

Information Complexity: A Paradigm for Proving Lower Bounds

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History

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Proved lower bound for communication problem INDEX

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Introduced notations *icost*, *IC*

Anticipated wider applicability of paradigm

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“We introduce a new notion of informational complexity which is related to SM complexity and has nice direct sum properties. This notion is used as a tool to prove the above results; it appears to be quite powerful and may be of independent interest.”

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- Bar-Yossef, Jayram, Kumar, Sivakumar (*FOCS*, 2002)
 - Gave extension to interactive communication
 - Cleverly handled non-product distributions: “conditional *icost*”
 - Improved some communication (hence data stream) lower bounds

This Talk

Goals:

- Tutorial style
- Diversity of results
- Extract common patterns in applying IC

Not goals:

- Be comprehensive
- Present latest results (but see Woodruff's talk next)

(Generalized) Direct Sum Theorems

Situation:

- Task \mathcal{A} : a simple computational task
- Task \mathcal{B} : combines N independent copies of task \mathcal{A}

Direct sum theorem:

$$\text{Complexity}(\mathcal{B}) = \Omega(N) \cdot \text{Complexity}(\mathcal{A})$$

The Information Complexity Paradigm

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3. Basic IC lower bound: apply to simple task \mathcal{A}

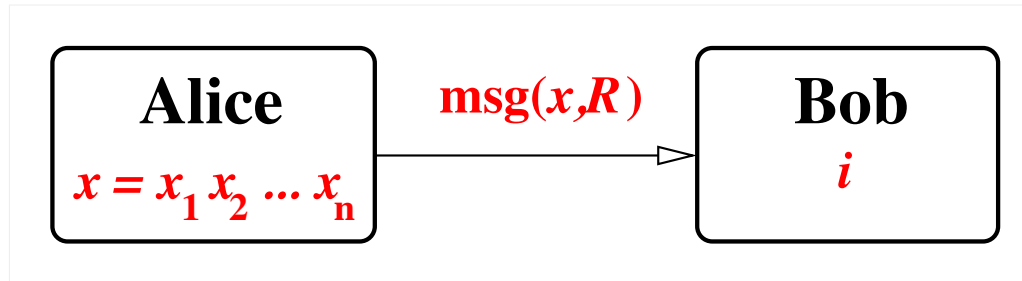
$$\text{Get } \text{IC}(\mathcal{A}) \gtrsim \text{Complexity}(\mathcal{A})$$

Part One:
No Interaction

The INDEX Problem

Definition:

Alice holds $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$, Bob holds $i \in [n]$; find x_i (error $\leq \varepsilon$)



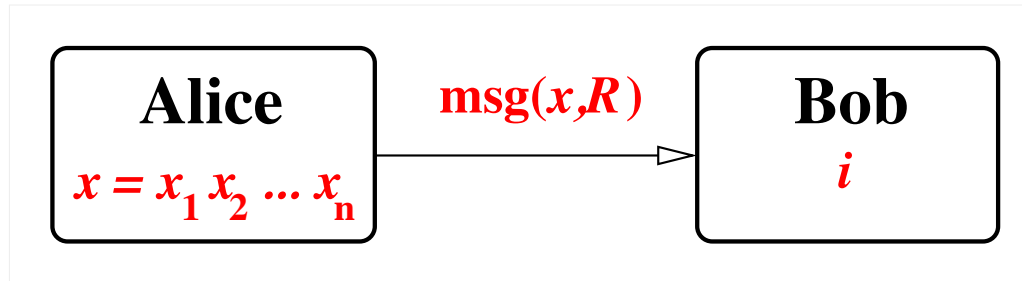
Correctness requirement:

$$\forall x, i \quad \Pr[\text{output} \neq x_i] \leq \varepsilon$$

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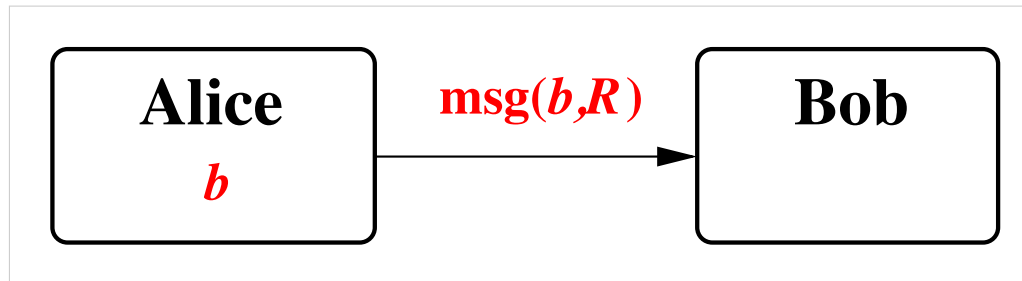
Theorem: Alice needs to send $\Omega(n)$ bits.

[Abayev'96]

Information Complexity Paradigm Demo

The ECHO problem:

Alice holds $b \in \{0, 1\}$, Bob to output b with error $\leq \varepsilon$



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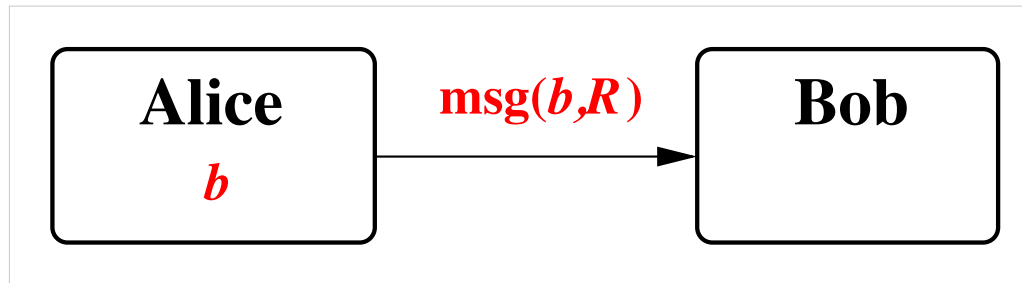
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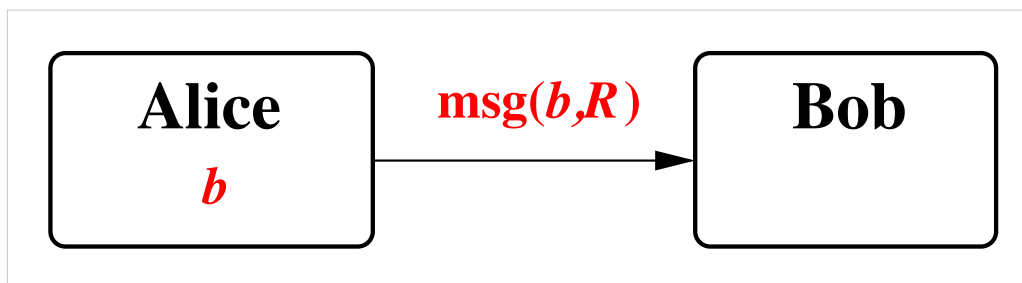
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The paradigm

1. Define information cost
2. Simulation Argument
3. Basic IC lower bound (for ECHO)

Step 1: Define Information Cost

Generic notion, for a communication protocol Π :

$\text{icost}(\Pi) =$ amount of info about (part of) the input to Π
revealed by (some of) the messages in Π
(possibly conditioned on some prior knowledge)

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Generic notion, for a communication protocol Π :

$\text{icost}(\Pi)$ = amount of info about (part of) the input to Π
revealed by (some of) the messages in Π
(possibly conditioned on some prior knowledge)

In this case...

- Let Π_B be a protocol for task \mathcal{B} (i.e., INDEX)
- Let X = random input (distrib μ) for Alice
 R = random coins of Alice
 $M = \text{msg}(X, R)$; then

$$\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_B) := I(X : M)$$

- Notice:

$$\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_B) \leq H(M) \leq \text{length}(M) = \text{cost}(\Pi_B)$$

Step 2: Simulation Argument

Take $X = X_1 \dots X_n \sim \mu_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mu_n =: \mu$; then X_1, \dots, X_n independent

$$\text{cost}(\Pi_B) \geq \text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_B)$$

$$= I(X_1 X_2 \dots X_n : M)$$

$$\geq I(X_1 : M) + I(X_2 : M) + \dots + I(X_n : M) \quad [\text{superadditivity}]$$

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To make this work, want protocols $\Pi_{A,j}$ s.t.

$M \equiv$ Alice's message in $\Pi_{A,j}$ on input $X_j \sim \mu_j$

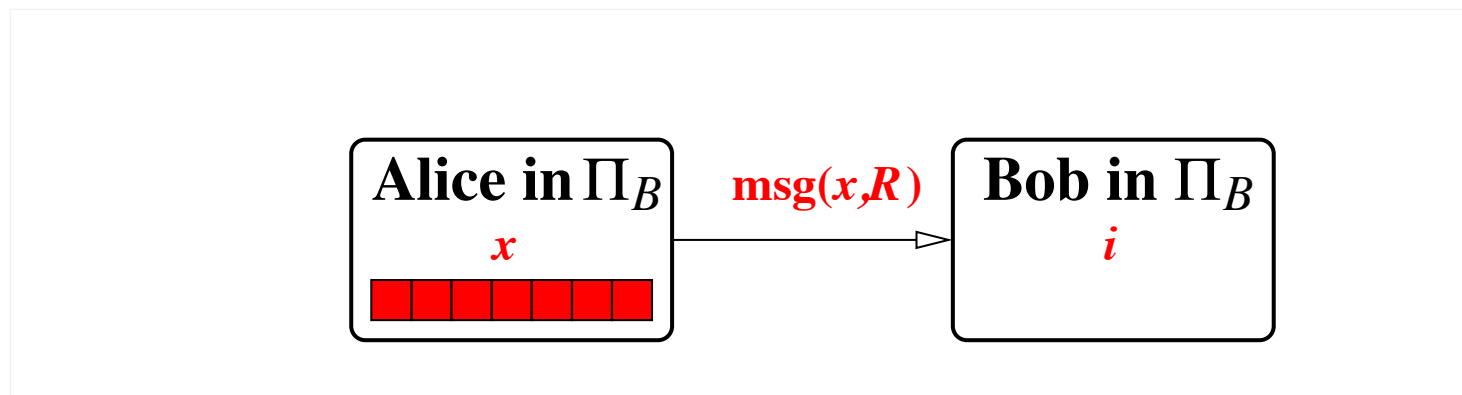
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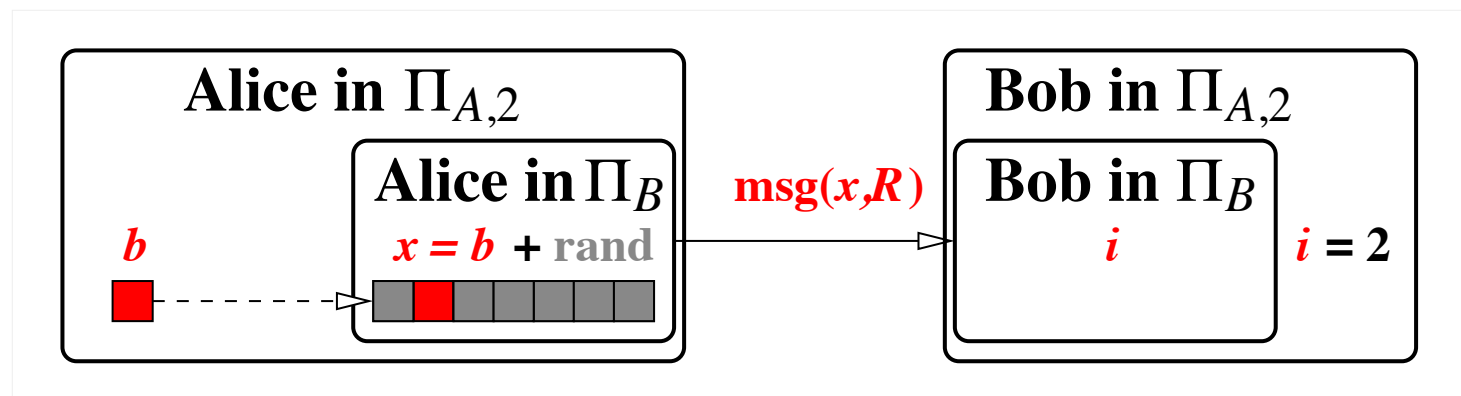
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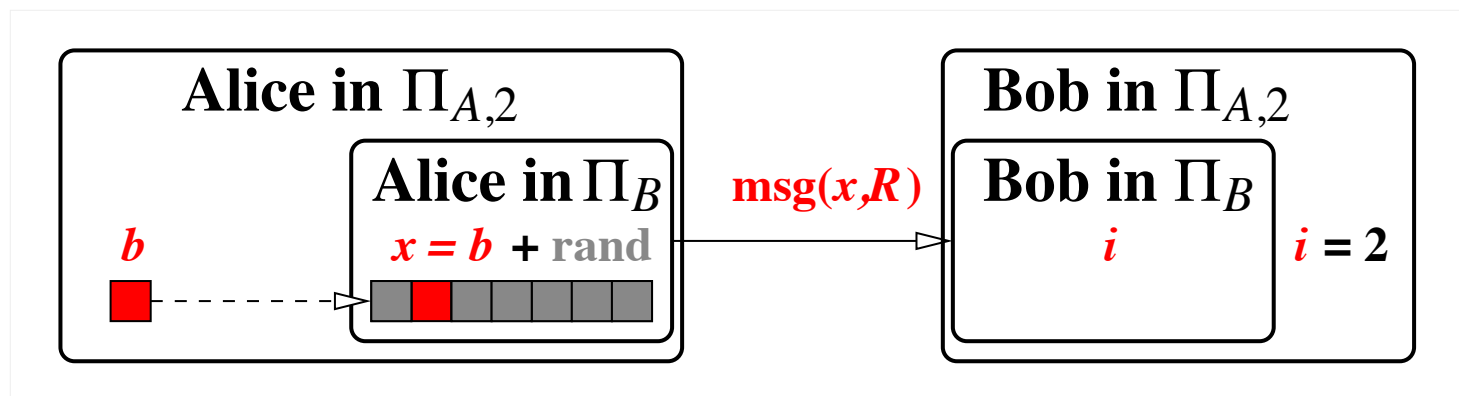
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Notice: each $\Pi_{A,j}$ solves ECHO

