

Structural logic and abstract elementary classes with intersections

by

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Summary. We give a syntactic characterization of abstract elementary classes (AECs) closed under intersections using a new logic with a quantifier for isomorphism types that we call structural logic: we prove that AECs with intersections correspond to classes of models of a universal theory in structural logic. This generalizes Tarski’s syntactic characterization of universal classes. As a corollary, we prove that any AEC closed under intersections with countable Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number is axiomatizable in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}(Q)$, where Q is the quantifier “there exist uncountably many”.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and motivation. Shelah’s abstract elementary classes (AECs) [She87, Bal09, She09a, She09b] are a semantic framework to study the model theory of classes that are not necessarily axiomatized by an $\mathbb{L}_{\omega,\omega}$ -theory. Roughly speaking (see Definition 2.4), an AEC is a pair (K, \leq_K) satisfying some of the category-theoretic properties of $(\text{Mod}(T), \preceq)$, for T an $\mathbb{L}_{\omega,\omega}$ -theory. This encompasses classes of models of an $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ sentence (i.e. infinite conjunctions and disjunctions are allowed), and even $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}(\langle Q_{\lambda_i} \mid i < \alpha \rangle)$ theories, where Q_{λ_i} is the quantifier “there exist λ_i -many”.

Since the axioms of AECs do not contain any axiomatizability requirement, it is not clear whether there is a natural logic whose class of models is exactly the AECs. More precisely, one can ask whether there is a nat-

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ural abstract logic (in the sense of Barwise, see the survey [BFB85]) such that classes of models of theories in that logic are AECs and any AEC is axiomatized by a theory in that logic.

An example of the kind of theorem one may expect is Tarski's characterization of universal classes. Tarski [Tar54] showed that classes of structures in a finite relational vocabulary which are closed under isomorphism, substructures, and unions of chains (according to the substructure relation) are exactly the classes of models of a universal $\mathbb{L}_{\omega,\omega}$ -theory. The proof of Tarski's result generalizes to non-finite vocabularies as follows:

DEFINITION 1.1. K is a *universal class* if it is a class of structures in a fixed vocabulary that is closed under isomorphisms, substructures, and unions of chains (according to the substructure relation).

FACT 1.2 (Tarski's presentation theorem, [Tar54]). *Let K be a class of structures in a fixed vocabulary. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) K is a universal class.
- (2) K is the class of models of a universal $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ -theory.

Here, a universal sentence is one of the form $\forall x_0 \dots x_{n-1} \psi$ with $\psi \in \mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ quantifier-free. Note that this is not the only definition of universal sentences in the literature; see [Vas17b, Remark 2.5] for further discussion. Universal classes are a special type of abstract elementary classes. In a sense, their complexity is quite low and indeed several powerful theorems can be proven there (see e.g. [She09b, Chapter V] and the second author's ZFC proof of the eventual categoricity conjecture there [Vas17a, Vas17b]).

A more general kind of AECs is AECs with intersections. They were introduced by Baldwin and Shelah [BS08, Definition 1.2]. They are defined as the AECs in which the intersection of any set of \mathcal{K} -substructures of a fixed model N is again a \mathcal{K} -substructure (see Definition 3.1). In universal classes, this property follows from closure under substructures so any universal class is an AEC with intersections. Being closed under intersections does not imply that the classes are easy to analyze: e.g. [HS90, BK09, BS08, BU17] provide examples of AECs closed under intersections that fail to be tame. Nevertheless, AECs with intersections are still less complex than general AECs. For example, the second author has shown that Shelah's eventual categoricity conjecture holds there assuming a large cardinal axiom [Vas17a, Theorem 1.7], whereas the conjecture is still open for general AECs.

1.2. Tarski's presentation theorem for AECs with intersections.

In the present paper, we generalize Tarski's presentation theorem to AECs with intersections as follows: we introduce a new logic, $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}^{\mathcal{K}\text{-struct}}$, which is essentially $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ expanded by what we call structural quantifiers, and show that AECs with intersections are (essentially) exactly the class of models of

a particular kind of theory—what we call a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory (Definition 2.8)—in the logic $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$. More precisely (Corollary 3.11), any $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ gives rise to an AEC with intersections, and for any AEC with intersections, there is an expansion of its vocabulary with countably many relation symbols such that the resulting class is axiomatized by a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$. Moreover, the expansion is functorial (i.e. it induces an isomorphism of concrete category, see Definition 3.3).

The idea of the proof is to code the isomorphism types of the set $c\ell^N(\mathbf{a})$ of intersections of all the \mathcal{K} -substructures of N containing the finite sequences \mathbf{a} . The logic $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ is expanded by a family of generalized quantifiers in the sense of Mostowski and Lindström [Mos57, Lin66]; sentences such as $Q_{(M_2, M_1)}^{\text{struct}} xy \phi(x)\psi(y)$ will model whether the solution sets (A, B) of (ϕ, ψ) are isomorphic to (M_2, M_1) (where of course the two isomorphisms must agree). This is crucial to code the ordering of the AEC. Our characterization also generalizes Kirby’s result on the definability of Zilber’s quasiminimal classes [Kir10, §5]. Indeed it is easy to see (Remark 2.3) that $\mathbb{L}_{\omega_1,\omega}^{\aleph_1\text{-struct}}$ is just $\mathbb{L}_{\omega_1,\omega}(Q)$ (where Q is the quantifier “there exist uncountably many”) and quasiminimal classes are in particular AECs with intersections (see [Vas18]). Thus we find that any AEC with intersections and countable Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number is axiomatizable in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}(Q)$ (see Corollary 3.12).

An immediate conclusion is that any AEC which admits intersections, has Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number \aleph_0 , and has countably many countable models, has a Borel functorial expansion (in the sense that its restriction to \aleph_0 can be coded by a Borel set of reals, see Corollary 3.14). This is further evidence for the assertion that AECs with intersections have low complexity and paves the way for the use of descriptive set-theoretic tools in the study of these classes (see [She09a, Chapter I], [BLS15, BL16]).

