

Short definitions in constraint languages

Jakub Bulín^a, joint work with Michael Kompatscher

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[1] J. Bulín and M. Kompatscher: *Short definitions in constraint languages*, arXiv:2305.01984 (May 2023), accepted to MFCS 2023

The what and the why

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- Each $R \in \langle \Gamma \rangle_n$ has a pp-definition of length polynomial in n

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input a pp-sentence Φ over Γ

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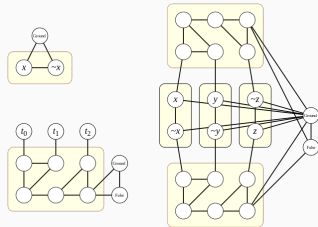
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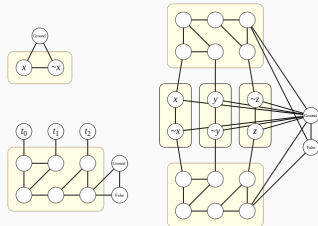
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Theorem (Jeavons, Cohen, Gyssens JACM 1997)

If $\Delta \subseteq \langle \Gamma \rangle$, then $\text{CSP}(\Delta)$ reduces to $\text{CSP}(\Gamma)$.

The examples

Nonexamples and boring examples

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Γ has **short definitions**, if \exists polynomial $p(n)$ such that each $R \in \langle \Gamma \rangle_n$ has a pp-definition $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ of length $|\phi| \leq p(n)$.

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The conjecture and the result

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Theorem ([B]IMMVW TransAMS+SICOMP 2010)

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- Γ_{Lin} is invariant under the 2-edge **Mal'tsev** function $x - y + z$

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- Γ_{Lin} is invariant under the 2-edge **Mal'tsev** function $x - y + z$

(general k -edge is a “combination” of those two types of behavior)

²In general, a k -ary function $f(x, x, \dots, x, y) = \dots = f(y, x, \dots, x) = x$, called **near-unanimity** is equivalent to the k -Helly property (boring!)

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True if the algebra of polymorphisms of Γ generates a residually finite variety.³ **Corollary** True if $|A| = 3$.

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The proof

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⁴Step IV. is the only place where we need residual finiteness. Otherwise, in “ $x + y = u$ ” the domain for u may grow too fast (in general, “ $x + y \neq y + x$ ”).

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Invariant relations are **sub-**[universes of]**powers** of \mathbf{A} , $R \leq \mathbf{A}^n$.

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- \mathbf{A} has pp-definitions of length $O(n^k)$ iff $\{\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k\}$ does, etc. (some technical work needed here)

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Lemma (Kearnes, Szendrei 2012 + Brady 2022)

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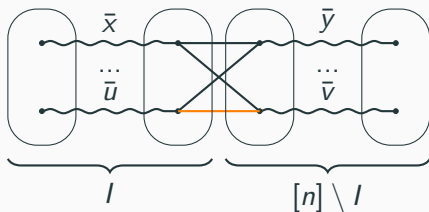
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[Picture by Michael]

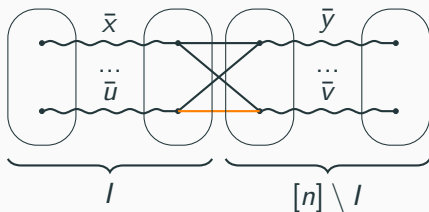
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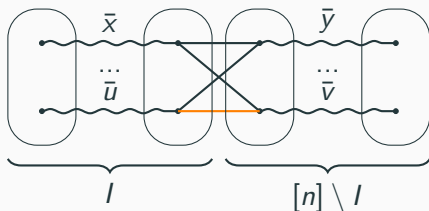
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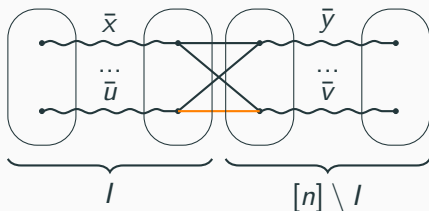
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Easy: C.p.r.’s can be defined from reduced c.p.r.’s in $O(n)$

