

# Open Problems in Clone Theory

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- 2 Self-Dual Operations
- 3 Next steps
- 4 Different ways to define a clone
- 5 Principal Filters
- 6 Generation of clones
- 7 Whether a clone is finitely related
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### Definition

Let  $A$  be a finite set.

$O_A$  is the set of all operations on  $A$ .

A set of operations  $F \subseteq O_A$  is a **clone** if  $F$  is closed under composition and contains all projections.

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## Notations

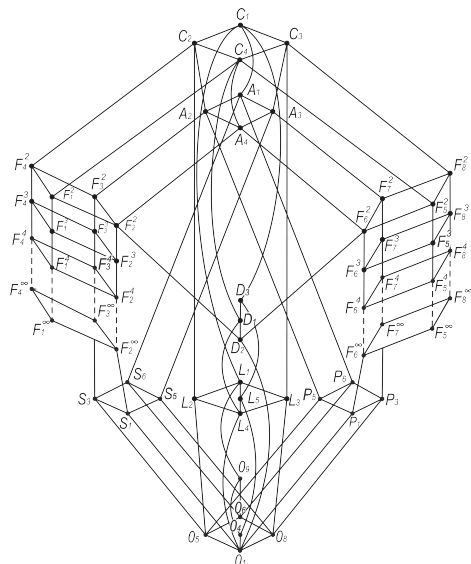
- For a set of operations  $M$ , by  $\text{Clo}(M)$  we denote the minimal clone containing  $M$ .
- For a set of operations  $M$ , by  $\text{Inv}(M)$  we denote the set of all invariants of  $M$ .
- For a set of relations  $C$ , by  $\text{Pol}(C)$  we denote the set of all operations preserving every relation from  $C$ .

What is the main problem of Clone Theory?

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- To get a description of all clones!

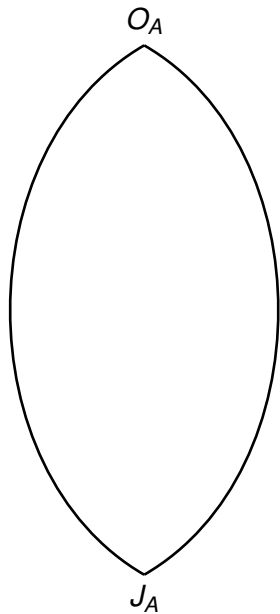
# The lattice of all clones on two elements (for $|A| = 2$ )



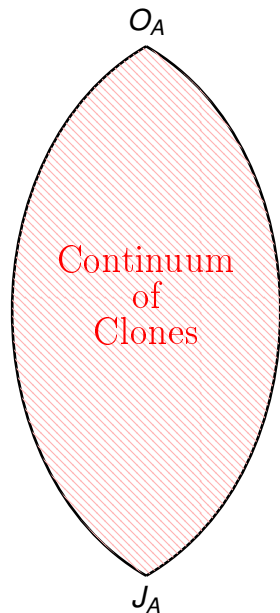
Emil Post (1921, 1941)



For  $|A| > 2$

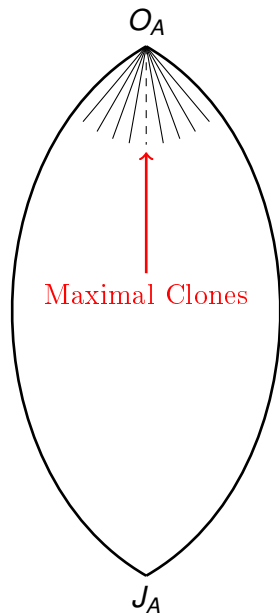


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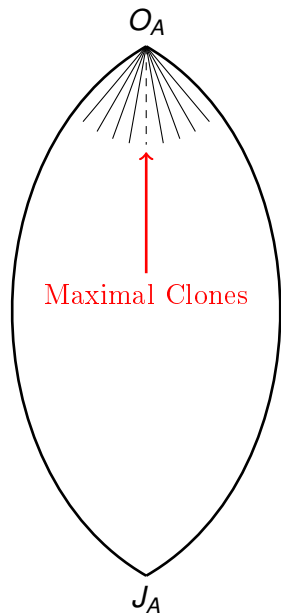
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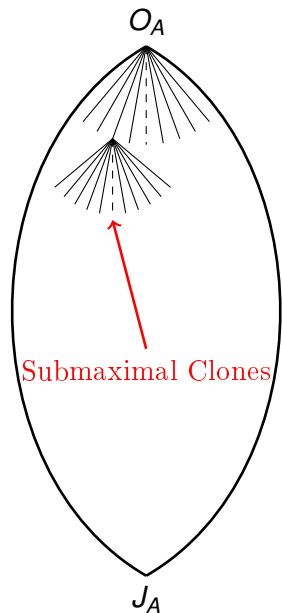
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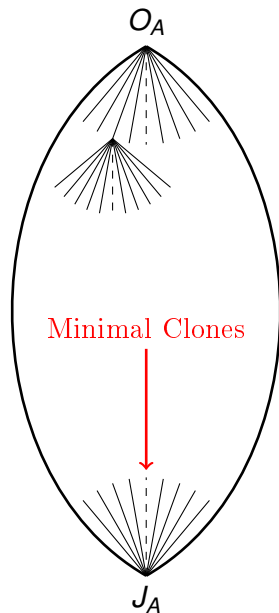
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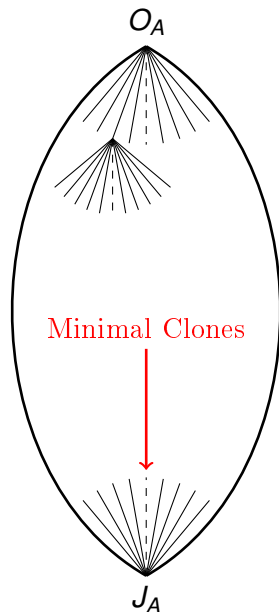


