



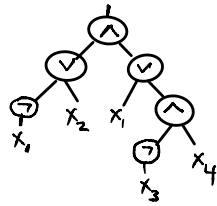
# ADVANCES AND NEW DIRECTIONS IN COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY



Toniann Pitassi

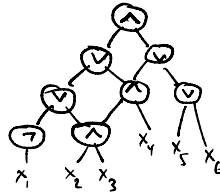
GIVEN A COMPUTATIONAL MODEL  $\mathcal{M}$ , HOW HARD IS IT TO COMPUTE A PARTICULAR FUNCTION  $F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ ?

$\mathcal{M} =$  Boolean formulas



Best LB:  $4.5n$  [LR]

$\mathcal{M} =$  Boolean circuits



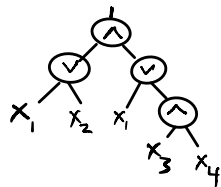
Best LB:  $n^{3-o(1)}$  [Has'98]

$\mathcal{M} =$   $AC_d^0$  circuits

Best LB:  $2^{\Omega(n^{1/2})}$  [Has'86]

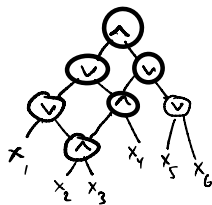
GIVEN A COMPUTATIONAL MODEL  $\mathcal{M}$ , HOW HARD IS IT TO COMPUTE A PARTICULAR FUNCTION  $F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ ?

$\mathcal{M} =$  **monotone** Boolean formulas



Best LB:  $2^{\Omega(n)}$   
[PR'17]

$\mathcal{M} =$  **monotone** Boolean circuits



Best LB:  $2^{\Omega(n^{1/2})}$   
[CKR'20]

TODAY: unified approach to many lower bounds via  
COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY

- Monotone formula Lower Bounds
- Monotone circuit Lower Bounds
- Monotone span program Lower Bounds
- Linear Program Extension Complexity
- SDP Extension Complexity

Theme Complexity closely connected to proof complexity

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY (Yao '79)

10111



00110



$$F: \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$$

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY (Yao '79)

10111



I don't think..



⋮

00110



$$F: \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{O}$$

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY (Yao '79)

10111



I don't think..



Then don't talk



⋮

00110



$$F: \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$$

$$CC(F) = \min_{\pi} CC(\pi)$$

# COMMUNICATION FOR SEARCH PROBLEMS

10111



00110



Example. (KW Search)  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

KW(f): Alice:  $x \in f^{-1}(1)$      Bob:  $y \in f^{-1}(0)$

Output  $i \in [n]$  such that  $x_i \neq y_i$ .



# COMMUNICATION FOR SEARCH PROBLEMS

10111



00110



Example. (KW Search)  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ ,  $f$  monotone

$mKW(f)$ : Alice:  $x \in f^{-1}(1)$       Bob:  $y \in f^{-1}(0)$

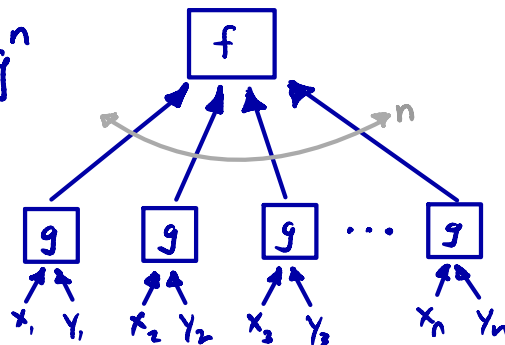
Output  $i \in [n]$  such that  $x_i > y_i$ .

# QUERY TO COMMUNICATION LIFTING

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$$



$$F = f \circ g^n$$



## LIFTING THEOREM

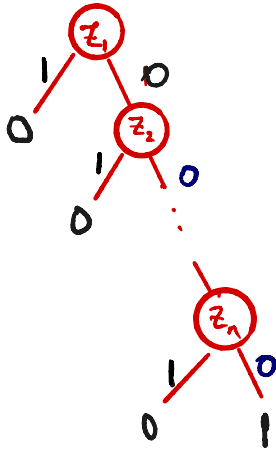
Communication Complexity  
of  $F$   $\approx$

Query Complexity of  $f$



# EXAMPLE: SET DISJOINTNESS

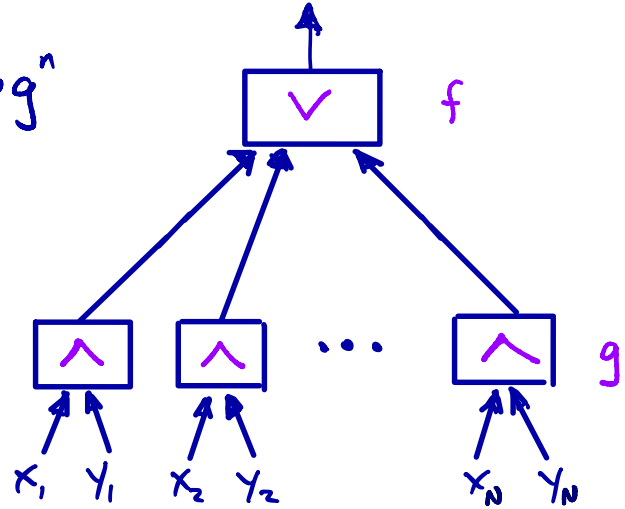
f:



$$DT(f) = \Theta(n)$$



$$F = f \circ g^n$$



$$CC(f \circ g^n) = \Theta(n)$$

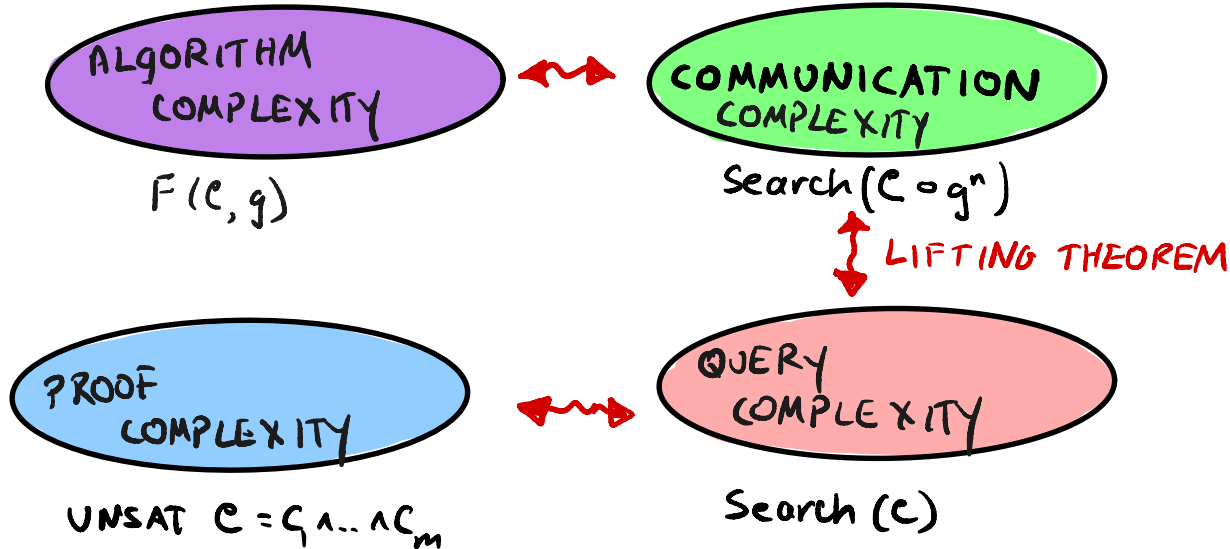
## SOME LIFTING THEOREMS

QUERY MODEL	COMMUNICATION MODEL	REFERENCE
Decision Tree	Deterministic CC	[RM'99, CKLM'19]
Nondet DT	Nondeterministic CC	[GLM'16]
Randomized DT	Randomized CC	[GPW'17, CFKMP'21]
Polynomial Degree	Rank	[Sherstov'11, SZ'09, RS'10]
Decision List	Rectangle List	[GKPW'17]
Resolution/Dag-like DT	DAG-LIKE communication	[GGKS'18]
Nullstellensatz degree	Algebraic Tiling	[RPCR'16, PR'17, PR'18]
Sherali Adams degree	Non-negative Rank	[CLRS'16]
SOS degree	PSD Rank	[ERS'15]

# APPLICATIONS OF LIFTING

1. Monotone formula/circuit Lower Bounds
2. Proof complexity
3. Cryptography (Lower Bounds for Secret Sharing Schemes)
4. Game Theory (Nash Equilibrium)
5. Graph Theory (Alon-Saks-Seymour Conjecture)
6. Linear /SDP Extended Formulations
7. Communication complexity Separations
8. Quantum complexity
9. Data Structures

# LOWER BOUND PROGRAM



## LOWER BOUND PROGRAM

<u>ALGORITHMS</u>	<u>COMMUNICATION</u>	<u>QUERY</u>	<u>PROOFS</u>	<u>REFs</u>
m Formulas	$P^{CC}$	$P^{DT}$	tree-Resolution	RM'99 gpw'18
m Circuits	$PLS^{CC}$	$PLS^{DT}$	Resolution	ggks'18
m Formulas w/ Errors	$BPP^{CC}$	$BPP^{DT}$	Random Resolution	gpw'17
m Span Programs	$PPA^{CC}$	$PPA^{DT}$	Nullsatz	PR'17 PR'18
LP Extension Complexity	$Rank^+$		SA	CLRS'16
SDP Extension Complexity	SDP Rank		SOS	LRS '15

