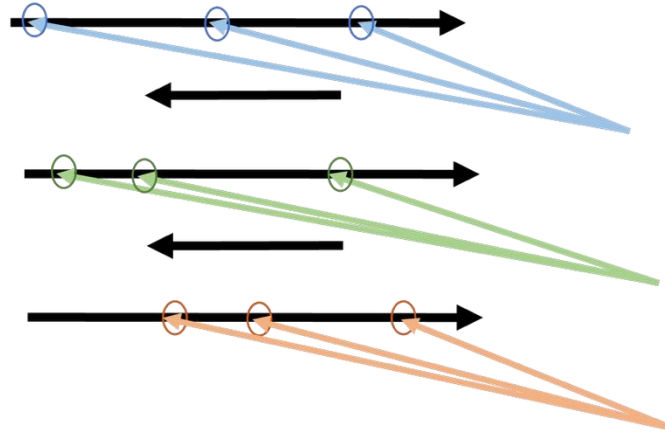


Linear Prover IOPs in Log Star Rounds

Noor Athamnah
Harvard University



Prover



Verifier

Joint work with

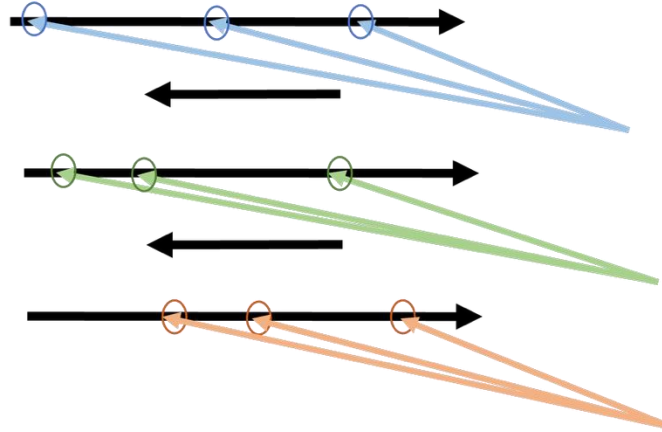
Noga Ron-Zewi
Haifa University

Ron Rothblum
Succinct

Interactive Oracle Proofs (IOP) [BCS16,RRR16]



Prover



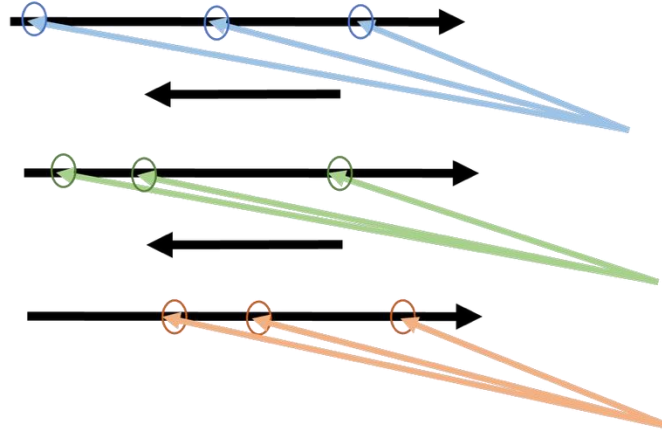
Verifier

Prover
Efficiency

Interactive Oracle Proofs (IOP) [BCS16,RRR16]

