

# Graphs and digraphs with many symmetries

and a wonderfully elegant argument of Hikoe Enomoto

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# Outline

## Motivation and background

- Homogeneous structures
- Classification results

## Weakening homogeneity

- Set-homogeneous structures
- Enomoto's argument for finite set-homogeneous graphs
- Classifying the finite set-homogeneous digraphs

## Infinite structures

- Countable set-homogeneous graphs
- Countable set-homogeneous digraphs

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# Homogeneous relational structures

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## Relational structures

- ▶ a **relational structure** consists of a set  $A$ , and some relations  $R_1, \dots, R_m$  (can be unary, binary, ternary, ...)
- ▶ an (induced) **substructure** is obtained by taking a subset  $B \subseteq A$  and keeping only those relations where all entries in the tuple belong to  $B$
- ▶ an **isomorphism** is a “structure preserving” mapping (i.e. a bijection  $\phi$  such that  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  are both homomorphisms)

## Example

A graph  $\Gamma$  is a structure  $(V\Gamma, \sim)$  where  $V\Gamma$  is a set, and  $\sim$  is a symmetric irreflexive binary relation on  $V\Gamma$ .

# Examples of homogeneous structures

$X$  - a pure set

- ▶ automorphism group is the full symmetric group where any partial permutation can be extended to a (full) permutation

$(\mathbb{Q}, \leq)$  - the rationals with their usual ordering

- ▶ the automorphisms are the order-preserving permutations
- ▶ isomorphisms between finite substructures can be extended to automorphisms that are piecewise-linear

Rado's countable **random graph**  $R$

- ▶ if we choose a countable graph at random (edges independently with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ ), then with probability 1 it is isomorphic to  $R$

# Some history

## Origins

- ▶ The notion of homogeneous structure goes back to the fundamental work of Fraïssé (1953)
- ▶ Fraïssé proved a theorem which helps us determine if a countable structure is homogeneous, using the ideas of:
  - ▶ **age** - the finite substructures they embed, and
  - ▶ **amalgamation property** - the way that they can be glued together

Homogeneous structures are nice because they:

- ▶ have “lots of” symmetry;
- ▶ often have rich and interesting automorphism groups.

# Connection with model theory

Common theme in **model theory**:

translation between “model theoretic terminology” and “permutation group theoretic terminology”



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## Example.

- (I) A structure  $M$  is  **$\aleph_0$ -categorical** if all countable models of the first-order theory of  $M$  are isomorphic to  $M$ .
- (II) A permutation group on an infinite set  $\Omega$  is called **oligomorphic**, if it has finitely many orbits of  $n$ -tuples, for all  $n \geq 1$ .

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## Theorem (Ryll-Nardzewski)

*A countable structure  $M$  over a first-order language is  $\aleph_0$ -categorical if and only if  $\text{Aut}(M)$  is oligomorphic.*

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Homogeneous structures give examples of “nice”  $\aleph_0$ -categorical structures (precisely those that have quantifier elimination).

# Classification results

For certain families of relational structure, those members that are homogeneous have been completely determined.

## Some classification results

	Finite	Countably infinite
Posets	(trivial)	Schmerl (1979)
Tournaments	Woodrow (1976)	Lachlan (1984)
Graphs	Gardiner (1976)	Lachlan & Woodrow (1980)
Digraphs	Lachlan (1982)	Cherlin (1998)

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# Set-homogeneity

## Definition

A relational structure  $M$  is **set-homogeneous** if whenever two finite substructures  $U$  and  $V$  are isomorphic, there is an automorphism  $g \in \text{Aut}(M)$  such that  $Ug = V$ .

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- ▶ It is a concept originally due to Fraïssé and Pouzet.
- ▶ The permutation group-theoretic weakening

homogeneous  $\rightsquigarrow$  set-homogeneous

relates to the model-theoretic weakening

elimination of quantifiers  $\rightsquigarrow$  model complete.

- ▶ Droste et al. (1994) - proved a set-homogeneous analogue of Fraïssé's theorem, where the amalgamation property is replaced by something called the **twisted amalgamation property**.

