

## STRONGLY DOMINATING SETS OF VARIABLES

Iv. MIRTICHEV and Sl. SHTRAKOV

Department of Mathematics  
Pedagogical Institute  
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

In this paper we introduce and investigate strongly dominating and regular dominating sets of variables for the functions.

DEFINITION 1. [2]. A function  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is said to depend on the variable  $x_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$  if there exist  $n-1$  constants  $c_1, \dots, c_{i-1}, c_{i+1}, \dots, c_n$  for the variables  $x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n$  such that the function  $f(x_1=c_1, \dots, x_{i-1}=c_{i-1}, x_{i+1}=c_{i+1}, \dots, x_n=c_n)$  assumes at least two different values.  $R_f$  denotes the set of all the variables on which  $f$  depends.

DEFINITION 2. [2]. A set  $M$ ,  $M \subseteq R_f$  is called separable for  $f$  with respect to the set  $N = \{x_1, \dots, x_l\} \subseteq R_f$  if there exist  $l$  constants  $c_1, \dots, c_l$  such that  $M \subseteq R_{f(x_1=c_1, \dots, x_l=c_l)}$ .  $S_{f,N}$  denotes the set of all the separable sets for  $f$  with respect to the set  $N$ .

When  $M$  is separable for  $f$  with respect to  $R_f \setminus M$  then  $M$  is called separable for  $f$ .  $S_f$  denotes the set of all the separable sets for  $f$ .

DEFINITION 3. [1]. A set  $M$ ,  $M \subseteq R_f$  is called  $c$ -separable for  $f$  with respect to the set  $N = \{x_1, \dots, x_l\} \subseteq R_f$  iff for every  $l$  constants  $c_1, \dots, c_l$ ,  $M \subseteq R_{f(x_1=c_1, \dots, x_l=c_l)}$  holds true.  $S_{f,N}^*$  denotes the set of all the  $c$ -separable sets for  $f$  with respect to the set  $N$ .

When  $M$  is  $c$ -separable for  $f$  with respect to  $R_f \setminus M$  then  $M$  is called  $c$ -separable for  $f$ .

DEFINITION 4. [1]. A set  $M = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \subseteq R_f$  is called dominating of  $N$ ,  $N \subseteq R_f$ ,  $(M \xrightarrow{d} N)$  if there exist  $m$  constants  $c_1, \dots, c_m$  such that  $(*) N \cap R_{f(x_1=c_1, \dots, x_m=c_m)} = \emptyset$  and  $M$  is minimal with respect to this property. When  $M$  satisfies  $(*)$  then it is called  $\alpha$ -dominating of  $N$ ,  $(M \xrightarrow{\alpha d} N)$ .

$M \xrightarrow{\bar{d}} N$  denotes that  $M$  is not dominating of  $N$  for  $f$  and

$M \xrightarrow{\overline{\alpha d}} N$  denotes that  $M$  is not  $\alpha$ -dominating of  $N$  for  $f$ .

DEFINITION 5. [3]. A set  $P = \{x_1, \dots, x_p\} \subseteq R_f$  is called strongly dominating of  $Q$ ,  $Q \subseteq R_f$ , ( $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$ ) if for  $f$  there exists an  $p$ -tuple  $P^* = \{c_1^*, \dots, c_p^*\}$  such that  $P$  is dominating of  $Q$  with  $P^*$  and

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^p C_{x_i, Q} = Q \text{ where } C_{x_i, Q} = Q \setminus R_f(x_i = c_i^*) .$$

The set  $C_{x_i, Q}$  is called active zone of  $x_i$  in  $Q$ .  $P \xrightarrow{\overline{sd}} Q$  denotes that  $P$  is not strongly dominating of  $Q$  for  $f$ .

When  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  and for any  $i, j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq p$

$$C_{x_i, Q} \cap C_{x_j, Q} = \emptyset$$

the set  $P$  is called regular dominating of  $Q$  for  $f$  ( $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$ ).

