

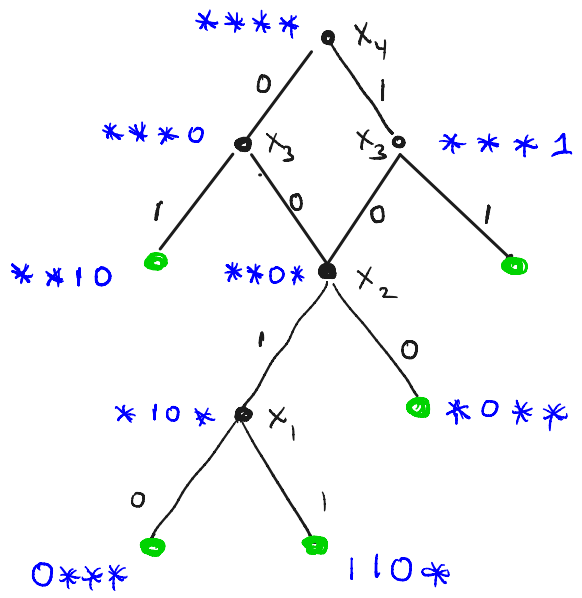
# RESOLUTION

Last time we saw

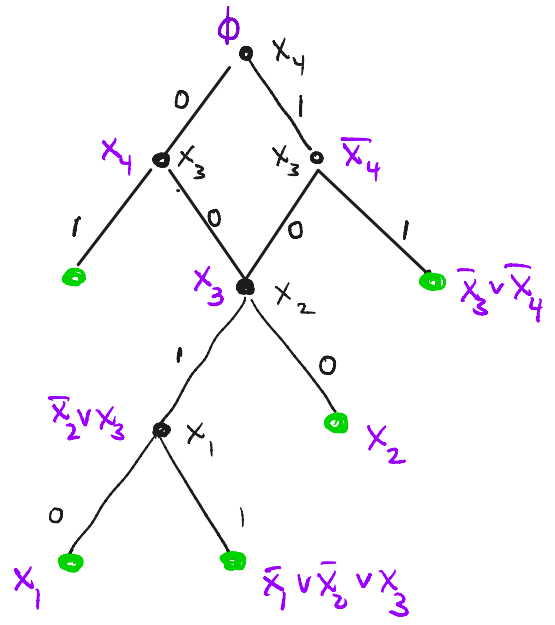
- RES is SOUND + COMPLETE
- tree-RES refutation  $\approx$  Decision tree for solving search<sub>f</sub>  
TI for f
- (Dag)-RES refutation  $\approx$  Prover/Delayer DAGs (or RES-DAGs) for solving search<sub>f</sub>  
TI for f

Ex 2 Prover-Delayer Example

$$f = x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_4)$$



Prover-Delayer game



Res Refutation

Today:

- ① Resolution Lower Bounds
- ② Frege Systems

## Resolution Lower Bounds via Width

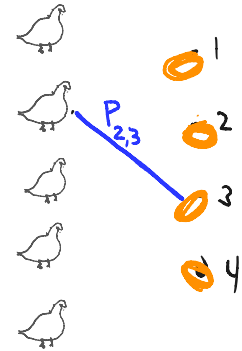
- I. Width LBs  $\rightarrow$  Size LBs via restriction argument  
or general size-width tradeoff
- II. Width LBs : via expansion of clause-variable graph of  $F$

# Propositional Pigeonhole Principle



$$\text{PHP}_n^{n+1} : \underbrace{\bigwedge_{i=1}^{n+1} (P_{i1} \vee P_{i2} \vee \dots \vee P_{in})}_{\text{Pigeon clauses}} \wedge \underbrace{\bigwedge_{\substack{i_1, i_2 \leq n+1 \\ j \leq n}} (\bar{P}_{i_1 j} \vee \bar{P}_{i_2 j})}_{\text{Hole clauses (one-to-one)}}$$

$$\wedge \underbrace{\bigwedge_{\substack{i_1 \\ j_1 \neq j_2}} (\bar{P}_{i_1 j_1} \vee \bar{P}_{i_1 j_2})}_{\text{functional}} \wedge \underbrace{\bigwedge_{j=1}^n (P_{1j} \vee P_{2j} \vee \dots \vee P_{n+1j})}_{\text{onto}}$$

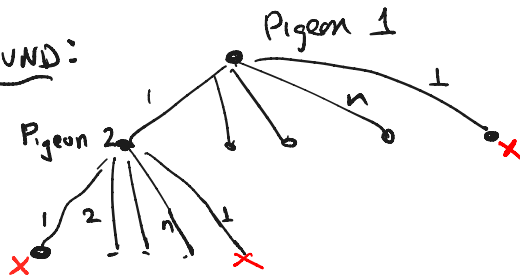


# Res Lower Bounds for PHP: Warmup Tree-Resolution

Show any decision tree for  $\text{search}_{\text{PHP}}$  requires size  $2^{\Omega(n)}$

Q: Is this tight for tree-like Resolution?

