



# Time-Bounded Universal Distributions

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## Abstract

We show that under a reasonable hardness assumptions, the time-bounded Kolmogorov distribution is a universal samplable distribution. Under the same assumption we exactly characterize the worst-case running time of languages that are in average polynomial-time over all P-samplable distributions.

## 1 Introduction

Leonid Levin [Lev73] considered a semi-measure defined by  $\mu(x) = 2^{-K(x)}$  where  $K(x)$  is the prefix-free Kolmogorov complexity of  $x$ . Levin showed that  $\mu(x)$  is universal among the semi-computable semi-measures.

In this paper we consider the time-bounded variation  $\mu^t(x) = 2^{-K^t(x)}$ . This measure seems to sit somewhere between the polynomial-time computable and polynomial-time samplable distributions. We show that under reasonable hardness assumptions  $\mu^t(x)$  is universal among the polynomial-time samplable distributions, specifically

1. For any polynomial  $p$ , there is a polynomial-time samplable distribution  $\tau$  and a constant  $c$  such that  $\tau(x) \geq c\mu^p(x)$  for every  $x$ .
2. If  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{DTIME}(2^{O(n)})$  does not have size  $2^{o(n)}$  circuits with  $\Sigma_2^p$  gates then for every polynomial-time samplable distribution  $\tau$  there is a polynomial  $p$  such that  $\mu^p(x) \geq p(|x|)\tau(x)$ .

The first item was proved earlier by Antunes, Fortnow and Vinodchandran [AFV03]. Our paper focuses on proving the second item.

Building on Antunes, Fortnow and Vinodchandra [AFV03] we can characterize the worst-case running time of languages that run in average polynomial-time over the samplable distributions. We show that if  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{DTIME}(2^{O(n)})$  does not have size  $2^{o(n)}$  circuits with  $\Sigma_2^p$  gates then the following are equivalent for all languages  $L$ .

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1.  $L$  is polynomial-time on  $\sigma$ -average for all polynomial-time samplable  $\sigma$ .
2. For all polynomials  $p$ , there is an algorithm computing the language  $L$  using time  $t(x) = 2^{O(K^p(x) - K(x) + \log|x|)}$ .

Our proof techniques use recent advances in pseudorandom generators based on hard functions, specifically the work of Nisan and Wigderson [NW94], Impagliazzo and Wigderson [IW97] and Klivans and van Melkebeek [KvM99].

## 2 Preliminaries

We use binary alphabet  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$  for encoding strings. Our computation model will be *prefix free* Turing machines: Turing machines with a one-way input tape (the input head can only read from left to right), a one-way output tape and a two-way work tape. The function  $\log$  denote  $\log_2$ . All explicit resource bounds we use in this paper are time-constructible.

### 2.1 Kolmogorov Complexity

We give essential definitions and basic result in Kolmogorov complexity and refer the reader to the textbook by Li and Vitányi [LV97] for more details. We are interested in self-delimiting Kolmogorov complexity. A set of strings  $A$  is prefix-free if there are no strings  $x$  and  $y$  in  $A$  where  $x$  is a proper prefix of  $y$ .

**Definition 2.1** *Let  $U$  be a fixed Turing machine with a prefix-free domain. Then for any string  $x, y \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , the Kolmogorov complexity of  $x$  given  $y$  is,  $K(x|y) = \min_p\{|p| : U(p, y) = x\}$ .*

*For any time constructible  $t$ , the  $t$ -time-bounded Kolmogorov complexity of  $x$  given  $y$  is,  $K^t(x|y) = \min\{|p| : U(p, y) = x \text{ in at most } t(|x|) \text{ steps}\}$ .*

The default value for  $y$  is the empty string  $\epsilon$ , we typically drop this argument in the notation. We can fix a universal machine  $U$  whose program size  $|p|$  is at most a constant additive factor worse, and the running time  $t$  at most a logarithmic multiplicative factor.

