

Enumeration Classes Defined by Circuits

Nadia Creignou, Arnaud Durand, Heribert Vollmer

NormaSTIC 2023

Enumeration ?

What are the dance schools in Metz or Nancy?

20

- Académie Arz-Klehr
- Art k Danse
- Les Feux de la Rampe
- DancerShow57
- Nickel-School
- L'Estudio
- Aude Ecole de Danse
- La Fabrique
- L'Espace Lafayette
- Acadanse

⋮

- Adonis pyrenaica
- Androsace alpina
- Lavatera maritima
- Matthiola tricuspidata

⋮

What ingredients are needed to cook a tiramisu?

6

- mascarpone cream
- sugar
- eggs
- coffee
- cocoa
- lady finger cookies



What are the plant species on earth?

298 000

What are the maximal independent sets in a graph with n vertices?

$3^{n/3}$

Introduction

- ▶ **Topic:** algorithms and complexity for enumeration problems.
- ▶ **Enumeration problem:** generate all solutions of a problem one by one and without repetition.

Examples: generate all models of a propositional formula, all triangles in a graph, etc

- ▶ Subject has deserved a lot of attention in graphs algorithms and combinatorics but also in data management.

Input sensitive versus output sensitive complexity

- ▶ Input-sensitive approach: Measure of the time complexity of an enumeration algorithm in the **size of the input**
- ▶ **Output-sensitive approach**: Measure of the time complexity of an enumeration algorithm in the **size of the input and the output**.

How to measure the complexity of such problems?

Focus is put on the dynamic of the generation process: the **delay**

For combinatorial problems, three main types of tractability:

- ▶ OutputP: polynomial time in the size of $|x|$ and the solutions set.
- ▶ IncP: computing the $(i + 1)$ th solution is polynomial in $|x|$ and i
- ▶ DelayP: computing all solutions with a delay polynomial in $|x|$ between two solutions. First attempt to capture *efficient* enumeration.

Very few lower bounds. All under complexity hypothesis.

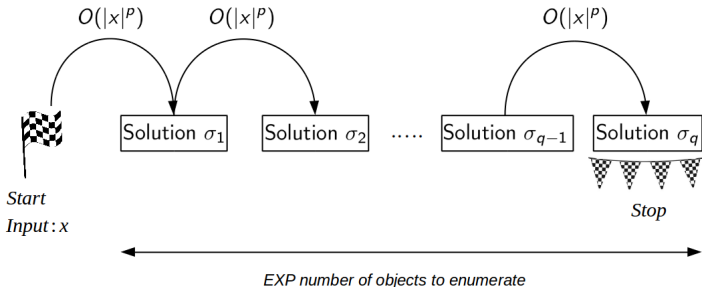
Very few lower bounds

How to prove that an enumeration problem is not in DelayP?

- ▶ **Show hardness of some related decision problem:** For instance one cannot enumerate the models of any Boolean formula in DelayP, unless $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$.
- ▶ **Show that it is as hard as enumerating the minimal transversals of a hypergraph.**

Capturing efficient enumeration

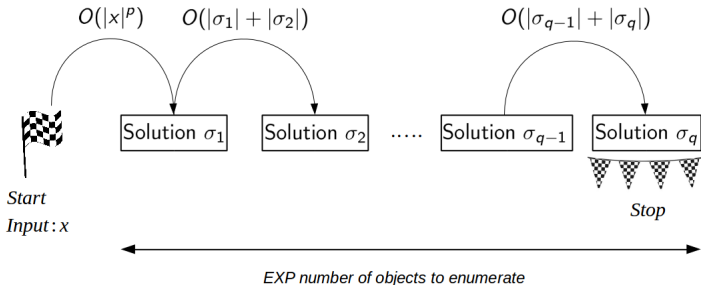
- **Polynomial delay:** An algorithm runs with polynomial delay if the pre-processing step and the delay between two consecutive solutions are polynomially bounded in the size of the input.



Classical algorithm : flashlight binary search for satisfiability problems

Capturing efficient enumeration

- **Linear delay:** An algorithm runs with linear delay if the pre-processing is polynomially bounded in the size of the input and the delay between two consecutive solutions σ_i and σ_{i+1} is linearly bounded in $(|\sigma_i| + |\sigma_{i+1}|)$.



