

# How Limited Interaction Hinders Real Communication

(and What It Means for Proof and Circuit Complexity)

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Workshop on Algorithms in Communication Complexity,  
Property Testing and Combinatorics  
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*Joint work with Susanna F. de Rezende and Marc Vinyals*

## The Satisfiability Problem (SAT)

Given a formula  $F$  in conjunctive normal form (CNF), can the variables be assigned so as to satisfy all constraints?

- Has played leading role in TCS ever since discovery of NP-completeness in [Coo71, Lev73]
- Conventional wisdom: this is a **very** hard problem indeed (Exponential Time Hypothesis [IP01] standard assumption)
- Yet essentially no nontrivial time complexity lower bounds
- More limited goal of time-space trade-offs also not very successful: E.g. SAT cannot be decided in time  $n^{1.8}$  and space  $n^{o(1)}$  [Wil08]
- Not only a sign of our weakness — there is a formidable adversary...

## ... and in Practice

- Enormous progress on applied SAT algorithms last 15-20 years
- Current state-of-the-art SAT solvers can deal with real-world instances containing millions of variables
- Use methods such as
  - ▶ conflict-driven clause learning (CDCL)
  - ▶ Gaussian elimination
  - ▶ pseudo-Boolean reasoning

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- Requires lower-bounding optimal, nondeterministic algorithms — yet here we **can** prove strong (and sometimes tight!) trade-offs between size/time and space for resolution and polynomial calculus
- **This work:** First such strong trade-offs capturing also cutting planes

# Informal Statement of Results

## Theorem (Main)

*First time-space trade-offs holding uniformly for resolution, polynomial calculus, and cutting planes for formulas such that:*

- $\exists$  proofs in *small size*
- $\exists$  proofs in *small total space*
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But we need **communication complexity** to attack cutting planes

# Outline

## 1 Proof Complexity

- Preliminaries
- Previous Work
- Our Results

## 2 Tools and Techniques

- Communication Complexity
- Pebbling Formulas
- Lifting/Composition of Search Problems
- Dymond–Tompa Game

## 3 Open Problems

# Some Terminology and Notation

- **Literal**  $a$ : variable  $x$  or its negation  $\bar{x}$
- **Clause**  $C = a_1 \vee \dots \vee a_k$ : disjunction of literals  
(Consider as sets, so no repetitions and order irrelevant)
- **CNF formula**  $F = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$ : conjunction of clauses
- **$k$ -CNF formula**: all clauses of size  $\leq k = \mathcal{O}(1)$
- Goal: **Refute** given CNF formula (i.e., prove it is unsatisfiable)

# The Theoretical Model

- Proof system operates with formulas of some syntactic form
- Proof/refutation is “presented on blackboard”
- Derivation steps:
  - ▶ Write down axiom clauses of CNF formula being refuted (as encoded by proof system)
  - ▶ Infer new lines by deductive rules of proof system
  - ▶ Erase lines not currently needed (to save space on blackboard)
- Refutation ends when (explicit) contradiction is derived

# Cutting Planes (CP)

Clauses interpreted as linear inequalities

E.g.,  $x \vee y \vee \bar{z} \rightsquigarrow x + y + (1 - z) \geq 1 \rightsquigarrow x + y - z \geq 0$

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$$\text{Variable axioms} \quad \frac{}{0 \leq x \leq 1}$$

$$\text{Multiplication} \quad \frac{\sum a_i x_i \geq A}{\sum c a_i x_i \geq cA}$$

$$\text{Addition} \quad \frac{\sum a_i x_i \geq A \quad \sum b_i x_i \geq B}{\sum (a_i + b_i) x_i \geq A + B}$$

$$\text{Division} \quad \frac{\sum c a_i x_i \geq A}{\sum a_i x_i \geq \lceil A/c \rceil}$$

**Goal:** Derive  $0 \geq 1 \Leftrightarrow$  formula/system of inequalities unsatisfiable

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} \vee x_{1,2}$
2.  $x_{2,1} \vee x_{2,2}$
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## Pigeonhole principle (PHP)

" $n + 1$  pigeons don't fit into  $n$  holes"

Variables  $x_{i,j} =$  "pigeon  $i$  goes into hole  $j$ "

