# Relational Colour Refinement for Non-Relational Signatures

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#### Introduction

- Colour Refinement is an important and interesting algorithm
- Applied in modern isomorphism solvers
- Can be characterised logically and combinatorially
- Extension to more than graphs seems desirable
- 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. RCR on Subclasses of Relational Structures
- 5. Sketch of a Proof
- 6. 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)**

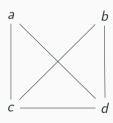
For graph G = (V, E), for every  $v \in V$  and  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ :

- Initial colour:  $C_0(v) := 0$
- Next rounds:

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

## **Example for CR**

#### G:



• 
$$C_0(a) = C_0(b) = C_0(c) = C_0(d) = 0$$

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

## Distinguished graphs

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

## Distinguished graphs

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*H*:

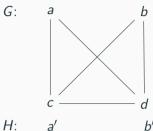


- Colours in first round equal
- $C_1(b') = (0, \{0\})$  does not appear in G
- $\Rightarrow$  Colour Refinement distinguishes G and H

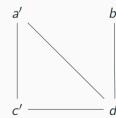
#### Characterisations of CR

- There are equivalent characterisations for CR
- Due to bibliography:
   CR distinguishes G and H if, and only if, there exists φ ∈ C<sub>2</sub>, such that G ⊨ φ and H ⊭ φ
- Due to bibliography:
   CR distinguishes G and H if, and only if, there exists tree T, such that hom(T, G) ≠ hom(T, H)

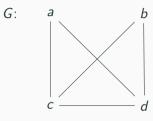
## Application of Characterisations to Example



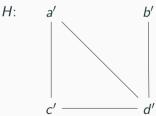
- Used existence of colour  $(0, \{0\})$  in colouring of H to distinguish G and H
- From colour it follows that vertex with degree 1 exists
- $\exists^{\geq 1} x . \exists^{=1} y . E(x, y)$  distinguishes G and H



## Application of Characterisations to Example



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- There are 5 edges in G but only 4 in H
- Tree  $T \coloneqq (\{v, u\}, \{\{v, u\}\})$  has 10 homomorphisms to G and 8 to H

## **Relational Colour Refinement**

#### Relational Colour Refinement

- Called RCR for short
- Applies variant of classical Colour Refinement on tuples of structure
- Uses atomic type as part of initial colouring
- Uses pairs of indices as edges to mark shared elements of tuples
- Formally:

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

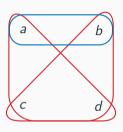
and

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

## The Algorithm

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

## An Example for RCR

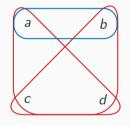


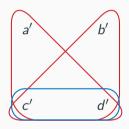
- Structure  $\mathfrak{A} = (A, R^{\mathfrak{A}}, T^{\mathfrak{A}})$
- $A = \{a, b, c, d\}, R^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{(a, b)\}, T^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{(a, c, d), (b, c, d)\}$

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

## Distinguishing Relational Structures with RCR

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





•  $\varrho_1((a,c,d))$  appears in colouring of left structure but not in right

# Relational Colour Refinement

**Logical Characterisation of RCR** 

# **Guarded Fragment of Counting Logic**

- C<sub>2</sub> characterises CR on graphs
- Guarded fragment of counting logic GF(C) characterises RCR

#### **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  $\Delta$  a guard for  $\varphi$ , if  $free(\Delta) \supseteq free(\varphi)$
- Quantifiers appear only in form  $\exists^{\geq i} \mathbf{v} . (\Delta \wedge \varphi)$ , where  $\Delta$  is guard for  $\varphi$  and  $\mathsf{set}(\mathbf{v}) \subseteq \mathsf{free}(\Delta)$
- Examples:
  - $\exists \geq 2(x,y).(E(x,y) \land T(y)) \in GF(C)$
  - $\exists \geq 3(x, y, z) . (E(x, y) \land E(y, z) \land E(z, x)) \notin GF(C)$

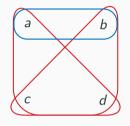
## **Characterising RCR Using Logic**

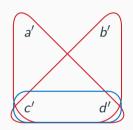
#### Theorem B from bibliography

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 GF(C) that is satisfied by  ${\mathfrak A},$  but not by  ${\mathfrak B}$

# **Example for Logical Characterisation of RCR**





- We have seen RCR distinguishes the structures
- Formula  $\exists^{\geq 1}(x,y,z)$ .  $(T(x,y,z) \land \exists^{\geq 1}(y).(R(x,y)))$  satisfied by left and not by right structure

