

# 18.404/6.840 Lecture 24

## Last time:

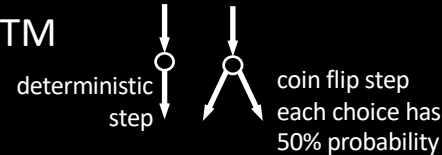
- Probabilistic computation
- The class BPP
- Branching programs
- Arithmetization
- Started showing !" $_{\text{ROBP}} \in \text{BPP}$

## Today: (Sipser §10.2)

- Finish !" $_{\text{ROBP}} \in \text{BPP}$

# Review: Probabilistic TMs and BPP

**Defn:** A probabilistic Turing machine (PTM) is a variant of a NTM where each computation step has 1 or 2 possible choices.



**Defn:** For  $\epsilon \geq 0$  say PTM  $M$  decides language  $L$  with error probability  $\epsilon$  if for every  $x$ ,  $\Pr[M \text{ gives the wrong answer about } x \in L] \leq \epsilon$ .

**Defn:**  $BPP = \{L \mid \text{some poly-time PTM decides } L \text{ with error } \epsilon = \pm 1/2\}$

**Amplification lemma:**  $2^{-n} / O(1)$



## Check-in 24.1

Actually using a probabilistic algorithm presupposes a source of randomness. Can we use a standard pseudo-random number generator (PRG) as the source?

- (a) Yes, but the result isn't guaranteed.
- (b) Yes, but it will run in exponential time.
- (c) No, a TM cannot implement a PRG.
- (d) No, because that would show  $P = BPP$ .

# Review: Branching Programs

**Defn:** A branching program (BP) is a directed, acyclic (no cycles) graph that has

1. *Query nodes* labeled  $x_i$  and having two outgoing edges labeled 0 and 1.
2. *Two output nodes* labeled 0 and 1 and having no outgoing edges.
3. A designated *start node*.

**Theorem:**  $EQ_{BP}$  is coNP-complete (on pset 6)

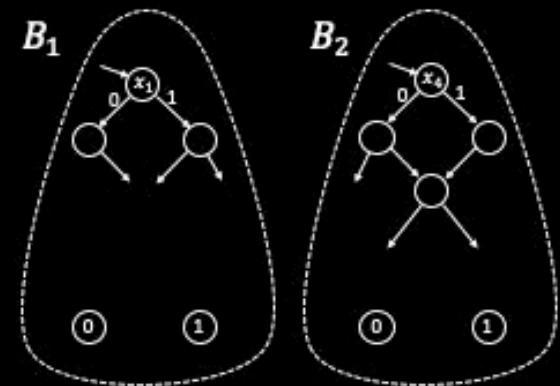
**Defn:** A BP is read-once if it never queries a variable more than once on any path from the start node to an output.

**Defn:**  $EQ_{ROBP} = \{\langle B_1, B_2 \rangle \mid B_1 \text{ and } B_2 \text{ are equivalent read-once BPs}\}$

**Theorem:**  $EQ_{ROBP} \in BPP$

**Proof idea:** Run  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  on a randomly selected non-Boolean input and accept if get same output.

**Method:** Use arithmetization (simulating  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$  with  $+$  and  $\times$ ) to define BP operation on non-Boolean inputs.



