}(S)) = \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{maximum size} \\ \text{commutative} \\ \text{subsemigroup of } S \end{array} \right) - |Z(S)|.$$

Largest commutative subsemigroups

Let X be a finite set.

- Burns and Goldsmith (1989) characterized the largest abelian subgroups of the **symmetric group** $\mathcal{S}(X)$ on X .

$$\mathcal{S}(X) = \{ \text{Functions } \beta : \beta \text{ is bijective and } \text{Dom } \beta = X \}.$$

- Araújo, Bentz and Konieczny (2015) characterized the largest commutative subsemigroups of the **symmetric inverse semigroup** $\mathcal{I}(X)$ on X .

$$\mathcal{I}(X) = \{ \text{Functions } \beta : \beta \text{ is injective and } \text{Dom } \beta \subseteq X \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq X \}.$$

Largest commutative subsemigroups of idempotents

- For each $i \in X$ we define

$$\Gamma_i^X = \{\beta \in \mathcal{T}(X) : i\beta = i \text{ and } j\beta \in \{i, j\} \text{ for all } j \in X \setminus \{i\}\}.$$

- For all $i \in X$ we have $|\Gamma_i^X| = 2^{|X|-1}$.

Example

If $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $i = 1$, then the elements of Γ_1^X are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Largest commutative subsemigroups of idempotents

- For each $i \in X$ we define

$$\Gamma_i^X = \{\beta \in \mathcal{T}(X) : i\beta = i \text{ and } j\beta \in \{i, j\} \text{ for all } j \in X \setminus \{i\}\}.$$

- For all $i \in X$ we have $|\Gamma_i^X| = 2^{|X|-1}$.

Theorem (P., 2025)

Let S be a commutative subsemigroup of idempotents of $\mathcal{T}(X)$. Then

- $|S| \leq 2^{|X|-1}$.
- $|S| = 2^{|X|-1} \iff (\exists i \in X) S = \Gamma_i^X$.

Largest commutative subsemigroups of idempotents

- **Symmetric inverse semigroup** on a set X :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{I}(X) &= \{ \text{Functions } \beta : \beta \text{ is injective and } \text{Dom } \beta \subseteq X \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq X \} \\ &= \{ \beta \in \mathcal{P}(X) : \beta \text{ is injective} \}.\end{aligned}$$

Corollary (P., 2025)

Let S be a commutative subsemigroup of idempotents of $\mathcal{P}(X)$. Then

- $|S| \leq 2^{|X|}$.
- $|S| = 2^{|X|} \iff S = E(\mathcal{I}(X))$.

Example

If $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$, then the elements of $E(\mathcal{I}(X))$ are

$$\emptyset \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Largest commutative subsemigroups

Theorem (P., 2025)

Suppose that $|X| \leq 6$. Let S be a commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$.
Then

- $|S| \leq 2^{|X|-1}$.
- $|S| = 2^{|X|-1} \iff (\exists i \in X) S = \Gamma_i^X \quad \text{or} \quad |X| = 2 \text{ and } S \simeq C_2$.

Corollary (P., 2025)

Suppose that $|X| \leq 5$. Let S be a commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{P}(X)$.
Then

- $|S| \leq 2^{|X|}$.
- $|S| = 2^{|X|} \iff S = E(\mathcal{I}(X))$.

Largest
commutative subsemigroups
idempotents

$$|X| \leq 6$$

Largest
commutative subsemigroups

Clique number
commuting graph

???

$$|X| \geq 7$$

Largest null subsemigroups

- **Null semigroup:** $S^2 = \{0\}$.
- $\xi(n) = \max \{t^{n-t} : t \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- $\alpha(n) = \max \{t \in \{1, \dots, n\} : t^{n-t} = \xi(n)\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- If $x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)} \in X$ are pairwise distinct, we define

$$N_{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}}^X = \{\beta \in \mathcal{T}(X) : \{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}\}\beta = \{x_1\} \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}\}\}.$$

Example

If $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, then $\alpha(|X|) = 2$ and $\xi(|X|) = 4$ and the elements of $N_{1,2}^X$ are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Largest null subsemigroups

