

Genericity, Infinitary Interpretations, and Automorphism Groups of Structures

Russell Miller

Queens College & CUNY Graduate Center

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(Joint work with Matthew Harrison-Trainor, and Antonio Montalbán,
and in part with Alexander Melnikov.)

Our categories

Definition

For a countable infinite structure \mathcal{A} , the category $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ has as objects all isomorphic copies of \mathcal{A} with domain ω . The morphisms in the category are the isomorphisms between objects, under composition.

So a *functor* from $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ to $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ consists of one map G sending each $\widehat{B} \cong \mathcal{B}$ to some $\widehat{A} = G(\widehat{B}) \cong \mathcal{A}$, along with a second map H sending each isomorphism $f : \widehat{B} \rightarrow \widetilde{B}$ to an isomorphism $H(f) : G(\widehat{B}) \rightarrow G(\widetilde{B})$.

H must respect composition, and must map the identity map on \widehat{B} to the identity map on $G(\widehat{B})$. (\mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} need not have the same signature.)

Interpretations

Many functors from $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ to $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ arise as follows. Suppose we have an *interpretation* of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} , given by formulas (no parameters):

Interpretation

- $\alpha(\vec{x})$ defines a subset D of B^n in \mathcal{B} ;
- $\beta(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$ defines an equivalence relation \sim on D ; and
- for each m -ary relation R_i on \mathcal{A} , γ_i defines a subset $C_i = \{\vec{d} \in D^m : \gamma_i(\vec{d})\}$ of D^m invariant under \sim ,

with $(D/\sim, C_0, C_1, \dots) \cong \mathcal{A}$.

Then, “inside” every $\hat{B} \in \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$, we have a copy \hat{A} of \mathcal{A} defined by these formulas. (Use a fixed order on ω^n to identify the domain of \hat{A} with ω .) Moreover, each isomorphism $\hat{B} \rightarrow \tilde{B}$ will map the copy \hat{A} onto the copy \tilde{A} inside \tilde{B} . So the interpretation of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} yields a functor from $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ to $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$.

Functors given by interpretations: a mixed bag

Example: we have an interpretation of the algebraic closure $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ in the real closure R of the field \mathbb{Q} , viewing elements $a + bi$ of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ as pairs (a, b) from R . This yields a functor F from $\text{Iso}(R)$ to $\text{Iso}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$. However, this functor is not *full*: among all the automorphisms of (a fixed copy of) $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$, only the identity is in the “range” of F , since R is rigid.

More importantly, not all functors arise from interpretations. For example, we have a very natural functor $F : \text{Iso}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}[X])$, with isomorphisms between fields extending to isomorphisms between their polynomial rings. However, there is no interpretation of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}[X]$ in the field $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$.

Solution: infinitary interpretations

We wish to broaden the notion of interpretation to allow the use of $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ formulas in defining the domain and \sim and the relations. Notice that, even if we allow arbitrary $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ formulas, each interpretation of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} will still yield a functor from $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ to $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$. However, this project began with *effective interpretations*.

Definition

An *effective interpretation* of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} is an interpretation in which α , β , and all γ_i are Σ_1^c (i.e., computable infinitary existential) formulas, and in which $(\neg\beta)$ and every $(\neg\gamma_i)$ can also be defined by a Σ_1^c formula in \mathcal{B} .

The domain D can now consist of arbitrary finite tuples: $D \subseteq B^{<\omega}$ but possibly $\forall n D \not\subseteq B^n$. (Formally, this requires α to be a computable disjunction of Σ_1^c formulas α_n , each with free variables x_1, \dots, x_n .)

Computable infinitary interpretations

With an effective interpretation of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} , every copy $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$ of \mathcal{B} yields an $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$ -computable copy $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}$ of \mathcal{A} , in a uniform effective way. So we get a *computable functor* from $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ to $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$:

$$G(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) = \Phi^{\Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}})} \quad \& \quad H(f) = \Phi_*^{\Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) \oplus f \oplus \Delta(\widetilde{\mathcal{B}})} : G(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) \rightarrow G(\widetilde{\mathcal{B}}),$$

where Φ and Φ_* are Turing functionals (i.e., oracle Turing machines).

