

Structurable equivalence relations, Borel combinatorics, and countable model theory

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This talk is about the *global* aspects of “all” locally ctbl Borel combinatorial structures.

Countable Borel equivalence relations (CBERs)

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Example (Feldman–Moore) Every CBER is induced by a Borel action of a countable group, i.e., admits a Borel family of transitive $\mathbb{F}_\omega = \langle g_0, g_1, \dots \rangle$ actions on each class.

Structurings

Let \mathcal{L} be a countable first-order language.

Definition A **Borel \mathcal{L} -structuring** \mathcal{M} of a CBER $E \subseteq X^2$ is a Borel family of countable \mathcal{L} -structures $(\mathcal{M}_C)_{C \in X/E}$ on each equivalence class $C \in X/E$.

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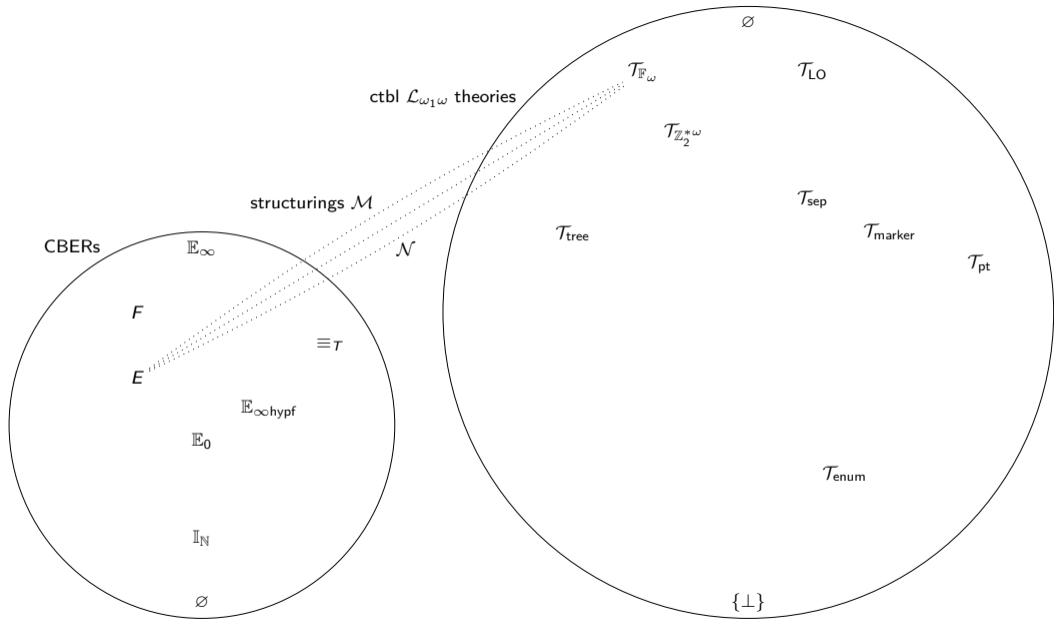
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Example A Borel Γ -action generating E is actually a structuring by models of

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_\Gamma := & \{\forall x (a_1(x) = x)\} \cup \{\forall x (a_\gamma(a_\delta(x)) = a_{\gamma\delta}(x)) \mid \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma\} \\ & \cup \left\{ \forall x, y \bigvee_{\gamma \in \Gamma} (a_\gamma(x) = y) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

For a ctbl $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ theory \mathcal{T} , a **\mathcal{T} -structuring** is an \mathcal{L} -structuring \mathcal{M} s.t. each $\mathcal{M}_C \models \mathcal{T}$.



Interpretations

Definition Let $(\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{T}_1)$, $(\mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{T}_2)$ be ctbl $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ theories (in relational languages).