$P \xrightarrow{\overline{rd}} Q$  denotes that  $P$  is not regular dominating of  $Q$  for  $f$ .

We now present an example to illustrate these definitions.

EXAMPLE 1. Let  $f = x_1 x_5 + x_2 x_5 + x_3 x_5 + x_3 x_5 \bar{x}_6 + x_4 x_6 \pmod{2}$ ,  $P = \{x_5, x_6\}$  and  $Q = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$ . It is obvious that  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  with  $P^* = (0, 0)$  and  $C_{x_5, Q} = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ ,  $C_{x_6, Q} = \{x_4\}$ . Since  $C_{x_5, Q} \cap C_{x_6, Q} = \emptyset$  it follows that  $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$ .

THEOREM 1. If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  then for every  $x_i \in P$ ,  $C_{x_i, Q} \not\subseteq M$ ,

where  $M = \bigcup_{\substack{x_j \in P \\ x_j \neq x_i}} C_{x_j, Q}$ .

PROOF. Obviously  $P \xrightarrow{d} Q$ . Without loss of generality assume that  $P = \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$ ,  $Q = \{x_{p+1}, \dots, x_q\}$ ,  $p < q \leq n$ . Now suppose that the theorem is false and let for example

$$C_{x_1, Q} \subseteq C_{x_2, Q} \cup \dots \cup C_{x_s, Q}, \quad s \leq p .$$

Consequently there exist  $s-1$  constants  $c_2^*, \dots, c_s^*$  such that

$$C_{x_1, Q} \cap R_f(x_2 = c_2^*, \dots, x_s = c_s^*) = \emptyset .$$

This implies

$$Q \cap R_f(x_2 = c_2^*, \dots, x_p = c_p^*) = \emptyset$$

for every  $p-s$  constants  $c_{s+1}^*, \dots, c_p^*$  for the variables from the set.

$P \setminus (Q \cup \{x_1\})$ . So we have  $P \setminus \{x_1\} \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  and  $P \xrightarrow{\bar{d}} Q$ . A contradiction. The theorem is proved.

COROLLARY 1. If  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  then for every  $x_j, x_i \in P, x_i \neq x_j$   
 $C_{x_i, Q} \not\subseteq C_{x_j, Q}$ .

COROLLARY 2. If  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  then for every  $x_i \in P, C_{x_i, Q} \neq \emptyset$ .

THEOREM 2. If  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  then  $\text{Card}(P) \leq \text{Card}(Q)$ .

This theorem follows by Theorem 1.

$P \xleftrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  denotes that  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha d} P$ .

PROPOSITION 3. If  $P \xleftrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  then  $\text{Card}(P) = \text{Card}(Q)$ .

THEOREM 4. If  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  and  $\text{Card}(P) = \text{Card}(Q)$  then  $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{d} Q$ .

PROOF. By  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q, \text{Card}(P) = \text{Card}(Q)$  and Theorem 1 it follows that there exist  $\text{Card}(P)$  different active zones in  $Q$  which contain at least one variable belonging to only one active zone. Hence for every  $x_i \in P$  it is true  $\text{Card}(C_{x_i, Q}) = 1$ . This implies  $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$ .

Now suppose that  $Q \xrightarrow{\bar{d}} Q$ . Obviously  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  and there exists a subset  $Q_1$  of  $Q$  for which  $Q_1 \xrightarrow{d} Q$ . Without loss of generality assume that  $P = \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}, Q = \{x_{p+1}, \dots, x_{2p}\}, 2p \leq n$  and  $C_{x_i, Q} = \{x_{p+i}\}$  for  $i=1, 2, \dots, p$ . Let  $x_{p+t} \in Q \setminus Q_1$  for some  $t \leq p$ . Consequently  $C_{x_t, Q} \cap Q_1 = \emptyset$ . As in Theorem 1 it follows that

$P \setminus \{x_t\} \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$  and  $P \xrightarrow{\bar{d}} Q$ . This contradiction completes the proof of the theorem.

COROLLARY. If  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} P$  then  $P \xrightarrow{rd} P$ .