- **Null semigroup:** $S^2 = \{0\}$.
- $\xi(n) = \max \{t^{n-t} : t \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- $\alpha(n) = \max \{t \in \{1, \dots, n\} : t^{n-t} = \xi(n)\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- If $x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)} \in X$ are pairwise distinct, we define

$$N_{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}}^X = \{\beta \in \mathcal{T}(X) : \{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}\}\beta = \{x_1\} \\ \text{and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}\}\}.$$

Theorem (Cameron et al., 2023)

Let S be a null subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$. Then

- $|S| \leq \xi(|X|)$.
- $|S| = \xi(|X|) \iff (\exists x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)} \in X) S = N_{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}}^X$
or $|X| = 2$ and $S = \{\text{id}_X\}$.

Largest
null subsemigroups

$|X| \geq 7$

Largest
commutative subsemigroups
idempotents

$|X| \leq 6$

???

Largest
commutative subsemigroups

Clique number
commuting graph

Largest
null subsemigroups

Largest
commutative nilpotent
subsemigroups

$|X| \geq 7$

???

Largest
commutative subsemigroups
idempotents

$|X| \leq 6$

Largest
commutative subsemigroups

Clique number
commuting graph

Largest commutative nilpotent subsemigroups

- **Nilpotent semigroup:** $\exists m \in \mathbb{N} \quad S^m = \{0\}$.

Theorem (Cain, Malheiro, P., 2024)

Let S be a commutative nilpotent subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$. Then

- $|S| \leq \xi(|X|)$.
- *If $|S| = \xi(|X|)$, then S is a null semigroup.*

Largest commutative nilpotent subsemigroups

- For each $B \subseteq X$ such that $|B| = \alpha(|X| + 1) - 1$ we define

$$\Omega_B^X = \{ \beta \in \mathcal{P}(X) : \text{Dom } \beta \subseteq X \setminus B \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq B \}.$$

Example

If $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, then $|B| = \alpha(|X| + 1) - 1 = 2$. If $B = \{1, 2\}$, then $X \setminus B = \{3, 4\}$ and the elements of Ω_B^X are

Dom	\emptyset	$\{3\}$	$\{4\}$	$\{3, 4\}$
\emptyset	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$
	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Largest commutative nilpotent subsemigroups

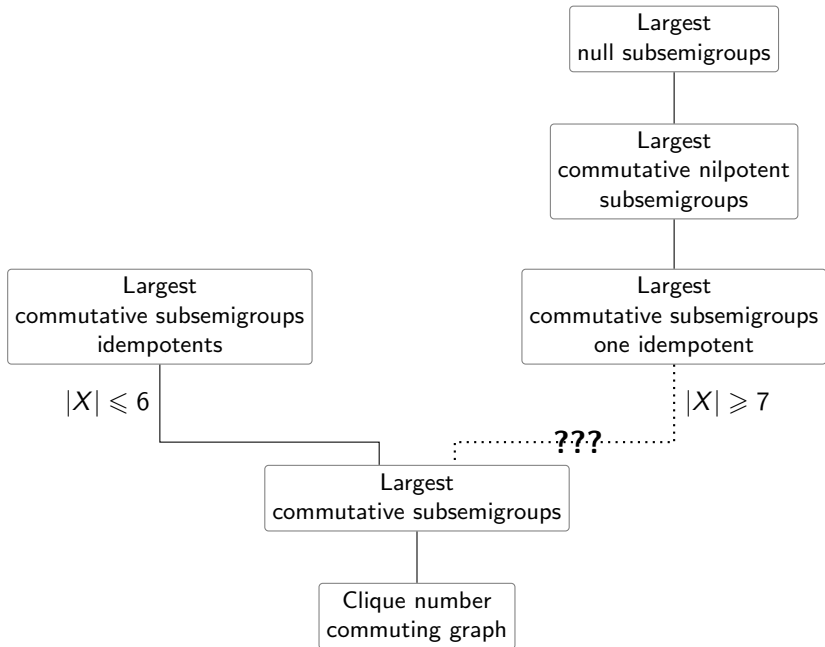
- For each $B \subseteq X$ such that $|B| = \alpha(|X| + 1) - 1$ we define

$$\Omega_B^X = \{ \beta \in \mathcal{P}(X) : \text{Dom } \beta \subseteq X \setminus B \text{ and } \text{Im } \beta \subseteq B \}.$$

Corollary (P., 2025)

Let S be a commutative nilpotent subsemigroup of $\mathcal{P}(X)$. Then

- $|S| \leq \xi(|X| + 1)$.
- $|S| = \xi(|X| + 1) \iff |X| = 1 \text{ and } S = \{\text{id}_X\} \quad \text{or} \quad S = \Omega_B^X$
for some $B \subseteq X$ such that $|B| = \alpha(|X| + 1) - 1$.



