

# THE TREE EVALUATION PROBLEM

CONTEXT & RECENT RESULTS

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# TREE EVALUATION

$$NC^1 \subseteq L \subseteq NL \subseteq NC^2 \subseteq P$$

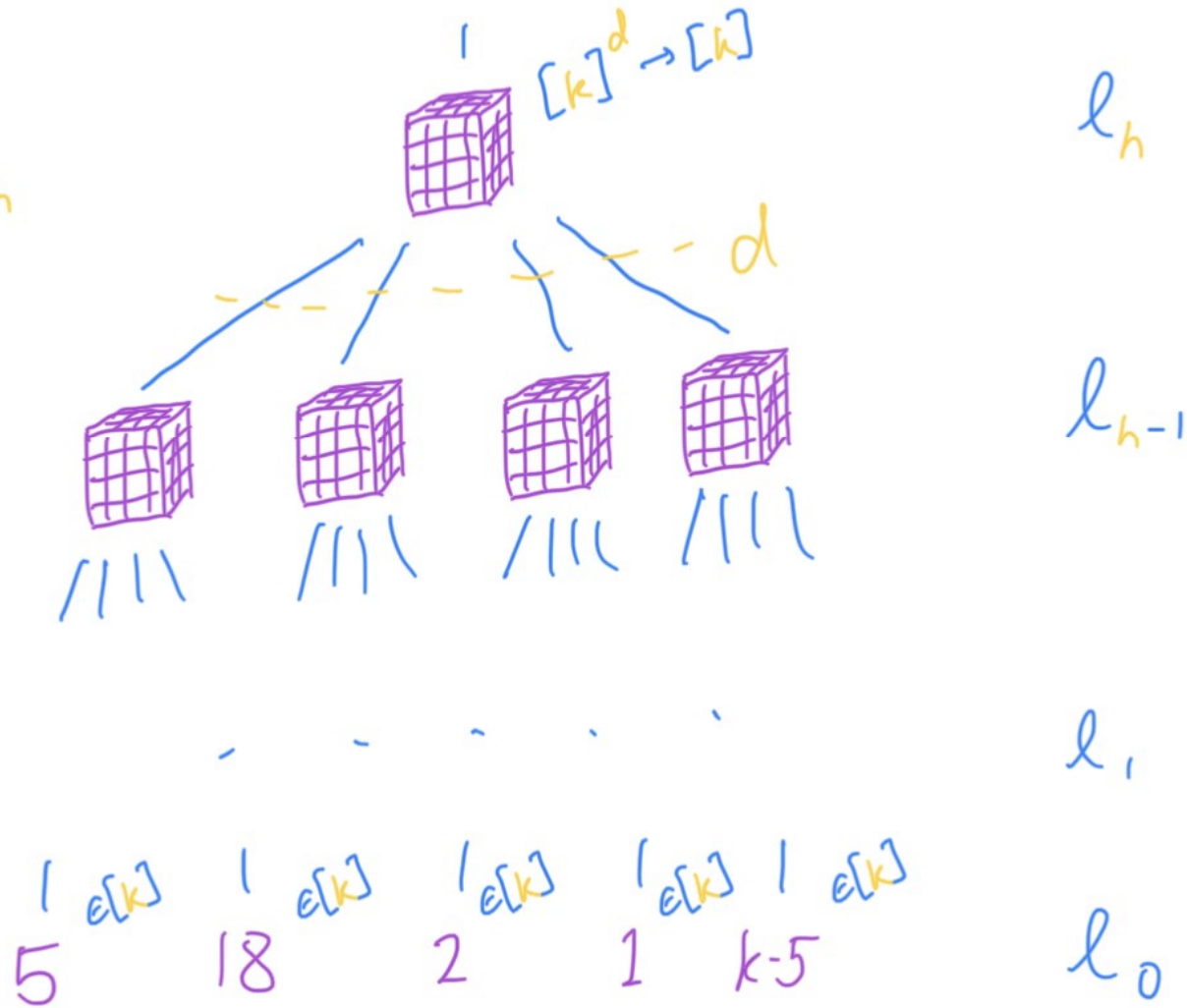
# TREE EVALUATION

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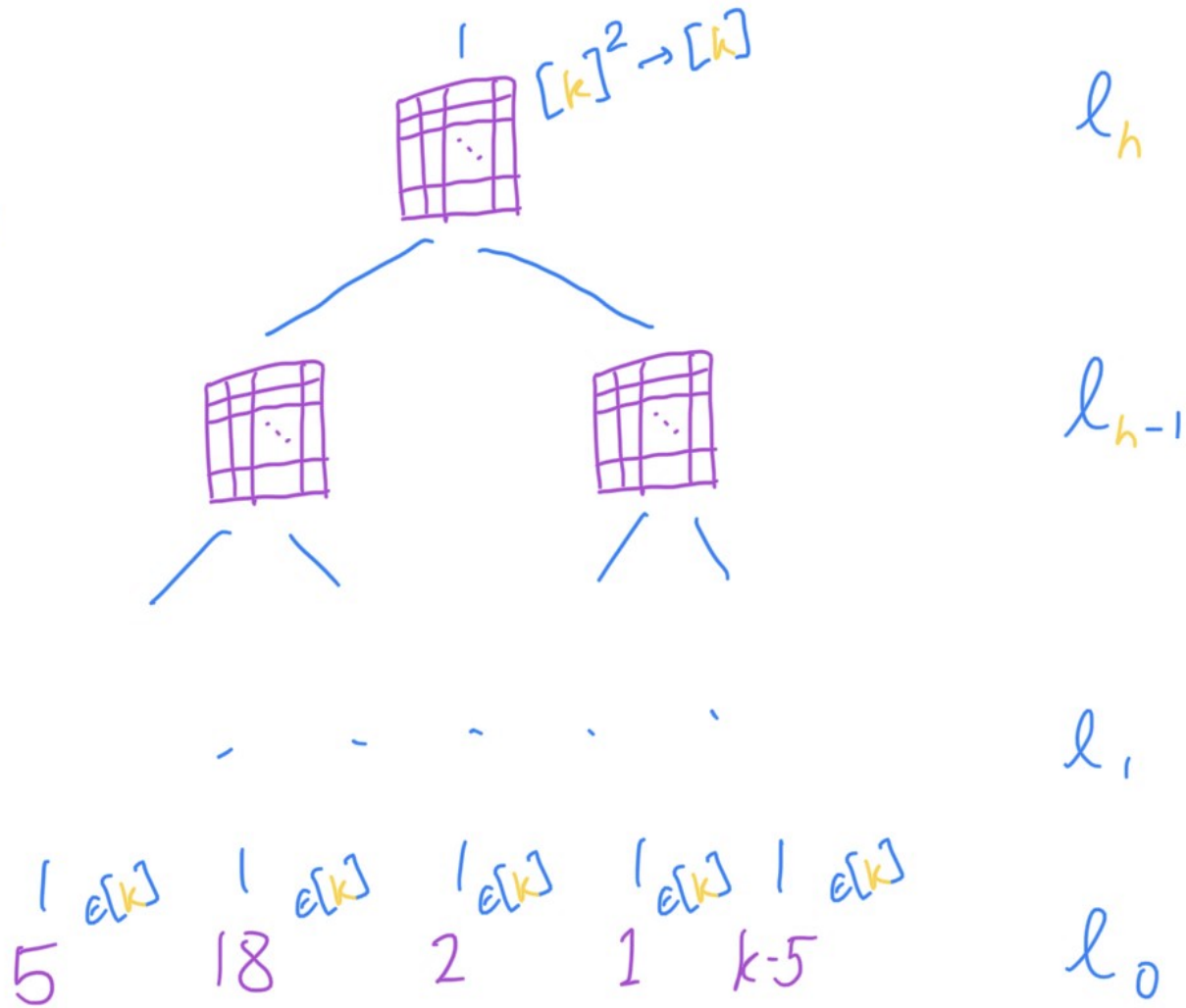
# TREE EVALUATION

TEP<sub>k,d,h</sub>



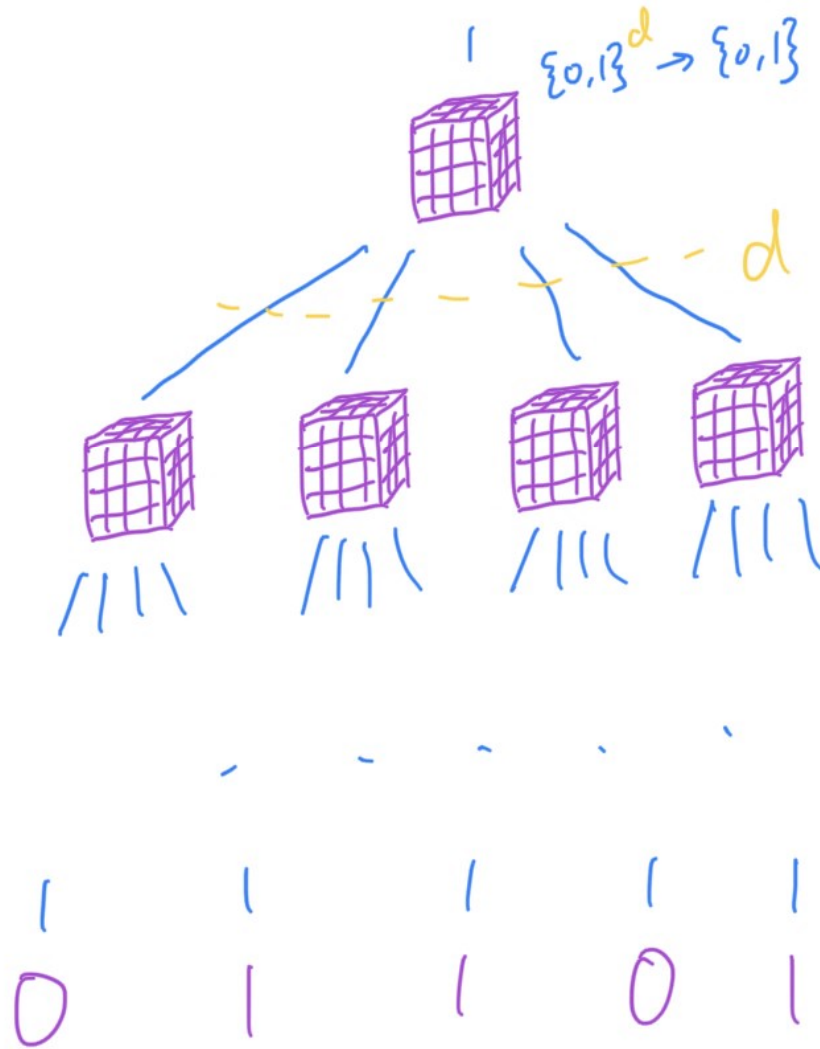
# TREE EVALUATION

TEP<sub>k,h</sub>



# TREE EVALUATION

TEP<sub>d,h</sub>  
(IMX)



$l_h$

$l_{h-1}$

$l_1$

$l_0$

# TREE EVALUATION

$TEP_{k, d, h} \in P$

(or even  $NC^2$ )