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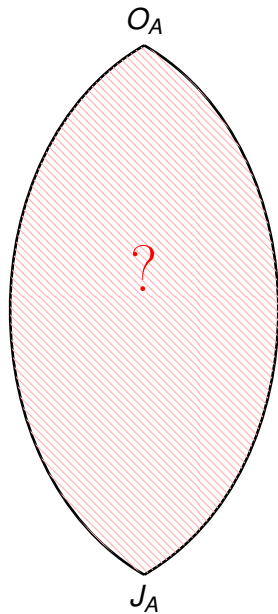


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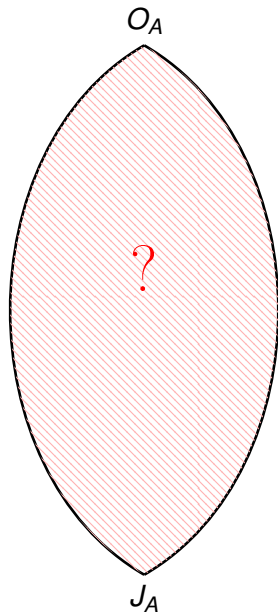
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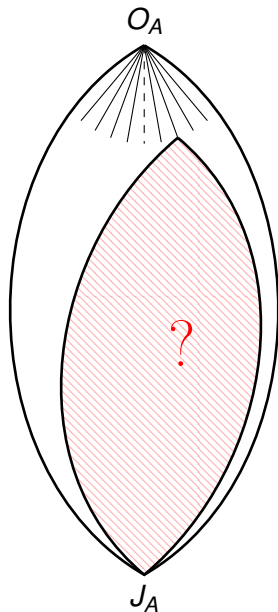


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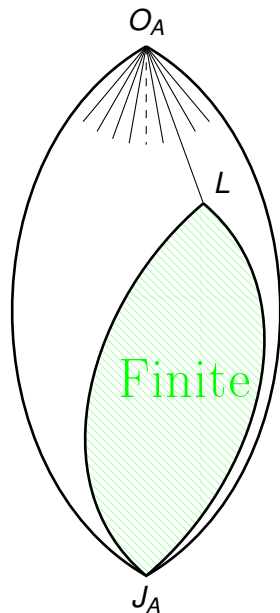
- Can we describe a significant part of the lattice?

For  $|A| > 2$



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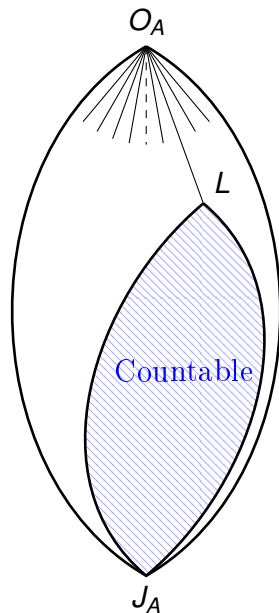


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For the maximal clone of linear operations

- the lattice of subclones is finite and known ( $|\mathbf{A}|$  is a prime number) (A. A. Salomaa, 1964)

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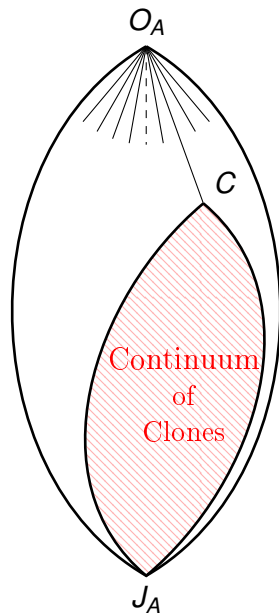
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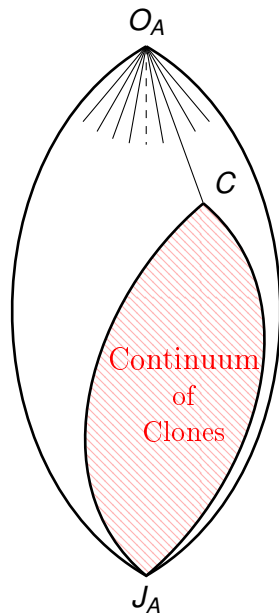
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Can we describe a sublattice that has continuum cardinality?

Here we assume that  $\mathbf{A} = \{0, 1, 2\}$ .

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### Definitions

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$$f(x_1 + 1, x_2 + 1, \dots, x_n + 1) = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + 1$$

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- Self-dual operations are operations that preserve the relation  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .
- The set of all self-dual operations is a maximal clone on three elements

