

# The structural complexity of models of arithmetic

joint work with Antonio Montalbán

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It is easy to answer this questions for the standard model  $\mathbb{N}$ : *It is structurally easy.*

But what about non-standard models?

Let us give a framework to answer this questions.

### Theorem (Scott 1963)

*For every countable structure  $\mathcal{A}$  there is a sentence in the infinitary logic  $L_{\omega_1\omega}$  – its **Scott sentence** – characterizing  $\mathcal{A}$  up to isomorphism among countable structures.*

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The proof heavily relies on the analysis of the  $\alpha$ -back-and-forth relations for countable ordinals  $\alpha$ . The most useful definition is due to Ash and Knight:

### Definition

1.  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{a}) \leq_0 (\mathcal{B}, \bar{b})$  if all atomic formulas true of  $\bar{b}$  are true of  $\bar{a}$  and vice versa.
2. For non-zero  $\gamma < \omega_1$ ,  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{a}) \leq_\gamma (\mathcal{B}, \bar{b})$  if for all  $\beta < \gamma$  and  $\bar{d} \in B^{<\omega}$  there is  $\bar{c} \in A^{<\omega}$  such that  $(\mathcal{B}, \bar{b}\bar{d}) \leq_\beta (\mathcal{A}, \bar{a}\bar{c})$ .



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In an attempt to measure structural complexity, various notions of ranks have been used.

E.g.  $r(\mathcal{A})$  is the least  $\alpha$  such that for all  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in A$  if  $\bar{a} \leq_\alpha \bar{b}$ , then  $\bar{a} \leq_\beta \bar{b}$  for all  $\beta > \alpha$ .

1. A formula is  $\Sigma_0^{\text{in}} = \Pi_0^{\text{in}}$  if it is a finite quantifier free formula.
2. A formula is  $\Sigma_\alpha^{\text{in}}$  for  $\alpha > 0$ , if it is of the form  $\bigvee_{i \in \omega} \exists \bar{x}_i \psi_i(\bar{x}_i)$  where all  $\psi_i \in \Pi_{\beta_i}^{\text{in}}$  for  $\beta_i < \alpha$ .
3. A formula is  $\Pi_\alpha^{\text{in}}$  for  $\alpha > 0$ , if it is of the form  $\bigwedge_{i \in \omega} \forall \bar{x}_i \psi_i(\bar{x}_i)$  where all  $\psi_i \in \Sigma_{\beta_i}^{\text{in}}$  for  $\beta_i < \alpha$ .
4.  $L_{\omega_1\omega} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \omega_1} \Pi_\alpha^{\text{in}}$

For example, let  $p_n$  denote the (formal term) for the  $n$ th prime in PA and let  $X \subseteq \omega$ . Then

$$\varphi = \exists x \left( \bigwedge_{n \in X} \exists y (y \cdot p_n = x) \wedge \bigwedge_{n \notin X} \forall y (y \cdot p_n \neq x) \right)$$

is a  $\Sigma_3^{\text{in}}$  formula and  $\mathcal{A} \models \varphi$  iff  $X$  is in the Scott set of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Theorem (Montalbán 2015)

The following are equivalent for countable  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\alpha < \omega_1$ .

1. Every automorphism orbit of  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\Sigma_\alpha^{\text{in}}$ -definable without parameters.
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  has a  $\Pi_{\alpha+1}^{\text{in}}$  Scott sentence.
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  is uniformly  $\Delta_\alpha^0$ -categorical.  $(\exists \Phi \exists X \forall \mathcal{B} \cong \mathcal{C} \cong \mathcal{A}(\Phi^{X \oplus (\mathcal{C} \oplus \mathcal{B})^{(\alpha)}} : \mathcal{B} \cong \mathcal{C})$
4.  $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$  is  $\Pi_{\alpha+1}^0$ .
5. No tuple in  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\alpha$ -free.

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The standard model  $\mathbb{N}$  of  $PA$  has Scott rank 1: Every element is the  $n$ th successor of  $\dot{0}$  for some  $n \in \omega$ , so the automorphism orbits are definable by  $s(s(\dots (\dot{0}) \dots)) = x$ .

**Theorem (Karp)**

For two countable structures  $\mathcal{A}$  the following are equivalent.

1.  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{a}) \leq_\alpha (\mathcal{B}, \bar{b})$ .
2. All  $\Sigma_\alpha^{\text{in}}$  sentences true of  $\bar{b}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  are true of  $\bar{a}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ .
3. All  $\Pi_\alpha^{\text{in}}$  sentences true of  $\bar{a}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  are true of  $\bar{b}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

In other words,  $(\mathcal{A}, \bar{a}) \leq_\alpha (\mathcal{B}, \bar{b})$  iff  $\Pi_\alpha^{\text{in}}\text{-tp}^{\mathcal{A}}(\bar{a}) \subseteq \Pi_\alpha^{\text{in}}\text{-tp}^{\mathcal{B}}(\bar{b})$ .

