

*Jean Goubault-Larrecq*

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# Randomized complexity classes

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Today: **BPP** (part 1)

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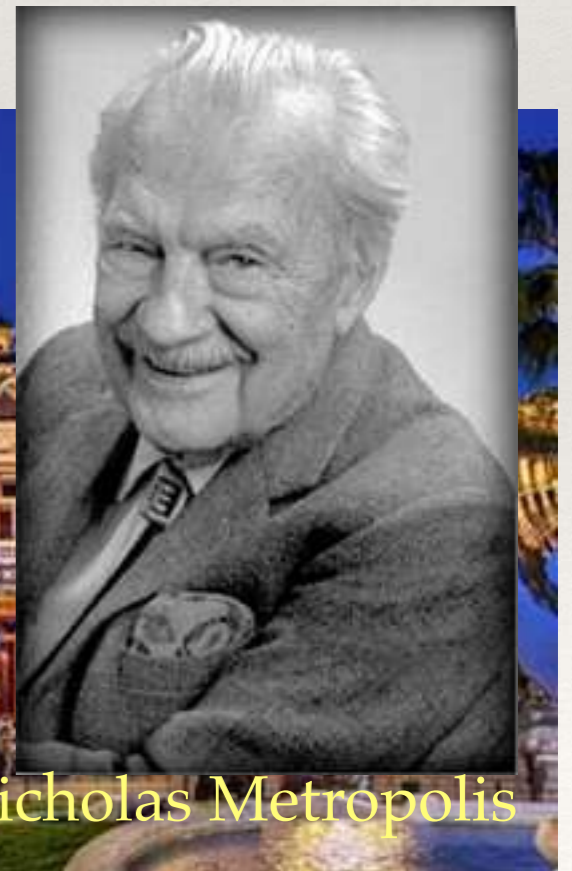
# Today

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- ❖ Two-sided error: **BPP**
- ❖ Error reduction, voting, Chernoff's bound
- ❖ The Sipser-Gács-Lautemann theorem

# Our third probabilistic class: BPP

(also sometimes known as the class of *Metropolis* languages, although some speak of Monte Carlo here again)



Nicholas Metropolis

# BPP: Bounded Prob. of Error Polynomial time

- ❖ A language  $L$  is in **BPP** if and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):
  - ❖ if  $x \in L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \geq 2/3$
  - ❖ if  $x \notin L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \leq 1/3$ .

i.e. there is also a **polynomial**  $p(n)$  /  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  terminates in time  $\leq p(n)$ , where  $n=|x|$ , in the worst case (and for any value of  $r$ )

... hence, implicitly, we require  $|r| \geq p(n)$  (let us say  $|r| = p(n)$ )

probability taken over all  $r \in \{0,1\}^{p(n)}$

**two-sided error:**  
 $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}] \leq 1/3$

# Examples



<https://compeap.com/wp-content/uploads/Land-of-I-Dont-Know.jpg>

PolyMath

Examples

The problem of determining whether a [multivariate polynomial vanishes](#) is in BPP. The idea of the randomized algorithm is to compute the polynomial at a small number of randomly chosen points. For a non-zero polynomial the probability that it vanishes at all those points decreases rapidly with the number of points, and so if it vanishes at all those points we can say with some confidence that the polynomial vanishes everywhere. This problem is also in co-RP, since if the polynomial really does vanish everywhere, then the algorithm is guaranteed to output 1.

*It would be good to have more examples. In particular, it would be nice to have an example that isn't obviously in RP or co-RP.*

[https://asone.ai/polymath/index.php?title=The\\_complexity\\_class\\_BPP](https://asone.ai/polymath/index.php?title=The_complexity_class_BPP)

# Error reduction

- ❖ What is so special about error  $1/3$ ?
- ❖ Nothing!

❖ **Theorem.**  $\forall \varepsilon \in ]0, 1/2[$ ,  
 **$\text{BPP} = \text{BPP}(\varepsilon)$ .**

- ❖ Note:  **$\text{BPP} = \text{BPP}(1/3)$**  (def.)  
 **$\text{BPP}(\varepsilon) = \{\text{all languages}\}$**  if  $\varepsilon \geq 1/2 \dots$   
 **$\text{BPP}(0) = \text{P}$**

error =  $1/3$  here

A language  $L$  is in **BPP** if and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):  
if  $x \in L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \geq 2/3$   
if  $x \notin L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \leq 1/3$ .

A language  $L$  is in  **$\text{BPP}(\varepsilon)$**  if and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):  
if  $x \in L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \geq 1-\varepsilon$   
if  $x \notin L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \leq \varepsilon$

error =  $\varepsilon$

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# The easy cases: error amplification(!)

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- ❖ Clearly, if  $\eta \leq \varepsilon$  then  
$$\mathbf{BPP}(\eta) \subseteq \mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)$$
- ❖ Note:  $\mathbf{BPP}(0)=\mathbf{P}$  (sometimes believed  $\neq \mathbf{BPP}$ )  
$$\mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)=\{\text{all languages}\}$$
 for every  $\varepsilon \geq 1/2$
- ❖ In the middle, hence, we will see that all the intermediate  $\mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)$  ( $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1/2[$ ) are equal to  $\mathbf{BPP}$ .

# Error reduction

- ❖ We will show that **BPP** (= **BPP**(1/3)) is included in **BPP**( $\epsilon$ ) for every  $\epsilon \in ]0, 1/2[$ , arbitrarily close to 0.
- ❖ The technique we used for **RP** does **not** work: why?
- ❖ Hence we must proceed differently

## The hard direction: repeating experiments

- ❖ Let  $L \in \mathbf{RP}(\epsilon)$ ,  $0 < \epsilon < 1$
- ❖ On input  $x$ , let us do the following (at most)  $K$  times:
  - ❖ Draw  $r$  at random, simulate  $\mathcal{M}(x, r)$  and:
    - ❖ If  $\mathcal{M}(x, r)$  accepts, then exit the loop and **accept**;
    - ❖ Otherwise, proceed and loop.
  - ❖ At the end of the loop, **reject**.

❖ A language  $L$  is in **RP**( $\epsilon$ ) and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

- ❖ if  $x \in L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x, r) \text{ accepts}] \geq 1 - \epsilon$
- ❖ if  $x \notin L$  then  $\mathcal{M}(x, r)$  accepts for no  $r$  (i.e.,  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x, r) \text{ accepts}] = 0$ ).  
error =  $\epsilon$

Remember: if  $\mathcal{M}(x, r)$  accepts, then  $x$  **must** be in  $L$ .



# Majority voting

- ❖ Imagine running  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  for various values of  $r$ , and **tallying the votes**
- ❖ Redo the vote  $N$  times (here  $N=4$ )
- ❖ Here 3 accepts / 1 reject  
 $\Rightarrow$  majority is for **acceptance**

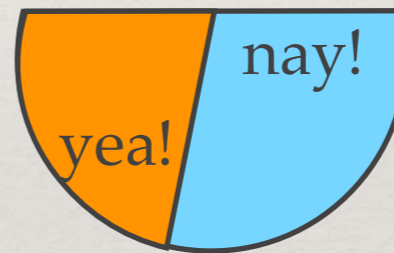


Outcome

accept



accept



reject



accept

# Majority voting

- ❖ This is typical of what happens when  $x \in L$ :  
running a large number of votes should produce a majority of **accepts**, with **high probability**
- ❖ ... but how high?