1.3. Other approaches. Rabin [Rab62] syntactically characterizes $\mathbb{L}_{\omega,\omega}$ -theories whose class of models is closed under intersections. The characterization is (provably) much more complicated than that of universal classes. This paper shows that by changing the logic we can achieve a much easier characterization. Recently, Lieberman, Rosický, and the second author [LRV19] have shown that any AEC with intersections is a locally \aleph_0 -polypresentable category. In particular, it is \aleph_0 -accessible, and this implies that it is equivalent (as a category) to a class of models of an $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ sentence. We discuss these approaches in greater detail in Section 4.

1.4. Notation. We denote the universe of a τ -structure M by $|M|$ and its cardinality by $\|M\|$. We use κ^- to denote the predecessor of a cardinal κ : it is \aleph_0 if $\kappa = \aleph_0^+$ and κ otherwise.

2. Structural quantifiers. We define a new logic, $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$. It consists of $\mathbb{L}_{\omega,\omega}$ with a family of quantifiers $Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}}$, which generalize the quantifier $Q^{I(M)}$ from [MSS76, §4]. Compared to $Q^{I(M)}$, we allow multiple formulas and τ_0 -structures, with τ_0 a subvocabulary of τ .

DEFINITION 2.1. Let τ be a vocabulary and κ be an infinite cardinal. We define the logic $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$ as follows:

- (1) $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ is the smallest set closed under the following:
 - (a) atomic formulas;
 - (b) negation;
 - (c) binary conjunction and disjunction;
 - (d) existential and universal quantification; and
 - (e) if $n < \omega$, $\phi(x, \mathbf{z})$ and $\langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$ are formulas in $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$, τ_0 is a subvocabulary of τ , M is a τ_0 -structure with universe an ordinal strictly less than κ and $\mathbf{A} := \langle A_i : i < n \rangle$ are subsets of $|M|$, then letting $\mathbf{y} := \langle y_i : i < n \rangle$ we have

$$Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle \in \mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau).$$

- (2) Satisfaction $\models_{\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}}$ is defined inductively as follows (we omit the subscript since it will always be clear from context):
 - (a) As usual for the first-order operations.
 - (b) If N is a τ -structure, $n < \omega$, $\phi(x, \mathbf{z})$ and $\langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$ are formulas in $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$, τ_0 is a subvocabulary of τ , M is a τ_0 -structure with universe an ordinal strictly less than κ and $\mathbf{A} := \langle A_i : i < n \rangle$ are subsets of $|M|$, then letting $\mathbf{y} := \langle y_i : i < n \rangle$, we have $N \models Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{b}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{b}) : i < n \rangle$ if and only if:
 - (i) for all $i < n$, $N \models \forall x (\psi_i(x, \mathbf{b}) \rightarrow \phi(x, \mathbf{b}))$; and
 - (ii) there is a τ_0 -substructure N_0 of N with universe $\phi(N, \mathbf{b})$, and there is an isomorphism f from N_0 onto M such that for all $i < n$, $f[\psi_i(N, \mathbf{b})] = A_i$.

We define variants such as $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ in the natural way.

Several notational remarks are in order. First, the restriction of the universe of M to be an ordinal is here to avoid having a logic with class-many formulas. We will often use $Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}}$ when the universe of M is *not* an ordinal, and this should just be replaced by $Q_{M',\mathbf{A}'}^{\text{struct}}$, where M', \mathbf{A}' are renaming of M and \mathbf{A} so that the universe of M' is an ordinal.

Second, the main cases for us in the formula $Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$ are when $n = 0$ or $n = 1$. In the former case, we will just write $Q_M^{\text{struct}} x \phi(x, \mathbf{z})$, and in the latter $Q_{M,A}^{\text{struct}} xy \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \psi(y, \mathbf{z})$. In most cases, A will induce a substructure of M .

In order to analyze a class of models axiomatized by structural quantifiers, we use a strong notion of elementarity, $\preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^*$, which ensures that classes of models of an $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ -theory are closed under unions of $\preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^*$ -increasing chains.

DEFINITION 2.2.

- (1) Given a language τ and a logic \mathcal{L} , a *fragment* \mathcal{F} is a set $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\tau)$ closed under subformulas and containing all atomic formulas.
- (2) Given a fragment $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$ and two τ -structures $N_1 \subseteq N_2$, we write $N_1 \preceq_{\mathcal{F}} N_2$ if and only if for every $\phi(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathbf{a} \in N_1$,

$$N_1 \models \phi(\mathbf{a}) \iff N_2 \models \phi(\mathbf{a}).$$

- (3) Given a fragment $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$ and two τ -structures $N_1 \subseteq N_2$ we write $N_1 \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^* N_2$ if and only if:

- (a) $N_1 \preceq_{\mathcal{F}} N_2$; and
- (b) for any formula $Q_{M, \mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} x \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \phi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$ in \mathcal{F} , if $|\phi(N_1, \mathbf{b})| < \kappa$, then $\phi(N_1, \mathbf{b}) = \phi(N_2, \mathbf{b})$ and $\psi_i(N_1, \mathbf{b}) = \psi_i(N_2, \mathbf{b})$ for all $i < n$.

- (4) Given a fragment $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ and a theory $T \subseteq \mathcal{F}$, we let $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$ be the class $(\text{Mod}(T), \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^*)$.

Note that we do *not* assume that a fragment must be closed under the finitary operations, just that it contains the atomic formulas and is closed under subformulas.

We also have the following basic facts:

REMARK 2.3. (1) $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda, \kappa}^{\aleph_0\text{-struct}}$ is equivalent to $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda, \kappa}$.