# Boolean Labeling

## Alternative way to view BP computation

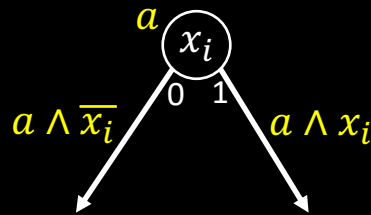
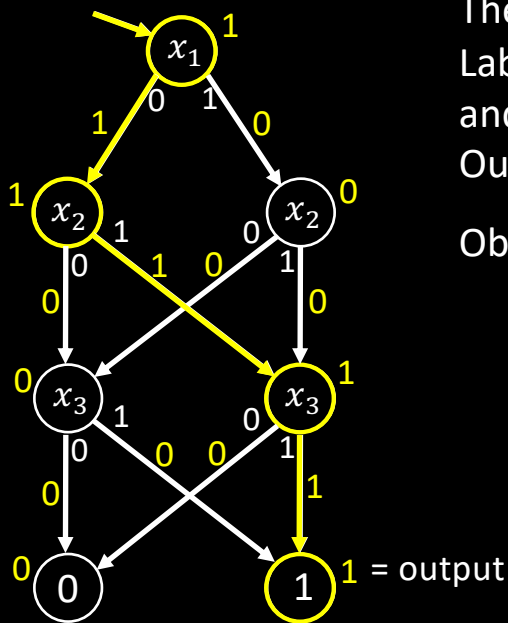
Show by example: Input is  $x_1 = 0$ ,  $x_2 = 1$ ,  $x_3 = 1$

The BP follows its **execution path**.

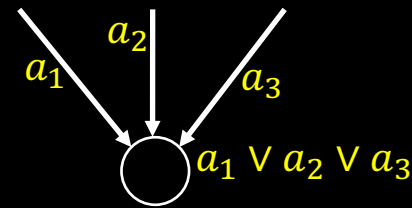
Label all nodes and edges **on the execution path with 1** and **off the execution path with 0**.

Output the label of the output node 1.

Obtain the labeling inductively by using these rules:



Label outgoing edges from nodes



Label nodes from incoming edges

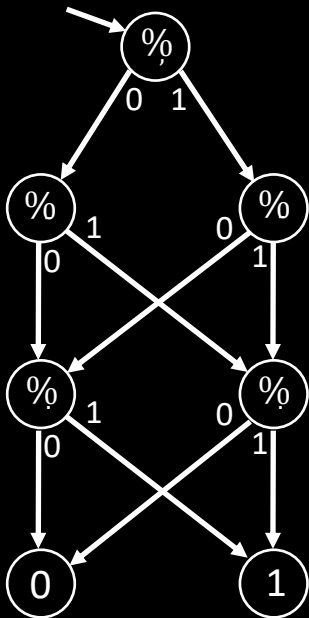
# Arithmetization Method

**Method:** Simulate  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$  with  $+$  and  $\times$ .

'  $\wedge$  /  $\rightarrow$  '  $\times$  /  $=$  ' /

'  $\neg$   $\rightarrow$  (1 - ')

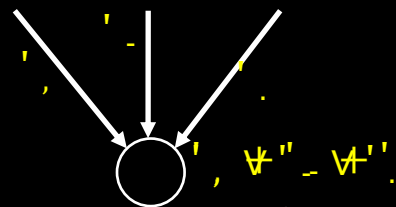
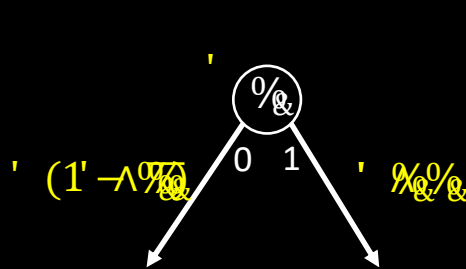
'  $\vee$  /  $\rightarrow$  '  $+$  /  $-$  ' /



Replace Boolean labeling with arithmetical labeling

Inductive rules:

Start node labeled 1

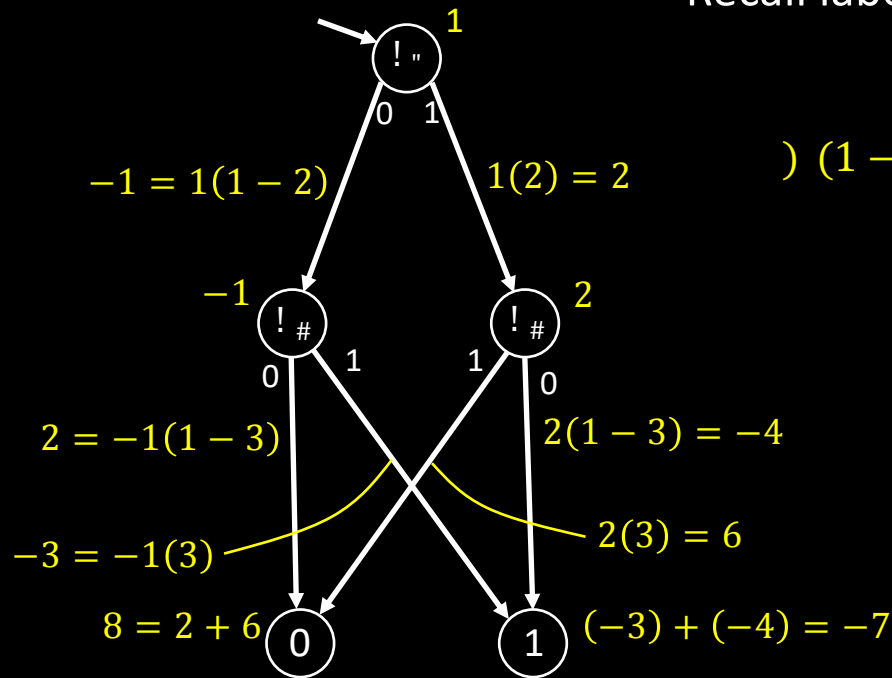


Simulate  $\vee$  with  $+$  because the BP is acyclic.  
The execution path can enter a node at most one time.

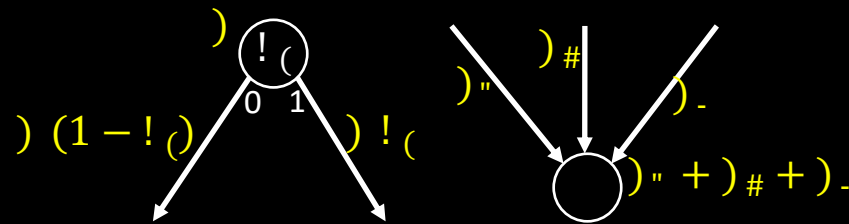
# Non-Boolean Labeling

Use the arithmetized interpretation of the BP's computation to define its operation on non-Boolean inputs.

Example:  $! " = 2$ ,  $! \# = 3$



Recall labeling rules:



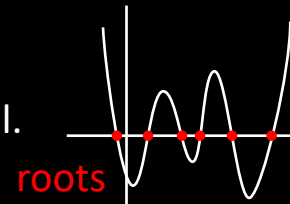
- Algorithm sketch for  $45_{\text{ROBP}}$ : "On input  $\langle : " , : \# \rangle$
1. Pick a random *non-Boolean* input assignment.
  2. Evaluate  $: "$  and  $: \#$  on that assignment.
  3. If  $: "$  and  $: \#$  disagree then *reject*.  
If they agree then *accept*."

More details and correctness proof to come.  
First some algebra...

# Roots of Polynomials

Let  $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$  be a polynomial.

If  $r$  is some constant and  $f(r) = 0$  call  $r$  a root of  $f$ .



**Polynomial Lemma:** If  $f(x) \neq 0$  is polynomial of degree  $\leq n$  then  $f$  has  $\leq n$  roots.

Proof by induction (see text).

**Corollary 1:** If  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  are both degree  $\leq n$  and  $f_1 \neq f_2$

then  $f_1(r) = f_2(r)$  for  $\leq n$  values  $r$ .

Proof: Let  $f = f_1 - f_2$ .

Above holds for any field  $F$  (a field is a set with  $+$  and  $\times$  operations that have typical properties).

We will use a finite field  $F_7$  with 7 elements where 7 is prime and  $+, \times$  operate mod 7.

**Corollary 2:** If  $f(x) \neq 0$  has degree  $\leq n$  and we pick a random  $r \in F_7$ , then  $\Pr[f(r) = 0] \leq n/6$ .