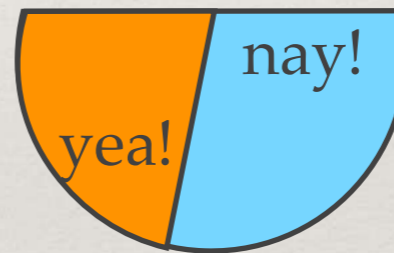


Outcome

**accept**



**accept**



**reject**



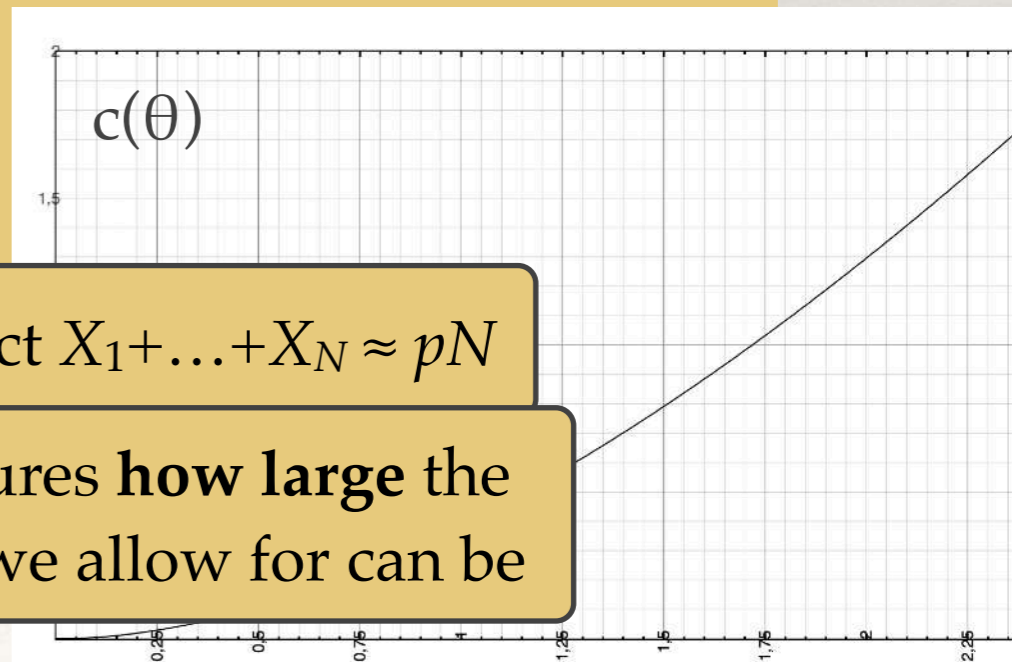
**accept**

# Chernoff's bound

- ❖ Intuitive contents:  
Imagine  $\Pr(\text{yes}) = p$   
Then  $\Pr(\text{proportion of yeses among } N \text{ voters is close to } p)$   
goes to 1 **exponentially fast** as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

- ❖ **Theorem.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be **independent** rand. vars  
with values in  $\{0, 1\}$  and  
with the **same law**:  $\Pr(X_i=1)=p$ .

Then  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1+\theta)pN)$   
 $\leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$



We expect  $X_1 + \dots + X_N \approx pN$

$1+\theta$  measures **how large** the  
deviation we allow for can be

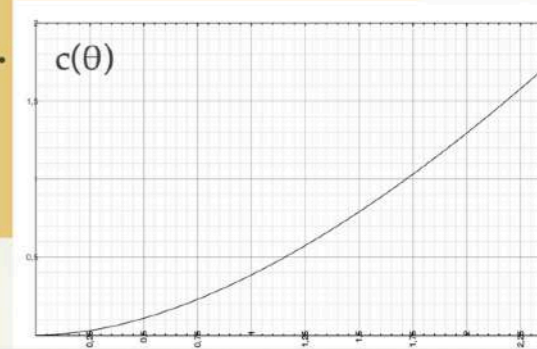
For all practical purposes,  $c(\theta) \approx \theta^2/3$

# Proof of Chernoff's bound (1/4)

- ❖ Let  $t, a > 0$  to be fixed later
- ❖ Define the rand. var  
 $X = \exp(t(X_1 + \dots + X_N))$
- ❖ Note that  $E(X) \leq \exp(tN) < \infty$ , so we can use **Markov's inequality**:

$$\Pr(X \geq a \cdot E(X)) \leq 1/a$$

**Theorem.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be independent rand. vars with values in  $\{0, 1\}$  and with the **same law**:  $\Pr(X_i=1)=p$ . Then  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1+\theta)pN) \leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$



**Theorem (Markov's inequality).**

Let  $X$  be a **non-negative real-valued** random variable with **finite** expectation  $E(X)$ . For every  $a \geq 0$ :  
 $\Pr(X \geq a \cdot E(X)) \leq 1/a$ .

# Proof of Chernoff's bound (2/4)

❖ Let  $t, a > 0$  to be fixed later

❖ Define the rand. var

$$X = \exp(t(X_1 + \dots + X_N))$$

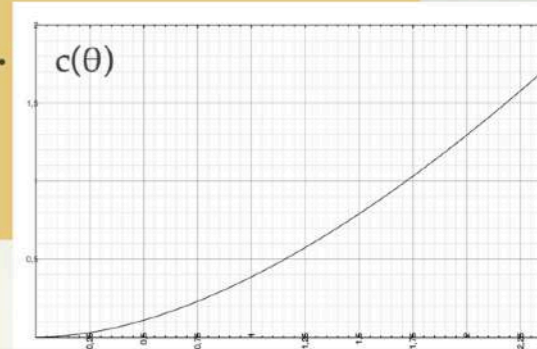
❖  $\Pr(X \geq a \cdot E(X)) \leq 1/a$  (from last slide)

❖ Let us fix  $a = \exp(t(1+\theta)pN) / E(X)$ , hence:

❖  $\Pr(X \geq \exp(t(1+\theta)pN)) \leq E(X) \exp(-t(1+\theta)pN)$

This is just  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1+\theta)pN)$

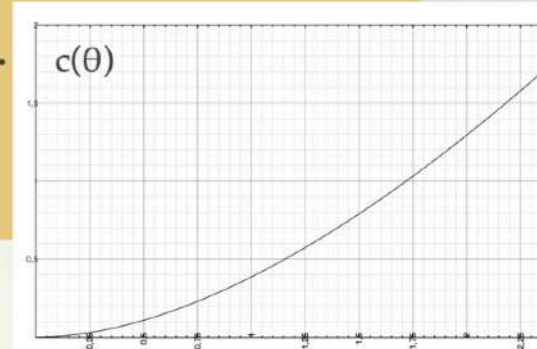
**Theorem.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be independent rand. vars with values in  $\{0, 1\}$  and with the same law:  $\Pr(X_i=1)=p$ . Then  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1+\theta)pN) \leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$



# Proof of Chernoff's bound (3/4)

- ❖ Let  $t > 0$ , to be fixed later
- ❖  $X = \exp(t(X_1 + \dots + X_N))$
- ❖  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1 + \theta)pN) \leq E(X) \exp(-t(1 + \theta)pN)$  (from last slide)
- ❖ 
$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= E(\prod_{i=1}^N \exp(tX_i)) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N E(\exp(tX_i)) && \text{(independence)} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N (p \exp(t) + 1 - p) && \text{(def. of the law of } X_i) \\ &= (p \exp(t) + 1 - p)^N \\ &= (1 + p(\exp(t) - 1))^N \leq \exp((\exp(t) - 1)pN) \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be independent rand. vars with values in  $\{0, 1\}$  and with the same law:  $\Pr(X_i=1)=p$ . Then  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1 + \theta)pN) \leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$



take logs:

$$N \log(1 + p(\exp(t) - 1)) \leq Np(\exp(t) - 1)$$

# Proof of Chernoff's bound (4/4)

❖ Let  $t > 0$ , to be fixed later

❖  $X = \exp(t(X_1 + \dots + X_N))$

❖  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1 + \theta)pN)$

$$\leq \exp((\exp(t) - 1)pN) \exp(-t(1 + \theta)pN)$$

(from last slide)

❖ Let  $t = \log(1 + \theta)$ , so  $(\exp(t) - 1)pN = \theta pN$ , hence

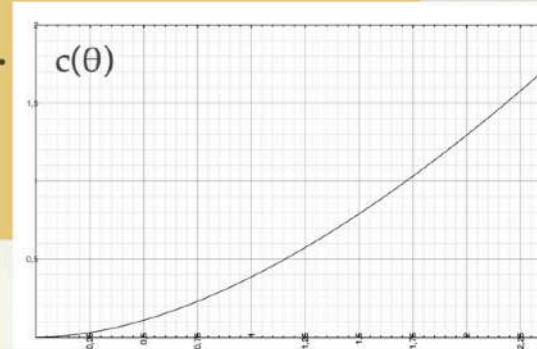
❖  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1 + \theta)pN)$

$$\leq \exp((\theta - (1 + \theta)\log(1 + \theta))pN).$$

Done!  $\square$

Call this  $-c(\theta)$

**Theorem.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be independent rand. vars with values in  $\{0, 1\}$  and with the same law:  $\Pr(X_i=1)=p$ . Then  $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_N \geq (1 + \theta)pN) \leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$

