

Definition 1. ($\#LEXT$)

given: a partial order (by Hasse diagram)

compute: $\#$ of linear extensions

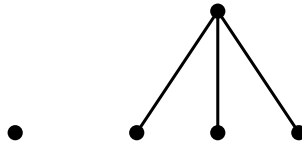


Figure 1: The number of linear extensions for this partial order is 30

Theorem 2. (Brightwell, Winkler, 1991)

$\#LEXT$ is $\#P$ -complete.

Proof. We will prove the theorem by reduction from $\#SAT$.

Let I be an Instance for $\#SAT$ with m variables and n clauses. Let $M = 7n + m$.

Define the partial order P_I :

- for each variable x there is a vertex h_x
- for each clause c there are 7 vertices c_1, \dots, c_7
- if c has variables x, y, z (negated or not), then the vertices in P_I are connected as in figure 2

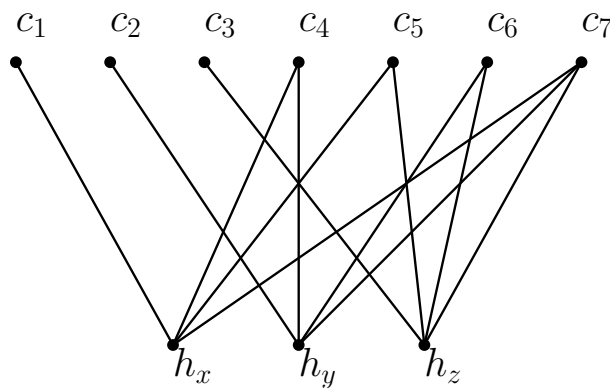


Figure 2: The relations in P_I corresponding to a clause c involving the variables x, y, z

P_I has size M .

Let L_I be the number of linear extensions of P_I . We can determine L_I by a call to $\#LEXT$ -oracle

$\mathbf{O}(M)$, where $\mathbf{O}(M)$ denotes an oracle call to partial order of size M .
 Let $S_0 = \{p \mid p \text{ prime}, M < p < M^2\}$. Then

$$\prod S_0 \stackrel{\text{excercise}}{\geq} M! \cdot 2^M > M! \cdot 2^m$$

Let $S = \{p \in S_0 \mid p \nmid L_I\}$, then

$$\prod S > 2^m$$

since $L_I \leq M!$

Let $S(I)$ be the number of satisfying assignments for I .
idea:

compute $S(I) \bmod p$ for all $p \in S$

From those values:

compute $S(I)$ by Chinese remainder theorem

For each $p \in S$, construct a partial order $Q_I(p)$ as in figure 3:

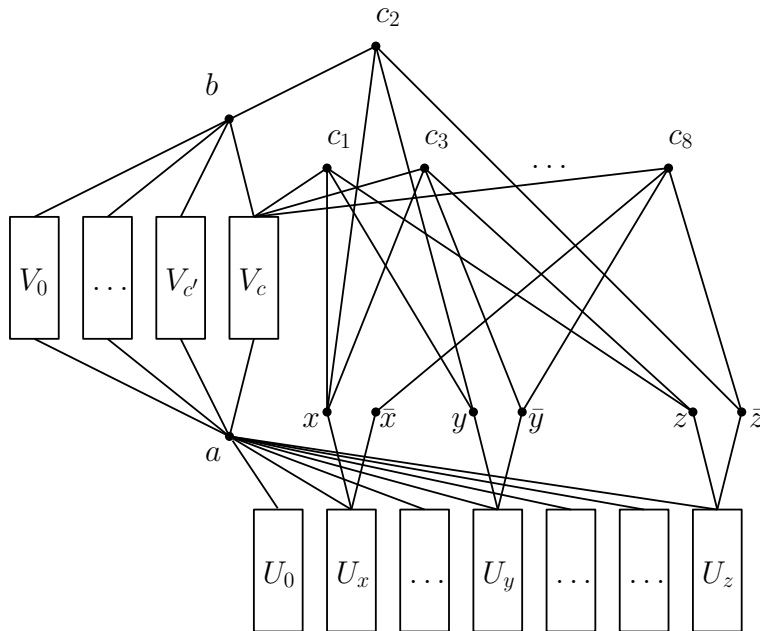


Figure 3: The partial order $Q_I(p)$. The rectangles represent antichains of size $p - 1$. The only clause vertices shown here are those corresponding to the clause $c = x \vee y \vee \bar{z}$

- the U_i and V_j are antichains of $p - 1$ vertices each

- there is a box U_i for each variable and a box V_j for each clause and additionally U_0 and V_0
- the vertices for $x, \bar{x}, y, \bar{y}, z, \bar{z}$ etc. are called *literal vertices*
- the vertices for the c_i are called *clause vertices*
- each clause vertex corresponds to an assignment for x, y, z and is connected to the three literals (of the variables in clause c) that are TRUE in this assignment
- the one clause vertex above b is the one that is connected with the literals of c
- the part shown in the figure for the clause $c = x \vee y \vee \bar{z}$ is constructed for each clause c .

