



## A Finitary Analogue of the Downward Löwenheim-Skolem Property



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IIT Mandi  
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# Introduction

- The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem (DLS) is amongst the earliest results in classical model theory.
- The first version of DLS is by Löwenheim in his paper *Über Möglichkeiten im Relativkalkül* (1915) and reads as follows:  
If a first order sentence over a countable vocabulary has an infinite model, then it has a countable model.
- Historically,
  - **1915**: First version of DLS by Löwenheim. His proof used König's lemma (1927) without proving it.
  - **1920s**: First fully self-contained proof of Löwenheim's statement and various generalizations of DLS by Skolem
  - **1936**: The most general version of DLS by Mal'tsev
- **DLS + compactness = first order logic** (Lindström 1969).

# Outline of the talk

## A. Notions:

- The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem Property: DLSP
- The Equivalent Bounded Substructure Property: EBSP

## B. Results:

- Classes of finite structures satisfying EBSP
- Closure properties of EBSP
- Techniques and f.p.t. algorithms
- Connection with Nature

# Some assumptions and notation for the talk

## Assumptions:

- First order (FO) logic
- Finite relational vocabularies (i.e. only predicates)

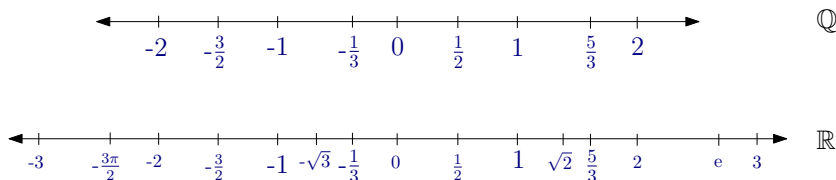
## Notation:

- $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$  means  $\mathcal{A}$  is a substructure of  $\mathcal{B}$ .
- $U_{\mathcal{A}}$  denotes universe of  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- $|\mathcal{A}|$  denotes size of  $U_{\mathcal{A}}$ .

## A. Notions

# The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem Property

# FO-similarity of structures



$\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  are FO-similar

We say structures  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are **FO-similar**, denoted  $\mathcal{A} \equiv \mathcal{B}$ , if  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  agree on all properties that can be expressed in FO.

# The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem Property

## Definition

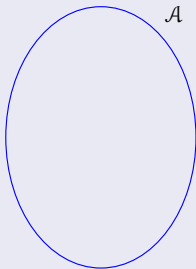
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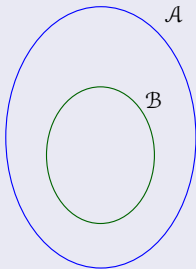


$\forall \mathcal{A}$

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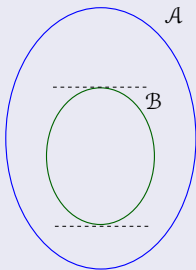


$$\forall \mathcal{A} \\ \exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$$

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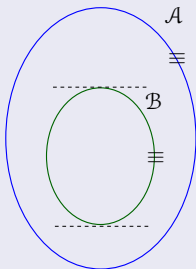
$\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$

(i) the size of  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\leq \omega$

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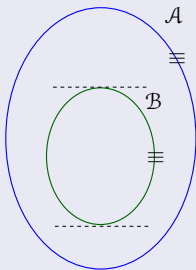
$\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$

- (i) the size of  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\leq \omega$
- (ii)  $\mathcal{B}$  is FO-similar to  $\mathcal{A}$

# The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem Property

## Definition

We say **DLSP** holds if



$\forall \mathcal{A}$

$\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$

- (i) the size of  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\leq \omega$
- (ii)  $\mathcal{B}$  is FO-similar to  $\mathcal{A}$

“ $\mathcal{A}$  has an FO-similar substructure of size  $\leq \omega$ ”

# The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem

Theorem (Löwenheim 1915, Skolem 1920s)

DLSP is true over all structures.

