

# Fooling Pairs in Randomized Communication Complexity

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## Abstract

Fooling pairs are one of the standard methods for proving lower bounds for deterministic two-player communication complexity. We study fooling pairs in the context of randomized communication complexity. We show that every fooling pair induces far away distributions on transcripts of private-coin protocols. We then conclude that the private-coin randomized  $\varepsilon$ -error communication complexity of a function  $f$  with a fooling set  $\mathcal{S}$  is at least order  $\log \frac{\log |\mathcal{S}|}{\varepsilon}$ . This is tight, for example, for the equality and greater-than functions.

## 1 Introduction

Communication complexity provides a mathematical framework for studying communication between two or more parties. It was introduced by Yao [Yao79] and has found numerous applications since. We focus on the two-player case, and provide a brief introduction to it. For more details see the textbook by Kushilevitz and Nisan [KN97].

In this model, there are two players called Alice and Bob. The players wish to compute a function  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$ , where Alice knows  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and Bob knows  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ . To achieve this goal, they need to communicate. The *communication complexity* of  $f$  measures the minimum number of bits the players must exchange in order to compute  $f$ . The communication is done according to a pre-determined protocol. Protocol may be deterministic or use private/public randomness. See Section 1.1 for definitions.

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A fundamental problem in this context is proving lower bounds on the communication complexity of a given function  $f$ . Lower bounds methods for deterministic communication complexity are based on the fact that any protocol for  $f$  defines a partition of  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  to  $f$ -monochromatic rectangles. Thus, a lower bound on the size of a minimal partition of this kind readily translates to a lower bound on the communication complexity of  $f$ . Three basic bounds of this type are based on rectangle size, fooling sets, and matrix rank (see [KN97]). Both matrix rank and rectangle size lower bounds have natural and well-known analogues in the randomized setting: the approximate rank lower bound [LS09, Kra96] and the discrepancy lower bound [KN97] respectively. In this note we show that fooling sets also have natural counterparts in the randomized setting. A weaker variant of the structure we present is implicit in [BYJKS02], where it is used as part of a lower bound proof for the randomized communication complexity of the disjointness function.

## 1.1 Communication complexity

A *private-coin communication protocol* for computing a function  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  is a binary tree with the following generic structure. Each node in the protocol is owned either by Alice or by Bob. For every  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , each internal node  $v$  owned by Alice is associated with a distribution  $P_{v,x}$  on the children of  $v$ . Similarly, for every  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , each internal node  $v$  owned by Bob is associated with a distribution  $P_{v,y}$  on the children of  $v$ . The leaves of the protocol are labeled by  $\mathcal{Z}$ .

On input  $x, y$ , a protocol  $\pi$  is executed as follows.

1. Set  $v$  to be the root node of the protocol-tree defined above.
2. If  $v$  is a leaf, then the protocol outputs the label of the leaf. Otherwise, if Alice owns the node  $v$ , she samples a child according to the distribution  $P_{v,x}$  and sends a bit to Bob indicating which child was sampled. The case when Bob owns the node is analogous.
3. Set  $v$  to be the sampled node and return to the previous step.

A protocol is *deterministic* if for every internal node  $v$ , the distribution  $P_{v,x}$  or  $P_{v,y}$  has support of size one. A *public-coin* protocol is a distribution over private-coin protocols defined as follows: Alice and Bob first sample a shared random  $r$  to choose a protocol  $\pi_r$ , and they execute a private protocol  $\pi_r$  as above.

For an input  $(x, y)$ , we denote by  $\pi(x, y)$  the sequence of messages exchanged between the parties. We call  $\pi(x, y)$  the *transcript* of the protocol  $\pi$  on input  $(x, y)$ . Another way

to think of  $\pi(x, y)$  as a leaf in the protocol-tree. We denote by  $L(\pi(x, y))$  the label of the leaf  $\pi(x, y)$  in the tree. The *communication complexity* of a protocol  $\pi$ , denoted by  $\text{CC}(\pi)$  is the depth of the protocol-tree of  $\pi$ . For a private-coin protocol  $\pi$ , we denote by  $\Pi(x, y)$  the distribution of the transcript of  $\pi(x, y)$ .

