

# Pseudofinite model theory and combinatorics

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- ▶ In general we are concerned with finite graphs, which we will normally take to be bipartite, for technical reasons. Namely  $(V, W, R)$  where  $V, W$  are finite sets and  $R \subseteq V \times W$ .
- ▶ One class of problems is what we call Erdős-Hajnal-type problems.
- ▶ This means trying to find “large”  $V_0 \subseteq V$  and  $W_0 \subseteq W$  such that  $V_0 \times W_0$  is homogeneous for  $R$ , namely  $V_0 \times W_0 \subseteq R$ , or  $V_0 \times W_0 \subseteq R^c$  (the complement of  $R$ ). (So Ramsey-type theorems.)

# Introduction II

- ▶ The actual Erdős-Hajnal conjecture, restricts attention to the class of finite graphs  $(V, W, R)$  omitting a given induced finite subgraph  $H$ , and asks there to be  $\delta > 0$  (depending on  $H$ ), such that for all  $(V, W, R)$ , there is homogeneous  $V_0 \times W_0$  with  $|V_0| \geq |V|^\delta$ , and  $|W_0| \geq |W|^\delta$ .

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- ▶ In this most general formulation,  $H$  is an arbitrary finite graph. But we could restrict attention to specific  $H$  and aim for better results (which we do later).
- ▶ The second class of problems concerns trying to decompose, or partition,  $V$  and  $W$  into a “small” number of sets  $V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_n$ ,  $W = W_1 \cup \dots \cup W_m$ , such that each induced subgraph  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$  is “regular”. Namely sufficiently large induced subgraphs of  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$  have approximately the same density.



# Introduction III

- ▶ In this general context we have Szemerédi's regularity theorem, which says that given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is  $N_\epsilon$  such that for all  $(V, W, R)$ , we can partition  $V, W$  as above, with  $n, m \leq N_\epsilon$ , and such that outside an “ $\epsilon$ -small” exceptional set  $\Sigma$  of  $(i, j)$ , each  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular. “ $\epsilon$ -small” means that  $|\cup_{i,j \in \Sigma} V_i \times W_j| \leq \epsilon|V \times W|$ .

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- ▶ And  $\epsilon$ -regularity of  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$  means that for any induced subgraph  $(V', W', R|(V' \times W'))$  of  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$ , with  $|V'| \geq \epsilon|V_i|$  and  $|W'| \geq \epsilon|W_j|$ , the densities of  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$  and  $(V', W', R|(V' \times W'))$  differ by  $< \epsilon$ .

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- ▶ (The regularity lemma also includes a statement that the  $V_i$ 's are roughly the same size. Also the  $W_j$ 's.) Under additional assumptions on the relation  $R$  we would like to obtain stronger conclusions, with for example homogeneity replacing regularity, and maybe with no exceptional set.

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- ▶ This problematic falls under the description of “arithmetic regularity theorems”. An important paper of Ben Green deals with the case where  $G$  is commutative, and  $X$  arbitrary.
- ▶ We will give some results where  $G$  is arbitrary (not necessarily commutative), but under some restrictions on  $X$  (or on the associated relation  $R$ ).



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- ▶ This last topic is really “work in progress”, so I will not say so much about it in these lectures.

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- ▶ What is kind of new in the recent applications of model theory is that the nonstandard methods are combined with applying nontrivial structural theorems in the nonstandard (pseudofinite) model.
- ▶ This point of view was in a sense initiated when model theorists found another proof (valid in all characteristics) of Tao's algebraic regularity theorem (Tao) for graphs defined in finite fields (Pillay-Starchenko, Hrushovski).



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- ▶ However I should also mention that our methods do not, as a rule, give optimal bounds, although the problem of good bounds *is* an important aspect of the combinatorial conjectures and results.

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- ▶ For simplicity I will assume we are in a 1-sorted situation (namely just one sort), so the relation and function symbols come with a finite “arity”. We also assume a distinguished binary relation symbol  $=$  (for equality). The many-sorted context is an easy generalization, and I may freely work in such a context.

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- ▶ From these symbols, together with the logical connectives ( $\neg, \vee, \wedge, \exists, \forall$  and parentheses) as well as a supply of variables  $v_i$  or  $x_i$  or  $y_i$ , we build  $L$ -formulas.

## Model theory II

- ▶  $L$ -formulas are typically denoted  $\phi, \psi$ , or  $\phi(\bar{x}), \psi(\bar{y})$  to witness the free variables.  $L$ -sentences, namely  $L$ -formulas with no free variables, are typically denoted  $\sigma, \tau, \dots$



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- ▶ We have the notion of an  $L$ -structure  $M$ , a set equipped with actual relations, functions, distinguished elements, interpreting the symbols of  $L$ . We often notationally identify an  $L$ -structure  $M$  with its underlying set or universe.

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- ▶ For  $M$  an  $L$ -structure,  $\phi(\bar{x})$  an  $L$ -formula, and  $\bar{a}$  a tuple of the appropriate length from  $M$ , " $M \models \phi(\bar{a})$ " means that the formula is true in the structure  $M$  when  $\bar{x}$  is interpreted as  $\bar{a}$ . If  $\phi$  is a sentence we also say  $M$  is a model of  $\phi$ .

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- ▶ If  $\phi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  is an  $L$ -formula, and  $\bar{b}$  a tuple from  $M$  then  $X = \{\bar{a} \in M : M \models \phi(\bar{a}, \bar{b})\}$  is called a set definable in  $M$  over  $\bar{b}$ , or a  $\bar{b}$ -definable set in  $M$ . If  $B$  is a subset of  $M$  containing the tuple  $\bar{b}$  we may also say " $B$ -definable in  $M$ ".

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- ▶ If  $B \subseteq M$  and  $\bar{a}$  an  $n$ -tuple, then  $tp_M(\bar{a}/B)$  denotes the collection of  $L_B$ -formulas  $\phi(\bar{x})$  true of  $\bar{a}$  in  $M$  (equivalently the collection of  $B$ -definable sets  $X$  of  $n$ -tuples in  $M$  such that  $\bar{a} \in X$ ).

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- ▶ A collection  $\Sigma(\bar{x})$  of  $L_M$ -formulas (with free variables among  $\bar{x}$  is said to be *consistent* (with  $M$ ) if it is *finitely satisfiable* in  $M$ , namely for each finite subset  $\Sigma'$  of  $\Sigma$  there is  $\bar{a}$  in  $M$  such that  $M \models \bigwedge \Sigma'(\bar{a})$ .

# Model theory IV

- ▶ A key notion is “ $N$  is an elementary extension of  $M$ ” (or  $M$  is an elementary substructure of  $N$ ):  $M \subseteq N$  in the obvious sense, and  $M, N$  are models of the same  $L_M$ -sentences.



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- ▶ The compactness theorem says that a collection  $\Sigma$  of  $L$ -sentences has a model if every finite subset of  $\Sigma$  has a model. It implies that any  $L$ -structure  $M$  has an elementary extension  $N$  with the property that for every consistent (with  $M$ ) collection  $\Sigma(\bar{x})$  of  $L_M$ -formulas, there is a tuple  $\bar{a}$  from  $N$  such that  $N \models \Sigma(\bar{a})$  (where the latter notation means that  $N \models \phi(\bar{a})$  for all  $\phi(\bar{x}) \in \Sigma$ , and we also say that  $\bar{a}$  *realizes*  $\Sigma(\bar{x})$  in  $N$ .)

