Foundations of Probabilistic Proofs

A course by **Alessandro Chiesa**

Lecture 11

PCPs with Sublinear Verification

PCP for NEXP

Non-Deterministic Exponential Time has Two-Prover Interactive Protocols

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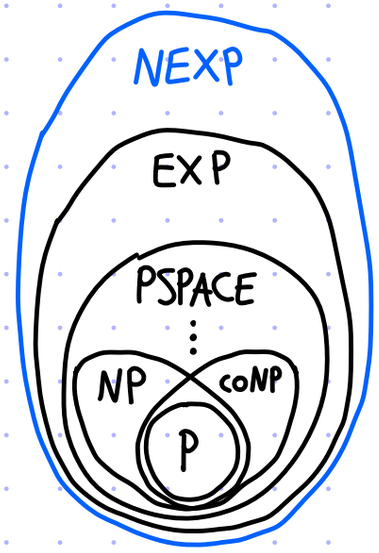
So far we constructed PCPs for NP:

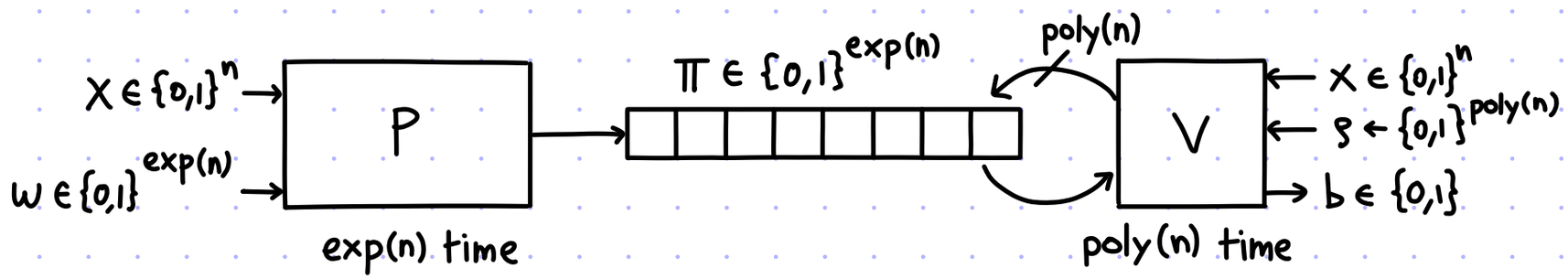
$NP \subseteq PCP[\ \varepsilon_c = 0, \varepsilon_s = 1/2, \Sigma = \{0,1\}, \ell = \exp(n), q = O(1), r = \text{poly}(n)\ ]$

$NP \subseteq PCP[\ \varepsilon_c = 0, \varepsilon_s = 1/2, \Sigma = \{0,1\}, \ell = \text{poly}(n), q = \text{poly}(\log n), r = O(\log n)\ ]$

Today we construct a PCP for NEXP:



theorem: $NEXP \subseteq PCP[\ \varepsilon_c = 0, \varepsilon_s = \frac{1}{2}, \Sigma = \{0,1\}, \ell = \exp(n), q = \text{poly}(n), r = \text{poly}(n)\ ]$



In a prior lecture we proved that $PCP \subseteq NEXP$, so we conclude that $PCP = NEXP$.

- $\ell = \exp(n)$ is the correct regime since the witness and computation have size $\exp(n)$
- $q = \text{poly}(n)$ is exponentially smaller than witness and computation size
- PCP verifier time is $\text{poly}(n)$ (by definition), exponentially smaller than original computation

The first example of "VERIFICATION FASTER THAN COMPUTATION" that we see for PCPs.

Towards Sublinear Verification [1/2]

To achieve SUBLINEAR VERIFICATION we must:

① consider a problem where $|\text{description}| \ll |\text{computation}|$

② design a PCP verifier that uses only the description (does not "unroll" the computation)

We have seen examples of $|\text{description}| \ll |\text{computation}|$ when constructing IPs.

Ex: in #SAT we are given a boolean formula $\varphi : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ and $v \in \mathbb{N}$, and must check

$$\left|\{ a \in \{0,1\}^n \mid \varphi(a) = 1 \}\right| \stackrel{?}{=} v$$

Ex: in TQBF we are given a boolean formula $\varphi : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ and must check

$$\forall x_1 \exists x_2 \forall x_3 \cdots \ \varphi(x_1,\dots,x_n) \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

In both cases the description has size $|\varphi|$ but the "computation" has size $2^n \cdot |\varphi|$.

For PCPs we have NOT yet considered such problems.