For a function  $f$ , the *deterministic* communication complexity of  $f$ , denoted by  $D(f)$ , is the minimum of  $\text{CC}(\pi)$  over all deterministic protocols  $\pi$  such that  $L(\pi(x, y)) = f(x, y)$  for every  $x, y$ . For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we denote by  $R_\varepsilon(f)$  the minimum of  $\text{CC}(\pi)$  over all public-coin protocols  $\pi$  such that for every  $(x, y)$ , it holds that  $\mathbb{P}[L(\pi(x, y)) \neq f(x, y)] \leq \varepsilon$  where the probability is taken over all coin flips in the protocol  $\pi$ . We call  $R_\varepsilon(f)$  the  $\varepsilon$ -error *public-coin randomized* communication complexity of  $f$ . Analogously we define  $R_\varepsilon^{\text{pri}}(f)$  as the  $\varepsilon$ -error *private-coin* randomized communication complexity.

Although public-coin protocols are more general than private-coin ones, Newman [New91] proved that for boolean functions every public-coin protocol can be efficiently simulated by a private-coin protocol: If  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  then for every  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/2$ ,

$$R_{2\varepsilon}(f) \leq R_{2\varepsilon}^{\text{pri}}(f) = O\left(R_\varepsilon(f) + \log \frac{\log(|\mathcal{X}||\mathcal{Y}|)}{\varepsilon}\right).$$

The additive logarithmic factor on the right-hand-side is often too small to matter, but it does make a difference in the bounds we prove below.

## 1.2 Fooling pairs and sets

Fooling sets are a well-known tool for proving lower bounds for  $D(f)$ . A pair  $(x, y), (x', y') \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  is called a *fooling pair* for  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  if

- $f(x, y) = f(x', y')$ , and
- either  $f(x', y) \neq f(x, y)$  or  $f(x, y') \neq f(x, y)$ .

Observe that if  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  are a fooling pair then  $x \neq x'$  and  $y \neq y'$ .

It is easy to see that if  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  form a fooling pair then there is no  $f$ -monochromatic rectangle that contains both of them. An immediate conclusion is the following:

**Lemma 1.1** ([KN97]). *Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  be a function, let  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  be a fooling pair for  $f$  and let  $\pi$  be a deterministic protocol for  $f$ . Then*

$$\pi(x, y) \neq \pi(x', y').$$

A subset  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  is a *fooling set* if every  $p \neq p'$  in  $\mathcal{S}$  form a fooling pair. Lemma 1.1 implies the following basic lower bound for deterministic communication complexity.

**Theorem 1.2** ([KN97]). *Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  be a function and let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a fooling set for  $f$ . Then*

$$D(f) \geq \log_2(|\mathcal{S}|).$$

The same properties do not hold for randomized protocol, but the following variants are true. Let  $\pi$  be an  $\varepsilon$ -error private-coin protocol for  $f$ , and let  $(x, y), (x', y')$  be a fooling pair for  $f$ .

Here we prove that the probabilistic analogue of  $\pi(x, y) \neq \pi(x', y')$  holds: we have that  $|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')|$  is large, where  $|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')|$  is the statistical distance between the two distributions on transcripts.

**Lemma 1.3** (Analogue of Lemma 1.1). *Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  be a function, let  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  be a fooling pair for  $f$ , and let  $\pi$  be an  $\varepsilon$ -error private-coin protocol for  $f$ . Then*

$$|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')| \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{\varepsilon}.$$

Lemma 1.3 is not only an analogue of Lemma 1.1 but is actually a generalization of it. Indeed, plugging  $\varepsilon = 0$  in Lemma 1.3 implies Lemma 1.1. Moreover, it implies that the bound from Theorem 1.2 holds also in the 0-error private-coin randomized case.