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- ▶ We mention a couple of consequences. First modulo some set theory, for any  $L$ -structure  $M$  and sufficiently large cardinal  $\kappa$ ,  $M$  has an elementary extension  $N$  which is  $\kappa$ -saturated and is of cardinality  $\kappa$ .

# Model theory V

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- ▶ Such a  $\kappa$ -saturated model  $N$  of cardinality  $\kappa$  is unique up to isomorphism, in the sense that its isomorphism type is determined by its *first order theory*  $T = Th(N)$ , the set of  $L$ -sentences  $\sigma$  such that  $N \models \sigma$ .

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- ▶ Secondly, fixing  $M$ , a subset  $B$  of  $M$ , an  $n < \omega$ , the Stone space (space of ultrafilters) of the Boolean algebra of formulas  $\phi(\bar{x})$  in  $L_B$  up to equivalence in  $M$ , coincides with  $\{tp_N(\bar{a}/B) : \bar{a} \in N\}$  where  $N$  is some sufficiently saturated elementary extension of  $M$ . We call the space  $S_n(B)$  (although it depends on the  $L_B$ -theory of  $M$ ).

# Model theory VI

- ▶ We have been talking about structures or models so far, but in fact the main objects of study of model theory, are *first order theories*  $T$ , where an  $L$ -theory  $T$  is simply a collection of  $L$ -sentences which has a model.  $T$  is often assumed to be complete.

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- ▶ Among the invariants of an  $L$ -theory  $T$  is  $Mod(T)$ , the category of models of  $T$  with elementary embeddings.

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# Definable families I

- ▶ We fix a complete  $L$ -theory  $T$  and typically work in a  $\kappa$ -saturated model  $\bar{M}$  of cardinality  $\kappa$  for some large  $\kappa$ .  $M, N$  etc denote small elementary substructures, and  $A, B, ..$  small subsets. It is also convenient to let  $x, y, ..$  range over finite tuples of variables, rather than individual variables.

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- ▶ Maybe the third point needs some comments.

## Definable families II

- ▶ Fix a model  $M$ . Then  $S_x(M)$  is a compact space. For each  $b \in M$ , we obtain a continuous function  $f_b$  on  $S_x(M)$  where  $f(p) = 1$  if  $\phi(x, b) \in p$  and  $= 0$  otherwise. So we get a (definable) family of functions  $f_b, b \in M$ .

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- ▶ This makes a connection of model theory with functional analysis, and in fact some of the basic theorems of stability theory were proved by Grothendieck in his thesis (1951) in this context. (First noticed by Ben-Yaacov).

### Definition 0.1

The formula  $\phi(x, y)$  is  $k$ -stable (for  $T$ ) if there do not exist  $a_1, \dots, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_k$  in some/any model  $M$  of  $T$  such that  $M \models \phi(a_i, b_j)$  iff  $i \leq j$ .



# Definable families III

## Definition 0.2

The formula is  $k$ -NIP (for  $T$ ), if there do not exist  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  and  $b_s$  for  $s \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}$  in some/any model  $M$  of  $T$  such that  $M \models \phi(a_i, b_s)$  iff  $i \in s$ .

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- ▶ There is a similar statement for  $k$ -NIP. It is left to the reader. We just say  $\phi(x, y)$  is NIP for  $T$ .
- ▶  $T$  is said to be stable if every formula  $\phi(x, y)$  is stable (for  $T$ ). Likewise  $T$  is said to be NIP if every formula  $\phi(x, y)$  is NIP for  $T$ . In both cases it is enough to consider formulas where  $x$  is a single variable, rather than a tuple.

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- ▶ So dealing with the class of  $k$ -NIP graphs is relevant to studying graphs omitting a fixed finite subgraph  $H$ .

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- ▶ For an  $L$ -formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , we also have the notion of a complete  $\phi$ -type over a set  $A$  or model  $M$ .
- ▶ This is precisely the restriction of a complete type  $p(x)$  over  $M$  to the collection of Boolean combinations of formulas  $\phi(x, b)$  for  $b \in M$ . It is “determined” (when  $M$  is a model) by the collection of  $\phi(x, b)$ ,  $\neg\phi(x, b)$  for  $b \in M$ , true of a given  $a \in \bar{M}$  (realizing  $p$ ).

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- ▶ Secondly, if  $p'$  is a complete  $\phi$ -type over  $\bar{M}$  extending (or containing  $p$ ) and  $p'$  is finitely satisfiable in  $M$ , then  $p$  is precisely the  $\phi$ -type over  $\bar{M}$  obtained from applying the definition mentioned above; namely for  $b \in \bar{M}$ ,  $\phi(x, b) \in p'$  iff  $\bar{M} \models \psi(b)$ .

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- ▶ We call this the local (i.e. formula by formula) theory in stability. (References: GST for example, but also done in Grothendieck's thesis.)

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- ▶ Where  $(b_i : i < \omega)$  is  $A$ -indiscernible means that  $tp(b_{i_1}, \dots, b_{i_n}/A) = tp(b_{j_1}, \dots, b_{j_n}/A)$  for all  $i_1 < \dots < i_n$  and  $j_1 < \dots < j_n$ .

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- ▶ And  $\psi(x, b)$  forks over  $A$  if it implies a finite disjunction of formulas each of which divides over  $A$ .
- ▶ In any case, with the previous assumptions (stability of  $\phi(x, y)$  etc.)  $p'$  can be characterized also by:  $p \subset p'$  and no formula in  $p'$  divides (forks) over  $A$ .

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- ▶ When  $T$  is stable (namely every  $L$ -formula  $\phi(x, y)$  is stable for  $T$ ), then the local theories cohere to give a nice theory of “independence”, the characteristic feature of which is uniqueness of free extensions.

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- ▶ Again fix a model  $M$ , and an arbitrary type  $p(x) \in S_x(M)$ . Then there is a unique  $p'(x) \in S_x(\bar{M})$  extending  $p(x)$  which satisfies each of the following equivalent conditions:

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- ▶ (iii) no formula in  $p'$  forks (divides) over  $M$ .
- ▶ Moreover we have essentially the same conclusions when  $M$  is replaced by an algebraically closed set  $A$  (finite equivalence relation theorem).

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- ▶ We give an example. The theory  $ACF_0$  of algebraically closed fields of characteristic 0 in the ring language is the archetypal example of an (interesting stable theory).

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- ▶ Then the theory  $T$  of  $K$  equipped with all this structure is *NIP* and unstable.

- ▶ Fix a model  $M$  of  $T$ . Consider the set of formulas  $\Sigma(x)$  over  $N$  expressing that  $x$  is not in the (field-theoretic) algebraic closure of  $M$  and  $P(\bar{M})$ .

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- ▶ Working out the details of all of this is left to the reader. I mainly introduced generically stable types as a motivation for the notion of generically stable measure that will come later.

# Types and graphs I

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- ▶ Let  $p(x)$ ,  $q(y)$  be complete types over  $M$  (in variables  $x, y$  respectively).  $p(x)$  and  $q(y)$  are said to be *weakly orthogonal* if  $p(x) \cup q(y)$  extends to a unique complete type  $r(x, y)$  over  $M$ .

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- ▶ Now let  $(V, W, R)$  be a (bipartite graph) definable in  $\bar{M}$  with parameters from  $M$ . So  $(V(M), W(M), R(M))$  is a bi-partite graph definable in  $M$  (with parameters).

## Types and graphs II

- ▶ Now let  $p(x) \in S_V(M)$  (i.e.  $p(x)$  is a complete type over  $M$  containing the formula “ $x \in V$ ”). Likewise let  $q(y) \in S_W(M)$ .

