

## ON FINITE FUNCTIONS WITH NON-TRIVIAL ARITY GAP

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### Abstract

Given an  $n$ -ary  $k$ -valued function  $f$ ,  $\text{gap}(f)$  denotes the minimal number of essential variables in  $f$  which become fictive when identifying any two distinct essential variables in  $f$ .

We particularly solve a problem concerning the explicit determination of  $n$ -ary  $k$ -valued functions  $f$  with  $2 \leq \text{gap}(f) \leq n \leq k$ . Our methods yield new combinatorial results about the number of such functions.

**Keywords:** essential variable, identification minor, essential arity gap.

**2000 Mathematics Subject Classification:** Primary: 03G25;  
Secondary: 05E05.

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\*The research was supported by the DFG project KO 1446/3-1.

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Received 15 December 2009

Revised 14 January 2010