# The Fine-Grained Complexity of Boolean Conjunctive Queries and Sum-Product Problems 

Austen Z. Fan Paraschos Koutris Hangdong Zhao

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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## Introduction

## Venue

| Conf. | Type |
| :--- | :--- |
| ICALP | Theory |
| SODA | Theory |
| PODS | Theory |
| SIGMOD | Database |

$q():-\operatorname{Venue}($ Conf., Type), Field(Name, Type), Talk(Name, Conf.)

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In this paper, we study the fine-grained complexity of BCQ.
We introduce the Clique Embedding Power, which provides the conditional lower bound $O\left(\|I\|^{\mathrm{emb}(H)}\right)$.

Prior Work


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Our clique embedding power is provably always smaller or equal to the submodular width.

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[Mar13] showed that, assuming ETH, $\operatorname{CSP}(\mathcal{H})$ is fixed-parameter tractable if and only if $\mathcal{H}$ has bounded submodular width.

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Our method gives a fine-grained lower bound for every query.

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- Introduce the notion of the clique embedding power emb $(H)$ and explore its properties; most importantly, we prove that $\operatorname{emb}(H) \leq \operatorname{subw}(H)$.


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- Construct a semiring-oblivious reduction from the $k$-clique problem to any query and derive conditional lower bounds for its running time.
- Identify several classes of hypergraphs for which emb $(H)=$ $\operatorname{subw}(H)$, and a hypergraph with six vertices for which there is a gap between these two quantities.


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Set semantics $\leftrightarrow(\{$ True, False $\}, \vee, \wedge)$
Bag semantics $\leftrightarrow(\mathbb{N},+, *)$

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Our hardness reduction from $k$-clique is semiring-oblivious.

## Outline

Clique Embedding Power

Decidability and Mixed Integer Programming Formulation

Conditional Lower Bound

Tightness \& Gap

Future Work

Clique Embedding Power, I

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Definition (Touch)
We say $X, Y \subseteq \mathcal{V}$ touch in $\mathcal{H}$ if either $X \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ or $\exists e \in \mathcal{E}$ such that $e \cap X \neq \emptyset$ and $e \cap Y \neq \emptyset$.

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Definition (K-Clique Embedding)
A $k$-clique embedding from $C_{k}$ to $\mathcal{H}$ is a mapping $\psi$ from [k] to $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{V}) \backslash \emptyset$ such that (1) $\forall v \in[k], \psi(v)$ induces a connected subhypergraph, and (2) $\forall v, u \in[k], \psi(v), \psi(u)$ touch in $\mathcal{H}$.

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Clique Embedding Power, II

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Definition (Weak Edge Depth)
$\forall e$ the weak edge depth of $e$ is $d_{\psi}(e):=|\{v \in[k] \mid \psi(v) \cap e \neq \emptyset\}|$. The weak edge depth of $\psi \operatorname{wed}(\psi):=\max _{e} d_{\psi}(e)$.

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The $k$-clique embedding power is $\operatorname{emb}_{k}(\mathcal{H}):=\max _{\psi} \frac{k}{\operatorname{wed}(\psi)}$. The clique embedding power is $\operatorname{emb}(\mathcal{H}):=\operatorname{supemb}_{k}(\mathcal{H})$.

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Example

$e m b=\frac{3}{2}$

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$e m b=\frac{5}{3}$

$\mathrm{emb}=\frac{7}{4}$

## Decidability and MIP formulation, I



Figure: $\operatorname{emb}_{k}(\mathcal{H})$ for the 6 -cycle

## Decidability and MIP formulation, III

$\min w$

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$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\min & w \\
\text { s.t. } & \sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} x_{S}=k
\end{array}
$$

## Decidability and MIP formulation, III

| $\min w$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| s.t. | $\sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} x_{S}$ | $=k$ |
|  | $x_{S}$ | $\forall S \subseteq \mathcal{V}$ |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | where $S$ is not connected |

## Decidability and MIP formulation, III

| $\min \quad w$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| s.t. |  |  |
|  | $\sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} x_{S}$ |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | $x_{S}$ |  |
|  |  | $\forall S \subseteq \mathcal{V}$ |
|  |  | where $S$ is not connected |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | where $S, T \subseteq \mathcal{V}, T$ do not touch |

## Decidability and MIP formulation, III

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \min w \\
& \text { s.t. } \\
& \begin{array}{lll}
\sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} x_{S} & =k & \\
x_{S} & =0 & \forall S \subseteq \mathcal{V} \\
\min \left\{x_{S}, x_{T}\right\} & =0 & \quad \forall S, T \subseteq \mathcal{V} \\
\sum_{S \subseteq V: e \cap S \neq \emptyset} x_{S} & \leq w & \forall e \in \mathcal{E}
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

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\sum_{S \subseteq V: e \cap S \neq \emptyset} x_{S} & \leq w & \forall e \in \mathcal{E} \\
x_{S} & \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} & \forall S \subseteq V
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

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> min w
> s.t.

## Decidability and MIP formulation, III

min $w$

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\sum_{S \subseteq \mathcal{V}} x_{S} & =1 & \\
x_{S} & =0 & \forall S \subseteq \mathcal{V} \\
& & \text { where } S \text { is not connected } \\
\min \left\{x_{S}, x_{T}\right\} & =0 & \forall S, T \subseteq \mathcal{V} \\
& & \text { where } S, T \text { do not touch } \\
\sum_{S \subseteq V: e \cap S \neq \emptyset} x_{S} & \leq w & \forall e \in \mathcal{E} \\
x_{S} & \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} & \forall S \subseteq V
\end{array}
$$

Theorem
Let $w^{*}$ be the optimal solution of MIP. Then, $\operatorname{emb}(\mathcal{H})=1 / w^{*}$.
Additionally, there exists an integer $K \geq 3$ such that $\mathrm{emb}(\mathcal{H})=\operatorname{emb}_{K}(\mathcal{H})$.

