

# Derandomizing the Isolation Lemma and Lower Bounds for Circuit Size

V. Arvind and Partha Mukhopadhyay  
The Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
India

27th August 2008

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Formulation of an Isolation Lemma
- 3 Automata Theory
- 4 Noncommutative Polynomial Identity Testing
- 5 Black-box derandomization
- 6 Summary

# Isolation Lemma (Mulmuley-Vazirani-Vazirani 1987)

- $U$  be a set (universe) of size  $n$  and  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^U$  be any family of subsets of  $U$ .
- Let  $w : U \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$  be a weight function.
- For  $T \subseteq U$ , define its weight  $w(T)$  as  $w(T) = \sum_{u \in T} w(u)$ .

# Isolation Lemma (Mulmuley-Vazirani-Vazirani 1987)

- $U$  be a set (universe) of size  $n$  and  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^U$  be any family of subsets of  $U$ .
- Let  $w : U \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$  be a weight function.
- For  $T \subseteq U$ , define its weight  $w(T)$  as  $w(T) = \sum_{u \in T} w(u)$ .

# Isolation Lemma (Mulmuley-Vazirani-Vazirani 1987)

- $U$  be a set (universe) of size  $n$  and  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^U$  be any family of subsets of  $U$ .
- Let  $w : U \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$  be a weight function.
- For  $T \subseteq U$ , define its weight  $w(T)$  as  $w(T) = \sum_{u \in T} w(u)$ .

# Isolation Lemma

- Let  $w$  be any random weight assignment  $w : U \rightarrow [2n]$ .
- Isolation Lemma guarantees that with high probability (at least  $1/2$ ) there will be a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}$ .

# Isolation Lemma

- Let  $w$  be any random weight assignment  $w : U \rightarrow [2n]$ .
- Isolation Lemma guarantees that with high probability (at least  $1/2$ ) there will be a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}$ .

# Important applications of Isolation Lemma

- Randomized NC algorithm for computing maximum cardinality matchings for general graphs.  
([Mulmuley-Vazirani-Vazirani 1987](#))
- $NL \subset UL/poly$  ([Klaus Reinhardt and Eric Allender 2000](#)).
- SAT is many-one reducible via randomized reductions to USAT.



# Important applications of Isolation Lemma

- Randomized NC algorithm for computing maximum cardinality matchings for general graphs.  
([Mulmuley-Vazirani-Vazirani 1987](#))
- $NL \subset UL/\text{poly}$  ([Klaus Reinhardt and Eric Allender 2000](#)).
- SAT is many-one reducible via randomized reductions to USAT.

# Important applications of Isolation Lemma

- Randomized NC algorithm for computing maximum cardinality matchings for general graphs.  
([Mulmuley-Vazirani-Vazirani 1987](#))
- $NL \subset UL/poly$  ([Klaus Reinhardt and Eric Allender 2000](#)).
- SAT is many-one reducible via randomized reductions to USAT.

# Two outstanding open problems in complexity theory

- Is the matching problem in in deterministic NC ?
- Is  $NL \subseteq UL$  ?

Both the problems will be solved if Isolation Lemma can be derandomized.

## Two outstanding open problems in complexity theory

- Is the matching problem in in deterministic NC ?
- Is  $NL \subseteq UL$  ?

Both the problems will be solved if Isolation Lemma can be derandomized.

# Derandomizing Isolation Lemma

- In all well known applications of Isolation Lemma number of set system is  $2^{n^{O(1)}}$ .
- So derandomization is plausible ([Agrawal 2007, Barbados workshop on CC](#)).
- **Main Question** Can we derandomize some *special cases* of the Isolation Lemma.

# Derandomizing Isolation Lemma

- In all well known applications of Isolation Lemma number of set system is  $2^{n^{O(1)}}$ .
- So derandomization is plausible ([Agrawal 2007, Barbados workshop on CC](#)).
- **Main Question** Can we derandomize some *special cases* of the Isolation Lemma.

# Derandomizing Isolation Lemma

- In all well known applications of Isolation Lemma number of set system is  $2^{n^{O(1)}}$ .
- So derandomization is plausible ([Agrawal 2007, Barbados workshop on CC](#)).
- **Main Question** Can we derandomize some *special cases* of the Isolation Lemma.

