

# Cardinalities of definable sets in finite structures

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# Structure of Talk

1. Chatzidakis - van den Dries - Macintyre Theorem on definability in finite fields, asymptotic classes, measurable structures.

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3. Multidimensional EXACT classes and approximations of homogeneous structures.

## CDM Theorem

**Theorem [Chatzidakis, van den Dries and Macintyre 1992]** Let

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- (i) there is a positive constant  $C$  and finitely many pairs  $(d_i, \mu_i)$ , with  $d_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  and  $\mu_i \in \mathbb{Q}^{>0}$  such that for each finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , and each  $\bar{a} \in \mathbb{F}_q^m$ , if the set

$$\varphi(\mathbb{F}_q^n, \bar{a}) := \{\bar{b} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n : \mathbb{F}_q \models \varphi(\bar{b}, \bar{a})\}$$

is nonempty, then

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- (ii) for each pair  $(d_i, \mu_i)$ , there is a formula  $\psi_i(y_1, \dots, y_m)$  in the language of rings such that  $\psi_i(\mathbb{F}_q^m)$  consists of those  $\bar{a} \in \mathbb{F}_q^m$  for which the corresponding inequality holds.

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**Corollary:** There is no  $L_{\text{rings}}$ -formula (even with parameters) which uniformly in all finite fields  $\mathbb{F}_{p^2}$  defines the prime subfield  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .



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**Corollary.** Fix a Lie type  $\tau$ , giving an  $N$ -dimensional asymptotic class of finite simple groups.

There is a finite set  $E$  of pairs  $(d_i, \mu_i) \in \{0, \dots, N\} \times \mathbb{Q}^{\geq 0}$  such that for any finite simple group  $G$  of Lie type  $\tau$ , each conjugacy class of  $G$  has cardinality roughly  $\mu|G|^{d/N}$  for some  $(d, \mu) \in E$ .

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**Proof:** Apply Ryten result to formula  $\phi(x, y)$  of form  $\exists z(z^{-1}xz = y)$ .

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- (ii) Every measurable structure is supersimple of finite SU-rank. (Recall that the class of simple theories contains the stable theories, that forking gives a nice notion of independence in simple theories, and that supersimple + stable = superstable.)
- (iii)  $(\mathbb{C}, +, \times)$  is not measurable, due to the 2-1 surjection  $x \mapsto x^2$   
 $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ .

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**Note:** Our framework will NOT include the class of total orders, due to the formula  $x < y$ .

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- 4 Finite abelian groups.
- 5 Finite graphs of bounded degree.

## $\emptyset$ -definable finite partitions

For a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of finite  $\mathcal{L}$ -structures and a tuple  $\bar{y}$  of variables, we denote by  $(\mathcal{C}, \bar{y})$  the set  $\{(M, \bar{a}) \mid M \in \mathcal{C}, \bar{a} \in M^{|\bar{y}|}\}$  of pairs (‘pointed structures’) consisting of a structure in  $\mathcal{C}$  and a  $\bar{y}$ -tuple from that structure.



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A finite partition  $\Phi$  of  $(\mathcal{C}, \bar{y})$  (i.e. finitely many parts) is  **$\emptyset$ -definable** if for each  $P \in \Phi$  there exists an  $\mathcal{L}$ -formula  $\phi_P(\bar{y})$  without parameters such that

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**The idea:** we partition  $\bar{y}$ -space uniformly (across  $\mathcal{C}$ ) into a fixed finite number of parts, each part (uniformly)  $\emptyset$ -definable in each structure in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## Definition of $R$ -m.a.c.

Let  $R$  be ANY set of functions  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ . A class  $\mathcal{C}$  of finite  $\mathcal{L}$ -structures is an  **$R$ -multidimensional asymptotic class** (or an  **$R$ -m.a.c.** for short) if for every formula  $\phi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  there is a finite  $\emptyset$ -definable partition  $\Phi$  of  $(\mathcal{C}, \bar{y})$  and a set  $H_\Phi := \{h_P \in R \mid P \in \Phi\}$  of functions such that:

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**The idea:** The size of  $\phi(M^{|\bar{x}|}, \bar{b})$  is a function of  $M$ , the function depending just on the *part* of  $\bar{b}$  (i.e. the *part* of  $(M, \bar{b})$ ). The notion of  $R$ -m.e.c. is a strengthening of  $R$ -m.a.c..

