

# Implicit Representations of Graphs & Randomized Communication

**Viktor Zamaraev** (University of Liverpool)

joint work with



**Nathan Harms**  
(EPFL)



**Sebastian Wild**  
(University of Liverpool)

LoGAlg 2023, Warsaw, Poland,  
November 15-17, 2023

My motivation

# Speed of hereditary graph classes

- Class of graphs is **hereditary** if it is **closed under vertex deletion**
- If  $\mathcal{X}$  is a class of **labeled graphs**, then  $\mathcal{X}_n$  is the set of graphs from  $\mathcal{X}$  with vertex set  $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- The **speed** of  $\mathcal{X}$  is the function that maps  $n \mapsto |\mathcal{X}_n|$

## Example

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the class of all graphs.

$$|\mathcal{P}_n| = 2^{\binom{n}{2}} = 2^{n(n-1)/2}$$

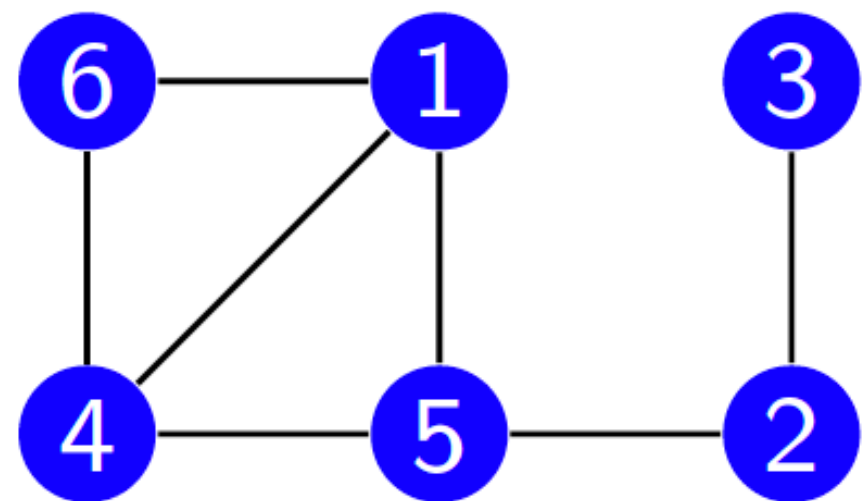
$$\log_2 |\mathcal{P}_n| = \Theta(n^2)$$

# Graph coding

Why are we interested in  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n|$ ?

A **graph coding** is a representation of the graph by a word in a finite alphabet.

Graph  $G$



Adjacency matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Binary word

(*canonical code* of  $G$ )

$$\underbrace{001111010000110}_{n(n-1)/2 \text{ bits}}$$

# Graph coding

Why are we interested in  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n|$ ?

If we have no **a priori** information, then in the **worst case** we need  $\log_2 |\mathcal{P}_n| = n(n-1)/2$  bits to represent an  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$ .

If  $G \in \mathcal{X}_n$  and we know something about  $\mathcal{X}$  it may help to represent  $G$  with less than  $\binom{n}{2}$  bits.

On the other hand, in the **worst case** we need  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n|$  bits to represent an  $n$ -vertex graph from  $\mathcal{X}$ .

$$\frac{\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n|}{\binom{n}{2}}$$

is the best possible **coefficient of compressibility** for representing graphs in  $\mathcal{X}_n$ .

# Speed of hereditary graph classes

Alekseev V.E. (1982) showed that for every hereditary class  $\mathcal{X}$  the limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| / \binom{n}{2}$  exists.

Alekseev V.E. (1992), and Bollobás B. & Thomason A. (1994):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| / \binom{n}{2} \in \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{k} \mid k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

# Speed of hereditary graph classes

Theorem (Alekseev V.E., 1992; Bollobás B. & Thomason A., 1994)

For every infinite proper hereditary class  $\mathcal{X}$ :

$$\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \left(1 - \frac{1}{k(\mathcal{X})}\right) \frac{n^2}{2} + o(n^2),$$

where  $k(\mathcal{X}) \in \mathbb{N}$  is the *index* of class  $\mathcal{X}$ .

- (i) For  $k(\mathcal{X}) > 1$ ,  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(n^2)$
- (ii) For  $k(\mathcal{X}) = 1$ ,  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = o(n^2)$