## Isolation Lemma - Our setting

- The universe  $U = [n]$ .
- An  $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  and  $\text{size}(C) = m$ .
- Each subset  $S \subseteq U$  corresponds to its characteristic binary string  $\chi_S \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  implicitly defines the set system

$$\mathcal{F}_C = \{S \subseteq [n] \mid C(\chi_S) = 1\}.$$

- Also, there is only exponential number of set systems.



## Isolation Lemma - Our setting

- The universe  $U = [n]$ .
- An  $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  and  $\text{size}(C) = m$ .
- Each subset  $S \subseteq U$  corresponds to its characteristic binary string  $\chi_S \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  implicitly defines the set system

$$\mathcal{F}_C = \{S \subseteq [n] \mid C(\chi_S) = 1\}.$$

- Also, there is only exponential number of set systems.

## Isolation Lemma - Our setting

- The universe  $U = [n]$ .
- An  $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  and  $\text{size}(C) = m$ .
- Each subset  $S \subseteq U$  corresponds to its characteristic binary string  $\chi_S \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  implicitly defines the set system

$$\mathcal{F}_C = \{S \subseteq [n] \mid C(\chi_S) = 1\}.$$

- Also, there is only exponential number of set systems.

## Isolation Lemma - Our setting

- The universe  $U = [n]$ .
- An  $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  and  $\text{size}(C) = m$ .
- Each subset  $S \subseteq U$  corresponds to its characteristic binary string  $\chi_S \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  implicitly defines the set system

$$\mathcal{F}_C = \{S \subseteq [n] \mid C(\chi_S) = 1\}.$$

- Also, there is only exponential number of set systems.

## Isolation Lemma - Our setting

- The universe  $U = [n]$ .
- An  $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  and  $\text{size}(C) = m$ .
- Each subset  $S \subseteq U$  corresponds to its characteristic binary string  $\chi_S \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- $n$ -input boolean circuit  $C$  implicitly defines the set system

$$\mathcal{F}_C = \{S \subseteq [n] \mid C(\chi_S) = 1\}.$$

- Also, there is only exponential number of set systems.

## Our Setting

- $w : U \rightarrow [2n]$  : random weight assignment.
- Isolation Lemma:

$$\text{Prob}_w[\text{There exists a unique minimum weight set in } \mathcal{F}_C] \geq \frac{1}{2}.$$

- Can we derandomize?

## Our Setting

- $w : U \rightarrow [2n]$  : random weight assignment.
- Isolation Lemma:

$$\text{Prob}_w[\text{There exists a unique minimum weight set in } \mathcal{F}_C] \geq \frac{1}{2}.$$

- Can we derandomize?

## Our Setting

- $w : U \rightarrow [2n]$  : random weight assignment.
- Isolation Lemma:

$$\text{Prob}_w[\text{There exists a unique minimum weight set in } \mathcal{F}_C] \geq \frac{1}{2}.$$

- Can we derandomize?

# A non black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $C$  is an  $n$ -input boolean circuit.
- A deterministic algorithm  $\mathcal{A}_1$  takes as input  $(C, n)$ .
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ) :  
 $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1$  runs in time subexponential in  $\text{size}(C)$ .



## A non black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $C$  is an  $n$ -input boolean circuit.
- A deterministic algorithm  $\mathcal{A}_1$  takes as input  $(C, n)$ .
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ) :  
 $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1$  runs in time subexponential in  $\text{size}(C)$ .

## A non black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $C$  is an  $n$ -input boolean circuit.
- A deterministic algorithm  $\mathcal{A}_1$  takes as input  $(C, n)$ .
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ) :  
 $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1$  runs in time subexponential in  $\text{size}(C)$ .

## A non black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $C$  is an  $n$ -input boolean circuit.
- A deterministic algorithm  $\mathcal{A}_1$  takes as input  $(C, n)$ .
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ) :  
 $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1$  runs in time subexponential in  $\text{size}(C)$ .

## Black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $\mathcal{A}_2$  takes  $(m, n)$  in unary.
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ).
- For each size  $m$  boolean circuit  $C$  with  $n$  inputs:  $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_2$  runs in time polynomial in  $m$ .

## Black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $\mathcal{A}_2$  takes  $(m, n)$  in unary.
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ).
- For each size  $m$  boolean circuit  $C$  with  $n$  inputs:  $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_2$  runs in time polynomial in  $m$ .

## Black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $\mathcal{A}_2$  takes  $(m, n)$  in unary.
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ).
- For each size  $m$  boolean circuit  $C$  with  $n$  inputs:  $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_2$  runs in time polynomial in  $m$ .

