

# Learning in Pessiland via Inductive Inference

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Online Complexity Seminar

Backgrounds

Our Results

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Conclusion

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Our Results

Proof Techniques

Conclusion

# Pessiland

**NP is Hard on Avg**

Too Great Heuristics  
for SAT **X**

**No One-Way Functions**

(Classic) Crypto **X**

**Suppose Our World is Unfortunately Pessiland.  
What Can We Do?**

Average-Case Inverter for Poly-Time Functions

**Algorithms in Pessiland**

Hardness

# Learning in Pessiland

$\exists \text{OWF} \implies \text{Learning}$

1990 “BigBang”

[Impagliazzo-Levin] No Better Ways to Generate Hard NP Instances than Picking Uniformly at Random

- High-Level Ideas of “Universal Extrapolation”
- No Formal Statements

Which kind of learning tasks can be done ?

93

[Blum-Frustr-Kearns-Lipton]

Average-Case PAC Learning

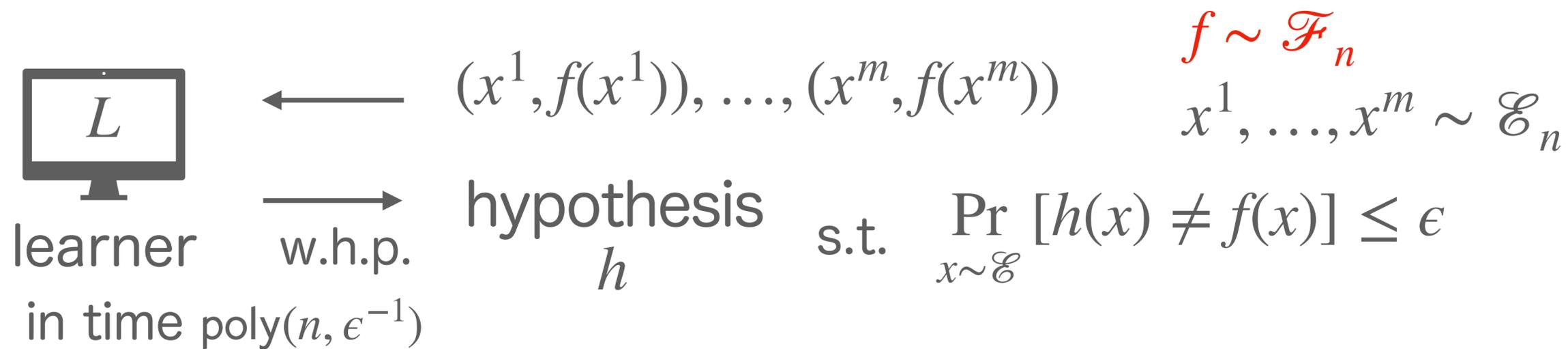
# PAC Learning in Pessiland

[BFKL93]  $\nexists$ OWF  $\implies$  Avg PAC learning

a concept class  $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathcal{C}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$   $\mathcal{C}_n \subseteq \{f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}\}$

an example distribution  $\mathcal{E} = \{\mathcal{E}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$   $\mathcal{E}_n$  is over  $\{0,1\}^n$

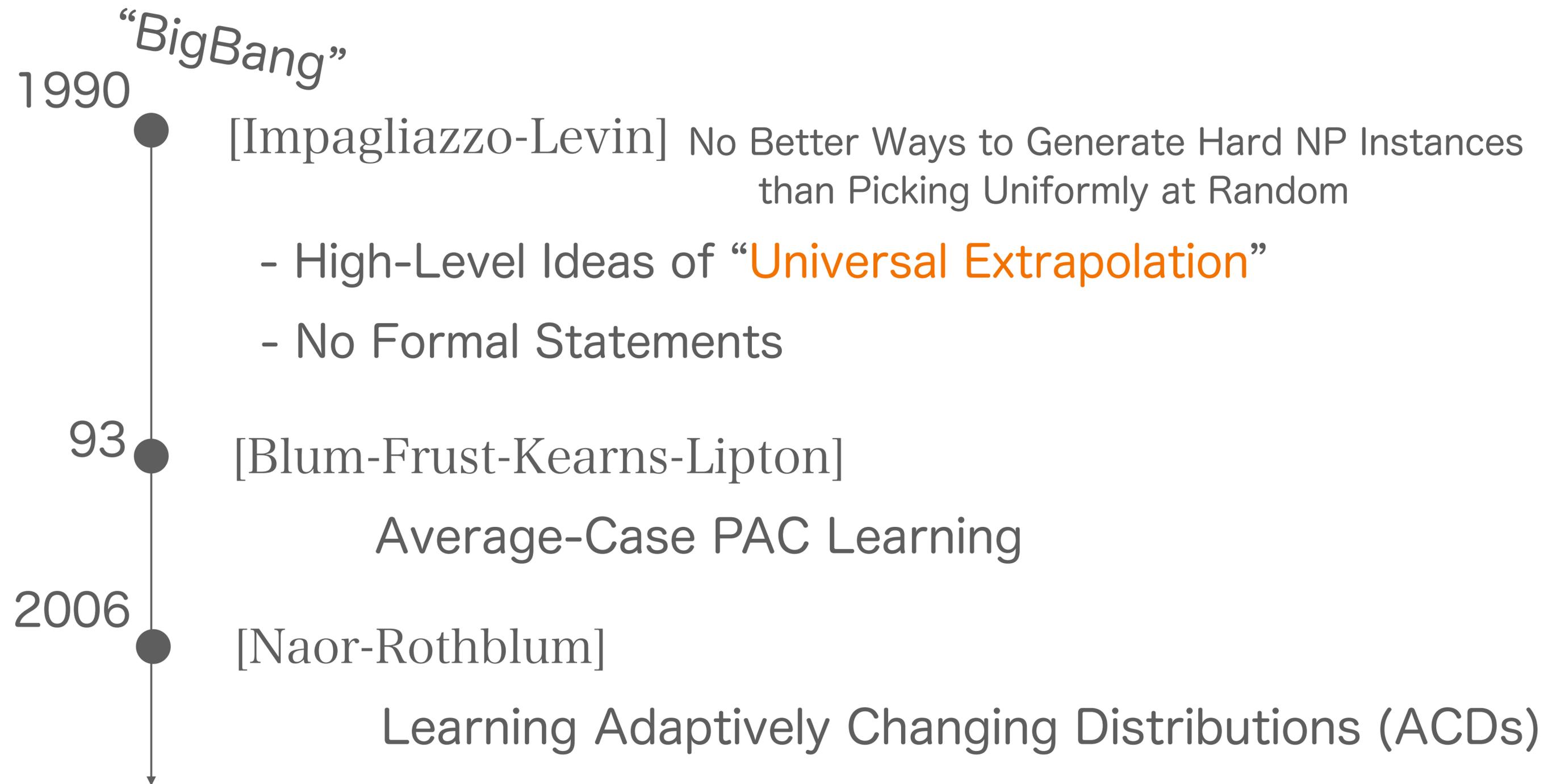
a distribution over functions  $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$   $\mathcal{F}_n$  is over  $\mathcal{C}_n$



[BFKL93]  $\mathcal{C}$  : efficiently evaluable,  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}$  : samplable

