

Complexity Theory
Exercise 6: Diagonalization
December 5, 2018

Exercise 6.1. Find the fault in the following proof of $P \neq NP$.

Assume that $P = NP$. Then $SAT \in P$ and thus there exists a $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $SAT \in DTIME(n^k)$. Because every language in NP is polynomial-time reducible to SAT we have $NP \subseteq DTIME(n^k)$. It follows that $P \subseteq DTIME(n^k)$. But by the Time Hierarchy Theorem there exist languages in $DTIME(n^{k+1})$ that are not in $DTIME(n^k)$, contradicting $P \subseteq DTIME(n^k)$. Therefore, $P \neq NP$.

Exercise 6.2. Show the following.

1. $TIME(2^n) = TIME(2^{n+1})$
2. $TIME(2^n) \subset TIME(2^{2n})$
3. $NTIME(n) \subset PSPACE$

Exercise 6.3. Show that there exists \mathbf{A} function that is not time-constructible.

Exercise 6.4. Consider the function $\text{pad}: \Sigma^* \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \Sigma^* \#^*$ defined as $\text{pad}(s, \ell) = s\#^j$, where $j = \max(0, \ell - |s|)$. In other words, $\text{pad}(s, \ell)$ adds enough copies of $\#$ to the end of s so that the length is at least ℓ .

For some language $\mathbf{A} \subseteq \Sigma^*$ and $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ define $\text{pad}(\mathbf{A}, f) = \{ \text{pad}(s, f(|s|)) \mid s \in \mathbf{A} \}$.

1. Show that if $\mathbf{A} \in DTIME(n^6)$, then $\text{pad}(\mathbf{A}, n^2) \in DTIME(n^3)$.
2. Show that if $NEXPTIME \neq EXPTIME$, then $P \neq NP$.
3. Show for every $\mathbf{A} \subseteq \Sigma^*$ and every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ that $\mathbf{A} \in P$ if and only if $\text{pad}(\mathbf{A}, n^k) \in P$.
4. Show that $P \neq DSPACE(n)$.
5. Show that $NP \neq DSPACE(n)$.