

Linearity

Consider a Boolean function  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

Def: Such an  $f$  is linear iff  $\exists a_1, \dots, a_n \in \{0,1\}$  s.t.  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i$  (or equivalently,  $\exists s \subseteq [n]$

s.t.  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i \in s} x_i$ ) Another def.  $\forall x, y, f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$

Claim: These definitions are equivalent

Proof:  $1 \Rightarrow 2$ :  $f(x+y) = \sum a_i(x_i+y_i) = \sum a_i x_i + \sum a_i y_i = f(x) + f(y)$   $2 \Rightarrow 1$ : Define  $a_i = f(e_i)$  where

$e_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ , then  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(\sum x_i e_i) = \sum x_i f(e_i) = \sum a_i x_i$  and also  $f(0, \dots, 0) = 0$

There are  $2^n$  linear functions out of  $2^{2^n}$  functions.

Approx. Linearity

Def:  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to linear if  $\exists$  a linear function  $g$  s.t.  $f(x) = g(x)$  for  $1-\epsilon$  of all  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$

(i.e.,  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to  $g$ )

Def:  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -approx linear if  $f(x) + f(y) = f(x+y)$  for  $1-\epsilon$  of  $(x,y) \in \{0,1\}^n$

Claim:  $\forall \epsilon, f$ , if  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to linear, then  $f$  is also  $3\epsilon$ -approx linear

Proof: Let  $g$  be a linear function that is  $\epsilon$ -close to  $f$ . If we choose  $x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$  uniformly at random

then by union bound, we have that with prob.  $1-3\epsilon$ ,  $f(x) = g(x)$ ,  $f(y) = g(y)$  and  $f(x+y) = g(x+y)$ ,

where we use that  $x+y$  is also uniformly distributed. In such a case,  $(f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y))$

The opposite direction ( $\epsilon$ -approx  $\Rightarrow \epsilon$ -close) is not clear. Our previous proof doesn't work: take

any linear function and modify its values on  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$

Testing Linearity -> The BLR Test - [Blum, Luby, Rubinfeld 90]

We are given a black box computing a Boolean func.  $f$  and we want to check that it is

close to linear. Procedure: • Pick  $x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$  uniformly

• Query  $f(x), f(y), f(x+y)$

• Accept iff  $f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$

Claim: If  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to linear, then BLR accepts w.p.  $\geq 1-3\epsilon$  (as we saw)

Thm: [BLR 90, Bellare-Coppersmith-Hastad-Kiwit-Sudan 95] If  $f$  passes the BLR test (w.p.  $\geq 1-\epsilon$ ) then  $f$  is

$\epsilon$ -close to linear. This implies that if we repeat the BLR test  $O(1/\epsilon)$  times, we can be 99% convinced that  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close.

Fourier Expansion First, from now on the range of Boolean functions is  $\{-1,1\}$  where %FALSE  $\mapsto 1$ , %TRUE  $\mapsto -1$ , addition (mod 2)  $\mapsto$  multiplication on  $\mathbb{R}$ . So a Boolean function is  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1,1\}$ .

The linear parity functions are  $\chi_S(x) = (-1)^{\sum_{i \in S} x_i}$ . We can think of the set of functions  $\{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

as a vector space of dimension  $2^n$  (i.e.,  $\mathbb{R}^{2^n}$ ).

Def: For  $f, g: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  define  $\langle f, g \rangle = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} f(x)g(x) = \mathbb{E}[f(x)g(x)]$ . Also define  $\|f\|_2 = \|f\| = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle}$ .

Claim: For  $f, g: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1,1\}$ ,  $\langle f, g \rangle \in [-1,1]$  (the correlation between  $f$  and  $g$ ). Moreover,  $\rho(f, g) = \langle f, g \rangle$ .

Corollary:  $\langle f, g \rangle = 1 - \frac{2}{\pi} \text{HamDist}(f, g)$ . In particular  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to  $g$  iff  $|\langle f, g \rangle| \geq 1 - 2\epsilon$ .