We have built PCPs for NP-complete problems where $|\text{description}| \sim |\text{computation}|$:

$$\text{QESAT}(\mathbb{F}) = \{ (p_1,\dots,p_m) \mid \exists\, a \in \mathbb{F}^n \text{ s.t. } p_1(a) = \cdots = p_m(a) = 0 \}$$

Towards Sublinear Verification [2/2]

To achieve SUBLINEAR VERIFICATION we must:

① consider a problem where $|\text{description}| \ll |\text{computation}|$

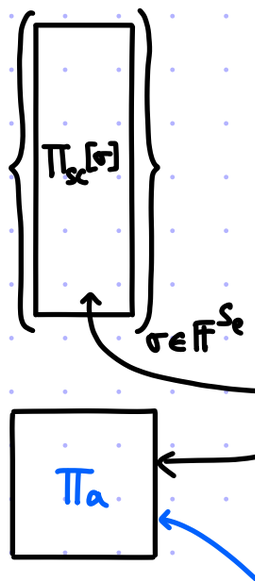
② design a PCP verifier that uses only the description (does not "unroll" the computation)

The PCPs that we designed reason about the computation, not its description:

PCP for QESAT($\mathbb{F}$)

$P((p_1,\dots,p_m),a)$

1. For every $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^{S_\sigma}$:
   - $p_\sigma := T(p_1,\dots,p_m;\sigma)$
   - $\Pi_{sc}[\sigma]$:= eval table for sumcheck claim "$p_\sigma(a)=0$"
   - output $\Pi_{sc}[\sigma]$
2. Output $\hat{a}:\mathbb{F}^{S_v}\to\mathbb{F}$ as Π_a.
   (The LDE of $a:[n]\to\mathbb{F}$.)



$V((p_1,\dots,p_m))$

1. Sample $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^{S_\sigma}$.
2. Compute $p_\sigma := \sum_{0\le j_1,\dots,j_{S_\sigma}<|H_\sigma|} \sigma_1^{j_1}\cdots\sigma_{S_\sigma}^{j_{S_\sigma}}\cdot p_{j_1,\dots,j_{S_\sigma}}$.
3. Run sumcheck to check that $p_\sigma(a)=0$:

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta\in H_v^{S_v}} \hat{C}_\sigma(\alpha,\beta)\cdot\hat{a}(\alpha)\cdot\hat{a}(\beta) = 0$$

$V_{sc}(\mathbb{F}, H_v, 2S_v, 0, 2\cdot(|H_v|-1))$ (vars, sum, degree)

4. Run (individual) low-degree test on Π_a:

$V_{LDT}(\mathbb{F}, S_v, |H_v|-1)$ (vars, ind degree)

computing p_σ and evaluating $\hat{C}_\sigma$ takes time poly(m,n) even if $(p_1,\dots,p_m)$ has "structure"

Interlude: Cook–Levin Theorem [1/2]

We review the ideas that underlie the Cook-Levin theorem:

theorem: SAT is NP-hard ($\forall L \in NP$, L is polynomial-time reducible to SAT)

Fix $L \in NP$ and let M_L be a nondeterministic Turing machine that decides L.

For an instance x, $M_L(x)$ accepts if and only if $x \in L$.

The proof expresses a valid (and accepting) execution of $M_L(x)$ as a SAT instance φ.

So let us review nondeterministic Turing machines.

A nondeterministic Turing machine M is specified by:

Q states — Σ input alphabet — Γ tape alphabet, $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$, $\sqcup \in \Gamma \setminus \Sigma$

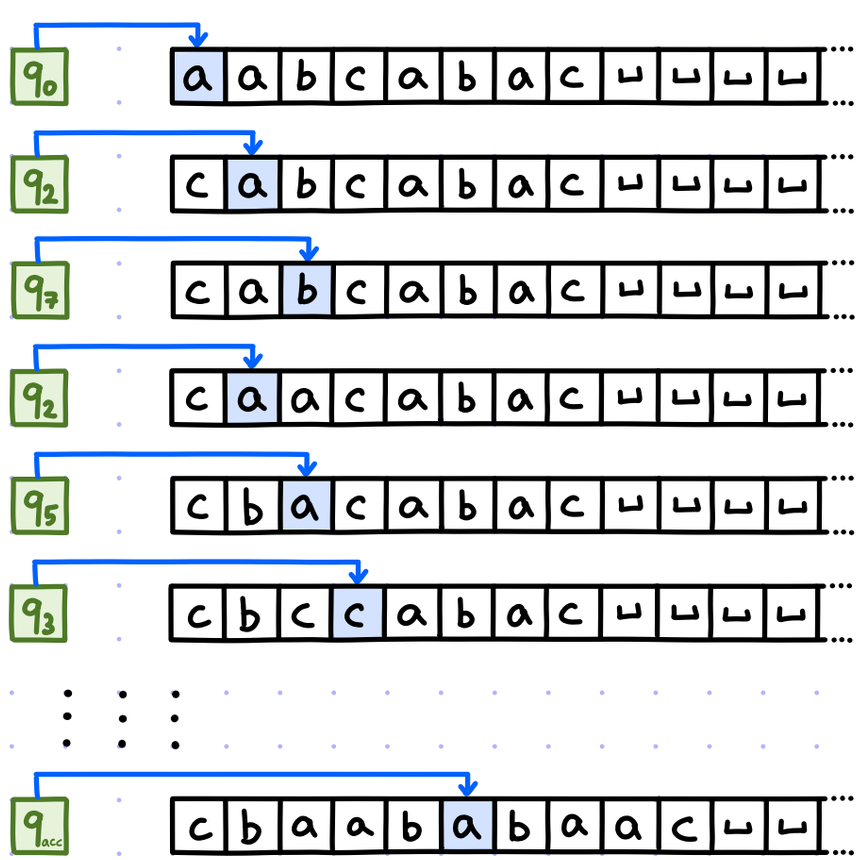
$f : Q \times \Gamma \to 2^{Q \times \Gamma \times \{L,R\}}$ nondeterministic transition function (power set: set of all subsets)

q_0 start state — q_{accept} accept state

A configuration of M is (q, j, σ) (state, head position, tape contents).