## Black-box derandomization Hypothesis

- $\mathcal{A}_2$  takes  $(m, n)$  in unary.
- $\mathcal{A}$  outputs weight functions  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  ( $w_i : [n] \rightarrow [2n]$ ).
- For each size  $m$  boolean circuit  $C$  with  $n$  inputs:  $\exists i$ , s.t  $w_i$  assigns a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}_C$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_2$  runs in time polynomial in  $m$ .

## Derandomization Consequences (results)

- Non black-box derandomization  $\Rightarrow$  either  $\text{NEXP} \not\subseteq \text{P/poly}$  or  $\text{Perm}$  does not have polynomial size *noncommutative arithmetic circuits*.
- Black-box derandomization  $\Rightarrow$  an explicit multilinear polynomial  $f_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  (in *commuting* variables) does not have commutative arithmetic circuits of size  $2^{o(n)}$ .



## Derandomization Consequences (results)

- Non black-box derandomization  $\Rightarrow$  either  $\text{NEXP} \not\subseteq \text{P/poly}$  or  $\text{Perm}$  does not have polynomial size *noncommutative arithmetic circuits*.
- Black-box derandomization  $\Rightarrow$  an explicit multilinear polynomial  $f_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  (in *commuting* variables) does not have commutative arithmetic circuits of size  $2^{o(n)}$ .

## Non black-box derandomization : proof idea

- Using Isolation Lemma, design a randomized polynomial-time identity testing algorithm (PIT) for small degree noncommutative circuits.
- Derandomize the algorithm (subexponential time) using Hypothesis 1.

## Non black-box derandomization : proof idea

- Using Isolation Lemma, design a randomized polynomial-time identity testing algorithm (PIT) for small degree noncommutative circuits.
- Derandomize the algorithm (subexponential time) using Hypothesis 1.

## Idea behind the proof cont'd.

- Noncommutative version of Impagliazzo-Kabanets 2003:  
Derandomizing the PIT for small degree noncommutative circuit  $\Rightarrow$  either  $\text{NEXP} \not\subseteq \text{P/poly}$  or permanent has no poly-size noncommutative circuit ([Arvind, Mukhopadhyay and Srinivasan 2008](#)).

## Noncommutative PIT

- A noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$  computes a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  ( $x_i x_j \neq x_j x_i$ ) using  $+$  and  $\times$  gate.
- (Bogdanov and Wee'05) Randomized poly-time PIT for noncommutative circuits of small degree (based on classic theorem of Amitsur and Levitzki 1950).
- New algorithm is based on Isolation Lemma and Automata Theory.
- Recently, using automata theory a deterministic PIT algorithm for noncommutative circuit computing sparse polynomial is given (Arvind, Mukhopadhyay and Srinivasan 2008).

## Noncommutative PIT

- A noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$  computes a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  ( $x_i x_j \neq x_j x_i$ ) using  $+$  and  $\times$  gate.
- (Bogdanov and Wee'05) Randomized poly-time PIT for noncommutative circuits of small degree (based on classic theorem of Amitsur and Levitzki 1950).
- New algorithm is based on Isolation Lemma and Automata Theory.
- Recently, using automata theory a deterministic PIT algorithm for noncommutative circuit computing sparse polynomial is given (Arvind, Mukhopadhyay and Srinivasan 2008).

## Noncommutative PIT

- A noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$  computes a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  ( $x_i x_j \neq x_j x_i$ ) using  $+$  and  $\times$  gate.
- (Bogdanov and Wee'05) Randomized poly-time PIT for noncommutative circuits of small degree (based on classic theorem of Amitsur and Levitzki 1950).
- New algorithm is based on Isolation Lemma and Automata Theory.
- Recently, using automata theory a deterministic PIT algorithm for noncommutative circuit computing sparse polynomial is given (Arvind, Mukhopadhyay and Srinivasan 2008).

## Noncommutative PIT

- A noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$  computes a polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  ( $x_i x_j \neq x_j x_i$ ) using  $+$  and  $\times$  gate.
- (Bogdanov and Wee'05) Randomized poly-time PIT for noncommutative circuits of small degree (based on classic theorem of Amitsur and Levitzki 1950).
- New algorithm is based on Isolation Lemma and Automata Theory.
- Recently, using automata theory a deterministic PIT algorithm for noncommutative circuit computing sparse polynomial is given (Arvind, Mukhopadhyay and Srinivasan 2008).



