

Quantifier elimination, Part 2

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We have shown that the theory of infinite sets has q.e. using “brute force”. Now we are going to develop other techniques to establish that a theory has q.e.

Atomic diagrams

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Diagram Lemma. \mathbf{B}_A is a model of the atomic diagram of \mathbf{A} iff the mapping $h : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : a^{\mathbf{A}} \rightarrow a^{\mathbf{B}}$ is an embedding.

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Proof. If \mathbf{B}_A is a model of the atomic diagram of \mathbf{A} , then \mathbf{B}_A satisfies all L_A -sentences of the form $\pm(a_i = a_j)$, $\pm(F(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_n}) = a_j)$, $\pm R(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_n})$ that are true in \mathbf{A} .

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A 'local' characterization of q.e.

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Theorem.

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Theorem. Let T be an L -theory and $\varphi(\mathbf{x})$ be an L -formula. TFAE.

- (1) $T \models (\forall \mathbf{x})(\varphi(\mathbf{x}) \leftrightarrow \alpha(\mathbf{x}))$ for some quantifier free formula $\alpha(\mathbf{x})$.

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- (1) $T \models (\forall \mathbf{x})(\varphi(\mathbf{x}) \leftrightarrow \alpha(\mathbf{x}))$ for some quantifier free formula $\alpha(\mathbf{x})$.
- (2) For all $\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C} \models T$, $\mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ and $\mathbf{a} \in A^n$, $\mathbf{B} \models \varphi[\mathbf{a}]$ iff $\mathbf{C} \models \varphi[\mathbf{a}]$.

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Proof.

[(1) \Rightarrow (2)] $\mathbf{B} \models \varphi[\mathbf{a}]$ iff $\mathbf{B} \models \alpha[\mathbf{a}]$ iff $\mathbf{A} \models \alpha[\mathbf{a}]$ iff $\mathbf{C} \models \alpha[\mathbf{a}]$ iff $\mathbf{C} \models \varphi[\mathbf{a}]$.

This uses the fact that q.f. formulas are preserved in passing to substructures or extensions.

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[(2) \Rightarrow (1)]

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$$\Sigma = \{\alpha(\mathbf{c}) \in L^{\text{q.f.}}(\mathbf{c}) \mid T \models \varphi(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \alpha(\mathbf{c})\}$$

be the set of q.f. *sentences* in $L_{\mathbf{c}}$ that are consequences of $T \cup \{\varphi(\mathbf{c})\}$.

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be the set of q.f. *sentences* in $L_{\mathbf{c}}$ that are consequences of $T \cup \{\varphi(\mathbf{c})\}$. (Note that a q.f. $L_{\mathbf{c}}$ -sentence $\alpha(\mathbf{c})$ is obtained from a q.f. L -formula $\alpha(\mathbf{x})$ by replacing \mathbf{x} with \mathbf{c} .)

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If Claim 1 is false, there is an $L_{\mathbf{c}}$ -structure $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{c}}$ such that

$\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{c}} \models T \cup \Sigma \cup \{\neg\varphi(\mathbf{c})\}$.

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$\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{c}} \models T \cup \Sigma \cup \{\neg\varphi(\mathbf{c})\}$. Let $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{c}} = \langle \mathbf{c} \rangle_{\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{c}}}$ be the substructure in $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{c}}$ generated by (the elements in) \mathbf{c} . For the underlying L -structures \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} we have $\mathbf{B} \models T$, $\mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{B}$, $\mathbf{c} \in A$ and $\mathbf{B} \not\models \varphi[\mathbf{c}]$. To conclude the proof of the claim we intend to obtain a contradiction using condition (2) of the theorem.

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Subclaim 2.

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The Subclaim and condition (2) of the theorem lead to a contradiction in the proof of the Claim.

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If not, then there is a finite conjunction $\psi(\mathbf{c})$ of members of $\text{Diag}(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{c}})$ such that $T \cup \{\psi(\mathbf{c}), \varphi(\mathbf{c})\}$ has no model. This fact is expressible as $T \models \varphi(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \neg\psi(\mathbf{c})$, hence $\neg\psi(\mathbf{c}) \in \Sigma$. Hence $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{c}} \models \neg\psi(\mathbf{c})$, hence $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{c}} \models \neg\psi(\mathbf{c})$ since $\psi(\mathbf{c})$ is q.f. But $\psi(\mathbf{c}) \in \text{Diag}(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{c}})$, so this is a contradiction. The Subclaim is proved.

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