More Vector Spaces with Atoms of Finite Lengths

Jingjie Yang
University of Oxford

Mikołaj Bojańczyk
University of Warsaw

Bartek Klin
University of Oxford

Abstract—***CRITICAL: Do Not Use Symbols, Special Characters, Footnotes, or Math in Paper Title or Abstract.**

I. INTRODUCTION

II. RADO GRAPH, SANS COGS

$\mathbb{A}$ is:

- oligomorphic if, for $d = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$, $\mathbb{A}^d$ only has finitely many orbits;
- $\mathfrak{F}$-oligomorphic if, for $d = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$, $\mathrm{Lin}_{\mathfrak{F}} \mathbb{A}^d$ only has finitely long chains.

Of note: with Stirling numbers of the second kind and Gaussian 2-binomial coefficients, the orbit counts are given by

$$\#\mathbb{N}^d = \sum_{k=0}^{d} \left\{ {d \atop k} \right\}$$

$$\#\mathbb{Q}^d = \sum_{k=0}^{d} \left\{ {d \atop k} \right\} k!$$

$$\#\mathbb{G}^d = \sum_{k=0}^{d} \left\{ {d \atop k} \right\} 2^{\binom{k}{2}}$$

$$\#\mathbb{V}_{\infty}^d = \sum_{k=0}^{d} \left[{d \atop k} \right]_2$$

$$\#\mathbb{W}_{\infty}^d = \sum_{k=0}^{d} \left[{d \atop k} \right]_2 2^{\binom{k}{2}}$$

To introduce:

- *smooth approximation* by *homogeneous substructures* [2] (N.B. 'smooth approximation' from [3, Definition 4] seems to be entirely different)
- *rough approximation* of a homogeneous structure by finite substructures with few orbits (i.e., types) that cover the age of $\mathbb{A}$

A. Symplectic vector spaces

Throughout this subsection let $\mathfrak{f}$ denote a finite field.

Definition II.1. A *symplectic vector space* is an $\mathfrak{f}$-vector space $\mathbb{W}$ equipped with a bilinear form $\omega : \mathbb{W} \times \mathbb{W} \to \mathfrak{f}$ that is

- alternating: $\omega(v, v) = 0$ for all v; and
- non-degenerate: if $\omega(v, w) = 0$ for all w then $v = 0$.

Example II.2. Let $\mathbb{W}_n$ be the $\mathfrak{f}$-vector space with basis $e_1, \ldots, e_n, f_1, \ldots, f_n$. Define ω by bilinearly extending

$$\omega(e_i, f_i) = 1 = -\omega(f_i, e_i), \quad \omega(-, *) = 0 \text{ elsewhere;} \quad (\S)$$

one may straightforwardly check that ω is alternating and non-degenerate. Moreover, noticing that $\mathbb{W}_0 \subseteq \mathbb{W}_1 \subseteq \mathbb{W}_2 \subseteq \cdots$, we obtain a countable-dimensional symplectic vector space $\mathbb{W}_{\infty} = \bigcup_n \mathbb{W}_n$.

We will refer to vectors satisfying $(\S)$ as a *symplectic basis* — indeed, they must be linearly independent. Such bases behave very much like the usual bases.

Proposition II.3. *Assume that $\mathbb{W}$ is a symplectic vector space that is at most countable. Then any finite symplectic basis $e_1, \ldots, e_n, f_1, \ldots, f_n$ can be extended to a symplectic basis that spans the whole $\mathbb{W}$.*

Proof. Suppose that $e_1, \ldots, e_n, f_1, \ldots, f_n$ does not already span $\mathbb{W}$; take v to be a witness (that is least according to some fixed enumeration of $\mathbb{W}$ in the case it is infinite). Put

$$e_{n+1} = v - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega(e_i, v) f_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega(f_i, v) e_i$$

so that $\omega(e_i, e_{n+1}) = 0 = \omega(f_i, e_{n+1})$. This cannot be the zero vector lest we contradict the choice of v. By the non-degeneracy of ω, there is — rescaling if necessary — some w such that $\omega(e_{n+1}, w) = 1$. Now define

$$f_{n+1} = w - \sum_{i=1^n} \omega(e_i, w) f_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega(f_i, w) e_i$$

in a similar manner, making $e_1, \ldots, e_n, e_{n+1}, f_1, \ldots, f_n, f_{n+1}$ a symplectic basis that spans v. We go through every element of $\mathbb{W}$ by continuing this way. $\square$

THROW IN THE APPENDIX:

In fact, we will also make use of the "symplectic basis and a half" variant below.

