Recognizing read-once functions from depth-3 formulas

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NO: check all formulas.

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A monotone Boolean formula is called *read-k*, if every variable appears in it at most k times

Special case: read-once (read-1) formulas.

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ROR is the problem of deciding whether a given monotone Boolean formula computes read-once function.

Special cases of ROR:

depth-2 ROR (the input is a monotone DNF or CNF);

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$\mathsf{ROR} \in \Sigma_2^P$ (observation).

 $ROR \in coNP$ (follows from [Gur77]).

More detailed complexity of ROR:

- ▶ depth-2 ROR \in P, O(nl)-time algorithm [GMR08].
- depth-4 read-2 ROR is coNP-complete [EMR11]
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Structure of hard depth-3 read-2 formulas



Here D'_1, \ldots, D'_k are read-once disjoint DNF's over $x_1, y_1, \ldots, x_n, y_n$.

Corollary

ROR is coNP-complete even for inputs of the form $A \wedge D$, where A is a monotone read-once $\bigwedge - \bigvee - \bigwedge$ formula and $D = \bigvee_{i=1}^{n} x_i \wedge y_i$.

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Gurvich's hardness result in more detail.



Theorem (Gur10)

ROR is coNP-complete for inputs of the form $C \lor D$, where C is a monotone read-2 CNF and $D = \bigvee_{i=1}^{n} x_i \land y_i$.

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Tractable subclass of depth-3 formulas



Theorem (this work)

ROR is solvable in polynomial time for inputs of the form $C \lor D$, where C is a monotone read-1 CNF, D is a monotone read-1 DNF and every variable of C occurs also in D.

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Reduction

Reduction from CO-CLIQUE= {(G, k) : there is no clique of size k in G}.

$(G = (V, E), k) \iff$ (Alice \land Bob) vs Merlin game \iff depth-3 read-2 Φ .

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- 4. Bob comes in and tries to guess a cell which was touched first.

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Bob outputs a cell with a corresponding vertex of a clique in it.

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Constructing a formula:

Variables correspond to possible outcomes of Alice-Merlin interaction:

$$i,u_{i,v}$$
 over all $i \neq j$, $\{u,v\} \notin E$.

Assignments of variables encode Bob's possible strategies.

 $x_{j,v}^{i,u} = 1 \iff$ Bob picks i^{th} cell when he sees $\{(i, u), (j, v)\}$.

Bob's strategy is correct iff

$$B = \bigvee (x_{j,v}^{i,u} \wedge x_{i,u}^{j,v}) = 0.$$

Alice can always reach a variable set to 1 iff

$$A = \bigwedge_{i} \bigvee_{u} \bigwedge_{(j,v)} x_{j,v}^{i,u} = 1$$

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Final remarks

$\begin{array}{l} G \text{ has } k\text{-clique} \iff \text{Alice and Bob have a winning strategy} \\ \iff A \rightarrow B \text{ is not a tautology} \\ \iff A \wedge (w_1w_3 \lor w_2w_4) \wedge (B \lor w_1w_2 \lor w_3w_4) \notin \text{ROR} \end{array}$

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Thank you! Any questions?

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