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Similarity “ $x_1 + x_2 = x'_1 + x'_2$ iff for some u , $x_1 + x_2 = u$ and $x'_1 + x'_2 = u$ ”

The **linkedness congruence** \sim_I on $\text{proj}_I R$:

$$\mathbf{x} \sim_I \mathbf{x}' \text{ iff } (\exists \mathbf{z})(R(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \wedge R(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{z}))$$

R is **reduced** if $\sim_{\{i\}}$ is trivial for any $i \in [n]$.

Easy: C.p.r.’s can be defined from reduced c.p.r.’s in $O(n)$

Key Lemma: If R is a reduced c.p.r., then for any $I \subset [n]$ the algebra $\mathbf{A}_I = \text{proj}_I R / \sim_I$ is Sl. (multisorted Kearnes, Szendrei) 12

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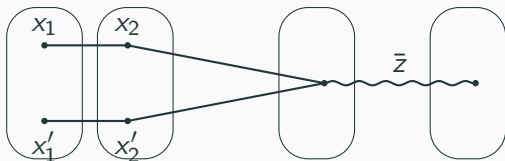
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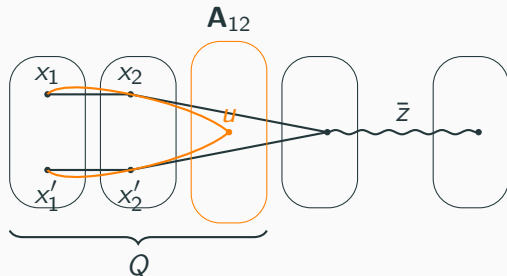
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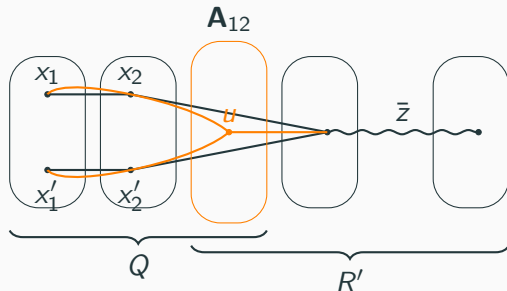
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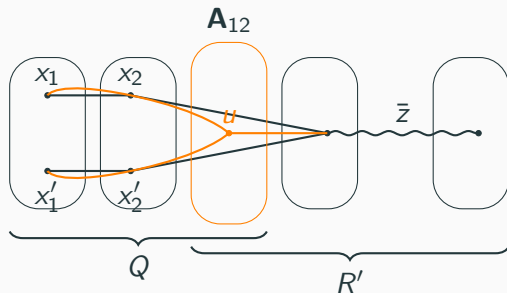
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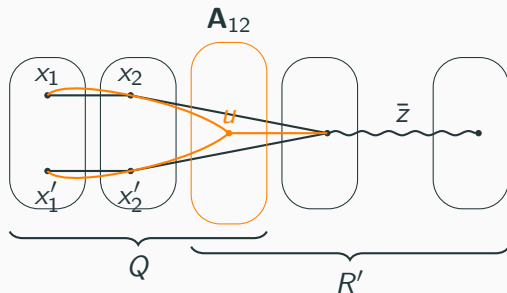
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By Key Lemma, $\mathbf{A}_{12} = \text{proj}_{12} R / \sim_{12}$ is SI, so by residual finiteness it is in $\text{HS}(\mathbf{A}^N)$. Thus $Q \in \Gamma'$; the arity of R' is $n - 1$.

The application

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A is a finite algebra (e.g. the polymorphism algebra of Γ)

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Is **SMP(A)** in P for **A** with few subpowers?

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- True for $A = \{0, 1\}$, otherwise open