The Role of Permutation Groups in the Search for a Logic for Polynomial Time.

Public Defense

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Procedural techniques



The sum of length, width, and diagonal is 1 and 5 is the area. Multiply length, width, and diagonal times length, width, and diagonal.

Multiply the area by 2.

Subtract the products and multiply what is left by one-half. By what should the sum of length, width, and diagonal be multiplied to obtain this product?

The diagonal is the factor.

$$ax^{2} + bx + c = 0$$

$$\iff x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^{2} - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Grand Livre de Cuisine, Alain Ducasse Ancient Babylonian Algorithms, Donald Knuth

20th century: computation models

Emergence of various equivalent computation models:

- Recursive functions
- ▶ Turing Machines
- \triangleright λ -calculus
- **...**

With various notions of resources:

- ► Time
- Space
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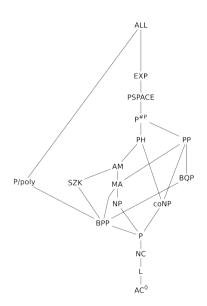
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Symmetries in computations



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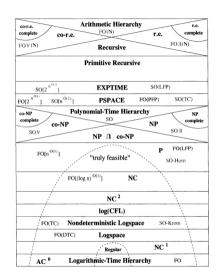
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Descriptive Complexity

- Machine-free models of computation over structures: logics
- Capture results
- ► Example: Fagin theorem NP = SO∃

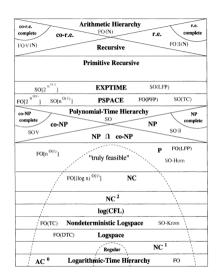
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- Machine-free models of computation over structures: logics
- Capture results
- ► Example: Fagin theorem NP = SO∃
- ► Logic for P?



The Immerman-Vardi theorem

Over ordered structures, FO + lfp = P.

- Allows recursion.
- ▶ Ifp: least fixed point. Given $\varphi(X, \vec{x})$,

$$(\operatorname{lfp}_{X,\vec{x}}\varphi)(\mathfrak{A}) = \underbrace{\varphi^{\mathfrak{A}}(\varphi^{\mathfrak{A}}(\dots \varphi^{\mathfrak{A}})}_{\text{until fixpoint reached}}(\emptyset)\dots))$$

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Back and forth

- ▶ Over unordered structures, FP does not express EVEN.
- ► Counting extension of FP: FPC.
 - Formulas evaluated over $\mathfrak{A} + (\{0, 1, \dots, |A|\}, \leq)$
 - Add counting terms : $(\#x.\varphi(x)) > (\#y.\psi(y))$
 - ▶ All P-arithmetic operations are definable (Immerman-Vardi theorem).
- ► Cai-Fürer-Immerman (CFI): FPC < P.

Back and forth

- [Daw08]: The CFI query reduces to the satisfiability of systems of equations over a field.
- \rightarrow FP + rk : extend FP with a linear-algebraic operator.
- ▶ If $\varphi_M(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \lambda)$ defines a matrix M over \mathfrak{A} :

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▶ Lichter '21: FP + rk < P using a generalization of the CFI-construction.

Link to Graph Isomorphism and Canonisation

Graph Isomorphism (GI)

Input: $\mathfrak{G}, \mathfrak{H}$ two graphs Question: Whether $\mathfrak{G} \simeq \mathfrak{H}$

- CFI structures are hard instances of Graph Isomorphism: [Tor04]
- Over restricted classes of unordered structures:
 - ightharpoonup FP + C = P for bounded tree-width [GM99]
 - ▶ FP + C = P when excluded minor [Gro17].
 - ▶ Canonisation : if $\mathcal{L} \geq \mathsf{FP}$ canonizes \mathcal{C} , \mathcal{L} captures P on \mathcal{C} .

Definition

A canonisation function: $f(\mathfrak{G}) \simeq \mathfrak{G}$ and if $\mathfrak{G} \simeq \mathfrak{H}$, $f(\mathfrak{G}) = f(\mathfrak{H})$. In a logic: an interpretation $\mathcal{I}: \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}^{<}$ s.t. $\mathcal{I}(\mathfrak{A})$ (w.o. <) $\simeq \mathfrak{A}$.