$x_{i,1} \vee x_{i,2} \vee \dots \vee x_{i,n}$  every pigeon  $i$  gets a hole

$\bar{x}_{i,j} \vee \bar{x}_{i',j}$  no hole  $j$  gets two pigeons  $i \neq i'$

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Write down axiom 4:  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} \geq -1$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
 & -x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1 \\
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# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
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8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Add to get  $-2x_{1,1} - 2x_{2,1} - 2x_{3,1} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,1} - 2x_{2,1} - 2x_{3,1} \geq -3$

Write down axiom 7:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 8:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

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Write down axiom 7:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 8:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

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Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

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Erase the line  $-2x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -2$

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 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
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Divide to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
 & -2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2 \\
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 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
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 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
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Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

$$-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$$

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Write down axiom 7:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

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Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

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$$\begin{aligned}
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## History of derivation steps

Write down axiom 8:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

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Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1 \\
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8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Write down axiom 8:  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

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Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

**Erase** the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

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## History of derivation steps

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

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Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

$$-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
2.  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$
3.  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$
4.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} \geq -1$
5.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

$$-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
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6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

$$-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$$

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# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

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5.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

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4.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} \geq -1$
5.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
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3.  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$
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5.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
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## History of derivation steps

Write down axiom 9:  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2 \\
 x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1
 \end{array}$$



# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
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6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Add to get  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$$

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# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

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8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$$

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# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

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8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$$

$$x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$$

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# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
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9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

Erase the line  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$$

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9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

Erase the line  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$$

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8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

Erase the line  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
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4.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} \geq -1$
5.  $-x_{1,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
6.  $-x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$
7.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} \geq -1$
8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Divide to get  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

Write down axiom 1:  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 2:  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

Erase the line  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2 \\
 & x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: CP Refutation of Pigeonhole Principle

1.  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$
2.  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$
3.  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$
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8.  $-x_{1,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$
9.  $-x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-2x_{1,2} - 2x_{2,2} - 2x_{3,2} \geq -3$

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

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Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

Erase the line  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 3:  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

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## History of derivation steps

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

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Write down axiom 3:  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 3$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

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## History of derivation steps

Add to get  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

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Erase the line  $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 3:  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 3$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

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Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} \geq 1$

Write down axiom 3:  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 3$

Erase the line  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$$

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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -1$

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Erase the line  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

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Erase the line  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

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## History of derivation steps

Erase the line  $-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} \geq -1$

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Add to get  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 3$

Erase the line  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2 \\
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Erase the line  $x_{3,1} + x_{3,2} \geq 1$

Erase the line  $x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} \geq 2$

Add to get  $0 \geq 1$

$$-x_{1,1} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{2,2} - x_{3,2} \geq -2$$

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Add to get  $0 \geq 1$

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$$0 \geq 1$$



# Complexity Measures for Cutting Planes

**Length** = total # lines/inequalities in refutation

**Size** = sum also size of coefficients

**Line space** = max # lines in memory during refutation

**Total space** = max # bits in memory (sum also size of coefficients)

# Hardness Results for Cutting Planes

## Clique-coclique formulas

“A graph with an  $m$ -clique is not  $(m-1)$ -colourable”

Exponential lower bound via interpolation and circuit complexity [Pud97]

Technique very specifically tied to structure of formula

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## Tseitin formulas

“Sum of degrees of vertices in graph is even”

Short refutations of (lifted) Tseitin formulas on expanders must have large space [GP14]

Long-standing open problems to show such refutations don't exist

# Size-Space Trade-offs for Cutting Planes?

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- Plug into [HN12, GP14]  $\Rightarrow$  trade-off of sorts
- But “constant-space” proofs with exponential-size coefficients somehow doesn't feel quite right. . .

## What about “true” trade-offs?

Are there **trade-offs** where the space-efficient CP refutations have **small coefficients**? (Say, of polynomial or even constant size)



# Our Main Result

## Theorem (Informal sample)

*There are families of 6-CNF formulas  $\{F_N\}_{N=1}^{\infty}$  of size  $\Theta(N)$  such that:*

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- 2  $F_N$  can be refuted by cutting planes with constant-size coefficients in total space  $\mathcal{O}(N^{1/40})$  and size  $2^{\mathcal{O}(N^{1/40})}$ .
- 3 Any cutting planes refutation even with coefficients of unbounded size in line space less than  $N^{1/20-\epsilon}$  requires length  $2^{\Omega(N^{1/40})}$ .

