

Exploring the
Limits of
Computation

ELC Complexity Theory
Intro. Seminar Series

Average-Case Complexity Theory for NP

Osamu Watanabe
Dept. of Math and Comp. Sci.
Tokyo Institute of Technology



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0. Contents

1. Framework for average-case NP vs. P
2. Worst-case vs. average-case
3. Reducibility for the average-case
4. Search vs. decision
-  5. P-samplable dist. and one-way function

key reference

1. [Jie Wang's Average-case complexity forum](#)
2. Du and Ko, Theory of Computational Complexity
John-Wisely Sons, Inc., 2000.



· · See the end for more precise explanation.

1. Framework for average-case P

Idea

Complexity is analyzed on average for randomly given problem instances.

expected. comp. time

input distribution

Def

A **distributional problem** is a pair (L, D) of a problem L and a distribution D on input instances.

Def ??

Algorithm A 's **expected time complexity**

$$= \sum_x \text{time}_A(x) \times \boxed{D(x)} \leftarrow \text{Pr}[x \text{ is given as an input}]$$

1. Framework for average-case P

input distribution ?

Notation $D(x) = \Pr[x \text{ is given as an input}]$

uniform distribution D_U is defined by (let $n = |x|$)

$$D_U(x) = c2^{-n} / n^2$$

over $\{0, 1\}^*$

$$D_U(x) = 2^{-n}$$

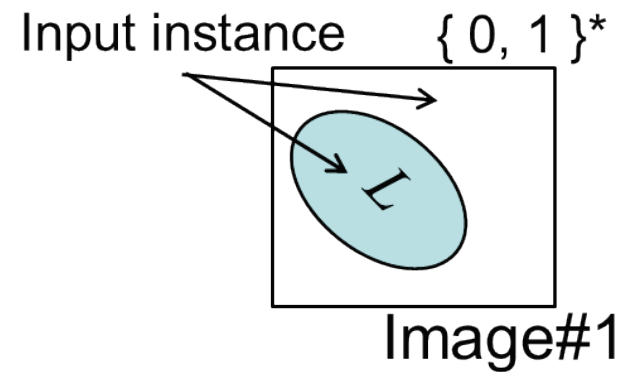
over $\{0, 1\}^n$ for each n

Note !

How shall we define input distribution range?

$\{0, 1\}^*$ or $\{0, 1\}^n$?

$$D(\{0, 1\}^*) = 1 \text{ or } D(\{0, 1\}^n) = 1$$



unfriendly

less beautiful (mathematically)

1. Framework for average-case P

input distribution ?

Notation $D(x) = \Pr[x \text{ is given as an input}]$

uniform distribution D_U is defined by (let $n = |x|$)

$$D_U(x) = c2^{-n} / n^2 \quad D_U(x) = 2^{-n}$$

over $\{0, 1\}^*$ over $\{0, 1\}^n$ for each n

Def **poly. time computable distribution**

A distribution D is **P-dist** (= poly. time comp. dist.)

$\Leftrightarrow F(x) = \sum_{y < x} D(y)$ is poly. time computable

cumulative probability



1. Framework for average-case P

input distribution: over $\{0, 1\}^*$

Ex $D_U(x) = c2^{-n} / n^2$

expected. comp. time ??

Def ??

A's **expected time?** $= \sum_x \text{time}_A(x) \times D(x)$

Algorithm A is polynomial time on average

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{|x|=n} \text{time}_A(x) \times D(x) = n^{O(1)} = n^c$$

Ex

$$\text{time}_A(x) = \begin{cases} 2^{0.5n} & \text{for } 2^{0.4n} \text{ instances, and} \\ 4n^3 & \text{for the rest, i.e., } 2^n - 2^{0.4n} \text{ instances} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{|x|=n} \text{time}_A(x) \times D_U(x) \leq 5n$$

$$\text{time}_B(x) = \text{time}_A(x)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{|x|=n} \text{time}_B(x) \times D_U(x) = \text{exponential}$$

1. Framework for average-case P

input distribution: over $\{0, 1\}^*$

Ex $D_U(x) = c2^{-n} / n^2$

Def average-case poly. time computability [Levin86]

A is **poly. time on average**

$\Leftrightarrow$ there exists some const. $k > 0$ such that

$$\sum_x \frac{\text{time}_A(x)^{1/k} \times D(x)}{n} < \text{const.}$$



(L, D) is **poly. time solvable on average**

$\Leftrightarrow$ there exists some A such that

(i) $A = L$ and (ii) A is poly. time on average.

