

Deterministic **Lifting Theorems** for One-Way **Number-on-Forehead** Communication

Guangxu Yang

Jiapeng Zhang



USC University of
Southern California

One-Way Number-on-Forehead Communication



Alice
 $y, z \in [N] \times [N]$

$$F: [N]^3 \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

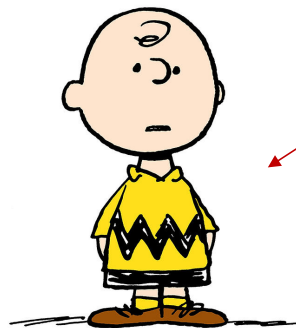
$$\pi_A(y, z)$$



Bob
 $x, z \in [N] \times [N]$

$$\pi_A(y, z)$$

$$\pi_B(x, z)$$



Charlie
 $x, y \in [N] \times [N]$

$$F(x, y, z)$$

Applications:

Circuit complexity [HG90, PRS97, Cha07, VW07],
Cryptography [CKGS98, BDFP17],
Streaming algorithms [KMPV19, VW07].

One-Way Number-on-Forehead Communication

One-way Number-on-Forehead Communication Complexity

Alice holds $y, z \in [N]$, Bob holds $x, z \in [N]$, Charlie holds $x, y \in [N]$, they collaborate to compute a function $F: [N]^3 \rightarrow \{0,1\}$. A three-party protocol Π proceeds as follows:

- Alice sends message $\Pi_A(y, z)$ to Bob and Charlie.
- Bob sends messages $\Pi_B(x, z, \Pi_A(y, z))$ to Charlie.
- Charlie outputs $F(x, y, z)$ depends on $(\Pi_A(y, z), \Pi_B(x, z, \Pi_A(y, z)), x, y)$.

The deterministic one-way NOF communication complexity is the maximum total length $|\Pi_A| + |\Pi_B|$ over all inputs, denoted by $OCC(F)$.

An important open problem [BDPW10] : Optimal explicit separation between the randomized and deterministic one-way NOF communication

$F: [N]^3 \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ The deterministic one-way NOF communication complexity of F is $\Omega(\log N)$, but the randomized one-way NOF communication complexity of F is $O(1)$.

Previous results: $\Omega(\log \log N)$ vs $O(1)$ [BGG06] and $\Omega(\log^{1/3} N)$ vs $O(1)$ [KLM24]

Deterministic Lifting Theorems for One-Way Number-on-Forehead Communication

Proving analogs of query to communication lifting theorems for even 3 parties in the number-on-forehead (NOF) communication model would be a huge breakthrough.

One-Way Communication

One-way Communication Complexity

Alice holds $z \in [N]$ and Bob holds $w \in [N]$. Alice sends a single message $\pi(z)$ to Bob, and Bob outputs $f(z, w)$ based on w and the received message.

The deterministic communication complexity is the maximum length of the message $|\pi(z)|$ over all possible inputs, denoted by $DCC(f)$.



Alice
 $z \in [N]$

$\pi(z)$



Bob
 $w \in [N]$

$f(z, w)$

One-Way Communication

6

Theorem 1

For any $z_0, z_1 \in Z$, There is a $v \in [N]$ such that $f(z_0, v) \neq f(z_1, v)$.

$M(f)$ is a matrix where each entry at position (z, w) is $f(z, w)$

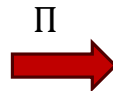
For any $f: [N] \times [N] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, we use $M(f)$ to denote the communication matrix corresponding to f and Z denote the set of distinct rows of $M(f)$.

The deterministic one-way communication complexity of f is $\log |Z|$.

The communication matrix of f

$[N]$

1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1



π_1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
π_2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
π_3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

One-Way Communication

Theorem 1

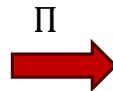
For any $f: [N] \times [N] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, we use $M(f)$ to denote the communication matrix corresponding to f and Z denote the set of distinct rows of $M(f)$.

The deterministic one-way communication complexity of f is $\log |Z|$.

The communication matrix of f

$[N]$

1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1



y

π_1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
π_2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
π_3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

One-Way Communication

Theorem 2

The deterministic one-way communication complexity of Equality function (EQ) is $\log N$

[N]

	1						
		1					
			1				
				1			
					1		
						1	
							1

[N]

An optimal separation between the randomized and deterministic:

The deterministic one-way communication complexity of EQ is $\Omega(\log N)$, but the randomized one-way communication complexity of EQ is $O(1)$.