Step 3: Basic IC Lower Bound

Comm complexity: $R_\varepsilon^\rightarrow(\mathcal{B}) = \min \{ \text{cost}(\Pi) : \Pi \text{ solves } \mathcal{B} \text{ with error } \varepsilon \}$

Info complexity: $IC_\varepsilon^{\mu, \rightarrow}(\mathcal{B}) = \inf \{ \text{icost}^\mu(\Pi) : \Pi \text{ solves } \mathcal{B} \text{ with error } \varepsilon \}$

Pick $\mu =$ uniform distrib, ξ ; so far

$$R_\varepsilon^\rightarrow(\mathcal{B}) \geq IC_\varepsilon^{\xi, \rightarrow}(\mathcal{B})$$

$$IC_\varepsilon^{\xi, \rightarrow}(\mathcal{B}) \geq n \cdot IC_\varepsilon^{\xi, \rightarrow}(\mathcal{A})$$

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Intuitively clear that $IC_\varepsilon^{\mu, \rightarrow}(\mathcal{A}) \neq 0$

Implication: $R_\varepsilon^\rightarrow(\mathcal{B}) = \Omega(n)$.

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In fact we can work out the constant precisely...

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- Let Π_A be a protocol for task \mathcal{A} (i.e., ECHO)
- Let Z = random input (uniform distrib ξ) for Alice

$$M = \text{msg}(Z, R)$$

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$$\text{icost}^\xi(\Pi_A) = I(Z : M)$$

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$D_{\text{TV}}(P, Q)$: total variation distance
$D_{\text{KL}}(P \ Q)$: Kullback-Leibler divergence
$D_{\text{JS}}(P, Q)$: Jensen-Shannon divergence
$H_b(x)$: binary entropy function
	$= -x \log x - (1 - x) \log(1 - x)$

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- Error $\leq \varepsilon$ implies $\text{D}_{\text{TV}}(M^{(0)}, M^{(1)}) \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon$
- Thus $\text{icost}^\xi(\Pi_A) \geq 1 - \text{H}_b(\varepsilon)$
and so $\text{R}_\varepsilon^\rightarrow(\text{INDEX}) \geq (1 - \text{H}_b(\varepsilon))n$... a tight bound!

The INDEX Problem: Applications

A humble lower bound, but with many applications!

- Complexity of sampling procedures
- Lower bounds for succinct data structures
- Space lower bounds for (one-pass) data stream algorithms
 - Median of n numbers: $\Omega(n)$
 - Mode of n numbers: $\Omega(n)$
 - Connectivity of n -vertex graph, given edges: $\Omega(n)$
 - Triangle-freeness of n -vertex graph: $\Omega(n^2)$
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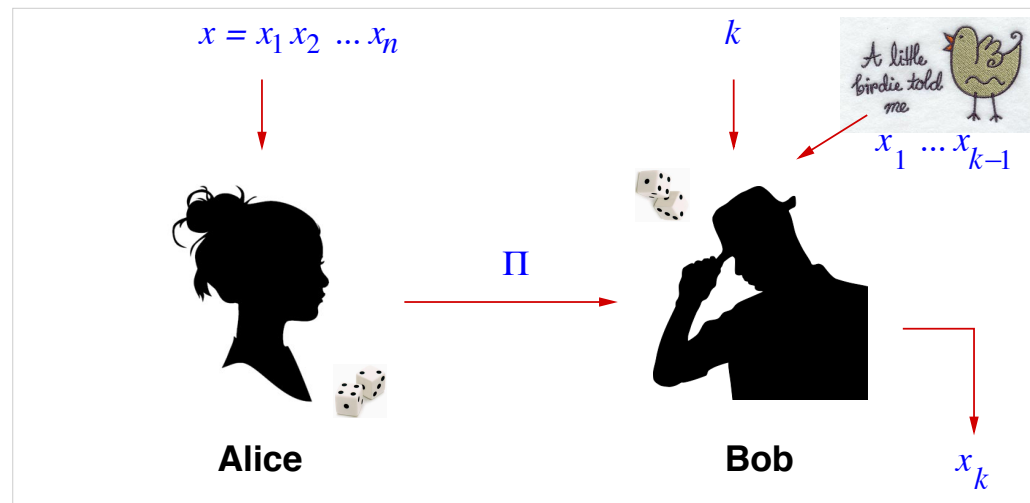
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 - \vdots
 - Diameter of n -vertex graph, k -approx: $\Omega(n^{1+1/k})$
- A very sophisticated reduction

[Feigenbaum-K-M-S-Z'05]

The INDEX Problem: Extensions

- Generalize to AUGMENTED-INDEX

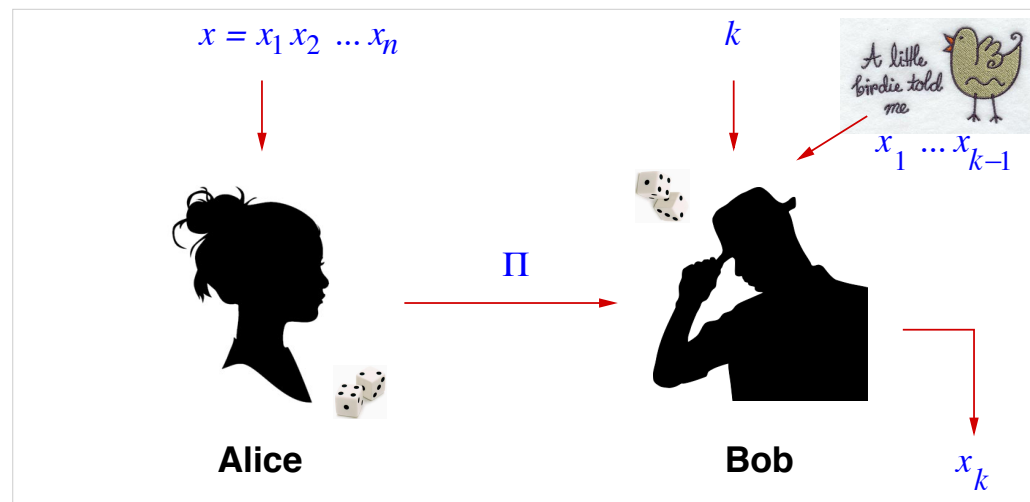


- Still $\Omega(n)$; replace superadditivity step with chain rule:

$$I(X_1 X_2 \dots X_n : M) = \sum_{i=1}^n I(X_i : M \mid X_1 \dots X_{i-1})$$

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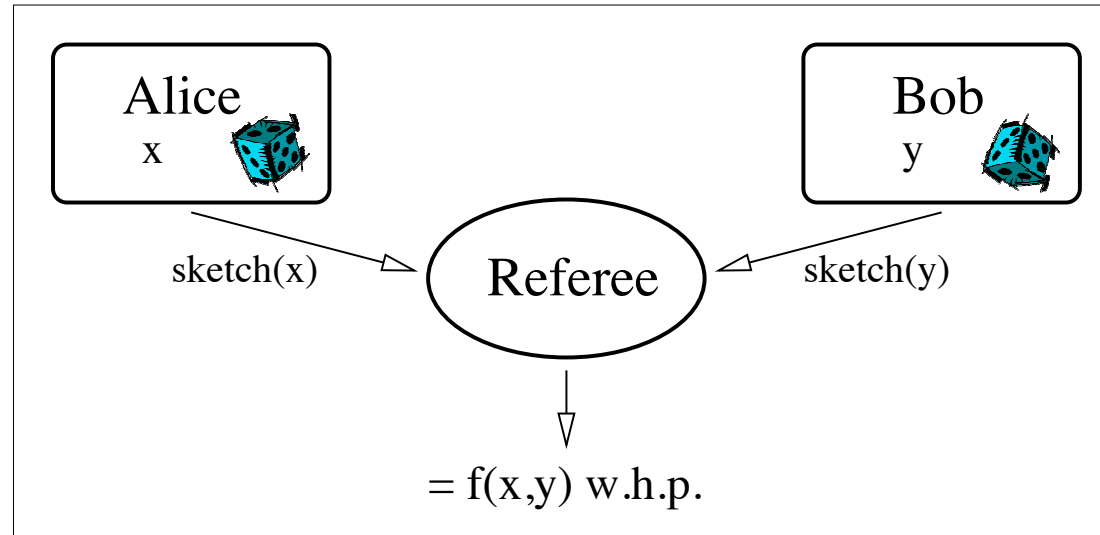


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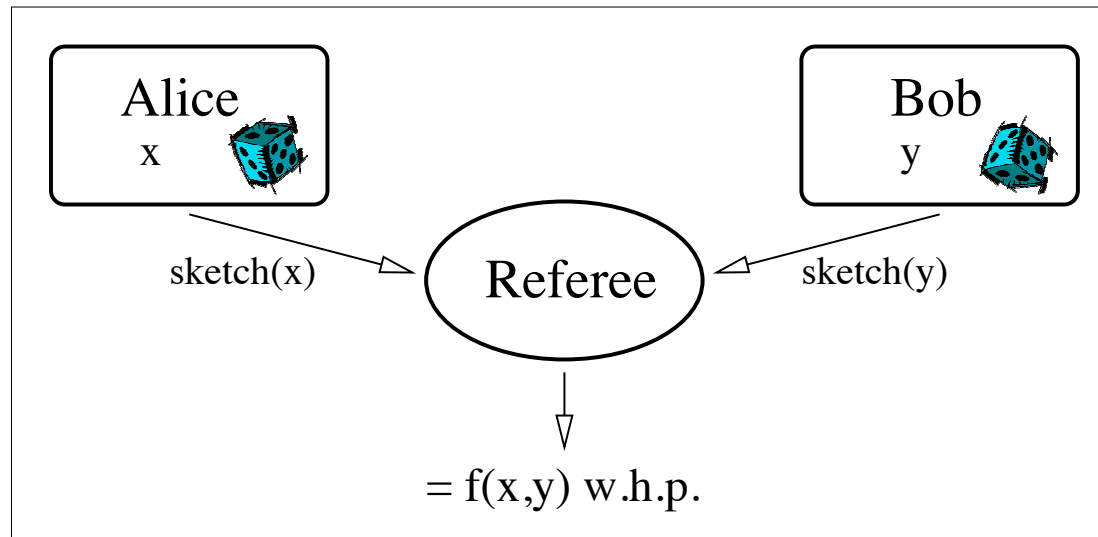
- Generalize to **interactive** communication
 - Communication complexity drops to $O(\log n)$
 - Seek tradeoffs [Magniez-Mathieu-Nayak'10], [C.-Kondapally'11]

