

LE MATEMATICHE
Vol. LX (2005) – Fasc. I, pp. 93–119

A GENERALIZED SMALL MODEL PROPERTY FOR LANGUAGES WHICH FORCE THE INFINITY

PIETRO URSINO

This paper deals with formulas of set theory which force the infinity. For such formulas, we provide a technique to infer satisfiability from a finite assignment.

1. Introduction.

In 1970 Jacob T. Schwartz launched the computable set theory longterm project [12], which aimed to merge set theory and theoretical computer science with reciprocal benefits. Since then, this research field revealed its pure combinatorial behavior.

Ten years later, M. Breban (cf. [1]) made an attempt to solve the decidability problem for the language consisting of the conjunctions of literals of the following forms:

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 v = w, & v \neq w, & v = \emptyset, & v = u \cup w, \\
 (\dagger) & v = u \cap w, & v = u \setminus w, & v \subseteq u, & v \not\subseteq u, \\
 v \in w, & v \notin w, & v = \mathcal{P}(w), & v = \{w_0, w_1, \dots, w_H\},
 \end{array}$$

Breban was able to solve the problem allowing at most one occurrence of the powerset operator. Indeed, this unquantified language, known as MLSSP (i.e., *Multi-Level Syllogistic with Singleton and Powerset operators*), shows how

Entrato in redazione il 15 Ottobre 2004.

drastically the complexity of combinatorics increases, as one enriches the language with new strong set constructors. In [9] Ferro solved the problem with two occurrences of the powerset constructor; whereas Cantone (see [2]), exploiting a more sophisticated approach, solved the whole decidability problem for MLSSP, without any restriction on the number of occurrences. However, any attempt to use the same simple combinatorial approach to lengthen the list of set constructors (in a non trivial way), crashed against the fact that such languages build formulas which force any model to be infinite. Therefore, one of the main goals in solving advanced decidability problems is to find a way to overcome the impossibility to find finite models not exceeding a fixed size.

Recently (see [7]), the use of formative processes as a *history* of a set assignment gave a new perspective to solve this kind of problems. Indeed, it makes use of the history (or trace) of the model to obtain new information in order to decrease the size of the model up to a suitable one. This observation motivated our interest to the study of a small model property for languages which contain MLSSP.

In [5], we discovered the small model property for MLSSP, and, by means of this result, we built a satisfiability decision algorithm.

If we add to MLSSP particular set constructors, the small model property fails to hold. A rather explicit example is the finiteness operator $Finite(x)$ (meaning that the cardinality of the set designated by x is smaller than \aleph_0). Of course, since we admit negation among propositional connectives, we must also take into account literals of the form $\neg Finite(x)$. Thus MLSSP, extended with the monadic relator $Finite$, “forces the infinity” (informally, a language forces the infinity whenever has inside formulas whose models must be of infinite size). The same happens allowing the unitary union operator $\bigcup(x)$. As consequence, languages which allow the use of this type of operators cannot satisfy the small model property. This gave us the suggestion to focus on the structure of infinite models (in particular, to their combinatorial features). Hence we formulate

Problem 1. *Which combinatorial properties two assignments have to share, in order to satisfy the same MLSSP-like literals?*

Corollary 15 below gives a satisfactory answer to this question. In Corollary 34, we provide an analogous result, but referred to the formative processes of the assignments.

These two corollaries are the tool to prove how a finite assignment can be equipped with a special structure that allows to increase some variables, without affecting the validity of the formula. We agree to denote such variables as *potential infinite variables*, and we find a condition for this property to hold. The above results allow us to investigate

Problem 2. *Even if a language forces the infinity, is it still possible, for any satisfiable formula, to exhibit a finite assignment that witnesses this satisfiability or, in other terms, to show a finite representation of an infinite model?*

This kind of property of languages is here introduced as *witness-small model property*.

Theorem 39 demonstrates how a combinatorial property of a finite assignment to a formula of MLSSPF can witness the satisfiability of literals which require an infinite assignment. More generally, this paper shows how the formative processes can be used in order to prove the witness-small model property in some cases. This result leads to the solution of some open problems, such as the decidability of languages which allow the use of the above-cited set constructors, namely, MLSSP extended with the monadic relator *Finite* (the so-called MLSSPF) [6], and MLSSP extended with the monadic operator $\bigcup(x)$ (known as MLSSPU) [8].

Our method is based on a specific analysis, both of the model and of a formative process which generates it. An detailed treatment of the general features of computable set theory can be found in [3] and [4].

2. Basic notations and background.

For the reader's convenience, we provide in this section brief description of the standard tools used in set computable theory. For usual set theoretic notion we refer to any textbook of the field (see [10], for example), instead a complete survey of the specific notions mentioned in the sequel may be found in [5, § 2].

2.1. Assignments and models. Fix allowed forms for literals. A propositional combinations of literals of such forms is said a *formula*. It is customary to denote *language of set theory* the family of all formulas built with assigned forms of literals. Assume Φ is a formula and let $\mathcal{M} \in \{\text{sets}\}^{\mathcal{X}}$ be a set-valued assignment defined on the collection \mathcal{X}_Φ of variables in Φ . If \mathcal{M} satisfies all the literals, it is said to be a *model* for Φ . A model is *rank-bounded* by k if the rank of any set involved in the assignment does not exceed k .

Definition 3. A language satisfies the *small model property* if there exists a computable natural function f such that for any given formula Φ of that language and any model \mathcal{M} of Φ there is a finite model \mathcal{M}' rank-bounded by $f(|\mathcal{X}_\Phi|)$.

Assume that Φ is a formula of a language, and \mathcal{A} is a set assignment to its variables \mathcal{X}_Φ . We say that \mathcal{A} *witnesses the satisfiability of Φ* (even if \mathcal{A} is not

a model for Φ), provided that the structure of \mathcal{A} allows to infer the satisfiability of Φ . A formula of set theory *forces the infinity* if it possesses a variable x such that, for any model \mathcal{M} which satisfies the formula, $\mathcal{M}(x)$ is of infinite size. From this point of view, a formula which forces the infinity cannot have a finite model, but it could have a finite assignment which witnesses its satisfiability. Hence the following definition makes sense:

Definition 4. A language satisfies the *witness-small model property* if there exists a computable natural function f such that for any given formula Φ of that language and any model \mathcal{M} of Φ there exists a finite assignment \mathcal{A} rank-bounded by $f(|\mathcal{X}_\Phi|)$ which witnesses the satisfiability of Φ .

2.2. Transitive partitions and syllogistic boards.

Definition 5. A family Σ of pairwise nonempty disjoint sets is called a *partition* (of $\bigcup \Sigma$). Its members are the *blocks* of Σ . The set $\zeta_\Sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \wp \bigcup \Sigma \setminus \bigcup \Sigma$ (often denoted simply by ζ) will occasionally be treated as a block of the partition too. In this case, it is called the *outer block* of Σ .

As is well known, the function

$$\Sigma \mapsto \{[X, Y] \mid (\exists b \in \Sigma)(X \in b \wedge Y \in b)\}$$

establishes a one-to-one correspondence between the partitions of a given set S and the equivalence relations on S .

A useful relation \sqsubseteq on $\wp(\wp(S))$ is defined by setting

$$\mathcal{B} \sqsubseteq \mathcal{A} \text{ iff}_{\text{def}} (\forall a \in \mathcal{A})(\exists B \subseteq \mathcal{B}) a = \bigcup B .$$

The relation $\mathcal{B} \sqsubseteq \mathcal{A}$ reads “ \mathcal{B} is *finer* than \mathcal{A} ”, or “ \mathcal{A} is *coarser* than \mathcal{B} ”. This obviously is a *preorder* relation that, when restricted to the set $\wp(S)$ of all partitions of S , \sqsubseteq , becomes a *partial ordering*.

Definition 6. A partition Σ is said to be *transitive* if $\bigcup \Sigma$ is transitive.

We consider a finite set \mathcal{P} , whose elements are called *places* and whose subsets are called *nodes*. Places and nodes will be the vertices of a directed bipartite graph \mathcal{G} of a special kind, called a *\mathcal{P} -board*. The edges issuing from each place q are, mandatorily, all pairs q, B such that $q \in B \subseteq \mathcal{P}$. The remaining edges of \mathcal{G} must lead from nodes to places. Hence, \mathcal{G} is fully characterized by the so called *target function*

$$T \in \wp(\mathcal{P})^{\wp(\mathcal{P})},$$

associating with each node A the set of all places t such that $\langle A, t \rangle$ is an edge of \mathcal{G} . The elements of $T(A)$ are called the *targets* of A . We will usually represent \mathcal{G} simply by T .

Places and nodes of a \mathcal{P} -board are meant to represent the blocks σ , and the subsets Γ (or, quite often, their unionsets $\bigcup \Gamma$), of a transitive partition Σ , respectively. Moreover, in this case, there is a quite natural way to define the above-mentioned directed bipartite graph structure.

For our convenience we define the further operator

$$A \ni \in B =_{\text{def}} A \cap B \neq \emptyset.$$

For any set X , we put

$$\wp^*(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ Y \mid Y \subseteq \bigcup X \wedge (\forall z \in X)(z \ni \in Y) \},$$

that is, the elements of the family $\wp^*(X)$ are all the sets Y that can be obtained by extracting from each $z \in X$ a nonnull $W_z \subseteq z$, so forming $Y = \bigcup_{z \in X} W_z$.

