# Combinatorial Expressions and Lower Bounds 

Thomas Colcombet and Amaldev Manuel STACS 2015<br>6/3/2015, München

## Motivation

Show that BMA is strictly included in BR.

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Compile the BMA formula over these inputs into a circuit-like model that involves two value types, combinatorial expressions:

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Show a lower bound result on these combinatorial expressions.

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Combinatorial expressions use such gates/functions and have bounded height (say, by h).

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Sum


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This is not the case for sum.

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Can the sum of d integers as input be computed by a combinatorial No if $d>2^{h}$ expression?

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Is it possible to express that a sum is 0 ?

Is it possible to express that the gcd is 1 ?

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It is an extension of the `input on the forehead' model.

Are the problems sum=0 and $\mathbf{g c d} \mathbf{= 1}$ $\mathcal{W}$-definable for $\mathcal{W}$ non-trivial
(i.e., not containing the full window)?

Picture problems and reductions

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A picture problem is when:

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- an input is accepted if all 'lines' belong to a given $L \subseteq A^{d}$.


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| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| $x_{1}$ | $x_{2}$ | $x_{3}$ | $x_{4}$ | $x_{5}$ | $x_{6}$ | $x_{7}$ |

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| 11 | $0 \quad 1$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{array}{lll}0 & 1 & 1\end{array}$ | 11 |
| 110 | 11 |
| $1 \begin{array}{lll}1 & 1\end{array}$ | 01 |
| $1 \begin{array}{lll}1 & 1\end{array}$ | 11 |
| 111 | 01 |
| $0 \quad 1 \begin{array}{ll}1\end{array}$ | 11 |
| $1 \begin{array}{lll}1 & 1 & 1\end{array}$ | 01 |
| $1 \begin{array}{lll}1 & 1 & 1\end{array}$ | 11 |
| $\begin{array}{lll}x_{1} & x_{2} & x_{3}\end{array}$ | $x_{5} \quad x_{6}$ |

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| 1 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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Theorem: A picture problem is $\mathcal{W}$-definable if and only if the line language $L$ is $\mathcal{W}$-closed.

| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
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| 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
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| 1 | 0 |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 |  |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
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Not closed!

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| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 |  | 1 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
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| 23 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 19 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |  | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
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gcd=1 if and only all lines have a 0 !
This shows that the $\mathbf{g c d}=\mathbf{1}$ problem is at least as hard as the picture problem 'all lines contain a 0'.

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u \in L \quad \text { iff }\binom{\text { for all windows } W}{\left.u\right|_{W}=\left.v\right|_{W} \text { for some } v \in L}
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u \in L \quad \text { iff }\binom{\text { for all windows } W}{\left.u\right|_{W}=\left.v\right|_{W} \text { for some } v \in L}
$$

Assume L $\mathcal{W}$-closed.
The input is accepted iff all lines $u$ belong to $L$ iff for all lines $u$, and all windows $W,\left.u\right|_{W}=\left.v\right|_{W}$ for some $v \in L$ iff for all windows, and all lines, $\left.u\right|_{W} \in\left\{\left.v\right|_{W} \mid v \in L\right\}$

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Easy direction: upward.
The lines that resemble a line from $L$ through any window, belongs to $L$.

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u \in L \quad \text { iff }\binom{\text { for all windows } W}{\left.u\right|_{W}=\left.v\right|_{W} \text { for some } v \in L}
$$ Assume L $\mathcal{W}$-closed.

The input is accepted iff all lines $u$ belong to $L$ iff for all lines $u$, and all windows $W,\left.u\right|_{W}=\left.v\right|_{W}$ for some $v \in L$ iff for all windows, and all lines, $\left.u\right|_{W} \in\left\{\left.v\right|_{W} \mid v \in L\right\}$

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Close to the proof in:
[Pascal Tesson. An application of the Hales-Jewett theorem to multiparty communication complexity. Extract from the PhD Thesis, 2004]

## Variants

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A selection gate computes

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Finite variants:
As usual if the domain $D$ is finite, but sufficiently large, similar results holds (compactness):

- Fix B to be $\{0,1\}$. For all $h$ and all $s$, there exists $n$ such that, sum=0 $\mathbf{m o d} \mathbf{n}$ over $h$ inputs ranging over $[0, \mathrm{n}-1]$ is not doable by a formula of height at most $h$ and size at most $s$.


## Conclusion

Applications:

- these expressions are motivated for logic separation results - a toy example is present in the paper (metafinite structures)
- a more difficult example is the BMA - BR separation,
- others ?

Thank you!

