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## FREE EXTENSIONS OF COUPLED SYSTEMS

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A coupled system consists of „points“ and „lines“ such that each point (line) can be understood as a set of certain pairs of lines (points). An important particular case of a coupled system is of course an „incidence structure“.<sup>1)</sup> In the present Note we deduce some results on free extensions of coupled systems parallelly to any known properties of free extensions of incidence structures.<sup>2)</sup>

A *coupled system* is defined as a quadruple  $(S_1, f_1, S_2, f_2)$  where  $S_1, S_2$  are nonempty sets and  $f_i$  is a mapping of a certain set  $\text{Dom } f_i \subset \{X \subset S_i \mid \text{card } X = 2\}$  into  $S_j$ ;  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ . If  $\text{Dom } f_i = \{X \subset S_i \mid \text{card } X = 2\}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , we get a *complete* coupled system. If  $S_1, S_2$  are finite sets we get a *finite* coupled system.

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$ ,  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$  be coupled systems such that  $S_i \subset S'_i$ ,  $\text{Dom } f_i \subset \text{Dom } f'_i$ ,  $f_i\{a, b\} = c \Rightarrow f'_i\{a, b\} = c$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then we say that  $\mathfrak{C}$  is a *coupled subsystem* of  $\mathfrak{C}'$  and write  $\mathfrak{C} \subset \mathfrak{C}'$ .

A family  $\mathfrak{S} = (\mathfrak{C}^\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  of coupled systems  $\mathfrak{C}^\gamma = (S_i^\gamma, f_i^\gamma; i = 1, 2)$  is said to be *compatible* if  $f_i^\alpha\{a, b\} = c$ ,  $f_i^\beta\{a, b\} = d \Rightarrow c = d$  (for  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and  $i = 1, 2$ ).

If  $\mathfrak{S}$  is such a compatible family then there exists the coupled system  $\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mathfrak{C}^\gamma = (\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} S_i^\gamma, \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} f_i^\gamma; i = 1, 2)$  such that, for  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $\text{Dom} (\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} f_i^\gamma) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \text{Dom } f_i^\gamma$  and  $(\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} f_i^\gamma)\{a, b\} = c \Leftrightarrow \exists \gamma \in \Gamma : f_i^\gamma\{a, b\} = c$ . A compatible family  $\mathfrak{S}$  is said to be *intersecting* if  $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \text{Dom } f_i^\gamma \neq \emptyset$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

If  $\mathfrak{S}$  is an intersecting family then there is the coupled system  $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mathfrak{C}^\gamma = (\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} S_i^\gamma, \bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} f_i^\gamma; i = 1, 2)$  such that, for  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $\text{Dom} (\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} f_i^\gamma) = \bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \text{Dom } f_i^\gamma$  and  $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} f_i^\gamma\{a, b\} = c \Leftrightarrow \forall \gamma \in \Gamma : f_i^\gamma\{a, b\} = c$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  be a coupled subsystem of a complete system  $\overline{\mathfrak{C}} = (\overline{S}_i, \overline{f}_i; i = 1, 2)$ . If  $\mathfrak{S}$  is now the family of all complete coupled systems  $\mathfrak{C}'$  satisfying  $\mathfrak{C} \subset \mathfrak{C}' \subset \overline{\mathfrak{C}}$  then  $\mathfrak{S}$  is intersecting so that there exists the coupled system  $\bigcap_{\mathfrak{C}' \in \mathfrak{S}} \mathfrak{C}'$ . It will be called *generated* by  $\mathfrak{C}$

1) See G. Pickert: *Projektive Ebenen*, Berlin—Göttingen—Heidelberg 1955; p. 2.

2) *Ibid.*, pp. 12—26.

with respect to  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}$ . If, in particular  $\bigcap_{\mathfrak{C}' \in \mathfrak{E}} \mathfrak{C}' = \bar{\mathfrak{C}}$ , then  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}$  is said to be generated by  $\mathfrak{C}$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$ ,  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$  be coupled systems. Any mapping of  $\mathfrak{C}$  onto  $\mathfrak{C}'$  is defined as a pair  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  where  $\sigma_i$  is a mapping of  $S_i$  onto  $S'_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Such a mapping  $\sigma$  is called an epimorphism between  $\mathfrak{C}$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'$  if for every  $\{x, y\} \in \text{Dom } f_i$  with  $\sigma_i x \neq \sigma_i y$  it follows  $\{\sigma_i x, \sigma_i y\} \in \text{Dom } f'_i$  and  $\sigma_j f'_i \{x, y\} = f'_i \{\sigma_j x, \sigma_j y\}$  for  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$  and if  $\{\{\sigma_i x, \sigma_i y\} \mid \{x, y\} \in \text{Dom } f_i, \sigma_i x \neq \sigma_i y\} = \text{Dom } f'_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

