

# The Isomorphism Problem for Automatic Trees and Linear Orders

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(Joint work with D.Kuske and M.Lohrey)  
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# From Computable Structures to Automatic Structures

- A **structure**  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of a set  $D$  (universes) and relations and functions on  $D$ . We assume all structures are **countably infinite** and **relational**.
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  - Universe is a computable set
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- Computable structures:
  - Universe is a computable set
  - Relations are computable.
- Automatic Structures [Khoussainov&Nerode 1995]:  
Replace Turing machines by finite automata.

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## Definition.

For words  $w_1, \dots, w_n \in \Sigma^*$ , the **convolution** is the word  $\otimes(w_1, \dots, w_n)$  in alphabet  $(\Sigma \cup \{\diamond\})^n$

$$(w'_1[1], \dots, w'_n[1])(w'_1[2], \dots, w'_n[2])(w'_1[3], \dots, w'_n[3]) \cdots (w'_1[\ell], \dots, w'_n[\ell]).$$

where  $\ell = \max\{|w_i| \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  and  $w'_i[j] = w_i[j]$  if  $j < |w_i|$  and  $\diamond$  otherwise.

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An  $n$ -ary relation  $R \subseteq (\Sigma^*)^n$  is **automatic** if the language  $\otimes R = \{\otimes(\bar{w}) \mid \bar{w} \in R\}$  is accepted by some automaton  $M$ .

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- Any tuple  $\mathcal{P}$  of automata that accept the domain and the relations of  $\mathcal{S}$  is called an **automatic presentation** of  $\mathcal{S}$ .

# Examples of automatic structures

- $(\mathbb{N}; <) \cong (0^*; \{\otimes(0^i, 0^j) \mid i < j\})$ .
- $(\mathbb{N}; +)$
- $(\mathbb{Q}; \leq) \cong ((0 + 1)^*1; \leq_{\text{lex}})$ .
- The **full tree**  $(\mathbb{N}^*; \leq_{\text{pref}}) \cong (\{1\} \cup 1\{0, 1\}^*1; \leq_{\text{pref}})$ .
- Configuration graph of a Turing machine.

## Theorem. [KN]

There is an algorithm that, given an automatic structure  $\mathcal{S}$  and a FO-formula  $\varphi(\bar{n})$ , produces an automaton recognizing precisely those tuples  $\bar{a} \in \mathcal{S}$  that make  $\varphi$  true. In particular the FO-theory of  $\mathcal{S}$  is decidable.

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[Blumensath, Rubin, Kuske, Lohrey, etc.] FO-decidability also holds if we extend FO by  $\exists^\infty$ ,  $\exists^{(m,n)}$ , and some restricted form of SO existential quantifier.

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Fix a class  $\mathcal{K}$  of structures. Decide if two automatic presentations recognize the same structure up to isomorphism, i.e.,

$$\{ \langle P_1, P_2 \rangle \mid \mathcal{S}(P_1), \mathcal{S}(P_2) \in \mathcal{K} \wedge \exists f : \mathcal{S}(P_1) \cong \mathcal{S}(P_2) \}$$

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- Automatic Structures  $\Sigma_1^1$ -complete [KNRS]
- Automatic well-orders/Boolean algebras Decidable [KNRS]
- Automatic (a) successor trees (b) undirected graphs (c) commutative monoids (d) partial orders (e) lattices of height 4 (f) unary functions.  $\Sigma_1^1$ -complete [Nies]
- Automatic locally finite graphs  $\Pi_3^0$ -complete [Rubin]

# Structures with a transitive relation

## Questions[KN08]

- What about for other classes of structures? e.g. [equivalence structures](#), [order trees](#), [linear orders](#)
- For any level of the arithmetic hierarchy, give a class of automatic structures for which isomorphism problem is complete for that level.



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- For any level of the arithmetic hierarchy, give a class of automatic structures for which isomorphism problem is complete for that level.

## Theorem.[Kuske,Liu,Lohrey10]

The isomorphism problem is

- $\Pi_1^0$ -complete for **automatic equivalence structures**.
- $\Pi_{2n-3}^0$ -complete for **automatic trees of height  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ )**.
- computably equivalent to true arithmetic for **automatic trees of finite height**.
- not arithmetical for **automatic linear orders**.

