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Erratum to: “Top-down Tree Transducers with Regular Look-ahead”

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In Theorem 3.2 of my paper [1] it is shown that $DB-FST \subset DT^R-FST$, where $DB-FST$ is the class of deterministic bottom-up finite state tree transformations and DT^R-FST is the class of deterministic top-down finite state tree transformations with regular look-ahead (and \subset denotes proper inclusion). One may then ask for a characterization of $DB-FST$ in terms of dt^r-fst . In Theorem 3.2 of [1] it is wrongly stated that $DB-FST = ODT^R-FST$, where ODT^R-FST is the class of one-state dt^r-fst . The correct statement is that

$$DB-FST = FTA \circ ODT^R-FST,$$

where FTA is the class of tree transformations that are the identity on a recognizable (= regular) tree language. In other words, a tree transformation is a $db-fst$ if and only if it is the restriction of a one-state dt^r-fst to a recognizable tree language. Note that this implies that a total function from T_Σ to T_Δ is in $DB-FST$ if and only if it is in ODT^R-FST (as mentioned in Section 2 of [3]).

Why the proof is wrong. The proof of the inclusion $DB-FST \subseteq ODT^R-FST$ of Theorem 3.2 is based on the fact that the construction in the proof of Lemma 2.10(3) preserves the number of states. But that is not true because in the latter proof it should be assumed that the initial state q_d of T does not occur in the right-hand side of any rule of T . This can indeed be assumed without loss of generality, but possibly increases the number of states by one.

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Why the result is wrong. Since $FTA \subset DB\text{-}FST$, it suffices to show that FTA is not included in $ODT^R\text{-}FST$. Suppose that $T \in ODT^R\text{-}FST$ is the identity on the recognizable tree language $\{\sigma(t) \mid t \in T_\Sigma\}$, where $\Sigma = \{\tau, a\}$, σ and τ have rank 1, and a has rank 0. Let T have the unique state q , and let $t_0 \in T_\Sigma$ be a tree of size larger than the size of the rules of T . Consider the computation of T with input (and output) $\sigma(t_0)$. The first rule applied in this computation must be of the form $\langle q(\sigma(x)) \rightarrow s, D \rangle$ such that $t_0 \in D(x)$ and $q(x)$ occurs in s . Thus, there must be a successful computation of T starting with $q(t_0)$. That contradicts the fact that t_0 is not in the domain of T . Hence $ODT^R\text{-}FST \subset DB\text{-}FST$, where the inclusion is proper.

Why the new result holds. From the inclusion $ODT^R\text{-}FST \subset DB\text{-}FST$ it follows that $FTA \circ ODT^R\text{-}FST \subseteq FTA \circ DB\text{-}FST \subseteq DB\text{-}FST \circ DB\text{-}FST \subseteq DB\text{-}FST$ where the last inclusion is Theorem 4.6(2) of [2].

It remains to prove that $DB\text{-}FST \subseteq FTA \circ ODT^R\text{-}FST$. We will say that a $db\text{-}fst \langle \Sigma, \Delta, Q, Q_d, R \rangle$ is *full* if $Q_d = Q$, i.e., every state is final. We will denote the class of all full $db\text{-}fst$ by $FDB\text{-}FST$, and the class of all full deterministic bottom-up finite state relabelings by $FDBQREL$. Note that $FDB\text{-}FST$ is the class of total functions from T_Σ to T_Δ in $DB\text{-}FST$.

Since the domain of a $db\text{-}fst$ is recognizable (by Corollary 3.12 of [2]), it should be clear that $DB\text{-}FST \subseteq FTA \circ FDB\text{-}FST$. Consequently, it now suffices to prove that $FDB\text{-}FST \subseteq ODT^R\text{-}FST$. In fact, the wrong proof of the inclusion $DB\text{-}FST \subseteq ODT^R\text{-}FST$ in the proof of Theorem 3.2 is valid for full $db\text{-}fst$. It follows from the proof of Theorem 3.15(3) of [2] that $FDB\text{-}FST \subseteq FDBQREL \circ HOM$. Since the identity is in $ODT^R\text{-}FST$, this is included in $ODT^R\text{-}FST \circ FDBQREL \circ HOM$. Now the (wrong) construction in the proof of Lemma 2.10(3), discussed above, is actually correct for $FDBQREL$. Since that construction, and the one in the proof of Lemma 2.9, preserves the number of states, we obtain that $ODT^R\text{-}FST \circ FDBQREL \circ HOM \subseteq ODT^R\text{-}FST$. This shows that $FDB\text{-}FST \subseteq ODT^R\text{-}FST$ and hence $DB\text{-}FST = FTA \circ ODT^R\text{-}FST$.

Remark. Let $O'DT^R\text{-}FST$ be the class of $dt^r\text{-}fst$ with two states, such that the initial state does not occur in the right-hand side of any rule. It is not difficult to show that $DB\text{-}FST \subseteq O'DT^R\text{-}FST$. In fact, the wrong proof of the inclusion $DB\text{-}FST \subseteq ODT^R\text{-}FST$ in the proof of Theorem 3.2 is valid for $O'DT^R\text{-}FST$, because the constructions in the proofs of Lemmas 2.10(3) and 2.9 preserve $O'DT^R\text{-}FST$. It is also easy to see that the inclusion is proper, i.e., $DB\text{-}FST \subset O'DT^R\text{-}FST$, as witnessed by the tree transformation $\{(t, \sigma(t)) \mid t \in T_\Sigma\}$.

Three other small corrections. Six lines above Theorem 2.6 of [1] it is stated that $ZT\text{-}FST \subset ZT\text{-}FST$; that should of course be $ZT\text{-}FST \subset ZT^R\text{-}FST$. On the 4th line of the proof of Lemma 2.10 of [1], the equation $K = T L$ should be $K = T \circ L$. After Theorem 2.11 of [1] it is stated that the inclusion signs in Theorem 2.6 may be replaced by equality signs; to see this, one should note that $DBQREL \subseteq LDT^R\text{-}FST$ (by the proof of Lemma 2.10(3)).

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