



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DRESDEN

# CHARACTERISING CATEGORICAL EQUIVALENCE OF FINITE SEMIGROUPS

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# Outline

- 1 A bit of history
- 2 Definitions and simple results
- 3 How to prove this?

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## Historical context

1964 John Isbell: Which Lawvere theories have categorically equivalent categories of models?

(in *Subobjects, adequacy, completeness, and categories of algebras*)

1996 Ralph McKenzie: *An algebraic version of categorical equivalence for varieties and more general algebraic theories*

$$\mathcal{V} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathcal{W} \iff \exists \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \exists e \exists n \in \mathbb{N} : \mathbf{B} \cong_w e \left( \mathbf{A}^{[n]} \right) \wedge \\ \mathcal{V} = \text{Var}(\mathbf{A}), \mathcal{W} = \text{Var}(\mathbf{B})$$

1997 László Zádori: *Relational sets and categorical equivalence of algebras* (finite algebras)

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \iff \exists \tilde{\mathbf{A}}, \tilde{\mathbf{B}} : \text{same minimal resets up to isomorphism}$$

1997 László Zádori: *Categorical equivalence of finite groups*

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{A} \cong_w \mathbf{B}$$

2001 Keith Kearnes and Ágnes Szendrei: ideas for Relational Structure Theory (RST)

2007/8 Reinhard Pöschel presents fragments of this theory in a lecture on clone theory

2008/9 MB  $\rightsquigarrow$  Szeged to study this theory (meet Waldhauser & Zádori)

2009 MB: diploma thesis on details of RST

2009 AAA 78, Berne: talk on RST, example of groups, question about monoids

2009 Tamás Waldhauser: solves the question for semigroups

2012 AAA 83, Novi Sad: Oleg Košik, semilattices

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{A} \cong_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{B}$$

2012 Szeged: finite semigroups

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{A} \cong_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{B}$$

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## Categorical equivalence

Definition (Categorical equivalence of categories  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ )

$$\mathcal{C} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathcal{D} \quad :\iff \quad \exists \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{D} \exists \mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{C} : F \circ G \cong \text{id}_{\mathcal{D}} \wedge G \circ F \cong \text{id}_{\mathcal{C}}$$

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Remark

$$\mathcal{C} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathcal{D} \quad \iff \quad \text{Skeleton}(\mathcal{C}) \cong \text{Skeleton}(\mathcal{D})$$



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Remark

$$\mathcal{C} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathcal{D} \quad \iff \quad \text{Skeleton}(\mathcal{C}) \cong \text{Skeleton}(\mathcal{D})$$

Definition (Categorical equivalence of algebras  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ )

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \quad :\iff \quad \text{Var}(\mathbf{A}) \equiv_{\text{cat}} \text{Var}(\mathbf{B}) \wedge F(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{B}$$

## Weak isomorphism

Definition (Term equivalence of algebras **A** and **B**)

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{term}} \mathbf{B} \quad :\iff \quad A = B \wedge \text{Term}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Term}(\mathbf{B})$$

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Definition (Weak isomorphism between algebras **A** and **B**)

$$\mathbf{A} \cong_w \mathbf{B} \quad :\iff \quad \exists \mathbf{B}' \exists \mathbf{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathbf{B}' \text{ iso: } \mathbf{B}' \equiv_{\text{term}} \mathbf{B}.$$

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Definition (Term equivalence of algebras **A** and **B**)

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Definition (Reset for an algebra **A**)

Relational structure  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$  reset for **A**

$$:\iff \text{Term}(\mathbf{A}) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{Hom}(\underline{\mathbf{A}}^n, \underline{\mathbf{A}}) = \text{Pol } \underline{\mathbf{A}}$$

## Basic facts

Lemma (Rel iso implies weak iso)

$\underline{\mathbf{A}}$  reset for  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\underline{\mathbf{B}}$  reset for  $\mathbf{B}$ , same type,  $\varphi: A \rightarrow B$

$$\underline{\mathbf{A}} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \underline{\mathbf{B}} \text{ iso} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi}_{\text{w}} \mathbf{B} \text{ weak iso.}$$

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Lemma (Weak iso implies cat eq)

$$\mathbf{A} \cong_w \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\text{McKenzie '96}} \mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B}$$

Converse implication?