Proposition II.4. *Now assume $\mathbb{W}$ is a finite-dimensional symplectic vector space. Let*

$$e_1, \cdots, e_n, e_{n+1}, \cdots, e_{n+k},$$
$$f_1, \cdots, f_n$$

be linearly independent vectors satisfying $(\S)$. Then we can find the missing $f_{n+1}, \cdots, f_{n+k}$ to complete the symplectic basis.

Proof. We first need the following notion. Given a subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{W}$, consider its orthogonal complement

$$V^{\perp} = \{ w \in \mathbb{W} \mid \forall v \in V : \omega(v, w) = 0 \}.$$

It is the kernel of the composite linear map

$$\mathbb{W} \to (\mathbb{W} \xrightarrow{\text{lin.}} \mathfrak{f}) \to (V \xrightarrow{\text{lin.}} \mathfrak{f})$$
$$w \mapsto \omega(-, w) \mapsto \omega(-, w)|_V.$$

Note this map is surjective: the first part is injective by non-degeneracy and hence surjective for dimension reasons, and the second part is surjective since we can extend a basis of V to one of $\mathbb{W}$. Therefore

$$\dim V^\perp = \dim \mathbb{W} - \dim V,$$

and in particular $V^{\perp\perp}$ is precisely equal to V.

Now suppose we have found $f_{n+1}, \cdots, f_{n+i}$ already. If e_{n+i+1} were to be spanned by

$$e_1, \cdots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, \cdots, e_{n+k},$$
$$f_1, \cdots, f_{n+i},$$

it would be spanned by $e_1, \cdots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, \cdots, e_{n+k}$ alone because of (§); but this is impossible as we assumed linear independency. So

$$e_{n+i+1} \notin \langle e_1, \cdots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, f_1, \cdots, f_{n+i} \rangle$$
$$= \langle e_1, \cdots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, f_1, \cdots, f_{n+i} \rangle^{\perp\perp},$$

i.e., some $f_{n+i+1} \in \langle e_1, \cdots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, f_1, \cdots, f_{n+i} \rangle^\perp$ satisfies $\omega(e_{n+i+1}, f_{n+i+1}) = 1$. $\qquad\square$

Given two symplectic vector spaces $\mathbb{W}$ and $\mathbb{W}'$, we call a function α between $X \subseteq \mathbb{W}$ and $X' \subseteq \mathbb{W}'$ *isometric* if $\omega(\alpha(x_1), \alpha(x_2)) = \omega(x_1, x_2)$ for all $x_1, x_2 \in X$. We can make an easy observation:

Lemma II.5. *Let $\{e_i, f_i \mid i \in I\} \subseteq \mathbb{W}$, $\{e'_j, f'_j \mid j \in J\} \subseteq \mathbb{W}'$ be two symplectic bases and let $\alpha : I \to J$ be a bijection. Then*

$$e_i \mapsto e'_{\alpha(i)}, f_i \mapsto f'_{\alpha(i)}$$

defines an isometric linear isomorphism $\langle e_i, f_i \rangle \to \langle e'_j, f'_j \rangle$.

It then follows from Proposition II.3 that, up to isometric linear isomorphisms, $\mathbb{W}_0, \mathbb{W}_1, \mathbb{W}_2, \cdots, \mathbb{W}_\infty$ are all the countable symplectic vector spaces. Whilst we may deduce that $\mathbb{W}_\infty$ is oligomorphic by appealing to Ryll-Nardzewski, we will opt for a more direct proof that also establishes smooth approximation.

