Advanced Topics in Theoretical Computer Science

Part 5: Complexity (Part II)

30.01.2014

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Contents

- Recall: Turing machines and Turing computability
- Register machines (LOOP, WHILE, GOTO)
- Recursive functions
- The Church-Turing Thesis
- Computability and (Un-)decidability
- Complexity

Motivation

Goals:

- Define formally time and space complexity last time
- Define a family of "complexity classes": P, NP, PSPACE, ...
- Study the links between complexity classes
- Learn how to show that a problem is in a certain complexity class Reductions to problems known to be in the complexity class
- Closure of complexity classes

We will give examples of problems from various areas and study their complexity.

DTIME/NTIME and DSPACE/NSPACE

DTIME/NTIME **Basic model:** *k*-DTM or *k*-NTM *M* (one tape for the input)

If M makes for every input word of length n at most T(n) steps, then M is T(n)-time bounded.

Definition (NTIME(T(n)), DTIME(T(n)))

- DTIME(T(n)) class of all languages accepted by T(n)-time bounded DTMs.
- NTIME(T(n)) class of all languages accepted by T(n)-time bounded NTMs.

DSPACE/NSPACE **Basic model:** *k*-DTM or *k*-NTM *M* with special tape for the input (is read-only) + *k* storage tapes (offline DTM) \mapsto needed if *S*(*n*) sublinear

If *M* needs, for every input word of length *n*, at most S(n) cells on the storage tapes then *M* is S(n)-space bounded.

Definition (NSPACE(S(n)), DSPACE(S(n)))

- DSPACE(S(n)) class of all languages accepted by S(n)-space bounded DTMs.
- NSPACE(S(n)) class of all languages accepted by S(n)-space bounded NTMs.

Questions

Time: Is any language in DTIME(f(n)) decided by some DTM? **Space:** Is any language in DSPACE(f(n)) decided by some DTM?

Time/Space:What about NTIME(f(n)), NSPACE(f(n))Time vs. Space:What are the links between DTIME(f(n)), DSPACE(f(n)),NTIME(f(n)), NSPACE(f(n))

Answers (Informally)

- **Time:** Every language from DTIME(f(n)) is decidable: for an input of length *n* we wait as long as the value f(n). If until then no answer "YES" then the answer is "NO".
- **Space:** Every language from DSPACE(f(n)) is decidable: There are only finitely many configurations. We write all configurations. If the TM does not halt then there is a loop. This can be detected.

Answers

Answers (Informally)

NTM vs. DTM: Clearly, $DTIME(f(n)) \subseteq NTIME(f(n))$ and $DSPACE(f(n)) \subseteq NSPACE(f(n))$ If we try to simulate an NTM with a DTM we may need exponentially more time. Therefore: $NTIME(f(n)) \subseteq DTIME(2^{h(n)})$ where $h \in O(f)$. For the space complexity we can show that: $NSPACE(f(n)) \subseteq DSPACE(f^2(n))$

Time vs. Space: Clearly, $DTIME(f(n)) \subseteq DSPACE(f(n))$ and $NTIME(f(n)) \subseteq NSPACE(f(n))$ DSPACE(f(n)), NSPACE(f(n)) are much larger.

Question

What about constant factors?

Constant factors are ignored. Only the rate of growth of a function in complexity classes is important.

Theorem.

For every $c \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and every storage function S(n) the following hold:

- DSPACE(S(n)) = DSPACE(cS(n))
- NSPACE(S(n)) = NSPACE(cS(n))

Proof (Idea). One direction is trivial. The other direction can be proved by representing a fixed amount $r > \frac{2}{c}$ of neighboring cells on the tape as a new symbol.

The states of the new machine simulate the movements of the read/write head as transitions. For r-cells of the old machine we use only two: in the most unfavourable case when we go from one block to another.

Theorem For every $c \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and every time function T(n) with $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{T(n)}{n} = \infty$ the following hold:

- DTIME(T(n)) = DTIME(cT(n))
- NTIME(T(n)) = NTIME(cT(n))

Proof (Idea). One direction is trivial. The other direction can be proved by representing a fixed amount $r > \frac{4}{c}$ of neighboring cells on the tape as a new symbol.

The states of the new machine simulate also now which symbol and which position the read/write head of the initial machine has. When the machine is simulated the new machine needs to make 4 steps instead of r: 2 in order to write on the new fields and 2 in order to move the head on the new field and then back on the old (in the worst case).

Big O notation

Theorem: Let T be a time function with $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{T(n)}{n} = \infty$ and S a storage function.

