

Monadic second-order logic for graphs. Algorithmic and language theoretical applications Part 1 Bruno Courcelle

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 Reference :
 Graph structure and monadic second-order logic,

 book to be published by Cambridge University Press, readable on :

 http://www.labri.fr/perso/courcell/ActSci.html

History : Confluence of 4 independent research directions, now intimately related :

- 1. <u>Fixed-Parameter Tractable algorithms</u> for parameters reflecting hierarchical structurings : tree-width, clique-width. This research started with case studies for series-parallel graphs, cographs, partial k-trees.
- 2. Extension to graphs of the main concepts of Formal Language Theory : grammars, recognizability, transductions, decidability questions
- Excluded minors and related notions of forbidden configurations (matroid minors, « vertex-minors »).
- 4. Decidability of Monadic Second-Order logic on classes of finite graphs.

An overview chart



Key concepts of Language Theory and their extensions

Languages	Graphs	
Algebraic structure :	Algebras based on graph operations : \oplus , \otimes , //	
monoid (X*,*,ε)	quantifier-free definable operations Algebras : HR, VR	
Context-free languages :	Equational sets of the	
Equational subsets of (X*,*,ε)	algebras HR, VR	
Regular languages :	Recognizable sets of the algebras HR, VR	
Finite automata ≡		
Finite congruences \equiv	defined by finite congruences	
Regular expressions \equiv		
\equiv Monadic Second-order	\cup	
definable sets of words or terms	Monadic Second-order definable sets of graphs	
Rational and other types of transductions	Monadic Second-order transductions	

Summary

- 1. Context-free sets defined by equation systems
- 2. Two graph algebras. Tree-width and clique-width.
- 3. Recognizability : an algebraic notion.
- 4. Monadic second-order sentences define recognizable sets.
- 5. Fixed-parameter tractable algorithms
- 6. Monadic second-order transductions.
- 7. Robustness results : preservation of classes under direct and inverse monadic second-order transductions. Short proofs in graph theory. (black= graph theory)
- 8. Logic and graph structure theory: Graph classes on which monadic second-order logic is decidable

9. Open questions

- (blue = Language Theor. issues)
- (red = new notions)

(qreen = algorithms)

1. Equational sets (generalization of context-free languages)

Equation systems = Context-Free (Graph) Grammars in an algebraic setting

In the case of words, the set of context-free rules $X \rightarrow a X Y$; $X \rightarrow b$; $Y \rightarrow c Y Y X$; $Y \rightarrow a$

is equivalent to the system of two equations:

X = a X Y	\cup	{ b }
Y = c Y Y X	\cup	{ a }

where X is the language generated by X (idem for Y and Y).

In arbitrary algebras (in graph algebras) we consider equation systems like:

$$X = f(k(X), Y) \cup \{b\}$$

Y = f(Y, f(g(Y), m(X))) \cup \{a\}

where :

- f is a binary operation,
- g, k, m are unary operations on graphs,
- a, b denote basic objects (graphs up to isomorphism).

An *equational set* is a component of the least solution of such an equation system. This is well-defined in any algebra.

The general algebraic setting

F: a finite set of operation symbols with (fixed) arities, called a signature

 $M = \langle M, (f_M)_{f \in F} \rangle$: an F-algebra.

 $P(\mathbf{M})$ its power-set algebra with domain $P(\mathbf{M})$ and operations extended to sets : $f_{P(\mathbf{M})}(\mathbf{A},\mathbf{B}) = \{ f_{\mathbf{M}}(\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b}) / \mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B} \}.$

Equation system of the general form :

$$S = \langle X_1 = p_1, ..., X_n = X_n \rangle$$

 $X_1,...,X_n$ are unknowns (ranging over sets)

p₁,...,p_n are polynomials for example :

 $f(k(X_1),X_2) \cup f(X_2, f(g(X_3), X_1)) \cup c$

Its solutions are the fixed-points of the (recursive) equation :

$$X = S_{P(M)}(X)$$
 (1) where $X = (X_1,...,X_n)$
 $S_{P(M)}(X) := (p_{1P(M)}(X),...,p_{nP(M)}(X))$