A function  $f : S \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called a *semi-measure* over the space  $S$  if

$$\sum_x f(x) \leq 1$$

It is called a *measure* if equality holds. A semi-measure is called *constructive* if it is semi-computable from below, i.e., there is a computable function  $g(x, t)$  monotone in  $t$  such that  $f(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} g(x, t)$ .

A constructive semi-measure which multiplicatively dominates every other constructive semi-measure is called *universal*. In the unbounded case, an enumeration  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots$  of r.e., semi-measures can be used to define a universal semi-measure  $\mathbf{m}$ . For all  $x \in \Sigma^*$  let

$$\mathbf{m}(x) = \sum_n \alpha(n) \times \mu_n(x)$$

where  $\alpha$  is some function such that  $\sum_n \alpha(n) \leq 1$ .

We can use Kolmogorov complexity to define a semi-measure.

**Definition 2.2** *The algorithmic probability  $R(x)$  of a string  $x$  is defined as*

$$R(x) = 2^{-K(x)}.$$

$R(x)$  is a semi-measure because of Kraft's inequality that states that  $\sum_{y \in A} 2^{-|y|} \leq 1$  for any prefix-free set  $A$ .

The a priori probability, based on the set of all programs producing a string  $x$ , can be thought as the probability that the universal Turing machine computes the output  $x$  if its input is provided by successive tosses of a fair coin.

**Definition 2.3** *The a priori probability  $Q(x)$  of a string  $x$  is defined as*

$$Q(x) = \sum_p 2^{-|p|}$$

where  $p$  ranges over all strings such that  $U(p) = x$  but  $U(p')$  does not stop for any prefix  $p'$  of  $p$ .

Levin [Lev74] and Gács [Gac74], showed that the universal distribution coincides up to a multiplicative factor with the algorithmic probability or the a priori probability. So, if  $x$  has high probability because it has many long descriptions then it must have a short description too.

**Theorem 2.4 (Coding Theorem)** *There is a constant  $c$  such that for every  $x$ ,*

$$-\log \mathbf{m}(x) = -\log Q(x) = -\log R(x)$$

with equality up to an additive constant  $c$

The question whether a similar result holds in the time bound setting is open. It is not known if there exist strings having no small fast programs, even though they have enough large fast programs to contribute a significant fraction of their algorithmic probability.

The definition of the  $t$ -time bounded universal distribution based on the Kolmogorov complexity is controversial, some authors define it as  $R^t(x)$  and others as  $Q^t(x)$ . We define it as:

**Definition 2.5** *The  $t$ -time bounded universal distribution,  $\mathbf{m}^t$  is given by  $\mathbf{m}^t(x) = 2^{-K^t(x)}$ .*

## 2.2 P-Computable and P-Samplable distributions

Usually simple distributions are identified with the polynomial-time computable distributions.

**Definition 2.6** *Let  $t$  be a time constructible function. A probability distribution function  $\mu$  on  $\{0, 1\}^*$  is said to be  $t$ -time computable, if there is a deterministic Turing machine that on every input  $x$  and a positive integer  $k$ , runs in time  $t(|x| + k)$ , and outputs a fraction  $y$  such that  $|\mu^*(x) - y| \leq 2^{-k}$ .*

The most controversial definition in the average case complexity theory is the association of the class of *simple* distributions with P-computable, which may seem too restricting. Ben-David *et al.* in [BDCGL92] introduced a wider family of natural distributions, P-samplable, consisting of distributions that can be sampled by randomized algorithms, working in time polynomial in the length of the sample generated.

**Definition 2.7** A probability distribution  $\mu$  on  $\{0, 1\}^*$  is said to be P-samplable, if there is a probabilistic Turing machine  $M$  which on input  $0^k$  produces a string  $x$  such that  $|\Pr(M(0^k) = x) - \mu(x)| \leq 2^{-k}$  and  $M$  runs in time  $\text{poly}(|x| + k)$ .

Every P-computable distribution is also P-samplable, however the converse is unlikely.

**Theorem 2.8 ([BDCGL92])** If one-way functions exist, then there is a P-samplable probability distribution  $\mu$  which is not dominated by any polynomial-time computable probability distribution  $\nu$ .

