

STOC03: On the Power of Quantum Fingerprinting (Andrew Yao) , Reading Note

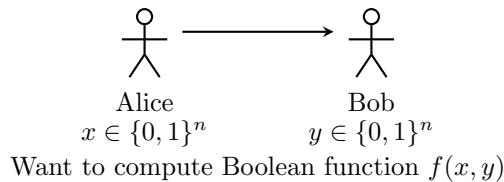
Siyu Liu

January 2026

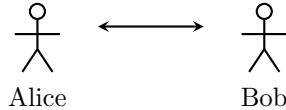
1 Communication Complexity (Andrew Yao, 1992)

1.1 Classical communication complexity (Andrew Yao, 1978)

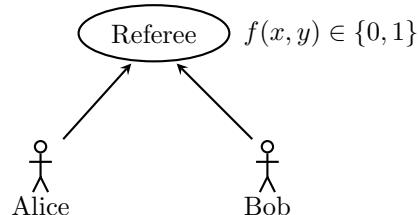
1-way model :



2-way model :



Referee model: (simultaneous message model)



1.2 Equality function EQ

$$f(x, y) = \mathbb{1}[x = y]$$

1.2.1 1-way model

Deterministic: $D^\rightarrow(EQ) = \Theta(n)$

Randomized: $D^\rightarrow(EQ) = \Theta(\log n)$

• Protocol:

1. Alice chooses a prime p randomly such that $n^2 \leq p < 2n^2$.
2. Alice sends the pair $(p, x \bmod p)$ to Bob.
3. Bob checks if $x \bmod p \equiv y \bmod p$.

- Error Rate Analysis:

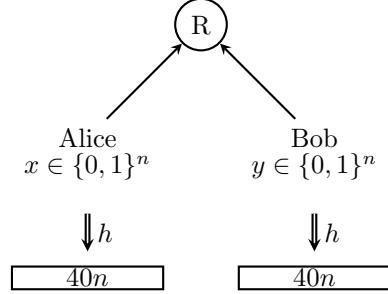
$$\begin{aligned}
\text{error rate} &= \Pr_p[x \equiv y \pmod p \mid x \neq y] \\
&= \Pr_p[p \mid |x - y| \mid x \neq y] \\
&\leq \frac{\text{number of prime factors of } |x - y|}{\text{number of primes in } [n^2, 2n^2]} \\
&= O\left(\frac{n}{\pi(2n^2) - \pi(n^2)}\right) = O\left(\frac{n}{n^2/\log n}\right) \\
&= O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

Note: $|x - y|$ has at most $\log|x - y| \leq n$ distinct prime factors.

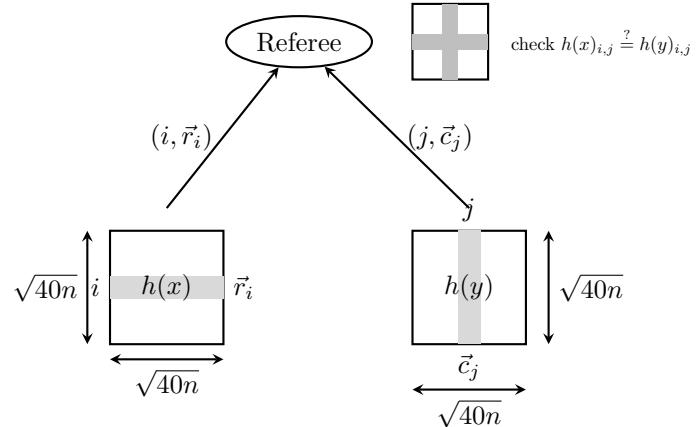
1.2.2 Referee Model

Deterministic: $D^{\parallel}(EQ) = \Theta(n)$

Randomized: $R^{\parallel}(EQ) = \Theta(\sqrt{n})$



We want h to satisfy: if $x \neq y$, then $\text{HammingDist}(h(x), h(y)) \geq 10n$.



