Universal structures and universal homomorphisms

Christian Pech

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(joint work with Maja Pech)

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Some Motivation

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[Rad64] R. Rado. Universal graphs and universal functions. *Acta Arith.*, 9:331–340, 1964.

Richard Rado used universal functions to explain his well-known construction of a universal countable graph:

$$K_{kl} := \left\{ f \mid f : \binom{\mathbb{N}}{l+1} \to \{0, \dots, k-1\} \right\}$$

Definition

 $f^* \in K_{kl}$ is universal in K_{kl} if for every $f \in K_{kl}$ there exists a self-embedding φ of \mathbb{N} such that

$$f(x_0,\ldots,x_l)=f^*(\varphi(x_0),\ldots,\varphi(x_l))$$

 $K_{2,1}$ is essentially the class of countable graphs. Hence, a universal function $f^* \in K_{2,1}$ is a countable universal graph.

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Fraïssé-limits in comma categories

We propose to study universal homomorphisms

Definition

Let \mathcal{K} be a class of structures, $T \in \mathcal{K}$. $u : U \to T$ is called universal within \mathcal{K} if $U \in \mathcal{K}$, and

$$\forall \mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{K}, h : \mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{T} \quad \exists \iota : \mathbf{A} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{U} : u \circ \iota = h.$$

Note

u is a retraction: Consider $1_T : T \to T$; by universality, there exists $\iota : T \hookrightarrow U$ such that $u \circ \iota = 1_T$.

More general definition

A homomorphism $u : \mathbf{U}^n \to \mathbf{T}$ is called *n*-ary universal homomorphism to \mathbf{T} within \mathcal{K} if $\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{K}$, and

$$\forall \mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{K}, h : \mathbf{A}^n \to \mathbf{T} \quad \exists \iota : \mathbf{A} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{U} : u \circ \iota^n = h.$$

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Strict Fraïssé-classes

If \mathcal{K} is an age, then $\overline{\mathcal{K}} := \{ \mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{A} \text{ countable, } \operatorname{Age}(\mathbf{A}) \subseteq \mathcal{K} \}.$

Definition (Dolinka)

A Fraïssé-class \mathcal{K} of relational structures is called strict Fraïssé-class if every pair of morphisms in $(\mathcal{K}, \hookrightarrow)$ with the same domain has a pushout in $(\overline{\mathcal{K}}, \rightarrow)$.

Observation

Note that these pushouts will always be amalgams. Thus the strict amalgamation property postulates canonical amalgams.

Examples for strict Fraïssé-classes

- free amalgamation classes,
- the class of finite partial orders.

Homogeneous homomorphisms

Definition

Let $u : \mathbf{U}^n \to \mathbf{T}$ be an *n*-ary homomorphism. Let $\mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{U}$ and let $\iota : \mathbf{A} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{U}$. We say that ι preserves *u* if the following diagram commutes:



Definition

Let $u : \mathbf{U}^n \to \mathbf{T}$ be an *n*-ary homomorphism. *u* is called homogeneous if for all finitely generated substructures **A** of **U**, every *u*-preserving embedding $\iota : \mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{U}$ can be extended to a *u*-preserving automorphism of **U**.

Existence of universal homogeneous homomorphisms

Theorem

Let \mathcal{K} be a strict Fraïssé-class, $\mathbf{T} \in \overline{\mathcal{K}}$. Then there exists a universal homogeneous n-ary homomorphism $u : \mathbf{U}^n \to \mathbf{T}$ within $\overline{\mathcal{K}}$. Moreover, if $\hat{u} : \hat{\mathbf{U}}^n \to \mathbf{T}$ is another such homomorphism, then there exists an isomorphism $h : \hat{\mathbf{U}} \to \mathbf{U}$ such that



commutes.

Let **K** be the Fraïssé-limit of \mathcal{K} .

If all structures from \mathcal{K} are finite, $\operatorname{Aut}(K)$ is oligomorphic, and if $\operatorname{Aut}(T)$ is oligomorphic, then $\operatorname{Aut}(U)$ is oligomorphic, too.

Corollary

For every $\mathbf{T} \in \overline{\mathcal{K}}$, the homomorphism-equivalence class $\overline{\mathcal{K}}_{\mathbf{T}}$ has a universal element.

Countable universal well-founded posets

Let α be a countable ordinal number. Let C be the class of all countable well-founded strict posets of height $\leq \alpha$.

Question

Does C have a universal object?

Note

 \mathcal{C} is not elementary.



Countable universal well-founded posets

Let α be a countable ordinal number. Let C be the class of all countable well-founded strict posets of height $\leq \alpha$.

Question

Does C have a universal object?

Note

 \mathcal{C} is not elementary.

