

## ON SET-VALUED NON-BOOLEAN FUNCTIONS

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**Abstract.** In the set of functions  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  the subset of Boolean functions is not complete. We study one way of partitioning the definition domain of a set-valued function  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  into equivalence classes with respect to an equivalence relation generated by  $F$  so that on these classes exists a Boolean function  $f$  equal to  $F$ , and investigate this equivalence relation for some values of  $n$  and  $r$ .

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbf{r} = \{0, 1, \dots, r-1\}$ ,  $r \geq 1$ , and let  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  be the set of subsets of  $\mathbf{r}$ . Then  $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r}), \emptyset, \mathbf{r}, \cup, \cap, \bar{\phantom{x}})$  is Boolean algebra. There are  $2^{r2^{r^n}}$  set-valued functions  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ , and only  $2^{r2^n}$  of them are Boolean.

Let  $\oplus$  denote the symmetric difference over  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ . It is well known that a function  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  is Boolean if and only if it can be represented in the form

$$F(X_1, \dots, X_n) = A_0 \oplus \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_m}^{1, 2, \dots, n} A_{i_1 \dots i_m} X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m}$$

for all  $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ , where  $A_0$  and  $A_{i_1 \dots i_m}$  are constants of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ , and the sum is extended over all  $\binom{n}{m}$  subsets  $\{i_1, \dots, i_m\}$  of  $m$  distinct indices from the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . The coefficients  $A_0$  and  $A_{i_1 \dots i_m}$  are uniquely determined by  $F$ .

The following property of Boolean functions, given in [7], is the generalization of the results of McKinsey and Scognamiglio.

**Theorem 1.1.** *If  $f : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  is a Boolean function then*

$$f(X_1, \dots, X_n) \oplus f(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X_i \oplus Y_i)$$

for all  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ,  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ .

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*Proof.* Since  $f$  is Boolean, it can be represented in the form

$$f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = A_0 \oplus \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_m}^{1, \dots, n} A_{i_1 \dots i_m} X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m},$$

so that

$$f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \oplus f(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n) = \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_m}^{1, \dots, n} A_{i_1 \dots i_m} (X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} \oplus Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m}).$$

For an arbitrary term of this sum we have

$$\begin{aligned} A_{i_1 \dots i_m} (X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} \oplus Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m}) &\subseteq X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} \oplus Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m} = \\ &X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} \overline{Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m}} \cup \overline{X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m}} Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m} = \\ &X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} (\overline{Y_{i_1}} \cup \dots \cup \overline{Y_{i_m}}) \cup (\overline{X_{i_1}} \cup \dots \cup \overline{X_{i_m}}) Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m} = \\ &X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} \overline{Y_{i_1}} \cup \dots \cup X_{i_1} \dots X_{i_m} \overline{Y_{i_m}} \cup \overline{X_{i_1}} Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m} \cup \dots \cup \overline{X_{i_m}} Y_{i_1} \dots Y_{i_m} \subseteq \\ &X_{i_1} \overline{Y_{i_1}} \cup \dots \cup X_{i_m} \overline{Y_{i_m}} \cup \overline{X_{i_1}} Y_{i_1} \cup \dots \cup \overline{X_{i_m}} Y_{i_m} = (X_{i_1} \oplus Y_{i_1}) \cup \dots \cup (X_{i_m} \oplus Y_{i_m}) \subseteq \\ &(X_1 \oplus Y_1) \cup \dots \cup (X_n \oplus Y_n) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X_i \oplus Y_i). \end{aligned}$$

Every term is contained in  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n (X_i \oplus Y_i)$ , so

$$f(X_1, \dots, X_n) \oplus f(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X_i \oplus Y_i). \quad \square$$

## 2. The equivalence relation generated by a set-valued function

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ,  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ . Then  $(X_1, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$  if

$$F(X_1, \dots, X_n) \oplus F(W_1, \dots, W_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X_i \oplus W_i)$$

is equivalent to

$$F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \oplus F(W_1, \dots, W_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n (Y_i \oplus W_i)$$

for every  $W = (W_1, \dots, W_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ , and  $[X]_F$  denotes the set of all  $Y$  such that  $X \sim_F Y$ .