## Some Automata Theory Background

- A finite automaton  $A = (Q, \Sigma = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, \delta, \{q_0\}, \{q_f\})$ .
- $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, q_f) \rightarrow$  (alphabet, states set, transition function, initial state, final state).
- For  $b \in \Sigma$ , the 0-1 matrix  $M_b \in \mathbb{F}^{|Q| \times |Q|}$ :

$$M_b(q, q') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \delta_b(q) = q', \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Some Automata Theory Background

- A finite automaton  $A = (Q, \Sigma = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, \delta, \{q_0\}, \{q_f\})$ .
- $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, q_f) \rightarrow$  (alphabet, states set, transition function, initial state, final state).
- For  $b \in \Sigma$ , the 0-1 matrix  $M_b \in \mathbb{F}^{|Q| \times |Q|}$ :

$$M_b(q, q') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \delta_b(q) = q', \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Some Automata Theory Background

- A finite automaton  $A = (Q, \Sigma = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, \delta, \{q_0\}, \{q_f\})$ .
- $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, q_f) \rightarrow$  (alphabet, states set, transition function, initial state, final state).
- For  $b \in \Sigma$ , the 0-1 matrix  $M_b \in \mathbb{F}^{|Q| \times |Q|}$ :

$$M_b(q, q') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \delta_b(q) = q', \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Some Automata Theory Background

- For any  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k \in \Sigma^*$ , the matrix  $M_w = M_{w_1} M_{w_2} \cdots M_{w_k}$ .
- Easy fact:  $M_w(q_0, q_f) = 1$  if and only if  $w$  is accepted by the automaton  $A$ .

## Some Automata Theory Background

- For any  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k \in \Sigma^*$ , the matrix  $M_w = M_{w_1} M_{w_2} \cdots M_{w_k}$ .
- Easy fact:  $M_w(q_0, q_f) = 1$  if and only if  $w$  is accepted by the automaton  $A$ .

## Run of an automaton over a noncommutative circuit

- $C$  be any given *noncommutative* arithmetic circuit computing  $f$ .
- Output matrix  $M_{out}^A = C(M_{x_1}, M_{x_2} \cdots, M_{x_n})$ .

## Run of an automaton over a noncommutative circuit

- $C$  be any given *noncommutative* arithmetic circuit computing  $f$ .
- Output matrix  $M_{out}^A = C(M_{x_1}, M_{x_2} \cdots, M_{x_n})$ .

## Crucial Observation

- The output is always 0 when  $f \equiv 0$ .
- If  $A$  accepts precisely one monomial ( $m$ ) of  $f$  then  $M_{out}^A(q_0, q_f) = c$  (coefficient of  $m$  in  $f$  is  $c$ ).
- That's an identity test !!



## Crucial Observation

- The output is always 0 when  $f \equiv 0$ .
- If  $A$  accepts precisely one monomial ( $m$ ) of  $f$  then  $M_{out}^A(q_0, q_f) = c$  (coefficient of  $m$  in  $f$  is  $c$ ).
- That's an identity test !!

## Crucial Observation

- The output is always 0 when  $f \equiv 0$ .
- If  $A$  accepts precisely one monomial ( $m$ ) of  $f$  then  $M_{out}^A(q_0, q_f) = c$  (coefficient of  $m$  in  $f$  is  $c$ ).
- That's an identity test !!

## Identity Testing Algorithm based on Isolation Lemma

- **Input**  $f \in \mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  given by an arithmetic circuit  $C$  of.
- $d$  be an upper bound on the degree of  $f$ .
- $[d] = \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  and  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .
- The **universe** (for Isolation Lemma)  $U = [d] \times [n]$ .

## Identity Testing Algorithm based on Isolation Lemma

- **Input**  $f \in \mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  given by an arithmetic circuit  $C$  of.
- $d$  be an upper bound on the degree of  $f$ .
- $[d] = \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  and  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .
- The **universe** (for Isolation Lemma)  $U = [d] \times [n]$ .

## Identity Testing Algorithm based on Isolation Lemma

- **Input**  $f \in \mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  given by an arithmetic circuit  $C$  of.
- $d$  be an upper bound on the degree of  $f$ .
- $[d] = \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  and  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .
- The **universe** (for Isolation Lemma)  $U = [d] \times [n]$ .