The set $P(M)^n$ ordered by component-wise inclusion is ω -complete, the mapping $S_{P(M)}$ is monotone and ω -continous, hence Equation (1) has a least solution defined by iteration :

 $\mu \mathbf{X}.S_{P(\mathbf{M})}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{U}_{i \ge 0} S_{P(\mathbf{M})}(\mathbf{X})^{i}(\emptyset, ..., \emptyset) \quad (\text{increasing sequence})$

An *equational set* of **M** is a component of μX . $S_{P(M)}(X)$ for some equation system S. Equat(M) = the equational sets of **M**



Properties of context-free languages valid at the algebraic level

- 1) If K and L are equational sets of **M**, so are $K \cup L$ and $f_{P(M)}(K,L)$.
- 2) The emptiness of an equational set is decidable *Proof*: A system S can be solved in *P*(T(F)) where T(F) is the F-algebra of terms over F.
- "Transfer" of least fixed-point by homomorphisms :

If $h: \mathbf{M}' \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ then $h(\mu \mathbf{X}.S_{P(\mathbf{M}')}(\mathbf{X})) = \mu \mathbf{X}.S_{P(\mathbf{M})}(\mathbf{X})$

Hence $\mu X.S_{P(M)}(X) = val_M(\mu X.S_{P(T(F))}(X))$ (val_M = value mapping : T(F) \rightarrow M)

Each component of $\mu X.S_{P(T(F))}(X)$ is a context-free language

(terms are words written in Polish prefix notation).

Emptiness can be checked.

3) If **M** is "effectively given" and the components of $\mu X.S_{P(M)}(X)$ are *all* finite sets, $\mu X.S_{P(M)}(X)$ can be computed (by straightforward iteration and stop as soon as $S_{P(M)}(X)^{i}(\emptyset,...) = S_{P(M)}(X)^{i+1}(\emptyset,...)$).

4) Finiteness test (with some natural "size" conditions).

5) For every context-free language L over k letters : a,...,d, the set of ktuples $(|u|_a, ..., |u|_d)$ in \mathbf{N}^k , for all u in L, is semi-linear (using transfer theorem for least fixed-points; "Parikh's Theorem"). *Here* : each function f has a *weight* w(f) in \mathbf{N}^k , the weight w(t) of a term t is the sum of weights of its symbols ; if L is equational w(L) is semi-linear. *Application* : The set of terms with all constants at same depth is not equational. 2. The graph algebras HR and VR

We define two graph algebras \rightarrow Equational sets of graphs, two generalizations of context-free languages.

HR operations : Origin: Hyperedge Replacement hypergraph grammars Associated complexity measure : tree-width

Graphs have distinguished vertices called *sources*, (or terminals or boundary vertices) pointed to by source labels from a finite set : {*a*, *b*, *c*, ..., *h*}.

Binary operation(s) : Parallel composition

G // H is the disjoint union of G and H and sources with same label are fused.



Unary operations :

Forget some source label

Forget_a(G) is G without a-source: the source is no longer distinguished; (it is made "internal").

Source renaming :

 $Ren_{a \leftarrow b}(G)$ exchanges source labels *a* and *b*

(replaces *a* by *b* if *b* is not the label of a source)

Nullary operations denote basic graphs : edge graphs, isolated vertices.

Terms over these operations *define* (or *denote*) graphs (with or without sources)

Example : **Trees**

Constructed with two source labels, *r* (root) and *n* (new root).



Example : Series-parallel graphs

defined as directed graphs with sources 1 and 2, generated from $e = 1 \longrightarrow 2$ by the operations // (parallel-composition) and the *series-composition* defined from the basic operations by : $G \bullet H = Forget_3(Ren_2 \leftrightarrow_3 (G) // Ren_1 \leftrightarrow_3 (H))$

Example :



Their defining equation is : $S = S / / S \cup S \bullet S \cup e$

Relation to tree-decompositions and tree-width



Proposition: A graph has tree-width $\leq k$ *if and only if* it can be constructed from edges by using the operations //, *Rena*, *b* and *Forgeta* with $\leq k+1$ labels a,b,....

