

Title: Advances in quantum query complexity

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Abstract: <p>I will describe some of the recent progress in quantum query complexity, including super-quadratic separations between classical and quantum measures for total functions, a better understanding of the power of some lower bound techniques, and insight into when we should expect exponential quantum speedups for partial functions.</p>

Advances in Quantum Query Complexity

Shalev Ben-David

Query Complexity

- $f = \text{OR}$



- We care about the worst case
- $D(f) = n$ deterministic queries
- $R(f) = \Omega(n)$ random queries (bounded error)
- $Q(f) = \Theta(n^{1/2})$ quantum queries (bounded error)

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- $D(f) = n$ deterministic queries
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- $Q(f) = \Theta(n^{1/2})$ quantum queries (bounded error)
- **We can prove these!**

Questions in Query Complexity

- How much do resources like randomness and quantumness help?
 - Is there a function that can be solved with very few randomized queries, but which require a lot of deterministic queries?
- When do these resources help?
 - What structure must the functions have?
- What are good lower bound techniques for these models?

Part 1: How Much Speedup?

Partial Functions: Quantum vs Randomized

- [Simon '94]: Function f with
$$Q(f) \approx \log^2 n \quad R(f) \approx n^{1/2}$$
- [Aaronson, Ambainis '14]:
 - “Forrelation” with
$$Q(f) \approx 1 \quad R(f) \approx n^{1/2}$$
 - Give a candidate function for
$$Q(f) \approx \log n \quad R(f) \approx n$$

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 - Give a candidate function for
$$Q(f) \approx \log n \quad R(f) \approx n$$
 - Show that 1 vs. n gap is impossible

Separations in 2015

- April 4 (Göös, Pitassi, Watson):
 - Introduced the idea of pointer functions
 - Quadratic separation between $D(f)$ and $\deg(f)$
- June 16 (Ambainis, Balodis, Belovs, Lee, Santha, Smotrovs):
 - Quadratic separation between $D(f)$ and $R(f)$
 - Power 4 separation between $D(f)$ and $Q(f)$
 - Many other separations, involving $R_0(f)$ and $Q_E(f)$
- June 26 (B.):
 - Power 2.5 separation between $R(f)$ and $Q(f)$
 - Introduced cheat sheets

Separations in 2015

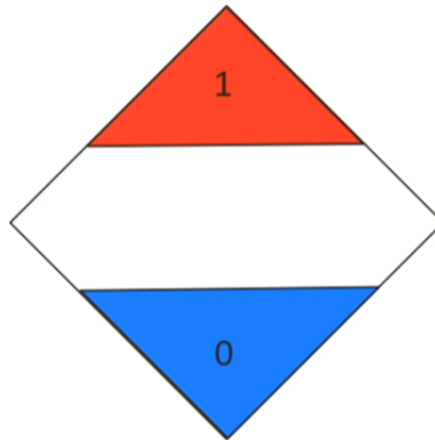
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- Nov 5 (Aaronson, B., Kothari):
 - Used cheat sheets to reprove many of the other separations
 - Power $4-o(1)$ separation between $Q(f)$ and approximate degree

A Super-Grover Speedup



Turning partial functions total

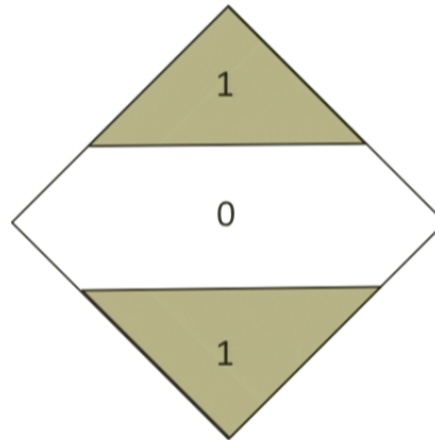
- Given a partial function f that has a good separation, how can we turn it total?
- For concreteness, set f to be $f(x) = 1$ if x is $2/3$ ones, 0 if x is $2/3$ 0s (“two-thirds”)



Turning partial functions total

- The problem is that the *promise* is difficult for a randomized algorithm to calculate

$$p_f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in \text{Dom}(f) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Cheat sheet step 1: Compose with AND-OR

- AND-OR: Is there an all-1 column?