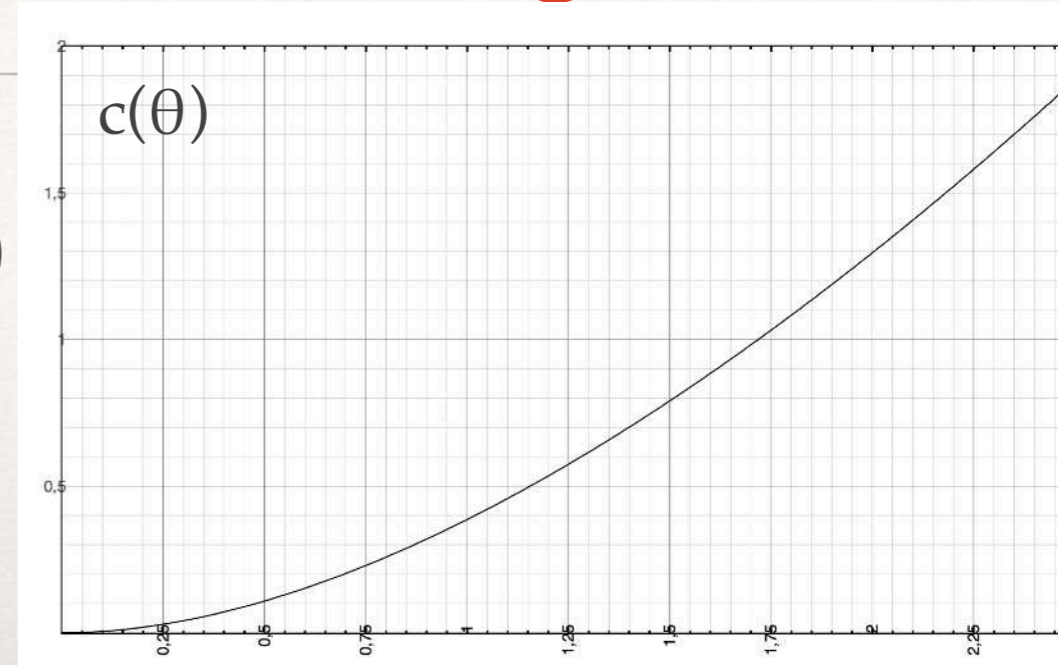


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# A few properties of $c(\theta) = -\theta + (1+\theta)\log(1+\theta)$

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- ❖ **Prop 1.**  $c(\theta)$  is monotonic (for  $\theta \geq 0$ )
- ❖ *Proof.*  $c'(\theta) = \log(1+\theta) \geq 0$





# A few properties of $c(\theta) = -\theta + (1+\theta)\log(1+\theta)$

❖ **Prop 1.**  $c(\theta)$  is monotonic (for  $\theta \geq 0$ )

❖ **Prop 2.** For  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ ,  $c(\theta) \geq \theta^2/3$

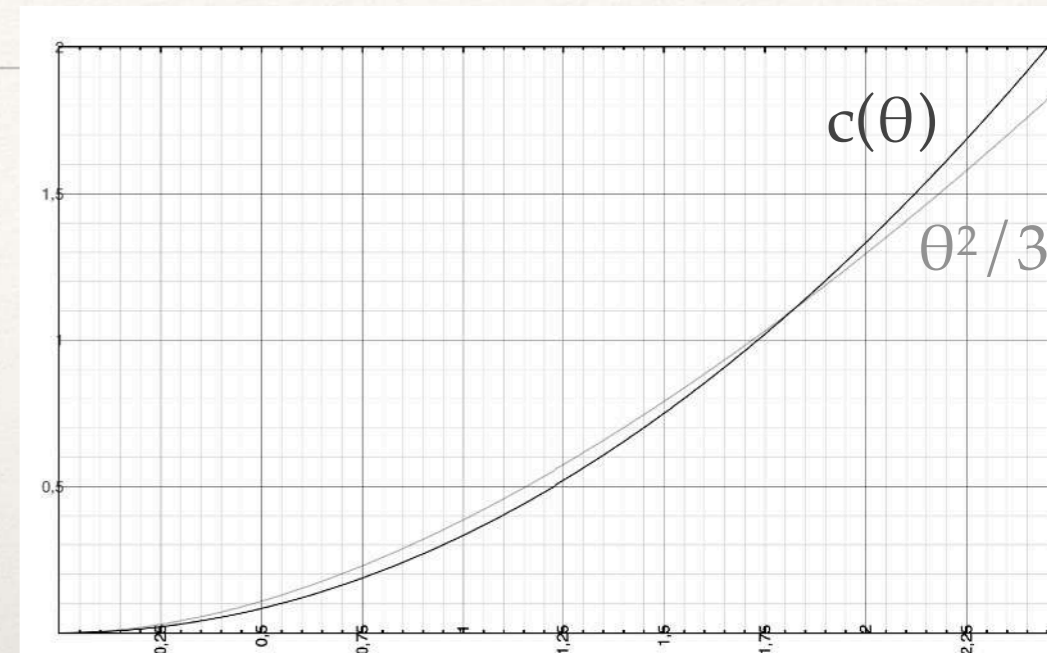
❖ *Proof.*  $c(0) = 0$

$$c'(0) = 0 \quad (\text{recall } c'(\theta) = \log(1+\theta))$$

$$c''(0) = 1 \quad (c''(\theta) = 1/(1+\theta))$$

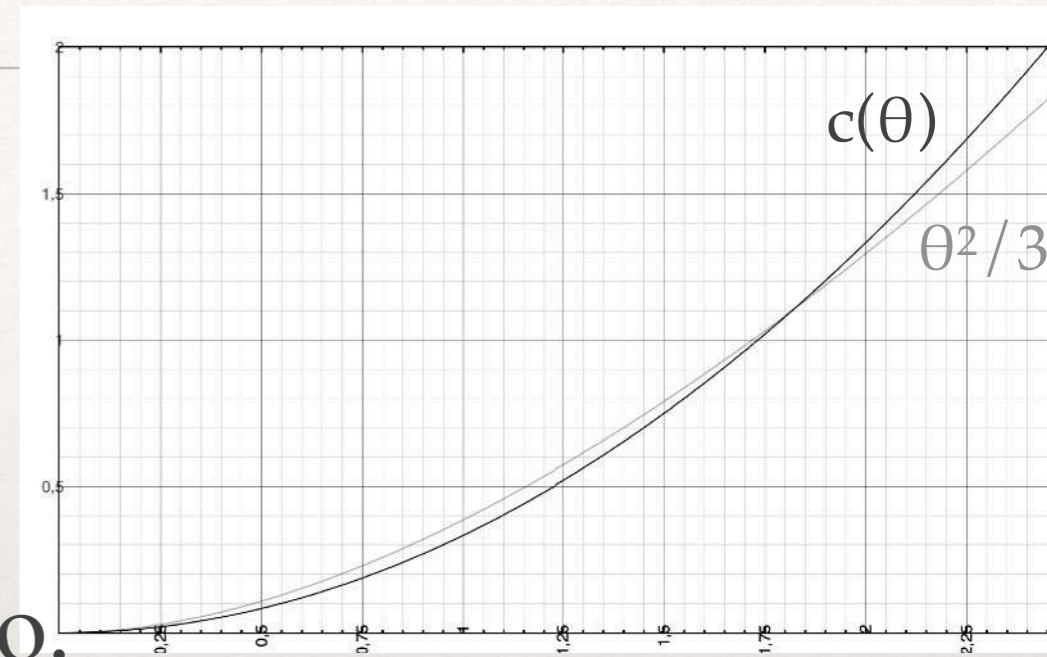
$$c'''(0) = -1 \quad (c'''(\theta) = -1/(1+\theta)^2)$$

❖ So  $c(\theta) = \theta^2/2 - \theta^3/6 + c^{(4)}(\theta_0)/24$  for some  $0 \leq \theta_0 \leq \theta$  (Taylor)

$$\geq \theta^2/2 - \theta^3/6 \quad (\text{since } c^{(4)}(\theta) = 2/(1+\theta)^3 \geq 0)$$
$$\geq \theta^2/3 \quad (\text{since } \theta \leq 1) \quad \square$$


# A few properties of $c(\theta) = -\theta + (1+\theta)\log(1+\theta)$

- ❖ **Prop 1.**  $c(\theta)$  is monotonic (for  $\theta \geq 0$ )
- ❖ **Prop 2.** For  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ ,  $c(\theta) \geq \theta^2/3$
- ❖ **Prop 3.**  $c(\theta)/(1+\theta)$  is monotonic too.
- ❖ **Proof.**  $c(\theta)/(1+\theta) = -\theta/(1+\theta) + \log(1+\theta)$   
Derivative:  $-1/(1+\theta)^2 + 1/(1+\theta) = \theta/(1+\theta)^2 \geq 0 \quad \square$