## Types and graphs II

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- ▶ We can think of  $p$  as defining a  $\{0, 1\}$  valued measure on the Boolean algebra of definable subsets of  $V(M)$ . (Namely a definable set has measure 1 or is “large” if the formula defining it is in  $p$ ). Similarly for  $q(y)$  and  $W(M)$ .

### Theorem 0.3

*In this context, suppose  $p(x)$  and  $q(y)$  are weakly orthogonal. Then there are large definable subsets  $V_0$  of  $V(M)$  and  $W_0$  of  $W(M)$  such that  $(V_0, W_0)$  is homogeneous for  $R(M)$ . Namely either  $(V_0, W_0, R|(V_0 \times W_0))$  is a complete graph or an empty graph.*

# Types and graphs III

## Proof.

Let  $r(x, y)$  be the unique complete type over  $M$  extending  $p(x) \cup q(y)$ .

Case (i)  $R(x, y) \in r(x, y)$ .

So working in  $\bar{M}$ ,  $p(x) \cup q(y) \models R(x, y)$ . By compactness (i.e. saturation of  $\bar{M}$ ), there are formulas  $\phi(x) \in p(x)$ ,  $\psi(y) \in q(y)$  such that  $\bar{M} \models (\forall x)(\forall y)(\phi(x) \wedge \psi(y) \rightarrow R(x, y))$ . So the sentence  $(\forall x)(\forall y)(\phi(x) \wedge \psi(y) \rightarrow R(x, y))$  is also true in  $M$ . Let  $V_0$  be the subset of  $V$  defined by  $\phi(x)$  in  $M$ , Likewise for  $W_0$ , and we see that  $(V_0, W_0, R|(V_0 \times W_0))$  is a complete graph. Both  $V_0$ ,  $W_0$  are large.

Case (ii),  $\neg R(x, y) \in r(x, y)$ .

Similarly we obtain large  $V_0, W_0$  such that  $(V_0, W_0, R(V_0 \times W_0))$  is the empty graph.  $\square$

## Types and graphs IV

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## Theorem 0.4

*Suppose that  $p(x)$  and  $q(y)$  are weakly orthogonal for all  $p(x) \in S_V(M)$  and  $q(y) \in S_W(M)$ . Then we can partition  $V(M)$  into definable sets  $V_0, \dots, V_n$ , and partition  $W(M)$  into definable sets  $W_0, \dots, W_m$  such that each  $(V_i, W_j)$  is homogeneous for  $R$ .*

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Let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure, and  $A$  a subset of some sort  $X$  of  $M$  (e.g. if  $M$  is 1-sorted then  $X$  could be the sort consisting on  $n$ -tuples from  $M$ ). We will say that “ $A$  is pseudofinite in  $M$ ” if whenever  $\sigma$  is a sentence in the language  $L$  together with an additional predicate symbol for  $A$ , and  $(M, A) \models \sigma$ , then there is an  $L$ -structure  $M'$  and subset  $A'$  of  $X(M')$  such that  $(M', A') \models \sigma$ .

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- ▶ Let's make some remarks: Pseudofiniteness of  $A$  in  $M$  is a property of  $Th(M, A)$  (in the language  $L(P) = L \cup \{P\}$ ).
- ▶ If  $M$  is 1-sorted and  $A$  is  $M$  itself, we say that  $M$  is pseudofinite.

- ▶ Suppose that  $A$  is definable in the  $L$ -structure  $M$  by a formula  $\phi(x, b)$ . Then pseudofiniteness of  $A$  in  $M$  is equivalent to : for every  $L$ -formula  $\psi(y)$  in  $tp_M(b)$ , there is an  $L$ -structure  $M'$  and  $b' \in M'$  such that  $M \models \psi(b')$  and  $\phi(x, b')(M')$  is finite.



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- ▶ Note also with our definition, finite implies pseudofinite.
- ▶ We now give some routine equivalences to pseudofiniteness.

## Lemma 0.6

*For  $M$  an  $L$ -structure and  $A$  a subset of a sort  $X$  in  $M$ , the following are equivalent:*

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## Proof.

Let  $\Sigma$  be as in (ii). Then obviously  $(M, A) \models \Sigma$  iff  $(M, A)$  is pseudofinite. On the other hand, assuming  $(M, A)$  to be pseudofinite, let  $I$  be the collection of finite subsets of  $Th(M, A)$ , for each  $i \in I$ , Let  $(M_i, A_i) \models i$  with  $A_i$  finite. Then any nonprincipal ultraproduct of the  $A_i$  is a model of  $Th(M, A)$ .

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- ▶ So as to avoid being precise about what exactly is included in  $V$ , we will just take, notationally, the ground structure to be the (standard) model  $(\mathbb{V}, \epsilon)$  of set theory, and  $(\mathbb{V}^*, \epsilon^*)$  to be a “monster model”, i.e. saturated elementary extension. (Although this doesn't make such a lot of sense formally.)

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- ▶ An object in  $\mathbb{V}^*$  is said to be *internal* if it is definable (with parameters) in  $(\mathbb{V}^*, \epsilon^*)$ .

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- ▶ In  $\mathbb{V}^*$  we have the nonstandard versions  $\mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^*$  of  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ , (as well as of cardinals). Moreover any internal object which is a  $*$ -set, has a (nonstandard) cardinality.

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- ▶ This is expressed by the satisfaction of some formula  $\chi(x, y, z)$  of set theory by  $(M, A, \sigma)$  in  $\mathbb{V}^*$ . So as  $\mathbb{V} \prec \mathbb{V}^*$  we can find  $(M', A')$  in  $\mathbb{V}$  such that  $A'$  is finite and  $(M', A') \models \sigma$ .



# Nonstandard analysis III

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## Lemma 0.7

*Suppose  $M$  is an  $L$ -structure,  $A$  a subset of a sort of  $M$  and  $A$  is pseudofinite in  $M$  (in the sense of Definition 0.5). Then there is some appropriate  $(M^*, A^*)$  in  $\mathbb{V}^*$  such that*

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- ▶ (ii)  $A^*$  is finite in the sense of  $\mathbb{V}^*$ ,
- ▶ (iii) whenever  $\chi(y, z)$  is a formula of set theory true of  $(M^*, A^*)$  in  $\mathbb{V}^*$  then there is  $(M, A) \in \mathbb{V}$  such that  $A$  is finite and  $\chi(y, z)$  is true of  $(M, A)$  (in  $\mathbb{V}$ ).

# Nonstandard analysis IV

Proof.

- ▶ This is a brief outline of the compactness proof.

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# Nonstandard analysis IV

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- ▶ This collection of formulas is finitely satisfiable in  $\mathbb{V}$ , so realized in a saturated elementary extension  $\mathbb{V}^*$ , as required.



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- ▶ So in this sense the 2 notions of pseudofinite cohere, when  $(M, A)$  is “saturated”.

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- ▶ Our rather roundabout way of constructing this “pseudofinite Keisler measure” is partly to avoid an appeal to ultraproducts, which I am allergic to.

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## Definition 0.9

Fix a sort  $X$  over which variables  $x$  range. (So  $X$  could be the sort of  $n$ -tuples.) By a Keisler measure  $\mu(x)$  on  $X$  over  $M$ , we mean a finitely additive probability measure on  $M$ -definable subsets of  $X$ .

