

601 Lecture 22: PSPACE

$$\mathbf{PSPACE} = \mathbf{DSPACE}[n^{O(1)}] = \mathbf{NSPACE}[n^{O(1)}]$$

- **PSPACE** consists of what we could compute with a feasible amount of hardware, but with no time limit.
- **PSPACE** is a large and very robust complexity class.
- With polynomially many bits of memory, we can search any implicitly-defined graph of exponential size. This leads to complete problems such as reachability on exponentially-large graphs.
- We can search the game tree of any board game whose configurations are describable with polynomially-many bits. This leads to complete problems concerning winning strategies.

PSPACE-Complete Problems

Recall from Lecture 20: $\mathbf{PSPACE} = \mathbf{ATIME}[n^{O(1)}]$

Recall **QSAT**, the quantified satisfiability problem.

Prop: QSAT is PSPACE-complete.

Proof: QSAT \in $\mathbf{ATIME}[n] \subseteq \mathbf{PSPACE}$ (Lecture 20).

QSAT is hard for **ATIME** $[n^k]$:

Let M be an **ATIME** $[n^k]$ TM, w an input, $n = |w|$

Let M write down its n^k alternating choices, $c_1 c_2 \dots c_{n^k}$.

Deterministic TM D evaluates the answer, i.e., for all inputs w ,
 $M(w) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \exists c_1 \forall c_2 \dots \exists c_{n^k} (D(\bar{c}, w) = 1)$

By Cook's Theorem \exists reduction $f : \mathcal{L}(D) \leq$ **SAT**:

$$D(\bar{c}, w) = 1 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad f(\bar{c}, w) \in \mathbf{SAT}$$

Let the new boolean variables in $f(\bar{c}, w)$ be $d_1 \dots d_{t(n)}$.

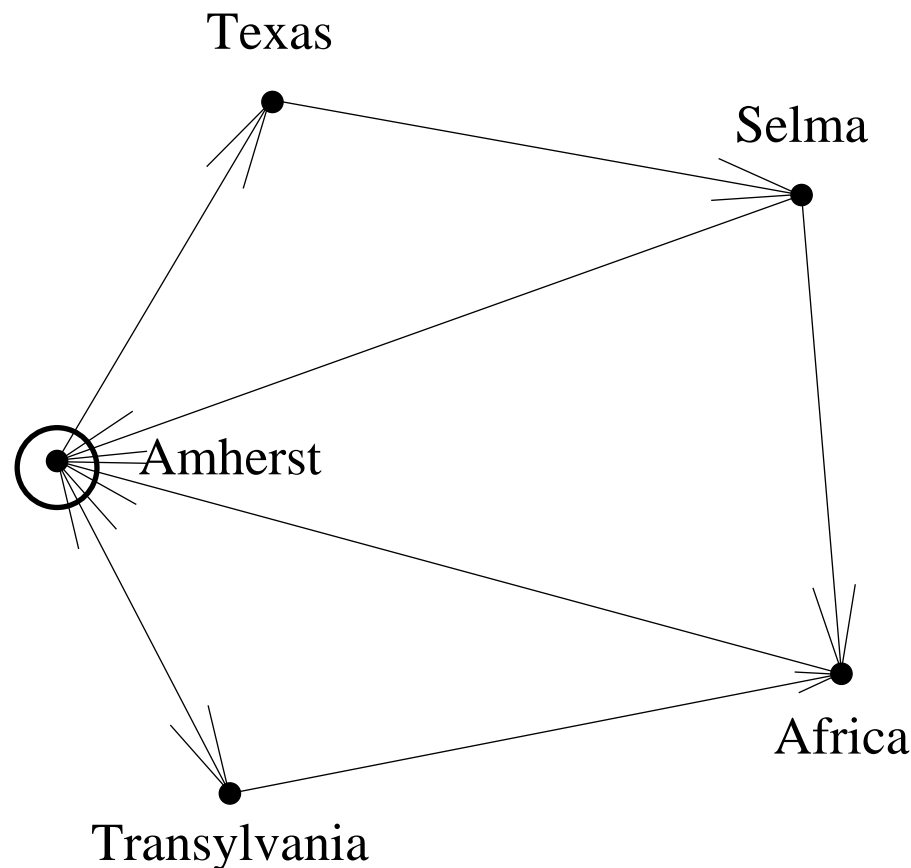
$M(w) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \text{"}\exists c_1 \forall c_2 \dots \exists c_{n^k} d_1 \dots d_{t(n)} (f(\bar{c}, w))\text{"} \in \mathbf{QSAT}$

