

# Polynomial-Time Isomorphism of 1-L-Complete Sets

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**Running Head** : Isomorphism of 1-L-Complete Sets

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### **Abstract**

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be any complexity class closed under log-lin reductions. We show that all sets complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  under 1-L reductions are polynomial-time isomorphic to each other. We also generalize the result to reductions computed by *finite-crossing* machines. As a corollary, we show that all sets complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  under 2-way DFA reductions are polynomial-time isomorphic to each other.

# 1 Introduction

The isomorphism conjecture for a class  $\mathcal{C}$  is: All  $\leq_m^p$ -complete sets for  $\mathcal{C}$  polynomial-time isomorphic. Resolving this conjecture for various classes is a fundamental problem as its answer for the class  $\mathcal{C}$  will provide us with important insight into the structure of the m-complete degree of  $\mathcal{C}$ . We note that if the conjecture is true for some class  $\mathcal{C}$  then it immediately follows that, from the viewpoint of structural complexity theory, all m-complete sets for  $\mathcal{C}$  are merely encodings of the same set. A negative answer also has important consequences (see [14] for a survey).

Berman and Hartmanis [6] began the study of the isomorphism conjecture for the class NP. By observing that all known NP-complete sets at that time were indeed polynomial-time isomorphic (in short, p-isomorphic) to each other, they provided strong evidence for the conjecture. Since then, however, some evidences against the conjecture have been found (see, e.g., [13], [10], [15]) and the conjecture is generally believed to be false now (though recently, there has been some positive evidence as well [7]). Yet, the conjecture remains far from settled. In fact, till now, there is no naturally defined unrelativized class for which the isomorphism conjecture has been answered. There are only some partial results for some of the classes, e.g., all  $\leq_m^p$ -complete sets for E are known to be  $\leq_{1,li}^p$ -complete [5, 17, 8] and all  $\leq_m^p$ -complete sets for NE are known to be  $\leq_1^p$ -complete [8].

As the answer to the isomorphism conjecture remains elusive for natural classes, attempts have been made to answer weaker versions of the conjecture by strengthening completeness under polynomial-time reductions to completeness under weaker reductions. Thus, the isomorphism conjecture for class  $\mathcal{C}$  *weakened to reduction  $r$*  is: All  $\leq_m^r$ -complete sets for  $\mathcal{C}$  are p-isomorphic. When one weakens the conjecture to logspace reductions, there is no significant progress. The only additional partial result available is that all  $\leq_m^{\log}$ -complete sets for PSPACE are  $\leq_{1,li}^{\log}$ -complete [9]. However, there are several new results for the conjecture weakened to 1-L reductions, a restriction of logspace reductions. 1-L reductions, introduced in [11], are functions computed by logspace TMs with their input head being one-way. These reductions may appear too restrictive, however, it has been observed that all ‘natural’ NP-complete sets are also complete under 1-L reductions [11]. Allender [4] has shown that  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete sets for all reasonable deterministic classes above, and including, PSPACE are p-isomorphic. Ganesan and

Homer [8] show the same result for the classes NE and NEXP. Allender [4] also shows that for reasonable classes below PSPACE,  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete sets are also complete under size-increasing and strongly p-invertible reductions, though these reductions may not be one-one. Recently, Hemachandra and Hoene [12] have improved these results for several classes by showing that for any reasonable nondeterministic space class above NLOG, all  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete sets are p-isomorphic (in fact, they show such sets to be isomorphic under even nondeterministic logspace reductions). However, these results still fail to answer the isomorphism conjecture weakened to 1-L reductions for some of the most well known and important classes, e.g., DLOG, P, NP etc.

In this paper, we settle the isomorphism conjecture weakened to 1-L reductions: we show that for any class  $\mathcal{C}$  closed under log-lin reductions, all  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete sets for  $\mathcal{C}$  are p-isomorphic. We are also able to generalize the result to functions computed by *finite crossing* TMs (logspace TMs whose input head crosses any cell a constant number of times). As a corollary to this result, we get that for any class  $\mathcal{C}$  closed under log-lin reductions, all sets complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  under 2-way DFA reductions (computed by TMs that do not have any workspace) are p-isomorphic. This too generalizes some results in [4, 8].

