

Probabilistic Computation

Lecture 15

Computing with Less Randomness, or with
Imperfect Randomness

Soundness Amplification for BPP

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 - $t = O(n^d/\delta^2)$ enough for $\Pr[\text{error}] \leq 2^{-n^d}$

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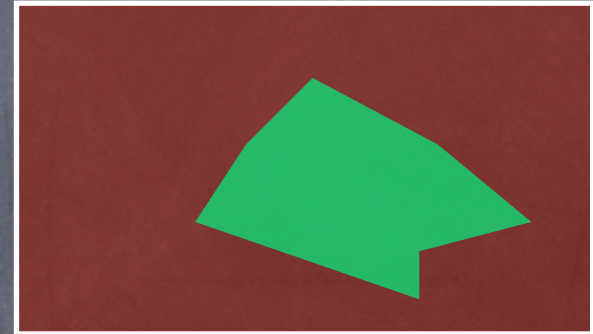
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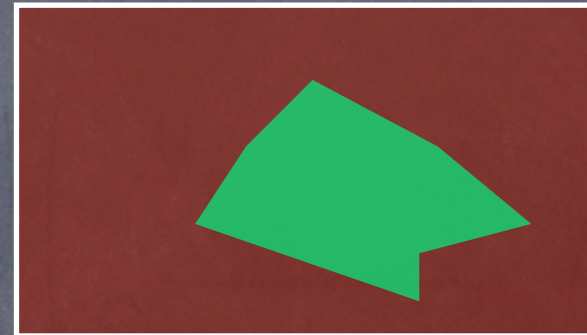
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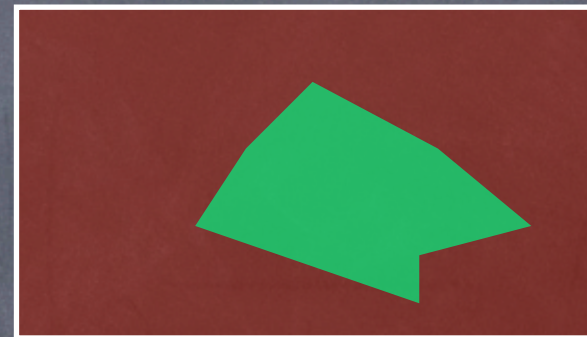
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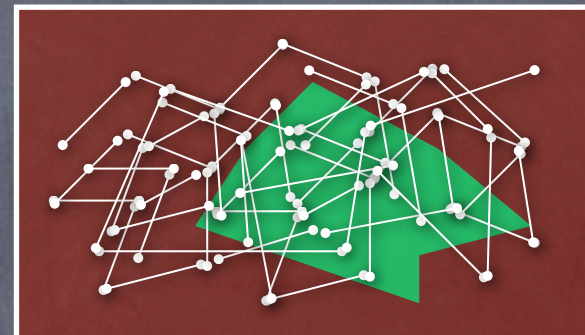
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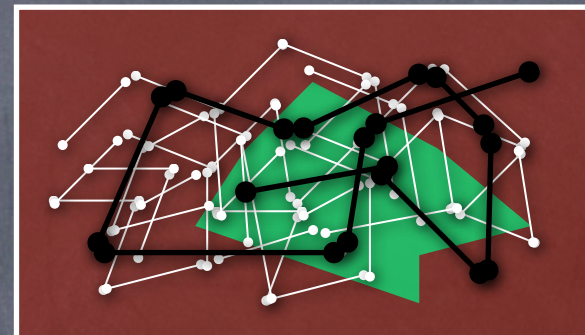
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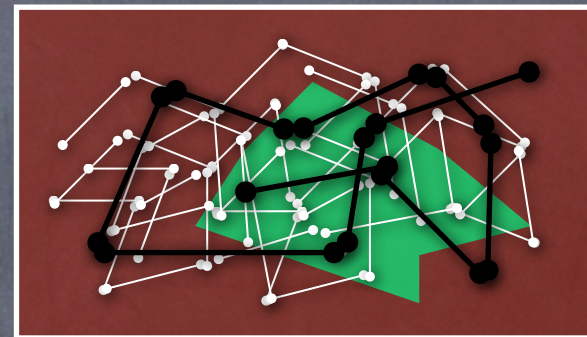
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- Expander "mixing": $\Pr[|p' - p| > \epsilon p] < 2^{-\Omega(t \cdot \epsilon^2)}$ (but with a smaller constant inside Ω)



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 - Can we work with imperfect random sources?

Philosophical Issues with Randomness/Probability

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 - Don't know the exact distribution, but belongs to a known class of distributions

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- Weaker guarantees: e.g. Block source

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- If on perfect randomness, $\Pr[\text{error}] < 1/(e2^n)$, then on imperfect randomness with bias $< 1/m$, $\Pr[\text{error}] < 1/2^n$

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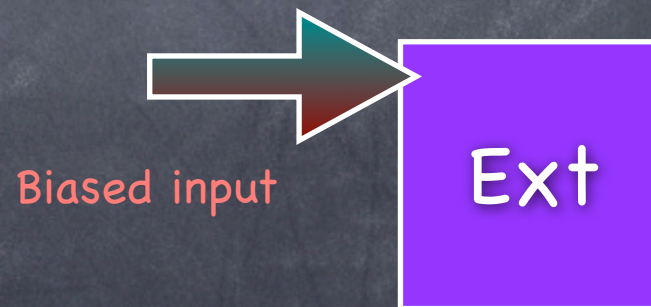
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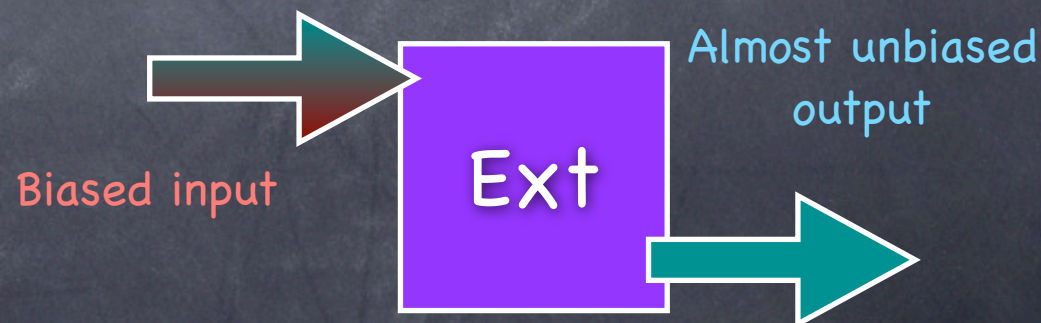
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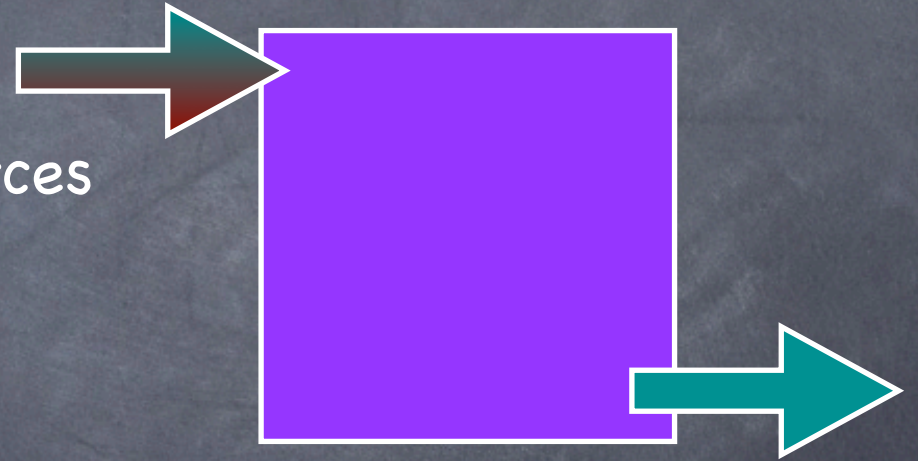
Simple extractor for von Neumann Sources

