

# A Parameterized Framework for Hardness of Approximation

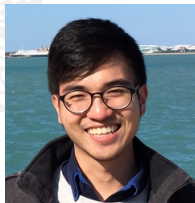
Karthik C. S.

(Weizmann Institute of Science)

Joint work with

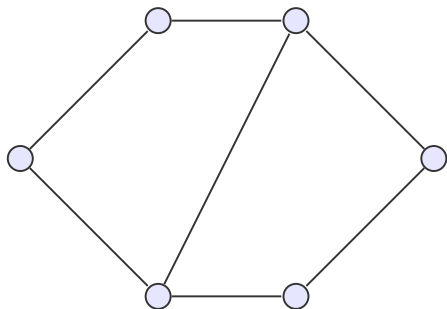


Bundit Laekhanukit  
(Shanghai University of  
Finance and Economics)



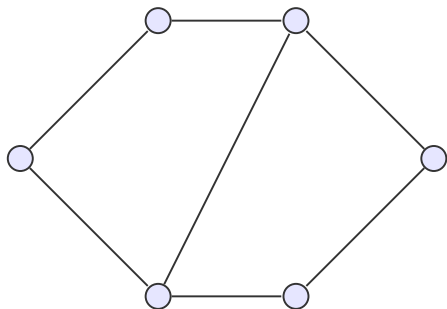
Pasin Manurangsi  
(UC Berkeley)

# Dominating Set Problem



$G(V, E)$

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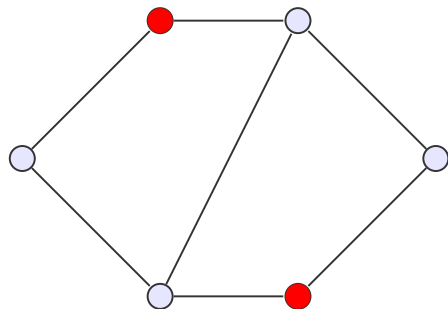
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$S \subseteq V$  is a **Dominating Set** of  $G$  if

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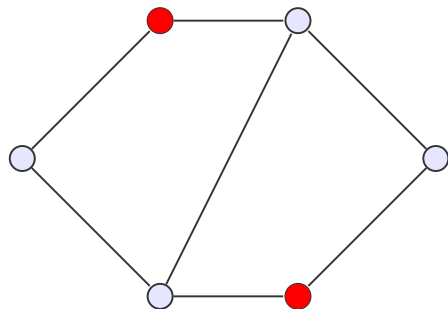
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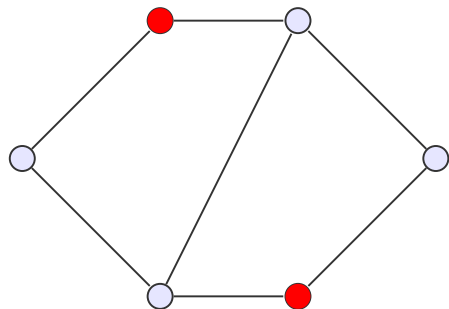
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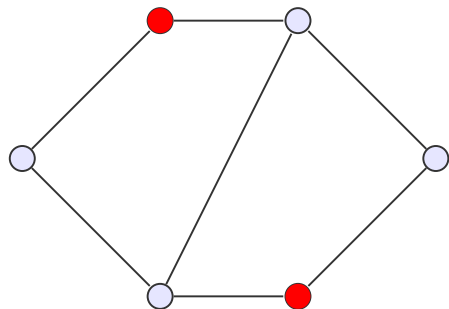
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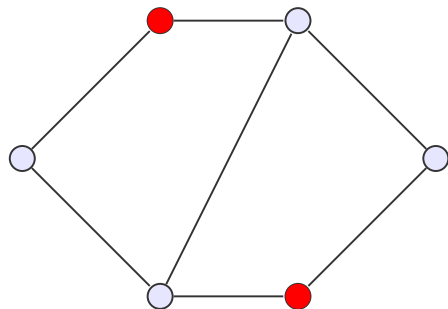
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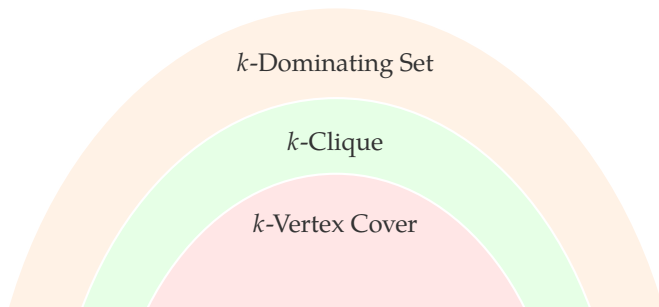
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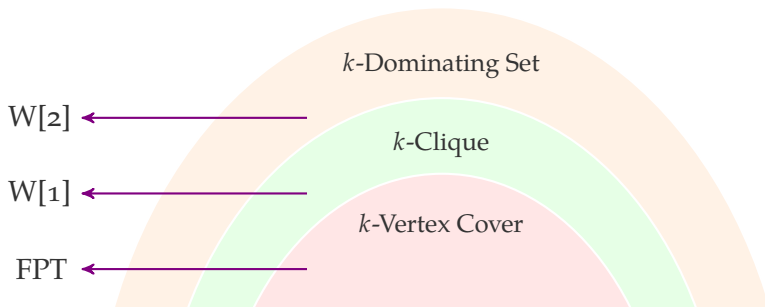


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For every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\ell(\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{N}$  such that no algorithm can solve  $\ell$ -SAT in  $O(2^{(1-\varepsilon)n})$  time where  $n$  is the number of variables.

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Is there some computable function  $T$  for which the above problem is in **FPT**?

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There exists a constant  $\delta > 0$  such that any algorithm that, on input a 3-SAT formula  $\varphi$  on  $n$  variables and  $O(n)$  clauses, can distinguish between  $\text{SAT}(\varphi) = 1$  and  $\text{SAT}(\varphi) < 0.9$ , must run in time at least  $2^{\delta n}$ .