Naive UPPER BOUND:



Exercise:

Show Res DAG (Pigeon Delay)  
can solve search  
in size  $2^{o(n)}$

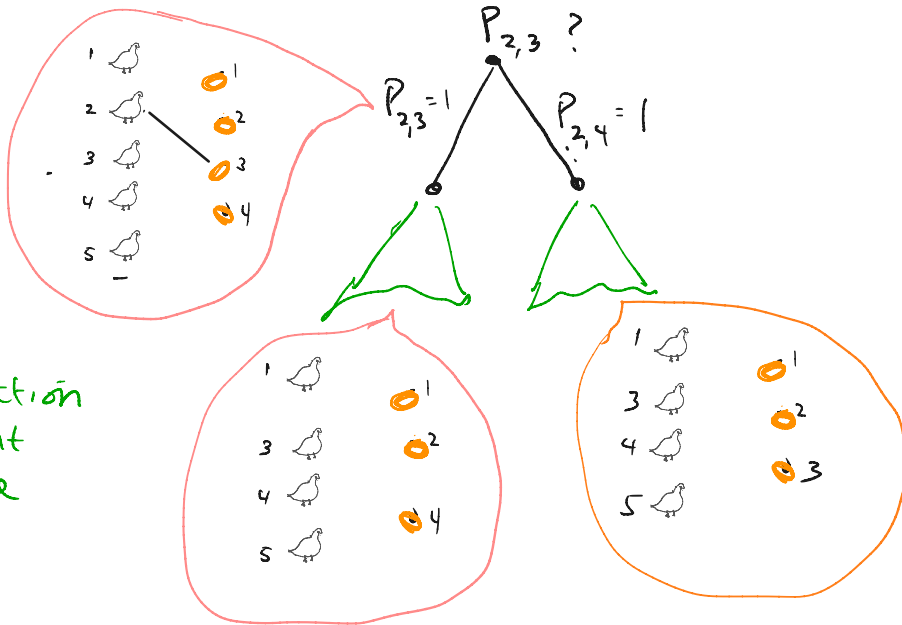
ht  $O(n)$   
branch  $O(n)$  so  $n^n \sim 2^{\Omega(n)}$

# Res Lower Bounds for PHP: Warmup Tree-Reduction

## Theorem

Any decision tree solving  $\text{Search}_{\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}}$  requires  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  size

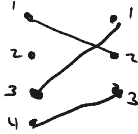
To Prove Theorem: Prove by induction on  $n$  that any decision tree for  $\text{Search}_{\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}}$  that gives correct answers for all ctca's has size  $2^n$ .



By induction  
left and right  
subtrees have  
size  $2^{n-1}$

## RES LOWER BOUNDS FOR PHP (The general case)

Critical Truth Assignments:  $n-1$  of the  $n$  pigeons mapped 1-1 to the  $n-1$  holes and the leftover pigeon unmapped.

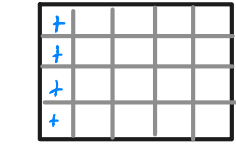


← this is a 2-cta since pigeon 2 unmapped

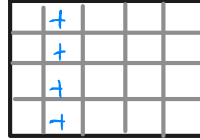
First we will transform RES refutations of PHP into a nice combinatorial form.



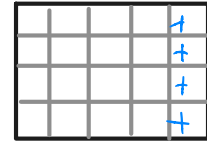
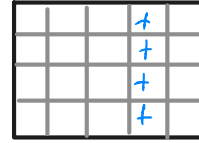
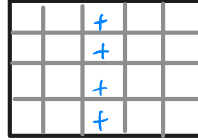
# Monotone Transformation of $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$



$P_{11} \vee P_{12} \vee \dots \vee P_{1n}$



$P_{21} \vee P_{22} \vee \dots \vee P_{2n}$



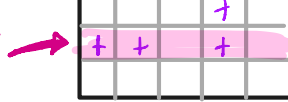
}

$n+1$   
Pigeon  
Axioms

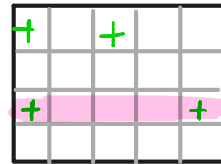
(No hole axioms)

Monotone  
Rule:

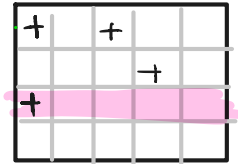
pick a hole  
(row)  $j$



A



B



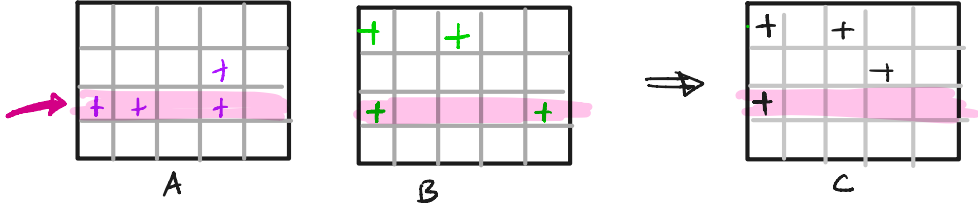
C

Lemma Any size- $S$  RES refutation of  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  can be transformed into a monotone refutation of size  $O(S)$ , and vice-versa.

