

# Bounded Arithmetic II: Propositional Translations

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## Topics:

- Formal theories of weak fragments of Peano arithmetic
  - First- and second-order theories of bounded arithmetic
- $\forall\exists$  consequences: Provably total functions
  - Computational complexity characterizations
- $\forall$  consequences: Universal statements
  - Cook translation to propositional logic
  - Paris-Wilkie translation to propositional logic

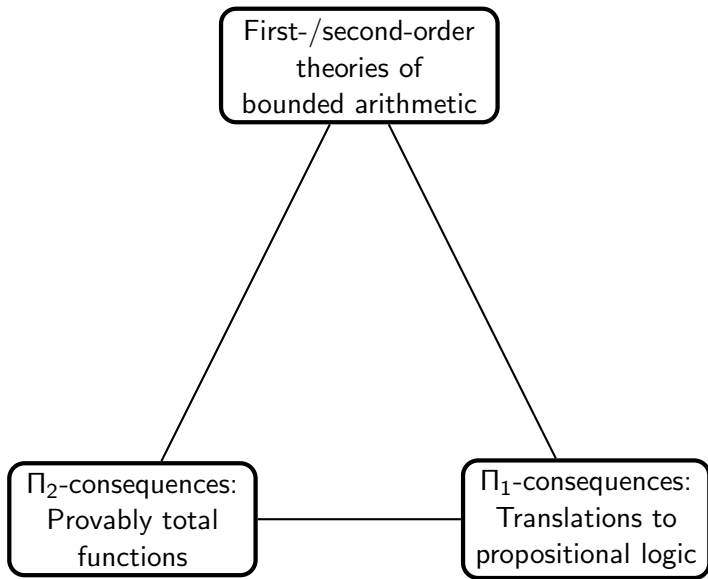
## Underlying philosophy:

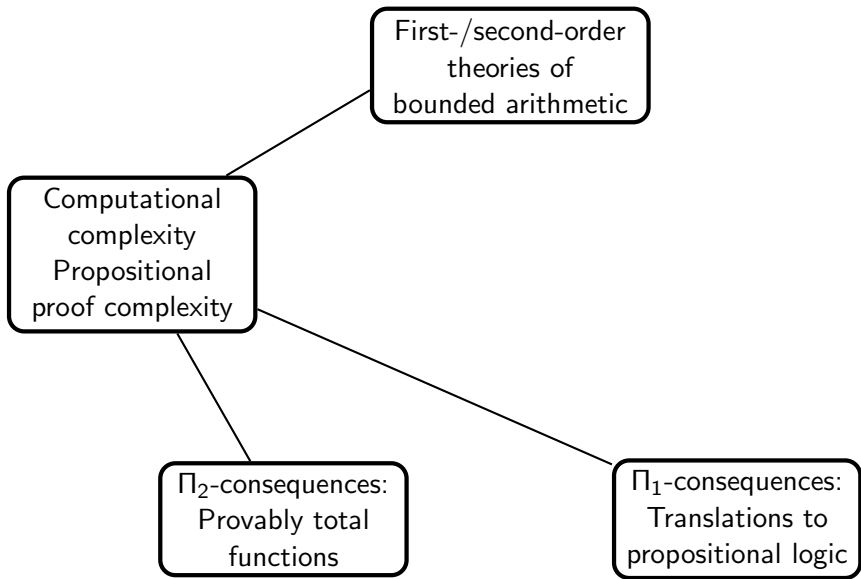
- A feasibly constructive proof that a function is total should provide a feasible method to compute it.
- A feasibly constructive proof of a universal statement should provide a feasible method to verify any given instance.