# TREE EVALUATION

$$\text{TEP}_{k, d, h} \in P$$

(or even  $NC^2$ )

$$NC^1 \leq \text{TEP}_{2, 2, \log n}$$



# TREE EVALUATION



# HARDNESS OF TEP

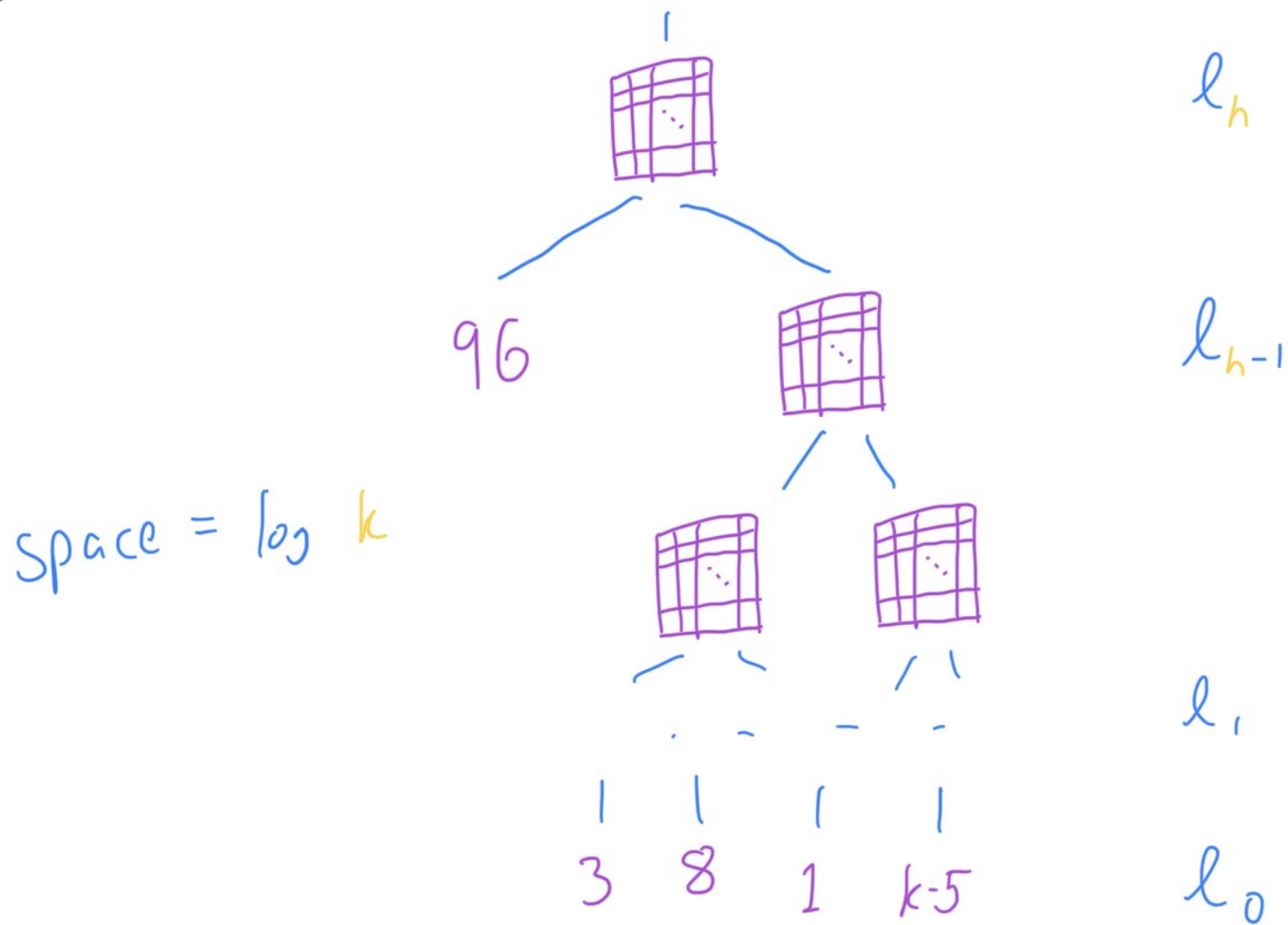
CONJECTURE [KRW'95]:  $TEP_{d,h} \notin NC^1$

# HARDNESS OF TEP

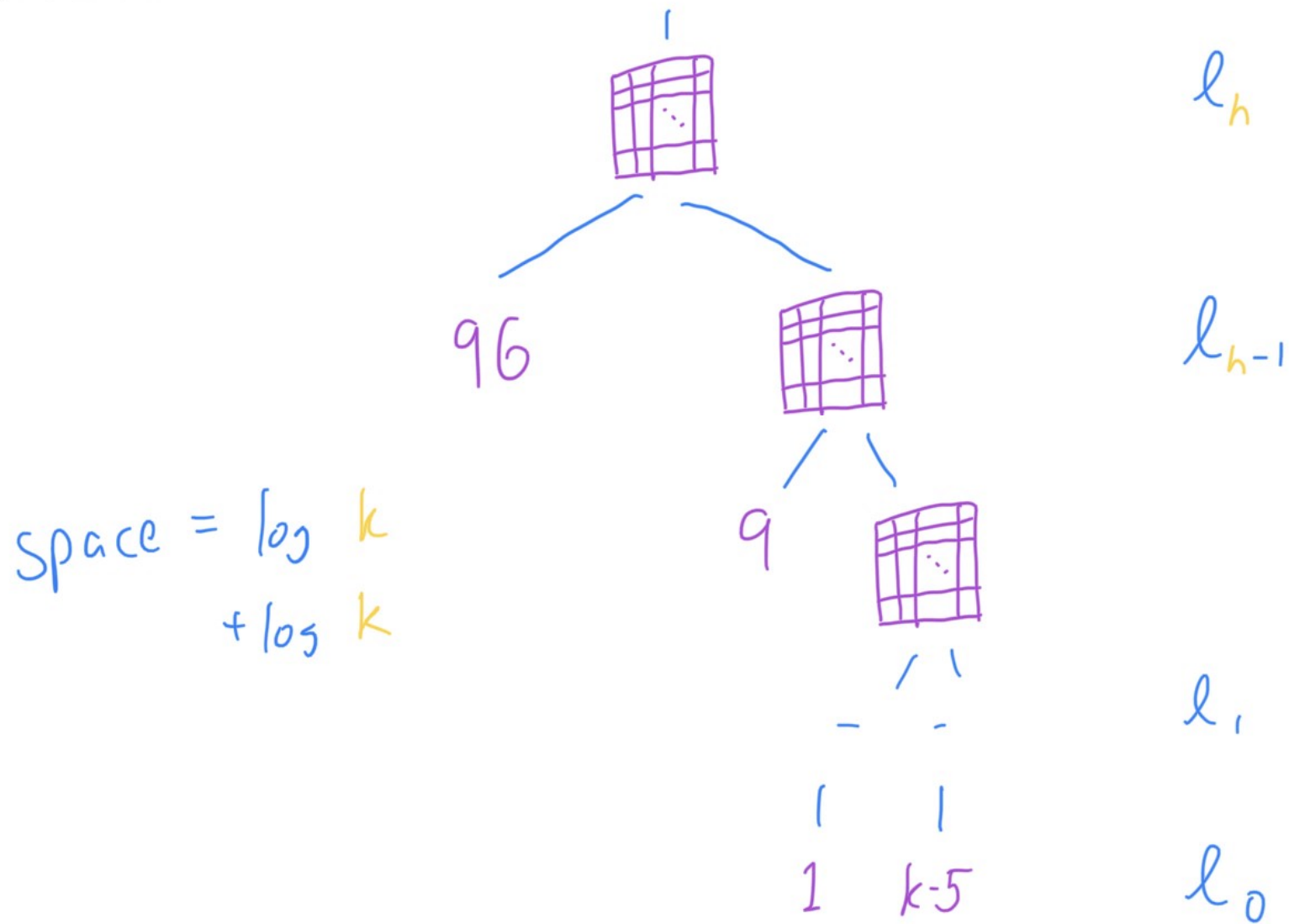
CONJECTURE [KRW'95]:  $TEP_{d,h} \notin NC^1$

CONJECTURE [CMWBS'12]:  $TEP_{k,h} \notin L$

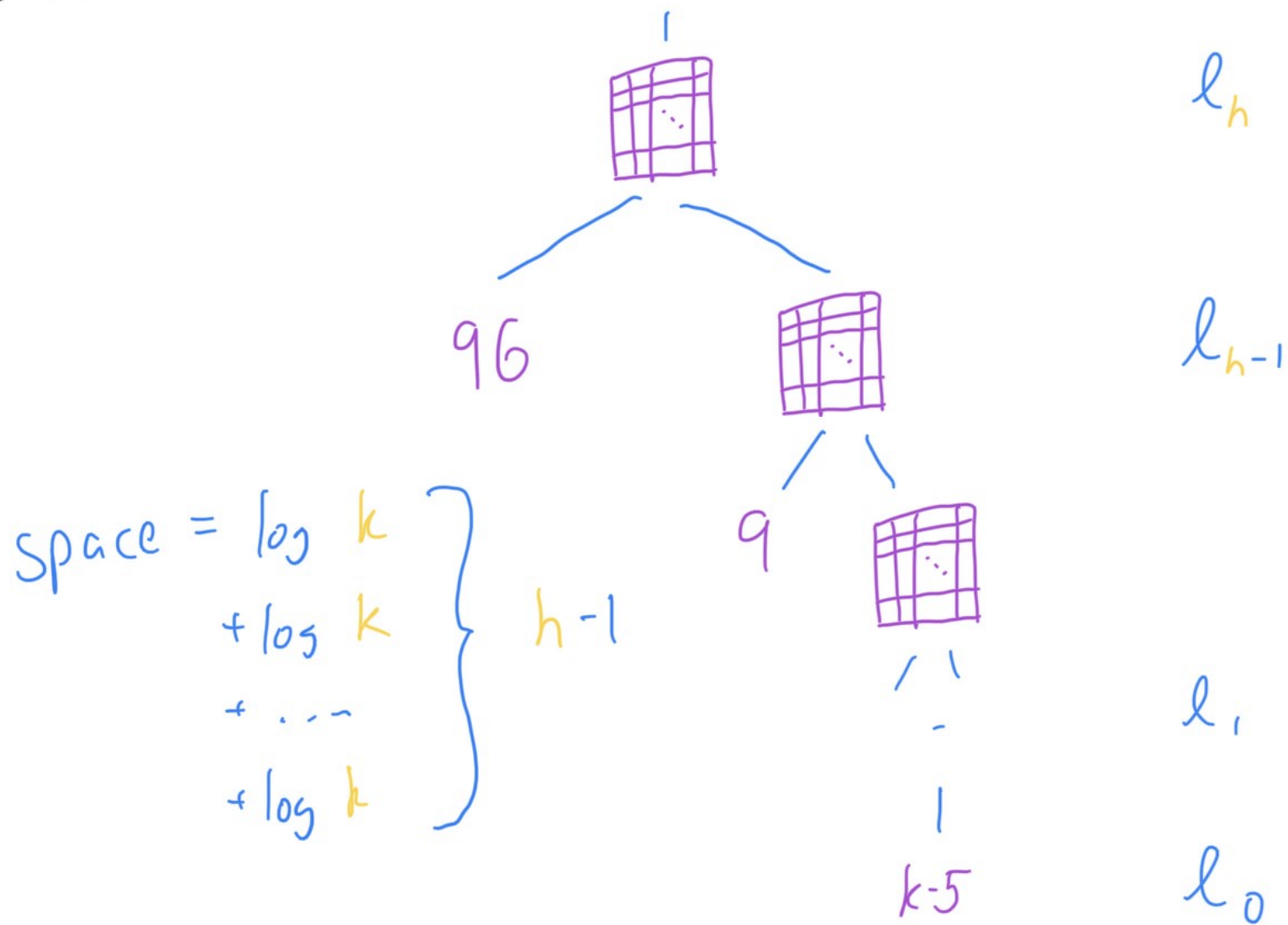
# HARDNESS OF TEP



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# HARDNESS OF TEP

CONJECTURE [CMWBS'12]:  $TEP_{k,h}$  requires

space  $\Omega(h \log k) = \Omega(\log^2 n)$

$(|TEP_{k,h}| = 2^h \text{poly } k)$

# HARDNESS OF TEP

CONJECTURE [CMWBS'12]:  $TEP_{k,h}$  requires

space  $\Omega(h \log k) = \Omega(\log^2 n)$

thrifty ✓

read-once ✓

$$|TEP_{k,h}| = 2^h \text{poly } k$$



# HARDNESS OF TEP

CONJECTURE [CMWBS'12]:  $TEP_{k,h}$  requires

space  $\Omega(h \log k) = \Omega(\log^2 n)$   
^  
non-deterministic

thrifty ✓

read-once ✓

$$|TEP_{k,h}| = 2^h \text{poly } k$$

# HARDNESS OF TEP

CONJECTURE [KRW'95]:  $TEP_{d,h}$  requires

depth  $\Omega(dh) = \Omega(\log^2 n / \log \log n)$

$$(|TEP_{d,h}| = d^h 2^d)$$

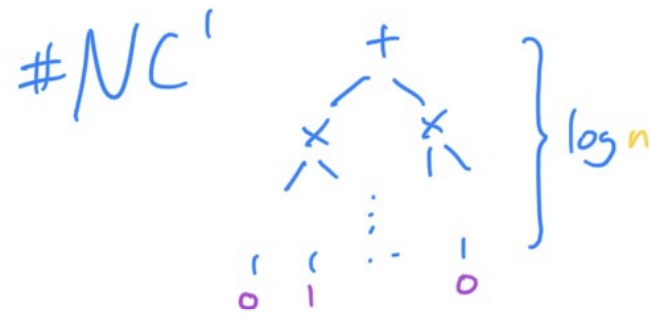
EASINESS OF TEP?

