

The logical complexity of MSO over countable linear orders

Cécilia PRADIC

Swansea University

j.w.w. Leszek A. Kołodziejczyk, Henryk Michalewski, Michał Skrzypczak and Sreejith A. V.

Swansea theory seminar, December 3rd, 2021

Monadic Second-Order logic

Monadic Second-Order logic

Reverse Mathematics

Between 2^* and ω : quick overview

Decidability of $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ via algebras

Reverse Mathematics of $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

Conclusion

Monadic Second-Order logic

Syntax of MSO

$$\varphi, \psi ::= R(t_1, \dots, t_k) \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \psi \mid \exists x \varphi \mid x \in X \mid \exists X \varphi$$

- Only *unary* predicates.
- The structures which we will discuss today:

the natural numbers
 $(\omega, <)$



the rationals
 $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$



the infinite (binary) tree
 $(\{0, 1\}^*, s_0, s_1, =)$



By default: standard/full models

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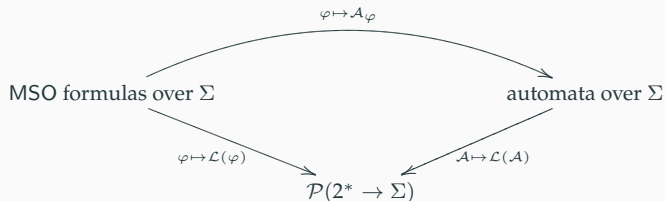
By default: standard/full models

Typical MSO-definable properties

- "The set X is unbounded." $(\omega, <)$
- "There is no homomorphism $(\mathbb{Q}, <) \rightarrow (X, <)$ (i.e., X is *scattered*)."
 $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$
- " X intersects infinitely many times exactly one infinite branch."
 $(\{0, 1\}^*, s_0, s_1, =)$

Rabin's theorem (1971)

$\text{MSO}(2^*, s_0, s_1, =)$ is decidable.

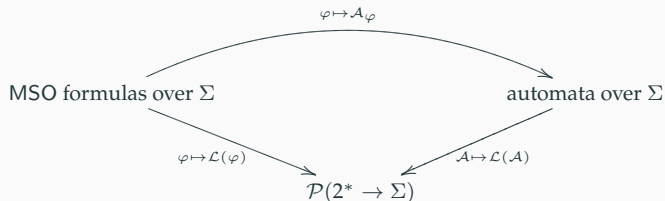


The high-level idea

- $\mathcal{L}(\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_n)) \subseteq [2^* \rightarrow 2^n]$ corresponds to the valuations $\{\rho \mid \text{MSO}(\{0, 1\}^*, s_0, s_1, =) \models_\rho \varphi\}$.
- Automata construction for each connective; \exists and \neg present the most difficulty.
- It is decidable to check whether $\exists t \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ or not.

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-
- Decidability of $\text{MSO}(\omega, <)$ and $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ can be deduced from Rabin's theorem. (interpretations)
 - Direct proof for $\text{MSO}(\omega, <)$ using the same high-level approach (Büchi 1962).
 - Assuming AC and CH, $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{R}, <)$ is undecidable (Shelah 1975).

A non-deterministic word automaton $\mathcal{A} : \Sigma$ is a tuple (Q, q_0, δ, F) with

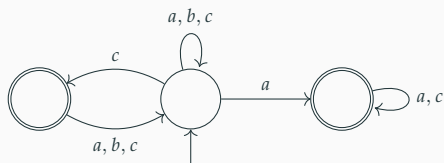
- Q is a finite set of states, $q_0 \in Q$
- a transition function $\delta : \Sigma \times Q \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q)$
- a set $F \subseteq Q$ of *accepting states*

A run over the input $w \in \Sigma^\omega$ is a sequence $\rho \in Q^\omega$ with $\rho_0 = q_0$ and $\forall n \in \omega \rho_{n+1} \in \delta(w_n, \rho_n)$
 $q_0 \xrightarrow{w_0} \rho_1 \in \delta(w_0, q_0) \xrightarrow{w_1} \rho_2 \in \delta(w_1, \rho_1) \xrightarrow{w_2} \dots$

Büchi acceptance condition

$w \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$ iff there is a run over w hitting F infinitely often.

non-recursive!



