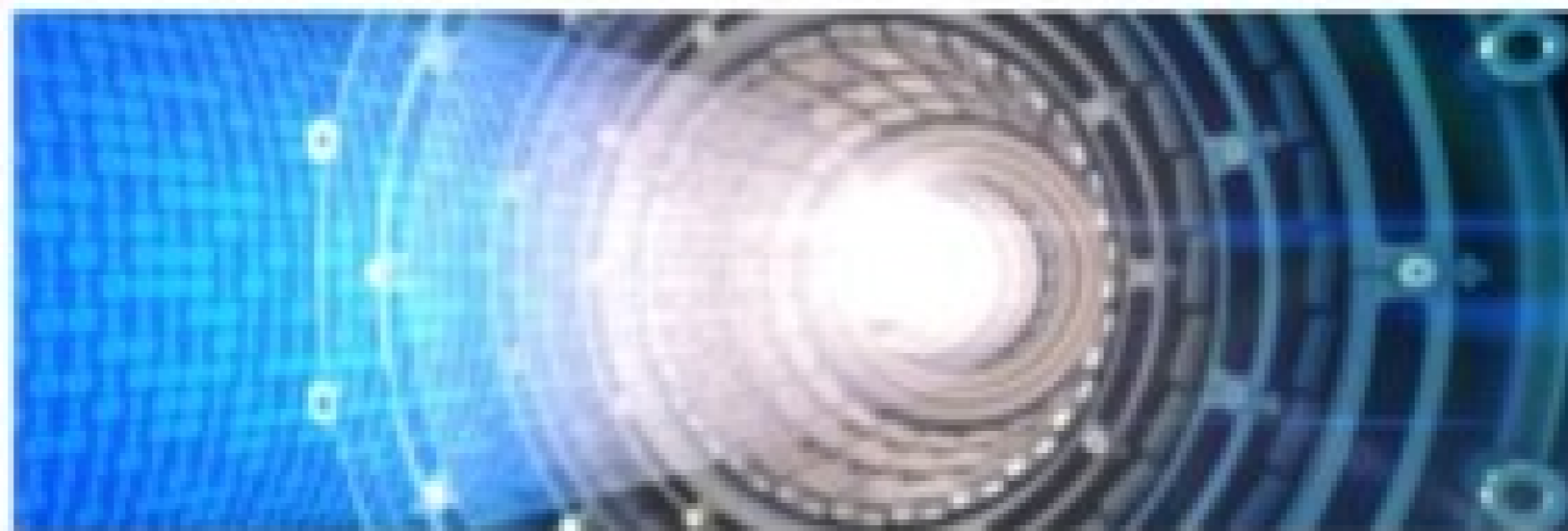


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# From Hilbert's Entscheidungsproblem to Valiant's counting problem

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Nitin Saxena (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)



2014

# Contents

- Hilbert
- Church & Turing
- Cook & Levin
- Valiant's permanent
- Zero or nonzero
- Fundamental goals

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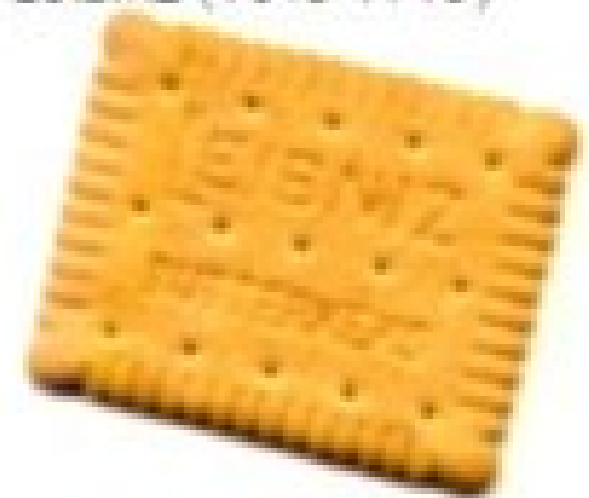
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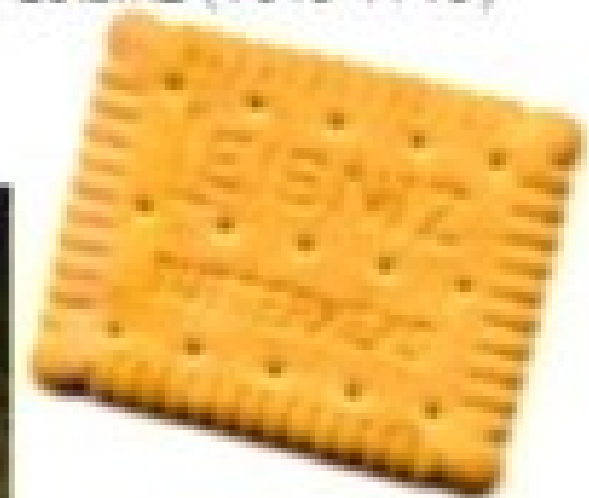
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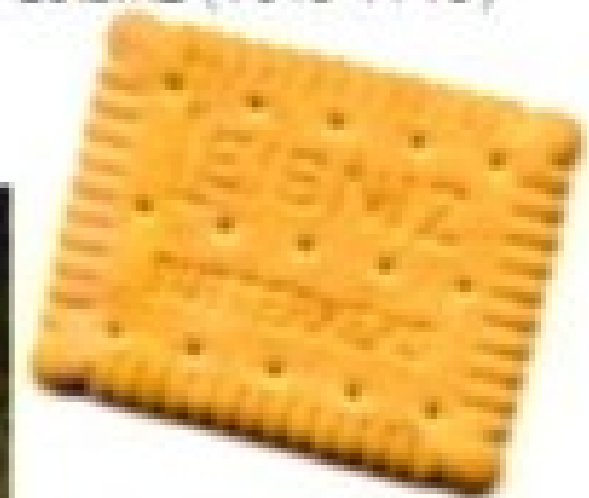
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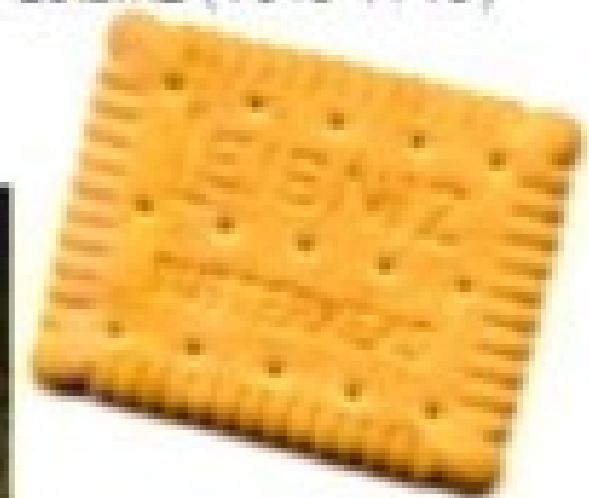
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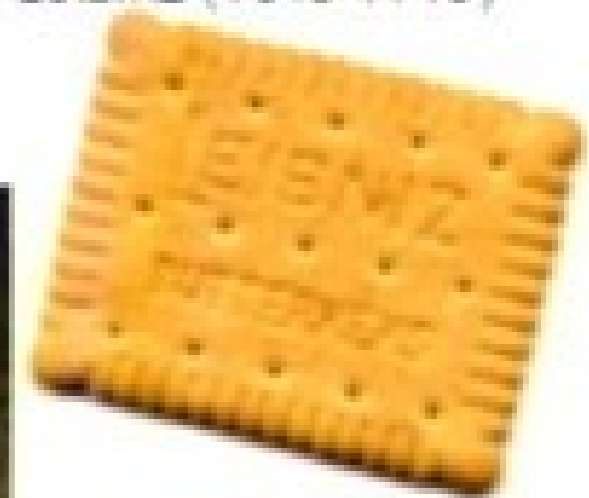
**Example 2:** Prime numbers are infinitely many.



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Hilbert (1862-1943)

