

14. The method of diagrams.

Let \mathcal{L} be an arbitrary language and \mathcal{A} an arbitrary \mathcal{L} -structure. We form a new language, denoted $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$, by adding a new constant symbol c_a for each element $a \in A$. We may consider \mathcal{A} as an $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ -structure by interpreting c_a as a . We denote this $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ -structure by \mathcal{A}^+ .

14.1 Definitions

(1) By the diagram of \mathcal{A} we mean the set of all quantifier-free $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ -sentences that are true in \mathcal{A}^+ :

$$\text{Diag}(\mathcal{A}) := \{ \phi : \phi \text{ a QF sentence of } \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{A}^+ \models \phi \}.$$

(2) By the complete diagram of \mathcal{A} we mean the set of all $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ -sentences that are true in \mathcal{A}^+ :

$$\text{C-Diag}(\mathcal{A}) := \{ \phi : \phi \text{ an } \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})\text{-sentence and } \mathcal{A}^+ \models \phi \}.$$

14.2 Remark:

An $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ -sentence, ϕ say, has the form $\psi(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n})$ for some $n \geq 0$, some $\psi \in \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{L})$ and some $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$. (Proof: an easy induction on ϕ .) Then $\phi \in \text{C-Diag}(\mathcal{A})$ (resp: $\text{Diag}(\mathcal{A})$) $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A} \models \psi[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ (resp: and ψ is QF).

Similarly, if \mathcal{B} is any $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ -structure, then (with ϕ, ψ as above), $\mathcal{B} \models \phi \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L} \models \psi[c_{a_1}^{\mathcal{B}}, \dots, c_{a_n}^{\mathcal{B}}]$, where $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$

denotes the \mathcal{L} -structure obtained from \mathcal{B} by forgetting the interpretation of the new constants. (Thus, if \mathcal{B} is $\langle B; \{ \dots \}_{i \in I}; \{ \dots \}_{j \in J}; \{ \mathcal{R}_k \}_{k \in K \cup A} \rangle$, then $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$ is $\langle B; \{ \dots \}_{i \in I}; \{ \dots \}_{j \in J}; \{ \mathcal{R}_k \}_{k \in K} \rangle$. Then $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$ is an

\mathcal{L} -structure called the reduct of \mathcal{B} to \mathcal{L} . (We also call \mathcal{B} an expansion of $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$ to $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{B})$.)

14.3 Theorem (The method of diagrams (I))

Let \mathcal{C} be an \mathcal{L} -structure and \mathcal{B} be an $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C})$ -structure such that $\mathcal{B} \models \text{Diag}(\mathcal{C})$. Then the function $\pi : A \rightarrow B$ defined by $\pi(a) := c_a^{\mathcal{B}}$ is an embedding from \mathcal{C} to $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$.

Proof.

Suppose P is an n -ary relation symbol of \mathcal{L} , $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$, and $\mathcal{C} \models P[a_1, \dots, a_n]$. Then by 14.2, $P(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n}) \in \text{Diag}(\mathcal{C})$ and hence $\mathcal{B} \models P(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n})$. Then $\mathcal{B} \models P[c_{a_1}^{\mathcal{B}}, \dots, c_{a_n}^{\mathcal{B}}]$, i.e. $\mathcal{B} \models P[\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_n)]$. So $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L} \models P[\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_n)]$.

Similarly, if $\mathcal{C} \models \neg P[a_1, \dots, a_n]$, then $\neg P(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n}) \in \text{Diag}(\mathcal{C})$ and proceed as above to get $\mathcal{B} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L} \models \neg P[\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_n)]$.

Thus, if $S \subseteq B^n$ is the relation interpreting P in \mathcal{B} , we have shown that for all $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$, $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \in R \iff \langle \pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_n) \rangle \in S$, where R interprets P in \mathcal{C} .

Now suppose that F is an n -ary function symbol of \mathcal{L} , interpreted by f in \mathcal{C} and g in \mathcal{B} .

Let $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$. Say $f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = a \in A$. Then the $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C})$ sentence $F(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n}) \cong c_a$ is in $\text{Diag}(\mathcal{C})$ and so is true in \mathcal{B} . It follows that $g(c_{a_1}^{\mathcal{B}}, \dots, c_{a_n}^{\mathcal{B}}) = c_a^{\mathcal{B}}$, i.e. $g(\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_n)) = \pi(a) = \pi(f(a_1, \dots, a_n))$.

Finally, if c_k is a constant symbol of \mathcal{L} , then $c_k^{\mathcal{C}} = a$ for some $a \in A$, so the $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C})$ sentence $c_k \cong c_a$ is in $\text{Diag}(\mathcal{C})$. So $\mathcal{B} \models c_k \cong c_a$, i.e. $c_k^{\mathcal{B}} = c_a^{\mathcal{B}} = \pi(a) = \pi(c_k^{\mathcal{C}})$.

A similar argument shows that π is one-one. \square

14.4 Corollary (The method of diagrams (2).)

With the same notation as in 14.3, if we have $\mathcal{L} \models \text{CDiag}(\mathcal{A})$ then the function π is an elementary embedding from \mathcal{A} to $\mathcal{L} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$.

Proof.

Obviously $\text{Diag}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \text{CDiag}(\mathcal{A})$ so $\pi: \mathcal{A} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{L}$ by 14.3. Let $\phi \in F_n(\mathcal{L})$ and $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$. Then $\mathcal{A} \models \phi[a_1, \dots, a_n] \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}^+ \models \phi(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n})$
 $\Rightarrow \phi(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n}) \in \text{CDiag}(\mathcal{A}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{L} \models \phi(c_{a_1}, \dots, c_{a_n})$
 $\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L} \models \phi[c_{a_1}^{\mathcal{L}}, \dots, c_{a_n}^{\mathcal{L}}]$ (by 14.2)
 $\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L} \models \phi[\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_n)]$ (by def. of π).

Thus $\pi: \mathcal{A} \leq \mathcal{L} \upharpoonright \mathcal{L}$.

□

- Suppose \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} are \mathcal{L} -structures and suppose there exists an embedding from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} . Then by 6.4 we know that every existential sentence of \mathcal{L} that is true in \mathcal{A} must be true in \mathcal{B} . The converse is false (e.g. we could have $\mathcal{A} \equiv \mathcal{B}$, \mathcal{B} countable and \mathcal{A} uncountable). The following lemma (14.6) provides the next best thing. We first require the result contained in the following

14.5 Exercise

Let Σ be an \mathcal{L} -theory and let $\phi \in F_n(\mathcal{L})$ (for some $n \geq 0$). Let c_1, \dots, c_n be constant symbols which do not occur in any formula in Σ . Assume that $\Sigma \models \phi(c_1, \dots, c_n)$. Then $\Sigma \models \forall v_1 \dots \forall v_n \phi$.