

Special coheirs and model-theoretic trees

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Iowa State University

UW Logic Seminar

March 17, 2026

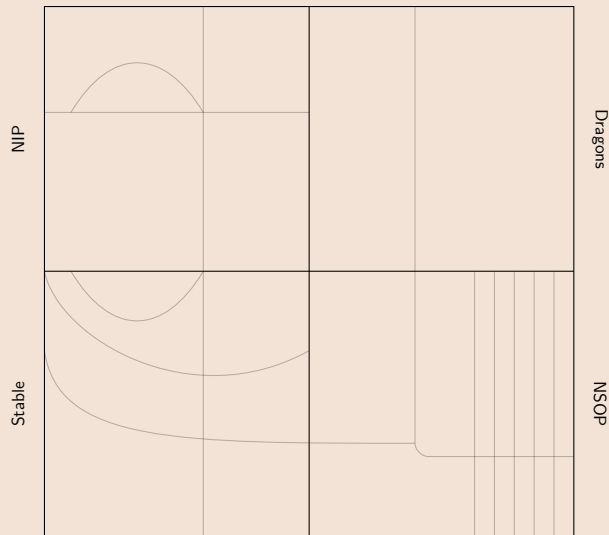
4:00pm

- Modern model theory (as of the 70s): classifying first-order theories with combinatorial tameness properties.

Combinatorial tameness in model theory

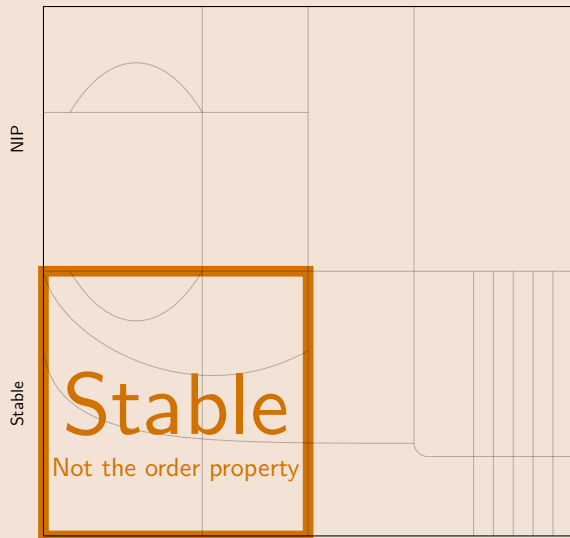
- Modern model theory (as of the 70s): classifying first-order theories with combinatorial tameness properties.
- Started with Shelah's work generalizing Morley's theorem to uncountable languages. Ballooned into a large body of work called *stability theory*. Later extended and generalized under the title of *neostability theory*.

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives



Examples:

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives



Examples:

Algebraically closed fields

Differentially closed fields

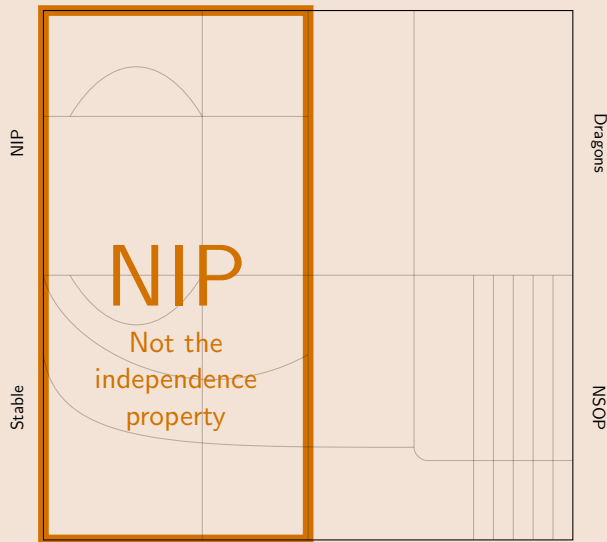
Vector spaces

Modules

Free groups

Curve graphs of surfaces

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives



Examples:

$$(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, <, \exp)$$

$$(\mathbb{Q}, +, <)$$

$$(\mathbb{N}, +, <)$$

p -adic numbers

Alg. closed valued fields

Field of transseries

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives



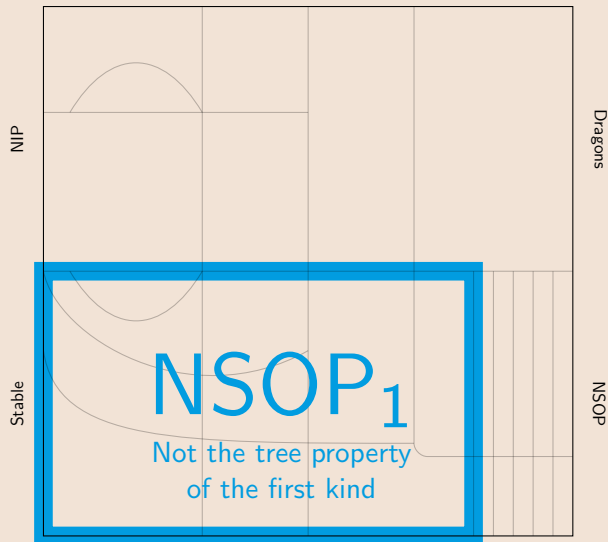
Examples:

Random graph

Pseudo-finite fields

Generic difference fields

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives



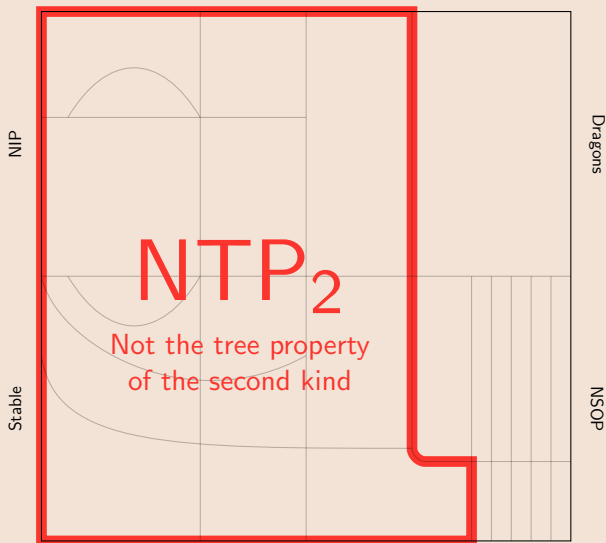
Examples:

Generic vector spaces
with bilinear forms

Generic binary function

Generic parameterized
equivalence relation

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives

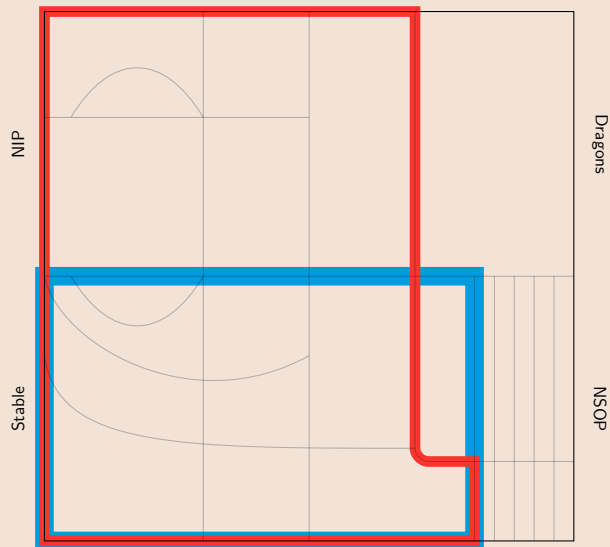


Examples:

Ultraproduct of \mathbb{Q}_p

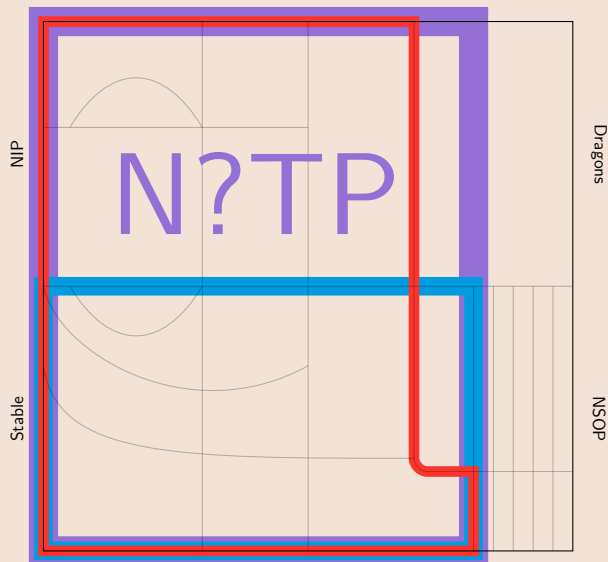
Densely ordered
random graph

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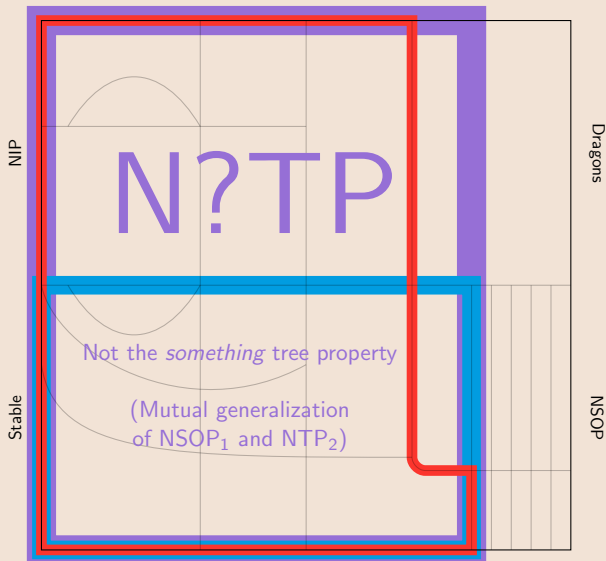
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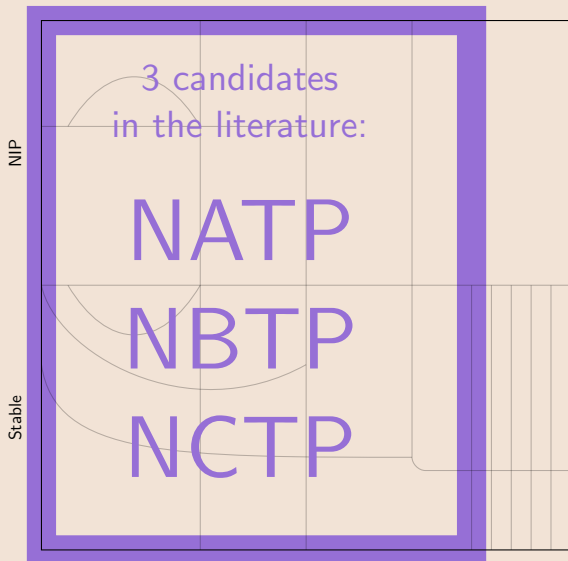


Examples:

Generic vector space with bilinear form over NIP or NTP_2 field (\mathbb{R} , \mathbb{Q}_p , etc.)

Generic linear order
+
binary function

The map: Model-theoretic adjectives



Examples:

Generic vector space with
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Generic linear order
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Simplicity: The tree property in model theory

A formula $\varphi(x, y)$ has the *k-tree property* if there is a tree $(c_\sigma)_{\sigma \in \omega^{<\omega}}$ of parameters such that

- paths are consistent: $\{\varphi(x, c_{\alpha \upharpoonright n}) : n < \omega\}$ for $\alpha \in \omega^\omega$,
- siblings are *k*-inconsistent: $\{\varphi(x, c_{\sigma \smallfrown n}) : n < \omega\}$.

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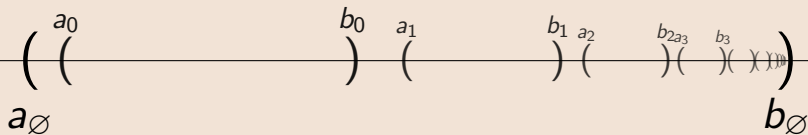


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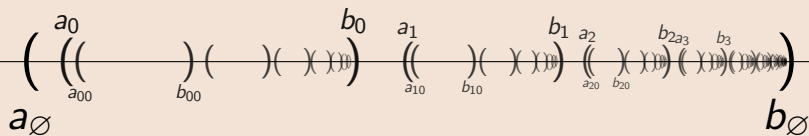


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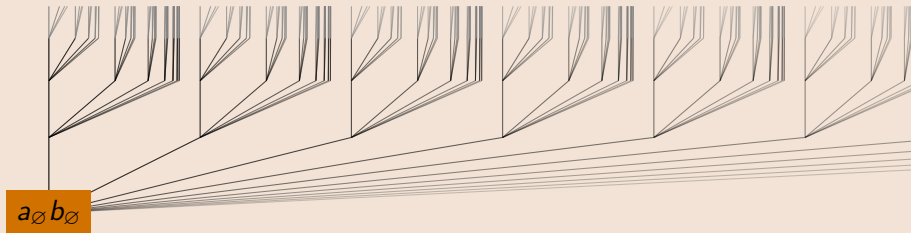
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The tree in the tree property