We encode the configuration as a string $\#\sigma_1 q \sigma_2 \#$ (delimiter)

where $\sigma = \sigma_1\sigma_2$ and σ_1 consists of $j-1$ symbols.



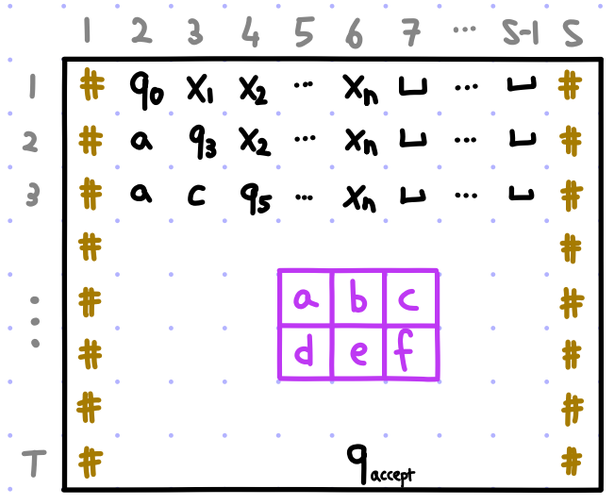
Interlude: Cook–Levin Theorem [2/2]

A computation trace of $M(x)$ is a valid list of configurations starting from $(q_0, 1, x\sqcup\sqcup\cdots)$.

We design φ s.t. $\varphi(z)=1 \leftrightarrow z$ is a (boolean encoding of) computation trace of $M(x)$ that accepts.

Suppose $M(x)$ runs in time T (# of configurations) and space S (longest encoded configuration).

The variables are $\{z_{i,j,\sigma}\}_{\substack{i\in[T]\\ j\in[S]\\ \sigma\in\Sigma}}$ where $\Sigma := Q \cup \Gamma \cup \{\#\}$.



The SAT formula φ has 4 parts: $\varphi = \varphi_{\text{cell}} \wedge \varphi_{\text{start}} \wedge \varphi_{\text{move}} \wedge \varphi_{\text{accept}}$.

- each cell contains exactly one symbol:

$$\varphi_{\text{cell}} := \bigwedge_{i\in[T]} \bigwedge_{j\in[S]} \left[\left(\bigvee_{\sigma\in\Sigma} z_{i,j,\sigma} \right) \wedge \left(\bigwedge_{\substack{\sigma,\tau\in\Sigma\\ \sigma\neq\tau}} \overline{z_{i,j,\sigma} \wedge z_{i,j,\tau}} \right) \right]$$

- starting configuration is $(q_0, 1, x\sqcup\sqcup\cdots)$:

$$\varphi_{\text{start}} := z_{1,1,\#} \wedge z_{1,2,q_0} \wedge \left(\bigwedge_{j=1}^{n} z_{1,2+j,x_j} \right) \wedge \left(\bigwedge_{j=n+3}^{S-1} z_{1,j,\sqcup} \right) \wedge z_{1,S,\#}$$

- ending configuration contains q_{accept}:

$$\varphi_{\text{accept}} := \bigvee_{j\in[S]} z_{T,j,q_{\text{accept}}}$$

- each 2x3 window is legal:

$$\varphi_{\text{move}} := \bigwedge_{1\le i<T} \bigwedge_{1<j<S} \bigvee_{\begin{smallmatrix}a&b&c\\d&e&f\end{smallmatrix}\in W} \left(\begin{array}{l} z_{i,j-1,a} \wedge z_{i,j,b} \wedge z_{i,j+1,c} \\ \wedge\, z_{i+1,j-1,d} \wedge z_{i+1,j,e} \wedge z_{i+1,j+1,e} \end{array} \right)$$

where W is the set of legal windows.

$\begin{smallmatrix}a&b&c\\a&b&c\end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix}a&b&c\\a&b&q\end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix}a&b&c\\q&b&c\end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix}a&q&c\\a&d&q'\end{smallmatrix}, \ldots \in W$

$\begin{smallmatrix}a&b&c\\a&d&c\end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix}a&b&c\\a&q&c\end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix}a&q&c\\a&b&c\end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix}a&q&c\\q'&d&q''\end{smallmatrix}, \ldots \notin W$

Interlude: 3CNF Descriptors

Let φ be a 3CNF formula with m clauses over N variables $x_1,\dots,x_N$.

Example: $\varphi = (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee x_7) \wedge (\bar{x}_2 \vee x_5 \vee x_4) \wedge (\bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_5 \vee x_6) \wedge (\bar{x}_2 \vee x_7 \vee x_8)$.

