

# Lower bounds for combinatorial polytopes, inspired by quantum communication complexity

Ronald de Wolf



Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Joint with **Samuel Fiorini (ULB)**, **Serge Massar (ULB)**,  
**Sebastian Pokutta (Erlangen)**, **Hans Raj Tiwary (ULB)**

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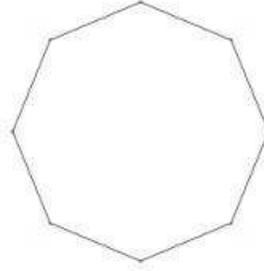
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- Yannakakis, May 2011: "I believe in fact that it should be possible to prove that there is no polynomial-size formulation for the TSP polytope or any other NP-hard problem, although of course showing this remains a challenging task"

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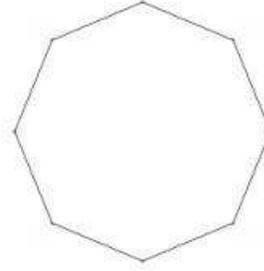
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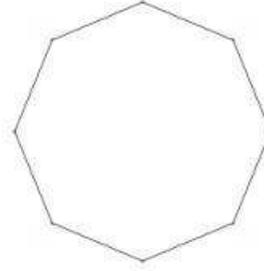
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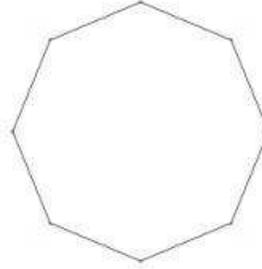


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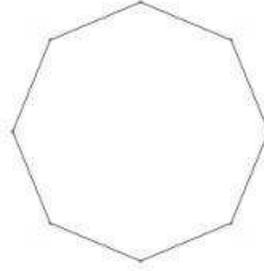
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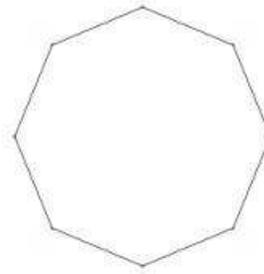
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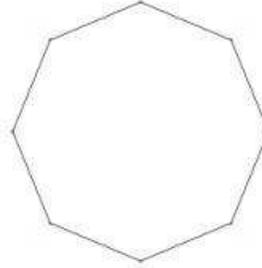
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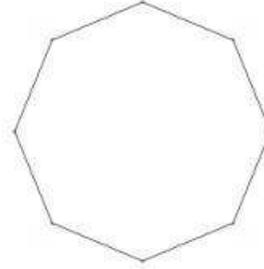
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- $P_{\text{TSP}}$  has exponential size, so corresponding LP is huge

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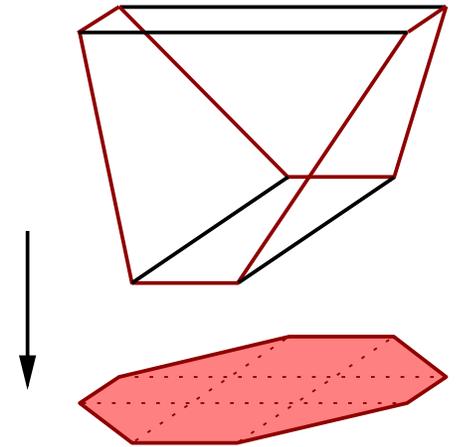
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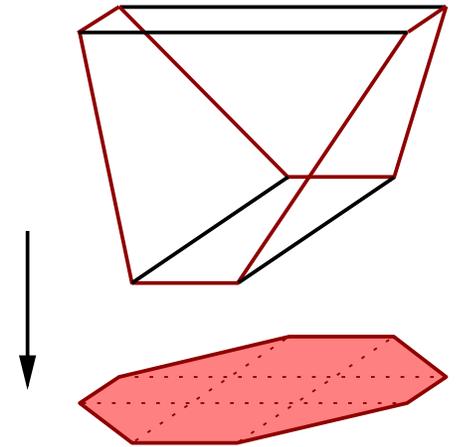


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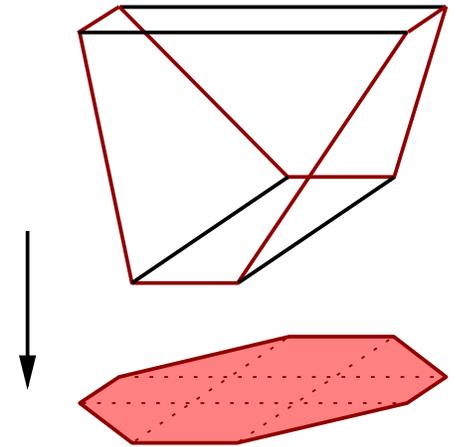
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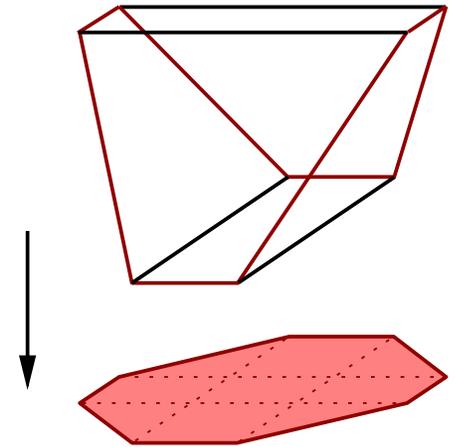