(a) If $f(n) \in O(T(n))$ then $DTIME(f(n)) \subseteq DTIME(T(n))$.

(b) If $g(n) \in O(S(n))$ then $DSPACE(g(n)) \subseteq DSPACE(S(n))$.

P, NP, PSPACE



P, NP, PSPACE



Lemma $NP \subseteq \bigcup_{i>1} DTIME(2^{O(n^d)})$

Proof: Follows from the fact that if *L* is accepted by a f(n)-time bounded NTM then *L* is accepted by an $2^{O(f(n))}$ -time bounded *DTM*, hence for every $d \ge 1$ we have:

 $NTIME(n^d) \subseteq DTIME(2^{O(n^d)})$

P, NP, PSPACE

$$P = \bigcup_{i \ge 1} DTIME(n^{i})$$

$$NP = \bigcup_{i \ge 1} NTIME(n^{i})$$

$$PSPACE = \bigcup_{i \ge 1} DSPACE(n^{i})$$

$$NP \subseteq \bigcup_{i \ge 1} DTIME(2^{O(n^{d})})$$

Intuition

- Problems in *P* can be solved efficiently; those in NP can be solved in exponential time
- PSPACE is a very large class, much larger that *P* and *NP*.

Complexity classes for functions

Definition

A function $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ is in P if there exists a DTM M and a polynomial p(n) such that for every n the value f(n) can be computed by M in at most p(length(n)) steps.

Here length(n) = log(n): we need log(n) symbols to represent (binary) the number n.

The other complexity classes for functions are defined in an analogous way.

Relationships between complexity classes

Question:

Which are the links between the complexity classes P, NP and PSPACE?

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 $\mathsf{P}\subseteq\mathsf{NP}\subseteq\mathsf{PSPACE}$

How do we show that a certain problem is in a certain complexity class?

Complexity classes

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Reduction to a known problem

We need one problem we can start with! SAT

Complexity classes

Can we find in NP problems which are the most difficult ones in NP?

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Answer

- There are various ways of defining "the most difficult problem".
- They depend on the notion of reducibility which we use.
- For a given notion of reducibility the answer is YES.
- Such problems are called complete in the complexity class with respect to the notion of reducibility used.

Reduction

Definition (Polynomial time reducibility)

Let L_1 , L_2 be languages.

 L_2 is polynomial time reducible to L_1 (notation: $L_2 \leq_{pol} L_1$)

if there exists a polynomial time bounded DTM, which for every input w computes an output f(w) such that

 $w \in L_2$ if and only if $f(w) \in L_1$

Reduction

Lemma (Polynomial time reduction)

- Let L_2 be polynomial time reducible to L_1 ($L_2 \leq_{pol} L_1$). Then:
 - If $L_1 \in NP$ then $L_2 \in NP$.
 - If $L_1 \in P$ then $L_2 \in P$.
- The composition of two polynomial time reductions is again a polynomial time reduction.

Reduction

Lemma (Polynomial time reduction)

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 - If $L_1 \in NP$ then $L_2 \in NP$.

If $L_1 \in P$ then $L_2 \in P$.

• The composition of two polynomial time reductions is again a polynomial time reduction.

Proof: Assume $L_1 \in P$. Then there exists $k \ge 1$ such that L_1 is accepted by n^k -time bounded DTM M_1 .

Since $L_2 \leq_{pol} L_1$ there exists a polynomial time bounded DTM M_f , which for every input w computes an output f(w) such that $w \in L_2$ if and only if $f(w) \in L_1$.

Let $M_2 = M_f M_1$. Clearly, M_2 accepts L_2 . We have to show that M_2 is polynomial time bounded. $w \mapsto M_f$ computes f(w) (pol.size) $\mapsto M_1$ decides if $f(w) \in L_1$ (polynomially many steps)

Theorem (Characterisation of NP)

A language *L* is in NP if and only if there exists a language *L'* in P and a $k \ge 0$ such that for all $w \in \Sigma^*$:

 $w \in L$ iff there exists $c : \langle w, c \rangle \in L'$ and $|c| < |w|^k$

c is also called witness or certificate for w in L. A DTM which accepts the language L' is called verifier.

Important

A decision procedure is in NP iff every "Yes" instance has a short witness

(i.e. its length is polynomial in the length of the input)

which can be verified in polynomial time.

