## Towards Coding for

 Max Errors in InteractiveCommunication

Mark Braverman [Princeton University]
Anup Rao [University of Washington]

## Classical Error Correction


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

## Classical Error Correction


$\mathrm{E}(\mathrm{x})$
$x \in\{0,1\}^{n}$

## Classical Error Correction


$E(x)$
$\mathrm{y}=\mathrm{E}(\mathrm{x})+$ errors
$x \in\{0,1\}^{n}$

## Classical Error Correction


$x \in\{0,1\}^{n}$
$\mathrm{y}=\mathrm{E}(\mathrm{x})+$ errors
$E(x)$


## Classical Error Correction


$E(x)$
$y=E(x)+$ errors
$x \in\{0,1\}^{n}$


State of art: $\quad E(x)=O_{\varepsilon}(n)$ bits
$D(y)=x$, if $(1 / 4-\varepsilon)$ errors

## Classical Error Correction


$x \in\{0,1\}^{n}$
$E(x)$
$y=E(x)+$ errors
NOTE:Throughout this talk: errors are 'adversarial'!

$E(x)=O_{\varepsilon}(n)$ bits
$D(y)=x$, if $(1 / 4-\varepsilon)$ errors

## Classical Error Correction


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

NOTE:Throughout this talk: errors are 'adversarial'!


## Classical Error Correction


$\mathrm{E}(\mathrm{x})$
NOTE:Throughout this talk: errors are 'adversarial!!

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

## Classical Error Correction


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

## Classical Error Correction


$x \in\{0,1\}^{n}$
$y=E(x)+$ errors
NOTE:Throughout this talk: errors are 'adversarial!'


## Classical Error Correction


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

## $E(x)$

$y=E(x)+$ errors

State of art: $\quad|E(x)|=O_{\varepsilon}(n) \quad O_{\varepsilon}(1)$ size alphabet $D(y)=x$, if $(1 / 2-\varepsilon)$ errors

## Interaction given by: ml,m2,...



## Interaction given by: ml,m2,...



## Interaction given by: ml,m2,...



## Interaction given by: ml,m2,...



## Interaction given by: ml,m2,...



## Aside

- How to compress interactive communication? - Applications to hardness amplification.













## n wires




## Want resilient version:

## $\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{n})$ wires



Want circuit to work even if $10 \%$ of wires fail

## Error Correction

- First attempt: use code for each round of communication.
- Adversary can corrupt single round completely, to ruin entire outcome. If \#rounds is $\omega(\mathrm{I})$, subconstant fraction of corruption.


## [Schulman]


n bit interaction

$\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{n})$ interaction using constant sized alphabet
encoded protocol has same effect, as long
as errors are at most $1 / 240$

## [Schulman]


n bit interaction

$\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{n})$ interaction using constant sized alphabet
encoded protocol has same effect, as long as errors are at most $1 / 240$
for good reasons

## Our Results


encoded protocol has same effect, as long
as errors are at most $1 / 8-\varepsilon$

## Our Results


encoded protocol has same effect, as long
as errors are at most $1 / 4-\varepsilon$

## Pointer Jumping



Goal: find the red-blue path

## Party I

(knows even
edges)

Party 2
(knows odd edges)


## Pointer Jumping



## Party I

(knows even edges)

Goal: find the red-blue path


0


Party 2
(knows odd edges)

## Pointer Jumping



Party I
(knows even


Goal: find the red-blue path


Party 2
(knows odd edges)

## Pointer Jumping



Party I
(knows even edges)


Goal: find the red-blue path


Party 2
(knows odd edges)

## Pointer Jumping



Party I
(knows even edges)


Goal: find the red-blue path

1

Party 2
(knows odd edges)

## Pointer Jumping



## Party I

Goal: find the red-blue path
(knows even


1

Party 2
(knows odd edges)

## Pointer Jumping



Party I
(knows even edges)
 ven

Goal: find the red-blue path

Party 2
(knows odd


## Pointer Jumping



Party I
(knows even
edges)


Goal: find the red-blue path


10

## Jumping Over Errors



Goal: find the red-blue path despite errors: transmitted symbols may be corrupted.

Party 2
(knows odd edges)
(knows even edges)


Party 1

## Jumping Over Errors



## Plan

I. Solve the problem with huge alphabet
2. Solve the problem with reasonable alphabet
3. Solve the problem with constant sized alphabet


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.


Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: $B$ is

 not known, since there can be errors!

Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: $B$ is

 not known, since there can be errors!

Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

Protocol for Party I
A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: B is not known, since there can be errors!



Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: $B$ is

 not known, since there can be errors!

Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: $B$ is

 not known, since there can be errors!

Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: $B$ is

 not known, since there can be errors!

Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: B is not known, since there can be errors!



Alphabet: each symbol represents distinct edge (size $2^{n}$ )

## Protocol for Party I

A: edges announced by Player I
B: edges announced by Player 2
Repeat:Announce the edge that extends path in $A \cup B$, if such an edge exists. Else send NULL.

## Problem: $B$ is

 not known, since there can be errors!
## d-ary Tree Codes [Schulman]

- Edges labeled by symbols from alphabet


## d-ary Tree Codes [Schulman]

- Edges labeled by symbols from alphabet


## d-ary Tree Codes [Schulman]



- Edges labeled by symbols from alphabet
- Distance $=1-\varepsilon$ means for every $u, v$ at same depth $\Delta(a, b)>(1-\varepsilon)|a|$


## d-ary Tree Codes [Schulman]

- Edges labeled by symbols from alphabet
- Distance $=1-\varepsilon$ means for every $u, v$ at same depth $\Delta(a, b)>(1-\varepsilon)|a|$
$a=a_{1} a_{2} \ldots a_{8}$
$b=b_{1} b_{2} \ldots b_{8}$
- alphabet of size $\mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{O}(1 / \varepsilon)}$ enough!


## d-ary Tree Codes

- Distance $=1-\varepsilon$ means for



## every $\mathrm{u}, \mathrm{v}$ <br> $\Delta(a, b)>(1-\varepsilon)|a|$

 alphabet of size $\mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{O}(1 / \varepsilon)}$ enough!
## Using Tree Codes

## d-ary Tree Codes

- Distance $=1-\varepsilon$ means for



## every $u, v$ <br> $\Delta(a, b)>(1-\varepsilon)|a|$ alphabet of size $\mathrm{d}^{0(1 / \varepsilon)}$ enough!

## Using Tree Codes


If $v$ is decoded instead of $u$, \#errors in last |a| transmissions must exceed $(1-\varepsilon)|a| / 2$


Party I
Before
Party 2


Assuming no errors....
Party I
Using Tree Codes
Party 2


## Open Problems

- Explicitly encodable and decodable Tree Codes? (This would make everything explicit). poly(n) alphabet possible [EKS]
- What if error rate is bounded per party, not globally?


## Questions?

