# Algorithmic Model Theory SS 2016

Prof. Dr. Erich Grädel and Dr. Wied Pakusa

Mathematische Grundlagen der Informatik RWTH Aachen



This work is licensed under:

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/de/

Dieses Werk ist lizenziert unter:

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/de/

 $\ @$  2019 Mathematische Grundlagen der Informatik, RWTH Aachen. http://www.logic.rwth-aachen.de

# Contents

1	The classical decision problem	1
1.1	Basic notions on decidability	2
1.2	Trakhtenbrot's Theorem	7
1.3	Domino problems	13
1.4	Applications of the domino method	16
1.5	The finite model property	20
1.6	The two-variable fragment of FO	21
2	Descriptive Complexity	31
2.1	Logics Capturing Complexity Classes	31
2.2	Fagin's Theorem	33
2.3	Second Order Horn Logic on Ordered Structures	38
3	LFP and Infinitary Logics	43
3.1	Ordinals	43
3.2	Some Fixed-Point Theory	45
3.3	Least Fixed-Point Logic	48
3.4	Infinitary First-Order Logic	51
4	Expressive Power of First-Order Logic	55
4.1	Ehrenfeucht-Fraïssé Theorem	55
4.2	Hanf's technique	59
4.3	Gaifman's Theorem	61
4.4	Lower bound for the size of local sentences	66
-	Zero-one laws	73
	Random graphs	
5.2	Zero-one law for first-order logic	75
53	Congralised zero-one laws	80

6	Modal, Inflationary and Partial Fixed Points	85
6.1	The Modal $\mu$ -Calculus	85
6.2	Inflationary Fixed-Point Logic	87
6.3	Simultaneous Inductions	93
6.4	Partial Fixed-Point Logic	94
6.5	Capturing PTIME up to Bisimulation	97

# 5 Zero-one laws

## 5.1 Random graphs

We consider the class  $G_n$  of (undirected) graphs over  $\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$ , i.e.

$$G_n := \{G = (V, E) : G \text{ graph}, V = \{0, \dots, n-1\}\},\$$

In order to introduce *random graphs* we consider a sequence of probability distributions  $\overline{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots)$  on  $(\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2, \dots)$ , i.e.  $\mu_n : \mathcal{G}_n \to [0, 1]$  and  $\sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}_n} \mu(G) = 1$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . This defines a sequence of probability spaces  $(\mathcal{G}_1, \mu_1), (\mathcal{G}_2, \mu_2), \dots$  on classes of graphs of increasing size. *Example* 5.1.

(1) The *uniform distribution*  $\mu_n$  assigns equal probability to each graph:

$$\mu_n(G) = \frac{1}{2^{\binom{n}{2}}}.$$

(2) Let  $p: \mathbb{N} \to [0,1]$  be an arbitrary mapping. Then the probability space  $\mathcal{G}_{n,p} = (\mathcal{G}_n, \mu_{p,n})$  is defined by the following random experiment: determine for every pair (u,v) with  $0 \le u < v < n$  whether  $(u,v) \in E$  using a random variable X taking values 0,1 (False and True) with  $\Pr[X=1] = p(n)$  and  $\Pr[X=0] = (1-p(n))$ . Observe that for  $p=\frac{1}{2}$  one obtains the uniform distribution.

We make the following convention: unless otherwise stated,  $\mu_n$  denotes the uniform distribution. For a class K of graphs we set

$$\mu_n(\mathcal{K}) := \mu_n(\mathcal{K} \cap \mathcal{G}_n) = \sum_{G \in \mathcal{K} \cap \mathcal{G}_n} \mu_n(G).$$

This definition formalises what it means that a random graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}_n$  has a certain property  $\mathcal{K}$ . However, in what follows, we are not interested

in random graphs of some fixed size  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  but much more in the behaviour of the probability  $\mu_n(K)$  if we increase the size of graphs, i.e. if we let n approach infinity.

