

# AROUND FINITE BASIS RESULTS FOR QUASI-ORDERS

## Introductory Lecture

During this course, I will take a closer look at some specific quasi-orders on classes of analytic objects or structures.

- continuous homomorphism on analytic graphs and box-open hypergraphs on analytic spaces.
- topological embeddability and continuous reducibility on  $\text{Borel}$ /analytic functions.

I will first prove how finite basis results on graphs and hypergraphs can yield finite basis results for

functions.

Then I will discuss the possibility of guaranteeing finite basis results on functions, that is the possibility and/or impossibility for topological embeddability and cont. reducibility to be well-quasi-ordered.

What is a finite basis result for a quasi-order?

Def. A quasi-order is a transitive and reflexive relation  $\leq_{\mathcal{L}}$  on a class  $\mathcal{L}$ .

Typical example:  $\mathcal{L}$  is a class of structures, and  $\leq_{\mathcal{L}}$  is given by the existence of a morphism between two of these. So:

- $\text{Lin}$ , the class of all linear orders, with embeddings as morphisms (order-preserving injections)  
 $K, L$  linear orders  
 $K \leq L$  if there exist  $\sigma: K \rightarrow L$  embedding.
- Topological spaces w/ continuous injections
- Many others w/ graphs, functions.

Note right away that a partial order is a  $qo$ , but the converse is not true, as shown for instance by  $\text{Lin}$ : bi-embeddability is not identity, so many linear orders are bi-comparable without being equal.

We systematically denote  $\equiv_{\mathcal{C}}$  the equiv. relation associated with  $\leq_{\mathcal{C}}$ , that is



↳. A set  $B$  in  $\mathcal{D}$  is a basis for  $\mathcal{D}$  if for every element  $d$  in  $\mathcal{D}$  there is  $b$  in  $B$  such that  $b \leq_{\varepsilon} d$ .

A finite basis result is a statement of existence of a finite basis, for a subclass  $\mathcal{D}$  of a certain class  $\mathcal{C}$ , with respect to a given quasi-order.

Example: Let  $\omega$  denote the usual order on  $\mathbb{N}$ , and  $\omega^*$  its reverse

Fact  $\{\omega, \omega^*\}$  is a basis wrt embeddability for the infinite linear orders.

Generalising the previous fact to uncountable linear orders is independent of ZFC! But

Thm (Moore) Assuming the Proper Forcing Axiom

there is a five-elements basis for uncountable linear orders.

## Getting closer to our framework

We work with topological spaces that have nice properties.

- Polish spaces: completely metrisable spaces.

ex: •  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$

- Any separable Banach space

- $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  with the product topology of the discrete one.

$2^{\mathbb{N}}$  is homeomorphic to the usual Cantor space,  
built either geometrically by cutting in three a segment  
and throwing away the middle part, or looking at

$$\left\{ x \in [0,1] \mid x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{k_i}{3^{i+1}}, k_i \in \{0,2\} \right\}.$$

The Baire space:  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  w/ product topology.

It is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ . Each  $s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$  gives a  
basic open set:  $N_s := \{ x \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \mid s \text{ is an init. segment of } x \}$   
written  $s \sqsubseteq x$ .

Same topology for  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ .

A basic result for Polish space:

Thm (Cantor) For every uncountable Polish space  $X$   
there is a continuous injection  $2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow X$ .

This is also known as the Perfect Set Property for Polish  
spaces.

• Analytic spaces. Continuous images of Polish spaces.

Or equivalently, the empty set and all continuous images of the Baire space.

This allows to talk about a really wide variety of spaces.

Ex: Continuously differentiable functions on  $[0, 1]$

Given  $f$  continuous on  $[0, 1]$  the set  $\{x \in [0, 1] \mid f'(x) \text{ exists}\}$

for any Polish  $X$  the set of uncountable closed subsets of  $X$ .

Thm (Suslin) Analytic spaces have the Perfect Set Property.

• Borel sets. Given a topological space  $X$ , the Borel sets in  $X$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by the



open sets, that is the smallest family that contains the open sets and that is closed under countable  $\cap$  and complements. In general it is messy, but for Polish spaces it looks like this:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \Delta_1^0 & \subseteq & \Sigma_1^0 & \subseteq & \Delta_2^0 & \subseteq & \Sigma_2^0 & \subseteq & \Delta_3^0 & \dots & \Sigma_\omega^0 & \subseteq & \Delta_{\omega+1}^0 & \dots \\ & \subseteq & \Pi_1^0 & \subseteq & & \subseteq & \Pi_2^0 & \subseteq & & & \Pi_\omega^0 & \subseteq & & \end{array}$$

Among the examples above the first two are Borel sets, and the last one, provided that  $X$  is uncountable itself, is not. (Hurewicz).

analytic is denoted  $\Sigma_1^1$ , coanalytic  $\Pi_1^1$ .

Suslin proved that for Polish, Borel =  $\Delta_1^1 = \Sigma_1^1 \cap \Pi_1^1$ .

# Graphs and definable chromatic numbers

Def  $\therefore$  A graph is an irreflexive symmetric relation on a set  $X$ , sometimes denoted  $(X, G)$ .

- A  $K$ -coloring of  $(X, G)$  for some set  $K$  is a map  $c: X \rightarrow K$  satisfying  $(x, y) \in G \Rightarrow c(x) \neq c(y)$
- The chromatic number of  $G$  is the minimal size of a set  $K$  (or without AC the minimal cardinal  $K$ ) such that  $G$  has a  $K$ -coloring.
- $G$  is acyclic if for all injective sequences  $(x_i)_{i \leq n}$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $(x_n, x_0) \in G$  then either  $n = 1$  or

there exists  $i < n$  with  $(u_i, u_{i+1}) \in G$ .

