

# Binary Commutative Polymorphisms of Core Triads

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## Abstract

**2** It has been known for a while that for a given di-  
**2** graph  $H$  the complexity of  $\text{CSP}(H)$  also known as  
**2** the  $H$ -colouring problem only depends on the set  
**2** of polymorphisms of  $H$ . From recent results it fol-  
**3** lows that  $H$ -colouring problem is in  $P$  if  $H$  has a so-  
**3** called (4-ary) Siggers polymorphism. In this paper,  
we focus on the case where  $H$  is a so-called *triad*  
(some simplified form of a tree) and describe an  
algorithm with various optimizations, that checks  
the existence of Siggers polymorphisms for triads  
up to a certain size.

## Introduction

**7** Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a finite digraph. The  $H$ -  
**7** colouring problem (also called the *constraint sat-*  
**7** *isfaction problem for  $H$* ) is the problem of decid-  
**9** ing for a given finite digraph  $G$  whether there ex-  
ists a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ . Note that if  
**9**  $H = K_k$ , the clique with  $k$  vertices, then the  $H$ -  
colouring problem equals the famous  $k$ -colouring  
problem, which is NP-hard for  $k \geq 3$  and which can  
be solved in polynomial time if  $k \leq 2$ .

It has been known for a while that the complexity  
of the  $H$ -colouring problem only depends on the  
set of *polymorphisms* of  $H$ . It follows from results  
of [2] and of [4] from 2017 that the  $H$ -colouring  
problem is in  $P$  if  $H$  has a so-called (*4-ary*) *Siggers*  
polymorphism, i.e., an operation  $s: V^4 \rightarrow V$  which  
satisfies for all  $a, e, r \in V$

$$s(a, r, e, a) = s(r, a, r, e)$$

Before these results, the complexity of  $\text{CSP}(H)$   
was open even if  $H$  is an orientation of a tree. It  
is not obvious at all how an orientation of a tree  
looks like if it has a Siggers polymorphism. In fact,  
this question is already open if  $H$  is a *triad*, i.e.,

an orientation of a tree which has a single vertex of degree 3 and otherwise only vertices of degree 2 and 1. Jakob Bulin claims that the following triad with 22 vertices has no Siggers polymorphism.

01001111, 0110000, 101000

Here, 0 stands for forward edge, 1 stands for backward edge, and the three words stand for the three paths that leave the vertex of degree 3 of the triad. He also claims that all smaller triads do have a Siggers polymorphism, and conjectures that an orientation of a tree has a Siggers polymorphism if and only if it has a binary polymorphism  $f$  satisfying  $f(u, y) = f(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in V$ .

This paper seeks to confirm the conjecture made by Jakub Bulin, that the triad 01001111, 0110000, 101000 has no Siggers polymorphism and that all smaller triads do have a Siggers polymorphism. Moreover, we will present a new-found triad of the same size that doesn't have a Siggers polymorphism either. Lastly, we provide a proof of the non-existence of a binary-commutative polymorphism for our new triad, that isn't based on running a computer program, but understandable to humans. In this way, we hope to contribute to understanding the hidden relations between polymorphisms and the complexity of CSP of (**TODO** trees/triads?).

## 1 Preliminaries

### 1.1 Graphs

A *directed graph* (also *digraph*) is a pair  $G = (V, E)$  of disjunctive sets, where  $E \subseteq V^2$ . We call the elements of  $V = V(G)$  *vertices* of  $G$  and  $E = E(G)$  its *edges*. The graph  $G$  is called *finite* or *infinite* depending on whether  $V(G)$  is finite or infinite. However, since this paper deals exclusively with finite digraphs, we will omit this and consider our graphs to be finite digraphs. The *transpose* of  $G = (V, E)$  is the graph  $G^T = (V, E^T)$ , where  $E^T = \{(y, x) \mid (x, y) \in E(G)\}$ .

Two vertices  $x, y \in G$  are *adjacent* in  $G$  and are called *neighbors* of each other if either  $(x, y) \in E(G)$  or  $(y, x) \in E(G)$ . The number of neighbors of  $x$  in  $G$  is the *degree* of  $x$ .

A *path* (from  $u_1$  to  $u_k$  in  $G$ ) is a sequence  $(u_1, \dots, u_k)$  of vertices of  $G$  such that  $u_i$  is adja-

cent to  $u_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i < n$ . The number of edges of a path is its *length*. A graph  $G$  is called *connected* if for all  $s, t \in V(G)$  there is a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $G$ .