An analogue of Theorem 1.2 holds as well:

**Theorem 1.4** (Analogue of Theorem 1.2). *Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  be a function and let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a fooling set for  $f$ . Let  $1/|\mathcal{S}| \leq \varepsilon < 1/3$ . Then,*

$$R_\varepsilon^{\text{pri}}(f) = \Omega\left(\log \frac{\log |\mathcal{S}|}{\varepsilon}\right).$$

The lower bound provided by the theorem above seems exponentially weaker than the one in Theorem 1.2, but it is tight. The equality function **EQ** over  $n$ -bit strings has a large fooling set of size  $2^n$ , but it is well-known (see [KN97]) that

$$R_\varepsilon^{\text{pri}}(\text{EQ}) = O\left(\log \frac{n}{\varepsilon}\right).$$

Theorem 1.4 therefore provide a tight lower bound on  $R_\varepsilon^{\text{pri}}(\text{EQ})$  in terms of both  $n$  and  $\varepsilon$ . It also provides a tight lower bound for the greater-than function. Moreover, Theorem 1.4 is a generalization of Theorem 1.2 and basically implies it by choosing  $\varepsilon = 1/|\mathcal{S}|$ .

The proof of the lower bound uses a general lower bound on the rank of perturbed identity matrices by Alon [Alo09]. Interestingly, although not every fooling set comes

from an identity matrix (e.g. in the greater-than function), there is always some perturbed identity matrix in the background (the one used in the proof of Theorem 1.4).

We remark that for any constant  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/3$ , a version of Theorem 1.4 has been known for a long time. In particular, Håstad and Wigderson [HW07] give a proof of the following result<sup>1</sup> which appears in [Yao79] without proof: for every function  $f$  with a fooling set  $\mathcal{S}$  and for every  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/3$ ,

$$R_\varepsilon^{\text{pri}}(f) = \Omega(\log \log |\mathcal{S}|). \quad (1.1)$$

The right-hand side above does not depend on  $\varepsilon$ . The same lower bound as in (1.1) also directly follows from Theorem 1.2 and from the following general result [KN97]: for every function  $f$  and for every  $0 \leq \varepsilon < 1/2$ ,

$$R_\varepsilon^{\text{pri}}(f) = \Omega(\log D(f)).$$

### 1.3 Two types of fooling pairs

Let  $(x, y), (x', y')$  be a fooling pair for a boolean function  $f$ . For simplicity, consider the case  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$  and  $(x', y') = (1, 1)$ . There are essentially two types of fooling pairs:

- The AND type for which  $f(1, 0) \neq f(0, 1)$ .
- The XOR type for which  $f(1, 0) = f(0, 1)$ .

A partial proof of Lemma 1.3 is implicit in [BYJKS02]. The case considered in [BYJKS02] corresponds to a fooling pair of the AND type. Let  $\pi$  be a private-coin  $\varepsilon$ -error protocol for  $f$  that is the AND of two bits. In this case, by definition it must hold that  $\Pi(0, 0)$  is far away from  $\Pi(1, 1)$ . The cut-and-paste property (see Corollary 2.2) implies that the same holds for  $\Pi(0, 1)$  and  $\Pi(1, 0)$ .

The case of a fooling pair of the XOR type was not analyzed before. If  $\pi$  is a private-coin  $\varepsilon$ -error protocol for XOR of two bits, then it does not immediately follow that  $\Pi(0, 0)$  is far away from  $\Pi(1, 1)$ , nor that  $\Pi(0, 1)$  is far away from  $\Pi(1, 0)$ . Lemma 1.3 implies that in fact both are true, but the argument can not use the cut-and-paste property. Our argument actually gives a better quantitative result for the XOR function as compared to the AND function.

The importance of the special case of Lemma 1.3 from [BYJKS02] is related to proving a lower bound on the randomized communication complexity of the disjointness

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<sup>1</sup>In fact, the theorem in [Yao79, HW07] is more general than the one stated here. We state the theorem in this form since it fits well the focus of this text.

function  $\text{DISJ}$  defined over  $\{0, 1\}^n \times \{0, 1\}^n$ :  $\text{DISJ}(x, y) = 1$  if for all  $i \in [n]$  it holds that  $x_i \wedge y_i = 0$ . They reproved that  $R_{1/3}(\text{DISJ}) \geq \Omega(n)$ . This lower bound is extremely important and useful in many contexts and was first proved in [KS92].

