Resource-Bounded Computation

Previously: can something be done?
Now: how efficiently can it be done?

Goal: conserve computational resources:
    Time, space, other resources?

Def: \( L \) is decidable within \( \text{time} \) \( O(t(n)) \) if some TM \( M \) that decides \( L \) always halts on all \( w \in \sum^* \) within \( O(t(|w|)) \) steps / time.

Def: \( L \) is decidable within \( \text{space} \) \( O(s(n)) \) if some TM \( M \) that decides \( L \) always halts on all \( w \in \sum^* \) while never using more than \( O(s(|w|)) \) space / tape cells.
Complexity Classes

Def: $\text{DTIME}(t(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ is decidable within time } O(t(n)) \text{ by some deterministic TM} \}$

Def: $\text{NTIME}(t(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ is decidable within time } O(t(n)) \text{ by some non-deterministic TM} \}$

Def: $\text{DSPACE}(s(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ decidable within space } O(s(n)) \text{ by some deterministic TM} \}$

Def: $\text{NSPACE}(s(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ decidable within space } O(s(n)) \text{ by some non-deterministic TM} \}$
**Theorem**: The time depends on the # of TM tapes.

**Idea**: more tapes can enable higher efficiency.

**Ex**: \( \{0^n1^n \mid n>0\} \) is in \( \text{DTIME}(n^2) \) for 1-tape TM’s, and is in \( \text{DTIME}(n) \) for 2-tape TM’s.

**Note**: For multi-tape TM’s, input tape space does not “count” in the total space \( s(n) \). This enables analyzing sub-linear space complexities.
Space is Tape Independent

**Theorem**: The space does not depend on the # tapes.

**Proof**: 

```
1 1 0 1 0 1
0 1 1 [0] 0
0 1 1 [1] 1 0 0
```

**Idea**: Tapes can be “interlaced” space-efficiently.

**Note**: This does not asymptotically increase the overall space (but can increase the total time).

**Theorem**: A 1-tape TM can simulate a $t(n)$-time-bounded $k$-tape TM in time $O(k \cdot t^2(n))$. 
Space-Time Relations

Theorem: If \( t(n) < t'(n) \) \( \forall n > 1 \) then:

- \( \text{DTIME}(t(n)) \subseteq \text{DTIME}(t'(n)) \)
- \( \text{NTIME}(t(n)) \subseteq \text{NTIME}(t'(n)) \)

Theorem: If \( s(n) < s'(n) \) \( \forall n > 1 \) then:

- \( \text{DSPACE}(s(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(s'(n)) \)
- \( \text{NSPACE}(s(n)) \subseteq \text{NSPACE}(s'(n)) \)

Example: \( \text{NTIME}(n) \subseteq \text{NTIME}(n^2) \)

Example: \( \text{DSPACE}(\log n) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(n) \)
Examples of Space & Time Usage

Let \( L_1 = \{0^n1^n \mid n > 0\} \):

For 1-tape TM’s:
- \( L_1 \in \text{DTIME}(n^2) \)
- \( L_1 \in \text{DSPACE}(n) \)
- \( L_1 \in \text{DTIME}(n \log n) \)

For 2-tape TM’s:
- \( L_1 \in \text{DTIME}(n) \)
- \( L_1 \in \text{DSPACE}(\log n) \)
Examples of Space & Time Usage

Let $L_2 = \Sigma^*$

$L_2 \in \text{DTIME}(n)$

**Theorem**: every regular language is in $\text{DTIME}(n)$

$L_2 \in \text{DSpace}(1)$

**Theorem**: every regular language is in $\text{DSpace}(1)$

Let $L_3 = \{w\$w \mid w \in \Sigma^*\}$

$L_3 \in \text{DTIME}(n^2)$

$L_3 \in \text{DSpace}(n)$

$L_3 \in \text{DSpace}(\log n)$
**Special Time Classes**

**Def:** \( P = \bigcup \text{DTIME}(n^k) \)
\[ \forall k > 1 \]

\( P \equiv \text{deterministic polynomial time} \)

*Note:* \( P \) is robust / model-independent

**Def:** \( \text{NP} = \bigcup \text{NTIME}(n^k) \)
\[ \forall k > 1 \]

\( \text{NP} \equiv \text{non-deterministic polynomial time} \)

**Theorem:** \( P \subseteq \text{NP} \)

**Conjecture:** \( P = \text{NP} ? \)

*Million$ question!*
Other Special Space Classes

**Def:** PSPACE = \( \bigcup \) DSPACE\((n^k)\)
\[\forall k > 1\]

PSPACE \(\equiv\) deterministic polynomial space

**Def:** NPSPACE = \( \bigcup \) NSPACE\((n^k)\)
\[\forall k > 1\]

NPSPACE \(\equiv\) non-deterministic polynomial space

**Theorem:** PSPACE \(\subseteq\) NPSPACE (obvious)

**Theorem:** PSPACE = NPSPACE (not obvious)
Other Special Space Classes

Def: \( \text{EXPTIME} = \bigcup DTIME(2^{n^k}) \quad \forall k > 1 \)
EXPTIME \( \equiv \) exponential time

Def: \( \text{EXPSPACE} = \bigcup DSPACE(2^{n^k}) \quad \forall k > 1 \)
EXPSPACE \( \equiv \) exponential space

Def: \( L = \text{LOGSPACE} = DSPACE(\log n) \)

Def: \( NL = \text{NLOGSPACE} = NSPACE(\log n) \)
Space/Time Relationships

Theorem: $\text{DTIME}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(f(n))$

Theorem: $\text{DTIME}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(f(n) / \log(f(n)))$

Theorem: $\text{NTIME}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DTIME}(c^{f(n)})$
for some $c$ depending on the language.

Theorem: $\text{DSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DTIME}(c^{f(n)})$
for some $c$, depending on the language.

Theorem [Savitch]: $\text{NSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(f^2(n))$

Corollary: $\text{PSPACE} = \text{NPSPACE}$

Theorem: $\text{NSPACE}(n^r) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(n^{r+\varepsilon}) \forall \ r > 0, \ \varepsilon > 0$
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy

- **PSPACE**
- **QBF**

Finite: \{a,b\}

Regular: a^*

Context-free: w w^R

Det. CF: a^n b^n

NP-complete SAT

Context-sensitive: LBA

NP

P

**Decidable**

Presburger arithmetic

EXPSPACE

EXPTIME

PSPACE

EXPSPACE-complete Go

EXPTIME-complete QBF

NP-complete QBF

EXPTIME-complete Go

EXPSPACE-complete = RE

Turing degrees

Not finitely describable

Recognizable

Recognizable

2^\Sigma^*

H

H

?
Time Complexity Hierarchy

**Theorem:** for any $t(n)>0$ there exists a decidable language $L \notin \text{DTIME}(t(n))$.

$\Rightarrow$ No time complexity class contains all the decidable languages, and the time hierarchy is $\infty$!

$\Rightarrow$ There are decidable languages that take arbitrarily long times to decide!

**Note:** $t(n)$ must be computable & everywhere defined

**Proof:** (by diagonalization)

Fix lexicographic orders for TM’s: $M_1, M_2, M_3, \ldots$

Interpret TM inputs $i \in \Sigma^*$ as encodings of integers:

$a=1$, $b=2$, $aa=3$, $ab=4$, $ba=5$, $bb=6$, $aaa=7$, $\ldots$
Time Complexity Hierarchy (proof)

Define \( L = \{ i \mid M_i \text{ does not accept } i \text{ within } t(i) \text{ time} \} \)

Note: \( L \) is decidable (by simulation)

Q: is \( L \in \text{DTIME}(t(n)) \) ?