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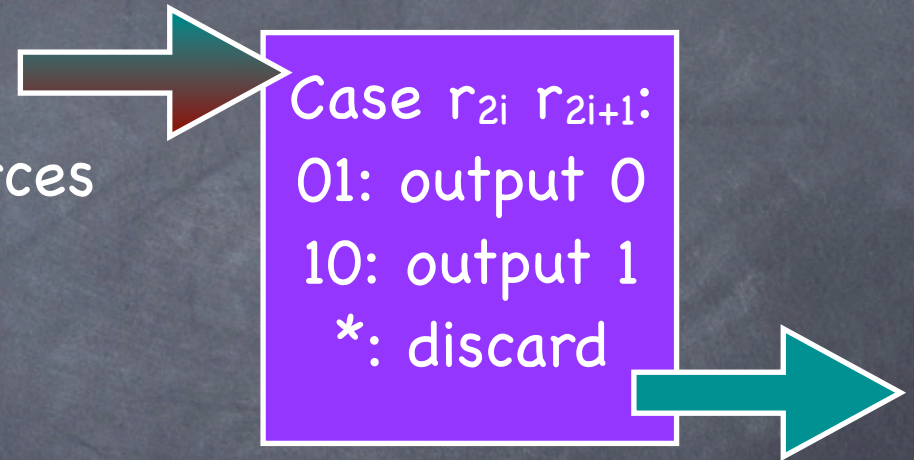
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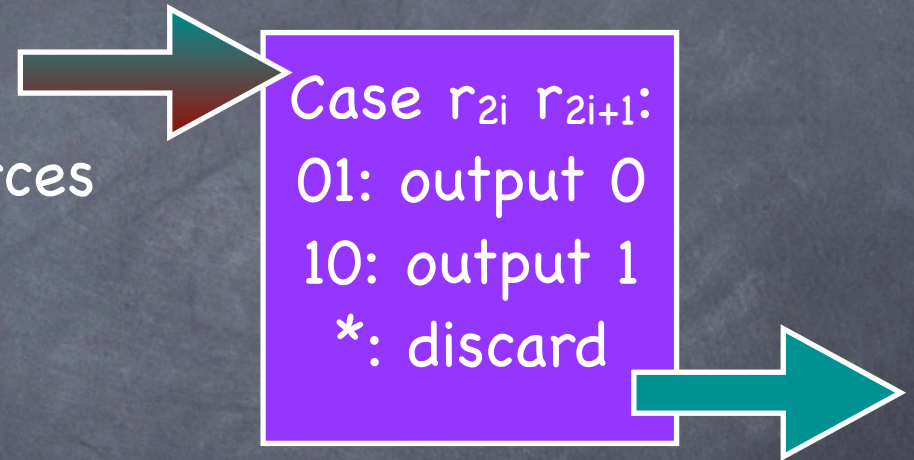
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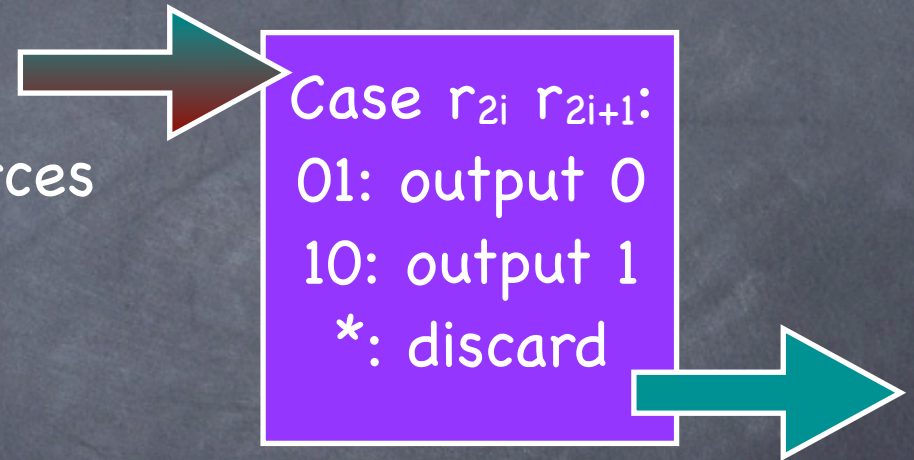
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 - Perfectly random output



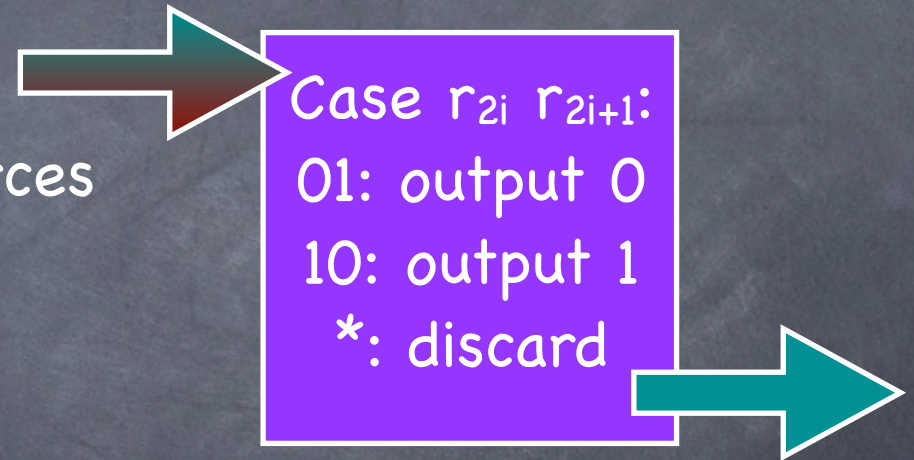
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- Extraction for von Neumann sources
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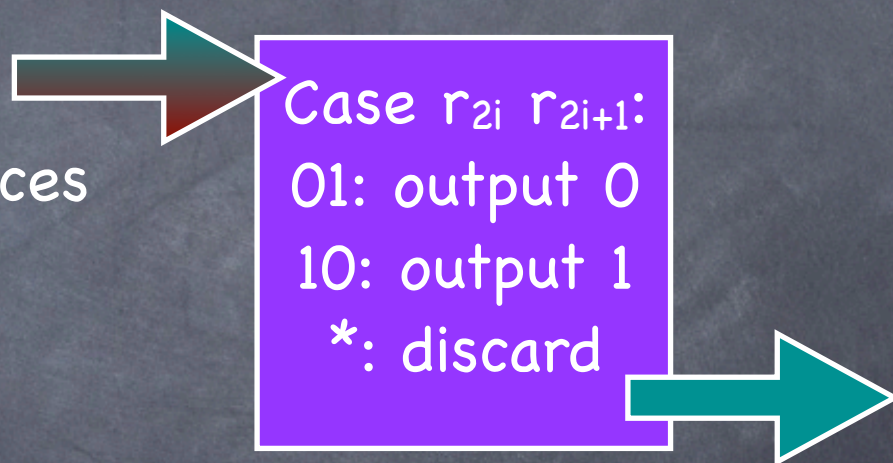
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Simple extractor for von Neumann Sources

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 - Perfectly random output
 - Fewer output bits
 - Running time (per bit): constant number of tries, expected
- Can be generalized to sources which are (hidden) Markov chains



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 - Exercise

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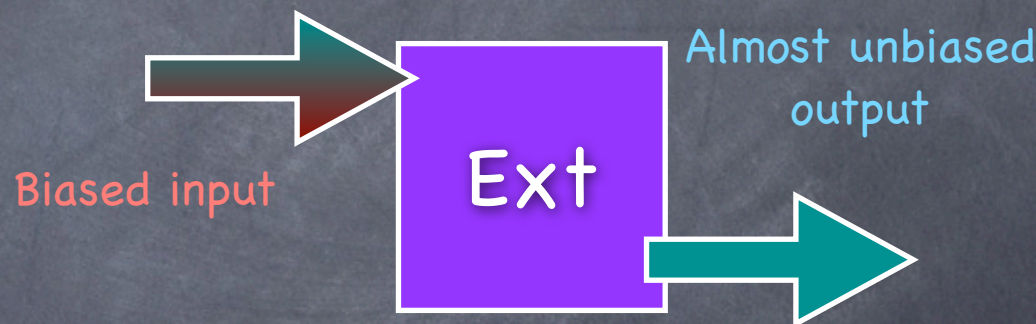
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Randomized Extractors

