

# Finding a Nash Equilibrium is No Easier than Breaking Fiat-Shamir

Arka Rai Choudhuri   Pavel Hubáček   Chethan Kamath  
Krzysztof Pietrzak   Alon Rosen   Guy Rothblum

JHU Theory Seminar

What is the **Cryptographic Hardness** in PPAD?

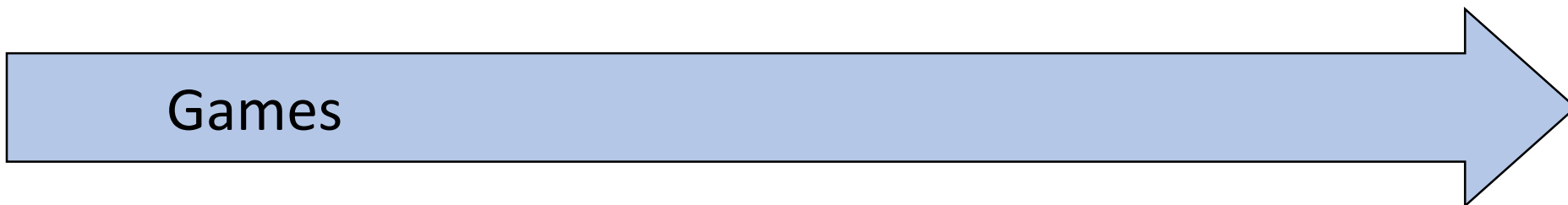
# The Story Line



# The Story Line



Games



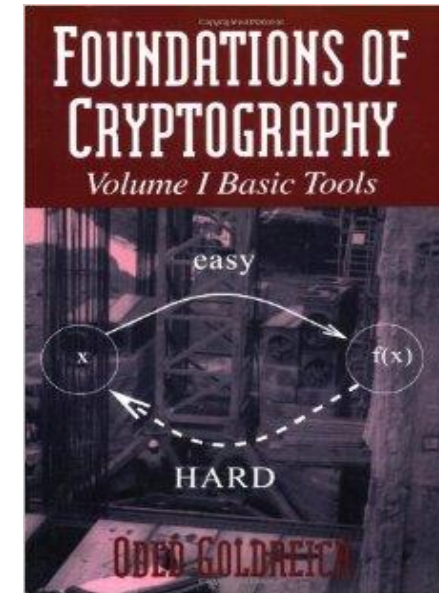
# The Story Line



Games

Complexity

# The Story Line

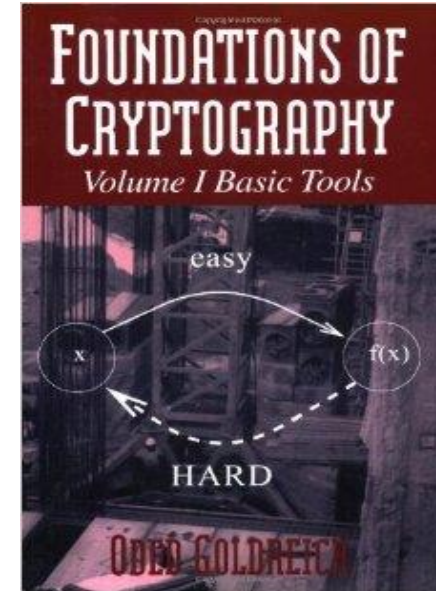
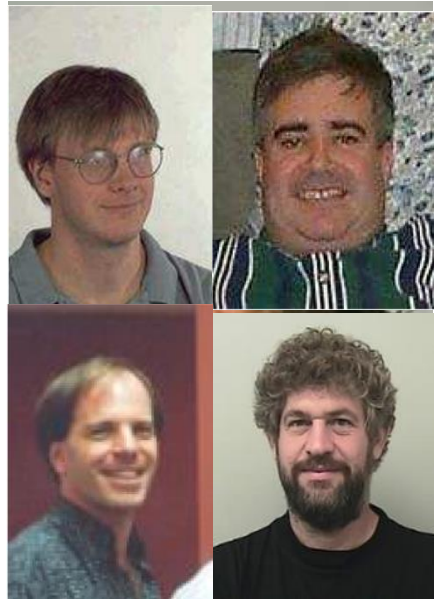


Games

Complexity

Crypto

# The Story Line



Games

Complexity

Crypto

# The Story Line



Games

Complexity

Crypto



# Game Theory and Nash Equilibrium

# Game Theory and Nash Equilibrium



# Game Theory and Nash Equilibrium



	Left	Right
Left	1 \ -1	-1 \ 1
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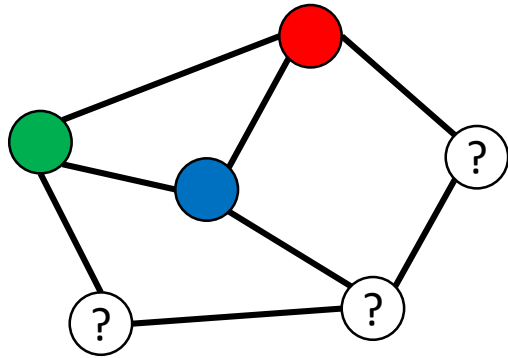
# Game Theory and Nash Equilibrium



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[Nash'51]: A (mixed) equilibrium always exists

# How hard is finding a Nash Equilibrium?

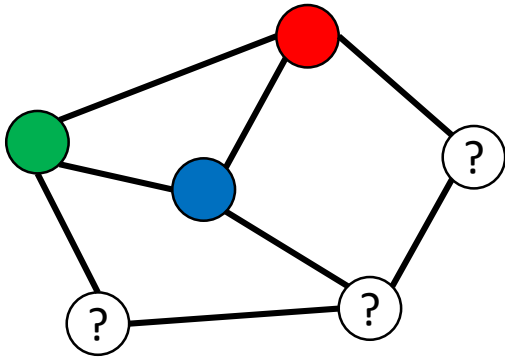


Reduction?



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# How hard is finding a Nash Equilibrium?



