

• ckt's
- depth

• fl's - size, depth

• polynomial
- degree
- size of coeffs

$$F: \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

$$\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

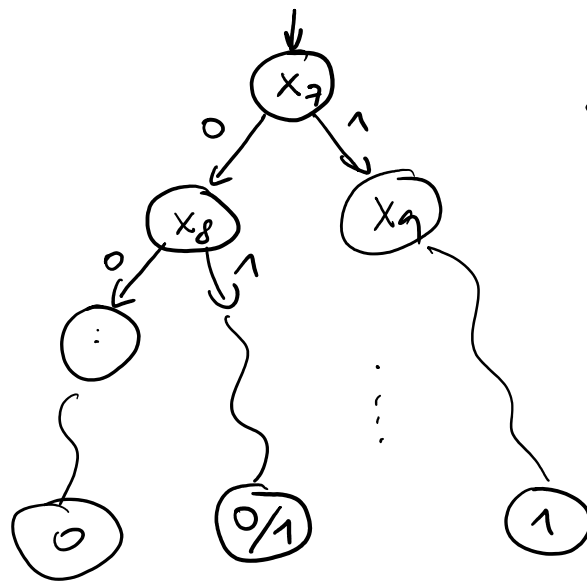
GFL

• decision trees, branching points

$$f: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

input variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n

depth



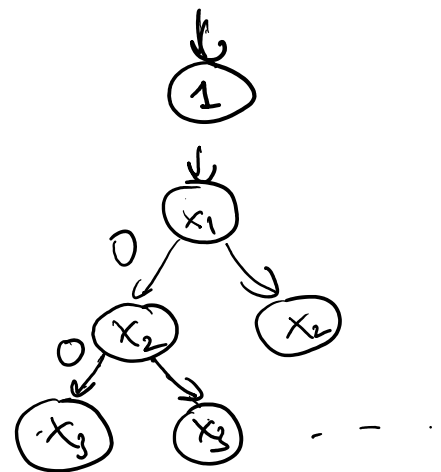
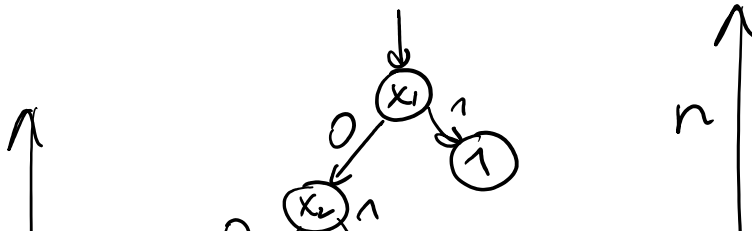
• decision tree