Proof: There are at most  $n$  roots out of 7 possibilities.

**Theorem (Schwartz-Zippel):** If  $f(x_1, \dots, x_m) \neq 0$  has degree  $\leq d_i$  in each  $x_i$  and

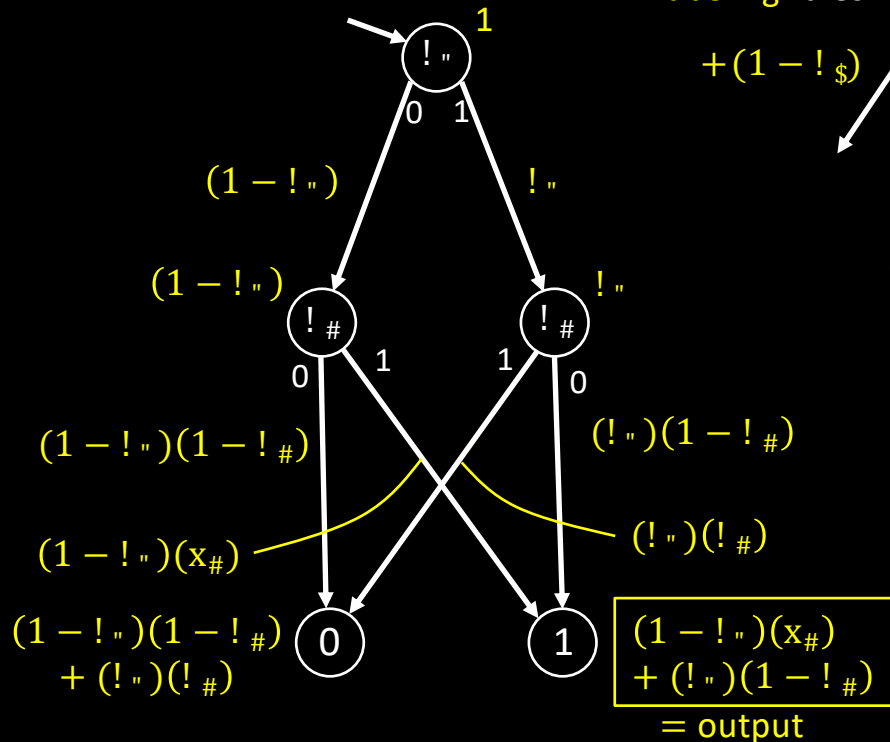
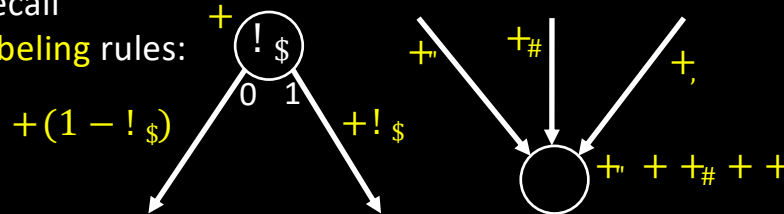
we pick random  $r_1, \dots, r_m \in F_q$  then  $\Pr[f(r_1, \dots, r_m) = 0] \leq \sum d_i / (q - 1)$

Proof by induction (see text).

# Symbolic Execution

Leave the  $!_{\$}$  as variables and obtain an expression in the  $!_{\$}$  for the output of the BP.

Recall labeling rules:



Exponents  $\leq 1$   
due to "read-once"

Assume read exactly once so that for each 3  
( $!_{\$}$ ) or  $(1 - !_{\$})$  appears in every row

form of output =

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (1 - !_{\$}) (x_{\#})^{\times} (1 - !_{\$}) (!_{\$}) \dots (1 - !_{0}) \\
 & + (!_{\$}) (!_{\#}) (!_{\$}) (1 - !_{\$}) \dots (!_{0}) \\
 & + (!_{\$}) (1 - !_{\#}) (1 - !_{\$}) (!_{\$}) \dots (!_{0}) \\
 & \vdots \\
 & + (!_{\$}) (!_{\#}) (1 - !_{\$}) (!_{\$}) \dots (!_{0})
 \end{aligned}$$

