TYPE-AMALGAMATION PROPERTIES AND POLYGROUPOIDS IN STABLE THEORIES

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ABSTRACT. We show that in a stable first-order theory, the failure of higher-dimensional type amalgamation can always be witnessed by algebraic structures we call *n*-ary poly-groupoids. This generalizes a result of Hrushovski in [15] that failures of 4-amalgamation are witnessed by definable groupoids (which correspond to 2-ary polygroupoids in our terminology). The *n*-ary polygroupoids are definable in a mild expansion of the language (adding a predicate for a Morley sequence).

INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINE OF RESULTS

This paper provides a characterization of the failure of type amalgamation properties in a stable first-order theory T in terms of definable algebraic objects. Suppose that n is the smallest integer such that T fails to have (n + 2)-amalgamation (we explain what this means in the next paragraph). We give a method for constructing an algebraic object \mathcal{H} in T which we call an *n*-ary polygroupoid that witnesses this failure of amalgamation and which is definable in a mild expansion of the language of T (adding a predicate for a Morley sequence). This generalizes to higher dimensions the results of Hrushovski in [15] relating failures of 3-uniqueness (or 4-amalgamation) to definable groupoids. In future work, we hope to apply these results this to construct a canonical minimal expansion $T^* \supseteq T$ to new sorts which has *n*-amalgamation for *every* integer *n* by a natural generalization of Hrushovski's method in [15] of eliminating "groupoid imaginaries."

Background on type amalgamation. The amalgamation properties considered in this article concern the simultaneous realization of systems of types. By a *type* we mean a collection of formulas $p(\overline{x})$ with free variables from a possibly infinite tuple \overline{x} which is consistent with T, and the systems of types which we consider are of the form

$$\{p_s(\overline{x}_s): s \subsetneq \{1, \dots, n\}\}\$$

where p_s is the complete type of a set of |s| elements which are independent over a fixed base set (which we can take to be some realization of p_{\emptyset}). The theory T has n-amalgamation (or nexistence) if systems of the type above always have consistent unions, and T has n-uniqueness if there is never more than one way to amalgamate such a system. In Subsection 1.2 below we give different-looking definitions of the amalgamation properties in terms of elementary maps between *realizations* of the types p_s . Applications of the type-amalgamation properties in simple theories include the construction of canonical bases via 3-amalgamation and a version of the group configuration theorem under the hypothesis of 4-amalgamation over

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models (see [4]). See also the recent work of Sustretov ([22]) which recasts 4-amalgamation in terms of Morita equivalence of definable groupoids and gives some applications concerning the interpretability of non-standard Zariski structures.

It was first pointed out by Shelah that any stable T has 2-uniqueness and 3-amalgamation, at least if we replace T with the "harmless" canonical extension to additional sorts, T^{eq} (see [21]). This is now folklore in the field of model theory. More recently, Hrushovski (in [15]) developed an intriguing generalization of this, proving that for a stable theory for which $T = T^{eq}$, the following are equivalent: 3-uniqueness; 4-amalgamation; any finitary definable connected groupoid is "eliminable" (definably equivalent, in a category theory sense, to a group); and any finite internal cover of T is almost split. Using groupoid imaginaries, one can then construct a canonical minimal expansion of T to new sorts which has 4-amalgamation. Hrushovski posed the problem of how to generalize this to higher dimensions.

Summary of results. Section 1 is devoted to defining all the type amalgamation properties we will use in this paper (*n*-existence, *n*-uniqueness, B(n), and others) and reviewing some basic facts concerning these properties.

In Section 2, we define the general concepts of n-ary quasigroupoids and n-ary polygroupoids and study some of their basic properties. An n-ary polygroupoid is just and n-ary quasigroupoid which satisfies an additional "associativity" axiom which generalizes the associativity of composition in an ordinary groupoid; see Definition 2.10 below.

In Section 3, we prove our main result of the paper (Theorem 3.3): in a stable theory with $(\leq n)$ -uniqueness but not (n + 1)-uniqueness, then this failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness is witnessed by an *n*-ary polygroupoid which is "almost definable." More precisely, to make one of the sorts in the polygroupoid definable, in general we would need to add a unary predicate for a Morley sequence to make one of the sorts definable, but relative to this the rest of the structure is first-order definable in the language of T.

Finally, in Section 4 we define a family of canonical examples of connected *n*-ary polygroupoids and study their first-order theories (which we call $T_{G,n}$, where $n \ge 2$ is an integer and G is a finite abelian group).

Previously studied examples. The polygroupoids described in this paper are closely related to the structure described by Hrushovski in Example 4.7b of [14] and simultaneously extend two other previously-studied families of examples.

One such family was described by Pastori and Spiga. In [18], they construct a family of complete theories T_n (for $n \ge 2$) which are totally categorical, stable, have k-existence for every $k \le n + 1$, but do not have (n + 2)-existence. For the case n = 2, the theory T_2 is, up to interdefinability, exactly Hrushovski's original example of failure of 4-existence that appeared in [4].

The theories T_n are (up to bi-interpretability) just the theories $T_{G,n}$ for $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ as constructed below in Section 4, so our examples can be seen as a natural generalization of those in [18] to an arbitrary abelian group. In the notation of [18], there is a basic indiscernible set Ω (what we would call "I") and sorts for $[\Omega]^n$ (all *n*-element subsets of Ω) and for $[\Omega]^n \times \mathbb{F}_2$, for the "fiber elements" (what we call the sort P).

The approach of [18] is to describe the structures via their permutation groups using the machinery of modules over infinite symmetric groups. We note that it is not immediately

clear how to generalize the techniques of [18] beyond the context of characteristic 2 since a crucial lemma of that paper, Proposition 2.2, is false over fields of odd characteristic.

On the other hand, Hrushovski in [15] essentially showed that the theories that we call $T_{G,2}$ below (that is, the theory of a connected infinite groupoid with $Mor(a, a) \cong G$) canonically witness the failure of 4-existence in a stable theory. The theories we will define as $T_{G,n}$ in Section 4 below are a simultaneous generalization of these groupoids and the examples T_n of [18].

Notation and conventions. Throughout this paper, T will denote a complete, multisorted theory with elimination of imaginaries $(T = T^{eq})$ and with a monster model $\mathfrak{C} \models T$ (that is, \mathfrak{C} is κ -saturated and strongly κ -homogeneous from some "large" cardinal κ which is bigger than $2^{|T|}$ and any of the other sets under consideration). Unless otherwise specified, all elements and sets come from \mathfrak{C} .

Throughout the article, [n] refers to the *n*-element set $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ (and not $\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$, as is more common in algebraic topology).

For any set A and any integer $n \ge 1$, $A^{(n)}$ denotes the set of all ordered tuples from A^n consisting of n distinct elements. $A^{(\le n)}$ denotes $A^{(1)} \cup \ldots \cup A^{(n)}$.

Often we will refer to finite indexed sets of elements such as $\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$. In this context, if $s \subseteq [n]$, then we will write A_s for the set $\{a_i : i \in s\}$ and we will write \overline{A}_s for $\operatorname{acl}(A_s)$. The capital letters are to distinguish these from the *ordered tuples* \overline{a}_s which we will sometimes refer to (for example, in Definition 1.19 below).

1. The type amalgamation properties (n-existence and n-uniqueness)

1.1. **Definitions and basic facts.** In this subsection, we briefly review the definitions of the type amalgamation properties that we will use in this paper (*n*-existence or *n*-amalgamation, and *n*-uniqueness). This is to make the current paper more self-contained; more details can be found in [9]. Our "functorial" approach to the amalgamation properties comes from Hrushovski ([15]), and these properties were studied even earlier by researchers in simple theories (for example, in [16]).

Everywhere below, we will assume that T is a simple theory so that we have the standard well-behaved notion of independence (nonforking) from model theory.

Let $\mathcal{P}^{-}([n]) = \{s : s \subsetneq [n]\}$. If $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}([n])$ is closed under subsets, we view S as a category, where the objects are the elements of S and morphisms are the inclusion maps. Let \mathcal{C} be a category whose objects are all algebraically closed subsets of \mathfrak{C} and whose morphisms are the elementary maps (which are not always surjective).

Definition 1.1. An *n*-amalgamation problem is a functor $\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{P}^{-}([n]) \to \mathcal{C}$. A solution to an *n*-amalgamation problem \mathcal{A} is a functor $\mathcal{A}' : \mathcal{P}([n]) \to \mathcal{C}$ that extends \mathcal{A} .

We say that \mathcal{A} is an amalgamation problem *over* the set $\mathcal{A}(\emptyset)$ (which is also called the "base set").

Definition 1.2. If S is a subset of [n] closed under subsets and $\mathcal{A} : S \to \mathcal{C}$ is a functor, then for $s \subseteq t \in S$, let the *transition map*

$$\mathcal{A}_{s,t}:\mathcal{A}(s)\to\mathcal{A}(t)$$

be the image of the inclusion $s \subseteq t$. Functoriality implies that $\mathcal{A}_{t,u} \circ \mathcal{A}_{s,t} = \mathcal{A}_{s,u}$ whenever the composition is defined.

Notation 1.3. If S is a subset of [n] closed under subsets, $\mathcal{A} : S \to \mathcal{C}$ is a functor, and $s \subset t \in S$, we use the symbol $\mathcal{A}_t(s)$ to denote the subset $\mathcal{A}_{s,t}(\mathcal{A}(s))$ of $\mathcal{A}(t)$.

If $\mathcal{A}: \mathcal{P}([n]) \to \mathcal{C}$ is a functor, then \mathcal{A}^- denotes the functor $\mathcal{A} \upharpoonright \mathcal{P}^-([n])$.

Definition 1.4. Suppose that S is a subset of $\mathcal{P}([n])$ closed under subsets and $\mathcal{A} : S \to \mathcal{C}$ is a functor.

- (1) We say that \mathcal{A} is *independent* if for every nonempty $s \in S$, $\{\mathcal{A}_s(\{i\}) : i \in s\}$ is an $\mathcal{A}_s(\emptyset)$ -independent set.
- (2) We say that \mathcal{A} is *closed* if for every nonempty $s \in S$,

$$\mathcal{A}(s) = \operatorname{acl} \left(\cup \left\{ \mathcal{A}_s(\{i\}) : i \in s \right\} \right).$$

(3) We say that \mathcal{A} is over B if $\mathcal{A}(\emptyset) = B$ and every transition map $\mathcal{A}_{s,t}$ fixes B pointwise.

Definition 1.6. Two solutions \mathcal{A}' and \mathcal{A}'' of the *n*-amalgamation problem \mathcal{A} are *isomorphic* if there is an elementary map $\sigma : \mathcal{A}'([n]) \to \mathcal{A}''([n])$ such that for any $s \subsetneq [n]$,

$$\sigma \circ \mathcal{A}'_{s,[n]} = \mathcal{A}''_{s,[n]}.$$

They are *isomorphic over* B if \mathcal{A}' , \mathcal{A}'' are both over B and the isomorphism σ can be chosen so that it fixes B pointwise.

- **Definition 1.7.** (1) A theory T has *n*-existence, equivalently *n*-amalgamation, if every closed independent *n*-amalgamation problem has an independent solution.
 - (2) A theory T has n-uniqueness if whenever a closed independent n-amalgamation problem \mathcal{A} has closed independent solutions \mathcal{A}' and \mathcal{A}'' , then the solutions \mathcal{A}' and \mathcal{A}'' must be isomorphic.
 - (3) T has (< n)-uniqueness if it has k-uniqueness for every k such that $2 \le k < n$. Similarly for $(\le n)$ -uniqueness, (< n)-amalgamation, et cetera.

Note that the existence of non-forking extensions of types and the independence theorem implies that *any* simple theory has both 2- and 3-existence. In addition, stationarity is equivalent to 2-uniqueness property, so any stable theory has 2-uniqueness.

Various useful equivalent definitions of n-existence and n-uniqueness can be found in [9] and [15], of which we recall some of them below.

Definition 1.8. Let T be a theory and $A \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ be a small algebraically closed set.

- (1) T has *n*-existence over A if every closed independent *n*-amalgamation problem \mathcal{A} over A has an independent solution.
- (2) T has *n*-uniqueness over A if every closed independent *n*-amalgamation problem over A has at most one independent solution modulo isomorphism over A.

Remark 1.9. In considering the amalgamation properties, without loss of generality one can restrict attention to closed independent functors \mathcal{A} in which every transition map fixes $\mathcal{A}(\emptyset)$ pointwise. Therefore it follows immediately from the definitions that T has n-existence if and only if T has n-existence over every algebraically closed A, and similarly for the uniqueness properties. However, having n-existence over A does not necessarily imply having n-existence over every algebraically closed $B \supseteq A$, as observed in Remark 3.3 of [11]. **Proposition 1.10.** (See Section 1 of [4]) If T is stable and $M \models T$, then T has n-existence over M for every n.

The next fact below is important for us in the current paper since it immediately implies that to check that T has n-existence and n-uniqueness for every n, it suffices just to check the n-uniqueness properties:

Proposition 1.11. Let T be stable with (< n)-uniqueness (for some $n \ge 3$). Then T has n-uniqueness if and only if T has (n + 1)-amalgamation.

Proof. Mostly, this is straightforward diagram-chasing. See Section 3 of [9] for a proof, or 4.1 of [15] for the left-to-right direction. \dashv

A stable theory may fail 3-uniqueness, or have (< n)-uniqueness but not *n*-uniqueness for any $n \ge 3$; examples of this were given in [18], and in Section 4 we will give a more general class of examples via polygroupoids.

Finally, we recall some variants of the amalgamation properties which will be useful to us later. For further discussion and proofs of the facts below, see [9].

Definition 1.12. Given a tuple $\overline{a} = (a_1, \ldots, a_k)$ and a set B, let

$$\partial_B(\overline{a}) := \operatorname{dcl}\left(\bigcup_{i \in \{1,\dots,k\}} \operatorname{acl}_B(A_{[k] \setminus \{i\}})\right).$$

If $B = \emptyset$, we omit it.

Definition 1.13. If $A \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$, we say that B(n) holds over A if for every A-independent set $\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\},\$

$$\partial_{A\cup\{a_n\}}(a_1,\ldots,a_{n-1})\cap\operatorname{acl}_A(a_1,\ldots,a_{n-1})=\partial_A(a_1,\ldots,a_{n-1}).$$

The theory T has B(n) if it has B(n) over every $A \subseteq C$.

Fact 1.14. (See Proposition 3.14 of [9]) If T is stable and has (n-1)-uniqueness, then T has n-uniqueness if and only if T has B(n). In particular, for stable T, B(3) is equivalent to 3-uniqueness (since any stable theory has 2-uniqueness).

We recall an alternative formulation of the property B(n) established in [9], Lemma 3.3 (with slight changes in the notation for consistency). Here and throughout, "Aut(C/B)" denotes the set of all restrictions to $C \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ of elementary maps $\varphi \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/B)$ which map C onto C.

Fact 1.15. In any simple theory T and $n \ge 2$, the following are equivalent:

- (1) T has B(n+1) over the set B;
- (2) For any B-independent set $\{c_1, \ldots, c_{n+1}\}$, any map

 $\varphi \in \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{acl}_B(c_1,\ldots,c_n)/\partial_B(c_1,\ldots,c_n))$

can be extended to some $\tilde{\varphi} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/\partial_{B \cup \{c_{n+1}\}}(c_1,\ldots,c_n)).$

Definition 1.16. If $A \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ and $k \ge n$, then T has relative (n, k)-uniqueness over A if for every A-independent collection of algebraically closed sets a_1, \ldots, a_k from \mathfrak{C}^{eq} , each containing A, and for any collection of functions $\{\varphi_u : u \subset_{n-1} \{1, \ldots, k\}\}$ such that:

(1) φ_u is an elementary map from $\operatorname{acl}_A(\overline{a}_u)$ onto itself; and

(2) for any $v \subsetneq u$, φ_u fixes $\operatorname{acl}_A(\overline{a}_v)$ pointwise,

then the union

$$\bigcup_{u \subset n-1\{1,\dots,k\}} \varphi_u$$

is an elementary map.

Fact 1.17. (See Lemma 4.4 of [9]) If T is stable and has B(n) over A (for $n \ge 3$), then T has relative (n, k)-uniqueness over A for every $k \ge n$. In particular, if T is stable and has both (n-1)-uniqueness and n-uniqueness over A, then T has relative (n, k)-uniqueness over A.

Lemma 1.18. Suppose that T is stable and has $(\leq n)$ -uniqueness. Suppose, moreover, that we are given two independent sets $\{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$ and $\{b_1, \ldots, b_k\}$ and a system of elementary bijections

$$\varphi_s: \overline{A}_s \to \overline{B}_s$$

indexed by all the $s \subseteq [k]$ with size at most n-1 (recalling the notational convention that $\overline{A}_s := \operatorname{acl}(\{a_i : i \in s\}))$, and that $t \subseteq s$ implies φ_s extends φ_t . Then there is a single elementary map

$$\varphi:\overline{A}_{[k]}\to\overline{B}_{[k]}$$

which extends every map φ_s .

Proof. Begin with any elementary map $\varphi_0 : \overline{A}_{[k]} \to \overline{B}_{[k]}$ such that $\varphi_0(a_i) = b_i$ for every $i \in [k]$. Next, we recursively build a series of elementary bijections $\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_{n-1}$ of $\overline{B}_{[k]}$ such that for each $j \leq n-1$, the map

$$\varphi_j \circ \varphi_{j-1} \circ \ldots \circ \varphi_1 \circ \varphi_0$$

extends every φ_s such that $|s| \leq j$: given a series of such maps $\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_{j-1}$ for some $j \leq n-1$, use the fact that T has relative (j+1,k)-uniqueness (by Fact 1.17 above) to build the map φ_j . Finally, let $\varphi = \varphi_{n-1} \circ \varphi_{n-2} \circ \ldots \circ \varphi_0$.

