

NP PREDICATES COMPUTABLE IN THE WEAKEST LEVEL OF THE GRZEGORCZYCK HIERARCHY

CRISTIAN GROZEA

*Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Bucharest University,
Str. Academiei 14, R-70109 Bucharest, Romania.
e-mail: chrisg@phobos.ro*

ABSTRACT

Let $(\mathcal{E}_r)_{r \in \mathbf{N}}$ be the hierarchy of Grzegorzcyk. Its weakest level, \mathcal{E}_0 is indeed quite weak, as it doesn't even contains functions such as $\max(x, y)$ or $x + y$. In this paper we show that $SAT \in \mathcal{E}_0$ by developing a technique which can be used to show the same result holds for other NP problems. Using this technique, we are able to show that also the Hamiltonian Cycle Problem is solvable in \mathcal{E}_0 .

Keywords: Grzegorzcyk hierarchy, subrecursion classes, SAT, NP

1. Introduction and Notation

Why should a computer scientist be interested in the Grzegorzcyk Hierarchy today? Because there are still open problems related to the lower levels of this hierarchy. Even more, solving some of these problems may lead to solutions to other open problems in complexity theory. For example, if one can prove that the following inclusion is strict: $\mathcal{E}_{0*} \subseteq \mathcal{E}_{2*}$, then the Linear Time Hierarchy *LTH* is properly contained in *LINSPACE*, as $LTH \subseteq \mathcal{E}_{0*}$ and $LINSPACE = \mathcal{E}_{2*}$.

We shall follow the notation in Rose [8] and denote by $\mathbf{q}(x, y)$ the arithmetical quotient of the integer division of x by y , by $\mathbf{r}(x, y)$ the remainder of the integer division of x by y , by $\mathbf{d}(x)$ the *length* of the binary representation of x and by $\mathbf{D}(x, y) = 2^{\mathbf{d}(x) * \mathbf{d}(y)}$ the *smash* function.

Let $(\mathcal{E}_r)_{r \in \mathbf{N}}$ be the Grzegorzcyk hierarchy, and let P_f be the set of the polynomial-time computable functions. We denote by \mathcal{C}_* the subset of the Boolean-valued functions in the function set \mathcal{C} . Also $(P_f)_* = P$.

Note that P_f contains the *smash* function \mathbf{D} , which is not in \mathcal{E}_2 , as it is not polynomially bounded. Therefore $P_f \not\subseteq \mathcal{E}_2$.

It was already known that $\mathcal{E}_2 \not\subseteq P_f$, provided $P \neq NP$ (Book[2, theorem 1]).

We shall prove a much stronger assertion, namely

$$\mathcal{E}_0 \not\subseteq P_f, \text{ provided } P \neq NP.$$

This leads us to the conclusion that \mathcal{E}_0 and P_f are not comparable and hence P_f is not somewhere between \mathcal{E}_0 and \mathcal{E}_3 .

In this paper, we show that the satisfiability problem of Cook (SAT), which is known to be NP -complete, can be solved in \mathcal{E}_0 , so we will be able to show explicitly a function in \mathcal{E}_0 , which is not in P_f .

Added in proof: We have just learned that More and Olivier [6] have obtained a similar result with an indirect proof.

1.1. Recursion

The function \mathbf{f} is defined by *primitive recursion* from \mathbf{g} and \mathbf{h} if $\mathbf{f}(0, \vec{y}) = \mathbf{g}(\vec{y})$ and $\mathbf{f}(x+1, \vec{y}) = \mathbf{h}(x, \vec{y}, \mathbf{f}(x, \vec{y}))$.

The function \mathbf{f} is defined by *limited recursion* from $\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{F}$ if \mathbf{f} is defined by primitive recursion from \mathbf{g} and \mathbf{h} and, additionally $\mathbf{f}(x, \vec{y}) \leq \mathbf{F}(x, \vec{y})$, for all x and \vec{y} .