Relation  $\sim_F$  is obviously an equivalence relation on  $\mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ . For every element  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$  there exists a Boolean function  $f_X : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  which coincides with  $F$  on  $[X]_F$ . This Boolean function is given by

$$f_X(U_1, \dots, U_n) = \bigcup_{Y \in [X]_F} F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \bigcap_{i=1}^n (Y_i \oplus U_i \oplus \mathbf{r})$$

for every  $U = (U_1, \dots, U_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $U = (U_1, \dots, U_n) \in [X]_F$ . Then

$$f_X(U_1, \dots, U_n) = F(U_1, \dots, U_n) \cup \bigcup_{\substack{Y \in [X]_F \\ Y \neq U}} F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \bigcap_{i=1}^n (Y_i \oplus U_i \oplus \mathbf{r}).$$

Since  $(U_1, \dots, U_n) \sim_F (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$ , for every  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \in [X]_F$  we have

$$F(U_1, \dots, U_n) \oplus F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n (U_i \oplus Y_i),$$

i.e.

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n (U_i \oplus Y_i \oplus \mathbf{r}) \subseteq F(U_1, \dots, U_n) \oplus F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \oplus \mathbf{r},$$

(by De Morgan laws,  $A \oplus \mathbf{r} = \overline{A}$  and  $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow \overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A}$ ). By intersecting both sides of this inequality with  $F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$  for every  $Y \in [X]_F, Y \neq U$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \bigcap_{i=1}^n (U_i \oplus Y_i \oplus \mathbf{r}) &\subseteq \\ F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)(F(U_1, \dots, U_n) \oplus F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \oplus \mathbf{r}) &= \\ F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)F(U_1, \dots, U_n) \oplus F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \oplus F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) &= \\ F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)F(U_1, \dots, U_n) &\subseteq F(U_1, \dots, U_n), \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\bigcup_{\substack{Y \in [X]_F \\ Y \neq U}} F(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \bigcap_{i=1}^n (Y_i \oplus U_i \oplus \mathbf{r}) \subseteq F(U_1, \dots, U_n),$$

and  $f_X(U_1, \dots, U_n) = F(U_1, \dots, U_n)$  for every  $(U_1, \dots, U_n) \in [X]_F$ .  $\square$

For  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$  we introduce the collection of sets

$$Q_F(X) = \{(W_1, \dots, W_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \mid F(X_1, \dots, X_n) \oplus F(W_1, \dots, W_n) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n (X_i \oplus W_i)\}.$$

Then  $X \sim_F Y$  if and only if  $Q_F(X) = Q_F(Y)$ . A function  $F$  is Boolean if the relation  $\sim_F$  has one equivalence class.

Further next we investigate this relation for some values of  $n$  and  $r$ .

**case**  $r = 1$

In this case the set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$  is isomorphic to the two-element Boolean algebra  $\mathbf{B}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbf{B}_2^n$  so that every function  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{1}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{1})$  is Boolean and has one equivalence class.

**case**  $n = 1, r = 2$

This case is studied in [6], and the following results are obtained:

| number of classes | number of functions with $n$ classes |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1                 | 16                                   |
| 2                 | 16                                   |
| 3                 | 128                                  |
| 4                 | 96                                   |

**case**  $n = 1, r = 3$

By using the program given in Appendix we obtain the following results:

| number of classes | number of functions with $n$ classes |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1                 | 64                                   |
| 2                 | 1024                                 |
| 3                 | 5504                                 |
| 4                 | 34880                                |
| 5                 | 165888                               |
| 6                 | 779520                               |
| 7                 | 3386880                              |
| 8                 | 12403456                             |

**case**  $n = 2, r = 2$

Let the element  $(X_1, X_2)$  from  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) = \mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\}) \times \mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\})$  be represented by an integer  $j$  between 0 and 15 such that in the binary representation of  $j$  the first two digits correspond to the characteristic vector of the set  $X_1$ , and the last two digits correspond to the characteristic vector of the set  $X_2$ . So, for example, the binary representation of the number 11 is  $1011 = 1 \cdot 2^3 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0$ . The first two digits, 10, determine the characteristic vector  $(1, 0)$  of the set  $\{1\}$ , and the last two digits, 11, determine the characteristic vector  $(1, 1)$  of the set  $\{0, 1\}$ , and  $j = 11$  corresponds to the ordered pair  $(\{1\}, \{0, 1\})$ .