Definition (NP-complete, NP-hard)

- A language *L* is NP-hard (NP-difficult) if every language *L'* in NP is reducible in polynomial time to *L*.
- A language *L* is NP-complete if:
 - $-L \in NP$
 - -L is NP-hard



- A language *L* is PSPACE-hard (PSPACE-difficult) if every language *L'* in PSPACE is reducible in polynomial time to *L*.
- A language *L* is PSPACE-complete if:
 - $-L \in PSPACE$
 - *L* is PSPACE-hard

Remarks:

- \bullet If we can prove that at least one NP-hard problem is in P then $\mathsf{P}=\mathsf{NP}$
- If $P \neq NP$ then no NP complete problem can be solved in polynomial time

Open problem: Is P = NP? (Millenium Problem)

How to show that a language *L* is NP-complete?

- 1. Prove that $L \in NP$
- 2. Find a language L' known to be NP-complete and reduce it to L

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Is this sufficient?

Yes.

If L' is NP-complete then every language in NP is reducible to L', therefore also to L.

How to show that a language *L* is NP-complete?

- 1. Prove that $L \in NP$
- 2. Find a language L' known to be NP-complete and reduce it to L

Is this sufficient?

Yes.

If $L' \in NP$ then every language in NP is reducible to L' and therefore also to L.

Often used: the SAT problem (Proved to be NP-complete by S. Cook)

 $L' = L_{sat} = \{w \mid w \text{ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic}\}$

Stephen Cook

Stephen Arthur Cook (born 1939)

- Major contributions to complexity theory.
 Considered one of the forefathers of computational complexity theory.
- 1971 'The Complexity of Theorem Proving Procedures' Formalized the notions of polynomial-time reduction and NP-completeness, and proved the existence of an NP-complete problem by showing that the Boolean satisfiability problem (SAT) is NP-complete.
- Currently University Professor at the University of Toronto
- 1982: Turing award for his contributions to complexity theory.

Theorem $SAT = \{w \mid w \text{ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic}\}$ is NP-complete.

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Proof (Idea)

To show: (1) $SAT \in NP$ (2) for all $L \in NP$, $L \leq_{pol} SAT$ **Theorem** $SAT = \{w \mid w \text{ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic} \}$ is NP-complete.

Proof (Idea)

To show: (1) $SAT \in NP$ (2) for all $L \in NP$, $L \preceq_{pol} SAT$

(1) Construct a k-tape NTM M which can accept SAT in polynomial time:

 $w \in \Sigma_{PL}^* \quad \mapsto \quad M \text{ does not halt if } w \not\in SAT$

M finds in polynomial time a satisfying assignment

(a) scan w and see if it a well-formed formula; collect atoms
(b) if not well-formed: inf.loop; if well-formed M guesses a satisfying assignment → O(|w|)
(c) check whether w true under the assignment
→ O(p(|w|))
(d) if false: inf.loop; otherwise halt.

"guess (satisfying) assignment \mathcal{A} ; check in polynomial time that formula true under \mathcal{A} "

Theorem $SAT = \{w \mid w \text{ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic} \}$ is NP-complete.

Proof (Idea) (2) We show that for all $L \in NP$, $L \leq_{pol} SAT$

- We show that we can simulate the way a NTM works using propositional logic.
- Let L ∈ NP. There exists a p-time bounded NTM which accepts L. (Assume w.l.o.g. that M has only one tape and does not hang.)
 For M and w we define a propositional logic language and a formula T_{M,w} such that

M accepts w iff $T_{M,w}$ is satisfiable.

• We show that the map f with $f(w) = T_{M,w}$ has polynomial complexity.

Closure of complexity classes

P, PSPACE are closed under complement

All complexity classes which are defined in terms of deterministic Turing machines are closed under complement.

Proof: If a language L is in such a class then also its complement is (run the machine for L and revert the output)

Closure of complexity classes

Is NP closed under complement?

Closure of complexity classes

Is NP closed under complement?

Nobody knows!

Definition

co-NP is the class of all laguages for which the complement is in NP

$$\mathsf{co-NP} = \{L \mid \overline{L} \in NP\}$$

Relationships between complexity classes

It is not yet known whether the following relationships hold:

 $P \stackrel{?}{=} NP$ $NP \stackrel{?}{=} co-NP$ $P \stackrel{?}{=} PSPACE$ $NP \stackrel{?}{=} PSPACE$

Examples of NP-complete problems:

- 1. Is a logical formula satisfiable? (SAT, 3-CNF-SAT)
- 2. Does a graph contain a clique of size k? (Clique of size k)
- 3. Is a (un)directed graph hamiltonian? (Hamiltonian circle)
- 4. Can a graph be colored with three colors? (3-colorability)
- 5. Has a set of integers a subset with sum x? (subset sum)
- 6. Rucksack problem (knapsack)
- 7. Multiprocessor scheduling