Def: For  $S \subseteq [n]$ , define  $\hat{f}(S) = \langle f, \chi_S \rangle = \mathbb{E}[f(x) \chi_S(x)] = \mathbb{E}[f(x) \prod_{i \in S} x_i]$ . Remark:  $\hat{f}(\emptyset) = \mathbb{E}[f(x)]$ ,  $\hat{f}([n]) = \mathbb{E}[f(x) \prod_{i \in [n]} x_i] = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{E}[f(x)] - \mathbb{E}[f(x)]) = 0$ .

Prop: The set  $\{\chi_S : S \subseteq [n]\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $(\mathbb{R}^{\{0,1\}^n})$ .

Proof: For any  $S, T$ ,  $\|\chi_S\|_2 = \sqrt{\langle \chi_S, \chi_S \rangle} = 1$ . Now take any  $S \neq T$  and let  $i \in S \setminus T$ . Assume w.l.o.g. that  $i \in S \setminus T$ . Then  $\langle \chi_S, \chi_T \rangle = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_x \chi_S(x) \chi_T(x)$ . We can partition the sum into  $2^{n-1}$  sums, each over two elements that differ exactly in the  $i$ th coordinate. Then since  $\chi_S(x) \chi_T(x) = -\chi_S(x')$  and  $\chi_T(x) = \chi_T(x')$ , we get  $\chi_S(x) \chi_T(x) + \chi_S(x') \chi_T(x') = 0$  so also the entire sum is 0.

Finally, there are  $2^n$  of them so they must be a basis.

Ex: Prove that  $\{2^{-n/2} \delta_x : x \in \{0,1\}^n\}$  where  $\delta_x(y) = \begin{cases} 1 & x=y \\ 0 & \text{a.w.} \end{cases}$  is an orthonormal basis.

Thm: Every function  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  can be uniquely expressed as a linear combination of the parity functions  $\chi_S$  and this combination is given by  $f = \sum_S \hat{f}(S) \chi_S$ .

Examples: • Constant func:  $f(x) = 1 \Rightarrow \hat{f}(\emptyset) = 1$ ,  $\hat{f}(S) = 0$ , indeed  $f = 1 \cdot \chi_\emptyset$ .

• Dictatorship func:  $f(x) = x_i = \chi_{\{i\}}$ , so  $\hat{f}(\{i\}) = 1$  and all others are 0.

•  $f(x) = \text{AND}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2} \chi_\emptyset - \frac{1}{2} \chi_{\{1\}} - \frac{1}{2} \chi_{\{2\}} + \frac{1}{2} \chi_{\{1,2\}}$

•  $f(x) = \text{MAJORITY}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \frac{1}{2} \chi_\emptyset + \frac{1}{2} \chi_{\{1\}} + \frac{1}{2} \chi_{\{2\}} - \frac{1}{2} \chi_{\{1,2,3\}}$

Thm (Plancherel):  $\forall f, g: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_S \hat{f}(S) \hat{g}(S)$ .

Proof:  $\langle f, g \rangle = \langle \sum_S \hat{f}(S) \chi_S, \sum_T \hat{g}(T) \chi_T \rangle = \sum_{S,T} \hat{f}(S) \hat{g}(T) \langle \chi_S, \chi_T \rangle = \sum_S \hat{f}(S) \hat{g}(S)$ .

Cor: (Parseval)  $\forall f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\|f\|_2^2 = \sum_S \hat{f}(S)^2$ .

### Analysis of BLR Test

BLR Test: Choose  $x, y \in \{0,1\}^n$  uniformly and accept iff  $f(x) f(y) = f(x+y)$ . (3-query local test).

Thm: (1) If  $f = \chi_S$  then BLR always accepts.

(2) If  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -far from linear then  $\Pr[\text{BLR accepts } f] \leq 1 - \epsilon$ .

Lemma:  $\forall f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1,1\}$ ,  $\Pr[\text{BLR accepts } f] \leq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_S \hat{f}(S)^2$ .

