FORMAL THEORIES FOR LINEAR ALGEBRA*

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ABSTRACT. We introduce two-sorted theories in the style of Cook and Nguyen for the complexity classes $\oplus L$ and DET, whose complete problems include determinants over \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} , respectively. We then describe interpretations of Soltys' linear algebra theory LAP over arbitrary integral domains, into each of our new theories. The result shows equivalences of standard theorems of linear algebra over \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} can be proved in the corresponding theory, but leaves open the interesting question of whether the theorems themselves can be proved.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is a contribution to bounded reverse mathematics [Ngu08, CN10], that part of proof complexity concerned with determining the computational complexity of concepts needed to prove theorems of interest in computer science. We are specifically interested in theorems of linear algebra over finite fields and the integers. The relevant complexity classes for each case have been well-studied in the computational complexity literature. The classes are $\oplus L$ and DET, associated with linear algebra over \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} , respectively. We introduce formal theories $V \oplus L$ and V # L for $\oplus L$ and DET, each intended to capture reasoning in the corresponding class. Each theory allows induction over any relation in the associated complexity class, and the functions definable in each theory are exactly the functions in the class. In particular determinants and coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of a matrix can be defined.

To study the question of which results from linear algebra can be proved in the theories we take advantage of Soltys's theory LAP [SK01, SC04] for formalizing linear algebra over an arbitrary field or integral domain. We present two interpretations of LAP: one into $V \oplus L$ and one into V # L. Both interpretations translate theorems of LAP to theorems in the corresponding theory, but the meaning of the theorems differs in the two translations since the ring elements range over \mathbb{Z}_2 in one and over \mathbb{Z} in the other. From these interpretations and results in [SK01, SC04] we show that the theories prove some interesting properties of determinants, but leave open the question of whether the proofs of some basic theorems

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such as the Caley-Hamilton Theorem can be formalized in the theories. We also leave open the question of whether the theories prove simple matrix identities studied in [SK01, SC04], such as $AB = I \rightarrow BA = I$. An affirmative answer would shed light on interesting questions in propositional proof complexity concerning the lengths of proofs required in various proof systems to prove tautology families corresponding to the identities.

1.1. The complexity classes. Complete problems for the classes $\oplus L$ and DET include standard computational problems of linear algebra over their respective rings \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} , such as computing determinants, matrix powers, and coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of a matrix. (Recently [BKR09] proved that for each $k \geq 1$, computing the permanent mod 2^k of an integer matrix is in $\oplus L$, and hence complete.) The classes satisfy the inclusions

$$AC^{0} \subset L \subseteq \oplus L \subseteq DET \subseteq NC^{2} \subseteq P$$

$$AC^{0} \subset L \subseteq NL \subseteq DET \subseteq NC^{2}$$
(1.1)

(ignoring the distinction between function and language classes) where L and NL are the problems accepted in deterministic and nondeterministic log space, respectively. It is not known whether $\oplus L$ and NL are comparable. (In fact no one has been able to disprove the unlikely possibility that all of the above classes except AC^0 coincide.)

The simplest way of defining the classes $\oplus L$ and DET is using uniform AC^0 reductions: Let $AC^0(f)$ be the set of functions computable by a uniform family of polynomial size constant depth circuits with oracle access to f. Then $\oplus L = AC^0(det_2)$ and $DET = AC^0(det)$, where det_2 and det are the determinant functions for matrices over \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} respectively. For the case of \mathbb{Z} , integer entries of a matrix are presented in binary.

The usual definitions of these classes involve counting the number of accepting computations of nondeterministic log space Turing machines. Thus #L is the class of functions f such that for some nondeterministic log space Turing machine M, f(x) is the number of accepting computations of M on input x. Then the sets in $\oplus L$ are those of the form $\{x \mid f(x) \mod 2 = 1\}$ for some f in #L. It turns out that $AC^0(det) = AC^0(\#L)$, and $AC^0(det_2) = AC^0(\oplus L) = \oplus L$ [AO96, BDHM92].

DET can also be characterized as the #L hierarchy #LH. This is defined as follows: $\#LH_1 = \#L$, and for $i \ge 1$, $\#LH_{i+1} = \#L^{\#LH_i}$. (The exponent $\#LH_i$ indicates that a function from this class is allowed to be an oracle for the log space machine whose accepting computations are being counted). Then [AO96] shows

$$DET = \#LH = \bigcup_{i} \#LH_i \tag{1.2}$$

We should clarify that our definition of $DET = AC^0(det)$ here differs from that given in [Coo85], where DET is defined to be $NC^1(det)$, the closure of $\{det\}$ under the more general NC^1 reductions. Allender proved (see the Appendix to [All04]) that if $AC^0(det) =$ $NC^1(det)$ then the #L hierarchy collapses to some finite level #LH_i, something that is not known to be true. However the present first author wrote [Coo85] before uniform AC^0 reductions had been studied, and now believes that AC^0 reductions are the natural ones to use in studying small complexity classes. Evidence for this is that (1.2) holds when $DET = AC^0(det)$ as we now define DET, and does not hold under the old definition (assuming the #L hierarchy is strict).

The above inclusions (1.1) compare the class of functions DET with classes of relations. Here and elsewhere we sometimes do not explicitly distinguish between a function class FC and the corresponding relation class C, using the following standard correspondence (which applies to all classes we consider): A relation is in C iff its characteristic function is in FC, and a function is in FC iff it is polynomially bounded and its bit graph is in C. (The bit graph of a function $F : \{0, 1\}^* \to \{0, 1\}^*$ is the relation $B_F(i, X)$ which holds iff the *i*th bit of F(X) is 1.)

1.2. The theories $V \oplus L$ and V # L. To construct formal theories for the classes $\oplus L$ and DET we follow the framework laid out in Chapter 9 of the monograph [CN10] of Cook and Nguyen for defining theories for certain complexity classes between AC^0 and P. All of these theories share a common two-sorted (number and string) vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A (see Equation 2.1). The intention is that the number sort ranges over \mathbb{N} and the string sort ranges over bit strings (more precisely, finite subsets of \mathbb{N}). The strings are intended to be inputs to the machine or circuit defining a member of the complexity class, and the numbers are used to index bits in the strings. Each theory VC for a class C extends the finitely-axiomatized base theory V^0 for AC^0 by addition of a single axiom stating the existence of a solution to a complete problem for C. General techniques are presented for defining a universally-axiomatized conservative extension \overline{VC} of VC which has function symbols and defining axioms for each function in FC, and \overline{VC} admits induction on open formulas in this enriched vocabulary. It follows from the Herbrand Theorem that the provably-total functions in \overline{VC} (and hence in VC) are precisely the functions in FC.

Chapter 9 (with earlier chapters) of [CN10] explicitly defines theories for the following classes:

$$AC^0 \subset AC^0(2) \subset TC^0 \subseteq NC^1 \subseteq L \subseteq NL \subseteq NC \subseteq P \tag{1.3}$$

These classes are defined briefly as follows. A problem in AC^0 is solved by a uniform family of polynomial size constant depth Boolean circuits with unbounded fanin AND and OR gates. $AC^0(2)$ properly extends AC^0 by also allowing unbounded fanin parity gates (determining whether the inputs have an odd number of 1's) in its circuits. TC^0 allows majority gates rather than parity gates in its circuits (and has binary integer multiplication as a complete problem). NC^1 circuits restrict all Boolean gates to fanin two, but the circuits are allowed to have logarithmic depth. Problems in L and NL are solved respectively by deterministic and nondeterministic log space Turing machines. NC is defined like NC^1 , but the circuits can have polylogarithmic depth (and polynomial size). Problems in P are solved by polynomial time Turing machines.

Our new theories $V \oplus L$ and V # L for $\oplus L$ and DET extend the base theory V^0 for AC^0 by adding axioms stating the existence of powers A^k of matrices A over \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} , respectively. Here k is presented in unary, but for the case of V # L integer entries for A are presented in binary. (Matrix powering is a complete problem for these classes). Here there is a technical difficulty of how to nicely state these axioms, since neither the parity function (needed to define matrix multiplication over \mathbb{Z}_2) nor integer product and multiple summation (needed to define matrix multiplication over \mathbb{Z}) are AC^0 functions, and hence neither is definable in the base theory V^0 . We solve this by basing an initial version of $V \oplus L$ on the theory $V^0(2)$ for $AC^0(2)$ (which contains the parity function) and basing an initial version of V # L on the theory VTC^0 for TC^0 (which contains integer product). We then use results from [CN10] to translate the axioms for the initial versions to the language of the base theory V^0 , to obtain the actual theories $V \oplus L$ and V # L. We show that the resulting theories satisfy the requirements of Chapter 9 (existence of "aggregate functions")

that allow the existence of the nice universal conservative extensions $\overline{V \oplus L}$ and $\overline{V \# L}$ of $V \oplus L$ and V # L. Using general results from Chapter 9 of [CN10] we show the following (see Theorems 3.4 and 3.7 for more formal statements).

Theorem 1.1. The provably total functions of $V \oplus L$ and $\overline{V \oplus L}$ (resp. V # L and $\overline{V \# L}$) are exactly the functions of the class $\oplus L$ (resp. DET). Further $\overline{V \oplus L}$ (resp. $\overline{V \# L}$) proves the induction scheme for $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$ formulas (resp. $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \# L})$ formulas.

The last sentence means in effect that $V \oplus L$ and V # L prove the induction schemes for formulas expressing concepts in their corresponding complexity classes.

The new theories mesh nicely with the theories for the complexity classes in (1.3). In particular, we have

$$V^{0} \subset V^{0}(2) \subset VTC^{0} \subseteq VNC^{1} \subseteq VL \subseteq V \oplus L \subseteq V \# L \subseteq VNC \subseteq VP$$
(1.4)

We also have $VL \subseteq VNL \subseteq V \# L$. We do not know whether VNL and $V \oplus L$ are comparable, because we do not know whether NL and $\oplus L$ are comparable.

1.3. The interpretations. Next we study the question of which results from linear algebra can be proved in the theories. As mentioned above, we take advantage of Soltys's theory LAP [SK01, SC04] for formalizing results from linear algebra over an arbitrary field or integral domain. We present two interpretations of LAP: one into $V \oplus L$ and one into V # L. Both interpretations translate theorems of LAP to theorems in the corresponding theory, but the meaning of the theorems differs in the two translations since the ring elements range over \mathbb{Z}_2 in one and over \mathbb{Z} in the other.

LAP defines matrix powering, and uses this definition and Berkowitz's algorithm [Ber84] to define several functions of matrices, including determinant, adjoint, and characteristic polynomial. The following standard principles of linear algebra are discussed:

- (i) The Cayley-Hamilton Theorem (a matrix satisfies its characteristic polynomial).
- (ii) The axiomatic definition of the determinant (the function det(A) is characterized by the properties that it is multilinear and alternating in the rows and columns of A, and det(I) = 1).
- (iii) The co-factor expansion of the determinant.

Although it remains open whether LAP can prove any of these, a major result from [SK01, SC04] is that LAP proves their pairwise equivalence. As a result of this and our interpretations (Theorems 4.1 and 4.3) we have the following.

Theorem 1.2. $V \oplus L$ proves the equivalence of (i), (ii), and (iii) over the ring \mathbb{Z}_2 , and V # L proves their equivalence over \mathbb{Z} .

An intriguing possibility is that either $V \oplus L$ or V # L could use special properties of \mathbb{Z}_2 or \mathbb{Z} to prove its version of the principles, but LAP cannot prove them (for all integral domains or fields). For example there is a dynamic programming algorithm involving combinatorial graph properties (see the concluding Section 5) whose correctness for \mathbb{Z} might be provable in V # L using combinatorial reasoning with concepts from # L which are not available in LAP.

[SK01, SC04] also present the so-called hard matrix identities:

Definition 1.3. The hard matrix identities are

$$AB = I, AC = I \rightarrow B = C$$

$$AB = I, AC = 0 \rightarrow C = 0$$

$$AB = I \rightarrow BA = I$$

$$AB = I \rightarrow A^{t}B^{t} = I$$
(1.5)

where A, B, C are square matrices of the same dimensions, and A^t is the transpose of A.

Again it is open whether LAP proves these identities, but LAP does prove that they follow from any of the principles mentioned in Theorem 1.2 above. The next result follows from this and our interpretations (Theorems 4.1 and 4.3).

Theorem 1.4. $V \oplus L$ proves that (1.5) over the ring \mathbb{Z}_2 follows from any of the three principles mentioned in Theorem 1.2. The same is true for V # L over the ring \mathbb{Z} .

