

On The Hardness of Approximate and Exact (Bichromatic) Maximum Inner Product

$$\text{Max}_{(a,b) \in A \times B} a \cdot b$$

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Max-IP and Z-Max-IP

- **(Boolean) Max-IP:**

- Given sets A and B of Boolean vectors (each of size n) find a in A and b in B with maximum inner product:

- For sets A and B , set $MaxIP(A, B) := \max_{(a,b) \in A \times B} \langle a, b \rangle$.

- Approx. version: find a r -multiplicative approximation to the answer:

- Want an ALG s.t. $MaxIP(A, B) \leq ALG(A, B) \leq MaxIP(A, B) \cdot r$.

- **Z-Max-IP:**

- Two sets of n **Integer** vectors.

Max-IP and Z-Max-IP

- Basic problems, relevant in practice.
- Important theoretical implications as well.
- **Approx. Boolean Max-IP:**
 - [ARW'17]: basis of the recent breakthrough result in Hardness for Approximation in P, implies hardness for many other problems.

- Bichromatic LCS Closest Pair over permutations,
- Approximate Regular Expression Matching,
- Diameter in Product Metric,
- Approximate Closest Pair in Euclidian Space [Rub'18]

- **Z-Max-IP:**
 - [Wil'18]: Hardness for Z-Max-IP implies hardness for finding furthest pair in low dimension Euclidean space.

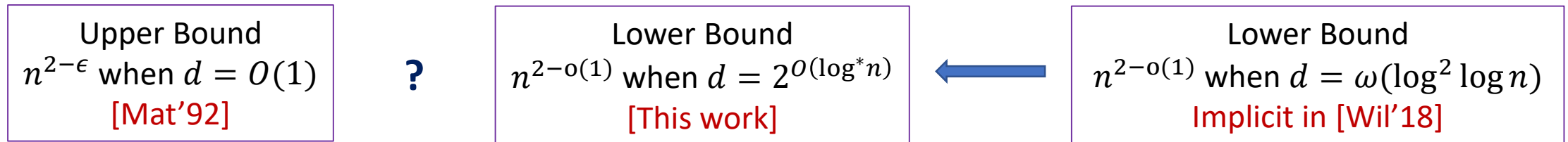
New Hardness for Z-Max-IP (under SETH)

- Z-Max-IP for n vectors of $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dimensions requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time under SETH.
 - Z-Max-IP for n vectors of $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ in $n^{1.99}$ time.
 - \Rightarrow Max-IP for n vectors of $O(\log n)$ dim. in $n^{1.99}$ time.
 - \Rightarrow CNF-SAT for n variables and $O(n)$ clauses in $2^{0.995n}$ time.
 - \Leftrightarrow SETH is false. [CIP'06]
- *Closer to the upper bound*
 - [Mat'92] : Z-Max-IP in $n^{2-1/O(d)}$ time.

Z-Max-IP:

Given sets A and B of Integer vectors (each of size n) find a in A and b in B with maximum inner product:

$$\log^*(n) := \begin{cases} 0 & n \leq 1; \\ \log^*(\log n) + 1 & n > 1. \end{cases}$$



New Hardness for Z-Max-IP (under SETH)

1. New Hardness for Z-Max-IP (under SETH):

- Z-Max-IP for n vectors of $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dimensions requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time.
- *Separation for Boolean Max-IP / Z-Max-IP:*
 - Z-Max-IP is **much harder** than Boolean Max-IP.
 - Progress on Open Problem 23 in Dagstuhl workshop on *Structure and Hardness in P*

Z-Max-IP:

Given sets A and B of **Integer** vectors (each of size n) find a in A and b in B with maximum inner product:

$$\log^*(n) := \begin{cases} 0 & n \leq 1; \\ \log^*(\log n) + 1 & n > 1. \end{cases}$$

Z-Max-IP
 $n^{2-o(1)}$ when $d = 2^{O(\log^* n)}$
[This work]

HARD

Boolean Max-IP
 $n^{2-\epsilon}$ when $d = c \log n$.
[AW15, ACW16]

EASY

New Hardness for Z-Max-IP (under SETH)

1. New Hardness for Z-Max-IP (under SETH):

- Z-Max-IP for n vectors of $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dimensions require $n^{2-o(1)}$ time.

- *New Hardness for ℓ_2 -Furthest Pair in R^d . (reductions from [Wil18])*

- Finding ℓ_2 -Furthest Pair in R^d among n points for $d = 2^{O(\log^* n)}$ requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time.
- Stronger *separation* between furthest and closest pair.

