

Relational Colour Refinement for Non-Relational Signatures

Theodor Jurij Tesla

September 5, 2025

RWTH Aachen University

- Colour Refinement is an important and interesting algorithm
- It is applied in modern isomorphism solvers
- It can be characterised logically and combinatorially
- Extension to more than graphs seems desirable
- Recently, Scheidt and Schweikardt [bibliography](#) introduced Relational Colour Refinement
- Conceptually similar to classical Colour Refinement
- Also has a logical and a combinatorial characterisation

Contents of this presentation

1. Classical Colour Refinement
2. Relational Colour Refinement
3. Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions
4. Restricting RCR to Subclasses of Relational Structures
5. Conclusion

Classical Colour Refinement

Colour Refinement

- Also called CR or 1-dimensional Weisfeiler-Leman algorithm
- Iterative graph algorithm
- Constructs colour for every vertex, based on colours of neighbours

Definition (Colour Refinement)

For graph $G = (V, E)$, for every $v \in V$ and $i \in \mathbb{N}$:

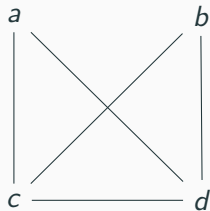
$$C_0(v) := 0$$

and

$$C_{i+1}(v) := (C_i(v), \{C_i(u) : \{v, u\} \in E\}).$$

Example for CR

G :

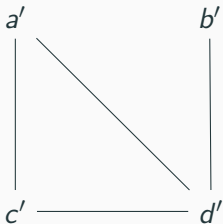


- $C_0(a) = C_0(b) = C_0(c) = C_0(d) = 0$
- $C_1(a) = (C_0(a), \{0, 0\}) = C_1(b)$
- $C_1(c) = (C_0(c), \{0, 0, 0\}) = C_1(d)$
- $C_2(a) = (C_1(a), \{C_1(c), C_1(c)\}) = C_2(b)$
- $C_2(c) = (C_1(c), \{C_1(a), C_1(a), C_1(c)\}) = C_2(d)$

Distinguished graphs

- CR distinguishes two graphs G and H , if
- there exists $C_i(v)$ in colouring of G or H , such that number of vertices with colour $C_i(v)$ is different in G than in H

H :



- Colours in first round equal
- $C_1(b') = (C_0(b'), \{C_0(d')\}) = (0, \{0\})$ does not appear in G

\Rightarrow Colour Refinement distinguishes G and H .

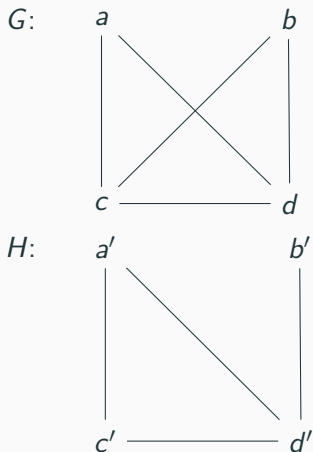
Characterisations of CR

- There are equivalent characterisations for CR
- Due to **bibliography**:
CR distinguishes G and H if, and only if, there exists $\varphi \in C_2$, such that $G \models \varphi$ and $H \not\models \varphi$
- Due to **bibliography**:
CR distinguishes G and H if, and only if, there exists tree T , such that $\text{hom}(T, G) \neq \text{hom}(T, H)$

Examples for G and H :

- $\varphi := \exists^{\geq 1}x. \neg \exists^{\geq 2}y. E(x, y)$
- $T := (\{v, u\}, \{\{v, u\}\})$

Application of Characterisations to Example



- Used existence of colour $(0, \{0\})$ in colouring of H to distinguish G and H
- From colour it follows that vertex with degree 1 exists
- $\exists^{\geq 1} x . \neg \exists^{\geq 2} y . E(x, y)$ distinguishes G and H
- There are 5 edges in G but only 4 in H
- Tree $T := (\{v, u\}, \{\{v, u\}\})$ has 10 homomorphisms to G and 8 to H