Let \mathcal{E}_0 be the class of (primitive recursive) functions whose initial functions are the zero function, the successor function, and which is closed under composition and limited recursion. By \mathcal{E}_1 we denote the class of (primitive recursive) functions whose initial functions are the zero function, the successor function, the addition function $x + y$, and which is closed under composition and limited recursion; \mathcal{E}_1 is the closure of \mathcal{E}_0 under addition. Formally, \mathcal{E}_2 is the class of (primitive recursive) functions whose initial functions are the zero function, the successor function, $x + y$ and $x * y$, and which is closed under composition and limited recursion; \mathcal{E}_2 is the closure of \mathcal{E}_1 under multiplication.

It is known that \mathcal{E}_2 consists of the linear-space computable functions (Ritchie [7], see also Rose [8]), and that P_f has this recursive characterization (Cobham [3], see also Rose [8]): The polynomial-time computable functions are exactly those functions obtained from the initial functions 0, projections, the binary constructors ($\mathbf{s}_0(x) = 2*x$ and $\mathbf{s}_1(x) = 2*x+1$) and the *smash* function ($\mathbf{D}(x, y) = 2^{\mathbf{d}(x)*\mathbf{d}(y)}$), using composition and bounded recursion on notation (binary recursion).

1.2. Logical operation and the least number operator μ

We say that the predicate \mathbf{P} is computed (represented) by the function \mathbf{f}_P if $\mathbf{P}(x)$ is true if and only if $\mathbf{f}_P(x) = 0$.

We shall consider the (bounded) quantifiers $\forall t \leq x, \mathbf{P}(t)$ and $\exists t \leq x, \mathbf{P}(t)$ and the (bounded) least number operator μ :

$$\mu(t \leq x)[\mathbf{P}(x)] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \mathbf{P}(t) \neq 0, \forall t \leq x, \\ t_0, & \text{if } \mathbf{P}(t_0) = 0, t_0 \leq x, (\forall t < t_0, \mathbf{P}(t) \neq 0). \end{cases}$$

1.3. Properties of low Grzegorzcyk classes

Here are some properties of low Grzegorzcyk classes $\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_2$ (for proofs see Rose [8]):

- (i) $x \dot{-} y \in \mathcal{E}_0$.
- (ii) The logical operations can be represented in \mathcal{E}_0 (including the bounded quantifiers).

- (iii) The least number operator μ can be defined in \mathcal{E}_0 .
- (iv) Each function in \mathcal{E}_2 has a polynomial upper bound.
- (v) $\mathcal{E}_0 \subset \mathcal{E}_1 \subset \mathcal{E}_2$.

2. Low Grzegorzcyk Classes and P_f

The class P_f contains the *smash* function \mathbf{D} , which is not in \mathcal{E}_2 , as it is not bounded by polynomials. Therefore $P_f \not\subseteq \mathcal{E}_2$ and subsequently $P_f \not\subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$, $P_f \not\subseteq \mathcal{E}_1$.

We also show here that the other inclusions are false, that is :

$$\mathcal{E}_0 \not\subseteq P_f \tag{1}$$

(from this immediately follows that $\mathcal{E}_1 \not\subseteq P_f$ and $\mathcal{E}_2 \not\subseteq P_f$).

To prove (1) is enough to find a function that is not in P_f , but is in \mathcal{E}_0 .

Let us consider the *satisfiability problem* (SAT), the problem that requires to decide for a given Boolean formula in CNF (conjunctive normal form) whether there exist Boolean values for the variables in the formula such that the formula evaluates to the value *true*. SAT is known to be *NP*-complete, so there is a function in P_f for solving it if and only if $P = NP$.

We shall start here our construction proving that SAT can be solved by a function in \mathcal{E}_0 . We will use *packed arrays* to encode the Boolean formula as a sequence of fixed-length binary representation symbols.

Definition 1 For a fixed symbol-length k , ($k \geq 1$) a **packed array** is a natural number $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{N}$, such that the least significant k bits of \mathbf{a} codify the symbol at index 0, the next k bits codify the symbol at index 1, and so on.

