

# Projective classes as images of accessible functors

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# References

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- 2 P. Gillibert and F. Wehrung, *From Objects to Diagrams for Ranges of Functors*, Springer Lecture Notes **2029**, Springer, Heidelberg, 2011.
- 3 F. Wehrung, *From non-commutative diagrams to anti-elementary classes*, J. Math. Logic **21**, no. 2 (2021), 2150011.
- 4 F. Wehrung, *Projective classes as images of accessible functors*, J. Logic Comput. **33**, no. 1 (January 2023), 90–135.
- 5 References [2,3,4] above can be downloaded from <https://wehrungf.users.lmno.cnrs.fr/pubs.html> .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

- We would like to prove that certain “naturally defined” categories  $\mathcal{C}$  of models (say of first-order theories) are “intractable”.

# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **Examples:**

# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- A way to define intractability is to state that  $\mathcal{C}$  is **not** the class of models of any **infinitary (not just first-order!) sentence** (we'll say **elementary**).

# Motivation

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- A way to define intractability is to state that  $\mathcal{C}$  is **not** the class of models of any **infinitary (not just first-order!) sentence** (we'll say **elementary**).
- **Let's suggest a stronger notion of intractability.**

# v-structures

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

- **Vocabulary:**  $\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{v}_{\text{ope}}, \mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}, \text{ar})$  with  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{ope}} \cap \mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}} = \emptyset$  and  $\text{ar}: \mathbf{v}_{\text{ope}} \cup \mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}} \rightarrow \text{ordinals}$  (usually) with  $0 \notin \text{ar}[\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}]$ .

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# v-structures

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# v-structures

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# v-structures

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **Str( $\mathbf{v}$ )**  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$  category of all  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures with  $\mathbf{v}$ -homomorphisms (it is **locally presentable**).

# v-structures

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# v-structures

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **Terms:** closure of variables under all functions symbols.
- **atomic formulas:**  $s = t$ , for terms  $s$  and  $t$ , or  $R(t_\xi \mid \xi \in \text{ar}(R))$  where the  $t_\xi$  are terms and  $R \in \mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}$ .

# The languages $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$

- Here  $\kappa$  and  $\lambda$  are “extended cardinals” ( $\infty$  allowed) with  $\omega \leq \lambda \leq \kappa \leq \infty$ .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- For any vocabulary  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}(\mathbf{v}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{closure of all atomic } \mathbf{v}\text{-formulas under disjunctions of } < \kappa \text{ members } (\bigvee_{i \in I} E_i \text{ where } \text{card } I < \kappa), \text{ negation, and existential quantification over sets of less than } \lambda \text{ variables } ((\exists X)E \text{ with } \text{card } X < \lambda, \text{ or, in indexed form, } \exists \vec{x} E \text{ with } \text{card } I < \lambda).$

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **Satisfaction**  $\mathbf{A} \models E(\vec{a})$  defined as usual ( $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $\mathbf{v}$ -structure,  $E \in \mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty}(\mathbf{v})$ ,  $\vec{a}$ : free variables  $(E) \rightarrow A$ ).

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **$\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$ -elementary class:**  
 $\mathcal{C} = \text{Mod}_{\mathbf{v}}(E) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\mathbf{A} \in \text{Str}(\mathbf{v}) \mid \mathbf{A} \models E\}$  where  $E$  is an  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentence.

# (Relatively) projective classes

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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# (Relatively) projective classes

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

**Heuristically:** a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures is

- **projective over**  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$  (abbrev.  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda})$ ) if  $\mathcal{C} = (\exists X)\mathcal{D}$  where  $\mathcal{D}$  is  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$ -**elementary** and  $\exists X$  is a **second-order quantifier** (e.g.,  $\exists X \subseteq M^\alpha$ , etc.)
- **relatively projective over**  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$  (abbrev.  $\text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda})$ ) if  $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{M} \upharpoonright_U \mid \mathbf{M} \in \mathcal{D}\}$  for some **projective** class  $\mathcal{D}$  and some **unary relation symbol**  $U$ .

# Relatively projective classes (cont'd)

**Formally:** a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures is

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems



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- **relatively projective over**  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$  (abbrev.  $\text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda})$ ) if there are a unary predicate symbol  $U$ , a vocabulary  $\mathbf{w} \supseteq \mathbf{v} \cup \{U\}$ , and a sentence  $E \in \mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}(\mathbf{w})$  such that  $\mathcal{C} = \{U^M \upharpoonright_{\mathbf{v}} \mid M \in \text{Mod}_{\mathbf{w}}(E), U^M \text{ closed under } \mathbf{v}_{\text{ope}}\}$ .