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- ▶ This means that  $\mu$  has values in  $[0, 1]$ ,  $\mu(x = x) = 1$ ,  $\mu(x \neq x) = 0$  and for disjoint  $M$ -definable  $Y, Z$ ,  
$$\mu(Y \cup Z) = \mu(Y) + \mu(Z).$$

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- ▶ A Keisler measure on  $X$  over  $M$  is the same thing as a regular Borel probability measure on the Stone space  $S_X(M)$ . (To be explained.)

## Example 0.10

A complete type  $p(x) \in S_x(M)$  is a  $\{0, 1\}$ -valued Keisler measure on  $X$  over  $M$ . From the point of view of the last bullet point, it is a “Dirac”.

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Let  $A$  be a finite subset of  $X(M)$ , and for  $Z$  an  $M$ -definable subset of  $X$  let  $\mu_A(Z) = |Z \cap A|/|A|$ .  $\mu_A$  is a “counting” Keisler measure (on  $X$  over  $M$ ).



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## Example 0.13

Likewise let  $M$  be an  $L$ -structure living in a nonstandard model  $\mathbb{V}^*$  of set theory, and let  $A$  be a finite, in the sense of  $\mathbb{V}^*$ , subset of a sort  $X(M)$ . For  $Z$  a definable subset of  $M$ , let  $\mu_A(Z)$  be as defined earlier ( $st(|Z \cap A|/|A|)$ ).  $\mu_A$  is a “pseudofinite counting” Keisler measure on  $X$  over  $M$ .

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- ▶ Let  $\bar{M}$  be the saturated elementary extension of  $\mathbb{R}$ , another real closed ordered field.

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- ▶ The property of unique extension to a larger model is called *smoothness* and shows the difference with types where the only smooth types over a model are realized ones ( $tp(a/M)$  for  $a \in M$ ).
- ▶ Such measures as well as *generically stable measures* (generalizing generically stable types) will appear later.



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- ▶ Remember that a graph  $(V, W, R)$  is called  $k$ -stable if it *omits* the  $k$ -half graph (which has vertex sets  $\{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$  and  $\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$  with  $R(a_i, b_j)$  iff  $i \leq j$ )

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## Theorem 0.15

*For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there is  $N_\epsilon$  such that for every  $k$ -stable finite graph  $(V, W, R)$ , there are partitions  $V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_n$ ,  $W = W_1 \cup \dots \cup W_m$  with  $m, n \leq N_\epsilon$ , and such that for every  $i, j$ ,  $(V_i, W_j, R|(V_i \times W_j))$  is  $\epsilon$ -homogeneous, namely either almost complete ( $|(V_i \times W_j) \setminus R| \leq \epsilon |V_i \times W_j|$ ) or almost empty ( $|(V_i \times W_j) \cap R| \leq \epsilon |V_i \times W_j|$ )*

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- ▶ The original proof by Malliaris-Shelah of (a version of) Theorem 0.15, was not a pseudofinite proof, and gave good bounds (on  $N_\epsilon$ ). I will follow my treatment in “Domination and regularity” which is close to the Malliaris-Pillay account. (See subsequent references.)

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- ▶ The general idea is simply to study graphs  $(V, W, R)$  definable in a an arbitrary structure such that the relation  $R$  is defined by a stable formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , and where the  $V$ -sort is equipped with a Keisler  $\phi$ -measure  $\mu$ , and then apply Lemmas 0.7 and 0.8 where  $\mu$  is taken to be the pseudofinite counting measure.

# Stable measures I

- ▶ The first key observation is that if  $\phi(x, y)$  is stable then any Keisler  $\phi$ -measure over a model  $M$  say, is a weighted average of complete  $\phi$ -types over  $M$ .



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## Lemma 0.16

*Suppose that  $\phi(x, y)$  is a stable formula, and  $\mu$  is a Keisler  $\phi$ -measure over  $M$ . Then there are  $p_i(x) \in S_\phi(M)$ , and  $\alpha_i \in (0, 1]$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$  (maybe finite) such that  $\sum_i \alpha_i = 1$  and  $\mu = \sum_i \alpha_i p_i$ .*

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- ▶ So the relevant type space  $S_\phi(M)$  is the collection of complete  $\phi$ -types over  $M$ , i.e. which decide every such  $\phi$ -formula.
- ▶ We have seen in the section on types that from stability of  $\phi(x, y)$  every  $p(x) \in S_\phi(M)$  is definable. In particular for any countable  $M_0 \prec M$ ,  $S_\phi(M_0)$  is countable.space

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- ▶ It follows that the space  $S_\phi(M)$  is scattered, in the sense that it is exhausted by the Cantor-Bendixon analysis.
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- ▶ End of proof sketch.

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*Moreover, each  $V_i$  can be defined by a  $\phi$ -formula (over  $M$ ), and each  $W_j$  by a  $\phi^*$ -formula (over  $M$ ).*

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- ▶ Let  $B = S_\phi(M) \setminus \{p_i : i \in I\}$ . So  $B$  is Borel and  $\mu(B) = 0$ .

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- ▶ Let us now replace  $V_0$  by  $V'_0$  (i.e.  $V'_0$  is the new  $V_0$ ).

# Stable graphs V

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- ▶  $V = V_0 \cup \dots \cup V_n$  and  $W = \cup W_J$  will be the desired partitions.



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- ▶ End of proof of Lemma 0.17 (which one sees is almost tautological).

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- ▶ The sizes of the  $V_N$  can be assumed to be growing (by thinning the sequence).
- ▶ So we can find a saturated model  $(V, W, R)$  of the common theory of the  $(V_N, W_N, R)$  such that  $V$  is infinite, and clearly pseudofinite in the structure  $(V, W, R)$ .

## Proof of stable regularity lemma II

- ▶ By Lemmas 0.7 and 0.8, and the Remarks following it, we may assume  $(V, W, R)$  to be in  $\mathbb{V}^*$ , with  $V$  finite in the sense of  $\mathbb{V}^*$ , equipping  $V$  with the nonstandard Keisler counting measure  $\mu$ .

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- ▶ As  $k$ -stability is expressed by a sentence (in the language of bipartite graphs), it follows that  $(V, W, R)$  is  $k$ -stable, in particular stable.
- ▶ So Lemma 0.17 can be applied, for  $\epsilon/2$ , yielding some partitions  $V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_n$ , and  $W = W_1 \cup \dots \cup W_m$  (into definable sets, so sets internal in  $\mathbb{V}^*$ ) such that for each  $i, j$ , either for all  $b \in W_j$ ,  $\mu(V_i \setminus R(x, b)) \leq (\epsilon/2)\mu(V_i)$ , or  $\mu(V_i \cap R(x, b)) \leq (\epsilon/2)\mu(V_i)$ .

# Proof of stable regularity lemma III

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- ▶ Now choose  $N \geq n, m$ . So there are partitions  $V_{N,1} \cup \dots \cup V_{N,n}$  of  $V_N$  and  $W_{N,1} \cup \dots \cup W_{N,m}$  of  $W_N$  with the property (\*).

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- ▶ This contradiction ends the proof of Theorem 0.15. The proof can also be modified slightly to yield that in Theorem 0.15 the  $V_i$  can be defined by  $\phi$ -formulas and the  $W_j$  by  $\phi^*$ -formulas.

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- ▶ We still focus on the bipartite case although a lot of work goes on in the unipartite case. The context studied by combinatorics people was *semialgebraic graphs*, namely graphs  $G = (V, W, R)$  definable in the structure  $(\mathbb{R}, +, \times)$ .
- ▶ For such a fixed such semialgebraic graph  $G$ , one can consider the family of finite graphs  $(V', W', R|(V' \times W'))$  as  $V', W'$  range over finite subsets of  $V, W$  respectively.