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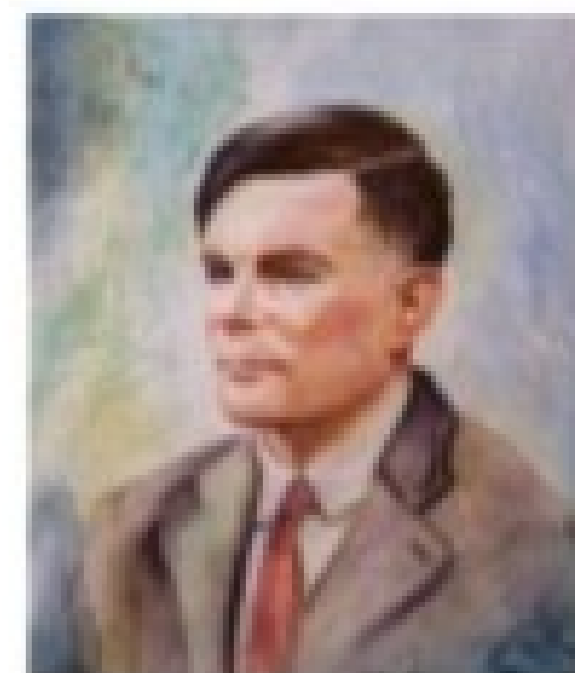
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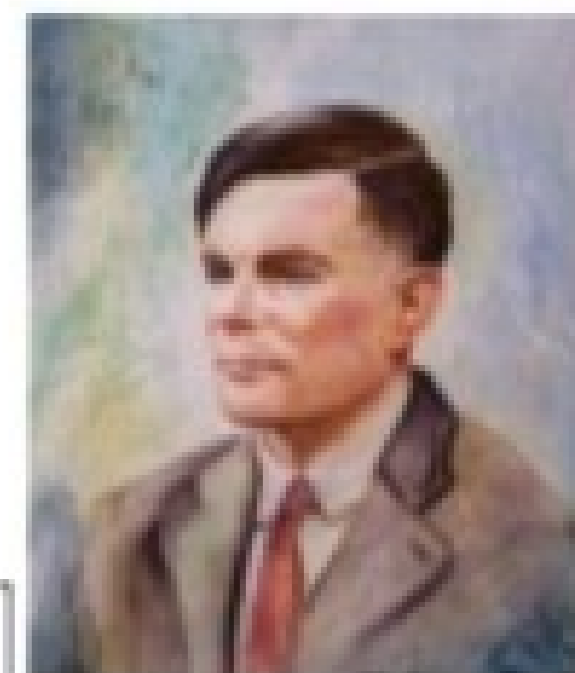
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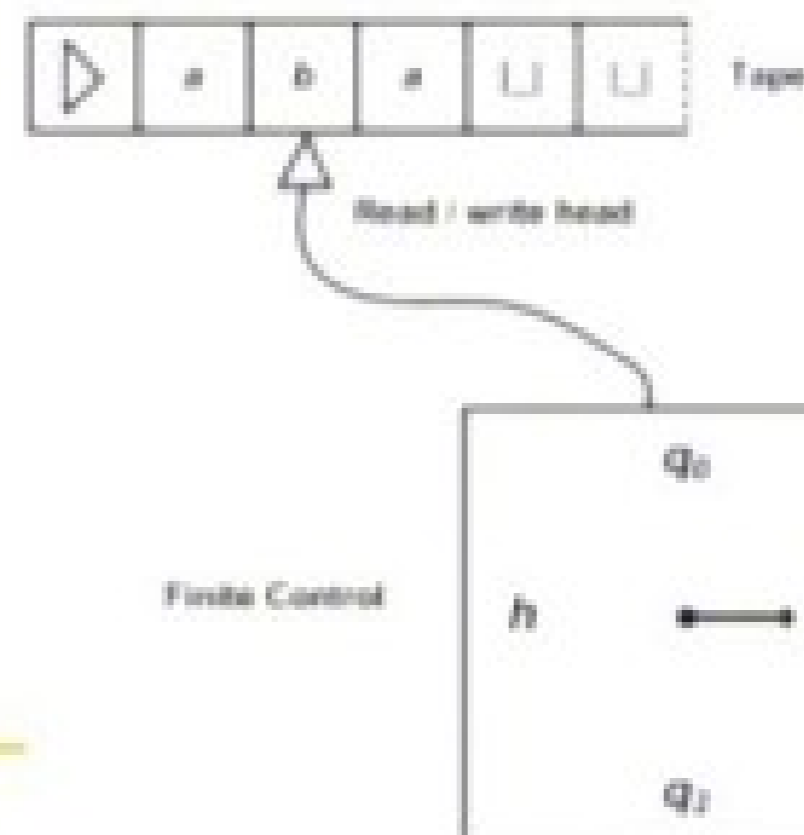
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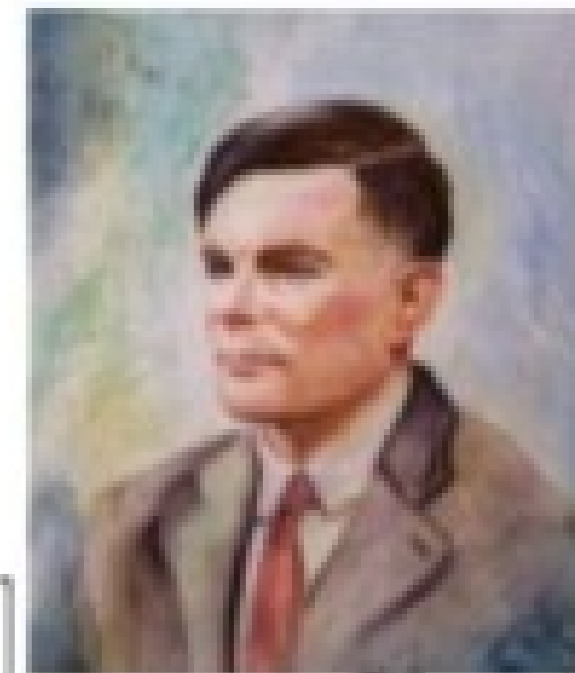


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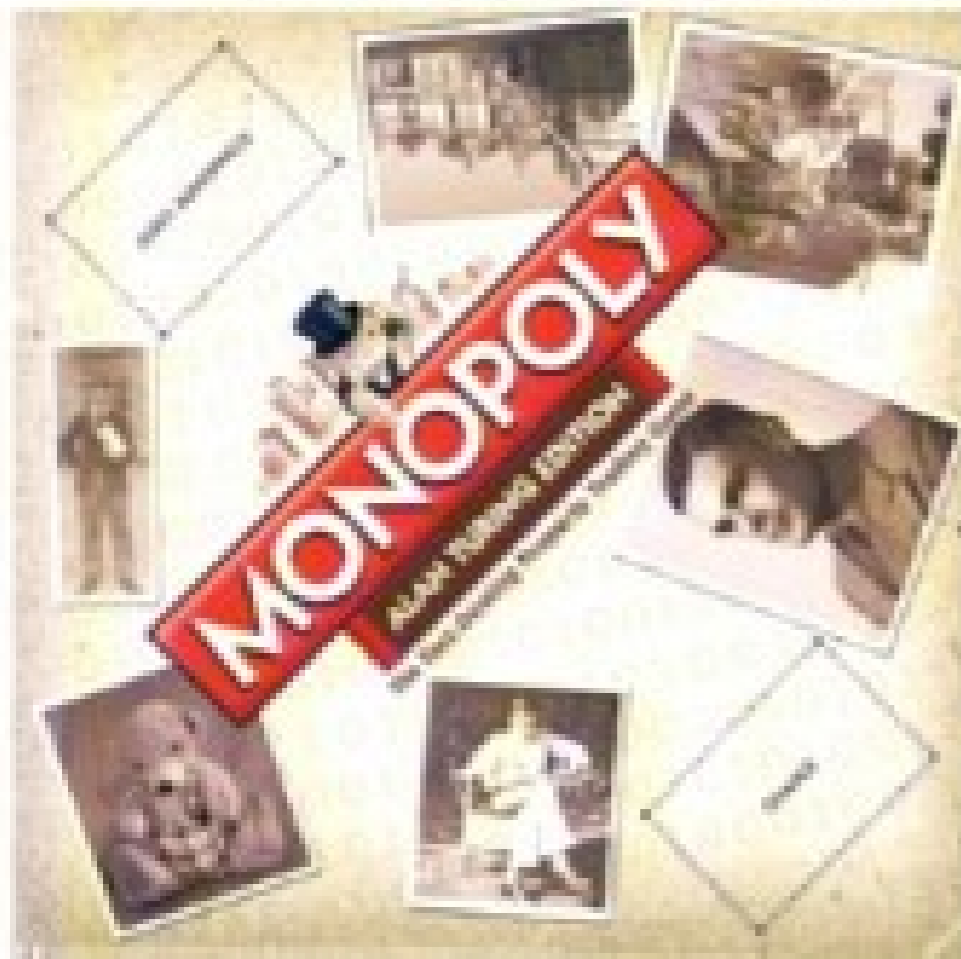
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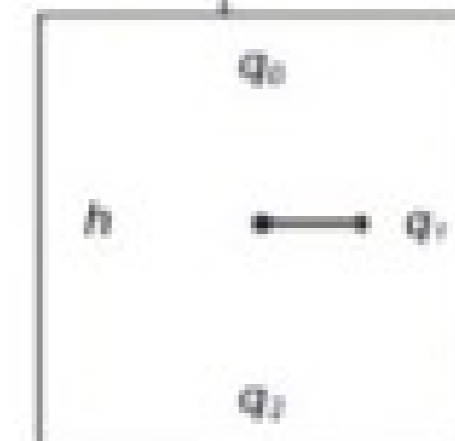


100 years!



Read / write head

Finite Control



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A. M. TURING

[Nov. 12,

ON COMPUTABLE NUMBERS, WITH AN APPLICATION TO  
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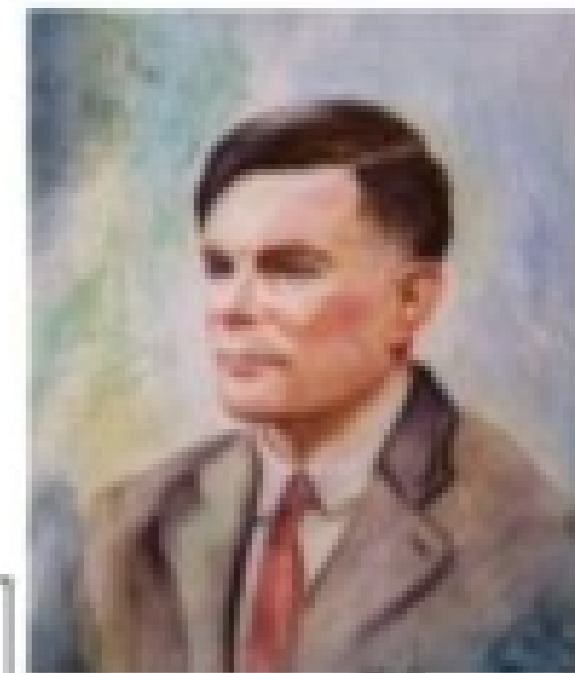