Consequences :

- Representation of tree-decompositions by terms
- Algebraic characterization of tree-width.
- The set of graphs of tree-width at most k is equational for each k.
- Every **HR** equational set of graphs has bounded tree-width
 - (an upper bound is easy to obtain from a system S : just count the number of source labels used in S).

From an algebraic expression to a tree-decomposition

Example : cd // *Ren*_{a c} (ab // *Forget*_b(ab // bc)) (Constant ab denotes an edge from a to b)



The tree-decomposition associated with this term.

Negative facts : what does not hold as we could wish

The set of all finite graphs is not HR-equational.

Not even is the set of all square grids (planar graphs of degree 4)

Parsing is NP-complete for certain *fixed* equation systems (graphs of circular bandwidth ≤ 2)

But finding a tree-decomposition of width $\leq k$ (if it exists) can be done in "linear" time (O(2^p.n) where n = number of vertices and p = 32.k²)

Examples of HR-equational equational sets.

Every context-free language. The non-context-free language $\{a^n b^n c^n \mid n > 0\}$. (A word is a directed path with edges labelled by letters.)

Outerplanar graphs (having a planar embedding with all vertices on the infinite (external) face) and

Halin graphs (planar, made of a tree with a cycle linking all leaves).

The VR graph algebra

Origin : Vertex Replacement graph grammars. Associated complexity measure: clique-width.

Graphs are *simple*, directed or not.
We use labels : *a* , *b* , *c* , ..., *h*.
Each vertex has one and only one label ; *several* vertices may have same label (a source name designates a unique vertex)

One binary operation: disjoint union : \oplus

Unary operations: Edge addition denoted by $Add-edg_{a,b}$

Add-edg_{a,b}(G) is G augmented with edges *between* every *a*-port and every *b*-port (undirected case) or *from* every *a*-port to every *b*-port (directed case).



 $H = Add - edg_{a,b}(G)$; only 5 edges added The number of added edges depends on the argument graph. Vertex relabellings :

 $Relab_a \rightarrow b(G)$ is G with every vertex labelled by a relabelled into b

Basic graphs are those with a single vertex a

Definition: A graph G has clique-width $\leq k \Leftrightarrow$ it can be constructed from basic graphs with the operations \oplus , *Add-edga,b* and *Relaba* $\longrightarrow b$ by using k labels. Its clique-width *cwd*(G) is the smallest such k.

Clique-width has no combinatorial characterization (like tree-width) but is defined in terms of few very simple graph operations, giving easy inductive proofs.

Equivalent notion: rank-width (Oum and Seymour) with better structural and algorithmic properties (characterization by excluded vertex-minors, exact cubic decomposition algorithm).





 K_n is defined by t_n where $t_{n+1} = Relab_b \longrightarrow a(Add-edg_{a,b}(t_n \oplus b))$

Cliques are defined by the equation :

 $K = Relab_{b} \longrightarrow a(Add-edg_{a,b}(K \oplus b)) \cup a$

Example 2 : Cographs

They are generated by \oplus and \otimes (the *complete join*) defined by :

 $G \otimes H = Relab_{b \rightarrow a}(Add-edg_{a,b}(G \oplus Relab_{a \rightarrow b}(H)))$

 $= G \oplus H$ with "all possible" undirected edges between G and H.

Hence by the equation :

 $C = C \oplus C \quad \cup \ C \otimes C \quad \cup \ a$

Fact : A simple undirected loop-free graph is a cograph if and only if it has clique-width at most 2.

Example 3 : Distance hereditary graphs have clique-width at most 3 (and are those of rank-width 1).

Proposition : (1) Bounded tree-width implies bounded clique-width, but not *conversely*.

(2) Unlike tree-width, clique-width is sensible to edge directions : Cliques have clique-width 2, tournaments have unbounded clique-width.