Relational Colour Refinement

Relational Colour Refinement

- Called RCR for short
- Introduced by Scheidt and Schweikardt [bibliography](#)
- Applies variant of classical Colour Refinement on tuples of structure
- Uses atomic type (set of relations that contain tuple) as part of initial colouring
- Uses pairs of indices as edges to define shared elements of tuples
- Formally:

$$\text{atp}(\mathbf{a}) = \{R \in \sigma : \mathbf{a} \in R\}$$

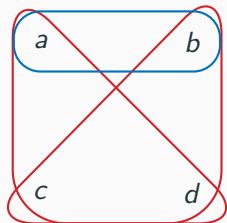
and

$$\text{stp}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \{(i, j) \in [n] \times [m] : a_i = b_j\}$$

The Algorithm

- For relational structure \mathfrak{A} and all tuples $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{A}$:
- Initial colour: $\varrho_0(\mathbf{a}) = (\text{atp}(\mathbf{a}), \text{stp}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}))$
- For the next rounds: $\varrho_{i+1}(\mathbf{a}) = (\varrho_i(\mathbf{a}), \{(\text{stp}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}), \varrho_i(\mathbf{b})) : \text{stp}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \neq \emptyset\})$

An Example for RCR



- Structure $\mathfrak{A} = (A, R^{\mathfrak{A}}, T^{\mathfrak{A}})$
- $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$, $R^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{(a, b)\}$, $T^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{(a, c, d), (b, c, d)\}$

- $\varrho_0((a, b)) = (\{R\}, \{(1, 1), (2, 2)\})$ and
 $\varrho_0((a, c, d)) = \varrho_0((b, c, d)) = (\{T\}, \{(1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3)\})$

•

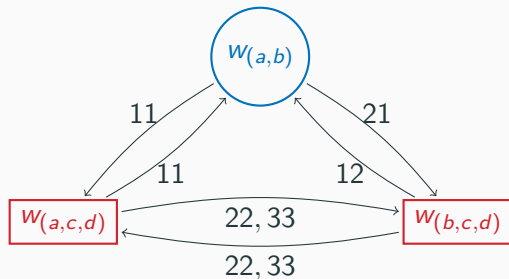
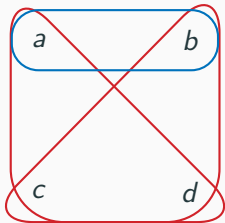
$$\varrho_1((a, c, d)) = (\varrho_0((a, c, d)), \{\{((1, 1)), \varrho_0((a, b))\}, \dots\})$$

and

$$\varrho_1((b, c, d)) = (\varrho_0((b, c, d)), \{\{((1, 2)), \varrho_0((a, b))\}, \dots\})$$

Equivalent formulation of RCR

- RCR can be equivalently defined as colour refinement on coloured multigraphs (graph with vertex and edge colouring)
- Create vertex for every tuple
- Colour vertices using atomic type
- Define edge relation for every pair of indices
 - Connect vertices if elements of index-pair are the same

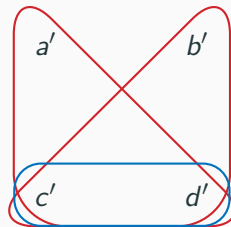
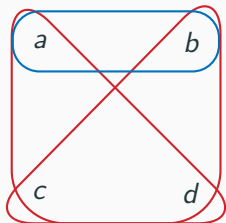


Colour Refinement for Coloured Multigraphs

- Simple variant of classical CR
- Use vertex colouring in initial colour
- Instead of only considering colours of neighbours, consider the colour together with the colours of edges connecting them
- This on encoding of relational structure is equivalent to RCR

Distinguishing Relational Structures with RCR

- RCR distinguishes, if some colour appears differently often in the structures



- $\gamma_1((a, c, d)) = ((\{T\}, \{\dots\}), \{(\{1, 1\}, (\{R\}, \{\dots\})), \dots\})$ appears in colouring of left structure but not in right
 - There is no triple in T where its first element is in a tuple in R

Relational Colour Refinement

Logical Characterisation of RCR

Guarded Fragment of Counting Logic

- We have seen how C_2 characterises CR on graphs
- Analogously: Guarded fragment of counting logic $GF(C)$ characterises RCR
- Guarded fragment drops bound on number of variables, but introduces restriction that quantifiers need to be relativised by atomic formula

