



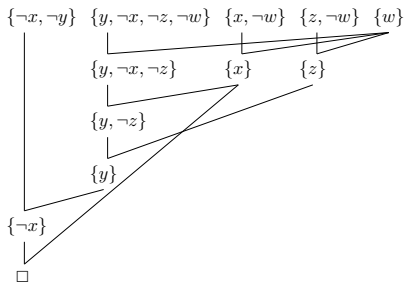
Reversible Pebble Games and the Relation Between Tree-Like and General Resolution Space

Jacobo Torán and Florian Wörz
Universität Ulm

Resolution

- only one derivation rule:

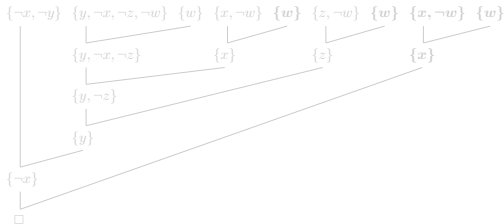
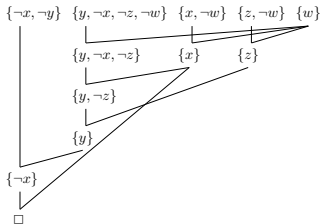
$$\frac{B \vee x \quad C \vee \bar{x}}{B \vee C}$$



- Length of $\pi = \#$ of clauses in π
- Clause Space of $\pi = \max \#$ of clauses in memory simultaneously during π
- Variable Space of $\pi = \max \#$ of variables in memory simultaneously during π
- Tree-Res, if refutation DAG is a tree (\rightarrow maybe need to rederive clauses)

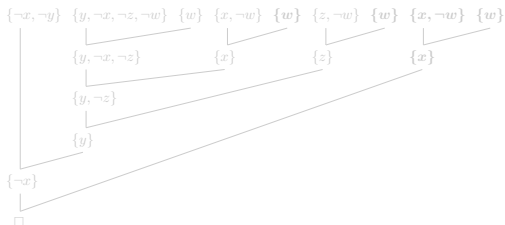
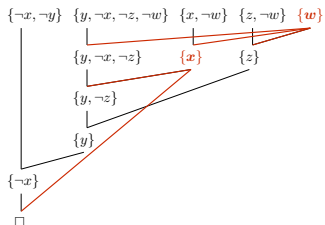
General vs. Tree-like Resolution Refutations

If a clause is needed more than once in a refutation, it has to be rederived each time.



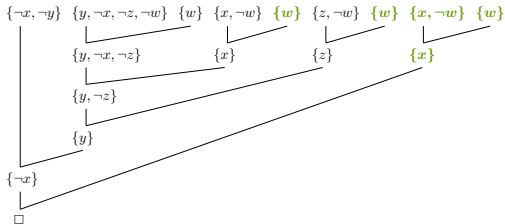
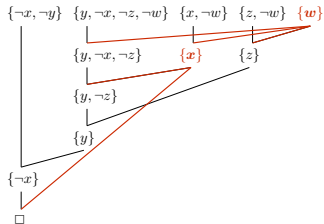
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General vs. Tree-like Resolution Refutations

If a clause is **needed more than once** in a refutation, it has to be **rederived each time**.



There is an **almost optimal separation** between general and tree-like resolution w. r. t. **length**:

- \exists a family $(F_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of unsatisfiable formulas in $O(n)$ variables with
- resolution refutations of **length L** (linear in n),
 - **but** any **tree-like resolution** refutation requires **length $\exp(\Omega(\frac{L}{\log L}))$** .

Matching upper bound of $\exp(O(\frac{L \log \log L}{\log L}))$ for tree-like resolution length of any formula that can be refuted in length L by general resolution.

[Ben-Sasson, Impagliazzo, Wigderson 04]

¿What about space?

