## Towards Capturing Order-Independent P

#### Neil Immerman

College of Computer and Information Sciences University of Massachusetts, Amherst Amherst, MA, USA

people.cs.umass.edu/~immerman

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Query
$$\rightarrow$$
Answer $q_1 \ q_2 \ \cdots \ q_n$  $\mapsto$  $a_1 \ a_2 \ \cdots \ a_i \ \cdots \ a_m$ 

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Query
$$\mapsto$$
Computation $\Rightarrow$ Answer $q_1 \ q_2 \ \cdots \ q_n$  $\mapsto$  $a_1 \ a_2 \ \cdots \ a_i \ \cdots \ a_m$ 

Restrict attention to the complexity of computing individual bits of the output, i.e., **decision problems**.

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How hard is it to **check** if input has property S?

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How hard is it to **check** if input has property *S* ?

How rich a language do we need to express property S?

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How hard is it to **check** if input has property *S* ?

How rich a language do we need to express property S?

There is a constructive isomorphism between these two approaches.

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$$H = (\{a, b, c\}, \leq, E^H, R^H, G^H, B^H)$$

Colored

Graph

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$$H = (\{a, b, c\}, \leq, E^H, R^H, G^H, B^H)$$

Colored  $E^H = \{(a, b), (b, a), (b, c), (c, b), (c, a), (a, c)\}$ Graph

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$$H = (\{a, b, c\}, \leq, E^H, R^H, G^H, B^H)$$

Colored	$E^{H} =$	$\{(a,b),(b,a),(b,c),(c,b),(c,a),(a,c)\}$
Graph	$R^H =$	{ <i>a</i> }
	$G^{H}$ =	{ <i>b</i> }
	$B^H$ =	{ <i>C</i> }





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=	$(\{a,b,c\},\leq,E^H,R^H,G^H,B^H)$
$\leq^{H}$ =	$\{(a,a),(a,b),(a,c),(b,b),(b,c),(c,c)\}$
$E^H =$	$\{(a,b),(b,a),(b,c),(c,b),(c,a),(a,c)\}$
$R^H$ =	{ <i>a</i> }
$G^{H}$ =	{ <b>b</b> }
$B^H$ =	{ <b>c</b> }
	$=$ $\leq^{H} =$ $E^{H} =$ $R^{H} =$ $G^{H} =$ $B^{H} =$

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input symbols: E, R, Y, B, ...variables: x, y, z, ...boolean connectives:  $\land, \lor, \neg$ quantifiers:  $\forall, \exists$ numeric symbols:  $=, \leq, +, \times, \min, max$ 

$$\alpha \equiv \forall \mathbf{x} \exists \mathbf{y} \ \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$$

$$\beta \equiv \forall xy (\neg E(x,x) \land (E(x,y) \rightarrow E(y,x)))$$

$$\gamma \equiv \forall x ((\forall y \ x \leq y) \rightarrow R(x))$$

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In this setting, with the structure of interest being the **finite input**, FO is a **weak** complexity class.

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In this setting, with the structure of interest being the **finite input**, FO is a **weak** complexity class.

It is **easy** to test if input, *H*, satisfies  $\alpha$  ( $H \models \alpha$ ).

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 $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are order independent;  $\gamma$  is order dependent

## Second-Order Logic: FO plus Relation Variables

# $\Phi_{3\text{color}} \equiv \exists \mathbf{R}^{1} G^{1} \mathbf{B}^{1} \forall x y ((\mathbf{R}(x) \lor G(x) \lor \mathbf{B}(x)) \land (\mathbf{E}(x, y) \to (\neg(\mathbf{R}(x) \land \mathbf{R}(y)) \land \neg(G(x) \land G(y)) \land \neg(\mathbf{B}(x) \land \mathbf{B}(y)))))$



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## Second-Order Logic: FO plus Relation Variables

#### Fagin's Theorem: $NP = SO\exists$

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$$E^{\star}(x,y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x = y \lor E(x,y) \lor \exists z (E^{\star}(x,z) \land E^{\star}(z,y))$$