$$\text{Algorithm-Size}(F(c,g)) \approx \text{Proof-size}(c)$$

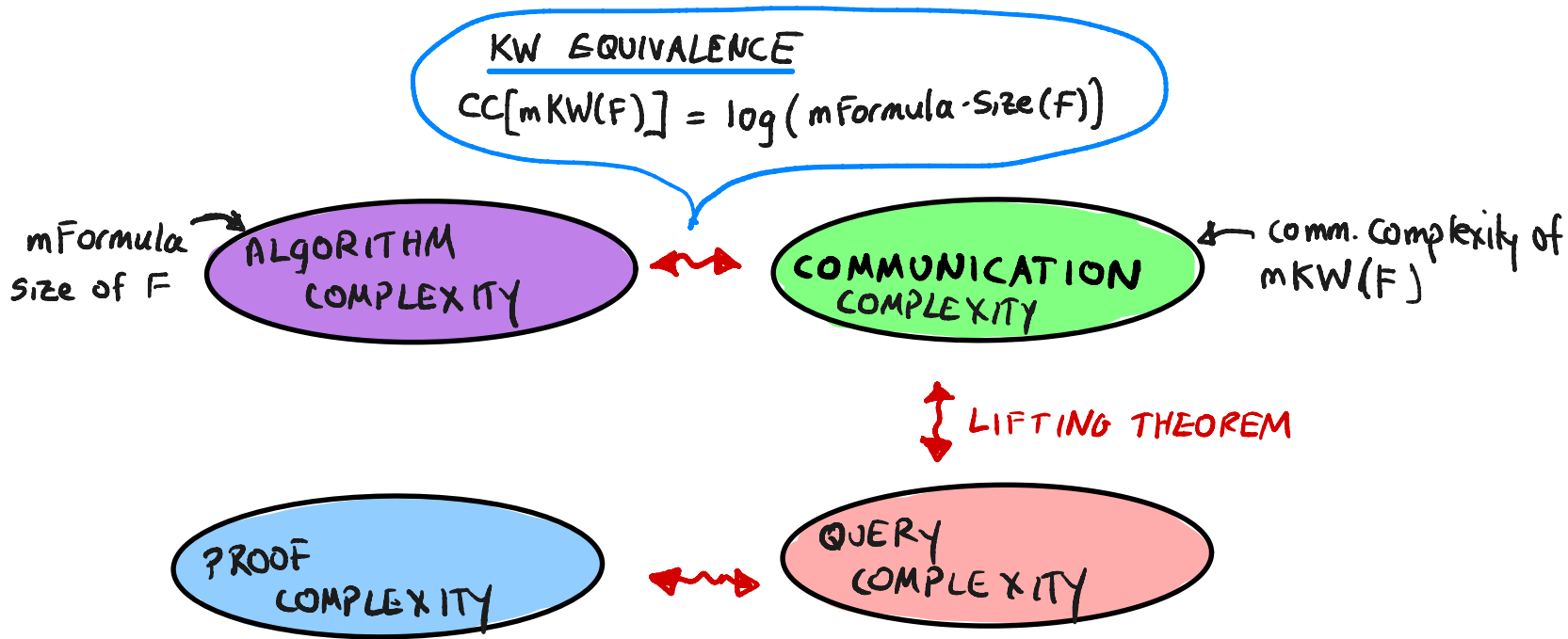
# LOWER BOUND PROGRAM

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m Formulas	$P^{CC}$	$P^{DT}$	tree-Resolution	RM'99 gpw'18
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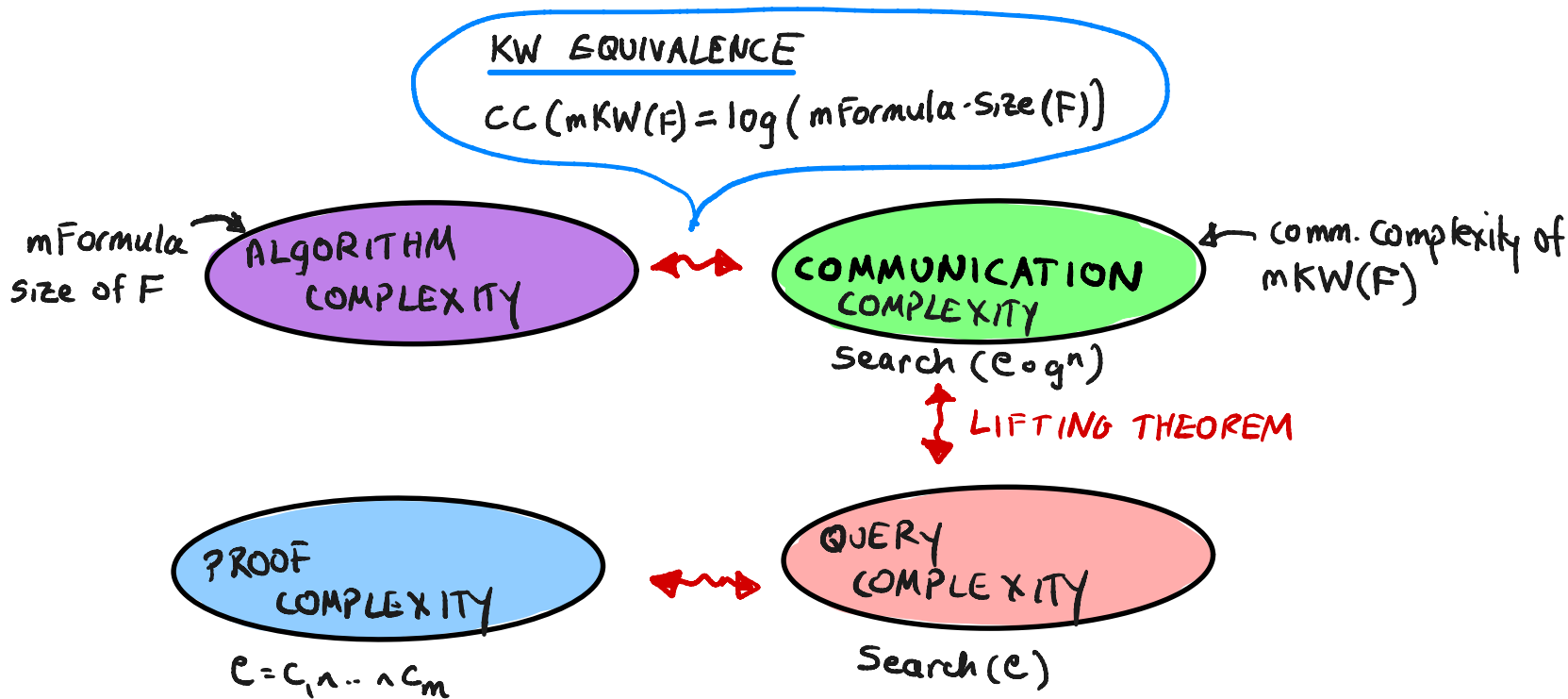
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# INSTANTIATION I: monotone Formula Size Lower Bounds



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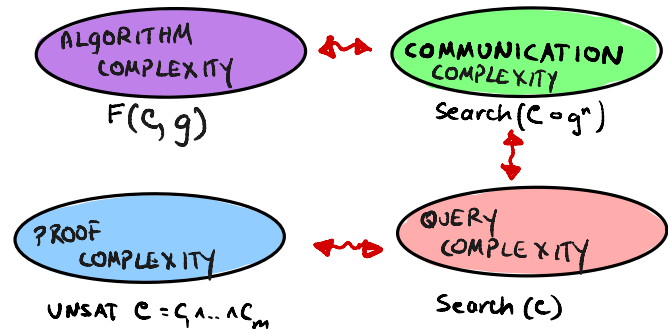


# HARD-TO-REFUTE CNFs $\rightarrow$ HARD FUNCTIONS

$C = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$  UNSAT CNF OVER  $z_1, \dots, z_n$

$$\text{Search}(C) = \{0,1\}^n \times [m]$$

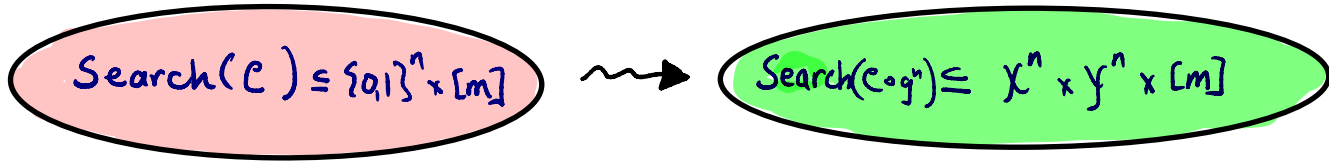
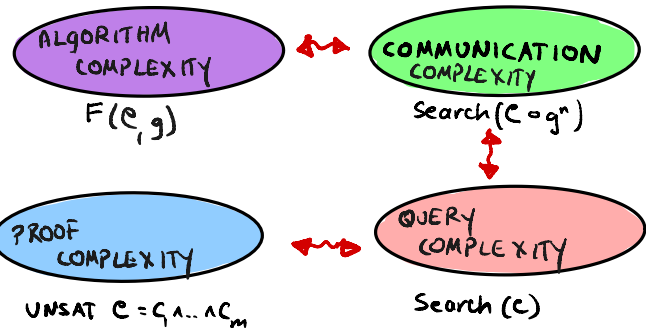
given assignment  $\gamma$  to  $z_1, \dots, z_n$   
output a falsified clause



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$C = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$  UNSAT CNF OVER  $z_1, \dots, z_n$

$C \circ g^n$ : CSP over  $x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n$  where  $z_i \leftarrow g(x_i, y_i)$