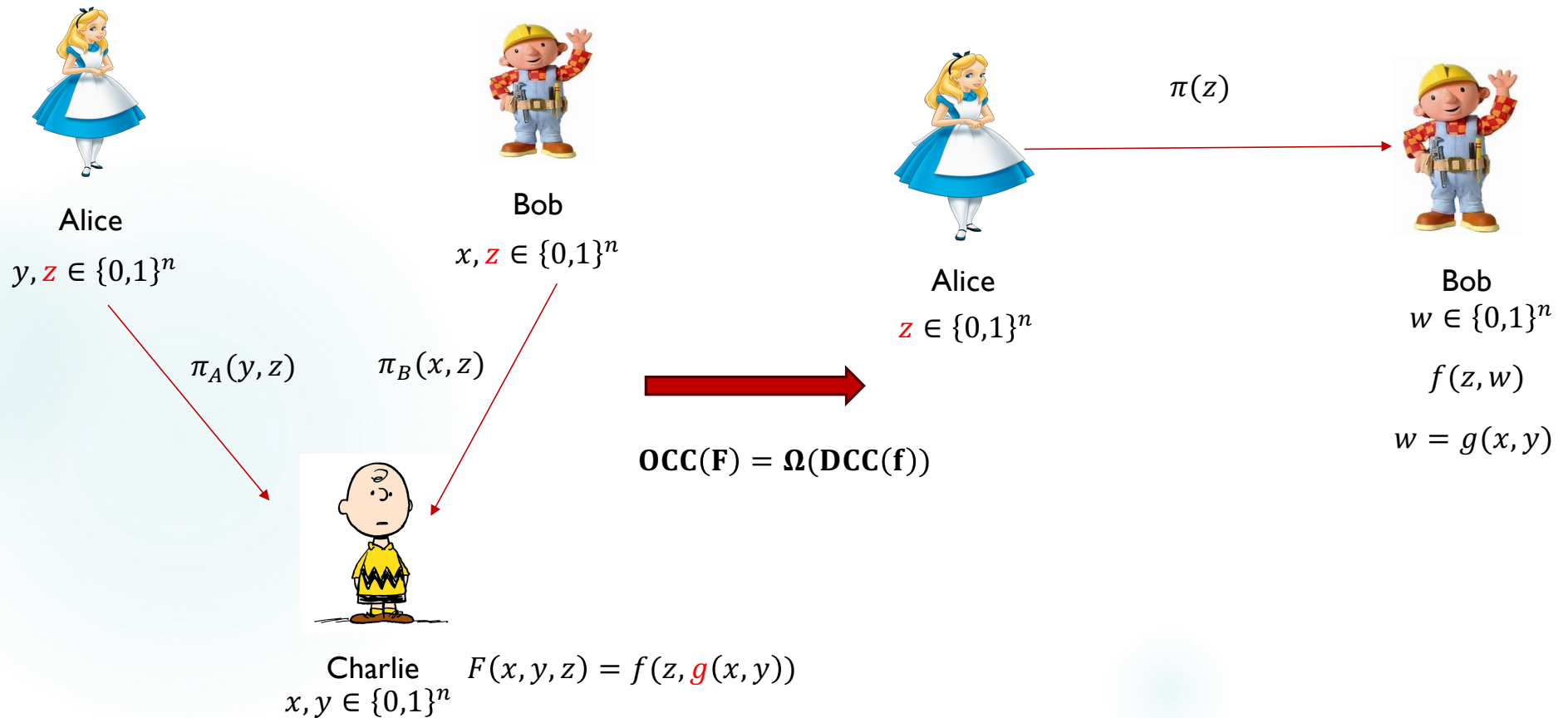
By hashing

Can we prove the optimal separation between the randomized and deterministic one-way NOF communication via EQ ?