Largest abelian subgroups

- $S(X)$ is the **symmetric group** on X , formed by the bijections on X .

Theorem (Burns, Goldsmith, 1989)

Suppose that $|X| \geq 2$. Then the maximum size of an abelian subgroup of $S(X)$ is

$$\begin{cases} 3^k & \text{if } |X| = 3k, \\ 4 \cdot 3^{k-1} & \text{if } |X| = 3k + 1, \\ 2 \cdot 3^k & \text{if } |X| = 3k + 2. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, the maximum-order abelian subgroups of $S(X)$ are isomorphic to

$$\begin{cases} C_3^k & \text{if } |X| = 3k, \\ C_4 \times C_3^{k-1} \text{ or } C_2 \times C_2 \times C_3^{k-1} & \text{if } |X| = 3k + 1, \\ C_2 \times C_3^k & \text{if } |X| = 3k + 2. \end{cases}$$

Largest commutative subsemigroups with one idempotent

Theorem (P., 2025)

The maximum size of a commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$ with a unique idempotent is

$$\begin{cases} |X| & \text{if } |X| \leq 4, \\ \xi(|X|) & \text{if } |X| \geq 5. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, if S is a maximum-order commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$ with a unique idempotent, then

- *If $|X| \leq 3$, then S is a subgroup of $S(X)$.*
- *If $|X| = 4$, then S is either a subgroup of $S(X)$ or a null semigroup.*
- *If $|X| \geq 5$, then S is a null semigroup.*

Commutative semigroups with one idempotent

Lemma

Let S be a commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$ whose unique idempotent is e . Then

$$\{\beta|_{\text{Im } e} : \beta \in S\}$$

is an abelian subgroup of $\mathcal{S}(\text{Im } e)$.

$\text{Im } e = X$

Theorem (Burns, Goldsmith, 1989)

The maximum size of an abelian subgroup of $S(X)$ is

$$\begin{cases} 3^k & \text{if } |X| = 3k \\ 4 \cdot 3^{k-1} & \text{if } |X| = 3k + 1 \\ 2 \cdot 3^k & \text{if } |X| = 3k + 2. \end{cases}$$

Lemma

Let G be an abelian subgroup of $S(X)$.

- *If $|X| \leq 4$, then $|G| \leq |X|$.*
- *If $|X| \geq 5$, then $|G| \leq \xi(|X|)$.*

$\text{Im } e \neq X$

- $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
- Commutative semigroup S with one idempotent:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 4 & 5 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

S-partition

- $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
- Commutative semigroup S with one idempotent:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{5} \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 4 & 5 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad A_0 = \{2, 4, 5\}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

S-partition

- $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
- Commutative semigroup S with one idempotent:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & 2 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & 5 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{4} & 5 & \mathbf{4} & 2 & 4 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_0 = \{2, 4, 5\}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & 2 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{2} & 4 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_1 = \{1, 3\}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & 2 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{2} & 4 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{3} & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{2} & 4 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

S-partition

- $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
- Commutative semigroup S with one idempotent:

$$\begin{array}{cc} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{5} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 4 & 5 & 4 & 2 & 4 & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{4} \end{pmatrix} & A_0 = \{2, 4, 5\} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & \mathbf{5} & \mathbf{2} \end{pmatrix} & A_1 = \{1, 3\} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{3} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \end{pmatrix} & A_2 = \{6, 7\} \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \mathbf{6} & \mathbf{7} \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{2} \end{pmatrix} & \end{array}$$

Property regarding S -partition

- Commutative semigroup S with one idempotent:

$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & 2 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{4} & 5 & \mathbf{4} & 2 & \mathbf{4} & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$	$A_0 = \{2, 4, 5\}$
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & 2 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{2} & 4 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$A_1 = \{1, 3\}$
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{5} & 2 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & \mathbf{5} & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{2} & 4 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & \mathbf{2} & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$A_2 = \{6, 7\}$
	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \mathbf{2} & 4 & \mathbf{2} & 5 & \mathbf{2} & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	

Main Lemma

- $x \in A_i$
 - $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ agree on $A_{<i}$
- \implies
- $(x\alpha_k)^\beta$ are all equal.