Prop Using the axiom of choice, every acyclic graph has chromatic number 2.

Pf. Suppose first that  $(X, G)$  is acyclic and connected.

that is  $\forall x, y \in X \exists (u_i)_{i \leq n}$  s.t.  $u_0 = x, (u_i, u_{i+1}) \in G$  and  $(u_n, y) \in G$ , called a path from  $x$  to  $y$ .

By acyclicity an injective such path is unique, we call its length the distance from  $x$  to  $y$ , noted  $d(x, y)$

fix any  $x$  in  $X$  gives a 2-coloring as follows.

$$\begin{array}{l} \sigma_{x, X} : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \\ x \longmapsto 0 \\ v \neq x \longmapsto \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } d(x, v) \text{ is even} \end{cases} \end{array}$$

$\{ 1 \text{ otherwise.}$

Consider now  $(Y, G)$  any acyclic graph.

Call  $C_G$  the set of connected components of  $Y$ ,

and fix a choice function  $\iota: C_G \rightarrow Y, \iota(X) \in X$ .

This gives a 2-coloring  $\sigma = \bigcup_{X \in C_G} \sigma_{\iota(X), X}$ .  $\square$

This begs for the question: if  $G$  is an acyclic and "definable" graph, can we find a "definable" 2-coloring?

Suppose that  $G$  is a graph on a topological space  $X$ ,

a  $K$ -coloring of  $G$  is Borel if  $\forall i \in K \ c_i^{-1}(\{i\})$  is Borel.

The Borel chromatic number of  $G$  is the minimum card.

$\kappa$  such that  $G$  has a Borel  $\kappa$ -coloring.

The more precise problem becomes:

Take  $(X, G)$  an acyclic graph. If  $X$  is Polish and  $G$  analytic, do we have a Borel 2-coloring of  $G$ ?

The answer is no!

We are going to define a (family of) counterexample(s) on  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ .

Def: Fix  $S \subseteq 2^{<\mathbb{N}}$ .

• Note  $G_S = \bigcup_{s \in S} \{ (s \frown (i) \frown z, s \frown (1-i) \frown z) \mid \substack{i=0,1 \\ z \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}} \}$

• Say that  $S$  is sparse if for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$2^n \cap S$  is at most a singleton

- Say that  $S$  is dense if  $\forall t \in 2^{\mathbb{N}} \exists s \in S \ t \sqsubseteq s$ .

Prop : If  $S$  is sparse then  $G_S$  is acyclic.

Pf. Take an injective  $(x_i)_{i \leq n}$  in  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ , and suppose that  $(x_0, x_n) \in G_S$  and that  $n \neq 1$  (so  $n > 1$ ).

We want to find  $i < n$  st  $(x_i, x_{i+1}) \notin G_S$ .

Case 1 : if there is  $i < n$  st  $\{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid x_i(m) \neq x_{i+1}(m)\}$

is of size at least 2 then by definition of  $G_S$  for such an  $i$ ,  $(x_i, x_{i+1}) \notin G_S$ .

So for all  $i < n$  we have  $s_i \in 2^{< i \mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\varepsilon_i \in 2$  and  $z_i \in 2^{\mathbb{N}}$  with

$$x_i = s_i \wedge (\varepsilon_i) \wedge z_i, \quad x_{i+1} = s_i \wedge (1 - \varepsilon_i) \wedge z_i. \quad (*)$$

Case 2 : for some  $i < n$   $s_i \notin S$ . Then  $(x_i, x_{i+1}) \notin G_S$ .

So suppose that for all  $i < n$   $s_i \in S$  (towards contradiction)

Call  $s_n \in S$  the witness that  $(\alpha_0, \alpha_n) \in G_S$ .

Using  $(*)$ , injectivity of  $(\alpha_i)_{i \leq n}$  yields injectivity of  $(s_i)_{i \leq n}$ . Since  $S$  is sparse, we have injectivity of  $(m_i)_{i \leq n}$  where  $m_i = \lg(s_i)$  the length of  $s_i$ .

Using  $(*)$  again, we have for all  $i < n$

$j \leq i \Rightarrow \alpha_j(m_i) = \varepsilon_i$  and  $i < j \Rightarrow \alpha_j(m_i) = 1 - \varepsilon_i$

by injectivity of  $(m_i)_{i \leq n}$ .

But then  $\alpha_0(m_0) \neq \alpha_n(m_0)$  and  $\alpha_0(m_n) \neq \alpha_n(m_n)$

Contradiction. □

Prop: If  $S$  is dense then  $G_S$  admits no

Baire-measurable coloring  $c: 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

Pf: Take  $c: 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  Baire-measurable.

Since  $2^{\mathbb{N}}$  satisfies the Baire category theorem,

there exists  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $S \in 2^{<\mathbb{N}}$  such that

$c^{-1}(\{m\})$  is comeager in  $N_S$ . Use density

to find  $t \in S$  with  $S \subseteq t$ , note that  $c^{-1}(\{m\})$

is also comeager in  $N_t$ .

The map  $f_t: 2^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$

$$x \mapsto \begin{cases} t \wedge (1-i) \wedge z & \text{if } x = t \wedge (i) \wedge z \\ x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is a homeomorphism, so  $f_t(c^{-1}(\{m\}))$  is

comeager in  $N_t$ .



is a vertex in  $V_f$  as well.

So  $N_f \cap c^{-1}(\{m\}) \cap \varphi_f^{-1}(c^{-1}(\{m\})) \neq \emptyset$ ,  
which finally means that  $c^{-1}(\{m\})$  contains a  
 $G_S$ -edge, so  $c$  is not a coloring of  $G_S$ .  $\square$