Definition 7. A transitive partition Σ is said to *comply with* \mathcal{G} via $q \mapsto q^{(\bullet)}$, where \mathcal{G} is \mathcal{P} -board, $q \mapsto q^{(\bullet)}$ belongs to $\Sigma^{\mathcal{P}}$ and $T(A) = \{q \mid \wp^*(A^{(\bullet)}) \ni \in q^{(\bullet)}\}$, if the function T satisfies all the properties required by \mathcal{G} , as indicated above (in particular, this requires $q \mapsto q^{(\bullet)}$ to be injective).

Any such board is said to be *induced* by Σ (for short, a Σ -board). We denote a transitive Σ -board by a couple (Σ, \mathcal{G}) , where Σ is a transitive partition and \mathcal{G} is the induced \mathcal{P} -board.

For the purposes of this paper, some additional structure must be superimposed on \mathcal{P} -boards:

Definition 8. A \mathcal{P} -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ is said to be *colored* when it has

- a designated set \mathcal{F} of places,
- a designated set \mathcal{Q} of nodes, such that $D \in \mathcal{Q}$ holds whenever $D \subseteq B \in \mathcal{Q}$ (in short, $\bigcup \wp[\mathcal{Q}] \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$), and
- a target function T .

The places in \mathcal{F} are said to be *red*, the ones in $\mathcal{P} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ are said to be *green*; the nodes in \mathcal{Q} are called \wp -nodes. A node is red if all places in it are red, and green otherwise; a list of vertices is green if all vertices lying on it are green.

Definition 9. Let \mathcal{G} be a colored transitive Σ -board. Then $\widehat{\Sigma}$ is said to *simulates* (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards, when there is a bijection $\beta \in \widehat{\Sigma}^\Sigma$ such that

- $\widehat{\Sigma} \in$ -simulates Σ via β . That is, $\bigcup \beta[X] \in \bigcup \beta[Y]$ if and only if $\bigcup X \in \bigcup Y$, for $X, Y \subseteq \Sigma$;
- $\widehat{\Sigma} \wp$ -simulates Σ via β . That is, $\bigcup \beta[X] = \wp \bigcup \beta[Y]$ if $\bigcup X = \wp \bigcup Y$, for $Y \in \mathcal{Q}$, $X, Y \subseteq \Sigma$.
- $\widehat{\Sigma}$ Red-simulates Σ via β . That is, if $\sigma \in \mathcal{F}$, then $|\beta(\sigma)| = |\sigma|$;

As far as the Boolean constructs $\emptyset, \cap, \setminus, \cup, =, \neq, \subseteq, \not\subseteq$ are concerned, all relevant information about a family of sets is conveyed by the following structure:

Definition 10. Given a family \mathcal{F} , the *Venn partition* of \mathcal{F} is the coarsest partition Σ of $\bigcup \mathcal{F}$ which fulfill the condition

$$(\forall x \in \mathcal{F})(\forall p \in \Sigma)(p \ni x \rightarrow p \subseteq x).$$

Assume that Φ is a collection of literals which have one of the forms (\dagger), and let $\mathcal{M} \in \{\text{sets}\}^{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ be a set-valued assignment defined on the collection \mathcal{X}_Φ of variables in Φ . We denote by $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ the Venn partition of the set $\mathcal{M}[\mathcal{X}_\Phi]$, and by $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}$ the function $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}} \in \wp(\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi})^{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ such that $\mathcal{M}(v) = \bigcup \mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(v)$ holds for every v in \mathcal{X}_Φ .

Remark 11. Observe that any formula Φ with variables \mathcal{X}_Φ of a language resulting from an extension of Multi Level Syllogistic can be modified, without affecting its satisfiability, in such a way any model \mathcal{M} generates a transitive $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ [2], pp. 195–196. Because of that, from now on we shall assume that $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ is transitive, for any model \mathcal{M} of a formula Φ with variables \mathcal{X}_Φ .

Whenever literals as $v = \wp(w)$ and $Finite(v)$ appear in Φ , $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ can be naturally transformed into a colored $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ (i.e., the Σ -board \mathcal{G} induced by $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$), in the following way.

- (a) $\mathcal{F} = \bigcup \{\mathfrak{S}(v) \mid \text{for all literals of the form } v = \{w_1, \dots, w_H\} \text{ and } Finite(v) \text{ in } \Phi\}$;
- (b) \mathcal{Q} is equal to the minimal collection of nodes such that
 - $\mathfrak{S}(u) \in \mathcal{Q}$ for all literals of the form $u = \wp(w)$ in Φ , and
 - $\bigcup \wp[\mathcal{Q}] \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$.

In the above case we refer to such a $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ -board as

the canonical board of the assignment \mathcal{M} to the MLSSPF formula Φ .

Lemma 12. Consider a formula $\Phi \in \text{MLSSPF}$, a set-valued assignment $\mathcal{M} \in \{\text{sets}\}^{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ defined on the collection \mathcal{X}_Φ of variables in Φ , together with the colored transitive $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$. Define Φ^- as the formula Φ without literals of the type $\text{Finite}(x)$ or $\neg\text{Finite}(x)$. Moreover, let be $\widehat{\Sigma}$ a partition and β a bijection between $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ and $\widehat{\Sigma}$ such that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ simulates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards via β , and let $\mathcal{M}'(v) = \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(v)]$. Then, for every literal in Φ^- , the following conditions are fulfilled:

- if the literal is satisfied by \mathcal{M} , then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' too;
- if the literal is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' , and does not involve \wp or the construct $\{-, \dots, -\}$, then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M} too;
- if the literal $\text{Finite}(x)$ appears in Φ and is satisfied by \mathcal{M} , then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' too.

Proof. The thesis can be recast as follows. For u, v, w and w_i in \mathcal{X}_Φ , the following conditions hold for all literals in Φ :

- (1) $\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v) \mathfrak{R} \bigcup \mathfrak{S}(w)$ iff $\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(v)] \mathfrak{R} \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(w)]$, for \mathfrak{R} in $\{=, \in, \subseteq\}$;
- (2) $\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v) = \bigcup \mathfrak{S}(u) \star \bigcup \mathfrak{S}(w)$ iff $\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(v)] = \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(u)] \star \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(w)]$, for \star in $\{\cap, \setminus, \cup\}$, and $\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v) = \emptyset$ iff $\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(v)] = \emptyset$;
- (3) if $\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v) = \wp \bigcup \mathfrak{S}(w)$, then $\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(v)] = \wp \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(w)]$;
- (4) if $\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v) = \{\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(w_1), \dots, \bigcup \mathfrak{S}(w_H)\}$, then $\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(v)] = \{\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(w_1)], \dots, \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(w_H)]\}$;
- (5) if $\text{Finite}(v)$ appears in Φ then $|\bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v)| = |\bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}(v)]|$

Property (1) _{\in} (here \mathfrak{R} is meant to be \in) follows from \in -simulates in Def. 9. (3) follows from the assumption $\mathfrak{S}(v) \in \mathcal{Q}$ and the notion of wp -simulates given in the same definition. Condition (5) plainly follows from definition of *Red*-simulates.

We are left to prove that (4) hold. Observe that $\mathfrak{S}(v) \subseteq \mathcal{F}$, then consider $\mathfrak{S}(v)$ as the set X and Y_i as the sets $\mathfrak{S}(w_i)$. Hence we can assume that $\bigcup X = \{\bigcup Y_1, \dots, \bigcup Y_L\}$, $X \subseteq \mathcal{F}$, and Y_1, \dots, Y_L are distinct. We must check that $\bigcup \beta[X] = \{\bigcup \beta[Y_1], \dots, \bigcup \beta[Y_L]\}$. Since $\widehat{\Sigma}$ *Red*-simulates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) and $X \subseteq \mathcal{F}$, and $|\beta(\sigma)| = |\sigma|$ for each $\sigma \in X$, the desired conclusion easily follows. Indeed, by property (1) of Def. 9, $\bigcup \beta[Y_i] \in \beta(\sigma)$ if and only if $\bigcup Y_i \in \sigma$, and $\beta[Y_1], \dots, \beta[Y_L]$ (and, accordingly, $\bigcup \beta[Y_1], \dots, \bigcup \beta[Y_L]$) are pairwise distinct.

The proofs of remaining bi-implications go exactly as in [5], Lemma 10.1. \square

Definition 13. Consider a colored Σ -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$. A partition $\widehat{\Sigma}$ is said to *imitate* (Σ, \mathcal{G}) when there is a bijection $\beta \in \widehat{\Sigma}^\Sigma$ such that, for $\Gamma \subseteq \Sigma$, $\sigma \in \Sigma$,

- (1) $\beta(\sigma) \ni \in \wp^* \beta[\Gamma]$ holds [if and] only if $\sigma \ni \in \wp^* \Gamma$;
- (2) $\bigcup \beta[\Gamma] \in \beta(\sigma)$ holds if and only if $\bigcup \Gamma \in \sigma$;
- (3) if $\Gamma \in \mathcal{Q}$ holds, then $\wp^* \beta[\Gamma] \subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\Sigma}$;
- (4) if $\sigma \in \mathcal{F}$ holds, then $|\beta(\sigma)| < \aleph_0$.