Projective classes as images of accessible functors

Motivation

Elementary, projective

Tuuri's Interpolation Theorem

Karttunen's back-and-forth systems

# Relatively projective classes (cont'd)

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- Hence  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}) \subseteq \text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda})$ . Note that  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\omega\omega}) \subsetneq \text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\omega\omega})$  (even on finite structures).

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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## Theorem (W 2021)

Let  $\lambda$  be an infinite cardinal. Then  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\lambda}) = \text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\lambda})$  (in full generality; no restrictions on vocabularies). Moreover, if  $\lambda$  is singular, then  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\lambda}) = \text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\lambda^+})$ .

# Examples of “elementary” classes

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

- **Finiteness** (of the ambient universe) is  $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ :

$$\bigvee_{n < \omega} (\exists i < n x_i) (\forall x) \bigvee_{i < n} (x = x_i).$$

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# Examples of “elementary” classes

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **Torsion-freeness** (of a group) is  $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ :

$$\bigwedge_{0 < n < \omega} (\forall x) (x^n = 1 \Rightarrow x = 1).$$

# An example of RPC (that turns out to be PC)

- $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \mathbf{M} = (M, \cdot, 1) \text{ monoid} \mid (\exists \mathbf{G} \text{ group})(\mathbf{M} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{G}) \}$  is, by definition,  $\text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{ww})$ .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

- $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \mathbf{M} = (M, \cdot, 1) \text{ monoid} \mid (\exists \mathbf{G} \text{ group})(\mathbf{M} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{G}) \}$  is, by definition,  $\text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\omega\omega})$ .
- Here  $\mathbf{v} = (\cdot, 1)_{(2)}$ ,  $\mathbf{w} = (\cdot, 1, U)_{(0)}$  for a unary predicate  $U$ , the required  $E$  states that the given  $\mathbf{w}$ -structure is a group (so “ $U^{\mathbf{G}}$  is  $\mathbf{v}$ -closed in  $\mathbf{G}$ ” means that  $U$  interprets a submonoid of  $\mathbf{G}$ ).



# An example of RPC (that turns out to be PC)

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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- By Mal'cev's work,  $\mathcal{C} = \{ \mathbf{M} \mid (\forall n < \omega)(\mathbf{M} \models E_n) \}$  for an effectively constructed sequence  $(E_n \mid n < \omega)$  of **quasi-identities** over  $\mathbf{v}$ , **not reducible to any finite subset**.

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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- In fact,  
 $\mathcal{C} = \{ \mathbf{M} \mid (\exists \text{ group structure } \mathbf{G} \text{ on } M)(\exists f: \mathbf{M} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{G}) \}$  is  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\omega\omega})$ .

# Other examples

- For a unital ring  $R$ ,  $\text{Id}_c R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\vee, 0)$ -semilattice of all finitely generated two-sided ideals of  $R$ . Let  $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{Id}_c R \mid R \text{ unital ring}\}$ .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# Other examples

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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# Other examples

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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# Other examples

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- All those classes are  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega})$ .
- Observe that they are all defined as **images of functors**.
- We will see that none of those classes is  $\text{co-PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$  (i.e., complement of a  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ ).

# Accessible categories and functors

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Let  $\lambda$  be a regular cardinal.

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# Accessible categories and functors

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

Let  $\lambda$  be a regular cardinal.

- A category  $\mathcal{S}$  is  $\lambda$ -accessible if it has all  $\lambda$ -directed colimits and it has a  $\lambda$ -directed colimit-dense subset  $\mathcal{S}^\dagger$ , consisting of  $\lambda$ -presentable objects.

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
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Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
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- One can then take  $\mathcal{S}^\dagger = \mathbf{Pres}_\lambda \mathcal{S}$ , “the” set of all  $\lambda$ -presentable objects in  $\mathcal{S}$  (up to isomorphism).

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- A functor  $\Phi: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  is  **$\lambda$ -continuous** if it preserves  $\lambda$ -directed colimits. If  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  are both  **$\lambda$ -accessible categories**, we say that  $\Phi$  is a  **$\lambda$ -accessible functor**.

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- There are many examples:  **$\mathbf{Str}(\mathbf{v})$** , quasivarieties. . .