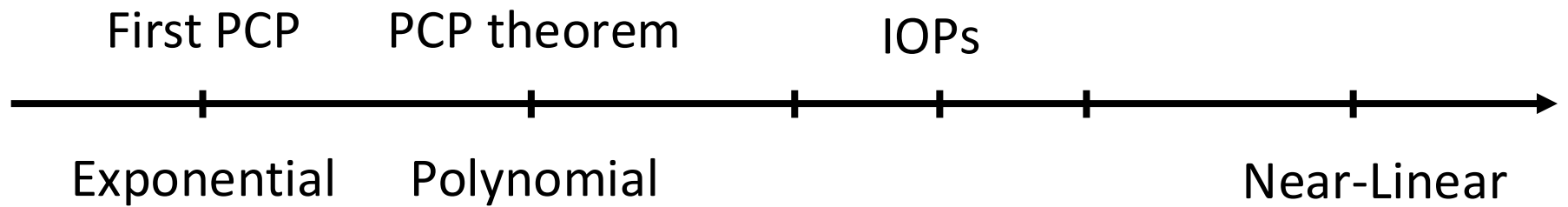


Prover



Verifier

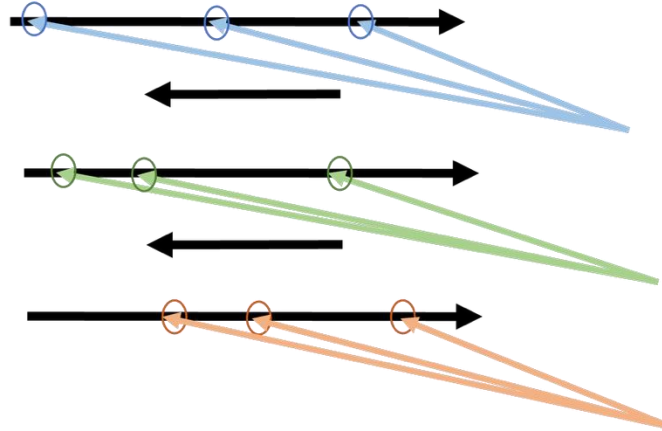
Prover
Complexity



Interactive Oracle Proofs (IOP) [BCS16,RRR16]



Prover



Verifier

Prover efficiency:

Prover Overhead

Minimizing number of rounds

Talk Overview

Computational Model & Efficiency Measures



A Sumcheck Based Protocol

Quasi-Linear Prover

Logarithmic Number of Rounds

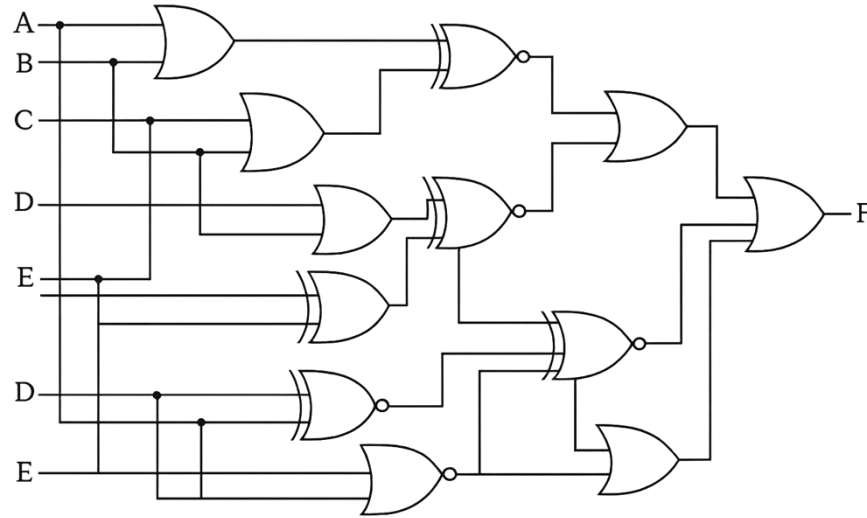
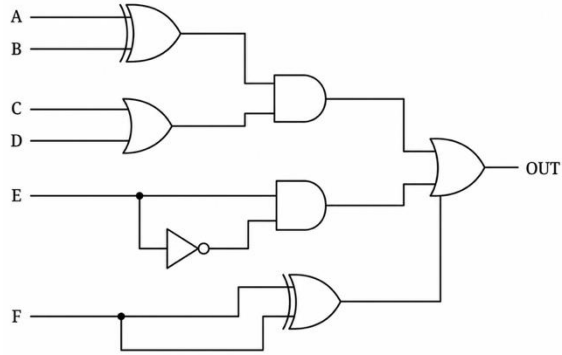


Reducing to a Linear Size Prover



Reducing the Number of Rounds

Computation Model



Original Computation
a **Boolean** circuit of size S

Prover
a **Boolean** circuit of size $f(S)$?