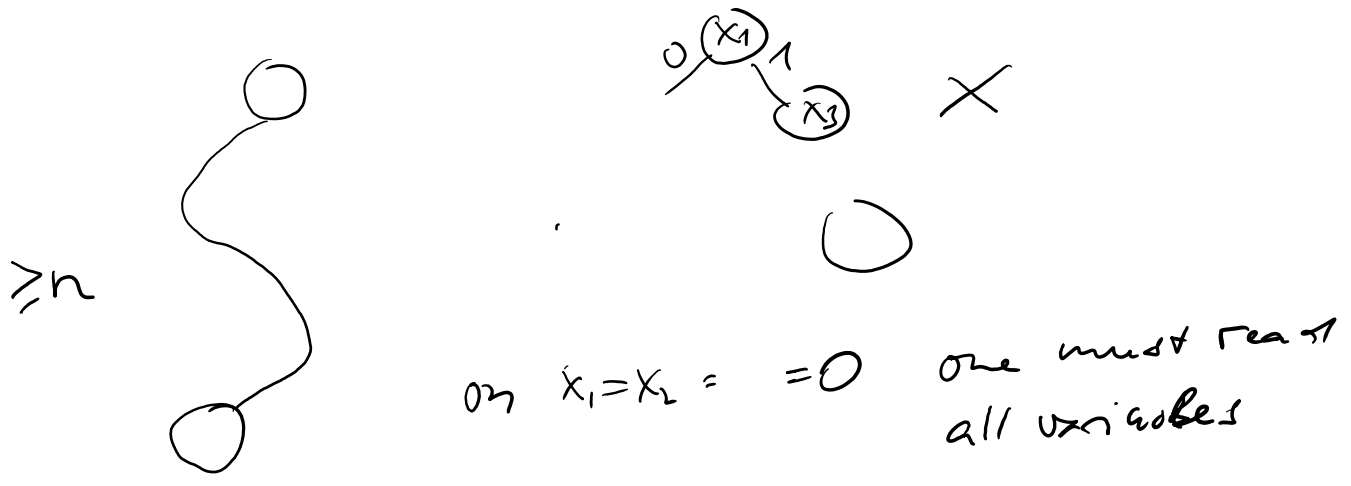
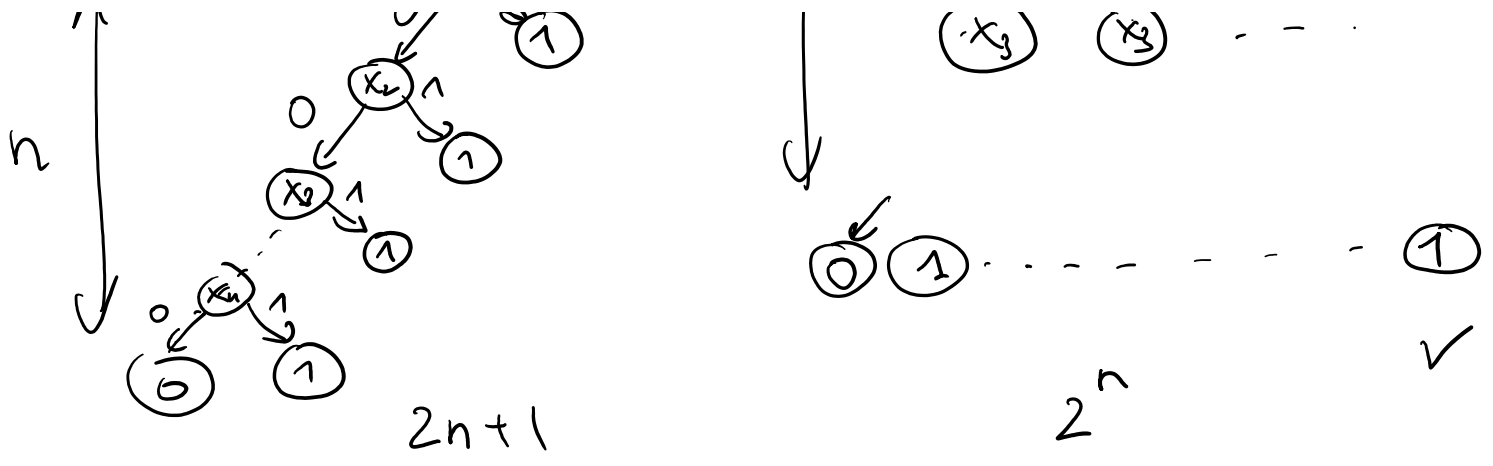
- each node is labeled by a variable
- follow the path from root consistent with the variable assignment
- leaves give output value.