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Lemma (Weak iso implies cat eq)

$$\mathbf{A} \cong_{\text{w}} \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\text{McKenzie '96}} \mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B}$$

Converse implication? Holds e.g. for

- finite groups (Zádori 1997)
- semilattices? (Košík, AAA 83)
- finite semigroups

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First step: read Zádori's paper

Theorem (Thm. 2.3 in Zádori, cat. eq. of finite groups, 1997)

**A**, **B** two finite algebras.

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \iff \exists \underline{\mathbf{A}} \text{ for } \mathbf{A} \exists \underline{\mathbf{B}} \text{ for } \mathbf{B}: \text{type}(\underline{\mathbf{A}}) = \text{type}(\underline{\mathbf{B}}) \wedge \\ \text{“MinRelSets}(\underline{\mathbf{A}})/\cong\text{”} = \text{“MinRelSets}(\underline{\mathbf{B}})/\cong\text{”}$$

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Minimal resets correspond to certain irreducible neighbourhoods (= images of idempotent unary terms of **A** / idempotent retracts of  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ ).

## Second step: characterise the irreducible (minimal) neighbourhoods in finite semigroups

Definition (Two sorts of elements in a finite semigroup  $\mathbf{A}$ )

- $x \in A$  **group element**  $:\iff \exists n \in \mathbb{N} : \langle x \rangle_{\mathbf{A}} \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$  group
- $\text{Gr}(\mathbf{A})$  set of all group elements.
- $\mathbf{A}$  **completely regular**  $:\iff \text{Gr}(\mathbf{A}) = A$ .
- For  $x \in A$ , let  $\text{ord}(x) := |\langle x \rangle_{\mathbf{A}}|$ .
- $\text{exp}(\text{Gr}(\mathbf{A})) := \text{lcm} \{ \text{ord}(x) \mid x \in \text{Gr}(\mathbf{A}) \}$

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Proposition (Neighbourhoods of a finite semigroup  $\mathbf{A}$ )

$\text{exp}(\text{Gr}(\mathbf{A})) = \prod_{i \in I} q_i$  with distinct prime powers  $q_i$ .

- $\mathbf{A}$  **completely regular**  
 $\implies (\text{Neigh } \mathbf{A}, \subseteq) \cong (\mathcal{P}(\{q_i \mid i \in I\}), \subseteq)$
- $\mathbf{A}$  **not completely regular**  
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- **minimal**: atoms,  $\perp$  ( $\top$  if  $\mathbf{A}$  not completely regular)

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- *minimal*: all pairwise nonisomorphic



Third step: read Zádori's paper again. . .

. . . and generalise to completely regular semigroups

Proposition

$2 \leq |\mathbf{A}| < \infty$  completely regular semigroup.

The product of its minimal resets  $\underline{\mathbf{U}}_1, \dots, \underline{\mathbf{U}}_n$  has an  $\subseteq$ -minimal idempotent retract  $\underline{\mathbf{U}}$  (neighbourhood) w.r.t. containing a certain set  $S$ .

$$S \subseteq \underline{\mathbf{U}} \subseteq \prod_{i=1}^n \underline{\mathbf{U}}_i \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{U}}$$

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$$S \subseteq \underline{\mathbf{U}} \subseteq \prod_{i=1}^n \underline{\mathbf{U}}_i \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{U}} \cong \underline{\mathbf{A}}$$

Fourth step: solve the completely regular case

Proposition ( $2 \leq |\mathbf{A}|, |\mathbf{B}| < \infty$  completely regular)

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} & \\ & \downarrow \wr & \downarrow \wr \\ \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & \underline{\mathbf{A}} & \underline{\mathbf{B}} \quad \text{reset for } \mathbf{B} \end{array}$$