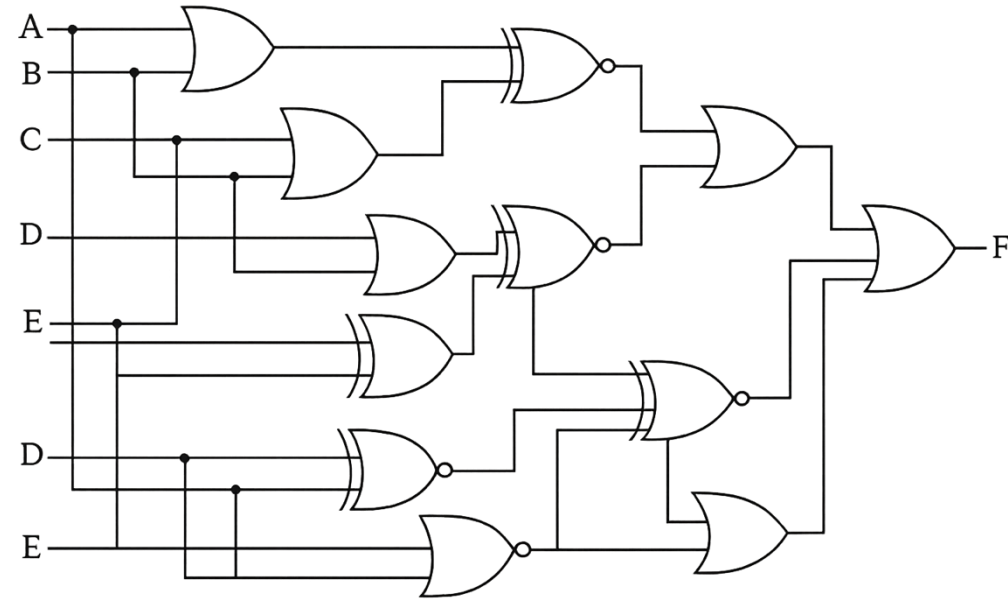
Arithmetic circuit
(Big field)



Boolean circuit

Computation Model

- A Boolean circuit of size S .
- Prover - a Boolean circuit of size $f(S)$.



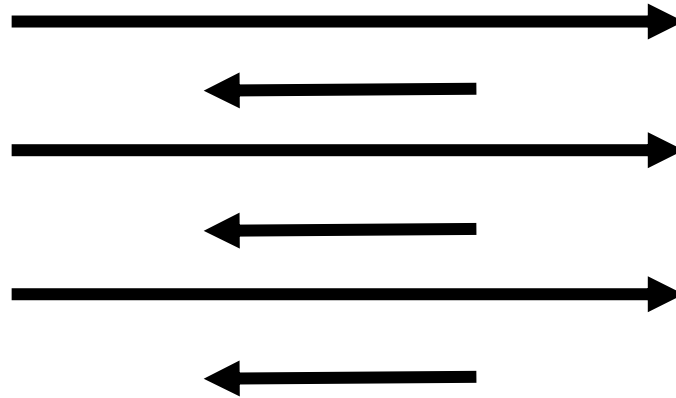
Today: The prover is linear in the size of the computation. [RR22]

Number of Rounds



Prover

$x \stackrel{?}{\in} L$



Verifier



Parallel Computation

Interactive Oracle Proofs: Number of rounds vs. Proving overhead

 S – size of Boolean circuit
for computation

Number of Rounds	Prover Size	
Single Round (PCP)	Super-Linear	[BFLS91,AS92, ALMSS92,...]
Constant Number of Rounds	Super-Linear	[AHIV17,BCG+17, GLS+23,BFK+24]
$O(\log^*(S))$	Linear	New
$O(\log(S))$	Linear	[RR22, HR22]

Main Result

Theorem: For every “nice” Boolean circuit of size S , there exists an IOP:

- Prover is an $O(S)$ size Boolean circuit.
- Verifier runs in $\text{polylog}(S)$ time.
- $O(\log^*(S))$ rounds.
- $O(\log^*(S))$ query complexity.
- Constant soundness error:
 - Can obtain $2^{-\lambda}$ soundness error with only $\text{polylog}(\lambda)$ overhead via [\[HR22\]](#).