Words from transformations

- We order the elements of X in a way such that the elements of A_i appear before the elements of A_{i+1} , $i = 0, \dots, k - 1$.

$$A_0 = \{2, 4, 5\}$$

$$A_1 = \{1, 3\}$$

$$A_2 = \{6, 7\}$$

$$2, 4, 5, 1, 3, 6, 7$$

Words from transformations

- We obtain a set of words over X from the semigroup.

2, 4, 5, 1, 3, 6, 7

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 4 & 5 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

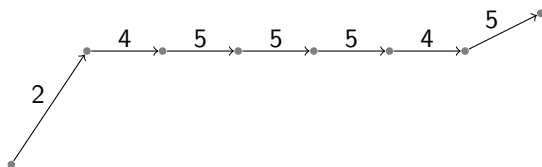
Words from transformations

- We obtain a set of words over X from the semigroup.

2, 4, 5, 1, 3, 6, 7

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 4 & 4 & 4 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{array}{l} 2455545 \\ 2455541 \end{array} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 4 & 5 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{array}{l} 2455543 \\ 5244424 \end{array} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 4 & 5 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{array}{l} 4522252 \\ 4522212 \\ 4522232 \end{array} \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

Tree from words



2455545

2455541

2455543

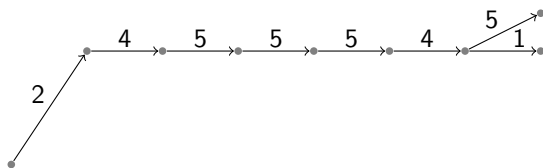
5244424

4522252

4522212

4522232

Tree from words



2455545

2455541

2455543

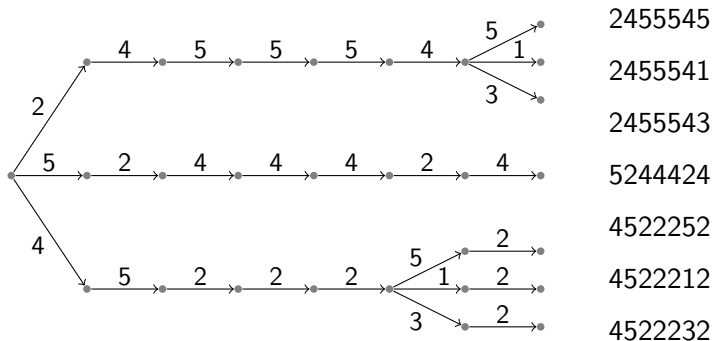
5244424

4522252