If  $P = x_0 \dots x_{k-1}$  is a path and  $k \geq 3$ , then the graph  $C = P + x_{k-1}x_0$  is a *circle*. We also often denote a circle briefly by its (cyclic) sequence of vertices, so in the above example  $C = x_0 \dots x_{k-1}x_0$ . The *length* of a circle is again the number of its edges. (**TODO** Do we need this?) A graph is called *acyclic*, if it does not contain a cycle.

### 1.2 Triads

A connected acyclic graph  $G$  is called a *tree*. The vertices of degree 1 of a tree are called its *leaves*. Note, that any two vertices  $v, w \in V(G)$  can be connected by a unique shortest path, so we consider it to be the *path* from  $u_1$  to  $u_k$ .

A *triad* is a tree, which has a single vertex of degree 3 (also called *root*) and otherwise only vertices of degree 2 and 1. Most of the time we will use a notation of the form  $(p_1 p_2 p_3)$ , where  $p_i \in \{\{0, 1\}^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}^+\}$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Here, 0 stands for forward edge, 1 stands for backward edge, and the three words stand for the three paths that leave the root of the triad.

### 1.3 Cores

Let  $H = (V, E)$  be another graph. A *homomorphism* from  $G$  to  $H$  is a mapping  $h: V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$  such that  $(h(u), h(v)) \in E(H)$  whenever  $(u, v) \in E(G)$ . If such a homomorphism exists between  $G$  and  $H$ , we say that  $G$  *homomorphically maps* to  $H$ , and write  $G \rightarrow H$ .

$G$  is called *isomorphic* to  $H$ , written  $G \simeq H$ , if there exists a bijection  $\phi: V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$  with  $(x, y) \in E(G) \Leftrightarrow (\phi(x), \phi(y)) \in E(H)$  for all  $x, y \in V$ . We call such a mapping  $\phi$  an *isomorphism*. We usually do not distinguish between isomorphic graphs, thus we write  $G = H$  instead of  $G \simeq H$ .

An *endomorphism* of a graph  $H$  is a homomorphism from  $H$  to  $H$ . An *automorphism* of a graph  $H$  is an isomorphism from  $H$  to  $H$ . A finite graph  $H$  is called a *core*, if every endomorphism of  $H$  is an automorphism. A subgraph  $G$  of  $H$  is called a *core of  $H$* , if  $H$  is homomorphically equivalent to  $G$  and  $G$  is a core.

## 1.4 Polymorphisms

Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be two graphs. Then the (*direct-, cross-, categorical-*) *product*  $H_1 \times H_2$  of  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  is the graph with vertex set  $V(H_1) \times V(H_2)$ ; the pair  $((u_1, u_2), (v_1, v_2))$  is in  $E(H_1 \times H_2)$  if  $(u_1, v_1) \in E(H_1)$  and  $(u_2, v_2) \in E(H_2)$ . The  $n$ -th *power*  $H^n$  of a graph  $H$  is inductively defined as follows.  $H^1$  is by definition  $H$ . If  $H^i$  is already defined, then  $H^{i+1}$  is  $H^i \times H$ .

Let  $H$  be a digraph and  $k \geq 1$ . Then a *polymorphism* of  $H$  of *arity*  $k$  is a homomorphism from  $H^k$  to  $H$ . In other words, a mapping  $f: V(H)^k \rightarrow V(H)$  is a polymorphism of  $H$  if and only if  $(f(u_1, \dots, u_k), f(v_1, \dots, v_k)) \in E(H)$  whenever  $(u_1, v_1), \dots, (u_k, v_k)$  are arcs in  $E(H)$ .

## 1.5 The H-colouring Problem

When does a given digraph  $G$  homomorphically map to a digraph  $H$ ? For every digraph  $H$ , this question defines a computational problem, called the *H-colouring problem*. The input of this problem consists of a finite digraph  $G$ , and the question is whether there exists a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ . A common variant of this problem is the *precoloured H-colouring problem*, where the input consists of a finite digraph  $G$  together with a mapping  $f$  from a subset of  $V(G)$  to  $V(H)$ . In this case, the question is whether there exists an extension of  $f$  to all of  $V(G)$  which is a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ . It is clear that the *H-colouring problem* reduces to the *precoloured H-colouring problem* (it is a special case: the partial map might have an empty domain).

## 2 The Arc-consistency Procedure

The arc-consistency procedure is one of the most studied algorithms for solving constraint satisfaction problems. It found its first mentions in [51, 52] and is often referred to as the *consistency check procedure*.