To obtain the above results, we have used a technique which is different from the standard one that diagonalizes over all possible reductions. We argue that our technique is more useful in certain situations.

## 2 Preliminaries

The strings are over  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ . We denote, by  $\Sigma_{=n}$ , the set of all strings over  $\Sigma$  of length  $n$ . We shall denote, by  $x \oplus y$ , the XOR of strings  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $|x| = |y|$ . (XOR of two strings  $x$  and  $y$  of length  $n$  is a string of length  $n$  whose  $i^{th}$  bit is 1 iff exactly one bit amongst the  $i^{th}$  bit of  $x$  and the  $i^{th}$  bit of  $y$  is 1.)

For sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $B$  reduces to  $A$  via a (one-one, one-one and size-increasing, one-one and size-increasing and polynomial-time invertible) many-one polynomial-time function, then we say that  $B(\leq_1^p, \leq_{1,li}^p, \leq_{1,li,i}^p) \leq_m^p A$ . For a class  $\mathcal{C}$  and set  $A$ , we say that  $A$  is  $(\leq_1^r, \leq_{1,li}^p, \leq_{1,li,i}^p) \leq_m^p$ -complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  if for every set  $B$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $B(\leq_1^p, \leq_{1,li}^p, \leq_{1,li,i}^p) \leq_m^p A$  and  $A \in \mathcal{C}$ .

A *log-lin* function [16]  $f$  is a function computable by a logspace TM such

that for all  $x$ ,  $|f(x)| = O(|x|)$ . *1-L TMs* are logspace-bounded Turing machines which have an input tape, an output tape and a work tape such that the input head never makes a left move and at the beginning of the computation,  $\lceil \log n \rceil$  cells are marked off on the work tape. Functions computed by 1-L TMs are called *1-L functions*. They were introduced in [11] for studying complete sets for DLOG. As above, we say that  $B \leq_m^{1-L} A$  if  $B$  reduces to  $A$  via a 1-L function, and  $A$  is  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  if  $A \in \mathcal{C}$  and for every  $B \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $B \leq_m^{1-L} A$ .

We shall mainly be dealing with 1-L TMs computing *total* functions in the paper. Without loss of generality, we can assume that these machines have a unique halting state and just before the machine enters this state, it moves the input head to the right of the rightmost input bit. We also assume that a special symbol  $B$  is written to the right of the input string on the input tape of  $M$ . From now on, whenever we refer to a TM, we assume it to be a 1-L TM of the above kind, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

**Definition 2.1** A *configuration of  $M$  of size  $n$*  is a partial ID of  $M$  for input strings of size  $n$ . It is written as a 5-tuple  $\langle st, in, out, wk, tape \rangle$  where  $st$  denotes the state of  $M$ ;  $in$ ,  $out$  and  $wk$  denote respectively the input head, output head and work tape head positions; and  $tape$  denotes the contents of the work tape.

**Definition 2.2** The *computation graph of  $M$  for input strings of size  $n$* , called  $G_M^n$ , is defined as follows:

1.  $G_M^n = G(V^n, E^n)$  where edges in  $E^n$  are directed and *labelled*. Further, there may be multiple edges between two vertices. These multiple edges are distinguished by their labels. The vertices in  $V^n$  are configurations of  $M$  of size  $n$ .
2. The edge  $\langle C, D \rangle \in E^n$  has label  $\langle i, o \rangle$ ,  $i \in \Sigma \cup \{B\}$ ,  $o \in \Sigma^*$ , ( $C, D$  are vertices of  $V^n$ ) iff there is a sequence of configurations  $C_0, C_1, \dots, C_{k-1}, C_k$  such that
  - (a)  $C_0 = C$  and  $C_k = D$ .
  - (b) Let the input head position in  $C_0$  be at  $r$ . Then for every  $j$ ,  $0 < j < k$ , the input head position in  $C_j$  is at  $r$ . If  $r \leq n$  then the input head position in  $C_k$  is at  $r + 1$ . If  $r = n + 1$  then the input head position in  $C_k$  is at  $r$  and the state in  $C_k$  is the halting state.

