

# Is the clone lattice on infinite sets dually atomic?

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June 2007

# Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Theorems
- 3 Proof ideas

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  - Clones
  - Coatoms
  - Finite sets
  - Infinite sets
- 2 Theorems
- 3 Proof ideas

# Clones

## Definition

Fix a set  $X$ . We write  $\mathcal{O}^{(n)}$  for the set of  $n$ -ary operations:  
 $\mathcal{O}^{(n)} = X^{X^n}$ , and we let  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_X = \bigcup_{n=1,2,\dots} \mathcal{O}^{(n)}$ .

A clone on  $X$  is a set  $C \subseteq \mathcal{O}$  which contains all the projection functions and is closed under composition.

Equivalently, a clone is the set of term functions of some universal algebra on  $X$ .

## Fact

The set of clones on  $X$  forms a complete lattice: **CLONE**( $X$ ).

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# Coatoms

$\mathcal{O}$  is the full clone (the set of all finitary operations on  $X$ ).

A *coatom* or *precomplete clone* or *maximal clone* is a clone  $C \neq \mathcal{O}$  such that there is no clone strictly between  $C$  and  $\mathcal{O}$ .

## Example

Let  $\emptyset \subsetneq A \subsetneq X$ . Then the set

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Let  $X$  be finite. Then

- **CLONE**( $X$ ) has finitely many **coatoms** (“precomplete clones”).
- All of these coatoms are explicitly known,
- they have the form  $\text{Pol}(\leq)$  for some order  $\leq$ , or ...
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*Is the clone lattice on infinite sets also dually atomic?*

- If YES, describe all coatoms. (Hopeless)
- If NO, find some other cofinal set.

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# Generators

For any set  $F$  of finitary operations on  $X$ , let  $\langle F \rangle$  be the smallest clone containing  $F$ .

Often we fix a “base clone”  $B$ , and write  $\langle F \rangle_B$  instead of  $\langle B \cup F \rangle$

## Fact

Let  $B \subsetneq \mathcal{O}$  be a clone such that  $\mathcal{O}$  is finitely generated over  $B$ :

$$\mathcal{O} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_k \rangle_B$$

Then the interval  $[B, \mathcal{O}]$  is dually atomic.

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## Consistently: no.

### Theorem (G-Shelah 2003)

*Assume CH. Then the clone lattice on countable sets is not dually atomic.*

(GoSh:808, Transactions of the AMS)

### Theorem (G-Shelah 2006)

*Let  $\kappa$  be a regular cardinal. Assume  $2^\kappa = \kappa^+$ . Then the clone lattice on a set of size  $\kappa$  is not dually atomic.*

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- 3 **Proof ideas**
  - Growth clones
  - Preference order
  - Random facts

## Growth clones

We fix a linear order on the base set  $X$  (or better: identify  $X$  with its cardinal number).

Let  $C_{\max} := \{f : \forall \vec{x} f(\vec{x}) \leq \max(\vec{x})\}$ .

Above the clone  $C_{\max}$ :

- Clones are downward closed.
- Clones are (more or less) determined by their unary functions
- Typical clones are described by *growth* conditions, e.g. the clone of all functions of subexponential growth.
- compact = principal:

$$\langle f_1, \dots, f_k \rangle_{C_{\max}} = \langle \max(f_1, \dots, f_k) \rangle_{C_{\max}}$$



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# Main idea

Reduce the problem from **comparing clones** to **comparing functions**:

## Program

*Find a “base clone”  $B$  such that the relation*

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## Main idea, continued

Slightly weaker:

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*Find a “base clone”  $B$  and a partial order  $<$  on  $\mathcal{O}$  such that:*

- *The relation  $<$  is a preference relation, i.e., the relation  $x \sim y :\Leftrightarrow x \not< y \wedge y \not< x$  is an equivalence relation*
- *$\forall f, g : f < g \Rightarrow f \in \langle g \rangle_B \Rightarrow f \lesssim g$*

*Clones above  $B$  will then be contained in Dedekind cuts of the linear order  $\mathcal{O}/\sim$ .*

IMPORTANT POINT: Make sure that the quotient order has no last element.

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## Random facts from the proof

### Fact

*Let  $(L, \leq)$  be a well-order without last element.  
For each unbounded set  $A \subseteq L$  define*

$$h_A(x) := \min\{y \in L : x < y\}$$

*Let  $U$  be a filter of unbounded set on  $L$ .  
Then  $f \in \langle h_A : A \in U \rangle_{\max}$  iff there is some  $A \in U$  and some  
 $k \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$  such that  $f(\vec{x}) \leq h_A^{(k)}(\max(\vec{x}))$  for all  $\vec{x}$ .*

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