## Downward Löwenheim-Skolem theorem in the finite

- Does not make sense when taken as is.
- No recursive version of Löwenheim's statement – there is no recursive function bounding the size of a small model of an FO sentence.
- Grohe showed a stronger negative result:  
For every recursive function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , there is an FO sentence  $\varphi$  and  $n \geq f(|\varphi|)$ , such that  $\varphi$  has a model of each size  $\geq n$  but no model of size  $< n$ .
- Quoting Grohe, the above counterexample “refutes almost all possible extensions of the classical Löwenheim-Skolem theorem to finite structures”.

## Classical theorems over classes of finite structures

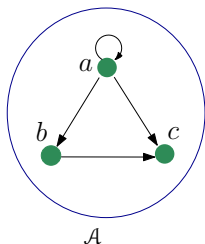
- Most theorems from classical model theory fail over all finite structures (DLS, preservation theorems, interpolation theorems, etc.)
- Active research in last 15 years to “recover” classical theorems over classes interesting from structural and algorithmic perspectives.
- Acyclic, bounded degree, wide, bounded tree-width – Łoś-Tarski pres. theorem
- In addition to the above, quasi-wide classes, classes excluding atleast one minor – homomorphism pres. theorem
- **No such studies** in the literature for the DLS theorem.



A new logic based combinatorial property  
of finite structures

# FO over finite structures

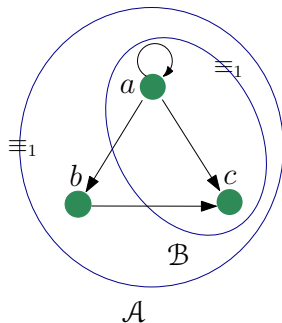
- 1 Any finite structure can be captured upto isomorphism by FO.



$$\varphi := \exists x \exists y \exists z \forall w \left( \begin{aligned} &(x \neq y \wedge y \neq z \wedge z \neq x) \wedge \\ &(w = x \vee w = y \vee w = z) \wedge \\ &(E(x, x) \wedge E(x, y) \wedge E(x, z) \wedge E(y, z)) \wedge \\ &\neg(E(y, y) \vee E(z, z) \vee E(y, x) \vee E(z, y) \vee E(z, x)) \end{aligned} \right)$$

- 2 Then **FO-similarity = isomorphism** in the finite.
- 3 Define a weaker version of FO-similarity by considering FO sentences of a **fixed quantifier nesting depth**.

# $m$ -similarity of structures



$\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are 1-similar, but not 2-similar.

We say structures  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are  $m$ -similar, denoted  $\mathcal{A} \equiv_m \mathcal{B}$ , if  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  agree on all properties that can be expressed using FO sentences having **quantifier nesting depth**  $m$ .

# The Equivalent Bounded Substructure Property

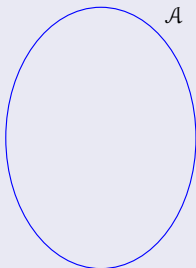
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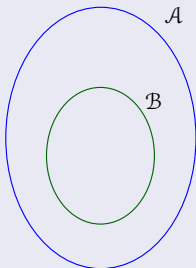


$$\forall \mathcal{A} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$$

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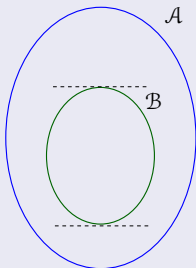


$$\forall \mathcal{A} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N} \\ \exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$$

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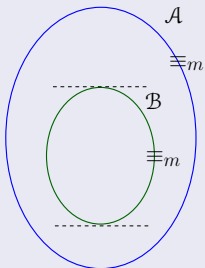
$$\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$$

(i)  $|\mathcal{B}|$  is bounded in  $m$

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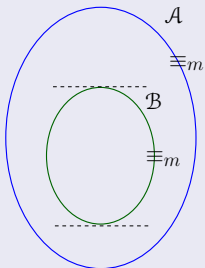
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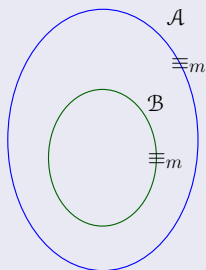
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“ $\mathcal{A}$  has a small  $m$ -similar substructure”

