

# Abstract Evolution Systems

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Joint work with Paulina Radecka.





## Definition

A **rewriting system** is a pair  $(X, \rightarrow)$ , where  $\rightarrow$  is a binary (typically irreflexive) relation on  $X$ . The elements of  $X$  are called **states** and the elements of  $\rightarrow$  are called **transitions**. A sequence of transitions

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A rewriting system  $(X, \rightarrow)$  is **locally confluent** if for every state  $z$ , for every transitions  $z \rightarrow x$ ,  $z \rightarrow y$  there exist a state  $w$  and paths  $x \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow w$ ,  $y \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow w$ .

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## Remark

In general, local confluence does not imply confluence.

## Definition

A rewriting system  $(X, \rightarrow)$  is **terminating** if there is no infinite path

$$x_0 \rightarrow x_1 \rightarrow \dots .$$

In other words, the inverse of  $\rightarrow$  is a well-founded relation.

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## Corollary

*A locally confluent terminating rewriting system with an origin has a unique normalized state.*

# Finite homogeneous structures

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## The setup

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a class of finite structures, closed under isomorphisms.

We say that  $\mathcal{F}$  has the **amalgamation property** if for every  $Z \in \mathcal{F}$ , for every embeddings  $f: Z \rightarrow X$ ,  $g: Z \rightarrow Y$  with  $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$ , there exist  $W \in \mathcal{F}$  and embeddings  $f': X \rightarrow W$ ,  $g': Y \rightarrow W$  such that  $f' \circ f = g' \circ g$ .

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*Assume  $\mathcal{F}$  is as above, and there is a natural number  $N$  such that  $|X| \leq N$  for every  $X \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

*Then there exists a unique, up to isomorphism, structure  $V \in \mathcal{F}$  satisfying*

- (1) Every  $X \in \mathcal{F}$  embeds into  $V$ .*
- (2) Every isomorphism between  $\mathcal{F}$ -substructures of  $V$  extends to an automorphism of  $V$ .*

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## Claim

*Confluent terminating rewriting systems and finite homogeneous structures are two faces of the same theory.*

## Definition

An **evolution system** is a structure of the form  $\mathcal{E} = \langle \mathfrak{A}, \mathcal{T}, \Theta \rangle$ , where  $\mathfrak{A}$  is a category,  $\Theta$  is a fixed  $\mathfrak{A}$ -object, called the **origin**, and  $\mathcal{T}$  is a class of  $\mathfrak{A}$ -arrows, called **transitions**.

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The only requirements are:

- 1 All identities are in  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- 2  $h \circ t \in \mathcal{T}$ , whenever  $t \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $h$  is an isomorphism.

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A **path** is a finite composition of transitions.

## Definition

An object  $X$  is **finite** if there exists a path from the origin  $\Theta$  to  $X$ .



## Definition

We say that  $\mathcal{E}$  is **confluent** if for every finite object  $Z$ , for every **paths**  $f: Z \rightarrow X$ ,  $g: Z \rightarrow Y$  there exist paths  $f', g'$  such that  $f' \circ f = g' \circ g$ .

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We say that  $\mathcal{E}$  has the **finite amalgamation property** if for every finite object  $Z$ , for every transitions  $f: Z \rightarrow X$ ,  $g: Z \rightarrow Y$  there exist transitions  $f', g'$  such that  $f' \circ f = g' \circ g$ .

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## Proposition

*Finite amalgamation property implies confluence.*

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## Definition

An object  $N$  is **normalized** if it is finite and every path starting from  $N$  consists of trivial transitions.

## Proposition

Assume  $\mathcal{E}$  is a confluent terminating evolution system. Then there exists a unique, up to isomorphism normalized object  $N$ . Furthermore:

- 1 Every finite object has a path into  $N$ .
- 2 For every paths  $f_0, f_1: A \rightarrow N$  with  $A$  finite, there exists an automorphism  $h: N \rightarrow N$  such that  $f_1 = h \circ f_0$ .

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An evolution system is **regular** if  $t \circ h \in \mathcal{T}$ , whenever  $t \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $h$  is an iso.



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Given a rewriting system  $(X, \rightarrow)$ , define  $x \leq y$  if there is a path

$$x = x_0 \rightarrow x_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow x_n = y.$$

Fix  $\Theta \in X$ . Then  $\mathbb{X} = \langle (X, \leq), \rightarrow, \Theta \rangle$  becomes an evolution system.

## Theorem (P. Nowakowski & W.K. 2021)

*The smallest projective planes  $\mathbb{Z}_2\mathbf{P}^2$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_3\mathbf{P}^2$  are homogeneous. No other projective plane is homogeneous.*

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- 1 There exists an evolution

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with the **absorption property**, namely, for every  $n$ , for every transition  $f: U_n \rightarrow Y$  there are  $m > n$  and a path  $g: Y \rightarrow U_m$  with  $g \circ f = u_n^m$ , where  $u_n^m$  is the path from  $U_n$  to  $U_m$  extracted from  $\vec{u}$ .

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$$\Theta = U_0 \longrightarrow U_1 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow U_n \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow U_m \longrightarrow \dots$$

$\downarrow$   
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## Theorem

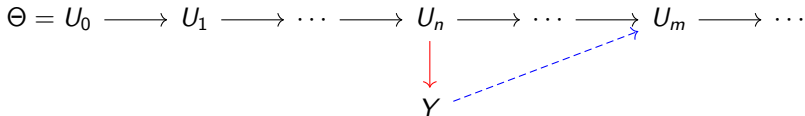
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We can convert  $\mathcal{F}$  to an evolution system, where the origin is  $\emptyset$  and transitions are one-point extensions. The category  $\mathfrak{A}$  consists of all structures in the language  $\mathcal{L}$ , where the arrows are all homomorphisms.

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- Uncountable evolutions (with Antonio Avilés and Ivan Di Liberti)



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