If, moreover, there is a coupled subsystem  $\mathfrak{C}'' \subset \mathfrak{C}, \mathfrak{C}'$  such that the restriction of  $\sigma$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{C}''$  is the identity mapping upon  $\mathfrak{C}''$  then we say that  $\sigma$  is an epimorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}''$ . By an isomorphism we shall mean a bijective epimorphism.

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  be a coupled subsystem of a complete coupled system  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$ . Construct a sequence  $(\bar{\mathfrak{C}}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  of coupled subsystems  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}^n = (\bar{S}_i^n, \bar{f}_i^n; i = 1, 2)$  in  $\mathfrak{C}'$  (this sequence will be denoted as the extension chain over  $\mathfrak{C}$  in  $\mathfrak{C}'$ ) as follows: Set  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}_0 = \mathfrak{C}$ . If  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}^n$  is already formed, determine  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}^{n+1}$  in such a way that  $\text{Dom } \bar{f}_j^{n+1} = \{X \subset \bar{S}_j^n \mid \text{card } X = 2\}$  and  $\bar{S}_i^{n+1} = \bar{S}_i^n \cup \bar{T}_i^n$  where  $\bar{T}_i^n = \{f'_j \{a, b\} \mid \{a, b\} \in \text{Dom } \bar{f}_j^{n+1} \setminus \text{Dom } \bar{f}_j^n\}$ ;  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ . Clearly  $(\bar{\mathfrak{C}}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  is compatible and  $\bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \bar{\mathfrak{C}}^n$  is equal to the coupled system generated by  $\mathfrak{C}$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{C}'$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  be a coupled system. Now we determine a sequence  $(\mathfrak{C}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  of coupled systems  $\mathfrak{C}^n = (S_i^n, f_i^n; i = 1, 2)$  (this sequence will be called the free extension chain over  $\mathfrak{C}$ ) as follows: Set  $\mathfrak{C}^0 = \mathfrak{C}$ . If  $\mathfrak{C}^n$  is already determined, form  $\mathfrak{C}^{n+1}$  in such a way that, for  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ ,  $\text{Dom } f_i^{n+1} = \{X \subset S_i^n \mid \text{card } X = 2\}$  and  $S_i^{n+1} = S_i^n \cup T_i^n$  where  $T_i^n$  is a set disjoint to  $S_i^n$  and corresponding to  $\text{Dom } f_j^{n+1} \setminus \text{Dom } f_j^n$  in some bijection  $g_j^{n+1}$  so that  $f_j^{n+1} \upharpoonright_{\text{Dom } f_j^n} = f_j^n$  and  $f_j^{n+1} \upharpoonright_{\text{Dom } f_j^{n+1} \setminus \text{Dom } f_j^n} = g_j^{n+1}$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{C}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  is compatible and  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}) = \bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \mathfrak{C}^n$  will be called the complete free extension of  $\mathfrak{C}$ . Thus  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  is determined uniquely up to isomorphisms. If convenient, we shall use also the symbol  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  up to preceding isomorphisms.

**Proposition 1.** Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i, i = 1, 2)$  be a coupled  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}} = (\bar{S}_i, \bar{f}_i; i = 1, 2)$  be some coupled system generated by  $\mathfrak{C}$ . Then there is an isomorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}$  of  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}$  onto  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  iff there is, for each coupled system  $\mathfrak{C}'$  generated by  $\mathfrak{C}$ , and epimorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}$  between  $\bar{\mathfrak{C}}$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'$ .

**Proof.** Necessity: It is to show that there is an epimorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}$

between  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'$  if  $\mathfrak{C}'$  is an arbitrary coupled system generated by  $\mathfrak{C}$ . We shall use the corresponding extension chains  $(\mathfrak{C}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$ ,  $(\mathfrak{C}'^n)_{n=0}^\infty$ , and form for each  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  a mapping  $\varphi^n = (\varphi_i^n, \varphi_j^n)$  of  $\mathfrak{C}^n$  upon  $\mathfrak{C}'^n$ .