“There are infinitely many *cs* or finitely many *bs*.”

$$(\Sigma^*c)^\omega + \Sigma^*\{a, c\}^\omega$$

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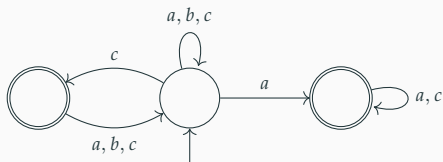
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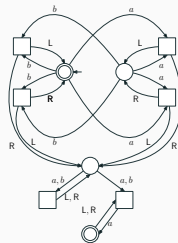
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A tree automaton recognizing
 “ $\exists!$ branch with ∞ many bs”

Complement and projections

Major roadblocks toward proving the decidability theorems for $\text{MSO}(\omega, <)$ and $\text{MSO}(2^*, s_0, s_1, =)$

On ω -words

- For every Büchi automaton $\mathcal{A} : \Sigma$, there is \mathcal{A}^c s.t. $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}^c) = \Sigma^\omega \setminus \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ (Büchi 1962)
- Büchi automata can be determinized into parity automata (McNaughton 1969)

Modern proofs typically involve weak König's lemma and infinite Ramsey for pairs

On labeled trees (Rabin 1971)

- For every non-deterministic parity tree automaton $\mathcal{A} : \Sigma$, there is \mathcal{A}^c s.t. $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}^c) = \Sigma^{2^*} \setminus \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$
- *Alternating* parity tree automata \equiv non-deterministic parity tree automata

Modern proofs typically involve positional determinacy of parity games GS games at level $BC(\Sigma_2^0)$

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Motivating question

Those arguments are increasingly sophisticated from a combinatorial and logical perspective.
How can we quantify this?

Reverse Mathematics

- A framework to analyze axiomatic strength
- Vast program
- Many links with recursion theory

[Friedman, Simpson, Steele 70s]

Methodology

- Consider a theorem T formulated in second-order arithmetic.
- Work in the weak theory RCA_0 .
- Target some natural axiom A such that $\text{RCA}_0 \not\vdash A$.
- Show that $\text{RCA}_0 \vdash A \Leftrightarrow T$.

Essentially independence proofs...

- Similar in spirit to statements like

“Tychonoff’s theorem is equivalent to the axiom of choice.”

Induction and comprehension

RCA_0 is defined by restricting *induction* and *comprehension*

Comprehension axiom

For every formula $\phi(n)$ (with $X \notin \text{FV}(\phi)$)

$$\exists X \forall n \in \mathbb{N} [\phi(n) \Leftrightarrow n \in X]$$

- RCA_0 : restricted to Δ_1^0 formulas

recursive comprehension

Induction axiom

To prove that $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \phi(n)$ it suffices to show

- $\phi(0)$ holds
- for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\phi(n)$ implies $\phi(n + 1)$

- RCA_0 : restricted to Σ_1^0 formulas

$\exists n \delta(n)$ with $\delta \in \Delta_1^0$

- Γ -induction equivalent to Γ -comprehension for finite sets

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \exists X \forall k < n (k \in X \Leftrightarrow \phi(k))$$

The big five

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Π_1^1 Comprehension | $\Pi_1^1\text{-CA}_0$ | \iff | Lusin's separation theorem |
| | \Downarrow | | |
| Transfinite Recursion | ATR_0 | \iff | Determinacy of open games |
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| Σ_1^0 Comprehension | ACA_0 | \iff | König's Lemma |
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| Weak König's Lemma | WKL_0 | \iff | Brouwer's fixed point theorem |
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| Recursive Comprehension | RCA_0 | | |

Outliers: infinite Ramsey for pairs, determinacy statements.