We will say that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ *imitates* (Σ, \mathcal{G}) *upwards* when the following additional condition holds, for all $\sigma \in \Sigma$:

- (4') if $\sigma \in \mathcal{F}$, then $|\beta(\sigma)| = |\sigma|$;

Lemma 14. *Consider a colored Σ -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ assume that a transitive partition $\widehat{\Sigma}$ imitates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards then it simulates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards.*

Proof. Let Σ and $\widehat{\Sigma}$ be transitive partitions, and let \mathcal{G} be a colored \mathcal{P} -board induced by Σ . Assume that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ imitates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards via the bijection $\beta \in (\widehat{\Sigma})^\Sigma$. Finally, let $X, Y \subseteq \Sigma$.

Then we have: $\bigcup \beta[X] \in \bigcup \beta[Y]$ iff $(\exists \widehat{\sigma} \in \beta[Y])(\bigcup \beta[X] \in \widehat{\sigma})$ iff $(\exists \sigma \in Y)(\bigcup \beta[X] \in \beta(\sigma))$ iff $(\exists \sigma \in Y)(\bigcup X \in \sigma)$ iff $\bigcup X \in \bigcup Y$.

Assuming now that $\bigcup X = \wp \bigcup Y$, $Y \in \mathcal{Q}$, let us prove that $\wp \bigcup \beta[Y] \subseteq \bigcup \beta[X]$. Indeed, suppose $t \subseteq \bigcup \beta[Y]$ and let $\widehat{\Sigma}_t$ be the subset of $\widehat{\Sigma}$ for which $t \in \wp^* \widehat{\Sigma}_t$ (so that $\widehat{\Sigma}_t \subseteq \beta[Y]$, which implies $\widehat{\Sigma}_t \in \mathcal{Q}$ by the hereditarily closedness by inclusion of \mathcal{Q}). As $\beta^{-1}[\widehat{\Sigma}_t] \subseteq Y$, it follows that $\wp^* \beta^{-1}[\widehat{\Sigma}_t] \subseteq \wp \bigcup Y = \bigcup X \subseteq \bigcup \Sigma$. Therefore, by the fact that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ imitates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards and $\widehat{\Sigma}_t \in \mathcal{Q}$, it follows that $\wp^* \widehat{\Sigma}_t \subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\Sigma}$, so that $t \in \bigcup \widehat{\Sigma}$. Let $\widehat{\sigma}_t$ be the block in $\widehat{\Sigma}$ to which t belongs, and let σ_t be the block in Σ for which $\beta(\sigma_t) = \widehat{\sigma}_t$. Then, since $\wp^* \widehat{\Sigma}_t \ni \in \widehat{\sigma}_t$, we have that $\wp^* \beta^{-1}[\widehat{\Sigma}_t] \ni \in \sigma_t$, which yields $\bigcup X = \wp \bigcup Y \supseteq \wp^* \beta^{-1}[\widehat{\Sigma}_t] \ni \in \sigma_t$, so that $\bigcup X \ni \in \sigma_t$, $\sigma_t \in X$, and hence $t \in \widehat{\sigma}_t \in \beta[X]$, which in turn yields $t \in \bigcup \beta[X]$.

Next, assuming again $\bigcup X = \wp \bigcup Y$, let us prove that $\bigcup \beta[X] \subseteq \wp \bigcup \beta[Y]$. Indeed, for each $t \in \bigcup \beta[X]$ there is a unique $\sigma_t \in X$ such that $t \in \beta(\sigma_t)$; moreover, by the transitivity of $\bigcup \widehat{\Sigma}$, there is a unique $\Gamma \subseteq \Sigma$ for which $t \in \wp^* \beta[\Gamma]$. Moreover, since $\wp^* \beta[\Gamma] \ni \in \beta(\sigma_t)$, we also have that $\wp^* \Gamma \ni \in \sigma_t$. Thus we can take $t' \in \sigma_t \cap \wp^* \Gamma$ that, as $\sigma_t \subseteq \bigcup X = \wp \bigcup Y$, fulfills $t' \in \wp^* Z$ for a suitable $Z \subseteq Y$. In conclusion, $\Gamma = Z$, and therefore $t \subseteq \bigcup \beta[\Gamma] = \bigcup \beta[Z] \subseteq \bigcup \beta[Y]$. \square

As an immediate consequence, we have

Corollary 15. *Consider a formula $\Phi \in \text{MLSSPF}$, a set-valued assignment $\mathcal{M} \in \{\text{sets}\}^{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ defined on the collection \mathcal{X}_Φ of variables in Φ , together with the colored transitive $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$. Moreover, let $\widehat{\Sigma}$ and β be a partition and a bijection, respectively, such that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ imitates (Σ, \mathcal{G}) upwards via β , and let $\mathcal{M}'(v) = \bigcup \beta[\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(v)]$, where \mathfrak{S} is the function $\mathfrak{S} \in \wp \Sigma^{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ such*

that $\mathcal{M}(v) = \bigcup \mathfrak{S}(v)$ holds for every v in \mathcal{X} . Then, for every literal in Φ^- and literals of the type $\text{Finite}(x)$, the following conditions are fulfilled:

- if the literal is satisfied by \mathcal{M} , then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' too;
- if the literal is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' , and does not involve \wp or the construct $\{-, \dots, -\}$, then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M} too.

2.3. Formative processes. We now formalize the concept of “history” of a model by a transfinite construction. Using the transitivity of any transitive partition, it is possible to single out a process that builds it, having the empty partition as starting point.

The following notions are introduced to specify this concept.

Definition 16. Let Σ and Σ' be two partitions, and let $\Gamma \subseteq \Sigma$. We say that Σ' *prolongates* Σ via Γ when the following conditions hold:

- (1) for all $\sigma \in \Sigma$, there is one and only one $\sigma' \in \Sigma'$ such that $\sigma \subseteq \sigma'$;
- (2) $\bigcup \Sigma' \setminus \bigcup \Sigma \subseteq \wp^* \Gamma$;
- (3) $\Sigma \neq \Sigma'$.

When just condition (1) is met, possibly without (2) or (3), we say that Σ' *extends* Σ . If both (1) and (3) hold true, then Σ' is said to extend Σ *properly*.

Definition 17. [Coherence requirement] Let Γ , Σ' and Σ'' be partitions, with Σ' extending Γ (typically, $\Gamma \subseteq \Sigma'$) and Σ'' extending Σ' . Then Σ'' is said to extend Σ' *coherently* with Γ if no element of $\bigcup \Sigma''$ belongs to $\wp^* \Gamma \setminus \bigcup \Sigma'$.

Definition 18. Let ξ be an ordinal and let $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}$ be a $(\xi + 1)$ -sequence of functions, all defined on the same domain \mathcal{P} . Put $B^{(\mu)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{q^{(\mu)} \mid q \in B\}$ for all $B \subseteq \mathcal{P}$, and let $\Sigma_\mu = \mathcal{P}^{(\mu)} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$, for all $\mu \leq \xi$.

Assume that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- $q^{(\mu)} \cap p^{(\mu)} = \emptyset$ when $p, q \in \mathcal{P}$, $p \neq q$, and $\mu \leq \xi$;
- $q^{(\nu)} \subseteq q^{(\nu+1)}$ for all $q \in \mathcal{P}$ when $\nu < \xi$;
- $q^{(\lambda)} = \bigcup_{\nu < \lambda} q^{(\nu)}$ for every $q \in \mathcal{P}$ and every limit ordinal $\lambda \leq \xi$;
- $q^{(0)} = \emptyset$ and $\emptyset \neq q^{(\xi)}$, for all $q \in \mathcal{P}$.

In particular, $\Sigma_0 = \emptyset$ and, for every $\mu \leq \xi$, Σ_μ is a partition of the subset $\bigcup P^{(\mu)}$ of $\bigcup P^{(\xi)}$.

Assume moreover that to each $\nu < \xi$ corresponds $\Gamma_\nu \subseteq \Sigma_\nu$ such that

- $\Sigma_{\nu+1}$ prolongates Σ_ν via Γ_ν (cf. Def. 16);
- Σ_ξ extends $\Sigma_{\nu+1}$ coherently with Γ_ν (cf. Def. 17).

Then the sequence $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}$ (occasionally, $(\Sigma_\mu)_{\mu \leq \xi}$) is called a (strong) *formative process* for Σ_ξ . Furthermore, the ξ -sequences $(A_\nu)_{\nu < \xi}$ and $(A_\nu, T_\nu)_{\nu < \xi}$, with $A_\nu, T_\nu \subseteq \mathcal{P}$, satisfying for each ν the conditions

- $A_\nu^{(\nu)} = \Gamma_\nu$,
- $\{q^{(\nu+1)} \setminus q^{(\nu)} \mid q \in T_\nu\}$ is a partition of $\bigcup \Sigma_{\nu+1} \setminus \bigcup \Sigma_\nu (= \wp^* \Gamma_\nu \setminus \bigcup \Sigma_\nu) \cap \bigcup \Sigma_{\nu+1}$

are called the *trace* of the formative process, and a *history* of Σ_ξ , respectively.

A *weak formative process* is like a formative process, except that the coherence requirement is withdrawn from the definition. A *weak trace* is defined similarly.

In the sequel it will be helpful the following simplified notation.

