

# On the minimal arity of near-unanimity term operations for finite algebras

Dmitriy Zhuk <sup>1</sup>    Alexandr Kazda <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Moscow State University

<sup>2</sup>Vanderbilt University

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Main Results
- 3 Proof
- 4 Open Problems

## Near-unanimity operation

## Definition

A **near unanimity operation (NU)** is an operation  $f$  satisfying

$$f(x, \dots, x, y) = f(x, \dots, x, y, x) = \dots = f(y, x, \dots, x) = x.$$

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Given a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A} = (\mathbf{A}; \mathbf{F})$ . Decide whether there exists a near-unanimity term operation in  $\mathbb{A}$ .

- For any fixed  $n$  we can easily check if an algebra contains a NU term operation of arity  $n$ .
- To solve the problem we just need an upper bound on the minimal arity of a NU.

## Background

### Theorem (R.McKenzie, 1997)

It is undecidable for a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  and two elements  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{A}$  whether  $\mathbb{A}$  has a term operation that is a near-unanimity operation on  $\{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}\}$ .

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### Theorem (M.Maróti, 2005)

It is decidable for a finite algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  whether it has a near-unanimity term operation.

- No upper bound on the minimal arity of NU were found.



- $NU(\mathbb{A})$  denotes the minimal arity of a NU term operation in  $\mathbb{A}$ .  
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- By  $ar(\mathbb{A})$  we denote the maximal arity of operations in  $\mathbb{A}$ .

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- $NU_A(m) = \max\{NU(\mathbb{A}) \mid ar(\mathbb{A}) \leq m, NU(\mathbb{A}) < \infty\}$ ,
- $NU_A^{idemp}(m)$  — the same for idempotent algebras.
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## Theorem (Keith Kearnes and Ágnes Szendrei)

Suppose  $\mathbb{A} = (\mathbf{A}; f_1, \dots, f_n)$  is a finite idempotent algebra of type  $(m_1, \dots, m_n)$ . Then  $NU(\mathbb{A}) = \infty$  or  $NU(\mathbb{A}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n (m_i - 1) + 1$ .

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## Theorem

Suppose  $m_1 \geq m_2 \geq \dots \geq m_n$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  is a finite set,  $k = \min(n, |\mathbf{A}|(|\mathbf{A}| - 1)/2)$ . Then there exists an idempotent algebra  $\mathbb{A} = (\mathbf{A}; f_1, \dots, f_n)$  of type  $(m_1, \dots, m_n)$  such that  $NU(\mathbb{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^k (m_i - 1) + 1$ .

## Idempotent algebras

Suppose  $m_1 \geq m_2 \geq \dots \geq m_n$ ,  $A = \{0, 1, \dots, r\}$ ,  
 $n \leq |A|(|A| - 1)/2$ .

Let  $J_1, \dots, J_n$  be the partition of the set  $\{(a, b) \mid a < b\}$ .

We define an operations  $f_i$  of arity  $m_i$  as follows

$$f_i(b, a, \dots, a) = f_i(a, b, a, \dots, a) = f_i(a, a, \dots, a, b) = a$$

for all pairs  $(a, b) \in J_i$ ,

otherwise,  $f_i(x_1, \dots, x_{m_i}) = \max(x_1, \dots, x_{m_i})$ .

## Lemma

For  $\mathbb{A} = (A; f_1, \dots, f_n)$  we have  $NU(\mathbb{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (m_i - 1) + 1$ .

## Main Results

## Theorem (D.Zhuk 2013)

- 1  $??? \leq NU_A(m) \leq |A|^2 \cdot (|A| \cdot m)^{(3|A|)^{|A|}}$ .
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All bounds hold if instead of  $NU(\mathbb{A})$  we consider

- the minimal arity of an Edge term operation  $(-1)$ .
- the minimal dimension of a Cube term operation.



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### Example

Let  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $A = \{0, 1, a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ . Put

- $h_i(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in \{1, a_i\} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$
- $h(\underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0}_k) = 0$ ,  $h(\underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0}_i) = a_i$ , otherwise  $h$  returns 1.
- $f(\underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0}_m) = 0$ ,  $f(0, 0, \dots, 0, a_i, 0, \dots, 0) = 0$ , otherwise  $f$  returns 1.

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### Lemma

For  $\mathbb{A} = (A; f, h, h_1, \dots, h_k)$  we have  $NU(\mathbb{A}) = k \cdot m$ .

### Theorem (Keith Kearnes and Ágnes Szendrei)

Suppose  $\mathbb{A} = (\mathbf{A}; f_1, \dots, f_n)$  is a finite idempotent algebra of type  $(m_1, \dots, m_n)$ . Then  $NU(\mathbb{A}) = \infty$  or  $NU(\mathbb{A}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n (m_i - 1) + 1$ .

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- if  $\mathbb{A}$  was idempotent then  $NU(\mathbb{A})$  would be less than  $m - 1 + k - 1 + 1 = m + k - 1$ .

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## The idea of the proof

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For  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in A^n$  the relation generated by  $(\{a_1, b_1\} \times \dots \times \{a_n, b_n\}) \setminus \{(a_1, \dots, a_n)\}$  we denote by  $\mathbf{Gen}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ .

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Suppose  $NU(\mathbb{A}) = n + 1$ , then there exist  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in A^n$  such that the tuple  $\mathbf{a} \notin \mathbf{Gen}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ .



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## Lemma

Suppose an algebra  $\mathbb{A}$  has a cube term of dimension  $n + 1$  and doesn't have a cube term of dimension  $n$ , then there exist  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in A^n$  such that the tuple  $\mathbf{a} \notin \mathbf{Gen}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ .

For  $C_1, D_1, \dots, C_m, D_m \subseteq A$ ,  $n_1, \dots, n_m \in \mathbb{N}$  denote

$$\text{Blob}(C_1, D_1, n_1, \dots, C_m, D_m, n_m) = \\ \{\mathbf{v} \in D_1^{n_1} \times D_2^{n_2} \cdots \times D_m^{n_m} \mid \forall j: C_j = \{v_{n_{j-1}}, \dots, v_{n_j}\}\}$$

The tuple  $(n_1, \dots, n_m)$  is called a **type of a blob**. The union of blobs of the same type is called a **sponge**.

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### Lemma

Suppose a sponge of type  $(n_1, \dots, n_m)$  is an invariant of an algebra  $\mathbb{A}$ ,  $\text{ar}(\mathbb{A}) < \frac{1}{|\mathbb{A}|} \max\{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m\}$ . Then

- we can get a bigger sponge that is still an invariant.

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- we can get a bigger sponge that is still an invariant.
- $NU(\mathbb{A}) = \infty$ .

## Open Problems

## Problem 1

Find an exact value for  $NU_A(m)$

(now we have  $(m-1)|A|(|A|-1)/2 + 1 \leq NU_A(m) \leq m|A|^3/2$ )

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