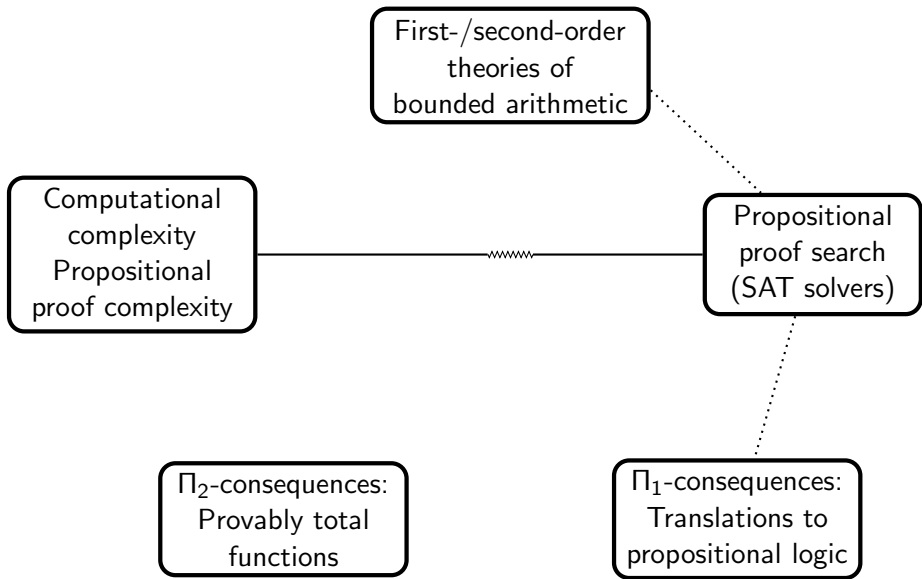
## **Cook, 1975**, Feasibly constructive proofs and the propositional calculus

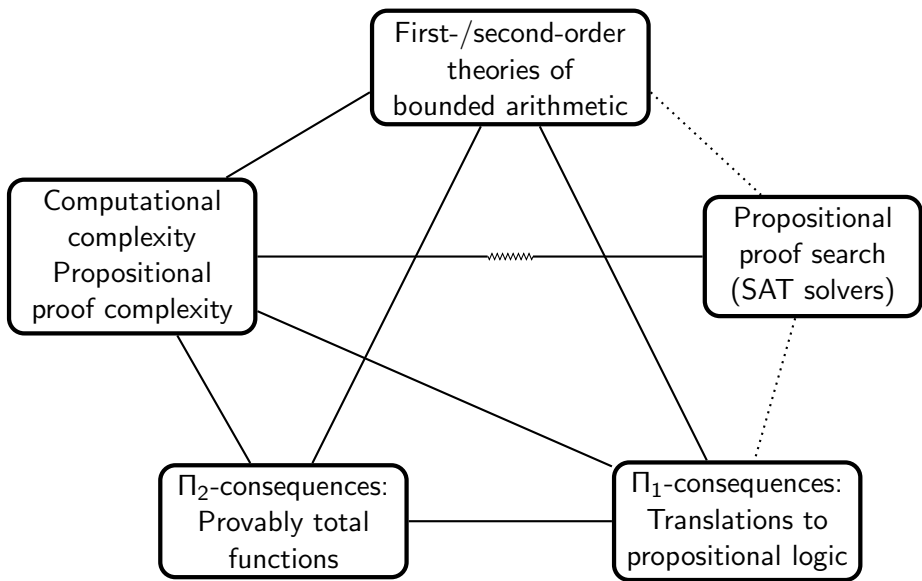
*A constructive proof of, say, a statement  $\forall xA$  must provide an effective means of finding a proof of  $A$  for each value of  $x$ , but nothing is said about how long this proof is as a function of  $x$ . If the function is exponential or super exponential, then for short values of  $x$  the length of the proof of the instance of  $A$  may exceed the number of electrons in the universe.*

Introducing PV and the Cook translation









**First-order theory  $S_2^1$  of arithmetic:**

- Terms have polynomial growth rate (smash, #, is used).
- Bounded quantifiers  $\forall x \leq t$ ,  $\exists x \leq t$ .
- Sharply bounded quantifiers  $\forall x \leq |t|$ ,  $\exists x \leq |t|$ ,  
bound  $x$  by *log* (or *length*) of  $t$ .
- Classes  $\Sigma_i^b$  and  $\Pi_i^b$  of formulas are defined by counting bounded quantifiers, ignoring sharply bounded quantifiers.
- $\Sigma_1^b$  formulas express exactly the NP predicates.  
 $\Sigma_i^b$ ,  $\Pi_i^b$  - express exactly the predicates at the  $i$ -th level of the polynomial time hierarchy.
- $S_2^1$  has *polynomial induction* PIND, equivalently *length induction* (LIND), for  $\Sigma_1^b$  formulas  $A$  (i.e., NP formulas):

$$A(0) \wedge (\forall x)(A(x) \rightarrow A(x+1)) \rightarrow (\forall x)A(|x|)$$



## (1) Provably total functions of $S_2^1$ :

- The  $\forall\Sigma_1^b$ -definable functions (aka: *provably total functions*) are precisely the polynomial time computable functions.
- PV: equational theory over polynomial time functions. [C'75]
- $S_2^1(\text{PV})$  is conservative over both  $S_2^1$  and PV.