**Relational Colour Refinement** 

Combinatorial Characterisation of RCR

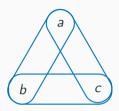
## **Acyclic Structures**

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

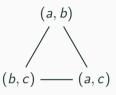
#### **Acyclic Structures**

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

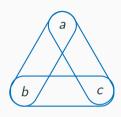
# **Examples for Acyclic Structures**

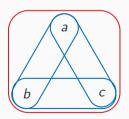


No:

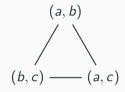


# **Examples for Acyclic Structures**

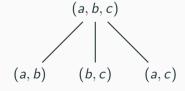








Yes:



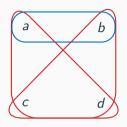
## **Characterising RCR Using Homomorphism Counting**

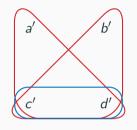
#### Theorem A from bibliography

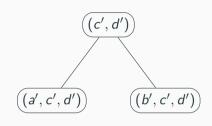
Let  ${\mathfrak A}$  and  ${\mathfrak B}$  be relational structures. Then the two following statements are equivalent.

- 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

#### Naive RCR

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

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

- For non-relational signature  $\sigma$  define relational signature  $\sigma'$ :
  - Relation symbol  $R \in \sigma$  of arity  $n \to \text{introduce } R \in \sigma'$  of arity  $n \to \text{introduce } R \in \sigma'$
  - Function symbol  $f \in \sigma$  of arity  $n \to \text{introduce } R_f \in \sigma'$  of arity n+1
- Encode  $\sigma$ -structure  $\mathfrak A$  as  $\sigma'$ -structure  $\mathfrak A'$ :
  - For relation symbol  $R \in \sigma$ :  $R^{\mathfrak{A}'} := R^{\mathfrak{A}}$
  - For function symbol  $f \in \sigma$ :  $R_f^{\mathfrak{A}'} := \{(\mathbf{x}y) : f^{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathbf{x}) = y\}$
- ullet We say naive RCR distinguishes  ${\mathfrak A}$  and  ${\mathfrak B}$ , if RCR distinguishes the encodings

## 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  $R_{f^1}, R_{f^2}, \ldots$ , where  $(x, y) \in R_{f^i}$  if  $\underbrace{f(f(\ldots f(x)))}_{i \text{ times}} = y$
- In the following:  $f^{i}(x)$  written for  $\underbrace{f(f(...f(x)))}_{i \text{ times}}$
- ullet For multiple functions, also encode alternations, for example  $R_{fg}$  or  $R_{g^2f^3}$

## Transitive Expansion i

#### **Alternations of Function Applications**

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

$$\mathsf{Alters}_n^k(\sigma) \coloneqq \mathsf{Alters}_n^{k-1}(\sigma) \cup \{f_1^{m_1} \dots f_k^{m_k} : f_1, \dots, f_k \in \sigma_{\mathsf{Func}} \\ \land \forall i \in [k] \cdot m_i \in [n] \\ \land \forall i \in [k-1] \cdot f_i \neq f_{i+1}\}.$$

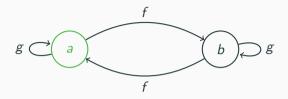
- Example:
  - $\sigma = \{f/1, g/1\}$
  - $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{Alters}_2^2(\sigma) = \underbrace{\{\mathsf{id}\}}_{k=0} \cup \underbrace{\{f,f^2,g,g^2\}}_{k=1} \cup \underbrace{\{fg,fg^2,f^2g,f^2g^2,gf,\dots\}}_{k=2}$

## Transitive Expansion ii

#### **Transitive Expansion**

- For alternation depth k and  $\sigma$ -structure  $\mathfrak A$  with  $|\mathfrak A|=n$  define transitive expansion  $\widetilde{\mathfrak A}$  as a  $\widetilde{\sigma}$ -structure
- For  $\alpha, \beta, \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_\ell \in \mathsf{Alters}^k_n(\sigma)$  and relation symbol  $R \in \sigma$  of arity  $\ell$ , insert relation symbol  $\mathsf{Eq}_{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_\ell}$  of arity  $\ell$  into  $\widetilde{\sigma}$
- Define  $\mathsf{Eq}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\widetilde{\mathfrak{A}}} := \{(x,y) : \alpha^{\mathfrak{A}}(x) = \beta^{\mathfrak{A}}(y)\}$  and  $R_{\alpha_{1},\dots,\alpha_{\ell}}^{\widetilde{\mathfrak{A}}} := \{(x_{1},\dots,x_{\ell}) : (\alpha_{1}^{\mathfrak{A}}(x_{1}),\dots,\alpha_{\ell}^{\mathfrak{A}}(x_{\ell})) \in R^{\mathfrak{A}}\}$
- 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  $\mathfrak{A} = (A, R^{\mathfrak{A}}, f^{\mathfrak{A}}, g^{\mathfrak{A}})$
- k = 1 and n = 2: Alters $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma) = \{id, f, f^2, g, g^2\}$
- $\bullet \ \ \widetilde{\sigma} = \{R_{\mathsf{id}}, R_f, R_{f^2}, R_g, R_{g^2}, \mathsf{Eq}_{\mathsf{id},\mathsf{id}}, \mathsf{Eq}_{\mathsf{id},f}, \mathsf{Eq}_{\mathsf{id},f^2}, \dots, \mathsf{Eq}_{g^2,g^2}\}$
- Examples:
  - $\bullet \ \ R_f^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{b\}$
  - $Eq_{f^2,id}^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{(a,a),(b,b)\}$
  - $\operatorname{Eq}_{g,f}^{\mathfrak{A}} = \{(a,b),(b,a)\}$

