

Simple and efficient pseudorandom generators from Gaussian processes

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Abstract

We show that a very simple pseudorandom generator fools intersections of k linear threshold functions (LTFs) and arbitrary functions of k LTFs over n -dimensional Gaussian space. The two analyses of our PRG (for intersections versus arbitrary functions of LTFs) are quite different from each other and from previous analyses of PRGs for functions of halfspaces. Our analysis for arbitrary functions of LTFs establishes bounds on the Wasserstein distance between Gaussian random vectors with similar covariance matrices, and combines these bounds with a conversion from Wasserstein distance to “union-of-orthants” distance from [CST14]. Our analysis for intersections of LTFs uses extensions of the classical Sudakov-Fernique type inequalities, which give bounds on the difference between the expectations of the maxima of two Gaussian random vectors with similar covariance matrices.

For all values of k , our generator has seed length $O(\log n) + \text{poly}(k)$ for arbitrary functions of k LTFs and $O(\log n) + \text{poly}(\log k)$ for intersections of k LTFs. The best previous result, due to [GOWZ10a], only gave such PRGs for arbitrary functions of k LTFs when $k = O(\log \log n)$ and for intersections of k LTFs when $k = O(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n})$. Thus our PRG achieves an $O(\log n)$ seed length for values of k that are exponentially larger than previous work could achieve.

By combining our PRG over Gaussian space with an invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs and with a regularity lemma, we obtain a deterministic algorithm that approximately counts satisfying assignments of arbitrary functions of k general LTFs over $\{0, 1\}^n$ in time $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\text{poly}(k, 1/\varepsilon)}$ for all values of k . This algorithm has a $\text{poly}(n)$ runtime for $k = (\log n)^c$ for some absolute constant $c > 0$, while the previous best $\text{poly}(n)$ -time algorithms could only handle $k = O(\log \log n)$.

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1 Introduction

Constructing explicit pseudorandom generators (PRGs) for interesting classes of Boolean-valued functions is a fundamental problem in complexity theory which has witnessed a rich line of work. An important class of functions, which have been intensively studied from this perspective, are *linear threshold functions* (henceforth referred to as LTFs), i.e. functions of the form $f(x) = \text{sign}(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i - \theta)$ for some $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. LTFs arise naturally in a variety of areas including machine learning, social choice theory, circuit complexity and pseudorandomness. Through a very successful line of work [DGJ⁺10, MZ13, GKM15], explicit PRGs have been obtained which ε -fool the class of LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$ with seed length $O(\log n + \log^2(1/\varepsilon))$ [MZ13], or alternately seed length $O(\log(n/\varepsilon)(\log \log(n/\varepsilon))^2)$ [GKM15]. For LTFs over the Gaussian distribution, [KM15] give an ε -PRG that fools LTFs with seed length $O(\log n + \log(1/\varepsilon) \log \log(1/\varepsilon))$.

Given these successes in designing PRGs to fool a single LTF, a natural next goal is to develop PRGs for *intersections* of k LTFs (i.e. polytopes with k facets) or, more generally, for arbitrary Boolean functions of k LTFs. PRGs for polytopes have direct applications to central problems at the intersection of derandomization and combinatorial optimization, such as deterministic approximate volume estimation for polytopes and approximate counting of feasible solutions to 0-1 integer programs. The standard way to use a PRG for such applications is to run through the list of all seeds, and hence it is desirable to have seed length as small as possible as a joint function of n and k . In particular, a seed length of the form $O(\log n) \cdot \alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon)$ leads to a running time of $n^{O(\alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon))}$, which even for constant ε is super-polynomial for any super-constant k . In contrast, a seed length of the form $O(\log n) + \alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon)$ leads to a running time of $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon)}$, which can be a fixed polynomial in n even for various super-constant values of k (depending on the function α).

In this paper we work over Gaussian space, and we give the first PRGs for intersections and arbitrary functions of k LTFs which have seed length of the form $O(\log n) + \alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon)$ for all k . For intersections of LTFs we achieve $\alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon) = \text{poly}(\log k, 1/\varepsilon)$, and for arbitrary functions of LTFs we achieve $\alpha(k, 1/\varepsilon) = \text{poly}(k, 1/\varepsilon)$. Thus for constant ε our seed length is $O(\log n)$ for $k = 2^{(\log n)^c}$ LTFs (for intersections) and $k = (\log n)^c$ LTFs (for arbitrary functions), where $c > 0$ is an absolute constant. Previously, such an $O(\log n)$ seed length was only known for $k = O(\log(n)/\log \log n)$ (for intersections) and $k = O(\log \log n)$ (for arbitrary functions) [GOWZ10a]. Thus, in both cases our PRGs achieve the (optimal) $O(\log n)$ seed length for exponentially larger values of k than was previously known.

Before stating our results in detail we recall the definition of a PRG over Gaussian space (see [Kan11a, Kan11b, HKM12, Kan14, KM15, Kan15a]):

Definition 1 (PRGs for Boolean-valued functions over Gaussian space). *Let \mathcal{C} be a class of functions from \mathbb{R}^n to $\{-1, 1\}$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, a function $\mathcal{G} : \{-1, 1\}^s \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is an ε -PRG for class \mathcal{C} over Gaussian space if for every function $F \in \mathcal{C}$,*

$$|\Pr[F(\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{U}^{(s)})) = 1] - \Pr[F(\mathbf{G}^{(n)}) = 1]| \leq \varepsilon,$$

where $\mathbf{G}^{(n)}$ denotes $(\mathbf{G}_1, \dots, \mathbf{G}_n)$, a random variable distributed according to the standard Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$, and $\mathbf{U}^{(s)}$ denotes the uniform distribution on $\{-1, 1\}^s$. The parameter s is called the seed length of \mathcal{G} .

1.1 Our results and comparison to prior work.

Our PRG results. The following are our main PRG theorems:

Theorem 1 (Fooling arbitrary functions of LTFs). *There is an explicit PRG which ε -fools any Boolean function of k LTFs $g(h_1, \dots, h_k)$ over $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and any k , with seed length*

$$O(\log n + \text{poly}(k, 1/\varepsilon)).$$

This seed length is not far from the best possible in terms of its dependence on both n and k , as it is not difficult (see Appendix A) to establish a seed length lower bound for this class of $\max\{\lfloor \log n \rfloor, k\} = \Omega(k + \log n)$ for any $k \leq n$ (in fact the $\log n$ lower bound holds even for $k = 1$).

In the special case when the combining function g is an AND, we get an exponential improvement in the seed length dependence on k .¹

Theorem 2 (Fooling intersections of LTFs). *There is an explicit PRG which ε -fools any intersection of k LTFs over $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and any k , with seed length*

$$O(\log n + \text{poly}(\log k, 1/\varepsilon)).$$

Here too the seed length is not far from best possible for a broad range of parameters; we note that the above-mentioned lower bound of $\log n$ even when $k = 1$ implies a seed length lower bound of $\Omega(\log n)$, which is $\Omega(\log n + \log k)$ for any $k \leq \text{poly}(n)$ (the most interesting regime for Theorem 2).

For arbitrary functions of k LTFs, Theorem 1 is the first result which gives a seed length of $O(\log n)$ for $k = (\log n)^c$, and for intersections of k LTFs Theorem 2 is the first result which gives a seed length of $O(\log n)$ for $k = 2^{(\log n)^c}$. As mentioned earlier and discussed in more detail below, an optimal seed length of $O(\log n)$ was previously only known [GOWZ10a] for exponentially smaller values of k in both settings. Below we briefly review prior results on explicit PRGs for these classes, starting with intersections of LTFs.

The most directly comparable prior result for intersections of k LTFs is Theorem 1.8 of the work of Harsha, Klivans and Meka [HKM12], which gives a PRG for this class over Gaussian space with seed length $O((\log n)(\log^{9.1} k)/\varepsilon^{5.1})$ (for $\varepsilon > c \log^2(k)/n^{1/11}$). [HKM12] also gives a PRG with similar seed length for intersections of k regular LTFs over the uniform distribution on the Boolean cube $\{-1, 1\}^n$. This PRG is similar to a PRG construction of Meka and Zuckerman [MZ13], in which the basic idea is to (pseudorandomly) hash the coordinates into buckets and use ℓ -wise independence for coordinates hashed to the same bucket; its analysis is based on an invariance principle for polytopes that [HKM12] establish. The [HKM12] PRG for intersections of general LTFs over Gaussian space combines this with a pseudorandom rotation (which has the effect of converting an intersection of general LTFs into an intersection of regular LTFs with high probability).

PRGs for intersection of LTFs were also studied by Gopalan, O’Donnell, Wu, and Zuckerman [GOWZ10a], Diakonikolas, Kane and Nelson [DKN10], and recently by Servedio and Tan [ST17]. These results give PRGs with respect to the uniform distribution on the Boolean cube (in fact, the PRG in [GOWZ10a] fools arbitrary product distributions). For general k , the seed length of the PRG in [GOWZ10a] for intersection of k LTFs is $O((\log n + k \log(k/\varepsilon)) \cdot \log(k/\varepsilon))$. This linear dependence of the seed length on k is far from optimal; for example, if $k \geq n$ then their result

¹We note that a weak form of Theorem 1, with a seed length of $O(\log n + \text{poly}(2^k, 1/\varepsilon))$, follows immediately from Theorem 2 just by setting its error parameter to be $\varepsilon/2^k$ and observing that any function of k LTFs is a union of at most 2^k many disjoint intersections of k LTFs. However, this is exponentially worse than we achieve in Theorem 1 above.

does not yield a non-trivial PRG. For the special case when k/ε is at most $\text{poly}(\log n)$, [GOWZ10a] achieves the better seed length of $O(\log n + k \log(k/\varepsilon))$. Thus, for $k = O(\log n / \log \log n)$, the [GOWZ10a] seed length is $O(\log n)$.

The work of Diakonikolas et al. [DKN10] achieves a similar polynomial dependence on k in the seed length of their PRG (more precisely, they achieve seed length $O(\log n \cdot \text{poly}(k, 1/\varepsilon))$, and their PRG works also for intersections of k degree-2 polynomial threshold functions). The work of Servedio and Tan [ST17] achieves seed length with polylogarithmic dependence on k , but only gives a good bound against intersections of LTFs with small integer weights. In more detail, if each of the k LTFs in the intersection has all its weights w_i being integers in $[-t, t]$, then the PRG in [ST17] has seed length $\text{poly}(\log n, \log k, t, 1/\varepsilon)$. The parameter t for an LTF can in general be exponential in n (and in fact, for a random LTF, t is exponential in n with high probability), and hence the [ST17] result is of interest only for intersections of low-weight LTFs.

Turning to arbitrary functions of k LTFs, we observe that (as indicated in the earlier footnote) any PRG for intersections of k LTFs can be used to fool arbitrary functions of k LTFs by setting its accuracy parameter to $\varepsilon/2^k$. If the seed length of the PRG has an inverse polynomial dependence on the accuracy parameter (as in our result) then this simple approach does not yield a very good seed length, but [GOWZ10a] used essentially this approach to obtain a PRG that fools any function of k LTFs with seed length $O((k^2 + k \log(1/\varepsilon) + \log n) \cdot (k + \log(1/\varepsilon)))$. In the special case when $k \cdot 2^k/\varepsilon$ is at most $\text{poly}(\log n)$, they achieve a better seed length of $O(k^2 + k \log(1/\varepsilon) + \log n)$, which is $O(\log n)$ for constant ε and $k = O(\log \log n)$.

Our results on deterministic approximate counting. By combining our PRG with an invariance principle and a (multi-)regularity lemma from [GOWZ10a], we obtain a deterministic algorithm which approximately counts the number of satisfying assignments to an arbitrary function of k arbitrary LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$. (Note that such algorithms, unlike PRGs, are non-oblivious, i.e. they can “inspect” the particular LTFs which comprise the input to the problem.)

Theorem 3 (Deterministic approximate counting for arbitrary functions of k LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$). *There is a deterministic algorithm which, given as input k LTFs h_1, \dots, h_k over $\{-1, 1\}^n$, an explicit function $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ and an error parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, runs in $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\text{poly}(k, 1/\varepsilon)}$ time and outputs a value $\tilde{v} \in [0, 1]$ such that $|\tilde{v} - v| \leq \varepsilon$, where v is the fraction of points in $\{-1, 1\}^n$ that satisfy $g(h_1, \dots, h_k)$.*

We are not aware of prior results on deterministic approximate counting for intersections (or arbitrary functions) of k LTFs which runs faster than simply enumerating over the seeds of a PRG. Thus Theorem 3 gives the first deterministic algorithm that has a *fixed* $\text{poly}(n)$ runtime even for k which is polylogarithmic in n ; as indicated earlier, given the previous state of the art on PRGs, for any $k = \omega(\log \log n)$ prior algorithms would have a running time of at least $n^{\text{poly}(k)}$.

