

A Relationship between Marker and Inkdot for Four-Dimensional Automata

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Abstract—A multi-marker automaton is a finite automaton which keeps marks as pebbles in the finite control, and cannot rewrite any input symbols but can make marks on its input with the restriction that only a bounded number of these marks can exist at any given time. An improvement of picture recognizability of the finite automaton is the reason why the multi-marker automaton was introduced. On the other hand, a multi-inkdot automaton is a conventional automaton capable of dropping an inkdot on a given input tape for a landmark, but unable to further pick it up. Due to the advances in many application areas such as moving image processing, computer animation, and so on, it has become increasingly apparent that the study of four-dimensional pattern processing has been of crucial importance. Thus, we think that the study of four-dimensional automata as a computational model of four-dimensional pattern processing has also been meaningful. This paper deals with marker versus inkdot over four-dimensional input tapes, and investigates some properties.

Keywords—finite automaton, four-dimension, inkdot, marker, recognizability

I. INTRODUCTION

A multi-marker automaton is a finite automaton which keeps marks as *pebbles* in the finite control, and cannot rewrite any input symbols but can make marks on its input with the restriction that only a bounded number of these marks can exist at any given time. An improvement of picture recognizability of the finite automaton is the reason why the marker automaton was introduced. That is, a two-dimensional multi-marker automaton can recognize connected pictures [3].

On the other hand, as is the well-known open problems in computational complexity, there is the historical open question whether or not the separation exists between deterministic and nondeterministic space (especially hard-level) complexity classes. Related to the historical open question, D. Ranjan et al. introduced a slightly modified Turing machine model, called a one-inkdot Turing machine [70]. An inkdot machine is a conventional Turing machine capable of dropping an inkdot on a given input tape for landmark, but unable to further pick it up. Against an earlier expectation, it was proved that nondeterministic inkdot Turing machines are more powerful than nondeterministic ordinary Turing machines for sublogarithmic space bounds. As is well-known result in the case of two-dimensional input tapes, there is a set of square tapes accepted by a nondeterministic finite automaton, but not by any deterministic Turing machine with sublogarithmic space bounds. Thus, it makes no sense to ask the same question whether the separation exists between deterministic and nondeterministic complexity classes for the two-dimensional Turing machines. However, there is an other important aspect in the inkdot mechanism : we can see a two-dimensional finite

automaton with inkdot as a weak recognizer of the inherent properties of digital pictures. By this motivation, a two-dimensional multi-inkdot automaton was introduced [41,70]. (See [3,6,35,70,74,104] for another results concerning two-dimensional inkdot and marker machines.)

By the way, the question of whether processing three-dimensional digital patterns is much more difficult than two-dimensional ones is of great interest from the theoretical and practical standpoints. Thus, the research of three-dimensional automata as the computational model of three-dimensional pattern processing has been meaningful. From this viewpoint, we investigated a multi-marker automaton and a multi-inkdot automaton on three-dimensional input tapes [1,2,4,5,7-115]. Due to the advances in many application areas such as moving image processing, computer animation, and so on, it has become increasingly apparent that the study of four-dimensional pattern processing has been of crucial importance. Thus, we think that the study of four-dimensional automata as a computational model of four-dimensional pattern processing has also been meaningful[92,95-97,108,112].

This paper deals with a relationship between marker and inkdot for four-dimensional automata, and shows some properties (see Fig. 3,4.).

II. DEFINITIONS AND NOTATIONS

Definition2.1. Let Σ be a finite set of symbols. A *four-dimensional tape* over Σ is a four-dimensional rectangular array of elements of Σ . The set of all four-dimensional tapes over Σ is denoted by $\Sigma^{(4)}$.

Given a tape $x \in \Sigma^{(4)}$, for each integer j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$), we let $l_j(x)$ be the length of x along the j th axis. The set of all $x \in \Sigma^{(4)}$ with $l_1(x) = n_1, l_2(x) = n_2, l_3(x) = n_3$, and $l_4(x) = n_4$ is denoted by $\Sigma(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)$. When $1 \leq i_j \leq l_j(x)$ for each j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$), let $x(i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4)$ denote the symbol in x with coordinates (i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4) , as shown in Fig.1. Furthermore, we define $x[(i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4), (i'_1, i'_2, i'_3, i'_4)]$, when $1 \leq i_j \leq i'_j \leq l_j(x)$ for integer j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$), as the four-dimensional tape y satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) for each j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$), $l_j(y) = i'_j - i_j + 1$;
- (ii) for each r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4 ($1 \leq r_1 \leq l_1(y), 1 \leq r_2 \leq l_2(y), 1 \leq r_3 \leq l_3(y), 1 \leq r_4 \leq l_4(y)$), $y(r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4) = x(r_1 + i_1 - 1, r_2 + i_2 - 1, r_3 + i_3 - 1, r_4 + i_4 - 1)$. (We call $x[(i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4), (i'_1, i'_2, i'_3, i'_4)]$ the $[(i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4), (i'_1, i'_2, i'_3, i'_4)]$ -segment of x .)

