

# Complexity of Clausal Constraints Over Chains

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joint work with

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## Purpose of our work:

- 1 use the generalisation of **propositional logic** to regular **multi-valued logic**,
- 2 where the domain is **totally ordered**, i.e., it forms a **chain**,
- 3 to define a new concept of **patterns**,
- 4 which allows us to use a new kind of **constraint** language,
- 5 for which we have **constraint satisfaction problems**,
- 6 that have a nice **complexity characterization**,
- 7 for **every** domain **cardinality**.

## Definitions

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## Alternative Definition

A **literal** is an expression  $x \geq 1$  or  $x \leq 0$ .

## Definitions

A **finite domain** is a set  $D = \{0, \dots, n - 1\}$  with an explicit ordering  $0 < \dots < n - 1$ .

**Literals** are expressions  $x \geq d$  (positive) and  $x \leq d$  (negative) for some value  $d \in D$ .

An **interval** is  $[a, b] = \{x \in D \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$ .

# Regular Multi-Valued Logic

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## Example

A logic with ordered values

DON'T\_KNOW < NO < YES < DON'T\_CARE

represents  $D = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ .

## Basics

Clause: disjunction of literals

CNF formula: conjunction of clauses

Relation:  $R \subseteq D^k$  for some arity  $k$  on a domain  $D$

Constraint:  $R(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  for a relation  $R$  of arity  $k$

Satisfaction: An assignment  $I: V \rightarrow D$  satisfies the constraint  $R(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  if  $(I(x_1), \dots, I(x_k)) \in R$ .

## Definition

A **pattern** is an abstraction of a clause away from variables

$$(x_1 \geq a_1 \vee \cdots \vee x_p \geq a_p \vee x_{p+1} \leq b_1 \vee \cdots \vee x_{p+q} \leq b_q)$$
$$\downarrow$$
$$(+a_1, \dots, +a_p, -b_1, \dots, -b_q)$$



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## Clausal constraint

$P(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  for a pattern  $P$  of length  $|P| = k$

If  $P = (+a_1, \dots, +a_p, -b_1, \dots, -b_q)$  then

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## Example

Let  $P = (+1, -0, -0)$  be a pattern on the Boolean domain  $D = \{0, 1\}$ .

Then the clausal constraint  $P(x, y, z) = (x \geq 1 \vee y \leq 0 \vee z \leq 0)$  is logically equivalent to the clause  $(x \vee \neg y \vee \neg z)$ .

## Definitions

A **clausal language** is a finite set  $L = \{P_1, \dots, P_m\}$  of patterns.

An  **$L$ -formula** is a finite conjunction of clausal constraints constructed from the clausal language  $L$ .

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## Example

Let  $L = \{P_1, P_2\}$  be a clausal language consisting of two patterns  $P_1 = (-0, -0)$  and  $P_2 = (+1, +1)$ . The  $L$ -formula

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x, y) &= P_1(x, y) \wedge P_2(x, y) \\ &= (x \leq 0 \vee y \leq 0) \wedge (x \geq 1 \vee y \geq 1)\end{aligned}$$

is logically equivalent to  $(\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge (x \vee y) = (x \neq y)$ .

# Constraint Satisfaction Problems

## Relational Constraint Satisfaction Problems

**Parameter:** a finite set  $S$  of relations over a *finite* domain  $D$

**Problem:**  $\text{CSP}(S)$

*Input:* An  $S$ -formula  $\varphi$  over a domain  $D$ .

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## Boolean Constraint Satisfaction Problems

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## Clausal Constraint Satisfaction Problems

**Parameter:** a finite set  $L$  of patterns

**Problem:**  $\text{CSP}(L)$

*Input:* An  $L$ -formula  $\varphi$  over a finite totally ordered domain  $D$ .

*Question:* Is  $\varphi$  satisfiable?