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Remarks:

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## Theorem (Informal sample)

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- ⑤ Construct graphs  $G$  with strong round-cost trade-offs for Dymond–Tomba pebbling

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- Strictly stronger than standard deterministic communication

# Falsified Clause Search Problem

- Fix:
- unsatisfiable CNF formula  $F$
  - (devious) partition of  $Vars(F)$  between Alice and Bob

## Falsified clause search problem $Search(F)$

**Input:** Assignment  $\alpha$  to  $Vars(F)$  split between Alice and Bob

**Output:** Clause  $C \in F$  such that  $\alpha$  falsifies  $C$

Actually, computing not function but **relation** — will mostly ignore this for simplicity

# Succinct Refutations Yield Efficient Protocols

Evaluate blackboard configurations of a refutation of  $F$  under  $\alpha$



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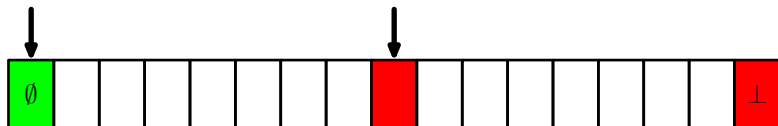
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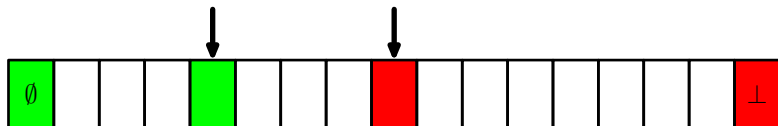
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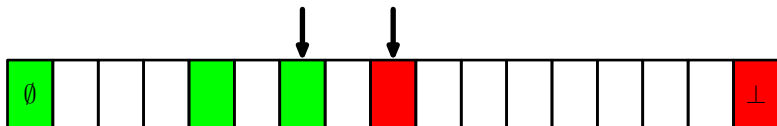


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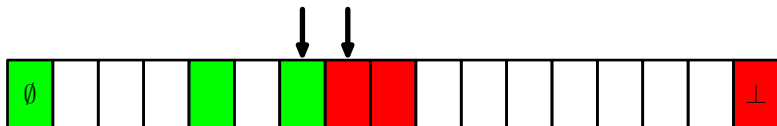
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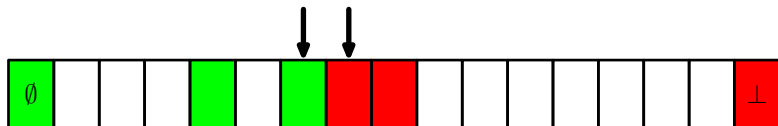
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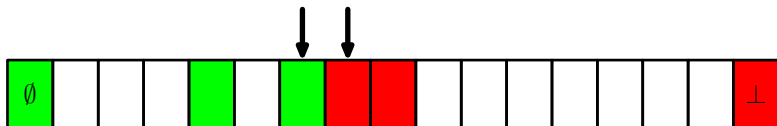


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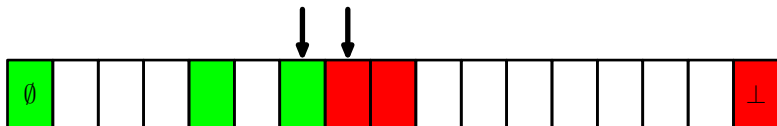
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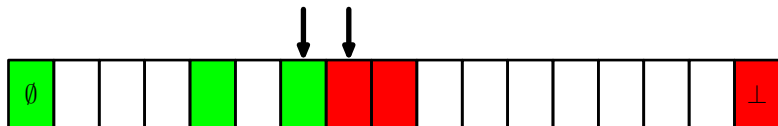
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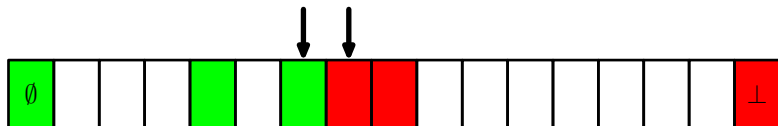
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(Alice and Bob simply evaluate their parts of each inequality and ask referee to compare)

# Where to Get Formulas with Trade-off Properties?

Questions about time-space trade-offs fundamental in theoretical computer science

Well-studied (and well-understood) for **pebble games** modelling calculations described by DAGs