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Theorem (Harrison-Trainor, Melnikov, M, Montalbán, or HTM³)

Every computable functor arises from an effective interpretation (and vice versa).

Basic examples

To interpret $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}[X]$ in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$, we use as our domain

$$\{\text{nonempty } (a_0, \dots, a_n) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^{<\omega} : a_n = 0 \implies n = 0\}.$$

Another example: for a computable structure \mathcal{A} , every \mathcal{B} has a computable constant functor into $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$, with $G(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) = \mathcal{A}$ and $H(f) = \text{id}_{\mathcal{A}}$. By the theorem, \mathcal{A} must have an effective interpretation in each \mathcal{B} . In particular, the domain is $\mathcal{B}^{<\omega}$, and \sim identifies tuples of the same length, so that $n \in \mathcal{A}$ can be represented by the \sim -class of tuples of length n . A relation R_i on \mathcal{A} is represented by

$$\bigvee_{(b_1, \dots, b_m) \in R_i^{\mathcal{A}}} (|\vec{d}_1| = b_1 \ \& \ \dots \ \& \ |\vec{d}_m| = b_m).$$

Since $R_i^{\mathcal{A}}$ is computable, both this and its negation are Σ_1^c formulas.

Given a computable functor, find the interpretation

We know that $\Phi_*^{\Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) \oplus \text{id} \oplus \Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}})}$ is the identity map on $\Phi^{\Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}})}$.

Whenever we see σ , n , and i for which $\Phi_*^{\sigma \oplus (\text{id}|n) \oplus \sigma}(i) \downarrow = i$, we know that σ , viewed as a possible initial segment of some $\Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}})$, is “enough information” for Φ_* to have recognized i . Now σ codes a particular configuration ζ_σ of elements $0, 1, \dots, n$ of $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}$ (including i). So we define the domain $D \subseteq B^{<\omega} \times \omega$ to be the set of pairs (\vec{b}, i) with

$$\Phi_*^{\Delta(\vec{b}) \oplus (\text{id}| |\vec{b}|) \oplus \Delta(\vec{b})}(i) \downarrow = i.$$

and define $(\vec{b}, i) \sim (\vec{c}, j)$ if $\vec{b} \cup \vec{c}$ can be extended to a finite tuple \vec{d} for which some permutation τ of \vec{d} has $\tau(b_i) = c_j$ and $\tau(\vec{c} - \vec{b}) = (\vec{b} - \vec{c})$ and

$$\Phi_*^{\Delta(\vec{d}) \oplus \tau \oplus \Delta(\tau(\vec{d}))}(i) \downarrow = j \quad \& \quad \Phi_*^{\Delta(\tau(\vec{d})) \oplus \tau^{-1} \oplus \Delta(\vec{d})}(j) \downarrow = i.$$

Finishing the interpretation

Finally, for a unary relation R , we define $(\vec{b}, i) \in D$ to satisfy R iff there is some $(\vec{c}, j) \sim (\vec{b}, i)$ for which $\Phi^{\Delta(\vec{c})}$ halts and outputs 1 when we run it on (the code number of) the atomic formula $R(j)$.

All the formulas defining this interpretation are Σ_1^c , so the interpretation is effective.

Beyond effective interpretations

Question: what about more complicated interpretations?

Interpretations using Σ_2^c formulas can readily be viewed as functors into the *jump*. This continues to hold for Σ_α^c formulas, for $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$.

Defn. (various researchers), roughly stated

The *jump* \mathcal{B}' of a countable structure \mathcal{B} has the same domain as \mathcal{B} and includes the same predicates, but also has a predicate for every Σ_1^c formula (with free variables v_1, \dots, v_n) in the language of \mathcal{B} . That predicate holds of \vec{b} in \mathcal{B}' iff the formula holds of \vec{b} in \mathcal{B} .

This includes predicates such as “the length of \vec{b} lies in \emptyset ,” which are not truly structural. We know $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{B}') = \{\mathbf{d}' : \mathbf{d} \in \text{Spec}(\mathcal{B})\}$.