A bit of (permutation) group theory

- Group axioms: binary operation,
 - associative
 - neutral
 - inverses
- ▶ $Sym(D) := \{f : D \to D \text{ bijections }\}$ with composition.
- ▶ (Finite) Permutation group: $G \leq \text{Sym}(D)$ for some (finite) D.
- ► Cayley theorem: any group is isomorphic to a permutation group.
- ▶ For $S \subseteq G$, $\langle S \rangle \leq G$ smallest subgroup of G containing S.

The role of permutation groups in Graph Isomorphism

Graph Automorphism Problem (GA_C)

 $\mathcal{G}\in\mathcal{C}$ Input:

$$g \in \mathcal{C}$$

 $S \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(V_G) \text{ s.t. } \langle S \rangle = \operatorname{Aut}(G) := \{ \sigma \in \operatorname{Sym}(V_G) \mid E_G^{\sigma} = E_G \}$ Output:

- ightharpoonup If C union-closed, $GI_C <_P GA_C$
- Many results for Graph Iso and/or Canonisation on restricted classes of graphs [Bab79, Luk82, BL83, Bab16]. Primitive operations:

PERM. GROUP MEMBERSHIP PROBLEM		- Т	PERM. GROUP ORDER PROBLEM	
Input: Question:	$S \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(D)$ and $\sigma \in \operatorname{Sym}(D)$ Does $\sigma \in \langle S \rangle$?	≤Ĺ	Input: Output:	$\mathcal{S} \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(\mathcal{D}) \ \langle \mathcal{S} angle $

Both are in P: Schreier-Sims algorithm.

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For each i < k, build a transversal T_i of H_{i+1} in H_i . (T_i) is a Strong Generating Set.

If $H \le G, g \in G$, $gH := \{gh, h \in H\}$ is a coset of H in G. A transversal of H in G is a set of coset representatives.

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- \rightsquigarrow Any $\sigma \in G$ admits a unique decomposition $t_1 \dots, t_k$ with $t_i \in T_i$.
- \rightarrow $|G| = |T_0| \cdot |T_1| \dots |T_{k-1}|$.
- \hookrightarrow If $K \leq G$ has polynomial index and decidable membership, can compute g.s. for K.

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Notion of accessibility

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- ▶ For poly-time, we need k < p(|D|), and $\forall i, |H_i : H_{i+1}| < p(|D|)$.
- ▶ If $D = \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$,

$$H_i := \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1,\ldots,a_i)}(G)$$

► Without an ordering of *D* ?

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Contributions

- ▶ Study representations of permutation groups in extensions of FO.
 - Unordered sets of generators
 - Ordered sets of generators
 - Abelian groups
- ▶ Study of the expressive power of the operation ord : $S \mapsto |\langle S \rangle|$ as an extension of FP.
 - ightharpoonup FP + ord > FP + rk

Outline

First approach: definable generating sets

$$\mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{rk} \leq \mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{ord}$$

$$\mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{ord} \nleq \mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{rk}$$

Definable ordered sets of permutations

Plan

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Definable ordered sets of permutations

Definable sets of permutations

Definition

$$\varphi(\vec{s}, \vec{t})$$
 (with type(\vec{s}) = type(\vec{t}) = T) defines $\sigma \in \text{Sym}(A^T)$ if
$$\forall \vec{b}, \vec{c} \in A^T, \sigma(\vec{b}) = \vec{c} \iff (\mathfrak{A}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}) \models \varphi$$

Definition

A formula $\varphi(\vec{p}, \vec{s}, \vec{t})$ defines $S \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(A^T)$ binding \vec{p} if

$$\{\operatorname{perm}(\varphi(\mathfrak{A},\vec{a}))\mid \vec{a}\in A^{\vec{p}}\}=S.$$

- ightharpoonup FO + tc defines orbits.
- ▶ If G and H are \mathcal{L} -definable, with $\mathcal{L} \geq \mathsf{FO}$, $\langle G \cup H \rangle$ is \mathcal{L} -definable.