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Outliers: infinite Ramsey for pairs, determinacy statements.

\rightsquigarrow Where do our decidability theorems sit in this hierarchy?

Between 2^* and ω : quick overview

Material covered in **How unprovable is Rabin's decidability theorem**

[Kołodziejczyk, Michalewski, 2015]

Relationship to the big five

Complementation of non-deterministic tree automata and Rabin's theorem are

- provable in Π_3^1 -comprehension
- unprovable in Δ_3^1 -comprehension

\rightsquigarrow well above Π_1^1 -comprehension. . .

Main equivalence

Over ACA_0 , the following are equivalent:

- Determinacy of $BC(\Sigma_2^0)$ games
- Positional determinacy of parity games
- Closure under complement of regular tree languages
- Decidability of $\text{MSO}(2^*, s_0, s_1, =)$

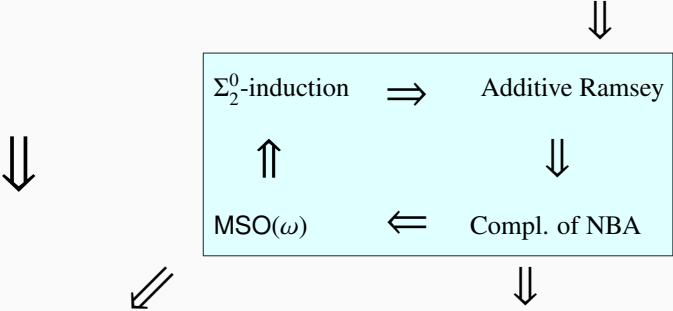
Büchi's decidability theorem (over RCA_0)

Material covered in **The Logical Strength of Büchi's Decidability Theorem**

[Kołodziejczyk, Michalewski, P., Skrzypczak, 2016]

Weak König's lemma

Infinite Ramsey theorem



Bounded weak König's lemma

Determinization of NBA

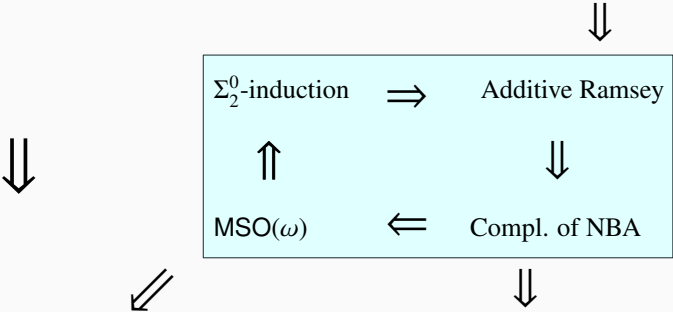
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Let's focus on additive Ramsey

(main tool for complementation and algebraic approaches)

Additive Ramsey over ω

For any linear order $(P, <)$ write $[P]^2$ for $\{(i, j) \in P^2 \mid i < j\}$ and fix a finite monoid (M, \cdot, e) .

Call $f: [P]^2 \rightarrow M$ *additive* when $f(i, j) \cdot f(j, k) = f(i, k)$ for all $i < j < k$

Additive Ramsey

For any additive $f: [P]^2 \rightarrow M$, there is an unbounded monochromatic $X \subseteq P$ (s.t. $|f([X]^2)| = 1$).

