

# The size of generating sets of powers

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Let  $\mathbb{A} = (\mathbf{A}; \mathbf{F})$  be a finite algebra.

What can be the size of a generating set for  $\mathbb{A}^n$ ?

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For  $X \subseteq \mathbf{A}$  by  $\langle X \rangle$  we denote the subalgebra generated by  $X$ .

Example 1:  $\mathbb{A} = (\{0, 1\}; \vee)$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{array} \right\rangle = \mathbb{A}^n$$

We need only  $n + 1$  tuples to generate  $\mathbb{A}^n$ .

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For  $X \subseteq \mathbf{A}$  by  $\langle X \rangle$  we denote the algebra, generated by  $X$ .

Example 2:  $\mathbb{A} = (\{0, 1\}; x + 1)$

We need at least  $2^{n-1}$  tuples to generate  $\mathbb{A}^n$ .

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We need at least  $2^{n-1}$  tuples to generate  $\mathbb{A}^n$ .

Example 3:  $\mathbb{A} = (\{0, 1, 2\}; \mathbf{s})$ , where  $\mathbf{s}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \neq y \\ x, & \text{if } x = y \end{cases}$

We need at least  $2^n$  tuples to generate  $\mathbb{A}^n$ .

An algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  has the polynomially generated powers (PGP) property if its  $n$ -th power  $\mathbb{A}^n$  has a polynomial-size generating set.

That is, there exists a polynomial  $p$  such that for every  $n$  the  $n$ -th power  $\mathbb{A}^n$  can be generated by at most  $p(n)$  tuples.

An algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  has the exponentially generated powers (EGP) property if its  $n$ -th power  $\mathbb{A}^n$  has a exponential-size generating set.

That is, there exists  $b > 1$  and  $C > 0$  such that for every  $n$  the  $n$ -th power  $\mathbb{A}^n$  cannot be generated by less than  $Cb^n$  tuples.

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## Problems

- Is there anything between PGP property and EGP property?
- When does an algebra have PGP property?
- How to find a polynomial-size generating set?



- Connection with the Quantified Constraint Satisfaction Problem (see the previous talk).

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- Just a very nice problem!

For a tuple  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  we say that  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is a switch if  $a_i \neq a_{i+1}$ .

$(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2)$  has 2 switches.

$(2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0)$  has 3 switches.

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An algebra is called  **$k$ -switchable** if  $\mathbb{A}^n$  is generated by all  $n$ -tuples with at most  $k$  switches.

An algebra is called **switchable** if it is  $k$ -switchable for some  $k$ .

Lemma (Switchability  $\Rightarrow$  PGP property)

Suppose a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  is switchable, then it has PGP property.

Suppose  $\alpha, \beta \subsetneq \mathbf{A}$ ,  $\alpha \cup \beta = \mathbf{A}$ .

An operation is called  **$\alpha\beta$ -projective** if there exists  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that for every  $(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n) \in \mathbf{A}^n$  and  $\mathbf{S} \in \{\alpha, \beta\}$  we have  $f(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{j-1}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{a}_{j+1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n) \subseteq \mathbf{S}$ .

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An algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  is called  **$\alpha\beta$ -projective** if every operation in  $\mathbb{A}$  is  $\alpha\beta$ -projective.

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### Lemma (Hubie Chen)

Suppose a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  is  $\alpha\beta$ -projective for some  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Then  $\mathbb{A}$  has EGP property.

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### Example

The operation  $\mathbf{s}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \neq y \\ x, & \text{if } x = y \end{cases}$  is  $\{0,1\}\{0,2\}$ -projective.



### Theorem (Hubie Chen)

Suppose  $\mathbb{A}$  is an idempotent finite algebra not having a  $G$ -set on 3 elements. Then either  $\mathbb{A}$  is switchable, or  $\mathbb{A}$  is  $\alpha\beta$ -projective.

### Corollary

Suppose  $\mathbb{A}$  is an idempotent finite algebra not having a  $G$ -set on 3 elements. Then either it has PGP property, or it has EGP property.

Theorem : Non Switchable  $\Rightarrow$  EGP property

Suppose a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  is not switchable, then it has EGP property.

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Suppose  $\mathbb{A}$  is a finite algebra. Then either it has PGP property, or it has EGP property.

### Theorem

Suppose  $\mathbb{A}$  is a finite **idempotent** algebra. Then either  $\mathbb{A}$  is switchable, or  $\mathbb{A}$  is  $\alpha\beta$ -projective.

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By  $\sigma$  we denote the relation generated by all such tuples.

Let  $\alpha$  be a tuple from  $\mathbb{A}^n \setminus \sigma$  with the minimal number of switches.

$$\alpha = (\underbrace{a_1, \dots, a_1}_{n_1}, \underbrace{a_2, \dots, a_2}_{n_2}, \dots, \underbrace{a_m, \dots, a_m}_{n_m}).$$



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$$\text{Put } \rho(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \sigma(\underbrace{x_1, \dots, x_1}_{n_1}, \underbrace{x_2, \dots, x_2}_{n_2}, \dots, \underbrace{x_m, \dots, x_m}_{n_m}).$$

- $\rho$  is an invariant of  $\mathbb{A}$ ,  $\rho \neq \mathbb{A}^m$ .
- $(\exists i: c_i = c_{i+1}) \Rightarrow (c_1, \dots, c_m) \in \rho$ .

(ALMOST TRUE) for every  $n$  we can get a relation  $\rho$  of arity  $2n^2$  such

- $\rho$  is an invariant of  $\mathbb{A}$ ,  $(a, b, a, b, a, b, a, b, \dots, a, b) \notin \rho$ .
- $\exists i: c_i = d_i \Rightarrow (c_1, d_1, c_2, d_2, \dots, c_{n^2}, d_{n^2}) \in \rho$ .

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Put  $\delta(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n) =$

$\rho(x_1, y_1, x_1, y_2, x_1, y_3, \dots, x_1, y_n, x_2, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n)$ .

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## Final step

We consider  $2n!$  relations obtained from  $\delta$  by a permutation of variables.

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We consider  $2n!$  relations obtained from  $\delta$  by a permutation of variables. Any  $2n$ -tuple omits at most  $2^{|A|} \cdot (n!)^2$  relations.

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We consider  $2n!$  relations obtained from  $\delta$  by a permutation of variables. Any  $2n$ -tuple omits at most  $2^{|A|} \cdot (n!)^2$  relations. To generate  $\mathbb{A}^{2n}$  we need at least  $(2n!)/(2^{|A|} \cdot (n!)^2) > 2^{n-|A|}$  tuples.

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An algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  is called  **$k$ -collapsible**, if  $\mathbb{A}^n$  is generated by all the tuples where at least  $(n - k)$  elements are equal.

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Collapsibility  $\Rightarrow$  Switchability.

Switchability  $\not\Rightarrow$  Collapsibility.

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### Conjecture (Barnaby Martin)

Suppose  $\mathbb{A}$  is a **finitely related** algebra.

Then Switchability  $\Leftrightarrow$  Collapsibility.

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### Almost Theorem

The conjecture holds for idempotent algebras on 3 elements.

Thank you for your attention