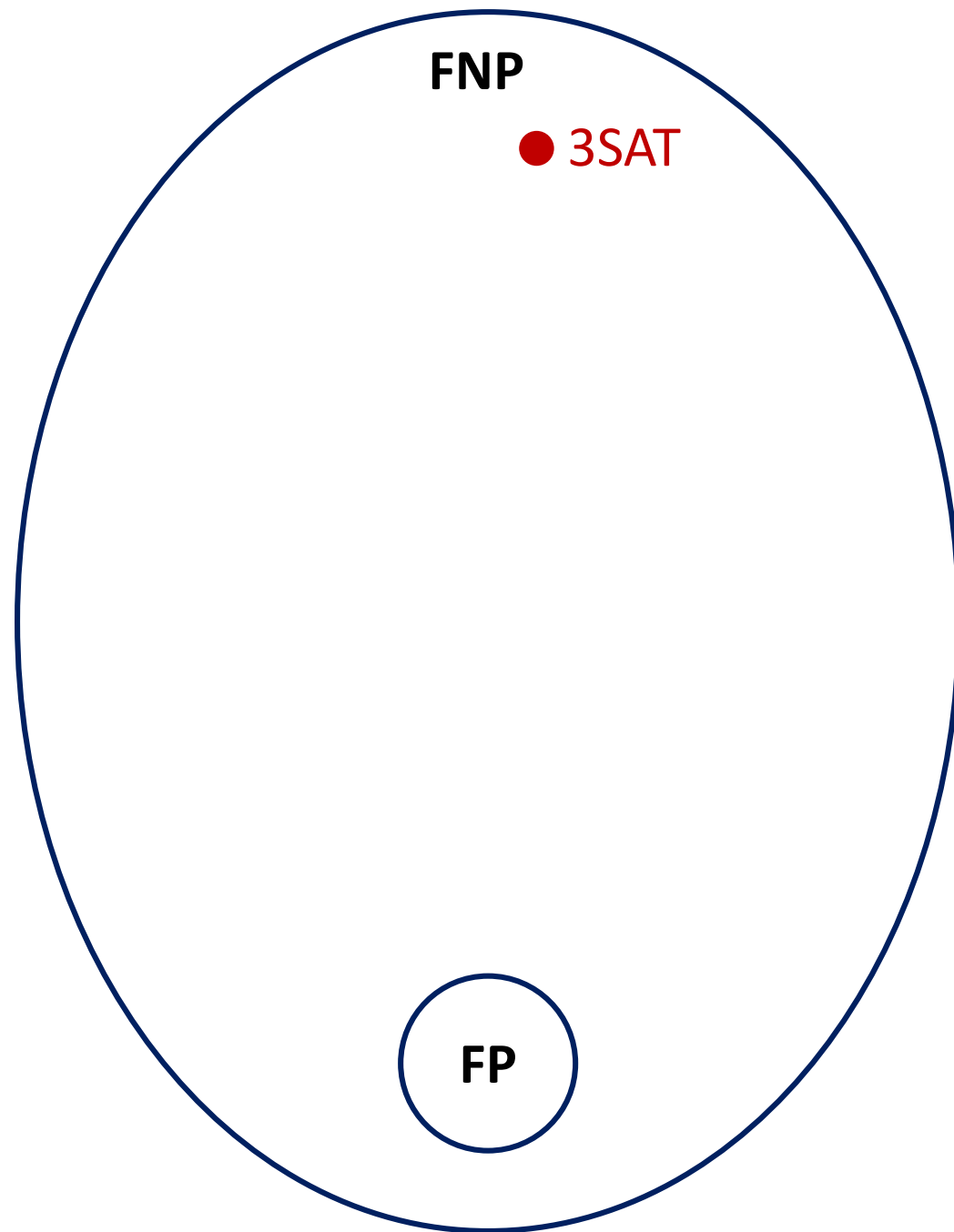
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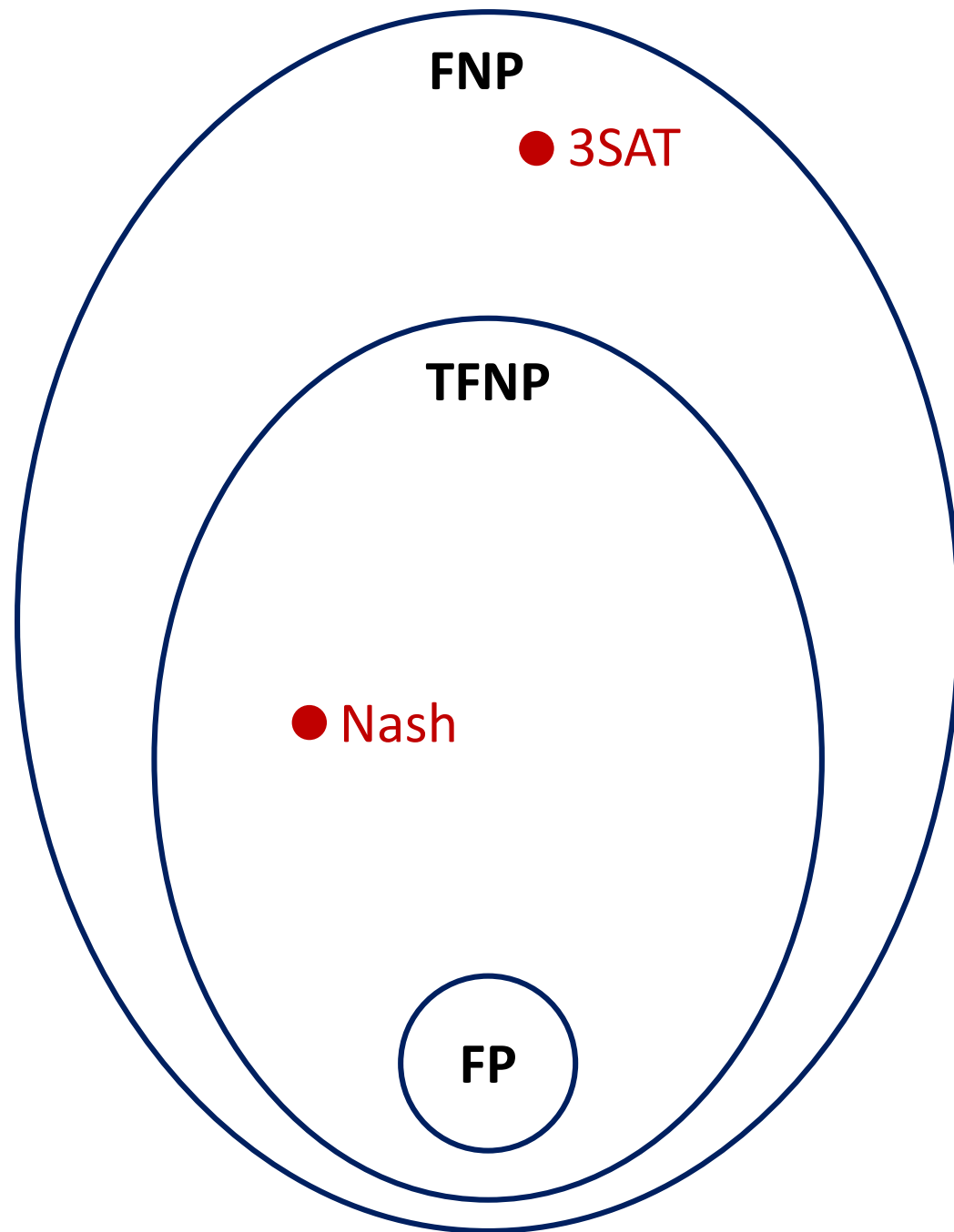
A Venn diagram consisting of two concentric circles. The outer circle is larger and contains the text 'FNP' at its top. The inner circle is smaller and is positioned at the bottom of the outer circle, containing the text 'FP'.