Example 1 Let a be the array containing the numbers 3, 7, 4, 5: $a[0] = 3$, $a[1] = 7$, $a[2] = 4$, $a[3] = 5$.

When we pack this array using 3 bits per symbol we get this natural number: $101100111011 = 101\ 100\ 111\ 011$ (in binary notation, split for more clarity; note the reverse order: the last group is the number $a[0] = 3$, the one before the last one is the number $a[1] = 7$ and so on).

When we pack this array using 4 bits per symbol we get this natural number: $0101010001110011 = 0101\ 0100\ 0111\ 0011$ (in binary notation, split for more clarity).

But this number could represent a different array when interpreted as being packed using 3 bits per symbol: $0101010001110011 = 0\ 101\ 010\ 001\ 110\ 011$ which is the array containing the numbers 3, 6, 1, 2, 5.

The packed representation together with the chosen symbol length fully defines an array.

A problem might arise when the number 0 is stored in the most significant bits. We shall avoid this problem by using 1-based codes for symbols. In this way, for a properly encoded array, it will be easy to determine the array length (using the function **ArrayLength**, defined below).

Lemma 2 *The following functions are in \mathcal{E}_0 :*

- (i) *the length $\mathbf{d}(x)$, the remainder $\mathbf{r}(x, y)$.*
- (ii) *arrays (indexed memory) access function \mathbf{GetAt} , defined below.*

Proof. All the functions defined below are in \mathcal{E}_0 : $\mathbf{not}(x) = 1 - x$, $\mathbf{le}(x, y) = \mathbf{not}(x - y)$, $\mathbf{or}(x, y) = \mathbf{not}(\mathbf{not}(x) - y)$, $\mathbf{and}(x, y) = \mathbf{not}(\mathbf{or}(\mathbf{not}(x), \mathbf{not}(y)))$, $\mathbf{impl}(x, y) = \mathbf{or}(\mathbf{not}(x), y)$, $\mathbf{equal}(x, y) = \mathbf{and}(\mathbf{le}(x, y), \mathbf{le}(y, x))$, $\mathbf{diff}(x, y) = \mathbf{not}(\mathbf{equal}(x, y))$.

The *bounded if* function \mathbf{bif} is defined as follows: if *bool* is true, then it returns *thenval* otherwise it returns *elseval*, provided both values are bounded by *bound*:

$$\mathbf{bif}(bool, thenval, elseval, bound) = (\mu t \leq bound)[\mathbf{and}(\mathbf{impl}(bool, \mathbf{equal}(t, thenval)), \mathbf{impl}(\mathbf{not}(bool), \mathbf{equal}(t, elseval))) = 1].$$

The remainder function \mathbf{r} :

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{r}(0, y) = 0, \\ \mathbf{r}(x + 1, y) = \mathbf{bif}(\mathbf{diff}(\mathbf{r}(x, y), y - 1), \mathbf{r}(x, y) + 1, 0, y), \\ \mathbf{r}(x, y) \leq x. \end{cases}$$

The characteristic function for addition:

$$\mathbf{sum}(x, y, z) = \mathbf{and}(\mathbf{equal}(z - x, y), \mathbf{equal}(z - y, x)).$$

The function $\mathbf{DIV2}$ divides x by 2 (integer division):

$$\mathbf{DIV2}(x) = (\mu t \leq x)[\mathbf{or}(\mathbf{sum}(t, t, x), \mathbf{sum}(t, t, x - 1)) = 1].$$

The function \mathbf{SHR} shifts right a number y by a number of positions x :

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{SHR}(y, 0) = y, \\ \mathbf{SHR}(y, x + 1) = \mathbf{DIV2}(\mathbf{SHR}(y, x)), \\ \mathbf{SHR}(y, x) \leq y. \end{cases}$$

The length function: $\mathbf{d}(x) = (\mu t \leq x)[\mathbf{SHR}(x, t) = 0]$.

