

## Question 1

We are given an ensemble of functions  $\{f_n : \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\ell'(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  that is one-way, where  $\ell, \ell'$  are two polynomials. Then we know that there exists a poly-time algorithm  $f(1^n, x)$  that given  $1^n$  and  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$  outputs  $f_n(x)$ . Assume without loss of generality that  $\ell(\cdot), \ell'(\cdot)$  are strictly monotone, and note that given some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we may find in time  $\text{poly}(n)$  the maximal  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  for which  $\ell(k) \leq n$ , by simply going through all  $k \leq \text{poly}(n)$  (for some polynomial that depends on  $\ell$ ), computing  $\ell(k)$ , thus finding the maximal  $k$  (if we want to be fancy—since  $\ell$  is monotone we may even use binary search, thus improving the running time

Now, we construct a function  $g : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$  in the following way: given input  $x$  of length  $n$ , let  $k = \text{he prefix of length } \ell(k) \text{ of } x$  be the largest integer for which  $\ell(k) \leq n$ . Then  $g$  outputs  $f(1^k, x_{[1, \dots, \ell(k)]})$  where  $x_{[1, \dots, \ell(k)]}$  is

First, note that the function is well defined: We take  $k$  to be the largest integer for which  $\ell(k) \leq n$ , so the prefix of length  $\ell(k)$  does exist. Secondly,  $g$  may be computed in time  $\text{poly}(n)$  since we've shown that  $k$  may be computed in time  $\text{poly}(n)$ , and we know that  $f$  is computed in time  $\text{poly}(k)$ , which is bounded from above by  $\text{poly}(n)$ , as required. We claim that  $g$  is a OWF

Assume towards contradiction that there exists some non-uniform PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathcal{A}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , s.t. for infinitely many  $n$ 's it holds that

$$\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}_n(g(x)) \in g^{-1}(g(x))] > 1/p(n)$$

for some polynomial  $p(\cdot)$ . Note that since the interval  $[\ell(k), \ell(k+1)) = \{\ell(k), \ell(k)+1, \dots, \ell(k+1)-1\}$  is finite for every  $k$ , it means that for infinitely many such intervals, there exists some  $n$  in the interval for which  $\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}_n(g(x)) \in g^{-1}(g(x))] > 1/p(n)$ , and we will use this fact to invert  $f$  on infinitely many (legal) input lengths.

Fix some  $k$  for which there exists some  $n$  in the interval  $[\ell(k), \ell(k+1))$  s.t.  $\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}_n(g(x)) \in g^{-1}(g(x))] > 1/p(n)$ . We denote this  $n$  by  $n^*$ . We will show how to invert  $f$  on inputs of length  $\ell(k)$ . We construct adversary  $\mathcal{B}$ : on input  $y$  of length  $\ell(k)$ , for every  $n \in [\ell(k), \ell(k+1))$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  computes  $x_n := \mathcal{A}_n(y)$ . If there exists some  $n$  for which  $y = g(x_n)$  then  $\mathcal{B}$  returns the  $\ell(k)$ -length prefix  $x_n$ . Otherwise it returns  $0^{\ell(k)}$ . Note that  $\mathcal{B}$  is PPT.

Note that by the definition of  $g$ , for every  $n \in [\ell(k), \ell(k+1))$ , the distributions  $g(U_n)$  and  $f(1^k, U_{\ell(k)})$  are identically distributed, since  $g(U_n) = f(1^k, (U_n)_{[1, \dots, \ell(k)]}) = f(1^k, U_{\ell(k)})$ . Note that any  $x_n$  for which  $y = g(x_n)$  can be transformed to an  $x$  of length  $\ell(k)$  s.t.  $f(1^k, x) = y$  by simply taking the prefix of length  $\ell(k)$  of  $x_n$  (this follows because  $y = g(x_n) = f(1^k, (x_n)_{[1, \dots, \ell(k)]})$ ). Moreover, we know that for  $n^*$  we have  $\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{n^*}} [\mathcal{A}_{n^*}(g(x)) \in g^{-1}(g(x))] > 1/p(n^*)$ , and since  $\mathcal{B}$  tries every  $n \in [\ell(k), \ell(k+1))$ , it also tries  $n^*$ , so the success probability of  $\mathcal{B}$  is at least the success probability of  $\mathcal{A}_{n^*}$ . From all the above, we conclude that