Proof of (2): Assume that  $\Pr[\text{BLR accepts}] \geq 1 - \epsilon$ . Therefore,  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_S \hat{f}(S)^2 \geq 1 - \epsilon \Rightarrow \sum_S \hat{f}(S)^2 \geq 1 - 2\epsilon$ .

But,  $\sum_S \hat{f}(S)^2 \leq \max(\hat{f}(S)) \cdot \sum_S \hat{f}(S)^2 = \max(\hat{f}(S))$ . So  $\exists S, s.t. \hat{f}(S) \geq 1 - 2\epsilon$  so  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to  $\chi_S$ .

By repeating the BLR test  $\frac{2}{\epsilon}$  times, we get that if  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -far from linear, then it is caught

w.p.  $\geq 1 - (1 - \epsilon)^{\frac{2}{\epsilon}} > \frac{2}{3}$ .

Proof Lemma:  $\Pr_{x,y} [B_L \text{ accepts}] = E_{x,y} [\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} f(x)f(y)f(x+y)] = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} E_{x,y} [f(x)f(y)f(x+y)]$

$E_{x,y} [f(x)f(y)f(x+y)] = E_{x,y} [(\sum_S \hat{f}(s) \chi_S(x)) (\sum_T \hat{f}(t) \chi_T(y)) (\sum_U \hat{f}(u) \chi_U(x+y))] =$

$= \sum_{S,T,U \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} \hat{f}(s) \hat{f}(t) \hat{f}(u) \cdot E_{x,y} [\chi_S(x) \cdot \chi_T(y) \cdot \chi_U(x+y)] = \sum_S \hat{f}(s) \cdot \mathbb{1}$

$E_{x,y} [\chi_S(x) \cdot \chi_T(y) \cdot \chi_U(x+y)] = E_{x,y} [\chi_{S \oplus T \oplus U}(x+y)] = E_x [\chi_{S \oplus T \oplus U}(x)] \cdot E_y [\chi_{T \oplus U}(y)] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } S=T=U \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

Alternative proof: Def: For  $f, g: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , define  $f * g: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $(f * g)(z) = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} f(x) \cdot g(z-x)$

Remark:  $(f * g)(0) = \langle f, g \rangle$

Claim:  $\widehat{f * g} = \hat{f} \cdot \hat{g}$  Proof:  $(f * g)(s) = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{x,y} f(x) \cdot g(y) \cdot \chi_s(x+y) = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{x,y} f(x) \cdot g(y) \cdot \chi_s(x) \cdot \chi_s(y) =$

$= \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_x f(x) \chi_s(x) \cdot (\sum_y g(y) \chi_s(y)) = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_x f(x) \chi_s(x) \cdot (\sum_y g(y) \chi_s(y)) = \hat{f}(s) \cdot \hat{g}(s)$

Proof 2 of the lemma:  $E_{x,y} [f(x)f(y)f(x+y)] = E_x [f(x) \cdot E_y [f(y)f(x+y)]] = E_x [f(x) \cdot (f * f)(x)] =$

$= \langle f, f * f \rangle = \sum_S \hat{f}(s) (\hat{f} * \hat{f})(s) = \sum_S \hat{f}(s)^3$

Testing Dictatorship

Def: The functions  $\chi_{\{1\}}, \chi_{\{2\}}, \dots, \chi_{\{n\}}$  are the dictator functions,  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x_i = 1 \\ 0 & x_i = 0 \end{cases}$

Hastad Test: Fix parameter  $\delta \in (0,1)$ . Pick  $x,y \in \{0,1\}^n$  uniformly, let  $z = x \oplus y$ .

- Pick  $w \in \{0,1\}^n$  according to  $\mu_\delta$ , which is the distribution in which each bit is 1 w.p.  $\delta$  and 0 o.w.
- Accept iff  $f(x) \cdot f(y) \cdot f(x+y) = 1$ .

Example:  $\chi_{\{1\}}$  passes test w.p.  $1-\delta$ .