Configuration-style Resolution

A **resolution refutation** of an unsatisfiable CNF formula F is an ordered sequence of memory configurations (sets of clauses)

$$\pi = (\mathbb{M}_0, \dots, \mathbb{M}_t),$$

s. th. $\mathbb{M}_0 = \emptyset$, $\square \in \mathbb{M}_t$ and for each $i \in [t]$, the configuration \mathbb{M}_i is obtained from \mathbb{M}_{i-1} by applying exactly one of the following rules:

- **Axiom Download:** $\mathbb{M}_i = \mathbb{M}_{i-1} \cup \{C\}$ for some axiom $C \in F$.
- **Erasure:** $\mathbb{M}_i = \mathbb{M}_{i-1} \setminus \{C\}$ for some $C \in \mathbb{M}_{i-1}$.
- **Inference:**

$$\mathbb{M}_i = \mathbb{M}_{i-1} \cup \{D\}$$

for some resolvent D inferred from $C_1, C_2 \in \mathbb{M}_i$ by the resolution rule.

The proof π is said to be **tree-like**, if we replace the inference rule with the following rule [Esteban T. 01]:

Tree-like Inference: $\mathbb{M}_i = (\mathbb{M}_{i-1} \cup \{D\}) \setminus \{C_1, C_2\}$ for some resolvent D inferred from $C_1, C_2 \in \mathbb{M}_i$, ie we delete both parent clauses immediately.

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Complexity Measures for Resolution

For a memory configuration \mathbb{M} :

- $\text{CS}(\mathbb{M}) := |\mathbb{M}|$, i. e., number of clauses in \mathbb{M} ,

For a refutation $\pi = (\mathbb{M}_0, \dots, \mathbb{M}_t)$:

- $\text{CS}(\pi) := \max_{i \in [t]} \text{CS}(\mathbb{M}_i)$, i. e., max. # of clauses in a config,
- $L(\pi) := t$.

For a complexity measure μ and a formula F

$$\mu(F \vdash \square) := \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} \mu(\pi).$$

Prefix “Tree-” indicated tree-like resolution.

Games as tools

The Prover-Delayer Game

[Pudlák, Impagliazzo '00]

Given: An unsatisfiable CNF formula F

Two players take rounds until a clause in F is falsified

Prover

Delayer

- Wants to falsify $C \in F$
(then Game Over)
 - Queries a variable x of F
 - Plugs answer of Delayer
in / chooses value for *
- Answers
 - $x = 0$,
 - $x = 1$ or
 - $x = *$ ("you choose")

Score of Delayer = # of *'s

The Prover-Delayer Game

A Combinatorial Characterisation for Tree-CS

Definition (Game value of the Prover-Delayer game)

Let F be an unsatisfiable CNF formula.

$PD(F) := \max$ pts. of Delayer on F against optimal strategy of Prover.

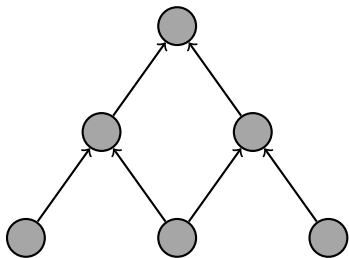
Theorem ([Esteban, T. '03])

Let F be an unsatisfiable CNF formula. Then

$$\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) = PD(F) + 2.$$

The Black Pebble Game

Goal: Get a **single black pebble** on the **sink** of the graph.

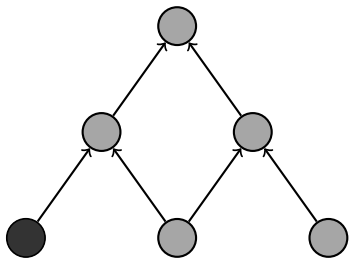


max # of pebbles
used at any point:

- **Pebble Placement:** On empty vertex if all direct predecessors have a pebble (in particular: can always pebble sources)
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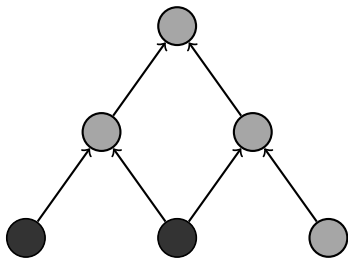


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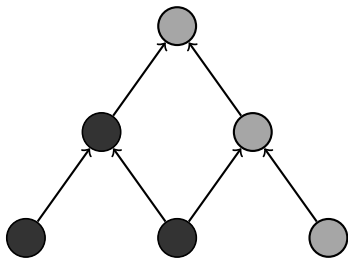