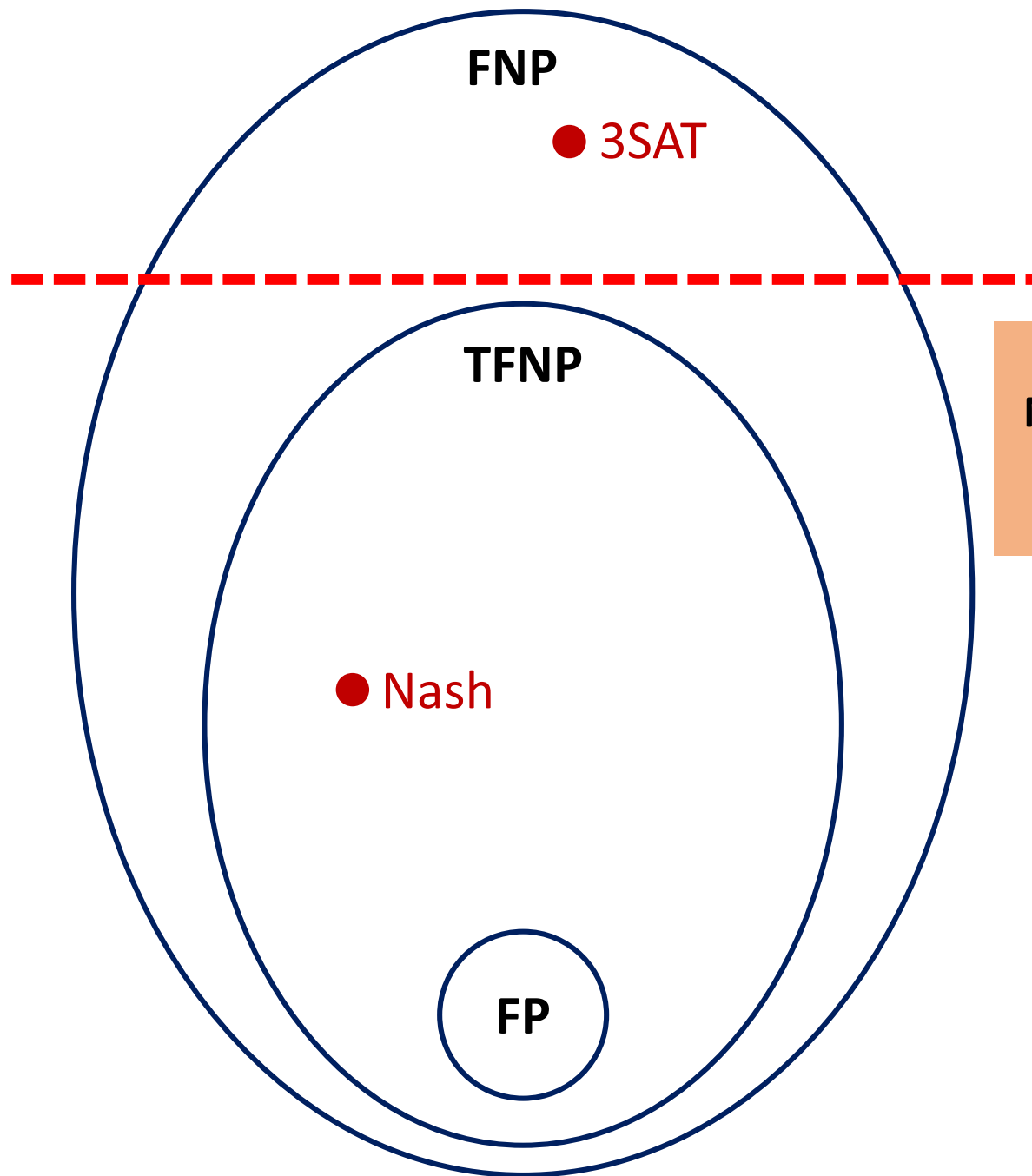
**FNP**

**FP**



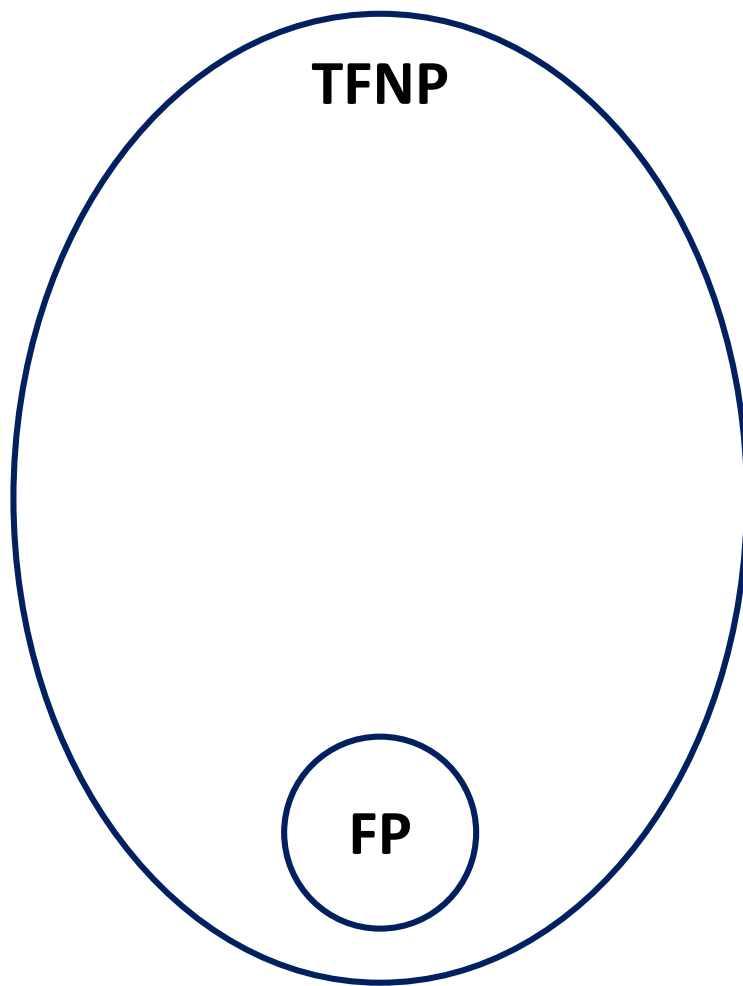




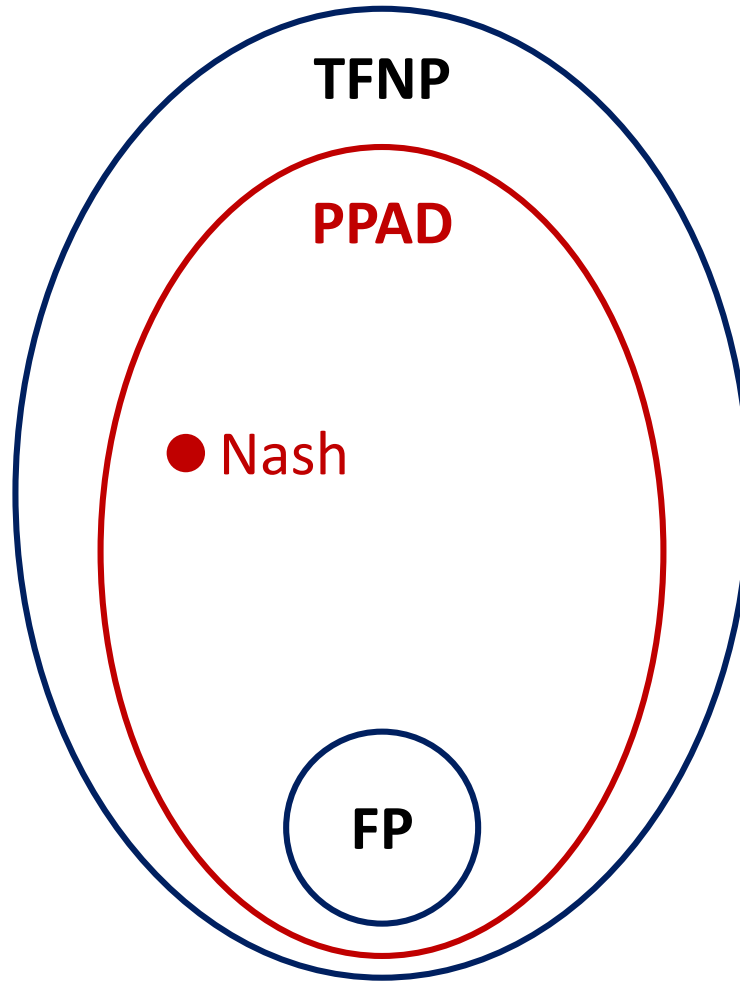


**Not NP-hard unless  $NP=coNP$   
[Megiddo-Papadimitriou'89]**

