

0-player games (simulations)

- polynomial # moves \rightarrow P
- polynomial space \rightarrow PSPACE
- infinite space \rightarrow undecidable

Conway's Game of Life: [Conway 1970]

- cellular automata
- live cell lives \Leftrightarrow exactly 2 or 3 live neighbors
- dead cell becomes live \Leftrightarrow exactly 3 live neighbors
- PSPACE-complete in finite board
 - Turing machine simulation [Paul Rendell 2000]
(pushdown automaton with 2 stacks)
 - undecidable in infinite board (dead outside input)
 - growing Turing machine [Paul Rendell 2000]
 - 2-counter machine = Minsky machine \leftarrow exponential slowdown!
[Conway, Berlekamp, Guy - Winning Ways 1982]
 - wire, terminator, turn, delay
 - shift: many offsets cause glider destruction
 - AND & OR gates
 - kickback \rightarrow thinning \rightarrow crossover
 - split & NOT (complicated)
 - counter registers, test, create, push/pull \leftarrow
 - precise glider positioning away from guns
 - self-destruction via boomerangs

Deterministic Constraint Logic: (DCL)

- edges can also be active or inactive
↳ just flipped
- vertex active if its active incoming edges' weight ≥ 2
- in each round:
 - reverse inactive edges pointing to active vertices & reverse active edges pointing to inactive vertices
 - these are the new active edges
- PSPACE-complete even for planar AND/OR graphs
 - guarantee gadget inputs reverse at $t \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$
 - quantifier gadgets use new "switch" & degree-2 vertices to control timing
 - CNF formula uses AND', OR', split' gadgets which take inputs & return acknowledgments
(fixes timing & "blow-back")
 - trick to guarantee first input of AND' activates before second (if they both do)
 - remove degree-2 vertices
 - edge \rightarrow 4-path & remove red-red vertices
 - remove blue-blue vertices
 - remove red-blue vertices (timing is OK)
 - crossover gadget

Multiplayer games:

- typical question: given a game position, can next-player-to-move force a win?
- in worst case, other players collude against you, effectively acting as one player

2-player games:

- call players "white" & "black" (as in Chess, Go, ...)
- polynomial # moves $\rightarrow \in PSPACE$:
 $\exists \text{ move} : \forall \text{ responses} : \exists \text{ move} : \forall \text{ responses} : \dots$
(rules & I win, in 3CNF) $\rightarrow Q3SAT$

SAT games: [Schaefer - JCSS 1978]

- QSAT is a 2-player game: $G_w(\text{CNF})$
 - player 1 chooses x_1 , player 2 chooses x_2, \dots
 - player 1 wins \Leftrightarrow formula satisfied
- impartial games: (both players have same moves)
 - on turn, player sets any unassigned variable
- partizan games: (different moves for players)
 - white variables & black variables (50/50%)
 - on turn, player sets unassigned var. of same color
- default game: player 1 wins \Leftrightarrow formula satisfied
- seek game: win if first to satisfy formula
 - treat unassigned
- avoid game: lose if first to satisfy formula
 - as \emptyset

- PSPACE-complete: $\rightarrow 11\text{-CNF}$
 - impartial game positive 11-SAT
 - impartial game positive 11-DNF SAT
 - partizan game CNF SAT
 - impartial/partizan avoid positive 2-DNF SAT
 - impartial/partizan seek positive 3-DNF SAT
 - impartial/partizan avoid positive CNF SAT
 - impartial/partizan seek positive CNF SAT

Kayles: (\approx indep. set) [Schaefer - JCSS 1978]

- (impartial) node Kayles:
 - on turn, player adds node to independent set
 - lose if can't move
- (partizan) bipartite node Kayles:
 - white vs. black nodes is the bipartition

Geography: (generalization of word game) (\approx longest path)

- given (directed) graph & start node for token
- on turn, player moves token along (directed) edge
- node geography: can't revisit nodes
 - directed PSPACE-complete [Lichtenstein & Sipser 1980]
 - undirected $\in P$ [Fraenkel, Scheinerman, Ullman 1993]
- edge geography: can't revisit edges
 - directed PSPACE-complete [Schaefer - JCSS 1978]
 - undirected PSPACE-complete
 - bipartite $\in P$ [Fraenkel, Scheinerman, Ullman - TCS 1993]

Reversi/Othello:

[< 1883]

- move =  \Rightarrow 
- reverse in between 1 & 8 directions

- PSPACE-complete [Iwata & Kasai - TCS 1994]

- polynomial # moves: move consumes board

- reduction from directed node geography
in bipartite max-degree-3 graph

- rightward chains are threats by black:
black takes α , then α' , then corner.
then all of bottom territory \Rightarrow win

- white wins if black can't move

- degree-2 vertices: 

- degree-3 vertices:  & 

if double visit
then white or black wins

↳ black or
white chooses

ASIDE:

Bounded NCL: NP-complete

- each edge can be reversed only once
- NP-complete for planar constraint graphs with AND, SPLIT, OR, CHOICE vertices
 - differ in initial edge orientations

→ can't expand without making new type of AND
- planar via crossover
- similar to proof of Constraint Graph Satisfaction

Bounded 2-player Constraint Logic (2CL)

- each edge is either white or black
- each edge can be reversed only once
- goal:
 - each player has target edge
 - player unable to move loses
- PSPACE-complete for planar constraint graphs with white AND, SPLIT, OR, CHOICE & VARIABLE vertex → 
- reduction from impartial game positive CNF SAT
- players take turns setting variables
- positive \Rightarrow white wants true, black wants false
- black can't win (edge irreversible)
- white wins \Leftrightarrow formula satisfied
- crossover gadget (only use of CHOICE)
- Can make OR protected using free edge no constraint at degree-1 end ↴

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