

# Foundations of Probabilistic Proofs

A course by **Alessandro Chiesa**

## Lecture 01

## Intro to IPs




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# What are Mathematical Proofs?

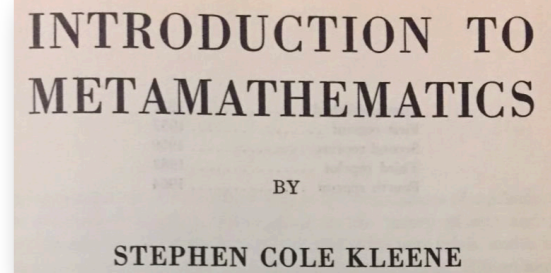
One answer: an **approximation of understanding**.

"A proof is whatever convinces me." (Shimon Even, 1978)

[Stories about Shimon Even]  
by Oded Goldreich 

Logic formalizes the notion of "proof" so it can be studied using mathematics itself.

In particular this leads to **METAMATHEMATICS**.



A **formal system** is a tuple **(alphabet, grammar, axioms, inference rules)**.

A **(true) theorem** is a sentence that has a **(valid) proof**:

a list of sentences whose last sentence is the theorem such that every sentence is an axiom, an assumption, or derived from prior sentences.

a logical derivation  
from axioms & assumptions

Fundamental question: **HILBERT'S ENTSCHEIDUNGSPROBLEM**

is there a procedure to determine if a sentence is a theorem?

**NO** no such  
procedure exists

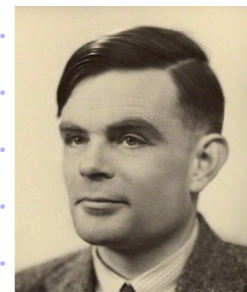
1931: Gödel  $\begin{cases} \text{IT1: every strong enough formal system is not complete} \\ \text{IT2: every strong enough formal system cannot prove its own consistency} \end{cases}$

$\forall$  sentence  $x$ ,  $x$  or  $\bar{x}$  has a proof

1935: Church (via  $\lambda$ -calculus)

$\forall$  sentence  $x$ , at most one of  $x$  or  $\bar{x}$  has a proof

1936: Turing (via Turing machines)



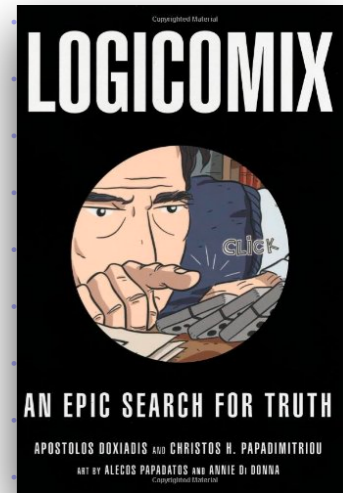
# Proofs and Computation

Mathematical proofs were implicitly always **about computation**.

Formulating (and answering) the Entscheidungsproblem made this explicit.

Computation is formalized via **Turing machines** (and other equivalent models).

This enables the study of **COMPUTABILITY THEORY** and **COMPLEXITY THEORY**.



Undecidability of a language rules out any mathematical proof.

Languages with **NONDETERMINISTIC WITNESSES** correspond to theorems with mathematical proofs:

A language  $L$  is in **NTIME** $[T]$  iff  $\exists$  **verifier**  $V$  machine  $M$  that runs in time  $T(|x|)$  s.t.

• **completeness**:  $\forall$  **theorem** instance  $x \in L \exists$   $T(|x|)$ -size **proof** witness  $w \quad V(x, \pi) = 1$   
 $M(x, w) = 1$

• **soundness**:  $\forall$  **theorem** instance  $x \notin L \forall$   $T(|x|)$ -size **proof** witness  $w \quad V(x, \pi) = 0$   
 $M(x, w) = 0$

The NTIME-hierarchy theorem tells us that checking a witness may take **arbitrarily long**:

**theorem**: **NTIME** $[o(T)] \subsetneq$  **NTIME** $[T]$  [precisely: **NTIME** $[f(n)] \subsetneq$  **NTIME** $[g(n)] \forall$  time-constructible  $f, g$  with  $f(n+1) = o(g(n))$ ]

Hence **EFFICIENTLY-VERIFIABLE** witnesses better capture mathematical proofs:

$$NP = \bigcup_{c \in \mathbb{N}} \text{NTIME}[n^c] \quad \text{nondeterministic polynomial time}$$

# Efficient Mathematical Proofs = NP

The definition of the complexity class **NP** (nondeterministic polynomial time):