# Jumps in the speed of hereditary graph classes

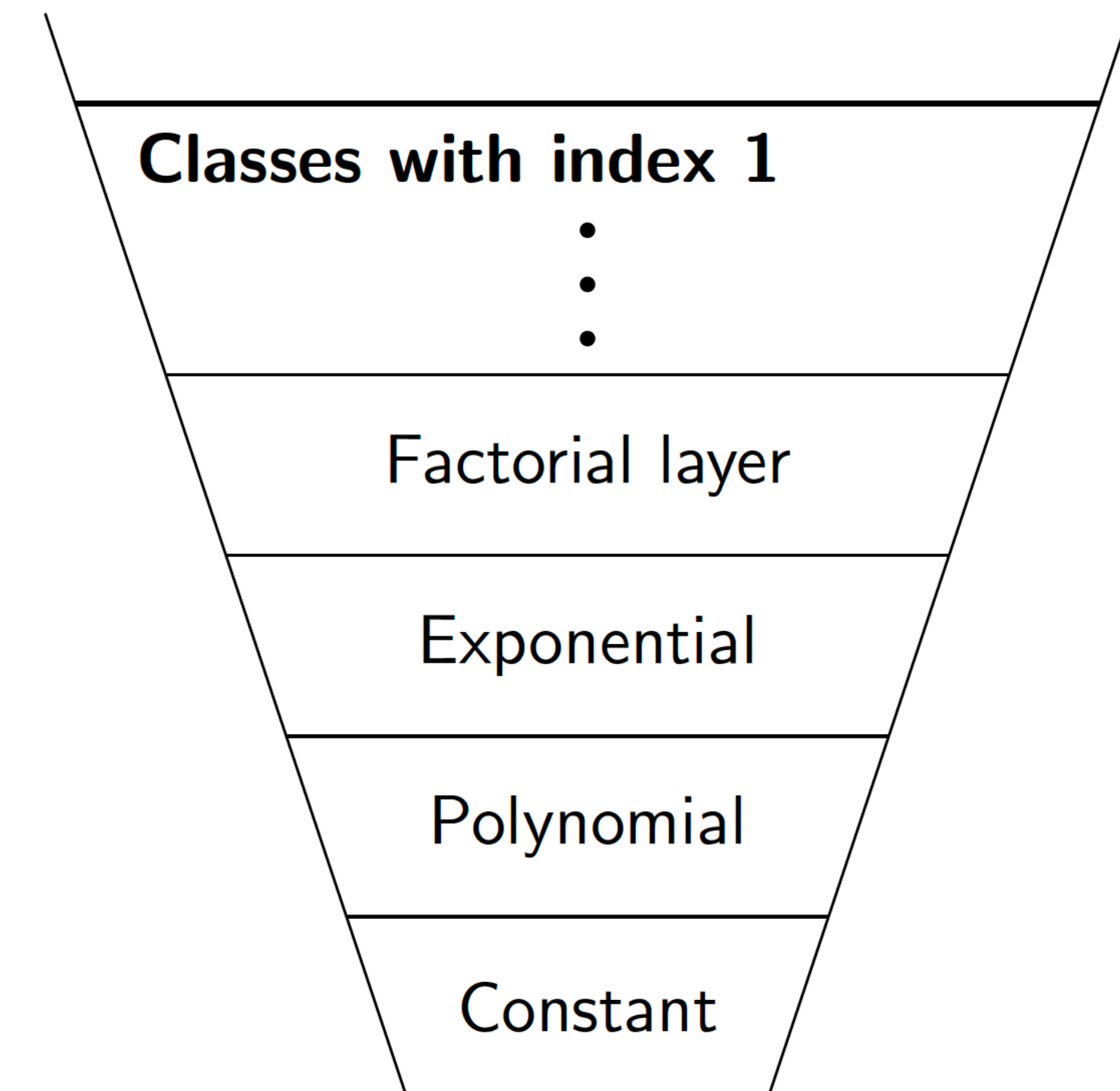
Let  $k(\mathcal{X}) = 1$

## Question

What are possible rates of growth of the function  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n|$ ?

Scheinerman E.R. & Zito J. (1994)

- Constant classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(1)$ .
- Polynomial classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(\log n)$ .
- Exponential classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(n)$ .
- Factorial classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(n \log n)$ .
- All other classes are **superfactorial**.

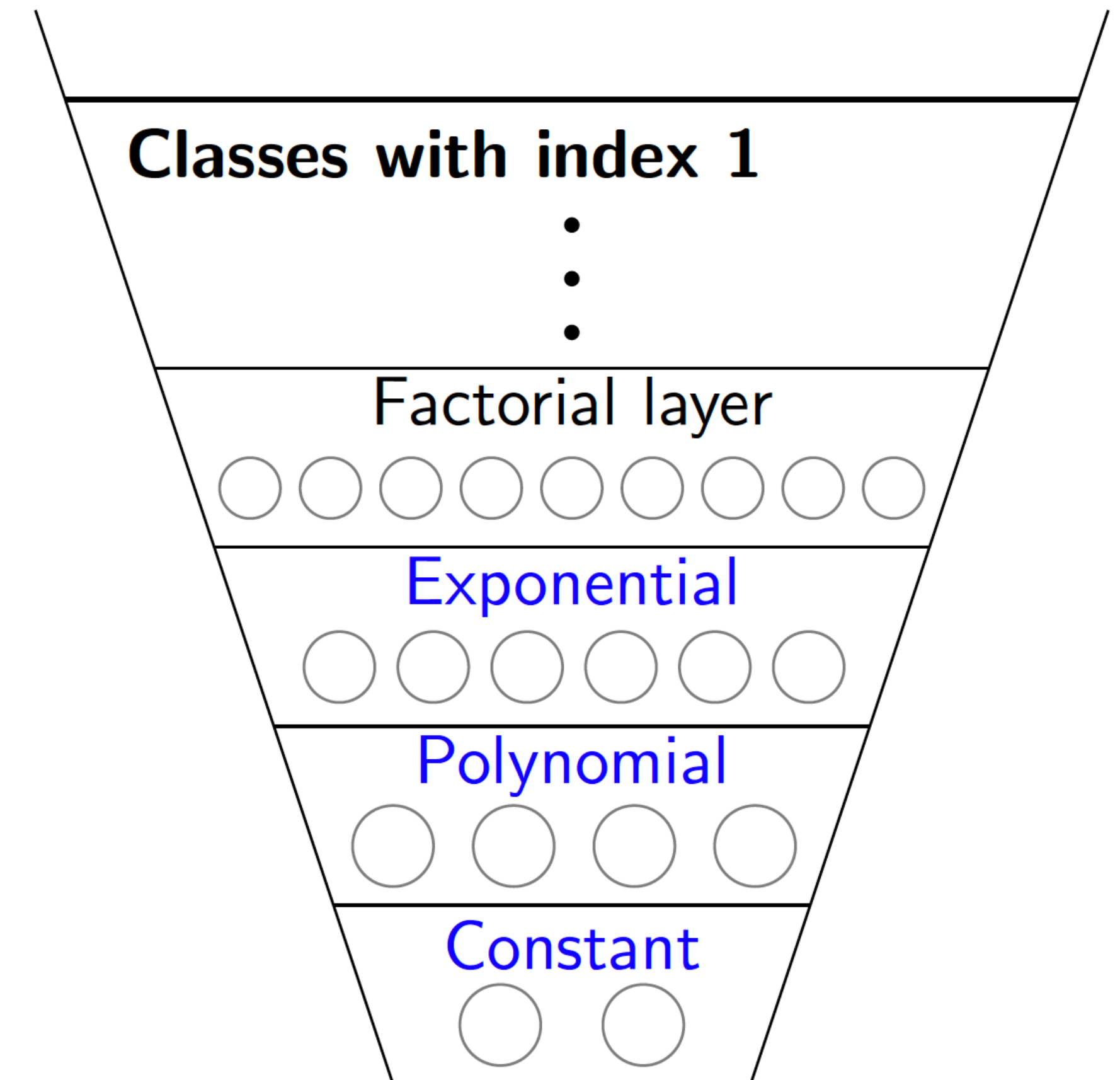




# Structure of subfactorial classes

Alekseev V.E. (1997), and Balogh J., Bollobás B. & Weinreich D. (2000)

- Constant classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(1)$ .
  - Polynomial classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(\log n)$ .
  - Exponential classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(n)$ .
  - Factorial classes:  $\log_2 |\mathcal{X}_n| = \Theta(n \log n)$ .
  - All other classes are **superfactorial**.
- 1 Structural characterizations of the first three layers.
  - 2 All minimal classes in each of the layers.



# Structure of **factorial** classes

**Challenge:** find a structural characterisation of the factorial layer

**Except the definition,** nothing common to **all** factorial classes is known

**However,** it was conjectured that **every factorial hereditary class** admits an **implicit representation** (or adjacency labels of size  $O(\log n)$ )

# Implicit representation

Given a class  $\mathcal{X}$  find an algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  such that for every  $n$ -vertex graph in  $\mathcal{X}$  there is a labeling

- ▶  $v \mapsto \ell(v)$ ; and
- ▶  $v \sim w \iff \mathcal{A}[\ell(v), \ell(w)] = 1$ ; and
- ▶ labels are “short” ( $O(\log n)$  bits).