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Definition

 $(\operatorname{ord}_{\vec{p}.\vec{s}.\vec{t}} \varphi)$ is a *numerical predicate* (of arity $2 \cdot |\vec{s}|$) encoding $|\langle S \rangle|$.

Plan

First approach: definable generating sets

$$\mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{rk} \leq \mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{ord}$$

$$\mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{ord} \not \leq \mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{rk}$$

Definable ordered sets of permutations

Outline of the proof

▶ If $\varphi_M(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \lambda)$ defines a matrix,

$$egin{aligned} M: \mathbb{F}_{p}^{A^{\overline{x}}} &
ightarrow \mathbb{F}_{p}^{A^{\overline{y}}} \ & (\mathsf{rk}_{\overline{x},\overline{y}}arphi_{M}.p) = \dim(\mathrm{Im}(M)) \ &= \log_{p}|\mathrm{Im}(M)| \end{aligned}$$

where $\operatorname{Im}(M) \leq \mathbb{F}_p^{A^{\vec{y}}}$ additive group.

- $ightharpoonup \log_p$ is definable (Immerman-Vardi theorem)
- ► New goals:
 - 1. permutation representation of $\mathbb{F}_p^{A^{\vec{y}}}$
 - 2. define a generating set for $\operatorname{Im}(M) \leq \mathbb{F}_p^{A^{\vec{y}}}$.

Subgoal 1: Permutation representation of $\mathbb{F}_p^{A^y}$.

▶ For $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$,

$$\operatorname{\mathsf{repr}}_p : \mathbb{F}_p \to S_p$$
$$k \mapsto (i \mapsto i + k \mod p)$$

is FPC-definable.

ightharpoonup For T_1 , T_2 ,

$$\iota_{T_1,T_2}: \operatorname{Sym}(A^{T_2})^{A^{T_1}} o \operatorname{Sym}(A^{T_1} \times A^{T_2}) \ (g_{\vec{a}})_{\vec{a} \in A^{T_1}} \mapsto ((\vec{a},\vec{b}) \mapsto (\vec{a},(g_{\vec{a}}(\vec{b}))))$$

is FPC-definable.

▶ Conclusion: $\iota_{\vec{y},\mu} \circ (\mathsf{repr}_p^{A^{\vec{y}}}) : \mathbb{F}_p^{A^{\vec{y}}} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Sym}(A^{\vec{y}} \times A^{<})$ is FPC-definable.

Subgoal 2: Generating set for $\operatorname{Im}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(M)$

- $((\mathbb{F}_p)^{A^{\vec{x}}},+)$ generated by the set B all scalar products of unit vectors.
- $\longrightarrow \operatorname{Im}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(M)$ is generated by $\{M \cdot b \mid b \in B\}$.
- ▶ Given φ_M ,

$$A^{\vec{x}} imes \mathbb{F}_{p} o \operatorname{Sym}(A^{\vec{y}} imes A^{<})$$

 $(\vec{a}, \lambda) \mapsto \iota_{\vec{y}, \mu} \circ (\operatorname{repr}_{p}^{A^{\vec{y}}})(M \cdot (\lambda \cdot \hat{e}_{\vec{a}}))$

FPC-definable.

Remark

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$$FP + rk \leq FP + ord$$

$$\mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{ord} \nleq \mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{rk}$$

Definable ordered sets of permutations

Preliminaries

- ▶ Lichter '21: FP + rk < P
- Last remark: decision problem separation
- ▶ The separating query is defined on a class of structures with Abelian Colours.
- ▶ We show FP + ord canonises (and thus captures P on) structures with Abelian Colours, \rightsquigarrow FP + rk < FP + ord.

$$A_1 \leq A_2 \leq \cdots \leq A_m$$

- ▶ For each $i \leq m$, abelian group Γ_i acting transitively on A_i
- \rightarrow $|\Gamma_i| = |A_i|$: for all $a \in A_i$, $\gamma \mapsto \gamma(a)$ bijection.
- ► For each *i*, \mathfrak{A} equipped with an enumeration $(\gamma_j^i)_{j<|A_i|}$ of Γ_i.

