

We write  $u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k$  to denote a tuple  $u$  of length  $k$  which each element is independently drawn from the Bernoulli distribution with parameter  $\delta$ .

**Definition 1.1 (Dynamic weakly verifiable puzzle.)** A dynamic weakly verifiable puzzle (DWVP) is defined by a probabilistic algorithm  $P$  called a problem poser. We write  $P(\pi)$  to denote the execution of the algorithm  $P$  with the randomness fixed to  $\pi$ . The algorithm  $P$  outputs circuits  $\Gamma_V, \Gamma_H$  and a bitstring  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . The circuit  $\Gamma_V$  takes as input  $q \in Q$ , an answer  $y \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , and outputs a bit. An answer  $y$  is a correct solution of  $x$  for  $q$  if and only if  $\Gamma_V(q, y) = 1$ . The circuit  $\Gamma_H$  on input  $q \in Q$  outputs a hint such that  $\Gamma_V(q, \Gamma_H(q)) = 1$ .

A problem solver  $S$  is a probabilistic algorithm that takes as input a puzzle  $x$ , and has oracle access to  $\Gamma_V$  and  $\Gamma_H$ . The execution of  $S$  with the input  $x$  and the randomness fixed to  $\rho$  is denoted by  $S(x, \rho)$ . The queries of  $S$  to  $\Gamma_V$  are called verification queries, and to  $\Gamma_H$  hint queries. The solver  $S$  can ask at most  $h$  hint queries,  $v$  verification queries, and succeeds if and only if it makes a verification query  $(q, y)$  such that  $\Gamma_V(q, y) = 1$ , and  $S$  has not previously asked for a hint query on  $q$ .

**Definition 1.2 ( $k$ -wise direct-product of DWVPs.)** Let  $g : \{0, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  be a monotone function and  $P^{(1)}$  a problem poser as in Definition 1.1. The  $k$ -wise direct product of  $P^{(1)}$  is a DWVP defined by a probabilistic algorithm  $P^{(g)}$ . We write  $P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)})$  to denote the execution of  $P^{(g)}$  with the randomness fixed to  $\pi^{(k)} := (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_k)$ . The algorithm  $P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)})$  outputs: a verification circuit

$$\Gamma_V^{(g)}(q, y_1, \dots, y_k) := g(\Gamma_V^1(q, y_1), \dots, \Gamma_V^k(q, y_k)),$$

a hint circuit

$$\Gamma_H^{(k)}(q) := (\Gamma_H^1(q), \dots, \Gamma_H^k(q)),$$

and a puzzle  $x^{(k)} := (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ , where  $(x_i, \Gamma_V^i, \Gamma_H^i) := P^{(1)}(\pi_i)$ .

**Experiment**  $Success^{P, C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}}(\pi, \rho)$

**Oracle:** A problem poser  $P$ , a solver circuit  $C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}$ .

**Input:** Bitstrings  $\pi, \rho$ .

**Output:** A bit  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ .

$(x, \Gamma_V, \Gamma_H) := P(\pi)$

Run  $C^{\Gamma_V, \Gamma_H}(x, \rho)$

Let  $Q_{Solved} := \{q : C^{\Gamma_V, \Gamma_H} \text{ asked a verification query } (q, y) \text{ and } \Gamma_V(q, y) = 1\}$

Let  $Q_{Hint} := \{q : C^{\Gamma_V, \Gamma_H} \text{ asked a hint query on } q\}$

**If**  $\exists q \in Q_{Solved} : q \notin Q_{Hint}$  **then**

**return** 1

**else**

**return** 0

The success probability of  $C$  in the experiment  $Success$  in solving a puzzle defined by  $P$  is

$$\Pr_{\pi, \rho}[Success^{P, C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}}(\pi, \rho) = 1]. \quad (0.0.1)$$

**TODO:** Do the circuit bound is well defined?

**TODO:** What happens when  $8(h + v) \left( \Pr_{\mu \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [g(\mu) = 1] + \varepsilon \right) \geq 1$  then the formula does not work

**Theorem 1.3 (Security amplification for a dynamic weakly verifiable puzzle.)** *Let  $P^{(1)}$  be a fixed problem poser as in Definition 1.1, and  $P^{(g)}$  be the poser for the  $k$ -wise direct product of  $P^{(1)}$ . There exists a probabilistic algorithm  $\text{Gen}(C, g, \varepsilon, \delta, n, v, h)$  which takes as input: a solver circuit  $C$  for the puzzle posed by  $P^{(g)}$ , a monotone function  $g : \{0, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , parameters  $\varepsilon, \delta, n$ , the number of verification queries  $v$ , and hint queries  $h$  asked by  $C$ , and outputs a random circuit  $D$  such that the following holds:*

