

**Model Theory**  
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Taught by Silvia Barbina  
Notes taken by Leonard Tomczak

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# 1 Preliminaries and Review

**Definition.** A (first order) language  $L$  consists of

- (i) a set  $\mathcal{F}$  of function symbols and for each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  a positive integer  $n_f$ , the arity of  $f$ ,
- (ii) a set  $\mathcal{R}$  of relation symbols and for each  $R \in \mathcal{R}$  a positive integer  $n_R$ , the arity of  $R$ ,
- (iii) a set  $\mathcal{C}$  of constant symbols.

**Remark.** Constant symbols could be seen as function symbols of arity 0. So some authors only include (i) and (ii) in the definition and allow  $n_f = 0$  in (i).

**Examples.**

- (a)  $L_{\text{gp}}$  is the language of groups, it has two function symbols  $\cdot$  and  $^{-1}$  of arity 2 resp. 1, a constant symbol 1 and no relation symbols.
- (b)  $L_{\text{lo}}$  is the language of linear orders. It has only one binary relation symbol  $<$ .

**Definition.** Given a language  $L = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{C})$ , an  $L$ -structure consists of

- (i) a non-empty set  $M$ , called the domain,
- (ii) for each function symbol  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , a function  $f^M : M^{n_f} \rightarrow M$ ,
- (iii) for each relation symbol  $R \in \mathcal{R}$ , a relation  $R^M \subseteq M^{n_R}$ ,
- (iv) for each constant symbol  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , an element  $c^M \in M$ .

$f^M, R^M, c^M$  are called the interpretations of the symbols  $f, R, c$  resp. in  $M$ .

**Remarks.**

1. We sometimes ignore the distinction between an  $L$ -structure and its domain, and between symbols in  $L$  and their interpretations in the structure when it is clear from the context.
2. We write  $\mathcal{M} = (M, \{f_i\}_{i \in I}, \{R_j\}_{j \in J}, \{c_k\}_{k \in K})$  for a structure in  $L = (\{f_i\}_{i \in I}, \{R_j\}_{j \in J}, \{c_k\}_{k \in K})$ .

**Examples.**

- (a)  $(\mathbb{R}^+, \{\cdot, ^{-1}\}, \{1\})$  is an  $L_{\text{gp}}$ -structure.
- (b)  $(\mathbb{Z}, \{+, -\}, 0)$  is another  $L_{\text{gp}}$ -structure.
- (c)  $(\mathbb{Q}, \{<\})$  is an  $L_{\text{lo}}$ -structure.

Using

- the symbols of  $L$ ,

- connectives  $\wedge, \neg$  (and consequently also  $\vee, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow$ ),
- quantifiers  $\exists$  (and consequently also  $\forall$ ),
- variables  $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, y, z$  etc. (arbitrarily many),
- punctuation  $(, )$ ,
- $\perp$ ,
- equality

define recursively  $L$ -terms and  $L$ -formulas.

**Notation.** The letters  $u, v, x, y, z$  usually stand for variables while  $a, b, c$  stand for constants. If  $\varphi$  is a formula,  $\varphi(x_0, \dots, x_n)$  indicates that the  $x_i$  are free variables in  $\varphi$ , same for terms. We write  $\bar{x} = x_0, \dots, x_n$  for an  $(n+1)$ -tuple of variables and same for constants.

## 2 Embeddings

**Definition.** Let  $L = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{C})$  be a language and  $M, N$  be  $L$ -structures. An embedding of  $M$  into  $N$  is an injective map  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  such that:

(i) for all  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , and  $a = a_1, \dots, a_{n_f} \in M$ ,

$$\alpha(f^M(a_1, \dots, a_{n_f})) = f^N(\alpha(a_1), \dots, \alpha(a_{n_f})),$$

(ii) for all  $R \in \mathcal{R}$ , and  $a_1, \dots, a_{n_R} \in M$ ,

$$(a_1, \dots, a_{n_R}) \in R^M \iff (\alpha(a_1), \dots, \alpha(a_{n_R})) \in R^N,$$

(iii) for each  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ ,

$$\alpha(c^M) = c^N.$$

A bijective embedding  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  is called an isomorphism. If there exists an isomorphism between  $M$  and  $N$ , we write  $M \simeq N$ .

**Examples.**

- (i) Let  $G_1, G_2$  be groups, viewed as  $L_{\text{gp}}$ -structures, then  $\alpha : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  is an embedding iff it is an injective group homomorphism.
- (ii) If  $A, B$  are linear orders, viewed as  $L_{\text{op}}$ -structures, then  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  is an embedding iff  $\alpha$  is injective and such that for  $a, b \in A$ ,  $a < b$  iff  $\alpha(a) < \alpha(b)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $M, N$  be  $L$ -structures,  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  an embedding. Let  $\bar{a} \in M^k$ , and  $t(\bar{x})$  a term with  $|\bar{x}| = k$ . Then

$$\alpha(t^M(\bar{a})) = t^N(\alpha(\bar{a})),$$

where  $\alpha(\bar{a}) = (\alpha(a_1), \dots, \alpha(a_k))$ .

*Proof.* This is a standard proof by induction on the complexity of the term  $t(\bar{x})$ .

- Case 1:  $t$  is a variable  $x_i$ . Then  $\alpha(t^M(\bar{a})) = \alpha(a_i)$  and  $t^N(\alpha(\bar{a})) = \alpha(a_i)$ .
- Case 2:  $t$  is a constant  $c$ . Then it follows from (iii) in the definition of embeddings.
- Case 3: Let  $t(\bar{x}) = f(t_1(\bar{x}), \dots, t_{n_f}(\bar{x}))$ . Then  $\alpha(t_i^M(\bar{a})) = t_i^N(\alpha(\bar{a}))$  by induction and then  $\alpha(t^M(\bar{a})) = t^N(\alpha(\bar{a}))$  by (i) in the definition of embeddings.

□

**Notation.** Recall that if  $\phi(\bar{x})$  is an  $L$ -formula,  $M$  is an  $L$ -structure and  $\bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{x}|}$ , then  $M \models \phi(\bar{a})$  means that  $\phi$  holds in  $M$  under the assignment  $x_i \mapsto a_i$  (defined recursively). Also recall that *atomic*  $L$ -formulas are those of one of the following two forms:

(i)  $t_1 = t_2$  where  $t_1, t_2$  are  $L$ -terms,

(ii)  $R(t_1, \dots, t_{m_R})$  where  $R$  is a relation symbol and  $t_1, \dots, t_{m_R}$  are terms.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $M, N$  be  $L$ -structures,  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  an embedding. Let  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  be an atomic formula and  $\bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{x}|}$ . Then*

$$M \models \varphi(\bar{a}) \iff N \models \varphi(\alpha(\bar{a})).$$

*Proof.* Immediate from the definitions and Proposition 2.1. □

Exercise: Show that the same holds more generally for quantifier-free formulas instead of just atomic ones.

**Warning.** Embeddings do not necessarily preserve all formulas. Consider e.g.  $(\mathbb{Z}, <)$  and  $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$  as  $L_{<}$ -structures. Then the map  $\alpha : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $n \mapsto n$  is an embedding. Let  $\varphi(x_1, x_2)$  be the formula  $\exists z(x_1 < z \wedge z < x_2)$ . Then  $\mathbb{Z} \not\models \varphi(1, 2)$ , but  $\mathbb{Q} \models \varphi(1, 2) = \varphi(\alpha(1), \alpha(2))$ .

Exercise: Let  $M, N$  be  $L$ -structures,  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  an isomorphism. Let  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  be any formula and  $\bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{x}|}$ . Then

$$M \models \varphi(\bar{a}) \iff N \models \varphi(\alpha(\bar{a})).$$

**Remark.** The converse of Proposition 2.2 also holds, i.e. a map  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  that preserves atomic formulas is an embedding (exercise).

### 3 Theories and Elementarity

Let  $L$  be a fixed language. Recall that a *sentence* is a formula with no free variables.

**Definition.** An  $L$ -theory  $T$  is a set of  $L$ -sentences. An  $L$ -structure  $M$  is a model of  $T$  if all sentences in  $T$  hold in  $M$ , i.e.  $M \models \sigma$  for all  $\sigma \in T$ . We write  $\text{Mod}(T)$  for the class of all models of  $T$ .

If  $M$  is a  $L$ -structure, then the theory of  $M$  is

$$\text{Th}(M) = \{\sigma \mid \sigma \text{ is an } L\text{-sentence and } M \models \sigma\}.$$

**Example.** Consider  $L = L_{\text{gp}}$ . Let  $T_{\text{gp}}$  be the theory consisting of

- (i)  $\forall x, y, z ((x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z))$ ,
- (ii)  $\forall x (x \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot x = x)$ ,
- (iii)  $\forall x (x \cdot x^{-1} = x^{-1} \cdot x = 1)$ .

If  $G$  is a group, clearly  $G \models T_{\text{gp}}$ , but  $\text{Th}(G) \supsetneq T_{\text{gp}}$ .

**Definition.**  $L$ -structures  $M, N$  are elementary equivalent if

$$\text{Th}(M) = \text{Th}(N).$$

In this case we write  $M \equiv N$ .

**Remark.** If  $M \simeq N$ , then  $M \equiv N$ , but the converse does not hold in general. E.g. we will later, see Corollary 4.7, show that

$$(\mathbb{Q}, <) \equiv (\mathbb{R}, <)$$

as  $L_{\text{lo}}$ -structures, but they are clearly not isomorphic.

**Definition.** Let  $M, N$  be  $L$ -structures. Then:

- (i) An embedding  $\beta : M \rightarrow N$  is elementary if for all  $L$ -formulas  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  and  $\bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{a}|}$ ,

$$M \models \varphi(\bar{a}) \iff N \models \varphi(\beta(\bar{a})).$$

- (ii) When  $M$  is a subset of  $N$  and the inclusion map  $M \hookrightarrow N$  is an embedding, then  $M$  is a substructure of  $N$ , written  $M \subseteq N$ .
- (iii) When  $M$  is a subset of  $N$  and the inclusion map  $M \hookrightarrow N$  is an elementary embedding, then  $M$  is an elementary substructure of  $N$ , written  $M \preceq N$ .

**Example.** Let  $\mathcal{M} = ([0, 1], <)$  and  $\mathcal{N} = ([0, 2], <)$  be  $L_{\text{lo}}$ -structures. Then  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$ . Also  $\mathcal{M} \simeq \mathcal{N}$  (e.g. via  $x \mapsto 2x$ ), hence  $\mathcal{M} \equiv \mathcal{N}$ . But  $\mathcal{M} \not\preceq \mathcal{N}$ ! Indeed, consider the formula  $\varphi(x) = \forall y (y < x \vee y = x)$ . Then  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi(1)$ , but  $\mathcal{N} \not\models \varphi(1)$ .

**Definition.** Let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure,  $A \subseteq M$  a subset. Then we define the language

$$L(A) := L \cup \{\text{constant symbols } c_a \mid a \in A\}.$$

We interpret  $M$  as an  $L(A)$ -structure by  $c_a^M := a$ . In this context, the elements of  $A$  are called parameters.