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## Definition

A tuple  $\bar{a}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\alpha$ -free if

$$\forall(\beta < \alpha) \forall \bar{b} \exists \bar{a}' \bar{b}' (\bar{a} \bar{b} \leq_\beta \bar{a}' \bar{b}' \wedge \bar{a} \not\leq_\alpha \bar{a}').$$

### Definition (Makkai 1981)

The *Scott spectrum* of a theory  $T$  is the set

$$SS(T) = \{\alpha \in \omega_1 : \text{there is a countable model of } T \text{ with Scott rank } \alpha\}.$$

Here  $T$  might be a sentence in  $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ .

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- Ash (1986) characterized back-and-forth relations of well-orderings. The following is a corollary:  
 $SR(n) = 1, SR(\omega^\alpha) = 2\alpha, SR(\omega^\alpha + \omega^\alpha) = 2\alpha + 1.$
- $SS(LO) = \omega_1 - 0$
- $1 \in SS(PA)$



Throughout this talk  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  denote countable non-standard models of  $PA$ .

- Back-and-forth relations accept tuples of arbitrary length.
- Makes it impossible to formalize in first order logic.
- In  $PA$  we can talk about being  $n$ -bf equivalent up to some length  $a$  of tuples for  $a \in M$ .

Let  $Tr_{\Delta_1^0}$  be a truth predicate for bounded formulas and define the bounded back-and-forth relations by induction on  $n$ :

$$\bar{u} \leq_0^a \bar{v} \Leftrightarrow \forall (x \leq a) (Tr_{\Delta_1^0}(x, \bar{u}) \rightarrow Tr_{\Delta_1^0}(x, \bar{v}))$$

$$\bar{u} \leq_{n+1}^a \bar{v} \Leftrightarrow \forall \bar{x} \exists \bar{y} \left( |\bar{x}| \leq a \rightarrow (|\bar{y}| \leq a \wedge \bar{v}\bar{x} \leq_n^a \bar{u}\bar{y}) \right)$$

## Proposition

The bounded back-and-forth relations  $\leq_n^x$  satisfy the following properties for all  $n$ :

1.  $PA \vdash \forall \bar{u}, \bar{v}, a, b ((a \leq b \wedge \bar{u} \leq_n^b \bar{v}) \rightarrow \bar{u} \leq_n^a \bar{v})$
2.  $PA \vdash \forall \bar{u}, \bar{v}, a (\bar{u} \leq_{n+1}^a \bar{v} \rightarrow \bar{u} \leq_n^a \bar{v})$

## Proposition

Let  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in M$ . Then  $\bar{a} \leq_n \bar{b} \Leftrightarrow \forall (m \in \omega) \mathcal{M} \vDash \bar{a} \leq_n^m \bar{b}$ . Furthermore, if there is  $c \in M - \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \vDash \bar{a} \leq_n^c \bar{b}$ , then  $\bar{a} \leq_n \bar{b}$ .

### Lemma

For every  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in M^{<\omega}$ ,  $\bar{a} \leq_{\omega} \bar{b}$  if and only if  $tp(\bar{a}) = tp(\bar{b})$ .

## Lemma

For every  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in M^{<\omega}$ ,  $\bar{a} \leq_{\omega} \bar{b}$  if and only if  $tp(\bar{a}) = tp(\bar{b})$ .

Recall that  $\mathcal{M}$  is *homogeneous* if every partial elementary map  $M \rightarrow M$  is extendible to an automorphism.

## Lemma

If  $\mathcal{M}$  is not homogeneous then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) > \omega$ .

## HOMOGENEOUS MODELS

### Proposition

If  $\mathcal{M}$  is homogeneous, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) \leq \omega + 1$ .

Note that every completion  $T$  of  $PA$  has an atomic model. Take  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq T$  and the subset of all Skolem terms without parameters. This is an elementary substructure and all types realized are isolated. By the least number principle this model is rigid and its automorphism orbits in  $\mathcal{M}$  are singletons.

### Theorem (Montalbán, R.)

If  $\mathcal{M}$  is atomic, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) = \omega$ .

### Theorem (Montalbán, R.)

For any nonstandard model  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $SR(\mathcal{M}) \geq \omega$ . In particular  $(1, \omega) \cap SS(PA) = \emptyset$ . If  $T \supseteq PA$  does not have a standard model, then  $1 \notin SS(T)$ .

