

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
Millennium

Gregory  
Cherlin

# Urysohn, Fraïssé, and Henson in the Third Millennium

Gregory Cherlin



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# Henson, 1971–1973

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- 1971. *A family of countable homogeneous graphs*, PJM 38
- 1972. *Countable homogeneous relational structures and  $\aleph_0$ -categorical theories*, JSL 37.
- 1973. *Edge partition properties of graphs*, CJM 25

# Around Homogeneity

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- Uniqueness and Universality
- Free amalgamation, antichains, and Turing chaos
- Partition properties
- Automorphism groups

# I. Universality and Uniqueness

## Definition

A structure is **homogeneous** if its automorphisms induce all isomorphisms between f. g. substructures  $M$  and  $M_1$ .

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Homogeneity  $\implies$  Uniqueness (Hausdorff for  $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$ )

Homogeneity  $\implies$  Universality (Urysohn,  $\mathbb{U}_{\mathbb{Q}}$  and  $\mathbb{U}$ )

*... a quite powerful condition of homogeneity:  
the latter being, that it is possible to map the whole  
space onto itself (isometrically) so as to carry an  
arbitrary finite set  $M$  into an equally arbitrary set  
 $M_1$ , congruent to the set  $M$ .*

*(Urysohn to Hausdorff, cited by Hušek, 2008)*

# I. Universality and Uniqueness

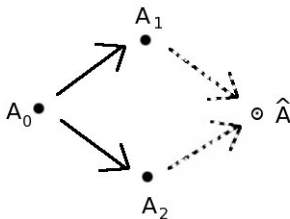
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Amalgamation  $\implies$  Existence (Fraïssé)



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## Applications (Henson)

- A universal homogeneous graph  $\Gamma_{\infty}$  exists and is unique:

$$\Gamma_{\infty} \simeq \text{Rado's Graph} \simeq \text{Random Graph} \simeq \Gamma_{\infty}^c$$

- The universal homogeneous  $K_n$ -free graph  $\Gamma_n$  exists and is unique.

# Further Applications

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Komjáth/Mekler/Pach 1988

- Universal  $P_n$ -free graphs
- $C_{2n+1}$ -homomorphically free graphs
- $C_{\geq N}$ -free graphs



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## Cherlin/Shelah/Shi

For  $\mathcal{C}$  a finite set of connected finite graphs the following are equivalent:

- 1 The theory  $T_{\mathcal{C}}^*$  of e. c.  $\mathcal{C}$ -free graphs is  $\aleph_0$ -categorical.
- 2 The corresponding algebraic closure operator  $\text{acl}_{\mathcal{C}}$  is locally finite.

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Proof.

The set of types over a finite alg. closed set is finite □

(The model is homogeneous for a finite relational language.)

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**Example** For any  $\mathcal{C}$ , there is a universal  $\mathcal{C}$ -homomorphically free graph. —  $\text{acl}$  is **degenerate** in this case.

# Decision Problems

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Problem 1.

(A) Is  $T_C^*$   $\aleph_0$ -categorical?

(B) Is there a universal  $C$ -free graph?

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Komjáth/Füredi

If  $C$  is 2-connected then the following are equivalent.

- 1 There is a universal  $C$ -free graph.
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**Problem 2. (Solidity Conjecture)** Show that if there is a universal  $C$ -free graph then its blocks are complete.

Ongoing ...

# Undecidability

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## Theorem (Here there be Tygers)

*The universality and  $\aleph_0$ -categoricity problems are undecidable for finite sets of **forbidden induced subgraphs** (universal theories).*

## Proof.

Wang tilings  $\rightarrow$  black/white tilings  $\rightarrow$   
binary relations on  $(\mathbb{Z}, s) \rightarrow$  graphs on  $\mathbb{Z}$  and:

Many tilings  $\implies$  no universal graph;

No tilings  $\implies$  local finiteness  $\implies$  universal graph

(and recursive inseparability)



## II. Antichains and Turing Chaos

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- Free amalgamation
- Indecomposability
- Antichains