A key ingredient in the proof of Theorem 3 is an invariance principle for *arbitrary functions* of k LTFs, analogous to the main structural result of [HKM12] which is an invariance principle for *intersections* of k LTFs. Such an invariance principle was proved in [GOWZ10a], and we provide an alternate proof in Appendix C (which is very different from the proofs of the invariance principles in [HKM12, GOWZ10a]). We believe this could be of independent interest. We elaborate on this, still at a conceptual level, in Section 3 and give full details in Section 7.

Our techniques: We will discuss our techniques in detail later, but we remark here at a high level that our techniques are quite different from those in the previous PRG literature. Previous PRGs for intersections (and arbitrary functions) of LTFs [HKM12, GOWZ10a, ST17] at their technical

core relied on sophisticated central limit theorems for sums of independent random variables. In contrast, our PRGs are based on results from the theory of Gaussian processes [LT13]. As the reader will notice, our construction, described in the next section, is very simple — indeed, arguably simpler than the previous constructions for intersections or arbitrary functions of LTFs.

2 Our PRG and a high-level overview of its analysis

We use the same simple PRG construction to obtain both of our PRG results (Theorems 1 and 2); the two results are obtained by instantiating the parameters in two different ways. We describe this PRG below with general parameters; the precise parameter settings we use for each class (intersections versus arbitrary functions of k LTFs) will be made clear in the course of the respective analyses.

An idealized version of our PRG is as follows:

1. Let $\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ be an $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^d$ Gaussian (which we view as a column vector).
2. Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ be a pseudorandom Johnson-Lindenstrauss matrix drawn from the distribution of pseudorandom $d \times n$ JL-matrices given by the work of Kane, Meka and Nelson [KMN11] (more details on this will be given below).
3. A draw from our generator Gen is $\mathbf{Z} := \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ (note that this is a vector in \mathbb{R}^n).

The actual PRG differs from the above-described idealized version because using finitely many bits it is not possible to generate a draw from the continuous $\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ distribution with perfect fidelity. So in Step 1 the actual PRG uses a discrete approximation of each coordinate of $\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ (we explain precisely what is meant by this in Appendix B); let $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$ denote the resulting distribution over \mathbb{R}^d . For clarity of exposition, the main analysis in the paper will be carried out for a “perfect” Gaussian $\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$, i.e. we will analyze the idealized PRG and show that it is an $O(\varepsilon)$ -PRG for each of our two classes of interest (intersections and arbitrary functions of k LTFs). Appendix B shows that, for each of these two classes, if the idealized generator (which uses $\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$) is an $O(\varepsilon)$ -PRG, then so is the actual generator which uses $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$.

High level idea of our generator: The Johnson-Lindenstrauss (JL) transform is one of the most important tools in high-dimensional data analysis. In a nutshell, for any error parameter ε , the JL transform gives a family \mathcal{D} of $d \times n$ matrices such that for $\mathbf{A} \sim \mathcal{D}$ and any k unit vectors $W^1, \dots, W^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$, with high probability, the following holds: For all $0 \leq i, j \leq k$, $\|\mathbf{A}W^i - \mathbf{A}W^j\|_2 = (1 \pm \varepsilon)\|W^i - W^j\|_2$ (where $W^0 = 0$). Crucially, one can obtain this guarantee with $d = O(\varepsilon^{-2} \log k)$.

We can reinterpret the guarantee of the JL transform in the following way: Let $\mathbf{A} \sim \mathcal{D}$ and consider the two distributions $\mathbf{Z} := \mathbf{A}^\top \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ and $\mathbf{Z}' = \mathbf{G}^{(n)}$. Let $W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$ be the $k \times n$ matrix whose rows are W^1, \dots, W^k . Then, for any $\vec{\theta}$, the distributions $\mathbf{X} = W \cdot \mathbf{Z} - \vec{\theta}$ and $\mathbf{Y} = W \cdot \mathbf{Z}' - \vec{\theta}$ (i) are both Gaussian distributions over \mathbb{R}^k , (ii) have the same mean, and (iii) are such that the two $k \times k$ covariance matrices $\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{X})$ and $\mathbf{Cov}(\mathbf{Y})$ differ pointwise by at most ε . Let us define the affine function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ as $f(z) = Wz - \vec{\theta}$. Then, the guarantee of the JL transform is that $\mathbf{Cov}(f(\mathbf{Z})) \approx_\varepsilon \mathbf{Cov}(f(\mathbf{Z}'))$; we may loosely view this guarantee as showing that the generator above *fools the covariance*.

The above perspective leads to the insight which motivates our work, which is essentially the following: since both \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} are Gaussians, which are completely determined by their means and

covariances, *other interesting tests besides the covariance may reasonably be expected to be fooled by (a pseudorandom version of) the Johnson-Lindenstrauss transform.* In this paper we consider tests of the form $h(\text{sign}(f(z)_1), \dots, \text{sign}(f(z)_k))$, where h may be any function from $\{-1, 1\}^k$ to $\{-1, 1\}$ (we will also specialize to the case where h is an AND) and $f(z)_i$ denotes the i^{th} coordinate of $f(z)$. In other words, we are interested in fooling functions (given by h) of k LTFs (given by $\text{sign}(f(z)_1), \dots, \text{sign}(f(z)_k)$). As we show in this paper, for a suitable choice of d (depending on whether h is arbitrary or is an AND) our generator can indeed fool all functions of the above form.

Seed length of our PRG. In order to state the seed length of our generator we first need to identify all of the relevant parameters. In Step 1, for each of our two results we will take $d = O(\log(k/\delta')/\varepsilon'^2)$ where ε' is a parameter that will be discussed below; as mentioned above each coordinate of $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$ will be a discrete approximation of an $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ Gaussian. In Step 2, the KMN distribution over pseudorandom $d \times n$ JL-matrices has two additional parameters, which we denote ε' and δ' (see Section 4.2 for details.)

For the first step, as we show in Appendix B, a total of $O(d \log(kd/\varepsilon))$ many random bits suffice to generate a draw from $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$. For the second step, as we discuss in Section 4.2, a pseudorandom $d \times n$ JL-matrix with parameters ε', δ' can be drawn from the KMN distribution using $O(\log n + \log(1/\delta') \cdot \log(\log(1/\delta')/\varepsilon'))$ bits of randomness. So the overall seed length of our PRG is

$$\begin{aligned} & O(d \log(kd/\varepsilon)) + O(\log n + \log(1/\delta') \cdot \log(\log(1/\delta')/\varepsilon')) \\ &= O\left(\frac{\log(k/\delta')}{\varepsilon'^2} \cdot (\log k + \log \log(k/\delta') + \log(1/(\varepsilon'\varepsilon))) + \log n\right). \end{aligned}$$

As we will see in Section 4.2, we will always take δ' to be ε , so the seed length of our generator is

$$O\left(\frac{\log(k/\varepsilon)}{\varepsilon'^2} \cdot (\log k + \log \log(k/\varepsilon) + \log(1/(\varepsilon'\varepsilon))) + \log n\right). \quad (1)$$

We will instantiate the parameter ε' to one specific value (a function of k and ε) in Section 5 for arbitrary functions of LTFs, and to another specific value in Section 6 for intersections of LTFs, thus obtaining the seed lengths claimed in Theorems 1 and 2.

In the rest of this section we give an overview of the analyses of our PRGs. While the same PRG gives both our results, the analyses are quite different for the two classes we consider (arbitrary functions of LTFs and intersections of LTFs). We first sketch the (simpler) analysis for fooling arbitrary functions of LTFs.

2.1 An outline of our analysis for fooling arbitrary functions of LTFs

We start by recalling some definitions which are useful for our overview. An *orthant* of \mathbb{R}^k is a subset $O \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ of the form

$$O = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^k : \text{sign}(x_i) = b_i, i = 1, \dots, k\} \quad \text{for some } (b_1, \dots, b_k) \in \{-1, 1\}^k.$$

Given two random variables \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} over \mathbb{R}^k , the *quadratic Wasserstein distance* $\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$ between \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} is defined to be

$$\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) = \inf_{(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}, \widehat{\mathbf{Y}})} (\mathbf{E}[\|\widehat{\mathbf{X}} - \widehat{\mathbf{Y}}\|^2])^{1/2},$$

where the infimum is taken over all couplings $(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}, \widehat{\mathbf{Y}})$ of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} .²

²By the Kantorovich-Rubinstein duality theorem, there is an equivalent formulation $\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$ in terms of Lipschitz test functions, but we will not need this alternative formulation.

Now we can present our overview. Our goal is to show that our PRG ε -fools every function of the form $g(h_1(x), \dots, h_k(x)) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$, where $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ is arbitrary and each $h_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ is an LTF, relative to the standard Gaussian distribution. This is equivalent to showing the following: for any unit vectors $W^1, \dots, W^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and any $\vec{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$, taking W to be the $k \times n$ matrix whose rows are W^1, \dots, W^k and taking \mathcal{O} to be any union of orthants over \mathbb{R}^k , we have

$$\left| \Pr_{\mathbf{Z} \leftarrow \text{Gen}} [W\mathbf{Z} - \vec{\theta} \in \mathcal{O}] - \Pr_{\mathbf{G}^{(n)} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)^n} [W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta} \in \mathcal{O}] \right| \leq \varepsilon. \quad (2)$$

Here is a high-level sketch of why our PRG ensures this.

- (1) A (pseudorandom) JL projection of the k unit vectors $W^1, \dots, W^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ results in much lower-dimensional vectors $V^1, \dots, V^k \in \mathbb{R}^d$, where $d = \Theta(\log(k)/\varepsilon'^2)$, which approximately preserve pairwise distances. Let us write Σ^W (Σ^V respectively) to denote the $k \times k$ covariance matrix of the k -dimensional Gaussian random variable $W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}$ ($V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}$ respectively), where $\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ is distributed according to $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^d$. As we will see in Section 4.1, we have that Σ^W and Σ^V are entrywise close to each other (see Observation 4 for details).
- (2) The entrywise closeness of Σ^W and Σ^V implies that the quadratic Wasserstein distance $\mathcal{W}_2(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta})$ is small; more precisely, we get that

$$\mathcal{W}_2(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) \leq \tau, \quad \text{where } \tau = O(k^{\frac{7}{8}} \cdot (\varepsilon')^{1/4}). \quad (3)$$

(See Proposition 5.1 in Section 5.2 for details.)

- (3) As the main step of our analysis, using an adaptation of an argument from [CST14], in Section 5.3 we use (3) to infer that for every union of orthants \mathcal{O} , we have

$$\left| \Pr_{\mathbf{G}^{(n)} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)^n} [W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta} \in \mathcal{O}] - \Pr_{\mathbf{G}^{(d)} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)^d} [V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta} \in \mathcal{O}] \right| \leq O(k^{2/3} \tau^{2/3}) = \varepsilon. \quad (4)$$

This concludes the analysis since the inequality (4) is exactly the same as (2). This is because for each j we have $V^j = W^j \mathbf{A}^\top$ where \mathbf{A} is the (pseudorandom) projection matrix.

2.2 An outline of our analysis for fooling intersections of LTFs

At a high level, our analysis for fooling intersections of LTFs exploits the rich and influential line of work on analyzing supremum (maximum) of Gaussian processes [LS70, Fer75, Tal96]. We recall that a Gaussian process is a set of jointly normal random variables (the set may be infinite, though we will only be concerned with the finite case where it has cardinality k). To see the relationship between the maximum of a Gaussian process and an intersection of LTFs, let $W^1, \dots, W^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be unit vectors and $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Define the LTF $h_i(z) = \text{sign}(W^i z - \theta_i)$ and consider the k -face polytope $h_1(z) \wedge \dots \wedge h_k(z)$. Showing that our PRG ε -fools this k -face polytope (i.e., the function $h_1 \wedge \dots \wedge h_k$) relative to the standard Gaussian distribution is equivalent to showing the following: Taking W to be the $k \times n$ matrix whose rows are W^1, \dots, W^k ,

$$\left| \Pr_{\mathbf{Z} \leftarrow \text{Gen}} [W\mathbf{Z} \leq \vec{\theta}] - \Pr_{\mathbf{G} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)^n} [W\mathbf{G} \leq \vec{\theta}] \right| \leq \varepsilon. \quad (5)$$

Note that $W\mathbf{Z} \leq \vec{\theta}$ if and only if $\max_{j \in [k]} ((W\mathbf{Z})_j - \theta_j) \leq 0$. Likewise, $W\mathbf{G} \leq \vec{\theta}$ if and only if $\max_{j \in [k]} ((W\mathbf{G})_j - \theta_j) \leq 0$.