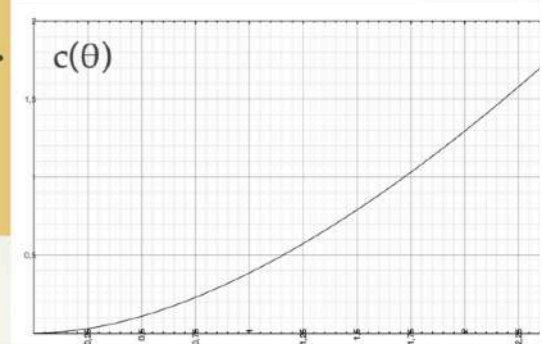


# Application to voting (1/4)

- ❖ Assume that  $\Pr_r(\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq 1/3$ ,  
what is the probability  $P$  that more than  $1/2$  of  $N$  votes  
 $\mathcal{M}(x,r_1), \dots, \mathcal{M}(x,r_N)$  err?
- ❖ Let  $X_i = 1$  iff  $\mathcal{M}(x,r_i)$  errs:  
all assumptions satisfied  
with  $p \leq 1/3$
- ❖ Take  $\theta = 1/(2p) - 1$ , so  $(1+\theta)p = 1/2$ :  $P \leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$

**Theorem.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be independent rand. vars  
with values in  $\{0, 1\}$  and  
with the same law:  $\Pr(X_i=1)=p$ .  
Then  $\Pr(X_1+\dots+X_N \geq (1+\theta)pN)$   
 $\leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$

(Chernoff)



# Application to voting (2/4)

- ❖ Assume that  $\Pr_r(\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq 1/3$ ,  
what is the probability  $P$  that more than  $1/2$  of  $N$  votes  $\mathcal{M}(x,r_1)$ ,  
 $\dots$ ,  $\mathcal{M}(x,r_N)$  err?
- ❖ Take  $\theta = 1/(2p) - 1$ , so  $(1+\theta)p = 1/2$ :  $P \leq \exp(-c(\theta)pN)$   
(from last slide)
- ❖ I.e.,  $P \leq \exp(-c(\theta)/(1+\theta) \cdot 1/2 N)$
- ❖  $\leq \exp(-c(1/2)/(3/2) \cdot 1/2 N)$   
(since  $p \leq 1/3$ , so  $\theta \geq 1/2$ ; plus Prop 3)
- ❖  $\leq \exp(-(1/2)^2/3 / (3/2) \cdot 1/2 N)$  (Prop 2)  
 $= \exp(-N/36)$

**Prop 1.**  $c(\theta)$  is monotonic (for  $\theta \geq 0$ )

**Prop 2.** For  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ ,  $c(\theta) \geq \theta^2/3$

**Prop 3.**  $c(\theta)/(1+\theta)$  is monotonic too.

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# Application to voting (3/4)

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- ❖ Assume that  $\Pr_r(\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq 1/3$ ,  
what is the probability  $P$  that more than  $1/2$  of  $N$  votes  
 $\mathcal{M}(x,r_1), \dots, \mathcal{M}(x,r_N)$  err?
- ❖ Answer: at most  $\exp(-N/36)$

# Error reduction for BPP

- ❖ First, a useful trick.  
Let us say that  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  **errs**  
iff ( $x \in L$  and  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  rejects)  
or ( $x \notin L$  and  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  accepts)
- ❖ (That used to be implicit.)
- ❖ Then:

A language  $L$  is in **BPP** if and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

$$\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}] \leq 1/3.$$

A language  $L$  is in **BPP( $\epsilon$ )** if and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

$$\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}] \leq \epsilon.$$

error =  $\epsilon$

# Error reduction for BPP

- ❖ Let  $L$  be in **BPP**, as here  $\rightarrow$
- ❖ Build new rand. TM  $\mathcal{M}'$  by:
- ❖  $yeas := 0$   
for  $i=1$  to  $N$ :  
    draw  $r$  at random  
    if  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  accepts:  
         $yeas++$   
accept if  $yeas \geq N/2$ , else reject

A language  $L$  is in **BPP** if and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

$$\Pr_r (\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq 1/3.$$

A language  $L$  is in **BPP( $\epsilon$ )** and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

$$\Pr_r (\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq \epsilon.$$

error =  $\epsilon$

# Error reduction for BPP

- ❖ Let  $L$  be in **BPP**
- ❖ Build new rand. TM  $\mathcal{M}'$  by:
  - ❖  $\text{yeas} := 0$
  - for  $i=1$  to  $N$ :
    - draw  $r$  at random
    - if  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  accepts:
      - $\text{yeas}++$
  - accept if  $\text{yeas} \geq N/2$ , else reject
- ❖  $\mathcal{M}'$  errs on input  $x$  iff at least half of the calls to  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  err
- ❖ That happens with probability  $\leq \exp(-N/36)$
- ❖  $\dots \leq \varepsilon$  provided that we pick  $N \geq -36 \log \varepsilon$

Note: if  $\mathcal{M}$  runs in polytime  $p(n)$ ,  
then  $\mathcal{M}'$  runs in **polytime**  $= -36 \log \varepsilon p(n) + \text{cst.}$



# Error reduction for BPP

- ❖ Hence  $\mathbf{BPP}(= \mathbf{BPP}(1/3)) \subseteq \mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)$   
for  $\varepsilon$  arbitrarily close to 0
- ❖ By a similar argument, we can replace  $1/3$  by  
any  $\eta$ ,  $0 < \eta < 1/2$ , so  $\mathbf{BPP}(\eta) \subseteq \mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)$   
for  $\varepsilon$  arbitrarily close to 0
- ❖ Recalling that  $\mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon) \subseteq \mathbf{BPP}(\eta)$  if  $\varepsilon \leq \eta$ , we obtain:
- ❖ **Theorem.** For every  $\varepsilon$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/2$ ,  $\mathbf{BPP} = \mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)$ .
- ❖ ... but can we do better?

# Application to voting (4/4)

- ❖ Assume that  $\Pr_r(\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq 1/3$ ,  
**how large** should  $N$  be so that  
the probability  $P$  that more than  $1/2$   
of  $N$  votes  $\mathcal{M}(x,r_1), \dots, \mathcal{M}(x,r_N)$  err  
is  $\leq 1/2^{q(n)}$ ?

- ❖ Answer: at least  $36 q(n) \log 2$

- ❖ *Proof.*  $\exp(-N/36) \leq 1/2^{q(n)}$  iff  
 $-N/36 \leq -q(n) \log 2$

## Application to voting (3/4)

- ❖ Assume that  $\Pr_r(\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ errs}) \leq 1/3$ ,  
what is the probability  $P$  that more than  $1/2$  of  $N$   
 $\mathcal{M}(x,r_1), \dots, \mathcal{M}(x,r_N)$  err?
- ❖ Answer: at most  $\exp(-N/36)$

The only magical formula  
you'll need to remember  
for error reduction by majority voting

Note: if  $q(n)$  is polynomial,  
this is polynomial, too

# Error reduction for BPP revisited

- ❖ Let  $L$  be in **BPP**
- ❖ Build new rand. TM  $\mathcal{M}'$  by:
  - ❖  $\text{yeas} := 0$
  - ❖ for  $i=1$  to  $N := 36 q(n) \log 2$ :
    - draw  $r$  at random
    - if  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  accepts:
      - $\text{yeas}++$
  - ❖ **accept** if  $\text{yeas} \geq N/2$ , else **reject**
- ❖  $\mathcal{M}'$  errs on input  $x$  iff at least half of the calls to  $\mathcal{M}(x,r)$  err
- ❖ That happens with probability  $\leq 1 / 2^{q(n)}$

Note: if  $\mathcal{M}$  runs in polytime  $p(n)$ , and  $q(n)$  is polynomial then  $\mathcal{M}'$  runs in **polytime** =  $O(q(n) p(n) \log n)$  [ $\log n$  for operations on the counter  $i$ ]

# Error reduction for BPP revisited

A language  $L$  is in **BPP**( $\epsilon$ ) and only if there is a **polynomial-time** TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

if  $x \in L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \geq 1-\epsilon$

if  $x \notin L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \leq \epsilon$

error =  $\epsilon$

- ❖ **Theorem.** BPP is equal to:
  - **BPP**( $\epsilon$ ) for every  $\epsilon, 0 < \epsilon < 1/2$
  - **BPP**( $1/2^{q(n)}$ ) for every polynomial  $q(n)$