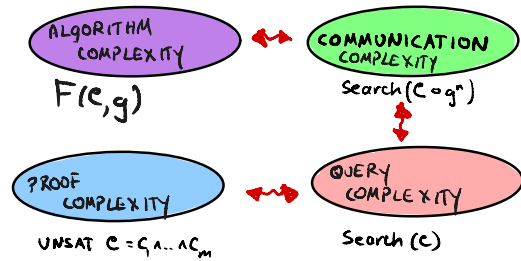
given assignment  $\gamma$  to  $z_1, \dots, z_n$   
output a falsified clause

Alice:  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  Bob:  $y_1, \dots, y_n$   
given assignment  $\alpha$  to  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,  $\beta$  to  $y_1, \dots, y_n$   
output a falsified constraint of  $C \circ g^n$

## Example

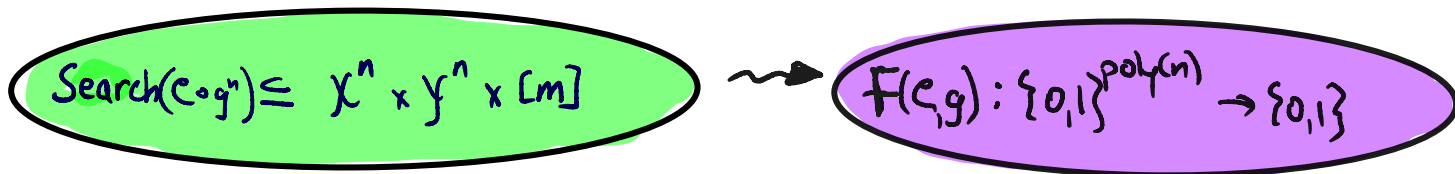
$$C = (z_1 \vee z_2)(\bar{z}_1 \vee z_3) \quad \rightarrow \quad C \circ \Lambda^n = (x_1 y_1 \vee x_2 y_2)(\bar{x}_1 \bar{y}_1 \vee x_3 y_3)$$

# HARD-TO-REFUTE CNFs $\rightarrow$ HARD FUNCTIONS



$c = c_1 \wedge c_2 \wedge \dots \wedge c_m$  : UNSAT CNF OVER  $z_1, \dots, z_n$

$c = g^n$  : CSP over  $x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n$  where  $z_i \leftarrow g(x_i, y_i)$



Theorem. For any unsat  $c$ , there exists monotone  $F = F(c, g)$  such that  $\text{Search}(c = g^n) \equiv \text{mKW}(F)$

mKW<sub>F</sub>: Alice:  $x \in F^{-1}(1)$  Bob:  $y \in F^{-1}(0)$   
FIND  $i$  SUCH THAT  $x_i > y_i$

# INSTANTIATION I : m FORMULA-SIZE LOWER BOUNDS

KW EQUIVALENCE [Karchmer-Wigderson]  
 $CC[mKW(F)] = \log(\text{mFormula-Size}(F))$

m FORMULA-SIZE OF  
 $F(c, g)$



COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY  
 $\text{Search}(c \circ g^n)$

= CC of  $mKW(F(c, g))$



DETERMINISTIC LIFTING [Raz, McKenzie 99]

$CC(f \circ g^n) \approx DT(f)$

Tree-Resolution  
Complexity of  $c$



Folklore

DECISION TREE COMPLEXITY  
 $\text{Search}(c)$

# INSTANTIATION II : mCIRCUIT-SIZE LOWER BOUNDS

KW EQUIVALENCE FOR CIRCUITS [Razborov]

$$\text{dag-CC}[KW(F)] = \text{mCircuitSize}(F)$$

mCIRCUIT-SIZE OF  
 $F(c, g)$



DAG-LIKE CC of  
 $\text{Search}(c \circ g^n)$

= dag-like CC of  $\text{mKW}(F(c, g))$



DAG-CC LIFTING [garg, göös, Kamath, Sokolov'18]

$$\text{dag-CC}(f \circ g^n) \approx \text{dag-DT}(f)$$



Tree-Resolution  
Complexity of  $c$



Folklore

DECISION TREE COMPLEXITY  
 $\text{Search}(c)$

# DAQ-LIKE PROTOCOLS (PLS<sup>cc</sup>) $\equiv$ mCircuit-Size [Razborov], [Sokolov]

mKW(F) :  $x \in F^{-1}(1)$    $y \in F^{-1}(0)$  

*(Thought bubbles:  $x=10111$  and  $y=00110$ )*

$\Pi = (g = (V, E), v_0 \in V, \{R_v \mid v \in V\}, \ell: V \rightarrow \Theta)$  :

Vertices  
labelled by  
Rectangles

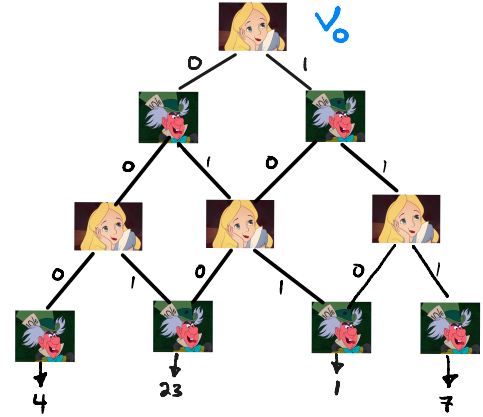
$\forall v \in V: R_v \subseteq \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}$   
 $R_v = \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n$

Consistency

If  $v$  has children  $v', v'' \Rightarrow R_v \subseteq R_{v'} \cup R_{v''}$



Correctness

Each leaf vertex  $v$  has label  $\ell(v) \in \Theta$  s.t.  $\forall (x,y) \in R_v (x,y, \ell(v)) \in \Theta$





# DAQ-LIKE PROTOCOLS (PLS<sup>cc</sup>) ≡ mCircuit-Size

$mKW(F)$ :  $x \in F^{-1}(1)$    $y \in F^{-1}(0)$  

$x = 10111$   $y = 00110$

$\Pi = (g = (V, E), v_0 \in V, \{R_v \mid v \in V\}, \ell: V \rightarrow \Theta)$ :

Vertices  
labelled by  
Rectangles

$$\forall v \in V: R_v \subseteq \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}$$

