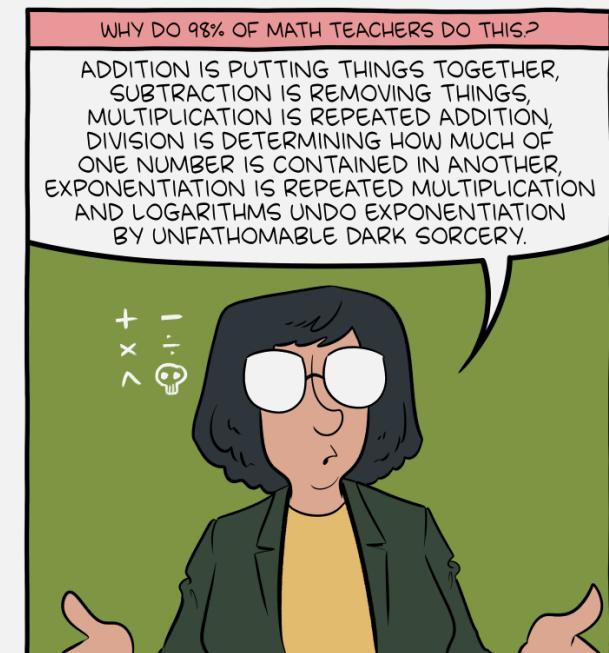


**UMB CS622**

# Log Space (L and NL)

Wednesday, December 1, 2021



## *Announcements*

- HW 9 in
  - Due Tues 11/30 11:59pm EST
- HW 10 out
  - Due Tues 12/7 11:59pm EST
- HW 11 will be the last assignment
  - Due Tues 12/14 11:59pm EST

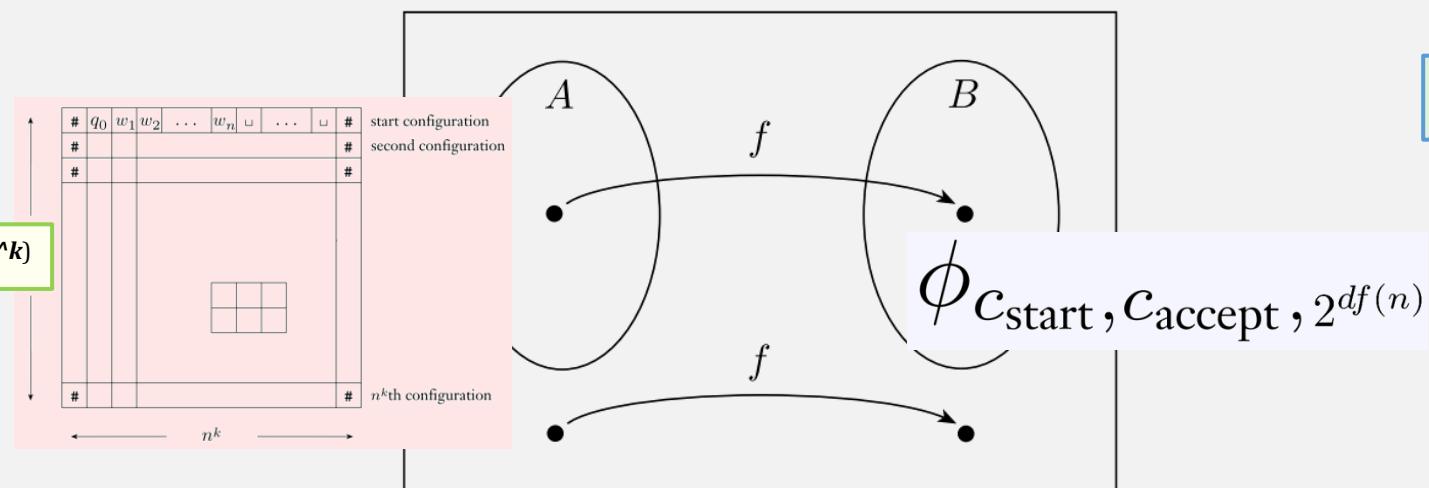
# Last Time: PSPACE-Completeness

## **DEFINITION**

A language  $B$  is ***PSPACE-complete*** if it satisfies two conditions:

1.  $B$  is in PSPACE, and
  2. every  $A$  in PSPACE is polynomial time reducible to  $B$ .

If  $B$  merely satisfies condition 2, we say that it is ***PSPACE-hard***.



# The first **PSPACE**-complete problem:

THEOREM

*TQBF* is PSPACE-complete.

# PSPACE and Board Games

**Note:** These are for “generalized” games, e.g.,  $n \times n$  boards

Any problem for fixed size  $n$  is “solvable”

## GO is Polynominal-Space Hard

DAVID LICHTENSTEIN AND MICHAEL SIPSER

*University of California, Berkeley, California*

**ABSTRACT.** It is shown that, given an arbitrary GO position on an  $n \times n$  board, the problem of determining the winner is Pspace hard. New techniques are exploited to overcome the difficulties arising from the planar nature of board games. In particular, it is proved that GO is Pspace hard by reducing a Pspace-complete set, TQBF, to a game called generalized geography, then to a planar version of that game, and finally to GO.

## The Complexity of Checkers on an $N \times N$ Board - Preliminary Re

A. S. Fraenkel,<sup>1</sup> M. R. Garey,<sup>2</sup> D. S. Johnson,<sup>2</sup>

T. Schaefer,<sup>3</sup> and Y. Yesha<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

We consider the game of Checkers generalized to an  $N \times N$  board. Although certain properties of positions are efficiently computable (e.g., can Black jump all of White's pieces in a single move?), the general question, given a position, of whether a specified player can force a win against best play by his opponent, is shown to be PSPACE-hard. Under certain reasonable assumptions about the “drawing rule” in force, the problem is itself in PSPACE and hence is PSPACE-complete.

nonconstructive and no polynomial strategy is known. It might well be initial position like that pictured in

For this reason, we shall regard as “end-game” problems given position whether or not a position is a winning position. A position is specified by giving squares on the  $N \times N$  checkerboard (i.e., Black piece, Black king, White piece, White king, and (?) the name (Black or White)

### NIST Recommended Key Sizes

Date	Minimum security level (in bits)	Symmetric algorithm	RSA key size (in bits)
2010 (Legacy)	80	3DES with 2 keys	1,024
2011–2030	112	3DES with 3 keys	2,048
> 2030	128	AES-128	3,072
>> 2030	192	AES-192	7,680
>>> 2030	256	AES-256	15,360

The date is a projection of how far into the future the security level will be adequate. For example, to encrypt data now that should still be secret in 2031, use at least a security level of 128 bits.