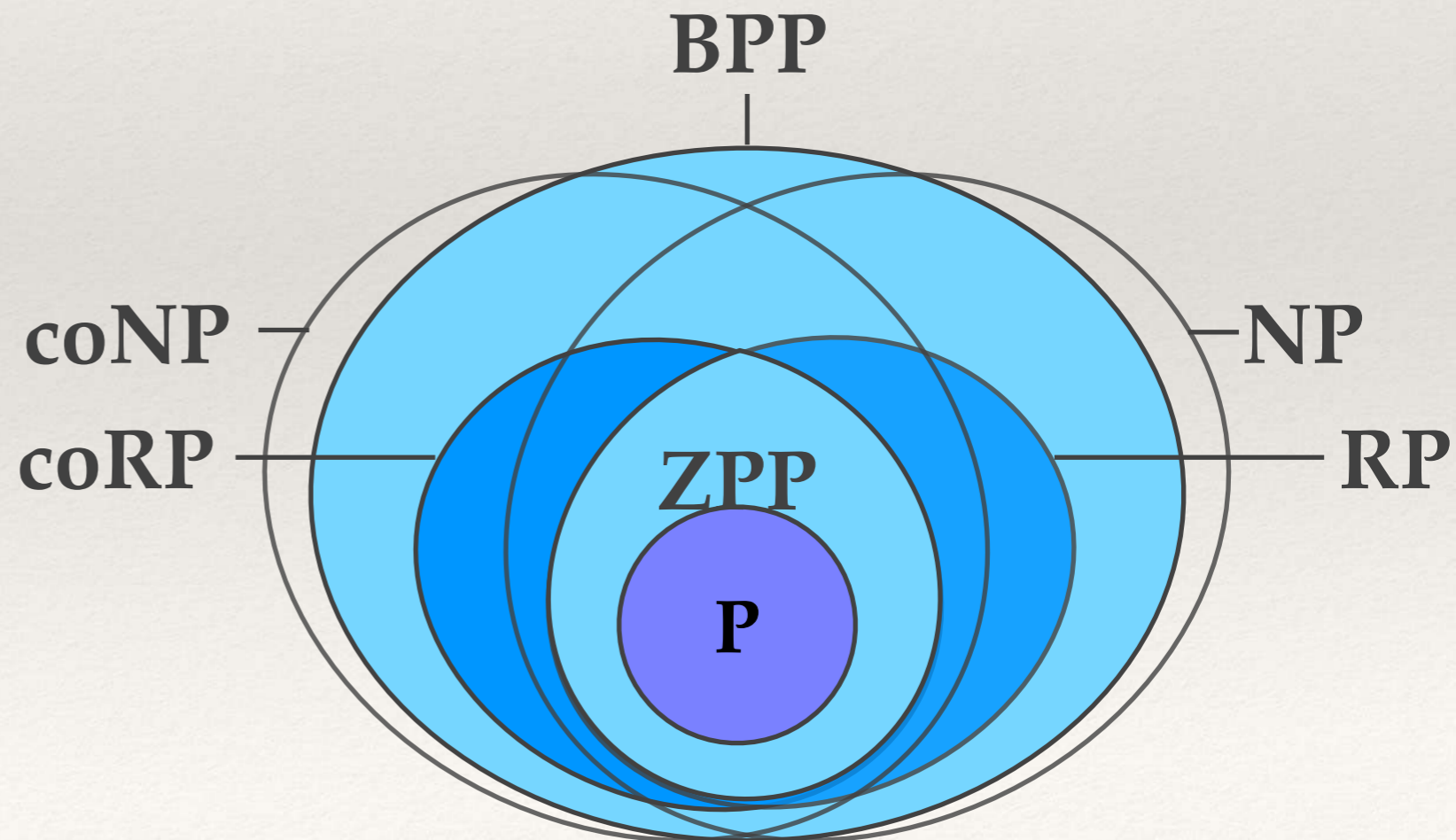
# The new landscape

# BPP vs. other complexity classes

- ❖ Both **RP** and **coRP** are included in **BPP**  
(if you make a mistake with prob. 0, then this prob. is  $\leq 1/3!$ )

- ❖ **BPP** is closed under complements: **BPP=coBPP**  
(easy)

- ❖ ... but what is the relation between **BPP**, **NP**, **coNP**, etc.?



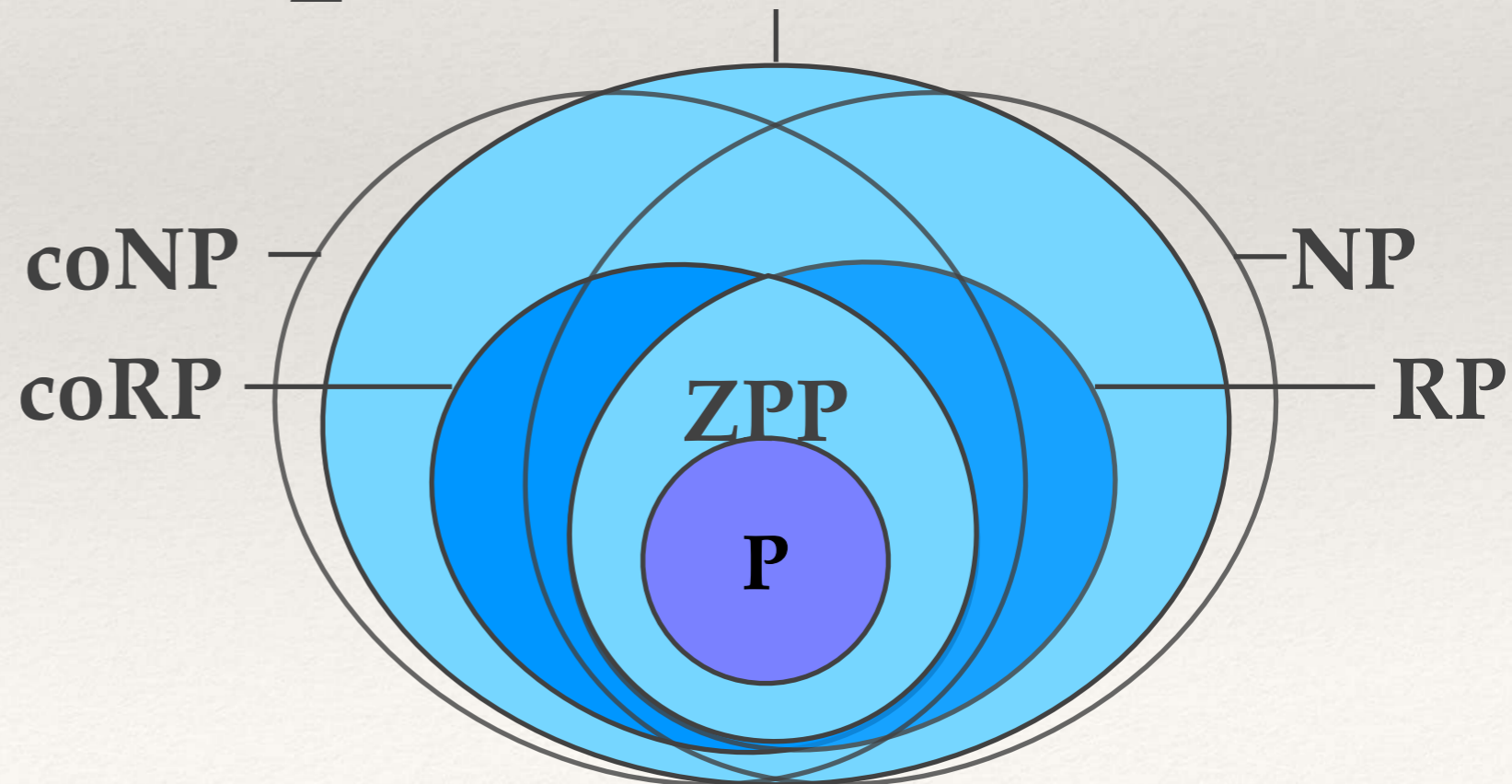
# BPP cannot be too large

- ❖ It is unknown whether  $\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq / \supseteq \mathbf{NP}$  (equiv.,  $\mathbf{coNP}$ )  
... but we will see that  $\mathbf{BPP} \supseteq \mathbf{NP}$  would have  
drastic (and unlikely) consequences

We start with this one

- ❖ We will also see that  $\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma_{P_2} \cap \Pi_{P_2}$

- ❖ ... no significantly  
better result known!  
although some  
believe  $\mathbf{BPP} = \mathbf{P}$ .



# The Sipser-Gács-Lautemann Theorem



[http://lpcs.math.msu.su/~ver/photo\\_album/Colleagues/lautemann+allender+wagn](http://lpcs.math.msu.su/~ver/photo_album/Colleagues/lautemann+allender+wagn)

<https://gravatar.com/avatar/dc36e666740ff9480eb738e556c887a4?s=200>

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/34/MIT-Science\\_Sipser\\_Michael.jpg/440px-MIT-Science\\_Sipser\\_Michael.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/34/MIT-Science_Sipser_Michael.jpg/440px-MIT-Science_Sipser_Michael.jpg)



# The Sipser-Gács-Lautemann theorem

❖ **Theorem (Sipser-Gács-Lautemann, Prop. 1.24.)**

$$\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma^{\text{P}_2} \cap \Pi^{\text{P}_2}.$$

❖ *Proof sketch.*

It is enough to prove  $\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma^{\text{P}_2}$ .