size

Ex: 1) $f(x) = 1 \quad \forall x \in \{0, 1\}^n$

2) $f(x) = OR(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

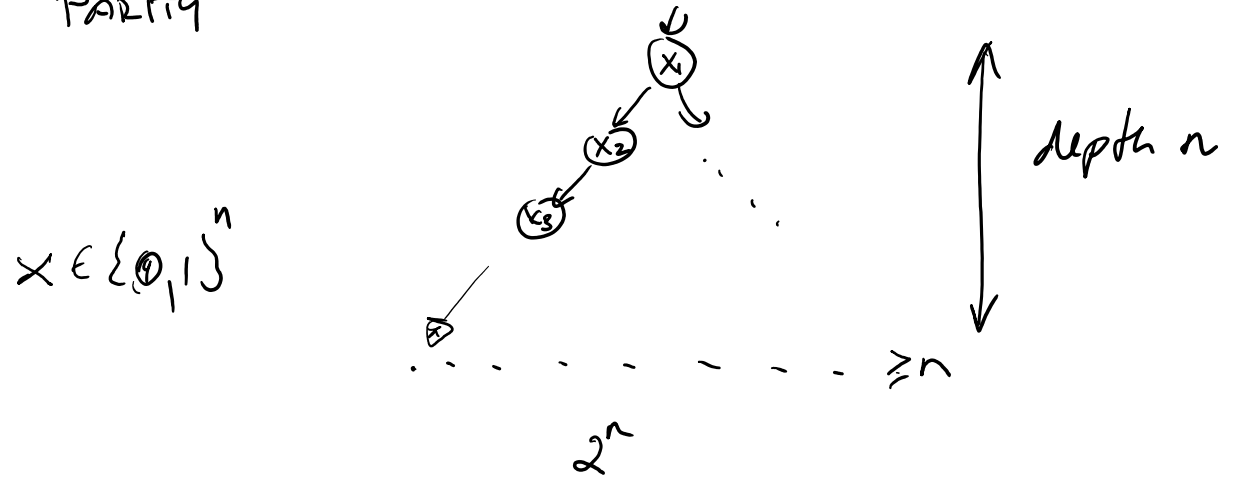




or $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = 0$ one must read all variables

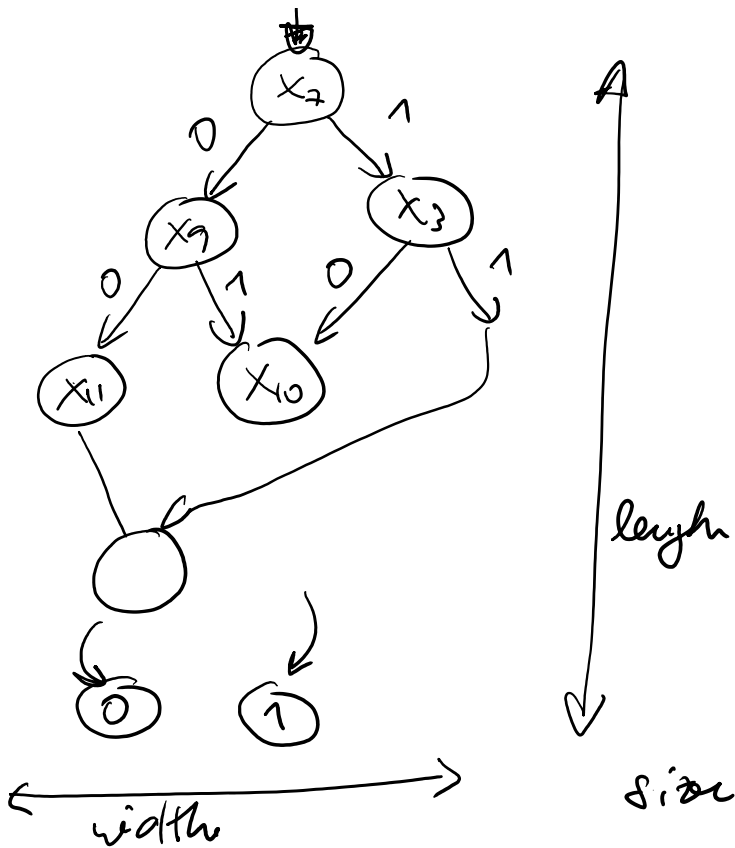
• degree \approx depth of the decision tree

Ex: $XOR(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum x_i \pmod 2$
 PARITY



