

WEIGHTED GRAMMARS AND AUTOMATA WITH THRESHOLD INTERPRETATION¹

CARLOS MARTÍN-VIDE

*Research Group in Mathematical Linguistics, Rovira i Virgili University,
Pça. Imperial Tàrraco 1, E-43005 Tarragona, Spain
e-mail: cmv@correu.urv.es*

VICTOR MITRANA²

*Faculty of Mathematics, University of Bucharest,
Str. Academiei 14, R-70109, Bucharest, Romania
e-mail: mitrana@funinf.cs.unibuc.ro*

and

RALF STIEBE

*Fakultät für Informatik, Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg,
Postfach 4120, D-39016 Magdeburg, Germany
e-mail: stiebe@iws.cs.uni-magdeburg.de*

ABSTRACT

We discuss a particular type of weighted grammars and automata over the partially ordered group of additive real vectors \mathbb{R}^k , and its subgroups \mathbb{Z}^k and \mathbb{Q}^k , as well as over the partially ordered group of component-wise multiplicative vectors with positive rational components. Computational power of these devices is investigated in comparison with the computational power of valence grammars and blind multicounter automata. We show that all these families are either full principal semi-AFL or full semi-AFL. Finally, some decidability matters are discussed.

Keywords: Weighted automata, valence grammars

1. Introduction

Weighted grammars and automata are important generalizations of context-free grammars and finite automata widely and successfully used in many applications like text and speech processing [2, 14, 15].

Chomsky considered in [1] that no theory for the linguistic structure based exclusively on finite state grammars would be able of explaining or giving information

¹Full version of a lecture presented at the Workshop *Weighted Automata: Theory and Applications* (Dresden University of Technology, Germany, March 4–8, 2002).

²Work supported by the Generalitat de Catalunya, Direcció General de Recerca (PIV2001-50).