BARRINGTON'S THEOREM:  $NC'$  can be  
computed with permutation BPs  
of  $\text{poly}(n)$  length and width 5.

EASINESS OF TEP?

THEOREM [BC'89]:  $\#NC' \subseteq L$ .

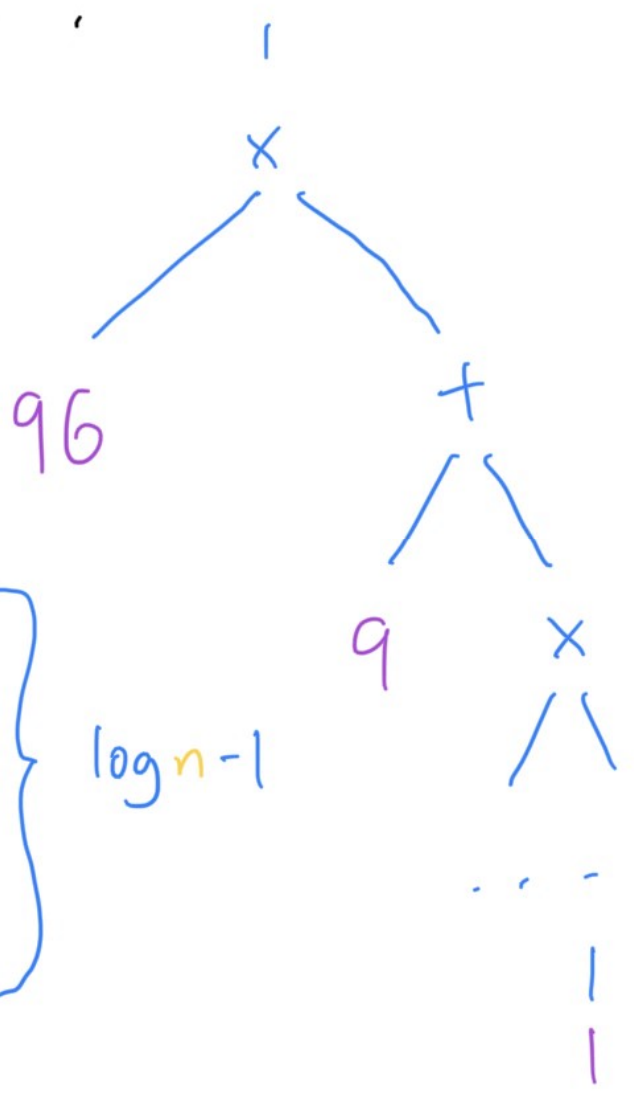
EASINESS OF TEP?



$\subseteq$  #NC'  $\supseteq$

$$NC' \subseteq L \subseteq NL \subseteq NC^2 \subseteq P$$

# EASINESS OF TEP?



$l_{\log n}$

$l_{\log n - 1}$

space =  $\log n$   
 +  $\log n$   
 + ...  
 +  $\log n$  }  $\log n - 1$

$l_1$

$l_0$

BEN-OR & CLEVE

PROOF [BC'89]:

two uses of space:

1) storage

2) computation

# BEN-OR & CLEVE

PROOF [BC'89]:

two uses of space:

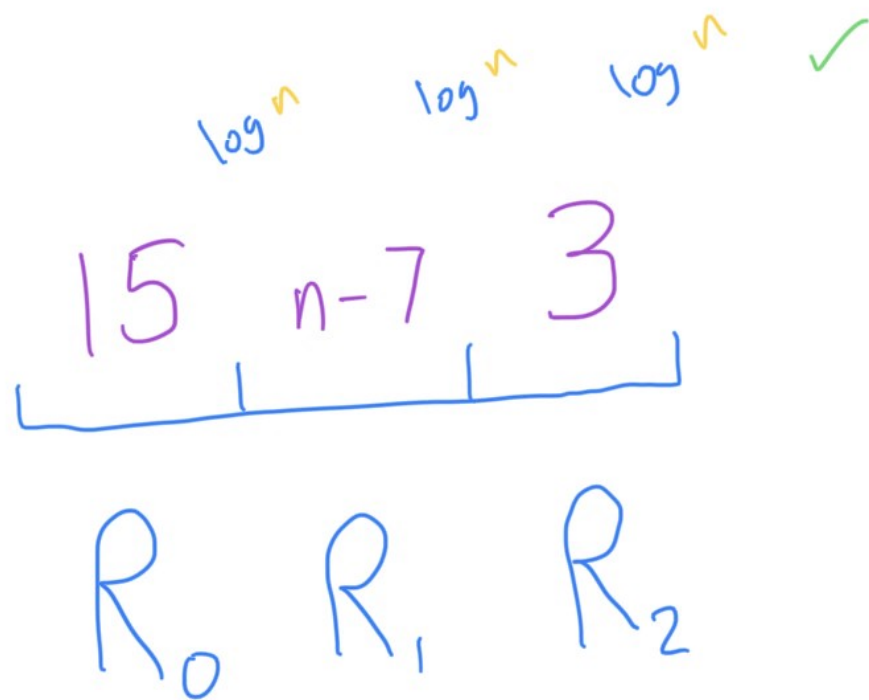
1) storage

2) computation

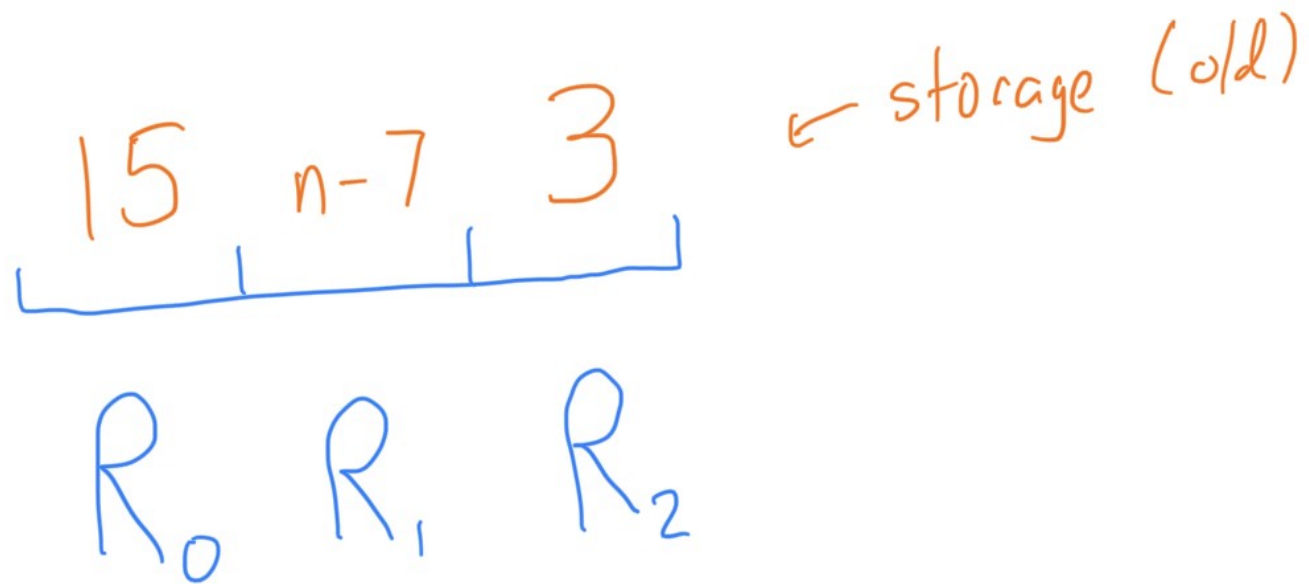
\ / BOTH AT ONCE?



