

**HW 5 due after Spring break**

**Quiz 6 due after Spring break**

## **Class 12: Program as Data**

University of Virginia  
CS3120: DMT2

<https://weikailin.github.io/cs3120-toc>

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# Circuit-Size Class Program as Data

*Universal Circuits*

## Plan

Textbook [TCS] Section 3 and 4

[https://introtcs.org/public/lec\\_04\\_code\\_and\\_data.html](https://introtcs.org/public/lec_04_code_and_data.html)

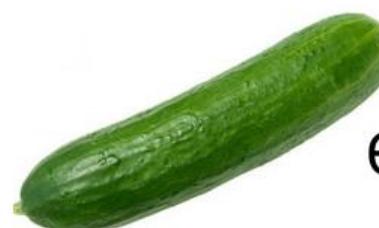
Code as data, data as code

# Recap: class SIZE(s)

$SIZE(s)$

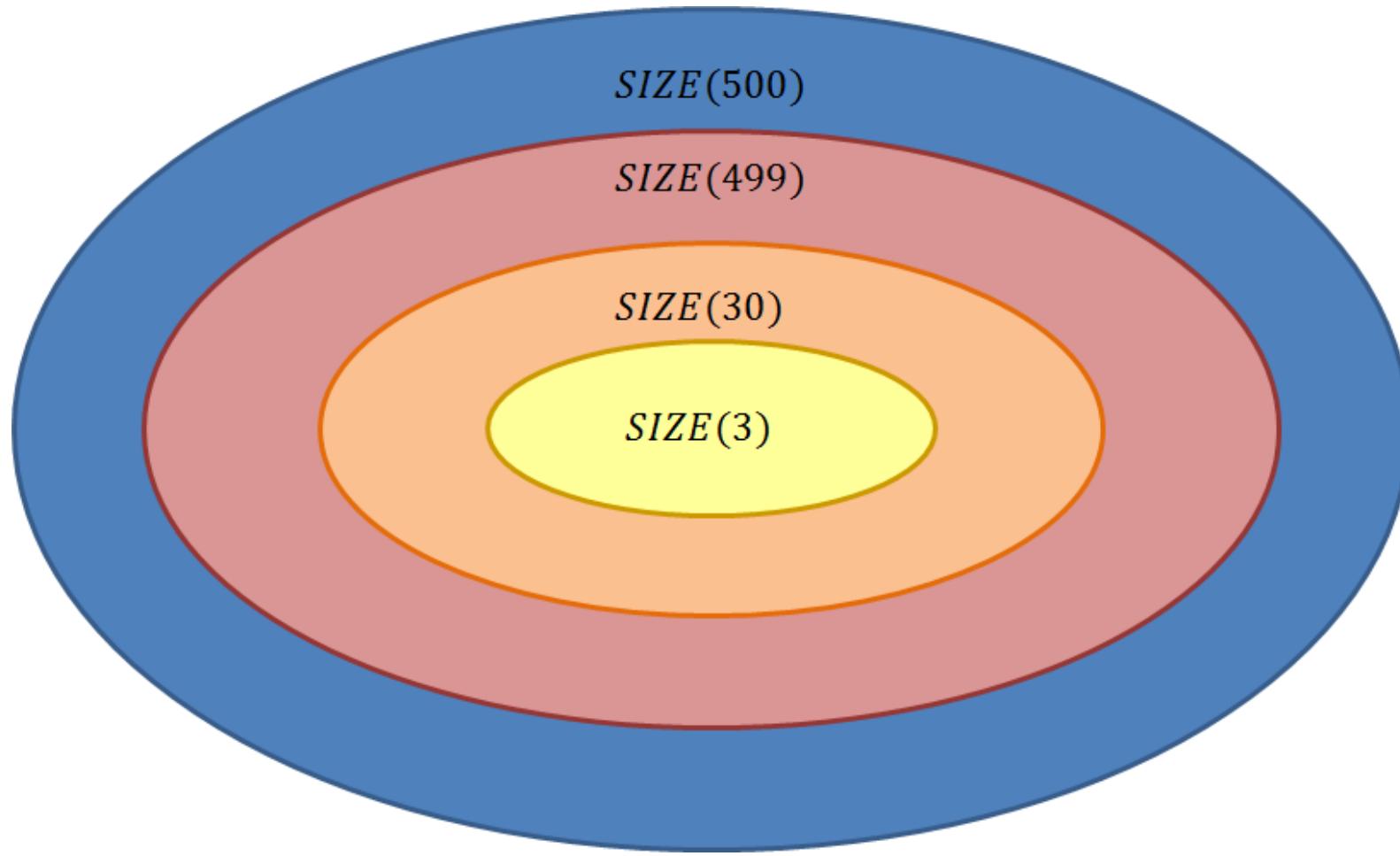
The set of all **functions** that can be implemented by a circuit of at most  $s$  NAND gates