$\chi_{\{1,2\}}$  passes test w.p.  $(1-\delta)^2 + \delta^2 \approx 1-2\delta$ .

$\chi_\phi$  passes test w.p. 1. (problem!)

Thm:  $\Pr[\text{test accepts}] = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_S (1-2\delta)^{|S|} \cdot \hat{f}(s)^3$

Def: The dictator functions are  $\chi_{\{1\}}, \dots, \chi_{\{n\}}$  where  $\chi_{\{i\}}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x_i = 1 \\ 0 & x_i = 0 \end{cases}$

Hastad test with parameter  $\delta \in (0,1)$ .

- Pick  $x,y \in \{0,1\}^n$  uniformly
- Pick  $w \in \{0,1\}^n$  according to  $\mu_\delta$ , i.e., each bit is 1 w.p.  $\delta$ .
- Accept iff  $f(x) \cdot f(y) \cdot f(x+y) = 1$ .

Thm:  $\Pr[\text{Hastad accepts}] = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_S (1-2\delta)^{|S|} \cdot \hat{f}(s)^3$

Let  $\epsilon < \frac{1}{100}$  be some constant, and let  $\delta = \frac{3}{4}\epsilon$ . If  $f$  is a dictator then accepts w.p.  $1-\delta = 1 - \frac{3}{4}\epsilon$ . Therefore,  $1-2\epsilon \leq \sum_S (1-2\delta)^{|S|} \hat{f}(s)^3 \leq (\sum_S \hat{f}(s)^2) \cdot \max_S ((1-2\delta)^{|S|} \cdot \hat{f}(s)) =$

$= \max_S ((1-2\delta)^{|S|} \cdot \hat{f}(s))$

Since  $(1-2\epsilon)^2 < 1-2\epsilon$ ,  $1-2\epsilon \leq \max_{s \in \{0,1\}} f(s) \leq \max_{s \in \{0,1\}} f(s)$

Therefore,  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to either dictator or constant 1.

To summarize, Hastad test does the following:

- If  $f$  is a dictator or constant 1 func then accepted w.p.  $\geq 1 - \frac{3}{4}\epsilon$ .
- If  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -far from dictator or constant 1 then accepted w.p.  $< 1 - \epsilon$ .

Thm 1 (Chernoff) If we sample from  $\mu_p$   $n$  times and let  $\tilde{p} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}$ , then  $\forall \epsilon$

$$\Pr(|p - \tilde{p}| > \epsilon) < 2^{-nc^2}$$

Thm 2 (Chernoff) If  $X$  is a distribution on some bounded interval  $[a,b]$  then the average of  $O(\frac{\log 1/\delta}{\epsilon^2})$  samples is within  $\epsilon$  of the expectation w.p.  $\geq 1 - \delta$ .

Therefore, by repeating Hastad test  $O(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2})$  times, we can make these probabilities 90% and 10%.

How to get rid of the const 1 func?

Solution 1 - Query  $f$  on  $k$  random locations If we see  $> 3/4$  1s then reject.

The prob of rejecting a dictator is  $< 2^{-\Omega(k)}$  and similarly, prob. of accepting  $\epsilon$ -close to const 1 is  $< 2^{-\Omega(k)}$ . For  $k > 100$ , this is enough.

To summarize, using  $O(1/\epsilon^2)$  queries we can accept dictators w.p.  $\geq 0.9$  and reject  $\epsilon$ -far from dictators w.p.  $\geq 0.9$ .

The Noise Operator (Beckner Operator)

For  $-1 \leq p \leq 1$ , let  $p = \frac{1-p}{2}$  and define the operator  $T_p$  mapping  $\{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to itself,

$$\text{by } (T_p f)(x) = E[f(x+y)]$$

Remark: •  $T_1 f = f$  ( $\forall f$ ), so  $T_1$  is the identity operator.

- $\forall f, T_0 f = \text{const. func. } E[f]$ .
  - $T_p$  is a linear operator on the  $2^n$ -dim. vector space  $\{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- Claim:  $\forall s, p, T_p(\chi_s) = p^{|s|} \cdot \chi_s$ .

