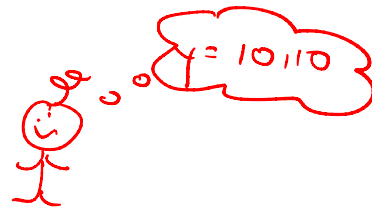


CS 6998:  
COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY & APPLICATIONS

$x = 10111$

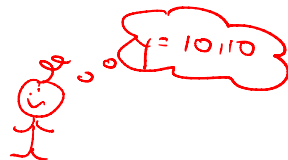
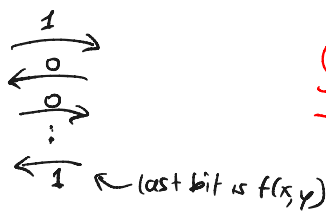


$1$  ← (last bit is  $f(x, y)$ )



CS 6998:  
COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY & APPLICATIONS

Tommaso Pitassi    tonipitassi@gmail.com



Course Webpage:

[www.cs.toronto.edu/~toni/courses/commComplexity2022/  
cc2022.html](http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~toni/courses/commComplexity2022/cc2022.html)

(or go to [www.cs.toronto.edu/~toni](http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~toni)  
and follow teaching link)

Lectures: Wed 2:10-4

Office hrs: TBA or by appointment

All course materials provided on webpage

Optional Textbooks:

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nisan-Kushilevitz | Communication Complexity        |
| Rao-Yehudayoff    | Comm Comp + Applications        |
| Lee-Shenbman      | Lower Bounds in Comm Complexity |

Course Outline/Evaluation: see webpage

- 2-3 assignments
- Short Presentations

Lecture Notes (see webpage)

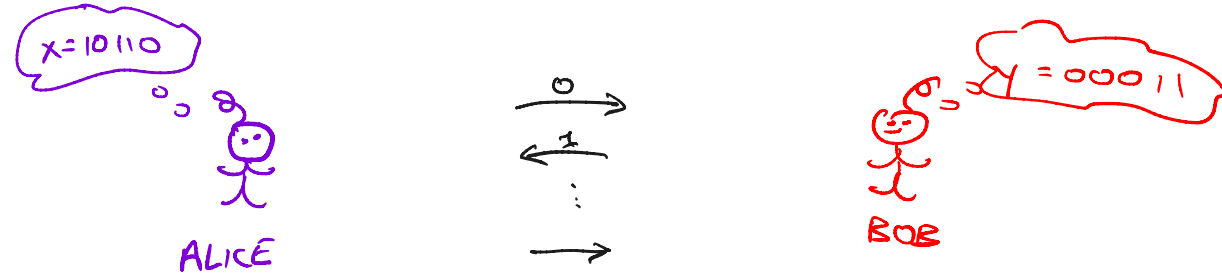


Please email me (tonipitassi@gmail.com)  
using heading "CC2022"

★ I would like your opinions on what  
applications you are most interested in!  
(see Lecture 1 + papers on website for  
list of possibilities)

Please email!

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY



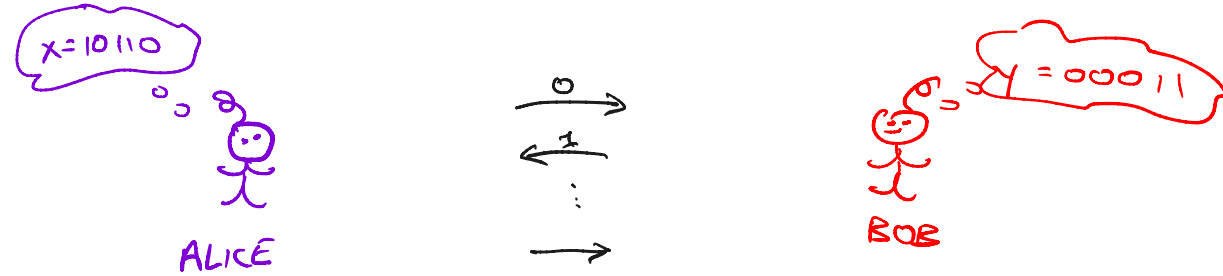
Alice & Bob have private information

Alice has boolean vector  $x$ , Bob  $y$

Typically  $|x| = |y| = n$

They want to compute some joint function (or search problem)  $f(x, y)$

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY



Example 1 Parity  $(x, y)$  = parity of number of 1's in combined string  $xy$

2 bit protocol:

Alice sends parity of # 1's of  $x$

then Bob sends parity of  $x$ , plus bit sent by Alice

so parity is easy

Note that if  $|x| = |y| = n$

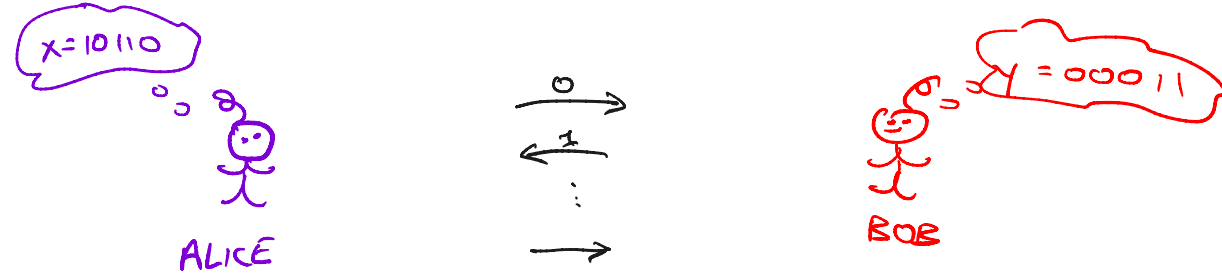
then any <sup>Boolean</sup>  $f(x, y)$  can be computed  
using  $n+1$  bits

Alice (or Bob) can just send their whole  
input to other player  
+ then other player computes  $f(x, y)$   
+ sends back answer

So all functions can be computed using  $O(n)$  bits

So an efficient protocol will be one of  
complexity  $(\log n)^{O(1)}$

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY



Example 2

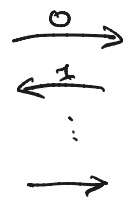
$$\text{EQ}(x, y) = 1 \text{ iff } x = y$$

Randomized  
COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY (public coin)

$x = 10110$

$r = 00111011110$

$y = 00011$



Example 2  $EQ(x, y) = 1$  iff  $x = y$

We say  $\Pi$  computes  $f(x, y)$  with <sup>success</sup> prob  $1 - \epsilon$  if

$$\Pr_r [\Pi(x, y, r) = f(x, y)] \geq 1 - \epsilon$$

Randomized EQ protocol ( $\epsilon = 1/2$ )

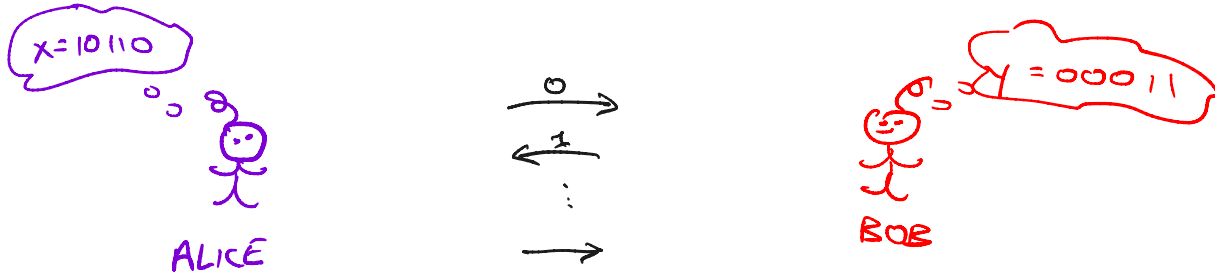
View 1<sup>st</sup>  $n$  bits of  $r$  as selecting a subset of  $1, \dots, n$ .

Alice sends parity of  $x|_r$

Bob sends parity of  $y|_r$

Accept (output 1) iff parities are the same

# COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY

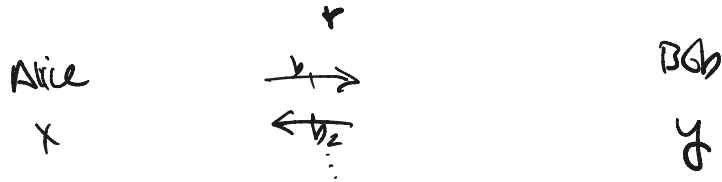


Example 3  $\text{DISJ}(x, y) = 1 \text{ iff } \exists i \ x_i = y_i = 1$

↑  
communication complexity  
analogy of SATISFIABILITY problem  
NP-complete

DISJ requires  $\Omega(n)$  cc, (det + randomized)  
But easy non-deterministically

# Nondeterministic CC



$$|x| = |y| = n$$

They share

random string  $r$ ,

$$|r| = O(\log n)$$

$\Pi$  computes  $f$  nondeterministically if

①  $f(x, y) = 0$  then  $\forall r \Pi(x, y, r) = 0$

②  $f(x, y) = 1$  then  $\exists r \Pi(x, y, r) = 1$

complexity of  $\Pi = \max_{\substack{x, y, r \\ |x| = |y| = n}} \left( \frac{\# \text{bits exchanged by } \Pi(x, y, r)}{|r|} + \right)$