A linear extension " \leq " of $Q_I(p)$ has the form:

$$\underbrace{B}_{\text{bottom part}} \leq a \leq \underbrace{M}_{\text{middle part}} \leq b \leq \underbrace{T}_{\text{top part}}$$

Let φ be a configuration $B^\varphi, M^\varphi, T^\varphi$ of $Q_I(p)$ into B, M, T .

If P^φ , the partial order according to φ , extends $Q_I(p)$, then the number of linear extensions of $Q_I(p)$

$$N(Q_I(p)) = \sum_{\text{conf } \varphi} N(P^\varphi)$$

and

$$N(P^\varphi) = N(P_B^\varphi) \cdot N(P_M^\varphi) \cdot N(P_T^\varphi)$$

where P_B^φ is the bottom part of P^φ , P_M^φ the middle part and P_T^φ the top part.

Definition 3. A configuration φ is called **feasible**, iff

$$p \nmid N(P_B^\varphi), \quad p \nmid N(P_M^\varphi)$$

Lemma 4. Let φ be a feasible configuration for $Q_I(p)$.

(a) B^φ contains exactly one literal vertex per variable and

$$N(P_B^\varphi) = \frac{(p(m+1)-1)!}{p^m} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

(b) M^φ contains no literal vertex and exactly one clause vertex per clause and

$$N(P_M^\varphi) = \frac{(p(n+1)-1)!}{p^n} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

Proof. (a) φ feasible $\Rightarrow P_B^\varphi$ contains antichain $U = U_0 \cup \bigcup U_x$ of size $(p-1)(m+1)$.

Within the bottom part B^φ : U_0 is isolated and for every x U_x is isolated if x and \bar{x} are not in B^φ . Suppose \exists one isolated $U_x \Rightarrow r \geq p-1$ isolated vertices in B^φ . In a linear extension of B^φ : $k \cdot (k-1) \cdot \dots \cdot (k-r+1)$ possibilities to place them (where $k = |B^\varphi|$). This number must divide $N(P_B^\varphi)$. Since φ is feasible $\Rightarrow p \nmid N(P_B^\varphi) \Rightarrow$ no multiple of p is a factor in the product $k \cdot (k-1) \cdot \dots \cdot (k-r+1)$. It follows:

1. $r = p - 1$
2. for each variable x : the vertex/vertices for x or for \bar{x} are in B^φ
3. $k \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

For $k' =$ number of literal vertices in B^φ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 k &= \underbrace{(p-1)(m+1)}_{U\text{-blocks}} + k' \quad | \text{ take } \pmod{p} \\
 -(m+1) + k' &\equiv -1 \pmod{p} \\
 -m + k' &\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\
 k' &\equiv m \pmod{p}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since $p > m$ and $m \stackrel{2.}{\leq} k' \leq 2m$,

$$k' = m$$

i.e., exactly one literal vertex per variable is in B^φ .

P_B^φ looks like in figure 4.

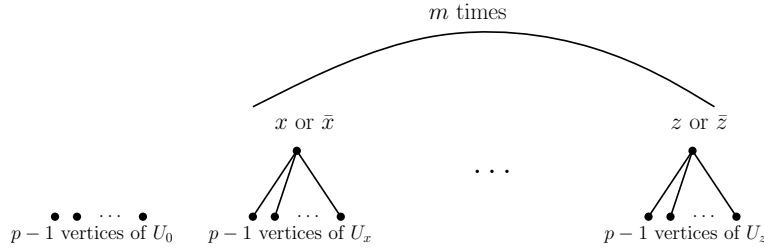


Figure 4: P_B^φ

With problem three from the third problem set follows:

$$N(P_B^\varphi) = \frac{(p(m+1) - 1)!}{p^m}$$

In the numerator, there is m times the factor p , and this is divided by p^m , therefore there is no more multiple of p in the number.

(b) exercise! □

Lemma 5. *The number $S(I)$ of satisfying assignments of I = the number of feasible configurations of $Q_I(p)$ for any $p \in S$.*

Proof. We construct a mapping h : assignments \rightarrow configurations as follows:
given an assignment α , construct configuration $\varphi = h(\alpha)$:

- the literal vertices for the literals that are satisfied are placed in T^φ and the others in B^φ

- the clause vertices c_1, \dots, c_8 corresponding to literal combinations whose \vee is 1 (TRUE) are placed in T^φ , the others in M^φ
- (U_x in B^φ , V_c in M^φ)