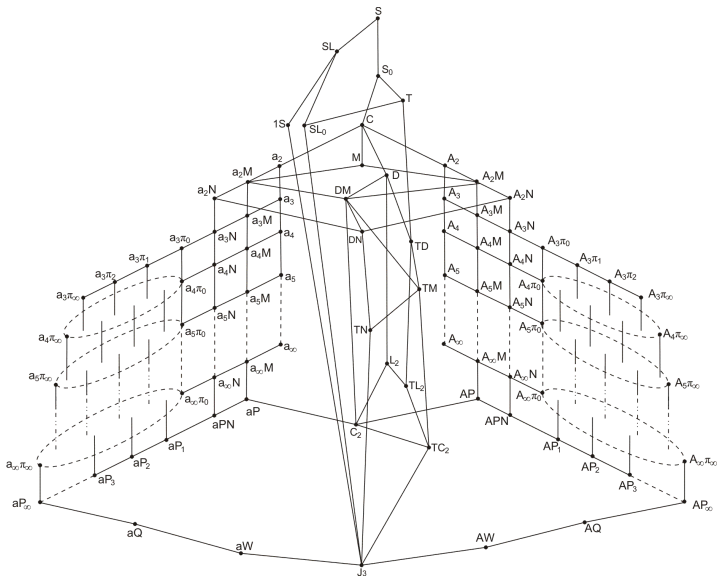
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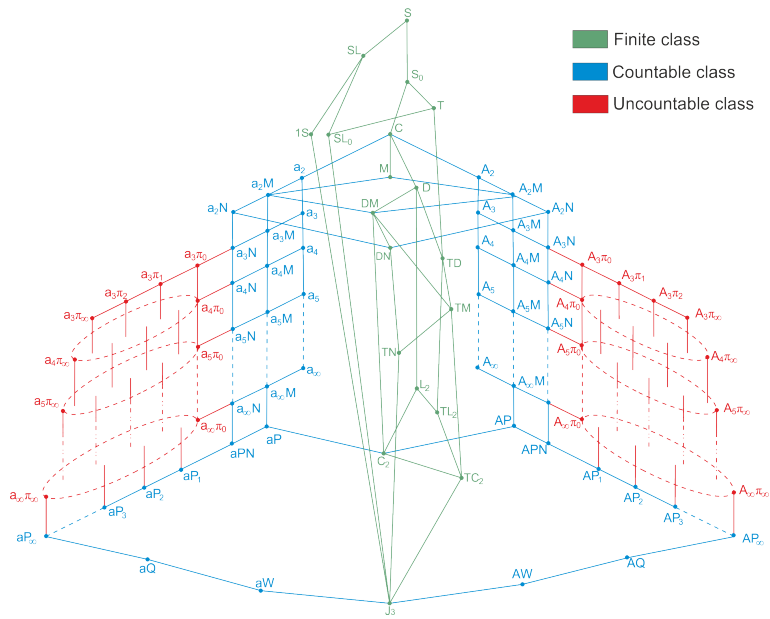
### Main Result (D. Zhuk, 2010)

All clones of self-dual operations on three elements are described

- This is the first maximal clone besides the clone of all linear operations that has such description.







- Finite and countable classes of clones are defined explicitly (as in the Post's Lattice).



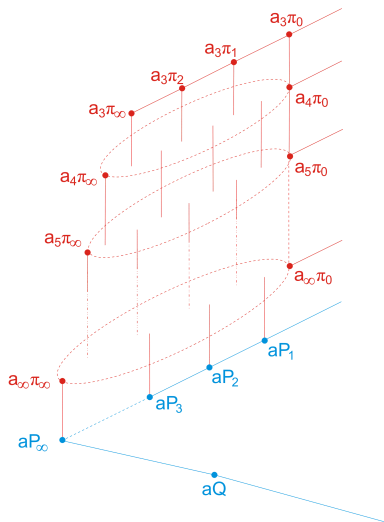
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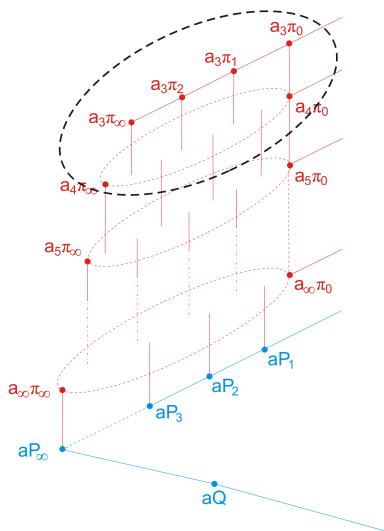
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- We define a quasiorder  $\lesssim$  on the set  $\Pi$ ;
- The uncountable class of clones consists of all clones that can be defined as  $\text{Pol}(F)$  for a down-set  $F \subseteq \Pi$ .
- If  $F_1, F_2 \subseteq \Pi$  are nonempty down-sets, then  $F_1 \neq F_2 \Rightarrow \text{Pol}(F_1) \neq \text{Pol}(F_2)$ .
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Why this description is complete and final?













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**Relation degree** of a clone is the minimal arity of relations such that the clone can be defined as the set of all operations that preserve these relations.

- The relation degree of each clone of self-dual operations is found
- The values of the relation degree prove that our description of clones is optimal. That is, these clones can not be defined by relations of smaller arity.

## Definition

$\mathbb{L}_3$  is the set of all clones of self-dual operations,

$$\mathbb{L}_3^{\uparrow}(M) := \{M' \in \mathbb{L}_3 \mid M \subseteq M'\},$$

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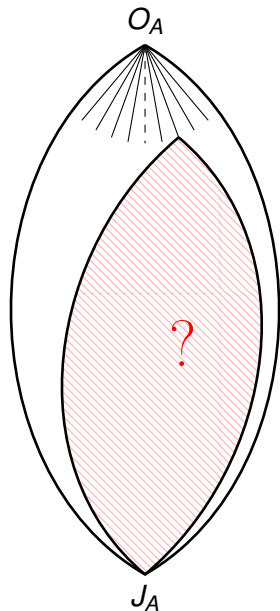
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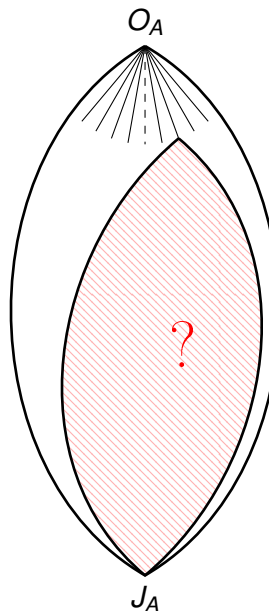
- For each clone  $C \in \mathbb{L}_3$  the cardinality of  $\mathbb{L}_3^\uparrow(C)$  is found.
- For each clone  $C \in \mathbb{L}_3$  the cardinality of  $\mathbb{L}_3^\downarrow(C)$  is found.
- $\mathbb{L}_3^\downarrow(\text{Pol}(F))$  has continuum cardinality for every down-set  $F \subseteq \Pi$  such that  $F \neq \Pi$ ,  $\mathbb{L}_3^\downarrow(\text{Pol}(\Pi)) = 4$ .





