Computational Complexity Theory

Lecture 18: Parity not in AC⁰ (contd.)

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Recap: Depth d circuit for Parity

- Obs. There's a $exp(n^{1/(d-1)})$ size depth d circuit for PARITY, where $exp(x) = 2^{x}$.
- Proof sketch. "Divide & conquer" for d-1 levels. Alternate between CNFs and DNFs. "Attach" the CNFs and the DNFs appropriately, and then "merge" the intermediate layers to bring the depth down to d.
- Is the exp(n^{1/(d-1)}) upper bound on the size of depth d circuits computing PARITY tight? "Yes"

• Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86) Any depth d circuit computing PARITY has size $\exp(\Omega_d(n^{1/(d-1)}))$, where $\Omega_d()$ is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.

- Gives a super-polynomial lower bound for depth d circuits for d up to O(log n/log log n).
- A lower bound for circuits of depth d = O(log n) implies a Boolean formula lower bound!

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- Proof idea. A random assignment to a "large" fraction of the variables makes a constant depth circuit of polynomial size evaluate to a constant (i.e., the circuit stops depending on the unset variables).
- We'll prove this fact using Hastad's <u>Switching</u>
 <u>lemma</u>. But first let us discuss some structural simplifications of depth d circuits.

lecture

Recap: Random restrictions

- A <u>restriction</u> σ is a partial assignment to a subset of the **n** variables.
- A <u>random restriction</u> σ that leaves m variables alive/unset is obtained by picking a random subset S ⊆
 [n] of size n-m and setting every variable in S to 0/1 uniformly and independently.
- Let f_{σ} denote the function obtained by applying the restriction σ on f.

Recap: The Switching Lemma

• Switching lemma. Let f be a t-CNF on n variables and σ a random restriction that leaves m = pn variables alive, where p < $\frac{1}{2}$. Then,

 \Pr_{σ} [f_{σ} can't be represented as a k-DNF] \leq (16pt)^k.

- We can interchange "CNF" and "DNF" in the above statement by applying the lemma on ¬f.
- We used the lemma in the last lecture to prove lower bound for depth d circuits.

- Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86)
 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. W.I.o.g C is in the simplified form and the bottom/last layer consists of V gates. Size(C) = s.
- Step 0: Pick every variable independently with prob. ¹/₂, and then set it to 0/1 uniformly. C₁ be the resulting ckt.
- Let t be a parameter that we'll fix later in the analysis.
 If a ∨ gate in the last layer has fan-in > t, then the probability it doesn't evaluate to I is ≤ (3/4)^t. So,
 Pr[a fan-in > t last layer ∨ gate survives] ≤ s(3/4)^t.

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- Proof. W.I.o.g C is in the simplified form and the bottom/last layer consists of V gates. Size(C) = s.
- Step 0: Pick every variable independently with prob. ¹/₂, and then set it to 0/1 uniformly. C₁ be the resulting ckt.
- With probability ≥ I s(3/4)^t, every ∧ gate of the second-last layer of C₁ computes a t-CNF.
- Let n_1 be the no. of unset variables after Step 0. By Chernoff bound, $n_1 \ge n/4$ with probability $I 2^{-\Omega(n)}$.

- Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86)
 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. # (\land gates of the second-last layer of $C_{|} \le s$.
- Step I: Apply a random restriction σ_1 on the n_1 variables that leaves $n_2 = pn_1$ variables alive, where $p < \frac{1}{2}$ will be fixed later.
- By the Switching lemma, probability that any of the t-CNFs computed at the second-last layer of C₁ cannot be expressed as a t-DNF is ≤ s.(16pt)^t.

- Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86)
 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. # (A gates of the second-last layer of C_1) $\leq s$.
- Step I: Apply a random restriction σ_1 on the n_1 variables that leaves $n_2 = pn_1$ variables alive, where $p < \frac{1}{2}$ will be fixed later.
- Replace the t-CNFs by the corresponding t-DNFs.
- Merge the V gates of the second-last layer with the V gates of the layer above. C₂ be the resulting ckt.

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- Proof. # (\land gates of the second-last layer of $C_{|} \le s$.
- Step I: Apply a random restriction σ_1 on the n_1 variables that leaves $n_2 = pn_1$ variables alive, where $p < \frac{1}{2}$ will be fixed later.
- Merging reduces the depth to d-l.
- All the gates of the second-last layer of C_2 compute t-DNFs with probability $\geq 1 - s.(16pt)^t$.

- Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86)
 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. # (V gates of the second-last layer of C_2) \leq s.
- Step 2: Apply a random restriction σ_2 on the n_2 variables that leaves $n_3 = pn_2$ variables alive, where p is same as before.
- By the Switching lemma, probability that any of the t-DNFs computed at the second-last layer of C₂ cannot be expressed as a t-CNF is ≤ s.(16pt)^t.

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 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. # (V gates of the second-last layer of C_2) \leq s.
- Step 2: Apply a random restriction σ_2 on the n_2 variables that leaves $n_3 = pn_2$ variables alive, where p is same as before.
- Replace the t-DNFs by the corresponding t-CNFs.
- Merge the A gates of the second-last layer with the A gates of the layer above. C₃ be the resulting ckt.

- Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86)
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- Proof. # (V gates of the second-last layer of C_2) \leq s.
- Step 2: Apply a random restriction σ_2 on the n_2 variables that leaves $n_3 = pn_2$ variables alive, where p is same as before.
- Merging reduces the depth to d-2.
- All the gates of the second-last layer of C_3 compute t-CNFs with probability $\geq 1 - s.(16pt)^t$.

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 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. # (\land gates of the second-last layer of C_3) \leq s.
- Step 3: Apply a random restriction σ_3 on the n_3 variables that leaves $n_4 = pn_3$ variables alive, where p is same as before. Continue as before..

- Theorem. (Furst, Saxe, Sipser '81; Ajtai '83; Hastad '86)
 Any depth d circuit C computing PARITY has size exp(Ω_d(n^{1/(d-1)})), where Ω_d() is hiding a d⁻¹ factor.
- Proof. After Step d-2, we are left with a depth 2 circuit, i.e., a t-CNF or a t-DNF with probability \geq | - s.(d-2)(16pt)^t - 2^{- Ω (n)} - s(3/4)^t.
- The number of variables alive is $p^{d-2}n_1 \ge (p^{d-2}n)/4$.
- Hence,

either $I - s.(d-2)(I6pt)^t - 2^{-\Omega(n)} - s(3/4)^t \le 0$, or $p^{d-2}n_1 \le t$.

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• The number of variables alive is $p^{d-2}n_1 \ge (p^{d-2}n)/4$.

• By choosing $t = O(n^{1/(d-1)})$ and p = 1/(160 t), we can make sure that

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- Proof. After Step d-2, we are left with a depth 2 circuit, i.e., a t-CNF or a t-DNF with probability \geq $| - s.(d-2)(|6pt)^t - 2^{-\Omega(n)} - s(3/4)^t$.
- The number of variables alive is $p^{d-2}n_1 \ge (p^{d-2}n)/4$.
- Therefore, for $t = O(n^{1/(d-1)})$ and p = 1/(160 t),

I - s.(d-2)(I6pt)^t - 2^{-Ω(n)} - s(3/4)^t ≤ 0,

 \implies s = exp($\Omega(n^{1/(d-1)})$).

• Switching lemma. Let f be a t-CNF on n variables and σ a random restriction that leaves m = pn variables alive, where p < $\frac{1}{2}$. Then,

 \Pr_{σ} [f_{σ} can't be represented as a k-DNF] \leq (16pt)^k.

• Proof. We'll present a proof due to Razborov.

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• Proof. Let A_{ℓ} be the set of restrictions that keeps ℓ variables alive. Then, $|A_{\ell}| = \binom{n}{\ell} . 2^{n-\ell}$.

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- Proof. Let A_{ℓ} be the set of restrictions that keeps ℓ variables alive. Then, $|A_{\ell}| = \binom{n}{\ell} .2^{n-\ell}$. Let $B_{m,k} \subseteq A_m$ be the set of "bad" restrictions, i.e., a $\sigma \in A_m$ is in $B_{m,k}$ iff f_{σ} can't be represented as a k-DNF.
- We need to upper bound $|B_{m,k}|$.

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- We need to upper bound $|B_{m,k}|$.
- This is done by giving an <u>injective map</u> from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \ge U$, where $U = \{0, I\}^{k(\log t + 2)}$. $|U| = (4t)^k$.

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 \Pr_{σ} [f_{σ} can't be represented as a k-DNF] \leq (16pt)^k.

