

Interactive Proofs

Or how I stopped worrying and learned to ask questions

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- If there is a correct proof, then the *given statement* is true
- If there is no proof, then the *given statement* must be false

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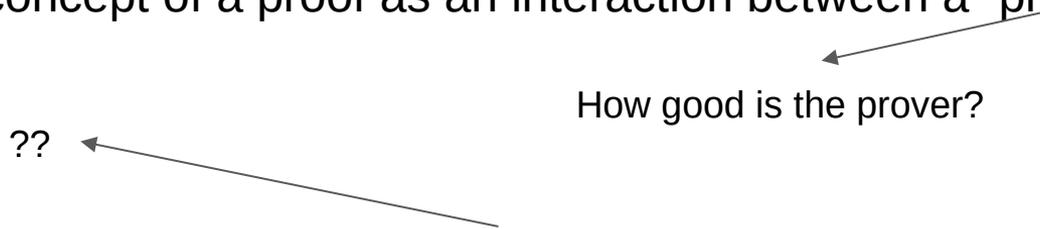
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How much interaction?

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- Here, the verifier V , is a polynomial time Turing machine which takes strings of a language L and outputs 1 if the string is in L or 0 otherwise.
- The Prover P , is a function that maps strings to a certificate or “Sorry, not in the language”.

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- The verifier still has to verify the certificate!
- Provers are always trying to prove correctness, even if a statement is not correct.
- Even if the prover diligently says that there is no proof, the verifier cannot be sure unless the verifier knows that the prover is **all powerful**.

Interactive Proof systems: The Protocol

Definition: Let $f, g : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$ be functions. A k -round interaction of f and g on input $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$, denoted by $\langle f, g \rangle(x)$ is the sequence of the following strings $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \{0, 1\}^*$ defined as follows:

$$a_1 = f(x)$$

$$a_2 = g(x, a_1)$$

...

$$a_{2i+1} = f(x, a_1, \dots, a_{2i})$$

$$a_{2i+2} = g(x, a_1, \dots, a_{2i+1})$$

The output of f at the end of the interaction, $\text{out}_f \langle f, g \rangle(x)$, is defined to be

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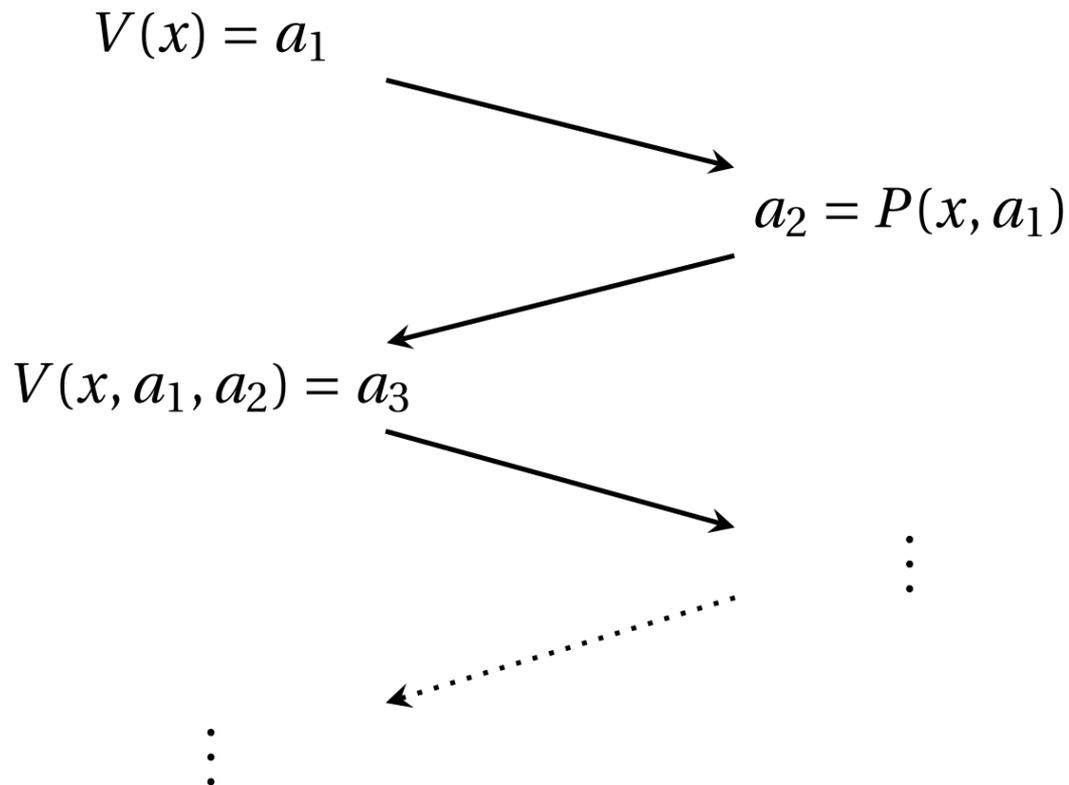
Definition: Deterministic proof systems

For $k \geq 1$, We say that a language L has a k -round deterministic interactive proof system if there's a deterministic poly-time TM V that on input x, a_1, \dots, a_i runs in time polynomial in $|x|$, satisfying:

$x \in L \Rightarrow \exists P : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^* \text{ out}_V \langle V, P \rangle(x) = 1$ (Completeness)

$x \notin L \Rightarrow \forall P : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^* \text{ out}_V \langle V, P \rangle(x) = 0$ (Soundness)

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- **Obs:** Since the verifier is poly-time, the transcript must be poly-size. Which means the number of interactions can be at most poly-size.

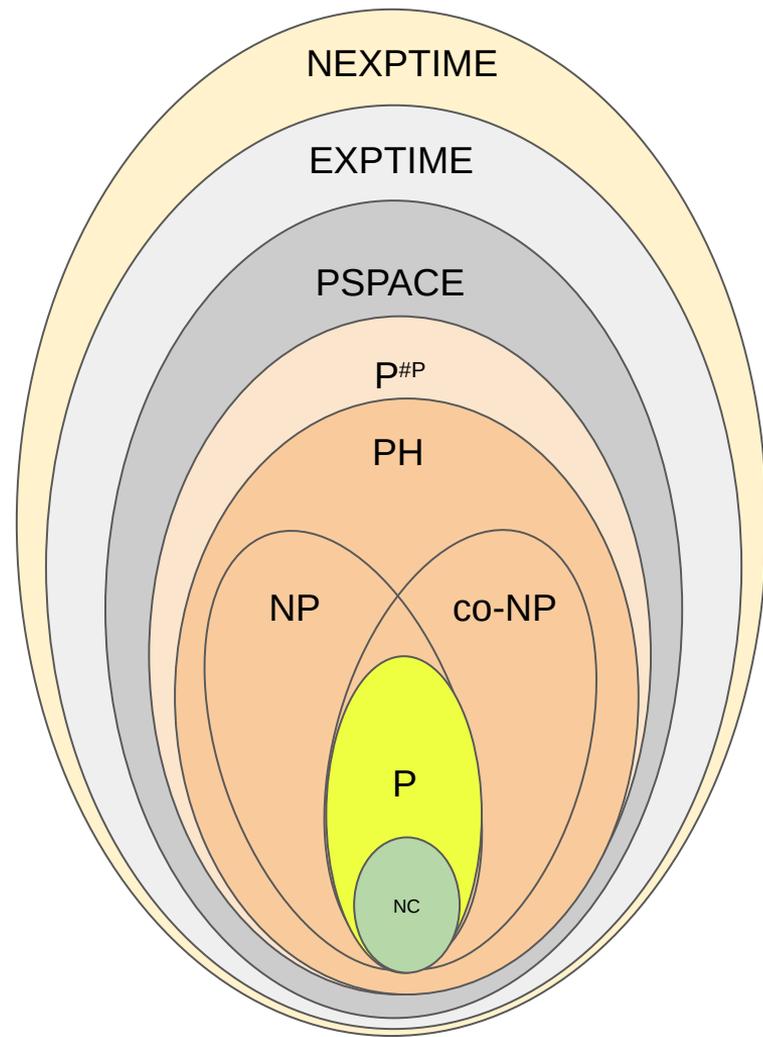
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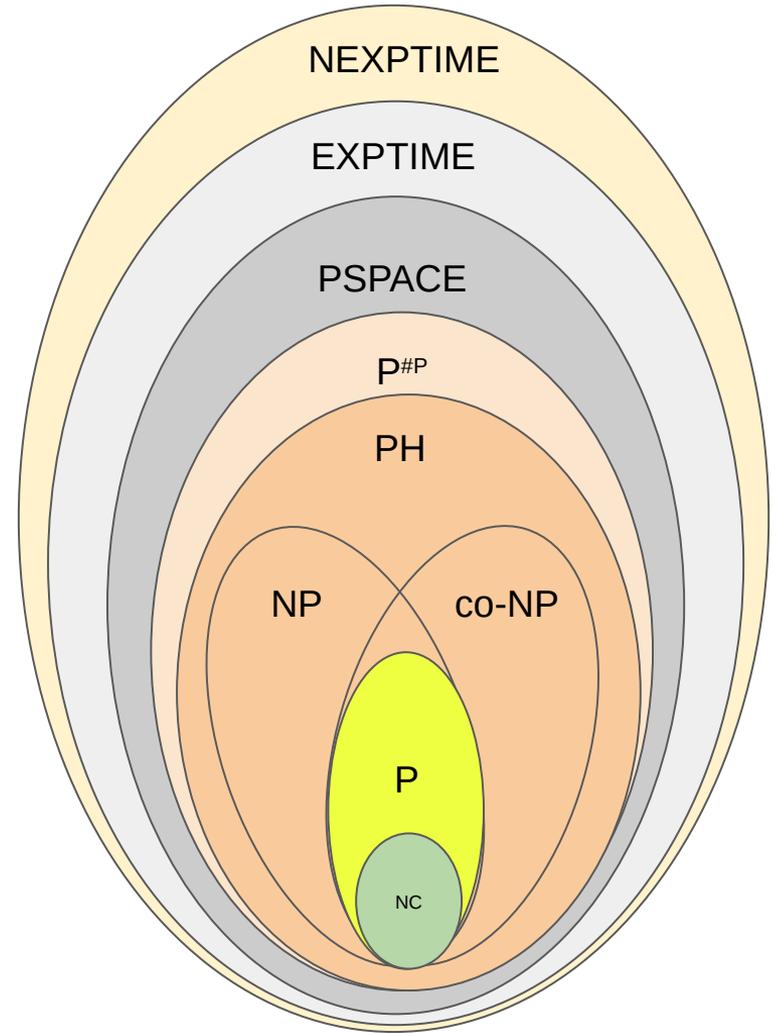
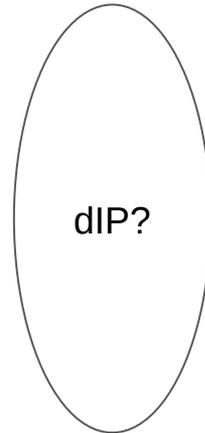
- **Obs:** Since the verifier is poly-time, the transcript must be poly-size. Which means the number of interactions can be at most poly-size.
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- Can't we define a class of constant round deterministic interactive proof systems?

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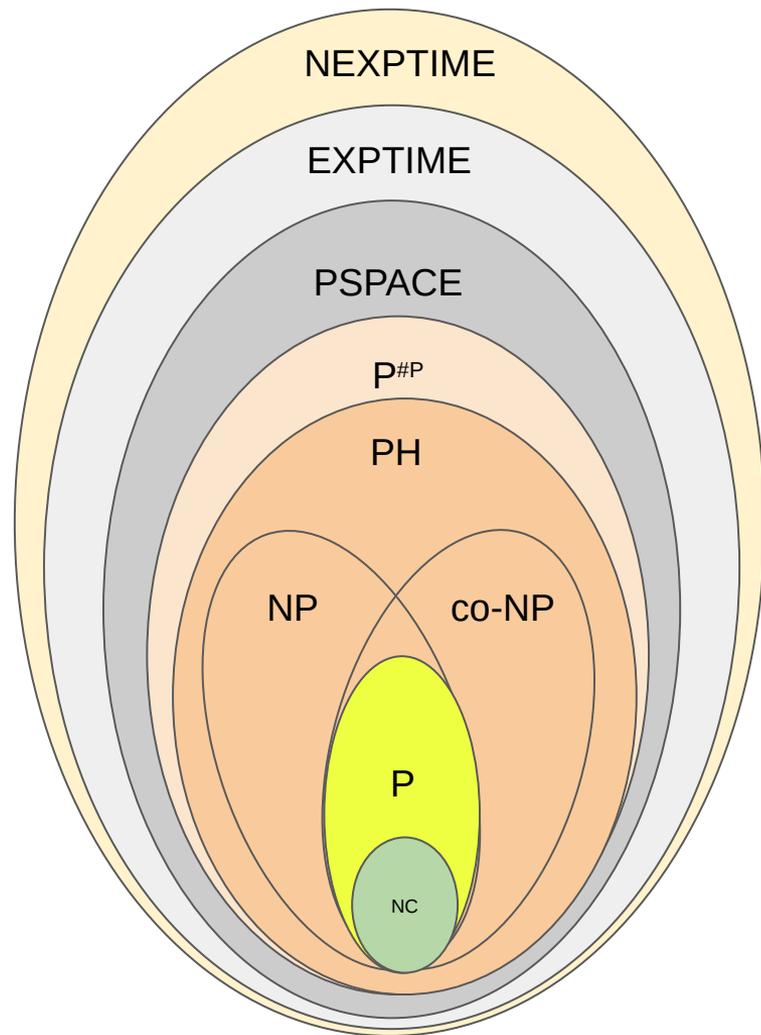
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Where is dIP?

- **Claim:** $\text{NP} \subseteq \text{dIP}$

Proof: One round protocol for 3SAT, where a prover returns a satisfying assignment for the input if it exists.



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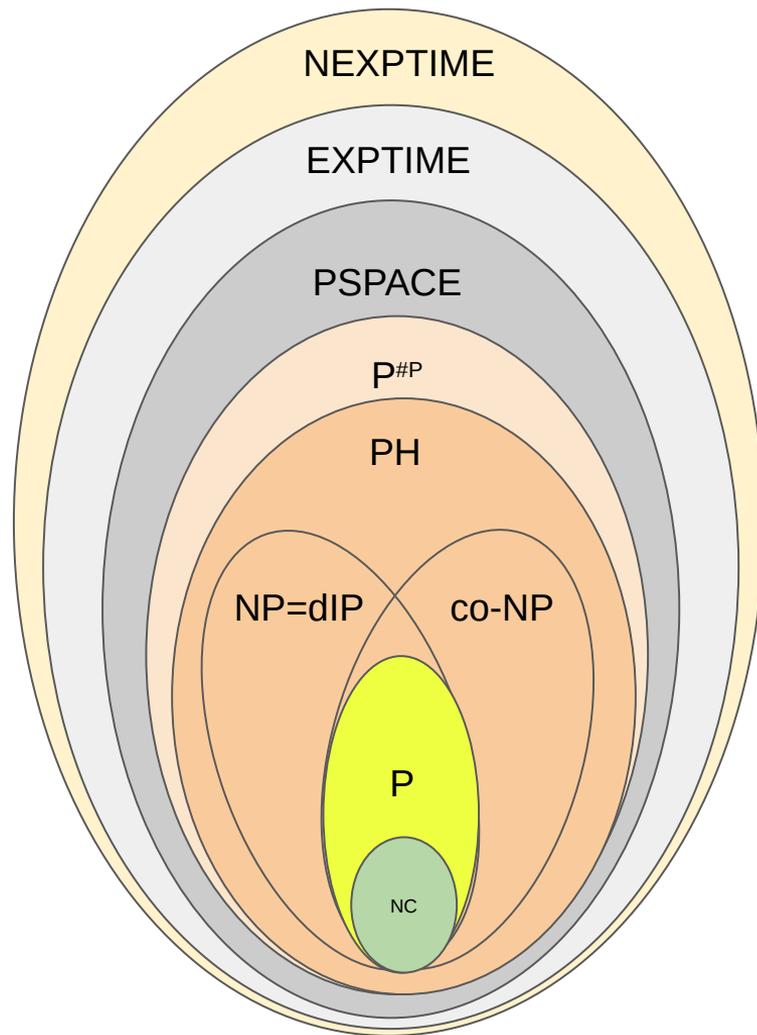
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- **Lemma:** $\text{dIP} = \text{NP}$

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IP: Probabilistic Verifier

Definition [GMR '89]: Probabilistic Verifiers and **IP**

For $k \geq 1$, we say that a language L has in **IP** $\text{TIME}[k]$ if there's a probabilistic poly-time TM V that has a k -round interaction with $P: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$ that on input x

$$x \in L \Rightarrow \exists P \Pr_r[\text{out}_V \langle V, P \rangle(x) = 1] \geq 2/3 \text{ (Completeness)}$$

$$x \notin L \Rightarrow \forall P \Pr_r[\text{out}_V \langle V, P \rangle(x) = 1] \leq 1/3 \text{ (Soundness)}$$

The probabilities over the random bits r of V .