Now we are ready to introduce the array functions:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{GetAt}(array, mask, 0) = \mathbf{r}(array, mask); \\ \mathbf{GetAt}(array, mask, pos + 1) = \mathbf{GetAt}(\mathbf{SHR}(array, \mathbf{d}(mask) - 1), mask, pos). \\ \mathbf{GetAt}(array, mask, pos) \leq array. \end{cases}$$

Here a supplementary argument is used, *mask*. On call, $mask = 2^k$, where k is the symbol length, expressed in bits. Note that we get the mask as an input, we are not computing it.

The pair $(array, mask)$ completely defines an array in this representation.

This function returns the length of an array:

$$\mathbf{ArrayLength}(array, mask) = (\mu t \leq array)[\mathbf{GetAt}(array, mask, t) = 0].$$

This function can be used to access the bits of the number *word*:

$$\mathbf{GetBit}(word, pos) = \mathbf{GetAt}(word, 2, pos). \quad \square$$

We need a good encoding in order to ensure the polynomial size encoding of the Boolean formula (polynomial in the size of the Boolean formula). Otherwise, for some disastrous representation of the formula, it might be possible for a polynomial time algorithm to solve the satisfiability problem (SAT).

Theorem 3 *The satisfiability problem (SAT) is solvable in \mathcal{E}_0 .*

Proof. We will use the arrays defined above to construct a good representation for the Boolean formulas in CNF (conjunctive normal form).

We shall represent any CNF Boolean formula as a string of symbols, each symbol being:

- (i) '+' (or), codified by 1, or
- (ii) '*' (and), codified by 2, or
- (iii) '-' (not), codified by 3, or
- (iv) a variable index i , codified by the symbol $4 + i$.

We choose for the representation of the CNF Boolean formula the postfix (Polish) notation. So, for example, the formula $(x_0 + x_1) * (-x_2 + x_1)$ will be represented by the array containing these symbols: 4, 5, 1, 6, 3, 5, 1, 2 and the natural number which represents this array for $k = 3$ (and therefore $mask = 8$) is 010001101011110001101100 (in binary notation).

In order to check whether a given Boolean CNF formula is satisfiable or not, we will evaluate the formula for all possible values of the variables. Each possible assignment of binary values to the variables can be represented by a natural number $assignment \leq 2^n - 1$, whose bits are the values of the n variables. Note that we shall not compute this value ($2^n - 1$), it will be given as part of the description of the formula (see the discussion below).

We shall use below the function:

$$\mathbf{EvalVar}(index, assignment) = \mathbf{GetBit}(assignment, index).$$

If we have the formula, and the maximum assignment to be tested, simply test all the assignments, evaluating the Boolean formula for each assignment. If any of the assignments validates the formula, then the formula is satisfiable, otherwise it is not validable.

This is the function for deciding SAT:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{Validable}(formula, mask, maxassignment) \\ & = (\exists assignment \leq maxassignment)(\mathbf{Eval}(formula, mask, assignment) = 1). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The function must be called with $maxassignment = 2^n - 1$, where n is the number of variables in the formula.

We shall work under the reasonable assumption that each variable is represented (has at least one occurrence) in the formula. Note that any SAT instance can be converted to this form in polynomial time, so this form is not weaker than the general case. For the instances of SAT of this form, we can simply take $maxassignment =$

formula. Some more work is done by the **Validable** function, but we do not care about time complexity in \mathcal{E}_0 , which is rather a space-limited, not a time-limited class of functions.

In order to complete the proof of the theorem (3), we must give the expression of the function **Eval**, used in the equation (2) for evaluating the Boolean formula in a given assignment.