**Definition 5.2.** The *asymptotic probability* of a class K of graphs (with respect to  $\overline{\mu}$ ) is defined as

$$\mu(\mathcal{K}) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \mu_n(\mathcal{K}),$$

in the case that this sequence has a limit. In particular, if  $\psi$  is a sentence over vocabulary  $\{E\}$  in some logic  $\mathcal{L}$ , then the *asymptotic probability* of  $\psi$  (with respect to  $\overline{\mu}$ ) is defined as

$$\mu(\psi) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \mu_n(\{G \in \mathcal{G}_n : G \models \psi\},\,$$

again only for the case that the limit exists. *Example* 5.3.

(1) Let  $\mathcal{K} = \{G : G \text{ is a clique}\}$ . Then

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mu_n(\mathcal{K})=\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{2^{\binom{n}{2}}}=0.$$

(2) Let H be a graph and let  $\mathcal{K}_H = \{G : G \text{ contains } H \text{ as subgraph}\}$ . For  $n > k \cdot |H|$  we have

$$\mu_n(\mathcal{K}_H) \ge 1 - (1 - (2^{-|E(H)|}))^k$$

hence  $\mu(K_H) = 1$  since  $k \to \infty$  for  $n \to \infty$ .

(3) Let  $K = \{G : G \text{ is three-colourable}\}$ . Then

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mu_n(\mathcal{K})\leq 1-\lim_{n\to\infty}\mu_n(\{G\in\mathcal{G}_n:G\text{ contains }K_4\})=0.$$

- (4) Recall that we have  $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mu_n(\{G: (3,17) \in E\}) = \frac{1}{2}$ .
- (5) The asymptotic probability is not defined for every class of graphs. For instance, consider  $\mathcal{K} = \{G : G \text{ has an even number of nodes}\}$ . Then the sequence  $(\mu_n(\mathcal{K}))_{n\geq 1} = (0,1,0,1,\dots)$  has no limit.

# 5.2 Zero-one law for first-order logic

In this section we prove the zero-one law for first-order logic:

**Theorem 5.4.** For sentences  $\psi \in FO$  (over relational vocabulary) we have

$$\mu(\psi) = 0$$
 or  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ .

To put it in words, every first-order definable property of graphs either holds *almost never* or *almost surely* on random graphs of increasing size. **Definition 5.5.** An *atomic graph k-type* is a maximal consistent set t of FO( $\{E\}$ )-literals in variables  $x_1, \ldots, x_k$ , i.e.  $Ex_ix_j, \neg Ex_ix_j, x_i = x_j, x_i \neq x_j$ , which is consistent with the graph axioms  $(\forall x \neg Exx, \forall x \forall y (Exy \leftrightarrow Eyx))$ . Furthermore, for a graph G = (V, E) and  $\overline{a} \in V^k$  we define the *atomic graph k-type of*  $\overline{a}$  by

$$t_G(\overline{a}) := \{ \varphi(x_i, x_i) : \varphi \text{ an FO}(\{E\}) \text{-literal such that } G \models \varphi(a_i, a_i) \}.$$

Formally, an atomic k-type t is a set but we frequently identify it with the formula  $t(\overline{x}) = \bigwedge_{\varphi \in t} \varphi(\overline{x})$  (this formula is an FO-formula, since there are only finitely many  $\{E\}$ -literals in k variables).

In what follows, let  $s(\overline{x})$  and  $t(\overline{x})$  denote atomic graph types of tuples of distinct elements, i.e.  $s,t \models \bigwedge_{i < j \le k} x_i \ne x_k$ . We say that an atomic (m+1)-type  $t(x_1,\ldots,x_m,x_{m+1})$  extends an atomic m-type  $s(x_1,\ldots,x_m)$  if  $s \subseteq t$ , or equivalently, if  $t \models s$ .