Proof:  $T_p \chi_s(x) = E[\chi_s(x+y)] = E[\chi_s(x) \cdot \chi_s(y)] = \chi_s(x) \cdot E[\prod_{i \in s} (-1)^{y_i}] = \chi_s(x) \cdot \prod_{i \in s} E[(-1)^{y_i}] = p^{|s|} \chi_s(x)$

Cor:  $T_p f = \sum_{s \subseteq [n]} p^{|s|} \hat{f}(s) \chi_s$

Proof:  $T_p f = T_p(\sum_{s \subseteq [n]} \hat{f}(s) \chi_s) = \sum_{s \subseteq [n]} \hat{f}(s) T_p(\chi_s) = \sum_{s \subseteq [n]} \hat{f}(s) \cdot p^{|s|} \cdot \chi_s$

Cor:  $T_p \cdot T_p f = T_{p^2} f$

## Analysis of Hastad

The success prob is:  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} E_{x,y,w} [f(x)f(y)f(x+y+w)]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E_{x,y,w} [f(x)f(y)f(x+y+w)] &= E_x [f(x) E_y [f(y) \cdot E_{w \sim \mu_s} [f(x+y+w)]]] = E_x [f(x) \cdot E_y [f(y) \cdot (T_{1-2\delta} f)(x+y)]] = \\ &= E_x [f(x) \cdot (f * T_{1-2\delta} f)(x)] = \langle f, f * T_{1-2\delta} f \rangle = \sum_s \hat{f}(s) \cdot \widehat{f * T_{1-2\delta} f}(s) = \sum_s \hat{f}(s) \cdot \hat{f}(s) \cdot (1-2\delta)^{|s|} \hat{f}(s) = \\ &= \sum_s (1-2\delta)^{|s|} \hat{f}(s)^3. \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Ex (Solution<sup>2</sup> to const func issue): Show that if we replace the test by

$f(x+(1,\dots,1)) \cdot f(y) \cdot f(x+y+w) = -1$  we get a test for dictatorship.

## Testing Averages

Assume we have  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_d: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  and we apply the Hastad test to them by sending each of the 3 queries to one of the  $d$  functions randomly and independently.

Define:  $\hat{h} = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d \hat{f}_i$ . By linearity,  $\hat{h} = \frac{1}{d} \sum \hat{f}_i$ .

Thm: The prob of accepting when applying Hastad to  $\{f_1, \dots, f_d\}$  is  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_s (1-2\delta)^{|s|} \cdot \hat{h}(s)^3$ .

Proof: The prob of success is given by  $E_{i,j,k} [\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} E_{x,y,w} [f_i(x)f_j(y)f_k(x+y+w)]] =$   
 $= E_{x,y,w} [\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} E_i [f_i(x)] \cdot E_j [f_j(y)] \cdot E_k [f_k(x+y+w)]] = E_{x,y,w} [\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} h(x)h(y)h(x+y+w)] = \dots = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_s (1-2\delta)^{|s|} \hat{h}(s)^3$ .

Def: For  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  define  $f^+(x) = -f(x+(1,\dots,1))$  and also  $f^{\text{odd}} = \frac{1}{2}(f+f^+)$ .

As we'll see in homework,  $f^{\text{odd}} = \sum_{s, |s| \text{ odd}} \hat{f}(s) \chi_s$

Let the Hastodds test be the Hastad test applied to  $\{f, f^+\}$ .

Cor:  $\Pr[\text{Hast-odds accepts } f] = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s, |s| \text{ odd}} (1-2\delta)^{|s|} \cdot \hat{f}^{\text{odd}}(s)^3 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s, |s| \text{ odd}} (1-2\delta)^{|s|} \cdot \hat{f}(s)^3$

This leads to a third solution to the const func problem.

