

Application of Ramsey Theory to Multiparty Comm Complexity

Exposition by **William Gasarch**

April 15, 2022

Credit where Credit is Due

The results in this talk are due to
Chandra, Furst, Lipton.

Multi-Party Protocols

**Proc of the 15th ACM Symp on Theory of Comp (STOC)
1983**

The Problem

Alice is A, Bob is B, Carol is C.

The Problem

Alice is A, Bob is B, Carol is C.

1. A, B, and C have a string of length n on their foreheads.

The Problem

Alice is A, Bob is B, Carol is C.

1. A, B, and C have a string of length n on their foreheads.
2. A's forehead has a , B's has b , C's has c .

The Problem

Alice is A, Bob is B, Carol is C.

1. A, B, and C have a string of length n on their foreheads.
2. A's forehead has a , B's has b , C's has c .
3. They want to know if $a + b + c = 2^{n+1} - 1$.

The Problem

Alice is A, Bob is B, Carol is C.

1. A, B, and C have a string of length n on their foreheads.
2. A's forehead has a , B's has b , C's has c .
3. They want to know if $a + b + c = 2^{n+1} - 1$.
4. **Solution** A says b , B then computes $a + b + c$ and then says YES if $a + b + c = 2^{n+1} - 1$, NO if not.

The Problem

Alice is A, Bob is B, Carol is C.

1. A, B, and C have a string of length n on their foreheads.
2. A's forehead has a , B's has b , C's has c .
3. They want to know if $a + b + c = 2^{n+1} - 1$.
4. **Solution** A says b , B then computes $a + b + c$ and then says YES if $a + b + c = 2^{n+1} - 1$, NO if not.
5. **Solution** uses $n + 1$ bits of comm. Can do better?

Vote

Vote

1. Any protocol requires $n + 1$ bits, hence the one given that takes $n + 1$ is the best you can do. The proof uses Theorems that could be in this course.

Vote

1. Any protocol requires $n + 1$ bits, hence the one given that takes $n + 1$ is the best you can do. The proof uses Theorems that could be in this course.
2. There is a protocol that takes αn bits for some $\alpha < 1$ but any protocol requires $\Omega(n)$ bits. Either the proof of the upper bound or the proof of the lower bound or both use Theorems that could be in this course.

Vote

1. Any protocol requires $n + 1$ bits, hence the one given that takes $n + 1$ is the best you can do. The proof uses Theorems that could be in this course.
2. There is a protocol that takes αn bits for some $\alpha < 1$ but any protocol requires $\Omega(n)$ bits. Either the proof of the upper bound or the proof of the lower bound or both use Theorems that could be in this course.
3. There is a protocol that takes $\ll n$ bits. The proof uses Theorems that could be in this course.

Vote

1. Any protocol requires $n + 1$ bits, hence the one given that takes $n + 1$ is the best you can do. The proof uses Theorems that could be in this course.
2. There is a protocol that takes αn bits for some $\alpha < 1$ but any protocol requires $\Omega(n)$ bits. Either the proof of the upper bound or the proof of the lower bound or both use Theorems that could be in this course.
3. There is a protocol that takes $\ll n$ bits. The proof uses Theorems that could be in this course.

STUDENTS WORK IN GROUPS

Protocol in $\frac{n}{2} + O(1)$ bits

1. A: $a_0 \cdots a_{n-1}$, B: $b_0 \cdots b_{n-1}$, C: $c_0 \cdots c_{n-1}$.
2. A says: $b_{n-1} \oplus c_0, b_{n-2} \oplus c_1, \dots, b_{n/2} \oplus c_{n/2-1}$.
3. Bob knows c_i 's so he now knows $b_{n/2}, \dots, b_{n-1}$.
4. Carol knows b_i 's so she now knows $c_0, \dots, c_{n/2-1}$.
5. Carol knows $a_0, \dots, a_{n/2-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n/2-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n/2-1}$.
Hence she can compute
$$a_{n/2-1} \cdots a_0 + b_{n/2-1} \cdots b_0 + c_{n/2-1} \cdots c_0.$$
View this as an $(n/2)$ -bit string s and a carry bit z .
6. $s = 1^{n/2}$: Carol says (MAYBE, z). Otherwise: Carol says NO.
7. Bob knows $a_{n/2}, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_{n/2}, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_{n/2}, \dots, c_{n-1}$ and z so he can compute $a + b + c$. If $= M$ then say YES, if not then say NO.

Vote Again

Vote

Vote Again

Vote

- ▶ There is a protocol that uses $\ll n$ bits AND I use Ramsey Theory to prove it.