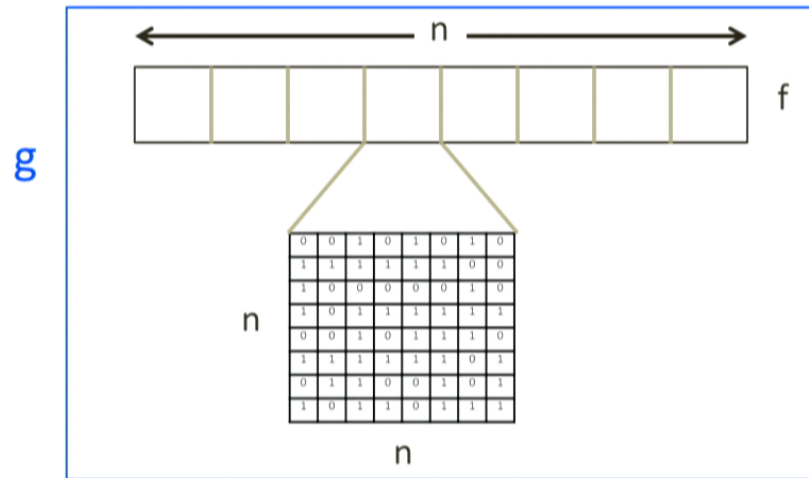
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1

Cheat sheet step 1: Compose with AND-OR

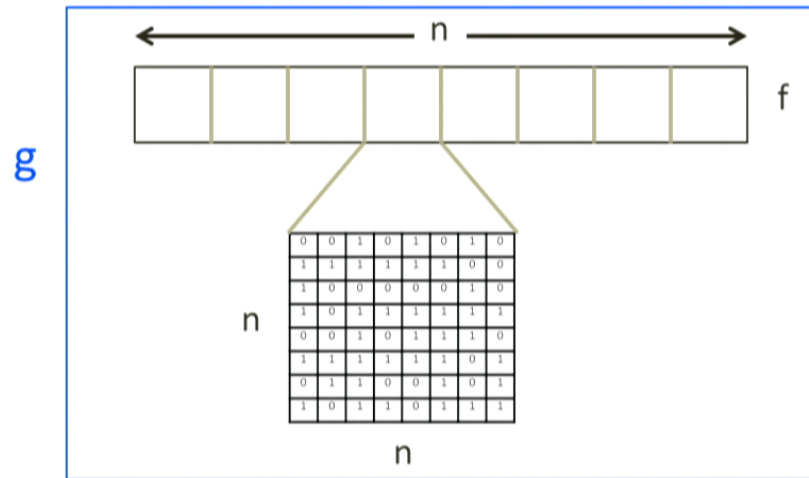
- AND-OR: Is there an all-1 column?