Proceeds by **derandomization**.

In order to do so, we will to prove  
the **existence** of something

Funnily, this will involve Erdős' **probabilistic method**.

Of course:  $\Sigma^{\text{P}_2}$  is a non-randomized class...

$$\Sigma^{\text{P}_2} = \exists \cdot \text{coNP} \\ (= \exists \cdot \forall \cdot \text{P})$$

To prove that  $\exists t, P(t)$ ,  
just show that  $\Pr_t(P(t)) \neq 0$ , or  
equivalently that  $\Pr_t(\neg P(t)) < 1$

# Lautemann's trick

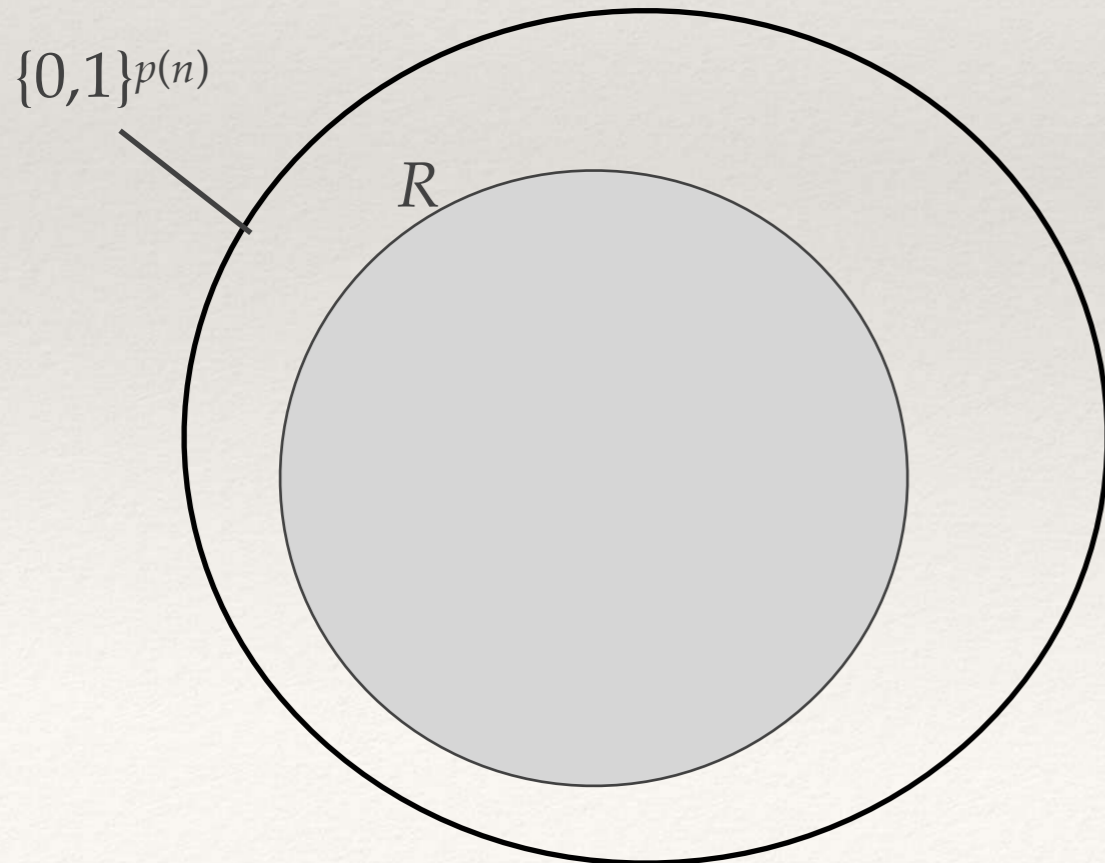
- ❖ Let  $L \in \mathbf{BPP}$ , decided with error  $\varepsilon = 1/2^n$  (not  $1/3$ ) in polytime  $p(n)$

A language  $L$  is in  $\mathbf{BPP}(\varepsilon)$  and only if there is a polynomial-time TM  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for every input  $x$  (of size  $n$ ):

if  $x \in L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \geq 1-\varepsilon$

if  $x \notin L$  then  $\Pr_r [\mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}] \leq \varepsilon$

- ❖ Fix  $x$ . Then  $R = \{r \in \{0,1\}^{p(n)} \mid \mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}\}$  is



either **huge**, if  $x \in L$   
(covers a proportion  $\geq (1-1/2^n)$  of the whole space)

error  $\varepsilon = 1/2^n$

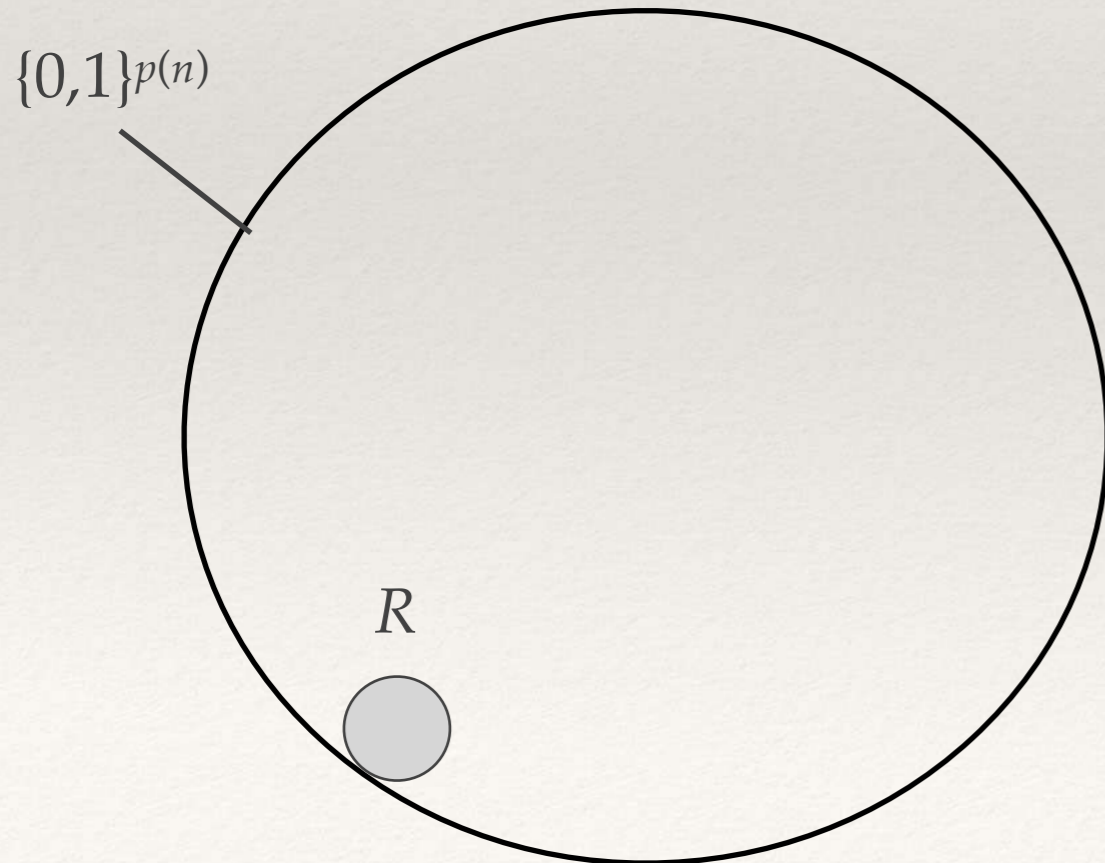
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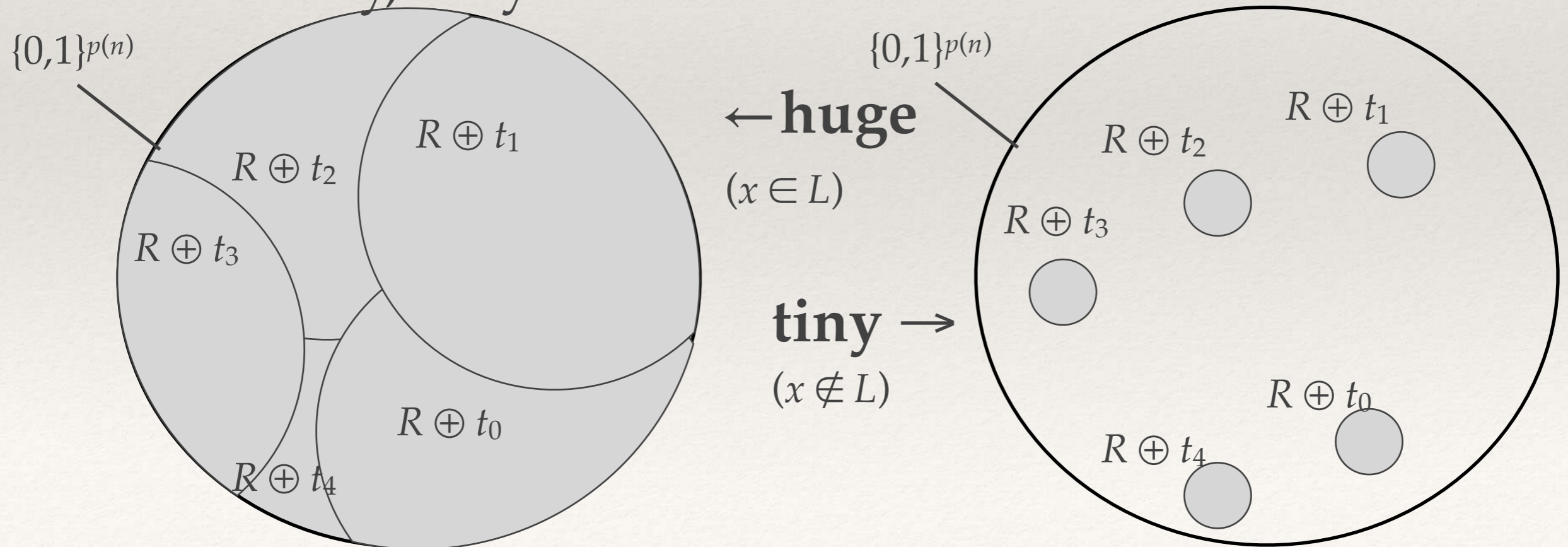


