



**Exercise 4.3** (Amplification — or: A little bit better than guessing is enough).  
(3+11 points)

Think of a boolean variable  $T$  and an algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  with output  $A$  and a probability slightly better than guessing to determine the value of  $T$ , ie.

$$p = \text{prob}(A = T) > \frac{1}{2}.$$

Imagine a new algorithm  $\mathcal{B}$  which calls  $\mathcal{A}$  independently  $m$  times and outputs  $B$  as the majority of the  $\mathcal{A}$ s — returning failure in the event of a draw.

- 3 (i) Compute for  $m = 3$  the probability

$$p_3 = \text{prob}(B = T)$$

that  $B$  succeeds.

- +4 (ii) Prove that

$$\text{prob}(B = T) \geq \sum_{m/2 < i \leq m} \binom{m}{i} p^i (1-p)^{m-i}$$

and give a simple —but still useful— lower bound for the sum.

*Hint:* Chernoff.

- +3 (iii) How many repetitions,  $m$ , do you need for  $p = 0.6, 0.7, 0.8$  in order to guarantee  $\text{prob}(B = T) > 0.9$ ?

- +4 (iv) Let  $p = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{n}$ . Determine a number of repetitions such that

$$\text{prob}(B = T) > 1 - e^{-cn}$$

for some constant  $c > 0$ .