- Can we do the same for other maximal clones if  $|\mathbf{A}| = 3$ ?
- Which maximal clone is the “smallest” one?

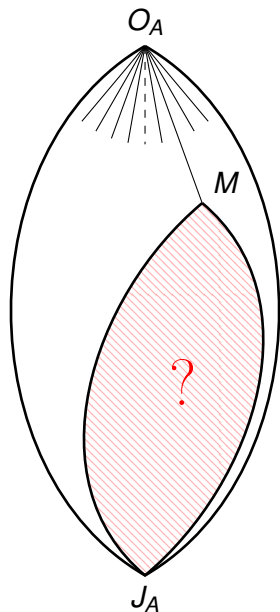




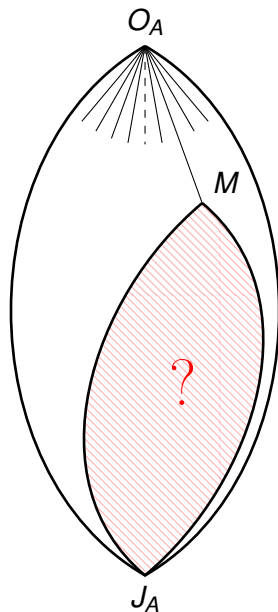
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The number of clones containing a majority operation

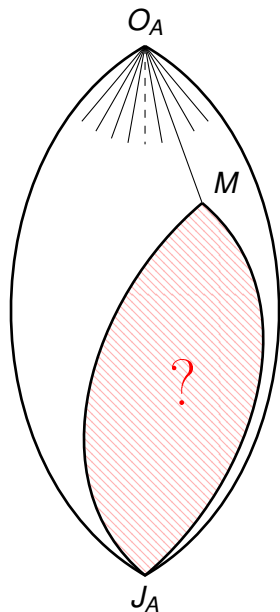
$\text{Pol}(0)$	$\text{Pol}(\{0, 1\})$	$\text{Pol}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
1 744 466	1 722 818	36 942
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84 201		



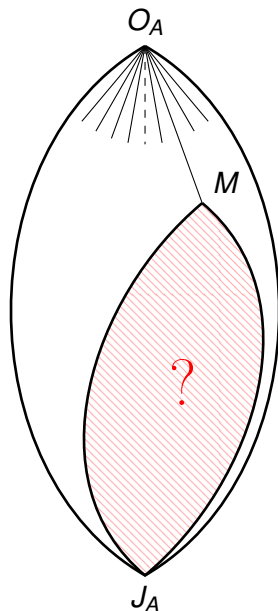
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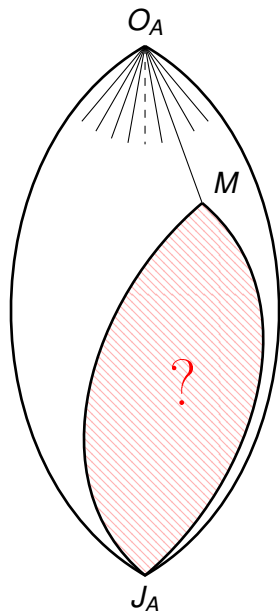
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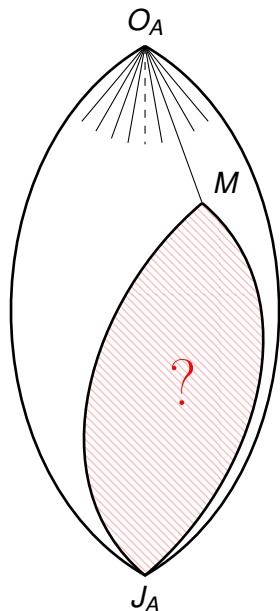
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## The New Main Problems of Clone Theory

To find out how

- to check properties of clones
- to find finite parts of the lattice
- to check properties of the lattice of clones



# How we define a clone

- Given a set of operations  $F$ . A clone is defined by  $\text{Clo}(F)$ , that is the minimal clone containing  $F$ .

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- Given two sets of operations  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . A clone is defined by  $\text{Clo}(F_1) \cap \text{Clo}(F_2)$ .

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- 4 Given 3 sets of operations  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$ . Decide whether  $\text{Clo}(B) \cap \text{Clo}(C) = \text{Clo}(D)$ .

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- 4 Given 3 sets of operations  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$ . Decide whether  $\text{Clo}(B) \cap \text{Clo}(C) = \text{Clo}(D)$ . **Open Problem 2: is this decidable?**

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Given a clone, decide how many clones contain this clone.

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- 1 Given a finite set of operations. Decide how many clones contain these operations.

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- 5 Given a relation  $\rho$ . Decide how many clones contain  $\text{Pol}(\rho)$ .

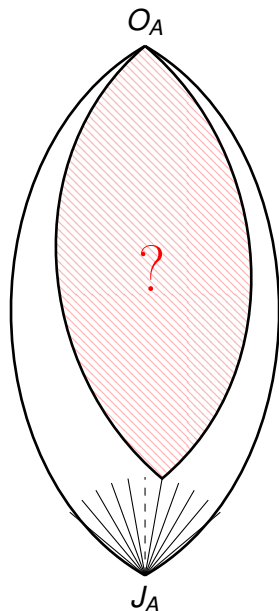
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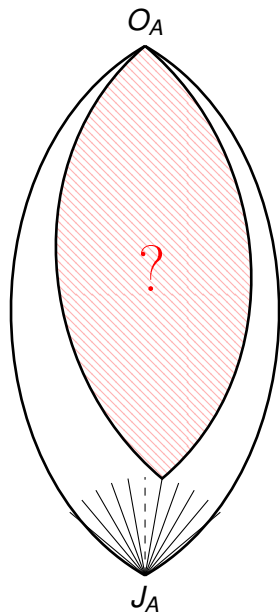


## Definition

A clone  $\mathbf{A} \neq \mathbf{J}_k$  is called **minimal**, if every operation from  $\mathbf{A} \setminus \mathbf{J}_k$  generates this clone.