**Definition 5.6.** Let  $s(x_1,...,x_m)$  and  $t(x_1,...,x_m,x_{m+1})$  be atomic types such that  $s \subseteq t$ . We define the *extension axiom*  $\sigma_{s,t}$  by

$$\sigma_{s,t} := \forall x_1 \cdots \forall x_m (s(\overline{x}) \to \exists x_{m+1} t(\overline{x}, x_{m+1})).$$

Furthermore, we let *T* be the set of all extension axioms together with the graph axioms.

The proof of the zero-one law for FO relies on the following properties of the extension axioms and the set *T*:

- (1)  $\mu(\sigma_{s,t}) = 1$  for all  $\sigma_{s,t} \in T$ .
- (2) T is  $\omega$ -categorical, i.e. there is, up to isomorphism, only one countable model of T. This structure is known as the *Rado graph*.

(3) *T* is complete, i.e. for all  $\psi \in FO$  either  $T \models \psi$  or  $T \models \neg \psi$ .

We proceed to establish these three properties.

**Lemma 5.7.** Let  $\sigma_{s,t} \in T$  be an extension axiom. Then  $\mu(\sigma_{s,t}) = 1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\sigma_{s,t} := \forall x_1 \cdots \forall x_m(s(\overline{x}) \rightarrow \exists x_{m+1}t(\overline{x},x_{m+1}))$ . For every i = 1, ..., m we have  $t \models Ex_ix_{m+1}$  or  $t \models \neg Ex_ix_{m+1}$ . Let  $G \in \mathcal{G}_n$  be a random graph and  $a_1, ..., a_m \in \{0, ..., n-1\}$ . For every fixed  $a_{m+1} \in V \setminus \{a_1, ..., a_m\}$ , the experiments  $G \models Ea_ia_{m+1}$  are stochastically independent and have probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Hence

$$\Pr[G \models t(\overline{a}, a_{m+1}) | G \models s(\overline{a})] = \frac{1}{2^m}.$$

Thus, probability that *no* element  $a_{m+1} \in V \setminus \{a_1, \ldots, a_m\}$  extends a realisation  $\overline{a}$  of s to a realisation of  $(\overline{a}, a_{m+1})$  of t is  $(1 - \frac{1}{2^m})^{n-m}$ . In conclusion, we obtain

$$\mu_n(\neg \sigma_{s,t}) = \mu_n(\exists x_1 \cdots \exists x_n (s(\overline{x}) \land \forall x_{m+1} \neg t(\overline{x}, x_{m+1})))$$

$$\leq n^m \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{2^m})^{n-m} \stackrel{\text{exp. fast}}{\longrightarrow} 0,$$

and thus  $\mu(\sigma_{s,t}) = 1$ .

O.E.D.

The compactness theorem implies that also every logical consequence of the extensions axioms almost surely holds in a random graph. **Corollary 5.8.** If  $T \models \psi$  then  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ , and the set T is satisfiable.

*Proof.* If  $T \models \psi$ , then by the compactness theorem there is a finite set  $T_0 \subseteq T$  such that  $T_0 \models \psi$ . Hence, we have  $\mu_n(\psi) \ge \mu_n(\wedge T_0)$ . Observe that  $\mu_n(\neg \varphi) = 1 - \mu_n(\varphi)$  and  $\mu_n(\varphi_1 \lor \varphi_2) \le \mu_n(\varphi_1) + \mu_n(\varphi_2)$  are true for every sentences  $\varphi, \varphi_1, \varphi_2$ . Furthermore, by Lemma 5.7, it follows that  $\mu_n(\neg \sigma) = 1 - \mu_n(\sigma) \to 0$  for  $n \to \infty$ . Putting everything together, we obtain

$$\mu_n(\neg \psi) \le \mu_n(\neg \bigwedge T_0) = \mu_n(\bigvee_{\sigma \in T_0} \neg \sigma) \le \sum_{\sigma \in T_0} \mu_n(\neg \sigma)$$

and the sum on the right converges to 0 for  $n \to \infty$ , which implies that  $\mu_n(\psi)$  converges to 1 or, to put it differently,  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ . Q.E.D.