*If  $C$  is such that*

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} [\text{Success}^{P^{(g)}, C}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1] \geq 8(h + v) \left( \Pr_{u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [g(u) = 1] + \varepsilon \right)$$

*then  $D$  satisfies almost surely*

$$\Pr_{\pi, \rho} [\text{Success}^{P^{(1)}, D}(\pi, \rho) = 1] \geq (\delta + \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}).$$

*Additionally,  $D$  and  $\text{Gen}$  require only oracle access to  $g$ ,  $P^{(1)}$  and  $C$ . Furthermore,  $D$  asks at most  $h$  hint queries,  $v$  verification queries and  $\text{Size}(D) \leq \text{Size}(C) \cdot \Theta(\frac{6k}{\varepsilon})$  and  $\text{Time}(\text{Gen}) = \text{poly}(k, \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, n, v, h)$ .*

The Theorem 1.3 implies that if there is no good solver for a puzzle defined by  $P^{(1)}$ , then a good solver for a  $k$ -wise direct product of  $P^{(1)}$  does not exist.

Let  $C$  be any solver for  $P^{(1)}$  defined as in Definition 1.1. A verification query  $(q, y)$  of  $C$  for which a hint query on this  $q$  has been asked before can not be a successfully verification query. Therefore, without loss of generality we make an assumption that  $C$  does not ask verification queries on  $q \in Q$ , for which a hint query has been asked before.

**TODO:** Write it more clearly, give more intuition about the function  $g()$  and then why we can approach the problem in this way.

The idea of the algorithm  $\text{Gen}$  is to find  $k - 1$  puzzles and a position for an input puzzle  $x$ , such that when  $C$  runs with these  $k - 1$  puzzles and  $x$  placed on the right position, then  $x$  is often successfully solved. To find such a position for  $x$  and  $k - 1$  puzzles  $\text{Gen}$  runs  $C$  repeatedly on different  $k - 1$  tuples of puzzles. Even if  $\text{Gen}$  finds a set of puzzles and a position for  $x$ , such that  $x$  is often solved it may still not constitute a valid solution, as an additional requirement is needed that this happens often for  $q$  on which a hint query was not asked before. To satisfy this requirement we split  $Q$ .

Let  $\text{hash} : Q \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, 2(h + v) - 1\}$ , then a set  $P_{\text{hash}} \subseteq Q$ , defined with respect to  $\text{hash}$ , is the set of preimages of 0 for  $\text{hash}$ . The idea is that  $P_{\text{hash}}$  contains  $q \in Q$  on which  $C$  is not allowed to ask hint queries and  $q$  on which the first successful verification query is asked is in  $P_{\text{hash}}$ . Therefore, if  $C$  makes a verification query on  $q \in P_{\text{hash}}$  we know that no hint query is ever asked on this  $q$ . In the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  a circuit  $C$  succeeds if and only if it ask a verification query on  $q \in P_{\text{hash}}$  and no hint query is asked on  $q \in P_{\text{hash}}$ . Finally, Lemma 1.4 states that it is possible to find  $\text{hash}$  such that success probability of  $C$  in the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  is not much worsen than in the experiment  $\text{Success}$ .

In the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  we denote the  $i$ th query of  $C$  as  $q_i$  if it is a hint query, and as  $(q_i, y_i)$  if it is a verification query.

**Experiment**  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P, C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}, \text{hash}}(\pi, \rho)$

**Oracle:** A problem poser  $P$ . A solver circuit  $C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}$ .  
A function  $\text{hash} : Q \leftarrow \{0, \dots, 2(h+v) - 1\}$ .

**Input:** Bitstrings:  $\pi, \rho$ .

**Output:** A bit  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ .

$(x, \Gamma_V, \Gamma_H) := P(\pi)$

Run  $C^{\Gamma_V, \Gamma_H}(x, \rho)$

Let  $(q_j, y_j)$  be the first verification query such that  $C^{\Gamma_V, \Gamma_H}(q_j, y_j) = 1$ , or an arbitrary verification query if  $C$  does not succeed.