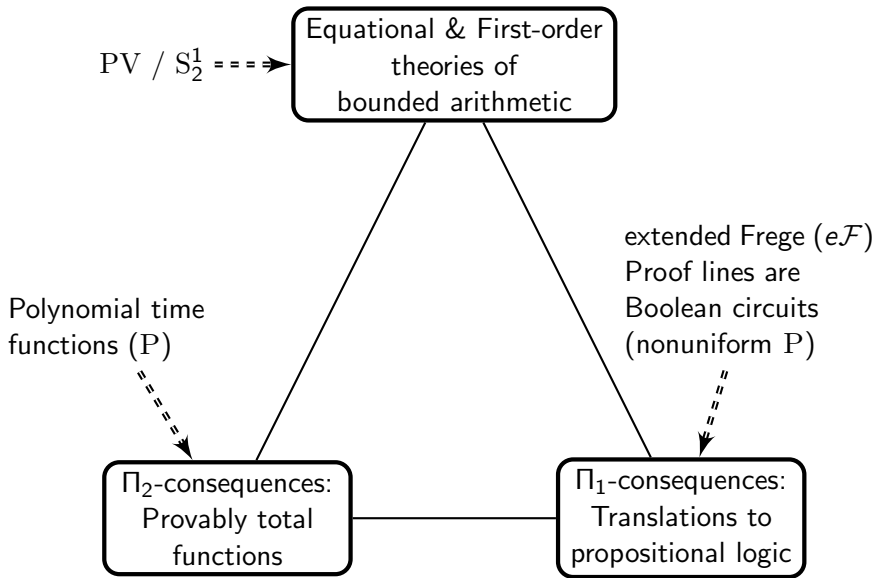
## (2) Translation to propositional logic (“Cook translation”)

- Any polynomial identity ( $\forall\Sigma_0^b$ -property) provable in PV /  $S_2^1$ , has a natural translation to a family  $F$  of propositional formulas. These formulas have polynomial size extended Frege ( $e\mathcal{F}$ ) proofs.

(3)  $S_2^1$  proves the consistency of  $e\mathcal{F}$ . Conversely, any propositional proof systems (p.p.s.)  $S_2^1$  proves is consistent(provably) polynomially simulated by  $e\mathcal{F}$ .

(4) Lines (formulas) in an  $e\mathcal{F}$  proof correspond to Boolean circuits. The circuit value problem is complete for P (polynomial time).





**The first-order theory  $S_2^1$  proves:**

$(\forall x, n)$  [“The bits of  $x$  do not code an incidence matrix of a bipartite graph on  $[n+1] \cup [n]$  violating the Pigeonhole Principle  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$ ”]

**Propositional translations  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$ : ( $n \geq 1$ )**

$$\bigwedge_{i=0}^n \bigvee_{j=0}^{n-1} p_{i,j} \rightarrow \bigvee_{i=0}^{n-1} \bigvee_{i'=i+1}^n \bigvee_{j=0}^{n-1} (p_{i,j} \wedge p_{i',j})$$

The propositional variables  $p_{i,j}$  correspond to the bits of the first-order variable  $x$ .

**Cook translation yields:**

The  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$  formulas have polynomial size  $e\mathcal{F}$  proofs. [CR]

# The Cook Translation from $S_2^1(PV)$ to $e\mathcal{F}$

[Cook'75] introduced an equational theory PV of polynomial time functions. And, characterized the logical strength of PV in terms of provability in extended Frege ( $e\mathcal{F}$ ).

- For a polynomial time identity  $f(x) = g(x)$ , define a family of propositional formulas  $\llbracket f=g \rrbracket_n$ .
- $\llbracket f=g \rrbracket_n$  expresses that  $f(x) = g(x)$  for all  $x$  with  $|x| < n$ .
- The variables in  $\llbracket f=g \rrbracket_n$  are the bits  $x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}$  of  $x$ .
- If  $PV \vdash f(x)=g(x)$ , then the formulas  $\llbracket f=g \rrbracket_n$  have polynomial size extended Frege proofs. [Cook'75]

These results all lift to  $S_2^1$  ...