The class **IP** is defined as $\mathbf{IP} = \bigcup_{c>0} \mathbf{IP}\text{TIME}[n^c]$

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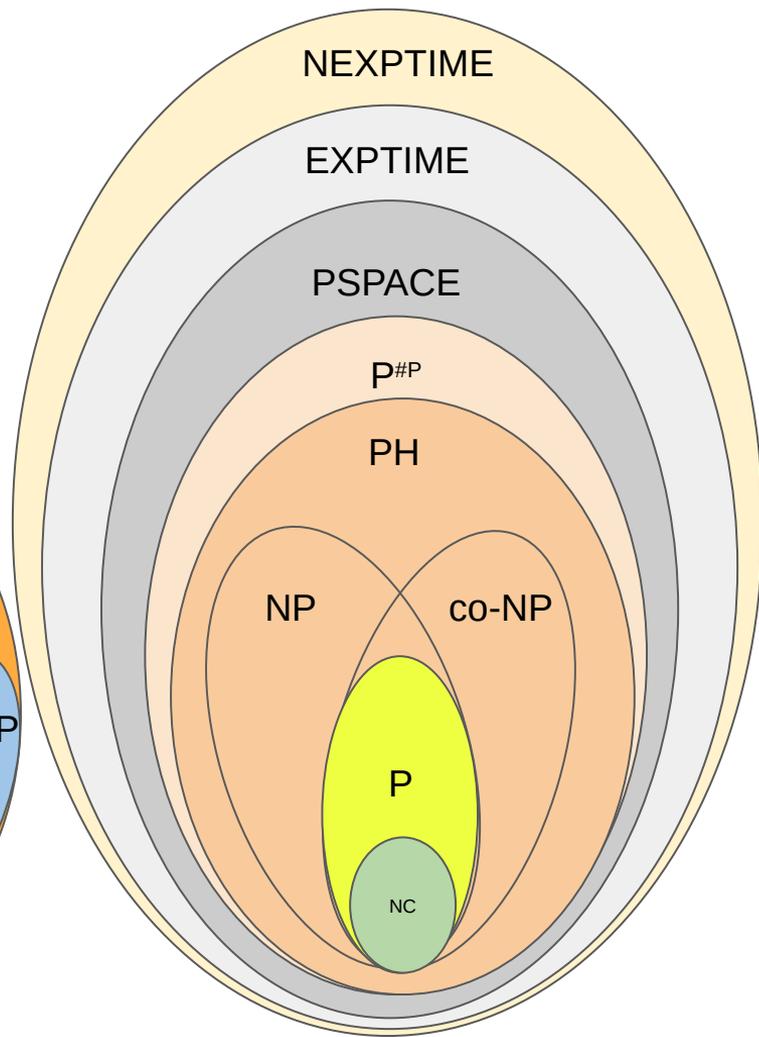
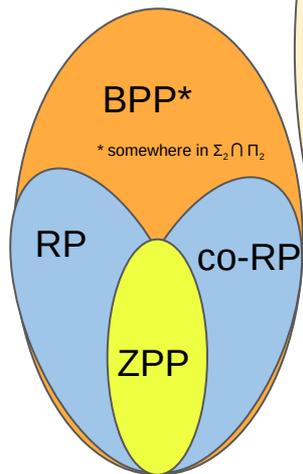
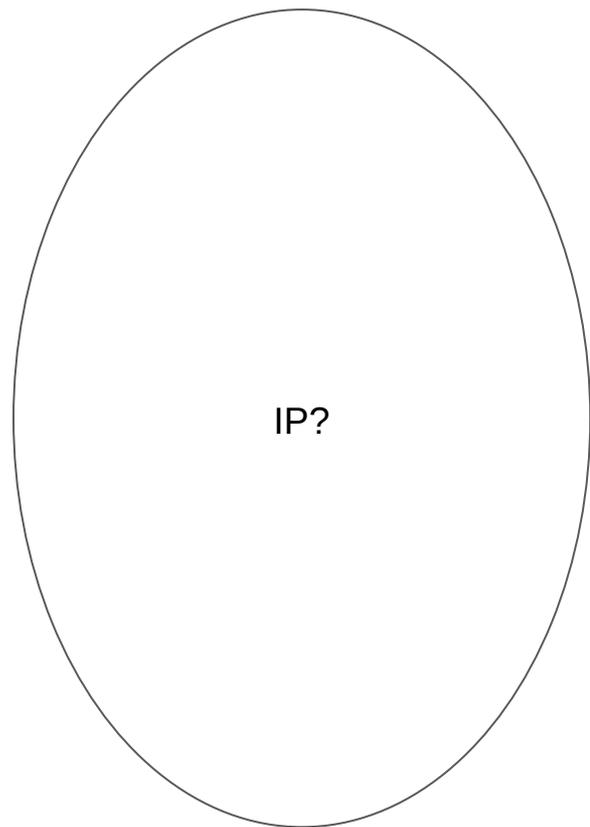
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Additionally, we can also do all repetitions in parallel by asking multiple questions in each round, thereby decreasing the number of rounds.

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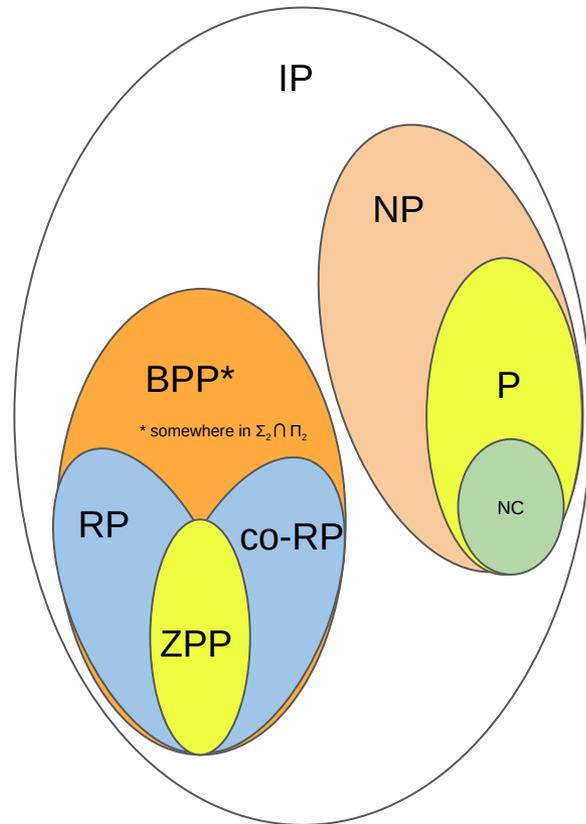
What's in IP?

- Clearly, NP is also in IP.

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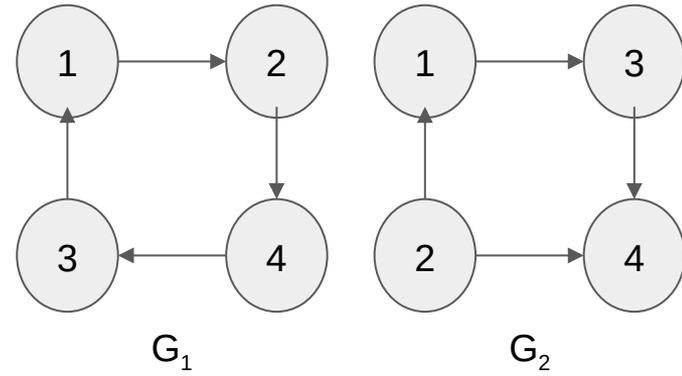
- **Lemma:** $\text{NONISO} \in \text{IP}$ [GMW '91]

NONISO in IP: Private Coin Protocol

Private Coin Protocol

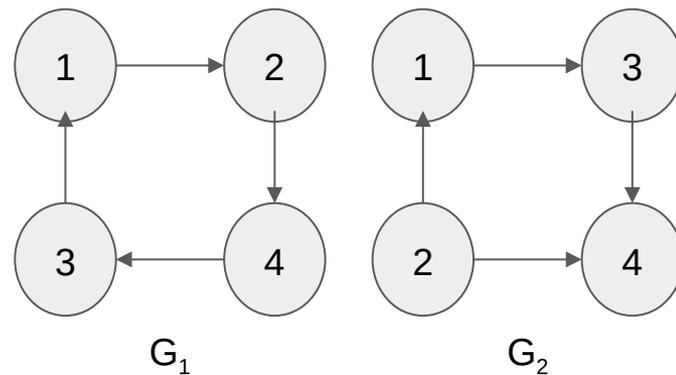
1. V randomly picks a graph between G_1 and G_2 , say G_i . Randomly permute vertices of G_i to make H . Send H to P and asks if H is isomorphic to G_1 or G_2
2. Prover tries to figure out whether H is isomorphic to G_1 or G_2 , sends $j \in \{1,2\}$ to V
3. V accepts if $j=i$.

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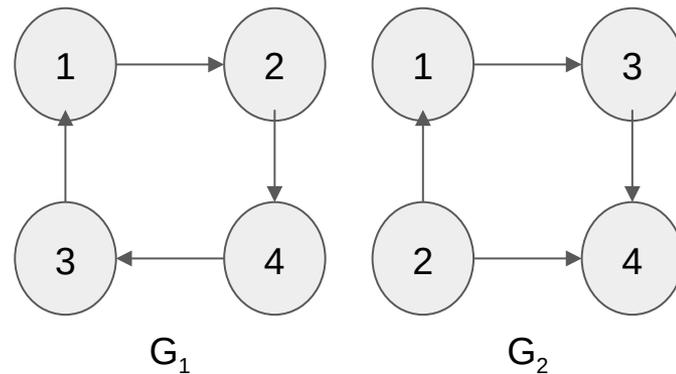
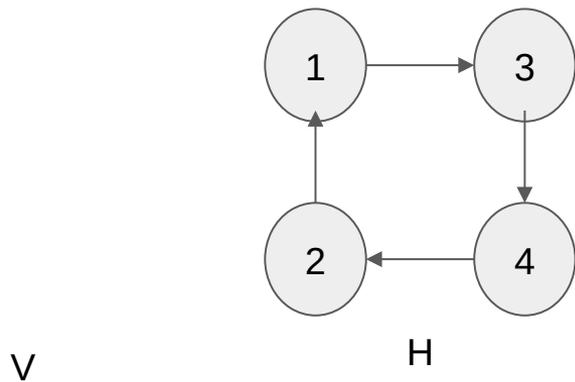


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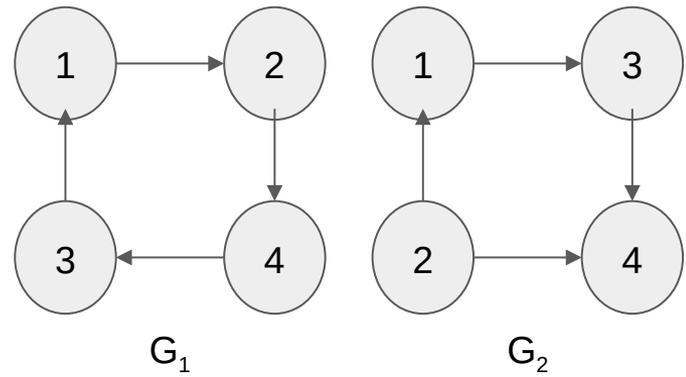
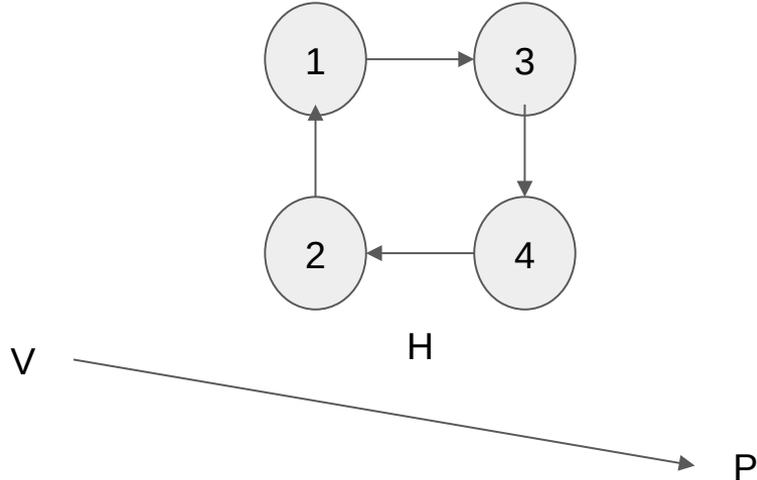
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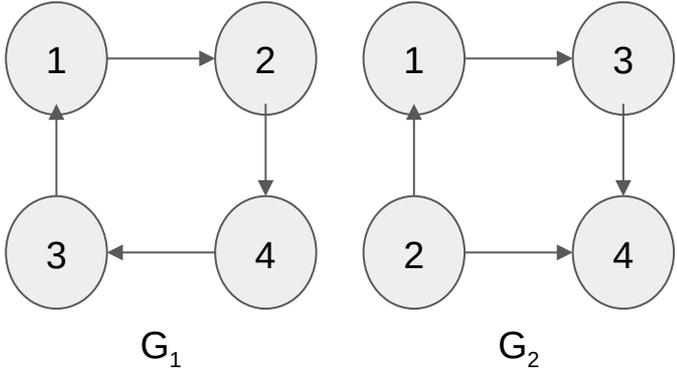
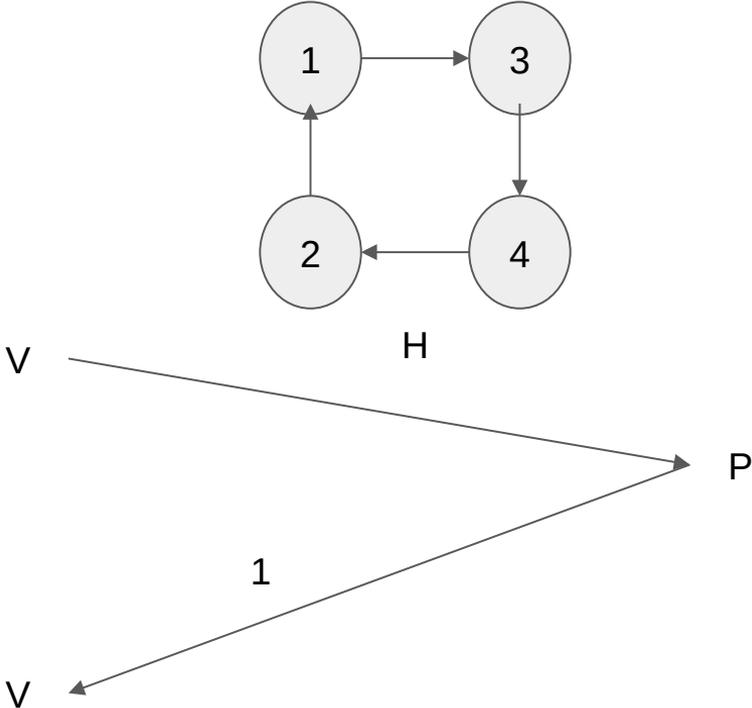
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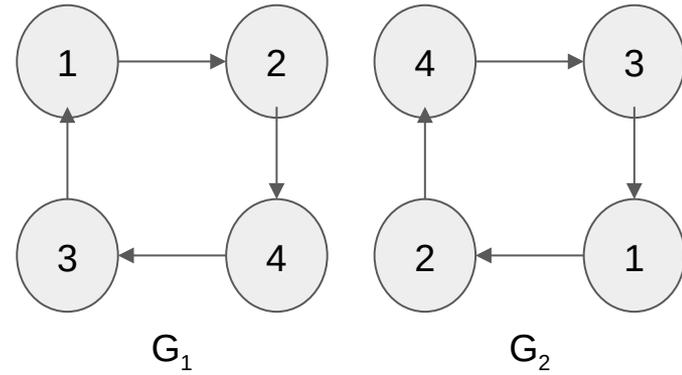
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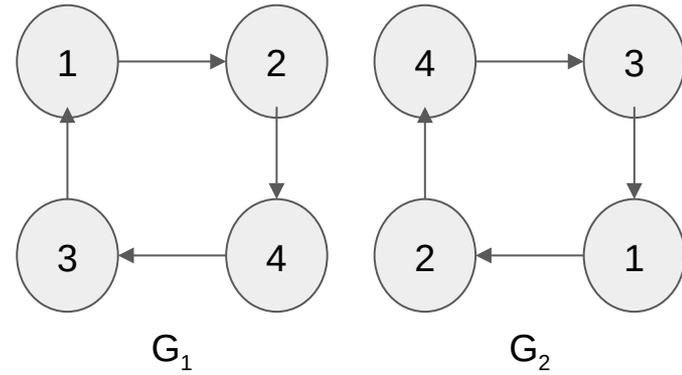