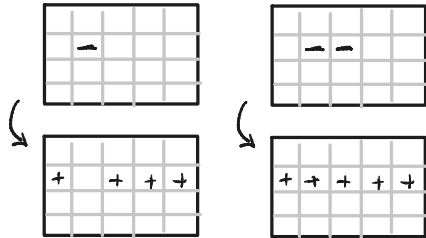
# Monotone Transformation of PHP

Monotone Rule:

pick a hole (row)  $j$

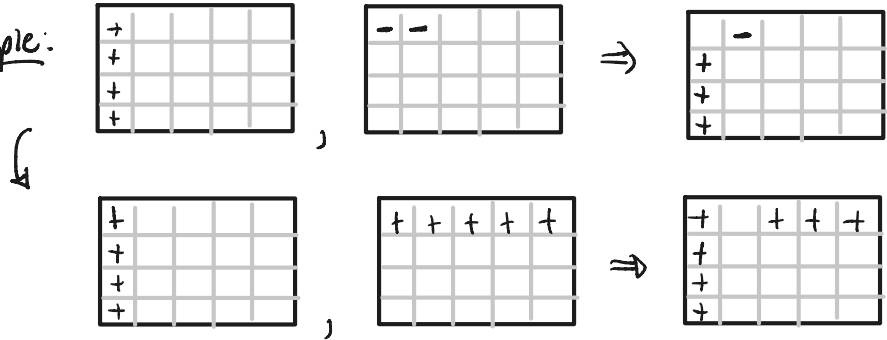


① Convert each clause to monotone clause



② Show any RES step in  $\Pi$  can be simulated by monotone rules in  $\Pi_{\text{monotone}}$

Example:



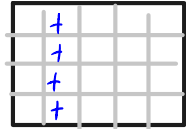
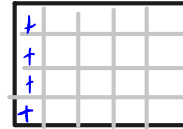
$\therefore$  Suffices to prove LB for monotone refutations

# Playing with Monotone Refutations

UB strategy:

0. start with all  $n \times 1$  all-+ subrectangles

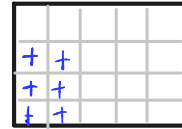
$\binom{n}{1}$   
clauses



...

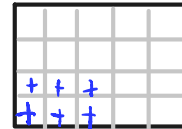
1. Remove hole  $n$ : generate all  $(n-1) \times 2$  subrectangles on holes  $1 \dots n-1$

$\binom{n}{2}$   
clauses



2. Remove hole  $n-1$ : generate all  $(n-2) \times 2$  subrectangles on holes  $1 \dots n-2$

$\binom{n}{3}$   
clauses



:

$n-1$ . Remove hole  $2$ : generate all  $1 \times n$  subrectangles on holes  $1$

