

## Complexity of Unshuffling a Square for Small Alphabets

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presented at IWOCA 2013  
12 July 2013  
updated on 27 October 2014

Let **Square** be the language of strings  $w$  such that there exists an  $x$  so that  $Shuffle(x, x, w)$ , i.e., the strings  $w$  for which we can find an  $x$  and a shuffle of  $x$  with itself that yields  $w$ . Buss and Soltys [1] showed that **Square** is NP-hard when the underlying alphabet has at least 7 symbols; we know that it is trivially in polytime when the underlying alphabet is unary. The question is, what is  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i < 7$ , such that **Square** over an alphabet of size  $i$  is polytime, and **Square** over an alphabet of size  $i + 1$  is not (and if it is not, presumably it is NP-hard). For more details see [1].

### References

- [1] Sam Buss and Michael Soltys. Unshuffling a Square is NP-Hard. *Journal of Computer and System Sciences* 80(4):766–776 2013