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Π_2^0 -induction from additive Ramsey

- Consider equivalently comprehension for sets bounded by n for $\exists^\infty k \delta(x, k)$

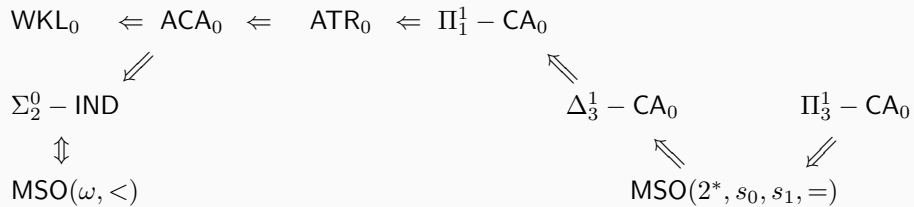
(the set of infinite sets is a complete Π_2^0 -set)

- Define the coloring $f: [\omega]^2 \rightarrow 2^n$ as $f(i, j)_x = \max_{i \leq l < j} \delta(x, l)$

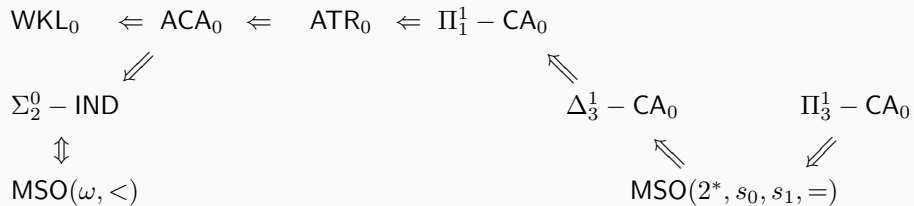
- Apply additive Ramsey and consider the color X of the monochromatic set. Conclude as

$$x \in X \iff \exists^\infty k \delta(x, k)$$

The big picture

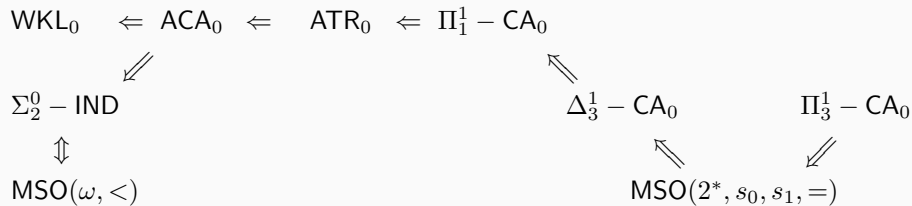


The big picture



Intermediate cases?

The big picture

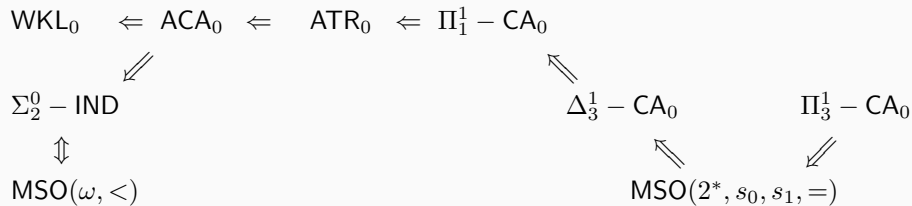


Intermediate cases?

Observations

- $RCA_0 \wedge MSO(\omega^2) \implies ACA_0$, and a fortiori, $RCA_0 \wedge MSO(\mathbb{Q}, <) \implies ACA_0$

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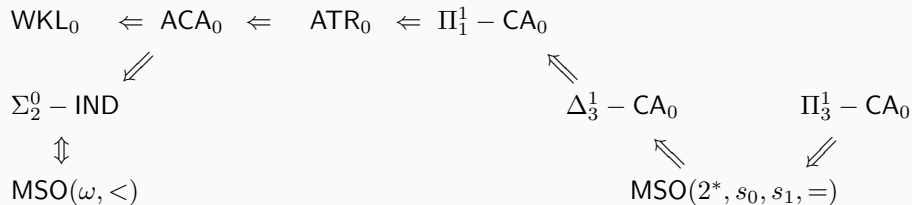


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- $RCA_0 \wedge MSO(\mathbb{Q}, <) \implies \Pi_1^1 - CA_0$