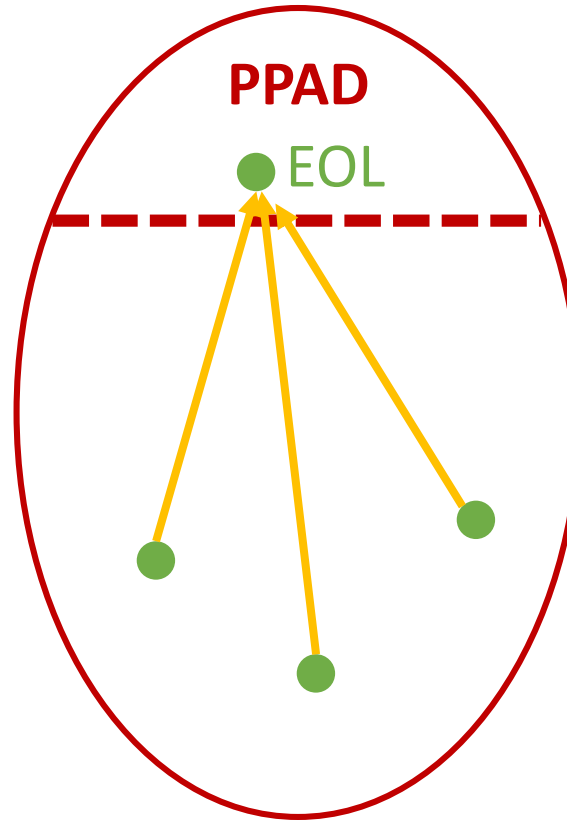
# The Class PPAD [Papadimitriou'94]



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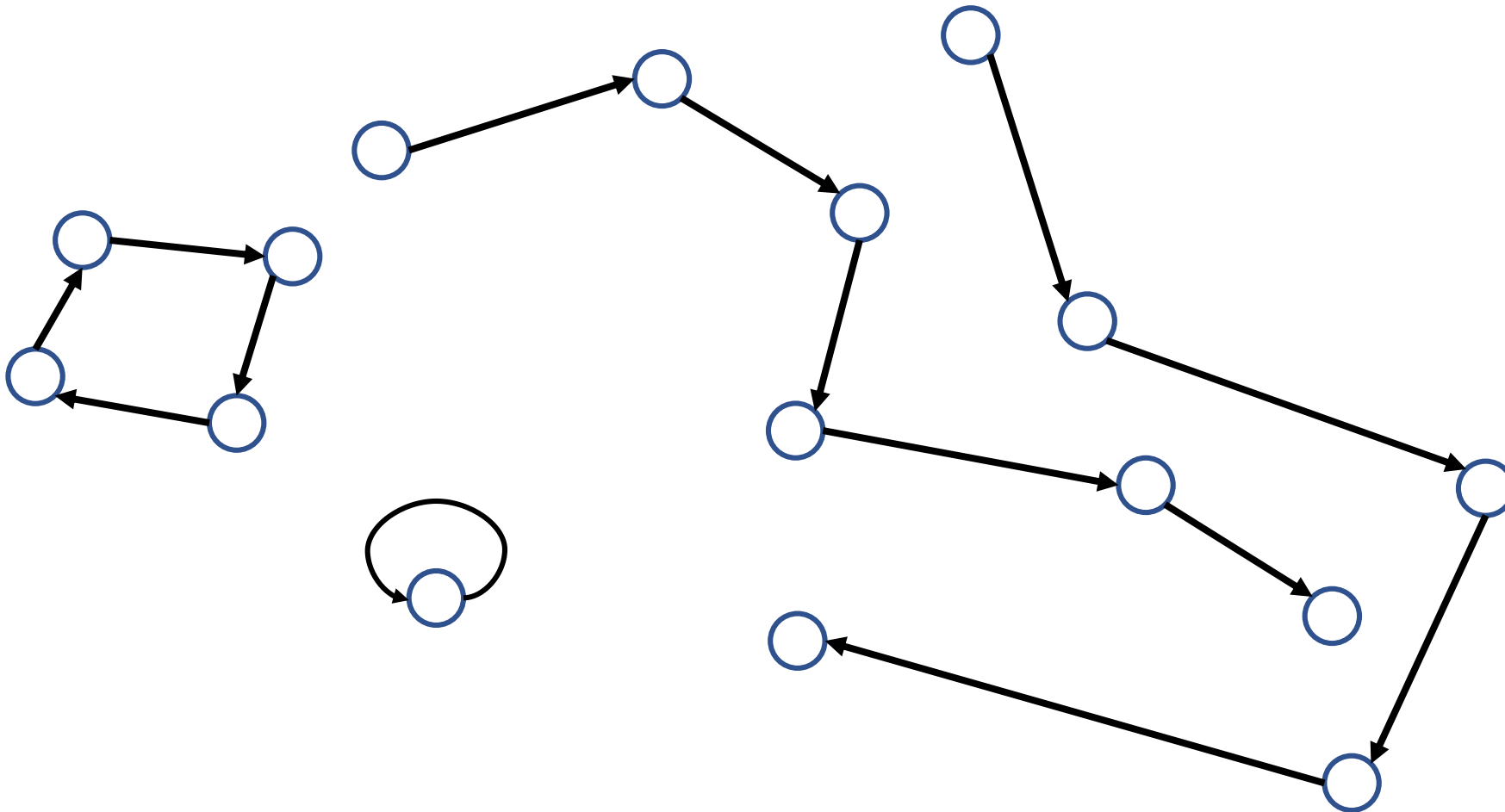


