

1 Definitions

1.1 Notation

We will use $\delta(v)$ to refer to the set of edges adjacent to v . We identify half-edges in a graph $G = (V, E)$ with a pair (e, v) where $e \in \delta(v)$, referring to the half of e adjacent to v .

We use $\{\{\star\}\}$ to refer to multisets, and the following notation for multisubsets of a set A :

- $A^{\{\{k\}\}}$ refers to the set of all multisubsets of A of size $k \in \mathbb{N}$,
- $A^{\{\{\mathbb{N}\}\}}$ refers to the set of all finite multisubsets of A ,
- $A^{\{\{\star\}\}}$ refers to the set of all multisubsets of A .

1.2 Common and uncommon assumptions

T-hop neighbourhoods: we define a *T-hop centered neighbourhood* as a *centered graph of radius T* using the definitions from page 4 of [NS93]. Note that, in the case of subgraphs, the T -hop neighbourhood of v may be different from the subgraph induced by all nodes that have distance at most T from v .

Local model: we work in the *deterministic LOCAL* model with input labels. No assumptions are made about the number of input or output labels. We assume the nodes are aware of the exact number n of nodes in the input graph, but not of any information about the maximum degree Δ . Because of this information, we equivalently describe a LOCAL algorithm as a $T(n)$ -round communication algorithm with unbounded message size, or as a *possibly uncomputable* function from $T(n)$ -hop centered neighbourhoods to output labels. Additionally, we assume there is a finite integer c such that every node is assigned a unique ID in the set $\{1, \dots, n^c\}$, but the nodes are not aware of the value of c .

Solvability: we say that a problem is *weakly unsolvable* if there are finitely many unsolvable instances for it. We will treat weakly unsolvable problems as solvable problems by adding one output label U and requiring the problem to output U on all nodes if the instance is unsolvable; this requires only constant time, so it does not affect asymptotic complexity. We call the maximum diameter of an unsolvable instance the *solvability horizon* of the weakly unsolvable problem. We say that a problem is *strongly unsolvable* if there are infinitely many unsolvable instances for it.

LCL problems: we define LCL problems as tuples $\Pi = (\Sigma_{\text{in}}, \Sigma_{\text{out}}, r, \mathcal{C})$ where:

- Σ_{in} is a set of input labels,
- Σ_{out} is a set of output labels,
- r is a finite integer, called the *radius* of Π , and
- \mathcal{C} is a *finite* set of r -hop centered neighbourhoods, where each node is labelled by a pair in $\Sigma_{\text{in}} \times \Sigma_{\text{out}}$.

Though we haven't explicitly stated this in the definition, WLOG we can and will also assume that Σ_{in} is finite (else the problem would be strongly unsolvable) and that Σ_{out} is finite (any labels that don't appear in \mathcal{C} will not appear in any valid solution and can be ignored).

1.3 New-ish definitions

Hanging trees: *connected* tree graphs containing a finite number of incomplete half-edges, called *hooks*. Specifically, we will call hanging trees with one hook *ornaments* and hanging trees with two hooks *tinsels*.

Class: given an ornament T and a node-edge checkable problem Π , we define the *class* of T to be the set $\mathfrak{Cl}(T) \subseteq \Sigma_{\text{out}}$ containing exactly the labellings of the hook that can be completed to a valid labelling for T according to Π . Up to the changed role of nodes and edges, this is the *class* definition from Section 3 of [CP17].