**Notation.** Let  $M, N$  be  $L$ -structures and  $A \subseteq M \cap N$  a subset. Then we write  $M \equiv_A N$  and say that  $M$  is elementary equivalent to  $N$  over  $A$ , if  $M, N$  satisfy exactly the same  $L(A)$ -sentences.

**Remark.** If  $M \preceq N$ , then  $M \equiv_M N$ .

**Lemma 3.1** (Tarski-Vaught Test). Let  $N$  be an  $L$ -structure,  $A \subseteq N$  a subset. TFAE:

- (i)  $A$  is the domain of an elementary substructure of  $N$ .
- (ii) For all  $L(A)$ -formulas  $\varphi(x)$  with one free variable  $x$ ,

$$N \models \exists x \varphi(x) \implies N \models \varphi(b) \text{ for some } b \in A. \quad (*)$$

*Proof.* “(i)  $\implies$  (ii)” is easy: By elementarity,

$$\begin{aligned} N \models \exists x \varphi(x) &\implies A \models \exists x \varphi(x) \\ &\implies A \models \varphi(b) \text{ for some } b \in A \\ &\implies N \models \varphi(b) \text{ for some } b \in A. \end{aligned}$$

“(ii)  $\implies$  (i)” First show that  $A$  is the domain of a substructure. It suffices to show (exercise)

- (a) for all  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $c^N \in A$ . [Use (\*) with  $\exists x (x = c)$ . Then  $N \models \exists x (x = c)$ , so  $N \models b = c$  for some  $b \in A$ , so  $c^N = b \in A$ .]
- (b) for  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $\bar{a} \in A^{n_f}$ , we have  $f(\bar{a}) \in A$ . [Similar to (a) with  $\exists x f(\bar{a}) = x$ .]

So  $A \subseteq N$  is a substructure. Next let  $\chi(\bar{x})$  be an  $L$ -formula and  $\bar{a} \in A^{|\bar{x}|}$ . We have to show  $A \models \chi(\bar{a}) \iff N \models \chi(\bar{a})$ . We argue by induction on the complexity of  $\chi(\bar{x})$ .

- If  $\chi(\bar{x})$  is atomic, the claim follows from  $A \subseteq N$  and Proposition 2.2.
- If  $\chi(\bar{x}) = \neg\psi(\bar{x})$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} A \models \chi(\bar{a}) &\iff A \not\models \psi(\bar{a}) \\ &\iff N \not\models \psi(\bar{a}) \\ &\iff N \models \chi(\bar{a}). \end{aligned}$$

- If  $\chi(\bar{x}) = \psi(\bar{x}) \wedge \xi(\bar{x})$ . Similar as before.

- If  $\chi(\bar{x}) = \exists y \psi(\bar{x}, y)$ . Then for  $\bar{a} \in A^{|\bar{x}|}$ ,  $\psi(\bar{a}, y)$  is an  $L(A)$ -formula with one free variable. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
A \models \chi(\bar{a}) &\iff A \models \exists y \psi(\bar{a}, y) \\
&\implies A \models \psi(\bar{a}, b) \text{ for some } b \in A \\
&\implies N \models \psi(\bar{a}, b) \text{ for some } b \in A \\
&\implies N \models \exists y \psi(\bar{a}, y) \\
&\implies N \models \chi(\bar{a}).
\end{aligned}$$

For the converse we need to use (\*), so suppose  $N \models \exists y \psi(\bar{a}, y)$ . Then  $N \models \psi(\bar{a}, b)$  for some  $b \in A$ . By induction hypothesis  $A \models \psi(\bar{a}, b)$ , so  $A \models \exists y \psi(\bar{a}, y)$ .

□

**Definition.** We define the cardinality of the language  $L$  to be

$$|L| := |\{\varphi(\bar{x}) \mid \varphi(\bar{x}) \text{ is an } L\text{-formula}\}|.$$

Note that always  $|L| \geq \omega$  (we use  $\omega$  both for the ordinal and the cardinality). Also  $|L(A)| = |L| + |A| (= \max\{|L|, |A|\})$  for parameter sets  $A$ .

**Definition.** Let  $\lambda$  be an ordinal. Then a chain of sets of length  $\lambda$  is a sequence  $(A_i)_{i < \lambda}$  where the  $A_i$  are sets such that  $A_i \subseteq A_j$  whenever  $i \leq j < \lambda$ .

Similarly, a chain of  $L$ -structures of length  $\lambda$  is a sequence  $(M_i)_{i < \lambda}$  such that  $M_i \subseteq M_j$  is a substructure whenever  $i \leq j < \lambda$ . The union of the chain  $(M_i)_{i < \lambda}$  is defined as follows:

- the domain is  $M = \bigcup_{i < \lambda} M_i$ .
- if  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $c^M := c^{M_i}$  for any  $i < \lambda$ .
- if  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $\bar{a} \in M^{n_f}$ , then  $f^M(\bar{a}) = f^{M_i}(\bar{a})$  where  $i$  is large enough such that  $\bar{a} \in M_i^{n_f}$ .
- if  $R \in \mathcal{R}$ , then  $\mathcal{R}^M = \bigcup_{i < \lambda} \mathcal{R}^{M_i}$ .

Note that these interpretations are well-defined because  $M_i \subseteq M_j$  is a substructure for  $i \leq j$ .

**Theorem 3.2** (Downward Löwenheim-Skolem). Let  $N$  be an  $L$ -structure with  $|N| \geq |L|$  and  $A \subseteq N$  a subset. Then for any cardinal  $\lambda$  such that  $|L| + |A| \leq \lambda \leq |N|$  there is an elementary substructure  $M \preceq N$  such that

- (i)  $|M| = \lambda$ ,
- (ii)  $A \subseteq M$ .

*Proof.* We build inductively a chain  $(A_i)_{i < \omega}$  of subsets of  $N$  containing  $A$  such that  $\bigcup A_i$  is the required substructure  $M$ . Let  $A_0 \supseteq A$  be any subset of  $N$  with  $|A_0| = \lambda$ . Suppose



we already constructed  $A_i$  (with  $|A_i| = \lambda$ ). Let  $(\varphi_k(x))_{k < \lambda}$  be an enumeration of  $L(A_i)$ -formulas with one free variable and such that  $N \models \exists x \varphi_k(x)$ . Then let

$$A_{i+1} := A_i \cup \{a_k \in N \mid N \models \varphi_k(a_k), k < \lambda\}.$$
<sup>1</sup>

Now let  $M = \bigcup_{i < \omega} A_i$ . Claim:  $M \preceq N$ . We use TVT (Lemma 3.1). Let  $\varphi(\bar{x}, y)$  be an  $L$ -formula. Claim: If  $N \models \exists y \varphi(\bar{a}, y)$  for  $\bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{x}|}$ , then  $N \models \varphi(\bar{a}, b)$  for some  $b \in M$ . Let  $i < \omega$  be such that  $\bar{a} \in A_i$ . Then  $\varphi(\bar{a}, y)$  is among the formulas considered at stage  $i + 1$  in the construction of  $M$ , hence there is a witness to  $\exists y \varphi(\bar{a}, y)$  in  $A_{i+1} \subseteq M$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** We have the following special case: If  $L$  is a countable language,  $T$  an  $L$ -theory with an infinite model, then  $T$  has a countable model.

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<sup>1</sup>Remark by L.T.: This should probably mean that that we choose one  $a_k$  for each  $k < \lambda$  such that  $N \models \varphi_k(a_k)$ , instead of taking all of them. Otherwise it would not be clear why the cardinality is bounded by  $\lambda$ .

## 4 Two Relational Structures

**Definition.** An  $L_{lo}$ -structure is a linear order if it satisfies

1.  $\forall x \neg(x < x)$ ,
2.  $\forall x, y, z ((x < y \wedge y < z) \rightarrow x < z)$ ,
3.  $\forall x, y (x = y \vee x < y \vee y < x)$ .

A linear order is dense if it satisfies

4.  $\exists x, y (x < y)$ ,
5.  $\forall x, y, (x < y \rightarrow \exists z (x < z \wedge z < y))$ .

A linear order has no endpoints if

6.  $\forall x (\exists y (x < y) \wedge \exists z (z < x))$ .

We let  $T_{lo}$  be the theory consisting of 1,2,3 and  $T_{dlo}$  be the theory consisting of 1-6.

**Remark.** If  $M \models T_{dlo}$ , then  $|N| \geq \omega$ .

Let  $L$  be any language.

**Definition.** A partial embedding between  $L$ -structures  $M, N$  is an injective map  $p : \text{dom}(p) \subseteq M \rightarrow N$ , where  $\text{dom}(p)$  is a subset of  $M$ , such that  $p$  preserves functions, relations and constants as in the definition of embeddings.

$M$  and  $N$  are said to be partially isomorphic if there is a non-empty collection  $I$  of partial embeddings from  $M$  to  $N$  such that

- (1) if  $p \in I$ ,  $a \in M$ , then there is  $\hat{p} \in I$  such that  $p \subseteq \hat{p}$  and  $a \in \text{dom } \hat{p}$ .
- (2) if  $p \in I$ ,  $b \in N$ , then there is  $\hat{p} \in I$  such that  $p \subseteq \hat{p}$  and  $b \in \text{ran } \hat{p}$ .

We sometimes write “ $p : M \rightarrow N$  is partial map” for a partial map instead of  $p : \text{dom } p \subseteq M \rightarrow N$ .

**Lemma 4.1** (“Back and Forth”). *If  $|M| = |N| = \omega$  and  $M, N$  are partially isomorphic via  $I$ , then  $M \simeq N$ .*

*Proof.* Enumerate  $M$  and  $N$ , say  $M = \{a_i \mid i < \omega\}$ ,  $N = \{b_i \mid i < \omega\}$ . We define inductively a chain  $(p_i)_{i < \omega}$  of elements of  $I$  such that  $a_{i-1} \in \text{dom}(p_i)$  and  $b_{i-1} \in \text{ran}(p_i)$ . Let  $p_0$  be any element in  $I$ . Suppose  $p_i$  is given. Use (1) in the definition to get  $\hat{p} \in I$  such that  $\hat{p} \supseteq p_i$  and  $a_i \in \text{dom } \hat{p}$ . Then use (2) to find  $p_{i+1} \in I$  such that  $p_{i+1} \supseteq \hat{p}$  and  $b_i \in \text{ran } p_{i+1}$ . Then  $\pi = \bigcup_{i < \omega} p_i$  is the required isomorphism.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.2** (Extension). *Let  $M \models T_{\text{lo}}$  and  $N \models T_{\text{dlo}}$ . Let  $p : \text{dom}(p) \subseteq M \rightarrow N$  be a finite partial embedding, i.e.  $\text{dom } p$  is finite. Let  $c \in M$ . Then there is a finite partial embedding  $\widehat{p}$  such that  $\widehat{p} \supseteq p$  and  $c \in \text{dom}(\widehat{p})$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\text{dom } p = \{a_0, \dots, a_n\}$  with  $a_i < a_j$  if  $i < j$ .

- Case 1:  $c < a_0$ . Since  $N$  has no endpoints, we find  $d \in N$  such that  $d < p(a_0)$ .
- Case 2:  $a_i < c < a_{i+1}$  for some  $i$ . We find  $d \in N$  such that  $p(a_i) < d < p(a_{i+1})$  by density of  $N$ .
- Case 3:  $a_n < c$ . Similar to 1.

