Advanced Complexity

TD n°3

Charlie Jacomme

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Exercise 1 : Polylogarithmic space

Let $\mathsf{polyL} = \cup_{k\in\mathbb{N}}\mathsf{SPACE}(log^k(n))$. Show that $\mathsf{polyL} \neq \mathsf{P}$.

Solution:

P has a complete problem under logarithmic space many-one reductions but $polyL$ does not due to the space hierarchy theorem. The space hierarchy theorem guarantees that $DSPACE(log^k(n)) \subsetneq DSPACE(log^{k+1}(n))$ for all integers $k > 0$. If $polyL$ had a complete problem, call it A, it would be an element of $DSPACE(log^k(n))$ for some integer $k > 0$. Suppose problem B is an element of $DSPACE(log^{k+1}(n))$ $DSPACE(logk(n))$. The assumption that A is complete implies the following $O(log^k(n))$ space algorithm for B : reduce B to A in logarithmic space, then decide A in $O(log^k(n))$ space. This implies that B is an element of $DSPACE(log^k(n))$ and we have a contradiction.

Exercise 2 : Padding argument

1. Show that if $\mathsf{DSPACE}(n^c) \subseteq \mathsf{NP}$ for some $c > 0$, then $\mathsf{PSPACE} \subseteq \mathsf{NP}$.
2. Deduce that $\mathsf{DSPACE}(n^c) \neq \mathsf{NP}$.

Solution:

1. Assume $\mathsf{DSPACE}(n^c) \subseteq \mathsf{NP}$ and let there be $L \in PSPACE$. For some k, we have $\mathcal{L} \in \mathsf{DSPACE}(n^k)$. Then, $\tilde{L} = \{(x, 1^{x^{k/c}})|x \in L\} \in \mathsf{DSPACE}(n^c) \subseteq \mathsf{NP}$. Thus $\tilde{L} \in NP$. As we can reduce L to $\tilde{L}$ by transforming x into $(x, 1^{x^{k/c}})$ in logspace, we do have that $L \in NP$.
2. Assume $\mathsf{DSPACE}(n^c) = \mathsf{NP}$, then $PSPACE = NP = \mathsf{DSPACE}(n^c)$ which is a contradiction to the space hierarchy theorem.

Exercise 3 : My very first PSPACE-complete problem

Show that the following problem is PSPACE-complete (not assuming anything about QBF) :

— INPUT : a Turing Machine M and a word w and a number t written in unary

— QUESTION : does M accepts w within space t ?

Solution:

— The problem is PSPACE : given an input (M, w, t), we can build M' which simulates M on w and reject if M uses more than t cells, and return the result of M otherwise. As t is part of the input, we are effectively in PSPACE

— Hardness : we are given L a language and M which recognizes L in PSPACE. $M \in$ PSPACE, so we have a polynomial p which can bound the size of the runs of M. So on input w, we have that $w \in L$ iff M accepts w within space $1^{p(|w|)}$), and as we can construct $1^{p(|w|)}$) in logspace, we have an effective reduction from L to our problem.

Exercise 4 : PSPACE and games

The Geography game is played as follow :

— The game starts with a given name of a city, for instance *Cachan* ;
— the first player gives the name of a city whose first letter coincides with the last letter of the previous city, for instance *Nice* ;
— the second player gives then another city name, always starting with the last letter of the previous city, for instance *Evry* ;
— the first player plays again, and so on – with the restriction that no player is allowed to give the name of a city already used in the game ;
— the loser is the first player who does not find a new city name to continue.

This game can be described using a directed graph whose vertices represent cities and where an edge (X, Y) means that the last letter of the city X is the same as the first letter of the city Y. This graph has also a vertex marked as the initial vertex of the game (the initial city). Each player choses a vertex of the graph, the first player choses first, and the two players alternate their moves. At each move, the sequence of vertices chosen by the two players must form a simple path in the graph, starting from the distinguished initial vertex.

Player 1 wins the game if, after some number of moves, Player 2 has no valid move (that is no move that forms a simple path with the sequence of previous moves).

`GEOGRAPHY` is the following problem :

— INPUT : a directed graph G and an initial vertex s.
— QUESTION : is the player 1 sure to win the game on G starting at s ?

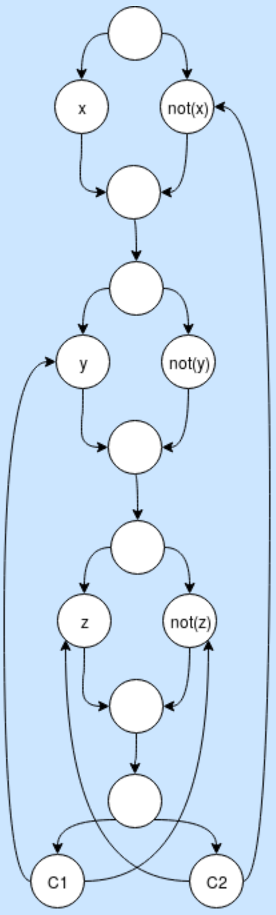
Show that `GEOGRAPHY` is PSPACE-complete by :

1. Showing that `GEOGRAPHY` is PSPACE
2. That the satisfiability of a QSAT formula of the form $\exists x_1 \forall x_2 \ldots \exists x_n \bigwedge(\dot{\vee})$ can be expressed as a `GEOGRAPHY` instance.

Solution:

1. Actually, any such game can be solved in PSPACE. Given the input, we run a recursive algorithm $win(G, s, player)$ which says if the player has a winning strategy for the starting point. $win(G, s, player1)$ returns true if $win(G, n, player2)$ is false for all sons n of s, and conversely. At every recursive call we only add one node to the recursion stack, thus the size of the recursive stack is at most the size of the graph, we do are in |G|.

2. The figure gives an example for $\exists x \forall y \exists z.(\neg y \vee z) \wedge (x \vee \neg z)$ Each variable is replaced by a diamond-like "choice-gadget" and all those gadgets are put sequentially. Any path in the graph will pick a valuation for the variables. The $\exists$ variables are made to be chosen at player 1 turn, and $\forall$ at player 2 turn. Then, at the end of the valuation, we add a node for every clause. Intuitively, the player 2 is allowed to chose a clause that he thinks might be false according to the valuation. Finally, from every clause, we have an edge from this node to the inverse of the litteral in the clause. Thus, if the clause is satisfied by the valuation, we have for instance x in the clause and x set to true, then player 1 can take the path which leads to $\neg x$ and block player 2. If the formula is satisfiable, player 1 will always be able to make the good choices, and if it is not, the player 2 may block him. We do have a reduction, which is in logspace.


x
not(x)
y
not(y)
z
not(z)
C1
C2