

# IDENTITIES AND COMPLEXITY

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Utrecht

# OUTLINE

## MOTIVATION

Identity Testing

Constant Depth Circuits

Conclusion

# IDENTITIES

- High School algebra teaches us lots of useful algebraic identities.
- For example,  
$$x^3 + y^3 + z^3 - 3xyz = (x + y + z)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - xy - yz - zx).$$
- Lebesgue identity:

$$(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2)^2 = (a^2 + b^2 - c^2 - d^2)^2 + (2ac + 2bd)^2 + (2ad - 2bc)^2$$

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## BIGGER IDENTITIES

- Let  $p$  be an odd prime number. Then:

$$\sum_{i=1}^p \prod_{\substack{a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ a_1 + \dots + a_m = i \pmod{p}}} (y + a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_m x_m) = 0$$

- The polynomial on the LHS has degree:  $p^{m-1}$ .
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- It can be shown that “with high probability” the polynomial evaluates to zero iff it is an identity!
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- Like, Identity testing, Primality testing, Polynomial factorization, Quicksort, Min-cut,.....
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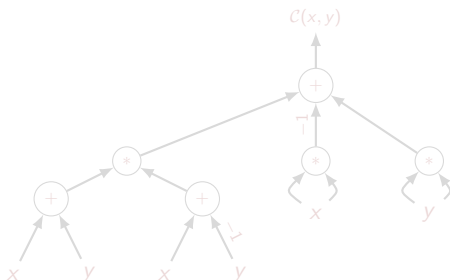
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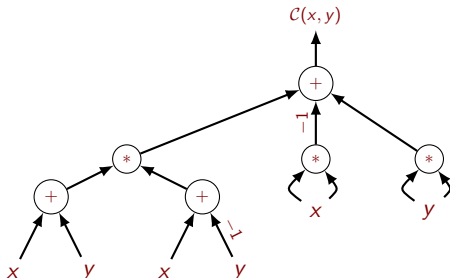
- We can assume that our polynomial expression is given in the form of an **Arithmetic circuit**  $\mathcal{C}$ :



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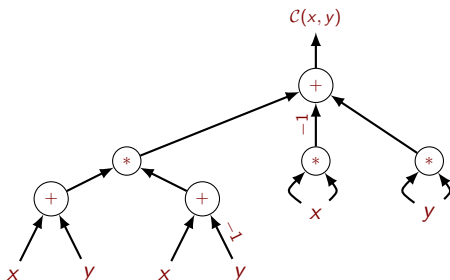


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## A RANDOMIZED SOLUTION

- Schwartz '80, Zippel '79 gave a randomized algorithm for identity testing.
- Given an arithmetic circuit  $C(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :
  - Pick a random tuple  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$ .
  - Return YES iff  $C(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = 0$ .
- Clearly, this can be done in time polynomial in the size of  $C$ .

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*Proof of Correctness:*

- If  $C$  is a zero circuit then clearly the algorithm returns YES for any choice of  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$ .
- Say,  $C(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is computing a nonzero polynomial of total degree  $d$ .
- It can be shown that:

$$\text{Prob}_{(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n} [C(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = 0] \leq \frac{d}{\#\mathbb{F}}$$

- Thus, for a suitably large  $\mathbb{F}$ ,  $\frac{d}{\#\mathbb{F}} \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .
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## THE QUESTION

Big question here: Can we do identity testing in deterministic polynomial time?

## CONNECTIONS

Identity testing is instrumental in many complexity theory results:

- Graph matching problems have efficient randomized parallel algorithms (Lovasz '79).
- PSPACE has interactive protocols (Shamir '90).
- NEXP has two-prover interactive protocols (Babai-Fortnow-Lund '90).
- The first deterministic polynomial time Primality test was based on checking whether  $(x+1)^n - (x^n + 1) = 0 \pmod{n}$  (Agrawal-Kayal-S '02).

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- Thus, a derandomization of identity testing would both:
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- Multilinear circuits of depth 3: (Raz-Shpilka '04) gave a deterministic polynomial time identity test.
- Circuits of depth 3 with bounded top fanin: (Kayal-S '06) gave a deterministic polynomial time identity test.

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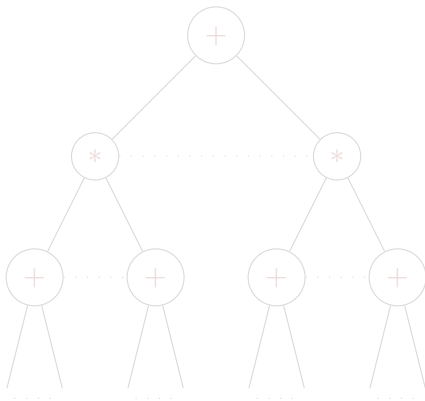
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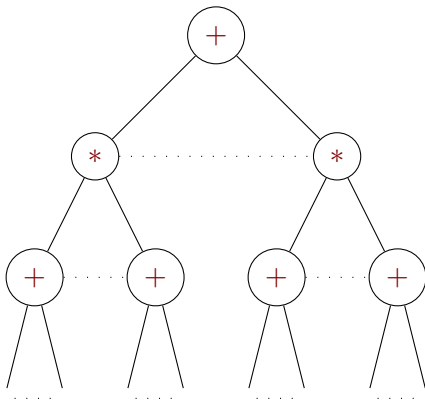
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$$\mathcal{C}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = T_1 + \dots + T_k$$

where  $T_i$  is a product of linear functions  $L_{i,1}, \dots, L_{i,d}$

where  $L_{i,j} = (a_{i,j,0} + a_{i,j,1}z_1 + \dots + a_{i,j,n}z_n)$ ,  $a$ 's  $\in \mathbb{F}$ .

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- Let  $R$  be a local subring of  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  with maximal ideal  $\mathcal{M}$ .
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- $\mathcal{C}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = 0$  **iff**  
 for all  $i \in [s]$ ,  $\mathcal{C} = 0 \pmod{p_i}$   
 and  
 lexicographically largest monomial of  $\mathcal{C}$  has zero coefficient.
- For a fixed  $i$ : transform  $\ell_i \mapsto z_1$  by an invertible linear transformation  $\tau_i$  on  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  and, thus,  
 $p_i \mapsto (z_1 + m_{i,1}) \cdots (z_1 + m_{i,d_i})$
- Then  $\mathcal{C} = 0 \pmod{p_i}$  **iff**  

$$\tau_i(\mathcal{C}) = 0 \pmod{(z_1 + m_{i,1}) \cdots (z_1 + m_{i,d_i})}.$$
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- Note that in each recursive call:
  1. Fanin  $k$  reduces by atleast 1
  2. Dimension of the base ring increases atmost  $d$  times.
- The computations that we do are on rings of dimension atmost  $d^k$ .
- Identity testing for depth 3 circuits over  $n$  variables, total degree  $d$  and top fanin  $k$  can be done in time  $\text{poly}(d^k, n)$ .



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# OUTLINE

Motivation

Identity Testing

Constant Depth Circuits

CONCLUSION

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- Open Problem: Identity testing for general depth 3 circuits ?
- “Easier” Open Problem: Identity testing for a *diagonalized*  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  circuit, i.e.,

$$C(x_1, \dots, x_n) = L_1^d + \dots + L_k^d$$

where,  $L_1, \dots, L_k$  are linear functions.

## QUESTIONS?

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