

The Cook-Levin Theorem

Exposition by William Gasarch—U of MD

Variants of SAT

1. SAT is the set of all boolean formulas that are satisfiable. That is, $\phi(\vec{x}) \in SAT$ if there exists a vector \vec{b} such that $\phi(\vec{b}) = TRUE$.
2. CNFSAT is the set of all boolean formulas in SAT of the form $C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_m$ where each C_i is an \vee of literals.
3. k -SAT is the set of all boolean formulas in SAT of the form $C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_m$ where each C_i is an \vee of exactly k literals.
4. DNFSAT is the set of all boolean formulas in SAT of the form $C_1 \vee \cdots \vee C_m$ where each C_i is an \wedge of literals.
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Conventions for our Turing Machines

1. Tape has a left endpoint; however, the tape goes off to infinity to the right.
2. The alphabet has symbols $\{0, 1, \#, \$ Y, N\}$.
3. $\#$ is the blank symbol.
4. $\$$ is a separator symbol.
5. Y and N are only used when the machine goes into a halt state. They are YES and NO.
6. The input is written on the left. So the input *abba* would be on the tape as

abba###...

7. The head is initially on the rightmost symbol of the input. So if the head were above it, it would be on the *a* just before the $\#$ symbol.

How to Represent any Computation

Let M be a Turing Machine and $x \in \Sigma^*$. We represent the computation $M(x)$ as follows:

Example The tape has:

$$abba\#abcab\#a\#\#\#\dots$$

If the machine is in state q and the head is looking at the c then we represent this by:

$$abba\#ab(c, q)ab\#a\#\#\#\dots$$

Convention—extend alphabet and allow symbols $\Sigma \times Q$. The symbol (c, q) means the symbol is c , the state is q , and that square is where the head of the machine is.

Configurations

We need a term for strings like:

$$abba\#ab(c, q)a$$

Definition Strings in $\Sigma^*(\Sigma \times Q)\Sigma^*$ are **configuration**.

The Computation $M(x)$ is represented by a sequence of configs.

Key A config is finite since what we don't see is $\#$.

Example

If $\delta(s, b) = (q, L)$ and $\delta(q, b) = (p, a)$

	a	a	b	b	(b, s)	$\#$
	a	a	b	(b, q)	b	$\#$
	a	a	b	(a, p)	b	$\#$

- ▶ The left endpoint is the end of the tape.
- ▶ The unseen symbols on the right are all $\#$

How to Represent an NP Computation

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Here is ALL that matters:

- ▶ Numb of steps $M(x, y)$ takes is $\leq t(|x|)$. Hence $\leq t(|x|)$ configs.
- ▶ Computation can only look at the first $t(|x|)$ tapes squares on any config.

New Convention

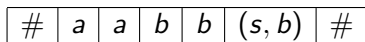
Old Convention

#	a	a	b	b	(s, b)	#
---	---	---	---	---	--------	---

means that off to the right there are an infinite number of #.

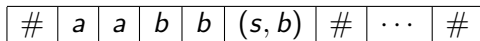
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New Convention



Tape is $t(|x|)$ long so **know** when stops. Can include entire tape.

Key Config is finite since what we don't see is never used.

Summary of What's Important

Let $X \in \text{NP}$ via poly q and TM M , so

$$X = \{x : (\exists y)[|y| = q(|x|) \wedge M(x, y) = Y]\}$$

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$x \in X$ implies $(\exists y)[|y| = q(|x|) \wedge M(x, y) = Y]$ implies
 $(\exists C_1, \dots, C_t)[C_1, \dots, C_t \text{ is an accepting comp of } M(x, y)]$

Cook-Levin Theorem

Theorem

SAT is NP-complete.

We need to prove two things:

1. $SAT \in NP$.

$$SAT = \{\phi : (\exists \vec{y})[\phi(\vec{y}) = T]\}$$

Formally

$$B = \{(\phi, \vec{y}) : \phi(\vec{y}) = T\}$$

The satisfying assignment is the witness.