Any clause in φ has the form $\bigvee_{i=1}^{3} (x_{v_i} \oplus c_i)$ for some $v_1,v_2,v_3 \in [N]$, $c_1,c_2,c_3 \in \{0,1\}$.

Ex: $(\bar{x}_2 \vee x_5 \vee x_4)$ has the form $(x_2 \oplus 1) \vee (x_5 \oplus 0) \vee (x_4 \oplus 0)$.

A descriptor for φ is a function $D : [N]^3 \times \{0,1\}^3 \to \{0,1\}$ s.t.

$\forall\, v_1,v_2,v_3 \in [N]\ \forall\, c_1,c_2,c_3 \in \{0,1\}\ \ D(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3)=1 \leftrightarrow \varphi$ contains the clause $\bigvee_{i=1}^{3} (x_{v_i} \oplus c_i)$

Ex: for φ above, $D(1,5,7,0,1,0)=1$, $D(2,5,4,1,0,0)=1$, $D(3,5,6,1,1,0)=1$, $D(2,7,8,1,0,0)=1$,
& D is 0 on all other inputs.

We can relabel the N variables via strings in $\{0,1\}^n$ for $n = \log N$,
so a descriptor for φ is now a function $D : \{0,1\}^{3n+3} \to \{0,1\}$ s.t.

$\forall\, v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \forall\, c_1,c_2,c_3 \in \{0,1\}\ \ D(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3)=1 \leftrightarrow \varphi$ contains the clause $\bigvee_{i=1}^{3} (x_{v_i} \oplus c_i)$

Ex: for φ above, $D(000,100,110,0,1,0)=1$, $D(001,100,011,1,0,0)=1$, $D(010,100,101,1,1,0)=1$, $D(001,110,111,1,0,0)=1$,
& D is 0 on all other inputs.

OBSERVE: a boolean circuit D may describe a much larger 3CNF φ (e.g. $|D| = \text{poly}(n)$ and $|\varphi| = \exp(n)$).

A NEXP-Complete Problem [1/2]

$$\underline{\text{def:}}\ \text{OSAT} := \left\{ (m,n,\varphi) \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{l} m,n \in \mathbb{N},\ \varphi:\{0,1\}^{m+3n+3} \to \{0,1\} \text{ boolean formula} \\ \exists A:\{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}\ \ \forall w \in \{0,1\}^m\ \forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \ \varphi(w,v_1,v_2,v_3,A(v_1),A(v_2),A(v_3)) = 0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

<u>claim:</u> OSAT is NEXP-complete

<u>proof:</u> Suppose that $L \in \text{NEXP}$ and let M be a NEXP machine deciding L.

Let x be an input to M.

By the Cook-Levin Theorem (& SAT→3SAT reduction), can reduce (M,x) to a 3CNF Φ_x s.t.

- Φ_x has $N_v = 2^{\text{poly}(|x|)}$ variables (and $N_c = 2^{\text{poly}(|x|)}$ clauses),
- $M(x)=1 \leftrightarrow \exists A:[N_v]\to\{0,1\}\ \ \Phi_x(A)=1$.

Set $n = \log N_v = \text{poly}(|x|)$, and relabel $[N_v]$ as $\{0,1\}^n$. Denote Φ_x's variables as $\{X_v\}_{v\in\{0,1\}^n}$.

Moreover, $\exists$ poly$(|x|)$-size circuit $D_x:\{0,1\}^{3n+3}\to\{0,1\}$ that specifies Φ_x's clauses:

$D_x(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3)=1 \leftrightarrow \Phi_x$ contains clause $\bigvee_{i=1}^{3}(X_{v_i} \oplus c_i)$

Therefore $M(x)=1 \leftrightarrow \exists A:\{0,1\}^n\to\{0,1\}$ s.t.

$$\forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \ \forall c_1,c_2,c_3 \in \{0,1\}\ \ D_x(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3) \wedge \overline{\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^{3} A(v_i)\oplus c_i\right)} = 0.$$

A NEXP-Complete Problem [2/2]

$$\underline{\text{def:}}\ \mathrm{OSAT} := \left\{ (m,n,\varphi) \;\middle|\; \begin{array}{l} m,n \in \mathbb{N},\ \varphi:\{0,1\}^{m+3n+3} \to \{0,1\} \text{ boolean formula} \\ \exists A:\{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}\ \ \forall w \in \{0,1\}^m\ \forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \ \varphi(w,v_1,v_2,v_3,A(v_1),A(v_2),A(v_3)) = 0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

$\underline{\text{claim:}}$ OSAT is NEXP-complete

$\underline{\text{proof:}}$ [continued]

Therefore $M(x)=1 \leftrightarrow \exists A:\{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ s.t.

$$\forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \ \forall c_1,c_2,c_3 \in \{0,1\}\ \ D_x(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3) \wedge \overline{\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^{3} A(v_i) \oplus c_i \right)} = 0 .$$

Reduce the boolean circuit D_x to a boolean formula $\Psi_x:\{0,1\}^{m'+3n+3} \to \{0,1\}$ with $m' = O(|D_x|) = \mathrm{poly}(|x|)$ and $|\Psi_x| = O(|D_x|) = \mathrm{poly}(|x|)$ s.t.

$$\forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \ \forall c_1,c_2,c_3 \in \{0,1\}\ \ D_x(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3) = 1 \leftrightarrow \exists w' \in \{0,1\}^{m'}\ \ \Psi_x(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3,w') = 1 .$$

Define $\varphi(w, v_1,v_2,v_3,a_1,a_2,a_3) := \Psi_x(v_1,v_2,v_3,c_1,c_2,c_3,w') \wedge \overline{\left(\bigvee_{i=1}^{3} a_i \oplus c_i \right)}$

where $w = (c_1,c_2,c_3,w') \in \{0,1\}^m$ and $m = 3+m'$.