**If**  $(\forall i < j : q_i \notin P_{\text{hash}})$  and  $q_j \in P_{\text{hash}}$  and  $\Gamma_V(q_j, y_j) = 1$

**return** 1

**else**

**return** 0

Similarly as for the experiment  $\text{Success}$ , we define the success probability of  $C$  with respect to a function  $\text{hash}$  in the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  in solving a puzzle defined by  $P$  as

$$\Pr_{\pi, \rho}[\text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P, C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}, \text{hash}}(\pi, \rho) = 1]. \quad (0.0.2)$$

For fixed  $\text{hash}$  and  $P^{(1)}$  a canonical success of  $C$  for  $\pi^{(k)}, \rho$  is a situation when  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P^{(g)}, C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}, \text{hash}}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1$ . We show that if for a fixed  $P^{(1)}$  a solver circuit  $C$  often succeeds in the experiment  $\text{Success}$  for  $P^{(g)}$ , then it also often successful in the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  for  $P^{(g)}$ .

**Lemma 1.4 (Success probability in solving a  $k$ -wise direct product of  $P^{(1)}$  with respect to a function  $\text{hash}$ .)** For fixed  $P^{(1)}$  let  $C$  succeed in the experiment  $\text{Success}$  for  $P^{(g)}$  with probability  $\gamma$ , asking at most  $h$  hint queries and  $v$  verification queries. There exists a probabilistic algorithm, with oracle access to  $C$  and  $P^{(g)}$ , that runs in time  $O((h+v)^4/\gamma^4)$ , and with high probability outputs a function  $\text{hash} : Q \rightarrow \{0, \dots, 2(h+v) - 1\}$  such that success probability of  $C$  with respect to  $P_{\text{hash}}$  in the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  is at least  $\frac{\gamma}{8(h+v)}$ .

**Proof.** We fix  $P^{(1)}$  and  $C$  in the whole proof. Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a family of pairwise independent hash functions  $Q \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, 2(h+v) - 1\}$ . For all  $i \neq j \in \{1, \dots, (h+v)\}$  and  $k, l \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2(h+v) - 1\}$  by pairwise independence property of  $\mathcal{H}$ , we have

$$\forall q_i, q_j \in Q : \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\text{hash}(q_i) = k \mid \text{hash}(q_j) = l] = \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\text{hash}(q_i) = k] = \frac{1}{2(h+v)}. \quad (0.0.3)$$

Let  $\pi^{(k)}, \rho$  be fixed. We consider the experiment  $\text{CanonicalSuccess}$  for  $P^{(g)}$ . in which we define a binary random variable  $X$  for the event that  $\text{hash}(q_j) = 0$ , and for every query  $q_i$  asked before  $q_j : \text{hash}(q_i) \neq 0$ . Conditioned on the event  $\text{hash}(q_i) = 0$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[X = 1] &= \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\text{hash}(q_j) = 0 \wedge \forall i < j : \text{hash}(q_i) \neq 0] \\ &= \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\forall i < j : \text{hash}(q_i) \neq 0 \mid \text{hash}(q_j) = 0] \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\text{hash}(q_j) = 0]. \end{aligned}$$

Now we use (0.0.3) twice and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[X = 1] &= \frac{1}{2(h+v)} \left( 1 - \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\exists i < j : \text{hash}(q_i) = 0 \mid \text{hash}(q_j) = 0] \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2(h+v)} \left( 1 - \Pr_{\text{hash} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[\exists i < j : \text{hash}(q_i) = 0] \right). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we use union bound and the fact that  $j \leq (h + v)$  to get

$$\Pr_{hash \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[X = 1] \geq \frac{1}{2(h + v)} \left( 1 - \sum_{i < j} \Pr_{hash \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[hash(q_i) = 0] \right) \geq \frac{1}{4(h + v)}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}_{Success}$  be the set of all  $(\pi^{(k)}, \rho)$  for which  $C$  succeeds in the random experiment *Success* for  $P^{(g)}$ . Furthermore, we denote the set of those  $(\pi^{(k)}, \rho)$  for which  $CanonicalSuccess^{P^{(g)}, C(\cdot, \cdot), hash}(\pi^{(k)}) = 1$  by  $\mathcal{P}_{Canonical}$ . For fixed  $\pi^{(k)}, \rho$ , if  $C$  succeeds canonically, then it also succeeds in the experiment *Success* for  $P^{(g)}$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{P}_{Canonical} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{Success}$ , and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{\substack{hash \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \\ \pi^{(k)}, \rho}} \left[ CanonicalSuccess^{P^{(g)}, C(\cdot, \cdot), hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] &= \mathbb{E}_{(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) \in \mathcal{P}_{Success}} \left[ \Pr_{hash \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[X = 1] \right] \\ &\geq \frac{\gamma}{4(h + v)}. \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.4)$$

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**Algorithm: FindHash**

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**Oracle:** A solver circuit  $C^{(\cdot, \cdot)}$  for a  $k$ -wise direct product of DWVP.