1.4 Actually new definitions

Finitely Represented Configuration: given an alphabet of symbols Σ , we call a *finitely represented configuration* of Σ a pair of a *finite* multisubset of Σ (the *requirement*) and a *finite* subset of Σ (the *filler*). We denote the set of finitely represented configurations in Σ as

$$\Sigma^{FSL} := \Sigma^{\{\{\mathbb{N}\}\}} \times [\Sigma]^{<\omega}$$

Extended Finite State Labelling problems: we define Extended FSL problems as tuples $\Pi = (\Sigma_{\text{in}}, \Sigma_{\text{out}}, f, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{E})$ where:

- Σ_{in} is a *finite* set of input labels,
- Σ_{out} is a *finite* set of output labels,
- $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2^{\Sigma_{\text{in}}}$ is a function describing which input labels are allowed to appear for a node of degree $d \in \mathbb{N}$,
- $\mathcal{N} : \Sigma_{\text{in}} \rightarrow 2^{(\Sigma_{\text{out}})^{FSL}}$ is a function assigning to each input label a set of *finitely represented configurations* of Σ_{out} , and
- \mathcal{E} is a set of pairs of elements of Σ_{out} .

An *instance* for Π is a graph $G = (V, E)$ together with a labelling function $l : V \rightarrow \Sigma_{\text{in}}$ such that $l(v) \in f(\deg(v))$, that is, the labelling is coherent with the “allowed” labels for each degree.

A *solution* for this instance is a labelling s of the half-edges of G such that:

- $\forall v \in V$, let $S(v) := \{\{s(e, v) \mid e \in \delta(v)\}\}$; then there exists $(R, F) \in \mathcal{N}(l(v))$ such that $R \subseteq S(v)$ and $(S(v) \setminus R) \subseteq F^{\{\star\}}$, that is to say, every symbol in the requirement appears exactly once in $S(v)$, and every other symbol of $S(v)$ is a filler symbol, and
- $\forall e = \{u, v\} \in E$ we have $\{s(e, u), s(e, v)\} \in \mathcal{E}$.

Finite State Labelling problems: we define FSL problems as tuples $\Pi = (\Sigma_{\text{out}}, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{E})$ where:

- Σ_{out} is a *finite* set of output labels,
- $\mathcal{N} \subseteq 2^{(\Sigma_{\text{out}})^{FSL}}$ is a *finite* set of finitely represented configurations of Σ_{out} ,
- \mathcal{E} is a set of pairs of elements of Σ_{out} .

An *instance* for Π is any graph; a solution for this instance is a labelling s of the half-edges of G such that:

- $\forall v \in V$, let $S(v) := \{\{s(e, v) \mid e \in \delta(v)\}\}$; then there exists $(R, F) \in \mathcal{N}$ such that $R \subseteq S(v)$ and $(S(v) \setminus R) \subseteq F^{\{\star\}}$, that is to say, every symbol in the requirement appears exactly once in $S(v)$, and every other symbol of $S(v)$ is a filler symbol, and

- $\forall e = \{u, v\} \in E$ we have $\{\{s(e, u), s(e, v)\}\} \in \mathcal{E}$.

Width: we define the *width* of a FSL problem as $\max \{|R| : (R, F) \in \mathcal{N}\}$ (the maximum length of one of its requirements).

2 List of results

1. Extended FSL = FSL (up to changing the number of labels)
2. Node-edge checkable problems \subseteq FSL
3. Weak and strong solvability are decidable on FSL

3 List of possible results

1. If a FSL problem is known to be $\Omega(\log n)$ on trees, its complexity on trees is decidable and an efficient algorithm can be found. (This holds because of Gustav's proof which should be stronger, it's in here because I still haven't written out all the details of the FSL based one)
2. (Belief I haven't been able to fully prove) For each FSL problem Π there is a value d that only depends on the problem description (specifically, number of labels and width) such that there is a worst-case family of graphs for Π of maximum degree d .
3. (Investigating) A form of the Round Elimination procedure applies to FSL problems.

4 What do we know about the complexity landscape?

4.1 Trees

4.2 General graphs

Bibliography

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- [CP17] Yi-Jun Chang and Seth Pettie. “A Time Hierarchy Theorem for the LOCAL Model”. In: *2017 IEEE 58th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS)*. 2017 IEEE 58th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS). Berkeley, CA: IEEE, Oct. 2017, pp. 156–167. ISBN: 978-1-5386-3464-6. DOI: 10.1109/FOCS.2017.23. URL: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8104055/> (visited on 08/11/2025).