- Randomized extractor
 - Some perfect randomness as a catalyst

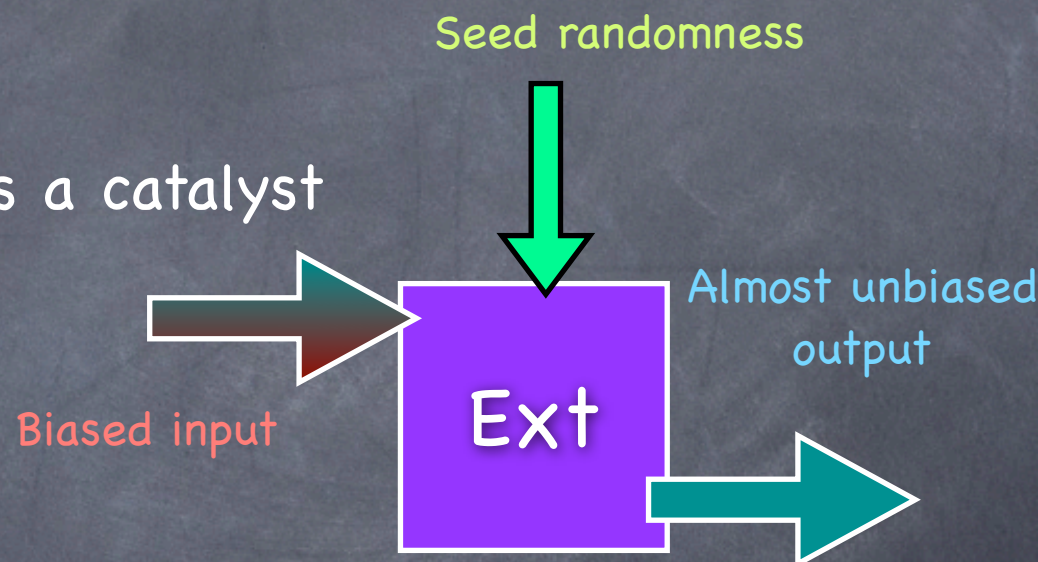
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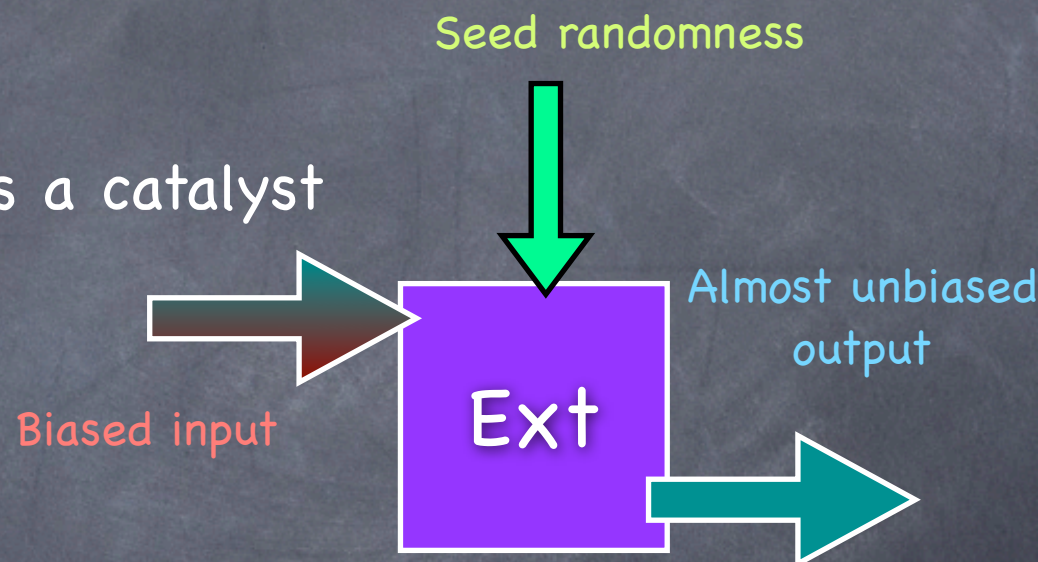
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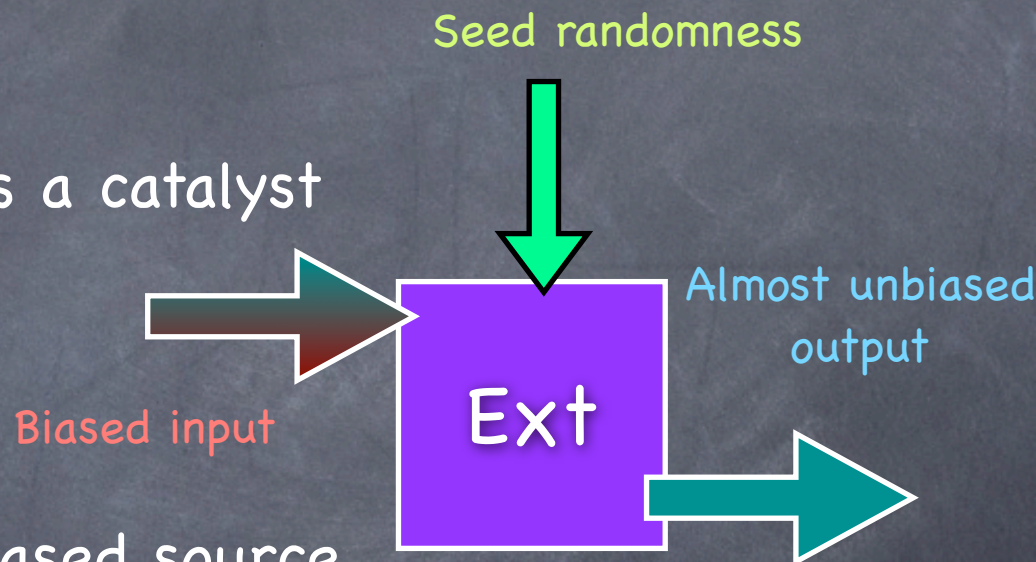
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- Draw one string from the biased source and generate random tapes, one for each seed. If the algorithm accepts on more than half the random tapes, accept.