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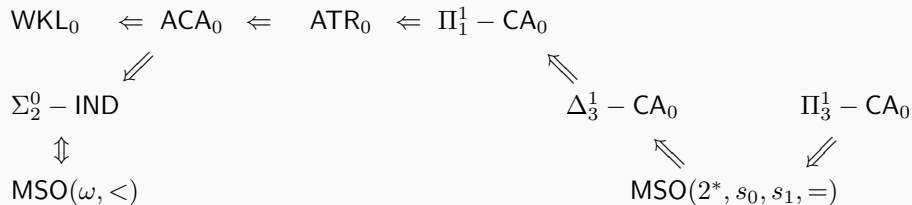


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- (subtle point: $\text{RCA}_0 \wedge \text{Dec}(\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)) \implies \Pi_1^1 - \text{IND}$)

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Motivates studying $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

strictly intermediate?

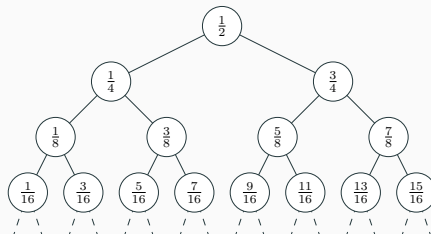
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Background on the decidability of $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

- Initially proven as a corollary of Rabin's theorem

(other interesting examples also obtained like this)

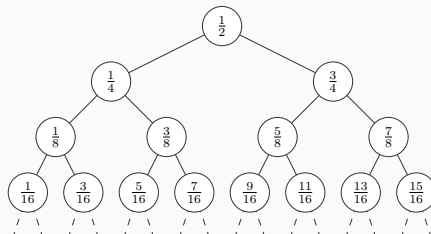
$$\mathbb{Q} \simeq \left\{ \frac{k}{2^n} \mid 1 \leq k \leq 2^n \right\} \mapsto$$



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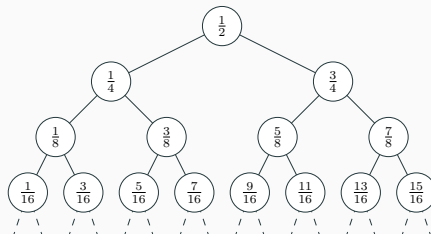
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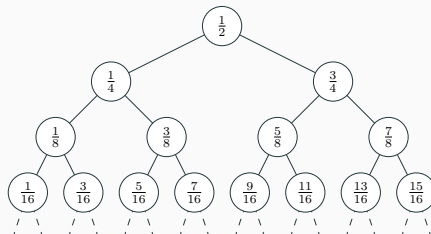


- Direct proof using the composition method in **The monadic theory of order** [S. Shelah, 1975]
 - By computing effectively (n, k) -types (n =quantifier depth and k =parameters)
 - In particular, coincides with the MSO theory of an Aronszajn line
 - Important subcase: scattered linear orders (no homomorphism $(\mathbb{Q}, <) \rightarrow (P, <)$)

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- We will follow a modern presentation appearing in **An algebraic approach to MSO-definability on countable linear orderings**

[O. Carton, T. Colcombet, G. Puppis, 2011]

Algebras for countable linear orders

Fix a set $\text{LO}_{\mathbb{N}_0}$ containing all countable linear orders (up to iso) closed under *lexicographic sums* $\sum_p Q_p$

\circ -monoid

A \circ -monoid is a pair $(M, (\mu_P)_{P \in \text{LO}_{\mathbb{N}_0}})$ where

- M is a (finite) set
- $(\mu_P)_{P \in \text{LO}_{\mathbb{N}_0}}$ is a family of maps $\mu_P : [P \rightarrow M] \rightarrow M$ that are *associative* (for $|P| \leq 2 \rightarrow$ monoid laws)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \prod_{p \in P} [Q_p \rightarrow M] & \xrightarrow{\prod_p \mu_{Q_p}} & M^P \\ \sim \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu_P \\ [M \rightarrow \sum Q] & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\sum Q}} & M \end{array}$$

and stable under order-isomorphism

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Typical examples: (n, r) -types of countable linear orders