- (c) For every  $j$ ,  $0 \leq j < k$ ,  $M$  moves from configuration  $C_j$  to configuration  $C_{j+1}$  in a single step on reading input  $i$ . (The graph may have multiple edges as  $M$  may move from  $C_0$  to  $C_k$  on reading both 0 and 1. It follows that there may be at most two edges between any pair of vertices.)
- (d) String  $o$  is the output of  $M$  while moving from configuration  $C_0$  to  $C_k$ .

Strings  $i$  and  $o$  are respectively called *input label* and *output label* of the edge. The above condition ensures that every edge  $\langle C, D \rangle$  of the graph  $G_M^n$  corresponds to the consumption of a single input symbol except possibly when  $D$  is the halting configuration.

We refer to the starting configuration of  $M$  of size  $n$  as  $C_{init}^n$  ( $C_{init}^n$  may be taken to be  $\langle q_0, 1, 1, 1, 1^{\lceil \log n \rceil} \rangle$  where  $q_0$  is the start state). We shall also assume that  $G_M^n$  does not contain any vertex not reachable from  $C_{init}^n$  (this can be ensured by deleting all such non-reachable vertices). It follows that  $G_M^n$  is acyclic as the existence of a cycle will imply that  $M$  does not halt on some input which clearly is not possible. Thus, for every  $n$ , graph  $G_M^n$  captures the computation of  $M$  on input strings of size  $n$ . The number of vertices in  $G_M^n$  is bounded by a polynomial in  $n$  as  $M$  works in logspace. Let  $\|V_n\| \leq q(n)$  for some polynomial  $q$ .

**Definition 2.3** Let  $p$  be a path of  $G_M^n$  from configuration  $C_1$  to  $C_2$ . (A path is an ordered sequence of adjacent edges in the graph.) The *input label*  $i_p$  of path  $p$  is the concatenation of input labels of the edges in the path  $p$ . In other words,  $i_p$  is the input read by  $M$  while moving from configuration  $C_1$  to  $C_2$  along the path  $p$ . Similarly, we define the *output label*  $o_p$  of the path  $p$  to be the concatenation of output labels of the edges in the path  $p$ .

We say that a vertex of  $G_M^n$  is at *level*  $i$  if the position of the input head at the vertex is  $i$ . There are exactly  $n + 1$  levels in  $G_M^n$ . Let  $L_i$  be the set of vertices at level  $i$ .

Since vertices at any level  $i$  have edges going out to vertices at level  $i + 1$  only, if there is a path from a vertex at level  $i$  to a vertex at level  $j$  then it must have exactly  $j - i$  edges. Since every path has a unique input label, the following lemma is immediate.

**Lemma 2.4** *For every  $n$ , for every  $k$ ,  $k \leq n$ , and for each string  $s$  of length  $k$ , there is a unique path with input label  $s$  in  $G_M^n$ , starting from  $C_{init}^n$  and ending in some vertex at level  $k + 1$ .*

**Lemma 2.5** *Let  $n_0$  be smallest number such that  $(\forall n)n \geq n_0 \Rightarrow 2^n \geq 2 \cdot q(5n)$ , where  $q(n)$  is the polynomial bounding the number of vertices in  $G_M^n$ . For every  $n$ ,  $n \geq n_0$ , there is a vertex,  $\tilde{C}$ , at level  $2n + 1$  of  $G_M^{5n}$  such that there are at least  $2^{2n+1}$  different paths from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to  $\tilde{C}$ .*

*Proof.* By the above lemma there will be exactly  $2^{2n}$  paths from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to vertices in  $L_{2n+1}$ . Since the number of vertices in  $L_{2n+1}$  is obviously bounded by the total number of vertices  $q(5n)$  in  $G_M^{5n}$ , there will a vertex  $\tilde{C}$  in  $L_{2n+1}$  with at least  $2^{2n}/q(5n) \geq 2^{n+1}$  (as  $n \geq n_0$ ) different paths from  $C_{init}^{5n}$ . ■

The above lemma will be the key to the proof in the next section. It essentially says that TM  $M$ , after reaching the configuration  $\tilde{C}$ , does not ‘remember’ which of the  $2^{n+1}$  strings it has read. By exploiting this property, we force  $f$ , the function computed by  $M$ , to be 1-1 on such strings.