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## Definition (Harrison-Trainor, Miller, Montalbán 2018)

A structure  $\mathcal{A} = (A, P_0^{\mathcal{A}}, \dots)$  is *infinitary interpretable* in  $\mathcal{B}$  if there exists a  $L_{\omega_1\omega}$  definable in  $\mathcal{B}$  sequence of relations  $(Dom_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}, \sim, R_0, \dots)$  such that

1.  $Dom_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \subseteq B^{<\omega}$ ,
2.  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $Dom_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$ ,
3.  $R_i \subseteq (B^{<\omega})^{a_{P_i}}$  is closed under  $\sim$  on  $Dom_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$ ,

and there exists a function  $f_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}} : (Dom_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}, R_0, \dots) / \sim \cong (A, P_0^{\mathcal{A}}, \dots)$ , the *interpretation of  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$* . If the formulas in the interpretation are  $\Delta_{\alpha}^{\text{in}}$  then  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\Delta_{\alpha}^{\text{in}}$  interpretable in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Definition (Harrison-Trainor, Miller, Montalbán 2018)

Two structures  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are *bi-interpretable* if there are infinitary interpretations of one in the other such that the compositions

$$f_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}} \circ \hat{f}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} : \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \quad \text{and} \quad f_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \circ \hat{f}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}} : \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

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**Theorem (Harrison-Trainor, Miller, Montalbán 2018)**

*$\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are infinitary bi-interpretable iff their automorphism groups are Borel-measurably isomorphic.*

## GAIFMAN'S THEOREM

### Theorem (Gaifman 1976)

Let  $T$  be a completion of  $PA$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  a linear order. Then there is a model  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  of  $T$  such that  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}) \cong \text{Aut}(\mathcal{L})$ .

- Indiscernible construction with a *minimal type*  $p(x)$ .
- For every  $l_1 < \dots < l_n \in L$  obtain a model  $\mathcal{N}(l_1) \dots (l_n)$  where each  $l_i$  realizes  $p(x)$ .
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### Theorem (cf. Gaifman)

$(\{x \in N_L : x \models p(x)\}, \leq^{\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}}) \cong \mathcal{L}$

Thus,  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\Delta_{\omega+1}^{\text{in}}$  interpretable in  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$ . (As the universe is  $\Pi_{\omega}^{\text{in}}$ .)

## A BI-INTERPRETATION

- $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  are  $\Delta_{\omega+1}^{\text{in}}$  bi-interpretable
- The complexities are asymmetric
  - The elementary diagram of  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  is  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  interpretable in  $\mathcal{L}$
  - $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\Delta_{\omega+1}^{\text{in}}$  interpretable in  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$

What could be the reason for that? It turns out we can interpret even more in  $\mathcal{L}$ !

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### Definition

Given a  $\tau$ -structure  $\mathcal{A}$  and a countable ordinal  $\alpha > 0$  fix an injective enumeration  $(\bar{a}_i)_{i \in \omega}$  of the  $\alpha$ -back-and-forth equivalence classes. The **canonical structural  $\alpha$ -jump**  $\mathcal{A}_{(\alpha)}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  is the structure in the vocabulary  $\tau_{(\alpha)}$  obtained by adding to  $\tau$  relation symbols  $R_i$  interpreted as

$$\bar{b} \in R_i^{\mathcal{A}_{(\alpha)}} \Leftrightarrow \bar{a}_i \leq_{\alpha} \bar{b}.$$

We will use the convention that  $\mathcal{A}_{(0)} = \mathcal{A}$ .

### Proposition

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a structure and  $\alpha, \beta < \omega_1$  with  $\beta > 0$ . Then

$$(\mathcal{A}_{(\alpha)}, \bar{a}) \leq_{\beta} (\mathcal{A}_{(\alpha)}, \bar{b}) \Leftrightarrow (\mathcal{A}, \bar{a}) \leq_{\alpha+\beta} (\mathcal{A}, \bar{b}).$$

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### Corollary

For any structure  $\mathcal{A}$  and non-zero  $\alpha, \beta < \omega_1$ ,  $SR(\mathcal{A}) = \alpha + \beta$  if and only if  $SR(\mathcal{A}_{(\alpha)}) = \beta$ .

Recall that two  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  bi-interpretable structures have the same Scott rank. So if  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  bi-interpretable with  $\mathcal{A}_{(\alpha)}$ , then  $SR(\mathcal{A}) = \alpha + SR(\mathcal{B})$ .



## Corollary

For all countable ordinals  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , the following are equivalent.