Recognizing \circ -words

A countable word (\circ -word) over Σ is a map $P \rightarrow \Sigma$ with $P \in \mathbf{LO}_{\aleph_0}$

Recognition by \circ -monoids

Fix a finite alphabet Σ and a tuple (M, μ, φ, F) with

- (M, μ) a \circ -monoid
- $\varphi : \Sigma \rightarrow M$ and $F \subseteq M$

Say $w \in \Sigma^P$ is recognized by (M, μ, φ, F) iff $\mu_P(\varphi \circ w) \in F$

- Generalizes the algebraic approach to (in)finite word automata (recognition via (ω) -monoids)

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- Caution, the multiplication need not be effective!

Recognizing \circ -words

A countable word (\circ -word) over Σ is a map $P \rightarrow \Sigma$ with $P \in \text{LO}_{\aleph_0}$

Recognition by \circ -monoids

Fix a finite alphabet Σ and a tuple (M, μ, φ, F) with

- (M, μ) a \circ -monoid
- $\varphi : \Sigma \rightarrow M$ and $F \subseteq M$

Say $w \in \Sigma^P$ is recognized by (M, μ, φ, F) iff $\mu_P(\varphi \circ w) \in F$

- Generalizes the algebraic approach to (in)finite word automata (recognition via (ω) -monoids)
- \circ -word languages trivially closed under boolean operations
- Closure under \exists via a powerset operation over \circ -monoid
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Challenges toward decidability

Find a finitary representation of \circ -monoids such that

- emptiness of a language restricted to domains $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ may be checked algorithmically
- the powerset operation remains computable

\circ -algebra

A \circ -algebra is a tuple $(M, \cdot, e, (-)^\tau, (-)^{\tau^{\text{op}}}, (-)^\kappa)$ where

- (M, \cdot) is a (finite) monoid
- the operations $(-)^\tau, (-)^{\tau^{\text{op}}} : M \rightarrow M$ and $(-)^\kappa : \mathcal{P}(M) \setminus \emptyset \rightarrow M$ satisfy *associativity* equations

[omitted]

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We call these words K -shuffles

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Theorem (representability)

Every finite \circ -algebra has a unique lift to a \circ -monoid.

Representability: the impredicative argument

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Every finite \circ -algebra M has a unique lift to a \circ -monoid.

A convex subset $Q \subseteq_{\text{conv}} P$ is a set $Q \subseteq P$ such that $x, y \in Q \wedge x < z < y \implies z \in Q$

Say that a countable word $w : P \rightarrow M$ has value m if there is an associative

$$\mu : \prod_{Q \subseteq_{\text{conv}} P} [M^{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow M]$$

compatible with M such that $\mu_P(w) = m$

Outline of the argument

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3. P/\sim is necessarily a subsingleton
 - If two successive elements in P/\sim , contradiction because of binary multiplication
 - Otherwise, P/\sim is dense and there is a shuffle in w/\sim , contradiction because of $(-)^{\kappa}$

The shuffle principle

For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $c : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow n$, there is $I \subseteq_{\text{conv}} \mathbb{Q}$ such that $c \upharpoonright I$ is a shuffle.

Compare and contrast with the key combinatorial principle in Shelah's argument

Shelah's additive Ramseyan theorem

For every additive map $f : [\mathbb{Q}]^2 \rightarrow M$, there exists

- $I \subseteq_{\text{conv}} \mathbb{Q}$
- finitely many dense sets D_i with $I = \bigcup_i D_i$

such that f is constant over each $[D_i]^2$

Powerset \circ -monoid

Define the operation $(M, \mu) \mapsto (\mathcal{P}(M), \mu^{\mathcal{P}})$ as

$$\mu^{\mathcal{P}}(w) = \{\mu(u) \mid u \in M^{\mathcal{P}}, \forall x \in P \ u(x) \in w(x)\}$$

This \circ -monoid is important as allows to produce

- A tuple $(\mathcal{P}(M), \mu^{\mathcal{P}}, \varphi^{\exists}, F^{\exists})$ recognizing a projection of $\mathcal{L}(M, \mu, \varphi, F)$
- Go from the $(n, k + 1)$ -types to $(n + 1, k)$ -types

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Lemma

The underlying map of \circ -algebra is computable

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Corollary

$\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ is decidable

Reverse Mathematics of $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

The fine combinatorial principles?

