Complexité avancée - TD 6

Guillaume Scerri

October 23, 2025

Exercise 1 (Collapse of PH). 1. Prove that if $\Sigma_k^P = \Sigma_{k+1}^P$ for some $k \geq 0$ then PH = Σ_k^P . (Remark that this is implied by P = NP).

- 2. Show that if $\Sigma_k^P = \Pi_k^P$ for some k then $\mathsf{PH} = \Sigma_k^P$.
- 3. Show that if PH = PSPACE then PH collapses.
- 4. Do you think there is a polynomial time procedure to convert any QBF formula into a QBF formula with at most 10 variables?

Exercise 2 (Oracles). Consider a language A. A Turing machine with oracle A is a Turing machine with a special additional read/write tape, called the oracle tape, and three special states: $q_{query}, q_{yes}, q_{no}$. Whenever the machine enters the state q_{query} , with some word w written on the oracle tape, it moves in one step to the state q_{yes} or q_{no} depending on whether $w \in A$.

We denote by P^A (resp. NP^A) the class of languages decided in by a deterministic (resp. non-deterministic) Turing machine running in polynomial time with oracle A. Given a complexity class \mathcal{C} , we define $\mathsf{P}^{\mathcal{C}} = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{C}} \mathsf{P}^A$ (and similarly for NP).

- 1. Prove that for any C-complete language A (for logspace reductions), $P^{C} = P^{A}$ and $NP^{C} = NP^{A}$.
- 2. Show that for any language A, $P^A = P^{\bar{A}}$ and $NP^A = NP^{\bar{A}}$.
- 3. Prove that if $NP = P^{SAT}$ then NP = coNP.
- 4. Show that there exists a language A such that $P^A = NP^A$.
- 5. We define inductively the classes $NP_0 = P$ and $NP_{k+1} = NP^{NP_k}$. Show that $NP_k = \Sigma_k^p$ for all $k \ge 0$.

Exercise 3 (Deciding QBF with unknown oracles). Assume that you are given two oracles A and B and one of them decides QBF (but you do not know which one). Exhibit a polynomial time algorithm with access to A and B that decides QBF in polynomial time.

Exercise 4 (Non deterministic Turing machine alternative definition). An SNDTM (strong non-deterministic Turing machine) is a non-deterministic Turing machine with three possible outputs: yes, no and? An SNDTM decides a language L if, on all inputs x:

- if $x \in L$ then all computations either yield 1 or ? and there is at least one that yields 1.
- if $x \notin L$, then all computations either yield 0 or ? and there is at least one that yields 0.

Show that any language L is decided by an SNDTM in polynomial time if and only if $L \in \mathsf{NP} \cap co\mathsf{NP}$.

Exercise 5 (About PP). Define PP as the class to probabilistic Turing machines such that:

$$x \in L \implies P[M(x,r) \text{ accepts }] > 1/2$$

$$x \notin L \implies P[M(x,r) \text{ accepts }] \le 1/2$$

Define PP' as the class to probabilistic Turing machines such that :

$$x \in L \implies P[M(x,r) \text{ accepts }] \ge 1/2$$

$$x \notin L \implies P[M(x,r) \text{ accepts }] < 1/2$$

Prove the following statements:

- 1. $NP \subseteq PP$
- 2. PP = PP'
- 3. PP is closed under complement
- 4. PP has complete problems

Exercise 6 (PP vs \sharp P). 1. Prove that $f \in \sharp$ P iff there exists a probabilistic Turing machine runing in polynomial time t(n) with random tape of size t(n) such that for all $x \in \Sigma^*$ we have

$$f(x) = |\{r||r| = t(n) \text{ and } M(x,r) \text{ accepts}|$$

2. Prove that $f \in \sharp \mathsf{P}$ iff there exists a polynomial time computable relation R (i.e. R computable in polynomial time and there exists a polynomial p such that if $(x,y) \in R$ then $|y| \leq p(|x|)$ such that

$$f(x) = |\{y | (x, y) \in R\}|$$

- 3. Prove that $P^{PP} = P^{\sharp P}$
- 4. Prove that $P = PP \Leftrightarrow \sharp P = FP$

Exercise 7 (Parsimonious reductions). 1. Show that #3SAT is #P complete.

- 2. If $g \leq f$ and $f \leq h$ then $f \leq h$ under parsimonious reductions.
- 3. Is $\sharp P$ closed under parsimonious reductions?

Exercise 8 (Non deterministic Turing machine alternative definition). An SNDTM (strong non-deterministic Turing machine) is a non-deterministic Turing machine with three possible outputs: yes, no and? An SNDTM decides a language L if, on all inputs x:

- if $x \in L$ then all computations either yield 1 or ? and there is at least one that yields 1.
- if $x \notin L$, then all computations either yield 0 or ? and there is at least one that yields 0.

Show that any language L is decided by an SNDTM in polynomial time if and only if $L \in \mathsf{NP} \cap co\mathsf{NP}.$

Exercise 9 (A quick come back to the polynomial hierarchy). Show that:

$$1. \ \ \mathsf{NP} \subseteq \mathsf{P^{SAT}} \subseteq \Sigma_2^{p'} \cap \Pi_2^{p'};$$

$$2. \mathsf{NP}^{\mathsf{NP}} = \Sigma_2^{p'};$$

(Bonus).
$$\mathsf{NP}^{\Sigma_2^{p'}} = \Sigma_3^{p'}$$
 and $\mathsf{NP}^{\Sigma_3^{p'}} = \Sigma_4^{p'}$.