A

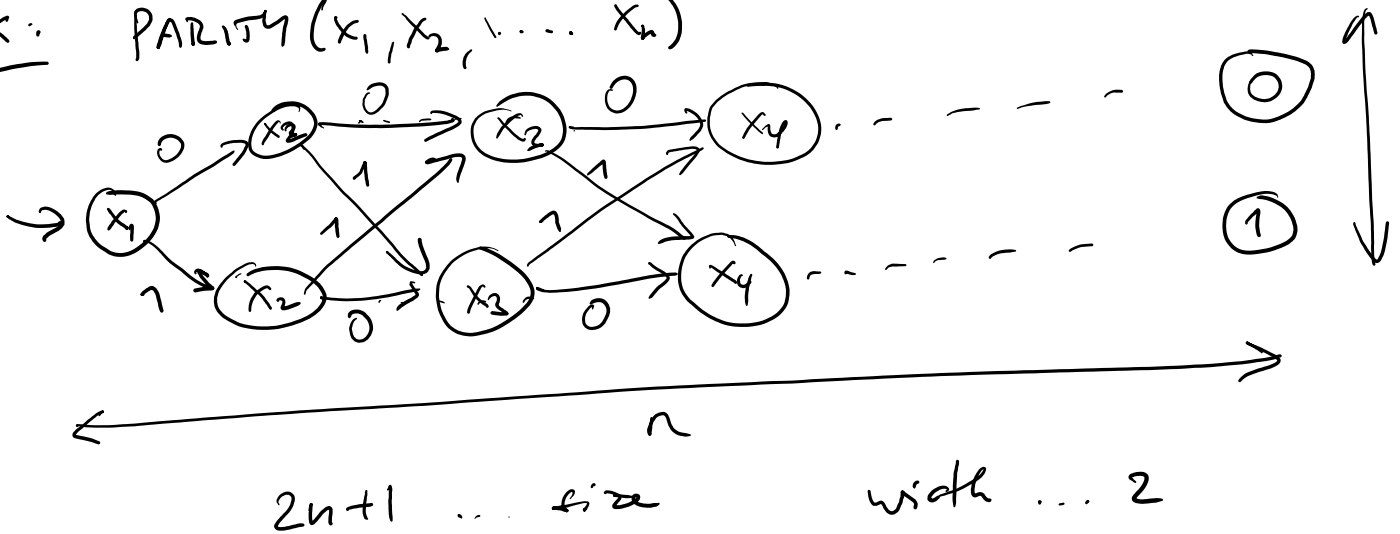
branching programs



branding programs

- directed acyclic graph
- each node is labelled by a variable
- follow a path from root until a sink is reached labelled by the output value

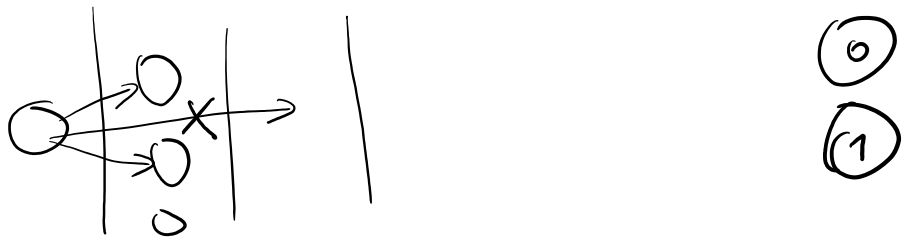
EX: PARITY (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)



width

layer to b.p.