Do the more obvious combinatorial principles contribute to the logical complexity once again?

Not really

Theorem

Over RCA_0 , the following are equivalent:

- the shuffle principle
- Shelah's additive Ramseyan theorem over \mathbb{Q}
- induction for Σ_2^0 formulas

(Recall that $\text{RCA}_0 \wedge \text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <) \implies \Pi_1^1\text{CA}_0$)

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(Recall that $\text{RCA}_0 \wedge \text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <) \implies \Pi_1^1\text{CA}_0$)

The implications $\implies \Sigma_1^0 - \text{IND}$ are proven similarly as before using the map

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ \frac{2k+1}{2^n} \mid 0 \leq k \leq 2^{n-1} \right\} &\longrightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ \frac{2k+1}{2^n} &\longmapsto n \end{aligned}$$

density \leftarrow infinity

An upper bound and a conjectural upper bound

Adapting the approach above, with the following caveats:

- Some lemmas cannot be stated in the language of second-order arithmetic as-is
(adapted statements: talk about infinitary syntax trees and algebras only)
- Swept the effectivization of $(\mathcal{P}(M), \mu^{\mathcal{P}})$ under the rug (needs to be reformulated anyways)
- We would at several points use conservativity of choice for certain classes of formulas

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Π_2^1 -comprehension proves decidability of $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

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Theorem

Π_2^1 -comprehension proves decidability of $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

- This shows that this is strictly easier than Rabin's theorem, strictly harder than Büchi's
- We have reasons to suspect this is not optimal

The axiom of finite Π_1^1 -recursion ($\phi \in \Pi_1^1, X \notin FV(\phi)$)

$$\forall n \exists X. X_0 = \emptyset \wedge \forall k < n \forall z (z \in X_{k+1} \Leftrightarrow \phi(z, X_k))$$

- Always true in *standard* models of $\Pi_1^1 - CA_0$.
- This is equivalent to determinacy of weak parity games

$BC(\Sigma_1^0)$ GS games

Conjecture

Finite Π_1^1 -recursion proves the soundness of the standard decision algorithm for $MSO(\mathbb{Q})$

- So far, we know how to prove the analogue of the representation lemma
- We miss the soundness of the definition of the powerset algebra
- Enough to derive a descriptive set theoretic result

Evaluating words with finite Π_1^1 -recursion (scattered vs dense)

Now let us sketch the argument for a representability theorem. Fix a \circ -algebra M . Consider the following procedure to compute the value of a word $w : P \rightarrow M$

Iterate the following two steps

1. When P is dense in itself, factorize *pseudo-shuffles* maximally
2. Otherwise, decompose P as a sum of *scattered orders* and evaluate each scattered part

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Hausdorff's theorem

$\Pi_1^1 \rightarrow$ (Clote 1989)

Every linear order is isomorphic to a Π_1^1 -definable decomposition $\sum_{d \in D} P_d$ where

- D is dense in itself (if countable, either $0, 1$ or \mathbb{Q} up to endpoints)
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The value of words $w : P \rightarrow M$ with P scattered is Π_1^1 -definable

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- Recursion over a decomposition of P along a well-founded ordered trees with arities $\subseteq \mathbb{Z}$
- Relies on the arithmetical definition of monochromatic sets for additive Ramsey

Evaluating words with finite Π_1^1 -recursion (dense steps)

Consider the following procedure to compute the value of a word $w : P \rightarrow M$