Now define  $\widehat{p}$  by  $\widehat{p}(c) = d$  on  $\text{dom } \widehat{p} = \text{dom } p \cup \{c\}$ . □

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $M, N \models T_{\text{dlo}}$  be such that  $|M| = |N| = \omega$ . Then  $M \simeq N$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I = \{q : M \rightarrow N \mid q \text{ is finite partial embedding}\}$ . Then  $I$  is non-empty as it contains the empty map. By Lemma 4.2,  $I$  satisfies properties (1) and (2) in the definition of partial isomorphism. Hence Lemma 4.1 applies, i.e.  $M \simeq N$ . □

**Definition.** *An  $L$ -theory  $T$  is consistent if there is an  $L$ -structure  $M$  that models  $T$ . If  $\sigma$  is an  $L$ -sentence, write  $T \vdash \sigma$  if for all  $L$ -structures  $M$  we have*

$$M \models T \implies M \models \sigma.$$

*The theory  $T$  is complete if for all  $L$ -sentences  $\sigma$ , either  $T \vdash \sigma$  or  $T \vdash \neg\sigma$ .*

**Remark.**  $\text{Th}(M)$  is complete for all  $L$ -structures  $M$ . We often seek  $S \subseteq \text{Th}(M)$  such that  $S$  is complete. Then  $S$  is an *axiomatisation* of  $\text{Th}(M)$ .

**Definition.** *If  $|L| = \omega$ , an  $L$ -theory  $T$  is  $\omega$ -categorical if whenever  $M, N \models T$  and  $|M| = |N| = \omega$ , then  $M \simeq N$ .*

So by Theorem 4.3,  $T_{\text{dlo}}$  is  $\omega$ -categorical.

**Theorem 4.4.** *If  $T$  is an  $\omega$ -categorical theory with no finite models, then  $T$  is complete.*

*Proof.* Let  $M, N \models T$  and  $\varphi$  be an  $L$ -sentence such that  $M \models \varphi$ . We have to show that  $N \models \varphi$ . By the Downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem there are elementary substructures  $M' \preceq M, N' \preceq N$  with  $|M'| = |N'| = \omega$ . By  $\omega$ -categoricity,  $M' \simeq N'$ . Then  $M' \models \varphi$ , so  $N' \models \varphi$  and then  $N \models \varphi$ . □

**Corollary 4.5.**  *$T_{\text{dlo}}$  is complete.*

**Definition.** *Let  $f : \text{dom}(f) \subseteq M \rightarrow N$  be a partial map.  $f$  is elementary if for all  $L$ -formulas  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  and  $\bar{a} \in (\text{dom } f)^{|\bar{x}|}$ , we have*

$$M \models \varphi(\bar{a}) \iff N \models \varphi(f(\bar{a})).$$

**Remark.** A map  $f$  is elementary iff every finite restriction of  $f$  is elementary.

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $M, N \models T_{\text{dlo}}$  and let  $p : M \rightarrow N$  be a partial embedding. Then  $p$  is an elementary map.*

*Proof.* By the above remark we may assume that  $p$  is a finite partial embedding. By Downward Löwenheim-Skolem, there are  $M' \preceq M, N' \preceq N$  with  $|M'| = |N'| = \omega$  and  $\text{dom } p \subseteq M', \text{ran } p \subseteq N'$ . By an argument identical to the proof of Lemma 4.1 with  $p_0 = p$  and  $I$  the collection of finite partial embeddings between  $M'$  and  $N'$ , we can extend  $p$  to an isomorphism  $\pi : M' \simeq N'$ . In particular,  $\pi$  is an elementary map, therefore so is its restriction  $p$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.7.**  $(\mathbb{Q}, <) \preceq (\mathbb{R}, <)$ .

*Proof.* The inclusion map is an embedding, therefore it is elementary by the proposition.  $\square$

**Definition.** Let  $L_{\text{gph}} = \{R\}$  where  $R$  is a binary relation symbol. A graph is an  $L_{\text{gph}}$ -structure  $M$  which satisfies

1.  $\forall x (\neg R(x, x))$ ,
2.  $\forall x, y (R(x, y) \rightarrow R(y, x))$ .

Elements of  $M$  are called vertices, elements of  $R^M$  edges.

Let  $T_{\text{gph}}$  be the theory consisting of the two axioms above.

We want to formalise the following properties of a graph  $G$ : However we choose finite subsets  $U, V \subseteq G$ , we can find  $z \in G \setminus (U \cup V)$  such that  $z$  is  $R$ -related to all vertices in  $U$  and not  $R$ -related to any vertex in  $V$ .

A graph is called a *random graph* if it satisfies  $\exists x, y (x \neq y)$  (non-triviality) and for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the axiom

$$\forall x_0 \dots x_n, y_0 \dots y_n \left( \bigwedge_{i,j=0}^n x_i \neq y_j \rightarrow \exists z \left( \bigwedge_{i=0}^n z \neq y_i \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^n R(x_i, z) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^n \neg R(z, y_i) \right) \right) \quad (r_n)$$

$T_{\text{rg}}$  is the theory that says that  $R$  is a graph relation that is non-trivial in the above sense and satisfies  $r_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proposition 4.8.**  $T_{\text{rg}}$  is consistent.

*Proof.* Define  $R$  on  $\omega$  as follows: For  $i, j \in \omega$  with  $i < j$ ,  $R(i, j)$  holds, i.e.  $\{i, j\}$  is an edge, iff the  $i$ -th digit in the binary expansion of  $j$  is 1.

Exercise: Prove  $(\omega, R)$  is a model for  $T_{\text{rg}}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.9** (Extension). *Let  $M \models T_{\text{gph}}, N \models T_{\text{rg}}$ . Let  $p : \text{dom}(p) \subseteq M \rightarrow N$  be a finite partial embedding and  $c \in M$ . Then there is a finite partial embedding  $\hat{p} : M \rightarrow N$  such that  $\hat{p} \supseteq p$  and  $c \in \text{dom} \hat{p}$ .*

*Proof.* We may assume  $c \notin \text{dom} p$ . Let  $U = \{a \in \text{dom}(p) \mid R(a, c)\}$  be the set of neighbors of  $c$  in  $\text{dom} p$  and  $V = \{b \in \text{dom} p \mid \neg R(b, c)\}$ . By a suitable instance of  $(r_n)$ , we find  $d \in N$  such that  $R(d, p(a))$  for all  $a \in U$  and  $\neg R(d, p(b))$  for all  $b \in V$ . Then let  $\hat{p} = p \cup \{(c, d)\}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.10.** *Let  $M, N \models T_{\text{rg}}$  with  $|M| = |N| = \omega$ . Then  $M \simeq N$ .*

*Proof.* Same as Theorem 4.3 but with Lemma 4.9 instead of Lemma 4.2.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.11.**  *$T_{\text{rg}}$  is  $\omega$ -categorical and complete. Every partial embedding between models of  $T_{\text{rg}}$  is elementary.*

**Remark.** The unique countable model of  $T_{\text{rg}}$  is called the countable random graph, or Rado's graph. Rado's graph is *universal* for finite graphs, i.e. every finite graph embeds into it, and *ultrahomogeneous*, i.e. every isomorphism between finite induced subgraphs extends to an automorphism.

## 5 Compactness

**Definition.** Let  $I$  be a set. A filter on  $I$  is a subset  $F \subseteq \mathcal{P}(I)$  such that

1.  $I \in F$ ,
2.  $X \cap Y \in F$  whenever  $X, Y \in F$ ,
3. if  $X \in F$ ,  $X \subseteq Y \subseteq I$ , then also  $Y \in F$ .

$F$  is proper if  $F \neq \mathcal{P}(I)$  or, equivalently, if  $\emptyset \notin F$ . An ultrafilter is a proper filter  $U$  such that for all  $X \subseteq I$ , either  $X \in U$  or  $I \setminus X \in U$ .

**Proposition 5.1.** Let  $U$  be a proper filter on  $I$ . TFAE:

- (a)  $U$  is an ultrafilter.
- (b)  $U$  is maximal among all proper filters.
- (c) If  $X \cup Y \in U$ , then  $X \in U$  or  $Y \in U$ .

*Proof.* Exercise. □

**Definition.** Let  $(M_i)_{i \in I}$  of  $L$ -structures. The direct product of the  $M_i$  is the set

$$X = \prod_{i \in I} M_i = \{f : I \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in I} M_i \mid f(i) \in M_i \forall i \in I\}.$$

We write  $a = \langle a_i \mid i \in I \rangle$  for  $a \in X$ .

Let  $U$  be an ultrafilter on  $I$ . We define the relation  $\sim_U$  on  $X$  by

$$a \sim_U b \iff \{i \in I \mid a(i) = b(i)\} \in U.$$

**Proposition 5.2.**  $\sim_U$  is an equivalence relation.

*Proof.* Reflexivity and symmetry are immediate. For transitivity let  $a, b, c \in X$  such that  $a \sim_U b$ ,  $b \sim_U c$ . Let  $A = \{i \in I \mid a(i) = b(i)\}$ ,  $B = \{i \in I \mid b(i) = c(i)\}$  and  $C = \{i \in I \mid a(i) = c(i)\}$ . Then  $A, B \in U$  and thus  $A \cap B \in U$ . Since  $A \cap B \subseteq C$ , we obtain  $C \in U$ , hence  $a \sim_U c$ . □

Write  $a_U$  for the equivalence class  $[a]_{\sim_U}$  under the relation  $\sim_U$ .

**Proposition 5.3.** Let  $a^k, b^k \in X$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , be such that  $a^k \sim_U b^k$ . Then

- (a) if  $f$  is an  $n$ -ary function symbol, then

$$\langle f^{M_i}(a^1(i), \dots, a^n(i)) \mid i \in I \rangle \sim_U \langle f^{M_i}(b^1(i), \dots, b^n(i)) \mid i \in I \rangle$$

(b) if  $R$  is an  $n$ -ary relation symbol, then

$$\{i \in I \mid (a^1(i), \dots, a^n(i)) \in R^{M_i}\} \in U \iff \{i \in I \mid (b^1(i), \dots, b^n(i)) \in R^{M_i}\} \in U$$

*Proof.* To simplify notation assume  $n = 1$  and let  $a = a^1, b = b^1$ .

(a) Let  $A = \{i \in I \mid a(i) = b(i)\}$  and  $C = \{i \in I \mid f^{M_i}(a(i)) = f^{M_i}(b(i))\}$ . Clearly  $A \subseteq C$  and so  $C \in U$  as  $A \in U$ , hence  $\langle f^{M_i}(a(i)) \mid i \in I \rangle \sim_U \langle f^{M_i}(b(i)) \mid i \in I \rangle$ .

(b) is similar (exercise). □

**Definition.** Given a set  $I$ ,  $(M_i)_{i \in I}$  a family of  $L$ -structures,  $U$  an ultrafilter on  $I$ , we define an  $L$ -structure on the ultraproduct

$$\prod_{i \in I} M_i / \sim_U = X / \sim_U =: X_U$$

as follows:

(i) if  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , then  $c^{X_U} := \langle c^{M_i}(i) \mid i \in I \rangle_U$ .

