

## Highly Acyclic Groups Hypergraph Covers Guarded Fragment

Martin Otto

TU Darmstadt

hyperbolic tessellation examples generated from sources at  
<http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/poincare/poincare.html>

## motivation – from a guarded perspective

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relational  
structure  $\mathfrak{A}$

hypergraph of  
guarded subsets  
 $H = H(\mathfrak{A})$

Gaifman graph:  
superposition of cliques  
 $G(\mathfrak{A}) = G(H)$

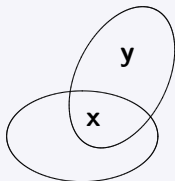
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guarded fragment GF: quantification over guarded subsets/tuples  
governed by overlap pattern of  $H(\mathfrak{A})$



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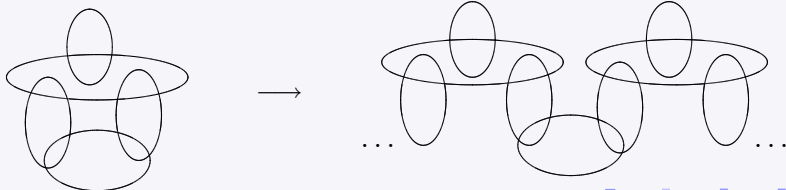
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**not in FMT** of bounded tree-width

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**theorem** (Andreka, van Benthem, Nemeti)

---

**GF**  $\equiv$  **FO** /  $\sim_g$

also in FMT ??

## analogy: ML and GF / graphs and hypergraphs

---

### graphs

transition systems

modal logic

**ML**  $\subseteq$  **FO**

### bisimulation

**ML**  $\equiv$  **FO** /  $\sim$

acylicity: trees

*N*-local acyclicity  
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***N*-acyclicity in finite hypergraphs**

## basics: hypergraphs, hypergraph acyclicity

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**hypergraphs**  $\mathfrak{H} = (A, S)$  set of nodes  $A$   
set of hyperedges  $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A)$   
width  $w(\mathfrak{H}) = \max\{|s| : s \in S\}$

**hypergraph acyclicity** = hypergraph tree decomposability

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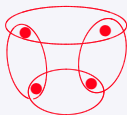
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**conformal:** every clique covered by hyperedge



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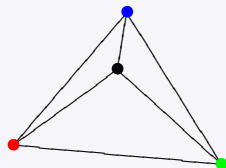
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***N*-acyclic:** relativisation to size  $N$  configurations

**example:** one of the simplest non-trivial hypergraphs

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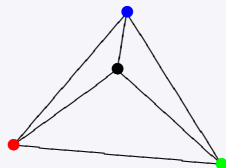
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= tetrahedron with faces as hyperedges  
irreducible: chordal but not conformal



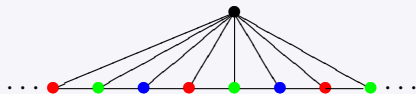
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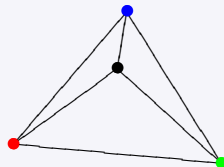
unfolds into acyclic hypergraph,  
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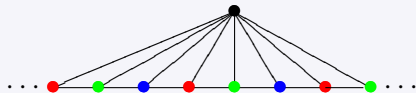
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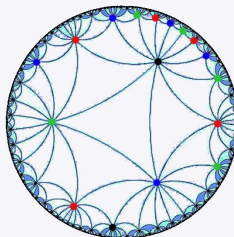


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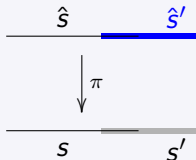
or into *locally finite* hypergraph  
 without *short* chordless cycles



## definition: bisimilar (hypergraph) covers

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$\pi : \hat{\mathcal{A}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{A}$  locally bijective, strict homomorphism  
with *back* property w.r.t. hyperedges



(back): given  $s, s'$  and  $\hat{s}$ ,  
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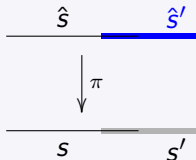
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question: **how much acyclicity in finite covers?**

key to relating GF to FO in FMT

## definitions: degrees of acyclicity in (hyper)graph covers

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the cover  $\pi: \hat{\mathfrak{A}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathfrak{A}$  is

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**acyclic** if  $\hat{\mathfrak{A}}$  is acyclic

**$N$ -locally acyclic** if for all  $\hat{a} \in \hat{\mathfrak{A}}$ ,  $l \leq N$ :  $\hat{\mathfrak{A}} \upharpoonright N^l(\hat{a})$  acyclic

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**forbidding small cyclic configurations!**

$\mathbf{H}_4^3$ : even 1-locally acyclic *hypergraph* covers may be necessarily infinite

## finite covers & limited forms of acyclicity

---

- **N-locally acyclic graph covers** (width 2) O\_'02

appl.:  $ML \equiv FO/\sim$  in non-classical contexts/FMT

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- **conformal hypergraph covers** Hodkinson/O\_'03

appl.: fmp for GF  $\rightarrow$  fmp for CGF  
 extns of Herwig–Hrushovski–Lascaz EPPA

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- **weakly N-acyclic covers** Barany/Gottlob/O\_'10

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- **N-acyclic covers** new here

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## key ingredient: highly acyclic Cayley groups

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groups without short cycles can be used

- in a straightforward product construction (graph case, width 2)
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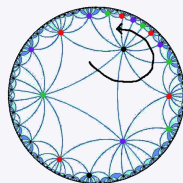
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reason: sequences of hyperedge transitions may fix common node