Proposition II.6 (Witt Extension)**.** *Any isometric linear injection $\alpha : \langle X \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{W}_n \to \mathbb{W}_n$ can be extended to an isometric linear automorphism of $\mathbb{W}_n$ and in turn to one of $\mathbb{W}_\infty$.*

Proof. To begin with, find a basis $x_1, \cdots, x_k$ for $\langle X \rangle^\perp = \{w \in W \mid \forall x \in X : \omega(w, x) = 0\}$ and extend it to a basis $x_1, \cdots, x_k, x_{k+1}, \cdots, x_d$ for $\langle X \rangle$. Notice that

$$U = \langle x_{k+1}, \cdots, x_d \rangle$$

must be a symplectic subspace: as it intersects with $\langle X \rangle^\perp$ trivially, given any non-zero vector $u \in U$ we must have $0 \neq \omega(u, x + u') = \omega(u, u')$ for some $x \in \langle X \rangle^\perp$ and

$u' \in U$. Hence use Proposition II.3 to find a symplectic basis $e_1, \cdots, e_n, f_1, \cdots, f_n$ for U. Observe that

$$e_1, \cdots, e_n, x_1, \cdots, x_k,$$
$$f_1, \cdots, f_n$$

form a basis for $\langle X \rangle$ and satisfy (§). On the other hand,

$$\alpha(e_1), \cdots, \alpha(e_n), \alpha(x_1), \cdots, \alpha(x_k),$$
$$\alpha(f_1), \cdots, \alpha(f_n)$$

form a basis for $\alpha(\langle X \rangle)$ and also satisfy (§). Therefore apply Proposition II.4 twice to find the missing $y_1, \cdots, y_k$ and $y'_1, \cdots, y'_k$ to complete the two symplectic bases — call them $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{B}'$. They are of the same size.

Now, by using Proposition II.3, extend $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{B}'$ to symplectic bases $\mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{C}'$ that span $\mathbb{W}_n$. These must have the same size ($2n$ namely), so by Lemma II.5 we obtain an isometric linear automorphism $\beta : \mathbb{W}_n \to \mathbb{W}_n$ extending α.

To finish, notice that $\mathcal{C}, e_{n+1}, \cdots, f_{n+1}, \cdots$ as well as $\mathcal{C}', e_{n+1}, \cdots, f_{n+1}, \cdots$ form a symplectic basis spanning $\mathbb{W}_\infty$. We obtain from Lemma II.5 another time an isometric linear automorphism $\gamma : \mathbb{W}_\infty \to \mathbb{W}_\infty$ extending β that is the identity almost everywhere. $\qquad\square$

Proposition II.7. *$\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$ has precisely $\sum_{k=0}^d \begin{bmatrix} d \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \cdot q^{\binom{k}{2}}$ orbits under isometric linear automorphisms, where $q = |\mathfrak{f}|$ and*

$$\begin{bmatrix} d \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \frac{(q^d - 1)(q^{d-1} - 1) \cdots (q^{d-k+1} - 1)}{(q^k - 1)(q^{k-1} - 1) \cdots (q^1 - 1)}$$

is the q-binomial coefficient.

Remark. To anticipate the next subsection, we note a similarity with the Rado graph: in $\mathbb{G}^d$ there are $\sum_{k=0}^d \binom{d}{k} \cdot 2^{\binom{k}{2}}$ orbits — we may impose any edge relation on d vertices.

Proof. To $(v_1, \cdots, v_d) \in \mathbb{W}_\infty^d$ we associate a *type*, which comprises the following data:

- pivot indices $I \subseteq \{1, \cdots, d\}$ containing every i such that v_i is not spanned by $v_1, \cdots, v_{i-1}$ — so we inductively ensure that
$$\{v_{i'} \mid i' \in I, i' \leq i\}$$
is a basis for $\langle e_1, \cdots, e_i \rangle$;
- for each $j \notin I$, pairs $\Lambda_j \subseteq \mathfrak{f} \times \{i \in I \mid i < j\}$ where $v_j = \sum_{(\lambda, i) \in \Lambda_j} \lambda v_i$;
- a map $\Omega : \binom{I}{2} \to \mathfrak{f}$ defined by $\Omega(\{i' < i\}) = \omega(v_{i'}, v_i)$.