Assume (towards contradiction) \( L \in \text{DTIME}(t(n)) \)

i.e., \( \exists \) a fixed \( K \in \mathbb{N} \) such that Turing machine \( M_K \) decides \( L \) within time bound \( t(n) \)

\[
\begin{align*}
i & \quad \text{If } M_i \text{ accepts } i \text{ within } t(i) \text{ time} \quad \text{then} \quad \text{Reject} \\ M_K \Rightarrow \text{decides / accepts } L & \quad \text{else} \quad \text{Accept}
\end{align*}
\]
Consider whether $K \in L$:

- If $M_K$ accepts $K$ within $t(K)$ time, then $\rightarrow$ Reject
- Else $\rightarrow$ Accept

$M_K \Rightarrow$ decides / accepts $L$

So $(K \in L) \iff (K \not\in L)$, a contradiction!

$\Rightarrow$ Assumption is false $\Rightarrow L \not\in \text{DTIME}(t(n))$
Time Hierarchy (another proof)

Consider all $t(n)$-time-bounded TM’s on all inputs:

$$i = \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$w_i \in \Sigma^* = \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
a & b & aa & ab & ba & bb & aaa & aab & aba & abb & baa & bab & bba & bbb & aaaa & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$M_1(i) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
\checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \times & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$M_2(i) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
\times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$M_3(i) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
\checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$M_4(i) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
\checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \times & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$M_5(i) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
\times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \times & \times & \times & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \checkmark & \ldots \\
\end{array}$$

$$\ldots$$

$$\ldots \text{ is } t(n) \text{ time-bounded.}$$

But $M'$ computes a different function than any $M_j$

$\Rightarrow$ Contradiction!
“Lexicographic order.”
TRIVIA: IT'S POSSIBLE TO CREATE EVENTS WHICH WIKIPEDIA CANNOT COVER NEUTRALLY

IN A WEEK, I WILL BE DONATING $1,000,000 TO A RECIPIENT DETERMINED BY THE WORD COUNT OF THE WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE ABOUT THIS EVENT. IF IT'S EVEN, THE MONEY GOES TO PRO-CHOICE ACTIVISTS. IF IT'S ODD, PRO-LIFE.

NOT CONTENT WITH NORMAL RESTRAINING ORDERS, MY EX GOT CREATIVE.

WAIT... I CAN'T GET CLOSER THAN 500 YARDS OF YOU... OR MORE THAN 600 YARDS AWAY?

YOU'LL HAVE TO MOV SOMWHERE WITHIN THIS RING.

Leibniz, Boole and Gödel worked with logic. I work with logic. I am Leibniz, Boole and Gödel.
Space Complexity Hierarchy

**Theorem:** for any \( s(n) > 0 \) there exists a **decidable** language \( L \notin \text{DSPACE}(s(n)) \).

\[ \Rightarrow \] No space complexity class contains all the **decidable** languages, and the space hierarchy is \( \infty \)!

\[ \Rightarrow \] There are **decidable** languages that take arbitrarily much space to decide!

**Note:** \( s(n) \) must be computable & everywhere defined

**Proof:** (by diagonalization)

Fix lexicographic orders for TM’s: \( M_1, M_2, M_3, \ldots \)

Interpret TM inputs \( i \in \Sigma^* \) as encodings of integers:

\[ a=1, b=2, aa=3, ab=4, ba=5, bb=6, aaa=7, \ldots \]
Space Complexity Hierarchy (proof)

Define $L = \{ i \mid M_i \text{ does not accept } i \text{ within } t(i) \text{ space} \}$

Note: $L$ is decidable (by simulation; $\infty$-loops?)

Q: is $L \in \text{DSPACE}(s(n))$?

Assume (towards contradiction) $L \in \text{DSPACE}(s(n))$

i.e., $\exists$ a fixed $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that Turing machine $M_K$
decides $L$ within space bound $s(n)$

- $i \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{If } M_i \text{ accepts } i \text{ within } t(i) \text{ space}$
  - then $\Rightarrow \text{Reject}$
  - else $\Rightarrow \text{Accept}$

$M_K \Rightarrow \text{decides / accepts } L$
Space Complexity Hierarchy (proof)

Consider whether $K \in L$:

- If $M_K$ accepts $K$ within $s(K)$ space, then $M_K$ must reject $K \Rightarrow K \notin L$
- Else $M_K$ must accept $K \Rightarrow K \in L$

So $(K \in L) \iff (K \notin L)$, a contradiction!

$\Rightarrow$ Assumption is false $\Rightarrow L \notin \text{DSPACE}(s(n))$
**Space Hierarchy (another proof)**

Consider all $s(n)$-space-bounded TM’s on all inputs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$i$</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$w_i \in \Sigma^*$</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>aa</td>
<td>ab</td>
<td>ba</td>
<td>bb</td>
<td>aaa</td>
<td>aab</td>
<td>aba</td>
<td>abb</td>
<td>baa</td>
<td>bab</td>
<td>bba</td>
<td>bbb</td>
<td>aaaa</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$M_1(i) \Rightarrow \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \times \times \times \checkmark \times \times$ ...

$M_2(i) \Rightarrow \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \times \times \times \times \times$ ...

$M_3(i) \Rightarrow \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \times$ ...

$M_4(i) \Rightarrow \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \times \times$ ...

$M_5(i) \Rightarrow \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \times \times$ ...

... $M'(i) \Rightarrow \times \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \ ...$ is $s(n)$ space-bounded.

But $M'$ computes a different function than any $M_j$

$\Rightarrow$ **Contradiction!**
Savitch’s Theorem

Theorem: $\text{NSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE} \left( f^2(n) \right)$

Proof: Simulation: idea is to aggressively conserve and reuse space while sacrificing (lots of) time. Consider a sequence of TM states in one branch of an $\text{NSPACE}(f(n))$-bounded computation:

Computation time / length is bounded by $c^{f(n)}$ (why?)

We need to simulate this branch and all others too!

Q: How can we space-efficiently simulate these?

A: Use divide-and-conquer with heavy space-reuse!
Savitch’s Theorem

Pick a **midpoint** state along target path:

Verify it is a valid **intermediate** state by **recursively** solving both **subproblems**.

Iterate for all possible **midpoint** states!

The **recursion stack depth** is at most $\log(c^{f(n)}) = O(f(n))$

Each **recursion stack frame size** is $O(f(n))$.

$\implies$ total space needed is $O(f(n) \times f(n)) = O(f^2(n))$

**Note**: total time is exponential (but that’s OK).

$\implies$ non-determinism can be eliminated by squaring the space: $\text{NSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE} (f^2(n))$
Savitch’s Theorem

Corollary: \( \text{NPSPACE} = \text{PSPACE} \)

Proof: \[ \text{NPSPACE} = \bigcup_{k>1} \text{NSPACE}(n^k) \subseteq \bigcup_{k>1} \text{DSPACE}(n^{2k}) = \bigcup_{k>1} \text{DSPACE}(n^k) = \text{PSPACE} \]

i.e., polynomial space is invariant with respect to non-determinism!

Q: What about polynomial time?
A: Still open! (P=NP)
Space & Complementation

**Theorem**: Deterministic space is closed under complementation, i.e.,

\[ \text{DSPACE}(S(n)) = \text{co-DSPACE}(S(n)) = \{ \Sigma^*-L \mid L \in \text{DSPACE}(S(n)) \} \]

**Proof**: Simulate & negate.

**Theorem** [Immerman, 1987]: Nondeterministic space is closed under complementation, i.e.

\[ \text{NSPACE}(S(n)) = \text{co-NSPACE}(S(n)) \]

**Proof idea**: Similar strategy to Savitch’s theorem.

No similar result is known for any of the standard time complexity classes!