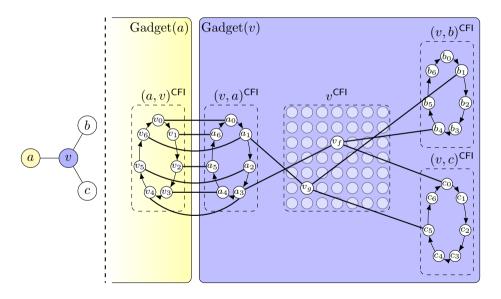
$$A_1 \preceq A_2$$
 If $G \leq \operatorname{Sym}(D)$ is abelian transitive, it is *regular*: $\forall g \in G, (\exists x, gx = x) \implies g = 1$

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Archetypal abelian colours structures: CFI



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- ▶ For each i, \mathfrak{A} equipped with an enumeration $(\gamma_i^i)_{j < |A_i|}$ of Γ_i .
- \rightarrow $\mathcal{O}(A_i)$ (unordered) family of $|A_i|$ definable orderings of A_i .
- $\triangleright \mathcal{O}(A) := \prod_{i=1}^m \mathcal{O}(A_i).$

The canonisation algorithm

Algorithm 1: Canonisation procedure

Input : $\mathfrak{A} = (A, E, \prec, \Phi)$ a structure with Abelian colours

Output: A numerical relation $E^{<}$ isomorphic to E

$$\mathcal{C} := \mathcal{O}(A)$$
;

for (i,j) ∈ $[m]^2$ do

find $E_{i,j}^{<}$, the smallest lexicographical encoding of E on $A_i \cup A_j$ compatible with C;

$$\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \{\sigma \in \mathcal{C}, \operatorname{enc}(\mathcal{E}, \sigma)_{\upharpoonright A_i \times A_j} = \mathcal{E}_{i,j}^{<}\};$$

return $E^{<} := \bigcup_{i,j} E_{i,j}^{<}$

(same algorithm as [Pak15, chapter 6])

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Representing labeling cosets: three challenges

- ▶ The usual representation ($C = \sigma H$) of cosets is not isomorphism-invariant.
- ▶ Computation of accessible subgroups is not isomorphism-invariant.

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Aparté : Definable generating sets are limited

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Worse, we can find a (sequence of) structure $\mathfrak A$ s.t.:

- ▶ A group $\mathbf{G}(\mathfrak{A})$ is (FP-)definable from \mathfrak{A}
- ▶ A subgroup $\mathbf{H}(\mathfrak{A})$ is accessible from $\mathbf{G}(\mathfrak{A})$
- ▶ FP defines a witness of the accessibility of $\mathbf{H}(\mathfrak{A})$ in $\mathbf{G}(\mathfrak{A})$.
- Any symmetric generating set of $\mathbf{H}(\mathfrak{A})$ has exponential size.

Representing labeling cosets: three challenges

- ▶ The usual representation ($C = \sigma H$) of cosets is not isomorphism-invariant.
- Computation of accessible subgroups is not isomorphism-invariant.

Fix: Morphism-definability

Morphism-definability

Definition

R a relation symbol of arity 2k.

$$\varphi_m(R, \vec{x}, \vec{y})$$
 defines a morphism $m: G \to \operatorname{Sym}(A^{|\vec{x}|})$ on \mathfrak{A} , where $G \leq \operatorname{Sym}(A^k)$ if, for all $\sigma \in G$,

 $\varphi_m(\mathfrak{A}, R \leftarrow \operatorname{graph}(\sigma)) = \operatorname{graph}(m(\sigma))$

$$C < C_{\text{com}}(A^T)$$
 is morphism definable from C in O if

 $H \subseteq G \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(A^T)$ is morphism-definable from G in $\mathfrak A$ if:

 \triangleright There is a definable generating set for G in $\mathfrak A$

▶ there is a \mathcal{L} -formula φ_m which defines a morphism $m: G \to \operatorname{Sym}(A^{T'})$ on \mathfrak{A} such that $\ker(m) = H$.