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- No PCP Machinery**
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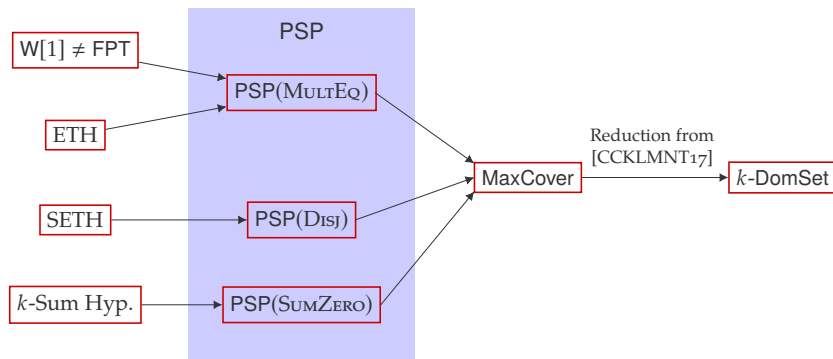
$k$ -SUM Hypothesis: For every integer  $k \geq 3$  and every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , no  $O(N^{\lceil k/2 \rceil - \varepsilon})$  time algorithm can solve the  $k$ -SUM problem.

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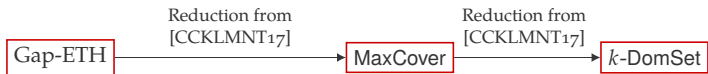
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All results obtained in an Unified Proof Framework!

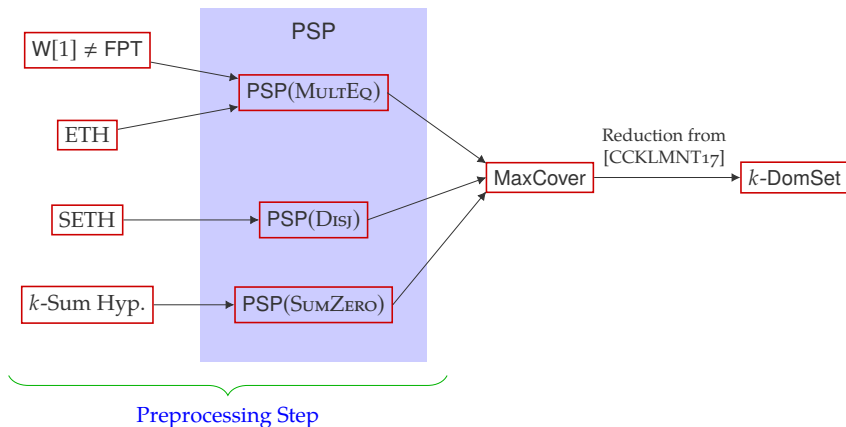
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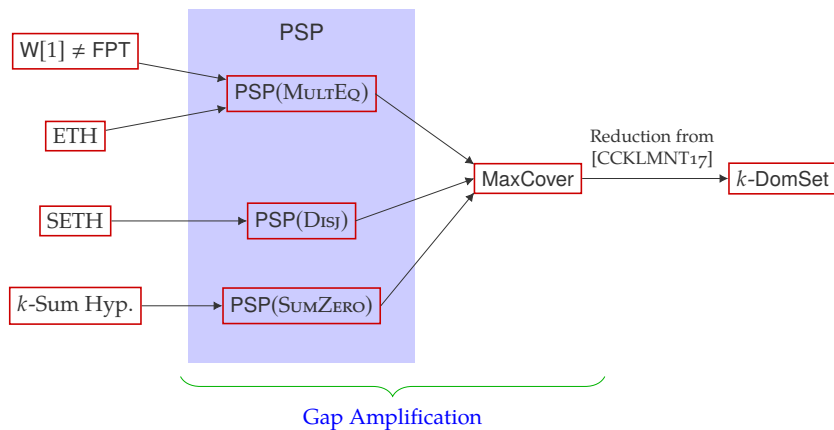


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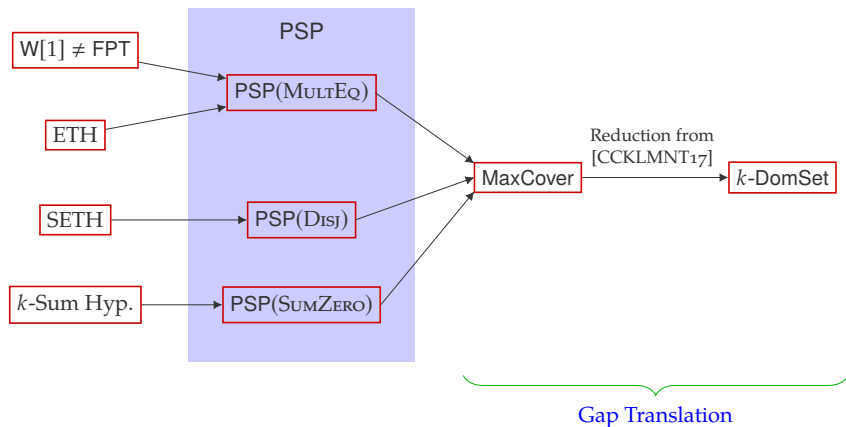




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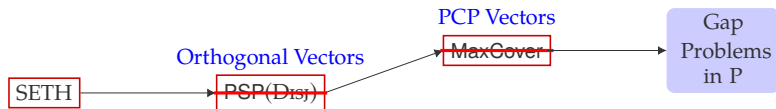


## Generalization of Distributed PCP Framework [ARW'17]

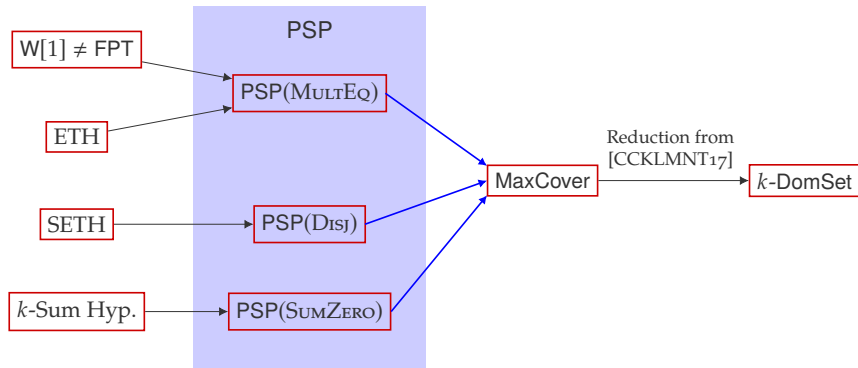


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Generalization of Distributed PCP Framework [ARW'17]