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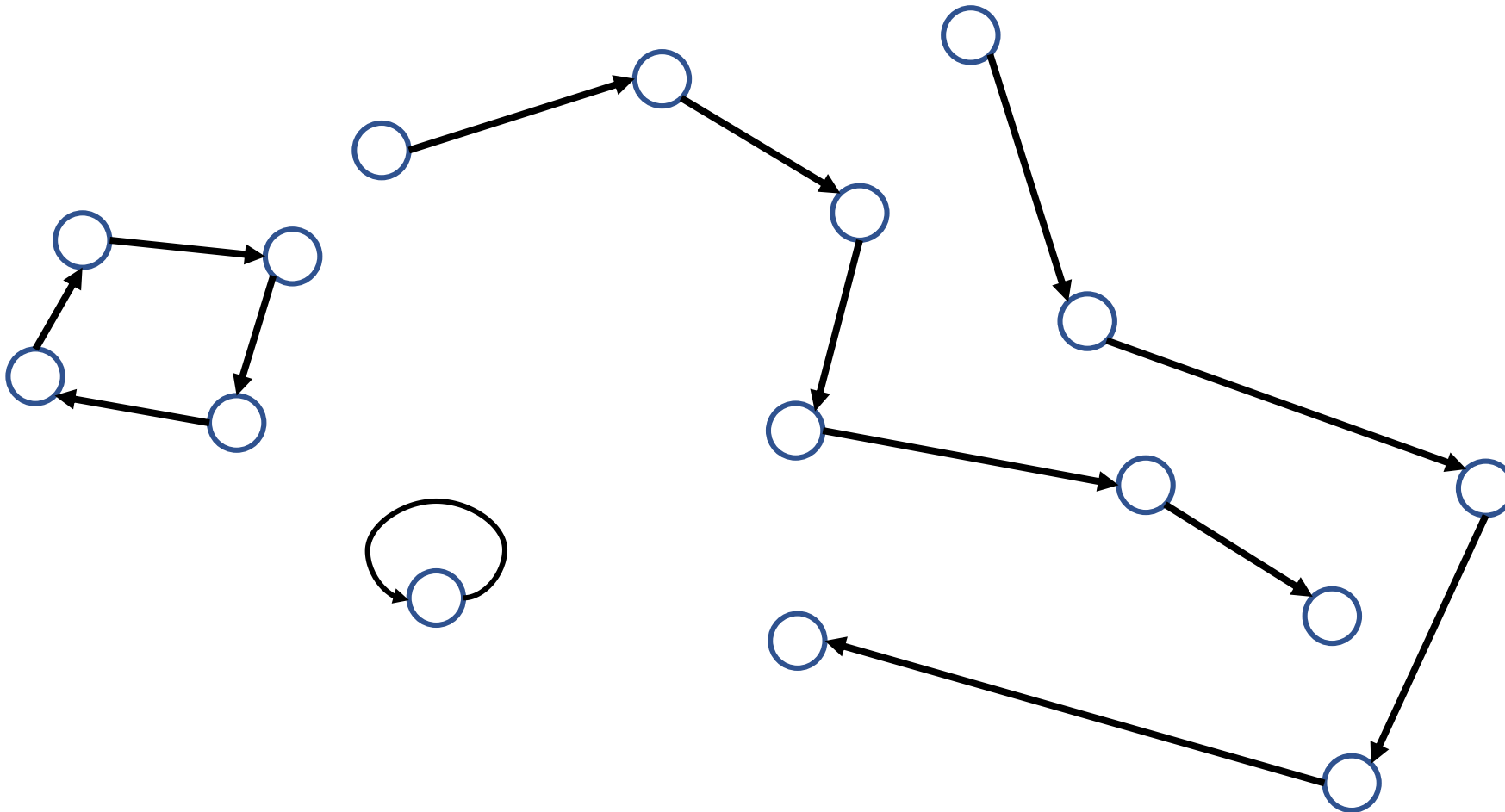
Defined through its  
complete problem:  
**END OF THE LINE (EOL)**