Both $\{(W\mathbf{Z})_j - \theta_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq k}$ and $\{(W\mathbf{G})_j - \theta_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq k}$ are Gaussian processes, and we are interested in comparing the maxima of these two processes. If we were interested in comparing just the expectations of the maxima, i.e., $\mathbf{E}[\max_{j \in [k]} ((W\mathbf{Z})_j - \theta_j)]$ versus $\mathbf{E}[\max_{j \in [k]} ((W\mathbf{G})_j - \theta_j)]$, then the classical Sudakov-Fernique inequality [Fer75, Sud79] provides a tool to compare (and prove the closeness of) these two quantities. Indeed, Meka [Mek15] used this as a starting point in his work on a deterministic algorithm for estimating the supremum of a Gaussian process. We are interested in a somewhat more delicate quantity, and so we will use a generalization of a recent result of Chernozhukov *et al.* [CCK15] which itself extends the Sudakov-Fernique inequality.

Now we turn from the above conceptual overview to a more detailed sketch of our analysis. Let the vectors V^1, \dots, V^k and the covariance matrix Σ^V be defined in the previous subsection.

- (1') The first step of the argument is identical to Step 1 in the previous subsection: the covariance matrices Σ^W and Σ^V are entrywise close to each other.
- (2') Next, we use the entrywise closeness of Σ^W and Σ^V to show that for any sufficiently smooth function g , we have that

$$\left| \mathbf{E}[g(\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j))] - \mathbf{E}[g(\max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j))] \right| \text{ is small.} \quad (6)$$

is small. This is via an extension (to non-centered Gaussians) of Theorem 1 of [CCK15], which in turn is a generalization of Chatterjee's quantitative Fernique-Sudakov bound [Cha05].³ We carry out this step in Section 6.2.

- (3') Using a result of [HKM12] (which follows almost directly from an influential work of Nazarov [Naz03]), we have that the real-valued random variable

$$\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j),$$

which is a max of non-centered Gaussians, has good *anticoncentration*, meaning that it does not put very much mass in any small interval. See Section 6.3 for more details.

- (4') We specialize (6) to the case where g is a smooth approximator of the sign function. For a particular such g , combining (6) with the anticoncentration of $\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j)$ mentioned above, we can pass from g , which is a smooth approximator of $\text{sign}(\cdot)$, to the actual $\text{sign}(\cdot)$ function, and thereby show that

$$\left| \mathbf{Pr}[\text{sign}(\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j)) = 1] - \mathbf{Pr}[\text{sign}(\max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j)) = 1] \right| \quad (7)$$

is small. We give this argument in Section 6.4.

- (5') Having (7) be small is exactly the same as having the LHS of (5) is small, since for each j we have $V^j = W^j \mathbf{A}^\top$ where \mathbf{A} is the (pseudorandom) projection matrix from Step 1 of our PRG. See Section 6.5 for more details.

³Chatterjee's original argument in [Cha05] bounds the difference in the expectations of $\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j)$ and $\max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j)$, corresponding to the identity function $g(x) = x$.

3 Deterministic approximate counting for arbitrary functions of k LTFs via an invariance principle and a multi-regularity lemma

A *regular* LTF is an LTF $\text{sign}(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i - \theta)$ in which, intuitively, no individual weight w_i has large magnitude compared to the overall magnitude of the weights (see Section 7.1 for a precise definition). Regular LTFs often serve as a useful “stepping-stone” in translating results over Gaussian space to results over the discrete domain $\{-1, 1\}^n$. The reason for this is that regular LTFs are known to satisfy *central limit theorems*; specialized to our context these are results which, roughly speaking, say that the distribution of a linear form $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i - \theta$ (for \mathbf{x} uniform over $\{-1, 1\}^n$) is “close” in some sense to the distribution of $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i \mathbf{G}_i - \theta$ (for $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{G}_1, \dots, \mathbf{G}_n)$ distributed according to a standard Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$). Indeed, the well-known Berry-Esseen theorem [Ber41, Ess42] gives a quantitative bound of just this sort, where “closeness” is measured using the CDF-distance between distributions. Such results are sometimes referred to as “invariance principles” since they show that the overall distribution is not changed much by the specific instantiation of each of the n independent random variables.

Invariance principles have been extended beyond single LTFs. For example, the main structural result of [HKM12] is an *invariance principle for intersections of LTFs*: roughly speaking, this states that if $F = h_1 \wedge \dots \wedge h_k$ is an intersection of k LTFs all of which are sufficiently regular, then the expected values of $F(\mathbf{U}^{(n)})$ (where the input is uniform over $\{-1, 1\}^n$) and of $F(\mathbf{G}^{(n)})$ (where the input is a standard $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$ Gaussian) are close. This invariance principle plays a key conceptual role in the [HKM12] PRG for intersections of regular LTFs which was mentioned earlier.

An invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs. We use an analogue of the [HKM12] invariance principle which goes beyond intersections of LTFs and works for arbitrary functions of k LTFs. A naive approach based on just using the [HKM12] invariance principle 2^k times together with a union bound would give an invariance principle for arbitrary functions of k LTFs with an error bound that depends exponentially on k . The work of Gopalan et al. [GOWZ10a] gives an invariance principle for arbitrary functions of k LTFs that has a polynomial dependence on k in the error bound. We provide an alternate proof of this invariance principle for arbitrary functions of k LTFs. This polynomial dependence on k is crucial for obtaining a final overall running time for counting satisfying assignments with a singly exponential dependence on k , rather than a doubly exponential dependence which would follow from the naive approach.

As we explain in Section 7.3, the proof of our invariance principle is completely different from the proofs of [HKM12], [GOWZ10a]; we feel that our new proof of the invariance principle, Theorem 12, may be of independent interest. The [HKM12] and [GOWZ10a] invariance principles are proved using a Lindeberg-type “replacement” argument; key ingredients are an analysis of hashing n coordinates into buckets and bounds on the derivatives of particular “smooth mollifiers” for functions of LTFs. Our proof of Theorem 12 uses none of these ingredients; instead, its main components are (a) a CLT for Wasserstein distance due to Valiant and Valiant [VV11], and (b) a conversion from Wasserstein distance to “union-of-orthants” distance. (Indeed, the ideas underlying the proof of Theorem 12 are very similar to the ideas underlying our PRG for arbitrary functions of k LTFs; this is analogous, at a high level, to how the proof of the [HKM12] invariance principle is closely related to the analysis of the [HKM12] PRG for intersections of regular LTFs.)

Using the invariance principle for deterministic approximate counting. By combining the invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs with our PRG, which shows that a random variable $\mathbf{Z} \leftarrow \text{Gen}$ is such that the expectation of $F(\mathbf{Z})$ is close to that of $F(\mathbf{G}^{(n)})$, it is straightforward

to obtain a deterministic approximate counting algorithm for arbitrary functions of k regular LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$ simply by enumerating over all the seeds of our PRG. This algorithm has running time $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\text{poly}(k, 1/\varepsilon)}$.) To obtain a deterministic approximate counting algorithm for arbitrary functions of k *general* LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$, we combine the above algorithm with a deterministic algorithmic version of the *multi-regularity lemma* of [GOWZ10a]. Briefly, this is a deterministic algorithm which builds a decision tree of depth roughly k , with the property that at almost every leaf ρ of the decision tree, either the restriction of $h_1 \wedge \dots \wedge h_k$ according to ρ is very close to a constant function -1 or 1 , or else each restricted LTF $h_1 \upharpoonright \rho, \dots, h_k \upharpoonright \rho$ is regular (and hence the deterministic approximate counting algorithm for arbitrary functions of regular LTFs can be used). We give the details in Section 7.2.

4 Notation and setup

We write $W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$ to denote the matrix whose j -th row is the weight vector of the j -th LTF in a function of k LTFs. We assume that each such LTF has been normalized so that its weight vector has norm 1. For $j \in [k]$ (indexing one of the LTFs) we write $W^j = (W_1^j, \dots, W_n^j)$ to denote the j -th row of W , so $\|W^j\| = 1$ for all j . Thus an arbitrary function of k LTFs is $g(h_1, \dots, h_k)$, where $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ and

$$h_j(x) = \text{sign}(W^j \cdot x - \theta_j) \quad \text{where } W^j = (W_1^j, \dots, W_n^j) \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ has } \|W^j\| = 1$$

(we take -1 to represent True and 1 to represent False throughout), and an intersection of k LTFs is a function $h_1(x) \wedge \dots \wedge h_k(x)$.

Throughout this paper we will use notation like $\vec{\theta}$ to denote vectors in \mathbb{R}^k , i.e. $\vec{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$. We write \mathbf{G} or simply $\mathbf{G}^{(n)}$ to denote $(\mathbf{G}_1, \dots, \mathbf{G}_n)$, a random variable distributed according to $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$ (so each of $\mathbf{G}_1, \dots, \mathbf{G}_n$ is an i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ Gaussian).

4.1 Entrywise closeness of the original covariance matrix and the pseudorandomly-projected covariance matrix

As above let $W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$ have j -th row W^j with $\|W^j\| = 1$ for all $j \in [k]$. For convenience we also define $W^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to be the all-0 vector.

Let $d = O(\log(k/\delta')/\varepsilon'^2)$ (where ε' will be taken to be at most 1) and let $V \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times d}$ satisfy the following:

$$\text{For all } 0 \leq i, j \leq k \text{ we have } \|W^i - W^j\| \leq \|V^i - V^j\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon')\|W^i - W^j\| \quad (8)$$

where we take $V^0 = (0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^d$. (As we will see in the next subsection, V^1, \dots, V^k should be thought of as the vectors we get by doing a pseudorandom JL-projection of W^1, \dots, W^k to d dimensions.)

We will consider the two k -dimensional Gaussian random vectors $W\mathbf{G}^{(n)}$ and $V\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$. The covariance matrix of $W\mathbf{G}^{(n)}$, which we denote Σ^W , is the $k \times k$ matrix $W^T W$ which has $\sigma_{ij}^W := W^i \cdot W^j$ as its (i, j) entry, and similarly the covariance matrix Σ^V of $V\mathbf{G}^{(d)}$ has $\sigma_{ij}^V := V^i \cdot V^j$ as its (i, j) entry. We define

$$\Delta := \max_{1 \leq i, j \leq k} |\sigma_{ij}^W - \sigma_{ij}^V| = \max_{1 \leq i, j \leq k} |W^i \cdot W^j - V^i \cdot V^j|, \quad (9)$$

the maximum entry-wise difference between the two covariance matrices. The following simple observation upper bounds Δ :

Observation 4. If $W^0, \dots, W^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $V^0, \dots, V^k \in \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfy (8), then $\Delta \leq 9\varepsilon'$.

Proof. Taking $i = 0$, (8) implies that each V^j , $j \in [k]$, has $\|V^j\| \in [1, 1 + \varepsilon']$. Now fix any $i, j \in [k]$. We have

$$\|W^i - W^j\|^2 = W^i \cdot W^i - 2W^i \cdot W^j + W^j \cdot W^j = 2 - 2W^i \cdot W^j$$

and similarly (using the fact that each $\|V^\ell\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon')^2$)

$$\|V^i - V^j\|^2 = V^i \cdot V^i - 2V^i \cdot V^j + V^j \cdot V^j = 2 + 2\gamma - 2V^i \cdot V^j$$

for some $0 \leq \gamma \in 2\varepsilon' + \varepsilon'^2 \leq 3\varepsilon'$. Hence

$$2\gamma + 2W^i \cdot W^j - 2V^i \cdot V^j = \|V^i - V^j\|^2 - \|W^i - W^j\|^2,$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} |W^i \cdot W^j - V^i \cdot V^j| &\leq \gamma + \frac{1}{2} (\|V^i - V^j\|^2 - \|W^i - W^j\|^2) \\ &\leq 3\varepsilon' + \frac{1}{2} \left(((1 + \varepsilon')\|W^i - W^j\|)^2 - \|W^i - W^j\|^2 \right) \\ &= 3\varepsilon' + \frac{1}{2} ((2\varepsilon' + \varepsilon'^2)\|W^i - W^j\|^2) \\ &\leq 3\varepsilon' + 2(2\varepsilon' + \varepsilon'^2) \leq 9\varepsilon', \end{aligned}$$

where for the penultimate inequality we used $\|W^i - W^j\|^2 \leq 4$ and $\varepsilon'^2 \leq \varepsilon'$ which holds since $0 < \varepsilon' < 1$. \square

4.2 Formalizing step (1) of the intuitive sketch: Getting d -dimensional vectors V^1, \dots, V^k via pseudorandom projection

Recall that Steps 1 and 1' of the analysis are identical for arbitrary functions of LTFs (in Section 2.1) and for intersections of LTFs (in Section 2.2). We give the details of this step here.