Interestingly, one can give explicit description of models of T and we present two different possibilities here. However, as we show later that T is  $\omega$ -categorical, these models are isomorphic.

**Definition 5.9** (Rado graph). The following graphs are models of *T*.

(1) Let  $p_i$  denote the *i*-th prime number. We define  $G = (\mathbb{N}, E)$  with

$$E := \{(i, j) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} : p_i \mid j \text{ or } p_i \mid i.\}$$

We claim that  $G \models T$ . To see this, we choose an arbitrary extension axiom  $\sigma_{s,t} := \forall x_1 \cdots \forall x_m (s(\overline{x}) \to \exists x_{m+1} t(\overline{x}, x_{m+1})) \in T$ .

Let  $I \cup J = \{1, ..., m\}$  be the partition defined by t with respect to the following condition

- If  $t \models Ex_ix_{m+1}$  then  $i \in I$ , and
- if  $t \models \neg Ex_i x_{m+1}$  then  $i \in J$ .

Let  $a_1, ..., a_k \in A$  such that  $G \models s(a_1, ..., a_k)$ . We set  $a_{m+1} := \prod_{i \in I} p_{a_i} q$  where q is a prime number with  $q > p_{a_1} \cdots p_{a_m}$ . Then it is easy to check that  $G \models Ea_i a_{m+1}$  for all  $i \in I$  and  $G \models \neg Ea_j a_{m+1}$  for all  $j \in J$ .

- (2) The set HF of heriditarily finite sets is defined by:
  - $\emptyset \in HF$
  - If  $a_1, \ldots, a_k \in HF$ , then also  $\{a_1, \ldots, a_k\} \in HF$ .

Let G = (HF, E) with  $E := \{(a, b) : a \in b \text{ or } b \in a\}$ . Similarly as above, one can show that  $G \models T$ .

**Theorem 5.10.** Let  $G = (V_G, E_G)$  and  $H = (V_H, E_H)$  be two countable models of T. Then  $G \cong H$ . The unique countable model of T is known as the *Rado graph*  $\mathcal{R}$ .

*Proof.* First of all, it is clear that T has no finite models, hence G and H are infinite graphs. We fix two enumerations of  $V_G$  and  $V_H$  and inductively construct a sequence of partial isomorphism  $p_0, p_1, p_2, \ldots$  between G and H such that  $p_0 \subseteq p_1 \subseteq p_2 \subseteq \cdots$ . For the base case, we set  $p_0 := \emptyset$ . For the induction step let  $p_i = \{(a_1, b_1), \ldots, (a_i, b_i)\} \in \text{Loc}(G, H)$  be already defined. We distinguish between the following two cases:

- If i is even, choose  $a_{i+1} \in V_G$  to be the minimal element (with respect to the enumeration of  $V_G$ ) which is not in the domain of  $p_i$ , i.e.  $a_{i+1} \notin \{a_1, \ldots, a_i\}$ . Let  $s := t_G(a_1, \ldots, a_i)$  and  $t := t_G(a_1, \ldots, a_{i+1})$ . Since  $p_i$  is a partial isomorphism we know that  $H \models s(b_1, \ldots, b_i)$ . Since  $H \models \sigma_{s,t}$  there exists an element  $b_{i+1} \in V_H$  such that  $H \models t(b_1, \ldots, b_{i+1})$ . We set  $p_{i+1} := p_i \cup \{(a_{i+1}, b_{i+1})\}$  and obtain a partial isomorphism extending  $p_i$ .
- If i is odd, we proceed analogously, but this time we let  $b_{i+1} \in V_H$  be the minimal element (with respect to the enumeration of  $V_H$ ) which is not in the image of  $p_i$ , i.e.  $b_{i+1} \notin \{b_1, \ldots, b_i\}$ . For  $s := t_H(b_1, \ldots, b_i)$  and  $t := t_H(b_1, \ldots, b_{i+1})$ , the same reasoning as above yields an element  $a_{i+1} \in V_G$  such that  $G \models t(a_1, \ldots, a_{i+1})$ . Again we obtain an extended partial isomorphism by setting  $p_{i+1} := p_i \cup \{(a_{i+1}, b_{i+1})\}$ .