$\omega < \omega$



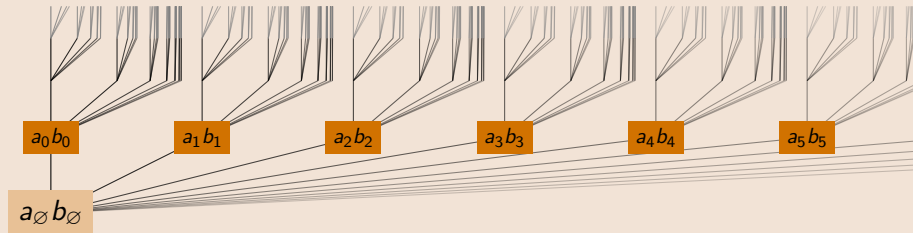
$(((()) () (X)) (() (X)) (X) (X) (X))$

a_\emptyset

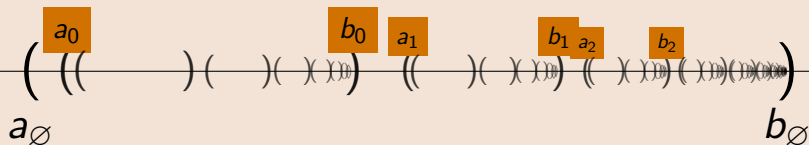
b_\emptyset

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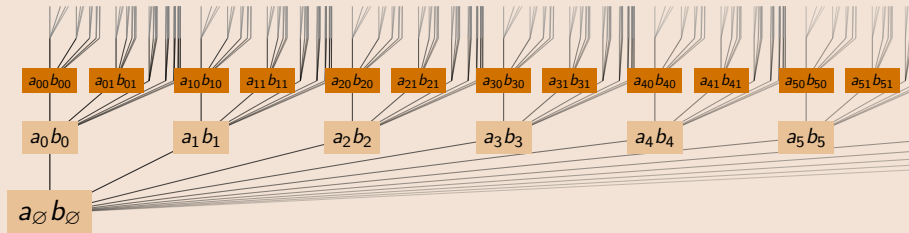


Siblings are 2-inconsistent

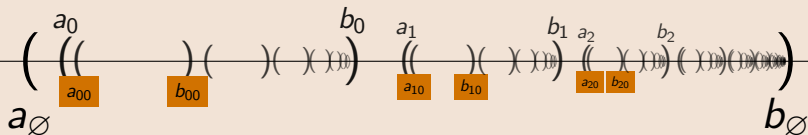


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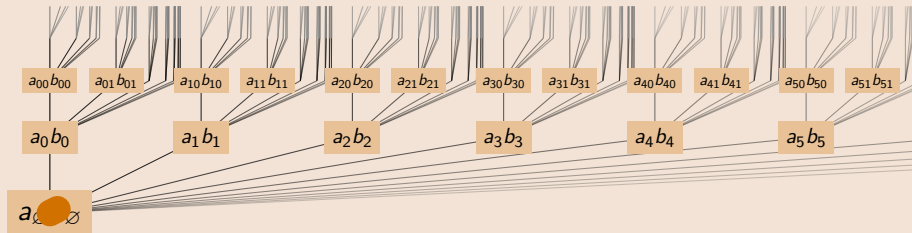


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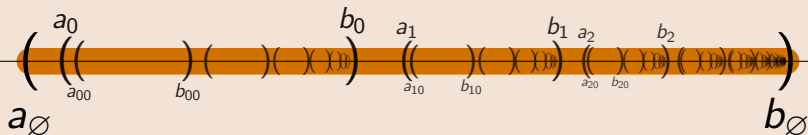


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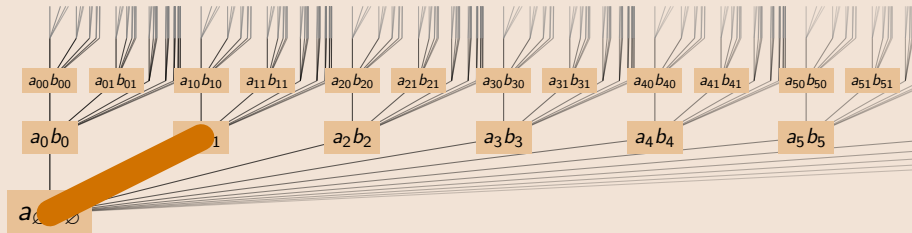