$$\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{\ell(k)}} [\mathcal{B}(f(1^k, x)) \in f^{-1}(f(1^k, x))] \geq \Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{n^*}} [\mathcal{A}_{n^*}(g(x)) \in g^{-1}(g(x))] > 1/p(n^*) > 1/p(\ell(k+1)) = 1/\text{poly}(k)$$

in contradiction to the security of  $f$ . Thus  $g$  must be a OWF, as required.

A few comments about the proof above:

- We may assume that  $\ell(n), \ell'(n)$  are strictly monotone since for every polynomial  $p(\cdot)$  there exists some  $n_0$  s.t. for every  $n > n_0$  we have  $p(n+1) > p(n)$ .
- In the definition of adversary  $\mathcal{B}$ , the proof above uses the (implicit) simplifying assumption that  $\mathcal{A}_n$  returns  $x_n$  of length  $\geq \ell(k(n))$ . In general,  $\mathcal{B}$  should return the  $\ell(k(|x|))$ -length prefix of  $x$ , where the rest of the analysis follows similarly.

## Question 2

1. Assume towards contradiction that there exists a non-uniform PPT  $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathcal{A}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that for infinitely many  $n$ 's it holds that

$$\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}(G(x)) \in G^{-1}(G(x))] > 1/p(n)$$

for some polynomial  $p(\cdot)$ . Fix such  $n$ . We define the following adversary  $\mathcal{B}$ : given input  $y$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  computes  $z := \mathcal{A}(y)$ . If  $G(z) = y$  it returns 1, and 0 otherwise. Note that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a non-uniform PPT. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathcal{B}(G(U_n)) = 1] &= \Pr[G(\mathcal{A}(G(U_n))) = G(U_n)] \\ &= \Pr[\mathcal{A}(G(U_n)) \in G^{-1}(G(U_n))] \\ &> 1/p(n) . \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathcal{B}(U_{n+\ell}) = 1] &= \Pr[\mathcal{A}(U_{n+\ell}) \in G^{-1}(U_{n+\ell})] \\ &\leq \Pr[\exists x \in \{0,1\}^{n+\ell} \text{ s.t. } G(x) = U_{n+\ell}] \\ &\leq 2^n / 2^{n+\ell} \\ &= \text{neg}(n) , \end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality follows since that claim “ $\exists x \in \{0,1\}^{n+\ell}$  s.t.  $G(x) = U_{n+\ell}$ ” follows from the claim “ $\mathcal{A}(U_{n+\ell}) \in G^{-1}(U_{n+\ell})$ ”, the second inequality follows since  $U_{n+\ell}$  is uniformly distributed over  $\{0,1\}^{n+\ell}$  and the size of the image of  $G$  is at most  $2^n$ , and the last equality follows since  $\ell = \omega(\log n)$ . In conclusion, we have

$$\Pr[\mathcal{B}(G(U_n)) = 1] - \Pr[\mathcal{B}(U_{n+\ell}) = 1] > 1/p(n) - \text{neg}(n) > 1/q(n)$$

for some polynomial  $q(\cdot)$  (since inverse-polynomial minus negligible is still lower-bounded by inverse polynomial), in contradiction to the security of  $G$  as a PRG. Thus  $G$  is also a OWF.