# Implicit representation and universal graphs

Given a class  $\mathcal{X}$  find an algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  such that for every  $n$ -vertex graph in  $\mathcal{X}$  there is a labeling

- ▶  $v \mapsto \ell(v)$ ; and
- ▶  $v \sim w \iff \mathcal{A}[\ell(v), \ell(w)] = 1$ ; and
- ▶ labels are “short” ( $O(\log n)$  bits).

**Universal Graph (sequence)**, for a graph class  $\mathcal{X}$ , of size  $m(n)$  is a sequence  $U = (U_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of graphs with  $|U_n| = m(n)$  such that, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , every graph  $G \in \mathcal{X}_n$  is an induced subgraph of  $U_n$ .

**Theorem (S. Kannan, M. Naor, S. Rudich, 1992)** A class  $\mathcal{X}$  admits an implicit representation if and only if it has a universal graph of size  $\text{poly}(n)$ .

# Implicit Graph Conjecture

# Implicit Graph Conjecture

**Problem** (S. Kannan, M. Naor, S. Rudich, 1992)

Is it true that every hereditary class  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $|\mathcal{X}_n| = 2^{O(n \log n)}$  admits an implicit representation?

**Implicit Graph Representation Conjecture** (J. Spinrad, 2003)

Every hereditary class  $\mathcal{X}$  with  $|\mathcal{X}_n| = 2^{O(n \log n)}$  admits an implicit representation.

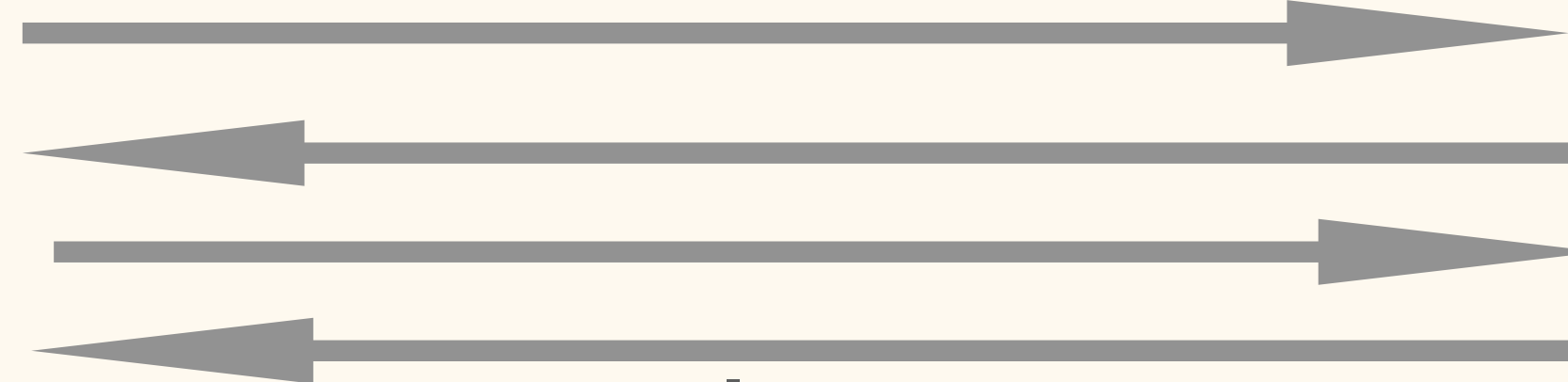
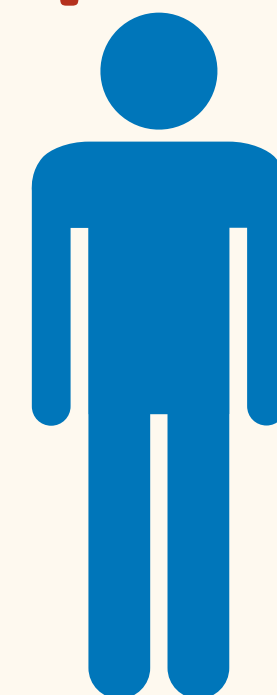
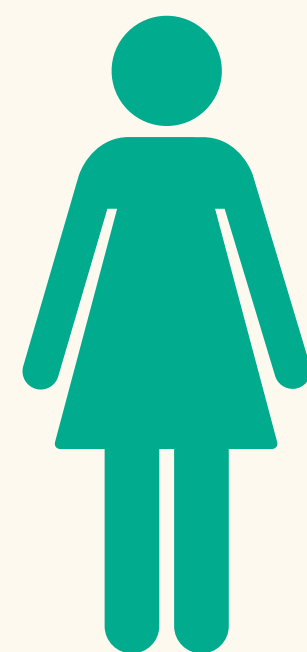
# Communication Complexity Problems

# Communication Complexity problems

- 2 parties: **Alice** and **Bob**
- Target function  $f_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is known by **Alice** and **Bob**
- **Alice** receives an input  $x \in [n]$  and **Bob** receives an input  $y \in [n]$
- **Alice** and **Bob** exchange (single bit) messages in turn in order to find  $f_n(x, y)$