Corresponds to the TRUE rows in the truth table of the Boolean function



# $EQ_{\text{ROBP}} \in \text{BPP}$

Algorithm for  $EQ_{\text{ROBP}} =$  "On input  $\langle B_1, B_2 \rangle$  [on variables  $x_1, \dots, x_m$ ]

1. Find a prime  $q \geq 3m$ .
2. Pick a random *non-Boolean* input assignment  $r = r_1, \dots, r_m$  where each  $r_i \in \mathbb{F}_q$ .
3. Evaluate  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  on  $r$  by using arithmetization.
4. If  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  agree on  $r$  then *accept*.  
If they disagree then *reject*."

**Claim:** (1)  $B_1 \equiv B_2 \rightarrow \Pr[p_1(r) = p_2(r)] = 1$   
 (2)  $B_1 \not\equiv B_2 \rightarrow \Pr[p_1(r) = p_2(r)] \leq 1/3$

**Proof (1):** If  $B_1 \equiv B_2$  then they agree on all Boolean inputs. Thus their functions have the same truth table. Thus their associated polynomials  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are identical. Thus  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  always agree (even on non-Boolean inputs).

**Proof (2):** If  $B_1 \not\equiv B_2$  then  $p_1 \neq p_2$  so  $p = p_1 - p_2 \neq 0$ . From Schwartz-Zippel,  $\Pr[p_1(r) = p_2(r)] \leq \frac{dm}{q} \leq \frac{m}{3m} = 1/3$ . (Note that  $d = 1$ .)

## Check-in 24.2

If the BPs were not read-once, the polynomials might have exponents  $\geq 1$ . Where would the proof fail?

- (a)  $B_1 \equiv B_2$  implies they agree on all Boolean inputs
- (b) Agreeing on all Boolean inputs implies  $p_1 = p_2$
- (c) Having  $p_1 = p_2$  implies  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  always agree

$p_1$  and  $p_2$  each have the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (1 - x_1) (x_2) (1 - x_3) (x_4) \cdots (1 - x_m) \\
 + & (x_1) (x_2) (x_3) (1 - x_4) \cdots (x_m) \\
 + & (x_1) (1 - x_2)(1 - x_3) (x_4) \cdots (x_m) \\
 & \vdots \\
 + & (x_1) (x_2) (1 - x_3) (x_4) \cdots (x_m)
 \end{aligned}$$

Check-in 24.2

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**Proof (2):** If  $B_1 \not\equiv B_2$  then  $p_1 \neq p_2$  so  $p = p_1 - p_2 \neq 0$ . From Schwartz-Zippel,  $\Pr[p_1(r) = p_2(r)] \leq \frac{dm}{q} \leq \frac{m}{3m} = 1/3$ . (Note that  $d = 1$ .)

## Check-in 24.3

If  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  were exponentially large expressions, would that be a problem for the time complexity?

- (a) Yes, but luckily they are polynomial in size.
- (b) No, because we can evaluate them without writing them down.

$p_1$  and  $p_2$  each have the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (1 - x_1) (x_2) (1 - x_3) (x_4) \cdots (1 - x_m) \\
 + & (x_1) (x_2) (x_3) (1 - x_4) \cdots (x_m) \\
 + & (x_1) (1 - x_2)(1 - x_3) (x_4) \cdots (x_m) \\
 & \vdots \\
 + & (x_1) (x_2) (1 - x_3) (x_4) \cdots (x_m)
 \end{aligned}$$

Check-in 24.3

# Quick review of today

1. Simulated Read-once Branching Programs by polynomials
2. Gave probabilistic polynomial equality testing method
3. Showed !"  $\text{ROBP} \in \text{BPP}$

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18.404J / 18.4041J / 6.840J Theory of Computation  
Fall 2020

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