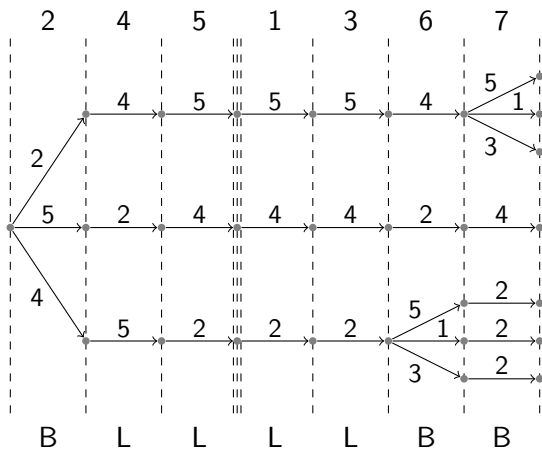
4522212

4522232

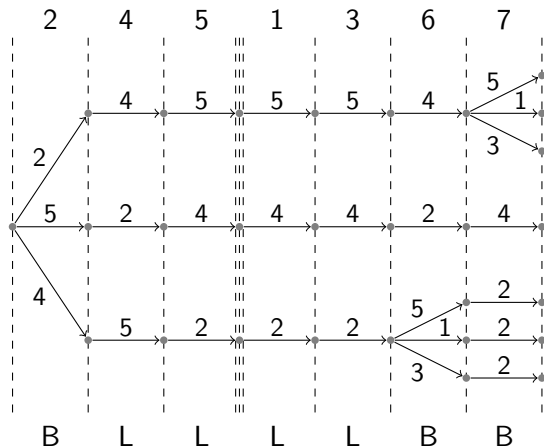
Tree from words



Tree of S



Property of the tree



Main Lemma

- $x \in A_i$
 - $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ agree on $A_{<i}$
- $\implies (x\alpha_k)\beta$ are all equal.

$$A_0 = \{2, 4, 5\}$$

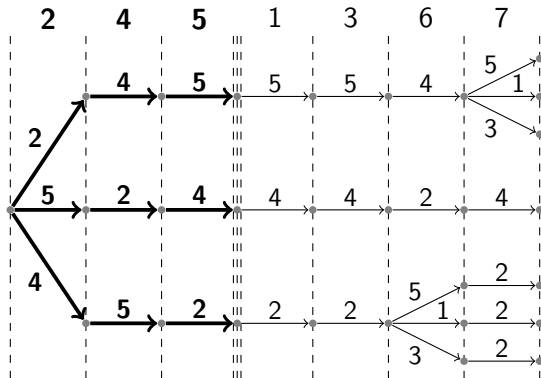
$$A_1 = \{1, 3\}$$

$$A_2 = \{6, 7\}$$

Tree of G

Abelian subgroup of $\mathcal{S}(\text{Im } e) = \mathcal{S}(\{2, 4, 5\})$:

$$G = \{\beta|_{\text{Im } e} : \beta \in S\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 5 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$



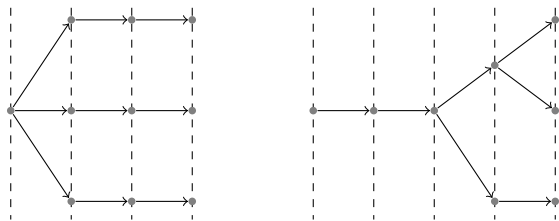
Modifying the tree of G

Lemma

Let G be an abelian subgroup of $S(X)$. Then $|G| \leq \xi(|X| + 1)$.

Null subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(\{2, 4, 5, 6\})$ of size $|G| = 3$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$



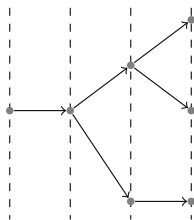
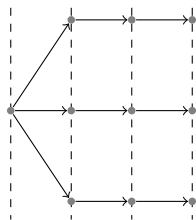
Modifying the tree of G

Lemma

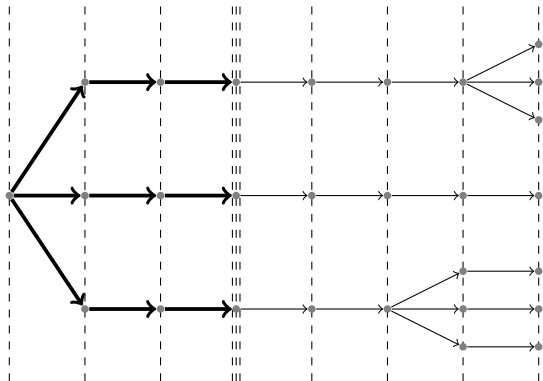
Let G be an abelian subgroup of $S(X)$. Then $|G| \leq \xi(|X| + 1)$.

Null subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(\{2, 4, 5, 6\})$ of size $|G| = 3$:

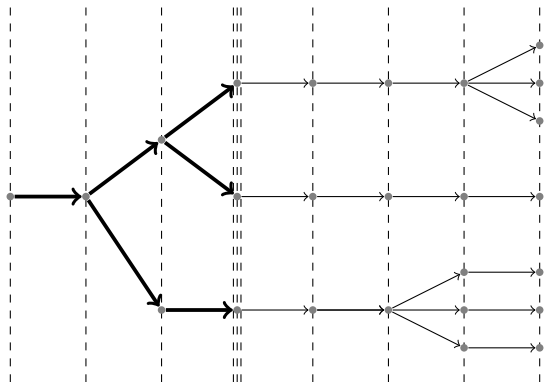
$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$