2. Assume towards contradiction that there exists a non-uniform PPT  $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathcal{A}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that for infinitely many  $n$ 's it holds that

$$\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}(G(x)) \in G^{-1}(G(x))] = \epsilon(n)$$

where  $\epsilon(\cdot)$  is some non-negligible function (i.e. there exists some polynomial  $p(\cdot)$  such that  $\epsilon(n) > p(n)$  for every  $n$ ) and assume *wlog* that  $\mathcal{A}$  is deterministic (we've seen the justification for this assumption in the last HW). Fix such  $n$ . We define the following adversary  $\mathcal{B}$ : given input  $y$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  computes  $z := \mathcal{A}(y)$ . If  $G(z) = y$  it returns 1, and 0 otherwise. Note that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a non-uniform PPT. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathcal{B}(G(U_n)) = 1] &= \Pr[G(\mathcal{A}(G(U_n))) = G(U_n)] \\ &= \Pr[\mathcal{A}(G(U_n)) \in G^{-1}(G(U_n))] \\ &= \epsilon(n) . \end{aligned}$$

It remains to bound  $\Pr[\mathcal{B}(U_{n+1}) = 1]$ . Note that the assumption  $\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n}[\mathcal{A}(G(x)) \in G^{-1}(G(x))] = \epsilon(n)$  means that the fraction of  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$  such that  $\mathcal{A}(G(x)) \in G^{-1}(G(x))$  is exactly  $\epsilon(n)$  (remember that  $\mathcal{A}$  is deterministic). Thus the largest number of elements in  $\{0,1\}^{n+1}$  that  $\mathcal{A}$  successfully inverts is  $\epsilon(n) \cdot 2^n$ , since this is the largest number of elements which are images of the set of  $x$ 's on which  $\mathcal{A}$  can invert  $G$  and there is exactly one element in the image of  $G$  for each  $x$  for which  $\mathcal{A}$  can invert  $G(x)$ . Moreover, for every element in  $\{0,1\}^{n+1}$  that is not in the image of  $G$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  necessarily fails. We conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathcal{B}(U_{n+1}) = 1] &= \Pr[G(\mathcal{A}(U_{n+1})) = U_{n+1}] \\ &= \Pr[\mathcal{A}(U_{n+1}) \in G^{-1}(U_{n+1})] \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon(n) \cdot 2^n}{2^{n+1}} \\ &= \epsilon(n)/2 . \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\Pr[\mathcal{B}(G(U_n)) = 1] - \Pr[\mathcal{B}(U_{n+1}) = 1] \geq \epsilon(n) - \epsilon(n)/2 = \epsilon(n)/2 > \frac{1}{2 \cdot p(n)} ,$$

in contradiction.

### Question 3

1. The general idea is that given some OWF  $f$ , we want to construct a function  $g$ , such that on about  $(1 - 1/n)$  fraction of the inputs,  $g$  will behave like the identity function, and for all other inputs,  $g$  will be hard to invert, using  $f$  hardness. We may assume wlog that  $f$  is length preserving (i.e  $|f(x)| = |x|$ ).<sup>1</sup> Since  $g$  cannot use randomization, the behaviour of  $g$  must depend only on the input. We construct  $g$ , so that on input  $(x, z)$ , where  $|x| = |z|$ , the function  $g$  outputs  $(x, f(z))$  if the  $\lfloor \log(|x|) \rfloor$ -long prefix is the zero string, and otherwise it returns  $(x, z)$ . Note that  $g$  is not OWF, because for inputs of length  $n$ , on fraction  $1 - 2^{-\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor} \geq 1 - 2^{-\log(n)+1} = 1 - 2/n$ ,  $g$  simply functions as the identity function, hence any adversary which given  $y$  outputs  $y$  inverts it with probability at least  $1 - 2/n$ . We claim that  $g$  is weakly-OWF.

Assume that there exists some non-uniform PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  s.t.

$$\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}(g(x)) \in g^{-1}(g(x))] = \epsilon(n).$$

We construct an adversary  $\mathcal{B}$  which inverts  $f$ .  $\mathcal{B}$  on input  $y$  of length  $n$  samples  $u \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{n - \lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}$ , samples  $(x, z) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(0^{\lfloor \log(|x|) \rfloor}, u, y)$  and outputs  $z$ . Note that if  $\mathcal{A}$  succeeds in inverting  $(0^{\lfloor \log(|x|) \rfloor}, u, y)$  for  $g$ , then  $\mathcal{B}$  succeeds in inverting  $y$ . Hence we have:

$$\Pr_{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{B}(f(z)) \in f^{-1}(f(z))] \geq \Pr_{\substack{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n \\ u \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{n - \lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}}} [\mathcal{A}(0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}, u, z) \in g^{-1}(g(0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}, u, z))]$$