[SK01, SC04] introduce an extension \forall LAP of LAP, which includes an induction rule that applies to formulas with bounded universally quantified matrix variables, and show that the three principles mentioned in Theorem 1.2 and the four matrix identities are all provable in \forall LAP. These papers claim that these proofs in \forall LAP translate into proofs in the theory V^1 for polynomial time (V^1 extends VP in equation (1.4)) when the underlying ring is finite or \mathbb{Q} . However Jeřábek [Jeř05] (page 44) points out that for infinite rings this is not true, because the definition given of bounded universal matrix quantifiers only bounds the number of rows and columns, and not the size of the entries. To fix this, [Jeř05] defines a subsystem \forall LAP⁻ of \forall LAP, with properly defined bounded universal matrix quantifiers, which still proves the three principles mentioned in Theorem 1.2 and the four matrix identities, and shows that these proofs translate into proofs in V^1 when the underlying ring is finite or \mathbb{Q} (and hence also Z). Since V^1 is conservative over VP for universal theorems involving polynomial time functions we have the following result.

Proposition 1.5. [SK01, SC04, Jeř05] The theory VP proves the three principles (i), (ii), (iii) and the matrix identity (1.5) for both the rings \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} .

2. Two-Sorted Theories

We start by reviewing the two-sorted logic used here and in [CN10]. We have number variables x, y, z, \ldots whose intended values are numbers (in \mathbb{N}), and string variables X, Y, Z, \ldots whose intended values are finite sets of numbers. We think of the finite sets as binary strings giving the characteristic vectors of the sets. For example the string corresponding to the set $\{0, 3, 4\}$ is 10011.

All our two-sorted theories include the basic vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A , which extends the first-order vocabulary of Peano Arithmetic as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_{A}^{2} = [0, 1, +, \cdot, | |, \in, \leq, =_{1}, =_{2}]$$

$$(2.1)$$

The symbols $0, 1, +, \cdot$ are intended to take their usual meanings on \mathbb{N} . Here | | is a function from strings to numbers, and the intended meaning of |X| is 1 plus the largest element of X, or 0 if X is empty. (If $X = \{0, 3, 4\}$ then |X| = 5.) The binary predicate \in is intended to denote set membership. We often write X(t) for $t \in X$ (think that bit number t of the string X is 1). The equality predicates $=_1$ and $=_2$ are for numbers and strings, respectively. We will write = for both, since the missing subscript will be clear from the context. Number terms (such as $x + ((|X| + 1) \cdot |Y|)$) are built from variables and function symbols as usual. The only string terms based on \mathcal{L}_A^2 are string variables X, Y, Z, \ldots , but when we extend \mathcal{L}_A^2 by adding string-valued functions, other string terms will be built as usual. Formulas are built from atomic formulas (e.g. $t = u, t \leq u, X(t), X = Y$) using \wedge, \vee, \neg and $\exists x, \forall x, \exists X, \forall X$.

Bounded quantifiers are defined as usual, except bounds on string quantifiers refer to the length of the string. For example $\exists X \leq t \varphi$ stands for $\exists X (|X| \leq t \land \varphi)$.

We define two important syntactic classes of formulas.

Definition 2.1. Σ_0^B is the class of \mathcal{L}_A^2 formulas with no string quantifiers, and only bounded number quantifiers. Σ_1^B formulas are those of the form $\exists \vec{X} \leq \vec{t} \varphi$, where φ is in Σ_0^B and the prefix of bounded quantifiers may be empty.

Notice our nonstandard requirement that the string quantifiers in Σ_1^B formulas must be in front.

We also consider two-sorted vocabularies $\mathcal{L} \supseteq \mathcal{L}_A^2$ which extend \mathcal{L}_A^2 by possibly adding predicate symbols P, Q, R, \ldots and function symbols f, g, h, \ldots and F, G, H, \ldots . Here f, g, h, \ldots are *number functions* and are intended to take values in \mathbb{N} , and F, G, H, \ldots are *string functions* and are intended to take string values. Each predicate or function symbol has a specified arity (n, m) indicating that it takes n number arguments and m string arguments. Number arguments are written before string arguments, as in

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n, X_1, \dots, X_m) = F(x_1, \dots, x_n, X_1, \dots, X_m)$$
 (2.2)

The formula classes $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L})$ and $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L})$ are defined in the same way as Σ_0^B and Σ_1^B , but allow function and relation symbols from \mathcal{L} in addition to \mathcal{L}_A^2 .

2.1. Two-sorted complexity classes. In standard complexity theory an element of a complexity class is either a set of binary strings or a function $f : \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^*$. In our two-sorted point of view (Chapter 4 of [CN10]) it is convenient to replace a set of strings by a relation $R(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ of any arity (n, m), and functions are generalized to allow both number functions and string functions as in (2.2). Each standard complexity class, including those in (1.3) and $\oplus L$ and #L, is defined either in terms of Turing machines or circuit families. These definitions naturally extend to two-sorted versions by representing strings (as inputs to machines or circuits) in a straightforward way as binary strings, but by representing numbers using unary notation. This interpretation of numbers is a convenience, and is justified by our intention that numbers are 'small' and are used to index strings and measure their length.

For example, the (two-sorted) complexity class P (resp. NP) is the set of relations $R(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ recognized by polynomial time (resp. nondeterministic polynomial time) Turing machines, with the above input conventions. Thus the relation $Prime_1(x)$ (x is a prime number) is trivially in P since there are at most x possible divisors to test, and the testing can obviously be done in time polynomial in x. The relation $Prime_2(X)$ (the number whose binary notation is X is prime) is also in P, but this is a major result [AKS04], since the testing must be done in time polynomial in the length |X| of X.

The class (uniform) AC^0 can be defined in terms of uniform polynomial size constant depth circuit families, but it has a nice characterization as those sets recognized by an alternating Turing machine (ATM) in log time with a constant number of alternations. More useful for us, [Imm99] showed that an element of AC^0 can be described as an element of FO, namely the set of finite models of some first-order formula with a certain vocabulary. From this and the ATM definition of two-sorted AC^0 , we have the following important results relating syntax and semantics.

Proposition 2.2. [Representation Theorems] (IV.3.6 and IV.3.7 of [CN10]) A relation $P(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ is in AC^0 (respectively NP) iff it is represented by some Σ_0^B -formula (respectively Σ_1^B -formula) $\varphi(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$.

For example the relation PAL(X) (X is a palindrome) is an AC^0 relation because the Σ_0^B -formula $\forall x, y < |X|$ ($x + y + 1 = |X| \supset (X(x) \leftrightarrow X(y))$) represents it.

2.2. Special functions. There are several conventional number and string functions in FAC^0 used to encode and retrieve information from bit-strings. Their usage is crucial to several technical proofs below, so we here provide definitions of common functions from [CN10] as well as extensions useful for our own purposes.

The pairing function $\langle x, y \rangle = (x+y)(x+y+1) + 2y$ allows easy 2-dimensional indexing in strings. It can be extended to k-arity.

$$\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle = \langle x_1, \langle x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle \rangle$$

We construct the unary relation Pair(z) to be true only of numbers in the range of the pairing function. The functions $left(\langle x, y \rangle) = x$ and $right(\langle x, y \rangle) = y$ reverse the pairing function, and are defined to be 0 on numbers z where Pair(z) is false.

For example a k-dimensional bit array can be encoded by a string X, with bits recovered using the pairing function. By convention, we write:

$$X(x_1,\ldots,x_k) = X(\langle x_1,\ldots,x_k \rangle)$$

For 2-dimensional arrays, the x^{th} row can be recovered using the *Row* function, which is bit-defined:

$$Row(x,Z)(i) \leftrightarrow i < |Z| \wedge Z(x,i)$$

For notational convenience, we write $Row(x, Z) = Z^{[x]}$. Thus a 1-dimensional array of j strings X_1, \ldots, X_j can be encoded in a single bit-string Z, where $X_i = Z^{[i]}$.

It will be useful when dealing with integers (section 3.2) to be able to encode 2dimensional arrays of strings $X_{i,j}$ as a single string Z. To do so, we first encode each row of the 2-dimensional matrix of strings as a 1-dimensional array of strings Y_i so that $Y_i^{[j]} = X_{i,j}$. Then we encode a 1-dimensional array of those arrays: $Z^{[i]} = Y_i$. The x, y^{th} strings in this 2-dimensional array Z is recovered with the Row_2 function: $Row_2(x, y, Z) = Z^{[x][y]}$.

$$Row_2(x, y, Z)(i) \leftrightarrow i < |Z| \wedge Row(x, Z)(y, i)$$

$$(2.3)$$

The Row and Row₂ functions allow a bit-string Z to encode a list or matrix of other bit-strings. We have analogous functions seq and entry that enable string Z to encode a list or matrix of numbers (respectively). Thus the numbers y_0, y_1, y_2, \ldots encoded in Z can be recovered $y_i = seq(i, Z) = (Z)^i$ by convention.

$$y = seq(x, Z) \leftrightarrow$$

$$(y < |Z| \land Z(x, y) \land \forall z < y, \neg Z(x, z)) \lor (\forall z < |Z|, \neg Z(x, z) \land y = |Z|)$$
(2.4)

Numbers $y_{i,j}$ are encoded in Z by first arranging them into rows Y_i where $(Y_i)^j = seq(j, Y_i)$. Then $Y_i = Z^{[i]}$. The numbers are retrieved using the *entry* function: $y_{i,j} = entry(i, j, Z)$.

$$entry(i,j,Z) = y \leftrightarrow (Z^{[\imath]})^{\jmath} = y$$

2.3. The classes $\oplus L$ and DET.

Definition 2.3. $\oplus L$ is the set of relations $R(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ such that there is a nondeterministic log space Turing machine M such that M with input \vec{x}, \vec{X} (represented as described in Section 2.1) has an odd number of accepting computations iff $R(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ holds.

#L is the set of string functions $F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ such that there exists nondeterministic log space Turing machine M, and $F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ is the number (in binary) of accepting computations of M with input \vec{x}, \vec{X} .

In the above definition we restrict attention to log space Turing machines that halt for all computations on all inputs. We think of the binary string $F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ as a number, as given by the following definition.

Definition 2.4. A string X represents the number bin(X) if

$$bin(X) = \sum_{i} 2^{i} X(i)$$

where we treat the predicate X(i) as a 0-1 valued function.

We now formalize the correspondence (mentioned in Section 1) between a complexity class C of relations and a complexity class FC of functions. A number function $f(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ (respectively string function $F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$) is *p*-bounded if there is a polynomial $g(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$ such that $f(\vec{x}, \vec{X}) \leq g(\vec{x}, |\vec{X}|)$ (respectively $|F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})| \leq g(\vec{x}, |\vec{X}|)$). The *bit graph* of a string function F is the relation B_F defined by $B_F(i, \vec{x}, \vec{X}) \leftrightarrow F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})(i)$.

Definition 2.5. If C is a class of (two-sorted) relations then FC denotes the corresponding class of functions, where f (respectively F) is in FC iff it is p-bounded and its graph (respectively bit graph) is in C. If C is a two-sorted complexity class of functions, then RC consists of all relations whose characteristic functions are in C.

In general when we refer to a complexity class such as AC^0 or P we refer to the relations in the class, and sometimes also to the functions in the corresponding function classes FAC^0 and FP.

We will consider two-sorted vocabularies \mathcal{L} which extend \mathcal{L}^2_A , and in all cases each function and relation symbol in \mathcal{L} has a specific intended interpretation in our standard two-sorted model (the two universes being \mathbb{N} and the set of finite subsets of \mathbb{N}). Thus we can make sense of both syntactic and semantic statements about \mathcal{L} .

If \mathcal{L} is a two-sorted vocabulary, then f (respectively F) is Σ_0^B -definable from \mathcal{L} if it is p-bounded and its graph (respectively bit graph) is represented by a formula in $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L})$. In this case f (or F) can be computed by a uniform polynomial size family of bounded-depth circuits with oracle access to the functions and predicates in \mathcal{L} .

The following definition is from page 269 of [CN10].

Definition 2.6 (AC^0 -reducibility). (IX.1.1 in [CN10]) A string function F (respectively, a number function f) is AC^0 -reducible to \mathcal{L} if there is a sequence of string functions $F_1, \ldots, F_n, (n \geq 0)$ such that

 F_i is Σ_0^B -definable from $\mathcal{L} \cup \{F_1, \ldots, F_{i-1}\}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$;

and F (resp. f) is Σ_0^B -definable from $\mathcal{L} \cup \{F_1, \ldots, F_n\}$. A relation R is AC^0 -reducible to \mathcal{L} if there is a sequence of string functions F_1, \ldots, F_n as above, and R is represented by a $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L} \cup \{F_1, \ldots, F_n\})$ -formula.

 $AC^{0}(\mathcal{L})$ (the AC^{0} closure of \mathcal{L}) denotes the closure of \mathcal{L} under AC^{0} -reducibility.

It is easy to see from the above definitions and Proposition 2.2 that $AC^0(\mathcal{L}^2_A)$ is the set of all AC^0 functions and relations.