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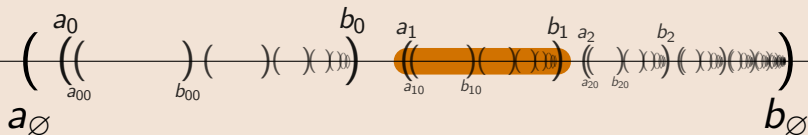


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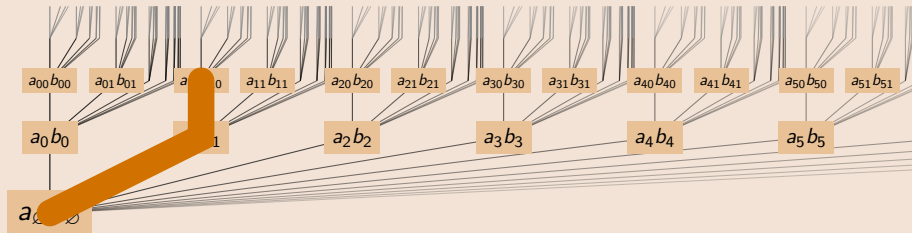


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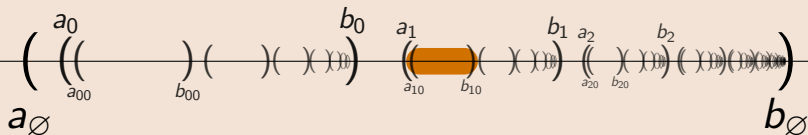


The tree in the tree property

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Paths are consistent



SOP_1 : The tree property of the first kind

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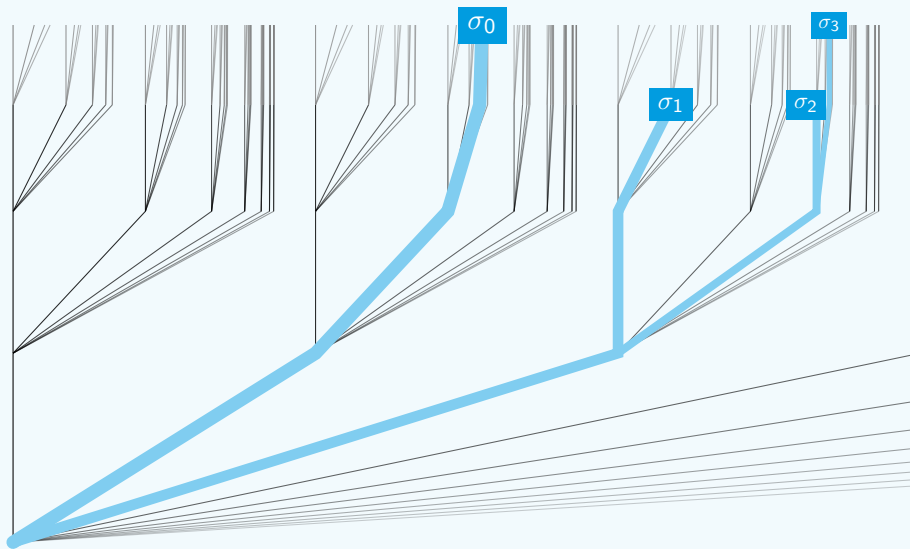
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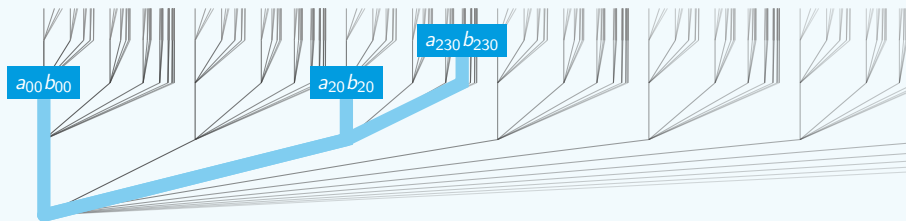
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(Note that this is a non-standard definition.)