Claim 6. α is satisfying for $I \Leftrightarrow h(\alpha)$ is feasible

Proof. " \Leftarrow ": $\varphi = h(\alpha)$ is feasible $\stackrel{L.A(a)}{\Rightarrow}$ for each variable x one literal h_x is in T^φ and the other, l_x , is in B^φ , by construction: $\alpha(h_x) = 1$ and $\alpha(l_x) = 0$. We have to show that α is satisfying. Assume, α is not, there exists a clause C that is not satisfied. The literals in C are all set to FALSE by α , therefore the clause vertex c_i , which corresponds exactly to the literals of C is placed in M^φ (by construction of h). So it's not above b . \nmid

" \Rightarrow ": look at proof of Lemma 4. □

h restricted to satisfying assignments is a bijection to the feasible configurations. We show that the inverse mapping h^{-1} exists: by Lemma 4: for each variable one literal h_x is placed in T^φ , the other, l_x , in B^φ . So $\alpha(h_x) = 1$. Therefore, α is a satisfying assignment, because if not, one clause C is not satisfied, then ... (as above) \nmid □

Observation: φ feasible $\Rightarrow P_T^\varphi$ has 7 clause vertices, each one is above at least one of h_x, h_y, h_z . $\Rightarrow P_T^\varphi$ is isomorphic to P_I from the beginning, see figure 2.

It follows:

$$\begin{aligned} N(P^\varphi) &= N(P_B^\varphi) \cdot N(P_M^\varphi) \cdot N(P_T^\varphi) \\ &= \frac{(p(m+1)-1)!}{p^m} \cdot \frac{(p(n+1)-1)!}{p^n} \cdot L_I =: N_0 \end{aligned}$$

Since if φ is not feasible, then $N(P^\varphi)$ has p as a factor, it follows:

$$\begin{aligned} N(Q_I(p)) &\equiv \sum_{\varphi \text{ feasible}} N(P^\varphi) \pmod{p} \\ &\equiv N_0 \cdot (\# \text{ feasible configurations of } Q_I(p)) \pmod{p} \\ &\stackrel{L.5}{\equiv} N_0 \cdot S(I) \pmod{p} \quad \text{for all } p \in S \end{aligned}$$

From this: determine $S(I) \pmod{p}$:

- compute N_0 by one oracle call to determine L_I ; the other terms in the definition of N_0 can be computed in polynomial time
- compute $\underbrace{N_0^{-1}}_{\text{standard techniques}} \cdot \underbrace{N(Q_I(p))}_{\text{oracle call } \mathbf{O}(M^3)} \equiv S(I) \pmod{p}$

So for each $p \in S$: determine $S(I) \pmod{p}$ this way. For this values determine $S(I)$, since

$$\prod_{p \in S} p^{\text{seen before}} > 2^m = \# \text{ all possible assignments} \geq S(I),$$

by chinese remainder theorem.

Chinese remainder theorem (Sun Tzu, 3rd century A.D.)

Suppose p_1, \dots, p_k are (pairwise relatively) prime. Then the congruence equalities

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{p_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{p_2} \\ &\vdots \\ x &\equiv a_k \pmod{p_k} \end{aligned}$$

have exactly one solution $x \in \{0, \dots, p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot \dots \cdot p_k - 1\}$.

All computations are done with numbers whose size (# of bits) is polynomial in M :

$$\text{largest number: } N(Q_I(p)) \leq (O(M^3))! < (cM^3)^{cM^3} \text{ for some constant } c$$

$$\text{\# of bits: } \leq \log\left((cM^3)^{cM^3}\right) = O(M^3 \log M^3)$$

□

Definition 7. (*VCP*)

Given a convex polytope (*H-polytope*)

Compute its volume

Theorem 8. *VCP is #P-hard.*

Proof. We will prove the theorem by reduction from #LEXT.

Let π be a partial order on elements x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d .

The *order polytope* of the partial order π is defined as an intersection of the following set of halfspaces:

$$\{x_i - x_j \geq 0 \mid (x_i, x_j) \in \pi\}$$

where $0 \leq x_i \leq 1$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$.

A linear extension satisfies $0 \leq x_{i_1} \leq x_{i_2} \leq \dots \leq x_{i_d} \leq 1$ so that the partial order is preserved. Each inequality defines a halfspace and all these $d + 1$ inequalities define the intersection of $d + 1$ halfspaces which is a simplex in \mathbb{R}^d .

All these simplices have the same volume and their interiors are disjoint. That is, they do not intersect but may share boundaries. Their union is the order polytope itself.

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vol}(\text{order polytope}) &= \#\text{simplices} \cdot \text{Vol}(\text{one simplex}) \\ &= (\#\text{ linear extensions of } \pi) \cdot \frac{1}{d!} \end{aligned}$$

We can compute the number of linear extensions of a partial order π by an oracle call to VCP.

$$\#LEXT \stackrel{\downarrow}{\underset{\text{reducible}}{\leq}} \text{VCP}$$

□