One important property of  $\mathbf{m}^t$  is that it dominates certain computable distributions.

**Theorem 2.9 ([LV97])**  $\mathbf{m}^t$  dominates any  $t/n$ -time computable distribution.

It is then natural to ask if there exists a polynomial-time computable distribution dominating  $\mathbf{m}^t$ . Schuler [Sch99] showed that if such a distribution exists then no polynomially secure pseudo-random generator exists.

**Theorem 2.10 ([Sch99])** If there exists a polynomial time computable distribution that dominates  $\mathbf{m}^t$  then pseudo-random generators do not exist.

While, it is unlikely that there are polynomial-time computable distributions dominating universal distributions, there are P-samplable distributions dominating the time-bounded universal distributions.

**Theorem 2.11 ([AFV03])** For any polynomial  $t$ , there is a P-samplable distribution  $\mu$  which dominates  $\mathbf{m}^t$ .

*Proof.* (Sketch) We will define a samplable distribution  $\mu_t$  by prescribing a sampling algorithm for  $\mu_t$  as follows. Let  $U$  be the universal machine.

Sample  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  with probability  $\frac{1}{n^2}$   
 Sample  $1 \leq j \leq n$  with probability  $1/n$   
 Sample uniformly  $y \in \Sigma^j$   
 Run  $U(y)$  for  $t$  steps. If  $U$  stops and outputs a string  $x \in \Sigma^n$ , output  $x$ .

For any string  $x$  of length  $n$ ,  $K^t(x) \leq n$ . Hence it is clear that the probability that  $x$  is at least  $\frac{1}{n^3} 2^{-K^t(x)}$ .  $\diamond$

## 2.3 Pseudo-random Generators

Pseudo-random generators are efficiently computable functions which stretch a seed into a long string so that for a random input the output looks random for a resource-bounded machine. We need some pseudorandom generators based on hard functions.

**Definition 2.12** Given a Boolean function  $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and an oracle  $B$ , the circuit complexity of  $C_f^B(n)$  of  $f$  at length  $n$  relative to  $B$ , is the smallest integer  $t$  such that there is a  $B$ -oracle circuit of size  $t$  that computes  $f$  on inputs of length  $n$ .

**Definition 2.13** The hardness  $H_f^B(n)$  of  $f$  at length  $n$  relative to  $B$  is the largest integer  $t$  such that, for any oracle circuit  $D$  of size at most  $t$  with  $n$  inputs

$$|\Pr_{x \in U_n}[D^B(x) = f(x)] - 1/2| < 1/t$$

Using the hardness of the parity function [Has87], Nisan and Wigderson [NW94] create a pseudo-random generator that looks random to constant depth circuits.

**Lemma 2.14 (Nisan-Wigderson)** For any fixed non-negative integer  $d$ , there exists a family of generators  $\{G_0, G_1, \dots\}$  with the following properties:

- $G_n$  maps strings of length  $u$  polynomial in  $\log n$  to strings of length  $n$ .
- For any circuit  $D$  of depth  $d$  and size  $n$ , we have

$$\left| \Pr_{\rho \in \{0,1\}^n}[D(\rho)] - \Pr_{\sigma \in \{0,1\}^u}[D(G_n(\sigma))] \right| < 1/n.$$

- Each output bit of  $G_n$  is computable in time polynomial in  $\log n$ .

Impagliazzo and Wigderson [IW97] strengthen the work of Nisan and Wigderson to show how to achieve full derandomization based on strong hardness assumptions. Klivans and van Melkebeek [KvM99] generalize Impagliazzo-Wigderson by showing the results hold for relativized worlds in a strong way.

**Lemma 2.15 (Klivans-van Melkbeek)** There exists a positive constant  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  such that, for any oracle  $B$ , Boolean function  $f$ , and a constructible function  $h : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  satisfying

$$h(n) \leq (C_f^B(\gamma n))^\delta / n$$

the following holds: There exists a Boolean function  $g$  such that  $H_g^B \geq h(n)$ . Computing  $g$  on inputs of length  $n$  takes time  $2^{O(n)}$  plus evaluating  $f$  on all inputs of length  $\gamma n$ .