Definition 19. Let $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}$ be a weak formative process. Then, for $q \in \mathcal{P}$, $B \subseteq \mathcal{P}$ and $\nu < \xi$, we set

$$q^{(\bullet)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} q^{(\xi)}, \quad B^{(\bullet)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} B^{(\xi)}, \quad \Delta^{(\nu)}(q) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} q^{(\nu+1)} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu)}.$$

If we take, along with a colored \mathcal{P} -board $(T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$, a bijection $q \mapsto q^{(\bullet)}$ from the places \mathcal{P} to the final partition Σ_ξ of a formative process, and if moreover Σ_ξ complies with $T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q}$, we get what we call a *colored \mathcal{P} -process*: namely, the quintuple $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$.

Definition 20. $e \in \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\bullet)}$ is said to be *unused* at $\mu \leq \xi$ if $e \notin \bigcup \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\mu)}$, i. e., if $e \notin z$ for any $q \in \mathcal{P}$ and any $z \in q^{(\mu)}$.

Definition 21. An $e \in \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\bullet)}$ is said to be *NEW* at $\mu \leq \xi$ if $e \in \Delta^{(\mu)}(q)$ for some $q \in \mathcal{P}$.

Obviously a new element is, in particular, unused.

Lemma 22. *If b is a set made of unused elements only, the same is $\wp^*({b} \cup A)$.*

2.4. Grand events and local trash. We begin with the following easy remark. The block at place s belonging to a \wp -node A cannot become infinite during a colored process, unless A has a green place among its targets. To see that, assume that $s \in A \in \mathcal{Q}$ and $|s^{(\bullet)}| \geq \aleph_0$. Consequently, $|\wp^*(\bigcup A^{(\bullet)})| > \aleph_0$ and $\wp^*(\bigcup A^{(\bullet)}) \subseteq \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\bullet)}$. Hence there must be a place g such that $|\wp^{(*)}(\bigcup A^{(\bullet)} \cap g^{(\bullet)})| > \aleph_0$, since $|\mathcal{P}^{(\bullet)}| = |\mathcal{P}| < \aleph_0$. This obviously implies that $g \in T(A) \setminus \mathcal{F}$.

In light of generalizing the above remark, recalling the notion of grand move, and noticing that such an event occurs, in a colored process, at most once for each node A , we give the following definition of *grand event* $GE(A)$ associated with A .

Definition 23. For every node A and every ν such that $0 \leq \nu < \xi$

$$GE(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{the ordinal } \nu \text{ for which } \bigcup A^{(\bullet)} \in \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu+1)} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu)}, \\ \text{if any exists,} \\ \text{the length } \xi \text{ of the process,} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Moreover, for any given collection \mathcal{A} of nodes, we put

$$GE(\mathcal{A}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min\{GE(A) \mid A \in \mathcal{A}\}.$$

Notice that this Definition implies that for any node A and any ν such that $0 \leq \nu < \xi$,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu \leq GE(A) &\leftrightarrow \bigcup A^{(\bullet)} \notin \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu)}, \\ \nu = GE(A) &\leftrightarrow \bigcup A^{(\bullet)} \in \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu+1)} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu)}, \\ \nu > GE(A) &\leftrightarrow \bigcup A^{(\bullet)} \in \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(\nu)}. \end{aligned}$$

Further elementary properties, whose proofs are left to the reader, are stated in the next lemma.

Lemma 24. Let $(\Sigma_\mu)_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q}$ be a colored \mathcal{P} -process and let $A \subseteq \mathcal{P}$ be a node. Then

- $A^{(\alpha)} = A^{(\bullet)}$, where $\alpha = GE(A)$;
- if $q^{(\nu+1)} \supseteq q^{(\nu)}$, for some $q \in A$ and some $\nu < \xi$, then $GE(A) > \nu$.

Other important related definitions are the following.

Definition 25. A place g is said to be a *local trash* for a node A if

- $g \in T(A) \setminus \mathcal{F}$, i.e., g is a green target of A ;
- there holds $GE(A) < GE(B)$, for every node B such that $g \in B$.

Definition 26. A set \mathcal{W} of places is said to be *closed* if

- all of its elements are green;
- every \wp -node which intersects \mathcal{W} has a local trash which belongs to \mathcal{W} .

2.5. Minus-Surplus refinement. In this section we recall some technical notions to refine the original transitive partition. This procedure stores some elements (the *Surplus* portion of a block) in order to trigger off a construction which is supposed to “pump” elements inside fixed blocks. Conversely, the remaining collection of elements (the *Minus* portion of a block) will be used to copy the original formative process.

We shall adopt the following notation. For a couple of ordinals β', β'' we denote by $[\beta', \beta'']$ the collection of ordinals $\{\beta \mid \beta' \leq \beta \leq \beta''\}$.

We say that a transitive partition Σ is equipped of a Minus-Surplus partitioning if each block q is partitioned into two sets, namely, $Surplus(q)$ and $Minus(q)$. Consistently, we can extend this notation to a formative process $(\Sigma_\mu)_{\mu \leq \xi}$. Given a node Γ , we indicate by $Minus(\Gamma^{(\mu)})$ the collection of sets

$$\{Minus(q^{(\mu)}) \mid q \in \Gamma\}.$$

Define now a Minus-Surplus partitioning for Σ_0 , and assume that for each step μ of the process a refinement of the partition $\{\Delta^{(\mu)}(q)\}_{q \in \Sigma}$ is decided in the following way: for each $q \in \Sigma$ the set $\Delta^{(\mu)}(q)$ is partitioned into two sets $\Delta^{(\mu)}Minus(q) \subseteq \wp^*(Minus(A_\mu^{(\mu)}))$ and $\Delta^{(\mu)}Surplus(q) \subseteq (\wp^*(A_\mu^{(\mu)}) \setminus \wp^*(Minus(A_\mu^{(\mu)})))$.

Then define inductively

$$Surplus(q^{(\mu+1)}) = Surplus(q^{(\mu)}) \cup \Delta^{(\mu)}Surplus(q)$$

and

$$Minus(q^{(\mu+1)}) = Minus(q^{(\mu)}) \cup \Delta^{(\mu)}Minus(q).$$

As far as ξ limit are concerned, we put

$$Minus(q^{(\xi)}) = \bigcup_{\mu < \xi} Minus(q^{(\mu)})$$

and, analogously,

$$Surplus(q^{(\xi)}) = \bigcup_{\mu < \xi} Surplus(q^{(\mu)})$$

If Γ is a subset of Σ , we denote by $Surplus(\Gamma)$ the set

$$\{q \mid q \in \Gamma \wedge Surplus(q) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Definition 27. Whenever a Surplus-Minus partition is defined for all blocks of a transitive partition Σ , we say that Σ is equipped of a *Minus-Surplus partitioning*, and we denote by $Surplus-Minus(\Sigma)$ the following refinement of the original one:

$$\{Minus(q), Surplus(q) \mid q \in \Sigma\}.$$

It is rather obvious that $Surplus - Minus(\Sigma) \sqsubseteq \Sigma$.

Remark 28. Easy combinatorial arguments (see [5, Lemma 3.1 5(b)]) show that $\wp^*(-)$ of Surplus and Minus nodes are mutually disjoint.

The next definition says which structural properties a formative process has to fulfill in order to copy the history of a transitive partition.

Definition 29. Let $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ be a colored \mathcal{P} -process. Besides, let $(\{\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]}\}_{q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\alpha \in [\alpha', \alpha']}$ a formative processes equipped of a Minus-Surplus partitioning. Assume that $q \rightarrow \widehat{q}$ is a bijection from \mathcal{P} to $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$, $\beta'' \leq \xi$, and γ is an order preserving injection from $[\beta', \beta'']$ to $[\alpha', \alpha']$. Let \mathcal{C} be a closed collection of green blocks, and $q \rightarrow \widehat{q}$ be a bijection from \mathcal{P} to $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$. We say that $(\{\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]}\}_{q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\alpha \in \gamma[[\beta', \beta'']]}$ *imitates* the segment $[\beta', \beta'']$ of the process $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi})$ if the following hold for all β in $[\beta', \beta'']$:

- (i) $|q^{(\beta)}| = |Minus^{[\gamma(\beta)]}(\widehat{q})|$;
- (ii) $|\Delta^{(\beta)}(q)| = |\Delta^{[\gamma(\beta)]}Minus(\widehat{q})|$;
- (iii) $\Delta^{[\gamma(\beta)]}Surplus(\widehat{q}) \neq \emptyset$ implies $\beta = GE(A_\beta)$, q local trash for A_β and $q \in \mathcal{C}$;
- (iv) If $\Gamma \in \mathcal{Q}$ holds, then $\wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]})) \subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\Sigma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma)+1)]}$;
- (v) For all $\beta \neq GE(\Gamma) \cup \Gamma^{(\beta)} \in \Delta^{(\beta)}(q)$ iff $\bigcup Minus\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(\beta)]} \in \Delta^{[\gamma(\beta)]}(\widehat{q})$;
- (vi) If $\beta = GE(\Gamma)$ then $\bigcup \Gamma^{(\beta)} \in \Delta^{(\beta)}(q)$ iff $\bigcup \Gamma^{[\gamma(\beta)]} \in \Delta^{[\gamma(\beta)]}(\widehat{q})$;
- (vii) For all $q \in \mathcal{F}$ $\widehat{q}^{[\gamma(\beta)]} = Minus^{[\gamma(\beta)]}(\widehat{q})$;
- (viii) For all ordinals β $\{q \mid \widehat{q} \in Surplus(\widehat{\Sigma})^{[\gamma(\beta)]}\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$;
- (ix) $|\wp^*(Minus(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k)]}| = |\wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k)} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{(k)}|$;
- (x) $|\wp^*(Minus(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k-1)]})) \cap q^{[\gamma(k)]}| = |\wp^*(\Gamma^{(k-1)}) \cap q^{(k)}|$.