Guarded Fragment of Counting Logic

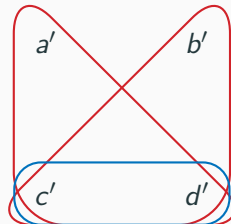
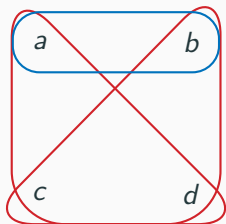
- Everything except for quantifiers defined as in classical counting logic
 - For atomic formula $\Delta \in GF(C)$ and formula $\varphi \in GF(C)$, we call Δ a guard for φ , if $\text{free}(\Delta) \supseteq \text{free}(\varphi)$
 - Quantifiers appear only in form $\exists^{\geq i} \mathbf{v}.(\Delta \wedge \varphi)$, where Δ is guard for φ and $\text{set}(\mathbf{v}) \subseteq \text{free}(\Delta)$
-
- Examples: $\exists^{\geq 2}(x, y). E(x, y) \wedge T(y) \in GF(C)$, but $\exists^{\geq 3}(x, y, z). E(x, y) \wedge E(y, z) \wedge E(z, x) \notin GF(C)$

Theorem B from bibliography

Let \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} be two relational structures. Then the two following statements are equivalent.

1. RCR distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}
2. There exists a sentence in $\text{GF}(C)$ that is satisfied by \mathfrak{A} , but not by \mathfrak{B}

Example for Logical Characterisation of RCR



- We used existence of $\gamma_1((a, c, d)) = ((\{T\}, \{\dots\}), \{(\{1, 1\}, (\{R\}, \{\dots\})), \dots\})$ in left structure to distinguish them
- Formula $\exists^{\geq 1}(x, y, z). (T(x, y, z) \wedge \exists^{\geq 1}(y). (R(x, y)))$ satisfied by left and not by right structure

Relational Colour Refinement

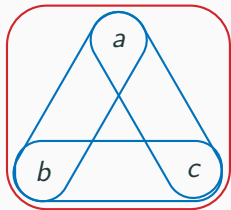
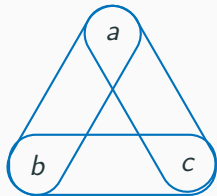
Combinatorial Characterisation of RCR

- Counting homomorphisms from trees characterises CR on graphs
- Abstraction from trees to relational structures is needed: α -acyclic structures (in the following only acyclic structures)

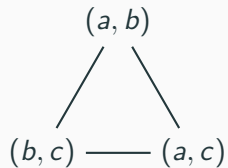
Acyclic Structures

- Let \mathcal{C} be relational structure
- Join tree J for \mathcal{C} is tree with $V(J) = \mathbf{C}$ and fulfils join-tree-property:
 - For every $v \in C$, the set $\{\mathbf{x} \in V(J) : v \in \mathbf{x}\}$ induces a connected subtree
- We call \mathcal{C} acyclic, if it has a join tree

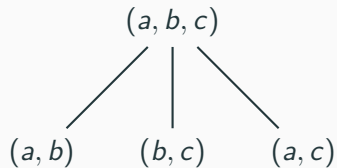
Examples for Acyclic Structures



No:



Yes:

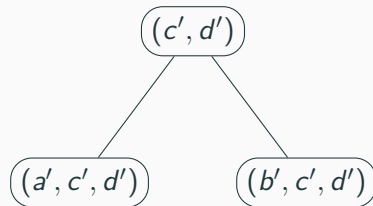
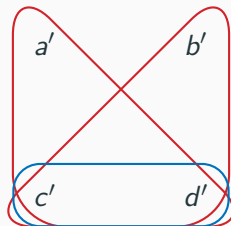
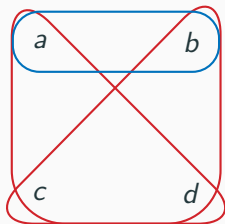


Theorem A from bibliography

Let \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} be relational structures. Then the two following statements are equivalent.

1. RCR distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}
2. There exists an acyclic relational structure \mathfrak{C} , such that it has a different number of homomorphisms to \mathfrak{A} than to \mathfrak{B}

Example for Combinatorial Characterisation of RCR



- Right tree is join tree for middle structure, therefore middle structure is acyclic
- Identity is homomorphism, so middle structure has at least one homomorphism to itself
- Middle structure has no homomorphisms to left structure

Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions

Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions

- Many interesting structures use functions
- Colour Refinement algorithm for such structures seems desirable
- Will use the results of Scheidt and Schweikardt [bibliography](#) and investigate how robust they are
- Following structure:
 1. Presentation of two approaches for Colour Refinement for non-relational signatures
 2. Logical characterisation of both approaches
 3. Discussion on combinatorial characterisation