In [1] the  $s$ -system of a family  $\Omega$  of sets is introduced as follows: A set  $\Sigma = \{x_1, \dots, x_t\}$  is called  $s$ -system of  $\Omega = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}, P_i \neq \emptyset$  if  $\Sigma \cap P_i \neq \emptyset, i=1, 2, \dots, n$  and for every  $j \leq t$  there exists  $P_k \in \Omega$  such that  $P_k \cap \Sigma = \{x_j\}$ .

THEOREM 5. Let  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha d} Q$ . The following two conditions are equivalent:

(i)  $Card(P) = Card(Q)$

(ii)  $Q$  is an  $s$ -system of the family  $\{C_{x_i, Q} | x_i \in P\}$ .

PROOF. (ii)  $\implies$  (i). Since  $Q$  is an  $s$ -system of  $\{C_{x_i, Q} | x_i \in P\}$

it follows that for every  $x_j \in Q$  there exists  $x_i \in P$  such that  $C_{x_i, Q} \cap Q = \{x_j\}$ . By the definition of  $C_{x_i, Q}$  it follows that  $C_{x_i, Q} \subseteq Q$ . Consequently  $C_{x_i, Q} = \{x_j\}$ . So every  $x_j \in Q$  is an active zone of some  $x_i \in P$ . By Corollary 1 of Theorem 1 it follows that

$$Card(P) = Card(Q).$$

(i)  $\implies$  (ii). Since  $Card(P) = Card(Q)$  then as in the proof of Theorem 4 it follows that  $Card(C_{x_i, Q}) = 1$  for every  $x_i \in P$ . So, any  $x_j \in Q$  is an active zone of some  $x_i \in P$ . Hence  $Q$  is an  $s$ -system of the family  $\{C_{x_i, Q} | x_i \in P\}$ .

It is easy to prove that  $Q$  is unique  $s$ -system of the family  $\{C_{x_i, Q} | x_i \in P\}$ .

COROLLARY. If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  and  $Q$  is an  $s$ -system of the family  $\{C_{x_i, Q} | x_i \in P\}$  then  $Q \xrightarrow{d} Q$ .

EXAMPLE 2. Let  $f = x_1 x_4 + x_2 x_3 \bar{x}_4 x_5 \pmod{2}$ ,  $P = \{x_4, x_5\}$ ,  $Q = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$  and  $P^* = (0, 0)$ . It is easy to see that  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$ ,  $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$  but  $P \xrightarrow{\bar{d}} P$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{\bar{d}} Q$ .

THEOREM 6. If  $P = \{x_1, \dots, x_p\} \subseteq R_f$  and  $P \xrightarrow{d} P$  then  $P \xrightarrow{rd} P$ .

PROOF. Let  $x_i$  be an arbitrary variable from  $P$ . Obviously  $\{x_i\}$  is dominating of  $\{x_i\}$  for any constant  $c_i$ . Hence  $x_i \in C_{x_i, P}$ ,  $C_{x_i, P} \neq \emptyset$  and  $P \subseteq \bigcup_{x_i \in P} C_{x_i, P}$ .

On the other hand  $\bigcup_{x_i \in P} C_{x_i, P} \subseteq P$ . So, we obtain  $P \xrightarrow{sd} P$  with any  $P^* = \{c_1^*, \dots, c_p^*\}$  and by Corollary of Theorem 4 it follows that  $P \xrightarrow{rd} P$ .

COROLLARY. If  $P \xrightarrow{d} P$  then for each subset  $P_1$  of  $P$  it is true  $P_1 \xrightarrow{rd} P_1$ .

THEOREM 7. If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  and  $P \cap Q = \emptyset$  then each non-empty subset  $P_1$

of  $P$  is separable for  $f$  with respect to  $P \setminus P_1$ .

PROOF. Let  $P = (x_1, \dots, x_p)$ ,  $P_1 = (x_1, \dots, x_s)$ ,  $s \leq p$  and  $P^* = (c_1^*, \dots, c_p^*)$  be an  $p$ -tuple with which  $P$  is strongly dominating of  $Q$  for  $f$ .