There are  $2^{32}$  functions  $F : \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2})$ , and among them only 256 generate the equivalence with one class.

In the sequel, we make use of Table 1, in which 1 in row  $i$  and column  $j$  denotes that the element  $(X_1, X_2)$  corresponding to the row  $i$  belongs to the collection  $Q_F$  of the element  $(Y_1, Y_2)$  that corresponds to column  $j$  and vice versa for any function  $F : \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2})$ , because for those elements we

have  $(X_1 \oplus Y_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Y_2) = \mathbf{2} = \{0, 1\}$ , and  $F(X_1, X_2) \oplus F(Y_1, Y_2) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^2 (X_i \oplus Y_i)$  regardless of the values of function  $F$ .

|    | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 1  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 2  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 3  | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |
| 4  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  |
| 5  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| 6  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  |
| 7  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| 8  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  |
| 9  | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  |
| 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| 12 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| 14 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  |

Table 1

**Theorem 2.2.** *There is no function  $F : \mathcal{P}^2(\mathbf{2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2})$  whose equivalence  $\sim_F$  has four classes.*

*Proof.* Let us suppose that there exists a function  $F : \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2})$  that generates the equivalence  $\sim_F$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2}) \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{2})$  with four classes,  $K_1, K_2, K_3$  and  $K_4$ . Then to all elements  $(X_1, X_2) \in \mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\}) \times \mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\})$  from the same class  $K_i$  corresponds the same collection  $Q_F^i(X_1, X_2), i = 1..4$ . Let us represent this situation by a table similar to Table 1, where 1 in the row  $i$  and the column  $j$  denotes that the element  $j$  belongs to the collection of element  $i$  and vice versa. Obviously, this new table must have 1 in all the places where there is 1 in Table 1, and some of the 0's are replaced by 1 so that the table remains symmetric with respect to the diagonal, and there are four different rows, each of them representing a collection of the element  $j$ .

We show first that there are different integers  $i, j$  and  $k$  between 0 and 15 such that in this table there are 0's in the places  $(i, j), (i, k)$  and  $(j, k)$ . Since the collections  $Q_F^i$  are different, at most one of them can have 1 in each place, so at least three of them have at least one 0. Let there be 0 in the row  $i$  and the column  $j$ , and let  $Q_F^1$  denote the collection of the element  $i$ . Then, because of symmetry, there is 0 in the row  $j$  and the column  $i$ , and the rows  $i$  and  $j$  are not equal because the row  $j$  has 0 and row  $i$  has 1 in the column  $i$  (every element belongs to the collection attached to it). Denote the row  $j$  by  $Q_F^2$ . Let  $Q_F^3$  denote the row  $k$ , different from the rows  $i$  and  $j$ , that has at least one 0.

*case 1* The row  $k$  has 1 in the columns  $i$  and  $j$ . Since it has at least one 0, let it be in the column  $l$ . Then there is also 0 in the row  $l$ , column  $k$ . The row  $l$  is different from the row  $k$ , by the same argument as for the rows  $i$  and  $j$ . It also differs from the rows  $i$  and  $j$  in the column  $k$ , and let denote the row  $l$  by  $Q_F^4$ .

|     |   |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |   | $i$ | $j$ | $l$ | $k$ |
|     | 1 |     |     |     |     |
| $i$ |   | 1   | 0   |     | 1   |
|     |   | 1   |     |     |     |
| $j$ |   | 0   | 1   |     | 1   |
| $l$ |   |     |     | 1   | 0   |
|     |   |     |     | 1   |     |
|     |   |     |     | 1   | 1   |
| $k$ |   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 1   |

Let  $m$  be an integer between 0 and 15, not equal to  $i$ ,  $j$ ,  $k$  or  $l$ . The row  $m$  must be equal to one of the rows  $i$ ,  $j$ ,  $k$  or  $l$ , say to the row  $i$ . Then, there is 0 in the place  $(m, j)$  and, by symmetry, in the place  $(j, m)$ , so the row  $j$  has at least two 0's, in the columns  $i$  and  $m$ .