(2) For any ordinal α , we can express $\exists^{\geq \aleph_\alpha} x \phi(x, \mathbf{z})$ in $\mathbb{L}_{(|\alpha| + \aleph_0)^+, \omega}^{\aleph_\alpha\text{-struct}}$ by

$$\bigwedge_{n < \omega} \neg Q_n^{\text{struct}} x \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \wedge \bigwedge_{\beta < \alpha} \neg Q_{\aleph_\beta}^{\text{struct}} x \phi(x, \mathbf{z}).$$

In particular “there exist uncountably many” can be expressed in $\mathbb{L}_{\omega_1, \omega}^{\aleph_1\text{-struct}}$.

(3) In fact, $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda^+, \omega}^{\aleph_1\text{-struct}}$ is equivalent to $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda^+, \omega}(Q)$, where Q is the quantifier “there exist uncountably many”. We have just established the right-to-left direction. For the other direction, use suitably relativized Scott sentences. Specifically, let us explain how to replace an $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda^+, \omega}^{\aleph_1\text{-struct}}$ formula of the form $Q_{M, \mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} x \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$ by an equivalent formula in $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda^+, \omega}(Q)$. Suppose that τ is the vocabulary of the formula and τ_0 the vocabulary of M . Let $\tau'_0 = \tau_0 \cup \{P_i : i < n\}$, where the P_i 's are unary predicates not appearing in τ . Let $M_{\mathbf{A}}$ be the τ'_0 -structure $(M, A_i)_{i < n}$, where we have written $\mathbf{A} = \langle A_i : i < n \rangle$. Let ρ be a Scott sentence for $M_{\mathbf{A}}$. Let ρ' be ρ relativized to $\phi(\cdot, \mathbf{z})$, with for all $i < n$ all occurrences of $P_i(y)$ replaced by $\psi_i(y, \mathbf{z})$.

Then $Q_{M, \mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$ is equivalent to $\bigwedge_{i < n} \forall x (\psi_i(x, \mathbf{z}) \rightarrow \phi(x, \mathbf{z})) \wedge \neg Qx \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \wedge \rho'$.

(4) The notion of elementarity $\preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^*$ introduced for structural quantifiers coincides with the notion of elementarity used to study $\mathbb{L}(Q)$ (see [Bal09, Definition 5.1.2]).

(5) An $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$ formula of the form $Q_{M, \mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$, with M a τ_0 -structure, $\tau_0 \subseteq \tau$ is equivalent to a disjunction of formulas of the form $Q_{M', \mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$, where M' ranges over all isomorphism types of τ -expansions of M . Thus we can avoid the use of a subvocabulary τ_0 but have to consider potentially longer disjunctions (of length up to $2^{|\tau|}$).

We now show that $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$ defined above is an abstract elementary class (AEC). For the convenience of the reader, we repeat the definition of an AEC here.

DEFINITION 2.4 ([She87]). An *abstract elementary class (AEC)* is a pair $\mathcal{K} = (K, \leq_{\mathcal{K}})$ satisfying the following properties:

- (1) K is a class of structures in a fixed vocabulary $\tau = \tau(\mathcal{K})$ and $\leq_{\mathcal{K}}$ is a partial order, $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$ implies $M \subseteq N$, and K and $\leq_{\mathcal{K}}$ are both closed under isomorphisms.
- (2) *Coherence*: if $M_0, M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{K}$, $M_0 \subseteq M_1 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} M_2$ and $M_0 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} M_2$, then $M_0 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} M_1$.
- (3) *Tarski–Vaught chain axioms*: if δ is a limit ordinal, $\langle M_i : i < \delta \rangle$ is a $\leq_{\mathcal{K}}$ -increasing chain, and $M := \bigcup_{i < \delta} M_i$, then:
 - (a) $M \in \mathcal{K}$.
 - (b) $M_0 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} M$.
 - (c) *Smoothness*: if $N \in \mathcal{K}$ is such that $M_i \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$ for all $i < \delta$, then $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$.
- (4) *Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski (LST) axiom*: there exists a cardinal $\lambda \geq |\tau(\mathcal{K})| + \aleph_0$ such that for any $N \in \mathcal{K}$ and any $A \subseteq |N|$, there exists $M \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $A \subseteq |M|$, $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$, and $\|M\| \leq |A| + \lambda$. We write $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$ for the least such λ .

THEOREM 2.5. *Let \mathcal{F} be a fragment of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}(\tau)$ and let $T \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ be a theory. Then $\mathcal{K} := \text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$ is an AEC with $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}) \leq |\mathcal{F}| + \kappa$.*

Proof. This is a very similar situation to $\mathbb{L}(Q)$ where Q is “there exist uncountably many”, and most of the axioms are straightforward. We only show that \mathcal{K} is closed under unions of increasing chains. Let $\langle N_i \mid i < \delta \rangle$ be continuous and $\preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^*$ -increasing and let $N_{\delta} := \bigcup_{j < \delta} N_j$. We want to show that $N_0 \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^* N_{\delta}$. We work by induction on formulas. The steps are standard

except for the structural quantifier. Let $\chi(\mathbf{z})$ be a formula in \mathcal{F} of the form $Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} x\mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$.

By elementarity of the inner formulas, we know that for $\psi \in \Psi := \{\phi\} \cup \{\psi_i : i < n\}$, $\psi(N_\delta, \mathbf{b}) = \bigcup_{i < \delta} \psi(N_i, \mathbf{b})$.

We consider two cases. If $|\phi(N_0, \mathbf{b})| < \kappa$, then by the definition of $\preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^*$, $\psi(N_0, \mathbf{b}) = \psi(N_i, \mathbf{b})$ for all $i < \delta$ and $\psi \in \Psi$. This implies that for all $\psi \in \Psi$, $\psi(N_0, \mathbf{b}) = \psi(N_\delta, \mathbf{b})$, and so $N_0 \models \chi(\mathbf{b})$ if and only if $N_\delta \models \chi(\mathbf{b})$.