- Protocol:

1. Alice rearrange $h(x)$ into square shape and randomly pick one row r_i .
2. Alice send the pair (i, \vec{r}_i) .
3. Bob do the same thing except that he chooses column.
4. Referee check whether $\vec{r}_i(j) = \vec{c}_j(i)$

- Error Rate Analysis:

$$\Pr[h(x)_{i,j} = h(y)_{i,j} \mid x \neq y] \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

It remains to construct such h . We just make it a linear map:

$$h(x) = Rx, \quad R \in \mathbb{F}_2^{40n \times n}$$

We need to prove $\exists R$ s.t. $\forall x \neq y, \text{HammingDist}(Rx, Ry) \geq 10n$

We construct by probabilistic method, randomly pick R .

For fixed $x \neq y$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\text{Hamming Dist}(Rx, Ry) \leq 10n] &= \Pr[|R(x - y)| \leq 10n] \\ &\leq e^{-\frac{20}{8}n} \quad (\text{Chernoff bound}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Pr[\exists x \neq y, \text{HammingDist}(Rx, Ry) \leq 10n] \leq 2^{2n} \cdot e^{-\frac{20}{8}n} < 1$$

So $\exists R$ s.t. $\forall x \neq y, \text{HammingDist}(Rx, Ry) \geq 10n$.

Hard-code this R into Alice and Bob's protocol.

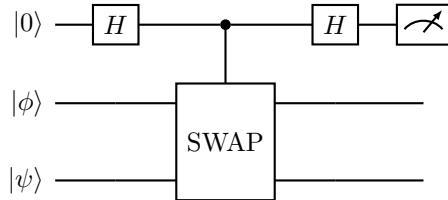
Rmk: Proof of Lower bound $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$ is complicated and omitted.

Quantum: $Q^{\parallel\parallel}(EQ) = O(\log n)$

$$\begin{aligned} |h_x\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{40n}} \sum_{i=1}^{40n} |i\rangle |h(x)_i\rangle, \text{ where } h(x)_i \text{ is the } i\text{-th bit of } h(x) \\ |h_y\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{40n}} \sum_{i=1}^{40n} |i\rangle |h(y)_i\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Alice sends $|h_x\rangle$, Bob sends $|h_y\rangle$.

Referee: SWAP-test.



test if $|\phi\rangle = |\psi\rangle$ or $|\langle\phi|\psi\rangle| \leq \delta$

$$\begin{aligned} |0\rangle \otimes |\phi\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle &\longrightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0\rangle \otimes |\phi\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |1\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle \otimes |\phi\rangle \\ &\longrightarrow |0\rangle \otimes \frac{|\phi\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle + |\psi\rangle \otimes |\phi\rangle}{2} + |1\rangle \otimes \frac{|\phi\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle - |\psi\rangle \otimes |\phi\rangle}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Pr[\text{output} = 1] = \left| \frac{|\phi\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle - |\psi\rangle \otimes |\phi\rangle}{2} \right|^2 = \frac{1 - |\langle\phi|\psi\rangle|^2}{2}$$

If $|\phi\rangle = |\psi\rangle$, never output 1.

If $|\langle\phi|\psi\rangle|$ is small, repeat sufficiently large constant times, will output 1 with constant probability.

Note that if $x = y$, $|u_x\rangle = |u_y\rangle$.

$$\text{If } x \neq y, \langle u_x | u_y \rangle = \frac{1}{40n} \sum_{i=1}^{40n} \mathbb{1}[h(x)_i = h(y)_i] \leq \frac{3}{4}.$$

Referee can judge with constant probability.

We can use the same method to estimate $\langle \phi | \psi \rangle$.

Repeat swap-test k times, suppose output 1 k' times.

Let $\eta = \begin{cases} \sqrt{1 - \frac{2k'}{k}} & \text{if } k' \leq \frac{k}{2} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$ as our estimate.