BEN-OR & CLEVE



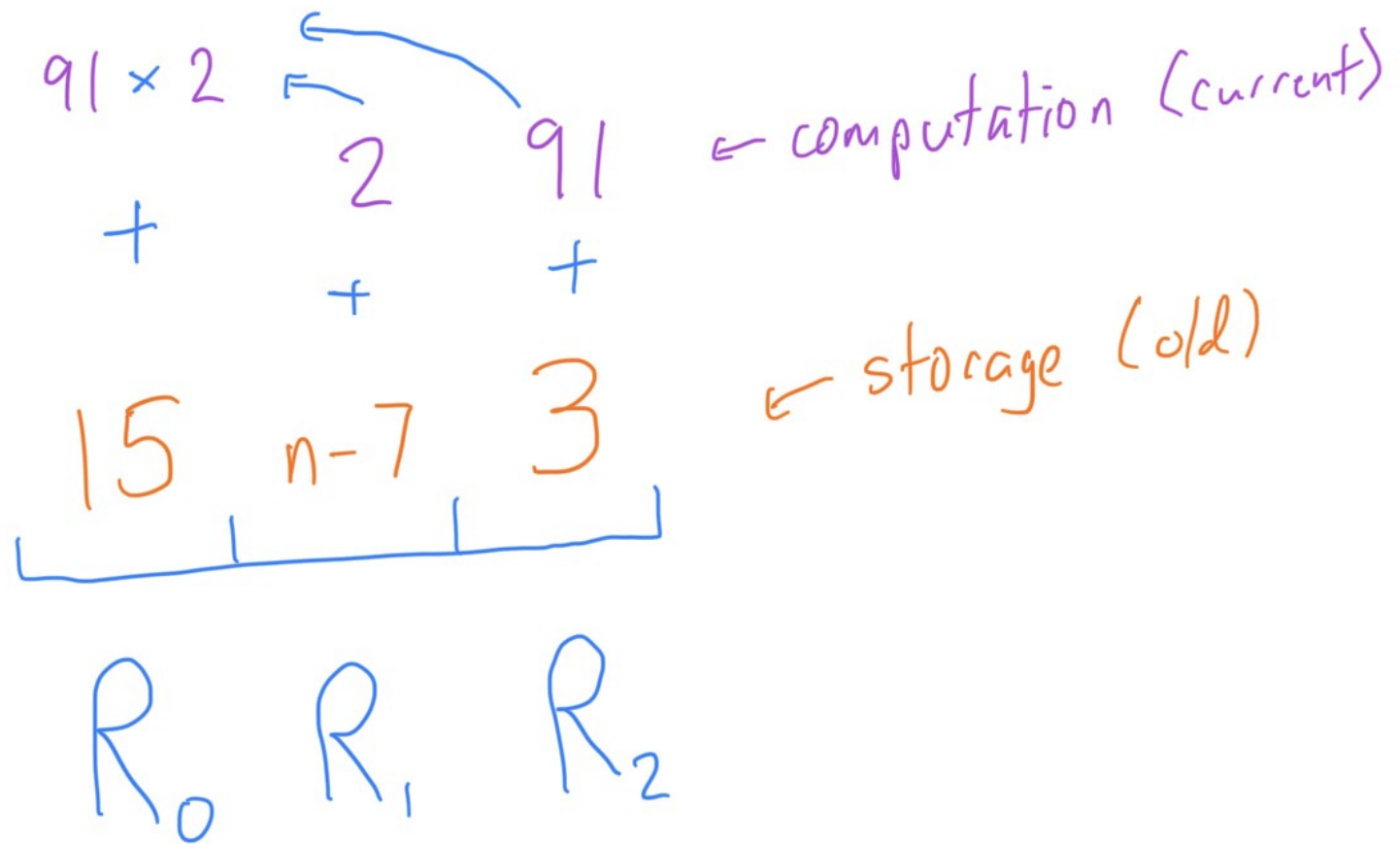
BEN-OR & CLEVE



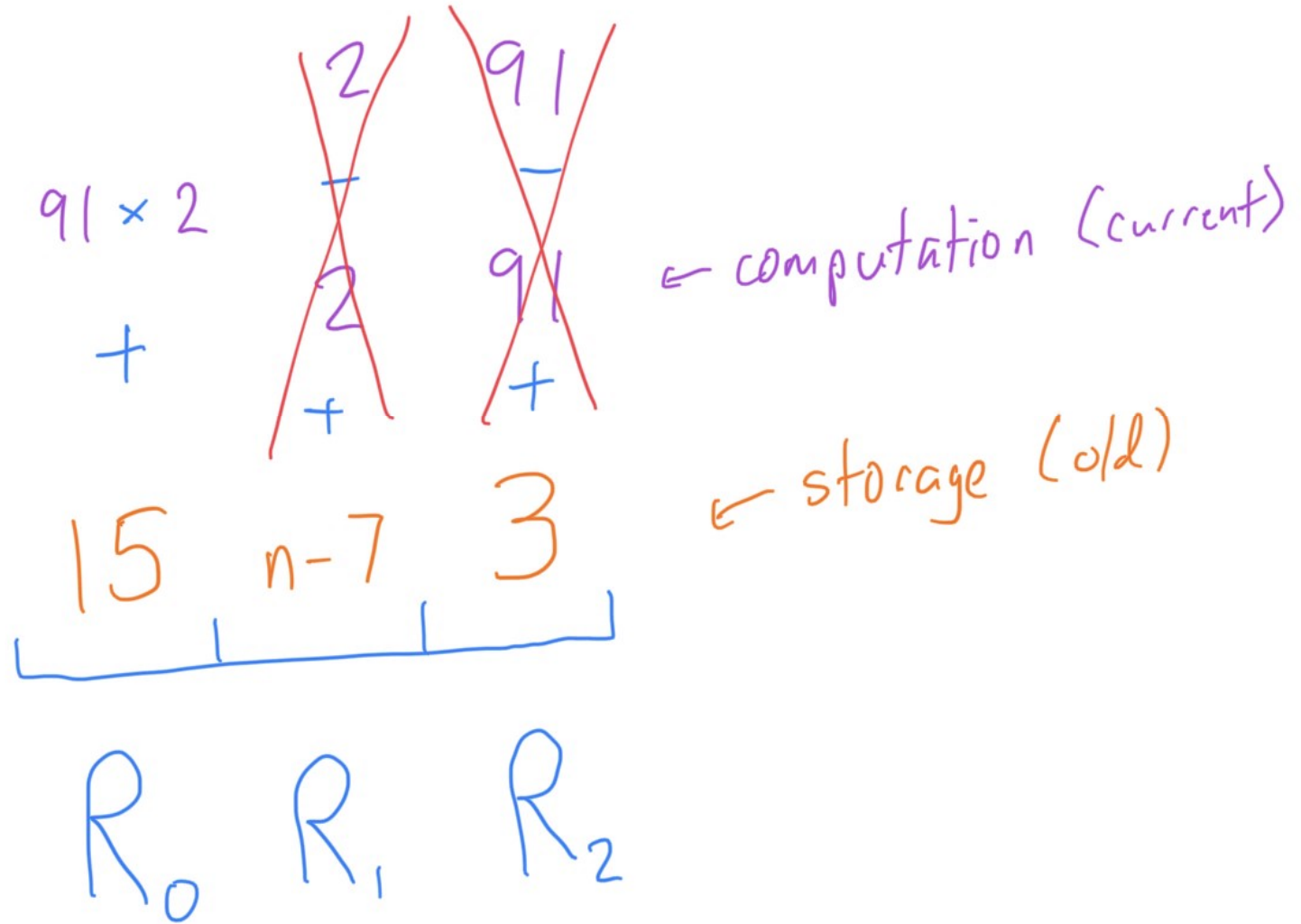
# BEN-DR & CLEVE

$$\begin{array}{r} 91 \leftarrow \text{computation (current)} \\ + \\ \underbrace{15 \quad n-7 \quad 3}_{R_0 \quad R_1 \quad R_2} \leftarrow \text{storage (old)} \end{array}$$

# BEN-OR & CLEVE



# BEN-DR & CLEVE



# BEN-OR & CLEVE

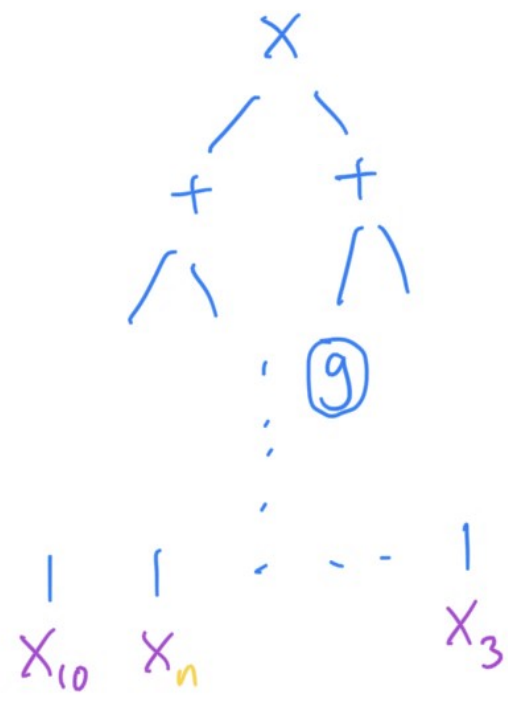
LEMMA:  $\forall g \in \mathcal{C}, \exists P_g$  s.t.

$$P_g : R_0 \leftarrow R_0 + v_g$$

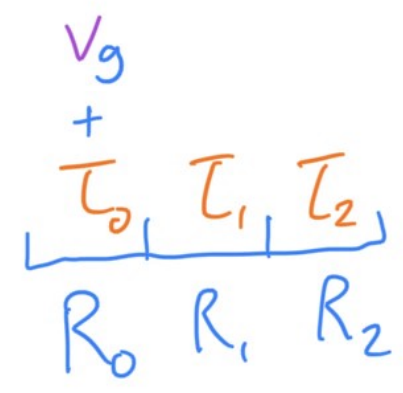
$$R_1 \leftarrow R_1$$

$$R_2 \leftarrow R_2$$

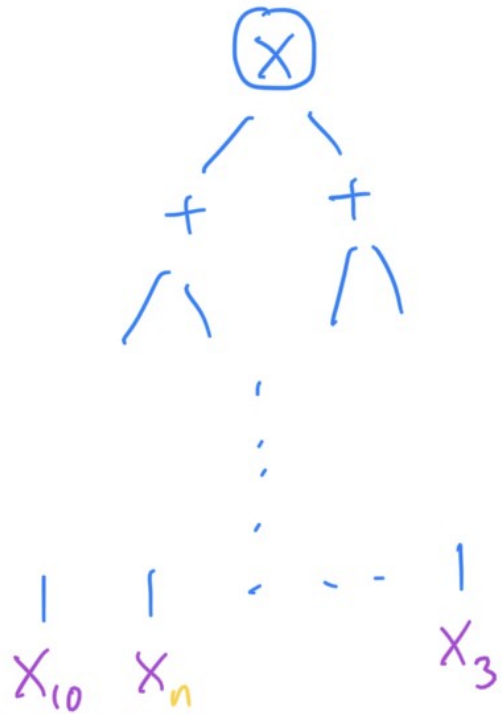
# BEN-DR & CLEVE



$P_g$   
→

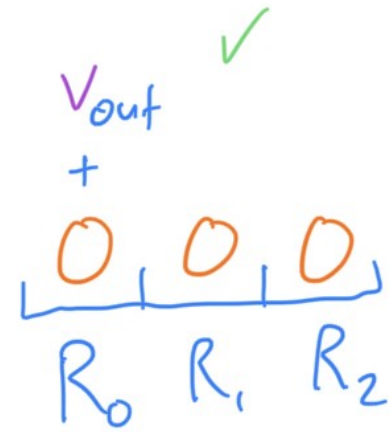


# BEN-DR & CLEVE



$P_{out}$

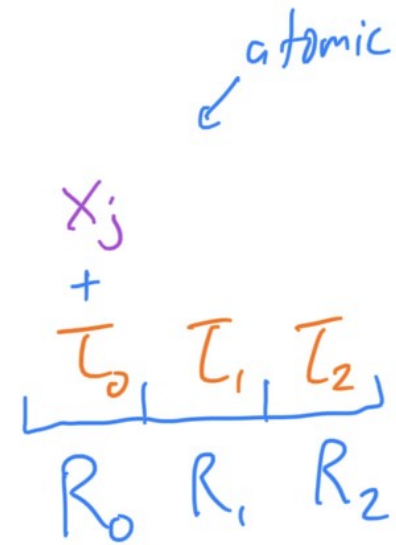
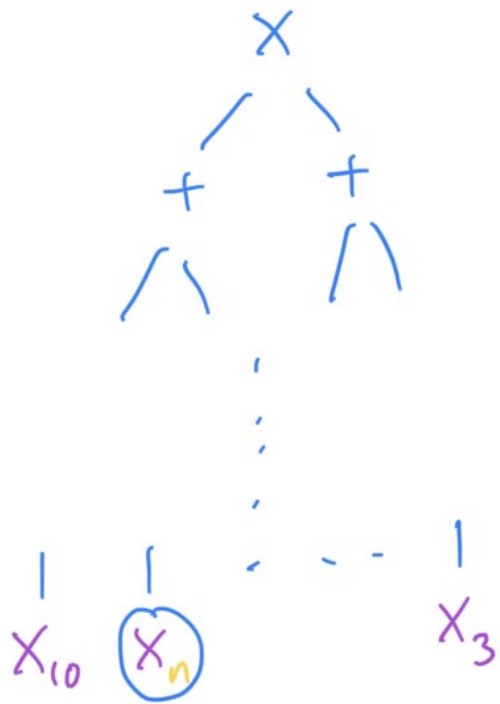
→