# Set-homogeneity vs homogeneity

- ▶ Clearly if  $M$  is homogeneous then  $M$  is set-homogeneous.
- ▶ The converse is not true in general:

## Example

Let  $M = (\mathbb{Q}, R)$  where  $R$  is the ternary relation given by:

$$\forall x, y, z \in M, (x, y, z) \in R \Leftrightarrow x < y < z.$$

- ▶  $M$  is set-homogeneous
  - ▶ any order-preserving bijection between between finite substructures is an isomorphism that extends to an automorphism



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- ▶  $M$  is not homogeneous
  - ▶  $(0, 1) \mapsto (0, 1)$  is an isomorphism between substructures
  - ▶ it does not extend to an automorphism since  $(0, \frac{1}{2}, 1) \in R$  but  $(1, x, 0) \notin R$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

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## General question

How much stronger is homogeneity than set-homogeneity?

# Set-homogeneous finite graphs

## Ronse (1978)

...proved that for finite graphs **homogeneity and set-homogeneity are equivalent**.

- ▶ He did this by classifying the finite set-homogeneous graphs and then observing that they are all, in fact, homogeneous.
- ▶ This generalised an earlier result of Gardiner, classifying the finite homogeneous graphs.

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## Enomoto (1981)

...gave a **direct proof** of the fact that for finite graphs set-homogeneous implies homogeneous.

- ▶ this avoids the need to classify the set-homogeneous graphs
- ▶ the set-homogeneous classification can then be read off from Gardiner's result

# Some graph theoretic terminology and notation

## Definition

$\Gamma = (V\Gamma, \sim)$  - a graph

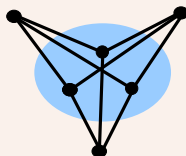
So  $\sim$  is a symmetric irreflexive binary relation on  $V\Gamma$

- ▶ Let  $v$  be a vertex of  $\Gamma$ . Then the **neighbourhood**  $\Gamma(v)$  of  $v$  is the set of all vertices adjacent to  $v$ . So

$$\Gamma(v) = \{w \in V\Gamma : w \sim v\}$$

- ▶ For  $X \subseteq V\Gamma$  we define

$$\Gamma(X) = \{w \in V\Gamma : w \sim x \forall x \in X\}$$



# Enomoto's argument

## Lemma (Enomoto's lemma)

*Let  $\Gamma$  be a finite set-homogeneous graph and let  $U$  and  $V$  be induced subgraphs of  $\Gamma$ . If  $U \cong V$  then  $|\Gamma(U)| = |\Gamma(V)|$ .*

**Proof.**

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- ▶ Then  $(\Gamma(U))g = \Gamma(V)$ .



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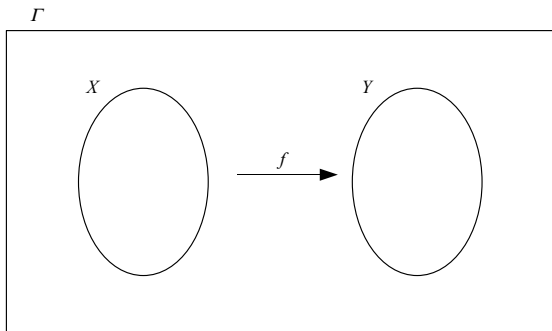
*Let  $\Gamma$  be a finite set-homogeneous graph and let  $U$  and  $V$  be induced subgraphs of  $\Gamma$ . If  $U \cong V$  then  $|\Gamma(U)| = |\Gamma(V)|$ .*

### **Proof.**

- ▶ Let  $g \in \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  such that  $Ug = V$ .
- ▶ Then  $(\Gamma(U))g = \Gamma(V)$ .
- ▶ In particular  $|\Gamma(U)| = |\Gamma(V)|$ .

## Enomoto's argument

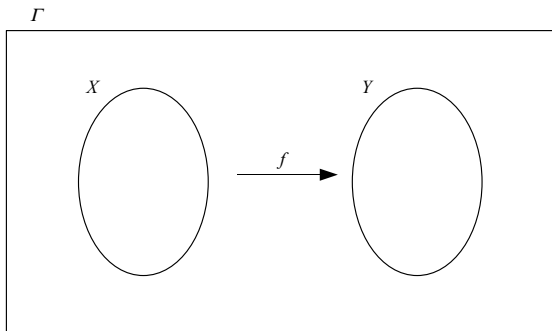
$\Gamma$  - finite set-homogeneous graph     $X, Y$  - induced subgraphs  
 $f : X \rightarrow Y$  an isomorphism



**Claim:** The isomorphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is either an automorphism, or extends to an isomorphism  $f' : X' \rightarrow Y'$  where  $X' \supsetneq X$  and  $Y' \supsetneq Y$ .