What about noncomputable infinitary formulas?

Now we allow interpretations using arbitrary $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ formulas (and still using arbitrarily long finite tuples). It remains true that every such interpretation \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} yields a functor $F_{\mathcal{I}}$ from $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$ into $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$. If the formulas are Σ_1^∞ (but noncomputable), then the functor can still be expressed using Turing functionals, with $G(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) = \Phi^{S \oplus \Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}})}$ and $H(f) = \Phi_*^{S \oplus \Delta(\widehat{\mathcal{B}}) \oplus f \oplus \Delta(\widetilde{\mathcal{B}})}$, where S is a fixed oracle capable of enumerating those formulas. If the formulas are Σ_α^∞ , then we need to use jumps of the structures.

Notice that with an extra oracle allowed, we could define α -th jumps even for countable ordinals $\geq \omega_1^{CK}$: just fix an oracle which can compute the ordinal you need!

Main theorem on infinitary interpretation

Theorem (HTM²)

For each Baire-measurable functor $F : \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$, there is an infinitary interpretation \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{A} within \mathcal{B} such that F is naturally isomorphic to the functor $F_{\mathcal{I}}$. If F is Δ_{α}^0 (in the lightface Borel hierarchy), then the interpretation can be done using Δ_{α}^c formulas, and the isomorphism between F and $F_{\mathcal{I}}$ can be taken to be Δ_{α}^0 .

The proof uses a forcing notion, with $\mathcal{B}^* = \{\text{finite 1-1 tuples from } \mathcal{B}\}$, so that generics are bijections (by genericity) from ω onto \mathcal{B} . We want to build several mutually generic structures (and examine how F acts on the maps between them), so we use product forcing with $(\mathcal{B}^*)^k$. The forcing notion will be definable in \mathcal{B} (at least, for a restricted sublanguage L'), yielding the formulas for the interpretation.

Forcing language

We want to force statements of the form $F(\mathcal{B}_{g_1}, g_2^{-1} \circ g_1, \mathcal{B}_{g_2})(i) = j$.
(Here \mathcal{B}_g is the pullback of \mathcal{B} to the domain ω along $g : \omega \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$.)

Finitary formulas in the forcing language L and its restriction L' :

- $\dot{g}_i^{-1} \circ \dot{g}_j(m) = n$ and its negation;
- $R^{\mathcal{B}_{\dot{g}_i}}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ and its negation, for $\vec{a} \in \omega^n$ and R an n -ary relation in the language of \mathcal{B} ;
- finite conjunctions and disjunctions;
- $\dot{g}_i(m) = n$ and its negation. (These are *not* in L' !)

We then build L and L' by taking infinitary conjunctions and disjunctions.

Now F is a Borel functional, so $F(\mathcal{B}_g)$ computes its atomic diagram using infinitary conjunctions and disjunctions of statements from $\Delta(\mathcal{B}_g)$. So, for P in the signature of \mathcal{A} , $F(\mathcal{B}_g) \models P(\vec{j})$ is expressible in L' , as is $F(\mathcal{B}_{g_1}, g_2^{-1} \circ g_1, \mathcal{B}_{g_2})(i) = j$, preserving complexities.

Definition of forcing

Let $p = (\bar{b}_1, \dots, \bar{b}_k) \in (\mathcal{B}^*)^k$.

