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The role of Limit Models in Abstract Elementary Classes

A limit model is an example of one of the model theoretic constructions introduced for Abstract Elementary Classes (AECs) which turns out to be a new concept not previously studied in models of a first order theory. We will examine some of the situations that limit models have played a role in the development of a stability theory for abstract elementary classes. They have been used in proving that amalgamation follows from categoricity under certain set theoretic assumptions and in proving Shelah's Categoricity Conjecture in several AEC settings, among other things. The talk will assume no prior knowledge of AECs.