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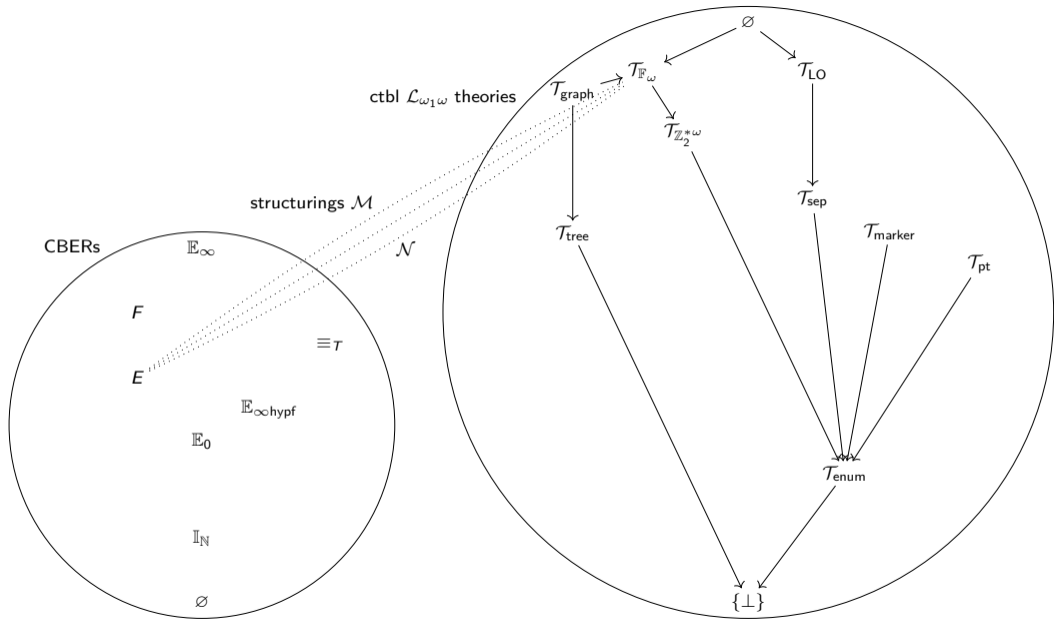
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Note There is a more general model-theoretic notion of “imaginary interpretation” that we’re not using.



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Example There is an interpretation $\alpha : \mathcal{T}_{4\text{-reg tree}} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{free } \mathbb{F}_2\text{-action}}$.

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Example (Feldman–Moore) Every CBER (structured by \emptyset) is structurable by $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{F}_\omega}$.

There is obviously no interpretation $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{F}_\omega} \rightarrow \emptyset$!

Freely available structures on CBERs

The most important theorem in locally countable Borel combinatorics:

Theorem (Lusin–Novikov)

Every CB(E)R $E \subseteq X^2$ can be written as $E = \bigcup_n f_n$ for Borel $f_n : X \rightarrow X$.

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By second-countability of X , every CBER is also structurable by

$$\mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}} := \{\forall x \neq y \bigvee_k (U_k(x) \leftrightarrow \neg U_k(y))\}, \text{ in language } \mathcal{L}_{\text{sep}} := \{U_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}.$$

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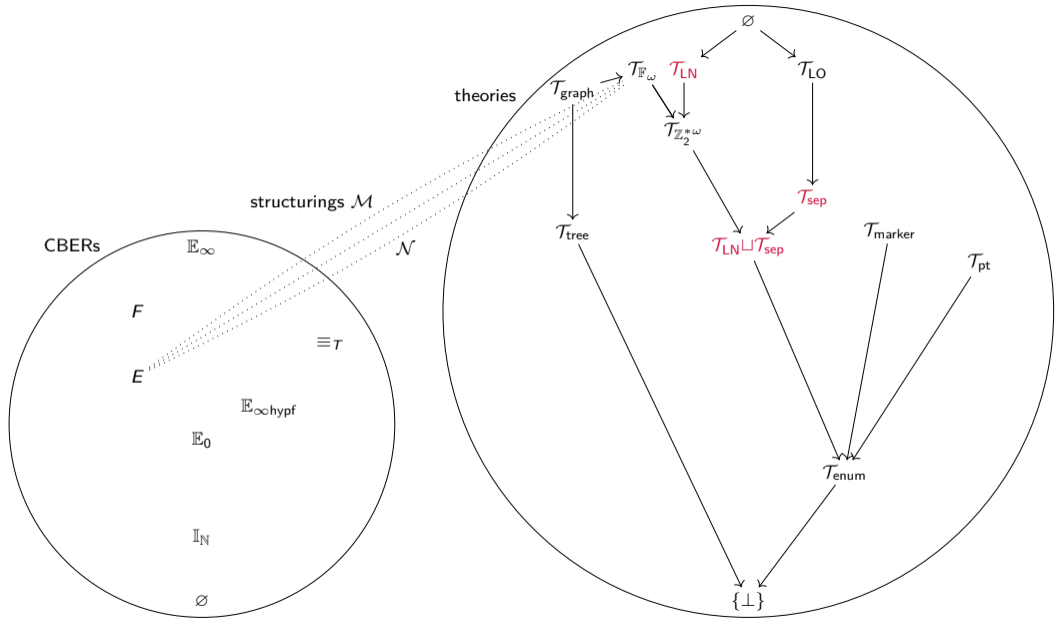
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Example We have an interpretation $\mathcal{T}_{\text{LO}} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}}$ given by