Is circuit  $C \in SIZE(s)$ ?

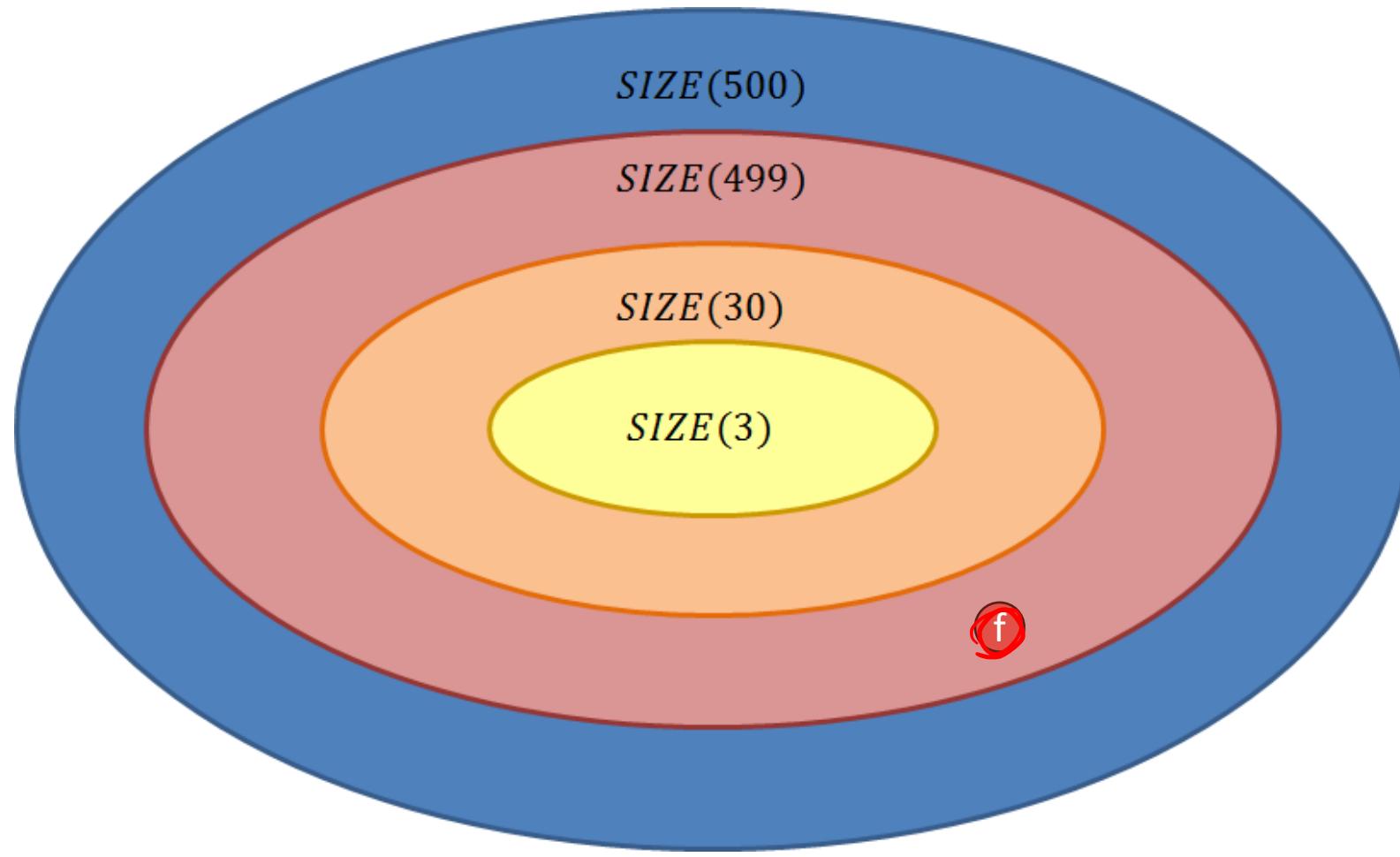


$\in EV$

Category  
Error!



If  $x \leq y$ , then  $\text{SIZE}(x) \subseteq \text{SIZE}(y)$



If  $x \leq y$ , then  $\text{SIZE}(x) \subseteq \text{SIZE}(y)$

But is the inclusion **strict**?

# Programs as Data

# A Big Idea in Theory of Computing

## Big Idea 6

*A program is a piece of text, and so it can be fed as input to other programs.*

Program: an instance (in a computation model) that performs computation (on some data)