Denote by  $Pre(x)$  the prefix of length  $\lfloor \log(|x|) \rfloor$  of  $x$ . We get

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon(n) &= \Pr_{\substack{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n \\ x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n}} [\mathcal{A}(g(x, z)) \in g^{-1}(g(x, z))] \\ &= \Pr_{\substack{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n \\ x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n}} [\mathcal{A}(g(x, z)) \in g^{-1}(g(x, z)) | Pre(x) = 0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}] \Pr[Pre(x) = 0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}] \\ &\quad + \Pr_{\substack{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n \\ x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n}} [\mathcal{A}(g(x, z)) \in g^{-1}(g(x, z)) | Pre(x) \neq 0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}] \Pr[Pre(x) \neq 0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}] \\ &= \Pr_{\substack{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n \\ u \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{n - \lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}}} [\mathcal{A}(0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}, u, z) \in g^{-1}(g(0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}, u, z))] \cdot 2^{-\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor} \\ &\quad + \Pr_{\substack{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n \\ x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n}} [\mathcal{A}(g(x, z)) \in g^{-1}(g(x, z)) | Pre(x) \neq 0^{\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}] \cdot (1 - 2^{-\lfloor \log(n) \rfloor}) \\ &\leq \Pr_{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{B}(f(z)) \in f^{-1}(f(z))] \cdot \frac{2}{n} + 1 \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{n}) \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>From any OWF  $f$  we may construct a OWF  $h$  which is length-preserving in the following way: since  $f$  is poly-time computable, there exist some polynomial  $p(\cdot)$  that bounds the length expansion of  $f$ . Hence the function  $f'(x) = x \parallel 0^{p(|x|) - |f(x)|}$  has the property that  $|f'(x)| = |f'(y)|$  for every  $|x| = |y|$ . By defining  $h(x, z) := f'(x)$  for every  $x, z$  s.t.  $|x, z| = p(|x|)$ , we get a OWF. Security follows by a similar argument to that given in Question 1.

So we get

$$\Pr_{z \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{B}(f(z)) \in f^{-1}(f(z))] \geq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{n}{2}(1 - \epsilon).$$

Since  $f$  is OWF, the RHS must be negligible, i.e. there exists some negligible function  $\mu(n)$  s.t.

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{n}{2}(1 - \epsilon) \leq \mu(n).$$

So we get  $\epsilon \leq 1 - (\frac{1}{n} - \frac{2\mu(n)}{n}) = 1 - \Omega(1/n)$ , as required.

2. (a) Fix some  $n$ . Denote by  $X$  the random variable  $(x_1, \dots, x_t)$ , where each  $x_i$  is chosen uniformly from  $\{0,1\}^n$ . We know that  $\Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t)] = \epsilon(n)$ . Assume towards contradiction that  $\forall i \in [t], \Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [x \in G_i] < 1 - \log(2/\epsilon)/t$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t)] &= \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge \exists i \in [t] \text{ s.t. } x_i \notin G_i] \\ &\quad + \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge \forall i \in [t], x_i \in G_i]. \end{aligned}$$

We shall bound this two terms in order to get a contradiction. For the first term we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge \exists i \in [t] \text{ s.t. } x_i \notin G_i] &\leq \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge x_i \notin G_i] \\ &\leq \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} \sum_{x \notin G_i} \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge x_i = x] \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} \sum_{x \notin G_i} \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) | x_i = x] \Pr[x_i = x] \\ &< \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} \left(\frac{\epsilon}{2t}\right) \\ &= \epsilon/2, \end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality is due to union bound. For the second term we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge \forall i \in [t], x_i \in G_i] &\leq \Pr[\forall i \in [t], x_i \in G_i] \\ &< \left(1 - \frac{\log(2/\epsilon)}{t}\right)^t \\ &\leq e^{-\log(2/\epsilon)} \\ &< 2^{-\log(2/\epsilon)} \\ &= \epsilon/2, \end{aligned}$$