We use the following derandomized JL lemma given by Kane, Meka, and Nelson [KMN11]:

Theorem 5 (Derandomized Johnson-Lindenstrauss [KMN11]). *Let $0 \leq \varepsilon', \delta' < 1/2$ and let $\delta'' = \delta'/k^2$. There is a distribution \mathcal{D} over random matrices $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$, $d = O(\log(k/\delta')/\varepsilon'^2)$, such that (i) a draw of $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \mathcal{D}$ can be generated using $O(\log n + \log(1/\delta'')) \cdot \log((\log(1/\delta''))/\varepsilon')$ bits, and (ii) the following holds: Fix unit vectors $W^1, \dots, W^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then*

$$\Pr_{\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \mathcal{D}} \left[\|W^i - W^j\| \leq \|W^i \mathbf{A}^\top - W^j \mathbf{A}^\top\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon') \|W^i - W^j\| \text{ for all } i, j \in [k] \right] \geq 1 - \delta'. \quad (10)$$

Let $\mathbf{V}^j = W^j \mathbf{A}^\top$ where $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \mathcal{D}$. By Theorem 5, except with failure probability at most δ' , (8) is satisfied. We will always take $\delta' = \varepsilon$, and so this δ' failure probability just gets absorbed into the overall $O(\varepsilon)$ error bound of the PRG. Fix V^1, \dots, V^k to be any such outcome of $\mathbf{V}^1, \dots, \mathbf{V}^k$; in the rest of the argument we will work with this V^1, \dots, V^k . Note that by Observation 4 we have that Δ , which is defined in terms of this V^1, \dots, V^k , satisfies $\Delta \leq 9\varepsilon'$.

5 Fooling arbitrary functions of LTFs: Proof of Theorem 1

5.1 Parameter settings

As will be seen in the analysis below, in order for the overall PRG to $O(\varepsilon)$ -fool arbitrary functions of k LTFs, we take $\varepsilon' = \frac{\varepsilon^6}{k^{15/2}}$. Recalling that $\delta' = \varepsilon$, by (1) the overall seed length (as a function of n , k and ε) is $O(\log n) + \tilde{O}(\frac{k^{15}}{\varepsilon^{12}})$, as claimed in Theorem 1. In the rest of this section we establish correctness of the PRG.

5.2 Formalizing step (2) of the intuitive sketch: Upper bounding the quadratic Wasserstein distance

Recall that the *quadratic Wasserstein distance* between random variables \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} in \mathbb{R}^k is defined to be

$$\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) = \inf_{(\hat{\mathbf{X}}, \hat{\mathbf{Y}})} (\mathbf{E}[\|\hat{\mathbf{X}} - \hat{\mathbf{Y}}\|^2])^{1/2}, \quad (11)$$

where the infimum is taken over all couplings $(\hat{\mathbf{X}}, \hat{\mathbf{Y}})$ of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} .

Proposition 5.1. *Let W^1, \dots, W^k be unit vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , V^1, \dots, V^k be vectors in \mathbb{R}^d satisfying (8) and let $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Then we have*

$$\mathcal{W}_2(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) \leq \tau, \quad \text{where } \tau = O(k^{\frac{7}{8}} \cdot (\varepsilon')^{1/4}). \quad (12)$$

Proof. Observe that $W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}$ and $V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}$ have the same mean. For this case, Proposition 7 of Givens and Shortt [GS84] shows that

$$\mathcal{W}_2^2(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) = \text{Tr}(\Sigma^W + \Sigma^V - 2((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})^{1/2}). \quad (13)$$

Here Σ^W and Σ^V are the covariance matrices of the distribution $W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}$ and $V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}$ respectively⁴. To bound the expression on the right hand side, first observe that

$$|\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W + \Sigma^V) - 2\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W)| \leq |\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V)| \leq 9k \cdot \varepsilon'. \quad (14)$$

The last inequality uses Observation 4. To proceed further, we recall the following very useful fact from Bhatia [Bha13] (Theorem X.1.3)

Fact 5.2. *Let $\|\cdot\|$ be any unitarily invariant matrix norm. For psd matrices A and B , we have the following*

$$\| |A^{\frac{1}{2}} - B^{\frac{1}{2}}| \| \leq \|\sqrt{|A - B|}\|,$$

where $|X|$ denotes the psd matrix $\sqrt{X^*X}$.

For any symmetric matrix X , let $\|X\|_{\text{tr}}$ denotes its trace norm, i.e., the sum of the singular values of X . Note that the trace-norm is unitarily invariant. With this, we now have

$$\begin{aligned} |2\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W - ((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})^{1/2})| &\leq 2\|\Sigma^W - ((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})^{1/2}\|_{\text{tr}} \\ &\leq 2\|\sqrt{|(\Sigma^W)^2 - (\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}}\|_{\text{tr}} \\ &= 2\|\sqrt{|(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}(\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V)(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}}\|_{\text{tr}} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

⁴[GS84] states their theorem for non-singular Σ^V and Σ^W . However, we can always perturb our Gaussians infinitesimally, apply (13) and then take a limit.

In the above, the first inequality uses the fact that for any symmetric matrix X , $|\text{Tr}(X)| \leq \|X\|_{\text{tr}}$ and the second inequality follows from Fact 5.2. We now recall the following fact:

Fact 5.3. *For any symmetric $X \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$,*

$$\|\sqrt{|X|}\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \sqrt{k} \cdot \sqrt{\|X\|_{\text{tr}}}.$$

Proof. If $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k$ denotes the singular values of X , then the left hand side is $\sum_{j=1}^k \sqrt{\sigma_j}$ and the right hand side is $\sqrt{k} \cdot \sqrt{\sigma_1 + \dots + \sigma_k}$, so the inequality is a consequence of the AM-GM inequality. \square

Applying Fact 5.3 to (15), we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |2\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W - ((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})^{1/2})| &\leq 2\sqrt{k}\sqrt{\|((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}(\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V)(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})\|_{\text{tr}}} \\ &= 2\sqrt{k}\sqrt{\|(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}(\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V)(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\|_{\text{tr}}}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The second equality simply uses that for symmetric X , $\|X\|_{\text{tr}} = \|X\|_{\text{tr}}$. Next, we recall the following useful inequality for unitarily invariant norms (see [Bha13], p.94).

Fact 5.4. *Let A, B, C be symmetric matrices and let $\|\cdot\|$ be any unitarily invariant norm. Then, $\|ABC\| \leq \|A\|_2 \cdot \|B\| \cdot \|C\|_2$.*

Applying Fact 5.4 to the right hand side of (16), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |2\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W - ((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})^{1/2})| &\leq 2\sqrt{k}\sqrt{\|(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\|_2 \|\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V\|_{\text{tr}} \|(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\|_2} \\ &= 2\sqrt{k}\|(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\|_2 \cdot \sqrt{\|\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V\|_{\text{tr}}}. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Now, Σ^W is a matrix in which each entry $W^i \cdot W^j$ is upper bounded by 1 in absolute value. Thus, $\|\Sigma^W\|_2 \leq k$. This immediately implies that $\|(\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{k}$. Similarly,

$$\|\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \sqrt{k} \cdot \|\Sigma^W - \Sigma^V\|_F \leq 9\sqrt{k} \cdot k \cdot \varepsilon' = 9\varepsilon' \cdot k^{3/2}.$$

Here the last inequality is again using Observation 4. Combining this with (17), we have

$$|2\text{Tr}(\Sigma^W - ((\Sigma^W)^{1/2}\Sigma^V(\Sigma^W)^{1/2})^{1/2})| \leq 6k^{7/4} \cdot \sqrt{\varepsilon'}.$$

Combining the above equation with (14) and (13) (and using triangle inequality), we get that

$$\mathcal{W}_2^2(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) \leq 9k\varepsilon' + 2k^{7/4} \cdot \sqrt{\varepsilon'}.$$

This immediately yields the proposition. \square

5.3 Formalizing step (3) of the intuitive sketch: Upper bounding the “union-of-orthants distance”

The following definition will be convenient: Given two random variables \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} over \mathbb{R}^k , the *union-of-orthants distance between \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y}* is defined to be

$$d_{\text{UO}}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) := \max_{\mathcal{O}} |\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}] - \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}]|, \quad (18)$$

where the max is taken over all 2^{2^k} possible unions of orthants \mathcal{O} in \mathbb{R}^k . This definition aligns well with arbitrary functions of k LTFs $g(h_1, \dots, h_k)$ because of the following easy observation:

Observation 6. For any $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ and any random variables \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} over \mathbb{R}^k , we have

$$|\Pr[g(\text{sign}(\mathbf{X}_1), \dots, \text{sign}(\mathbf{X}_k)) = 1] - \Pr[g(\text{sign}(\mathbf{Y}_1), \dots, \text{sign}(\mathbf{Y}_k)) = 1]| \leq d_{\text{UO}}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}).$$

Lemma 5.5. Let W^1, \dots, W^k be unit vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , V^1, \dots, V^k be vectors in \mathbb{R}^d satisfying (8) and let $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Then we have

$$d_{\text{UO}}(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) \leq O(k^{2/3}\tau^{2/3}), \quad (19)$$

where τ is as defined in Proposition 5.1.

The argument here is similar to the proof of Theorem 5 in [CST14]. That result used a CLT due to Valiant and Valiant (which gave an upper bound on the L^1 (as opposed to quadratic, i.e. \mathcal{W}_2) transportation distance between a certain sum of vector-valued random variables and a Gaussian distribution) to obtain an upper bound on union-of-orthants distance between those two distributions. We briefly explain the main idea (which is quite simple) behind the argument in our setting.

We consider an optimal coupling of the random variables $\mathbf{X} = W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}$ and $\mathbf{Y} = V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}$ which achieves the minimal quadratic transportation distance as in (11). Since by Proposition 5.1 the quadratic transportation cost $\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$ of transforming \mathbf{X} to \mathbf{Y} is “small”, the optimal coupling cannot move a “non-small” amount of mass by a distance that is not “small.” Assume (contrary to our desired conclusion) that the union-of-orthants distance between \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} is not small, and fix a union of orthants \mathcal{O} that achieves the max in (18). Without loss of generality we may suppose that \mathbf{X} puts more mass on \mathcal{O} than \mathbf{Y} (and this difference is large by the above assumption). Gaussian anticoncentration tells us that \mathbf{X} can only have a small amount of mass overall that is close to orthant boundaries, and hence \mathbf{X} can have only a small amount of such mass in \mathcal{O} . This means that a non-small amount of mass from \mathbf{X} must be moved a non-small distance (since it must go from being within \mathcal{O} and not close to any orthant boundary, to being outside of \mathcal{O}) in order to transform \mathbf{X} to \mathbf{Y} ; but this contradicts the premise that $\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y})$ is small.

We now proceed to the formal argument.

Proof of Lemma 5.5. As above let $\mathbf{X} = W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}$ and $\mathbf{Y} = V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}$. By Proposition 5.1 we have that $\mathcal{W}_2(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) \leq \tau$. We define

$$B_r := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^k : |x_i| \leq r \text{ for some } i \in [k]\}$$

to be the region of all points in \mathbb{R}^k whose L^∞ -distance from any orthant boundary point is at most r . With foresight we choose $r = \tau^{2/3}/k^{1/3}$ (the rationale for this choice will be evident toward the

end of the proof). We partition \mathcal{O} into $\mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}} := \mathcal{O} \cap B_r$ (the points in \mathcal{O} that lie close to the orthant boundaries) and $\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}} := \mathcal{O} \setminus B_r$ (the points in \mathcal{O} that lie far away from the orthant boundaries). We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}] - \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}]| &= |(\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] + \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}]) - (\Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] + \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}])| \\ &\leq \underbrace{|\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] - \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}]|}_{=\Xi} + \underbrace{\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}] + \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}]}_{=\Gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

We bound the quantities Ξ and Γ separately.

For Γ , we have that

$$\Gamma \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \Pr[\mathbf{X}_i \in [-r, r]] + \Pr[\mathbf{Y}_i \in [-r, r]] \leq O(kr), \quad (20)$$

where we used the fact that each coordinate \mathbf{X}_i of \mathbf{X} is a one-dimensional Gaussian with variance $\|W^i\|^2 = 1$ and each coordinate \mathbf{Y}_i of \mathbf{Y} is a one-dimensional Gaussian with variance $1 \leq \|V^i\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon')^2 = O(1)$.