(ii) if  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $a_U^1, \dots, a_U^{n_f} \in X_U^{n_f}$ , we define

$$f^{X_U}(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^{n_f}) = \langle f^{M_i}(a_U^1(i), \dots, a_U^{n_f}(i)) \mid i \in I \rangle.$$

(iii) if  $R \in \mathcal{R}$ , and  $a_U^1, \dots, a_U^{n_R} \in X_U$ , then

$$(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^{n_R}) \in R^{X_U} \iff \{i \in I \mid (a^1(i), \dots, a^{n_R}(i)) \in R^{M_i}\} \in U.$$

Proposition 5.3 shows that the  $L$ -structure on  $X_U$  is well-defined. So far we have not used that  $U$  is an *ultrafilter* and not merely a filter. However, we will finally need this in the following theorem:

**Theorem 5.4** (Łoś). *In the above setting the following is true:*

(i) For all terms  $t(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n \in X_U$ , we have

$$t^{X_U}(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n) = \langle t^{M_i}(a^1(i), \dots, a^n(i)) \mid i \in I \rangle_U.$$

(ii) For all  $L$ -formulas  $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and  $a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n \in X_U$ , we have

$$X_U \models \varphi(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n) \iff \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \varphi(a^1(i), \dots, a^n(i))\} \in U.$$

(iii) For all  $L$ -sentences  $\sigma$ ,

$$X_U \models \sigma \iff \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \sigma\} \in U.$$

*Proof.*

- (i) The usual argument via induction over the complexity of the term.
- (ii) By induction on  $\varphi(\bar{x})$ . The base case  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  atomic follows from (i).

Suppose  $\varphi \equiv \neg\chi$  for some  $L$ -formula  $\chi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . Let  $A_\chi = \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \chi(a^1(i), \dots, a^n(i))\}$ . By induction hypothesis,  $X_U \models \chi(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n) \iff A_\chi \in U$ . Then

$$\chi_U \not\models \chi(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n) \iff A_\chi \notin U \stackrel{U \text{ ultrafilter}}{\iff} I \setminus A_\chi \in U.$$

Hence

$$X_U \models \neg\chi(a_U^1, \dots, a_U^n) \iff \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \neg\chi(a^1(i), \dots, a^n(i))\} \in U.$$

The case  $\varphi \equiv \chi \wedge \psi$  is an exercise.

Finally, consider the case  $\varphi(\bar{x}) = \exists y \psi(\bar{x}, y)$ . To simplify notation assume  $|\bar{x}| = 1$ . Define  $A_\varphi = \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \exists y \varphi(a(i), y)\}$ . We have to show

$$X_U \models \varphi(a_U) \iff A_\varphi \in U.$$

For “ $\Rightarrow$ ” assume  $X_U \models \exists y \psi(a_U, y)$ , i.e.  $X_U \models \psi(a_U, b_U)$  for some  $b_U \in X_U$ . Let  $A_\psi := \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \psi(a(i), b(i))\}$ . Then  $A_\psi \in U$  by induction hypothesis and so  $A_\varphi \in U$  as  $A_\psi \subseteq A_\varphi$ .

For “ $\Leftarrow$ ” let  $i \in A_\varphi$ . Then  $M_i \models \exists y \psi(a(i), y)$ . Pick a witness  $b(i)$ . For  $i \in I \setminus A_\varphi$ , let  $b(i)$  be arbitrary in  $M$ . Define  $b_U = \langle b(i) \mid i \in I \rangle_U$ . Let  $A_\psi = \{i \in I \mid M_i \models \psi(a(i), b(i))\}$ . Then  $A_\psi \supseteq A_\varphi$  by our choice of the  $b(i)$ . Since  $A_\varphi \in U$ , also  $A_\psi$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $X_U \models \psi(a_U, b_U)$  and therefore  $X_U \models \exists y \psi(a_U, y)$ .

- (iii) Immediate from (ii). □

**Definition.** A subset  $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}(I)$  has the finite intersection property (FIP) if for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $A_0, \dots, A_n \in S$ , we have  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n A_i \neq \emptyset$ .

**Remark.** Proper filters on  $I$  have the FIP.

**Lemma 5.5.**

1. If  $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}(I)$  has the FIP, then  $S$  can be extended to a proper filter.
2. Any proper filter can be extended to an ultrafilter.

*Proof.*

1. Let  $F \subseteq S$  be defined as

$$F = \{X \subseteq I \mid X \supseteq \bigcap_{i=0}^n A_i, \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } A_i \in S\}.$$



Then check that this works.

2. Immediate from Zorn's lemma noting that the union of a chain of filters is again a filter.

□

**Definition.** An  $L$ -theory  $T$  is finitely consistent if every finite subset of  $T$  is consistent, i.e. has a model.

**Theorem 5.6** (Compactness). A theory  $T$  is consistent if and only if it is finitely consistent.

*Proof.* “ $\Rightarrow$ ” is clear.

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” Let  $S \subseteq T$  be finite. Let  $M_S$  be any  $L$ -structure such that  $M_S \models S$ . Let  $I$  be the set of finite subsets of  $T$ . For  $\varphi \in T$ , let  $A_\varphi = \{S \in I \mid \varphi \in S\}$ . We claim that the set

$$\{A_\varphi \mid \varphi \in T\}$$

has the FIP. Indeed, let  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n$ . Then  $\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n\} \in I$  and  $\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n\} \in \bigcap_{i=1}^n A_{\varphi_i}$ , so the intersection is non-empty. Therefore there is an ultrafilter  $U$  on  $I$  with  $A_\varphi \in U$  for all  $\varphi \in T$ . Then let  $X_U = \prod_{S \in I} M_S / \sim_U$  be the ultraproduct of the  $M_S$  w.r.t. this ultrafilter. Claim: If  $\varphi \in T$ , then  $X_U \models \varphi$ . To prove this we use Łoś' theorem:  $X_U \models \varphi$  iff  $\{S \in I \mid M_S \models \varphi\} \in U$ . But  $A_\varphi \in U$ , so  $A_\varphi = \{S \in I \mid \varphi \in S\} \subseteq \{S \in I \mid M_S \models \varphi\}$ , so  $\{S \in I \mid M_S \models \varphi\} \in U$ . □

**Definition.** A type  $p(\bar{x})$  in  $L$  is a set of  $L$ -formula whose free variables are among  $\bar{x} = (x_i)_{i < \lambda}$ . A type  $p(\bar{x})$  is

- satisfiable in an  $L$ -structure  $M$  if there is a tuple  $\bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{x}|}$  such that  $M \models \varphi(\bar{a})$  for all  $\varphi(\bar{x}) \in p(\bar{x})$ . In this case we write  $M \models p(\bar{a})$ ,  $M \models p(\bar{x})$  or  $M, \bar{a} \models p(\bar{x})$ . We say  $\bar{a}$  realises or witnesses the type  $p(\bar{x})$  in  $M$ .
- satisfiable if there is an  $L$ -structure  $M$  such that  $M \models p(\bar{x})$ .
- finitely satisfiable in  $M$  if every finite subset of  $p(\bar{x})$  is satisfiable in  $M$ .
- finitely satisfiable if every finite subset of  $p(\bar{x})$  is satisfiable.

We sometimes say (finitely) consistent instead of (finitely) satisfiable.

**Remark.**  $p(\bar{x})$  may be finitely satisfiable in  $M$ , but not satisfiable in  $M$ . E.g. let  $M = (\omega, <)$ . Let  $\varphi_n(x)$  say “there are at least  $n$  distinct elements less than  $x$ ”. Then take  $p(x) = \{\varphi_n(x) \mid n \in \omega\}$ . It is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ , but not satisfiable in  $M$ .

**Theorem 5.7** (Compactness for types). Every finitely satisfiable type is satisfiable.

*Proof.* Let  $p(\bar{x})$  be an  $L$ -type with  $\bar{x} = (x_i)_{i < \lambda}$ . Expand  $L$  to  $L' = L \cup \{c_i \mid i \in \lambda\}$  where the  $c_i$  are new constant symbols. Then  $p(\bar{c})$  is a finitely consistent theory in  $L'$ . By compactness, there is an  $L'$ -structure  $M$  such that  $M \models p(\bar{c})$ . But  $M$  is also an  $L$ -structure by forgetting the interpretations of the  $c$ . Then  $M, \bar{c}^M \models p(\bar{x})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.8.** *Let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure and  $\bar{a} = (a_i)_{i < \lambda}$  an enumeration of  $M$ . Let  $q(\bar{x}) = \{\varphi(\bar{x}) \mid M \models \varphi(\bar{a})\}$  where  $|\bar{x}| = \lambda^1$ . Then  $q(\bar{x})$  is satisfiable in an  $L$ -structure  $N$  iff  $M$  embeds elementarily into  $N$ .*

*Proof.* “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Let  $q(\bar{x})$  be satisfiable in  $N$ , i.e. there is  $\bar{b} \in N^\lambda$  such that  $N \models q(\bar{b})$ , i.e.  $N \models \varphi(\bar{b})$  for any  $\varphi(\bar{x}) \in q(\bar{x})$ . Then for any  $L$ -formula  $\chi(\bar{x})$ ,

$$M \models \chi(\bar{a}) \iff \chi(\bar{x}) \in q(\bar{x}) \iff N \models \chi(\bar{b}).^2$$

Define  $\beta : M \rightarrow N$  by  $\beta : a_i \mapsto b_i$ . Then  $\beta$  is an elementary embedding.

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” is clear.  $\square$

**Remark.** Let  $A \subseteq M$  be a subset. We can work with types in  $L(A)$ . In particular we can work with types in  $L(M)$ . A type in  $L(A)$  is said to have *parameters in  $A$* , or to be *over  $A$* . Also, if  $p(\bar{x})$  is a type in  $L(M)$ , there is an enumeration  $\bar{a}$  of  $M$  and an  $L$ -type  $q(\bar{x}, \bar{z})$  such that  $p(\bar{x}) = q(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$ . We obtain the following restatement of the lemma:

**Lemma 5.9.** *Let  $\text{Th}(M_M)$  be the  $L(M)$ -theory of  $M$ . Suppose  $N \models \text{Th}(M_M)$ , then  $M$  embeds elementarily in  $N$ .*

**Theorem 5.10.** *If  $M$  is an  $L$ -structure and  $p(\bar{x})$  a type in  $L(M)$  that is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ , then  $p(\bar{x})$  is realised (satisfiable) in some elementary extension  $N \succeq M$ .*

**Example.** Let  $M = ((0, 1) \cap \mathbb{Q}, <)$ . Let  $a_n = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$  with  $n \in \omega \setminus \{0\}$ . Let  $\varphi_n(x) = (x > a_n)$ . Let  $p(\bar{x}) = \{\varphi_n(\bar{x}) \mid n \in \omega \setminus \{0\}\}$ . Then  $p(\bar{x})$  is a type in  $L(M)$  that is finitely satisfiable, but not satisfiable. However,  $(\mathbb{Q}, <) \models p(1)$ , and  $M \preceq (\mathbb{Q}, <)$  by Proposition 4.6.