**Input:** A set  $\mathcal{H}$ .

**Output:** A function  $hash \in \mathcal{H}$ .

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For  $i = 1$  to  $32(h + v)^2/\gamma^2$

$hash \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{H}$

$count := 0$

**For**  $j := 1$  to  $32(h + v)^2/\gamma^2$

$\pi^{(k)} \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^{kl}$

**If**  $CanonicalSuccess^{P^{(g)}, C(\cdot, \cdot), hash}(\pi^{(k)}) = 1$  **then**

$count := count + 1$

**If**  $\frac{\gamma^2}{32(h+v)^2} count \geq \frac{\gamma}{6(h+v)}$

**return**  $hash$

**return**  $\perp$

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We show that **FindHash** chooses  $hash$  such that the canonical success probability of  $C$  with respect to  $P_{hash}$  is at least  $\frac{\gamma}{4(h+v)}$  almost surely. Let  $\mathcal{H}_{Good}$  denote a family of functions  $hash \in \mathcal{H}$  for which

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ CanonicalSuccess^{P^{(g)}, C(\cdot, \cdot), hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] \geq \frac{\gamma}{4(h + v)},$$

and  $\mathcal{H}_{Bad}$  be the family of functions  $hash \in \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ CanonicalSuccess^{P^{(g)}, C(\cdot, \cdot), hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] \leq \frac{\gamma}{8(h + v)}.$$

Additionally, for a fixed  $hash$ , we define binary random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  such that

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if in } i\text{th iteration variable } count \text{ is increased} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We first show that it is unlikely that **FindHash** returns  $hash \in \mathcal{H}_{Bad}$ . For  $hash \in \mathcal{H}_{Bad}$  we have  $\mathbb{E}_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho}[X_i] < \frac{\gamma}{8(h+v)}$ . Therefore, for any fixed  $hash \in \mathcal{H}_{Bad}$  using the Chernoff bound we get

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \geq \frac{\gamma}{6(h+v)} \right] \leq \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \geq (1 + \frac{1}{3}) \mathbb{E}[X_i] \right] \leq e^{-\frac{\gamma}{4(h+v)} N/27}.$$

The probability that  $hash \in \mathcal{H}_{Good}$ , when picked, is not returned amounts

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \leq \frac{\gamma}{6(h+v)} \right] \leq \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \leq (1 - \frac{1}{3}) \mathbb{E}[X_i] \right] \leq e^{-\frac{\gamma}{4(h+v)} N/27}.$$

Finally, we show that **FindHash** picks in one of its iteration  $hash \in \mathcal{H}_{Good}$  almost surely. Let  $Y_i$  be a binary random variable such that

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if in } i\text{th iteration } hash \in \mathcal{H}_{Good} \text{ is picked} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

From equation (0.0.4) we know that  $\Pr_{hash \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[Y_i = 1] = \mathbb{E}[Y_i] \geq \frac{\gamma}{4(h+v)}$ , almost surely. Thus, we get

$$\Pr_{hash \leftarrow \mathcal{H}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K Y_i = 0 \right] \leq \left( 1 - \frac{\gamma}{4(h+v)} \right)^K \leq e^{-\frac{\gamma}{4(h+v)} K}.$$

The bound stated in the Lemma 1.4 is achieved for  $K = N = 32(h+v)^2/\gamma^2$ . □

We define the following solver circuit  $\tilde{C}$  for a  $k$ -wise direct product of  $P^{(1)}$ .

**Circuit**  $\tilde{C}^{\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(g)}, hash, C}(x^{(k)}, \rho)$

**Oracle:**  $\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}, hash, C$

**Input:** puzzles  $x^{(k)}$ , bitstring  $\rho$

**Output:** A tuple  $(q, y_1, \dots, y_k)$  or  $\perp$ .

Run  $C^{\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}}(x^{(k)}, \rho)$

**If**  $C$  asks a hint query on  $q$  **then**

**If**  $q \in P_{hash}$  **then**

**return**  $\perp$

**else**

answer the query using  $\Gamma_H^{(k)}(q)$

**If**  $C$  asks a verification query  $(q, y_1, \dots, y_k)$  **then**

**If**  $q \in P_{hash}$  **then**

**return**  $(q, y_1, \dots, y_k)$

**else**

answer the verification query with 0

**return**  $\perp$

**Lemma 1.5** For fixed  $P^{(1)}$  and  $hash$  the following statement is true

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} [CanonicalSuccess^{P^{(g)}, C, hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1] \leq \Pr_{\substack{\pi^{(k)}, \rho \\ (x^{(k)}, \Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}) := P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)})}} [\Gamma_V^{(g)}(\tilde{C}^{\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}, hash}(x^{(k)}, \rho)) = 1].$$