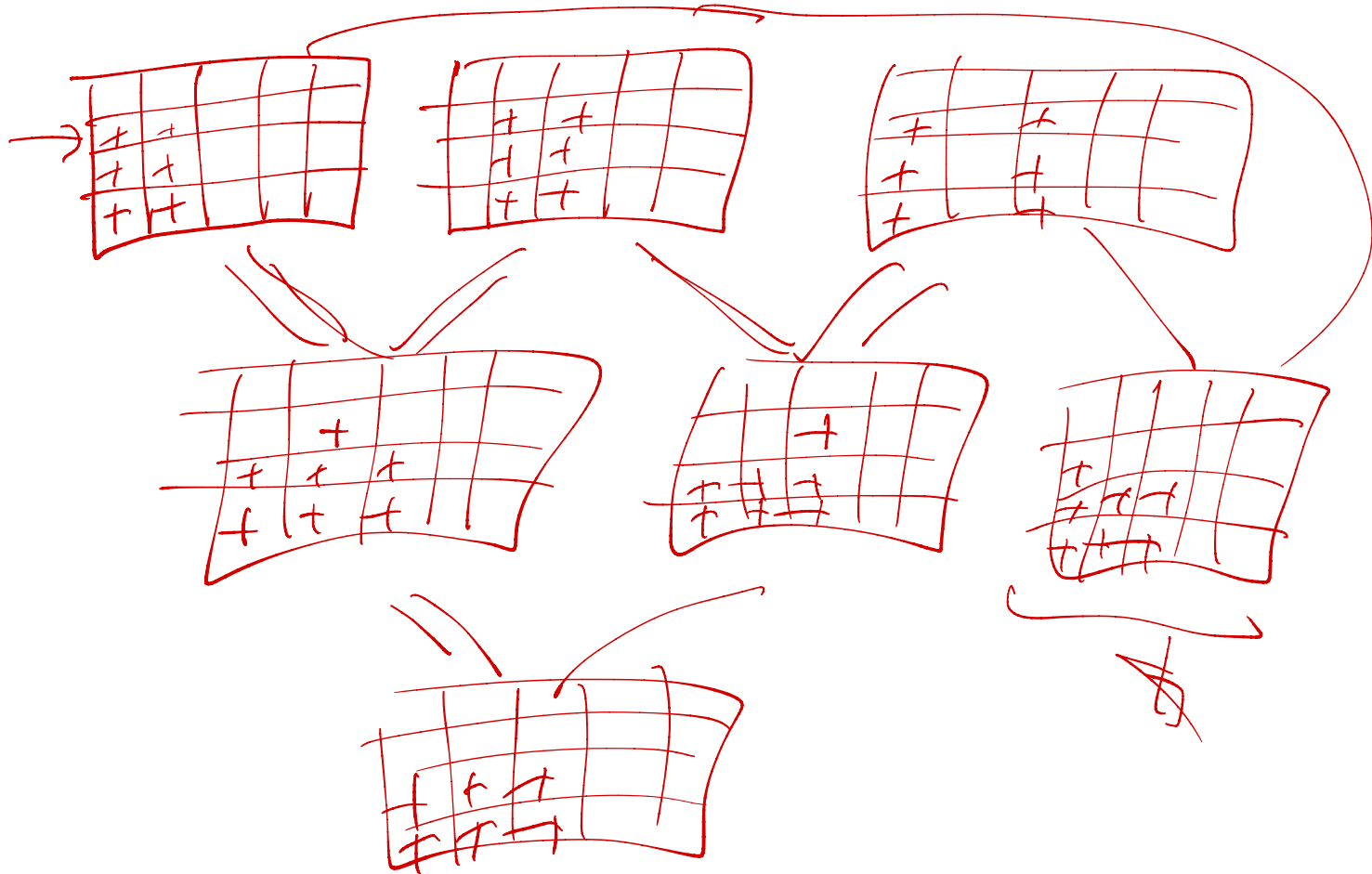
$\binom{n}{n-1}$

⋮

$n$ : Remove hole  $1$ : generate empty clause

$\binom{n}{0}$   
clauses





# PHP Lower Bound For Monotone Refutations

## Theorem

Any monotone refutation of  $\text{PHP}_n^{m'}$  requires size  $\exp(\Omega(n))$

## PLAN:

0. Assume  $\pi$  is monotone refutation of size  $s$ .

1. apply a random restriction  $\rho$  to  $\pi$  so that  $\pi|_{\rho}$  is still a monotone refutation of  $\text{PHP}_n^{n'}$ , where  $n' = o(n)$  and width of every clause in  $\pi|_{\rho}$  is small

Lemma 1

2. (Wide Clause Lemma): Any monotone refutation of  $\text{PHP}_n^{n'}$  requires large width.  $\neq$

Lemma 2

Lemma 1 Assume  $\Pi$  has size  $S < 2^{n/20}$ . Then  $\exists$  1-1 partial restriction  $\rho$  mapping  $\epsilon n$  pigeons to holes such that  $\text{width}(\Pi|_{\rho}) \leq n^2/10$

Proof Let  $t = n^2/10$ . Define a wide clause as one of width  $\geq t$ .

- Apply a restriction  $\rho$  such that  $\mathcal{N}(\Pi)|_{\rho}$  has width  $\leq t$ :

On average setting a single variable  $P_{i,j}$  to 1 will set  $\approx \frac{S}{10}$  wide clauses to 1.

Pick  $P_{i,j}$  achieving at least the avg + set it to 1, + set  $P_{i,j'} = 0 \quad \forall j' \neq j, P_{i',j} = 0 \quad \forall i' \neq i$

Left with  $\leq 9S/10$  wide clauses.

Repeat iteratively  $\log_{10/9} S$  times to set all wide clauses in  $\mathcal{N}(\Pi)$  to 1.

- Left with a sound refutation of  $\text{PHP}_{n'-1}^{n'}$  of width  $< t = n^2/10$  where  $n' \geq n - \underbrace{\log_{10/9} S}_{\epsilon n} > .67n$

Lemma 2 (wide clause lemma for PNP)

Any monotone Res refutation of  $\text{PNP}_n^{n+1}$  has width  $> \frac{2n^2}{9}$ .

Pf Let the complexity of a (monotone) clause  $C$  be the minimum number of clauses in  $\text{PNP}_n^{n+1}$  that implies  $C$  on all cla's

Complexity (pigeon-clause) = 1

Complexity (final empty clause) =  $n+1$

By soundness, if  $C_1, C_2 \rightarrow C_3$  then

$$\text{Complexity}(C_3) \leq \text{Complexity}(C_1) + \text{Complexity}(C_2)$$

$\therefore \exists C^*$  in  $\pi(\Pi)$  such that  $\frac{n}{3} \leq \text{Complexity}(C^*) \leq \frac{2n}{3}$

we will show:  $\text{width}(C^*) \geq \frac{2n^2}{9}$

Lemma 2 (wide clause lemma for PNP)

Any monotone Res refutation of  $\text{PNP}_n^{n+1}$  has width  $> \frac{2n^2}{9}$ .

$C^*$  = complex clause,  $S \subseteq [n+1]$  = min subset of Pigeon clauses that implies  $C^*$

IDEA:  $\forall i$ , all  $i$ -cta's satisfy all Pigeon- $j$  clauses  $j \neq i$

- so if  $i \in S$ , there must exist at least one  $i$ -cta  $\alpha$  that falsifies  $C^*$ .
- and if  $i \notin S$ , then all  $i$ -cta's satisfy  $C^*$

Using sensitivity of  $C^*$  wrt  $i$ -cta's, we will argue  
 $\text{width}(C^*) = \Omega(n^2)$



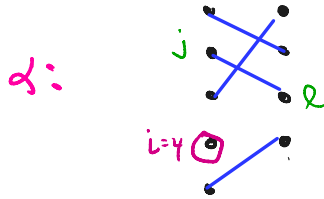
Lemma 2 Any monotone Res refutation of  $\text{PNP}_n^{n+1}$  has width  $\geq \frac{2n^2}{9}$