**Alice's input:**  $f_n$  and  $x$

**Bob's input:**  $f_n$  and  $y$

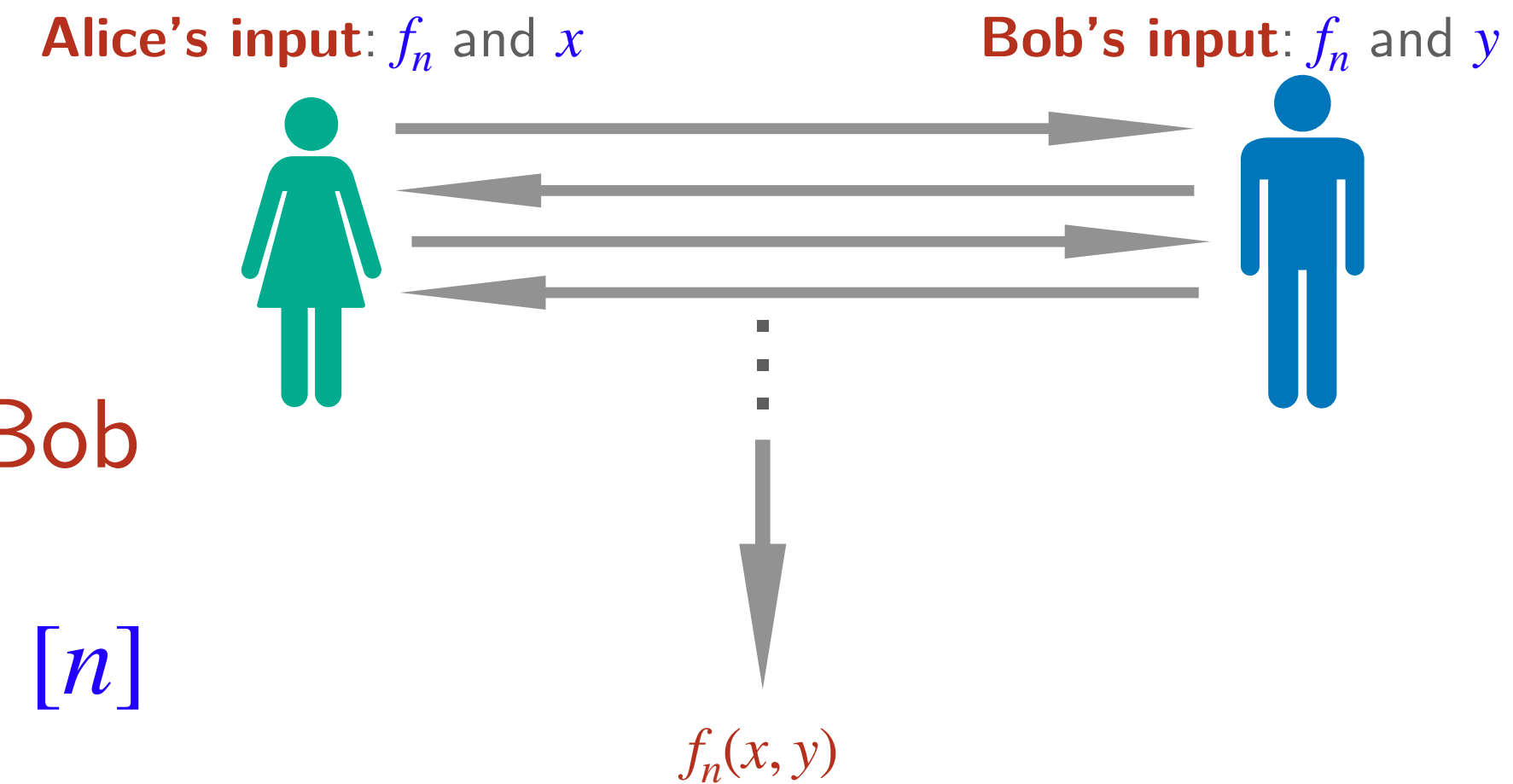


$f_n(x, y)$



# Communication Complexity problems

- 2 parties: **Alice** and **Bob**
- Target function  $f_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is known by **Alice** and **Bob**
- **Alice** receives an input  $x \in [n]$  and **Bob** receives an input  $y \in [n]$
- **Alice** and **Bob** exchange (single bit) messages in turn in order to find  $f_n(x, y)$
- The total size (*in bits*) of exchanged messages is **the cost of the communication protocol**
- **The communication complexity (or communication cost) of  $f_n$** , denoted  $CC(f_n)$ , is the minimum cost of a communication protocol that computes  $f_n$
- A **communication problem** is a sequence  $F = (f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$
- A **communication cost** of  $F$  is the function  $CC(F) : n \mapsto CC(f_n)$



# Examples

- **Equality problem**

- $\text{Equality}_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , where  $\text{Equality}_n(x, y) = 1$  if and only if  $x = y$
- Communication complexity of  $\text{Equality}$ :  $\lceil \log n \rceil + 1$

- **Greater-Than problem**

- $\text{GT}_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , where  $\text{GT}_n(x, y) = 1$  if and only if  $x \leq y$
- Communication complexity of  $\text{GT}$ :  $\lceil \log n \rceil + 1$

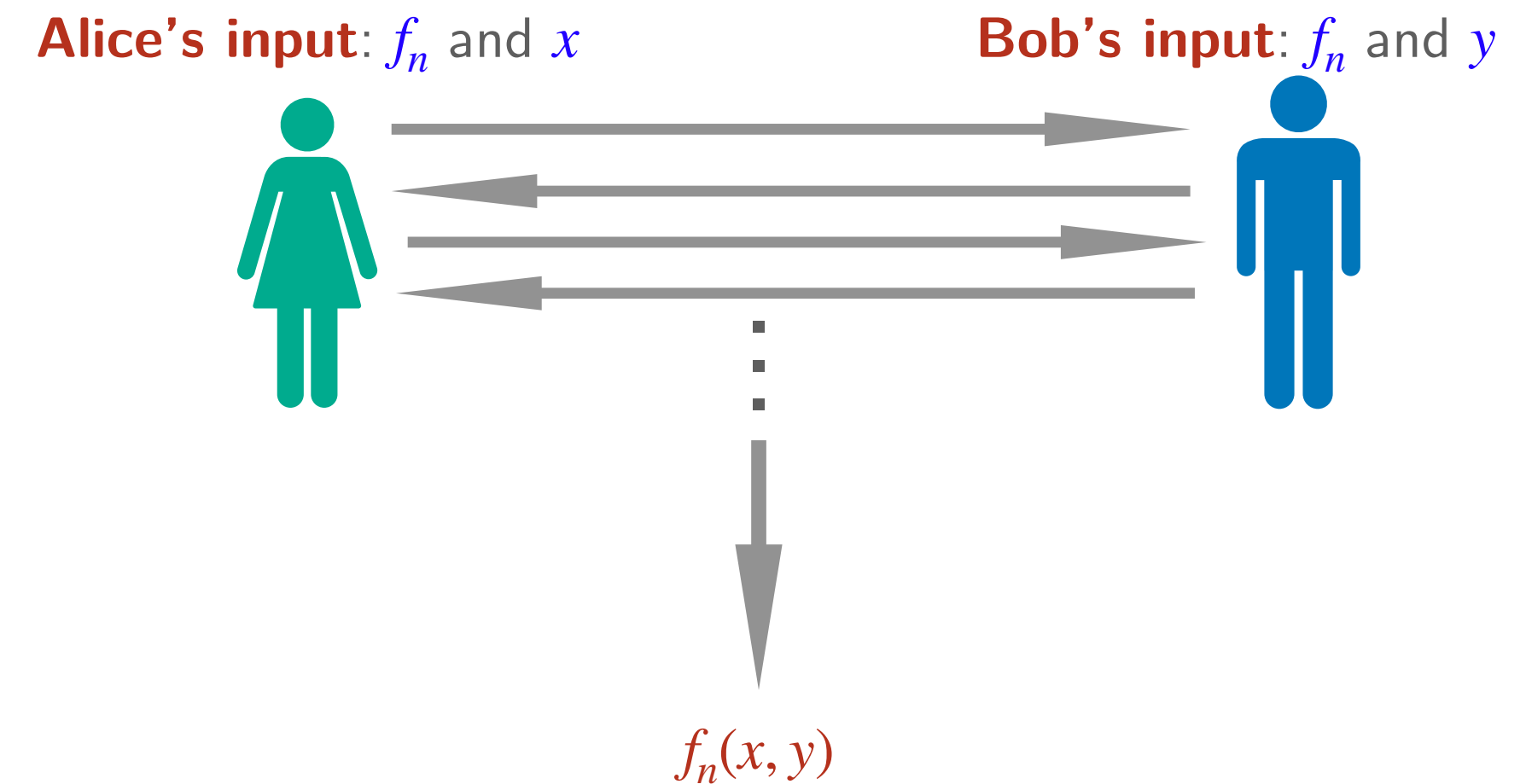
From **Communication Complexity** to **Adjacency Labelling**