### 3 Main Result

We shall use  $l(x)$  to denote the position of the string  $x$  in the standard lexicographic ordering of strings. For any set  $L$ , define

$$code(L) = \{yyx : |y| = 2|x| \wedge x \in L\} \cup \{y_1y_2x : |y_1| = |y_2| = 2|x| \wedge l(y_1) > l(y_1 \oplus y_2)\}$$

The following proposition is obvious.

**Proposition 3.1** *For any  $L$ ,  $L \neq \emptyset, \Sigma^*$ ,  $code(L)$  reduces to  $L$  via a log-lin function.*

We now prove our main theorem.

**Theorem 3.2** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a class closed under log-lin reductions. If  $A$  is a  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete set for  $\mathcal{C}$  then for every  $B \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $B \leq_{1,li,i}^P A$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $B \in \mathcal{C}$ . Define set  $D$  as:

$$D = \{x10^k \mid k \geq 0 \wedge x \in B\}$$

It is easy to see that that  $D$  reduces to  $B$  via a log-lin function and therefore,  $D \in \mathcal{C}$ . Further, since  $code(D)$  reduces to  $D$  via a log-lin function (from Proposition 3.1),  $code(D) \in \mathcal{C}$ . Let  $code(D) \leq_m^{1-L} A$  via 1-L function  $f$  which is computed by TM  $M$ .

The outline of the proof is as follows. We first obtain a polynomial-time reduction  $g_D^M$  of  $D$  to  $code(D)$  based on the reduction  $f$  of  $code(D)$  to the set  $A$ . Then, we show that the composition of  $f$  and  $g_D^M$  is a reduction of  $D$  to  $A$  that is one-one and size-nondecreasing on  $\Sigma_{=n}$  for all large enough  $n$ . Finally, we give a reduction  $g_p$  of  $B$  to  $D$  such that  $f \circ g_D^M \circ g_p$  is a one-one, size-increasing and p-invertible reduction of  $B$  to  $A$ .

Let  $n_0$  be as defined in Lemma 2.5. Define function  $g_D^M$  as computed by the following polynomial-time TM.

On input  $x$ , let  $n = |x|$ . If  $n < n_0$  then output  $1^{4n}x$  and halt. Otherwise, for graph  $G_M^{5n}$ , compute the configuration  $\tilde{C}$  as in Lemma 2.5. Let  $I$  be the set of input labels of paths from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to  $\tilde{C}$  (each such label will be of length  $2n$ ) and  $i_p$  be the  $l(x)^{th}$  largest label, in the lexicographic ordering, in  $I$ . (Since  $l(x) < 2^{|x|+1} = 2^{n+1} \leq \|I\|$ , there will always be such a label in  $I$ .) Output  $i_p i_p x$  and halt.

**Claim 3.2.1**  $g_D^M$  is a 1-1, size-increasing, p-invertible and polynomial-time computable reduction of  $D$  to  $code(D)$ .

*Proof of Claim 3.2.1.* That  $g_D^M$  is 1-1, size-increasing and a reduction of  $D$  to  $code(D)$  follows immediately. To compute  $g_D^M$  in polynomial-time, we need to compute vertex  $\tilde{C}$  and the  $l(x)^{th}$  largest label of  $I$  in polynomial-time. This can be done easily using dynamic programming techniques. Polynomial-time procedures to compute these values are given in the Appendix. Now, the p-invertibility of  $g_D^M$  follows easily: given  $z$ , check if  $|z| = 5n$  for some  $n$ . If yes, then let  $x$  be the postfix of  $z$  of length  $n$ , check if  $g_D^M(x) = z$ . If yes then output  $x$  else reject.  $\square$

The following claim shows that  $f \circ g_D^M$  is 1-1 and size-nondecreasing on  $\Sigma_{=n}$  for any  $n \geq n_0$  where  $n_0$  is as defined in Lemma 2.5.