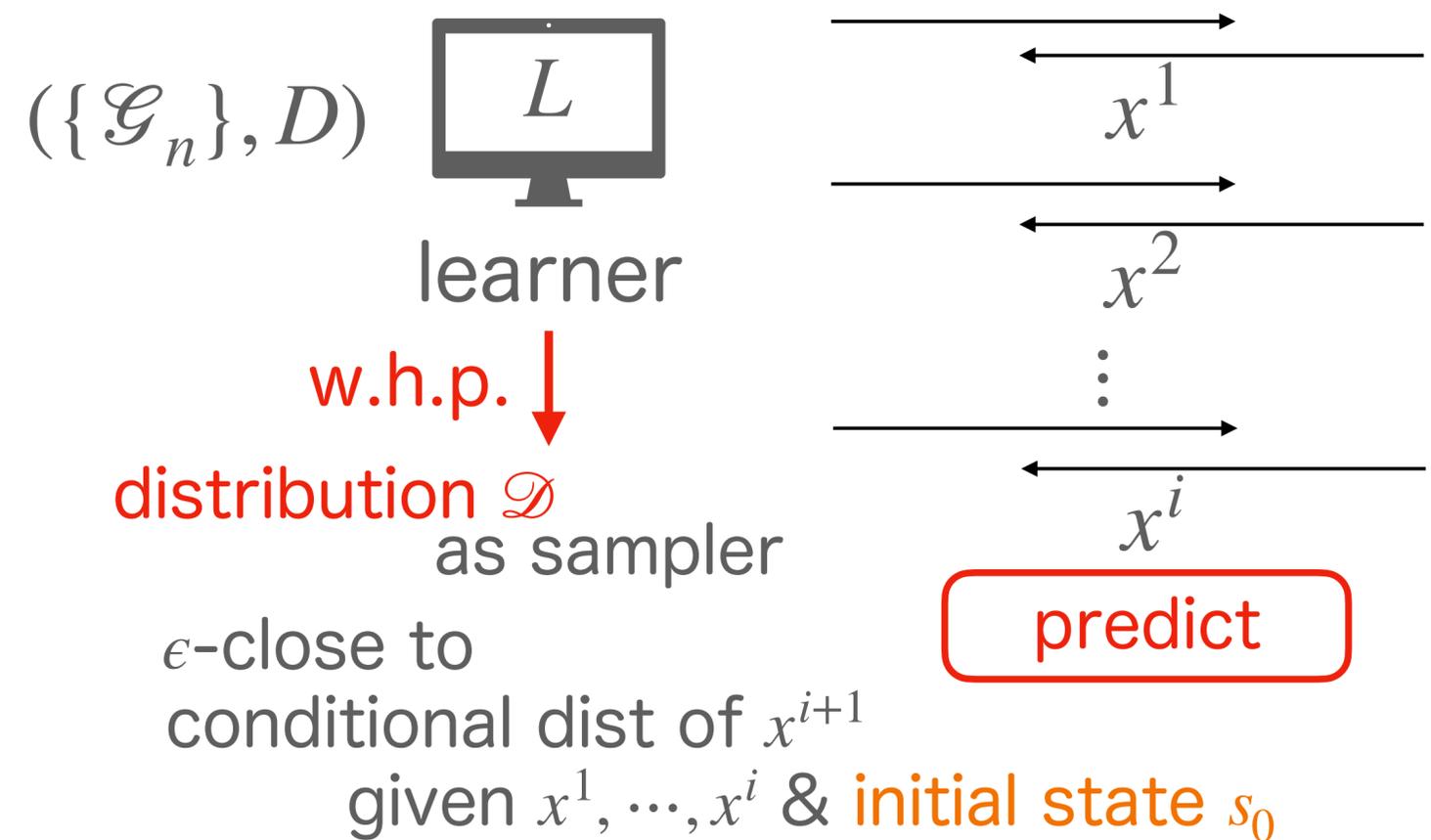
# Learning in Pessiland

$\exists \text{OWF} \implies \text{Learning}$



# Distributional Learning in Pessiland

[NR06]  $\nexists$ OWF  $\implies$  Learning **known** ACDs

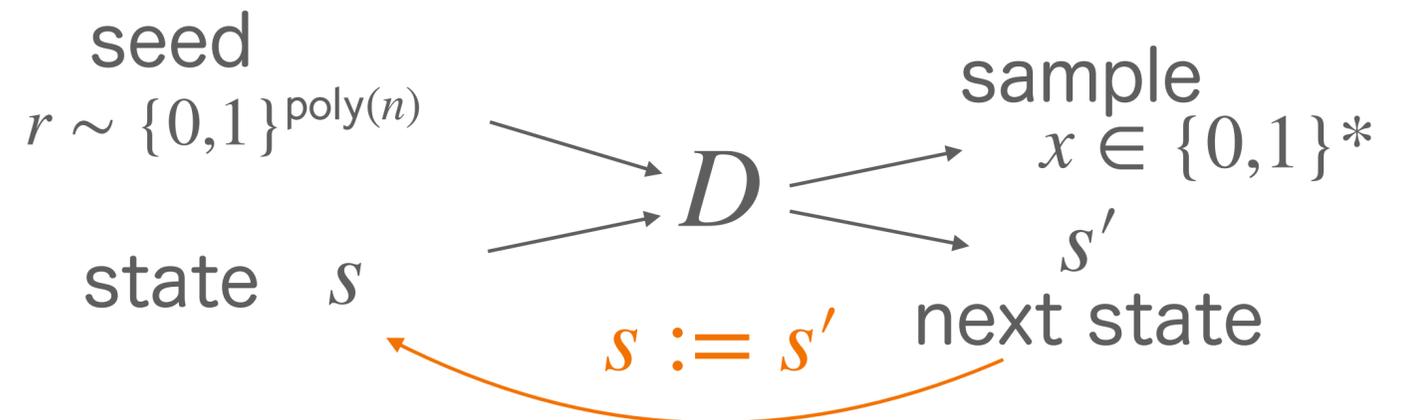


ACD  $(\{\mathcal{G}_n\}, D)$

$\mathcal{G}$ : samplable  $D$ : poly-time sampler

internal state  $s = s_0$

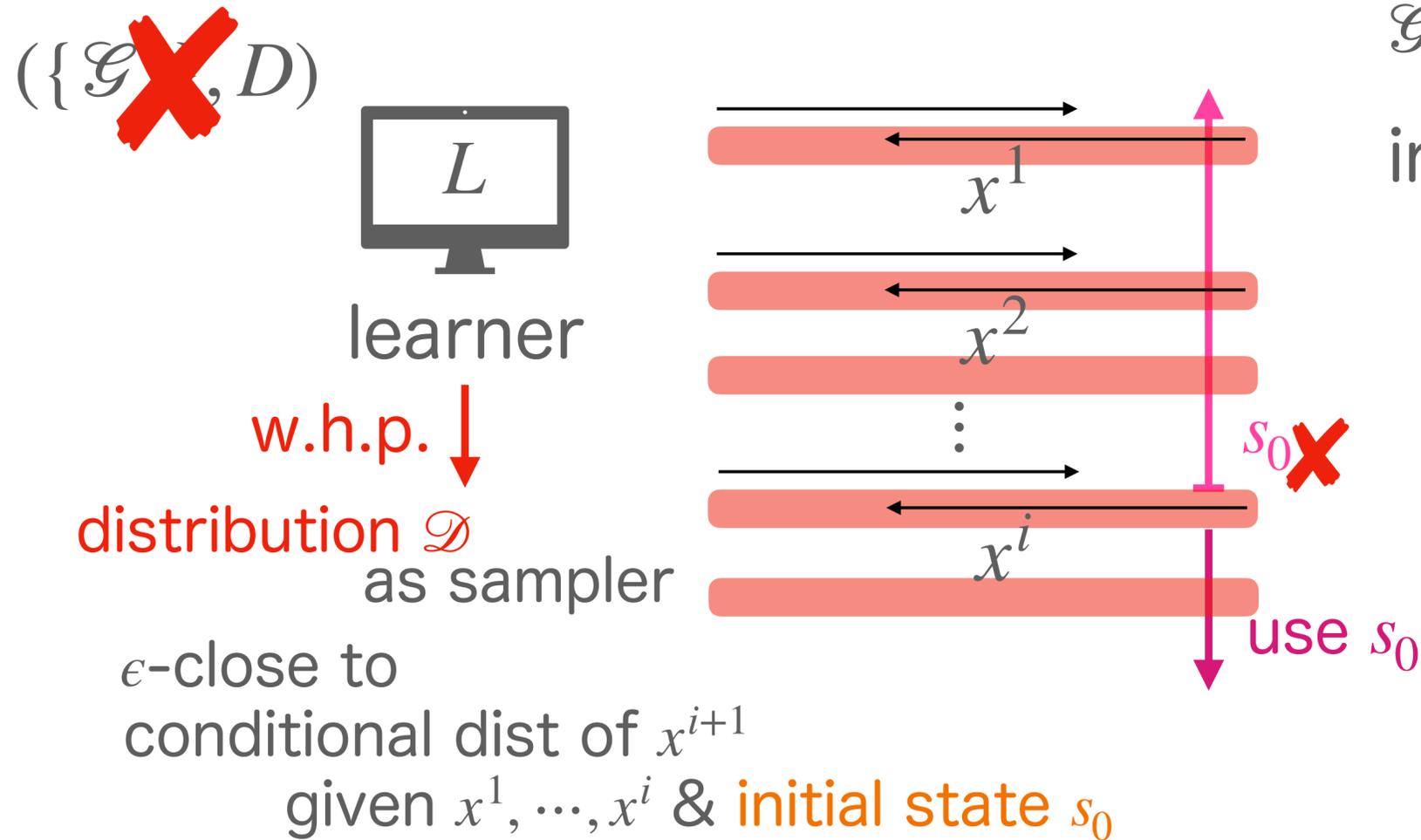
Initialization:  $s_0 \sim \mathcal{G}_n$   
**initial state target**



[NR06]  $L$  uses the knowledge of  $\{\mathcal{G}_n\}$  and  $D$

# Why is the knowledge of distributions important?

## Critical Cases

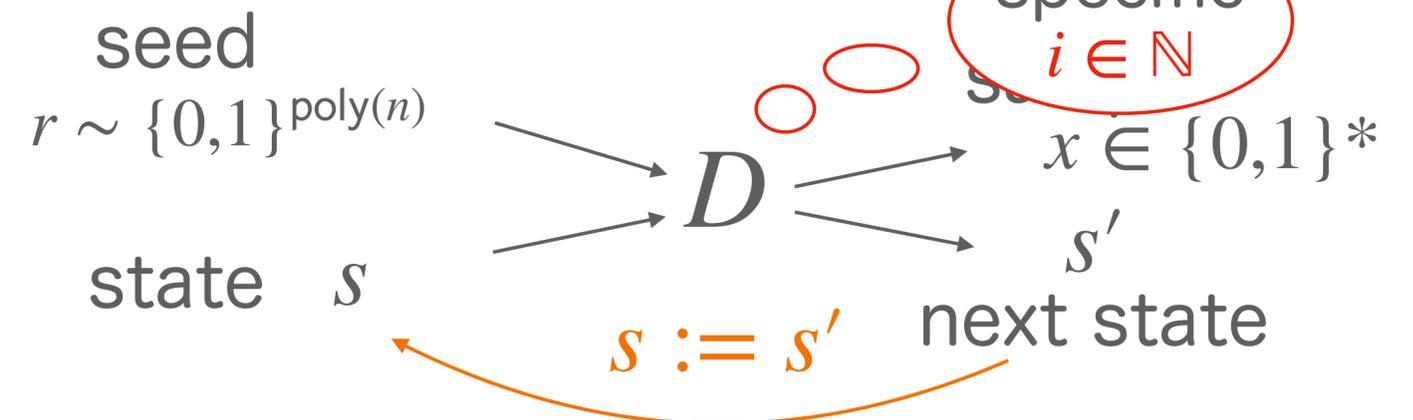


ACD  $(\{\mathcal{G}_n\}, D)$

$\mathcal{G}$ : samplable  $D$ : poly-time sampler

internal state  $s = s_0$

Initialization:  $s_0 \sim \mathcal{G}_n$   
initial state **target**



[NR06]  $L$  uses the knowledge of  $\{\mathcal{G}_n\}$  and  $D$

to test whether the next sample is predictable

# Improved Learning in Pessiland ?

[BFKL] examples and target function are separately selected

→ Q. Average-Case PAC Learning on Joint Distribution?

$\mathcal{D} \sim \mathcal{G}$      $(x, b) \sim \mathcal{D}$   