Classes of <u>unbounded tree-width</u> and bounded clique-width:

Cographs (2), Distance hereditary graphs (3),

Graphs without $\{P_5, \mathbf{1} \otimes P_4\}$ (5), or $\{\mathbf{1} \oplus P_4, \mathbf{1} \otimes P_4\}$ (16) as induced subgraphs. (many similar results for exclusion of induced subgraphs with 4 and 5 vertices).

Classes of <u>unbounded clique-width</u> :

Planar graphs of degree 3, Tournaments, Interval graphs, Graphs without induced P_5 . ($P_n = path$ with n vertices).

Summary : Two algebras of (finite) graphs HR and VR

Two notions of "context-free sets" : the equational sets of algebras **HR** and **VR**, (and two notions of recognizable sets, based on congruences).

1) Comparison of the two classes :

 $Equat(HR) \subseteq Equat(VR)$

- = sets in Equat(VR) whose graphs are without some fixed $K_{n,n}$ as subgraph.
- 2) Why not using a third algebra? One could, but Equat(HR) and Equat(VR) are robust in the following sense:

* logical characterizations independent of the initial definitions,
* stability under certain logically defined transductions,
* generation from trees.

For other algebras, we would loose these properties (proofs below).

3) Properties of equational sets of graphs following from the algebraic setting :

Closure under union, //, ⊕ and the unary operations Emptiness and finiteness are decidable (finite sets are computable) Semi-linearity Theorem (extends "Parikh's Theorem) Derivation trees Denotation of the generated graphs by terms, Upper bounds to tree-width and clique-width.

4) Properties that do not hold as we could wish:

The set of all finite (even planar) graphs is neither

HR- nor VR-equational.

Parsing is sometimes NP-complete.

Exercises

1) Prove that $\{a^nb^nc^n \mid n > 0\}$ and the set of square words (ww) are HR-equational.

2) Construct HR equation systems for outerplanar and Halin graphs.

3) Construct an HR equation system for series-parallel graphs having an even number of vertices.

4) Construct a VR equation system for trees having a number of nodes multiple of 3.

5) Construct a VR equation system for cographs having an even number of edges.

6) Prove that the non-context-free language $\{a^n \mid n=2^p \text{ for some } p \ge 0\}$ is HR-equational for some appropriate algebra extending the monoid of words.

7) Complete the proof of the algebraic characterization of tree-width : transform a treedecomposition into a term of the HR algebra defining the same graph.

3. Recognizable sets : an algebraic definition

 $M = \langle M, (f_M)_{f \in F} \rangle$: an F-algebra where F is a *finite* signature.

Definition : $L \subseteq M$ is (M-)*recognizable* if it is a union of equivalence classes for a finite congruence \approx on M.

Congruence = equivalence relation such that :

 $m \approx m'$ and $p \approx p' \implies f_{\mathbf{M}}(m,p) \approx f_{\mathbf{M}}(m',p')$.

Finite means that M / \approx is finite, i.e., \approx has finitely many classes. Equivalently, $L = h^{-1}(D)$ for a homomorphism $h : M \rightarrow A$, where

A is a *finite* F-algebra and $D \subseteq A$.

Rec(M) = the recognizable subsets of M. This notion is relative to the algebra M.

Classical examples

Algebra Recognizable

<A*, **,**, ε, a,b,...,d>

sets

Regular languages (syntactic monoid)

 $<A^*$, ε , $(\lambda u \in A^*.ua)_{a \in A} >$

Regular languages (Myhill-Nerode)

T(F), terms over F, (initial F-algebra) Regular sets of terms On terms, h is the run of a *finite deterministic bottom-up automaton* <**N**^k, +, (0,...,0), ... (0,...,1,0,...,0) ...> Finite unions of Cartesian

products of k sets { $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} \mid \mathbf{n} \in \mathbf{N}$ } for $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{N}$

The algebras **HR** and **VR** have *infinite* signatures We introduce two notions of type (or *sorts* in a many-sorted framework). For **HR** : G has type $\tau(G)$ = the set of labels of its sources.