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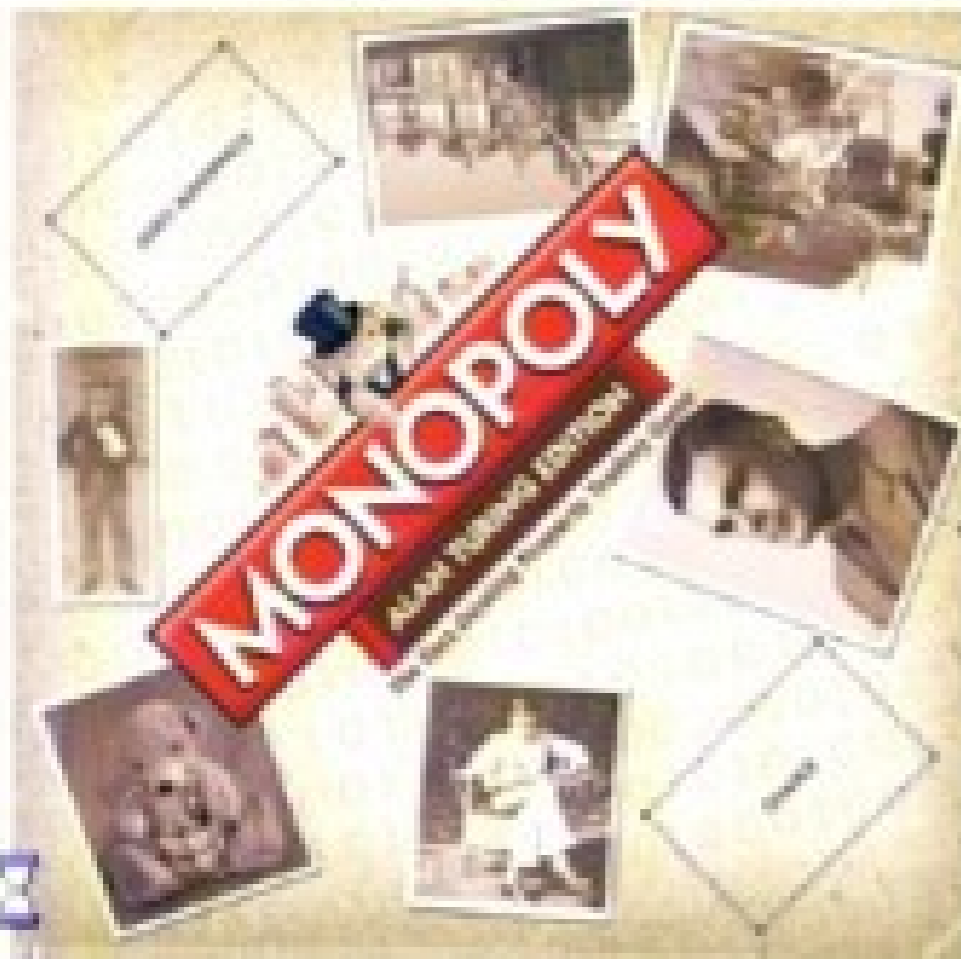
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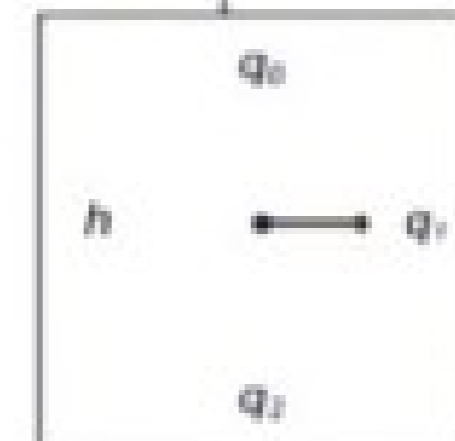


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  - Thus, Halting problem is undecidable.



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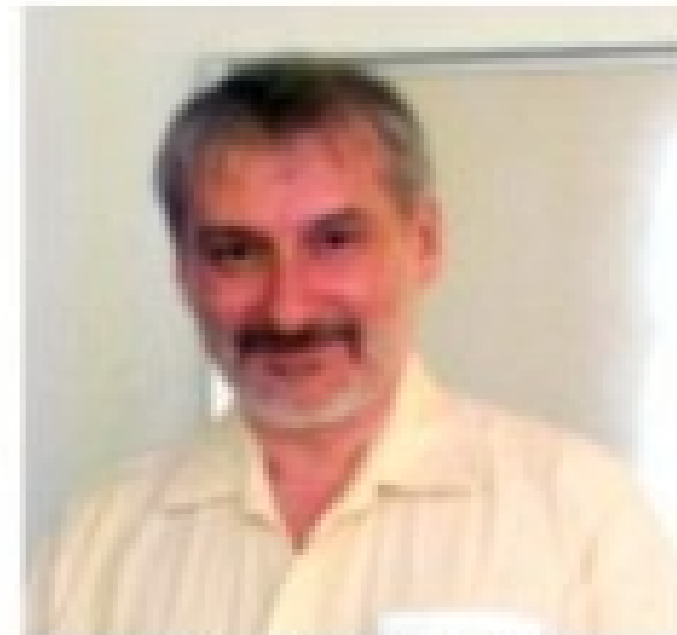
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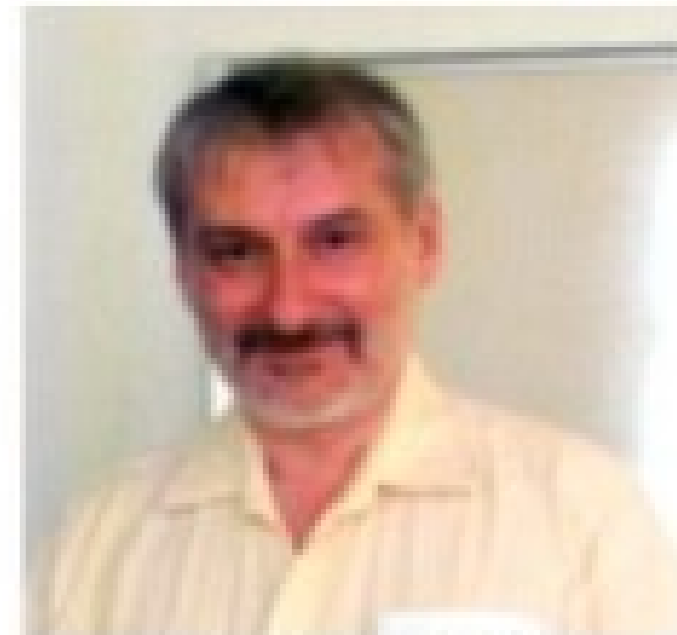
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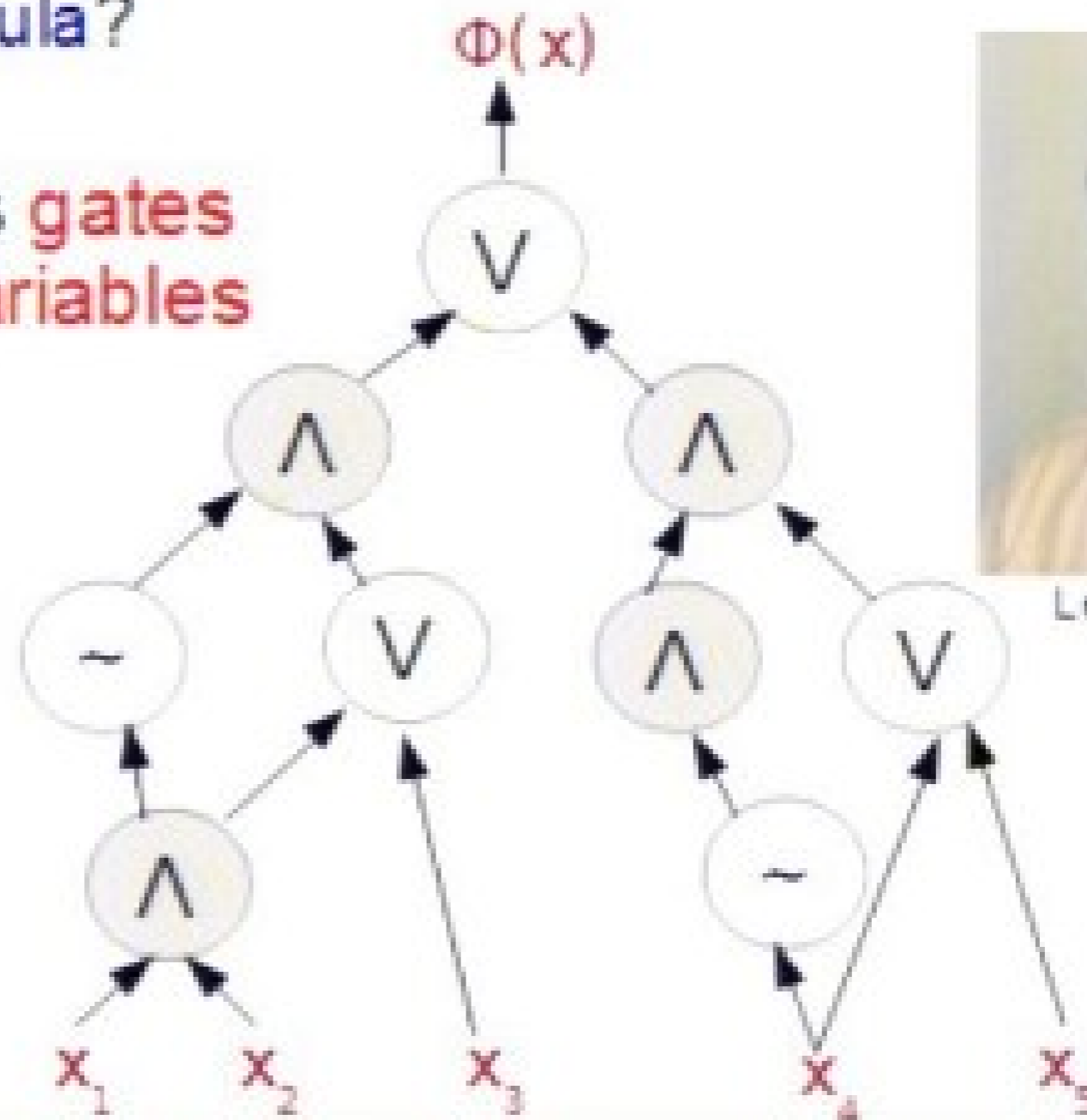