Arbitrary circuits: linear
verifier preprocessing



$2\log^*(S) + O(1)$

$\log^*(n)$

$$\log(\log(\log(\dots \log(n) \dots))) \leq 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log^*(4) &= \\ \log^*(8) &= \log^*(16) = \\ \log^*(2^{65535}) &= \end{aligned}$$

Number of atoms in the universe $\leq 10^{82} \leq 2^{273}$



Key Ingredient

IOP for Inner product

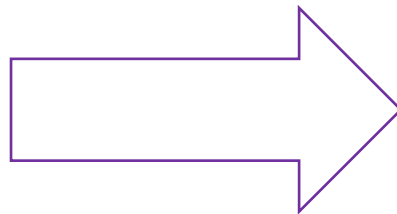
Given $x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$,

Prove $\langle x, y \rangle := \sum_i x_i \cdot y_i = v$.

V runs in sublinear time.

V has oracle access to encodings of x, y .

IOP for R1CS



IOP for “nice” NP

Proof Outline



The Sumcheck Protocol [LFKN92]

Sumcheck:

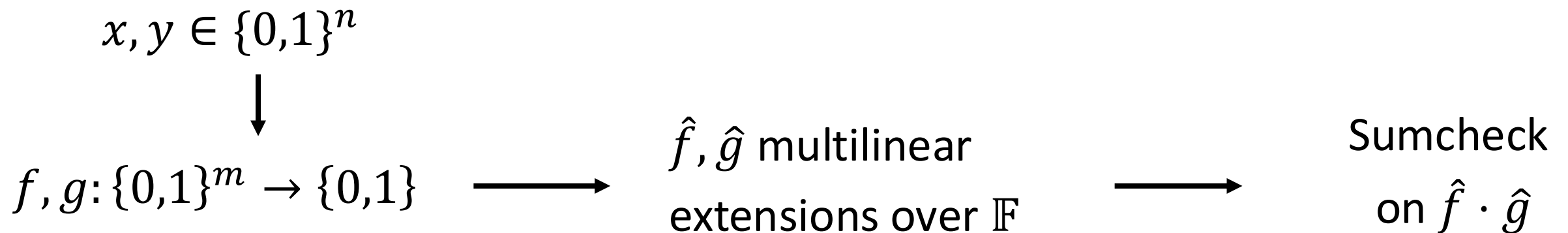
$Q(z_1, \dots, z_m)$ – a low-degree polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

Prove: $\sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} Q(z_1, \dots, z_m) = v$.

V has oracle access to Q .

At the end, V queries one point of Q .

Inner Product Check:



The Sumcheck Protocol [LFKN92]

Sumcheck:

$Q(z_1, \dots, z_m)$ – a low degree polynomial over \mathbb{F}

Prove: $\sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} Q(z_1, \dots, z_m)$

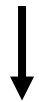
V has oracle access to Q

At the end, V queries Q

Inner Product Check

Problem Solved?

$$x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$$



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



\hat{f}, \hat{g} multilinear
extensions over \mathbb{F}



Sumcheck
on $\hat{f} \cdot \hat{g}$

The Sumcheck Protocol [LFKN92]

Sumcheck:

$Q(z_1, \dots, z_m)$ – a low-degree polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

Prove: $\sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} Q(z_1, \dots, z_m) = v$.

V has oracle access to Q .

At the end, V queries one point of Q .

Inner Product Check:

$$x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$$

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

\hat{f}, \hat{g} multilinear
extensions over \mathbb{F}

Sumcheck
on $\hat{f} \cdot \hat{g}$

1. Prover complexity of sumcheck.

2. Cannot provide oracle access to a polynomial.

3. Logarithmic number of rounds.

1. Prover complexity of sumcheck.
2. Prover cannot provide oracle access to a polynomial.
3. Logarithmic number of rounds.

Sumcheck Protocol

- ☆ Prover Complexity
- ☆ Soundness

$$Q(z_1, \dots, z_m) = \hat{f}(z_1, \dots, z_m) \cdot \hat{g}(z_1, \dots, z_m) \text{ over } \mathbb{F}.$$

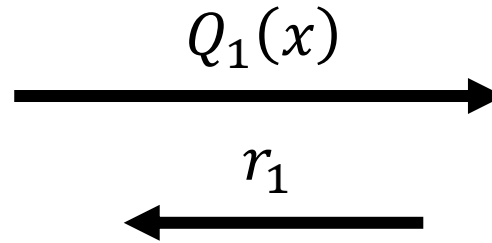
Want to prove: $\sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} Q(z_1, \dots, z_m) = v.$