Lemma 1. $\Pr[|\eta - \langle \phi | \psi \rangle| > \beta] < 2e^{-\frac{k\beta^2(\beta+2)^2}{2}}$

Pf. By Chernoff bound:

$$\Pr \left[\left| \frac{k'}{k} - \frac{1 - \langle \phi | \psi \rangle^2}{2} \right| > \frac{\beta(\beta+2)}{2} \right] < 2e^{-\frac{k\beta^2(\beta+2)^2}{2}}$$

$$\Pr [|\eta^2 - \langle \phi | \psi \rangle^2 | > \beta(\beta+2)] < 2e^{-\frac{k\beta^2(\beta+2)^2}{2}}$$

Denote $\Delta = |\eta - \langle \phi | \psi \rangle|$

$$\beta(\beta+2) < |\eta^2 - \langle \phi | \psi \rangle^2| = \Delta|\eta + \langle \phi | \psi \rangle| \leq \Delta(\Delta + 2|\langle \phi | \psi \rangle|) \leq \Delta(\Delta + 2)$$

$$\Delta \geq -|\langle \phi | \psi \rangle| + \sqrt{|\langle \phi | \psi \rangle|^2 + \beta(\beta+2)} > \beta \quad \square$$

1.2.3 Public-coin model

Setting: A, B can share random bits,

i.e. there's an infinite random bit string ξ known to both at first.

A, B both uses random bit in ξ one by one.

A send $a_{x,\xi}$ deterministically. B as well.

Equality function complexity:

$$R^{\parallel, pub}(EQ) = O(1)$$

Protocol: A send $\langle x, r \rangle \pmod{2}$

B send $\langle y, r \rangle \pmod{2}$.

r is the shared random bit string.

Analysis: If $x = y$, $\langle x, r \rangle \equiv \langle y, r \rangle \pmod{2}$

If $x \neq y$, $\langle x, r \rangle \equiv \langle y, r \rangle \pmod{2}$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$

2 Main results

2.1 Theorem 1

Thm 1. If $R^{\parallel, pub}(f_n) = O(1)$, then $Q^{\parallel}(f_n) = O(\log n)$.

More precisely, if $R^{\parallel, pub}(f_n) \leq c$, then $Q^{\parallel}(f_n) = 2^{O(c)} \cdot \log n$.

Pf. Fix error rate $\epsilon = \frac{1}{10}$.

Suppose a public coin protocol computes f_n using c communication bits.

Let $[M]$ be the message space $M = 2^c$.

$D : [M] \times [M] \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ be the referee matrix.

where $\Pr_{\xi}[f(x, y) \neq D(a_{x,\xi}, b_{y,\xi})] \leq \epsilon$.

We first introduce Newman's theorem here.

Thm [Newman] $R^{\parallel}(f) = O(R^{\parallel, pub}(f_n) \cdot \log n)$

Pf. Given a public coin protocol Π using random string ξ .

We claim there exists $L = O(n)$ strings ξ_1, \dots, ξ_L s.t. if ξ is uniformly randomly picked from ξ_1, \dots, ξ_L , the protocol Π still works.

Use probabilistic method:

uniformly randomly generate ξ_1, \dots, ξ_L with same length as ξ .

For a fixed (x, y) ,

$$\forall i \in [L], \Pr_{\xi_i}[\Pi(x, y; \xi_i) \neq f_n(x, y)] \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2}$$

Let $X_i(x, y) = \mathbb{1}[\Pi(x, y; \xi_i) \neq f_n(x, y)]$

By Chernoff bound,

$$\Pr \left[\frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L X_i(x, y) > \epsilon \right] \leq e^{-\frac{\epsilon^2}{2} L}$$

take $L > \frac{100}{\epsilon^2} n$, then $\Pr \left[\frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L X_i(x, y) > \epsilon \right] < 2^{-2n}$.

$$\Pr \left[\exists (x, y), \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L X_i(x, y) > \epsilon \right] < 1$$

So there exists L strings ξ_1, \dots, ξ_L s.t.

$$\forall (x, y) \quad \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^L X_i(x, y) \leq \epsilon$$

$$\Pr_{i \in [L]} [\Pi(x, y; \xi_i) \neq f_n(x, y)] \leq \epsilon$$

The claim holds true.