From Lemma 6 in [BDHM92] we know that $\oplus L$ is closed under NC^1 reductions, and hence also under the weaker AC^0 reductions, so $AC^0(\oplus L) = \oplus L$. However we do not know whether #L is closed under AC^0 reductions [AO96]. Since our theories can only characterize classes closed under AC^0 reductions, we use the class DET instead of #L.

Definition 2.7. $DET = AC^0(\#L)$

Matrix powering is central to our theories for $\oplus L$ and DET. So we need to define this for each of the two classes as a two-sorted function. For $\oplus L$ we use the truth values $\{false, true\}$ to represent the elements $\{0, 1\}$ of \mathbb{Z}_2 , and we represent a matrix over \mathbb{Z}_2 with a string X. For DET we represent integers with binary notation by bit strings (using Definition 2.4), and we represent a matrix over \mathbb{Z} by an array of strings (see Section 2.2). We number rows and columns starting with 0, so if X is an $n \times n$ matrix then $0 \leq i, j < n$ for all entries X(i, j).

Definition 2.8 (Matrix Powering). Let X be a string representing an $n \times n$ matrix over \mathbb{Z}_2 (resp. \mathbb{Z}). Then the string function $Pow_2(n,k,X)$ (resp. $Pow_{\mathbb{Z}}(n,k,X)$) has output X^k , the string representing the k^{th} power of the same matrix.

Proposition 2.9. $\oplus L = AC^0(Pow_2)$ and $DET = AC^0(Pow_{\mathbb{Z}})$.

Proof. For DET, by Definition 2.7 it suffices to show $AC^0(Pow_{\mathbb{Z}}) = AC^0(\#L)$, and this is proved in [Fon09]. A proof can also be extracted from the earlier literature as follows. Let IntDet(n, X) be the function that returns the determinant of the $n \times n$ integer matrix X. By Berkowitz's algorithm [Ber84, SC04], IntDet is AC^0 reducible to $Pow_{\mathbb{Z}}$, and by a standard reduction (see for example the proof of Proposition 5.2 in [Coo85]) $Pow_{\mathbb{Z}}$ is AC^0 reducible to IntDet. Hence it remains to show that $AC^0(IntDet) = AC^0(\#L)$, and this is stated as Corollary 21 in [AO96]. A key idea is to show that the problem of counting the number of paths of length at most a parameter p from nodes s to t in a directed graph is complete for #L.

The fact that $\oplus L = AC^0(Pow_2)$ follows from Theorem 10 in [BDHM92]. (That theorem is stated in terms of NC^1 reductions, but the needed reductions are easily shown to be AC^0 .)

Although $Pow_{\mathbb{Z}}(n, k, X)$ allows the entries of the matrix X to be arbitrary binary integers, it turns out that the function is still complete for DET when the argument X is restricted to matrices with entries in 0,1 (see for example the proof of Lemma 16 in [Fon09]).

2.4. The Theories V^0 , $V^0(2)$, and VTC^0 . The theory V^0 for AC^0 is the basis for every two-sorted theory considered here and in [CN10]. It has the two-sorted vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A , and is axiomatized by the set 2-BASIC (Figure 1) of axioms consisting of 15 Σ^B_0 formulas expressing basic properties of the symbols of \mathcal{L}^2_A , together with the following Σ^B_0 comprehension scheme.

$$\Sigma_0^B$$
-COMP : $\exists X \leq y \; \forall z < y \; (X(z) \leftrightarrow \varphi(z))$

Here $\varphi(z)$ is any Σ_0^B formula with no free occurrence of X.

Figure 1: 2-BASIC axioms

 V^0 has no explicit induction axiom, but nevertheless the induction scheme

$$\Sigma_0^B \text{-} \mathbf{IND} : \left(\varphi(0) \land \forall x(\varphi(x) \supset \varphi(x+1))\right) \supset \forall z \varphi(z)$$

for Σ_0^B formulas $\varphi(x)$ is provable in V^0 , using Σ_0^B -**COMP** and the fact that |X| produces the maximum element of the set X.

Definition 2.10. A string function $F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ is Σ_1^B -definable (or provably total) in a twosorted theory \mathcal{T} if there is a Σ_1^B formula $\varphi(\vec{x}, \vec{X}, Y)$ representing the graph $Y = F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ of F such that $\mathcal{T} \vdash \forall \vec{x} \forall \vec{X} \exists ! Y \varphi(\vec{x}, \vec{X}, Y)$. Similarly for a number function $f(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$.

It is shown in Chapter 5 of [CN10] that V^0 is finitely axiomatizable, and the Σ_1^B -definable functions in V^0 comprise the class FAC^0 (see Definition 2.5).

The definition in [CN10] of the theory $V^0(2)$ for the class $AC^0(2)$ is based on V^0 and an axiom showing the definability of the function Parity(x, Y). If Z = Parity(x, Y) then Z(z) holds iff $1 \le z \le x$ and there is an odd number of ones in $Y(0)Y(1) \ldots Y(z-1)$. The graph of *Parity* is defined by the following Σ_0^B formula:

$$\delta_{Parity}(x, Y, Z) \equiv \neg Z(0) \land \forall z < x \ (Z(z+1) \leftrightarrow (Z(z) \oplus Y(z)))$$

Definition 2.11. [CN10] The theory $V^0(2)$ has vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A and axioms those of V^0 and $\exists Z \leq x+1 \ \delta_{Parity}(x, Y, Z)$.

The complexity class $FAC^{0}(2)$ is the AC^{0} closure of the function Parity(x, Y), and in fact the Σ_{1}^{B} -definable functions of $V^{0}(2)$ are precisely those in $FAC^{0}(2)$.

The theory VTC^0 for the counting class TC^0 is defined similarly to $V^0(2)$, but now the function Parity(x, Y) is replaced by the function numones(y, X), whose value is the number of elements (i.e. 'ones') of X that are less than y. The axiom for VTC^0 is based on a Σ_0^B formula $\delta_{NUM}(y, X, Z)$ defining the graph of a string function accumulating the values of numones(y, X) as y increases. **Definition 2.12.** [CN10] The theory VTC^0 has vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A and axioms those of V^0 and $\exists Z \leq 1 + \langle y, y \rangle \delta_{NUM}(y, X, Z)$.

The class FTC^0 is the AC^0 closure of the function numones, and in fact the Σ_1^B definable functions of VTC^0 are precisely those in FTC^0 .

In Chapters 5 and 9 of [CN10] it is shown that the theories $V^0, V^0(2), VTC^0$ have respective universally axiomatized conservative extensions $\overline{V^0}, \overline{V^0(2)}, \overline{VTC^0}$ obtained by introducing function symbols and their defining axioms for all string functions (and some number functions) in the corresponding complexity class. These have the following properties.

Proposition 2.13. Let (FC, V, \overline{V}) be any of the triples $(FAC^0, V^0, \overline{V^0})$ or $(FAC^0(2), V^0, \overline{V^0})$ $V^{0}(2), \overline{V^{0}(2)})$ or $(FTC^{0}, VTC^{0}, \overline{VTC^{0}})$, and let \mathcal{L} be the vocabulary of \overline{V} .

- (i) \overline{V} is a universally axiomatized conservative extension of V,
- (ii) the Σ_1^B -definable functions of both V and \overline{V} are those in FC, (iii) a string function (respectively number function) is in FC iff it has a function symbol (respectively term) in \mathcal{L} ,
- (iv) \overline{V} proves the $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L})$ -IND and $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L})$ -COMP schemes, (v) for every $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L})$ formula φ^+ there is a Σ_1^B formula φ such that $\overline{V} \vdash \varphi^+ \leftrightarrow \varphi$.

3. The New Theories

When developing theories for $\oplus L$ and #L it will be more convenient to work first with $\oplus L$, where each number can be represented by a single bit, before adding the complication of multi-bit numbers in #L.

3.1. The Theory $V \oplus L$. The theory $V \oplus L$ is an extension of $V^0(2)$ (Definition 2.11) obtained by adding an axiom showing the existence of matrix powering over \mathbb{Z}_2 . We use the fact that $\oplus L$ is the AC^0 closure of this matrix powering function (Proposition 2.9) and the development in Chapter 9 of [CN10] to show that the provably total functions in $V \oplus L$ are exactly the set $F \oplus L$.

The actual method followed below of describing the theory $V \oplus L$ is slightly more complicated. In order to obtain the desired axiom for matrix powering (i.e., the function Pow_2 in Definition 2.8), we will work with the theory $\overline{V^0(2)}$, a conservative extension of $V^0(2)$, and its vocabulary $\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)}$, which has function symbols or terms for every function in $FAC^0(2)$ (Proposition 2.13). We describe the Σ_1^B axiom for matrix powering as a $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)})$ formula and refer to part (v) of proposition 2.13 to conclude that this formula is provably equivalent to a $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_A^2)$ formula. Hence we will freely use FAC^0 functions and the function Parity(x, Y) when describing formulas which will help express the Σ_1^B axiom.

Each string function $F(\vec{x}, \vec{X})$ (other than Parity(x, Y)) in the vocabulary of $\overline{V^0(2)}$ has a defining axiom specifying its bit graph as follows:

$$F(\vec{x},\vec{X})(z) \leftrightarrow z < t(\vec{x},\vec{X}) \wedge \varphi(z,\vec{x},\vec{X})$$

where t is an \mathcal{L}^2_A term bounding the function and the formula φ is Σ^B_0 in the previously defined symbols.

In order for a formula to encode matrix powering, it will need to include witnesses – enough information to "check" that the matrix has been powered correctly. The function $PowSeq_2$ computes every entry of every power of matrix X up to the k^{th} power.

Definition 3.1 (*PowSeq*₂). Let X be a string representing an $n \times n$ matrix over \mathbb{Z}_2 , and let X^i be the string representing the *i*th power of the same matrix. Then the string function $PowSeq_2(n,k,X)$ has output the list of matrices $[ID(n), X, X^2, \ldots, X^k]$, coded as described in Section 2.2.

Note that the functions Pow_2 and $PowSeq_2$ are AC^0 -reducible to each other, so both are complete for $F \oplus L$. Our axiom for $V \oplus L$ states the existence of values for $PowSeq_2$.

We start by defining the matrix product operation. The AC^0 string function ID(n) codes the $n \times n$ identity matrix, and has the defining axiom (recall Section 2.2)

$$ID(n)(b) \leftrightarrow b < \langle n, n \rangle \land Pair(b) \land left(b) = right(b)$$

For X and Y encoding two matrices, the AC^0 string function G(n, i, j, X, Y) codes the string of pairwise bit products of row i of X and column j of Y:

$$G(n, i, j, X, Y)(b) \leftrightarrow b < n \land X(i, b) \land Y(b, j)$$

We define

$$PAR(X) \equiv Parity(|X|, X)(|X|)$$
(3.1)

so that PAR(X) holds iff X has an odd number of ones. Thus the function $Prod_2(n, X, Y)$ producing the product of two $n \times n$ matrices X and Y over \mathbb{Z}_2 , has bit graph axiom:

$$Prod_{2}(n, X, Y)(b) \iff b < \langle n, n \rangle \land Pair(b) \land left(b) < n \land right(b) < n \land PAR(G(n, left(b), right(b), X, Y))$$
(3.2)

This yields a $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)})$ formula $\delta_{PowSeq_2}(n,k,X,Y)$ for the graph of $PowSeq_2(n,k,X,Y)$:

$$Y^{[0]} = ID(n) \land \forall i < k \ (Y^{[i+1]} = Prod_2(n, X, Y^{[i]})$$

$$\land \forall b < |Y| \ (Y(b) \supset (Pair(b) \land left(b) < n))$$

$$(3.3)$$

The second line ensures that Y is uniquely defined by specifying that all bits not used in encoding matrix entries *must* be false. Note that δ_{PowSeq_2} involves the function $Prod_2$ and hence is not equivalent to a Σ_0^B formula, but by part (v) of Proposition 2.13, $\overline{V^0(2)}$ proves it is equivalent to a Σ_1^B formula δ'_{PowSeq_2} .

Definition 3.2. The theory $V \oplus L$ has vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A and axioms those of $V^0(2)$ and the Σ^B_1 formula $\exists Y \leq 1 + \langle k, \langle n, n \rangle \rangle \ \delta'_{PowSeq_2}(n, k, X, Y)$ stating the existence of a string value for the function $PowSeq_2(n, k, X)$.

Following the guidelines of Section IX.2 of [CN10], we prove that several functions, including the aggregate function $PowSeq_2^{\star}$ (see (3.5) and (3.6) below), are Σ_1^B -definable in $V \oplus L$.

Lemma 3.3. The functions Pow_2 , $PowSeq_2$, and $PowSeq_2^*$ are Σ_1^B -definable (definition 2.10) in $V \oplus L$.

