



Computational Complexity Theory

Lecture 18: Class BPP (contd.);

Sipser-Gacs-Lautemann theorem;

Classes RP and ZPP

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Recap: Probabilistic Turing Machines

- **Definition.** A *probabilistic Turing machine* (PTM) M has two transition functions δ_0 and δ_1 . At each step of computation on input $x \in \{0,1\}^*$, M applies one of δ_0 and δ_1 uniformly at random (independent of the previous steps). M outputs either 1 (accept) or 0 (reject). M runs in $T(n)$ time if M always halts within $T(|x|)$ steps *regardless of its random choices*.
- **Note.** PTMs and NTMs are syntactically similar – both have two transition functions.

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- **Note.** But, semantically, they are quite different – unlike NTMs, PTMs are meant to model realistic computation devices.

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- **Note.** The above definition allows a PTM M to not halt on some computation paths defined by its random choices (unless we explicitly say that M runs in $T(n)$ time). More on this later when we define **ZPP**.

Recap: Class BPP

- **Definition.** A PTM M decides a language L in time $T(n)$ if M runs in $T(n)$ time, and for every $x \in \{0,1\}^*$,

$$\Pr[M(x) = L(x)] \geq 2/3.$$

Success probability

- **Definition.** A language L is in $BPTIME(T(n))$ if there's PTM that decides L in $O(T(n))$ time.
- **Definition.** $BPP = \bigcup_{c > 0} BPTIME(n^c)$.
- Clearly, $P \subseteq BPP$.

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Bounded-error Probabilistic Polynomial-time

- Clearly, $P \subseteq \text{BPP}.$

Remark. The defn of class BPP is robust. The class remains unaltered if we replace $2/3$ by any constant **strictly greater** than (i.e., **bounded away** from) $1/2$. We'll discuss this next.

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Remark. Achieving success probability $1/2$ is trivial for any language. If we replace $\geq 2/3$ by $> 1/2$ then the corresponding class is called PP , which is (presumably) larger than BPP . More on PP later.

Error reduction for BPP

- **Lemma.** Let $c > 0$ be a constant. Suppose L is decided by a poly-time PTM M s.t. $\Pr[M(x) = L(x)] \geq 1/2 + |x|^{-c}$. Then, for every constant $d > 0$, L is decided by a poly-time PTM M' s.t. $\Pr[M'(x) = L(x)] \geq 1 - \exp(-|x|^d)$.

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- **Proof.** Let $|x| = n$. Think of M' that runs M on input x for $m = 4n^{2c+d}$ times independently. Let b_1, \dots, b_m be the outputs of these independent executions of M . M' outputs $\text{Majority}(b_1, \dots, b_m)$.

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- **Proof.** Let $|x| = n$ & $m = 4n^{2c+d}$. Let $y_i = 1$ if b_i is correct (i.e., $b_i = L(x)$), otherwise $y_i = 0$. Then M' outputs incorrectly only if $Y = y_1 + \dots + y_m \leq m/2$.

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- $E[y_i] = \Pr[y_i = 1] = \Pr[M(x) = L(x)] = p$ (say). It's given that $p \geq 1/2 + n^{-c}$. So, $\mu = E[Y] = mp \geq m/2 \cdot (1 + 2n^{-c})$.

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- By Chernoff bound, $\Pr[Y \leq (1-\delta)\mu] \leq \exp(-(\delta^2\mu)/2)$, for any $\delta \in [0, 1]$. We'll now fix the value of δ .

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- *Proof.* $m = 4n^{2c+d}$, $p \geq 1/2 + n^{-c}$, $\mu = mp \geq m/2 \cdot (1 + 2n^{-c})$.
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- Picking $\delta \leq 2/(n^c+2)$ is sufficient. Set $\delta = n^{-c}$.

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- **Proof.** $m = 4n^{2c+d}$, $p \geq 1/2 + n^{-c}$, $\mu = mp \geq m/2 \cdot (1 + 2n^{-c})$.
- $\Pr[Y \leq (1-\delta)\mu] \leq \exp(-(\delta^2\mu)/2)$, and $\delta = n^{-c}$.
- Therefore, $\Pr[M'(x) \neq L(x)] \leq \exp(-(\delta^2\mu)/2)$,

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- Therefore, $\Pr[M'(x) \neq L(x)] \leq \exp(-(\delta^2\mu)/2)$,
 $\leq \exp(-n^d)$.



Alternative definition of BPP

- **Definition.** A language L in **BPP** if there's a poly-time DTM $M(. , .)$ and a polynomial function $q(.)$ s.t. for every $x \in \{0,1\}^*$,

$$\Pr_{r \in_R \{0,1\}^{q(|x|)}} [M(x, r) = L(x)] \geq 2/3.$$

- $2/3$ can be replaced by $1 - \exp(-|x|^d)$ as before.