Data: a sequence of symbols, such as bits (which can be computed, such as copy, truncate, concatenate....)

HI, THIS IS  
YOUR SON'S SCHOOL.  
WE'RE HAVING SOME  
COMPUTER TROUBLE.



OH, DEAR - DID HE  
BREAK SOMETHING?  
IN A WAY - )



DID YOU REALLY  
NAME YOUR SON  
Robert'); DROP  
TABLE Students;-- ?



OH, YES. LITTLE  
BOBBY TABLES,  
WE CALL HIM.

WELL, WE'VE LOST THIS  
YEAR'S STUDENT RECORDS.  
I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.

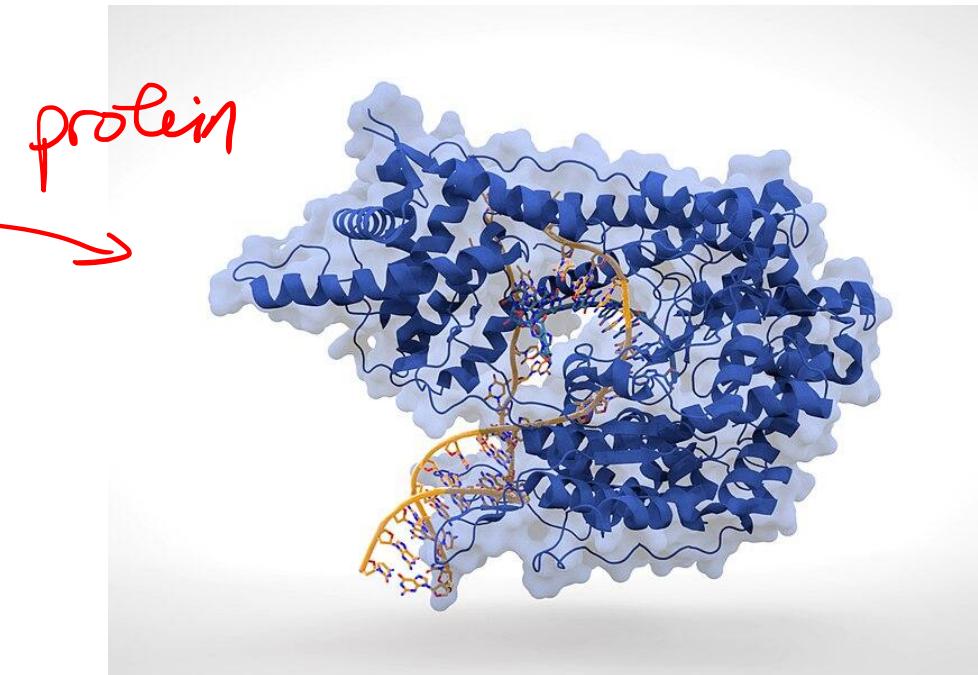


AND I HOPE  
YOU'VE LEARNED  
TO SANITIZE YOUR  
DATABASE INPUTS.