Classical algorithm : enumeration of S-T paths in a DAG

Towards more efficiency

In the context of data management and query answering:

- ▶ The measures above, even linear delay, are not considered as really tractable.
- ▶ Consider $\mathbf{CD} \circ \mathbf{lin}$: problems that can be enumerated on RAMs with constant delay after linear time preprocessing (Durand and Grandjean'07)
- ▶ Contains a lot of natural query problems
- ▶ Conditional lower bounds have been proved (e.g. acyclic conjunctive queries based on hypothesis on the complexity of Boolean Matrix Computation (BMM)).

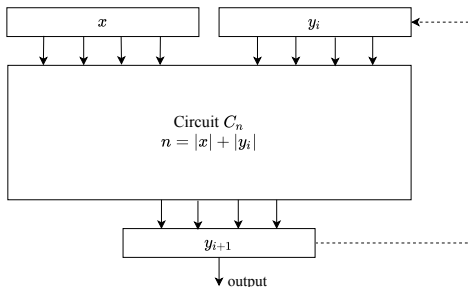
In this work

- ▶ Focus on enumeration below DelayP
- ▶ Propose enumeration algorithms based on "small" Boolean circuits
- ▶ Low classes but of a different nature than imposing constant delay
- ▶ Contributions and objectives:
 - ▶ Propose a hierarchy of small enumeration classes
 - ▶ Show they are populated by natural problems
 - ▶ Prove lower bounds! some of them non conditionally.

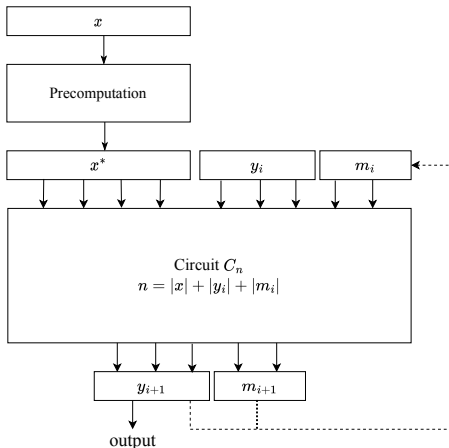
Circuit enumeration - simplistic view

- ▶ Starting point: a family of circuits (C_n) of a given kind.
- ▶ x is the main input
- ▶ successive outputs $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_i, \dots$ serve as auxiliary input

Compute next solution from the previous one by a circuit



Circuit enumeration: using precomputation and memory



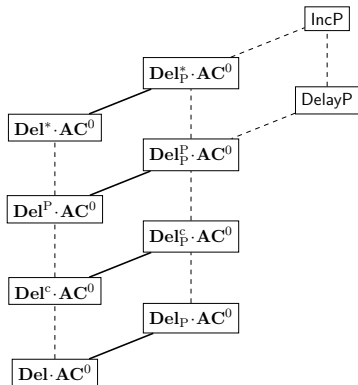
A hierarchy of classes

\mathbf{AC}^0 uniform circuit families of polynomial size and constant depth, using unbounded fan-in AND/OR gates plus negation gates.

A catalog of classes: $\mathbf{Del}_{\text{precomp}}^{\text{memory}} \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$

- ▶ $\mathbf{Del} \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$: no precomputation, no memory
- ▶ $\mathbf{Del}^c \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$: no precomp, constant size memory
- ▶ $\mathbf{Del}^P \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$: no precomp, polynomial size memory
- ▶ $\mathbf{Del}_P \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$: polytime precomp, no memory
- ▶ $\mathbf{Del}_P^c \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$: polytime precomp, constant size memory
- ▶ $\mathbf{Del}_P^P \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$: polytime precomp, polynomial size memory
- ▶ Unbounded memory: $\mathbf{Del}^* \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$, $\mathbf{Del}_P^* \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$

A first view of the hierarchy



- ▶ Inclusions between classes
- ▶ Bold lines denote (obvious) strict inclusions

Comparison with constant delay

- ▶ **CD \circ lin**: problems that can be enumerated on RAMs with constant delay after linear time preprocessing
- ▶ Classes **Del \cdot AC 0** and **CD \circ lin** are incomparable
 - ▶ Output the parity of the number of 1 is in **CD \circ lin** (and not in **Del \cdot AC 0**)
 - ▶ Enumerate the 1 entries of $A \times B$ with A, B Boolean matrices is in **Del \cdot AC 0**
- ▶ **CD \circ lin** \subsetneq **Del $_{lin}^P \cdot$ AC 0** .