- Goal: Encode non-relational structures and signatures as relational ones
- Functions can directly be interpreted as relations:

$$(\mathbf{x}y) \in R_f \iff f(\mathbf{x}) = y$$

- For non-relational signature σ define relational signature σ' :
 - Relation symbol $R \in \sigma$ of arity $n \rightarrow$ introduce $R \in \sigma'$ of arity n
 - Function symbol $f \in \sigma$ of arity $n \rightarrow$ introduce $R_f \in \sigma'$ of arity $n + 1$
- Encode σ -structure \mathfrak{A} as σ' -structure \mathfrak{A}' :
 - For relation symbol $R \in \sigma$: $R^{\mathfrak{A}'} := R^{\mathfrak{A}}$
 - For function symbol $f \in \sigma$: $R_f^{\mathfrak{A}'} := \{(\mathbf{x}y) : f^{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathbf{x}) = y\}$

Idea of the Transitive Expansion

- Approach is only defined for unary function symbols
- Encoding emulates the nesting of function applications
- Encode function f as family of relations R_{f^1}, R_{f^2}, \dots , where $(x, y) \in R_{f^i}$, if $f^i(x) = y$
- For multiple functions, also encode alternations, for example R_{fg} or $R_{g^2f^3}$

Alternations of Function Applications

- Let σ be signature with unary function symbols
- Define set of all allowed function application alternations Alters_n^k as $\text{Alters}_n^0(\sigma) = \{\text{id}\}$ and

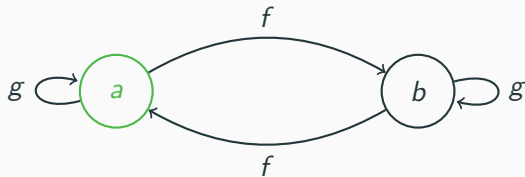
$$\begin{aligned}\text{Alters}_n^k(\sigma) := \text{Alters}_n^{k-1}(\sigma) \cup \{ & f_1^{m_1} f_2^{m_2} \dots f_k^{m_k} : f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k \in \sigma_{\text{Func}} \\ & \wedge \forall i \in [k]. m_i \in [n] \\ & \wedge \forall i \in [k-1]. f_i \neq f_{i+1}\}.\end{aligned}$$

- Example:
 - $\sigma = \{R/1, f/1, g/1\}$
 - $\text{Alters}_2^1(\sigma) = \{\text{id}, f, f^2, g, g^2\}$

Transitive Expansion

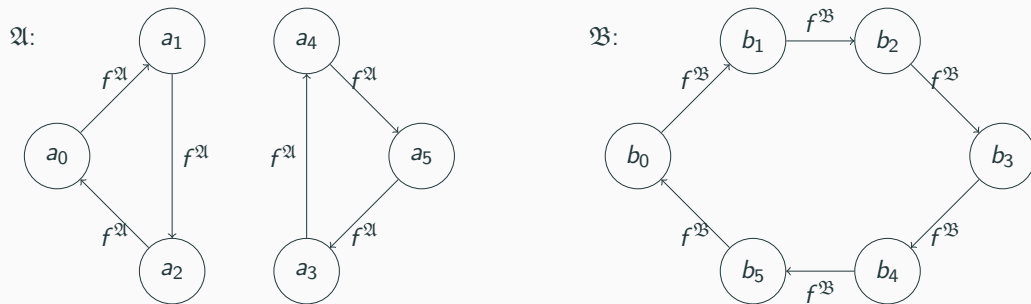
- For alternation depth k and σ -structure \mathfrak{A} with $|\mathfrak{A}| = n$ define transitive expansion $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}$ as a $\tilde{\sigma}$ -structure
- For $\alpha, \beta, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\ell \in \text{Alters}_n^k(\sigma)$ and relation symbol $R \in \sigma$ of arity ℓ , insert relation symbol $\text{Eq}_{\alpha, \beta}$ of arity 2 and relation symbol $R_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\ell}$ of arity ℓ to $\tilde{\sigma}$
- Define $\text{Eq}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}} := \{(x, y) : \alpha^{\mathfrak{A}}(x) = \beta^{\mathfrak{A}}(y)\}$ and $R_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\ell}^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}} := \{(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) : (\alpha_1^{\mathfrak{A}}(x_1), \dots, \alpha_\ell^{\mathfrak{A}}(x_\ell)) \in R^{\mathfrak{A}}\}$
- For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we say that RCR_k distinguishes structures \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} , if RCR distinguishes the transitive expansions with alternation depth k