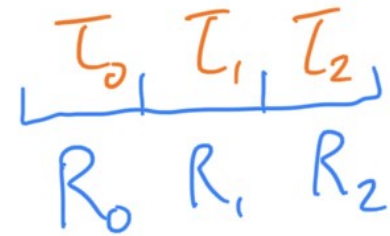
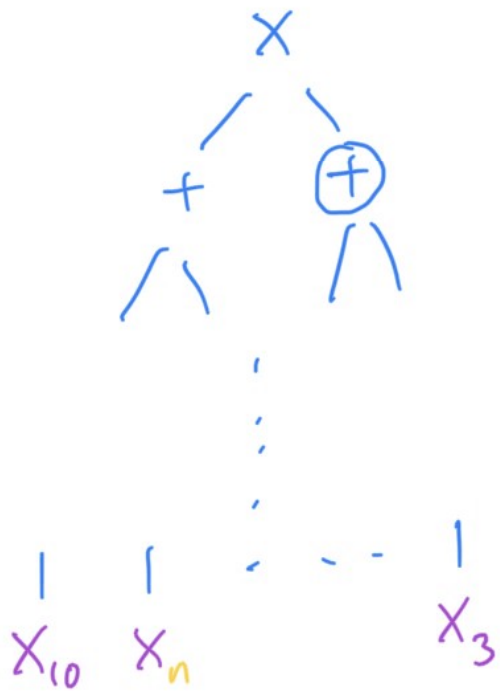
# BEN-DR & CLEVE

base case:  $g = x_j$



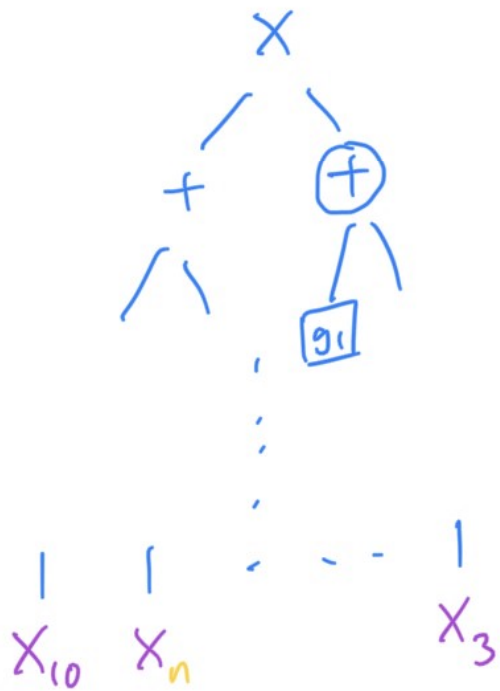
# BEN-DR & CLEVE

case 1:  $g = g_1 + g_2$



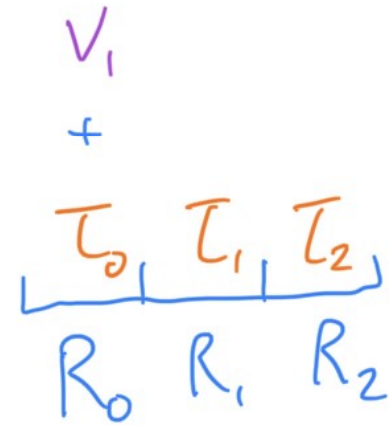
# BEN-OR & CLEVE

case 1:  $g = g_1 + g_2$



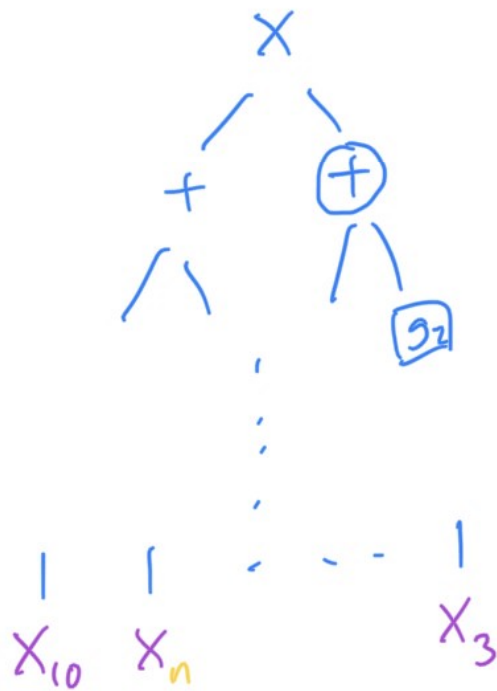
$P_{g_1}$

→

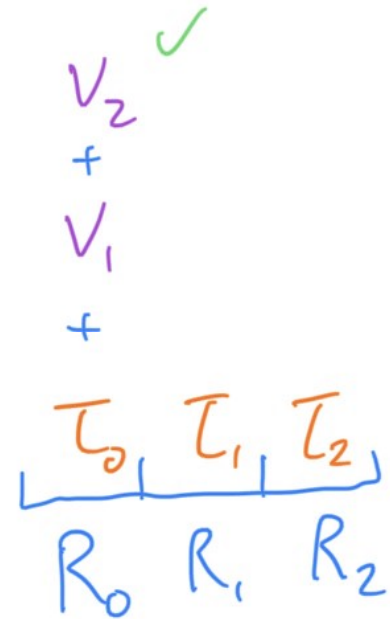


# BEN-DR & CLEVE

case 1:  $g = g_1 + g_2$

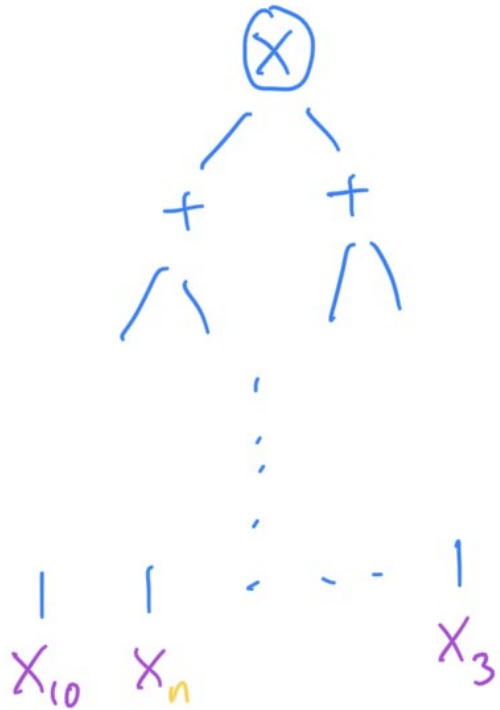


$P_{g_2}$   
→



# BEN-OR & CLEVE

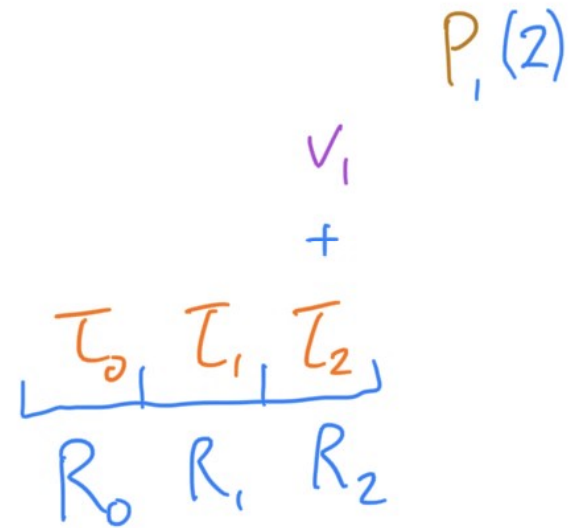
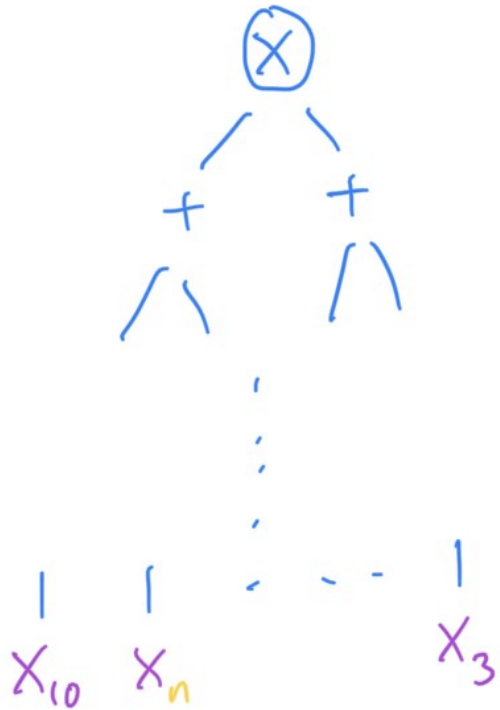
case 2:  $g = g_1 \times g_2$



$T_0$	$T_1$	$T_2$
$R_0$	$R_1$	$R_2$

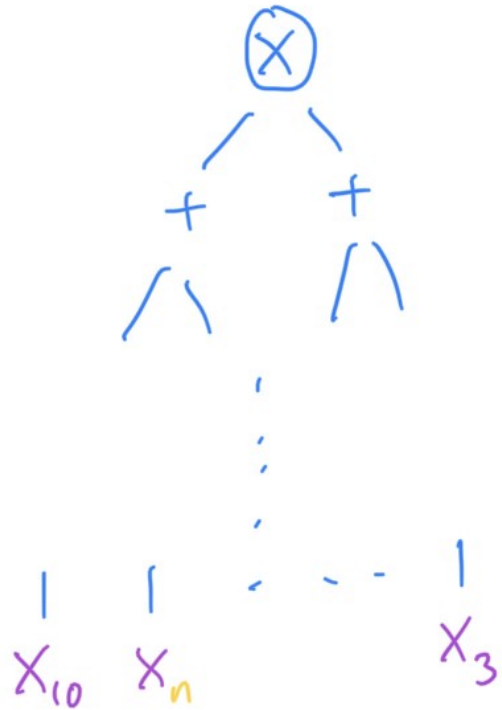
# BEN-OR & CLEVE

case 2:  $g = g_1 \times g_2$



# BEN-OR & CLEVE

case 2:  $g = g_1 \times g_2$



$P_2^{-1}(0)$

$P_1(2)$

$v_2$	$v_1$	
-	+	
$\tau_0$	$\tau_1$	$\tau_2$
$R_0$	$R_1$	$R_2$

BEN-DR & CLEVE

1.  $P_1(1)$

2.  $P_2(2)$

$$R_1 = T_1 + V_1$$

$$R_2 = T_2 + V_2$$



BEN-DR & CLEVE

1.  $P_1(1)$

$$R_1 = T_1 + V_1$$

2.  $P_2(2)$

$$R_2 = T_2 + V_2$$

3.  $R_0 += R_1 R_2$

$$R_0 = T_0 + (T_1 + V_1)(T_2 + V_2)$$

# BEN-DR & CLEVE

1.  $P_1(1)$

$$R_1 = T_1 + V_1$$

2.  $P_2(2)$

$$R_2 = T_2 + V_2$$

3.  $R_0 = R_1 R_2$

$$R_0 = T_0 + T_1 T_2 + V_1 T_2 + T_1 V_2 + V_1 V_2$$

BEN-DR & CLEVE

4.  $P_2^{-1}(2)$

$$R_1 = \tau_1 + \nu_1$$

$$R_2 = \tau_2$$

5.  $R_0 = R_1 R_2$

$$R_0 = \overset{\checkmark}{\tau_0} + \overset{\times}{\tau_1 \tau_2} + \overset{\times}{\nu_1 \tau_2} + \overset{\times}{\tau_1 \nu_2} + \overset{\checkmark}{\nu_1 \nu_2} \\ - \tau_1 \tau_2 - \nu_1 \tau_2$$

BEN-DR & CLEVE

6.  $P_1^{-1}(1)$  7.  $P_2(2)$

$$R_1 = \tau_1$$

$$R_2 = \tau_2 + \nu_2$$

8.  $R_0 = R_1 R_2$

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &= \overset{\checkmark}{\tau_0} + \overset{\times}{\tau_1 \tau_2} + \overset{\times}{\nu_1 \tau_2} + \overset{\times}{\tau_1 \nu_2} + \overset{\checkmark}{\nu_1 \nu_2} \\ &\quad - \tau_1 \tau_2 - \nu_1 \tau_2 \\ &\quad - \tau_1 \tau_2 \quad - \tau_1 \nu_2 \end{aligned}$$

