

**IMPERIAL**

**SNARKs  
for First Order Logic**

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09/05/2026

# Introduction

- Highly efficient SNARKs exist to prove knowledge of data satisfying relations.
- These proof systems take inputs of a specific form (e.g. R1CS), usually over finite fields.
- But many relations we may wish to prove are not naturally defined using finite field arithmetic.
- Converting initial relations into equivalent relations over finite fields can be costly.
- Often the relations we want to prove are mathematical (e.g. cryptographic relations).

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This allows us to create succinct proofs of logical validity.

## Preliminary Definitions: Bits and Bobs

- Bits:**
- Given bit string  $b = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_\mu)$ , define  $b2int(b) = \sum_{1 \leq \nu \leq \mu} b_\nu \cdot 2^{\nu-1}$
  - Given  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , write  $\mathbb{Q}_b(i)$  for the binary decomposition of  $i$ .  
Note  $i = b2int(\mathbb{Q}_b(i))$ .

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**Multilinear polynomials:** multivariate polynomials  $f(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_{i=1}^{<\infty} a_i \prod_{j=1}^{\mu} X_j^{e_{ij}}$  in  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_\mu)$

such that  $0 \leq e_{ij} \leq 1$  for all  $i, j$ .

**Multilinear extensions:** given  $f(\mathbf{X}) : \{0, 1\}^\mu \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ , define  $\tilde{f}$ , the MLE of  $f$ :

$$\tilde{f}(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_{y \in \{0, 1\}^\mu} f(y) \cdot \text{eq}(y, \mathbf{X}), \quad \text{eq}(y, \mathbf{X}) = \prod_{i=1}^{\mu} (y_i X_i + (1 - y_i)(1 - X_i))$$

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**Interpolation:**

• *Lagrange:*  $P(x_1, \dots, x_k)(x)$ , the unique degree  $k - 1$  univariate polynomial interpolating  $k$  points.

• *Multilinear:* given  $\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{v}_0, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{2^\mu - 1})$ , let  $f_{\mathbf{v}} : \{0, 1\}^\mu \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ ,  $x \mapsto \mathbf{v}_{b2int(x)}$ .

E.g.  $f_{\mathbf{v}}(101) = \mathbf{v}_4$ . Then the MLE of  $\mathbf{v}$  is  $\tilde{f}_{\mathbf{v}}$ .

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An **algebraic indexed relation (AIR)** is a set  $\text{REL}_{pp, Q}$  of pairs  $(\mathbb{x}, \mathbb{w})$  such that:

1.  $\mathbb{w} = (f_1, \dots, f_k)$ , a  $k$ -tuple of multilinear polynomials with  $\partial$ -bounded coefficients.
2.  $\mathbb{x} = ([f_1], \dots, [f_k])$ , where the  $[f_i]$  are commitments to the  $f_i$ .
3.  $Q$  contains polynomials  $Q$  which equal zero when evaluated on

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## Preliminary Definitions: FOL

Fix some formal symbols:

1. A **matrix variable symbol**  $C$  with an attached integer arity  $ar(C) \geq 1$ .
2. A single **index variable symbol**  $X$ .

Term  $t ::= q \mid t + t \mid t * t \mid X \mid C_i(X) \mid C_i C_j(X)$

Pred  $\phi, \psi ::= t = t \mid \phi \wedge \psi \mid \phi \vee \psi$

EP  $P ::= q \mid P + P \mid P * P \mid X \mid C_i(X) \mid C_i C_j(X)$   
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**Figure:** Terms, predicates, and enriched polynomials; we ignore range checks!

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**Figure:** Terms, predicates, and enriched polynomials; we ignore range checks!