Z-Max-IP:

Given sets A and B of **Integer** vectors (each of size n) find a in A and b in B with maximum inner product.

$$\log^*(n) := \begin{cases} 0 & n \leq 1; \\ \log^*(\log n) + 1 & n > 1. \end{cases}$$

ℓ_2 -Furthest Pair
 $n^{2-o(1)}$ when $d = 2^{O(\log^* n)}$
[This work]

HARD



ℓ_2 -Furthest Pair
 $n^{2-o(1)}$ when $d = \omega(\log^2 \log n)$
[Wil'18]

ℓ_2 -Closest Pair
 $2^{O(d)} \cdot n \text{ polylog}(n)$
[BS76, KM95, DHKP97]

EASY

Characterization of Boolean Approx. Max-IP

2. Characterization of Approx. Max-IP:

- [ARW'17]: Finding $2^{(\log^{1-o(1)} n)}$ approximation to Max-IP with $n^{o(1)}$ dimensions, requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time.
- A more refined question:
 - For each vector dimension $d = d(n)$, what is the smallest r such that Max-IP can be r -approximated in truly sub-quadratic time?

- **Boolean Max-IP:**
 - For sets A and B with n Boolean vectors, find $MaxIP(A, B) := \max_{(a,b) \in A \times B} \langle a, b \rangle$.
 - Approx. version: find a r -multiplicative approximation to the answer:
 $MaxIP(A, B) \leq ALG(A, B) \leq MaxIP(A, B) \cdot r$.
 - $d = d(n)$: vector dimensions
 - $r = r(n)$: approx. ratio

Characterization of Boolean Approx. Max-IP

2. Characterization of Approx. Max-IP:

- A more refined question:
 - For each vector dimension $d = d(n)$, what is the smallest r such that Max-IP can be r -approximated in truly sub-quadratic time?
- We obtain a **characterization** (under SETH)!
 - For all d satisfying $\omega(\log n) < d < n^{o(1)}$
 - Truly sub-quadratic time for $r = \left(\frac{d}{\log n}\right)^{\Omega(1)}$ **EASY!**
 - Requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time for $r = \left(\frac{d}{\log n}\right)^{o(1)}$ **HARD!**

- **Boolean Max-IP:**
 - For sets A and B with n **Boolean** vectors, find $MaxIP(A, B) := \max_{(a,b) \in A \times B} \langle a, b \rangle$.
 - Approx. version: find a r -multiplicative approximation to the answer:
 $MaxIP(A, B) \leq ALG(A, B) \leq MaxIP(A, B) \cdot r$.
 - $d = d(n)$: **vector dimensions**
 - $r = r(n)$: **approx. ratio**

Characterization of Boolean Approx. Max-IP

2. Characterization of Approx. Max-IP:

- We obtain a characterization!
 - $r = \left(\frac{d}{\log n}\right)^{\Omega(1)} n^{2-\epsilon}$ time. **EASY!**
 - $r = \left(\frac{d}{\log n}\right)^{o(1)} n^{2-o(1)}$ time. **HARD!**
- Example:
 - $d = c \log n$, $O(1)$ -approximation is **EASY**.
 - $d = \log^2 n$, $O(\log^{0.1} n)$ -approximation is **EASY**.
 - $d = \log^2 n$, $(\log^{o(1)} n)$ -approximation is **HARD**.
- Upper Bound via *polynomial method*.
- Lower Bound follows from **[Rub'18]**.

- **Boolean Max-IP:**
 - For sets A and B with n **Boolean** vectors, find $MaxIP(A, B) := \max_{(a,b) \in A \times B} \langle a, b \rangle$.
 - Approx. version: find a r -multiplicative approximation to the answer:
 $MaxIP(A, B) \leq ALG(A, B) \leq MaxIP(A, B) \cdot r$.
 - $d = d(n)$: **vector dimensions**
 - $r = r(n)$: **approx. ratio**

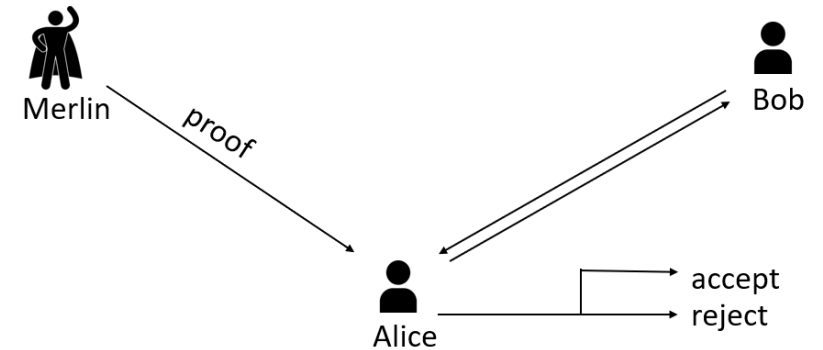
New Merlin-Arthur Protocol for Set-Disjointness

