

# Theories of Classes of Structures

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# Ketonen's question

Let  $\mathbf{BA}$  be the class of **countable Boolean algebras**,  
and  $\oplus$  the product operation

**Question** ([Ketonen 78])

Is the theory of  $(\mathbf{BA}; \oplus)$  decidable?

**Tarski's Cube Problem** (1950's):

Is there  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbf{BA}$  with  $\mathcal{A} \cong \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{A} \not\cong \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{A}$

**Thm:**[Ketonen 78] Any commutative semigroup embeds into  $(\mathbf{BA}; \oplus)$ .

**Corollary:** The  $\exists$ -theory of  $(\mathbf{BA}; \oplus)$  is decidable.

# Th( $BA; \oplus$ ) is undecidable

## Theorem ([Kach, M])

*The theory of  $(BA; \oplus)$  is 1-equivalent to true 2nd-order arithmetic.*

### Proof:

- We encode  $(\mathbb{N}, \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}^3); \leq)$  instead of  $(\mathbb{N}, \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}); \leq, +, \times)$ .
- Encode an integer  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by the interval algebra of  $\omega^n \cdot (1 + \eta)$ .
- Given  $\mathcal{B} \in BA$ , we define  $S_3(\mathcal{B}) \subseteq \mathbb{N}^3$  as follows:

$$S_3(\mathcal{B}) = \{(n_1, n_2, n_3) \in \mathbb{N}^3 : \\ \text{IntAlg}\left(\sum_{i \in 1+\eta} (\omega^{n_1} \cdot (1 + \eta) + \omega^{n_2} \cdot (1 + \eta) + \omega^{n_3} \cdot (1 + \eta))\right) \\ \text{is a direct summand of } \mathcal{B}\}.$$

# More Questions About $\mathbb{BA}_{\aleph_0}^\oplus \dots$

## Conjecture

The theory of  $(\mathbb{BA}_\kappa; \oplus)$ , for  $\kappa > \aleph_0$ , computes true 2nd-order arithmetic.

**Remark** The theories of  $(\mathbb{BA}; \oplus)$  and  $(\mathbb{BA}_\kappa; \oplus)$  differ for  $\kappa > \aleph_0$ : The former has exactly two [nontrivial] minimal elements, namely the atom and the atomless algebra; the latter has more.

Our proof is not known to work for  $\kappa > \aleph_0$ .

## Question

Is the structure  $(\mathbb{BA}; \oplus)$  bi-interpretable with 2nd-order arithmetic?

# $(LO; +)$ is undecidable.

Let  $LO$  be the class of **countable linear orderings**,  
and  $+$  the concatenation operation

## Theorem ([Kach, M])

*The theory of  $(LO; +)$  is 1-equivalent to true 2nd-order arithmetic.*

### Proof:

- We encode  $(\mathbb{N}, \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}^3); \leq)$ .
- Encode  $n \in \mathcal{N}$  by the linear ordering  $\mathbf{n}$  with  $n$  elements.
- Every lin. ord.  $\mathcal{A}$  encodes a set  
 $S_3(\mathcal{A}) = \{(n_1, n_2, n_3) \in \mathbb{N}^3 : \\ \zeta^2 + \mathbf{n}_1 + \zeta + \mathbf{n}_2 + \zeta + \mathbf{n}_3 + \zeta^2 \text{ is a segment of } \mathcal{A}\}$

## Theorem

*The structure  $(LO; +)$  is bi-interpretable with 2nd-order arithmetic.*

That is, the set

$\{(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{L}) : S_2(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathbb{N}^2 \text{ codes a lin.ord. isomorphic to } \mathcal{L}\} \subseteq LO^2$   
is definable in  $(LO; +)$ .

**Corollary:** The structure  $(LO; +)$  is rigid.

**Corollary:** Every  $K \subseteq LO^n$  definable in 2nd-order arithmetic  
is definable in  $(LO; +)$ .

**Examples** The following are definable in 2nd-order arithmetic:

- The set of scattered LO.
- The set of triples  $(x, y, z)$  of order types such that  $x \cdot y = z$ .
- The set pairs  $(x, y)$  such that  $x$  has Hausdorff rank  $y$ .

Let  $\mathbb{LO}_c$  be the set of all computable order types.

## Theorem ([Kach, M])

*The theory of  $(\mathbb{LO}_c; +)$  is 1-equivalent to the  $\omega$ th jump of Kleene's  $\mathcal{O}$ .*

## Proof:

- For  $\leq_1$ , note that  $\mathcal{O}$  suffices to determine if two computable order types are isomorphic. So,  $\mathcal{O}$  computes a presentation of  $(\mathbb{LO}_c; +)$ .
- For  $\geq_1$ , we code  $(\mathbb{N}; \leq, +, \times, \mathcal{O})$  in  $(\mathbb{LO}_c; +)$ .

Let  $\mathsf{GR}$  be the class of **countable groups**,  
 $\times$  the product operation, and  $\leq$  the sub-group relation.

## Theorem ([Kach, M])

*The theory of  $(\mathsf{GR}; \times, \leq)$  is 1-equivalent to true 2nd-order arithmetic.*

## Proof

- Let  $z$  be a minimal group. I.e.  $z \cong \mathbb{Z}$  or  $z \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ .
- Encode the integer  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by the group  $z^n$ .
- Coding sets of triples becomes tricky.
- Decoding using Kuroschi's Theorem about the sub-groups of a free product.

## Theorem ([Tamvana Makuluni])

*The theory of  $(GR; \leq)$  is 1-equivalent to true 2nd-order arithmetic.*

## Theorem ([Tamvana Makuluni])

*The first-order theory of countable **fields with the subfield relation** is 1-equivalent to true 2nd-order arithmetic.*