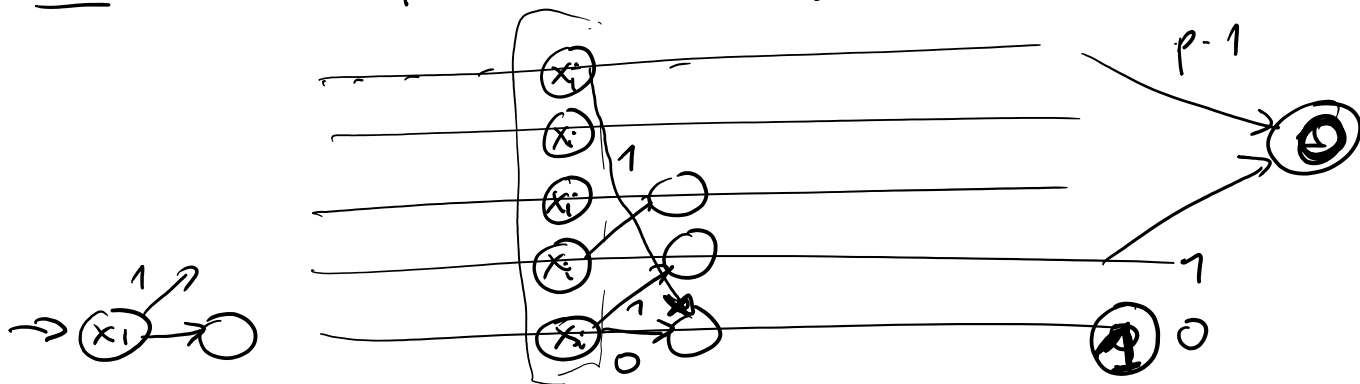
width = size of the largest layer



1 1 1 1

largest layer

Ex: $\text{MOD-}p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = [p \mid \sum x_i]$



width p

size $\approx pn$

length $\approx n$

smaller width?

• width \approx memory size

length \approx time

width $2^S \approx$ space S

• bp of size S you can evaluate it in space $O(\log^2 S)$
 $S = n^{O(1)} \quad O(\log n)$

• f is computable by a polynomial size k branching program
 then it is computable in $L/poly$.
 \hookrightarrow log-space \rightarrow poly-size advice

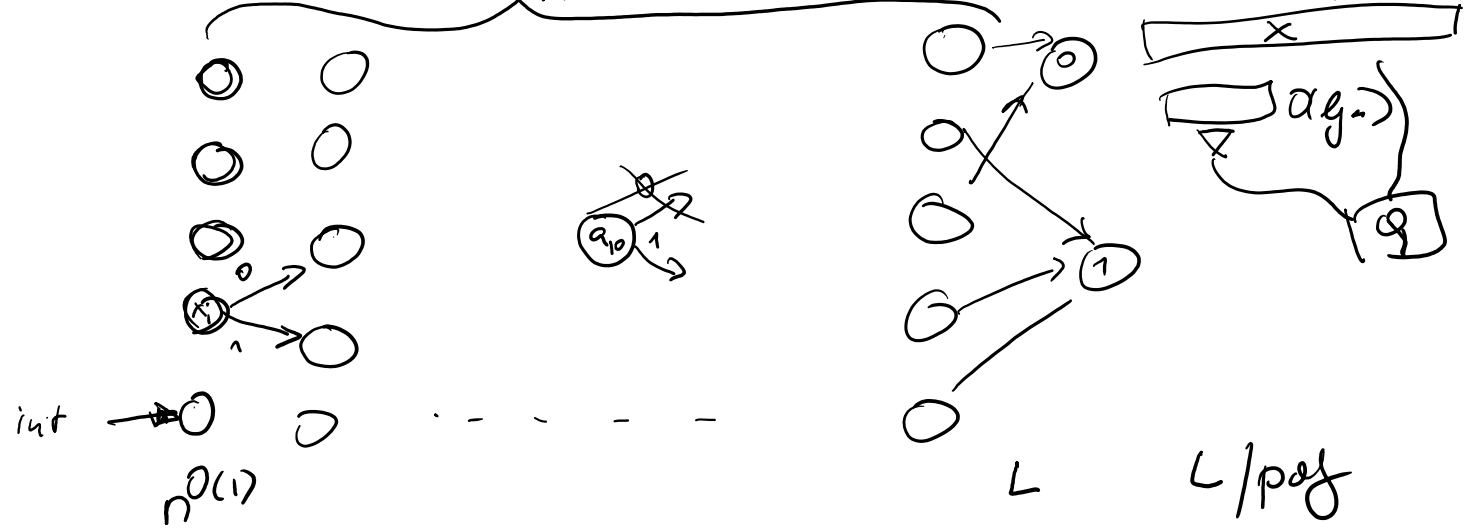
• poly-size cbf's = $P/poly$

• poly-size b.p.'s = $L/poly$

("non-uniform log-space")