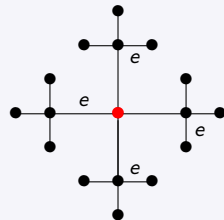
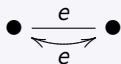


## in a nut-shell: Cayley groups of large girth

find Cayley group  $G$  with involutive generators  $e \in E$ , of girth  $> N$ :

on regularly  $E$ -edge-coloured tree  $\mathbf{T}$  of depth  $N$ ,

let  $e \in E$  operate through  
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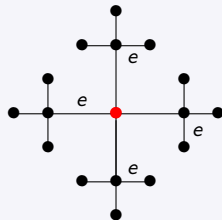
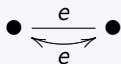


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$$G := \langle E \rangle^{\text{Sym}(T)} \subseteq \text{Sym}(T)$$

subgroup generated by the permutations  $e \in E$

no short cycles:  $e_1 \circ e_2 \circ \dots \circ e_k \neq 1$  for  $k \leq N$

**from 'no short cycles' to 'no cycles with short colourings'**

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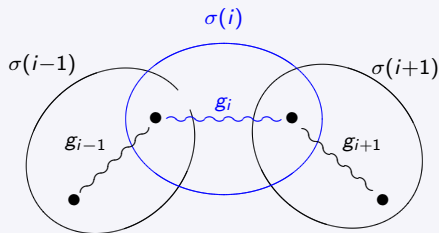
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an  $n$ -colouring of some cycle in  $G$  is a tuple  $(g_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_n}$  s.t.

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- f.a.  $i$ :  $g_i \in G_{\sigma(i)}$  but  $g_i \notin G_{\sigma(i-1) \cap \sigma(i)} \circ G_{\sigma(i) \cap \sigma(i+1)}$   
non-trivial colour changes

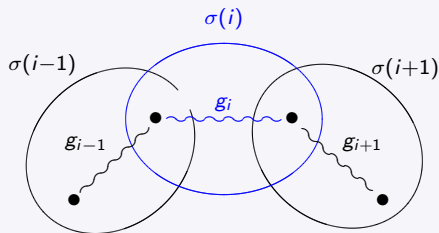


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discounted distance measure:  
**n-colouring does not imply length bound!**

## theorem (**N**-acyclic groups)

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For all  $k, N \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a finite Cayley group with  $k$  involutive generators and without any  $n$ -coloured cycles for  $n \leq N$ .

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**construction:** inductively obtain groups

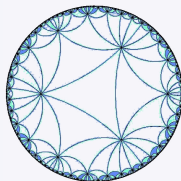
$$\{1\} = G^{(0)}, G^{(1)}, \dots, G^{(k)} = G$$

- for  $|\alpha| \leq i$ ,  $G_\alpha^{(i)}$  has no  $n$ -coloured cycles
- $G^{(i+1)}$  a subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(H)$  for  $E$ -coloured graph  $H$  obtained by amalgamation of copies of  $G_\alpha^{(i)}$  for smaller  $\alpha$

## in a nut-shell: *N*-acyclic covers

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**idea:** use *N*-acyclic group to glue copies of some *locally finite N*-acyclic cover



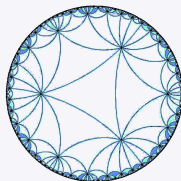
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### theorem ( $N$ -acyclic covers)

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For all finite  $\mathfrak{A}$ ,  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a cover

$$\pi: \hat{\mathfrak{A}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathfrak{A}$$

by some  $N$ -acyclic and conformal  $\hat{\mathfrak{A}}$ .

## model theory of conformal and *N*-acyclic structures

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### some special features

$N \gg n$  large enough:

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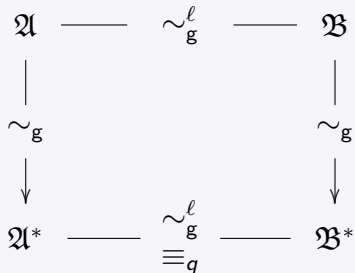
- uniform bound on the size of the union of all shortest connecting paths between  $a$  and  $a'$ , for  $d(a, a') \leq n$
- similarly for 'direct connecting paths' = short chordless paths
- and even uniform size bounds for

finitary closure operation w.r.t. 'direct connecting paths'

## FMT characterisation of GF

**GF**  $\equiv$  **FO**/ $\sim_g$  (FMT)

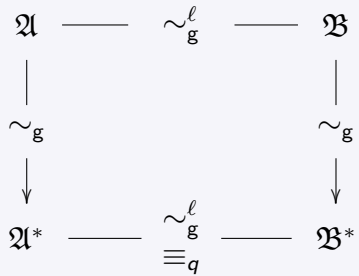
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### what for?

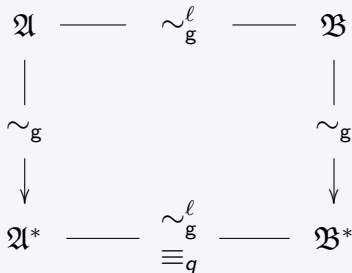
- this yields:
- $\varphi \in \text{FO}_q$  invariant under  $\sim_g$
  - $\Rightarrow \varphi$  invariant under  $\sim_g^l$
  - $\Rightarrow \varphi \equiv \varphi' \in \text{GF}_\ell$

**classically & FMT**

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### how to?

pass to **guarded covers**  $\mathfrak{A}^* \sim_g^l \mathfrak{B}^*$

suitably saturated w.r.t. multiplicities and **sufficiently acyclic** to imply  $\mathfrak{A}^* \equiv_q \mathfrak{B}^*$



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