Suppose the theorem is false i.e.  $P_1 \notin S_{f, P \setminus P_1}$ . Then for any  $p$ -s tuple  $(c_{s+1}, \dots, c_p)$  it is true

$$P_1 \setminus R_{f(x_{s+1}=c_{s+1}, \dots, x_p=c_p)} \neq \emptyset.$$

Hence

$$P_2 = P_1 \setminus R_{f(x_{s+1}=c_{s+1}^*, \dots, x_p=c_p^*)} \neq \emptyset$$

Let  $x_i \in P_2$ . We have

$$x_i \notin R_{f(x_{s+1}=c_{s+1}^*, \dots, x_p=c_p^*)}$$

and

$$C_{x_i, Q} \cap R_{f(x_{s+1}=c_{s+1}^*, \dots, x_p=c_p^*)} = \emptyset.$$

This implies

$$C_{x_i, Q} \subseteq \bigcup_{k=s+1}^p C_{x_k, Q}.$$

This contradicts to Theorem 1. Consequently  $P_1 \in S_{f, P \setminus P_1}$ . The theorem is proved.

COROLLARY 1. If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  and  $P \cap Q = \emptyset$  then for any subset  $P_1$  of  $P$  the set  $(Q \setminus \bigcup_{x_k \in P \setminus P_1} C_{x_k, Q}) \cup P_1$  is separable for  $f$  with respect to  $P \setminus P_1$ .

COROLLARY 2. If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$ ,  $P_1, P_2 \subseteq P$  and  $P_1 \cap P_2 = \emptyset$  then  $P_1 \in S_{f, P_2}$ .

THEOREM 8. Let  $P = (x_1, \dots, x_p) \subseteq R_f$  and  $P^* = (c_1^*, \dots, c_p^*)$ . If  $Q = R_f \setminus (T \cup P)$ , where  $T = R_{f_1}$  and

$$f_1 = f(x_1=c_1^*, \dots, x_p=c_p^*)$$

then  $T \in S_{f, Q}^*$ .

PROOF. Suppose the theorem is false. Then there exist  $q$  constants  $c_{i_1}, \dots, c_{i_q}$  for the variables in  $Q$  such that  $T \not\subseteq R_{f_2}$ , where

$$f_2 = f(x_{i_1} = c_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_q} = c_{i_q}).$$

Without loss of generality assume that  $x_r \in T \setminus R_{f_2}$ . Obviously  $Q \cap R_{f_1} = \emptyset$ . Consequently for every  $q$  constants  $d_{i_1}, \dots, d_{i_q}$  it is true

$$f_1 = f_1(x_{i_1} = d_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_q} = d_{i_q}).$$

This implies that

$$f_1 = f_1(x_{i_1} = c_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_q} = c_{i_q}).$$

Now  $x_r \in R_{f_2}$  shows that  $x_r \in R_{f_1}$ . Remember that  $T = R_{f_1}$ . Thus we have  $x_r \in T$ . A contradiction. The theorem is proved.

**COROLLARY 1.** If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  then  $Q \setminus C_{x_i, Q} \in S_{f, C_{x_i, Q}}^*$  and  $C_{x_i, Q} \in S_{f, M}^*$ , where  $M = Q \setminus C_{x_i, Q}$  for any  $x_i \in P$ .

**COROLLARY 2.** If  $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$  then for every  $x_i, x_j \in P, i \neq j$  it is true  $C_{x_j, Q} \in S_{f, C_{x_i, Q}}^*$ .

**THEOREM 9.** If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  then  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q \cup P$ .

**PROOF.** Obviously  $P \xrightarrow{d} Q \cup P$ . Then for each variable  $x_i \in P$  there exists an active zone of  $x_i$  in  $Q$  such that  $C_{x_i, Q} \subseteq Q$ . Thus we have  $\{x_i\} \xrightarrow{d} C_{x_i, Q}$ . By Corollary 2 of Theorem 7 it follows that  $C_{x_i, M} = \{x_i\} \cup C_{x_i, Q}$  and  $x_i \cup_{P} C_{x_i, M} = M$ , where  $M = P \cup Q$ .