Compute $Q_1: \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$:

$$Q_1(x) = \sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} \hat{f}(x, z_2, \dots, z_m) \cdot \hat{g}(x, z_2, \dots, z_m)$$



Prover



Verifier

Sumcheck Protocol

$$Q(z_1, \dots, z_m) = \hat{f}(z_1, \dots, z_m) \cdot \hat{g}(z_1, \dots, z_m) \text{ over } \mathbb{F}.$$

Want to prove: $\sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} Q(z_1, \dots, z_m) = v.$



Prover

$Q_1(x)$

r_1

$Q_2(x)$

r_2

$Q_m(x)$

r_m



Verifier

Query

$$Q_m(r_m) = Q(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_m) = \hat{f}(r_1, \dots, r_m) \cdot \hat{g}(r_1, \dots, r_m)$$

Sumcheck Analysis

Prover complexity:

At round t : compute $Q_t: \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$:

$$Q_t(x) = \sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} \hat{f}(r_1, \dots, r_{t-1}, x, z_{t+1}, \dots, z_m) \cdot \hat{g}(r_1, \dots, r_{t-1}, x, z_{t+1}, \dots, z_m).$$

At round t : 2^{m-t} field operations

$\sum_{i=1}^m 2^{m-t}$ field operations

★ Linear 😊

Sumcheck Analysis

Prover complexity:

At round t : compute $Q_t: \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$:

$$Q_t(x) = \sum_{z_i \in \{0,1\}} \hat{f}(r_1, \dots, r_{t-1}, x, z_{t+1}, \dots, z_m) \cdot \hat{g}(r_1, \dots, r_{t-1}, x, z_{t+1}, \dots, z_m).$$

At round t : 2^{m-t} field operations
 $= 2^{m-t} \cdot \text{polylog}(|\mathbb{F}|)$

$$2^m \cdot \sum_{i=1}^m 2^{-t} \text{polylog}(|\mathbb{F}|)$$

Sumcheck Analysis

Soundness:

$\frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ every round.

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|} = m \cdot \frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|}$$

Sumcheck Analysis

Prover complexity vs. soundness:

Prover Complexity

$$2^m \sum_{i=1}^m 2^{-t} \cdot \text{polylog}(|\mathbb{F}_t|)$$

Soundness

$$\sum_{i=1}^m d / |\mathbb{F}_t|$$

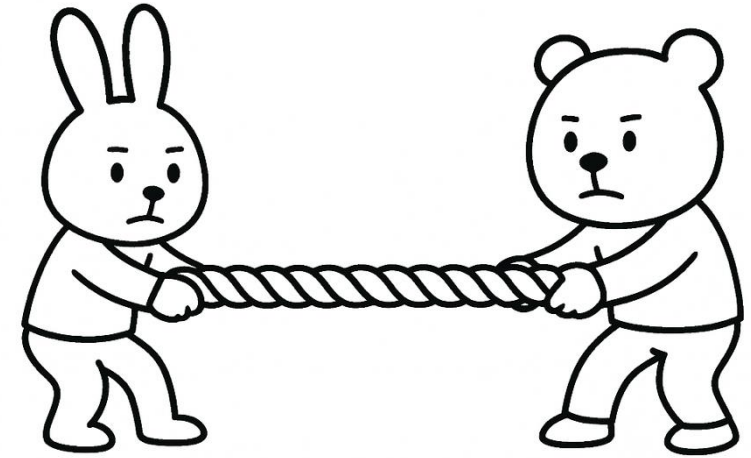
$$|\mathbb{F}_t| \approx t^2$$

$$|\mathbb{F}_t| \approx 2^t$$

$$|\mathbb{F}_t| \approx 2^{2^t}$$

Soundness

Linear Prover



$|\mathbb{F}_i|$

$|\mathbb{F}_i|$

super-constant

constant

$$\mathbb{F}_1 \subset \mathbb{F}_2 \subset \mathbb{F}_3 \subset \mathbb{F}_4 \subset \mathbb{F}_5$$



1. Prover complexity of sumcheck.
2. Prover cannot provide oracle access to a polynomial.
3. Logarithmic number of rounds.