$$EQ(z, w) = 1 \text{ if and only if } z = w$$

Deterministic Lifting Theorem

9



Two-source extractor

10



Alice

$y, z \in \{0,1\}^n$

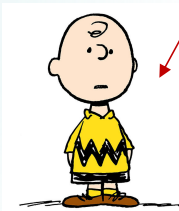


Bob

$x, z \in \{0,1\}^n$

$\pi_A(y, z)$

$\pi_B(x, z)$

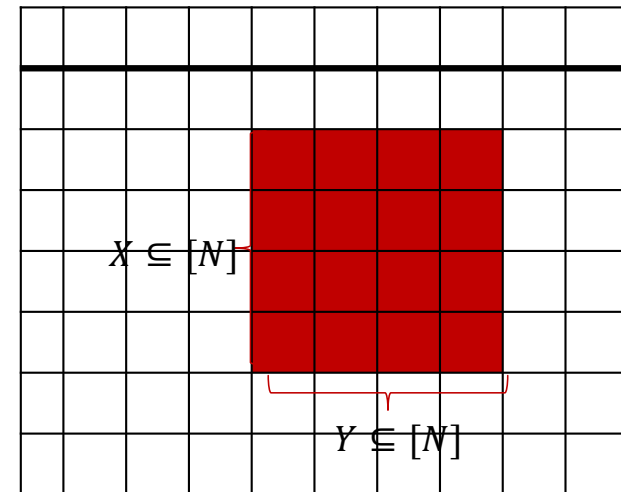


Charlie

$x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$

$F(x, y, z) = f(z, g(x, y))$

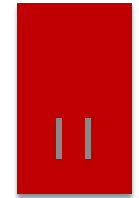
The communication matrix of $g: [N] \times [N] \rightarrow [q]$



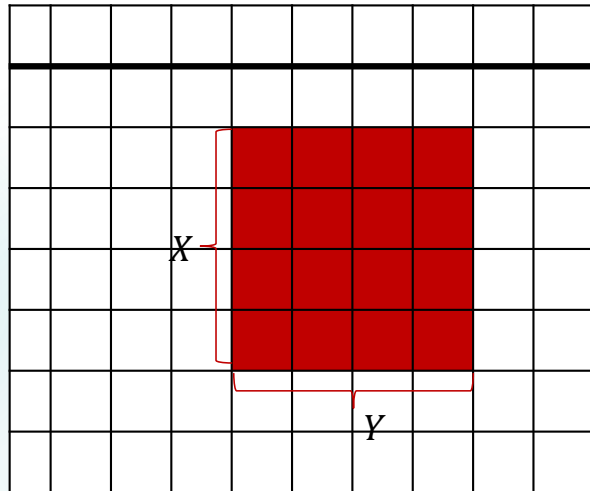
$$|X||Y| \geq \frac{N^2}{q} \quad \{g(x, y) : x \in X, y \in Y\} = [q]$$

$EQ(x, y, z) = 1$ if and only if $x = y = z$ **X**

Two-source extractor



The communication matrix of $\text{IP}: [N] \times [N] \rightarrow [q]$



$$\{\text{IP}(x, y) : x \in X, y \in Y\} = [q]$$

Definition 3

Let q be a prime power and $k \geq 5$. we define the gadget function g is the inner-product function $\text{IP} : F_q^k \times F_q^k \rightarrow F_q$ given by

$$\text{IP} = \langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i y_i \bmod q$$

By standard fourier analysis

Two Source Extractor Lemma

Set $N = q^k$ for some constant $k \geq 5$, then for any $X, Y \subset [N]$ with size $|X| \times |Y| \geq \frac{N^2}{q}$,

$$\{\text{IP}(x, y) : x \in X, y \in Y\} = [q]$$

Deterministic Lifting Theorem

Definition 4 [Lifted problem in NOF]

For any two-party function $f: [q] \times [q] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ and a gadget function $IP: [N] \times [N] \rightarrow [q]$, the lifted problem, denoted by $f \circ IP: [N] \times [N] \times [q] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ is defined by,

$$f \circ IP(x, y, z) = f(z, IP(x, y))$$

In the NOF setting, we assume that Alice has the input (y,z) , Bob has the input (x,z) , and Charlie has the input (x, y) .

Deterministic Lifting Theorem

For any Boolean function $f: [q] \times [q] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, we have

$$OCC(f \circ IP) = \Theta(DCC(f))$$

The Proof of Deterministic Lifting Theorems

13



Alice

$y, z \in \{0,1\}^n$

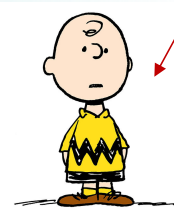


Bob

$x, z \in \{0,1\}^n$

$\pi_A(y, z)$

$\pi_B(x, z)$



Charlie

$x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$

$F(x, y, z) = f(z, \text{IP}(x, y))$

Our goal: $\text{OCC}(f \circ \text{IP}) = \Theta(\text{DCC}(f))$

$$\text{OCC}(f \circ \text{IP}) = O(\text{DCC}(f))$$

Theorem 1:

The deterministic one-way communication complexity of f is $\log |Z|$.

$$\text{OCC}(f \circ \text{IP}) = \Omega(\log |Z|)$$

Proof by contradiction:

Theorem 2

For any protocol Π with deterministic one-way NOF

communication complexity at most $\frac{\log |Z|}{2}$, there exists (π_A^*, π_B^*)

along with distinct elements $z_0, z_1 \in [Z]$ and a pair $(x, y) \in [N] \times [N]$, such that

$$\Pi_A^*(y, z_1) = \Pi_A^*(y, z_0) = \pi_A^* \text{ and } \Pi_B^*(x, z_1) = \Pi_B^*(x, z_0) = \pi_B^*$$

But

$$f(z_0, \text{IP}(x, y)) \neq f(z_1, \text{IP}(x, y))$$

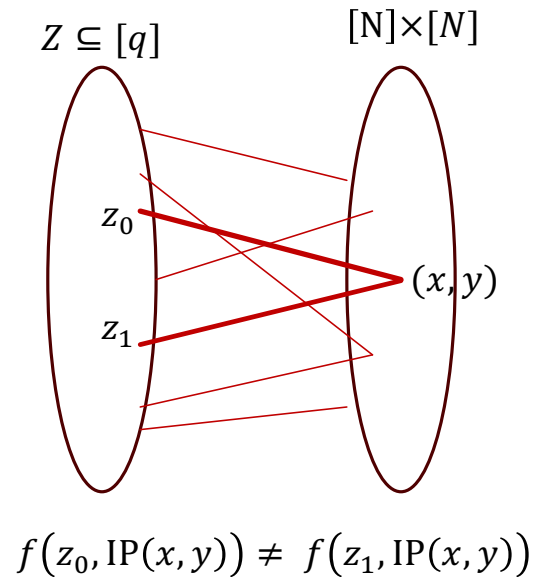
Proof

14

Theorem 2: For any protocol Π with deterministic one-way NOF communication complexity at most $\frac{\log |Z|}{2}$, there exists (π_A^*, π_B^*) along with distinct elements $z_0, z_1 \in [Z]$ and a pair $(x, y) \in [N] \times [N]$, such that

$\Pi_A^*(y, z_1) = \Pi_A^*(y, z_0) = \pi_A^*$ and $\Pi_B^*(x, z_1) = \Pi_B^*(x, z_0) = \pi_B^*$
But

$$f(z_0, \text{IP}(x, y)) \neq f(z_1, \text{IP}(x, y))$$



Proof

15

Lemma 1

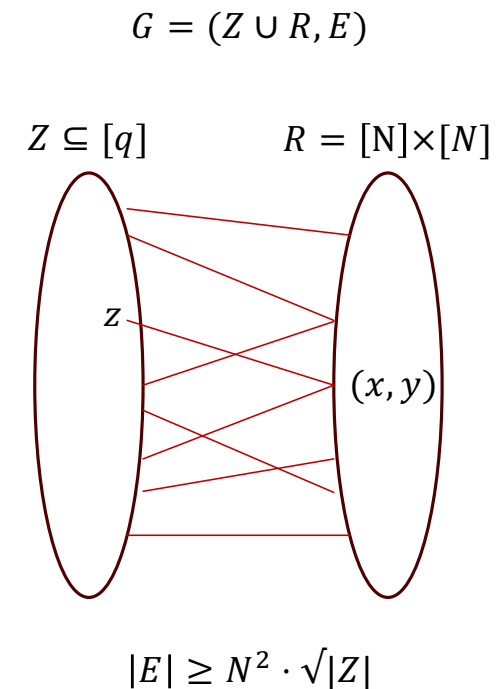
For any protocol Π with deterministic one-way NOF communication complexity $\frac{\log |Z|}{2}$, there exists a message pair (π_A^*, π_B^*) such that the following set E has size at least

$$|E| \geq \frac{N^2 \cdot |Z|}{\sqrt{|Z|}} = N^2 \cdot \sqrt{|Z|}$$

Here, the set E is defined as:

$$E = \{(z, x, y) \in Z \times [N] \times [N]: \Pi_A^*(y, z) = \pi_A^* \text{ and } \Pi_B^*(x, z) = \pi_B^*\}.$$

Proof: By the pigeonhole principle. The number of inputs is $N^2 \cdot |Z|$ and the number of messages is $2^{\log \frac{|Z|}{2}} = \sqrt{|Z|}$.