error  $\varepsilon = 1/2^n$

or **tiny**, if  $x \notin L$   
(covers a proportion  $\leq 1/2^n$   
of the whole space)

# Lautemann's trick

- ❖  $R = \{r \in \{0,1\}^{p(n)} \mid \mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}\}$  is **huge** or **tiny**
- ❖ We claim there are **translations**  $R \oplus t_i$  of  $R$  such that:
  - if  $R$  huge, then the translations cover the whole space
  - if  $R$  tiny, they do not.



# Translations?

- ❖ The computer science view:

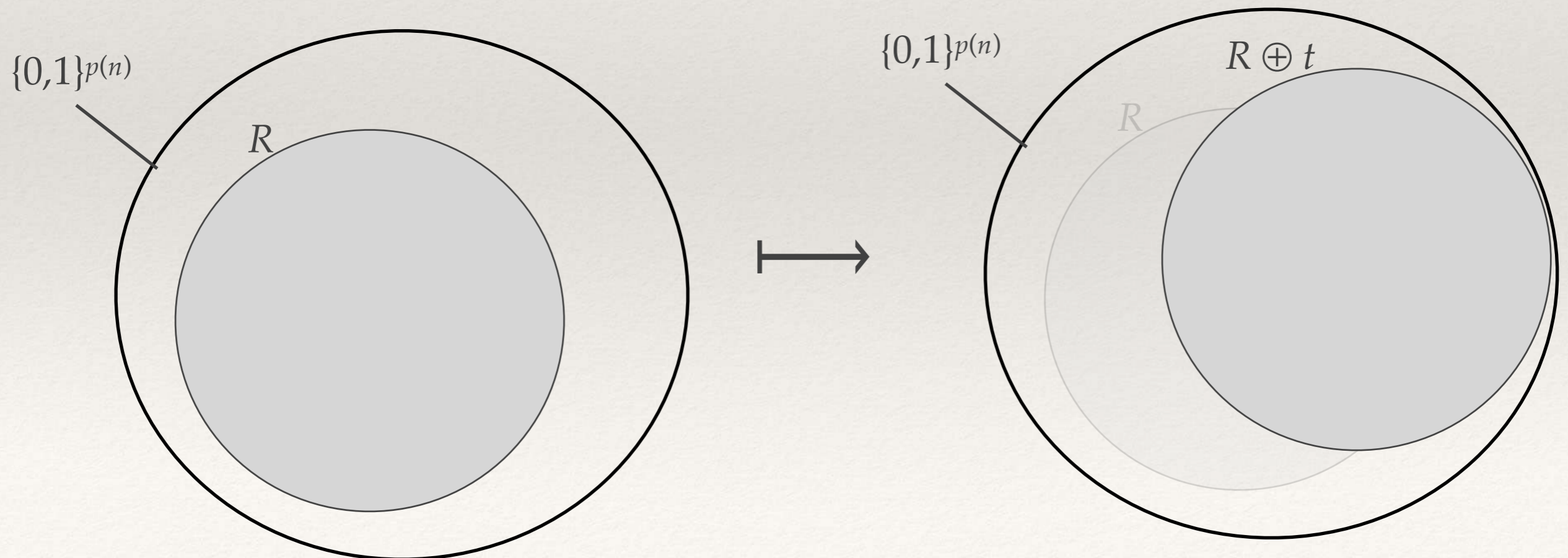
$\oplus$  is **bitwise exclusive-or**

|              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $r$          | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| $t$          | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| $r \oplus t$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

- ❖  $R \oplus t = \{r \oplus t \mid r \in R\}$

# Translations?

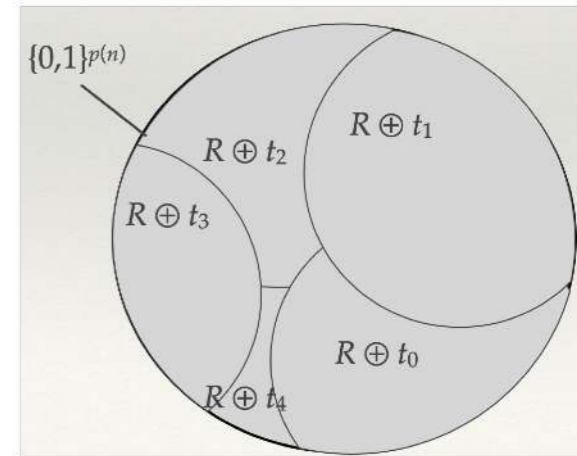
- ❖ The algebraist's view:  $\{0,1\}$  is the **field**  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ ,
  - exclusive or  $\oplus$  is **addition (mod 2)**
  - $\{0,1\}^{p(n)}$  is a  $p(n)$ -dimensional **vector space**
  - and translation  $R \oplus t = \{r \oplus t \mid r \in R\}$  is:



# The huge case (1/3)

❖ Assume card  $R \geq (1 - 1/2^n)2^{p(n)}$  («  $R$  is huge »)

❖ **Claim.**  $\exists t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  ( $m=p(n)$ ) such that  
 $R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  cover  $\{0,1\}^m$ .



❖ By the **probabilistic method**. Let  $\underline{t} = t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$ .

❖  $\Pr_{\underline{t}}(R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  does **not** cover  $\{0,1\}^m$ )

❖ =  $\Pr_{\underline{t}}(\exists r, r \notin R \oplus t_0$  and ... and  $r \notin R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$ )

❖  $\leq \sum_r \Pr_{\underline{t}}(r \notin R \oplus t_0$  and ... and  $r \notin R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$ )

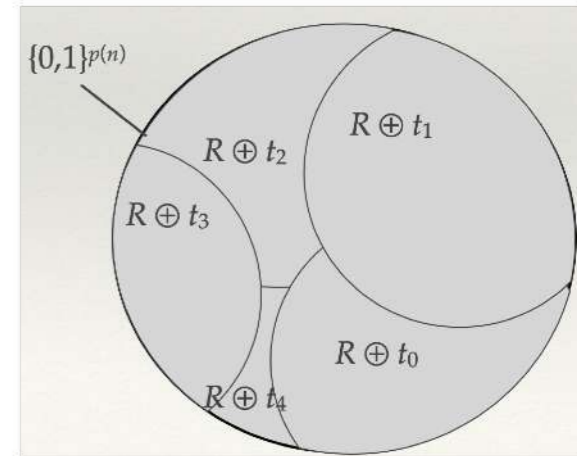
**Sum bound:**  $\Pr(\exists \dots) \leq \sum \Pr(\dots)$

Oh yes, that is a sum of  $2^{p(n)}$  terms here!

# The huge case (2/3)

❖ Assume card  $R \geq (1 - 1/2^n)2^{p(n)}$  («  $R$  is huge »)

❖ **Claim.**  $\exists t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  ( $m=p(n)$ ) such that  
 $R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  cover  $\{0,1\}^m$ .