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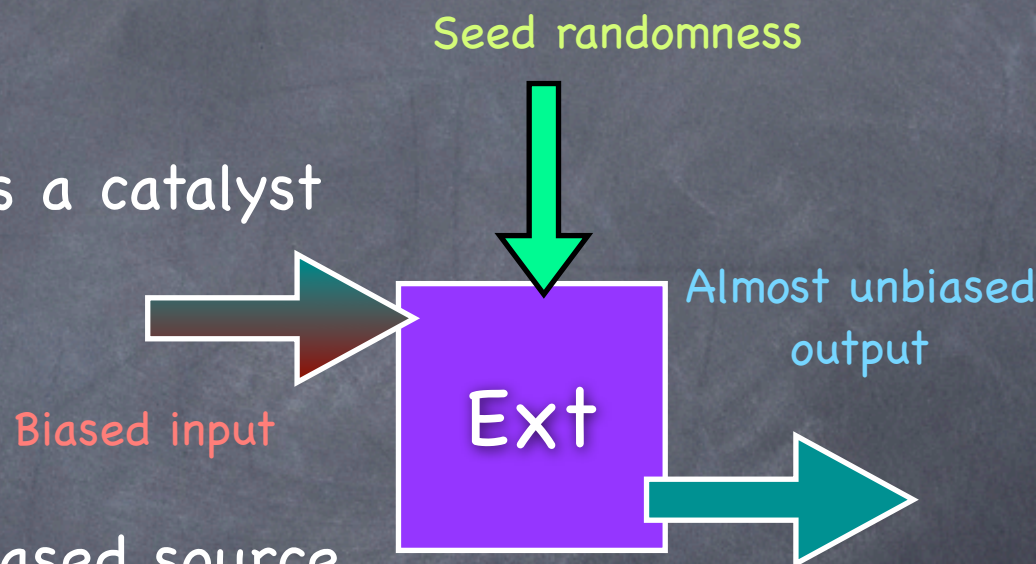
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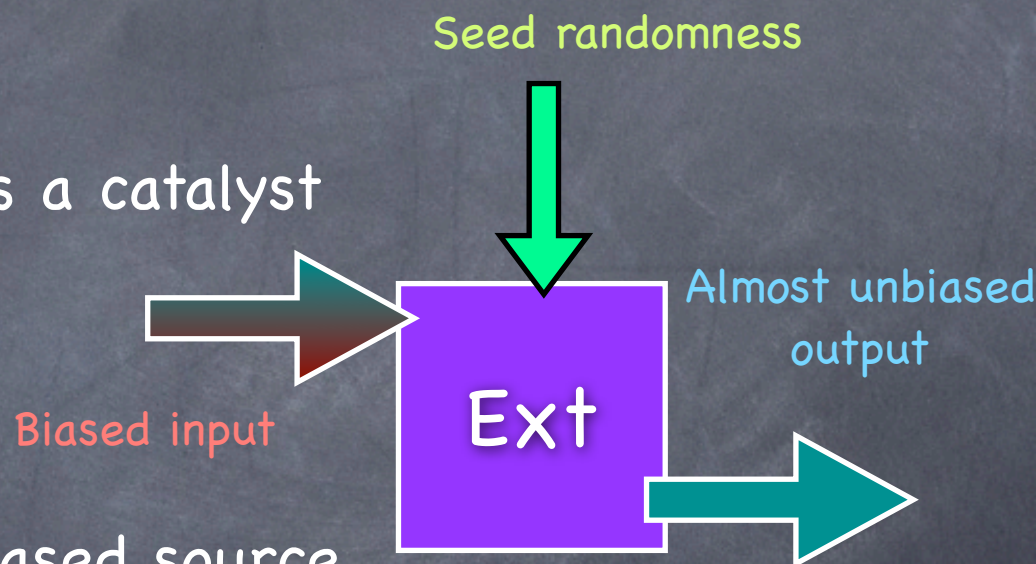
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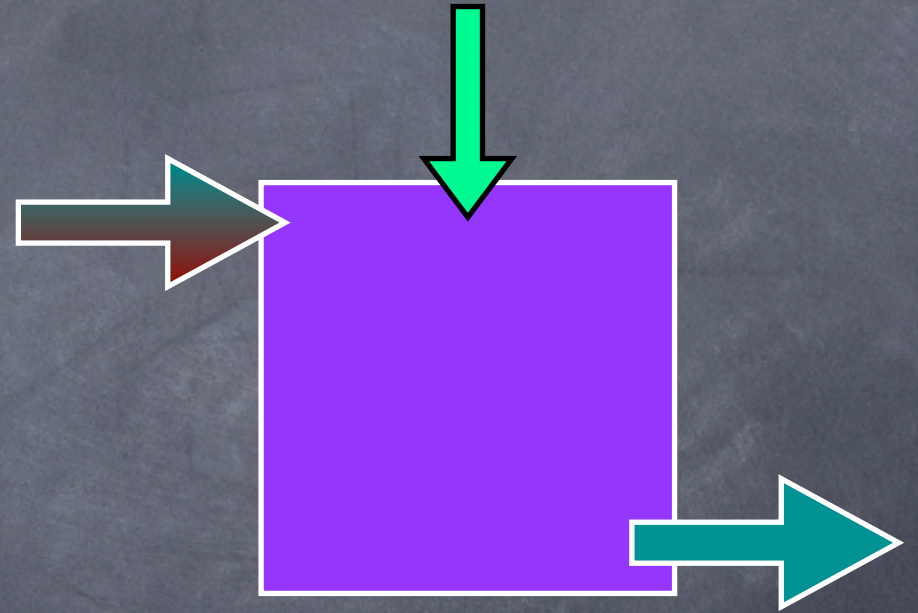
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- Error probability remains bounded [Exercise]