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$$igg(m: G
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- ▶ If H is morphism-definable from G in \mathfrak{A} , then $\mathsf{FP} + \mathsf{ord}$ defines |H| and membership to H.
- Moreover, the morphism m defining H in G defines a bijection between cosets of H in G and Im(m).
- ▶ If H_1 and H_2 are morphism-definable from G in \mathfrak{A} , then so is $H_1 \cap H_2$.

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- ▶ If H_1 and H_2 are morphism-definable from G in \mathfrak{A} , then so is $H_1 \cap H_2$.
- → solves the subgroup computation issue

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Fix: Morphism-definability

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Fix: Labeling group

- ► Algorithmic perspective:
 - encoding of $\mathfrak{A} \approx$ one fixed $\sigma : A \rightarrow A^{<}$.
 - ▶ Represent labeling $\ell: A \to A^{<}$ by the unique $\tau \in \operatorname{Sym}(A)$ s.t. $\ell = \sigma \tau$.
 - **Extends** to cosets: $\ell G = \sigma \tau G$, and $\tau G \subseteq \text{Sym}(A)$.
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 - ▶ Extends to cosets: $\ell G = \sigma \tau G$, and $\tau G \subseteq \text{Sym}(A)$.
 - ightharpoonup Choice of σ not isomorphism-invariant.
- Unordered setting with Abelian colouring:
 - ▶ families $\mathcal{O}(A_i)$ of labelings of A_i indexed by A_i ($a \mapsto \mathsf{map}_a^i$)
 - ▶ Represent labeling $\ell: A \to A^{<}$ by $(\tau_a)_{a \in A}$ s.t.

$$\forall i, \forall a \in A_i, \mathsf{map}_a^i \tau_a = \ell_{\restriction A_i}$$

$$\leadsto \tau_a = (\mathsf{map}_a^i)^{-1} \ell.$$

ightharpoonup Yields $\varphi: \mathcal{C}^* \to \operatorname{Sym}(A)^A$. Thus, $\iota \circ \varphi: \mathcal{C}^* \to \operatorname{Sym}(A \times A)$. $(\iota := \iota_{A,A})$

 \blacktriangleleft Definition of ι

- ▶ $\exists \mathcal{G} \leq \operatorname{Sym}(A \times A)$ with definable generating set, s.t. $(\iota \circ \varphi)(\mathcal{O}(A)) \subseteq \mathcal{G}$
- $(\iota \circ \varphi)(\mathcal{O}(A))$ is a coset of a morphism-definable subgroup $\Gamma^* \leq \mathcal{G}$.
- ▶ Given an encoding of $E \cap (A_i \cap A_j)$, the corresponding labelings in $\mathcal{O}(A)$ form a coset of a morphism-definable subgroup $\operatorname{Aut}(E_{i,j})^*$ of Γ^*

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Requires Γ_i abelian for all i.

Skip technical details

Technical definitions: \mathcal{G}

 $\mathcal{O}(A)$ elements out of reach. But, any $\pi \in \mathcal{O}(A)$ is a product of elements of $\mathcal{O}(A_i)$ which are definable.

$$\mathcal{G} := \left\langle igcup_i \iota \circ arphi_i (\mathcal{O}(A_i))
ight
angle$$
 where $arphi_i (\sigma)_a := egin{cases} arphi(\sigma)_a & ext{if } a \in A_i \ 1 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Obviously, $\varphi(\sigma) = \prod \varphi_i(\sigma_{\upharpoonright A_i})$.