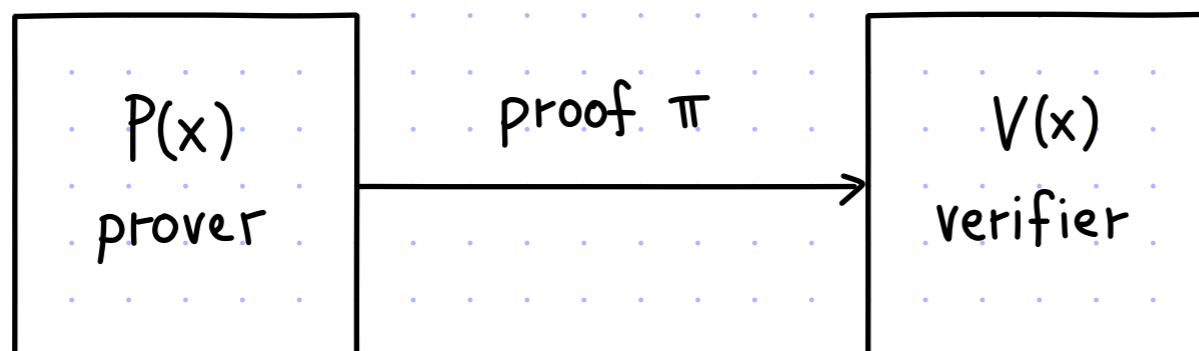
$L \in NP \iff \exists$  polynomial-time **verifier**  $V$  decider  $D$  s.t.

- **completeness**: ①  $\forall$  **theorem** instance  $x \in L \exists$  **proof**  $\pi$  poly( $|x|$ )-size witness  $w$   $V(x, \pi) = 1$   
 $D(x, w) = 1$
- **soundness**: ②  $\forall$  **theorem** instance  $x \notin L \forall$  **proof**  $\pi$  poly( $|x|$ )-size witness  $w$   $V(x, \pi) = 0$   
 $D(x, w) = 0$

**Example:  $L = SAT$**

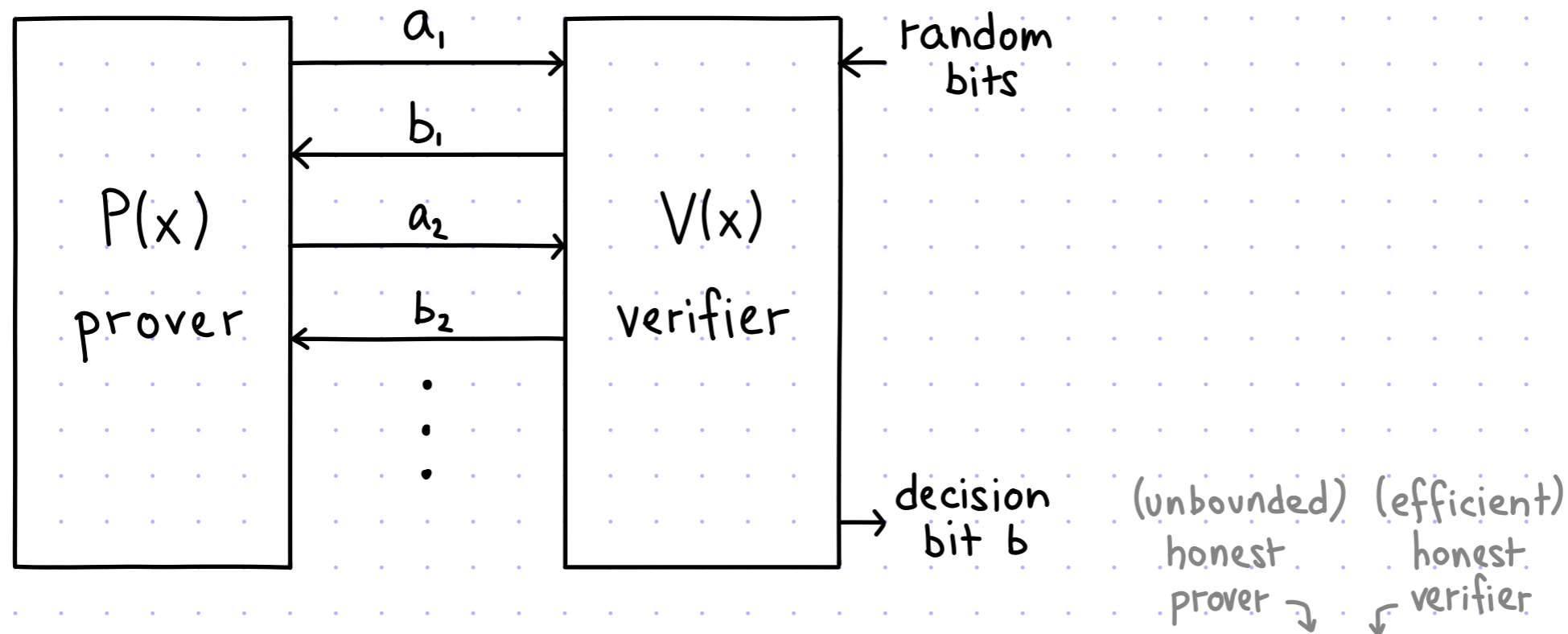
- $x$  is a boolean formula  $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$
- $w$  is an assignment  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n$
- $D$  checks that  $\varphi(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \text{true}$

Hence NP captures **traditional (efficient) mathematical proofs**:



# Interactive Proofs

Revolutionary idea: the verifier may use randomness and interact with the prover.