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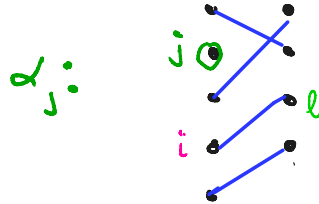
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Let  $i \in S$ ,  $\alpha$   $i$ -cta falsifying  $C^*$ :



Let  $j \notin S$ . Let  $\alpha_j$  be  $j$ -cta obtained from  $\alpha$  by "toggling":



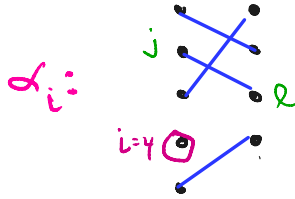
Lemma 2 Any monotone Res refutation of  $\text{PNP}_n^{n+1}$  has width  $\geq \frac{2n^2}{9}$

$C^*$  = complex clause,  $S \subseteq [n+1]$  = min subset of Pigeon clauses that implies  $C^*$   $|S|=m$

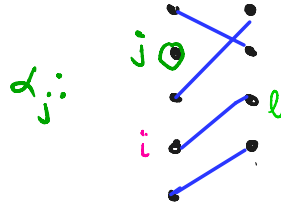
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$\forall j \notin S$ . Let  $\alpha_j$  be  $j$ -cta obtained from  $\alpha$  by "toggling":



$\Rightarrow$  By monotonicity  $P_{i,l}$  must occur in  $C^*$

$\Rightarrow$  Running over all  $j \notin S$   $C^*$  must contain all vars  $P_{i,l}$   $\leftarrow n-m$

$\Rightarrow$  Running over all  $i \in S$   $C^*$  must contain  $(n-m) \cdot n$  variables  $\leftarrow m \cdot (n-m)$

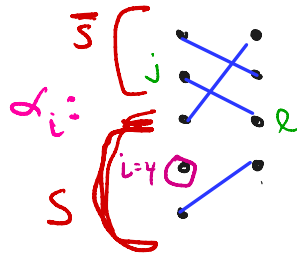
Lemma 2 Any monotone Res refutation of  $\text{PNP}_n^{n+1}$  has width  $\geq \frac{2n^2}{9}$

$C^*$  = complex clause,  $S \subseteq [n+1]$  = min subset of Pigeon clauses that implies  $C^*$   $|S|=m$

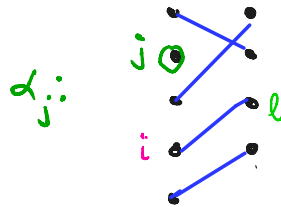
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# Resolution Lower Bounds

① Width LBs  $\rightarrow$  Size LBs via restriction argument  
or **general size-width tradeoff**

A second way to reduce size LBs to width LBs:

Ben-Sasson-Wigderson Size-Width Tradeoff for Resolution

Theorem [BW01] Let  $F$  be UNSAT CNF on  $n$  vars. Then

1.  $\text{Tree-Res-Size}(F) \geq 2^{\text{Res-Width}(F) - k}$

2.  $\text{Res-Size}(F) \geq 2^{\Omega(\text{Res-Width}(F) - k)^2/n}$

★ gives exponential  
Lower Bounds for many  
UNSAT formulas  
simply by expansion

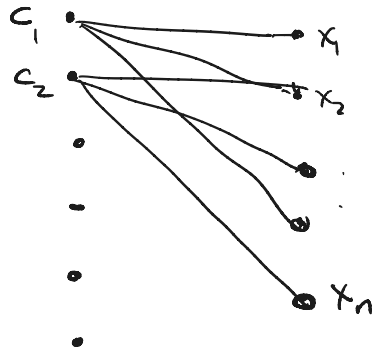
# Resolution Lower Bounds for random KSAT

Theorem [BWO1] Let  $F$  be UNSAT KCNF on  $n$  vars. Then

1.  $\text{Tree-Res-Size}(F) \geq 2^{\text{Res-width}(F) - k}$

2.  $\text{Res-Size}(F) \geq \frac{n(\text{Res-width}(F) - k)^2}{n}$

$f \sim \mathcal{F}(\Delta, n, k)$ : pick  $m = \Delta n$  clauses of width  $k$ . For  $\Delta > 0$  suff large, whp  $f \sim \mathcal{F}(\Delta, n, k)$  UNSAT



1. For  $f \sim \mathcal{F}(\Delta, n, k)$  any Resolution dag requires **Linear width**

Follows directly from fact that clause-variable graph is a good boundary expander whp.