This single loop program below evaluates a formula, represented as an array, in a Polish notation, given some assignment of values to variables. The lines below which begin with the mark `//` are comments and are not part of the program.

```
//inputs: formula, mask, assignment
conjvalue = 1;
disjvalue = 0;
varvalue = 0;
for(i = 0;i<ArrayLength(formula,mask);i++)
{
// 3 is our code for the negation
  if(GetAt(formula,mask,i) == 3)
    then varvalue = NOT varvalue;
// 1 is our code for the operation OR
  else if(GetAt(formula,mask,i) == 1)
    then disjvalue = disjvalue OR varvalue;
// 2 is our code for the operation AND
  else if(GetAt(formula,mask,i) == 2)
    then conjvalue = conjvalue AND disjvalue;disjvalue = 0;
// every code greater than 3 specify a variable index
  else varvalue = EvalVar(GetAt(formula,mask,i)-4, assignment);
}
return conjvalue;
```

Here are some explanations about the small program above.

There are three important variables. The accumulator *conjvalue* stores the result of the partial evaluation of the conjunction (and its initial value is 1, the neutral element for the AND operation). The accumulator *disjvalue* stores the result if the partial evaluation of the current disjunction; at the beginning and whenever a new disjunction starts it is set to 0, the neutral element for OR. The variable *varvalue* stores the value of the last variable evaluated. After a negation it contains the negated value of the last variable evaluated.

The program interprets the string of symbols in the given context (assignment of values to variables). Each symbol is considered, and an action is performed accordingly: if the symbol denotes a variable, the variable's value is stored in *varvalue*. If the symbol denotes negation, that value is negated. If it denotes disjunction, the value stored in *varvalue* is OR-ed to *disjvalue*. And, finally, if it denotes conjunction then the value stored in *disjvalue* is AND-ed to *conjvalue*. In the end, the value of the variable *conjvalue* stores the result of the evaluation of the boolean CNF formula.

Let the function computed by the program above be

$$\mathbf{Eval}(formula, mask, assignment)$$

We will prove that this function is in \mathcal{E}_0 .

We start by defining several auxiliary functions, every one of which is in \mathcal{E}_0 , being defined from functions already in \mathcal{E}_0 and using only constructions allowed in \mathcal{E}_0 , such as the least number operator μ , the composition and the bounded recursion.

The function **Encode** packs three bits x , y and z into a natural number zyx between 0 and 7.

$$\mathbf{Encode}(x, y, z) = (\mu t \leq 7) [\mathbf{and}(\mathbf{equal}(\mathbf{GetBit}(t, 0), x), \\ \mathbf{and}(\mathbf{equal}(\mathbf{GetBit}(t, 1), y), \mathbf{equal}(\mathbf{GetBit}(t, 2), z))) = 1]$$

The next three functions unpack a natural number between 0 and 7 in its three component bits.

$$\mathbf{GetVarVal}(\mathit{encvar}) = \mathbf{GetBit}(\mathit{encvar}, 0)$$

$$\mathbf{GetDisVal}(\mathit{encvar}) = \mathbf{GetBit}(\mathit{encvar}, 1)$$

$$\mathbf{GetConVal}(\mathit{encvar}) = \mathbf{GetBit}(\mathit{encvar}, 2)$$

The function **EvalVar** returns the value of one of the formula's variables in the given assignment (environment).

$$\mathbf{EvalVar}(\mathit{index}, \mathit{assignment}) = \mathbf{GetBit}(\mathit{assignment}, \mathit{index})$$

The function **if**:

$$\mathbf{if}(\mathit{bool}, \mathit{thenval}, \mathit{elseval}) = \mathbf{bif}(\mathit{bool}, \mathit{thenval}, \mathit{elseval}, 1)$$

The next three functions compute the new values of the variables *varvalue*, *conjvalue*, *disjvalue* of the program above, after executing one iteration of the program.