# PC versus accessible

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

## Theorem (W 2021)

Let  $\lambda$  be a regular cardinal, let  $\mathbf{v}$  be a vocabulary such that  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{ope}}$  is  $\lambda$ -ary, and let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $\text{RPC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\lambda})$  class of  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures. Then there are a  $\lambda$ -accessible category  $\mathcal{S}$  and a  $\lambda$ -continuous functor  $\Phi: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbf{Str}(\mathbf{v})$ , that can be taken faithful, with  $\text{im } \Phi \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \mathbf{M} \mid (\exists S \in \text{Ob } \mathcal{S})(\mathbf{M} \cong \Phi(S)) \} = \mathcal{C}$ .

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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The assumptions that  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{ope}}$ , or  $\mathbf{v}$ , be  $\lambda$ -ary, cannot be dispensed with (counterexamples with idempotence, emptiness).

# Infinitely deep languages

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images of  
accessible  
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- **Idea:** extend  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa\lambda}$  in such a way that infinite alternations of quantifiers be enabled.

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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- **Game formula** (of Gale-Stewart kind):  $\exists \vec{x} E(\vec{x})$  is  $(\forall x_0)(\exists x_1)(\forall x_2) \cdots E(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots)$ .

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classes as  
images of  
accessible  
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Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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- Can be interpreted *via* a game with two players,  $\forall$  (who plays all  $x_{2n}$ ) and  $\exists$  (who plays all  $x_{2n+1}$ ). Hence  $\forall$  (resp.,  $\exists$ ) wins iff  $E(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots)$  (resp.,  $\neg E(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots)$ ).

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Projective  
classes as  
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Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- The game above has “clock”  $\omega$ .
- The “**infinitely deep language**”  $\mathcal{M}_{\kappa\lambda}(\mathbf{v})$  contains more general formulas than the  $\exists \vec{x} E(\vec{x})$  above, now clocked by posets which are simultaneously **trees** and **meet-semilattices**, in which every node has  $< \kappa$  upper covers and every branch has length a successor  $< \lambda$ .

# Infinitely deep languages

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- **Satisfaction** of an  $\mathcal{M}_{\kappa\lambda}(\mathbf{v})$ -statement is expressed *via* the existence of a **winning strategy** in the associated game.

# Tuuri's Interpolation Theorem

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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## Theorem (Tuuri 1992)

Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal, let  $\mathbf{v}$  be a  $\kappa$ -ary vocabulary, set  $\lambda \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup\{\kappa^\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ , and let  $E$  and  $F$  be  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa+\kappa}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentences such that the conjunction  $E \wedge F$  has no  $\mathbf{v}$ -model. Then there exists an  $\mathcal{M}_{\lambda+\lambda}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentence  $G$ , **with vocabulary the intersection of the vocabularies of  $E$  and  $F$** , such that  $\models (E \Rightarrow G)$  and  $\models (F \Rightarrow \sim G)$ .



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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
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- Here,  $\sim G$  denotes the sentence obtained by interchanging  $\bigvee$  and  $\bigwedge$ ,  $\exists$  and  $\forall$ ,  $A$  and  $\neg A$  in the expression of  $G$  by a tree-clocked game; it implies the usual negation  $\neg G$  (which, however, is no longer an  $\mathcal{M}_{\lambda+\lambda}$ -sentence).

# Tuuri's Interpolation Theorem

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

## Theorem (Tuuri 1992)

Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal, let  $\mathbf{v}$  be a  $\kappa$ -ary vocabulary, set  $\lambda \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup\{\kappa^\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa\}$ , and let  $E$  and  $F$  be  $\mathcal{L}_{\kappa+\kappa}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentences such that the conjunction  $E \wedge F$  has no  $\mathbf{v}$ -model. Then there exists an  $\mathcal{M}_{\lambda+\lambda}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentence  $G$ , **with vocabulary the intersection of the vocabularies of  $E$  and  $F$** , such that  $\models (E \Rightarrow G)$  and  $\models (F \Rightarrow \sim G)$ .

- Here,  $\sim G$  denotes the sentence obtained by interchanging  $\bigvee$  and  $\bigwedge$ ,  $\exists$  and  $\forall$ ,  $A$  and  $\neg A$  in the expression of  $G$  by a tree-clocked game; it implies the usual negation  $\neg G$  (which, however, is no longer an  $\mathcal{M}_{\lambda+\lambda}$ -sentence).
- By a 1971 counterexample due to Malitz,  $\mathcal{M}_{\lambda+\lambda}$  cannot be replaced by  $\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty}$  in the statement of Tuuri's Theorem.