$$x < y \iff \bigvee_n \left(\bigwedge_{k < n} (U_k(x) \leftrightarrow U_k(y)) \wedge \neg U_k(x) \wedge U_k(y) \right),$$

hence every CBER admits a linear order on each class.



CBERs \leftrightarrow theories

Theorem (C.–Kechris 2018, Banerjee–C. 2024)

We have a canonical assignment

$$\begin{aligned} \{ \text{CBERs} \} &\longleftrightarrow \{ \text{ctbl } \mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega} \text{ theories} \} \\ E &\longmapsto \mathcal{T}_E \end{aligned}$$

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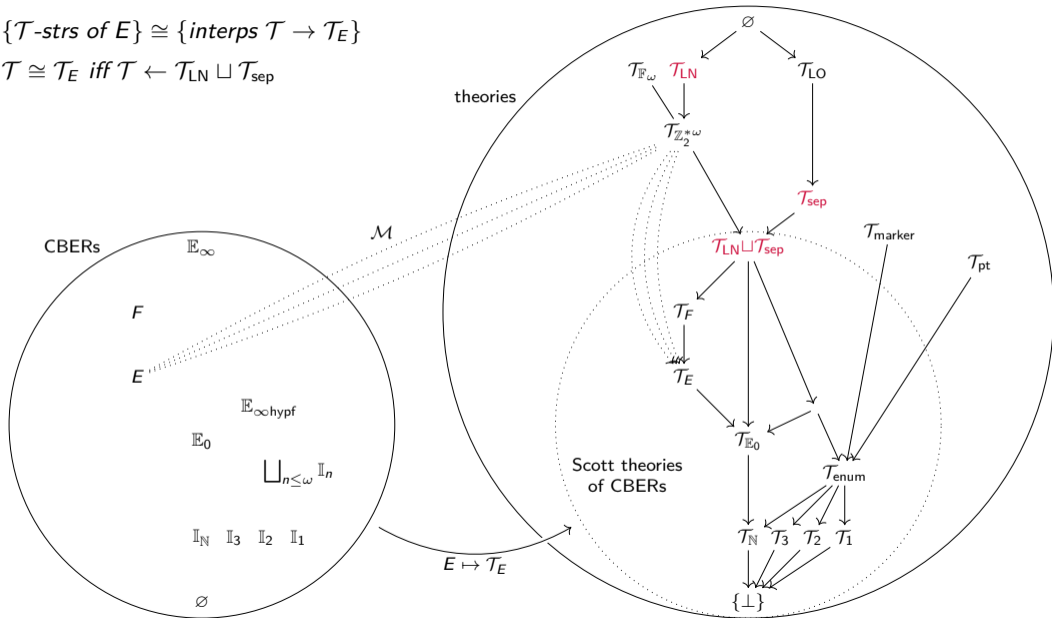
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- (b) Up to bi-interpretations, the theories \mathcal{T}_E are precisely those s.t. $\mathcal{T}_E \leftarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}} \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}}$.

Main Theorem

(a) $\{\mathcal{T}\text{-strs of } E\} \cong \{\text{interps } \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_E\}$

(b) $\mathcal{T} \cong \mathcal{T}_E$ iff $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow \mathcal{T}_{LN} \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{sep}$



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Corollary (folklore, Banerjee–C.)