$$\mathbf{VarVal}(\mathit{encvar}, \mathit{sym}, \mathit{assignment}) = \\ \mathbf{if}(\mathbf{le}(\mathit{sym}, 3), \\ \mathbf{if}(\mathbf{equal}(\mathit{sym}, 3), \mathbf{not}(\mathbf{GetVarVal}(\mathit{encvar})) \\ , \mathbf{GetVarVal}(\mathit{encvar})) \\ , \mathbf{EvalVar}(\mathit{sym}-4, \mathit{assignment}))$$

$$\mathbf{ConVal}(\mathit{encvar}, \mathit{sym}) = \\ \mathbf{if}(\mathbf{equal}(\mathit{sym}, 1), \\ \mathbf{and}(\mathbf{GetConVal}(\mathit{encvar}), \mathbf{GetDisVal}(\mathit{encvar})) \\ , \mathbf{GetConVal}(\mathit{encvar}))$$

$$\mathbf{DisVal}(\mathit{encvar}, \mathit{sym}) = \\ \mathbf{if}(\mathbf{diff}(\mathit{sym}, 1),$$

```

if(equal(sym,2),
    or(GetVarVal(encvar),GetDisVal(encvar))
    ,GetDisVal(encvar))
,0)

```

This function corresponds to the execution of one iteration step of the program above, in the presence of the current formula symbol sym , which can be either a variable or an operator code.

```

IterationStep(encvar,sym,assignment) =
Encode(
    VarVal(encvar,sym,assignment)
    ,DisVal(encvar,sym)
    ,ConVal(encvar,sym))

```

The function **EvalAux**($formula, mask, assignment, n$) runs the above iteration n steps and returns the packed number containing the values of the program variables $varvalue, disjvalue, conjvalue$. The first rule establishes the initial values of those variables.

```

EvalAux(formula,mask,assignment,0) = Encode(0,0,1)

```

```

EvalAux(formula,mask,assignment,i+1) =
    IterationStep(EvalAux(formula,mask,assignment,i),
    GetAt(formula, mask,i), assignment)

```

Note that **EvalAux**(...) is bounded by the constant function 7, so it is defined by bounded recursion.

Finally, here is the definition of the function **Eval** that mimics the whole program behavior; it simply runs the iteration for each symbol of the formula to be evaluated and returns in the final the value of the variable $conjvalue$.

```

Eval(formula, mask, assignment) =
    GetConVal(EvalAux(formula, mask, assignment,
    ArrayLength( formula, mask )))

```

This concludes the proof of the theorem 3. □

If $P \neq NP$, the function **Validable** (2) cannot be in P_f , while $Validable \in \mathcal{E}_0$. The key point is that the value $maxassignment$ it needs to decide SAT has polynomial length and our Boolean formula has polynomial length representation.

So we have explicitly constructed a function that is in \mathcal{E}_0 , but not in P_f . Actually, the function **Validable** is binary valued, so it is in \mathcal{E}_{0*} but not in P .

This result leads us to the conclusion that \mathcal{E}_0 and P_f are not comparable (with respect to set theoretic inclusion).

3. Future Research. The Relation between NP and \mathcal{E}_0

We shall proof here, using the same technique, that another NP-complete decision problem, the Hamiltonian cycle problem is also in \mathcal{E}_0 (we assume that the Hamiltonian cycle problem is known to the reader). This leads to the following question.

Question 4 *Is the whole NP included in \mathcal{E}_{0*} ?*

As far as we know, this question is open for the moment.

Theorem 5 *The Hamiltonian cycle problem is solvable in \mathcal{E}_0 .*

Proof. In order to derive a solution to this problem in \mathcal{E}_0 we shall choose first a convenient encoding for the instances of this problem.

We shall rely on all the functions constructed for the SAT problem.

Let G be the non-directed graph, n the vertexes count, E the edges set.

We shall represent each number between 1 and n on k bits (pick the smallest k usable). As before, there is an associated number $mask = 2^{k-1}$.

What should be mentioned is that in \mathcal{E}_0 many things can be done, as long as a big number is provided.

This big number we shall note here BN and it must have this property: it must be greater than any other number that occurs in the computations below.

We shall use for passing the edges of the graph the adjacency matrix A . We shall encode this matrix as a packed array with element size of k bits, this way: $A[\mathbf{conc}(i, j, mask, BN)] = a_{i,j}$, for all $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, where $a_{i,j} = 1$ iff $(i, j) \in E(G)$ and $a_{i,j} = 2$ otherwise. Please note that we are using the values 1 and 2 instead of the usual 1 and 0.