↑  
description of  
joint distribution

Separated (BFKL)

proper learning

Joint

→ **DistNP-hard**  
[Pitt-Valiant]

Q. Agnostic Learning ?     $\Pr_{(x,b)} [h(x) \neq b] \leq \min_{f \in \mathcal{C}} \Pr_{(x,b)} [f(x) \neq b] + \epsilon$

[NR] learning **known** ACDs

→ Q. Learning **unknown** ACDs ?

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# Our Contribution

**Resolve** Q. Joint Distribution? Q. Learning unknown ACDs ?  
Q. Agnostic Learning ?

1990

Impagliazzo-Levin, No Better Ways to Generate Hard NP Instances than Picking Uniformly at Random

- High-Level Ideas of “**Universal Extrapolation**” **revisit**  
- No Formal Statements

93

Blum-Frustr-Kearns-Lipton  
Average-Case PAC Learning

**Unified &  
Simplified &  
Improved**

2006

Naor-Rothblum  
Learning Adaptively Changing Distributions (ACDs)

## In this talk...

1.  $\nexists$  Infinitely Often OWF

“Adversaries can invert functions  
for all sufficiently large parameters”

$\nexists$  (standard) OWF  $\longrightarrow$  infinitely many size  $n$   
accuracy, confidence  $\leq 1/\text{poly}(n)$   
fixed as poly-time functions in  $n$