**Example:** The standard inductive definition of  $a^b$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  is a function  $\text{pow}(x, y)$  satisfying:

base case  $\text{pow}(a, 0) = 1$

inductive step  $\text{pow}(a, b + 1) = a * \text{pow}(a, b)$

This may be written as

$$\forall a. (\text{pow}(a, 0) = 1) \wedge \forall a, b. (\text{pow}(a, b + 1) = a * \text{pow}(a, b))$$

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In our FOL syntax: let `pow` be an arity 4 matrix variable symbol with rows `powi`. Set

$$\text{baseCase}(X) = (\text{pow}_2(X) = 0) \wedge (\text{pow}_3(X) = 1),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{indStep}(X) = & \text{pow}_1(X) = \text{pow}_1(\text{pow}_4(X)) \quad \wedge \\ & \text{pow}_2(X) = \text{pow}_2(\text{pow}_4(X)) + 1 \quad \wedge \\ & \text{pow}_3(X) = \text{pow}_1(X) \cdot \text{pow}_3(\text{pow}_4(X)) \end{aligned}$$

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The  $\text{pow}_i(X)$  are enriched polynomials:  $\text{pow}_1$  corresponds to bases,  $\text{pow}_2$  to exponents,  $\text{pow}_3$  to the function output, and  $\text{pow}_4$  to pointers.

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Then

$$\phi_{\text{pow}} = \text{baseCase}(X) \vee \text{indStep}(X)$$

also encodes the power function.

## Our Work: the Logical Side

An Interpretation  $\varsigma : \mathbb{C} \mapsto \varsigma(\mathbb{C}) \in \mathcal{M}_{ar(\mathbb{C}) \times len(\varsigma(\mathbb{C}))}(\mathbb{N})$  maps  $\mathbb{C}$  to an  $ar(\mathbb{C}) \times len(\varsigma(\mathbb{C}))$  matrix.

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Define a semantics  $\langle t \rangle_{\varsigma}^x \in \mathbb{Z}, \langle \phi \rangle_{\varsigma}^x \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\langle q \rangle_{\varsigma}^x = q$$

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$$\langle t = t' \rangle_{\varsigma}^x = (\langle t \rangle_{\varsigma}^x - \langle t' \rangle_{\varsigma}^x)^2$$

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$$\langle \mathbf{C}_i(X) \rangle_{\varsigma}^x = \varsigma(\mathbf{C})_{@i,x}$$

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Write:  $x \models_{\varsigma} \phi$  when  $\langle \phi \rangle_{\varsigma}^x = 0$ .

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This semantics is sound and complete. We sum up the meaning of the semantics with slogans:

1. Slogan 1. Zero = true; non-zero = false.
2. Slogan 2. Equality = square of difference; conjunction = sum; disjunction = product.
3. Slogan 3. Composed enriched polynomials are pointers.
4. Slogan 4. Interpretations are witnesses to logical validity.

## Recall: *Arithmetising Logic : Polynomial Semantics of FOL* [Gab25]

[Gab25] introduced a (less general) semantics using Lagrange interpolation.

Let  $\varsigma$  be an interpretation on  $\mathcal{C}$ . Let  $P(\varsigma(\mathcal{C})_i)(x)$  interpolate the  $i$ th row of  $\varsigma(\mathcal{C})$ .

[Gab25] gave a semantics with

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**Example:** the power function  $2^2$ . A valid interpretation is

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$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_{\text{pow}} \rangle_{\zeta}^x &= (P(0, 1, 2)(x)^2 + (P(1, 2, 4)(x) - 1)^2) * \left( (P(2, 2, 2)(x) - P(2, 2, 2)(P(1, 1, 2)(x)))^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (P(0, 1, 2)(x) - (P(0, 1, 2)(P(1, 1, 2)(x)) + 1))^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (P(1, 2, 4)(x) - P(2, 2, 2)(x) * P(1, 2, 4)(P(1, 1, 2)(x)))^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

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E.g.  $x = 2$ :

$$\langle \phi_{\text{pow}} \rangle_{\zeta}^2 = (1^2 + (2 - 1)^2) * \left( (2 - 2)^2 + (1 - (0 + 1))^2 + (2 - 2 * 1)^2 \right) = 0$$

There may be more efficient ways of verifying that  $2^2 = 4$ .

## Our Work: the Cryptographic Side

Instead of Lagrange interpolation, we want to use multilinear extensions over the hypercube.