*Proof of Theorem 5.10.* Let  $\bar{a} = (a_i)_{i < \lambda}$  be an enumeration of  $M$  and let  $q(\bar{z}) = \{\varphi(\bar{z}) \mid M \models \varphi(\bar{a})\}$  where  $|\bar{z}| = \lambda$  and  $\bar{z} \cap \bar{a} = \emptyset$ . Write  $p(\bar{x}) = p'(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$  where  $p'(\bar{x}, \bar{z})$  is an  $L$ -type. Now  $p'(\bar{x}, \bar{z}) \cup q(\bar{z})$  is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ . By compactness for types, there are an  $L$ -structure  $N$  and  $\bar{c} \in N^{|\bar{x}|}, \bar{b} \in N^\lambda$  such that  $N \models p'(\bar{c}, \bar{b}) \cup q(\bar{b})$ . In particular,  $N \models q(\bar{b})$ , so by Lemma 5.8,  $a_i \mapsto b_i$  is an elementary embedding  $M \rightarrow N$ . We may assume  $M \preceq N$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.11** (Upward Löwenheim-Skolem). *Let  $M$  be an infinite  $L$ -structure and  $\lambda \geq |M| + |L|$ . Then there is  $N$  such that  $M \preceq N$  and  $|N| = \lambda$ .*

<sup>1</sup>Here we use the convention that  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  only uses finitely many variables in  $\bar{x}$ .

<sup>2</sup>Remark by L.T.: To see “ $\Leftarrow$ ” note that if  $M \not\models \chi(\bar{a})$ , then  $M \models \neg\chi(\bar{a})$ , so  $\neg\chi(\bar{x}) \in q(\bar{x})$  and thus  $N \models \neg\chi(\bar{b})$ , so  $N \not\models \chi(\bar{b})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(x_i)_{i < \lambda}$  be distinct variables. Let  $p(\bar{x}) = \{x_i \neq x_j \mid i < j < \lambda\}$ . Then  $p(\bar{x})$  is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ , so  $p(\bar{x})$  is realised in some  $N \succeq M$  by Theorem 5.10. In particular,  $|N| \geq \lambda$ . Now by Downward Löwenheim-Skolem, we may assume that in fact  $|N| = \lambda$ .  $\square$

## 6 Saturation

**Definition.** Let  $\lambda$  be an infinite cardinal,  $M$  an infinite  $L$ -structure. Then  $M$  is  $\lambda$ -saturated if it realises every type  $p(x) \in L(A)$  such that

- (i)  $p(x)$  is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ ,
- (ii)  $A \subseteq M$  is such that  $|A| < \lambda$ ,
- (iii)  $x$  is a single variable.

$M$  is saturated if it is  $\lambda$ -saturated for  $\lambda = |M|$ .

**Remark.** If  $\lambda > |M|$ , then  $M$  cannot be  $\lambda$ -saturated. Indeed, consider the type  $p(x) = \{x \neq a \mid a \in M\}$ , then  $p(x)$  is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ , but not satisfiable in  $M$ .

**Definition.** Let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure,  $A \subseteq M$  a subset,  $\bar{b}$  a tuple in  $M$ . Then the type of  $\bar{b}$  in  $M$  over  $A$  is

$$\text{tp}_M(\bar{b}/A) := \{\varphi(\bar{x}) \text{ type in } L(A) \mid M \models \varphi(\bar{b})\}.$$

We sometimes omit the  $M$  if it is clear from the context.

**Remarks.**

- (i)  $\text{tp}_M(\bar{b}/A)$  is complete, i.e. for all  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  in  $L(A)$ , either  $\varphi(\bar{x}) \in \text{tp}(\bar{b}/A)$  or  $\neg\varphi(\bar{x}) \in \text{tp}(\bar{b}/A)$ .
- (ii) If  $M \preceq N$ ,  $A \subseteq M$ ,  $\bar{b} \in M^{|\bar{b}|}$ , then  $\text{tp}_M(\bar{b}/A) = \text{tp}_N(\bar{b}/A)$ .

There is a relation between types and elementary maps:

**Proposition 6.1.** If  $f : A \subseteq M \rightarrow N$  is an elementary map. Then

- (a)  $M \equiv N$  (and if  $M \equiv N$ , then the empty map  $\emptyset : \emptyset \subseteq M \rightarrow N$  is elementary).
- (b) If  $\bar{a}$  is an enumeration of  $\text{dom } f$ , then

$$\text{tp}_M(\bar{a}/\emptyset) = \text{tp}_N(f(\bar{a})/\emptyset).$$

More generally, if  $B \subseteq \text{dom}(f) \cap N$  and  $f|_B = \text{id}_B$ , then for every  $\bar{b} \in \text{dom}(f)^{|\bar{b}|}$ ,

$$\text{tp}(\bar{b}/B) = \text{tp}(f(\bar{b})/B).$$

- (c) Let  $\bar{a}$  enumerate  $\text{dom}(f)$  and let  $p(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$  be finitely satisfiable in  $M$ . Then  $p(\bar{x}, f(\bar{a}))$  is finitely satisfiable in  $N$ .

*Proof.* Easy from the definitions. For (c) let  $\{\varphi_1(\bar{x}, \bar{a}), \dots, \varphi_n(\bar{x}, \bar{a})\} \subseteq p(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$ . Then  $M \models \exists \bar{x} \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$ , so by elementarity  $N \models \exists \bar{x} \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(\bar{x}, f(\bar{a}))$ .  $\square$

If  $p(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$  is satisfiable in  $M$ , then  $p(\bar{x}, f(\bar{a}))$  need not be satisfiable in  $N$ .

**Theorem 6.2.** *Let  $N, \lambda$  be such that  $|L| \leq \lambda \leq |N|$ . Then TFAE:*

- (i)  $N$  is  $\lambda$ -saturated.
- (ii) If  $f : M \rightarrow N$  is a partial elementary map such that  $|f| < \lambda$ , and  $b \in M$ , then there is  $\hat{f} \supseteq f$ , elementary and such that  $b \in \text{dom } \hat{f}$ .
- (iii) If  $p(\bar{z})$  is a type in  $L(A)$  with  $A \subseteq N$ ,  $|A| < \lambda$ ,  $|\bar{z}| \leq \lambda$ , and  $p(\bar{z})$  is finitely satisfiable in  $N$ , then it is satisfiable in  $N$ .

*Proof.* “(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” Let  $M, f, b$  be as in (ii). Let  $\text{dom } f = \bar{a} = (a_i)_{i < \lambda}$  be an enumeration of  $\text{dom } f$ . Let  $p(x, \bar{a}) = \text{tp}_M(b/\bar{a})$ . Since  $p(x, \bar{a})$  is satisfiable in  $M$ ,  $p(x, f(\bar{a}))$  is finitely satisfiable in  $N$  and hence satisfiable in  $N$  since  $N$  is  $\lambda$ -saturated. Let  $c \in N$  be such that  $N \models p(c, f(\bar{a}))$ . Then  $\hat{f} = f \cup \{(b, c)\}$  is the required elementary map.

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii)” Let  $p(\bar{z})$  be as in (iii). By Theorem 5.10,  $p(\bar{z})$  is realised in some  $M \succeq N$  by some  $\bar{a}$ , say, so  $|\bar{a}| = |\bar{z}| \leq \lambda$ . Since  $A \subseteq N \preceq M$ , the partial map  $\text{id}_A : A \subseteq M \rightarrow N$  is an elementary map. Idea: Extend  $\text{id}_A$  to a partial elementary map  $f : M \rightarrow N$  such that  $\text{dom } f \supseteq \bar{a}$ . Build  $f$  in stages. Let  $f_0 = \text{id}_A$ . At stage  $i + 1$ , use (ii) to define  $f_{i+1}$  on  $a_i$ . At limit stages  $\mu < |a|$ , let  $f_\mu = \bigcup_{i < \mu} f_i$ . Eventually  $f = \bigcup_{i < |a|} f_i$  is the required extension of  $\text{id}_A$ .

“(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)” is trivial. □

**Corollary 6.3.** *Let  $M, N$  be saturated models of the same cardinality. If there is a partial elementary map  $f : M \rightarrow N$  such that  $|f| < |M|$ , then  $M \simeq N$ . In particular, if  $M \equiv N$ , then  $M \simeq N$ .*

*Proof.* Given  $f : M \rightarrow N$ , use Theorem 6.2 (ii) to extend  $f$  to  $\alpha : M \simeq N$  by a back-and-forth argument.

If  $M \equiv N$ , then  $\emptyset : M \rightarrow N$  is elementary. □

**Corollary 6.4.** *Models of  $T_{\text{dlo}}$  and  $T_{\text{rg}}$  are  $\omega$ -saturated.*

*Proof.* This follows from Lemma 4.2 and Lemma 4.9 using Theorem 6.2 “(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)”. □

So  $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$  is saturated, and  $(\mathbb{R}, <)$  is  $\omega$ -saturated. But  $(\mathbb{R}, <)$  is not saturated. E.g. consider  $p(x) = \{x > q \mid q \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ . Then  $p(x)$  is finitely satisfiable in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $p(x) \in L_{\text{lo}}(\mathbb{Q})$ , but is not satisfiable in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Definition.** *An isomorphism  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M$  is called an automorphism. The collection of automorphisms of  $M$  is a group, denoted  $\text{Aut}(M)$ . Given a subset  $A \subseteq M$ , we let  $\text{Aut}(M/A) := \{\alpha \in \text{Aut}(M) \mid \alpha|_A = \text{id}_A\}$ .*

**Definition.** *The  $L$ -structure  $N$  is said to be*

(i)  $\lambda$ -universal if for every  $M$  such that  $|M| \leq \lambda$  and  $M \equiv N$ , there is an elementary embedding  $\beta : M \rightarrow N$ .  $N$  is universal if it is  $|N|$ -universal.

(ii)  $\lambda$ -homogeneous if every elementary map  $f : N \rightarrow N$  with  $|f| < \lambda$  extends to an automorphism of  $N$ .  $N$  is homogeneous if it is  $|N|$ -homogeneous.

**Warning.** For some authors property (i) is called  $\lambda^+$ -universality and (ii) is called strong  $\lambda$ -homogeneity (cf. ultrahomogeneity vs. homogeneity).

**Theorem 6.5.** *Let  $N$  be such that  $|N| \geq |L|$ . Then*

$$N \text{ is saturated} \iff N \text{ is homogeneous and universal}$$

*Proof.* “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Assume that  $N$  is saturated and let  $M \equiv N$  with  $|M| \leq |N|$ . Let  $\bar{a} = (a_i)_{i < |M|}$  enumerate  $M$ , and let  $p(\bar{x}) = \text{tp}(\bar{a}/\emptyset)$ . Then  $p(\bar{x})$  is finitely satisfiable in  $M$  (since it is satisfiable in  $M$ ), hence  $p(\bar{x})$  is finitely satisfiable in  $N$  as  $M \equiv N$ . By saturation, there is  $\bar{b} \in N^{|\bar{x}|}$  such that  $N \models p(\bar{b})$ . Then  $a_i \mapsto b_i$  is an elementary embedding  $M \rightarrow N$ . So  $N$  is universal. For homogeneity, use Corollary 6.3 with  $M = N$ .