## The NAE Test

3 candidates, each voter gives his ranking (one of  $6=3!$  possibilities), and results are

summarized using some  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1,1\}$

A > B	1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0	$\xrightarrow{\text{maj}}$	A > B!
B > C	0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1	$\xrightarrow{\text{maj}}$	B > C!
C > A	1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1	$\xrightarrow{\text{maj}}$	C > A!

Condorcet's Paradox! If  $f$  is MAJ then we

Can get irrational outcome.

Thm (Arrow's impossibility theorem): The only functions  $f$  leading to rational outcomes are the dictators and the anti-dictators.

NAE Test: • Choose  $x, y, z \in \{0,1\}^n$  by choosing each coordinate independently subject to

not  $x_i = y_i = z_i$  (i.e., one of the 6 possibilities).

• Accept iff  $\text{NAE}(f(x), f(y), f(z))$ .

Lemma:  $\Pr[\text{NAE accepts } f] = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{3}{4} \cdot \sum_{|S|=1} \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^{|S|} \cdot \hat{f}(S)^2$ .

Denote  $W_k = \sum_{|S|=k} \hat{f}(S)^2$ . Then  $W_k \geq 0$ , and if  $f$  is Boolean,  $\sum_{k=0}^n W_k = 1$ .

Cor:  $\Pr[\text{NAE accepts } f] = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{3}{4}W_0 + \frac{1}{4}W_1 - \frac{1}{2}W_2 + \frac{1}{36}W_3 - \dots$

Hence, if accepts w.p.  $\geq 1-\epsilon$  then  $W_1 \geq 1 - \frac{9}{2}\epsilon$ .

Proof:  $\Pr[\text{NAE accepts}] \leq \frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{9}W_1 + \frac{1}{36}(W_1 + W_2 + W_3 + \dots) \leq \frac{7}{9} + \frac{2}{9}W_1$ .  $\square$

Does  $W_1 \geq 1 - \Omega(\epsilon)$  imply that  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -close to dictator?

Thm [Friedgut, Kalai, Naor]: If  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{-1,1\}$  has  $\sum_{|S|=1} \hat{f}(S)^2 \geq 1-\epsilon$  then  $f$  is  $O(\epsilon)$ -close to dictatorship or antidictatorship.

Therefore, NAE, gives a 3-query local test for dictatorship or antidictatorship.

In fact, we can avoid [FKN] and also get rid of the antidictators.

Thm: The property of being dictator is locally testable with 3 queries.

Proof: We combine NAE+BLR: We toss a coin and apply either NAE or BLR. Dictatorship are accepted w.p. 1. Assume now  $f$  is accepted w.p.  $\geq 1-\epsilon$ . Therefore, both NAE and BLR accept  $f$  w.p.  $\geq 1-2\epsilon$ . The latter implies that  $\exists S^*$  s.t.  $\hat{f}(S^*) \geq 1-4\epsilon$ , and this  $S^*$  must be unique (since  $\sum \hat{f}(S)^2 = 1$ ). The former implies that  $\sum_{|S|=1} \hat{f}(S)^2 \geq 1-9\epsilon$  and hence  $|S^*|=1$  (since  $\sum \hat{f}(S)^2 = 1$ ). We see that  $f$  is  $2\epsilon$ -close to the dictator func  $\chi_{S^*}$ .

Cor: For any  $P \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , the property  $\{\chi_{\{i\}} : i \in P\}$  is locally testable with 3-queries.

Proof: With prob  $\frac{1}{2}$  do the BLR&NAE test, and otherwise let  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$  be the indicator of  $P$  and do "local decoding" of  $f(x)$  and accept iff result gives -1. Dictatorships <sup>in P</sup> accepted w.p. 1. Assume  $f$  is accepted w.p.  $\geq 1-\epsilon$ . This implies that BLR&NAE accepts w.p.  $\geq 1-2\epsilon$  and hence  $f$  is  $O(\epsilon)$ -close to dictator. If it is close to  $\chi_{\{i\}}$  for  $i \in P$  then w.p.  $\Omega(\epsilon)$  local decoding will give 1 and we reject.  $\square$