Finally we let  $p:=\bigcup_{i\geq 0}p_i$ . By construction we have that  $dom(p)=V_G$  and  $im(p)=V_H$ , hence  $p:G\stackrel{\sim}{\longrightarrow} H$ . Q.E.D.

In particular,  $\omega$ -categorical theories are complete:

**Theorem 5.11.** *T* axiomatises a complete theory, i.e. for all sentences  $\psi \in FO(\{E\})$  we have  $T \models \psi$  or  $T \models \neg \psi$ .

*Proof.* Assume for some sentence  $\psi \in FO(\{E\})$  it holds that  $T \not\models \psi$  and  $T \not\models \neg \psi$ . Then by the downwards Löwenheim-Skolem theorem, there exist two countable graphs G and H with  $G \models T \cup \{\psi\}$  and  $H \models T \cup \{\neg \psi\}$ . In particular this implies  $G \not\cong H$ , which contradicts Theorem 5.10.

**Theorem 5.12.** [Glebskiĭ et al., R. Fagin] For all  $\psi \in FO(\{E\})$  it holds:

$$\mu(\psi) = 0$$
 or  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ .

*Proof.* If  $T \models \psi$ , then  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ . Otherwise,  $T \models \neg \psi$ , and hence  $\mu(\psi) = 1 - \mu(\neg \psi) = 0$ .

In particular, we can give a precise characterisation of those first-order properties which hold almost surely in random graphs.

#### **Corollary 5.13.** Let $\psi \in FO(\{E\})$ . Then

$$\mu(\psi) = 1$$
 iff  $T \models \psi$  iff  $\mathcal{R} \models \psi$ .

#### 5.2.1 Applications

We can use Theorem 5.12 to show that certain classes of graphs are not definable in first-order logic: if a class  $\mathcal K$  of graphs has undefined asymptotic probability or an asymptotic probability different from 0 and 1, then clearly  $\mathcal K$  cannot be defined in first-order logic. More generally, this method yields non-definability of  $\mathcal K$  for *every* logic that has a 0-1-law, e.g. for  $L^\omega_{\infty\omega}$  as we see later. For instance, consider the class  $\text{EvenV} = \{G = (V, E) : |V| \text{ is even} \}$  with undefined asymptotic probability or the class  $\text{EvenE} = \{G = (V, E) : |E| \text{ is even} \}$  with  $\mu(\text{EvenE}) = \frac{1}{2}$ . Moreover, we can use our results as a convenient method to determine the asymptotic probability for many natural classes of graphs.

- (1) We want to determine  $\mu(\text{Con})$  where Con denotes the class of connected graphs. Let s be an atomic 2-type in variables x, y containing  $\neg Exy$  and let t be the atomic 3-type in variables x, y, z which extends s and contains  $Exz \land Eyz$ . Then  $G \models \sigma_{s,t}$  iff G has diameter at most 2. Hence,  $G \models \sigma_{s,t}$  implies  $G \in \text{Con}$ , which means that  $\mu(\text{Con}) = 1$ .
- (2) Let K be any class of graphs which exclude a forbidden subgraph  $H = (\{v_1, \ldots, v_k\}, E)$ . Then  $\mu(K) = 0$ . To see this, we set  $s_i(x_1, \ldots, x_i) := t_H(v_1, \ldots, v_i)$  for  $i \le k$  and consider the extension axioms  $\sigma_{s_i s_{i+1}}$ . Then clearly  $\psi := \bigwedge_{i < k} \sigma_{s_i s_{i+1}}$  is a logical consequence of T, which means that  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ . Moreover, if  $G \models \psi$ , then G contains H as an induced subgraph. We conclude that  $\mu(K) \le 1 \mu(\psi) = 0$ . As an application, consider the class of planar graphs which exclude  $K_5$  (the complete graph on 5 vertices) and the class of k-colourable graphs which exclude  $K_{k+1}$  (where k is fixed). To put it in words, a random graph is almost never planar nor k-colourable.