# End of the Line (EOL)

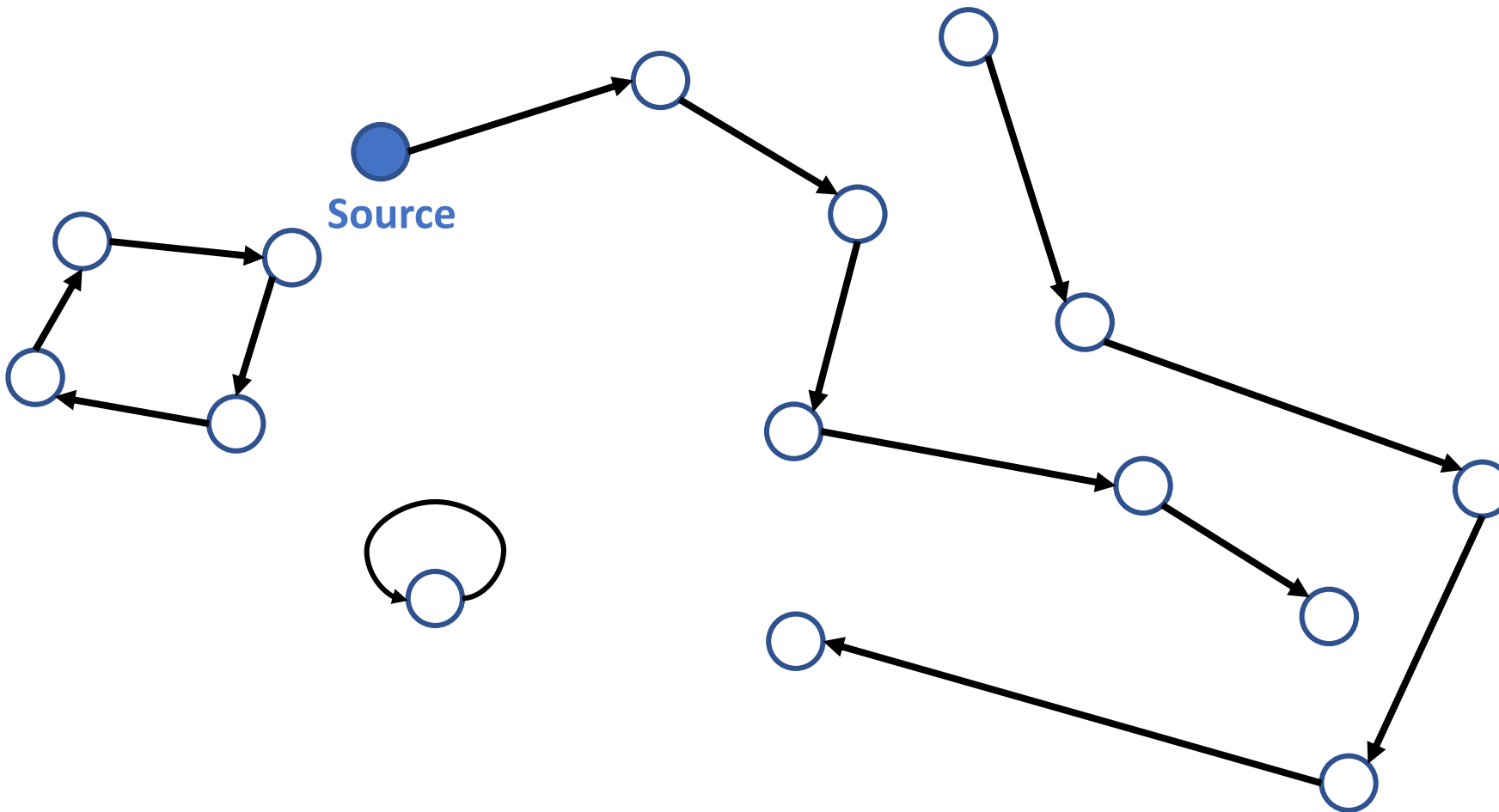


# End of the Line (EOL)

Directed graph



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Directed graph

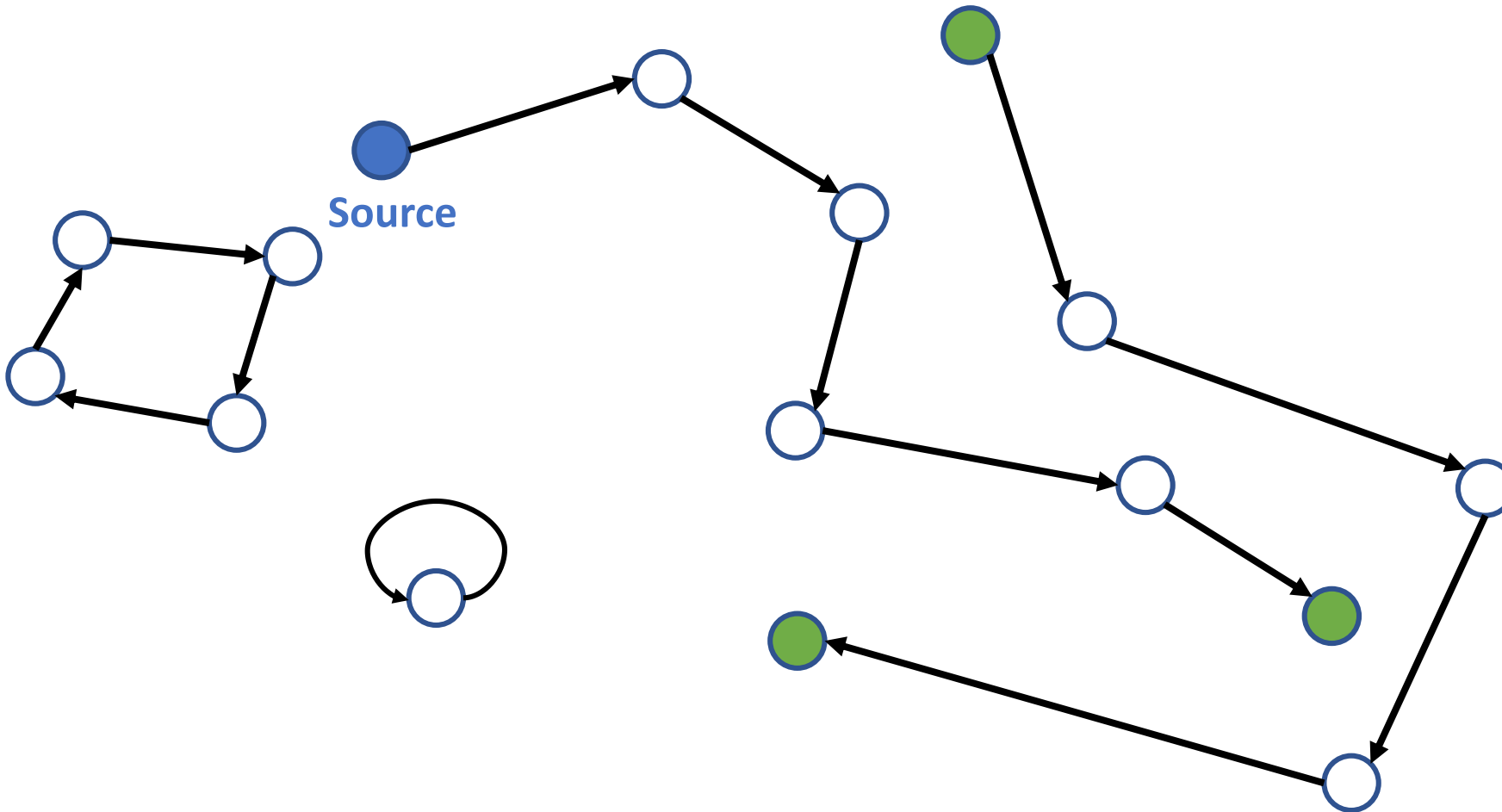
Every node has in  
and out degree  $\leq 1$