Let  $H$  be a finite digraph, and let  $G$  be an instance of  $CSP(H)$ . The idea of the procedure is to maintain a list  $L(v)$  of vertices from  $V(H)$  for each vertex  $v \in G$ . Each element in the list of  $x$  represents a candidate for an image of  $x$  under a ho-

### Algorithm 1: $AC_{\mathbb{T}}$ ( $\mathbb{T}$ is a triad)

**Input:** Digraph  $\mathbb{G}$ , initial lists  
 $L: G \mapsto P(T)$   
**Data:** For every  $x \in V(G)$  a list  $L(x)$  of elements of  $V(H)$   
**Output:** Is there a homomorphism  
 $h: \mathbb{G} \mapsto \mathbb{T}$  such that  $h(v) \in L(v)$   
for all  $v \in G$

```

repeat
  foreach  $x \in V(G)$  do
    foreach  $u \in L(x)$  do
      if There is no  $v \in V(H)$  such that
         $(u, v) \in E(H)$  then
        | Remove  $u$  from  $L(x)$ 
      end
    end
    if  $L(x)$  is empty then
    | reject
    end
  end
until No list changes

```

momorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ . The procedure successively removes vertices from the lists by performing consistency checks. For this purpose the algorithm uses only two rules:

- remove  $u$  from  $L(x)$ , if there is no  $v \in L(y)$  with  $(u, v) \in E(H)$
- remove  $v$  from  $L(y)$ , if there is no  $u \in L(x)$  with  $(u, v) \in E(H)$

Eventually, we can not remove any vertex from any list, then the graph  $G$  together with the resulting lists is called *arc consistent*. If one of the lists is empty, it is clear that a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$  does not exist and we reject. The pseudo-code of the entire arc-consistency procedure is displayed in algorithm **TODO**.

If  $G$  is an instance of precoloured CSP for  $H$ , we simply run the modification of  $AC_H$  which starts with  $L(x) := \{c(x)\}$  for all  $x \in V(G)$  in the range of the precolouring function  $c$ , instead of  $L(x) := V(H)$ .

Note that for any graph  $H$ , if  $AC_H$  rejects an instance of  $CSP(H)$ , then it clearly has no solution. The converse implication does not hold in general. For instance, let  $H$  be  $K_2$ , and let  $G$  be  $K_3$ . In this

case,  $AC_H$  does not remove any vertex from any list, but obviously there is no homomorphism from  $K_3$  to  $K_2$ .

However, we can distinguish between the case where each list contains a single vertex and the case where some lists contain more than one vertex. In the former, the singleton lists for each vertex  $x \in V(G)$  define a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ . In the latter, arc consistency isn't enough to solve the problem.

## 2.1 Implementation

In the simplest implementation of the algorithm, called AC-1, the inner loop of the algorithm goes over all edges of the graph, in which case the running time of the algorithm is quadratic in the size of  $G$ . In the following we describe one of the simplest implementations of the procedure, called AC-3, which is due to [3], and has a worst-case running time that is linear in the size of  $G$ . While earlier AC algorithms were often inefficient, successors to the AC-3 are generally much more difficult to implement, which is the reason for its choice for this paper.

The idea of AC-3 is to maintain a *worklist*, which contains a list of arcs  $(x_0, x_1)$  of  $G$  that might help remove a value from  $L(x_0)$  or  $L(x_1)$ . Whenever we remove a value from a list  $L(x)$ , we add all arcs that are in  $G$  incident to  $x$ . Note that then any arc in  $G$  might be added at most  $2V(H)$  many times to the worklist, which is a constant in the size of  $G$ . Hence, we iterate the while loop of the implementation for at most a linear number of times. Altogether, the running time is linear in the size of  $G$  as well.

In the following, we consider only CSP-instances of a triad  $H$ , where  $G = H$ . The table below shows the measurements of both algorithms over a series of linear input sizes. As we can see, AC-3 offers no significant acceleration for small input-sizes. In fact, we observe a small degradation at very small sizes, and a lower runtime is only achieved from an input size of 48 upwards. This does not surprise, since the runtime is bought with memory access whose duration outweighs that of multiple CPU iterations when the input is small. However, we're only interested in triads that have at most 22 nodes anyway, but nevertheless we still choose AC-3 as our preferred algorithm for pragmatic reasons.

nodes	12	24	36	48
AC-1	38.3 us	236.6 us	797.4 us	1.818 ms
AC-3	45.7 us	267.6 us	789.8 us	1.659 ms

The next table now shows the measurements of AC-1 and AC-3 over a series of larger input sizes, that are still linear. However, in these measurements, the CSP-instance is the same every time. The runtime improvement of AC3 over AC1 is striking to observe, as well as the linear runtime of AC3.

nodes	196	361	576
AC-1	2.356 ms	3.663 ms	7.765 ms
AC-3	1.837 ms	3.018 ms	4.064 ms

## 3 Generating Triads

In this section we will present an algorithm that enumerates all core triads up to a fixed path-length. To do this, we must first introduce the following prerequisites.

