Notes about TFNP

Xinhao Nie

Aarhus University

April 27, 2025

1 Complexity class in TFNP

1.1 TFNP

1.1.1 Function problem

Definition 1.1. A functional problem P is defined by a relation R over strings of an arbitrary alphabet Σ : $R \subseteq \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^*$.

An algorithm solves P if for every input x such that there exists a y satisfying $(x, y) \in R$, the algorithm produces one such y, and if there are no such y, it rejects. The output for function problems is more complex than that of a decision problem, which means it's not simply 'yes' or 'no'.

- 1. FP: the set of binary relations for which there is a polynomial time algorithm that, given x, finds some y for which R(x,y) holds.
- 2. FNP: the set of binary relations for which there is a polynomial time algorithm that can determine whether R(x,y) holds given both x and y.
- 3. TFNP: a subset of FNP for which are total relation.

1.1.2 Black-Box model