

Maik Thanh Nguyen

# $IP = PSPACE$

Dresden, 17.07.2025

# Content

- What is IP?
- Arithmetization
- Introducing the protocol
- Problems within the protocol and solutions
- Some protocol examples
- Correctness

# What is IP?

- A prover tries to convince the Verifier of membership
- Verifier sceptically checks the Prover's arguments before making a decision
- The interaction might involve several rounds of communication
- The prover might have unlimited power but the verifier operate in P
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- The message length and number of rounds should be polynomial
- A language L is in IP if there is a polynomial verifier V such that, for every word w :

if  $w \in L$  then there is a Prover P with  $Pr[V \leftrightarrow P \text{ accepts}] \geq \frac{2}{3}$

if  $w \notin L$  then for all Prover P with  $Pr[V \leftrightarrow P \text{ accepts}] \leq \frac{1}{3}$

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- $\exists x \exists y \neg (x \wedge y)$  is not in NNF but  $\exists x \exists y (\neg x \vee \neg y)$
- $\text{QBF} \leq_m^P \text{QBF}'$  can be easily done by the verifier
- it suffices to show  $\text{QBF}' \in \text{IP}$  because we can reduce any problem in PSPACE to QBF in polynomial time

How do we find an algorithm for QBF' s.t it satisfies the IP conditions?

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- $x \vee y$  becomes  $x + y$
- $\neg x$  becomes  $1 - x$

x	y	$x \wedge y = x * y$	$x \vee y = x + y$	$\neg(x \wedge y) = 1 - (x * y)$
0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	1
1	1	1	2	0

$$\phi(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \phi_{arith}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) > 0$$

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Arithmetize :  $\neg(x \wedge y) \xrightarrow{\text{arith.}} 1 - (x * y) \xrightarrow{\exists \text{arith.}} \sum_{y \in \{0,1\}} 1 - (x * y) \xrightarrow{\forall \text{arith.}}$

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- This can be shown by structural induction

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- $\phi = x$ . If  $\phi$  is true then  $\phi_{arith} = 1$  and if  $\phi$  is false then  $\phi_{arith} = 0$
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- Suppose  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are true, that means  $\phi_{1arith} > 0$  and  $\phi_{2arith} > 0$  (it's similar for the other case)
- $\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2, \phi_1 \vee \phi_2$  also holds
- For  $\forall \phi_1$ , we have by induction that  $\phi_1[x := 0], \phi_1[x := 1]$  is true, so the multiplication of two positive value is positive (same for  $\exists \phi_1$ )



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$\phi_{arith} = \prod_{x_1 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \prod_{x_m \in \{0,1\}} \phi'_{arith} = 4^{2^m}$

- It holds that for formula  $\phi$  with string length  $n$  :  $\phi_{arith} \leq 2^{2^n}$
- We solve this problem by using modulo with a suitable value

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- $k$  must be presentable in linear many bits
- the calculation mod  $k$  must preserve ">0" for valid and "=0" for invalid formulas
- It holds that: for any  $a \leq 2^{2^n}$ ,  $a > 0$ , there exist a prime number  $k \in [2^n, 2^{3n}]$  s.t  $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}$



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- If  $\phi = \phi_1 \wedge \phi_2$ , then ask prover to send  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  and check  $c = a_1 * a_2$ . If it's true then ask the prover to prove that the of  $\phi_1$  is  $a_1$  and  $\phi_2$  is  $a_2$
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- In case  $\phi = \forall x \phi_1$  we asked for a polynomial  $p(x)$  that represents the arithmetic presentation of  $\phi_1$  where  $x$  is free and we check  $c = p(0) * p(1)$
- If it is true, the verifier sends randomly a number  $d$  between  $\{0, \dots, k-1\} = GF(K)$  and calculate  $p(d)$ . Now the verifier expects the prover to prove the value of  $\phi_1[x := d]$  is  $p(d)$
- The same process happens when we have  $\phi = \exists \phi_1$ , but we check  $c = p(0) + p(1)$

## Protocol continue

- When every variable got a number in  $\text{GF}(K)$ , say  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  the verifier calculates  $\phi_{arith}(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  and accept if its equal to  $q(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  (last polynomial sent by prover) else reject

# Example

$$\phi = \forall x \exists y (\neg x \vee y) \wedge \exists z \exists w (z \vee w)$$

$$\phi_{arith} = \underbrace{\left( \prod_x \sum_y (1 - x) + y \right)}_{\phi_{1arith}} * \underbrace{\left( \sum_z \sum_w z + w \right)}_{\phi_{2arith}} \quad x, y, z, w \in \{0, 1\}$$

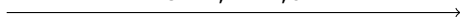
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Verifier

check  $c > 0, 8, b$

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sends  $a_1 = 3, a_2 = 4$

check  $c = a_1 * a_2$

prove  $a_1 = \phi_1, a_2 = \phi_2$



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send me  $p_1(x)$  for  $\phi_1$  and  $p_2(x)$  for  $\phi_2$

## Example continue

Prover

calculate

$\phi_{1arith}(x),$

$\phi_{2arith}(z)$

sends  $p_1(x) = \phi_{1arith}(x), \phi_{2arith}(z)$

$$\frac{\text{sends } p_1(x) = \phi_{1arith}(x), \phi_{2arith}(z)}{p_1(x) = \sum_y (1-x) + y = -2x + 3} \rightarrow$$

Verifier

check  $a_1 = p_1(0) * p_1(1)$

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sends  $p_1(d) = 10, p_2(d) = 5$

Choose randomly  $d \in$

ask for  $p'_1(d, y), p'_2(d, w)$

$GF(k)$ , say  $d=2$

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ask for  $p'_1(d, y), p'_2(d, w)$   
Choose randomly  $d \in GF(k)$ , say  $d=2$

sends  $p'_1(d, y) = \phi_{1arith}(d, y)$   
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sends  $p'_2(d, w) = \phi_{2arith}(d, w)$   
 $p'_1(d, 0) * p'_1(d, 1) = p_1(d)$   
 $p'_2(d, 0) * p'_2(d, 1) = p_2(d)$   
Choose  $c \in GF(k)$

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Choose  $c \in GF(k)$

The verifier check  $\phi_{arith}(d, c, d, c) = p'_1(d, c) * p'_2(d, c)$ . It accepts.