Define **quad-indexed variable symbols**  $B_{i,\nu}^{j,x}$ , where  $i, j, x, \nu \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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Define  $mkQ^x : \mathbb{EP} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \left[ B_{1,1}^{0,1}, \dots, B_{1,\mu}^{0,1}, \dots, B_{ar(\mathbf{C}),1}^{ar(\mathbf{C}),len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))}, \dots, B_{ar(\mathbf{C}),\mu}^{ar(\mathbf{C}),len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))} \right]$ :

$$\begin{aligned} mkQ^x(q) &= q & mkQ^x(P + P') &= mkQ^x(P) + mkQ^x(P') & mkQ^x(P * P') &= mkQ^x(P) * mkQ^x(P') \\ mkQ^x(X) &= x & mkQ^x(\mathbf{C}_i(X)) &= b2int(B_{i,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{i,\mu}^{0,x}) & mkQ^x(\mathbf{C}_i \mathbf{C}_j(X)) &= b2int(B_{i,1}^{j,x}, \dots, B_{i,\mu}^{j,x}) \end{aligned}$$

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Instead of Lagrange interpolation, we want to use multilinear extensions over the hypercube.

Define **quad-indexed variable symbols**  $B_{i,\nu}^{j,x}$ , where  $i, j, x, \nu \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Define  $mkQ^x : \mathbb{EP} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \left[ B_{1,1}^{0,1}, \dots, B_{1,\mu}^{0,1}, \dots, B_{ar(\mathbf{C}),1}^{ar(\mathbf{C}),len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))}, \dots, B_{ar(\mathbf{C}),\mu}^{ar(\mathbf{C}),len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))} \right]$ :

$$\begin{aligned} mkQ^x(q) &= q & mkQ^x(P + P') &= mkQ^x(P) + mkQ^x(P') & mkQ^x(P * P') &= mkQ^x(P) * mkQ^x(P') \\ mkQ^x(X) &= x & mkQ^x(\mathbf{C}_i(X)) &= b2int(B_{i,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{i,\mu}^{0,x}) & mkQ^x(\mathbf{C}_i\mathbf{C}_j(X)) &= b2int(B_{i,1}^{j,x}, \dots, B_{i,\mu}^{j,x}) \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** applying  $mkQ^x$  to  $\phi_{\text{pow}} = \text{baseCase}(X) \vee \text{indStep}(X)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} mkQ^x\langle \phi_{\text{pow}} \rangle &= (b2int(B_{2,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{2,\mu}^{0,x})^2 + (b2int(B_{3,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{3,\mu}^{0,x}) - 1)^2) \\ &\quad * \left( (b2int(B_{1,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{1,\mu}^{0,x}) - b2int(B_{1,1}^{4,x}, \dots, B_{1,\mu}^{4,x}))^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (b2int(B_{2,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{2,\mu}^{0,x}) - (b2int(B_{2,1}^{4,x}, \dots, B_{2,\mu}^{4,x}) + 1))^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (b2int(B_{3,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{3,\mu}^{0,x}) - b2int(B_{2,1}^{0,x}, \dots, B_{2,\mu}^{0,x}) * b2int(B_{3,1}^{4,x}, \dots, B_{3,\mu}^{4,x}))^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

## Our Work: the Cryptographic Side

Let  $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \tilde{f}_{\zeta(\mathbf{C})}^i : i \in [\text{ar}(\mathbf{C})] \right\}$  denote the MLEs of the rows of  $\zeta(\mathbf{C})$ .

Define  $\beta_{\mathcal{F}}(B_{i,\nu}^{0,x})$  and  $\beta_{\mathcal{F}}(B_{i,\nu}^{j,x})$  by

$$\beta_{\mathcal{F}}(B_{i,\nu}^{0,x}) = \pi_{\nu} \tilde{f}_{\zeta(\mathbf{C})}^i(\mathbb{Q}_{\mathbf{b}}x) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_{\mathcal{F}}(B_{i,\nu}^{j,x}) = \begin{cases} \pi_{\nu} \tilde{f}_{\zeta(\mathbf{C})}^i(\mathbb{Q}_{\mathbf{b}} \tilde{f}_{\zeta(\mathbf{C})}^j(\mathbb{Q}_{\mathbf{b}}x)) & \text{if } f_j(x) \in [\text{len}(\zeta(\mathbf{C}))] \\ 0 & \text{if } f_j(x) \notin [\text{len}(\zeta(\mathbf{C}))] \end{cases}$$

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Key result:

$$\beta_{\mathcal{F}}(\text{mk}Q^x\langle t \rangle) = \langle t \rangle_{\zeta}^x \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_{\mathcal{F}}(\text{mk}Q^x\langle \phi \rangle) = \langle \phi \rangle_{\zeta}^x$$

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What does this mean?