2. For all $X \in NP$, $X \leq SAT$. This is the bulk of the proof.

$x \in X \rightarrow \dots$

If $x \in X$ then there is a y of length $q(|x|)$ such that $M(x, y) = Y$.

If $x \in X$ then there is a y and a sequence of configurations

C_1, C_2, \dots, C_t such that

- ▶ C_1 is the configuration that says 'input is $x\#y$, and I am in the starting state.'
- ▶ For all i , C_{i+1} follows from C_i (note that M is deterministic) using δ .
- ▶ C_t is the configuration that is in state h and the output is Y .
- ▶ $t = q(|x| + p(|x|))$.

How to make all of this into a formula?

How to Represent Sequence of Configs as Fml

KEY 1: We have variables for every possible entry in every possible configuration. The variables are

$$\{z_{i,j,\sigma} : 1 \leq i, j \leq t, \sigma \in \Sigma \cup (Q \times \Sigma)\}$$

If there is an accepting sequence of configurations then $z_{i,j,\sigma} = T$ iff the j th symbol in the i th configuration is σ .

Making the $z_{i,j,\sigma}$ Make Sense

Need that for all $1 \leq i, j \leq t$ there exists exactly one σ such that $z_{ij\sigma}$ is TRUE.

$$\bigvee_{\sigma \in \Sigma \cup (\Sigma \times Q)} z_{i,j,\sigma}$$

for each $\sigma \in \Sigma \cup (\Sigma \times Q)$

$$z_{i,j,\sigma} \rightarrow \bigwedge_{\tau \in \Sigma \cup (\Sigma \times Q) - \{\sigma\}} \neg z_{i,j,\tau}$$

C_1 is Start Config

C_1 is the \bigwedge of the following:

C_1 starts with x . Let $x = x_1 \cdots x_n$.

$$z_{1,1,x_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge z_{1,n-1,x_{n-1}}, z_{1,n,(x_n,s)} \wedge z_{1,n+1,\$}$$

C_1 then has $q(|x|)$ non-# symbols:

$$\bigwedge_{i=n+2}^{n+q(|x|)+1} \bigvee_{\sigma \in \Sigma - \{\#, \$, Y, N\}} z_{1,i,\sigma}$$

C_1 then has all blanks:

$$\wedge z_{1,q(n)+n+2,(\#,s)} \wedge \bigwedge_{i=q(n)+n+3}^{t(n)} z_{1,i,\#}$$

C_1 is Start Config: Example

$x = ab$, $p(n) = n^2$, and $q(n) = 2n$

$|y| = 4$. Input to M is of length $2 + 4 + 1 = 7$, so $M(x, y)$ runs $\leq 2 \times 7 = 14$ steps.

Formula saying C_1 codes x as input is

$$z_{1,1,a} \wedge z_{1,2,b} \wedge z_{1,3,\$}$$

$$(z_{1,4,a} \vee z_{1,4,b}) \wedge (z_{1,5,a} \vee z_{1,5,b}) \wedge (z_{1,6,a} \vee z_{1,6,b}) \wedge (z_{1,7,a} \vee z_{1,7,b}) \wedge$$

$$z_{1,8,\#} \wedge \cdots \wedge z_{1,23,\#}$$

C_t is an Accept Config

Convention $M(x, y)$ accepts means $M(x, y)$ leaves a Y on the left most square and the head is on the left most square.

The state in C_t is h , the halt state,

$$Z_{t,1,(Y,h)}$$

C_i leads to C_{i+1}

Thought Experiment: What if $\delta(q, a) = (p, b)$. Then:

σ_1	(a, q)	σ_2
σ_1	(b, p)	σ_2

Formula is a \bigwedge over relevant i, j, σ_1, σ_2 of:

$$(z_{ij\sigma_1} \wedge z_{i(j+1),(a,q)} \wedge z_{i,(j+2)\sigma_2}) \rightarrow$$

$$(z_{(i+1)j\sigma_1} \wedge z_{(i+1)(j+1),(b,p)} \wedge z_{(i+1),(j+2)\sigma_2})$$

C_i leads to C_{i+1}

Thought Experiment: What if $\delta(q, a) = (p, L)$. Then:

σ_1	(a, q)	σ_2
(σ_1, p)	a	σ_2

One can make a formula out of this as well. (Leave for HW.)