0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1

Cheat sheet step 1: Compose with AND-OR

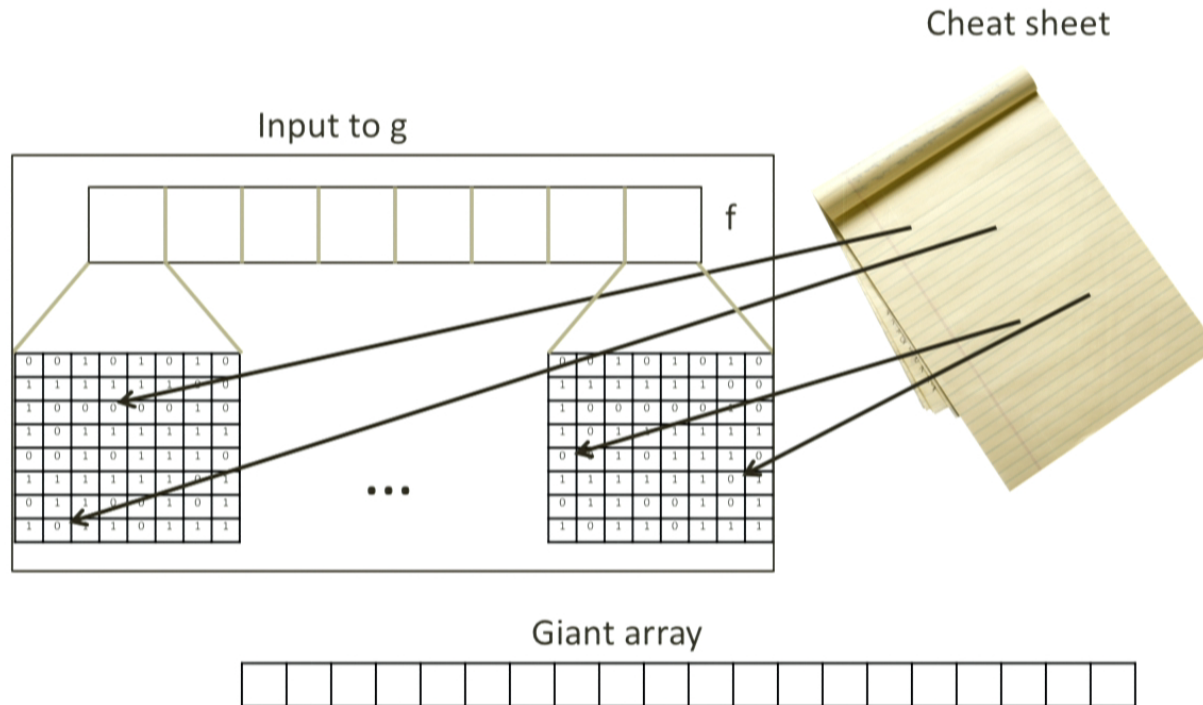


Cheat sheet step 1: Compose with AND-OR

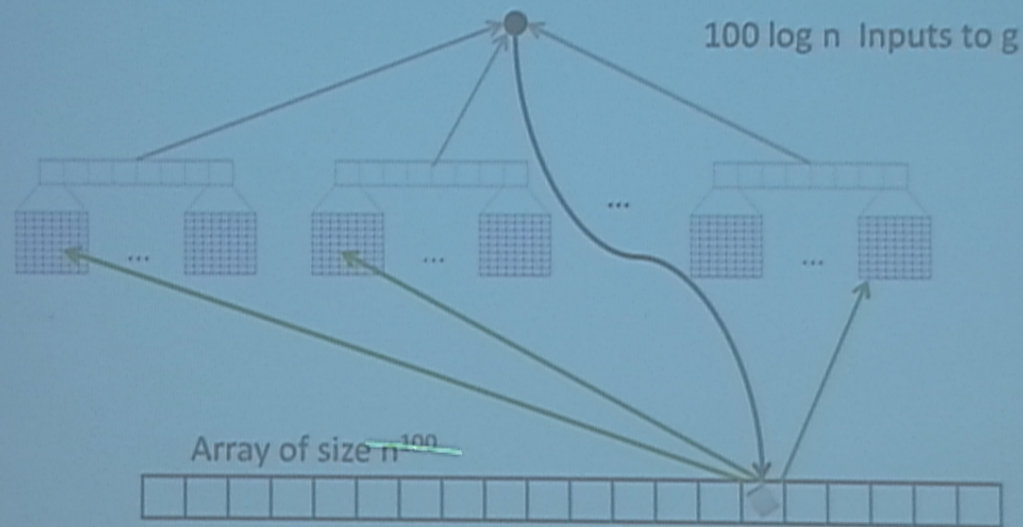


- If $f = \text{Forrelation}$:
 - $R(g) \approx n^{2.5}$
 - $Q(g) \approx n$

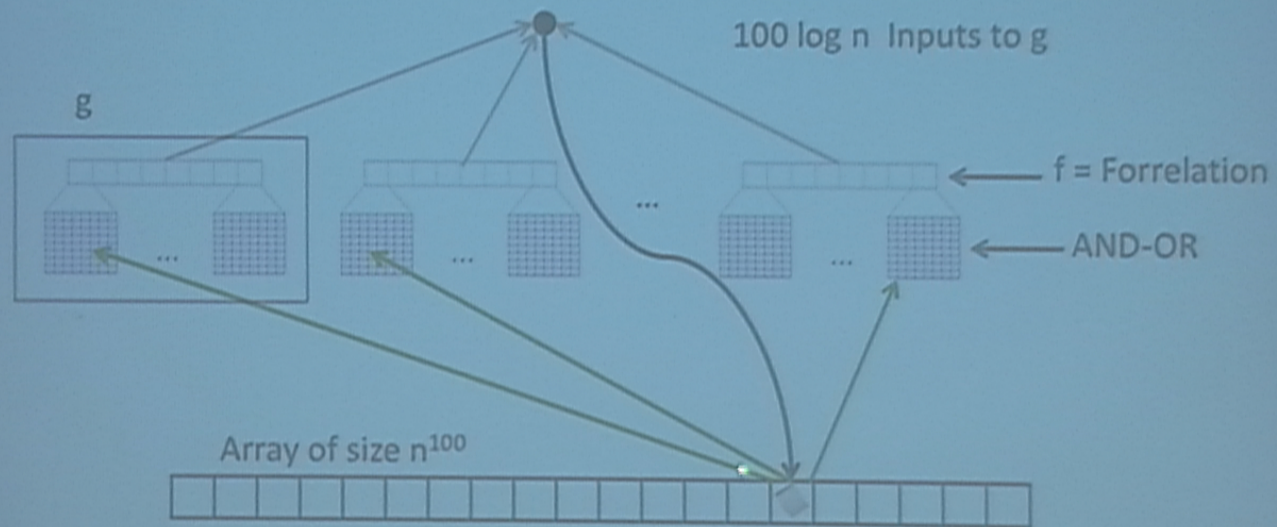
Step 2: hide a cheat sheet



Step 3: Find the cheat sheet



Cheat sheet framework



More Complexity Measures

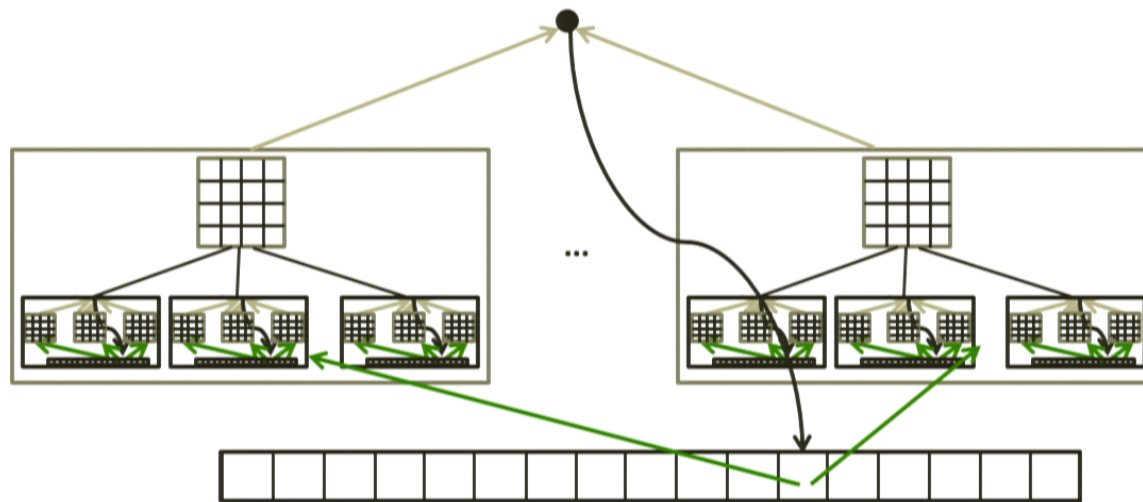
	D	R_0	R	C	RC	bs	Q_E	deg	Q	\widetilde{deg}
D		2, 2 [ABB+15]	2*, 3 [ABB+15]	2, 2 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2, 3 [ABB+15]	2, 3 [GPW15]	4*, 6 [ABB+15]	4*, 6 [ABB+15]
R_0	1, 1 \oplus		2, 2 [ABB+15]	2, 2 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2, 3 [ABB+15]	2, 3 [GJPW15]	3, 6 [ABB+15]	4*, 6 [ABB+15]
R	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus		2, 2 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	1.5, 3 [ABB+15]	2, 3 [GJPW15]	2.5, 6 Th. 1	4*, 6 [ABB+15]