Vote Again

Vote

- ▶ There is a protocol that uses $\ll n$ bits AND I use Ramsey Theory to prove it.
- ▶ There exists a $0 < \beta < \frac{1}{2}$ such that **any** protocol requires $\geq \beta n$ bits AND I use Ramsey Theory to prove it.

Vote Again

Vote

- ▶ There is a protocol that uses $\ll n$ bits AND I use Ramsey Theory to prove it.
- ▶ There exists a $0 < \beta < \frac{1}{2}$ such that **any** protocol requires $\geq \beta n$ bits AND I use Ramsey Theory to prove it.

I will show a $\sqrt{n} \ll n$ protocol, which will use 3-free sets so will indeed use Ramsey Theory.

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{1}$.

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$.

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$?

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$.

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{1}$.

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{1}$?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

Q ($\exists c \ll M^2$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{1}$?

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$.

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

Q ($\exists c \ll M^2$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$?

Yes, $c = M$, color every row differently.

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{1}$.

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{1}$?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

Q ($\exists c \ll M^2$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{1}$?

Yes, $c = M$, color every row differently.

Q ($\exists c$): ALL c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there is a mono L or $\bar{1}$?

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or $\bar{1}$.

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{1}$?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

Q ($\exists c \ll M^2$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or $\bar{1}$?

Yes, $c = M$, color every row differently.

Q ($\exists c$): ALL c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there is a mono L or $\bar{1}$?

Yes $c = 1$. Stupid but true.

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or \neg .

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or \neg ?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

Q ($\exists c \ll M^2$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or \neg ?

Yes, $c = M$, color every row differently.

Q ($\exists c$): ALL c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there is a mono L or \neg ?

Yes $c = 1$. Stupid but true.

We actually need a stronger condition:

Definition $\Gamma(M)$ is the least c such that there is a c -coloring of $[M] \times [M]$ w/o mono L or \neg .

We Look At the L -Theorem Backwards

Notation M will be $2^{n+1} - 1$ which is 1^{n+1} in binary.

L -Theorem For all c there exists M such that for all c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there exists a mono L or \neg .

Fix M .

Q ($\exists c$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or \neg ?

Yes $c = M^2$, color every point differently.

Q ($\exists c \ll M^2$): $[M] \times [M]$ can be c -colored w/o mono L or \neg ?

Yes, $c = M$, color every row differently.

Q ($\exists c$): ALL c -colorings of $[M] \times [M]$ there is a mono L or \neg ?

Yes $c = 1$. Stupid but true.

We actually need a stronger condition:

Definition $\Gamma(M)$ is the least c such that there is a c -coloring of $[M] \times [M]$ w/o mono L or \neg .

We give a $3 \lg(\Gamma(M)) + O(1)$ bit protocol and then bound $\Gamma(M)$.

Protocol

$M = 2^{n+1} - 1$ throughout.

1. Pre-step: A, B, and C agree on a $\Gamma(M)$ -coloring χ of $[M] \times [M]$ that has no mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$.
2. A: b, c , B: a, c , C: a, b . $a, b, c \in \{0, 1\}^n$ numbers in binary.
3. If A sees $b + c > M$, says NO and protocol stops. B, C, sim.
4. A finds a' , s.t. $a' + b + c = M$ and says $\chi(a', b)$.
5. B finds b' s.t. $a + b' + c = M$ and says $\chi(a, b')$.
6. C says Y if both colors agree with $\chi(a, b)$, no otherwise.
7. If they all broadcast the same color A says Y, else A says NO.

Protocol

$M = 2^{n+1} - 1$ throughout.

1. Pre-step: A, B, and C agree on a $\Gamma(M)$ -coloring χ of $[M] \times [M]$ that has no mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$.
2. A: b, c , B: a, c , C: a, b . $a, b, c \in \{0, 1\}^n$ numbers in binary.
3. If A sees $b + c > M$, says NO and protocol stops. B, C, sim.
4. A finds a' , s.t. $a' + b + c = M$ and says $\chi(a', b)$.
5. B finds b' s.t. $a + b' + c = M$ and says $\chi(a, b')$.
6. C says Y if both colors agree with $\chi(a, b)$, no otherwise.
7. If they all broadcast the same color A says Y, else A says NO.

Number of bits: $2 \lg(\Gamma(M)) + O(1)$. We show this is $\leq O(\sqrt{n})$.

Protocol

$M = 2^{n+1} - 1$ throughout.