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” We show that if  $M \equiv N$ ,  $b \in M$ ,  $f : M \rightarrow N$  elementary with  $|f| < |N|$ , then there is  $\hat{f} \supseteq f$  with  $b \in \text{dom } \hat{f}$ . By Theorem 6.2 this then shows that  $N$  is saturated. By Downward Löwenheim-Skolem, we may assume  $|M| \leq |N|$ . Since  $M \equiv N$ , there is an elementary embedding  $\beta : M \rightarrow N$  by universality. Then  $f \circ \beta^{-1} : \beta(\text{dom}(f)) \rightarrow \text{ran } f$  is an elementary map  $N \rightarrow N$  and satisfies  $|f \circ \beta^{-1}| < |N|$ . By homogeneity of  $N$ ,  $f \circ \beta^{-1}$  extends to  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(N)$ . Then  $f \cup \{(b, \alpha(\beta(b)))\}$  is the required extension  $\hat{f}$ . Note that  $\hat{f}$  is elementary as it is a restriction of  $\alpha \circ \beta$ .  $\square$

**Definition.** *Let  $\bar{a} \in N^{|\bar{a}|}$ ,  $A \subseteq N$ . Then*

$$O_N(\bar{a}/N) := \{\alpha(\bar{a}) \mid \alpha \in \text{Aut}(N/A)\}$$

*is the orbit of  $\bar{a}$  over  $A$ .*

*If  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  is an  $L(A)$ -formula, then*

$$\varphi(N) := \{\bar{b} \in N^{|\bar{x}|} \mid N \models \varphi(\bar{b})\}$$

*is the set defined by  $\varphi(\bar{x})$ . A subset of  $N$  is definable over  $A$  if it is defined by some formula in  $L(A)$ .*

There are analogous notions for “type-definable” sets.

**Remark.** If  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}$  are tuples in  $N$ ,  $A \subseteq N$  and  $|\bar{a}| = |\bar{b}|$ , then TFAE:

(i)  $\text{tp}(\bar{a}/A) = \text{tp}(\bar{b}/A)$

(ii)  $\langle a_i \mapsto b_i \mid i < |\bar{a}| \rangle \cup \text{id}_A$  is an elementary map.

**Proposition 6.6.** *Let  $N$  be  $\lambda$ -homogeneous,  $A \subseteq N$  such that  $|A| < \lambda$ , and  $\bar{a} \in N^{|\bar{a}|}$  such that  $|\bar{a}| < \lambda$ . Then  $O_N(\bar{a}/A) = p(N)$ , where  $p(\bar{x}) = \text{tp}(\bar{a}/A)$  and  $p(N) = \{\bar{b} \mid N \models p(\bar{b})\}$ .*

*Proof.* “ $O_N(\bar{a}/A) \subseteq p(N)$ ” is clear, since if  $\bar{b} = \alpha(\bar{a})$  for some  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(N/A)$ , then  $\text{tp}_N(\bar{b}/A) = \text{tp}_N(\bar{a}/A)$ .

“ $O_N(\bar{a}/A) \supseteq p(N)$ ”. If  $N \models p(\bar{b})$ , then the map  $\{(a_i, b_i) \mid i < |\bar{a}|\} \cup \text{id}_A$  is elementary, hence by  $\lambda$ -homogeneity of  $N$ , the map extends to  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(N)$ . In particular,  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(N/A)$  and  $\alpha(\bar{a}) = \bar{b}$ .  $\square$

## 7 The Monster Model

Let  $T$  be a complete theory without finite models. Idea: Work in a “large” saturated model of  $T$  that embeds elementary every model of  $T$  that you might be interested in. Such a “large”, “very” saturated structure is called the *monster model* of  $T$ , and is usually denoted by  $U$ ; or  $\mathbb{M}$ .

### Terminology and Notation.

When working in  $U \models T$ , we say

- “ $\varphi(\bar{x})$  holds”, written  $\models \varphi(\bar{x})$ , when  $U \models \forall \bar{x} \varphi(\bar{x})$ .
- “ $\varphi(\bar{x})$  is consistent” if  $U \models \exists \bar{x} \varphi(\bar{x})$ .
- A type  $p(\bar{x})$  is *consistent* or *satisfiable* if  $p(U) \neq \emptyset$ , i.e.  $\exists \bar{a} \in U^{|\bar{x}|}$  such that  $U \models p(\bar{a})$ .
- If  $|U| = \kappa$ , a cardinality is *small* if it is  $< \kappa$ . Sets, tuples etc. are *small* if they have small cardinality.
- A *model* is  $M \preceq U$  with small cardinality.

### Conventions.

- Tuples have small length
- Formulas have parameters in  $U$ .
- Definable sets have the form  $\varphi(U)$  for  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  in  $L(U)$ .
- Type-definable sets have the form  $p(U)$  for some type  $p(\bar{x})$  in  $L(A)$  where  $A \subseteq U$  is small.

### Notation.

- $A, B, C$  will denote parameter sets (small).
- $\text{tp}(\bar{a}/A) = \text{tp}_U(\bar{a}/A)$ .
- $O(\bar{a}/A) = O_U(\bar{a}/A)$ .
- If  $p(\bar{x}), q(\bar{x})$  are types, then “ $p(\bar{x}) \rightarrow q(\bar{x})$ ” means that  $p(U) \subseteq q(U)$ .

Informally, one can think of a type as an infinite conjunction of formulas.

**Proposition 7.1.** *Let  $p(\bar{x}), q(\bar{x})$  be satisfiable (i.e. satisfiable in  $U$ ) and in  $L(A), L(B)$  resp. Suppose that  $p(U) \cap q(U) = \emptyset$ . Then there are  $\varphi_1(\bar{x}), \dots, \varphi_n(\bar{x}) \in p(\bar{x}), \psi_1(\bar{x}), \dots, \psi_n(\bar{x}) \in q(\bar{x})$  such that*

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(\bar{x}) \longrightarrow \neg \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \psi_i(\bar{x})$$



*Proof.* If  $p(U) \cap q(U) = \emptyset$ , then  $p(\bar{x}) \cup q(\bar{x})$  is not satisfiable. Then, by saturation of  $U$ ,  $p(\bar{x}) \cup q(\bar{x})$  is not finitely satisfiable.  $\square$

**Remark.** Let  $\varphi(U, \bar{b})$  be a definable set and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U)$ . Then  $\alpha[\varphi(U, \bar{b})] = \varphi(U, \alpha(\bar{b}))$ . For “ $\subseteq$ ”, let  $\bar{c} = \alpha(\bar{a})$ , with  $\bar{a} \in U^{|\bar{a}|}$  and  $\models \varphi(\bar{a}, \bar{b})$ . Then  $\models \varphi(\alpha(\bar{a}), \alpha(\bar{b})) = \varphi(\bar{c}, \alpha(\bar{b}))$ . “ $\supseteq$ ” is similar.

Similarly, if  $p(\bar{x}, \bar{z})$  is a type in  $L$  and  $\bar{b} \in U^{|\bar{z}|}$ , then  $\alpha[p(U, \bar{b})] = p(U, \alpha(\bar{b}))$ .

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq U^\lambda$  with  $\lambda < |U|$  is invariant under  $A \subseteq U$  if it satisfies one of the following equivalent properties:

- For all  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U/A)$ , we have  $\alpha[\mathcal{D}] = \mathcal{D}$ .
- For all  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U/A)$  and for all  $a \in \mathcal{D}^{|\bar{a}|}$ ,  $O(a/A) \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ .
- For all  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U/A)$  and for all  $\bar{a} \in \mathcal{D}^{|\bar{a}|}$ ,  $\bar{b} \models \text{tp}(\bar{a}/A) \Rightarrow \bar{b} \in \mathcal{D}$ .

For the equivalence of the last two statements see Proposition 6.6.

**Proposition 7.2.** Let  $A \subseteq U$  be small. For  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  in  $L(U)$ , TFAE:

(i) There is  $\psi(\bar{x})$  in  $L(A)$  such that

$$\models \forall \bar{x} [\varphi(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \psi(\bar{x})].$$

(ii)  $\varphi(U)$  is invariant under  $A$ .

*Proof.* “(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” is clear since  $\varphi(U) = \psi(U)$  and  $\psi(U)$  is invariant over  $A$ , see e.g. the above remark.

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)” Let  $\varphi = \varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{z})$  be an  $L$ -formula such that  $\varphi(U, \bar{b})$  is invariant over  $A$  for some  $\bar{b} \in U^{|\bar{z}|}$ . Let  $q(\bar{z}) = \text{tp}(\bar{b}/A)$  and  $\bar{c} \in q(U)$  so that  $\bar{c} \models q(\bar{z})$ . Then  $\{(b_i, c_i) \mid i < |\bar{b}|\} \cup \text{id}_A$  is an elementary map, so by homogeneity there is  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U/A)$  such that  $\alpha(\bar{b}) = \bar{c}$ . Then  $\varphi(U, \bar{b}) = \alpha[\varphi(U, \bar{b})] = \varphi(U, \bar{c})$ . Therefore  $q(\bar{z}) \rightarrow \forall \bar{x} [\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{z}) \leftrightarrow \varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{b})]$ . By a version of Proposition 7.1 (exercise), there is  $\chi(\bar{z}) \in q(\bar{z})$  such that

$$\models \chi(\bar{z}) \rightarrow [\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{z}) \leftrightarrow \varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{b})].$$

Then  $\exists \bar{z} [\chi(\bar{z}) \wedge \varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{z})]$  is the required formula in  $L(A)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 7.3.** For  $\varphi(\bar{x})$ , a formula in  $L$ , TFAE:

(i) There is a quantifier-free formula  $\psi(\bar{x})$  such that

$$\models \forall \bar{x} [\varphi(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \psi(\bar{x})].$$

(ii) For all partial embeddings  $g : U \rightarrow U$ , for all  $\bar{a} \in \text{dom}(g)^{|\bar{a}|}$ , we have

$$\models \varphi(\bar{a}) \leftrightarrow \varphi(g(\bar{a})).$$

*Proof.* “(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” is clear since partial embeddings preserve quantifier-free formulas.

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)” For  $\bar{a} \in U^{|\bar{a}|}$ , let

$$\text{qftp}(\bar{a}) = \{\psi(\bar{x}) \in \text{tp}(\bar{a}) \mid \psi(\bar{x}) \text{ is quantifier-free}\}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{q(\bar{x}) \mid q(\bar{x}) = \text{qftp}(\bar{a}) \text{ for some } \bar{a} \in \varphi(U)\}$ . Claim:  $\varphi(U) = \bigcup_{q(\bar{x}) \in \mathcal{D}} q(U)$ . The inclusion “ $\subseteq$ ” is clear by definition. For the other containment let  $q(\bar{x}) = \text{qftp}(\bar{a})$  with  $\bar{a} \in \varphi(U)$ . Let  $\bar{b} \models q(\bar{x})$ . Then  $a_i \mapsto b_i$  is a partial embedding and so by assumption in (ii),  $\varphi(\bar{b})$  holds. Hence  $\bar{b} \in \varphi(U)$  and thus  $q(U) \subseteq \varphi(U)$ . This proves the claim.