**Proof.** We observe that for fixed  $\pi^{(k)}, \rho$  if  $C$  succeeds canonically, then for  $(x^{(k)}, \Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(g)} := P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)}))$  we have

$$\Gamma_V^{(g)}(\tilde{C}^{\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(g)}, hash}(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_k)) = 1.$$

Using this observation, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P^{(g)}, C, hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \Pr \left[ \text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P^{(g)}, C, hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \Pr \left[ \text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P^{(g)}, \tilde{C}, hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] \right] \\ &= \Pr_{\substack{\pi^{(k)}, \rho \\ (x^{(k)}, \Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(g)} := P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)}))}} \left[ \Gamma_V^{(g)}(\tilde{C}^{\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(g)}, hash}(x^{(k)}, \rho)) = 1 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

□

Therefore, from a circuit  $C$  we can build a circuit  $\tilde{C}$  that outputs  $\perp$  or  $(q, y_1, \dots, y_k)$  such that  $q \in P_{hash}$ . Furthermore, the circuit  $\tilde{C}$  asks no verification queries, and every hint query on  $q$  is such that  $q \notin P_{hash}$ .

**TODO:** Hash function is taken from Lemma 1.5

**Lemma 1.6 (Security amplification of a dynamic weakly verifiable puzzle with respect to  $P_{hash}$ .)** For fixed  $P^{(1)}$  there exists an algorithm  $\text{Gen}(C, g, \varepsilon, \delta, n, v, h, hash)$ , which takes as input a solver circuit  $C$  for  $P^{(g)}$ , a monotone function  $g : \{0, 1\}^{(k)} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , a function  $hash : Q \rightarrow \{0, \dots, 2(h + v) - 1\}$ , parameters  $\varepsilon, \delta, n$ , number of verification queries  $v$  and hint queries  $h$  asked by  $C$ , and outputs a circuit  $D$  such that the following holds:  
If  $C$  is such that

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}, \rho} \left[ \text{CanonicalSuccess}^{P^{(g)}, C, hash}(\pi^{(k)}, \rho) = 1 \right] \geq \Pr_{\mu \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [g(\mu) = 1] + \varepsilon,$$

then  $D$  satisfies almost surely

$$\Pr_{\substack{\pi, \sigma \\ (x, \Gamma_V, \Gamma_H) := P^{(1)}(\pi)}} \left[ \Gamma_V(D^{P^{(1)}, C, \Gamma_V, \Gamma_H, hash}(x, \sigma)) = 1 \right] \geq (\delta + \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}).$$

Additionally,  $\text{Gen}$  requires only oracle access to  $g$ ,  $P^{(1)}$  and  $C$ . Furthermore,  $\text{Size}(D) \leq \text{Size}(C) \frac{6k}{\varepsilon}$  and  $\text{Time}(\text{Gen}) = \text{poly}(k, \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, n, v, h)$ .

**Proof.** First we define helper procedures **EvaluatePuzzles** and **EvaluateSurplus**.

**EvaluatePuzzles** <sup>$P^{(1)}, C, hash$</sup> ( $\pi^{(k)}, k$ )

**Oracle:** A circuit  $C$ , an algorithm  $P^{(1)}$ , a function  $hash$ .

**Input:** Bitstrings  $\pi^{(k)}$ ,  $\rho$ , an integer  $k$ .

**Output:** A tuple  $(c_1, \dots, c_k)$ .

$$(x^{(k)}, \Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}) := P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)})$$

$$(q, y^{(k)}) := \tilde{C}^{\Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}, hash, C}(x^{(k)}, \rho)$$

```

For  $i := 1$  to  $k$  do:
     $(x_i, \Gamma_V^i, \Gamma_H^i) := P^{(1)}(\pi_i)$ 
For  $i := 1$  to  $k$  do:
     $c_i := \Gamma_v^i(q, y_i)$ 
return  $(c_1, \dots, c_k)$ 

```

**TODO:** Figure out  $N_K$   
**TODO:** Get a sample for  $\Pr[g(b, \dots, b) = 1]$

**EvaluateSurplus** <sup>$P^{(1)}, C, hash$</sup> ( $\pi^*, b, k$ )

**Oracle:** An algorithm  $P^{(1)}$ , a circuit  $C$ , a function  $hash$ .

**Input:** A bistring  $\pi^*$ , a bit  $b$ , an integer  $k$ .

**Output:** A circuit  $D$ .

```

For  $i := 1$  to  $N_k$ 
     $(\pi_2, \dots, \pi_k) \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^{(k-1)n}$ 
     $\rho \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^*$ 
     $(c_1, \dots, c_k) := \mathbf{EvaluatePuzzles}^{P^{(1)}, C, hash}(\pi^*, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_k, k)$ 
     $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*, b}^i := g(b, c_2, \dots, c_k) - \Pr_{(u_2, \dots, u_k)} [g(b, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 1]$ 
return  $\frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{i=1}^{N_k} \tilde{S}_{\pi^*, b}^i$ 