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For the final lemma of this subsection, we note that with a suitably strong amalgamation assumption, we build "symmetric" systems of algebraically closed sets which generalize indiscernible sets.

Definition 1.19. Suppose $A \cup \{a_1, \ldots, a_k\} \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ and $1 \leq n \leq k$. Then an *n*-symmetric system for $\{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$ over A is a collection of (generally infinite) tuples $\{\overline{a}_s : s \in [k]^{(\leq n)}\}$ such that:

- (1) \overline{a}_s is a tuple enumerating $\operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_i : i \in s\});$
- (2) For any permutation σ of [k], there is an elementary map $\varphi_{\sigma} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$ such that

$$\varphi_{\sigma}(\overline{a}_s) = \overline{a}_{\sigma(s)}$$

for every $s \in [k]^{(\leq n)}$; and

(3) The maps commute when applied to the tuples \overline{a}_s : for any $s \in [k]^{(\leq n)}$ and any two permutations σ and τ of [k],

$$\varphi_{\sigma}(\varphi_{\tau}(\overline{a}_s)) = \varphi_{\sigma \circ \tau}(\overline{a}_s).$$

Lemma 1.20. Suppose that T has $\leq n$ -uniqueness and let $\{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$ be a Morley sequence over $A = \operatorname{acl}(A)$, where $k \geq n$. Then there is an (n-1)-symmetric system for $\{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$ over A.

Proof. First, we set some terminology for dealing with finite ordered tuples $s \in [k]^{(\leq n-1)}$. We abuse notation and write " $i \in s$ " to mean that i occurs in the tuple s. Given two tuples $s = (a_1, \ldots, a_m)$ and $t = (b_1, \ldots, b_m)$ of the same length m, let $\sigma_{s,t} : \{a_1, \ldots, a_m\} \to \{b_1, \ldots, b_m\}$ be the bijection defined by $\sigma_{s,t}(a_i) = b_i$. We say that s' is a subtuple of s (and write " $s' \subseteq s$ ") if every $i \in s'$ also occurs in s, and furthermore any pair of elements i, j which occur in s' also occur in s in the same order (so, for example, (1, 3) is a subtuple of (1, 2, 3) but (3, 1) is not).

Now we establish:

Claim 1.21. There is a system of tuples $\{\overline{a}_s : s \in [k]^{(\leq n-1)}\}$ and a system of elementary bijections

$$\varphi_{s,t}:\overline{a}_s\to\overline{a}_s$$

for every pair (s,t) of elements of $[k]^{(\leq n-1)}$ such that |s| = |t|, such that:

- (6) \overline{a}_s enumerates all of the elements of $\operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_i : i \in s\});$
- (7) $\varphi_{s,t}$ fixes the base A pointwise;
- (8) if |s| = |t|, s' is a subtuple of s, and $t' = \sigma_{s,t}(s')$, then the function $\varphi_{s',t'}$ is equal to the restriction of $\varphi_{s,t}$ to $\overline{a}_{s'}$;
- (9) $\varphi_{s,s}$ is the identity map on \overline{a}_s ; and
- (10) if |s| = |t| = |u|, then $\varphi_{s,u} = \varphi_{t,u} \circ \varphi_{s,t}$.

Proof. We build the tuples \overline{a}_s and the maps $\varphi_{s,t}$ by recursion on |s|. For |s| = 1, this is easy, using the fact that $\{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$ is Morley over A. For the recursion step, suppose that we have defined both the tuples \overline{a}_s and the maps $\varphi_{s,t}$ for every $s \in [k]^{(\leq m-1)}$, where $1 < m \leq n-1$. For the purposes of this proof only, we let [m] denote not the set $\{1, \ldots, m\}$ but rather the ordered tuple $(1, \ldots, m)$. First let $\overline{a}_{[m]}$ be any enumeration of $\operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_i : 1 \leq i \leq m\})$. By Lemma 1.18, for any $s \in [k]^{(m)}$, there is an elementary map

$$\varphi_{[m],s} : \operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_i : 1 \le i \le m\}) \to \operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_i : i \in s\})$$

such that $\varphi_{[m],s}$ extends every map $\varphi_{s',\sigma_{[m],s}(s')}$ where $s' \subseteq [m]$. In the special case where s = [m] we can assume that $\varphi_{[m],[m]}$ is the identity map (since we are assuming inductively that condition (9) holds for subtuples of [k] of length less than m). For any $s \in [k]^{(m)}$, define \overline{a}_s to be the image of $\overline{a}_{[m]}$ under the map $\varphi_{[m],s}$, and if s, t are any two elements of $[k]^{(m)}$, let $\varphi_{s,t} := \varphi_{[m],t} \circ (\varphi_{[m],s})^{-1}$. The fact that these maps $\varphi_{s,t}$ form a commuting system (conditions (9) and (10)) is immediate. To check condition (8), suppose that $s' \subseteq s \in [k]^{(m)}$, $t \in [k]^{(m)}$, and $t' := \sigma_{s,t}(s')$. Then by the definitions,

$$\varphi_{s,t}(\overline{a}_{s'}) = \varphi_{[m],t} \left[\left(\varphi_{s,[m]} \right) (\overline{a}_{s'}) \right] = \varphi_{[m],t} \left[\left(\varphi_{s',\sigma_{s,[m]}(s')} \right) (\overline{a}_{s'}) \right]$$
$$= \varphi_{[m],t} \left[\overline{a}_{\sigma_{s,[m]}(s')} \right]$$
$$= \varphi_{\sigma_{s,[m]}(s'),t'} \left[\overline{a}_{\sigma_{s,[m]}(s')} \right]$$
$$= \varphi_{s',t'}(\overline{a}_{s'}) = \overline{a}_{t'}.$$

 \dashv

Claim 1.21 gives the tuples \overline{a}_s for $s \in [k]^{(\leq n-1)}$. For any permutation σ is of $\{1, \ldots, k\}$, use Lemma 1.18 gives an elementary map φ_{σ} extending every map $\varphi_{s,t}$ as in the Claim such that $s \in [k]^{(\leq n-1)}$ and $t = \sigma(s)$. At this point, it is clear that this forms an (n-1)-symmetric system.

 \dashv

2. n-Ary polygroupoids

This section is devoted to the study of *n*-ary quasigroupoids (Definition 2.3) and *n*-ary polygroupoids (Definition 2.10). We note that these structures are a simultaneous generalization of groupoids (which corresponds to the case n = 2) and *n*-ary groups (as studied by Emil Post in [20]). Groupoids generalize groups in the sense that the composition operation is only partially defined, since we need a compatibility condition s(g) = t(f) to hold in order to define $g \circ f$. On the other hand, *n*-ary groups (or polyadic groups) have an operation which is totally defined, but *n*-ary instead of binary. Our *n*-ary groupoids have an operation (given by the Q relation below) which is *n*-ary and partially defined.

There may be connections with Jacob Lurie's higher topos theory which it would be good to clarify further in future research. In particular, *connected n*-ary quasigroupoids (see Definition 2.6) look quite similar to $(\infty, 1)$ -groupoids in the sense of Definition 1.1.2.4 of [17], or more precielly, Kan complexes in which *n*-dimensional horns have unique fillers.

There is no model theory in this section; the connection with failures of amalgamation properties will be established in Section 3.

Let us start with a preliminary definition.

Definition 2.1. Let $M = (P_1, \ldots, P_n, \pi^2, \ldots, \pi^n)$ be a structure with sorts P_i , $i = 1, \ldots, n$ and functions $\pi^k : P_k \to (P_{k-1})^k$, $k = 2, \ldots, n$. We use the symbol $\pi_i^k(f)$ to refer to the *i*th element of the tuple $\pi^k(f)$.

We say that a tuple $(f_1, \ldots, f_{k+1}) \in (P_k)^{k+1}$ is compatible if

- (1) k = 1 and $f_1 \neq f_2$; or
- (2) $k \ge 2$ and $\pi_i^k(f_j) = \pi_{j-1}^k(f_i)$ for all $1 \le i < j \le k+1$.

If the images of the projection maps π^i are always compatible tuples, then we can iteratively apply the projections to define a concept of an element $f \in P_i$ being "over" an *i*-tuple from P_1 :

Definition 2.2. Suppose that $M = (P_1, \ldots, P_n, \pi^2, \ldots, \pi^n)$ is a structure with sorts $\{P_1, \ldots, P_n\}$ and functions $\pi^k : P_k \to (P_{k-1})^k$ for $k = 2, \ldots, n$, and suppose that for every $f \in P_k$, the image $\pi^k(f)$ forms a compatible tuple in the sense of the previous definition. Then for any $i \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$ and any $f \in P_i$, we say that f is over $(a_1, \ldots, a_i) \in (P_1)^{(i)}$ if:

(1) i = 2 and $(a_1, a_2) = \pi^2(f)$; or

(2) i > 2 and for every $j \in \{1, \ldots, i\}, \pi_j^i(f)$ is over $(a_1, \ldots, \widehat{a}_j, \ldots, a_i)$.

For any $(a_1, \ldots, a_i) \in I^{(i)}$, we denote by $P_i(a_1, \ldots, a_i)$ the set of all $f \in P_i$ which are over (a_1, \ldots, a_i) . If $f \in P_i(a_1, \ldots, a_i)$, we also write " $\pi(f) = (a_1, \ldots, a_i)$."

The point of assuming that $\pi^i(f)$ is always a compatible tuple in the definition above is that this easily implies that for every $i \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$, the sort P_i is the disjoint union of all the "fibers" $P_i(a_1, \ldots, a_i)$ where $(a_1, \ldots, a_i) \in (P_1)^{(i)}$.

Below, we will be dealing with *n*-sorted structures, with sorts P_1, \ldots, P_n . We found it convenient to use separate symbols I and P for the most frequently used sorts P_1 and P_n , respectively.

Definition 2.3. If $n \ge 2$, an *n*-ary quasigroupoid¹ is a structure $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \ldots, P_{n-1}, P, Q)$ with *n* disjoint sorts $I = P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n = P$ equipped with an (n+1)-ary relation $Q \subseteq P^{n+1}$ and a system of maps $\langle \pi^k : 2 \le k \le n \rangle$ satisfying the following axioms:

- (1) For each $k \in \{2, ..., n\}$, the function π^k maps an element $f \in P^k$ to a k-tuple $(\pi_1^k(f), \ldots, \pi_k^k(f)).$
- (2) (Coherence) For any $k \in \{2, ..., n\}$, for each $f \in P_k$, the tuple $\pi^k(f)$ is compatible.
- (3) (Compatibility and Q) If $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ holds, then (p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1}) is a compatible (n+1)-tuple of elements of P.
- (4) (Uniqueness of horn-filling) Whenever $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ holds, then for any $i \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$, p_i is the unique element $x \in P$ which satisfies

$$Q(p_1,\ldots,p_{i-1},x,p_{i+1},\ldots,p_{n+1}).$$

For any set I and any integer $n \ge 1$, we denote by $I^{(n)}$ the set of all ordered *n*-tuples of pairwise distinct elements from I. The coherence axiom guarantees, in particular, that every element in P_j is supported, in the sense made precise below, by j distinct elements from I.

Definition 2.4. Let $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ be an *n*-ary quasigroupoid and suppose that $X \subseteq (I \cup P_2 \cup \ldots \cup P)$.

- (1) The support of X, denoted supp(X), is the subset of I generated from X by applying the projection maps $\langle \pi_i^i : 2 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq i \rangle$.
- (2) The closure cl(X) is

$$\operatorname{cl}(X) := \operatorname{supp}(X) \cup \bigcup_{2 \le i \le n} \bigcup_{w \in \operatorname{supp}(X)^{(i)}} P_i(w)$$

Definition 2.5. The *n*-ary quasigroupoid $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ is *locally finite* if for every $w \in I^{(n)}$, the set P(w) is finite.

Note that for any *n*-ary quasigroupoid $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ and any $X \subseteq (I \cup P_2 \cup \ldots \cup P)$, the set cl(X) naturally carries the structure of a "sub-quasigroupoid" of \mathcal{H} , where the *I*-sort is supp(X), the remaining sorts are the fibers in \mathcal{H} above tuples from supp(X), and the *Q*-relation is the same as in \mathcal{H} only restricted to tuples from $P \cap cl(X)$.

Definition 2.6. Let $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ be an *n*-ary quasigroupoid. We call \mathcal{H} connected if it satisfies both of the following conditions:

- (1) If $i \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$, then any compatible tuple (p_1, \ldots, p_{i+1}) from P_i is in the image of π^{i+1} .²
- (2) (Existence of horn fillers) Suppose that $i \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$ and $\langle p_j : 1 \leq j \leq n+1 \rangle$ is a tuple of elements from P which is compatible with respect to π^n . Then there is an element $p'_i \in P$ such that Q holds of $(p_1, \ldots, p'_i, \ldots, p_{n+1})$.

¹The "quasi-" prefix accords with the terminology from abstract algebra that a "quasigroup" is a set with a binary operation which is divisible but not necessarily associative.

²Note that when i = 1, then this simply says that every ordered pair (a_1, a_2) of distinct elements from I is in the image of π^2 .

The following two claims show that every "partially compatible" sequence of elements of P can be completed to a compatible sequence of length n+1 that satisfies Q and that we can select the compatible elements satisfying the relation Q on all but possibly one n-dimensional face of an (n+1)-dimensional tetrahedron.

Definition 2.7. Let $\mathcal{H} = (P_1, \ldots, P_n, Q)$ be an *n*-ary quasigroupoid. Let $A_i \subset P_i$, i = $1, \ldots, n$ be given sets. We say that the collection $\{A_i \mid i = 1, \ldots, n\}$ is closed under projectiontions if for all $k = 1, \ldots, n-1$, for all $a \in A_{k+1}$ and all $1 \le j \le k$ we have $\pi_j^{k+1}(a) \in A_k$.

We say that a collection $\{A_i \subset P_i \mid i = 1, ..., n\}$ is a *compatible system* if it is closed under projections and each $i = 2, \ldots, n$ and every tuple $w \in A_1^{(i)}$, the set $P_i(w) \cap A_i$ has at most one element.

Claim 2.8. Let $\mathcal{H} = (P_1, \ldots, P_n, Q)$ be a connected n-ary quasigroupoid. Let $\{A_i \mid i =$ $1, \ldots, n$ be a compatible system such that $|A_1| \ge n+1$.

(1) Let $2 \leq i \leq n$ and let $f, g \in A_i$ be elements that project onto tuples $u, v \in A_1^{(i)}$ such that $\partial_i u = \partial_k v$ for some $1 \leq j, k \leq i$, where " ∂_i " is the operation which deletes the *j*th entry of an ordered tuple. Then $\pi_i^i(f) = \pi_k^i(g)$.

(2) There is a maximal compatible system $\{B_i \mid i = 1, ..., n\}$ extending $\{A_i \mid i = 1, ..., n\}$ that projects onto A_1 . That is, there are sets B_i satisfying

- (a) $B_1 = A_1$ and $B_i \supset A_i$ for $2 \le i \le n$;
- (b) for each i = 2, ..., n and for every tuple $w \in A_1^{(i)}$, the set $P_i(w) \cap A_i$ has exactly one element.

Proof. (1) Let $w = \partial_j u = \partial_k v$ be the common subtuple. Since $\{A_i \mid i = 1, \ldots, n\}$ is closed under projections, we have $\pi_i^i(f), \pi_k^i(g) \in A_{i-1}$ are the elements that project onto the same tuple w. Therefore, $\pi_i^i(f) = \pi_k^i(g)$.

(2) By induction on $j \ge 1$, we construct the sets $B_j \supset A_j$ such that $\{B_1, \ldots, B_j, A_{j+1}, \ldots, A_n\}$ form a compatible system and for all $2 \leq j \leq n$ and all $w \in A_1^{(j+1)}$, there is a compatible tuple (f_1, \ldots, f_{j+1}) of elements of B_j such that f_k projects onto $\partial_k(w)$ for all $k = 1, \ldots, j+1$.

Let $B_1 := A_1$. Suppose the sets B_1, \ldots, B_j have been constructed. To construct B_{j+1} , enumerate all the tuples in the set $A_1^{(j+1)} = \{w_i \mid i < \alpha\}$. For each tuple w_i , if there is an element $f \in A_{j+1}$ that projects onto w_i , let $g_i := f$; otherwise, take the compatible sequence (f_1, \ldots, f_{j+1}) in B_j such that f_k projects onto $\partial_k(w_i)$. By connectedness of \mathcal{H} , there is an element $g_i \in P_{j+1}$ such that $\pi^{j+1}(g_i) = (f_1, \ldots, f_{j+1})$. Let $B_{j+1} := \{g_i \mid i < \alpha\}$. By construction, $B_{j+1} \supseteq A_{j+1}$; for every $w \in A_1^{(j+1)}$, there is exactly one element in the set $B_{j+1} \cap P(w)$; and for any sequence (a_1, \ldots, a_{j+2}) of elements of A_1 , the elements of B_{j+1} that project onto subsequences of length j + 1 are automatically compatible by (1). \neg

Claim 2.9. Let $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ be a connected n-ary quasigroupoid. Given distinct a_1,\ldots,a_{n+2} in I, there exist elements $\{p_i^i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n+2, 1 \leq j \leq n+1\} \subset P$ such that

- (1) $Q(p_1^i, \ldots, p_{n+1}^i)$ for all $i = 2, \ldots, n+2$;
- (2) $\operatorname{supp}(\{p_j^i \mid 1 \le j \le n+1\}) = \{a_1, \dots, \widehat{a_i}, \dots, a_{n+2}\}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n+2$; (3) $p_j^i = p_i^{j+1}$ for all $1 \le i \le j \le n+1$.

Moreover, if $\{p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1}\} \subset P$ have the support $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}\}$, p_j projects onto $\partial_j(a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1})$, and $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ holds, then we may choose $p_j^{n+2} = p_j$ for $j = 1, \ldots, n+1$.

