

Lecture 14: Randomized Communication Complexity

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1 Randomized Communication Complexity

Recall:

Alice has x and Bob has y . They both wish to have $f(x,y)$ and seek to minimize the number of bits they must transmit.

Consider:

Would having access to an unlimited number of random bits affect the communication complexity of computing $f(x,y)$?

2 EX: Given $X = [x_1 \dots x_n]$ and $Y = [y_1 \dots y_n]$, does $x_i = y_i \forall i$?

idea:

pick $c: [0,1]^n \rightarrow [0,1]^m$ s.t. $\text{dist}(c) \geq \Omega(m)$

protocol:

Alice: choose a random $i \in [m]$

Alice: computes $b = c(x)_i$

Alice: sends $[b, i]$ to Bob

Bob: computes $c(y)$ and checks if $b = c(y)_i$

case 1: $c(x) = c(y): \rightarrow \Pr[\tau(x, y) = 0] = 0$

case 2: $c(x) \neq c(y): \Delta(c(x), c(y)) \geq \delta(m) \rightarrow \Pr[\tau(x, y) = 1] \leq 1 - \tau$

\rightarrow communication: $O(\log m)$ bits

\rightarrow NEED: $1 - \delta < 1/3, \delta \geq 2/3$

\rightarrow repeat the protocol $O(n)$ times to decrease prob of bad answer.

We Must Pick a Code . . .

i. Hadamard: $C = \text{HAD} \rightarrow CC_{1/3}(\text{EQ}) \leq O(n)$

ii. Asymptotically good code: $C \rightarrow CC_{1/3}(\text{EQ}) \leq O(\log n)$

$$CC_{1/n}(\text{EQ}) \leq O(\log^2 n)$$

Q: Can we do better?

TRICK:

pick c to be a q -ary code s.t.:

$$n^2 \leq q \leq 2n^2$$

$$CC = O(\log m + \log q), \delta \geq 1 - 1/n$$

NEED: *1: $\log m = O(\log n)$, *2: $\delta \geq 1 - 1/n$

REED-SOLOMON: $[m, n, m - n + 1]_q$ codes $q \leq m$.

pick q s.t. it is a prime power

$$\downarrow$$
$$\text{power of 2} \rightarrow n^2 \leq q \leq 2n^2$$

for simplicity: $m = q$

→ *1: $\log m = O(\log n)$, since $q \leq 2n^2$

→ *2: $\delta \geq 1 - n/m \geq 1 - 1/n$ (because $n^2 \leq m$)

→ $CC_{1/n}(\text{EQ}) = O(\log n)$

R vs δ