The theorem is proved.

**THEOREM 10.** If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  and  $P \cap Q = \emptyset$  then for every  $x_i \in P$  and for every  $x_j \in C_{x_i, Q}$  there exists at least one  $m$ -set  $M$ ,  $\text{Card}(M) = m$  which is separable for  $f$  and  $x_i, x_j \in M$ .

This theorem follows by Theorem 4.10 [1] and Theorem 6.1 [6].

**COROLLARY 1.** If  $P \xrightarrow{sd} Q$  then each variable  $x_i \in P$  forms a separable pair with each variable  $x_j \in C_{x_i, Q}$ .

Denote by  $\delta(x_i, L)$  the number of all the separable pairs which are formed between  $x_i$  and the variables from the set  $L \subseteq R_f$  and by

$\delta(P, Q)$  the number of all the separable pairs from  $P \times Q$ .

COROLLARY 2. If  $P \xrightarrow{ad} Q$  then for any  $x_j \in Q$

$$\delta(x_j, P) \geq \text{Card}(\{C_{x_j, Q} \mid x_j \in C_{x_j, Q} \& x_i \in P\}).$$

COROLLARY 3. If  $P \xrightarrow{ad} Q$  then

$$\delta(P, Q) \geq \sum_{x_i \in P} \text{Card}(C_{x_i, Q}).$$

COROLLARY 4. If  $P \xrightarrow{rd} Q$  then

$$\delta(P, Q) \geq \text{Card}(Q).$$

#### R E F E R E N C E S

1. Shtrakov Sl. Vl., Dominating and Annuling Sets of Variables for the Functions. Blagoevgrad, 1987.
2. Čimev K. N., Separable Sets of Arguments of Functions. MTA SzTAKI Tanulmányok 180/1986.
3. Mirtchev I. A., Separable and Dominating Sets of Variables for the Functions. in Proc. of East European Category Seminar, Predela, 29.02-04.03. 1988.
4. Деметрович Я., Дьепеш Д., Генерирование функциональных зависимостей и их представление помощью реляции. MTA SzTAKI Közlemények, 24, 1980, 7-18.
5. Деметрович Я., Э. Фюреди и Д. Катона, Зависимости в составных базах данных. Кибернетика, №5, 1985, 107-111.
6. Чимев К. Н., Отделими множества от аргументи на функциите. Благоевград, 1982.
7. Чимев К. Н., функции и графи. Благоевград, 1983.
8. Мирчев И. А., Доминиращи, самодоминиращи и отделими множества от променливи на функциите. Сб. "Дискр. матем. и приложения", Благоевград, 1987.

STRONGLY DOMINATING SETS OF VARIABLES

Iv. Mirtchev, Sl. Shtrakov

Summary

The paper studies strongly dominating and regular dominating sets of variables of functions. It is a continuation of the research of the authors and K. Chimev. It is proved that if  $P$  strongly dominates  $Q$  for  $f$ , then all subsets  $P_1 \subset P$  are separable for  $f$  with respect to  $P \setminus P_1$ .



A VÁLTOZÓK ERŐSEN DOMINÁLÓ HALMAZAI

Iv. Mirtchev, Sl. Shtrakov

Összefoglaló

A cikk a függvények változóinak un. erősen domináló és regulárisan domináló halmazaival foglalkozik /a pontos definíciók a cikkben megtalálhatók/. Ez folytatása a szerzők illetve K. Csimev korábbi kutatásainak. Be van bizonyítva, hogy ha  $P$  erősen dominálja  $Q$ -t /egy  $f$  függvényre nézve/ akkor minden  $P_1 \subset P$  sz  $f$ -nek a  $P \setminus P_1$ -re nézve vett szeparábilis részhalmaza.