**Claim 3.2.2** For any  $n$ ,  $n \geq n_0$ : for any  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $|x| = |y| = n$  and  $x \neq y$ :  $f(g_D^M(x)) \neq f(g_D^M(y))$  and  $|f(g_D^M(x))| \geq |x|$ .

*Proof of Claim 3.2.2.* Assume that  $f(g_D^M(x)) = f(g_D^M(y))$  for some  $x$  and  $y$  with  $x \neq y$  and  $|x| = |y| = n \geq n_0$ . Let  $\tilde{x} = g_D^M(x)$  and  $\tilde{y} = g_D^M(y)$ . By the definition of  $g_D^M$ , it follows that  $\tilde{x} = i_{p_1} i_{p_1} x$  and  $\tilde{y} = i_{p_2} i_{p_2} y$ , where  $i_{p_1}$  and  $i_{p_2}$  are respectively the  $l(x)^{th}$  and  $l(y)^{th}$  largest input labels in the set  $I$ , the set of input labels of all paths from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to  $\tilde{C}$ . Since both the paths  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  end at  $\tilde{C}$ , it follows that their output labels, respectively  $o_{p_1}$  and  $o_{p_2}$ , will have the same length (recall that a configuration stores the position of the output head also). By the assumption  $f(g_D^M(x)) = f(g_D^M(y))$ , it follows that  $o_{p_1} = o_{p_2}$ .

Since there are at least  $2^{n+1}$  labels in  $I$  (as  $n \geq n_0$ ) and  $x \neq y$ , it must hold that  $i_{p_1} \neq i_{p_2}$ . Without loss of generality, assume that  $l(i_{p_1}) > l(i_{p_2})$ . Let  $z = i_{p_1} \oplus i_{p_2}$ . Define strings,  $\tilde{x}_1 = i_{p_1} z 1^n$  and  $\tilde{y}_1 = i_{p_2} z 1^n$ . Since  $i_{p_1} \oplus z = i_{p_2}$  and  $i_{p_2} \oplus z = i_{p_1}$ , it follows, by the definition of  $code(D)$ , that  $\tilde{x}_1 \in code(D)$  and  $\tilde{y}_1 \notin code(D)$ . However, since  $o_{p_1} = o_{p_2}$  and the input to  $M$ , computing  $f$  on  $\tilde{x}_1$  or  $\tilde{y}_1$ , after it reaches the configuration  $\tilde{C}$  is same, it must be that  $f(\tilde{x}_1) = f(\tilde{y}_1)$ . This contradicts the fact that  $f$  is a reduction of  $code(D)$  to  $A$ . Therefore,  $o_{p_1} \neq o_{p_2}$ . It also follows that  $|o_{p_1}| = |o_{p_2}| \geq n$  as there are  $2^n$  different such output labels (one for each string of length  $n$ ). This implies, firstly that  $f(g_D^M(x)) \neq f(g_D^M(y))$  and secondly that  $|f(g_D^M(x))| \geq |x|$ .  $\square$

Now, to get a 1-1, size-increasing reduction of  $B$  to  $A$ , we use a simple padding technique. Define function  $r$  as:  $r(0) = n_0$  and  $r(m) = q(5 \cdot r(m-1)) + 1$  for  $m > 0$  (recall that  $q(n)$  bounds the number of vertices of  $G_M^n$  and therefore also bounds  $|f(x)|$  for any  $x$  of size  $n$ ).

Define function  $g_p$ , reducing  $B$  to  $D$  as:  $g_p(x) = x 10^{k-1}$  where  $k = r(l) - |x|$  and  $l = \min_m(r(m) > |x|)$ . Function  $g_p$  can be computed in polynomial-time: start from  $r(0)$  and calculate  $r(1), r(2), \dots$  till an  $r(m)$  is obtained with  $r(m) > |x|$ ; compute  $k$  and output  $x 10^{k-1}$ . This function maps strings of length between  $r(l)$  and  $r(l+1) - 1$  to strings of length  $r(l+1)$  and therefore, is size-increasing.