Proof. Since $\overline{V^0(2)}$ is a conservative extension of $V^0(2)$, it follows that the theory

$$\mathcal{T} = V \oplus L + \overline{V^0(2)} \tag{3.4}$$

is a conservative extension of $V \oplus L$, and this allows us to reason in \mathcal{T} to make inferences about the power of $V \oplus L$. Thus by part (v) of Proposition 2.13, to prove that a function is Σ_1^B -definable in $V \oplus L$ it suffices to prove that it is $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)})$ -definable in \mathcal{T} . For the function $PowSeq_2$ the graph is given by either of the equivalent formulas δ_{PowSeq_2}

For the function $PowSeq_2$ the graph is given by either of the equivalent formulas δ_{PowSeq_2} or δ'_{PowSeq_2} . Existence of the function value follows immediately from the axiom given in Definition 3.2, and uniqueness is proved by induction (justified by part (iv) of Proposition 2.13) on the $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)})$ formula stating that the first *i* bits of the function's output are unique.

For Pow_2 the function value can be extracted from the value for $PowSeq_2$ by an AC^0 function, and existence and uniqueness of that value follows from existence and uniqueness for $PowSeq_2$.

Recall from chapter 8 of [CN10] (Definition VIII.1.9) that the aggregate function $PowSeq_2^*$ is the polynomially bounded string function that satisfies

$$|PowSeq_2^{\star}(b, W_1, W_2, X)| \le \langle b, \langle |W_2|, \langle |W_1|, |W_1| \rangle \rangle$$

$$(3.5)$$

and

 Po^{\prime}

$$wSeq_{2}^{\star}(b, W_{1}, W_{2}, X)(i, v) \leftrightarrow i < b \wedge PowSeq_{2}((W_{1})^{i}, (W_{2})^{i}, X^{[i]})(v)$$
(3.6)

The strings W_1, W_2 , and X encode *b*-length lists of inputs to each place of $PowSeq_2$: W_1 encodes the list of numbers $n_0, n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_{b-1}$; W_2 encodes the list of numbers $k_0, k_1, \ldots, k_{b-1}$; and X encodes the list of strings $X_0, X_1, \ldots, X_{b-1}$. Our goal is to raise the $n_i \times n_i$ matrix encoded in X_i to the powers $1, 2, \ldots, k_i$. The string function $PowSeq_2^*$ computes all these lists of powers, aggregating many applications of the function $PowSeq_2$. This is accomplished by forming a large matrix S by placing padded versions of the matrices $X_0, X_1, \ldots, X_{b-1}$ down its diagonal, and noting that the *i*th power of X_j can be extracted from the *i*th power of S. The padding is necessary to make the diagonal matrices all the same size, so the location of X_j in S can be computed with $AC^0(2)$ functions. The details of a formula for the graph of $PowSeq_2^*$ and the proof that \mathcal{T} can prove its unique output exists can be found in appendix A.

Section IX.2 in [CN10] presents a general method for defining a universal conservative extension \overline{VC} (satisfying the properties of Proposition 2.13) of a theory VC over \mathcal{L}^2_A . Here VC is assumed to be defined in a manner similar to $V^0(2)$ and VTC^0 ; namely by adding a Σ^B_1 axiom to V^0 showing the existence of a complete function F_C (and its aggregate F^*) for the complexity class C. Although our new theory $V \oplus L$ fits this pattern, for the purpose of defining $\overline{V \oplus L}$ it is easier to start from the conservative extension \mathcal{T} of $V \oplus L$ defined in (3.4).

We now view \mathcal{T} as the extension of $\overline{V^0(2)}$ obtained by adding the axiom

 $\exists Y \leq 1 + \langle k, \langle n, n \rangle \rangle \ \delta_{PowSeq_2}(n, k, X, Y)$

where δ_{PowSeq_2} is the original version of δ'_{PowSeq_2} given in (3.3). (Note that this axiom is equivalent to the one in Definition 3.2.)

A small modification to the development in Section IX.2 generalizes it to the case in which the base theory is an extension V of V^0 rather than just V^0 (in this case $V = \mathcal{T}$). The construction of \overline{VC} works so that Proposition 2.13 holds, where now the complexity class C is the AC^0 closure of $\{\mathcal{L}, F\}$, where \mathcal{L} is the vocabulary of V and F is the function whose existence follows from the axiom. In the present case, this allows us to define

 $\overline{V \oplus L}$ satisfying Proposition 2.13, where now the complexity class C is the AC^0 closure of $\{\mathcal{L}_{FAC^{0}(2)}, PowSeq_{2}\}$, which is same as the AC^{0} closure of $\{PowSeq_{2}\}$, namely $\oplus L$.

To start this construction we need a quantifier-free axiomatization of $\mathcal{T} = V \oplus L + \overline{V^0(2)}$. This consists of the axioms for $\overline{V^0(2)}$ (which are quantifier-free) together with a quantifierfree defining axiom for $PowSeq_2$. The formula (3.3) for $\delta_{PowSeq_2}(n,k,X,Y)$ (the graph of $PowSeq_2$) has bounded number quantifiers, but these may be eliminated using functions in $FAC^{0}(2)$ (see Section V.6 of [CN10]). Thus $\delta_{PowSeq_{2}}(n,k,X,Y)$ is provably equivalent to a quantifier-free formula $\delta''_{PowSeq_2}(n,k,X,Y)$ over the vocabulary $\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)}$ for $\overline{V^0(2)}$. The required quantifier-free defining axiom is

$$Y = PowSeq_2(n, k, X, Y) \leftrightarrow \delta''_{PowSeq_2}(n, k, X, Y)$$

As a result of this development we have a version of Proposition 2.13 for $\overline{V \oplus L}$:

Theorem 3.4. Let $\mathcal{L}_{F\oplus L}$ be the vocabulary of $\overline{V\oplus L}$.

- (i) $\overline{V \oplus L}$ is a universal conservative extension of $V \oplus L$,
- (ii) the Σ_1^B -definable functions of both $V \oplus L$ and $\overline{V \oplus L}$ are those of $F \oplus L$,
- (iii) a string function (respectively, number function) is in $F \oplus L$ iff it has a function symbol (resp., term) in $\mathcal{L}_{F\oplus L}$,
- (iv) $\overrightarrow{V \oplus L}$ proves the $\Sigma_0^{\oplus L}(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$ -IND and $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$ -COMP schemes, and (v) for every $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$ formula φ^+ there is a Σ_1^B formula φ such that $\overline{V \oplus L} \vdash \varphi^+ \leftrightarrow \varphi$.

3.2. The Theory V#L. Our theory V#L is associated with the class $DET = AC^{0}(\#L)$ (Definition 2.7). Just as $V \oplus L$ is an extension of $V^0(2)$, V # L is the extension of VTC^0 (Definition 2.12) obtained by adding an axiom showing the existence of matrix powering for matrices with binary integer entries. We use the fact that DET is the AC^0 closure of this matrix powering function (Proposition 2.9) and the development in Chapter 9 of [CN10] to show that the provably total functions in V # L are exactly the set *FDET*.

The development of V # L is similar to that of $V \oplus L$, but has extra complications. Before defining matrix multiplication and powering we must define multiplication and iterated sum for binary integers. Both of these functions are complete for the complexity class TC^0 , so we define V # L as an extension of the theory VTC^0 (recall that $V \oplus L$ is defined as an extension of $V^{0}(2)$). To define the required functions we work in the conservative extension $\overline{VTC^{0}}$ of VTC^0 (just as we worked in the conservative extension $\overline{V^0(2)}$ of $V^0(2)$ when developing $V \oplus L$).

We represent integers by strings. For a string X encoding an integer x, the first bit X(0) indicates the sign of x: x < 0 iff X(0). The rest of string X is a binary representation of x, from least to most significant bit. The magnitude of an integer can be extracted with the FAC^0 function intsize(X), which simply deletes the low order bit of the string X. Thus an integer can be recovered from its string encoding by computing $(-1)^{X(0)} \cdot intsize(X)$.

The theory V^0 defines binary addition $X + \mathbb{N} Y$ over natural numbers (Example V.2.5) in [CN10]), and VTC^0 defines binary multiplication $X \times_{\mathbb{N}} Y$ over natural numbers and $Sum_{\mathbb{N}}(n,X)$ (the sum of the list $X^{[0]},\ldots,X^{[n-1]}$ of natural numbers) (Section IX.3.6 in [CN10]). These functions over \mathbb{N} can be used to help develop quantifier-free formulas over \mathcal{L}_{FTC^0} which define the corresponding functions $+_{\mathbb{Z}}, \times_{\mathbb{Z}}$, and $Sum_{\mathbb{Z}}$ over \mathbb{Z} . For example the function $\times_{\mathbb{N}}$ can be used to define the graph $R_{\times_{\mathbb{Z}}}(X,Y,Z)$ by

$$intsize(Z) = intsize(X) \times_{\mathbb{N}} intsize(Y) \land (Z(0) \leftrightarrow (X(0) \oplus Y(0)))$$

The definition of integer addition $+_{\mathbb{Z}}$ is more complicated and requires defining the 'borrow' relation for subtraction as well as using $+_{\mathbb{N}}$. The definition of $Sum_{\mathbb{Z}}(n, X)$ (iterated integer sum) splits the list X into a list of positive integers and a list of negative integers, sums each using $Sum_{\mathbb{N}}$, and subtracts the second sum from the first.

Matrices of integers are represented by arrays of strings using the Row_2 function (2.3). Integer matrix product is the TC^0 function $Prod_{\mathbb{Z}}(n, X, Y)$ defined analogously to formula (3.2) for $Prod_2$, and the graph of iterated matrix product is defined by the $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{FTC^0})$ formula $\delta_{PowSeq_{\mathbb{Z}}}(n, k, X, Y)$ analogous to δ_{PowSeq_2} (3.3). (See [Fon09]) for more details.)

By part (v) of Theorem 2.13, $\overline{VTC^0}$ proves $\delta_{PowSeq_{\mathbb{Z}}}$ is equivalent to a Σ_1^B formula $\delta'_{PowSeq_{\mathbb{Z}}}$, which we use in the following axiom for V # L.

Definition 3.5. The theory V # L has vocabulary \mathcal{L}^2_A and axioms those of VTC^0 and the Σ^B_1 formula $\exists Y \leq t \; \delta'_{PowSeq_{\mathbb{Z}}}(n,k,X,Y)$ for a suitable bounding term t.

The next two results are proved similarly to Lemma 3.3 and Theorem 3.4.

Lemma 3.6. The functions Pow_Z , $PowSeq_Z$, and $PowSeq_Z^{\star}$ are Σ_1^B -definable in V # L.

Theorem 3.7. Let $\mathcal{L}_{F\#L}$ be the vocabulary of $\overline{V\#L}$.

- (i) $\overline{V \# L}$ is a universal conservative extension of V # L,
- (ii) the Σ_1^B -definable functions of both V # L and $\overline{V \# L}$ are those of FDET,
- (iii) a string function (respectively, number function) is in FDET iff it has a function symbol (resp., term) in $\mathcal{L}_{F\#L}$,
- (iv) $\overline{V \# L}$ proves the $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \# L})$ -IND and $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \# L})$ -COMP schemes, and
- (v) for every $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_{F\#L})$ formula φ^+ there is a Σ_1^B formula φ such that $\overline{V\#L} \vdash \varphi^+ \leftrightarrow \varphi$.

4. INTERPRETATIONS OF LAP

Having established the theories $V \oplus L$ and V # L, we are interested in studying which results from linear algebra are provable in these theories. This job is made much easier by taking advantage of Soltys' theory LAP [SK01, SC04], which formalizes linear algebra over an arbitrary field (or integral domain). As explained in Section 1, this theory defines standard matrix functions such as determinant, adjoint, and characteristic polynomial, in terms of matrix powering, and formalizes relative proofs of their properties. We show that $V \oplus L$ and V # L prove these same properties by interpreting LAP into each of them. The two interpretations are different because the intended semantics are different: the underlying rings are respectively \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z} .

Now Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 in Section 1 follow from the fact that each interpretation translates theorems of LAP into theorems in the theory. Actually there are exceptions to this preservation in the case of V # L, because the underlying ring \mathbb{Z} is not a field. However as explained at the beginning of Section 4.3, Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 do indeed hold for V # L.

4.1. **Defining LAP.** Soltys' theory LAP (for Linear Algebra with matrix Powering) is a quantifier-free theory based on Gentzen-style sequents. It has three sorts: indices (i.e. natural numbers) (represented by i, j, k), field elements (a, b, c), and matrices (A, B, C) with entries from the field.