Now we construct a private-coin protocol.

Hard code ξ_1, \dots, ξ_L at first.

Alice uniformly random pick $M \subseteq [L]$, $|M| = \sqrt{L}$.

Bob uniformly random pick $N \subseteq [L]$, $|N| = \sqrt{L}$.

Alice send $\{(i, a_{x, \xi_i}) \mid i \in M\}$.

Bob send $\{(j, b_{y, \xi_j}) \mid j \in N\}$.

Referee check whether $M \cap N = \emptyset$.

If not, take one $t \in M \cap N$ and run protocol as $\Pi(a_{x, \xi_t}, b_{y, \xi_t}; \xi_t)$.

If yes (i.e., $M \cap N = \emptyset$), reject.

By birthday paradox, $M \cap N \neq \emptyset$ with constant probability.

Condition on this, the private coin protocol behaves the same as the public coin one. \square

Now using the same technique in Newman's theorem,

we assume ξ is uniformly chosen from ξ_1, \dots, ξ_L , $L = O(n)$.

Then $\left| f(x, y) - \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq L} D(a_{\xi_i}(x), b_{\xi_i}(y)) \right| < \epsilon$.

Let $|u_x\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq L} |a_{\xi_i}(x)\rangle |i\rangle$

$|v_y\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq L} |b_{\xi_i}(y)\rangle |i\rangle$

Alice send $|u_x\rangle$, Bob send $|v_y\rangle$, which takes $O(\log n) + O(c)$ qubits.

Repeat k times (k to be set).

Referee would like to estimate $\frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq L} D(a_{\xi_i}(x), b_{\xi_i}(y))$ to approximate $f(x, y)$.

$$\frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq L} D(a_{\xi_i}(x), b_{\xi_i}(y)) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} D(t, t') |A_t(x) \cap B_{t'}(y)|$$

where $A_t(x) := \{i : a_{\xi_i}(x) = t\}$, $B_{t'}(y) := \{i : b_{\xi_i}(y) = t'\}$

Let $|u_{x,t}\rangle = \sum_{i \in A_t(x)} |i\rangle$, $|v_{y,t'}\rangle = \sum_{i \in B_{t'}(y)} |i\rangle$.

then $\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle = |A_t(x) \cap B_{t'}(y)|$

So $\frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq L} D(a_{\xi_i}(x), b_{\xi_i}(y)) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} D(t, t') \langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle$

We're going to estimate $\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle$, which we've seen the same thing in Lemma 1.

However, referee only have $|u_x\rangle, |v_y\rangle$ not $|u_{x,t}\rangle, |v_{y,t'}\rangle$.

Need to do some transformation first.

$$|u_x\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{1 \leq t \leq M} |t\rangle |u_{x,t}\rangle$$

$$|v_y\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{1 \leq t' \leq M} |t'\rangle |v_{y,t'}\rangle$$

apply unitary to them and get (with an auxiliary qubit)

$$\begin{aligned} |u'_x\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \left(|0\rangle \otimes |t\rangle |u_{x,t}\rangle + \sum_{\tau \neq t} |0\rangle \otimes |\tau\rangle |u_{x,\tau}\rangle \right) \\ |v'_y\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \left(|0\rangle \otimes |t'\rangle |v_{y,t'}\rangle + \sum_{\tau \neq t'} |1\rangle \otimes |\tau\rangle |v_{y,\tau}\rangle \right) \end{aligned}$$