Let  $h \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f \circ g_D^M \circ g_p$ . We claim that  $h$  is the required reduction of  $B$  to  $A$ . It is clearly a polynomial-time computable reduction of  $B$  to  $A$ .

**Claim 3.2.3**  $h$  is size-increasing.

*Proof of Claim 3.2.3.* For every  $x$ ,  $|g_p(x)| \geq r(0) = n_0$  and further,  $g_p$  is size-increasing. Now it follows from the Claim 3.2.2 that  $|f(g_D^M(g_p(x)))| \geq |g_p(x)| > |x|$ .  $\square$

**Claim 3.2.4**  *$h$  is one-one.*

*Proof of Claim 3.2.4.* Take any two strings  $x$  and  $y$ . If  $|g_p(x)| = |g_p(y)|$  then, by Claim 3.2.2, it follows that  $h(x) \neq h(y)$ . Now consider the case when  $|g_p(x)| < |g_p(y)|$ . Let  $|g_p(x)| = r(m)$  and  $|g_p(y)| = r(n)$  with  $n > m$ . So,  $|h(x)| = |f(g_D^M(g_p(x)))| \leq q(5 \cdot r(m))$  (by size bounds of  $f$ ,  $g_D^M$  and  $g_p$ )  $< r(m+1)$  (by the definition of  $r$ )  $\leq r(n) = |g_p(y)| \leq |f(g_D^M(g_p(y)))|$  (by Claim 3.2.2)  $= |h(y)|$ . Therefore,  $h(x) \neq h(y)$ .  $\square$

**Claim 3.2.5**  *$h$  is  $p$ -invertible.*

*Proof of Claim 3.2.5.* Both the functions  $g_D^M$  and  $g_p$  are  $p$ -invertible. The  $p$ -invertibility of  $f$  when restricted to the range of  $g_D^M \circ g_p$  follows from a result by Allender [4] showing that all 1-1, honest 1-L functions can be inverted in polynomial-time. In the following we give a more direct proof of the invertibility of  $f \circ g_D^M$ .

Given any  $z$ , with  $|z| = m$ , for each  $n$ ,  $n_0 \leq n \leq m$  do the following. Compute the graph  $G_M^{5n}$  and the vertex  $\tilde{C}$ . Check if there exists a path in  $G_M^{5n}$  from the vertex  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to some vertex in level  $5n+1$  and passing through vertex  $\tilde{C}$  whose output label is  $z$  (by Claim 3.2.2, there can exist at most one such path). If yes, then consider the subpath, say  $p$ , of this path, from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to  $\tilde{C}$ . Calculate the position of the input label  $i_p$  of  $p$  in the lexicographic ordering of the input labels of all the paths from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to  $\tilde{C}$ . Let  $i_p$  be the  $t^{th}$  largest such label and  $t = l(x)$  for some string  $x$ . Check if  $f(i_p i_p x) = z$ . If yes and  $|x| = n$  then output  $x$  and stop.

If there is no such  $x$  for  $n$  then there is no inverse of  $z$ . It is easy to see that the above procedure can be carried out in time polynomial in  $|z|$  using the procedures defined in the Appendix.  $\square$

From the above claims it follows that  $B \leq_{1,li,i}^p A$  via  $h$ . This completes proof of the theorem.  $\blacksquare$

**Corollary 3.3** *For any class  $\mathcal{C}$  closed under log-lin reductions, all 1-L complete sets for  $\mathcal{C}$  are  $p$ -isomorphic.*

*Proof.* In [6], it was shown that all sets reducible to each other via  $\leq_{1,li,i}^p$ -reductions are  $p$ -isomorphic. The corollary follows from the above theorem. ■

**Corollary 3.4** *1-L complete sets for classes DLOG, NLOG, P, NP,  $\Sigma_k^p$ , PSPACE, E, NE etc. are  $p$ -isomorphic.*

*Proof.* As all these classes are closed under log-lin reductions, the corollary follows. ■

It has been observed [11] that all ‘natural’ NP-complete sets are complete under 1-L reductions as well. Therefore, it follows that they are all  $p$ -isomorphic to each other, a fact which had earlier been shown using paddability [6].

