

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

The Subset-Sum Problem

cryptanalysis employing a probabilistic approach

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1 The Subset-Sum problem

- Motivation
- Historical Remarks
- Easy and Hard Instances
- Evolution of Algorithms
- Technique 1 - Meet in the Middle
- Technique 2 - Enlarge Number Set
- Applications

Outline

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Definition 1 (Subset-Sum)

$$\text{Given } n, S, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ find } I \subseteq [n] : \sum_{i \in I} a_i = S. \quad (1)$$

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 - \Rightarrow_R Knapsack
 - worst-case instances are computationally intractable

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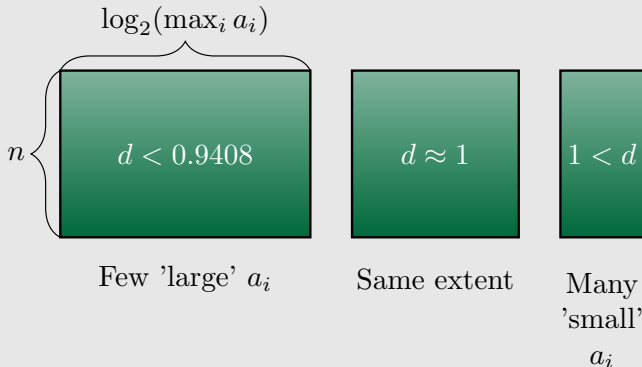
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 2. Output $(a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n), S = a \cdot x = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i a_i)$.
 3. Finding x given (a, S) is (assumed to be) computationally hard.

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Table: Expected time and space requirements of algorithms solving Eq. (1).

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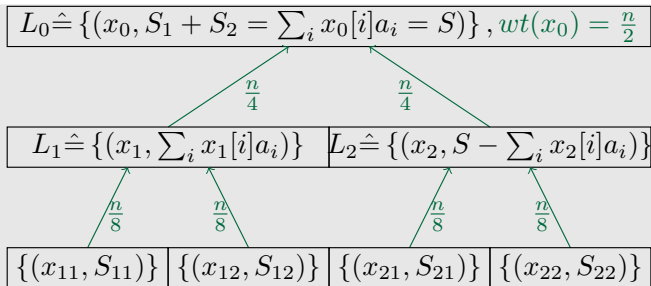


Figure: Schröppel-Shamir: Combining disjoint sub-problems of smaller weight.

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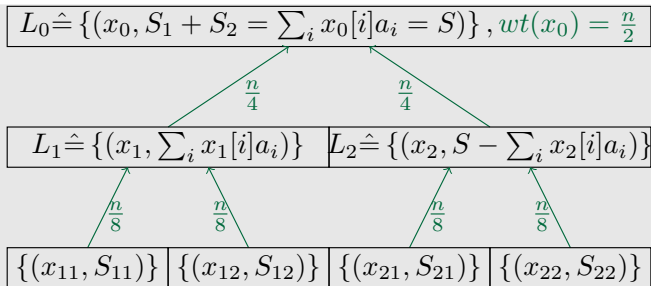


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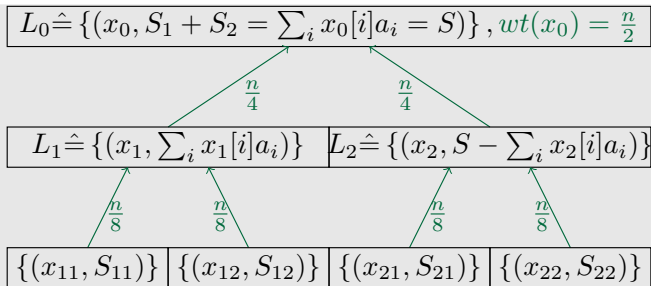


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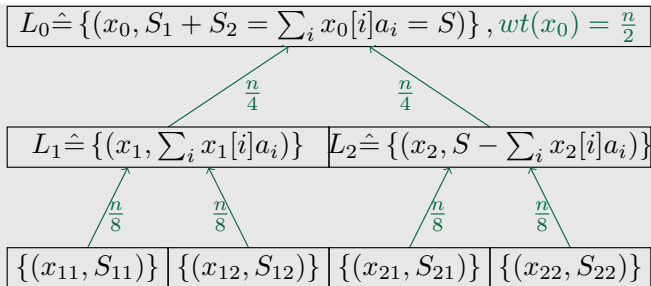


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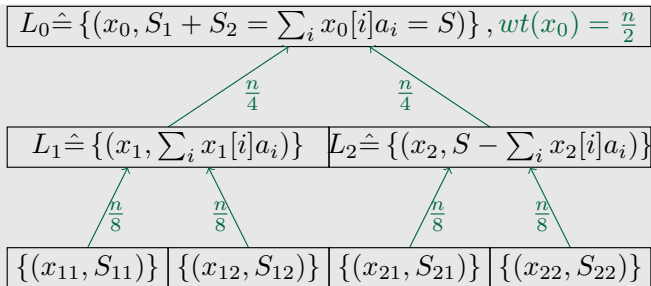


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- ▶ Construct lists L_1, L_2 of (vector, sum)-pairs in smaller dimension
- ▶ Merge L_1, L_2 to solutions $(x_0, S) \in L_0$ of the Subset-Sum problem

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$$L_0 \hat{=} \{(x_0, \sum_i x_0[i]a_i = S_1 + S_2 = S)\}, wt(x_0) = \frac{n}{2}$$

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$$L_2 \hat{=} \{(x_2, S - \sum_i x_2[i]a_i)\}, wt(x_2) = \frac{n}{4}$$

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- ▶ Enlarge intermediate 'number-set': $x_{11}[i] + x_{12}[i] =: x_1[i] \notin \{0, 1\}$.
- ▶ Speed-ups if $x_1[i], x_2[i] \sim \mathcal{D}(\{-1, 0, 1\})$ w.r.t. distribution \mathcal{D} .

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Given: A pattern P of length $m \leq n$, find all locations of P in T .

- ▶ These cryptanalytic methods are meta-techniques
- ▶ Applicable to lattice- or code-based \mathcal{NP} -complete problems

Example 2 (Outsourcing a database to the cloud [1])

Setup: A preprocessed length n text T is stored in the cloud.

Given: A pattern P of length $m \leq n$, find all locations of P in T .

Goal: Cloud learns no information about text T and pattern P .



S. Faust, C. Hazay, and D. Venturi.

Outsourced pattern matching.

Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2014/662, 2014.

<http://eprint.iacr.org/2014/662>.



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QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attention!