## Identity Testing Algorithm based on Isolation Lemma

- **Input**  $f \in \mathbb{F}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  given by an arithmetic circuit  $C$  of.
- $d$  be an upper bound on the degree of  $f$ .
- $[d] = \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  and  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .
- The **universe** (for Isolation Lemma)  $U = [d] \times [n]$ .

# Identity Testing Algorithm

- Let  $v = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_t}$  be a nonzero monomial of  $f$ .
- Identify  $v$  with  $S_v \subset U$ :

$$S_v = \{(1, i_1), (2, i_2), \dots, (t, i_t)\}$$

- Set system:

$$\mathcal{F} = \{S_v \mid v \text{ is a nonzero monomial in } f\}$$

## Identity Testing Algorithm

- Let  $v = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_t}$  be a nonzero monomial of  $f$ .
- Identify  $v$  with  $S_v \subset U$  :

$$S_v = \{(1, i_1), (2, i_2), \dots, (t, i_t)\}$$

- Set system:

$$\mathcal{F} = \{S_v \mid v \text{ is a nonzero monomial in } f\}$$



## Identity Testing Algorithm

- Let  $v = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_t}$  be a nonzero monomial of  $f$ .
- Identify  $v$  with  $S_v \subset U$  :

$$S_v = \{(1, i_1), (2, i_2), \dots, (t, i_t)\}$$

- Set system:

$$\mathcal{F} = \{S_v \mid v \text{ is a nonzero monomial in } f\}$$

## Intuition behind the Identity Testing Algorithm

- Assign random weights from  $[2dn]$  to the elements of  $U$ ,
- (Isolation Lemma) With probability at least  $1/2$ , there is a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Goal Construct a family of small size automata  
 $\{A_{w,t}\}_{w \in [2nd^2], t \in [d]}$ :
- $A_{w,t}$  precisely accepts all the strings (corresponding to the monomials)  $v$  of length  $t$ , such that the weight of  $S_v$  is  $w$ .

## Intuition behind the Identity Testing Algorithm

- Assign random weights from  $[2dn]$  to the elements of  $U$ ,
- (Isolation Lemma) With probability at least  $1/2$ , there is a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Goal Construct a family of small size automata  
 $\{A_{w,t}\}_{w \in [2nd^2], t \in [d]}$
- $A_{w,t}$  precisely accepts all the strings (corresponding to the monomials)  $v$  of length  $t$ , such that the weight of  $S_v$  is  $w$ .

## Intuition behind the Identity Testing Algorithm

- Assign random weights from  $[2dn]$  to the elements of  $U$ ,
- (Isolation Lemma) With probability at least  $1/2$ , there is a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Goal Construct a family of small size automata  
 $\{A_{w,t}\}_{w \in [2nd^2], t \in [d]}$ :
- $A_{w,t}$  precisely accepts all the strings (corresponding to the monomials)  $v$  of length  $t$ , such that the weight of  $S_v$  is  $w$ .

## Intuition behind the Identity Testing Algorithm

- Assign random weights from  $[2dn]$  to the elements of  $U$ ,
- (Isolation Lemma) With probability at least  $1/2$ , there is a unique minimum weight set in  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Goal Construct a family of small size automata  
 $\{A_{w,t}\}_{w \in [2nd^2], t \in [d]}$ :
- $A_{w,t}$  precisely accepts all the strings (corresponding to the monomials)  $v$  of length  $t$ , such that the weight of  $S_v$  is  $w$ .

## Intuition of the Identity Testing algorithm

- For each  $A \in \{A_{w,t}\}$  compute the run of  $A$  on  $C$ .
- (Using the isolation lemma) The automata corresponding to the minimum weight will precisely accept (isolate) only one string (monomial).
- The automata family is easy to construct.

## Intuition of the Identity Testing algorithm

- For each  $A \in \{A_{w,t}\}$  compute the run of  $A$  on  $C$ .
- (Using the isolation lemma) The automata corresponding to the minimum weight will precisely accept (isolate) only one string (monomial).
- The automata family is easy to construct.

## Intuition of the Identity Testing algorithm

- For each  $A \in \{A_{w,t}\}$  compute the run of  $A$  on  $C$ .
- (Using the isolation lemma) The automata corresponding to the minimum weight will precisely accept (isolate) only one string (monomial).
- The automata family is easy to construct.