# From a **Communication Complexity** problem to **Adjacency Labelling**

We can think of  $f_n$

as a bipartite graph  $G_n = ([n], [n], E)$ ,

where  $E = \{(x, y) \in [n] \times [n] \mid f(x, y) = 1\}$



**Alice** and **Bob** compute, in **an interactive way**, adjacency of two given vertices  $x$  and  $y$

One can use

- messages sent by Alice (**Alice's protocol**) as **labels** for vertices in the left part
- messages sent by Bob (**Bob's protocol**) as **labels** for vertices in the right part

Given **labels of two vertices** from different parts **the decoder** executes protocol to decide adjacency of the vertices

# From a **Communication Complexity** problem to **Adjacency Labelling**

Alice and Bob compute, in an interactive way, adjacency of two given vertices  $x$  and  $y$

One can use

- messages sent by Alice (**Alice's protocol**) as labels for vertices in the left part
- messages sent by Bob (**Bob's protocol**) as labels for vertices in the right part

Given labels of two vertices from different parts the decoder executes protocol to decide adjacency of the vertices

Because the communication between the parties is interactive (e.g. next message of Bob depends on all previous messages by Alice and Bob) we need to encode all possible “conversations” in the label.

If the communication cost of a protocol is  $c$ , then it can be stored as a binary tree with  $2^c$  nodes.

A communication protocol of cost  $c$  gives adjacency labels of size  $O(2^c)$ .

# Examples

- **Equality problem**

- $\text{Equality}_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , where  $\text{Equality}_n(x, y) = 1$  if and only if  $x = y$
- Corresponds to a **matching graph**:  $nK_2$

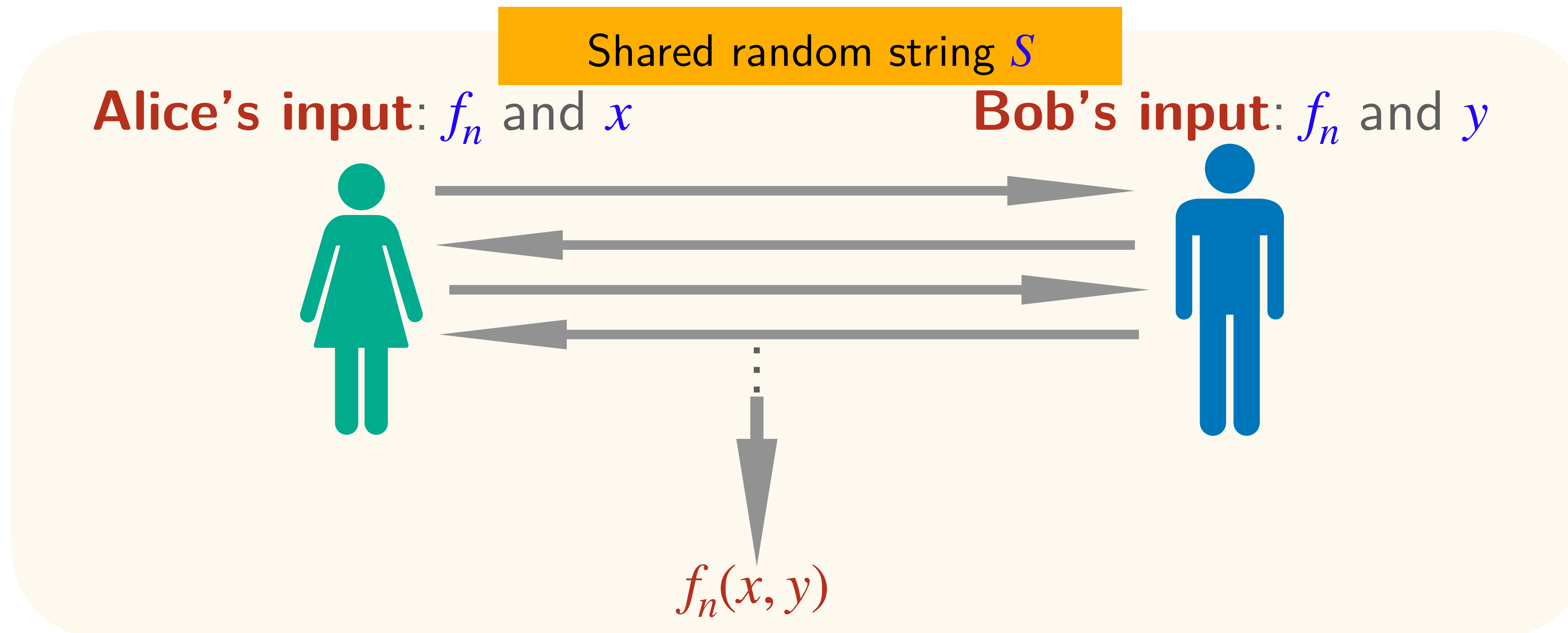
- **Greater-Than problem**

- $\text{GT}_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , where  $\text{GT}_n(x, y) = 1$  if and only if  $x \leq y$
- Corresponds to a **half graph**

# Randomized Communication Complexity Problems

# Randomized Communication Complexity problems

- 2 parties: *Alice* and *Bob*
- Target function  $f_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is known by *Alice* and *Bob*
- *Alice* receives an input  $x \in [n]$  and *Bob* receives an input  $y \in [n]$
- *Alice* and *Bob* exchange (single bit) messages in turn in order to find  $f_n(x, y)$
- *Alice* and *Bob* have access to a random string  $S$