To describe the Cook translation for  $S_2^1$ :

- Suppose  $A(x) \in \Sigma_0^b$  (sharply bounded) and  $S_2^1 \vdash \forall x A(x)$ .
- For  $n > 0$ , form  $\llbracket A \rrbracket_n$  as a polynomial size Boolean formula.
- $\llbracket A \rrbracket_n$  has Boolean variables  $x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}$  representing the bits of  $x$ , where  $|x| \leq n$ .
- $\llbracket A \rrbracket_n$  expresses that “ $A(x)$  is true”.

Rather than formally define  $\llbracket A \rrbracket$ , we give an example (on the next slide).

Remark: A similar construction works if all polynomial time functions are added to the language and we work with  $S_2^1(PV)$ . In this case,  $\llbracket f=g \rrbracket_n$  needs to use extension variables to define the result of polynomial size circuit computing  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ .

# Simple examples of $\llbracket A(x) \rrbracket_n : \llbracket (\forall a \leq |x|)(a-1 < x) \rrbracket_n$

For  $x$  and  $a$   $n$ -bit integers, with bits given by  $x_i$ 's and  $a_i$ 's:

$$\llbracket x=a \rrbracket_n := \bigwedge_{i=0}^{n-1} (x_i \leftrightarrow a_i).$$

$$\llbracket x < a \rrbracket_n := \bigvee_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( (a_i \wedge \neg x_i) \wedge \bigwedge_{j=i+1}^{n-1} (x_j \leftrightarrow a_j) \right).$$

$$\llbracket x \leq a \rrbracket_n := \llbracket x < a \rrbracket_n \vee \llbracket x = a \rrbracket_n$$

$$i\text{-th bit of } x-1: \quad (x-1)_i := \left( x_i \leftrightarrow \bigvee_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j \right) \wedge \llbracket x \neq 0 \rrbracket_n$$

$$i\text{-th bit of } |x|: \quad \bigvee_{j \leq n, (j)_i=1} (x_j \wedge \bigvee_{k=j+1}^n \neg x_k)$$

$$\llbracket (\forall a \leq |x|)(a-1 < x) \rrbracket_n := \bigwedge_{a=0}^n \left( \llbracket a \leq |x| \rrbracket_n \rightarrow \llbracket a-1 \leq x \rrbracket_n \right).$$

The sharply bounded quantifier  $(\forall a \leq |x|)$  becomes a conjunction. Each of the  $n+1$  values for  $a$  is “hardcoded” with constants for its bits.

## Theorem (essentially [Cook'75])

If  $S_2^1 \vdash (\forall x)A(x)$ , where  $A(x)$  is in  $\Delta_0^b$  (or a polynomial time identity), then the tautologies  $\llbracket A(x) \rrbracket_n$  have polynomial size extended Frege proofs.

**Proof construction:** Witnessing Lemma again. (Proof omitted.)

## Theorem ([Cook'75])

- $S_2^1 \vdash \text{Con}(e\mathcal{F})$  (the consistency of  $e\mathcal{F}$ ).
- For any propositional proof system  $\mathcal{G}$ , if  $S_2^1 \vdash \text{Con}(\mathcal{G})$ , then  $e\mathcal{F}$   $p$ -simulates  $\mathcal{G}$ .

That is,  $e\mathcal{F}$  is the strongest propositional proof system whose consistency is provable by  $S_2^1$ .

# Generalizations to $S_2^i$ and $T_2^i$ .

Work in **quantified propositional logic**, with Boolean quantifiers  $(\forall q)$ ,  $(\exists q)$  ranging over  $\{T, F\}$ . Sequent calculus rules now include

$$\frac{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, A(B)}{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, (\exists q)A(q)} \qquad \frac{A(q), \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta}{(\exists q)A(q), \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta}$$

where  $B$  is any formula, and  $q$  appears only as indicated. (Similar rules for  $\forall$ .)