In sum, $M(x)=1 \leftrightarrow \exists A:\{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ s.t.

$$\forall w \in \{0,1\}^m\ \forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n\ \varphi(w,v_1,v_2,v_3,A(v_1),A(v_2),A(v_3)) = 0 .$$

■

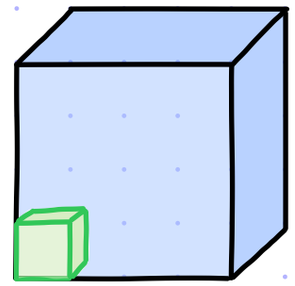
Part 1: Arithmetization of OSAT

claim: There is a polynomial-time transformation T s.t.

① $T(\mathbb{F},(m,n,\varphi))$ outputs a circuit $\hat{\varphi}: \mathbb{F}^{m+3n+3} \to \mathbb{F}$ s.t. $|\hat{\varphi}| \leq |\varphi|$ and $\deg_{tot}(\hat{\varphi}) \leq |\varphi|$

② $(m,n,\varphi) \in \text{OSAT} \iff \exists$ multilinear $\hat{A}: \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}$ s.t.

- booleanity: $\hat{A}$ is boolean on $\{0,1\}^n$
- zero on subcube: $\forall w \in \{0,1\}^m \; \forall v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n \quad \hat{\varphi}\big(w, v_1, v_2, v_3, \hat{A}(v_1), \hat{A}(v_2), \hat{A}(v_3)\big) = 0$



proof:

The transformation T outputs $\hat{\varphi} := \text{arithmetize}(\mathbb{F}, \varphi)$.

[Recall: $x \wedge y \mapsto x \cdot y$, $x \vee y \mapsto 1-(1-x)\cdot(1-y)$, $\overline{x} \mapsto 1-x$.]

This ensures that $|\hat{\varphi}| \leq |\varphi|$ and $\deg_{tot}(\hat{\varphi}) \leq |\varphi|$ and $\hat{\varphi} \equiv \varphi$ on every boolean input.

COMPLETENESS: If $A: \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ is a witness for $(m,n,\varphi) \in \text{OSAT}$ then

$\hat{A} :=$ "multilinear extension of A" $\quad \hat{A}(x) = \sum_{u \in \{0,1\}^n} A(u) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{n} (u_i x_i + (1-u_i)(1-x_i))$ satisfies the booleanity and zero-on-subcube conditions.

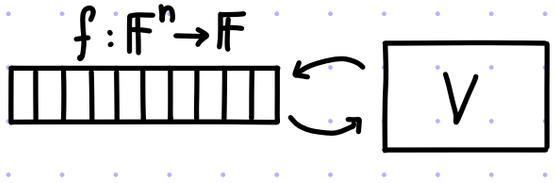
SOUNDNESS: If $(m,n,\varphi) \notin \text{OSAT}$ then $\forall$ multilinear $\hat{A}: \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}$

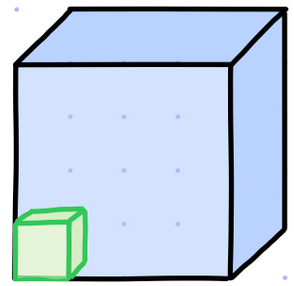
- $\hat{A}$ is not boolean on $\{0,1\}^n$, OR
- $\exists w \in \{0,1\}^m \; \exists v_1,v_2,v_3 \in \{0,1\}^n \quad \hat{\varphi}\big(w, v_1, v_2, v_3, \hat{A}(v_1), \hat{A}(v_2), \hat{A}(v_3)\big) = \varphi\big(w, v_1, v_2, v_3, \hat{A}(v_1), \hat{A}(v_2), \hat{A}(v_3)\big) \neq 0$. ■

Part 2: Zero-on-Subcube Test [1/3]

Given oracle access to $f: \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}$ that is δ-close to $\hat{f}$ of individual degree d

check that $\hat{f}|_{H^n} \equiv 0$.





Idea #1: query f at every point in H^n and check if 0

Problem: if even 1 corruption is in H^n

then test may accept w.p. 1 even if $\hat{f}|_{H^n} \neq 0$ → test is not sound

Idea #2: locally correct the value of f at every point in H^n (and check if 0)

Problem: $|H|^n$ is too many queries

Idea #3: run sumcheck protocol on sum of squares $\sum_{a \in H^n} \hat{f}(a)^2 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$

Problem: for every finite field $\mathbb{F}$, $\sum_i c_i^2 = 0 \not\Rightarrow \forall\, i\ c_i = 0$ over $\mathbb{F}$

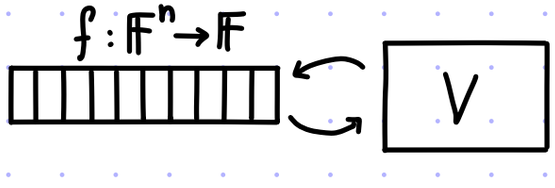
If $\mathrm{char}(\mathbb{F}) > 0$ (e.g. $\mathbb{F}$ is finite) then the implication does not hold over $\mathbb{F}$.