For each $x \in \Sigma(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)$ and for each $1 \leq i_1 \leq n_1, 1 \leq i_2 \leq n_2, 1 \leq i_3 \leq n_3, 1 \leq i_4 \leq n_4$, $x[(i_1, 1, 1, 1),$

(i_1, n_2, n_3, i_4) , $x[(1, i_2, 1, i_4), (n_1, i_2, n_3, i_4)]$, $x[(1, 1, i_3, i_4), (n_1, n_2, i_3, i_4)]$, $x[(i_1, 1, i_3, i_4), (i_1, n_2, i_3, i_4)]$, and $x[(1, i_2, i_3, i_4), (n_1, i_2, i_3, i_4)]$ are called the i_1 th (2-3) plane of the i_4 th three-dimensional rectangular array of x , the i_2 th (1-3) plane of the i_4 th three-dimensional rectangular array of x , the i_3 th (1-2) plane of the i_4 th three-dimensional rectangular array of x , the i_1 th row on the i_3 th (1-2) plane of the i_4 th three-dimensional rectangular array of x , and the i_2 th column on the i_3 th (1-2) plane of the i_4 th three-dimensional rectangular array of x , and are denoted by $x(2-3)_{i_1 \cdot i_4}$, $x(1-3)_{i_2 \cdot i_4}$, $x(1-2)_{i_3 \cdot i_4}$, $x[i_1, *, i_3, i_4]$ and $x[* , i_2, i_3, i_4]$, respectively (See Fig.1.).

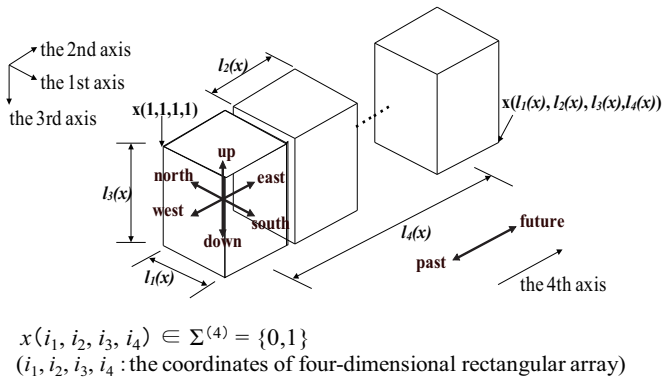


Fig. 1. Four-dimensional input tape.

Definition2.2. A *four-dimensional finite automaton (4-F A)*, which can be considered as a natural extension of the three-dimensional finite automaton to four dimensions, consists of read-only four-dimensional input tape, a finite control, and an input head which can move east, west, south, north, up, down, in the past, or in the future [3]. A *four-dimensional alternating finite automaton (4-AFA)* is a sextuple $M=(Q,q_0,U,F,\Sigma,\delta)$, where

- (1) Q is a finite set of *states*,
- (2) $q_0 \in Q$ is the *initial state*,
- (3) $U \subseteq Q$ is the set of *universal states*,
- (4) $F \subseteq Q$ is the set of the *accepting states*,
- (5) Σ is a finite *input alphabet* ($\# \notin \Sigma$ is the *boundary symbol*), and
- (6) $\delta \subseteq (Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\#\})) \times (Q \times \{\text{east, west, south, north, up, down, future, past, no more}\})$ is the *next-move relation*.

A state q in $Q - U$ is said to be *existential*. As shown in Fig.2, the machine M has a read-only rectangular input tape with boundary symbols $\#$'s, and finite control. A position is assigned to each cell of the input tape as shown in Fig.2.

At each moment, the machine M is in one of the states. A *step* of M consists of reading the symbol currently under the input head, changing its state, and moving the input head in specified direction (*east, west, south, north, up, down, future, past, or no more*) which is determined by the next-move relation δ . If the input head falls off the input tape, then M can move no further make.