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### Examples

- WGB-graphs
- Directed graphs (Henson 1972)
- Nilpotent rings and groups of class 2 [CSW 1993]

# Antichains and WQO

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- WQO

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- WQO

Tournaments: Henson 1972

Permutation Patterns: Tarjan 1972

- Minimal antichains

Nash-Williams 1963, Gustedt 1993/1999

Subgraphs: Cycles and anchored paths (Ding 1992)

### III. Classification

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*It is an interesting and apparently open question if there are any homogeneous graphs  $G$  (with  $c(G) = \aleph_0$ ) which have  $G$  and  $\overline{G}$  connected, other than  $U$ ,  $G_p$  and  $\overline{G}_p$  ( $p \geq 3$ ). [H1971]*

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## Classifications

Graphs Lachlan/Woodrow 1980

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- Chaos?

# The Ramsey Method

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Homogeneous Tournaments: Catalog

Orders  $L_1, \mathbb{Q}$

Strict Local Orders  $S[L_1], S(\mathbb{Q})$

Generic  $T^\infty$

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Orders  $L_1, \mathbb{Q}$

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Generic  $T^\infty$

The critical tournament  $C^+ = [L_1, \vec{C}_3]$  (or its dual).

### Theorem (Lachlan)

$C^+ \implies T$  for all finite  $T$ .



$$C^+ \implies T$$

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## Definition

$$\mathcal{A}^\ell \{A \in \mathcal{A} : \forall B = A \cup L(B \in \mathcal{A})\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}' \{A \in \mathcal{A} : \forall B = L[A] \cup \{v\} (B \in \mathcal{A})\}$$

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## Lemma

- 1  $\mathcal{A}^\ell$  has amalgamation
- 2  $C^+ \in \mathcal{A} \implies C^+ \in \mathcal{A}'$
- 3  $\mathcal{A}' \subseteq \mathcal{A}^\ell$

$$C^+ \implies T$$

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Proof of the Theorem; If all tournaments of order  $n - 1$  are in  $\mathcal{A}$  then taking “ $\mathcal{A}$ ” to be  $\mathcal{A}^\ell$ , all tournaments of order  $n$  are in  $\mathcal{A}$ . □

# Proof of the Lemma

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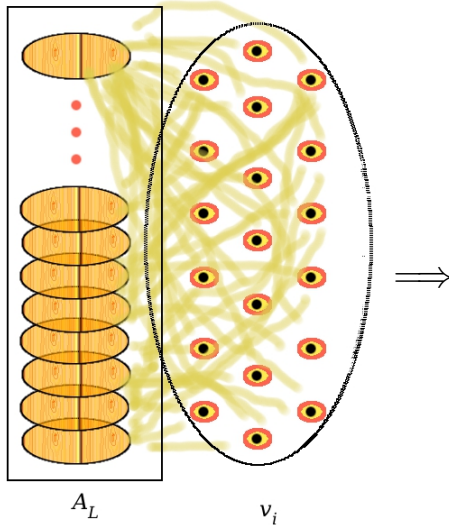
- 1 Formal
- 2 Interesting, but not as interesting as
- 3 Ramsey's Theorem: details to follow.



# The Ramsey Argument

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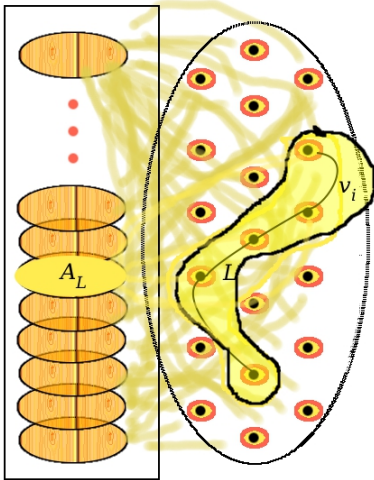




# The Ramsey Argument

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# Homogeneous Directed Graphs

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## Theorem

*The homogeneous directed graphs consist of the following.*

- 1 *Henson digraphs  $\Gamma_{\mathcal{T}}$  with  $\mathcal{T}$  an antichain of tournaments;*
- 2 *Countably many others (explicitly listed).*

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The general method.