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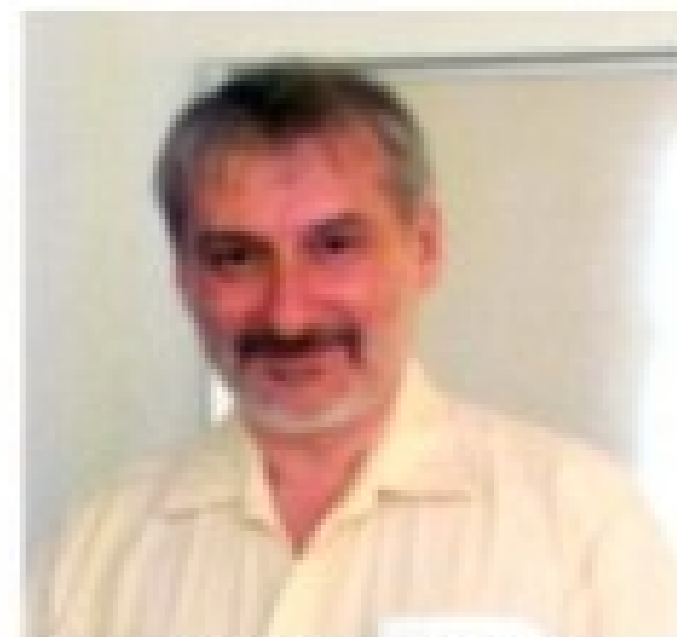


