

# Solution to Exercise 4 — Model Theory (1), 80616

January 13, 2026



## Question 1

**Definition 0.1** (algebraic formula). Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a structure. A formula  $\varphi(x) \in \text{form}_{L_{\mathcal{M}}}$  is called algebraic if,

$$|\{a \in M \mid \mathcal{M} \models \varphi(a)\}| < \aleph_0.$$

**Definition 0.2** (definable element). An element  $a \in M$  is called definable if there is a formula  $\psi(x)$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \models \psi(x) \iff x = a$  for any  $x \in M$ .

**Definition 0.3** (acl and dcl). If  $\mathcal{M}$  is a structure and  $A \subseteq M$  a set of elements, then let,

$$\text{acl}_{\mathcal{M}}(A) = \bigcup \{\varphi(M) \mid \varphi \in \text{form}_{L_A}, \varphi \text{ is algebraic}\}, \quad \text{dcl}_{\mathcal{M}}(A) = \{a \in M \mid a \text{ is definable using an } L_A \text{ formula}\}.$$

be the set of elements that has a formula with parameters from  $A$  that is algebraic and are true for them, and the set of elements uniquely definable by formulas with parameters.

### Part a

Let  $A \subseteq M$  for  $\mathcal{M} \prec \mathcal{N}$ . We will show that  $\text{acl}_{\mathcal{M}}(A) = \text{acl}_{\mathcal{N}}(A)$  and  $\text{dcl}_{\mathcal{M}}(A) = \text{dcl}_{\mathcal{N}}(A)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a \in M$  be  $\in \text{acl}_{\mathcal{M}}(A)$  and let  $\varphi \in \text{form}_{L_A}$  be an algebraic formula to witness it.  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi(a) \iff \mathcal{N} \models \varphi(a)$  by the given elementary embedding and the fact that  $A \subseteq N$ .

Let  $a \in \text{acl}_{\mathcal{N}}(A)$  and assume toward contradiction that  $a \notin \text{acl}_{\mathcal{M}}(A)$ , meaning that there is  $\varphi(x)$  over  $L_A$  such that  $\mathcal{N} \models \varphi(a)$  and  $\varphi$  is algebraic. Let  $B = A \cup \varphi(M)$ , denote  $\varphi(M) = \{b_i \mid i < N\}$  for  $N < \omega$ ,

$$\psi(x) = \varphi \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{i < N} x \neq b_i \right).$$

Then  $\psi$  is algebraic over both  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  and  $\psi(M) = \emptyset$ , while  $a \in \psi(N)$ . Let  $\phi = \exists x \psi$ , then  $\mathcal{N} \models \phi$  as  $a$  witnesses exactly this, while  $\mathcal{M} \models \neg \phi$  in contradiction to  $\mathcal{M} \models \phi \iff \mathcal{N} \models \phi$ .

Let us move to dcl. TODO

□