## Examples of minimal clones

$\text{Clo}(\{max\}), \text{Clo}(\{x + 1\})$ .



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## Question

How many clones contain a given minimal clone?

## Theorem

Each minimal clone on  $k$  elements can be generated by  $f$  where

- ①  $f$  is an unary operation.
- ②  $f$  is a binary idempotent operation  $f(a, a) = a$  for every  $a \in E_3$ .
- ③  $f$  is a majority operation  
 $\forall a, b \in E_3 : f(a, a, b) = f(a, b, a) = f(b, a, a) = a$
- ④  $f$  is a minority operation  
 $\forall a, b \in E_3 : f(a, a, b) = f(a, b, a) = f(b, a, a) = b$
- ⑤  $f$  is a semiprojection to the  $i$ -th variable  
 $f \in P_k^n$ ,  $3 \leq n \leq k$ , for every tuple  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  satisfying  $|\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}| < n$  we have  $f(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = a_i$ .

We will assume that  $i = 1$  for all occurring semiprojections.

There are exactly 84 minimal clones on 3 elements. One obtains every one of these clones by applying inner automorphisms of  $\mathcal{P}_3$  to exactly one of the following clones:

- a) Minimal clones generated by unary operations

$x$	$c_0$	$c_1$	$c_2$	$c_3$
0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	2
2	1	2	1	0

- b) Minimal clones generated by idempotent binary operations

$x$	$y$	$b_1$	$b_2$	$b_3$	$b_4$	$b_5$	$b_6$	$b_7$	$b_8$	$b_9$	$b_{10}$	$b_{11}$	$b_{12}$
0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
2	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	1
1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0
2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	0

- c) Minimal clones generated by majority operations  $\mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2, \mathbf{m}_3$  and

semiprojections  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{s}_3, \mathbf{s}_4, \mathbf{s}_5$

$x$	$y$	$z$	$\mathbf{m}_1$	$\mathbf{m}_2$	$\mathbf{m}_3$	$\mathbf{s}_1$	$\mathbf{s}_2$	$\mathbf{s}_3$	$\mathbf{s}_4$	$\mathbf{s}_5$
0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
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- For the minimal clones generated by unary operations this problem was solved by J. Pantović and D. Voivodić (2000).
- The set of all clones containing a operation  $f$  has continuum cardinality for every  $f \in \{\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_4, \mathbf{b}_6, \mathbf{b}_8, \mathbf{b}_9\}$ . The set of all clones containing a operation  $g$  is at least countable for every  $g \in \{\mathbf{s}_3, \mathbf{s}_4, \mathbf{b}_3, \mathbf{b}_5, \mathbf{b}_7, \mathbf{b}_{10}\}$  (J. Pantović, D. Voivodić, 2000).

## Theorem (D. Zhuk, 2012)

Suppose a minimal clone on 3 elements  $M$  is generated by  $f$ . The set of all clones containing  $M$

- is finite if  $f \in \{\mathbf{c}_3, \mathbf{b}_{12}, \mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2, \mathbf{m}_3\}$ ,
- is countable if  $f \in \{\mathbf{s}_4, \mathbf{s}_5\}$ ,
- has continuum cardinality if  $f \in \{\mathbf{c}_0, \mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_3, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{10}, \mathbf{b}_{11}, \mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{s}_3\}$ .

### Finite cases (except clones generated by majority operations)

$$\mathbf{c}_3(x) = x + 1;$$

$$\mathbf{b}_{12}(x, y) = 2x + 2y.$$

### Countable cases

$$\mathbf{s}_4(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} 2x + 1, & \text{if } |\{x, y, z\}| = 3; \\ x, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases};$$

$$\mathbf{s}_5(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} y, & \text{if } |\{x, y, z\}| = 3; \\ x, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}.$$

- All minimal clones on 4 elements were found (Pöshel, Kaluzhnin, Szczepara, Waldhauser, Jezek, Quackenbush, Karsten Schölzer, 2012).

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- 8 Find how many clones contain a given minimal clone on 4 elements.
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### Open Problems

- 8 Find how many clones contain a given minimal clone on 4 elements.
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- 10 Find all minimal clones such that the corresponding principal filter is countable.



### General problem 3

Given a clone. Decide whether the clone is finitely generated. Find a generating set.

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- 3 Given two sets of operations  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$ . Decide whether the clone  $\text{Clo}(\mathbf{B}) \cap \text{Clo}(\mathbf{C})$  is finitely generated.

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- There exist finite sets of operations  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$  such that  $\text{Clo}(\mathbf{B}) \cap \text{Clo}(\mathbf{C})$  is not finitely generated (L.Haddad, 1990).



**Order of a clone  $\mathbf{C}$  ( $\text{Ord}(\mathbf{C})$ )** is the minimal arity of a generating set.  
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A **near unanimity operation (NU)** is an operation  $f$  satisfying

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- For a clone  $\mathbf{C}$  containing a majority operation  $\text{Ord}(\mathbf{C}) \leq |\mathbf{A}|(|\mathbf{A}| - 2)$ , and this is a tight upper bound for  $|\mathbf{A}| \geq 5$  (H.Lakser, 1989).