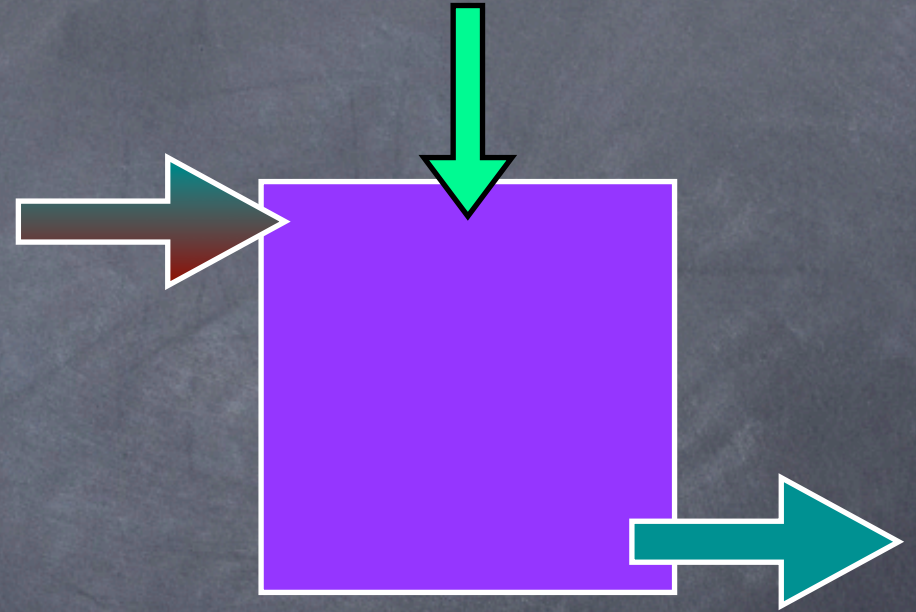


Extractor for SV sources



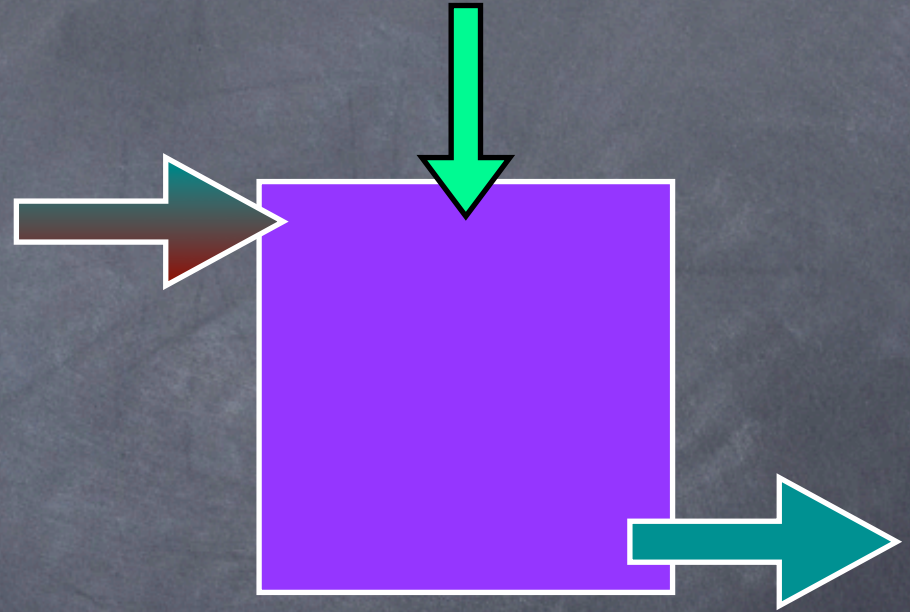
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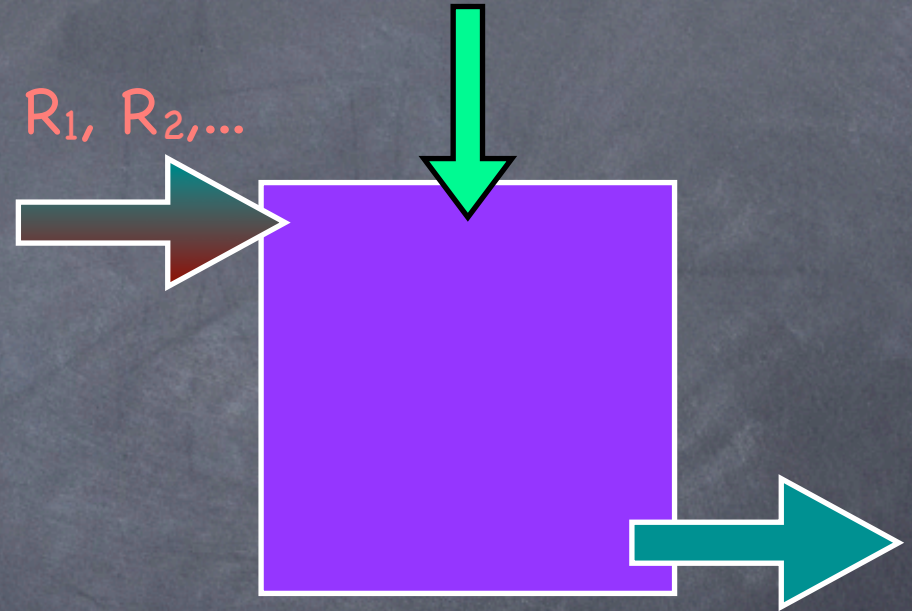
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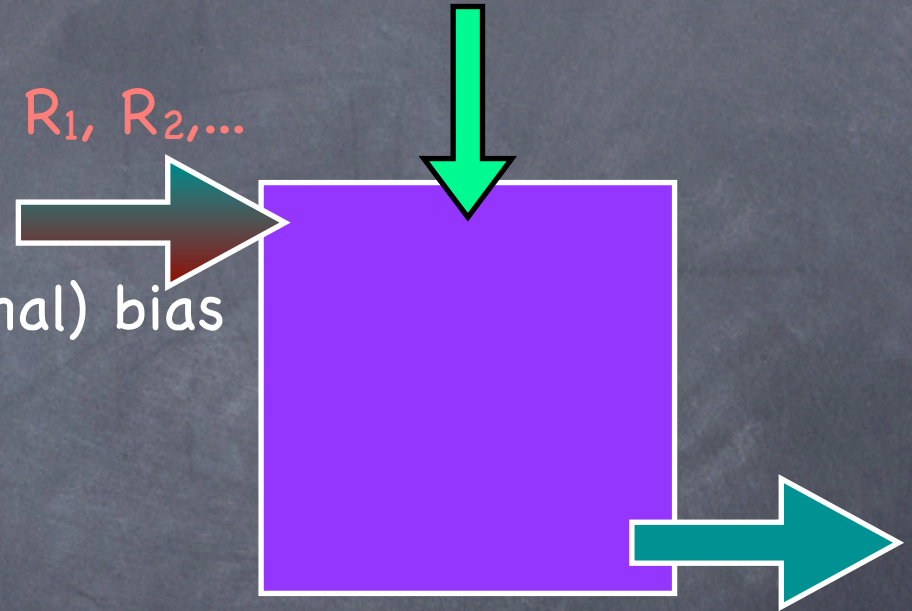
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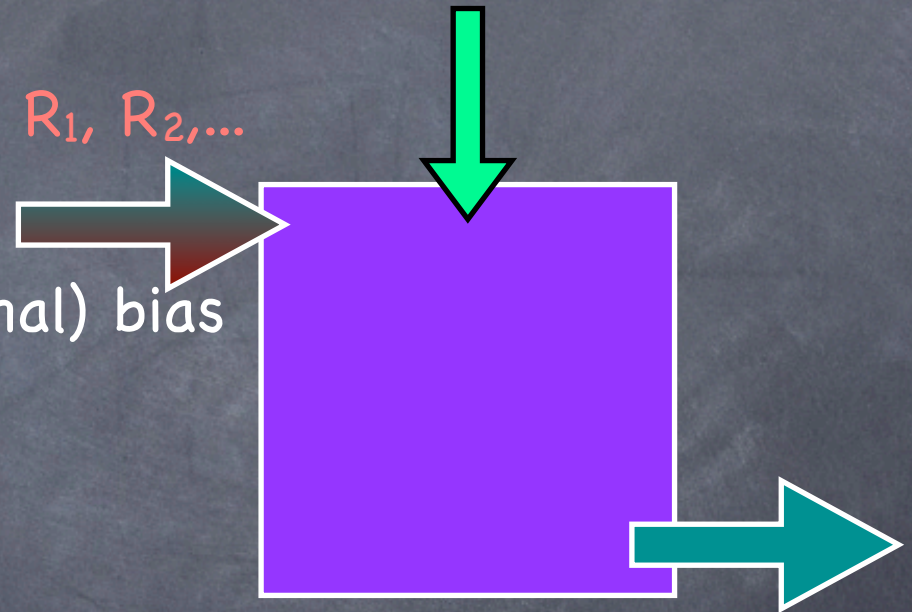
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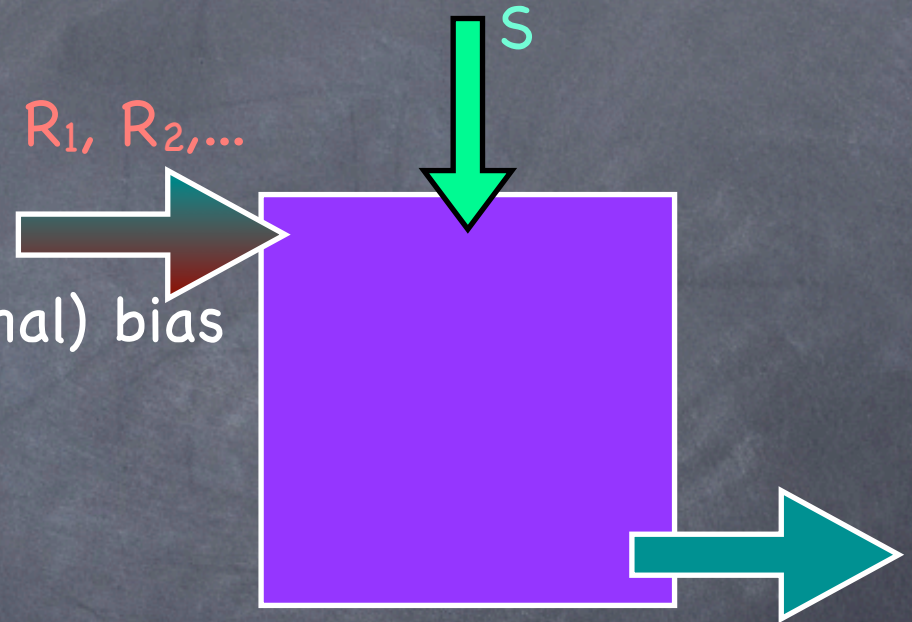
