

# 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  $d = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\mathbb{A}^d$  only has finitely many orbits;
- $\mathfrak{F}$ -oligomorphic if, for  $d = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\text{Lin}_{\mathfrak{F}} \mathbb{A}^d$  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

$$\begin{aligned}\#\mathbb{N}^d &= \sum_{k=0}^d \left\{ \begin{matrix} d \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} \\ \#\mathbb{Q}^d &= \sum_{k=0}^d \left\{ \begin{matrix} d \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} k! \\ \#\mathbb{G}^d &= \sum_{k=0}^d \left\{ \begin{matrix} d \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} 2^{\binom{k}{2}} \\ \#\mathbb{V}_{\infty}^d &= \sum_{k=0}^d \left[ \begin{matrix} d \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_2 \\ \#\mathbb{W}_{\infty}^d &= \sum_{k=0}^d \left[ \begin{matrix} d \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_2 2^{\binom{k}{2}}\end{aligned}$$

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  $\omega : \mathbb{W} \times \mathbb{W} \rightarrow \mathfrak{f}$  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  $e_1, \dots, e_n, f_1, \dots, f_n$ . Define  $\omega$  by bilinearly extending

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

one may straightforwardly check that  $\omega$  is alternating and non-degenerate. Moreover, noticing that  $\mathbb{W}_0 \subseteq \mathbb{W}_1 \subseteq \mathbb{W}_2 \subseteq \dots$ , 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  $e_1, \dots, e_n, f_1, \dots, f_n$  can be extended to a symplectic basis that spans the whole  $\mathbb{W}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $e_1, \dots, e_n, f_1, \dots, f_n$  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  $\omega$ , 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  $e_1, \dots, e_n, e_{n+1}, f_1, \dots, f_n, f_{n+1}$  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

$$\begin{aligned}e_1, \dots, e_n, e_{n+1}, \dots, e_{n+k}, \\ f_1, \dots, f_n\end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{W} &\rightarrow (\mathbb{W} \xrightarrow{\text{lin.}} \mathfrak{f}) \rightarrow (V \xrightarrow{\text{lin.}} \mathfrak{f}) \\ w &\mapsto \omega(-, w) \mapsto \omega(-, w)|_V. \end{aligned}$$

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  $f_{n+1}, \dots, f_{n+i}$  already. If  $e_{n+i+1}$  were to be spanned by

$$\begin{aligned} e_1, \dots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, \dots, e_{n+k}, \\ f_1, \dots, f_{n+i}, \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} e_{n+i+1} &\notin \langle e_1, \dots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, f_1, \dots, f_{n+i} \rangle \\ &= \langle e_1, \dots, e_{n+i}, e_{n+i+2}, f_1, \dots, f_{n+i} \rangle^\perp, \end{aligned}$$

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

Given two symplectic vector spaces  $\mathbb{W}$  and  $\mathbb{W}'$ , we call a function  $\alpha$  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  $\alpha : I \rightarrow J$  be a bijection. Then*

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

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

It then follows from Proposition II.3 that, up to isometric linear isomorphisms,  $\mathbb{W}_0, \mathbb{W}_1, \mathbb{W}_2, \dots, \mathbb{W}_\infty$  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  $\alpha : \langle X \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{W}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{W}_n$  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  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  for  $\langle X \rangle^\perp = \{w \in W \mid \forall x \in X : \omega(w, x) = 0\}$  and extend it to a basis  $x_1, \dots, x_k, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_d$  for  $\langle X \rangle$ . Notice that

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

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  $e_1, \dots, e_n, f_1, \dots, f_n$  for  $U$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} e_1, \dots, e_n, x_1, \dots, x_k, \\ f_1, \dots, f_n \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(e_1), \dots, \alpha(e_n), \alpha(x_1), \dots, \alpha(x_k), \\ \alpha(f_1), \dots, \alpha(f_n) \end{aligned}$$

form a basis for  $\alpha(\langle X \rangle)$  and also satisfy (§). Therefore apply Proposition II.4 twice to find the missing  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  and  $y'_1, \dots, y'_k$  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  $\beta : \mathbb{W}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{W}_n$  extending  $\alpha$ .

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

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

- pivot indices  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, d\}$  containing every  $i$  such that  $v_i$  is not spanned by  $v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}$  — so we inductively ensure that

$$\{v_{i'} \mid i' \in I, i' \leq i\}$$

is linearly independent;

- 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  $\Omega : \binom{I}{2} \rightarrow \mathfrak{f}$  defined by  $\Omega(\{i < j\}) = \omega(v_i, v_j)$ .

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

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

extends to an isometric linear injection

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

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

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

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

for  $i \in I$  and  $v_j = \sum_{\lambda, i} \Lambda_i \lambda v_i$  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  $0 \leq k \leq d$  and count the number of types with  $|I| = k$ . There are  $2^{\binom{k}{2}}$  choices for  $\Omega$  and say  $q_{d,k}$  choices for the  $\Lambda_j$ 's; the two can be chosen separately. In total, this gives

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

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

$$q_{0,0} = 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_q, \quad q_{1,0} = 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_q, \quad q_{1,1} = 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}_q.$$

Given a linear type in  $\mathbb{W}_\infty^d$  with  $|I| = k$ , we either have  $1 \in I$  or  $I \subseteq \{2, \dots, d\}$ . In the first case, the linear type restricts to one of the  $q_{d-1,k-1}$  linear types in  $\mathbb{W}_\infty^{d-1}$  and indicates 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  $q_{d-1,k}$  linear types in  $\mathbb{W}_\infty^{d-1}$ . Thus

$$q_{d,k} = q^{d-k} \cdot q_{d-1,k-1} + q_{d-1,k},$$

which yields  $q_{d,k} = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$  by induction.  $\square$

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

**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.** 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  $\omega$  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:

$$\begin{aligned} & \omega\left(f\left(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i\right) - \sum_i \lambda_i f(v_i), f(w)\right) \\ &= \omega\left(f\left(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i\right), f(w)\right) - \sum_i \lambda_i \omega(f(v_i), f(w)) \\ &= \omega\left(\sum_i \lambda_i v_i, w\right) - \sum_i \lambda_i \omega(v_i, w) \\ &= \omega(0, w) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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

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 finite for all finite  $d$  by Proposition II.7.

**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  $\langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle \subseteq \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$ .

So suppose  $n \geq 1$  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  $f : G_{s,t} \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_{n-1}$  exists. Define  $f' : G \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathbb{W}}_n$  by

$$\begin{aligned} x \in G_{s,t} &\mapsto f(x) - \llbracket x \sim s \rrbracket f_n + \llbracket x \sim t \rrbracket e_n \\ s &\mapsto e_n \\ t &\mapsto f_n \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(f'(x_1), f'(x_2)) &= \llbracket x_1 \sim x_2 \rrbracket + \llbracket x_1 \sim s \rrbracket \llbracket x_2 \sim t \rrbracket \\ &\quad + \llbracket x_1 \sim t \rrbracket \llbracket x_2 \sim s \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

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

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

**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”

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hrushovski  
Evans

## 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.