

# Some Computable Structure Theory of Finitely Generated Structures

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in celebration of the work of Rod Downey

Happy birthday Rod!

# Outline

The main question:

*Which classes of finitely generated structures contain complicated structures?*

The particular focus will be on groups.

General outline:

- 1 Descriptions (Scott sentences) of finitely generated structures, and in particular groups, among countable structures.
- 2 A notion of universality using computable functors (or equivalently effective interpretations).
- 3 Descriptions (quasi Scott sentences) of finitely generated structures among finitely generated structures.

# Scott Sentences of Finitely Generated Structures

# Infinitary Logic

$\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$  is the infinitary logic which allows countably infinite conjunctions and disjunctions.

There is a hierarchy of  $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ -formulas based on their quantifier complexity after putting them in normal form. Formulas are classified as either  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  or  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ , for  $\alpha < \omega_1$ .

- A formula is  $\Sigma_0^0$  and  $\Pi_0^0$  if it is finitary quantifier-free.
- A formula is  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  if it is a disjunction of formulas  $(\exists \bar{y})\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  where  $\varphi$  is  $\Pi_\beta^0$  for  $\beta < \alpha$ .
- A formula is  $\Pi_\alpha^0$  if it is a conjunction of formulas  $(\forall \bar{y})\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  where  $\varphi$  is  $\Sigma_\beta^0$  for  $\beta < \alpha$ .

# Examples of Infinitary Formulas

## Example

There is a  $\Pi_2^0$  sentence which describes the class of torsion groups. It consists of the group axioms together with:

$$(\forall x) \bigvee_{n \in \mathbb{N}} nx = 0.$$

## Example

There is a  $\Sigma_1^0$  formula which describes the dependence relation on triples  $x, y, z$  in a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space:

$$\bigvee_{(a,b,c) \in \mathbb{Q}^3 \setminus \{(0,0,0)\}} ax + by + cz = 0$$

# Examples of Infinitary Formulas

## Example

There is a  $\Sigma_3^0$  sentence which says that a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space has finite dimension:

$$\bigvee_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (\exists x_1, \dots, x_n) (\forall y) y \in \text{span}(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

## Example

There is a  $\Pi_3^0$  sentence which says that a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space has infinite dimension:

$$\bigwedge_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (\exists x_1, \dots, x_n) \text{Indep}(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

# Scott Sentences

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure.

## Theorem (Scott)

There is an  $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ -sentence  $\varphi$  such that:

$$\mathcal{B} \text{ countable, } \mathcal{B} \models \varphi \iff \mathcal{B} \cong \mathcal{A}.$$

$\varphi$  is a *Scott sentence* of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Example

$(\omega, <)$  has a  $\Pi_3^0$  Scott sentence consisting of the  $\Pi_2^0$  axioms for infinite linear orders together with:

$$\forall y_0 \bigvee_{n \in \omega} \exists y_n < \dots < y_1 < y_0 [\forall z (z > y_0) \vee (z = y_0) \vee (z = y_1) \vee \dots \vee (z = y_n)].$$

# Scott Rank

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure.

## Definition (Montalbán)

$SR(\mathcal{A})$  is the least ordinal  $\alpha$  such that  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Pi_{\alpha+1}^0$  Scott sentence.

## Theorem (Montalbán)

Let  $\alpha$  a countable ordinal. The following are equivalent:

- $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Pi_{\alpha+1}^0$  Scott sentence.
- Every automorphism orbit in  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\Sigma_{\alpha}^0$ -definable without parameters.
- $\mathcal{A}$  is uniformly (boldface)  $\Delta_{\alpha}^0$ -categorical without parameters.

# An Upper Bound on the Complexity of Finitely Generated Structures

## Theorem (Knight-Saraph)

*Every finitely generated structure has a  $\Sigma_3^0$  Scott sentence.*

Often there is a simpler Scott sentence.