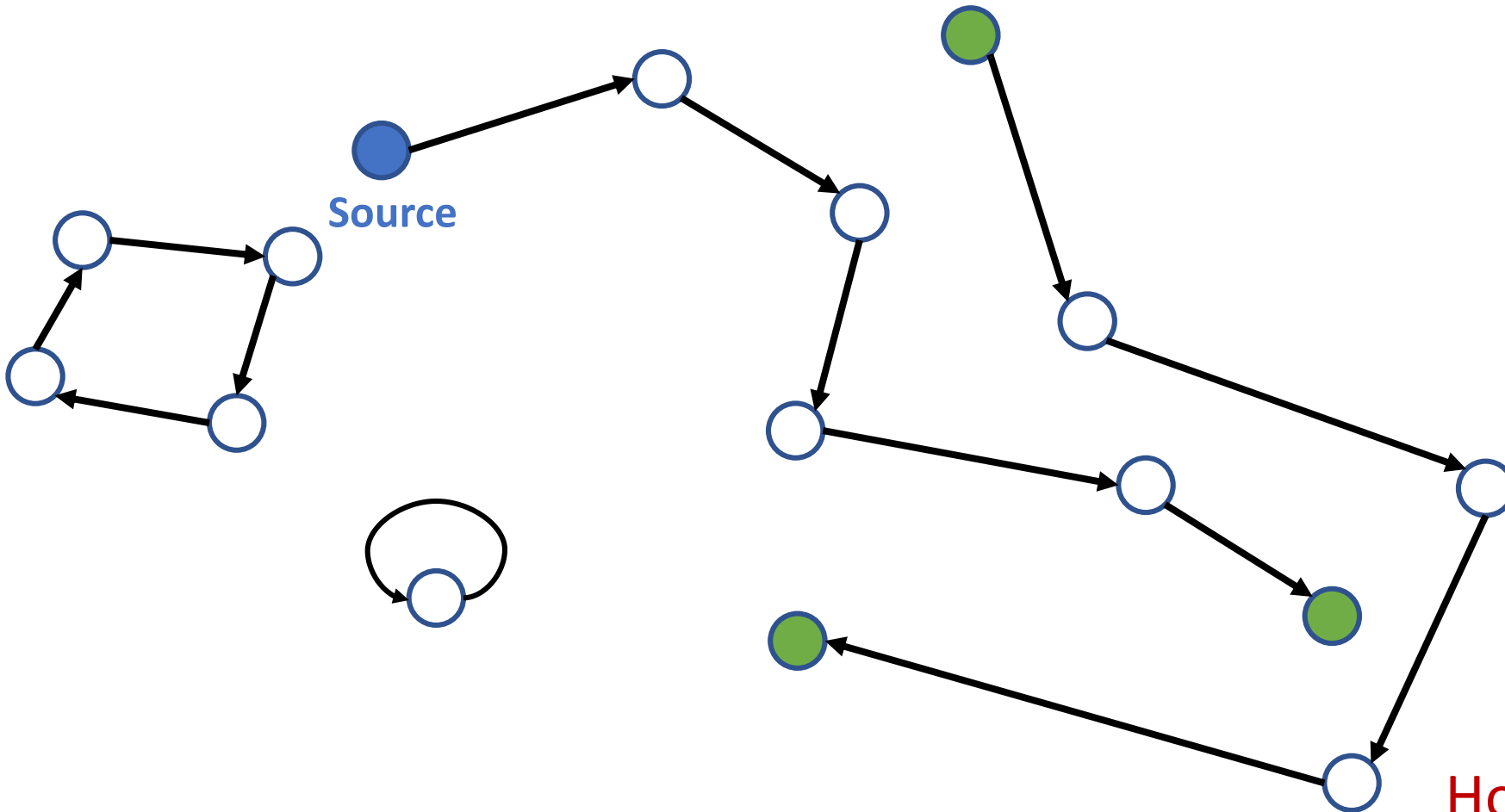
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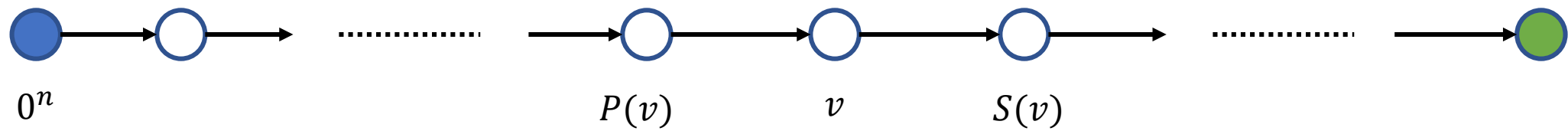


# Directed graph

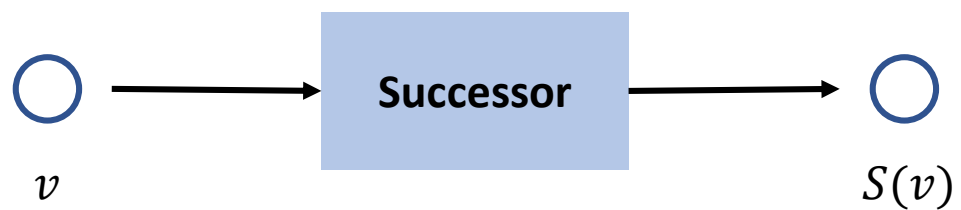
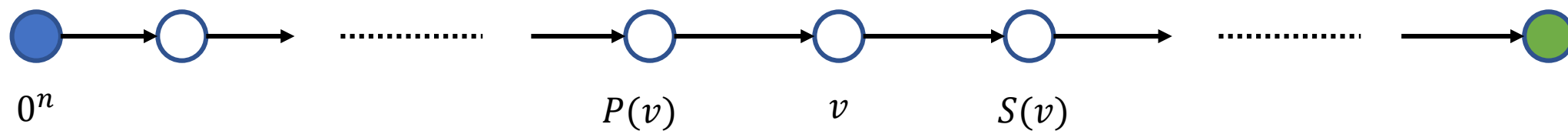
Every node has in  
and out degree  $\leq 1$

## How easy is it to solve this?

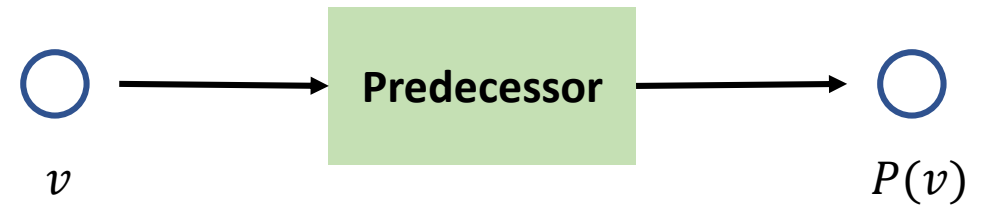
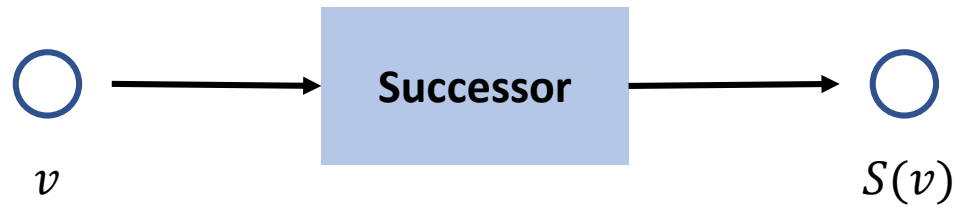
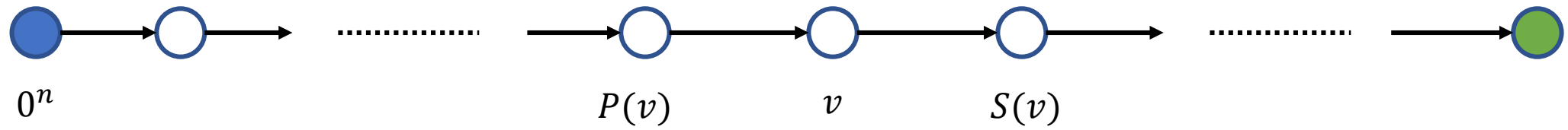
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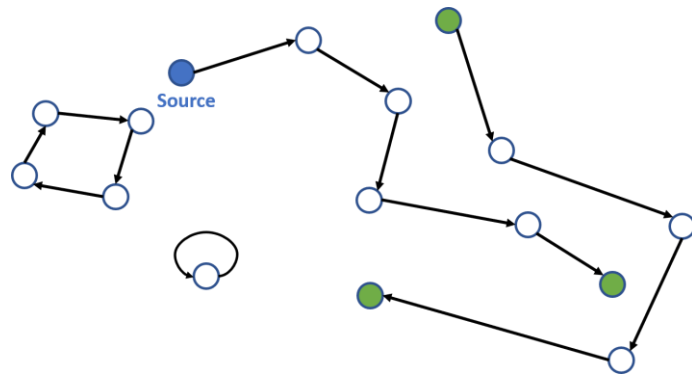
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# PPAD and NASH [Papadimitriou'94]

