

Exercise 6: Trakhtenbrot's Theorem

Database Theory

2022-05-17

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Exercise 1

Exercise. Use Trakhtenbrot's Theorem to show that the following problems are undecidable by reducing finite satisfiability to each of them:

1. FO query containment.
2. FO query emptiness.
3. Domain independence of FO queries.

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Theorem (Trakhtenbrot's Theorem, Lecture 9, Slide 9)

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 - ▶ A query $\varphi[\mathbf{x}]$ is domain independent iff the answers over a database instance \mathcal{I} are independent of the domain $\Delta^{\mathcal{I}}$.
 - ▶ A query $\varphi[\mathbf{x}]$ is empty iff $\neg R(y) \wedge \forall \mathbf{x}. \varphi$ is domain independent, where R is a fresh unary relation and y is a fresh variable.

Exercise 2

Exercise. In the lecture, we have seen a logical formula that is finitely satisfiable if and only if the given deterministic Turing machine (DTM) halts after finitely many steps on the given input.

For each of the following statements, decide if it is true or false. Justify your answer in each case by explaining why the statement does (or does not) follow from the formula.

1. If the formula has a model at all, then this model is finite.
2. Every model contains a “start configuration”: a right-sequence of elements (“cells”) that are not reachable from any other cell via future, and where there is a first element in the chain (i.e., a cell with no element to its left).
3. Every model contains exactly one such start configuration.
4. If a cell is reachable from the first cell of the start configuration via future, then it does not have a cell on its left.
5. The future of a cell’s neighbour is equal to the neighbour of the cell’s future.
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Solution.

1. False. If the TM does not halt, the formula has an infinite model, but no finite models.

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Solution.

1. False. If the TM does not halt, the formula has an infinite model, but no finite models.
2. True.

$$\varphi_w = \exists x_1, \dots, x_n. H_{q_{\text{start}}}(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{right}(z, x_1) \wedge S_{\sigma_1}(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, x_1) \wedge \text{right}(x_1, x_2) \wedge \dots \wedge S_{\sigma_n}(x_n) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, x_n) \wedge \forall y. (\text{right}^+(x_n, y) \rightarrow (S_{\perp}(y) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, y)))$$

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Solution.

3. False. Take two isomorphic copies of a model side-by-side.

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Solution.

3. False. Take two isomorphic copies of a model side-by-side.
4. True.

$$\varphi_{fp1} = \forall x_2, y_1. (\exists x_1. \text{right}(x_1, y_1) \wedge \text{future}(x_1, x_2)) \leftrightarrow (\exists y_2. \text{future}(y_1, y_2) \wedge \text{right}(x_2, y_2))$$

$$\varphi_{fp2} = \forall x_1, y_2. (\exists y_1. \text{right}(x_1, y_1) \wedge \text{future}(y_1, y_2)) \leftrightarrow (\exists x_2. \text{future}(x_1, x_2) \wedge \text{right}(x_2, y_2))$$

$$\varphi_w = \exists x_1, \dots, x_n. H_{q_{\text{start}}}(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{right}(z, x_1) \wedge S_{\sigma_1}(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, x_1) \wedge \text{right}(x_1, x_2) \wedge \dots$$

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Solution.

5. True.

$$\varphi_r = \forall x, y, y'. \text{right}(x, y) \wedge \text{right}(x, y') \rightarrow y \approx y'$$

$$\varphi_l = \forall x, x', y. \text{right}(x, y) \wedge \text{right}(x', y) \rightarrow x \approx x'$$

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6. False. Recall that, by the Compactness theorem, any FO formula that has arbitrarily large finite models also has an infinite model.

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6. False. Recall that, by the Compactness theorem, any FO formula that has arbitrarily large finite models also has an infinite model.
7. False. Take a model, and add a fact $\text{future}(\star, \star)$ with \star a fresh domain element.

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Extend this definition so that the resulting formula is finitely satisfiable if and only if:

1. a given non-deterministic TM halts after finitely many steps on a given input.
2. a given DTM halts after at most n steps (for a given number n).
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Make sure that your encoding is polynomial in n .

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Solution.

1. ▶ First, we normalise the NTM so that every non-deterministic transition defined by Δ is non-moving.

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Solution.