Proof. It suffices to prove the "moreover" clause of the above lemma. Let $\{A_1, \ldots, A_n\}$ be the compatible system generated by the elements $\{p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1}\}$ (that is a system closed under projections such that $A_n = \{p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1}\}$. Apply Claim 2.8 to the compatible system $\{A_1 \cup \{a_{n+2}\}, A_2, \ldots, A_n\}$; let $\{B_1, \ldots, B_n\}$ be the maximal compatible extension. For $2 \leq i \leq n+2$ and $2 \leq j \leq n+1$, let p_j^i be the unique element of B_n that projects onto $\partial_j(\partial_i(a_1, \ldots, a_{n+2}))$. For $i \geq 2$, by Definition 2.6, we may choose $p_1^i \in P_n(\partial_i(a_2, \ldots, a_{n+2}))$ such that $Q(p_1^i, \ldots, p_{n+1}^i)$ holds. Finally, let $p_j^1 := p_1^{j+1}$ for $j = 1, \ldots, n+1$. This gives the required collection of elements.

Definition 2.10. If $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ is an *n*-ary quasigroupoid, we say that \mathcal{H} is an *n*-ary polygroupoid if it satisfies the following condition:

(Associativity) Suppose that $\{p_j^i \mid 1 \le i \le n+2, 1 \le j \le n+1\}$ is a collection of elements in P such that for each $i = 1, \ldots, n+2$ the elements $\{p_j^i \mid 1 \le j \le n+1\}$ are compatible and such that $p_j^i = p_i^{j+1}$ for all $1 \le i \le j \le n+1$.

For each $\ell = 1, ..., n+2$, if $Q(p_1^i, ..., p_{n+1}^i)$ holds for all $i \in \{1, ..., n+2\} \setminus \{\ell\}$, then $Q(p_1^\ell, ..., p_{n+1}^\ell)$ holds.

It will be useful for later to note that the conclusion of Claim 2.9 can be strengthened, if we have associativity:

Remark 2.11. If \mathcal{H} is an *n*-ary polygroupoid, then for the set $\{p_j^i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n+2, 1 \leq j \leq n+1\}$ constructed in Claim 2.9, we also have $Q(p_1^1, \ldots, p_{n+1}^1)$.

Definition 2.12. Let G be a group and $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ an n-ary quasigroupoid. A regular action of G on \mathcal{H} is a group action on the set P such that:

- (1) For any $p \in P$ and any $g \in G$, $\pi^n(g.p) = \pi^n(p)$;
- (2) G acts regularly (transitively and faithfully) on each fiber $P_n(w)$, where w is a compatible (n + 1)-tuple from P; and
- (3) If $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ holds, then for any $g \in G$ and any $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, we also have

$$Q(p_1,\ldots,g.p_i,g.p_{i+1},\ldots,p_{n+1})$$

(where only the two elements p_i and p_{i+1} have been acted upon by g).

It turns out that the group G in the definition above is always abelian.

Proposition 2.13. Let \mathcal{H} be an n-ary quasigroupoid (for $n \geq 2$) equipped with a regular action of the group G, and assume that Q holds on at least one (n + 1)-tuple. Then:

(1) For any $p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1} \in P$ and any i < j,

$$Q(p_1,\ldots,p_{n+1}) \Leftrightarrow Q(p_1,\ldots,g.p_i,\ldots,g^{(-1)^{j-i+1}}.f_j,\ldots,p_{n+1})$$

- (2) The group G is abelian (so we write the group additively below).
- (3) If $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ holds, then for any $(g_1, \ldots, g_{n+1}) \in G^{n+1}$,

$$Q(g_1.p_1, g_2.p_2, \dots, g_{n+1}.p_{n+1}) \Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (-1)^i g_i = 0.$$

Proof. The first statement is straightforward, by property (3) of Definition 2.12 and induction on j - i.

To establish claim (2), note that $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ implies, for all $g, h \in G$

$$Q(g.p_1, g.p_2, p_3, \dots, p_{n+1}), \quad Q(h.p_1, p_2, h^{-1}.p_3, \dots, p_{n+1})$$

and, acting by h and g respectively on the sets of elements above we get

 $Q((hg).p_1, g.p_2, h^{-1}.p_3, \dots, p_{n+1}), \quad Q((gh).p_1, g.p_2, h^{-1}.p_3, \dots, p_{n+1}).$

It follows from Axiom (2) in the definition of a polygroupoid that $(hg).p_1 = (gh).p_1$ and therefore hg = gh by regularity of the action.

 \dashv

The third statement is immediate from (1).

From now on, whenever G is a group acting regularly on a quasigroupoid \mathcal{H} , then we will write both the operation of G and its action on \mathcal{H} additively.

2.1. Actions and associativity. The next goal (Theorem 2.15 below) is to show that any n-ary quasigroupoid \mathcal{H} with a regular action by a group G which satisfies a certain homogeneity assumption (which will always hold in our model-theoretic application) is necessarily almost associative: the associativity law for Q holds, possibly modulo "twisting" one co-ordinate by a fixed element of G. Since the twisted version Q_g of Q is interdefinable with Q over G, this can be used later to obtain definable polygroupoids from definable n-ary quasigroupoids.

Definition 2.14. Let $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ be a connected *n*-ary quasigroupoid. Suppose that *G* acts regularly on \mathcal{H} . We say that the action is (n + 2)-homogeneous if whenever (a_1, \ldots, a_{n+2}) and (b_1, \ldots, b_{n+2}) are tuples from $I^{(n+2)}$ and $(A_1, \ldots, A_{n-1}), (B_1, \ldots, B_{n-1})$ are maximal compatible systems going up to P_{n-1} such that $A_1 = \{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+2}\}$ (respectively, $B_1 = \{b_1, \ldots, b_{n+2}\}$), then there is an isomorphism $f : cl(\overline{a}) \to cl(\overline{b})$ such that

- (1) $f(a_i) = b_i$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n+2\}$;
- (2) $f(A_k) = B_k$ for every $k \in \{1, ..., n-1\}$; and
- (3) f commutes with the action of G.

Theorem 2.15. Let $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ be a connected n-ary quasigroupoid such that $|I| \ge n+3$, and \mathcal{H} is equipped with an (n+2)-homogeneous regular action of a group G.

(1) If n is odd, then there is some $g \in G$ such that if we define a new relation Q_g on P_{by}

$$Q_g(p_1,\ldots,p_{n+1}) \Leftrightarrow Q(p_1,\ldots,p_n,p_{n+1}-g),$$

then the quasigroupoid $\mathcal{H}_g = (I, \ldots, P, Q_g)$ is a polygroupoid.

(2) If n is even, then \mathcal{H} is a polygroupoid.

Proof. Let $\rho := (p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1})$ be a compatible tuple of elements of P. Define the *defect* of ρ , denoted $d(\rho)$, to be the unique element $g \in G$ such that $Q(p_1, \ldots, p_n, p_{n+1} + g)$ holds. Let $\tau = (\rho^1, \ldots, \rho^{n+2})$ be a sequence of compatible tuples $\rho^i = (p_1^i, \ldots, p_{n+1}^i)$ such that $p_j^i = p_i^{j+1}$ for $1 \le i \le j \le n+1$. Define the defect of τ to be $d(\tau) := \sum_{i=1}^{n+2} (-1)^i d(\rho^i)$.

It is clear that for every $g \in G$, there is a compatible tuple ρ with $d(\rho) = g$. A key observation is that the defect of a *sequence* of compatible tuples has to be unique.

Claim 2.16. Let $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, Q)$ be a connected n-ary quasigroupoid, $|I| \ge n+2$, and suppose that \mathcal{H} is equipped with an (n+2)-homogeneous regular action of a group G. There is a single element $g \in G$ such that $d(\tau) = g$ for every sequence $\tau = (\rho^1, \ldots, \rho^{n+2})$ of compatible tuples $\rho^i = (p_j^i)_{1 \le j \le n+1}$ such that $p_j^i = p_i^{j+1}$ for $1 \le i \le j \le n+1$. Proof. By Claim 2.9, there is at least one sequence $\tau = (\rho^1, \ldots, \rho^{n+2})$ of compatible tuples, $\rho^i = (p_j^i)_{1 \leq j \leq n+1}$, such that $p_j^i = p_i^{j+1}$. Let $g := d(\tau)$. We will show that $d(\tilde{\tau}) = g$ for any other sequence $\tilde{\tau} = (\tilde{\rho}^1, \ldots, \tilde{\rho}^{n+2})$ of compatible tuples, $\tilde{\rho}^i = (\tilde{p}_j^i)_{1 \leq j \leq n+1}$, such that $\tilde{p}_j^i = \tilde{p}_i^{j+1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n+1$. Now given such a second sequence $\tilde{\tau}$ of tuples, we have the two compatible systems (A_1, \ldots, A_{n-1}) where A_k is the image of τ in P_k under the π maps, and (B_1, \ldots, B_{n-1}) , which is similarly defined using images of $\tilde{\tau}$ under the π maps. By (n+2)homogeneity, there is an isomorphism $f : cl(\tau) \to cl(\tilde{\tau})$ which preserves the action of G, and clearly $d(f(\tau)) = d(\tau)$. Thus to prove the general case of Claim 2.16, it is sufficient to consider the case where $\pi^n(p_i^i) = \pi^n(\tilde{p}_i^i)$ for every i, j.

By the transitivity of the action of G on π^n -fibers, there is a system of elements $g_j^i \in G$ such that $\tilde{p}_j^i = p_j^i + g_j^i$. Note that we have $g_j^i = g_i^{j+1}$. Then for each $i = 1, \ldots, n+2$ we have, by the definition of $d(\rho^i)$:

$$Q(p_1^i, \dots, p_n^i, p_{n+1}^i + d(\rho^i))$$
 and $Q(p_1^i + g_1^i, \dots, p_n^i + g_n^i, p_{n+1}^i + g_{n+1}^i + d(\tilde{\rho}^i)).$

Thus, by Proposition 2.13(3), we get $(-1)^n (d(\tilde{\rho}^i) - d(\rho^i)) = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} (-1)^j g_j^i$ for each $i = 1, \ldots, n+2$. The equality $d(\tilde{\tau}) = d(\tau)$ now follows from the standard " $\partial^2 = 0$ " combinatorics:

$$(-1)^{n}(d(\tilde{\tau}) - d(\tau)) = \sum_{i=1}^{n+2} (-1)^{i} \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} (-1)^{j} g_{j}^{i} = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \sum_{j=i}^{n+1} (-1)^{i+j} g_{j}^{i} + \sum_{i=2}^{n+2} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} (-1)^{i+j} g_{j}^{i} = 0;$$

the last equality follows since

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \sum_{j=i}^{n+1} (-1)^{i+j} g_j^i = -\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \sum_{j=i}^{n+1} (-1)^{i+j+1} g_i^{j+1} = -\sum_{i=2}^{n+2} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} (-1)^{i+j} g_j^i.$$

Let us call the element g constructed in the above claim the defect of Q. Note that Q is associative if and only if the defect of Q is 0. The rest of the argument proceeds as follows. In the case when n is odd and g is the defect of Q, we show that the relation Q_g has defect 0. In the case when n is even, we show that the defect of Q must be 0.

(1) Let n be odd and let g be the defect of Q. Let $\{p_j^i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n+2, 1 \leq j \leq n+1\}$ be elements constructed in Claim 2.9. Then we have

$$Q(p_1^1, \dots, p_n^1, p_{n+1}^1 - g)$$
 and $Q(p_1^i, \dots, p_{n+1}^i)$, for $i = 2, \dots, n+2$.

Define Q_g by

$$Q_g(p_1,\ldots,p_{n+1}) \iff Q(p_1,\ldots,p_{n+1}-g).$$

Note that the quasigroupoid $\mathcal{H}_g = (I, \ldots, P, Q_g)$ satisfies the assumptions of Claim 2.16. Therefore, it is enough to check that the defect d_g of Q_g is 0 for the sequence $\tau = (\rho^1, \ldots, \rho^{n+2})$, where $\rho^i = (p_1^i, \ldots, p_{n+1}^i)$. We see that $d_g(\rho^1) = 0$ and $d_g(\rho^i) = g$ for $i = 2, \ldots, n+2$. Thus, the defect $d_g(\tau) = 0 + \sum_{i=2}^{n+2} (-1)^i g = 0$; the last equality holds since the sum has an even number of terms.

(2) Let a_1, \ldots, a_{n+3} be any (n+3) distinct elements of I. First, using Claim 2.8, we find a maximal compatible system (B_1, \ldots, B_n) such that $B_1 = \{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+3}\}$. This gives the tuples $\tau^k = (\rho^{k,1}, \ldots, \rho^{k,n+2})$, where $\rho^{k,j}$ is the sequence of n+1 compatible tuples in B_n that project onto the subsequences of $\partial_j(\partial_k(a_1, \ldots, a_{n+3}))$ of length n. By this definition, the *i*th element of τ^k is equal to the *k*th element of τ^{i+1} for $1 \le k \le i \le n+2$. Now we consider the element $h = \sum_{k=1}^{n+3} (-1)^k d(\tau^k)$. We calculate $h \in G$ in two ways. On the one hand, the *i*th term in $d(\tau_k)$ is equal to *k*th term in $d(\tau^{i+1})$ up to the sign $(-1)^{i+k}$. Thus, in *h* these terms appear with the opposite signs, and we have h = 0. On the other hand, by the Claim above, all the defects $d(\tau^k)$ are equal to the same value *g*. Therefore we can cancel out all of the constituent terms of *h* in pairs except for one (since n + 3 is odd), and $h = \pm g$. Thus g = 0, which implies that *Q* is associative.

3. Failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness implies interpretability of an *n*-ary polygroupoid over a Morley sequence

In this section, we will establish the main theorem of the paper (Theorem 3.3): a nontrivial connected finitary *n*-ary polygroupoid can be defined (relative to a Morley sequence) in any stable theory which has *k*-uniqueness for all $k \in \{2, ..., n\}$ but which fails (n+1)-uniqueness. This will be done in two steps: first, we show how to define and *n*-ary quasigroupoid (Proposition 3.13); then, we show that there is a finite nontrivial abelian group *G* with a regular, (n+2)-homogeneous action on the quasigroupoid (see Definition 3.20 and Lemma 3.24) and apply Theorem 2.15 to obtain associativity.

Definition 3.1. If $A \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$, then a set $X \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ is *relatively A*-*definable* if it is definable in the expansion \mathfrak{C}_A with a single new unary predicate symbol naming the set A.

Definition 3.2. Let $A \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$. A quasigroupoid $\mathcal{H} = (P_1, \ldots, P_n, Q)$ is relatively A-definable if the sets P_i , $i = 1, \ldots, n$, the projections π^i , $i = 2, \ldots, n$, as well as the relation Q are relatively A-definable.

Theorem 3.3. Let T be a stable theory, $n \ge 2$, $A = \operatorname{acl}(A)$ a small subset of \mathfrak{C} , and suppose that T has k-uniqueness for every $k \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$. Then T does not have (n+1)-uniqueness over A if and only if there some infinite Morley sequence I over A such that:

- (1) There is a relatively I-definable n-ary polygroupoid $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \dots, P_n, Q)$ (that is, with P_1 equal to the Morley sequence I and each of the sets P_2, \dots, P_n and Q relatively I-definable);
- (2) \mathcal{H} is locally finite and connected;
- (3) There is a finite nontrivial I-definable group G with a relatively I-definable regular action on \mathcal{H} ;
- (4) For every two elements $f, g \in P_n$ such that $\pi^n(f) = \pi^n(g)$, if $f, g \in P_n(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ where $(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in I^{(n)}$, then there is some $\varphi \in \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{acl}_A(a_1, \ldots, a_n) / \partial_A(a_1, \ldots, a_n))$ such that $\varphi(f) = g$.

We emphasize that in the hypothesis of Theorem 3.3, we assume full k-uniqueness for all $k \leq n$ (that is, for every small set $B \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$, that T has k-uniqueness over B), but that the conclusion of the theorem is "local": assuming a failure of (n+1)-uniqueness over some base set A, we get a relatively I-definable n-ary polygroupoid for some I which is Morley over the same base set A.

The remainder of this section will be a series of lemmas and definitions whose main purpose is to establish Theorem 3.3.

We assume throughout the remainder of this section that $n \ge 2$ and that the theory T is stable and has k-uniqueness for all $k \in \{2, ..., n\}$. Our object is to study

witnesses to the failure of (n+1)-uniqueness, which will be measured by the group G defined below.

In the proof below, we denote by s_i the ordered tuple in $[n+1]^{(n)}$ which lists the elements of $[n+1] \setminus \{i\}$ in increasing order. For distinct $i, j \in [n+1]$, let $s_{i,j} = [n+1] \setminus \{i, j\}$, also listed in the increasing order.

Lemma 3.4. ("Symmetrization Lemma") Suppose that $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}\}$ is a Morley sequence over A. For any set $\{c_i : i \in [n+1]\}$ such that $c_i \in \operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_j : j \in s_i\})$ for each $i \in [n+1]$, there are tuples $\overline{a}_{s_{i,j}}$ enumerating $\operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_k : k \in s_{i,j}\})$ and elements f_i for each $i \in [n+1]$ such that:

- (1) $f_i \in \operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_j : j \in s_i\});$
- (2) if $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}$ denotes the tuple $(\overline{a}_{s_{i,1}}, \dots, \overline{a}_{s_{i,i-1}}, \overline{a}_{s_{i,i+1}}, \dots, \overline{a}_{s_{i,n+1}})$, then for any two $i, j \in [n+1]$, $\operatorname{tp}(f_i, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(f_j, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}/A);$
- (3) $c_i \in \operatorname{dcl}(f_i);$
- (4) for every $i \in [n+1]$, if $c_i \notin \operatorname{dcl}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)})$, then $f_i \notin \operatorname{dcl}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)})$; and
- (5) if $c_i \in \operatorname{dcl}_A(\{c_j : j \neq i\})$ for every $i \in [n+1]$, then $f_i \in \operatorname{dcl}(\{f_j : j \neq i\})$ for each $i \in [n+1]$.