From Table 1 we get that for any two fixed columns exactly two rows have 0 in those columns, so collection  $Q_F^2$  can correspond to at most two elements from  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$ . If there is another row, apart from the row  $m$ , equal to the row  $i$ , then row  $j$  has at least three 0's, and from Table 1 we get that then no row can be equal to the row  $j$ . Also, since there are six 0's in each column of Table 1, at most six elements from  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$  may correspond to the collection  $Q_F^1$ . In any case, there remain at least nine rows different from  $Q_F^1$  and  $Q_F^2$ , so they must be equal to either  $Q_F^3$  or  $Q_F^4$ . By a similar argument we get a contradiction.

*case 2* The row  $k$  has 1 in the column  $i$  and 0 in the column  $j$ . Then, there is 0 in the row  $j$  column  $k$ , so  $Q_F^2$  has at least two 0's. Further, since the rows  $i$  and  $k$  are not equal, there must be a column  $l \neq j$  in which they differ.

a. If there is 0 in the row  $i$  and 1 in the row  $k$ , then there is 0 in the place  $(l, i)$  and 1 in the place  $(l, k)$ .

|     |   |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |   | $i$ | $j$ | $l$ | $k$ |
|     | 1 |     |     |     |     |
| $i$ |   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 1   |
|     |   | 1   |     |     |     |
| $j$ |   | 0   | 1   |     | 0   |
|     |   |     | 1   |     |     |
|     |   |     |     | 1   |     |
| $l$ |   | 0   |     | 1   | 1   |
|     |   |     |     | 1   |     |
| $k$ |   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   |

The row  $l$  differs from the rows  $i$ ,  $j$  and  $k$  in the columns  $i$ ,  $k$  and  $i$  respectively, and we denote the row  $l$  by  $Q_F^4$ . Then, there are at least two rows,  $Q_F^1$

and  $Q_F^2$  with at least two 0's and this is impossible by the argument analogous to *case 1*.

b. If there is 0 in the row  $k$  and 1 in the row  $i$ , then there is 0 in the place  $(l, k)$  and 1 in the place  $(l, i)$ .

|     |   |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |   | $i$ | $j$ | $l$ | $k$ |
|     | 1 |     |     |     |     |
| $i$ | 1 | 0   |     | 1   | 1   |
|     |   | 1   |     |     |     |
| $j$ | 0 | 1   |     |     | 0   |
|     |   |     | 1   |     |     |
|     |   |     |     | 1   |     |
| $l$ | 1 |     |     | 1   | 0   |
|     |   |     |     |     | 1   |
| $k$ | 1 | 0   |     | 0   | 1   |

The row  $l$  differs from the rows  $i, j$  and  $k$  in the columns  $k, i$  and  $k$  respectively, and we denote the row  $l$  by  $Q_F^4$ . Then, there are at least two rows,  $Q_F^1$  and  $Q_F^2$  with at least two 0's and this is impossible by the argument analogous to *case 1*.

*case 3* The row  $k$  has 1 in the column  $j$  and 0 in the column  $i$ . This case is analogous to *case 2*, and is also impossible.

*case 4* The row  $k$  has 0 in both columns  $i$  and  $j$ .

|     |   |     |     |     |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
|     |   | $i$ | $j$ | $k$ |
|     | 1 |     |     |     |
| $i$ | 1 | 0   |     | 0   |
|     |   | 1   |     |     |
| $j$ | 0 | 1   |     | 0   |
|     |   |     | 1   |     |
|     |   |     |     | 1   |
| $k$ | 0 | 0   |     | 1   |

Then  $i, j$  and  $k$  are integers between 0 and 15 such that there are 0's in the places  $(i, j), (i, k)$  and  $(j, k)$ .

