

MSc thesis defense presentation

Αγγελικὴ Χαλκὴ defends her MSc thesis.

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ὥρα:	17:00
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Thesis title:	Counting below #P: Classes, problems and Descriptive Complexity
Committee:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Δημήτρης ΦωτῆκηςΑριστείδης ΠαγουρτζῆςΕυσέθιος Ζῆχος

Thesis abstract

In this thesis, we study counting classes that lie below $\#P$. One approach, the most regular in Computational Complexity Theory, is the machine-based approach. Classes like $\#L$, span-L and TotP , $\#PE$ are defined establishing space and time restrictions on Turing machine's computational resources.

A second approach is Descriptive Complexity's approach. It characterizes complexity classes by the type of logic needed to express the languages in them. Classes deriving from this viewpoint, like $\#FO$, $\#RHP_1$, $\#R\Sigma_2$, are equivalent to $\#P$, the class of AP-interriducible problems to $\#BIS$, and some subclass of the problems owning an FPRAS.

A great objective of such an investigation is to gain an understanding of how “efficient counting” relates to these already defined classes. By “efficient counting” we mean counting solutions of a problem using a polynomial time algorithm or an FPRAS.

Many other interesting properties of the classes considered and their problems have been examined. For example alternative definitions of counting classes using relation-based operators, and the computational difficulty of complete problems, since complete problems capture the difficulty of the corresponding class. Moreover, in Section 3.5 we define the log-space analog of the class TotP and explore how and to what extent results can be transferred from polynomial time to logarithmic space computation.