C_i leads to C_{i+1}

Note that only the symbols at or near the head get changed.

Also need a formula saying that if the (i, j) spot is NOT near the head and $z_{i,j,\sigma}$ then $z_{i+1,j,\sigma}$.

Putting it All Together

On input x you output a formula ϕ constructed as follows

1. $t(|x|) = q(|x| + p(|x|))$. We call this t .
2. Variables $\{z_{i,j,\tau} : 1 \leq i, j \leq t, \tau \in \Sigma \cup (\Sigma \times Q)\}$.
3. Formula saying:
 - 3.1 For all $1 \leq i, j \leq t$, exists ONE σ with $z_{i,j,\sigma} = T$.
 - 3.2 C_1 is the start config with x .
 - 3.3 C_t is the accept config.
 - 3.4 For each instruction of the TM have a formula saying C_i goes to C_{i+1} if that instruction is relevant.
 - 3.5 If head is not within 2 square of (i, j) and $z_{ij\sigma}$ then $z_{(i+1)j\sigma}$.

Important Upshot

- ▶ If $\text{SAT} \in P$ then every set in NP is in P, so we would have $P = \text{NP}$.
- ▶ We will soon have more NP-complete problems.
- ▶ If any NP-complete problem is in P then $P = \text{NP}$.
- ▶ In the year 2000 the Clay Math Institute posted seven math problems and offered \$1,000,000 for the solution to any of them. Resolving P vs NP was one of them.

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CNFSAT Hard;DNFSAT Easy.

CNFSAT \rightarrow DNFSAT. Collect \$1,000,000

Idea Given ϕ in CNF form, convert to DNF form, solve DNF-SAT problem in Poly time, and now know if ϕ is in SAT.

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Good News The reason it does not work is interesting.

Bad News I'd rather have the \$1,000,000 than be enlightened.

Vote on CNF vs DNF

Vote on whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE:

*There is a **proof** that $\text{CNFSAT} \leq \text{DNFSAT}$ is NOT true. That is, there is NO poly time algorithm that will transform ϕ in CNF form to ψ in DNF form such that $\phi \in \text{SAT}$ iff $\psi \in \text{SAT}$.*

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TRUE, we Do have a proof!. Hard to believe.

Work on in Breakout Rooms

Convert the following into DNF form

1. $(x_1 \vee y_1)$

2. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2)$

3. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3)$

4. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3) \wedge (x_4 \wedge y_4)$

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2. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2)$

$$(x_1 \wedge x_2) \vee (x_1 \wedge y_2) \vee (y_1 \wedge x_2) \vee (y_1 \vee y_2).$$

3. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3)$

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2. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2)$

$$(x_1 \wedge x_2) \vee (x_1 \wedge y_2) \vee (y_1 \wedge x_2) \vee (y_1 \vee y_2).$$

3. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3)$

$$(x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge y_3) \wedge (x_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (x_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge y_3) \wedge$$

$$(y_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (y_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge y_3) \wedge (y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge y_3)$$

4. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3) \wedge (x_4 \wedge y_4)$

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3. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3)$

$$(x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge y_3) \wedge (x_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (x_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge y_3) \wedge$$

$$(y_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (y_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge y_3) \wedge (y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge x_3) \wedge (y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge y_3)$$

4. $(x_1 \vee y_1) \wedge (x_2 \vee y_2) \wedge (x_3 \vee y_3) \wedge (x_4 \wedge y_4)$

Not going to do it but it would take 16 clauses.