**Q**: Is NP = co-NP?

**A**: Still open!
Lecture 4
The Immerman–Szelepcsényi Theorem

In 1987, Neil Immerman [65] and independently Róbert Szelepcsényi [119] showed that for space bounds $S(n) \geq \log n$, the nondeterministic space complexity class $\text{NSPACE}(S(n))$ is closed under complement. The case $S(n) = n$ gave an affirmative solution to a long-standing open problem of formal language theory: whether the complement of every context-sensitive language is context-sensitive.

**Theorem 4.1** (Immerman–Szelepcsényi Theorem) For $S(n) \geq \log n$, $\text{NSPACE}(S(n)) = \text{co-NSPACE}(S(n))$.

**Proof.** For simplicity we first prove the result for space-constructible $S(n)$. One can remove this condition in a way similar to the proof of Savitch’s theorem (Theorem 2.7).

The proof is based on the following idea involving the concept of a census function. Suppose we have a finite set $A$ of strings and a nondeterministic test for membership in $A$. Suppose further that we know in advance the size of the set $A$. Then there is a nondeterministic test for nonmembership in $A$: given $y$, successively guess $|A|$ distinct elements and verify that they are all in $A$ and all different from $y$. If this test succeeds, then $y$ cannot be in $A$.

Let $M$ be a nondeterministic $S(n)$-space bounded Turing machine. We wish to build another such automaton $N$ accepting the complement of
Let $L(M)$. Assume we have a standard encoding of configurations of $M$ over a finite alphabet $\Delta$, $|\Delta| = d$, such that every configuration on inputs of length $n$ is represented as a string in $\Delta^{S(n)}$.

Assume without loss of generality that whenever $M$ wishes to accept, it first erases its worktape, moves its heads all the way to the left, and enters a unique accept state. Thus there is a unique accept configuration $\text{accept} \in \Delta^{S(n)}$ on inputs of length $n$. Let $\text{start} \in \Delta^{S(n)}$ represent the start configuration on input $x$, $|x| = n$: in the start state, heads all the way to the left, worktape empty.

Because there are at most $d^{S(n)}$ configurations $M$ can attain on input $x$, if $x$ is accepted then there is an accepting computation path of length at most $d^{S(n)}$. Define $A_m$ to be the set of configurations in $\Delta^{S(n)}$ that are reachable from the start configuration $\text{start}$ in at most $m$ steps; that is,

$$A_m = \{ \alpha \in \Delta^{S(n)} | \text{start} \leq_m \alpha \}.$$

Thus $A_0 = \{ \text{start} \}$ and

$$M \text{ accepts } x \iff \text{accept} \in A_{d^{S(n)}}.$$

The machine $N$ will start by laying off $S(n)$ space on its worktape. It will then proceed to compute the sizes $|A_0|$, $|A_1|$, $|A_2|$, $\ldots$, $|A_{d^{S(n)}}|$ inductively. First, $|A_0| = 1$. Now suppose $|A_m|$ has been computed and is written on a track of $N$’s tape. Because $|A_m| \leq d^{S(n)}$, this takes up $S(n)$ space at most. To compute $|A_{m+1}|$, successively write down each $\beta \in \Delta^{S(n)}$ in lexicographical order; for each one, determine whether $\beta \in A_{m+1}$ (the algorithm for this is given below); if so, increment a counter by one. The final value of the counter is $|A_{m+1}|$. To test whether $\beta \in A_{m+1}$ nondeterministically guess the $|A_m|$ elements of $A_m$ in lexicographic order, verify that each such $\alpha$ is in $A_m$ by guessing the computation path $\text{start} \leq_m \alpha$, and for each such $\alpha$ check whether $\alpha \leq_1 \beta$. If any such $\alpha$ yields $\beta$ in one step, then $\beta \in A_{m+1}$; if no such $\alpha$ does, then $\beta \notin A_{m+1}$.

After $|A_{d^{S(n)}}|$ has been computed, in order to test $\text{accept} \notin A_{d^{S(n)}}$ nondeterministically, guess the $|A_{d^{S(n)}}|$ elements of $A_{d^{S(n)}}$ in lexicographic order, verifying that each guessed $\alpha$ is in $A_{d^{S(n)}}$ by guessing the computation path $\text{start} \leq_{d^{S(n)}} \alpha$, and verifying that each such $\alpha$ is different from $\text{accept}$.

The nondeterministic machine $N$ thus accepts the complement of $L(M)$ and can easily be programmed to run in space $S(n)$.

To remove the constructibility condition, we do the entire computation above for successive values $S = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ approximating the true space bound $S(n)$. In the course of the computation for $S$, we eventually see all configurations of length $S$ reachable from the start configuration, and can check whether $M$ ever tries to use more than $S$ space. If so, we know that $S$ is too small and can restart the computation with $S + 1$. \hfill \square
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy

- **PSPACE**
  - Complete

- **QBF**

- **The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy**
  - **Finite** \( \{a,b\} \)
  - **Regular** \( a^* \)
  - **Det. CF** \( a^n b^n \)
  - **Context-free** \( w w^R \)
  - **Context-sensitive**
    - **NP-comple*ete SAT**
    - **PSPACE-complete QBF**
    - **EXPTIME-complete Go**
    - **EXPSPACE-complete =REP**
  - **Decidable**
    - **Presburger arithmetic**
  - **Not finitely describable**
    - **EXPSPACE = co-EXPSPACE**
    - **EXPTIME**
      - **PSPACE = NPSPACE = co-NPSPACE**
    - **Context-sensitive**
      - **LBA**
    - **NP**
      - **P**
        - **a^n b^n c^n**
    - **Context-free**
      - **Det. CF**
        - **a^n b^n**
      - **Regular**
        - **a^***
    - **Finite**
      - \( \{a,b\} \)

- **Turing degrees**
Enumeration of Resource-Bounded TMs

Q: Can we enumerate TM’s for all languages in P?
Q: Can we enumerate TM’s for all languages in NP, PSPACE? EXPTIME? EXPSPACE?

Note: not necessarily in a lexicographic order.

Extra credit

IF YOU DON'T TURN IN AT LEAST ONE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT, YOU'LL FAIL THIS CLASS.

YEAH. BUT IF I CAN FAIL THIS CLASS, THE GRADES ON MY REPORT CARD WILL BE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER!
Denseness of Space Hierarchy

Q: How much additional space does it take to recognize more languages?

A: Very little more!

Theorem: Given two space bounds $s_1$ and $s_2$ such that

$$\lim s_1(n) / s_2(n) = 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty,$$

i.e., $s_1(n) = o(s_2(n))$,

$\exists$ a decidable language $L$ such that

$L \in \text{DSPACE}(s_2(n))$ but $L \notin \text{DSPACE}(s_1(n))$.

Proof idea: Diagonalize efficiently.

Note: $s_2(n)$ must be computable within $s_2(n)$ space.

$\Rightarrow$ Space hierarchy is infinite and very dense!
Denseness of Space Hierarchy

Space hierarchy is infinite and very dense!