- Hilbert's 10th problem:

$$\{p \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_k] \mid \exists x_1, \dots, x_k \in \mathbb{N}^+ : p(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 0\}.$$

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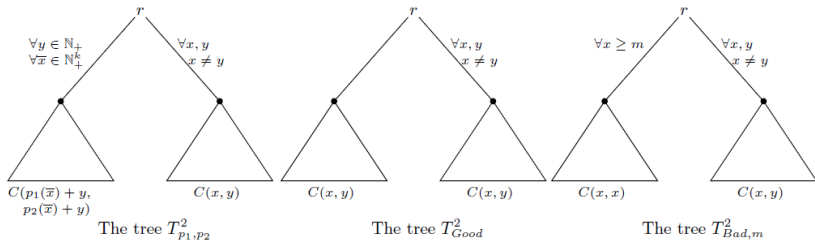
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- [Honkala 06] For any polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{N}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we can construct an automaton  $\mathcal{A}_p$  such that on input word  $\otimes(0^{x_1}, \dots, 0^{x_n})$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_p$  has exactly  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  accepting runs.

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- We can construct automatic height-2 trees  $T_{p_1, p_2'}^2$ ,  $T_{Good'}^2$ ,  $T_{Bad, m}^2$  ( $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ) such that
  - $\langle p_1, p_2 \rangle \in Prob$  if and only if  $T_{p_1, p_2}^2 \cong T_{Good}^2$
  - $\langle p_1, p_2 \rangle \notin Prob$  if and only if  $T_{p_1, p_2}^2 \cong T_{Bad, m}^2$  for some  $m$ .

Fix an injective polynomial  $C : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .



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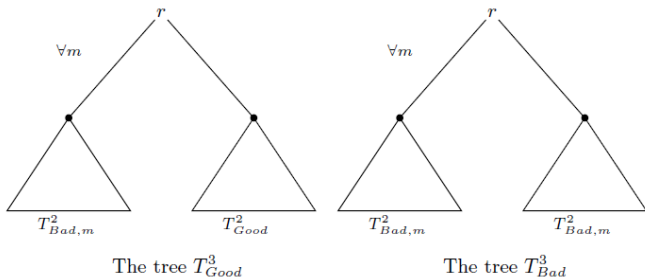
- This construction can be generalized to trees of arbitrary finite height  $> 2$  to show the  $\Pi_{2n-3}^0$ -completeness mentioned above.
- Here we want to show that the isomorphism problem for all automatic order trees is  $\Sigma_1^1$ -complete.
- For this we only need  $\Sigma_2^0$ -hardness for automatic trees of height 3.

## Lemma.

There exists two height-3 trees  $T_{Good}^3$  and  $T_{Bad}^3$  ( $T_{Good}^3 \not\cong T_{Bad}^3$ ) such that the following holds: For a given  $\Sigma_2^0$ -set  $A \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$  one can effectively construct an automatic forest  $F_A$  of height 3 such that

- The set of roots of  $F_A$  is  $\{0, 1\}^*$ .
- For every  $w \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $F_A(w) \cong T_{Good}^3$  if  $w \in A$  and  $F_A(w) \cong T_{Bad}^3$  if  $w \notin A$ .

# $T_{Good}^3$ and $T_{Bad}^3$



Theorem.[Kuske,Liu,Lohrey, in preparation]

The isomorphism problem for automatic order trees is  $\Sigma_1^1$ -complete.

# $\Sigma_1^1$ -Hardness for Automatic Order Trees

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- For a computable tree  $T$ , construct an automatic order tree  **$\text{aut}(T)$**  as follows:
  - Append to each node  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  of the full tree a copy of the tree  $T_{\text{Good}}^3$  if  $x \in T$ ; and append a copy of  $T_{\text{Bad}}^3$  if  $x \notin T$ .

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- $T \cong T'$  if and only if  $\text{aut}(T) \cong \text{aut}(T')$

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- Recall  $(\{0, 1\}^*1; \leq_{lex})$  is a copy of  $(\mathbb{Q}; \leq)$ .
- From a computable linear order  $L$ , one can compute an index of a computable set  $P(L) \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*1$  whose complement is dense in  $(\{0, 1\}^*1; \leq_{lex})$  such that  $L \cong L'$  iff  $(\{0, 1\}^*1; \leq_{lex}, P(L)) \cong (\{0, 1\}^*1; \leq_{lex}, P(L'))$ .

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- There exist two automatic linear orders  $M_0, M_1$  such that
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  - $(\{0, 1\}^*; \leq_{lex}, P(L)) \cong (\{0, 1\}^*; \leq_{lex}, P(L'))$  iff  $aut(L) \cong aut(L')$ .



# Non-existence of Hyperarithmetic Isomorphisms

## Corollary

There exists two isomorphic automatic order trees (linear orders) without a hyperarithmetic isomorphism.