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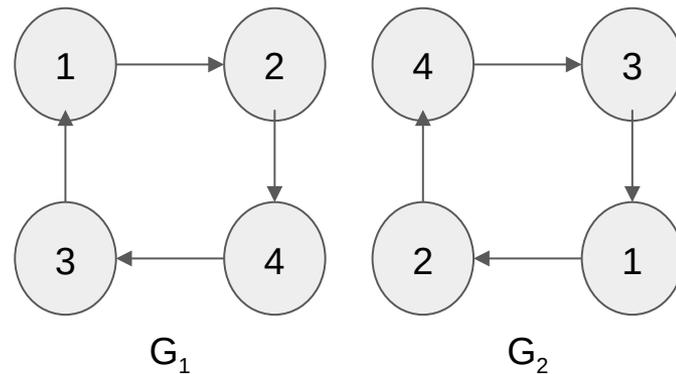
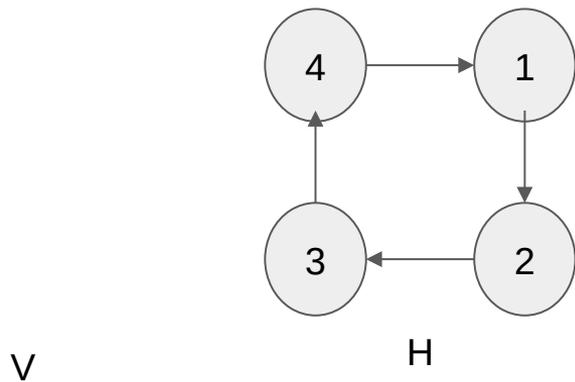


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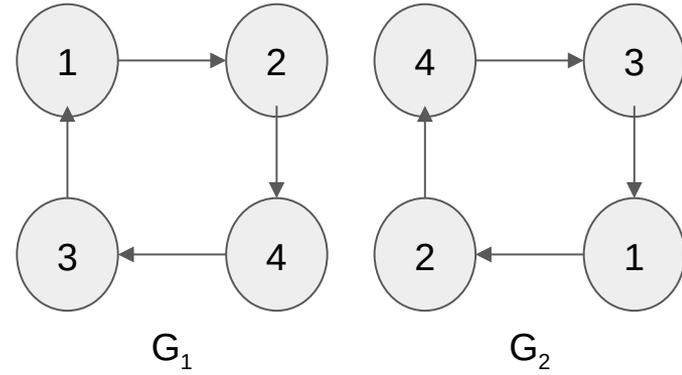
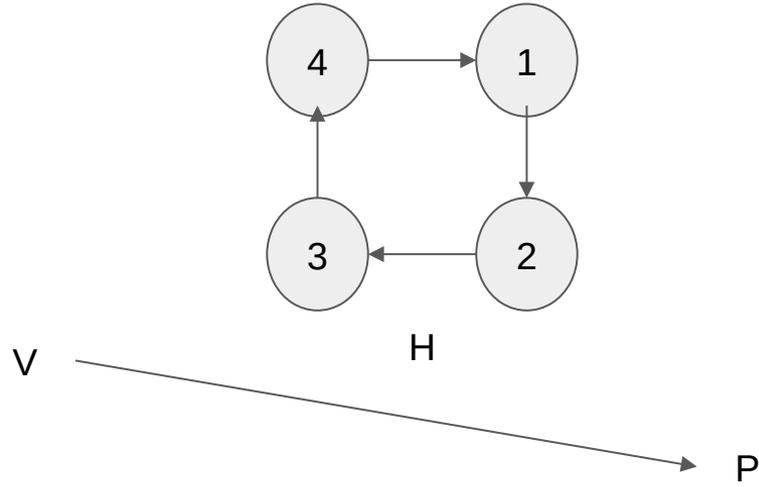
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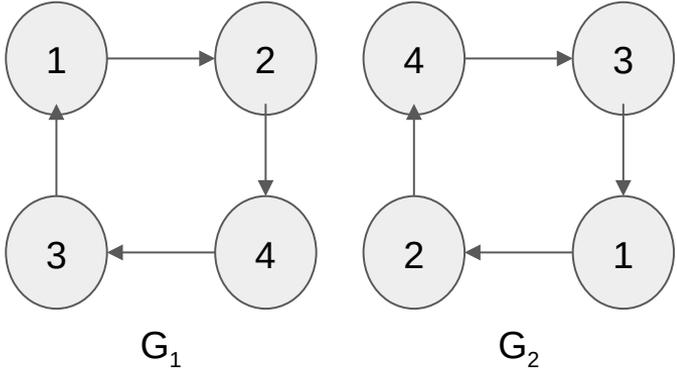
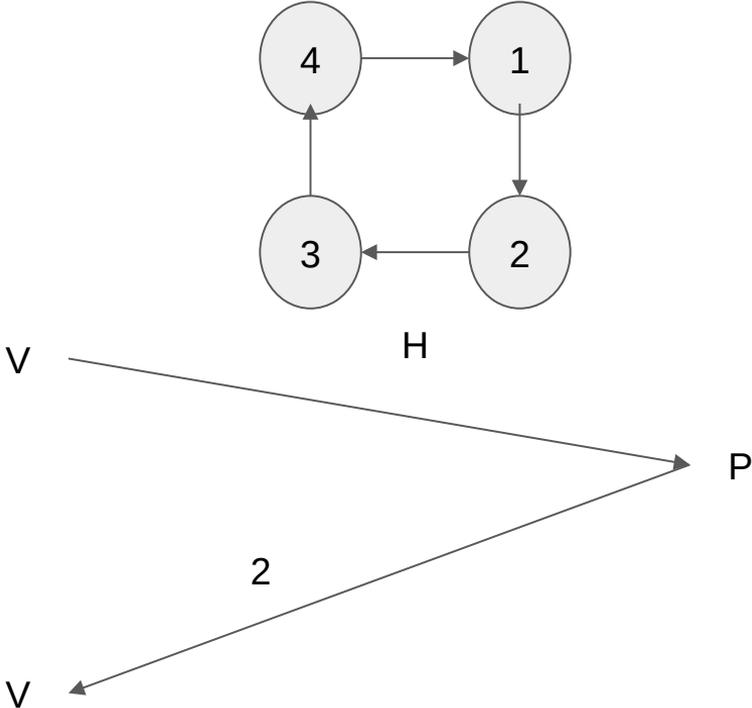
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- The probability of acceptance when the string is in the language is 1. (Perfect Completeness)
- If they are not isomorphic, the best the prover can do is to guess at random. So the probability of acceptance when it isn't in the language is $\frac{1}{2}$. We can decrease this by multiple repetitions.

What's in IP?

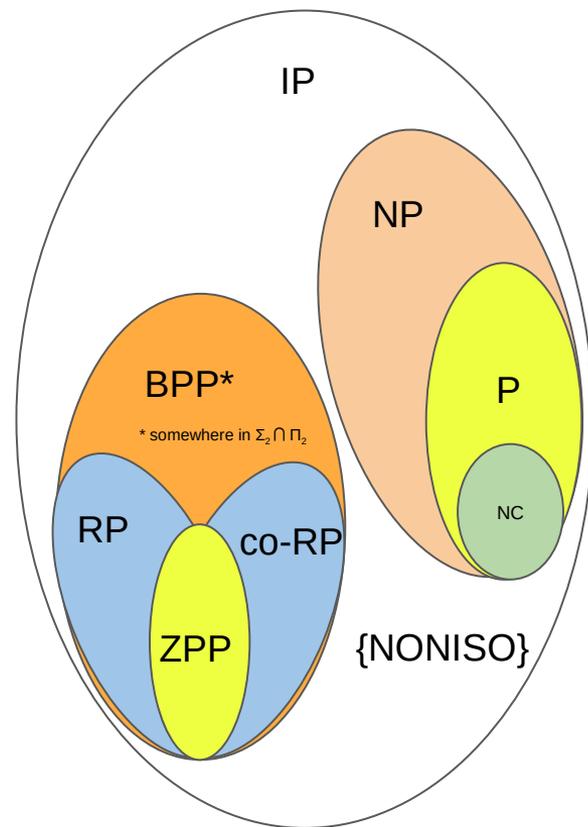
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Obs 5: Both V and P have access to the input x ← What about random bits of V?

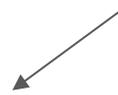
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- **Theorem:** $\text{BP.NP} = \text{AM} \subseteq \Sigma_3$

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Constant round interactive proofs with public coins: **AM** and **MA**.

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We have already seen the set lower bound protocol, which was used to show that graph non-isomorphism is in BP.NP

- **Theorem:** $\text{BP.NP} = \text{AM} \subseteq \Sigma_3$
- **Theorem [Babai '88]:** $\text{AM}[k] = \text{AM}[2]$ for constant k

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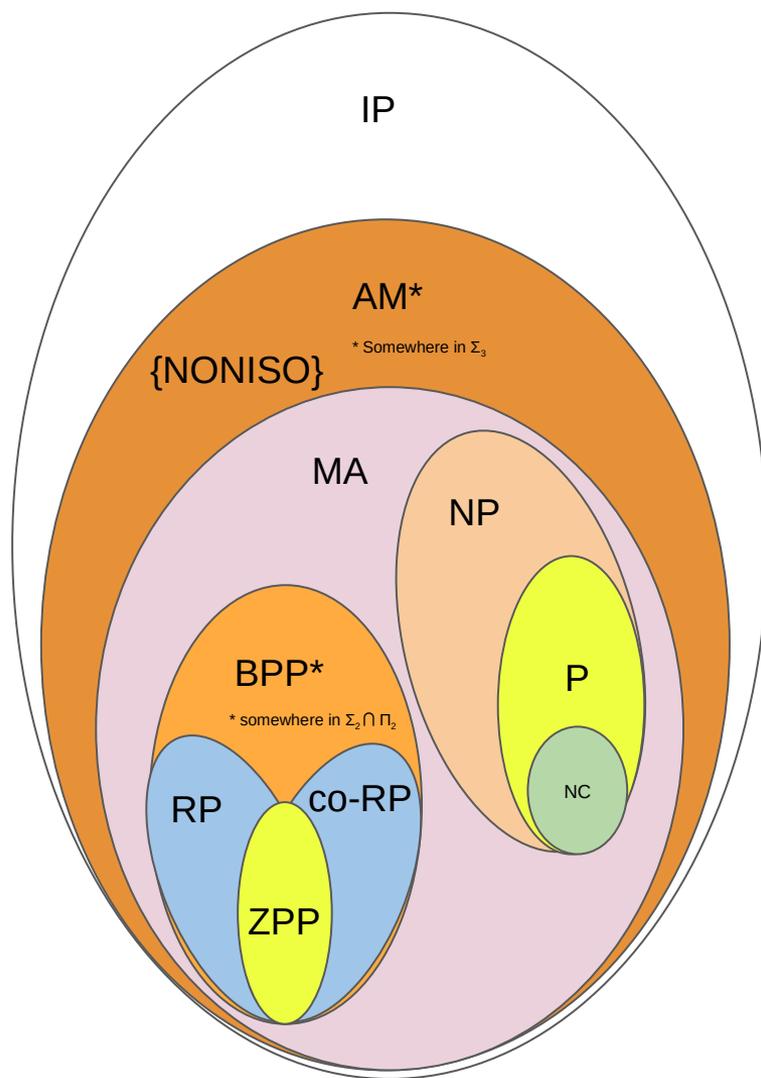
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- **Theorem [Babai '88]:** $\text{AM}[k] = \text{AM}[2]$ for constant k
- **Theorem [GS '86]:** $\text{AM}[k] \subseteq \text{IP}[k] \subseteq \text{AM}[k+2]$ for polynomial k .

What's in IP?



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Proof: Consider a language A in IP with a verifier V . Let the transcript be exactly of size $p = \text{poly}(n)$ for all inputs x of size n . We will construct a PSPACE machine M which decides A .

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Definition: $\langle V, P \rangle(x, r, M_j) = \text{accept}$, for a random string r of length p , if there exists m_{j+1}, \dots, m_p such that

1. For $j \leq i < p$ and i is even $V(x, r, M_i) = m_{i+1}$
2. For $j \leq i < p$ and i is odd $P(x, M_i) = m_{i+1}$
3. m_p is accept

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Obs: Using previous definitions,

$$\Pr[\langle V, P \rangle \text{ accepts } x \text{ starting at } M_j] = \Pr[\langle V, P \rangle(x, r, M_j) = \text{accept}] \quad (1)$$

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The goal is now to compute the probability of V accepting x starting from M_0 . If this is greater than $\frac{2}{3}$ then x must be in A , if it less than $\frac{1}{3}$ then it must not be in A . We do this recursively.