3. A new MA Protocol for Set-Disjointness

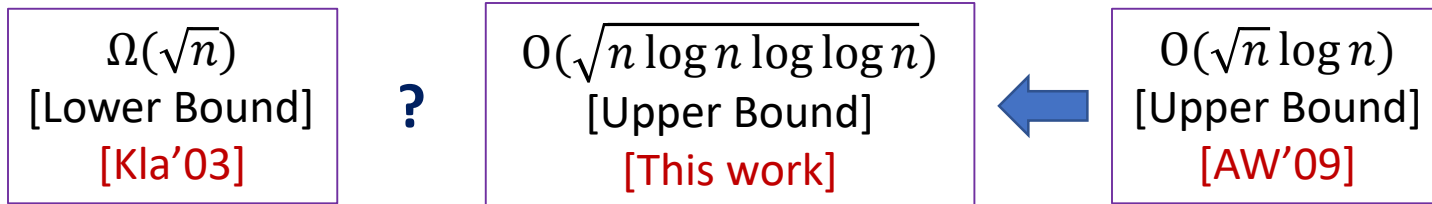
- [AW'09]: An $O(\sqrt{n} \log n)$ MA protocol.
- [Kla'03]: $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$ Lower Bound.
- This work: an $O(\sqrt{n \log n \log \log n})$ protocol.

• **MA Communication Protocol:**

- Alice holds x , Bob holds y , want to compute $F(x,y)$.



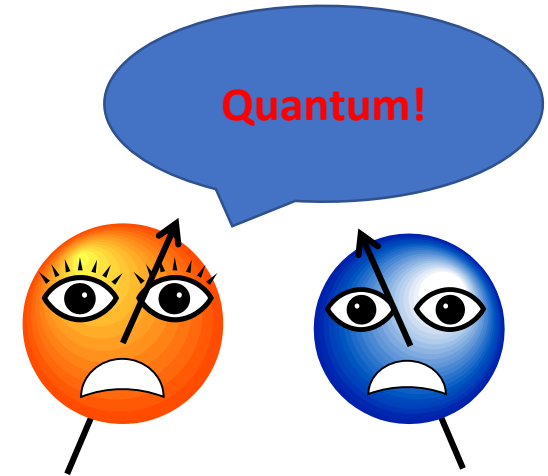
- $F(x,y) = 1 \Rightarrow$ exists a proof, $\Pr[acc] \geq \frac{2}{3}$.
- $F(x,y) = 0 \Rightarrow$ for all proofs, $\Pr[acc] \leq \frac{1}{3}$.
- Complexity = Proof Length + Communication



New Connection with Communication Complexity

4. New Connection with Communication Complexity

- [ARW'17]:
 - $\sqrt{n} \log n$ MA protocol for Set-Disjointness
 - \Rightarrow SETH-Hardness for Approx. Boolean Max-IP.
- Open Question from [ARW'17]:
 - There is a \sqrt{n} BQP protocol for Set-Disjointness. Does it also imply some hardness results?
- [This work]: **YES!**
 - \sqrt{n} BQP protocol for Set-Disjointness
 - \Rightarrow SETH-Hardness for Approx. $\{-1,1\}$ -Max-IP



$\{-1, 1\}$ -Max-IP:

Given sets A and B of vectors with $\{-1, 1\}$ entries (each of size n) find a in A and b in B with maximum inner product.

Proof Overview: SETH-Hardness of Z-Max-IP

- Starting Point: SETH implies OV Conjecture.
- Orthogonal Vectors (OV) Problem:
 - Given two sets A, B of **Boolean** vectors, find an orthogonal pair between them.

OV Conjecture: OV with sets of n vectors, $\omega(\log n)$ dimensions requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time.

Our Goal: A “dimensionality” reduction from $\omega(\log n)$ dimensional OV to $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dimensional Z-Max-IP

Reduction RoadMap

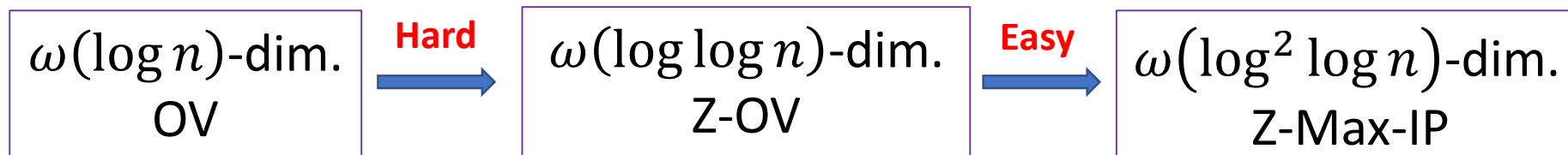
- First cover a baby version which shows $\omega(\log^2 \log n)$ dimensional Z-Max-IP is hard. (same as [Wil'18])
 - Then outline the key ideas to get the $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dimensional hardness.
- An intermediate problem:
 - **Z-OV**: Given two sets A,B of **Integer** vectors, find an orthogonal pair between them.

