Foundations of Computing Lecture 25

Arkady Yerukhimovich

April 23, 2024

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April 23, 2024

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Lecture 24 Review

- 2 A New Goal for Proofs
- 3 Defining Knowledge
- 4 Examples of Zero-Knowledge Proofs
- 5 Zero-Knowledge on the Blockchain

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- Interactive Proofs
- Proof for Graph Non-Isomorphism
- Polynomial Identity Testing

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Definition of \mathcal{IP}

 $L \in \mathcal{IP}$ if there exist a pair of interactive algorithms (P, V) with V being poly-time (in |x|) s.t.

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A New Property

We say that a proof is *zero-knowledge* if the verifier learns nothing (other than the truth of the statement) from seeing the proof.

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An Example – Where's Waldo



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An Example



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A Second Example – Puppy and Panda







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1 Lecture 24 Review

2 A New Goal for Proofs

Optiming Knowledge

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What does it mean for a machine to know/learn something?

Image: A matrix and a matrix

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Answer: A poly-time TM M "knows" x, if it can output x after an efficient computation.

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Answer: A poly-time TM M "knows" x, if it can output x after an efficient computation.

Question

What does it mean for a machine to learn nothing from a proof?

Answer: Whatever it can (efficiently) compute after seeing the proof, it could have efficiently computed before seeing the proof.

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Consider an interactive proof between Prover (P) and Verifier (V): $\langle P, V \rangle(x)$

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Define V's view of this interaction by:

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- For any (possibly malicious) poly-time verifier V^*
- There exists a poly-time *Simulator S* s.t.

$$\forall x \in L, \qquad VIEW_{V^*}(\langle P, V^* \rangle(x)) = S(x)$$

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- IMPORTANT: *VIEW*^{*}_V and *S*(*x*) are both distributions, not values. So, equality is of distributions

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Where's Waldo



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Input: $x = (G_0, G_1)$

Prover's goal: Prove that he knows permutation π s.t. $\pi(G_0) = G_1$

Image: A matrix

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- **(**) Completeness: If $\pi(G_0) = G_1$, then π' correctly maps $G_{b'}$ to H
- 2 Soundness: Suppose G₀ is not isomorphic to G₁, so there is no such π. Then, if b ≠ b', there is no permutation that P can give that V will accept

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- When S stops, he produces a perfect simulation

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Graph 3-Coloring



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Zero-Knowledge (ZK) Proofs on the Blockchain

ZK proofs have found practical importance in critical Blockchain applications:

Blockchain Transactions in a Nutshell

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ZK Proofs enable privacy-preserving transactions on a public Blockchain!