The remaining case is when $|\phi(N_0, \mathbf{b})| \geq \kappa$. In this case, $N_0 \not\models \chi(\mathbf{b})$ (by definition of $\mathbb{L}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$), and since $\phi(N_0, \mathbf{b}) \subseteq \phi(N_\delta, \mathbf{b})$, we must also have $|\phi(N_\delta, \mathbf{b})| \geq \kappa$ and hence $N_\delta \not\models \chi(\mathbf{b})$. ■

The following example is due to Shelah (see [She87, beginning of Section 3]) and has been further examined by Kueker [Kue08, Example 6.3]:

EXAMPLE 2.6. Fix an infinite cardinal λ . Set \mathcal{K}^λ to be the AEC consisting of well-orderings $(X, <)$ either of size λ or of order type λ^+ with the ordering on the class \mathcal{K}^λ being initial segment. The rigidity of well-orderings implies that this is an AEC with intersections with $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}^\lambda) = \lambda$. This class can be axiomatized in $\mathbb{L}_{\lambda^{++}, \omega}^{\lambda^+\text{-struct}}$ by the sentence

$$\forall x \bigvee_{\lambda \leq \alpha < \lambda^+} Q_{(\alpha, \epsilon)}^{\text{struct}} y (y < x).$$

Several natural logics whose classes of models form AECs are unsuccessful in axiomatizing this class (although Remark 2.3(3) implies that \mathcal{K}^{\aleph_0} is $\mathbb{L}_{\omega_2, \omega}(Q)$ axiomatizable).

REMARK 2.7. Although classes axiomatizable in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ form AECs, it seems unlikely that every AEC is axiomatizable with structural quantifiers. In particular, classes axiomatizable using Shelah's cofinality quantifier Q_κ^{cf} (see [She75, Definition 1.3]) form (with the right notion of strong substructure) an AEC. However, it seems unlikely that such classes can be axiomatized using structural quantifiers as there is no way to pick out a witnessing sequence in the linear order even after functorial expansion. By Theorem 3.9, this means that these classes are not closed under intersections.

In the next section, we will be interested in sentences in structural logic of a particular form:

DEFINITION 2.8. A sentence of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ is called a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -sentence if it is of the form

$$\forall \mathbf{z} \bigvee_{(M, \mathbf{A}) \in S} Q_{M, \mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} x\mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \psi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$$

where ϕ and the ψ_i 's are quantifier-free and S is a non-empty set. A theory in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ is called a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory if it consists exclusively of $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -sentences.

Note that this generalizes the usual definition of a universal sentence in the following sense:

LEMMA 2.9. *If $\phi = \forall \mathbf{z} \psi(\mathbf{z})$, where ψ is quantifier-free in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}(\tau)$, then there exists a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -formula ϕ' of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\aleph_0\text{-struct}}(\tau)$ such that ϕ and ϕ' have the same models.*

Proof. Say $\mathbf{z} = \langle z_i : i < n \rangle$ for $n < \omega$. If $n > 0$, take

$$\phi' = \forall \mathbf{z} Q_1^{\text{struct}} x (x = z_0 \wedge \psi(\mathbf{z})),$$

where we see 1 as a structure in the empty language whose universe has one element. If $n = 0$, then there are two cases: either the empty structure satisfies ϕ , in which case ϕ is equivalent to $\forall z_0 \phi$, and we can proceed as before; or the empty structure does *not* satisfy ϕ , which must mean (since ϕ is quantifier-free) that there are constant symbols in τ . In this case the empty structure is never a τ -structure, and so as before ϕ is equivalent to $\forall z_0 \phi$. ■

One may argue that a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -sentence is more like a $\forall \exists$ sentence than just a universal sentence. However, Remark 3.10 below highlights that the inner disjunction plays the role that a quantifier-free formula would play in the proof of Tarski's presentation theorem. Thus $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -sentences play the same role that universal sentences play in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}$.

3. Axiomatizing abstract elementary classes with intersections.

Recall the definition of an AEC with intersections:

DEFINITION 3.1 ([BS08, Definition 1.2]). Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC.

- (1) For $N \in \mathcal{K}$ and $A \subseteq |N|$, write $cl_{\mathcal{K}}^N(A)$ for the set $\bigcap \{N_0 : N_0 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N \wedge A \subseteq |N_0|\}$. Almost always, \mathcal{K} is clear from context and we omit it. We abuse notation and also write $cl^N(A)$ for the $\tau(\mathcal{K})$ -substructure of N with universe $cl^N(A)$. When $\mathbf{a} \in {}^{<\infty}M$, we write $cl^N(\mathbf{a})$ for $cl^N(\text{ran}(\mathbf{a}))$.
- (2) We say that \mathcal{K} *has intersections* (or is *closed under intersections*) if $cl^N(A) \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$ for any $N \in \mathcal{K}$ and $A \subseteq |N|$.

We show that the class of models of a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory in structural logic is an AEC with intersections:

THEOREM 3.2. *Let T be a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\kappa\text{-struct}}$ and let \mathcal{F} be the smallest fragment containing T . Then $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$ is an AEC with intersections and Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number at most $|\mathcal{F}| + \kappa^-$.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{K} := \text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$. By Theorem 2.5, \mathcal{K} is an AEC. We show that \mathcal{K} has intersections. Let $N \in \mathcal{K}$, $A \subseteq |N|$, and let $N_0 := cl^N(A)$. We show that $N_0 \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^* N$. We proceed by induction on formulas. The atomic, conjunction, disjunction, and negation cases are trivial. The universal case also follows directly from our assumption on the theory (recall that the

definition of fragment used here does *not* require closure under the finitary operations).