As illustrated in this xkcd cartoon, many exploits, including buffer overflow, SQL injections, and more, utilize the blurry line between “active programs” and “static strings”.

# Can be GOOD

DNA (produce) → Creatures  
Creatures (copy, modify) → ~~NDA~~  
DNA



*"The term code script is, of course, too narrow. The chromosomal structures are at the same time instrumental in bringing about the development they foreshadow. They are law-code and executive power - or, to use another simile, they are architect's plan and builder's craft - in one." , Erwin Schrödinger, 1944.*

Image credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T7\\_RNA\\_polymerase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T7_RNA_polymerase)

T7 RNA polymerase (blue) producing m-RNA (light blue) from DNA (orange)

# How can we represent a straightline NAND program?

graph ?

~~temp0 = NAND(X<sup>0</sup>[0],X<sup>1</sup>[1])~~

~~temp1 = NAND(X<sup>0</sup>[0],temp0)~~

temp2 = NAND(X[1],temp0)

Y[0] = NAND(temp1,temp2)

99 characters. Can it be shorter?

# How can we represent a straightline NAND program?

Recall: we have  $n$  input variables (gates),  $\ell$  lines of code that each is also a “gate”, and  $m$  outputs. Total number of gates  $s = n + \ell + m$

To encode: write  $(n, \ell, m)$  followed by a list of  $\ell$  “internal-gate descriptions” followed by  $m$  “output-gate descriptions”.

Each of the NAND gates, ~~NAND~~(input1, input2), is described by:

~~output~~  
~~int~~                    (input1, input2)

So, we have a list of  $\ell + m \leq s$  triples, each of size  $O(1) + 2 \log s$  bits

# Example

```
def CIRCUIT(X[0],X[1]):
    temp2 = NAND(X[0],X[1])
    temp3 = NAND(X[0],temp2)
    temp4 = NAND(X[1],temp2)
    temp5 = NAND(temp3,temp4)
    return temp5
```

in bits	out bits
2	1
0, 1	
0	2
1	2
3	4
5	

1 line:

input & output lengths

$\ell$  lines:

one NAND per line

$m$  lines:

one output bit per line

0:	$n,$	$m$
$n:$	$v_{n,1},$	$v_{n,2}$
$n+1:$	$v_{n+1,1},$	$v_{n+1,2}$
...		
last:	$r_1, r_2, \dots r_m$	

# Example

```
def CIRCUIT(X[0],X[1]):  
    temp2 = NAND(X[0],X[1])  
    temp3 = NAND(X[0],temp2)  
    temp4 = NAND(X[1],temp2)  
    temp5 = NAND(temp3,temp4)  
    return temp5
```

```
2, 1    // 2-bit in, 1-bit out  
0, 1    // 1st line. 0 and 1 are input  
0, 2    // 2nd line. 2, 3, ... are temp  
1, 2    // 3rd line (and so on  
3, 4  
5      // return, one line per bit
```

1 line:

input & output lengths

$\ell$  lines:

one NAND per line

$m$  lines:

one output bit per line

0:       $n$ ,                   $m$

$n$ :       $v_{n,1}$ ,                   $v_{n,2}$

$n+1$ :  $v_{n+1,1}$ ,                   $v_{n+1,2}$

...

last:  $r_1, r_2, \dots r_m$

# Representing a sequence in bits

Chars (e.g. ASCII): represents English letters, digits, punctuation in 8 bits

**Represent any (finite length) sequence in chars**

Other encodings. E.g. a sequence of natural numbers

**'0' is 00**

**'1' is 01**

**Separator ',' is 11**

**Theorem.** There is a constant  $c$  such that for any  $s$ , any circuit of size  $s$  can be represented in  $c \cdot s \log s$  bits.

**Theorem 5.1 (Representing programs as strings)**

*There is a constant  $c$  such that for  $f \in \text{SIZE}(s)$ , there exists a program  $P$  computing  $f$  whose string representation has length at most  $cs \log s$ .*

# Universal Circuits

# Consequences of Programs as Data

1. We can count the number of programs of certain size.  
*(later)*
2. We can also feed a **circuit** as input to other **circuits**.