- Let  $G_i$  be the fragment in which only  $\Sigma_i^B$ -formulas may occur.
- $G_i$  proofs are *dag-like*.
- Let  $G_i^*$  be  $G_i$  restricted to use tree-like proofs.

## Theorem (Krajíček-Pudlák'90, Cook-Morioka'05)

Let  $i \geq 1$ . Analogously to  $S_2^1$  and  $e\mathcal{F}$ ,

- $S_2^i$  corresponds to  $G_i^*$ .
- $T_2^i$  corresponds to  $G_i$ .



# Propositional proof systems ( $\mathcal{F}$ , $e\mathcal{F}$ , ...)

**Frege proofs ( $\mathcal{F}$ ):** Sequent calculus propositional system.  
Equivalent to a 'textbook style' proof system using modus ponens.

**Extended Frege proofs ( $e\mathcal{F}$ ):** Frege systems augmented with extension rule allowing (iterated) introduction of new variables  $x$  abbreviating formulas:

$$\text{Extension axiom: } x \leftrightarrow \varphi.$$

**$AC^0$ -Frege, aka constant-depth Frege:** Frege proofs over  $\wedge, \vee, \neg$  with a constant bound on the number of alternations of  $\wedge$ 's and  $\vee$ 's. (Negations applied only to variables.)

**Quantified sequent calculus QBF** with  $\forall p, \exists p$  Boolean quantifiers.  $G_i$  is QBF restricted to  $i$ -levels of quantifiers.

Proof size = number of symbols in the proof.

(The purpose of extension is to reduce proof size.)

Open problems:

- (1) Does the Frege system ( $\mathcal{F}$ ) allow polynomial size proofs of tautologies? (Subexponential size?)
  
- (2) Does the Frege system quasipolynomially simulate the extended Frege ( $e\mathcal{F}$ ) system?
  - No good combinatorial candidates for separation are known. [BBP,HT,B,AB,...]
  
- (3) QBF versus  $e\mathcal{F}$ ?
  - ( $e\mathcal{F}$  is equivalent to  $G_1^*$ , i.e., tree-like  $G_1$ ).

## Theories for polynomial space

- PSA - Equational theory for PSPACE functions [Dowd'78]
- $U_2^1$  - Second-order theory for polynomial space [B'85]
- The  $\Sigma_1^{1,b}$ -definable functions of  $U_2^1$  are precisely the PSPACE functions.
- $U_2^1(\text{PSA})$  is conservative over both  $U_2^1$  and PSA. [\*\*]
- PSPACE identities provable in  $U_2^1$  have natural translations to QBF formulas which have polynomial size QBF proofs.

## VNC<sup>1</sup> - **Theory for NC<sup>1</sup>.**

[Clote-Takeuti'92; Arai'00; Cook-Morioka'05; Cook-Nguyen'10]

- Cook translation to  $\mathcal{F}$  proofs.

## VL - **Theory for L.**

[Zambella'96, Perron'05, Cook-Nguyen'10]

- Cook translation to tree-like  $GL^*$  for  $\Sigma - \text{CNF}(2)$  formulas.

## VNL - **Theory for NL.**

[Cook-Kolokolova'03, Perron'09, Cook-Nguyen'10]

- Cook translation is to a tree-like p.p.s.  $GNL^*$  for  $\Sigma$ -Krom formulas.

Work in progress: New p.p.s.'s eLDT and eLNDDT for branching programs and nondeterministic branching programs as Cook translations for VL and VNL. [B-Das-Knop, following Cook]

| Formal Theory          | Propositional Proof System | Total Functions                  |                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| PV, $S_2^1$ , VPV      | $e\mathcal{F}$ , $G_1^*$   | P                                | [C, B, CN]       |
| $T_2^1$ , $S_2^2$      | $G_1$ , $G_2^*$            | $\leq_{1-1}$ (PLS)               | [B, KP, KT, BK]  |
| $T_2^2$ , $S_2^3$      | $G_2$ , $G_3^*$            | $\leq_{1-1}$ (CPLS)              | [B, KP, KT, KST] |
| $T_2^i$ , $S_2^{i+1}$  | $G_i$ , $G_{i+1}^*$        | $\leq_{1-1}$ (LLI <sub>i</sub> ) | [B, KP, KT, KNT] |
| PSA, $U_2^1$ , $W_1^1$ | QBF                        | <i>Pspace</i> **                 | [D, B, S]        |
| $V_2^1$                | **                         | EXPTIME                          | [B]              |
| VNC <sup>1</sup>       | Frege ( $\mathcal{F}$ )    | ALOGTIME                         | [CT, A; CM, CN]  |
| VL                     | GL*                        | L                                | [Z, P, CN]       |
| VNL                    | GNL*                       | NL                               | [CK, P, CN]      |

PV, PSA - equational theories.