If $\pi : \mathbb{W}_\infty \to \mathbb{W}_\infty$ is an isometric linear automorphism, then $(v_1, \cdots, v_d)$ and $(\pi(v_1), \cdots, \pi(v_d))$ evidently share the same type. Conversely, if $(w_1, \cdots, w_d)$ has the type of $(v_i, \cdots, v_d)$, then

$$v_i \mapsto w_i, i \in I$$

extends to an isometric linear injection

$$\alpha : \langle v_1, \cdots, v_d \rangle \to \langle w_1, \cdots, w_d \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{W}_n$$

for some large enough n. Observe that α must send $v_j \mapsto w_j$ for $j \notin I$ too, and that it may be extended to an isometric linear

automorphism π of $\mathbb{W}_\infty$ by Propsoition II.6. Furthermore we can find some $(v_1, \cdots, v_d)$ that realises any given type $(I, \{\Lambda_j\}_j, \Omega)$: it suffices to put

$$v_i = e_i + \sum_{i' < i} \Omega(i', i) f_{i'}$$

for $i \in I$ and $v_j = \sum_{\lambda, i} \in \Lambda_i \lambda v_i$ for $j \notin I$. Therefore the number of types is precisely the number of orbits in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$.

Finally, we do some combinatorics. Fix $0 \le k \le d$ and count the number of types with $|I| = k$. There are $2^{\binom{k}{2}}$ choices for Ω and say $\#_{d,k}$ choices for the Λ_j's; the two can be chosen separately. In total, this gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{d} \#_{d,k} \cdot 2^{\binom{k}{2}}$$

types for vectors in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$. So focus on $\#_{d,k}$, the number of *linear types* — i.e., $(I, \{\Lambda_j\}_j)$, ignoring Ω — in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$. (Incidentally $\#_{d,k}$ is the number of orbits in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$ or, more generally, any countable-dimensional $\mathfrak{f}$-vector space under linear automorphisms.) On the small values we easily check that

$$\#_{0,0} = 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_q,$$
$$\#_{1,0} = 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_q, \qquad \#_{1,1} = 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}_q.$$

Given a linear type in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$ with $|I| = k$, we either have $1 \in I$ or $I \subseteq \{2, \cdots, d\}$. In the first case, the linear type is specified by one of the $\#_{d-1,k-1}$ linear types in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^{d-1}$ together with how v_1 is involved in the span of the $(d-1) - (k-1)$ non-pivot vectors. In the second case, the linear type is simply one of the $\#_{d-1,k}$ linear types in $\mathbb{W}_\infty^{d-1}$. Thus

$$\#_{d,k} = q^{d-k} \cdot \#_{d-1,k-1} + \#_{d-1,k}$$
$$= q^{d-k} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q + \begin{bmatrix} d-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \#_{d,k}. \qquad \square$$

Theorem II.8. *The symplectic vector space $\mathbb{W}_\infty$ is smoothly approximated by $\mathbb{W}_0 \subseteq \mathbb{W}_1 \subseteq \mathbb{W}_2 \subseteq \cdots$.*

Corollary II.9. *Provided $\mathfrak{F}$ is of characteristic 0, the symplectic $\mathfrak{f}$-vector space $\mathbb{W}_\infty$ is $\mathfrak{F}$-oligomorphic.*

B. Symplectic graphs

For this subsection let $\mathfrak{f}$ be the two-element field.

Definition II.10. For $n = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$, the *symplectic graph* $\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$ has vertices $\mathbb{W}_n$ and edges

$$v_1 \sim v_2 \iff \omega(v_1, v_2) = 1.$$

This is indeed an undirected graph: as ω is alternating, we have $\omega(v_1, v_2) = -\omega(v_2, v_1) = \omega(v_2, v_1)$.

Proposition II.11. $\text{Aut}(\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n) = \text{Aut}(\mathbb{W}_n)$.