It remains to deal with the case of a formula $\chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{z})$ of the form $Q_{M,\mathbf{A}}^{\text{struct}} x\mathbf{y} \phi(x, \mathbf{z}) \langle \phi_i(y_i, \mathbf{z}) : i < n \rangle$. Let $\Psi := \{\phi\} \cup \{\psi_i : i < n\}$ and let $\mathbf{b} \in N_0$. Assume first that $N \models \chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$. Let $\psi \in \Psi$. For any N' with $A \subseteq |N'|$ and $N' \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^* N$ we must have (by definition of cl) that $\mathbf{b} \in N'$ and $\psi(N', \mathbf{b}) = \psi(N, \mathbf{b})$. It follows that also $\psi(N_0, \mathbf{b}) = \psi(N, \mathbf{b})$, so $N_0 \models \chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$. Assume now that $N_0 \models \chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$. By the assumption on the theory, there must exist an (M', \mathbf{A}') such that $N \models \chi_{M',\mathbf{A}'}(\mathbf{b})$. By the previous argument, $N_0 \models \chi_{M',\mathbf{A}'}(\mathbf{b})$, and moreover $\psi(N, \mathbf{b}) = \psi(N_0, \mathbf{b})$ for any $\psi \in \Psi$. Since $N_0 \models \chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$, this directly implies that $N \models \chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{b})$.

By a similar argument, we must have (regardless of the truth value of $\chi_{M,\mathbf{A}}$ in N_0 or N), for any $\psi \in \Psi$, $|\psi(N, \mathbf{b})| < \kappa$ and $\psi(N_0, \mathbf{b}) = \psi(N, \mathbf{b})$. It also follows that $|cl^N(A)| \leq |A| + |\mathcal{F}| + \kappa^-$, so $LS(\mathcal{K}) \leq |\mathcal{F}| + \kappa^-$. ■

We now work toward a converse. For this, we will use the notion of a functorial expansion [Vas16, Definition 3.1]. This is a class in an expanded language that looks exactly the same as the original AEC. For example, the Morleyization of an elementary class is a functorial expansion. For more examples, see [Vas16, §3].

DEFINITION 3.3. For \mathcal{K} an AEC, a *functorial expansion* of \mathcal{K} is a class K^+ of structures in a vocabulary $\tau(K^+) \supseteq \tau(\mathcal{K})$ (in this paper always finitary) such that the reduct map is a structure-preserving bijection from K^+ onto \mathcal{K} . That is, if two structures are isomorphic in \mathcal{K} then their expansions to K^+ are still isomorphic, and if M is a \mathcal{K} -substructure of N then their expansions to K^+ are substructures. For a functorial expansion K^+ , we let $\mathcal{K}^+ := (K^+, \leq_{\mathcal{K}^+})$, where $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}^+} N$ if and only if $M \upharpoonright \tau(\mathcal{K}) \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N \upharpoonright \tau(\mathcal{K})$. We will also say that \mathcal{K}^+ is a functorial expansion of \mathcal{K} .

REMARK 3.4. An AEC admits intersections if and only if it admits intersections in some functorial expansion.

In addition to the obvious monotonicity properties of cl^N , we will use the following basic fact about AECs with intersections:

FACT 3.5 ([Vas17a, Proposition 2.14(4)]). *Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC with intersections. Let $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$ and let $A \subseteq |M|$. Then $cl^M(A) = cl^N(A)$.*

In any AEC, one can define a notion of orbital types (also called Galois types in the literature, see [She09a, II.1.9]). We have no use for the general notion of orbital type in this paper, we will just recall what orbital types of finite sequences over the empty set look like in AECs admitting intersections:

DEFINITION 3.6. Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC with intersections. For $M, N \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\mathbf{a} \in {}^{<\omega}M$, $\mathbf{b} \in {}^{<\omega}N$, we write $(\mathbf{a}, M) \equiv (\mathbf{b}, N)$ if there exists $f : c\ell^M(\mathbf{a}) \cong c\ell^N(\mathbf{b})$ such that $f(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{b}$. Note that this is an equivalence relation. We denote by $\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})$ the set of all \equiv -equivalence classes.

REMARK 3.7. Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC with intersections. If $M_0 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} M$ are both in \mathcal{K} and $\mathbf{a} \in {}^{<\omega}M$, then $(\mathbf{a}, M_0) \equiv (\mathbf{a}, M)$ (as witnessed by the identity map). In particular, for any $(\mathbf{b}, N) \in \mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})$, the Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski axiom of AECs implies that there exists $N_0 \in \mathcal{K}_{\leq \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})}$ such that $(\mathbf{b}, N_0) \in \mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})$.

LEMMA 3.8. *Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC with intersections. Then $|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})| \leq 2^{\text{LS}(\mathcal{K})}$. More precisely, $|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})| < \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+ + \mu$, where μ is the least cardinal such that for any (not necessarily increasing) sequence $\langle M_i : i < \mu \rangle$ of elements of $\mathcal{K}_{\leq \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})}$, there exist $i < j < \mu$ such that M_j embeds into M_i .*

Proof. Let $\theta := \mu + \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+$. Suppose for a contradiction that $|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})| \geq \theta$. We build $\langle (\mathbf{a}_i, M_i) : i < \theta \rangle$ such that for all $i < \theta$:

- $\mathbf{a}_i \in {}^{<\omega}M_i$.
- $M_i \in \mathcal{K}_{\leq \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})}$.
- There are no $i_0 < i$ and $\mathbf{a} \in {}^{<\omega}M_{i_0}$ such that $(\mathbf{a}, M_{i_0}) \equiv (\mathbf{a}_i, M_i)$.

This is possible by the assumption that $|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})| \geq \theta$ and $\theta > \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$. This is enough: by the definition of μ , there exist $i_0 < i < \theta$ such that M_i embeds into M_{i_0} . This contradicts the assumption that (\mathbf{a}_i, M_i) had no realization in M_{i_0} . ■

THEOREM 3.9. *Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC with intersections. Then there is*

- a functorial expansion \mathcal{K}^+ of \mathcal{K} with vocabulary $\tau^+ = \tau(\mathcal{K}) \cup \{E_n \mid n < \omega\}$ and
- a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory T in $\mathbb{L}_{(\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}) + |\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})|)^+, \omega}^{\text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+ \text{-struct}}(\tau^+)$

such that $\mathcal{K}^+ = \text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$, where \mathcal{F} is the smallest fragment containing T .