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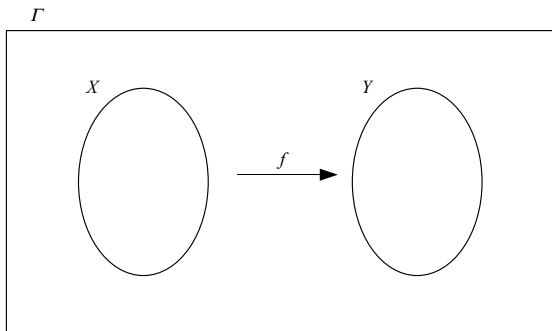


### Proof of claim.

- ▶ Choose  $a \in \Gamma \setminus X$  with  $|\Gamma(a) \cap X|$  as large as possible.

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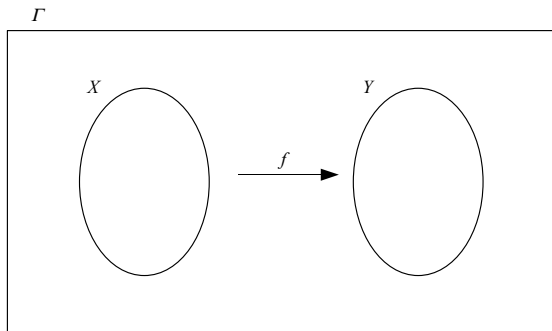


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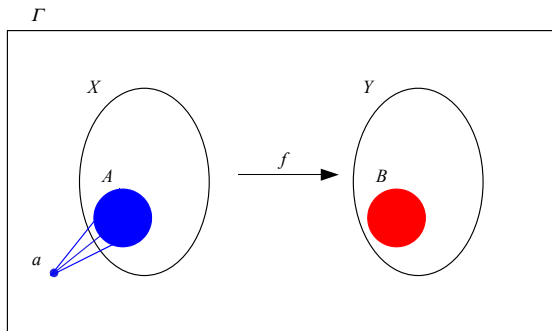


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- ▶ Suppose  $|\Gamma(a) \cap X| \geq |\Gamma(d) \cap Y|$  (the other possibility is dealt with dually using the isomorphism  $f^{-1}$ )

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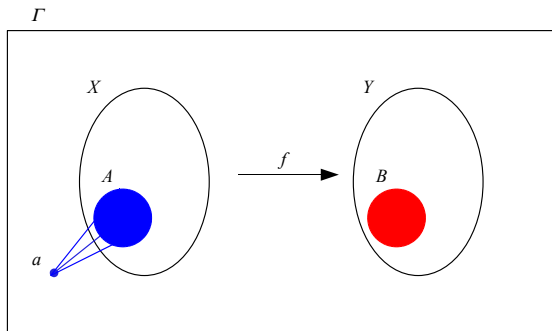


### Proof of claim.

- ▶ Let  $A = \Gamma(a) \cap X$  and define  $B = f(A)$ .

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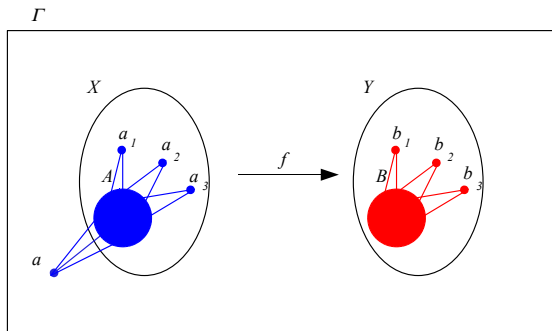


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- ▶ Let  $A = \Gamma(a) \cap X$  and define  $B = f(A)$ .
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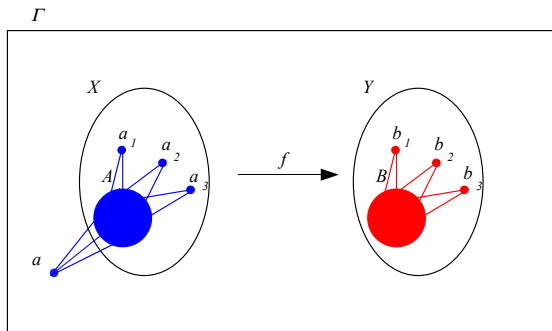
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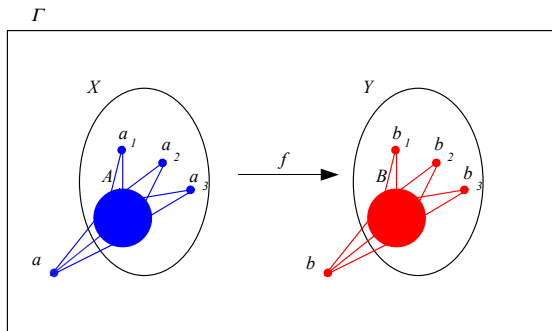