## Naor's protocol for DISJ:

Alice/Bob view  $r$ ,  $|r| = \log n$  as some  $i \in [n]$

Alice sends 1 iff the  $r^{\text{th}}$  bit of  $x$  ( $x_r$ ) = 1

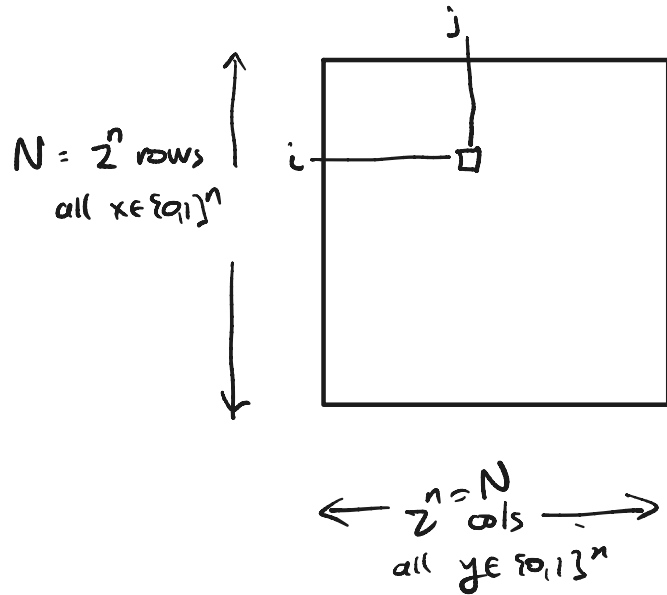
Bob sends 1 iff the  $r^{\text{th}}$  bit of  $y$  ( $y_r$ ) = 1

accept iff both send 1's

# Formal Defn of a Deterministic Protocol

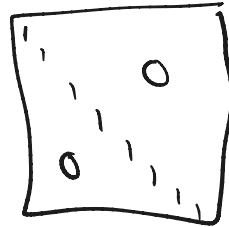
$$\text{Let } f: \underbrace{\{0,1\}^n}_x \times \underbrace{\{0,1\}^n}_y \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

the comm. matrix  $M_f$  associated with  $f$ :



$$M_{ij} = f(c_{ij})$$

$$M_{EQ} = I$$



A protocol  $\Pi$  is a binary tree

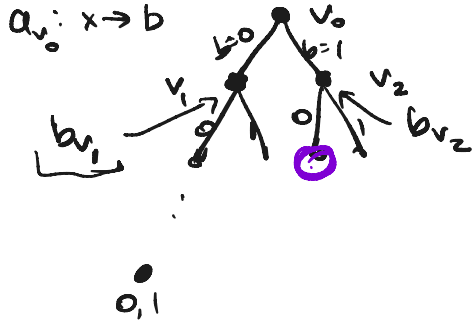
Every nonleaf vertex of tree is labelled by either  $a$  (Alice) or  $b$  (Bob)

also <sup>each nonleaf</sup> vertex  $v$  is labelled by  $a$

$$\text{function } a_v : \underbrace{\{0,1\}^n}_x \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$$\text{or } b_v : \underbrace{\{0,1\}^n}_y \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

each leaf vertex  $w$  is labelled by either 0 or 1

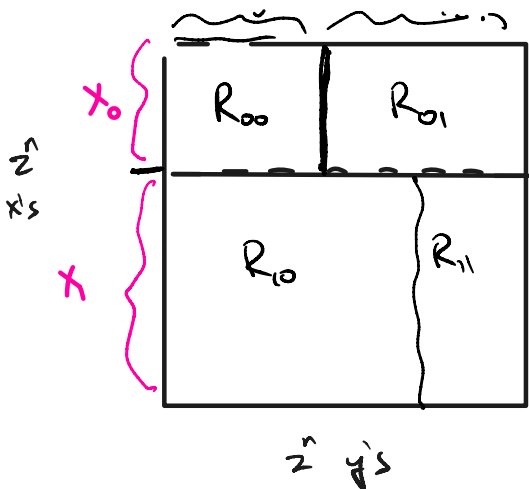


Alice  
x

Bob  
y

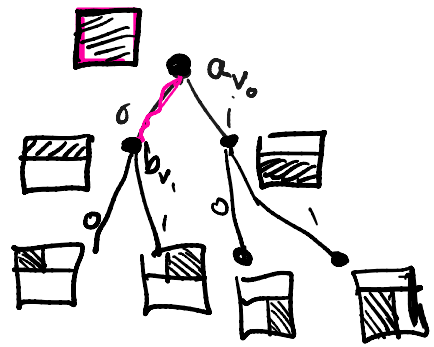
max depth of tree corresponding to  $\Pi$   
 $= cc(\Pi)$