Proof. By Lemma 1.20, there is an (n-1)-symmetric system for $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}\}$ over A. Fix tuples \overline{a}_s for $s \in [n+1]^{(\leq n-1)}$ and elementary maps $\{\varphi_{\sigma} : \sigma \in \text{Sym}([n+1])\}$ as in Definition 1.19.

For any two $i, j \in [n + 1]$, let $\sigma_{i,j}$ be the unique permutation of [n + 1] which sends the tuple s_i to the tuple s_j , and for ease of notation let $\varphi_{i,j} := \varphi_{\sigma_{i,j}}$. In particular, note that $\varphi_{i,j}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}) = \overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}$, and so $\operatorname{tp}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}/A)$.

For each $i \in [n + 1]$, let d_i be a finite tuple listing all realizations of $\operatorname{tp}(c_i/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)})$. Let $f_1 \in \operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_j : j \neq 1\})$ be a finite tuple listing all of the elements of

 $\{\varphi_{\sigma}(d_j): \sigma \text{ is a permutation of } [n+1] \text{ such that } \sigma(j) = 1\},\$

and for every $i \in \{2, \ldots, k+1\}$, let $f_i = \varphi_{\sigma_{1,i}}(f_1)$. This immediately implies that $f_i \in \operatorname{acl}_A(\{a_j : j \neq i\})$ and

$$\operatorname{tp}(f_1, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(f_i, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A),$$

so properties (1) and (2) of the Lemma hold.

Before proving (3), (4), and (5), we establish some preliminary claims. For the rest of the proof of the Lemma, we will assume that for every $i \in [n+1]$, $c_i \in dcl_A(\{c_j : j \neq i\})$.

Claim 3.5. If $e \in f_i$ and $\operatorname{tp}(e'/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}) = \operatorname{tp}(e/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)})$, then $e' \in f_i$.

Proof. Since $\operatorname{tp}(f_1, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(f_i, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A)$, it suffices to prove the Claim for f_1 . But this is clear, since f_1 comprises of tuples enumerating all the realizations of certain types over $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}$.

It is worth emphasizing that $\varphi_{\sigma} \circ \varphi_{\tau}$ is not necessarily equal to $\varphi_{\sigma \circ \tau}$, so there is an asymmetry in our definitions: f_1 is defined differently than the other f_i 's. On the other hand, since for every i we have

$$\varphi_{\sigma\circ\tau}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}) = \varphi_{\sigma}\left(\varphi_{\tau}(\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)})\right),$$

we immediately obtain:

Claim 3.6. For any two permutations σ, τ of [n + 1] and any $d \in acl_A(\{a_j : j \neq i\})$, if $\sigma(\tau(i)) = k$, then

$$\operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma\circ\tau}(d), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_k)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma}(\varphi_{\tau}(d)), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_k)}/A).$$

Claim 3.7. For every $i \in [n+1]$, $d_i \in f_i$.

Proof. By applying the elementary map $\varphi_{i,1}$, we obtain

$$\operatorname{tp}(d_i, f_i, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{i,1}(d_i), f_1, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}/A).$$

But $\varphi_{i,1}(d_i) \in f_1$ by the very definition of f_1 , and therefore $d_i \in dcl(f_i)$.

By the last Claim above, $c_i \in d_i \in f_i$, establishing (3). Property (4) follows immediately from (3).

Claim 3.8. For every $i \in [n+1]$, $d_i \in dcl(\{d_j : j \neq i\})$.

Proof. Fix some $i \in [n+1]$ and some $c'_i \in d_i$ such that $\operatorname{tp}(c'_i/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}) = \operatorname{tp}(c_i/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)})$. Pick any other $j \in [n+1] \setminus \{i\}$, and we claim that there is an element c'_j of d_j (that is, $\operatorname{tp}(c'_j/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}) = \operatorname{tp}(c_j/\overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)})$) such that $c'_i \in \operatorname{dcl}(\{c'_j\} \cup \{c_k : k \neq i, j\})$. (Apply relative (n, n)-uniqueness over the base set $\operatorname{acl}(a_j)$ to construct an elementary map φ which fixes every tuple $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_k)}$ pointwise, fixes every c_k such that $k \neq i, j$, and sends c_i to c'_i ; then let c'_i be $\varphi(c_j)$.)

Claim 3.9. For any permutation σ of [n+1] and any element e of the tuple f_i , $\varphi_{\sigma}(e)$ is an element of the tuple $f_{\sigma(i)}$.

Proof. Without loss of generality, we consider an element $e \in f_i$ such that for some $k \in [n+1]$ and some permutation τ of [n+1] such that $\tau(k) = 1$,

$$\operatorname{tp}(e, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_\tau(d_k), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}/A)$$

Applying the elementary map $\varphi_{1,i}$ plus Claim 3.6, we conclude

$$\operatorname{tp}(e, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma_{1,i}\circ\tau}(d_k), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A).$$

Now fix any permutation σ of [n+1] and say $\sigma(i) = j$. Then

$$\operatorname{tp}(e, \overline{a}_{\sigma^{-1}(\partial(s_j))}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma_{1,i}\circ\tau}(d_k), \overline{a}_{\sigma^{-1}(\partial(s_j))}/A).$$

(This is because $\overline{a}_{\sigma^{-1}(\partial(s_j))}$ is a permutation of $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}$ and hence any elementary map ψ such that $\psi(e) = \varphi_{\sigma_{1,i}\circ\tau}(d_k)$ and ψ fixes $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)} \cup A$ pointwise will also witness the equality of the two displayed types above.) Applying the elementary map φ_{σ} to the two types above and citing Claim 3.6, we obtain

$$\operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma}(e), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma \circ \sigma_{1,i} \circ \tau}(d_k), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma_{j,1} \circ \sigma \circ \sigma_{1,i} \circ \tau}(d_k), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}/A).$$

But by the definitions of f_1 and of f_j , the element $\varphi_{\sigma_{j,1}\circ\sigma\circ\sigma_{1,i}\circ\tau}(d_k)$ is in f_1 and hence the equality of types displayed above implies that $\varphi_{\sigma}(e) \in f_j$.

Claim 3.10. Any element $\varphi_{\sigma}(d_j)$ of f_1 is in dcl (f_2, \ldots, f_{n+1}) .

Proof. By Claim 3.8, $d_j \in dcl(\{d_k : k \neq j\})$. By Claim 3.7, $d_k \in f_k$, so $d_j \in dcl(\{f_k : k \neq j\})$. This definability relation is clearly preserved under application of the elementary map φ_{σ} , and so Claim 3.10 now follows by Claim 3.9.

$$\neg$$

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Finally, we show that for any $i \in [n+1]$, $f_i \in dcl(\{f_j : j \neq i\})$. Fix some $e \in f_i$ such that

$$\operatorname{tp}(e, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{\sigma}(d_k), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_1)}/A)$$

for some permutation σ of [n+1]. Therefore

$$\operatorname{tp}(e, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A) = \operatorname{tp}(\varphi_{1,i}(\varphi_{\sigma}(d_k)), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}/A),$$

and applying the same argument by relative (n, n) uniqueness as in the proof of Claim 3.8, it suffices to show that $\varphi_{1,i}(\varphi_{\sigma}(d_k)) \in \operatorname{dcl}(\{f_j : j \neq i\}).$

By Claim 3.10, $\varphi_{\sigma}(d_k) \in \operatorname{dcl}(f_2, \ldots, f_{n+1})$. Applying the elementary map $\varphi_{1,i}$ and Claim 3.9, we conclude that $\varphi_{1,i}(\varphi_{\sigma}(d_k)) \in \operatorname{dcl}(\{f_j : j \neq i\})$, and by the previous paragraph, we are finished with the proof of the Lemma.

 \dashv

Proposition 3.11. Suppose that T is stable and has k-uniqueness for every $k \leq n$ but fails to have (n + 1)-uniqueness. Then there is a small algebraically closed set B, a Morley sequence $a_1 \ldots a_{n+1}$ over B, and elements

$$c_i \in \operatorname{acl}_B(\{a_1,\ldots,a_{n+1}\}\setminus\{a_i\})$$

such that

$$c_{n+1} \in \operatorname{dcl}_B(\{c_1,\ldots,c_n\}) \setminus \partial_B(a_1,\ldots,a_n).$$

Proof. Since (n + 1)-uniqueness fails and $\leq n$ -uniqueness holds, by Fact 1.14 above, we conclude that the property B(n + 1) must also fail. We use the equivalent formulation of B(n + 1) given by Fact 1.15.

Fix some *B*-independent set $\{b_1, \ldots, b_{n+1}\}$ and a map φ as in Fact 1.15, and assume without loss of generality that the base set $B = \emptyset$ (by adding constants to the language if necessary): namely, we have $\varphi \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{B}_{[n]}/\partial(b_1, \ldots, b_n))$ cannot be extended to an automorphism that fixes

$$\overline{B}_{[n+1]\setminus\{1\}}\cup\ldots\cup\overline{B}_{[n+1]\setminus\{n\}}$$

pointwise. We will build a Morley sequence $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}\}$ and an automorphism $\varphi' \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{A}_{[n]}/\partial(a_1, \ldots, a_n))$ which cannot be extended to an automorphism that fixes $\overline{A}_{[n+1]\setminus\{1\}} \cup \ldots \cup \overline{A}_{[n+1]\setminus\{n\}}$ pointwise.

Let a_1 be a tuple $a_1^1 \dots a_1^{n+1}$ such that $q := \operatorname{tp}(a_1^1 \dots a_1^{n+1}) = \operatorname{tp}(b_1 \dots b_{n+1})$. Take a set $\{a_2, \dots, a_{n+1}\}$ of realizations of the type q such that the set $\{a_1, \dots, a_{n+1}\}$ is independent. By stationarity, the type of the sequence $(a_1^1, a_2^2, \dots, a_{n+1}^{n+1})$ is also q. Thus, we may assume that $(a_1^1, \dots, a_{n+1}^{n+1}) = (b_1 \dots, b_{n+1})$.

It remains to build the map $\varphi' \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{A}_{[n]})$ using relative (n, n)-uniqueness by amalgamating the map φ and the identity automorphisms on the algebraic closures of tuples $a_1, \ldots, \widehat{a}_i, \ldots, a_n$, where $i = 1, \ldots, n$. The construction of φ' has two stages. For the first stage, we perform a series of amalgamations to build a system of maps $\langle \varphi''_s : s \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}\rangle$ such that:

- (1) If $s \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$, then φ''_s is the identity map on \overline{a}_s ;
- (2) If $s = s_0 \cup \{n\}$ where $s_0 \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$, then φ''_s is an elementary permutation of $\operatorname{acl}(\overline{a}_{s_0} \cup b_n)$ which extends φ ; and
- (3) If $s \subseteq t$, then $\varphi_s'' \subseteq \varphi_t''$.

The construction of the maps φ_s'' for |s| > 1 goes by induction on |s|, always amalgamating over the base set $\operatorname{acl}(b_1, \ldots, b_{n-1})$ and considering $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n-1}, b_n\}$ to be the set of independent "vertices:" if we consider $s = \{s_1, \ldots, s_k\} \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$, then once we have the φ_t'' for all |t| < |s|, construct φ_s'' using relative (k, k)-uniqueness to find a common extension of the maps $\langle \varphi_t'' : |t| < k \rangle$.

Then let $\varphi'' := \varphi''_{\{1,\dots,n\}} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{acl}(a_1,\dots,a_{n-1},b_n))$. Note that $\varphi'' \upharpoonright \operatorname{acl}(b_1,\dots,b_n) = \varphi$ and for all $i \in 1,\dots,n-1$ we have $\varphi'' \upharpoonright \operatorname{acl}(a_1,\dots,\widehat{a_i},\dots,a_{n-1},b_n)$ is an identity automorphism.

Now we obtain φ' using relative (n, n)-uniqueness over $\operatorname{acl}(b_n)$ on the system of n compatible automorphisms given by φ'' plus the (n-1) the identity automorphisms on $\overline{A}_{[n]\setminus\{i\}}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n-1$.

Finally, we note that it is impossible to amalgamate φ' with the identity automorphisms on $\overline{A}_{[n+1]\setminus\{i\}}$ for i = 1, ..., n simply because $\varphi \subseteq \varphi'$ and we assumed that φ could not be extended to an elementary map fixing $\overline{B}_{[n+1]\setminus\{1\}} \cup ... \cup \overline{B}_{[n+1]\setminus\{n\}}$ pointwise.

Now from the existence of the elementary map φ' , we quickly find the desired elements c_i : the impossibility of amalgamating φ' with identity maps on the other "edges" implies that there are finite tuples $d_i \in \overline{A}_{[n+1]\setminus\{i\}}$ such that $\varphi'(d_{n+1}) \neq d_{n+1}$ and

$$\operatorname{tp}(\varphi'(d_{n+1})/d_1,\ldots,d_n)\neq \operatorname{tp}(d_{n+1}/d_1,\ldots,d_n),$$

and we let c_{n+1} be a code for the finite set X of all realizations of $\operatorname{tp}(d_{n+1}/d_1, \ldots, d_n)$ and let $c_i = d_i$ for every $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$; then evidently $c_{n+1} \in \operatorname{acl}(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ and $c_{n+1} \in \operatorname{dcl}(c_1, \ldots, c_{n+1})$, but since $\varphi'(X) \neq X$ and φ' fixes $\partial(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ pointwise, $c_{n+1} \notin \partial(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$.

Definition 3.12. A symmetric witness to the failure of (n+1)-uniqueness (over $B = \operatorname{acl}(B)$) is an (n + 1)-element Morley sequence I over B and a relatively I-definable connected quasigroupoid (I, P_2, \ldots, P_n, Q) such that

- (1) (Isolation of types)
 - (a) For any $i \in \{2, ..., n\}$ and any $f \in P_i$, the type $tp(f/\partial(supp(f)))$ is isolated over $\pi^i(f)$.
 - (b) For any two elements f, g of P_n such that $\pi^n(f) = \pi^n(g)$, the type $\operatorname{tp}(f, g/\partial(\pi(f)))$ is isolated over $\pi^n(f)$.
- (2) (Algebraicity) For any $i \in \{2, ..., n\}$ and any $f \in P_i, f \in acl(\pi(f))$.

For n = 3, the definition above is almost the same as that of a "full symmetric witness" from the article [9] (see also the older Definition 2.2 of [8]), but for the purposes of the current paper we found it convenient to also assume that the types of all *pairs* from P_n are isolated over their projections; this condition is easy to enforce, and will help in establishing the definability of the group G (see Definitions 3.19 and 3.20 below).

Proposition 3.13. If T is stable with k-uniqueness for every $k \leq n$ but which does not have (n + 1)-uniqueness, then T has a symmetric failure to (n + 1)-uniqueness.

Proof. By Proposition 3.11, there is a Morley sequence $a_1 \ldots a_{n+1}$ over some small set B and elements $c_i \in \operatorname{acl}_B(\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}\} \setminus \{a_i\})$ such that

 $c_{n+1} \in \operatorname{dcl}_B(\{c_1,\ldots,c_n\}) \setminus \partial_B(a_1,\ldots,a_n).$

For simplicity of notation, we will assume in the proof below that $B = \emptyset$ (expanding the language to add constants for the elements of B if necessary).

Without loss of generality, $a_j \in c_j$ whenever i, j are two distinct elements of [n + 1]. We claim that we may assume that not only $c_{n+1} \in \operatorname{dcl}(c_1, \ldots, c_n)$, but also that $c_i \in \operatorname{dcl}(\{c_j : j \neq i\})$ for each $i \in [n + 1]$. This can be achieved by replacing the original elements $\{c_1, \ldots, c_n\}$ by elements c'_i chosen recursively on i so that $c'_i \in T^{eq}$ is a canonical name for the finite set of all realizations of

$$\operatorname{tp}(c_i/c'_1,\ldots,c'_{i-1},c_{i+1},\ldots,c_{n+1})$$

(which is clearly algebraic, since c_i is in the algebraic closure of $\{a_j : j \neq i\}$ and by the assumption that c_k and c'_k contain a_j if $k \neq j$). Then an easy induction argument shows that the new elements $\{c'_1, \ldots, c'_n, c_{n+1}\}$ are interdefinable as we wish.

We apply Lemma 1.20 to construct an (n-1)-symmetric system $\{\overline{a}_s : s \in [n+1]^{(<n)}\}$. As above, $s_{i,j}$ denotes the ordered (n-1)-tuple which lists the elements of $[n+1] \setminus \{i, j\}$ in increasing order and $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}$ is the tuple $(\overline{a}_{s_{1,i}}, \ldots, \overline{a}_{s_{n+1,i}})$. Throughout the proof of this Lemma, we use the phrase $s \in [n+1]^{(k)}$ to mean (by abuse of notation) that s is an ordered tuple listing k distinct elements of [n+1] in increasing order.