- 1 Make catalog.
- 2 Reduce completeness proof to a finite number of base cases.
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**Is there Chaos?**

Conjecture: Yes, but not seen yet.

# Lachlan Chaos

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**Problem 3.** Decision Problem: For  $\mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{B}_0$  finite:

$$\bigwedge \mathcal{A}_0 \implies \bigvee \mathcal{B}_0?$$

i.e.  $|\{\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}_0 = \emptyset\}| = 0?$

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Variations:  $|\{\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}_0 = \emptyset\}| = ??$

## Example

- Lachlan's Decision problem is decidable in the class of homogeneous directed graphs.

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- Lachlan's Decision problem is decidable in the class of homogeneous directed graphs.
- The decision problem for " $\exists 2^{\aleph_0}$ " is equivalent to the following.

**Problem 3'.** For  $\mathcal{T}$  a finite set of tournaments, is there an infinite antichain of finite  $\mathcal{T}$ -free tournaments?

# The WQO decision problem

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**Problem 4.** Decision Problem.  $(\mathcal{Q}, \leq)$  a class of finite structures with the **substructure** relation (or induced substructure).  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$  finite.  $I_{\mathcal{C}} =$

$$\{q \in \mathcal{Q} : \neg \exists c \in \mathcal{C} (c \leq q)\}$$

Is  $I_{\mathcal{C}}$  WQO?



# The *WQO* decision problem

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**Is  $I_{\mathcal{C}}$  *WQO*?**

Harvey Friedman: There is a recursive locally finite partial order  $(\mathcal{Q}, \leq)$  for which the *WQO* decision problem is a complete  $\Pi_1^1$  set.

On the other hand ...

# Finiteness Theorem

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## Theorem (Cherlin/Latka 2000)

*For any  $k$  there is a finite set of infinite antichains  $\Lambda_k$  such that for any set  $\mathcal{T}$  of finite tournaments with  $|\mathcal{T}| \leq k$  the following are equivalent.*

- 1  $Q_{\mathcal{T}}$  is wqo;
- 2  $\exists I \in \Lambda_k \ I \subseteq_* Q_{\mathcal{T}}$ .

- **Tournaments**  $|\Lambda_1| = 2$ : Latka
- **Permutation Patterns** Vatter, Waton, Brignall, ...
- **Induced graphs** Gustedt

**Motivation:** implications for computational problems.

**NB.** Gustedt develops a general theory of minimal antichains.

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**NB.** Gustedt develops a general theory of minimal antichains.

**Problem 5.** Encode permutations by tournaments, preserving (known) minimal antichains.

# Classification Problems

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**Problem 6.** Classify homogeneous structures of the following types:

Partitioned Graphs

Metrically Homogeneous Graphs [Cameron 1998]

$k$ -Dimensional Permutations [Cameron 2002]

Graphs as Metric Spaces

## Definition

A graph is **metrically homogeneous** if it is homogeneous as a metric space.

**Example**  $r$ -regular tree.

(Note: the metric on  $n$  vertices determines the metric on their convex closure!)

# Metrically Homogeneous Graphs

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**Example** Macpherson's Graphs  $T_{r,s}$ .

## Construction

$\Gamma = (A, B)$  bipartite and homogeneous as a metric space with bipartition.

Then  $\frac{1}{2}A$  is a metrically homogeneous graph.

**Application**  $\Gamma = T(r, s)$  a semi-regular  $(r, s)$ -branching tree.  
Macpherson's graph  $T_{r,s}$  is  $\frac{1}{2}A$ .

## Theorem (Macpherson)

*Distance transitive infinite locally finite graphs are of the form  $T_{r,s}$  with  $2 \leq r, s < \infty$ .*

## Known Metrically Homogeneous Graphs

- 1  $\delta \leq 2$  [Lachlan/Woodrow],  $\text{deg} \leq 2$  [ $C_n$ ], or finite [Cameron]
- 2  $T_{r,s}$  ( $2 \leq r, s \leq \infty$ )
- 3  $\Gamma_{\Delta,S}^\delta$  with  $\mathcal{A}_\Delta^\delta$  3-constrained
- 4  $\Gamma_{a,n}^\delta$  with  $\delta \geq 4$  if  $n < \infty$ .