1.  $\mathcal{A}_{(\gamma)}$  is  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  bi-interpretable with  $\mathcal{B}_{(\alpha)}$ .
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  is infinitary bi-interpretable with  $\mathcal{B}$  such that
  - 2.1 the interpretation of  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $f_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}} \circ \tilde{f}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$  are  $\Delta_{\alpha+1}^{\text{in}}$  in  $\mathcal{B}$ ,
  - 2.2 the interpretation of  $\mathcal{B}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $f_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \circ \tilde{f}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}}$  are  $\Delta_{\gamma+1}^{\text{in}}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ ,
  - 2.3 for every  $\bar{a} \in \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$ ,  $\{\bar{c} : (\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{B}}, \bar{c}) \models \Pi_{\gamma}^{\text{in}}\text{-tp}^{\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{B}}}(\bar{a})\}$  is  $\Delta_{\alpha+1}^{\text{in}}$  definable in  $\mathcal{B}$ ,
  - 2.4 for every  $\bar{b} \in \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}}$ ,  $\{\bar{c} : (\mathcal{B}^{\mathcal{A}}, \bar{c}) \models \Pi_{\alpha}^{\text{in}}\text{-tp}^{\mathcal{B}^{\mathcal{A}}}(\bar{b})\}$  is  $\Delta_{\gamma+1}^{\text{in}}$  definable in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Recall that  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  is  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  interpretable in  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\Delta_{\omega+1}^{\text{in}}$  interpretable in  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$ . Hence, taking  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$ , 2.1, 2.2 are satisfied for  $\alpha = \omega$ ,  $\gamma = 0$ . It remains to show that the elements satisfying a fixed  $\Pi_{\omega}^{\text{in}}$ -type in  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  are both  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  definable in  $\mathcal{L}$ .

Recall that the elementary diagram of  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  is interpretable in  $\mathcal{L}$  and that  $\{\bar{b} \models \Pi_{\omega}^{\text{in}}\text{-}tp(\bar{a})\} = \{\bar{b} \models tp(\bar{a})\}$  for any  $\bar{a}$ . The sets  $\{\bar{b} \models tp(\bar{a})\}$  are  $\Pi_1^{\text{in}}$  definable in  $\mathcal{L}$ .

## REVISITING GAIFMAN'S REDUCTION

Recall that the elementary diagram of  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{L}}$  is interpretable in  $\mathcal{L}$  and that  $\{\bar{b} \models \Pi_{\omega}^{\text{in}}\text{-tp}(\bar{a})\} = \{\bar{b} \models \text{tp}(\bar{a})\}$  for any  $\bar{a}$ . The sets  $\{\bar{b} \models \text{tp}(\bar{a})\}$  are  $\Pi_1^{\text{in}}$  definable in  $\mathcal{L}$ .

To show that it is also  $\Pi_1^{\text{in}}$  definable notice that the following claim holds.

### Lemma

*Let  $s$  be a Skolem term and  $a = s(l_1, \dots, l_n)$  where  $l_1 < \dots < l_n \in L$ . If  $b = s(k_1, \dots, k_n)$  for some  $k_1 < \dots < k_n \in L$  then  $b \models \text{tp}(a)$ .*

Thus every set  $\{\bar{b} \models \text{tp}(\bar{a})\}$  can be written as a union of Skolem terms with parameters ordered  $\mathcal{L}$ -tuples. Thus, the set is  $\Pi_1^{\text{in}}$  definable.

### Theorem (Montalbán, R.)

*Given a completion  $T$  of  $PA$ , there is a reduction via  $\Delta_1^{\text{in}}$  bi-interpretability between  $\mathcal{L}$  and the structural  $\omega$ -jumps of its models.*

## Theorem (Montalbán, R.)

1.  $SS(PA) = 1 \cup \{\alpha : \omega \leq \alpha \leq \omega_1\}$
2. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is non-homogeneous, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) \geq \omega + 1$ .
3. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is non-standard atomic, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) = \omega$ .
4. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is non-standard homogeneous, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) \in [\omega, \omega + 1]$ .
5. For any completion  $T$  of  $PA$ , there is a  $T$ -computable model  $\mathcal{M}$  with  $SR(\mathcal{M}) = \omega_1^T + 1$ .

## Theorem (Montalbán, R.)

1.  $SS(PA) = 1 \cup \{\alpha : \omega \leq \alpha \leq \omega_1\}$
2. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is non-homogeneous, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) \geq \omega + 1$ .
3. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is non-standard atomic, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) = \omega$ .
4. If  $\mathcal{M}$  is non-standard homogeneous, then  $SR(\mathcal{M}) \in [\omega, \omega + 1]$ .
5. For any completion  $T$  of  $PA$ , there is a  $T$ -computable model  $\mathcal{M}$  with  $SR(\mathcal{M}) = \omega_1^T + 1$ .

Thank you!