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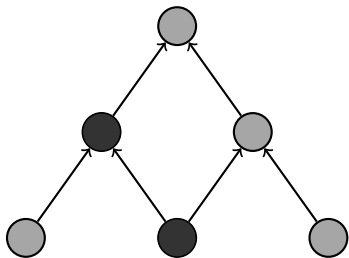


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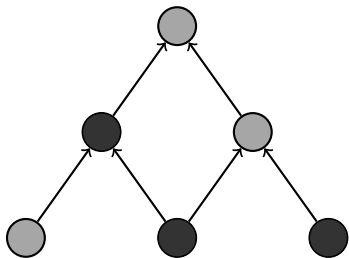


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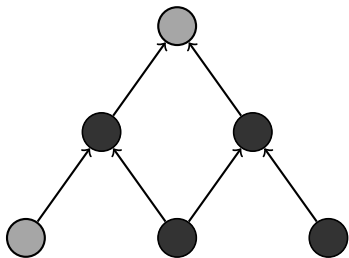


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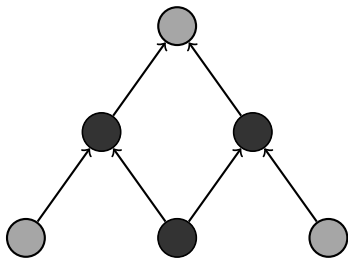
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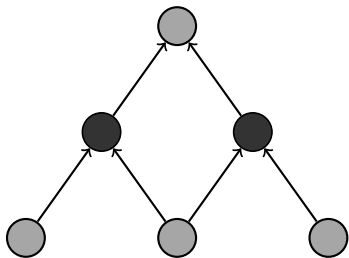


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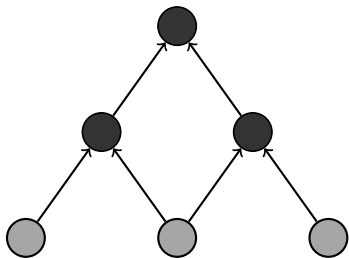


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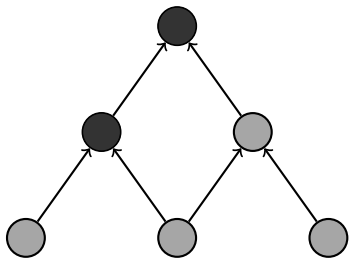


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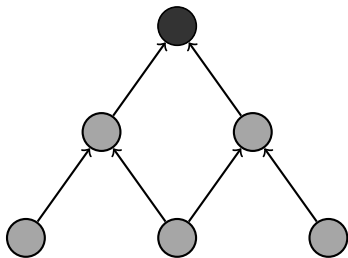


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The Reversible Pebble Game

Same Goal: Get a single black pebble on the sink of the graph.

Same measure: **max # of pebbles used at any point:**



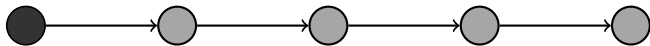
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The Reversible Pebble Game

Same Goal: Get a single black pebble on the sink of the graph.

Same measure: **max # of pebbles used at any point: 1**



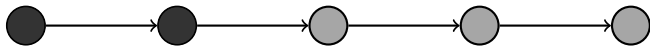
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The Reversible Pebble Game

Same Goal: Get a single black pebble on the sink of the graph.

Same measure: **max # of pebbles used at any point: Π**



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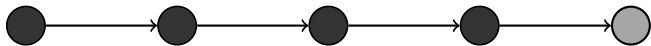
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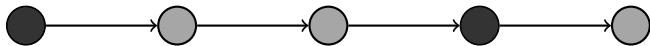
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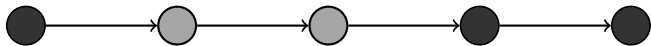
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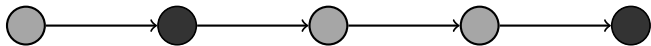
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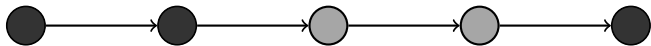
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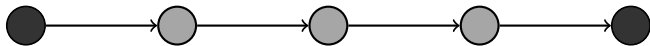
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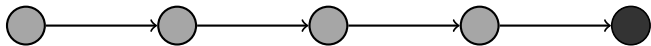
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Complexity Measures for the Pebble Games

$$\text{Black}(G) := \min_{\text{black pebblings } \mathcal{P}} \left(\max \# \text{ of pebbles used at any point in } \mathcal{P} \right)$$

$$\text{Rev}(G) := \min_{\text{rev. pebblings } \mathcal{P}} \left(\max \# \text{ of pebbles used at any point in } \mathcal{P} \right)$$