# The Equivalent Bounded Substructure Property

## Definition

We say **EBSP** holds if there exists a **witness function**  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that



$$\forall \mathcal{A} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$$

$$(i) \quad |\mathcal{B}| \leq \theta(m)$$

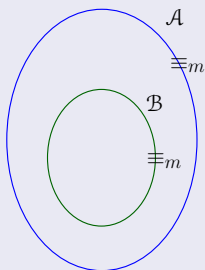
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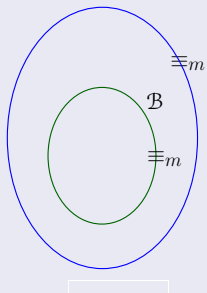
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“ $\mathcal{A}$  has a small  $m$ -similar substructure”

# The Equivalent Bounded Substructure Property

## Definition

Given a class  $\mathcal{S}$  of finite structures, we say **EBSP**( $\mathcal{S}$ ) holds if there is a witness function  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that



$$\forall \mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{S} \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}, \quad \mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{S}$$

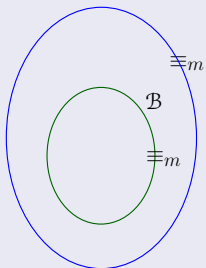
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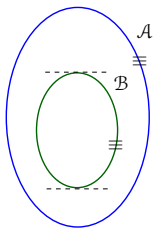
$$(i) \quad |\mathcal{B}| \leq \theta(m)$$

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“ $\mathcal{A}$  has a small  $m$ -similar substructure” – over  $\mathcal{S}$

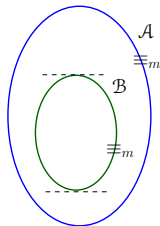
# EBSP( $\mathcal{S}$ ) as a finitary analogue of DLSP

DLSP



- $\forall \mathcal{A}$   
 $\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$   
(i)  $|\mathcal{B}| \leq \omega$   
(ii)  $\mathcal{B}$  is FO-similar to  $\mathcal{A}$

EBSP( $\mathcal{S}$ ) for a fixed  $m$



Let  $p = \theta(m)$

- $\forall \mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{S}$   
 $\exists \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{S}$   
(i)  $|\mathcal{B}| \leq p$   
(ii)  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $m$ -similar to  $\mathcal{A}$

## B. Results

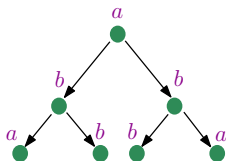
## Classes that satisfy EBSP



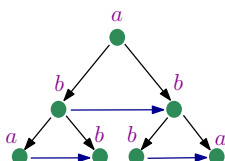
## Posets satisfying EBSP

# Words and trees (unordered, ordered, ranked)

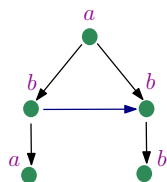
- Classically studied structures



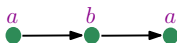
Unordered  $\Sigma$ -tree  
 $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$



Ordered  $\Sigma$ -tree  
 $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$



Ordered  $\Sigma$ -tree ranked by  $\rho$   
 $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ ;  $\rho = \{a \rightarrow 2, b \rightarrow 1\}$



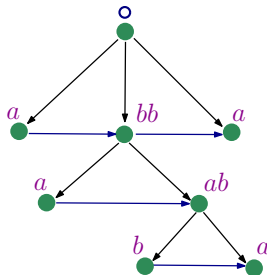
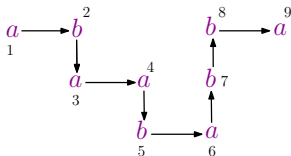
$\Sigma$ -word  
 $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$

# Nested words

- Introduced by Alur and Madhusudan in 2004 as joint generalization of words and ordered unranked trees.

$W = (abaababba \rightsquigarrow)$

$\rightsquigarrow = \{(2, 8), (4, 7)\}$



# Regular languages of words, trees and nested words

- A **regular language** of words/trees/nested words is a class of words/trees/nested words that can be recognized by a finite **word/tree/nested word automaton**.
- Recall:  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S})$  says for each  $m$ , that a large  $\mathcal{S}$ -structure contains a small  $m$ -similar  $\mathcal{S}$ -substructure.