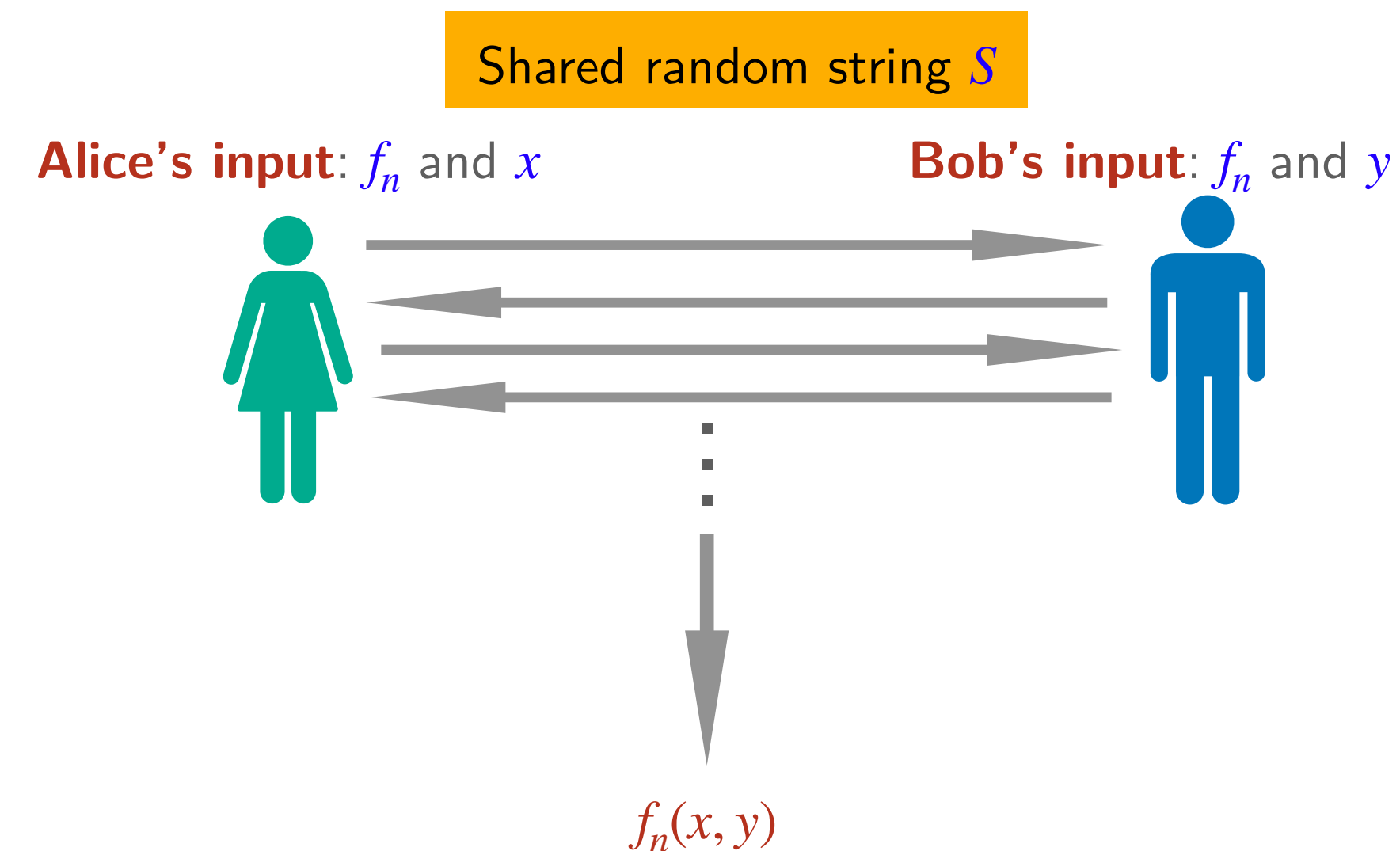




# Randomized Communication Complexity problems

- A **randomised protocol**  $\pi$  is a **distribution** over **deterministic protocols** such that for  $\forall x, y \in [n]$

$$\mathbb{P} [\pi(x, y) = f_n(x, y)] \geq 2/3$$



- The **maximum total size** (*in bits*) of exchanged messages is **the cost of the randomised protocol**  $\pi$
- The **randomised communication complexity** of  $f_n$ , denoted  $CC^R(f_n)$ , is the minimum cost of a randomised communication protocol that computes  $f_n$
- A **communication cost** of  $F = (f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is the function  $CC^R(F) : n \mapsto CC^R(f_n)$

# Examples

- **Equality problem**

- $\text{Equality}_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , where  $\text{Equality}_n(x, y) = 1$  if and only if  $x = y$
- **Randomized** Communication complexity of **Equality**:  $O(1)$

- **Greater-Than problem**

- $\text{GT}_n : [n] \times [n] \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , where  $\text{GT}_n(x, y) = 1$  if and only if  $x \leq y$
- **Randomized** Communication complexity of **GT**:  $\Omega(\log \log n)$

# Constant-cost randomized communication problems

**Open problem:** Characterise communication problems that admit a constant-cost randomized communication protocol

**From Randomized Communication Complexity to  
Randomized Adjacency Labelling (or Probabilistic Universal Graphs)**

# From Randomized Communication Complexity to Probabilistic Universal Graphs (PUGs)

**Probabilistic Universal Graph (sequence)**, for a graph family  $\mathcal{X}$ , of size  $m(n)$  is a sequence  $U = (U_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of graphs with  $|U_n| = m(n)$  such that, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and all  $G \in \mathcal{X}_n$  the following holds: there exists a probability distribution over the mappings  $\phi : V(G) \rightarrow V(U_n)$  such that

$$\forall u, v \in V(G) \quad \mathbb{P}_{\phi} \left[ (\phi(u), \phi(v)) \in E(U_n) \iff (u, v) \in E(G) \right] \geq 2/3$$

**Nathan Harms.**

"Universal Communication, Universal Graphs, and Graph Labeling." (ITCS 2020)

**Pierre Fraigniaud, Amos Korman.**

"On randomized representations of graphs using short labels." (SPAA 2009)

Correspondence between  
**Communication Problems and Adjacency Labelling for classes of graphs**

# Communication Problems vs Adjacency Labelling for hereditary graph classes

1. Let  $F = (f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be communication problem:
  1.  $G_i$  is the **bipartite graph** corresponding to  $f_i$
  2.  $\mathcal{Y}(F)$  is the **hereditary closure** of  $\{G_1, G_2, \dots\}$
2. Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a hereditary class:
  1.  $\text{Adj}_{\mathcal{X}} = (f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a **communication problem** such that  $f_n$  is a “**hardest**” function corresponding to a graph in  $\mathcal{X}_n$

# Constant cost problems vs constant-size PUGs

**Theorem 1.** For any communication problem  $F = (f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and hereditary graph class  $\mathcal{X}$ :

1.  $F$  has constant randomized communication complexity if and only if  $\mathcal{Y}(F)$  has a constant-size PUG
2.  $\mathcal{X}$  has a constant-size PUG if and only if  $\text{Adj}_{\mathcal{X}}$  has constant randomized communication complexity

**Open problem:** Characterise communication problems that admit a constant-cost randomized communication protocol

**Equivalent open problem:** Characterise hereditary graph classes that admit a constant-size PUG



# Constant-size PUGs

**Theorem 2.** If a class  $\mathcal{X}$  has a **constant-size PUG** then it admits an **adjacency labelling scheme** with labels of size  $O(\log n)$ .

**Corollary.** The classes that have a **constant-size PUG** is a subset of the classes satisfying the **Implicit Graph Conjecture**.

**Thus** by characterizing classes that admit a **constant-size PUG** we:

1. characterise communication problems with a **constant randomized communication complexity**
2. make progress towards the **Implicit Graph Conjecture**

# Necessary condition

**Lemma.** If a class of bipartite graphs  $\mathcal{X}$  has a **constant-size PUG** then it excludes a **half graph** as an induced subgraph.