2. Ben-Sasson, Wigderson: Small size  $\Rightarrow$  small width

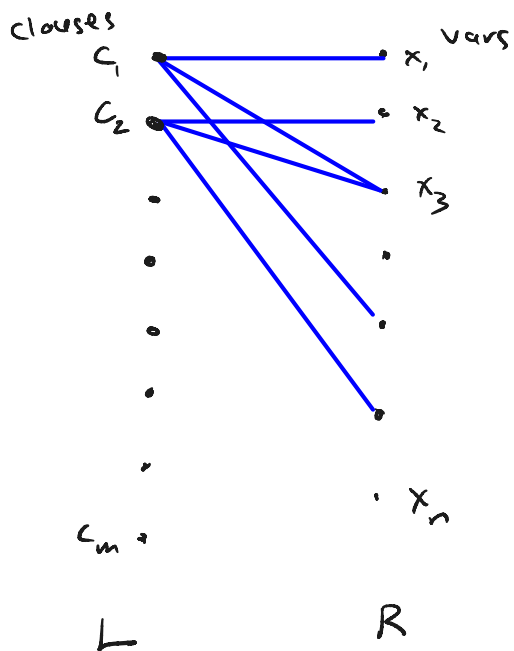
**S**

**$\sqrt{n \log s}$**

## Proving Lower Bounds from Expansion

Let  $F = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$

Clause-Variable graph  $g_F$ :



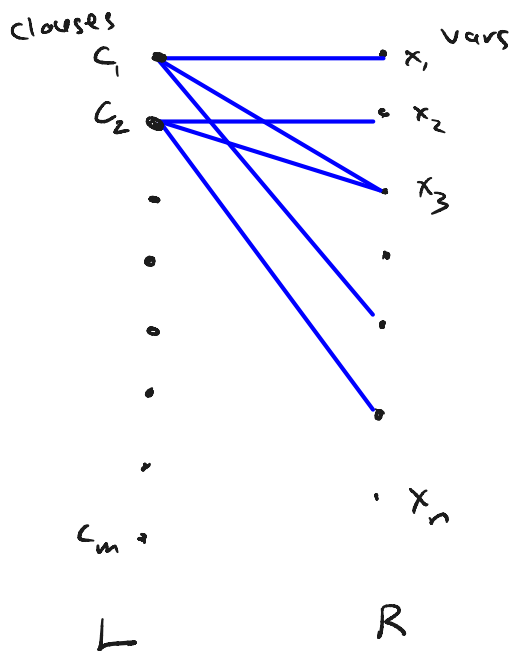
Defn  $g_F$  has  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -expansion  
if  $\forall S \subseteq L, |S| \leq \epsilon n, |N(S)| \geq \delta \cdot |S|$

Defn  $g_F$  has  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -boundary expansion  
if  $\forall S \subseteq L, |S| \leq \epsilon n,$   
 $|\text{\#unique nbrs in } N(S)| \geq \delta \cdot |S|$

## Proving Lower Bounds from Expansion

Let  $F = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$

Clause-Variable graph  $g_F$ :



Defn  $g_F$  has  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -expansion

if  $\forall S \subseteq L, |S| \leq \epsilon n, |N(S)| \geq \delta \cdot |S|$

Defn  $g_F$  has  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -boundary expansion

if  $\forall S \subseteq L, |S| \leq \epsilon n,$

$|\text{\#unique nbrs in } N(S)| \geq \delta \cdot |S|$

Claim Let  $g$  have degree  $d$ , expansion  $e$   
then  $b = \text{boundary expansion} \geq \frac{e}{d} \cdot d$

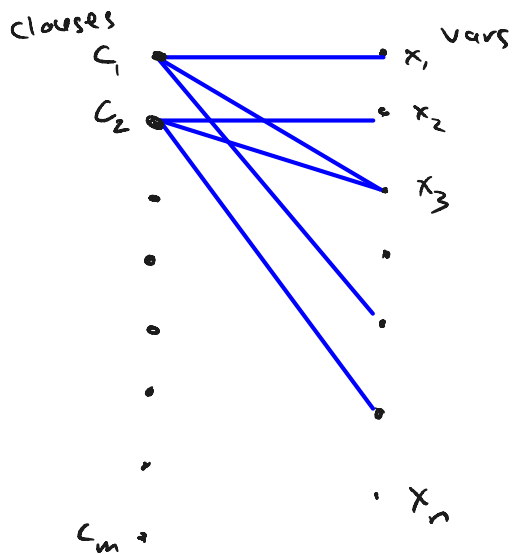
$$e \cdot |S| \leq b \cdot |S| + \frac{d|S| - b|S|}{2}$$

$$b \geq \frac{e}{d} \cdot d$$

## Proving Lower Bounds from Expansion

Let  $F = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$

Clause-Variable graph  $g_F$ :



Claim Let  $0 < \epsilon < 1$

If  $g_F$  has  $(\epsilon, 0(1))$ -boundary expansion, then  $\text{RES-WIDTH}(F) = \Omega(n)$

Pf Let  $C^*$  be first clause in refutation derived from  $\geq \frac{n}{8}$  initial clauses.