Error-Correcting Codes 101

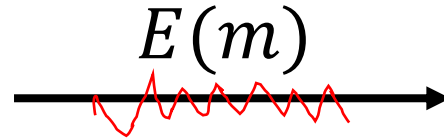


message

m



Error-Correcting Codes 101



A code is a function $E: \Sigma^k \rightarrow \Sigma^n$

If $m \neq m'$, then $E(m)$ is far from $E(m')$

$$\text{Dist}(E) = \min_{x, y \in C, x \neq y} \frac{|\{i \mid x_i \neq y_i\}|}{n}$$

$$\text{Rate}(E) = \frac{k}{n}$$

Encoding complexity

Example:

Multilinear Extensions

Error-Correcting Codes 101

Proof Setting



m = correct computation

m' = wrong computation



A code is a function $E: \Sigma^k \rightarrow \Sigma^n$

If $m \neq m'$, then $E(m)$ is far from $E(m')$

$$\text{Dist}(E) = \min_{x, y \in C, x \neq y} \frac{|\{i \mid x_i \neq y_i\}|}{n}$$

soundness

$$\text{Rate}(E) = \frac{k}{n}$$

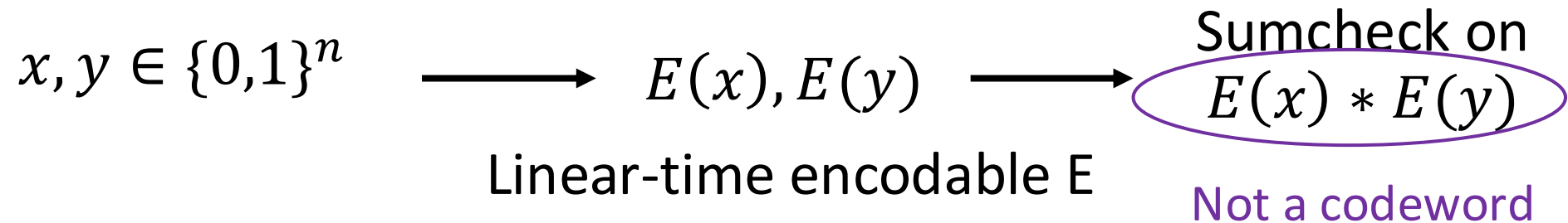
proof length

Encoding complexity

prover complexity

Linear-Time Encodable Codes

- We can do sumcheck on any (tensor) linear code:
 - P sends $E(x)$.
 - P and V run a sumcheck like protocol to prove the sum of x .
 - At the end V queries one point in $E(x)$.



- At the end, V queries $E(x), E(y)$ in a single point
- **Problem:** No linear-time encodable code is multiplicative.

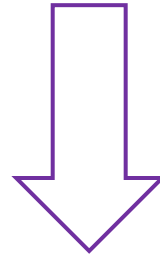
Proof Outline

Claim on the inner product of $\langle x, y \rangle$

$O(\log(n))$

$O(\log^*(n))$ rounds

Sumcheck



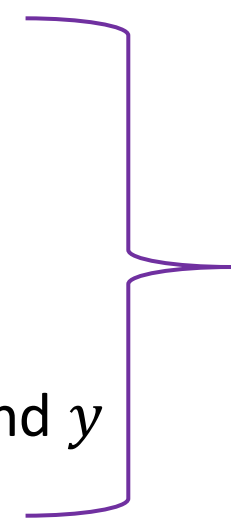
Claim on a single point in the MLE of x and y separately

$O(1)$ rounds

Code-switching
(Generalized
sumcheck)

Claim on the encodings (under linear-time code) of x and y

Polynomial
commitment
scheme



Inner Product IOP

Theorem: Let $x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$, such that P has access to (x, y) , and V has oracle access to $E(x), E(y)$ for a linear-time encodable code E .

Then there is an IOP for proving $\langle x, y \rangle = v$, such that:

- Prover is $O(n)$ size Boolean circuit.
- $O(\log^*(n))$ rounds.
- $O(\log^*(n))$ query complexity.

Warmup 1: Inner Product IOP with $O(\log(n))$ rounds

Theorem: Let $x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$, such that P has access to (x, y) , and V has oracle access to $E(x), E(y)$ for a linear-time encodable code E .

Then there is an IOP for proving $\langle x, y \rangle = v$, such that:

- Prover is $O(n)$ size Boolean circuit.
- $O(\log(n))$ rounds.
- $O(\log(n))$ query complexity.