Source: <http://www.keylength.com/en/4/>

## On the Complexity of Chess

JAMES A. STORER\*

*Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974*

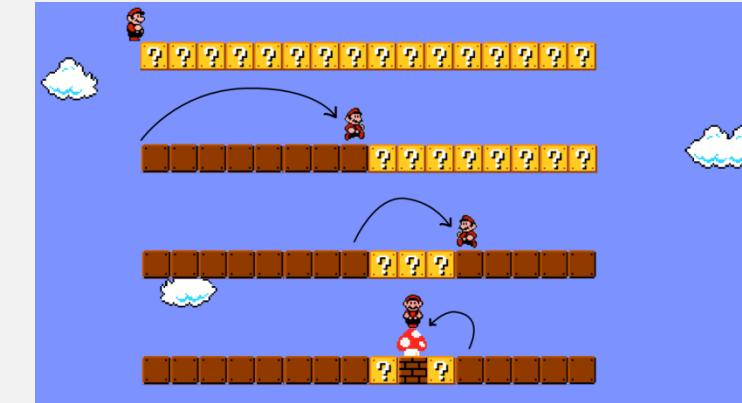
Received June 29, 1979; revised December 12, 1980

It is shown that for any reasonable generalization of chess to an  $N \times N$  board, deciding for a given position which player has a winning strategy is PSPACE-complete.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Most past work analyzing games from the point of view of computational complexity has dealt with combinatorial games on graphs (e.g., Even and Tarjan [3], Schaefer [10], Chandra and Stockmeyer [2]). However, recently Fraenkel *et al.* [5], and Lichtenstein and Sipser [8] have considered the game of checkers and GO, respectively. These authors show that for generalizations of checkers and GO to an  $N \times N$  board, it is PSPACE-hard<sup>1</sup> to determine if a specified player has a winning strategy. This paper shows that for a wide class of generalizations of chess to an  $N \times N$  board, it is PSPACE-complete to determine if a specified player has a winning

# What About Sublinear Algos?



TIME:

- Need at least  $n$  steps to read input of length  $n$
- We won't look at this for CS622

**THEOREM** .....

**Savitch's theorem** For any function  $f: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$ , where  $f(n) \geq n$ ,  
 $\text{NSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{SPACE}(f^2(n)).$

SPACE:

- Need at least  $n$  tape cells to store input of length  $n$
- To model sublinear space algorithms (e.g., log space):
  - Modify TM to only count extra non-input space usage

# A Read-only Input, 2-Tape TM

## 2 tapes

- Tape 1: Read-only input tape
- Tape 2: Read/write work tape



**Space complexity:** only counts the work tape

We use this TM to model sublinear space algorithms

# L and NL

## DEFINITION

L is the class of languages that are decidable in logarithmic space on a deterministic Turing machine. In other words,

$$L = \text{SPACE}(\log n).$$

the class of languages that are decidable in logarithmic space on a nondeterministic Turing machine. In other words,

$$NL = \text{NSPACE}(\log n).$$

In this lecture:

“Turing machine”

=

Read-only Input, 2-Tape TM

*Flashback:*  $A = \{0^k 1^k \mid k \geq 0\}$

$M_1$  = “On input string  $w$ :

1. Scan across the tape and *reject* if a 0 is found to the right of a 1.
2. Repeat if both 0s and 1s remain on the tape:
  3. Scan across the tape, crossing off a single 0 and a single 1.
  4. If 0s still remain after all the 1s have been crossed off, or if 1s still remain after all the 0s have been crossed off, *reject*. Otherwise, if neither 0s nor 1s remain on the tape, *accept*.”

- “Crossing off” uses  $O(n)$  space ...
  - ... because the input is modified,
  - ... so it must first get copied to “work tape”

Any algorithm that modifies input is  $O(n)$  space at minimum

$$A = \{0^k 1^k \mid k \geq 0\}$$
 is a member of L

- Instead of crossing off input directly, keep two counters
  - Counter for 0s
  - Counter for 1s
- Each counter requires ...
- ... log space!

In general, the space required for  
storing a number  $x = \log(x)$   
(i.e., its binary representation)

# *Flashback:* Theorem: $PATH \in P$

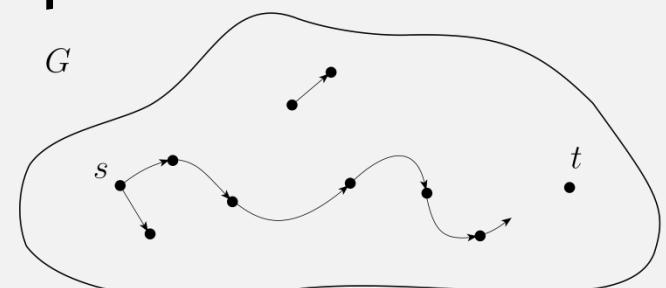
$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

**PROOF** A polynomial time algorithm  $M$  for  $PATH$  operates as follows.

$M$  = “On input  $\langle G, s, t \rangle$ , where  $G$  is a directed graph with nodes  $s$  and  $t$ :

1. Place a mark on node  $s$ .
2. Repeat the following until no additional nodes are marked:
  3. Scan all the edges of  $G$ . If an edge  $(a, b)$  is found going from a marked node  $a$  to an unmarked node  $b$ , mark node  $b$ .
  4. If  $t$  is marked, *accept*. Otherwise, *reject*.