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$$E^{\star}(x,y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x = y \lor E(x,y) \lor \exists z (E^{\star}(x,z) \land E^{\star}(z,y))$$
$$\varphi_{tc}(R,x,y) \equiv x = y \lor E(x,y) \lor \exists z (R(x,z) \land R(z,y))$$



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$$E^{*}(x,y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x = y \lor E(x,y) \lor \exists z (E^{*}(x,z) \land E^{*}(z,y))$$
$$\varphi_{tc}(R,x,y) \equiv x = y \lor E(x,y) \lor \exists z (R(x,z) \land R(z,y))$$
$$\varphi_{tc}^{G} : \text{binRel}(G) \rightarrow \text{binRel}(G)$$
$$\textbf{monotone} \qquad R \subseteq S \Rightarrow \varphi_{tc}^{G}(R) \subseteq \varphi_{tc}^{G}(S)$$



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$$E^{\star} = (\text{LFP}\varphi_{tc})$$
REACH = {G, s, t | s \stackrel{\star}{\to} t}
REACH \not FO

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$$G \in \text{REACH} \Leftrightarrow G \models (\text{LFP}\varphi_{tc})(s,t) \qquad E^{\star} = (\text{LFP}\varphi_{tc})$$

$$\text{REACH} = \{G, s, t \mid s \stackrel{\star}{\to} t\}$$

$$\text{REACH} \notin \text{FO}$$

Thm. 
$$P = FO(LFP) = FO[n^{O(1)}]$$

FO[ $n^{O(1)}$ ] means for graphs with *n* vertices, the formula  $\varphi_n$  expressing the property has  $n^{O(1)}$  quantifiers, but only a **fixed number** of requantified **variables**,  $x_1, \ldots, x_k$ , i.e.  $\varphi_n \in \mathcal{L}^k$ .

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Above Thm requires ordering relation,  $\leq$ .

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Wanted: a language capturing Order-Independent P (OIP).

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#### FO(LFP) = P

### $FO(wo\leq) \big( LFP \big) \ \subseteq \ OIP$

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 $\mathsf{EVEN} \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \left\{ G \mid |V^G| \equiv 0 \, (\mathrm{mod} \, 2) \right\}$ 

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 $\mathsf{EVEN} \in \mathsf{OIP} - \mathsf{FO}(\mathsf{wo} \leq)(\mathsf{LFP}).$ 

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Thus,  $FO(wo \le)(LFP) \stackrel{\subseteq}{\neq} OIP$ 

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How do we prove EVEN  $\notin$  FO(wo $\leq$ )(LFP) ?



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 $\mathcal{G}_m^k(G,H)$  *m* moves, *k* pebbles, 2 players **Samson**: show a difference.



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**Notation:**  $G \sim_m^k H$  means that **Delilah** has a winning strategy for  $\mathcal{G}_m^k(G, H)$ .



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**Thm. D** has a winning strategy on the *m*-move, *k*-pebble game on G, H iff G and H agree on all formulas using *k* variables and quantifier depth *m*.

$$G \sim_m^k H \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad G \equiv_m^k H$$

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proof:



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Combine with counting terms:  $\#x(\varphi(x))$ .

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$$\mathsf{EVEN} \equiv \exists i (\mathsf{Plus}(i, i, \#x(x = x)))$$

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Combine with counting terms:  $\#x(\varphi(x))$ .

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Let  $C^k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} FO^k$ (COUNT); FPC  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} FO(LFP, COUNT)$ .

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 $FO(wo \le)(LFP) \stackrel{\subset}{\neq} FPC \subseteq OIP$ 

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#### Stable Coloring of Vertices

Start with a colored graph, and repeatedly color each vertex by how many neighbors it has of each color.



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# Stable Coloring of Vertices

Start with a colored graph, and repeatedly color each vertex by how many neighbors it has of each color.



**Thm.** Stable Coloring of Vertices  $= C^2$  type. Round *m* of stable coloring is quantifier depth of  $C^2$  formula.

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**Thm.** [Babai, Erdos, Selkow] With high probability, after four iterations of stable coloring, each vertex of a random graph has a unique color, i.e., the  $C_4^2$ -type of each vertex is unique.

**Thm.** [Babai, Erdos, Selkow] With high probability, after four iterations of stable coloring, each vertex of a random graph has a unique color, i.e., the  $C_4^2$ -type of each vertex is unique.