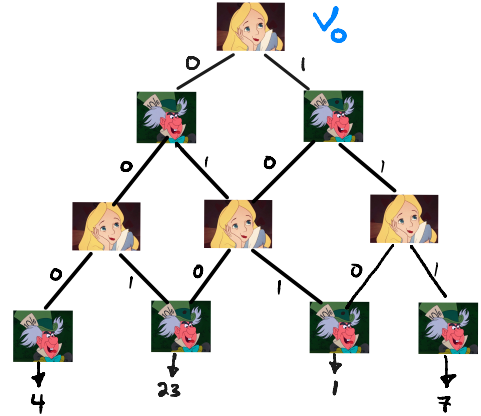
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Correctness

Each leaf vertex  $v$  has label  $\ell(v) \in \Theta$  s.t.  $\forall (x, y) \in R_v (x, y, \ell(v)) \in \Theta$



Theorem  $PLS^{cc}(KW_F) = \text{CIRCUIT-SIZE}(F)$

# dag-LIKE PROTOCOLS (PLS<sup>cc</sup>) ≡ mCircuit-Size

$$S = \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n \times \emptyset$$

$x = 10111$



$y = 00110$



$$\Pi = (g = (V, E), v_0 \in V, \{R_v \mid v \in V\}, \ell: V \rightarrow \emptyset):$$

Vertices  
labelled by  
Rectangles

$$\forall v \in V: R_v \subseteq \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n$$

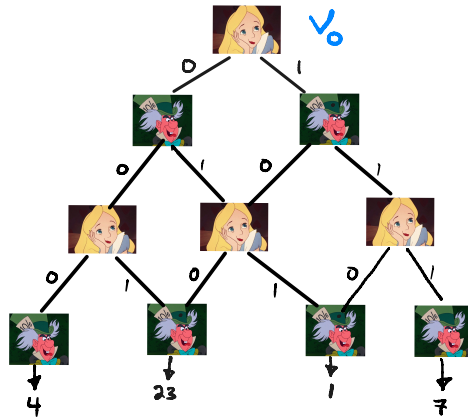
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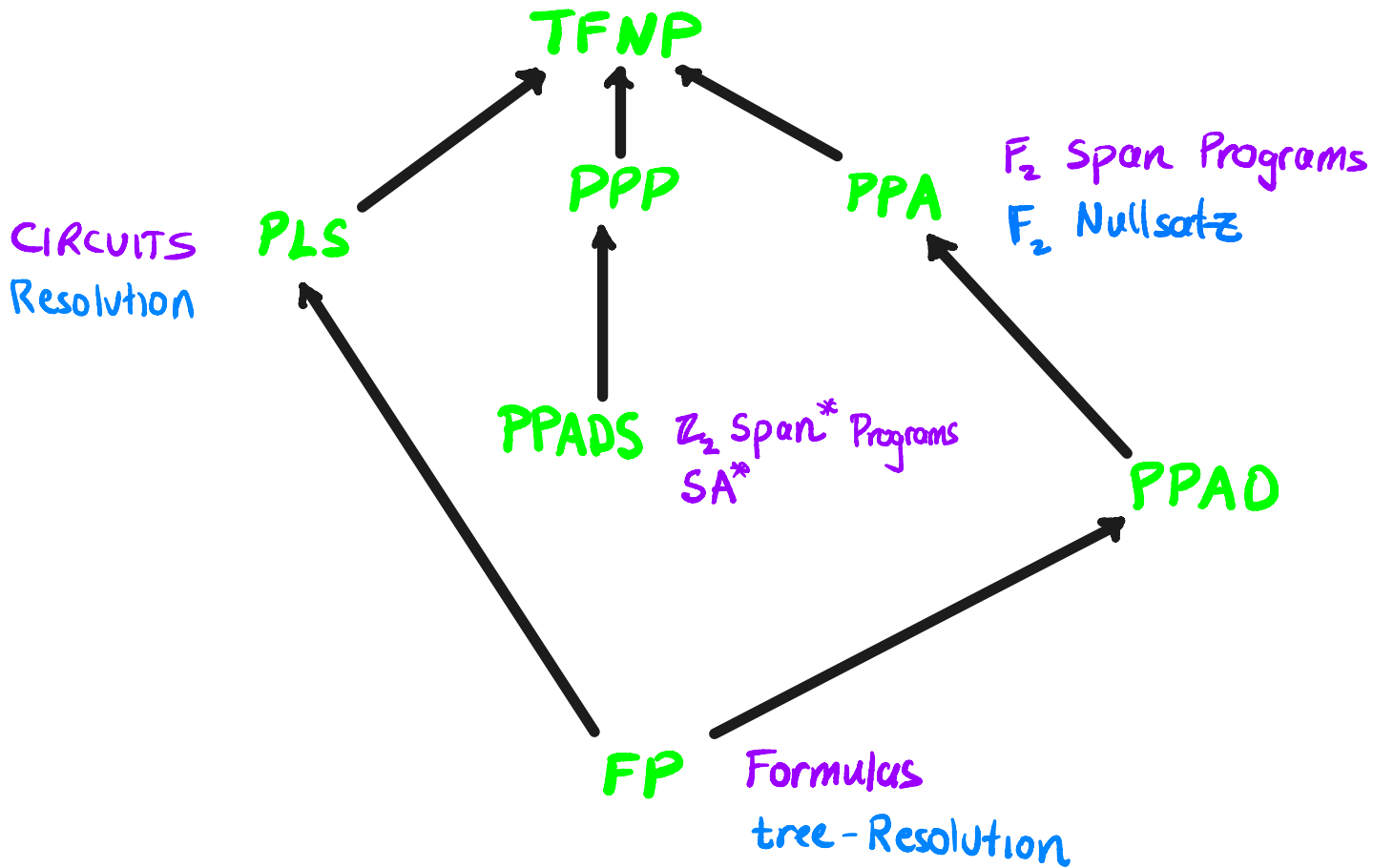


Theorem  $PLS^{cc}(mKW_F) = mCIRCUIT-SIZE(F)$

## LOWER BOUND PROGRAM

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m Formulas	$P^{CC}$	$P^{DT}$	tree-Resolution	RM'99 gpw'18
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LP Extension Complexity	$Rank^+$		SA	CLRS'16
SDP Extension Complexity	SDP Rank		SOS	LRS '15

Algorithm-Size  $(F(c, q)) \approx$  Proof-size  $(c)$



## REST OF TALK . . .

- Lifting via Sunflowers  
and a web of interconnections
- **New** Applications/Directions  
and Some Open Problems



# LIFTING VIA

[Lovett, Meka, Mertz, P, Zhang '21]