2. No details for the choices of parameters

I do not discuss confidence parameters so much

minimize  $K^{\text{your\_time}}(\text{the paper} \mid \text{this talk})$

# Learning ACDs in Pessiland

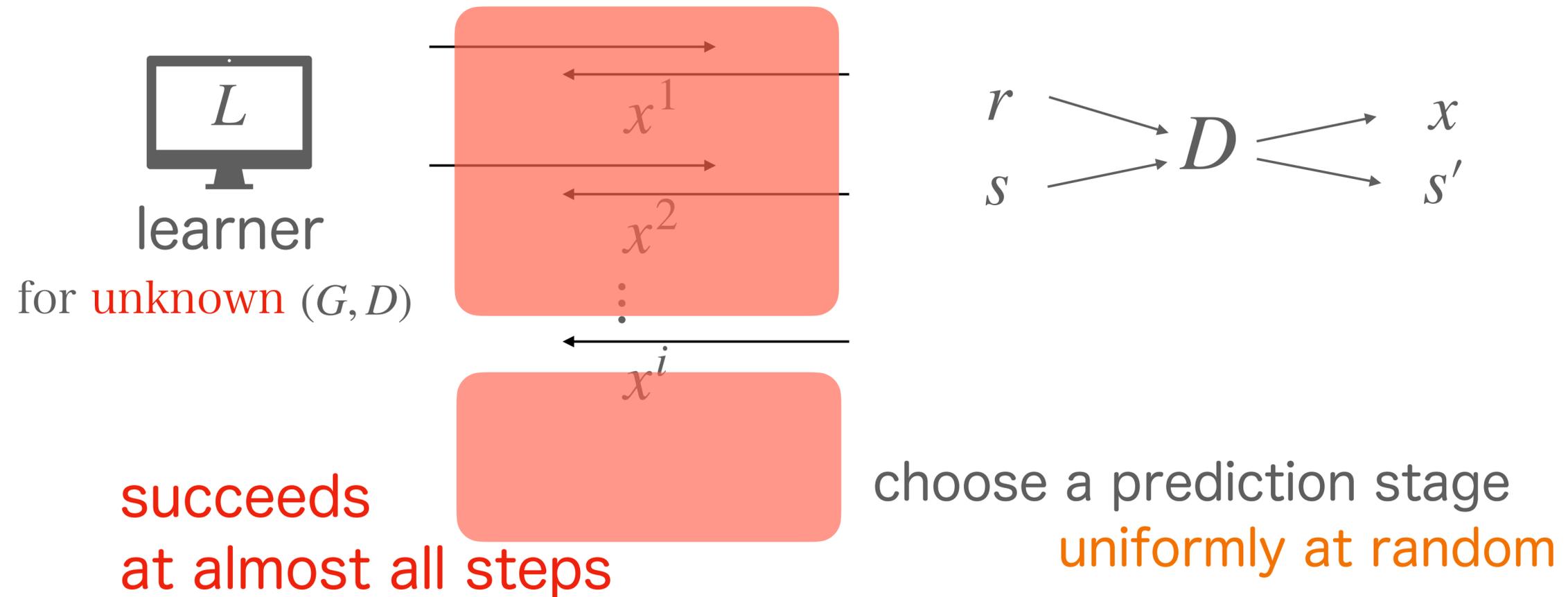
Q. Learning unknown ACDs ?

## Thm. 1

$\exists$ OWF iff  $\exists$  poly-time learner for all (**unknown**) ACDs  $(\mathcal{G}, D)$   
with sample complexity  $O(s\epsilon^{-2})$  for  $s$ -bit initial states and accuracy  $\epsilon$

improved from  $O(s\epsilon^{-4})$  [NR06]

How can we avoid the critical cases?



# Agnostic Learning in Pessiland

Q. Joint Distribution?

Q. Agnostic Learning ?

## Thm. 2

$\nexists$ OWF iff  $\exists$  poly-time agnostic learner for  $\mathcal{F} = \{f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\text{poly}(n)}\}$   
(with 0-1 loss)

(= learning by information theoretically optimal hypothesis)

on avg under a joint dist  $\mathcal{D}$  on samples, where  $\mathcal{D} \sim \mathcal{G}$ ,  $\mathcal{G}$  is samplable

with sample complexity  $O(s\epsilon^{-2})$  (for  $s = |\mathcal{D}|$ , accuracy  $\epsilon$ )

optimal in general

[Previous]

PAC

Separated Distributions

Binary Labels



[Ours]

Agnostic

Joint Distributions

Multi Labels

Improper learning  
(General Hypothesis)

# Improved Learning in Pessiland

$\nexists$ OWF  $\iff$  Worst-Case Learning

exp-time in Computational Depth of Secrets

$U$ : universal TM

$$K(x) = \min\{p \in \mathbb{N} : \exists \Pi \in \{0,1\}^p \text{ s.t. } U(\Pi) = x\}$$

$Q^t :=$  dist. of  $U(w)$  executed in  $t$  steps for  $w \sim \{0,1\}^t$

$$q^t(x) := -\log \Pr[x \sim Q^t]$$

$$q^t(x) \approx pK^{t'}(x) \text{ introduced in [GKLO22]}$$

$$cd^t(x) := q^t(x) - K(x)$$

$$\approx pK^{t'}(x) - pK^\infty(x)$$

$$pK^{\text{poly}(t)}(x) \lesssim q^t(x) \quad \text{Optimal coding [LOZ22]}$$

$$pK^t(x) \gtrsim q^{\text{poly}(t)}(x) \quad \text{Domination}$$

## Slow Growth Law

for any samplable distribution  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathcal{D}_n\}$

$$cd^{\text{poly}}(x) = O(\log n) \text{ w.h.p. } x \sim \mathcal{D}_n$$

$$x \longrightarrow \boxed{M:\text{PPT}} \longrightarrow x'$$

$$cd^{O(t+\text{time}_M)}(x') \lesssim cd^t(x) \text{ w.h.p.}$$

# Improved Learning in Pessiland

$\nexists$ OWF  $\iff$  Worst-Case Learning  
exp-time in Computational Depth of Secrets

## Thm. 3

The following are equivalent:

1.  $\nexists$  OWF
2. learning unknown ACDs in time  $\text{poly}(n, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{\text{cd}^t(s_0)})$ , where  $s_0$  is initial state  
(worst case on initial states)
3. agnostic learning on unknown joint dists  $\mathcal{D}$  over samples  
in time  $\text{poly}(n, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{\text{cd}^t(|\mathcal{D}|)})$   
(worst case on joint distributions over samples)

**Note** Thm1 & 2 are implied by Thm3

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# Our Approach

**Step I** State “Universal Extrapolation” **formally**

**Step II** Translate “Universal Extrapolation” into Learning

# Our Approach

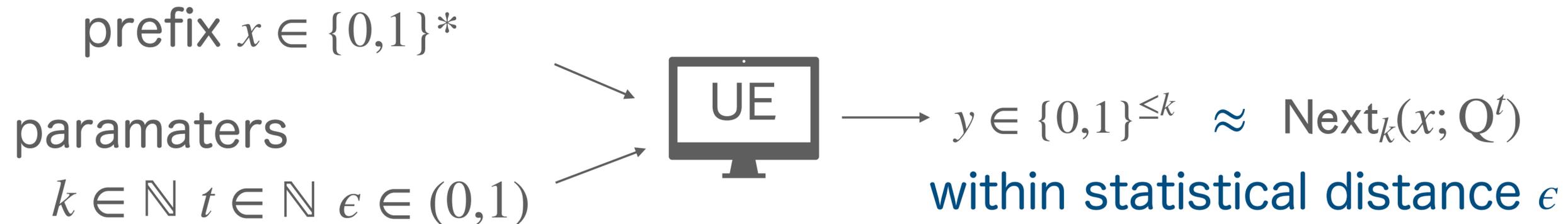
**Step I** State “Universal Extrapolation” **formally**

**Step II** Translate “Universal Extrapolation” into Learning

# Formulating Universal Extrapolation

**Our Proposal**    Universal Extrapolation = Extrapolation under  $Q^t$   
(Time-Bounded Universal Distribution)

Notation    distribution  $\mathcal{D}$     prefix  $x \in \{0,1\}^*$      $k \in \mathbb{N}$   
 $\text{Next}_k(x; \mathcal{D})$  = distribution of  $k$  bits following  $x$  w.r.t.  $\mathcal{D}$