$S_2^i$ ,  $T_2^i$  - first order

$U_2^1$ ,  $V_2^1$ , VNC<sup>1</sup>, VL, VNL, VPV - second order

| Formal Theory          | Propositional Proof System | Total Functions                  |                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| PV, $S_2^1$ , VPV      | $e\mathcal{F}$ , $G_1^*$   | P                                | [C, B, CN]       |
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| $T_2^i$ , $S_2^{i+1}$  | $G_i$ , $G_{i+1}^*$        | $\leq_{1-1}$ (LLI <sub>i</sub> ) | [B, KP, KT, KNT] |
| PSA, $U_2^1$ , $W_1^1$ | QBF                        | $Pspace^{**}$                    | [D, B, S]        |
| $V_2^1$                | **                         | EXPTIME                          | [B]              |
| VNC <sup>1</sup>       | Frege ( $\mathcal{F}$ )    | ALOGTIME                         | [CT, A; CM, CN]  |
| VL                     | GL*                        | L                                | [Z, P, CN]       |
| VNL                    | GNL*                       | NL                               | [CK, P, CN]      |

Using Cook translation to propositional proof systems (p.p.s.'s)

$\mathcal{F}$ ,  $e\mathcal{F}$  - Frege and extended Frege.

$G_i$ , QBF - quantified propositional logics.

Starred (\*) propositional proof systems are tree-like.

| Formal Theory          | Propositional Proof System | Total Functions                         |                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| PV, $S_2^1$ , VPV      | $e\mathcal{F}$ , $G_1^*$   | P                                       | [C, B, CN]       |
| $T_2^1$ , $S_2^2$      | $G_1$ , $G_2^*$            | $\leq_{1-1}$ (PLS)                      | [B, KP, KT, BK]  |
| $T_2^2$ , $S_2^3$      | $G_2$ , $G_3^*$            | $\leq_{1-1}$ (CPLS)                     | [B, KP, KT, KST] |
| $T_2^i$ , $S_2^{i+1}$  | $G_i$ , $G_{i+1}^*$        | $\leq_{1-1}$ (LLI <sub><i>i</i></sub> ) | [B, KP, KT, KNT] |
| PSA, $U_2^1$ , $W_1^1$ | QBF                        | <i>Pspace</i> **                        | [D, B, S]        |
| $V_2^1$                | **                         | EXPTIME                                 | [B]              |
| VNC <sup>1</sup>       | Frege ( $\mathcal{F}$ )    | ALOGTIME                                | [CT, A; CM, CN]  |
| VL                     | GL*                        | L                                       | [Z, P, CN]       |
| VNL                    | GNL*                       | NL                                      | [CK, P, CN]      |

PLS = Polynomial local search [JPY]

CPLS = "Colored" PLS [ST]

LLI = Linear local improvement

*Pause*

Next: Paris-Wilkie translation



**Paris-Wilkie translation:** is a second kind of translation to propositional logic.

- The Paris-Wilkie translation applies to first-order theories with second-order predicates (free variables,  $\alpha$ ), essentially oracles.
- Propositional variables now represent values of the second order objects  $\alpha$ .

In contrast, the Cook translation uses variables for the bits of first-order objects (the function's inputs).

- Paris-Wilkie translations are most commonly applied to fragments of  $I\Delta_0(\#, \alpha)$ . [P, PW, ...].

$\alpha$  denotes an uninterpreted second-order object (a predicate, or oracle),

and  $\#$  is the polynomial growth rate function  $x\#y = 2^{|\cdot| \cdot |y|}$

# Example of Paris-Wilkie translation

Let  $T$  be the theory  $I\Delta_0$  or  $I\Delta_0(\#)$ .