Examples:

\[ \text{DSPACE}(\log n) \subset \text{DSPACE}(\log^2 n) \]
\[ \text{DSPACE}(n) \subset \text{DSPACE}(n \log n) \]
\[ \text{DSPACE}(n^2) \subset \text{DSPACE}(n^{2.001}) \]
\[ \text{DSPACE}(n^x) \subset \text{DSPACE}(n^y) \quad \forall \ 1 < x < y \]

Corollary: LOGSPACE \( \neq \) PSPACE

Corollary: PSPACE \( \neq \) EXPSPACE
Denseness of Time Hierarchy

Q: How much additional time does it take to recognize more languages?
A: At most a logarithmic factor more!

Theorem: Given two time bounds $t_1$ and $t_2$ such that $t_1(n) \cdot \log(t_1(n)) = o(t_2(n))$, there exists a decidable language $L$ such that $L \in \text{DTIME}(t_2(n))$ but $L \not\in \text{DTIME}(t_1(n))$.

Proof idea: Diagonalize efficiently.

Note: $t_2(n)$ must be computable within $t_2(n)$ time.

$\Rightarrow$ Time hierarchy is infinite and pretty dense!
Denseness of Time Hierarchy

Time hierarchy is infinite and pretty dense!

Examples:

\[ \text{DTIME}(n) \subset \text{DTIME}(n \log^2 n) \]
\[ \text{DTIME}(n^2) \subset \text{DTIME}(n^{2.001}) \]
\[ \text{DTIME}(2^n) \subset \text{DTIME}(n^{22^n}) \]
\[ \text{DTIME}(n^x) \subset \text{DTIME}(n^y) \quad \forall \ 1 < x < y \]

Corollary: \( \text{LOGTIME} \neq \text{P} \)

Corollary: \( \text{P} \neq \text{EXPTIME} \)
Complexity Classes Relationships

Theorems: $\text{LOGTIME} \subseteq \text{L} \subseteq \text{NL} \subseteq \text{P} \subseteq \text{NP} \subseteq \text{PSPACE} \subseteq \text{EXPTIME} \subseteq \text{NEXPTIME} \subseteq \text{EXPSPACE} \subseteq \ldots$

Theorems: $\text{L} \neq \text{PSPACE} \neq \text{EXPSPACE} \neq \ldots$

Theorems: $\text{LOGTIME} \neq \text{P} \neq \text{EXPTIME} \neq \ldots$

Conjectures: $\text{L} \neq \text{NL}$, $\text{NL} \neq \text{P}$, $\text{P} \neq \text{NP}$, $\text{NP} \neq \text{PSPACE}$, $\text{PSPACE} \neq \text{EXPTIME}$, $\text{EXPTIME} \neq \text{NEXPTIME}$, $\text{NEXPTIME} \neq \text{EXPSPACE}$, $\ldots$

Theorem: At least two of the above conjectures are true!
Theorem: P \neq SPACE(n)
Open: P \subset SPACE(n) ?
Open: SPACE(n) \subset P ?
Open: NSPACE(n) \neq DSPACE(n) ?

Theorem: At least two of the following conjectures are true:

L \neq L
NL \neq P
P \neq NP
NP \neq PSPACE
PSPACE \neq EXPTIME
EXPTIME \neq NEXPTIME
NEXPTIME \neq EXPSPACE
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy Reloaded

Dense infinite time & space complexity hierarchies
Other infinite complexity & descriptive hierarchies
Gap Theorems

∃ arbitrarily large space & time complexity gaps!

**Theorem [Borodin]:** For any computable function \( g(n) \),
∃ \( t(n) \) such that \( \text{DTIME}(t(n)) = \text{DTIME}(g(t(n)) \).
Ex: \( \text{DTIME}(t(n)) = \text{DTIME}(2^{2^{t(n)}}) \) for some \( t(n) \)

**Theorem [Borodin]:** For any computable function \( g(n) \),
∃ \( s(n) \) such that \( \text{DSPACE}(s(n)) = \text{DSPACE}(g(s(n)) \).
Ex: \( \text{DSPACE}(s(n)) = \text{DSPACE}(S(n)^{s(n)}) \) for some \( s(n) \)

**Proof idea:** Diagonalize over TMs & construct a gap that avoids all TM complexities from falling into it.

**Corollary:** ∃ \( f(n) \) such that \( \text{DTIME}(f(n)) = \text{DSPACE}(f(n)) \).

**Note:** does not contradict the space and time hierarchy theorems, since \( t(n), s(n), f(n) \) may not be computable.
The First Complexity Gap

The first space “gap” is between $O(1)$ and $O(\log \log n)$

**Theorem:** $L \in \text{DSPACE}(o(\log \log n)) \implies L \in \text{DSPACE}(O(1)) \implies L$ is regular!

All space classes below $O(\log \log n)$ collapse to $O(1)$. 
Speedup Theorem

There are languages for which there are no asymptotic space or time lower bounds for deciding them!

**Theorem [Blum]:** For any computable function $g(n)$, $\exists$ a language $L$ such that if TM $M$ accepts $L$ within $t(n)$ time, $\exists$ another TM $M'$ that accepts $L$ within $g(t(n))$ time.

**Corollary [Blum]:** There is a problem such that if any algorithm solves it in time $t(n)$, $\exists$ other algorithms that solve it, in times $O(\log t(n))$, $O(\log(\log t(n)))$, $O(\log(\log(\log t(n))))$, ...

$\Rightarrow$ Some problems don’t have an “inherent” complexity!

**Note:** does not contradict the time hierarchy theorem!
One might get the impression from the structure of the complexity hierarchies we have studied that all problems have a natural inherent complexity, and that allowing slightly more time or space always allows more to be computed. Both these statements seem to be true for most natural problems and complexity bounds, but neither is true in general. One can construct pathological examples for which they provably fail.

For example, one can exhibit a computable function $f$ with no asymptotically best algorithm, in the sense that for any algorithm for $f$ running in time $T(n)$, there is another algorithm for $f$ running in time $\log T(n)$. Thus $f$ can be endlessly sped up. Also, there is nothing special about the log function—the result holds for any total recursive function.

For another example, one can show that there is a space bound $S(n)$ such that any function computable in space $S(n)$ is also computable in space $\log S(n)$. At first this might seem to contradict Theorem 3.1, but that theorem has a constructibility condition that is not satisfied by $S(n)$. Again, this holds for any recursive improvement, not just log.

Most of the examples of this lecture are constructed by intricate diagonals. They do not correspond to anything natural and would never arise in real applications. Nevertheless, they are worth studying as a way to better understand the power and limitations of complexity theory. We prove these results in terms of Turing machine time and space in this lec-
Theorem 32.1 (Gap Theorem [21, 122]) For any total recursive function \( f : \omega \rightarrow \omega \) such that \( f(x) \geq x \), there exists a time bound \( T(n) \) such that \( \text{DTIME}(f(T(n))) = \text{DTIME}(T(n)) \); in other words, there is no set accepted by a deterministic TM in time \( f(T(n)) \) that is not accepted by a deterministic TM in time \( T(n) \).

Proof. Let \( T_i(x) \) denote the running time of TM \( M_i \) on input \( x \). For each \( n \), define \( T(n) \) to be the least \( m \) such that for all \( i \leq n \), if \( T_i(n) \leq f(m) \), then \( T(n) \leq m \). To compute \( T(n) \), start by setting \( m := \infty \). As long as there exists an \( i \leq n \) such that \( m < T_i(n) \leq f(m) \), set \( m := T_i(n) \). This process must terminate, because there are only finitely many \( m \leq f(n) \). The value of \( T(n) \) is the final value of \( m \).

Now we claim that \( T(n) \) satisfies the requirements of the theorem. Suppose \( M_i \) runs in time \( f(T(n)) \). Thus \( T_i(n) \leq f(T(n)) \) a.e.¹ By construction of \( T \), for sufficiently large \( n \), \( T(n) \leq T(n) \).