Simultaneous Message Communication



Lower bound method: $R^{\parallel}(f) := R_{1/3}^{\parallel}(f) = \Omega(\sqrt{D^{\parallel}(f)})$ [Babai-Kimmel'97]

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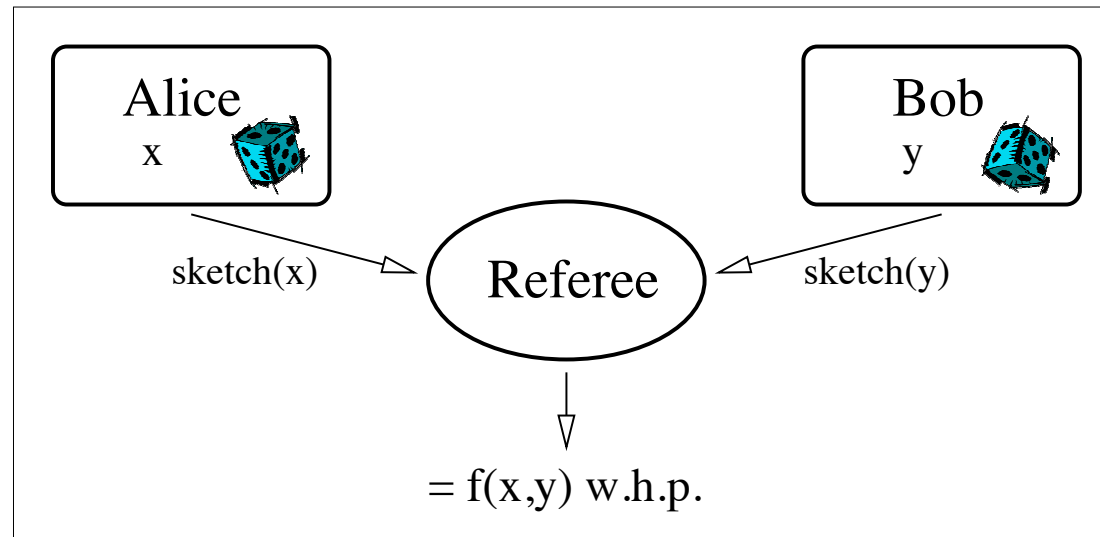


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Equality function $\text{EQ}_n(x, y) = 1 \iff x = y$... $x, y \in \{0, 1\}^n$

A neat result: $R^{\parallel}(\text{EQ}_n) = \Theta(\sqrt{n})$ [Ambainis'96]

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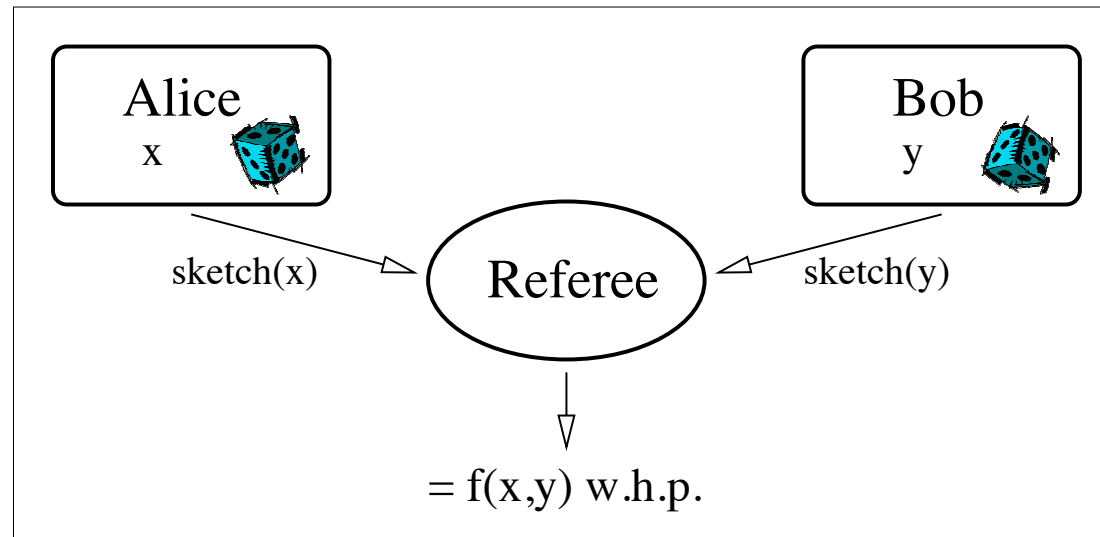
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Direct sum: $OREQ_{n,m}(x_1 \dots x_m, y_1 \dots y_m) = \bigvee_{i=1}^m EQ_n(x_i, y_i)$

What is $R^{\parallel}(OREQ_{n,m})$? Above method only shows $\Omega(\sqrt{mn})$

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Theorem: (via IC) $R^{\parallel}(OREQ_{n,m}) = \Omega(m\sqrt{n})$ [C.-Shi-Wirth-Yao'01]

IC Paradigm: Second Demo

Alice: input $X \sim \xi$, message U ; Bob: input $Y \sim \xi$, message V

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1. Define information cost

$$\text{icost}^\xi(\Pi) = I(X : U) + I(Y : V)$$

2. Simulation Argument

To solve EQ_n by simulating protocol for $\text{OREQ}_{n,m}$

Alice, Bob plug input into i th position, fill rest at random $\sim \xi$

May change answer from 0 to 1 w.p. $\leq m/2^n = o(1)$

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3. Basic IC lower bound (for EQ)

So far: $R^\parallel(\text{OREQ}_{n,m}) \geq \text{IC}^{\xi,\parallel}(\text{OREQ}_{n,m}) \geq m \cdot \text{IC}^{\xi,\parallel}(\text{EQ}_n)$

Must show $\text{IC}^{\xi,\parallel}(\text{EQ}_n) \gtrsim R^\parallel(\text{EQ}_n)$

IC Paradigm: Second Demo

Alice: input $X \sim \xi$, message U ; Bob: input $Y \sim \xi$, message V

1. Define information cost

$$\text{icost}^\xi(\Pi) = I(X : U) + I(Y : V)$$

2. Simulation Argument

To solve EQ_n by simulating protocol for $\text{OREQ}_{n,m}$

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Main idea: Whittle down message space via rejection sampling [CSWY'01]

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Deeper version of idea: comm complexity of correlation [Harsha-J-M-R'07]

Part Two:
Interaction, But Not Really

Lower Bounds for Data Structures

Preprocess data $Y \rightarrow$ data structure $T = T(Y)$... low storage space

Query $x \rightarrow$ algorithm $\mathcal{A}(x, T) \rightarrow$ output z ... low query time

Satisfying some relation $R(x, Y, z)$.

Examples: take $x \in \{0, 1\}^d$, $Y \subseteq \{0, 1\}^d$ with $|Y| = n$

- Predecessor Search

Treat data as d -bit integers

$R(x, Y, z)$ iff $z \in Y$ is the predecessor of x in Y .

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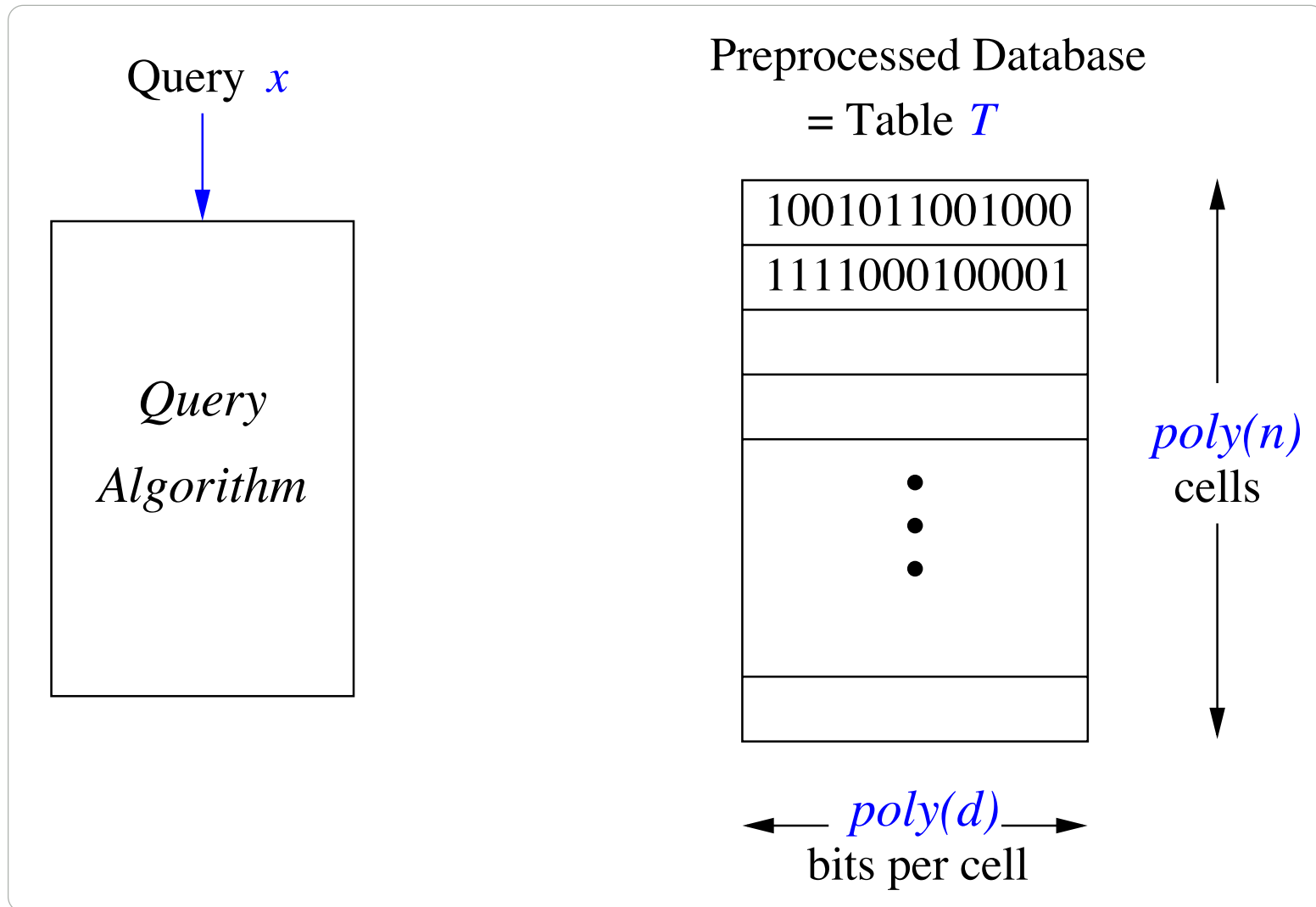
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- Approx Nearest Neighbor (ANN) Search