## Theorem (Schaefer's Dichotomy Theorem, 1978)

Let  $S$  be a finite set of Boolean relations. If

- $S$  is *Horn*,
- $S$  is *dual Horn*,
- $S$  is *bijunctive*,
- $S$  is *affine*,
- $S$  is *0- or 1-valid*

then  $\text{CSP}(S)$  is decidable in *polynomial* time, otherwise it is *NP-complete*.



## Conjecture (Feder and Vardi 1993-98)

There exists a dichotomy theorem for the CSP problems for every finite domain  $D$ .

# Complexity Classification for Relational CSP

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## Theorem (Bulatov 2002)

CSP is dichotomic for  $D = \{0, 1, 2\}$ .

## Classification of Clausal CSP

*The goal of this talk*

## Definition

A clausal language  $L$  is called **SU-closed**, if it is closed under taking subpatterns and it contains all non-trivial unary patterns, i.e., if it satisfies the following conditions:

- 1 If  $P \in L$  and  $P'$  is a subpattern of  $P$  then  $P' \in L$ .
- 2  $(+d) \in L$  for all  $d \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ .
- 3  $(-d) \in L$  for all  $d \in \{0, \dots, n-2\}$ .

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## Trivial patterns

**Trivial** unary patterns are  $+0$  and  $-(n-1)$  since  $x \geq 0$  and  $x \leq n-1$  are always satisfied, hence their correspond to TRUE.

## Example

The clausal language

$$L = \{(-0), (-1), (+1), (+2), \\ (+1, -0), (+1, +1), (-1, -1), (+2, +2), \\ (+1, +1, +1)\}$$

over the domain  $D = \{0, 1, 2\}$  is **SU-closed**.

## Proposition (Language Equivalence)

For any  $L$  there exists an *SU-closed* clausal language  $L'$ , such that

- 1  $\text{CSP}(L)$  and  $\text{CSP}(L')$  are polynomial-time equivalent,
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## Consequence

We consider **only SU-closed** clausal languages  $L$  in the sequel.



## Definitions

For a pattern  $P = (+a_1, \dots, +a_p, -b_1, \dots, -b_q)$

- $P^+ = (+a_1, \dots, +a_p)$  is the **positive** part
- $P^- = (-b_1, \dots, -b_q)$  is the **negative** part
- $P$  is **Horn**, **dual Horn**, **bijunctive**, or **binary** if the corresponding clause  $P(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  has this property.
- $P$  is  **$d$ -valid** for some  $d \in D$  if  $(d, \dots, d) \in [P(x_1, \dots, x_k)]$

# Some More Notation

## Definitions

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## Definition

A clausal language  $L = \{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  is Horn, dual Horn, bijunctive, or  $d$ -valid if every pattern  $P_i$  is Horn, dual Horn, bijunctive, or  $d$ -valid, respectively.

Proposition (Hähnle *et al.*; Cohen, Gyssens, Jeavons)

$\text{CSP}(L)$  for a *Horn*, *dual Horn*, or *bijunctive* clausal language  $L$  is decidable in polynomial time.

# Known Results About Clausal CSP

Proposition (Hähnle *et al.*; Cohen, Gyssens, Jeavons)

CSP( $L$ ) for a *Horn*, *dual Horn*, or *bijunctive* clausal language  $L$  is decidable in polynomial time.

## Remark

With very high probability, Hähnle-Cohen-Gyssens-Jeavons Proposition does not cover all polynomial cases.

## Definitions

Let

$$P = (v_1, \dots, v_p, +a) \quad \text{and} \quad Q = (-b, v'_1, \dots, v'_q)$$

be two patterns with  $b < a$ . Then the pattern

$$R = (v_1, \dots, v_p, v'_1, \dots, v'_q)$$

is called a **resolvent** of  $P$  and  $Q$ .

We say that  $R$  is obtained from  $P$  and  $Q$  by **resolution**.