Let the integers  $i, j$  and  $k$  correspond to the elements  $(X_1, X_2), (Y_1, Y_2)$  and  $(Z_1, Z_2)$  from  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$  respectively. Then  $(X_1 \oplus Y_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Y_2)$  is not  $\{0, 1\} = 3$  (because it would then contain  $F(X_1, X_2) \oplus F(Y_1, Y_2)$  regardless of the values of the function  $F$ ), or  $\emptyset = 0$  (the elements  $(X_1, X_2)$  and  $(Y_1, Y_2)$  are different since  $i$  and  $j$  are different). So  $(X_1 \oplus Y_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Y_2)$  can be either  $\{0\} = 1$  or  $\{1\} = 2$ , and  $F(X_1, X_2) \oplus F(Y_1, Y_2) = A \oplus B$  can be  $\{1\} = 2$  or  $\{0, 1\} = 3$ , or  $\{0\} = 1$  or  $\{0, 1\} = 3$  respectively. The same holds for  $F(X_1, X_2) \oplus F(Z_1, Z_2) = A \oplus C$  and  $F(Y_1, Y_2) \oplus F(Z_1, Z_2) = B \oplus C$ .

If  $(X_1 \oplus Y_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Y_2) = (X_1 \oplus Z_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Z_2) = (Y_1 \oplus Z_1) \cup (Y_2 \oplus Z_2) = \alpha$ ,  $\alpha = 1$  or  $\alpha = 2$ , then it is easy to see that the corresponding system of equations

$$A \oplus B = \beta_1,$$

$$A \oplus C = \beta_2,$$

$$B \oplus C = \beta_3,$$

$\beta_i = \bar{\alpha}$  or  $\beta_i = 3$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , has no solution.

If  $(X_1 \oplus Y_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Y_2) = (X_1 \oplus Z_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Z_2) = \alpha$ ,  $(Y_1 \oplus Z_1) \cup (Y_2 \oplus Z_2) = \beta$ ,  $\beta = \bar{\alpha}$ , then  $Y_1 \oplus Z_1$  or  $Y_2 \oplus Z_2$ , say  $Y_1 \oplus Z_1$ , is equal to  $\beta$ , and we have two cases:

*case 1*  $Y_1 = 0$ ,  $Z_1 = \beta$ . Then  $X_1 \oplus Y_1 = 0$  ( $\Rightarrow X_1 = 0 \Rightarrow X_1 \oplus Z_1 = 0 \oplus \beta = \beta \Rightarrow (X_1 \oplus Z_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Z_2) \neq \alpha$ , a contradiction), or  $X_1 \oplus Y_1 = \alpha$  ( $\Rightarrow X_1 = \alpha \Rightarrow X_1 \oplus Z_1 = \alpha \oplus \beta = 3 \Rightarrow (X_1 \oplus Z_1) \cup (X_2 \oplus Z_2) \neq \alpha$ , a contradiction).

*case 2*  $Y_1 = \alpha$ ,  $Z_1 = 3$ . This case can be treated in the same way.

So, no function  $F : \mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(2)$  generates an equivalence on  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$  with four equivalence classes.  $\square$

It is easy to see that if  $F : \mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(2)$  and the relation  $\sim_F$  has three equivalence classes, then there exists a partition of  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$  in two classes such that on these classes exists a Boolean function  $f$  equal to  $F$ .

**case**  $n \geq 2$ ,  $r \geq 2$

**Theorem 2.3.** *There is no function  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ ,  $n \geq 2$  whose equivalence has two classes.*

*Proof.* Suppose, on the contrary, that there is a function  $F$  whose equivalence has two classes  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ . First we show that the collection  $Q_F^i$  of the element  $X \in K_i$  is equal to  $K_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

If  $Y \in Q_F(X)$  then  $X \in Q_F(Y)$ . The collection  $Q_F^i$  contains every element  $Y$  from  $K_i$ , because if  $X \sim_F Y$  then  $Y \in Q_F(X)$ . (The converse is not true. The collection  $Q_F(X)$  may contain elements that are not in  $[X]_F$ .) If  $Y \in K_2$  then  $Y$  does not belong to  $Q_F^1$ . Indeed, if we suppose that  $Y \in Q_F^1$ , then every  $X$  from  $K_1$  (since it belongs to  $Q_F^1$ ) must belong to the collection  $Q_F^2$  that corresponds to  $Y$ . Then the collection  $Q_F^2$  contains all the elements  $X$  from  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$ . Further, by a similar argument, we get that  $Q_F^1$  also contains every  $X$  from  $\mathcal{P}(2) \times \mathcal{P}(2)$ . (Since every  $X$  from  $K_1$  belongs to  $Q_F^2$ , then also every  $Y$  from  $K_2$  belongs to  $Q_F^1$ .) But then  $Q_F^1$  and  $Q_F^2$  are equal, and so are  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ , and there is only one class in the equivalence generated by  $F$ , a contradiction. So  $Q_F^1$  is equal to  $K_1$ , and  $Q_F^2$  to  $K_2$ .