1. Framework for average-case P

input distribution: over $\{0, 1\}^n$ for each n

Ex $D_U(x) = 2^{-n}$

heuristic poly. time

Def average-case poly. time computability [folklore]

(L, D) is **poly. time solvable on average**

$\Leftrightarrow$ there exists some poly. time A such that

$$D(\{x : L(x) \neq A(x)\}) < 1 / \nu(n)$$

for some **superpoly** ν .



randomized

$$\forall \text{ poly. } p \quad \forall^\infty n [u(n) > p(n)]$$

1. Framework for average-case P

Def

distNP = a class of dist. problems (L, D) such that

- (i) D is P-comp (= poly. time computable),
- (ii) L is in NP.

aveP = a class of dist. problems (L, D) such that

- (i) D is P-comp, and
- (ii) (L, D) poly. time solvable on average in the sense of [Levin].



heurP = a class of dist. problems (L, D) such that

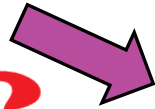
- (i) D is P-comp, and
- (ii) (L, D) poly. time solvable on average in the sense of [folkroe].

2. Worst-case vs. average-case

Conjecture

$\text{distNP} \not\subseteq \text{heurP}$

by def.



Conjecture

$P \neq NP$

ご本家

Thm almost equivalent in high comp. classes

1. $\text{dist}\#P = \text{heurP} \Leftrightarrow \#P = \text{BPP}$
2. $\text{distPSPACE} = \text{heurP} \Leftrightarrow \text{PSPACE} = \text{BPP}$
3. $\text{distEXP} = \text{heurEXP} \Leftrightarrow \text{EXP} = \text{BPP}$

2. Worst-case vs. average-case

Thm almost equivalent in high comp. classes

1. $\text{dist}\#P = \text{heurP} \Leftrightarrow \#P = \text{BPP}$ [IP = PSPACE, MIP = NEXP]
2. $\text{distPSPACE} = \text{heurP} \Leftrightarrow \text{PSPACE} = \text{BPP}$
3. $\text{distEXP} = \text{heurEXP} \Leftrightarrow \text{EXP} = \text{BPP}$

Ex (Perm, U) in heurP $\Rightarrow$ Perm in BPP [Lipton89]

Proof Suppose that some algorithm A computes Perm on ave. under the uniform dist. U. Then we design our algorithm for computing perm(M) for $n \times n$ matrix M as follows:

☆1

degree n
poly.

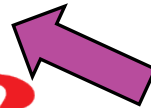
generate a random matrix R , and
define $g(x) = \text{perm}(M + x^*R)$ random matrix
compute $g(1), g(2), \dots, g(n+1)$ by using A
obtain $g(x)$ and compute $g(0) = \text{perm}(M)$

2. Worst-case vs. average-case

Conjecture

$\text{distNP} \not\subseteq \text{heurP}$

by def.



[Gudfreund-TaShma07, etc.]



Conjecture

$P \neq NP$

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Thm almost equivalent in high comp. classes

1. $\text{dist}\#P = \text{heurP} \Leftrightarrow \#P = \text{BPP}$
2. $\text{distPSPACE} = \text{heurP} \Leftrightarrow \text{PSPACE} = \text{BPP}$
3. $\text{distEXP} = \text{heurEXP} \Leftrightarrow \text{EXP} = \text{BPP}$

3. Reducibility for the average-case

Idea for $A \leq_m^P B$ A is reducible to B

Solve A by using algo. for B

what else?

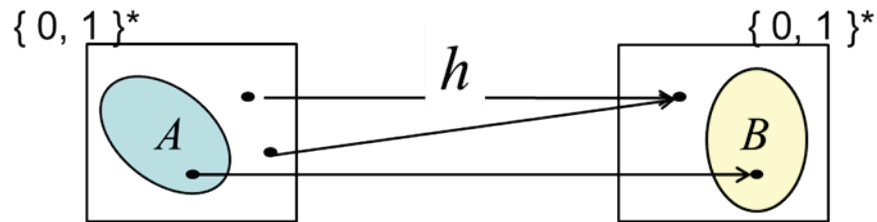
$B \in P \Rightarrow A \in P$

Then we have

A 's difficulty $\leq$ B 's difficulty

without answering $A, B \in P$?