For Ξ , let us assume without loss of generality (a symmetrical argument works in the other case) that $\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \geq \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}]$, so $\Xi = \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] - \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}]$. Let \mathcal{D} be any coupling of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} that achieves

$$\mathbf{E}_{(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}, \widehat{\mathbf{Y}}) \sim \mathcal{D}} [\|\widehat{\mathbf{X}} - \widehat{\mathbf{Y}}\|^2]^{1/2} = 2\tau,$$

so \mathcal{D} is the joint distribution of a pair (\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}) of \mathbb{R}^k -valued random variables with marginals distributed according to \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} respectively. Since

$$\int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du = \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}]$$

and

$$\int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du = \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}],$$

it follows that

$$\int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^k \setminus \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du = \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du - \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du \geq \Xi. \quad (21)$$

Next we define the quantities

$$\Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D}) := \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du$$

(in words, this is the probability that \mathbf{U} lies “well inside” \mathcal{O} and \mathbf{V} lies “close to the boundary” in \mathcal{O}), and

$$\Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D}) := \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^k \setminus \mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du$$

(in words, this is the probability that \mathbf{U} lies “well inside” \mathcal{O} and \mathbf{V} lies outside \mathcal{O}). Note that $\Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D})$ and $\Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D})$ sum to the quantity on the left-hand side of (21), and so $\Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D}) + \Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D}) \geq$

Ξ . (In words, since \mathbf{X} places Ξ more mass on \mathcal{O}_{in} than \mathbf{Y} does, any scheme \mathcal{D} of moving the mass of \mathbf{X} to obtain \mathbf{Y} must move at least Ξ amount from within \mathcal{O}_{in} to outside it. $\Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D})$ is the amount moved from within \mathcal{O}_{in} to \mathcal{O} 's boundary \mathcal{O}_{bd} , and $\Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D})$ is the rest, moved from within \mathcal{O}_{in} to locations entirely out of \mathcal{O} .) Since $\|u - v\|^2 \geq r^2$ for any pair of points $u \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}$ and $y \notin \mathcal{O}$, it follows that

$$(2\tau)^2 = \mathbf{E}_{(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}) \sim \mathcal{D}} [\|\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{V}\|^2] \geq r^2 \cdot \Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D}).$$

We consider two cases, depending on the relative magnitudes of $\Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D})$ and $\Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D})$. If $\Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D}) \geq \Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D})$, then we have

$$r^2 \cdot \frac{\Xi}{2} \leq r^2 \cdot \Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D}) \leq 4\tau^2,$$

and hence $\Xi \leq 8\tau^2/r^2$, which along with our upper bound on Γ given by (20) completes the proof. If on the other hand $\Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D}) > \Xi_{\text{far}}(\mathcal{D})$, then

$$\frac{\Xi}{2} \leq \Xi_{\text{near}}(\mathcal{D}) \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \int_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}} \mathcal{D}(u, v) dv du = \Pr[\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}] \leq \Gamma,$$

and again our upper bound on Γ completes the proof. \square

Observing that by our setting of parameters we have that $k^{2/3}\tau^{2/3} = O(\varepsilon)$, we get that

$$d_{\text{UO}}(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) \leq O(\varepsilon)$$

provided that $W^1, \dots, W^k, V^1, \dots, V^k$ satisfy (8). Recalling from Section 4.2 that all but a $\delta' = \varepsilon$ fraction of outcomes V^1, \dots, V^k of $\mathbf{V}^j = W^j \mathbf{A}^\top$ satisfy (8), we have

$$d_{\text{UO}}(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, W\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}) \leq O(\varepsilon),$$

and recalling that a draw \mathbf{Z} from our generator Gen is $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{G}^{(d)}$, this is equivalent to

$$d_{\text{UO}}(W\mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \vec{\theta}, W\mathbf{Z} - \vec{\theta}) \leq O(\varepsilon),$$

and the proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

6 Fooling intersections of LTFs: Proof of Theorem 2

6.1 Parameter settings, notation and terminology

As we will see in the analysis given below, in order for the overall PRG to ε -fool k -facet Gaussian polytopes it suffices to take $\varepsilon' = O(\varepsilon^3/\log^2 k)$ and $\delta' = \varepsilon'/k^2$, so by (1) the overall seed length (as a function of n, k and ε) is $O(\log n) + \tilde{O}(\frac{\log^6 k}{\varepsilon^6})$ as claimed in Theorem 2.

The following notation will be useful: For $0 < \lambda, k \geq 1$, and $\vec{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$, we define

$$\text{Strip}_{\lambda, k, \vec{\theta}} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^k : \text{some } j \in [k] \text{ has } x_j \in (\theta_j, \theta_j + \lambda) \text{ and every } j \in [k] \text{ has } x_j < \theta_j + \lambda\}.$$

We recall that the *Kolmogorov distance* between two real-valued random variables \mathbf{S} and \mathbf{T} is defined to be

$$d_{\text{K}}(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}) = \sup_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} |\Pr[\mathbf{S} \leq \theta] - \Pr[\mathbf{T} \leq \theta]|.$$

For $f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a smooth function we write $\partial_j f(z)$ to denote $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z_j}(z)$ and write $\partial_i \partial_j f(z)$ to denote $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z_i \partial z_j}(z)$.

6.2 Formalizing step (2') of the intuitive sketch: Fooling smooth test functions of max of non-centered Gaussians

A crucial ingredient in executing step (2') of our analysis is the the following “soft-max” function which is used in [Cha05, CCK15] and many other works. The soft-max function $F_\beta : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$F_\beta(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \frac{1}{\beta} \cdot \ln \left(\sum_{i=1}^k e^{\beta x_i} \right).$$

For conciseness let us write e_β to denote $\beta^{-1} \ln k$. We record some useful facts about the soft-max function:

Fact 6.1. *For any vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^k$, and any parameter $\beta > 0$,*

$$0 \leq F_\beta(v) - \max_{i \in [k]} v_i \leq e_\beta.$$

Fact 6.2 (Lemma 3 of [CCK15]). *For every $1 \leq i, j \leq k$, we have*

$$\partial_i F_\beta(z) = \pi_i(z), \quad \partial_i \partial_j F_\beta(z) = \beta w_{ij}(z),$$

where

$$\pi_i(z) := \frac{e^{\beta z_i}}{\sum_{\ell=1}^k e^{\beta z_\ell}}, \quad w_{ij}(z) := \mathbf{1}[i = j] \pi_i(z) - \pi_i(z) \pi_j(z).$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\pi_j(z) \geq 0, \quad \sum_{j=1}^k \pi_j(z) = 1, \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k |w_{ij}(z)| \leq 2.$$

Fact 6.3 (Lemma 4 of [CCK15]). *Let $m(z) = g(F_\beta(z))$ where $g \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$. Then for every $1 \leq i, j \leq k$, we have*

$$\partial_i \partial_j m(z) = (g''(F_\beta(z)) \pi_i(z) \pi_j(z) + \beta g'(F_\beta(z)) w_{ij}(z)),$$

where π_i and w_{ij} are defined as in Fact 6.2 above.

Fact 6.1 follows almost directly from the definition of F_β . Facts 6.2 and 6.3 can be routinely verified by calculus.

The following is the main result of this section (cf. (6)):

Theorem 7 (Fooling smooth test functions of max of non-centered Gaussians). *Let W^1, \dots, W^k be unit vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , V^1, \dots, V^k be vectors in \mathbb{R}^d satisfying (8) and let $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$. Fix any function $g \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$, $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-1, 1]$ such that $\|g'\|_\infty := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |g'(x)| < \infty$ and $\|g''\|_\infty := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |g''(x)| < \infty$. Then for any $\beta > 0$, we have*

$$\left| \mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(W^1 \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_1, \dots, W^k \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_k))] - \mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(V^1 \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_1, \dots, V^k \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_k))] \right| \leq O(\|g''\|_\infty \varepsilon' + \|g'\|_\infty \varepsilon' \beta).$$

Further,

$$\left| \mathbf{E}[g(\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j))] - \mathbf{E}[g(\max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j))] \right| \leq O(\|g''\|_\infty \varepsilon' + \|g'\|_\infty \sqrt{\varepsilon' \ln k}).$$

We use the rest of this subsection to prove Theorem 7. The proof extends the proofs of similar results in [Cha05, CCK15] to the case of non-centered Gaussians.

For ease of presentation, for $i \in [k]$ define the non-centered Gaussian random variables $\mathbf{X}_i := W^i \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_i$ and $\mathbf{Y}_i := V^i \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_i$. We may suppose, without loss of generality, that $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_k)$ and $\mathbf{Y} = (\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_k)$ are defined over the same probability space and that \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} are independent of each other. Our goal is to bound the magnitude of the difference

$$\mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_k))] - \mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_k))]. \quad (22)$$

Let μ_i denote $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_i] = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{Y}_i]$, and let $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i = \mathbf{X}_i - \mu_i$ be the centered version of \mathbf{X}_i and similarly let $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_i = \mathbf{Y}_i - \mu_i$. Observe that by independence we have $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{Y}_j] = 0$ for all $i, j \in [k]$. Now, as is standard, we do a Slepian interpolation; so for $t \in [0, 1]$, we define $\mathbf{Z}_{t,i} := \sqrt{t}\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i + \sqrt{1-t}\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_i + \mu_i$, and we write \mathbf{Z}_t to denote $(\mathbf{Z}_{t,1}, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_{t,k})$. We define the function

$$\Psi(t) = \mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(\mathbf{Z}_{t,1}, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_{t,k}))],$$

and we observe that

$$(22) = \Psi(1) - \Psi(0) = \int_0^1 \Psi'(t) dt. \quad (23)$$

Thus to upper bound the magnitude of (22) it suffices to upper bound $\int_0^1 |\Psi'(t)| dt$.

For $x \in \mathbb{R}^k$ let us write $m(x)$ to denote $g(F_\beta(x))$. By applying the chain rule, we have

$$\Psi'(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbf{E} \left[\partial_i m(\mathbf{Z}_t) \cdot \left(\frac{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i}{\sqrt{t}} - \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_i}{\sqrt{1-t}} \right) \right].$$

Now we recall the following ‘‘integration by parts’’ lemma, which is sometimes referred to as ‘‘Stein’s identity:’’

Lemma 6.4 (Lemma 2 of [CCK15], see also Lemma 2.1 of [Cha05]). *Let $\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k)$ be a k -dimensional Gaussian random vector with mean zero and let $f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a C^1 function with $\mathbf{E}[|\partial_i f(\mathbf{A})|] < \infty$ for all $i \in [k]$. Then for each $i \in [k]$, we have*

$$\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{A}_i f(\mathbf{A})] = \sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{A}_j] \mathbf{E}[\partial_j f(\mathbf{A})].$$

Applying Lemma 6.4 with its ‘‘ \mathbf{A}_i ’’ being $\frac{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i}{\sqrt{t}} - \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_i}{\sqrt{1-t}}$ and its ‘‘ $f(\mathbf{A})$ ’’ being $\partial_i m(\mathbf{Z}_t)$, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi'(t) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{E} \left[\left(\frac{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i}{\sqrt{t}} - \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_i}{\sqrt{1-t}} \right) \left(\frac{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_j}{\sqrt{t}} - \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_j}{\sqrt{1-t}} \right) \right] \mathbf{E}[\partial_{i,j} m(\mathbf{Z}_t)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k (\sigma_{i,j}^W - \sigma_{i,j}^V) \cdot \mathbf{E}[\partial_{i,j} m(\mathbf{Z}_t)], \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality uses the independence between \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} . We get that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t=0}^1 |\Psi'(t)| dt &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=0}^1 \sum_{i,j=1}^k |\sigma_{i,j}^W - \sigma_{i,j}^V| \cdot |\mathbf{E}[\partial_{i,j}m(\mathbf{Z}_t)]| dt \\ &\leq \frac{\Delta}{2} \cdot \int_{t=0}^1 \sum_{i,j=1}^k |\mathbf{E}[\partial_{i,j}m(\mathbf{Z}_t)]| dt, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where $\Delta = \max_{i,j \in [k]} |\sigma_{i,j}^W - \sigma_{i,j}^V|$ is the quantity defined in (9). Thus, we are left with the task of upper bounding the double derivatives. We have

$$\partial_i m(x) = \partial_i (g(F_\beta(x_1, \dots, x_k))) = g'(F_\beta(x_1, \dots, x_k)) \cdot \frac{\partial F_\beta}{\partial x_i}$$

and hence

$$\partial_{i,j} m(x) = \partial_{i,j} (g(F_\beta(x_1, \dots, x_k))) = g''(F_\beta(x_1, \dots, x_k)) \cdot \frac{\partial F_\beta}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial F_\beta}{\partial x_j} + g'(F_\beta(x_1, \dots, x_k)) \cdot \frac{\partial^2 F_\beta}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}.$$

Applying Facts 6.2 and 6.3, it follows that

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^k |\mathbf{E}[\partial_{i,j}m(\mathbf{Z}_t)]| = O(\|g''\|_\infty + \|g'\|_\infty \cdot \beta).$$

Hence combining (23), (24), and the above, and recalling that $\Delta \leq 9\varepsilon'$ (see Observation 4), we get that

$$|\mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_k))] - \mathbf{E}[g(F_\beta(\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_k))]| \leq O(\|g''\|_\infty \cdot \varepsilon' + \|g'\|_\infty \cdot \varepsilon' \cdot \beta),$$

giving the first claim of the theorem. For the second claim, using Fact 6.1, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{E}[g(\max_{j \in [k]}(\mathbf{X}_j))] - \mathbf{E}[g(\max_{j \in [k]}(\mathbf{Y}_j))]| &\leq O(\|g''\|_\infty \cdot \varepsilon' + \|g'\|_\infty \cdot \varepsilon' \cdot \beta) + \|g'\|_\infty \cdot \frac{\ln k}{\beta} \\ &\leq O\left(\|g'\|_\infty \cdot (\varepsilon' \cdot \beta + (\ln k)/\beta) + \|g''\|_\infty \cdot \varepsilon'\right). \end{aligned}$$

The second claim of the theorem now follows by setting $\beta = \sqrt{(\ln k)/\varepsilon'}$.