The language \mathcal{L}_{LAP} of LAP has symbols

 $\begin{array}{l} 0_{\mathrm{index}}, 1_{\mathrm{index}}, +_{\mathrm{index}}, \ast_{\mathrm{index}}, -_{\mathrm{index}}, \mathrm{div}, \mathrm{rem}, \mathrm{r}, \mathrm{c}, \\ 0_{\mathrm{field}}, 1_{\mathrm{field}}, +_{\mathrm{field}}, \ast_{\mathrm{field}}, -_{\mathrm{field}}, -^{-1}, \mathrm{e}, \sum, \end{array}$ $\leq_{index}, =_{index}, =_{field}, =_{matrix}, cond_{index}, cond_{field}, P$

The intended meanings of $0, 1, +, *, ^{-1}$, and $-_{\text{field}}$ are obvious. The symbol $-_{\text{index}}$ is cutoff subtraction; $\operatorname{div}(i, j)$ and $\operatorname{rem}(i, j)$ are the quotient and remainder functions; r(A)and c(A) return the numbers of rows and columns in A; e(A, i, j) is the field element A_{ij} , (where $A_{ij} = 0$ if i = 0 or j = 0 or i > r(A) or j > c(A)), $\sum (A)$ is the sum of all the entries of A; and for α a formula, $\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{index}}(\alpha, i, j)$ is i if α is true and j otherwise (similarly for $\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{field}}(\alpha, a, b)$). The powering function $P(n, A) = A^n$.

Terms and quantifier-free formulas are mostly constructed in the usual way, respecting types. We use n, m for index terms, t, u for field terms, T, U for matrix terms, and α, β for (quantifier-free) formulas. The four kinds of atomic formulas are $m \leq_{index} n, m =_{index} n,$ $t =_{\text{field}} u$, and $T =_{\text{matrix}} U$. Formulas are built from atomic formulas using \land, \lor, \neg . There are restrictions on terms beginning with cond: If α is a formula with atomic subformulas all of the form $m \leq_{\text{index}} n$ and $m =_{\text{index}} n$, then $\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{index}}(\alpha, m', n')$ is a term of type index and $\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{field}}(\alpha, t, u)$ is a term of type field.

A term of type matrix is either a variable (A, B, C, \cdots) or a lambda term of the form $\lambda_{ij}(m,n,t)$ (with the restriction that i and j are not free in the index terms m and n). This lambda term defines an $m \times n$ matrix with $(i, j)^{\text{th}}$ entry given by t(i, j).

Lines in an LAP proof are Gentzen-style sequents $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k \to \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_\ell$ with the usual meaning $\bigwedge \alpha_i \supset \bigvee \beta_i$. The logical axioms and rules are those of Gentzen's system LK (minus the quantifier rules). The nonlogical axioms are numbered A1 through A36 (see Appendix B).

There are two nonlogical rules. The first nonlogical rule is the Induction Rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha(i) \to \alpha(i+1), \Delta}{\Gamma, \alpha(0) \to \alpha(n), \Delta}$$
(4.1)

The second nonlogical rule is the Matrix Equality Rule, which states that two matrices are equal if they have the same numbers of rows and columns, and have equal entries:

$$\frac{S_1 \quad S_2 \quad S_3}{\Gamma \to \Delta, T =_{\text{matrix}} U} \qquad \text{where} \qquad \begin{array}{l} S_1 : \quad \Gamma \to \Delta, e(T, i, j) = e(U, i, j) \\ S_2 : \quad \Gamma \to \Delta, r(T) = r(U) \\ S_3 : \quad \Gamma \to \Delta, c(T) = c(U) \end{array}$$
(4.2)

Many matrix functions such as multiplication, addition, transpose, can be defined using λ terms, avoiding the need for separately defined function symbols. We use the following abbreviations for defined terms.

Integer maximum $\max\{i, j\} := \operatorname{cond}(i \le j, j, i)$

Matrix sum
$$A + B := \lambda i j \langle \max\{\mathbf{r}(A), \mathbf{r}(B)\}, \max\{\mathbf{c}(A), \mathbf{c}(B)\}, A_{ij} + B_{ij} \rangle$$

Note that A + B is well defined even if A and B are incompatible in size, because of the convention that out-of-bound entries are 0.

4 Scalar pro

$$\mathbf{oduct} \qquad aA := \lambda i j \langle \mathbf{r}(A), \mathbf{c}(A), a * A_{ij} \rangle$$

 $A^t := \lambda i j \langle c(A), r(A), A_{ii} \rangle$ Matrix transpose

Zero and Identity matrices
$$0_{kl} := \lambda i j \langle k, l, 0 \rangle$$
 and $I_k := \lambda i j \langle k, k, \text{cond}(i = j, 1, 0) \rangle$

Sometimes we will just write 0 and I when the sizes are clear from the context.

Matrix trace $tr(A) := \Sigma \lambda i j \langle r(A), 1, A_{ii} \rangle$ Dot product $A \cdot B := \Sigma \lambda i j \langle \max\{r(A), r(B)\}, \max\{c(A), c(B)\}, A_{ij} * B_{ij} \rangle$ Matrix product $A * B := \lambda i j \langle r(A), c(B), \lambda k l \langle c(A), 1, entry(A, i, k) \rangle \cdot \lambda k l \langle r(B), 1, entry(B, k, j) \rangle \rangle$

Matrix product is defined even when $c(A) \neq r(B)$, again by the convention that outof-bound entries are 0.

Finally, the following decomposition of an $n \times n$ matrix A is used in the axioms defining $\Sigma(S)$ and in presenting Berkowitz's algorithm:

$$A = \left(\begin{array}{cc} a_{11} & R\\ S & M \end{array}\right) \tag{4.3}$$

where a_{11} is the (1, 1) entry of A, and R, S are $1 \times (n-1)$, $(n-1) \times 1$ submatrices, respectively, and M is the principal submatrix of A Therefore, we make the following precise definitions:

$$R(A) := \lambda i j \langle 1, c(A) - 1, entry(A, 1, i + 1) \rangle$$

$$S(A) := \lambda i j \langle r(A) - 1, 1, entry(A, i + 1, 1) \rangle$$

$$M(A) := \lambda i j \langle r(A) - 1, c(A) - 1, entry(A, i + 1, j + 1) \rangle$$
(4.4)

4.2. Interpreting LAP into $V \oplus L$. Here we take the underlying field in the semantics of LAP to be \mathbb{Z}_2 . We interpret the three-sorted theory LAP into the two-sorted theory $V \oplus L$. The index sort is interpreted as the number sort, field elements are interpreted as Boolean values, and matrices are interpreted as strings. We translate each formula α of LAP into a formula α^{σ} of $\overline{V \oplus L}$. Here α^{σ} is in $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$, so by part(v) of Theorem 3.4, α^{σ} is equivalent to a Σ_1^B formula $(\alpha^{\sigma})'$ of $V \oplus L$. The translation preserves provability (sequent theorems are translated to sequent theorems) and it also preserves truth in our intended standard models: $(\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}_2, \text{matrices over } \mathbb{Z}_2)$ for LAP and $(\mathbb{N}, \text{finite subsets of } \mathbb{N})$ for $V \oplus L$.

In order for Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 (for the case of $V \oplus L$) to follow from this interpretation we need that a term T of type matrix in LAP, when interpreted as a matrix over \mathbb{Z}_2 , is translated to a string term T^{σ} in $\overline{V \oplus L}$ which represents the same matrix, using conventions like those developed in Sections 2.2 and 3.1. In particular the matrix entries (elements of \mathbb{Z}_2) are certain bits in the string T^{σ} , which is why we represent the elements 0, 1 of \mathbb{Z}_2 as the Boolean values \perp and \top .

Recall that formulas of LAP are built from atomic formulas using the Boolean connectives \wedge, \vee, \neg . Below we show how to translate atomic formulas. Then each formula α is translated by translating its atomic formulas and putting them together with the same connectives. Thus $(\alpha \wedge \beta)^{\sigma} = \alpha^{\sigma} \wedge \beta^{\sigma}$, $(\alpha \vee \beta)^{\sigma} = \alpha^{\sigma} \vee \beta^{\sigma}$, and $(\neg \alpha)^{\sigma} = \neg \alpha^{\sigma}$. Finally, a sequent of LAP is translated to a sequent of $\overline{V \oplus L}$ formula by formula. Thus the translation of $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k \to \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_\ell$ is $\alpha_1^{\sigma}, \ldots, \alpha_k^{\sigma} \to \beta_1^{\sigma}, \ldots, \beta_\ell^{\sigma}$

The atomic formulas of LAP are simple, since the only predicate symbols are \leq and the three sorts of =. Thus the main work in defining the interpretation comes in translating the three sorts of terms: m to m^{σ} , t to t^{σ} , and T to T^{σ} . In order to do this we define function symbols in the language of $\overline{V \oplus L}$ to interpret functions in LAP: -, f_{div} , f_{rem} , f_{r} , f_{c} , and functions f_{φ} and F_{φ} for certain formulas φ . All of these functions have Σ_0^B definitions and

are definable in the subtheory $\overline{V^0}$ of $\overline{V \oplus L}$. However to interpret Σ and P we need to go beyond $\overline{V^0}$.

Defining Σ requires the parity function PAR(X), which is definable in the theory $V^0(2)$. We note that the theory LAP is the extension of the base theory LA obtained by adding the function P and the two axioms **A35** and **A36** defining matrix powering. Our interpretation translates LA into $V^0(2)$. Conveniently $V \oplus L$ is obtained from $V^0(2)$ by adding the axiom defining $PowSeq_2$ (defining matrix powering).

The next three subsections give inductive definitions for translating LAP terms of each of the three sorts.

4.2.1. Index sort. The table below shows how to translate each index term m of LAP into a term m^{σ} in $\overline{V \oplus L}$, except we postpone to Subsection 4.2.3 translating terms involving r and c, which specify the numbers of rows and columns in a matrix. The graph of each function symbol used in m^{σ} is defined by a Σ_0^B formula (except for the case cond_{index}(α, m, n), for which the formula is in $\Sigma_0^B(\alpha^{\sigma})$). These formulas are given in the table below. (The first three lines give the base case of the inductive definition of the translation.)

LAP	$\overline{V \oplus L}$	
0_{index}	0	
1_{index}	1	
i	i	index variables map to number variables
$m +_{\text{index}} n$	$m^{\sigma} + n^{\sigma}$	
$m *_{\text{index}} n$	$m^{\sigma} \cdot n^{\sigma}$	
$m{index} n$	$m^{\sigma} - n^{\sigma}$	' $-$ ' is standard limited subtraction, defined:
		$x - y = z \leftrightarrow (x = y + z) \lor (z = 0 \land x < y)$
$\operatorname{div}(m,n)$	$f_{ m div}(m^{\sigma},n^{\sigma})$	$f_{\rm div}$ is a number function with graph:
		$f_{\rm div}(x,y) = z \leftrightarrow (y \cdot z \le x \land x < y \cdot (z+1))$
		$\vee (y = 0 \land z = 0)$
$\operatorname{rem}(m,n)$	$f_{\rm rem}(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma})$	$f_{\rm rem}$ is a number function with graph:
		$f_{\rm rem}(x,y) = z \leftrightarrow z + y \cdot f_{\rm div}(x,y) = x$
$\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{index}}(\alpha, m, n)$	$f_{\alpha^{\sigma}}(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma})$	where for certain formulas φ , f_{φ} is defined:
		$f_{\varphi}(x,y) = z \leftrightarrow (\varphi \wedge x = z) \vee (\neg \varphi \wedge y = z)$

Note that in LAP, $\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{index}}(\alpha, m, n)$ is defined only when all atomic sub-formulas of α have the form m = n or $m \leq n$. Thus $f_{\varphi}(x, y)$ need only be defined when φ is the interpretation of such a formula from LAP.

4.2.2. Field sort. Since we represent elements of \mathbb{Z}_2 by Boolean values in $V \oplus L$, each field term t is translated to a $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$ formula t^{σ} . (This convenient representation of ring elements as truth values is not possible for the ring \mathbb{Z} , complicating section 4.3.) Each variable of type field is interpreted as a formula specifying the first entry of a 1 × 1 matrix variable.

The table below shows how to interpret variables of type field (except those involving the matrix entry function e and the matrix sum function Σ , which are given in Subsection 4.2.3).

LAP	$V{\oplus}L$	
0_{field}	\perp	
1_{field}	Т	
a	$X_{a}(1,1)$	X_a is a string variable
$t +_{\text{field}} u$	$t^\sigma \oplus u^\sigma$	that is, $t^{\sigma} \operatorname{XOR} u^{\sigma}$
$t{\text{field}} u$	$t^\sigma \oplus u^\sigma$	
$t *_{\text{field}} u$	$t^{\sigma} \wedge u^{\sigma}$	
t^{-1}	t^{σ}	
$\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{field}}(\alpha, t, u)$	$(\alpha^{\sigma} \wedge t^{\sigma}) \lor (\neg \alpha^{\sigma} \wedge u^{\sigma})$	

For t and u terms of type field, we interpret:

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4.2.3. Matrix sort. The translation of terms involving matrices is complicated. Every matrix of LAP has three attributes: number of rows, number of columns, and matrix entries (field elements). In our two-sorted language for $V \oplus L$ we represent a matrix by a string which codes all of these. Thus an $a \times b$ matrix A is represented by a string A^{σ} such that $A^{\sigma}(0, \langle a, b \rangle)$ is true, and for all i, j with $1 \leq i \leq a$ and $1 \leq j \leq b$ and $e(A, i, j) = A_{ij} = 1$, the bit $A^{\sigma}(i, j)$ is true. All other bits of A^{σ} are false.