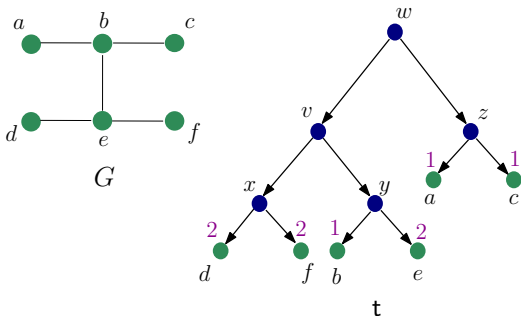
## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a regular language of words, trees (unordered, ordered or ranked) or nested words. Then  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S})$  holds with a computable witness function (which is non-elementary, in general).

## Graphs satisfying EBSP

# $m$ -partite cographs

- Hliněný, Nešetřil, et al. introduced in 2012, the class of  $m$ -partite cographs.
- An  $m$ -partite cograph  $G$  is a graph that has an  $m$ -partite cotree representation  $t$ :



Label set =  $\{1, 2\}$   
 $f_x = f_z = 0$   
 $f_y = 1$   
 $f_v(2, 2) = 1$ , else 0  
 $f_w(1, 1) = 1$ , else 0

# Important subclasses of $m$ -partite cographs

- **Cographs** (1-partite cographs): complete graphs, complete  $k$ -partite graphs, threshold graphs, Turan graphs, etc.
- **Bounded tree-depth** graphs
- **Bounded shrub-depth** graphs

All of the above classes are of **active current interest** for their excellent **algorithmic** and **logical** properties!

# $m$ -partite cographs and its subclasses satisfy EBSP

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a hereditary subclass of any of the following graph classes. Then  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S})$  holds with a computable witness function. For classes with bounded parameters as below, there exist elementary witness functions.

- 1 the class of  $m$ -partite cographs
- 2 any graph class of bounded shrub-depth
- 3 any graph class of bounded tree-depth
- 4 the class of cographs



## EBSP and well-quasi-orders

## A property of binary strings

- Consider the binary strings  $u = 00$ ,  $v = 010$  and  $w = 111$ .
- We say  $u$  is a substring of  $v$  since  $u$  “embeds inside”  $v$ .  
Observe that neither of  $v$  or  $w$  is a substring of the other.
- For each  $n$ , there exists a set of  $n$  strings such that no string in the set is a substring of another.  
Eg.  $n = 4$  : 0000, 0101, 1010, 1111
- However this cannot be done if  $n$  becomes infinite!

### Theorem (Higman 1952)

For every infinite set  $\{w_1, w_2, \dots\}$  of binary strings, there exist  $i, j$  such that  $w_i$  is a substring of  $w_j$ . In other words, binary strings are **well-quasi-ordered (w.q.o.)** under the substring relation.

# Well-quasi-ordering and EBSP

## Definition

A class  $\mathcal{S}$  of structures is said to be **w.q.o. under embedding** if for every infinite set  $\{\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2, \dots\}$  of structures of  $\mathcal{S}$ , there exist  $i, j$  such that  $\mathcal{A}_i$  is embeddable in  $\mathcal{A}_j$ .

## Theorem

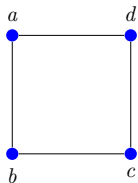
Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be w.q.o. under embedding. Then  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S})$  is true.

Applications: The following classes satisfy  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S})$ :

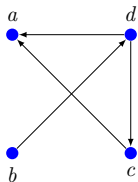
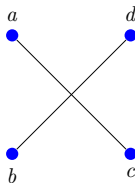
- $k$ -letter graphs for each  $k$  (e.g. threshold graphs, unbounded interval graphs)
- $k$ -uniform graphs for each  $k$

## Constructing new classes satisfying EBSP

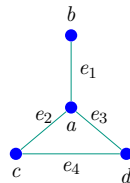
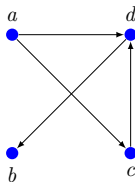
# Unary operations on structures