- Modifying input requires moving it onto work tape
- So, again, this also uses  $O(n)$  space



# Theorem: $PATH$ is in NL

(It's not known whether  $PATH$  is in  $L$ )

$$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$$

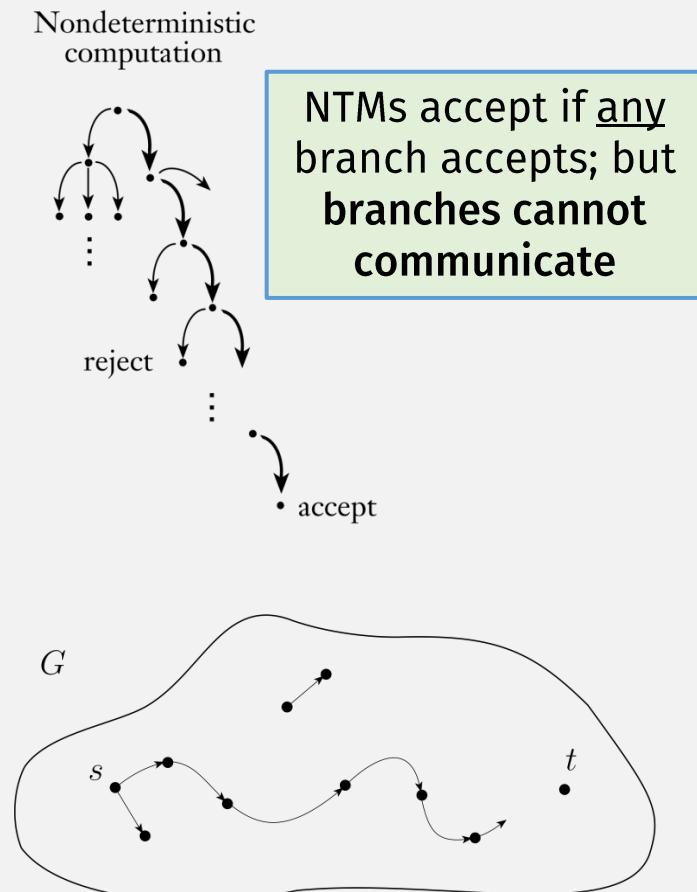
- Don't directly modify input
- Instead, just remember “current” node
  - Don't need to remember all nodes ...
  - ... so long as we start at  $s$ , and each step is a valid edge

On input  $\langle G, s, t \rangle$ :

- Starting at “current” node =  $s$ :
  - nondeterministically follow edges
- Each branch remembers:
  - Current node
  - # of steps
- Accept if: any “current” node is  $t$
- Reject if: # of steps =  $m$  (# nodes)

$O(1)$  space

$O(\log m)$  space



# *Flashback:* Facts About Time vs Space

TIME → SPACE

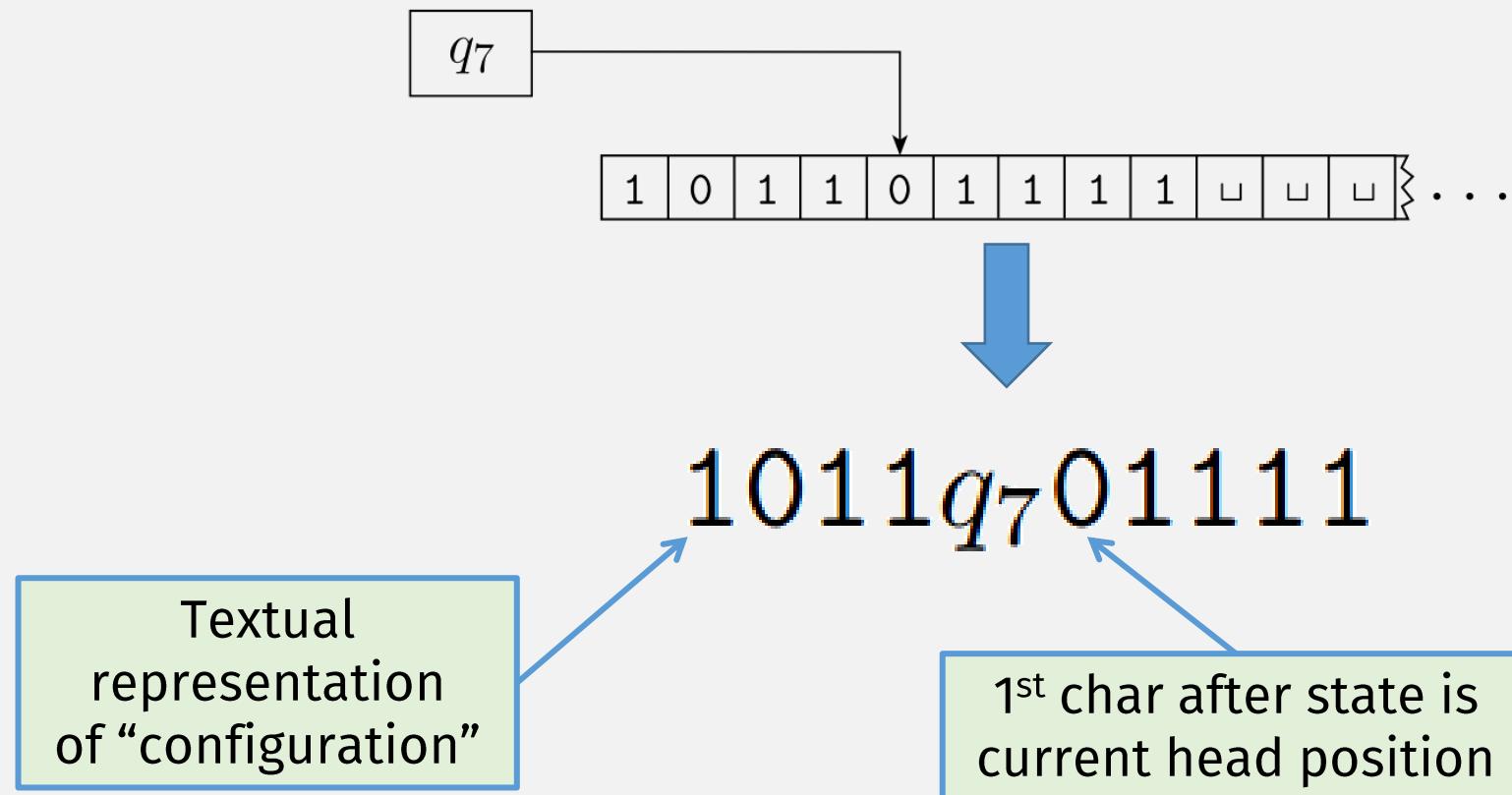
- If a decider runs in time  $t(n)$ , then its maximum space usage is ...
- ...  $t(n)$
- ... because it can add at most 1 tape cell per step