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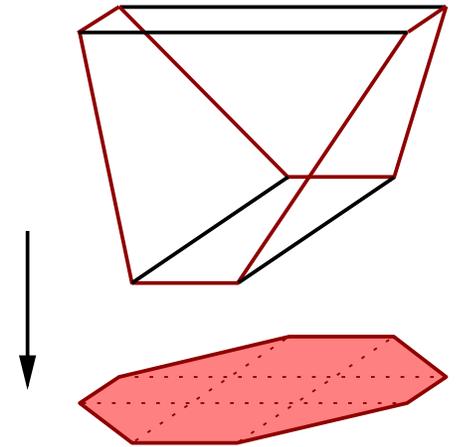


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- **Our goal: strong lower bounds on  $xc(P)$  for interesting  $P$**

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↓ gadget-based reduction

$2^{\sqrt{n}}$  lower bound for TSP-polytope

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- $\text{rank}_+(S)$  has many connections with **communication complexity**

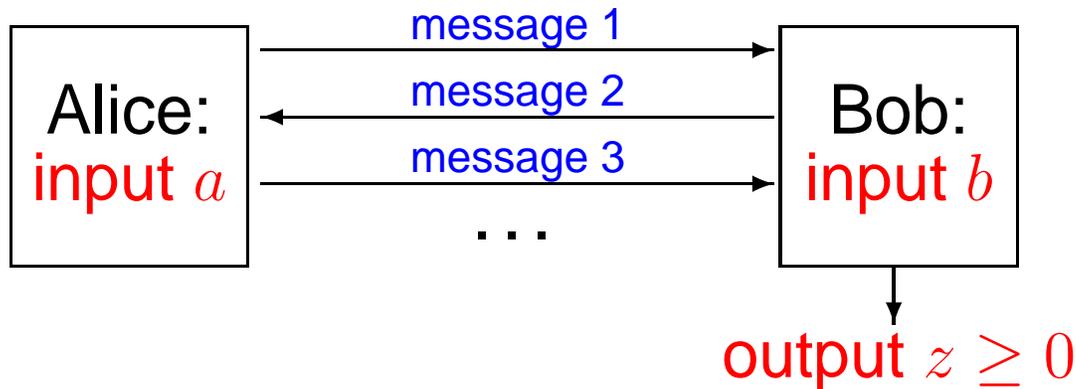
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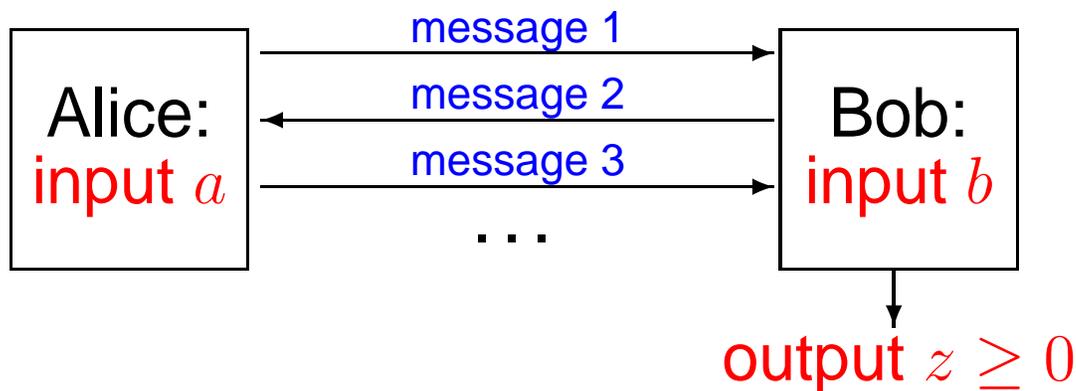
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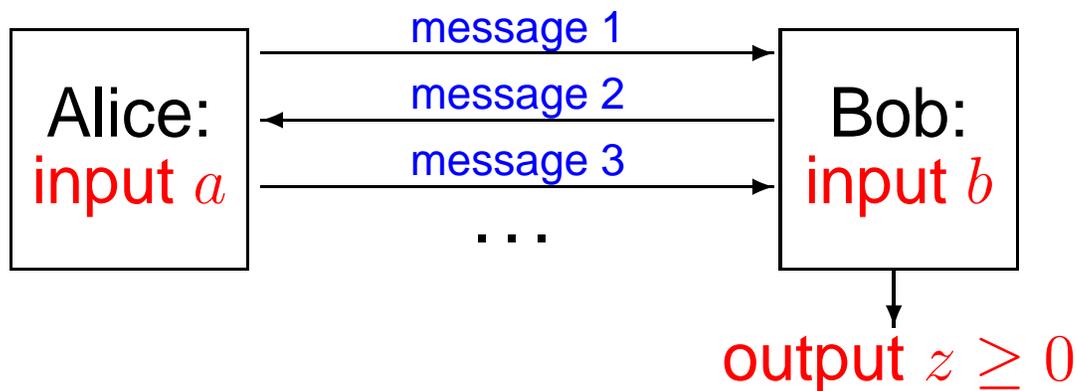
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- Can we find a matrix  $M$  where  
quantum communication is exponentially smaller?

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# Quantum-classical separation

- $2^n \times 2^n$  matrix  $M$ , indexed by  $a, b \in \{0, 1\}^n$  (de Wolf'00)

$$M_{ab} = (1 - a^T b)^2 \quad \text{NB: } M_{ab} = 0 \text{ iff } a^T b = 1$$

- **Claim:**  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  rectangles needed to cover support of  $M$   
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- There is a  $O(\log n)$ -qubit protocol: Alice sends  $(a, 1)$ , Bob measures  $(b, -1)$  (ignoring normalization)

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- This refutes all P=NP “proofs” à la Swart

# Cartoon by Pavel Pudlak

PF'03



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  - Efficient algorithms  $\Rightarrow$  low-degree polynomials

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  - Lower bounds for approximation? [BFPS'12, BM'12]