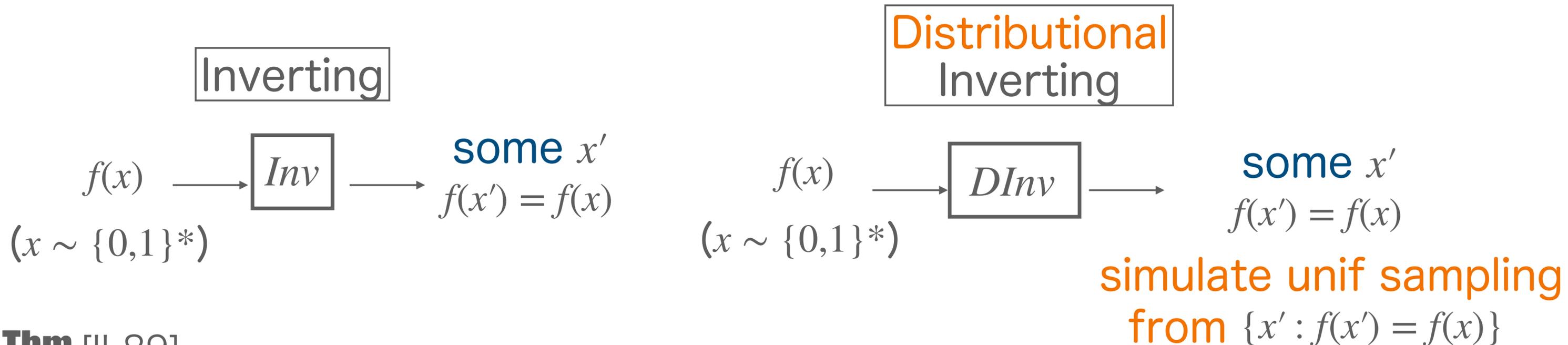


**Lemma** (informal)  $\nexists$  (io)OWF  $\implies \exists$  UE that works in worst case on  $x$   
in time  $\text{poly}(|x|, k, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{\text{cd}^t(x)})$

(UE is given  $2^\alpha$  (in unary) and works for every  $x$  with  $\text{cd}^t(x) < \alpha$ )

**Lemma** (informal)  $\nexists$  (io)OWF  $\implies \exists$  UE that works in worst case on  $x$   
in time  $\text{poly}(|x|, k, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{cd^t(x)})$

## Distributional Inverting



**Thm** [IL89]

$\nexists$  (io)OWF  $\implies$  for every poly-time function  $f = \{f_n\}$

$\exists DInv : \text{PPT}$  s.t.  $\forall n, \epsilon^{-1}, \delta^{-1} \in \mathbb{N}$

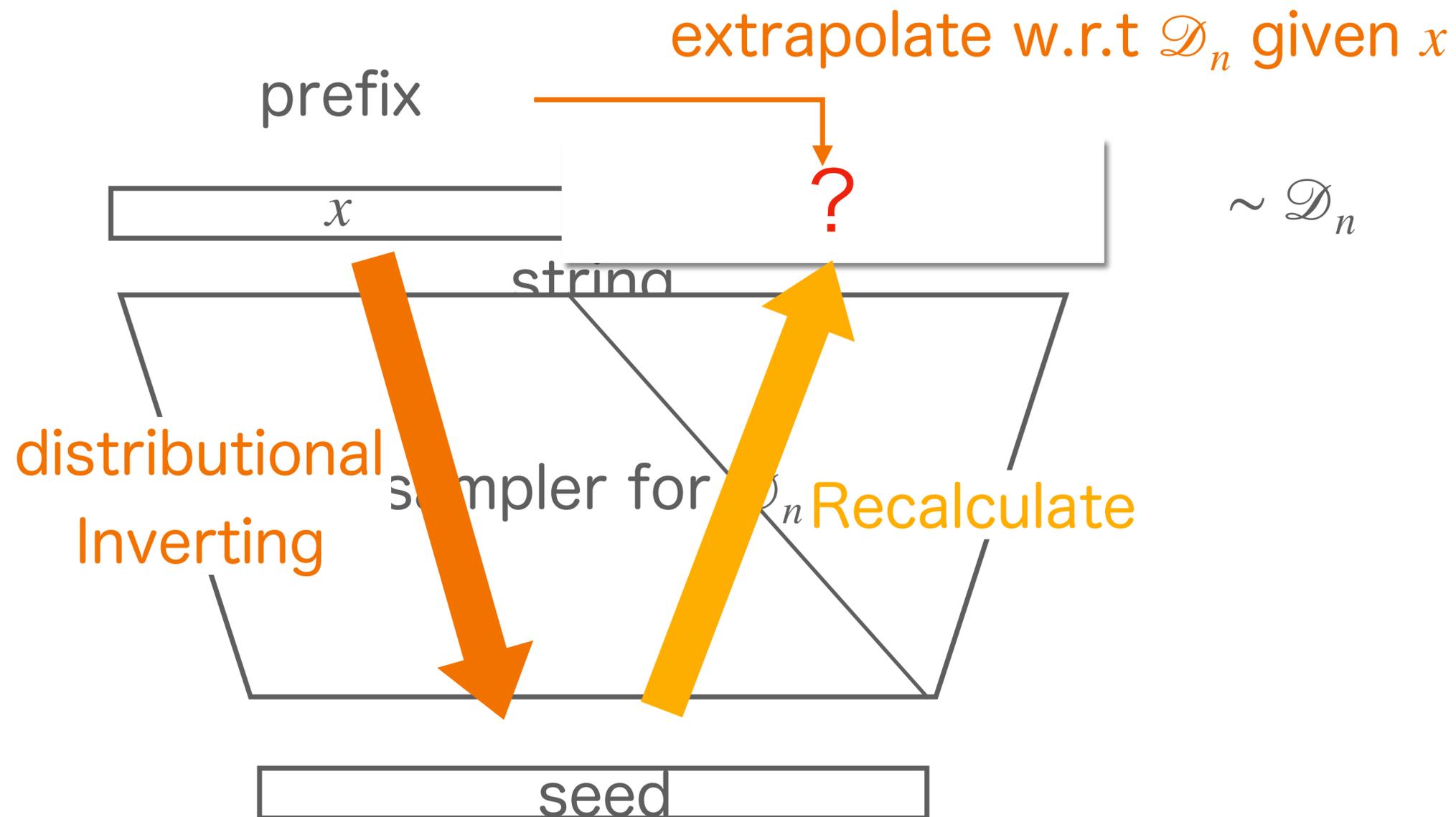
$$\Delta_{TV} \left( DInv(f_n(x); 1^n, 1^{\epsilon^{-1}}, 1^{\delta^{-1}}), \text{Unif over } f_n^{-1}(f_n(x)) \right) \leq \epsilon$$

w.p.  $\geq 1 - \delta$  over  $x \sim \{0,1\}^{\text{poly}(n)}$

**Lemma** (informal)  $\nexists$  (io)OWF  $\implies \exists$  UE that works in worst case on  $x$   
in time  $\text{poly}(|x|, k, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{cd^t(x)})$

**Distributional Inverting  $\rightarrow$  Distribution-Specific Extrapolation** [Ost91, OW93, NR06, ...]

$\mathcal{D} = \{\mathcal{D}_n\}$  samplable distribution



**Lemma** (informal)  $\nexists$  (io)OWF  $\implies \exists$  UE that works in worst case on  $x$   
in time  $\text{poly}(|x|, k, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{\text{cd}^t(x)})$