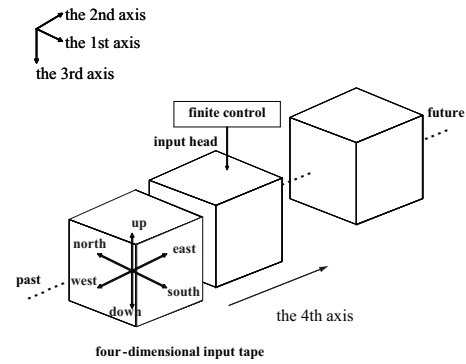


Fig. 2. Four-dimensional alternating finite automaton.

Definition2.3. A *configuration* of a 4-AFA M on an input $x \in \Sigma^{(4)}$ is of the form $((i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4), q)$, where (i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4) , $0 \leq i_1 \leq l_1(x)+1$, $0 \leq i_2 \leq l_2(x)+1$, $0 \leq i_3 \leq l_3(x)+1$, and $0 \leq i_4 \leq l_4(x)+1$, is a position of the input head, and q is a state of the finite control. If q is the state associated with configuration c , then c is said to be *universal (existential, accepting)* configuration if q is a universal (existential, accepting) state. The *initial configuration* of M on input x is $I_M(x) = ((1, 1, 1, 1), q_0)$. For each input tape x , we write $c \vdash_{M,x} c'$, and say that c' is an *immediate successor* of c (of M on x), if configuration c' is derived from configuration c in one step of M on x according to the next-move relation. A configuration with no immediate successor is called a *halting configuration*. Below, we assume that every accepting configuration is a halting configuration.

We can view the computation of M as a tree whose made are labelled by configurations. A *computation tree* of M on an input tape x is a tree whose nodes are labelled by configurations of M on x . The root of the tree is labelled by the initial configuration $I_M(x)$; the children of any node labelled by a universal configuration are all the immediate successors of that configuration on x ; and any node labelled by an existential configuration has one child, which is labelled by one of the immediate successors of that configuration on x (provided there are any). An *accepting computation tree* of M on x is a computation tree of M on x whose leaves are all labelled by accepting configurations. We say that M *accepts* x if there is an accepting computation tree of M on input x . Define $T(M) = \{x \in \Sigma^{(4)} \mid M \text{ accepts } x\}$.

Definition2.4. A *four-dimensional alternating one-maker automaton* [6,21] is a 4-AFA with the capability of using one-marker which the finite control can use as a marker on the input tape, as shown in Fig.3. During the computation, the device can deposit (retrieve) a marker on (from) any cell of the input. The action of the machine depends on the current state of the finite control, the currently scanned input tape symbol, and on the presence of the marker on the current input tape cell. The action consists of moving the input head, changing the state of the finite control, and picking up or placing the marker on the currently scanned cell of the input tape.

A *configuration* of a four-dimensional alternating one-marker automaton M on an input tape x is of the form

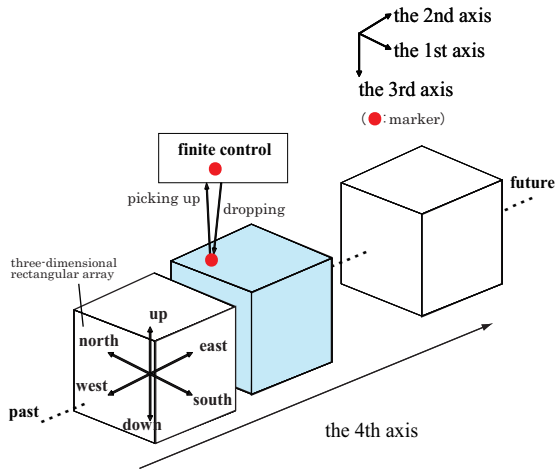


Fig. 3. Image of marker on four-dimensional input tape.

$((i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4), \text{marker-position}, q)$, where (i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4) is the input head position, marker-position is the position of the marker on x (let marker-position be “no” if the marker is not placed on the input tape x), and component q represents a state of the finite control. The *initial configuration* of M on x is $((1, 1, 1, 1), \text{no}, q_0)$, where q_0 is the initial state of M . That is, the machine M starts with the marker in the finite control and with the input head on the upper-northwestmost corner of the first three-dimensional rectangular array of the input tape. An *accepting computation tree* of M on an input tape is defined as in the case of a four-dimensional alternating finite automaton. We say that M *accepts* an input tape x if there is an accepting computation tree of M on x . By $T(M)$, we denote the set of all the four-dimensional tapes accepted by M .