# The Framework Revisited



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# Simultaneous Message Passing (SMP) Model

Referee



Player 1



Player 2

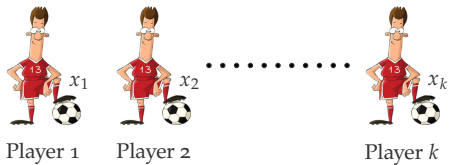


Player  $k$



# Simultaneous Message Passing (SMP) Model

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# Simultaneous Message Passing (SMP) Model

$$f : \{0,1\}^{m \times k} \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

Referee



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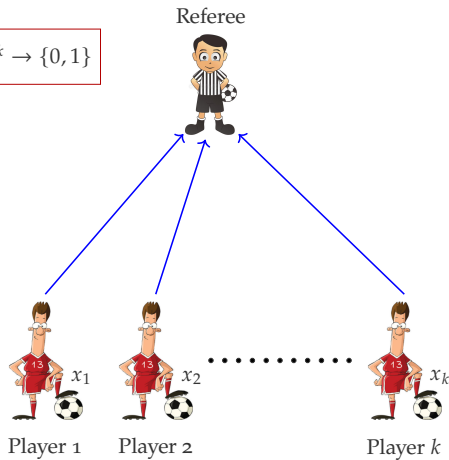
Player 2



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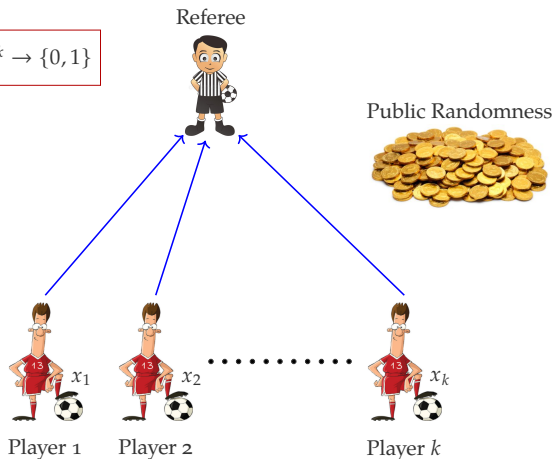
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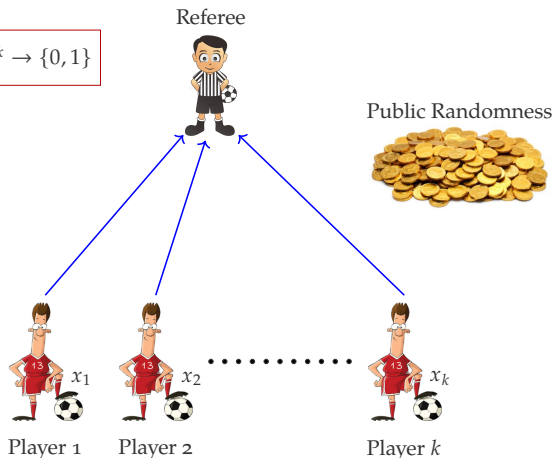
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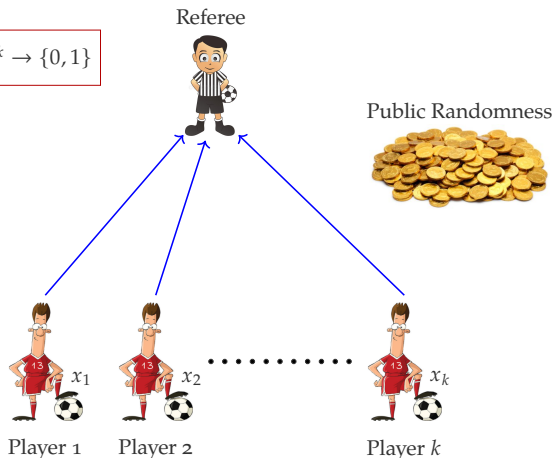
**Randomized** Protocols:

**Completeness:** If  $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 1$  then the referee always accepts

**Soundness:** If  $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 0$  then the referee accepts with probability  $\leq s$

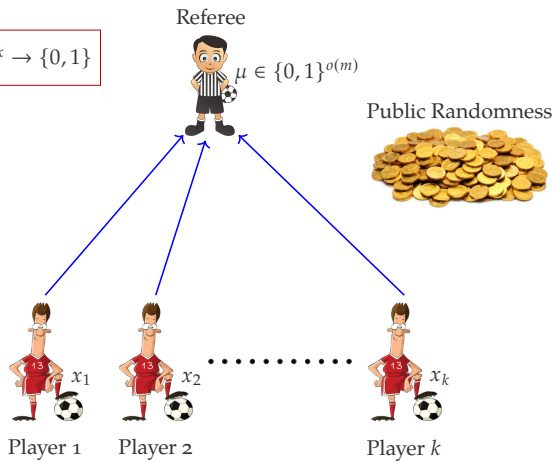
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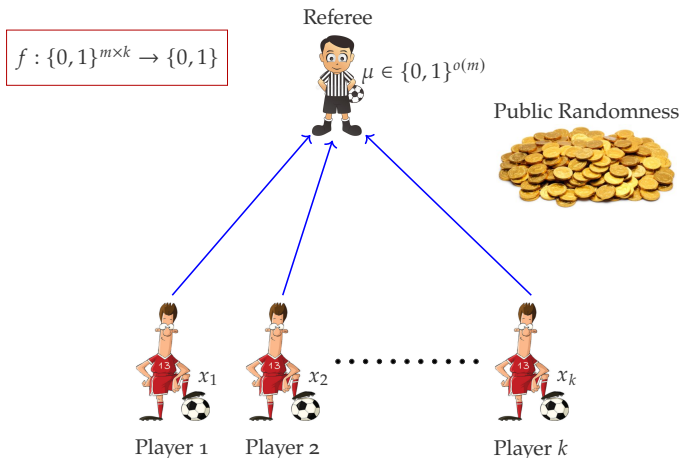