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- For a clone  $\mathbf{C}$  containing a majority operation  $\text{Ord}(\mathbf{C}) \leq 3$  if  $|\mathbf{A}| = 3$  and  $\text{Ord}(\mathbf{C}) \leq 8$  if  $|\mathbf{A}| = 4$ , and these are tight upper bounds. (S. Kerkhoff, D. Zhuk, 2013).

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- For a clone  $\mathcal{C}$  containing NU of arity  $d + 1$  we have  $\text{Ord}(\mathcal{C}) \leq (|\mathbf{A}| - 1)^d - 1$ , and this is a tight upper bound for sufficiently large  $|\mathbf{A}|$  (S. Kerkhoff, 2011).

## Conjecture

Suppose  $\rho$  is a partial order relation with a greatest and a least element. Then  $\mathbf{Pol}(\rho)$  is finitely generated iff it contains a NU.

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Suppose  $\rho$  is a partial order relation with a greatest and a least element. Then  $\text{Pol}(\rho)$  is finitely generated iff it contains a NU. **Open Problem 15: Does this conjecture hold?**

## Whether a clone is finitely related

A clone  $\mathbf{C}$  is called **finitely related** if  $\mathbf{C} = \text{Pol}(\rho)$  for some relation  $\rho$ .

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### Open Problems

- 18 Does there exist a minimal clone that is not finitely related?

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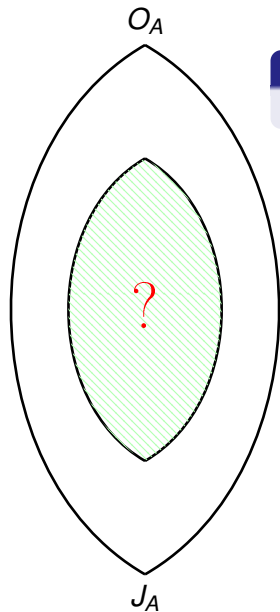
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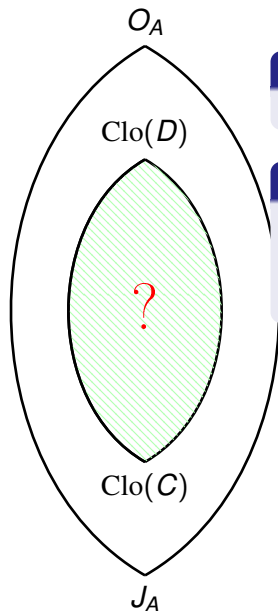
### Open Problems

- 18 Does there exist a minimal clone that is not finitely related?
- 19 Does there exist a minimal clone on 3 elements that is not finitely related?



## General Problem 5

Find a sublattice between two clones if it is finite.

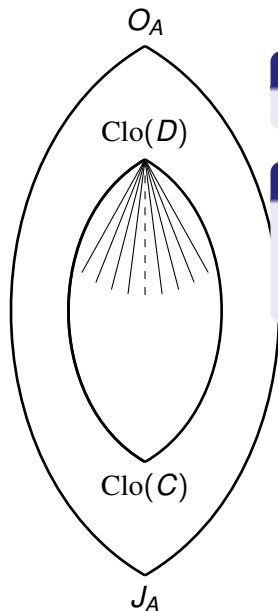


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Given two finite sets of operations  $C$  and  $D$  such that  $C \subseteq D$  and the sublattice between two clones  $\text{Clo}(C)$  and  $\text{Clo}(D)$  is finite. Find this sublattice.



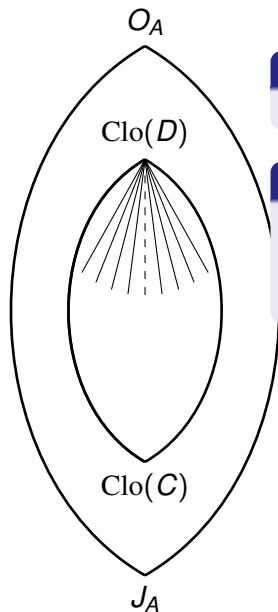
### General Problem 5

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Given two finite sets of operations  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  such that  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$  and the sublattice between two clones  $\text{Clo}(\mathcal{C})$  and  $\text{Clo}(\mathcal{D})$  is finite. Find this sublattice.

- All clones in the sublattice are finitely generated.
- All maximal clones in  $\text{Clo}(\mathcal{D})$  can be found (each is defined as  $\text{Pol}(\rho)$  for some  $\rho$ ).



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- What to do next? **Open problem 21: is this problem decidable?**

### Computational Problem

Given two clones  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  such that  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  contains a near-unanimity operation. Find the sublattice between  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ .



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### Solution

- Consider all sets of relations of arity  $m$  preserving by a clone  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- Find those of them that define different clones.

What is the complexity of this algorithm?

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### Improvements(D.Zhuk, S.Moiseev, 2012)

- We consider only relations that cannot be represented as a conjunction of relations with smaller arities (these relations are called essential).
- We consider a closure operator on the set of essential relations.

### Input

- Two finite sets of relations  $M_{up}$  and  $M_{down}$  such that  $M_{up} \subseteq M_{down}$ .
- The arity  $N$  of near-unanimity operation preserving  $M_{down}$ .

### Output

The lattice of clones between  $\text{Pol}(M_{down})$  and  $\text{Pol}(M_{up})$ .

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- We consider all essential relations.
- Calculate the closure of every relation together with  $M_{up}$ .
- Choose minimal by inclusion sets: thus, we get maximal clones in  $\text{Pol}(M_{up})$ .

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### Output

The lattice of clones between  $\text{Pol}(M_{down})$  and  $\text{Pol}(M_{up})$ .

- We consider all essential relations.
- Calculate the closure of every relation together with  $M_{up}$ .
- Choose minimal by inclusion sets: thus, we get maximal clones in  $\text{Pol}(M_{up})$ .
- Consider the closure of a maximal clone together with an essential relation.
- Choose the minimal by inclusion sets: thus, we get submaximal clones in  $\text{Pol}(M_{up})$ .
- Repeat the procedure till we get  $M_{down}$ .