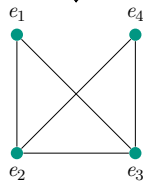
complement  
→



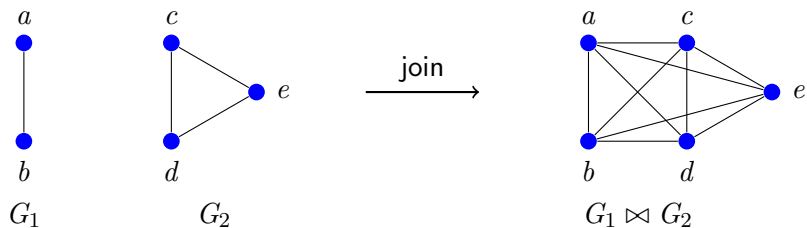
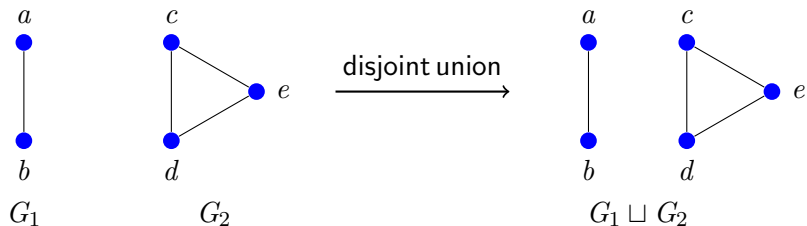
transpose  
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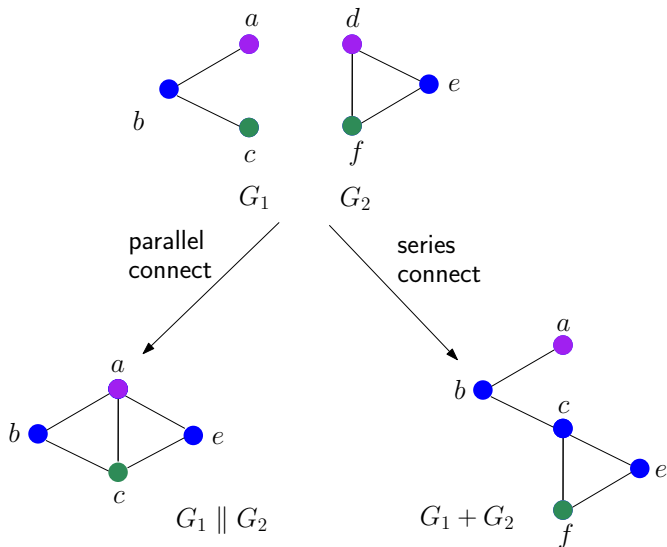
line  
↓