6.3 Formalizing step (3') of the intuitive sketch: anticoncentration of max of non-centered Gaussians

We recall the following useful anticoncentration result from [HKM12], which follows almost directly from a result of Nazarov [Naz03]:

Lemma 6.5 (Lemma 3.4 of [HKM12]: anticoncentration of multidimensional Gaussian). *Let W^1, \dots, W^k be unit vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . For all $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and all $\lambda > 0$, we have*

$$\Pr_{\mathbf{G} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)^n} [W\mathbf{G} \in \text{Strip}_{\lambda, k, \vec{\theta}}] = O(\lambda \sqrt{\log k}). \quad (25)$$

This can be viewed as a k -dimensional analogue of Theorem 3 from [CCK15], which gives an anticoncentration bound on $\max\{W^1 \cdot \mathbf{G}, \dots, W^k \cdot \mathbf{G}\}$ (and also the above lemma is for non-centered Gaussians, whereas Theorem 3 of [CCK15] is about centered Gaussians). As an immediate consequence of Lemma 6.5 we obtain the following:

Theorem 8 (anticoncentration of max of non-centered Gaussians). *Fix any $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$. For all $\lambda > 0$ and all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ it holds that*

$$\Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j) \in [t - \lambda, t]] = O(\lambda \sqrt{\log k}).$$

6.4 Formalizing step (4') of the intuitive sketch: Passing from a smooth approximator of $\text{sign}(\cdot)$ to $\text{sign}(\cdot)$

In this section we prove the following theorem, which upper bounds the Kolmogorov distance between the random variables $\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j)$ and $\max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j)$:

Theorem 9. *Let W^1, \dots, W^k be unit vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , V^1, \dots, V^k be vectors in \mathbb{R}^d satisfying (8). For all $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$, the following bound holds:*

$$d_K \left(\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j), \max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j) \right) \leq O(\varepsilon' \log^2 k)^{1/3}.$$

This is equivalent to showing that for all $\vec{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$|\Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j) \leq t] - \Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j) \leq t]| \leq O(\varepsilon' \log^2 k)^{1/3}. \quad (26)$$

Our argument follows the proof of Theorem 2 in [CCK15]; the main idea is to combine Theorem 7, where g is a smooth approximation of the sign function, with Theorem 8, which establishes anticoncentration of the max of non-centered Gaussians. The particular $g \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$, $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-1, 1]$ which we use is the following smooth approximator of the sign function:

$$g(z) = \begin{cases} -1 & z \leq -1 \\ -60 \int_{(z+1)/2}^1 s^2(1-s)^2 ds + 1 & -1 < z < 1 \\ 1 & z \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Given parameters $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\beta > 0$, and $\delta > 0$, define the function $g_{x,\beta,\delta}(z) = g((z - x - e_\beta)/\delta)$. We record a simple claim that can be verified by direct calculation:

Claim 6.6. *For any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\beta > 0$ and $\delta > 0$, the following hold:*

1. $\|g'_{x,\beta,\delta}\|_\infty = \|g'\|_\infty / \delta \leq O(1/\delta)$,
2. $\|g''_{x,\beta,\delta}\|_\infty = \|g''\|_\infty / \delta^2 \leq O(1/\delta^2)$,
3. $\mathbf{1}(z \leq x + e_\beta) \leq g_{x,\beta,\delta}(z) \leq \mathbf{1}(z \leq x + e_\beta + \delta)$, for all $z \in \mathbb{R}$.

We now proceed to prove (26). As before, for ease of presentation define the random variables $\mathbf{X}_i = W^i \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_i$ and $\mathbf{Y}_i = V^i \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_i$, $i \in [k]$.

For arbitrary $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\beta > 0$, and $\delta > 0$, we have

$$\Pr \left[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{X}_j \leq x \right] \leq \Pr[F_\beta(\mathbf{X}) \leq x + e_\beta] \quad (\text{Claim 6.1})$$

$$\leq \mathbf{E}[g_{x,\beta,\delta}(F_\beta(\mathbf{X}))] \quad (\text{Claim 6.6})$$

$$\leq \mathbf{E}[g_{x,\beta,\delta}(F_\beta(\mathbf{Y}))] + O\left(\|g''\|_\infty \cdot \frac{\varepsilon'}{\delta^2} + \|g'\|_\infty \cdot \frac{\varepsilon'\beta}{\delta}\right) \quad (\text{Theorem 7, Claim 6.6})$$

$$\leq \Pr[F_\beta(\mathbf{Y}) \leq x + e_\beta + \delta] + O\left(\frac{\varepsilon'}{\delta^2} + \frac{\varepsilon'\beta}{\delta}\right) \quad (\text{Claim 6.6})$$

$$\leq \Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{Y}_j \leq x + e_\beta + \delta] + e_\beta + O\left(\frac{\varepsilon'}{\delta^2} + \frac{\varepsilon'\beta}{\delta}\right) \quad (\text{Claim 6.1})$$

$$= \Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{Y}_j \leq x] + (\Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{Y}_j \leq x + e_\beta + \delta] - \Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{Y}_j \leq x]) +$$

$$e_\beta + O\left(\frac{\varepsilon'}{\delta^2} + \frac{\varepsilon'\beta}{\delta}\right)$$

$$\leq \Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{Y}_j \leq x] + O((e_\beta + \delta)\sqrt{\log k}) + e_\beta + O\left(\frac{\varepsilon'}{\delta^2} + \frac{\varepsilon'\beta}{\delta}\right) \quad (\text{Theorem 8})$$

The proof of the other direction is similar and we skip it.

Thus for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\beta > 0$, $\delta > 0$, we have

$$|\Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{X}_j \leq t] - \Pr[\max_{j \in [k]} \mathbf{Y}_j \leq t]| \leq O\left(\frac{\log^{3/2} k}{\beta} + \frac{\varepsilon'\beta}{\delta} + \delta\sqrt{\log k} + \frac{\varepsilon'}{\delta^2}\right).$$

Setting $\beta = (\log k)/\delta$ and $\delta = O(\varepsilon'\sqrt{\log k})^{1/3}$ completes the proof of (26).

6.5 Formalizing step (5') of the intuitive sketch: Re-interpreting the Kolmogorov distance bound as a PRG

We conclude the proof of our PRG construction from the bound proved in Theorem 9; recall that this gives CDF-closeness at every point in \mathbb{R} , specifically

$$d_K(\max_{j \in [k]} (W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} - \theta_j), \max_{j \in [k]} (V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \theta_j)) \leq O(\varepsilon' \log^2 k)^{1/3}$$

Specializing this to CDF-closeness at the point 0, we get that

$$\left| \Pr[W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} \leq \theta_j \text{ for all } j \in [m]] - \Pr[V^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} \leq \theta_j \text{ for all } j \in [m]] \right| \leq O(\varepsilon' \log^2 k)^{1/3},$$

Now we recall that, from Section 4.2, all but a $\delta' = \varepsilon$ fraction of outcomes V^1, \dots, V^k of $\mathbf{V}^j = W^j \mathbf{A}^\top$ satisfy (8). Hence we have

$$\left| \Pr[W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} \leq \theta_j \text{ for all } j \in [m]] - \Pr[W^j \mathbf{A}^\top \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(d)} \leq \theta_j \text{ for all } j \in [m]] \right| \leq O(\varepsilon' \log^2 k)^{1/3} + \varepsilon,$$

and recalling that a draw \mathbf{Z} from our generator Gen is $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{G}^{(d)}$, we get that this is equivalent to

$$\left| \Pr[W^j \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(n)} \leq \theta_j \text{ for all } j \in [m]] - \Pr[W^j \cdot \mathbf{Z} \leq \theta_j \text{ for all } j \in [m]] \right| \leq O(\varepsilon' \log^2 k)^{1/3} + \varepsilon.$$

Setting $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon^3 / \log^2 k$ completes the proof of correctness of our PRG construction.

7 Application of our PRG: Deterministic approximate counting for functions of LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$

In this section we prove Theorem 3, which we now restate with precise bounds.

Theorem 10 (Restatement of Theorem 3). *There is a deterministic algorithm which, given as input k LTFs h_1, \dots, h_k over $\{-1, 1\}^n$, an explicit function $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$, and an error parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, runs in $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\tilde{O}(\frac{k^{15}}{\varepsilon^{12}})}$ time and outputs a value $\tilde{v} \in [0, 1]$ such that $|\tilde{v} - v| \leq \varepsilon$, where v is the fraction of points in $\{-1, 1\}^n$ that satisfy $g(h_1, \dots, h_k)$.*

To prove the above theorem, we require an invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs. Such an invariance principle was proved in [GOWZ10a]; we provide an alternate proof of the invariance principle that we require in Appendix C, which we believe could be of independent interest.

7.1 A useful notion: Regularity

Given an LTF $h(x) = \text{sign}(w_1x_1 + \dots + w_nx_n - \theta)$ and a parameter $0 < \tau < 1$, we say that h is τ -regular if

$$\sum_{j=1}^n w_j^4 \leq \tau^2 \cdot \left(\sum_{j=1}^n w_j^2\right)^2.$$

Intuitively, τ -regularity (when τ is small) captures the property that no weight in w_1, \dots, w_n has magnitude which is large relative to “the overall scale of the weights.” Regularity is a useful condition because if w is a τ -regular weight vector with two-norm 1, then by the Berry-Esseen theorem [Ber41, Ess42] the CDF of the real random variable $w \cdot \mathbf{X}$ (where \mathbf{X} is uniform over $\{-1, 1\}^n$) is τ -close to the CDF of an $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ Gaussian. Thus the Berry-Esseen theorem implies that regular LTFs will “behave similarly” whether they are given uniform inputs $\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \{-1, 1\}^n$ or Gaussian inputs $\mathbf{G} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$; in this sense, it can be viewed as an invariance principle for a single LTF.

7.2 A multi-regularity lemma for tuples of LTFs

A key ingredient in our deterministic counting algorithm is a “multi-regularity lemma” established in [GOWZ10a] (see Theorem 5.4 of the ArXiv version, available at [GOWZ10b]) for k -tuples of general LTFs.

We recall that this multi-regularity lemma, roughly speaking, asserts the following: Given a k -tuple of LTFs h_1, \dots, h_k , there is a relatively shallow decision tree such that at almost every leaf ρ of the decision tree (corresponding to a restriction), all k restricted LTFs $h_1 \upharpoonright \rho, \dots, h_k \upharpoonright \rho$ are either regular or close-to-constant. Entirely similar to Lemma 18 of [DDS14], the multi-regularity lemma of [GOWZ10a] can be implemented as a deterministic algorithm, i.e. there is an efficient deterministic algorithm to construct the decision tree in time polynomial in its size. (This is because at each node, in order to choose which variable from x_1, \dots, x_n should be placed at that node it suffices to compute the influence of each variable in each of the k restricted linear forms, and this is a straightforward deterministic computation.) Viewed as an algorithmic procedure from this perspective, Theorem 5.4 of [GOWZ10b] yields the following in our setting:

Lemma 7.1 (Algorithmic regularity lemma for LTFs, general k , based on Theorem 5.4 of [GOWZ10b]). *There is an algorithm `ConstructTree` with the following properties: Let h_1, \dots, h_k be LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$. Algorithm `ConstructTree` (which is deterministic) receives h_1, \dots, h_k and $0 < \tau, \gamma, \delta < 1/4$ as input, runs in time $\text{poly}(n, 2^{D_k(\tau, \gamma, \delta)})$ and outputs a decision tree T of depth at most*

$$D_k(\tau, \gamma, \delta) := k \cdot \frac{1}{\tau} \cdot \text{poly} \left(\log \frac{1}{\gamma}, \log \frac{k}{\delta} \right).$$

Each internal node of the tree is labeled with a variable and each leaf ρ (note that a leaf corresponds to a restriction) is labeled with a k -tuple of restricted LTFs $(h_1 \upharpoonright \rho, \dots, h_k \upharpoonright \rho)$ and with a k -tuple of labels $(\text{label}_1(\rho), \dots, \text{label}_k(\rho))$, where each $\text{label}_i(\rho)$ belongs to the set $\{+1, -1, \text{“fail”}, \text{“regular”}\}$. The tree T has the following properties:

1. *For each leaf ρ and index $i \in [k]$, if $\text{label}_i(\rho) \in \{+1, -1\}$, then $\Pr_{x \in \{-1, 1\}^n} [(h_i \upharpoonright \rho)(x) \neq \text{label}_i(\rho)] \leq \gamma$;*
2. *For each leaf ρ and index $i \in [k]$, if $\text{label}_i(\rho) = \text{“regular”}$ then $h_i \upharpoonright \rho$ is τ -regular; and*
3. *With probability at least $1 - \delta$, a random path from the root reaches a leaf ρ such that $\text{label}_i(\rho) \neq \text{“fail”}$ for all $i \in [k]$.*

Remark 11. The event that $\text{label}_i(\rho) \notin \{+1, -1\}$ (referred to in item (1) above) corresponds to the event whose probability is upper bounded in the centered equation in item (2) of Theorem 5.4 of [GOWZ10b]. Roughly speaking, this is the event that the difference between the value of the i -th linear form under the partial assignment induced by ρ and the threshold of the i -th linear form has small magnitude. The probability bound given in Theorem 5.4 of [GOWZ10b] is only $1/\text{poly}(s)$ as a function of their parameter “ s ”, because in their framework a certain vector-valued random variable is only assumed to satisfy bounded independence across its coordinates. In our setting, though, there is full independence across all coordinates of a uniform $x \sim \{-1, 1\}^n$, and hence a Hoeffding can be applied, which yields a stronger probability bound which is inverse exponential in s . This is why the function $D_k(\tau, \gamma, \delta)$ has a dependence on $1/\gamma$ which is only poly-logarithmic in our lemma statement.