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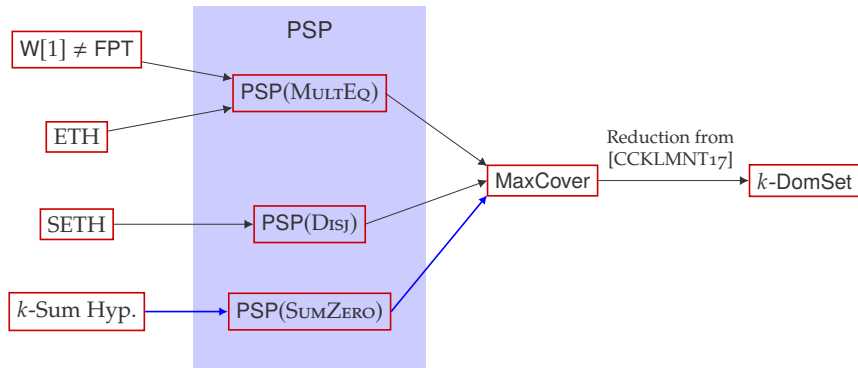
MA Protocols:

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# The Framework Revisited



# $k$ -sum to Maxcover: Proof Sketch

**$k$ -SUM problem:** Given  $A_1, \dots, A_k \subseteq [-N^{2k}, N^{2k}]$  where  $N = \sum_{i \in [k]} |A_i|$ , determine whether there exist  $x_i \in A_i, \forall i \in [k]$  such that  $\sum_{i \in [k]} x_i = 0$ .

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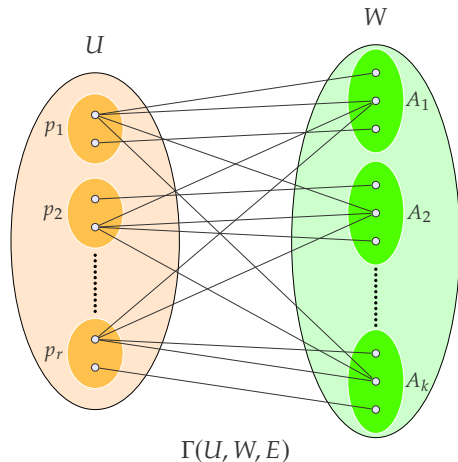
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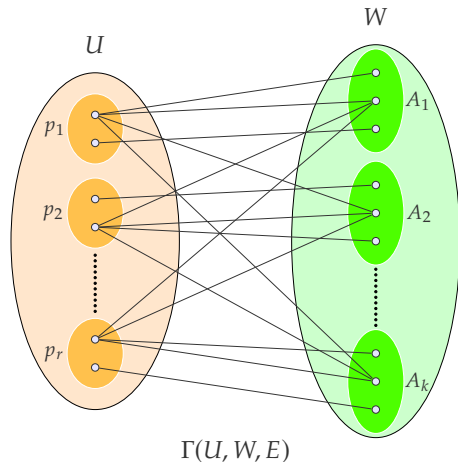
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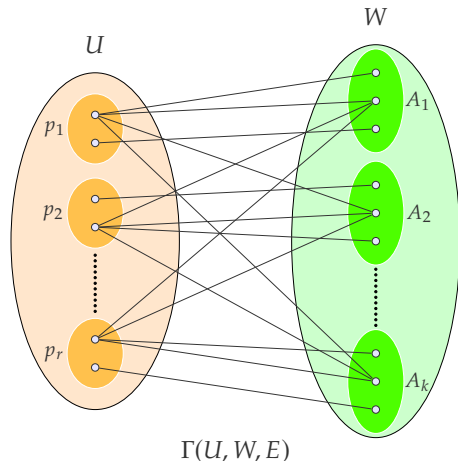
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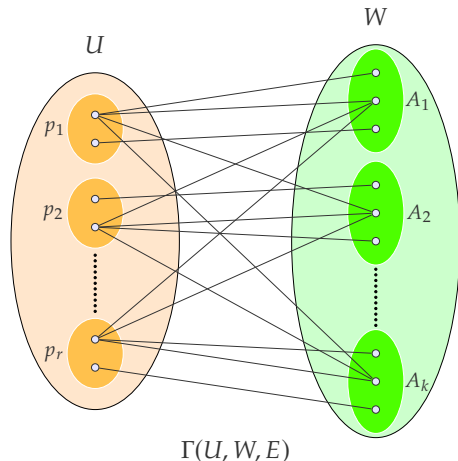
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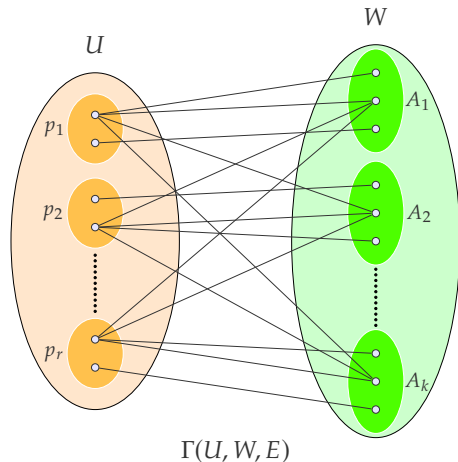
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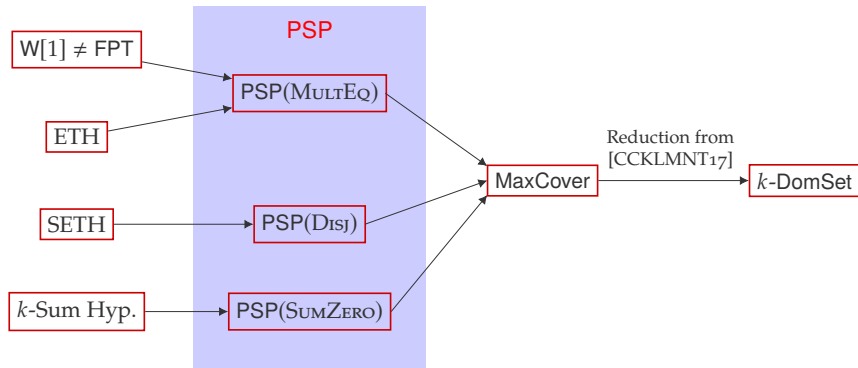
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Soundness of SUMZERO protocol



