

Space Complexity

(from Sipser Definition 8.1) Let M be a (deterministic) TM that halts on all inputs. The space complexity of M is the function $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, where $f(n)$ is the maximum number of tape cells that M scans on any input of length n .

If N is an NTM wherein all branches halt on all inputs, we define its space complexity $f(n)$ to be the maximum number of tape cells that N scans on any branch of its computation for any input of length n .

(from Sipser Definition 8.2) Let $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ be a function.

$SPACE(f(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ is a language decided by an } O(f(n)) \text{ space (deterministic) TM}\}.$

$NSPACE(f(n)) = \{L \mid L \text{ is a language decided by an } O(f(n)) \text{ space NTM}\}.$

a Recall that $SAT = \{\langle \phi \rangle \mid \phi \text{ is a satisfiable Boolean formula}\}$. Show that $SAT \in SPACE(n)$ (even though SAT is NP-complete!).

b Let $\widetilde{ALL_{NFA}} = \{\langle A \rangle \mid A \text{ is an NFA and } L(A) \neq \Sigma^*\}$. We will show that $\widetilde{ALL_{NFA}} \in NSPACE(n)$. ($\widetilde{ALL_{NFA}}$ is what I would previously have called $co-ALL_{NFA}$, but this notation was confusing since there are also complexity classes called things like coNP.)

i Assume that some NFA $N = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ rejects at least one string, and let w be some shortest rejected string. Find an upper bound on the length of w in terms of some features of N . (*Hint: first convert the NFA to a DFA*)

- ii Why will our actual decider for $\widetilde{ALL_{NFA}}$ probably have to work with NFAs directly - why can't we just convert a given NFA into an equivalent DFA, and then run a (presumably-simpler) decider for $\widetilde{ALL_{DFA}}$ on that result?
- iii Construct a linear-space NTM deciding $\widetilde{ALL_{NFA}}$. *Hint: the rough strategy is to nondeterministically guess a string of length \leq your bound from part i, and accept if that string is rejected. But notice that you can't actually store the whole string.*

c We will now show that for $f(n) \geq n$, $NSPACE(f(n)) \subseteq SPACE(f^2(n))$.

i Let $TIMED-YIELDS_N = \{\langle c_1, c_2, t \rangle \mid N \text{ can transition from configuration } c_1 \text{ to } c_2 \text{ in } \leq t \text{ steps}\}$. For a given NTM T , we will deterministically decide $L(T)$ as follows: “On input w , construct N from T as follows: _____. Then run a decider for $TIMED-YIELDS_N$ on _____ and *accept/reject* as it does.” Fill in the blanks. (N should be a relatively small modification of T , with $L(N) = L(T)$.)

- ii Construct a space-efficient decider for $TIMED-YIELDS_N$.