## Distal regularity II

- ▶ Strong Erdős-Hajnal (which is a theorem in this situation) says that there is  $\delta$  depending on  $G$  such that for each such finite  $V', W'$  there are  $V_0 \subseteq V'$  and  $W_0 \subseteq W'$ , with  $|V_0| \geq \delta|V'|$  and  $|W_0| \geq \delta|W'|$ , such that  $V_0, W_0$  is homogeneous for  $R$ .

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- ▶ The closely related strong regularity theorem, provides, given  $\epsilon > 0$  some  $N_\epsilon$  such that for every finite  $V', W'$  there is a decomposition  $V' = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_n$ ,  $W' = W_1 \cup \dots \cup W_m$  with  $m, n < N$  such that outside a small exceptional set  $\Sigma$  of pairs  $(i, j)$ , each  $V_i, W_j$  is outright homogeneous for  $R$ .

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- ▶ The distal theorems give the same results but replacing the structure  $(\mathbb{R}, +, \times)$  by any first order structure  $M$  such that  $Th(M)$  is *distal* (and our pseudofinite formalism adapts well to this set-up).

## Distal regularity II

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- ▶ The closely related strong regularity theorem, provides, given  $\epsilon > 0$  some  $N_\epsilon$  such that for every finite  $V', W'$  there is a decomposition  $V' = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_n$ ,  $W' = W_1 \cup \dots \cup W_m$  with  $m, n < N$  such that outside a small exceptional set  $\Sigma$  of pairs  $(i, j)$ , each  $V_i, W_j$  is outright homogeneous for  $R$ .
- ▶ The distal theorems give the same results but replacing the structure  $(\mathbb{R}, +, \times)$  by any first order structure  $M$  such that  $Th(M)$  is *distal* (and our pseudofinite formalism adapts well to this set-up).
- ▶ Distality was introduced by Simon in his thesis and is supposed to capture the idea of a “purely unstable” *NIP* theory.

## Distal regularity III

- ▶ Examples of distal first order theories are  $RCF$  (more generally  $o$ -minimal theories),  $Th(\mathbb{Q}_p, +, \times)$ ,  $Th(\mathbb{Z}, +, <)$ ,  $RCVF$  (real closed valued fields).
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- ▶ The theory of dense pairs of real closed fields is unstable,  $NIP$ , but not distal (for subtle reasons that I have forgotten).
- ▶ A characterization of distality which is convenient for our purposes is:

### Definition 0.18

A (complete) theory is distal if  $T$  is  $NIP$  and every generically stable Keisler measure is smooth.

# Smooth and generically stable measures I

- ▶ (This is stuff from more than 10 years ago ...) We have already alluded to smooth Keisler measures, but let us repeat the formal definition. As usual the context is a complete theory  $T$  etc.



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- ▶ We could also restrict the notion of smoothness to Keisler  $\phi$ -measures, in the obvious way.
- ▶ Before defining generically stable measures, let us remark on how established notions for types generalize to measures.
- ▶ For some of these definitions a global assumption that  $T$  has *NIP* may be useful.

## Smooth and generically stable measures II

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- ▶ Assume  $M$  is  $|A|^+$ -saturated. We say that  $\mu$  is definable over  $A$  if for every  $L$ -formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , and closed set  $C \subseteq [0, 1]$ ,  $\{b \in M : \mu(\phi(x, b)) \in C\}$  is “type-definable” over  $A$ . (explain..).



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- ▶ Note that these definitions agree with the usual ones when  $\mu(x)$  is a complete type.

# Smooth and generically stable measures III

- ▶ Let us remark for interested members of the audience that measures behave similarly to types with respect to forking if  $T$  is *NIP*.
- ▶ Namely, assume  $T$  is *NIP*, and  $\mu$  is a Keisler measure over  $\bar{M}$ . Then  $\mu$  does not fork over  $M_0$  iff  $\mu$  is  $\text{Aut}(\bar{M}/M_0)$ -invariant.

## Definition 0.20

(Assume  $T$  is *NIP*). Let  $\mu(x)$  be a Keisler measure over a model  $M$ . We say that  $\mu$  is *generically stable* if  $\mu$  has an extension  $\mu'(x)$  over  $\bar{M}$  which is both definable over  $M$  and finitely satisfiable in  $M$  (and in fact  $\mu'$  turns out to be the unique global nonforking extension of  $\mu$ ).

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## Lemma 0.21

*(Assume  $T$  NIP.) Let  $\mu(x)$  be a Keisler measure over  $M$ . The following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\mu$  is generically stable,*
- (ii) For any  $L$ -formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , and  $\epsilon > 0$ , there are  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  in  $M$  such that for any  $b \in M$ ,  $\mu(\phi(x, b))$  is within  $\epsilon$  of the proportion of  $a_i$  which satisfy  $\phi(x, b)$ .*

## Smooth and generically stable measures IV

- ▶ One source of generically stable measures (in an *NIP* theory) is so-called average measures: let  $I = (a_i : i \in [0, 1])$  be an indiscernible “segment” in a model  $M$  and for  $\phi(x)$  over  $M$ , define  $\mu_I(\phi(x))$  to be the Lebesgue measure of  $\{i : M \models \phi(a_i)\}$ . This makes sense, because  $\phi(x, y)$  being *NIP*, the set of  $\{i \in [0, 1] : M \models \phi(a_i)\}$  is a finite union of points and convex sets, hence finite unions of points and intervals, so measurable.

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- ▶ For an *NIP* formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , there should be (and maybe already is) a good theory of generically stable  $\phi$ -types (as well as a notion of  $\phi$ -distality), which would help place subsequent results and proofs in a formula-by-formula context.

# Distality theorems I

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- ▶ As expected the proofs involve proving theorems about single bipartite graphs definable in a model of a distal theory, which will be almost tautological, and then applying the pseudofinite stuff.
- ▶ We first give our version of distal regularity.

# Distality theorems II

## Theorem 0.22

*Given  $\mathcal{G}$ , suppose that one of the following happens:*

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- ▶ (i) The graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$  are uniformly definable in some model  $M$  of a distal theory,
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- ▶ (iii) Every model of the common theory of the  $G_i$ 's (in the language of bipartite graphs) is definable in some model of some distal theory.

THEN for any  $\epsilon > 0$  there is  $N_\epsilon$  such that for every  $(V, W, R) \in \mathcal{G}$  there are partitions  $V_1, \dots, V_n$  of  $V$  and  $W_1, \dots, W_m$  of  $W$  with  $n, m \leq N_\epsilon$  such that outside a small exceptional set of pairs  $(i, j)$ , each pair  $V_i, W_j$  is homogeneous for  $R$ .



# Distality theorems III

- ▶ So in comparison with the conclusion of Szemerédi regularity, Theorem 0.22 has the improved conclusion of outright homogeneity in place of  $\epsilon$ -regularity, but the small error (exceptional set) is still there (and cannot be done without).

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- ▶ Note that with assumption (ii), 0.22 recovers the Fox et al results.
- ▶ Our strong Erdős-Hajnal theorem has the same assumptions as in Theorem 0.22, but the conclusion is that there is  $\delta > 0$  such that for each  $(V, W, R)$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  there are  $V_0 \subseteq V$ ,  $W_0 \subseteq W$  with  $|V_0| \geq \delta|V|$  and  $|W_0| \geq \delta|W|$  such that  $V_0, W_0$  is homogeneous for  $R$ . This clearly follows from Theorem 0.22.