**Thm:** [PW] If  $T(\alpha)$  proves the pigeonhole principle

$$(\forall x \leq a)(\exists y < a)\alpha(x, y) \rightarrow (\exists x < x' \leq a)(\exists y < a)(\alpha(x, y) \wedge \alpha(x', y))$$

then  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$  has polynomial (quasipolynomial, resp) size  $\text{AC}^0$ -Frege proofs.

Recall  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$ :

$$\bigwedge_{i=0}^n \bigvee_{j=0}^{n-1} p_{i,j} \rightarrow \bigvee_{i=0}^{n-1} \bigvee_{i'=i+1}^n \bigvee_{j=0}^{n-1} (p_{i,j} \wedge p_{i',j})$$

Propositional variables  $p_{i,j}$  correspond to truth values of  $\alpha(x, y)$ .

On the other hand, [A,BPI,KPW],

**Thm:**  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$  requires exponential size  $\text{AC}^0$ -Frege proofs.

*Proof idea: apply a Hastad-style switching lemma, to reduce to a proof in which all formulas are decision trees.*

**Corollary:** Neither  $I\Delta_0$  nor  $I\Delta_0(\#)$  proves the pigeonhole principle.

But, [PWW,MPW], ...

**Thm:**  $I\Delta_0(\#)$  proves the weak pigeonhole principle (replacing “ $\exists y < a$ ” with “ $\exists y < a/2$ ”).

**Corollary:** The propositional weak pigeonhole principle  $\text{PHP}_n^{2n}$  has quasipolynomial size  $\text{AC}^0$ -Frege proofs.

## A hierarchy of fragments of $I\Delta_0(\#)$ : [B]

- $T_2^i$  - induction for  $\Sigma_i^b$  predicates (the  $i$ -th level of the polynomial time hierarchy).
- $S_2^i$  - length induction for  $\Sigma_i^b$  predicates.
- $S_2^1 \subseteq T_2^1 \preceq_{\forall\Sigma_2^b} S_2^2 \subseteq T_2^2 \preceq_{\forall\Sigma_3^b} S_2^3 \subseteq T_2^3 \preceq_{\forall\Sigma_4^b} \dots$

## Thm: [KPT]

- If  $T_2^i = S_2^{i+1}$ , then the polynomial time hierarchy collapses.
- In fact, if  $T_2^i \preceq_{\forall\Sigma_{i+2}^b} S_2^{i+1}$ , then the polynomial time hierarchy collapses.
- $T_2^i(\alpha) \neq S_2^{i+1}(\alpha)$ ; i.e., relative to an oracle.

$$S_2^1(\alpha) \subseteq T_2^1(\alpha) \preceq_{\forall\Sigma_2^b(\alpha)} S_2^2(\alpha) \subseteq T_2^2(\alpha) \preceq_{\forall\Sigma_3^b(\alpha)} \dots$$

| Paris-Wilkie translation           |   |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Formal Theory                      | Propositional Proof System [K]                    | Total Functions                    |
| $T_2^1(\alpha), S_2^2(\alpha)$     | **  | $\leq_{1-1}(\text{PLS}(\alpha))$   |
| $T_2^2(\alpha), S_2^3(\alpha)$     | <b>res(log)</b>                                   | $\leq_{1-1}(\text{CPLS}(\alpha))$  |
| $T_2^i(\alpha), S_2^{i+1}(\alpha)$ | <b>depth <math>(i - \frac{3}{2})</math>-Frege</b> | $\leq_{1-1}(\text{LLI}_i(\alpha))$ |

Depth  $(n + \frac{1}{2})$ -Frege means LK proofs with formulas having at most  $n+1$  alternations, the bottom level having only logarithmic fanin.  
 $\text{res}(\log) = \text{depth } \frac{1}{2}$ -Frege.

Sample application:  $T_2^2 \vdash \text{PHP}_n^{2n}$ . Hence, the bit-graph weak PHP has  $\text{res}(\log)$  refutations of quasipolynomial size. Likewise, any sparse instance of the weak PHP. [MPW]

Open problem:

- (4) Do the theories  $T_2^i(\alpha)$  have distinct (increasing)  $\forall\Sigma_0^b(\alpha)$ -consequences?
- Note this would not have any (known) computational complexity implications.
- (5) For  $i \geq 1$ , does depth  $i$ -Frege quasipolynomially simulate depth  $(i+1)$ -Frege with respect to refuting sets of clauses?
- Note that this is the nonuniform version of Question (4).