★ Result of [RR22]

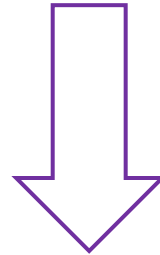
★ Simpler protocol

Proof Outline

Claim on the inner product of $\langle x, y \rangle$

$O(\log(n))$

$O(\log^*(n))$ rounds

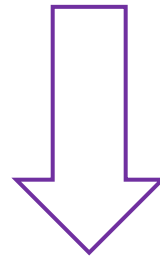


Sumcheck



Claim on a single point in the MLE of x and y separately

$O(1)$ rounds



Code-switching
(Generalized
sumcheck)

Claim on the encodings (under linear-time code) of x and y

Code-switching

Lemma: Let $f: \{0,1\}^m \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, such that P has access to f , and V has oracle access to $E(f)$.

Then there is an IOP for proving $\hat{f}(r) = v$, for a “nice” point r , such that:

- Prover is $O(2^m)$ size Boolean circuit.
- $O(1)$ rounds.
- $O(1)$ query complexity.



Computing a single point in the MLE

Extend the polynomial one variable at a time.

Reuse work done in previous rounds.

Make use of “nice” points.

Proving - similar to computing.



1. Prover complexity of sumcheck.
2. Prover cannot provide oracle access to a polynomial.
3. **Logarithmic number of rounds.**

Reducing to \log^* rounds

$$x \in \{0,1\}^n$$



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

$$m = \log(n)$$

Reducing to \log^* rounds

$$x \in \{0,1\}^n \longrightarrow f: H_1 \times H_2 \times \cdots \times H_\ell \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$$\ell \text{ constant} \longrightarrow H_i = n^{\left(\frac{1}{\ell}\right)}$$

Can no longer have
multilinear extension



Can have low-degree
extension

~~Prover of size $n \cdot n^{\left(\frac{1}{\ell}\right)}$~~

FFT



Prover of size $n \cdot \text{polylog}(n)$

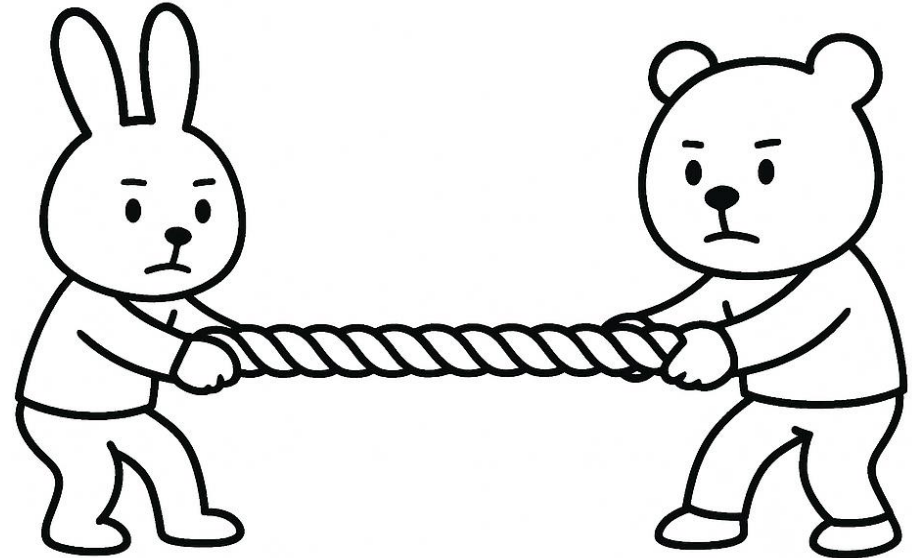
Reducing to \log^* rounds

$$f: H_1 \times H_2 \times \dots \times H_\ell \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$$|H_i| \approx 2^{|H_{i-1}|}$$

Fewer Rounds

Linear Prover



$|H_i|$

super-constant

$|H_i|$

constant

Summary & Open Questions

Main Result:

IOP for “regular” Boolean circuits of size S with:

- Prover of size $O(S)$.
- $O(\log^*(S))$ rounds.

Open Questions:

Can we get the same result for **all** circuits?

Constant-round IOPs with a linear prover.

Even for arithmetic circuits over large fields?