```

**Circuit**  $D^{C, P^{(1)}}(x^*, \sigma)$

**Oracle:** A circuit  $C$ , a poser  $P^{(1)}$ , a function  $hash$ .

**Input:** A puzzle  $x^*$ , a bitstring  $\sigma \in \{0, 1\}^*$ .

**Output:** A circuit  $D$ .

Let  $k$  be the number of input puzzles taken by  $C$ .

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For  $i := 1$  to  $\frac{6k}{\epsilon} \log(\frac{6k}{\epsilon})$  do:
     $\pi^{(k)} \leftarrow$  read  $k \cdot n$  bits from  $\sigma$ 
     $(c_1, \dots, c_k) := \mathbf{EvaluatePuzzles}^{P^{(1)}, C, hash}(\pi^{(k)}, k)$ 
    If  $g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0$  then
        For  $i := 1$  to  $k$  do:
             $(x_i, \Gamma_V^i, \Gamma_H^i) := P^{(1)}(\pi_i)$ 
             $(q, y_1, \dots, y_k) := \tilde{C}(x^*, x_2, \dots, x_k)$ 
            return  $(q, y_1)$ 
return  $\perp$ 

```

**Algorithm**  $Gen(C, g, \varepsilon, \delta, n, v, h, hash)$

**Oracle:**  $C, g, hash$

**Input:**  $\varepsilon, \delta, n, v, h$

**Output:** A circuit  $D$

Let  $k$  be the number of input puzzles taken by  $C$ .

**If**  $k = 1$  **then**

**return**  $C$

**For**  $i := 1$  **to**  $\frac{6k}{\varepsilon} \log(n)$

$\pi^* \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$

$\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,0} := \text{EvaluateSurplus}^{P^{(1)}, C, hash}(\pi^*, 0, k)$

$\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,1} := \text{EvaluateSurplus}^{P^{(1)}, C, hash}(\pi^*, 1, k)$

**If**  $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,0} \geq (1 - \frac{3}{4k})\varepsilon$  **or**  $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,1} \geq (1 - \frac{3}{4k})\varepsilon$

$C' := C$  with the first input fixed on  $x^*$

$g'(b_2, \dots, b_k) := g(c_1, b_2, \dots, b_k)$

**return**  $Gen(\tilde{C}', g', \varepsilon, \delta, n, v, h, hash)$

// all estimates are lower than  $(1 - \frac{3}{4k})\varepsilon$

**return**  $D^{\tilde{C}}$

For  $k = 1$  the function  $g : \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is either the identity or a constant function. If  $g$  is the identity function then the success probability of  $C$  in the random experiment *CanonicalSuccess* is at least  $\delta + \varepsilon$ , and  $C$  can be directly used to solve a puzzle. In case  $g$  is a constant function the statement is vacuously true.

For fixed  $\pi^{(k)}, \rho$  let  $(x^{(k)}, \Gamma_V^{(g)}, \Gamma_H^{(k)}) := P^{(g)}(\pi^{(k)})$ . Additionally, for any  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq k$  let us denote  $(x_i, \Gamma_V^i, \Gamma_H^i) := P^{(1)}(\pi_i)$ . For  $(q, y_1, \dots, y_k) := \tilde{C}(x^{(k)}, \rho)$  we denote  $c_i := \Gamma_V^i(q, y_i)$ . We define the surplus:

$$S_{\pi^*,b} = \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [g(b, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1] - \Pr_{\mu^{(k)}} [g(b, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 1] \quad (0.0.5)$$

The surplus  $S_{\pi^*,b}$  tells us how good  $\tilde{C}$  performs when the first puzzle is fixed, and the fact whether  $\tilde{C}$  succeeds in solving the puzzle posed by  $P^{(1)}(\pi_1)$  is disregarded. Instead, the bit  $b$  is used as the first input to  $g$ .

The procedure **EvaluateSurplus** returns the estimate  $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,b}$  for  $S_{\pi^*,b}$ . All puzzles used during obtaining the estimate are generated internally. Therefore, it is possible to answer all hint and verification queries, without calls to the verification oracles.

**Lemma 1.7** *The estimate  $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,b}$  returned by EvaluateEstimate differs from  $S_{\pi^*,b}$  by at most  $\frac{\varepsilon}{4k}$  almost surely.*

**TODO:** Chernoff for the estimate

From Lemma 1.7 we conclude that if  $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,b} \geq (1 - \frac{3}{4k})\varepsilon$ , then  $S_{\pi^*,b} \geq (1 - \frac{1}{k})\varepsilon$  almost surely.

Let us assume that  $Gen$  manages to find an estimate that satisfies  $\tilde{S}_{\pi^*,b} \geq (1 - \frac{3}{4k})\varepsilon$ . In this case we define a new monotone function  $g'(b_2, \dots, b_k) := g(b, b_2, \dots, b_k)$ , and a circuit  $C'$  which is by fixing the first input of  $C$  to  $x^*$ , where  $(x^*, \Gamma_V^*, \Gamma_H^*) := P^{(1)}(\pi^*)$ . The circuit  $\tilde{C}'$  satisfies the conditions of Lemma 1.6 and we recurse using  $C'$  and  $g'$ .