For any theories $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2$, the following are equivalent:

- (a) Every CBER E admitting a \mathcal{T}_2 -structuring also admits a \mathcal{T}_1 -structuring.
- (b) There exists an interpretation $\mathcal{T}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_2 \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}} \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}}$.

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For a CBER $E \subseteq X^2$, we define \mathcal{T}_E by declaring that models $\mathcal{M} = (Y, \dots)$ of \mathcal{T}_E on a countable set Y to be bijections $Y \rightarrow X$ onto an E -class.

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Given $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}} \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}}$, we have $\mathcal{T} \cong \mathcal{T}_E$ for E on $X = \mathcal{S}_1(\mathcal{T})$, where two 1-types are E -related iff they are realized in the same model.

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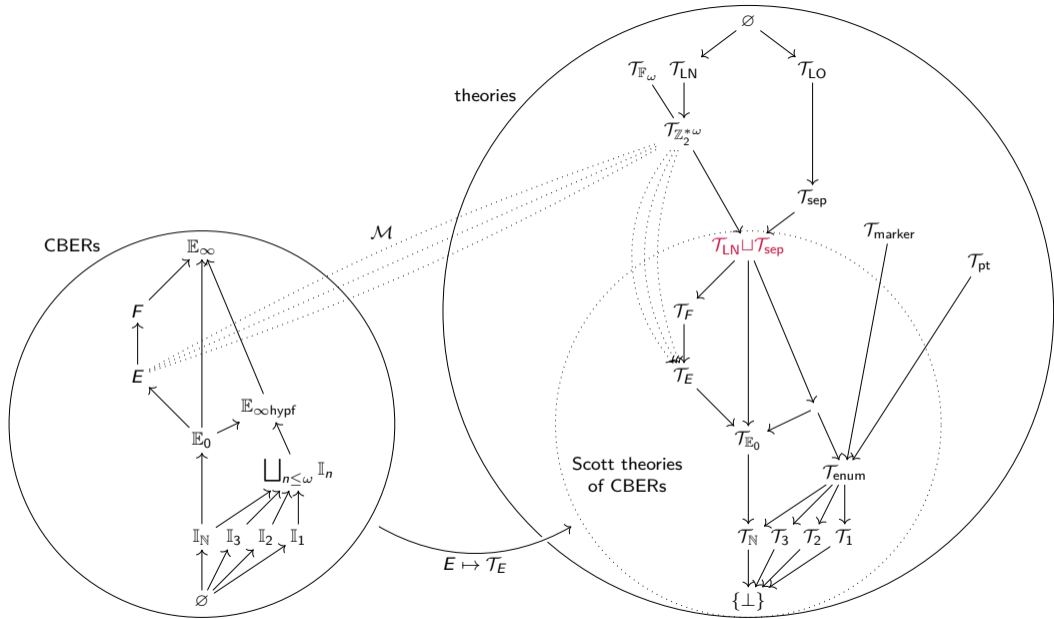
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Note that for two CBERs $E \subseteq X$ and $F \subseteq Y$,

$$\begin{aligned} \{\text{interps } \mathcal{T}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_F\} &\cong \{\mathcal{T}_E\text{-structurings of } F\} \\ &\cong \{\text{Borel class-bijective homomorphisms } (Y, F) \rightarrow (X, E)\}. \end{aligned}$$



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Corollary (folklore, Banerjee–C.)

For any theories $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2$, the following are equivalent:

- (a) Every CBER E admitting a \mathcal{T}_2 -structuring also admits a \mathcal{T}_1 -structuring.
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In practice, many theorems of the form (b) are essentially proved via (a).

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In fact, $\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{*\omega}} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}} \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}}$.

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Theorem (Banerjee-C.) *None of the interpretabilities*

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}} \xleftrightarrow{\text{reversal}} \mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{F}_\omega} \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{Z}_2^{*\omega}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{color}_2} \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_{\text{color}_{<\omega}}}_{\text{increasingly strong versions of FM}} \xrightarrow{\text{unless size} = 2} \mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}} \sqcup \mathcal{T}_{\text{sep}}$$

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Proofs of $\not\Leftarrow$: e.g., $(\mathbb{Z}, (-) + n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \models \mathcal{T}_{\text{LN}}$, but has nontrivial automorphisms.