# A Scott Sentence for the Integers

## Example

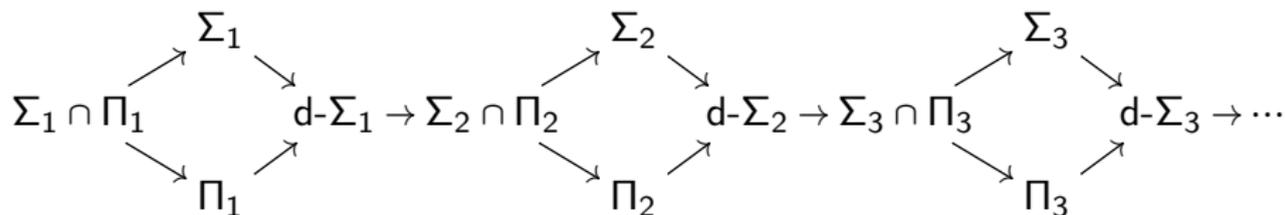
A Scott sentence for the group  $\mathbb{Z}$  consists of:

- the axioms for torsion-free abelian groups,
- for any two elements, there is an element which generates both,
- there is a non-zero element with no proper divisors:

$$(\exists g \neq 0) \bigwedge_{n \geq 2} (\forall h) [nh \neq g].$$

## $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$ Sentences

$\varphi$  is  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  if it is a conjunction of a  $\Sigma_2^0$  formula and a  $\Pi_2^0$  formula.



### Theorem (Miller)

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure. If  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Sigma_3^0$  Scott sentence, and also has a  $\Pi_3^0$  Scott sentence, then  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.

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## A Scott Sentence for the Free Group

### Example (CHKLMMMqw)

A Scott sentence for the free group  $\mathbb{F}_2$  on two elements consists of:

- the group axioms,
- every finite set of elements is generated by a 2-tuple,
- there is a 2-tuple  $\bar{x}$  with no non-trivial relations such that for every 2-tuple  $\bar{y}$ ,  $\bar{x}$  cannot be expressed as an “imprimitive” tuple of words in  $\bar{y}$ .

A pair  $u, v$  of words is primitive if whenever  $\bar{x}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{F}_2$ ,  $u(\bar{x}), v(\bar{x})$  is also a basis for  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .

This is a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.

## $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$ Scott Sentences for Many Groups

Theorem (Knight-Saraph, CHKLMMMQR, Ho)

The following groups all have  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentences:

- abelian groups,
- free groups,
- nilpotent groups,
- polycyclic groups,
- lamplighter groups,
- Baumslag-Solitar groups  $BS(1, n)$ .

### Question

Does every finitely generated group have a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence?

## Characterizing the Structures with $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$ Scott Sentences

The first step is to understand when a finitely generated structure has a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.

### Theorem (A. Miller, HT-Ho, Alvir-Knight-McCoy)

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a finitely generated structure. The following are equivalent:*

- *$\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Pi_3^0$  Scott sentence.*
- *$\mathcal{A}$  has a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.*
- *$\mathcal{A}$  is the only model of its  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory.*
- *some generating tuple of  $\mathcal{A}$  is defined by a  $\Pi_1^0$  formula.*
- *every generating tuple of  $\mathcal{A}$  is defined by a  $\Pi_1^0$  formula.*
- *$\mathcal{A}$  does not contain a copy of itself as a proper  $\Sigma_1^0$ -elementary substructure.*

## Proof, First Direction

Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  does not contain a copy of itself as a proper  $\Sigma_1^0$ -elementary substructure.

Let  $p$  be the  $\forall$ -type of a generating tuple for  $\mathcal{A}$ .

We can write down a  $d$ - $\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence for  $\mathcal{A}$ :

- there is a tuple  $\bar{x}$  satisfying  $p$ , and
- for all tuples  $\bar{x}$  satisfying  $p$  and for all  $y$ ,  $y$  is in the substructure generated by  $\bar{x}$ .

## Proof, Second Direction

Now suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  does contain a copy of itself as a proper  $\Sigma_1^0$ -elementary substructure.