# Run Data as Program

Can define the following function, whose outputs is based on running a program given as input:

$$EVAL_{s,n,m}(px) = \begin{cases} P(x) & p \in \{0,1\}^{S(s)} \text{ represents a size-}s \text{ program } P \text{ with } n \text{ inputs and } m \text{ outputs} \\ 0^m & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*P completes on x*

Are the  $P$ 's the same?

$$\underline{p} \neq \underline{P}$$

$$p \neq P' \in \{0,1\}^n$$

$$\cancel{\underline{P}' \underline{p}'}$$

$$\underline{P}(x) \equiv \underline{P}'(x)$$

# But can we implement EVAL?

**Theorem 5.9 (Bounded Universality of NAND-CIRC programs)**

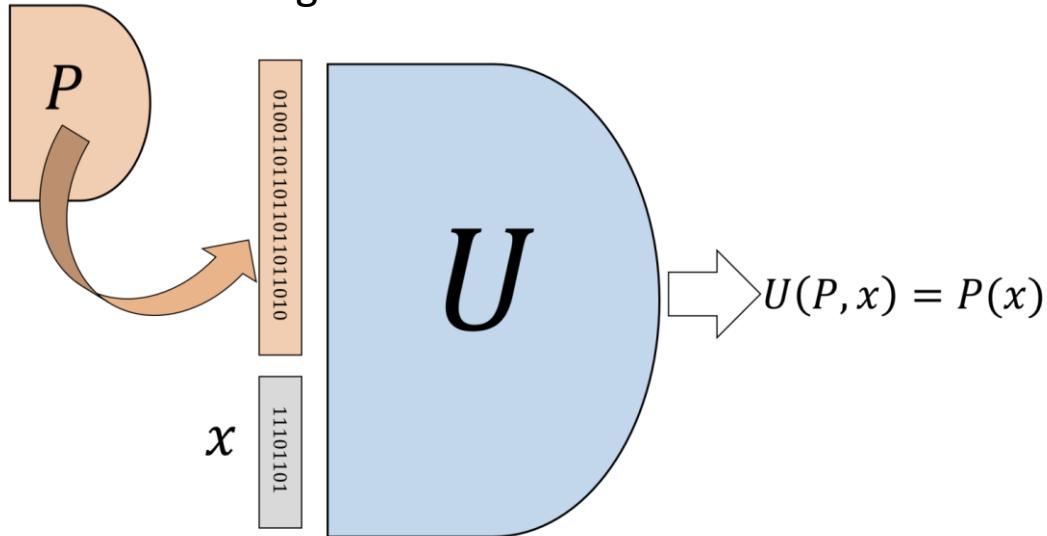
For every  $s, n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $s \geq m$  there is a NAND-CIRC program  $U_{s,n,m}$  that computes the function  $EVAL_{s,n,m}$ .

$$EVAL(p, x) \quad |p| = c \cdot s \log s + m \text{ bits}$$
$$|x| = n \text{ bit}$$