• $f \in L/poly \Rightarrow F$ poly-size b.p.'s

- $f \in L/poly \Rightarrow f$ poly-size b.p.'s
- f poly-size b.p.'s \xrightarrow{non} $f \in L/poly$.



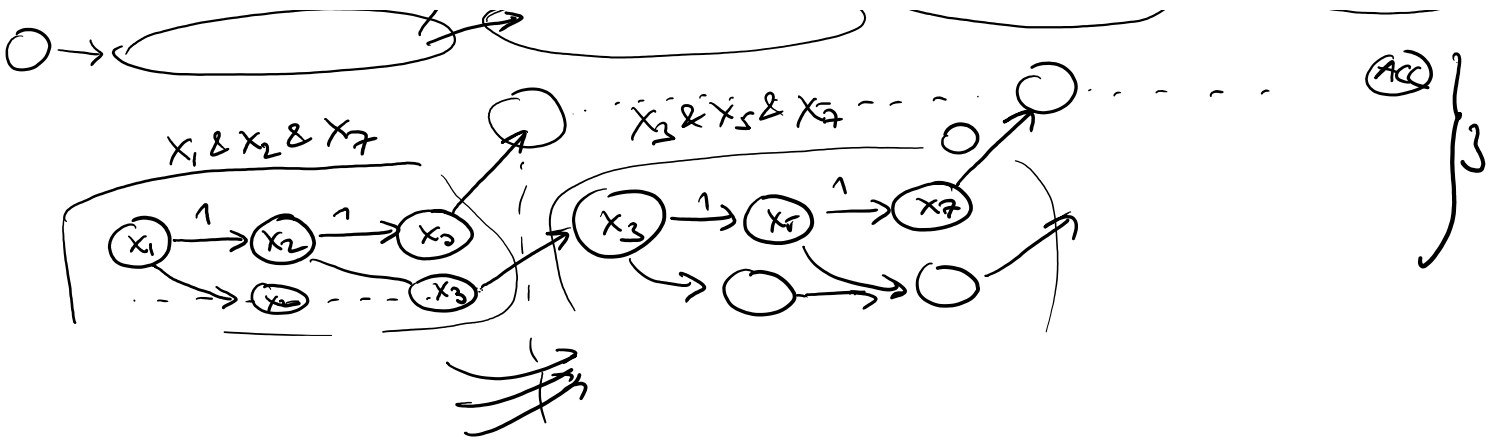
- $NEXP \subseteq poly\text{-size b.p.'s}$?
 - $NP \subseteq poly\text{-size b.p.'s}$?
 - $NP = L$?
 - $P = L$?
 - $P \subseteq poly\text{-size b.p.'s}$?
- Conjecture: No
 \Downarrow
 $NP \neq L$

PARITY (x_1, \dots, x_n) ... width of the of b.p. ?

DNF \rightarrow branching prog of width 3.

$$(x_1 \& x_2 \& x_7) \vee (x_3 \& x_5 \& x_6) \vee \dots$$





→ CHEAT ... exponentially long b.p.

Q: B.p. for MOD-p of width $< p$ & polynomial size?

Barrington¹⁸⁷: MOD-p can be computed by width 5 b.p. of poly-size.

NC'

by width 5 b.p. of poly-size.

• Ben-Or & Cleve¹⁸⁸ generalization of ↑.

→ permutation b.p. of width 5