7.3 Proof of Theorem 10

The other main ingredient which we need to combine with the multi-regularity lemma is an *invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs*. As mentioned earlier, such a result was established in [GOWZ10a] via a “Lindeberg-method” type proof. In Appendix C we give an alternate proof (which is very different from the proofs of [GOWZ10a, HKM12]) of the version that we require, which is stated below:

Theorem 12 (Invariance principle for arbitrary functions of k LTFs). *Let h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k be τ -regular LTFs and let $F(x) = g(h_1(x), \dots, h_k(x))$ where $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ may be any function. Then*

$$\left| \Pr_{\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \{-1, 1\}^n} [F(\mathbf{X}) = -1] - \Pr_{\mathbf{Z} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n} [F(\mathbf{Z}) = -1] \right| \leq O(k^{3/2} \tau \sqrt{\log(k/\tau)}). \quad (27)$$

Combining Theorem 1 (our PRG for arbitrary functions of LTFs over Gaussian space) and Theorem 12, an algorithm that simply enumerates over all the seeds of our PRG yields the following deterministic approximate counting algorithm for intersections of sufficiently regular LTFs:

Corollary 7.2 (Deterministic approximate counting for arbitrary functions of regular LTFs). *There is a deterministic algorithm with the following performance guarantee: Given $\varepsilon > 0$, a collection h_1, \dots, h_k of LTFs over $\{-1, 1\}^n$ each of which is τ -regular where $\tau = O(\frac{\varepsilon}{k^{3/2} \sqrt{(\log k)(\log \frac{k}{\varepsilon})}})$, and a function $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$, the algorithm runs in time $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\tilde{O}(\frac{k^{15}}{\varepsilon^{12}})}$ and outputs a value $\tilde{v} \in [0, 1]$ such that $|\tilde{v} - v| \leq \varepsilon$, where v is the fraction of points in $\{-1, 1\}^n$ that satisfy $g(h_1, \dots, h_k)$.*

The above algorithm can be extended to handle arbitrary functions of k general LTFs using the algorithmic regularity lemma for multiple LTFs given in Lemma 7.1. The parameter “ δ ” in Lemma 7.1 is set to ε and the parameter “ γ ” is set to ε/k , and the parameter “ τ ” is set to $O(\frac{\varepsilon}{k^{3/2} \sqrt{(\log k)(\log \frac{k}{\varepsilon})}})$ so that Corollary 7.2 can be applied. Constructing the decision tree in the first step of the algorithm for general LTFs takes time $\text{poly}(n, 2^{D_k(\tau, \varepsilon, \delta)}) = \text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\tilde{O}(k^{3/2}/\varepsilon)}$. In the second step of the algorithm for general LTFs, for each leaf ρ in the decision tree,

- If any of the k labels are “fail” the contribution from that leaf is 0;
- If all k labels are bits $b_1, \dots, b_k \in \{-1, 1\}$, then the contribution from that leaf is $2^{-D_k} \cdot \mathbb{1}[g(b_1, \dots, b_k) = -1]$;
- If $k - t$ of the labels (for notational convenience, say these are the ones corresponding to h_{t+1}, \dots, h_k) are bits b_{t+1}, \dots, b_k and the remaining t labels (say the ones corresponding to $h_1 \upharpoonright \rho, \dots, h_t \upharpoonright \rho$) are “regular,” we run the approximate counting algorithm for the regular case from Corollary 7.2 to compute an $\pm\varepsilon$ -accurate estimate (call it v_ρ) of the fraction of satisfying assignments of $g((h_1 \upharpoonright \rho) \wedge \dots \wedge (h_t \upharpoonright \rho), b_{t+1}, \dots, b_k)$, and the contribution from that leaf is $2^{-D_k} \cdot v_\rho$.

The overall running time for the algorithm is at most $\text{poly}(n) \cdot (\text{number of leaves}) \cdot (\text{running time of Corollary 7.2})$, which is $\text{poly}(n) \cdot 2^{\tilde{O}(k^{3/2}/\varepsilon) + \tilde{O}(k^{15}/\varepsilon^{12})}$. To establish correctness, we observe that the final value \tilde{v} may be viewed as a sum of contributions across all the leaves. Property 3 of Lemma 7.1 and the setting of $\delta = \varepsilon$ in Step 1 ensures that leaves that have any “fail” label contribute a total of $O(\varepsilon)$ to the error $|v - \tilde{v}|$. The setting of the γ parameter to be ε/k ensures that leaves containing any $+1$ label, or having all -1 ’s as their labels, collectively contribute a total of at most $O(\varepsilon)$ to $|v - \tilde{v}|$. Finally, Theorem 1 ensures that leaves as in the last bullet above contribute a total of $O(\varepsilon)$ to $|v - \tilde{v}|$. This concludes the proof of Theorem 10.

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A Lower bound on seed length for PRG fooling arbitrary functions of k LTFs

The following simple claim gives an $\Omega(\log n)$ lower bound even for $k = 1$:

Claim A.1. *Let \mathcal{G} be a 0.49-PRG for the class of all LTFs over Gaussian space $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$. Then the seed length of \mathcal{G} is at least $\lfloor \log n \rfloor$.*

Proof. Suppose that \mathcal{G} is a generator with seed length $s \leq \lfloor \log n \rfloor - 1$. Let $S = \{v^1, \dots, v^m\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $|S| \leq n/2$ be the set of all points $\mathcal{G}(\{-1, 1\}^s)$. Since $m < n$ there is a unit vector $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ which is orthogonal to all of v^1, \dots, v^m ; fix such a w . Fix any value $\kappa = o_n(1)$. It is easy to see that the LTF $f(x) = \text{sign}(w \cdot x - \kappa)$ has $\Pr_{\mathbf{G}^{(n)} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n}[f(\mathbf{G}^{(n)}) = 1] = \frac{1}{2} - o_n(1)$, but each of v^1, \dots, v^m has $\text{sign}(w \cdot x - \kappa) = \text{sign}(-\kappa) = -1$, so $\Pr[f(\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{U}^{(s)})) = 1] = 0$. Hence \mathcal{G} cannot be a 0.49-PRG for the class of all LTFs over Gaussian space. \square

Claim A.2. *Let $k \leq n$ and let \mathcal{G} be a 0.49-PRG for the class of all functions $g(h_1, \dots, h_k) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}^n$ where $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ and each h_i is an LTF. Then the seed length of \mathcal{G} is at least k .*

Proof. Suppose that \mathcal{G} is a generator with seed length $s \leq k - 1$. Let $S = \{v^1, \dots, v^m\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $|S| \leq 2^{k-1}$ be the set of all points $\mathcal{G}(\{-1, 1\}^s)$. Say that $b \in \{-1, 1\}^k$ is *good* if some $j \in [m]$ satisfies $\text{sign}(v_i^j) = b_i$ for all $i \in [k]$ (i.e. b is the sign-pattern of the first k coordinates of some string in S). Let $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ be any function which outputs -1 on each good string in $\{-1, 1\}^k$ and outputs 1 on exactly 2^{k-1} strings in $\{-1, 1\}^k$ (such a g must exist since $|S| \leq 2^{k-1}$ and hence there are at most 2^{k-1} good strings in $\{-1, 1\}^k$). Let $h_i(x)$ be the LTF $\text{sign}(x_i)$ for each $i \in [k]$. Then for $f(x) = g(h_1(x), \dots, h_k(x))$, we have $\Pr[f(\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{U}^{(s)})) = 1] = 0$ but $\Pr[f(\mathbf{G}^{(n)}) = 1] = 1/2$. Hence \mathcal{G} cannot be a 0.49-PRG for the class of all functions of k LTFs over Gaussian space. \square

B Simulating draws from the Gaussian distribution

In the analysis of our PRGs for arbitrary functions of k LTFs and for intersections of k LTFs, we assumed that we can sample from d -dimensional Gaussians, but to do this with perfect fidelity clearly requires infinitely many random bits. In this section we show that $O(d \log(kd/\varepsilon))$ truly

random bits suffice to produce d -dimensional “approximate Gaussian” distributions that suffice for our applications.

Definition 2. We say that a random variable \mathbf{G}' on \mathbb{R} is a δ -approximate Gaussian random variable if there is a standard (correlated) Gaussian $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}$ such that $\Pr[|\mathbf{G}' - \widehat{\mathbf{G}}| > \delta] < \delta$.

We recall a lemma proved by Kane [Kan15b] which generates such approximate Gaussians in a randomness efficient way. It is based on the Box-Muller transform.

Lemma B.1 ([Kan15b]). *There is an explicit construction of a δ -approximate Gaussian random variable using $O(\log(1/\delta))$ bits of randomness.*

Let \mathbf{G}^d be a $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^d$ Gaussian. Let $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$ denote a coordinate-wise independent distribution in which the i -th coordinate $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}_i^{(d)}$ is a δ -approximate Gaussian random variable with respect to $\mathbf{G}_i^{(d)}$ as given by Lemma B.1. We set (with foresight) the parameter $\delta = \varepsilon/(k\sqrt{d})$. By Lemma B.1, a draw of $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$ can be generated using $O(d \log(kd/\varepsilon))$ bits of randomness. Below we prove that $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)}$ can be used instead of \mathbf{G}^d in our PRGs, at the cost of an additional additive ε error for our PRG.

Let $\mathbf{X} = V\mathbf{G}^{(d)} - \vec{\theta}$ and $\widehat{\mathbf{X}} = V\widehat{\mathbf{G}}^{(d)} - \theta$. We prove that the “union-of-orthants” distance $d_{\text{UO}}(\mathbf{X}, \widehat{\mathbf{X}})$ between \mathbf{X} and $\widehat{\mathbf{X}}$ (see (18)) is at most ε . This directly implies that the approximation works since, as observed in Section 5.3, for any function $g : \{-1, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$, we have

$$\left| \Pr[g(\text{sign}(\mathbf{X}_1), \dots, \text{sign}(\mathbf{X}_k)) = 1] - \Pr[g(\text{sign}(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_1), \dots, \text{sign}(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_k)) = 1] \right| \leq d_{\text{UO}}(\mathbf{X}, \widehat{\mathbf{X}}).$$

In order to prove that $d_{\text{UO}}(\mathbf{X}, \widehat{\mathbf{X}}) \leq \varepsilon$, we recall some definitions from Section 5.3. Recall that

$$B_r := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^k : |x_i| \leq r \text{ for some } i \in [k]\}$$

is the region of all points in \mathbb{R}^k whose L^∞ -distance from any orthant boundary point is at most r . Set $r = 2\delta\sqrt{d}$. For any union of orthants \mathcal{O} , we partition \mathcal{O} into $\mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}} := \mathcal{O} \cap B_r$ (the points in \mathcal{O} that lie close to the orthant boundaries) and $\mathcal{O}_{\text{in}} := \mathcal{O} \setminus B_r$ (the points in \mathcal{O} that lie far away from the orthant boundaries).