	P or not P?	
B	O	x
A	O	O or x

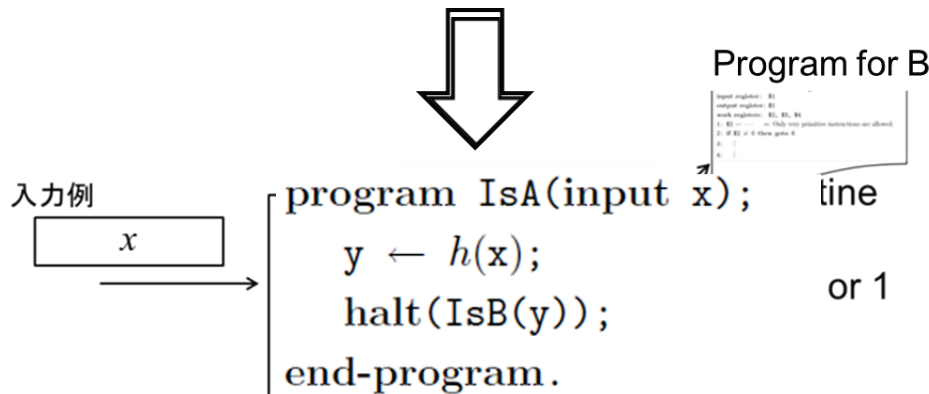


Def

- $x \text{ in } A \iff h(x) \text{ in } B$
- h is P-time computable

Thm

$A \leq_m^P B \ \& \ B \in P \Rightarrow A \in P$

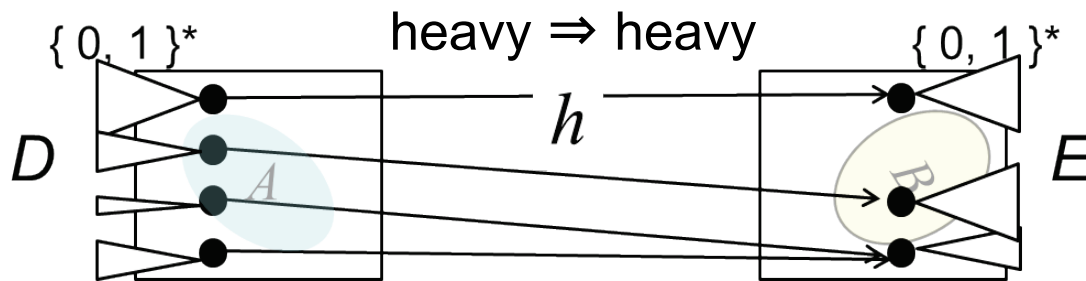


3. Reducibility for the average-case

Idea for $(A,D) \leq_m^{aP} (B,E)$ A is **ave.** reducible to B

Solve A by using algo. for B

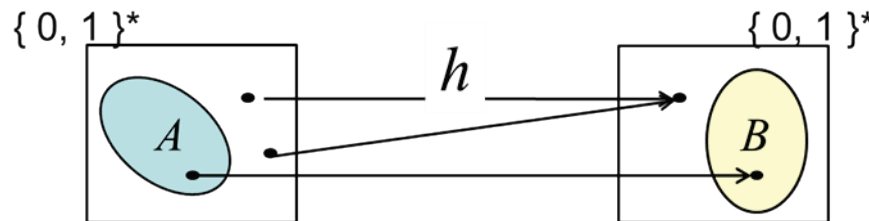
what else?



$\exists k$ such that

★2

$$\sum_{h(x)=y} \frac{D(x)}{n^k} \leq E(y)$$



Def for $\leq_m^{aP}$

- $x \text{ in } A \iff h(x) \text{ in } B$
- h is P-time computable
- preserve weights

Thm $\text{heavy} \Rightarrow \text{heavy}$

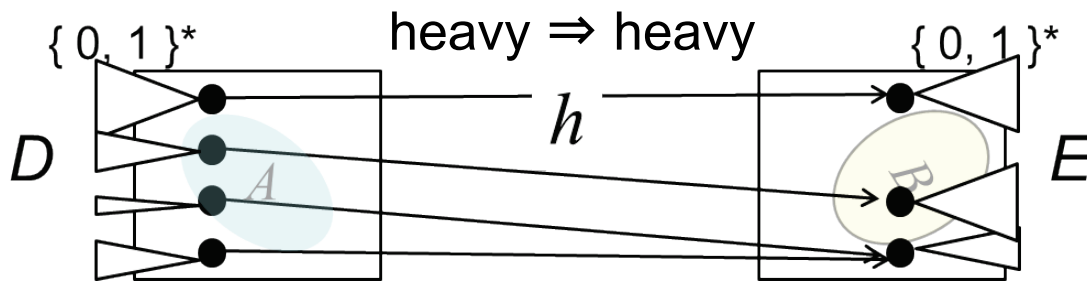
```
program IsA(input x);
  y ← h(x);
  halt(IsB(y));
end-program.
```

$(A,D) \leq_m^{aP} (B,E) \ \& \ B \in \text{heurP} \Rightarrow A \in \text{heurP}$

3. Reducibility for the average-case

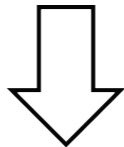
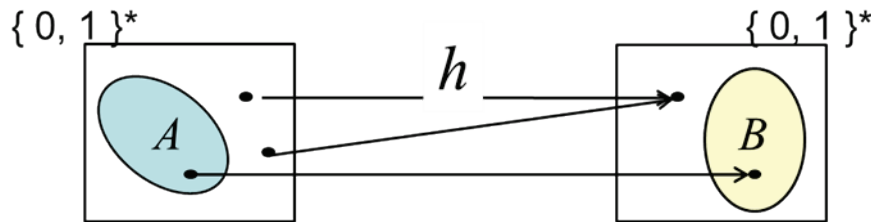
Idea for $(A,D) \leq_m^{aP} (B,E)$ A is **ave.** reducible to B