$\therefore C^*$  derived from  $\leq \frac{n}{4}$  " "

Let  $S \subseteq [m]$ ,  $\frac{n}{8} \leq |S| \leq \frac{n}{4}$  be clauses minimally implying  $C^*$

All boundary vars of  $\{C_i \mid i \in S\}$  must occur in  $C^*$

$\therefore$  By boundary expansion,  $\text{width}(C^*) = \Omega(n)$




# Resolution Lower Bounds

## Methods

- ① Width LBs  $\rightarrow$  Size LBs via restriction argument  
or general size-width tradeoff

Width LBs : via expansion of clause-variable graph of  $F$

- ② Feasible Interpolation  we will discuss  
next class

## RES UPPER BOUNDS FOR PHP<sub>n</sub><sup>m</sup>

0. PAP<sub>n</sub><sup>m</sup> : tree-like Res :  $2^{\Theta(n^2)}$   
Res :  $2^{\Theta(n)}$

1. The previous <sup>Resolution</sup> Lower bound still gives similar Lower bound for the weak PHP, PHP<sub>n</sub><sup>m</sup>,  $m = n^2$

2. [Buss-P] show polysize Res refutations of PHP<sub>n</sub><sup>m</sup>,  $m \sim 2^{n^2}$   
[Raz] proves near matching Res lower bound

3. [Maciel-P-Woods] : quasipoly size Res (polylog n)  
(see also Paris-Wilkie-Woods) refutations of PHP<sub>n</sub><sup>m</sup>,  $m = 2n$

## OPEN Q's

1. Are there polysize Res(polylogn) refutations of  $\text{PHP}_n^{2n}$ ?

or polysize Bounded-depth refutations of weak PHP?

Best Lower bounds: superpoly for Res( $\sqrt{\log n}$ ),  $\text{PHP}_n^{2n}$

Motivation: Res LBs for "NP & P/poly"

Extra Slides (Not Covered)

# Size S Res Refutations of $\text{PHP}_n^m$ for $n < \frac{\log m \log S}{\log \log S}$

[Buss-P]

Let Pigeons =  $[m]$ , holes =  $[n]$

Loop: Divide pigeons  $[m]$  into blocks of size  $\log S + 1$

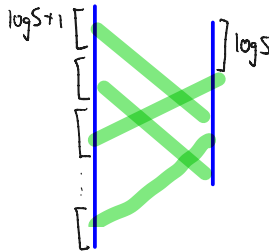
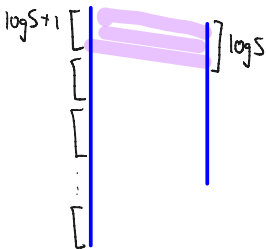
Case 1 Some block of pigeons maps to first  $\log S$  holes.  
If so, refute in size  $\sim S$  and HALT

Case 2 Otherwise Let each block of pigeons be a "super-pigeon"  $P_{a_j} = \bigvee_{i \in \text{Block}(a_j)} P_{i,j}$

Each superpigeon maps to one of the last  $n - \log S$  holes

So  $|\text{superpigeons}| \approx \frac{m}{\log S}$      $|\text{holes}| = n - \log S$

Repeat Loop with  $\frac{m}{\log S}$  (super)pigeons,  $n - \log S$  holes



# Size S Res Refutations of PHP<sub>n</sub><sup>m</sup> for $n < \frac{\log m \log S}{\log \log S}$

Let Pigeons =  $[m]$ , holes =  $[n]$

Loop: Divide pigeons  $[m]$  into blocks of size  $\log S + 1$

Case 1 Some block of pigeons maps to first  $\log S$  holes.

If so, refute in size  $\sim S$  and HALT

Case 2 Otherwise Let each block of pigeons be a "super-pigeon"  $P_{\alpha} = \bigvee_{i \in \text{Block}(\alpha)} P_{ij}$

Each superpigeon maps to one of the last  $n - \log S$  holes

So  $|\text{superpigeons}| \approx \frac{m}{\log S}$  | holes =  $n - \log S$

Repeat Loop with  $\frac{m}{\log S}$  (super)pigeons,  $n - \log S$  holes

Analysis: after  $\frac{n}{\log S}$  iterations, need  $m > 0$ :

$$\frac{m}{(\log S + 1)^{\frac{n}{\log S}}} \approx \frac{\log m \frac{\log m}{\log \log m}}{(\log S)^{\frac{n}{\log S}}} = \frac{\log m \frac{\log m}{\log \log m}}{\log m \frac{\log \log S \cdot \log m}{\log S \log \log m}} = \frac{\log m \frac{\log m}{\log \log m}}{\log m \frac{\log m}{\log \log m}} = 1$$

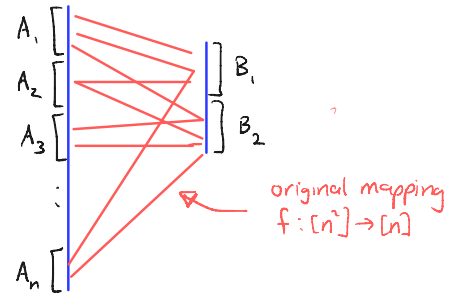
setting  $S \approx \log m$   $n = \frac{(\log m)^2}{\log \log m}$  so  $m \sim 2^{\sqrt{n}}$ , and proof of size  $2^{o(\sqrt{n})}$

# Quasi-poly Size Res(polylog n) Refutations of PHP $_n^{n^2}$

**Step 1** (Reduce range) Let  $A = [n^2]$ ,  $B = [n]$

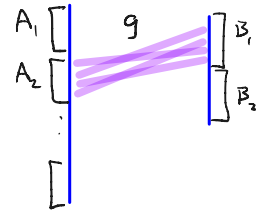
Partition  $A$  into  $n$  blocks  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  each size  $n$