## Proof sketch.

If  $\mathcal{X}$  contains all half graphs, then the corresponding communication problem  $\text{Adj}_{\mathcal{X}}$  is at least as hard as the **Greater-Than** problem (which has complexity  $\Omega(\log \log n)$ ), and thus it does not have a constant-cost randomized protocol.

Therefore  $\mathcal{X}$  cannot have a **constant-size PUG**.

A class of bipartite graphs that excludes a **half graph** is called **edge-stable**.

# Many factorial edge-stable classes of graphs have constant-size PUG

- Graph of bounded degeneracy
- All edge-stable  $\{H\}$ -free bipartite graphs
- All edge-stable classes of bounded twin-width

Jakub Gajarský, Michał Pilipczuk, Szymon Toruńczyk  
“Stable graphs of bounded twin-width” (LICS 2022)

- All edge-stable classes of permutation graphs
- All edge-stable classes of interval graphs
- All edge-stable classes of unit disk graphs
- ...

# Probabilistic Implicit Graph Conjecture

# Probabilistic Implicit Graph Conjecture

## Probabilistic Implicit Graph Conjecture

A hereditary class of bipartite graphs has a **constant-size PUG** if and only if it is **factorial** and **edge-stable**

two weeks later...

Probabilistic Implicit Graph Conjecture  
is false

# Probabilistic Implicit Graph Conjecture is False

**Lianna Hambardzumyan, Hamed Hatami, Pooya Hatami**

studied (independently and concurrently to our work) **communication problems** with **constant randomized complexity**

**Lianna Hambardzumyan, Hamed Hatami, Pooya Hatami**

"Dimension-free Bounds and Structural Results in Communication Complexity"

*Israel Journal of Mathematics* 253(2) (2023): 555-616.

**Lianna Hambardzumyan, Hamed Hatami, Pooya Hatami**

"A counter-example to the probabilistic universal graph conjecture via randomized communication complexity"

*Discrete Applied Mathematics* 322 (2022): 117-122.

# Probabilistic Implicit Graph Conjecture is False

## Construction:

Sequence of functions (bipartite graphs)  $M = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that

1. Randomized communication complexity of  $M$  is unbounded (i.e.  $\omega(1)$ )
2. Every  $a \times b$  submatrix of  $M_n$  with  $a, b \leq \sqrt{n}$  contains a row or a column with at most four 1's

In the graph-theoretical language (2) means that every subgraph of  $M_n$  with at most  $\sqrt{n}$  vertices in each of the parts is 4-degenerate.

It implies that the hereditary closure  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $\{M_1, M_2, \dots\}$  is

1. **Edge-stable**, i.e. excludes some half graph
2. **Factorial**



another week later...

# The Implicit Graph Conjecture is false!

**Hamed Hatami, Pooya Hatami**

"The Implicit Graph Conjecture is False."

*FOCS* (2022)

# The Implicit Graph Conjecture is False

## Proof sketch:

1. A bipartite graph is  $G = ([n], [n], E)$  is **good** if
  1.  $|E| = \lfloor n^{2-\epsilon} \rfloor$  (where  $\epsilon$  is some fixed constant)
  2. Every induced subgraph of  $G$  with at most  $\sqrt{n}$  vertices in each of the parts is  **$c$ -degenerate** (where  $c$  is some fixed constant)
2. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be the family of **all good graphs**

# The Implicit Graph Conjecture is False

## Proof sketch (2):

**Claim:** For every  $n$ , let  $\mathcal{M}_n \subseteq \mathcal{G}_n$  be any subset with  $|\mathcal{M}_n| \leq 2^{\sqrt{n}}$ .

Then the **hereditary closure** of  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{M}_n$  is at most **factorial**.

## Counting: For every large $n$

- there are **a lot** of sets  $\mathcal{M}_n \subseteq \mathcal{G}_n$  with  $|\mathcal{M}_n| = 2^{\sqrt{n}}$ .

- **so many**, that there exists such a set  $\mathcal{M}'_n \subseteq \mathcal{G}_n$  that **cannot be represented** by a universal graph of polynomial size  $2^{O(\log n)}$ , in fact, of size smaller than  $2^{n^{0.5-\delta}}$  for some constant  $\delta$

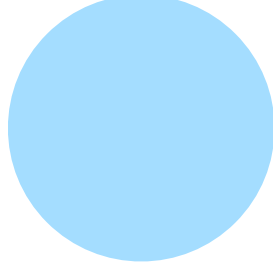
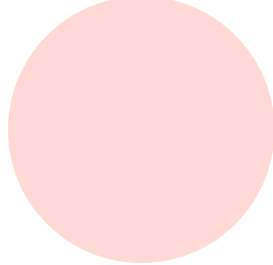
# The Implicit Graph Conjecture is False

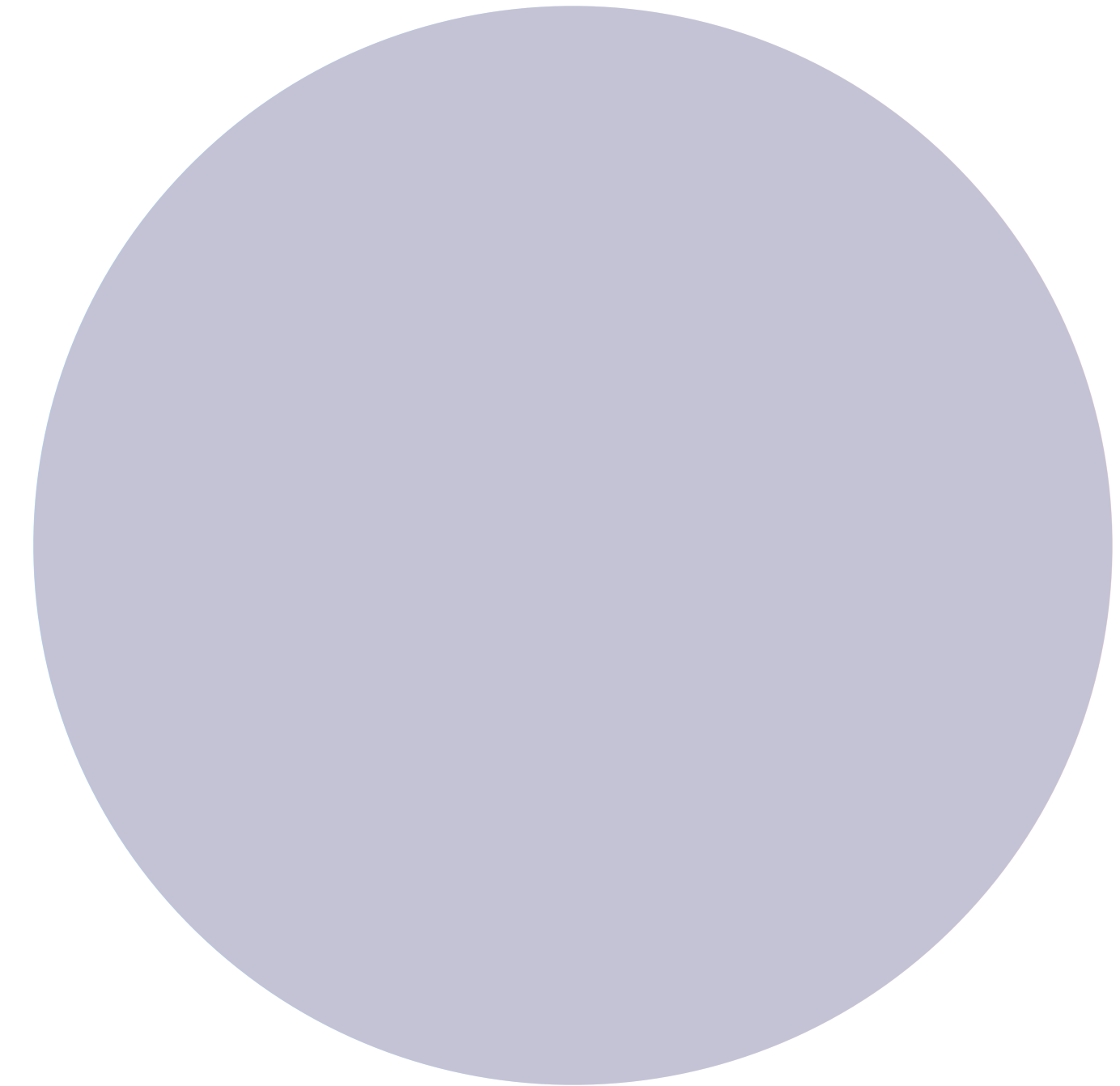
Proof sketch (3):