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- 4  $\Gamma_{a,n}^\delta$  with  $\delta \geq 4$  if  $n < \infty$ .

$S$ : Henson constraints  $(1, \delta)$ -spaces (an independent set of cliques).

**Amalgamation:**

- $d^+(b_1, b_2) = \min_a(d_1(b_1, a) + d_2(b_2, a))$
- $d'(b_1, b_2) = \min(d^+(b_1, b_2), \delta - 1)$ .

# Metric Triangle Constraints

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Initial Conjecture  $\mathcal{A}_{\Delta}^{\delta} = \mathcal{A}_{K,C}^{\delta}$  (KMP-type). I.e.

$$2K + 1 \leq P \quad (P \text{ odd})$$

$$P \leq C$$



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$$\begin{aligned} 2K + 1 &\leq P && (P \text{ odd}) \\ P &\leq C \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (But actually:)

$\mathcal{A}_\Delta^\delta = \mathcal{A}_{K,C}^\delta$  with  $K = (K_1, K_2)$  and  $C = (C_1, C_2)$ , subject to “Presburger” conditions.

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# Metric Triangle Constraints

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
Millennium

Gregory  
Cherlin

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Lemma

$\mathcal{A}_{K,C}^{\delta}$  has amalgamation iff it has 5-amalgamation.

# Classification Conjecture

Urysohn,  
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Henson  
in the Third  
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Gregory  
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With **a few notable exceptions**

- 1 If  $\delta < \infty$  then  $\mathcal{A}^\delta \cap \Delta$  has amalgamation.
- 2 If  $\mathcal{A}^\delta \cap \Delta = \Delta_{K,C}^\delta$  then  $\mathcal{A}^\delta = \mathcal{A}_{K,C;S}^\delta$  or  $\mathcal{A}_{a,n}^\delta$ .
- 3 If  $\delta = \infty$  and  $\Gamma$  is not bipartite, then  $\Gamma = \lim \Gamma_i$  with  $\Gamma_i$  metrically homogeneous of diameter  $2i$ , for large  $i$ .

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**Problem.** Show that (1, 2)  $\implies$  (3).

## IV. Indivisibility

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
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*COROLLARY 4.2. Let  $p \geq 3$  and suppose that  $|G_p| = A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n$ . Then for some  $j = 1, \dots, n$  the graph  $G_p|_{A_j}$  admits every finite graph which does not admit  $K_p$ .*

*... We raise the question of whether or not the conclusion of Corollary 4.2 can be strengthened to read: " $G_p|_{A_j}$  admits  $G_p$ , for some  $j = 1, \dots, n$ ."*

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Yes

$G_3$  Komjáth/Rödl 1986

$G_n$  El-Zahar/Sauer 1989

$\mathbb{U}^\delta$  van Thé/Sauer 2009

Free Amalgamation EZ/S 2003, 2005

Ref: L. van Thé, AMS Memoir 968, 2010

# Indivisibility and Free Amalgamation

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## Theorem (El-Zahar, Sauer)

*Let  $L$  be a finite binary language,  $\Gamma$  a countable homogeneous  $L$ -structure, and assume  $\mathcal{A}_L$  has free amalgamation. Then  $\Gamma$  is indivisible iff any two orbits of  $\Gamma$  are comparable up to a finite partition.*

**Orbits** are orbits for the stabilizer of an arbitrary finite subset.

The relation  $O \leq O'$  which we call **comparability up to a finite partition** is defined by: *there is a finite partition of  $O$  whose pieces embed into  $O'$ .*

# V. Structural Ramsey Theory

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
Millennium

Gregory  
Cherlin

Ref: Again, L. van Thé, AMS Memoir 968, 2010

This is the finitary variant.