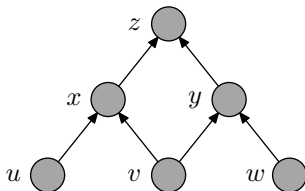
In particular, for **black-white pebble game** investigated by [CS76] and many others



# Pebbling Contradiction

CNF formulas encoding black-white pebble game played on DAG  $G$

1.  $u$
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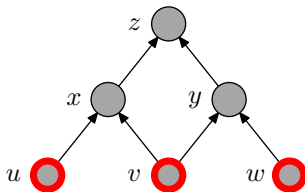


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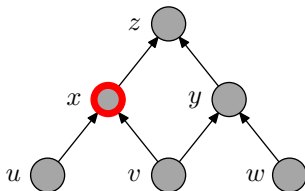


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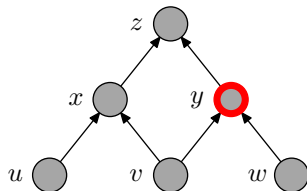


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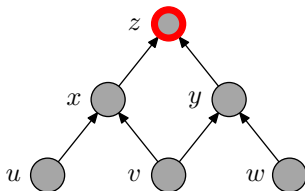


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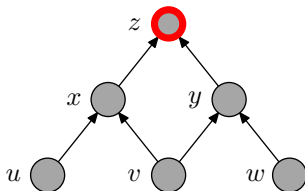


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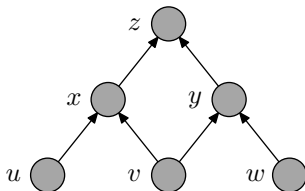


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Appeared in various contexts in e.g. [RM99, BEGJ00, BW01]

Used in [Nor06, NH08, BN08, BN11, BNT13] to study space and size-space trade-offs in resolution and polynomial calculus

Inherit some DAG properties, but not enough — make formulas harder!

# Lifting of Functions

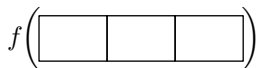
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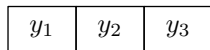
Start with function  $f : \{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$



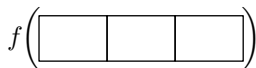
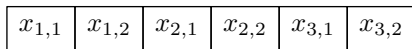
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Construct new function on inputs  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{\ell m}$  and  $y \in [\ell]^m$



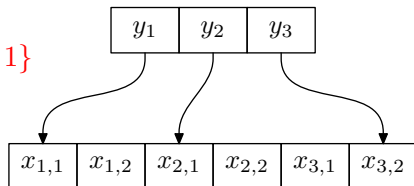
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$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$

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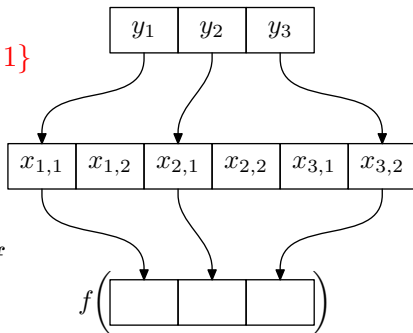
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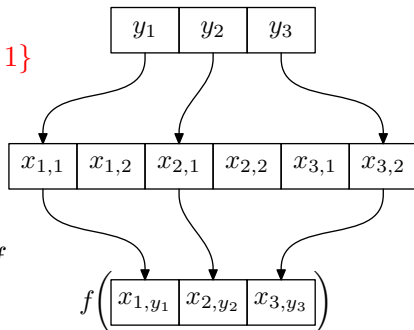
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$$\mathit{Lift}_\ell(f)(x, y) := f(x_{1,y_1}, \dots, x_{m,y_m})$$



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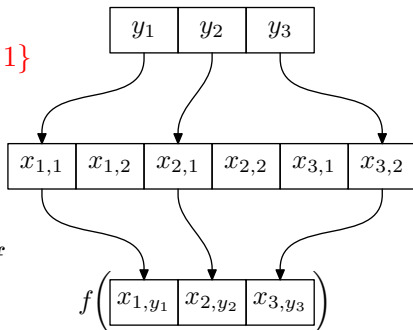
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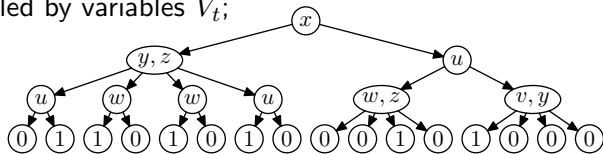
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Building on ideas from e.g. [She08, BHP10]