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Prover can not tell the truth because the verifier would reject instantly.

Prover

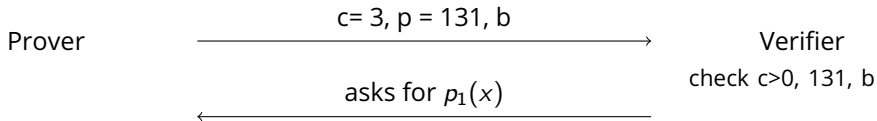
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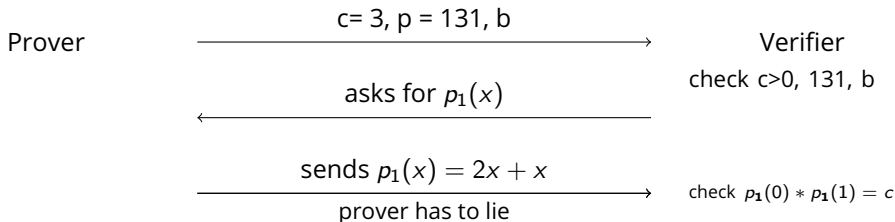
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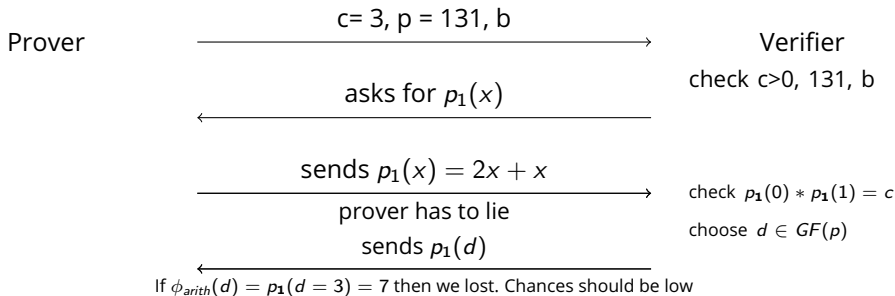
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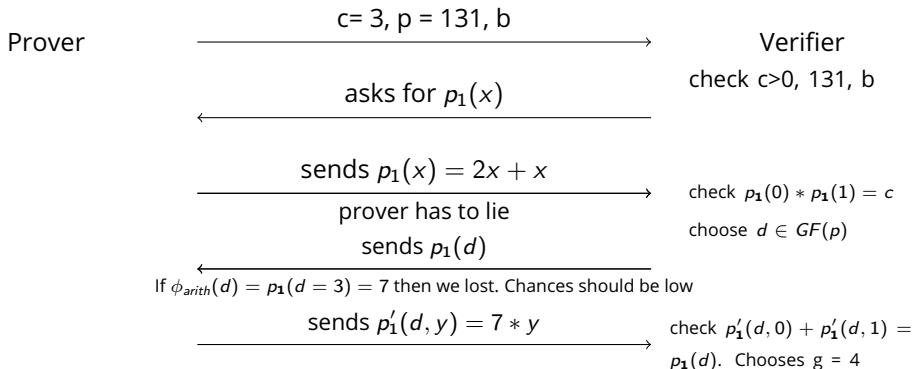
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The verifier check  $\phi_{\text{arith}}(d, g) = p'_1(d, g)$ .  $12 \neq 28$ . Verifier rejects.

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- We can reduce any QBF formula into a Simple QBF in polynomial time
- Let  $\phi = \dots Qx_i \dots \forall x_j \psi(x_i)$  where  $Q \in \{\forall, \exists\}$  and  $\forall x_j$  is the first universal quantifier after  $Qx_i$ . We transform  $\phi$  as follows :

$$\phi' = \dots Qx_i \dots \forall x_j \exists x'_i (x_i \leftrightarrow x'_i) \wedge \psi(x'_i)$$



# Correctness

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- Reduced :  $\exists x(\forall y\exists x'(x \leftrightarrow x') \wedge \forall z(x' \vee (y \vee z))) \wedge (\forall u(u \vee x))$
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- Prover sends wrong polynomial  $p \neq h = \phi_{arith}$  in the  $i$ -th round. Verifier chooses randomly  $c \in GF(p)$  where  $p \geq 2^n$ . Furthermore we have  $\deg(g - h) \leq 2n$ . Then  $\Pr[p(c) = h(c)] = \Pr[\text{Error } i\text{-th round}] \leq \frac{2n}{2^n}$ .

## Correctness continue

- That means  $\Pr[\text{No Error in } i\text{-th round}] \geq 1 - \frac{2n}{2^n}$
- Because random number are chosen independently, and after  $m \leq n$  rounds, we have :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\text{Error}] &= 1 - \Pr[\text{No Error}] = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^m \Pr[\text{No Error in } i\text{-th round}] \\ &\leq (1 - (1 - \frac{2n}{2^n}))^n \end{aligned}$$

- The last approximation is true because :  
 $\prod_{i=1}^m \Pr[\text{no error in } i\text{-th round}] \geq (1 - \frac{2n}{2^n})^m \geq (1 - \frac{2n}{2^n})^n$



Figure:  $n \rightarrow \infty$