Proof

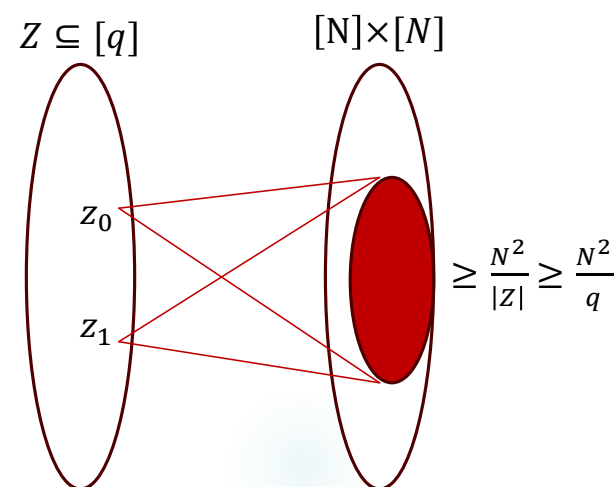
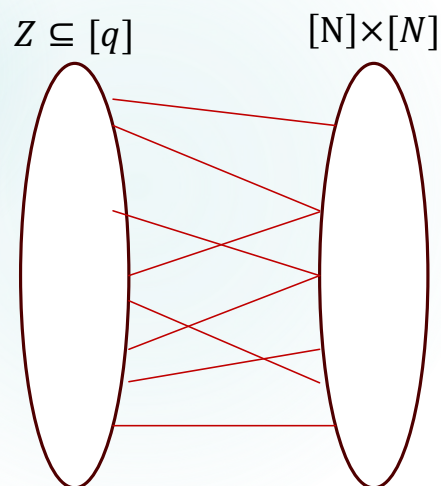
16

Graph Lemma

Let $G = (Z \cup R, E)$ be a bipartite graph with $R = [N] \times [N]$ and $|E| \geq N^2 \cdot \sqrt{|Z|}$. Then there exists distinct $z_0, z_1 \in Z$ such that

$$|N(z_0) \cap N(z_1)| \geq \frac{N^2}{|Z|}$$

where $N(z) \subseteq R$ denote the neighborhoods of z in R .



Proof of the graph lemma

17

Proof of the Graph Lemma:

We prove it by a probabilistic argument. We random sample z_0, z_1 uniformly,

$$E[|N(z_0) \cap N(z_1)|] \geq \frac{N^2}{|Z|}$$

Let $\mathbb{I}(z, r) := \mathbb{I}\{(z, r) \in E\}$ denote the indicator function for whether the edge (z, r) exists in E .
Then we have

$$E[|N(z_0) \cap N(z_1)|] = \sum_{r \in R} E[\mathbb{I}(z_0, r) \cdot \mathbb{I}(z_1, r)] = \sum_{r \in R} (E[\mathbb{I}(z, r)])^2 \geq \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot \left(\sum_{r \in R} E[\mathbb{I}(z, r)] \right)^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot \left(\sum_{r \in R} \frac{\deg(r)}{|Z|} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot \frac{|E|^2}{|Z|^2} \geq \frac{N^2}{|Z|}$$