Solve A by using algo. for B



$\exists k$ such that

$$\sum_{h(x)=y} \frac{D(x)}{n^k} \leq E(y)$$



```
program IsA(input x);
  y ← h(x);
  halt(IsB(y));
end-program.
```

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} D(\{x : \text{IsA errs}\}) &\leq E(\{y : \text{IsB errs}\}) \times \text{poly}(n) \\ &\leq 1 / \text{superpoly}(n) \end{aligned}$$

Thm

$$(A,D) \leq_m^{aP} (B,E) \ \& \ B \in \text{heurP} \Rightarrow A \in \text{heurP}$$

3. Reducibility for the average-case

Ex $\forall L \text{ in NP } [(L, U) \leq_m^{aP} (K, U_K)]$

- $U(x) = 2^{-n}$

- $K = \{ (M, x, 0^t) : M(x) \text{ has a length } t \text{ acc. path} \}$

☆3

- $U_K((M, x, 0^t)) = 2^{-m} \times 2^{-n}, m = |M|, n = |x|$

Proof. Consider any L in NP. Let M_L be its nondet. algo., and let p_0 be its poly. time bound.

Then h_L defined below satisfies the required conditions.

$$h_L(x) = (M_L, x, 0^{p_0(n)})$$

$$x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow M_L(x) \text{ accepts } x \\ \text{in } p_0(n) \text{ steps}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (M_L, x, 0^{p_0(n)}) \text{ in } K \Leftrightarrow h_L(x) \text{ in } K$$

- ✓ $x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow h_L(x) \text{ in } K$
- ✓ h_L is P-time computable
- preserve weights

3. Reducibility for the average-case

Ex $\forall L \text{ in NP } [(L, U) \leq_m^{aP} (K, U_K)]$

- $U(x) = 2^{-n}$

- $K = \{ (M, x, 0^t) : M(x) \text{ has a length } t \text{ acc. path} \}$

☆3

- $U_K((M, x, 0^t)) = 2^{-m} \times 2^{-n}, m = |M|, n = |x|$

Proof. $h_L(x) = (M_L, x, 0^{p_0(n)})$

- ✓ $x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow h_L(x) \text{ in } K$
- ✓ h_L is P-time computable
- ✓ preserve weights

$$U(x) = 2^{-n}$$

$$U_K((M_L, x, 0^{p_0(n)})) = 2^{-m_0} \times 2^{-n}$$

$$\therefore U(x) \leq U_K(h_L(x)) \times 2^{m_0}$$

$$\frac{U(x)}{\text{const.}} \leq U_K(y), \text{ where } y = h_L(x)$$

$$\sum_{h_L(x)=y} \frac{U(x)}{n^{O(1)}} \leq U_K(y)$$

3. Reducibility for the average-case

Ex $\forall L \text{ in NP}, \forall D: \text{P-dist} [(L, D) \leq_m^{\text{aP}} (K, U_K)]$

- $K = \{ (M, x, 0^t) : M(x) \text{ has a length } t \text{ acc. path} \}$
- ☆3 ▪ $U_K((M, x, 0^t)) = 2^{-m} \times 2^{-n}, m = |M|, n = |x|$

Idea

$h_{L,D}(x) = (M_{L,D}, z_D(x), 0^{p_1(n)})$
where $z_D(x)$ is defined so that

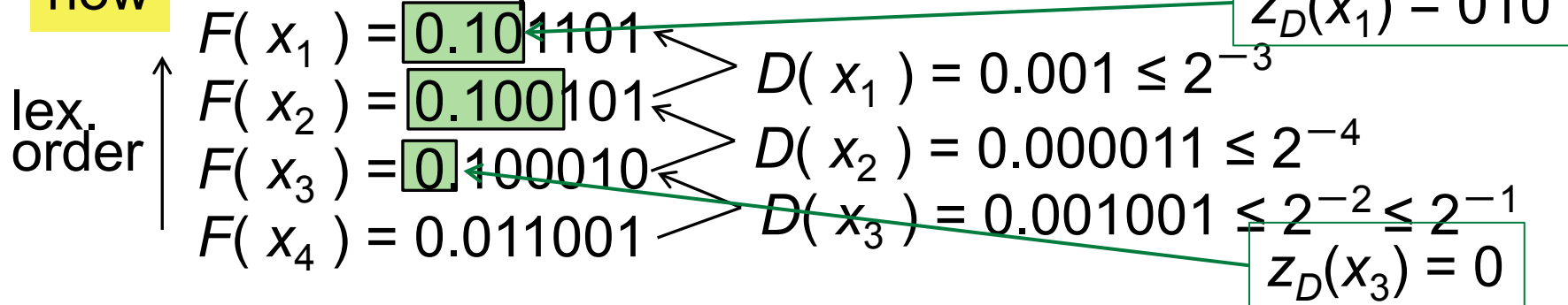
- ✓ $x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow h_{L,D}(x) \text{ in } K$
- $h_{L,D}$ is P-time computable
- ✓ preserve weights

(1) $D(x) = 2^{-|z_D(x)|} \Rightarrow h_{L,D}(x)$ is as heavy as x

(2) $z_D(x)$ determines x uniquely, and $z_D(x) \rightarrow x$ is easy.

how

cumulative prob.