**Distribution-Specific Extrapolation for  $Q^t$**

$\exists$  UE' : PPT s.t.  $\forall t, \ell, k, \epsilon^{-1}, \delta^{-1} \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\Delta_{TV} \left( \text{UE}'(x), \text{Next}_k(x; Q^t) \right) \leq \epsilon \quad \text{w.p. } \geq 1 - \delta \text{ over } x \sim Q_{\leq \ell}^t$$

the first  $\ell$  bits  
of  $Q^t$

Based on [AF09]  $E := E_{t, \ell, k, \epsilon, \delta} = \left\{ x : \Delta_{TV} \left( \text{UE}'(x), \text{Next}_k(x; Q^t) \right) > \epsilon \right\}$  error set

$\delta := 2^{-\alpha}$  Goal:  $x \in E \implies \text{cd}^t(x) \geq \alpha - O(\log t \ell k \epsilon^{-1} \alpha)$

$$2^{-\alpha} \geq \sum_{x \in E} \Pr[x \sim Q_{\leq \ell}^t] \geq \sum_{x \in E} \Pr[x \sim Q^t] \quad \sum_{x \in E} \frac{2^\alpha \Pr[x \sim Q^t]}{\text{computable given UE' \& parameters}} \leq 1$$

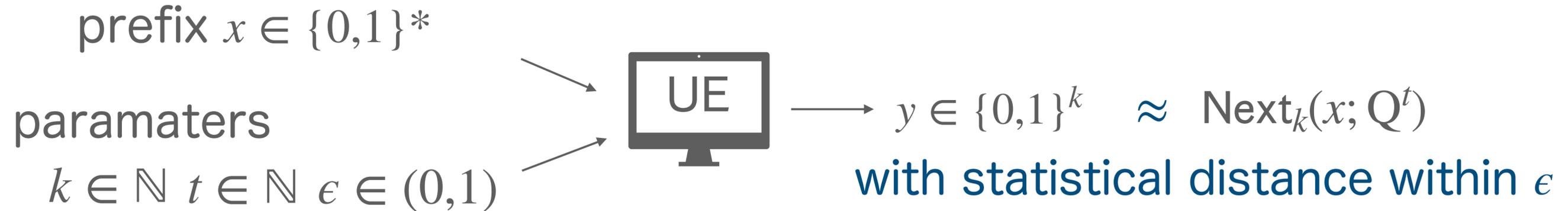
inefficiently computable distribution  $\{\mathcal{E}_{t, \ell, k, \epsilon, \delta}\}$   $\forall x \in E \Pr[x \sim \mathcal{E}] = 2^\alpha \Pr[x \sim Q^t]$

$\forall x \in E \quad K(x) \leq -\log \Pr[x \sim \mathcal{E}] + O(\log t \ell k \epsilon \alpha)$  optimal coding

$$= -\alpha + \underbrace{(-\log \Pr[x \sim Q^t])}_{q^t(x)} + O(\log t \ell k \epsilon \alpha)$$

# Step 1: Summary

**Our Proposal**    Universal Extrapolation = Extrapolation under  $Q^t$   
(Time-Bounded Universal Distribution)

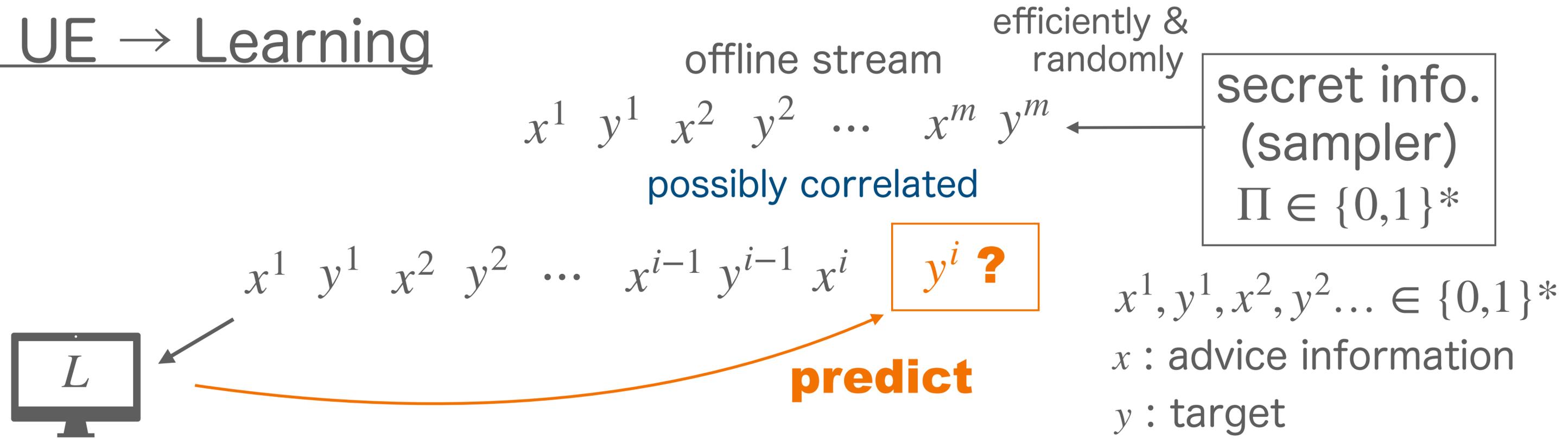


**Lemma** (informal)  $\nexists$  (io)OWF  $\implies \exists$  UE that works in worst case on  $x$   
in time  $\text{poly}(|x|, k, t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{cd^t(x)})$   
(UE is given  $2^\alpha$  (in unary) and works for every  $x$  with  $cd^t(x) < \alpha$ )

**Proof**    Use Distributional Inverter for  $Q^t$

**Q. How can we obtain learners (e.g., agnostic learners)?**

# Step2 UE $\rightarrow$ Learning



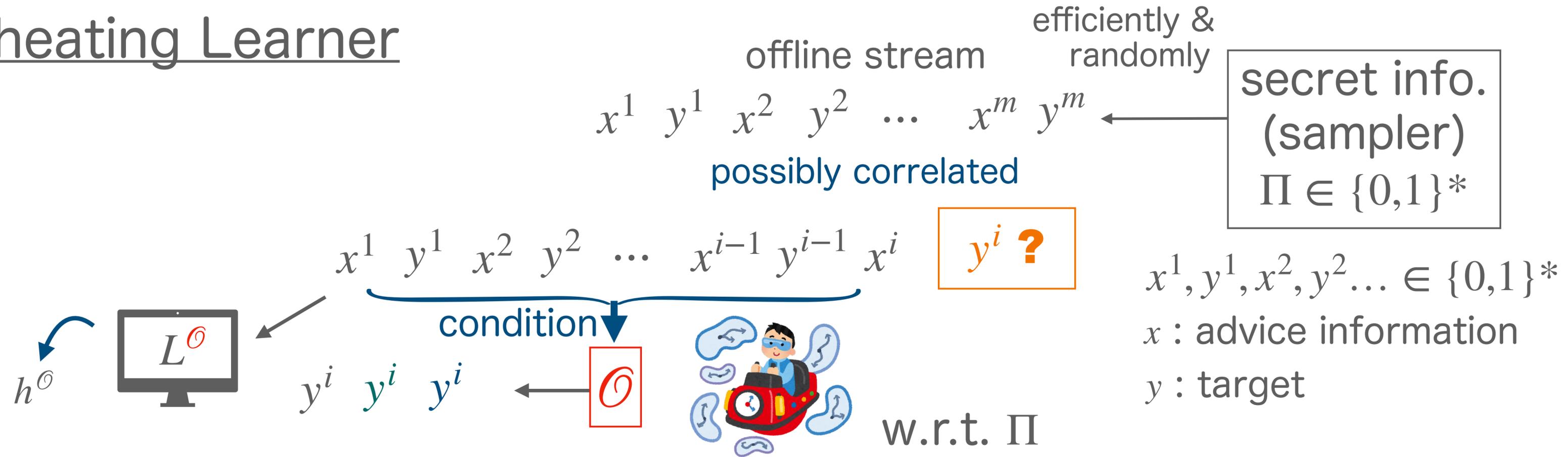
**EX.** learning ACDs

$\Pi \approx$  initial state  $x$  : empty  $y$  : sample  
 simulate the distribution of  $y^i$

agnostic learning  
 (with 0-1 loss)