Step 1: By the Symmetrization Lemma (Lemma 3.4) applied to the elements c_i , there is a tuple of elements $(f_1^n, \ldots, f_{n+1}^n)$ satisfying all of the following properties:

- (1) $f_i^n \in \operatorname{acl}(\{a_j : j \neq i\}) \setminus \partial(a_1, \dots, \widehat{a_i}, \dots, a_{n+1});$
- (2) For each $i \in \{1, ..., n+1\}, f_i^n \in dcl(f_1^n, ..., \hat{f}_i^n, ..., f_{n+1}^n)$; and
- (3) For any two $i, j \in \{1, ..., n+1\},\$

$$(f_i^n, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_i)}) \equiv (f_j^n, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_j)}).$$

Step 2: Next, for each $m \in \{1, ..., n-1\}$ and every $s \in [n+1]^{(m)}$, we construct elements f_s^m satisfying both of the following properties (letting $f_i^n = f_{s_i}^n$ for uniformity of notation):

- (4) Whenever $s = (i_1, \ldots, i_k) \in [n+1]^{(k)}$ is increasing and $2 \le k \le n$, $\operatorname{tp}(f_s^k/\overline{a}_{\partial(s)})$ is isolated over $(f_{s\setminus\{i_1\}}^{k-1}, \ldots, f_{s\setminus\{i_k\}}^{k-1});$
- (5) If m = n 1 and $s = (i_1, \ldots, i_n) \in [n + 1]^{(n)}$, then for any g_s^n such that

$$(g_s^n, \overline{a}_{\partial(s)}) \equiv (f_s^n, \overline{a}_{\partial(s)}),$$

we have that $\operatorname{tp}(f_s^n, g_s^n/\overline{a}_{\partial(s)})$ is isolated over $(f_{s\setminus\{i_1\}}^m, \ldots, f_{s\setminus\{i_n\}}^m)$; and

(6) If |s| = |s''| = k, then $(f_s^k, \overline{a}_{\partial(s)}) \equiv (f_{s'}^k, \overline{a}_{\partial(s')})$.

For Step 2, we perform the construction of the $f_s^{n-\ell}$ by induction on ℓ .

Given some $m \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$, suppose that we are given elements f_s^m satisfying (4), (5), and (6) for every increasing $s \in [n+1]^{(m)}$. Consider $s = (1, \ldots, m)$ and the element f_s^m . Pick elements c_1, \ldots, c_m such that $c_i \in \partial(a_1, \ldots, \widehat{a_i}, \ldots, a_m)$ and $\operatorname{tp}(f_s^m/\overline{a}_{\partial(s)})$ is isolated over (c_1, \ldots, c_m) . In the special case where m = n, we can also pick the c_i such that whenever $(g_s^n, \overline{a}_{\partial(s)}) \equiv (f_s^n, \overline{a}_{\partial(s)})$, the type $\operatorname{tp}(f_s^n, g_s^n/\overline{a}_{\partial(s)})$ is also isolated over c_1, \ldots, c_n (since there are only finitely many such g_s^n). Now apply the Symmetrization Lemma (Lemma 3.4) to the elements c_i to obtain elements $f_{s\setminus\{1\}}^{m-1}, \ldots, f_{s\setminus\{m\}}^{m-1}$ such that for any $i, j \in [m]$,

$$(f_{s\setminus\{i\}}^{m-1},\overline{a}_{s\setminus\{i\}}) \equiv (f_{s\setminus\{j\}}^{m-1},\overline{a}_{s\setminus\{j\}}).$$

Because we also have that $c_i \in f_{s \setminus \{i\}}^{m-1}$, the isolation conditions (4) and (5) clearly hold for these elements. Finally, if $t \in [n+1]^{(m-1)}$ is any increasing tuple which is not contained in

[m], we let f_t^{m-1} be some element such that

$$(f_t^{m-1}, \overline{a}_{\partial(t)}) \equiv (f_{(1,\dots,m-1)}^{m-1}, \overline{a}_{\partial((a_1,\dots,a_{m-1}))}).$$

Finally, we explain how to put the pieces together an use Steps 1 and 2 to build a symmetric witness to the failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness as in Definition 3.12. For every nonempty tuple $s \in [n + 1]^{(\leq n)}$, we construct a tuple g_s by a recursion on |s|: first, the tuples $g_{(i)}$ are defined to be $f_{(i)}^1$ as above; then, for the recursion, if $s = (i_1, \ldots, i_m)$, let

$$g_s = (f_s^m, g_{s \setminus \{i_1\}}, \dots, g_{s \setminus \{i_m\}}),$$

Note that each member a_i of the original Morley sequence is interalgebraic with $g_{(i)}$, and we let I be an infinite Morley sequence in the type of $g_{(1)}$. For $i \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$, let $P_i^0(x; y_1, \ldots, y_i)$ be a formula such that $P_i^0(x; g_{(1)}, \ldots, g_{(i)})$ isolates the type of $g_{(1,\ldots,i)}$ over $(g_{(1)}, \ldots, g_{(i)})$ (this type is clearly atomic since it is algebraic), and let P_i be the relatively I-definable set

 $P_i := \{ b \in \mathfrak{C} : P_i^0(b, c_1, \dots, c_i) \text{ for some tuple of pairwise distinct elements } c_1, \dots, c_i \text{ of } I \}.$

F for each $i \in \{2, ..., n\}$, there is a definable map $\pi^i : P^i \to (P^{i-1})^i$ which sends $g_{(1,...,i)}$ to the tuple $(g_{(2,...,i)}, \ldots, g_{(1,...,i-1)})$: in fact, $\pi^i(z)$ simply sends z to the appropriate subtuple of z. The compatibility of the tuple $\pi^i(f)$ in the sense of Definition 2.1 for any $f \in P^i$ is straightforward to check.

Note that for any $i \in [n + 1]$, the element g_{s_i} is in dcl($\{g_{s_j} : j \neq i\}$): this is because g_{s_i} consists of elements $g_{s_{i,j}}$ which are definitionally included in the other elements g_{s_j} , plus the element $f_{s_i}^n$, which is in the definable closure of the elements $f_{s_j}^n \in g_{s_j}$ for by Condition (2) of Step 1. Let $Q(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1})$ be a formula in the type of $(g_{s_1}, \ldots, g_{s_{n+1}})$ witnessing that the tuple is compatible and that any g_{s_i} is definable from all of the other g_{s_j} 's (so that axioms (3) and (4) of Definition 2.3 are satisfied).

The property of isolation of types (condition (1) of Definition (3.12) holds because of parts (4) and (5) of Step 2 above.

The last thing to check is that the *n*-ary quasigroupoid (I, P_2, \ldots, P_n, Q) is connected. So suppose that (p_1, \ldots, p_{n+1}) is any compatible (n+1)-tuple from P_n . Say (c_1, \ldots, c_{n+1}) is the tuple from $I^{(n+1)}$ such that $\operatorname{supp}(p_i) = (c_1, \ldots, \hat{c_i}, \ldots, c_{n+1})$. Since I is an indiscernible set, the definition of P_n gives us that for each i,

$$(p_i, c_1, \ldots, \widehat{c}_i, \ldots, c_{n+1}) \equiv (g_{s_i}, g_{(1)}, \ldots, \widehat{g}_{(i)}, \ldots, g_{(n+1)}).$$

Now if we fix any $i \in [n + 1]$, we can use $(\leq n)$ -uniqueness over the set $\operatorname{acl}(c_i)$ to conclude that

$$(p_1,\ldots,\widehat{p}_i,\ldots,p_{n+1})\equiv(g_{s_1},\ldots,\widehat{g}_{s_i},\ldots,g_{s_{n+1}}),$$

and in particular $\exists x [Q(p_1, \ldots, p_{i-1}, x, p_{i+1}, \ldots, p_{n+1})]$, as required for connectedness.

 \dashv

From this point on in the section, we fix a Morley sequence I over $\emptyset = \operatorname{acl}^{eq}(\emptyset)$ and a relatively *I*-definable connected *n*-ary quasigroupoid $(I, P_2 \dots, P_n, \pi^k : 2 \leq k \leq n, Q)$ which is a symmetric witness to the failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness over \emptyset . Our next task is to construct the group G which will act regularly on this *n*-ary quasigroupoid.

Definition 3.14. Within the context of the fixed relatively *I*-definable *n*-ary quasigroupoid above:

- (1) If $i \in \{2, ..., n\}$ and $(f_1, ..., f_i)$ is a compatible tuple of elements of P_{i-1} , then $P_i(f_1, ..., f_i)$ denotes the set of all elements f of P_i such that $\pi^i(f) = (f_1, ..., f_i)$.
- (2) If $(a_1, \ldots, a_i) \in I^{(i)}$, then $P_i(a_1, \ldots, a_i)$ is the set of all $f \in P_i$ which are over (a_1, \ldots, a_i) (in the sense of Definition 2.2). If $f \in P_i(a_1, \ldots, a_i)$, then we define $\pi(f) := (a_1, \ldots, a_i)$.

Note that due to algebraicity and isolation of types (clauses (1) and (2) of Definition 3.12), the sets $P_i(\overline{f})$ and $P_i(\overline{a})$ in (2) and (3) above are always finite.

Lemma 3.15. Fix some $(a_1, \ldots, a_i, \ldots, a_{n+1}) \in I^{(n+1)}$, two distinct numbers $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$, and two compatible n-tuples $\overline{f}, \overline{f}'$ from P_{n-1} such that

 $\overline{f} = \langle f_k : 1 \le k \le n+1; k \ne i \rangle,$ $\overline{f}' = \langle f'_k : 1 \le k \le n+1; k \ne j \rangle,$ $\pi(f_k) = (a_1, \dots, a_{n+1}) \setminus \{a_i, a_k\},$ $\pi(f'_k) = (a_1, \dots, a_{n+1}) \setminus \{a_j, a_k\},$

and

$$f_j = f'_i.$$

Then given any pair (p,q) from $P_n(\overline{f}) \times P_n(\overline{f})$, we can define a permutation $\chi = \chi(i,j;p,q,\overline{f}')$ of $P_n(\overline{f}')$ by the rule: whenever (r_1,\ldots,r_{n+1}) is a compatible tuple from P_n such that

 $Q(r_1, \ldots, r_{i-1}, p, r_{i+1}, \ldots, r_j, \ldots, r_{n+1})$

holds, then

$$Q(r_1, \ldots, r_{i-1}, q, r_{i+1}, \ldots, \chi(r_j), \ldots, r_{n+1})$$

holds as well.

Proof. Most of the work will go into showing that this rule gives a well-defined function χ . For ease of notation, let i = 1 and j = n + 1 (the other cases have identical proofs).

What we must show is: given any elements $r_2, \ldots, r_{n+1}, r'_2, \ldots, r'_n, s_{n+1}$, and s'_{n+1} such that

$$Q(p, r_2, \ldots, r_n, r_{n+1}) \land Q(q, r_2, \ldots, r_n, s_{n+1}),$$

$$Q(p, r'_2, \dots, r'_n, r_{n+1}) \land Q(q, r'_2, \dots, r'_n, s'_{n+1}),$$

and the four (n + 1)-tuples in the Q relations above are all compatible and independent, then $s'_{n+1} = s_{n+1}$.

Claim 3.16. There is a family of elementary maps

$$\langle \varphi_s : \{2\} \subseteq s \subseteq \{1, \dots, n+1\} \rangle$$

satisfying all of the following properties:

(1) $\varphi_s \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{A}_s);$ (2) If $s \subseteq t$ then $\varphi_s \subseteq \varphi_t;$ (3) If $1 \notin s$ or if $n + 1 \notin s$ then φ_s is the identity map on $\overline{A}_s;$ (4) If $\{1, 2, n+1\} \subseteq s \text{ and } i \in \{1, \dots, n+1\} \setminus s, \text{ then}$

$$\varphi_s(\pi_s(r_i)) = \pi_s(r_i'),$$

where the notation " $\pi_s(r_i)$ " stands for the natural projection of r_i onto an element of $P_{|s|}(\langle a_i : i \in s \rangle)$ formed by composing various maps π_{ℓ}^k ; and (5) If $i \in \{3, \ldots, n\}$ and $s_i = \{1, \ldots, n+1\} \setminus \{i\}$, then $\varphi_{s_i}(r_i) = r'_i$.

For the proof of the Claim, we construct the maps φ_s by induction on |s| using amalgamation properties. For the base case, where $s = \{2\}$, we simply let $\varphi_{\{2\}}$ be the identity map on $\operatorname{acl}(a_2)$. For the induction step, suppose that |s| = k > 1 and we are given the maps φ_t for all $t \subset_{k-1} \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$ such that $2 \in t$. Let $s = \{2\} \cup \{i_1, \ldots, i_{k-1}\}$ and for every $j \in [k-1]$, let $s_j = s \setminus \{i_j\}$. By the induction hypothesis, the functions $\{\varphi_{s_j} : 1 \leq j \leq k-1\}$ form a compatible system of elementary maps, so by relative (k-1, n)-uniqueness over $\operatorname{acl}(a_2)$, the union of the φ_{s_j} maps can be extended to an elementary map φ_s^0 of \overline{A}_s .

If $1 \notin s$, then clearly $1 \notin s_j$ for every j, so by the induction hypothesis the φ_{s_j} are all identity maps, and in this case we may choose $\varphi_s^0 = \varphi_s$ to be an identity map as well. The same applies if $n + 1 \notin s$, so we have verified condition (3).

Finally, if $\{1, 2, n+1\} \subseteq s$, then we only need to construct φ_s satisfying conditions (4) and (5) for the particular *s* under consideration. But since φ_s^0 was constructed as an extension of the maps φ_{s_j} , we may always construct φ_s as $\varphi_s^1 \circ \varphi_s^0$ for some $\varphi_s^1 \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{A}_s)$ which fixes the images of the maps $\{\varphi_{s_j} : j \in [k-1]\}$ pointwise.

Now that we have established the Claim, let $\varphi := \varphi_{[n+1]}$ be the union of all of the maps φ_s . By construction, $\varphi(p) = p$ (since φ is the identity on $\overline{A}_{[n+1]\setminus\{1\}}$), $\varphi(r_i) = r'_i$ for every $i \in \{3, \ldots, n\}$, and $\varphi(r_{n+1}) = r_{n+1}$. So because φ must preserve the Q relation on $(p, r_2, \ldots, r_n, r_{n+1})$, it follows that $\varphi(r_2) = r'_2$. Therefore since $Q(q, r_2, \ldots, r_n, s_{n+1})$ holds, we also have (by applying φ)

$$Q(q, r'_2, \ldots, r'_n, s_{n+1}),$$

and comparing this with the Q relation on $(q, r'_2, \ldots, r'_n, s'_{n+1})$, we conclude that $s'_{n+1} = s_{n+1}$ as desired.

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Lemma 3.17. Suppose that *i* and *j* are distinct elements of $\{1, \ldots, n+1\}$ and we have three compatible *n*-tuples from P_{n-1} ,

$$\overline{f} = \langle f_k : 1 \le k \le n+1; k \ne i \rangle,$$
$$\overline{f}' = \langle f'_k : 1 \le k \le n+1; k \ne j \rangle,$$

and

$$\overline{f}'' = \langle f_k : 1 \le k \le n+1; k \ne j \rangle$$

such that $f_j = f'_i = f''_i$. Then for any two pairs (p,q), (p',q') from $P(\overline{f}) \times P(\overline{f})$,

$$\chi(i,j;p,q,\overline{f}') = \chi(i,j;p',q',\overline{f}')$$

if and only if

$$\chi(i,j;p,q,\overline{f}'') = \chi(i,j;p',q',\overline{f}'')$$
²²

Proof. To fix notation, say that (as in Lemma 3.15)

$$\pi(f_k) = (a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) \setminus \{a_i, a_k\}$$

and

$$\pi(f'_k) = (a_1, \dots, a_{n+1}) \setminus \{a_j, a_k\}$$

for some $(a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) \in I^{(n+1)}$. The first reduction is to note that without loss of generality,

$$\pi(f_k'') = (a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) \setminus \{a_j, a_k\},\$$

since by 2-uniqueness whichever new realization of $\operatorname{tp}(a_1)$ occurs in $\pi^n(\overline{f}'')$ can be mapped to a_i via an elementary map which fixes $\operatorname{acl}(\{a_1,\ldots,a_{n+1}\}\setminus\{a_i\})$ pointwise.

The remainder of the proof uses the same argument as in Lemma 3.15: if, say, i = 1 and j = n + 1, we can perform a similar series of amalgamations to get a compatible family of maps $\langle \varphi_s : \{2\} \subseteq s \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n + 1\} \rangle$ which fix the "face" $\operatorname{acl}(a_2, \ldots, a_{n+1})$ pointwise and map \overline{f}' to \overline{f}'' .

Lemma 3.18. Suppose that $\overline{f} = (f_1, \ldots, f_n)$ is a compatible *n*-tuple from P_{n-1} and $\{r_1, \ldots, r_N\}$ is a list of all the elements of $P_n(\overline{f})$. Then $\operatorname{tp}(r_1r_i/\overline{f}) = \operatorname{tp}(r_1r_j/\overline{f})$ if and only if i = j. Thus

$$\{\operatorname{tp}(r_i r_j / \partial(\overline{f})) : 1 \le i, j \le N\}$$

contains exactly N types, represented by the pairs $(r_1, r_1), (r_1, r_2), \ldots, (r_1, r_N)$.

Proof. If we fix any other compatible tuple \overline{f}' as in the statement of Lemma 3.15, then it is immediate from the definition that for any two distinct $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$, if $r_k \neq r_\ell$ then

$$\chi(i,j;r_1,r_k,\overline{f}') \neq \chi(i,j;r_1,r_\ell,\overline{f}').$$

The relation above is independent of the particular choice of \overline{f}' by Lemma 3.17, and so this relation is clearly definable over $\operatorname{acl}(\pi(r_1))$ by definability of types. Since $\operatorname{tp}(r_1r_i/\operatorname{acl}(\pi(r_1)))$ is isolated over \overline{f} , this proves that there are at least N distinct such types.

The fact that there are only N possible types of pairs (r_i, r_j) follows from the fact that for any $i, k \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$, $\operatorname{tp}(r_i/\overline{f}) = \operatorname{tp}(r_k/\overline{f})$.

Definition 3.19. Fix some $f \in P$ and let $g_i = \pi_i^n(f)$ for each $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$. Suppose that N is the number of realizations of the type $q := \operatorname{tp}(f/g_1, \ldots, g_n)$, and let $f = f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_N$ be an enumeration of all the realizations of q.