The function **conc** concatenates the binary representations of the first two arguments:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{conc}(i, j, mask, BN) = & \mu w \leq BN [GetAt(w, mask, 0) = j \\ & \text{AND } GetAt(w, mask, 1) = i \\ & \text{AND } (w \text{ SHR } (d(mask) \dot{-} 1)) \text{ SHR } (d(mask) \dot{-} 1) = 0 \\ &] . \end{aligned}$$

The next function tests the edge (i, j) existence.

$$\mathbf{edge}(i, j, A, mask, BN) = GetAt(A, mask, \mathbf{conc}(i, j, mask, BN)).$$

We shall encode a path (chain) as a sequence of n numbers between 1 and n , and those sequences shall be encoded as packed arrays.

The next function tests if the path L is really a valid path and a cycle in the graph.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{cycle}(L, n, A, mask, BN) = & \\ L \leq BN & \\ \text{AND } \forall i \leq BN, 1 = \text{impl}(i > n, GetAt(L, mask, i) = 0) & \\ \text{AND } \forall 1 \leq i \leq n, GetAt(L, mask, i) \geq 1 \text{ AND } GetAt(L, mask, i) \leq n & \\ \text{AND } \forall 1 \leq i \leq n \dot{-} 1, \text{edge}(GetAt(L, mask, i), GetAt(L, mask, s(i)), A, mask, BN) = 1 & \\ \text{AND } \text{edge}(GetAt(L, mask, n), GetAt(L, mask, 1), A, mask, BN) = 1. & \end{aligned}$$

The next function tests if the path L is a Hamiltonian cycle in the graph.

hamiltcycle $(L, n, A, mask, BN) = \mathbf{cycle}(L, n, A, mask, BN)$

AND $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n, \exists 1 \leq p \leq n, GetAt(L, mask, p) = i$.

Finally, this is the function for testing if a given graph is Hamiltonian.

hamiltgraphaux $(n, A, mask, BN) =$

$\exists L \leq BN, \mathbf{hamiltcycle}(L, n, A, mask, BN)$.

And now the discussion about the big number BN . We observe that the packed array A encoding the edges has at least $k * (n^2 - 1)$ bits and is bigger than any other value occurring in the computation of the functions above.

Therefore we can take $BN = A$:

hamiltgraph $(n, A, mask) = \mathbf{hamiltgraphaux}(n, A, mask, \mathbf{A})$

As this is a predicate and all the functions derived above, including **hamiltgraph**, are in \mathcal{E}_0 , this concludes the proof that the Hamiltonian cycle problem can be solved in \mathcal{E}_{0*} . \square

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Philip G. Drazin and H.E. Rose from Bristol University, UK and C.S. Calude from Auckland University, NZ.

References

- [1] S.J. BELLANTONI, K.H. NIGGL, Ranking primitive recursions: the low Grzegorzczuk classes revisited, *SIAM Journal on Computing*, volume 29, number 2, p.401-415, 1999.
- [2] R.V. BOOK, On languages accepted in polynomial time, *SIAM Journal on Computing*, volume 1, p.281-287, 1972.
- [3] A. COBHAM, The intrinsic computational difficulty of functions, *Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*, ed. Y. Bar-Hillel, North-Holland, p. 24-30, 1965.
- [4] C. CALUDE, Super-exponentials non-primitive recursive, but rudimentary, *Inform. Process. Lett.* 25 (1987), 311-315.
- [5] C. CALUDE, *Theories of Computational Complexity*, North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1988.
- [6] M. MORE, F. OLIVE, Rudimentary languages and second-order logic, *Mathematical Logic Quarterly*, volume 43, p. 419-426, 1997.
- [7] R.W. RITCHIE, Classes of predictably computable functions, *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, volume 106, p.139-173, 1963
- [8] H.E. ROSE, *Subrecursion - Functions and Hierarchies*, Clarendon Press - Oxford, 1984.