Definition 2.5. A *four-dimensional alternating k -inkdot finite automaton* [41] is a 4-*AFA* capable of dropping inkdots on a given input tape for a landmark, but unable to further pick it up. That is, a four-dimensional alternating k -inkdot finite automaton is a four-dimensional alternating multi-marker finite automaton which cannot pick up the pebbles again, once it has put down the marker on a given input tape, as shown in Fig. 4. (See [41].)

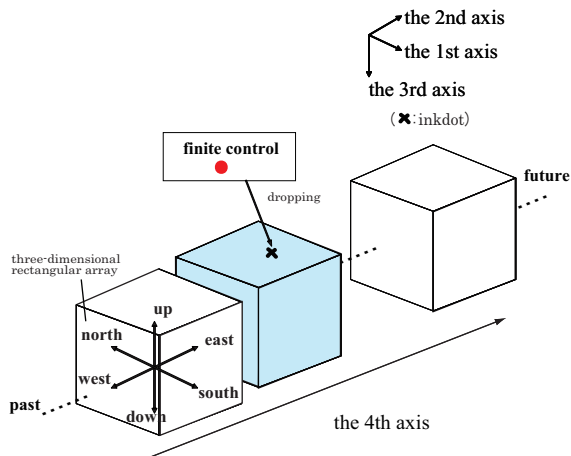


Fig. 4. Image of inkdot on four-dimensional input tape.

By 4-*AFA* (resp., 4-*NFA*, 4-*DFA*, 4-*AM*₁, 4-*NM*₁, 4-*DM*₁, 4-*AI*_k, 4-*NI*_k, 4-*DI*_k), we denote alternating (resp., nondeterministic, deterministic, alternating 1-marker, nondeterministic 1-marker, deterministic 1-marker, alternating k -inkdot, nondeterministic k -inkdot, deterministic k -inkdot) 4-*FA*. Furthermore, by 4-*UFA* (resp., 4-*UM*₁, 4-*UI*_k), we denote alternating (resp., alternating 1-marker, alternating k -inkdot) 4-*FA* with only universal states.

For each $X \in \{D, N, U, A\}$, we denote by $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}XFA]$ the class of sets of all four-dimensional tapes accepted by 4-*XFA*'s. That is,

$$\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}XFA] = \{T \mid T = T(M) \text{ for some } 4\text{-}XFA M\},$$

where $T(M)$ is the set of all four-dimensional tapes accepted by M . $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}XM_1]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}XI_k]$ are defined similarly.

Let M be a 4-*AM*₁ (or 4-*AI*_k), and x be an input tape. A sequence of configurations $c_1 c_2 \dots c_m$ ($m \geq 1$) is called a *computation path* of M on x if $c_1 \vdash_{M,x} c_2 \vdash_{M,x} \dots \vdash_{M,x} c_m$. For simplicity, we below call a computation path a *computation*. For any set S , $|S|$ denotes the cardinality of S .

III. KNOWN RESULTS AND RELATED RESULTS

This section surveys known results and related results in [50,83,84,86,89] concerning k -inkdot and 1-marker 4-*FA*'s. The following result shows a relationship among the accepting powers of 4-*FA*'s k -inkdot 4-*FA*'s, and 1-marker 4-*FA*'s.

Theorem 3.1[50,83,84,86,89].

- (1) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DFA] = \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$,
- (2) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NFA] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NM_1]$,
- (3) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UFA] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UM_1]$, and
- (4) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AFA] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AI_k] \subseteq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AM_1]$.

It is unknown whether $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AM_1]$. What are the relationships between $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NI_k]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$, between $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UI_k]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$, and between $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AI_k]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NM_1]$? The following theorem answer this question.

Theorem 3.2.

- (1) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NI_k]$ is incomparable with $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$,
- (2) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UI_k]$ is incomparable with $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$, and
- (3) $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NM_1] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}AI_k]$.

Proof: Let $T_1 = \{x \in \{0,1\}^{(4)} \mid \exists n \geq 1 [l_1(x) = l_2(x) = l_3(x) = l_4(x) = 2n \wedge (\text{the top half of } x \text{ is the same as the bottom half of } x)]\}$, and $T_2 = \{x \in \{0,1\}^{(4)} \mid \exists n \geq 2 [l_1(x) = l_2(x) = l_3(x) = l_4(x) = n \wedge \exists i (2 \leq i \leq n) \{ \text{the first three-dimensional rectangular array of } x \text{ is the same as the } i\text{th three-dimensional rectangular array of } x \}]\}$.