3. Reducibility for the average-case

Ex $\forall L \text{ in NP, } \forall D: P\text{-dist} [(L, D) \leq_m^{aP} (K, U_K)]$

Thm [Levin86]

(K, U_K) is complete for distNP.

4. Search vs. decision

Def. the standard NP problem = decision problem

NP problem is to decide $x \in L$ for a set L that can be characterized as follows

$$\forall x \in \{0, 1\}^* \left[\begin{array}{l} x \in L \implies \exists w : |w| \leq q_L(|x|) [R_L(x, w) = 1] \\ x \notin L \implies \forall w : |w| \leq q_L(|x|) [R_L(x, w) = 0] \end{array} \right]$$

with some polynomial $q_L(n)$ and some poly. time computable predicate R_L .

証拠 witness

witness checking predicate

Def. NP search problem

NP search problem (w.r.t. R_L) is to compute a witness for $x \in L$ ($\perp$ if no witness exists).

4. Search vs. decision

Thm search vs. decision in the worst-case

$$\text{NPsearch} \subseteq P \Leftrightarrow P = \text{NP}$$

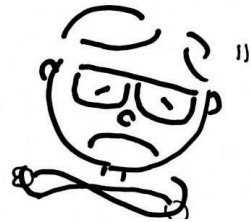
Proof Consider any R_L . Define prefix_L by

$$\text{prefix}_L = \{ (x, u) : \exists v [R_L(x, uv)] \}.$$

Then the following algorithm works (below ε is the empty str.).

```

program witness search for  $R_L$ ( input  $x$  );
  if  $(x, \varepsilon) \notin \text{prefix}_L$  then output  $\perp$  & halt;
   $w \leftarrow \varepsilon$ ;
  while true do {
    if  $R_L(x, w)$  then output  $w$  & halt;
    if  $(x, w0) \in \text{prefix}_L$  then  $w \leftarrow w0$ 
    else  $w \leftarrow w1$ 
  }
```



this may not
work in the
average-case

4. Search vs. decision

Thm search vs. decision in the worst-case

$$\text{NP}_{\text{search}} \subseteq P \Leftrightarrow P = \text{NP}$$

Thm search vs. decision in the average-case

$$\text{NP}_{\text{search}} \subseteq \text{BPP} \Leftrightarrow \text{distNP} \subseteq \text{heurP}$$

[BenDavid-Chor-Goldreich-Luby92]

how

By Isolation technique

4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.



Def poly. time computable distribution

A distribution D is **P-comp** (= poly. time comp. dist.)

$\Leftrightarrow F(x) = \sum_{y < x} D(y)$ is poly. time computable

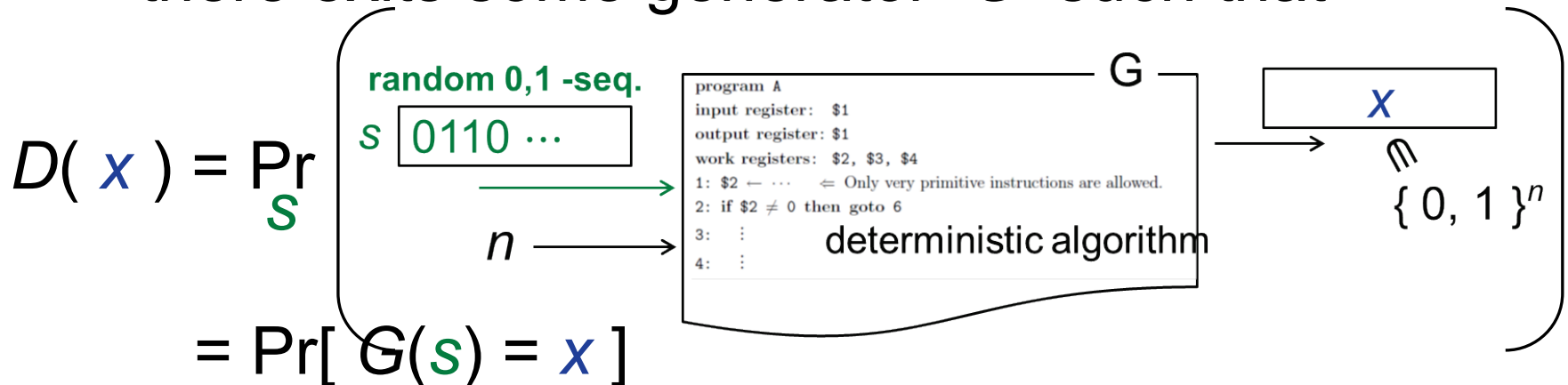


natural?