### 3 Main Result

In this section we show that the polynomial time bounded coding theorem holds up to a *polynomial factor*. We start showing that under a reasonable assumption the following hypothesis holds:

**Hypothesis 3.1** Consider  $F : \Sigma^m \rightarrow \Sigma^n$ ,  $n \geq m$  and  $F \in \text{FP}$ . Let  $T_y = \{x \in \Sigma^m : F(x) = y\}$ ,  $r = 2^{\lceil \log |T_y| \rceil}$  and  $V_r = \{T_z : |z| = n \text{ and } |T_z| \geq r\}$ . Then there exists a pseudo-random generator  $G$  computable in time polynomial in  $m$

$$G : \Sigma^{m - \log(r) + O(\log(n))} \rightarrow \Sigma^m$$

such that for all  $T_y \in V_r$ ,  $\text{range}(G) \cap T_y \neq \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 3.2** If there exists a language in  $\text{DTIME}(2^n)$  that does not have  $2^{o(n)}$ -size circuits with  $\Sigma_2$ -gates then Hypothesis 3.1 holds.

The proof is done in two steps:

1. show that a random  $G$  satisfies Hypothesis 3.1.
2. derandomize. First applying Lemma 2.14 from exponential to polynomial, and then Lemma 2.15 from polynomial to logarithmic.

*Proof.*

Let  $r = 2^{\lceil \log |T_y| \rceil}$ , and consider a partition of  $\Sigma^m$  induced by the set  $V_r$  into  $\frac{2^m}{r}$  pieces. By a coupon collector argument, in average, we need  $\frac{2^m}{r} \log(\frac{2^m}{r})$  rounds in order to hit all of the  $T_z$ 's. But

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2^m}{r} \log\left(\frac{2^m}{r}\right) &\leq \frac{2^m}{r} \log 2^m \\ &= \frac{m2^m}{r} \\ &\leq \frac{n2^m}{r} \\ &= 2^{m+O(\log n)-\log r} \end{aligned}$$

So, with high probability a random  $G : \Sigma^{m-\log(r)+O(\log(n))} \rightarrow \Sigma^m$  hit all the  $\frac{2^m}{r}$  sets  $T_z$ 's.

To complete the proof we show that for all  $y$ ,  $T_y$  is too small or exists  $s$  such that  $F(G(s)) = y$ .

- if  $|T_y|$  is too small ( $|T_y| \ll 2^r$ ) we can approximate it.

**Lemma 3.3 ([Sip83])** *Given  $b, k, l > 0$ ,  $l > \max(b, 8)$ , and  $C \subseteq \Sigma^k$ . Randomly, select  $l$  linear functions  $H = \{h_1, \dots, h_l\}$ ,  $h_i : \Sigma^k \rightarrow \Sigma^b$  and  $l^2$  strings  $Z = \{z_1, \dots, z_{l^2}\} \subseteq \Sigma^b$ . Then:*

1. If  $b = 2 + \lceil \log |C| \rceil$  then
  - (a)  $Pr[H(C) \geq \frac{|C|}{l}] \geq 1 - 2^{-l}$ .
  - (b)  $Pr[H(C) \cap Z \neq \emptyset] \geq 1 - 2^{l/8}$ .
2. (a)  $|H(C)| \leq l|C|$ .
  - (b)  $Pr[H(C) \cap Z \neq \emptyset] \leq l^3/d$ .