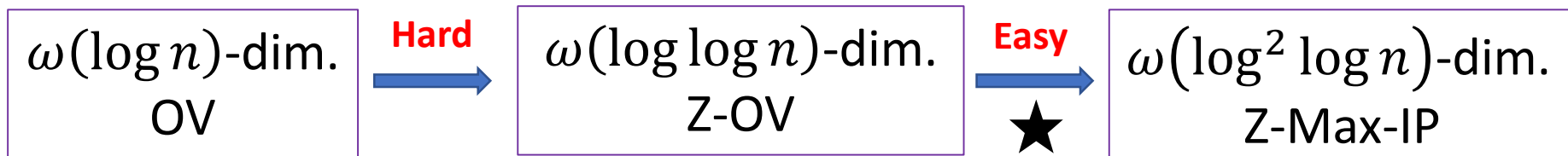
Orthogonal Vectors (OV) Problem:

Two sets A,B of **Boolean** vectors, find an orthogonal pair between them.

Z-Max-IP:

Two sets of n **Integer** vectors. find a pair between them which maximize their inner product.





Easy Part: Z-OV \Rightarrow Z-Max-IP

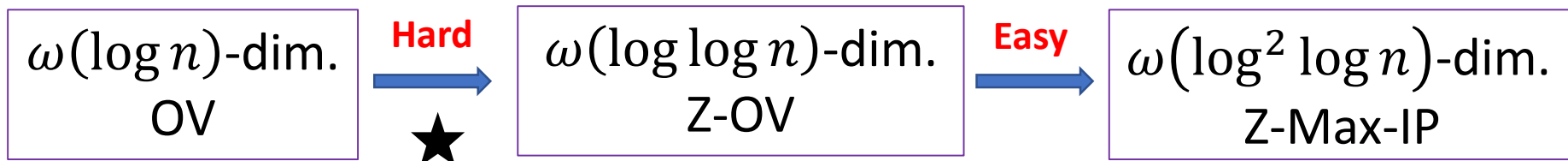
- Implicit in [Wil'18].
- $a, b \in Z^d$. (**Squaring trick**)
 - $a \cdot b = 0 \Rightarrow -(a \cdot b)^2 = 0$
 - $a \cdot b \neq 0 \Rightarrow -(a \cdot b)^2 < 0$
- To solve Z-OV, it suffices to calculate the maximum value of $-(a \cdot b)^2$ for $(a, b) \in A \times B$.
- $-(a \cdot b)^2 = -(\sum_i a_i \cdot b_i)^2 = -\sum_{i,j} a_i a_j b_i b_j$
- $\bar{a}_{i,j} = a_i \cdot a_j, \bar{b}_{i,j} = -b_i \cdot b_j$.
- Maximize $\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b}$, Z-Max-IP with d^2 dim.

Z-OV:

Two sets A, B of **Integer** vectors, find an orthogonal pair between them.

Z-Max-IP:

Given sets A and B of **Integer** vectors (each of size n) find a in A and b in B with maximum inner product.



Hard Part: $OV \Rightarrow Z-OV$

- Want to reduce the dimension:
 - E.g. use *few integers* to represent a *long Boolean vector*
- Key Idea: **Chinese Remainder Theorem (CRT)**!
- t primes q_1, q_2, \dots, q_t .
- t remainders r_1, r_2, \dots, r_t .
- CRT: exists a unique integer $0 \leq x < \prod_i q_i$, s.t.
 - $x \equiv r_i \pmod{q_i}$.

Use a **number** to represent a **vector**

x

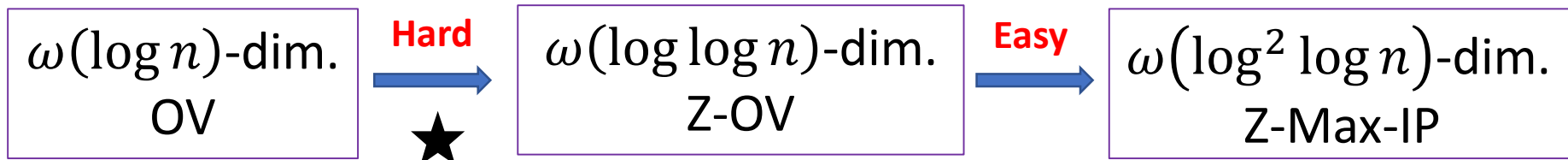
r_1, r_2, \dots, r_t

OV:

Two sets A,B of **Boolean** vectors, find an orthogonal pair between them.