C	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 2 \oplus		2, 2 [GSS13]	2, 2 [GSS13]	1.1527, 3 [Amb13]	$\log_3 6, 3$ [NW95]	2, 4 \wedge	2, 4 \wedge
RC	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus		1.5, 2 [GSS13]	1.1527, 3 [Amb13]	$\log_3 6, 3$ [NW95]	2, 2 \wedge	2, 2 \wedge
bs	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus		1.1527, 3 [Amb13]	$\log_3 6, 3$ [NW95]	2, 2 \wedge	2, 2 \wedge
Q_E	1, 1 \oplus	1.3267, 2 $\bar{\wedge}$ -tree	1.3267, 3 $\bar{\wedge}$ -tree	2, 2 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$		2, 3 Th. 4	2, 6 \wedge	4*, 6 Th. 2
deg	1, 1 \oplus	1.3267, 2 $\bar{\wedge}$ -tree	1.3267, 3 $\bar{\wedge}$ -tree	2, 2 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	2*, 3 $\wedge \circ \vee$	1, 1 \oplus		2, 6 \wedge	2, 6 \wedge
Q	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	2, 2 Th. 3	2*, 3 Th. 3	2*, 3 Th. 3	1, 1 \oplus	2, 3 Th. 4		4*, 6 Th. 2
\widetilde{deg}	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	7/6, 2 $\wedge \circ ED$	7/6, 3 $\wedge \circ ED$	7/6, 3 $\wedge \circ ED$	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	1, 1 \oplus	