If all estimates are less than  $(1 - \frac{3}{4k})\varepsilon$ , then intuitively  $C$  does not perform much better on the remaining  $k - 1$  puzzles than an algorithm that solves each puzzle independent with probability  $\delta$ . However, from the assumption we know that on all  $k$  puzzles  $\tilde{C}$  has higher success probability. Therefore, it is likely that the first puzzle is correctly solved with probability higher than  $\delta$ . We now show that this intuition is indeed correct. For a fixed  $\pi^*$  using (0.0.5), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_{u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [g(1, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 1] - \Pr_{u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [g(0, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 1] = \\ & \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - (S_{\pi^*,1} - S_{\pi^*,0}). \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.6)$$

From the monotonicity of  $g$  we know that for any set of tuples  $(b_1, \dots, b_k)$  and sets  $\mathcal{B}_0 = \{(b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k) : g(0, b_2, \dots, b_k) = 1\}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_1 = \{(b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k) : g(1, b_2, \dots, b_k) = 1\}$  we have  $G_0 \subseteq G_1$ . Hence, we can write (0.0.6):

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_{u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [g(1, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 0] = \\ & \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - (S_{\pi^*,1} - S_{\pi^*,0}). \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.7)$$

Let  $G_{u^{(k)}}$  denote the event  $g(1, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, u_2, \dots, u_k) = 0$ , and correspondingly  $G_{\pi^{(k)}} := g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0$ . From (0.0.7) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_r [\Gamma_V(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] &= \frac{\Pr_r [\Gamma_V(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*]}{\Pr_{u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [G_\mu]} \\ &\quad - \frac{\Pr_r [\Gamma_V(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] (S_{\pi^*,1} - S_{\pi^*,0})}{\Pr_{u \leftarrow \mu_\delta^k} [G_\mu]} \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.8)$$

If  $D(x^*, r) \neq \perp$  then we denote  $c_i := \Gamma_V^i(q, y_i)$ . We can write the first summand of (0.0.8) as

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_r [\Gamma_V^{(g)}(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] = \\ & \Pr_r [D(x^*, r) \neq \perp \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [c_1 = 1 \mid G_\pi, \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.9)$$

where we make use of the fact that the event  $G_\pi$  implies  $D(x^*, r) \neq \perp$ . We consider two cases. For  $\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}$  then

$$\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [c_1 = 1 \mid G_\pi, \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}, \quad (0.0.10)$$

and when  $\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0] > \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}$  then circuit  $D$  outputs  $\perp$  only if it fails in all  $\frac{6k}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{6k}{\varepsilon})$  iterations to find  $\pi^{(k)}$  such that  $g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0$  which happens with probability

$$\Pr_r [D(x^*, r) = \perp \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \leq (1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k})^{\frac{6k}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{6k}{\varepsilon})} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}. \quad (0.0.11)$$

We conclude that in both cases:

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_r [D(x^*, r) \neq \perp \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [c_1 = 1 \mid G_\pi, \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \\ & \geq \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [c_1 = 1 \mid G_\pi, \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}} [G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}. \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.12)$$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pr_r[D(x^*, r) \neq \perp \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[c_1 = 1 \mid G_\pi, \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \\
&= \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[c_1 = 1 \wedge g(1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k} \\
&= \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[g(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k} \\
&= \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[g(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[g(0, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k},
\end{aligned}$$

and finally by (0.0.5)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pr_r[D(x^*, r) \neq \perp \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[c_1 = 1 \mid G_\pi, \pi_1 = \pi^*] \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[G_\pi \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \\