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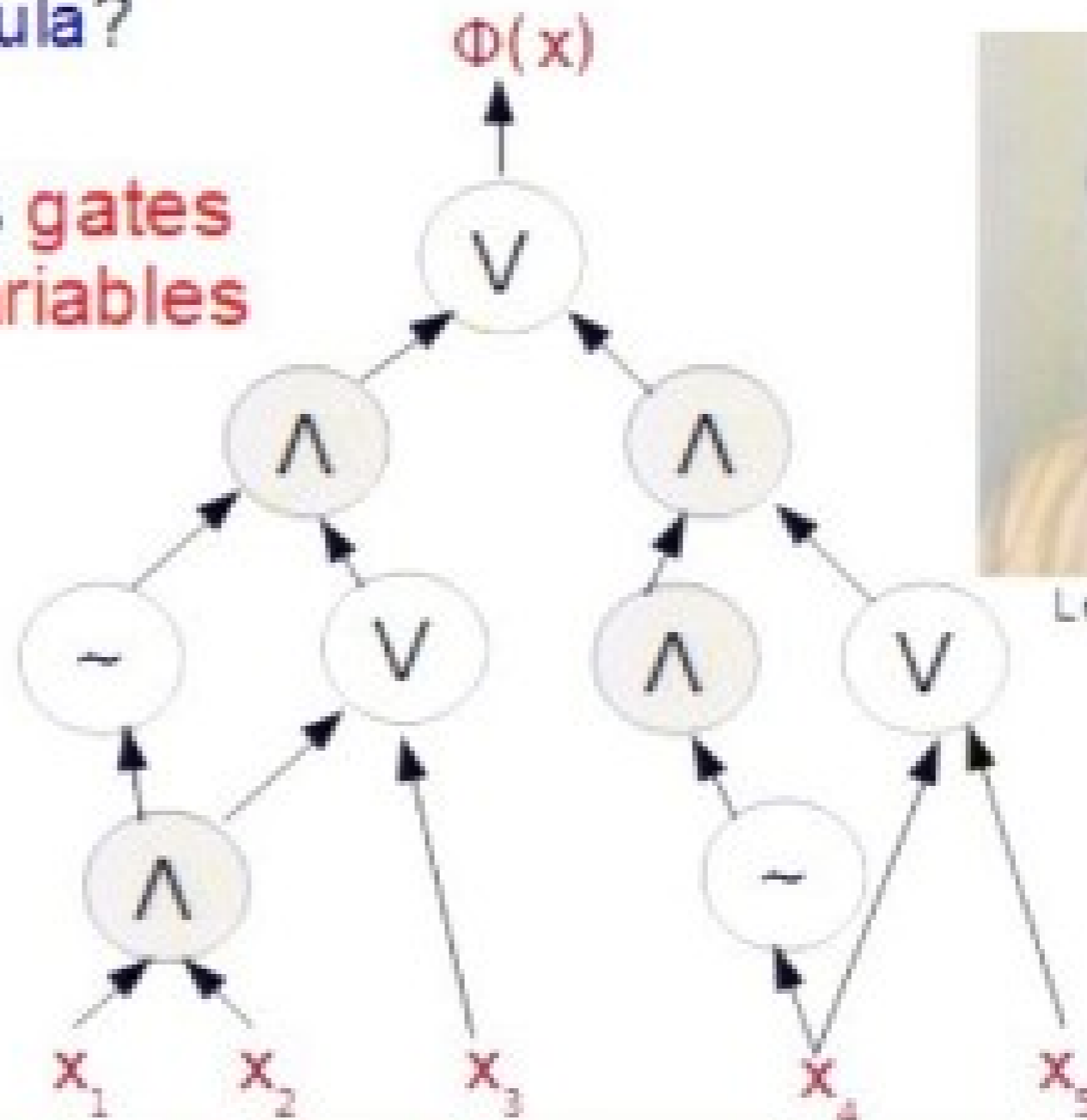
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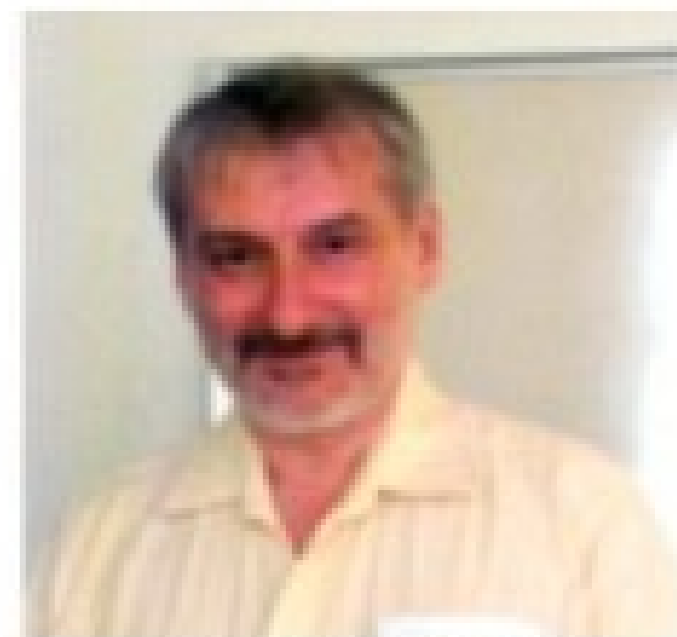
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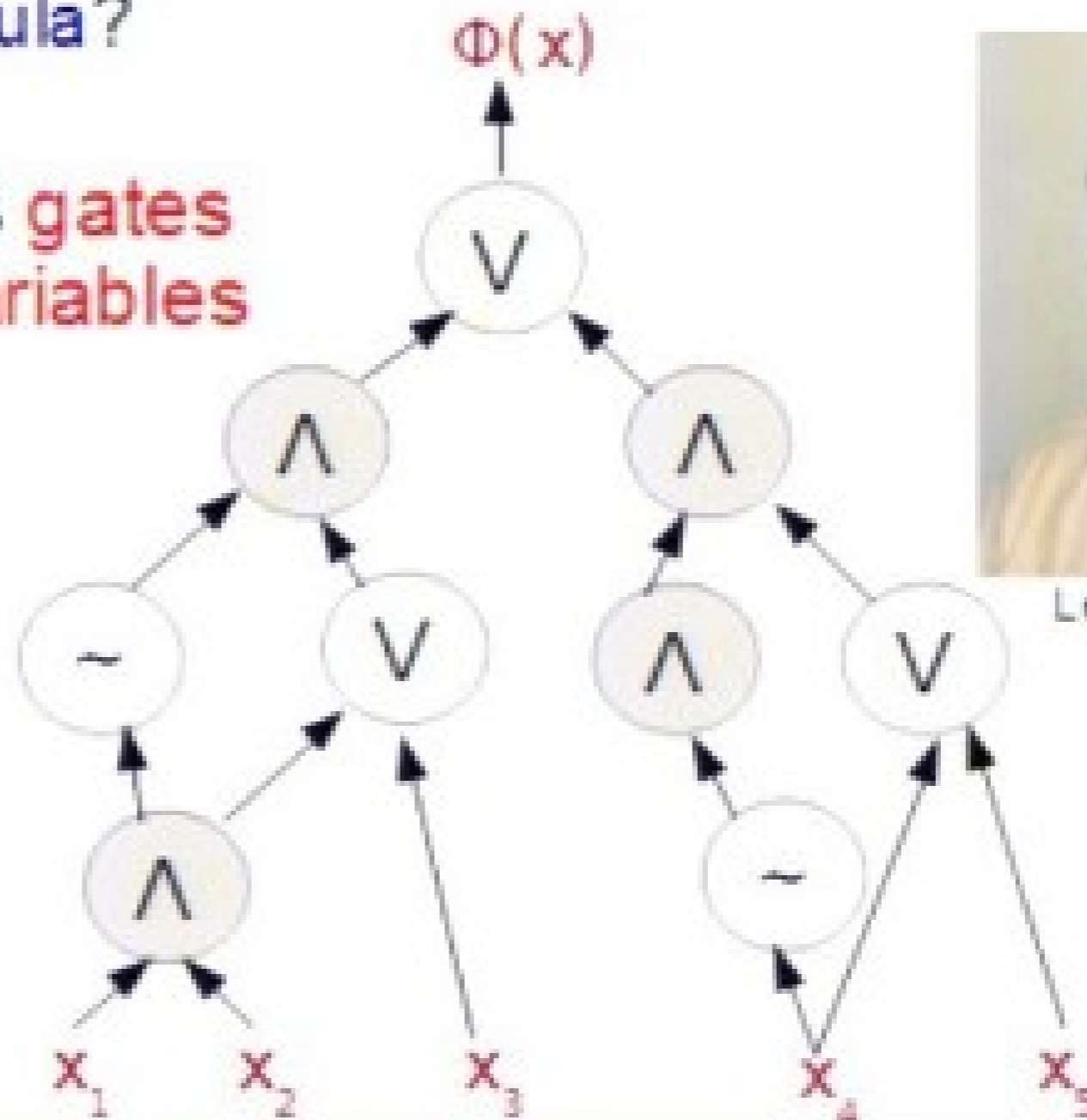
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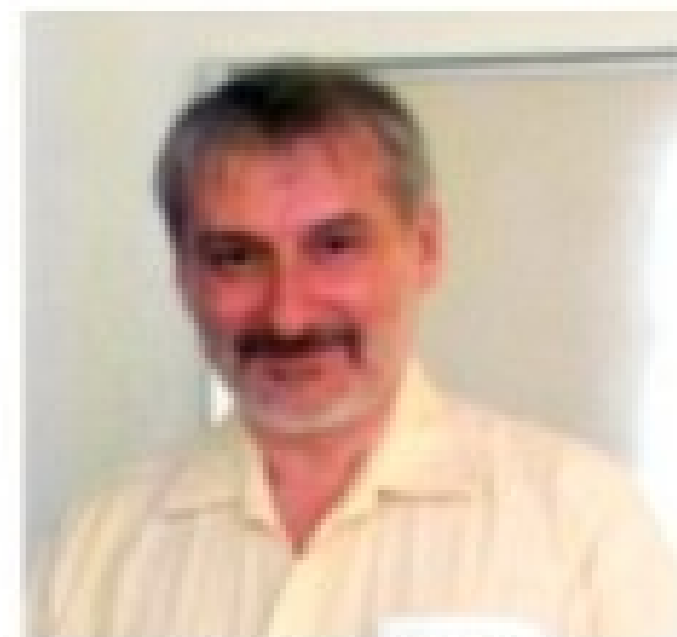
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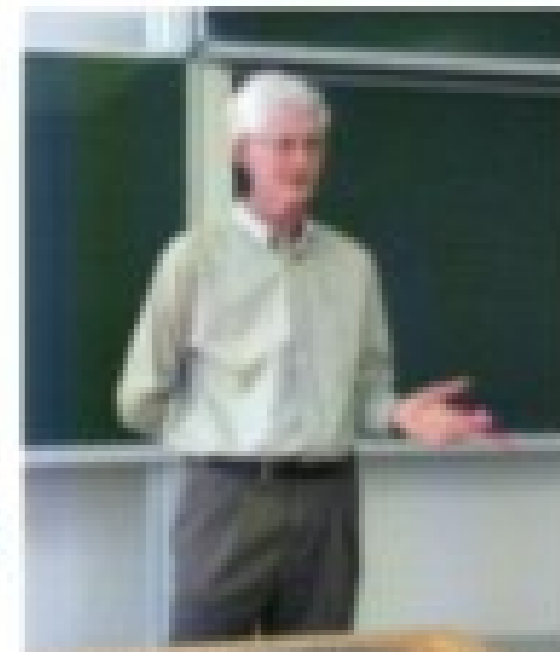
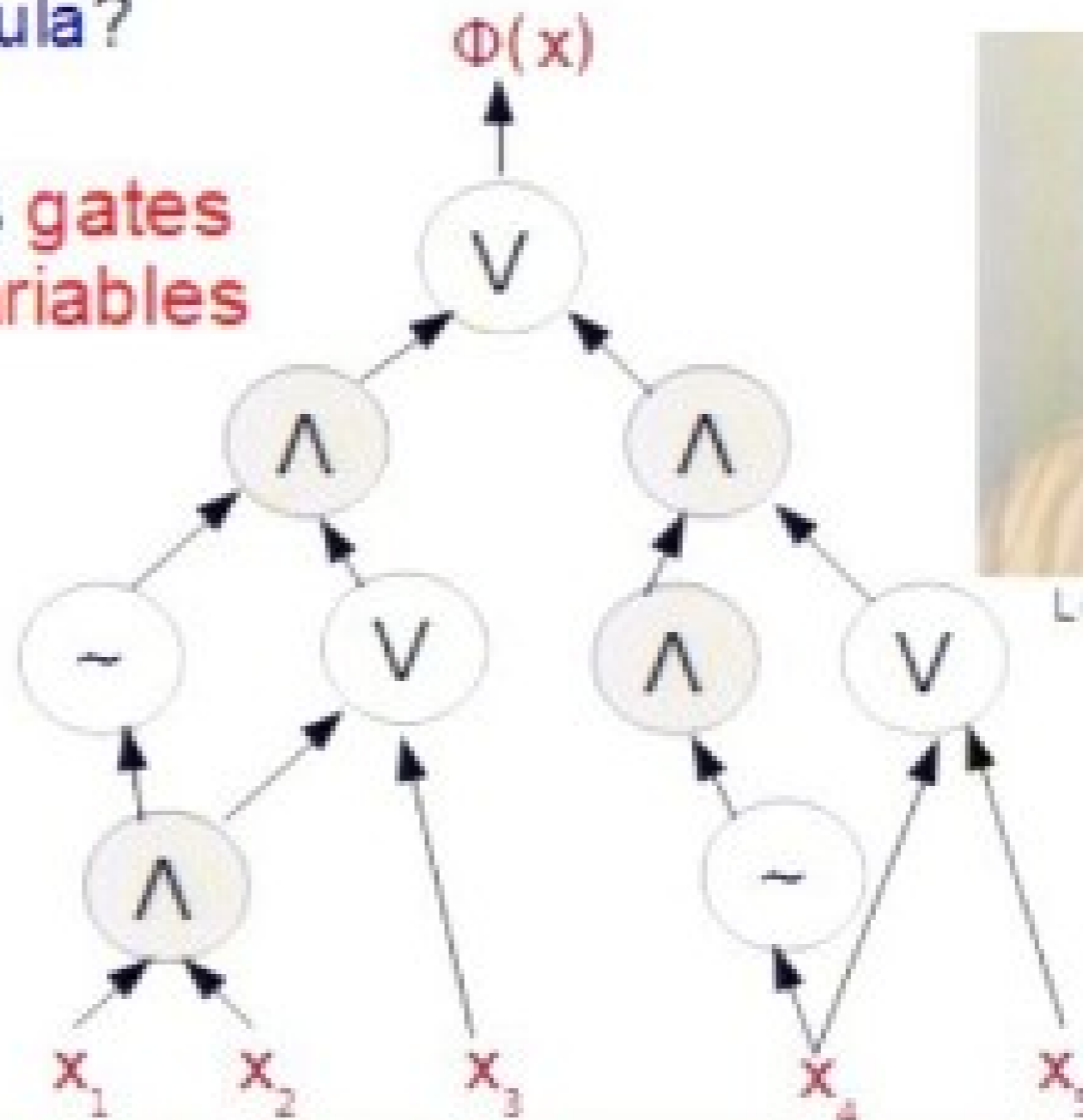
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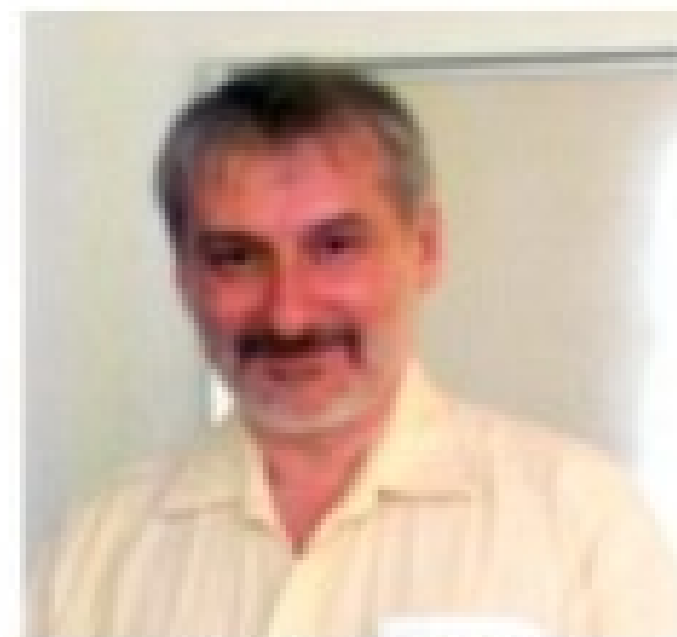
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Integer programming, set packing, vertex cover, feedback node set, hamiltonian cycle, chromatic number, clique, steiner tree, 3-dimensional matching, knapsack, job sequencing, partition, Max cut, independent set problem, Travelling salesmen problem



Clay Mathematics Institute (1999-)



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Given a matrix A **compute Per(A)** ?

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- Algebraic P vs NP question:*  
Is permanent efficiently computable ?