Theorem: $IP \subseteq PSPACE$

$$N_{M_j} = 0 \quad \text{if } j = p \text{ and } m_p = \text{reject}$$

$$= 1 \quad \text{if } j = p \text{ and } m_p = \text{accept}$$

$$= \max_{m_{\{j+1\}}} N_{M_{\{j+1\}}} \quad \text{odd } j < p$$

$$= \text{wt-avg}_{m_{\{j+1\}}} N_{M_{\{j+1\}}} \quad \text{even } j < p$$

$$\text{wt-avg}_{m_{\{j+1\}}} N_{M_{\{j+1\}}} = \sum_{m_{\{j+1\}}} ((\text{Pr}[V(w,r,M_j)=m_{j+1}]) \cdot N_{M_{\{j+1\}}})$$

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We need to prove the following 2 claims, with that the proof is complete.

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When j is odd, the message m_{j+1} is from P to V . From the definition of N_{M_j}

$$N_{M_j} = \max_{m_{j+1}} N_{M_{j+1}}$$

$$N_{M_j} = \max_{m_{j+1}} \Pr[V \text{ accepts } x \text{ starting at } M_{j+1}]$$

$$= \max_{m_{j+1}} \max_P \Pr[\langle V, P' \rangle(x, r, M_{j+1}) = \text{accept}]$$

1... $\leq \max_P \Pr[\langle V, P \rangle \text{ accepts } x \text{ starting at } M_j]$, P can send the maximizing m_{j+1}^*

2... $\geq \max_P \Pr[\langle V, P \rangle \text{ accepts } x \text{ starting at } M_j]$, P cannot be better than P'

Therefore,

$$N_{M_j} = \Pr[V \text{ accepts } x \text{ starting at } M_j]$$

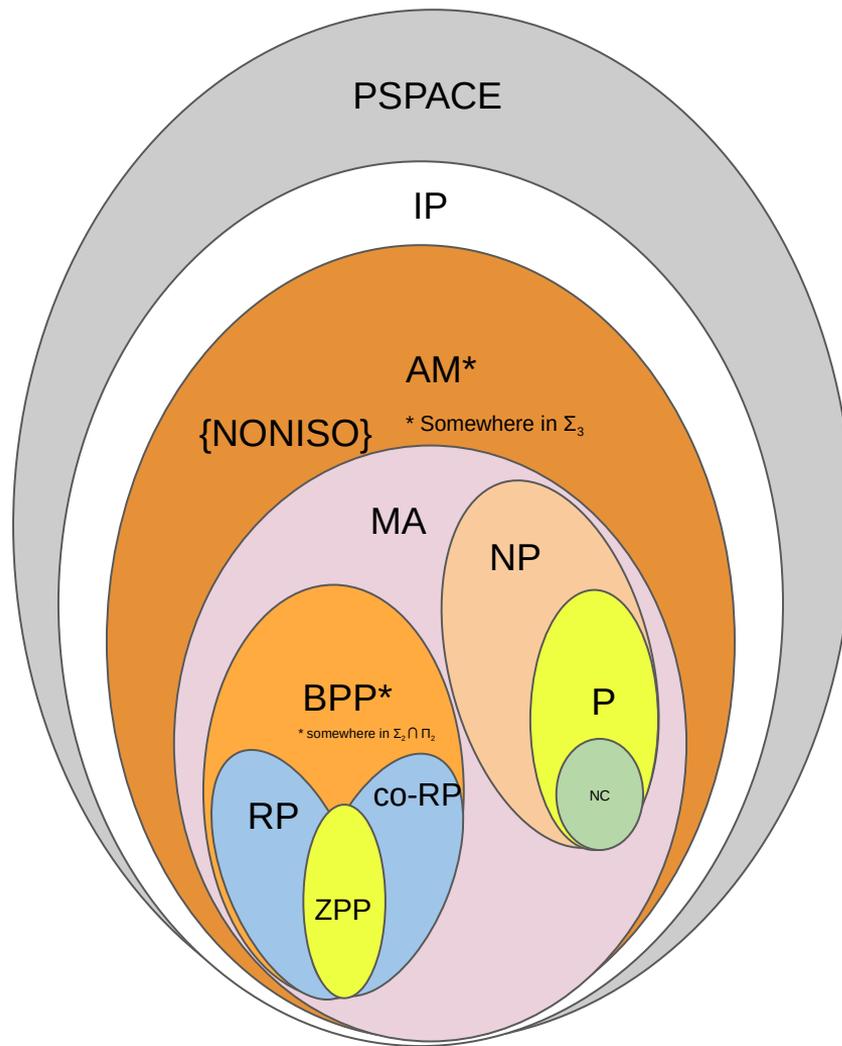
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Claim 2: N_{M_j} can be calculated in PSPACE

From the above proof, it also clear that these values can be calculated in PSPACE recursively. The depth of the recursion would be p . M calculates N_{M_j} for every j and M_j .



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- Proven by [LFKN '92]

#3SAT Prerequisites

- **Definition:** #3SAT

#3SAT = $\{(\phi, k) \mid \text{where } \phi \text{ is a 3CNF with exactly } k \text{ satisfying assignments}\}$

ϕ is the number of satisfying assignments of 3CNF ϕ

Say $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, then

$$\#\phi = \sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} \phi(b_1, \dots, b_n)$$

$\phi(b_1, \dots, b_n) = 1$ if $b_1 \dots b_n$ is a satisfying assignment, 0 otherwise

We define # $\phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1})$ as

$$\#\phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}) = \sum_{b_i \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} \phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, b_i, \dots, b_n)$$

#3SAT Prerequisites

Observation*: $\#\phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}) = \#\phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, 0) + \#\phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, 1)$

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$$= \sum_{b_{\{i+1\}} \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} \phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, 0, \dots, b_n) + \sum_{b_{\{i+1\}} \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} \phi(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, 1, \dots, b_n)$$

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6. Repeat by setting each variable x_i to 0 and 1 and verifying
7. Step ??: Once all variables have been set, Verifier asks the prover the number of satisfying assignments and also verifies the answer by itself.