Answer to the question

Yes, C has a universal element **U**.

- Note that C
 consists of all countable strict posets that have a homomorphism to (α, ∈).
- Take *K* as the class of all finite posets. Set **T** := (α, ∈). Then there exists a universal homogeneous homomorphism *u* : **U** → **T**.
- Observe that U is universal in C.

A countable universal directed acyclic graph

- ► K be the class of all finite structures with one binary relation,
- ► **T** := (ℚ, <),
- $u: \mathbf{U} \to \mathbf{T}$ be a universal homogeneous homomorphism within $\overline{\mathcal{K}}$.

Then **U** is a countable universal directed acyclic graph.

Note

- ► The signature is finite. Hence the Fraïssé-limit of K is ℵ₀-categorical.
- (Q, <) is homogeneous over a finite signature. Hence it is ℵ₀-categorical.

Hence **U** is \aleph_0 -categorical, too.

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Universal homogeneous polymorphisms

Let *R* denote the countable random graph. Let $u : \mathbf{U}^n \to R$ be an *n*-ary universal homogeneous homomorphism within the class of all countable simple graphs.

Question

What is **U**? (clearly, $Age(\mathbf{U}) = Age(R)$)



Universal homogeneous polymorphisms

Let *R* denote the countable random graph.

Let $u: \mathbf{U}^n \to \mathbf{R}$ be an *n*-ary universal homogeneous

homomorphism within the class of all countable simple graphs.

Question

What is **U**? (clearly, $Age(\mathbf{U}) = Age(R)$)

Answer

 $\mathbf{U} \cong \mathbf{R}$. That is, we can assume w.l.o.g., that $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{R}$. Hence *u* is an *n*-ary polymorphism of \mathbf{R} .

In other words:

The countable random graph has universal homogeneous polymorphisms of every arity.

Questions:

- 1. Which structures have universal homogeneous endomorphisms?
- 2. Which structures have universal homogeneous polymorphisms?

Existence of universal homogeneous polymorphisms

Homo amalgamation property (HAP)

 \mathcal{K} has the (HAP) if for all $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2 \in \mathcal{K}$, for all homomorphisms $f_1 : \mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{B}_1, f_2 : \mathbf{A} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{B}_2$ there exist $\mathbf{C} \in \mathcal{K}, g_1 : \mathbf{B}_1 \hookrightarrow \mathbf{C}$, and $g_2 : \mathbf{B}_2 \to \mathbf{C}$, such that the following diagram commutes:



Theorem

Let \mathcal{K} be a strict Fraïssé-class with the HAP. Let **U** be a Fraïssé-limit of \mathcal{K} . If \mathcal{K} is closed with respect to n-th powers, then **U** has an n-ary universal homogeneous polymorphism.

Some examples

The following structures have universal homogeneous polymorphisms of every arity:

- ► the countable random graph R (here K is the class of all finite simple graphs),
- ► the countable generic poset P = (P, ≤) (here K is the class of all finite posets),
- ► the countable atomless Boolean algebra A (here K is the class of finite Boolean algebras),
- the countable universal homogeneous semilattice Ω (here *K* is the class of all finite semilattices),
- ► the countable universal homogeneous distributive lattice D (here K is the class of all finite distributive lattices).

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Clones and Menger algebras

Given a set A.

$$egin{aligned} O_A^{(n)} &:= \{f \mid f: A^n o A\}, \quad O_A := igcup_{n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}} O_A^{(n)} \ f \in O_A^{(n)}, \, g_1, \dots, g_n \in O_A^{(m)} : f \circ \langle g_1, \dots, g_n
angle \in O_A^{(m)} \ f \circ \langle g_1, \dots, g_n
angle : ar{x} \mapsto f(g_1(ar{x}), \dots, g_n(ar{x})). \ e_i^n \in O_A^{(n)} : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto x_i \quad (ext{projections}) \end{aligned}$$

Definition

A clone on A is a subset of O_A that contains all projections and is closed with respect to composition.

Definition

An *n*-ary pre-Menger algebra on *A* is a subset of $O_A^{(n)}$ that is closed with respect to composition.

Definition

An *n*-ary pre-Menger algebra is called Menger algebra if it contains all e_i^n

Clones and Menger algebras of Polymorphisms

Given a structure A (with carrier A).

$$ext{Pol}^{(n)}(\mathbf{A}) := \{ f \in O_A^{(n)} \mid f : \mathbf{A}^n o \mathbf{A} \}$$

 $ext{Pol}(\mathbf{A}) = igcup_{n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}} ext{Pol}^{(n)}(\mathbf{A})$

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Note:

- 1. $Pol^{(n)}(\mathbf{A})$ is an *n*-ary Menger algebra,
- 2. $Pol(\mathbf{A})$ is a clone.