An **interactive proof** for a language  $L$  is a pair  $(P, V)$  such that:

① completeness:  $\forall x \in L \quad \Pr_{s_p, s_v} [\langle P(x; s_p), V(x; s_v) \rangle = 1] = 1.$

② soundness:  $\forall x \notin L \quad \forall \tilde{P} \quad \Pr_{s_v} [\langle \tilde{P}, V(x; s_v) \rangle = 1] \leq 1/2.$

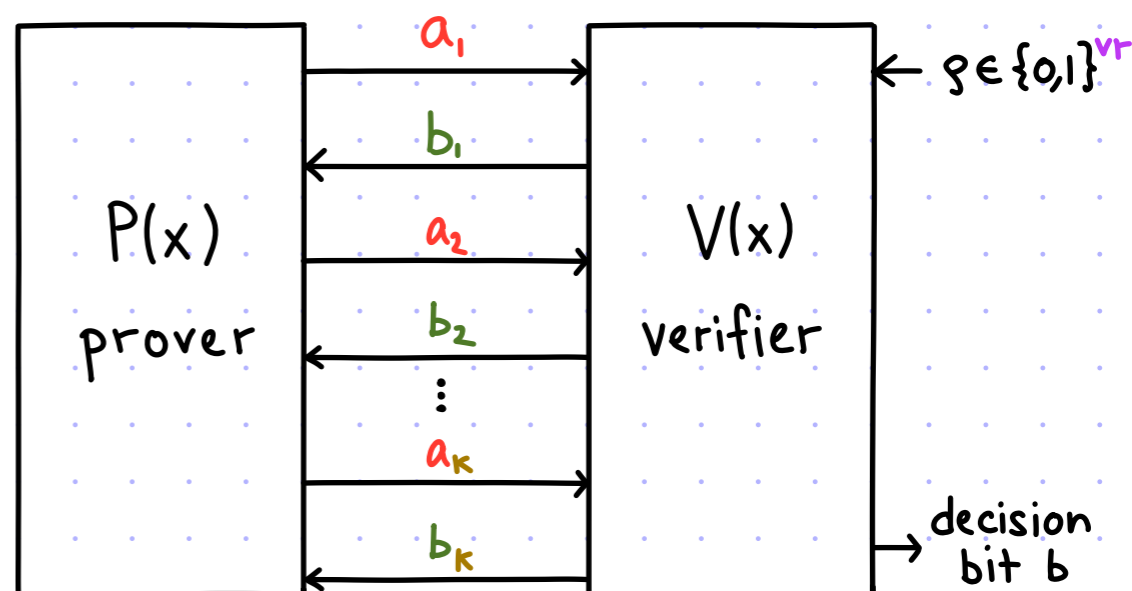
the "best" randomness can be hardcoded in  $\tilde{P}$

more generally:  
 $\geq 1 - \epsilon_c$  (false negatives)  
 $\leq \epsilon_s$  (false positives)  
 it suffices to have  $1 - \epsilon_c - \epsilon_s \geq \frac{1}{\text{poly}}$

# Efficiency Measures

We denote by  $IP[\epsilon_c, \epsilon_s, k, pc, vc, vr]$  the class of languages that have an IP with:

- completeness error  $\epsilon_c$
- soundness error  $\epsilon_s$
- round complexity  $k$
- prover-to-verifier communication  $pc := \sum_{i=1}^k |a_i|$
- verifier-to-prover communication  $vc := \sum_{i=1}^k |b_i|$
- verifier randomness  $vr$



The prover or verifier may start the interaction. (We will say who starts if it matters.)

We count rounds from there.

A round consists of two messages: or  
prover message then verifier message (if prover starts)  
verifier message then prover message (if verifier starts)

We denote by  $IP$  the case with no restrictions (beyond  $V$  runs in polynomial time):

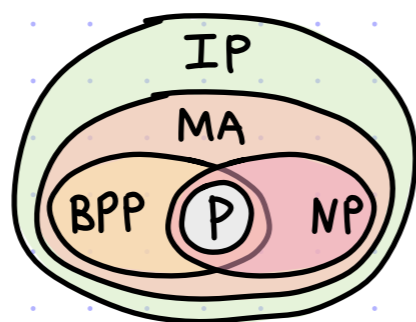
$$IP := IP[\epsilon_c = 0, \epsilon_s = \frac{1}{2}, k = \text{poly}(n), pc = \text{poly}(n), vc = \text{poly}(n), vr = \text{poly}(n)].$$

**FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION:** what languages are in  $IP$ ?

# What Is The Power Of Interactive Proofs?

**OBSERVATION:** An interactive proof is "degenerate" if the verifier leverages **only interaction** or **only randomness**.

		interaction	
		no	yes
randomness	no	NP	NP
	yes	MA	IP



MA consists of languages  $L$  s.t.  
 $\exists$  poly-time  $V : \begin{cases} \forall x \in L \exists \text{poly}(|x|)\text{-size } \pi \Pr[V(x, \pi; g) = 1] \geq \frac{2}{3} \\ \forall x \notin L \forall \text{poly}(|x|)\text{-size } \pi \Pr[V(x, \pi; g) = 1] \leq \frac{1}{3} \end{cases}$   
 It is believed that  $MA = NP$  (implied by strong PRGs).

Hence we should leverage interaction and randomness **SIMULTANEOUSLY**.

We wish to understand:

Are there languages beyond NP (and MA) that have interactive proofs?