By using the same technique as in the proof of Lemma 5.1, Corollary 5.1, Theorem 6.4 in [41], we can show that the complement of T_1 is in $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NI_k]$, $T_1 \in \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UI_k]$, and $T_2 \notin \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}NI_k] \cup \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}UI_k]$. Furthermore, we can easily prove that $T_2 \in \mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$ [21,23].

By using the same technique as in the proof of Theorem 4.1 in [21], we can show that the complement of T_1 is not in $\mathcal{L}[4\text{-}DM_1]$. From these observation, (1) and (2) of the theorem follow. (3) of the theorem can be proved by using the same

idea of Ref. [22,23]. \square

The following result in [50,83,84,86,89] shows a relationship among the accepting powers of determinism, nondeterminism, alternation with only universal states, and alternation for k -inkdot 4-FA's.

Theorem 3.3[50,83,84,86,89]. (1) $\mathcal{L}[4-DI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-NI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-AI_k]$, and (2) $\mathcal{L}[4-DI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-UI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-AI_k]$.

A relationship between $\mathcal{L}[4-NI_k]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4-UI_k]$ is shown in the following theorem.

Theorem 3.4. $\mathcal{L}[4-NI_k]$ is incomparable with $\mathcal{L}[4-UI_k]$.

Proof: Let T_1 and T_2 be sets described in the proof of Theorem 3.2. We can easily prove that $T_1 \in \mathcal{L}[4-UI_k] - \mathcal{L}[4-NI_k]$ [7], and the complement of T_2 is in $\mathcal{L}[4-NI_k]$, but not in $\mathcal{L}[4-UI_k]$. From this fact, the theorem follows. \square

For 1-marker 4-FA's, we can easily get the following result [21,23]. That is, alternation is better than nondeterminism, which is better than determinism.

Theorem 3.5. $\mathcal{L}[4-DM_1] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-NM_1] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-AM_1]$.

IV. MAIN RESULTS

This section investigates an open problem. That is, a relationship between $\mathcal{L}[4-UMI_1]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4-AI_k]$.

Here is some preliminaries. Let $c_1c_2\dots c_m(m \geq 1)$ be a computation of M on an input tape x . Then, this computation is called:

- a *halting computation* of M on x if c_m is a halting configuration other than any accepting configuration,
- a *double-looping computation* of M on x if there exist some $i(1 \leq i \leq m-2)$ and some (possibly empty) sequence of configurations s such that (i) $c_j \neq c_k$ for each $1 \leq j \leq k \leq i$, (ii) $c_1c_2\dots c_m = c_1c_2\dots c_{i-1}sc_isc_i$, and (iii) each configuration in c_1s is different from each other, and different from each $c_r(1 \leq r \leq i)$, and
- a *rejecting computation* of M on x if the sequence $c_1c_2\dots c_m$ is a halting, or double-looping computation.

Theorem 4.1. $\mathcal{L}[4-AI_k] - \mathcal{L}[4-UM_1] \neq \phi$.

Proof: Let $V(m) = \{x_1c_1x_2c_2\dots x_m c_m \mid \forall i(1 \leq i \leq m) \{x_i \in \{0,1\}^{(m,m,m,m)} \wedge c_i \in \{2\}^{(m,1,m,m)}\}\}$, and $T_3 = \{xy \mid \exists m \geq 1 \{x,y \in V(m)\} \wedge x \neq y\}$, where for any two four-dimensional tapes x and y with $l_4(x) = l_4(y)$, we denote by xy the four-dimensional tape obtained by concatenating y to the future side of x . To prove the theorem, we below show that (1) $T_3 \in \mathcal{L}[4-AI_k]$, and (2) $T_3 \notin \mathcal{L}[4-UM_1]$. It is obvious that Part (1) of the theorem holds. Here we only prove (2). We suppose to the contrary that there is a 4-UM₁ M which accepts T_3 . Let Q be the set of states of the finite control of M . We divide Q into two disjoint subsets Q^+ and Q^- which correspond to the sets of states when M holds and