Take the union of the chain

$$\mathcal{A} <_{\Sigma_1^0} \mathcal{A} <_{\Sigma_1^0} \mathcal{A} <_{\Sigma_1^0} \cdots <_{\Sigma_1^0} \mathcal{A}^*.$$

Then  $\mathcal{A}^*$  has the same  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory as  $\mathcal{A}$ , but is not finitely generated.

In particular,  $\mathcal{A}$  does not have a  $d$ - $\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.

# A Complicated Group

## Theorem (HT-Ho)

*There is a computable finitely generated group  $G$  which does not have a  $d$ - $\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.*

The construction of  $G$  uses small cancellation theory and HNN extensions.

## Theorem (HT-Ho)

*There is a computable finitely generated ring  $\mathbb{Z}[G]$  which does not have a  $d$ - $\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.*

This is just the group ring of the previous group.

# No Complicated Fields

## Theorem (HT-Ho)

*Every finitely generated field has a  $d$ - $\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.*

*Proof sketch:*

Suppose that  $E$  is a proper  $\Sigma_1^0$ -elementary substructure of  $F$ , with  $E$  isomorphic to  $F$ .

Then  $E$  and  $F$  have the same transcendence degree.

So  $F/E$  is an algebraic extension.

Then the atomic type of the generators of  $F$  over  $E$  is isolated, and so cannot be realized in  $E$ .

# Open Questions

## Question

Does every finitely presented group have a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence?

## Question

Does every commutative ring have a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence?

## Question

Does every integral domain have a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence?

# Computable Functors, Effective Interpretations, and Universality

# Computable Structure Theory

Our structures are all countable structures with domain  $\omega$ .

A structure is computable if its domain is computable, and its functions and relations are computable as functions  $\omega^n \rightarrow \omega$  and as subsets of  $\omega^n$  respectively.

Two computable copies of the same structure are isomorphic, but they are not necessarily computably isomorphic.

# Computable Dimension

## Definition

The computable dimension of a computable structure  $\mathcal{A}$  is the number of computable copies up to computable isomorphism.

## Theorem (Goncharov; Goncharov and Dzgoev; Metakides and Nerode; Nurtazin; LaRoche; Remmel)

*All structures in each of the following classes have computable dimension 1 or  $\omega$ :*

- *algebraically closed fields,*
- *real closed fields,*
- *torsion-free abelian groups,*
- *linear orderings,*
- *Boolean algebras.*

# Finite Computable Dimension $> 1$

## Theorem (Goncharov)

*For each  $n > 0$  there is a computable structure with computable dimension  $n$ .*

## Theorem (Goncharov; Goncharov, Molokov, and Romanovskii; Kudinov)

*For each  $n > 0$  there are structures with computable dimension  $n$  in each of the following classes:*

- *graphs,*
- *lattices,*
- *partial orderings,*
- *2-step nilpotent groups,*
- *integral domains.*

Hirschfeldt, Khoussainov, Shore, and Slinko in *Degree Spectra and Computable Dimensions in Algebraic Structures*, 2000:

*Whenever a structure with a particularly interesting computability-theoretic property is found, it is natural to ask whether similar examples can be found within well-known classes of algebraic structures, such as groups, rings, lattices, and so forth.*

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Hirschfeldt, Khoushainov, Shore, and Slinko in *Degree Spectra and Computable Dimensions in Algebraic Structures*, 2000, continued:

*The codings we present are general enough to be viewed as establishing that the theories mentioned above are computably complete in the sense that, for a wide range of computability-theoretic non-structure type properties, if there are any examples of structures with such properties then there are such examples that are models of each of these theories.*

# Universal Classes

## Theorem (Hirschfeldt, Khousseinov, Shore, Slinko)

*Each of the classes*

- *undirected graphs,*
- *partial orderings,*
- *lattices,*
- *integral domains,*
- *commutative semigroups, and*
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- *categoricity spectra, ...*

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*If  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are bi-interpretable, then they are essentially the same from the point of view of computable structure theory. In particular, the complexity of their optimal Scott sentences are the same.*

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**These two solutions are equivalent.**

# Effective Interpretations

Let  $\mathcal{A} = (A; P_0^{\mathcal{A}}, P_1^{\mathcal{A}}, \dots)$  where  $P_i^{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq A^{a(i)}$ .