Thus, for almost all graphs, there is a linear time algorithm to canonize the graph, i.e., sort the vertices by their  $C^2$  type, so that two graphs are isomorphic iff their canonical forms are equal.

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In general the complexity of GI is unknown.

**Thm.** [Babai, 2015] GI  $\in$  DTIME[ $n^{\log^7 n}$ ]. (Before this it was only known that GI  $\in$  DTIME[ $n^{\sqrt{n}}$ ].)

**Def.** Language  $\mathcal{L}$  characterizes a graph *G* iff for all graphs *H*,

 $G \equiv_{\mathcal{L}} H \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad G \cong H$ .

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**proof:** Apply arbitrary FO(LFP) formula to the canonical form of the input graph.

# Particularizing Means Uniquely Coloring Some Vertex



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Thus, GI would be in DTIME[ $n^4 \log n$ ].

#### Thm. [CFI] No!

A simple graph property (now called the CFI property) checkable in DTIME[*n*], requires  $v = \Omega(n)$  variables to express in  $C^v$ . Thus, CFI  $\in$  OIP – FPC



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- Thus  $X(G_n)$  has color class size 4.

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 $X(G_n)$ : replace each vertex  $v \in V^{G_n}$  by a copy of X of v's color, connecting *a* to *a* and *b* to *b*.

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 $\tilde{X}(G)$  is X(G) with any one edge pair flipped.

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**Prop.** Let  $X'(G_n)$  be  $X(G_n)$  with some number, *m*, of the magenta edges flipped.

Then  $X'(G_n) \cong X(G_n)$  iff *m* is even and

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Every one of the  $m_i$ 's is connected to an even number of  $a_i$ 's.

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Every one of the  $m_i$ 's is connected to an odd number of  $a_i$ 's.

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**Def.** CFI =  $\{(X'(G) \mid X'(G) \cong X(G)\}$  for G is connected, reg. deg. 3, cc(G) = 1.

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## **Prop.** $CFI \in DTIME[n]$ .

**proof** Use the ordering to label boundary pairs  $a_i, b_i$  when  $a_i \le b_i$ . Then count the number, *m*, of flips of vertices and edges mod 2.  $X'(G) \in CFI$  iff *m* is even.



 $\tilde{X}(G_n)$ 

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**proof** We show that  $X(G_n) \equiv_{C^n} \tilde{X}(G_n)$ .

Counting doesn't help since  $cc(X(G_n)) = 4$ . Suffices to show that  $X(G_n) \sim^n \tilde{X}(G_n)$ .

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Initially no pebbles on the board, **Samson** places  $x_1$  on X(v) in one of the two graphs. Note that the largest connected component  $C_1$  of  $G - \{v\}$  includes over half the vertices of G. **Delilah** moves the flip into  $C_1$ . If she removes the flip, then the two graphs are isomorphic. **Delilah** answers according to this isomorphism.

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Inductively, after step *m*, **Delilah** has not yet lost, so there is an isomorphism from chosen points in  $X(G_n)$  to chosen points in  $\tilde{X}(G_n)$  which extends to an isomorphism of the whole graphs in which a flip in  $\tilde{G}_n$  in  $C_m$  has been removed.

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**Samson** picks up the  $x_i$  pebbles and places one on some X(v). Note that  $C_m$  and  $C_{m+1}$  both contain over half the vertices of  $G_n$ .

Thus they have some vertex  $w \in C_m \cap C_{m+1}$ .

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Thus **Delilah** never loses.

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We have shown that the linear-time CFI problem is in  $\ensuremath{\mathrm{OIP}}-\ensuremath{\mathrm{FPC}}.$ 

**Cor.**  $\Omega(n)$  variables are needed to characterize graphs.

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**Thm.** [Anderson, Dawar and Holm] Linear Programming is in FPC.

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Choiceless Polynomial Time (CPT) [Blass and Gurevich] Compute using sets of sets of sets, etc., where instead of choosing the first vertex, we consider the set of all such choices, keeping the total size of all sets polynomial.

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What I want: more natural extension to FPC that adds group theory and characterizes graphs using  $O(\log n)$  variables.



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