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- ▶  $\Gamma(B) \cap Y = f(\Gamma(A) \cap X)$  so  $|\Gamma(B) \cap Y| = |\Gamma(A) \cap X|$ .
- ▶  $\therefore |\Gamma(B) \setminus Y| = |\Gamma(A) \setminus X| \geq 1$

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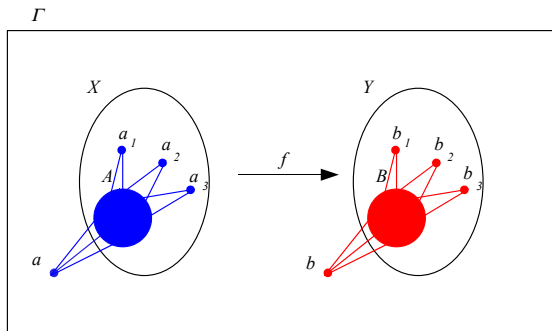


## Proof of claim.

- ▶ Let  $b \in \Gamma(B) \setminus Y$  and extend  $f$  to  $f' : X \cup \{a\} \rightarrow Y \cup \{b\}$  by defining  $f'(a) = b$ .

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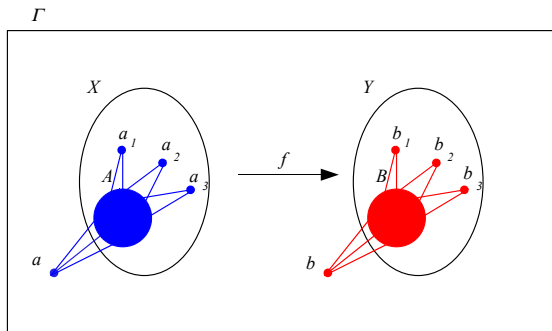


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- ▶  $\therefore f'$  is an isomorphism.

## Set-homogeneous digraphs

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## Definition (Digraphs)

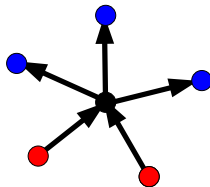
A **digraph**  $D$  consists of a set  $VD$  of vertices together with an irreflexive antisymmetric binary relation  $\rightarrow$  on  $VD$ .

## Definition (in- and out-neighbours)

A vertex  $v \in VD$  has a set of **in-neighbours** and a set of **out-neighbours**

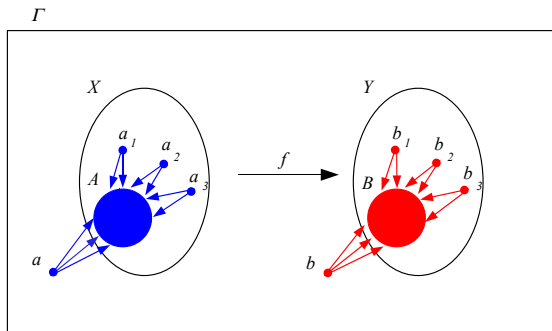
$$D^+(v) = \{w \in VD : v \rightarrow w\}, \quad D^-(v) = \{w \in VD : w \rightarrow v\}.$$

A vertex with red in-neighbours and blue out-neighbours



## Enomoto's argument for digraphs

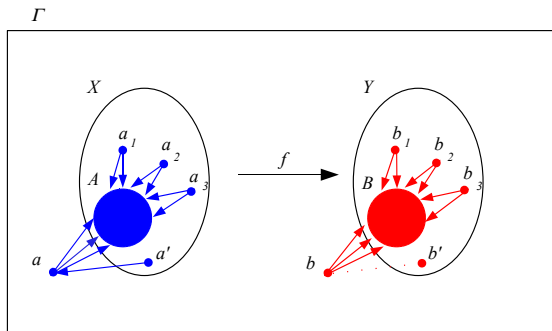
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- ▶ Follow the same steps but using out-neighbours instead of neighbours.
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- ▶ Follow the same steps but using out-neighbours instead of neighbours.
- ▶ Everything works, except the very last step.
- ▶ **We do not know how  $b$  is related to the vertices in the set  $Y \setminus B$ .**  
So  $f'$  may not be an isomorphism.