 $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ has a homomorphic behaviour:

 $\tau(G//H) = \tau(G) \cup \tau(G) \qquad ; \qquad \tau(Forget_a(G)) = \tau(G) - \{a\} \qquad ;$

 $\tau(Ren_{a \leftrightarrow b}(G)) = \tau(G)[a/b, b/a].$

For VR : The type is $\pi(G)$ = the set of vertex labels having an occurrence.

 π has a homomorphic behaviour :

 $\pi(G \oplus H) = \tau(G)U\tau(H) \quad ; \quad \pi(Add-edg_{a,b}(G)) = \tau(G) \quad ;$

 $\pi(Relab_a \longrightarrow b(G)) = \pi(G)[b/a].$

For defining recognizability of set L, we require that the congruence \approx is *type preserving* (for τ or π according to the case, **HR** or **VR**):

 $G \approx H$ implies $\tau(G) = \tau(H)$

locally finite : it has finitely many classes of each type.

and L is a union of classes (possibly of different types).

We can also use many-sorted algebras **HR** and **VR** with countably many sorts, and $\tau(G)$ and $\pi(G)$ as respective sorts of a graph G, (because the type function has a homomorphic behaviour).

Two notions of a recognizable set of graphs, for algebras HR and VR.

Comparison of the two classes :

 $Equat(HR) \subseteq Equat(VR)$

= sets in Equat(VR) whose graphs are without some fixed $K_{n,n}$ as subgraph.

Intuition : **VR** has more powerful operations than **HR**, but they make difference only for graphs without some $K_{n,n}$ as subgraph.

Properties of recognizable sets that follow from the algebraic setting :

Closure under \cup , \cap and - (difference)

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(from h: M \to A and k: M \to B, make hom. : M \to A \times B)
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Closure under inverse homomorphisms and inverse unary derived operations.

Filtering Theorem: The intersection of an equational set and a recognizable one is equational

(generalizes the intersection of a context-free and a regular language)

With *effective constructions*.

Properties of recognizable sets of graphs that do not follow "algebraically"

Closure under the binary operations of the algebras : $//, \oplus$,

under the unary operations.

(This closure is even false for add-edg but is true if some "harmless" restriction of the use of this operation is made.)

(It is *more difficult* to prove the closure under concatenation of regular languages than their closure under Boolean operations; this is reflected by the sizes of syntactic monoids $\leq n.p.2^{n.p}$ vs. $\leq n.p$).

Properties do not hold as we could wish or expect.

Emptiness is not decidable (because of infinite signatures).
Rec and Equat are incomparable (for HR and VR).
Every set of square grids is HR- and VR-recognizable.
There are uncountably many recognizable sets and *no characterization by finite automata or logical formulas*.

Inductive proofs and computations

Based on equations like the one that defines Series-Parallel graphs :

 $S = S // S \cup S \bullet S \cup e$

"Proof that all series-parallel graphs are connected"

(Connectedness is preserved by // and •, holds for e)

"Number of directed paths from *Entry* to *Exit* in a given series-parallel graph"

Sometimes, auxiliary properties or functions are necessary.

"Proof that all series-parallel graphs are planar"

(// does not preserve planarity ; a stronger property is preserved by //

and •, and holds for e)

Recognizability means that "finitely many auxiliary properties suffice"

Inductive computation : Test of 2-colorability for series-parallel graphs

Not all series-parallel graphs are 2-colorable (see K_3)

G, H 2-colorable does not imply that G//H is 2-colorable (because $K_3=P_3//e$).

One can check 2-colorability with 2 auxiliary properties :

Same(G) = G is 2-colorable with sources of the same color, Diff(G) = G is 2-colorable with sources of different colors

by using rules :

Application 1 : Linear algorithm

For every SP-term t, we can compute, by running a finite deterministic bottomautomaton on t, the pair of Boolean values (Same(Val(t)), Diff(Val(t))).

We get the answer for G = Val(t) (the graph that is the *value* of t) regarding 2-colorability.