Remark 30. We make some simple observations.

- $\wp^*(\Gamma^{(k-1)}) \cap q^{(k)} = \wp^*(\Gamma^{(k)}) \cap q^{(k)}$. Hence, whenever $\gamma(k)$ is the successor of $\gamma(k-1)$, (x) can be rephrased as

$$|\wp^*(Minus(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \cap q^{[\gamma(k)]}| = |\wp^*(\Gamma^{(k)}) \cap q^{(k)}|.$$

- Naturally, (ix) belongs to the structural properties that a formative process has to fulfill in order to simulate another one, although it can be obtained from (i) and (x).
- Assume that (viii) holds at the beginning of the process. Then (iii) entails (viii), therefore, whenever one has to prove inductively the previous properties, it suffices to show that (viii) holds only in the starting step. The same argument holds for (x). Indeed, it can be obtained from (ii), (iii) and (x) of the preceding step.

The following requirements set are to be satisfied by the initial conditions of a transitive partition in order to play the role of starting point of an imitation process (as it is easily seen, they are purely combinatorial).

Definition 31. Let $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ be a colored \mathcal{P} -process, $(\widehat{\Sigma}, \widehat{\mathcal{G}})$ be a $\widehat{\Sigma}$ -board equipped with a Minus-Surplus partitioning, $q \rightarrow \widehat{q}$ be a bijection from \mathcal{P} to $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$, and \mathcal{C} be a closed collection of green blocks. Assume $k' < \xi$, such that (i), (vii), (viii) and (x) of Def. 29 hold in the version $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\gamma(k')} = \widehat{\Sigma}$. We say that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ *weakly imitates* Σ *upwards*, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) for all $\Gamma \subseteq \Sigma$ and $q \in \Sigma$,

$$\bigcup \text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}) \in \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \widehat{q} \text{ iff } \bigcup \Gamma^{(k')} \in \wp^*(\Gamma^{(k')}) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{(k')};$$

- (b) $q \in \Gamma \wedge \text{Surplus}(q) \neq \emptyset \wedge GE(\Gamma) \geq k'$ implies $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma} \in \wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \widehat{q}$;
(c) if $GE(\Gamma) < k'$, then $\bigcup \Gamma^{(k')} \in q^{(k')}$ iff $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma} \in \widehat{q}$ and $\Gamma \in \mathcal{Q}$ implies $\wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}) \subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\Sigma}$.

3. Two structural results concerning Minus-Surplus partition.

The following Lemma relates Definition 31 with the notion of imitating a formative process.

Lemma 32. Let $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ be a colored \mathcal{P} -process, $(\widehat{\Sigma}, \widehat{\mathcal{G}})$ be a $\widehat{\Sigma}$ -board, the latter equipped of a Minus-Surplus partitioning, $q \rightarrow \widehat{q}$ be a bijection from \mathcal{P} to $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$, and \mathcal{C} be a closed collection of green blocks. Assume that $k' \leq \xi$, and that $\widehat{\Sigma}$ weakly imitates upward $\Sigma_{k'}$. Define $\widehat{\Sigma} = \widehat{\Sigma}_{\gamma(k')}$ and, for all $q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}$, $\widehat{q} = \widehat{q}^{[\gamma(k')]}$. Then for all ordinals k'' such that $k'' \leq \xi$ and $\| [k', k''] \| < \omega$ it can be constructed a formative process $(\{\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]}\}_{q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\gamma(k') \leq \mu \leq \gamma(k'')}$ which imitates the segment $[k', k'']$ of the process $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$.

Proof. We construct a formative process by induction satisfying the requested properties (i)-(x).

Concerning the base case $\mu = \gamma(k')$, (i),(vii),(viii)(x) hold by hypothesis, and (ix) holds by Remark 30, since (i) and (x) hold. Assume $k' \neq GE(A_{k'})$. Using (ix) and hypothesis (a) we can define a partition $\bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \Delta^{[\gamma(k')]}(q)$ of

$$\wp^*(Minus^{[\gamma(k')]}(\widehat{A}_{k'})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k')]}$$

such that (ii) and (v) hold, as well. If $k' = GE(A_{k'})$ and $Surplus(\widehat{q}^{[\gamma(k')]}) \neq \emptyset$ for some $q \in A_{k'}$ (otherwise we proceed as before, and condition (vi) is automatically satisfied), then, using (b), interchanging $\bigcup Minus(\widehat{A}_{k'}^{[\gamma(k')]})$ with $\bigcup A^{[\gamma(k')]}$, (vi) is satisfied.

If $A_{k'} \in \mathcal{Q}$ and $\widehat{A}_{k'} = Minus(\widehat{A}_{k'})$, proceed as before (in this case (iv) holds by a straight checking of cardinality starting from (ix)). Otherwise, since (viii) holds, there must exist a local trash $q \in \mathcal{C}$ for $A_{k'}$. Then, construct the partition as before, except for $\Delta^{[\gamma(k')]} Surplus(\widehat{q})$, in which we put the whole remainder

$$(\wp^*(\widehat{A}_{k'}^{[\gamma(k')]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k')]} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \Delta^{[\gamma(k')]} Minus(\widehat{q}),$$

so satisfying (iii) and (iv).

Now, assume all the inductive hypotheses for $\gamma(k)$. Our aim is to demonstrate the case $\gamma(k+1)$. By Remark 30, provided that (iii)[$\gamma(k+1)$] is proven, (viii) automatically holds. Plainly (i)[$\gamma(k)$] and (ii) [$\gamma(k)$] entail (x)[$\gamma(k+1)$] and (i)[$\gamma(k+1)$]. The latter in turns implies the following for all $\Gamma \subseteq \Sigma$

$$(1) \quad |\wp^*(Minus^{[\gamma(k+1)]}(\widehat{\Gamma}))| = |\wp^*(\Gamma^{(k+1)})|.$$

In order to show (ix) we observe that, since

$$\begin{aligned} & \wp^*(Minus(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k+1)]}) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k+1)]}) \\ &= (\wp^*(Minus(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k+1)]}) \setminus \wp^*(Minus(\Gamma^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k+1)]}) \cup \\ & \quad \cup (\wp^*(Minus(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k+1)]}), \end{aligned}$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}})) \setminus \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}} \\ &= \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}})) \setminus \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\Gamma^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}} \\ &= \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}})) \setminus \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})) \cup \\ & \quad \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}}. \end{aligned}$$

Reasoning in the same way, we obtain

$$\wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k+1)} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{(k+1)} = \wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k+1)} \setminus \wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k)} \cup \wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k)} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{(k+1)}.$$

By the induction hypothesis (i) $[\gamma^{(k)}]$ we have $|\wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}}\widehat{\Gamma})| = |\wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k)}|$, and by equation (1),

$$|\wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}}\widehat{\Gamma})| = |\wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k+1)}|,$$

which in turns implies

$$|\wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}})) \setminus \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}}))| = |\wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k+1)} \setminus \wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k)}|.$$

Hence we are left to prove the equality

$$(2) \quad |\wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}}| = |\wp^*(\Gamma)^{(k)} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{(k+1)}|.$$

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma^{(k+1)]}} = \\ &= \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma^{(k)]}})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma^{(k)]}} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \Delta^{[\gamma^{(k)]}} \text{Minus}(q). \end{aligned}$$

If $\Gamma \neq A_k$, by the disjointness of \wp^* we get

$$\begin{aligned} \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k)]} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \Delta^{[\gamma(k)]} \text{Minus}(q) &= \\ &= \wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k)]}. \end{aligned}$$

Plainly, the same is true in the $\overset{0}{-}$ version, thus (2) holds for $\gamma(k)$, by virtue of (ix). Otherwise, since $\bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \Delta^{[\gamma(k)]} \text{Minus}(q)$ is a partition of a subset extract from

$$\wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k)]},$$

we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &|\wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k)]} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \Delta^{[\gamma(k)]} \text{Minus}(q)| \\ &= |\wp^*(\text{Minus}(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(k)]})) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(k)]}| - \sum_{q \in \Sigma} |\Delta^{[\gamma(k)]} \text{Minus}(q)|. \end{aligned}$$

Again, the same holds in the $\overset{0}{-}$ version, and (2) is reached by (i) $[\gamma(k)]$ and (ii) $[\gamma(k)]$. This concludes the proof of (ix)[$\gamma(k+1)$].

Concerning (vii)[$\gamma(k+1)$], observe that $q^{[\gamma(k+1)]} = q^{[\gamma(k)]} \cup \Delta^{[\gamma(k)]}(q)$. By the induction hypothesis (vii) $[\gamma(k)]$,

$$q^{[\gamma(k)]} = \text{Minus}(q^{[\gamma(k)]}).$$

On the other side, since (iii) $[\gamma(k)]$ holds and \mathcal{C} is composed of green places only,

$$\Delta^{[\gamma(k)]}(q) = \Delta^{[\gamma(k)]} \text{Minus}(q),$$

which implies (vii) $[\gamma(k+1)]$.