φ	$p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi$ iff...
$\dot{g}_i^{-1} \circ \dot{g}_j(m) = n$	$\bar{b}_i(n) \downarrow = \bar{b}_j(m) \downarrow$.
$\dot{g}_i^{-1} \circ \dot{g}_j(m) \neq n$	$\bar{b}_i(n) \downarrow \neq \bar{b}_j(m) \downarrow$ or $\exists m' \neq m \bar{b}_i(n) \downarrow = \bar{b}_j(m') \downarrow$ or $\exists n' \neq n \bar{b}_i(n') \downarrow = \bar{b}_j(m) \downarrow$.
$R^{\mathcal{B}^{\dot{g}_i}}(\vec{a})$	$\mathcal{B} \models R(\bar{b}_i(a_1) \downarrow, \dots, \bar{b}_i(a_n) \downarrow)$.
$\neg R^{\mathcal{B}^{\dot{g}_i}}(\vec{a})$	$\mathcal{B} \models \neg R(\bar{b}_i(a_1) \downarrow, \dots, \bar{b}_i(a_n) \downarrow)$.
$\dot{g}_i(m) = n$	$\bar{b}_i(m) \downarrow = n$.
$\dot{g}_i(m) \neq n$	$\bar{b}_i(m) \downarrow \neq n$ or $\exists m' \neq m \bar{b}_i(m') \downarrow = n$.
finite disjunction	p forces some disjunct.
finite conjunction	p forces all conjuncts.
$\bigvee_n \psi_n$	$\exists n$ for which $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \psi_n$.
$\bigwedge_n \psi_n$	$(\forall n)(\forall q \supseteq p)(\exists r \supseteq q) r \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \psi_n$.

Forcing Lemma

Say that $\mathbf{g} = (g_1, \dots, g_k) \in (\mathcal{B}^*)^k$ is *S-generic* if the g_i are mutually $(S \oplus \mathcal{B})$ -hyperarithmetically generic functions $\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$. We say that $\varphi[\mathbf{g}]$ holds if φ becomes true when each g_i in \mathbf{g} is substituted for \dot{g}_i in φ .

Lemma

Let φ be an S -computable sentence of the forcing language for $(\mathcal{B}^*)^k$.

- 1 For S -generic \mathbf{g} , $\varphi[\mathbf{g}]$ holds iff, for some $p \subset \mathbf{g}$, $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi$.
- 2 If φ starts with \bigwedge , then $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi$ iff, for every S -generic $\mathbf{g} \supset p$, $\varphi[\mathbf{g}]$ holds.

The induction is mostly straightforward. Suppose φ is $\bigwedge_n \psi_n$ and some $p \subset \mathbf{g}$ forces φ . Now for each n , some $q \subset \mathbf{g}$ decides ψ_n . WLOG $p \subseteq q$, so some $r \supseteq q$ has $r \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \psi_n$, and so does q (since q decides ψ_n). By induction, then $\psi_n[\mathbf{g}]$ holds, and since this works for all n , $\varphi[\mathbf{g}]$ also holds.

The interpretation

We still need to produce our interpretation of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} . Its domain D contains those $(\bar{b}, i) \in \mathcal{B}^* \times \omega$ for which

$$(\bar{b}, \bar{b}) \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^2} F(\mathcal{B}_{\dot{g}_1}, \dot{g}_2^{-1} \circ \dot{g}_1, \mathcal{B}_{\dot{g}_2})(i) = i.$$

We define $(\bar{b}, i) \sim (\bar{c}, j)$ iff:

$$(\bar{b}, \bar{c}) \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^2} F(\mathcal{B}_{\dot{g}_1}, \dot{g}_2^{-1} \circ \dot{g}_1, \mathcal{B}_{\dot{g}_2})(i) = j.$$

If P (in the language of \mathcal{A}) has arity p , define the corresponding R in the interpretation to hold of $((\bar{b}_1, i_1), \dots, (\bar{b}_p, i_p)) \in D^p$ iff:

$$(\exists \bar{c} \in \mathcal{B}^*)(\exists \vec{j} \in \omega^p) \left[\left(\bigwedge_{s \leq p} (\bar{b}_s, i_s) \sim (\bar{c}, j_s) \right) \& \left(\bar{c} \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^1} \vec{j} \in P^{F(\mathcal{B}_{\dot{g}})} \right) \right].$$

Definability

To see that the formulas for the interpretation are $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ in the language of \mathcal{B} , one shows by induction that for each Σ_α^c formula φ in L' , $\{p \in (\mathcal{B}^*)^k : p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi\}$ is Σ_α^c -definable in \mathcal{B} , and likewise for Π_α . (This relativizes easily to S -computable formulas.)

