

Lecture 19 : Interactive Proofs - introduction and examples

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THEME: Interactive Proof Systems

LECTURE PLAN: In this lecture we will be introducing the idea of Interactive proofs (IP). We will start with the weak version of IP (called PS) and then allow for some errors to get IP and finally we will show the Interactive proof system for GNI.

Interactive Proofs

Interactive Proofs can be thought of as a technique that models computation using communication between two parties, one called Prover P which has the unlimited computational power and tries to convince the verifier V which is a polynomial time Machine, which is modeled as PS complexity class. Later we will insert randomness and allow the V to commit some small error to define the complexity class IP. The communication between the Prover and verifier is only allowed to be of polynomial length.

NP Vs PS

Let's consider SAT which is a NP-Complete Problem. A Prover verifier Strategy works for this as shown below

Let ϕ is the formula available to both prover and verifier

PROVER $\xrightarrow{\text{send an assignment}(\sigma)}$ verifier

Now the verifier checks whether σ satisfies ϕ . If there exists such an assignment the best strategy of the Prover is to send the satisfying assignment. Otherwise no matter what Prover sends verifier rejects. Formally

$x \in SAT \Rightarrow \exists P(P, V) \text{ accepts.}$

$x \notin SAT \Rightarrow \forall P(P, V) \text{ rejects.}$

Hence $SAT \in PS$. Thereby we can say $NP \subseteq PS$.

Now let's think about the reverse case $PS \subseteq NP$. For any Language L accepted by PS strategy, we can get a NP machine accepting the same L, as an NP machine gets the accepting certificate if exists. So we can say $NP = PS$.

Now let us see whether $\Pi_2 \subseteq PS$. Let $L \in \Pi_2$.

$x \in L \Leftrightarrow \forall y \exists z (x, y, z) \in B$ where B is a polynomial time Turing machine.

Prover strategy : Let verifier choose any 'y', the Prover gives 'z' such that $(x, y, z) \in B$.

With this strategy the Prover can cheat the verifier when $x \notin L$ since can Query only a

Polynomial times to the Prover. So the prover gets away without having to give a 'z' for all 'y'. But if we randomize the verifier then there is a chance that the Prover is going to be caught and such a strategy is called Interactive Proofs (IP).

Definition of IP:

$x \in L \Rightarrow \exists P$ such that $\Pr(\text{Prover convinces verifier}) \geq \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$ for $\epsilon > 0$.

$x \notin L \Rightarrow \forall P \Pr(\text{Prover convinces verifier}) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \epsilon$ for $\epsilon > 0$.

The argument of Amplification Lemma can be used to show for any arbitrary $0 < \epsilon < \frac{1}{2}$ definitions are equivalent.

Graph Non-Isomorphism (GNI):

$\text{GNI} = \{(G_1, G_2) : \forall \text{permutations } \pi, G_1 \neq \pi(G_2)\}$

Theorem 19.0: $\text{GNI} \in \text{IP}$.

Proof: The following are the strategies of

Verifier: Pick G_i randomly from $\{G_1, G_2\}$ and produce $G' = \pi(G_i)$ and send it across the Prover where π is a random permutation.

Prover: Compare G' to G_1, G_2 . If it is isomorphic to one of them then return that one. If it is isomorphic with both of them then randomly return G_1 or G_2 .

Verifier: If the prover is correct then accept otherwise reject.

For $G_1 \not\cong G_2$, the prover makes the Verifier accept. For $G_1 \cong G_2$, the Prover can make the Verifier to accept with a maximum Probability of $\frac{1}{2}$, because $G_1 \cong G_2$ then the Prover outputs randomly any one graph.