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While studying the complexity of the Constraint Satisfaction Problem, Libor Barto and Marcin Kozik discovered the idea of absorption. If  $B \leq A$  and  $B$  absorbs  $A$ , then many kinds of connectivity properties of  $A$  are also true for  $B$ . This is very useful for proofs by induction, and absorption has since played a role in several purely algebraic situations.

After giving a taste of how absorption works, we would like to talk about our current project (with Libor Barto): How to algorithmically decide, given an algebra  $A$  with finitely many basic operations and a  $B \leq A$ , if  $B$  absorbs  $A$ . (Received August 08, 2013)