

Problem 1Prove that $GapNC^1 = DiffNC^1$

Solution: $GapNC^1$ is in $DiffNC^1$ because if $f - g \in GapNC^1$ then we can compute f and g normally and at the top there is a addition gate where the coefficient of g is -1 . So $GapNC^1 \subseteq DiffNC^1$.

Suppose $f \in DiffNC^1$. Now we will try to move the negative coefficients upwards and when it reaches to the children of the topmost gate we will transform it to the form of $g - h$. Since it is $DiffNC^1$ we can assume fanin is 2. If there are no -1 coefficients for any child of a gate we will do nothing. Now we can transform the gates like this

$$(-f) \times (-g) = f \times g \quad \text{remove the -1's from children}$$

$$(-f) \times g = -(f \times g) \quad \text{remove the -1's from children and add to the edge outgoing from the gate}$$

$$(-f) + (-g) = -(f + g) \quad \text{remove the -1's from children and add to the edge outgoing from the gate}$$

Apart from these cases one case is remaining. The last case is $(-f) + g$. Then suppose from the addition gate it is going to another gate g . Then we make two copies of g where one has the child $-f$ and the other one has child g in place of the original $-f + g$ in the single gate g . Then we do the process above again.

Now if $-f + g$ is the case where the $+$ is the topmost gate then we replace the $+$ gate with $-$ and the children of that gate will be g and f respectively. If $(-f) + (-g)$ is the case where the addition gate is the topmost gate then compute it by

$$(-f) + (-g) = 1 - 1 + (-f) + (-g) = 1 - (1 + f + g)$$

Also if the $(-f) \times g$ is the topmost \times gate then we compute it like

$$(-f) \times g = -(f \times g) = 1 - (1 + f \times g)$$

So we replace the $(-f) \times g$ with $1 - (1 + f \times g)$.

In this way the negative coefficients moves upwards and in the end we have a $h - k$ form at the top which satisfies the $GapNC^1$ conditions. Also with this reconstructing at most every gate is duplicated and at the top at most 1 more gate appeared. So Size blow up is constant. Therefore $DiffNC^1 \subseteq GapNC^1$. Hence $GapNC^1 = DiffNC^1$. □

Problem 2

Formula depth reduction

Solution: Suppose ϕ is a formula. Lets assume its fanin is 2. Suppose the size of ϕ is s . Now starting from the root walk down to the leaves by always taking the child with a larger subtree under it. Consider the first node in this path v such that the size of the formula rooted at v is smaller than $\frac{2s}{3}$. Let ϕ_v be the subformula rooted at v , By the choice of the path from the root we have

$$\frac{s}{3} \leq |\phi_v| < \frac{2s}{3}$$

Let ϕ'_v be the formula if the subformula rooted at v is replaced by a variable y . Hence

$$\phi'_v(y) = Ay + B \quad \text{and } \phi = A\phi_v + B$$

for some polynomials A and B . But we can compute both A and B from $\phi'_v(y)$ as

$$A = \phi'_v(1) - \phi'_v(0) \quad B = \phi'_v(0)$$

Thus

$$f = (\phi'_v(1) - \phi'_v(0))\phi_v + \phi'_v(0)$$

All the formulas $\phi'_v(1)$, $\phi'_v(0)$, ϕ_v have size at most $\frac{2s}{3}$. Thus by recursively applying the process on each of the subformulas we have

$$\text{Depth}(s) = \text{Depth}\left(\frac{2s}{3}\right) + 3 \implies \text{Depth}(s) = O(\log s)$$

and

$$\text{Size}(s) \leq 4\text{Size}\left(\frac{2s}{3}\right) + O(1) \implies \text{Size}(s) = \text{poly}(s)$$

□