**Hungarian Notation**  $N \rightarrow (n)_k^m$

**Generalized**  $C \rightarrow (B)_k^A$ .

Restrict  $B$ , or add a linear order to the language.

**Nešetřil-Rödl** Amalgamation Method



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**Nešetřil-Rödl** Amalgamation Method

Familiar homogeneous structures acquire the Ramsey property when equipped with a suitable ordering, or a bit more.

# Expanding Homogeneous Structures

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
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Gregory  
Cherlin

**Problem 7.** Is every finitely determined relational homogeneous structure in a finite language a reduct of a class with the Ramsey property?  
(Asked often by Bodirsky.)

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**Problem 7'.** Give a model theoretic description of the way to add a linear order which covers the known cases.

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## Examples

Random graph: freely

Urysohn space: freely

Partial order: compatibly

Boolean algebra: lexicographically

# VI. Automorphism groups

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
Millennium

Gregory  
Cherlin

## Henson 1971

- There is an  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(\Gamma_n)$  with a single orbit iff  $n \leq 3$  or  $n = \infty$ .

- $(\Gamma, \text{Aut}(\Gamma)) \hookrightarrow (\Gamma_\infty, \text{Aut}(\Gamma_\infty))$  (with unique extensions)

Corollary.  $S_\infty \hookrightarrow \text{Aut}(\Gamma_\infty)$

Jaligot-Bilge, extensions, in progress.

Hasson-Kojman-Onshuus: Symmetric indivisibility

**Problem 8.** Given a finite partition of  $\Gamma_n$  and a  $K_n$ -free graph  $\Gamma$ , is there an embedding of  $\Gamma$  into one piece so that automorphisms of  $\Gamma$  extend uniquely to  $\Gamma_n$ ?

# Normal Subgroups

Urysohn,  
Fraïssé, and  
Henson  
in the Third  
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Cherlin

$S_\infty/\text{Bdd}$  is simple

## Theorem (Tent-Ziegler)

*If  $C$  is an unbounded conjugacy class in  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{U})$  then  $(C \cup C^{-1})^8 = \mathbb{U}$ .*

**Corollary**  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{U})/\text{Bdd}$  is simple

Note: Work with  $\mathbb{U}_S$  with  $S$  countable and additively closed, and vary  $S$ .

Tent (ongoing): this is a formal consequence of canonical amalgamation  $B_1 \otimes_A B_2$  and a formalism reminiscent of stability theory (in fact, includes the case of strongly minimal sets as treated by Lascar).

# Topological Dynamics

Urysohn,  
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Kechris/Pestov/Todorcevic

**Extreme Amenability:** Fixed points of compact actions.  
Equivalent to the finitary Ramsey property.

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In the absence of linear order, characterize the universal minimal compact flow.



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**Extreme Amenability:** Fixed points of compact actions.  
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Definitely Millennium III . . . motivates Bodirsky's favorite question.

# Problems

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**Problem 1.** Universal  $\mathcal{C}$ -free graphs and  $\aleph_0$ -categoricity.

**Problem 2.** Solidity Conjecture (Complete blocks)

**Problem 3.** [Lachlan] For  $\mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{B}_0$  finite:  $\bigwedge \mathcal{A}_0 \implies \bigvee \mathcal{B}_0$ ?

**Problem 4.**  $(\mathcal{Q}, \leq)$  finite  $L$ -structures with the **substructure** or **induced substructure** relation.  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$  finite.

$I_{\mathcal{C}} = \{q \in \mathcal{Q} : \neg \exists c \in \mathcal{C} (c \leq q)\}$ . **Is  $I_{\mathcal{C}}$  WQO?**

**Problem 5.** Encode permutations by tournaments, preserving (known) minimal antichains.

**Problem 6.** Classify homogeneous partitioned graphs, metrically homogeneous graphs, and primitive homogeneous  $k$ -dim. permutations.

**Problem 7. (A)** Is every f.d. relational homogeneous structure in a finite language a reduct of a Ramsey class?

**(B)** Give a model theoretic description of the right linear order.

**Problem 8.** Indivisibility with unique extendability.