# Regularity theorem for smooth measures I

- ▶ Our proof of Theorem 0.22 will use a couple of results, first a regularity theorem for arbitrary definable graphs  $(V, W, R)$  equipped with Keisler measures on  $V, W$ , at least one of which is smooth, which we do in this section. The other, discussed later is the fact that in the *NIP* environment the pseudofinite counting measure is generically stable (which follows from the Vapnik-Chervonenkis theorem).

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- ▶ We start with a basically immediate “domination” statement for smooth measures in arbitrary theories.

# Regularity theorem for smooth measures II

## Lemma 0.23

- ▶ *( $T$  an arbitrary theory.) Let  $\mu(x)$  be a Keisler measure over a model  $M_0$  on the sort  $X$ . Suppose  $\mu$  to be smooth. Let  $\mu$  also denote the induced (Borel probability) measure on  $S_X(M_0)$ . And let  $\pi : X = X(\bar{M}) \rightarrow S_X(M_0)$  be the tautological map  $\pi(a) = tp(a/M_0)$ .*

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- ▶ *Then for every definable (with parameters from  $\bar{M}$ ) subset  $Y$  of  $X$ , there is a closed subset  $E$  of  $S_X(M_0)$  of  $\mu$ -measure 0, such that for all  $p \in S_X(M_0)$  such that  $p \notin E$ , either  $\pi^{-1}(p) \subset Y$  or  $\pi^{-1}(p) \cap Y = \emptyset$ .*



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- ▶ Suppose, for a contradiction, that  $\mu(E) > 0$ . Then let  $(\mu)_E$  denote the localization of  $\mu$  at  $E$ , namely as a measure on  $S_X(M_0)$ ,  $(\mu)_E(B) = \mu(B \cap E) / \mu(E)$  for  $B$  Borel.

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- ▶ Then  $(\mu)_E$  has two different extensions to a Keisler measure over  $\bar{M}$ , one giving  $Y$  measure 1 and one giving  $Y$  measure 0.
- ▶ From which it follows that  $\mu$  itself has two different extensions to  $\bar{M}$ , contradicting smoothness.



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## Lemma 0.24

- ▶ *Let  $(V, W, R)$  be a graph definable in a structure  $M$ . Let  $\mu, \nu$  be Keisler measures over  $M$  on  $V, W$ , respectively, and assume that  $\mu$  is smooth.*



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- ▶ *(i)  $(\mu \times \nu)(\cup_{(i,j) \in \Sigma} (V_i \times W_j)) < \epsilon$ , and*

# Regularity theorem for smooth measures IV

- ▶ The smooth regularity theorem is a simple compactness argument applied to Lemma 0.23.
- ▶ We already see a manifestation of the exceptional set as  $E$  in Lemma 0.23.

## Lemma 0.24

- ▶ *Let  $(V, W, R)$  be a graph definable in a structure  $M$ . Let  $\mu, \nu$  be Keisler measures over  $M$  on  $V, W$ , respectively, and assume that  $\mu$  is smooth.*
- ▶ *Let  $\epsilon > 0$ .*
- ▶ *Then there are partitions  $V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_n$ ,  $W = W_1 \cup \dots \cup W_m$  into definable sets, and an “exceptional set”  $\Sigma$  of indices  $(i, j)$  such that*
- ▶ *(i)  $(\mu \times \nu)(\cup_{(i,j) \in \Sigma} (V_i \times W_j)) < \epsilon$ , and*
- ▶ *(ii) For  $(i, j) \notin \Sigma$ ,  $(V_i, W_j)$  is homogeneous for  $R$ .*

# Regularity theorem for smooth measures V

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- ▶  $E_b$  clearly only depends on  $tp(b/M)$ , so we write  $E_b$  as  $E_q$  where  $q = tp(b/M)$ . Let  $Z_q$  be an  $M$ -definable set containing  $E_q$  with  $\mu(Z_q)$  with  $\mu$ -measure  $< \epsilon$ .



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- ▶ By compactness we can partition  $V \setminus Z_q$  into  $M$ -definable sets  $V_{q,1}, \dots, V_{q,n_q}$  such that for each  $i$ ,  $\pi^{-1}(V_{q,i})$  is either contained in  $R(x, b)$  for some/all  $b$  realizing  $q$ , or is disjoint from  $R(x, b)$  for some/all  $b$  realizing  $q$ .

# Regularity theorem for smooth measures VI

- ▶ By compactness we can replace  $q$  by a formula (or  $M$ -definable set)  $W_q$  in  $q$  such that for all  $i = 1, \dots, n_q$ , either  $V_{q,i}$  is contained in  $R(x, b)$  for all  $b \in W_q$ , or  $V_{q,i}$  is disjoint from  $R(x, b)$  for all  $b \in W_q$ .

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- ▶ Doing this for each  $q \in S_W(M)$ , applying compactness and possibly refining some  $W_q$ 's gives us  $q_1, \dots, q_m \in S_W(M)$ , and a partition  $W = W_{q_1}, \dots, W_{q_m}$  into  $M$ -definable sets (with  $W_{q_j} \in q_j$ ), and

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- ▶ for each  $j = 1, \dots, m$  a partition  $V = V_{q_j,1} \cup \dots \cup V_{q_j,n_{q_j}} \cup Z_{q_j}$  with  $\mu(Z_{q_j}) < \epsilon$ , such that for all  $j, i$

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- ▶ For each  $q_j$ ,  $\cup_{(i, q_j) \in E} V_i \times W_{q_j} = Z_{q_j} \times W_{q_j}$  which has  $\mu \times \nu$  measure  $< \epsilon \nu(W_{q_j})$ .

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- ▶ And for  $(i, q_j) \notin E$ ,  $V_i$  must be contained in  $V_{q_j, s}$  for some  $s$ , so by (\*)  $V_i \times W_{q_j}$  is contained in or disjoint from  $R$ .

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- ▶ End of proof of Lemma 0.24.

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- ▶ Suppose  $\mu(x)$  is a Keisler measure over  $M$ . Let  $\phi(x, y)$  be an  $L$ -formula which has  $k$ -*NIP*.
- ▶ Then for any  $\epsilon$ , there is  $N = N_{k, \epsilon}$  depending only on  $k$  and  $\epsilon$ , such that there are  $p_1(x), \dots, p_N(x) \in S_x(M)$ , such that for all  $b \in M$ ,  $\mu(\phi(x, b))$  is within  $\epsilon$  of the proportion of the  $p_1, \dots, p_N$  which contain  $\phi(x, b)$ .

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- ▶ In the special case when  $A$  is a finite set of tuples from  $M$  of the appropriate length, and  $\mu = \mu_A$  is the counting measure with respect to  $A$  (which we could recall), then this says that there are  $a_1, \dots, a_N \in A$  such that for all  $b \in M$ ,  $\mu(\phi(x, b))$  is within  $\epsilon$  of the proportion of the  $a_1, \dots, a_N$  which satisfy  $\phi(x, b)$ .

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- ▶ We conclude the following:

### Lemma 0.25

*Suppose  $M$  is a model of an NIP theory,  $A$  is a subset of  $X(M)$  for some sort  $X$ ,  $A$  is pseudofinite in  $M$ ,  $(M, A)$  is saturated (?), and  $\mu(x)$  is a pseudofinite counting measure on  $X(M)$  (over  $M$ ) given after Lemma 0.8. Then  $\mu$  is generically stable.*

# *NIP* and pseudofinite measures III

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- ▶ On the other hand, every sentence of set theory true of  $(M, A)$  in  $\mathbb{V}^*$  is true of some  $(M', A')$  in  $\mathbb{V}$  with  $A'$  finite.
- ▶ Fix a formula  $\phi(x, y)$  of  $L$  which we know has  $k$ -*NIP* in  $M$ , for some  $k$ , so we may assume that in every relevant  $(M', A')$  with  $A'$  finite,  $\phi(x, y)$  has  $k$ -*NIP* in  $M'$ .