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**weak**  $R$ -m.a.c. (or  $R$ -m.e.c.) – drop the definability clause on the partition  $\Phi$ .

# Observations

Basic facts about  $R$ -m.a.c.s and  $R$ -m.e.c.s.

1. To prove a class  $\mathcal{C}$  is an  $R$ -m.a.c. or  $R$ -m.e.c it suffices to prove the condition for formulas  $\phi(x, \bar{y})$  (with  $x$  a single variable), replacing  $R$  by the ring generated by  $R$ . (Fibering argument, using definability. Compare how  $o$ -minimality is a one-variable condition but implies cell decomposition.)

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2. (Wolf) If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a m.a.c. or m.e.c. then so is any class of finite structures uniformly bi-interpretable with  $\mathcal{C}$ . (Note: These conditions are not closed under interpretability or taking reducts, as the definability clause may be lost.)



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3. Any class uniformly interpretable in a m.a.c. is a weak m.a.c..

## Examples

1. (Garcia, M, Steinhorn) Class of 2-sorted structures  $(V, \mathbb{F}_q)$ , with  $V$  a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Here, given a formula  $\phi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  there is a finite set  $E_\phi$  of polynomials  $g(\mathbb{V}, \mathbb{F})$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  such that if  $M = (V, F)$  then each  $h_P(M)$  has form  $g(|V|, |F|)$  for some  $g \in E_\phi$ .

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2. More generally, fix a quiver  $Q$  (digraph) of **finite representation type** ( $A_n, D_n, E_6, E_7, E_8$ ). Over the field  $F$ , this has a finite-dimensional **path algebra**  $FQ$ , which has finitely many isomorphism types of indecomposable representations. Let

$$\mathcal{C}_Q := \{(V, FQ, F) : F \text{ finite field}, V \text{ finite module for } FQ\}$$

(3-sorted, with the natural language). Then  $\mathcal{C}_Q$  is an  $R$ -mac with the functions  $h$  given by polynomials  $g(F, W_1, \dots, W_i)$ , where the  $W_i$  variables correspond to the indecomposables for the quiver  $Q$ .

# Examples

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(Idea:  $\mathbb{Z}/p^d\mathbb{Z}$  is coordinatised uniformly by  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ .)

## Generalised measurable structures

Let  $(S, +, \cdot, 0, 1, <)$  be a (commutative) ordered semiring (so  $(S, +, 0)$ ,  $(S, \cdot, 1)$  are commutative monoids, least element 0, etc.).



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Let  $S$  be a measuring semiring and let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure. We say that  $M$  is  **$S$ -measurable** if there is a function  $h : \text{Def}(M) \rightarrow S$  such that

- 1 *finite sets*:  $h(X) = |X|$  for finite  $X$ ;
- 2 *finite additivity*: if  $X, Y \in \text{Def}(M)$  are disjoint,  $h(X \cup Y) = h(X) + h(Y)$ ;
- 3 *mac condition*: for each definable family  $\mathcal{X}$  (given by a formula  $\phi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ ) there exists a finite set  $F \subseteq S$  such that  $h(\mathcal{X}) = F$  and for each  $f \in F$ ,  $h^{-1}(f)$  is a  $\emptyset$ -definable family; and
- 4 *Fubini*: suppose  $p : X \rightarrow Y$  is a definable function and there exists  $f \in S$  such that for all  $\bar{a} \in Y$ ,  $h(p^{-1}(\bar{a})) = f$ ; then we have  $h(X) = f \cdot h(Y)$ .

