

Lecture 5: Pseudorandomness

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- “Data Processing Inequality” (in crypto setting)
 - Efficient processing cannot help distinguish computationally indistinguishable distributions
- Hybrid Lemma
 - If the first and last hybrid is computationally distinguishable then at least a pair of consecutive hybrids are computationally distinguishable

Definition (Pseudorandom Generator)

A pseudorandom generator (PRG) $G: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ is an efficiently computable function, where $\ell(\cdot)$ is a suitable polynomial, such that:

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- 2 Think: *Non-boolean* PRGs?
- 3 Think: How do we test indistinguishability against *all computational tests*?

Next-bit Unpredictability

Definition (Next-bit Unpredictability)

An ensemble of distributions $\{X_n\}$ over $\{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ is next-bit unpredictable if, for all $0 \leq i < \ell(n)$ and n.u. PPT A there exists negligible $\nu(\cdot)$ such that:

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- If $\{X_n\}$ is next-bit unpredictable then $\{X_n\}$ is pseudorandom

Next-bit unpredictability \implies Pseudorandomness

$$H_n^{(i)} := \{x \sim X_n, u \sim U_{\ell(n)} : x_1 \dots x_i u_{i+1} \dots u_{\ell(n)}\}$$

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- If possible let this distribution not be pseudorandom

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- $H_n^{(0)}$ is the uniform distribution
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- If $H_n^{(0)}$ and $H_n^{(\ell(n))}$ are distinguishable then there exists $0 \leq i < \ell(n)$ such that $H_n^{(i)}$ and $H_n^{(i+1)}$ are distinguishable

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- Now next bit unpredictability is violated
- Think: Where did we use “n.u.”-ity in the adversary construction?

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Definition (Hardcore Predicate)

The predicate $h: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is hardcore for $f(\cdot)$ if for all n.u. PPT A there exists a negligible function $\nu(\cdot)$ such that:

$$\Pr \left[x \xleftarrow{s} \{0, 1\}^n : A(1^n, f(x)) = h(x) \right] \leq \frac{1}{2} + \nu(n)$$

- Construction: $G(s) = f(s) \parallel h(s)$

Hardcore Predicate for OWP \implies One-bit extension PRG

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- Proof?