SPACE → TIME

Note: This assumes  $f(n) \geq O(n)$

- If a decider runs in space  $f(n)$ , then its maximum time usage is ...
- ...  $(|\Gamma| + |Q|)^{f(n)} = 2^{df(n)}$
- ... because that's the number of possible configurations
- (and a decider cannot repeat a configuration)

*Flashback:* TM Config = State + Head + Tape



# Read-only Input 2-Tape TM Configurations

- State
  - Let  $q = \# \text{ states}$
- 2 head positions
  - Let  $n = \text{input length}$
  - Let  $f(n) = \text{work tape length}$
- Work tape contents only (not input tape)
  - Let  $g = \# \text{ tape alphabet chars}$
  - Maximum number of different work tape contents =  $g^{f(n)}$

Maximum configurations =  $q \cdot n \cdot f(n) \cdot g^{f(n)}$

$$= O(n) \quad (\text{if } f(n) = O(1))$$

$$= O(n^2) \quad (\text{if } f(n) = O(\log n))$$

$$= 2^{O(f(n))} \quad (\text{if } f(n) \geq O(n))$$

# *Flashback:* Deterministic vs Non-Det. Space

## THEOREM

**Savitch's theorem** For any function  $f: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$ , where  $f(n) \geq n$ ,  $\log n$

$$\text{NSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{SPACE}(f^2(n)).$$

- If a non-deterministic TM runs in:  $f(n)$  space
- Then an equivalent deterministic TM runs in:  $f^2(n)$  space
  - ~~Exponentially~~ Only Quadratically slower!

# *Flashback:* Deterministic = Non-deterministic?

- **P = NP?** Unknown?
- **PSPACE = NPSPACE?** Yes!

## THEOREM

**Savitch's theorem** For any function  $f: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$ , where  $f(n) \geq n$ ,  
 $\text{NSPACE}(f(n)) \subseteq \text{SPACE}(f^2(n))$ .

- **L = NL?** Unknown?

# NL-Completeness

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is ***NL-complete*** if

1.  $B \in \text{NL}$ , and
2. every  $A$  in NL is log space reducible to  $B$ .

Because poly time is too much!

(We'll show that every NL problem  
is solvable in poly time!)

# *Flashback:* Mapping Reducibility

Language  $A$  is ***mapping reducible*** to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_m B$ , if there is a **computable function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$** , where for every  $w$ ,

$$w \in A \iff f(w) \in B.$$

The function  $f$  is called the ***reduction*** from  $A$  to  $B$ .

# *Flashback:* Computable Functions

- A TM that, instead of accept/reject, “outputs” final tape contents

A function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$  is a ***computable function*** if some Turing machine  $M$ , on every input  $w$ , halts with just  $f(w)$  on its tape.

# Log Space Computable Functions

Needs 3 tapes

1. Read-only input tape
2. Write-only output tape
3. Read/write work tape

Space complexity: only counts the work tape

## DEFINITION

---

A *log space transducer* is a Turing machine with a read-only input tape, a write-only output tape, and a read/write work tape. The head on the output tape cannot move leftward, so it cannot read what it has written. The work tape may contain  $O(\log n)$  symbols. A log space transducer  $M$  computes a function  $f: \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , where  $f(w)$  is the string remaining on the output tape after  $M$  halts when it is started with  $w$  on its input tape. We call  $f$  a *log space computable function*.

# Log Space Reducibility

## DEFINITION

---

Language  $A$  is *log space reducible* to language  $B$ , written  $A \leq_L B$ , if  $A$  is mapping reducible to  $B$  by means of a log space computable function  $f$ .

Log space reducibility  
=   
mapping reducibility with a log space computable function

# NL-Completeness and L=NL?

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is **NL-complete** if

1.  $B \in \text{NL}$ , and
2. every  $A$  in NL is log space reducible to  $B$ .

## THEOREM

---

If  $A \leq_L B$  and  $B \in L$ , then  $A \in L$ .

## COROLLARY

---

If any NL-complete language is in L, then  $L = \text{NL}$ .

*Flashback:*

unknown      known

If  $A \leq_P B$  and  $B \in P$ , then  $A \in P$ .

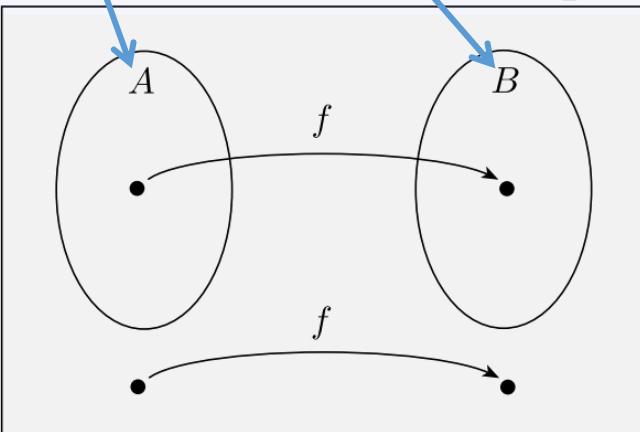
**PROOF** Let  $M$  be the polynomial time algorithm deciding  $B$  and  $f$  be the polynomial time reduction from  $A$  to  $B$ . We describe a polynomial time algorithm  $N$  deciding  $A$  as follows.

$N$  = “On input  $w$ :

1. Compute  $f(w)$ .

2. Run  $M$  on input  $f(w)$  and output whatever  $M$  outputs.”

This won't work for the log version because  $f(w)$  may produce an output (which is now part of  $N$ 's work tape) that uses more than  $\log(n)$  space!