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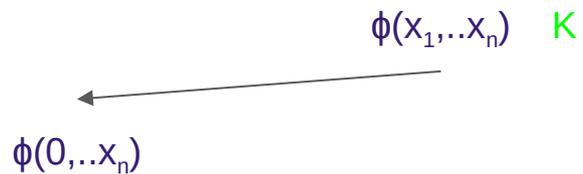
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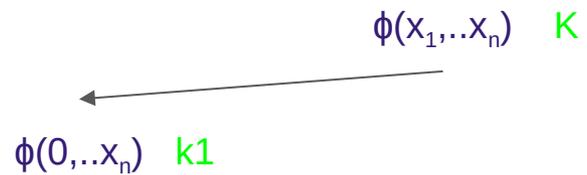
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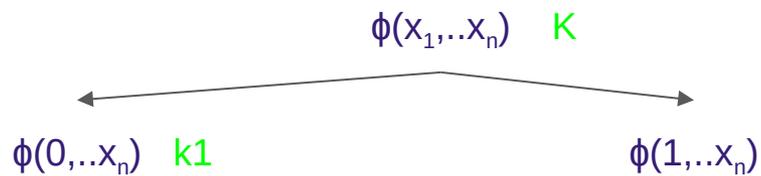
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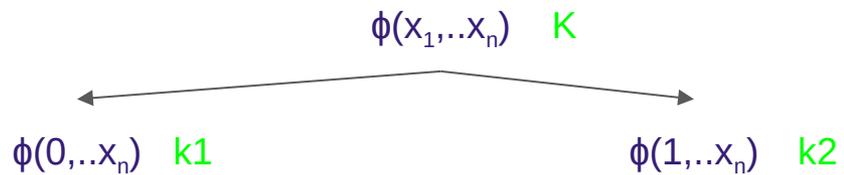
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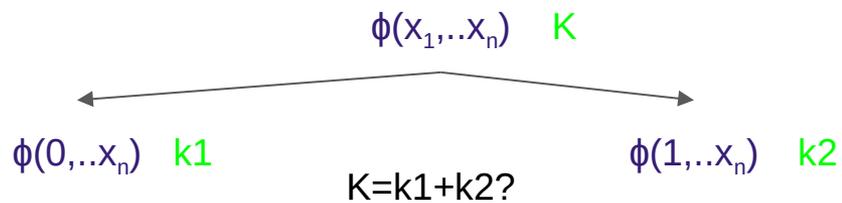
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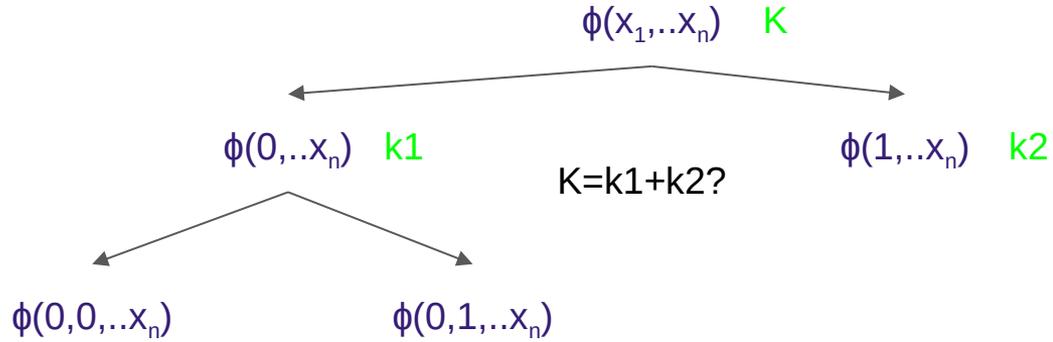
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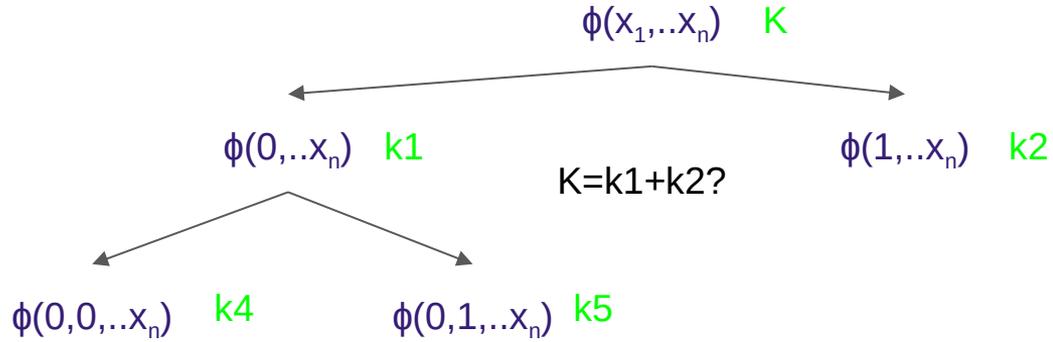
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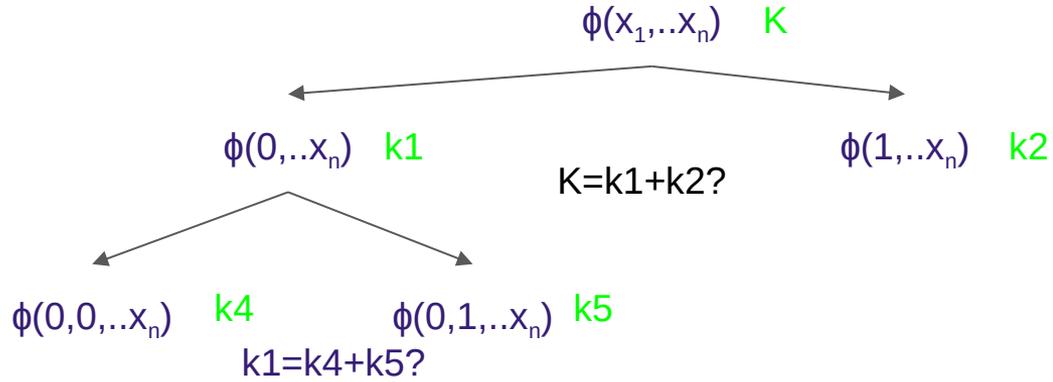
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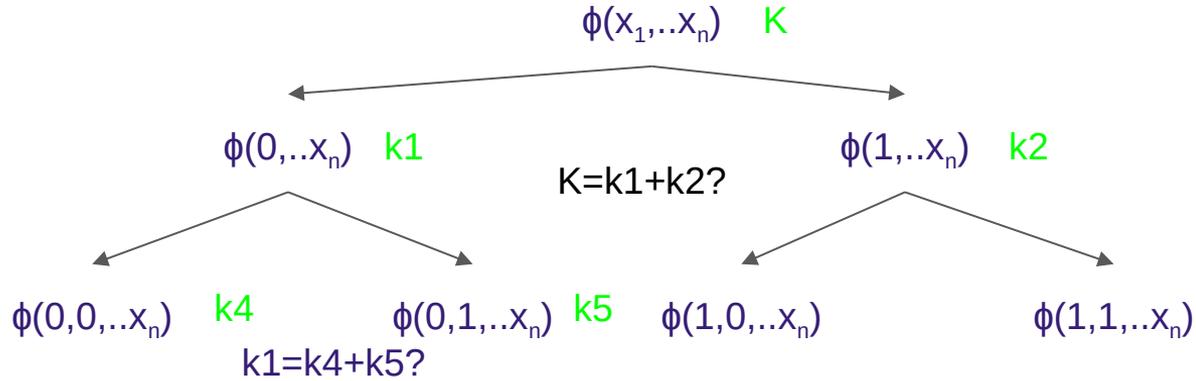
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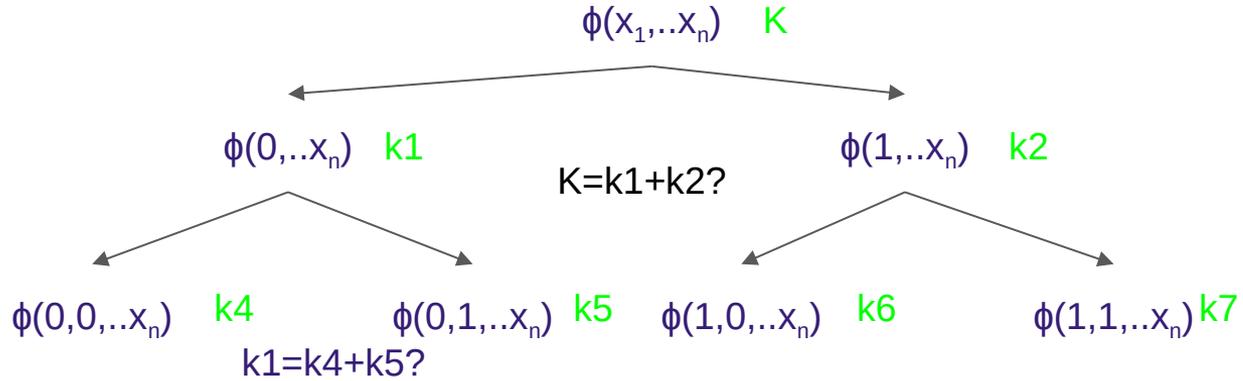
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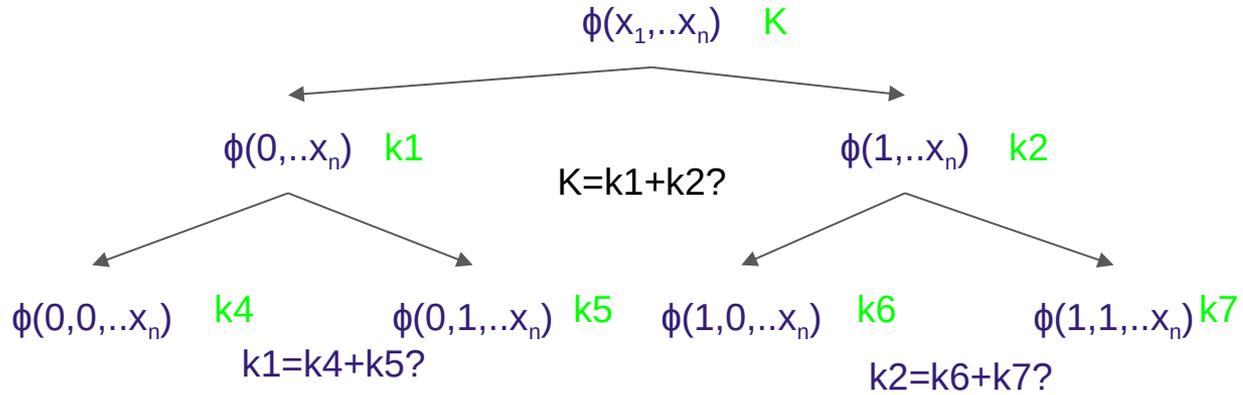
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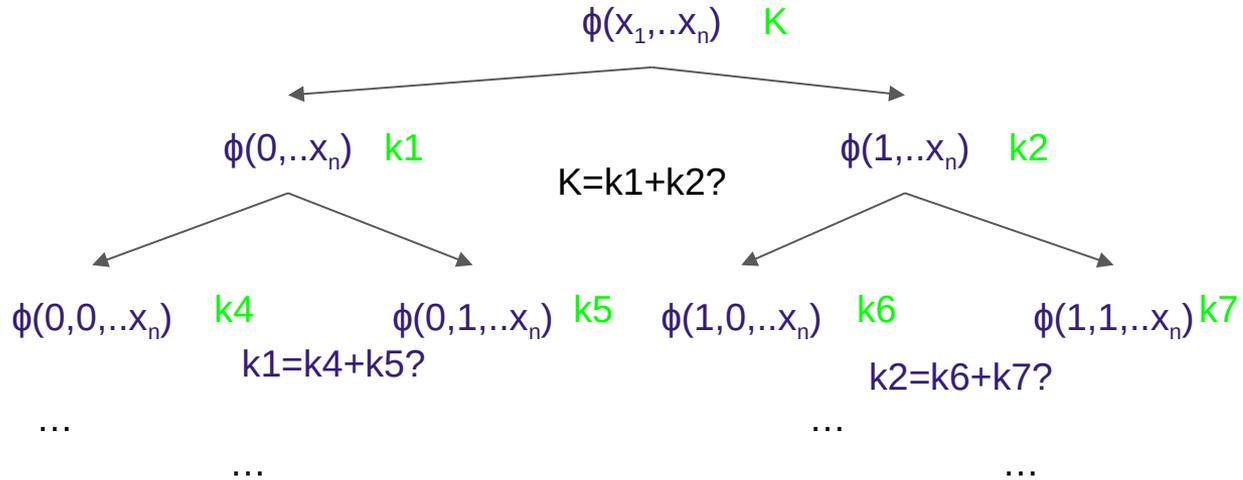
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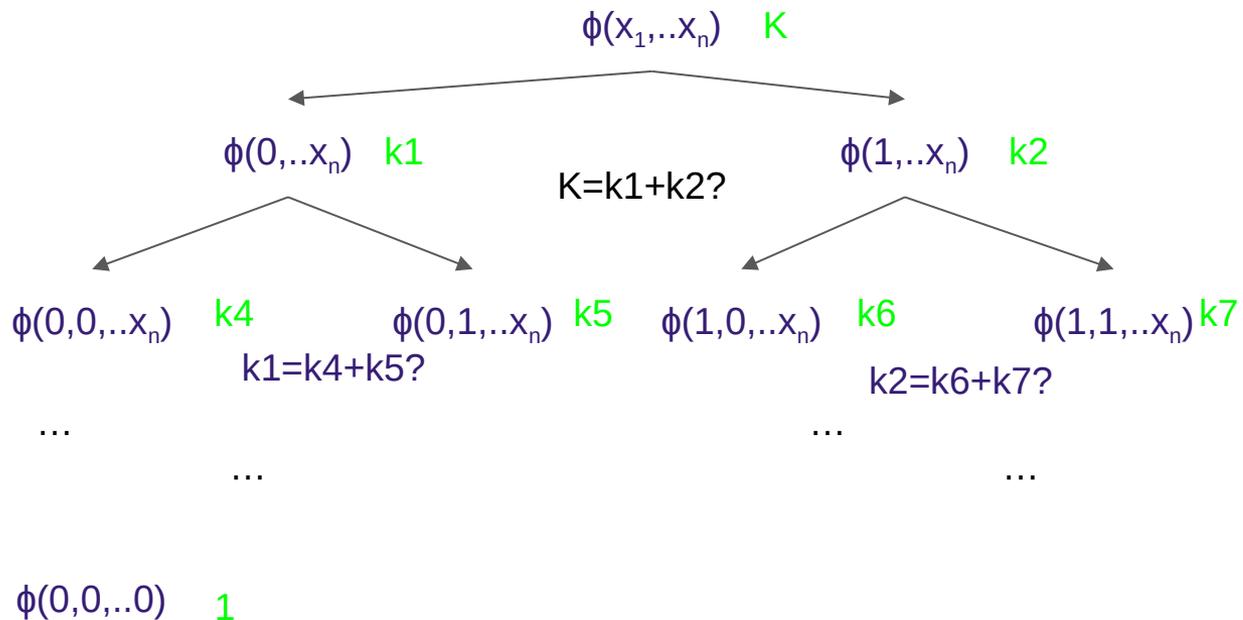
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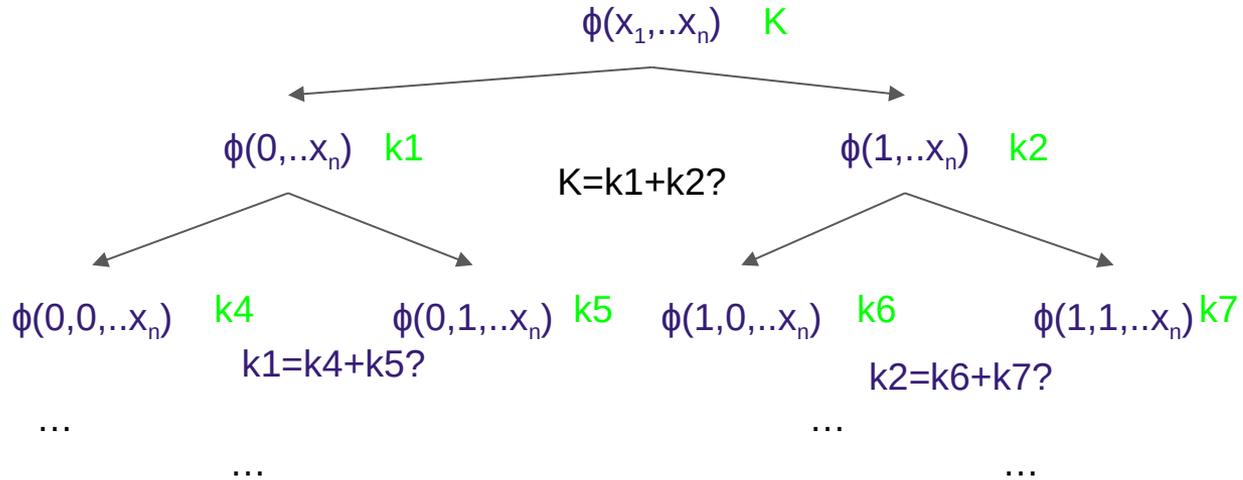
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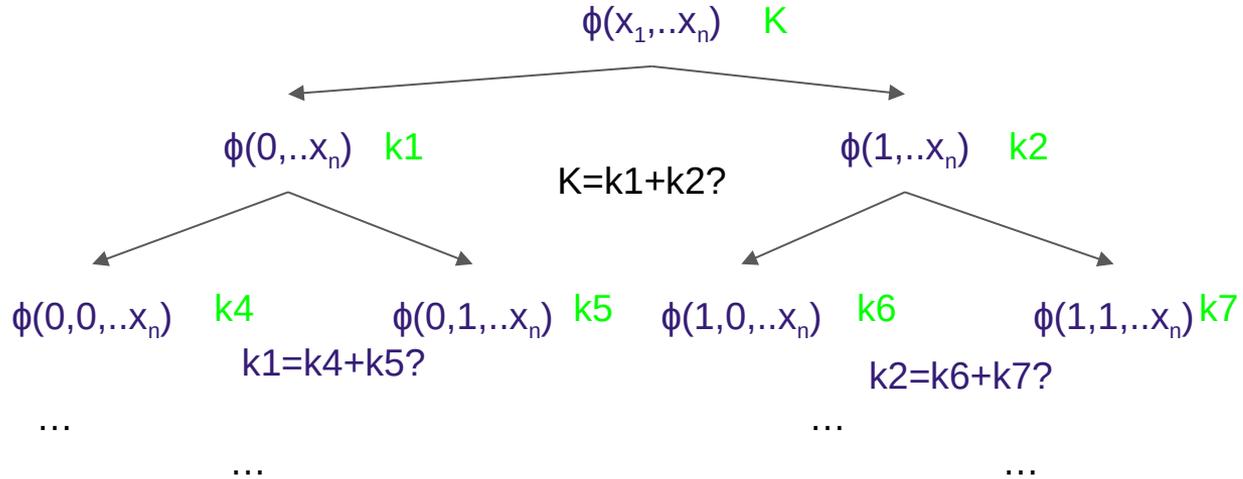
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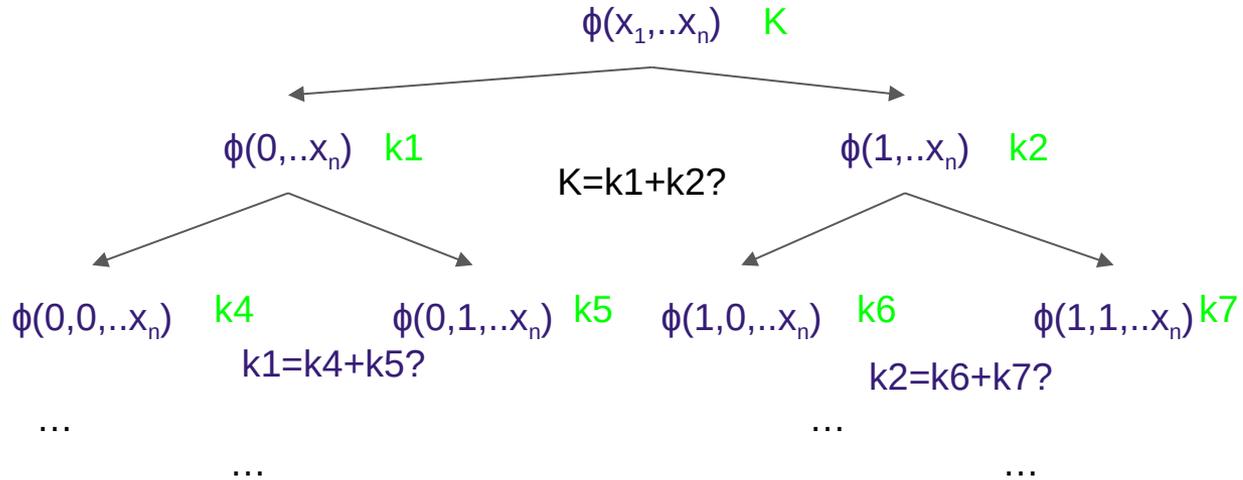


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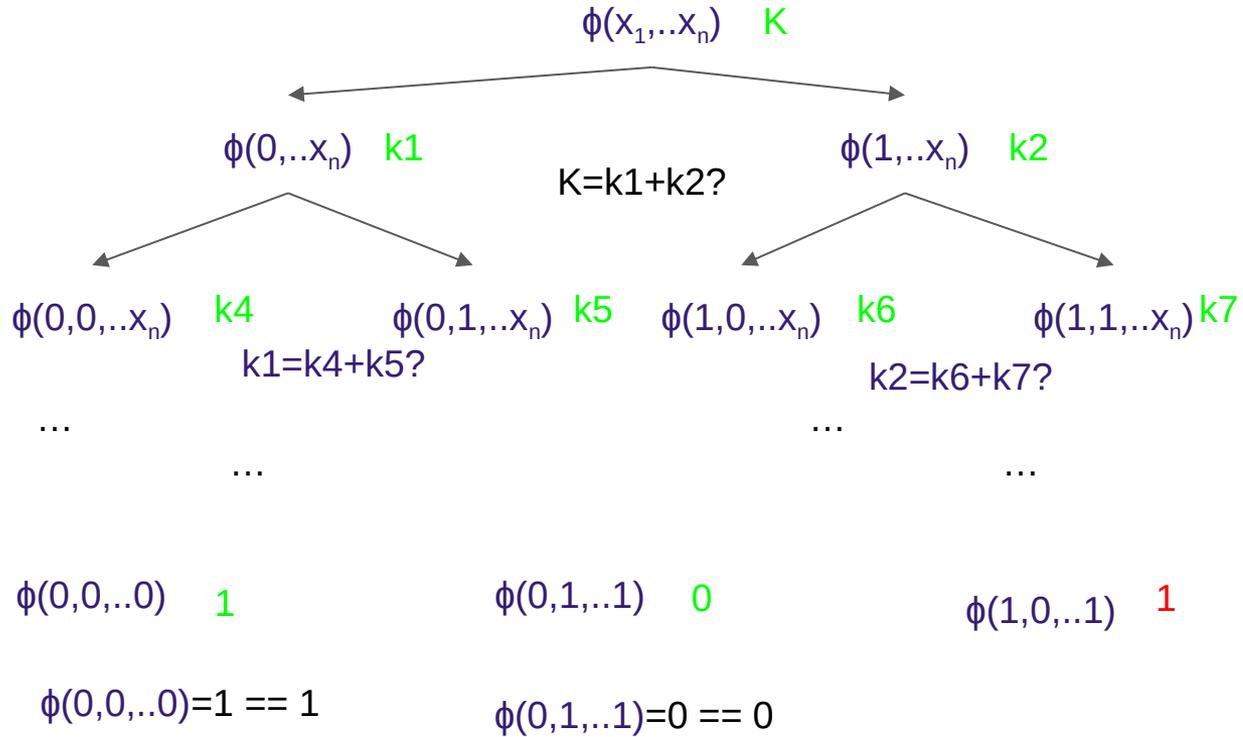
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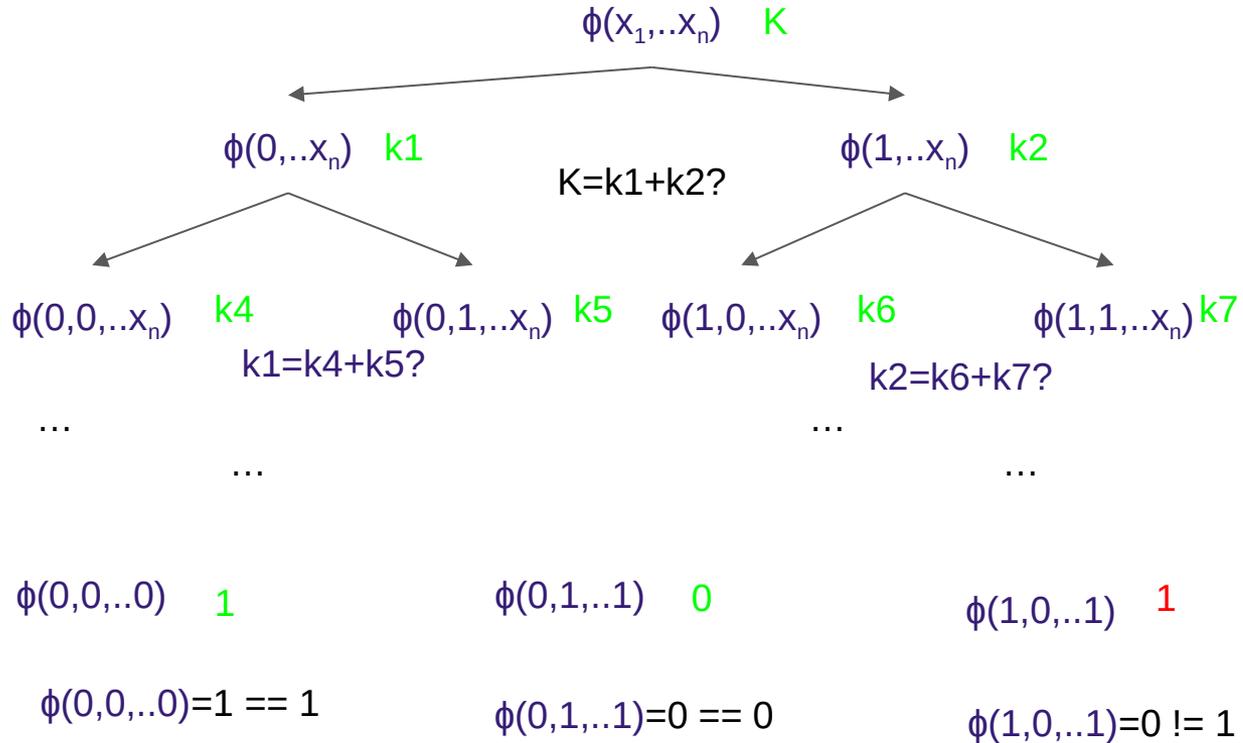
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Idea: Randomly choose a path in the tree