By Lemma 3.18, there are formulas $\varphi(\overline{z}) = \varphi(z_1, \ldots, z_n), \psi(y, \overline{z}), \text{ and } \theta_1(y_1, y_2, \overline{z}), \ldots, \theta_N(y_1, y_2, z)$ such that:

- (1) $\varphi(\overline{z}) \in \operatorname{tp}(g_1, \dots g_n);$
- (2) $\psi(y,\overline{z}) \in \operatorname{tp}(f,g_1,\ldots,g_n)$ and $\psi(y,\overline{z}) \vdash \varphi(\overline{z});$
- (3) $\theta_i(y_1, y_2, \overline{z}) \in \operatorname{tp}(f_1, f_i, g_1, \dots, g_n) \text{ and } \theta_i(y_1, y_2, \overline{z}) \vdash \psi(y_1, \overline{z}) \land \psi(y_2, \overline{z});$
- (4) Whenever $\varphi(\overline{c})$ holds, then $\psi(y,\overline{c})$ has precisely N realizations;
- (5) Whenever $\psi(f,\overline{c}) \wedge \psi(f',\overline{c})$ holds, there is exactly one $i \in \{1,\ldots,N\}$ such that $\theta_i(f,f',\overline{c})$ holds; and
- (6) Whenever $\varphi(\overline{c})$ and $\psi(f,\overline{c})$ hold, then $\overline{c} = \pi^n(f) = (\pi_1^n(f), \dots, \pi_n^n(f)).$

Definition 3.20. Suppose that $f \models p_n$ and $(g_1, \ldots, g_n) = \pi^n(f)$ (so $\models \varphi(\overline{g})$). Then for any two $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$, there is a unique element $i \star j \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$ such that whenever

 $\theta_i(f_2, f_3) \wedge \theta_j(f_1, f_2)$ holds, then $\theta_{i\star j}(f_1, f_3)$ also holds. This forms a group operation on the set $\{1, \ldots, N\}$, and we call the resultant group G.

Furthermore, from now on we will assume that the formulas in Definition 3.19 satisfy the following additional property:

(7) Whenever $\theta_i(f_2, f_3, \overline{c}) \wedge \theta_j(f_1, f_2, \overline{c})$ holds, then $\theta_{i\star j}(f_1, f_3, \overline{c})$ also holds.

Definition 3.21. Suppose that $\varphi(\overline{c})$ holds.

- (1) The equivalence relation $\sim_{\overline{c}}$ on $\psi(y,\overline{c}) \times \psi(y,\overline{c})$ is defined by: $(r,s) \sim_{\overline{c}} (r',s')$ if and only if there is some $i \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$ such that $\theta_i(r, s, \overline{c}) \wedge \theta_i(r', s', \overline{c})$. We use brackets [(r,s)] to denote the \overline{c} -class of (r,s). (Note that it is never ambiguous what \overline{c} is since $\overline{c} \in \operatorname{dcl}(r)$.)
- (2) $G_{\overline{c}}$, as a set, is the quotient of $\psi(y,\overline{c}) \times \psi(y,\overline{c})$ by the equivalence relation $\sim_{\overline{c}}$. We define a group operation \cdot on $G_{\overline{c}}$ by the rule that

$$[(s,t)] \cdot [(r,s)] = [(r,t)].$$

(By the properties of the formulas θ_i , this gives a well-defined binary operation.)

Lemma 3.22. For any two n-tuples \overline{c} and \overline{c}' such that $\varphi(\overline{c}) \land \varphi(\overline{c}')$ holds, there is a canonical $(\overline{c}, \overline{c}')$ -definable isomorphism $\Phi_{\overline{c}, \overline{c}'} : G_{\overline{c}} \to G_{\overline{c}'}$. These automorphisms commute: $\Phi_{\overline{c}', \overline{c}''} \circ \Phi_{\overline{c}, \overline{c}'} = \Phi_{\overline{c}, \overline{c}''}$.

Proof. Let $\Phi_{\overline{c},\overline{c}'}([(r,s)]) = [(r',s')]$ if and only if there is some $i \in \{1,\ldots,N\}$ such that $\models \theta_i(r,s,\overline{c}) \land \theta_i(r',s',\overline{c}').$

At this point it is clear that the isomorphism type of all the groups $G_{\overline{c}}$ in the previous Lemma is the same as the G in Definition 3.20 above. Using the definability of $\sim_{\overline{c}}$, we will think of G as living in $\mathfrak{C}^{eq} = \mathfrak{C}$ and identify it with the concrete groups $G_{\overline{c}}$. Although it is not immediate from the definition, we will see below that the group G is always abelian.

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Definition 3.23. Given a tuple \overline{c} such that $\varphi(\overline{c})$ holds, the standard action of G on $\psi(\mathfrak{C}, \overline{c})$ is given by the rule: if $\alpha = [(r, s)]$ where

$$\models \psi(r, \overline{c}) \land \psi(s, \overline{c}) \land \theta_i(r, s, \overline{c}),$$

then for any $f \in \psi(\mathfrak{C}, \overline{c}), \alpha(f)$ is the unique element such that $\theta_i(f, \alpha(f), \overline{c})$ holds.

Lemma 3.24. Suppose that $Q(r_1, \ldots, r_{n+1})$ holds of some compatible (n+1)-tuple (r_1, \ldots, r_{n+1}) from P_n . Then for any $\alpha \in G$ and any $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$,

$$\models Q(r_1, \ldots, r_{i-1}, \alpha(r_i), \alpha(r_{i+1}), r_{i+2}, \ldots, r_{n+1}).$$

Proof. Suppose that (a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) is the realization of $I^{(n+1)}$ such that for any $k \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$, $\pi(r_k) = (a_1, \ldots, \hat{a}_k, \ldots, a_{n+1})$, and pick any a_{n+2} realizing the nonforking extension of $\operatorname{tp}(a_1)$ to (a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) . Throughout the argument below, we let $s_k := [n+2] \setminus \{k\}$ and $s_{k,\ell} := [n+2] \setminus \{\ell, k\}$, and we use the same symbol s_k or $s_{k,\ell}$ to denote the ordered tuple enumerating the elements of this set in ascending order.

To ease notation, let

$$\overline{A}_k = \overline{A}_{s_k} = \operatorname{acl}(a_1, \dots, \widehat{a_k}, \dots, a_{n+2})$$
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and

$$\overline{A}_{k,\ell} = \overline{A}_{s_{k,\ell}} = \operatorname{acl}(a_1, \dots, \widehat{a_k}, \dots, \widehat{a_\ell}, \dots, a_{n+w}).$$

Use Lemma 1.20 to fix some (n-1)-symmetric system $\{\overline{a}_s : s \in [n+2]^{(\leq n-1)}\}$ for $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{n+2}\}$, and let " $\overline{a}_{\partial(s_{i,n+2})}$ " be the tuple

$$(\overline{a}_{s_{1,i,n+2}},\ldots,\overline{a}_{s_{i,n+1,n+2}}).$$

Let r'_{i+1} be the unique element such that

$$\models Q(r_1, \ldots, r_{i-1}, \alpha(r_i), r'_{i+1}, r_{i+2}, \ldots, r_{n+1}).$$

We will show that

$$(*) \qquad (r_i, \alpha(r_i), \overline{a}_{\partial(s_{i,n+2})}) \equiv (r_{i+1}, r'_{i+1}, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_{i+1,n+2})}),$$

which immediately implies that $r'_{i+1} = \alpha(r_{i+1})$, finishing the proof of the Lemma.

Pick some compatible *n*-tuple $\overline{g} = \langle g_k : k \in [n+2] \setminus \{i, i+1\} \rangle$ from P_{n-1} such that

 $\pi(g_k) = (a_1, \dots, \widehat{a}_i, \widehat{a}_{i+1}, \dots, \widehat{a}_k, \dots, a_{n+2})$

and $g_{n+2} = \pi_i^n(r_{i+1}) = \pi_{i+1}^n(r_i)$. To prove (*), it suffices to show:

$$(**) \qquad \chi(1, i+1; r_i, \alpha(r_i), \overline{g}) = \chi(1, i+1; r_{i+1}, r'_{i+1}, \overline{g}).$$

Claim 3.25. There is a system of elementary maps $\langle \varphi_s : s \subseteq s_0 \rangle$ satisfying all of the following properties:

(1) $\varphi_s \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{A}_s)$; (2) If $s \subseteq t$, then $\varphi_s \subseteq \varphi_t$; (3) If $\{1, \ldots, \widehat{i}, i+1, \ldots, n+1\} \subseteq s$, then $\varphi_s(r_i) = \alpha(r_i)$; (4) If $\{1, \ldots, i, \widehat{i+1}, \ldots, n+1\} \subseteq s$, then $\varphi_s(r_{i+1}) = r'_{i+1}$; (5) If |s| < n, then φ_s is the identity map; and (6) If $k \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\} \setminus \{i, i+1\}$ and $s \subseteq [n+2] \setminus \{k\}$, then φ_s is the identity map.

To prove Claim 3.25, first pick the maps φ_s for every $s \subseteq s_{i+1,n+2}$ satisfying conditions (4) and (5) using the fact that (by our assumptions)

$$(r_{i+1}, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_{n+2})}) \equiv (r'_{i+1}, \overline{a}_{\partial(s_{n+2})}).$$

Then use relative (n, n)-uniqueness over the base set $\operatorname{acl}(a_i)$ to find a map $\varphi_{s_{n+2}} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{acl}(a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}))$ which extends $\varphi_{s_{i+1,n+2}}$ and the identity maps on $\overline{A}_{s_{k,n+2}}$ for every $k \in [n+1] \setminus \{i, i+1\}$. The fact that condition (3) is satisfied is immediate from the definable Q relation which is preserved by the σ maps.

Claim 3.26. We may extend the system of maps in Claim 3.25 to a system of maps $\langle \varphi_s : s \subseteq [n+2] \rangle$ which continues to satisfy (1)-(6).

To prove Claim 3.26, we simply use relative (n, n)-uniqueness over the base set $\operatorname{acl}(a_i, a_{i+1})$ to amalgamate the map $\varphi_{s_{n+2}}$ from Claim 3.25 with the identity maps on \overline{A}_{s_k} for each $k \in [n+1] \setminus \{i, i+1\}$ (noting that this is coherent by condition (5) of Claim 3.25).

Now that we have Claim 3.26, write φ for the map $\varphi_{[n+2]} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\overline{A}_{[n+2]})$. Fix some arbitrary $k \in P_n(\overline{g})$ and elements $\langle h_k, h'_k : k \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\} \setminus \{i, i+1\}\rangle$ such that

$$\pi(h_k) = (a_1, \dots, \widehat{a}_i, \dots, \widehat{a}_k, \dots, a_{n+2}),$$

$$\pi(h'_k) = (a_1, \ldots, \widehat{a}_{i+1}, \ldots, \widehat{a}_k, \ldots, a_{n+2}),$$

and

(***) $Q(r_i, h_1, \ldots, h_{i-1}, k, h_{i+2}, \ldots, h_{n+1}) \wedge Q(r_{i+1}, h'_1, \ldots, h'_{i-1}, k, h'_{i+2}, \ldots, h'_{n+1}).$ Then applying the map φ to both relations in (***), we have that

 $Q(\alpha(r_i), h_1, \dots, h_{i-1}, \varphi(k), h_{i+2}, \dots, h_{n+1}) \wedge Q(r'_{i+1}, h'_1, \dots, h'_{i-1}, \sigma(k), h'_{i+2}, \dots, h'_{n+1}).$

Comparing the two Q relations above, we have that, on the one hand,

 $\varphi(k) = \left[\chi(1, i+1; r_i, \alpha(r_i), \overline{g})\right](k),$

and on the other hand,

$$\varphi(k) = \left[\chi(1, i+1; r_{i+1}, r'_{i+1}, \overline{g})\right](k).$$

Since $k \in P_n(\overline{g})$ was arbitrary, we conclude that $\chi(1, i+1; r_i, \alpha(r_i), \overline{g}) = \chi(1, i+1; r_{i+1}, r'_{i+1}, \overline{g})$, establishing (**) and hence the Lemma.

Corollary 3.27. G is abelian.

Proof. This follows by the same argument as in Proposition 2.13 (2), using Lemma 3.24 plus the regularity of the action of G on each set $\psi(\mathfrak{C}, \overline{c})$ such that $\models \varphi(\overline{c})$.

Lemma 3.28. Suppose that $k \ge n$, (a_1, \ldots, a_k) , $(b_1, \ldots, b_k) \in I^{(k)}$, and that (A_1, \ldots, A_{n-1}) and (B_1, \ldots, B_{n-1}) are maximal compatible systems going up to P_{n-1} in the sense of Definition 2.7 such that $A_1 = \{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$ and $B_1 = \{b_1, \ldots, b_k\}$. Let

$$\operatorname{acl}_i(\overline{a}) = \bigcup_{u \subset i\{1,\dots,k\}} \operatorname{acl}(\overline{a}_u),$$

and $\operatorname{acl}_i(\overline{b})$ is defined similarly. Then there is an elementary map $f : \operatorname{acl}_{n-1}(\overline{a}) \to \operatorname{acl}_{n-1}(\overline{b})$ such that $f(a_i) = b_i$ for every $i \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$ and $f(A_j) = B_j$ for every $j \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$.

Proof. Apply Lemma 1.18 and the "isolation of types" clause for a symmetric witness to the failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness (part (1) of Definition 3.12).

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Finally, we put all the pieces together to prove the main theorem of the section.

Proof of Theorem 3.3: Recall that we are assuming T is stable with k-uniqueness for every $k \leq n$ and that T does not have (n + 1)-uniqueness over A. By Proposition 3.13, there is a symmetric witness to the failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness over A. In other words, there is an infinite Morley sequence I over some $A = \operatorname{acl}(A)$ and a relatively I-definable connected n-ary quasigroupoid $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \ldots, P_n, Q)$ satisfying (1) and (2) of Definition 3.12. Clause (2) of this definition implies that \mathcal{H} is locally finite.

The group G defined in Definition 3.20 and its standard action (Definition 3.23) form a regular action on the quasigroupoid \mathcal{H} by Lemma 3.24. By Lemma 3.28 above, this action is (n+2)-homogeneous (as in Definition 2.14). Now Theorem 2.15 above implies that, possibly after replacing Q by Q_g for some $g \in G$ (which certainly preserves relative *I*-definability), we may assume that Q is associative. So \mathcal{H} is an *n*-ary polygroupoid. Finally, condition (4) of Theorem 3.3 is satisfied by \mathcal{H} due to clause (1) of Definition 3.12 ("isolation of types").

For the converse, suppose that we have a Morley sequence I over A and a relatively Idefinable *n*-ary polygroupoid \mathcal{H} satisfying (1)-(4) of the hypothesis. Then for any $(a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) \in$ $I^{(n+1)}$ and any $f \in P_n(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$, evidently $f \in \operatorname{acl}_A(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ (because \mathcal{H} is locally finite), $f \notin \partial_A(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ (by clause (4) and the fact that $G \neq 1$), and

 $f \in \operatorname{dcl}(\operatorname{acl}_A(\widehat{a}_1 a_2 \dots a_{n+1}), \operatorname{acl}_A(a_1 \widehat{a}_2 \dots a_{n+1}), \dots, \operatorname{acl}_A(a_1 \dots \widehat{a}_n a_{n+1}))$

(by picking appropriate elements $f_i \in P_n(a_1, \ldots, \widehat{a_i}, \ldots, a_{n+1})$ and using the Q relation). Therefore T fails to have the property defined as B(n + 1) above which is equivalent to (n + 1)-uniqueness in any stable theory with n-uniqueness (Fact 1.14). \dashv

It is worth noting that the *n*-ary polygroupoid constructed above is totally categorical:

Corollary 3.29. If T is a stable theory with $(\leq n)$ uniqueness but not (n + 1)-uniqueness, then there is some Morley sequence I and some relatively I-definable n-ary polyroupoid $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \ldots, P_n, Q)$ witnessing the failure of (n + 1)-uniqueness such that the complete theory of \mathcal{H} is totally categorical, in the n-sorted language with sorts for I, P_2, \ldots, P_n , a relation symbol for Q, and function symbols for the projection maps $\pi^i : P_i \to (P_{i-1})^i$.

More precisely, there is a relatively I-definable, totally categorical n-ary polygroupoid as above such that some closed independent (n+1)-amalgamation problem \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{H} has two nonisomorphic solutions, and this yields a closed independent (n + 1)-amalgamation problem in the original theory T with two non-isomorphic solutions (since the set I is independent and the definable structure on \mathcal{H} is definable from T).

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be the *n*-ary polygroupoid constructed in Theorem 3.3. At this point it is clear that there is a closed independent (n+1)-amalgamation problem over $\operatorname{acl}(\emptyset)$ in \mathcal{H} with two non-isomorphic solutions (use the algebraic closures of independent elements of I as the "vertices" $\mathcal{A}(\{i\})$, and the non-uniqueness of solutions comes from the interdefinability of fibers in P_n given by the Q relation).

For the ω -categoricity of \mathcal{H} , we show that for every k > 0 there are finitely many complete k-types over \emptyset . Since I is an indiscernible set in T, for every permutation σ of I there is an automorphism φ_{σ} of the structure \mathcal{H} which extends σ . Therefore if A is any set of $n \cdot k$ distinct elements of I, any orbit of any (f_1, \ldots, f_k) under $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$ intersects $\operatorname{cl}(A)$. But since \mathcal{H} is locally finite, $\operatorname{cl}(A)$ is finite.

Finally, to show that the theory of \mathcal{H} is uncountably categorical, note that for any finite $A \subseteq \mathcal{H}$, the set $I \setminus \text{supp}(A)$ is an indiscernible set over A (since any permutation of $I \setminus \text{supp}(A)$) can be extended to an elementary map in $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$, and hence to an automorphism of \mathcal{H} fixing A). Thus I is a strongly minimal set in the theory of \mathcal{H} , and since \mathcal{H} is the algebraic closure of I, it is uncountably categorical.