(Easy Homework)

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- How large is **BPP**? Is $NP \subseteq BPP$? i.e., is $SAT \in BPP$?
- Next we show that $BPP \subseteq P/poly$. So, if $NP \subseteq BPP$ then $PH = \Sigma_2$. (*Karp-Lipton*)

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- Most complexity theorist believe that $P = BPP$!
(More on this later.)

BPP is in P/poly

- **Theorem.** (Adleman 1978) $BPP \subseteq P/poly$.
- **Proof.** Let $L \in BPP$. Then, there's a poly-time DTM M and a polynomial function $q(\cdot)$ s.t. for every $x \in \{0,1\}^*$,
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- Summing over all $x \in \{0,1\}^n$, at most $2^n \cdot 2^{-(n+1)} = 1/2$ fraction of the r 's are “bad” for some n -bit string x .

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- There's an $r_0 \in \{0,1\}^{q(n)}$ that is “good” for all $x \in \{0,1\}^n$, i.e., $M(x, r_0) = L(x)$ for all $x \in \{0,1\}^n$.
- By hardwiring this r_0 , the computation of $M(\cdot, r_0)$ can be viewed as a $\text{poly}(n)$ -size circuit C . (Cook-Levin) 

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- There's a p and a PTM M with access to p -biased random bits s.t. M decides an undecidable language!

Why truly random bits?

- On the other hand, we can obtain truly random bits from biased random bits.
- **Claim.** (*von-Neumann 1951*) A truly random bit can be simulated by a PTM with access to p -biased random bits in expected $O(p^{-1}(1-p)^{-1})$ time. (*Homework*)

Sipser-Gacs-Lautemann theorem

BPP is in PH

- We saw that $P \subseteq BPP \subseteq EXP$. But, is $BPP \subseteq NP$? **Not known!** (Yes, people still believe $BPP = P$.)
- Sipser showed $BPP \subseteq PH$, Gacs strengthened it to $BPP \subseteq \Sigma_2 \cap \Pi_2$, Lautemann gave a simpler proof.
- **Theorem.** (*Sipser-Gacs-Lautemann '83*) $BPP \subseteq \Sigma_2 \cap \Pi_2$.

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- **Theorem.** (Sipser-Gacs-Lautemann '83) $BPP \subseteq \Sigma_2 \cap \Pi_2$.
- **Proof.** Observe that $BPP = co-BPP$ (homework). So, it is sufficient to show $BPP \subseteq \Sigma_2$.

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$$x \in L \quad \Rightarrow \quad |A_x| \geq (1 - 2^{-n}) \cdot 2^m \quad (A_x \text{ is large})$$

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- **Idea.** If A_x is large then there exists a “small” collection $u_1, \dots, u_k \in \{0,1\}^m$ s.t. $\bigcup_{i \in [k]} (A_x \oplus u_i) = \{0,1\}^m$.
- 
bit-wise Xor

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- Set $k = m/n + 1$.
- **Obs.** If $|A_x| \leq 2^{-n} \cdot 2^m$ then for every collection $u_1, \dots, u_k \in \{0, 1\}^m$, $\bigcup_{i \in [k]} (A_x \oplus u_i) \subsetneq \{0, 1\}^m$.

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- **Obs.** If $|A_x| \leq 2^{-n} \cdot 2^m$ then for every collection $u_1, \dots, u_k \in \{0, 1\}^m$, $\bigcup_{i \in [k]} (A_x \oplus u_i) \subsetneq \{0, 1\}^m$.
- **Proof.** As $|A_x| \leq 2^{-n} \cdot 2^m$, $|\bigcup_{i \in [k]} (A_x \oplus u_i)| \leq k \cdot 2^{m-n} < 2^m$ for sufficiently large n .

BPP is in PH

- **Theorem.** (Sipser-Gacs-Lautemann '83) $\text{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma_2$.
- **Proof.** $r \in A_x$ iff $M(x, r) = 1$. Then
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- Let us complete the proof of the theorem assuming the claim – we'll prove it shortly.

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- Set $k = m/n + 1$.
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- The observation and the claim imply the following:
 - $x \in L \implies \exists u_1, \dots, u_k \in \{0, 1\}^m \quad \bigcup_{i \in [k]} (A_x \oplus u_i) = \{0, 1\}^m$
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- Think of a DTM N that takes input x, u_1, \dots, u_m, r , and outputs 1 iff $M(x, r \oplus u_i) = 1$ for some $i \in [k]$. Observe that N is a poly-time DTM.

