

Hyperfiniteness, Borel Asymptotic Dimension, and Complexity

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2025 North American ASL Meeting – Combinatorics and Logic

MAJOR GOAL: Understand the global structure of the class of definable equivalence relations.

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SUB-SUB-GOAL (this talk!): Understand the complexity of “strongly” hyperfinite equivalence relations.

Descriptive Set Theory Fundamentals

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- 2 Connectedness relations of locally countable Borel graphs.

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A CBER is *smooth* if it is Borel reducible to $=_{\mathbb{R}}$.

Hyperfinite CBERs

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Example

The *eventual equality relation* E_0 on $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$:

$$x E_0 y \iff \exists n_0 \forall n \geq n_0 (x(n) = y(n)).$$

There is a dichotomy theorem for smooth CBERs:

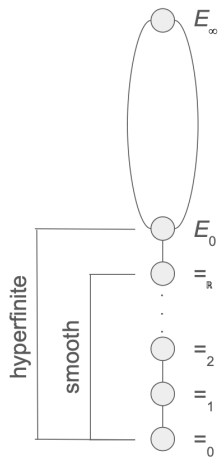
Dichotomy for Smoothness

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Theorem: Glimm–Effros Dichotomy

[Harrington–Kechris–Louveau] Let E be a CBER. If E is not smooth, then $E_0 \leq_B E$.

Borel Reducibility Hierarchy



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Is there a countable basis theorem for non-hyperfiniteness? That is, is there a set $(F_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of CBERs such that

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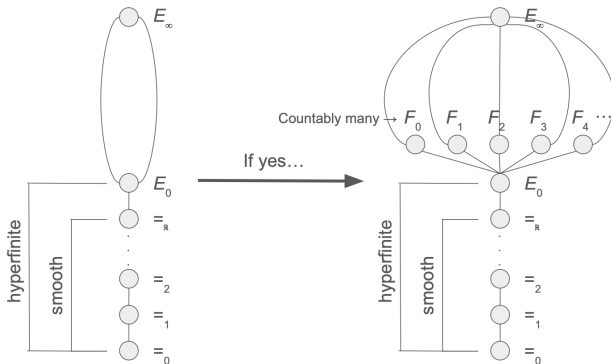
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[Dougherty–Jackson–Kechris] Is hyperfiniteness Σ_2^1 -complete?

If yes, then no dichotomy theorem for hyperfiniteness is possible.

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- The generic continuous action of Cantor space [Iyer–Shinko].

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[Weiss] Is a Borel action of a countable amenable group hyperfinite?

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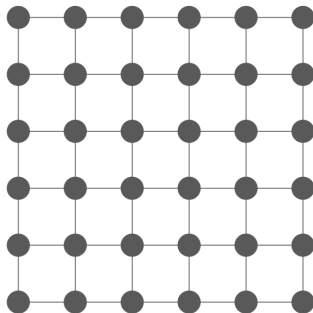
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- Any Borel graph of maximum degree $d \geq 3$ not containing K_d **whose Borel asymptotic dimension is finite** is Borel d -colorable [Bernshteyn–Weilacher].

Borel Asymptotic Dimension: Definition

Intuitively: A graph \mathcal{G} has Borel asymptotic dimension s if, for each positive r , $V(\mathcal{G})$ can be broken into uniformly bounded Borel pieces such that the r -neighborhood of each vertex meets only $s + 1$ pieces.

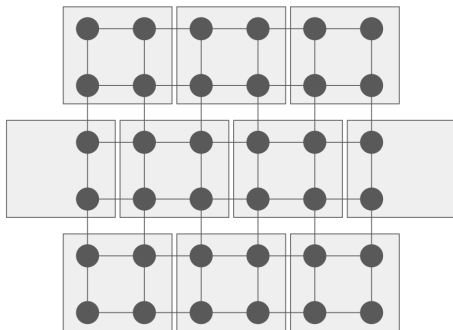
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Theorem

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Proof sketch:

- 1 Reduce the *geometric* question of whether a graph has finite Borel asymptotic dimension to a *purely combinatorial* question on a special class of graphs.
- 2 Apply the general condition for Σ_2^1 -completeness due to [Todorčević–Vidnyánszky] and [Frisch–Shinko–Vidnyánszky].

Thank you!