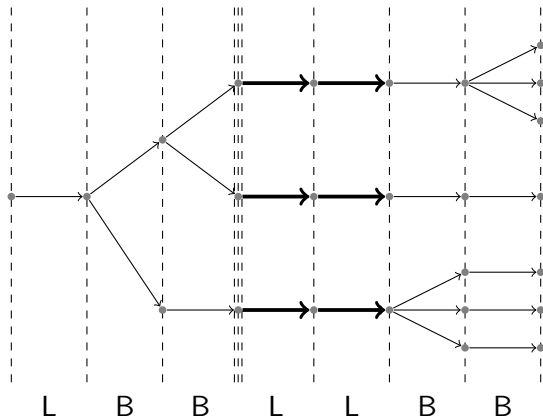
Modifying the tree of S



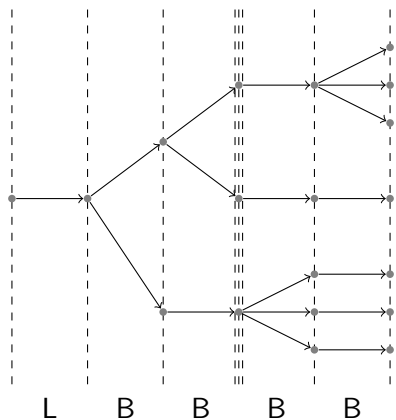
Modifying the tree of S



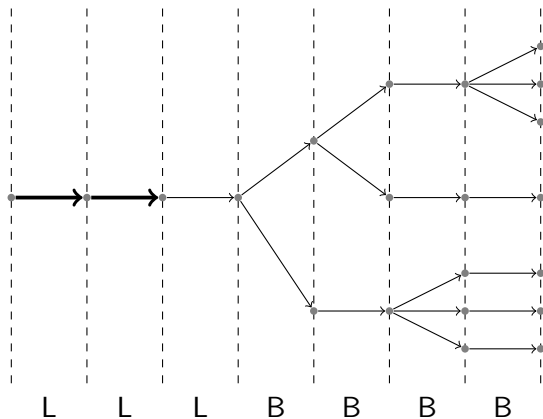
Modifying the tree of S



Modifying the tree of S



Modifying the tree of S



Transformations from words

- We obtain a null subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$ from the set of words. The null semigroup has the same size as the initial commutative semigroup with one idempotent. So $|S| \leq \xi(|X|)$.

$$\begin{array}{l} 2222222 \\ 2222224 \\ 2222225 \\ 2222422 \\ 2224222 \\ 2224242 \\ 2224252 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

Commutative semigroups with one idempotent

Theorem (P., 2025)

The maximum size of a commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$ with a unique idempotent is

$$\begin{cases} |X| & \text{if } |X| \leq 4, \\ \xi(|X|) & \text{if } |X| \geq 5. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, if S is a maximum-order commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{T}(X)$ with a unique idempotent, then

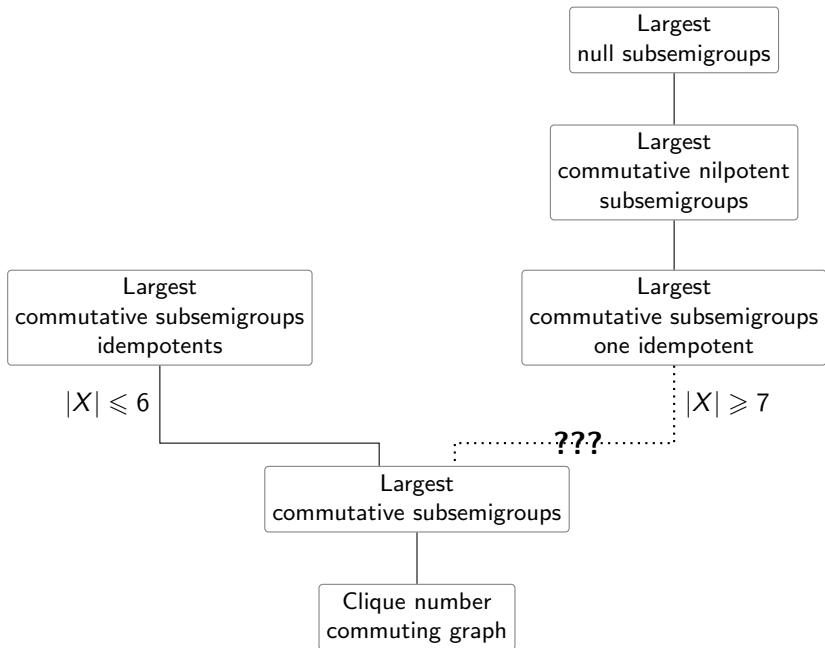
- *If $|X| \leq 3$, then S is a subgroup of $S(X)$.*
- *If $|X| = 4$, then S is either a subgroup of $S(X)$ or a null semigroup.*
- *If $|X| \geq 5$, then S is a null semigroup.*