## Crucial Observation

- $C$  be a noncommutative arithmetic circuit of small degree and  $m$  is a given monomial.
- Easy algorithm to check if  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $C$ .
- Construct an automaton  $A$  that accepts only  $m$  and compute run on  $C$ .
- Thus, a boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$  (of size  $\text{poly}(\text{size}(C))$ ),  $\mathcal{F}_{\hat{C}}$  defines the monomials of  $C$ .

## Crucial Observation

- $C$  be a noncommutative arithmetic circuit of small degree and  $m$  is a given monomial.
- Easy algorithm to check if  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $C$ .
- Construct an automaton  $A$  that accepts only  $m$  and compute run on  $C$ .
- Thus, a boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$  (of size  $\text{poly}(\text{size}(C))$ ),  $\mathcal{F}_{\hat{C}}$  defines the monomials of  $C$ .

## Crucial Observation

- $C$  be a noncommutative arithmetic circuit of small degree and  $m$  is a given monomial.
- Easy algorithm to check if  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $C$ .
- Construct an automaton  $A$  that accepts only  $m$  and compute run on  $C$ .
- Thus, a boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$  (of size  $\text{poly}(\text{size}(C))$ ),  $\mathcal{F}_{\hat{C}}$  defines the monomials of  $C$ .

## Crucial Observation

- $C$  be a noncommutative arithmetic circuit of small degree and  $m$  is a given monomial.
- Easy algorithm to check if  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $C$ .
- Construct an automaton  $A$  that accepts only  $m$  and compute run on  $C$ .
- Thus, a boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$  (of size  $\text{poly}(\text{size}(C))$ ),  $\mathcal{F}_{\hat{C}}$  defines the monomials of  $C$ .

## Non black-box derandomization

- Given noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$ .
- Compute boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1(\hat{C}, n) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$ .
- Identity testing using  $\{w_i\}$ 's.
- Run time:  $\text{subexp}(\text{size}(\hat{C}, n))$ .

## Non black-box derandomization

- Given noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$ .
- Compute boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1(\hat{C}, n) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$ .
- Identity testing using  $\{w_i\}$ 's.
- Run time:  $\text{subexp}(\text{size}(\hat{C}, n))$ .

## Non black-box derandomization

- Given noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$ .
- Compute boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1(\hat{C}, n) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$ .
- Identity testing using  $\{w_i\}$ 's.
- Run time:  $\text{subexp}(\text{size}(\hat{C}, n))$ .

## Non black-box derandomization

- Given noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$ .
- Compute boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1(\hat{C}, n) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$ .
- Identity testing using  $\{w_i\}$ 's.
- Run time:  $\text{subexp}(\text{size}(\hat{C}, n))$ .



## Non black-box derandomization

- Given noncommutative arithmetic circuit  $C$ .
- Compute boolean circuit  $\hat{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_1(\hat{C}, n) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$ .
- Identity testing using  $\{w_i\}$ 's.
- Run time:  $\text{subexp}(\text{size}(\hat{C}, n))$ .

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- **Goal** To construct an explicit multilinear polynomial  $f$  in  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  that does not have  $2^{o(n)}$  size arithmetic circuit.
- Define a multilinear polynomial:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{S \subseteq [n]} c_S \prod_{i \in S} x_i,$$

- we need to fix  $c_S$ 's suitably.

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- **Goal** To construct an explicit multilinear polynomial  $f$  in  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  that does not have  $2^{o(n)}$  size arithmetic circuit.
- Define a multilinear polynomial:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{S \subseteq [n]} c_S \prod_{i \in S} x_i,$$

- we need to fix  $c_S$ 's suitably.

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- **Goal** To construct an explicit multilinear polynomial  $f$  in  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  that does not have  $2^{o(n)}$  size arithmetic circuit.
- Define a multilinear polynomial:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{S \subseteq [n]} c_S \prod_{i \in S} x_i,$$

- we need to fix  $c_S$ 's suitably.

## Important Observation

- Let  $f$  be a multilinear polynomial given by a circuit  $\hat{C}$  and  $m = \prod_{i \in S} x_i$  is a monomial.
- A small size boolean circuit  $C$  can decide whether  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $f$ .
- Just substitute  $y$  for each  $x_i$  such that  $i \in S$  and 0 otherwise.
- $C$  evaluates  $\hat{C}$  to check whether the coefficient of the maximum degree of  $y$  is nonzero.

