
The Sorrows of a Young Algebraist

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joint work with

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Neither the author nor the co-authors are responsible
for any consequences or side effects of this talk.

Charlotte: CSP
(Johanna Beate Brunar)

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Werther (aka the Young Algebraist): Universal Algebra

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Werther (aka the Young Algebraist): Universal Algebra

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Albert (Charlotte's fiancé and later husband): Computer Science
(any volunteers?)

The Ballroom of the Past

When CSP Found the Beauty of Universal Algebra

Finite-domain CSP $\leftrightarrow$ universal algebra

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New identities proven algebraically (absorption, centers, ...)

$\leadsto$ the Bulatov-Zhuk dichotomy theorem relies on algebraic machinery

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After the dichotomy proof: Focus shifted to variants of CSP
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New algebraic theory developed recently
(smooth approximations; Mottet, Pinsker, 2022)



The most useful identities do not lift (cyclic, WNU's unsure)

The Feet of All the Horses

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-  Important properties not characterised by identities (local consistency)

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-  The most useful identities do not lift (cyclic, WNU's unsure)
 -  WLOG assumptions do not generalise (idempotency)
 -  Unclear how to lift most of the notions (absorption, ...)
 -  Important properties not characterised by identities (local consistency)
- ⇒ Most of the finite-domain methods cannot be lifted

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More to come? Pseudo-identities, local consistency, . . .

6-ary Siggers identity

$$s(x, y, z, x, y, z) \approx s(y, z, x, z, x, y)$$

The Nostalgia

Identities and Loop Conditions

6-ary Siggers identity

$$s(x, y, z, x, y, z) \approx s(y, z, x, z, x, y)$$

Hell-Nešetřil.

Every non-bipartite graph which does not pp-construct $\mathbb{K}_3$ contains a loop.

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Barto-Kozik-Niven.

Every smooth digraph of al 1 which does not pp-construct $\mathbb{K}_3$ contains a loop.

Charlotte's Dark Secrets

Pseudo-Identities and Pseudo-Loop Conditions

$\mathbb{G}$ – smooth ω -categorical digraph

6-ary pseudo-Siggers identity
(Barto, Pinsker, 2016)

$$\begin{aligned} & u \circ s(x, y, z, x, y, z) \\ \approx & v \circ s(y, z, x, z, x, y) \end{aligned}$$

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Bodor, Kozik, Mottet, Pinsker.

If $\mathbb{G} / \text{Aut}(\mathbb{G})$ non-bipartite graph
which does not pp-construct $\mathbb{K}_3$,
then $\mathbb{G} / \text{Aut}(\mathbb{G})$ contains a loop.

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Charlotte's Future

Infinite Barto-Kozik-Niven?

The Dream.

$\mathbb{G}$ smooth ω -categorical digraph, $\mathbb{G}/\text{Aut}(\mathbb{G})$ has algebraic length 1,
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Motivation:

- **Algebra:** 4-ary pseudo-Siggers and further identities,

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- **Algebra:** 4-ary pseudo-Siggers and further identities,
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 $\mathbb{G}/\text{Aut}(\mathbb{G})$ does not contain a loop $\Rightarrow \text{CSP}(\mathbb{G})$ NP-hard

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For $\mathbb{G}$ finite proven by Bodor, Kozik, Mottet, Pinsker, 2023

The Young Algebraist on the Path of Treason

Weaker Versions of the Infinite BKN

CS view on CSP:

$\text{CSP}(\mathbb{G})$: Find a homomorphism h from an input graph $\mathbb{I}$ to $\mathbb{G}$
“colour the vertices of $\mathbb{I}$ by the vertices of $\mathbb{G}$ ”

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List homomorphism: For every vertex v of $\mathbb{I}$, prescribe a list $L(v)$ of admissible vertices of $\mathbb{G}$, i.e., require $h(v) \in L(v)$

$\leadsto \text{CSP}(\mathbb{G} + \text{all subsets of vertices})$.

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In the infinite: Vertices of $\mathbb{G} \leadsto$ orbits of elements under $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{G})$

The Last Meeting with Charlotte

The Infinite List Homomorphism Problem

Theorem [Brunar, Kozik, N., Pinsker]

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Hope: Techniques might generalise further

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- Further de-algebraising of the finite proofs

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 - Using topology to reprove Hell-Nešetřil (Meyer, Opršal, 2025)
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- New approaches to loop lemmata:
 - Using topology to reprove Hell-Nešetřil (Meyer, Opršal, 2025)
 $\rightsquigarrow$ another kind of algebra
 - Connection between identities and PCSPs (Mottet, 2025)



Figure 1 Thank you for your attention!