• Proof. Then, $|B_{m,k}| \le {\binom{n}{m-k}}.2^{n-m+k}.(4t)^k$. and so $|B_{m,k}|/|A_m| \le [(m! . (n-m)!) / ((m-k)! . (n-m+k)!)].2^k.(4t)^k$

• Switching lemma. Let f be a t-CNF on n variables and σ a random restriction that leaves m = pn variables alive, where p < $\frac{1}{2}$. Then,

 \Pr_{σ} [f_{\sigma} can't be represented as a k-DNF] \leq (16pt)^k. • Proof. Then, $|B_{m,k}| \leq {n \choose m-k} \cdot 2^{n-m+k} \cdot (4t)^k$. and so $|B_{m,k}|/|A_m| \le [(m! . (n-m)!) / ((m-k)! . (n-m+k)!)].2^k.(4t)^k$ $\leq (m/(n-m))^k \cdot 2^k \cdot (4t)^k$ $= (p/(1-p))^{k} \cdot 2^{k} \cdot (4t)^{k}$ (as m = pn) $\leq p^{k} \cdot 2^{k} \cdot 2^{k} \cdot (4t)^{k}$ $(as p < \frac{1}{2})$ $= (|6pt)^{k}$.

• Switching lemma. Let f be a t-CNF on n variables and σ a random restriction that leaves m = pn variables alive, where p < $\frac{1}{2}$. Then,

 \Pr_{σ} [f_{σ} can't be represented as a k-DNF] \leq (16pt)^k.

• Proof. Next, we show an injection from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$, where $U = \{0, I\}^{k(\log t + 2)}$.

A definition and a notation

- Definition. A <u>min-term</u> of a function g is a restriction π such that $g_{\pi} = 1$, but **no** <u>proper sub-restriction</u> of π makes g evaluate to 1.
- Obs. If g can't be expressed as a k-DNF, then g has a min-term π of <u>width</u> > k (i.e., π assigns 0/1 values to more than k variables). (Homework)

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- Obs. If g can't be expressed as a k-DNF, then g has a min-term π of width > k (i.e., π assigns 0/1 values to more than k variables). (Homework)
- Notation. If σ is a restriction that assigns 0/1 values to variables in $S_1 \subseteq [n]$ and π is a restriction that assigns 0/1 values to variables in $S_2 \subseteq [n] \setminus S_1$, then $\sigma \circ \pi$ is the "composed" restriction that assigns 0/1 values to $S_1 \cup S_2$ consistent with σ and π . $[\pi] :=$ width of π .

- f is a t-CNF on n variables. $U = \{0, I\}^{k(\log t + 2)}$.
- A_{ℓ} = set of restrictions that keeps ℓ variables alive.
- $B_{m,k} = \{ \sigma \in A_m : f_\sigma \text{ can't be represented as a k-DNF} \}.$
- Obs. If $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$ then f_{σ} has a min-term of width > k.

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- Obs. If $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$ then f_{σ} has a min-term of width > k.
- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$: (Overview)
- Step I: For $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$, let π be the lexicographically smallest min-term of f_{σ} of width > k. We'll carefully define a <u>sub-restriction π </u> of π of width k.

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- > Step 2: Using π ', we'll carefully define a <u>restriction ρ </u> that assigns 0/1 values to the same set of variables as π '.

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- > Step 2: Using π ', we'll carefully define a <u>restriction ρ </u> that assigns 0/1 values to the same set of variables as π '.
- > **Step 3:** Using π ', <u>define a u</u> ∈ U. Finally, $\chi(\sigma) := (\sigma \circ \rho, u)$.

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- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$:
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- Step I: For $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$, let π be the lexicographically smallest min-term of f_{σ} of width > k. Order the clauses of f, and order the $\leq t$ variables appearing within such a clause. C_1 be the first <u>surviving</u> clause in f_{σ} and $\pi(1)$ the assignment to its surviving variables made by π .

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- Step I: For $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$, let π be the lexicographically smallest min-term of f_{σ} of width > k. Order the clauses of f, and order the \leq t variables appearing within such a clause. C_1 be the first surviving clause in f_{σ} and $\pi(1)$ the assignment to its surviving variables made by π . C_2 be the first surviving clause in $f_{\sigma \circ \pi(1)}$ and $\pi(2)$ the assignment to its surviving variables made by π .

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- $B_{m,k} = \{\sigma \in A_m : f_\sigma \text{ can't be represented as a k-DNF}\}.$
- Obs. If $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$ then f_{σ} has a min-term of width > k.
- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$:
- > **Step I:** If $|\pi(1) \circ ... \circ \pi(r)| > k$, then "prune" $\pi(r)$ by restricting it to the set of "smallest" variables in C_r so that $|\pi(1) \circ ... \circ \pi$ (r)| = k. Define $\pi' := \pi(1) \circ ... \circ \pi(r); |\pi'| = k$.

