# The Usefulness of Sparsifiable Inputs: How to Avoid Subexponential iO 

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## Introduction

Indistinguishability obfuscation (IO) is a method to transform a program into an unintelligible one maintaining the original functionality.


Applications of iO

- We can build almost anything from iO.

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- But what can we do from polynomial i0?



## Related work on removing subexp. IO

- Previous approaches to avoid subexponential reductions to iO : replace iO with functional encryption, [GS16; GPSZ17; LZ17; KLMR18]
- short signatures
- universal samplers
- non-interactive multiparty key exchange
- trapdoor one-way permutations
- multi-key functional encryption


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- ...
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| poly reduction to io $\quad \square$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| subexp reduction to io |
| piO abstraction |

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- Captures a vast class of programs, e.g.
$\frac{P_{1}(x ; r)}{\text { return } \operatorname{ENC}(p k, x ; r)} \quad \approx \frac{P_{2}(x ; r)}{\text { return } \operatorname{ENC}(p k, 0 ; r)}$


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- Strategy due to Canetti et al., [CLTV15]:
- derive random coins from input $x$ via $\operatorname{PRF}(K, x)$

- use iO to obfuscate this deterministic program


## Construction of piO due to Canetti et al., [CLTV15]



Example:

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\frac{P_{1}(x ; r)}{\text { return } \operatorname{ENC}(p k, x ; r)}
$$

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\underline{P_{2}(x ; r)}
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\text { return } \operatorname{ENC}(p k, 0 ; r)
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- But iO security can only be applied if circuits behave fully identically
- in our example, $P_{1}$ and $P_{2}$ behave very differently


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piO construction:

return $P(x ; r)$

## Example:

```
P
return }\operatorname{ENC}(pk,x;r
P2(x;r)
return ENC(pk,0;r)
```

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- this includes the randomness


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Example:
$\underline{P_{1}(x ; r)}$
$\underline{P_{2}(x ; r)}$
return $\operatorname{Enc}(p k, 0 ; r)$

- But iO security can only be applied if circuits behave fully identically
- in our example, $P_{1}$ and $P_{2}$ behave very differently
$\rightsquigarrow$ direct (polynomial) reduction to iO won't work
- Use a "one-input-at-a-time" hybrid argument for all possible inputs
- this includes the randomness
$\rightsquigarrow$ Our goal: reduce number of hybrids to a polynomial amount

Main tool - Extremely lossy functions

- Extremely lossy functions (ELFs) due to Zhandry, [Zha16] offer two indistinguishable modes:

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extremely lossy mode image size polynomial
- exist from exponential DDH
- We believe that some sort of (sub)exponential assumption is inherent for probabilistic iO
- ELFs can be used to push this subexponentiality to a much more well-understood assumption


## First try



Example:
$\frac{P_{1}(x ; r)}{\text { return } \operatorname{ENC}(p k, x ; r)} \approx \frac{P_{2}(x ; r)}{\text { return } \operatorname{ENC}(p k, 0 ; r)}$

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- First try: reduce number of hybrids by applying the ELF on the input $x$
- But pre-processing the program input $x$ with an ELF will not preserve the expected functionality of the circuit


## Our observation

- Common ground for many applications of piO:

$$
\operatorname{piO}(P)
$$

inputs $x$ come from
distributions $\mathcal{D}(m)$

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- Common ground for many applications of piO:

- e.g., $\mathcal{D}(m)$ outputs encryptions of $m$, or, $\mathcal{D}(\cdot)$ samples public encryption keys.
- Approach: reduce number of hybrids by applying the ELF on the random tape of $\mathcal{D}$ to sparsify inputs


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- Our framework: doubly-probabilistic IO (dpiO)



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## Leveled Homomorphic Encryption

- $\mathrm{LHE}_{L}=($ Gen, Enc, Dec, Eval) is a LHE scheme for depth- $L$ circuits $C$, if
- (Gen, Enc, Dec) is a PKE scheme, and
- Eval allows to homomorphically evaluate depth- $L$ circuits on ciphertexts


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## Application LHE/FHE

- LHE construction due to Canetti et al., [CLTV15]
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- one NAND gate is evaluated as follows:
use compiled input samplers



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- We can build almost anything from iO.
- But what can we do from polynomial i0?
- And what can we do from polynomial io and ELFs?

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| subexp reduction to iO | $\square$ |
| piO abstraction |  |
| subexp iO plus ELF |  |


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    subexp reduction to io $\square$
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