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- ▶ So fixing  $\epsilon > 0$  and letting  $N = N_{k, \epsilon/2}$  be as above, it follows that there are  $a_1, \dots, a_N$  in  $A$  such that for any  $b \in M$ ,  $|\phi(x, b)(M) \cap A|/|A|$  is within  $\epsilon/2$  of the proportion of the  $a_i$  which satisfy  $\phi(x, b)$  in  $M$ .

# *NIP* and pseudofinite measures IV

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- ▶ So for each  $b \in M$ ,  $\mu(\phi(x, b))$  is within  $\epsilon$  of the proportion of the  $a_i$  which satisfy  $\phi(x, b)$  in  $M$ .
- ▶ By Lemma 0.21,  $\mu$  is generically stable, completing the proof of Lemma 0.25.
- ▶ Assuming that we have a good notion of generically stable  $\phi$ -measure where  $\phi(x, y)$  is a *NIP*-formula, then the proof above will show that a pseudofinite counting measure, restricted to a *NIP*-formula  $\phi(x, y)$ , will be generically stable.

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- ▶ We may assume that at least the cardinalities of the  $V_N$  are strictly increasing.



# Proof of distal regularity II

- ▶ Add new predicates  $P$  and  $Q$  for the distinguished finite subsets of  $V, W$ , to get a family of  $L(P, Q)$  structures, and as usual take a saturated model of the common  $L(P, Q)$ - theory of the  $(M, V_N, W_N)$ .

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- ▶ Fix  $\epsilon$  and apply Lemma 0.24 with  $\epsilon/2$  to  $(V(M^*), W(M^*), R(M^*))$  equipped with  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ , to get a partitions of size  $n, m$  of the vertex sets with the appropriate properties.

# Proof of distal regularity III

- ▶ Apply Lemma 0.8 to obtain  $(M, V_N, W_N)$  satisfying the appropriate formulas of set theory in  $\mathbb{V}$ , to get a contradiction, as in the proof of the stable regularity lemma.

# Proof of distal regularity III

- ▶ Apply Lemma 0.8 to obtain  $(M, V_N, W_N)$  satisfying the appropriate formulas of set theory in  $\mathbb{V}$ , to get a contradiction, as in the proof of the stable regularity lemma.
- ▶ Note that there is a difference with the stable proof, as the  $V_N, W_N$  etc are not in the language  $L$ .

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- ▶ And the “compact domination” statement for smooth measures (Lemma 0.23) on which 0.24 depends is replaced by a “generic compact domination” statement for generically stable measures.

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### Lemma 0.26

*Suppose  $T$  is *NIP* and  $\mu(x)$  is a Keisler measure on a sort  $X$  over a model  $M_0$ , such that  $\mu|_{M_0}$  is generically stable. Let  $\pi : X = X(\bar{M}) \rightarrow S_X(M_0)$  be as before. Let  $Y \subseteq X$  be definable over  $\bar{M}$ . Then there is closed set  $E \subseteq S_X(M_0)$  of  $\mu$ -measure 0 such that all  $p(x) \in S_X(M_0) \setminus E$ , exactly one of  $p(x) \cup "x \in Y"$  and  $p(x) \cup "x \notin Y"$  is  $\mu$ -random.*

## Remarks on the $NIP$ case III

- ▶ Finally there is a regularity lemma just for finite bipartite graphs  $(V, W, R)$  for which the edge relation  $R$  is  $k$ - $NIP$ , or equivalently, as we have mentioned earlier, which omit a fixed induced subgraph. This is again proved by the combinatoricists, and in fact is a celebrated theorem of Lovasz-Szegedy, if I am not mistaken, and implies the results above.

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- ▶ This could be obtained by our methods, given a generic compact domination theorem for generically stable  $\phi$  measures where  $\phi(x, y)$  is *NIP*.
- ▶ In any case the regularity lemma alluded to above, still has the exceptional pairs, but has  $\epsilon$ -homogeneity rather than  $\epsilon$ -regularity.

# Arithmetic or group regularity lemmas; introduction I

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- ▶ First what can be said in general?
- ▶ In all the work by combinatoricists on this problem, there is a blanket assumption that  $G$  is commutative, probably so as to be able to use Fourier analytic methods.

# Arithmetic or group regularity lemmas; introduction II

- ▶ As mentioned in the introduction from  $(G, X)$  we obtain a bipartite graph  $(G, G, R)$  where  $R(x, y)$  iff  $xy \in X$ , so one would expect some improved statement of Szemerédi regularity in which the group structure is respected in some sense.



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- ▶ Green's paper, A Szemerédi-type regularity lemma in abelian groups, GAFA, 2005, (possibly) initiated the topic, and has a rather complicated Fourier-analytic statement, which is difficult to parse.
- ▶ However when restricted to the class of finite-dimensional vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}^2$  (equipped with a distinguished subset  $X$ ), it yields the following:

## Theorem 0.27

*For every  $\epsilon$  there is  $N$  such that for all  $(G, X)$  (where  $G = \mathbb{F}_2^n$  some  $n$ ), there is a partition of  $G$  into cosets  $H + 0, H + g_1, \dots, H + g_k$  with respect to a subgroup (vector subspace)  $H$  of  $G$  of index at most  $N$ , such that outside a small exceptional set of pairs, each graph  $(H + g_i, H + g_j, R|_{((H + g_i) \times (H + g_j))})$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular. (where remember the graph relation  $R(x, y)$  is  $x + y \in X$ ).*

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- ▶ Alon, Fox, and Zhao, subsequently considered the case where  $G$  is (finite) abelian and  $x + y \in X$  is  $k$ -NIP.

# Arithmetic or group regularity lemmas IV; introduction

- ▶ With Conant and Terry, we considered first arbitrary  $(G, X)$  where  $G$  is arbitrary (not necessarily abelian) and  $xy \in X$  is  $k$ -stable, and then the more general case where  $xy \in X$  is  $k$ -NIP.

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- ▶ However we do have a general rather soft “coset regularity” statement (for arbitrary  $(G, X)$ ), which we may give later.
- ▶ In the next section we will state the “new” results (mainly from 2017-2018) and then discuss ingredients of the proof.

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## Theorem 0.28

*Fix  $k$ . For any  $\epsilon > 0$  there is  $N$  depending on  $\epsilon$  (and  $k$ ) such that for any pair  $(G, A)$  where  $G$  is a finite group and  $A$  is a  $k$ -stable subset, there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  of index at most  $N$ , such that*

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# Stable and $NIP$ arithmetic regularity lemmas II

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- ▶ In fact the  $\mathbb{T}^n$ 's are precisely the compact connected commutative Lie groups.
- ▶ So we define an  $(\epsilon, n)$ -Bohr neighbourhood of a (possibly finite) group  $H$  to be the preimage of the open ball of radius  $\epsilon$  around the identity under a homomorphism  $\pi : H \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^n$ .



# Stable and $NIP$ arithmetic regularity lemmas IV

## Theorem 0.30

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- ▶ (ii) there is a union  $Y$  of translates of  $B$  such that  $A$  is equal to  $Y$  up to a set of cardinality  $\leq \epsilon|B|$ , after throwing away  $Z$ .