For finitary formulas, notice that $\{(\bar{b}, \bar{c}) : \bar{b}(n) = \bar{c}(m)\}$ is definable by atomic formulas in \mathcal{B} , as is $\{\bar{b} : \mathcal{B} \models R(\bar{b}(a_1), \dots, \bar{b}(a_n))\}$.

If φ is $\bigvee_n \psi_n$, then $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi$ iff some n has $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \psi_n$, which by induction is Π_β^c -definable in \mathcal{B} with $\beta < \alpha$.

For $\bigwedge_n \psi_n$, one needs to know that for every p and φ , some $q \supseteq p$ decides φ , and that p cannot force both φ and $(\neg\varphi)$.

Now, if φ is $\bigwedge_n \psi_n$, then $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi$ iff, for all $q \supseteq p$, $q \not\Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} (\neg\psi_n)$. This is Σ_β^c -definable in \mathcal{B} for some $\beta < \alpha$, so $p \Vdash_{(\mathcal{B}^*)^k} \varphi$ is Π_α^c -definable.

$$\mathcal{A} \cong (D/\sim, R_0, R_1, \dots)$$

We wish to define an isomorphism $\pi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow D/\sim$ (where $\mathcal{A} = F(\mathcal{B})$). For this we use a generic $g : \omega \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$, which yields a map $\pi_g : F(\mathcal{B}_g) \rightarrow D/\sim$. The value $\pi_g(i)$ is the least tuple $(\bar{c}, i) \in D$ with $\bar{c} \subset g$ (which exists, by genericity). Then compose π_g with $F(\mathcal{B}, g^{-1}, \mathcal{B}_g)$, which maps $\mathcal{A} = F(\mathcal{B})$ to $F(\mathcal{B}_g)$, since $g^{-1} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_g$:

$$\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow F(\mathcal{B}_g) \longrightarrow D.$$

Of course, $F(\mathcal{B}, g^{-1}, \mathcal{B}_g)$ is known to be an isomorphism. The work here is to prove that π_g is an isomorphism, and the genericity of g is used heavily.

Finally, one shows that the composition $\pi_g \circ F(\mathcal{B}, g^{-1}, \mathcal{B}_g)$ is independent of the choice of the generic g .

Corollaries: automorphism groups

One can prove that, for every continuous homomorphism $h : \text{Aut}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$, there is a Borel functor $G : \text{Iso}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ with $G(\mathcal{B}) = \mathcal{A}$, whose restriction to $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{B})$ equals h .

Corollary (HTM²)

Every continuous homomorphism $h : \text{Aut}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ is induced by an infinitary interpretation of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} .

There do exist discontinuous homomorphisms h , which clearly cannot arise from interpretations. (Cf. Evans-Hewitt, 1990.) However, every Baire-measurable homomorphism from $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{B})$ into $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ is continuous, hence induced by an interpretation.

Corollary (HTM²)

Every continuous isomorphism $h : \text{Aut}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ arises from a Borel adjoint equivalence between the categories $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ and $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{B})$, and every such equivalence is induced by an infinitary bi-interpretation between \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} .

Corollaries: indiscernibles

Theorem (HTM²)

Let \mathcal{A} be countable. Then TFAE:

- 1 There is a continuous homomorphism from $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ onto S_ω (the permutation group of ω).
- 2 There is an n , an $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ -definable $D \subseteq A^n$, and an $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ -definable equivalence relation $E \subseteq D^2$ with infinitely many equivalence classes, such that these E -classes are absolutely indiscernible (i.e., every permutation of the E -classes extends to an automorphism of \mathcal{A}).

In addition, a continuous isomorphism between $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ and S_ω exists iff every element of \mathcal{A} is definable from the set of E -classes above. (That is, if we add one unary relation symbol to name each E -class, every element becomes $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ -definable.)

Corollaries: order-indiscernibles

Analogous theorems hold for order-indiscernibles, with S_ω replaced by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}, <)$. \mathcal{A} is not assumed to possess an order relation; the theorem proves the existence of an $L_{\omega_1\omega}$ -definable dense order on the E -classes under which they are order-indiscernible.