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 - ▶ First, we normalise the NTM so that every non-deterministic transition defined by Δ is non-moving.
 - ▶ For every non-deterministic transition $\{\langle q, \sigma, q_1, \sigma_1, s \rangle, \dots, \langle q, \sigma, q_n, \sigma_n, s \rangle\} \subseteq \Delta$, we add the following rule:

$$\varphi_\delta = \forall x. H_q(x) \wedge S_\sigma(x) \rightarrow \exists y. \text{future}(x, y) \wedge \left(\bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq n} (H_{q_i}(y) \wedge S_{\sigma_i}(y)) \right)$$

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2.
 - ▶ Modify start configuration

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_w = & \exists \mathbf{x}. H_{q_{\text{start}}}(x_1) \wedge C_1(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{right}(z, x_1) \wedge S_{\sigma_j}(x_j) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, x_j) \\ & \wedge \text{right}(x_i, x_{i+1}) \wedge \forall y. \left(\text{right}^+(x_n, y) \rightarrow (S_-(y) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, y)) \right) \end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ For all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, add $\forall x, y. C_i(x) \wedge \text{future}(x, y) \rightarrow C_{i+1}(y)$

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- ▶ For all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, add $\forall x, y. C_i(x) \wedge \text{future}(x, y) \rightarrow C_{i+1}(y)$
- ▶ Add $\forall x. \neg C_{n+1}(x)$

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Solution.

3. ▶ Modify start configuration

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_w = & \exists \mathbf{x}. H_{q_{\text{start}}}(x_1) \wedge \neg B_1(x_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \neg B_n(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{right}(z, x_1) \wedge S_{\sigma_j}(x_j) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, x_j) \\ & \wedge \text{right}(x_i, x_{i+1}) \wedge \forall y. (\text{right}^+(x_n, y) \rightarrow (S_-(y) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, y))) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3

Exercise. In the lecture, we have seen a logical formula that is finitely satisfiable if and only if the given deterministic Turing machine (DTM) halts after finitely many steps on the given input.

Extend this definition so that the resulting formula is finitely satisfiable if and only if:

1. a given non-deterministic TM halts after finitely many steps on a given input.
2. a given DTM halts after at most n steps (for a given number n).
3. a given DTM halts after at most 2^n steps (for a given number n).

Make sure that your encoding is polynomial in n .

Solution.

3.
 - ▶ Modify start configuration

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_w = \exists \mathbf{x}. & H_{q_{\text{start}}}(x_1) \wedge \neg B_1(x_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \neg B_n(x_1) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{right}(z, x_1) \wedge S_{\sigma_1}(x_i) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, x_i) \\ & \wedge \text{right}(x_i, x_{i+1}) \wedge \forall y. (\text{right}^+(x_n, y) \rightarrow (S_-(y) \wedge \neg \exists z. \text{future}(z, y))) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Add the following rules:

$$\begin{aligned} & \neg B_n(x) \wedge \text{future}(x, y) \rightarrow B_n(y) \\ & \neg B_{n-1}(x) \wedge B_n(x) \wedge \text{future}(x, y) \rightarrow B_{n-1}(y) \wedge \neg B_n(y) \\ & \neg B_{n-2}(x) \wedge B_{n-1}(x) \wedge B_n(x) \wedge \text{future}(x, y) \rightarrow B_{n-2}(y) \wedge \neg B_{n-1}(y) \wedge \neg B_n(y) \\ & \vdots \\ & \neg(\exists x. B_1(x) \wedge \dots \wedge B_n(x)) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 4

Exercise. Apply the CQ minimisation algorithm to find a core of the following CQs:

1. $\exists x, y, z. R(x, y) \wedge R(x, z).$
2. $\exists x, y, z. R(x, y) \wedge R(x, z) \wedge R(y, z).$
3. $\exists x, y, z. R(x, y) \wedge R(x, z) \wedge R(y, z) \wedge R(x, x).$
4. $\exists v, w. S(x, a, y) \wedge S(x, v, y) \wedge S(x, w, y) \wedge S(x, x, x).$

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Exercise 5

Exercise. Consider a fixed set of relation names $\mathcal{R} = \{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$, each with a given arity $ar(R_i)$.

1. Show that there is a BCQ q_{\min} without constant symbols that is most specific, i.e., such that for any BCQ q without constant symbols, we have $q_{\min} \sqsubseteq q$.
2. Is there also a most general BCQ q_{\max} that contains all BCQs without constant names?
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3. q_{\min} is a conjunction of every fact in the database instance, and q_{\max} doesn't exist in general.
4. We could set $q_{\min} = \perp$, and $q_{\max} = \top$.

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Exercise. Explain why the CQ minimisation algorithm is correct:

1. Why is the result guaranteed to be a minimal CQ?
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- ▶ for all subqueries q' of q (that is, queries q' that are obtained by dropping one or more atoms from q),
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A minimal CQ is also called a *core*.

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 - ▶ Then $q_1 \equiv q \equiv q_2$.
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 - ▶ Let ψ_1 be the restriction of φ_1 to q_2 , and ψ_2 be the restriction of φ_2 to q_1 .

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 - ▶ Let ψ_1 be the restriction of φ_1 to q_2 , and ψ_2 be the restriction of φ_2 to q_1 .
 - ▶ Then ψ_1 and ψ_2 are surjective, so q_1 and q_2 must be isomorphic.