#3SAT \subseteq IP? [Attempt 2]

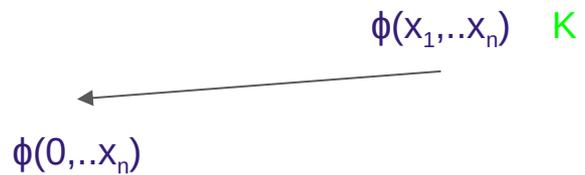
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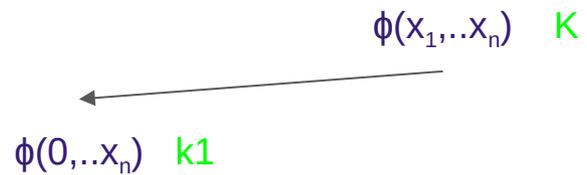
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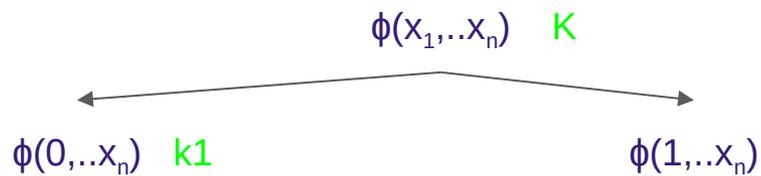
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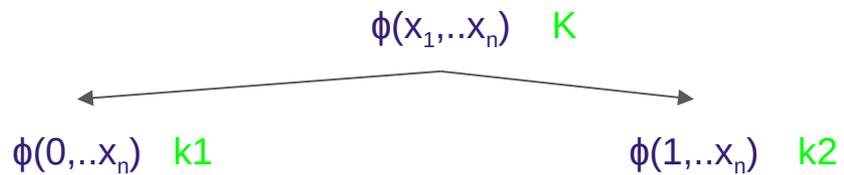
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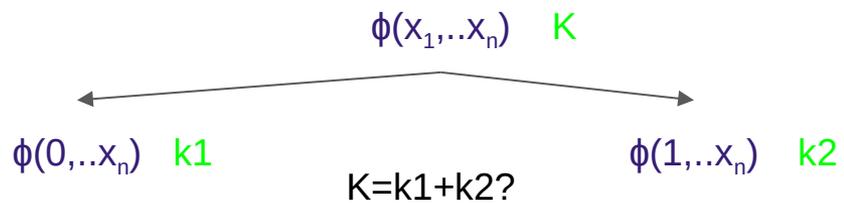
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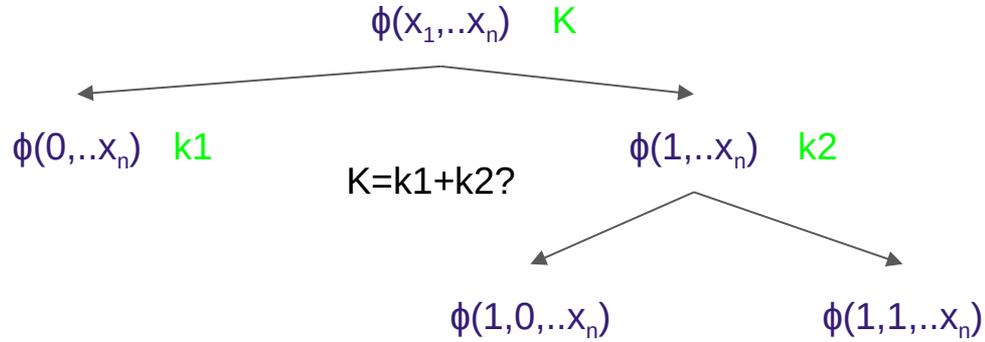
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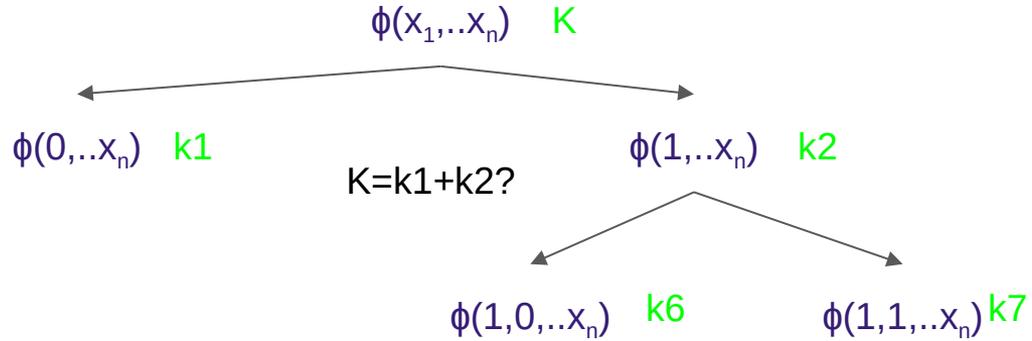
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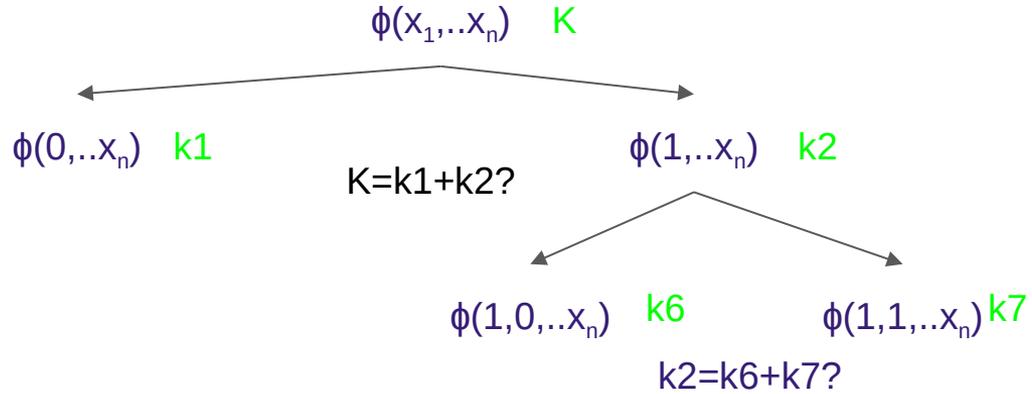
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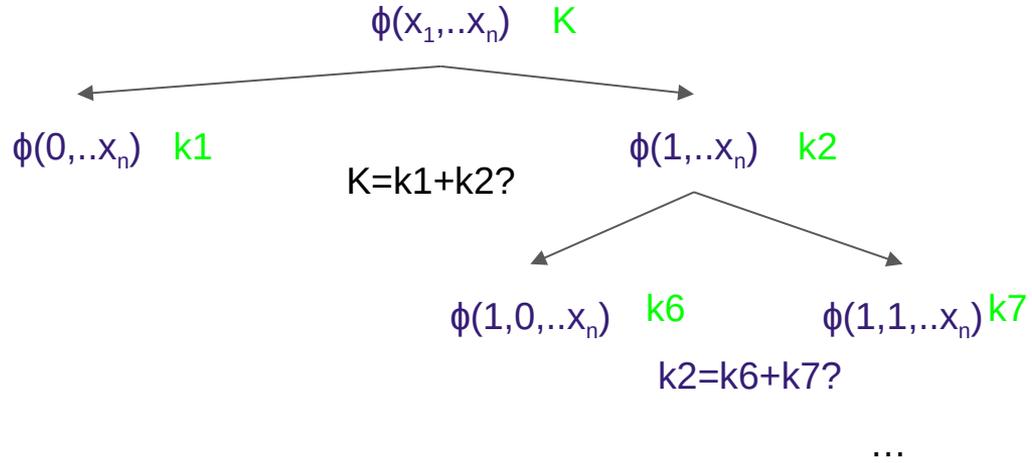
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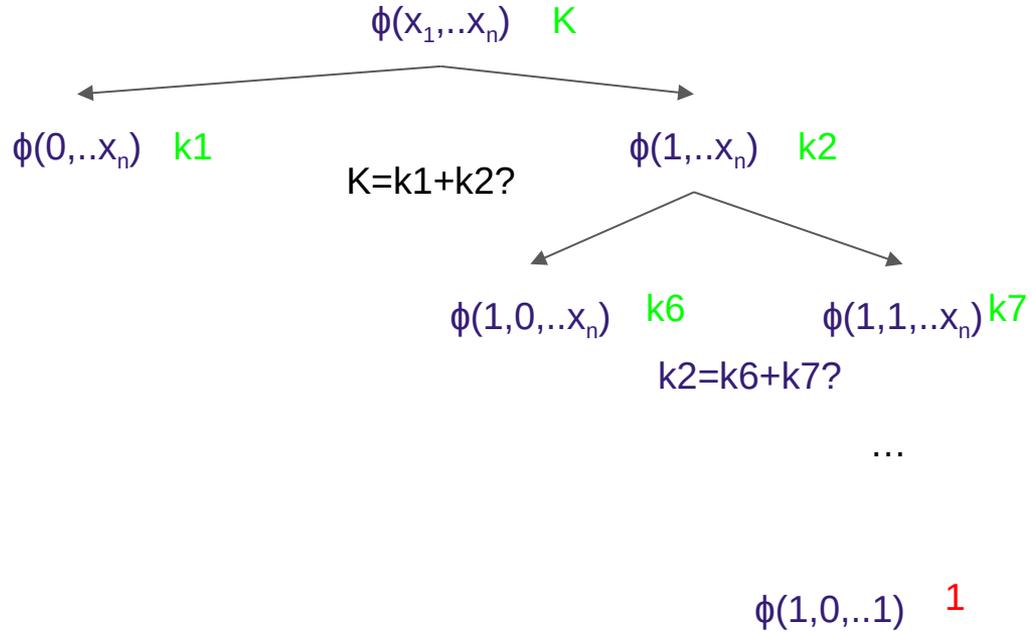
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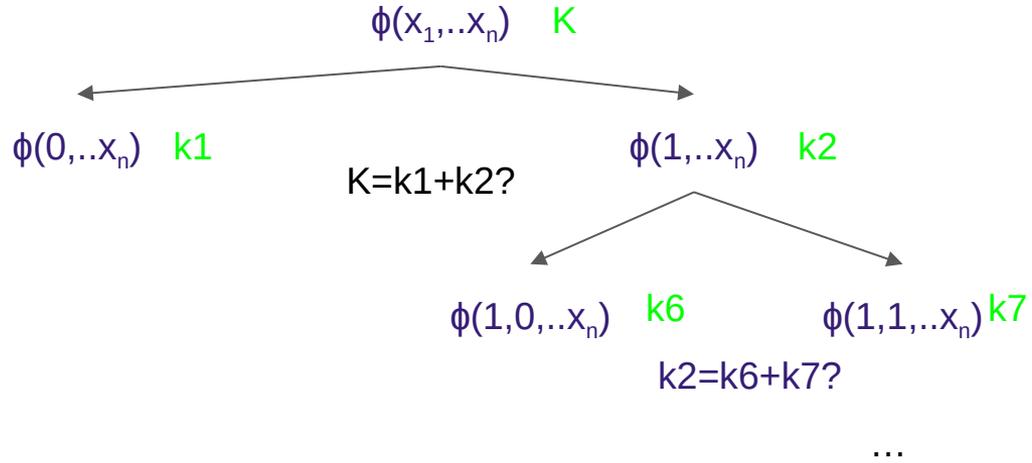
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$$\phi(1, 0, \dots, 1) \quad \mathbf{1}$$

$$\phi(1, 0, \dots, 1) = 0 \neq 1$$

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- The probability that the prover actually gets caught is 2^{-n} . We need to catch every wrong branch at every step.
- So, we always accept when the number of satisfying assignments are correct, but we will also accept when it is incorrect with probability $1 - 2^{-n}$.

Boolean is F_2

Boolean is F_2

Every boolean formula can be expressed as a polynomial over elements of F_2

We use the following trick:

$$a \wedge b \equiv ab$$

$$a \vee b \equiv 1 - (1-a)(1-b) \equiv a + b - ab$$

$$\neg a \equiv (1-a)$$

$$\text{True} \equiv 1$$

$$\text{False} \equiv 0$$

Example:

$$(x_1 \vee x_3 \vee \neg x_4) \equiv (x_1 + x_3 - x_1x_3) + (1-x_4) - (x_1 + x_3 - x_1x_3)(1-x_4)$$

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- The degree of each clause will be at most 3, as ϕ is a 3CNF, and the net degree will be at most $3m$ where there are m clauses in ϕ .
- The size of the polynomial will also be bound polynomial in the size of ϕ as we don't need to expand the terms

Boolean is F_2

We can restate our equations as follows, where X_i s are now formal variables

$$\#\phi = \sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \cdots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} P_\phi(b_1, \dots, b_n)$$

$$\#\phi(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}) = \sum_{b_i \in \{0,1\}} \cdots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} P_\phi(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, b_i, \dots, b_n)$$

$$\#\phi(X_1, \dots, X_i) = \#\phi(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, 0) + \#\phi(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, 1)$$

Theorem[LFKN '92]: #3SAT \in IP

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Once we do that, we can plug in any element in F_p into our polynomial

Theorem[LFKN '92]: #3SAT \in IP

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Theorem[LFKN '92]: #3SAT \in IP

- How large should p be?

The number of satisfying assignments can be at most 2^n , therefore, we can choose a prime between 2^n and 2^{2n} .

We ask the prover to provide this prime at the start of the protocol and the verifier can verify primality in polynomial time.

Sumcheck protocol

A generic protocol to verify equations of the form

$$K = \sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} g(X_1, \dots, X_n) \quad \dots \text{eq(1)}$$

Where g is any polynomial of small size and which can be evaluated in polynomial time.

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Where g is any polynomial of small size and which can be evaluated in polynomial time.