### 3.1 Prerequisites

As a first prerequisite for the algorithm we have to prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.** Let  $T$  be a finite tree. The following are equivalent

1.  $T$  is a core
2.  $End(T) = \{id\}$
3.  $AC_T(T)$  terminates with  $L(v) = v$  for all vertices  $v$  of  $T$

**Proof:** 1.  $\Rightarrow$  2.: Let  $T$  be a core. We assume there is another homomorphism  $f \in End(T)$  with  $f \neq id$ .

Let  $v$  and  $w$  be two vertices of  $T$ . Note, that every unique shortest path from  $v$  to  $w$  maps to the unique shortest path from  $f(v)$  to  $f(w)$ , since  $f$  is an automorphism of a tree. It follows, that there must be a leaf  $u$  on which  $f$  is not the identity, because otherwise  $f = id$ .

We consider  $p$  to be the unique path from  $u$  to  $f(u)$ , which maps to the unique path  $p'$  from  $f(u)$  to  $f(f(u))$ . We claim that there has to be a vertex  $v$  on  $p$  for which  $f(v) = v$ . To show this we take the orbit of  $u$  and the paths in between.

In the simple case we suppose that  $f(f(u)) = u$ . This implies  $f(u_i) = u_{l-i}$  for  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, l\}$ . Since no double-edges are allowed, we conclude that  $l = 2m$ , which gives us  $f(u_m) = u_m$ .

For the general case, we consider the orbit of  $u$  to be of size  $n \geq 3$ . Because of  $f(u_0) = u_l$  there is a greatest  $m \leq l$  such that  $f(u_i) = u_{l-i}$ , for every  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$  from which follows that there must be a cycle from  $u_m$  to  $f^n(u_m) = u_m$  of length  $n(l-2m)$ . Since  $T$  is a tree, we require that  $n(l-2m) = 0$ . The latter equation can only be satisfied for  $l = 2m$ , and again we get  $f(u_m) = u_m$ .

Now let  $T = v(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_k)$ , where  $T_i$  are the components of  $T - v$ . We know that  $T_a \rightarrow T_b$  for at least one pair  $T_a, T_b$ , where  $T_a$  contains  $u$  and  $T_b$  contains  $f(u)$ . We then construct an endomorphism  $h$  of  $T$  by taking  $f$  on  $T_a$ . For every other component we define  $h$  as  $id$ . It's easy to see that  $h$  is non-injective, since  $f$  maps  $T_a$  to  $T_b$ .

However, this means that  $T$  can't be a core, which means our assumption was wrong and  $End(T)$  cannot contain such a  $f$ , but only  $id$ .

2.  $\Rightarrow$  1: If  $End(T) = id$ , then the only homomorphism  $h: T \rightarrow T$  is  $id$ , which is an automorphism. Hence  $T$  must be a core.

2.  $\Rightarrow$  3: Suppose that  $End(T) = \{id\}$ . To prove that  $AC_T(T)$  terminates with  $L(v) = \{v\}$  for all vertices  $v$  of  $T$  we use a modified version of the prove of implication 4  $\Rightarrow$  2 of Theorem 2.7 in the script of [1].

Let  $v'$  be an arbitrary vertex in  $T$ . By choosing a vertex  $u$  from the list of each node  $v$  we can construct a sequence  $f_0, \dots, f_n$  for  $n = |V(T)|$ , where  $f_i$  is a homomorphism from the subgraph of  $T$  induced by the vertices at distance at most  $i$  to  $v'$ , and  $f_{i+1}$  is an extension of  $f_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We start by defining  $f_0$  to map  $v'$  to an arbitrary vertex  $u' \in L(v')$ .

Suppose inductively, that we have already defined  $f_i$ . Let  $w$  be a vertex at distance  $i+1$  from  $v'$  in  $T$ . Since  $T$  is an orientation of a tree, there is a unique  $w' \in V(T)$  of distance  $i$  from  $v'$  in  $T$  such that  $(w, w') \in E(T)$  or  $(w', w) \in E(T)$ . Note that  $x = f_i(w')$  is already defined. In case that  $(w', w) \in E(T)$ , there must be a vertex  $y$  in  $L(w)$  such that  $(x, y) \in E(T)$ , since otherwise the arc-consistency procedure would have removed  $x$  from  $L(w')$ . We then set  $f_{i+1}(w) = y$ . In case that  $(w, w') \in E(T)$  we can proceed analogously. By construction, the mapping  $f_n$  is an endomorphism

of  $T$ .