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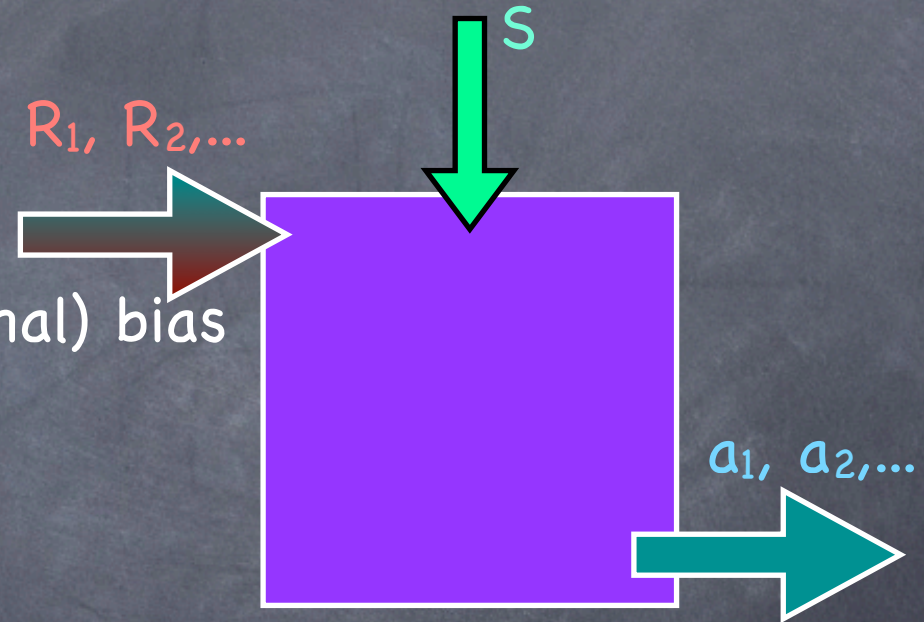
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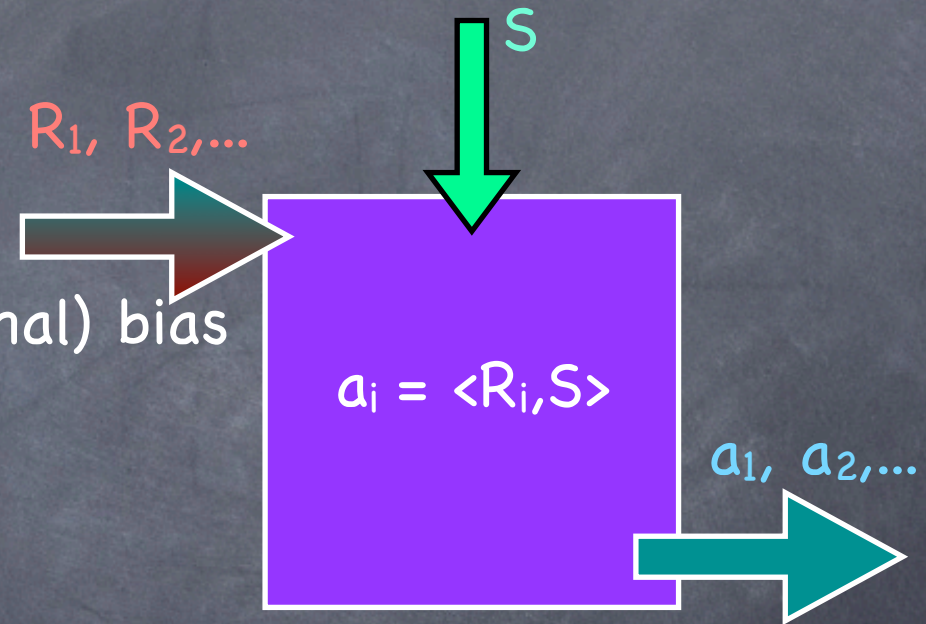
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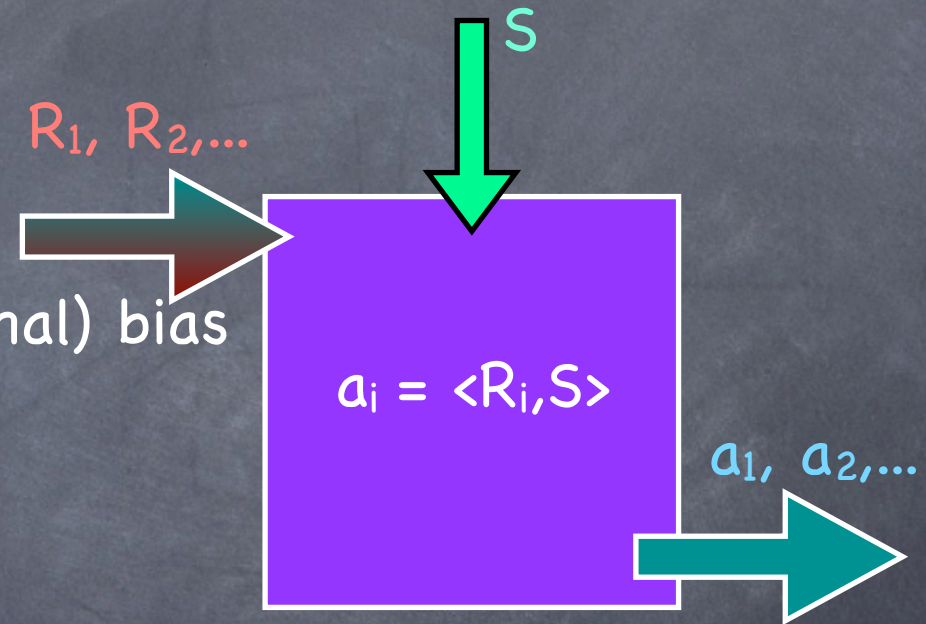
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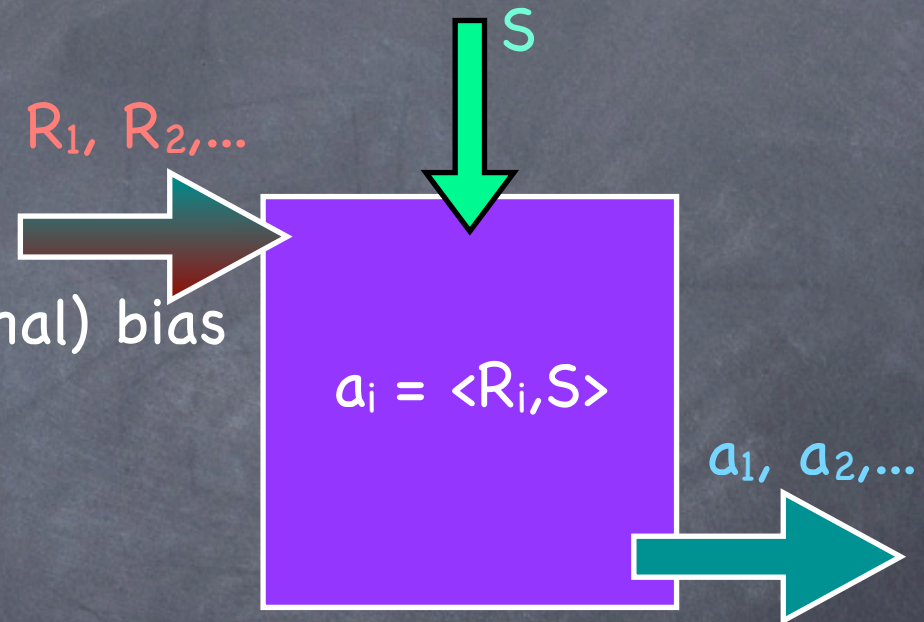
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- Analysis: Need to bound only the collision probability for an input block of length d [Exercise]