# Isomorphisms Between Graphs

Let  $G_0 = (V, E_0)$  and  $G_1 = (V, E_1)$  be two graphs on vertices  $V$ .

def:  $G_0 \equiv G_1$  ( $G_0$  &  $G_1$  are **isomorphic**) if  $\exists$  permutation  $\pi: V \rightarrow V$  s.t.

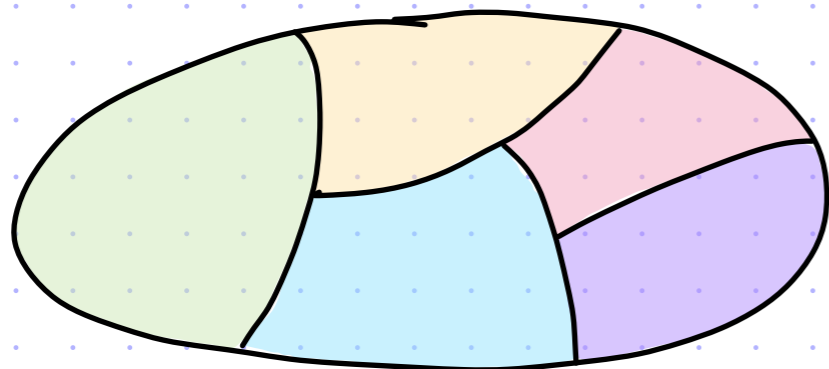
$$(u, v) \in E_0 \iff (\pi(u), \pi(v)) \in E_1 .$$

If so, we write  $G_1 = \pi(G_0)$ .

The isomorphism relation is an **EQUIVALENCE RELATION**:

- it is **reflexive**:  $G \equiv G$  (via the identity permutation)
- it is **symmetric**:  $G_1 = \pi(G_0) \iff G_0 = \pi^{-1}(G_1)$
- it is **transitive**:  $G_1 = \pi_1(G_0) \wedge G_2 = \pi_2(G_1) \rightarrow G_2 = (\pi_2 \circ \pi_1)(G_0)$

Hence the relation partitions all graphs into **EQUIVALENCE CLASSES**:

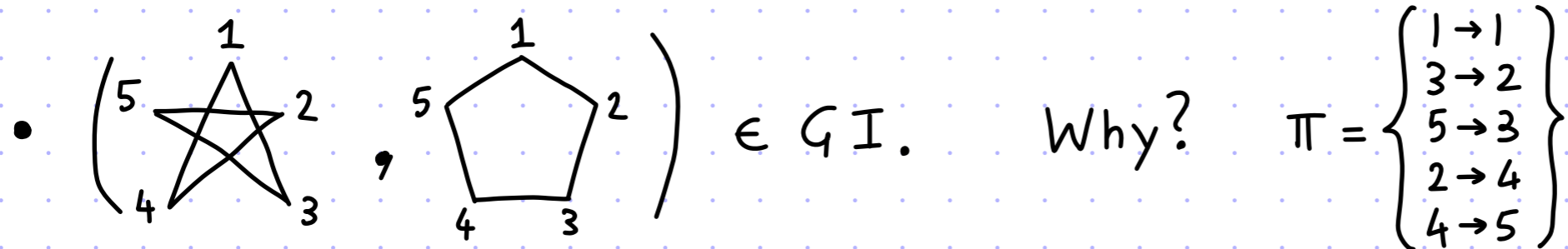


# Languages for Graph Isomorphism

The graph isomorphism relation induces two languages:

$$GI := \{ (G_0, G_1) \mid G_0 \cong G_1 \} \quad GNI := \{ (G_0, G_1) \mid G_0 \not\cong G_1 \}$$

Examples:



In general:  $GI \in NP$  and  $GNI \in coNP$ .

It is not known if  $GI$  (or  $GNI$ ) is in  $P$ .

Q: How to prove that  $G_0 \not\cong G_1$ ?

In general, it is harder to see than in the above example.

# Interactive Proof for Graph Non-Isomorphism

[1/2]

theorem:  $GNI \in IP$

$P((G_0, G_1))$

find  $\tilde{b}$  s.t.

$H \equiv G_{\tilde{b}}$

$\xleftarrow{H}$

$\xrightarrow{\tilde{b}}$

$V((G_0, G_1))$

$b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$

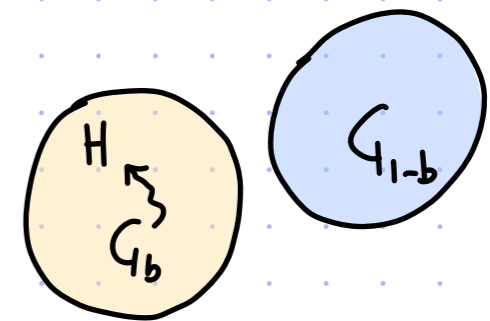
$\pi \leftarrow \{\text{permutations on vertices}\}$

$H := \pi(G_b)$

$\tilde{b} \stackrel{?}{=} b$

Completeness: Suppose that  $(G_0, G_1) \in GNI$  (i.e.,  $G_0 \neq G_1$ ).

Then  $G_b$  and  $G_{1-b}$  are in different equivalence classes:



The honest prover determines  $b$  by finding out which graph  $H$  is isomorphic to.