## THEOREM

If  $A \leq_L B$  and  $B \in L$ , then  $A \in L$ .

**PROOF** Let  $M$  be the ~~polynomial time~~ algorithm deciding  $B$  and  $f$  be the ~~polynomial time~~ reduction from  $A$  to  $B$ . We describe a ~~polynomial time~~ algorithm  $N$  deciding  $A$  as follows.

$N$  = “On input  $w$ :

1. ~~Compute  $f(w)$ .~~
2. Run  $M$  on input  $f(w)$  and output whatever  $M$  outputs.”

Instead,  $N$  computes  $f(w)$  output chars as needed by  $M$ , discarding everything else

(this may require recomputing  $f(w)$  every time  $M$  needs part of it)

# NL-Completeness

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is ***NL-complete*** if

1.  $B \in \text{NL}$ , and
2. every  $A$  in NL is log space reducible to  $B$ .

The first NL-complete problem?

# Theorem: *PATH* is NL-complete

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is **NL-complete** if

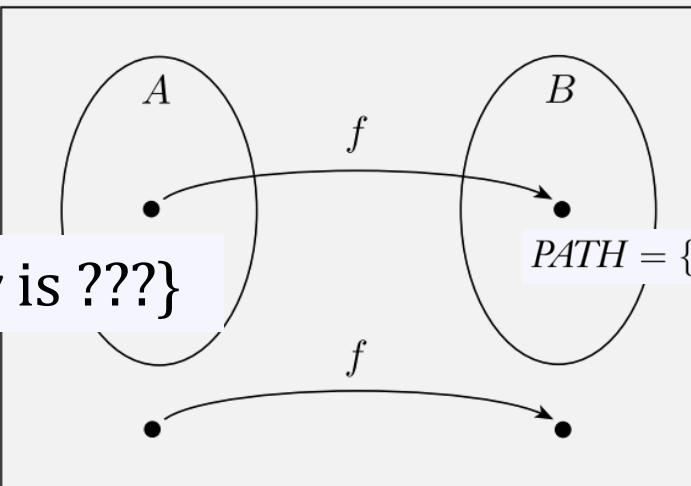
- ✓ 1.  $B \in \text{NL}$ , and
- 2. every  $A$  in NL is log space reducible to  $B$ .

# Theorem: $PATH$ is NL-complete

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

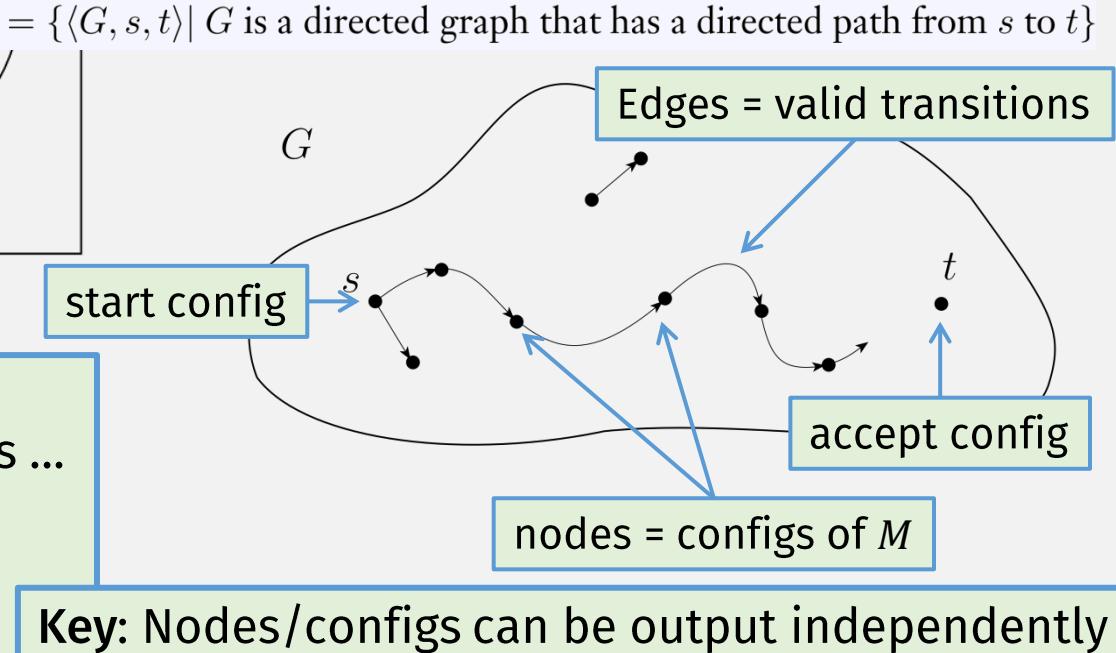
We know:

Some TM  $M$  decides  $A$  in  $O(\log(n))$  space



Some NL lang  $A = \{w \mid w \text{ is ???}\}$

A graph where a path from  $s$  to  $t$  encodes accepting config sequence of  $M$  on  $w$



Can we compute this graph in log space?

- Nodes:  $M$  runs in  $O(\log(n))$  space, so each config/node takes ...  
...  $O(\log(n))$  space to compute
- Edges: check every pair of configs for valid transitions ...  
...  $O(\log(n))$  space

# Corollary: $NL \subseteq P$

(Every NL problem is solvable in poly time!)

- Every language in **NL** is reducible in log space to *PATH*
  - Justification?
- A log space reduction takes poly time
  - Justification?
- A language that is poly time reducible to a lang in **P** is in **P**
  - Justification?
- *PATH* is in **P**
  - Justification?
- Every language in **NL** is in **P**
  - Justification?

Future HW question?

# NL-Completeness

## DEFINITION

---

A language  $B$  is ***NL-complete*** if

1.  $B \in \text{NL}$ , and
2. every  $A$  in NL is log space reducible to  $B$ .