Knowing that  $id$  is the only endomorphism of  $T$  we get  $v' = f_n(v') = u'$ . Since  $v'$  and  $u'$  both were chosen arbitrarily, it follows that  $L(v) = \{v\}$ , for every vertex  $v \in T$ .

3.  $\Rightarrow$  2: It's obvious, that always  $\{id\} \subseteq End(T)$ . Since  $AC_T(T)$  derived  $L(v) = v$  for all vertices  $v$  of  $T$  we know there can't be another homomorphism  $h$  for which  $h(v) \neq v$ , hence  $End(T) = \{id\}$ . ■

From now on we say that  $AC$  derives  $id$ , if  $AC$  derives  $L(v) = v$  for every vertex  $v$ .

To reduce the number of cases to look at we consider only triads that are cores, i.e. not homomorphically equivalent to smaller triads. Thus, we pose the following question.

**Question 1.** When is a triad  $\mathbb{T}$  homomorphically equivalent to a smaller triad?

A method to answer this question has already been presented in lemma 1. We simply run  $AC_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbb{T})$  and see, if it derives  $L(v) = \{v\}$  for every vertex  $v$ . If this is the case, then we know that  $\mathbb{T}$  is a core.

However, this approach is inefficient as we can infer knowledge about the triad by considering its individual arms. For instance, consider the case, in which  $\mathbb{T}$  has two identical arms. We can easily see, that  $\mathbb{T}$  is not a core without the need to apply the costly  $AC$ -procedure. Below, we will formulate a lemma (criterion? **TODO**), based upon which we can answer question 1 without having to run the  $AC$ -procedure. We need the following definitions as prerequisites.

**Definition 3.1.** A *partial triad* is a triad of the form  $p_1, p_2, p_3$ , where  $p_i = \varepsilon$  for at least one  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Usually we write down only the words that are not empty, e.g. 1011, 110.

Each partial triad  $\theta$  can be completed to form a triad  $\mathbb{T}$  by adding arms to it. In this case we say that  $\mathbb{T}$  was *derived* from  $\theta$ . Conversely, we say that a triad  $\mathbb{T}$  can be *reduced* to a partial triad  $\theta$  by removing arms from  $\mathbb{T}$ . Let  $\theta_1 = p_1, p_2, p_3$  and  $\theta_2 = q_1, q_2, q_3$  be two partial triads such that the total number of non-empty words is  $\leq 3$ . By taking only the non-empty arms of  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  we get a new partial triad. In this case, we say that  $\theta_1$  was joined with  $\theta_2$ .

Note, that adding arms to a partial triad puts further restrictions upon its root node. Therefore,

running  $AC_\theta(\theta)$  on a partial triad  $\theta$  is insufficient for making a statement about the homomorphic equivalence of a triad derived from  $\theta$ . E.g. consider the arm 100, on which AC doesn't derive  $id$ . Yet, 100, 11, 00 is still a core.

We can avoid this phenomena by defining  $ACR_{\mathbb{T}}$  as the modification of  $AC_{\mathbb{T}}$ , that solves the pre-coloured CSP of  $\mathbb{T}$ , where we colour the root  $r$  by setting  $L(r)$  to  $\{r\}$ . A *rooted core* (RC) then names a partial triad  $\theta$  for which  $ACR_\theta(\theta)$  derives  $id$ . Now we can formulate the following lemma in answer to question 1.

**Lemma 2.** Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be a triad. If  $\mathbb{T}$  can be reduced to a partial triad  $\theta$  such that  $\theta$  is not a rooted core, then  $\mathbb{T}$  can not be a core.

**Proof:** Let  $h$  be a non-injective automorphism of  $\theta$  such that  $h(r) = r$  for the root  $r$  of  $\theta$ . We then construct an endomorphism  $h'$  of  $\mathbb{T}$  by defining  $h'(v) = v$  for every vertex  $v \in V(T) \setminus V(\theta)$ . For any other vertex  $u$  (\*TODO\*  $u \in T$ ?) we take  $h'(u) = h(u)$ . It's easy to see that  $h'$  is non-injective. ■

### 3.2 Algorithm

We are now in position to describe an algorithm that generates core triads by building up triads from individual arms. The idea of the algorithm is that for every preliminary partial triad we check whether it is a rooted core. If this is not the case, we can exclude it from the further generation process and thus benefit from exponential time savings.