$$U_{s,n,m}(p, x) \quad \text{using} \quad \text{LOOKUP}_{|p|+|x|}$$

# Universal Circuit/Program

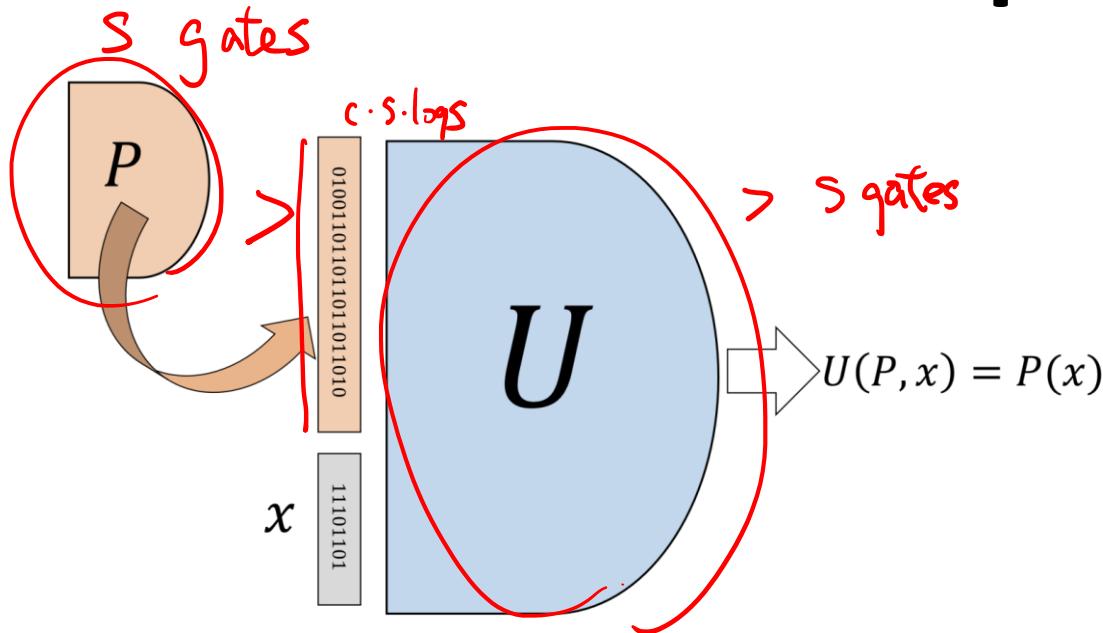
Figure 5.6 from TCS Book



**program**  $U$  takes a program description  $P$  and input  $x$  as its input, and “simulates” running  $P$  on  $x$ :

$$U(\textcolor{violet}{P}, x) = P(x)$$

# Points to pause and think



“running a program using another program” is already something to pause and appreciate

But do we really want to use such inefficient simulation?