Treat data as points in Hamming cube

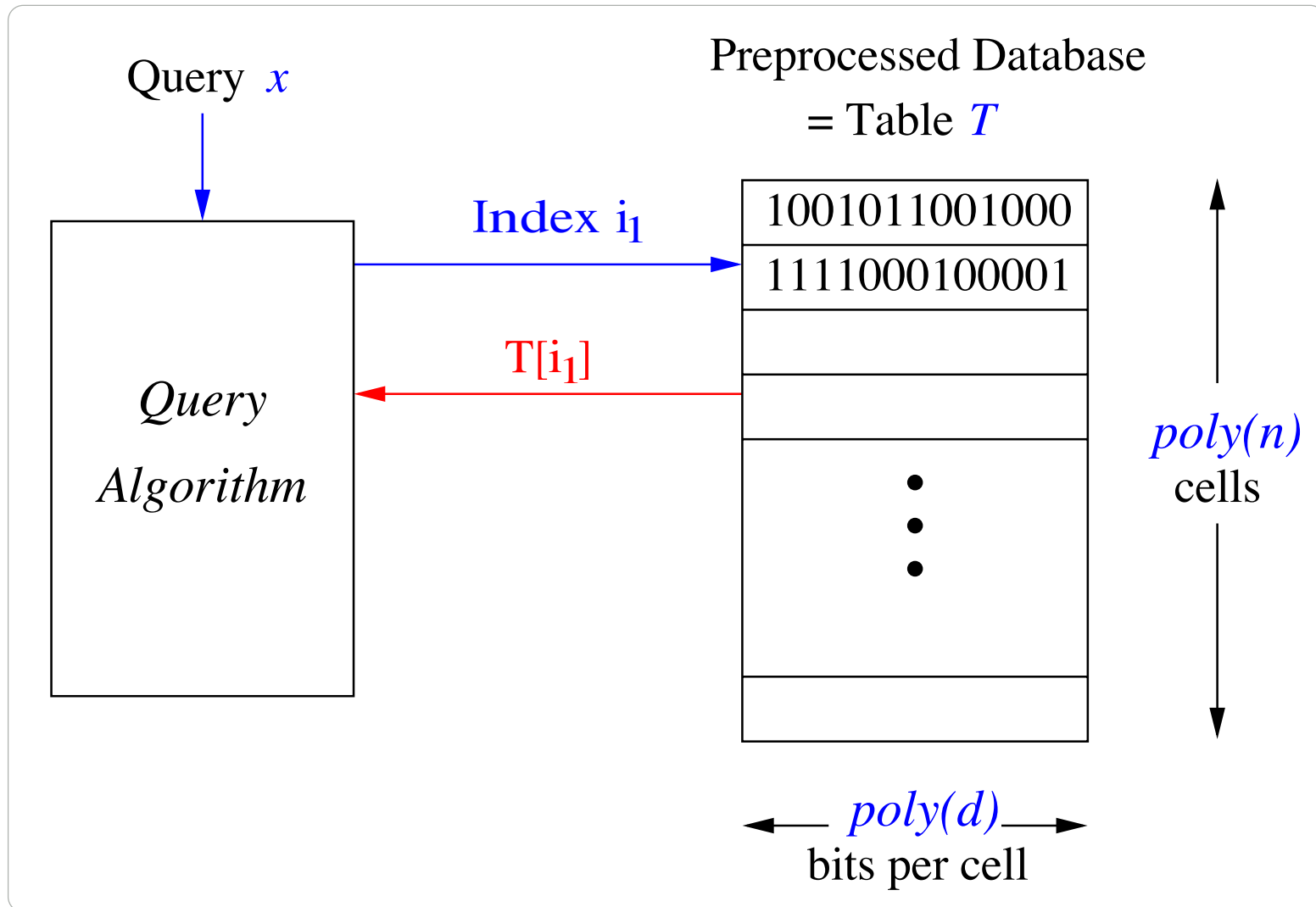
$R(x, Y, z)$ iff $z \in Y$ is a β -ANN of x w.r.t. Y .

Cell-Probe Model



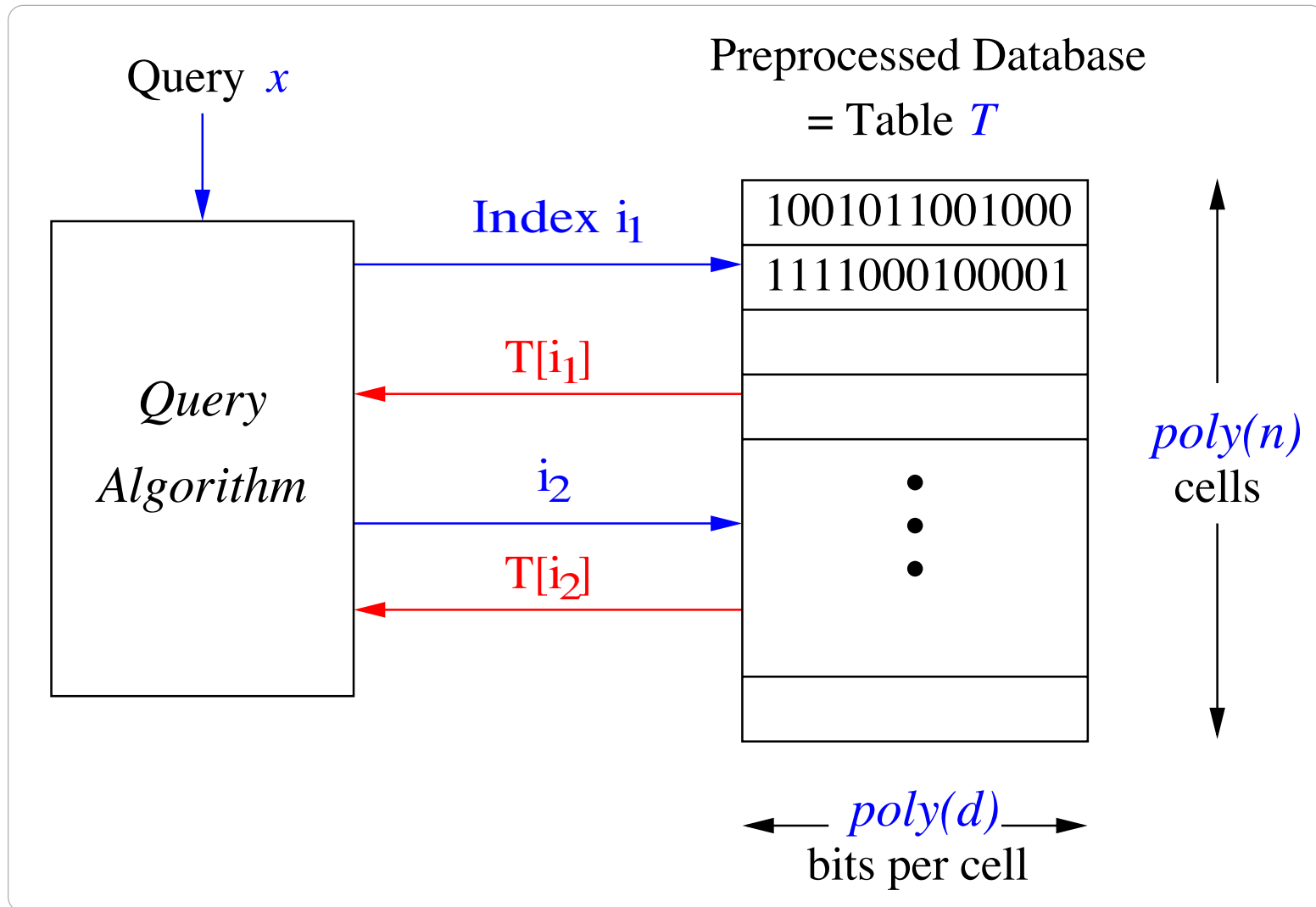
[Yao'81]