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4. EXAMPLES OF *n*-ARY QUASIGROUPOIDS AND *n*-ARY POLYGROUPOIDS

In this section, we describe a family of examples of connected *n*-ary quasigroupoids and *n*-ary polygroupoids. These are the simplest possible *n*-ary quasigroupoids equipped with a regular action of a finite abelian group G: in these examples, the fibers P_2, \ldots, P_{n-1} are all "trivial" in the sense that for any $k \in \{2, \ldots, n-1\}$ and any $(a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in I^{(k)}$, there is a unique element in $P_k(a_1, \ldots, a_k)$. We will show that their complete theories (in a suitable language) are totally categorical, eliminate quantifiers, have k-uniqueness for every $k \leq n$, and fail to have (n + 1)-uniqueness.

The language L_n for these examples is as follows. There are (n+1) sorts $I = P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n = P$ and G, plus function symbols for $\pi^k : P_k \to (P_{k-1})^k$. There are function symbols for a binary operation on G and for an action from $(G \times P)$ to P, both of which we will denote by "+" without risk of confusion. There is an (n+1)-ary relation symbol Q on P. Finally, for every σ in the symmetric group S_n , there is a function symbol $\iota_\sigma : P \to P$.

Next we describe the standard countable L_n -structure $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ whose complete theory will be $T_{G,n}$. This structure depends on choices of both an integer $n \geq 2$ and a finite nontrivial abelian group G.

In $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$, the sort I is interpreted as ω and for every $k \in \{2, \ldots, n-1\}$, the sort P_k is simply $\omega^{(k)}$. The sort P_n is interpreted as $\omega^{(n)} \times G$. The projection functions $\pi^k : P_k \to (P_{k-1})^k$ are interpreted in the natural way: for k < n and $i \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$,

$$\pi_i^k((a_1,\ldots,a_k)) = (a_1,\ldots,\widehat{a}_i,\ldots,a_k),$$

and π^n is given by

$$\pi_i^n((a_1,\ldots,a_n),g)=(a_1,\ldots,\widehat{a}_i,\ldots,a_n).$$

If (f_1, \ldots, f_{n+1}) is a compatible (n+1)-tuple from P such that $f_i = ((a_1, \ldots, \hat{a}_i, \ldots, a_{n+1}), g_i)$, then we define Q so that

$$Q(f_1,\ldots,f_{n+1}) \Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (-1)^i g_i = 0.$$

The group G acts on P by the rule

$$((a_1, \ldots, a_n), g) + h = ((a_1, \ldots, a_n), g + h).$$

Finally, the function symbols $\iota_{\sigma}: P \to P$ are interpreted by the rule

$$\iota_{\sigma}((a_1,\ldots,a_n),g)=(a_{\sigma(1)},\ldots,a_{\sigma(n)}),\operatorname{sign}(\sigma)).$$

The following facts about $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ are all easily checked from the definition of the structure:

Proposition 4.1. (1) $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ is a connected *n*-ary quasigroupoid.

- (2) For any $k \in \{2, \ldots, n-1\}$ and any $(a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in I^{(k)}, |P_k(a_1, \ldots, a_k)| = 1$.
- (3) $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ is associative (hence an n-ary polygroupoid).
- (4) The action of G on $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ is regular.
- (5) For any $\sigma \in S_n$ and $(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in I^{(n)}$, ι_σ induces a bijection from $P(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ to $P(a_{\sigma(1)}, \ldots, a_{\sigma(n)})$.
- (6) For any $\sigma, \tau \in S_n$,

$$\iota_{\sigma\circ\tau} = \iota_{\sigma} \circ \iota_{\tau}$$

(7) For any $g \in G$, any $\sigma \in S_n$, and any $f \in P$,

$$\iota_{\sigma}(f+g) = \iota_{\sigma}(f) + (-1)^{\operatorname{sign}(g)}(g)$$

(8) If f_1, \ldots, f_{n+1} is a compatible tuple from P such that $Q(f_1, \ldots, f_{n+1})$ holds, then for any $i \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$, if $\sigma_i \in S_n$ is the transposition (i, i+1), then

$$Q(\iota_{\sigma_{i-1}}(f_1),\ldots,\iota_{\sigma_{i-1}}(f_{i-1}),f_{i+1},f_i,\iota_{\sigma_i}(f_{i+2}),\ldots,\iota_{\sigma_i}(f_{n+1})).$$

We think of the maps ι_{σ} as "generalized inverse maps" on the sort P, noting that when n = 2 and $\sigma = (12)$ this really is an inverse map from $Mor(a_1, a_2)$ to $Mor(a_2, a_1)$. It turns out that is necessary to add the maps ι_{σ} to the basic language if we hope to have elimination of quantifiers. For instance, in the case where n = 3, consider any $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) \in I^{(4)}$ and pair of elements (f_1, f_2) from P such that $f_1 \in P(a_1, a_2, a_4)$ and $f_2 \in P(a_2, a_1, a_4)$. From the pair (f_1, f_2) , we can define a bijection $\iota_{(f_1, f_2)}$ from $P(a_1, a_2, a_3)$ to $P(a_2, a_1, a_3)$ by the rule that whenever

$$Q(h_1, h_2, f_1, f)$$

holds, then so does

$$Q(h_2, h_1, f_2, \iota_{(f_1, f_2)}(f)).$$

As is easy to verify, this definition is independent of the choices of h_1 and h_2 . Thus over $\operatorname{acl}^{eq}(a_1, a_2)$ we have a family of definable bijections from $P(a_1, a_2, b)$ to $P(a_2, a_1, b)$, which it turns out is equal to $\iota_{(12)} + g$ for some fixed $g \in G$.

Definition 4.2. A connected n-ary polygroupoid with inverses is an L_n -structure satisfying all the properties (1) through (8) of Proposition 4.1.

Definition 4.3. If (I, <) is any linearly ordered set such that $|I| \ge n$ with a minimal element $a \in I$, then the *n*-star of (I, <) is the set

$$\operatorname{Star}_{n}(I, <) := \{(a, b_{1}, \dots, b_{n-1}) : a < b_{1} < \dots < b_{n-1}\}.$$

A set $S \subseteq I^{(n)}$ is an *n*-star centered at *a* or an *n*-star over *I* if $S = \text{Star}_n(I, <)$ for some linear ordering < on *I* in which *a* is the minimal element.

If \mathcal{S} is an *n*-star, a solution on \mathcal{S} is a function $s : \mathcal{S} \to P_n$ such that for any $u \in \mathcal{S}$ we have that $s(u) \in P_n(u)$.

Proposition 4.4. Suppose $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \ldots, P_n, Q, G)$ and $\mathcal{H}^* = (I^*, P_2^*, \ldots, P_n^*, Q^*, G^*)$ are two connected n-ary polygropuoids with inverses with $|I| \ge n$, and that we have the following:

- (1) A bijection $\varphi: I \to I^*$;
- (2) A group isomorphism $\psi: G \to G^*$;
- (3) An n-star S over I centered at a, which corresponds via φ to an n-star $S^* := \varphi(S)$ centered at $a^* := \varphi(a)$; and
- (4) Two solutions $s: \mathcal{S} \to P_n$ and $s^*: \mathcal{S}^* \to P_n^*$.

Then there is a unique isomorphism $\chi : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{H}^*$ of L_n -structures which extends $\varphi \cup \psi$ and satisfies

$$\chi(s(u)) = s^*(\varphi(u))$$

for every $u \in \mathcal{S}$.

Proof. First, we fix a linear ordering < over I such that $S = \operatorname{Star}_n(I, <)$ and a is the <minimal element of I (in fact, for $n \geq 3$, this ordering is uniquely determined by the set S).
This transfers via φ to a linear ordering over I^* with a^* as the minimal element such that $S^* = \operatorname{Star}_n(I^*, <)$, and we will use the same symbol < for both orderings without risk of
confusion.

Form the partition $I^{(n)} = I_a \cup I_b$ where I_a consists of all tuples $I^{(n)}$ which contain the element a and $I_b := (I \setminus \{a\})^{(n)}$. Let $P = P_a \cup P_b$ be the corresponding partition of $P = P_n$, and we define sets I_a^*, I_b^*, P_a^* , and P_b^* in \mathcal{H}_2 analogously (replacing a everywhere by a^*).

The first step is to define a function $\varphi_a : P_a \to P_a^*$ using the inverse maps. Given any tuple $(c_1, \ldots, c_n) \in I_a$, first select the unique $(b_1, \ldots, b_n) \in S$ and the unique $\sigma \in S_n$ such that

$$(c_1,\ldots,c_n)=(b_{\sigma(1)},\ldots,b_{\sigma(n)})$$

Then for any $f \in P(c_1, \ldots, c_n)$, there is a unique $g \in G$ such that

$$f = \iota_{\sigma} \left[s(b_1, \ldots, b_n) \right] + g_s$$

and we define

$$\varphi_a(f) := \iota_{\sigma}^* \left[s^*(\varphi(b_1), \dots, \varphi(b_n)) \right] + \psi(g).$$

Observe that it follows immediately from the definition that φ_a respects the action of the group G, that is, that $\varphi_a(f+g) = \varphi_a(f) + \psi(g)$ for any $f \in \operatorname{dom}(\varphi_a)$ and any $g \in G$. It is also immediate that φ_a satisfies the requirement that $\varphi_a(s(u)) = s^*(\varphi(u))$ for any $u \in S$, simply by letting σ be the identity permutation and by letting g = 0.

Now we define a function $\varphi_b : P_b \to P_b^*$ via φ^a and the *Q*-relation: if $f \in P_b$, say $f \in P(c_1, \ldots, c_n)$, then we can pick elements $f_i \in P(a, c_1, \ldots, \widehat{c_i}, \ldots, c_n)$ such that $Q(f, f_1, \ldots, f_n)$ holds, and then define $\varphi_b(f)$ to be the unique element of $P^*(\varphi(c_1), \ldots, \varphi(c_n))$ such that

$$Q^*(\varphi_b(f),\varphi_a(f_1),\ldots,\varphi_a(f_n))$$

The first thing to check is that φ_b is well-defined, that is, that the definition of $\varphi_b(f)$ does not depend on the choice of the elements f_i . If we also have $Q(f, h_1, \ldots, h_n)$ where $h_i \in P(a, c_1, \ldots, \hat{c_i}, \ldots, c_n)$, then $h_i = f_i + g_i$ for some $g_i \in G$, and by Proposition 2.13,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (-1)^{i} g_{i} = 0$$

The alternating sum of the elements $\psi(g_i)$ is also 0 since ψ is a group isomorphism. Therefore by Proposition 2.13 again,

$$Q^*(\varphi_b(f),\varphi_a(f_1)+\psi(g_1),\ldots,\varphi_a(f_n)+\psi(g_n)),$$

and by the observation above that φ_a commutes with the action of the group G, we conclude that $Q^*(\varphi_b(f), \varphi_a(h_1), \ldots, \varphi_a(h_n))$.

We now define χ as the function from \mathcal{H} to \mathcal{H}^* which acts as φ on the I sort, as ψ on the G sort, as $\varphi^a \cup \varphi^b$ on the P_n sort, and commutes with the projection functions π^i . Evidently this χ induces bijections between all the sorts which respect the fibers in P. We must check that χ respects the rest of the L_n -definable structure: that it commutes with the action of G and the inverse maps ι_{σ} , and that it preserves the Q relation.

 χ respects the action of G: Let $f \in P(u)$ and $g \in G$. As already observed above, it follows directly from the definition of φ_a that if $u \in P_a$, then $\chi(f+g) = \chi(f) + \chi(g)$. So suppose that $g \in G$ and $f \in P_b$ and

$$Q(f, f_1, \ldots, f_n)$$

for elements $f_i \in P_a$. We must check that $\varphi_b(f+g) = \varphi_b(f) + \psi(g)$. But by the definition of φ_b and Proposition 2.13,

$$Q^*(\varphi_b(f) + \psi(g), \varphi_a(f_1) + \psi(g), \varphi_a(f_2), \dots, \varphi_a(f_n))$$

holds, and since φ_a commutes with the *G* action,

$$Q^*(\varphi_b(f) + \psi(g), \varphi_a(f_1 + g), \varphi_a(f_2), \dots, \varphi_a(f_n))$$

By Proposition 2.13 again, we also have that

$$Q(f+g, f_1+g, f_2, \ldots, f_n),$$

and so

$$Q^*(\varphi_b(f+g),\varphi_a(f_1+g),\varphi_a(f_2),\ldots,\varphi_a(f_n)).$$

Comparing the last two sentences, we conclude that $\varphi_b(f+g) = \varphi_b(f) + \psi(g)$.

 χ commutes with the inverse maps: Fix $\sigma \in S_n$ and $f \in P$, and we check that $\varphi(\iota_{\sigma}(f)) = \iota_{\sigma}^*(\varphi(f))$. We break into cases depending on whether $f \in P_a$ or $f \in P_b$.

First suppose that $f \in P_a$, and say $f \in (c_1, \ldots, c_n)$ where some c_i is equal to a_1 . As in the definition of φ_a above, we first fix $(b_1, \ldots, b_n) \in S$ and $\tau \in S_n$ such that

$$(c_1,\ldots,c_n)=(b_{\tau(1)},\ldots,b_{\tau(n)})$$

and we pick $g \in G$ such that

$$f = \iota_\tau(s(b_1, \ldots, b_n)) + g.$$

We calculate:

$$\chi(\iota_{\sigma}(f)) = \varphi_a\left(\iota_{\sigma\circ\tau}(s(b_1,\ldots,b_n)) + (-1)^{\mathbf{sg}(\sigma)}g\right),$$

which by the definition of φ_a is equal to

$$\iota_{\sigma\circ\tau}^* \left[s^*(\varphi(b_1), \dots, \varphi(b_n)) \right] + (-1)^{\operatorname{sg}(\sigma)} \psi(g)$$

= $\iota_{\sigma}^* \left[\iota_{\tau}^*(s^*(\varphi(b_1), \dots, \varphi(b_n))) + \psi(g) \right]$
= $\iota_{\sigma}^*(\varphi_a(f)),$

which is what we wanted to show.

For the other case, suppose $f \in P_b$ and pick elements $f_j \in P_a$ (for $j \in \{1, ..., n\}$) such that

$$Q(f, f_1, \ldots, f_n),$$

and so by definition of φ_b ,

$$Q^*(\varphi_b(f),\varphi_a(f_1),\ldots,\varphi_a(f_n))$$

By property (8) of Proposition 4.1 (the preservation of Q under transpositions) applied to both of the Q relations immediately above, we conclude that

(†)
$$Q(\iota_{\sigma_i}(f), \iota_{\sigma_i}(f_1), \dots, f_{i+1}, f_i, \iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}(f_{i+2}), \dots, \iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}(f_n))$$

and

$$Q^{*}(\iota_{\sigma_{i}}^{*}(\varphi_{b}(f)), \iota_{\sigma_{i}}^{*}(\varphi_{a}(f_{1})), \dots, \varphi_{a}(f_{i+1}), \varphi_{a}(f_{i}), \iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}^{*}(\varphi(f_{i+2})), \dots, \iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}^{*}(\varphi_{a}(f_{n}))).$$

Since we know that φ_a commutes with the inverse maps, we derive from the Q^* relation above that

$$(\ddagger) \quad Q^*(\iota_{\sigma_i}^*(\varphi_b(f)), \varphi_a(\iota_{\sigma_i}(f_1)), \dots, \varphi_a(f_{i+1}), \varphi_a(f_i), \varphi(\iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}(f_{i+2})), \dots, \varphi_a(\iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}(f_n))).$$

By (†) and the definition of φ , we also have that

$$(\dagger\dagger\dagger) \quad Q^*(\varphi_b(\iota_{\sigma_i}(f)), \varphi_a(\iota_{\sigma_i}(f_1)), \dots, \varphi_a(f_{i+1}), \varphi_a(f_i), \varphi_a(\iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}(f_{i+2})), \dots, \varphi_a(\iota_{\sigma_{i+1}}(f_n)))$$

Comparing (‡) with (†††), we conclude that $\iota_{\sigma_i}^*(\varphi_b(f)) = \varphi_b(\iota_{\sigma_i}(f))$, as desired.

 χ respects the Q relation: Suppose that h_1, \ldots, h_{n+1} are from P. It suffices to check that, assuming $Q(h_1, \ldots, h_{n+1})$ holds, then so does $Q^*(\varphi(h_1), \ldots, \varphi(h_{n+1}))$.

Case (a) is when some h_i belongs to P_a . By repeated applications of Property (8) of Proposition 4.1 plus the fact noted above that φ commutes with the inverses, it we may

assume without loss of generality that $h_1 \in P_a$. But by the very definition of φ_b given above, we have that $Q(h_1, h_2, \ldots, h_{n+1})$ implies $Q^*(\varphi_b(h_1), \varphi_a(h_2), \ldots, \varphi_a(h_{n+1}))$, which is what we wanted.

Case (b) is when **every** h_i belongs to P_b . (This seems to be the only step of the proof which uses the fact that \mathcal{H} and \mathcal{H}^* satisfy the associative law.) First we use the associativity of \mathcal{H} and Remark 2.11 to pick a collection of elements $\{f_{ij} : 1 \leq i < j \leq n+2\}$ such that $f_{ij} \in P(a_1, b_2, \ldots, \hat{b_i}, \ldots, \hat{b_j}, \ldots, b_{n+2})$, the Q relation holds of every tuple $F_i =$ $(f_{1i}, \ldots, \hat{f_{ii}}, \ldots, f_{i,n+2})$ (for each $i \in \{1, \ldots, n+2\}$), and F_1 is the original tuple (h_1, \ldots, h_{n+1}) . Then for every $i \in \{2, \ldots, n+2\}$, by case (a) immediately above, the Q^* relation holds of the tuple $\chi(F_i) := (\chi(f_{1i}), \ldots, \chi(f_{i,n+2}))$. By the associativity of \mathcal{H}^* , the Q^* relation also holds of $\chi(F_1)$, that is,

$$Q^*(\chi(h_1),\ldots,\chi(h_{n+1}))$$

and we are finished.