Regarding (ii)[$\gamma(k+1)$]- (vi)[$\gamma(k+1)$], the argument goes like in the base case. \square

Lemma 33. *Let $((\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$ be a colored \mathcal{P} -process. Moreover, let $((\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]})_{q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\alpha \leq \xi'}$ be another formative process, equipped of a Minus-Surplus partitioning. Assume that, for some $k' \leq \xi$ and $m \leq \xi'$,*

- $\widehat{\Sigma}_m$ weakly imitates $\Sigma_{k'}$ upwards;

- the process $(\{\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]}\}_{\widehat{q} \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\alpha \in \gamma[k', \xi]}$ imitates $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{k' \leq \mu \leq \xi}$, where γ is an injective map from $[k', \xi]$ to $[m, \xi']$;
- $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\xi'}$ has the same targets of Σ_{ξ} ;
- for all $\mu > m \wedge \mu \notin \gamma[k', \xi]$ the following holds: $\Delta^{[\mu]}(\widehat{q}) \subseteq \Delta^{[\mu]} \text{Surplus}(\widehat{q})$;
- if β is the greatest ordinal such that $\beta \in \gamma[k', \xi] \wedge \beta \leq \mu$, if q is a local trash of A_{μ} , and if $GE(A_{\mu}) > \gamma^{-1}(\beta)$, then $\bigcup \widehat{A}_{\mu}^{[\xi']}$ $\notin \Delta^{[\mu]} \text{Surplus}(\widehat{q})$.

Then $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\xi'}$ imitates Σ_{ξ} upwards.

Proof. We prove that the resulting partition $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\xi'}$ fulfills the conditions:

- (0) $q^{(\xi)} \ni \in \wp^* \Gamma^{(\xi)}$ holds if and only if $\widehat{q}^{[\xi']}$ $\ni \in \wp^* \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']}$;
- (1) $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']}$ $\in \widehat{q}^{[\xi']}$ if and only if $\bigcup \Gamma^{(\xi)} \in q^{(\xi)}$;
- (2) if $\Gamma \in \mathcal{Q}$ holds, then $\wp^* \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']}$ $\subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\mathcal{P}}^{[\xi']}$;
- (3') if $q \in \mathcal{F}$, then $|\widehat{q}^{[\xi']}| = |q^{(\xi)}|$.

Along the verification of properties (0)-(3') we refer to (i)-(x) of Def. 29.

- (0) By the fact that the two partitions have the same targets;
- (1) In case $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']} \in \widehat{q}^{[\xi']}$, assuming that it is distributed strictly before m , then $GE(\Gamma) < k'$. Indeed, if not so, by (vi) Def. 29, since $\bigcup \Gamma^{(GE(\Gamma))} \in \Delta^{(GE(\Gamma))}(q)$, we get

$$\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']} = \bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \in \Delta^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \widehat{q},$$

which is impossible, due to the fact that $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']} \in \widehat{q}^{[\xi']}$ is already in $\widehat{q}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]}$, and $\Delta^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \widehat{q}$, by definition, is made of elements of $\wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} q^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]})$. Then, using the fact that $\widehat{\Sigma}_m$ weakly simulates $\Sigma_{k'}$, the result follows. Concerning the right implication, we are left to prove the case when $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']}$ is distributed after or in m . Let j be such an index. By hypothesis, j cannot be outside $\gamma[k', \xi]$, and so $j = \gamma(k)$ for some k . We show that $k = GE(\Gamma)$. By contradiction, let us assume $k > GE(\Gamma)$. Then, by (vi) Def. 29,

$$\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \in \Delta^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \widehat{q}.$$

Observe that, after $\gamma(GE(\Gamma))$, $\widehat{\Gamma}$ cannot change inside the range of γ , on account of (ii) and (iii) of Def. 29. It cannot change for an index j outside, since $GE(\Gamma)$ is greater than the greatest ordinal β such that $\beta \in \gamma[k', \xi] \wedge \beta \leq j$. On the other hand, k cannot be strictly less than $GE(\Gamma)$, since in this case the same argument used for $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']}$ distributed before m and $GE(\Gamma) \geq k'$ applies. Therefore $k = GE(\Gamma)$, and we are done. We

now show the left implication in the case $GE(\Gamma) < k'$. The hypothesis implies that $\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[m]} \in \widehat{q}^{[m]}$. Reasoning as before, we conclude that $\widehat{\Gamma}$ cannot change along the process after m . Finally, assuming $GE(\Gamma) \geq k'$, by (vi) (29) there holds

$$\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \in \Delta^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]} \widehat{q}.$$

Again $\widehat{\Gamma}$ cannot change in the sequel of the process, either along the imitated process, or outside.

(2) Follows plainly from (iv) (29). Indeed, $\Gamma \in \mathcal{Q}$, therefore

$$\wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]}]) \subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\mathcal{P}}^{[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]}.$$

As observed in the previous point, after $[\gamma(GE(\Gamma))]$, $\widehat{\Gamma}$ cannot change either along the imitating process, by (ii) and (iii) (29), or outside, by hypothesis. Thus $\wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\xi']}) \subseteq \bigcup \widehat{\mathcal{P}}^{[\xi']}$.

(3') The red places cannot belong to \mathcal{C} . Hence, by the property (viii), they cannot have Surplus part, which in turns implies that $Minus(\widehat{q}^{[\xi']}) = \widehat{q}^{[\xi']}$. This, combined with $|Minus^{[\gamma(\xi)]}(q)| = |q^{(\xi)}|$, due to (i) (29), leads to the thesis. \square

The following theorem summarizes the previous results and shows which properties two formative processes have to share in order to model the same literals. The proof is a straight application of Corollary 15.

Theorem 34. *Let $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}$, $(\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q}$ be a colored \mathcal{P} -process. Moreover, let $(\{\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]}\}_{q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\alpha \leq \xi'}$ be another formative process, equipped of a Minus-Surplus partitioning. Assume that, for some $k' \leq \xi$ and $m \leq \xi'$,*

- $\widehat{\Sigma}_m$ weakly imitates $\Sigma_{k'}$ upwards;
- the process $(\{\widehat{q}^{[\alpha]}\}_{q \in \widehat{\mathcal{P}}})_{\alpha \in \gamma[k', \xi]}$ imitates $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{k' \leq \mu \leq \xi}$, where γ is an injective map from $[k', \xi]$ to $[m, \xi']$;
- $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\xi'}$ has the same targets of Σ_{ξ} ;
- for all $\mu > m \wedge \mu \notin \gamma[k', \xi]$ the following holds: $\Delta^{[\mu]}(\widehat{q}) \subseteq \Delta^{[\mu]}Surplus(\widehat{q})$;
- if β is the greatest ordinal such that $\beta \in \gamma[k', \xi] \wedge \beta \leq \mu$, if q is a local trash of A_μ , and if $GE(A_\mu) > \gamma^{-1}(\beta)$, then $\bigcup \widehat{A}_\mu^{[\xi']} \notin \Delta^{[\mu]}Surplus(\widehat{q})$.

Consider a formula $\Phi \in \text{MLSSPF}$, a set-valued assignment $\mathcal{M} \in \{\text{sets}\}^{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ defined on the collection \mathcal{X}_Φ of variables in Φ assuming that $(\{q^{(\mu)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{\mu \leq \xi}$,

$(\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q}$ is a colored \mathcal{P} -process for the $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ -board then, letting $\mathcal{M}'(v) = \bigcup [\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(\widehat{v})]$, for every literal in Φ , the following conditions are fulfilled:

- if the literal is satisfied by \mathcal{M} , then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' too;
- if the literal is satisfied by \mathcal{M}' , and does not involve \wp or the construct $\{-, \dots, -\}$, then it is satisfied by \mathcal{M} too.

Remark 35. The same result holds even in more relaxed conditions, revealing its strength when we are looking for small models. Namely, when we prune the process instead of prolongate it. In fact, the previous theorem holds, with an identical proof, provided that the domain of γ contains the following two collections of *salient* ordinals:

$$M_{arrow} = \{\mu \mid k' \leq \mu < \xi \wedge \exists q \in \mathcal{P}q^{(\mu)} \cap \wp^*(A_\mu^{(\mu)}) = \emptyset \wedge \Delta^{(\mu)}(q) \neq \emptyset\}$$

and

$$M_{GE} = \{\mu \mid k' \leq \mu < \xi \wedge \bigcup A_\mu^{(\mu)} = \bigcup A_\mu^{(\bullet)} \in \bigcup P^{(\bullet)}\}.$$

4. Using the Two Structural Lemmas into Set Computable Examples.

Assume that \mathcal{M} is a finite set assignment to the variables of an assigned formula Φ of MLSSPF, which contains literals of the type $\neg Finite(x)$. Obviously, \mathcal{M} cannot be a model for Φ , although it could happen that it satisfies every other literal, except those of that kind. The question is: in this situation could \mathcal{M} witness the satisfiability of Φ ? The answer is positive, as we will show, and the core argument for proving this lies inside a possible history of \mathcal{M} . Indeed, given a formative process for the Venn partition Σ inherited from \mathcal{M} , if we can find an “engine” capable to pump elements inside at least one Venn region for each variable x , such that $\neg Finite(x)$ lies in Φ without affecting the satisfiability of other literals, we reach the desired conclusion.