## Example 1

### Input

$$A = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}.$$

$$M_{up} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

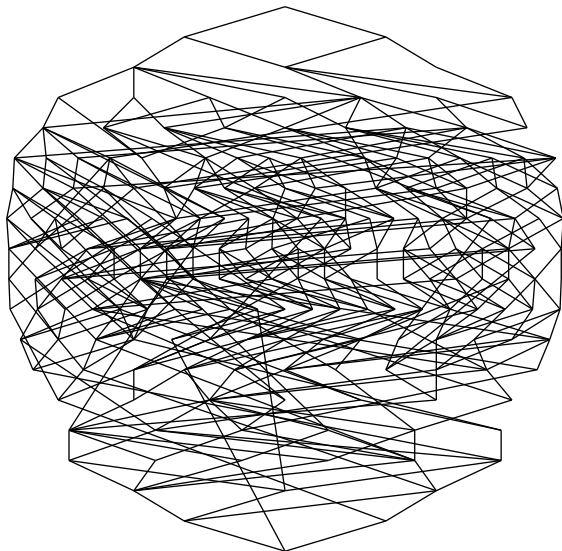
$$M_{down} = \text{Inv}(m), \text{ where } m(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} y, & \text{if } x = y; \\ x, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$N = 3.$$

Find the sublattice between  $\text{Clo}(m)$  and  $\text{Pol} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .



$$\text{Pol} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$[m]$

number  
of clones = 199

number  
of layers = 19

## Input

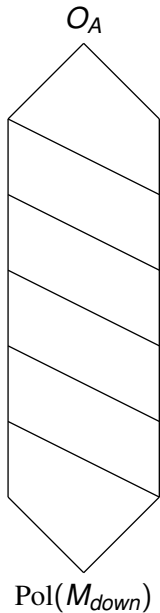
$$A = \{0, 1\}.$$

$$M_{up} = \emptyset$$

$$M_{down} = \{\{0, 1\}^n \setminus \{0\}^n \mid n \in \{1, 2, \dots, 7\}\} \cup \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

$$N = 8.$$

Find the sublattice between  $\text{Pol}(M_{down})$  and  $\text{Pol}(M_{up})$ .



number  
of clones = 14

number  
of layers = 8

### Input

$$A = \{0, 1, 2\}.$$

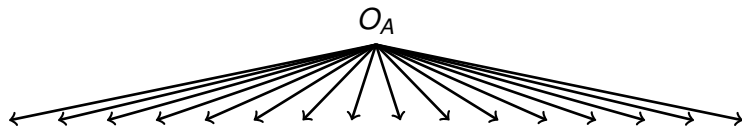
$$M_{up} = \emptyset$$

$M_{down} = \text{Inv}(m)$ , where  $m$  is a minimal majority operation.

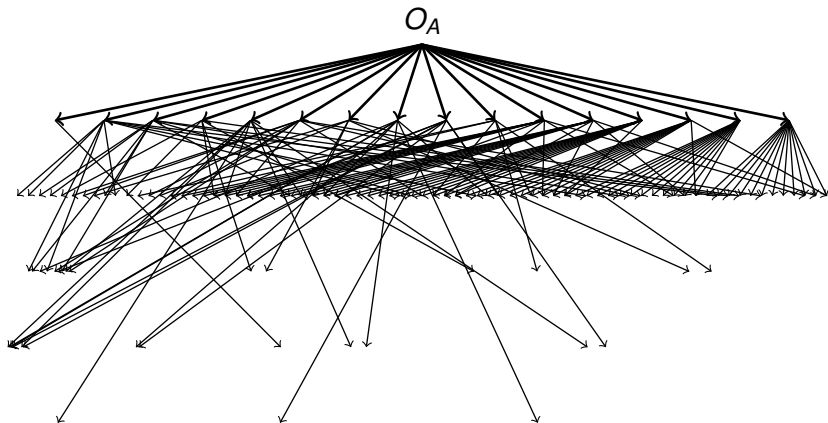
$$N = 3.$$

Find all clones on 3 elements containing a majority operation.