For (5): Best results to-date are a superpolynomial separation, based on upper and lower bounds for the pigeonhole principle. [IK]

Hastad switching lemma gives exponential separation of *expressibility* in depth  $i$  versus depth  $i+1$ . (!)

(5) asks: Does this extra expressiveness allow shorter proofs?

*Pause*

It is also interesting to study the  $\forall\Sigma_1^b$ -consequences of the theories  $T_2^i$ . These define a subset of the TFNP problems:

**Definition:** [MP, P] A **Total NP Search Problem (TFNP)** is a polynomial time relation  $R(x, y)$  so that  $R$  is

- *Total:* For all  $x$ , there exists  $y$  s.t.  $R(x, y)$ ,
- *Polynomial growth rate:*  
If  $R(x, y)$ , then  $|y| \leq p(|x|)$  for some polynomial  $p$ .
- The TFNP problem is:  
Given an input  $x$ , output a  $y$  s.t.  $R(x, y)$ .

Note the solution  $y$  may not be unique!



**TFNP classes** need to come with a proof of totality, usually either a combinatorial principle or a formal proof.

### **Pigeonhole Principle (PPP)** [P]

Input:  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  and a purportedly injective  $f : [x] \rightarrow [x-1]$ .

Output:  $a, b \in [x]$  s.t. either  $f(a) \notin [x-1]$  or  $f(a) = f(b)$ .

### **Parity principle (PPAD)** [P]

Input: A directed graph  $G$  with in- and out-degrees  $\leq 1$ ,  
and a vertex  $v$  of total degree 1.

Output: Another vertex  $v'$  of total degree 1.

### **Polynomial Local Search (PLS)** [JPY]

Input: A directed graph with out-degree  $\leq 1$ , and a nonnegative  
cost function which strictly decreases along directed edges

Output: A sink vertex.

Proofs in bounded arithmetic also establish TFNP problems:

PLS - same as before

**CPLS** - PLS with a Herbrandized coNP ( $\Pi_1^b$ ) accepting condition.

## **RAMSEY**

Input: an undirected graph on  $n$  nodes.

Output: a clique or co-clique of size  $\frac{1}{2} \log n$ .

But, now the inputs are coded with a second-order object  $\alpha$ .

The output is a first-order object.

**Thm.** The PLS function is provably total in  $T_2^1(\alpha)$ , and is many-one complete for the provably total relations of  $T_2^1(\alpha)$ . [BK]

**Thm.** The same holds for CPLS and  $T_2^2(\alpha)$ . [KST]

**Thm.**  $T_2^3(\alpha)$  proves the totality of RAMSEY. [P]

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See also: Game Induction [ST], Local Improvement [KNT,BB], ...

Open problems:

- (6) Do the  $\forall \Sigma_1^b(\alpha)$  consequences (or, the provably total functions) of  $T_2^i$  form a proper hierarchy (for  $i = 2, 3, 4, \dots$ )?
- (7) Does  $T_2^2(\alpha)$  prove the totality of RAMSEY?

The  $T_2^3(\alpha)$  proof of RAMSEY is essentially a refinement of the usual inductive combinatorial proof of the Ramsey theorem (via a reduction to the pigeonhole principle). It appears that proving RAMSEY in  $T_2^2(\alpha)$  would require a new method proof for Ramsey's theorem.

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See also related results and questions for the theory of approximate counting, APC<sup>2</sup>. [J,KT]

TFNP problems for stronger theories:

**Consistency search** problem for Frege proofs: [BB]

Input: A (purported) Frege proof of  $\perp$ .

Output: A local error in the proof.

Also introduced as the **Wrong proof** search problem [GP].

**Thm.**

- The Frege Consistency Search problem is provable in  $U_2^1(\alpha)$  and many-one complete for its provably total functions. [BB]
- The same holds for extended Frege and  $V_2^1(\alpha)$ . [K, BB]

Here the input is coded by a second-order object; i.e., algorithms have *oracle* access to the Frege “proof” and seek a local error.

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The “standard” TFNP problems are all included in the Consistency Search/Wrong Proof search classes for all these theories. [BB, GP]

Finis

Finis

*Thank you!*