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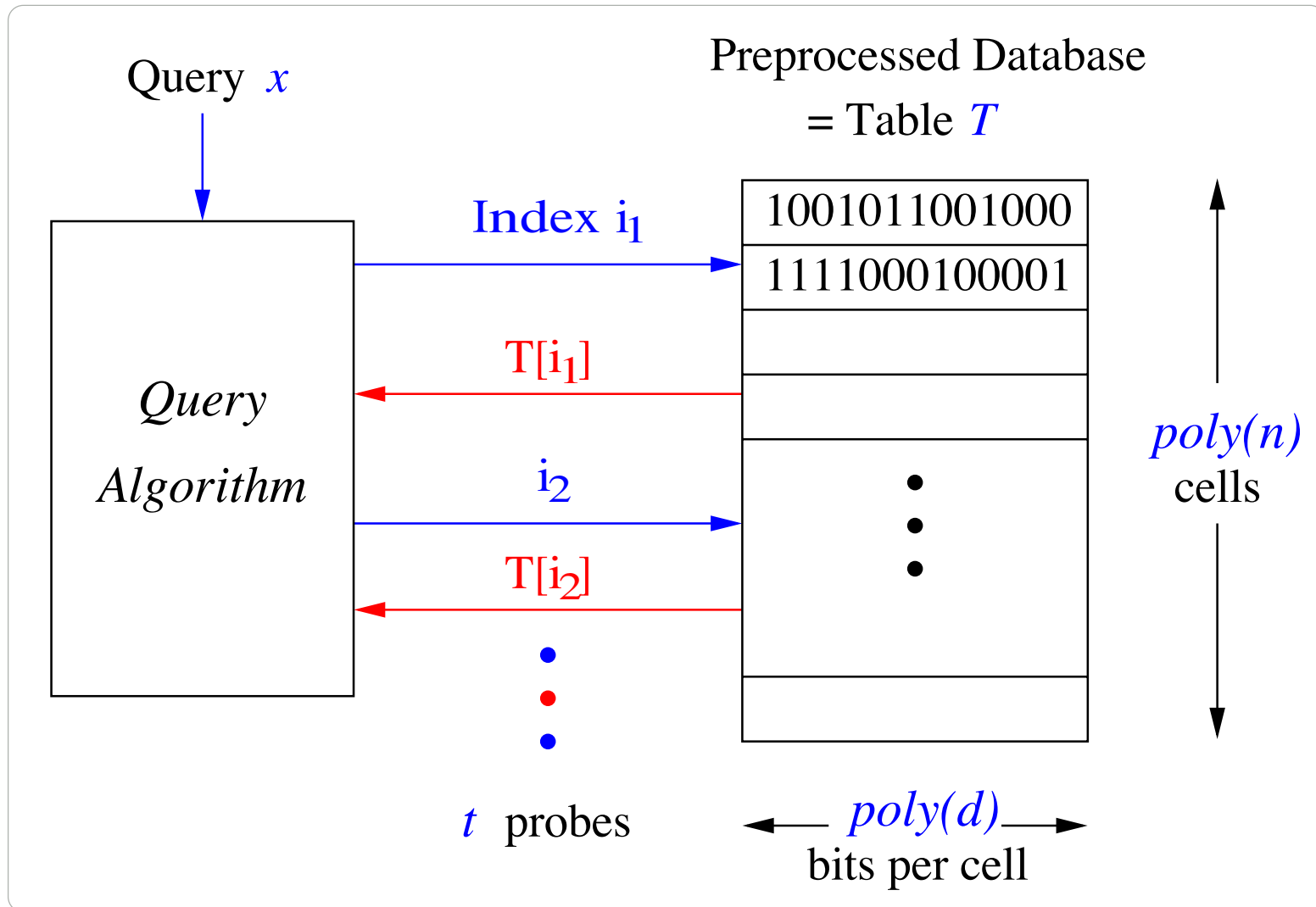
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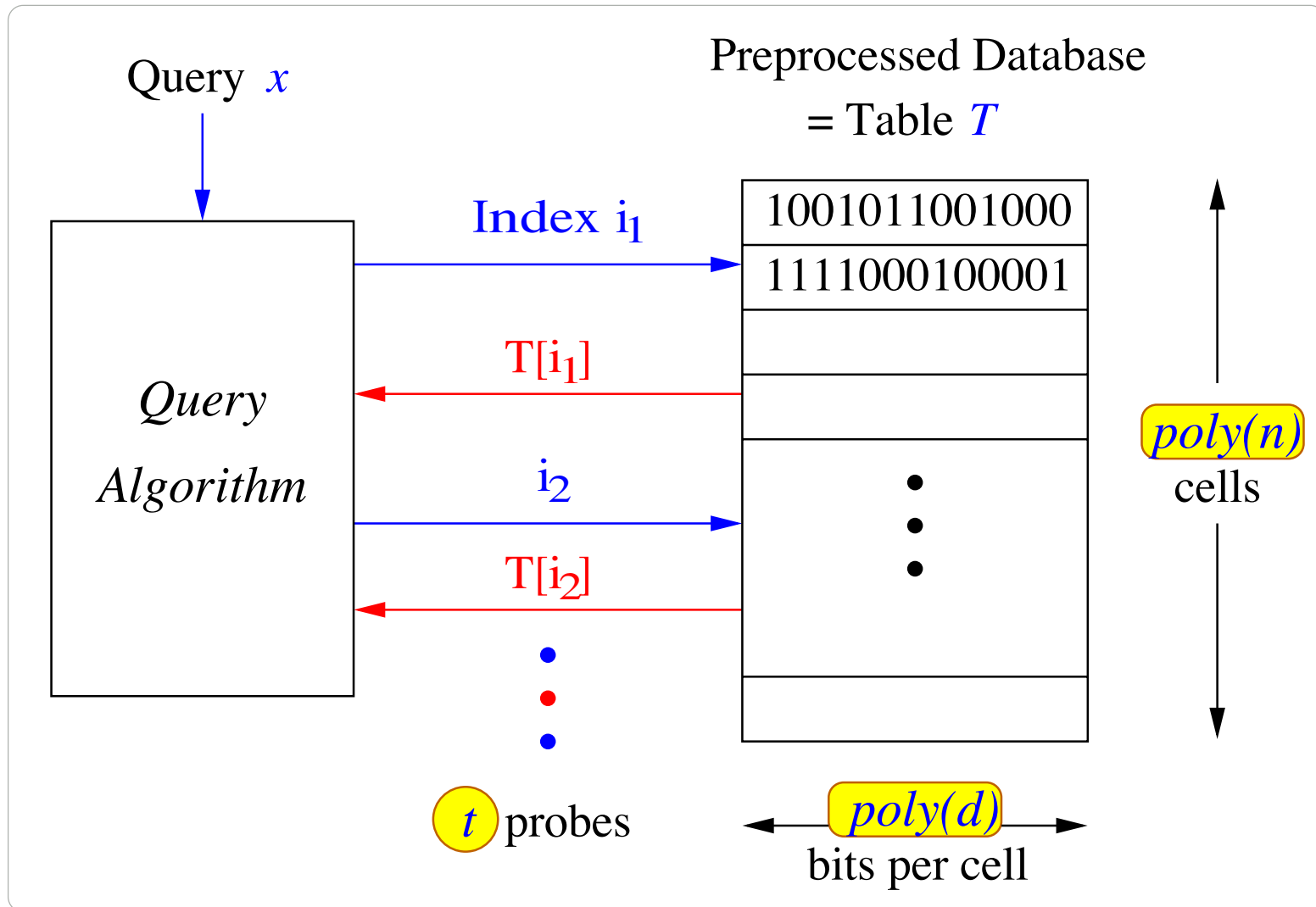
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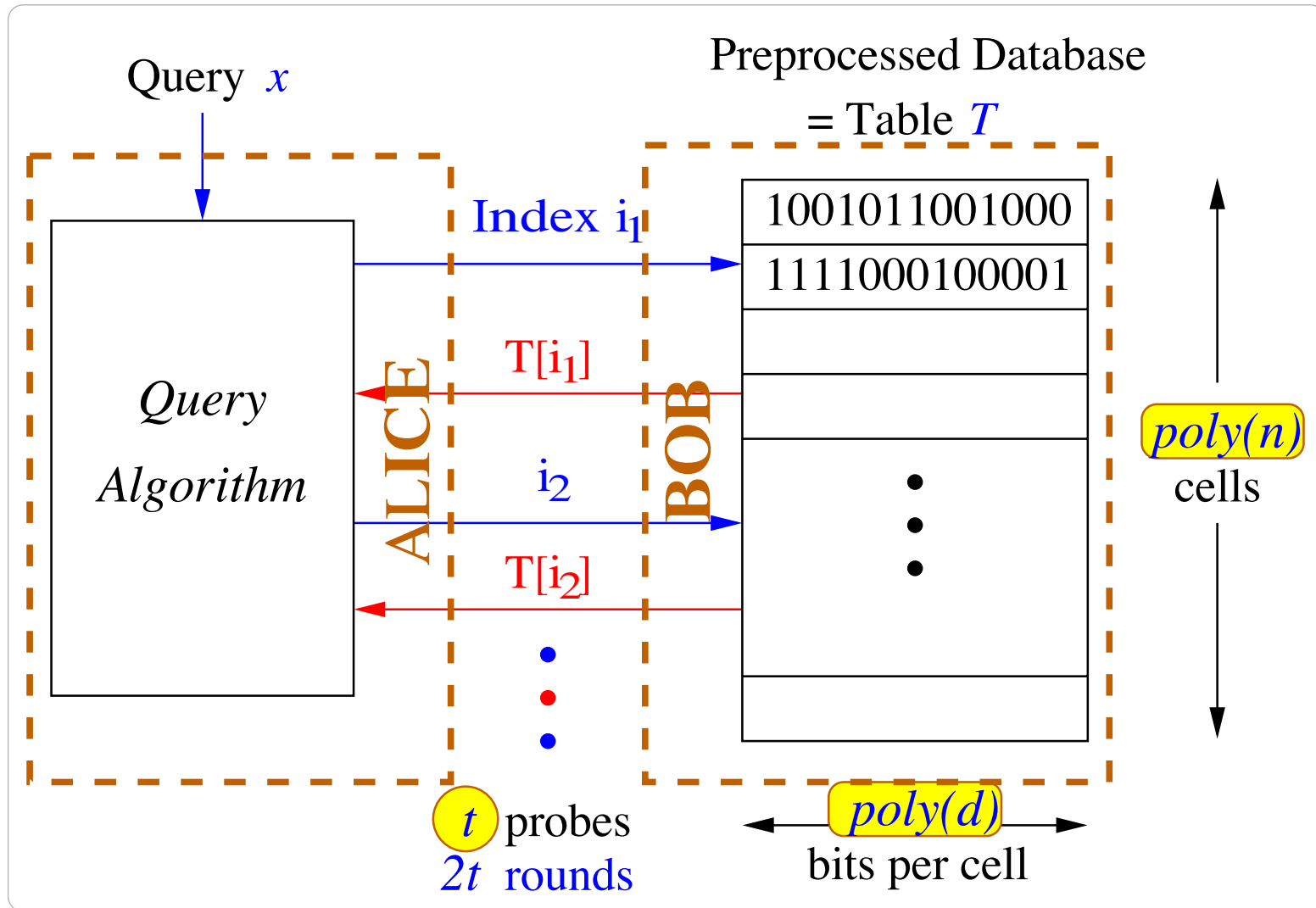
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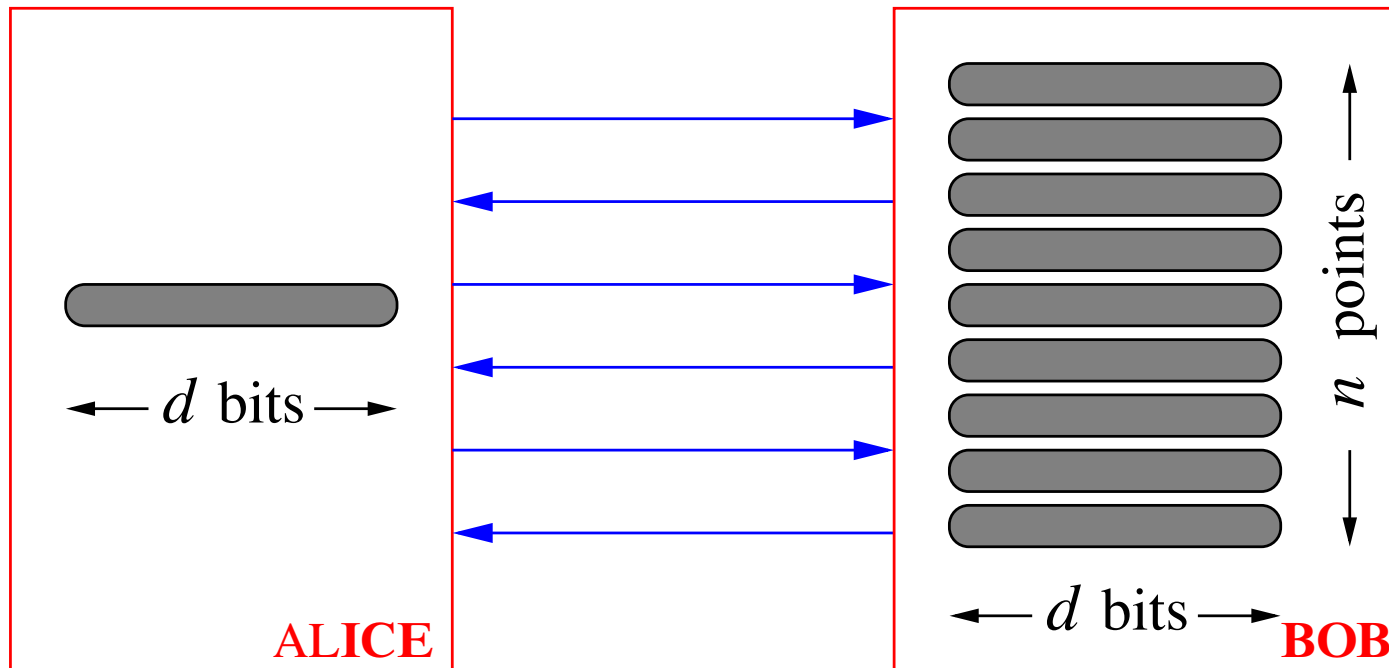