Finally, we prove the uniqueness of the isomorphism $\chi : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{H}^*$ satisfying the hypotheses of the Proposition. First note that φ_a is the only possible function which maps P_a onto P_a^* , commutes with the group isomorphism $\psi : G \to G^*$ and the inverse maps ι_{σ} , and satisfies $\varphi_a(s(u)) = s^*(\varphi(u))$ for every $u \in \mathcal{S}$. Then note that all of P is generated from P_a using the Q relation, so the map φ_a has at most one extension to a function on all of P which respects the Q relation. This was all we needed to verify.

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Immediately from Proposition 4.4, we obtain the following important corollaries on automorphisms:

Corollary 4.5. If $\mathcal{H} = (I, \ldots, P, G, Q)$ is any connected n-ary polygroupoid with inverses and $S \subseteq I^{(n)}$ is an n-star over I, then for any function $\varphi : S \to G$, there is a unique automorphism $\chi \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{H}/I \cup G)$ such that for every $w \in S$ and every $f \in P(w)$,

$$\chi(f) = f + \varphi(w).$$

Corollary 4.6. For any connected n-ary polygroupoid with inverses $\mathcal{H} = (I, G, ...)$, any permutation φ of I can be extended to an automorphism of \mathcal{H} which fixes G pointwise.

Lemma 4.7. Suppose that $M = (I, P_2, \ldots, P_n, G) \models T_{n,G}$ (with G finite), and let

$$M^{home} = I(M) \cup P_2(M) \cup \ldots \cup P_n(M) \cup G(M)$$

(that is, the union of the "home sorts" of M). Then for any $X \subseteq M^{home}$,

$$\operatorname{acl}^{eq}(X) \cap M^{home} = \operatorname{cl}(X)$$

in the sense of Definition 2.4.

Proof. It is immediate that every element of cl(X) is in $acl^{eq}(X)$ (this uses the finiteness of G). For the other direction, of $acl^{eq}(X) \cap M^{home}$ contained any element outside of cl(X), then it would necessarily contain some element $a \in I \setminus (X \cap I)$. But by Corollary 4.6 and the infinitude of I, no such element a can belong to $acl^{eq}(X \cap I) = acl^{eq}(X)$.

Corollary 4.8. If $\mathcal{H} = (I, P, G, ...)$ is any connected n-ary polygroupoid with inverses, then $\Gamma = \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$ has the following normal series:

$\Gamma \rhd \Gamma_1 \rhd \Gamma_2,$

where:

- (1) $\Gamma_1 = \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{H}/I);$
- (2) $\Gamma_2 = \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{H}/I \cup G) \cong \prod_{\mathcal{S}} G$, the direct product of infinitely many copies of G indexed by some n-star \mathcal{S} over I;
- (3) $\Gamma_2 \lhd \Gamma;$
- (4) $\Gamma_1/\Gamma_2 \cong \operatorname{Aut}(G)$; and

(5)
$$\Gamma/\Gamma_2 \cong \operatorname{Sym}(I)$$

Theorem 4.9. If we define $T_{G,n}$ to be the complete L_n -theory of the structure $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ above (for $n \geq 2$ and G some finite nontrivial abelian group), then:

- (1) $T_{G,n}$ is completely axiomatized by a set of sentences asserting the following:
 - (a) $\mathcal{H}_{G,n}$ is a connected n-ary polygroupoid with inverses (that is, it satisfies properties (1) through (8) of Proposition 4.1);
 - (b) I is infinite; and
 - (c) A list of axioms for the group structure (G, +) (which characterizes G up to isomorphism, since G is finite).
- (2) $T_{G,n}$ is totally categorical.
- (3) $T_{G,n}$ has quantifier elimination after adding constants for each element of G.

Proof. We prove all three parts of the theorem simultaneously by a back-and-forth argument using partial L_n -isomorphisms determined by *n*-stars. The key point is the following:

Claim 4.10. Suppose that $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \ldots, G)$ and $\mathcal{H}^* = (I^*, P_2^*, \ldots, G^*)$ are two connected n-ary polygroupoids with inverses with a group isomorphism $\psi : G \to G^*$. Then given any two sets $A \subseteq I$ and $A^* \subseteq I^*$, any two elements $b \in I \setminus A$ and $b^* \in I^* \setminus A^*$, and any isomorphism of L_n -structures $\chi : cl(A) \to cl(A^*)$ extending ψ , there is an extension $\tilde{\chi} \supseteq \chi$ to an isomorphism of L_n -structures such that $\tilde{\chi} : cl(A \cup \{b\}) \to cl(A^* \cup \{b^*\})$.

To prove Claim 4.10, first pick any $a \in I$ and any *n*-star $S \subseteq I^{(n)}$ centered at a. Let $a^* = \chi(a)$ and let S^* be the image of S under χ (which is an *n*-star centered at a^*). Finally, pick an arbitrary function $s : S \to P_n$ such that $s(u) \in P_n(u)$ for every $u \in S$ and let $s^* : S^* \to P_n^*$ be the function induced by χ and s, that is, so that $s^*(\chi(u)) = \chi(s(u))$ for every $u \in S$. Pick any *n*-star $\tilde{S} \supseteq S$ (also centered at a) and any extension $\tilde{s} \supseteq s$ to a selection function $\tilde{s} : \tilde{S} \to P_n$, and let $\tilde{S}^* \subseteq (I^*)^{(n)}$ and $\tilde{s}^* : \tilde{S}^* \to P_n^*$ be induced by χ as before. Now we define the bijection $\varphi : (A \cup \{b\}) \to (A^* \cup \{b^*\})$ as the restriction of χ to A extended so that $\varphi(b) = b^*$, and we apply Proposition 4.4 using this φ , the group isomorphism $\psi : G \to G^*$, and the solutions \tilde{s} and \tilde{s}^* ; this yields an isomorphism $\tilde{\chi} : cl(A \cup \{b\}) \to cl(A^* \cup \{b^*\})$ of L_n -structures. The fact that $\tilde{\chi}$ extends χ follows from the uniqueness clause of Proposition 4.4 applied to $\tilde{\chi} \upharpoonright cl(A)$ and χ .

Given Claim 4.10, we now consider any two connected *n*-ary polygroupoids with inverses $\mathcal{H} = (I, P_2, \ldots, G)$ and $\mathcal{H}^* = (I^*, P_2^*, \ldots, G^*)$ such that $|I| = |I^*| \ge n$ and $G \cong G^*$. First note that for any *n*-element sets $A \subseteq I$ and $A^* \subseteq I^*$, there is an isomorphism $\chi : cl(A) \to cl(A^*)$ of L_n -structures which extends $\psi : G \to G^*$ (this is straightforward, but since cl(A) includes fibers $P_n(u)$ for all n! permutations of A, we do need properties (6) and (7) of Propostion 4.1 to ensure the existence of χ). With this as a base case, we can now use

Claim 4.10 as the induction step of a standard back-and-forth argument to conclude that $\mathcal{H} \cong \mathcal{H}^*$ as L_n -structures. This gives us the completeness of the axioms in part (1) of Theorem 4.9 plus the total categoricity of $T_{G,n}$. Finally, the elimination of quantifiers for $T_{G,n}$ in the language L_n plus constants for G also follows immediately from Claim 4.10 by a standard argument.

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Everywhere below, G is always a finite nontrivial abelian group.

Lemma 4.11. If \mathfrak{C} a monster model of $T_{G,n}$ and A, B, C substets of $I(\mathfrak{C}) \cup P(\mathfrak{C})$,

$$A \underset{B}{\sqcup} C \Leftrightarrow [\operatorname{cl}(A \cup B) \cap \operatorname{cl}(C \cup B)] = \operatorname{cl}(B).$$

Proof. The direction " \Rightarrow " is immediate using the characterization of algebraic closure given by Lemma 4.7. For the direction " \Leftarrow ," suppose that A, B, and C are subsets of \mathfrak{C} . By quantifier elimination, the only formulas $\varphi(\overline{x}; \overline{c})$ over C which divide over B are ones which imply that $\overline{x} \in \operatorname{cl}(C \cup B) \setminus \operatorname{cl}(B)$ (since the atomic L_n -formulas over \overline{c} can only express that a variable from \overline{x} is in some finite substructure generated by \overline{c}). But since $T_{G,n}$ is stable, forking equals dividing. Therefore if $[\operatorname{cl}(A \cup B) \cap \operatorname{cl}(C \cup B)] = \operatorname{cl}(B)$, then $A \bigcup_B C$.

Proposition 4.12. After naming constants for every element of G, $T_{G,n}$ has weak elimination of imaginaries (that is, elimination of imaginaries up to names for finite sets).

Proof. We use the criterion given by Lemma 16.17 of [19], which says that it suffices to check the following two conditions (working in \mathfrak{C} and not \mathfrak{C}^{eq}):

- (1) There is no strictly decreasing sequence $A_0 \supseteq A_1 \supseteq \ldots$, where every A_i is the algebraic closure of a finite set of parameters; and
- (2) If A and B are algebraic closures of finite sets of parameters in \mathfrak{C} , then $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A \cap B)$ is generated by $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$ and $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/B)$.

Condition (1) is immediate from the characterization of algebraic closure given by Lemma 4.7 (that each A_i is $cl(I_i)$ for some $I_i \subseteq I(\mathfrak{C})$).

For condition (2), suppose that $\sigma \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A \cap B)$, and assume that $A = \operatorname{cl}(A_0)$ and $B = \operatorname{cl}(B_0)$ where $A_0, B_0 \subseteq I(\mathfrak{C})$. By Proposition 4.4, any permutation of $I(\mathfrak{C})$ which fixes A_0 can be extended to an automorphism of $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$, and likewise for B_0 and B.

Using the fact that $\operatorname{Sym}(I/A_0 \cap B_0)$ is generated by $\operatorname{Sym}(I/A_0)$ and $\operatorname{Sym}(I/B_0)$ to find an automorphism $\tau \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C})$ such that τ is in the subgroup generated by $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$ and $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/B)$ and $\tilde{\sigma} := \sigma \circ \tau^{-1}$ fixes I pointwise.

Now we write $\tilde{\sigma}$ as the composition of two automorphisms $\sigma_A \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$ and $\sigma_B \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/B)$. Take an arbitrary point $a \in A_0 \cap B_0$ (if the intersection is empty, choose $a \in A_0$). Let S be an *n*-star at *a* and let $s : S \to P_n$ be a solution function. Let $s^* = \tilde{\sigma} \circ s$. Then s^* is a solution function on the same *n*-star S. Let $t : S \to G$ be the function uniquely determined by the condition $s^*(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = s(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) + t(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1})$.

By Proposition 4.4, $\tilde{\sigma}$ is completely determined by s and s^* (because it fixes I and G). Equivalently, the isomorphism $\tilde{\sigma}$ is uniquely determined by the function t. We now show how to write t as a sum of two functions t_A and t_B that give isomorphisms fixing A and Brespectively.

Since $\tilde{\sigma}$ fixes $A \cap B$ pointwise, we have

$$t(a, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) = 0 \text{ for all } c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in A_0 \cap B_0.$$
(*)

Define the functions

$$t_A(a, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in A_0; \\ t(a, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}), & \text{otherwise}; \end{cases}$$
$$t_B(a, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) = \begin{cases} t(a, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}), & \text{if } c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in A_0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}; \end{cases}$$

It is clear that $t = t_A + t_B$. For all $c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1} \in B_0$ we have $t_B(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = 0$: if at least one of c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1} is not in A_0 , this follows by the definition; and if $c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1} \in A_0 \cap B_0$, the function $t_B(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = t(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = 0$ by (*).

Let $\sigma_A \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C})$ be the automorphism determined by the identity permutation of I, identity isomorphism of G and the function t_A . Similarly let $\sigma_B \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C})$ be the automorphism determined by the function t_B . Since the function $t_A(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = 0$ for all $c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1} \in A_0$ and $t_B(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = 0$ for all $c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1} \in B_0$, we have $\sigma_A \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/A)$ and $\sigma_B \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{C}/B)$. Finally, since $t_A(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) + t_B(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1}) = t(a, c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1})$ for all $c_1, \ldots, c_{n-1} \in \overline{G}$. Finally, we get $\sigma_B \circ \sigma_A \circ \tau = \sigma$.

Proposition 4.13. (1) $T_{G,n}$ has $(\leq n)$ -uniqueness.

- (2) T does not have (n + 1)-uniqueness over $\operatorname{acl}(\emptyset)$.
- (3) If $A \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ is any algebraically closed set containing at least one element of I, then T has k-uniqueness over A for every k.

Proof. (1) We will show that $T_{G,n}$ has *n*-uniqueness over any set, and note that *k*-uniqueness for k < n can be proved by a similar argument. Let $\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{P}^{-}([n]) \to \mathcal{C}$ be a closed independent *n*-amalgamation problem over the algebraically closed set $B \subseteq \mathfrak{C}$ (as in the notation of Section 1), and let $\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{A}''$ be two independent solutions to \mathcal{A} . If $\mathcal{A}(\{i\})$ is the algebraic closure over B in $T_{G,n}^{eq}$ of m_i elements from $I \setminus B$ (for each $i \in [n]$), then the image of $\mathcal{A}'_{\{i\},[n]}$ is the algebraic closure over B of some tuple $\overline{b}_i \subseteq I$ of size m_i , and the image of $\mathcal{A}''_{\{i\},[n]}$ is the algebraic closure over B of a tuple $\overline{c}_i \subseteq I$ of size m_i , where both families $\{\overline{b}_i : i \leq n\}$ and $\{\overline{c}_i : i \leq n\}$ are pairwise disjoint. Pick some $a \in I$ which is not contained in B nor in any of the tuples \overline{b}_i or \overline{c}_i . Choose some *n*-star S centered at a over the set $B \cup \{a\} \cup \{\overline{b}_i : i \leq n\}$ and another *n*-star S^* centered at a over supp $(B) \cup \{a\} \cup \{\overline{c}_i : i \leq n\}$. We arbitrarily select a solution function $s : S \to P_n$ as in Proposition 4.4, and note that for any $u \in S$, the element s(u) must be completely contained in the image of some transition map $\mathcal{A}'_{v,[n]}$ for v a proper subset of [n]. Fix some bijection

$$\varphi : \operatorname{supp}(B) \cup \{a\} \cup \{b_i : i \le n\} \to \operatorname{supp}(B) \cup \{a\} \cup \{\overline{c}_i : i \le n\}$$

which fixes $\operatorname{supp}(B) \cup \{a\}$ pointwise. Then S is transferred via φ to some *n*-star S^* centered at *a* over the set $\operatorname{supp}(B) \cup \{a\} \cup \{\overline{c}_i : i \leq n\}$, and there is a unique solution function $s^* : S^* \to P_n$ such that for any $u \in S$, there is some proper subset *v* of [n] and some $f \in P_n$ such that $s(u) = \mathcal{A}'_{v,[n]}(f)$ and $s^*(\varphi(u)) = \mathcal{A}''_{v,[n]}(f)$. By Proposition 4.4, we can construct a unique isomorphism

$$\chi : \operatorname{cl}(B \cup \{a\} \cup \{b_i : i \le n\}) \to \operatorname{cl}(B \cup \{a\} \cup \{\overline{c}_i : i \le n\})$$

extending φ and the identity map on G and sending s to s^* , and χ is an elementary map since $T_{G,n}$ eliminates quantifiers. This gives the desired isomorphism between \mathcal{A}' and \mathcal{A}'' . (2) Let (a_1, \ldots, a_{n+1}) be a sequence of distinct elements of $I(\mathfrak{C})$, which form an independent set (by Lemma 4.11), then pick any elements f_1, \ldots, f_{n+1} such that $f_i \in P(a_1, \ldots, \widehat{f_i}, \ldots, f_{n+1})$ and $Q(f_1, \ldots, f_{n+1})$ holds, and clearly $f_i \in \operatorname{acl}(\overline{a}_{\neq i}) \setminus \operatorname{dcl}(\overline{a}_{\neq i})$, so T does not satisfy the property B(n+1) over $\operatorname{acl}(\emptyset)$.

(3) To show k-uniqueness over A with $a \in A \cap I$, consider two solutions \mathcal{A}' and \mathcal{A}'' to the same k-amalgamation problem \mathcal{A} , and we repeat essentially the same argument as in the proof of (1), only this time we use n-stars \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{S}^* over the given point a. Then

$$\mathcal{A}'([k]) = \operatorname{cl}(\{s(u) : u \in \mathcal{S}\})$$

and any s(u) for $u \in S$ is automatically in the image of some transition map $\mathcal{A}'_{v,[k]}$ for some $v \subset_{k-1} [k]$, so by Proposition 4.4 we can build the desired isomorphism from $\mathcal{A}'([k])$ to $\mathcal{A}''([k])$.

 \dashv

This concludes our discussion of models of $T_{G,n}$, which establishes that there do indeed exist connected *n*-ary polygroupoids for every $n \geq 2$ definable in theories that are very wellbehaved (ω -categorical and ω -stable), and that for any finite nontrivial abelian G we can find such a structure on which G acts regularly (in the sense of Definition 2.12 above). It seems that it is possible to construct more complicated examples of *n*-ary polygroupoids, for example in which the sorts P_k for $k \in \{2, \ldots, n-1\}$ have more than one fiber above every tuple in $I^{(k)}$, or even with more complicated "inverse maps" $\iota_{\sigma} : P(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \to$ $P(a_{\sigma(1)}, \ldots, P_{\sigma(n)})$ such that $\iota_{(12)}^2 \neq id$ for the transposition (12). We will leave a detailed study of all these possibilities for a future paper.

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