*NOTE: for now we ignore the efficiency of the honest prover.*

# Interactive Proof for Graph Non-Isomorphism

[2/2]

theorem:  $GNI \in IP$

$P((G_0, G_1))$

find  $\tilde{b}$  s.t.

$H \equiv G_{\tilde{b}}$

$\xleftarrow{H}$   
 $\xrightarrow{\tilde{b}}$

$V((G_0, G_1))$

$b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$

$\pi \leftarrow \{\text{permutations on vertices}\}$

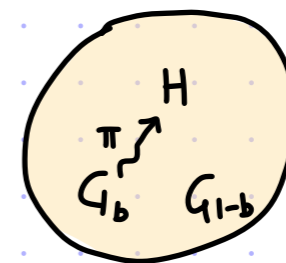
$H := \pi(G_b)$

$\tilde{b} \stackrel{?}{=} b$

Soundness: Suppose that  $(G_0, G_1) \notin GNI$  (i.e.,  $G_0 \equiv G_1$ ).

The random variable  $\pi(G_b)$  is identical to  $\pi(G_{1-b})$ :

Hence  $H := \pi(G_b)$  and  $b$  are **independent**.



We conclude that  $\Pr[\tilde{b} = b] = 1/2$  regardless of how a malicious prover chooses  $\tilde{b}$  based on  $H$ .

**NOTE:** it is crucial that  $b$  is secret, but later we study how to avoid "private randomness".

# Upper Bound on IP

[1/4]

theorem:  $IP \subseteq PSPACE$  ← languages decidable in polynomial space

Let  $L \in IP$ , and let  $(P, V)$  be an IP for  $L$ .

We show that  $L \in PSPACE$ .

Fix an instance  $x$  and define  $q_x := \max_{\tilde{P}} \Pr [\langle \tilde{P}, V(x; \rho) \rangle = 1]$ . maximum winning probability

If  $x \in L$  then  $q_x = 1$ .  
If  $x \notin L$  then  $q_x \leq \frac{1}{2}$ . } It suffices to compute  $q_x$  in polynomial space.

**PROBLEM:** we cannot iterate over ALL provers  $\tilde{P}$  because  
this includes those that require large space to run

**IDEA:** any interaction transcript has polynomial size (the IP verifier reads it)  
so we CAN iterate over all transcripts in polynomial space

We show that the **optimal prover strategy** is computable  
in polynomial space, and so is the probability  $q_x$ .

# Upper Bound on IP

[2/4]

The **optimal prover** is defined as follows:

$P^*(x, (a_1, b_1, \dots, a_i, b_i))$  outputs  $a_{i+1}^*$  that maximizes the probability that  $P^*$  convinces  $V(x)$  conditioned on the first  $i$  rounds being  $(a_1, b_1, \dots, a_i, b_i)$ .

claim:  $P^* \in \text{PSPACE} \rightarrow q_x \in \text{PSPACE}$

proof: The optimality of  $P^*$  implies that  $q_x = \frac{\sum_{s \in R} d(x, s)}{|R|}$  where:

- $R$  are the possible random strings of the IP verifier  $V$ ,
- $d(x, s)$  is the decision bit of  $V(x, s)$  when interacting with  $P^*$ .

Note that  $d(x, s)$  is computable in polynomial space:

$$\begin{aligned} a_i^* &:= P^*(x, \perp) & a_2^* &:= P^*(x, (a_1^*, b_1)) & \dots & & a_k^* &:= P^*(x, (a_1^*, b_1, \dots, a_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1})) \\ b_1 &:= V(x, s, a_1^*) & b_2 &:= V(x, s, a_1^*, a_2^*) & \dots & & b_k &:= V(x, s, a_1^*, \dots, a_k^*) \end{aligned}$$

- Indeed:
- each invocation of  $P^*$  is in polynomial space (by assumption)
  - each invocation of  $V$  is in polynomial time (by definition)

Hence  $A(x) :=$

1. Initialize  $c := 0$ .
2. For each  $s \in R$ ,  $c := c + d(x, s)$ .
3. Output  $c/|R|$ .

runs in polynomial space.

# Upper Bound on IP

[3/4]

claim:  $P^* \in PSPACE$

proof: Given a transcript  $tr = (a_1, b_1, \dots, a_i, b_i)$  of  $i$  rounds, define:

$$R[x, tr] := \left\{ s \in R \mid \begin{array}{l} b_1 = V(x, s, a_1) \\ b_2 = V(x, s, a_1, a_2) \\ \vdots \\ b_i = V(x, s, a_1, \dots, a_i) \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{set of random strings consistent with } (x, tr)$$

Membership in  $R[x, tr]$  can be checked in polynomial time, and thus polynomial space.

The proof is by (reverse) induction on  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, k-1\}$ .

Base case is  $i = k-1$ . By definition of  $P^*$ ,

$$P^*(x, tr) = P^*(x, (a_1, b_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, b_{k-1})) = \arg \max_{a_k} \Pr_{s \in R[x, tr]} [V(x, s, a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k) = 1].$$

$P^*$  can iterate in polynomial space

over all prover messages  $a_k$  and  $\rightarrow$

all random strings  $s$  (by reusing space).

