Numeric CSPs Spring School 2025

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Funded by the European Union (ERC, POCOCOP, 101071674). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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Example

3-COLORING (CSP($\{r, g, b\}, \neq$))

Numeric CSPs

 $CSP(A; (R_i)_{i \in I})$ is numeric if

- $ightharpoonup A \in \{\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \dots\}$ and
- ▶ all R_i are fo-definable over $(A; +, \cdot, 0, 1, <)$.

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Example

$$CSP(\mathbb{R}; x^2 + y^2 \le 1, x + 1 = y)$$

Tractable and NP-complete CSPs

Example (LP-feasibility)

 $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{R}; a_1x_1+\cdots+a_nx_n\geq b,\dots)$ with relations for all $n\in\mathbb{N}$ and $a_1,\dots,a_n,b\in\mathbb{Q}$ is solved in polynomial time by Khachiyan's ellipsoid algorithm.

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Example (ILP-feasibility)

 $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{Z}; a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n \geq b, \dots)$ with relations for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a_1, \dots, a_n, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ is NP-complete.

Open Complexity

Definition (SDP-feasibility)

INPUT symmetric matrizes $A_1,\ldots,A_n,B\in\mathbb{Q}^{m\times m}$ OUTPUT YES if there exists $x\in\mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $x_1A_1+\cdots+x_nA_n-B\succeq 0$, NO otherwise

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Theorem ([Ram97])

SDP-feasibility $\in \mathsf{NP} \cap \mathsf{coNP}$ or SDP-feasibility $\notin \mathsf{NP} \cup \mathsf{coNP}$.

Semilinear Constraints

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Theorem ([JT16])

 $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{R};+,R_1,\ldots,R_n)$ where R_1,\ldots,R_n are semilinear is in P or NP-complete.

P-NP-Dichotomy

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If $P \neq NP$ then there is some problem in NP which is neither in P nor NP-complete.

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Theorem ([Bul17]; [Zhu20])

If \mathbb{A} is finite, then $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{A})$ is in P or $\mathsf{NP}\text{-}complete$.

Dichotomies for FO-Reducts

Definition

A relational structure $(A; R_1, ..., R_n)$ is a (finite signature) first-order reduct of \mathbb{A} if each R_i is first-order definable in \mathbb{A} .

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Theorem ([BK10], [BMM18], [Bod+18])

Every first-order reduct of

- 1. $(\mathbb{Q};<)$,
- 2. $(\mathbb{Z};<)$,
- 3. $(\mathbb{Z}; +, 1)$ containing +

has a CSP which is in P or is NP-complete.

Arbitrarily Complex CSPs

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 $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{Z};\cdot,+,1)$ is undecidable.

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Corollary

 $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{Z};\cdot,+,1)$ is undecidable.

Theorem ([BM17])

Every recursively enumerable problem is polynomial-time Turing equivalent to the CSP of a first-order reduct of $(\mathbb{Z};\cdot,+,1)$.

Complicated Subproblems

Definition (Sum-of-Square-Roots)

INPUT a list of natural numbers a_1, \ldots, a_n, b OUTPUT YES if $b \le \sqrt{a_1} + \cdots + \sqrt{a_n}$, NO otherwise

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SDP-feasibility
$$\uparrow \\ \mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{R},+,1,x^2 \leq y) \\ \uparrow \\ \mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb{R},+,1,x^2+y^2 \leq 1) \\ \uparrow \\ \mathsf{Sum-of-Square-Roots}$$

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For finite structures the collection of all polymorphisms determines the CSP's complexity.

Theorem ([JC95])

If $\mathbb A$ is finite and has binary max as a polymorphism, then $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb A) \in \mathsf P.$

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This does not hold for infinite CSPs.

Example

 $(\mathbb{Z};1,-1,2x=y,x\leq y+z)$ has max as a polymorphism but its CSP is NP-complete.

What can we do? Sampling

Definition

 $\mathbb A$ has a sampling procedure if for every pp-sentence ϕ we can construct in polynomial time a finite substructure $\mathbb A_\phi\subseteq\mathbb A$ such that

$$\mathbb{A} \models \phi \iff \mathbb{A}_{\phi} \models \phi.$$

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 $(\mathbb{Z}, \operatorname{succ}, 0) \models \phi \iff (\{-n, \dots, n\}, \operatorname{succ}, 0) \models \phi \text{ where } n \text{ is the number of variables in } \phi.$



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Observation

If $\mathbb A$ has a sampling procedure and max as a polymorphism, then $\mathsf{CSP}(\mathbb A) \in \mathsf P.$



What can we do? Saturation

Theorem ([BMM18])

Let $\mathbb B$ be a first-order reduct of a countable, saturated structure $\mathbb A$. If $R\subseteq A^n$ is first-order definable in $\mathbb A$ and consists of k orbits of n-tuples in $\mathbb B$, then

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Main ingredient in classification of fo-reducts of $(\mathbb{Z}, <)$.

Open Questions

- 1. Can we pp-define $x^6 \le y$ over $\mathbb R$ using linear relations and $x^2 \le y$?
- 2. Is $CSP(\mathbb{R}; x + 1 = y, x^2 \le y)$ in P?
- 3. $CSP(\mathbb{Q}; x+1=y, x^2 \le y) = CSP(\mathbb{R}; x+1=y, x^2 \le y)$?
- 4. Classify the CSPs of first-order reducts of
 - 4.1 (\mathbb{Z} ; succ, 0),
 - 4.2 (\mathbb{Q} ; +),
 - 4.3 $(\mathbb{Z}; +, <)$.

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