# BEN-DR & CLEVE

9.  $P_2^{-1}(2)$

$$R_1 = T_1$$

10.  $R_0 \stackrel{+}{=} R_1 R_2$

$$R_2 = T_2$$

$$R_0 = \overset{\checkmark}{T_0} + \overset{\times}{T_1 T_2} + \overset{\times}{V_1 T_2} + \overset{\times}{T_1 V_2} + \overset{\checkmark}{V_1 V_2}$$

$$- T_1 T_2 - V_1 T_2$$

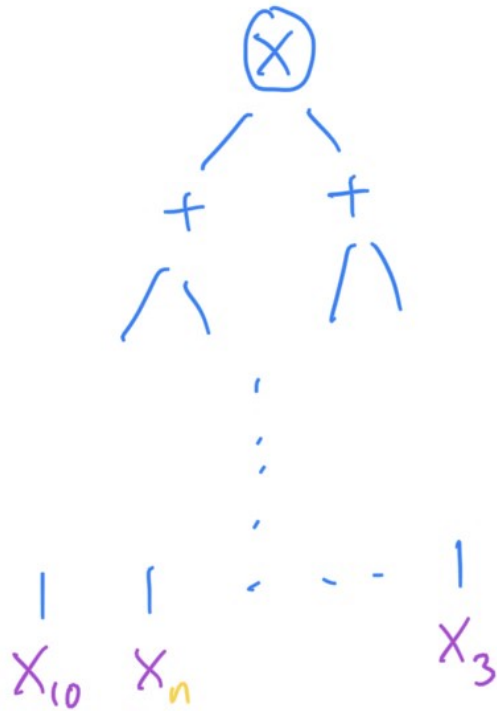
$$- T_1 T_2$$

$$- T_1 V_2$$

$$+ T_1 T_2$$

# BEN-OR & CLEVE

case 2:  $g = g_1 \times g_2$



$$\begin{array}{c} V_1 V_2 \quad \checkmark \\ + \\ \underbrace{T_0 \quad T_1 \quad T_2}_{R_0 \quad R_1 \quad R_2} \end{array}$$

BEN-DR & CLEVE

$$\text{space} = \underbrace{3 \log n}_{R_0 R_1 R_2} + \underbrace{O(\log n)}_{\text{misc}}$$

+ log runtime

BEN-DR & CLEVE

$$\text{space} = \underbrace{3 \log n}_{R_0 R_1 R_2} + \underbrace{O(\log n)}_{\text{misc}}$$

+ log runtime

$P_g \leftarrow 6 \text{ calls to } P_{g'} \text{ s} + 4 \text{ other instructions}$



BEN-DR & CLEVE

$$\text{space} = \underbrace{3 \log n}_{R_0 R_1 R_2} + \underbrace{O(\log n)}_{\text{misc}}$$

+ log runtime

$P_g \leftarrow 6 \text{ calls to } P_{g'} \text{ s} + 4 \text{ other instructions}$

$$R(h) \leq 6 \cdot R(h-1) + 4 \rightarrow 6^{\log n} \text{ poly } n \text{ instructions } \checkmark \quad \square$$

$$\text{SPACE}(f, z) = \text{SPACE}(f) + |z| ?$$

$$\text{SPACE}(f, z) = \text{SPACE}(f) + |z| ?$$

[CMWBS'12]: YES for most  $f$  (conjecture)

[BC'89]: NO for  $f = +, \times$

# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

[BCKLS'14]: let's model it

# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

[BCKLS'14]: let's model it

input



work



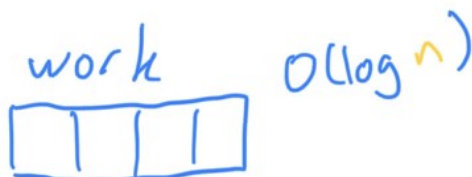
catalytic



must reset  
at the end!

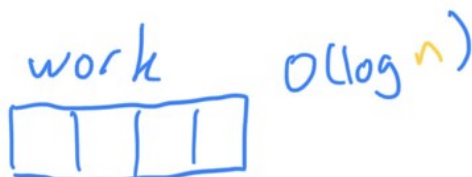
# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

CL



# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

CL

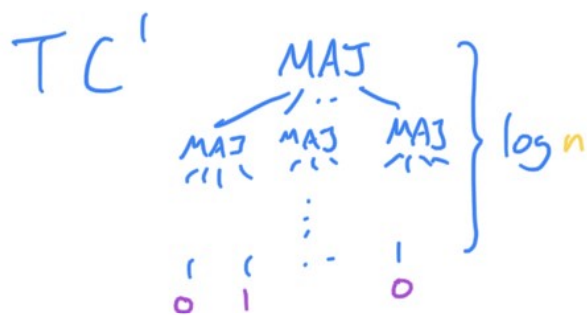


Q: what can CL do that L can't?

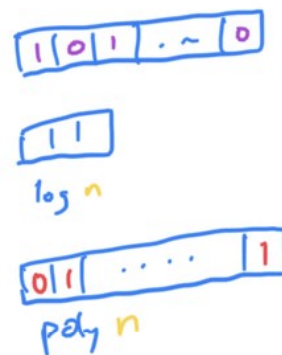




# CATALYTIC COMPUTING



CL



$$\subseteq TC' \supseteq CL$$

$$NC' \subseteq L \subseteq NL \subseteq NC^2 \subseteq P$$

# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

LEMMA:  $\forall g \in \mathcal{C}, \exists P_g$  s.t.

$$P_g : R_0 \leftarrow R_0 + v_g$$

$$R_i \leftarrow R_i \quad \forall i \neq 0$$

gateset:  $MAJ(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sum_{i=1}^m x_i \geq \frac{m}{2} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

$$\text{MAJ}(x) \equiv \sum_{k=\frac{m}{2}}^m \left[ 1 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^m x_i - k \right)^{p-1} \right] \text{mod } p$$

# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

$$\text{MAJ}(x) \equiv \sum_{k=\lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil}^m \left[ 1 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^m x_i - k \right)^{p-1} \right] \pmod{p}$$

The diagram includes two annotations with blue arrows and brackets:

- A bracket under the summation index  $k$  points to a brown  $P$  with a blue  $\Sigma$  below it.
- A bracket under the term  $(\sum_{i=1}^m x_i - k)^{p-1}$  points to a brown  $P$  with a blue  $\wedge p-1$  below it.

# CATALYTIC COMPUTING

$$\text{MAJ}(x) \equiv \sum_{k=\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^m \left[ 1 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^m x_i - k \right)^{p-1} \right] \pmod{p}$$

$\downarrow$   $\downarrow$

$P_{\Sigma}$   $P_{\wedge p-1}$

Efficiency: poly  $n$  registers

$O(1)$  recursive calls

□

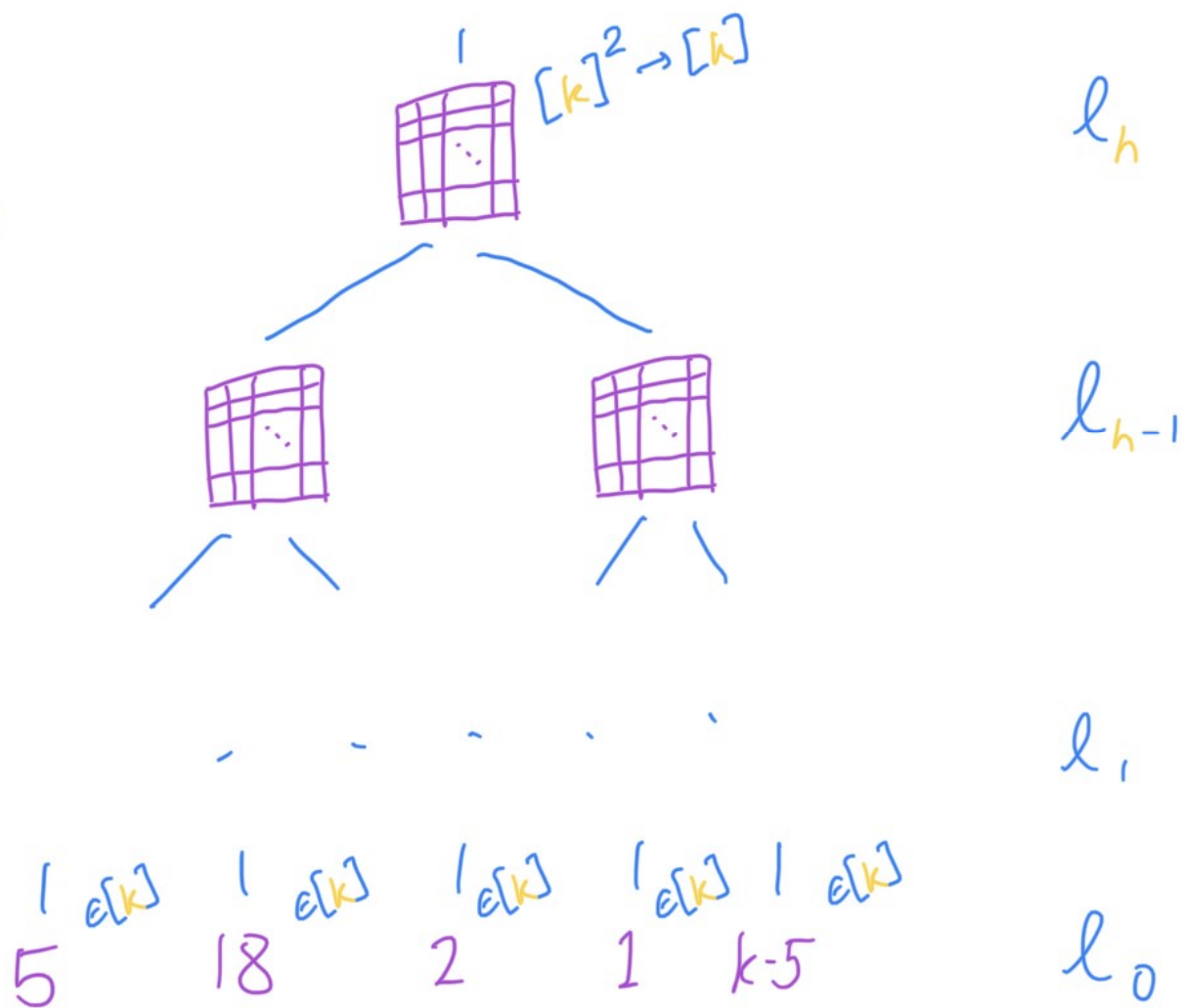
$$\text{SPACE}(f, z) = \text{SPACE}(f) + |z| ?$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

THEOREM [CM'20, 21]:  $TEP_{k,h}$  can be  
solved in space  $O(h \log k / \log h)$   
( $= O(\log^2 n / \log \log n)$ )

