

Abstract

Generalised spectra, *id est* classes finitely axiomatisable in existential second-order logic restricted to finite structures, are known by Fagin's theorem to coincide with members of the complexity class **NP**. Thereby, the problem of **NP** being closed under complementation reduces to the problem whether every class of finite structures complementary to a generalised spectrum is, too, a generalised spectrum. Provided $\mathbf{P} \neq \mathbf{NP}$, a proof thereof could then possibly be based on finding a particular generalised spectrum (thereby an **NP** class) whose complement, while in **coNP** would not be in **NP**. Pursuits of such a proof, too, however, have been to no avail. A partial resolution of this problem (itself a special case to so called Asser's problem) is Fagin-Hájek theorem, claiming that a subclass of **NP**, the class of so called monadic **NP** sets is not closed under complementation. Reproducing Fagin's original proof of the theorem is the aim of this thesis, along with introducing the reader to all preliminary apparatus needed for the proof.