We will use the formula $isMatrix_2(X)$ (equivalent to a Σ_0^B formula) which asserts that the string X properly encodes a matrix as above. We allow the number of rows and/or columns to be 0, but any entry out of bounds is 0 (a false bit).

$$isMatrix_{2}(X) \equiv \exists x, y < |X| [X(0, \langle x, y \rangle) \land$$

$$\forall z < |X| ((z = 0 \lor \neg X(z, 0)) \land (z = \langle x, y \rangle \lor \neg X(0, z))) \land$$

$$[X(z) \supset (Pair(z) \land left(z) \le x \land (left(z) = 0 \lor right(z) \le y))]]$$

$$(4.5)$$

The following table completes the inductive definition of the translation of all LAP terms. (Here PAR(X) is defined in (3.1) and the functions $f_r, f_c, F_{\varphi}, F_p$ are defined below).)

LAP	$\overline{V \oplus L}$
A	A matrix variables map to string variables
$\mathbf{r}(T)$	$f_r(T^{\sigma})$
c(T)	$f_c(T^{\sigma})$
	$T^{\sigma}(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma}) \wedge m^{\sigma} > 0 \wedge n^{\sigma} > 0 \wedge isMatrix_{2}(T^{\sigma})$
$\sum(T)$	$\neg PAR(T^{\sigma}) \wedge isMatrix_2(T^{\sigma})$
$\lambda_{ij} \langle m, n, t \rangle$	$F_{t^{\sigma}}(m^{\sigma},n^{\sigma})$
P(m,T)	$F_p(m^{\sigma},T^{\sigma})$

The above translation is designed so that for every LAP matrix term T (except a matrix variable A), $isMatrix_2(T^{\sigma})$ holds and is provable in $(V \oplus L)$.

The $\overline{V \oplus L}$ functions $f_r(X)$ and $f_c(X)$ extract the numbers of rows and columns of the matrix coded by X, and are used in the table above to translate the LAP terms r(T) and c(T). These have defining equations

$$f_r(X) = z \leftrightarrow (\neg isMatrix_2(X) \land z = 0) \lor (isMatrix_2(X) \land \exists y \le |X| \mid X(0, \langle z, y \rangle))$$

$$f_c(X) = z \leftrightarrow (\neg isMatrix_2(X) \land z = 0) \lor (isMatrix_2(X) \land \exists y \leq |X| \ X(0, \langle y, z \rangle))$$

Note that strings not encoding a matrix are semantically interpreted as the 0×0 matrix.

The translation of the matrix entry term e(T, m, n) is consistent with the LAP convention that rows and columns are numbered starting with 1. A string not properly encoding a matrix has no non-zero entries.

The translation of the entry sum term $\sum(T)$ is \perp if T^{σ} does not properly encode a matrix, and otherwise it is the parity of 1 + the number of one-bits in T^{σ} (the extra bit is $T^{\sigma}(0, \langle a, b \rangle)$ coding the number of rows and columns).

The matrix term $\lambda_{ij} \langle m, n, t \rangle$ is interpreted by the $\overline{V \oplus L}$ term $F_{t^{\sigma}}(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma})$. Here $F_{t^{\sigma}}(x, y)$ is a string function, which has additional arguments corresponding to any free variables in t^{σ} other than the distinguished variables i, j (we interpret $i^{\sigma} = i$ and $j^{\sigma} = j$). The bit defining formula for $F_{t^{\sigma}}$ is

$$F_{t^{\sigma}}(x,y)(b) \leftrightarrow b = \langle 0, \langle x, y \rangle \rangle \lor \exists i \leq x \exists j \leq y \ (i > 0 \land j > 0 \land b = \langle i, j \rangle \land t^{\sigma}(i,j))$$

where $t^{\sigma}(i, j)$ indicates the distinguished variables i, j. Then $isMatrix_2(F_{t^{\sigma}}(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma}))$ is always true (and provable in $\overline{V \oplus L}$).

The last line in the table above translates the LAP term P(m,T) representing matrix powering to the $\overline{V \oplus L}$ term $F_p(m^{\sigma}, T^{\sigma})$. The function F_p is defined in terms of Pow_2 (Definition 2.8) which defines matrix powering in $V \oplus L$. But the definition of F_p is not straightforward, because our translation of LAP terms includes the extra bit in row 0 coding the matrix dimension.

Thus we need two Σ_0^B string functions. The first one strips the dimensions from the string, converting a matrix encoded according to our interpretation (of LAP into $V \oplus L$) into a matrix according to the standard in $V \oplus L$.

$$Strip(X)(i,j) \leftrightarrow X(i+1,j+1)$$

The second function adds the dimension-encoding "wrapper" back, converting a standard-form $V \oplus L$ matrix into the form of an interpreted matrix from LAP.

$$Wrap(r, c, X)(b) \leftrightarrow b = \langle 0, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \lor \exists 0 < i, j < b \ (b = \langle i, j \rangle \land X(i, j))$$

Given these two functions, we want $F_p(i, X)$ to interpret the LAP function P(i, X). Let $r_X = f_r(X)$ be the interpretation of r(X), and $c_X = f_c(X)$ be the interpretation of c(X). For strings X that satisfy *isMatrix*₂(X) and powers i > 0,

$$F_p(i, X) = Wrap(r_X, c_X, Pow_2(\max(r_X, c_X), i, Strip(X)))$$

This is consistent with the LAP convention that for i > 1, P(i, A) retains the row and column dimensions of A, and is defined by raising the matrix A' to the power i and truncating excess rows or columns, where A' is the square matrix of dimension max{r(A), c(A)} obtained from A by adding 0 entries where needed.

There is a special case: if i = 0, then LAP specifies that the zeroth power of a matrix A is the $r(A) \times r(A)$ identity matrix.

$$F_p(0,X) = Wrap(r_X, r_X, Pow_2(r_X, 0, Strip(X)))$$

If $\neg isMatrix_2(X)$ then $F_p(i, X)$ codes the 0×0 matrix.

Combining all these cases, we can bit-define F_p as follows:

 $\begin{aligned} F_p(i, X)(b) \leftrightarrow \\ \begin{bmatrix} isMatrix_2(X) \land i = 0 \land Wrap(r_X, r_X, Pow_2(r_X, 0, Strip(X))) \end{bmatrix} \\ \lor \begin{bmatrix} i > 0 \land Wrap(r_X, c_X, Pow_2(\max(r_X, c_X), i, Strip(X))) \end{bmatrix} \\ \lor \begin{bmatrix} -isMatrix_2(X) \land b = \langle 0, \langle 0, 0 \rangle \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$

4.2.4. Translating atomic formulas. We translate atomic formulas as follows:

LAP	$\overline{V \oplus L}$
$m =_{\text{index}} n$	$m^{\sigma} =_1 n^{\sigma}$
$m \leq_{\text{index}} n$	$m^{\sigma} \leq n^{\sigma}$
$t =_{\text{field}} u$	$t^{\sigma} \leftrightarrow u^{\sigma}$
$T =_{\text{matrix}} U$	$(\mathbf{r}(T) = \mathbf{r}(U))^{\sigma} \wedge (\mathbf{c}(T) = \mathbf{c}(U))^{\sigma} \wedge$
	$\forall i, j \le (T^{\sigma} + U^{\sigma}) \ (\mathbf{e}(i, j, T) = \mathbf{e}(i, j, U))^{\sigma}$

The translation of $T =_{\text{matrix}} U$ could be simplified to $T^{\sigma} = U^{\sigma}$ for all LAP terms T and U other than matrix variables A, since all other terms translate to terms satisfying $isMatrix_2$. However two distinct string variables A, B could nevertheless represent matrices that are equal according to the Matrix Equality Rule (4.2) if they do not satisfy $isMatrix_2$.

4.2.5. Provability is preserved.

Theorem 4.1. If LAP proves $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k \to \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_\ell$ then $\overline{V \oplus L}$ proves $\alpha_1^{\sigma}, \ldots, \alpha_k^{\sigma} \to \beta_1^{\sigma}, \ldots, \beta_{\ell}^{\sigma}$.

Proof. (For more details see [Fon].) Since our translation of formulas and sequents is transparent to the logical connectives, the logical axioms and rule applications for LAP (the propositional part of Gentzen's system LK) translate to logical axioms and rule applications for $\overline{V \oplus L}$.

The nonlogical axioms A1,...,A36 for LAP are given in Appendix B and the nonlogical rules are (4.1) (Induction) and (4.2) (Matrix Equality). It suffices to show that the translated axioms are theorems of $\overline{V \oplus L}$, and for each of the rules, if the translated hypotheses are theorems of $\overline{V \oplus L}$ then so is the translated conclusion.

The two rules are easily handled. Consider the Induction Rule (4.1). Since the translation of each sequent of LAP is a sequent of quantifier-free formulas in $\overline{V \oplus L}$, the fact that this translated rule preserves theorems in $\overline{V \oplus L}$ follows from the fact that $\overline{V \oplus L}$ proves the induction scheme for $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_{F \oplus L})$ formulas (part (iv) of Theorem 3.4).

Now consider the Matrix Equality Rule (4.2). The fact that this translated rule preserves theorems in $\overline{V \oplus L}$ follows immediately from the way that matrix equality $=_{\text{matrix}}$ is translated (Section 4.2.4).

Now consider the axioms of LAP. Axioms A1 to A5 are equality axioms, and their translations mostly follow from the usual equality axioms. However $=_{\text{matrix}}$ is not translated as equality, but it does translate to an equivalence relation, and the functions which take a matrix A as an argument (namely r, c, e, \sum , and P) depend only on the numbers of rows and columns of A, and the entries of A. Hence all translations of A1 to A5 are theorems of $\overline{V \oplus L}$.

Axioms A6 to A14 translate to simple properties of \mathbb{N} under $+, \cdot, \text{ and } \leq$, which are provable in V^0 (see Chapter III of [CN10]). A15, A16, and A17 translate to simple properties of \mathbb{N} which are easily proved in $\overline{V^0}$ from the definitions $f_{\text{div}}, f_{\text{rem}}$, and f_{φ} .

Axioms A18 to A26 are the axioms that define a field. Section 4.2.2 translates field terms to formulas (where \perp represents 0 and \top represents 1). All these axioms translate into logical tautologies, so they are all trivially provable in $\overline{V \oplus L}$. For example

Axiom A27 defines cond_{field}, and its instances also translate into tautologies.

Axioms A28 and A29 define the row, column, and entry functions r, c, e, and relate them to the lambda terms defining matrices. The translations of these follow easily from the definitions of f_r , f_c , F_{φ} , and are provable in $\overline{V^0}$.

Axioms A30 to A34 define $\sum(A)$ recursively by breaking the matrix A into four parts as illustrated in (4.3). Since the translation of $\sum(A)$ is defined in terms of the parity function *PAR*, the following lemma is useful. It states that if two strings differ on exactly one bit, then they have opposite parities.

Lemma 4.2. $\overline{V^0(2)}$ proves:

 $(X(k) \leftrightarrow \neg Y(k)) \land$ $(\forall i < |X| + |Y| \ i \neq k \leftrightarrow (X(i) \leftrightarrow Y(i))) \supset (PAR(X) \leftrightarrow \neg PAR(Y))$

Proof. To prove the lemma, recall (3.1) that $PAR(X) \equiv Parity(|X|, X)(|X|)$. The proof in $\overline{V^0(2)}$ proceeds by induction on the bits of the witness strings Parity(|X|, X) and Parity(|Y|, Y) computing the parities of X and Y.

To prove the translations of axioms **A28** and **A29** in $\overline{V^0(2)}$ we consider separately the two cases $\neg isMatrix_2(A)$ and $isMatrix_2(A)$. The first case is trivial to prove because then A has zero rows and columns and it has no entries. So we may assume $isMatrix_2(A)$. In that case, according to Section 4.2.3, $\sum(A)$ translates to $\neg PAR(A)$.

Axiom A30 asserts $\sum(A) = e(A, 1, 1)$ in case A has exactly one row and column. Since we may assume $isMatrix_2(A)$, the string A has at most two 1-bits: one is $A(0, \langle 1, 1 \rangle)$ specifying its dimension, and the other possibility is A(1, 1). With the help of Lemma 4.2, $\overline{V^0(2)}$ proves $A(1, 1) \leftrightarrow \neg PAR(A)$, as required.