Z-OV:

Two sets A,B of **Integer** vectors, find an orthogonal pair between them.



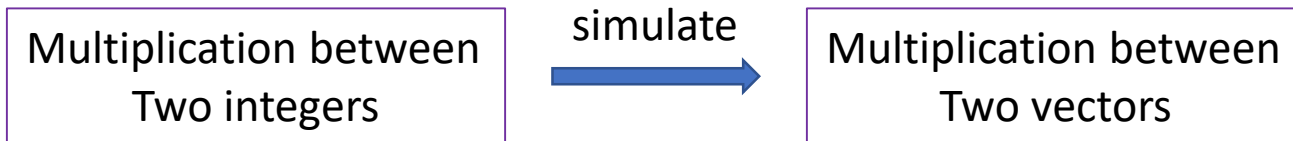
Chinese Remainder Theorem

- Fix t primes q_1, q_2, \dots, q_t .
- $a = crr(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t)$, i.e. $a \equiv x_i \pmod{q_i}$.
- $b = crr(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_t)$, i.e. $b \equiv y_i \pmod{q_i}$.

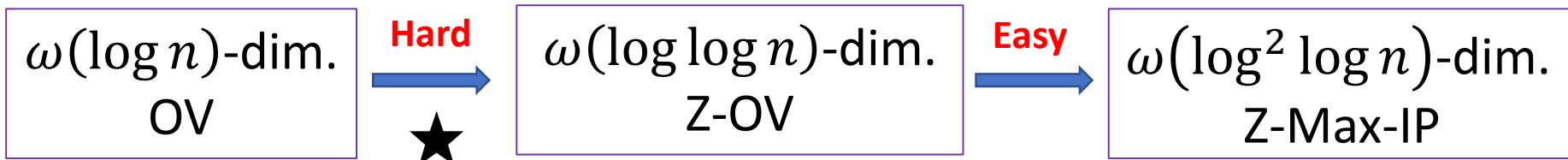
$crr(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_t) :=$
the unique integer $0 \leq x < \prod_i q_i$, s.t.
 $x \equiv r_i \pmod{q_i}$.

crr: Chinese Remainder Representation

$$a \cdot b \equiv x_i \cdot y_i \pmod{q_i} \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq t.$$



Exactly what we want!