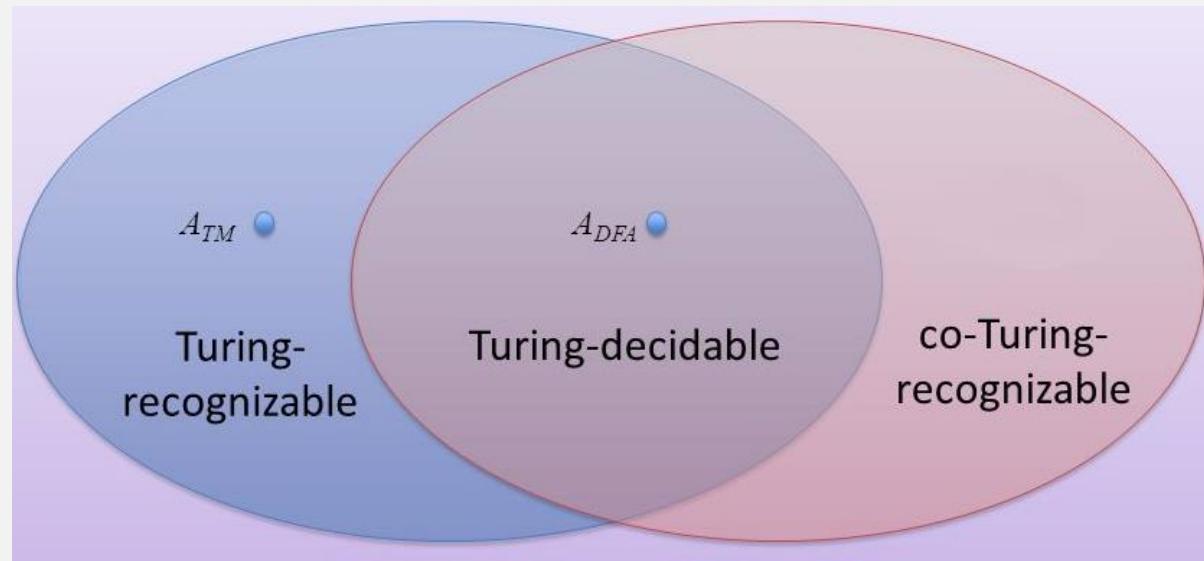
Poly time is too much!

Every NL problem is solvable in  
poly time ...  
so it's pointless to poly time  
reduce it to another problem!

## *Flashback:* Co-Turing-Recognizability

- A language is **co-Turing-recognizable** if ...
- ... it is the complement of a Turing-recognizable language.

*Flashback:* Decidable  $\Leftrightarrow$  Recognizable & co-Recognizable



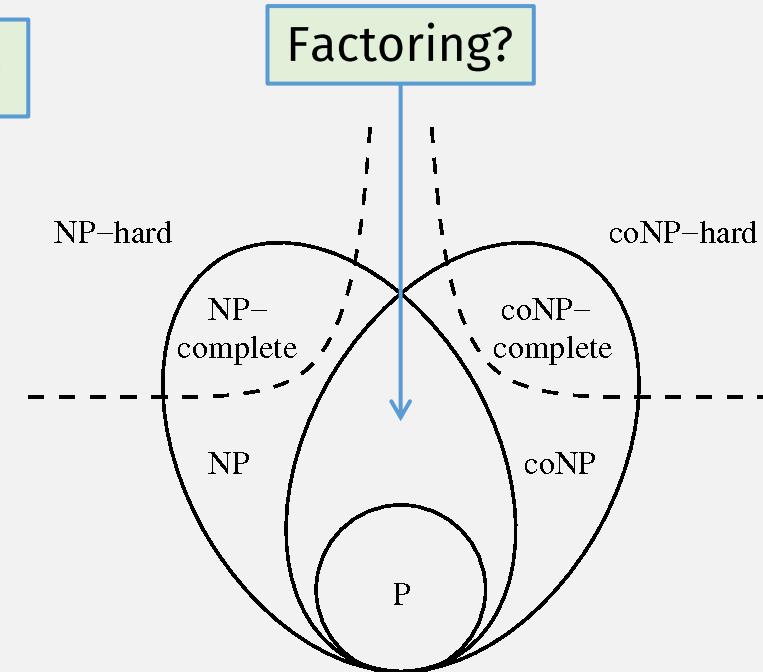
# coNP

coNP has languages whose complement is in NP

It's believed that NP  $\neq$  coNP (but not known)

## Example:

- SAT  $\in$  NP
  - Verifiable in poly time
    - Certificate = a satisfying assignment
- $\overline{\text{SAT}} \in \text{coNP}$  but  $\notin \text{NP}$ 
  - Not verifiable in poly time
    - There's no certificate (must always check all possible assignments)



# **NL = coNL**

Proof:

- $\text{PATH}$  is in NL and is NL-complete
- $\overline{\text{PATH}}$  is in coNL and is coNL-complete
- If we can show  $\overline{\text{PATH}}$  is in NL, then NL = coNL

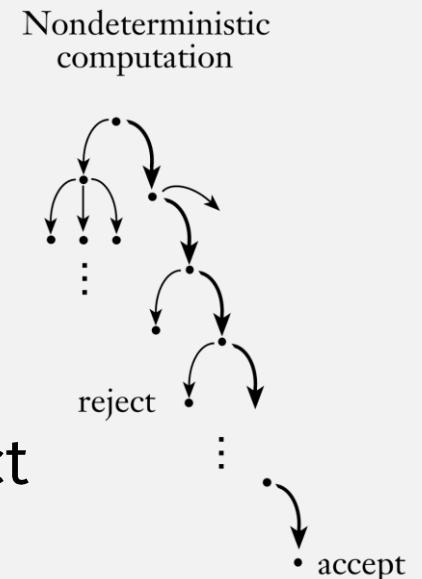
# $\overline{PATH}$ (“No Path”) is in **NL**

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

Naïve idea (doesn't work):

✗ Nondeterministically check every path

- Similar to  $PATH$  is in **NL** proof
- Reject if any go from  $s$  to  $t$
- But when to accept?
  - We need to know if all branches failed
  - But branches can't communicate
- Remember, NTMs accept if any branch accepts
  - Each branch must independently determine accept/reject



# PATH (“No Path”) is in **NL**

Let  $m = \# \text{ nodes of } G$

$\text{PATH} = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

Better idea # 1 (still doesn't quite work):

- ❖ Count nodes reachable from  $s$  (at most  $m$ )
- Non-deterministically explore all paths from  $s$  to some node  $u$ 
  - In any branch that reaches  $u$ , increment a counter
  - Then nondeterministically (with increased counter) check reachability of the “next” node

But each branch does not know what the “next” node is?