On a high level, the proof of [BYJKS02] can be summarized in today's language as follows: Let  $\pi$  be a private-coin protocol with  $(1/3)$ -error for  $\text{DISJ}$ . We want to show that  $\text{CC}(\pi) = \Omega(n)$ . The argument has two different parts: The first part of the argument essentially relates the *internal information cost* (as was later defined in [BBCR13]) of computing one copy of the  $\text{AND}$  function with the communication of the protocol  $\pi$  for  $\text{DISJ}$ . This is a direct-sum-esque result. More concretely, if  $\mu$  is a distribution on  $\{0, 1\}^2$  such that  $\mu(1, 1) = 0$  then

$$\text{IC}_\mu(\text{AND}) \leq \frac{\text{CC}(\pi)}{n},$$

where  $\text{IC}_\mu(\text{AND})$  is the infimum over all  $(1/3)$ -error private-coin protocols  $\tau$  for  $\text{AND}$  of the internal information cost of  $\tau$ . The second part of the argument shows that if  $\mu$  is uniform on the set  $\{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0)\}$  then  $\text{IC}_\mu(\text{AND}) > 0$ . The challenge in proving the second part stems from the fact that  $\mu$  is supported on the zeros of  $\text{AND}$ , so it is trivial to compute  $\text{AND}$  on inputs from  $\mu$ . However, the protocols  $\tau$  in the definition of  $\text{IC}_\mu(\text{AND})$  are guaranteed to succeed for every  $x, y$  and not only on the support of  $\mu$ . The authors of [BYJKS02] use the cut-and-paste property (see Corollary 2.2 below) to argue that indeed  $\text{IC}_\mu(\text{AND}) > 0$ .

The argument as described above is very specific to the  $\text{AND}$  function. Here we show that it follows from a more general fooling-set based method.

We conclude this discussion with another observation concerning the difference between the two types of fooling pairs. For any positive integer  $k$ , let  $\text{EQ}_k : [k] \times [k] \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  be the equality function on elements of the set  $[k]$ . Consider the following two seemingly similar functions on a pair of  $n$ -tuples of elements:

$$f_2(x, y) = \bigvee_{i=1}^n \text{EQ}_2(x_i, y_i) \quad \text{and} \quad f_3(x, y) = \bigvee_{i=1}^n \text{EQ}_3(x_i, y_i).$$

Since all the fooling pairs of  $\text{EQ}_2$  are of the  $\text{XOR}$  type, the  $(1/3)$ -error private-coin communication complexity and internal information cost of  $f_2$  are  $O(\log n)$  ( $f_2$  is basically equality on  $n$ -bit strings). On the other hand, since  $\text{EQ}_3$  contains a fooling pair of the  $\text{AND}$  type, the  $(1/3)$ -error private-coin complexity and internal information cost of  $f_3$  are  $\Omega(n)$ .

## 2 Fooling pairs and sets

### 2.1 Preliminaries

**Communication.** In the case of deterministic protocols, the set of inputs reaching a particular leaf forms a rectangle (a product set inside  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ ). In the case of private-coin randomized protocols, the following holds (see for example Lemma 6.7 in [BYJKS02]).

**Lemma 2.1** (Rectangle property for private-coin protocols). *Let  $\pi$  be a private-coin protocol over inputs from  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ , and let  $\mathcal{L}$  denote the set of leaves of  $\pi$ . There exist functions  $\alpha : \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ ,  $\beta : \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that for every  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  and every  $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$ ,*

$$\mathbb{P}[\pi(x, y) \text{ reaches } \ell] = \alpha(\ell, x) \cdot \beta(\ell, y).$$

Here too the lemma is in fact a generalization of what happens in the deterministic case where  $\alpha, \beta$  take values in  $\{0, 1\}$  rather than in  $[0, 1]$ .

