

SOLUTIONS

1. (a) **False**, hierarchy theorem. (b) **True**, Savitch's theorem.
 (c) **True**, PSPACE is closed under complement.
 (d) **Open**, stated in lecture. (e) **True**, follows from definition.
 (f) **Open**, implies $\text{NP} = \text{coNP}$ (considering language $0\text{SAT} \cup 1\overline{\text{SAT}}$);
 negation implies $\text{PSPACE} \neq \text{NP}$.
 (g) **Open**, equivalent to $\text{NP} = \text{coNP}$. (h) **Open**, stated in lecture.
 (i) **False**, implies $\text{PSPACE} = \text{EXPSPACE}$. (j) **True**, recompute bits of first reduction.
 (k) **Open**, equivalent to $\text{NP} = \text{coNP}$. (l) **True**, SAT is decidable.
 (m) **False**, implies $\text{PSPACE} = \text{NL}$. (n) **Open**, equivalent to $\text{P} = \text{NP}$.
 (o) **True**, $\text{PATH} \in \text{P}$. (p) **True**, $\text{NL} = \text{coNL}$.

2. First, show that C is in EXPTIME. Here's the algorithm:

“On input $\langle M, w, i, j, \alpha \rangle$:

1. Run M on w for j steps. If it halts in fewer steps, *reject*.
2. *Accept* if the i th symbol of the configuration of the j th step is α . Otherwise, *reject*.”

To analyze the running time of this algorithm, observe that to simulate one step of M we only need to update M 's configuration and the counter which records how long M has been running. Both can be done within $O(j)$ steps (actually much less is possible, but unnecessary here). We run M for at most j steps, so the total running time of this algorithm is $O(j^2)$, and that is exponential in the size of the input, because j represented in binary, so $|j| = \log_2 j$ and thus $j^2 = (2^{|j|})^2 = 2^{2|j|} \leq 2^{2^n}$, where n is the length of the entire input.

Second, we show that C is EXPTIME-hard, that is, that every language in EXPTIME is polynomial time reducible to C . Let $A \in \text{EXPTIME}$ where M decides A in time 2^{n^k} . Modify M so that when it accepts it first moves its head to the left-hand end of the tape and then enters the accept state q_{accept} . Then the reduction of A to C is the polynomial time computable function f , where $f(w) = \langle M, w, 1, j, q_{\text{accept}} \rangle$ and $j = 2^{n^k}$.

3. First, $\text{SOLITAIRE} \in \text{NP}$ because we can check in polynomial time that a solution works.

Second, show that $3\text{SAT} \leq_{\text{P}} \text{SOLITAIRE}$.

Given ϕ with k variables x_1, \dots, x_k and l clauses c_1, \dots, c_l , first remove any clauses that contain both x_i and $\overline{x_i}$. These clauses are useless anyway and would mess up the coming construction. Construct the following $l \times k$ game G .

If x_i is in clause c_j put a blue stone in row c_j , column x_i .

If $\overline{x_i}$ is in clause c_j put a red stone in row c_j , column x_i .

(We can make it a square $m \times m$ by repeating a row or adding a blank column as necessary without affecting solvability).

Claim: ϕ is satisfiable iff G has a solution.

(\rightarrow): Take a satisfying assignment. If x_i is true (false), remove the red (blue) stones from the corresponding column. So, stones corresponding to true literals remain. Since every clause has a true literal, every row has a stone.

(\leftarrow): Take a game solution. If the red (blue) stones were removed from a column, set the corresponding variable true (false). Every row has a stone remaining, so every clause has a true literal. Therefore ϕ is satisfied.

4. Show that $A_{TM} \leq_m INP$.

Assume (to get a contradiction) that TM R decides INP . Construct the following TM S deciding A_{TM} .

“On input $\langle M, w \rangle$:

1. Construct the following TM M_1 :

“On input x :

1. If $x \in EQ_{REX\uparrow}$, *accept*.
2. Run M on w .
3. If M accepts w , *accept*.”

4. Run R on M_1 .

5. If R accepts, *accept*; otherwise, *reject*.”

Observe that if M accepts w , then $L(M_1) = \Sigma^*$, and if M doesn't accept w , then $L(M_1) = EQ_{REX\uparrow}$. So, $L(M_1) \in P$ exactly when M accepts w .

5. (a) Obviously $ODD-PARITY \in L$ and we know $L \subseteq NL$. We proved that $PATH$ is NP-complete and so every language in NL is log-space reducible to $PATH$.

Note: Giving a direct reduction from $ODD-PARITY$ to $PATH$ is possible too.

(b) If $PATH \leq_L ODD-PARITY$ then $PATH \in L$ and thus $NL = L$, solving a big open problem.

6. We can assume without loss of generality that our BPP machine makes exactly n^r coin tosses on each branch. Thus the problem of determining the probability of accepting a string reduces to counting how many branches are accepting and comparing this number with $\frac{2}{3}2^{(n^r)}$.

So given w , we generate all binary strings x of length n^r (we can do this in PSPACE) and simulate M on w using x as the source of randomness. If M accepts, then we increment a count. At the end, we see how many branches have accepted. If that number is more than $\frac{2}{3}2^{(n^r)}$ we accept else we reject. This works because of the definition of what it means for a BPP machine to accept. If $w \in L$ then more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of M 's branches must accept. If $w \notin L$ then at most $\frac{1}{3}$ of its branches can accept.

7. (a) No, the prover for $\#SAT$ is not a weak Prover, as far as we know. Calculating the coefficients of the polynomials seems to require more than polynomial time.

(b) The class weak-IP = BPP. Clearly, $BPP \subseteq \text{weak-IP}$ because the Verifier can simply ignore the Prover. Conversely, $\text{weak-IP} \subseteq BPP$ because we can make a BPP machine which simulates both the Verifier and the weak Prover P . If $w \in A$ then P causes the Verifier to accept with high probability and so will the BPP machine. If $w \notin A$ then P causes the Verifier to accept with low probability and so will the BPP machine.