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# Zero or nonzero

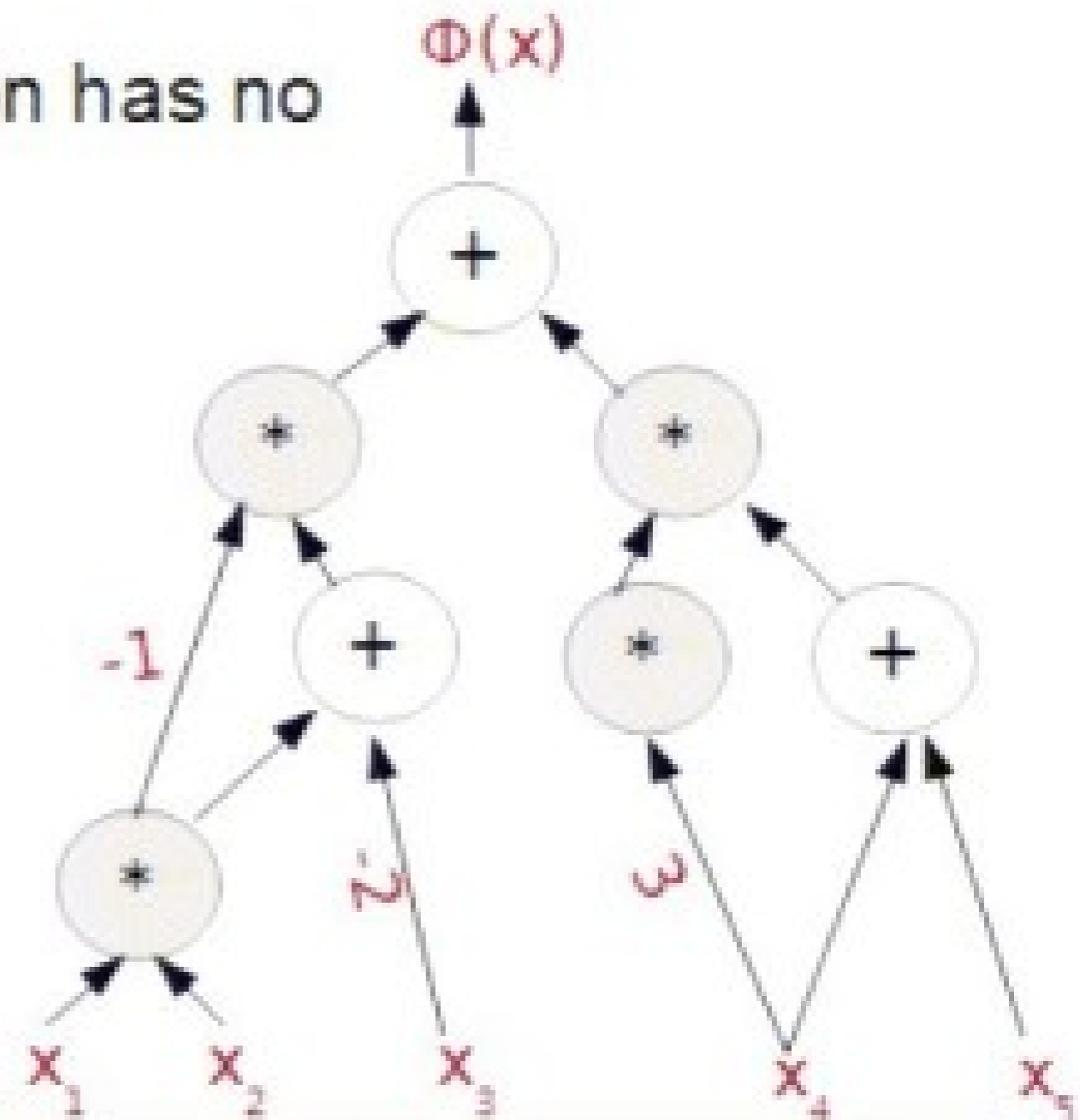
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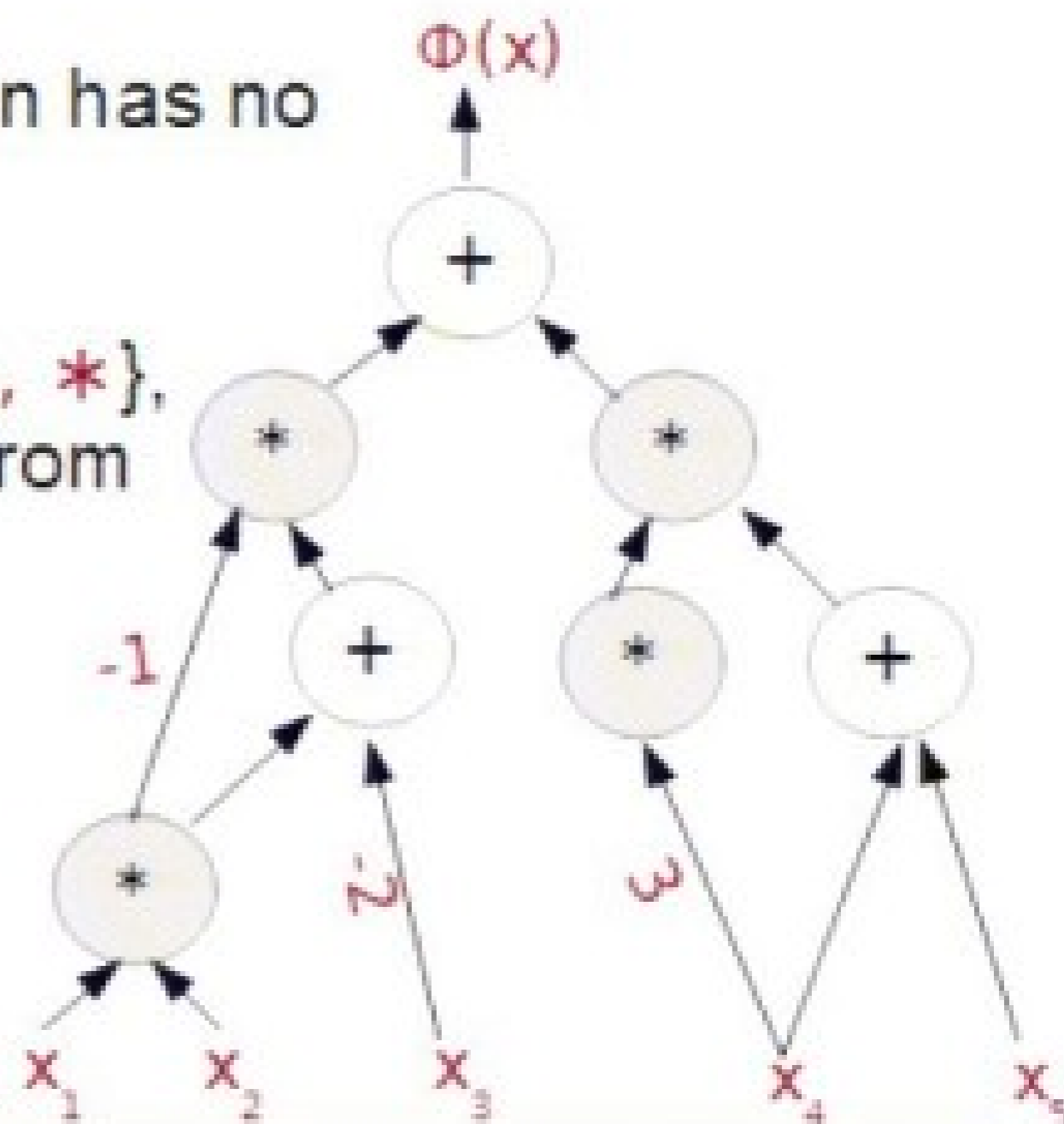
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- I.e. show that the permanent function has no *small* **arithmetic circuit**.
- An **arithmetic circuit**  $\Phi$  has **gates**  $\{+, *\}$ , **variables**  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and constants from some field  $F$ .
- An arithmetic circuit is an **algebraically neat model** to capture real computation.