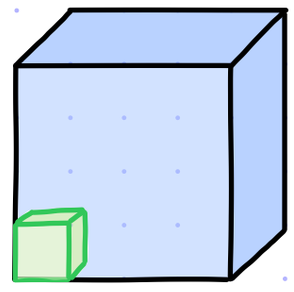
The implication holds for some fields with $\mathrm{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 0$ (e.g. $\mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbb{Q}$ but not $\mathbb{C}$).

Part 2: Zero-on-Subcube Test [2/3]

Given oracle access to $f: \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}$ that is δ-close to $\hat{f}$ of individual degree d

check that $\hat{f}|_{H^n} \equiv 0$.





Final Idea: randomized reduction to sumcheck

Let $\text{int}: H \to \{0,1,\dots,|H|-1\}$ be an efficiently computable bijection.

Consider the polynomial

$$g(X_1,\dots,X_n) := \sum_{a_1,\dots,a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1,\dots,a_n)\, X_1^{\text{int}(a_1)} \cdots X_n^{\text{int}(a_n)} .$$

If $\hat{f}|_{H^n} \equiv 0$ then $g \equiv 0$.

If $\hat{f}|_{H^n} \not\equiv 0$ then $g \not\equiv 0$, so $\Pr_{\sigma_1,\dots,\sigma_n \in \mathbb{F}^n}[g(\sigma_1,\dots,\sigma_n) = 0] \leq \frac{n \cdot (|H|-1)}{|\mathbb{F}|}$.

Hence it suffices to check that $\sum_{a_1,\dots,a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1,\dots,a_n)\, \sigma_1^{\text{int}(a_1)} \cdots \sigma_n^{\text{int}(a_n)}$ for random $\sigma_1,\dots,\sigma_n \in \mathbb{F}$.

To make the addend a polynomial: $\forall \sigma \in \mathbb{F}$ define $\hat{\sigma}(x) := \sum_{a \in H} \sigma^{\text{int}(a)} \cdot L_{H,a}(x)$.

(a-th Lagrange polynomial over H)

In sum it suffices to run sumcheck on this claim:

$$\sum_{a_1,\dots,a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1,\dots,a_n)\, \hat{\sigma}_1(a_1) \cdots \hat{\sigma}_n(a_n) \quad \text{for random } \sigma_1,\dots,\sigma_n \in \mathbb{F} .$$

Part 2: Zero-on-Subcube Test

$P(\mathbb{F}, H, n, f)$

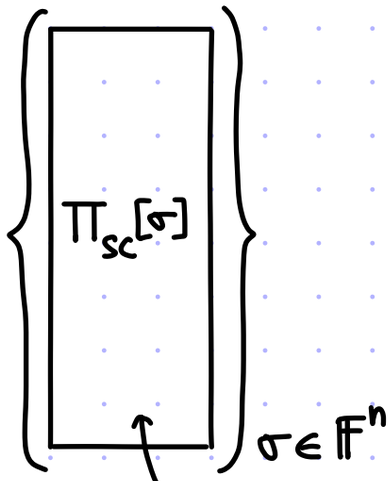
For every $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \in \mathbb{F}$:

output eval table $\Pi_{sc}[\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n]$ of

IP prover for sumcheck claim

$$\sum_{a_1, \dots, a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \cdot \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0$$

$\hat{f}|_{H^n} \stackrel{?}{\equiv} 0$



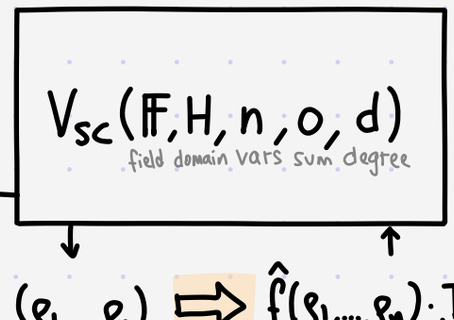
δ-close to $\hat{f} \in \mathbb{F}^{\leq d}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$

$V^{f: \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}}(\mathbb{F}, H, n, d)$

Sample $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \in \mathbb{F}$.