# 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
  - Relation symbols and variable equations like in GF(C)
  - For function symbol f of arity  $\ell$  and variables  $x_1, \ldots, x_\ell, y$ :  $f(x_1, \ldots, x_\ell) = y \in \mathsf{nfGF}(\mathsf{C})$
- 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  $\varphi \in \mathsf{nfGF}(\mathsf{C})$  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 GF(C) that distinguishes the encodings
- Define translation of sentences in GF(C) over signature  $\sigma'$  to and from sentences in nfGF(C) over signature  $\sigma$ 
  - $R_f(\mathbf{x}y) \leftrightarrow f(\mathbf{x}) = y$

# Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions

Logical Characterisation of RCR<sub>k</sub>

# GF(C) with alternation depth k

# $GF(C)_k$

- Fixate  $k \in \mathbb{N}$
- Atomics are defined like in natural extension to non-relational signatures, 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  $\alpha \in Alters_n^k(\sigma)$
- Restrict number of alternations of function applications to k
- No restriction of number of application of same function in series
- Examples:
  - $f^2(g(h^3(x))) = y \notin GF(C)_2$ , but in  $GF(C)_3$
  - $f^i(x) = y \in GF(C)_1$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$

# Characterising RCR<sub>k</sub> Logically ii

#### Logical Characterisation of RCR<sub>k</sub>

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  $GF(C)_k$  that is fulfilled by  $\mathfrak{A}$ , but not by  $\mathfrak{B}$

# Characterising RCR<sub>k</sub> Logically iii

#### Proof idea

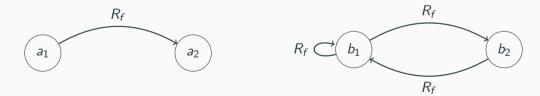
- 1. to 2.: Like, before sentence in GF(C) over signature  $\widetilde{\sigma}$  can easily be translated into sentence in GF(C)<sub>k</sub> over signature  $\sigma$
- 2. to 1.:
  - Assume  $n = |\mathfrak{A}| = |\mathfrak{B}|$
  - Translate and replace all atomic subformulae by formula that:
    - is equivalent for all structures with *n* elements
    - only contains terms  $f^{i}(s(x))$  with  $i \leq n$
  - Rearrange resulting formula to get valid  $GF(C)_k$ -sentence
  - Results in equivalent formula for structures with n elements and for every term t there exists an  $\alpha \in \mathsf{Alters}_n^k(\sigma)$ , such that  $t = \alpha$
  - ullet Can easily be translated into sentence in GF(C) of signature  $\widetilde{\sigma}$

# Relational Colour Refinement for Structures With Functions

Discussion on the Combinatorial Characterisation

#### **Total and Functional Structures**

- Let  $\sigma$  be a signature,  $\sigma'$  its naive encoding and  $\mathfrak{A}'$  a  $\sigma'$ -structure
- We call  $\mathfrak{A}'$  total if for every *n*-ary function symbol  $f \in \sigma$  and every *n*-tuple **x** there is a y, such that  $(\mathbf{x}y) \in R_f^{\mathfrak{A}'}$
- We call  $\mathfrak{A}'$  functional 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**

• Will define acyclicity w.r.t. the naive encoding

## **Non-Relational Acyclic Structures**

- Let  $\mathfrak A$  be a non-relational structure
- $\bullet$  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 ?

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

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

Some non-relational, acyclic structure dist.  ${\mathfrak A}$  and  ${\mathfrak B}$  by hom. count iff.