The prescription is as follows: First, let  $\varphi^0$  be the identity mapping upon  $\mathfrak{C}$ . Secondly, let  $\varphi^n$  be already formed. We require that  $\varphi^{n+1}$  prolongs  $\varphi^n$  in such a way that  $\varphi_i^{n+1}f_j^{n+1}\{x, y\}$  is equal to  $f_j^{n+1}\{\varphi_j^n x, \varphi_j^n y\}$  if  $\varphi_j^n x \neq \varphi_j^n y$  and to an arbitrary element of  $S_i^{n+1}$  if  $\varphi_j^n x = \varphi_j^n y$ . By induction it follows that each  $\varphi^n (n = 0, 1, \dots)$  is an epimorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}$  between  $\mathfrak{C}^n$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'^n$ . Now there is exactly one epimorphism  $\varphi$  over  $\mathfrak{C}$  between  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'$  which prolongs all  $\varphi^n$ . Sufficiency: For given  $\mathfrak{C}$ ,  $\overline{\mathfrak{C}}$  suppose that to every coupled system  $\mathfrak{C}'$  generated by  $\mathfrak{C}$  there is an epimorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}$  between  $\overline{\mathfrak{C}}$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'$ . In particular there must exist an epimorphism  $\psi$  over  $\mathfrak{C}$  between  $\overline{\mathfrak{C}}$  and  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$ . Further we use the epimorphism  $\varphi$  between  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  and  $\overline{\mathfrak{C}}$  constructed as above. We shall prove that for  $\varphi^n = \varphi|_{\mathfrak{C}^n}$ ,  $\psi^n = \psi|_{\overline{\mathfrak{C}}^n}$ , it holds  $\varphi^n \circ \psi^n = id_{\mathfrak{C}^n}$ ,  $\psi^n \circ \varphi^n = id_{\overline{\mathfrak{C}}^n}$  ( $n = 0, 1, \dots$ ). In fact, for  $n = 0$ , the assertion holds. Let it hold for some  $n$ . Then for any  $z \in \overline{T}_j^n$  there is a pair  $\{x, y\} \in \text{Dom } \overline{f}_i^{n+1}$  such that  $\overline{f}_i\{x, y\} = z$ . As  $z \neq y$ ,  $\psi_i x \neq \psi_i y$ , it must be  $\psi_j z = (\bigcup_{n=0}^\infty f_j^n)\{\psi_i x, \psi_i y\}$  and  $\varphi_j(\psi_j z) = \overline{f}_j\{\varphi_i(\psi_i x), \varphi_i(\psi_i y)\} = \overline{f}_j\{x, y\}$ ;  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ . Thus  $\varphi^{n+1} \circ \psi^{n+1} = id_{\overline{\mathfrak{C}}^{n+1}}$ . (Similarly for the remaining relation  $\psi^n \circ \varphi^n = id_{\overline{\mathfrak{C}}^n}$ ). Consequently  $\psi$  is an isomorphism over  $\mathfrak{C}$  between  $\overline{\mathfrak{C}}$  and  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$ . Q.E.D.

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  and  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$  be coupled systems such that  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$ .  $\mathfrak{C}'$  is said to be a *free extension* of  $\mathfrak{C}$  (and this relation will be denoted by  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}'$  if, for  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ ,  $z \in S'_j$ ,  $z \in T_j^n$ ,  $z = f_i^{n+1}\{x, y\}$  implies  $x, y \in S'_i$ ).

**Proposition 2.** Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$ ,  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$ ,  $\mathfrak{C}'' = (S''_i, f''_i; i = 1, 2)$  be coupled systems such that  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$ . Then  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$  iff  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(\mathfrak{C}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  and  $(\mathfrak{C}'^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  be the free extension chains of  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  and  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}')$  respectively. Clearly  $\mathfrak{C}'^0 \triangleleft \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$ . Let  $\mathfrak{C}'^n \triangleleft \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  be fulfilled. Then, for  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ , each  $z \in S'_j^{n+1}$  determines the minimal index  $\nu$  such that  $z = f_i^{\nu+1}\{x, y\} \in S'_i$  and consequently  $f_i^{\nu+1}\{x, y\} \in S_j^{\nu+1}$ . Thus, by induction,  $\mathfrak{C}'^n \triangleleft \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  for all  $n = 0, 1, \dots$  and  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}') = \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$ .