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- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$:
- Step 2: For $i \in [r]$, let S_i be the set of variables in the clause C_i that are assigned 0/1 values by $\pi(i)$. $|S_i| = |\pi(i)|$. Let $\rho(i)$ be the <u>unique</u> assignment to the variables in S_i that makes the corresponding literals in C_i zero. Define $\rho := \rho(1) \circ ... \circ \rho(r)$.

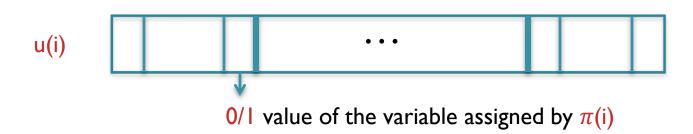
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- > Remark*. $\pi(i)$ and $\rho(i)$ are assignments to the same set of variables S_i. C_i remains unsatisfied under $\rho(i)$.

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- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$:
- Step 3: For $i \in [r]$, let u(i) be the string obtained by listing the indices (*within* the clause C_i) of the variables assigned by $\rho(i)$ along with the values assigned to them by $\pi(i)$.

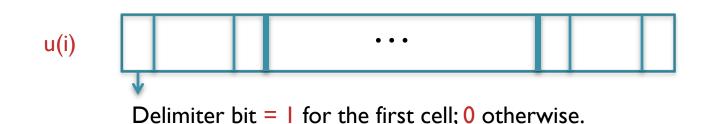


log t bit index of a variable in C_i that is assigned by $\rho(i)$

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- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$:
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- f is a t-CNF on n variables. $U = \{0, I\}^{k(\log t + 2)}$.
- A_{ℓ} = set of restrictions that keeps ℓ variables alive.
- $B_{m,k} = \{\sigma \in A_m : f_\sigma \text{ can't be represented as a k-DNF}\}.$
- Obs. If $\sigma \in B_{m,k}$ then f_{σ} has a min-term of width > k.
- A map χ from $B_{m,k}$ to $A_{m-k} \times U$:
- Step 3: For $i \in [r]$, let u(i) be the string obtained by listing the indices (*within* the clause C_i) of the variables assigned by $\rho(i)$ along with the values assigned to them by $\pi(i)$. Define u by concatenating u(1), ..., u(r) in order. Observe that $|u| = k(\log t + 2)$. Finally, $\chi(\sigma) := (\sigma \circ \rho, u)$. (Remark. The delimiter bits make it possible to extract u(i) from u.)

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- Proof. Fix an i ∈ [r]. By construction, C_i is the first surviving clause in f_{σ∘π(1)∘...∘π(i-1)}. C_i remains unsatisfied under ρ(i) (Remark*). Further, ρ(i+1),..., ρ(r) do not touch any variable of C_i. Hence, C_i is the first unsatisfied clause in f<sub>σ∘π(1)∘...∘π(i-1)∘ρ(i)∘...∘ρ(r).
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- Recovering σ from $(\sigma \circ \rho, u)$:
- > Pick the first unsatisfied clause in $f_{\sigma \circ \pi(1) \circ \rho(2) \circ \ldots \circ \rho(r)}$. This clause is C_2 (Obs*). Now by looking at u(2), we can derive $\pi(2)$. Construct $\sigma \circ \pi(1) \circ \pi(2) \circ \rho(3) \circ \ldots \circ \rho(r)$ from $\sigma \circ \pi(1) \circ \rho(2) \circ \ldots \circ \rho(r)$ and $\pi(2)$.

- We'll now show that it is possible to recover σ from $(\sigma \circ \rho, \mathbf{u})$ which will then imply χ is an injection.
- Obs*. For every $i \in [r]$, the first "unsatisfied" clause in $f_{\sigma \circ \pi(1) \circ \ldots \circ \pi(i-1) \circ \rho(i) \circ \ldots \circ \rho(r)}$ is C_i .
- Recovering σ from $(\sigma \circ \rho, u)$:
- > Continuing like this we can construct $\sigma \circ \pi(1) \circ ... \circ \pi$ (r) and also find $\pi(1), ..., \pi(r)$ in the process. From here, recovering σ is straightforward.

• Ref.

https://sites.math.rutgers.edu/~sk1233/courses/topics-S13/lec3.pdf