Recall:  $\langle \mathbf{C}_i(X) \rangle_{\varsigma}^x = \varsigma(\mathbf{C})_{\textcircled{i},x}$ , and  $\langle \mathbf{C}_i \mathbf{C}_j(X) \rangle_{\varsigma}^x = \varsigma(\mathbf{C})_{\textcircled{i},\varsigma(\mathbf{C})_{\textcircled{j},x}}$

The  $mkQ^x$  are multivariate polynomials in the binary decompositions of the entries of  $\varsigma(\mathbf{C})$ , preserving the logical content of predicates.

## What's the Point of all this Symbol Salad?

We can turn  $(\phi, \varsigma)$  into an AIR encoding logical properties.

$\beta_{\mathcal{F}}(mkQ^x\langle\phi\rangle) = 0$  is just  $mkQ^x\langle\phi\rangle$  evaluating to zero on

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Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{W}) \in \left\{ (\phi, \varsigma) \mid \begin{array}{l} \varsigma(\mathbf{C}) \in \mathcal{M}_{ar(\mathbf{C}) \times len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))}(\mathbb{N}) \\ \mathbf{C} \models_{\varsigma} \phi \end{array} \right\} &\iff \\ ((mkQ^x\langle\mathbb{X}\rangle)_x, (\tilde{f}_{\mathbb{W}}^i)_i) \in \left\{ ((mkQ^x\langle\phi\rangle)_{x \in [len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))]}, (\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathbf{C})}^i)_{i \in [ar(\mathbf{C})]}) \mid \begin{array}{l} \varsigma(\mathbf{C}) \in \mathcal{M}_{ar(\mathbf{C}) \times len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))}(\mathbb{N}), \\ \beta_{\mathcal{F}}(mkQ^x\langle\phi\rangle) = 0, \\ \forall x \in [len(\varsigma(\mathbf{C}))] \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

## What's the point of all this Symbol Salad?

We turn this into an AIR:

Given  $(\phi, \varsigma)$ , compute  $((mkQ^x \langle \phi \rangle)_{x \in [len(\varsigma(\mathcal{C}))]}, (\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^i)_{i \in [ar(\mathcal{C})]})$

Set

$$(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{W}) = (([\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^1], \dots, [\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^{ar(\mathcal{C})}]), (\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^1, \dots, \tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^{ar(\mathcal{C})}))$$

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$$\mathcal{Q} = ((mkQ^x \langle \phi \rangle)_{x \in [len(\varsigma(\mathcal{C}))]}, (B_{i,\nu}^{j,x} (B_{i,\nu}^{j,x} - 1))_{i,j,x,\nu})$$

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By the theory of the previous slides:  $\mathcal{C} \models_{\varsigma} \phi \iff$

$$(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{W}) \in \text{REL}_{\text{pp}, \mathcal{Q}} = \left\{ (\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{W}) \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{pp} = (k, \mu, \partial), \\ \mathbb{X} = ([\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^1], \dots, [\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^{ar(\mathcal{C})}]) \\ \mathbb{W} = (\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^1, \dots, \tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^{ar(\mathcal{C})}), \\ Q \left( (\tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, \tilde{f}_{\varsigma(\mathcal{C})}^{ar(\mathcal{C})}(\mathbf{x}))_{\mathbf{x} \in \{0,1\}^{\mu}} \right) = 0, \\ \text{for all } Q \in \mathcal{Q} \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

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- Our semantics shows logic is multilinear polynomial manipulation (in some sense) - we very directly turn FOL into polynomial relation checks.
- Technical detail: we get an AIR in the binary decompositions of the witness integers, not in the witness integers - because  $\mathbb{Q}_b$  is not a polynomial.

# IMPERIAL

- Arithmetise directly over finite fields.
- (Non-toy) Implementation.

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**Thank you.**  
**Questions?**

SNARKs  
for First Order Logic  
09/05/2026