Def poly. time samplable distribution

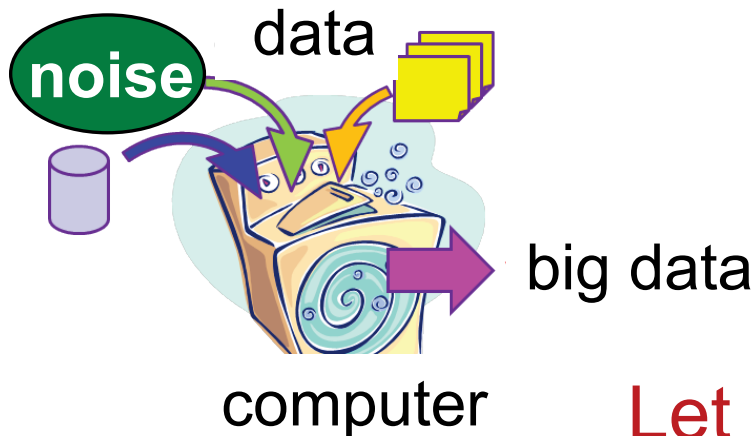
A distribution D is **P-samplable**

$\Leftrightarrow$ there exists some generator G such that



4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

P ≠ NP
understanding



our input data is
P-samplable

Let us consider the search version!
machine learning

planted solution (specified by G , poly. time computable)

Input: $v = G(u, s)$ for random $s \in \{0, 1\}^n$
task: compute the planted solution u

inverting poly. time computable function f cryptography

Input: $y = f(x)$ for random $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$
task: compute the inverse image x

4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

inverting poly. time computable function f

cryptography

Input: $y = f(x)$ for random $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$
task: compute the **inverse image** x

Conjecture

one-way function exists:

$\exists$ poly. time computable function f such that
no poly. time algorithm A satisfies

$$\Pr[A(f(x)) = x] > 1 - \nu(n)$$

f^{-1} is not poly. time computable on average



P-samplable dist.

distNP $\not\subseteq$ heurP

4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

Thm

- $P\text{-comp} \Rightarrow P\text{-samplable}$
- $P\text{-samplable} \not\Rightarrow P\text{-comp}$ unless $\#P = P$

Thm [Impagliazzo-Levin90]

$$\forall L \text{ in NP, } \forall D: P\text{-samp. } [(L, D) \leq_m^{aP} (K, U_K)]$$

Cor

$$\text{distNP} = \text{heurP} \Rightarrow \text{distNP} = \text{heurP} \text{ under } P\text{-samp}$$

Cor

$$\text{distNP} = \text{heurP} \Rightarrow \text{no one-way function exists}$$

4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

Thm

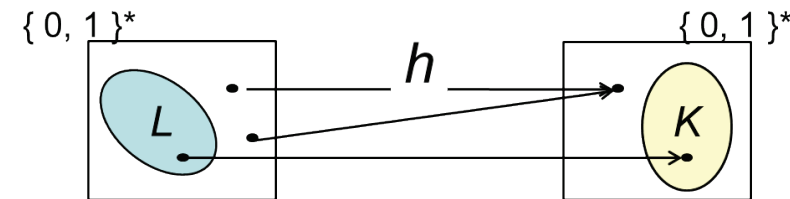
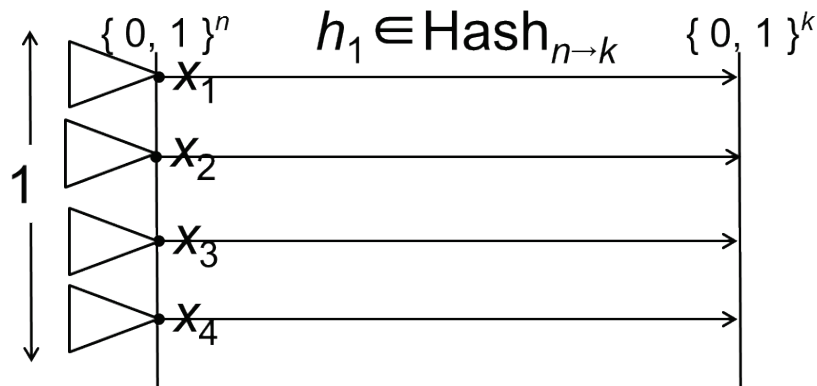
Proof Idea: ①, ②

$$\forall L \text{ in NP, } \forall D: \text{P-samp. } [(L, D) \leq_m^{\text{aP}} (K, U_K)]$$

- ☆3 $K = \{ (M, x, 0^t) : M(x) \text{ has a length } t \text{ acc. path} \}$
- $U_K((M, x, 0^t)) = 2^{-m} \times 2^{-n}, m = |M|, n = |x|$

Consider a heavy input x for L .
I.e., $\Pr[G(s) = x] = 2^{-k}$ for $k \ll n$

Idea: ① Map such inputs to a string of length k by a random hash.