We have

$$|\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}] - \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}]| \leq \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{bd}}] + |\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] - \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}]|.$$

By Lemma B.1 and a union bound, it follows that with probability at least $1 - k\delta$, $|\mathbf{G}_i^{(d)} - \widehat{\mathbf{G}}_i^{(d)}| \leq \delta$ for each $i \in [k]$. Thus, with probability at least $1 - k\delta$, for each $i \in [k]$, we have

$$|\mathbf{X}_i - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_i| = V^i \cdot (\mathbf{G}_i^{(d)} - \widehat{\mathbf{G}}_i^{(d)}) \leq \|V^i\|_2 \|\mathbf{G}_i^{(d)} - \widehat{\mathbf{G}}_i^{(d)}\|_2 \leq \delta\sqrt{d}.$$

As a direct consequence, we have that $\Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O} | \mathbf{X} \notin \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \leq k\delta$ and $\Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O} | \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \geq 1 - k\delta$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}] &\leq \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O} | \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \cdot \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] + \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O} | \mathbf{X} \notin \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \cdot \Pr[\mathbf{X} \notin \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \\ &\leq \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] + k\delta, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}] &\geq \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O} | \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \cdot \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \\ &\geq (1 - k\delta) \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] \geq \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{in}}] - k\delta. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $|\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{in}] - \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}]| \leq k\delta$.

Finally note that, as estimated in Section 5.3, using anti-concentration of Gaussians,

$$\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{bd}] \leq O(kr).$$

Combining the above estimates, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}] - \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}]| &\leq \Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{bd}] + |\Pr[\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{O}_{in}] - \Pr[\widehat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathcal{O}]| \\ &\leq O(k\delta\sqrt{d}) = O(\varepsilon), \end{aligned}$$

which concludes our proof.

C Proof of Theorem 12: An invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs

C.1 Our starting point: a Wasserstein distance bound

Our proof of Theorem 12 closely parallels the arguments underlying our PRG for arbitrary functions of k LTFs that were given in Section 5. However, for technical reasons we will now be using the (non-quadratic) Wasserstein distance. We recall the definition of this distance measure between distributions that we will use. (As was the case earlier for quadratic Wasserstein distance, there is an equivalent formulation in terms of Lipschitz test functions, but we will not need this alternative formulation.)

Definition 3. For any two distributions \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} over \mathbb{R}^k , the Wasserstein distance between \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} is defined to be

$$d_W(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) = \inf_{(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}, \widehat{\mathbf{Y}})} (\mathbf{E}[\|\widehat{\mathbf{X}} - \widehat{\mathbf{Y}}\|]),$$

where the infimum is taken over all couplings $(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}, \widehat{\mathbf{Y}})$ of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} .

As in the analysis of our PRG for arbitrary functions of k LTFs, we need an upper bound on the Wasserstein distance between the two random variables of interest as a starting point. In Section 5 the two relevant random variables were both multi-dimensional Gaussians and the desired (quadratic) Wasserstein closeness was given by Proposition 5.1. In the context of Theorem 12, the two relevant random variables are (i) a sum of independent vector-valued random variables and (ii) the Gaussian with matching mean and covariance, so it is natural to turn to the literature on *central limit theorems* for sums of vector-valued random variables for the desired upper bound on Wasserstein distance.

A range of central limit theorems for sums of independent vector-valued random variables have been established in the literature, but we are not aware of one which can be used “out of the box” for our purposes. Valiant and Valiant [VV11] gave a central limit theorem which upper bounds the Wasserstein distance between a sum of n vector-valued random variables and the corresponding Gaussian, but their quantitative bound has a $\log n$ factor which would spoil our desired final result. Zhai [Zha18] gave a variant of the [VV11] CLT, but only for the setting of i.i.d. vector-valued random variables, whereas our summands are not identically distributed. Bonis [Bon15] gave a sharpening of Zhai’s bound, but it assumes that each summand random variable has identity covariance, which

need not hold for us. While we do not know of any CLTs in the literature which directly yield our desired starting point, below we show how a “bucketing” scheme can be applied to the Valiant-Valiant CLT to yield a CLT of exactly the type that we need (where there is no dependence on n in the upper bound).

We begin by recalling the Valiant-Valiant CLT:

Theorem 13 (Valiant-Valiant CLT for Wasserstein distance [VV11]). *Let $\mathbf{Z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_n$ be independent distributions in \mathbb{R}^k with mean 0 and $\|\mathbf{Z}_i\|_2 \leq \beta$. Then, writing Σ to denote the covariance matrix of $\mathbf{Z}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{Z}_n$, we have*

$$d_W\left(\sum_{a=1}^n \mathbf{Z}_a, \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)\right) \leq \beta k(2.7 + 0.83 \log n).$$

We use this to prove the following:

Proposition C.1. *Let h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k be τ -regular LTFs, $h_i(x) = \text{sign}(W_1^i x_1 + \dots + W_n^i x_n - \theta)$ where we have normalized so that each vector $W^i = (W_1^i, \dots, W_n^i)$ has two-norm 1. Let W be the $k \times n$ matrix with (i, j) entry W_j^i , and for $\ell \in [n]$ let W_ℓ denote the column vector with entries $W_\ell^1, \dots, W_\ell^k$. For $\ell \in [n]$ let \mathbf{Z}_ℓ denote the k -dimensional random variable $\mathbf{Z}_\ell = \mathbf{x}_\ell W_\ell$ where $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$ is uniform over $\{-1, 1\}^n$ and let $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{Z}_n$. Let \mathbf{G}' be the k -dimensional random Gaussian vector $\mathbf{G}' = W\mathbf{G}$ where \mathbf{G} is distributed as $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$. Then*

$$d_W(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{G}') \leq O(k^2 \log(k) \cdot \tau^2 + k). \quad (28)$$

Further, if $\tau < 10/\sqrt{k}$, then the following bound also holds:

$$d_W(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{G}') \leq O(k^2 \tau^2 \log(k/\tau)). \quad (29)$$

(We note that while (28) does not provide a very strong upper bound on Wasserstein distance, for suitably small values of τ the bound (29) does give a useful upper bound, and it is this bound that we will employ in the next subsection.)

Proof. We begin by observing that the random variables $\mathbf{Z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Z}_\ell$ are independent, have mean zero (indeed each has support size two, on the two points W_ℓ and $-W_\ell$), and lie in \mathbb{R}^k . However, at this point, just having the condition that the rows of W are τ -regular and have two-norm 1 doesn't provide much useful information about the two-norms of the columns W_ℓ . Our approach is to bucket the columns according to the two-norms and use the Valiant-Valiant CLT (Theorem 13) separately on each of these buckets. We now proceed to give more details.

Let A_i be the subset of those $\ell \in [n]$ such that $2^{-i-1} \leq \|W_\ell\|_2 \leq 2^{-i}$, i.e.

$$2^{-2i-2} \leq (W_\ell^1)^2 + \dots + (W_\ell^k)^2 \leq 2^{-2i}.$$

Fix an $\ell \in [n]$ and consider the column vector $W_\ell = (W_\ell^1, \dots, W_\ell^k)$. We have that each $|W_\ell^i| \leq \tau$ (using the τ -regularity of each row and the fact that each row is normalized to have 2-norm 1). Thus, we have $0 \leq (W_\ell^1)^2 + \dots + (W_\ell^k)^2 \leq k\tau^2$. It follows that A_i is empty if $i < i_0 := (\log(1/k\tau^2))/2 - 1$. (Note that if k is large and τ is not very small then i_0 may be a negative value; this will come up below.)

The sum of squares of all $W_{i,j}$ is k , so each A_i can have at most $k \cdot 2^{2i+2} = 4k2^{2i}$ many elements. Fix an i such that A_i is nonempty (so $i \geq i_0$). Each $\ell \in A_i$ has $\|W_\ell\|_2 \leq 2^{-i}$, and hence applying the Valiant-Valiant CLT to $\sum_{\ell \in A_i} \mathbf{Z}_\ell$ (setting its parameter “ β ” to 2^{-i}) gives

$$d_W \left(\sum_{\ell \in A_i} \mathbf{Z}_\ell, \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_{(i)}) \right) \leq 2^{-i} \cdot k \cdot (2.7 + \log |A_i|) \leq 2^{-i} \cdot k \cdot (O(1) + \log k + 2i) = O(k \log(k) \cdot 2^{-i} + k \cdot i \cdot 2^{-i}).$$

Now we use the fact that if \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} are two independent random variables and \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V} are two independent random variables, then

$$d_W(\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{U} + \mathbf{V}) \leq d_W(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{U}) + d_W(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{V})$$

(this is easy to see from the coupling-based definition that we have given for d_W). Applying this, where the sum is over all $i \geq i_0$, since $\sum_i \sum_{\ell \in A_i} \mathbf{Z}_\ell = \mathbf{Z}$ and $\sum_i \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_{(i)}) = \mathbf{G}'$, we get that

$$d_W(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{G}') \leq \sum_{i \geq i_0} O(k \log(k) \cdot 2^{-i}) + \sum_{i \geq i_0} O(k \cdot i \cdot 2^{-i}).$$

Let us upper bound this sum, keeping in mind that $\log(1/k\tau^2)$ may be negative. The first sum is at most

$$\sum_{i \geq i_0} O(k \log(k) \cdot 2^{-i}) \leq O(k^2 \log(k) \cdot \tau^2).$$

The second sum is

$$\sum_{i \geq i_0} O(k \cdot i \cdot 2^{-i})$$

which needs to be considered with a bit of care since i_0 may be negative. Summing over any negative values of i obviously gives a negative contribution. Summing over positive values of i gives at most $O(k)$ (and we note that indeed the contribution when $i = 1$ is $\Theta(k)$). So the total sum is at most

$$O(k^2 \log(k) \cdot \tau^2 + k).$$

We note that either of the two summands may dominate depending on the relation between τ and k . However, if we assume that $\tau < 10/\sqrt{k}$ (so i_0 is a positive number), then the upper bound on the second sum above becomes $O(k^2 \tau^2 \log(1/k\tau^2))$, which is at most $O(k^2 \tau^2 \log(1/\tau))$, and we can bound the whole quantity by $O(k^2 \tau^2 \log(k/\tau))$ as claimed. \square

C.2 The invariance principle for arbitrary functions of LTFs

The CLT in Proposition C.1 gives closeness in (non-quadratic) Wasserstein distance. As in Section 5, using arguments from [CST14] this can be translated into closeness in union-of-orthants distance. The details of the arguments are almost identical to the analysis from [CST14] since now (as in that work) one of the random variables is a sum of independent vector-valued random variables, the other is Gaussian, and the relevant Wasserstein distance under consideration is the non-quadratic Wasserstein distance. In a bit more detail, the analogue of (20) is now established, as in [CST14], using the Berry-Esseen theorem and the fact that each linear form is τ -regular, yielding $\Gamma \leq O(k(r + \tau))$. The upper bound on Wasserstein distance that was provided by Theorem 7 in

the [CST14] analysis is now provided by our Proposition C.1; to be more precise, the analogue to the next-to-last centered equation in the proof of Theorem 5 of [CST14] in our setting is that we have $r\Delta/2 \leq d_W(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{G}')$ which is $O(k^2\tau^2 \log(k/\tau))$ by Proposition C.1. Optimizing the choice of r to make $\Gamma + \Delta$ as small as possible, we obtain the following (we refer the reader to the proof of Theorem 5 of [CST14] for more details):

Theorem 14. *Let h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k be τ -regular LTFs, $h_i(x) = \text{sign}(W_1^i x_1 + \dots + W_n^i x_n - \theta)$ where we have normalized so that each vector $W^i = (W_1^i, \dots, W_n^i)$ has two-norm 1. Let W be the $k \times n$ matrix with (i, j) entry W_j^i , and for $\ell \in [n]$ let W_ℓ denote the column vector with entries $W_\ell^1, \dots, W_\ell^k$. For $\ell \in [n]$ let \mathbf{Z}_ℓ denote the k -dimensional random variable $\mathbf{Z}_\ell = \mathbf{x}_\ell W_\ell$ where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is uniform over $\{-1, 1\}^n$ and let $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{Z}_n$. Let \mathbf{G}' be the k -dimensional random Gaussian vector $\mathbf{G}' = W\mathbf{G}$ where \mathbf{G} is distributed as $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)^n$. Then*

$$d_{\text{UO}}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{G}') \leq O(k^{3/2}\tau \sqrt{\log(k/\tau)}).$$

(The condition $\tau < 10/\sqrt{k}$ in Proposition C.1 does not necessitate any condition on τ in Theorem 14, because if $\tau \geq 10/\sqrt{k}$ then the claimed bound of Theorem 14 holds trivially.) Finally, we note that the desired invariance principle, Theorem 12, is a restatement of Theorem 14, using the connection between union-of-orthants distance and any k -variable Boolean combining function g that was formalized in Observation 6.