Pick  $2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{6}}$  independent random hash functions  $f_1, \dots, f_{2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{6}}} : \Sigma^m \rightarrow \Sigma^r$  and the  $2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{3}}$  points  $z_i$   $1 \leq z_i \leq 2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{3}}$  in  $\Sigma^r$ . If exists an  $x \in T_y$  such that  $f_i(x) = z_j$  for some  $i, j$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{6}}$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{3}}$  then the set is big, otherwise it is small. Now by Lemma 3.3 we have:

- if  $|T_y| \geq 2^r$  then the probability of consider it small is  $\leq 2^{-\frac{2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{6}}}{8}}$ .
- if  $|T_y| \leq \frac{2^r}{2^{\epsilon r}} = 2^{r(1-\epsilon)}$  then the probability of consider it small is  $\geq 1 - \frac{2^{\frac{\epsilon r}{2}}}{2^{\epsilon r}} = 1 - 2^{-\frac{\epsilon r}{2}}$ .

- Exists  $s$  such that  $F(G(s)) = y$ .

$G$  as a random string has length  $\frac{m \times n^{O(1)}}{r^{O(1)}} 2^m$ , but we cannot afford  $\log\left(\frac{m \times n^{O(1)}}{r^{O(1)}} 2^m\right)$  bits to describe the seed. However, we can compose the generator in Lemma 2.15, logarithmic to polynomial, with the generator in Lemma 2.14, polynomial to exponential, so we can derandomize.

- Lemma 2.14: computed by a constant depth circuit of size  $2^{2^{m^{O(1)}}}$ , namely as follows. For each string  $y$  of length  $n$ , we have to verify that  $T_y$  is too small or exists an  $s \in \Sigma^{m - \log r + O(\log n)}$  such that  $F(G(s)) = y$ . Since  $F \in \mathbf{FP}$  and  $G$  is computable in time polynomial in  $m$  then  $F(G())$  is computable in time polynomial in  $m$ , say  $m^c$ . Such a computation can be expressed as an OR of  $2^{m - \log r + O(\log n)}$  AND's of size  $m^c$ .
- Lemma 2.15: recognized by circuits with  $\Sigma_2^P$ -oracle gates. The circuit just needs to ask the  $\Sigma_2^P$  oracle gate the  $s$  for a given  $y$  and verify that the  $s$  given produces a string  $p$  such that if we apply  $F(p) = y$ . This can be done efficiently because each bit of  $p$  can be computed from  $s$  in polynomial time and we can efficiently verify whether  $p$  produces  $y$ .

So, under hardness assumption in Lemma 2.15 there exists a efficient pseudo-random generator  $rIW$  with logarithmic seed length that fools  $\Sigma_2^P$  circuits of the required polynomial size, and then using Lemma 2.14 there exists an efficient pseudo-random generator  $NW$  to compute the description of  $G$  from  $rIW(s)$ .

The final description of  $G$  consists of, the seed  $s$  for  $rIW$  that is  $O(\log m)$ ,  $rIW(s)$  the seed for  $NW$  that is of size  $m + O(\log n) - O(\log r)$  and some  $O(\log n)$  bits to describe the parameters of  $rIW$  and  $NW$  pseudo-random generators, so at the end it requires  $m + O(\log n) - O(\log k)$  bits. We can compute  $G$  as the result of  $NW(rIW(s))$  and this computation takes time polynomial in  $n$ .

◇

We now state our main result

**Theorem 3.4** *If there exists a language in  $\mathbf{DTIME}(2^n)$  that does not have  $2^{o(n)}$ -size circuits with  $\Sigma_2$ -gates, then for all polynomials  $t$  there exists a polynomial  $t'$  such that for all  $x$ ,*

$$R^{t'}(x) \geq \frac{Q^t(x)}{\text{poly}(|x|)}.$$

*Proof.* Consider a universal Turing machine  $U : \Sigma^m \rightarrow \Sigma^n$  whose running time  $t$  is polynomial in  $n$ , i.e.,  $U^t$  is in  $\mathbf{FP}$ . For every  $y \in \Sigma^n$  let

$$T_y = \{p \in \Sigma^m : U^{t(n)}(p) = y\},$$

$r = 2^{\lceil \log |T_y| \rceil}$  and

$$V_r = \{T_z : |z| = n \text{ and } |T_z| \geq r\}$$

By construction  $T_y$  is in  $V_r$  and by Hypothesis 3.1 there exists a pseudo-random generator computable in time polynomial in  $n$  ( $t'(n)$ )