■ New separations

■ Separations we reprove

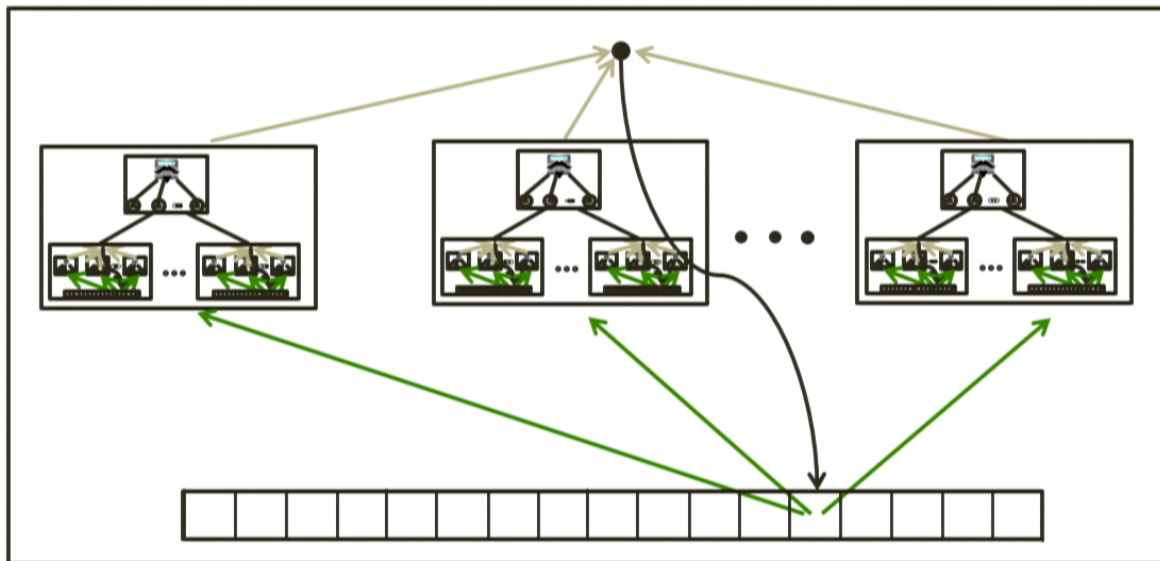
Ambainis, Kokainis, Kothari (Dec 3)

$$D \approx UC^{2-o(1)}$$



Ambainis, Kokainis, Kothari (Dec 3)

$$Q \approx UC^{1.5-o(1)}$$



Cheat Sheets in Communication Complexity

- Anshu, Belovs, B., Göös, Jain, Kothari, Lee, Santha
 - Get the 2.5 separation in communication complexity
 - Also get a power $2-o(1)$ separation between R and partition number
 - Main contribution: showing the lower bound for R
- Anshu, B., Garg, Jain, Kothari, Lee (coming soon)
 - Prove a “cheat sheet theorem” for quantum communication
 - Get a separation between quantum communication and approximate logrank

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 - Prove a “cheat sheet theorem” for quantum communication
 - Get a separation between quantum communication and approximate logrank
 - No previous super-linear separation was known

Can we get better lower bound techniques?

- If the lower bound techniques we have all break, can we hope for better techniques?
- For quantum query complexity, there is a **tight** technique

Randomized Lower Bounds

- If there are no techniques, how do we prove the cheat sheet lower bounds?
- Answer: we have specialized theorems that help lower bound functions built from other functions
- Other answer: cheat sheet lower bounds were annoying and ad hoc

- B., Kothari 2016: new lower bound technique (“Sabotage Complexity”) that makes some things a bit easier

Part 2: When are exponential speedups possible?

B. 2012

- For some concrete types of promises, there cannot be an exponential quantum speedup for **any** function
- Permutation promise: “the input is a permutation of $\{1,2,\dots,n\}$ ”

Aaronson, B. 2015

- “You can usually sculpt speedups”
 - If you fix a function in advance and get to choose a promise afterwards
 - Then for most functions, you can get an exponential quantum speedup
 - Exact characterization (“H-index”)
 - “Quantum speedups are all about the promise”

Open Problems

- Pretty much everything is still open
- What is the largest possible quantum speedup for a total function? Is it 2.5? 3? 6?
- What is the largest possible quantum speedup for a partial function? Is $\log n$ vs. n possible?

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- What are some other promises on which there are or aren't exponential quantum speedups? Can we get a complete characterization?
- What are some better lower bound techniques for randomized algorithms?