#### 5.3 Generalised zero-one laws

In this section we want to generalise our considerations in two different ways. Firstly, instead of restricting ourselves to graphs, we want to work on more general classes of structures and analyse whether the zero-one-law for FO still holds. Secondly, as FO has rather limited expressive power, we look for zero-one laws for more powerful logics as well.

Let  $\tau$  be an arbitrary vocabulary (not necessarily relational). By  $\operatorname{Str}_n(\tau)$  we denote the set of all  $\tau$ -structures over the universe  $\{0,\ldots,n-1\}$ . As before we define a sequence  $\overline{\mu}=(\mu_1,\mu_2,\ldots)$  of uniform probability distributions  $\mu_n:\operatorname{Str}_n(\tau)\to [0,1]$ , i.e. for every  $\mathfrak{A}\in\operatorname{Str}_n(\tau)$  we set

$$\mu_n(\mathfrak{A}) = \frac{1}{|\operatorname{Str}_n(\tau)|}.$$

We claim that  $FO(\tau)$  has a zero-one law if, and only if,  $\tau$  contains no function symbols. To this end, we first consider the case where  $\tau$  contains function symbols:

- (1) Assume  $\{P,c\} \subseteq \tau$  where c is a constant symbol and P a monadic relation. Then for  $\psi := Pc$  we have  $\mu_n(\psi) = \frac{1}{2}$  for all  $n \ge 1$ , hence  $\mu(\psi) = \frac{1}{2}$ , i.e. the zero-one law does hold in this case.
- (2) Assume  $f \in \tau$  where f is a unary function symbol. Consider the FO( $\tau$ )-sentence  $\psi := \exists x (fx = x)$  stating that f has a fixed point. For  $n \ge 1$  we have

$$\mu_n(\psi) = 1 - \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \underbrace{\left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right)}_{=\Pr[f(i)\neq i]} = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^n.$$

Since  $\left(1-\frac{1}{n}\right)^n \longrightarrow e^{-1}$  for  $n \to \infty$ , the zero-one law does not hold in this case either.

For the other direction, let  $\tau$  be purely relational,  $\tau = \{R_1, \dots, R_k\}$ . The proof strategy we used over graphs generalises for this general in a straightforward way:

• An atomic  $\tau$ -type in k variables is a maximal, consistent set of  $\tau$ -

literals over variables  $x_1, \ldots, x_k$ . For a  $\tau$ -structure  $\mathfrak A$  and  $\overline a \in \mathfrak A$  we set  $t_{\mathfrak A}(\overline a) = \{\varphi(\overline x) : \varphi \text{ a } \tau\text{-literal with } \mathfrak A \models \varphi(\overline a)\}.$ 

• The  $\tau$ -extension axiom  $\sigma_{s,t}$  for two atomic  $\tau$ -types s and t (in k and k+1 variables, respectively) with  $s \subseteq t$  is defined as

$$\sigma_{s,t} := \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \exists x_{k+1} t(\overline{x}, x_{k+1})).$$

As before, we let T denote the set of all  $\tau$ -extension axioms

• Again we can show that  $\mu(\sigma_{s,t}) = 1$  for all  $\sigma_{s,t} \in T$ . Let r denote the number of literals in t which contain  $x_{m+1}$ . Then, for a random structure  $\mathfrak{A} \in \operatorname{Str}_n(\tau)$ ,  $\overline{a} \in A$  and  $a_{m+1}$  it holds

$$\Pr[\mathfrak{A} \models t(\overline{a}, a_{m+1}) \mid \mathfrak{A} \models s(\overline{a})] = 2^{-r}.$$

Thus

$$\mu_n(\neg \sigma_{s,t}) = \mu_n(\exists \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \land \forall x_{m+1} \neg t(\overline{x}, x_{m+1})))$$

$$< n^m (1 - 2^{-r})^{n-m} \xrightarrow{\exp. \text{ fast}} 0.$$

• T is  $\omega$ -categorical: analogously!