Largest commutative subsemigroups with one idempotent

Corollary (P., 2025)

The maximum size of a commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{P}(X)$ with a unique idempotent is $\xi(|X| + 1)$. Furthermore, if S is a maximum-order commutative subsemigroup of $\mathcal{P}(X)$ with a unique idempotent, then:

- *If $|X| \leq 2$, then either S is a subgroup of $S(X)$ or S is a commutative nilpotent semigroup.*
- *If $|X| \geq 3$, then S is a commutative nilpotent semigroup.*



Largest commutative subsemigroups

Theorem (P., 2025)

Suppose that $|X| \geq 7$. Then

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{maximum size} \\ \text{commutative} \\ \text{subsemigroup of } \mathcal{T}(X) \end{array} \right) \geq \underbrace{\xi(|X|) + 1}_{N_{x_1, \dots, x_{\alpha(|X|)}}^X \cup \{\text{id}_X\}}$$

Corollary (P., 2025)

Suppose that $|X| \geq 6$ and let Y be a set such that $|Y| = |X| + 1$. Then

$$\underbrace{\xi(|X| + 1) + 1}_{\Omega_B^X \cup \{\text{id}_X\}} \leq \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{maximum size} \\ \text{commutative} \\ \text{subsemigroup} \\ \text{of } \mathcal{P}(X) \end{array} \right) \leq \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{maximum size} \\ \text{commutative} \\ \text{subsemigroup} \\ \text{of } \mathcal{T}(Y) \end{array} \right).$$

Clique numbers of commuting graphs

- $\omega(\mathcal{G}(S)) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{maximum size commutative} \\ \text{subsemigroup of } S \end{array} \right) - |Z(S)|.$

Corollary (P., 2025)

Suppose that $|X| \geq 2$. Then






- If $2 \leq |X| \leq 6$, then $\omega(\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{T}(X))) = 2^{|X|-1} - 1$.
- If $|X| \geq 7$, then $\omega(\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{T}(X))) \geq \xi(|X|)$.

Corollary (P., 2025)

Suppose that $|X| \geq 2$. Then

- If $2 \leq |X| \leq 5$, then $\omega(\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P}(X))) = 2^{|X|} - 2$.
- If $|X| \geq 6$, then $\xi(|X| + 1) - 1 \leq \omega(\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P}(X))) \leq \omega(\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{T}(Y))) - 1$, where Y is a set such that $|Y| = |X| + 1$.

Bibliography

-  John M. Burns and Brendan Goldsmith.
Maximal order Abelian subgroups of symmetric groups.
Bull. Lond. Math. Soc., 21(1):70–72, 1989.
-  Peter J. Cameron, James East, Des FitzGerald, James D. Mitchell, Luke Pebody, and Thomas Quinn-Gregson.
Minimum degrees of finite rectangular bands, null semigroups, and variants of full transformation semigroups.
Combinatorial Theory, 3(3), 2023.
-  Alan J. Cain, António Malheiro, and Tânia Paulista.
Commutative nilpotent transformation semigroups.
Semigroup Forum, 109:60–75, 2024.
-  Tânia Paulista.
Characterizing the largest commutative (full and partial) transformation semigroups of certain types.
Preprint, arXiv: 2511.09495, 2025.
-  Tânia Paulista.
Commuting graphs of semigroups.
PhD thesis, NOVA School of Science & Technology, 2025.