## Definition

$\mathcal{A}$  is *effectively interpretable* in  $\mathcal{B}$  if there exist a uniformly computable  $\Delta_1^0$ -definable relations  $(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}, \sim, R_0, R_1, \dots)$  such that

- (1)  $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \subseteq \mathcal{B}^{<\omega}$ ,
- (2)  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$ ,
- (3)  $R_i \subseteq (B^{<\omega})^{a(i)}$  is closed under  $\sim$  within  $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$ ,

and a function  $f_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}: \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  which induces an isomorphism:

$$(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} / \sim; R_0 / \sim, R_1 / \sim, \dots) \cong (A; P_0^{\mathcal{A}}, P_1^{\mathcal{A}}, \dots).$$

# Computable Functors

## Definition

$\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  is the category of copies of  $\mathcal{A}$  with domain  $\omega$ . The morphisms are isomorphisms between copies of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Recall: a functor  $F$  from  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  to  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$

- (1) assigns to each copy  $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}$  in  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  a structure  $F(\widehat{\mathcal{A}})$  in  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ ,
- (2) assigns to each isomorphism  $f: \widehat{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathcal{A}}$  in  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  an isomorphism  $F(f): F(\widehat{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow F(\widetilde{\mathcal{A}})$  in  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ .

## Definition

$F$  is *computable* if there are computable operators  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi_*$  such that

- (1) for every  $\widehat{\mathcal{A}} \in \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ ,  $\Phi^{D(\widehat{\mathcal{A}})}$  is the atomic diagram of  $F(\widehat{\mathcal{A}})$ ,
- (2) for every isomorphism  $f: \widehat{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathcal{A}}$ ,  $F(f) = \Phi_*^{D(\widehat{\mathcal{A}}) \oplus f \oplus D(\widetilde{\mathcal{A}})}$ .

# Equivalence

An effective interpretation of  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  induces a computable functor from  $\mathcal{B}$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Theorem (HT-Melnikov-Miller-Montalbán)

*Effective interpretations of  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  are in correspondence with computable functors from  $\mathcal{B}$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

By “in correspondence” we mean that every computable functor is effectively isomorphic to one induced by an effective interpretation.

## Effective Isomorphisms of Functors

Let  $F, G: \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  be computable functors.

### Definition

$F$  is *effectively isomorphic* to  $G$  if there is a computable Turing functional  $\Lambda$  such that for any  $\tilde{B} \in \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ ,  $\Lambda^{\tilde{B}}$  is an isomorphism from  $F(\tilde{B})$  to  $G(\tilde{B})$ , and the following diagram commutes:

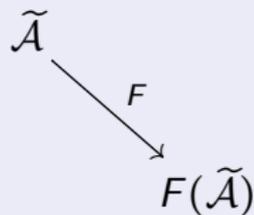
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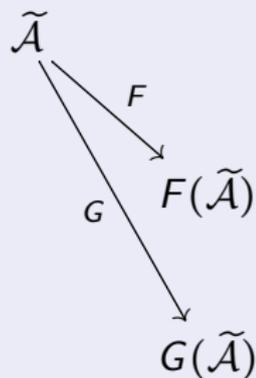


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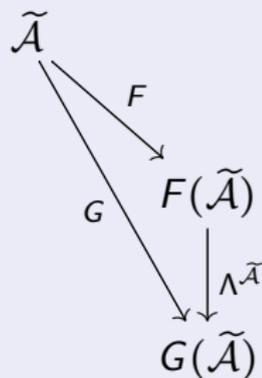