Run sumcheck for the claim:

$$\sum_{a_1, \dots, a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0.$$



$(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_n) \Rightarrow \hat{f}(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_n) \cdot \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(\rho_i)$

1. Query f at $(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_n)$.
2. For every $i \in [n]$: evaluate $\hat{\sigma}_i$ at ρ_i.

proof length: $|\Pi_{sc}| = |\mathbb{F}|^n \cdot O(|\mathbb{F}|^n \cdot (|H|+d)) = |\mathbb{F}|^{O(n)} \cdot (|H|+d)$

query complexity:

- n queries to Π_{sc} (each retrieving $|H|+d$ elts)
- 1 random query to f

verifier time: $\text{poly}(n, |H|, d)$ for V_{sc} + $n \cdot \text{poly}(|H|)$ to evaluate $\{\hat{\sigma}_i\}_{i \in [n]}$

COMPLETENESS: if $f \equiv \hat{f} \wedge \hat{f}|_{H^n} \equiv 0$ then $\forall \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \in \mathbb{F} \sum_{a_1, \dots, a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0$ so V_{sc} accepts w.p. 1

SOUNDNESS: if $\Delta(f, \hat{f}) \leq \delta \wedge \hat{f}|_{H^n} \not\equiv 0$ then, except w.p. $\leq \frac{n \cdot (|H|-1)}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ over $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \in \mathbb{F}$, $\sum_{a_1, \dots, a_n \in H} \hat{f}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) \neq 0$,

so V_{sc} accepts w.p. $\leq \frac{n \cdot (|H|-1+d)}{|\mathbb{F}|} + \delta$ (regardless of PCP string $\tilde{\pi}$).

Putting the Two Parts Together

$P((m,n,\varphi), A)$

1. Compute $\hat{\varphi} := T(\mathbb{F}, (m,n,\varphi))$.
2. For every $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^n$:

   output sumcheck proof $\pi_{sc}^{(1)}[\sigma]$ for

   $$\sum_{a \in \{0,1\}^n} \hat{A}(a) \cdot (\hat{A}(a) - 1) \cdot \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0 .$$

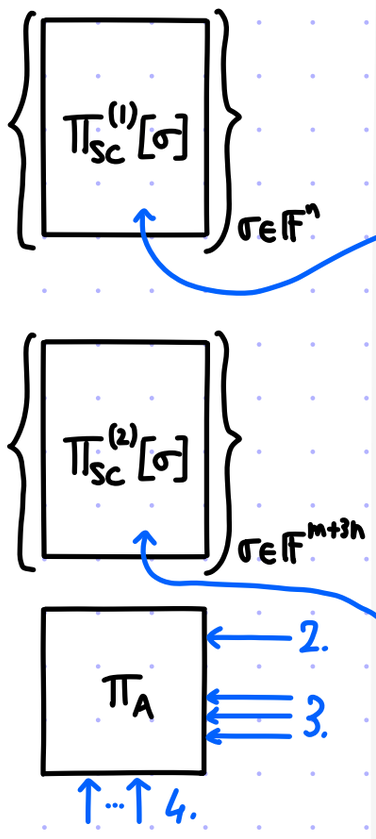
3. For every $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^{m+3n}$:

   output sumcheck proof $\pi_{sc}^{(2)}[\sigma]$ for

   $$\sum_{a=(w,v_1,v_2,v_3) \in \{0,1\}^{m+3n}} \hat{\varphi}(w, v_1, v_2, v_3, \hat{A}(v_1), \hat{A}(v_2), \hat{A}(v_3)) \cdot \prod_{i \in [m+3n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(q_i) = 0$$

4. Output $\hat{A} : \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}$ as π_A.

(The multilinear extension of $A : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$.)



$V((m,n,\varphi))$

1. Compute $\hat{\varphi} := T(\mathbb{F}, (m,n,\varphi))$.
2. Sample $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^n$ and run sumcheck for

   $$\sum_{a \in \{0,1\}^n} \hat{A}(a) \cdot (\hat{A}(a) - 1) \cdot \prod_{i \in [n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0 .$$

   $V_{sc}(\mathbb{F}, \{0,1\}, n, 0, 3)$ (field, domain, vars, sum, degree)

   $(\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_n)$ ⇨
   - query π_A at $(\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_n)$
   - for every $i \in [n]$: eval $\hat{\sigma}_i(x)$ at ρ_i

3. Sample $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^{m+3n}$ and run sumcheck for

   $$\sum_{a=(w,v_1,v_2,v_3) \in \{0,1\}^{m+3n}} \hat{\varphi}(w, v_1, v_2, v_3, \hat{A}(v_1), \hat{A}(v_2), \hat{A}(v_3)) \cdot \prod_{i \in [m+3n]} \hat{\sigma}_i(q_i) = 0$$

   $V_{sc}(\mathbb{F}, \{0,1\}, m+3n, 0, |\varphi|+1)$ (field, domain, vars, sum, degree)

   $(\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_{m+3n})$ ⇨
   - query π_A at $(\rho_{m+1}, \ldots, \rho_{m+n})$, $(\rho_{m+n+1}, \ldots, \rho_{m+2n})$, $(\rho_{m+2n+1}, \ldots, \rho_{m+3n})$
   - for every $i \in [m+3n]$: eval $\hat{\sigma}_i$ at ρ_i
   - eval $\hat{\varphi}$ at $(\rho_1, \ldots, \rho_{m+3n}, ans_1, ans_2, ans_3)$

4. $V_{LDT}^{\pi_A}(\mathbb{F}, n, \text{ind} \le 1)$ (vars, degree)

