

# SYMMETRIC PROPERTIES AND BOOLEAN COMPLEXITY

ALASDAIR URQUHART

A property of sets of CNF formulas is *symmetric* if it is preserved under complementation of variables. Let  $\text{CNF}^\Delta$  be a formulation of CNF where distinct formulas have disjoint sets of variables, and  $\text{SAT}^\Delta$  the satisfiable formulas in  $\text{CNF}^\Delta$ . The main theorem says that no symmetric property of sets of CNF formulas can force an algorithm for  $\text{SAT}^\Delta$  to take superlinear time. This result is based on observations of Ryan Williams from 2010.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA  
*Email address:* `urquhart@cs.toronto.edu`