Plethora of **connections to resolution** i. a.:

$$\text{CS}(\pi) = \min_{\pi} \text{Black}(G_{\pi}) \quad \pi : F \vdash \square \quad [\text{Esteban, T. '01}].$$

We will show:

$$\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) \leq \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} \text{Rev}(G_{\pi}) + 2.$$

The minimum is over all refutation, not only tree-like ones.

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$$\text{Rev}(G) := \min_{\text{rev. pebblings } \mathcal{P}} \left(\max \# \text{ of pebbles used at any point in } \mathcal{P} \right)$$

Plethora of **connections to resolution** i. a.:

$$\text{CS}(\pi) = \min_{\pi} \text{Black}(G_{\pi}) \quad \pi : F \vdash \square \quad [\text{Esteban, T. '01}].$$

We will show:

$$\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) \leq \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} \text{Rev}(G_{\pi}) + 2.$$

The minimum is over all refutation, not only tree-like ones.

Yet another game

Rev(G) is hard to compute

Raz–McKenzie Game to the help [Raz, McKenzie '97]

Given: A single sink DAG G

Two players take rounds... until Game Over..., i. e., when we have:

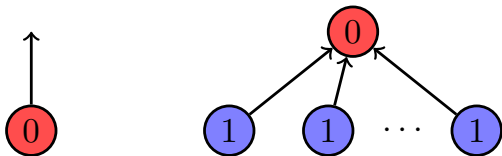
Pebbler

- Places pebble on sink
- Chooses empty vertex

Colourer

- Colours it with red $\hat{=}$ 0
- Colours it red $\hat{=}$ 0 or blue $\hat{=}$ 1

Until



Either a red source **or** red vertex with all predecessors blue.

$R\text{-Mc}(G) :=$ smallest r s. th. Pebbler wins in $\leq r$ rounds
regardless of how Colourer plays

$$\text{Rev}(G) = \text{R-Mc}(G)$$

Theorem ([Chan '13])

For any single-sink DAG G :

$$\text{Rev}(G) = \text{R-Mc}(G)$$

Example: $\text{Rev}(P_n) = \text{R-Mc}(P_n) = \Theta(\log n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$



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Upper bounds for Tree-CS

$$\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) \leq \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} \text{Rev}(G_\pi) + 2$$

Proof sketch:

Given: a res. refutation π of F with a ref.-graph G_π and $\text{Rev}(G_\pi) =: k$.

AIM: Give a strategy for Prover in the PD-game under which he has to pay at most k points.

Idea: Simulate the strategy of Pebbler in the Raz–McKenzie game
→ a falsifying part. assignment α of init. clause will be produced

Stages of the game: Pebbler chooses C → Prover queries vars. in C not yet assigned by α (& extends with Delayer's answers) until either

1. the clause C is sat./fals. by α
→ Prover moves to next stage, simulating the corresponding strategy of Pebbler when C is given colour $C|_\alpha$
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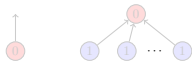
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After at most k stages the Raz–McKenzie game finished
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Only left to show: At the end of the game a clause of F is fals. by α .

When Raz–McKenzie finishes:

1. either a source vertex in G_{π} is assigned colour 0 by Colourer,
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 \rightarrow not possible, since no α can sat'y two parent clauses in a resolution proof, while falsifying their resolvent! □



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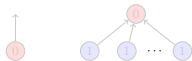
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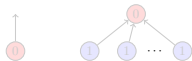
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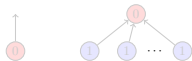
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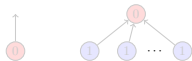
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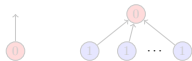
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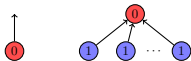
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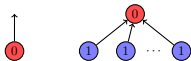
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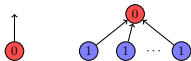
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$$\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) \leq \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} \text{Rev}(G_\pi) + 2$$

On the other hand:

$$\min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} \text{Rev}(G_\pi) \leq \text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square)(\lceil \log n \rceil + 1)$$

and there are formulas for which this bound is tight.