## Important Observation

- Let  $f$  be a multilinear polynomial given by a circuit  $\hat{C}$  and  $m = \prod_{i \in S} x_i$  is a monomial.
- A small size boolean circuit  $C$  can decide whether  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $f$ .
- Just substitute  $y$  for each  $x_i$  such that  $i \in S$  and 0 otherwise.
- $C$  evaluates  $\hat{C}$  to check whether the coefficient of the maximum degree of  $y$  is nonzero.

## Important Observation

- Let  $f$  be a multilinear polynomial given by a circuit  $\hat{C}$  and  $m = \prod_{i \in S} x_i$  is a monomial.
- A small size boolean circuit  $C$  can decide whether  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $f$ .
- Just substitute  $y$  for each  $x_i$  such that  $i \in S$  and 0 otherwise.
- $C$  evaluates  $\hat{C}$  to check whether the coefficient of the maximum degree of  $y$  is nonzero.

## Important Observation

- Let  $f$  be a multilinear polynomial given by a circuit  $\hat{C}$  and  $m = \prod_{i \in S} x_i$  is a monomial.
- A small size boolean circuit  $C$  can decide whether  $m$  is a nonzero monomial in  $f$ .
- Just substitute  $y$  for each  $x_i$  such that  $i \in S$  and 0 otherwise.
- $C$  evaluates  $\hat{C}$  to check whether the coefficient of the maximum degree of  $y$  is nonzero.



## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- Let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  are the weight functions output by  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ,  $t \leq m^c$  where  $m$  is the size of the boolean circuit that defines the monomial of  $f$ .
- Let  $w_i = (w_{i,1}, w_{i,2}, \dots, w_{i,n})$ .
- Goal is to fool every weight function  $w_i$ .
- For all  $i$ , write down the equation

$$g_i(y) = f(y^{w_{i,1}}, y^{w_{i,2}}, \dots, y^{w_{i,n}}) = 0.$$

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- Let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  are the weight functions output by  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ,  $t \leq m^c$  where  $m$  is the size of the boolean circuit that defines the monomial of  $f$ .
- Let  $w_i = (w_{i,1}, w_{i,2}, \dots, w_{i,n})$ .
- Goal is to fool every weight function  $w_i$ .
- For all  $i$ , write down the equation

$$g_i(y) = f(y^{w_{i,1}}, y^{w_{i,2}}, \dots, y^{w_{i,n}}) = 0.$$

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- Let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  are the weight functions output by  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ,  $t \leq m^c$  where  $m$  is the size of the boolean circuit that defines the monomial of  $f$ .
- Let  $w_i = (w_{i,1}, w_{i,2}, \dots, w_{i,n})$ .
- Goal is to fool every weight function  $w_i$ .
- For all  $i$ , write down the equation

$$g_i(y) = f(y^{w_{i,1}}, y^{w_{i,2}}, \dots, y^{w_{i,n}}) = 0.$$

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- Let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_t$  are the weight functions output by  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ,  $t \leq m^c$  where  $m$  is the size of the boolean circuit that defines the monomial of  $f$ .
- Let  $w_i = (w_{i,1}, w_{i,2}, \dots, w_{i,n})$ .
- Goal is to fool every weight function  $w_i$ .
- For all  $i$ , write down the equation

$$g_i(y) = f(y^{w_{i,1}}, y^{w_{i,2}}, \dots, y^{w_{i,n}}) = 0.$$

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- The degree of  $g_i(y)$  is  $\leq 2n^2$ .
- Total number of linear constraints for  $c_S$ 's is at most  $2n^2 m^c < 2^n$  for  $m = 2^{o(n)}$ .
- There always exists a nontrivial solution for  $f$ .

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- The degree of  $g_i(y)$  is  $\leq 2n^2$ .
- Total number of linear constraints for  $c_S$ 's is at most  $2n^2 m^c < 2^n$  for  $m = 2^{o(n)}$ .
- There always exists a nontrivial solution for  $f$ .

## Consequence of Hypothesis 2

- The degree of  $g_i(y)$  is  $\leq 2n^2$ .
- Total number of linear constraints for  $c_S$ 's is at most  $2n^2 m^c < 2^n$  for  $m = 2^{o(n)}$ .
- There always exists a nontrivial solution for  $f$ .

## Finishing the proof

- Let  $f$  has a arithmetic circuit of size  $2^{o(n)}$ ,
- Then a boolean circuit  $C$  of size  $2^{o(n)}$  defines the monomials of  $f$ .
- Then for some weight function  $w_j$  there is a unique monomial  $\prod_{j \in S} x_j$  such that  $\sum_{j \in S} w_{i,j}$  takes the minimum value (by the property of  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ).
- So the polynomial  $g_i(y) \neq 0$ , a contradiction.