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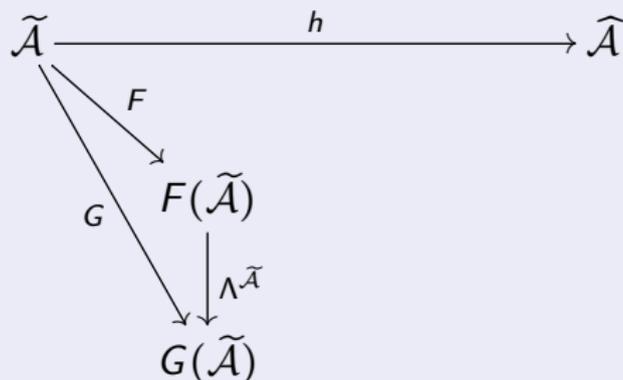


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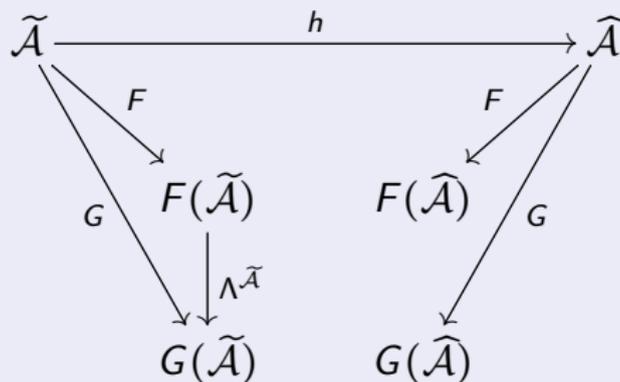


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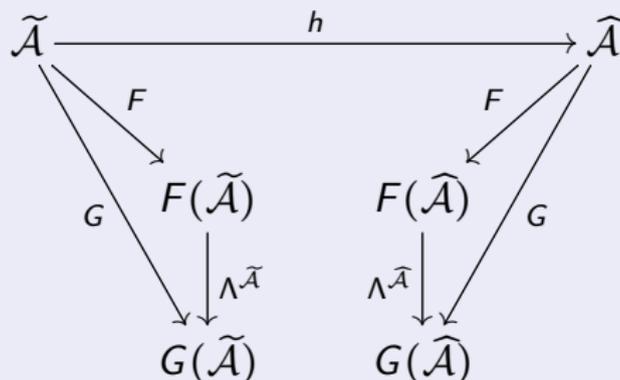


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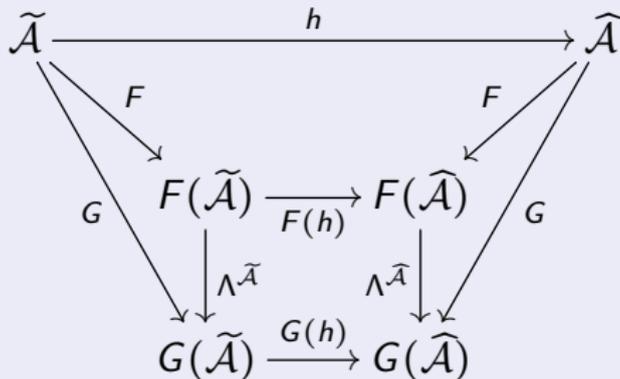


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# Effective Bi-Interpretations

## Definition

$\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are *effectively bi-interpretable* if there are effective interpretations of each in the other, and  $\Delta_1^0$ -definable isomorphisms  $\mathcal{D}om_{\mathcal{A}}^{(\mathcal{D}om_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}})} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{D}om_{\mathcal{B}}^{(\mathcal{D}om_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}})} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \mathcal{B} \\ & & \text{UI} \\ \mathcal{A} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}om_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \end{array}$$