Example for the Transitive Expansion



- Structure $\mathfrak{A} = (A, \mathbf{R}^{\mathfrak{A}}, f^{\mathfrak{A}}, g^{\mathfrak{A}})$
- $k = 1$ and $n = 2$: $\text{Alters}_2^1(\sigma) = \{\text{id}, f, f^2, g, g^2\}$
- $\tilde{\sigma} = \{R_{\text{id}}, R_f, R_{f^2}, R_g, R_{g^2}, \text{Eq}_{\text{id}, \text{id}}, \text{Eq}_{\text{id}, f}, \text{Eq}_{\text{id}, f^2}, \dots, \text{Eq}_{g^2, g^2}\}$
- Examples:
 - $R_f^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}} = \{b\}$
 - $\text{Eq}_{f^2, \text{id}}^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}} = \{(a, a), (b, b)\}$
 - $\text{Eq}_{g, f}^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}} = \{(a, b), (b, a)\}$

Naive Encoding versus Transitive Expansion



- Cannot be distinguished by naive RCR: Encodings result in regular graphs
- But: Distinguished by Transitive Expansion Encoding
 - We find that $\text{Eq}_{f^1, \text{id}}^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}} = \text{Eq}_{f^4, \text{id}}^{\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}}$, not for $\tilde{\mathfrak{B}}$
 - Sentence $\exists^{\geq 6}(x, y) \cdot (\text{Eq}_{f^1, \text{id}}(x, y) \wedge \text{Eq}_{f^4, \text{id}}(x, y)) \in \text{GF}(\mathbb{C})$ distinguishes encodings

Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions

Logical Characterisation of Naive RCR

Nesting-Free Guarded Fragment of Counting Logic

nfGF(C)

- Extends given definition of GF(C) for non-relational signatures
- Allow atomics of the following forms
 - For relation symbol R of arity ℓ and variables x_1, \dots, x_ℓ : $R(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \in \text{nfGF}(C)$
 - For variables x and y : $x = y \in \text{nfGF}(C)$
 - For function symbol f of arity ℓ and variables x_1, \dots, x_ℓ, y :
 $f(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) = y \in \text{nfGF}(C)$
- Forbid nesting of terms, for example $f(g(x), y) = z$
- Informally: Usage of function symbols like relation symbols

Characterising Naive RCR Logically

Logical Characterisation of Naive RCR

Let \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} be structures. Then the two following statements are equivalent.

1. Naive RCR distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}
2. There exists a sentence $\varphi \in \text{nfGF}(\mathcal{C})$ which is fulfilled by \mathfrak{A} , but not by \mathfrak{B}

Proof idea:

- Naive RCR distinguishes structures iff. RCR distinguishes encodings iff. there exists a sentence in $\text{GF}(\mathcal{C})$ that distinguishes the encodings
- Define translation of sentences in $\text{GF}(\mathcal{C})$ over signature σ' to and from sentences in $\text{nfGF}(\mathcal{C})$ over signature σ
 - $R_f(xy) \leftrightarrow f(\mathbf{x}) = y$

Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions

Logical Characterisation of RCR_k

GF(C) with alternation depth k

GF(C) $_k$

- Fixate $k \in \mathbb{N}$
 - Natural extension of GF(C) to non-relational signatures w.r.t. allowed atomic formulae with one restriction
 - For every formula in GF(C) $_k$ and every term t that appears in it, there must exist a $n \in \mathbb{N}$, such that $t = \alpha$ for a $\alpha \in \text{Alters}_n^k(\sigma)$
-
- Restrict number of alternations of function applications to k
 - No restriction of number of application of same function in series
 - Examples:
 - $\exists^{\geq 1}(x, y).(f^2(g(h^3(x)))) = y \wedge T(y) \notin \text{GF(C)}_2$, but in GF(C) $_3$
 - $\exists^{\geq 1}(x, y).(f^i(x) = y \wedge T(y)) \in \text{GF(C)}_1$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$

Hinges on three lemmas:

1. Formulae $f^m(x) = y \in \text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_1$ can be translated to formula in $\text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_1$ that is equivalent for structures with n elements and only f^i with $i \leq n$ appears
2. Formulae $g^m(s(x)) = y \in \text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_d$ can be translated to formula in $\text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_d$ that is equivalent for structure with n elements and only f^i with $i \leq n$ appears
3. Formulae $R(t_1(x_1), \dots, t_\ell(x_\ell)) \in \text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_d$ can be translated to formula in $\text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_d$ that is equivalent for structure with n elements and only f^i with $i \leq n$ appears

Logical Characterisation of RCR_k

Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and let \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} be two structures. Then the two following statements are equivalent.