- ✓ $x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow h_{L,D}(x) \text{ in } K$
- $h_{L,D}$ is P-time computable
- ✓ preserve weights

heavy $\Rightarrow$ heavy

at most $2^k \Rightarrow$ almost 1-1

4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

Thm

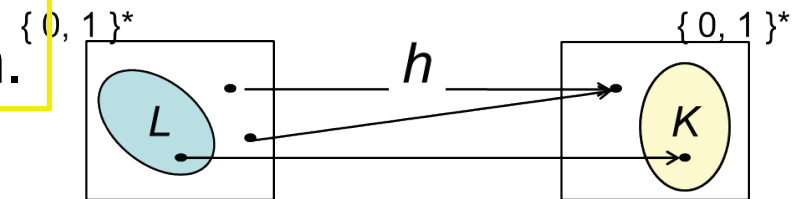
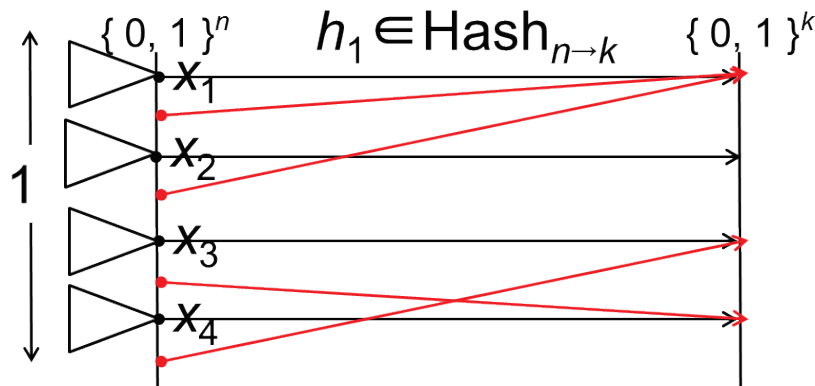
Proof Idea: ①, ②

$$\forall L \text{ in NP}, \forall D: \text{P-samp.} \quad [(L, D) \leq_m^{\text{aP}} (K, U_K)]$$

Problem may occur if small weight inputs are mapped to some length k inputs of K .

Idea ② Use the 2nd random h_2 to confirm the weight is large enough.

Idea ① Map such inputs to a string of length k by a random hash.



- $x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow h_{L,D}(x) \text{ in } K$
- $h_{L,D}$ is P-time computable
- preserve weights

heavy $\Rightarrow$ heavy

at most $2^k \Rightarrow$ almost 1-1

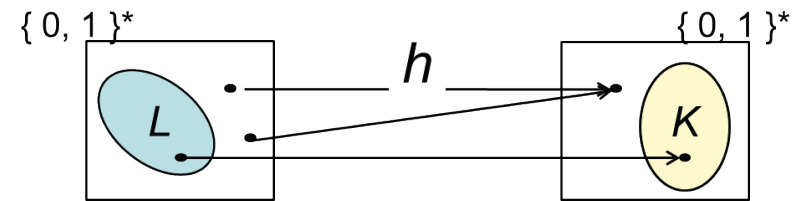
4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

Thm

Proof Idea: ①, ②

$$\forall L \text{ in NP, } \forall D: \text{P-samp. } [(L, D) \leq_m^{\text{aP}} (K, U_K)]$$

Idea ① Map such inputs to a string of length k by a random hash.



Idea ② Use the 2nd random h_2 to confirm the weight is large enough.

- $x \text{ in } L \Leftrightarrow h_{L,D}(x) \text{ in } K$
- $h_{L,D}$ is P-time computable
- preserve weights

$$h_{L,D}(x) = (M_{L,D}, (k, h_1(x), h_1, h_2), 0^t)$$

randomly

chosen from $\{0, \dots, n\}$

random hash

What $M_{L,D}$ checks on $(k, h_1(x), h_1, h_2)$

$\exists s$: a seed for G such that

- $h_1(x)$ in L (where $x := G(s)$), and
- $h_2(s) = 0^m$

NP comp.

= nondet. and

in some poly. time t

4. P-samplable dist. & one-way func.

Thm

$$\forall L \text{ in NP, } \forall D: \text{P-samp. } [(L, D) \leq_m^{\text{aP}} (K, U_K)]$$

Cor

$$\text{distNP} = \text{heurP} \Rightarrow \text{distNP} = \text{heurP} \text{ under P-samp}$$

Cor

$$\text{distNP} = \text{heurP} \Rightarrow \text{no one-way function exists}$$

Big Open Question

$$\text{distNP} \neq \text{heurP} \Rightarrow \text{one-way function exists}$$

Let's try this !!