## Finishing the proof

- Let  $f$  has a arithmetic circuit of size  $2^{o(n)}$ ,
- Then a boolean circuit  $C$  of size  $2^{o(n)}$  defines the monomials of  $f$ .
- Then for some weight function  $w_j$  there is a unique monomial  $\prod_{j \in S} x_j$  such that  $\sum_{j \in S} w_{i,j}$  takes the minimum value (by the property of  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ).
- So the polynomial  $g_i(y) \neq 0$ , a contradiction.

## Finishing the proof

- Let  $f$  has a arithmetic circuit of size  $2^{o(n)}$ ,
- Then a boolean circuit  $C$  of size  $2^{o(n)}$  defines the monomials of  $f$ .
- Then for some weight function  $w_i$  there is a unique monomial  $\prod_{j \in S} x_j$  such that  $\sum_{j \in S} w_{i,j}$  takes the minimum value (by the property of  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ).
- So the polynomial  $g_i(y) \neq 0$ , a contradiction.

## Finishing the proof

- Let  $f$  has a arithmetic circuit of size  $2^{o(n)}$ ,
- Then a boolean circuit  $C$  of size  $2^{o(n)}$  defines the monomials of  $f$ .
- Then for some weight function  $w_i$  there is a unique monomial  $\prod_{j \in S} x_j$  such that  $\sum_{j \in S} w_{i,j}$  takes the minimum value (by the property of  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ).
- So the polynomial  $g_i(y) \neq 0$ , a contradiction.

## Other Result

- (Spielman and Klivans 2001) Randomized PIT for small degree (commutative) polynomial based on a more general formulation of isolation lemma.
- Observation Derandomization of the corresponding isolation lemma imply the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets 2003.

## Other Result

- (Spielman and Klivans 2001) Randomized PIT for small degree (commutative) polynomial based on a more general formulation of isolation lemma.
- **Observation** Derandomization of the corresponding isolation lemma imply the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets 2003.

## Summary

- We study the connections between derandomization of Isolation Lemma and circuit lower bounds.
- We formulate versions of Isolation Lemma based on set system defined by boolean circuits.
- A (non black-box) derandomization of above implies circuit lower bound in the *noncommutative* model.
- A black-box derandomization yields a circuit lower bound in usual *commutative model*.
- The derandomization of the Isolation Lemma used by Spielman-Klivans (2001) implies the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets (2003).

## Summary

- We study the connections between derandomization of Isolation Lemma and circuit lower bounds.
- We formulate versions of Isolation Lemma based on set system defined by boolean circuits.
- A (non black-box) derandomization of above implies circuit lower bound in the *noncommutative* model.
- A black-box derandomization yields a circuit lower bound in usual *commutative model*.
- The derandomization of the Isolation Lemma used by Spielman-Klivans (2001) implies the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets (2003).

## Summary

- We study the connections between derandomization of Isolation Lemma and circuit lower bounds.
- We formulate versions of Isolation Lemma based on set system defined by boolean circuits.
- A (non black-box) derandomization of above implies circuit lower bound in the *noncommutative* model.
- A black-box derandomization yields a circuit lower bound in usual *commutative model*.
- The derandomization of the Isolation Lemma used by Spielman-Klivans (2001) implies the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets (2003).



## Summary

- We study the connections between derandomization of Isolation Lemma and circuit lower bounds.
- We formulate versions of Isolation Lemma based on set system defined by boolean circuits.
- A (non black-box) derandomization of above implies circuit lower bound in the *noncommutative* model.
- A black-box derandomization yields a circuit lower bound in usual *commutative model*.
- The derandomization of the Isolation Lemma used by Spielman-Klivans (2001) implies the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets (2003).

## Summary

- We study the connections between derandomization of Isolation Lemma and circuit lower bounds.
- We formulate versions of Isolation Lemma based on set system defined by boolean circuits.
- A (non black-box) derandomization of above implies circuit lower bound in the *noncommutative* model.
- A black-box derandomization yields a circuit lower bound in usual *commutative model*.
- The derandomization of the Isolation Lemma used by Spielman-Klivans (2001) implies the result of Impagliazzo and Kabanets (2003).