1. RCR_k distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}
2. There exists a sentence in $\text{GF}(\text{C})_k$ that is fulfilled by \mathfrak{A} , but not by \mathfrak{B}

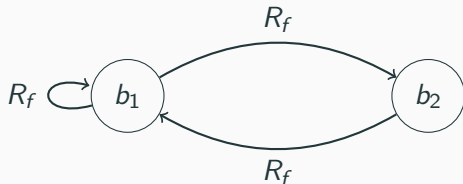
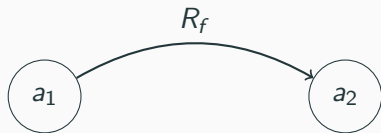
Proof idea

- 1. to 2.: Like, before sentence in $\text{GF}(\mathcal{C})$ over signature $\tilde{\sigma}$ can easily be translated into sentence in $\text{GF}(\mathcal{C})_k$ over signature σ
- 2. to 1.:
 - Replace atomic subformulae by translations from lemmas
 - Rearrange resulting formula to get valid $\text{GF}(\mathcal{C})_k$ -sentence
 - Results in equivalent formula for structure with $n = |\mathfrak{A}|$ elements and for every term t there exists an $\alpha \in \text{Alters}_n^k(\sigma)$, such that $t = \alpha$
 - Can easily be translated into sentence in $\text{GF}(\mathcal{C})$ of signature $\tilde{\sigma}$

Combinatorial Characterisation of RCR

Total and Functional Structures

- Let σ be a signature and \mathfrak{A} a σ -structure and σ' and \mathfrak{A}' the respective naive encodings
- We call \mathfrak{A} total if for every n -ary function symbol $f \in \sigma$ and every n -tuple \mathbf{x} there is a y , such that $(\mathbf{x}y) \in R_f^{\mathfrak{A}'}$
- We call \mathfrak{A} function if for every n -ary function symbol f there are no two $n + 1$ -tuples $(\mathbf{x}y), (\mathbf{x}z) \in R_f^{\mathfrak{A}'}$



Non-Relational Acyclic Structures

- If we want to count homomorphisms to non-relational structures we need to determine what a non-relational, acyclic structure would look like
- Will define acyclicity w.r.t. the naive encoding

Non-Relational Acyclic Structures

- Let \mathfrak{A} be a non-relational structure
- We call \mathfrak{A} acyclic, if its naive encoding \mathfrak{A}' is acyclic

Total and Functional Structures as Encodings

- Desired equivalence:

Non-relational, acyclic structure distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} by homomorphism count
iff.?

Naive RCR distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}

- Result: Forward direction holds, backwards does not
- First step: Reformulate first statement:

Non-relational, acyclic structure distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} by homomorphism count
iff.

Some total, functional and acyclic structure distinguishes encodings \mathfrak{A}' and \mathfrak{B}' by
homomorphism count

Enforcing Functionality

- We can show:

Acyclic σ' -structure dist. \mathfrak{A}' and \mathfrak{B}' by hom. count
iff.

Functional and acyclic σ' -structure dist. \mathfrak{A}' and \mathfrak{B}' by hom. count

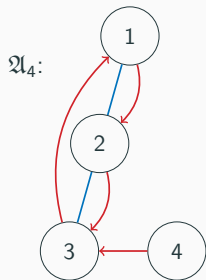
Proof idea:

- Backwards direction is obvious
- Forwards direction eliminates collisions of the form $(\mathbf{x}y), (\mathbf{x}z) \in R_f$ by contracting y and z
- This can be done while maintaining the homomorphisms and acyclicity and can be repeated until no collisions remain

