

Equational theories of profinite structures

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Equational theories

What properties of languages can be expressed by (some) equations?

Definition

A framework is a pair $\langle \Phi, \mathbb{W} \rangle$ such that:

- Φ is a countable set of *recognisers* $\varphi \in \Phi$,
- \mathbb{W} is a countable set of *objects* $w \in \mathbb{W}$,
- a recogniser $\varphi \in \Phi$ is a function $\varphi: \mathbb{W} \rightarrow K_\varphi$ to a finite set K_φ .

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Running example

Let $\mathbb{W} = A^*$ be a set of all finite words and let Φ be the set of all homomorphisms into finite monoids: for every finite monoid M and any homomorphism $\varphi: A^* \rightarrow M$ let $\varphi \in \Phi$.

Definition

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Assumptions

Additionally we assume:

- a) Each object $w \in \mathbb{W}$ is totally described by some recogniser (that is $\{w\}$ is recognisable).
- b) Recognisable sets are closed under intersections.

Examples

- Let \mathbb{W} be the set of all finite models of a fixed relational signature Σ .
- Let Φ be the set of all first order formulas over Σ .
- A formula φ is a function $\varphi: \mathbb{W} \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\}$.

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- Let \mathbb{W} be the set of all finite words A^* .
- Let Φ be the set of all total (halting) Turing machines.
- Every total Turing machine M can be treated as a function $M: \mathbb{W} \rightarrow \{\text{accept}, \text{reject}\}$.

Definition

Let

$$X = \prod_{\varphi \in \Phi} K_{\varphi}.$$

X is a compact topological space. Let

$$w \in \mathbb{W} \mapsto \mu(w) = (\varphi_1(w), \varphi_2(w), \varphi_3(w), \dots)$$

Since μ is 1-1 we can identify w with $\mu(w)$ and write $\mathbb{W} \subseteq X$.

Let

$$\widehat{\mathbb{W}} = \text{cl}(\mathbb{W}) \subseteq X.$$

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- The image $\mu(\mathbb{W}) \subseteq X$ is a set of all possible (*realisable*) properties of objects.
- A *virtual* object $w' \in \widehat{\mathbb{W}} \setminus \mathbb{W}$ is just a list of its properties (v_1, v_2, \dots) that are finitely realisable by real objects.

- Let $\langle \Phi, \mathbb{W} \rangle$ be the framework of directed finite graphs and first order formulas.

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- Observe that w_∞ is not so virtual — it can be seen as infinite empty graph.
- This is not a coincidence — Compactness Theorem.

Fact

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Fact

A set $L \subseteq \widehat{W}$ is recognisable iff it is closed and open.

Definition

For $u, v \in \widehat{W}$ we say that a recognisable language $L \subseteq \widehat{W}$ satisfies equation $u \rightarrow v$ iff.

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Lemma

If $I \subseteq \mathcal{L}$ and $K = \bigcup I$ is recognisable then $K \in \mathcal{L}$.

If $I \subseteq \mathcal{L}$ and $K = \bigcap I$ is recognisable then $K \in \mathcal{L}$.

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Sketch of the proof (\Leftarrow)

Take any lattice \mathcal{L} and let \mathcal{E} contain all equations satisfied by \mathcal{L} .

Take any language L satisfying all \mathcal{E} and show that $L \in \mathcal{L}$.

Use above Lemma to approximate L from inside and from outside.

If it fails, then there is an equation $u \rightarrow v$ not satisfied by L — a contradiction.

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