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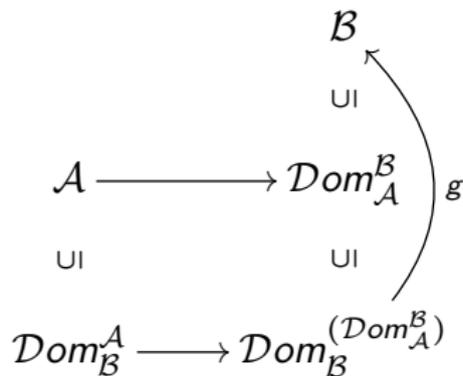
$\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are *effectively bi-interpretable* if there are effective interpretations of each in the other, and  $\Delta_1^0$ -definable isomorphisms  $\text{Dom}_A^{(\text{Dom}_B^A)} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  and  $\text{Dom}_B^{(\text{Dom}_A^B)} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \mathcal{B} \\ & & \text{UI} \\ \mathcal{A} & \longrightarrow & \text{Dom}_A^B \\ \text{UI} & & \text{UI} \\ \text{Dom}_B^A & \longrightarrow & \text{Dom}_B^{(\text{Dom}_A^B)} \end{array}$$

# Effective Bi-Interpretations

## Definition

$\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are *effectively bi-interpretable* if there are effective interpretations of each in the other, and  $\Delta_1^0$ -definable isomorphisms  $\text{Dom}_A^{(\text{Dom}_B^A)} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  and  $\text{Dom}_B^{(\text{Dom}_A^B)} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ .



# Computable Bi-transformations

## Definition

A computable equivalence of categories between  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  consists of computable functors  $F: \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$  and  $G: \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  such that both  $F \circ G: \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$  and  $G \circ F: \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  are effectively isomorphic to the identity functor.

So if  $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$  is a copy of  $\mathcal{B}$ , then  $F(G(\widehat{\mathcal{B}})) \cong \widehat{\mathcal{B}}$  and the isomorphism can be computed uniformly in  $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$ .

# Equivalence

## Theorem (HT-Melnikov-Miller-Montalbán)

*Effective bi-interpretations between  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are in correspondence with effective equivalences of categories between  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ .*

## Theorem (HT-Miller-Montalbán)

*Non-effective bi-interpretations between  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are in correspondence with Borel equivalences of categories between  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  and with continuous isomorphisms between the automorphism groups of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ .*

# A Definition of Universality

## Definition

A class  $\mathcal{C}$  of structures is universal if each structure  $\mathcal{A}$  is uniformly effectively bi-interpretable with a structure in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## Theorem

*Each of the following classes is universal:*

- *undirected graphs,*
- *partial orderings,*
- *lattices, and*
- *fields,*

*and, after naming finitely many constants,*

- *integral domains,*
- *commutative semigroups, and*
- *2-step nilpotent groups.*

# Classes Which Are Not Universal

## Theorem

*Each of the following classes is not universal:*

- *algebraically closed fields,*
- *real closed fields,*
- *abelian groups,*
- *linear orderings,*
- *Boolean algebras.*

Proof: In these classes, the computable dimension can only be 1 or  $\omega$ .

# Universality for Finitely Generated Structures

What about for finitely generated structures? These are never going to be universal. So we have to restrict our attention to finitely generated structures.

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a class of finitely-generated structures.  $\mathcal{C}$  is universal among finitely generated structures if every finitely generated structure is uniformly effectively bi-interpretable with one in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## Example

Fields are not universal among finitely generated structures.

# Finitely Generated Groups Are Universal

## Theorem (HT-Ho)

*Finitely generated groups are universal among finitely generated structures (after naming three constants).*

*Moreover, the orbits of the constants are  $\Sigma_1^0$  definable.*

So now, instead of constructing a finitely generated group with some property, we can construct a finitely generated structure in whatever language we like.

## Scott Sentences and Constants

Recall that two structures which are bi-interpretable have Scott sentences of the same complexity.

### Proposition

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure and  $\bar{c} \in \mathcal{A}$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  (respectively  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ ,  $d$ - $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ ) Scott sentence, then so does  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{c})$ .*

### Proposition

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure and  $\bar{c} \in \mathcal{A}$ .*

- If  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{c})$  has a  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  Scott sentence, then so does  $\mathcal{A}$ .*
- Suppose that the orbit of  $\bar{c}$  is defined by a  $\Sigma_\beta^0$  formula for some  $\beta < \alpha$ . If  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{c})$  has a  $\Pi_\alpha^0$  (respectively  $d$ - $\Sigma_\alpha^0$ ) Scott sentence, then so does  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

Fields are not universal among finitely-generated structures, even adding finitely many constants, because every finitely generated field has a  $d$ - $\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence.