Then the hereditary closure of  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{M}'_n$  is most factorial, but does not admit a universal graph sequence of size smaller than  $2^{n^{0.5-\delta}}$ .

# Conclusion

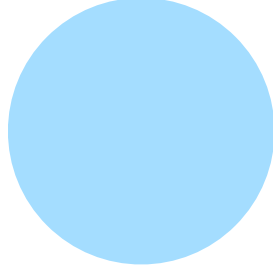
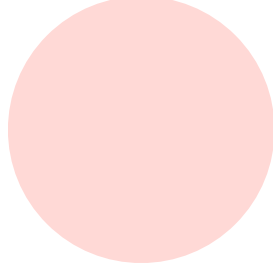
## The Implicit Graph Conjecture

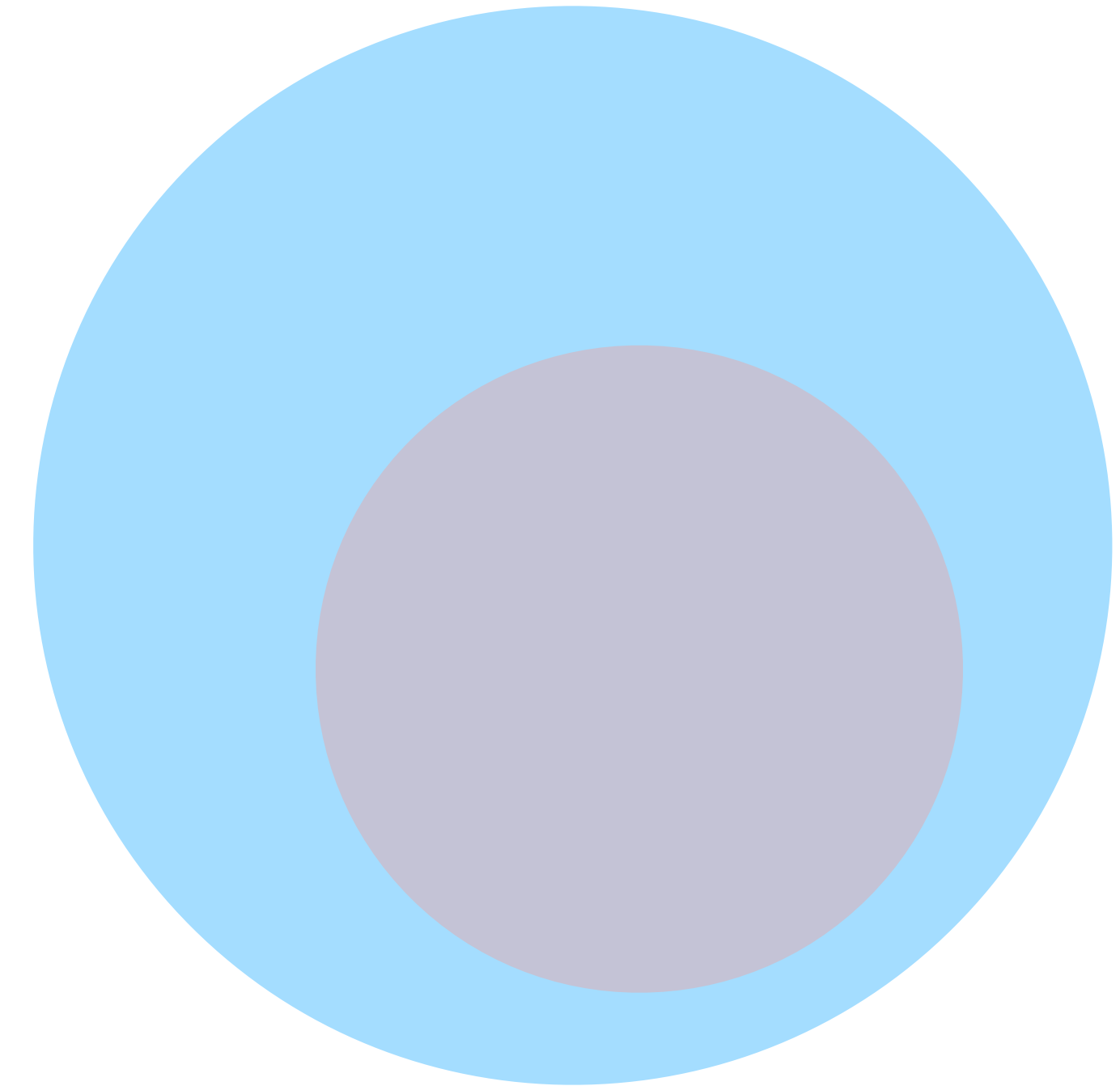
-  Factorial classes
-  Classes with  $O(\log n)$  labelling scheme



# Conclusion

## Reality

-  Factorial classes
-  Classes with  $O(\log n)$  labelling scheme



# Conclusion

Bad news for characterization of the **factorial classes**

However, opens up a new perspective for labelling schemes:

1. What are the **classes** of graphs that admit a  $O(\log n)$  labelling scheme?
2. What are the **edge-stable classes** that admit a  $O(\log n)$  labelling scheme?
3. What are the **classes** that admit a **constant-size probabilistic universal graph**?

Thank you!



Thank you!

Thank you to Jakub, Michał, Szymon!