Partition  $B$  into 2 blocks  $B_1, B_2$  each size  $\frac{n}{2}$



Case 1: Some  $A_i$  maps all pigeons in  $A_i$  to  $B_1$

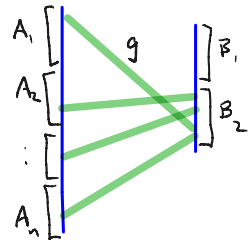
Then we have injective map  $g: \underbrace{A_i}_n \rightarrow \underbrace{B_1}_{\frac{n}{2}}$



Case 2:  $\forall i$  some pigeon in  $A_i$  maps to  $B_2$

Then we have an injective map  $g$  from  $[n]$  to  $B_2$

$[n]$  = "superpigeons" Superpigeon  $P_{i, \frac{n}{2} + s} = \bigvee$  pigeons  $i$  in  $A_r$   $P_{i, \frac{n}{2} + s}$



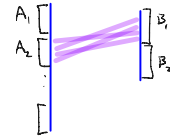
# Quasi-poly Size Res(poly log n) Refutations of PHP $_{n^2}^{n^2}$

**Step 1** (Reduce range) Let  $A = [n^2]$ ,  $B = [n]$

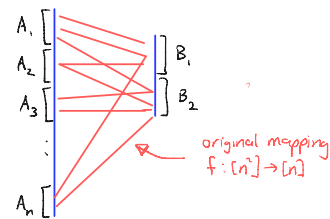
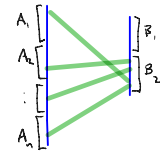
Partition  $A$  into  $n$  blocks  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  each size  $n$

Partition  $B$  into 2 blocks  $B_1, B_2$  each size  $\frac{n}{2}$

Case 1: Some  $A_i$  maps all pigeons in  $A_i$  to  $B_1$ :  $g: \underbrace{A_i}_n \rightarrow \underbrace{B_1}_{\frac{n}{2}}$



Case 2:  $\forall i$  some pigeon in  $A_i$  maps to  $B_2$ :  $g: [n] \xrightarrow{\text{superpigeons}} B_2$



**Step 2** (Amplify pigeons  $n \rightarrow n^2$ )

Define  $h: [n^2] \rightarrow [n^2]$  by:  $h(i) = k$  iff  $\exists j \in [n]$  s.t.  $f(i) = j$  and  $g(j) = k$

( $h$  is injective, assuming both  $f, g$  are injective)

After steps ① + ② we have gone from injective  $f: [n^2] \rightarrow [n]$  to injective  $h: [n^2] \rightarrow [n^2]$

Repeat Steps ① + ② to obtain sequence of injective functions

$$f_0: [n^2] \rightarrow [n], \quad f_1: [n^2] \rightarrow [n^2], \quad f_2: [n^2] \rightarrow [n^2], \quad \dots \quad f_{\log n}: [n^2] \rightarrow [1]$$

← #



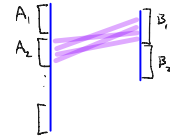
# Quasi-poly Size Res(poly log n) Refutations of $\text{PHP}_n^{n^2}$

**Step 1** (Reduce range) Let  $A = [n^2]$ ,  $B = [n]$

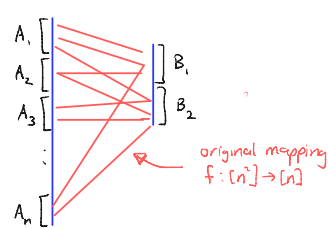
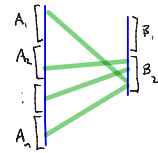
Partition  $A$  into  $n$  blocks  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  each size  $n$

Partition  $B$  into 2 blocks  $B_1, B_2$  each size  $\frac{n}{2}$

Case 1: Some  $A_i$  maps all pigeons in  $A_i$  to  $B_1$ :  $g: \underbrace{A_i}_n \rightarrow \underbrace{B_1}_{\frac{n}{2}}$



Case 2:  $\forall i$  some pigeon in  $A_i$  maps to  $B_2$ :  $g: \underbrace{[n]}_{\text{superpigeons}} \rightarrow B_2$



**Step 2** (Amplify pigeons  $n \rightarrow n^2$ )

Define  $h: [n^2] \rightarrow [n^2]$  by:  $h(i) = k$  iff  $\exists j \in [n]$  s.t.  $f(i) = j$  and  $g(j) = k$

( $h$  is injective, assuming both  $f, g$  are injective)

## Complexity of Refutation

\* At each iteration, each "super-pigeon" is a polylog $n$ -width DNF, size quasipoly( $n$ )

So proof starts with axioms  $\text{PHP}_n^{n^2}(f)$

Step 1: Derive axioms  $\text{PHP}_n^{n/2}(g)$  where vars  $\Phi_{ij} \in \text{polylog } n\text{-DNF}$

Step 2: Derive axioms  $\text{PHP}_{\frac{n^2}{2}}^{n^2}(h)$  (where vars  $\in \text{polylog } n\text{DNF}$ ) from  $\text{PHP}_n^{n^2}(f), \text{PHP}_{\frac{n}{2}}^n(g)$