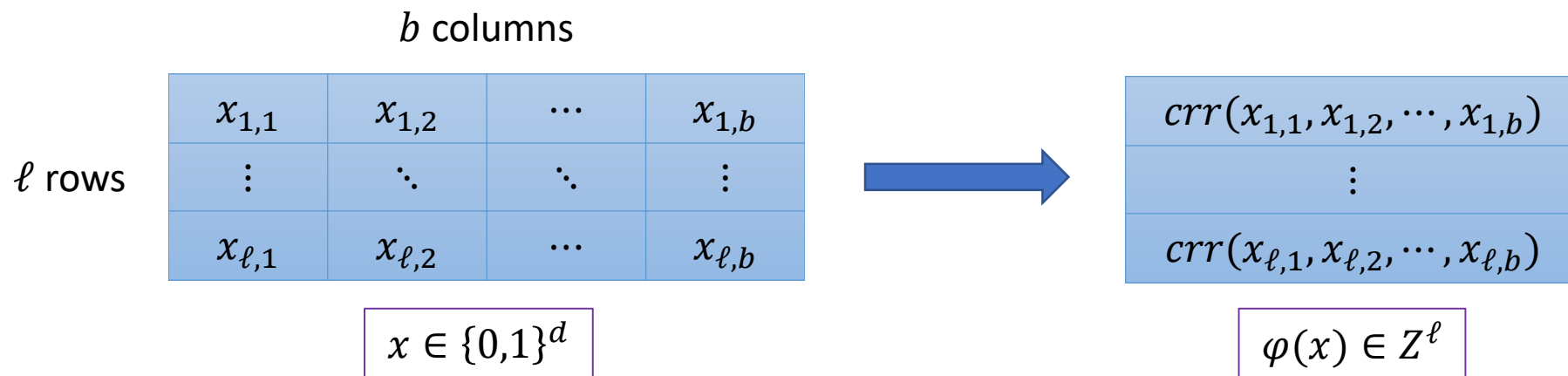


Hard Part: $OV \Rightarrow Z-OV$

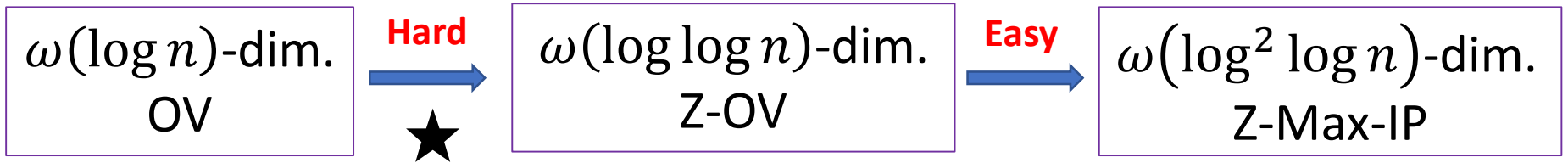
- The reduction:
 - d : vector dimension ($d = \omega(\log n)$).
 - $\ell \cdot b = d$
 - represent a vector x in $\{0,1\}^d$ by a $\ell \times b$ table.
 - Map each row into a single number using Chinese Remainder Theorem

$crr(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_t) :=$
 the unique integer $0 \leq x < \prod_i q_i$, s.t.
 $x \equiv r_i \pmod{q_i}$.

crr: Chinese Remainder Representation



Want ℓ to be as small as possible



Hard Part: OV \Rightarrow Z-OV

b columns

ℓ rows

$x_{1,1}$	$x_{1,2}$	\dots	$x_{1,b}$
\vdots	\ddots	\ddots	\vdots
$x_{\ell,1}$	$x_{\ell,2}$	\dots	$x_{\ell,b}$

$$x \in \{0,1\}^d$$



$crr(x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, \dots, x_{1,b})$
\vdots
$crr(x_{\ell,1}, x_{\ell,2}, \dots, x_{\ell,b})$

$$\varphi(x) \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$$

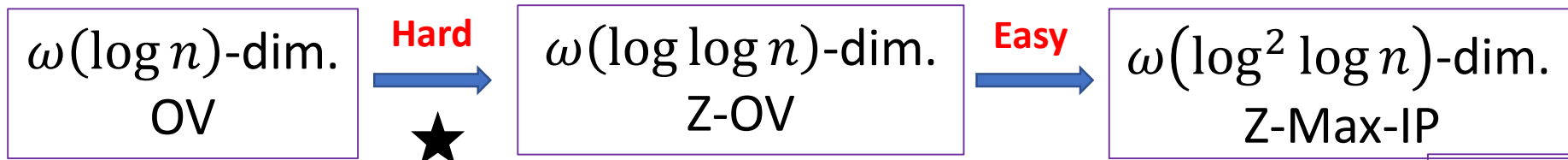
- The reduction:
 - d : vector dimension
 - $\ell \cdot b = d$
 - represent a vector x in $\{0,1\}^d$ by a $\ell \times b$ table.
- Map each row into a single number using Chinese Remainder Theorem

For $i \in [\ell]$ and $j \in [b]$, $\varphi(x)_i \equiv x_{i,j} \pmod{q_j}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \pmod{q_j} \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (\varphi(x)_i \cdot \varphi(y)_i) \pmod{q_j} \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (x_{i,j} \cdot y_{i,j}) \pmod{q_j}
 \end{aligned}$$

The inner product of j -th column of x and j -th column of y .

Set all $q_j > \ell$.
 $x \cdot y = 0 \Leftrightarrow \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \equiv 0 \pmod{q_j}$ for all j .



Hard Part: $OV \Rightarrow Z-OV$

- $V :=$ all multiples of $\prod_j q_j$ between 0 and $\ell \cdot (\prod_j q_j)^2$.
- Given an OV instance with sets A and B .
- $x \cdot y = 0 \Leftrightarrow \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \equiv 0 \pmod{q_j}$ for all $j \Leftrightarrow \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \in V$.
- Let $v \in V$,
 - $\varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) = v \Leftrightarrow [\varphi(x), -1] \cdot [\varphi(y), v] = 0$.
 - $A_v := \{[\varphi(x), -1] : x \in A\}$.
 - $B_v := \{[\varphi(y), v] : y \in B\}$.
- Therefore,
 - There is an orthogonal pair between A and $B \Leftrightarrow$
 - There exists v s.t. there is an orthogonal pair between A_v and B_v .
- In summary:
 - One d -dim. OV instance $\Rightarrow |V|$ instances of $(\ell + 1)$ -dim. Z-OV

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \pmod{q_j} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (\varphi(x)_i \cdot \varphi(y)_i) \pmod{q_j} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (x_{i,j} \cdot y_{i,j}) \pmod{q_j} \end{aligned}$$



The inner product of j -th column of x and j -th column of y .