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Fin

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2. Du and Ko, Theory of Computational Complexity
John-Wisely Sons, Inc., 2000.



· · See slides from the next for additional explanation.

Appendix: Detail Explanations

☆ k



☆1 (Perm, U) in heurP $\Rightarrow$ Perm in BPP

what this means?

For our length-wise distribution framework, it would be easier if we use two size parameters n and k , where $n \times n$ is the size of a given matrix and k is the bit length of each matrix element. Thus, our uniform distribution is defined by

$$U_{n,k}(M) = 2^{kn^2}$$

for all $n \times n$ matrices M whose entries are (at most) k bit **nonnegative** integers. (For simplicity, let us consider only nonnegative integers.)

how to design worst-to-average reduction ?

The idea and the outline are the same as those explained in the talk. The difference is to choose R following, say, $U_{n,k}$ and use mod $2^{k+2\log n}$ computation for computing $M + x \cdot R$. (The permutation itself should be computed in $\mathbb{Z}$.) Then we can follow the same proof outline to show that the reduction works to use the assumed heurP algorithm for Perm under $\{U_{n,k}\}_{n,k}$

☆2 average-case reducibility (for length-wise dist.)

The right expression is the **dominancy** cond. for the reduction from (A, D) to (B, E) in the Levin's framework. For our length-wise framework, we had better modify it slightly.

Well, the modification is easy. We simply need to consider the following policy.

$\exists k$ such that

$$\sum_{h(x)=y} \frac{D(x)}{n^k} \leq E(y)$$

Design reductions so that its output length is uniquely (and easily) determined by input length n .

extending the notion of dominancy: motivation

This topic is for preparation for ☆3

Consider the case where inputs for the problem B is a random graph following the standard distribution $G(n, 1/2)$, that is, for a given n , we assume that a graph G with n vertices is generated randomly by adding each edge with prob. $1/2$ independently. Then the prob. $E(G)$ of each graph G is quite small, and it is usually impossible to design a reduction satisfying the above dominancy condition. But still the problem seems hard and we want to show its hardness. Thus, we consider some extension of our dominancy condition.

☆2 average-case reducibility (for length-wise dist.)

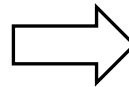
extending the notion of dominance: how to

We use randomized reductions to avoid this technical difficulty. That is, we allow a reduction h to take random seed s of length $p(n)$ for some appropriately chosen polynomial p , and extend our goal as follows:

- $x \text{ in } A \Leftrightarrow h(x) \text{ in } B$
- h is P-time computable
- dominance cond.

$\exists k$ such that

$$\sum_{h(x)=y} \frac{D(x)}{n^k} \leq E(y)$$



- $x \text{ in } A \Leftrightarrow h(x,s) \text{ in } B \text{ for all } s$
- h is P-time computable
- dominance cond.

$\exists k$ such that

$$\sum_{h(x,s)=y} \frac{D(x) \cdot 2^{-|s|}}{n^k} \leq E(y)$$

With this generalization, it is possible to handle the case where $E(y)$ gets exponentially smaller than $D(x)$.

We may even relax this condition to "many" (i.e., 2/3 of all).

☆3

- $K = \{ (M, x, 0^t) : M(x) \text{ has a length } t \text{ acc. path} \}$
- $U_K((M, x, 0^t)) \neq 2^{-m} \times 2^{-n}, m = |M|, n = |x|$

This definition for K and U_K is not appropriate, though it tells the intuitive idea of what we want. Below we give some definition for our length-wise distribution framework, which implements this idea more appropriately.

m	n	t	M	x	pad
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$K = \{ (m, n, t, M, x, pad) :$

m, n, t are some positive integers,

M is a nondet. Turing machine,

$|M| = m, |x| = n, |pad| = t + d$, and

$M(x)$ has an accepting path of length t }

- m, n, t, M, x, pad are all bin. strings, i.e., elements of $\{0, 1\}^*$
- Use [double-bit-coding](#) for m, n, t so that some delimiter (e.g., 01) can be used. For example, $(3, 5, 2, M, x, pad)$ is encoded as $110011011100001101110001Mxpad$.
- By choosing d appropriately, to adjust the total length (denoted by n_0) to any number satisfying

$$n_0 > 2(\log m + \log n + \log t + 3) + m + n + t \quad \leftarrow (1)$$

- $$K = \{ (m,n,t,M, x, pad) :$$

$$M(x) \text{ has an accepting path of length } t \}$$

The reduction from (L,U) to (K,U_K)

Here pad is the prefix of s of length $n_0 - n'_0$.