# Projective and co-projective

Projective classes as images of accessible functors

Motivation

Elementary, projective

Tuuri's Interpolation Theorem

Karttunen's back-and-forth systems

## Corollary

Let  $\mathbf{v}$  be a vocabulary. Then for all classes  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\text{co-PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ , and  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ , then there exists an  $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\infty}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentence  $G$  such that  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathbf{Mod}_{\mathbf{v}}(G) \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ .

# Projective and co-projective

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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## Corollary

In order to prove that a  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$  class  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures is not  $\text{co-PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ , it suffices to prove that  $\mathcal{C}$  is not  $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\infty}(\mathbf{v})$ -definable.

# Projective and co-projective

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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But then, what is the advantage of  $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\infty}$ -definable over  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ -definable or  $\text{co-PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ -definable?

# That's back-and-forth!

- There are several non-equivalent definitions of back-and-forth between models (extended to categorical model theory by Beke and Rosický in 2018).

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# That's back-and-forth!

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

- There are several non-equivalent definitions of back-and-forth between models (extended to categorical model theory by Beke and Rosický in 2018).

## Definition (Karttunen 1979)

For a regular cardinal  $\lambda$ , a  **$\lambda$ -back-and-forth system** between models  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  over a vocabulary  $\mathbf{v}$  consists of a poset  $(\mathcal{F}, \trianglelefteq)$ , together with a function  $f \mapsto \bar{f}$  with domain  $\mathcal{F}$ , such that each  $\bar{f}: \mathbf{d}(f) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbf{r}(f)$  with  $\mathbf{d}(f) \leq \mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{r}(f) \leq \mathbf{N}$ , and the following conditions hold:

- 1  $f \trianglelefteq g$  implies  $\bar{f} \subseteq \bar{g}$ ;
- 2  $(\mathcal{F}, \trianglelefteq)$  is  $\lambda$ -inductive;
- 3 whenever  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $x \in M$  (resp.,  $y \in N$ ), there is  $g \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $f \subseteq g$  and  $x \in \mathbf{d}(g)$  (resp.,  $y \in \mathbf{r}(g)$ ).

We then write  $\mathbf{M} \leftrightarrow_{\lambda} \mathbf{N}$ .

# $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\lambda}$ versus back-and-forth

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

## Theorem (Karttunen 1979)

Let  $\lambda$  be a regular cardinal and let  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  be structures over a vocabulary  $\mathbf{v}$ . If  $\mathbf{M} \leftrightarrow_{\lambda} \mathbf{N}$ , then  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  satisfy the same  $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\lambda}(\mathbf{v})$ -sentences.



# $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\lambda}$ versus back-and-forth

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- Extended by Karttunen to the even more general languages  $\mathcal{N}_{\infty\lambda}$ .

# $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\lambda}$ versus back-and-forth

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- Extended by Karttunen to the even more general languages  $\mathcal{N}_{\infty\lambda}$ .
- The syntax for  $\mathcal{N}_{\infty\lambda}$  is far more complex than for  $\mathcal{M}_{\infty\lambda}$ , the semantics are even trickier (not unique!).

# Establishing intractability

- By the above,

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# Establishing intractability

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In order to prove that a  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$  class  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathbf{v}$ -structures is not  $\text{co-PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ , it suffices to prove that it is **not closed under  $\leftrightarrow_{\lambda}$**  for a suitable regular cardinal  $\lambda$ .

Projective classes as images of accessible functors

Motivation

Elementary, projective

Tuuri's Interpolation Theorem

Karttunen's back-and-forth systems

# Establishing intractability

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- Applies to earlier introduced examples  $\text{Id}_c(\text{unital rings})$ ,  $\text{Id}_c(\text{Abelian } \ell\text{-groups})$ , duals of real spectra of commutative unital rings, **and many others: each of those classes fails to be closed under a suitable  $\leftrightarrow_{\lambda}$ .**

# Establishing intractability

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- Applies to earlier introduced examples  $\text{Id}_c(\text{unital rings})$ ,  $\text{Id}_c(\text{Abelian } \ell\text{-groups})$ , duals of real spectra of commutative unital rings, **and many others: each of those classes fails to be closed under a suitable  $\leftrightarrow_{\lambda}$ .**
- The real trouble is: **find a back-and-forth system  $\mathcal{F}: \mathbf{M} \leftrightarrow_{\lambda} \mathbf{N}$  with  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathbf{N} \notin \mathcal{C}$**  (where  $\mathcal{C}$  is the given class).