What we have actually proved is stronger than the statement of the theorem. The theorem states that for any deterministic TM \( M_i \) running in time \( f(T(n)) \), there is an equivalent deterministic TM \( M_j \) running in time \( T(n) \). But what we have actually shown is that any deterministic TM running in time \( f(T(n)) \) also runs in time \( T(n) \).

Of course, all these bounds hold a.e., but we can make them hold everywhere by encoding the values on small inputs in the finite control and computing them by table lookup.

The next example gives a set for which any algorithm can be sped up arbitrarily many times by an arbitrary preselected recursive amount. This result is due to Blum [17].

Theorem 32.2 (Speedup Theorem [17]) Let \( T_i(x) \) denote the running time of TM \( M_i \) on input \( x \). Let \( f : \omega \rightarrow \omega \) be any monotone total recursive function such that \( f(n) \geq n^2 \). There exists a recursive set \( A \) such that for any TM \( M_i \) accepting \( A \), there is another TM \( M_j \) accepting \( A \) with \( f(T_j(x)) < T_i(x) \) a.e.

Proof. Let \( f^n \) denote the \( n \)-fold composition of \( f \) with itself:

\[
f^n \overset{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{f \circ f \circ \cdots \circ f}_n.
\]

Thus \( f^0 \) is the identity function, \( f^1 = f \), and \( f^{n+1} = f \circ f^n \). For example, if \( f(m) = m^2 \), then \( f^n(m) = m^{2^n} \), and if \( f(m) = 2^m \), then \( f^n(m) \) is an iterated exponential involving a stack of 2's of height \( n \).

We construct by diagonalization a set \( A \subseteq \omega^n \) such that

(i) for any machine \( M_i \) accepting \( A \), \( T_i(0^n) > f^{n-1}(2) \) a.e.,² and

(ii) for all \( n \), there exists a machine \( M_j \) accepting \( A \) such that \( T_j(0^n) \leq f^{n-1}(2) \) a.e.

This achieves our goal, because for any machine \( M_i \) accepting \( A \), (iii) guarantees the existence of a machine \( M_j \) accepting \( A \) such that \( T_j(0^n) \leq f^{n-1}(2) \) a.e.; but then

\[
f(T_j(0^n)) \leq f(f^{n-1}(2)) \text{ a.e. by monotonicity of } f
\]

\[
= f^{n-1}(2) \text{ a.e. by (i)}
\]

Now we turn to the construction of the set \( A \). Let \( M_0, M_1, \ldots \) be a list of all one-tape Turing machines with input alphabet \( \{0\} \). Let \( N \) be an enumeration machine that carries out the following simulation. It maintains a finite active list of descriptions of machines currently being simulated. We assume that a description of \( M_i \) suitable for universal simulation is easily obtained from the index \( i \).

The computation of \( N \) proceeds in stages. Initially, the active list is empty. At stage \( n \), \( N \) puts the next machine \( M_n \) at the end of the active list. It then simulates the machines on the active list in order, smallest index first. For each such \( M_i \), it simulates \( M_i \) on input \( 0^n \) for \( f^{n-2}(2) \) steps. It picks the first one that halts within its allotted time and does the opposite: if \( M_i \) rejects \( 0^n \), \( N \) declares \( 0^n \in A \), and if \( M_i \) accepts \( 0^n \), \( N \) declares \( 0^n \notin A \). This ensures that \( L(M_i) \neq A \). It then deletes \( M_i \) from the active list. If no machine on the active list halts within its allotted time, then \( N \) just declares \( 0^n \notin A \).

This construction ensures that any machine \( M_i \) that runs in time \( f^{n-2}(2) \) i.o. does not accept \( A \). The machine \( M_i \) is put on the active list at stage \( i \). Thereafter, if \( M_i \) halts within time \( f^{n-2}(2) \) on \( 0^n \) but is not

---

¹ "a.e." means "almost everywhere" or "for all but finitely many n". Also, "i.o." means "infinitely often" = "for infinitely many n".

² We are regarding \( f^{n-1}(2) \) as a function of \( n \) with \( i \) fixed constant. Thus "i.o." and "a.e." in this context meant to be interpreted as "for infinitely many \( n \)" and "for all but finitely many \( n \)", respectively.
chosen for deletion, then some higher priority machine on the active list must have been chosen; but this can happen only finitely many times. So if \( M_i \) halts within time \( f^{n-1}(2) \) on \( 0^n \) i.e., then eventually \( M_i \) will be the highest priority machine on the list and will be chosen for deletion, say at stage \( n \). At that point, \( 0^n \) will be put into \( A \) if \( 0^n \not\in L(M_i) \), ensuring \( L(M_i) \neq A \). This establishes condition (i) above.

For condition (ii), we need to show that for all \( k \), \( A \) is accepted by a one-tape TM \( N_k \) running in time \( f^{n-k}(2) \) a.e. The key idea is to hard-code the first \( m \) stages of the computation of \( N \) in the finite control of \( N_k \) for some sufficiently large \( m \). Note that for each \( M_i \), either

(A) \( T_i(0^n) \leq f^{n-1}(2) \) i.e., in which case there is a stage \( m(i) \) at which \( N \) deletes \( M_i \) from the active list; or

(B) \( T_i(0^n) > f^{n-1}(2) \) a.e., in which case there is a stage \( m(i) \) after which \( M_i \) always exceeds its allotted time.

Let \( m = \max_{i \leq k} m(i) \). We cannot determine the \( m(i) \) or \( m \) effectively (Miscellaneous Exercise 105), but we do know that they exist. The machine \( N_k \) has a list of elements \( 0^n \in A \) for \( n \leq m \) hard-coded in its finite control. On such inputs, it simply does a table lookup to determine whether \( 0^n \in A \) and accepts or rejects accordingly. On inputs \( 0^n \) for \( n > m \), it simulates the action of \( N \) on stages \( m+1, m+2, \ldots, n \) starting with a certain active list, which it also has hard-coded in its finite control. The active list it starts with is \( N \)'s active list at stage \( m \) with all machines \( M_i \) for \( i \leq k \) deleted. This does not change the status of \( 0^n \in A \): for each \( M_i \) with \( i \leq k \), in case A it has already been deleted from the active list by stage \( m \), and in case B it will always exceed its allotted time after stage \( m \), so it will never be a candidate for deletion. The simulation will therefore behave exactly as \( N \) would at stage \( m \) and beyond. The machine \( N_k \) can thus determine whether \( 0^n \in A \) and accept or reject accordingly.

It remains to estimate the running time of \( N_k \) on input \( 0^n \). If \( n \leq m \), \( N_k \) takes linear time, enough time to read the input and do the table lookup. If \( n > m \), \( N_k \) must simulate at most \( n - k \) machines on the active list on \( n - m \) inputs, each for at most \( f^{n-k-1}(2) \) steps. Under mild assumptions on the encoding scheme, interpreting the binary representation of the index \( i \) as a description of \( M_i \), \( M_i \) has at most \( \log i \) states, at most \( \log i \) tape symbols, and at most \( \log i \) transitions in its finite control, and one step of \( M_i \) can be simulated in roughly \( c(\log i)^2 \) steps of \( N_k \). Thus the total time needed for all the simulations is at most \( cn^2(\log n)^2 f^{n-k-1}(2) \). But

\[
\begin{align*}
 cn^2(\log n)^2 & \leq 2^{2^{n-k-1}} \text{ a.e.} \\
 & \leq f^{n-k-1}(2) \text{ because } f(m) \geq m^2,
\end{align*}
\]

therefore

\[
\begin{align*}
 cn^2(\log n)^2 f^{n-k-1}(2) & \leq (f^{n-k-1}(2))^2 \text{ a.e.} \\
 & \leq f(f^{n-k-1}(2)) \\
 & = f^{n-k}(2).
\end{align*}
\]

\qed

There are a few interesting observations we can make about the proof of Theorem 32.2.