Cauchy-Schwarz inequality
and $R = N^2$

$$|E| = \sum_{r \in R} \deg(r) \quad |E| \geq N^2 \cdot \sqrt{|Z|}$$

Proof

18

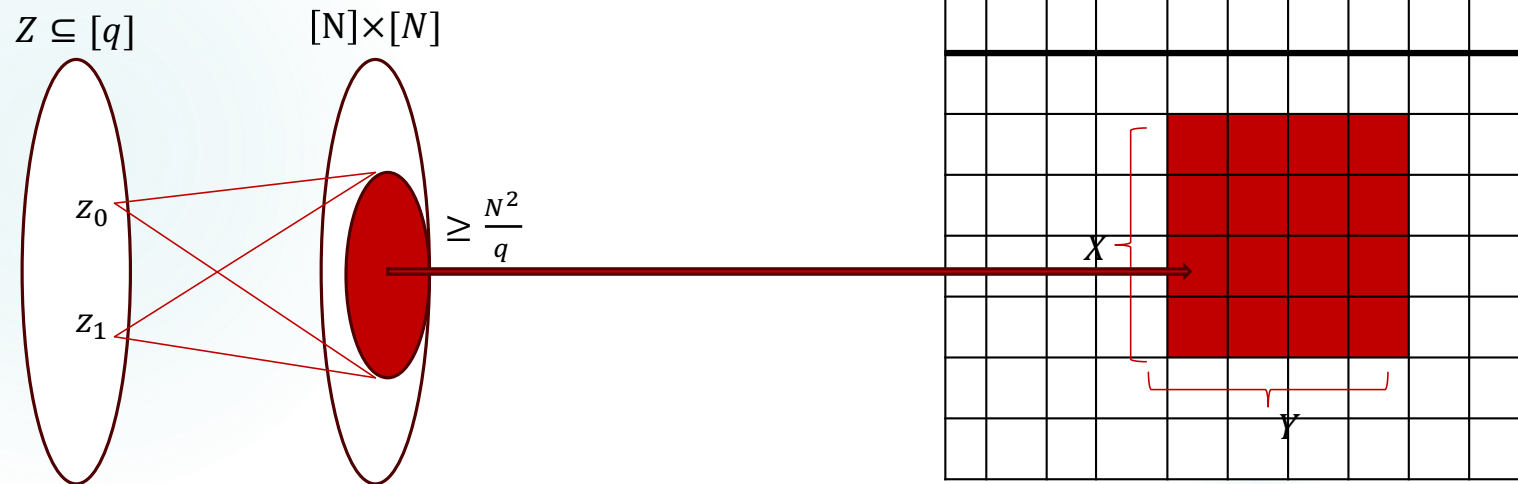
Rectangle Lemma

Let $R = \{(x, y): (x, y, z_0) \in E\} \cap \{(x, y): (x, y, z_1) \in E\}$. Then

R is a rectangle, i.e., $R = X \times Y$ for some $X, Y \subseteq \{0, 1\}^n$.

where $E = \{(z, x, y) \in Z \times [N] \times [N]: \Pi_A^*(y, z) = \pi_A^* \text{ and } \Pi_B^*(x, z) = \pi_B^*\}$.

The communication matrix of IP: $[N] \times [N] \rightarrow [q]$



Proof of Rectangle Lemma

19

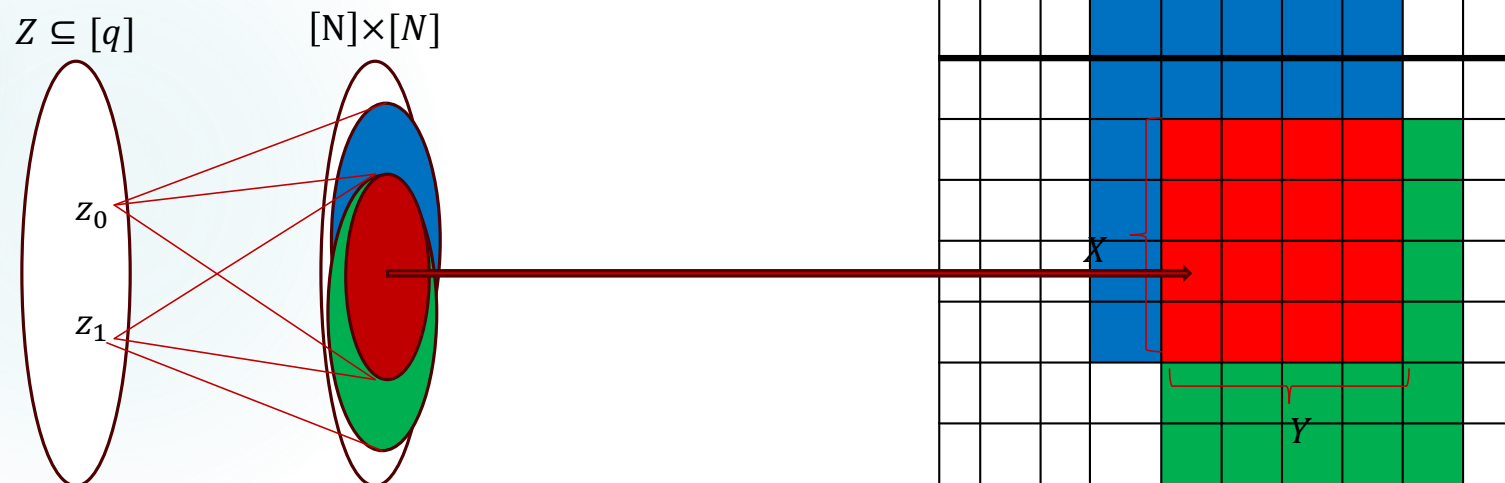
Let $R = \{(x, y): (x, y, z_0) \in E\} \cap \{(x, y): (x, y, z_1) \in E\}$.