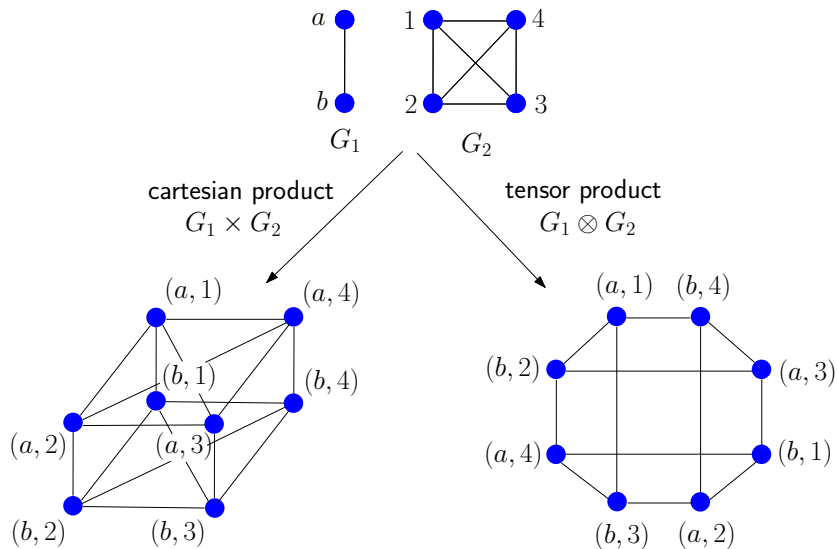
# Binary operations on structures



# Binary operations on structures

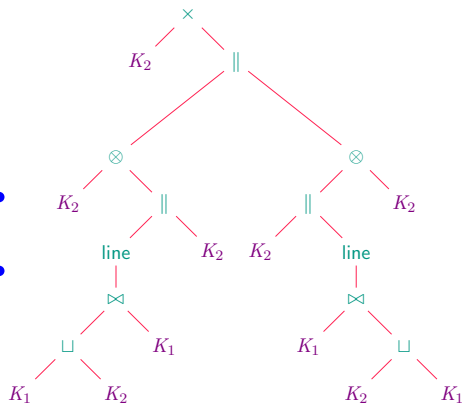
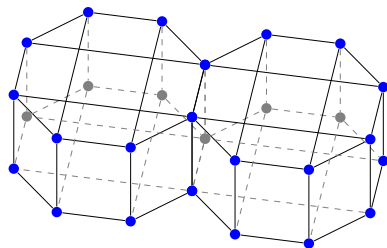


# Binary operations on structures





# Generating graphs using trees of operations



$K_1$  = single vertex;  $K_2$  = single edge

# Closure of EBSP under unary operations

## Theorem

Given a class  $\mathcal{S}$ , let  $\mathcal{Z}$  be any one of the following classes.

- 1 Complement( $\mathcal{S}$ )
- 2 Transpose( $\mathcal{S}$ )
- 3 Line( $\mathcal{S}$ )

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Then the following are true:

- $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \text{EBSP}(\mathcal{Z})$

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Then the following are true:

- $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \text{EBSP}(\mathcal{Z})$
- If  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S})$  holds with a computable/elementary witness function, then so does  $\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{Z})$ .

# Closure of EBSP under binary operations

## Theorem

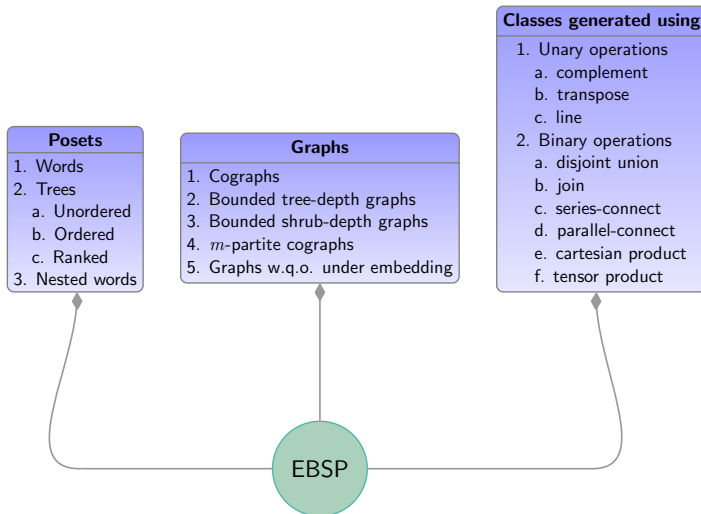
Given classes  $\mathcal{S}_1$  and  $\mathcal{S}_2$ , let  $\mathcal{Z}$  be any one of the following classes.

1. Disjoint-union( $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ )
2. Join( $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ )
3. Series-connect( $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ )
4. Parallel-connect( $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ )
5. Cartesian-product( $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ )
6. Tensor-product( $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ )

Then the following are true:

- $(\text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S}_1) \wedge \text{EBSP}(\mathcal{S}_2)) \rightarrow \text{EBSP}(\mathcal{Z})$
- If the conjuncts in the antecedent hold with computable/elementary witness functions, then so does the consequent.

# An overview of classes satisfying EBSF



# Techniques used to prove EBSP for a class

- Key technical features we make use of:
  - Most structures  $\mathcal{A}$  seen so far have **tree representations**  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$ .
  - The representations are “**good**” - the operations used in  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$  satisfy a **Feferman-Vaught kind composition property**.
  - The index of the “ $m$ -similarity” equivalence relation is **finite**.

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- Perform appropriate **prunings** and **graftings** iteratively in  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$  to create a subtree that is “**rainbow**” in the following sense:
  - **Height**: No two nodes in any path from root to leaf represent structures of the same  $m$ -similarity class.
  - **Degree**: For a node  $a$  with children  $b_i$  where  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , let  $t_i$  be the subtree rooted at  $a$ , from which the subtrees rooted at  $b_{i+1}, \dots, b_n$ , are deleted. Then no two  $t_i$ 's represent structures of the same  $m$ -similarity class.