The pseudo-code of the entire algorithm for generating core triads is displayed in algorithm 2. Note, that the algorithm seen there generates triads up to a maximal armlength  $m$ . However, since one of the main goals of this paper is to find polymorphisms of triads up to  $n$  nodes, we must apply subtle changes to the algorithm, which are as follows.

- In the beginning we generate the list of RCAs such that it only includes arms, whose number of nodes is  $\leq n$ .
- Each time we join two partial triads we not only check if the resulting partial triad is a (rooted) core, but also if its number of nodes is  $\leq n$ .

#### Algorithm 2: Algorithm for finding core triads

```

Input: An unsigned integer  $m$ 
Output: A list of all core triads whose
           arms each have a length  $\leq m$ 

// Finding a list of RCAs
armlist  $\leftarrow []$ 
foreach arm  $p$  with  $\text{length}(p) \leq m$  do
    if  $ACR_p(p)$  didn't derive  $L(v) \neq v$  for
        any vertex  $v$  then
        | put  $p$  in armlist

// Assembling the RCAs to core triads
triadlist  $\leftarrow []$ 
foreach  $\{p_1, p_2\}$  in armlist do
    if  $ACR_{p_1 p_2}(p_1 p_2)$  derived  $L(v) \neq v$  for
        some vertex  $v$  then
        | Drop the pair and cache the two
        | indices

foreach triad  $\mathbb{T} = \{p_1, p_2, p_3\}$  do
    if  $\mathbb{T}$  contains a cached index pair then
        | Drop  $\mathbb{T}$  and continue
    if  $AC_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbb{T})$  didn't derive  $L(v) \neq v$  for
        some vertex  $v$  then
        | Put  $\mathbb{T}$  in triadlist

return triadlist

```

Since the modification is so small, we do not notate a separate algorithm.

#### 3.2.1 Optimizations

**Lemma 3.** Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a digraph and let  $f$  be a polymorphism of  $H$ . (\*TODO\*) Then  $f$  is also a polymorphism of  $\bar{H}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a digraph and let  $H^T = (V, E^T)$  be the transpose of  $H$ . A mapping  $f: V(H)^k \rightarrow V(H)$  is a polymorphism of  $H$ , if and only if  $(f(u_1, \dots, u_k), f(v_1, \dots, v_k)) \in E(H)$  whenever  $(u_1, v_1), \dots, (u_k, v_k)$  are arcs in  $E(H)$ . Now let  $f$  be a polymorphism of  $H$ . Since  $(f(v_1, \dots, v_k), f(u_1, \dots, u_k)) \in E^T(H^T)$  whenever  $(v_1, u_1), \dots, (v_k, u_k)$  are arcs in  $E^T(H^T)$ ,  $f$  is also a polymorphism of  $H^T$ . ■

This let's us reduce the number of triads to look at by half. Of each pair of triads, that form a complement of each other, our algorithm excludes the

one, whose first edge of the first arm is an forward edge.

A further improvement can be achieved regarding the generation of arms, based on the fact that we're only interested in arms that are rooted cores. **TODO**

## 4 Finding Polymorphisms

In this section we focus on proving the conjecture by Jakub Bulin that the triad 01001111, 0110000, 101000 has no Siggers polymorphism and that all smaller triads do have a Siggers polymorphism.

While it is known that an orientation of a tree has a Siggers polymorphism if it has a binary polymorphism  $f$  satisfying  $f(x, y) = f(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in V$ , Jakub Bulin conjectures that the converse implication also holds true.

With this knowledge, we can restrict our search to triads that do not have a binary-commutative polymorphism. Still, if we find such a triad, we need to check for the existence of a Siggers polymorphism even though it's highly probable that we won't find one.

### 4.1 Algorithm

Up to this point, we weren't concerned about the case where arc consistency does not solve our CSP-instance since we were looking exclusively for endomorphisms (and in this case there's always at least *id*). As we're now searching for polymorphisms, it's highly probable that AC does not solve our CSP-instance; in these cases we need to perform search. But even then the arc-consistency procedure is useful for *pruning the search space* in exhaustive approaches. The algorithm we present does exactly this by using arc consistency as a subroutine as follows.