□

Geography is a two-person game.

1. E chooses a vertex v_1 with an edge from s .
2. A chooses v_2 , having an edge from v_1
3. E chooses v_3 , have an edge from v_2 , etc.

No vertex may be chosen twice. Whoever moves last wins.



Let **GEOGRAPHY** be the set of positions in geography games s.t. \exists has a winning strategy.

Prop: **GEOGRAPHY** is **PSPACE**-complete.

Proof:

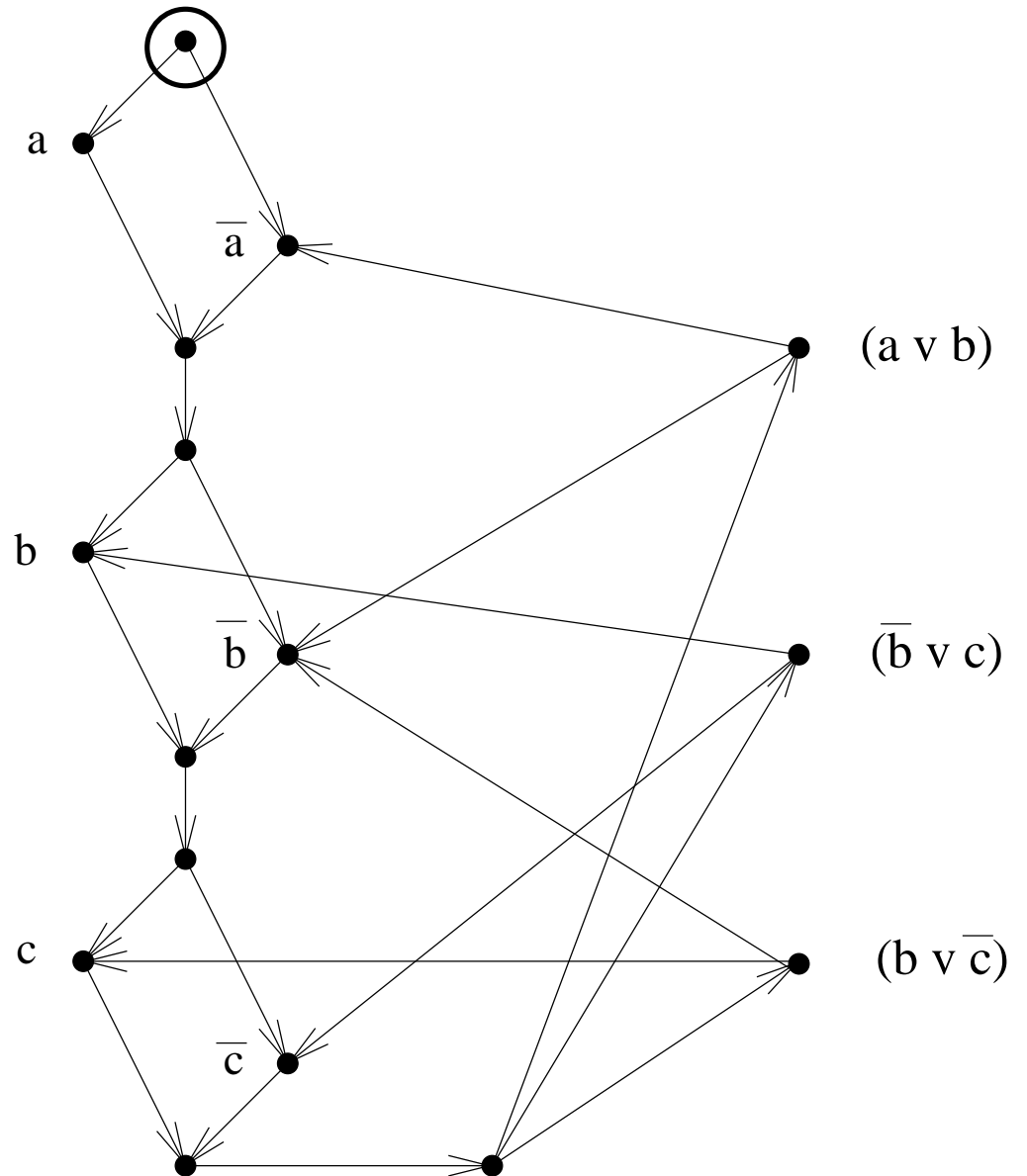
GEOGRAPHY \in **PSPACE**:

search the polynomial-depth game tree. A polynomial-size stack suffices.

Show: QSAT \leq GEOGRAPHY

Given formula, φ ,
build graph G_φ s.t.
 \exists chooses existential variables;
 \forall chooses universal variables.

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &\equiv \exists a \forall b \exists c \\ &[(a \vee b) \wedge \\ &(\bar{b} \vee c) \wedge \\ &(b \vee \bar{c})] \end{aligned}$$



Def: A **succinct** representation of a graph is

$$G(n, C, s, t) = (V, E, s, t)$$

where C is a boolean circuit with $2n$ inputs and

$$V = \{w \mid w \in \{0, 1\}^n\}$$

$$E = \{(w, w') \mid C(w, w') = 1\}$$

$$\mathbf{SUCCINCT REACH} = \{(n, C, s, t) \mid G(n, C, s, t) \in \mathbf{REACH}\}$$

Prop: SUCCINCT REACH \in PSPACE

Why?

Prop: $\text{SUCCINCT REACH} \in \mathbf{PSPACE}$

Why?

Remember Savitch's Thm:

$$\text{REACH} \in \mathbf{NSPACE}[\log n] \subseteq \mathbf{DSPACE}[(\log n)^2]$$

$$\text{SUCCINCT REACH} \in \mathbf{NSPACE}[n] \subseteq \mathbf{DSPACE}[n^2] \subseteq \mathbf{PSPACE}$$



Prop: SUCCINCT REACH is PSPACE-complete.

Proof: Let M be a $\text{DSPACE}[n^k]$ TM, input w , $n = |w|$

$$M(w) = 1 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{CompGraph}(M, w) \in \text{REACH}$$

$$\text{CompGraph}(n, w) = (V, E, s, t)$$

$$V = \{ \text{ID} = \langle q, h, p \rangle \mid q \in \text{States}(N), h \leq n, |p| \leq cn^k \}$$

$$E = \{ (\text{ID}_1, \text{ID}_2) \mid \text{ID}_1(w) \xrightarrow[M]{} \text{ID}_2(w) \}$$

$$s = \text{initial ID}$$

$$t = \text{accepting ID}$$



Succinct Representation of $\text{CompGraph}(n, w)$:

$$V = \{ \mathbf{ID} = \langle q, h, p \rangle \mid q \in \mathbf{States}(N), h \leq n, |p| \leq c n^k \}$$

$$E = \{ (\mathbf{ID}_1, \mathbf{ID}_2) \mid \mathbf{ID}_1(w) \xrightarrow[M]{} \mathbf{ID}_2(w) \}$$