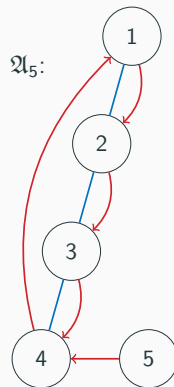
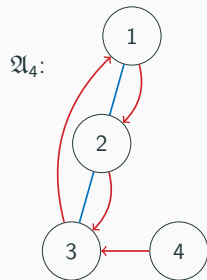
Non-Enforceability of Totality

- There are structures that are distinguished by naive RCR, but there is no acyclic and total structure that distinguishes the encodings by homomorphism count
- Two families of structures $(\mathfrak{A}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 4}}$ and $(\mathfrak{B}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 4}}$
- For all $i \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 4}$: Naive RCR distinguishes \mathfrak{A}_i and \mathfrak{B}_i , but no acyclic and total structure can distinguish the encodings by hom. count

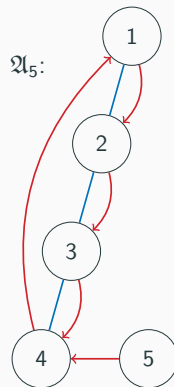
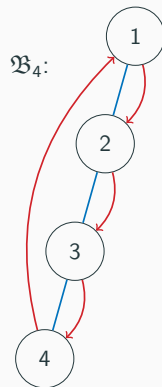
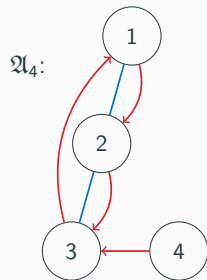
Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures i



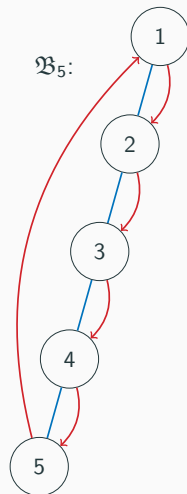
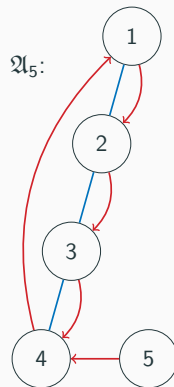
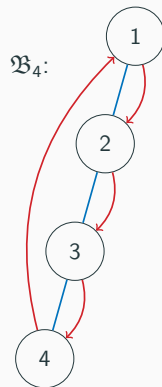
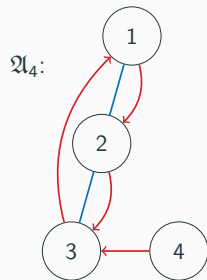
Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures i



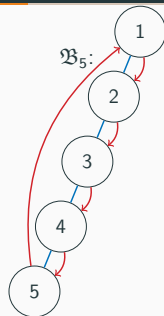
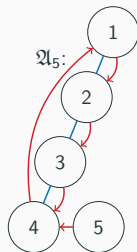
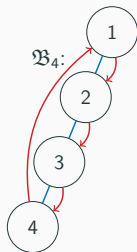
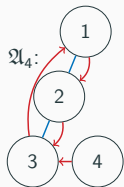
Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures i



Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures i



Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures ii



- Obviously distinguished by naive RCR
- If structure has R_f -loops or R_f -2-cycles, then no homomorphisms to either structure
- Because total, it has to contain larger R_f -cycles, but then cannot be acyclic

Results of combinatorial characterisation of naive RCR

We have the following results:

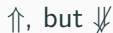
Naive RCR distinguishes \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}



There exists acyclic structure that dist. encodings \mathfrak{A}' and \mathfrak{B}' by hom. count



There exists acyclic and functional structure that dist. encodings by hom. count



There exists acyclic, total and functional structure that dist. encodings by hom. count



There exists acyclic, non-relational structure that dist. \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} by hom. count

Restricting RCR to Symmetric Structures

Restricting the Class of Structures

- For what subclass \mathcal{S} of relational structures do we have the following equivalence:

Two structures from \mathcal{S} get distinguished by RCR
iff.

There exists an acyclic structure from \mathcal{S} that dist. the structures by hom. count

- Does not hold for class of total structures
 - Encodings of classes of structures from before are total, but not total and acyclic structure dist. them by hom. count
- Another class to investigate: Class of symmetric structures

Restriction to Symmetric Structures

- Relational Structure is symmetric, if for every k -ary relation R and for every k -tuple $\mathbf{x} \in R$, every permutation of the elements in \mathbf{x} is also in R
- For two symmetric structures we can show

Acyclic structure dist. the structures by hom. count
iff.