R_0 R_1

$E = \{(z, x, y) \in Z \times [N] \times [N]: \Pi_A^*(y, z) = \pi_A^* \text{ and } \Pi_B^*(x, z) = \pi_B^* \}$.

$R_0 = X_0 \times Y_0$ is a rectangle and $R_1 = X_1 \times Y_1$ is a rectangle $\longrightarrow R = (X_0 \cap X_1) \times (Y_0 \cap Y_1)$

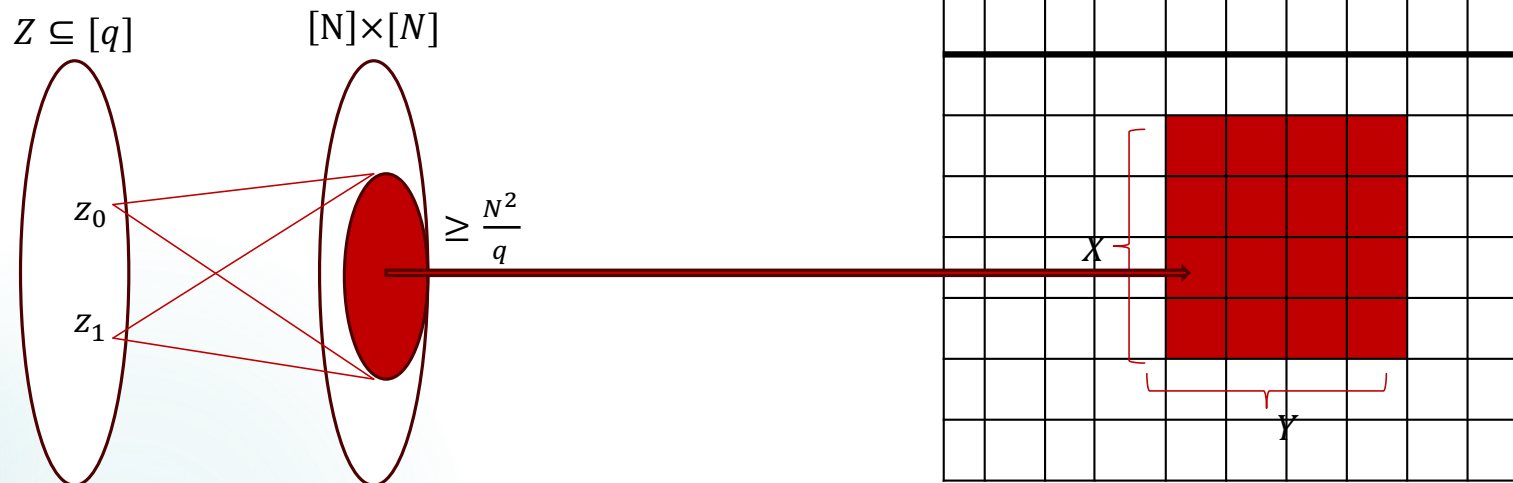
The communication matrix of IP: $[N] \times [N] \rightarrow [q]$