# Enomoto's argument for digraphs

## The key point:

- ▶ For graphs, given  $u, v \in V\Gamma$  there are 2 possibilities

$u \sim v$  or  $u \parallel v$  (meaning that  $u$  &  $v$  are unrelated).

- ▶ For digraphs, given  $u, v \in VD$  there are 3 possibilities

$u \rightarrow v$  or  $v \rightarrow u$  or  $u \parallel v$ .

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## However, the argument does work for tournaments:

### Definition

A **tournament** is a digraph where for any pair of vertices  $u, v$  either  $u \rightarrow v$  or  $v \rightarrow u$ .

### Corollary

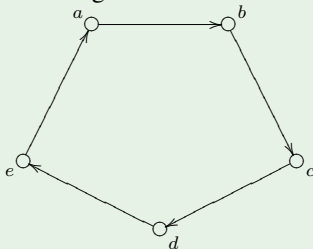
*Let  $T$  be a finite tournament. Then  $T$  is homogeneous if and only if  $T$  is set-homogeneous.*

# A non-homogeneous example

## Example

Let  $D_n$  denote the digraph with vertex set  $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$  and just with arcs  $i \rightarrow i+1 \pmod{n}$ .

The digraph  $D_5$  is set-homogeneous but is not homogeneous.



- ▶  $(a, c) \mapsto (a, d)$  gives an isomorphism between induced subdigraphs that does not extend to an automorphism
- ▶ However, there is an automorphism sending  $\{a, c\}$  to  $\{a, d\}$ .

# Finite set-homogeneous digraphs

## Question

How much bigger is the class of set-homogeneous digraphs than the class of homogeneous digraphs?

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## Theorem (RG, Macpherson, Praeger (2007))

*Let  $D$  be a finite set-homogeneous digraph. Then either  $D$  is homogeneous or it is isomorphic to  $D_5$ .*

### Proof.

- ▶ Carry out the classification of finite set-homogeneous digraphs.
- ▶ By inspection note that  $D_5$  is the only non-homogeneous example.  $\square$

# Symmetric-digraphs (s-digraphs)

A common generalisation of graphs and digraphs

## Definition (s-digraph)

- ▶ An s-digraph is the same as a digraph except that we **allow** pairs of vertices to have **arcs in both directions**.
- ▶ So for any pair of vertices  $u, v$  exactly one of the following holds:

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- ▶ Formally we can think of an s-digraph as a structure  $M$  with two binary relations  $\rightarrow$  and  $\sim$  where
  - ▶  $\sim$  is irreflexive and symmetric (and corresponds to  $\leftrightarrow$  above)
  - ▶  $\rightarrow$  is irreflexive and antisymmetric
  - ▶  $\sim$  and  $\rightarrow$  are disjoint
- ▶ A graph is an s-digraph (where there are no  $\rightarrow$ -related vertices)
- ▶ A digraph is an s-digraph (where there are no  $\sim$ -related vertices)

# Classifying the finite homogeneous s-digraphs

- ▶ Lachlan (1982) classified the finite homogeneous s-digraphs

To state his result we need the notions of

- ▶ complement
- ▶ compositional product

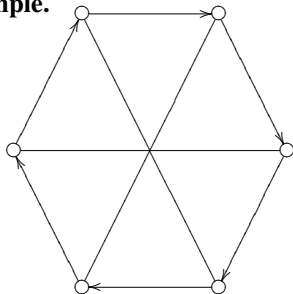


# Finite homogeneous s-digraphs

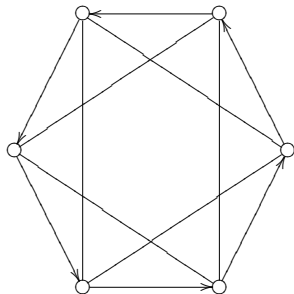
## Definition (Complement)

If  $M$  is an s-digraph, then  $\bar{M}$ , the **complement**, is the s-digraph with the same vertex set, such that  $u \sim v$  in  $\bar{M}$  if and only if they are unrelated in  $M$ , and  $u \rightarrow v$  in  $\bar{M}$  if and only if  $v \rightarrow u$  in  $M$ .

