

# Presentation-invariant definability

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# Elementary definability

Simple graph:  $- \subseteq V^2 \quad \forall x, y \in V$

- $\neg(x - x) \wedge (x - y \rightarrow y - x)$

Total ordering:  $< \subseteq D^2 \quad \forall x, y, z \in D$

- $\neg(x < x) \wedge (x \neq y \rightarrow x < y \vee y < x)$   
 $(x < y < z \rightarrow x < z)$

# Undefinability

**even:** The number of vertices is even.

**connected:** The graph is connected.

**acyclic:** The graph is acyclic.

None of these are elementary over *finite* graphs.

Because first-order logic is *local* (compactness).

# Order invariance

Augment each graph with an arbitrary ordering:

$$(G, <)$$

Elementary definability invariant of particular  $<$ :

$$(G, <) \models \theta \iff (G, <') \models \theta$$

But: **even, connected, acyclic**  $\notin \text{FO}(<) \neq \text{FO}$

# Presentation invariance

Expand each graph by a definable relation  $R$ :

$$(\exists R) (G, R) \models \sigma$$

Special case:  $\sigma$  depends only on  $|G|$  and  $R$ .

Using  $R$ , define a graph query  $Q$ , invariant of  $R$ :

$$(\forall R (G, R) \models \sigma) [(G, R) \models \theta \Leftrightarrow G \in Q]$$

# Examples for $P \subseteq S$

Degree:    zero                      one                      two  
                 isolated                      barbell                      chain

**even**: barbells with at most one isolated point.

**parity**: barbells where both ends are in  $P$ .

**majority**: barbells with ends in  $P$  and  $\neg P$ .

**Fact**: Distance is not bounded-degree invariant.

# Graph traversals

An ordering of its components, each with the property that every initial segment is connected:

$$[ \dots ] \dots [x, y] \dots [ \dots ]$$

$$(\forall v)(\exists x)(\exists y)[x \leq v \leq y](\forall z)(x \leq z \leq y)$$

$$\{(\forall w - z)[x \leq w \leq y]\} \wedge \{z \neq x \rightarrow (\exists w - z)[w < z]\}$$

# Traversal invariance

**Connected:** consists of one component interval

**Acyclic:** no node with two prior neighbors

**Reachable:** both nodes are in same component

- Can use breadth-first and depth-first traversals
- Can also define biconnected and bipartite