Proof. We define \mathcal{K}^+ as follows:

- E_n is an $(n + 1)$ -ary relation symbol.
- $M^+ \in \mathcal{K}^+$ if and only if $M^+ \upharpoonright \tau(\mathcal{K}) \in \mathcal{K}$ and $E_n^{M^+} = \{(a, \mathbf{b}) \mid \ell(\mathbf{b}) = n, a \in c\ell^{M^+ \upharpoonright \tau(\mathcal{K})}(\mathbf{b})\}$.

T is the following theory:

- For each $n < \omega$ and each $k \leq n$, include the sentence

$$\forall z_0 \dots z_n E_n(z_k, z_0, z_1, \dots, z_n).$$

Note that this sentence is not formally a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -sentence, but is equivalent to one by Lemma 2.9.

- If \mathcal{K} is empty, include $Q_0^{\text{struct}}xx = x$ and $Q_1^{\text{struct}}xx \neq x$. Assume now that \mathcal{K} is not empty. Let D be a complete set of representatives of the elements of $\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})$ (so $|D| = |\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})|$), with the additional requirement that $(\mathbf{a}, M) \in D$ implies $\|M\| \leq \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$ (this is possible by Remark 3.7). Let S be the set of pairs (M_2, M_1) such that for some $(\mathbf{ab}, M) \in D$, we have $M_2 = c\ell^M(\mathbf{ab})$ and $M_1 = c\ell^M(\mathbf{a})$. Note that for such pairs $M_1 \leq_{\mathcal{K}} M_2$ by coherence. Moreover $|S| \leq |D| + \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$. Include in T all sentences of the form

$$\forall \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z}' \quad \bigvee_{(M_2, M_1) \in S} Q_{M_2, M_1}^{\text{struct}} xy (E_{\ell(\mathbf{zz}')} (x\mathbf{zz}')) (E_{\ell(\mathbf{z})} (y\mathbf{z})).$$

Let \mathcal{F} be the smallest fragment containing T . We show that this works.

- (1) Let $M^+ \in \mathcal{K}^+$ and let $M := M^+ \upharpoonright_{\tau}(\mathcal{K})$. We have:

- for all $\mathbf{a} \in M$, $\mathbf{a} \in c\ell^M(\mathbf{a})$; and
- for all $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2 \in M$,

$$M^+ \models Q_{c\ell^M(\mathbf{a}_1\mathbf{a}_2), c\ell^M(\mathbf{a}_1)}^{\text{struct}} xy (E_{\ell(\mathbf{a}_1)}(x\mathbf{a}_1)) (E_{\ell(\mathbf{a}_1\mathbf{a}_2)}y\mathbf{a}_1\mathbf{a}_2).$$

So $M^+ \models T$.

- (2) Suppose that $M^+ \leq_{\mathcal{K}^+} N^+$. Then $c\ell^M(\mathbf{a}) = c\ell^N(\mathbf{a})$ are of size at most $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K})$, so $M^+ \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^* N^+$ follows.
- (3) Suppose that $M^+ \models T$. We wish to express it as a directed colimit from \mathcal{K}^+ . For $\mathbf{a} \in M^+$, let $M_{\mathbf{a}}$ be the τ^+ -substructure of M^+ with universe $\{b \in M^+ \mid M^+ \models E_{\ell(\mathbf{a})}(b\mathbf{a})\}$. By definition of T (and definition of a functorial expansion), $\mathbf{a} \in M_{\mathbf{a}}$, $M_{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathcal{K}^+$, and $\mathbf{a} \subseteq \mathbf{b}$ implies that $M_{\mathbf{a}} \leq_{\mathcal{K}^+} M_{\mathbf{b}}$. Thus,

$$M^+ = \bigcup_{\mathbf{a} \in M^+} M_{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathcal{K}^+.$$

- (4) Suppose that $M^+, N^+ \models T$ and $M^+ \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^* N^+$. This elementarity implies that, in the notation of the previous item, given $\mathbf{a} \in M^+$, $M_{\mathbf{a}} = N_{\mathbf{a}}$. Now as before $M^+ = \bigcup_{\mathbf{a} \in M^+} M_{\mathbf{a}} = \bigcup_{\mathbf{a} \in M^+} N_{\mathbf{a}} \leq_{\mathcal{K}^+} N^+$, as needed. ■

REMARK 3.10. It is instructive to see how the proof of Theorem 3.9 plays out when \mathcal{K} is a universal class. In this case, E_n is definable, i.e. we can replace the formula $E_n(x, \mathbf{y})$ by $\bigvee_{\rho} x = \rho(\mathbf{y})$, where ρ ranges over all terms in the vocabulary of \mathcal{K} . Thus there is no need to expand the vocabulary of \mathcal{K} . Similarly, if (M_2, M_1) is a pair in \mathcal{K} with $M_1 \subseteq M_2$ such that $M_2 = c\ell^{M_2}(\mathbf{ab})$ and $M_1 = c\ell^{M_2}(\mathbf{a})$, then $Q_{M_2, M_1}^{\text{struct}} xy (E_{\ell(\mathbf{zz}')} (x, \mathbf{zz}')) (E_{\ell(\mathbf{z})} (y\mathbf{z}))$ is equivalent to $\bigwedge_{\phi \in \text{tp}_{\text{qf}}(\mathbf{b}_1\mathbf{b}_2; M_2)} \phi(\mathbf{z}; \mathbf{z}')$. Thus we indeed recover Tarski's characterization of universal classes as classes of models of a universal $L_{\infty, \omega}$ -theory.

