

# Chapter 3: Diagonalization

## Some facts about TMs

- Every string  $x$  represents a TM  $M_x$ , and every TM  $M$  can be represented by an infinite number of strings.
- Universal TM  $U$  simulates any TM  $M_x$  that runs in time  $f(n)$  in time  $O(f(n) \log f(n))$ .
- Function  $f$  is **time-constructible** iff  $f(n)$  can be computed in  $O(f(n))$  time.

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## Theorem 1

$$DTIME(n) \subset DTIME(n^{1.5})$$

**Proof:** By contradiction.

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### Algorithm $D(x)$

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```
Run  $U(M_x, x)$  for  $|x|^{1.4}$  steps  
if  $U(M_x, x)$  hasn't finished then  
    return 0  
else  
    return  $\neg U(M_x, x)$ 
```

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Language  $D \in DTIME(n^{1.5})$ . Assume language  $D \in DTIME(n)$ , i.e., TM  $M$  decides  $D$  in  $O(n)$  time.

- $U(M, x)$  runs in  $O(|x| \log |x|) \leq c \cdot |x| \log |x|$  time for  $c > 0$
- $\exists n_0 > 0 \forall n > n_0 : n^{1.4} > cn \log n$

Let  $\perp M \perp \geq n_0 \Rightarrow U(M, \perp M \perp) = \neg M(\perp M \perp)$  **contradiction!**

□

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## Theorem 2

$$DTIME(n) \subset DTIME(\Theta(n \log n))$$

**Proof:** By contradiction.

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### Algorithm $D(x)$

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```
Run  $U(M_x, x)$  for  $\Theta(|x| \log |x|)$  steps
if  $U(M_x, x)$  hasn't finished then
    return 0
else
    return  $\neg U(M_x, x)$ 
```

---

Language  $D \in DTIME(\Theta(n \log n))$ .

- Assume language  $D \in DTIME(n)$ , i.e., TM  $M$  decides  $D$  in  $O(n)$  time.
- $U(M, x)$  runs in  $O(|x| \log |x|)$  time
- $M(\lfloor M \rfloor) = U(M, \lfloor M \rfloor) = D(\lfloor M \rfloor) = \neg M(\lfloor M \rfloor)$  **contradiction!**



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## Theorem 3

If  $f, g$  are *time-constructible* and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n) \log f(n)}{g(n)} = 0$ , then

$$DTIME(f(n)) \subset DTIME(g(n))$$

**Proof:** Same as before □

## Theorem 4

If  $f, g$  are *time-constructible* and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n+1)}{g(n)} = 0$ , then

$$NTIME(f(n)) \subset NTIME(g(n))$$

**Proof:** Tricky because cannot just “flip” the output of a universal NDTM. Read proof □

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## Theorem 5 (Ladner's theorem)

*If  $P \neq NP$ , then there is  $L \in NP \setminus P$  and  $L$  is not  $NP$ -complete.*

**Proof:** On the board!



# Chapter 3: Diagonalization

All **diagonalization** techniques must rely on the following two properties of TMs:

- 1 TMs are represented by strings
- 2 There is a universal TM that simulate any other without much running time/space overhead

## Definition 6 (Oracle TM)

Oracle TM (or NDTM) for language  $O$  has an **oracle tape** where input  $q \in \{0, 1\}^*$  is written, and then the TM decides  $q \in O$  in **a single step**.

## Definition 7

For any language  $O$ :

- $P^O$  = set of languages decided by polynomial TM with oracle access to  $O$
- $NP^O$  = set of languages decided by polynomial NDTM with oracle access to  $O$

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- $\overline{SAT} \in P^{SAT}$
- If  $O \in P$ , then  $P^O = P$
- $EXPCON = \{\langle M, x, 1^n \rangle : M(x) = 1 \text{ in } 2^n \text{ steps}\}$

$P^{EXPCON} = EXP$ : If  $L \in EXP$

$\Rightarrow$  there is TM  $M$  that decides  $x \in L$  in  $2^{n^c}$  time

$\Rightarrow$  ask  $EXPCON$  oracle question  $\langle M, x, 1^{n^c} \rangle$

$\Rightarrow L \in P^{EXPCON}$

$\Rightarrow EXP \subseteq P^{EXPCON}$ .

$NP^{EXPCON} = EXP$ : If  $L \in NP^{EXPCON}$

$\Rightarrow$  there is NDTM  $M^{EXPCON}$  that decides  $x \in L$  in poly-time

$\Rightarrow$  can simulate both  $M$  and  $EXPCON$  in  $EXP$

$\Rightarrow NP^{EXPCON} \subseteq EXP$

$\Rightarrow P^{EXPCON} = NP^{EXPCON} = EXP$

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## Theorem 8

*There exist oracles  $A, B$ , such that  $P^A = NP^A$  and  $P^B \neq NP^B$ .*

...i.e., result  $P \stackrel{?}{=} NP$  cannot be extended to oracles (cannot be a **relativizing** result)

**Proof:** On the board!