Cofinality of clones and Menger algebras

- The notions subclone, and pre-Menger subalgebra are defined in the obvious way.
- ▶ Let *C* be a clone, *M* be an *n*-ary pre-Menger algebra

Definition

C is said to have uncountable cofinality if it can not be written as the union of a countable chain of proper subclones.

Definition

M is said to have uncountable cofinality if it can not be written as the union of a countable chain of proper pre-Menger subalgebras.

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Uncountable cofinality for clones

- For M ⊆ O_A the smallest clone on A containing M is denoted by ⟨M⟩_{O_A},
- For a clone *C* on *A*, we define $C^{(n)} := C \cap O_A^{(n)}$

Proposition

A clone C has uncountable cofinality if and only if there exists some $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ such that

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1.
$$C = \langle C^{(k)} \rangle_{O_A}$$
,

2. $C^{(k)}$, considered as a pre-Menger algebra, has uncountable cofinality

Uncountable cofinality for Menger algebras

Proposition

Let **A** be a structure such that $End(\mathbf{A})$ has uncountable cofinality. If **A** has a universal n-ary polymorphism, then $Pol^{(n)}(\mathbf{A})$ has uncountable cofinality, too.

Remark

- In the proposition above, uncountable cofinality can be replaced by strong uncountable cofinality,
- strong uncountable cofinality is equivalent to uncountable cofinality + Bergman property.

Here a pre-Menger algebra M has the Bergman property if for every generating set T there exists a k_T such that every element of M can be obtained by a term over T of depth $\leq k$.

Examples

The following Menger algebras have uncountable cofinality and the Bergman property:

- ▶ $Pol^{(n)}(R)$, where R is the countable random graph,
- ▶ $Pol^{(n)}(\mathbb{P})$ where $\mathbb{P} = (P, \leq)$ is the countable generic poset,
- Pol⁽ⁿ⁾(A), where A is the countable atomless Boolean algebra,
- Pol⁽ⁿ⁾(Ω), where Ω is the countable universal homogeneous semilattice,
- Pol⁽ⁿ⁾(D), where D is the countable universal homogeneous distributive lattice,

$$\triangleright O_A^{(n)}$$
.

Corollary

The clone O_A has uncountable cofinality (since it is generated by $O_A^{(2)}$).

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Retracts

Fraïssé-limits in comma categories

Definition

A retraction $r : \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ is called <u>universal homogeneous</u> retraction if it is a universal homogeneous homomorphism to \mathbf{T} within $\overline{\operatorname{Age}(\mathbf{U})}$

Theorem

Let C be a Fraïssé-class with Fraïssé-limit U, and let $T \in \overline{C}$. Then there exists a universal homogeneous retraction $r : U \rightarrow T$ if and only if

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Subretracts of universal homogeneous retracts

Proposition

Let C be a Fraïssé-class with Fraïssé-limit **U** and let $\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W} \in \overline{C}$ Let $r : \mathbf{U} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{V}$ be a universal homogeneous retraction. Let $s : \mathbf{V} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{W}$ be any retraction. Then there is a universal homogeneous retraction $\hat{s} : \mathbf{U} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{W}$.

Corollary

If **U** has a universal homogeneous endomorphism, then every retract of **U** is induced by a universal homogeneous retraction.

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Universal homogeneous endomorphisms revisited

Kubiś's amalgamated extension property

Let C be a class of countable, finitely generated structures. We say that C has the amalgamated extension property if



Universal homogeneous endomorphisms revisited

Kubiś's amalgamated extension property

Let C be a class of countable, finitely generated structures. We say that C has the amalgamated extension property if



Universal homogeneous endomorphisms revisited II

Proposition

Let C be a Fraïssé-class. Let U be its Fraïssé-limit. Then U has a universal homogeneous endomorphism if and only if

- 1. C has the amalgamated extension property, and
- 2. C has the homo amalgamation property.

Proposition

Let \mathbf{U} be a countable structure that has a universal homogeneous endomorphism. Then \mathbf{U} is homogeneous if and only if \mathbf{U} is homomorphism homogeneous.

Corollary

Let C be a Fraïssé-class with Fraïssé-limit **U**. Then C has the HAP and the amalgamated extension property if and only if every retract of **U** is induced by a universal homogeneous retraction.

Outline

Universal homomorphisms

Universal polymorphisms

Cofinality of Menger algebras and clones

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Retracts

Fraïssé-limits in comma categories

Universal homogeneous objects in categories

Definition

We call a category \mathfrak{C} a λ -amalgamation category if

- 1. all morphisms of $\mathfrak C$ are monomorphisms,
- 2. \mathfrak{C} is λ -algebroidal,
- 3. $\mathfrak{C}_{<\lambda}$ has the joint embedding property,
- 4. $\mathfrak{C}_{<\lambda}$ has the amalgamation property.