# Quasi Scott Sentences

## Quasi Scott Sentences

When we constructed a group with no  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence before, we used an infinitely generated group with the same  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory. What happens if we ask for a description of a finitely generated group within the class of finitely generated groups?

### Definition

We say that a sentence  $\varphi$  is a quasi Scott sentence for a finitely generated structure  $\mathcal{A}$  if  $\mathcal{A}$  is the unique finitely generated structure satisfying  $\varphi$ .

### Fact (HT-Ho)

*Each finitely generated structure has a  $\Pi_3^0$  quasi Scott sentence.*

Let  $p$  be the atomic type of a generating tuple of  $\mathcal{A}$ . The  $\Pi_3^0$  quasi Scott sentence for  $\mathcal{A}$  says that every tuple is generated by a tuple of type  $p$ .

# Quasi Scott Sentences, Constants, and Bi-interpretations

First, we show that we can consider arbitrary finitely generated structures instead just groups.

## Proposition

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure and  $\bar{c} \in \mathcal{A}$ . Suppose that the orbit of  $\bar{c}$  is defined by a  $\Sigma_1^0$  formula  $\psi(\bar{x})$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Sigma_2^0$  (respectively  $\Pi_2^0$ ,  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$ ) quasi Scott sentence if and only if  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{c})$  does.*

## Proposition

*Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are effectively bi-interpretable (plus a little bit more). Then  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence if and only if  $\mathcal{B}$  does.*

## A Partial Characterization

When does a finitely generated structure have a simpler description?

It turns out that things are more complicated than they were before.

### Theorem (HT-Ho)

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a finitely generated structure. The following are equivalent:*

- *The  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory of  $\mathcal{A}$  has more than one finitely generated model.*
- *There is a finitely generated structure  $\mathcal{B}$  not isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}$  such that  $\mathcal{A} <_{\Sigma_1^0} \mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{B} <_{\Sigma_1^0} \mathcal{A}$ .*

The  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory of  $\mathcal{A}$  contains both the  $\Sigma_2^0$  and the  $\Pi_2^0$  sentences true of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

# A Complicated Structure

## Theorem (HT-Ho)

*There is a finitely generated structure whose  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory has more than one finitely generated model. This structure has no  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence.*

In particular, it is possible to have both a  $\Sigma_3^0$  and a  $\Pi_3^0$  quasi Scott sentence without having a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence.

## Corollary (HT-Ho)

*There is a finitely generated group whose  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory has more than one finitely generated model. This group has no  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence.*

## $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$ Quasi Scott Sentences

We do not have a complete characterization of structures with  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentences.

One can still often write one down by hand.

# Simple Quasi Scott Sentence But No Simple Scott Sentence

## Theorem (HT-Ho)

*There is a finitely generated structure which has no  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence, but has a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence.*

We build a finitely generated structure which is a  $\Sigma_1^0$ -elementary substructure of itself, but not of any other finitely generated structure.

## Corollary (HT-Ho)

*There is a finitely generated group which has no  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  Scott sentence, but has a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence.*

# Open Questions

The main question here that we are still working on is:

## Question

Characterize the finitely generated structures which are the only finitely-generated models of their  $\Sigma_2^0$  theory, but which do not have a  $d\text{-}\Sigma_2^0$  quasi Scott sentence?

## Question

Are there any such models?

# Computability Theory and its Applications

University of Waterloo

June 4-8, 2018.

Arrival June 3, departure afternoon of June 8.

Organizers and Program Committee: Barbara Csima (chair);  
Matthew Harrison-Trainor, Laurent Bienvenu, Peter Cholak.

Public lecture by Antonio Montalbán.

Please contact Barbara Csima if interested.