1. Pre-step: A, B, and C agree on a $\Gamma(M)$ -coloring χ of $[M] \times [M]$ that has no mono L or $\bar{\Gamma}$.
2. A: b, c , B: a, c , C: a, b . $a, b, c \in \{0, 1\}^n$ numbers in binary.
3. If A sees $b + c > M$, says NO and protocol stops. B, C, sim.
4. A finds a' , s.t. $a' + b + c = M$ and says $\chi(a', b)$.
5. B finds b' s.t. $a + b' + c = M$ and says $\chi(a, b')$.
6. C says Y if both colors agree with $\chi(a, b)$, no otherwise.
7. If they all broadcast the same color A says Y, else A says NO.

Number of bits: $2 \lg(\Gamma(M)) + O(1)$. We show this is $\leq O(\sqrt{n})$.

But first we show that it works.

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$\begin{aligned} a' &= M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = \\ &M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda \end{aligned}$$

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$a' = M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = \\ M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda$$

$$b' = b + \lambda \text{ (similar reasoning)}$$

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$a' = M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = \\ M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda$$

$b' = b + \lambda$ (similar reasoning)

$$(a', b) = (a + \lambda, b)$$

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$a' = M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = \\ M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda$$

$b' = b + \lambda$ (similar reasoning)

$$(a', b) = (a + \lambda, b)$$

$$(a, b') = (a, b + \lambda)$$

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$a' = M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = \\ M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda$$

$b' = b + \lambda$ (similar reasoning)

$$(a', b) = (a + \lambda, b)$$

$$(a, b') = (a, b + \lambda)$$

If protocol says YES then $\chi(a + \lambda, b) = \chi(a, b + \lambda) = \chi(a, b)$.

Since χ has no mono L or \neg , $\lambda = 0$ so $a + b + c = M$.

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$a' = M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda$$

$b' = b + \lambda$ (similar reasoning)

$$(a', b) = (a + \lambda, b)$$

$$(a, b') = (a, b + \lambda)$$

If protocol says YES then $\chi(a + \lambda, b) = \chi(a, b + \lambda) = \chi(a, b)$.

Since χ has no mono L or \neg , $\lambda = 0$ so $a + b + c = M$.

If protocol says NO then either

$$\chi(a + \lambda, b) \neq \chi(a, b + \lambda): \text{ so } \lambda \neq 0.$$

$$\chi(a + \lambda, b) \neq \chi(a, b): \text{ so } \lambda \neq 0.$$

$$\chi(a, b + \lambda) \neq \chi(a, b): \text{ so } \lambda \neq 0.$$

Why Does This Work?

Assume $a + b + c = M - \lambda$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$a' = M - b - c = M - (a + b + c) + (a + b + c) - b - c = M - (M - \lambda) + a = a + \lambda$$

$b' = b + \lambda$ (similar reasoning)

$$(a', b) = (a + \lambda, b)$$

$$(a, b') = (a, b + \lambda)$$

If protocol says YES then $\chi(a + \lambda, b) = \chi(a, b + \lambda) = \chi(a, b)$.

Since χ has no mono L or \neg , $\lambda = 0$ so $a + b + c = M$.

If protocol says NO then either

$\chi(a + \lambda, b) \neq \chi(a, b + \lambda)$: so $\lambda \neq 0$.

$\chi(a + \lambda, b) \neq \chi(a, b)$: so $\lambda \neq 0$.

$\chi(a, b + \lambda) \neq \chi(a, b)$: so $\lambda \neq 0$.

In all cases $\lambda \neq 0$ so $a + b + c \neq M$.

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Let COL be an Z -coloring of $\{1, \dots, 3M\}$ with no mono 3-AP's.

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Let COL be an Z -coloring of $\{1, \dots, 3M\}$ with no mono 3-AP's.

Define $COL': [M] \times [M] \rightarrow [Z]$

$$COL'(x, y) = COL(x + 2y)$$

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Let COL be an Z -coloring of $\{1, \dots, 3M\}$ with no mono 3-AP's.

Define $COL': [M] \times [M] \rightarrow [Z]$

$$COL'(x, y) = COL(x + 2y)$$

Claim COL' has no mono L 's or $\bar{\Gamma}$.

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Let COL be an Z -coloring of $\{1, \dots, 3M\}$ with no mono 3-AP's.

Define $COL': [M] \times [M] \rightarrow [Z]$

$$COL'(x, y) = COL(x + 2y)$$

Claim COL' has no mono L 's or $\bar{\cap}$.