# Fourth step: solve the completely regular case

Proposition ( $2 \leq |\mathbf{A}|, |\mathbf{B}| < \infty$  completely regular)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{A} & \equiv_{\text{cat}} & \mathbf{B} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & & \text{reset for } \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{A} & & \mathbf{B} \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{U}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{U}_n \end{array} \right\} & & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{V}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{V}_m \end{array} \right\} \\ \text{minimal resets} & & \text{minimal resets} \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathbf{A} & \equiv_{\text{cat}} & \mathbf{B} \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{A} & & \mathbf{B} & \text{reset for } \mathbf{B} \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{minimal resets} & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{U}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{U}_n \end{array} \right. & \parallel & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{V}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{V}_n \end{array} \right. & \text{minimal resets}
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 \mathbf{A} & & \mathbf{B} \\
 \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathbf{U}}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \underline{\mathbf{U}}_n \end{array} \right\} & \cong & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathbf{V}}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \underline{\mathbf{V}}_n \end{array} \right\} \\
 \text{minimal resets} & & \text{minimal resets} \\
 \prod_{i=1}^n \underline{\mathbf{U}}_i & \cong & \prod_{i=1}^n \underline{\mathbf{V}}_i \\
 \cup & & \cup \\
 \mathbf{S} & & \mathbf{S}' \quad (\exists)
 \end{array}$$

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 \mathbf{A} \cong \mathbf{U} & & \mathbf{V} \cong \mathbf{B} \subseteq\text{-minimal retract}
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Proposition ( $2 \leq |\mathbf{A}|, |\mathbf{B}| < \infty$  completely regular)

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 \mathbf{S} & & \mathbf{S}' \quad (\text{E}) \\
 \mathbf{A} \cong \mathbf{U} & \cong & \mathbf{V} \cong \mathbf{B} \subseteq\text{-minimal retract} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \mathbf{A} & \cong_w & \mathbf{B}
 \end{array}$$

Fifth step: do not again read Zádori's paper. . .  
. . . do something yourself

Proposition (**A**  $\equiv_{\text{cat}}$  **B** both non-completely regular)

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B}$$

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Proposition ( $\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B}$  both non-completely regular)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{A} & \equiv_{\text{cat}} & \mathbf{B} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{A} \\ \sim \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{B} \\ \sim \end{array} & \text{reset for } \mathbf{B}
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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathbf{A} & \equiv_{\text{cat}} & \mathbf{B} \\
 & \downarrow \text{wavy} & & \downarrow \text{wavy} \\
 \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{A} & & \mathbf{B} & \text{reset for } \mathbf{B} \\
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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
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 & \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\
 \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & \underline{\mathbf{A}} & & \underline{\mathbf{B}} & \text{reset for } \mathbf{B} \\
 \text{minimal resets} & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathbf{U}}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \underline{\mathbf{A}} \end{array} \right. & \cong & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathbf{V}}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \underline{\mathbf{B}} \end{array} \right. & \text{minimal resets}
 \end{array}$$

Fifth step: do not again read Zádori's paper...  
...do something yourself

Proposition ( $\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B}$  both non-completely regular)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{A} & \equiv_{\text{cat}} & \mathbf{B} \\
 \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\
 \text{reset for } \mathbf{A} & & \text{reset for } \mathbf{B} \\
 \text{minimal resets } \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathbf{A}} \\ \underline{\mathbf{U}}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \underline{\mathbf{A}} \end{array} \right. & \cong & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathbf{B}} \\ \underline{\mathbf{V}}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \underline{\mathbf{B}} \end{array} \right. \text{minimal resets} \\
 \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\
 \mathbf{A} & \cong_w & \mathbf{B}
 \end{array}$$



## Sixth step: solve the mixed case

### Proposition

**A** not completely regular, **B** completely regular

$\widetilde{\mathbf{A}}$  reset for **A**;  $\widetilde{\mathbf{B}}$  reset for **B**.

$\implies \dots \implies \exp(\text{Gr}(\mathbf{B})) = 2^n \ (n \geq 1) \text{ and } \widetilde{\mathbf{A}} \cong \widetilde{\mathbf{B}}$

$\implies \mathbf{A} \cong_w \mathbf{B}$ .

Done!

### Theorem

*For finite semigroups **A** and **B** we have*

$$\mathbf{A} \equiv_{\text{cat}} \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{A} \cong_{\text{w}} \mathbf{B}.$$

Thank you for your attention.