$P^*(x, tr)$ :

1.  $a_k^* := \perp$ ,  $w^* := 0$ .

2. For every possible prover message  $a_k$ :

$$\text{Compute } w(a_k) := \frac{1}{|R[x, tr]|} \cdot \sum_{s \in R[x, tr]} V(x, s, a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k) \stackrel{?}{=} 1.$$

If  $w(a_k) > w^*$ :  $a_k^* := a_k$ ,  $w^* := w(a_k)$ .

3. Output  $a_k^*$ .

# Upper Bound on IP

[4/4]

claim:  $P^* \in PSPACE$

proof: (continued)

Inductive case is  $i < k-1$ . (We assume that  $P^* \in PSPACE$  for  $|tr| > i$ .)

By definition of  $P^*$ ,

$$P^*(x, tr) = P^*(x, (a_1, b_1, \dots, a_i, b_i)) = \arg \max_{a_{i+1}} \Pr_{\rho \in R[x, tr]} [V(x, \rho, a_1, \dots, a_i, a_{i+1}, a_{i+2}^*, \dots, a_k^*) = 1]$$

where  $a_{i+2}^*, \dots, a_k^*$  are optimal prover messages for  $(x, tr, \rho, a_{i+1})$ :

$$b_{i+1} := V(x, \rho, a_1, \dots, a_i, a_{i+1}) \text{ in polynomial time}$$

$$a_{i+2}^* := P^*(x, (a_1, b_1, \dots, a_i, b_i, a_{i+1}, b_{i+1})) \text{ in polynomial space (inductive assumption)}$$

$$b_{i+2} := V(x, \rho, a_1, \dots, a_i, a_{i+1}, a_{i+2}^*) \text{ in polynomial time}$$

$$\vdots$$
$$a_k^* := P^*(x, (a_1, b_1, \dots, a_i, b_i, a_{i+1}, b_{i+1}, a_{i+2}^*, b_{i+2}, \dots, a_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1})) \text{ in polynomial space (inductive assumption)}$$

We can iterate over all prover messages  $a_{i+1}$  and all random strings  $\rho$ .

We conclude that  $P^*$  is computable in polynomial space. ■

# Error Reduction

[1/4]

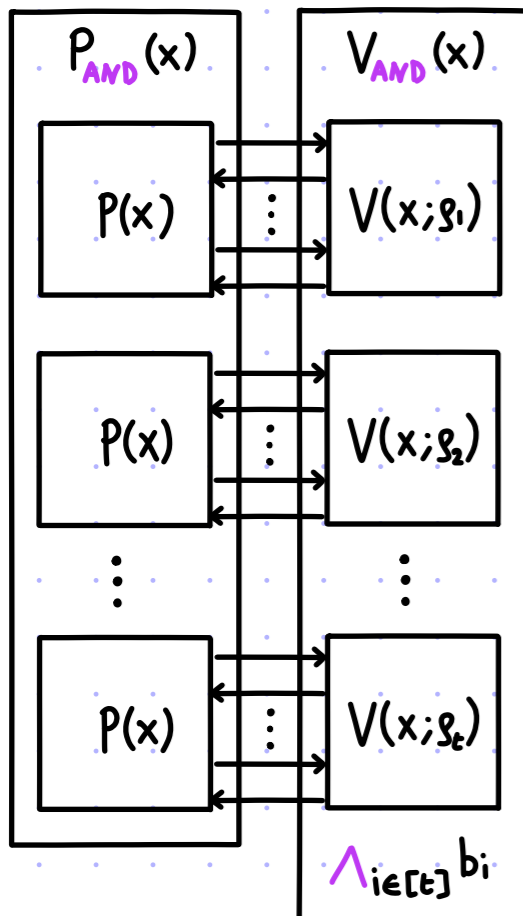
How to reduce the completeness error  $\epsilon_c$  and/or soundness error  $\epsilon_s$  of an IP?

**Idea:** Run the IP  $t$  times in sequence and (somehow) decide based on that.

Let's discuss **AND**-repetition:  $(P, V) \xrightarrow{\text{AND-repeat}} (P_{\text{AND}}, V_{\text{AND}})$ .

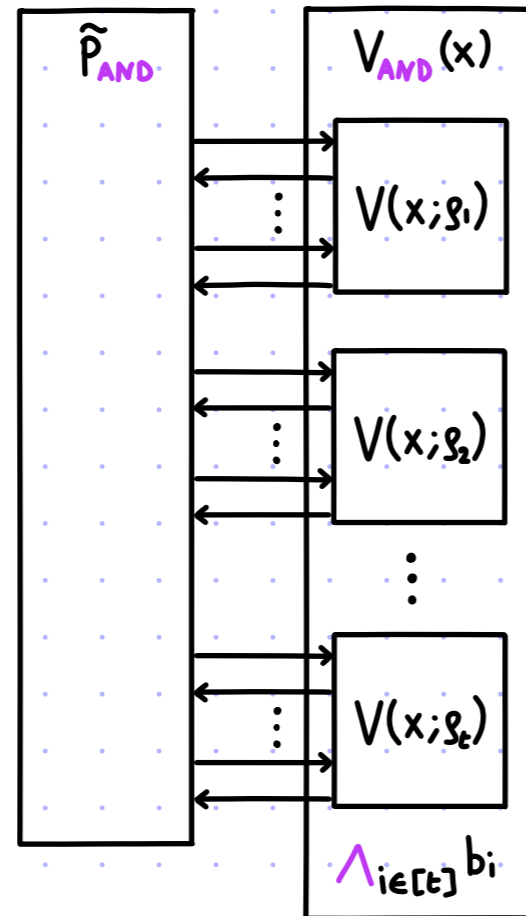
$\forall x \in L$

$$\Pr[\langle P_{\text{AND}}(x), V_{\text{AND}}(x) \rangle = 0] \leq ?$$



$\forall x \notin L \forall \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}$