Given  $H$ , we construct a new graph  $G$  as follows. We start from the second power  $H^2$ , and then contract all vertices of the form  $(u, v)$  and  $(v, u)$ . Let  $G$  be the resulting graph. Initially we run  $AC_H$  on the input graph  $G$ . If  $AC_H$  derives the empty list, we reject, otherwise we pick some vertex  $x \in V(G)$  and set  $L(x)$  to  $v$  for some  $v \in L(x)$ . Next, we run AC again and proceed recursively with the resulting lists. However, if  $AC_H$  now derives the empty

### Algorithm 3: Algorithm for finding polymorphisms

**Input:** a finite digraph  $H$   
**Output:** is there a binary-commutative polymorphism for  $H$

```

 $G \leftarrow H^2$ 
forall  $u, v \in V(H)$  do
  | contract the vertices  $(u, v), (v, u)$  in  $G$ 
if  $AC_H(G)$  derives the empty list then
  | reject
Fn  $\text{search}(L, G, H, x_v)$ 
  | foreach  $u \in L(x_i)$  do
  |   | foreach  $y \in V(G)$  do
  |   |   | Let  $L'(y)$  be a copy of  $L(y)$ 
  |   |   |  $L'(x) \leftarrow \{u\}$ 
  |   |   | Run  $AC_H(G)$  with the lists  $L'$ 
  |   |   | if  $AC_H(G)$  does not derive the empty list then
  |   |   |   | return  $\text{search}(L', G, H, x_{i+1})$ 
  |   | accept

```

list, we backtrack and remove  $v$  from  $L(x)$ . Finally, if AC didn't derive the empty list and all lists are singleton sets  $\{u\}$ , the map that sends  $x$  to  $u$  is a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ .

The pseudo-code of the search-procedure can be found in algorithm 3. The procedure defines a recursive tree-search procedure, that can yield us exponential time savings, even though the runtime is still exponential. We prefer a depth-first-search over breadth-first-search, since the search-tree is acyclic and finite. (**TODO** good to know, but is this info really necessary?)

### 4.2 Results

We are now in position to verify Bulin's conjecture. For this purpose we let the algorithm of section 3 generate all triads up to the number of nodes 21 and then check for polymorphisms of each triad with the help of algorithm 3. As expected, our program does not find such a triad, which proves the conjecture that all smaller triads than 01001111, 0110000, 101000 do have a Siggers polymorphism.

More interestingly, our program finds another

triad of the same size that doesn't have a Siggers polymorphism either. A rendering of the triad with coloured vertices is displayed in figure 1.

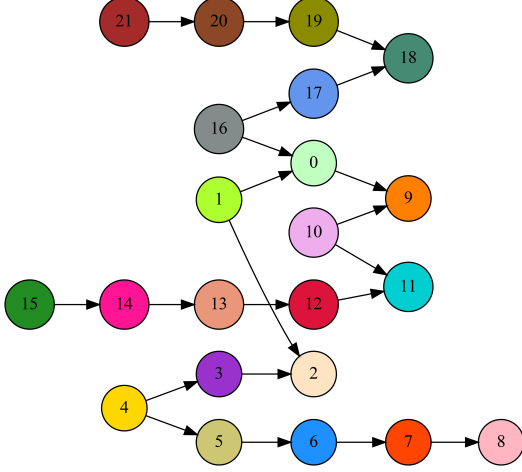


Figure 1: Another smallest triad without a binary-commutative polymorphism

**Lemma 4.** Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be a core tree and let  $h$  be a homomorphism from  $\mathbb{T}^k$  to  $\mathbb{T}$ . Then  $h(v, v, \dots, v) = v$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be a core tree. By definition of the productgraph, there is an edge between two vertices  $(v, v, \dots, v)$  and  $(w, w, \dots, w)$  of  $\mathbb{T}^k$ , if and only if  $(v, w) \in \mathbb{T}$ . Now let  $h$  be a homomorphism from  $\mathbb{T}^k$  to  $\mathbb{T}$ . We then construct an endomorphism  $h'$  of  $\mathbb{T}$  by defining  $h'(v) = h(v, v, \dots, v)$ . By lemma 1 we know that  $h'$  must be the identity, from which follows, that  $h$  must map  $(v, v, \dots, v)$  to  $v$ . ■

We start at  $[10, 10]$ , which by lemma 4 must be mapped to 10. This enforces only two possible mappings on  $[9, 11]$ , either 9 or 11. In fact, either of the two choices will eventually lead to a contradiction, so we continue by making a case distinction. The first case,  $[9, 11] \mapsto 9$ , is represented by the top half colour of each vertex, whereas the second case,  $[9, 11] \mapsto 11$ , is represented by the bottom half colour.