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

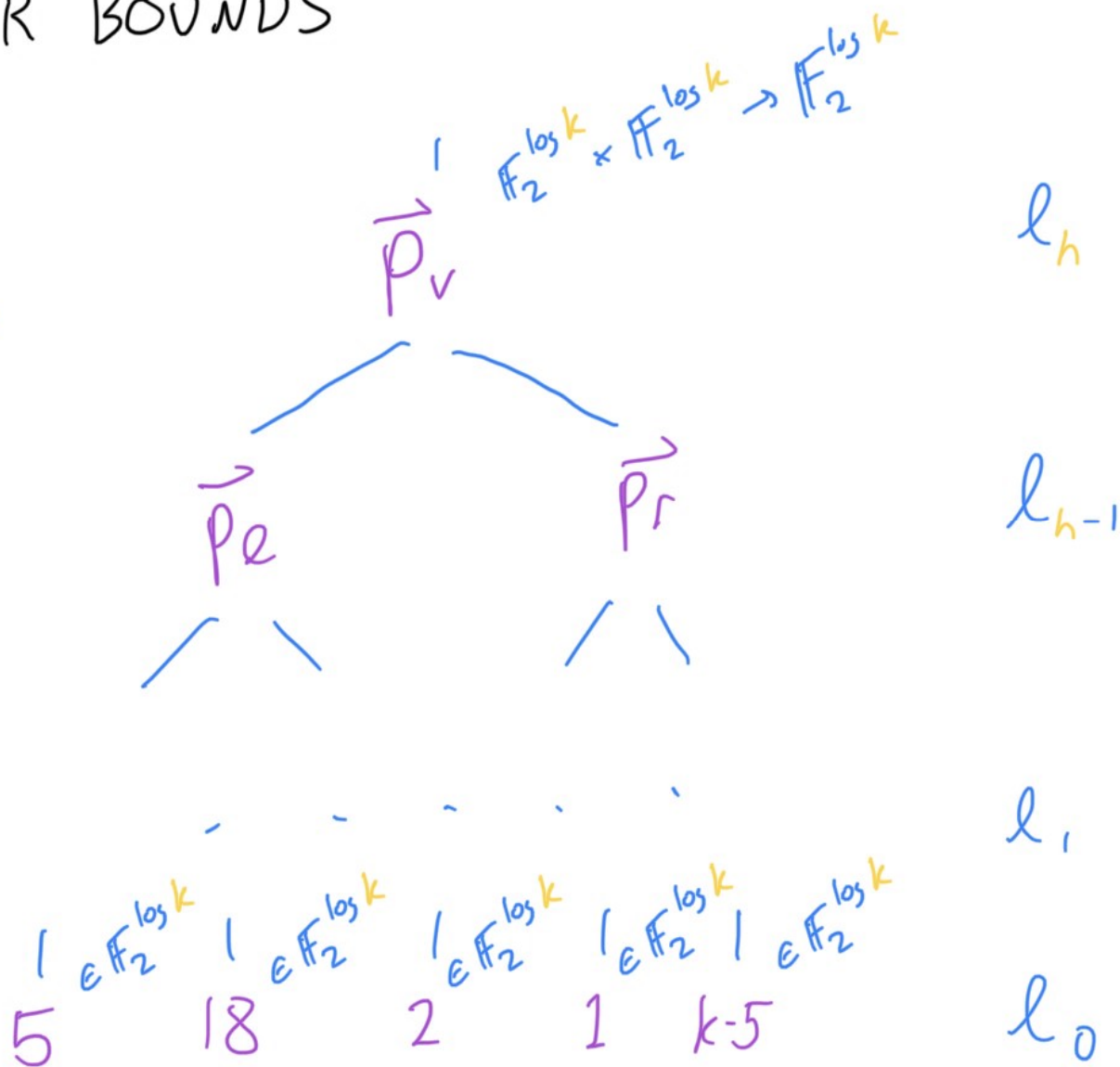
TEP<sub>k,h</sub>





# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

TEP<sub>k,h</sub>



# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

LEMMA:  $\forall g \in \mathcal{C}, \exists P_g$  s.t.

$$P_g : R_0 \leftarrow R_0 + v_g$$

$$R_i \leftarrow R_i \quad \forall i \neq 0$$

gateset:  $\vec{P}(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) : \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \times \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k}$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

$$\vec{P}(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) : \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \times \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k}$$

Efficiency:  $3 \log k$  registers over  $\mathbb{F}_2$

$$\rightarrow \text{space} = 3 \log k$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

$$\vec{P}(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) : \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \times \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k}$$

Efficiency:  $3 \log k$  registers over  $\mathbb{F}_2$

$k^2$  recursive calls

$$\rightarrow \text{space} = 3 \log k + \log (k^2)^h = h \log k \quad \square$$

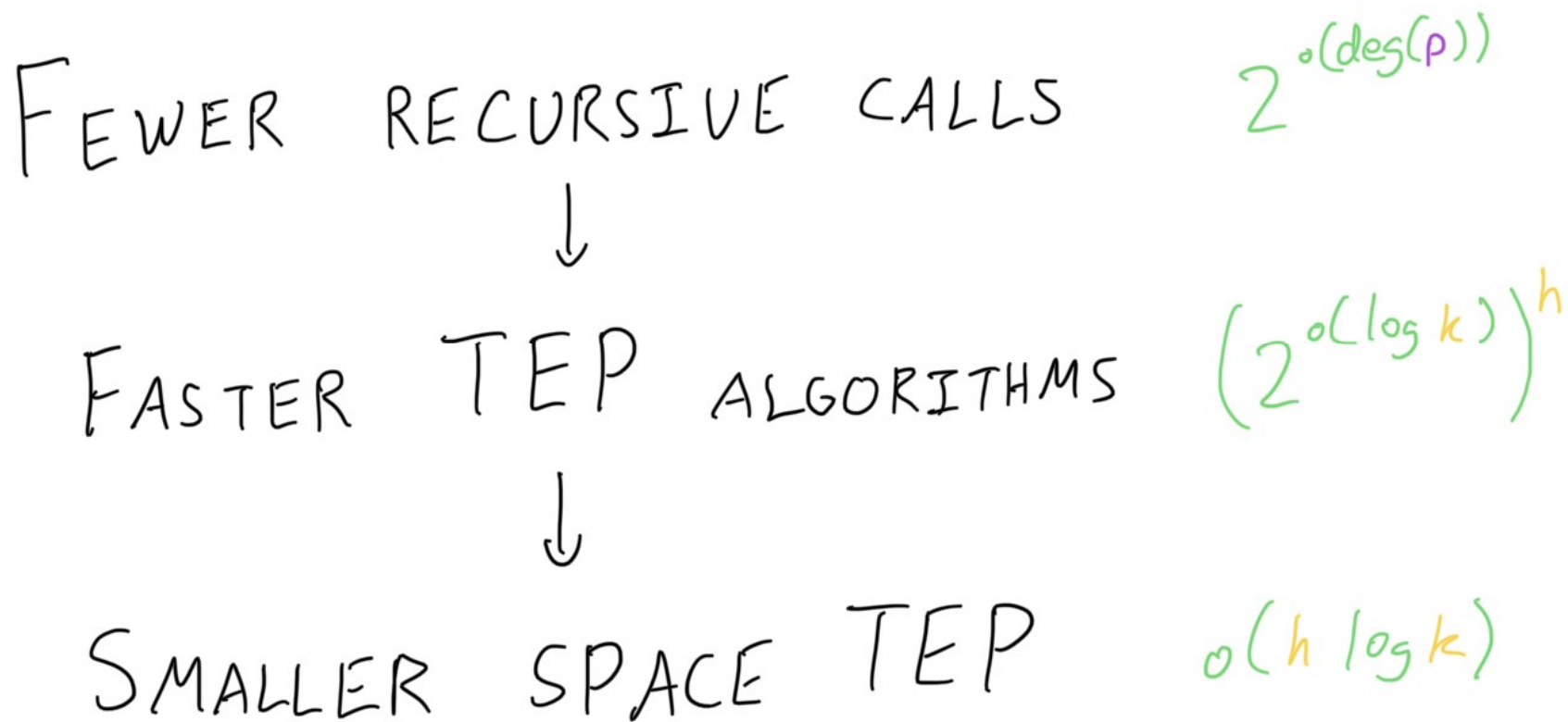
# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

$$\vec{P}(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) : \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \times \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^{\log k}$$

Efficiency:  $3 \log k$  registers over  $\mathbb{F}_2$

$2^{\deg(p)}$  recursive calls

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS



# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

THEOREM [CM'23]:  $TEP_{k,h}$  can be  
solved in space  $O(h + \log k) \cdot \log \log k$   
( $= O(\log n \cdot \log \log n)$ )

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

$\vec{p}_v(\vec{\ell}, \vec{r}) : O(\deg(p))$  recursive calls

$$\text{space} = \log \left[ \underset{\text{runtime}}{O(\log k)^h} \right]$$



# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

$\vec{p}_v(\vec{\ell}, \vec{r})$ :  $O(\deg(p))$  recursive calls

$3 \log k$  registers over  $\mathbb{F}_{O(\deg(p))}$

$$\text{space} = \underbrace{\log [O(\log k)^h]}_{\text{runtime}} + \underbrace{(3 \log k)}_{\# \text{ reg.}} \cdot \underbrace{\log [O(\log k)]}_{\text{size per reg.}}$$

$$= O(h + \log k) \cdot \log \log k$$

TEP UPPER BOUNDS

PROOF

K

TEP UPPER BOUNDS

PROOF

$K$

$\omega_m$        $m^{-1}$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

PROOF

$\omega_m$

$$1) \quad \omega_m^m = 1$$

$$2) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m \omega_m^j = 0$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

PROOF

$\omega_m$

$$1) \quad \omega_m^m = 1$$

$$2) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m \omega_m^{jb} = 0 \quad m \nmid b$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

PROOF

$\omega_m$

$$1) \quad \omega_m^m = 1$$

$$2) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m \omega_m^{jb} = \begin{cases} m & b=0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq b < m$$

TEP UPPER BOUNDS

PROOF

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \prod_{i=1}^d (\omega_m^j \tau_i + \nu_i)$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

## PROOF

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \prod_{i=1}^d (\omega_m^j \tau_i + \nu_i)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{b=0}^d \sum_{|S|=b} \left( \prod_{i \in S} \omega_m^j \tau_i \right) \left( \prod_{i \notin S} \nu_i \right)$$



# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

## PROOF

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{b=0}^d \sum_{|S|=b} \left( \prod_{i \in S} \omega_m^j \tau_i \right) \left( \prod_{i \notin S} \nu_i \right)$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

## PROOF

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{b=0}^d \sum_{|S|=b} \left( \prod_{i \in S} \omega_m^j \tau_i \right) \left( \prod_{i \notin S} \nu_i \right)$$

$$\sum_{b=0}^d \left( \sum_{j=1}^m \omega_m^{jb} \right) \left[ \sum_{|S|=b} \left( \prod_{i \in S} \tau_i \right) \left( \prod_{i \notin S} \nu_i \right) \right]$$

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$$\sum_{j=1}^m \omega_m^{jb} = \begin{cases} m & b=0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq b < m$$

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$$\sum_{j=1}^m \prod_{i=1}^d (\omega_m^j \tau_i + \nu_i) = m \cdot \prod_{i=1}^d \nu_i$$

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## PROOF

$$\sum_{j=1}^m m^{-1} \prod_{i=1}^d (\omega_m^j \tau_i + v_i) = \prod_{i=1}^d v_i$$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

## PROOF

$$\sum_{j=1}^m m^{-1} \prod_{i=1}^d (\omega_m^j \tau_i + v_i) = \prod_{i=1}^d v_i$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^m m^{-1} p(\overline{\omega_m^j \tau_i + v_i}) = p(\vec{v}_i)$$

same logic for each monomial in  $p$

TEP UPPER BOUNDS

Program for  $P(x_1, \dots, x_n)$



# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

Program for  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

Choose  $K = \mathbb{F}_{2^r}$  for  $r > \log \deg(p) + 1$

$$m = 2^r - 1$$

$$m^{-1} = m \equiv -1$$

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registers  $R_i \in K$

# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

Program for  $P(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

for  $j = 1 \dots m$ :

$$R_i \leftarrow \omega_m^j R_i \quad \forall i$$

$$P_x \quad (R_i \neq x_i \quad \forall i)$$

$$R_i = \omega_m^j T_i + V_i$$

TEP UPPER BOUNDS

Program for  $P(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

for  $j = 1 \dots m$ :

$$P_x^{-1} \quad (R_i \leftarrow x_i \quad \forall i)$$

$$R_i \leftarrow \omega_m^{-j} R_i \quad \forall i$$

$$R_i = \omega_m^j T_i$$

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Program for  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

for  $j = 1 \dots m$ :

$$R_i \leftarrow \omega_m^j R_i \quad \forall i \quad P_x^{-1} (R_i \leftarrow x_i \quad \forall i)$$

$$P_x (R_i \leftarrow x_i \quad \forall i) \quad R_i \leftarrow \omega_m^{-j} R_i \quad \forall i$$

$$R^{\text{out}} \leftarrow R^{\text{out}} + m^{-1} p(R_1, \dots, R_n)$$

TEP UPPER BOUNDS

$$\vec{P}_v : \{0, 1\}^{\log k} \times \{0, 1\}^{\log k} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\log k}$$