The above implies the following property of private-coin protocols that is more commonly known as the cut-and-paste property [PS86, CK91]. The *Hellinger* distance between two distributions  $p, q$  over a finite set  $\mathcal{U}$  is defined as

$$h(p, q) = \sqrt{1 - \sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \sqrt{p(u)q(u)}}.$$

**Corollary 2.2** (Cut-and-paste property). *Let  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  be inputs to a randomized private-coin protocol  $\pi$ . Then*

$$h(\Pi(x, y), \Pi(x', y')) = h(\Pi(x', y), \Pi(x, y')).$$

The next proposition immediately follows from the definitions.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  be a function and let  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  be such that  $f(x, y) \neq f(x', y')$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon$ -error private-coin protocol  $\pi$  for  $f$ ,*

$$|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')| \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon.$$

**Distances.** We use the following relationship between Statistical and Hellinger Distances.

**Lemma 2.4** (Statistical and Hellinger Distances). *Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distributions such that the statistical distance  $|p - q| \geq 1 - \varepsilon$  for  $0 \leq \varepsilon \leq 1$ . Then,  $h^2(p, q) \geq 1 - \sqrt{2\varepsilon}$ .*

*Proof.* In general,  $h^2(p, q) \leq |p - q| \leq \sqrt{h^2(p, q)(2 - h^2(p, q))}$ . □

**A geometric claim.** We use the following technical claim that has a geometric flavor. For two vectors  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , we denote by  $\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle$  the standard inner product between  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$ . Denote by  $\mathbb{R}_+$  the set of non-negative real numbers.

**Claim 2.5.** *Let  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \delta_1, \delta_2 > 0$  and let  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$  be vectors such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle &\geq 1 - \varepsilon_1, & \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \rangle &\geq 1 - \varepsilon_2, \\ \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c} \rangle &\leq \delta_1, & \langle \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{d} \rangle &\leq \delta_2. \end{aligned}$$

*Then,*

$$\sum_{i \in [m]} |\mathbf{a}(i)\mathbf{b}(i) - \mathbf{c}(i)\mathbf{d}(i)| \geq 2 - (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \delta_1 + \delta_2).$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i \in [m]} |\mathbf{a}(i)\mathbf{b}(i) - \mathbf{c}(i)\mathbf{d}(i)| \\ &\geq \sum_{i \in [m]} \left( \sqrt{\mathbf{a}(i)\mathbf{b}(i)} - \sqrt{\mathbf{c}(i)\mathbf{d}(i)} \right)^2 && (\forall t, s \geq 0 \quad |t - s| \geq (\sqrt{t} - \sqrt{s})^2) \\ &= \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \rangle - \sum_{i \in [m]} 2\sqrt{\mathbf{a}(i)\mathbf{b}(i)\mathbf{c}(i)\mathbf{d}(i)} \\ &= \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \rangle - \sum_{i \in [m]} 2\sqrt{\mathbf{a}(i)\mathbf{c}(i) \cdot \mathbf{b}(i)\mathbf{d}(i)} \\ &\geq \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \rangle - \sum_{i \in [m]} (\mathbf{a}(i)\mathbf{c}(i) + \mathbf{b}(i)\mathbf{d}(i)) && (\text{AM-GM inequality}) \\ &= \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d} \rangle - (\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{d} \rangle) \\ &\geq 2 - (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \delta_1 + \delta_2). && \square \end{aligned}$$

## 2.2 Fooling pairs induce far away distributions

*Proof of Lemma 1.3.* Let the fooling pair be  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  and assume without loss of generality that  $f(x, y) = f(x', y') = 1$ . We distinguish between the following two cases.

- (a)  $f(x', y) \neq f(x, y')$ .
- (b)  $f(x', y) = f(x, y') = z$  where  $z \neq 1$ .