If COL' has a mono L or $\bar{\cap}$ then there exists $x, y \in [M], \lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$:

$$COL'(x, y) = COL'(x + \lambda, y) = COL'(x, y + \lambda)$$

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Let COL be an Z -coloring of $\{1, \dots, 3M\}$ with no mono 3-AP's.

Define $COL': [M] \times [M] \rightarrow [Z]$

$$COL'(x, y) = COL(x + 2y)$$

Claim COL' has no mono L 's or $\bar{\cap}$.

If COL' has a mono L or $\bar{\cap}$ then there exists $x, y \in [M], \lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$:

$$COL'(x, y) = COL'(x + \lambda, y) = COL'(x, y + \lambda) \text{ hence}$$

Relating $\Gamma(M)$ with VDW

We need to bound $\lg(\Gamma(M))$.

Lemma Let Z be such that $3M < W(3, Z)$. Then $\Gamma(M) \leq Z$.

Proof

Let COL be an Z -coloring of $\{1, \dots, 3M\}$ with no mono 3-AP's.

Define $COL': [M] \times [M] \rightarrow [Z]$

$$COL'(x, y) = COL(x + 2y)$$

Claim COL' has no mono L 's or $\bar{\cap}$.

If COL' has a mono L or $\bar{\cap}$ then there exists $x, y \in [M], \lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$:

$$COL'(x, y) = COL'(x + \lambda, y) = COL'(x, y + \lambda) \text{ hence}$$

$COL(x + 2y) = COL(x + 2y + \lambda) = COL(x + 2y + 2\lambda)$: a mono 3-AP

(If $\lambda < 0$ then $x + 2y + 2\lambda, x + 2y + \lambda, x + 2y$ is the 3-AP.)

Recall Last Slide From 3freetalk

In talk on $W(3, c)$ we proved:

Thm Let $V \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $A \subseteq [V]$ be a 3-free set. Then there is a $\frac{V \ln(V)}{|A|}$ -coloring of $[V]$ with no mono 3-APs. Hence

$$W(3, \frac{V \ln(V)}{|A|}) \geq V.$$

Recall Last Slide From 3freetalk

In talk on $W(3, c)$ we proved:

Thm Let $V \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $A \subseteq [V]$ be a 3-free set. Then there is a $\frac{V \ln(V)}{|A|}$ -coloring of $[V]$ with no mono 3-APs. Hence

$$W(3, \frac{V \ln(V)}{|A|}) \geq V.$$

In talk on $W(3, c)$ we sketched:

Thm There exists a 3-free subset of $[V]$ of size $\geq V^{1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg V}}}$

Recall Last Slide From 3freetalk

In talk on $W(3, c)$ we proved:

Thm Let $V \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $A \subseteq [V]$ be a 3-free set. Then there is a $\frac{V \ln(V)}{|A|}$ -coloring of $[V]$ with no mono 3-APs. Hence $W(3, \frac{V \ln(V)}{|A|}) \geq V$.

In talk on $W(3, c)$ we sketched:

Thm There exists a 3-free subset of $[V]$ of size $\geq V^{1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg V}}}$

We combine these two to get:

Thm Let $V \in \mathbb{N}$. Then there is a $V^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg V}}} \ln(V)$ -coloring of $[V]$ with no mono 3-APs. Hence

$$W(3, V^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg V}}} \ln(V)) \geq V.$$

Just Plug in $V = 3M$

Thm Let $V \in \mathbb{N}$. Then there is a $V^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg V}}}$ $\ln(V)$ -coloring of $[V]$ with no mono 3-APs. Hence

$$W(3, V^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg V}} \ln(V)}) \geq V.$$

$$\text{Hence } W(3, (3M)^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg 3M}} \ln(3M)}) \geq 3M.$$

$$\text{Hence } \Gamma(M) \leq (3M)^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg 3M}} \ln(3M)}$$

$$\text{Hence } \lg(\Gamma(M)) \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lg 3M}} \lg(3M) + \lg(\ln(3M)) = O(\sqrt{\log(M)})$$

$$M = 2^{n+1} - 1 \sim 2^n \text{ so } \lg(\Gamma(M)) \leq O(\sqrt{n})$$

Upper and Lower Bound on Protocol

- ▶ We showed our protocol uses $\leq 3 \lg(\Gamma(M)) \leq O(\sqrt{n})$.
- ▶ Known: lower bound of $\Omega(\lg(\Gamma(M)))$.
- ▶ Original paper had lower bound of $\Omega(1)$ which is all they needed for their goal which was non-linear lower bounds on branching programs.
- ▶ Gasarch showed lower bound of $\Omega(\log \log n)$.
- ▶ k -player version of this game has also been studied.