We will be more precise on the exact meaning of “engine”, and how profitably the results of the previous sections can be used in order to preserve the satisfiability of the other literals even though the size of the assignment of some variables is infinitely increased.

Definition 36. In a \mathcal{P} -board \mathcal{G} , a *path* is an ordered vertex list W_1, \dots, W_k , in which places and nodes are so alternate that W_i, W_{i+1} is an edge of \mathcal{G} , for $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$. A path is said to be *simple* if neither places nor nodes occur twice (i. e., $W_i \neq W_j$ when $0 < i < j \leq k$ and $i \equiv j \pmod{2}$).

Definition 37. In a colored \mathcal{P} -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$, a path

$$\mathcal{C} \equiv C_0, q_0, C_1, \dots, q_n, C_{n+1}$$

where the piece $C_0, q_0, C_1, \dots, q_n$, is simple and $n \geq 0$, devoid of red places, and such that $C_{n+1} = C_0$, is said to be a *simple pumping cycle*.

Given a path \mathcal{D} in a \mathcal{P} -board \mathcal{G} , we denote by $(\mathcal{D})_{places}$ and $(\mathcal{D})_{nodes}$ the collections of places and nodes occurring in \mathcal{D} , respectively. Moreover, given a node B in \mathcal{G} , we denote by $\mathcal{N}(B)$ the collection of all nodes which have nonnull intersection with B .

The following is to be regarded as the engine which increases the size of some places without affecting the validity of the formula.

Definition 38. Let \mathcal{C} be a simple pumping cycle relative to a given colored \mathcal{P} -process $(\Sigma_\mu)_{\mu \leq \ell}, [\bullet], T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q}$, with ℓ finite. Then $\langle q_0, i_0, \mathcal{C} \rangle$ is called a *simple pumping event* whenever we have

- (i) $q_0^{[i_0]} \setminus \bigcup \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{[i_0]} \neq \emptyset, q_0 \in \mathcal{C}_{places}$;
- (ii) $GE(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{C}_{places})) \geq i_0$;
- (iii) $\wp^*(B^{[i_0]}) \neq \emptyset$ (i. e., $\emptyset \notin B^{[i_0]}$), for $B \in \mathcal{C}_{nodes}$.

If Σ is a particular Venn partition $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$, the variables that contain the places involved in the pumping cycle can be considered *potential infinite variables*.

Theorem 39. Assume that \mathcal{M} is a finite transitive set assignment to the variables \mathcal{X}_Φ of an assigned formula Φ of MLSSPF, that satisfies every other literals except those of the type $\neg Finite(x)$. Consider the transitive $\Sigma_{\mathcal{X}_\Phi}$ -board $\mathcal{G} = (T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$, and an associated colored \mathcal{P} -process $((\Sigma_\mu)_{\mu \leq \ell}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$, with ℓ finite. Then there exists a model for Φ , provided there is a simple pumping event $\langle q, i_0, \mathcal{C} \rangle$ such that $(\mathcal{C})_{places}$ is contained in a closed set $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ satisfying the statement:

For each variable x such that $\neg Finite(x) \in \Phi, \mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(x) \cap \mathcal{C}_{places}$ is not empty.

Proof. Let $\langle q_0, i_0, \mathcal{C} \rangle$ be our simple pumping event, where \mathcal{C} is equal to

$$\{C_0, q_0 \dots q_n, C_{n+1}\}.$$

We build a new formative process $((\widehat{\Sigma}_\mu)_{\mu \leq \ell}, [\bullet], T)$, using the original one as an oracle. In the meanwhile, a Minus-Surplus refinement is done. We first define the sequence of the nodes to be used in this new process. Denote

by $\mathcal{A}_\ell = \{A_0 \dots A_\ell\}$ the sequence of nodes used along the given process $((\Sigma_\mu)_{\mu \leq \ell}, (\bullet), T, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Q})$. The following sequence serves to our scope:

$$A_1, \dots, A_{i_0-1} \underbrace{C_1 \dots C_{n+1}}_{\aleph_0 \text{-times}}, A_{\gamma(i_0)} \dots A_{\gamma(\ell)},$$

where, for all j , $A_{\gamma(j)} = A_j$ and the cycle \mathcal{C} is repeated $\aleph_0 - \text{times}$.

In order to define a formative process, we just need to exhibit the way to distribute all the elements produced at each stage. Our strategy consists to follow the old formative process up to the stage $i_0 - 1 = \gamma(i_0 - 1)$, setting $(\{\widehat{q}^{[j]}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{j \leq i_0-1} (\{q^{(j)}\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}})_{j \leq i_0-1}$. Along this segment, we define γ as the identity map; then, we “pump” the cycle in order to create new elements and distribute them. This procedure by transfinite induction increases the cardinality of the blocks inside the cycle, preserving the cardinality of all the blocks not involved in the pumping procedure. In order to do that, we distinguish the elements reserved for the pumping procedure (Surplus portion) from those used for mimicking the old process (Minus portion). The Minus-Surplus refinement that we are about to define will serve such a scope.

Without loss of generality, we assume that at each step the cycle can distribute at least three new elements (otherwise, we can pump the cycle to give at least two elements to every block involved in the cycle). By Definition of simple pumping event, $q^{(i_0)} \setminus \bigcup \mathcal{P}^{(i_0)} \neq \emptyset$, which means that in $q^{(i_0)}$ there are unused elements. Let t_0 be one of these, and define the partitions Surplus and Minus as follows:

- For all $q \neq q_0$ put $Surplus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}) = \emptyset$ and $Minus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}) = q^{(i_0)}$;
- For q_0 put $Surplus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}_0) = \{t_0\}$ $Minus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}_0) = q_0^{(i_0)} \setminus \{t_0\}$;

Since every block involved in the cycle has at least two elements, the set

$$\wp^* \left(\{Surplus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}_0)\} \cup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} \right) \setminus \left\{ \bigcup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} \right\}$$

is not empty. Moreover, by Lemma 22, it is made of unused elements only. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & \wp^* (\{Surplus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}_0)\} \cup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}) \setminus \left\{ \bigcup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} \right\} = \\ & = (\wp^* (\{Surplus^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}_0)\} \cup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}) \setminus \left\{ \bigcup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} \right\}) \setminus \\ & \quad \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \widehat{q}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}, \end{aligned}$$

so that the position

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\text{Surplus}(\widehat{q}_1)) = \\ & = \wp^*(\{\text{Surplus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}_0)\} \cup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} \setminus \{\bigcup \widehat{C}_1^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}\}) \end{aligned}$$

makes sense. The other Δ -set are left empty. Observe that, in particular, for all $q \neq q_0$ this yields

$$\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+2]}(\widehat{q}) = \text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\widehat{q}) = q^{(i_0)}.$$

We then continue defining

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+2]}(\text{Surplus}(\widehat{q}_2)) = \\ & = \wp^*(\{\Delta^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\text{Surplus}(\widehat{q}_1))\} \cup \widehat{C}_2^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+2]} \setminus \\ & \quad \{\bigcup \widehat{C}_2^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+2]}\}), \end{aligned}$$

and all the argument used in the previous step can be repeated.

This procedure will prosecuted until the end of the cycle is reached, that is, the node C_{n+1} . At this step we introduce a slight modification in the construction of the Δ -sets. Namely, we have to restore the cardinality of $\text{Minus}(\widehat{q})$, which was perturbed moving t_0 from the Minus to the Surplus portion, in order to trigger off the pumping procedure. Hence, pick an element t_1 inside

$$\wp^*(\{\Delta(\text{Surplus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]}(\widehat{q}_n))\} \cup \widehat{C}_{n+1}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]} \setminus \{\bigcup \widehat{C}_{n+1}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]}\}).$$

Since we are assuming that at each step the cycle can distribute at least 3 new elements, the set

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]}(\text{Surplus}(\widehat{q}_0)) = \\ & = \wp^*(\{\Delta(\text{Surplus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]}(\widehat{q}_n))\} \cup \widehat{C}_{n+1}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]} \setminus \\ & \quad \{\bigcup \widehat{C}_{n+1}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]}\} \setminus \{t_1\}) \end{aligned}$$

is certainly not empty. Then define

$$\Delta^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}(\text{Minus}(\widehat{q}_0)) = \{t_1\}.$$

Notice that t_1 is unused, and so will be kept along the entire pumping procedure of pumping, since it lies in the Minus portion of \widehat{q}_0 , which is untouched in this

segment of the new formative process. As before, the procedure can prosecute \aleph_0 -times.

Since $q^{(\lambda)} = \bigcup_{\nu < \lambda} q^{(\nu)}$ for every $q \in \mathcal{P}$ and every limit ordinal $\lambda \leq \xi$, it is clear that $\widehat{q}^{[\omega = \gamma(i_0)]}$ is equal to $\bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \widehat{q}^{[(i_0-1)+i]}$ for all $q \in \mathcal{P}$, consistently the Minus-Surplus partition is defined for the stage ω .

By construction, for all $q \in \mathcal{P}$ such that $q \neq q_0$ ($Minus^{\gamma(i_0)}(\widehat{q})$) is equal to $q^{(i_0)}$ while ($Minus^{\gamma(i_0)}(\widehat{q}_0)$) is equal to $(q_0^{(i_0)} \setminus \{t_0\}) \cup \{t_1\}$.