First, the "mild assumptions" on the encoding scheme are inconsequential. If they are not satisfied, the condition \( f(m) \geq m^2 \) can be strengthened accordingly. We only need to know that the overhead for universal simulation of Turing machines is bounded by a total recursive function.

The value \( m = \max_{i \leq k} m(i) \) in the proof of Theorem 32.2 cannot be obtained effectively. We know that for each \( M_i \) there exists such an \( m \), but it is undecidable whether \( M_i \) falls in case A or case B, so we do not know whether to delete \( M_i \) from the active list. Indeed, it is impossible to obtain a machine for \( A \) running in time \( f^{n-k}(2) \) effectively from \( k \) (Miscellaneous Exercise 105).

Abstract Complexity Theory

Complexity theory can be machine-independent! Instead of referring to TM’s, we state simple axioms that any complexity measure $\Phi$ must satisfy.

Example: the Blum axioms:

1) $\Phi(M,w)$ is finite iff $M(w)$ halts; and
2) The predicate “$\Phi(M,w)=n$” is decidable.

**Theorem** [Blum]: Any complexity measure satisfying these axioms gives rise to hierarchy, gap, & speedup theorems.

**Corollary**: Space & time measures satisfy these axioms.

AKA “Axiomatic complexity theory [Blum, 1967]
Alternation: generalizes non-determinism, where each state is either “existential” or “universal”

Old: existential states \( \exists \)

New: universal states \( \forall \)

- **Existential** state is accepting iff any of its child states is accepting (OR)
- **Universal** state is accepting iff all of its child states are accepting (AND)
- **Alternating** computation is a “tree”.
- **Final** states are accepting
- **Non-final** states are rejecting
- Computation accepts iff initial state is accepting

Note: in non-determinism, all states are existential
Alternation

Theorem: a $k$-state alternating finite automaton can be converted into an equivalent $2^k$-state non-deterministic FA.

Proof idea: a generalized powerset construction.

Theorem: a $k$-state alternating finite automaton can be converted into an equivalent $2^{2^k}$-state deterministic FA.

Proof: two composed powerset constructions.

Def: alternating Turing machine is an alternating FA with an unbounded read/write tape.

Theorem: alternation does not increase the language recognition power of Turing machine.

Proof: by simulation.
Alternating Complexity Classes

Def: $\text{ATIME}(t(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ is decidable in time } O(t(n)) \text{ by some alternating TM}\}$

Def: $\text{ASPACE}(s(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ decidable in space } O(s(n)) \text{ by some alternating TM}\}$

Def: $\text{AP} = \bigcup_{k>1} \text{ATIME}(n^k)$

$\text{AP} \equiv \text{alternating polynomial time}$

Def: $\text{APSPACE} = \bigcup_{k>1} \text{ASPACE}(n^k)$

$\text{APSPACE} \equiv \text{alternating polynomial space}$
Alternating Complexity Classes

**Def:** $\text{AEXPTIME} = \bigcup \text{ATIME}(2^{n^k})$

$\forall k > 1$

$\text{AEXPTIME} \equiv \text{alternating exponential time}$

**Def:** $\text{AEXPSPACE} = \bigcup \text{ASPACE}(2^{n^k})$

$\forall k > 1$

$\text{AEXPSPACE} \equiv \text{alternating exponential space}$

**Def:** $\text{AL} = \text{ALOGSPACE} = \text{ASPACE}(\log n)$

$\text{AL} \equiv \text{alternating logarithmic space}$

Note: $\text{AP, ASPACE, AL}$ are model-independent
Alternating Space/Time Relations

Theorem: \( P \subseteq NP \subseteq AP \)

Open: \( NP = AP ? \)

Open: \( P = AP ? \)

Corollary: \( P = AP \Rightarrow P = NP \)

Theorem: \( \text{ATIME}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{ATIME}(f^2(n)) \)

Theorem: \( \text{PSPACE} = \text{NPSPACE} \subseteq \text{APSPACE} \)

Theorem: \( \text{ASPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{DTIME}(c^{f(n)}) \)

Theorem: \( \text{AL} = P \)

Theorem: \( \text{AP} = \text{PSPACE} \)

Theorem: \( \text{APSPACE} = \text{EXPTIME} \)

Theorem: \( \text{AEXPTIME} = \text{EXPSPACE} \)
Quantified Boolean Formula Problem

Def: Given a fully quantified Boolean formula, where each variable is quantified existentially or universally, does it evaluate to “true”?

Example: Is “∀ x ∃ y ∃ z (x ∧ z) ∨ y” true?

• Also known as quantified satisfiability (QSAT)
• Satisfiability (one ∃ only) is a special case of QBF

Theorem: QBF is PSPACE-complete.
Proof idea: combination of [Cook] and [Savitch].

Theorem: QBF ∈ TIME(2^n)
Proof: recursively evaluate all possibilities.

Theorem: QBF ∈ DSPACE(n)
Proof: reuse space during exhaustive evaluations.

Theorem: QBF ∈ ATIME(n)
Proof: use alternation to guess and verify formula.
QBF and Two-Player Games

- SAT solutions can be succinctly (polynomially) specified.
- It is not known how to succinctly specify QBF solutions.
- QBF naturally models winning strategies for two-player games:

\[ \exists \text{ a move for player } A \]
\[ \forall \text{ moves for player } B \]
\[ \exists \text{ a move for player } A \]
\[ \forall \text{ moves for player } B \]
\[ \exists \text{ a move for player } A \]

\[ \ldots \]

player A has a winning move!
QBF and Two-Player Games

**Theorem:** Generalized Checkers is EXPTIME-complete.

**Theorem:** Generalized Chess is EXPTIME-complete.

**Theorem:** Generalized Go is EXPTIME-complete.

**Theorem:** Generalized Othello is PSPACE-complete.
The Polynomial Hierarchy

Idea: bound # of “existential” / “universal” states

Old: unbounded existential / universal states

New: at most i existential / universal alternations

Def: a $\Sigma_i$-alternating TM has at most i runs of quantified steps, starting with existential $\exists$

Def: a $\Pi_i$-alternating TM has at most i runs of quantified steps, starting with universal $\forall$

Note: $\Pi_i$- and $\Sigma_i$- alternation-bounded TMs are similar to unbounded alternating TMs
The Polynomial Hierarchy

Def: $\Sigma_i \text{TIME} (t(n)) = \{ L \mid L \text{ is decidable within time } O(t(n)) \text{ by some } \Sigma_i \text{-alternating TM} \}$

Def: $\Sigma_i \text{SPACE} (s(n)) = \{ L \mid L \text{ is decidable within space } O(s(n)) \text{ by some } \Sigma_i \text{-alternating TM} \}$

Def: $\Pi_i \text{TIME} (t(n)) = \{ L \mid L \text{ is decidable within time } O(t(n)) \text{ by some } \Pi_i \text{-alternating TM} \}$

Def: $\Pi_i \text{SPACE} (s(n)) = \{ L \mid L \text{ is decidable within space } O(s(n)) \text{ by some } \Pi_i \text{-alternating TM} \}$