Analysis

$P((m,n,\varphi),A)$

1. Compute $\hat{\varphi} := T(\mathbb{F},(m,n,\varphi))$.
2. For every $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^n$:

   output sumcheck proof $\pi_{sc}^{(1)}[\sigma]$ for

   $$\sum_{a\in\{0,1\}^n} \hat{A}(a)\cdot(\hat{A}(a)-1)\cdot\prod_{i\in[n]}\hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0 .$$

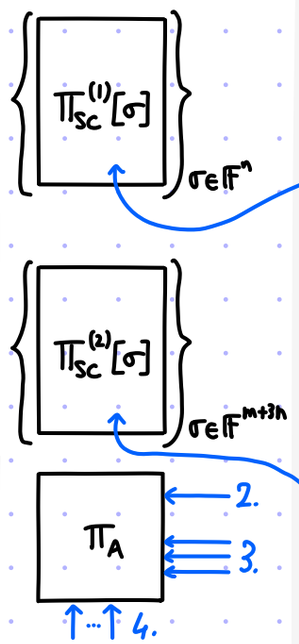
3. For every $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^{m+3n}$:

   output sumcheck proof $\pi_{sc}^{(2)}[\sigma]$ for

   $$\sum_{a=(w,v_1,v_2,v_3)\in\{0,1\}^{m+3n}} \hat{\varphi}(w,v_1,v_2,v_3,\hat{A}(v_1),\hat{A}(v_2),\hat{A}(v_3))\cdot\prod_{i\in[m+3n]}\hat{\sigma}_i(q_i)=0$$

4. Output $\hat{A}:\mathbb{F}^n\to\mathbb{F}$ as π_A.

   (The multilinear extension of $A:\{0,1\}^n\to\{0,1\}$.)



$V((m,n,\varphi))$

1. Compute $\hat{\varphi} := T(\mathbb{F},(m,n,\varphi))$.
2. Sample $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^n$ and run sumcheck for

   $$\sum_{a\in\{0,1\}^n} \hat{A}(a)\cdot(\hat{A}(a)-1)\cdot\prod_{i\in[n]}\hat{\sigma}_i(a_i) = 0 .$$

   $V_{sc}(\mathbb{F}, \{0,1\}, n, 0, 3)$ (field, domain, vars, sum, degree)

   $(g_1,\dots,g_n)$ ⇨
   - query π_A at $(g_1,\dots,g_n)$
   - for every $i\in[n]$: eval $\hat{\sigma}_i(x)$ at g_i

3. Sample $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}^{m+3n}$ and run sumcheck for

   $$\sum_{a=(w,v_1,v_2,v_3)\in\{0,1\}^{m+3n}} \hat{\varphi}(w,v_1,v_2,v_3,\hat{A}(v_1),\hat{A}(v_2),\hat{A}(v_3))\cdot\prod_{i\in[m+3n]}\hat{\sigma}_i(q_i)=0$$

   $V_{sc}(\mathbb{F}, \{0,1\}, m+3n, 0, |\varphi|+1)$ (field, domain, vars, sum, degree)

   $(g_1,\dots,g_{m+3n})$ ⇨
   - query π_A at $(g_{m+1},\dots,g_{m+n})$, $(g_{m+n+1},\dots,g_{m+2n})$, $(g_{m+2n+1},\dots,g_{m+3n})$
   - for every $i\in[m+3n]$: eval $\hat{\sigma}_i$ at g_i
   - eval $\hat{\varphi}$ at $(g_1,\dots,g_{m+3n},ans_1,ans_2,ans_3)$

4. $V_{LDT}^{\pi_A}(\mathbb{F}, n, \text{ind}\le 1)$ (vars, degree)

- soundness error

  $$\max\left\{\varepsilon_{LDT}(\delta),\ 4\delta + O\left(\frac{n\cdot 3}{|\mathbb{F}|}\right) + O\left(\frac{(m+3n)\cdot(|\varphi|+1)}{|\mathbb{F}|}\right)\right\} = O(1)$$

- proof length (in field elements)

  $$|\pi_A| + |\pi_{sc}^{(1)}| + |\pi_{sc}^{(2)}| = |\mathbb{F}|^n + |\mathbb{F}|^n\cdot O(|\mathbb{F}|^n\cdot 1) + |\mathbb{F}|^{m+3n}\cdot O(|\mathbb{F}|^{m+3n}\cdot|\varphi|) = |\mathbb{F}|^{poly(m,n)} = 2^{poly(m,n,\log|\varphi|)}$$

- query complexity

  $$(1+3+q_{LDT}) + n\cdot O(1) + (m+3n)\cdot|\varphi| = poly(n) + poly(|\varphi|) = poly(|\varphi|)$$

- verifier time (in field operations)

  $$poly(|\varphi|) + poly(n) + poly(|\varphi|) + t_{LDT} = poly(|\varphi|)$$

setting $|\mathbb{F}| = poly(|\varphi|)$

Bibliography

PCP for NEXP

In MIP model, uses arithmetization and zero check over $\mathbb{Q}$

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- [HS 2000]: Small PCPs with low query complexity, by Prahladh Harsha and Madhu Sudan.
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- (▸Cook–Levin Theorem), by Michael Sipser.

Alternative zerochecks