An example: Gray codes

Problem: Enumerate $\{0, 1\}$ -words of a given length n by changing one bit between two consecutive outputs.

One method: Binary reflected Gray code G_n .
The 2^n words w and their range r for $n = 4$.

$r : w$

0 : 0000

1 : 0001

2 : 0011

3 : 0010

4 : 0110

5 : 0111

6 : 0101

7 : 0100

$r : w$

8 : 1100

9 : 1101

10 : 1111

11 : 1110

12 : 1010

13 : 1011

14 : 1001

15 : 1000

Gray codes enumeration

- ▶ Given n and $r < 2^n$
- ▶ Let $r = b_{n-1} \cdots b_1 b_0$ (in binary)
- ▶ Let $G_r^n = a_{n-1} \cdots a_1 a_0 \in \Sigma^n$ be the r th word.

Well known that, for all $j = 0, \dots, n - 1$,

$$b_j = \sum_{i=j}^{n-1} a_i \bmod 2 \text{ and } a_j = (b_j + b_{j+1}) \bmod 2.$$

Given a word, computing its rank is computing parity.

Result: Given 1^n , enumerating all words of length n in a Gray code order is in $\mathbf{Del}^c \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0 \setminus \mathbf{Del}_P \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$

Gray codes enumeration

In $\text{Del}^c \cdot \text{AC}^0$. Classical method:

- ▶ Step 0 : output the word $0 \cdots 0$ of length n .
- ▶ Step $2k + 1$: switch the bit at position 0.
- ▶ Step $2k + 2$: find minimal position i where there is a 1 and switch bit at position $i + 1$.

3 :	0010
4 :	0110
5 :	0111
6 :	0101

Not in $\text{Del}_P \cdot \text{AC}^0$. Suppose it is:

- ▶ Consider arbitrary $w = w_{n-1} \dots w_0$
- ▶ There exists $r < 2^n$ s.t. $G_r^n = w$. Let $w' = G_{r+1}^n$
- ▶ Compare w and w' : decide which step has been applied
- ▶ Hence decide if r is odd or even and the parity of the number of 1s in w .

Contradict classical result that PARITY is not in AC^0 .

Satisfiability problems

Question: Is AC^0 powerful enough to serve as a main enumerator engine for interesting SAT fragments?

ENUM-SAT

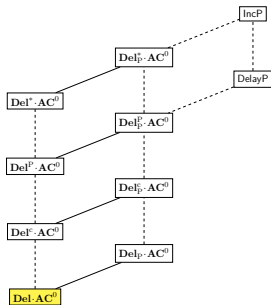
Input: A set of clauses Γ over a set of variables V

Output: an enumeration of all assignments that satisfy Γ

- ▶ ENUM-MONOTONE-SAT : positive (resp. negative) clauses
- ▶ ENUM-KROM-SAT : clauses of length at most 2
- ▶ ENUM-XOR-SAT : clauses with xor disjunctions
- ▶ ENUM-HORN-SAT : clauses with at most one positive literal

Enumerating SAT using AC^0 circuits

ENUM-MONOTONE-SAT \in $\mathbf{Del} \cdot \mathbf{AC}^0$



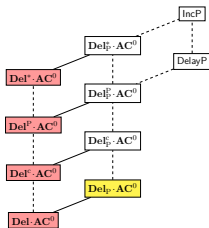
Enumerating SAT using AC^0 circuits

$ENUM-KROM-SAT \in Del_P \cdot AC^0 \setminus Del^* \cdot AC^0$.

Lower bound: reduction from ST-CONNECTIVITY.

Upper bound:

- ▶ no memory is needed
- ▶ Do not use the flashlight algorithm
- ▶ Build on the Apsvall, Plass, Tarjan 79's algorithm for 2-SAT as a preprocessing.

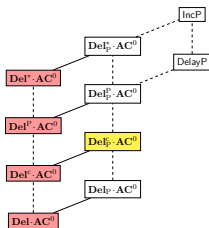


Enumerating SAT using AC^0 circuits

$ENUM\text{-}XOR\text{-}SAT \in Del_P^c \cdot AC^0 \setminus Del^* \cdot AC^0$.

Upper bound: Gaussian elimination + Gray code enumeration.

Lower bound: Express PARITY with XOR-constraints.