$f$ :  $n$ -bit boolean function / search problem


$g$ : index gadget  $IND(x, y) = y_x$      $|y| = \text{poly}(n)$ ,  $|x| = \log |y|$

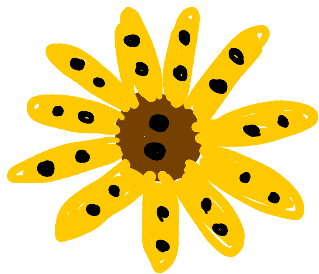
DETERMINISTIC LIFTING THEOREM [RM'99, gPW'17]

$$DT(f) \cdot \Theta(\log n) = CC(f \circ g^n)$$

- Uses Sunflower Lemma as black box
- Also holds for Dag-like Lifting
- Improved gadget size  $|y| = n^{1+\epsilon}$

## SUNFLOWER LEMMA


$|X|$  large  $\Rightarrow$    $\in X$

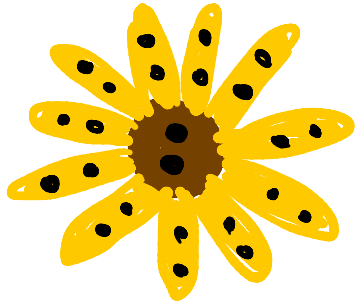


$n=4, p=11$

Let  $X$  be a  $n$ -uniform set system  
If  $|X| > r^n$  then  $X$  contains a sunflower  
with  $p$  petals

## SUNFLOWER LEMMA

$|X|$  large  $\Rightarrow$    $\in X$



$n=4, p=11$

Let  $X$  be a  $n$ -uniform set system

If  $|X| > r^n$  then  $X$  contains a sunflower  
with  $p$  petals

Old: True for  $r \sim pn$

Conjecture: True for  $r \sim p$

 : True for  $r \sim p \log(pn)$  [Alweiss, Lovett, Wu, Zhang '19]



ROBUST  LEMMA [Rossman'14, ALWZ'19, Rao'19, FKNP'19]

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be an  $n$ -uniform, block-respecting set system over  $\mathcal{U} = \{x_1, \dots, x_{mn}\}$



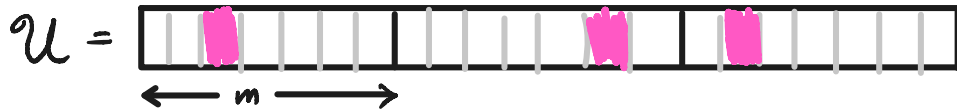
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# ROBUST LEMMA

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be an  $n$ -uniform, block-respecting set system over  $\mathcal{U} = \{x_1, \dots, x_{mn}\}$



$\mathcal{X}$  is  $r$ -dense if:  $\forall I \subseteq [n] \quad H_\infty(\mathcal{X}_I) \geq r \cdot |I|$ ,  $H_\infty(\mathcal{X}) = \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \log\left(\frac{1}{\Pr[X=x]}\right)$

$$\mathcal{X}_{\text{DNF}} \stackrel{d}{=} X_3 X_{13} X_{16} \vee X_1 X_{10} X_{17} \vee X_3 X_8 X_{18} \vee X_7 X_{13} X_{20}$$

Theorem [ALWS] Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be  $r$ -dense,  $r \geq c \log\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon}\right)$ . Then

$$\Pr_{p \sim \{0,1\}^{mn}} [\mathcal{X}_{\text{DNF}}(p) \neq 1] \leq \epsilon$$

Parameters:  $m = n^{10}$ ,  $r = .9 \log m$ ,  $\epsilon = 2^{-n^4}$

## Simulation (Protocol $\Pi \rightarrow$ Decision tree $T$ )

Invariant:  $X \times Y \subseteq [m]^N \times \{0,1\}^{mN}$   
 $X$  is  $.9 \log m$ -dense  
 $Y$  large:  $|Y| \geq 2^{mN - N^2}$

- Initially (at root of  $\Pi$ ),  $X = [m]^N$ ,  $Y = \{0,1\}^{mN}$
- When Bob sends a bit, go to larger side
- When Alice sends a bit, go to larger side

If  $X$  no longer  $.9 \log m$  dense:

- Find maximal subset  $I \subseteq [N]$  and value  $\alpha \in [m]^I$  that is too likely.
- Query variables  $z_I = \{x_i, i \in I\}$  in  $T$ . Say  $z_I = \beta$
- This induces a refinement of  $X \times Y$ :

$$X' = \{x \in X \mid x_I = \alpha\}$$

$$Y'_\beta = \{y \in Y \mid \text{IND}(\alpha, y_I) = \beta\}$$



Need to show:

①  $X'$  is dense

②  $\forall \beta \in \{0,1\}^{|I|}$   $Y'_\beta$  is large

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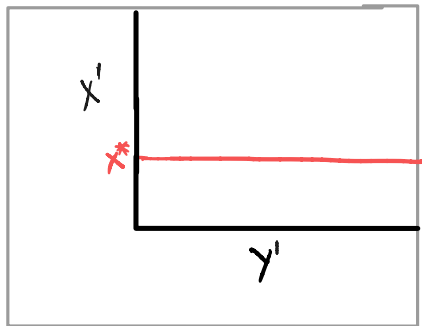
$$Y'_\beta = \{y \in Y \mid \text{IND}(\alpha, y_I) = \beta\}$$

Need to show:  
①  $X'$  is dense  
②  $\forall \beta \in \{0,1\}^{|I|}$

$Y'_\beta$  is large

Proof via Robust  Lemma

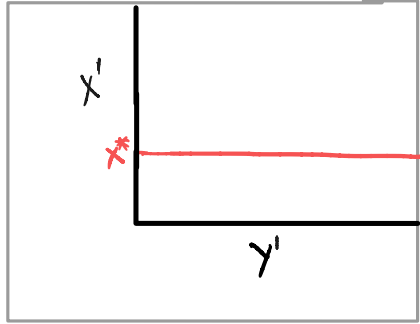
# FULL RANGE LEMMA (via )



Let  $X' \subseteq [m]^N$  be  $.9 \log m$ -dense  
 $Y' \subseteq \{0,1\}^{mN}$  be large

Then  $\exists x^* \in X' \forall \beta \in \{0,1\}^N \exists y^* \in Y'$   
 $\text{IND}^N(x^*, y^*) = \beta$

# FULL RANGE LEMMA (via )



Let  $X' \subseteq [m]^N$  be  $.9 \log m$ -dense  
 $Y' \subseteq \{0,1\}^{mN}$  be large