# 3-Saturation

## Definition

Let  $L$  be an SU-closed clausal language. The **3-saturation** of  $L$ , denoted by  $\hat{L}$ , contains all patterns that can be constructed inductively from  $L$  by the following rules:

- 1 If  $P \in L$  and  $|P| \leq 3$ , then  $P \in \hat{L}$  (introduction).
- 2 If  $P$  and  $Q$  are patterns in  $\hat{L}$  such that  $|P| + |Q| \leq 5$ , then all **resolvents** of  $P$  and  $Q$  are in  $\hat{L}$  (restricted resolution).

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## Every 3-saturation $\hat{L}$

- contains only patterns  $P$  of length  $|P| \leq 3$ ,
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- contains only patterns  $P$  of length  $|P| \leq 3$ ,
- is an SU-closed language,
- can be computed from  $L$  in finite time.

## Proposition

$\text{CSP}(\widehat{L})$  is reducible to  $\text{CSP}(L)$  in polynomial time.



## Notation

For a pattern  $P = (+a_1, \dots, +a_p, -b_1, \dots, -b_q)$

- $\min(P^+) = \min\{a_1, \dots, a_p\}$
- $\max(P^-) = \max\{b_1, \dots, b_q\}$

be the **minimum** and **maximum** values of  $P^+$  and  $P^-$ , respectively.

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## Definitions

Two patterns  $P$  and  $N$  form a **PN-pair** if

- 1  $P$  is positive ( $P = P^+$ ),
- 2  $N$  is negative ( $N = N^-$ ),
- 3 one of them has length 2,
- 4 the other has length 3.

A PN-pair  $(P, N)$  is called **disjoint** when  $\max(N) < \min(P)$  holds.

# What Does an PN-Pair Encode?

## Encoding

Each disjoint PN-pair encodes the Boolean  $\text{CSP}(or_3^+, or_2^-)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} or_3^+ &= \{0, 1\}^3 \setminus \{000\} = [x \vee y \vee z] \quad (\text{by } P) \\ or_2^- &= \{0, 1\}^2 \setminus \{11\} = [\neg x \vee \neg y] \quad (\text{by } N) \end{aligned}$$

## Proposition (NP-completeness)

If the 3-saturation  $\hat{L}$  contains a *disjoint PN-pair* of patterns then  $\text{CSP}(L)$  is NP-complete.

# NP-Complete Case

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## Proof.

$\text{CSP}(or_3^+, or_2^-)$  is NP-complete by Schaefer's Theorem. □

Case analysis for the polynomial cases

## Case 1

All positive (negative) patterns in  $\hat{L}$  have **length 1**.

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## Proposition

*If all positive (negative) patterns in  $\hat{L}$  have **length 1** then both  $L$  and  $\hat{L}$  are **Horn** (**dual Horn**) and  $\text{CSP}(L)$  is decidable in polynomial time.*

## Case 2

$\hat{L}$  contains at least **one positive** and **one negative** pattern of **length** greater or equal to **2**.



# Polynomial Cases

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Case 2 splits into two sub-cases.

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*If all patterns in  $\hat{L}$  have **length** smaller or equal to **2** then  $L$  is **bijunctive** and **CSP( $L$ )** is decidable in polynomial time.*

## Case 2.2

There exists at least one pattern  $M \in \hat{L}$  of **length**  $|M| = 3$ .

## Definition

Let  $L$  be a clausal language, such that  $\widehat{L}$  contains a positive binary and a negative binary pattern. We call the values

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\max} &= \max\{\min(P) \mid P \in \widehat{L}, P = P^+, |P| = 2\} \quad \text{and} \\ q_{\min} &= \min\{\max(N) \mid N \in \widehat{L}, N = N^-, |N| = 2\} \end{aligned}$$

the **markers** of the binary positive and negative patterns in the saturation  $\widehat{L}$ , respectively.