## 4 Discussion

In most of the previous results that show complete sets for a certain class to be 1-1 complete, e.g. [5, 17, 8, 12], the following technique is employed in their proofs. To ensure that the reduction from a set  $B$  to a complete set  $A$  is one-one, an intermediate set  $I$  is constructed so that a composition of the reduction from  $B$  to  $I$  and the reduction from  $I$  to  $A$  is one-one. The set  $I$  is constructed by diagonalizing over all possible reductions to (effectively) ensure that no many-one function can be a reduction of  $I$  to  $A$  (see, e.g., [8, 12]). However, it has the drawback of making the set  $I$  ‘hard’. For example, to diagonalize over the class of 1-L reductions superlogarithmic space is needed thus forcing the set  $I$  to go beyond DLOG (and possibly even NP) even when  $B$  belongs to DLOG. This is one of the reasons why the results in [12] hold only for space classes beyond NLOG.

We have used a different technique in our proof. The outline of our technique is the same as above except that the set  $I$  ( $= code(D)$ ) is constructed differently. The set  $code(D)$  contains only ‘potentially’ diagonalizable information. The reduction of  $B$  to  $code(D)$  exploits this information to force

its composition with the reduction of  $code(D)$  to  $A$  to be one-one (and size-increasing). It has the advantage of making the set  $code(D)$  ‘easy enough’ to make it fall in the logspace degree of  $B$ . This allows our result to hold for any class closed under logspace reductions, e.g., DLOG, NP etc. This technique has been used by Allender [4] as well, though its full potential has not been realized there.

In our technique part of the diagonalization work is transferred to the reduction  $g (= g_D^M \circ g_p)$  of  $B$  to  $code(D)$ . So, one would expect that now the reduction  $g$  will become ‘hard’. Indeed,  $g$  needs polynomial-time to compute (Claim 3.2.1), and therefore, the one-one reduction of  $B$  to  $A$  is a polynomial-time function even though  $A$  is  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete. This was not the case with the earlier technique, where the one-one reduction of  $B$  to  $A$  remains a 1-L function when  $A$  is  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete [12]. Therefore, there appears to be a trade-off between the complexities of the set  $I$  and the reduction of  $B$  to  $I^1$ .

From the discussion above, it is clear that our technique is more useful in obtaining isomorphism results than the usual diagonalization technique, at least in the case of weak reductions like 1-L.

## 5 A generalization

The result in the section 3 can be generalized to functions computed by *finite crossing* machines. A *finite crossing* machine is a logspace bounded TM such that its input head can cross any cell only a constant number of times. TMs computing 1-L functions form a subset of finite crossing TMs as their input head is allowed to cross any cell exactly once. We refer to total functions computed by finite crossing machines as *f-L functions*.

**Theorem 5.1** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a class closed under log-lin reductions. Then all sets complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  under f-L reductions are p-isomorphic to each other.*

The proof of this theorem builds on the proof for 1-L reductions. We omit the details, which can be found in [2].

---

<sup>1</sup>However, surprisingly, this is not so. In a recent work [1] it is shown that one can construct the set  $code(D)$  and reduction  $g$  such that  $g$  remains a 1-L function. In fact, it is shown there that not only is the one-one reduction of  $B$  to  $A$  a 1-L function, it is 1-L-invertible as well, thus providing a very strong collapse of 1-L-complete degrees.

The class of f-L functions contains the class of total functions computed by 2-way DFA machines. A *2-way DFA* machine is a TM that has no workspace. Therefore, the input head of any such machine computing a total function cannot cross any cell more than a constant number of times (equal to the number of states of the TM). Therefore, we have

**Corollary 5.2** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a class closed under log-lin reductions. Then all sets complete for  $\mathcal{C}$  under 2-way DFA reductions are p-isomorphic to each other.*

The above corollary generalizes some earlier results on 2-way DFA functions: Allender [4] had shown that all complete sets for E under 2-way DFA reductions are p-isomorphic while Ganesan and Homer [8] did the same for the class NE.

