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$$T_{m+s+1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}) T_{m+s+1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}') S_{m+r+1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{e})$$

where $(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}', \mathbf{e})$ is a fixed $(0, 1)$ -vector of $2s+r+3$ elements. But any such vector can be specified by a conjunction of $2s+r+3$ Boolean literals. Consider the disjunction of the r such conjunctions and let $R(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}', \mathbf{e})$ be the polynomial that simulates this Boolean formula at $(0, 1)$ values. Then clearly

$$Q_m(x) = \sum T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}) T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}') S(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{e}) R(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}', \mathbf{e}),$$

where summation is over $(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}', \mathbf{e}) \in \{0, 1\}^{2s+r+3}$.

Let $A(C, d)$ be the upper bound over every homogeneous polynomial having degree d and homogeneous program complexity C , of the minimal size of formula needed to define it in Definition 4. Then the above recursive expression ensures that

$$A(C, d) \leq 3A(3C + d, \lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1) + O(C).$$

Clearly also $A(C, 1) \leq 2C$. Hence if d is p -bounded in m then so is the solution to this recurrence. \square

APPENDIX 2

For completeness we describe here a direct proof of the p -definability of HC in the sense of Definition 1. $HC_{n \times n}(x_{i,j})$ will be the projection under

$$\sigma(u_{k,m}) = 1 \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leq k, m \leq n$$

of the polynomial in $\{x_{i,j}, u_{k,m}\}$ defined by

$$Q_{n \times n}(y_{i,j}) \cdot Q_{n \times n}(z_{k,m}) \cdot R^1 \dots R^n$$

with the association $y_{i,j} \leftrightarrow x_{i,j}$ and $z_{k,m} \leftrightarrow u_{k,m}$. Here $Q_{n \times n}$ is the polynomial that defines the permanent in §3. Its first occurrence with argument y plays exactly the same role as in the permanent and ensures a cycle cover. The intention of $z_{k,m}$ is to denote whether the k^{th} node in the circuit (starting from node 1, say) is node m . $Q_{n \times n}(z_{k,m})$ ensures that this intention is realised. For each k R^k captures the fact that if $z_{k,m}$ and $z_{k+1,r}$ are both 1 then $y_{m,r}$ must be also. In Boolean notation we require

$$y_{m,r} \vee (\bar{z}_{k,m} \vee \bar{z}_{k+1,r}).$$

As is well known such Boolean formulae can be simulated by polynomials at $\{0, 1\}$ values (e.g. see Proposition 2 in [13]). To guarantee just one monomial for each cycle we fix $R^1 = z_{11}$. \square