Soundness of MaxCover

# The Framework Revisited



# Product Space Problems

Let  $f : \{0,1\}^{m \times k} \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

**Problem:** PSP( $f$ )

**Input:**  $A_1, \dots, A_k \subseteq \{0,1\}^m$  where  $|A_i| \leq N$

**Output:** Determine if  $\exists a_i \in A_i, \forall i \in [k]$ , such that  $f(a_1, \dots, a_k) = 1$



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## Product Space Problem (PSP)

Let  $m : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be any function and  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of Boolean functions indexed by  $N$  and  $k$  as follows:  $\mathcal{F} := \{f_{N,k} : \{0,1\}^{m(N,k) \times k} \rightarrow \{0,1\}\}_{N,k \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

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For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the *product space problem* PSP( $k, \mathcal{F}$ ) of order  $N$  is defined as follows: given  $k$  subsets  $A_1, \dots, A_k$  of  $\{0,1\}^{m(N,k)}$  each of cardinality at most  $N$  as input, determine if there exists  $(a_1, \dots, a_k) \in A_1 \times \dots \times A_k$  such that  $f_{N,k}(a_1, \dots, a_k) = 1$ .

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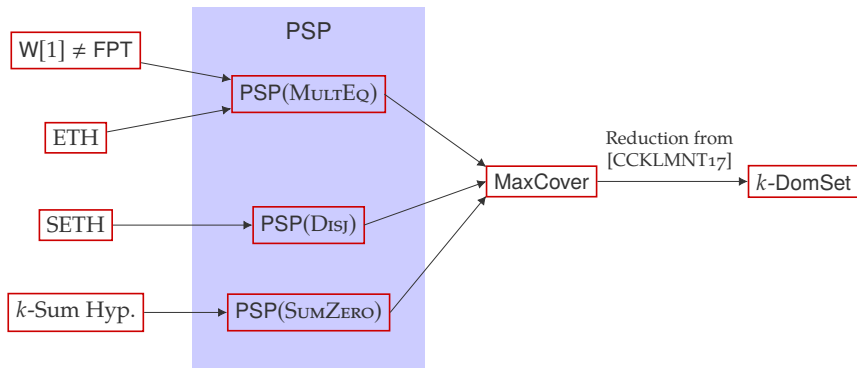
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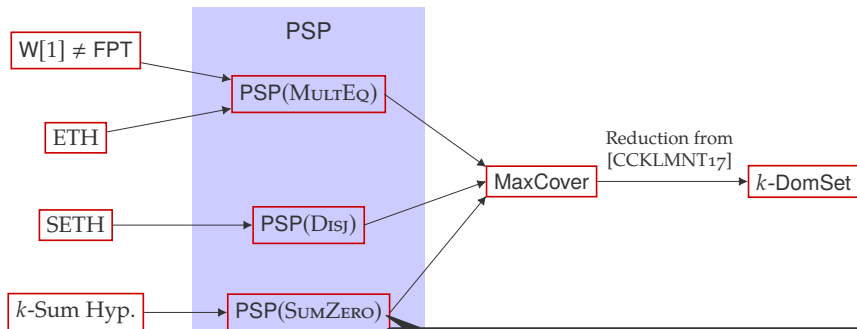
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For the rest of the talk,  $m(N, k) = \text{poly}(k) \cdot \log N$ .

# The Framework Revisited



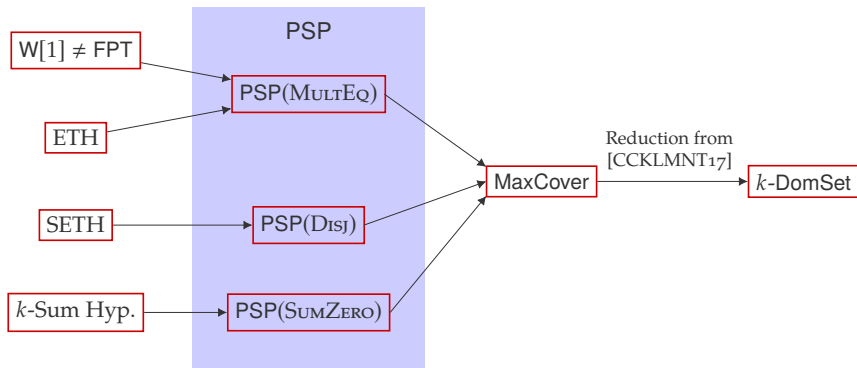
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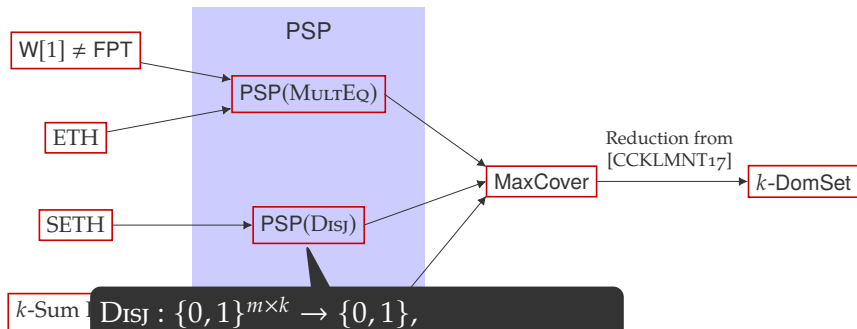
$$\text{SUMZERO} : \{0, 1\}^{m \times k} \rightarrow \{0, 1\},$$

$$\text{SUMZERO}(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sum_{i \in [k]} x_i = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# The Framework Revisited