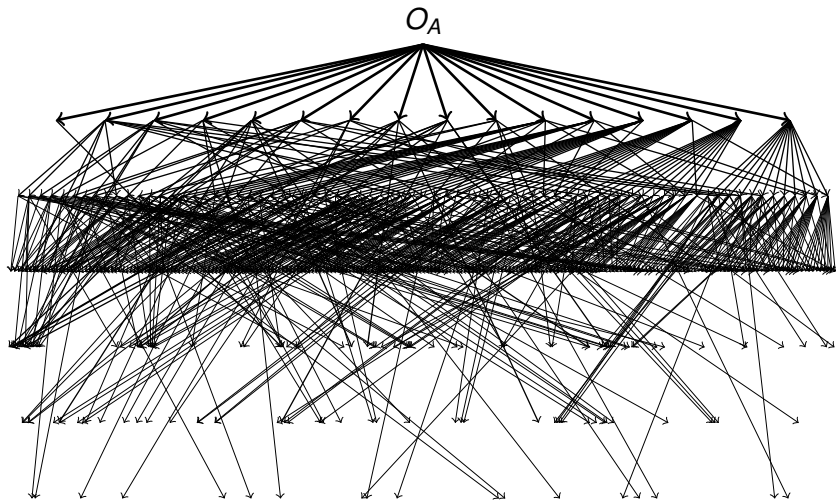
## Clones with a majority operation



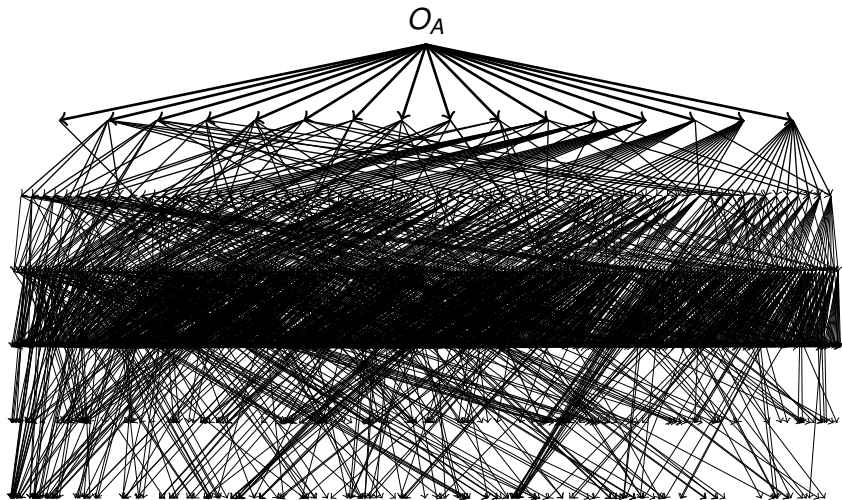
# Clones with a majority operation



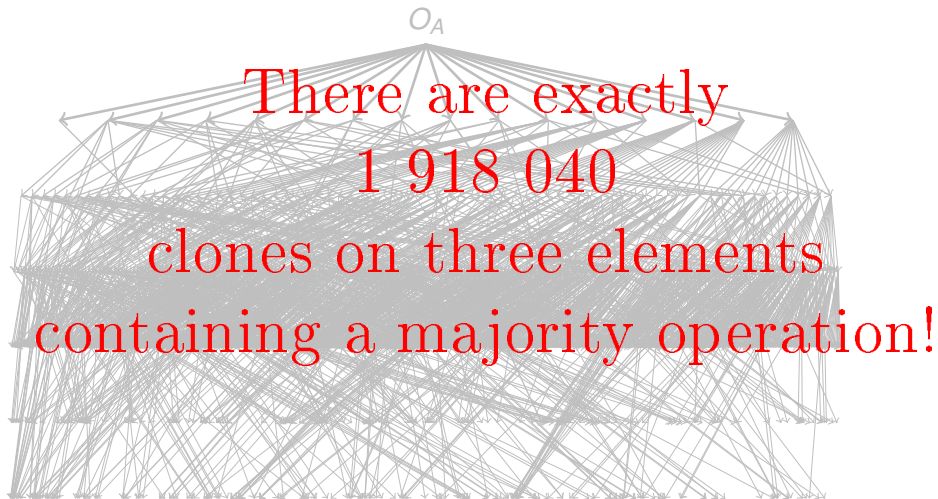
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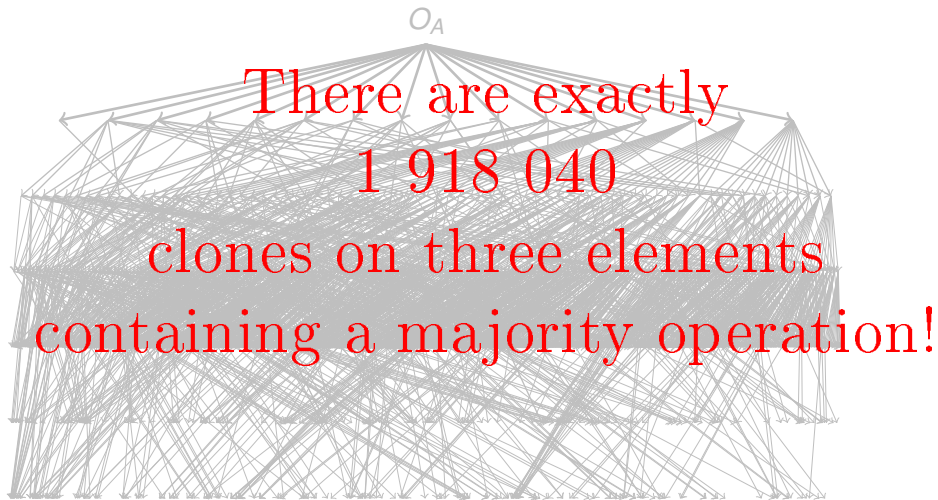


# Clones with a majority operation









We have three types of a minimal majority operation on 3 elements.

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$
0	1	2	1	0	0
0	2	1	1	1	0
1	0	2	1	1	1
1	2	0	1	0	1
2	0	1	1	0	2
2	1	0	1	1	2

### The Number of Clones and the number of Layers

	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$
number of clones	928 767	325 581	99 152
number of layers	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>

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What can be the size of a maximal chain in the lattice of clones?

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### Partial Results

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### Open Problems

- 22 Does there exist a finite maximal chain of size greater than 52 on 3 elements?



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### Open Problems

- 22 Does there exist a finite maximal chain of size greater than 52 on 3 elements?
- 23 Is the size of a finite maximal chain restricted?
- 24 Is it true that a finite maximal chain of the maximal size always contains a minimal majority operation?

## Open Problems

- 25 Find a set of relations  $\mathcal{C}$  of arity at most  $m$  such that  $\text{Ord}(\text{Pol}(\mathcal{C})) > |A|^m$  (or  $> 2^{2^m}$ ).

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- 26 Find a set of operations  $M$  of arity at most  $m$  such that the relational degree of  $\text{Clo}(M)$  is greater than  $|A|^m$  (or  $> 2^{2^m}$ ).

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It is undecidable for a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  and two elements  $a, b \in A$  whether  $\mathbb{A}$  has a term operation that is a near-unanimity operation on  $\{a, b\}$ .

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Let me know if you find other examples!

Thank you for your attention