Alice: $O(\log n)$ -bit messages; Bob: $\text{poly}(d)$ -bit messages

Round Elimination: Predecessor Search

Repeatedly remove first round, shrink instance size

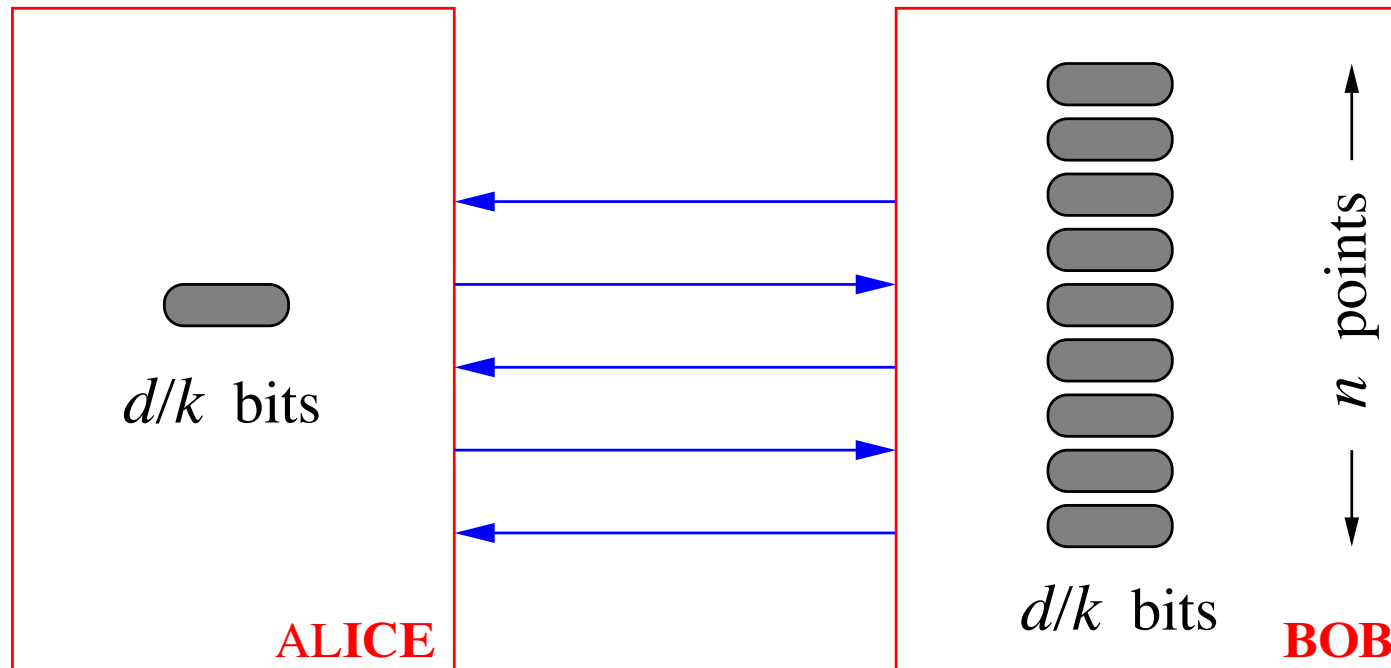
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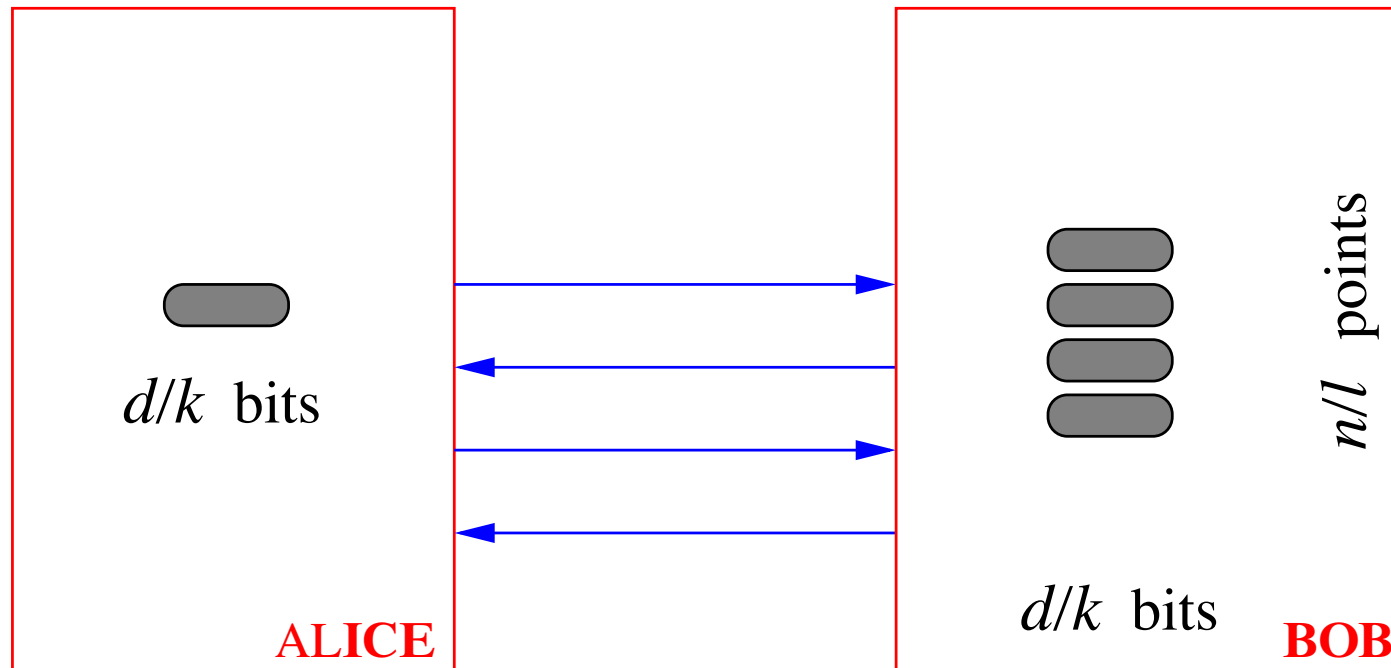
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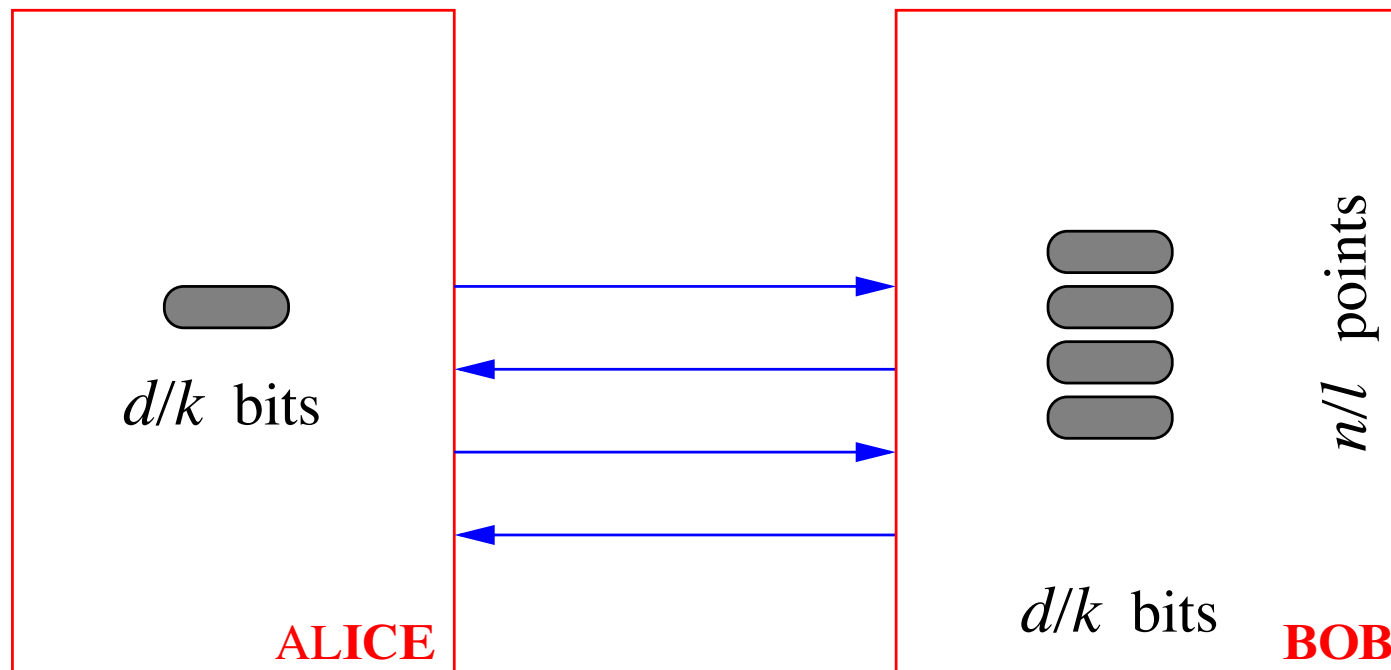
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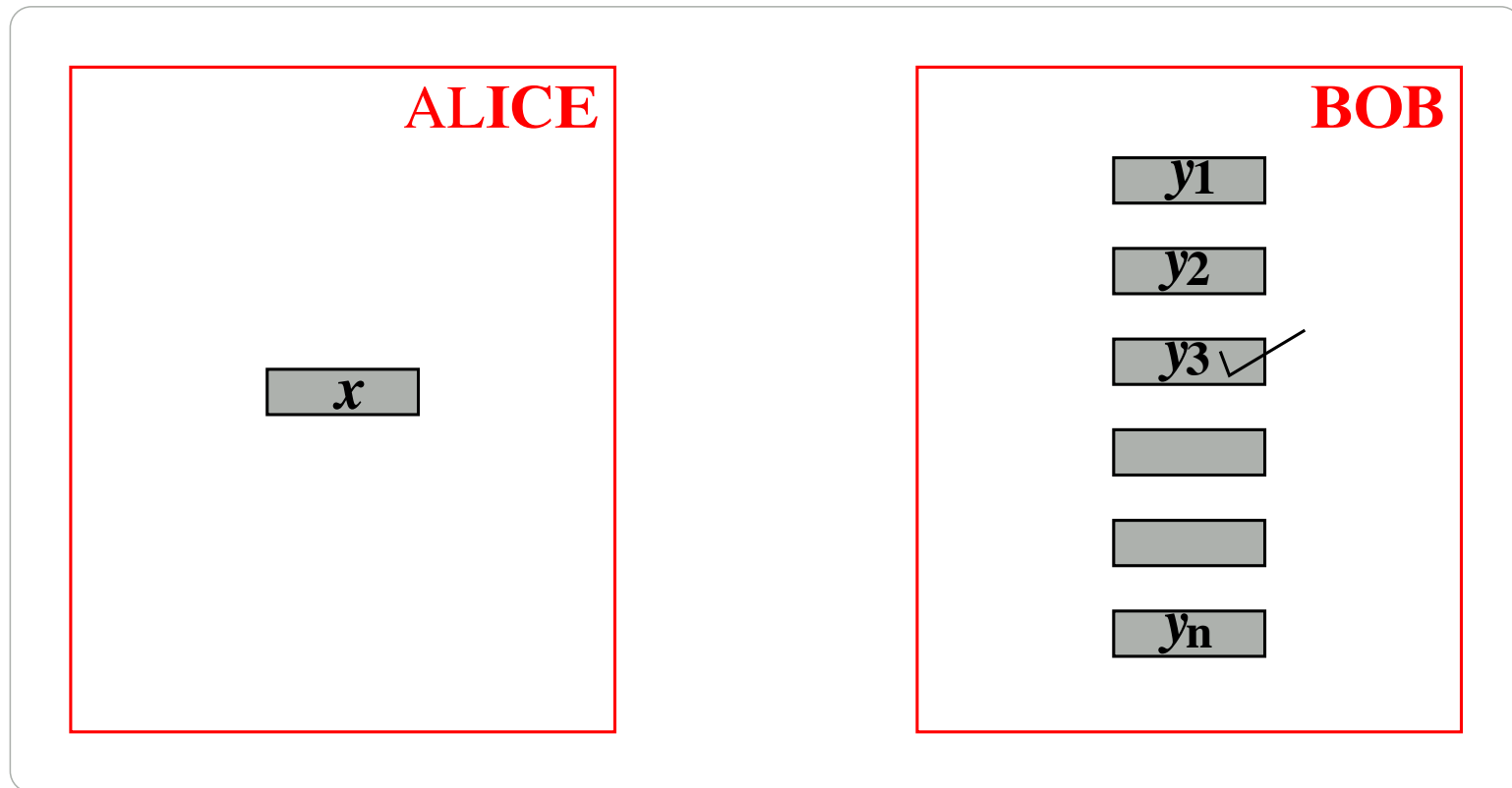


Eventually: zero communication protocol for instance size $(d/k^t, n/\ell^t)$

Implying... **Theorem:** Query time $t = \Omega\left(\frac{\log d}{\log \log d}\right)$

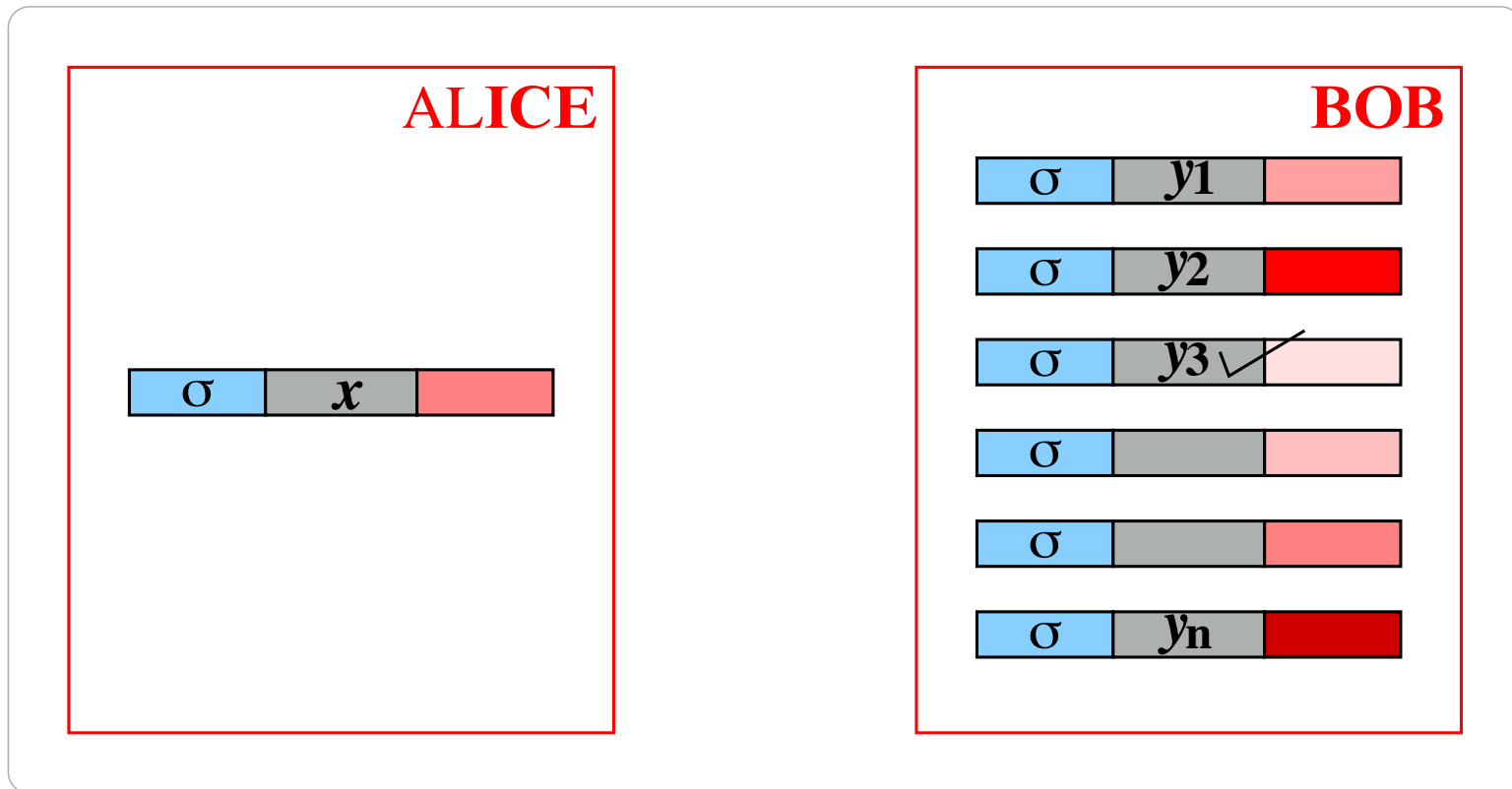
Predecessor Search: Embeddability Property

Input (x, Y) solvable using input $(\sigma \circ x \circ \text{RAND}, \sigma \circ Y \circ \text{RAND})$.