# $\overline{PATH}$ (“No Path”) is in **NL**

Let  $m = \# \text{ nodes of } G$

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

Better idea # 2 (still doesn't quite work):

❖ Nondeterministically guess subset of reachable nodes

- In each branch:
  - Verify that each guessed reachable subset matches the count
  - And reject the bad guesses

But we didn't compute the count yet?

# $\overline{PATH}$ (“No Path”) is in **NL**

Let  $m = \# \text{ nodes of } G$

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

Best idea (works) Part 1:

- ✓ Compute reachability count and nodes incrementally
  - for path lengths 0, 1, 2, ...
- If  $c_i = \# \text{ nodes reachable from } s \text{ in } i \text{ steps}$ ,
  - we know  $c_0 = 1$
- Nondeterministically guess nodes reachable from  $s$  in  $i$  steps:
  - In each branch, verify that  $c_i$  nodes are reachable
  - Reject bad branches
- In correctly guessed branch:
  - compute  $c_{i+1}$  by checking edges from those nodes

# $\overline{PATH}$ (“No Path”) is in **NL**

Let  $m = \# \text{ nodes of } G$

$PATH = \{\langle G, s, t \rangle \mid G \text{ is a directed graph that has a directed path from } s \text{ to } t\}$

Best idea (works) Part 2:

- ✓ Once we have computed  $c_m$  (# nodes reachable from  $s$ ):
  - nondeterministically guess (and re-count) reachable nodes
    - **this time excluding  $t$**
  - Accept in any branch where the re-count =  $c_m$ 
    - (because this means  $t$  was not reachable)

# $\overline{PATH}$ is in NL, Formally

Need space for these variables; none larger than  $m = \log(m)$  space

**PROOF** Here is an algorithm for  $\overline{PATH}$ . Let  $m$  be the number of nodes of  $G$ .

$M$  = “On input  $\langle G, s, t \rangle$ :

1. Let  $c_0 = 1$ . Start with  $c_0$  [  $A_0 = \{s\}$  has 1 node ]
2. For  $i = 0$  to  $m - 1$ :
3.   Let  $c_{i+1} = 1$ .
4.   For each node  $v \neq s$  in  $G$ :
5.     Let  $d = 0$ .
6.     For each node  $u$  in  $G$ :
7.       Nondeterministically either perform or skip these steps:
8.         Nondeterministically follow a path of length at most  $i$  from  $s$  and *reject* if it doesn't end at  $u$ .
9.         Increment  $d$ . [ verified that  $u \in A_i$  ]
10.       If  $(u, v)$  is an edge of  $G$ , increment  $c_{i+1}$  and go to stage 5 with the next  $v$ . [ verified that  $v \in A_{i+1}$  ]
11.       If  $d \neq c_i$ , then *reject*. [ check whether found all  $A_i$  ]
12.     Let  $d = 0$ . [  $c_m$  now known;  $d$  re-counts  $A_m$  ]
13.     For each node  $u$  in  $G$ : [ check if  $u \in A_m$  ]
14.       Nondeterministically either perform or skip these steps:
15.         Nondeterministically follow a path of length at most  $m$  from  $s$  and *reject* if it doesn't end at  $u$ .
16.         If  $u = t$ , then *reject*. [ found path from  $s$  to  $t$  ]
17.         Increment  $d$ . [ verified that  $u \in A_m$  ]
18.         If  $d \neq c_m$ , then *reject*. [ check whether found all of  $A_m$  ]
- Otherwise, *accept*.”

