A Polynomial-Time Test for a Difference Term in an Idempotent Variety

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ABSTRACT. We consider the following practical question: given a finite algebra $\bf A$ in a finite language, can we efficiently decide whether the variety generated by $\bf A$ has a difference term? We answer this question in the idempotent case and then describe possible algorithms for constructing difference terms.

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This research was supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1500235.