## 6 Conclusion

Our results here generalize the results of Allender [4] and Ganesan and Homer [8]. In comparison with the results of Hemachandra and Hoene [12], our results are weaker but hold for a larger number of classes ([12] shows that for any reasonable nondeterministic space class above NLOG,  $\leq_m^{1-L}$ -complete sets are also complete under one-one and size-increasing 1-L reductions).

One can consider some other natural classes of weak reductions and address the isomorphism conjecture weakened to them. For example, in [3], it has been shown that all complete sets under *first order projections* for reasonable classes are first order isomorphic. One may try to generalize this result to prove it for all first order computable (equivalently, *uniform-AC<sup>0</sup>*) reductions or at least, for all *uniform-NC<sup>0</sup>* reductions.

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## Appendix

*procedure number-of-paths;*

**begin**

*/\*  $P[u, v]$  is the number of distinct paths from  $u$  to  $v$  \*/*

**for all**  $u, v \in V^{5n}$  **do** */\* initialization \*/*

**if**  $u = v$  **then**

$P[u, v] = 1;$

**else**

$P[u, v] = 0;$

**for all**  $i = 1, 5n$  **do**

*/\* compute the number of paths between every pair of vertices*

*\* that are  $i$  levels apart in  $G_M^{5n}$  \*/*

**for all**  $j = 1, 5n - i + 1$  **do**

*/\* compute the number of paths between vertices at level  $j$  and  $j + i$  \*/*

**for all**  $u \in L_j$  and  $v \in L_{j+i}$  **do**

*/\* compute  $P[u, v]$  \*/*

            Let  $v_1, v_2 \in L_{j+1}$  such that  $\langle u, v_1 \rangle, \langle u, v_2 \rangle \in E^{5n}$   
            with input label 0 and 1 respectively;

$P[u, v] = P[v_1, v] + P[v_2, v];$

**end;**

Figure 1: Procedure to compute the number of paths between vertices of  $G_M^{5n}$

```
function configuration;  
  
begin  
number-of-paths;  
/* At this point the array P is defined */  
Find the lexicographically smallest configuration  $\tilde{C} \in L_{2n+1}$   
    such that  $P[C_{init}^{5n}, \tilde{C}] \geq 2^{2n}/q(5n)$ ;  
return  $\tilde{C}$ ;  
end;
```

Figure 2: Function to compute the configuration  $\tilde{C}$  of  $G_M^{5n}$

```

function pathno(k);

begin
  number-of-paths;
  /* At this point the array P is defined */
   $\tilde{C}$  = configuration;
  /*  $P[C_{init}^{5n}, \tilde{C}] \geq 2^{2n}/q(5n)$  */
  I =  $\epsilon$ ;      /* length 0 prefix of the label of the  $k^{th}$  largest path */
  v =  $C_{init}^n$ ; /* first vertex on the  $k^{th}$  largest path */
  l = k;      /*  $l^{th}$  largest path from v is to be chosen */

  for all  $i = 1, 2n$  do
    /* Invariants: v is the  $i^{th}$  vertex on the  $k^{th}$  largest path;
    *               I is the length  $i - 1$  prefix of the label of the  $k^{th}$  largest path;
    *                $k^{th}$  largest path is the  $l^{th}$  largest path from v */
    Let  $v_1, v_2 \in L_{i+1}$  such that  $\langle v, v_1 \rangle, \langle v, v_2 \rangle \in E^{5n}$  with input label 0 and 1 respectively;
    if  $P[v_1, \tilde{C}] \geq l$  then /*  $l^{th}$  largest path occurs in the  $\langle v, v_1 \rangle$  branch */
      I = I · 0;
      v =  $v_1$ ;
    else /*  $l^{th}$  largest path occurs in the  $\langle v, v_2 \rangle$  branch */
      I = I · 1;
      v =  $v_2$ ;
      l = l -  $P[v_1, \tilde{C}]$ ;

  return I;
end;

```

Figure 3: Function to compute the input label of  $k^{th}$  largest path from  $C_{init}^{5n}$  to  $\tilde{C}$