**Example.**



$M$



$\bar{M}$

# Finite homogeneous s-digraphs

## Definition (Composition)

If  $U$  and  $V$  are s-digraphs, the **compositional product**  $U[V]$  denotes the s-digraph which is

“ $|U|$  copies of  $V$ ”

Vertex set =  $U \times V$

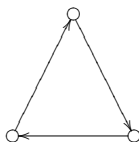
→ relations are of form  
 $(u, v_1) \rightarrow (u, v_2)$  where  $v_1 \rightarrow v_2$  in  $V$ ,  
or of form  $(u_1, v_1) \rightarrow (u_2, v_2)$  where  
 $u_1 \rightarrow u_2$  in  $U$ ,

Similarly for  $\sim$ .

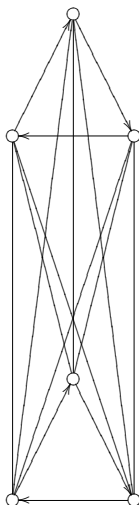
$K_2$



$D_3$



$K_2[D_3]$

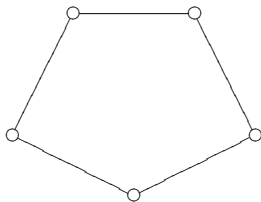


# Some finite homogeneous s-digraphs

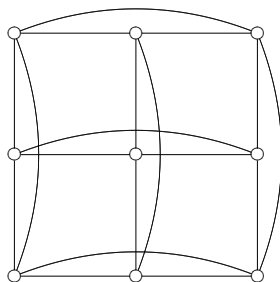
Sporadic examples

$\mathcal{L}$  - finite homogeneous graphs,  $\mathcal{A}$  - finite homogeneous digraphs,

$\mathcal{S}$  - finite homogeneous s-digraphs



$C_5 \in \mathcal{L}$

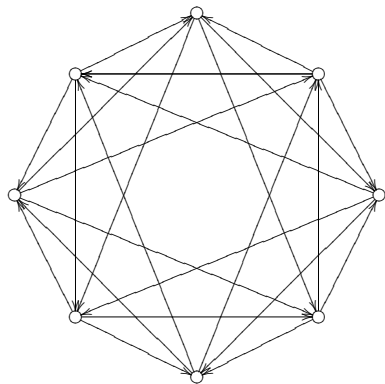


$K_3 \times K_3 \in \mathcal{L}$

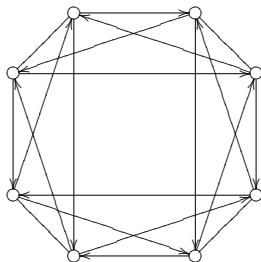
# Some finite homogeneous s-digraphs

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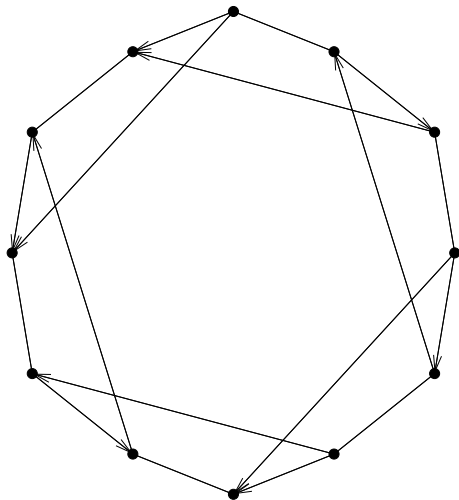
$H_0 \in \mathcal{A}$



$H_1 \in \mathcal{S}$

# Some finite homogeneous s-digraphs

Sporadic examples



$H_2 \in \mathcal{S}$

To complete the picture...

In  $H_2$  each vertex  $v$  has a unique mate  $v'$  to which it is joined by an undirected edge.

Now if  $v \rightarrow w$  then  $w \rightarrow v'$  where  $v'$  is the mate of  $v$ .

Similarly, if  $w \rightarrow v$  then  $v' \rightarrow w$ .