(Notice $\| |v'_y\rangle \| = 1$, $\| |u'_x\rangle \| = 1$, so such unitary exists.) (Typo here in original paper)
(In fact, Alice can directly send $|u'_x\rangle$. Bob send $|v'_y\rangle$)

$$\langle u'_x | v'_y \rangle = \frac{1}{L} \langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle$$

By lemma 1, Repeat the procedure $k = O(M^8 \log M)$ times we get an estimate $\eta(t, t')$ of $\frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L}$ s.t.

$$\Pr \left[\left| \eta - \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L} \right| > \frac{\epsilon}{M^2} \right] < \frac{\epsilon}{M^2}$$

Do the same thing for each (t, t') , which multiply $O(M^2)$ to complexity.

We can estimate $f(x, y)$ within 2ϵ by $\sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} D(t, t') \eta(t, t')$.

Referee answers $f(x, y) = 1$ iff $\sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} D(t, t') \eta(t, t') > \frac{1}{2}$.

$O(M^{10} \log M (\log n + c))$ communication bits

2.2 Theorem 2

Thm 2. $R^{\parallel, pub}(HAM_n^{(d)}) = O(d^2)$

where $HAM_n^{(d)}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if HammingDist}(x, y) \leq d \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

Pf. We'll construct a protocol with γd^2 communication bits where $\gamma = 10000$.

Public coin consists of $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{\gamma d^2}$, each of which is a n -bit string. Every bit is set as 1 with probability $p = \frac{1}{2d}$ independently.

Alice send $a = a_1 a_2 \dots a_{\gamma d^2}$ where $a_i = \langle x, z_i \rangle \pmod{2}$.

Bob send $b = b_1 b_2 \dots b_{\gamma d^2}$ where $b_i = \langle y, z_i \rangle \pmod{2}$.

Referee answers 1 iff $\text{HammingDist}(a, b) \leq \frac{\gamma d^2}{2} - q\gamma d^2$

where $q = \frac{1}{4} ((1 - \frac{1}{d})^d + (1 - \frac{1}{d})^{d+1})$.

Lemma. Assume $\text{HammingDist}(x, y) = k$. Then each $a_i \oplus b_i$ is an independent $Ber(\alpha_k)$, where

$$\alpha_k = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{d} \right)^k$$

Pf. $a_i \oplus b_i = 1 \iff \langle x \oplus y, z_i \rangle \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$.

z_i has odd number of 1s on those k positions where x, y differs.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[a_i \oplus b_i = 1] &= \sum_{\substack{0 \leq i \leq k \\ i \text{ is odd}}} \binom{k}{i} p^i (1-p)^{k-i} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (1 - (1 - 2p)^k) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{d} \right)^k \square \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pr \left[\#\text{1's in } a \oplus b \leq \frac{\gamma d^2}{2} - q\gamma d^2 \mid k \geq d+1 \right] \\
&= \Pr \left[\frac{1}{\gamma d^2} \sum_{i=1}^{\gamma d^2} a_i \oplus b_i \leq \frac{1}{2} - q \mid k \geq d+1 \right] \\
&\leq e^{-2\gamma d(1-\frac{1}{d})^d}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly for the other side of error rate.

The error rate is bounded by constant. \square

Cor: For constant d , $Q^{\parallel}(HAM_n^{(d)}) = O(\log n)$.

2.3 Theorem 3

Next, we'd like to improve the constant in Thm 1, and generalize to those f with $R^{\parallel, pub}(f) \neq O(1)$.

It's natural to ask $Q^{\parallel}(f) \stackrel{?}{=} O(R^{\parallel, pub}(f) \cdot \log n)$, since $R^{\parallel}(f) = O(R^{\parallel, pub}(f) \cdot \sqrt{n})$.

Next theorem gives a partial result.