does not hold the marker in the finite control, respectively. M starts from the initial state in Q^+ with the input head on the upper-northwestmost symbol of first three-dimensional rectangular array of an input tape. We assume without loss of generality that M satisfies the following condition (A): ‘ M does not go out of the boundary symbols $\#$'s. (Of course, M does not go into the input tape from the outside of the boundary symbols $\#$'s.)’ For each $M \geq 1$, let $W(m) = \{xy \mid x,y \in V(m)\}$. Below we shall again consider the computations of M on tapes in $W(m)$ for large $m \geq 1$. Let x be any tape in $V(m)$ that is supposed to be a future or past half on an input tape (in $W(m)$) to M , and let $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) be the tape obtained from x by attaching the boundary symbols $\#$'s to the east, west, south, north, upper, lower, and in the future (resp., east, west, south, north, upper, lower, and in the past) sides. Note that, from the above condition (A), both the entrance points to $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) and the exit points from $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) are the future (resp., past) side of $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$). Let $PT(m)$ be the set of these entrance (or exit) points. Clearly, $|PT(m)| = (m+2)^3$. Suppose that the marker of M is not placed on the $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$). Then, we define a mapping M_x^w (resp., M_x^e), which depends on M and x , from $Q \times PT(m)$ to the power set of $(Q \times PT(m)) \cup Q_{stop} \cup \{loop\}$ as follows (where Q_{stop} is the set of halting states other than accepting states, and $loop$ is a new symbol):

- for any $(s,p), (s',p') \in Q^- \times PT(m)$, $(s',p') \in M_x^w(s,p)$ (resp., $M_x^e(s,p)$) \Leftrightarrow when M enters $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) in state s from entrance point p of the future (resp., past) edge of $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$), there exists a computation of M in which M eventually exits $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) in state s' from exit point p' of the future (resp., past) edge of $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$),
- for any $(s,p) \in Q \times PT(m)$ and for any $q \in Q_{stop}, q \in M_x^w(s,p)$ (resp., $M_x^e(s,p)$) \Leftrightarrow when M enters $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) in state s from entrance point p of the future (resp., past) edge of $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$), there exists a computation of M in which M eventually enters state q in $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$), and halts, and
- for any $(s,p) \in Q \times PT(m)$, $loop \in M_x^w(s,p)$ (resp., $M_x^e(s,p)$) \Leftrightarrow when M enters $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$) in state s from entrance point p of the future (resp., past) edge of $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$), there exists a computation in which M enters a loop in $\#sx$ (resp., $x\#s$).

Let $x_1, x_2 \in V(m)$. We say that x_1 and x_2 are

- *M-equivalent* if two mappings $M_{x_1}^w$ and $M_{x_2}^w$ are equivalent, and two mappings $M_{x_1}^e$ and $M_{x_2}^e$ are equivalent, and
- *M-equivalent* if for any $(s,p), (s',p') \in Q^- \times PT(m)$, and for any $a \in \{w, e\}$, $(s',p') \in M_{x_1}^a(s,p)$ if and only if $(s',p') \in M_{x_2}^a(s,p)$.

(Note that if x_1 and x_2 are M -equivalent, then x_1 and x_2 are M -equivalent.) Clearly, M -equivalence is an equivalence relation on $V(m)$. Clearly, there are at most $e(m) = (2^{|Q|(m+2)^3+d+1})^{|Q|(m+2)^3}$, where $d = |Q_{stop}|$, M -equivalence classes of $V(m)$. Let $P(m)$ be a largest M -equivalence classes of $V(m)$. Then, we have $|P(m)| \geq \frac{V(m)}{e(m)} = \frac{2^{m^4}}{e(m)}$.

Note that $|P(m)| \gg 1$ for large m . By using the same technique as in the proof of Theorem 6 in [23] and the well-

known counting argument, finally, we can prove that $T_3 \notin \mathcal{L}[4-UM_1]$. \square

V. CONCLUSION

We investigated about marker versus inkdot on four-dimensional input tapes, and showed some accepting properties of various four-dimensional automata with markers or inkdots.

We conclude this paper by giving the following open problems : (1) $\mathcal{L}[4-AI_k] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-AM_1]$? (2) What are the relationships between $\mathcal{L}[4-NI_k]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4-UM_1]$ and between $\mathcal{L}[4-UI_k]$ and $\mathcal{L}[4-NM_1]$? (3) Is $\mathcal{L}[4-NM_1]$ incomparable with $\mathcal{L}[4-UM_1]$? (4) $\mathcal{L}[4-UM_1] \subsetneq \mathcal{L}[4-AI_k]$?

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