$$G : \Sigma^{m - \log r + O(\log n)} \rightarrow \Sigma^m$$

such that for all  $T_y \in V_r$ ,  $\text{range}(G) \cap T_y \neq \emptyset$ . Consider  $\sum_{p:U^t(p)=y} 2^{-|p|}$ , the length of the programs in the sum can not exceed  $t(n)$ , otherwise there will not be time to read the program. Fix  $m'$  that maximizes

$$Q_m^t(y) = \sum_{p:|p|=m, U^t(p)=y} 2^{-|p|} = \frac{|T_y|}{2^m}.$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} Q^t(y) &= \sum_{m=K^t(y)}^{t(n)} Q_m^t(y) \\ &\leq t(n)Q_{m'}^t(y) \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} R^{t'}(y) &= 2^{-K^{t'}(y)} \\ &\geq 2^{-m' - O(\log n) + \log r} \\ &= \frac{r}{2^{m'} \text{poly}(n)} \\ &= \frac{|T_y|}{2^{m'} \text{poly}(n)} \\ &= \frac{Q_{m'}^t(y)}{\text{poly}(n)} \\ &\geq \frac{t(n)Q^t(y)}{\text{poly}(n)} \end{aligned}$$

◇

A distribution is called universal if it multiplicatively dominates every other distribution in a given class, i.e., it represents the class. Based the previous result we show that  $R_q$  is, up to a polynomial multiplicative factor, a universal P-samplable distribution.

**Theorem 3.5** *If  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{DTIME}(2^{O(n)})$  does not have size  $2^{o(n)}$  circuits with  $\Sigma_2^P$  gates then for every polynomial-time samplable distribution  $\sigma$ , exists polynomials  $p$  and  $t$  such that  $\mathbf{m}^t(x) \geq \frac{\sigma(x)}{p(|x|)}$ .*

*Proof.* Consider a P-samplable distribution  $\sigma$ , and a string  $r$  such that  $\sigma(r) = x$  with  $|r| \leq |x|$ . Then

$$\mathbf{m}^t(x) = 2^{-K^t(x)} = \frac{\sum_{U^t(p)=x} 2^{-|p|}}{p(|x|)} \geq \frac{\sum_{\sigma(r)=x} 2^{-|r|}}{p(|x|)} = \frac{\sigma(x)}{p(|x|)}$$

◇

For a distribution  $\sigma$ , Levin [Lev86] defined a notion of polynomial-time on  $\sigma$ -average.

**Definition 3.6** *A language  $L$  is polynomial-time on  $\sigma$ -average if  $L$  is accepted by some machine  $M$  whose running time is  $t(x)$  and for some  $k$ ,*

$$\sum_{x \in \Sigma^*} \frac{t^{1/k}(x)}{|x|} \sigma(x) < \infty$$

With abuse of notation we say a time function  $t$  is polynomial-time on  $\sigma$ -average if it fulfills the above equation.

Given the hardness assumption we can characterize the worst-case running time for all languages that are polynomial-time on average on P-samplable distributions.

**Theorem 3.7** *If  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{DTIME}(2^{O(n)})$  does not have size  $2^{o(n)}$  circuits with  $\Sigma_2^P$  gates then,  $L$  is polynomial-time on  $\sigma$ -average for all P-samplable  $\sigma$  if and only if for all polynomials  $p$  the running time for some  $M(x)$  accepting  $L$  is  $2^{O(K^p(x)-K(x)+\log|x|)}$ .*

To prove Theorem 3.7 we need the following theorem due to Antunes, Fortnow and Vinodchandran [AFV03].

**Theorem 3.8 (Antunes-Fortnow-Vinodchandran)** *Let  $T$  be a constructible time bound. Then for any time constructible  $t$ , the following statements are equivalent.*

1.  $T(x) \in 2^{O(K^t(x)-K(x)+\log n)}$ .
2.  $T$  is polynomial time on  $\mathbf{m}^t$ -average.

