

TODAY

① Complexity of Ideal Membership

- EXPSPACE hardness

- Degree upper bounds.

② Hilbert Nullstellensatz

# I.A - EXPSPACE HARDNESS

## ① Known Hard Problem

CWEP: Commutative word equivalence Problem

Input:  $\Sigma$ ,  $|\Sigma| = n$

• Rules:  $\alpha_i = \beta_i$   $i = 1 \dots m$   
 $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \Sigma^*$

• (Implicit):  $\sigma\tau = \tau\sigma$

$\forall \sigma, \tau \in \Sigma$

•  $\alpha, \beta \in \Sigma^*$

Task Determine if  $\alpha = \beta$ .

using commutativity & equivalence rules.

## Reduction

• Let  $\Sigma = \{\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_n\}$

•  $\#_i(w) = \#$  of occurrences of  $\sigma_i$  in  $w$

• " $\alpha_j = \beta_j$ "  $\Rightarrow f_j(x_1 \dots x_n)$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\#_i(\alpha_j)} - \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\#_i(\beta_j)}$$

•  $f(x_1 \dots x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\#_i(\alpha)} - \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\#_i(\beta)}$

Claim:  $f \in \text{Ideal}(f_1 \dots f_m)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \alpha = \beta \Leftrightarrow \{ \alpha_j = \beta_j \}_{j=1}^m$$

Proof: Omitted.



## I.B: Degree Bounds

Recall:  $f \in I(f_1, \dots, f_m)$

$\Leftrightarrow \exists q_1, \dots, q_m \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  s.t.

$$f = \sum f_i q_i$$

• To make bound "constructive" need upper bound on degree of  $q_1, \dots, q_m$ .

[Assume  $\deg(f, f_1, \dots, f_m) \leq d$ ]

• Combined with polylog space algorithms for solving linear equations over field, we get complexity  $\text{SPACE}(\text{POLYLOG}(\text{Degree Bound}))$

# Two views of Ideal Membership

I. Linear equation over a ring

$$\exists q_1 \dots q_m \in R = K[x_1, \dots, x_n] \text{ s.t.}$$

$$f = \sum f_i q_i$$

↑  
one big linear equation

II. Many linear equations over a field  $K$

$$\exists \{ q_{i,\alpha} \}_{\substack{i=1 \dots m \\ \alpha \in (\mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0})^n}} \quad \sum \alpha_i \leq D_n \text{ s.t.}$$

$$\forall \beta \in (\mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0})^n, \quad \sum \beta_i \leq D_n + d$$

$$f_\beta = \sum_i \sum_{\alpha \leq \beta} q_{i,\alpha} f_{i,\beta-\alpha}$$

( $f_\beta, f_{i,\beta}, q_{i,\alpha}$  denote coefficients of  $f, f_i, q_i$ )

Want to know: When does existence of solution to  $I \Rightarrow$  existence of solution to  $II$  with parameter  $D_n$ .

Strategy:

- Build common generalized problem  $\Pi(j)$ .

-  $\Pi(n) = I$

-  $\Pi(0) = II$

- Variable elimination:

$\Pi(j+1)$  has solution with  $m_{j+1}$  equations  
 $\hookrightarrow$  degree  $D_{j+1}$

$\Rightarrow \Pi(j)$  has solution with  $m_j = \text{poly}(m_{j+1}, D_{j+1})$   
 $\hookrightarrow D_j = \text{poly}(m_{j+1}, D_{j+1})$

$\Pi(j)$ :  $j$ -variable linear system.

Given:  $f_\beta, f_{i,\beta} \in K[x_1 \dots x_j]$

$\exists q_{i,\alpha} \in K[x_1 \dots x_j], \alpha_i \leq D_j$

$$f_\beta = \sum_i \sum_{\alpha \leq \beta} f_{i,\alpha} q_{i,\beta-\alpha} ?$$

————  $\times$  ————

Lemma:  $\Pi(j+1)$  instance with  $m$  equations of degree  $D$  has solution  $\Rightarrow$  corresponding

$\Pi(j+1)$  instance has solution with degree

$\text{poly}(m, D) \leftarrow$  equations  $\text{poly}(m, D)$

key supporting lemma: (L1)

- Given linear system  $Ax = b$ ,

•  $A \in R[z]^{m \times m}$ ,  $b \in R[z]^m$

$$\max_{i,j} \{ \deg(A_{ij}), \deg(b_j) \} \leq D$$

•  $A$  has full rank minor with monic determinant.

- Then  $Ax = b$  has solution  $\Rightarrow$  it has a solution with  $\deg(x_i) \leq \text{poly}(mD)$ .



# Proof of L1

w.l.o.g.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & \vdots & B \\ \hline C & \vdots & D \end{bmatrix}$

where  $\tilde{A}$  is full rank &  $\det(\tilde{A}) = \text{monic}$ .

Solution looks like

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note, by rank, that (if solution exists)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} & B \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

so, can ignore  $\begin{bmatrix} C & D \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} b_2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Want to show that w.l.o.g.  $\deg \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \leq \text{small.}$

$$x_1 = \tilde{A}^{-1} (b_1 - Bx_2)$$

so  $\deg(x_1) \leq \deg(\text{Adj}(A)) + \deg b_1 + \deg(B) + \deg(x_2)$

[using  $\tilde{A}^{-1} = \frac{\text{Adj}(A)}{\det(A)}$ ]

so suffice to show, can reduce  $\deg(x_2)$ .

Now use the fact

$(x_1, x_2)$  solution  $\Rightarrow$  so is

$$(x_1 + \text{Adj}(\tilde{A}) B y_2, x_2 - \det(\tilde{A}) y_2)$$

So can reduce  $\deg(x_2) \leq \deg(\det(\tilde{A}))$   
 $\leq mD$ .

From above, follows that

$\deg(x_1) \leq O(mD)$  also.  $\square$

How to use lemma L1?

How to ensure  $\det(\tilde{A})$  is monic?

Idea: Generic / Random invertible linear  
transform.

L2: Given  $Ax = b$  with  $A, b \in \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_j]$

let  $T$  be an invertible affine transform  
from  $\mathbb{K}^j \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^j$ ,

then

①  $x$  is solution to  $(A, b)$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$x(T)$  is solution to  $(A(T), b(T))$ ;

$\& \deg(x(T)) = \deg(x)$ .

② whp over choice of  $T$

$\det(\tilde{A}(T))$  is monic in  $x_j$

□

Combining L1 & L2, we get proof of  
[Hermann's] bound on  $\deg q_1, \dots, q_m$ .