Technical definitions: Γ^* , $\operatorname{Aut}(E_{i,j})^*$

Let
$$\Gamma := \prod_i \Gamma_i$$

 $ightharpoonup \varphi: \mathcal{O}(A) \to \operatorname{Sym}(A)^A$ is compatible with

$$\psi: \Gamma \to \operatorname{Sym}(A)^A$$
$$\gamma \mapsto (\gamma_{\upharpoonright A_{i(a)}})_{a \in A}$$

(in the sense that $\varphi(\pi\gamma) = \varphi(\pi)\psi(\gamma)$).

$$O(A) = πΓ$$
 for some (any) $π ∈ O(A)$.

$$\rightsquigarrow \varphi(\mathcal{O}(A)) = \varphi(\pi)\psi(\Gamma).$$

$$\Gamma^* := \psi(\Gamma)$$

$$\operatorname{Aut}(E_{i,j}) := \{ \sigma \in \Gamma_i \Gamma_j \mid \forall a \in A_i, b \in A_j, E(a,b) \iff E(\sigma(a), \sigma b) \}$$

$$\operatorname{Aut}(E_{i,j})^* := \psi(\operatorname{Aut}(E_{i,j}))$$

Plan

First approach: definable generating sets

$$FP + rk \leq FP + orc$$

$$FP + ord \not \leq FP + rk$$

Definable ordered sets of permutations

Motivation

- ▶ Abelian colours: abelian and ordered groups.
- Γ_i ordered unordered orderings ()
- ▶ Hence the need to leverage structural properties of Γ_i (commutativity).

Motivation

- ▶ Abelian colours: *abelian* and *ordered* groups.
- $ightharpoonup \Gamma_i$ ordered \leadsto unordered orderings $\mathcal{O}(A_i)$
- ▶ Hence the need to leverage structural properties of Γ_i (commutativity).
- ightharpoonup If we have ordered generators but no structural property ?

Results

- ▶ If FP + ord defines an *ordered* generating set of permutations for G on \mathfrak{A} , and $H \leq G$ is FP + ord-definably accessible in G, then FP + ord defines a generating set for H.
- ▶ if *G* is abelian, FPC suffices.

How

Partial simulation of the Schreier-Sims:

$$G=H_0\geq H_1\geq \cdots \geq H_k=H\geq \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1)}(H)\geq \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1,a_2)}(H)\cdots \geq \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1,\ldots,a_n)}(H)=1$$

Algorithm 2: Sifting procedure

return ⊤;

Algorithm 3: Construction procedure

```
Input: S \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(D) s.t. \langle S \rangle = G

Output: (T_i)_{i < k+n} a S.G.S. for G

\ell := S;

T_i := \emptyset for all i < k+n;

for \sigma \in \ell do

if \operatorname{sift}(\sigma) = (\tau, i) then

T_i.\operatorname{add}(\tau)

\ell.\operatorname{add}(\tau \cdot \rho, \rho \cdot \tau) for \rho \in \bigcup_j T_j;
```

How

Partial simulation of the Schreier-Sims:

$$G = H_0 \ge H_1 \ge \cdots \ge H_k = H \ge \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1)}(H) \ge \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1,a_2)}(H) \cdots \ge \operatorname{Stab}_{(a_1,\ldots,a_n)}(H) = 1$$

Algorithm 2: Sifting procedure

Input: $(T_i)_{i < k}$, R_i, σ

```
Output: Does \sigma \in G ?

for i = 0 to k do

| if \forall \tau \in T_i, \tau^{-1}\sigma \notin H_i then

| return (\sigma, i);

else

| \sigma \leftarrow \tau^{-1}\sigma;
```

return *Whether* $\sigma \in \langle R \rangle$;

Algorithm 3: Construction procedure

```
Input: S \subseteq \text{Sym}(D) s.t. \langle S \rangle = G
Output: (T_i)_{i < k} and R
\ell := S:
R := \emptyset and T_i := \emptyset for all i < k:
for \sigma \in \ell do
    if sift(\sigma) = (\tau, i) then
        if i = k then R.add(\tau);
         else
```

If S is ordered, these procedures are FP + ord definable

Results

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Results

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- ▶ if *G* is abelian, FPC suffices.
- ► FPC defines the automorphism groups of the structures (with abelian colours) which separate FP + rk from P.

Conclusion

- ▶ Leverage more general structural properties of groups.
- ▶ How far goes the canonisation power of FP + ord?
- ightharpoonup FO + ord?
- ightharpoonup CPT + ord?
- ► Inexpressibility results?

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