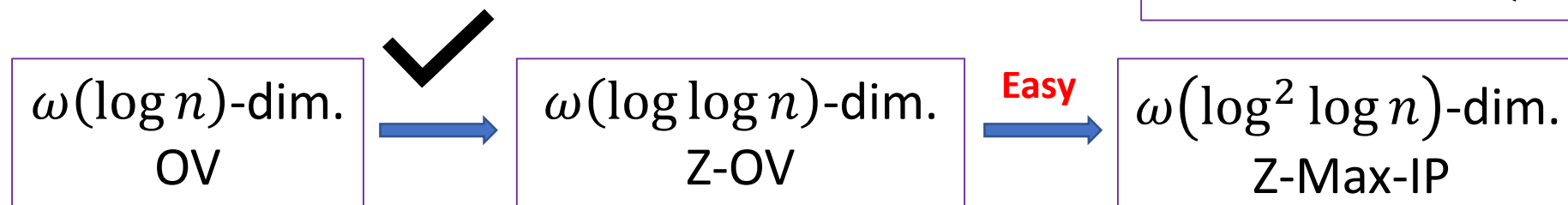
Set all $q_j > \ell$.
 $x \cdot y = 0 \Leftrightarrow \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \equiv 0 \pmod{q_j}$
 for all j .

Hard Part: $OV \Rightarrow Z-OV$

Informal Analysis

- Recall what we have: $\omega(\log n)$ -dim. OV requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time.
- To preserve hardness, want $|V| = n^{o(1)}$.
 - $|V| = (\prod_j q_j)^{o(1)} = b^{o(b)}$.
 - Have to set $b = o\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$.
 - Therefore, $\ell = \frac{\omega(\log n)}{b} = \omega(\log \log n)$.
- Q.E.D.

- $V :=$ all multiplier of $\prod_j q_j$ between 0 and $\ell \cdot (\prod_j q_j)^2$.
 - $A_v := \{[\varphi(x), -1]: x \in A\}$.
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- Therefore,
 - There is an orthogonal pair between A and $B \Leftrightarrow$
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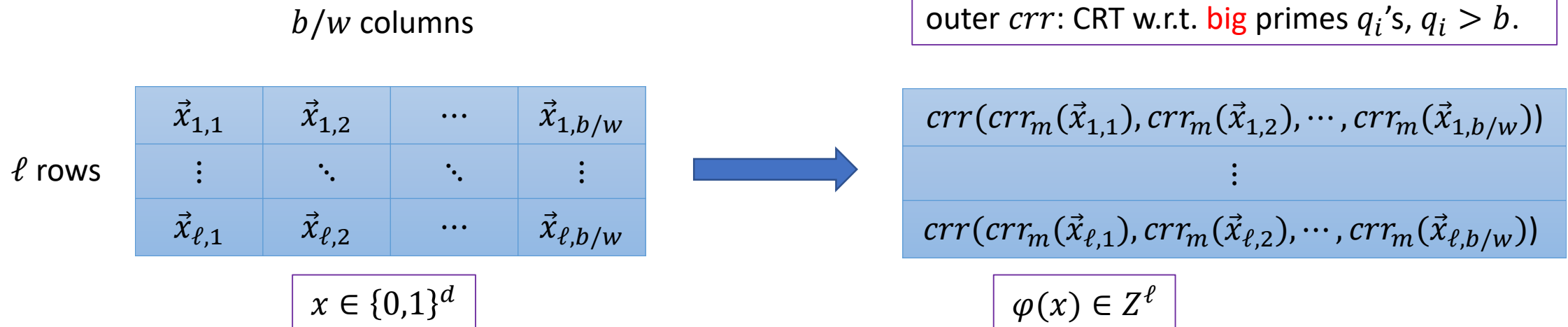
$2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dim. Hardness: Sketch

- What is the **bottleneck**?
- Not enough **small primes**!
 - q'_i 's are b distinct primes, most of them $\gg b$, even if we only need them to be $> \ell$.
- **Idea**: Use another CRT to *embed small primes inside big primes*.
- **Recursive**: Then pack even smaller primes inside small primes, and recurse.
 - *Pretend we have many small primes, even though we don't*.