# Back-and-forth systems from continuous functors

- In many examples, such as  $\Phi(\text{unital rings})$  and  $\Phi(\text{Abelian } \ell\text{-groups})$  (where  $\Phi = \text{Id}_c$ ),  $\leftrightarrow_\lambda$  arises from some  $\lambda$ -continuous functor  $\Gamma: [\kappa]^{\text{inj}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  with  $\kappa \geq \lambda$ .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems



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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# Back-and-forth systems from continuous functors

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- It is often the case that for  $X \subseteq \kappa$  with  $\text{card } X < \lambda$ ,  $\Gamma(X) = \Phi(\prod(S_{|u|} \mid u \in X^{\subseteq P}))$  (a “condensate”), where:
  - 1  $P$  is a suitable finite lattice (in both examples above,  $P = \{0, 1\}^3$ ; also, this method provably fails for arbitrary finite bounded posets!);
  - 2  $X^{\subseteq P} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup \{X^D \mid D \subseteq P\}$ ;
  - 3  $|u| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigvee \text{dom } u$  whenever  $u \in X^{\subseteq P}$ ;
  - 4  $\vec{S}$  is a non-commutative diagram, indexed by  $P$ , such that, for the given functor  $\Phi$ , the diagram  $\Phi(\vec{S})$  is commutative.

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

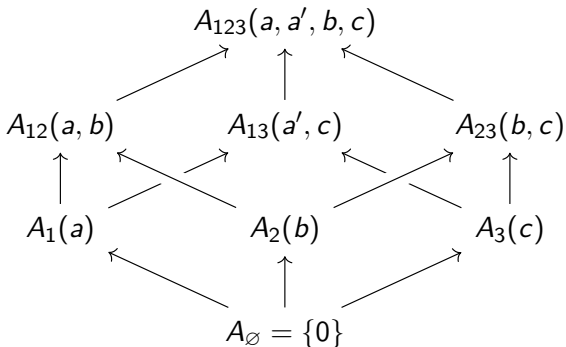
Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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  - 4  $\vec{S}$  is a non-commutative diagram, indexed by  $P$ , such that, for the given functor  $\Phi$ , the diagram  $\Phi(\vec{S})$  is commutative.
- Finding  $P$  and  $\vec{S}$  is usually hard, very much connected to the algebraic and combinatorial data of the given problem.

# The diagram $\vec{S}$ for $\text{Id}_c(\text{Abelian } \ell\text{-groups})$



$$0 \leq a \leq a' \leq 2a; b \geq 0; c \geq 0.$$

$A_1(a) \rightarrow A_{13}(a', c)$  via  $a \mapsto a'$ .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# A further example with Abelian $\ell$ -groups

- Denote by  $\mathcal{A}$  the class of all Abelian  $\ell$ -groups, and by  $\text{Id}_c \mathcal{A}$  the class of all isomorphic copies of  $\text{Id}_c G$  where  $G \in \mathcal{A}$ . It is  $\text{PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega})$ , but, by the above, **not**  $\text{co-PC}(\mathcal{L}_{\infty\infty})$ .

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

# A further example with Abelian $\ell$ -groups

Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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- A bounded distributive lattice  $D$  satisfies **Ploščica's Condition** if for every  $a \in D$  and every collection  $(\mathfrak{m}_i \mid i \in I)$  of maximal ideals of  $\downarrow a$ ,  $\downarrow a / \bigcap_i \mathfrak{m}_i$  has cardinality  $\leq 2^{\text{card } I}$  (**careful with definition of  $\downarrow a/J$** ).

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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## Theorem (Ploščica 2021)

Every member of  $\text{Id}_c \mathcal{A}$  satisfies Ploščica's Condition.

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Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

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## Theorem (W 2022, **under a fragment of GCH**)

There exists a bounded distributive lattice, **of cardinality  $\aleph_4$** , satisfying all known  $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega_1}$  properties of all members of  $\text{Id}_c \mathcal{A}$  together with Ploščica's Condition, but **not in  $\text{Id}_c \mathcal{A}$** .



Projective  
classes as  
images of  
accessible  
functors

Motivation

Elementary,  
projective

Tuuri's  
Interpolation  
Theorem

Karttunen's  
back-and-forth  
systems

Thanks for your attention!