An upper bound for Tree-CS in terms of CS*

[Razborov '18] introduced the concept of amortised clause space:

$$\text{CS}^*(F \vdash \square) := \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} (\text{CS}(\pi) \cdot \log L(\pi))$$

Corollary

$$\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) \leq \text{CS}^*(F \vdash \square) + 2.$$

Proof.

- [Kráľovič '04] $\text{Rev}(G_\pi) \leq \min_{\mathcal{P}} (\text{space}(\mathcal{P}) \cdot \log \text{time}(\mathcal{P}))$, where the minimum is taken over all black pebbleings \mathcal{P} of G_π .
- Every black pebbling \mathcal{P} of G_π defines a configurational refutation of F with clause space equal to $\text{space}(\mathcal{P})$ and length $\text{time}(\mathcal{P})$. \square

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- [Kráľovič '04] $\text{Rev}(G_\pi) \leq \min_{\mathcal{P}} (\text{space}(\mathcal{P}) \cdot \log \text{time}(\mathcal{P}))$, where the minimum is taken over all black pebbleings \mathcal{P} of G_π .
- Every black pebbling \mathcal{P} of G_π defines a configurational refutation of F with clause space equal to $\text{space}(\mathcal{P})$ and length $\text{time}(\mathcal{P})$. \square

An upper bound for Tree-CS in terms of CS*

[Razborov '18] introduced the concept of amortised clause space:

$$\text{CS}^*(F \vdash \square) := \min_{\pi: F \vdash \square} (\text{CS}(\pi) \cdot \log L(\pi))$$

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How large can be the gap between CS and Tree-CS?

Pebbling Formulas (formulas over DAGs)

Pebbling Formula

Clauses of Peb_G :

u

v

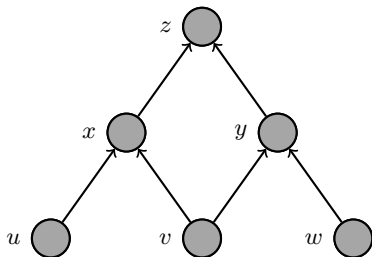
w

$(u \wedge v) \rightarrow x = \bar{u} \vee \bar{v} \vee x$

$(v \wedge w) \rightarrow y = \bar{v} \vee \bar{w} \vee y$

$(x \wedge y) \rightarrow z = \bar{x} \vee \bar{y} \vee z$

\bar{z}



Encode the rules of the black pebble game in a formula (i. e., formula is defined over an underlying DAG):

- source vertices are true
- truth propagates upwards
- but the sink vertex is false

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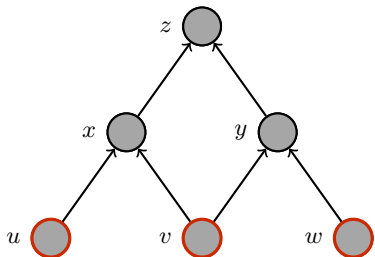
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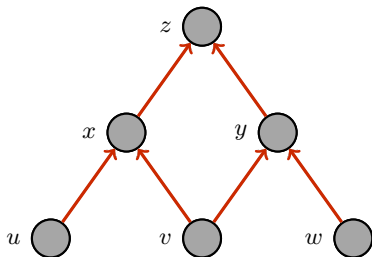
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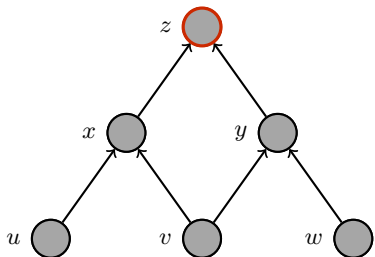
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XORification \oplus_2

Make formulas slightly harder to refute

- For a technical reason we need the XORification of our pebbling formulas.
- (XORification being a common technique used in proof complexity).
- **Simple Idea:** Substitute each variable x with $x_1 \oplus x_2$ and expand result into CNF.