In finite fields, by CDM, definable sets had size roughly  $\mu q^d$ . Likewise, if  $M$  is  $S$ -measurable, and  $D$  is formed as above via  $d_S : S \rightarrow D$ , then  $(D, \max, \oplus, -\infty, 0, <)$  has a semiring structure (with  $\max$  and  $\oplus$  induced from  $+$  and  $\times$  via  $d_S$ ), and we may form

$$E = \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} X^D = \{\mu X^d : \mu \in \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}, d \in D\}.$$

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Now  $E$  is a measuring semiring, there is a dimension map  $d_E : E \rightarrow D$  with  $d_E(\mu X^d) = d$ , and a semiring homomorphism  $\phi : S \rightarrow E$  with  $d_S = d_E \circ \phi$ .

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**Proposition.** If  $M$  is  $S$ -measurable, and the associated set of dimensions  $(d_S \circ h)(\text{Def}(M))$  is well-ordered, then  $M$  is supersimple. (Idea: Forking ensures drop in dimension.)



# Generalised measurable structures

**Proposition.** Let  $M$  be (weakly) generalised measurable. Then

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**Note:** It follows from (ii) that  $(\mathbb{C}, +, \times)$  is not generalised measurable. In fact, by an argument of Scanlon, if  $K$  is a generalised measurable field then  $\text{Aut}(K^{\text{alg}}/K) \cong (\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

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**Example** (Anscombe). If  $M$  is a Fraïssé limit of a free amalgamation class then  $M$  is generalised measurable (note for example the generic triangle-free graph is such a Fraïssé limit and has TP1 and TP2 theory).

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**Note.** The above supersimplicity result applies to ultraproducts of examples like

$$\{(V, \mathbb{F}_q) : q \text{ prime power}, V \text{ finite dim. over } \mathbb{F}_q\}$$

and the quiver example, where the defining functions are given by polynomials in several variables, so the corresponding set of dimensions is well-ordered (they are given by the polynomial degrees, which are ordered like  $\mathbb{N}^d$ ).

## Examples of m.e.c.s

1. (Essentially by Pillay) Let  $M$  be any pseudofinite strongly minimal set. Then there is a m.e.c. whose infinite ultraproducts are all elementarily equivalent to  $M$ , with the functions determining cardinalities given as polynomials (over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ) in the cardinalities of the finite structures.



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2. (Wolf, based on Cherlin-Hrushovski) For a fixed language  $L$  and  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\mathcal{C}_{L,d}$  be the collection of all finite  $L$ -structures  $M$  with at most  $d$  4-types (equivalently,  $\text{Aut}(M)$  has at most  $d$  orbits on  $M^4$ ). Then  $\mathcal{C}_{L,d}$  is a m.e.c (functions given by polynomials in the coordinatising Lie geometries).

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(If  $(m, q) = 1$  and  $|m| \leq 2\sqrt{q}$  there is an elliptic curve  $E$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  with  $q + 1 - m$   $\mathbb{F}_q$ -rational points.)

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**Question.** Does every m.e.c. of finite groups consist of nilpotent-by-bounded groups?

**Problem.** Find a m.e.c. with ultraproduct having non-simple theory.



# Homogeneous structures as limits of m.e.c.s

**Conjecture.** If  $M$  is a homogeneous structure over a finite relational language, then the following are equivalent.

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2. The Paley graphs form a m.a.c (but not m.e.c) with limit the random graph, which is unstable. (Paley graph  $P_q$  has vertex set  $\mathbb{F}_q$  where  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , with  $x, y$  adjacent iff  $x - y$  is a square.)

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3. The Conjecture holds for graphs, by the Lachlan-Woodrow classification of homogeneous graphs and...

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- (v) (Ainslie) The universal homogeneous two-graph (a 3-uniform hypergraph reduct of the random graph, where the 3-edges consist of 3-sets containing an odd number of random graph edges.)

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1. Any finite regular tournament has indegree equal to outdegree, so has an odd number of vertices (count in 2 ways the pairs  $(x, y)$  with  $x \rightarrow y$ ).

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5.  $|M| =$  the sum of four odd numbers +2, which is even – contradicting (3)!