Proof. Clearly any isometric linear automorphism of $\mathbb{W}_n$ is a graph automorphism of $\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$. Conversely, any $f \in \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$ is

evidently isometric. To show that f is linear, take $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathfrak{f}$ and $v_1, v_2 \in \mathbb{W}$. We calculate:

$$\omega\Big(f(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i) - \sum_i \lambda_i f(v_i), f(w)\Big)$$
$$= \omega\Big(f(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i), f(w)\Big) - \sum_i \lambda_i \omega\big(f(v_i), f(w)\big)$$
$$= \omega\Big(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i, w\Big) - \sum_i \lambda_i \omega(v_i, w)$$
$$= \omega(0, w) = 0$$

for all $f(w) \in f(\mathbb{W}_n) = \mathbb{W}_n$; since ω is non-degenerate, we conclude that $f(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i) = \sum_i \lambda_i f(v_i)$. $\qquad \square$

So the number of orbits in $\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n^d$ is precisely equal to the number of orbits in $\mathbb{W}_n^d$ — in particular, it is bounded above by $\sum_{k=0}^{d} \begin{bmatrix} d \\ k \end{bmatrix}_2 \cdot 2^{\binom{k}{2}}$ independently of n by Proposition II.7. It remains to show $\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_0 \subseteq \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_1 \subseteq \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_2 \subseteq \cdots$ embeds all finite graphs:

Proposition II.12 ([1, Theorem 8.11.2]). *Every graph on at most $2n$ vertices embeds into $\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$.*

Proof. Let G be a graph on at most $2n$ vertices. The conclusion is trivial when $n = 0$. Also, if G contains no edges, we can choose any $2n$ of the 2^n vectors in $\langle e_1, \ldots, e_n \rangle \subseteq \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$.

So suppose $n \ge 1$ and G has an edge $s \sim t$. Let $G_{s,t}$ be the graph on vertices $G \setminus \{s, t\}$ with edges which we will specify later. By induction, some embedding $f : G_{s,t} \to \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_{n-1}$ exists. Define $f' : G \to \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$ by

$$x \in G_{s,t} \mapsto f(x) - [\![x \sim s]\!] f_n + [\![x \sim t]\!] e_n$$
$$s \mapsto e_n$$
$$t \mapsto f_n$$

where $[\![\phi]\!]$ is 1 if ϕ holds and 0 otherwise. Then we have $\omega(f'(x), f'(s)) = [\![x \sim s]\!]$ and $\omega(f'(x), f'(t)) = [\![x \sim t]\!]$ as desired, on one hand. On the other,

$$\omega(f'(x_1), f'(x_2)) = [\![x_1 \sim x_2]\!] + [\![x_1 \sim s]\!][\![x_2 \sim t]\!]$$
$$+ [\![x_1 \sim t]\!][\![x_2 \sim s]\!]$$

tells us how we should define the edge relation in $G_{s,t}$ for f' to be an embedding of graphs. $\qquad \square$

Theorem II.13. *The Rado graph is roughly approximated by $\widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_0 \subseteq \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_1 \subseteq \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_2 \subseteq \cdots$.*

Corollary II.14. *Provided $\mathfrak{F}$ is of characteristic 0, the Rado graph is $\mathfrak{F}$-oligomorphic.*

III. RADO GRAPH, WITH COGS

In this section we work with the following setting:
- $\mathbb{A}_0$ is the Fraïssé limit of a free, monotone amalgamation class (in a relational language)
- $\mathbb{A}$ is the Fraïssé limit of the age of $\mathbb{A}_0$ ordered in all possible ways
- O is an S-orbit in $\mathbb{A}^d$, where $S \subseteq \mathbb{A}$ is finite

Definition III.1. A *cog* is ...

Proposition III.2. *"Cogs arise everywhere"*

REFERENCES

[1] Chris Godsil and Gordon Royle. *Algebraic graph theory*. 1st ed. Graduate Texts in Mathematics. Springer, 2001. ISBN: 978-0-387-95241-3.

[2] W. M. Kantor, Martin W. Liebeck, and H. D. Macpherson. "$\aleph_0$-Categorical Structures Smoothly Approximated by Finite Substructures". In: *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society* s3-59.3 (1989), pp. 439–463. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1112/plms/s3-59.3.439.

[3] Antoine Mottet and Michael Pinsker. "Smooth approximations: An algebraic approach to CSPs over finitely bounded homogeneous structures". In: *J. ACM* 71.5 (Oct. 2024). DOI: 10.1145/3689207.