$$\Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}, V_{\text{AND}}(x) \rangle = 1] \leq ?$$



Fix an arbitrary prover  $\tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}$ .

For  $i \in [t]$ , immediately before the  $i$ -th interaction

$\tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}$  has an internal state that depends on  $s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}$ .

$$\tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}[i, s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}] := \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}} \text{'s strategy vs } i\text{-th verifier given that prior verifiers used randomness } s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}$$

The indicator RV for the  $i$ -th verifier is

$$z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}, s_1, \dots, s_i) := \langle \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}[i, s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}], V(x; s_i) \rangle.$$

$\tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}$  must convince all verifiers:

$$\langle \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}, V_{\text{AND}}(x; (s_i)_{i \in [t]}) \rangle = \bigwedge_{i \in [t]} z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}, s_1, \dots, s_i).$$

$(P, V)$  completeness and soundness:

- $x \in L \rightarrow \forall i \in [t] \forall s_1, \dots, s_{i-1} \Pr_{s_i} [z_i(x, P_{\text{AND}}(x), s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}, s_i) = 0] \leq \epsilon_c$
- $x \notin L \rightarrow \forall i \in [t] \forall s_1, \dots, s_{i-1} \forall \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}} \Pr_{s_i} [z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{AND}}, s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}, s_i) = 1] \leq \epsilon_s$

The case of **PERFECT COMPLETENESS** ( $\epsilon_c = 0$ ):

- perfect completeness is preserved:  $\epsilon_c' := 0$

Observe that  $P_{AND}(x)[i, s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}] = P(x)$ , so  $(Z_i(x, P_{AND}(x), s_1, \dots, s_i))_{i \in [t]}$  are independent.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\langle P_{AND}(x), V_{AND}(x; (s_1, \dots, s_t)) \rangle = 0] &= \Pr[\bigwedge_{i \in [t]} Z_i(x, P_{AND}(x), s_1, \dots, s_i) = 0] \\ &= 1 - \prod_{i \in [t]} \Pr[Z_i(x, P_{AND}(x), s_1, \dots, s_i) = 1] = 1 - \prod_{i \in [t]} 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- soundness error decays exponentially:  $\epsilon_s' := \epsilon_s^t$

Fix  $\tilde{P}_{AND}$ . We **CANNOT** argue like this:

NOT true because RVs may not be independent

$$\Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{AND}, V_{AND}(x; (s_1, \dots, s_t)) \rangle = 1] = \Pr[\bigwedge_{i \in [t]} Z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{AND}, s_1, \dots, s_i) = 1] \stackrel{\downarrow}{=} \prod_{i \in [t]} \Pr[Z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{AND}, s_1, \dots, s_i) = 1] \leq \prod_{i \in [t]} \epsilon_s.$$

def:  $\tilde{P}_{AND}$  is **nice** if  $\exists \tilde{P}_1, \dots, \tilde{P}_t$  s.t.  $\forall i \in [t] \forall s_1, \dots, s_{i-1} \tilde{P}_{AND}(i, s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}) = \tilde{P}_i$ .

lemma:  $\forall \tilde{P}_{AND} \exists$  nice  $\tilde{P}_{AND}^*$  s.t.  $\Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{AND}, V_{AND}(x) \rangle = 1] \leq \Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{AND}^*, V_{AND}(x) \rangle = 1]$ .

proof:  $\tilde{P}_i := \tilde{P}_{AND}[i, s_1^*, \dots, s_{i-1}^*]$  where  $(s_1^*, \dots, s_{i-1}^*)$  maximize  $\Pr_{s_i}[\langle \tilde{P}_{AND}[i, s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}], V(x; s_i) \rangle = 1]$ .

For **nice**  $\tilde{P}_{AND}^*$ , the RVs  $(Z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{AND}^*, s_1, \dots, s_i))_{i \in [t]}$  are independent, so we **CAN** reason as above.

The case of IMPERFECT COMPLETENESS ( $\epsilon_c > 0$ ):

The AND verifier increases the completeness error:  $\epsilon_c' := 1 - (1 - \epsilon_c)^t \leq t \cdot \epsilon_c$ .

→ This option demands small  $\epsilon_c$  to begin with.