In the first case, Proposition 2.3 implies that  $|\Pi(x', y) - \Pi(x, y')| \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon$ . Proposition 2.2 implies that  $h(\Pi(x, y), \Pi(x', y')) = h(\Pi(x', y), \Pi(x, y'))$ . Lemma 2.4 thus implies that  $|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')| \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{\varepsilon}$ .

Let us now consider the second case. Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the set of all leaves of  $\pi$  and let  $\mathcal{L}_1$  denote those leaves which are labeled by 1. For  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , define the vectors  $\mathbf{a}_x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{\mathcal{L}_1}$  as  $\mathbf{a}_x(\ell) = \alpha(\ell, x)$ , and the vectors  $\mathbf{b}_y \in \mathbb{R}_+^{\mathcal{L}_1}$  as  $\mathbf{b}_y(\ell) = \beta(\ell, y)$  where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the functions from Lemma 2.1. Since  $f(x, y) = 1$  and  $\pi$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -error protocol for  $f$ ,

$$\langle \mathbf{a}_x, \mathbf{b}_y \rangle = \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}_1} \alpha(\ell, x) \cdot \beta(\ell, y) = \mathbb{P}[L(\pi(x, y)) = 1] \geq 1 - \varepsilon.$$

Similarly, we have  $\langle \mathbf{a}_{x'}, \mathbf{b}_{y'} \rangle \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{a}_x, \mathbf{b}_{y'} \rangle \leq \varepsilon$  and  $\langle \mathbf{a}_{x'}, \mathbf{b}_y \rangle \leq \varepsilon$ . Observe

$$2|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')| \geq \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}_1} |\mathbf{a}_x(\ell)\mathbf{b}_y(\ell) - \mathbf{a}_{x'}(\ell)\mathbf{b}_{y'}(\ell)|.$$

Applying Proposition 2.5 with the vectors  $\mathbf{a}_x, \mathbf{b}_y, \mathbf{a}_{x'}, \mathbf{b}_{y'}$  yields that  $|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')| \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon$ .  $\square$

## 2.3 A lower bound based on fooling sets

The following result of Alon [Alo09] on the rank of perturbed identity matrices is a key ingredient.

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{m}} \leq \varepsilon < \frac{1}{4}$ . Let  $M$  be an  $m \times m$  matrix such that  $|M(i, j)| \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $i \neq j$  in  $[m]$  and  $|M(i, i)| \geq \frac{1}{2}$  for all  $i \in [m]$ . Then,*

$$\text{rank}(M) = \Omega\left(\frac{\log m}{\varepsilon^2 \log(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})}\right).$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.4.* Let  $\mathcal{L}$  denote the set of leaves of  $\pi$ . Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{L}}$  be the matrix defined by

$$A_{(x,y),\ell} = \sqrt{\mathbb{P}[\pi(x, y) = \ell]}.$$

Let

$$M = AA^T$$

where  $A^T$  is  $A$  transposed. First,

$$M_{(x,y),(x,y)} = 1.$$

Second, if  $(x, y) \neq (x', y')$  in  $\mathcal{S}$  then by Lemma 1.3 we know  $|\Pi(x, y) - \Pi(x', y')| \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{\varepsilon}$

so by Lemma 2.4

$$h^2(\Pi(x, y), \Pi(x', y')) \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon^{1/4}$$

which implies

$$M_{(x,y),(x',y')} = 1 - h^2(\Pi(x, y), \Pi(x', y')) \leq 2\varepsilon^{1/4}.$$

Lemma 2.6 implies that<sup>2</sup> the rank of  $M$  is at least  $\Omega\left(\frac{\log|\mathcal{S}|}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}\log\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^{1/4}}\right)}\right) = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{\log|\mathcal{S}|}{\varepsilon}\right)^{1/4}\right)$ .

On the other hand,

$$2^{CC(\pi)} \geq |\mathcal{L}| \geq \text{rank}(M).$$

□

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<sup>2</sup>We may assume that say  $\varepsilon < 2^{-12}$  by repeating the given randomized protocol a constant number of times.

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