Then in particular,  $q(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \varphi(\bar{x})$ . By a version of Proposition 7.1 there is  $\psi_q(\bar{x}) \in q(\bar{x})$  such that  $\psi_q(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \varphi(\bar{x})$ . Also  $\varphi(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \psi_q(\bar{x})$  for some  $q$ . Then

$$\varphi(\bar{x}) \longleftrightarrow \bigvee_{q \in \mathcal{D}} \{\psi_q(\bar{x}) \mid \psi_q(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \varphi(\bar{x}) \text{ and } \psi_q(\bar{x}) \in q(\bar{x})\}$$

Again by a version of Proposition 7.1 there are  $q_1, \dots, q_n \in \mathcal{D}$  such that

$$\models \varphi(\bar{x}) \longleftrightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^n \psi_{q_i}(\bar{x})$$

and so  $\bigvee_{i=1}^n \psi_{q_i}(\bar{x})$  is the required quantifier-free formula.  $\square$

**Definition.** An  $L$ -theory  $T$  has quantifier elimination if for every  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  in  $L$  there is a quantifier-free formula  $\psi(\bar{x})$  such that

$$T \vdash \forall \bar{x} [\varphi(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \psi(\bar{x})].$$

**Theorem 7.4.** Let  $T$  be a complete theory with an infinite model. TFAE:

- (i)  $T$  has quantifier elimination.
- (ii) Every partial embedding  $p : U \rightarrow U$  is elementary.
- (iii) For every partial embedding  $p : U \rightarrow U$  such that  $|p| < |U|$  and  $b \in U$ , there is a partial embedding  $\hat{p} \supseteq p$  such that  $b \in \text{dom}(\hat{p})$ .

*Proof.* “(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” is clear since partial embeddings preserve quantifier-free formulas.

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)” All partial embeddings are elementary, so any  $\varphi(\bar{x})$  is preserved by all partial embeddings, so  $\varphi(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \psi(\bar{x})$  for some quantifier-free  $\psi(\bar{x})$  by Proposition 7.3.

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii)” Let  $p : U \rightarrow U$  be a partial embedding such that  $|p| < |U|$ . Then  $p$  is elementary, so there is  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U)$  such that  $p \subseteq \alpha$ . For  $b \in U$ ,  $p \cup \{(b, \alpha(b))\}$  is the required  $\hat{p}$ .

“(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” Let  $p : U \rightarrow U$  be a partial embedding, and let  $p_0 \subseteq p$  be finite (or small). Extend  $p_0$  to  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U)$  by (iii) using a back-and-forth argument. Then  $p_0$  is the restriction of an isomorphism, hence elementary.  $\square$

**Remark.** A fourth equivalent condition is (iii) with  $p$  finite (exercise).

It follows that  $T_{\text{rg}}$  and  $T_{\text{dlo}}$  have quantifier elimination.

**Definition.** An element  $a \in U$  is definable over  $A \subseteq U$  if there is  $\varphi(x)$  in  $L(A)$  such that  $\varphi(U) = \{a\}$ .  $a$  is algebraic over  $A$  if there is  $\varphi(x)$  in  $L(A)$  such that  $|\varphi(U)| < \omega$  and  $a \in \varphi(U)$ . A formula  $\varphi(x)$  such that  $|\varphi(U)| < \omega$  is said to be algebraic.

The algebraic closure of  $A \subseteq U$  is

$$\text{acl}(A) = \{a \in U \mid a \text{ is algebraic over } A\}.$$

If  $\text{acl}(A) = A$ ,  $A$  is algebraically closed. The definable closure of  $A$  is

$$\text{dcl}(A) = \{a \in U \mid a \text{ is definable over } A\}.$$

**Remark.** Any finite set is definable:  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  is defined by  $\bigvee_{i=1}^n (a_i = x)$  (in  $L(\{a_1, \dots, a_n\})$ ?).

**Proposition 7.5.** For  $a \in U$ ,  $A \subseteq U$ , TFAE:

- (i)  $a \in \text{dcl}(A)$ .
- (ii)  $O(\bar{a}/A) = \{a\}$ .

*Proof.* “(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” Let  $\varphi(x)$  in  $L(A)$  define  $a$  over  $A$ . Then  $\varphi(U)$  is invariant under  $\text{Aut}(U/A)$  and so  $O(a/A) \subseteq \{a\} = \varphi(U)$ .

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)”  $O(a/A)$  is definable (in  $L(A \cup \{a\})$ ) and invariant over  $A$ , so by Proposition 7.2,  $O(a/A)$  is defined by a formula in  $L(A)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 7.6.** Let  $a \in U$ ,  $A \subseteq U$ . TFAE:

- (i)  $a \in \text{acl}(A)$ .
- (ii)  $|O(a/A)| < \omega$
- (iii)  $a \in M$  for any model  $M$  such that  $A \subseteq M$ .

*Proof.* “(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)” If  $a \in \text{acl}(A)$ , there is  $\varphi(x)$  in  $L(A)$  such that  $\varphi(a)$  holds and  $|\varphi(U)| < \omega$ . Since  $\varphi(U)$  is invariant over  $A$ ,  $O(a/A) \subseteq \varphi(U)$ .

“(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)” If  $|O(a/A)| < \omega$ , then  $O(a/A)$  is definable. But  $O(a/A)$  is invariant under  $A$ , so by Proposition 7.2, there is  $\varphi(x)$  in  $L(A)$  such that  $\varphi(U) = O(a/A)$ , so  $|\varphi(U)| < \omega$ . Since  $a \in \varphi(U)$ ,  $a \in \text{acl}(A)$ .

“(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii)” Let  $\varphi(x)$  in  $L(A)$  such that  $U \models \varphi(a) \wedge \exists^{\neq n} x \varphi(x)$ . In particular,  $U \models \exists^{\neq n} x \varphi(x)$ . Now let  $M \preceq U$ ,  $A \subseteq M$ . Then  $M \models \exists^{\neq n} x \varphi(x)$ . But then  $\varphi(M) = \varphi(U)$  since both sets are finite of the same size, so  $a \in \varphi(M) \subseteq M$ .

“(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i)” Let  $a \notin \text{acl}(A)$ , and  $\text{tp}(a/A) = p(x)$ . Then for  $\varphi(x) \in p(x)$ , we have  $|\varphi(U)| \geq \omega$ . We can show that  $|p(U)| \geq \omega$  and then  $|p(U)| = |U|$  (see Example Sheet 2).

Let  $M \supseteq A$  be a model. Then  $p(U) \setminus M \neq \emptyset$  (by cardinality). Let  $b \in p(U) \setminus M$ . By homogeneity there is  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U/A)$  such that  $\alpha(b) = a$ . Then  $\alpha M$  is a model that contains  $A$ , but not  $a$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 7.7.** *Let  $a \in U$ ,  $A \subseteq U$  small. Then*

- (i) *If  $a \in \text{acl}(A)$ , then  $a \in \text{acl}(A_0)$  for some finite subset  $A_0 \subseteq A$ .*
- (ii)  *$A \subseteq \text{acl}(A)$ .*
- (iii) *If  $A \subseteq B$ , then  $\text{acl}(A) \subseteq \text{acl}(B)$ .*
- (iv)  *$\text{acl}(\text{acl}(A)) = \text{acl}(A)$ .*
- (v)  *$\text{acl}(A) = \bigcap_{M \supseteq A} M$  where  $M$  ranges over models containing  $A$ .*

*Proof.*

- (i) Clear.
- (ii) In fact  $A \subseteq \text{dcl}(A) \subseteq \text{acl}(A)$ .
- (iii) Clear.
- (iv) By (ii) and (iii),  $\text{acl}(A) \subseteq \text{acl}(\text{acl}(A))$ . For the other inclusion let  $a \in \text{acl}(\text{acl}(A))$ . By Theorem 7.6,  $a \in M$  for all  $M \supseteq \text{acl}(A)$ . But  $M \supseteq \text{acl}(A) \Leftrightarrow M \supseteq A$  by the same theorem, hence  $a \in M$  for all models  $M$  containing  $A$ , so  $a \in \text{acl}(A)$ .
- (v) Clear by Theorem 7.6.

$\square$

**Proposition 7.8.** *Let  $\beta \in \text{Aut}(U)$ , and  $A \subseteq U$ . Then  $\beta[\text{acl}(A)] = \text{acl}(\beta[A])$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a \in \text{acl}(A)$ , so  $\models \varphi(a, \bar{b})$  where  $\bar{b} \in A^{|\bar{b}|}$  and  $|\varphi(U, \bar{b})| < \omega$ . Then  $\models \varphi(\beta(a), \beta(\bar{b}))$  and  $|\varphi(U, \beta(\bar{b}))| < \omega$  and so  $\beta(a) \in \text{acl}(\beta[A])$ . The other inclusion is similar, or apply what we just proved to  $\beta^{-1}, \beta[A]$  instead of  $\beta, A$ .  $\square$

## 8 Strongly Minimal Theories

**Definition.** Let  $M$  be an infinite  $L$ -structure. A subset  $A \subseteq M$  is called *cofinite* if  $|M \setminus A| < \omega$ .

**Remark.** Finite and cofinite sets are always definable in any structure.

We will only be concerned with infinite  $M$ .

**Definition.** Let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure. Then  $M$  is *minimal* if all its definable subsets are finite or cofinite.  $M$  is *strongly minimal* if it is minimal, and so are all its elementary extensions. If  $T$  is a consistent theory without finite models,  $T$  is *strongly minimal* if for every  $L$ -formula  $\varphi(x, \bar{z})$ , there is  $n \in \omega \setminus \{0\}$  such that

$$T \vdash \forall \bar{z} [\exists^{\leq n} x \varphi(x, \bar{z}) \vee \exists^{\leq n} x \neg \varphi(x, \bar{z})].$$

**Example.** Let  $L = \{E\}$  where  $E$  is a binary relation symbol. Let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure where  $E$  is interpreted as an equivalence relation with exactly one equivalence class of size  $n$  for each  $n \in \omega \setminus \{0\}$  and no infinite equivalence classes. We can prove (exercise) that  $\text{Th}(M)$  has quantifier elimination. Also it is not difficult to see that there is an elementary extension  $M \preceq N$  that has an infinite equivalence class. So  $M$  is minimal (definable sets are boolean combinations of equivalence classes thanks to quantifier elimination), but  $N$  is not.

From now on,  $T$  is a complete, strongly minimal theory without finite models.

**Definition.** If  $a \in U$ ,  $B \subseteq U$ , then  $a$  is *independent from  $B$*  if  $a \notin \text{acl}(B)$ . The set  $B$  is *independent* if for all  $b \in B$ ,  $b \notin \text{acl}(B \setminus \{b\})$ .