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$$|K| \approx 2 \log k$$

$$S_{\text{SPACE}} : 3 \log k \cdot \log |K|$$

$$T_{\text{TIME}} : (2|K|)^h$$



# TEP UPPER BOUNDS

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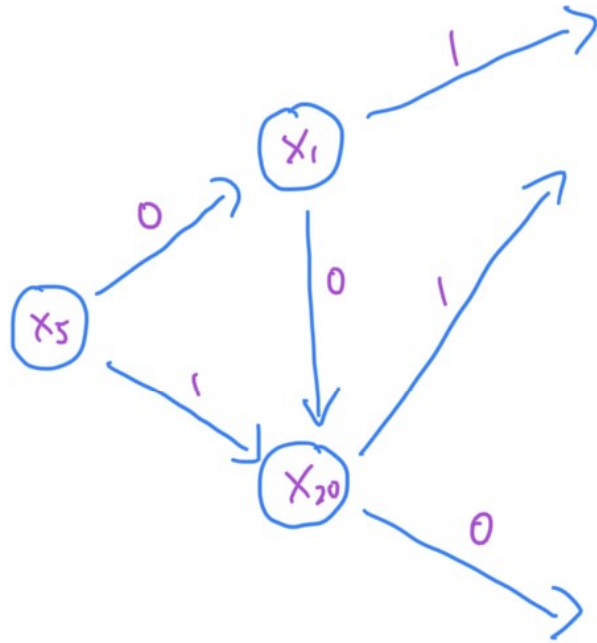
$$|K| \approx 2 \log k$$

$$SPACE: 3 \log k \cdot \log |K|$$

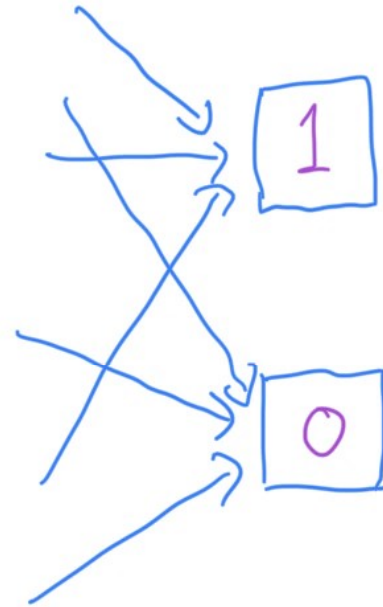
$$TIME: (2|K|)^h$$

$$TOTAL: O(h + \log k) \cdot \log \log k \quad \square$$

# AMORTIZED BPs

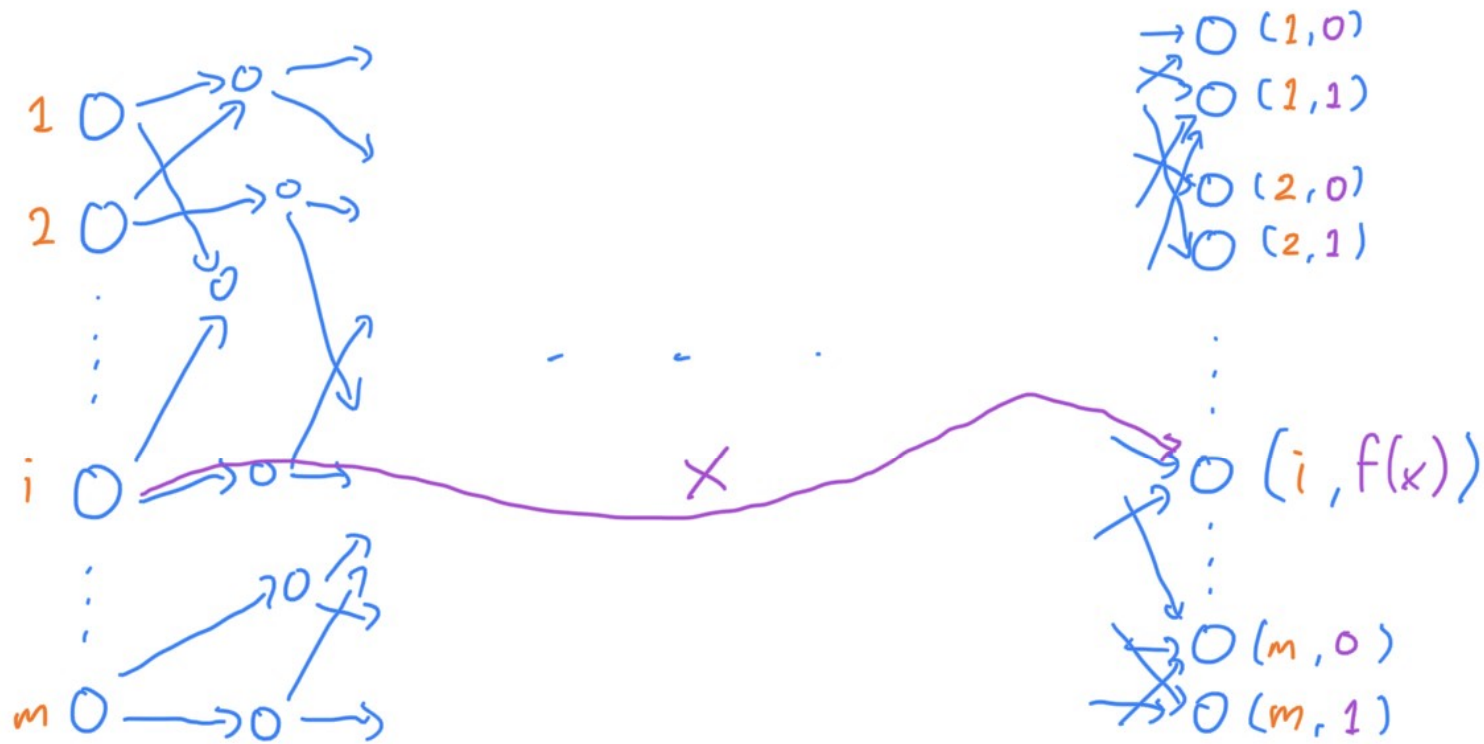


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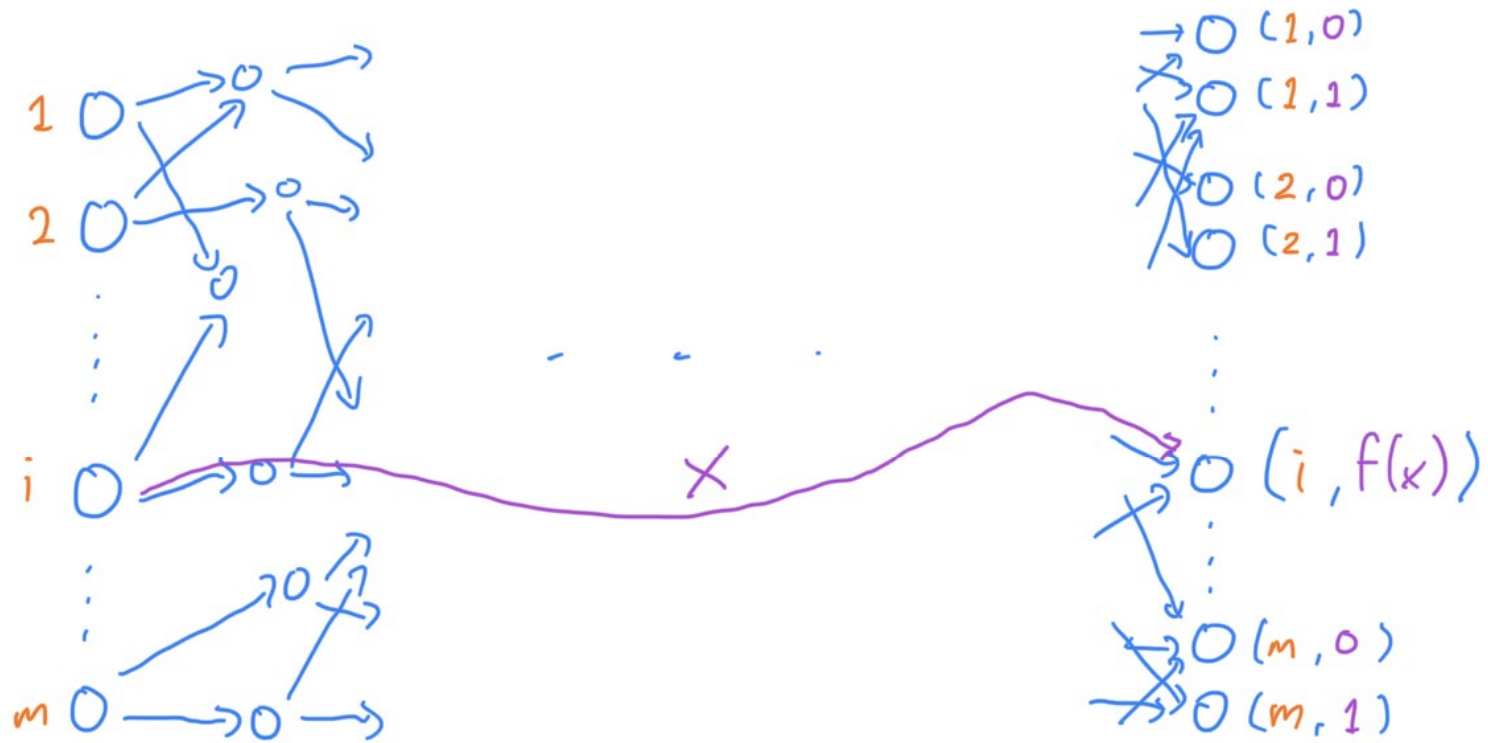
size  $s$   $\equiv$  non-uniform space  $\log s$

# AMORTIZED BPs



size  $mS$   $\equiv$  non-uniform space  $\log m$   
 catalytic  $\log S$

# AMORTIZED BPs



size  $m$   $s$   $\equiv$  amortized  $m$  size  $s$

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THEOREM [P'17] :  $s = O(n)$        $m = 2^{2^n}$

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# AMORTIZED BPs

THEOREM [P'17] :  $s = O(n)$

$$m = 2^{2^n}$$

THEOREM [CM'22] :  $s = O_\epsilon(n)$

$$m = 2^{2^{\epsilon n}}$$

THEOREM [CM'23] :  $s = n^{2+\epsilon}$

$$m = 2^{O_\epsilon(n)}$$

# KRW AND SPACE

CONJECTURE [KRW'95]:  $TEP_{d,h} \notin NC^1$



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THEOREM [CM'23]:  $KRW \rightarrow NC^1 \neq L$

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2. KRW  $\rightarrow$  quasipoly (uniform) separation between formulas and branching programs
3. formally easier to show  $STCONN \neq NC'$  than  $TEP \neq NC'$

WHAT Now?

- TEP still not in L yet!

WHAT Now?

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- what is TEP complete for?

WHAT Now?

- TEP still not in L yet!
- what is TEP complete for?
- other things to do with catalytic?

SHAMELESS PLUG

SURVEY [M'23]: B. EATCS  
ECCC



T H A N K S !