Obs: P_ϕ is a degree $3m$ polynomial its size is of the order of the size of ϕ . It can also be easily evaluated in the same way we evaluate formulas on assignments. So we can use the sumcheck protocol.

Sumcheck protocol

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Obs: $h(X_1) = \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} g(X_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$

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Obs: g can be evaluated in polynomial time, however h cannot even be computed in polynomial time

Sumcheck protocol

Input: $g(X_1, \dots, X_n)$, K

V: if $n = 1$, verify $K = g(0) + g(1)$

V: It asks the prover to send a polynomial h , as defined previously, a polynomial in X_1

P: sends a polynomial s

V: verify that $s(0) + s(1) = K$. Selects a random element from F_p , say a . It calculates $s(a)$.

Recursively solve with the input as

$g(a, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ and $s(a)$.

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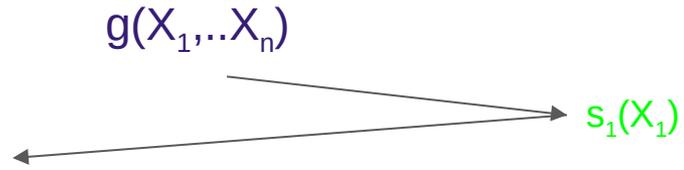
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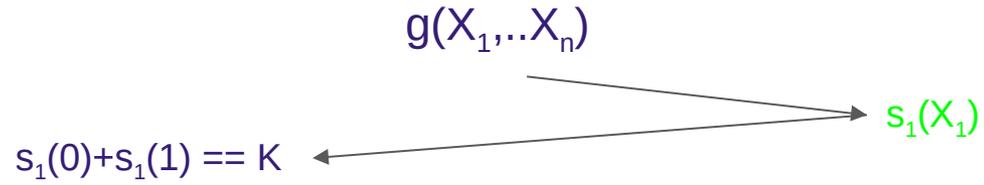


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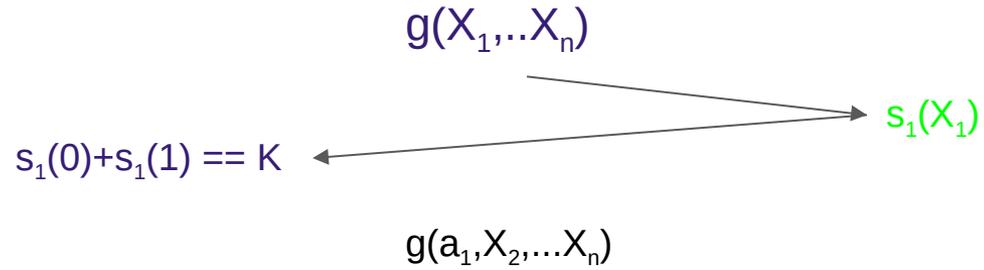
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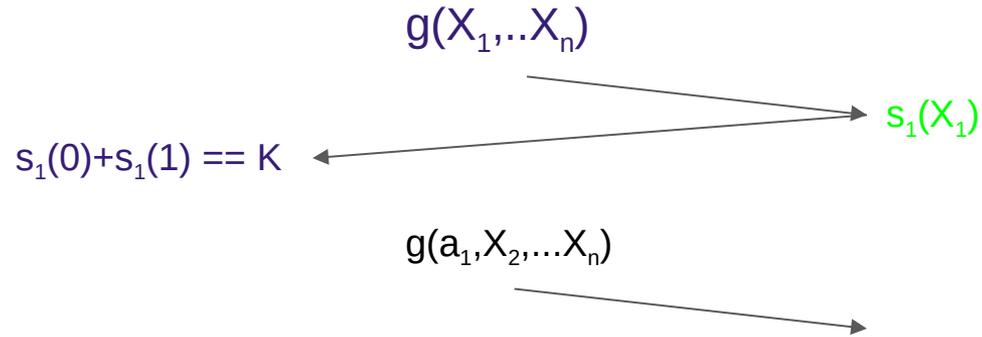
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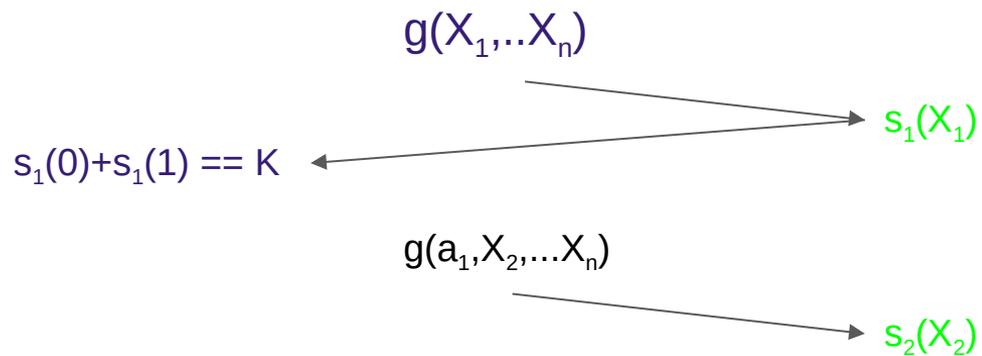
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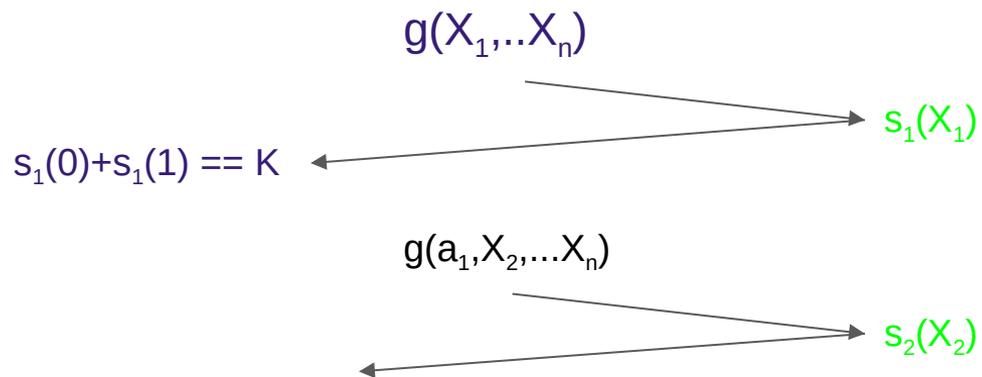
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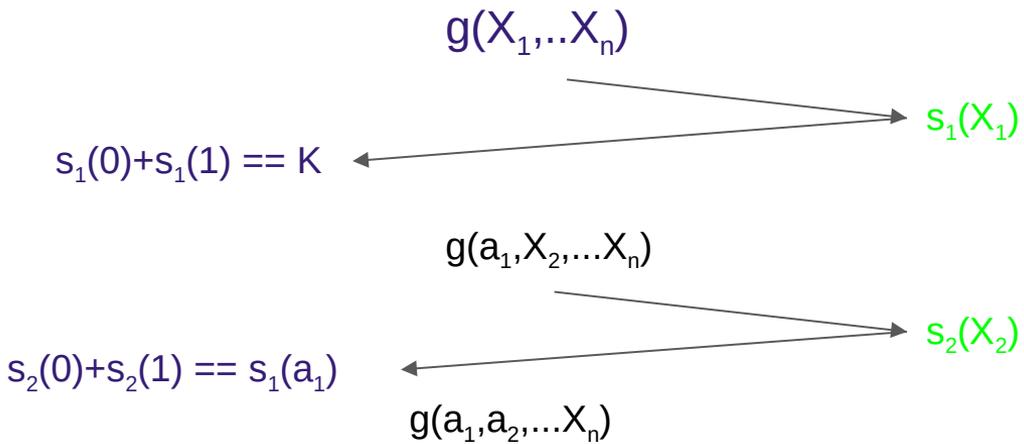
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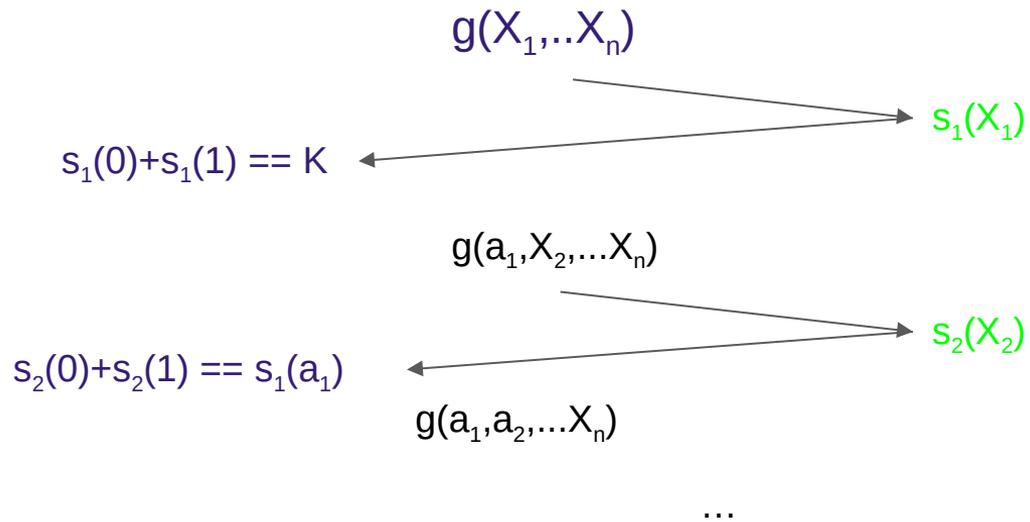
$$s_2(0) + s_2(1) == s_1(a_1)$$

$$s_2(X_2)$$

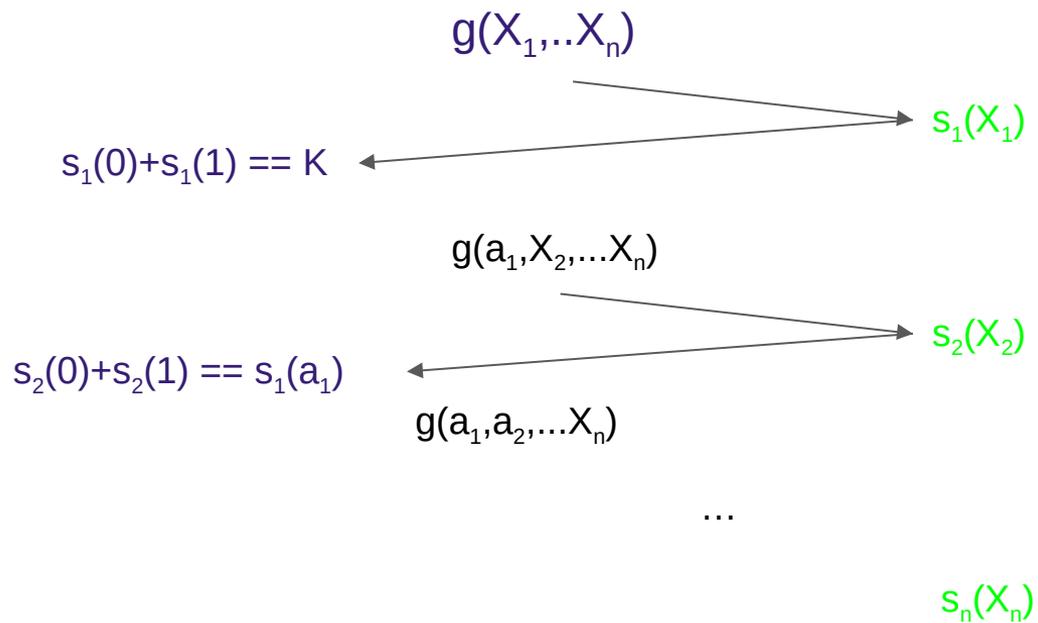
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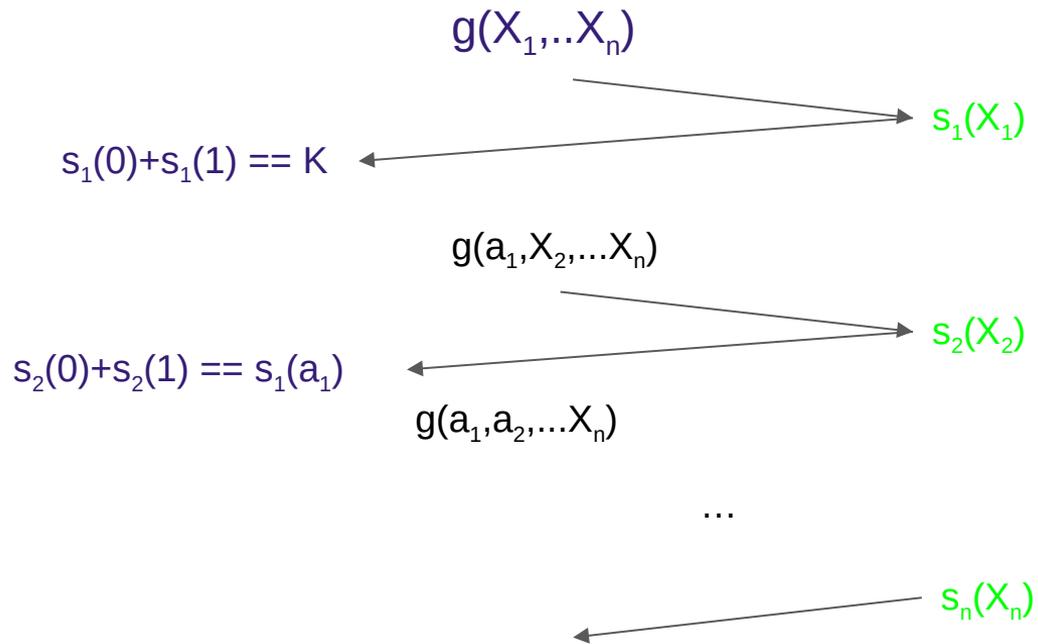
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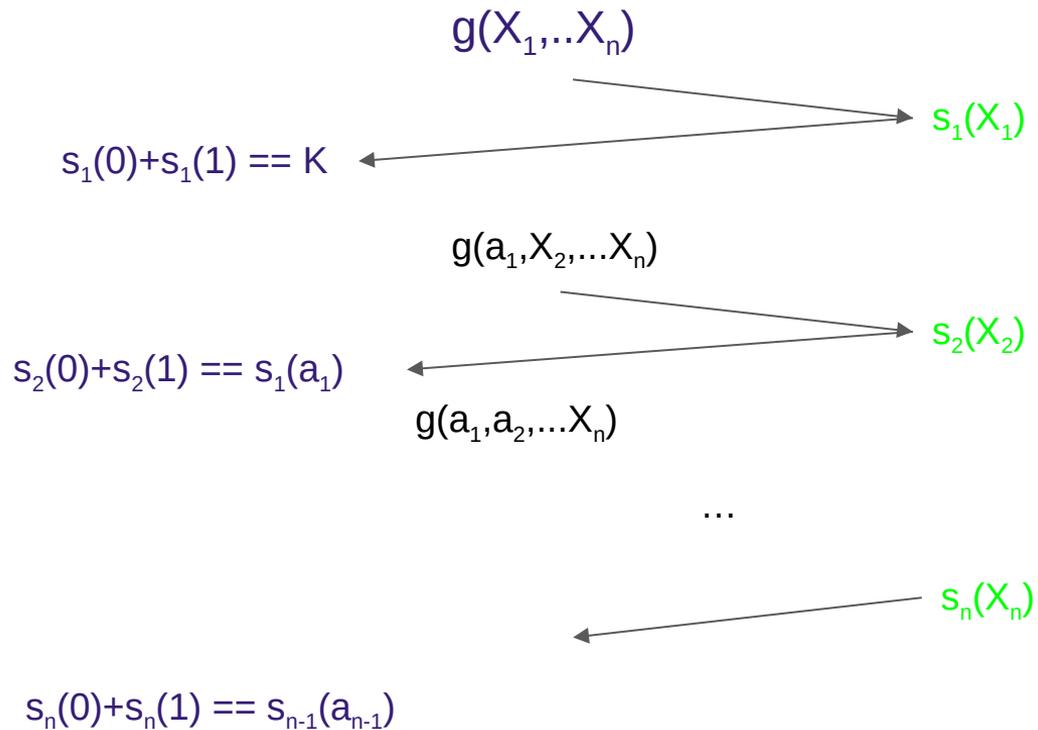
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- If eq(1) is true, then the prover sends the correct polynomial h in the first round, ie, $s_1 = h$. So we will never reject a correct string. (Perfect completeness)
- How lucky does the prover need to be for the verifier to accept an incorrect string?