Now let  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$ . Let  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ . If  $z \in S''_j$  and  $z \in T_j^m$  for some  $m$  then there is an index  $k$  such that  $z \in T_j^k$ . Thus  $f_i^{k+1}\{x, y\} = z \Rightarrow x, y \in S''_i$  and we have  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$ . Let  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ . If  $z \in S''_j$  and  $z \in T_j^m$  for some  $m$  then either  $z \in S'_j$  or there is  $h$  such that  $z \in T_j^h$ . By the assumptions

about  $\mathfrak{C}'$  and  $\mathfrak{C}''$  it holds  $z = f_i^{h+1}\{x, y\} \Rightarrow x, y \in S_i^h$  so that  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}''$ . Q.E.D.

A coupled system  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  is said to be *closed* if, for  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ , to every  $z \in S_j$  there exist distinct pairs  $\{x_1, y_1\}, \{x_2, y_2\} \in \text{Dom } f_i$  such that  $f_i\{x_1, y_1\} = f_i\{x_2, y_2\} = z$ .

**Proposition 3.** Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  be a coupled system and  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$  a finite closed coupled system. If  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  then  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(\mathfrak{C}^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  be the free extension chain of  $\mathfrak{C}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{C}'$  is supposed to be finite there is  $z \in S'_1 \cup S'_2$  with maximal index  $\nu$  such that  $z \in S_1^\nu \cup S_2^\nu$ . If  $\nu > 0$  then  $z = (\bigcup_{n=0}^\infty f_j^n)\{x, y\}$  for precisely one  $\{x, y\} \subset S_i^{\nu-1}$ ; here,  $(i, j)$  is equal to  $(1, 2)$  or to  $(2, 1)$  according to the nature of  $z$ . Because of the maximality of  $\nu$  it must be  $\{x, y\} \in \text{Dom } f'_i$  which contradicts to the assumption that  $\mathfrak{C}'$  is closed. Thus  $\nu < 0$  and consequently  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}$ . Q.E.D.

**Proposition 4.** Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$ ,  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$  be finite coupled systems. If  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}), \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}')$  are isomorphic then  $\mathfrak{C}'$  has the common free extension with an isomorphic image of  $\mathfrak{C}$ .

*Proof.* Let there exist an isomorphism  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  of  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  onto  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}')$ . As  $\mathfrak{C}$  and  $\mathfrak{C}'$  are finite, there is a coupled system  $\mathfrak{C}^* = (S_i^*, f_i^*; i = 1, 2) \triangleleft \mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}')$  such that  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}^*$ ,  $\sigma\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}^*$  and that for  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ , if  $z \in T_j^m$  or  $z \in \sigma_j T_j^m$  respectively then  $z = f_j^{m+1}\{x, y\}$  implies  $x, y \in S_j^*$ . Thus  $\mathfrak{C}' \triangleleft \mathfrak{C}^*$  and  $\mathfrak{C} \triangleleft \sigma^{-1}\mathfrak{C}^*$ . Q.E.D.

Let  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  be a coupled system with  $\text{Dom } f_1 = \text{Dom } f_2 = \emptyset$ . Then  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C})$  will be called a *free coupled system*.

**Proposition 5.** To every complete coupled system  $\mathfrak{C} = (S_i, f_i; i = 1, 2)$  there is an epimorphism of a free coupled system onto  $\mathfrak{C}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{C}' = (S'_i, f'_i; i = 1, 2)$  with  $S'_1 = S_1, S'_2 = S_2$  and  $\text{Dom } f'_1 = \text{Dom } f'_2 = \emptyset$ . Let  $(\mathfrak{C}'^n)_{n=0}^\infty$  be the free extension chain of  $\mathfrak{C}'$ . Construct a mapping  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$  of  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}')$  onto  $\mathfrak{C}$  as follows: For all  $x \in S_i$ , set  $\sigma_i^0 x = x; i = 1, 2$ . Let a mapping  $\sigma^n = (\sigma_1^n, \sigma_2^n)$  of  $\mathfrak{C}'^n$  onto some coupled subsystem of  $\mathfrak{C}$  be already determined. For  $(i, j) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$ , if  $z \in T_j^n, z = f_i^{n+1}\{x, y\}$  and  $\sigma_i^n x \neq \sigma_i^n y$  or  $\sigma_i^n x = \sigma_i^n y$  respectively, then set  $\sigma_j^{n+1} z = f_i\{\sigma x, \sigma y\}$  or take for  $\sigma_j^{n+1} z$  an arbitrary element of  $S_j^{n+1}$ . The mapping  $\sigma$  which prolongs simultaneously all  $\sigma^n; n = 0, 1, \dots$ , presents the required epimorphism of  $\mathbf{F}(\mathfrak{C}')$  onto  $\mathfrak{C}$ . Q.E.D.