# Formal Language Techniques for Space Lower Bounds

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#### Contained in Sánchez Villaamil's Phd Thesis 2017

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# Treewidth



#### Use treewidth structure to traverse the graph

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The runtime of dynamic programming algorithms depends on the table sizes!

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#### Common properties of DP-algorithms we formalize

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1. They do a single pass over the decomposition;

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- 1. They do a single pass over the decomposition;
- 2. they use  $O(f(w) \log^{O(1)} n)$  space; and
- 3. they do not modify or rearrange the decomposition.



#### Definition (DPTM)

A Dynamic Programming Turing Machine (DPTM) is a Turing Machine with an input read-only tape, whose head moves only in one direction and a separate working tape. It only accepts well-formed instances as inputs.

# **Boundaried Graphs**



#### Definition

An s-boundaried graph G is a graph with s distinguished vertices, called the boundary.

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# **Boundaried Graphs**



#### Definition

 ${\it G}_1\oplus {\it G}_2$  is the disjoint union of two s-boundaried graphs merged at the boundary.

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# **Boundaried Graphs**



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Definition  $\mathcal{G}_s$  is the set of all *s*-boundaried graphs.

# Formal Languages

# Interpret Problem as a language $\Pi$ , i.e. $G \in \Pi$ if and only if G is a yes-instance.

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### Definition (Myhill-Nerode family)

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$$G_{\mathcal{I}} \oplus H \notin \Pi \Leftrightarrow H \in \mathcal{I}$$

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1. For every subset  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{H}$  there exists an s-boundaried graph  $G_{\mathcal{I}}$  with bounded size, such that for every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  it holds that

$${\cal G}_{{\cal I}} \oplus {\cal H} \not\in \Pi \Leftrightarrow {\cal H} \in {\cal I}$$

2. For every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  it holds that H has bounded size.

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1. For every subset  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{H}$  there exists an s-boundaried graph  $G_{\mathcal{I}}$  with  $|G_{\mathcal{I}}| = |\mathcal{H}| \log^{O(1)} \mathcal{H}$ , such that for every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  it holds that

$$G_{\mathcal{I}} \oplus H \notin \Pi \Leftrightarrow H \in \mathcal{I}$$

2. For every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  it holds that  $|H| = |\mathcal{H}| \log^{O(1)} \mathcal{H}$ .



#### $G_{\mathcal{I}} \oplus H_1 \in \Pi$

 $G_{\mathcal{I}} \oplus H_2 \not\in \Pi$ 

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### Lemma ([Sánchez Villaamil '17])

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\Pi$  be a DP decision problem such that for every s there exists an s-Myhill-Nerode family  $\mathcal{H}$  for  $\Pi$  of size  $c^{s}$  and width

**tw** $(\mathcal{H}) = s$ . Then no DPTM can decide  $\Pi$  using space  $O((c - \epsilon)^k \log n)$ , where n is the size of the input and k the treewidth of the input.

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Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\Pi$  be a DP decision problem such that for every s there exists an s-Myhill-Nerode family  $\mathcal{H}$  for  $\Pi$  of size  $c^s/f(s)$ , where  $f(s) = s^{O(1)} \cap \Theta(1)$  and width  $\mathbf{tw}(\mathcal{H}) = s + o(s)$ . Then no DPTM can decide  $\Pi$  using space  $O((c - \epsilon)^k \log^{O(1)} n)$ , where n is the size of the input and k the treewidth of the input.

# 3-Coloring

- Input: A Graph G
- ▶ k: The treewidth of G
- Question: Can G be colored with 3 colors?

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# The Graph $\Gamma_X$



Enforcing Colorings with  $H_X$ 



### **No-Instances**



### **No-Instances**



This is **not** 3-colorable.

### **Yes-Instances**



This is 3-colorable.

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### **Yes-Instances**



This is 3-colorable.

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#### ► $\Gamma_X \oplus H_X \notin \Pi$

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#### • $\Gamma_X \oplus H_{X'} \in \Pi$ , for $(X \neq X')$

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$$\bullet \ G_{\mathcal{I}} = \oplus_{H_X \in \mathcal{I}} \Gamma_X$$

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#### $\blacktriangleright \ G_{\mathcal{I}} \oplus H_X \in \Pi \Leftrightarrow H_X \notin \Pi$

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We can generate a Myhill-Nerode family of index  $3^{w}/6$ .

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We cannot use  $O((3 - \epsilon)^w \cdot \log n)$  space for a dynamic programming algorithm.

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### Theorem ([Sánchez Villaamil '17])

No DPTM solves 3-COLORING on a treewidth-decomposition of width w with space bounded by  $O((3 - \epsilon)^w \cdot \log^{O(1)} n)$ .

### Further results

### Theorem ([Sánchez Villaamil '17])

No DPTM solves VERTEX COVER on a treewidth-decomposition of width w with space bounded by  $O((2 - \epsilon)^w \cdot \log^{O(1)} n)$ .

### Theorem ([Sánchez Villaamil '17]) No DPTM solves DOMINATING SET on a treewidth-decomposition of width w with space bounded by $O((3 - \epsilon)^w \cdot \log^{O(1)} n).$

# Not Captured

- Compression.
- Algebraic techniques.
- Preprocessing to compute optimal traversal.

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Branching instead of DP

#### The end