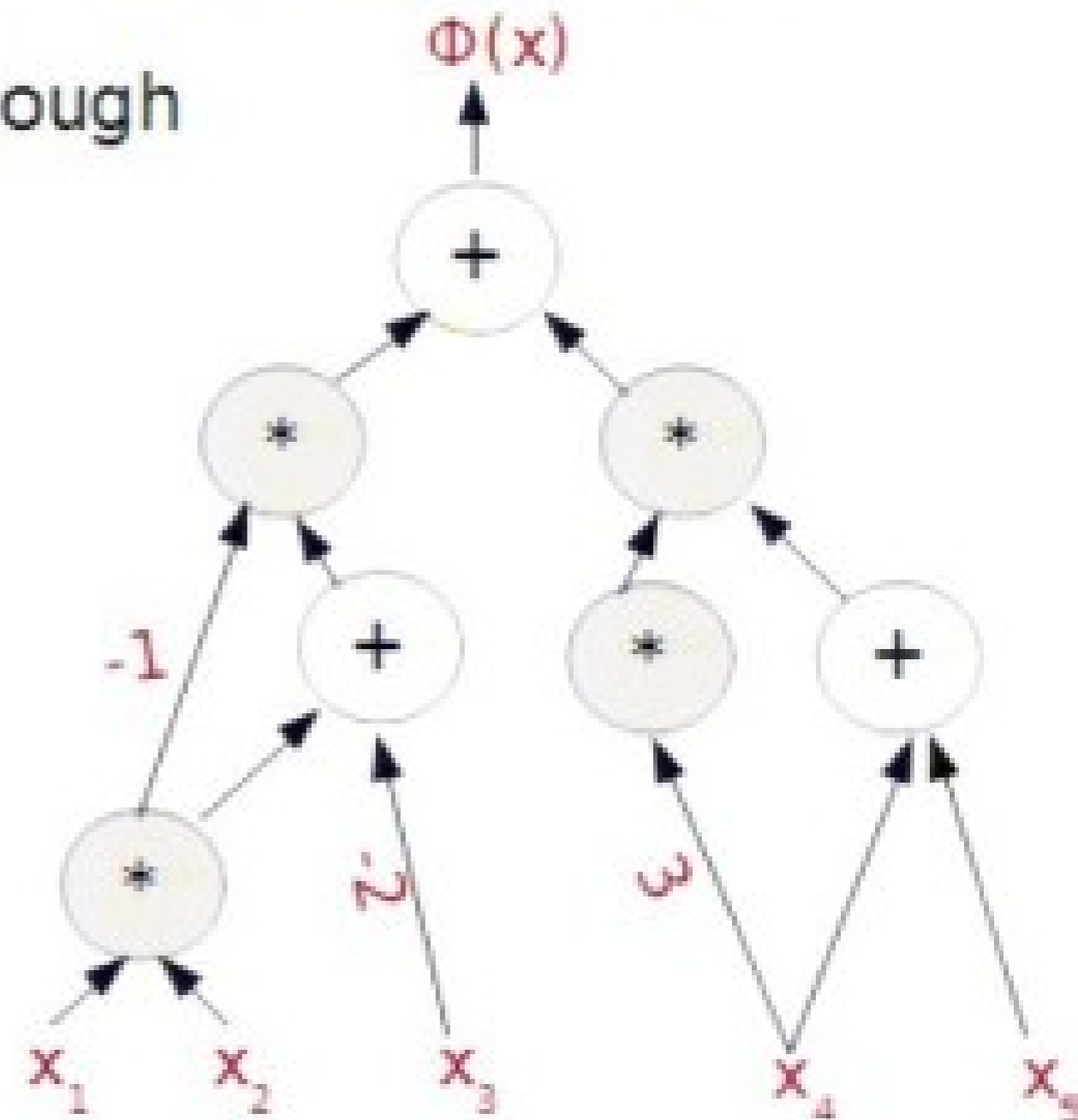


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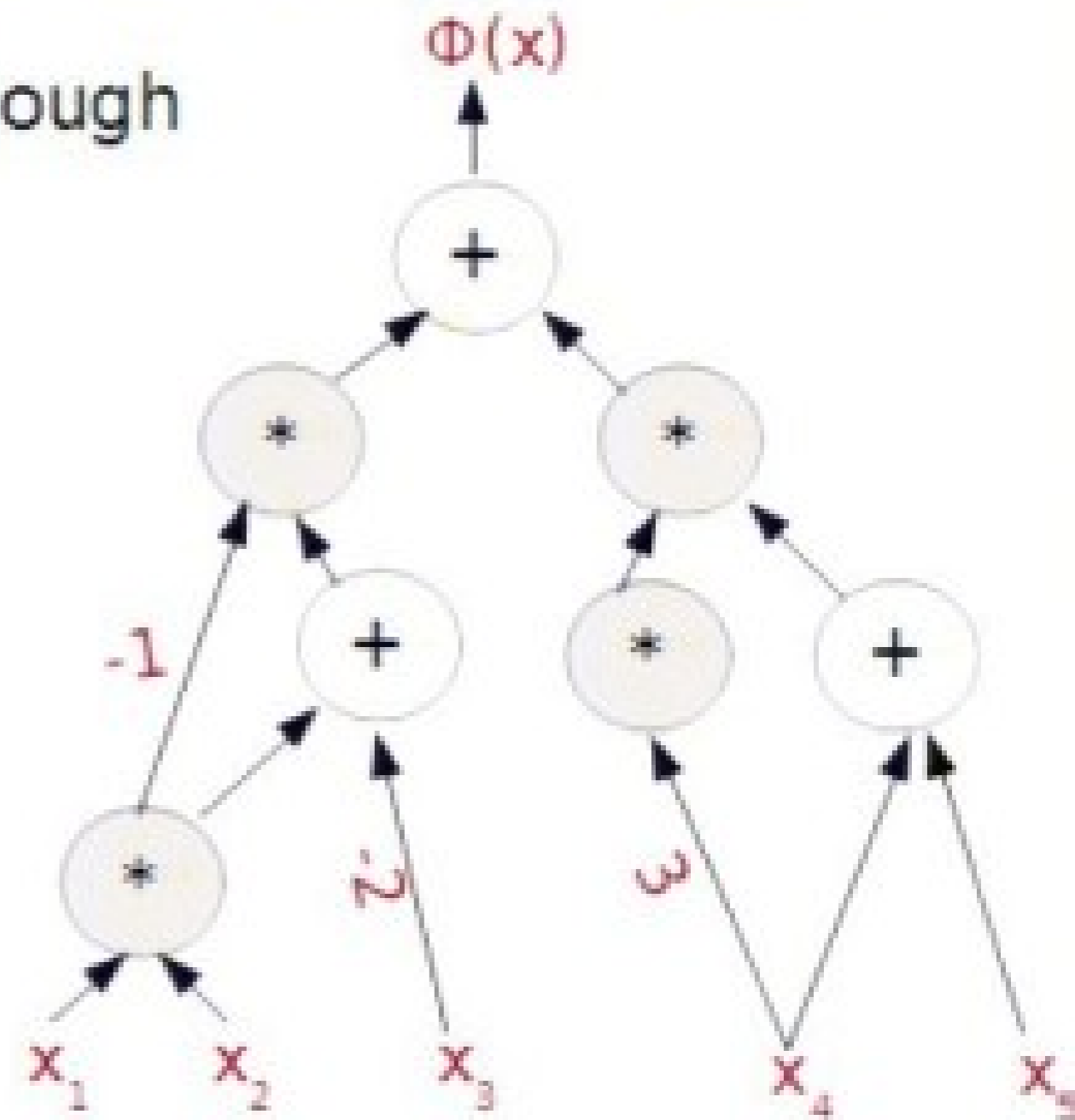
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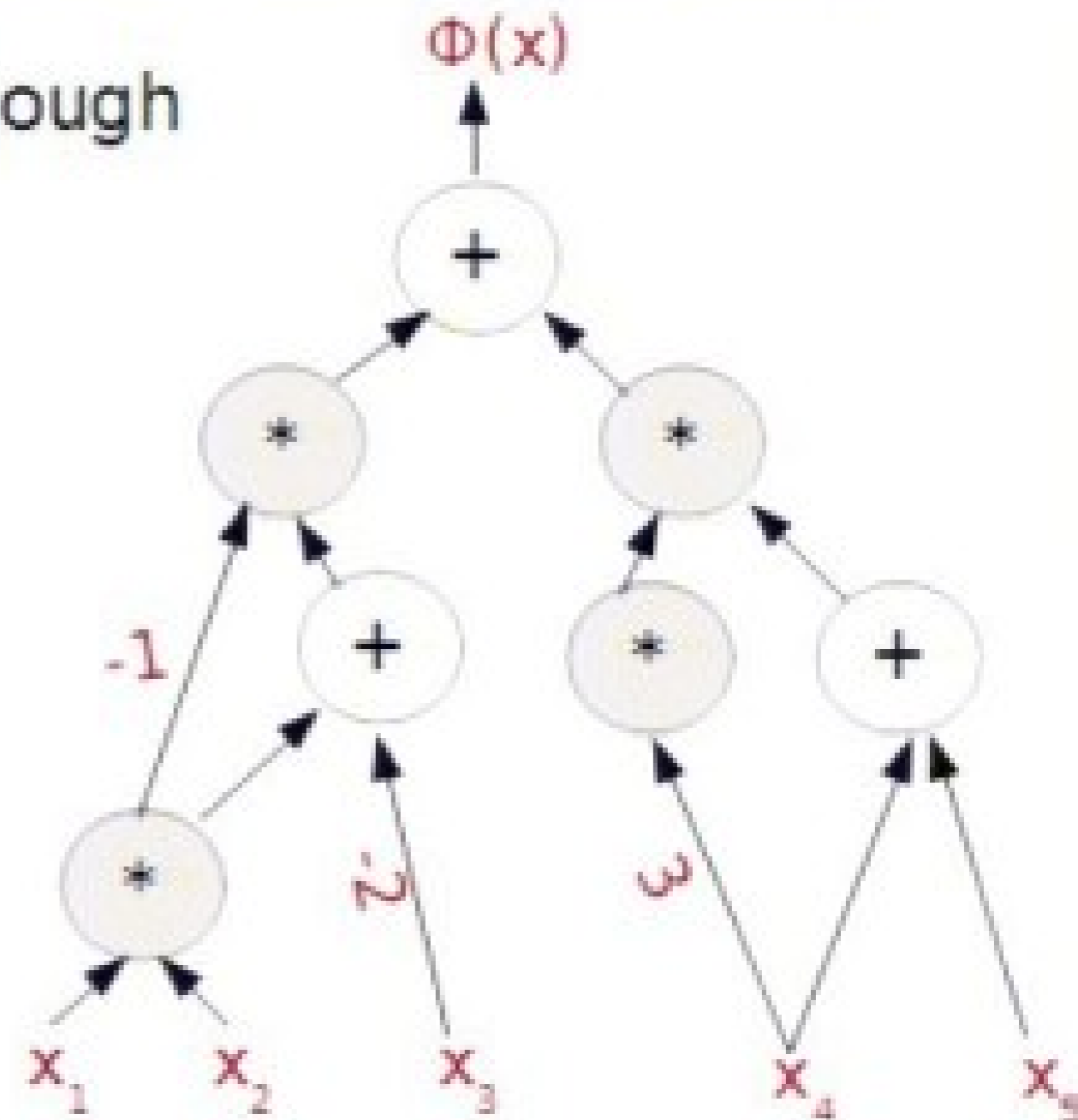
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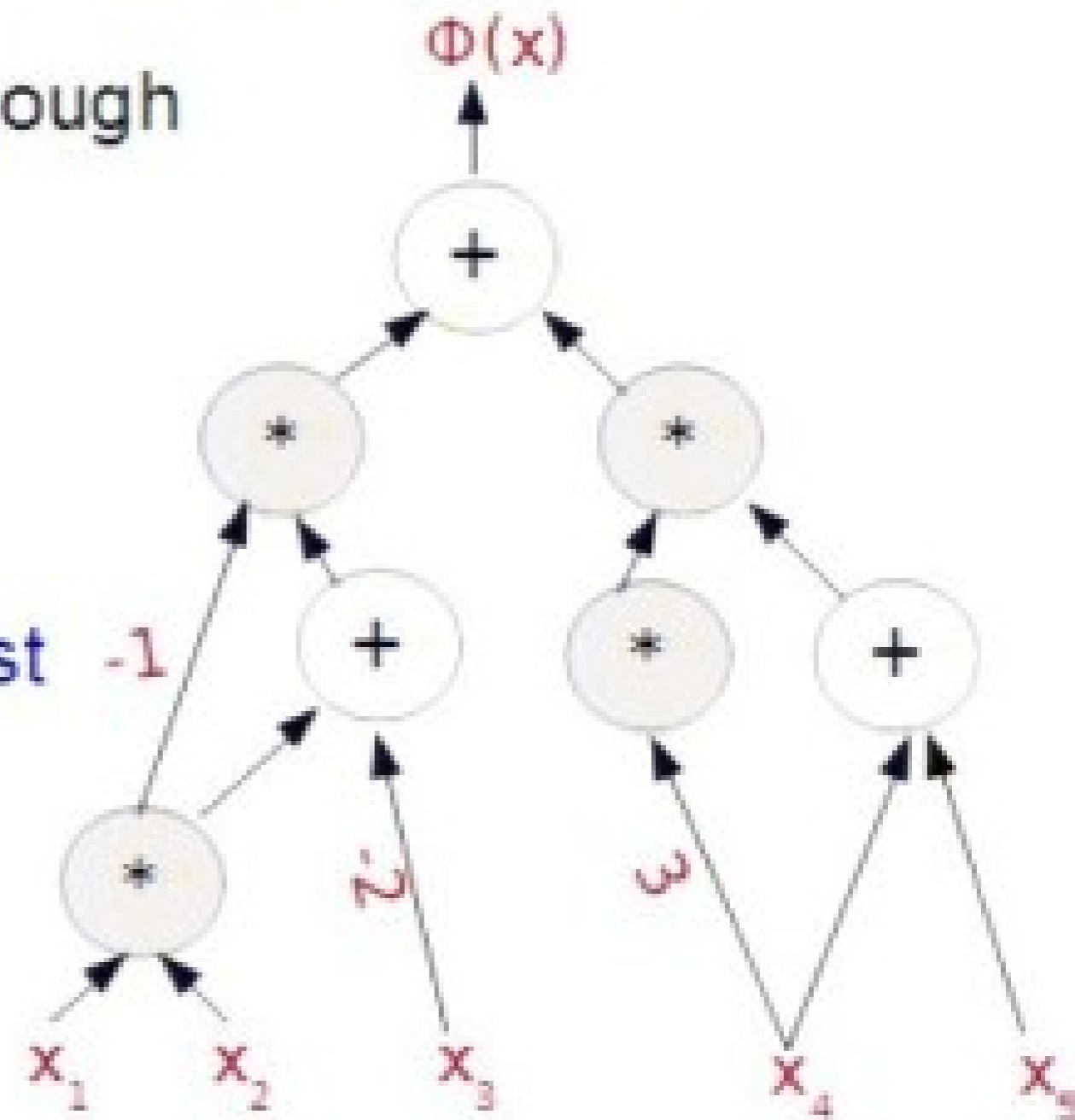
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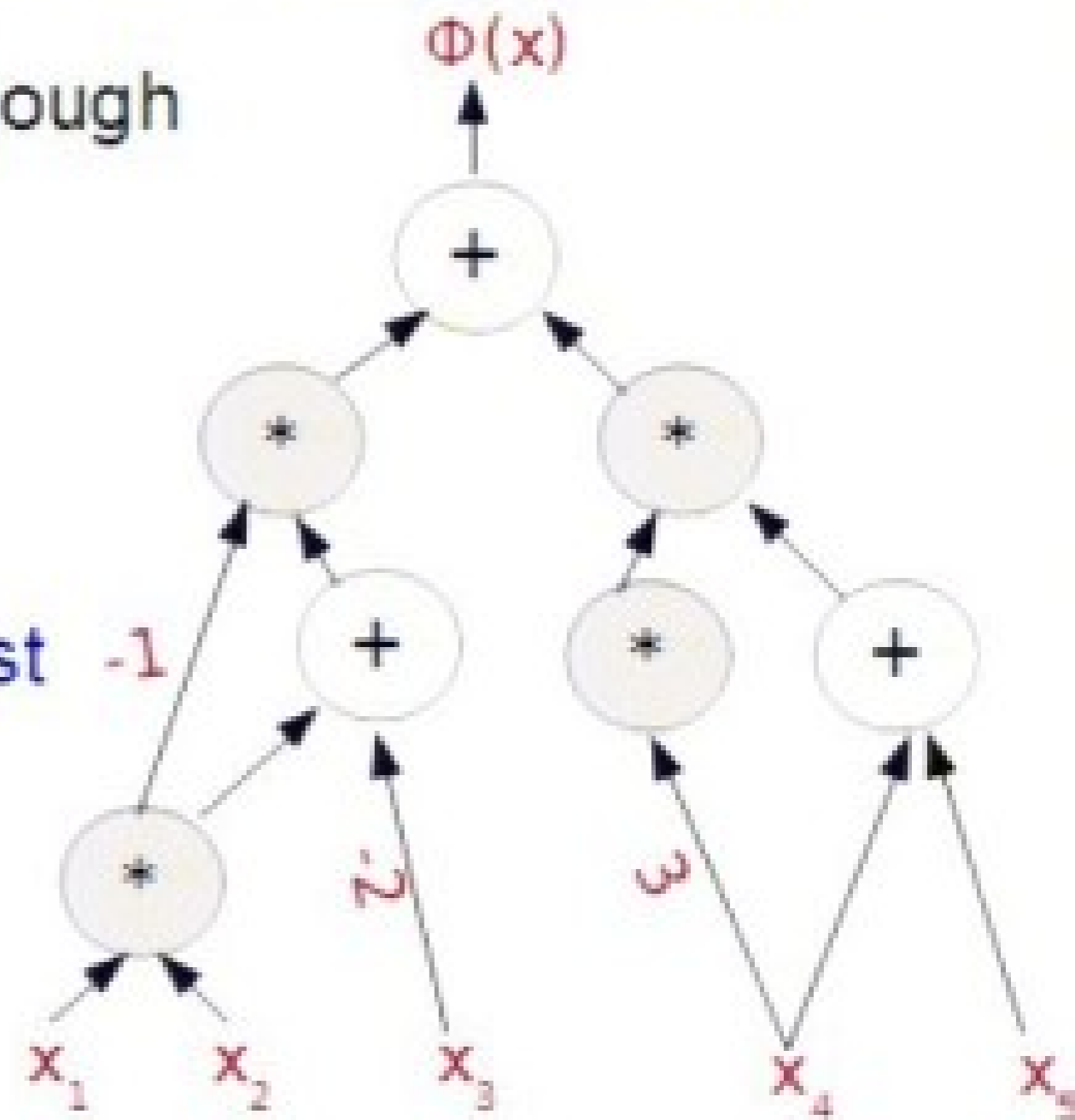
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- As a warmup: Find an algorithm to test whether a given circuit is zero.
  - Identity testing.