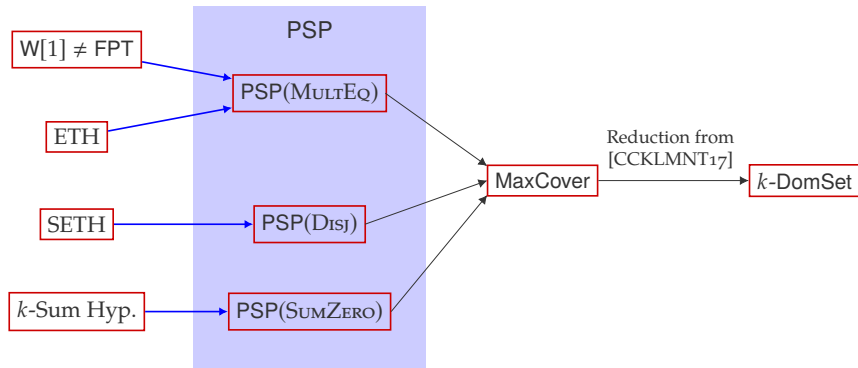
# The Framework Revisited



$\text{DISJ} : \{0, 1\}^{m \times k} \rightarrow \{0, 1\},$

$$\text{DISJ}(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \neg \left( \bigvee_{i \in [m]} \left( \bigwedge_{j \in [k]} (x_j)_i \right) \right).$$

# The Framework Revisited





# Popular Hypotheses to PSP

SETH  $\implies$  PSP(DISJ)

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## SETH $\implies$ PSP(DISJ)

Let  $X = X_1 \dot{\cup} \dots \dot{\cup} X_k$

For every **partial assignment**  $\sigma$  to  $X_i$ , we build  $a_\sigma \in A_i \subseteq \{0, 1\}^m$  as follows:

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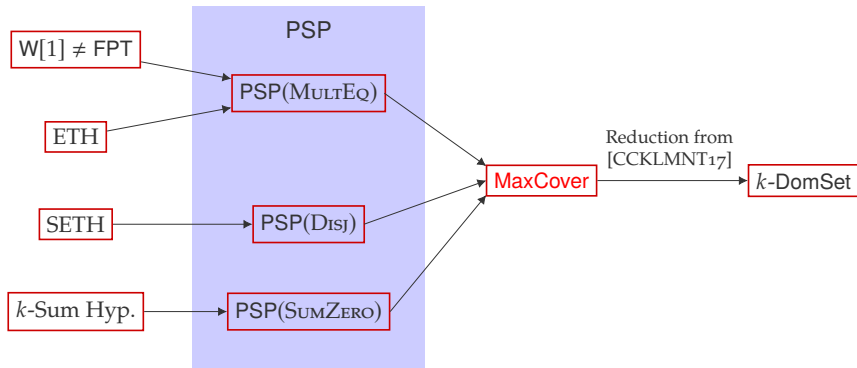
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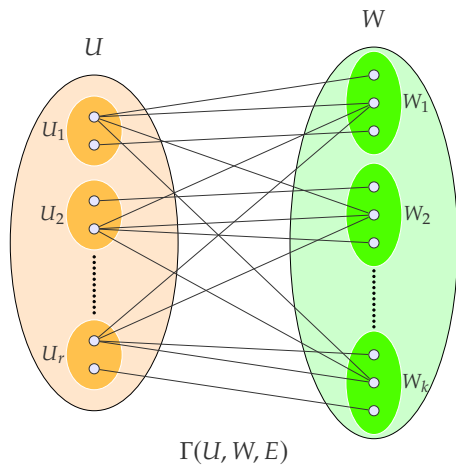
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Check for each vertex that the  $\ell$  incident edges have assigned the same vertex (**equality checking**)

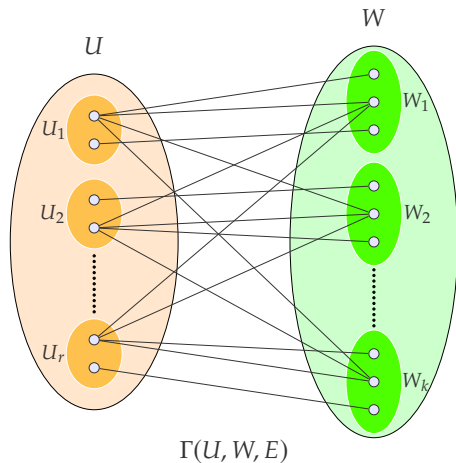
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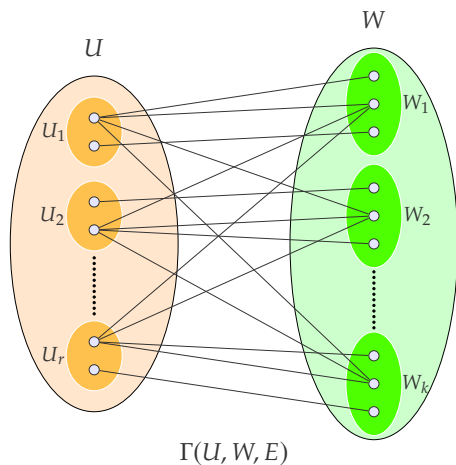
# Maxcover [CCKLMNT'17]



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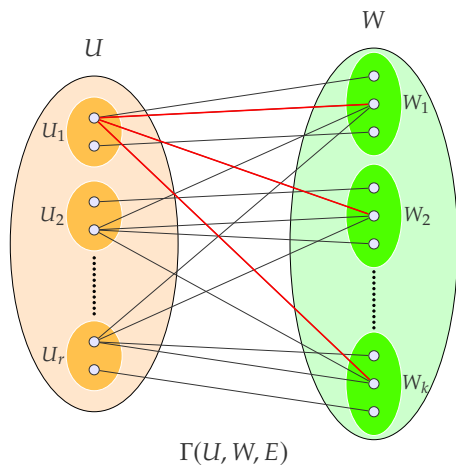
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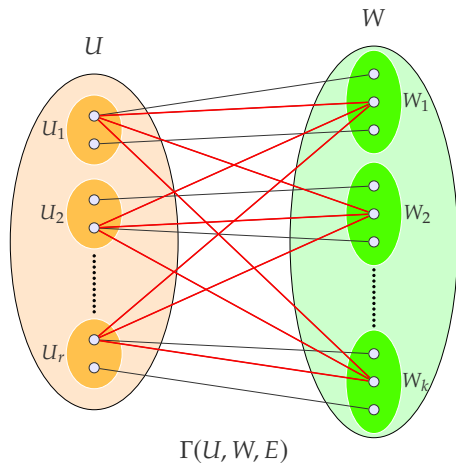
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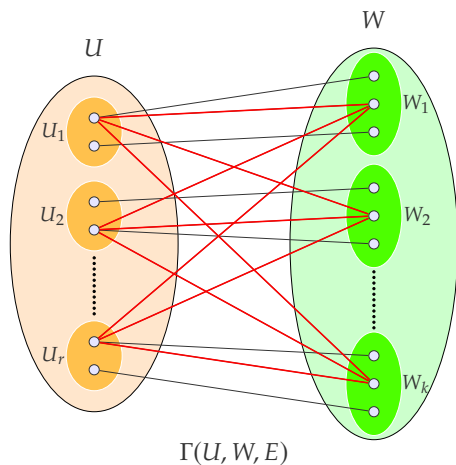
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# Maxcover [CCKLMNT'17]