## Simulation of Protocols by Parallel Decision Trees [Val75]

Each node  $t$  in tree labelled by variables  $V_t$ ;  
has  $2^{|V_t|}$  outgoing edges

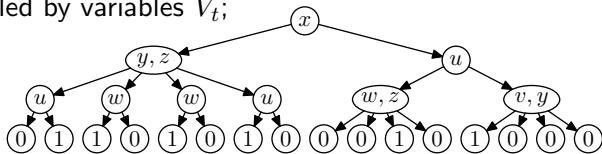


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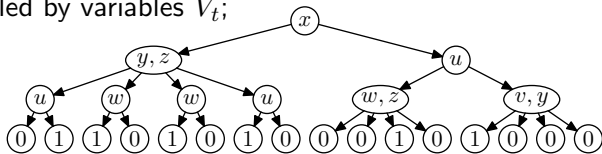


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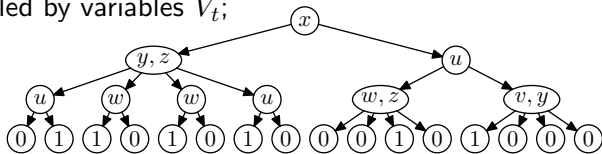
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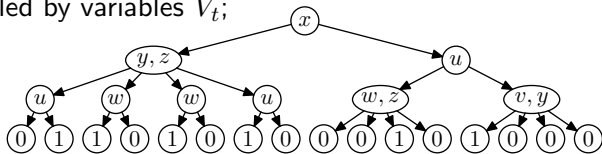
- solves search problem**  $S \subseteq \{0, 1\}^m \times Q$  if  $\forall \alpha \in \{0, 1\}^m$  path defined by  $\alpha$  ends in leaf with  $q$  s.t.  $(\alpha, q) \in S$



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Parallel decision tree:

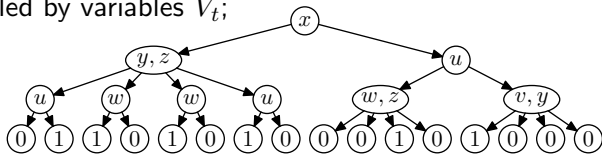


- uses **# queries** =  $\max \sum |V_t|$  along any path
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# Simulation of Protocols by Parallel Decision Trees [Val75]

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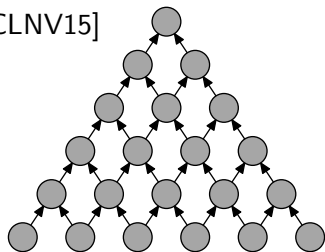
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## Simulation theorem of protocol by decision tree (hard direction)

Let  $S$  search problem with domain  $\{0, 1\}^m$  and let  $\ell = m^{3+\epsilon}$ ,  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then:  
 $\exists$   $r$ -round real communication protocol in cost  $c$  solving  $Lift_\ell(S)$   
 $\Rightarrow \exists$  depth- $r$  parallel decision tree solving  $S$  with  $\mathcal{O}(c/\log \ell)$  queries.