where the third inequality is due to the known inequality  $(1 - 1/x)^x \leq e^{-1}$ . In conclusion, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &= \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t)] \\ &= \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge \exists i \in [t] \text{ s.t. } x_i \notin G_i] + \Pr_X[\mathcal{A} \text{ inverts } f^{\otimes t}(x_1, \dots, x_t) \wedge \forall i \in [t], x_i \in G_i] \\ &< \epsilon/2 + \epsilon/2 = \epsilon, \end{aligned}$$

in contradiction. Thus there must exist some  $i \in [t]$  s.t.  $\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [x \in G_i] \geq 1 - \log(2/\epsilon)/t$ .

- (b) We define the following adversary  $A'$ : on input  $y$ , repeat for  $2tn/\epsilon$  times:

- Sample  $x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_t$  in uniform from  $(\{0,1\}^n)^t$ .

- Compute  $f(x_1), \dots, f(x_{i-1}), f(x_{i+1}), \dots, f(x_t)$ .
- Sample  $(w_1, \dots, w_t) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_{i-1}), y, f(x_{i+1}), \dots, f(x_t))$ .
- If  $f(w_i) = y$  return  $w_i$ , otherwise repeat the above procedure.
- If failed in all iterations, return  $0^n$ .

Now, given that  $y = f(x)$  for some  $x \in G_i$ , the failure probability is bounded by the probability to fail in all iterations. Hence,

$$\Pr[\mathcal{A}'(f(x)) \notin f^{-1}(f(x)) | x \in G_i] < (1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2t})^{2nt/\epsilon} \leq e^{-n} \leq 2^{-n}.$$

Hence we can bound the success probability by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathcal{A}'(f(x)) \in f^{-1}(f(x))] &= \Pr[\mathcal{A}'(f(x)) \in f^{-1}(f(x)) | x \in G_i] \cdot \Pr[x \in G_i] \\ &\quad + \Pr[\mathcal{A}'(f(x)) \in f^{-1}(f(x)) | x \notin G_i] \cdot \Pr[x \notin G_i] \\ &\geq \Pr[\mathcal{A}'(f(x)) \in f^{-1}(f(x)) | x \in G_i] \cdot \Pr[x \in G_i] \\ &\geq (1 - 2^{-n})(1 - \frac{\log(2/\epsilon)}{t}) \\ &= 1 - \frac{\log(2/\epsilon)}{t} - 2^{-n} + 2^{-n} \frac{\log(2/\epsilon)}{t} \\ &\geq 1 - \frac{\log(2/\epsilon)}{t} - 2^{-n} \end{aligned}$$

and we got the required success probability. Note that  $\mathcal{A}'$  has  $2tn/\epsilon$  iterations, in each it invokes  $\mathcal{A}$ , thus its running time is  $O(\text{time}(\mathcal{A})2tn/\epsilon)$ , where the sampling time is included in the running time of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

- (c) Assume towards contradiction that  $\epsilon(n) = n^{-O(1)}$ . So the running time of  $\mathcal{A}'$  is

$$O(\text{time}(\mathcal{A})2tn/\epsilon) = O(\text{time}(\mathcal{A}) \frac{\log^2(n)p(n)n}{n^{-O(1)}})$$

which is polynomial time since  $\mathcal{A}$  is PPT. Moreover, the probability that  $\mathcal{A}'$  inverts  $f$  is at least

$$1 - \frac{\log(2/\epsilon)}{t} - 2^{-n} = 1 - O(\frac{1}{\log(n)p(n)}) - 2^{-n} = 1 - o(1/p(n))$$

Thus we got a non-uniform PPT adversary which inverts  $f$  with probability  $> 1 - o(1/p(n))$  for infinitely many  $n$ 's in contradiction. Thus it must be the case that  $\epsilon(n) = n^{-\omega(1)}$ .