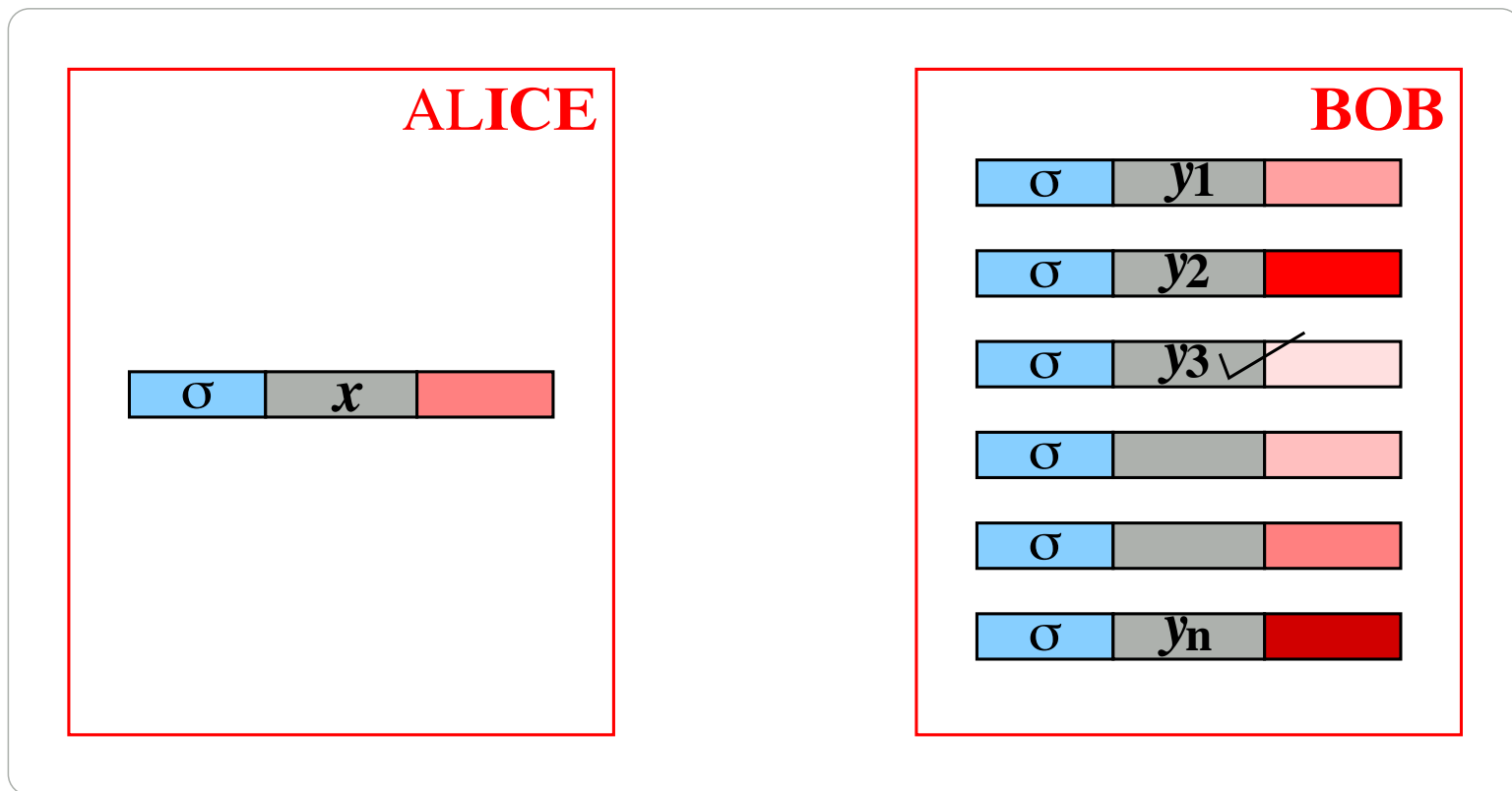
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Simple task (\mathcal{A}): instance size $(n/k, d)$, using $2t$ rounds

Complex task (\mathcal{B}): instance size (n, d) , using $2t$ rounds $\approx k$ times \mathcal{A}

IC Paradigm For Round Elimination

1. Define information cost

$$\text{icost}_1^\mu(\Pi) = I(X : M_1) \quad \text{Alice's input } X \sim \mu, M_1 = \text{msg}_1(X, R)$$

2. Simulation Argument

3. Compression Argument

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Put $X = X_1 X_2 \dots X_k$, each X_i : a (d/k) -bit chunk

Protocol $\Pi_{A,\sigma}$: pad instance using prefix σ of length $(i-1)d/k$

$$\begin{aligned} O(\log n) &\geq \text{icost}_1^{\mu^{\otimes k}}(\Pi_B) = I(X_1 X_2 \dots X_k : M_1) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k I(X_i : M_1 \mid X_1 \dots X_{i-1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbb{E}_\sigma [I(X_i : M_1 \mid X_1 \dots X_{i-1} = \sigma)] = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbb{E}_\sigma [\text{icost}_1^\mu(\Pi_{A,\sigma})] \end{aligned}$$

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So far: exists $\Pi_{A,\sigma}$ with $\text{icost}_1^\mu(\Pi_{A,\sigma}) \leq O((\log n)/k) = o(1)$

Pretend $\text{msg}_1(X', R)$ sent as first message, $X' \equiv X$ but indep.

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$$\text{Error} \leq O(\sqrt{\text{icost}_1^\mu(\Pi_{A,\sigma})}) = o(1) \quad [\text{Pinsker's inequality}]$$

Round Elimination: ANN Search

1. Define information cost

As before, $\text{icost}_1(\Pi) = I(X : M_1)$

2. Simulation Argument

ANN does not have embeddability property

3. Compression Argument

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Reduce from Longest Prefix Match (LPM), which does

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3. Compression Argument

Use comm complexity of correlation [Harsha-J-M-R'07]

Compress first message down to its info content

Now it's short enough: easy (combinatorial) round elimination

Eventually... **Theorem:** Query time $t = \Omega\left(\frac{\log \log d}{\log \log \log d}\right)$ [C.-Regev'10]

Pointer Jumping Problems

Input: One pointer per level in layered graph; plus one bit per leaf

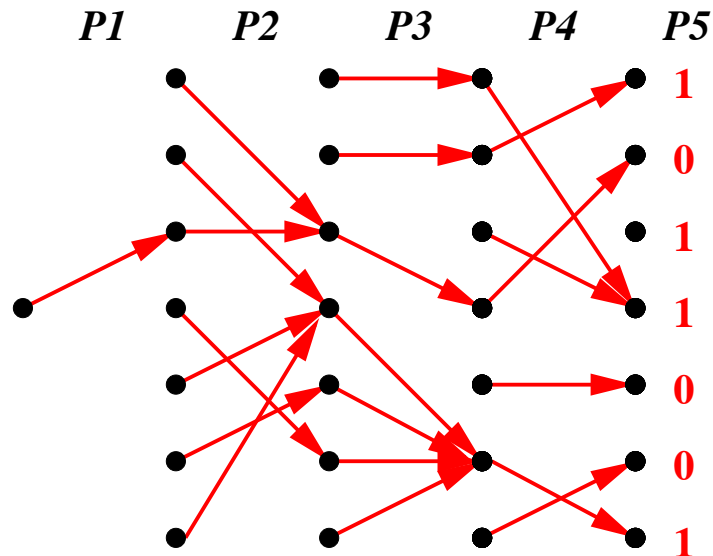
Task: output bit at leaf reached by following pointers from root

Multilayer Ptr Jumping, $\text{MPJ}_{n,p}$

Full layered DAG, n nodes/layer

Number-on-Forehead (NOF)

Speaking order P_1, \dots, P_p



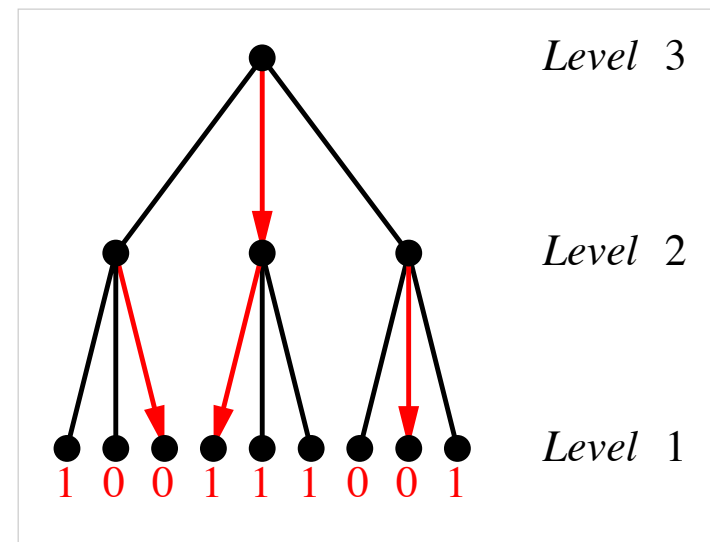
Theorems: $R^{\rightarrow}(\text{MPJ}_{n,p}) = \Omega(n/p)^*$

Tree Pointer Jumping, $\text{TPJ}_{n,p+1}$

Complete $(p+1)$ -level n -ary tree

Number-In-Hand (NIH)

Use p rounds, going up tree: $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$

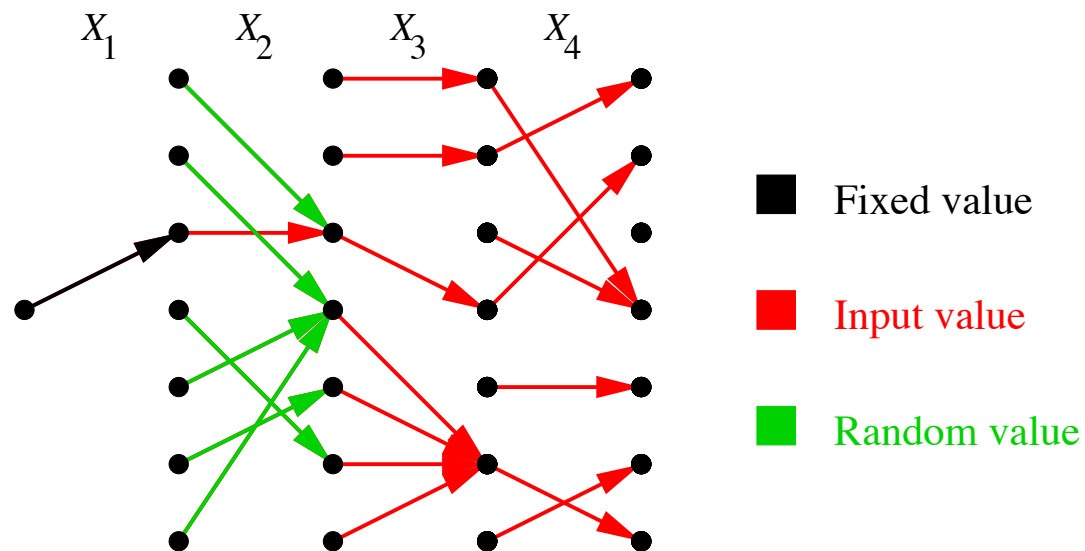


$R^p(\text{TPJ}_{n,p+1}) = \Omega(n/p^2)$

The Importance of a Careful Definition

For the NOF problem $\text{MPJ}_{n,p}$

[Chakrabarti'07]



Protocol P , input $(X_1, \dots, X_p) \sim \mu$, $M_1 =$ message of player P_1 :

$$\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi) := I(M_1 : X_2 \mid X_3, \dots, X_k)$$

Simulation argument works only under one of these protocol restrictions:

- Myopic: each player sees only one layer ahead ... $\Omega(n/p)$
- Conservative: don't see behind except know current node ... $\Omega(n/p^2)$

Pointer Jumping: Applications

- Layered DAG version, NOF
 - Strong NOF lower bounds imply circuit lower bounds [Yao'90]
 - If myopic/conservative restriction removed, $ACC^0 \neq LOGSPACE$