# Lachlan's classification

$\mathcal{L}$  - finite homogeneous graphs,  $\mathcal{A}$  - finite homogeneous digraphs,  
 $\mathcal{S}$  - finite homogeneous s-digraphs

## Theorem (Lachlan (1982))

*Let  $M$  be a finite s-digraph. Then*

### ***Gardiner***

(i)  $M \in \mathcal{L} \Leftrightarrow M$  or  $\bar{M}$  is one of:  $C_5$ ,  $K_3 \times K_3$ ,  $K_m[\bar{K}_n]$  (for  $1 \leq m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ );

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*(ii)  $M \in \mathcal{A} \Leftrightarrow M$  is one of:  $D_3$ ,  $D_4$ ,  $H_0$ ,  $\bar{K}_n$ ,  $\bar{K}_n[D_3]$ , or  $D_3[\bar{K}_n]$ , for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $1 \leq n$ ;*

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(iii)  $M \in \mathcal{S} \Leftrightarrow M$  or  $\bar{M}$  is isomorphic to an s-digraph of one of the following forms.  $K_n[A]$ ,  $A[K_n]$ ,  $L$ ,  $D_3[L]$ ,  $L[D_3]$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $1 \leq n$ ,  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $L \in \mathcal{L}$ .



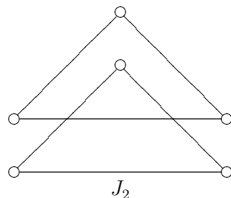
# Set-homogeneous s-digraphs

Theorem (RG, Macpherson, Praeger (2007))

*The finite s-digraphs that are set-homogeneous but not homogeneous are:*

**Infinite families (with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ )**

- (i)  $K_n[D_5]$  or  $D_5[K_n]$
- (ii)  $J_n$



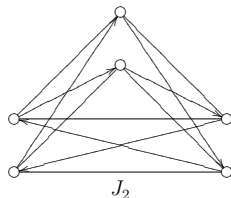
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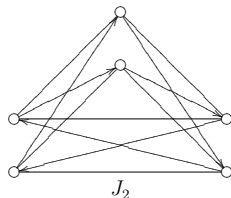
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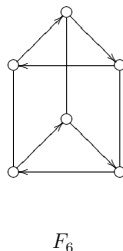
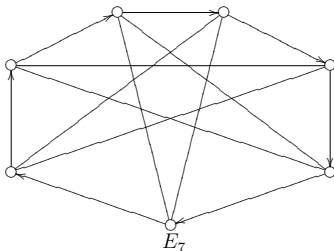
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**Sporadics**



# Outline

## Motivation and background

- Homogeneous structures
- Classification results

## Weakening homogeneity

- Set-homogeneous structures
- Enomoto's argument for finite set-homogeneous graphs
- Classifying the finite set-homogeneous digraphs

## Infinite structures

- Countable set-homogeneous graphs
- Countable set-homogeneous digraphs

# Circular structures

- ▶ Construction discovered independently by Cameron and Macpherson.

## Definition (the graph $R(3)$ )

- ▶ its vertex set is **any countable dense subset of the unit circle** such that **no two points make an angle of  $2\pi/3$  at the centre** of the circle.

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  - ▶ To construct such a set begin with the set of all complex roots of unity
  - ▶ partition into sets of size 3 with two vertices in the same part iff the angle they make at the centre is a multiple of  $2\pi/3$
  - ▶ choose representatives from these equivalence classes at random

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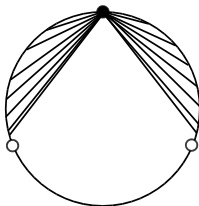
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  - ▶ To construct such a set begin with the set of all complex roots of unity
  - ▶ partition into sets of size 3 with two vertices in the same part iff the angle they make at the centre is a multiple of  $2\pi/3$
  - ▶ choose representatives from these equivalence classes at random
- ▶ two vertices are adjacent iff the acute angle they make with the centre of the circle is less than  $2\pi/3$
- ▶ i.e. they are **adjacent when close enough together**

**Fact.** Two graphs satisfying these properties are isomorphic.

# Countable set-homogeneous graphs

The neighbourhood of a vertex in the graph  $R(3)$



**Theorem (Droste, Giraudet, Macpherson, Sauer (1994))**

*The graph  $R(3)$  is set-homogeneous but not 3-homogeneous. Moreover, any set-homogeneous but not  $\leq 3$ -homogeneous graph is isomorphic to  $R(3)$  or its complement.*



# $T(4)$ : a countable set-homogeneous digraph

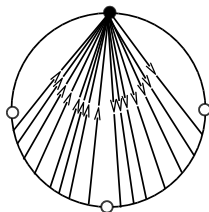
## Definition

Let  $T(4)$  be the digraph obtained by distributing countably many points densely around the unit circle

- ▶ no two making an angle of  $\pi$  or  $\pi/2$  at the centre
- ▶ such that  $x \rightarrow y$  if and only if  $\pi/2 < \arg(x/y) < \pi$ .