$\Pi \approx$  joint distribution over samples  
 $x$  : example  $y$  : label  
 answer the best possible  $y^i$

# Cheating Learner



**EX.** learning ACDs

agnostic learning  
(with 0-1 loss)

$\Pi \approx$  initial state  $x$  : empty  $y$  : sample

simulate the distribution of  $y^i$

✓ by outputting  $y^i \sim \mathcal{O}$

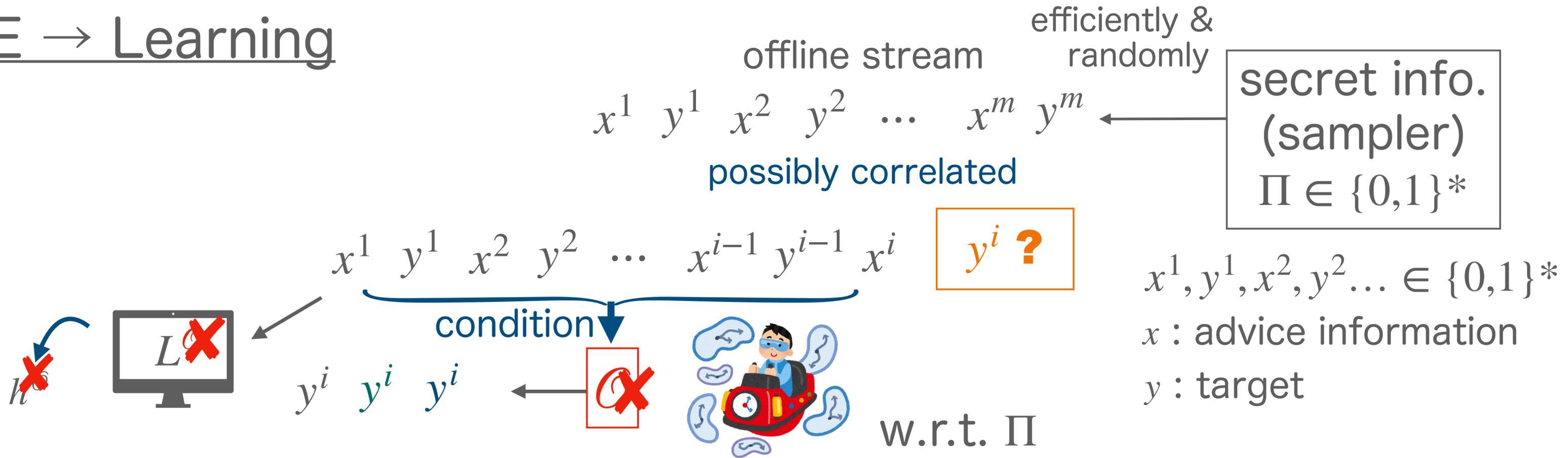
$\Pi \approx$  joint distribution over samples

$x$  : example  $y$  : label

answer the best possible  $y^i$

✓ by collecting  $y^i, y^i, \dots \sim \mathcal{O}$

# UE → Learning



**Q. Why?**

$\approx$  w.h.p. when  $i \sim [m]$   
 for statistical distance within  $\epsilon$   
 $m = O(|\Pi| \epsilon^{-2})$

learning ACDs ✔ agnostic learning (with 0-1 loss) ✔

sample complexity: linear in  $|\Pi|$       time complexity: exp in  $|\Pi|$

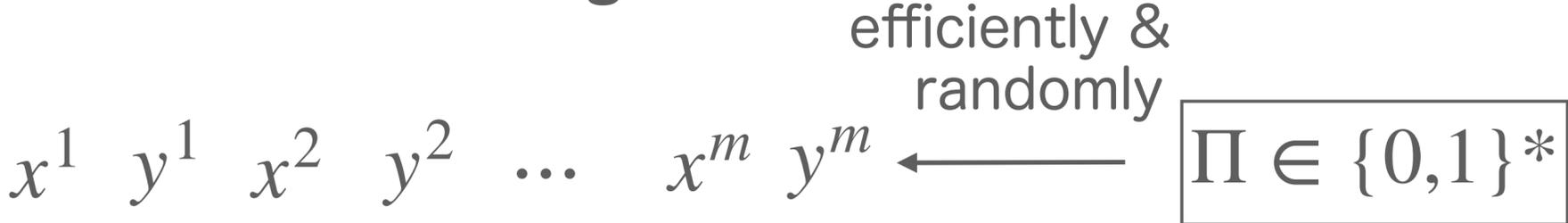
# Solomonoff's Inductive Inference [Sol64, LV19]

When extrapolating symbols, attach a higher probability for a more precise hypothesis, particularly, with an exponential rate on the description size

$$q^{\text{poly}}(\cdot | \cdot) \text{ or } pK^{\text{poly}}(\cdot | \cdot)$$

( $\because 2^{-q^{\text{poly}}} = Q^{\text{poly}}$ ) by conditional coding [HILNO23]

## Domination + Chain Rule for KL divergence



When  $t \gg \text{time}(\Pi)$

$$\Pr [x^1 y^1 \dots x^m y^m \sim Q^t] \geq 2^{-O(|\Pi|)} \Pr [x^1 y^1 \dots x^m y^m \sim \Pi] \quad \text{(Domination)}$$

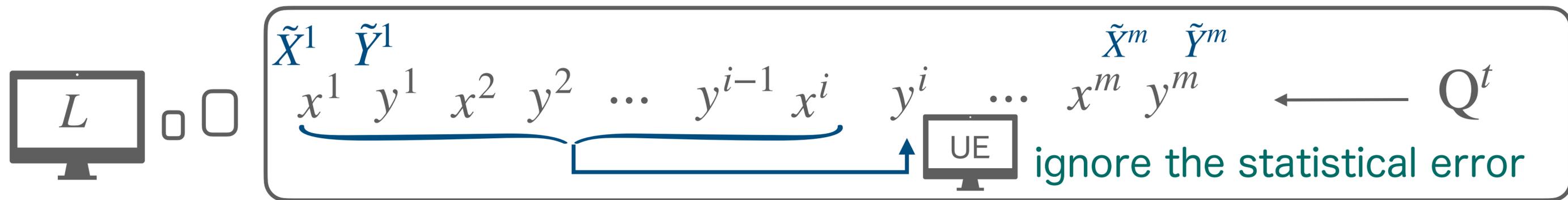
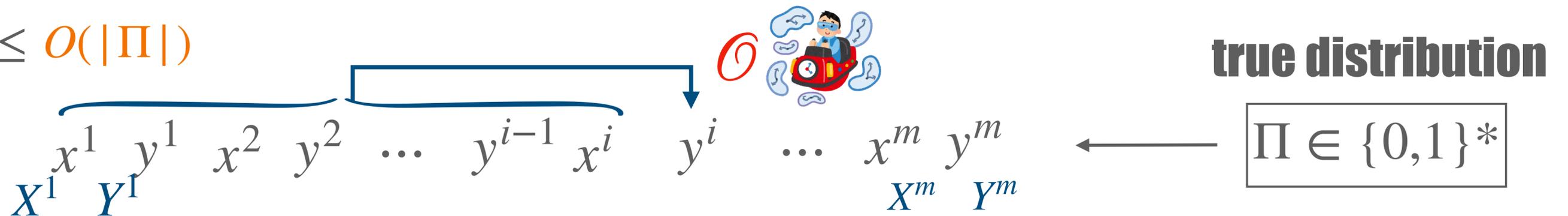
$$\log \frac{\Pr [x^1 y^1 \dots x^m y^m \sim \Pi]}{\Pr [x^1 y^1 \dots x^m y^m \sim Q^t]} \leq O(|\Pi|)$$