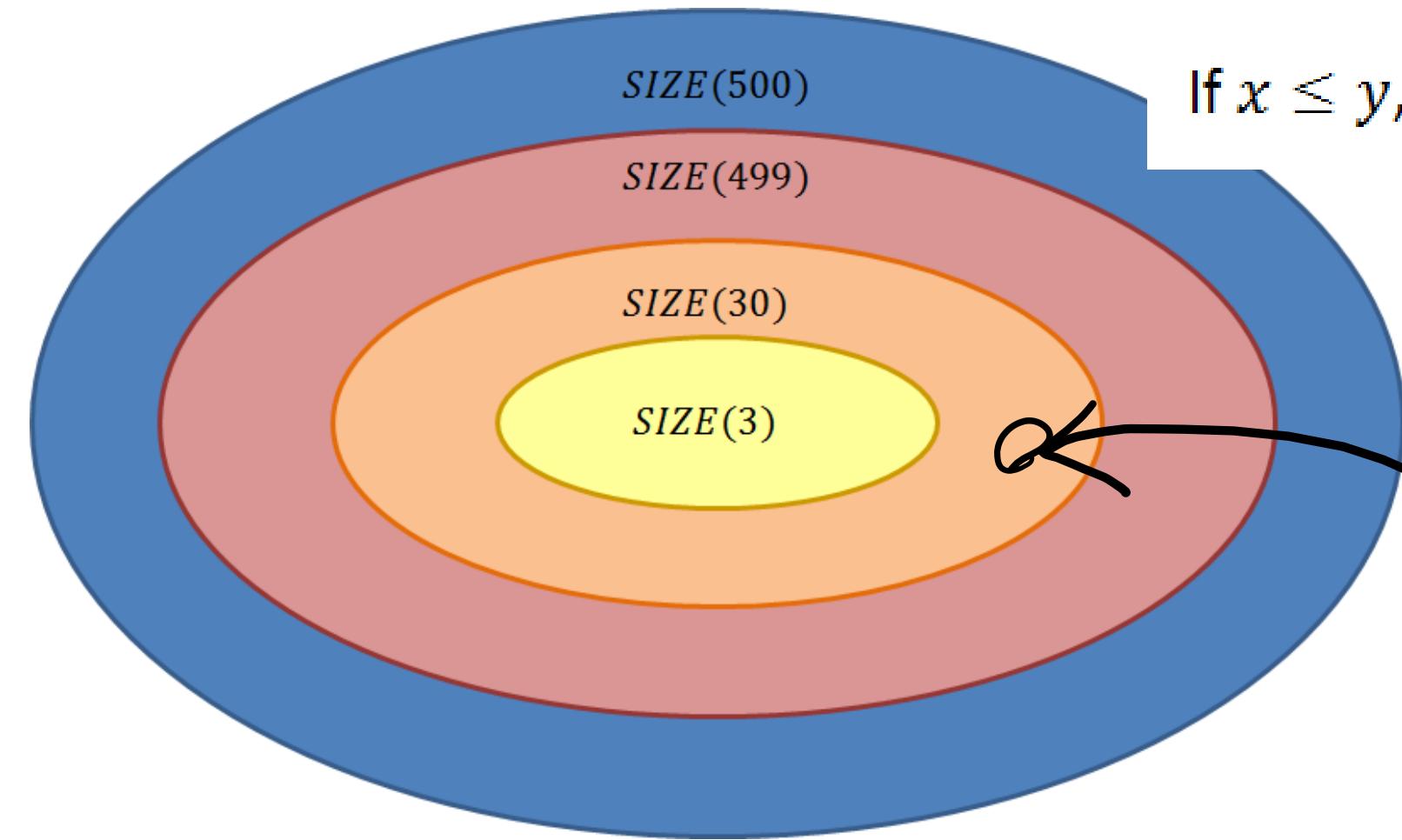


CFX-200 scientific calculator watch  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calculator\\_watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calculator_watch)



Samsung Gear 2 smartwatch  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smartwatch>

# Counting the number of Circuits in SIZE(s)



If  $x \leq y$ , then  $\text{SIZE}(x) \subseteq \text{SIZE}(y)$

But is the inclusion **strict**? Is there a function *here*?

# Consequence of Programs as Data

**Theorem:** Every circuit of size  $s$  can be written using  $O(s \log s)$  bits.

How many different circuits of size  $s$  can exist?

$$|\{0, 1\}^s| = 2^s$$

**Theorem:** There are at most  $2^{O(s \log s)}$  many circuits of size  $s$

How many (distinct) functions computable in circuit size  $s$ ?  $\leq 2^{c s \log s}$

How many (distinct) **functions** can be  
computed using  $y$  many (distinct) **circuits**?  
(for any natural number  $y$ )

Each **function** can be computed by more than 1 **circuits**

But

Two distinct **functions** must be computed by two distinct **circuits**

# Consequence of Programs as Data

**Theorem:** Every circuit of size  $s$  can be written using  $O(s \log s)$  bits.

**Theorem:** There are at most  $2^{O(s \log s)}$  many **circuits** of size  $s$

**Corollary:** at most  $2^{O(s \log s)}$  many **functions** are in  $\text{SIZE}_{\underline{s}}$

Proof:

**Corollary:** at most  $2^{O(s \log s)}$  many **functions** are in  $\text{SIZE}(s)$

$|\text{SIZE}(s)| \leq 2^{O(s \log s)}$  **for all  $s$**

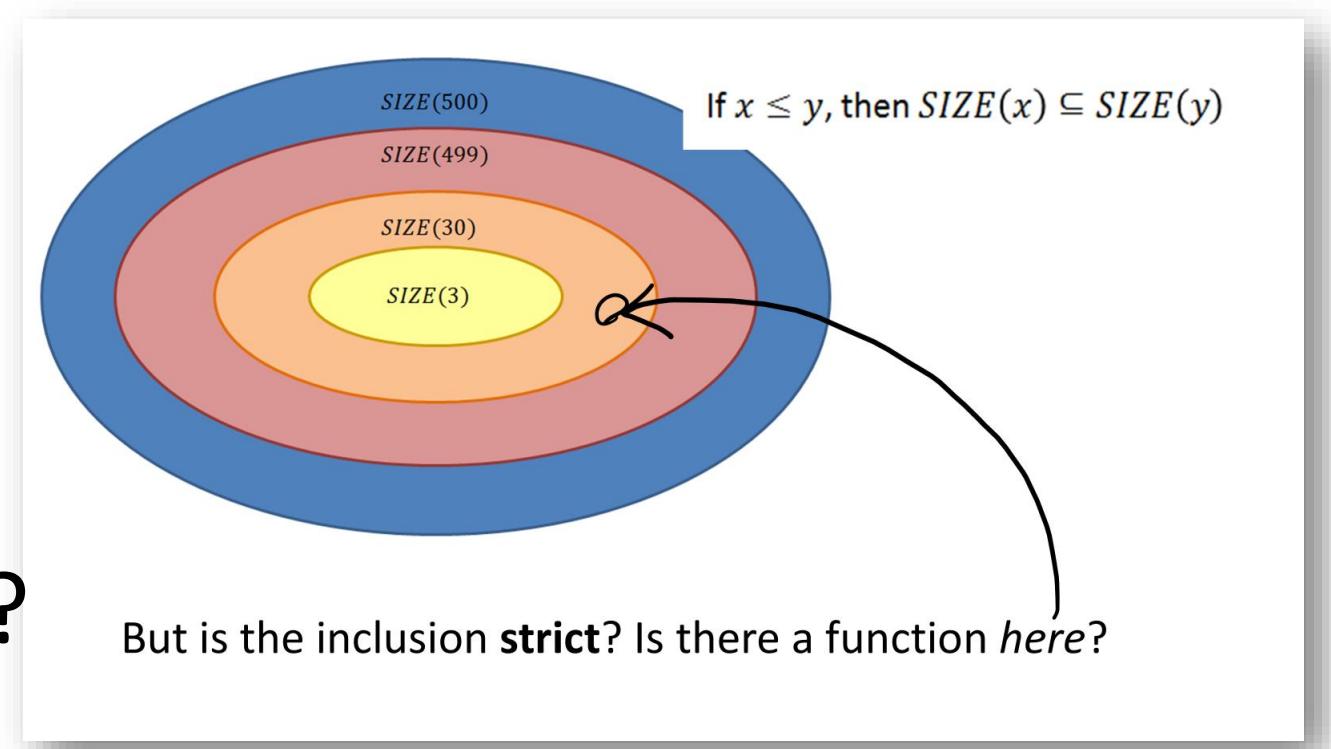
$$|\text{SIZE}(3)| \leq 2^{c \cdot 3 \log 3}$$

and

$$|\text{SIZE}(30)| \leq 2^{c \cdot 30 \log 30}$$

$$\text{SIZE}(30) \stackrel{?}{\subseteq} \text{SIZE}(3)$$

Did we solve this?



How many functions of  $n$ -bit input are there?  
 $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$   
 $|f| = 2^n$  bits

There are  $2^{2^n}$  many Boolean function on  $n$  inputs

**Corollary:** Not all functions can be computed by a circuit of size at most  $\frac{2^n}{c \cdot n} = s$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{SIZE}(s)| &\leq 2^{\text{cslogs}} = 2^{c \cdot \frac{2^n}{c \cdot n} \cdot \log(\frac{n}{c})} \\ &= 2^{c \cdot 2^n \cdot \frac{c'}{c}} \end{aligned}$$

## Corollary:

There is a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that for any  $n$ , there is a  $n$ -bit-input **function** such that requires more than  $\frac{2^n}{\delta \cdot n}$

All  $n$ -bit functions,  $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

$SIZE_n(\frac{2^n}{100n})$ , many f, but NOT ALL

**Corollary:**

There is a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that for any  $n$ ,  
there is an  $n$ -bit-input **function** such that  
requires more than  $\frac{2^n}{\delta \cdot n}$

Strict subsets of  $SIZE_n(\frac{2^n}{100n})$ ?

$SIZE_n(1000n)$

$ADD_n$  here

Does it answer the question?  
Why or why not?

# Plan

## Circuit size hierarchy

*Proof*

[TCS] Textbook, Section 5

[https://introtcs.org/public/lec\\_04\\_code\\_and\\_data.html](https://introtcs.org/public/lec_04_code_and_data.html)

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