Def: $\Sigma_i P = \bigcup \Sigma_i \text{TIME} (n^k)$

$\forall k > 1$

Def: $\Pi_i P = \bigcup \Pi_i \text{TIME} (n^k)$

$\forall k > 1$
The Polynomial Hierarchy

**Def:**  $\Sigma PH = \bigcup \Sigma_i P \quad \forall i > 1$

**Def:**  $\Pi PH = \bigcup \Pi_i P \quad \forall i > 1$

**Theorem:**  $\Sigma PH = \Pi PH$

**Def:** The Polynomial Hierarchy $PH = \Sigma PH$  
$\Rightarrow$ Languages accepted by polynomial time, unbounded-alternations TMs

**Theorem:** $\Sigma_0 P = \Pi_0 P = P$

**Theorem:** $\Sigma_1 P = NP$, $\Pi_1 P = co-NP$

**Theorem:** $\Sigma_i P \subseteq \Sigma_{i+1} P$, $\Pi_i P \subseteq \Pi_{i+1} P$

**Theorem:** $\Sigma_i P \subseteq \Pi_{i+1} P$, $\Pi_i P \subseteq \Sigma_{i+1} P$
The Polynomial Hierarchy

Theorem: $\Sigma_i P \subseteq \text{PSPACE}$

Theorem: $\Pi_i P \subseteq \text{PSPACE}$

Theorem: $\text{PH} \subseteq \text{PSPACE}$

Open: $\text{PH} = \text{PSPACE} ?$

Open: $\Sigma_0 P = \Sigma_1 P \iff P = \text{NP} ?$

Open: $\Pi_0 P = \Pi_1 P \iff P = \text{co-NP} ?$

Open: $\Sigma_1 P = \Pi_1 P \iff \text{NP} = \text{co-NP} ?$

Open: $\Sigma_k P = \Sigma_{k+1} P$ for any $k$ ?

Open: $\Pi_k P = \Pi_{k+1} P$ for any $k$ ?

Open: $\Sigma_k P = \Pi_k P$ for any $k$ ?

Theorem: $\text{PH} = \text{languages expressible by 2nd-order logic}$

Infinite number of “P=NP”–type open problems!
The Polynomial Hierarchy

Open: Is the polynomial hierarchy infinite?

Theorem: If any two successive levels coincide ($\Sigma_k P = \Sigma_{k+1} P$ or $\Sigma_k P = \Pi_k P$ for some $k$) then the entire polynomial hierarchy collapses to that level (i.e., $\text{PH} = \Sigma_k P = \Pi_k P$).

Corollary: If $P = \text{NP}$ then the entire polynomial hierarchy collapses completely (i.e., $\text{PH} = P = \text{NP}$).

Theorem: $P = NP \iff P = \text{PH}$

Corollary: To show $P \neq \text{NP}$, it suffices to show $P \neq \text{PH}$.

Theorem: There exist oracles that separate $\Sigma_k P \neq \Sigma_{k+1} P$.

Theorem: $\text{PH}$ contains almost all well-known complexity classes in $\text{PSPACE}$, including $P$, $\text{NP}$, $\text{co-NP}$, $\text{BPP}$, $\text{RP}$, etc.
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy Reloaded

Dense infinite time & space complexity hierarchies
Other infinite complexity & descriptive hierarchies
Probabilistic Turing Machines

**Idea:** allow randomness / coin-flips during computation

**Old:** **nondeterministic** states

**New:** **random** states changes via coin-flips

- Each coin-flip state has two successor states

**Def:** Probability of branch \( B \) is \( \Pr[B] = 2^{-k} \)

where \( k \) is the # of coin-flips along \( B \).

**Def:** Probability that \( M \) accepts \( w \) is sum of the probabilities of all accepting branches.

**Def:** Probability that \( M \) rejects \( w \) is

\[
1 - (\text{probability that } \ M \text{ accepts } w).
\]

**Def:** Probability that \( M \) accepts \( L \) with probability \( \varepsilon \) if:

- \( w \in L \Rightarrow \text{probability}(M \text{ accepts } w) \geq 1-\varepsilon \)

- \( w \notin L \Rightarrow \text{probability}(M \text{ rejects } w) \geq 1-\varepsilon \)
Probabilistic Turing Machines

**Def**: BPP is the class of languages accepted by probabilistic polynomial time TMs with error $\varepsilon = 1/3$.

**Note**: BPP Bounded-error Probabilistic Polynomial time

**Theorem**: any error threshold $0 < \varepsilon < 1/2$ can be substituted.

**Proof idea**: run the probabilistic TM multiple times and take the majority of the outputs.

**Theorem** [Rabin, 1980]: Primality testing is in BPP.

**Theorem** [Agrawal et al., 2002]: Primality testing is in P.

**Note**: BPP is one of the largest practical classes of problems that can be solved effectively.

**Theorem**: BPP is closed under complement (BPP=co-BPP).

**Open**: BPP $\subseteq$ NP ?

**Open**: NP $\subseteq$ BPP ?
Probabilistic Turing Machines

**Theorem:** $\text{BPP} \subseteq \text{PH}$

**Theorem:** $\text{P}=\text{NP} \Rightarrow \text{BPP}=\text{P}$

**Theorem:** $\text{NP} \subseteq \text{BPP} \Rightarrow \text{PH} \subseteq \text{BPP}$

**Note:** the former is unlikely, since this would imply efficient randomized algorithms for many NP-hard problems.

**Def:** A *pseudorandom number generator* (PRNG) is an algorithm for generating number sequences that approximates the properties of random numbers.

**Theorem:** The existence of strong PRNGs implies that $\text{P}=\text{BPP}$.

“Anyone who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin.”

---

*John von Neumann*
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy Reloaded

$2^\Sigma^*$

Decidable

EXPSPACE

EXPTIME

PSPACE

Context sensitive

NP

P

NP-complete

Det. CF

Regular

Finite

Context-free

$\{a, b\}$

$ww^R$

$a^n b^n c^n$

$a^n b^n$

$\det. \ CF$

Regular

$\{a, b\}$

Dense infinite time & space complexity hierarchies

Other infinite complexity & descriptive hierarchies

Not finitely describable

Not Recognizable

Recognizable

$\overline{\mathsf{H}}$

Turing degrees

Presburger arithmetic

$\mathsf{PH}$

$\mathsf{BPP}$

$\mathsf{LBA}$

$\mathsf{RE}$

$\mathsf{RE}$

$\mathsf{SAT}$

$\mathsf{EXPTIME}$-complete

$\mathsf{EXPSPACE}$-complete

$\mathsf{PH}$

$\mathsf{BPP}$
Introduction

Welcome to the Complexity Zoo... There are now \textbf{489} classes and counting!

This information was originally moved from \url{http://www.complexityzoo.com/} in August 2005, and is currently under the watchful eyes of its original creators:

- **Zookeeper**: Scott Aaronson
- **Veterinarian**: Greg Kuperberg
- **Tour Guide**: Christopher Granade

Errors? Omissions? Misattributions? Your favorite class not here? Then please contribute to the zoo as you see fit by \textbf{signing up} and clicking on the edit links. Please include references, or better yet links to papers if available.

To create a new class, click on the edit link of the class before or after the one that you want to add and copy the format of that class. (The classes are alphabetized by their tag names.) Then add the class to the table of contents and increment the total number of classes. After this, you can use the side edit links to edit the individual sections. For more on using the wiki language, see our \textbf{simple wiki help page}.