We have arrived at the promised characterization of AECs with intersections using structural logic:

COROLLARY 3.11. *Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{K} has intersections.
- (2) *There is a functorial expansion \mathcal{K}^+ of \mathcal{K} with countably many relation symbols of finite arity and a $\forall Q^{\text{struct}}$ -theory T in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}^{\text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+ \text{-struct}}(\tau(\mathcal{K}^+))$ such that $\mathcal{K}^+ = \text{Mod}_{\mathcal{F}}(T)$, where \mathcal{F} is the smallest fragment containing T .*

Proof. Combine Remark 3.4 and Theorems 3.2 and 3.9. ■

As a particular case, we find that AECs with intersections and countable Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number are axiomatizable in $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}(Q)$:

COROLLARY 3.12. *Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC with intersections and $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}) = \aleph_0$. Then there is a functorial expansion \mathcal{K}^+ with countably many relation symbols of finite arity and an $\mathbb{L}_{\aleph_1 + |\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})|^+, \omega}(Q)$ -theory T such that \mathcal{K}^+ is the class of models of T .*

Proof. Combine Theorem 3.9 with Remark 2.3(3). ■

REMARK 3.13. The ordering on \mathcal{K}^+ may no longer be given by elementarity according to a fragment of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}(Q)$ containing T . This is because we are using Scott sentences to code isomorphism types. Nevertheless, the axiomatization given by Corollary 3.12 uses only negative instances of Q so indeed leads to an AEC with countable Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number.

We state a consequence on the descriptive set-theoretic complexity of \mathcal{K} . Recall that Baldwin and Larson [BL16, Definitions 3.1 and 3.3] call an AEC \mathcal{K} *analytically presented* if $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}) = \aleph_0$ and $\mathcal{K}_{\leq \aleph_0}$; Shelah [She09a, Definition I.1.4] calls this notion PC_{\aleph_0} , and it is also called “ PC_{δ} over $\mathbb{L}_{\omega_1, \omega}$ ” in other places. We call an AEC \mathcal{K} *Borel presented* (or just *Borel*) if $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}) = \aleph_0$ and $\mathcal{K}_{\leq \aleph_0}$ is Borel (note that we think of each model as a real, and we also ask for the ordering relation on the countable models to be Borel).

COROLLARY 3.14. *If \mathcal{K} is an AEC with intersections, $\text{LS}(\mathcal{K}) = \aleph_0$, and $\mathbb{I}(\mathcal{K}, \aleph_0) \leq \aleph_0$, then \mathcal{K} has a Borel functorial expansion (so in particular it is analytically presented).*

Proof. Let \mathcal{K}^+ be as described by Theorem 3.9. By Lemma 3.8, $|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K})| \leq \aleph_0$. Since \mathcal{K}^+ is a functorial expansion, $|\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{K}^+)| \leq \aleph_0$. This means that the sentences given by Theorem 3.9 all have countable length, and the result directly follows (use Scott sentences). ■

The following stronger property is interesting: let us call an AEC \mathcal{K} *model-complete* if for any $M, N \in \mathcal{K}$, $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$ if and only if $M \subseteq N$. When does an AEC have a model-complete functorial expansion (in a finitary vocabulary)? To see that this cannot happen for all AECs with intersections, consider the following simple example of Kueker [Kue08, Example 2.10]: The

vocabulary has a unary predicate P , and K is the class of M such that P^M is countably infinite and $|M| \setminus P^M$ is infinite. Order the class by $M \leq_{\mathcal{K}} N$ if and only if $M \subseteq N$ and $P^M = P^N$. This has intersections but no model-complete functorial expansions. More generally, the AECs which have model-complete functorial expansions are exactly those with finite character. Finite character is a key property of finitary AECs introduced by Hyttinen and Kesälä [HK06] and isolated by Kueker [Kue08, Definition 3.1]. For this result, we assume the reader is familiar with Galois (orbital) types and the definition of finite character:

THEOREM 3.15. *Let \mathcal{K} be an AEC. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{K} has finite character.
- (2) \mathcal{K} has a model-complete functorial expansion in a finitary vocabulary.

Proof. If \mathcal{K} has finite character, let \mathcal{K}^+ be the ($<\aleph_0$)-Galois Morleyization of \mathcal{K} [Vas16, Definition 3.3]; it is obtained by adding a relation symbol for each Galois type of a finite sequence over the empty set. Then it is easy to see that \mathcal{K}^+ is model-complete. Conversely, if \mathcal{K} has a model-complete functorial expansion \mathcal{K}^+ then since Galois types preserve $\tau(\mathcal{K}^+)$ -quantifier-free types, \mathcal{K} must have finite character. ■

4. Equivalence vs. axiomatization. The previous section showed how to axiomatize an AEC with intersections after functorial expansion. This is partial progress towards a more general question about the axiomatizability of AECs.

QUESTION 4.1. *Is there a natural logic \mathcal{L}^{AEC} along with natural notions of fragments $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{L}^{\text{AEC}}$ and elementarity $\preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{AEC}}$ that is “the right logic for AECs” in the sense that the logic is both:*

- (1) limited: *given a theory $T \subseteq \mathcal{L}^{\text{AEC}}$ and a fragment $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{L}^{\text{AEC}}$ containing T , the class*

$$(\text{Mod}(T), \preceq_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{AEC}})$$

is an AEC (preferably with a bound on the Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number easily computable from \mathcal{F} and T); and

- (2) complete: *given an AEC $(\mathcal{K}, \leq_{\mathcal{K}})$, there is a theory $T_{\mathcal{K}} \subseteq \mathcal{L}^{\text{AEC}}$ and a fragment $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{K}} \subseteq \mathcal{L}^{\text{AEC}}$ containing $T_{\mathcal{K}}$ such that*

$$(\mathcal{K}, \leq_{\mathcal{K}}) = (\text{Mod}(T_{\mathcal{K}}), \preceq_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{K}}}^{\text{AEC}}).$$