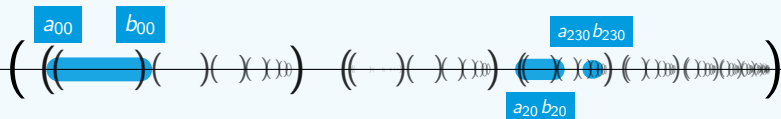
A right-comb



$(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ has 2-SOP_1



Any right-comb is 2-inconsistent



Coheirs

Given a structure M we can use an ultrafilter \mathcal{U} on M (an M -coheir) to 'generate' a sequence of new elements (in the monster model).

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- a_0, a_1, \dots is the *Morley sequence* generated by \mathcal{U} .

SOP₁ in terms of coheirs

Given a coheir \mathcal{U} over a model M , a formula $\varphi(x, y)$ *k-divides along* \mathcal{U} if whenever b_0, b_1, \dots is a Morley sequence generated by \mathcal{U} , $\{\varphi(x, b_i) : i < \omega\}$ is *k-inconsistent*.

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Theorem (Kaplan, Ramsey)

T has SOP₁ if and only if there is a model M , two coheirs \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{V} (extending the same type), and a formula $\varphi(x, y)$ such that $\varphi(x, y)$ divides along \mathcal{U} but not along \mathcal{V} .

Coheir witnesses of SOP_1 in $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

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This is non-trivial. $\mathcal{U}_{\text{pinch}}$ does not have this property.

Definition

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A formula $\varphi(x, b)$ *k-divides* over M if there is a sequence $(b_i)_{i < \omega}$ of realizations of the type of b over M such that $\{\varphi(x, b_i) : i < \omega\}$ is *k-inconsistent*.

TP₂ in terms of heir-coheirs

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Theorem (Chernikov, Kaplan)

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DLO (theory of $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$) is NTP₂.

N?TP via a new Kim's lemma?

Dividing lines tend to have three characterizations: Combinatorial, some kind of local character, and a version of Kim's lemma.

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Characterization of CTP

Theorem (H.)

A theory has k -CTP if and only if there is a model M , a formula $\varphi(x, b)$, and an M -heir-coheir \mathcal{U} and an M -coheir \mathcal{V} extending the type of b over M such that $\varphi(x, b)$ k -divides along \mathcal{V} but does not divide along \mathcal{U} .

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We also have the following alphabetically frustrating implication:

$$\text{ATP} \Rightarrow \text{CTP} \Rightarrow \text{BTP}$$

where the *antichain tree property* or *ATP* is another candidate for ?TP, introduced by Ahn and Kim.

What's special about heir-coheirs?

If \mathcal{U} is an M -heir-coheir and B is some configuration of realizations of \mathcal{U} over M , then we can find a clone B' of B with the property that every element of B' realizes \mathcal{U} over $M \cup B$.

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Thank you

Forcing

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There are many heir-coheirs over $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ (any non-realized cut). Is this generalizable?

Miniaturizing the saturation argument

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Argue that if \mathcal{U} extends the type we built and a realizes \mathcal{U} over Mb , then every formula in the type of b over Ma is already finitely satisfiable in M by construction. □

Short-toothed right-combs are defined inductively:

- \emptyset is a short-toothed right-comb.
- X is a short-toothed right-comb, every element of X extends $\sigma \frown j$, and $i < j$, then $X \cup \{\sigma \frown i\}$ is a short-toothed right-comb.

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The miniaturized argument as a blueprint for CTP

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The comb tree property (even on $2^{<\omega}$ rather than $\omega^{<\omega}$) gives you precisely what you need to generically build an heir-coheir \mathcal{U} that is 'shadowed' by a coheir \mathcal{V} such that the given formula divides along \mathcal{V} but not along \mathcal{U} .

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Definition

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Proof.

Assume X is not dense above σ , then there is a τ extending σ such that X contains no elements extending τ . But then since $X \cup Y$ is dense above σ , it is also dense above τ , whereby Y is dense above τ . \square

Forcing with comb trees

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(Draw on chalkboard.)

Forcing with comb trees II

The second bullet point now ensures that

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Finally, let \mathcal{V} be any non-principal ultrafilter on $\{b_{\sigma_i} : i < \omega\}$. By construction, $\varphi(x, y)$ will divide along \mathcal{V} . Furthermore, the third bullet point will ensure that \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{V} extend the same type over M , so we have the required failure of Kim's lemma for coheirs and heir-coheirs.

Forcing with comb trees III