If you would like to contribute but feel unable to make the updates yourself, email the zookeeper at scott at scottaaronson.com.
All Classes


Lists of related classes: Communication Complexity - Hierarchies - Nonuniform

Symbols

0-1-NPC - 1NAuxPDA\textsuperscript{P} - 3SUM-hard - #AC\textsuperscript{0} - #L - #L/poly - #GA - #P - #W[t] - \oplus\text{EXP} - \oplus\text{L} - \oplus\text{L/poly} - \oplus\text{P} - \oplus\text{SAC}\textsuperscript{0} - \oplus\text{SAC}\textsuperscript{1}

A

A_0PP - AC - AC\textsuperscript{0} - AC\textsuperscript{0}[m] - AC\textsuperscript{1} - ACC\textsuperscript{0} - AH - AL - ALL - ALOGTIME - AlgP/poly - Almost-NP - Almost-P - Almost-PSpace - AM - AM\text{EXP} - AM \cap \text{coAM} - AM[\text{polylog}] - AmpMP - AmpP-BQP - AP - APP - APX - ATIME - AUC-Space(f(n)) - AuxPDA - AVBPP - AvgE - AvgP - AW[p] - AWPP - AW[SAT] - AW[*] - AW[t] - AxP - AxPP

B

B\text{P} - BH - BP_d(P) - BPE - BPEE - BP_HSpace(f(n)) - BPL - BP_{NP} - BP_{P} - BP_{P}^{cc} - BP_{P}^{cc} - BP_{P}^{KT} - BP_{P}/log - BP_{P}/mlog - BP_{P}/log - BP_{P}/rlog - BP_{P}-OBDD - BP_{P}_{path} - BPQP - BPSPACE(f(n)) - BPTIME(f(n)) - BQNC - BQNP - BQP - BPQ/log - BQP/poly - BPQ/mlog - BPQ/mpoly - BPQ/qlog - BPQ/qpoly - BPQ-OBDD - BPQSPACE - BPQ_{CTC} - BPQ_{\text{tr/poly}} - BPQTIME(f(n)) - k-BWBP

C

C_{\geq}AC\textsuperscript{0} - C_{\leq}L - C_{\leq}P - CC - CC\textsuperscript{0} - CFL - CLOG - CH - Check - CL_{\#P} - C_{\text{H}}P - CNP - \text{coAM} - \text{coC}_{\text{H}}P - \text{cofIP} - \text{Coh} - \text{coMA} - \text{coMod}_{\text{H}}P - \text{comP} - \text{compNP} - \text{coNE} - \text{coNEXP} - \text{coNL} - \text{coNP} - \text{coNP}^{cc} - \text{coNP}/poly - \text{coNQP} - \text{coRE} - \text{coRNC} - \text{coRP} - \text{coSL} - \text{coSPARSE} - \text{coUCC} - \text{coUP} - CP - \text{CSize}(f(n)) - CSL - CSP - CZK
M
MA - MA' - MAC^0 - MAE - MAEXP - mAL - MAPOLYLOG - MaxNP - MaxPB - MaxSNP - MaxSNP_0 - mcoNL - MinPB - MIP - MIP^*[2, 1] - MIP_EXP - (M_k)p - mL - MM - MMSNP - mNC^1 - mNL - mNP - Mod_kL - ModL - Mod_kP - ModP - ModZ_kL - mP - MP - MPC - mP/poly - mTC^0

N

O
OCQ - OptP

P
P - P/log - P/poly - P^#P - P^{#P}[1] - PCTC - PAC^0 - PBP - k-PBP - P_C - P_k^c - PCD(r(n),q(n)) - P-Close - PCP(r(n),q(n)) - PermUP - PEXP - PF - FFCHK(t(n)) - PH - PH^c - PH^c_0 - P_{2P} - PhP - P_{2P} - PINC - PIO - P^K - PKC - PL - PL_1 - PL_2 - PLL - PLS - PNP - P[NP] - P[log^2] - P[log^2] - P-OBD - POUT - PostBQP - PP - PP^c - PP/poly - PPA - PPAD - PPADS - P^PP - PPP - PPSPACE - PQUERY - PR - P_R - PrSPACE(f(n)) - PromiseBPP - PromiseBQP - PromiseP - PromiseRP - PrSPACE(f(n)) - P-Sel - PSK - PSPACE - PSK - PSPACE/poly - PT_1 - PTAPE - PTAS - PT/WK(f(n),g(n)) - PZK

Q
Q - QAC^0 - QAC^0[m] - QACC^0 - QAC^1 - QAM - QCFL - QCMA - QH - QIP - QIP^*[2] - QMA - QMA-plus - QMA(2) - QMA_1 - QMA_0 - QMAM - QMA/qpoly - QMIP - QMIP_0 - QMIP_ne - QMC - QNC - QNC^0 - QNC^1 - QNC^0 - QNC^1 - QP - QPLIN - QPSpace - QRG - QS_2P - QSZK
R - RBQP - REG - RevSPACE(f(n)) - RG - RG[1] - R_{pL} - R_{pSPACE}(f(n)) - RL - RNC - RP - RP_{cc} - RPP - RQP - RSPACE(f(n))

S
S_{2P} - S_{2EXP}^{NP} - SAC - SAC^{0} - SAC^{1} - SAPTIME - SBP - SC - SE - SEH - SelfNP - S_{Fk} - \Sigma_{2P} - SKC - SL - SLICEWISE PSPACE - SNP - SO-E - SP - span-P - SPARSE - SPL - SPP - SQG - SUBEXP - symP - SZK - SZK_{h}

T
TALLY - TC^{0} - TFNP - \Theta_{2P} - TreeBQP - TREE-REGULAR

U
UAP - UCC - UE - UL - UL/poly - UP - UPP^{cc} - US

V
V_{Ck} - V_{COR} - V_{NCk} - VNP_{k} - VP_{k} - VPL - VQP_{k}

W

X
XOR-MIP^{*}[2,1] - XP - XP_{uniform}

Y
YACC - YP - YPP - YQP

Z
ZBQP - ZPE - ZPP - ZTIME(f(n)) - ZQP
The “Complexity Zoo”
Class inclusion diagram

- Currently 493 named classes!
- Interactive, clickable map
- Shows class subset relations

Legend:

Arrows: \( \forall X: A^X \subseteq B^X \) and \( co.A^X \subseteq B^X \)

Node colors: \( \forall X: A^X \subseteq B^X \)
- blue: proven
- red: disproven
- green: open
- gray: unknown to us

If a cell has more than one color: left - regular inclusion; right - twisted inclusion; middle - weak inclusion.
Click on a node to select it as the "A" class. Press backslash (\( \backslash \)) to switch between subset and superset status.
Shift-click to open to the "Class Relations" entry in a separate page.
See also: Complexity Zoology Introduction, Static Inclusion Diagram, Complexity Class Relations

http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~greg/zoology/diagram.xml
Recognizable
Decidable

Non-deterministic exponential time
Deterministic exponential time
Polynomial space
Exponential space
Deterministic polynomial time

Poly-logarithmic time

Context-sensitive

Non-deterministic logarithmic space

Context-free

Deterministic logarithmic space

Deterministic context-free

Regular

Empty set
The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy Reloaded

- Decidable
- Presburger arithmetic
- EXPSPACE
- EXPTIME
- PSPACE
- Context-sensitive
- LBA
- NP
- PH
- BPP
- EXPSPACE-complete
- Presburger arithmetic
- Decidable
- EXPSPACE-complete
- EXPTIME-complete
- PSPACE-complete
- NP-complete
- SAT
- Context-free
- ww^R
- Context-free
- Det. CF
- Regular
- Finite
- Dense infinite time & space complexity hierarchies
- Other infinite complexity & descriptive hierarchies