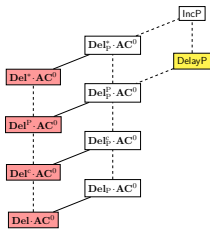


Enumerating SAT using AC^0 circuits

Where is $ENUM-HORN-SAT$ in this hierarchy of circuits?

Open: Known to be in $DelayP$, but AC^0 might not be powerful enough even with memory and precomputation.

New: $ENUM-HORN-SAT$ is $Del \cdot P$ -complete via parsimonious like reductions.



Separating classes without precomputation

Proposition: $\text{Del} \cdot \text{AC}^0 \subsetneq \text{Del}^c \cdot \text{AC}^0 \subsetneq \text{Del}^P \cdot \text{AC}^0 \subsetneq \text{DelayP}$.

- ▶ All results are unconditional
- ▶ Each proof exhibits a concrete problem in the upper class which is not in the lower one.
- ▶ They build on existing lower bounds, mainly on the fact that PARITY is not in AC^0 (even non-uniform).

Focus on $\text{Del} \cdot \text{AC}^0 \subsetneq \text{Del}^c \cdot \text{AC}^0$

Let $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$, $x = x_1 \dots x_n$ and $m = \lceil \log n \rceil + 1$. Consider $R_L = A \cup B$ with:

- ▶ $A = \{y \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid |y| = m, y \neq 0^m, y \neq 1^m\}$
- ▶ $B = \{1^m\}$ if x has an even number of ones, else $B = \{0^m\}$.

Why is R_L in $\text{Del}^c \cdot \text{AC}^0$? Simply because $2^m - 2 \approx n$ dummy solutions to enumerate (A) let enough "time" to know if x has an even number of 1 by patiently transmitting one bit of memory from one step to the other...

Focus $\text{Del} \cdot \text{AC}^0 \subsetneq \text{Del}^c \cdot \text{AC}^0$

Let $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$, $x = x_1 \dots x_n$ and $m = \lceil \log n \rceil + 1$. Consider $R_L = A \cup B$ with:

- ▶ $A = \{y \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid |y| = m, y \neq 0^m, y \neq 1^m\}$
- ▶ $B = \{1^m\}$ if x has an even number of ones, else $B = \{0^m\}$

Why is R_L not in $\text{Del} \cdot \text{AC}^0$?

Suppose it is and let (C_n) be the family doing it. Let z_1, \dots, z_t be an enumeration of A . We construct a circuit family as follows:

- ▶ compute in parallel all $C_{|\cdot|}(x)$ and $C_{|\cdot|}(x, z_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq t$
- ▶ check which of 0^m or 1^m appear

One conditional result

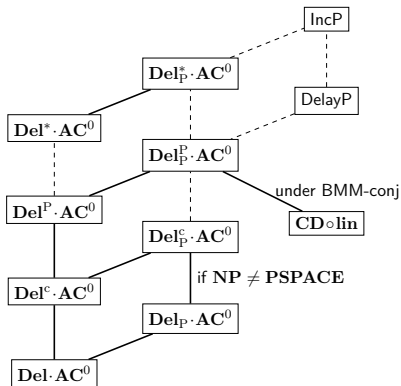
Proposition:

$\text{NP} \neq \text{PSPACE}$ implies $\text{Del}^c \cdot \text{AC}^0 \setminus \text{Del}_P \cdot \text{AC}^0 \neq \emptyset$.

(Indirect) consequence of a result by [Hertrampf, Lautemann, Schwentick, Vollmer and Wagner \(93\)](#) which shows that **PSPACE** is **serializable** in AC^0 .

Serializable : Computations in **PSPACE** can be cut into an exponentially long sequence of AC^0 computations that pass a constant number of bits to the next one.

Summary of separation results



- ▶ Inclusions between classes
- ▶ Bold lines denote strict inclusions
- ▶ BMM-conj: Boolean Matrix Multiplication can not be done in $O(m)$, where m is the number of non-zero-entries of the two matrices

Conclusion and open problems

- ▶ We introduced enumeration algorithms based on circuits
- ▶ Definitions are modular (one can vary the kind of circuits, the memory usage and precomputation)
- ▶ Even small classes of circuits lead to powerful enumeration engine (inside DelayP)
- ▶ Some lower bounds can be proven using two ingredients
 - ▶ Classical lower bounds on circuit
 - ▶ Enumeration algorithms are forced to output regularly
- ▶ Lot's of open problems and room to extend methods to find "natural" lower bounds for well-known algorithmic problems