Our aim is to show that the transitive partitions Σ_{i_0} and $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\gamma(i_0)}$ verify the conditions to apply subsequently Lemma 32 and Corollary 34, so proving the satisfiability of Φ .

Concerning the application of Lemma 32, we have to show properties (i), (vii), (viii), (x), and (a)-(c). This is just a bookkeeping argument, and we detail it in the Appendix.

Now the formative process $[\bullet]$ has copied the original one along the segment $[i_0, \ell]$. In order to apply Lemma 34, we need to show that $\widehat{\Sigma}_{\gamma(\ell)}$ has the same target as Σ_ℓ . We simply observe that, if $q^{(\ell)}$ is a target of $\Gamma^{(\ell)}$, there must exist a step i such that $\Gamma = A_i$ and $\Delta^i(q) \neq \emptyset$. Since both the segment $[0, (i_0 - 1)]$ is equal to $[0, \gamma(i_0 - 1)]$, and the segment $[i_0, \ell]$ is imitated by one application of Lemma 32, then $\Delta^{\gamma(i)}(\widehat{q}) \neq \emptyset$ too. On the other side, if $\Delta^{|\alpha|}(\widehat{q}) \neq \emptyset$ for some α , q has to be a target of \widehat{A}_α , so that we are done.

At this point Corollary 34 applies, therefore all literals except those of *Finite*-type are satisfied. Finally, the literals as *Finite*(x) are satisfied as well. Indeed, every block q contained in $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(x)$ lies in \mathcal{F} , and the formative process $[\bullet]$ does not change size of such a block. Also, by hypothesis, for each variable x such that $\neg Finite(x) \in \Phi$, $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathcal{M}}(x) \cap \mathcal{C}_{places}$ is not empty, and the blocks in the pumping cycle are infinitely increased during the pumping procedure. Hence all of them are of infinite size, as well as all the variables containing at least one of them. This in turns implies that all $\neg Finite(x) \in \Phi$ are satisfied by the new model. \square

The above technique provides a valid tool to solve problems which require to build an infinite model. In [8] it is shown that there is a computable function $f(n)$ such that, if a formula Φ in MLSSPF is satisfiable, then there is an assignment rank bounded by $f(|\mathcal{X}_\Phi|)$ which satisfies a slight modification of the properties described in Theorem 39. But then MLSSPF has the witness small property, and is therefore decidable. A similar argument it is used to prove the witness small property for MLSSPU.

5. Open Problems.

2.5. A Decidability Problem. Even if all the problems related to the literals which force the infinity are treatable by the present approach, the decidability of MLSSP extended by the cartesian product binary operator $[x = y \times z]$ is still an open question. Observe that this language forces the infinity. This problem is originally due to M. Davis, who proposed it as a set computable version of the Tenth Hilbert Problem (see [11]).

5.2. A Complexity Problem. Decidability of MLSSP is NP-complete, therefore there is no hope to find a polynomial time bound for our problems. Nevertheless, the witness small model property furnishes double exponential decision algorithms. An exponential bound could be a good platform to perform polynomial time for special cases.

Appendix.

Here we exhibit a complete verification of the properties requested for the application of Lemma 32 within the proof of Theorem 39.

- (i) First assume $q \neq q_0$. By construction, only Surplus sides are increased along pumping procedure. Therefore $q^{(i_0)} = \text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{q}$. Otherwise, observe that $\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{q} = (q^{(i_0)} \setminus \{t_0\}) \cup \{t_1\}$, hence $|q^{(i_0)}| = |\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{q}|$.
- (vii) Observe that $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ is composed of green blocks only. Therefore, if $q \in \mathcal{F}$, by hypothesis q cannot belong to \mathcal{C}_{places} , but the only blocks whose size is increased are inside \mathcal{C}_{places} , hence $q^{(i_0)} = \text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{q} = \widehat{q}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}$.
- (viii) Trivial.
- (x) Assume $q_0 \notin \Gamma$. In this case, $\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{\Gamma} = \text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)]}\widehat{\Gamma}$. Therefore, for all block q ,

$$\wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)]}\widehat{\Gamma}) \cap q^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} = \wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{\Gamma}) \cap q^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}.$$

Along the pumping procedure, only the Surplus nodes are used. Since \wp^* of the Surplus nodes are always disjoint from the Minus ones, we can prolongate the previous chain of equalities with

$$\wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{\Gamma}) \cap q^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} = \wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}\widehat{\Gamma}) \cap q^{[\gamma(i_0)]}.$$

On the other hand,

$$\wp^*(\Gamma^{(i_0-1)}) \cap q^{(i_0)} = \wp^*(\Gamma^{(i_0)}) \cap q^{(i_0)}.$$

Finally, by construction,

$$\wp^*(\Gamma^{(i_0-1)}) \cap q^{(i_0)} = \wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)]}(\widehat{\Gamma})) \cap \widehat{q}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}.$$

In the other case, observe that t_1 is new at the step $\gamma(i_0 - 1) + n + 1$. Thus everything created from t_1 cannot be inside any block q before its distribution, neither in the segment $[\gamma(i_0 - 1) + n + 1, \gamma(i_0)]$, for only the Surplus nodes are used, and t_1 is in the Minus side of block q_0 . This yields

$$\wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)]}(\widehat{\Gamma})) \cap q^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]} = \wp^*(\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}(\widehat{\Gamma})) \cap q^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+1]}.$$

The prosecution of the argument follows exactly the one of the former case.

- (a) If $q_0 \in \Gamma$, the property trivially holds since t_0 is new at the step i_0 ; therefore $\bigcup \Gamma$ cannot have been distributed at the stage i_0 . On the other hand t_1 , which belongs to $\text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n+1]}(\widehat{\Gamma})$, is new at the step $\gamma(i_0 - 1) + n + 1$. Hence $\bigcup \text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0-1)+n]}(\widehat{\Gamma})$ cannot have been distributed at the stage $\gamma(i_0 - 1) + n$. Again, the Minus nodes are unused along the pumping procedure, hence $\bigcup \text{Minus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}(\widehat{\Gamma})$ is not distributed at the limit step $\gamma(i_0)$ as well. Conversely, if $q_0 \notin \Gamma$, the result easily follow by standard arguments from the fact that the Minus portion of Γ and the original Γ are equal at the stage $\gamma(i_0)$, and the Minus nodes are unused along the pumping procedure.
- (b) $\text{Surplus}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}(q) \neq \emptyset$ and $q \in \Gamma$, therefore the node Γ is changed along the pumping procedure. By construction, $\bigcup \Gamma$ is never distributed along pumping procedure, so

$$\bigcup \widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(i_0)]} \in \wp^*(\widehat{\Gamma}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}) \setminus \bigcup_{q \in \Sigma} \widehat{q}^{[\gamma(i_0)]}.$$

- (c) Easily follows from the fact that after a grand event nothing changes in the formative process, and from (ii) of Def. 38, which asserts that $GE(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{C}_{places})) \geq i_0$.

REFERENCES

- [1] M. Breban - A. Ferro, *Decision procedures for elementary sublanguages of set theory. III. Formulas involving a limited number of occurrences of the powerset and general union operators*, Adv. Appl. Math., 5 (1984), pp. 147–215.
- [2] D. Cantone, *Decision procedures for elementary sublanguages of Set Theory: X. Multilevel syllogistic extended by the singleton and powerset operators*, J. of Automated Reasoning, 7 (1991) pp. 193–230.
- [3] D. Cantone - A. Ferro - E. G. Omodeo, *Computable set theory. Vol. 1*, Int. Series of Monographs on Computer Science Oxford University Press, 1989.
- [4] D. Cantone - E. G. Omodeo - A. Policriti, *Set Theory for Computing – From decision procedures to declarative programming with sets*, Texts and Monographs in Computer Science. Springer-Verlag 2001.
- [5] D. Cantone - E. G. Omodeo - P. Ursino, *Formative processes with applications to the decision problem in set theory: I. Powerset and singleton operators*, Information and Computation, 172 (2002) pp. 165–201.
- [6] D. Cantone - E. G. Omodeo - P. Ursino, *Formative processes with applications to the decision problem in set theory: II Powerset and singleton operators, Finiteness predicate*, to appear (available on line in arXiv).
- [7] D. Cantone - P. Ursino, *A unifying approach to computable set theory*, Proceedings of Logic Colloquium 1997, Leeds, UK, 6 - 13 July 1997.
- [8] D. Cantone - P. Ursino, *Formative processes with applications to the decision problem in set theory: III. Powerset, singleton and generalized union operators*, to appear.
- [9] A. Ferro, *Decision procedures for some classes of unquantified set theoretic formulae*, Ph. D thesis, New York University -GSAS, Courant Inst. of Math Sciences, 1981.
- [10] T. Jech, *Set theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1978.
- [11] Y.V. Matiassevitch, *Hilbert's Tenth Problem*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1993.
- [12] J.T. Schwartz, *A Survey of Program Proof Technology*, Tech. Report, 1, Comp. Sci. Dept., New York University.

*Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica,
Università di Catania,
Viale Andrea Doria 6, 95125 Catania (ITALY)
e-mail: ursino@dmi.unict.it*