

# **CS 228 : Logic in Computer Science**

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# Implications of the Game on FO definability

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## FO Definability

$L$  is FO definable  $\Rightarrow$  there exists an  $r$  such that for every  $(w_1, w_2)$  pair, such that  $w_1 \in L$ ,  $w_2 \notin L$ , spoiler wins in  $r$  rounds

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## Non FO Definability

For all  $r \geq 0$ , there exists a  $(w_1, w_2)$  pair with  $w_1 \notin L$ ,  $w_2 \in L$ , duplicator wins in  $r$  rounds  $\Rightarrow L$  is not FO definable

# Non $FO[<]$ definability

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- ▶  $FO[<, S] \subseteq FO[<]$
- ▶ Non definability in  $FO[<]$  implies non definability in  $FO[S, <]$

# $(aa)^*$ is not $FO[<]$ Definable

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- ▶ Assume that there is a sentence  $\varphi$  that defines words of even length, with  $c(\varphi) = r$ .
- ▶ Then,  $a^i \models \varphi$  iff  $i$  is even
- ▶ Show that for all  $r > 0$ ,  $a^{2^r} \sim_r a^{2^r-1}$

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- ▶ Base case :  $(a, \emptyset)(a, \emptyset)$  and  $(a, \emptyset)$  for  $r = 1$
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- ▶ In one round, duplicator wins on  $(a, \emptyset)(a, \emptyset)$  and  $(a, \emptyset)$
- ▶ Consider  $(aaaa, aaa)$  for  $r = 3$ . Who wins?
- ▶ Consider  $(aaaa, aaa)$  for  $r = 2$ . Who wins?

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- ▶ Show that for all  $k \geq 2^r - 1$ , duplicator has a winning strategy for the  $r$ -round game in  $(a^k, a^{k+1})$ , for all  $r \geq 0$
- ▶ Induct on  $r$
- ▶ If  $r = 1$ , then on  $(a, aa)$  duplicator wins in one round
- ▶ Assume now that the claim is true for  $\leq r - 1$



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- ▶ Let  $k \geq 2^r - 1$ , and consider the structures

$$(a^k, a^{k+1})$$

- ▶ Spoiler puts pebble  $z_1$  in one of the words obtaining

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- ▶  $s \leq \frac{k-1}{2}$  or  $t \leq \frac{k-1}{2}$

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- ▶ Assume  $s \leq \frac{k-1}{2}$ . Duplicator puts her pebble  $z_1$  on the  $(s+1)$ th letter of the other word obtaining

$$(a, \emptyset)^s(a, \{z_1\})(a, \emptyset)^{t'}$$

where  $t' = t + 1$  or  $t' = t - 1$ .

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- ▶ The structures after round 1 are thus

$$(a, \emptyset)^s(a, \{z_1\})(a, \emptyset)^t, (a, \emptyset)^s(a, \{z_1\})(a, \emptyset)^{t'}$$

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- ▶ We have  $2^r - 1 \leq k = \min(t, t') + s + 1 \leq \min(t, t') + \frac{k-1}{2} + 1$

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- ▶ The structures after round 1 are thus

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- ▶ We have  $2^r - 1 \leq k = \min(t, t') + s + 1 \leq \min(t, t') + \frac{k-1}{2} + 1$
- ▶ Hence  $\min(t, t') \geq \frac{k-1}{2} \geq 2^{r-1} - 1$
- ▶ By inductive hypothesis, duplicator has a winning strategy for the  $r-1$  round game on  $(a^t, a^{t'})$ .

# Duplicator's Win

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- ▶ Use the duplicator's winning strategy for the  $r - 1$  round game on  $(a^t, a^{t'})$ , to obtain a winning strategy in  $r - 1$  rounds on

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- ▶ Whenever spoiler plays on a structure on letter  $i \leq s + 1$ , duplicator plays on the same position on the other structure
- ▶ When spoiler plays at a position  $i > s + 1$  in either word, duplicator plays in the part of the other word  $> s + 1$  using her winning strategy in  $(a^t, a^{t'})$

# Duplicator's Win

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- ▶ At the end of  $r$  rounds, we have structures  $w'_1, w'_2$ .
- ▶ For  $i \leq s + 1$ , pebble  $z_j$  appears at position  $i$  of  $w'_1$  iff pebble  $z_j$  appears at position  $i$  of  $w'_2$
- ▶ Let's erase the first  $s + 1$  letters in  $w'_1, w'_2$ , obtaining  $v'_1, v'_2$
- ▶  $v'_1, v'_2$  are the words that result after  $r' \leq r - 1$  rounds of play on  $(a^t, a^{t'})$ . Recall that duplicator won this.
- ▶ Show that  $w'_1, w'_2$  satisfy the same atomic formulae

# Duplicator's Win

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- ▶ Atomic Formulae :  $Q_a(z_j)$  : Both  $w'_1, w'_2$  satisfy this.
- ▶  $w'_1 \models z_i < z_j$ . If  $z_i, z_j$  are in the first  $s + 1$  letters, then  $w'_2 \models z_i < z_j$ .
- ▶ If  $z_i, z_j$  occur in the last  $|w'_1| - s - 1$  positions, then  $v'_1 \models z_i < z_j$ .  
By duplicator's win in  $(a^t, a^{t'})$ ,  $v'_2 \models z_i < z_j$
- ▶ If  $z_i$  appears among the first  $s + 1$  letters and  $z_j$  after the first  $s + 1$  letters of  $w'_1$ , same is true in  $w'_2$ .

# Historically Speaking

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The games that we saw are due to Ehrenfeucht and Fraïssé

Reference: Finite Automata, Formal Logic and Circuit Complexity, by Howard Straubing.