Example : σ at node u means that Same(Val(t/u)) is true, $\overline{\sigma}$ that it is false, δ that Diff (Val(t/u)) is true, etc... Computation is **done bottom-up** with the rules :



Application 2 : Equation system for 2-colorable series-parallel graphs

We let $S_{\sigma,\delta}$ be the set of series-parallel graphs that satisfy Same (σ) and Diff (δ) $S_{\sigma,\overline{\delta}}$ be the set of those that satisfy Same and not Diff , etc ...

From the equation : $S = S // S \cup S \bullet S \cup e$ we get the equation system :

In equation

(a)
$$S_{\sigma,\delta} = \frac{S_{\sigma,\delta}}{S_{\sigma,\delta}} \cup \frac{S_{\sigma,\delta} \cup S_{\sigma,\delta} \cup S_{\sigma,\delta$$

Fact: No series-parallel graph satisfies Same and Diff.

We can simplify the system {(a), (b), (c), (d)} into :

 $(b') \quad S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta} = e \ \cup \ S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta} / / S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta} \ \cup \ S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}} \bullet S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta} \ \cup \ S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta} \bullet S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}}$

$$(c') \quad S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}} = S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}} / / S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}} \ \cup \ S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}} \bullet S_{\sigma,\bar{\delta}} \ \cup \ S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta} \bullet S_{\bar{\sigma},\delta}$$

By replacing $S_{\sigma,\overline{\delta}}$ by T_{σ} , $S_{\overline{\sigma},\delta}$ by T_{δ} , by using commutativity of //, we get the system

$$\begin{cases} T = T_{\sigma} \cup T_{\delta} & \text{(defining 2-colorable series-parallel graphs)} \\ T_{\sigma} = T_{\sigma} / / T_{\sigma} & \cup T_{\sigma} \bullet T_{\sigma} & \cup T_{\delta} \bullet T_{\delta} \\ T_{\delta} = e & \cup T_{\delta} / / T_{\delta} & \cup T_{\sigma} \bullet T_{\delta} & \cup T_{\delta} \bullet T_{\sigma} \end{cases}$$

1

Recognizability and inductive sets of properties

Definition : A set P of properties on an F-algebra **M** is F-inductive if, for every $p \in P$ and $f \in F$, there exists a Boolean formula **B** such that :

 $p(f_{M}(a,b)) = B[...,q(a),...,q'(b),...]$ for all a and b in M

 $q, q' \in P$, $q(a), \dots, q(b) \in \{True, False\}$.

Proposition : A subset L of **M** is recognizable if and only if it is the set of elements that satisfy a property belonging to a *finite* inductive set P of properties

Inductive sets formalize the notion of "auxiliary properties" in inductive proofs.

Inductive sets of properties and automata on terms

The simultaneous computation of m inductive properties can be implemented by a finite deterministic bottom-up automaton with 2^m states running on terms t.

This computation takes time O(|t|): this fact is the key to fixed-parameter tractable algorithms.

Remark : Membership of an element **m** of **M** in a recognizable set L can be tested by such an automaton on any term **t** in T(F) defining **m** (in some term if L is equational, i.e. "context-free"). Next section : An inductive set of properties can be effectively constructed (at least theoretically!) from every monadic-second order formula.

Exercises

1) Construct congruences proving that the set of connected graphs is **HR**- and **VR**- recognizable.

2) Prove that the image of a recognizable language under an alphabetical homomorphism h (replacement of letter a by h(a)) is recognizable, by constructing a congruence for the image from one for the given language.

3) Prove the *Filtering Theorem*.

Hint: Let $(L_1, ..., L_n)$ be the least solution of a system S in $P(\mathbf{M})$ and h: $\mathbf{M} \to \mathbf{A}$ be a homomorphism with A finite. Construct a system S' with unknowns $x_{i,a}$ for all i = 1,...,n and a in A, such that the component of the least solution of S' corresponding to $x_{i,a}$ is $L_i \cap h^{-1}(a)$.

4) Prove "inductively" that every series-parallel graph is 3-colorable.