Thm 3. \mathcal{A} is a public-coin protocol computing f using $M \times M$ referee matrix D . Then

$$Q^{\parallel}(f) = O(w(D)^5(1 + \log w(D))(\log M + \log n))$$

where $w(D)$ is "convex width", namely, the smallest integer k s.t. D is the sum of k matrices isomorphic to some real positive semidefinite matrices with only nonnegative entries.

Two matrices are isomorphic if they are equal by permuting rows and columns.

Rmk. Since $w(D) \leq M$, Theorem 3 is a generalization of Theorem 1.

Pf. Same as Thm 1, the goal is to send appropriate states to referee, s.t. he can estimate

$$\sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} D(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L}$$

Since $D = \sum_{1 \leq \ell \leq w(D)} G_\ell$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} D(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L} \\
&= \sum_{1 \leq \ell \leq w(D)} \left(\sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G_\ell(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

We'd like to estimate $\sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L}$

WLOG, suppose G is positive semidefinite, otherwise our protocol can adaptively renaming t, t' .

Let $G = R\Lambda R^{-1}$ where $R = (r_{t,s})$ is orthogonal

$$\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_s)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Let } |u'_{x,s}\rangle = \sum_{1 \leq t \leq M} r_{t,s} |u_{x,t}\rangle \\
& |v'_{y,s}\rangle = \sum_{1 \leq t \leq M} r_{t,s} |v_{y,t}\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Let } |u'_x\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{1 \leq s \leq M} \sqrt{\lambda_s} |s\rangle |u'_{x,s}\rangle \\
& |v'_y\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{1 \leq s \leq M} \sqrt{\lambda_s} |s\rangle |v'_{y,s}\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

Lemma: $\langle u'_x | v'_y \rangle = \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L}$

Furthermore $\| |u'_x\rangle \| \leq 1$, $\| |v'_y\rangle \| \leq 1$

Pf.

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle u'_x | v'_y \rangle &= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq s \leq M} \lambda_s \langle u'_{x,s} | v'_{y,s} \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq s \leq M} \lambda_s \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} r_{t,s} r_{t',s} \langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} (R \Lambda R^T)_{t,t'} \langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle u'_x | u'_x \rangle &= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \langle u_{x,t} | u_{x,t'} \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t \leq M} G(t, t) \cdot \|u_{x,t}\|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{1}{L} \sum_{1 \leq t \leq M} \|u_{x,t}\|^2 = 1
\end{aligned}$$

since all entries of G are between 0 and 1.

Similarly $\|v'_y\|^2 \leq 1$. □

Now, we have to regularize $|u'_x\rangle, |v'_y\rangle$ before sending.

Suppose $\cos \theta_x = \|u'_x\|$, $\cos \phi_y = \|v'_y\|$.

Alice sends $|u''_x\rangle = |0\rangle |u'_x\rangle + \sin \theta_x |1\rangle |\kappa\rangle$
 $|v''_y\rangle = |0\rangle |v'_y\rangle + \sin \phi_y |1\rangle |\kappa'\rangle$

where $|\kappa\rangle, |\kappa'\rangle$ are two fixed mutually orthonormal vectors.

$$\langle u''_x | v''_y \rangle = \langle u'_x | v'_y \rangle = \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L}.$$

By repeating $k = O(w(D)^4(1 + \log w(D)))$ times,

we get an estimate η of $\sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L}$

$$\text{s.t. } \Pr \left[\left| \eta - \sum_{1 \leq t, t' \leq M} G(t, t') \frac{\langle u_{x,t} | v_{y,t'} \rangle}{L} \right| > \frac{\epsilon}{w(D)} \right] < \frac{\epsilon}{w(D)}.$$

Then do the same thing for each G in $G_1, \dots, G_{w(D)}$,

we can estimate $f(x, y)$ within 2ϵ

by $\sum_{1 \leq \ell \leq w(D)} \eta(G_\ell)$.

$O(w(D)^5(1 + \log w(D))(\log M + \log n))$ communication bits. □