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- The rainbow subtree represents a **small  $m$ -similar substructure**.

## Algorithmic meta-theorems for EBSF classes

- The aforementioned prunings and graftings can be implemented in time **linear** in the size of the tree.
- The rainbow subtree thus obtained in linear time, represents a **small uniform kernel** for all FO  $[m]$  properties of the original structure.
- FO properties of the kernel can be checked in constant time.

### Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a class of structures admitting good tree representations. Then there exists a **linear time f.p.t. algorithm for FO model checking** over  $\mathcal{S}$ , provided input structures are given in the form of their tree representations.

## Connection with Nature

# Fractals

- Mathematical objects that exhibit **self-similarity at all scales**.
- Appear widely in Nature.



Fern leaf

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Conch shell

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Romanesco cauliflower

# A strengthening of E BSP

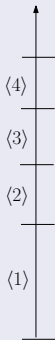
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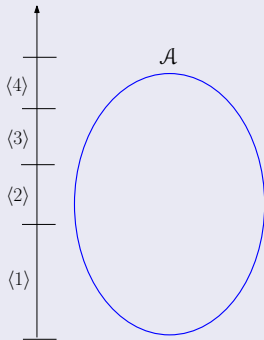




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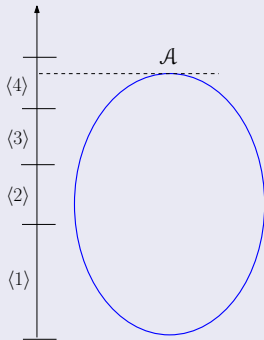


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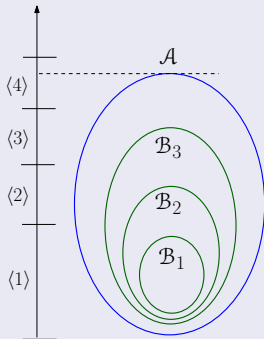


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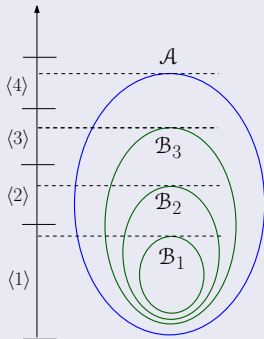
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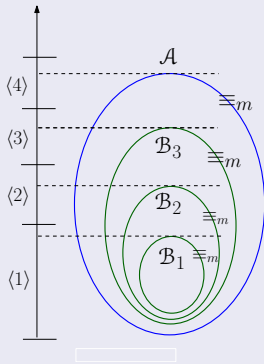
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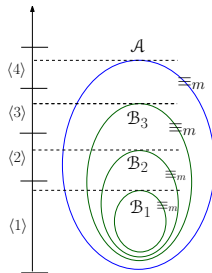
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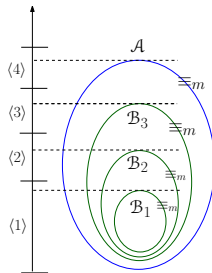
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# EBSP# – a fractal-like property



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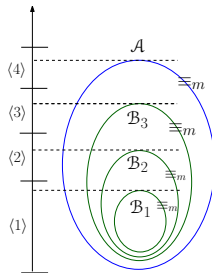
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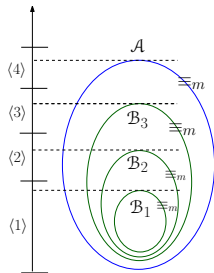


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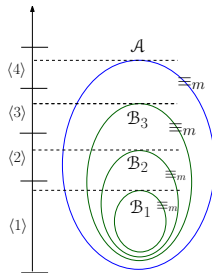
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- Whereby all these classes can be regarded as **logical fractals!**

# Conclusion

# Summary of the talk

## A. Notions:

- The Downward Löwenheim-Skolem Property: DLSP
- The Equivalent Bounded Substructure Property: EBSP

## B. Results:




- Classes of finite structures satisfying EBSP
- Closure properties of EBSP
- Techniques and f.p.t. algorithms
- Connection with Nature

## A challenging open problem

Is there a **structural characterization** of EBSP/logical fractals?

Dhanyavād!

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