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Definition (SAT, *k*-**CNF,** *k*-**DNF** DNF: A formula is in DNF if it has the form $(L_1^1 \land \dots \land L_{n_1}^1) \lor \dots \lor (L_1^m \land \dots \land L_{n_m}^m)$ CNF: A formula is in CNF if it has the form $(L_1^1 \lor \dots \lor L_{n_1}^1) \land \dots \land (L_1^m \lor \dots \lor L_{n_m}^m)$

- *k*-DNF: A formula is in *k*-DNF if it is in DNF and all its conjunctions have *k* literals
- *k*-CNF: A formula is in *k*-CNF if it is in CNF and all its disjunctions have *k* literals

SAT = { $w \mid w$ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic}

 $CNF-SAT = \{w \mid w \text{ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic in CNF}\}$

k-CNF-SAT = { $w \mid w$ is a satisfiable formula of propositional logic in k-CNF}

Theorem

The following problems are in NP and are NP-complete:

(1) SAT

(2) CNF-SAT

(3) *k*-CNF-SAT for $k \ge 3$

Theorem The following problems are in NP and are NP-complete: (1) SAT (2) CNF-SAT (3) k-CNF-SAT for $k \ge 3$

Proof: (1) SAT is NP-complete by Cook's theorem.

CNF-SAT and *k*-CNF-SAT are clearly in NP.

(3) We show that 3-CNF-SAT is NP-hard. For this, we construct a polynomial reduction of SAT to 3-CNF-SAT.

Proof: (ctd.) Polynomial reduction of SAT to 3-CNF.

Let F be a propositional formula of length n

Step 1 Move negation inwards (compute the negation normal form) $\mapsto O(n)$

Step 2 Fully bracket the formula $P \land Q \land R \mapsto (P \land Q) \land R$

Step 3 Starting from inside out replace subformula Q o R with a new propositional variable $P_Q \circ R$ and add the formula $P_{Q \circ R} \to (Q \circ R) \text{ and } (Q \circ R) \to P_{Q \circ R} (o \in \{\lor, \land\}) \qquad \mapsto O(p(n))$ $\mapsto O(n)$

Step 4 Write all formulae above as clauses \mapsto Rename(F)

Let $f: \Sigma^* \to \Sigma^*$ be defined by: $f(F) = P_F \wedge \text{Rename}(F)$ if F is a well-formed formula and $f(w) = \bot$ otherwise. Then:

 $F \in SAT$ iff F is a satisfiable formula in prop. logic iff $P_F \wedge Rename(F)$ is satisfiable iff $f(F) \in 3$ -CNF-SAT

 $\mapsto O(n)$

Let F be the following formula:

 $[(Q \land \neg P \land \neg (\neg (\neg Q \lor \neg R))) \lor (Q \land \neg P \land \neg (Q \land \neg P))] \land (P \lor R).$

Step 1: After moving negations inwards we obtain the formula:

$$F_1 = [(Q \land \neg P \land (\neg Q \lor \neg R)) \lor (Q \land \neg P \land (\neg Q \lor P))] \land (P \lor R)$$

Step 2: After fully bracketing the formula we obtain:

$$F_2 = [((Q \land \neg P) \land (\neg Q \lor \neg R)) \lor (Q \land (\neg Q \lor P) \land \neg P)] \land (P \lor R)$$

Step 3: Replace subformulae with new propositional variables (starting inside).



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F is satisfiable iff the following formula is satisfiable:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} P_F & \wedge & (P_F \leftrightarrow (P_8 \wedge P_5) & \wedge & (P_1 \leftrightarrow (Q \wedge \neg P)) \\ & \wedge & (P_8 \leftrightarrow (P_6 \vee P_7)) & \wedge & (P_2 \leftrightarrow (\neg Q \vee \neg R)) \\ & \wedge & (P_6 \leftrightarrow (P_1 \wedge P_2)) & \wedge & (P_4 \leftrightarrow (\neg Q \vee P)) \\ & \wedge & (P_7 \leftrightarrow (P_1 \wedge P_4)) & \wedge & (P_5 \leftrightarrow (P \vee R)) \end{array}$$

can further exploit polarity

Step 3: Replace subformulae with new propositional variables (starting inside).