Our analysis raises the question why even basic functions but not arbitrary relations inhibit a zero-one law. The reason is that atomic experiments are not longer stochastically independent. For instance, consider the experiments f(a) = b and f(a) = c (for  $b \neq c$ ), then  $\Pr[f(a) = c \mid f(a) = b] = 0 \neq \Pr[f(a) = c]$ .

### 5.3.1 Zero-one law for $L^{\omega}_{\infty\omega}$

We proceed to show that the zero-one law holds for  $L^{\omega}_{\infty\omega}$  as well (restricted to relational vocabularies). In particular, since LFP  $\leq L^{\omega}_{\infty\omega}$ , this means that a random graph either almost surely has an LFP-definable property or almost never does. With FO<sup>k</sup> we denote the k-variable fragment of FO, i.e. FO<sup>k</sup> = FO  $\cap L^k_{\infty\omega} = \{\varphi \in FO : \varphi \text{ only contains variables } x_1, \ldots, x_k\}$ . If we restrict the set of extension axioms T to FO<sup>k</sup> we obtain finite sets of approximations of T which are

again sentences in  $FO^k$ ; more specifically, we set

$$\Theta_k := \bigwedge T \cap FO^k = \bigwedge \{ \sigma_{s,t} : \sigma_{s,t} \in T \cap FO^k \} \in FO^k.$$

The central property of these approximations for T is stated in the following theorem: in models of  $\Theta_k$ , every  $L^k_{\infty\omega}$ -formula is equivalent to a simple Boolean combinations of atomic k-types. In particular, every  $L^k_{\infty\omega}$ -sentence is either true or false in all models of  $\Theta_k$ .

**Theorem 5.14.** Let  $m \le k$ ,  $s(x_1, ..., x_m)$  an atomic m-type and  $\varphi(x_1, ..., x_m) \in L^k_{\infty \omega}$ . Then

either 
$$\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \varphi(\overline{x}))$$
  
or  $\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \neg \varphi(\overline{x})).$ 

*Proof.* We proceed by induction on  $\varphi$  and simultaneously show the claim for all  $m \le k$  and atomic types s. If  $\varphi$  is atomic, then either  $\varphi \in s$  or  $\neg \varphi \in s$ . If  $\varphi = \neg \psi$ , the claim directly follows.

Let  $\varphi = \bigwedge \Psi$ ,  $\Psi \subseteq L^k_{\infty \omega}$ . By induction hypothesis for all  $\psi \in \Psi$ 

either 
$$\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \psi(\overline{x}))$$
  
or  $\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \neg \psi(\overline{x})).$ 

If  $\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \psi(\overline{x}))$  for all  $\psi \in \Psi$ , then  $\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \bigwedge \Psi(\overline{x}))$ . Otherwise,  $\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \neg \bigwedge \Psi(\overline{x}))$ .