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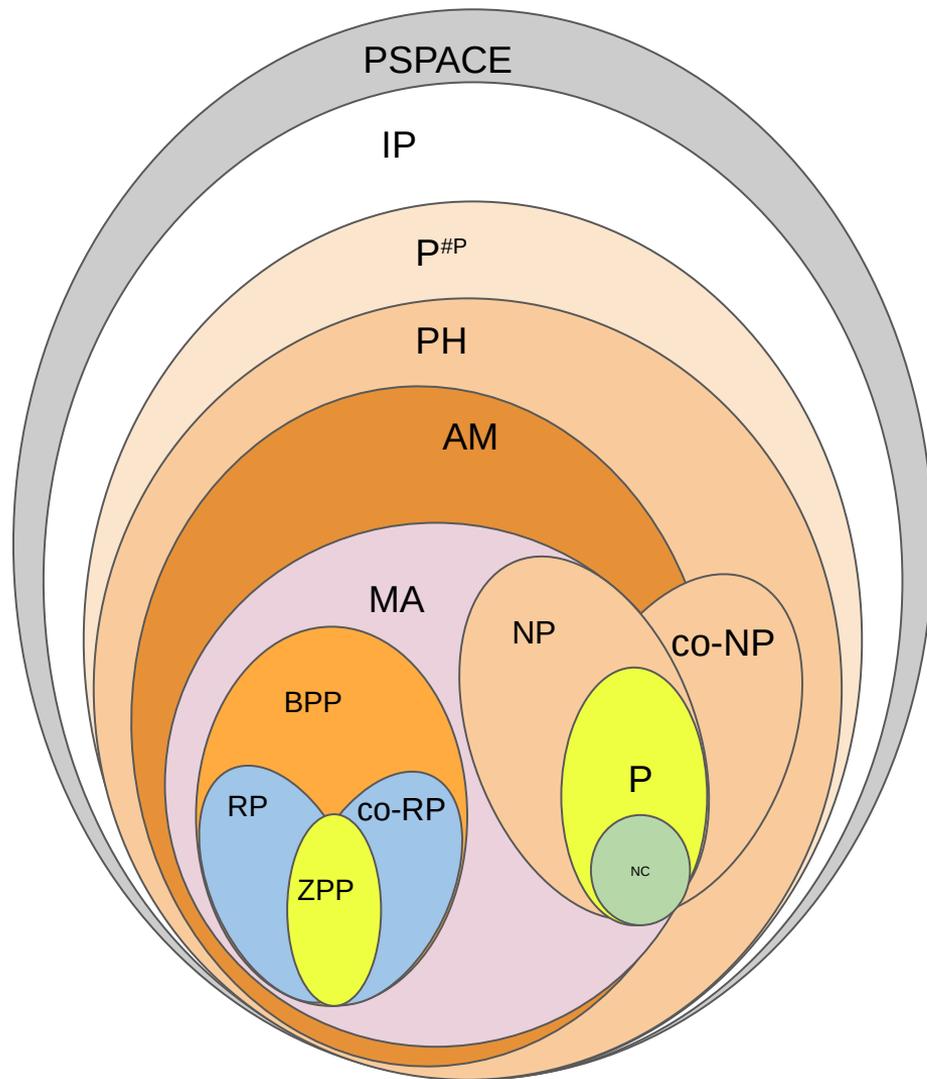
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Therefore the error probability is less than $3n^2/2^n$ which is less than $1/3$ for $n > 9$

What's in IP?



TQBF \subseteq IP?

Definition: TQBF

TQBF = $\{ \Psi = Q_1 x_1 \dots Q_n x_n \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid \Psi = \text{True}, Q_i \text{ in } \{\exists, \forall\}, \text{ boolean formula } \phi \}$

$\Psi = \forall x_1, \exists x_2, \forall x_3, \dots, \exists x_n \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \text{TQBF}$ iff

$$\prod_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \prod_{b_3 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} P_\phi(b_1, \dots, b_n) = 1$$

Where P_ϕ is the polynomial as defined before over F_2

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As for 3SAT, when we need a univariate polynomial over a variable quantified by \exists , we must check the additivity, i.e, $s(0)+s(1) = K$

Obs 2: Multiply over \forall

When we have a univariate polynomial over a variable quantified by \forall , we must check multiplicity, i.e, $s(0) \cdot s(1) = K$

Sumcheck Protocol?

- Unlike adding polynomials, multiplying polynomials increase the degree
- If we define $h(X_1)$ as defined previously:

$$h(X_1) = \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \prod_{b_3 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_n \in \{0,1\}} P_\phi(X_1, \dots, b_n)$$

This can have degree at most 2^n . Which cannot be sent from the prover to the verifier.

Obs:

$$x^k = x \text{ in } F_2 \text{ for any } k > 0$$

Linearization

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Any polynomial $p(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ can be converted to a *multilinear* polynomial $q(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ where

1. The degree of any variable in any term of q is at most 1
2. $p(a_1, \dots, a_n) = q(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ for any $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \{0, 1\}$

Linearization

Definition: Linearization operator L

$$L_i(p) = X_i \cdot p(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, 1, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_n) + (1-X_i) \cdot p(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, 0, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_n)$$

Defines a new polynomial such that

1. Degree of X_i in $L_i(p)$ is at most 1
2. $L_i(p)$ gives the same values as p for all binary inputs

Obs: $q = L_1(L_2(\dots L_n(p)\dots))$

Linearization

Definition: \forall operator for polynomials

$$\forall_i p(X_1, \dots, X_n) = p(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, 0, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_n) \cdot p(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, 1, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_n)$$

Definition: \exists operator for polynomials

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The size of this expression is increased due to the addition of the linearization operator. The size will then be $O(n+1+2+\dots+n+|P_\phi|)$, which is still poly-size

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TQBF: g would be P_ϕ , t would be $o(n^3)$, and C would be 1

Modified Sumcheck protocol

V: provide a polynomial equal to $R_2 \dots R_t g(X_1, \dots, X_n)$

P: returns a polynomial $s(X_1)$

V: 1) If $R_1 = \exists_1$ verify that $s(0) + s(1) = C$

2) If $R_1 = \forall_1$ verify that $s(0) \cdot s(1) = C$

3) If $R_1 = L_1$ and verify that $a \cdot s(1) + (1-a) \cdot s(0) = s(a)$

If all checks pass, pick a random element a , recursively prove that the polynomial $R_2 \dots R_t g(a, \dots, X_n) = s(a)$

Modified Sumcheck protocol

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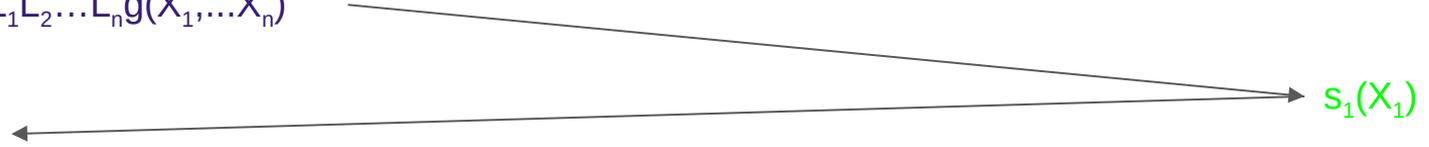
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$$s_1(X_1)$$

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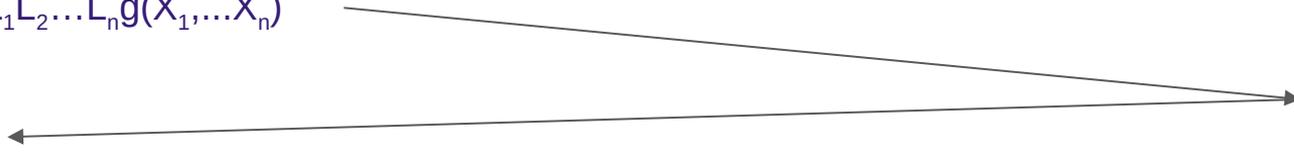
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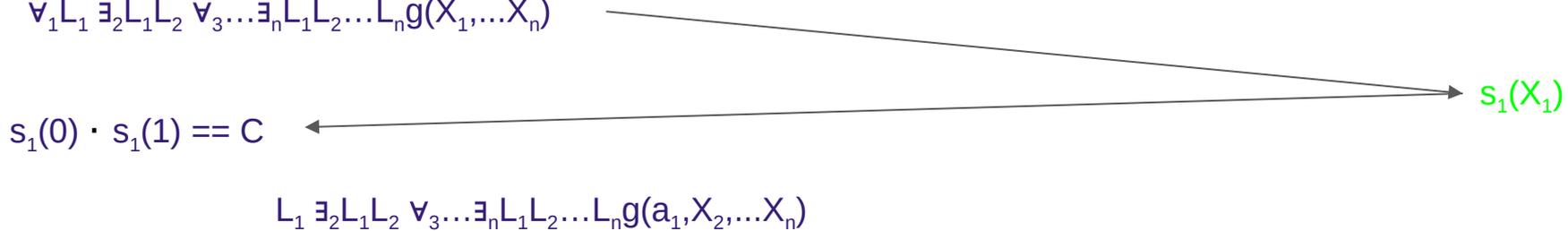
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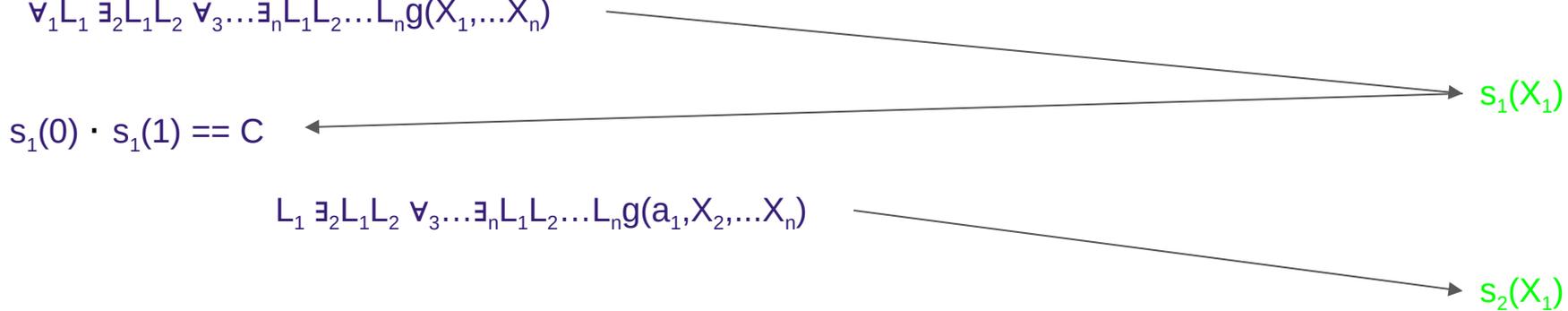
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$$(1 - a_1) \cdot s_2(0) + a_1 \cdot s_2(1) == s_2(a_1)$$

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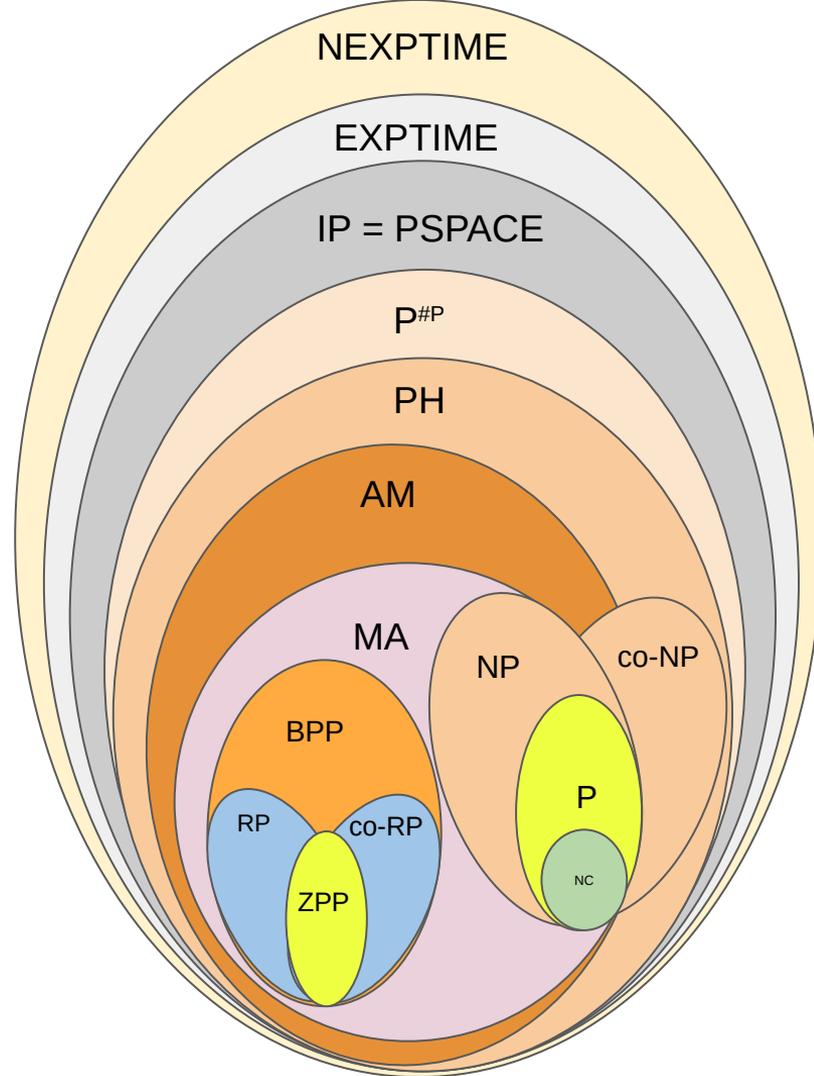
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Where's IP?



MIP

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QIP, MIP*

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- We would be able to solve undecidable problems like the halting problem

IP = PSPACE Timeline

1985: AM, MA defined by Babai

1986: Goldwasser and Sipser show public coin private coin equivalence

1988: $AM=AM[2]$ by BM, MIP is defined by BGKW

1989: IP is defined by GMR

1991: ZKP(NONISO in IP) by GMW, $MIP=NEXP$ by BFL

1992: #3SAT in IP by LFKN, $IP=PSPACE$ by Shamir, Simpler proof by Shen

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- Computational Complexity: A Modern Approach, by Sanjeev Arora and Boaz Barak. <https://theory.cs.princeton.edu/complexity/book.pdf>

TL; DR

- Randomness+Interaction is the key, alone they are “weak”
- Supreme power is useless unless succinct
- Mapping to polynomials is a very powerful technique