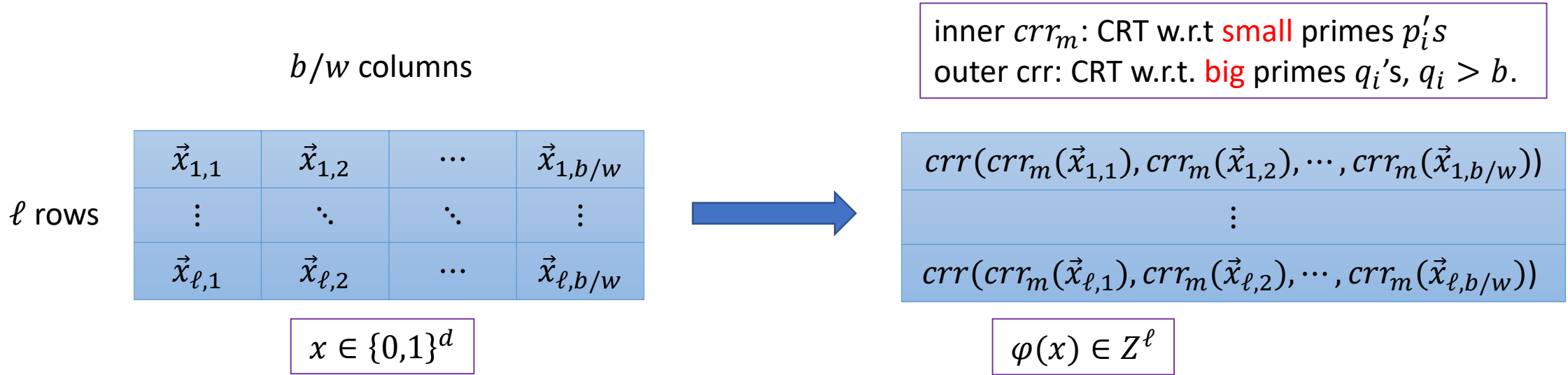
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 - Have to set $b = o\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$.
 - Therefore, $\ell = \frac{\omega(\log n)}{b} = \omega(\log \log n)$.
- Q.E.D.

One Step of Recursion

- Pick w primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_w , such that $(\prod_j p_j)^2 \cdot \ell < b$.
 - d : vector dimension ($d = \omega(\log n)$)
 - $\ell \cdot b = d$ (want ℓ as small as possible)
 - represent a vector x in $\{0,1\}^d$ by a $\ell \times (b/w)$ table, each entry is a vector in $\{0,1\}^w$.



One Step of Recursion



For $i \in [\ell]$ and $j \in [b/w]$, $\varphi(x)_i \equiv crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \pmod{q_j}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \pmod{q_j} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (\varphi(x)_i \cdot \varphi(y)_i) \pmod{q_j} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \cdot crr_m(\vec{y}_{i,j})) \pmod{q_j} \end{aligned}$$



Get to know:
 $\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \cdot crr_m(\vec{y}_{i,j}))$
 and whether for all i ,
 $\vec{x}_{i,j} \cdot \vec{y}_{i,j} = 0$.

$$(\prod_j p_j)^2 \cdot \ell < b \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \cdot crr_m(\vec{y}_{i,j})) < q_j.$$

One Step of Recursion: Informal Analysis

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) \pmod{q_j} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (\varphi(x)_i \cdot \varphi(y)_i) \pmod{q_j} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \cdot crr_m(\vec{y}_{i,j})) \pmod{q_j} \end{aligned}$$



Get to know:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \cdot crr_m(\vec{y}_{i,j}))$$

and whether for all i ,

$$\vec{x}_{i,j} \cdot \vec{y}_{i,j} = 0.$$

$$(\prod_j p_j)^2 \cdot \ell < b \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (crr_m(\vec{x}_{i,j}) \cdot crr_m(\vec{y}_{i,j})) < q_j.$$

- Set $(\prod_j p_j)^2 \cdot \ell = w^{O(w)} = b$
 $\Rightarrow w = \Theta(\log b / \log \log b)$.
- $|V| = (\prod_j q_j)^{O(1)} = b^{O(b/w)} = (\log b)^{O(b)}$.
- Want $|V| = n^{o(1)}$, set $b = o(\log n / \log \log \log n)$.
- Therefore, $\ell = \frac{\omega(\log n)}{b} = \omega(\log \log \log n)$.
- **Improvement!**

- A recursive construction leads to the final $2^{O(\log^* n)}$ dim. hardness.

Open Questions

- Construct an $O(\sqrt{n})$ -bit MA protocol for Set-Disjointness.
- Show that Z-Max-IP for **any** $\omega(1)$ dimensions requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ time under some plausible hypothesis.
 - Implies same hardness for $\omega(1)$ dimensions ℓ_2 -Furthest Pair
- **NP·UPP** communication protocol: *a potential approach*
 - NP·UPP: a *relaxation* of MA, where Arthur's error can be **arbitrary close** to 0.5.
 - Our results can be interpreted as a sub-linear proof length, $O(\log^* n)$ communication NP·UPP protocol for Set-Disjointness.
 - $O(\log^* n)$ to $\alpha(n) \Rightarrow$ Z-Max-IP for $2^{\alpha(n)}$ dim. requires $n^{2-o(1)}$ under SETH.

Thanks

Any Questions?