By a back-and-forth argument, this construction for  $T(4)$  determines unique digraph.

The neighbourhood of a vertex in the graph  $T(4)$



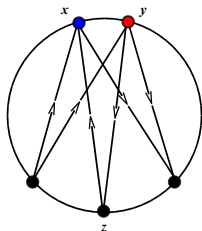
# Properties of $T(4)$

## Lemma

*The digraph  $T(4)$  is set-homogeneous but not 2-homogeneous.*

### proof.

- ▶ set-homogeneity: shown by “expanding”  $T(4)$  to a homogeneous structure
- ▶ not 2-homogeneous: there exist independent pairs that cannot be swapped by any automorphism
- ▶ e.g. if  $x, y \in T(4)$  with  $0 < \arg(x/y) < \pi/2$ , then
  - ▶  $\exists z(z \rightarrow x \wedge y \rightarrow z)$  but
  - ▶  $\neg \exists z(z \rightarrow y \wedge x \rightarrow z)$ .



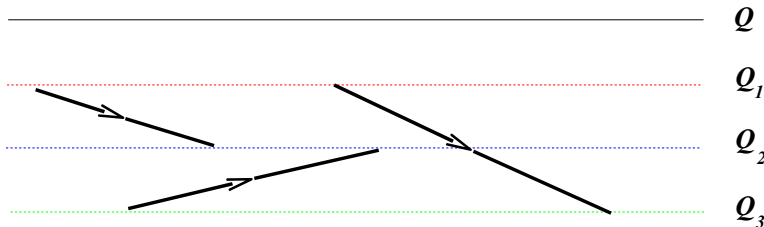
# $R_n$ ( $n \geq 2$ ): a family of set-homogeneous digraphs

## Definition

- ▶ Let  $2 \leq n \leq \aleph_0$
- ▶ let  $\{Q_i : i < n\}$  be a partition of  $\mathbb{Q}$  into  $n$  dense codense sets.

Define a digraph  $R_n$  with domain  $\mathbb{Q}$ , putting  $a \rightarrow b$  if and only if  $a < b$  and there is no  $i < n$  such that  $a, b \in Q_i$ .

By a back-and-forth argument, this construction for  $R_n$  determines unique digraph.



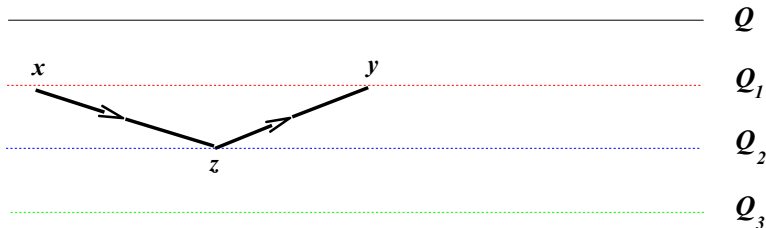
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The digraphs  $R_n$  (for  $n \geq 2$ ) are set-homogeneous but not 2-homogeneous.

### proof.

- ▶ set-homogeneity: shown by “expanding” to a homogeneous structure
- ▶ not 2-homogeneous: for if  $x, y \in Q_1$  with  $x < y$  then there is  $z$  with  $x \rightarrow z \rightarrow y$  but no  $z$  with  $y \rightarrow z \rightarrow x$ .
- ▶  $\therefore (x, y \text{mapsto}(y, x))$  does not extend to an automorphism.



# A partial classification

## Theorem (RG, Macpherson, Praeger (2007))

*Let  $D$  be a countably infinite set-homogeneous digraph which is not 2-homogeneous. Then  $D$  is isomorphic to  $T(4)$  or to  $R_n$  for some  $n \geq 2$ .*

## Open problems

- ▶ Is there a countably infinite tournament that is set-homogeneous but not homogeneous?
- ▶ Classify the countably infinite set-homogeneous graphs (and digraphs).

Relating to the first of these questions, we know:

## Proposition (RG, Macpherson, Praeger (2007))

Let  $T$  be a set-homogeneous tournament. Then  $T$  is 4-homogeneous.