&= \Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[g(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \Pr_{\mu_\delta^{(k)}}[g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - S_{\pi^*, 0} - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}.
\end{aligned} \tag{0.0.13}$$

Inserting this result into the equation (0.0.8) yields

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pr_{r, \pi}[\Gamma_V(D(x, r)) = 1] = \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[ \Pr_r[D(x, r) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[ \frac{\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[g(c) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \Pr_{\mu_\delta^{(k)}}[g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 0 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}}{\Pr_{\mu_\delta^k}[G_\mu]} \right] \\
&\quad - \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[ \frac{S_{\pi^*, 0} + \Pr_r[\Gamma_V^{(g)}(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*](S_{\pi^*, 1} - S_{\pi^*, 0})}{\Pr_{\mu_\delta^k}[G_\mu]} \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{0.0.14}$$

For the second summand we show that if we do not recurse, then almost surely majority of estimates is low. Let assume

$$\Pr_\pi \left[ \left( S_{\pi, 0} \leq (1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon \right) \wedge \left( S_{\pi, 1} \leq (1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon \right) \right] < 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}, \tag{0.0.15}$$

then the algorithm recurses almost surely. Therefore, under the assumption that  $Gen$  does not recurse, we have almost surely

$$\Pr_\pi \left[ \left( S_{\pi, 0} \leq (1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon \right) \wedge \left( S_{\pi, 1} \leq (1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon \right) \right] \geq 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{6k}. \tag{0.0.16}$$

Let us define a set

$$\mathcal{W} = \left\{ \pi : \left( S_{\pi, 0} \leq (1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon \right) \wedge \left( S_{\pi, 1} \leq (1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon \right) \right\} \tag{0.0.17}$$

and use  $\mathcal{W}^c$  to denote the complement of  $\mathcal{W}$ . We bound the second summand in (0.0.14)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[ S_{\pi^*, 0} + \Pr_r[\Gamma_V^{(g)}(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*](S_{\pi^*, 1} - S_{\pi^*, 0}) \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}_{\pi \in \mathcal{W}^c} \left[ S_{\pi^*, 0} + \Pr_r[\Gamma_V^{(g)}(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi = \pi^*](S_{\pi^*, 1} - S_{\pi^*, 0}) \right] \\
&\quad + \mathbb{E}_{\pi \in \mathcal{W}} \left[ S_{\pi^*, 0} + \Pr_r[\Gamma_V^{(g)}(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi = \pi^*](S_{\pi^*, 1} - S_{\pi^*, 0}) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{0.0.18}$$

$$\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{6k} + \mathbb{E}_{\pi \in \mathcal{W}^c} \left[ S_{\pi^*, 0} + \Pr_r[\Gamma_V^{(g)}(D(x^*, r)) = 1 \mid \pi = \pi^*]\left((1 - \frac{1}{2k})\varepsilon - S_{\pi^*, 0}\right) \right] \tag{0.0.19}$$

$$\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{6k} + 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2k} = 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{3k} \tag{0.0.20}$$

Finally, we insert this result into equation (0.0.14) and make use of the fact

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[g(u) = 1] &= \Pr[(g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 1) \vee (g(1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 0 \wedge \mu_1 = 1)] \\ &= \Pr[g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 1] + \Pr[g(1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 1 \wedge g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 0] \Pr[\mu_1 = 1]\end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$\Pr_{r, \pi}[D(x, r) = 1] \geq \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[ \frac{\Pr_{\pi^{(k)}}[g(c) = 1 \mid \pi_1 = \pi^*] - \Pr_{\mu_\delta^{(k)}}[g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 0] - (1 - \frac{1}{6k})\varepsilon}{\Pr_{\mu_\delta^k}[G_\mu]} \right]$$

Using the assumptions of Lemma 1.6, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr_{r, \pi}[\Gamma_V(D(x, r)) = 1] &\geq \frac{\Pr_{\mu_\delta^{(k)}}[g(\mu) = 1] + \varepsilon + \Pr_{\mu_\delta^{(k)}}[g(0, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k) = 0] - (1 - \frac{1}{6k})\varepsilon}{\Pr_{\mu_\delta^k}[G_\mu]} \\ &\geq \frac{\varepsilon + \delta \Pr_{\mu_\delta^{(k)}}[G_\mu] - (1 - \frac{1}{6k})\varepsilon}{\Pr_{\mu_\delta^k}[G_\mu]} \geq \delta + \frac{\varepsilon}{6k} \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

**TO ASK:** Is notation  $\rho \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^*$  correct.