Acyclic, symmetric structure dist. the structure by hom. count

- From this, restriction to symmetric structures is possible

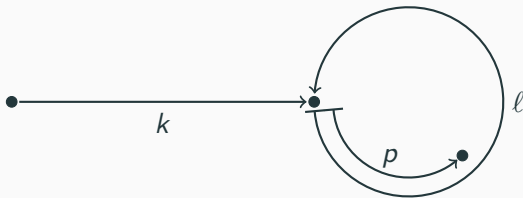
Sketch of a Proof

Statement of the Lemma

- First lemma for logical characterisation of transitive expansion
- A formula ψ of the form $f^m(x_1) = x_2 \in \text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_1$ can be translated to a formula $\vartheta(x_1, x_2) \in \text{GF}(\mathbb{C})_1$, such that:
 1. They are equivalent for structures with n elements
 2. There does not appear a term f^i with $i > n$ in ϑ
 3. ϑ is of the form $\bigvee \Phi$ and if ϑ is fulfilled, then there exists exactly one $\varphi \in \Phi$ which is satisfied

Proof Idea

- For $f^0(x), f^1(x), \dots, f^m(x)$, if $m > n$, there have to be $i, j \leq n$ such that $f^i(x) = f^j(x)$
- We get path to a cycle, a cycle and a last part of it
- Define set $\mathcal{I}(n, m)$ as set of all such decomposition (k, ℓ, p)



Sketch of the Proof i

- Define $\vartheta(x_1, x_2) := \bigvee_{(k,\ell,p) \in \mathcal{I}(n,m)} \zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}(x_1, x_2)$ where

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}(x_1, x_2) &:= f^{k+p}(x_1) = x_2 \wedge f^k(x_1) = f^{k+\ell}(x_1) \\ &\quad \wedge E_f^{k,\ell}(x_1) \\ &\quad \wedge \bigwedge_{0 < \ell' < \ell} f^k(x_1) \neq f^{k+\ell'}(x_1)\end{aligned}$$

and

$$E_f^{k,\ell}(t(x_1)) := \begin{cases} \top & \text{if } k = 0 \\ f^{k-1}(t(x_1)) \neq f^{k-1+\ell}(t(x_1)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Sketch of the Proof ii

- $f^{k+p}(x_1) = x_2 \wedge f^k(x_1) = f^{k+\ell}(x_1)$ ensures that (k, ℓ, p) decomposes the path into a path to a cycle and the cycle itself
- $E_f^{k,\ell}(x_1) \wedge \bigwedge_{0 < \ell' < \ell} f^k(x_1) \neq f^{k+\ell'}(x_1)$ ensures that only the lexicographically smallest decomposition is satisfied
- If ψ is satisfied, a smallest decomposition (k, ℓ, p) exists that describes the path of f
- Then it can be shown that $\zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}$ is satisfied, and because only the lexicographically smallest (k, ℓ, p) is satisfied, it is the only one

- If ϑ is satisfied, some $\zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}$ is satisfied
- This means that (k,ℓ,p) describes the path of f , therefore ψ is also satisfied

Conclusion

Conclusion

- We presented classical CR and Scheidt's and Scheikardt's RCR algorithm
- We defined two possible ways to apply their algorithm to non-relational signatures
 - Naive RCR
 - RCR_k
- We showed our results for the logical characterisations
 - Naive RCR gets characterised by the nesting free fragment of counting logic
 - RCR_k gets characterised by the natural extension of $\text{GF}(\text{C})$ to non-relational signatures where terms have a maximal alternation depth of k
- We disproved the characterisation by homomorphism counting
 - Functionality can be enforced
 - Totality cannot
- We showed results for the restriction to two subclasses of the relational structures
 - The restriction to total structures does not preserve the characterisation by hom. counting
 - The restriction to symmetric structures does preserve it

Equality between terms t and alternations α

- For a term t and a $\alpha \in \text{Alters}_n^k(\sigma)$ we say $t = \alpha$, if:
- If $t = f^i(x)$, the i -times application of one function symbol f , and $\alpha = f^i$
- If $t = f^i(g^j(s(x)))$, where f and g are function symbols and s is a term, and $\alpha = f^i\alpha'$ and $s = \alpha'$
- Informally, if t is written using \circ , i.e. $f^i \circ g^j(x)$ instead of $f^i(g^j(x))$, the \circ are omitted and then this equals α