Let  $K_1$  denote the equivalence class  $[(\emptyset, \emptyset, \dots, \emptyset)]$ . Then every element of the form  $(X_1, \overline{X_1}, \dots, X_n)$  belongs to  $K_1$ , (since  $(X_1 \oplus \emptyset) \cup (\overline{X_1} \oplus \emptyset) \cup \dots \cup (X_n \oplus \emptyset) = \mathbf{r}$ ), and  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (\overline{X_1}, X_2', \dots, X_n')$ , (since  $(X_1 \oplus \overline{X_1}) \cup (X_2 \oplus X_2') \cup \dots \cup (X_n \oplus X_n') = \mathbf{r}$ ), regardless of the values of the function  $F$ .

Let  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ .

a) If  $X_1 \cap X_2 = \emptyset$  then, because of  $\overline{X_1} \cup \overline{X_2} = \mathbf{r}$ ,  $(\emptyset, \emptyset, \dots, \emptyset) \sim_F (\overline{X_1}, \overline{X_2}, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (\overline{X_1}, X_2, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , and  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in K_1$ .

b) If  $X_1 \subseteq X_2$  then, because of  $\overline{X_1} \cup X_2 = \mathbf{r}$ ,  $(\emptyset, \emptyset, \dots, \emptyset) \sim_F (\overline{X_1}, X_2, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , and  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in K_1$ .

c) If  $X_1 \cap X_2 \neq \emptyset$  and neither  $X_1 \subseteq X_2$  nor  $X_2 \subseteq X_1$  then, because of  $X_1 \cap X_2 \subseteq X_1$ ,  $(\emptyset, \emptyset, \dots, \emptyset) \sim_F (X_1, X_1 \cap X_2, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (\overline{X_1}, X_2, \dots, X_n) \sim_F (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ , and  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in K_1$ .

This implies that  $K_1 = \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r})$ , so there is no function  $F : \mathcal{P}^n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{r})$ ,  $n \geq 2$  whose equivalence has two classes.  $\square$

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## 3 Appendix

```

program nlr3;
  type skup = set of 0..7;
  var n,broj,i,j, i1, i2, i3, i4, i5, i6, i7, i8 : integer;

```

```

x, f : array [0..7] of 0..7;
g : array [0..7] of skup;
novaklasa : boolean;
brklasa : array [1..8] of real;
iz : text;

begin
n:=8;
assign(iz,'iznir3.txt');
rewrite(iz);
for i:=1 to n do begin
    brklasa[i]:=0;
    x[i-1]:=i-1;
    end;
for i1:=0 to n-1 do begin f[0]:=i1;
for i2:=0 to n-1 do begin f[1]:=i2;
for i3:=0 to n-1 do begin f[2]:=i3;
for i4:=0 to n-1 do begin f[3]:=i4;
for i5:=0 to n-1 do begin f[4]:=i5;
for i6:=0 to n-1 do begin f[5]:=i6;
for i7:=0 to n-1 do begin f[6]:=i7;
for i8:=0 to n-1 do begin f[7]:=i8;
for i:=0 to n-1 do begin
    g[i]:=[];
    for j:=0 to n-1 do begin
        if (((f[i] xor f[j]) and (x[i] xor x[j])) = (f[i] xor f[j]))
            then g[i] :=g[i] + [x[j]];
    end;
end;
broj := 1;
for i:=1 to n-1 do begin
    novaklasa := true;
    for j:=0 to i-1 do begin
        if g[j] = g[i] then novaklasa := false;
    end;
    if novaklasa then broj := broj + 1;
end;
brklasa[broj]:=brklasa[broj]+1;
end; end; end; end; end; end; end; end;
for i:= 1 to n do
writeln (iz, ' ',i, ' ',brklasa[i]);
close(iz);
end.

```