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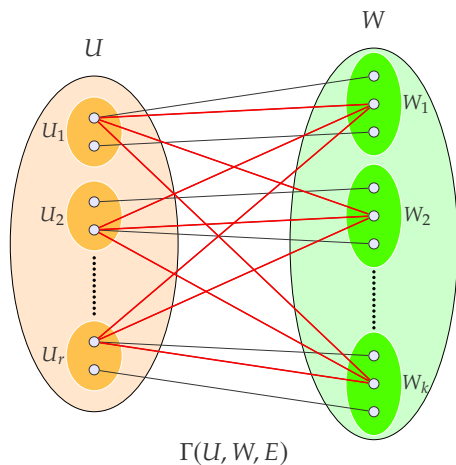
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Determine if  $\text{MaxCover}(\Gamma) = 1$   
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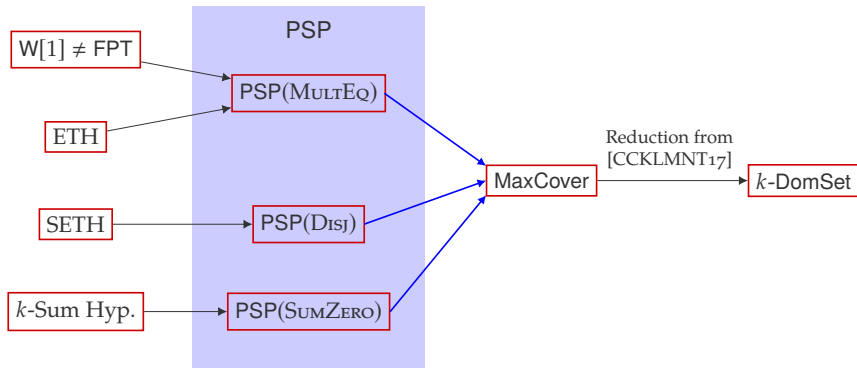
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# The Framework Revisited





# PSP to Maxcover

Parameters of SMP protocol  $\Pi$  for  $f : \{0, 1\}^{m \times k} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ :

**Advice:**  $\gamma$  bits

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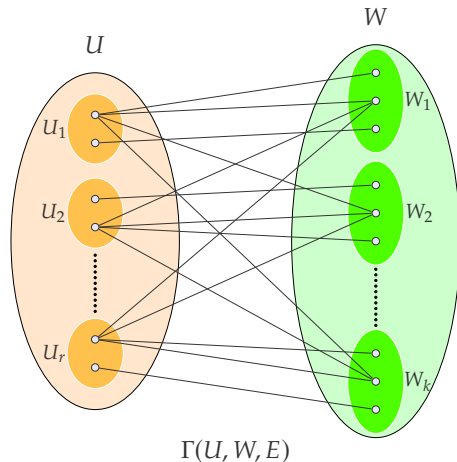
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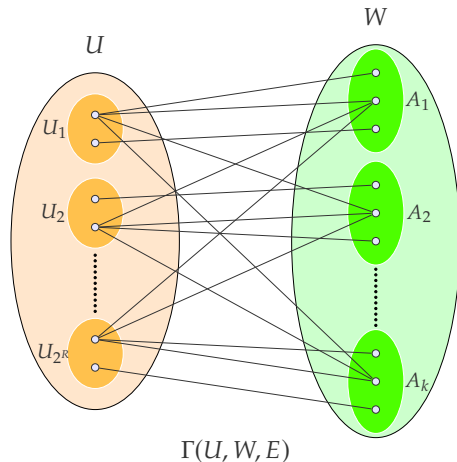
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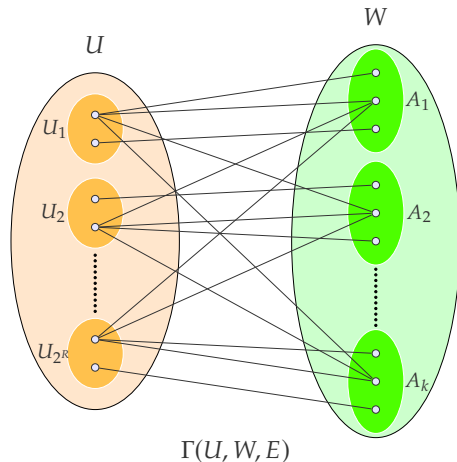
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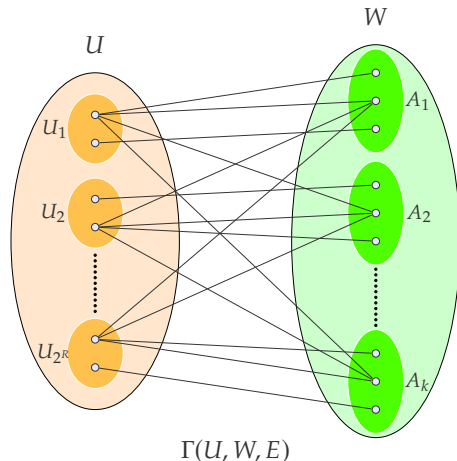
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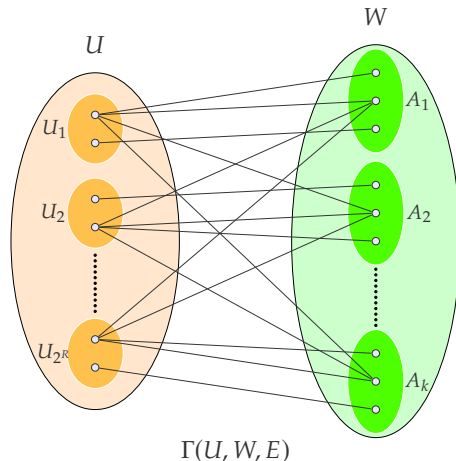
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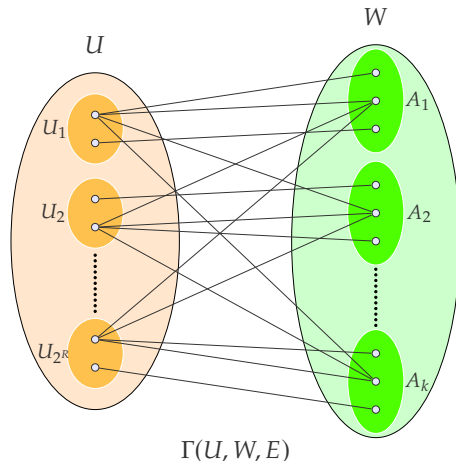
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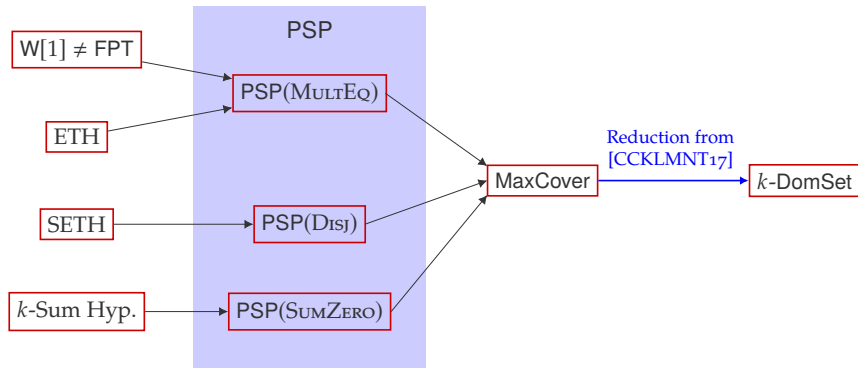
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**Soundness** of  $\Pi$