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$$x \in L \iff \exists u_1, \dots, u_k \in \{0, 1\}^m \quad \forall r \in \{0, 1\}^m \quad N(x, \underline{u}, r) = 1.$$



$$\underline{u} = \{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$$

- Therefore, $L \in \Sigma_2$.

Proof of the Claim

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- **Proof.** The proof of this uses the probabilistic method.

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- **Proof.** We'll show if u_1, \dots, u_k are picked independently and uniformly at random then

$$\Pr_{\underline{u}} [\forall r \in \{0, 1\}^m \quad r \in \bigcup_{i \in [k]} (A_x \oplus u_i)] > 0 .$$

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- Fix an $r \in \{0, 1\}^m$ (we'll apply a union bound later). Fix an $i \in [k]$. Then, $\Pr_{\underline{u}} [r \oplus u_i \notin A_x] \leq 2^{-n}$.

 Distributed uniformly inside $\{0, 1\}^m$ as r is fixed and u_i is picked uniformly at random from $\{0, 1\}^m$.

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- Applying union bound,

$$\Pr_{\underline{u}} [\exists r \in \{0, 1\}^m \quad r \oplus u_i \notin A_x \text{ for every } i \in [k]] < 2^m 2^{-m}$$

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Complete derandomization of BPP ?

- Can the Sipser-Gacs-Lautemann theorem be strengthened? How low in the PH does BPP lie ?
- **Theorem.** (*Nisan & Wigderson 1988,..., Umans 2003*)
If there's a $L \in \text{DTIME}(2^{O(n)})$ and a constant $\varepsilon > 0$ such that any circuit C_n that decides $L \cap \{0,1\}^n$ requires size $2^{\varepsilon n}$, then $\text{BPP} = \text{P}$.
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- Lower bounds  Derandomization !
- **Caution:** Shouldn't interpret this result as “randomness is useless”.

Classes RP, co-RP and ZPP

Class RP

- Class **RP** is the one-sided error version of **BPP**.
- **Definition.** A language **L** is in **RTIME(T(n))** if there's a PTM **M** that decides **L** in **O(T(n))** time such that
$$\begin{aligned}x \in L &\quad \Rightarrow \quad \Pr[M(x) = 1] \geq 2/3 \\x \notin L &\quad \Rightarrow \quad \Pr[M(x) = 0] = 1.\end{aligned}$$
- **Definition.** $\text{RP} = \bigcup_{c > 0} \text{RTIME}(n^c)$.
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↓
Randomized **P**oly-time.

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Remark. The defn of class **RP** is robust. The class remains unaltered if we replace $2/3$ by $|x|^{-c}$ for any constant $c > 0$. The succ. prob. can then be amplified to $1 - \exp(-|x|^d)$.

(Easy Homework)

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- **Definition.** $\text{RP} = \bigcup_{c > 0} \text{RTIME}(n^c)$.
- Clearly, $\text{RP} \subseteq \text{BPP}$. **Obs.** $\text{RP} \subseteq \text{NP}$. (*Easy Homework*)

Recall, we don't know whether $\text{BPP} \subseteq \text{NP}$.

Class co-RP

- Definition. $\text{co-RP} = \{L : \bar{L} \in \text{RP}\}$.
- Obs. A language L is in co-RP if there's a PTM M that decides L in poly-time such that
$$\begin{aligned}x \in L &\quad \Rightarrow \quad \Pr[M(x) = 1] = 1 \\x \notin L &\quad \Rightarrow \quad \Pr[M(x) = 0] \geq 2/3.\end{aligned}$$
- Obs. $\text{co-RP} \subseteq \text{BPP}$.


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- **Obs.** $\text{co-RP} \subseteq \text{BPP}.$
- Is $\text{RP} \cap \text{co-RP}$ in P ? **Not known!**

Class ZPP

- Recall that PTMs are allowed to not halt on some computation paths defined by its random choices.
- We say that a PTM M has *expected running time* $T(n)$ if the expected running time of M on input x is at most $T(n)$ for all $x \in \{0,1\}^n$.

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- **Definition.** A language L is in $ZTIME(T(n))$ if there's a PTM M s.t. on every input x , $M(x) = L(x)$ whenever M halts, and M has expected running time $O(T(n))$.
- **Definition.** $ZPP = \bigcup_{c > 0} ZTIME(n^c)$.

Zero-error Probabilistic Poly-time.

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- **Definition.** $ZPP = \bigcup_{c > 0} ZTIME(n^c)$.
- Problems in ZPP are said to have poly-time Las Vegas algorithms, whereas those in BPP are said to have poly-time Monte-Carlo algorithms.
- **Theorem.** $ZPP = RP \cap co-RP \subseteq BPP$. (Assignment)
- **Note.** If $P = BPP$ then $P = ZPP = BPP$.