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- ▶ Sufficiently large means that  $|K| \geq \epsilon|H|$ .
- ▶ This is a natural notion of regularity of a coset  $C$  of a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  with respect to  $A$ , but where we only consider the densities with respect to large subsets of  $C$  which are themselves cosets of subgroups.

## Theorem 0.31

*For any  $\epsilon$  there is  $N$ , such that if  $(G, A)$  is any pair consisting of a finite group  $G$  and a subset  $A$ , then there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of index at most  $N$ , and a union  $Z$  of cosets of  $H$  (the exceptional set) with  $|Z| \leq \epsilon|G|$ , such that for any coset  $C$  of  $H$  in  $G$  such that  $C$  is not contained in  $Z$ , then  $C$  is  $\epsilon$ -coset-regular with respect to  $A$ .*

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- ▶ Note that when  $G$  is simple (noncommutative), Theorem 0.31 says that  $G$  is itself  $\epsilon$ -coset regular. But anyway Theorem 0.31 is only meaningful when  $G$  has a reasonable supply of subgroups.

# The stable case I

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- ▶ We fix a group  $G$  definable in a model  $M$  (to work in some degree of generality), as well as a  $L$ -formula  $\delta(x, y)$ ,  $x$  ranging over  $G$  and  $y$  over some other sort (maybe tuples from  $G$ ).

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- ▶ As before a  $\delta$ -formula (over  $M$ ) is a Boolean combination of formulas  $\delta(x, b)$  for  $b \in M$ , and the subset of  $G$  it defines is called a  $\delta$ -definable set. (We treat  $x = x$ ,  $x \neq x$  as degenerate  $\delta$ -formulas, and sometimes we may want to include Boolean combinations of  $x = g$  etc. too....)



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- ▶ A type  $p(x) \in S_\delta(M)$  is called generic (or a  $\delta$ -generic type of  $G$ ) if it only contains generic formulas.
- ▶ With this notation and assumptions, here is the fundamental theorem of local stable group theory.

## Theorem 0.32

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- ▶ (iii) There is a unique left-invariant (Keisler)  $\delta$ -measure on  $G$ ,  $\mu$  say, and moreover
- ▶ (iv) for any  $\delta$ -definable set  $X$ ,  $\mu(X) > 0$  iff  $X$  is generic.

# The stable case IV

## Corollary 0.33

*(In the same context as that of Theorem 0.32, and the same notation.)*

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## The stable case V

- ▶ To go from Theorem 0.32 and Corollary 0.33 to Theorem 0.28, we take  $\delta(x, y)$  to be the formula  $yx \in A$  which is by assumption  $k$ -stable and left invariant in the finite  $(G, A)$ .

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- ▶ This allows us to pull Theorem 0.32 and Corollary 0.33 to the finite (of course using some approximations) and obtain Theorem 0.28.
- ▶ Note that Theorem 0.28 also implies that  $k$ -stable sets in finite simple groups better be (asymptotically) either almost everything or almost nothing.

- ▶ We saw in the discussion at the end of the last section that up to small cardinality, suitable subsets of the finite groups  $G$  are controlled by bounded index subgroups, i.e. all the action is going on in  $G/H$  for some bounded index subgroup  $H$ .

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- ▶ And passing to approximations, this will be reflected in various ways in the finite.
- ▶ It is a rather surprisingly important role for this compact group, although variants are also behind the classification of approximate subgroups.

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- ▶ Bounded index means of index at most  $\leq 2^{|M|+|L|}$ , which can be shown to be equivalent to  $< \kappa$  where  $\kappa$  is the degree of saturation of  $\bar{M}$ .

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- ▶ Likewise we could consider a collection  $\Delta$  of  $L$ -formulas  $\delta(x, y)$  (or even a single such formula), and consider  $(G^*)_{M, \Delta}^{00}$ , the smallest subgroup of  $G^*$  of “bounded index” defined by a collection of  $\Delta$ -formulas over  $M$ . (Not necessarily normal any more.)

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- ▶ Likewise for  $(G^*)_{M,\Delta}^{00}$  if  $\Delta$  is a collection of *NIP* formulas.
- ▶ If  $H$  is a compact (Hausdorff) topological group then  $H$  is an inverse (or projective) limit of compact Lie groups.

- ▶ More remarks.
- ▶ First, if  $T$  is *NIP*, then  $(G^*)^0_M$  does not depend on  $M$ , only on the canonical parameter of the formula defining  $G$ , whereby the quotient  $G^*/(G^*)^0_M$  is an invariant of the formula defining  $G$ .
- ▶ Likewise for  $(G^*)^0_{M,\Delta}$  if  $\Delta$  is a collection of *NIP* formulas.
- ▶ If  $H$  is a compact (Hausdorff) topological group then  $H$  is an inverse (or projective) limit of compact Lie groups.
- ▶ In particular we have an exact sequence  $1 \rightarrow H^0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow H/H^0 \rightarrow 1$ , where  $H^0$  denotes the connected component of the identity of  $H$  as a topological group;

- ▶ Where  $H^0$  is an inverse limit of connected compact Lie groups, and  $H/H^0$  is profinite (inverse limit of finite groups).

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- ▶ Supposing  $M$  to be  $\mathbb{V}$  and  $G$  a group (so in particular definable in  $M$ ), then  $G^*/(G^*)_{M}^{00}$  is also known as the Bohr compactification of  $G$ ; the universal object among homomorphisms of  $G$  to compact groups with dense image.

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### Lemma 0.34

*Suppose  $G$  is a pseudofinite group, considered as definable in the structure  $M = \mathbb{V}^*$ . Then the definable Bohr compactification of  $G$  is profinite-by-commutative, that is the connected component of  $G^*/(G^*)_{M}^{00}$  (as a topological group) is an inverse limit of connected commutative compact Lie groups.*



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- ▶ What this means (at least one form), is that given a definable (with parameters from  $\bar{M}$ ) subset  $Y$  of  $G$ , there is a closed  $E_Y \subset G/G^{00}$  of (normalized) Haar measure 0, such that for all cosets  $C$  of  $G^{00}$  outside  $E_Y$ , not both “ $x \in C \wedge x \in Y$ ” and “ $x \in C \wedge x \notin Y$ ” are  $\mu$ -random.

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- ▶ This implies in particular that  $\mu$  is the unique translation invariant measure on  $G$ .

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- ▶ In work with Conant, we developed such a theory, but assuming also pseudofiniteness. It is an analogue of the fundamental theorem of local stable group theory.
- ▶ Together with Lemma 0.34, which explains where the Bohr neighbourhoods come from, this will suffice to prove Theorem 0.30.

## Local generic compact domination III

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## Theorem 0.35

- ▶ (i) *There is a unique left invariant Keisler  $\delta$ -measure  $\mu$  on  $G$ .*

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## Theorem 0.35

- ▶ (i) *There is a unique left invariant Keisler  $\delta$ -measure  $\mu$  on  $G$ .*
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## Theorem 0.35

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- ▶ (ii) *The  $\delta$ -definable sets of positive  $\mu$ -measure are precisely the (left) generic  $\delta$ -definable sets.*
- ▶ (iii) *Given a  $\delta$ -definable (over  $\bar{M}$ ) set  $Y \subseteq G$ , there is a closed subset  $E_Y \subset G/G_\delta^{00}$ , of  $\mu$ -measure 0 such that for  $C \in G/G_\delta^{00}$ ,  $C \notin E_Y$ , exactly one of  $x \in C \cup x \in Y$ ,  $x \in C \cup x \notin Y$  is  $\mu$ -random (equivalently by (ii) extends to a global generic type).*

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