Some total, functional and acyclic structure dist. encodings  $\mathfrak{A}'$  and  $\mathfrak{B}'$  by hom. count

# **Enforcing Functionality**

• We can show:

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

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

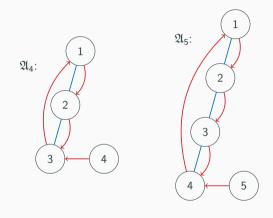
#### Proof idea:

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

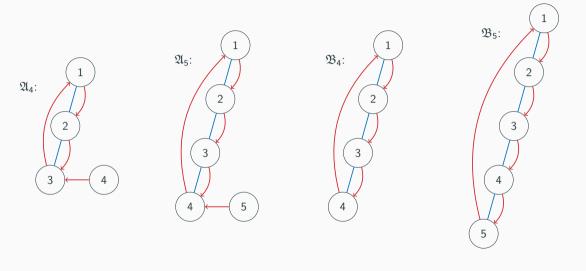
## Non-Enforceability of Totality

- There are structures that are distinguished by naive RCR, but there is no acyclic and total structure that distinguishes the encodings by homomorphism count
- Define signature  $\sigma = \{E/2, f/1\}$
- Two families of  $\sigma$ -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

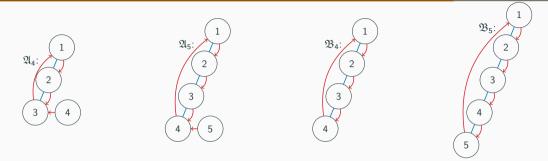
# Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures i



# Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures i



# Structures that are distinguished by nRCR but not total structures 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  $\mathfrak B$ 

1

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

1

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

↑, but ∦

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

RCR on Subclasses of Relational

**Structures** 

#### **Restricting the Class of Structures**

ullet For what subclass  ${\cal S}$  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  ${\cal S}$  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 no 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

#### **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

There exists acyclic structure dist. the structures by hom. count iff.

There exists acyclic, symmetric structure dist. the structure by hom. count

• From this, restriction to symmetric structures is possible

Sketch of a Proof

# **Description of the Lemma**

- Lemma for translating  $f^m(x_1) = x_2$  to a formula with a bounded number of applications of f in series
- Used in proof of logical characterisation of RCR<sub>k</sub>

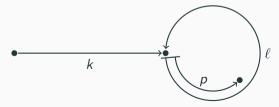
#### Lemma 4.6

A formula  $\psi$  of the form  $f^m(x_1) = x_2 \in GF(C)_1$  can be translated to a formula  $\vartheta(x_1, x_2) \in GF(C)_1$ , such that:

- 1. They are equivalent for structures with n elements
- 2. There does not appear a term  $f^i$  with i > n in  $\vartheta$
- 3.  $\vartheta$  is of the form  $\bigvee \Phi$  and if  $\vartheta$  is fulfilled, then there exists exactly one  $\varphi \in \Phi$  which is satisfied

#### **Proof Idea**

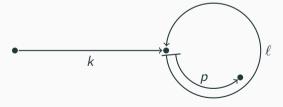
- Elements  $f^0(x), f^1(x), \dots, f^m(x)$  describe a path through a structure
- If m > n, there have to be  $i, j \le n$  such that  $f^i(x) = f^j(x)$
- Path can be decomposed into:
  - 1. Path to a cycle
  - 2. A cycle
  - 3. A last part of the cycle
- Define set  $\mathcal{I}(n,m)$  as set of all such decomposition  $(k,\ell,p)$



#### 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

$$\zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}(x_1,x_2) := f^{k+p}(x_1) = x_2 \wedge f^k(x_1) = f^{k+\ell}(x_1)$$
$$\wedge f^{k-1}(x_1) \neq f^{k-1+\ell}(x_1)$$
$$\wedge \bigwedge_{0 < \ell' < \ell} f^k(x_1) \neq f^{k+\ell'}(x_1)$$



#### Sketch of the Proof ii

- $f^{k+p}(x_1) = x_2 \wedge f^k(x_1) = f^{k+\ell}(x_1)$  ensures that  $(k, \ell, p)$  decomposes the path into a path to a cycle and the cycle itself
- $f^{k-1}(x_1) \neq f^{k-1+\ell}(x_1) \land \bigwedge_{0 < \ell' < \ell} f^k(x_1) \neq f^{k+\ell'}(x_1)$  ensures that only the lexicographically smallest decomposition is satisfied
- If  $\psi$  is satisfied, a smallest decomposition  $(k,\ell,p)$  exists that decomposes the path of f
- Then it can be shown that  $\zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}$  is satisfied, and because only the lexicographically smallest  $(k,\ell,p)$  is satisfied, it is the only one

#### Sketch of the Proof iii

- If  $\vartheta$  is satisfied, some  $\zeta_{(k,\ell,p)}$  is satisfied
- ullet This means that  $(k,\ell,p)$  decomposes the path of f , therefore  $\psi$  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
  - $\bullet$  RCR<sub>k</sub>
- 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 GF(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 $\alpha$

- For a term t and a  $\alpha \in \mathsf{Alters}_n^k(\sigma)$  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  $\alpha$