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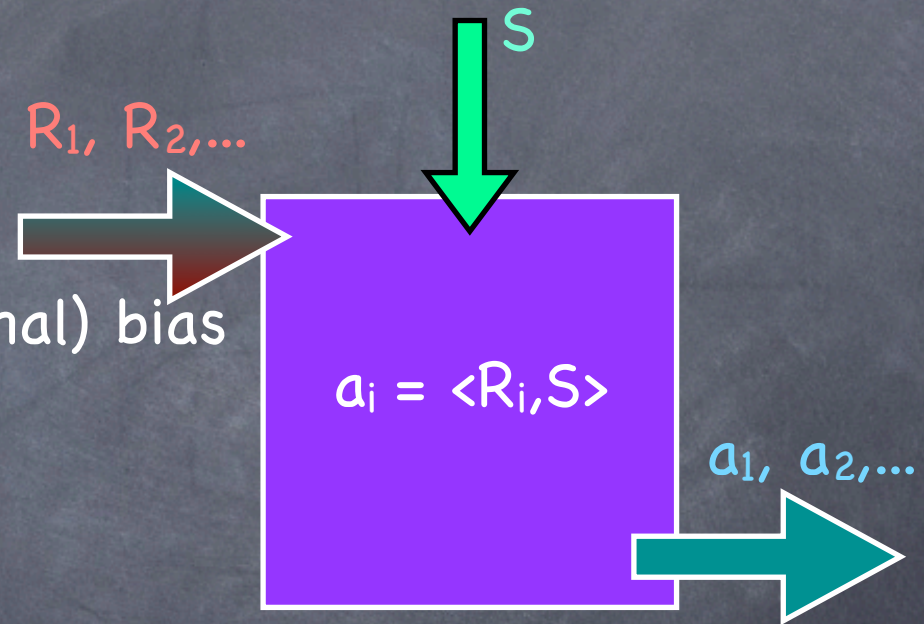
- Plan: to get to a small (conditional) bias ($O(1/m)$) for each output bit.