Pointer Jumping: Applications

- Layered DAG version, NOF
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- Tree version, NIH
 - Multi-pass data stream lower bounds
 - Classic example: median of n numbers, p passes: $\Omega(n^{1/p})$ space
 - Modern: median, randomly-ordered, p passes: $\Omega(n^{2^{-p}})$ space
 - A sophisticated reduction [C.-Cormode-McGregor'08]

Part Three: Full Interaction

The DISJOINTNESS problem

- Input: $2 \times n$ Boolean matrix
- Task: distinguish between the following two cases
 - Case 0: Every column has weight ≤ 1

0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

- Case 1: One column has weight 2, rest have weight ≤ 1
(i.e., the subsets of $[n]$ represented by the rows intersect)

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1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	← Bob

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0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	← Alice
1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	← Bob

- This problem is called $\text{DISJ}_{n,2}$
- Later: t -player generalization $\text{DISJ}_{n,t}$

New Twist in Applying IC Paradigm

Problem AND_2 :

- Alice holds $a \in \{0, 1\}$, Bob holds $b \in \{0, 1\}$
- Bob to output $a \wedge b$

Simple task (\mathcal{A}): AND_2

Complex task (\mathcal{B}): $\text{DISJ}_{n,2} \approx$ combines n copies of AND_2

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The key twist:

- Step 2 (Simulation): pad AND_2 instance to get $\text{DISJ}_{n,2}$ instance
- Careless random padding will drown out the answer!
- Must ensure “padding” columns j have $\text{AND}_2(X_j, Y_j) = 0$
- Need shared coins to do this ... so must condition on these coins

IC Paradigm Applied to DISJOINTNESS (1/3)

Inputs: $\vec{X} = X_1 \dots X_n$, $\vec{Y} = Y_1 \dots Y_n$; Auxiliary coins: $D_1 \dots D_n$

Each $(X_i, Y_i, D_i) \sim \mu$; $M = \text{transcript}^\Pi(X, Y, R_{\text{pub}}, R_{\text{priv}})$

$$\mu =$$

$XY \rightarrow$	00	01	10	11
$D = 0$	1/2	0	1/2	0
$D = 1$	1/2	1/2	0	0

1. Define information cost

$$\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi) = I(\vec{X}\vec{Y} : M \mid \vec{D}, R_{\text{pub}}) \quad (\text{Note: external icost})$$

2. Simulation Argument

3. Basic IC lower bound (for AND_2)

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2. Simulation Argument

Protocols $\Pi_{A,i}$ for $\text{AND}_2(X, Y)$ simulating Π_B for $\text{DISJ}_{n,2}$

Public coins for \vec{D} , private for \vec{X}, \vec{Y} s.t. each $(X_j, Y_j, D_j) \sim \mu$

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Crucial property: D_j **factorizes** (X_j, Y_j)

Plug in $X_i \leftarrow X$ and $Y_i \leftarrow Y$

3. Basic IC lower bound (for AND_2)

IC Paradigm Applied to DISJOINTNESS (2/3)

Each $(X_i, Y_i, D_i) \sim \mu$; $M = \text{transcript}^\Pi(X, Y, R_{\text{pub}}, R_{\text{priv}})$

$$\mu =$$

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2. Simulation Argument

Protocols $\Pi_{A,i}$ for $\text{AND}_2(X, Y)$ simulating Π_B for $\text{DISJ}_{n,2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{icost}^{\mu^{\otimes n}}(\Pi_B) &= \mathbb{I}(\vec{X}\vec{Y} : M \mid \vec{D}) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(X_i Y_i : M \mid \vec{D}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(X_i Y_i : M \mid D_i, \vec{D}_{-i}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_{A,i}) \end{aligned}$$

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3. Basic IC lower bound (for AND_2)

To prove: $\forall \Pi_A$ solving AND_2 , have $\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_A) = \Omega(1)$

Twist: distrib μ not hard for AND_2 : $\mathbb{E}_{(X,Y) \sim \mu}[\text{AND}_2(X, Y)] = 0$

IC Paradigm Applied to DISJOINTNESS (3/3)

- Protocol Π_A for AND_2 ; $(X, Y, D) \sim \mu$; $M = \text{trans}^\Pi(X, Y, R_{\text{priv}})$
- Let $M^{(wz)} = \text{transcript}^\Pi(w, z, R_{\text{priv}})$ for $w, z \in \{0, 1\}$; then

$$\begin{aligned}\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_A) &= I(XY : M \mid D) = \frac{1}{2}(I(X : M \mid D = 0) + I(Y : M \mid D = 1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(\text{D}_{\text{JS}}(M^{(00)}, M^{(10)}) + \text{D}_{\text{JS}}(M^{(00)}, M^{(01)})) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}(\text{h}^2(M^{(00)}, M^{(10)}) + \text{h}^2(M^{(00)}, M^{(01)})) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{4}\text{h}^2(M^{(10)}, M^{(01)})\end{aligned}$$

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by cut-and-paste property, conseq of rectangle property for protocols

Digression: Cut-And-Paste

- Protocol Π ; inputs w, z
- Let $M^{(wz)} = \text{transcript}^\Pi(w, z, R_{\text{priv}})$ for $w, z \in \{0, 1\}$
- Rectangle property:

Can “factorize” distrib of $M^{(wz)}$ as $f^{(w)} \odot g^{(z)}$

This means $\forall a : \Pr[M^{(wz)} = a] = f^{(w)}(a)g^{(z)}(a)$

- Hellinger distance: $h^2((, P), Q) = 1 - \sum_a \sqrt{P(a)Q(a)}$
- Put these together:

$$h^2(M^{(bc)}, M^{(wz)}) = h^2(M^{(bz)}, M^{(cw)})$$

IC Paradigm Applied to DISJOINTNESS (3/3)

- Protocol Π_A for AND_2 ; $(X, Y, D) \sim \mu$; $M = \text{trans}^\Pi(X, Y, R_{\text{priv}})$
- Let $M^{(wz)} = \text{transcript}^\Pi(w, z, R_{\text{priv}})$ for $w, z \in \{0, 1\}$; then

$$\begin{aligned}\text{icost}^\mu(\Pi_A) &= I(XY : M \mid D) = \frac{1}{2}(I(X : M \mid D = 0) + I(Y : M \mid D = 1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(\text{D}_{\text{JS}}(M^{(00)}, M^{(10)}) + \text{D}_{\text{JS}}(M^{(00)}, M^{(01)})) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}(\text{h}^2(M^{(00)}, M^{(10)}) + \text{h}^2(M^{(00)}, M^{(01)})) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{4}\text{h}^2(M^{(10)}, M^{(01)}) = \frac{1}{4}\text{h}^2(M^{(00)}, M^{(11)})\end{aligned}$$

by cut-and-paste property, conseq of rectangle property for protocols

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 \end{aligned}$$

by cut-and-paste property, conseq of rectangle property for protocols

- Error $\leq \varepsilon$ implies

$$\text{D}_{\text{TV}}(M^{(00)}, M^{(11)}) \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon \implies \text{h}^2(M^{(00)}, M^{(11)}) \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{\varepsilon}$$

- Overall: $R_\varepsilon(\text{DISJ}_{n,2}) \geq \frac{1}{4}(1 - 2\sqrt{\varepsilon})n$ [BarYossef-J-K-S'04]

Applications of DISJOINTNESS

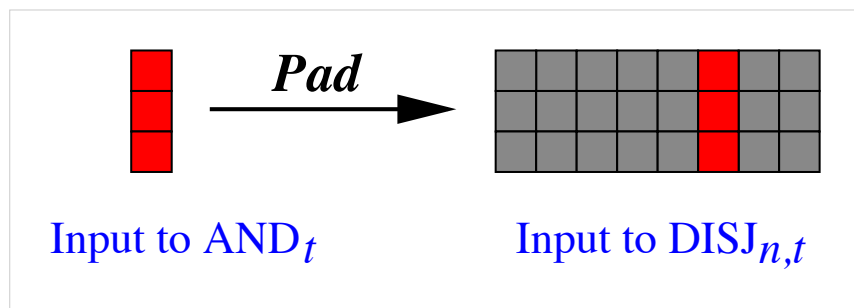
Multi-pass lower bounds for many data stream problems

- Connectivity of n -vertex graphs: $\Omega(n)$ space

Generalization (t players, NIH)

Theorem: $R(\text{DISJ}_{n,t}) = \Omega(n/t)$

[C.-Khot-Sun'03], [Gronemeier'09]



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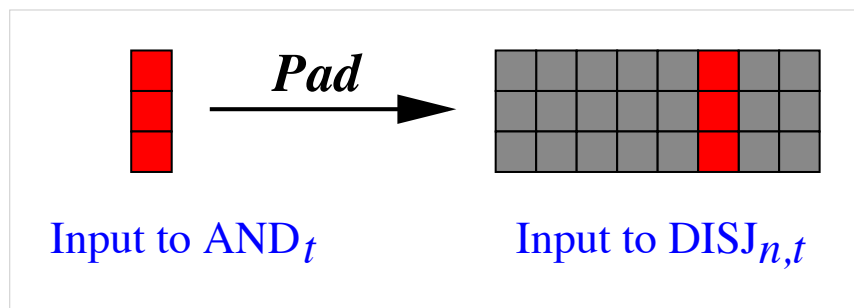
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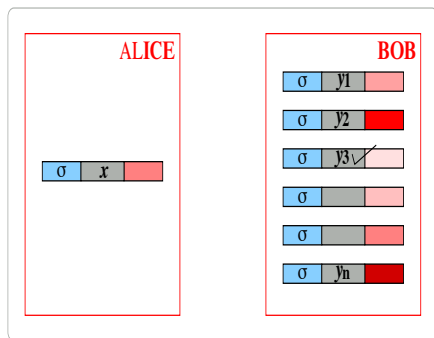
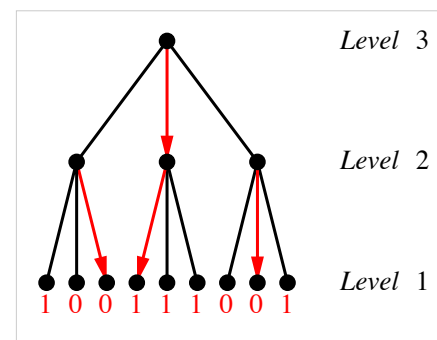
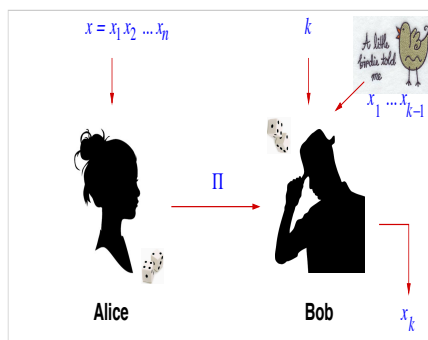
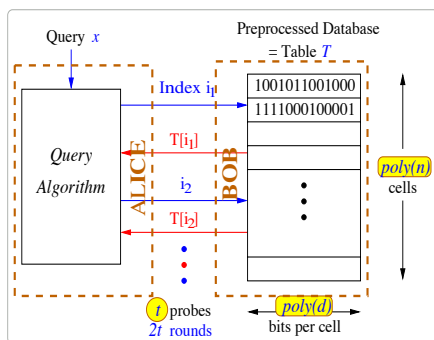
- Classic data stream problem: frequency moments $F_k = \sum_j f_j^k$
where $f_j :=$ number of occurrences of ' j ' in stream
- Approximating F_k : space $\tilde{\Theta}(n^{1-2/k})$
lower bound via $\text{DISJ}_{n,t}$

[Alon-Matias-Szegedy'96]

Yet More Applications of IC

Sadly, left on cutting room floor ...

- Separation of nondet and randomized CC [Jayram-Kumar-Sivakumar'03]
- CC of read-once-formula problems [Saks-Leonardos'09]
[Jayram-Kopparty-Raghavendra'09]
- Det vs rand decision trees [Jayram-Kumar-Sivakumar'03]
- Increasingly complex data stream lower bounds
[Jayram-Woodruff'09], [Magniez-Mathieu-Nayak'10]
[C.-Cormode-Kondapally-McGregor'10], [Magniez'13]
- Data structure query/update time lower bounds [Patrascu'10]
- Quantum communication... [Jain-Radhakrishnan-Sen]



THANKS!