Alternatively, consider the OR verifier:  $V_{OR}(x; (s_1, \dots, s_t)) := \bigvee_{i \in [t]} V(x; s_i)$

- completeness error decays exponentially:  $\epsilon_c' := \epsilon_c^t$

$$\Pr[\langle P_{OR}(x), V_{OR}(x; (s_1, \dots, s_t)) \rangle = 0] = \Pr[\bigvee_{i \in [t]} Z_i(x, P_{OR}(x), s_1, \dots, s_i) = 0] = \prod_{i \in [t]} \Pr[Z_i(x, P_{OR}(x), s_1, \dots, s_i) = 0] \leq \prod_{i \in [t]} \epsilon_c.$$

- soundness error increases:  $\epsilon_s' := 1 - (1 - \epsilon_s)^t \leq t \cdot \epsilon_s$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{OR}, V_{OR}(x; (s_1, \dots, s_t)) \rangle = 1] &\leq \Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{OR}^* \overset{\text{nice}}{\leftarrow}, V_{OR}(x; (s_1, \dots, s_t)) \rangle = 1] \\ &= \Pr[\bigvee_{i \in [t]} Z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{OR}^*, s_1, \dots, s_i) = 1] = 1 - \prod_{i \in [t]} \Pr[Z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{OR}^*, s_1, \dots, s_i) = 0] \\ &\leq 1 - \prod_{i \in [t]} (1 - \epsilon_s). \end{aligned}$$

→ This option demands small  $\epsilon_s$  to begin with.

What if neither  $\epsilon_c$  nor  $\epsilon_s$  is small (e.g.  $\epsilon_c = 1/3$  and  $\epsilon_s = 1/3$ )?

# Error Reduction

[4/4]

## REVIEW: CONCENTRATION BOUNDS

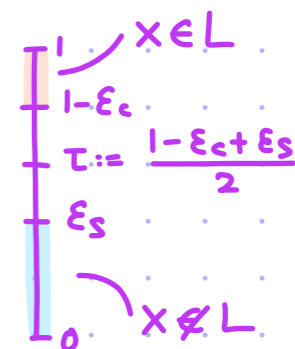
Let  $z_1, \dots, z_t$  be independent real-valued random variables. Set  $z := \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i \in [t]} z_i$ , so  $\mathbb{E}[z] = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i \in [t]} \mathbb{E}[z_i]$ .

A concentration bound has the form  $\Pr[|z - \mathbb{E}[z]| > \gamma] \leq \text{"smt small"}$ .  $\leftarrow z$  concentrates around its mean.

Example (a Chernoff bound):  $z_1, \dots, z_t \in \{0, 1\}$  independent  $\rightarrow \forall \gamma \in (0, 1) \Pr[|z - \mathbb{E}[z]| > \gamma] \leq 2 \cdot e^{-\frac{t\gamma^2}{3}}$ .

This motivates the MAJ verifier:

- $V_{\text{MAJ}}(x; (g_1, \dots, g_t)) :=$
1. Set the threshold  $\tau := \frac{1 - \epsilon_c + \epsilon_s}{2}$ .
  2. For every  $i \in [t]$ , compute  $b_i := V(x; g_i)$ .
  3. If  $\frac{1}{t} \sum_{i \in [t]} b_i \geq \tau$  output 1; else output 0.



For any  $\tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}$ ,  $z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}) := z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}, g_1, \dots, g_i)$  for random  $g_1, \dots, g_i$  and  $z(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}) := \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i \in [t]} z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}})$ .

If  $\tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}$  is nice then  $(z_i(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}))_{i \in [t]}$  are independent.

- $x \in L \rightarrow \Pr[\langle P_{\text{MAJ}}(x), V_{\text{MAJ}}(x) \rangle = 0] = \Pr[z(x, P_{\text{MAJ}}) < \tau] \leq \Pr[|z(x, P_{\text{MAJ}}) - \mathbb{E}[z(x, P_{\text{MAJ}})]| \geq \frac{1 - \epsilon_c - \epsilon_s}{2}] \leq 2 \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{12} \cdot t \cdot (1 - \epsilon_c - \epsilon_s)^2}$ .  
 $\mathbb{E}[z(x, P_{\text{MAJ}})] \geq 1 - \epsilon_c$  (Chernoff bound)
- $x \notin L \rightarrow \Pr[\langle \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}^* \leftarrow \text{nice}, V_{\text{MAJ}}(x) \rangle = 1] = \Pr[z(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}^*) \geq \tau] \leq \Pr[|z(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}^*) - \mathbb{E}[z(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}^*)]| \geq \frac{1 - \epsilon_c - \epsilon_s}{2}] \leq 2 \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{12} \cdot t \cdot (1 - \epsilon_c - \epsilon_s)^2}$ .  
 $\mathbb{E}[z(x, \tilde{P}_{\text{MAJ}}^*)] \leq \epsilon_s$  (Chernoff bound)

Hence if  $t \geq 12 \cdot \frac{\ln 2 / \epsilon}{(1 - \epsilon_c - \epsilon_s)^2}$  then  $\epsilon'_c, \epsilon'_s \leq \epsilon$ .

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## Miscellaneous

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- [Interviews with Shafi Goldwasser](#) (in occasion of the 2012 Turing award).
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- Concentration bounds: [Hoeffding](#) and [Chernoff](#).

## Other fun references

- [Logicomix](#), by Apostolos Doxiadis, Christos Papadimitriou.
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