## Conditional Lower Bound, I

Conjectures related to $k$-Clique

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Conjecture (Combinatorial k-Clique; Lincoln, Vassilevska-Williams \& Williams, 17')
Any combinatorial algorithm to detect a k-clique in a graph with $n$ nodes requires $n^{k-o(1)}$ time on a Word RAM model.

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Conjecture (Min Weight k-Clique; Lincoln, Vassilevska-Williams \& Williams, 17')
Any randomized algorithm to find a $k$-clique of minimum total edge weight requires $n^{k-o(1)}$ time on a Word RAM model.

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Theorem
For any $\mathcal{H}, \operatorname{CSP}(\mathcal{H})$ cannot be computed via a combinatorial algorithm in time $O\left(|I|^{\mathrm{emb}(\mathcal{H})-\epsilon}\right)$ unless the Combinatorial $k$-Clique Conjecture is false.

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Proof.


| $x_{1}$ | $x_{2}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\left\langle v_{1}^{6}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ |
| $\left\langle v_{1}^{4}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ |

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| $X_{1}$ | $X_{2}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\langle v_{1}^{6}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ | $\frac{x_{2}}{\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle}$ | $\chi_{3}$ |
| $\left\langle v_{1}^{4}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ |  | $\left\langle v_{3}, v_{4}\right\rangle$ |
| X3 | $X_{4}$ |  |  |
| $\left\langle v_{3}^{5}, v_{4}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{4}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | X4 | $X_{5}$ |
| $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{2}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{2}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{2}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{5}^{4}, v_{1}^{6}\right\rangle$ |
| $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{4}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ |  |  |

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| $\chi_{1}$ | $x_{2}$ | $x_{2}$ $x_{3}$ <br> $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{2}\right\rangle$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| < $\left.v_{1}^{6}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ |  |  |
| $\left\langle v_{1}^{4}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ |  |  |
| ${ }^{3}$ | $x_{4}$ |  |  |
| $\left\langle v_{3}^{5}, v_{4}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{4}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\chi_{4}$ | $\chi_{5}$ |
| < $\left.v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{2}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{2}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{2}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{5}^{4}, v_{1}^{6}\right\rangle$ |
| \| $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{4}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ |  |  |
| $x_{5}$ | $x_{1}$ |  |  |
| U $\left.v_{5}^{4}, v_{1}^{6}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{1}^{6}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ |  |  |

## Conditional Lower Bound, II

Theorem
For any $\mathcal{H}, \operatorname{CSP}(\mathcal{H})$ cannot be computed via a combinatorial algorithm in time $O\left(|I|^{\mathrm{emb}(\mathcal{H})-\epsilon}\right)$ unless the Combinatorial $k$-Clique Conjecture is false.

| $x_{1}$ | $\chi_{2}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\langle v_{1}^{6}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ |  |  |
| < $\left.v_{1}^{4}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{2}^{5}, v_{3}^{1}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{2}\right\rangle$ |
| ${ }^{3}$ | $\chi_{4}$ |  |  |
| $\left\langle v_{3}^{5}, v_{4}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{4}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $x_{4}$ | $x_{5}$ |
| $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{2}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{2}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{4}^{2}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{5}^{4}, v_{1}^{6}\right\rangle$ |
| < $\left\langle v_{3}^{1}, v_{4}^{4}\right\rangle$ | \| $\left\langle v_{4}^{4}, v_{5}^{4}\right\rangle$ |  |  |
| $\times_{5}$ | $x_{1}$ |  |  |
| $\left\langle v_{5}^{4}, v_{1}^{6}\right\rangle$ | $\left\langle v_{1}^{6}, v_{2}^{5}\right\rangle$ |  |  |

## Conditional Lower Bound, III

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The proof can be adapted to tropical semiring (min $k$-clique) by assigning each pair $\{u, v\} \subseteq[k]$ to a unique hyperedge according to $\psi$.

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Theorem
For any $\mathcal{H}, \operatorname{CSP}(\mathcal{H})$ over tropical semiring cannot be computed via any randomized algorithm in time $O\left(|/|^{\mathrm{emb}(\mathcal{H})-\epsilon}\right)$ unless the Min Weight k-Clique Conjecture is false.

## Tightness \& Gap

|  | emb | subw |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Acyclic | 1 | 1 |
| Chordal | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\ell$-cycle | $2-1 /\lceil\ell / 2\rceil$ | $2-1 /\lceil\ell / 2\rceil$ |
| $K_{2, \ell}$ | $2-1 / \ell$ | $2-1 / \ell$ |
| $K_{3,3}$ | 2 | 2 |
| $A_{\ell}$ | $(\ell-1) / 2$ | $(\ell-1) / 2$ |
| $\mathcal{H}_{\ell, k}$ | $\ell / k$ | $\ell / k$ |
| $Q_{b}$ | $7 / 4$ | 2 |

Table: Clique embedding power and submodular width for query classes

Future Work

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- Understand the gap in the boat query...


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## Thank You!

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