Axiom **A31** states that if A has exactly one row and at least two columns, then $\sum (A) = \sum (B) + A_{1c(A)}$, where B is the matrix obtained from A by deleting the last entry in row 1. The string Y representing B differs in at most three bits from the string X representing A. Two of these are in row 0, since the dimensions of A and B are different, and the third possibility is X(1, c(A)) versus Y(1, c(A)), where the latter is always 0. Hence $\overline{V^0(2)}$ proves the translation of the axiom using three applications of Lemma 4.2.

Axiom A32 states that if A has only one column, then $\sum(A) = \sum(A^t)$. (See Section 4.1 for the definition of A^t , the transpose of A.) The translation is equivalent to

$$f_c(A) = 1 \land isMatrix_2(A) \supset (PAR(A) \leftrightarrow PAR(B))$$

where $B = F_{\varphi}(1, f_r(A))$ is the term translating A^t . The more general statement obtained by replacing the conclusion $PAR(A) \leftrightarrow PAR(B)$) by asserting roughly that the parity of the first *i* rows of *A* equals the parity of the first *i* columns of *B* by induction on *i*, using Lemma 4.2. The precise statement takes into account the bit in row 0 of each matrix describing the dimension of the matrix.

Axiom A33 asserts that if A has at least two rows and two columns, then $\sum(A)$ is the the sum of the four submatrices pictured in (4.3). The translation asserts that the parity of A is equivalent to the exclusive or of the parities of the four pieces. This is proved by double induction, first by considering just the first *i* rows of both sides, and for the induction step, to consider in addition the first *j* columns of row i + 1.

Axiom A34 assert $\sum(A) = 0$ in case A has 0 rows or 0 columns. Its translation is easily proved.

Axiom A35 is $\rightarrow P(0, A) = I_{r(A)}$. The term P(0, A) is translated $F_p(0, A)$, and the term $I_{r(A)}$ is translated $F_{t^{\sigma}}(f_r(A), f_r(A))$, where t is the term cond(i = j, 1, 0) (see the definition of I_k in Section 4.1). The symbol = in the axiom is really $=_{matrix}$, so the translated axiom asserts that the number of rows, number of columns, and entries of the translations of the two matrix terms, are all respectively equal. Proving this amounts to verifying that all the defined functions have their intended meanings.

Axiom A36 is $\rightarrow P(n + 1, A) = P(n, A) * A$. The proof of the translation distinguishes the two cases $\neg isMatrix_2(A)$ and $isMatrix_2(A)$. The former is easy, since both sides of the equation translate into the zero by zero matrix. $\overline{V \oplus L}$ proves the second case by induction on n. Recall that P(n, A) is translated $F_p(n, A)$, where F_p is defined in terms of Pow_2 , which in turn is defined in terms of $PowSeq_2$ (3.3), whose value is a sequence of successive powers of its matrix argument. The induction proof involves verifying that the translated lambda term defining matrix product in Section 4.1 correctly corresponds to the definition (3.2) defining $Prod_2$ in $V \oplus L$.

4.3. Interpreting LAP into V # L. Now we interpret the underlying 'field' in the semantics of LAP to be the ring \mathbb{Z} of integers. Of course \mathbb{Z} is not a field, so we cannot translate the axiom A21 $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a * (a^{-1}) = 1$ for field inverses. However according to the footnote on page 283 of [SC04], this axiom is not used except in the proof of Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 4.1. We do not need Lemma 3.1, and it is not hard to see that Theorem 4.1 does hold for integral domains (the field inverse axiom can be replaced by the axiom $a*b = 0, a \neq 0 \rightarrow b = 0$ prohibiting zero divisors). It follows that LAP over integral domains proves the hard matrix identities in Definition 1.3 and the equivalence of (i), (ii), and (iii) in Section 1. Thus our interpretation of LAP into V # L will show that V # L proves both of these results, and so Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 hold for V # L.

The interpretation of LAP into V # L is similar to the interpretation into $V \oplus L$. We first translate LAP into $\overline{V \# L}$, and then into V # L, using part (v) of Theorem 3.7. As before, it suffices to show how to translate terms and atomic formulas, since general formulas and sequents are translated by translating their atomic formulas. We do not translate terms or formulas involving the field inverse function t^{-1} .

We use t^{σ} and α^{σ} to denote the translation of LAP terms t and formulas α .

Terms of type index (which do not involve matrices) are translated into number terms in exactly the same way as for $V \oplus L$ (see Section 4.2.1).

Terms of type field (integers) are now translated into strings representing integers in binary, using the functions $+_{\mathbb{Z}}$ and $\times_{\mathbb{Z}}$ described in Section 3.2.

For t and u terms of type field in LAP we interpret:

LAP	V # L	
0_{field}	the empty string \varnothing	
1_{field}	the string "10",	i.e., X such that $X(i) \leftrightarrow i = 1$
a	X_a	field variables map to string variables
$t +_{\text{field}} u$	$t^{\sigma} +_{\mathbb{Z}} u^{\sigma}$	
$t{\text{field}} u$	$t^{\sigma} +_{\mathbb{Z}} (u^{\sigma})'$	where $(u^{\sigma})'$ is identical to u^{σ} , except
		on the first bit
$t *_{\text{field}} u$	$t^{\sigma} \times_{\mathbb{Z}} u^{\sigma}$	
$\operatorname{cond}_{\operatorname{field}}(\alpha, t, u)$	$F^{\mathrm{cond}}_{\alpha^{\sigma}}(t^{\sigma}, u^{\sigma})$	where for each formula φ , define:
		$F^{\rm cond}_{\varphi}(X,Y) = Z \leftrightarrow$
		$(\varphi \land X = Z) \lor (\neg \varphi \land Y = Z)$

LAP terms T of type matrix are translated into string terms T^{σ} representing arrays of binary integers. As in the translation into $V \oplus L$, if T has r rows and c columns, then $T^{\sigma}(0, x)$ holds iff $x = \langle r, c \rangle$. For $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $1 \leq j \leq c$, the binary integer entry T_{ij} is given by $Row_2(i, j, T^{\sigma})$, where Row_2 is defined in (2.3). We need a formula $isMatrix_{\mathbb{Z}}(X)$ asserting that X is a valid encoding of a matrix of integers. This is defined similarly to $isMatrix_2$ for the translation into $V \oplus L$.

The following table shows how to translate terms involving matrices.

LAP	$\overline{V \# L}$
A	A matrix variables map to string variables
$\mathbf{r}(T)$	$f_r^{\#}(T^{\sigma})$
c(T)	$f_c^{\#}(T^{\sigma})$
e(T, m, n)	$F_e(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma}, T^{\sigma})$
$\sum(T)$	$F_{\sum}(T^{\sigma})$
$\lambda_{ij} \langle m, n, t \rangle$	$F_{t^{\sigma}}^{\#}(m^{\sigma},n^{\sigma})$
$\mathbf{P}(m,T)$	$F_p^{\#}(m^{\sigma}, T^{\sigma})$

The functions above with superscripts # are similar to their prototypes for the translation into $V \oplus L$. Thus $f_r^{\#}$ and $f_c^{\#}$ have the same definitions as f_r and f_c except *isMatrix*₂ is replaced by *isMatrix*_Z. The entry function F_e is defined by

$$F_e(i, j, X)(b) \leftrightarrow X(i, (j, b)) \land i > 0 \land j > 0 \land isMatrix_{\mathbb{Z}}(X)$$

The function $F_{\sum}(X)$ sums the integer entries of the matrix X, and is defined in terms of the iterated integer sum function $Sum_{\mathbb{Z}}(n, Y)$ mentioned in Section 3.2 (where Y is a rearrangement of the integer entries of the matrix X to form a linear list).

The matrix term $\lambda_{ij}\langle m, n, t \rangle$ is interpreted by the V # L term $F_{t^{\sigma}}^{\#}(m^{\sigma}, n^{\sigma})$. Here $F_{t^{\sigma}}^{\#}(x, y)$ has additional arguments corresponding to any free variables in t^{σ} other than the distinguished variables i, j. Its bit defining axiom is similar to that of F_t^{σ} , used to translate lambda terms into $V \oplus L$.

$$F_{t^{\sigma}}^{\#}(x,y)(b) \leftrightarrow b = \langle 0, \langle x, y \rangle \rangle \lor \exists i \leq x \; \exists j \leq y \; \exists k \leq b \; (i > 0 \land j > 0 \land b = \langle i, \langle j, k \rangle \rangle \land t^{\sigma}(i,j)(k))$$

The function $F_p^{\#}$ interpreting matrix powering is defined similarly to F_p for the $V \oplus L$ case, except that the functions *Wrap* and *Strip* need to be modified, Pow_2 is replaced by Pow_Z , and *isMatrix*₂ is replaced by *isMatrix*_Z.

To complete the definition of the interpretation, we note that atomic formulas are translated as in Section 4.2.4.

4.3.1. Provability is preserved.

Theorem 4.3. If LAP proves $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k \to \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_\ell$ and none of the formulas α_i or β_j contains a term of the form t^{-1} , then $\overline{V \# L}$ proves $\alpha_1^{\sigma}, \ldots, \alpha_k^{\sigma} \to \beta_1^{\sigma}, \ldots, \beta_\ell^{\sigma}$, where now σ refers to the translation of LAP into $\overline{V \# L}$.

Proof. As in the case for $V \oplus L$, the proof involves showing that the translated axioms (with the axiom prohibiting zero divisors replacing the field inverse axiom **A21**) are theorems of $\overline{V \# L}$, and the translated rules preserve provability in $\overline{V \# L}$. (The proof for each axiom and rule is similar to the proof for the case of $V \oplus L$, except for the field axioms, which we discuss below.) This shows that the translation S^{σ} of a theorem S of LAP is provable in $\overline{V \# L}$, provided that the proof of S in LAP does not use the field inverse axiom **A21**. However Theorem 4.3 makes a stronger claim, namely that the proof of S can use the original axiom **A21**, provided that no term t^{-1} involving field inverses occurs in S. This holds because the theorems S are quantifier-free (semantically the free variables are universally quantified). Reasoning model-theoretically, if S holds for an arbitrary field, then it also holds for an arbitrary integral domain, because the domain can be extended to a field (the field of fractions).

The only LAP axioms whose translations in V # L require proof methods significantly different than for $V \oplus L$ are the field axioms **A18** to **A26** (where we replace **A21** $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a * (a^{-1}) = 1$ by the integral domain axiom $a * b = 0, a \neq 0 \rightarrow b = 0$). Showing that $\overline{V \# L}$ (in fact $\overline{VTC^0}$) proves the commutative, associative, and distributive laws for the operations $+_{\mathbb{Z}}$ and \times_Z over the binary integers is tedious. This is not much different than proving that the operations $+_N$ and \times_N over binary natural numbers satisfy these laws. Some proof outlines and hints for the latter can be found in Section IX.3.6 of [CN10].

5. Conclusion

There are two general motivations for associating theories with complexity classes. The first is that of reverse mathematics [Sim99]: determining the complexity of concepts needed to prove various theorems, and in particular whether the correctness of an algorithm can be proved with concepts of complexity comparable to that of the algorithm. The second motivation comes from propositional proof complexity: determining the proof lengths of various tautology families in various proof systems. To explain these we start by stating the following:

Open Problem 5.1. Can $V \oplus L$ prove the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem or the 'hard matrix identities' (Definition 1.3) over \mathbb{Z}_2 ? Can V # L prove these over \mathbb{Z} ?

The importance of these questions stems partly from Theorem 1.2, which states that the theories prove the equivalence of the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem and two other properties of the determinant, and from Theorem 1.4, which states that the theories prove that the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem implies the 'hard matrix identities'. Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 follow from the corresponding theorems in LAP (for which Open Questions 5.1 also apply), and from our interpretations (Sections 4.2.5 and 4.3.1).

It is possible that these questions (Open Questions 5.1) could be answered positively without answering the corresponding questions for LAP, by using methods not available to LAP. For example a proof in $V \oplus L$ might be able to take advantage of the simplicity of \mathbb{Z}_2 , or a proof in V # L might be able use the algorithmic strength of integer matrix powering (as opposed to matrix powering over an unspecified field) to prove correctness of the dynamic programming algorithm for the determinant in [MV97]. This algorithm is based on a combinatorial characterization of det(A) using clow (closed walk) sequences in the edge-labeled graph specified by the matrix A.

Over the field \mathbb{Z}_2 the hard matrix identities translate naturally to a family of propositional tautologies (and over \mathbb{Z} they translate into another family of tautologies). The motivation for studying these identities is to give further examples of tautology families (like those in [BBP94]) that might be hard for the class of propositional proof systems known as Frege systems. There is a close connection between the strength of a theory needed to prove these identities (or any Σ_0^B formula) and the strength of the propositional proof system required for their propositional translations to have polynomial size proofs. (Chapter 10 of [CN10] gives propositional proof systems corresponding in this way to five of the theories in (1.4).)