**Soundness** of MaxCover

# The Framework Revisited





# MaxCover to Parameterized Dominating Set

## Reduction from MaxCover to $k$ -DomSet [CCKLMNT17]

There is a reduction from MaxCover instance  $\Gamma = \left( U = \bigcup_{j=1}^r U_j, W = \bigcup_{j=1}^k W_j, E \right)$  to a  $k$ -DomSet instance  $G$  such that

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We want  $1/\varepsilon = \omega(1)$  and  $|U_j| = o(m)$

# Required Parameters of SMP Protocols

Greedyly we want SMP protocols:

**Input:**  $m$  bits

**Randomness:**  $\text{polylog}(m)$  bits

**Message Length:**  $O_k(1)$  bits

**Soundness:**  $1/2$

# SMP Protocol for $k$ -sumZero

SMP Protocol of Nisan [Nisan'94]:

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New SMP Protocol:

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Randomness:  $O_k(\log m)$  bits

Message Length:  $O_k(1)$  bits

Soundness:  $1/2$

**Idea:** Use any binary code of constant rate and distance  $\delta$

# SMP Protocol for $k$ -multiequality

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SMP Protocol Parameters:

**Input:**  $m$  bits

**Randomness:**  $O(\log m)$  bits

**Message Length:**  $O(1)$  bits

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# SMP Protocol for $k$ -disjointness

A straightforward extension of Rubinfeld's two-party protocol [R'18,ARW'17,AW'09]

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**Advice:**  $O_k(m/T \log q)$  bits

**Randomness:**  $O_k(\log m)$  bits

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# SMP Protocol for $k$ -disjointness (continued)

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## Reed Solomon Codes

Let  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $q$  be a prime number in  $[4\ell, 8\ell)$ . Then, there exists a  $q$ -GPP code of message length  $\ell$ .

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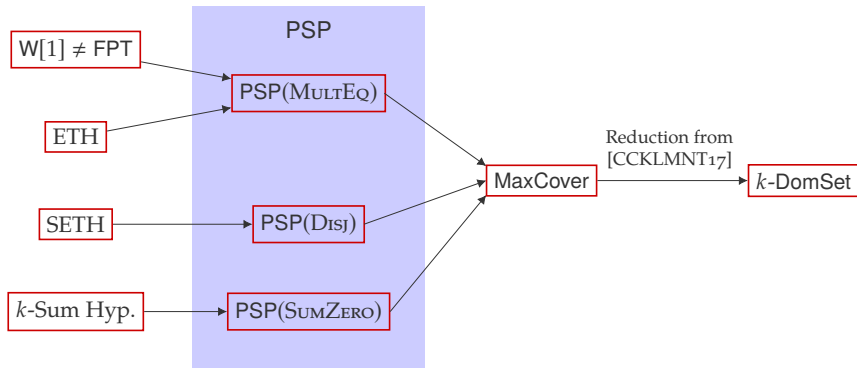
## Algebraic Geometric Codes [GS'96, SAKSD'01]

There exists a constant  $c \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for any prime number  $q$  greater than  $c$  there is a  $q^2$ -GPP code for every message length  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ .

# Recap of the Results

- ⊙ Any  $T(k)$  approximation is  $W[1]$ -hard
- ⊙ No  $T(k)$  approximation algorithm in  $N^{o(k)}$  time, assuming ETH
- ⊙ No  $T(k)$  approximation algorithm in  $N^{k-\epsilon}$  time, assuming SETH
- ⊙ No  $T(k)$  approximation algorithm in  $N^{\lceil k/2 \rceil - \epsilon}$  time, assuming  $k$ -SUM Hypothesis

# Summary of the Framework



- ⊙ Parameterized Dominating Set is  $W[2]$ -complete. Can we show every  $T(k)$  approximation is also  $W[2]$ -hard?

# Important Open Questions

- ⊙ Parameterized Dominating Set is  $W[2]$ -complete. Can we show every  $T(k)$  approximation is also  $W[2]$ -hard?
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# Important Open Questions

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- ⊙ Are there **natural** problems in PSP which do not have **efficient** MA protocols?

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- ⊙ Conceptually/Philosophically can we say something about the various **time hypotheses**?

THANK  
YOU!

# The Framework