# Matrix View of Protocol $\Pi$ for $f(x,y)$

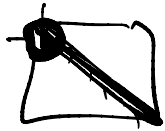


Say Alice sends 1st bit

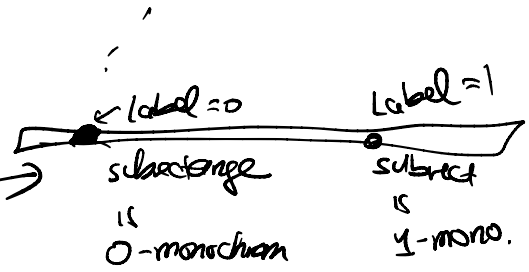
$R_0$  = inputs of Alice (Bob) corresponding to transcript 0



$R_0 = x_0 \times y$   
 $R_1 = x_1 \times y$



Partition  $M_f$  into disjoint subrectangles



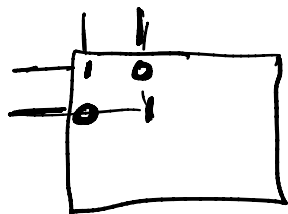
Observation any deterministic protocol  $\Pi$  for

EQ must have at least  $2^n$  leaves  $\leftarrow$  all  $i$ 's

(+ therefore has depth  $\Omega(n)$ )

$\circ \circ$  set CC of EQ  $\approx \Omega(n)$

in  $M_{EQ}$   
have to end up  
at distinct leaves



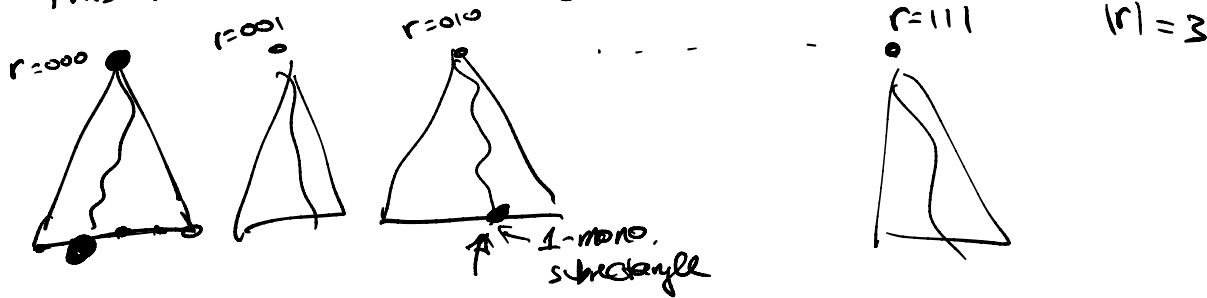
What happens to partition of matrix in a  
nondeterministic protocol?

Say  $|r| = \log R$

For both rand. & nondet protols, we have  
 $2^{|r|}$  protocol trees one for each choice of  $r$

Say  $\Pi$  is a nondet protcol where  $|r| = \log n$  for  $f(x,y)$

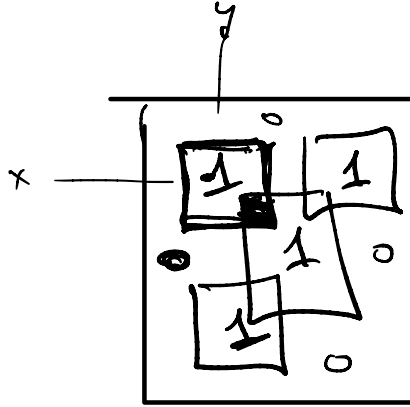
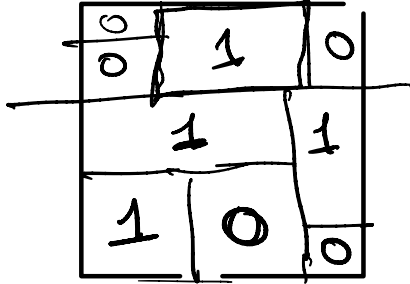
This means can describe  $\Pi$  by  $n$  protocol trees



If  $f(x,y) = 0$  then  $x,y$  goes to a 0-mono rect. in all trees

If  $f(x,y) = 1$  then  $x,y$  goes to at least one 1-mono rect (in some tree)

So  $\Pi$  induces a covering of the 1's in  $M_f$   
by 1-mono. rectangles



deterministic  
protocol.

$|R| = R_{\text{cost } b}$

$\downarrow b$

$2^b \cdot 2^R$

nondet protocol  
covering <sup>0's</sup> by

at most  $2^b \cdot 2^R$   
1-mono. subrectangles

# Applications

→ VLSI / Bisection width  
of networks

→ Data structures

→ Boolean circuit complexity

→ Quantum complexity

→ Extended formulations  
of LPs ]

→ Streaming alg

→ game theory

→ Privacy

→ learning theory ]

→ Proof complexity ]

→ graph theory, additive comb. + # theory

NOF



$f(x, y, z)$

Alice sees  $y, z$

Bob sees  $x, z$

Charlie sees  $x, y$