Let $V = \{0, 1\}^{c'n^k}$

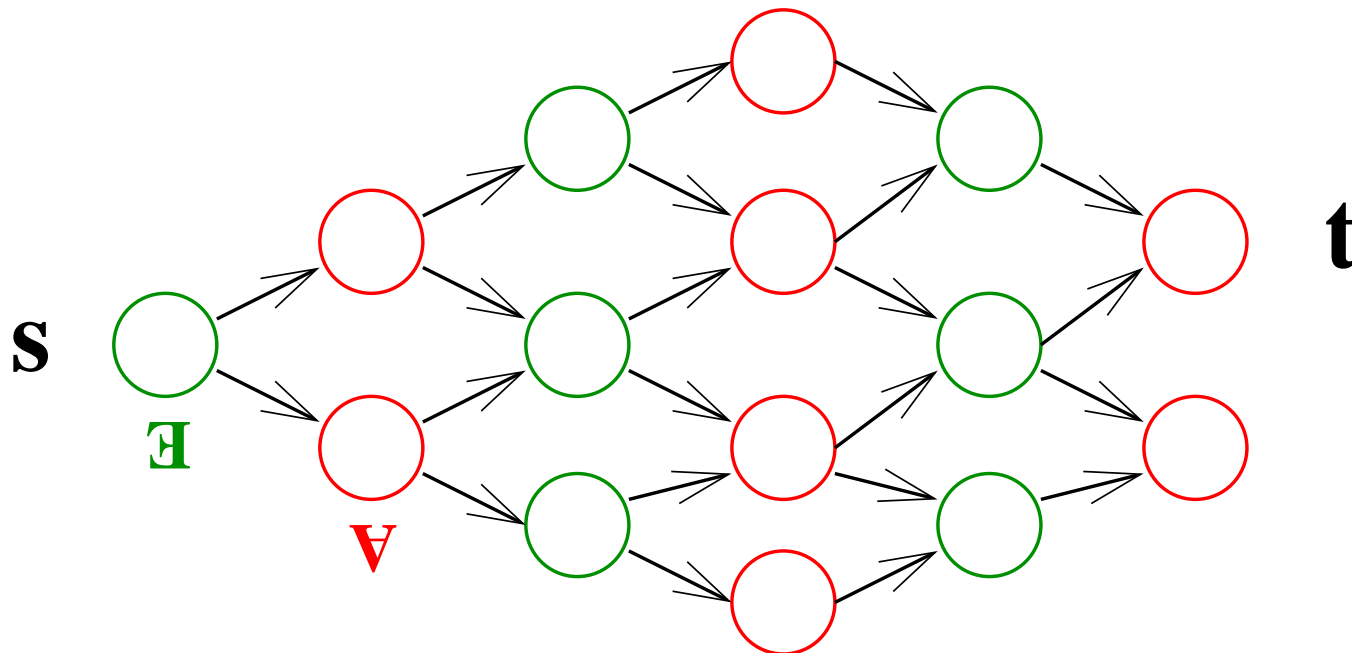
Build circuit C_w : on input $u, v \in V$, accept iff $u \xrightarrow[M]{} v$.

$$M(w) = 1 \iff G(c'n^k, C_w, s, t) \in \mathbf{SUCCINCT REACH} \quad \square$$

The vertices of an **alternating graph**, $G = (V, A, E)$, are split into: **existential vertices** and **universal vertices**.

Def: vertex t is **reachable** from vertex s in G iff

1. $s = t$, or
2. s is **existential** and for some edge, $\langle s, a \rangle \in E$, t is reachable from a , or,
3. s is **universal** and there is an edge leaving s and for all edges, $\langle s, a \rangle \in E$, t is reachable from a .



Def: Let

$\text{AREACH} = \{G = (V, A, E, s, t) \mid t \text{ is reachable from } s\}$

Prop: AREACH is \mathbf{P} complete.

Proof: HW 10.



Cor: CVP and MCVP are \mathbf{P} complete.

Proof: In HW10 we showed that $\text{AREACH} \leq \text{MCVP}$ and the identity map is a reduction from MCVP to CVP .



