# On the complexity of Quantified Constraint Satisfaction Problem via polymorphisms

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### Definition

Let  $\mathbb{A}$  be a finite relational structure. The decision problem  $QCSP(\mathbb{A})$  is: INPUT: sentence  $\varphi = (Q_1x_1) \dots (Q_nx_n)$ (conjunction of atomic formulae). Each  $Q_i \in \{\exists, \forall\}$ . Accept iff  $\mathbb{A} \models \varphi$ .

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The problem  $CSP(\mathbb{A})$  additionally stipulates that all  $Q_i$  are  $\exists$ .

 $CSP(\mathbb{A})$  is at worst NP-complete, while  $QCSP(\mathbb{A})$  is at worst Pspace-complete (for polynomial time many-one reductions).

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### Conjecture (The Greater Barny Conjecture)

If A is a smooth digraph with no loops but with algebraic length 1 (= with  $\mathbb{A}^2$  connected), then  $QCSP(\mathbb{A})$  is *Pspace*-complete.

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### Theorem (Jeavons, 1998)

If  $Pol(A; \Gamma_1) \subseteq Pol(A; \Gamma_2)$  and  $\Gamma_2$  is finite, then  $CSP(A; \Gamma_2)$  logspace-reduces to  $CSP(A; \Gamma_1)$ .

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Theorem (Creignou, Khanna & Sudan, 2001)

 $QCSP(\rho_{NAE})$  and  $QCSP(\rho_{1/3})$  are Pspace-complete.

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### Fact

All polymorphisms of  $\mathbb{K}_n$ ,  $n \geq 3$  are of the form  $f(x_1, \ldots, x_k) = \pi(x_i)$ , where  $\pi \in Sym(n)$  and  $1 \leq i \leq k$  are arbitrary.

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### Corollary

 $QCSP(\mathbb{A})$  is Pspace-complete when all  $f \in s - Pol(\mathbb{A})$  are essentially unary (=  $\mathbb{A}$  is idempotent-trivial when  $\mathbb{A}$  is core).

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Any tournament  $\mathbb{T}$  with loops and all constants added is either idempotent trivial or transitive. In the second case it easily follows that  $QCSP(\mathbb{T}) \in P$ .

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### Theorem (Dapić, - & Martin - see Petar's talk)

All smooth semicomplete digraphs are idempotent-trivial, except  $\mathbb{K}_2$  and  $\mathbb{C}_3$ .



Figure :  $\mathbb{C}_{m,n}$ 

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Let  $\mathbb{C}_{m,n}$  (1 < m < n) be the digraph drawn on the above picture.



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Let  $\mathbb{C}_{m,n}$  (1 < m < n) be the digraph drawn on the above picture. If m|n then  $QCSP(\mathbb{C}_{m,n}) \in P$ ,

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Let  $\mathbb{C}_{m,n}$  (1 < m < n) be the digraph drawn on the above picture. If m|n then  $QCSP(\mathbb{C}_{m,n}) \in P$ , If (m, n) > 1 and  $m \nmid n$ , then  $QCSP(\mathbb{C}_{m,n})$  is NP-complete,



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Let  $\mathbb{C}_{m,n}$  (1 < m < n) be the digraph drawn on the above picture. If m|n then  $QCSP(\mathbb{C}_{m,n}) \in P$ , If (m, n) > 1 and  $m \nmid n$ , then  $QCSP(\mathbb{C}_{m,n})$  is NP-complete, If (m, n) = 1 then  $\mathbb{C}_{m,n}$  is idempotent-trivial and so  $QCSP(\mathbb{C}_{m,n})$  is Pspace-complete.

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# Chen's collapsibility and switchability

The collapsibility given below is not the original definition, but an equivalent over idempotent finite algebras:

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# Definition (Collapsibility)

An algebra **A** is k-collapsible if for all n > k, **A**<sup>n</sup> is generated by all *n*-tuples in which there are at least n - k coordinates which are equal.

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A tuple  $(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in A^n$  has a *switch* at *i* if  $a_{i-1} \neq a_i$ .

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### Definition (Switchability)

An algebra **A** is *k*-switchable if for all n > k, **A**<sup>*n*</sup> is generated by all *n*-tuples with at most *k* switches. **A** is switchable if it is *k*-switchable for some *k*.

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Image: A matrix

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# Definition (PGP and EGP)

A finite algebra **A** has polynomially generated powers (PGP) if there exists a polynomial p(x) such that for all n, **A**<sup>n</sup> is generated by some set of tuples with at most p(n) elements. **A** has exponentially generated powers (EGP) if there exists a constant c > 0 such that for almost all n, any generating set of **A**<sup>n</sup> has more than  $2^{cn}$  elements.

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# Theorem (Zhuk 2015)

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### Theorem (Zhuk 2015)

Let **A** be a finite algebra. Then either **A** is switchable, or **A** has EGP.

It is easy to show that collapsibility implies switchability, which implies PGP. So the above theorem gives a dichotomy between PGP and EGP for finite algebras.

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# Applications to QCSP

# Theorem (Chen)

Let A be a finite idempotent algebra. Switchability of A implies that  $QCSP(\mathbb{A})$  reduces to  $CSP(\mathbb{A})$  for any relational structure  $\mathbb{A}$  which consists of relations in  $Inv(\mathbf{A})$ .

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# Example [Zhuk]

There exists a finite relational structure  $\mathbb{A}$  such that  $QCSP(\mathbb{A})$  is in P, while the algebra  $Pol(\mathbb{A})$  has EGP.

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Also, Martin and Zhuk (2015) proved that on three-element idempotent algebras which have no type  $\mathbf{1}$  covers, finite relatedness and switchability imply collapsibility. They conjecture that the same holds for all idempotent algebras which omit type  $\mathbf{1}$ .

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