Iterate the following two steps

1. When P is dense in itself, factorize *pseudo-shuffles* maximally
2. Otherwise, decompose P as a sum of *scattered orders* and evaluate each scattered part

Pseudo-shuffles

$w : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow M$ is a pseudo-shuffle of value $e \in M$ if:

- for each convex subword which is a P -shuffle, we have $P^\kappa = e$
 - for every letter m occurring in w , $eme = e$
 - for each homomorphism $\iota : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ such that $w \circ \iota$ is a P -shuffle, $(P \cup \{e\})^\kappa = e$
-
- More general than shuffles
 - Note the dependency on the structure of M
 - Required to bound the number of iterations by $|M|$
 - Algebraic reasoning on \circ -algebras needed

(compatibility with the monoid structure)

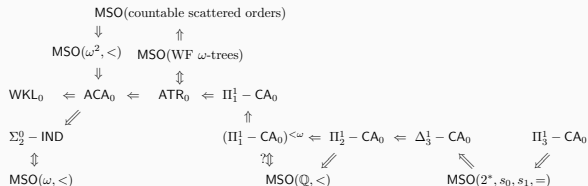
| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| $abP^\kappa ab$ | $abP^\kappa a$ | abP^κ |
| $bP^\kappa ab$ | $bP^\kappa a$ | bP^κ |
| $P^\kappa ab$ | $P^\kappa a$ | P^κ |

} \mathcal{R} -class

} \mathcal{L} -class

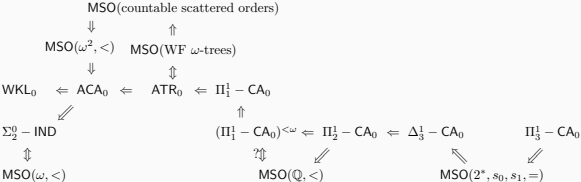
Conclusion

The current picture



- We did find an intermediate case...
- ...but we do not have a clean equivalence
- Improved characterization of \circ -word languages in terms of topological complexity?

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Conjecture on MSO-definable languages

Define the C-hierarchy by iterating Suslin A -operation and complementation $(\Sigma_1^1 \subseteq C \subsetneq \Delta_2^1)$

Every $\text{MSO}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ -definable language sits in a finite level of the C-hierarchy

(beforehand, Δ_2^1 bound via a collapse result in (Carton, Colcombet, Puppis 2011))

- Settle the conjectures!
- Characterize algebras recognizing Borel languages
- Are well-founded trees strictly harder than scattered words/countable ordinals?
- Logical strength related to weak parity games
 - ↔ Is there a natural alternating automata model for \mathbb{Q} -labellings?
- Adapt the techniques for uncountable structures

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- Logical strength related to weak parity games
 - ↔ Is there a natural alternating automata model for \mathbb{Q} -labellings?
- Adapt the techniques for uncountable structures

Thanks for listening! Further questions?

Fix a Polish space X . Note in particular that the set of words $\Sigma^{\mathbb{Q}}$ always forms a Polish space

(via $\mathbb{N} \simeq \mathbb{Q}$)

C-sets

Suslin A -operation takes a map $\beta : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$ and outputs the set

$$A(\beta) = \bigcup_{b \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}} \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \beta(p \upharpoonright k)$$

Extend the A operation to pointclasses $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ by setting $A(\Gamma) = \{A(\beta) \mid \beta : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \Gamma\}$

C-sets are obtained by iterating the A -operation from the closed sets and closing under complement

We have that $A(\Pi_1^0) = \Sigma_1^1$ and that C-sets are all Δ_2^1

Conjecture on MSO-definable languages

Every MSO($\mathbb{Q}, <$)-definable language sits in a finite level of the C-hierarchy

For every finite level of the hierarchy of C-sets, there is a complete MSO($\mathbb{Q}, <$)-definable language

- The first point is the more difficult result
- The second requires (already known) tricks to encode lexicographic products $\mathbb{Q} \times_{\text{lex}} \mathbb{Q}$