Proof

20

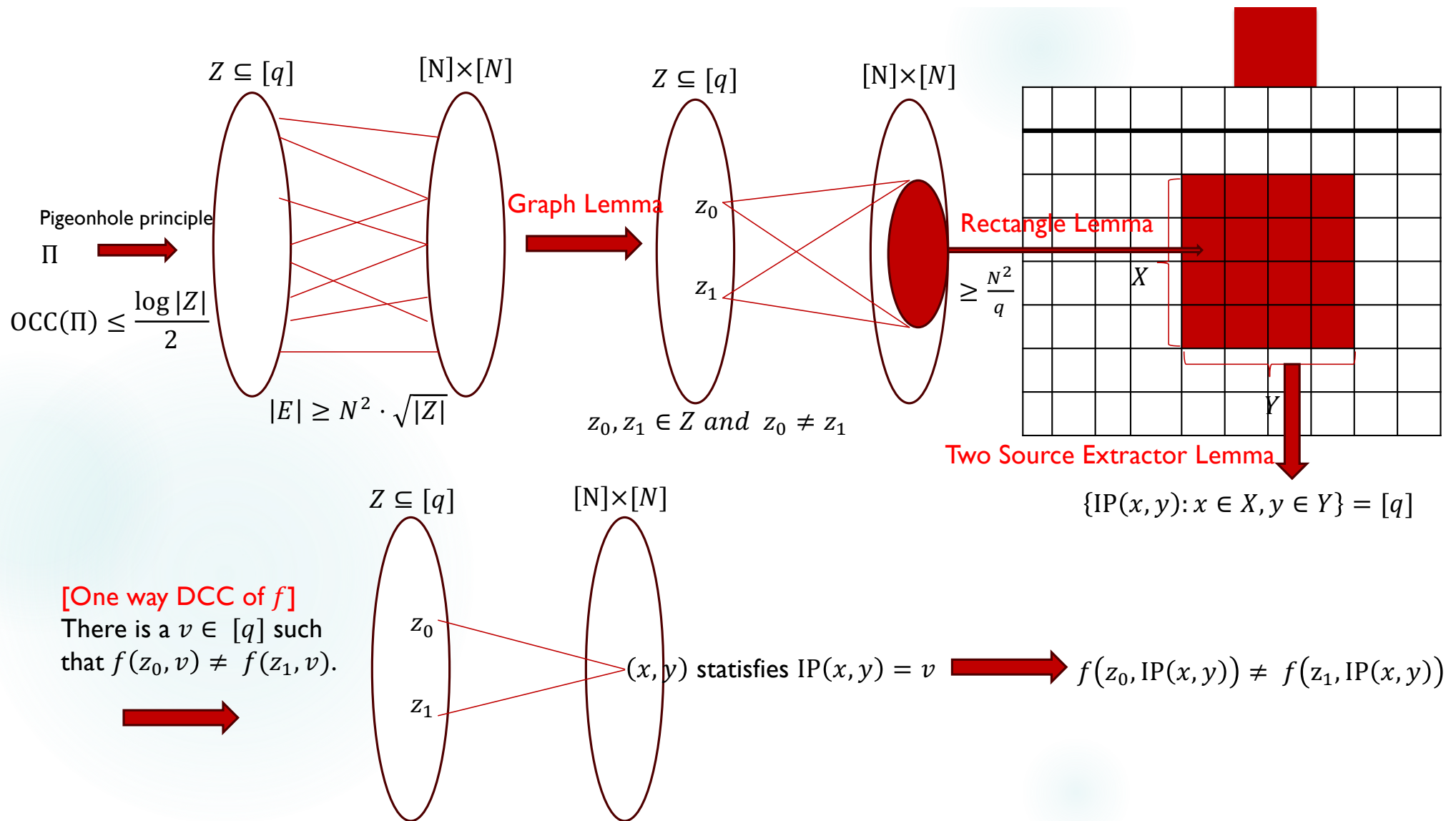
The communication matrix of $IP: [N] \times [N] \rightarrow [q]$



$z_0, z_1 \in Z$ and $z_0 \neq z_1$

Two Source Extractor Lemma $\{IP(x, y): x \in X, y \in Y\} = [q]$

- Recall that $z_0, z_1 \in Z$ and $z_0 \neq z_1$, there is a $v \in [q]$ such that $f(z, v) \neq f(z', v)$. **[One way DCC of f]**
- Since $\{IP(x, y): x \in X, y \in Y\} = [q]$, there is a pair $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ such that $IP(x, y) = v$. **[Two Source Extractor]**
- We have $f(z_0, IP(x, y)) \neq f(z_1, IP(x, y))$. **[One way NOF DCC of $f \circ IP$]**



Our contribution

- One way NOF deterministic lifting theorem

For any Boolean function $f : [N] \times [N] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, we have

$$\text{OCC}(f \circ \text{IP}) = \Theta(\text{DCC}(f))$$

- An optimal explicit separation between the randomized and deterministic one-way NOF communication

The deterministic one-way NOF communication complexity of $\text{EQ} \circ \text{IP}$ is $\Omega(\log N)$, but the randomized one-way NOF communication complexity of $\text{EQ} \circ \text{IP}$ is $O(1)$.

- A new proof of the $\Omega(n)$ deterministic one-way three-party NOF communication complexity of set disjointness

Open Problems

- One way NOF **randomized** lifting theorem

For any Boolean function $f : [N] \times [N] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, we have

$$\text{ORCC}(f \circ \text{IP}) = \Theta(\text{RCC}(f))$$

- An optimal explicit separation between the **randomized and quantum** one-way NOF communication
- A proof of the $\Omega(n)$ randomized one-way three-party NOF communication complexity of set disjointness (Best known bound is $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$)