In particular, the fact that the hard matrix identities are provable in VP shows that their propositional translations have polynomial size proofs in Extended Frege systems. If the identities were provable in VNC^1 then the tautologies would have polynomial size Frege proofs. If the identities turn out to be provable in one of our new theories, then the tautologies would have polynomial size proofs in proof systems (yet to be defined) of strength intermediate between Frege and Extended Frege systems.

Finally, we point out a lesser open problem. The main axiom for our new theory V # L asserts that integer matrix powers exist, where integers are represented in binary. As explained at the end of Section 2.3 integer matrix powering is complete for the complexity class DET even when restricted to 0-1 matrices, because the binary case is AC^0 -reducible to the 0-1 case. It would be interesting to investigate whether the nontrivial reduction (see [Fon09]) can be proved correct in the base theory VTC^0 , so that V # L could equivalently be axiomatized by the axiom for the 0-1 case rather than the binary case.

Appendix

Appendix A. Details of Lemma 3.3

Recall that in order to show that $PowSeq_2^*$ is $\Sigma_0^B(\mathcal{L}_A^2)$ -definable in $V \oplus L$, we need to show both:

$$PowSeq_2^{\star}(b, W_1, W_2, X) = Y \leftrightarrow \delta_{PowSeq_2^{\star}}(b, W_1, W_2, X, Y)$$

and

$$V \oplus L \vdash \forall b \forall X, W_1, W_2 \exists ! Y \delta_{PowSeq_2^{\star}}(b, W_1, W_2, X, Y)$$

We introduce the AC^0 functions max and S in order to simplify the definition of $\delta_{PowSeq_2^*}$ over $\overline{V^0(2)}$, and then use proposition 2.13 to obtain a provably equivalent $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_A^2)$ formula. Since $\overline{V^0(2)}$ is a conservative extension of $V^0(2)$, this suffices to show that $PowSeq_2^*$ is $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_A^2)$ -definable in $V \oplus L$. In order to do so, we must establish a $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}_{FAC^0(2)})$ formula equivalent to the desired formula $\delta_{PowSeq_2^*}$.

Let the function max(n, W) yield the maximum number from a list of n numbers encoded in string W:

$$max(n, W) = x \leftrightarrow \exists i < n \forall j < n, x = (W)^i \ge (W)^j$$

The string function S can be bit-defined as follows. Consider two strings W_1 , representing a list of b numbers, and X, representing a list of b matrices as above. The function $S(b, W_1, X)$ returns the matrix with matrices X_i (appropriately padded with zeroes) on the diagonal, and all other entries zero. Let $m = max(b, W_1)$. Let X'_i be the $m \times m$ matrix X_i padded with columns and rows of zeroes:

$$m - n_i \begin{cases} X_i & \overbrace{0 \dots 0}^{m - n_i} \\ 0 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \end{cases}$$

Then $S(b, Y_1, X)$ is the string encoding the matrix:

All entries not in the matrices along the diagonal are 0.

The string function S can be bit-defined:

$$S(b, W_1, X)(i, j) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \exists a < b, \exists i', j' < (W_1)^a, i < m \land j < m \land$$
$$i = i' + m \land j = j' + m \land X^{[a]}(i', j')$$

By convention, the unspecified bits (i.e., bits b that are not pair numbers) are all zero. This bit-definition ensures that the string $S(b, W_1, X)$ is uniquely defined.

We will use this matrix $S(b, W_1, X)$ and the existence and uniqueness of its sequence of matrix powers to show the existence and uniqueness of the aggregate matrix powering function.

Let n_{\max} denote $max(b, W_1)$ and k_{\max} denote $max(b, W_2)$. Recall equation (3.3) defining $\delta_{PowSeq_2}(n,k,X)$. By convention, the aggregate function of $PowSeq_2$ is defined as:

 $PowSeq_2^{\star}(b, W_1, W_2, X) = Y \leftrightarrow |Y| < \langle b, \langle k_{\max}, \langle n_{\max}, n_{\max} \rangle \rangle \rangle \wedge$ $\forall j < |Y|, \forall i < b, \left[(Y(j) \supset Pair(j)) \land \delta_{PowSea_2}((W_1)^i, (W_2)^i, X^{[i]}, Y^{[i]}) \right]$ (A.1)

The right-hand side of (A.1) is the relation $\delta_{PowSeq^{\star}}(b, W_1, W_2, X, Y)$; it has a provably equivalent $\Sigma_1^B(\mathcal{L}^2_A)$ -formula $\exists Z < t, \alpha_{PowSeq_2^{\star}}(b, W_1, W_2, X, Y, Z)$, used as the definition for $PowSeq_2^{\star}$ over $V \oplus L$.

It remains to prove the existence and uniqueness for $PowSeq_2^{\star}(b, W_1, W_2, X)$. The functions max and S allow for a straightforward proof based on the existence and uniqueness of the string $A = PowSeq_2(b \cdot n_{\max}, k_{\max}, S(b, W_1, X))$, where $n_{\max} = max(b, W_1)$ and $k_{\max} = max(b, W_2).$

We would like to define the string $B = PowSeq_2^{\star}(b, W_1, W_2, X)$ from A. Notice that B encodes a list of strings, each of which represents a power of the matrix $S(b, W_1, X)$. The string A encodes nearly the same information, but in a different format: A is a list of *lists*, each of which encodes the powers of a matrix from the list X of matrices.

Observe that:

$$S(b, W_1, X)^i = \begin{bmatrix} X'_0 & & & & \\ & X'_2 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & X'_{b-1} \end{bmatrix}^i = \begin{bmatrix} X'_0^{i_1} & & & 0 \\ & X'_2^{i_1} & & & 0 \\ & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & X'_{b-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Also,

$$X_{j}^{\prime i} = \begin{array}{ccc} X_{j}^{i} & \overbrace{0 \ \dots \ 0}^{M} \\ m - n_{j} \begin{cases} 0 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \end{cases}$$

m - n

Thus we can "look up" the required powers of each matrix. Let A and B be shorthand:

$$A = PowSeq_2(b \cdot n_{\max}, k_{\max}, S(b, W_1, X))$$
$$B = PowSeq_2^*(b, W_1, W_2, X)$$

$$B = PowSeq_2(b, W_1, W_2, X)$$

Then we can define $PowSeq_2^{\star}$ from $PowSeq_2$ as follows.

$$B^{[m][p]}(i,j) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad m < b \land p \le (W_2)^m \land i < (W_1)^m \land j < (W_1)^m \land \\ \exists m' < m, m' + 1 = m \land A^{[p]}(n_{\max} \cdot m' + i, n_{\max} \cdot m' + j)$$
(A.2)

Here, m represents the number of the matrix in the list X, p represents the power of matrix X_m , and i and j represent the row and column; thus the formula above defines the bit $(X_m^p)(i,j)$ for all matrices X_m in the list X. By shifting around the pieces of this formula and adding quantifiers for m, p, i, and j, it is clear that (A.2) can be translated into the appropriate form for a Σ_1^B -definition of the graph of $PowSeq_2^{\star}$.

Thus existence and uniqueness of $PowSeq_2^{\star}(b, W_1, W_2, X)$ follow from existence and uniqueness of $PowSeq_2(b \cdot n_{\max}, k_{\max}, S(b, W_1, X))$. Since max and S are AC^0 functions, they can be used without increasing the complexity of the definition (again, by use of proposition 2.13, as above).

APPENDIX B. AXIOMS FOR LAP

Here we use the abbreviations given at the end of Section 4.1, such as $A + B, A^t$ etc. We use A_{ij} for e(A, i, j).

Equality Axioms

These are the usual equality axioms, generalized to apply to the three-sorted theory LA. Here = can be any of the three equality symbols, x, y, z are variables of any of the three sorts (as long as the formulas are syntactically correct). In **A4**, the symbol f can be any of the nonconstant function symbols of LAP. However **A5** applies only to \leq , since this in the only predicate symbol of LAP other than =.

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{A1} \to x = x \\ \mathbf{A2} \ x = y \to y = x \\ \mathbf{A3} \ (x = y \land y = z) \to x = z \\ \mathbf{A4} \ x_1 = y_1, ..., x_n = y_n \to fx_1...x_n = fy_1...y_n \\ \mathbf{A5} \ i_1 = j_1, i_2 = j_2, i_1 \leq i_2 \to j_1 \leq j_2 \end{array}$

Axioms for indices

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{A6} \rightarrow i+1 \neq 0 \\ \mathbf{A7} \rightarrow i*(j+1) = (i*j)+i \\ \mathbf{A8}\ i+1 = j+1 \rightarrow i = j \\ \mathbf{A9} \rightarrow i \leq i+j \\ \mathbf{A10} \rightarrow i+0 = i \\ \mathbf{A11} \rightarrow i \leq j, j \leq i \\ \mathbf{A12} \rightarrow i+(j+1) = (i+j)+1 \\ \mathbf{A13}\ i \leq j, j \leq i \rightarrow i = j \\ \mathbf{A14} \rightarrow i*0 = 0 \\ \mathbf{A15}\ i \leq j, i+k = j \rightarrow j \rightarrow i = k \text{ and } i \nleq j \rightarrow j \rightarrow i = 0 \\ \mathbf{A16}\ j \neq 0 \rightarrow \operatorname{rem}(i,j) < j \text{ and } j \neq 0 \rightarrow i = j*\operatorname{div}(i,j) + \operatorname{rem}(i,j) \\ \mathbf{A17}\ \alpha \rightarrow \operatorname{cond}(\alpha, i, j) = i \text{ and } \neg \alpha \rightarrow \operatorname{cond}(\alpha, i, j) = j \end{array}$

Axioms for field elements

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{A18} \rightarrow 0 \neq 1 \wedge a + 0 = a \\ \mathbf{A19} \rightarrow a + (-a) = 0 \\ \mathbf{A20} \rightarrow 1 * a = a \\ \mathbf{A21}^1 \ a \neq 0 \rightarrow a * (a^{-1}) = 1 \\ \mathbf{A22} \rightarrow a + b = b + a \\ \mathbf{A23} \rightarrow a * b = b * a \\ \mathbf{A23} \rightarrow a * b = b * a \\ \mathbf{A24} \rightarrow a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c \\ \mathbf{A25} \rightarrow a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c \\ \mathbf{A26} \rightarrow a * (b + c) = a * b + a * c \\ \mathbf{A27} \ \alpha \rightarrow \operatorname{cond}(\alpha, a, b) = a \text{ and } \neg \alpha \rightarrow \operatorname{cond}(\alpha, a, b) = b \end{array}$

Axioms for matrices

¹A21 can be replaced by $a * b = 0, a \neq 0 \rightarrow b = 0$ for the purpose of proving Theorems 1.2 and 1.4.

Axiom A28 states that e(A, i, j) is zero when i, j are outside the size of A. Axiom A29 defines the behavior of constructed matrices. Axioms A30-A33 define the function Σ recursively by first defining it for row vectors, then column vectors (recall A^t is the transpose of A), and then in general using the decomposition (4.4). Finally, axiom A34 takes care of empty matrices.

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{A28} & (i = 0 \lor \mathrm{r}(A) < i \lor j = 0 \lor \mathrm{c}(A) < j) \rightarrow \mathrm{e}(A, i, j) = 0 \\ \mathbf{A29} \rightarrow \mathrm{r}(\lambda i j \langle m, n, t \rangle) = m \quad \mathbf{and} \quad \rightarrow \mathrm{c}(\lambda i j \langle m, n, t \rangle) = n \quad \mathbf{and} \\ 1 \leq i, i \leq m, 1 \leq j, j \leq n \rightarrow \mathrm{e}(\lambda i j \langle m, n, t \rangle, i, j) = t \\ \mathbf{A30} \quad \mathrm{r}(A) = 1, \mathrm{c}(A) = 1 \rightarrow \Sigma(A) = \mathrm{e}(A, 1, 1) \\ \mathbf{A31} \quad \mathrm{r}(A) = 1, 1 < \mathrm{c}(A) \rightarrow \Sigma(A) = \Sigma(\lambda i j \langle 1, \mathrm{c}(A) - 1, A_{ij} \rangle) + A_{1\mathrm{c}(A)} \\ \mathbf{A32} \quad \mathrm{c}(A) = 1 \rightarrow \Sigma(A) = \Sigma(A^{t}) \\ \mathbf{A33} \quad 1 < \mathrm{r}(A), 1 < \mathrm{c}(A) \rightarrow \Sigma(A) = \mathrm{e}(A, 1, 1) + \Sigma(R(A)) + \Sigma(S(A)) + \Sigma(M(A)) \\ \mathbf{A34} \quad \mathrm{r}(A) = 0 \lor \mathrm{c}(A) = 0 \rightarrow \Sigma A = 0 \end{split}$$

Axioms for matrix powering

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{A35}^2 &\to \mathbf{P}(0,A) = I_{\mathbf{r}(A)} \\ \mathbf{A36} &\to \mathbf{P}(n+1,A) = \mathbf{P}(n,A) \ast A. \end{split}$$

²This version is from page 45 of [SK01]

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