Taking the expectation over  $x^1, y^1, \dots, x^m, y^m \sim \Pi$

$$\text{KL}(\Pi \parallel Q^t) \leq O(|\Pi|)$$

# Solomonoff's Inductive Inference [Sol64, LV19]

$$\text{KL}(\Pi \parallel Q^t) \leq O(|\Pi|)$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 O(|\Pi|) &\geq \text{KL} \left( X^1 Y^1 \dots X^m Y^m \parallel \tilde{X}^1 \tilde{Y}^1 \dots \tilde{X}^m \tilde{Y}^m \right) \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^m \text{KL} \left( (Y^i \mid X^1 Y^1 \dots Y^{i-1} X^i) \parallel (\tilde{Y}^i \mid \tilde{X}^1 \tilde{Y}^1 \dots \tilde{Y}^{i-1} \tilde{X}^i) \right) && \text{(Chain Rule)} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^m \text{KL} \left( (X^i \mid X^1 Y^1 \dots X^{i-1} Y^{i-1}) \parallel (\tilde{X}^i \mid \tilde{X}^1 \tilde{Y}^1 \dots \tilde{X}^{i-1} \tilde{Y}^{i-1}) \right) \\
 &\geq \sum_{i=1}^m \text{KL} \left( (Y^i \mid X^1 Y^1 \dots Y^{i-1} X^i) \parallel (\tilde{Y}^i \mid \tilde{X}^1 \tilde{Y}^1 \dots \tilde{Y}^{i-1} \tilde{X}^i) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$



$i$



$i$

# Solomonoff's Inductive Inference [Sol64, LV19]

$$O(|\Pi|) \geq \sum_{i=1}^m \text{KL}(\text{🧠}_i \parallel \text{🖥️}_{i, \text{UE}})$$

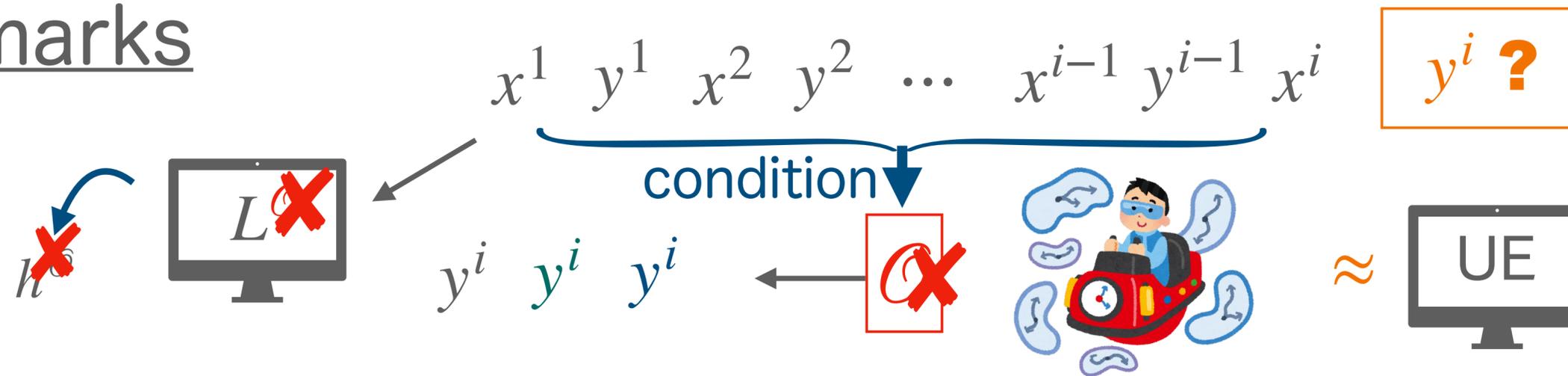
$$\frac{O(|\Pi|)}{m} \geq \mathbb{E}_{i \sim [m]}[\text{KL}(\text{🧠}_i \parallel \text{🖥️}_{i, \text{UE}})]$$

$$m \gg \frac{|\Pi|}{\epsilon^2} \implies \mathbb{E}_{i \sim [m]}[\text{KL}(\text{🧠}_i \parallel \text{🖥️}_{i, \text{UE}})] \ll \epsilon^2$$

**(Markov)**  $\text{KL}(\text{🧠}_i \parallel \text{🖥️}_{i, \text{UE}}) \ll \epsilon^2$  w.h.p. over  $i \sim [m]$

**(Pinsker)**  $\Delta_{TV}(\text{🧠}_i, \text{🖥️}_{i, \text{UE}}) \leq \epsilon$  w.h.p. over  $i \sim [m]$

# Remarks



Tasks poly-time cheating learners can do  
= Tasks poly-time learners can do with UE

Not sample optimal in agnostic learning

**Why?** accuracy  $\longrightarrow$  query complexity of cheating learner

for optimal sample complexity

Extend universal prediction [MF98] to computational cases  
(statistical cases)

Backgrounds

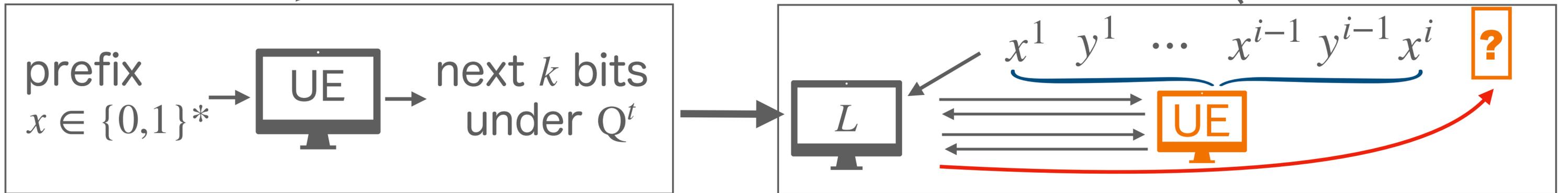
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# Summary

$\nexists$ OWF  $\implies$  Learning



## Thm.

The following are equivalent:

1.  $\nexists$  OWF
2. learning unknown ACDs in time  $\text{poly}(t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{cd^t(s_0)})$ , where  $s_0$  is initial state
3. agnostic learning on unknown joint dists  $\mathcal{D}$  over samples  
in time  $\text{poly}(t, \epsilon^{-1}, 2^{cd^t(|\mathcal{D}|)})$

Q. weakest assumption for learning in time  $\text{poly}(cd)$ ? AOWF or HSG or ...?