❖  $\Pr_{\underline{t}}(R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil} \text{ does not cover } \{0,1\}^m)$

❖  $\leq \sum_r \Pr_{\underline{t}}(r \notin R \oplus t_0 \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } r \notin R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil})$  (from last slide)

❖  $= \sum_r \prod_{i=0}^{\lceil m/n \rceil} \Pr_{\underline{t}}(r \notin R \oplus t_i)$

(independence)

❖  $= \sum_r \prod_{i=0}^{\lceil m/n \rceil} \Pr_{\underline{t}}(r \oplus t_i \notin R)$

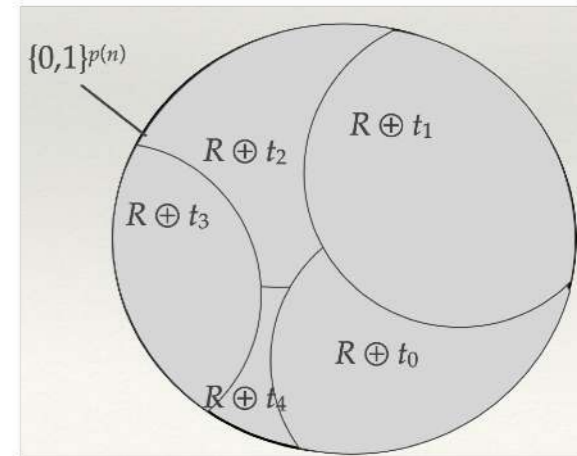
( $r \in R \oplus t$  iff  $r \ominus t \in R$ ... but  $\oplus = \ominus \pmod{2}$ )



# The huge case (3/3)

❖ Assume card  $R \geq (1 - 1/2^n)2^{p(n)}$  («  $R$  is huge »)

❖ **Claim.**  $\exists t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  ( $m=p(n)$ ) such that  
 $R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  cover  $\{0,1\}^m$ .



❖  $\Pr_{\underline{t}}(R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil} \text{ does not cover } \{0,1\}^m)$

❖  $\leq \sum_r \prod_{i=0}^{\lceil m/n \rceil} \Pr_{\underline{t}}(r \oplus t_i \notin R)$  (from last slide)

❖  $= \sum_r \prod_{i=0}^{\lceil m/n \rceil} \Pr_{\underline{t}}(t \notin R)$

$(t_i \mapsto t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} r \oplus t_i$  bijection,  
preserves cardinalities)

❖  $\leq 2^m (1/2^n)^{\lceil m/n \rceil + 1} \leq 1/2^n < 1$  (at least if  $n \neq 0$ ). Done!  $\square$

# The tiny case

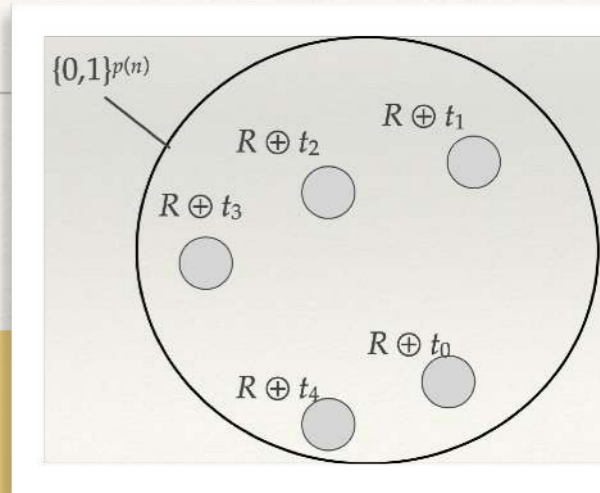
if  $n \geq n_0$

❖ Assume card  $R \leq (1/2^n)2^{p(n)}$  («  $R$  is tiny »)

❖ **Claim.**  $\forall t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  ( $m=p(n)$ ),  
 $R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  does **not** cover  $\{0,1\}^m$ .

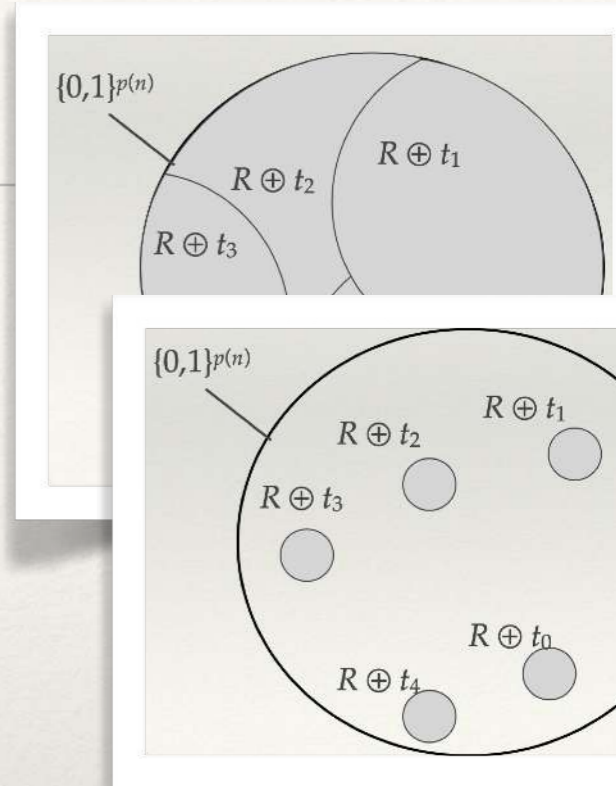
❖ card  $(\bigcup_{i=0}^{\lceil m/n \rceil} R \oplus t_i) \leq (\lceil m/n \rceil + 1) (1/2^n)2^{p(n)}$   
 $= O(\text{poly}(n)/2^n) 2^{p(n)}$

❖ **strictly smaller** than card  $\{0,1\}^m = 2^{p(n)}$   
... if  $n$  large enough (say  $n \geq n_0$ ).  $\square$



# Testing huge vs. tiny

- ❖  $R \oplus t_0, \dots, R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  covers  $\{0,1\}^m$  iff:  
$$\forall r, r \in R \oplus t_0 \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } r \in R \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$$
- ❖ iff: 
$$\forall r, r \oplus t_0 \in R \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } r \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil} \in R$$
- ❖ (Now remember that  $R = \{r \in \{0,1\}^{p(n)} \mid \mathcal{M}(x,r) \text{ accepts}\}$ .)  
iff: 
$$\forall r, \mathcal{M}(x, r \oplus t_0) \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } \mathcal{M}(x, r \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}) \text{ accepts.}$$
- ❖ If  $x \in L, \exists t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil},$   
$$\forall r, \mathcal{M}(x, r \oplus t_0) \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } \mathcal{M}(x, r \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}) \text{ accepts.}$$
- ❖ If  $x \notin L,$  such  $t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$  do not exist (for  $n \geq n_0$ ).



# The algorithm

❖ Hence, for every  $x$  of size  $n \geq n_0$ ,

$x \in L$  iff  $\exists t_0, \dots, t_{\lceil m/n \rceil}$ ,

$\forall r, \mathcal{M}(x, r \oplus t_0)$  or ... or  $\mathcal{M}(x, r \oplus t_{\lceil m/n \rceil})$  accepts.

polytime (note  $\lceil m/n \rceil = \lceil p(n)/n \rceil = \text{poly}(n)$ )

❖ For  $n < n_0$ , **tabulate** the answers.

❖ Hence  $L$  is in  $\Sigma^P_2$ .

❖ Since  $L$  is arbitrary in **BPP**,  $\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma^P_2$ .  $\square$

# The Sipser-Gács-Lautemann theorem

❖ **Theorem (Sipser-Gács-Lautemann, Prop. 1.24.)**

$$\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma^{\text{P}_2} \cap \Pi^{\text{P}_2}.$$

❖ *End of proof.*

We have shown  $\mathbf{BPP} \subseteq \Sigma^{\text{P}_2}$ .

❖ Now  $\mathbf{BPP} = \mathbf{coBPP} \subseteq \mathbf{co}\Sigma^{\text{P}_2} = \Pi^{\text{P}_2}$ .  $\square$

**Useful Lemma.** Given two classes  $C_1, C_2$ ,  
if  $C_1 \subseteq C_2$  then  $\mathbf{co}C_1 \subseteq \mathbf{co}C_2$ .

(Let  $L \in \mathbf{co}C_1$ . The complement of  $L$  is in  $C_1$  hence in  $C_2$ .)

No,  $\mathbf{co}C$  is **not** the complement of  $C$ .

It is the class of complements of languages in  $C$ .

Next time...

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# P/poly

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- ❖ We will introduce a strange complexity class defined by **families of circuits**:  
**P/poly**
- ❖ Studying it, we will eventually show that **BPP** probably does **not** contain **NP**  
... otherwise **PH** would collapse at level 2!