Let  $\varphi(\overline{x}) = \exists y \psi(\overline{x}, y)$  and assume that  $\Theta_k \not\models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \neg \varphi(\overline{x}))$ . Choose a structure  $\mathfrak{A} \models \Theta_k$  with  $\mathfrak{A} \models \exists \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \land \exists y \psi(\overline{x}, y))$  and consider the following two cases

• If  $y \notin \{x_1, \ldots, x_m\}$ , i.e.  $y \in \{x_{m+1}, \ldots, x_k\}$ ; let  $a_1, \ldots, a_m, b \in A$  such that  $\mathfrak{A} \models s(\overline{a}) \land \psi(\overline{a}, b)$ . We define the atomic type  $t(x_1, \ldots, x_m, y) := t_{\mathfrak{A}}(\overline{a}, b)$  with  $s \subseteq t$ . In particular,

$$\mathfrak{A} \models \exists \overline{x} \exists y (t(\overline{x}, y) \land \psi(\overline{x}, y)).$$

By induction hypothesis we know that

$$\mathfrak{A}\models\forall\overline{x}\forall y(t(\overline{x},y)\rightarrow\psi(\overline{x},y)),$$

and since  $\sigma_{s,t} = \forall \overline{x}(s(x) \to \exists y t(\overline{x}, y))$  is an extension axiom contained in  $\Theta_k$  we finally obtain

$$\mathfrak{A} \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \exists y \psi(\overline{x}, y)).$$

• If  $y \in \{x_1, ..., x_m\}$ , i.e.  $y = x_j$  for  $j \le m$ ; let  $\overline{a} \in A$  such that  $\mathfrak{A} \models s(\overline{a}) \land \exists x_j \psi(\overline{a})$ , and let  $\overline{x}^*$  and  $\overline{a}^*$  denote the tuples  $\overline{x}$  and  $\overline{a}$  without the j-th componenent, i.e.

$$\overline{x}^* := x_1 \cdots x_{j-1} x_{j+1} \cdots x_k$$
$$\overline{a}^* := a_1 \cdots a_{j-1} a_{j+1} \cdots a_k.$$

Similarly, let  $s^{\star}(\overline{x}^{\star}) := t_{\mathfrak{A}}(\overline{a}^{\star})$  be the atomic type of  $\overline{a}^{\star}$  in  $\mathfrak{A}$ . Then  $s^{\star} \subseteq s$  and there is  $b \in A$  such that

$$\mathfrak{A} \models s^{\star}(\overline{a}^{\star}) \wedge \psi(\overline{a}\frac{b}{a_{j}}), \text{ where } \overline{a}\frac{b}{a_{j}} := a_{1} \cdots a_{j-1}ba_{j+1} \cdots a_{m}.$$

For  $t^*(\overline{x}) := t_{\mathfrak{A}}(\overline{a} \frac{b}{a_j})$  we thus have  $\mathfrak{A} \models \exists (t^*(\overline{x}) \land \psi(\overline{x}))$ , and the induction hypothesis yields

$$\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(t^*(\overline{x}) \to \psi(\overline{x})).$$

As above, since  $s^\star \subseteq t^\star$ , it holds that  $\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}^\star(s^\star(\overline{x}^\star) \to \exists x_j t^\star(\overline{x}))$ , and altogether we obtain

$$\Theta_k \models \forall \overline{x}(s(\overline{x}) \to \exists x_j \psi(\overline{x})).$$

Q.E.D.

**Corollary 5.15.** For every  $L_{\infty\omega}^k$ -sentence  $\psi$  we either have  $\Theta_k \models \psi$  or  $\Theta_k \models \neg \psi$ .

**Corollary 5.16.** If  $\mathfrak{A} \models \Theta_k$  and  $\mathfrak{B} \models \Theta_k$ , then  $\mathfrak{A} \equiv_{L_{max}^k} \mathfrak{B}$ .

**Corollary 5.17** (Kolaitis, Varidi 1992). For every sentence  $\psi \in L^{\omega}_{\infty\omega}$  (over a relational signature) we have  $\mu(\psi) = 0$  or  $\mu(\psi) = 1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\psi \in L^k_{\infty\omega}$  for some  $k \geq 1$ . Then by Corollary 5.15 we have

# 5 Zero-one laws

 $\Theta_k \models \psi$  or  $\Theta_k \models \neg \psi$ . Since  $\Theta_k \subseteq T$  is finite, we have  $\mu(\Theta_k) = 1$  and thus the claim follows.