**Notation.** We will often write  $Ab$  for  $A \cup \{b\}$ ,  $A \setminus b$  for  $A \setminus \{b\}$ , etc.

**Theorem 8.1.** Let  $B \subseteq U$ ,  $a, b \in U \setminus \text{acl}(B)$ , then

$$a \in \text{acl}(Bb) \iff b \in \text{acl}(Ba).$$

*Proof.* Assume that  $a \in \text{acl}(Bb)$ , but  $b \notin \text{acl}(Ba)$ . Let  $\varphi(x, y) \in L(B)$  be such that

$$\models \varphi(a, b) \wedge \exists^{\leq n} x \varphi(x, b)$$

for some  $n \in \omega \setminus \{0\}$ . Consider  $\psi(a, y) = \varphi(a, y) \wedge \exists^{\leq n} x \varphi(x, y)$  in  $L(Ba)$ . Now  $\models \varphi(a, b)$ , so  $|\psi(a, U)| \geq \omega$  as  $b \notin \text{acl}(Ba)$ . By strong minimality,  $|\neg \psi(a, U)| < \omega$ . Let  $M$  be a model such that  $B \subseteq M$ . Then  $M \cap \psi(a, U) \neq \emptyset$  (by cardinality). Let  $c \in M \cap \psi(a, U)$ . Then  $a \in \text{acl}(Bc)$ , and  $B \subseteq M, c \in M$ , so  $\text{acl}(Bc) \subseteq M$  and thus  $a \in M$ . Then  $a \in \bigcap_{M \supseteq B} M = \text{acl}(B)$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Main examples.**

1. Let  $K$  be an infinite field. The language of  $K$ -vector spaces is  $L_K = \{+, -, 0, \{\lambda\}_{\lambda \in K}\}$  where the  $\lambda$ 's are unary function symbols. Interpretations of  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $0$  are obvious and interpretation of  $\lambda$  is multiplication by the scalar  $\lambda$ , we write  $\lambda x$  for  $\lambda(x)$ . The theory  $T_{VSK}$  includes the following axioms:

- axioms for abelian groups for  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $0$ .
- axioms for scalar product, e.g.
  - for each  $\lambda \in K$ ,
 
$$\forall x, y [\lambda(x + y) = \lambda x + \lambda y.]$$
  - for each  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \mu \in K$  such that  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = \mu$ ,
 
$$\forall x [\lambda_1(\lambda_2 x) = \mu x.]$$
  - etc.
- We also require non-triviality:  $\exists x [x \neq 0]$ .

We can prove (with some work) that  $T_{VSK}$  is complete and has quantifier elimination.

Then:

- a term is a linear combination:  $\lambda_1 x_1 + \dots + \lambda_n x_n$ .
- atomic formulas are equalities between terms.
- atomic formulas with one free variable and parameters are equivalent to formulas of the form  $\lambda x = a$ . Therefore such formulas define singletons.
- quantifier-free formulas with one variable and parameters define finite or cofinite sets.

By quantifier elimination, a model of  $T_{VSK}$  is strongly minimal. Moreover, for  $A \subseteq M \models T_{VSK}$ ,  $\text{acl}(A) = \langle A \rangle$ , the linear span. Also  $a \notin \text{acl}(A)$  iff  $a$  is linearly independent from  $A$ . A set  $A$  is independent iff it is linearly independent.

**Remark.** If  $K$  is finite, one can define  $T_{VSK}^\infty$ , the theory of infinite-dimensional vector space over  $K$  (more later).

2. The language of rings is  $L_{\text{ring}} = \{+, \cdot, -, 0, 1\}$ . Then  $ACF$  is the  $L_{\text{ring}}$ -theory that includes:

- axioms for abelian group using  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $0$ .
- axioms for commutative monoids  $(\cdot, 1)$ .
- field axioms
- For each  $0 < n < \omega$ , the axiom

$$\forall x_0 \dots x_n \exists y [x_0 + x_1 y + \dots + x_n y^n = 0].$$

For  $p$  prime, let  $\chi_p$  be the sentence  $1 + 1 + \cdots + 1 = 0$  where there are  $p$  1's on the left hand side.

Then  $ACF_p = ACF \cup \{\chi_p\}$  and  $AFC_0 = ACF \cup \{\chi_p \mid p \text{ prime}\}$ .

$ACF_0$  and  $ACF_p$  for given  $p$  are both complete and have quantifier elimination. Then

- atomic formulas are polynomial equations.
- If  $A \subseteq M \models ACF_{0/p}$ , an atomic formula in  $L_{\text{ring}}(A)$  with one free variable is equivalent to  $p(x) = 0$  where  $p(x) \in F[x]$  where  $F$  is the subfield generated by  $A$ .
- Therefore, atomic formulas as above define finite sets
- Quantifier-free formulas define finite/cofinite sets.

By quantifier elimination,  $ACF_0, ACF_p$  are strongly minimal.

**Definition.** Let  $B \subseteq C \subseteq U$ . Then  $B$  is a basis of  $C$  if  $B$  is independent and  $C \subseteq \text{acl}(B)$ .

**Lemma 8.2.** If  $B$  is independent and  $a \notin \text{acl}(B)$ , then  $\{a\} \cup B$  is independent.

*Proof.* Assume that  $a \cup \{B\}$  is not independent. Let  $b \in B$  such that  $b \in \text{acl}(aB \setminus b)$ . Since  $B$  is independent,  $b \notin \text{acl}(B \setminus b)$ . We assumed  $a \notin \text{acl}(B \setminus b)$ . Then  $a \in \text{acl}(bB \setminus b) = \text{acl } B$  by Theorem 8.1, a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 8.3.** If  $B \subseteq C \subseteq U$ , TFAE:

- (i)  $B$  is a basis of  $C$ .
- (ii)  $B$  is a maximal independent subset.

**Theorem 8.4.** Let  $C \subseteq U$  small. Then

- (i) any independent  $B \subseteq C$  extends to a basis of  $C$ .
- (ii) if  $A, B$  are bases of  $C$ , then  $|A| = |B|$ .

*Proof.*

- (i) Immediate from Zorn's lemma.
- (ii) Assume that  $|A| < |B|$ .

Suppose first that  $|B| \geq \omega$ . Assume  $|A| < |B|$ . For  $a \in A$ , let  $D_a \subseteq B$  be finite such that  $a \in \text{acl}(D_a)$ . Let  $D = \bigcup_{a \in A} D_a$ . Then  $A \subseteq \text{acl}(D)$ , and  $|D| < |B|$ . Then  $A \subseteq \text{acl}(D)$  and  $A$  is a basis, so  $C \subseteq \text{acl}(D)$  and  $B \subseteq \text{acl}(D)$  which contradicts the independence of  $B$ .

Now suppose  $|B| < \omega$ . Among those  $B$ , choose  $B$  such that  $|B \setminus A|$  is minimal. Let  $b \in B \setminus A$ . Let  $B'$  be a maximal independent subset of  $A \cup B \setminus b$  containing  $B \setminus b$ . Then  $B'$  is a basis of  $\text{acl}(AB \setminus b)$ . Since  $C \subseteq \text{acl}(A)$ , we have  $C \subseteq \text{acl}(AB \setminus b) \subseteq \text{acl}(B')$ . So  $B' \subseteq C$ ,  $B'$  is independent and  $\text{acl}(C) \subseteq \text{acl}(B)$ , hence  $B'$  is a basis of  $C$ . But  $|B' \setminus A| = |(B' \setminus b) \setminus A| < |B \setminus A|$ , contradicting the minimality of  $|B \setminus A|$ .

□

**Definition.** Let  $C \subseteq U$ ,  $\text{acl}(C) = C$ . Then the dimension of  $C$ , denoted  $\dim C$ , is the cardinality of a basis of  $C$ .

**Proposition 8.5.** Let  $f : U \rightarrow U$  be partial elementary,  $b \notin \text{acl}(\text{dom } f)$ ,  $c \notin \text{acl}(\text{ran } f)$ . Then  $f \cup \{(b, c)\}$  is elementary.

*Proof.* Let  $\bar{a}$  enumerate  $\text{dom } f$ , let  $\varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{a})$  be a formula in  $L(\bar{a})$ . Claim:  $\models \varphi(b, \bar{a}) \leftrightarrow \varphi(c, f(\bar{a}))$ .

Case 1:  $|\varphi(U, \bar{a})| < \omega$ . Then  $|\varphi(U, f(\bar{a}))| < \omega$ . Since  $b \notin \text{acl}(\bar{a})$  and  $c \notin \text{acl}(f(\bar{a}))$ , we have

$$\models \neg\varphi(b, \bar{a}) \wedge \neg\varphi(c, f(\bar{a})).$$

Case 2:  $|(U, \bar{a})| \geq \omega$ , then  $|\neg\varphi(U, \bar{a})| < \omega$ . As in case 1, we conclude that

$$\models \varphi(b, \bar{a}) \wedge \varphi(c, f(\bar{a})).$$

□

**Corollary 8.6.** Every bijection between independent subsets of  $U$  is elementary.

*Proof.* Let  $A, B \subseteq U$  with  $|A| = |B|$ . Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a bijection. Let  $\bar{a}$  enumerate  $A$ , so  $\bar{b} = f(\bar{a})$  enumerates  $B$ . Then  $a_0, b_0 \notin \text{acl}(\emptyset)$ . Then by Proposition 8.5,  $a_0 \mapsto b_0$  is elementary. The step  $i + 1$  similar, since  $a_{i+1} \notin \text{acl}(a_0, \dots, a_i)$  and  $b_{i+1} \notin \text{acl}(b_0, \dots, b_i)$ . The limit case is clear. □

**Remark.** If  $M \preceq U$  is a model, then  $\text{acl}(M) = M$  by Proposition 7.7. So models of a strongly minimal theory have a dimension.

**Theorem 8.7.** Let  $M, N \preceq U$  be models such that  $\dim(M) = \dim(N)$ . Then  $M \simeq N$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A, B$  be bases of  $M, N$  resp. Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a bijection. Then  $f$  is elementary, so there is  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(U)$  such that  $\alpha \supseteq f$ . Then  $\alpha[M] = \alpha[\text{acl}(A)] = \text{acl}(\alpha[A]) = \text{acl}(B) = N$ . □

**Corollary 8.8.** Let  $\lambda > |L|$  be a cardinal. Then  $T$  is  $\lambda$ -categorical.



*Proof.* If  $A \subseteq U$ , then  $|\text{acl}(A)| \leq |L(A)|$  because there are at most  $|L(A)|$  algebraic formulas and each such formula contributes only finitely many elements to  $\text{acl}(A)$ . Therefore, if  $|M| = \lambda > |L|$ , then a basis of  $M$  must have cardinality  $\lambda$ . By the previous theorem,  $M$  is then unique up to isomorphism.  $\square$

Recall  $T_{\text{VSK}}$ , the theory of vector spaces over an infinite field  $K$ . If  $|K| = \omega$ , then  $T_{\text{VSK}}$  is  $\lambda$ -categorical for every uncountable  $\lambda$ . However,  $T_{\text{VSK}}$  is not  $\omega$ -categorical. Each  $n \in \omega \setminus \{0\}$  determines a countable model of  $T_{\text{VSK}}$  of dimension  $n$ , unique up to isomorphism. There is also a model of dimension  $\omega$ . These models have the same cardinality.

Now let  $K$  be a finite field and let  $T_{\text{VSK}}^\infty$  be  $T_{\text{VSK}}$  plus axioms that ensure that models are infinite. One can show that  $T_{\text{VSK}}^\infty$  is strongly minimal.  $T_{\text{VSK}}^\infty$  has a countable model. Every countable model has dimension  $\omega$ , so  $T_{\text{VSK}}^\infty$  is  $\omega$ -categorical. So  $T_{\text{VSK}}^\infty$  is *totally categorical*.

**Theorem 8.9.** *Let  $N \models T$  (still assumed to be strongly minimal) and  $|N| \geq |L|$ . Then*

$$N \text{ is saturated} \iff \dim N = |N|$$

*Proof.* Exercise.  $\square$