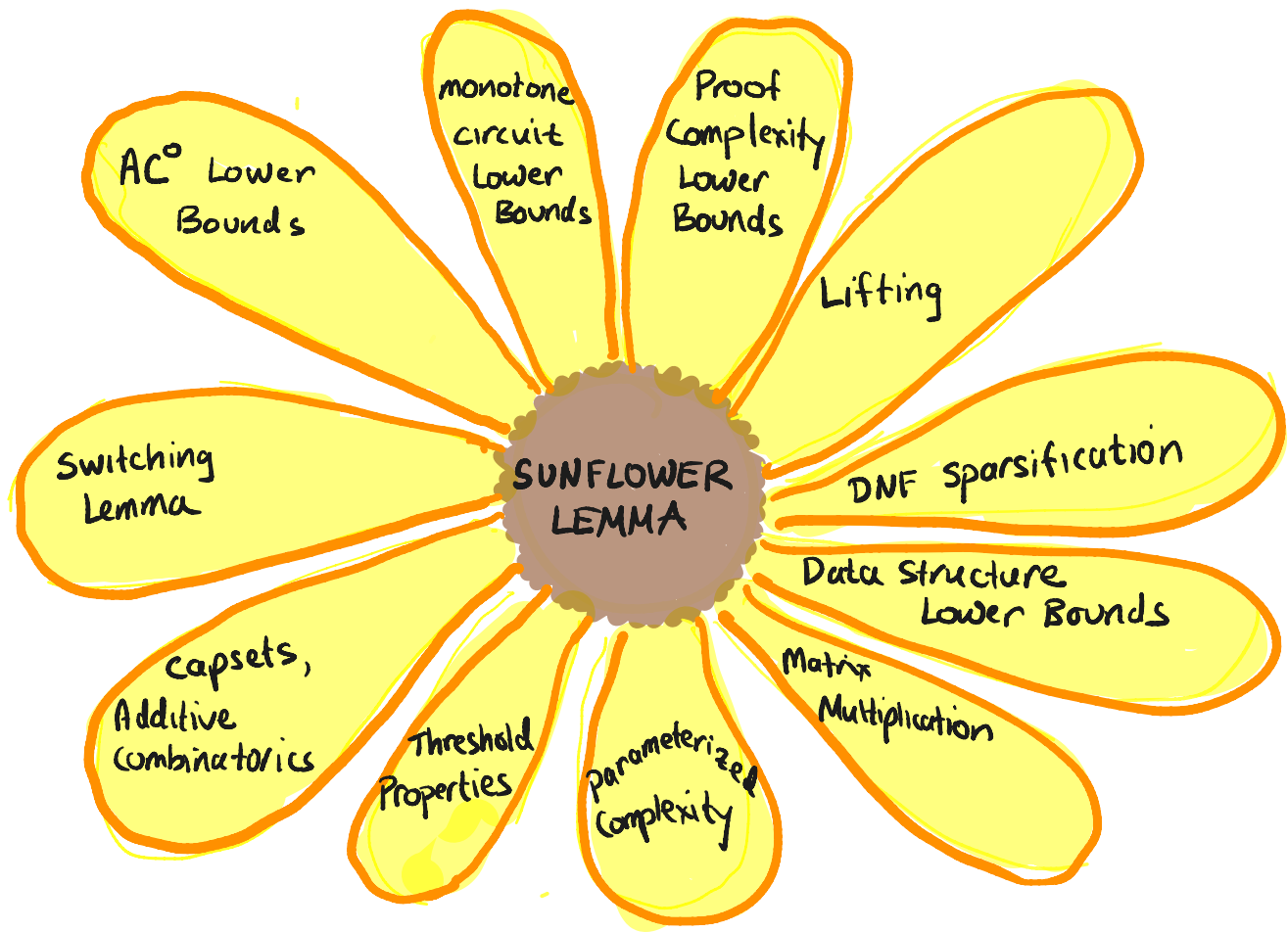
Then  $\exists x \in X' \forall \beta \in \{0,1\}^N \exists y \in Y'$   
 $IND^N(x, y) = \beta$

## Proof sketch

If false  $\forall x \in X' \exists \beta_x \in \{0,1\}^N \forall y \in Y' IND^N(x, y) \neq \beta_x$

Can assume wlog that  $\beta_x = 1^N \forall x$ .

By Robust  Lemma, at most  $2^{-N^4}$  fraction of all  $y \in \{0,1\}^{mN}$   
are bad which contradicts  $Y'$  largeness.





# I. BEYOND MONOTONE LOWER BOUNDS ?

$P \stackrel{?}{=} NC$   
 $P \stackrel{?}{=} NC$

- monotone lower bounds for slice functions
- $AC^0$  circuits
- KRW conjecture



# I. BEYOND MONOTONE LOWER BOUNDS: $AC^0$

- Truly exponential size  $AC^0$  LBs  $\rightarrow$  Formula size LBs
- KW for  $AC^0_d$ : cc of  $d$ -round protocols for  $KW_F$  equals  $\log(AC^0_d\text{-size}(F))$

$x=10111$



$y=00110$



- Topdown via Lifting / Sunflower Lemma ?

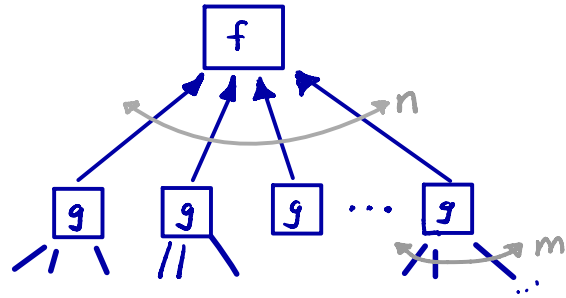
✓  $d=3$  [Hastad, Jukna, Pudlak '95]

# I. BEYOND MONOTONE LOWER BOUNDS: KRW

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$$g: \{0,1\}^m \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$\rightsquigarrow f \circ g^n:$



**KRW CONJECTURE**:  $\forall f, g \text{ Depth}(f \circ g^n) \approx \text{Depth}(f) + \text{Depth}(g)$

Implies  
 $P \neq NC!$

$$\text{Prove: } CC(KW_{f \circ g^n}) \approx CC(KW_f) + CC(KW_g)$$

# I. BEYOND MONOTONE LOWER BOUNDS: KRW

$$CC(KW_{f \circ g^n}) \stackrel{?}{\approx} CC(KW_f) + CC(KW_g)$$

Long line of work resolving special cases:

[KRW'95, EIRS'01, HW'93, H&S98, DM'18, KM'18]

Theorem [de Rezende, Meir, Nordström, P, Robere '20]

① monotone KRW:  $\forall$  monotone  $f, g$   $CC(mKW_{f \circ g^n}) \geq CC(KW_f) + CC(KW_g)$   
solved for all lifted  $g$

② "Semi-monotone" KRW

## II. ALGEBRAIC CIRCUIT LOWER BOUNDS

- LOWER BOUNDS VIA CC/LIFTING?
- [Hrubeš]: monotone algebraic circuit LBs for  $\epsilon$ -approx poly  $\Rightarrow$  nonmonotone LBs  
Prove:  $F_n + \epsilon H_n$  hard for monotone circuits  $\epsilon < 2^{-n}$   
     $\swarrow$  easy poly

Theorem [Chattopadhyay, Datta, Mukhopadhyay '21]

Lower bounds for  $\epsilon$ -approximate monotone for  $\epsilon \geq 2^{-\delta n}$

$\Rightarrow$  Hard polynomials are lifted (SINK XOR)

$\Rightarrow$  Proof is a reduction to discrepancy/corruption

### III. LOGRANK CONJECTURE

$$\forall f \quad CC(f) \stackrel{?}{=} \text{poly}(\log \text{rank}(M_f))$$

[Lovász, Saks '88]

UPPER BOUND:  $CC(f) = \tilde{O}(\sqrt{\text{rank}(M_f)})$

[Lovett '16]

LOWER BOUND:  $CC(f) = \Omega(\log^2 \text{rank}(M_f))$

[Göös, P, Watson '17]

### III. LOGRANK CONJECTURE

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UPPER BOUND:  $\text{CC}(f) = \tilde{O}(\sqrt{\text{rank}(M_f)})$  [Lovett '16]

LOWER BOUND:  $\text{CC}(f) = \Omega(\log^2 \text{rank}(M_f))$  [Göös, P, Watson '17]

LOGRANK CONJECTURE FOR LIFTED FUNCTIONS?

Theorem [Knop, Lovett, McGuire, Yuen '21]

$$\forall f \quad \Lambda\text{-DT}(f) = \text{poly}(\log \text{rank}(M_{f \circ \wedge^n})) \cdot \log n$$

$$\therefore \text{CC}(f \circ \wedge^n) = \text{poly}(\log \text{rank}(M_{f \circ \wedge^n})) \cdot \log n$$

## IV. SUPERCRITICAL SIZE-DEPTH TRADEOFFS

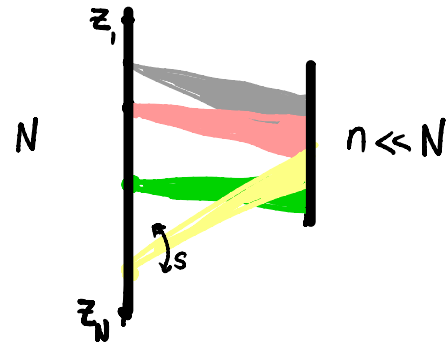
Theorem [Fleming, Razborov '21] Let  $P$  = Resolution or Cutting Planes

There exist UNSAT FORMULAS  $F_n$  over  $n$  variables  
that have size  $2^n$ , depth  $n$   $P$ -refutations

but any  $P$ -refutation of size  $< 2^{n^s}$  requires depth  $\Omega(2^{n^s})$

Proof Uses Composition to shrink the number  
of variables while preserving depth/size [Razborov]

$$f_N \text{ over } N \text{ vars} \rightsquigarrow F_n = f_N \circ \oplus^s$$



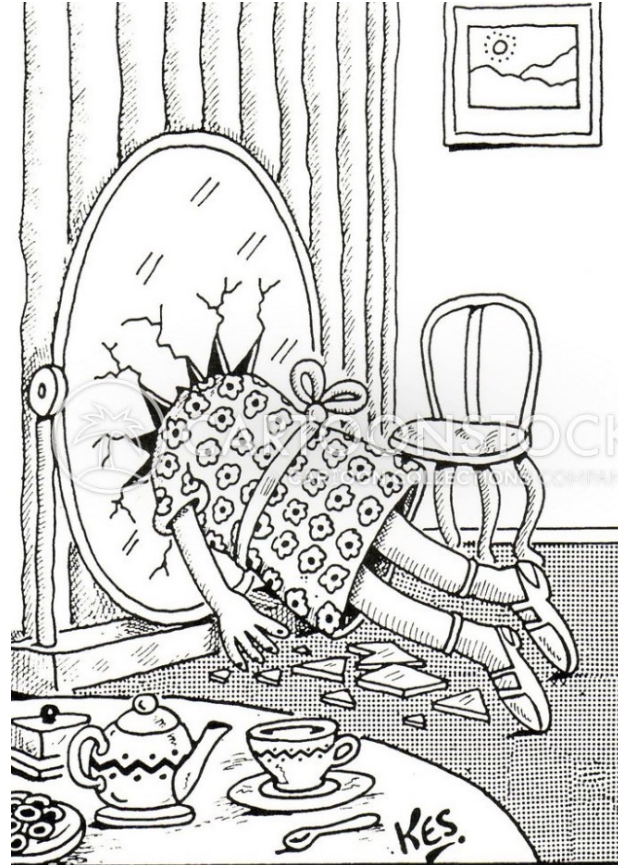


## More Open Questions

- Lifting with constant gadget size?
- Dag-Lifting: randomized  
other gadgets (inner product)
- Supercritical tradeoffs for monotone circuits?
- $AC^0$  Lower Bounds via Lifting
- Other models: pseudodeterministic  
NOF  
Information Complexity
- Other Applications: Algebraic circuits  
Data Structure Lower Bounds  
Combinatorics ...



Thanks !



## LIFTING THEOREMS

Class	Query	Communication	References
P	deterministic DT	deterministic	RM'99 GPW'18
NP	nondet DT	nondet	GLMTZ'16
BPP	randomized DT	randomized	GPW'17 CFKMP'21
	polynomial degree	rank	S'11 SZ'09
PLS	Resolution	dag-like cc	ggKS'18, LMMPZ'21
PPA	Nullstellensatz	Algebraic Tiling	PR'17 PR'18
	Sherali-Adams SA	LP Extension Compl.	CLRS'16
	Sum-of Squares sos	SDP Extension Compl.	LRS'15