$c_i = \# \text{ nodes reachable from } s \text{ in } i \text{ steps}$

Guess reachable nodes (without  $t$ ) and re-count

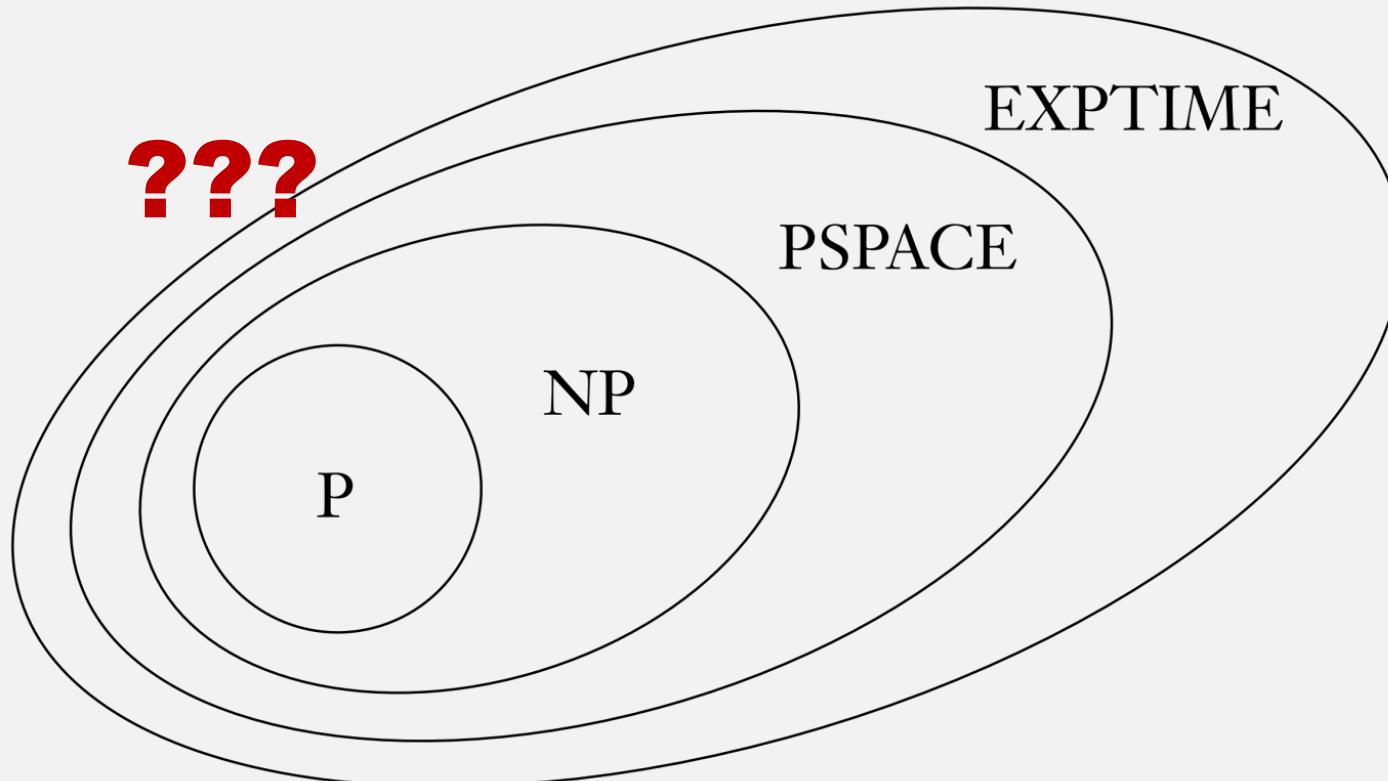
Accept if re-count matches  $c_m$

# **NL = coNL**

Proof:

- $PATH$  is in NL and is NL-complete
- $\overline{PATH}$  is in coNL and is coNL-complete
- If we can show  $\overline{PATH}$  is in NL, then NL = coNL ■

# Space vs Time: Conjecture



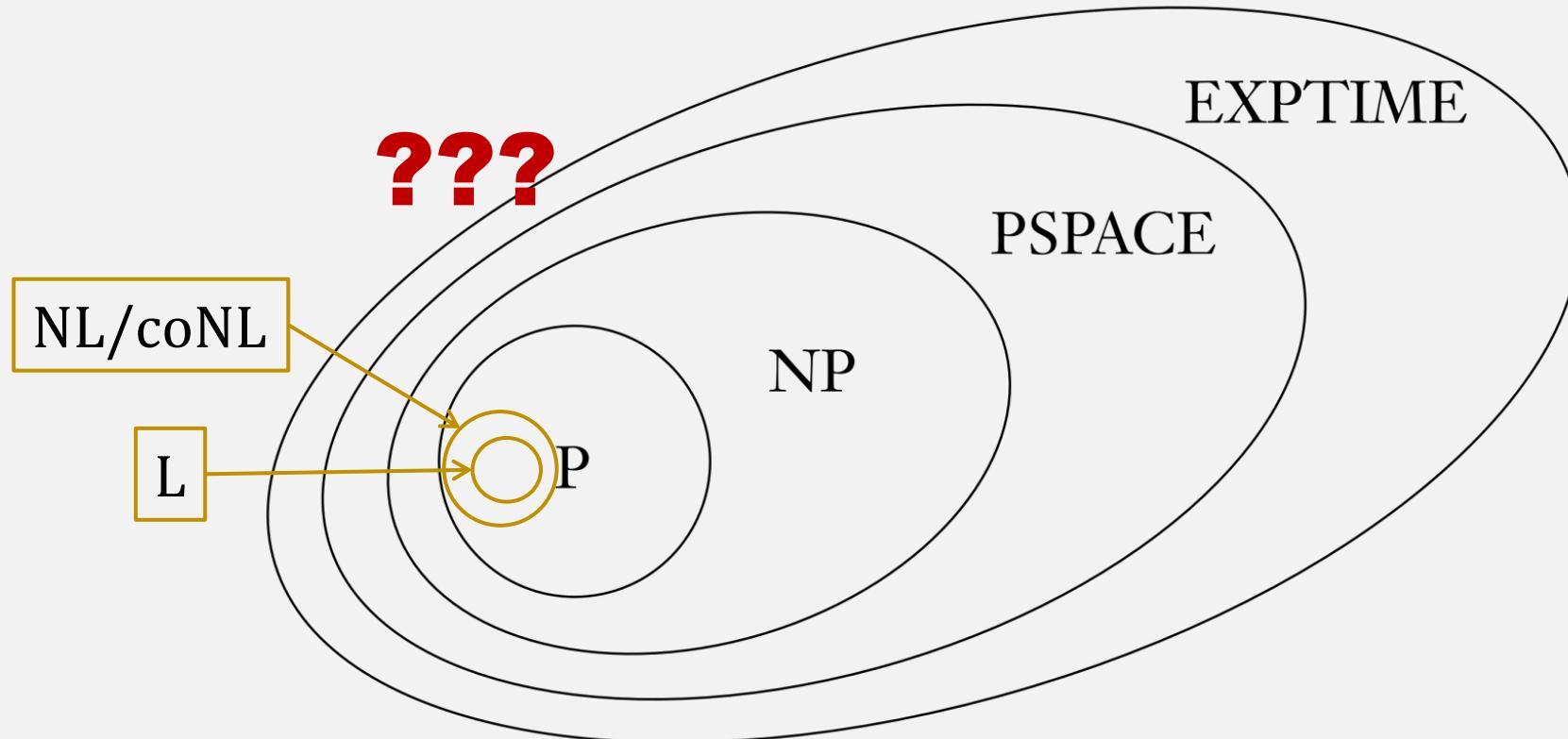
We think:

$$P \subset NP \subset PSPACE = NPSPACE \subset EXPTIME$$

We know:

$$P \subseteq NP \subseteq PSPACE = NPSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME$$

# Space vs Time: Conjecture



We think:

$$L \subset NL = coNL \subset P \subset NP \subset PSPACE = NPSPACE \subset EXPTIME$$

We know:

$$L \subseteq NL = coNL \subseteq P \subseteq NP \subseteq PSPACE = NPSPACE \subseteq EXPTIME$$

# **Check-in Quiz 12/1**

On gradescope