The adjective “natural” is intended to forbid direct reference to AECs in defining the logic. For instance, the following should be forbidden: Given a language τ , let $\mathbb{L}(\tau)$ consist of a sentence $\phi_{\mathcal{K}}$ for each AEC \mathcal{K} in the language τ . Then satisfaction is defined so $M \models \phi_{\mathcal{K}}$ if and only if $M \in \mathcal{K}$. Clearly, by definition, $\mathcal{K} = \text{Mod}(\phi_{\mathcal{K}})$. This could be similarly extended to a

notion of elementarity that would capture $\leq_{\mathcal{K}}$. However, this logic is defined by explicit reference to AECs, so seems unnatural, and moreover unhelpful to adding to the understanding of AECs. Shelah [She09a, Definition IV.1.9] defines an extension of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+}$ that achieves completeness without a functorial expansion, but similarly fails to be limited (item (1) above). Baldwin and the first author [BB17, Theorem 3.9] show that every AEC \mathcal{K} admits a functorial expansion to an $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+}$ axiomatizable class. However, not every $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \text{LS}(\mathcal{K})^+}$ axiomatizable class is an AEC (e.g. complete metric spaces), so this fails the limited condition. Between these two examples, it is not known if every AEC is axiomatizable by a sentence of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \infty}$.

A related question has been posed by Makkai and Rosický. Recall that a functor between two categories $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is an *equivalence* if it is full, faithful, and essentially surjective.

QUESTION 4.2 (Makkai, Rosický). *Is every AEC equivalent to the models of a sentence of $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}$?*

As evidence for this, recall that Makkai and Paré [MP89, Proposition 3.2.3 and Theorem 4.3.2] have shown that every accessible category (one that is closed under sufficiently directed colimits and generated by a set of “small” models) is equivalent to the models of an $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \infty}$ axiomatizable class; such classes are clearly accessible. Further discussion of these issues can be found in [LRV19, §4], [BR12], or [Lie11]. After the initial submission of the present paper, Simon Henry [Hen] gave a topos-theoretic proof showing that the AEC of all uncountable sets (ordered by subset) is a counterexample to Question 4.2.

Although Questions 4.1 and 4.2 seem very similar, the following example illustrates the key difference: an equivalence of categories is **not** required to preserve the underlying structure of sets. This means that entire models can be condensed to single points. As an example, consider again quasiminimal classes [Kir10, Section 5]. First, note that most quasiminimal classes are not finitary: Kirby [Kir13, Section 2.8] proves this for Zilber’s pseudominimal fields, but this can also easily be seen for the “toy example” of equivalence relations with countably infinite classes, ordered by “equivalence classes do not grow”. By Theorem 3.15 above, such classes do not have functorial expansions that are model complete. On the other hand, any $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}$ axiomatizable class has such a functorial expansion. Thus we get the following corollary.

COROLLARY 4.3. *Zilber’s pseudoexponential fields do not have a functorial expansion that is axiomatizable by $\mathbb{L}_{\infty, \omega}$.*

However, quasiminimal classes are *finitely accessible*. This is a categorical formulation of the fact that they are closed under directed colimits and every structure is the directed colimit of the finite-dimensional models. Thus, by

Makkai and Paré, the class is equivalent as a category to an $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ axiomatized class. Indeed, while Makkai and Paré work through sketches, there is a straightforward description of the equivalent class.

Fix \mathcal{K} to be a quasiminimal class and, for each $n < \omega$, let $M_n \in \mathcal{K}$ be an n -dimensional model. Then define $T_{\mathcal{K}} \in \mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}(\tau_{\mathcal{K}})$ as follows:

- $\tau_{\mathcal{K}}$ has a sort S_n for each $n < \omega$ and a function $\bar{f} : S_m \rightarrow S_n$ for each \mathcal{K} -embedding $f : M_n \rightarrow M_m$.
- $T_{\mathcal{K}}$ consists of the following:

- if $f : M_n \rightarrow M_m$ and $g : M_m \rightarrow M_k$ are \mathcal{K} -embeddings, then include

$$\forall x \in S_k \left(\overline{g \circ f}(x) = \bar{f}(\bar{g}(x)) \right);$$

- for each $n, m < \omega$, include

$$\forall x \in S_n, y \in S_m \exists z \in S_{n+m} \bigvee_{f: M_n \rightarrow M_{n+m}, g: M_m \rightarrow M_{n+m}} (\bar{f}(z) = x \wedge \bar{g}(z) = y).$$

The first sentence says that a model is essentially a functor from the opposite category of the finite-dimensional models to the category of sets, and the second sentence gives the directedness of the resulting system. Then the equivalence $F : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \text{Mod}(T_{\mathcal{K}})$ is given by, for $M \in \mathcal{K}$,

- $S_n^{FM} := \{x : M_n \rightarrow M \mid x \text{ is a } \mathcal{K}\text{-embedding}\}$,
- \bar{f}^{FM} takes $x : M_m \rightarrow M$ to $x \circ f : M_n \rightarrow M$.

Thus, although Zilber's pseudoexponential fields are equivalent to an $\mathbb{L}_{\infty,\omega}$ axiomatizable class, the equivalence turns every finite-dimensional substructure into a point.

We close with an example of an AEC that is well-behaved, yet the authors know of no limited logic (in the sense of Question 4.1) that captures it, either up to equivalence of categories or axiomatization of a functorial expansion.

EXAMPLE 4.4. Let T be a superstable first-order theory and let λ be an infinite cardinal. Set \mathcal{K}^λ to be the λ -saturated models of T ordered by elementary substructure. Since T is superstable, the class is closed under increasing unions, and thus in an AEC with Löwenheim–Skolem–Tarski number at most $2^{|T|} + \lambda$. Since every model of T can be extended to a λ -saturated one, this class inherits many desirable AEC properties from $\text{Mod}(T)$: amalgamation, tameness, etc. (if $\lambda = \aleph_0$, the class is even closed under regular ultraproducts)

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