We first need a lemma that if  $\sigma$  dominates  $\tau$  and  $t$  is polynomial time on  $\sigma$ -average then  $t$  is polynomial-time on  $\tau$  average.

**Lemma 3.9** *If there is a  $j$  such that for all  $x$ ,  $\sigma(x) \geq \tau(x)/|x|^j$  and  $t$  is polynomial time on  $\sigma$ -average then  $t$  is polynomial-time on  $\tau$  average.*

*Proof.* By assumption there is a  $k$  such that

$$\sum_{x \in \Sigma^*} \frac{t^{1/k}(x)}{|x|} \sigma(x) < \infty$$

Let  $A$  be the set of  $x$  such that  $t(x) \geq |x|^{2jk}$ . We have

$$\sum_{x \in \Sigma^*} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x)}{|x|} \tau(x) = \sum_{x \in A} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x)}{|x|} \tau(x) + \sum_{x \in \Sigma^* - A} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x)}{|x|} \tau(x).$$

For the first term we have

$$\sum_{x \in A} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x)}{|x|} \tau(x) \leq \sum_{x \in A} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x) |x|^j}{|x|} \sigma(x) \leq \sum_{x \in A} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x) t^{1/2k}(x)}{|x|} \sigma(x) \leq \sum_{x \in \Sigma^*} \frac{t^{1/k}(x)}{|x|} \sigma(x) < \infty.$$

For the second term we have

$$\sum_{x \in \Sigma^* - A} \frac{t^{1/2jk}(x)}{|x|} \tau(x) \leq \sum_{x \in \Sigma^* - A} \frac{|x|^{2jk/2jk} \tau(x)}{|x|} \leq \sum_{x \in \Sigma^* - A} \tau(x) \leq 1.$$

◇

We can now give the proof of Theorem 3.7.

*Proof.* Suppose  $L$  is polynomial-time on  $\sigma$ -average for all P-samplable  $\sigma$ . Fix a polynomial  $p$ . By Theorem 2.11 there is a P-samplable  $\sigma$  that dominates  $m^p$ . By Lemma 3.9,  $L$  is polynomial-time on  $m^p$  average. By Theorem 3.8 the running time of  $L$  is bounded by  $2^{O(K^p(x)-K(x)+\log|x|)}$ .

Now suppose the running time of  $L$  is bounded by  $2^{O(K^p(x)-K(x)+\log|x|)}$  for all polynomials  $p$ . Let  $\sigma$  be a P-samplable distribution. By Theorem 3.5 there are polynomials  $p$  and  $q$  such that  $m^p(x) \geq \sigma(x)/q(|x|)$ . By Theorem 3.8,  $L$  is polynomial time on  $m^p$  average and then by Lemma 3.9,  $L$  is polynomial time on  $\sigma$ -average. ◇

## 4 Concluding Remarks

Dieter van Melkebeek [vM05] showed how to create the pseudorandom generators we need from a slightly weaker assumption, that  $\mathbf{E}$  does not have nondeterministic circuits of size  $2^{o(n)}$ .

Eric Allender suggested defining a version of  $m^t$  using Kolmogorov measures that build the time into the complexity instead of as a parameter. We can define  $mt(x) = 2^{-Kt(x)}$  and  $mT(x) = 2^{-KT(x)}$  where  $Kt(x) = \min_p\{|p| + \log t \mid U(p) \text{ outputs } x \text{ in } t \text{ steps}\}$  and  $KT(x) = \min_p\{|p| + t \mid U(p) \text{ outputs } x \text{ in } t \text{ steps}\}$ .

Theorem 3.5 holds for  $mt$  without the need for a polynomial  $t$ , since for all functions  $t$ ,  $mt(x) \geq m^t(x)/t(|x|)$ . However we do not know if  $mt$  is dominated by a samplable distribution.

One can build a samplable distribution that dominates  $mT$  but we do not know if Theorem 3.5 holds for that distribution.

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