Meta-Theorem: A solution of identity testing would answer the permanent question.



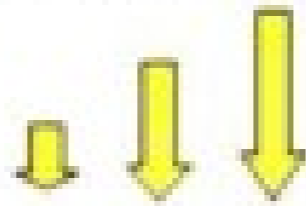
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- Find a *proper* algorithm for circuit *identity testing*.



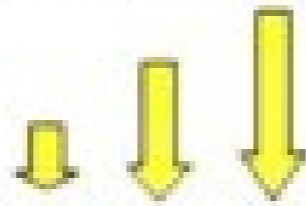
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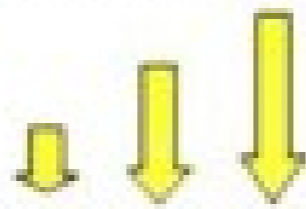
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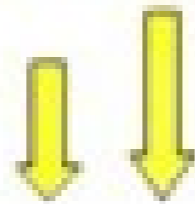
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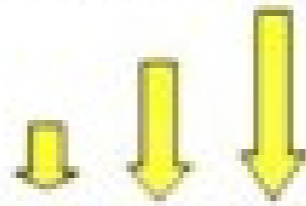


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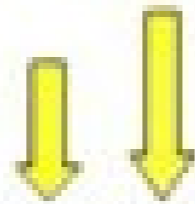


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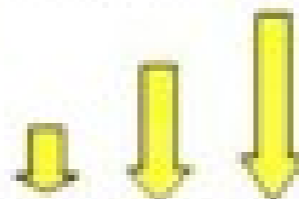
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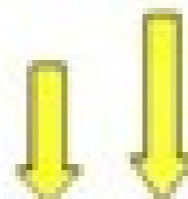
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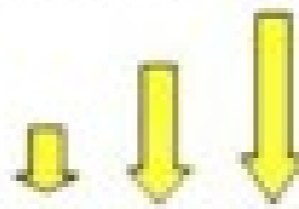
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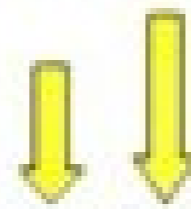
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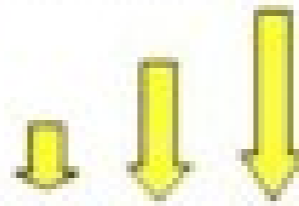


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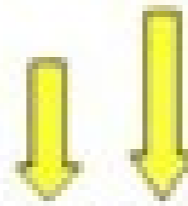
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*Thank you!*