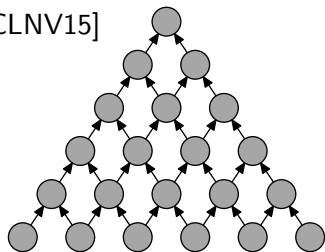
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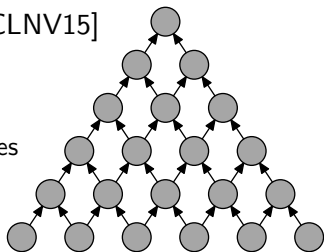
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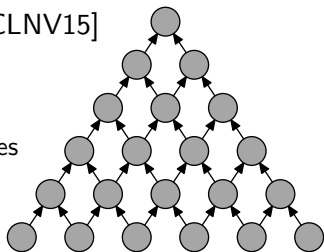
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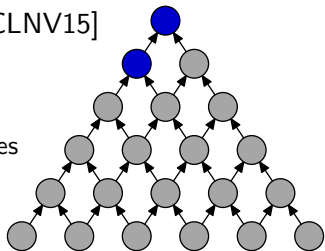
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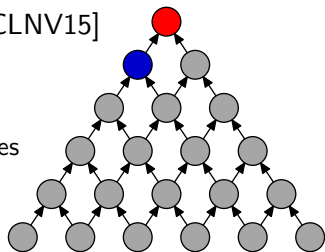
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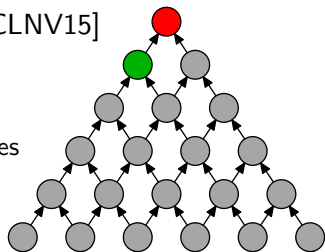
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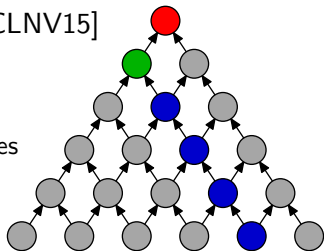
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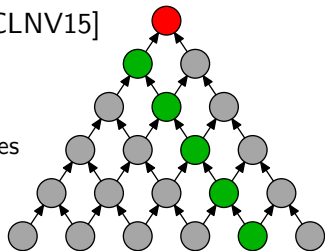
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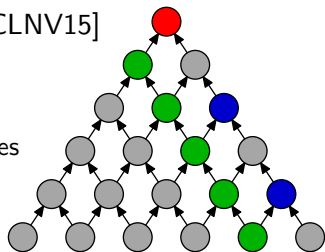
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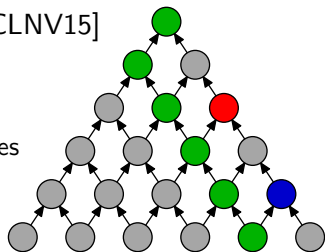
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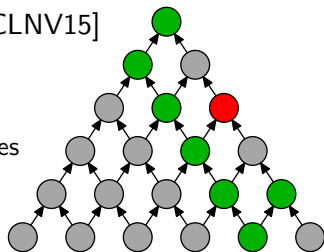
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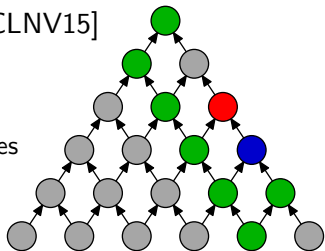
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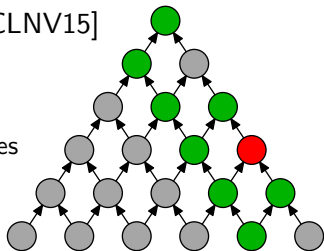
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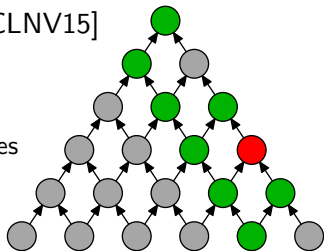
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## Lemma

$\exists$  depth- $r$  parallel decision tree for  $\text{Search}(Peb_G)$  with  $\leq c$  queries  
 $\Rightarrow$  Pebbler wins  $r$ -round Dymond–Tomba game on  $G$  in cost  $\leq c + 1$ .

# Clinching the Argument

Prove round-cost trade-offs for Dymond–Tomba games on graphs  $G$   
(hacking graph constructions from [CS82, LT82, Nor12])

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Prove round-cost trade-offs for Dymond–Tompkins games on graphs  $G$   
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Depth-query trade-offs for parallel decision trees for  $\text{Search}(Peb_G)$

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Depth-query trade-offs for parallel decision trees for  $Search(Peb_G)$



Real communication round-cost trade-offs for  $Lift(Search(Peb_G))$

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Cutting planes length-space trade-off for  $Lift(Peb_G)$



# Some Remaining Open Questions

## Communication complexity

- Smaller length of lift?
- Simulation theorems for stronger communication models (randomized, multi-party)?

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## Proof complexity

- Better Dymond–Tompá trade-offs?
- Reduction to black-white pebbling instead of Dymond–Tompá?
- Size-space trade-offs for Tseitin formulas à la [BBI12, BNT13]?
- Line space lower bounds for CP with bounded coefficients (strengthening [GPT15])

# Take-Home Message

## Summary of results

- Modern SAT solvers **enormously successful in practice** — key issue is to **minimize time and memory consumption**
- Modelled by **proof size and space** in proof complexity
- We show **uniform trade-offs** indicating that **simultaneous optimization impossible** for (essentially all) state-of-the-art techniques

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Thank you for your attention!

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