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$$p_{\max} \leq q_{\min}$$

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## Case 2.2.1

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### Proposition ( $p_{\max} \leq q_{\min}$ )

*If the markers satisfy  $p_{\max} \leq q_{\min}$ , then  $\text{CSP}(L)$  is decidable in polynomial time.*

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### Proposition ( $p_{\max} \leq q_{\min}$ )

*If the markers satisfy  $p_{\max} \leq q_{\min}$ , then  $\text{CSP}(L)$  is decidable in polynomial time.*

### Proof.

(Hint) Every  $L$ -formula  $\varphi$  is  $d$ -valid for every  $d \in [p_{\max}, q_{\min}]$ . □

# Satisfiability on an Interval

## Recall

An **interval** from  $a$  to  $b$  is the set  $[a, b] = \{x \in D \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$



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## Definition

A pattern  $M$  of length  $k$  is called

- **$[a, b]$ -valid** if **every**  $I: V \rightarrow [a, b]$  satisfies  $M(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ ,
- **$[a, b]$ -satisfiable** if  $M(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  is satisfiable by **an**  $I: V \rightarrow [a, b]$ ,
- **$[a, b]$ -unsatisfiable** when **no**  $I: V \rightarrow [a, b]$  satisfies  $M(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ .

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$$q_{\min} < p_{\max}$$

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We need two lemmas

### Lemma (Ternary Patterns)

*If  $\hat{L}$  does not contain a disjoint PN-pair and the markers satisfy the condition  $q_{\min} < p_{\max}$ , then every pattern  $M \in L$  of length  $|M| \geq 3$  is  $[q_{\min}, p_{\max}]$ -valid.*

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### Conclusion

If we restrict ourselves to the interval  $[q_{\min}, p_{\max}]$  then the patterns of arity 3 and more can be neglected.

# Second Lemma

## Lemma (Binary Patterns)

If  $\widehat{L}$  does not contain a disjoint PN-pair and the markers satisfy the condition  $q_{\min} < p_{\max}$ , then every *binary* pattern in  $L$  is  $[q_{\min}, p_{\max}]$ -satisfiable.

# Second Lemma

## Lemma (Binary Patterns)

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## Conclusion

There **always** exists a solution to the **binary restriction** of an  $L$ -formula on the interval  $[q_{\min}, p_{\max}]$ .

Proposition ( $q_{\min} < p_{\max}$ )

*If  $\hat{L}$  does not contain a disjoint PN-pair and the markers satisfy the condition  $q_{\min} < p_{\max}$ , then  $\text{CSP}(L)$  is decidable in polynomial time.*

# Polynomial Cases

Proposition ( $q_{\min} < p_{\max}$ )

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Proof.

(Hint) The algorithm computing an assignment  $I$  works as follows:



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- 3 The computed solution **satisfies** the  $L$ -formula  $\varphi$ . □

# Dichotomy Theorem

## Theorem (Dichotomy of Clausal CSP)

Let  $L$  be an  $SU$ -closed clausal language. If the saturation  $\hat{L}$  does not contain a disjoint  $PN$ -pair then  $\text{CSP}(L)$  is decidable in *polynomial time*, otherwise it is *NP-complete*.

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## Remark

To the best of our knowledge, the tractable cases identified by Proposition  $q_{\min} < p_{\max}$  are *new*.

# Conclusion

## Good news

- We have a **Dichotomy Theorem** for **each** domain **cardinality** for a certain non-trivial language.
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## Bad news

The clausal CSP are **coarser** than the relational ones.

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## Good news

- We have a Dichotomy Theorem for **each** domain **cardinality** for a certain non-trivial language.
- We completely characterized the complexity of regular multi-valued logic.

## Bad news

The clausal CSP are **coarser** than the relational ones.

## Open questions

- Does the result generalize to **partial orderings** on the domain?
- What can be implied from our results to (non-clausal) **relational CSP**?



## Questions, please?

### Availability of the paper

- 1 My web page:  
<http://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~hermann/>  
and click on Publications then ResearchReports
- 2 Send email to [hermann@lix.polytechnique.fr](mailto:hermann@lix.polytechnique.fr)
- 3 Accepted for publication in *Theory of Computing Systems*