Theorem (Droste, Göbel '92)

Let λ be a regular cardinal, and let \mathfrak{C} be a λ -algebroidal category in which all morphisms are monomorphisms. Then there exists a \mathfrak{C} -universal, $\mathfrak{C}_{<\lambda}$ -homogeneous object in \mathfrak{C} if and only if \mathfrak{C} is a λ -amalgamation category. Moreover, any two \mathfrak{C} -universal, $\mathfrak{C}_{<\lambda}$ -homogeneous objects in \mathfrak{C} are isomorphic.

(F, G)-amalgamation property

Given categories $\mathfrak{A}, \mathfrak{B}, \mathfrak{C}$, functors $F : \mathfrak{A} \to \mathfrak{C}, G : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{C}$. \mathfrak{A} has the (F, G)-amalgamation property if



(F, G)-amalgamation property

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(*F*, *G*)-amalgamation property Given categories $\mathfrak{A}, \mathfrak{B}, \mathfrak{C}$, functors $F : \mathfrak{A} \to \mathfrak{C}, G : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{C}$. \mathfrak{A} has the (*F*, *G*)-amalgamation property if



Theorem

Let \mathfrak{A} be a λ -algebroidal category all of whose morphisms are monos, and let \mathfrak{B} be a λ -amalgamation category. Let \mathfrak{C} be any category. Let $F : \mathfrak{A} \to \mathfrak{C}$, $G : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{C}$. Further suppose that

- 1. *F* is λ -continuous,
- 2. F preserves λ -smallness with respect to G,
- 3. G preserves monomorphisms,
- 4. for every $A \in \mathfrak{A}_{<\lambda}$ and for every $B \in \mathfrak{B}_{<\lambda}$ there are at most λ morphisms in $\mathfrak{C}(FA \to GB)$.

Then $(F \downarrow G)$ is a λ -amalgamation category if and only if a. $(F|_{\mathfrak{A}_{<\lambda}} \downarrow G|_{\mathfrak{B}_{<\lambda}})$ has the joint embedding property, and b. \mathfrak{A} has the $(F|_{\mathfrak{A}_{<\lambda}}, G|_{\mathfrak{B}_{<\lambda}})$ -amalgamation property.

Question

Let (U, u, T) be universal homogeneous in $(F \downarrow G)$. When is U universal homogeneous in \mathfrak{A} ?

Mixed amalgamation

Definition

Let $\mathfrak{A}, \mathfrak{B}, \mathfrak{C}$ be categories and let $F : \mathfrak{A} \to \mathfrak{C}$ and $G : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{C}$. We say that F and G have the mixed amalgamation property if for all $A, B \in \mathfrak{A}, S \in \mathfrak{B}, g : A \to B, a : FA \to GS$,



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Mixed amalgamation

Definition

Let $\mathfrak{A}, \mathfrak{B}, \mathfrak{C}$ be categories and let $F : \mathfrak{A} \to \mathfrak{C}$ and $G : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{C}$. We say that F and G have the mixed amalgamation property if for all $A, B \in \mathfrak{A}, S \in \mathfrak{B}, g : A \to B, a : FA \to GS$, there exists $T \in \mathfrak{B}, h : S \to T$, and $b : FB \to GT$ such that the following diagram commutes:



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At last...

Let $(\widehat{\mathfrak{A}}, \mathfrak{A})$ be a λ -amalgamation pair, \mathfrak{B} be a λ -amalgamation category, and let \mathfrak{C} be a category. Let $\widehat{F} : \widehat{\mathfrak{A}} \to \mathfrak{C}, G : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{C}$ and let F be the restriction of \widehat{F} to \mathfrak{A} . Further suppose that

- 1. *F* and *G* are λ -continuous,
- 2. F preserves λ -smallness with respect to G,
- 3. G preserves monomorphisms,
- 4. for every $A \in \mathfrak{A}_{<\lambda}$ and for every $B \in \mathfrak{B}_{<\lambda}$ there are at most λ morphisms in $\mathfrak{C}(FA \to GB)$.

Finally, suppose that *F* is faithful, and that $(F \downarrow G)$ is a λ -amalgamation category.

Let (U, u, T) be universal and homogeneous in $(F \downarrow G)$

Proposition

U is $\mathfrak{A}_{<\lambda}$ -saturated in \mathfrak{A} if and only if $F|_{\mathfrak{A}_{<\lambda}}$ and $G|_{\mathfrak{B}_{<\lambda}}$ have the mixed amalgamation property.

Thank you for your attention!

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