F is satisfiable iff the following formula is satisfiable:

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F is satisfiable iff the following formula is satisfiable:

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Step 4: Compute the CNF (at most 3 literals per clause)

$$P_F \land (\neg P_F \lor P_8) \land (\neg P_F \lor P_5) \land (\neg P_1 \lor Q) \land (\neg P_1 \lor \neg P)$$

$$\land (\neg P_8 \lor P_6 \lor P_7) \land (\neg P_2 \lor \neg Q \lor \neg R)$$

$$\land (\neg P_6 \lor P_1) \land (\neg P_6 \lor P_2) \land (\neg P_4 \lor \neg Q \lor P)$$

$$\land (\neg P_7 \lor P_1) \land (\neg P_7 \lor P_4) \land (\neg P_5 \lor P \lor R)$$

Proof: (ctd.) It immediately follows that CNF and *k*-CNF are *NP*-complete Polynomial reduction from 3-CNF-SAT to CNF-SAT:

f(F) = F for every formula in 3-CNF-SAT and \perp otherwise.

 $F \in 3$ -CNF-SAT iff $f(F) = F \in CNF$ -SAT.

Polynomial reduction from 3-CNF-SAT to k-CNF-SAT, k > 3

For every formula in 3-CNF-SAT: f(F) = F' (where F' is obtained from F by replacing a literal L with $\underbrace{L \lor \cdots \lor L}_{k-2 \text{ times}}$).

 $f(w) = \perp$ otherwise.

 $F \in 3$ -CNF-SAT iff $f(F) = F \in k$ -CNF-SAT.

Examples of problems in P



(3) 2-CNF

(1) Let $F = (L_1^1 \land \cdots \land L_{n_1}^1) \lor \cdots \lor (L_1^m \land \cdots \land L_{n_m}^m)$ be a formula in DNF.

F is satisfiable iff for some *i*: $(L_1^i \wedge \cdots \wedge L_{n_1}^i)$ is satisfiable. A conjunction of literals is satisfiable iff it does not contain complementary literals.

(2) follows from (1)

(3) Finite set of 2-CNF formulae over a finite set of propositional variables. Resolution \mapsto at most quadratically many inferences needed.

Examples of NP-complete problems:

- 1. Is a logical formula satisfiable? (SAT)
- 2. Does a graph contain a clique of size k?
- 3. Rucksack problem
- 4. Is a (un)directed graph hamiltonian?
- 5. Can a graph be colored with three colors?
- 6. Multiprocessor scheduling

Definition

A clique in a graph G is a complete subgraph of G.

Clique = {(G, k) | G is an undirected graph which has a clique of size k}

Theorem Clique is NP-complete.

Proof: (1) We show that Clique is in NP:

We can construct for instance an NTM which accepts Clique.

- M builds a set V' of nodes (subset of the nodes of G) by choosing k nodes of G (we say that M "guesses" V').
- M checks for all nodes in V' if there are nodes to all other nodes. (this can be done in polynomial time)

"guess a subgraph with k vertices; check in polynomial time that it is a clique"

Theorem Clique is NP-complete.

Proof: (2) We show that Clique is *NP*-hard by showing that 3-CNF-SAT \prec_{pol} Clique.

Let \mathcal{G} be the set of all undirected graphs. We want to construct a map f(DTM computable in polynomial time) which associates with every formula F a pair $(G_F, k_F) \in \mathcal{G} \times \mathbb{N}$ such that

 $F \in 3$ -CNF-SAT iff G_F has a clique of size k_F .

 $F \in 3\text{-}\mathsf{CNF} \Rightarrow F = (L_1^1 \lor L_2^1 \lor L_3^1) \land \cdots \land (L_1^m \lor L_2^m \lor L_3^m)$

F satisfiable iff there exists an assignment A such that in every clause in *F* at least one literal is true and it is impossible that *P* and $\neg P$ are true at the same time.

Theorem Clique is NP-complete.

Proof: (ctd.) Let $k_F := m$ (the number of clauses). We construct G_F as follows:

- Vertices: all literals in *F*.
- Edges: We have an edge between two literals if they (i) can become true in the same assignment and (ii) belong to different clauses.

Then:

- (1) f(F) is computable in polynomial time.
- (2) The following are equivalent:
 - (a) G_F has a clique of size k_F .
 - (b) There exists a set of nodes $\{L_{i_1}^1, \ldots, L_{i_m}^m\}$ in G_F which does not contain complementary literals.
 - (c) There exists an assignment which makes F true.
 - (d) F is satisfiable.

Examples of NP-complete problems:

- 1. Is a logical formula satisfiable? (SAT, 3-CNF-SAT)
- 2. Does a graph contain a clique of size k?
- 3. Rucksack problem
- 4. Is a (un)directed graph hamiltonian?
- 5. Can a graph be colored with three colors?
- 6. Multiprocessor scheduling

... other examples next time