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Reversible Pebbling meets Tree-CS in the Special Case of Pebbling Formulas

Theorem

For all DAGs G with a unique sink:

$$\text{Rev}(G) + 2 \leq \text{Tree-CS}(\text{Peb}_G[\oplus_2] \vdash \square) \leq 2 \cdot \text{Rev}(G) + 2.$$

Obtaining Space-Separations with Pebble games

Idea:

- $\text{CS}(\text{Peb}_G[\oplus_2] \vdash \square) = O(\text{Black}(G))$
- $\text{Tree-CS}(\text{Peb}_G[\oplus_2] \vdash \square) = \Omega(\text{Rev}(G))$

\implies Construct a graph family with a **gap between its black and reversible pebbling price**

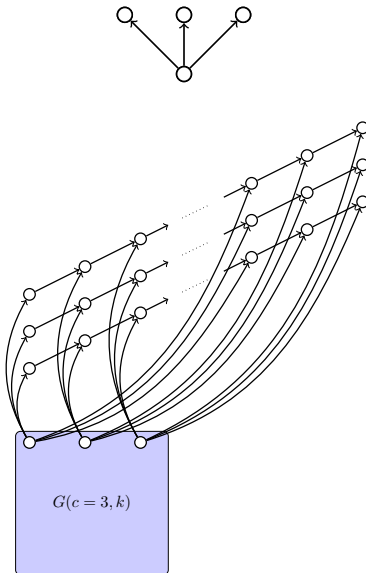
Example: Path graphs P_n of length n



- $\text{Black}(P_n) = O(1) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$
- $\text{Rev}(P_n) = \Theta(\log n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

Obtaining Space-Separations with Pebble games

Non-constant black pebbling number and Black-Rev-separation:



Obtaining Space-Separations with Pebble games

The best known separation

For “slowly enough” growing space functions $s(n)$ there is a family of pebbling formulas $(\text{Peb}_{G_n}[\oplus_2])_{n=1}^{\infty}$ with $\Theta(n)$ variables such that

- $\text{CS}(\text{Peb}_{G_n}[\oplus_2] \vdash \square) = O(s(n))$
- $\text{Tree-CS}(\text{Peb}_{G_n}[\oplus_2] \vdash \square) = \Omega(s(n) \log n)$.

¿Can we do any better?

The Tseitin formula case

The Tseitin formula case

Theorem

- For any connected graph G with n vertices and odd marking χ
 $\text{Tree-CS}(\text{Ts}(G, \chi) \vdash \square) \leq \text{CS}(\text{Ts}(G, \chi) \vdash \square) \cdot \log n + 2$
- There are graph families $\{G_n\}$ for which $\forall n$:
 $\text{Tree-CS}(\text{Ts}(G, \chi) \vdash \square) = \Omega(\text{CS}(\text{Ts}(G, \chi) \vdash \square) \cdot \log n)$

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Proof sketch:

Let $\pi = (\mathbb{M}_0, \dots, \mathbb{M}_t)$ be a refutation of $\text{Ts}(G, \chi)$ with $\text{CS}(\pi) =: k$.

We use π to give a strategy for Prover in the Prover-Delayer game for which he has to pay at most $k \log n$ points.

A partial assignment α of some of the variables in $\text{Ts}(G, \chi)$ is **non-splitting** if after applying α to the formula, the resulting graph still has an odd connected component of size at least $\frac{n}{2}$ and the rest are even.

There is a last step s in π for which there is a partial assignment α fulfilling:

- (i) α simultaneously satisfies all clauses in \mathbb{M}_s and
- (ii) α is non-splitting.

The only new clause in configuration \mathbb{M}_{s+1} must be an axiom of $\text{Ts}(G, \chi)$

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Take-Home Message

Tree-CS and CS are different measures but “not too far” from one another

- $\text{Tree-CS}(\text{Peb}_G[\oplus_2] \vdash \square) \simeq \text{Rev}(G)$
- Separations between Tree-CS and CS by graphs G exhibiting separation between $\text{Rev}(G)$ and $\text{Black}(G)$
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- $\text{Tree-CS}(F \vdash \square) \lesssim \text{VS}^*(F \vdash \square)$ for general F

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Thank you for your attention!