- Weak extraction

- Using seed-length $d = O(\log m)$

- Analysis: Need to bound only the collision probability for an input block of length d [Exercise]

- Collision prob \leq max prob $\leq (1/2 + \delta/2)^d = 1/\text{poly}(m)$



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- Bottom line: Can efficiently run BPP algorithms using very general classes of sources of randomness

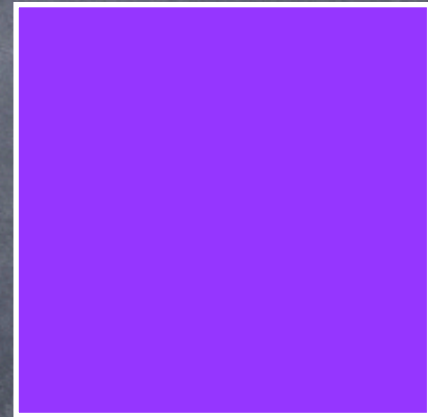
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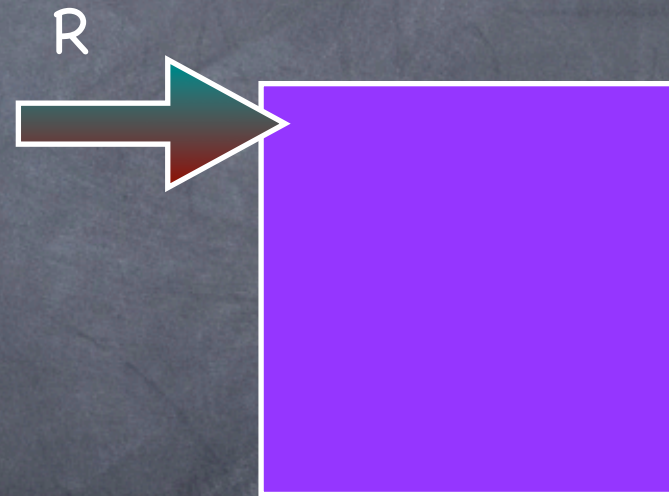
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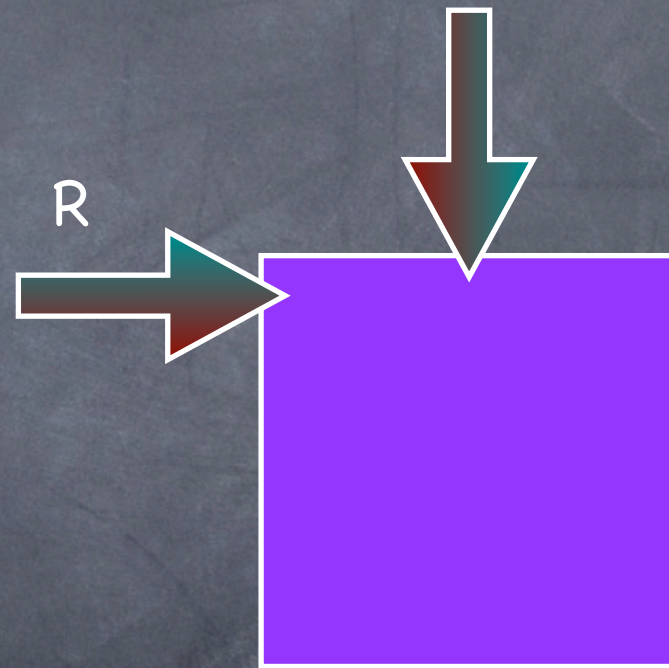
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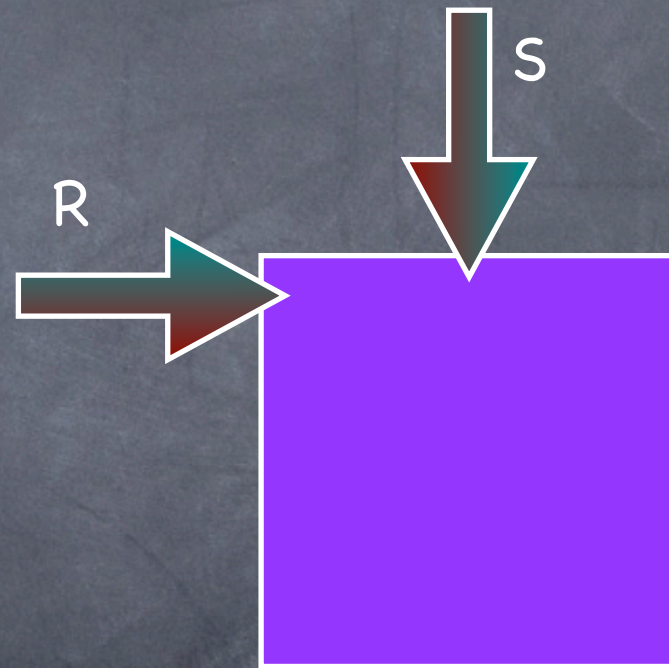
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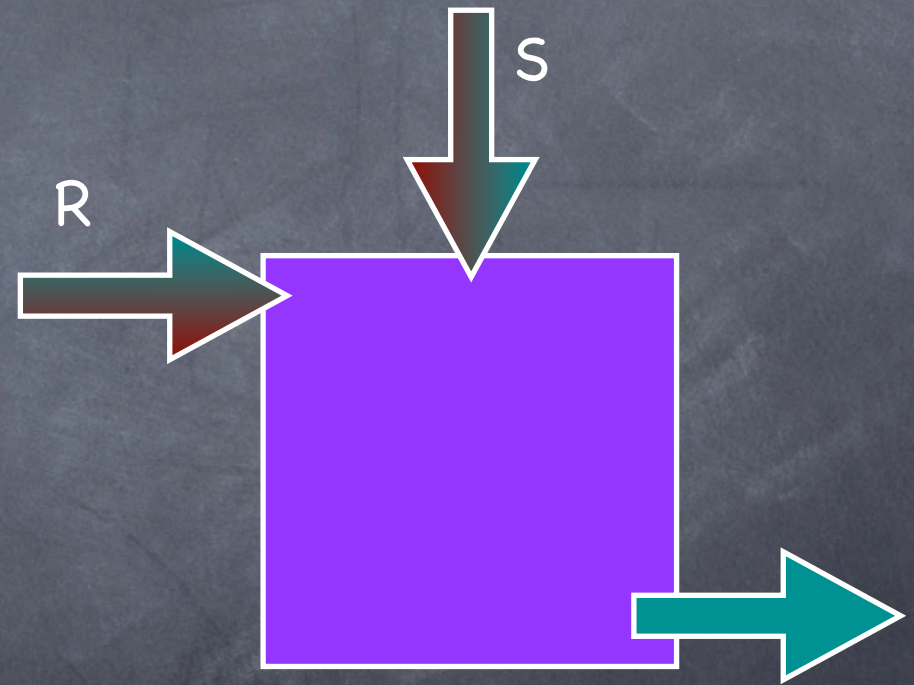
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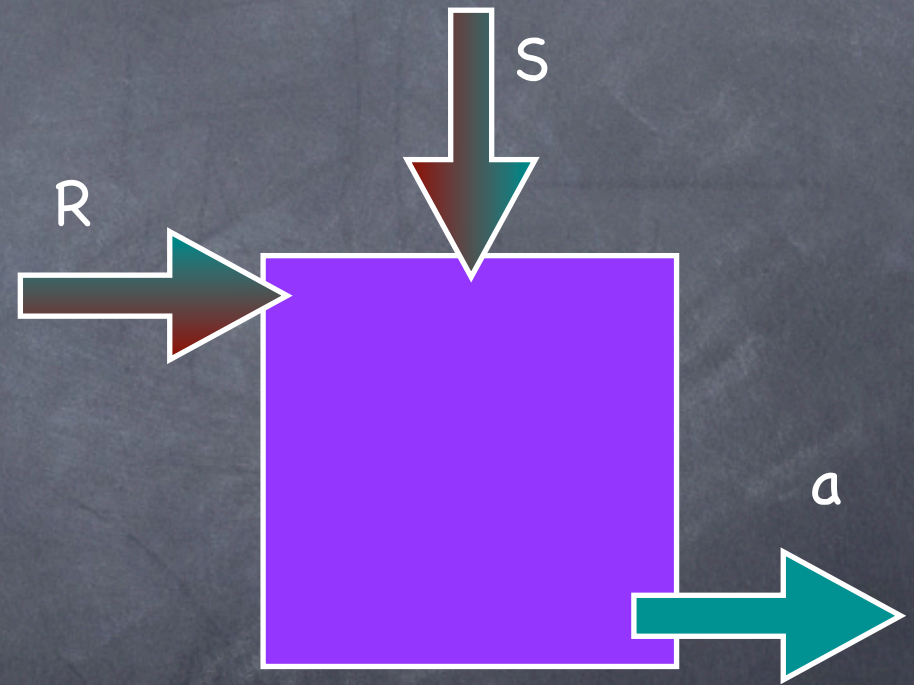
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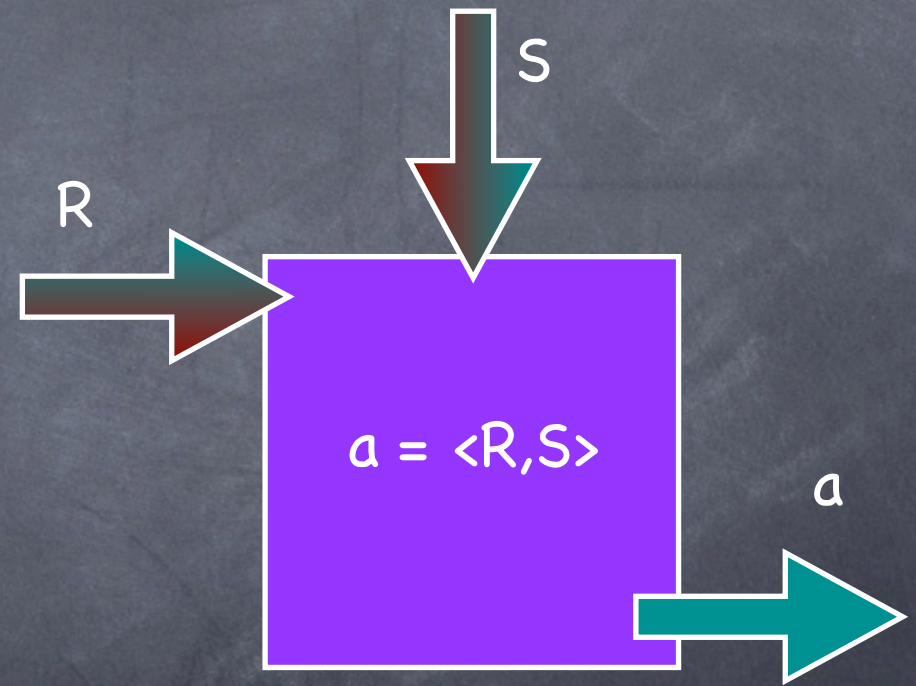
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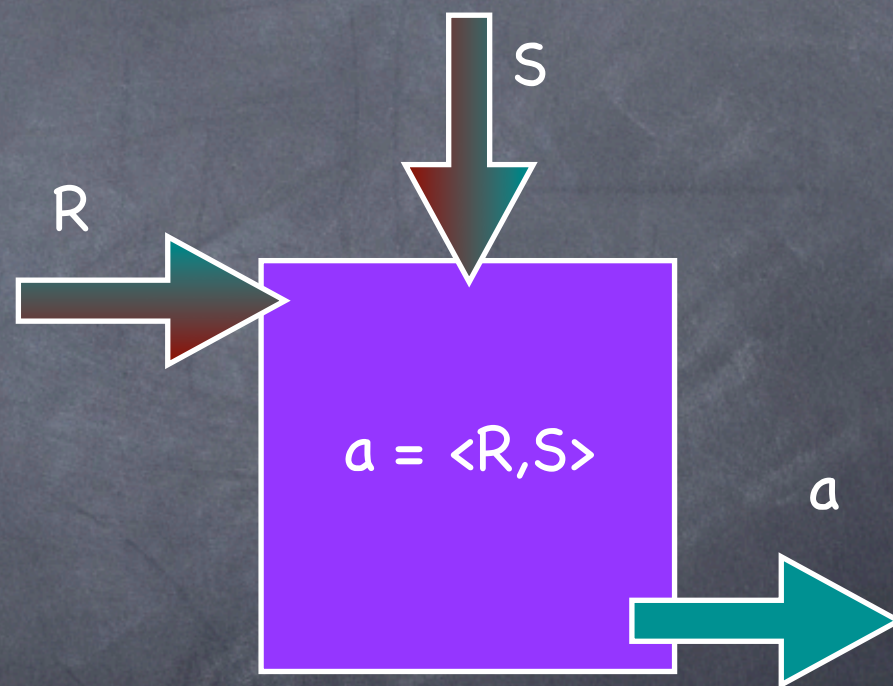
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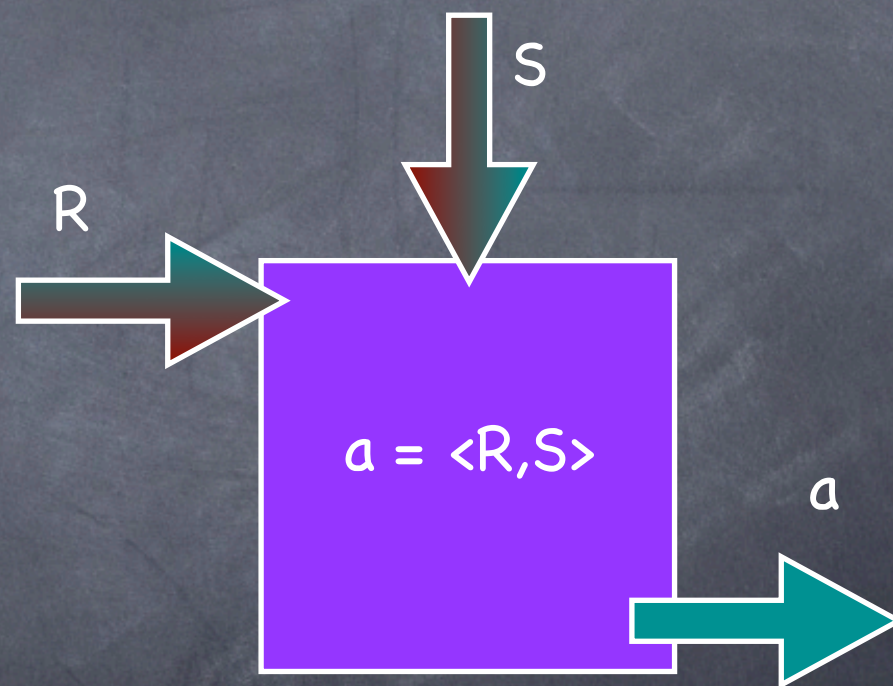
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- Challenge: extract almost all the entropy from two independent sources
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