**Case 1.** In this case we map  $[9, 11]$  to 9. It's easy to see that mapping  $[0, 12]$  to 10 isn't possible, since 10 has no incoming edge, which means we must map  $[0, 12]$  to 0. For our further traversal we may choose either of the two adjacent vertices  $[13, 1]$  or

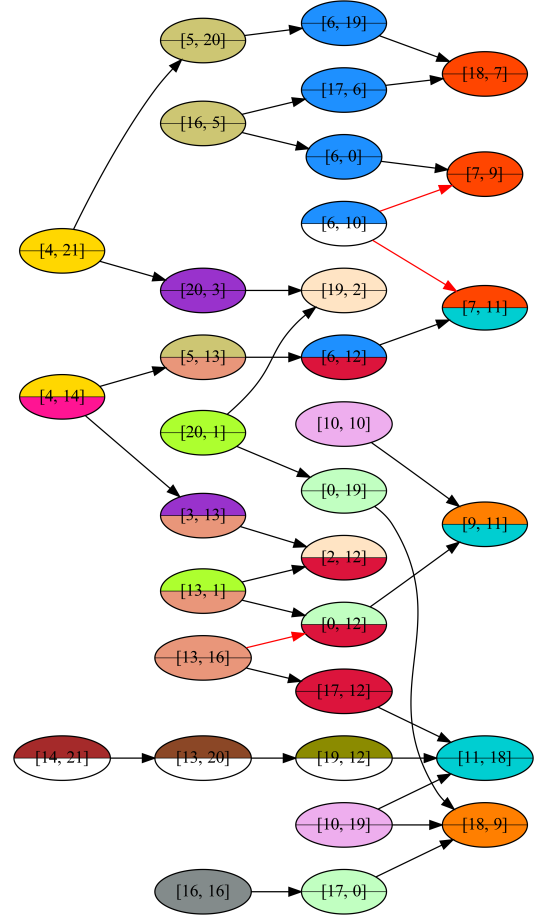


Figure 2: The reduced component of the binary-product



[13, 16], of which we choose [13, 1]. Looking ahead we notice that to get to [4, 14], we have to decrease by two levels. Therefore we traverse [13, 1], [2, 12], [3, 13] and [4, 14] by mapping them to 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively. Continuing from [4, 14], we see that have to be three successive forward edges, which forces [7, 11] to be mapped to 7. Now the mapping for each of the following vertices is straightforward until we arrive at [4, 21]  $\mapsto$  4. We notice the path from [4, 21] to [16, 16] has the exact same orientation as the path from 4 to 16. Therefore we must map the former to the latter (\*TODO\* do we?), since we know that [16, 16]  $\mapsto$  16. In particular, we map [18, 9] to 9. As a consequence, [11, 18] must be mapped to 11, as the latter is the only vertex, from where we can traverse three consecutive backward edges. It follows, that [13, 6]  $\mapsto$  13 and we finally arrive at a contradiction, since there is no edge between 13 and 0.

**Case 2.** This is the case, in which we map [9, 11] to 11. Again, [0, 12]  $\mapsto$  10 isn't possible, since 10 has no incoming edge, therefore we map [0, 12] to 12. For our further traversal we may choose either of the two adjacent vertices [13, 1] and [13, 16]. Traversing in direction of [13, 1] is straightforward, and we stop at [7, 11]  $\mapsto$  11. Now we go back to [0, 12] and start traversing in the other direction. It's easy to see that [11, 18]  $\mapsto$  11. Next, we notice that the path from [11, 18] to [16, 16] has the exact same orientation as the path from 11 to 16. That leaves us no choice, but to map the former to the latter, since we know that [16, 16]  $\mapsto$  16. In particular, we map [18, 9] to 9. It follows, that [20, 1]  $\mapsto$  1, since otherwise we wouldn't be able to decrease by two levels to reach [4, 21]. After mapping [4, 21] to 4 the following mappings are straightforward until we map [7, 9] to 7. Having mapped [7, 11] to 11 earlier we see, that for [6, 10] there is no mapping such that 9 and 11 are adjacent.

## 5 Conclusion

We have presented an algorithm that enumerates all core triads up to a fixed path-length. It is reasonable to assume that the generalization to generate core trees requires only little adjustments to the algorithm. This can be a task for further research.

Furthermore, we showed a successful application of the arc consistency algorithm to check whether a

given triad has a commutative polymorphism and provided a human-readable proof for the (**TODO** absence/non-existence) of the latter a certain triad.

## 6 Acknowledgments

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