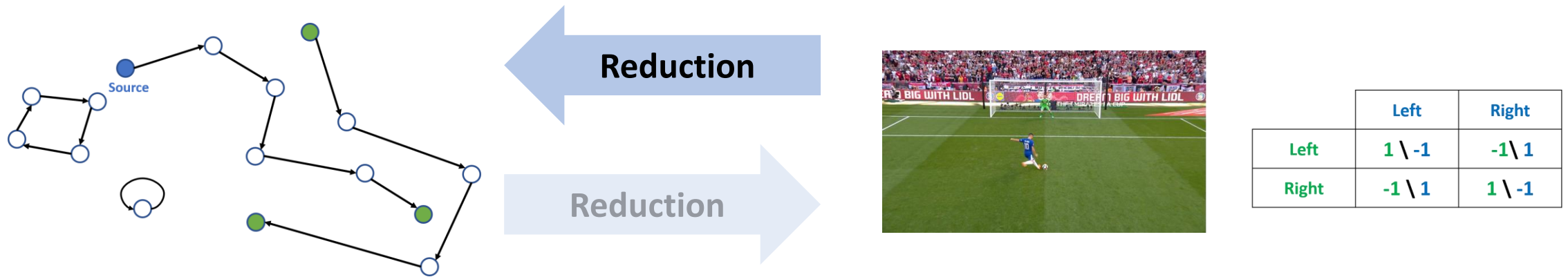


Reduction

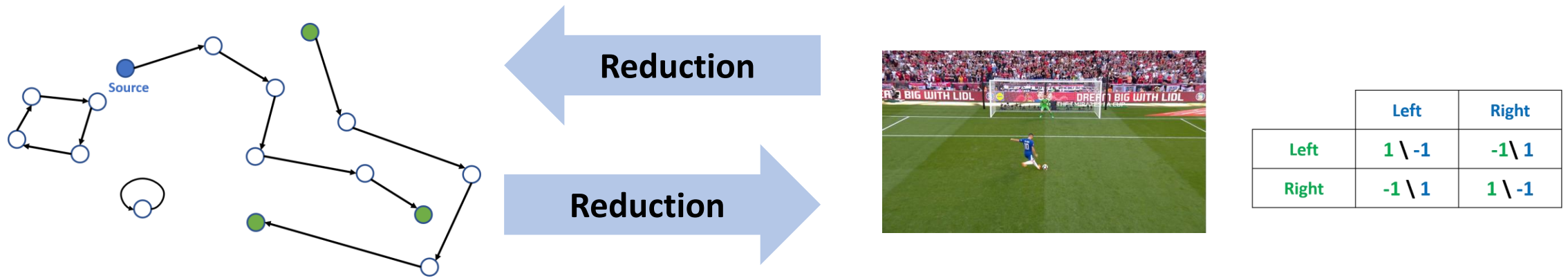


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# PPAD and NASH [Papadimitriou'94]



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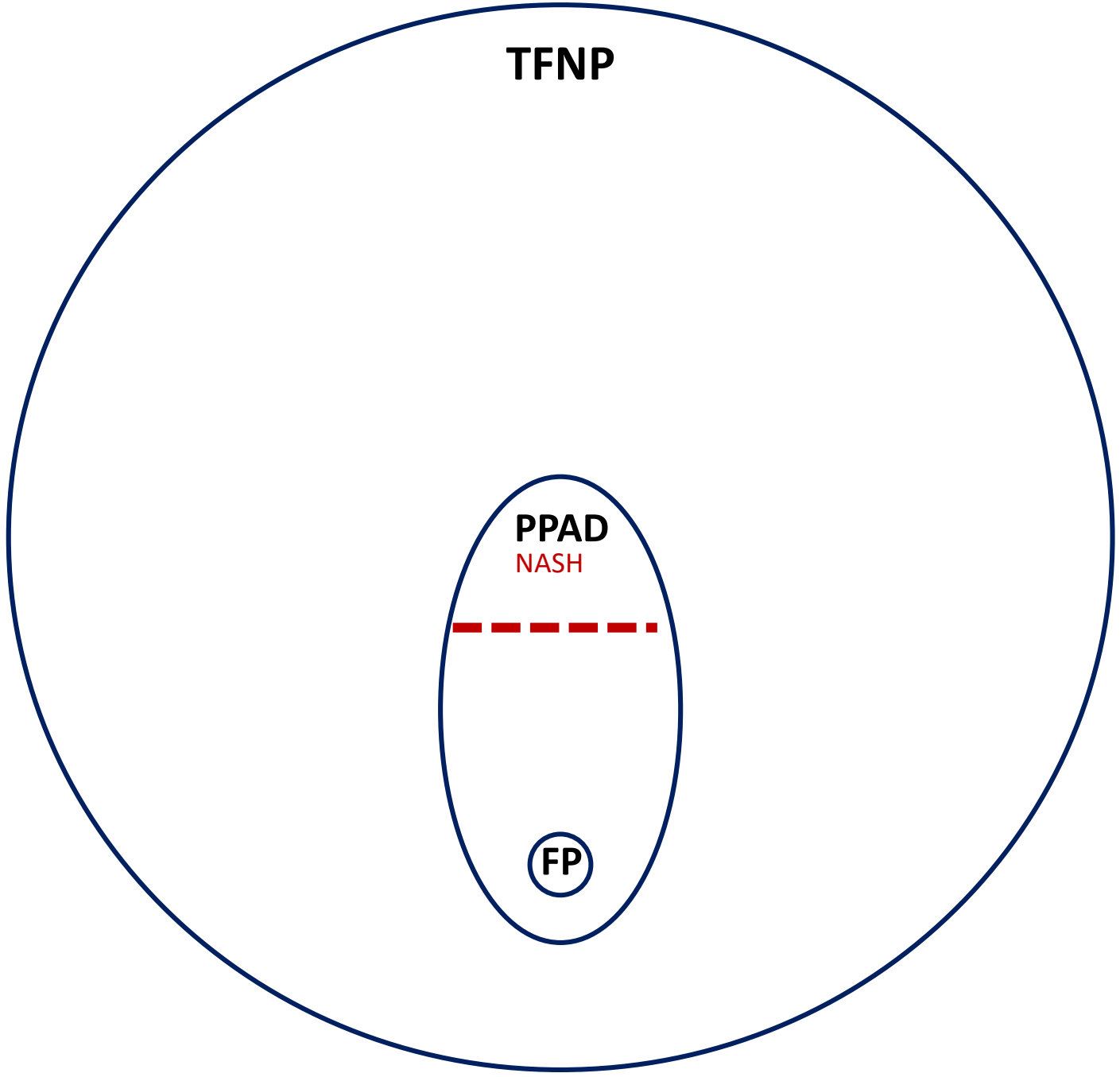
[Daskalakis-Goldberg-Papadimitriou 05],  
[Chen-Deng 05]

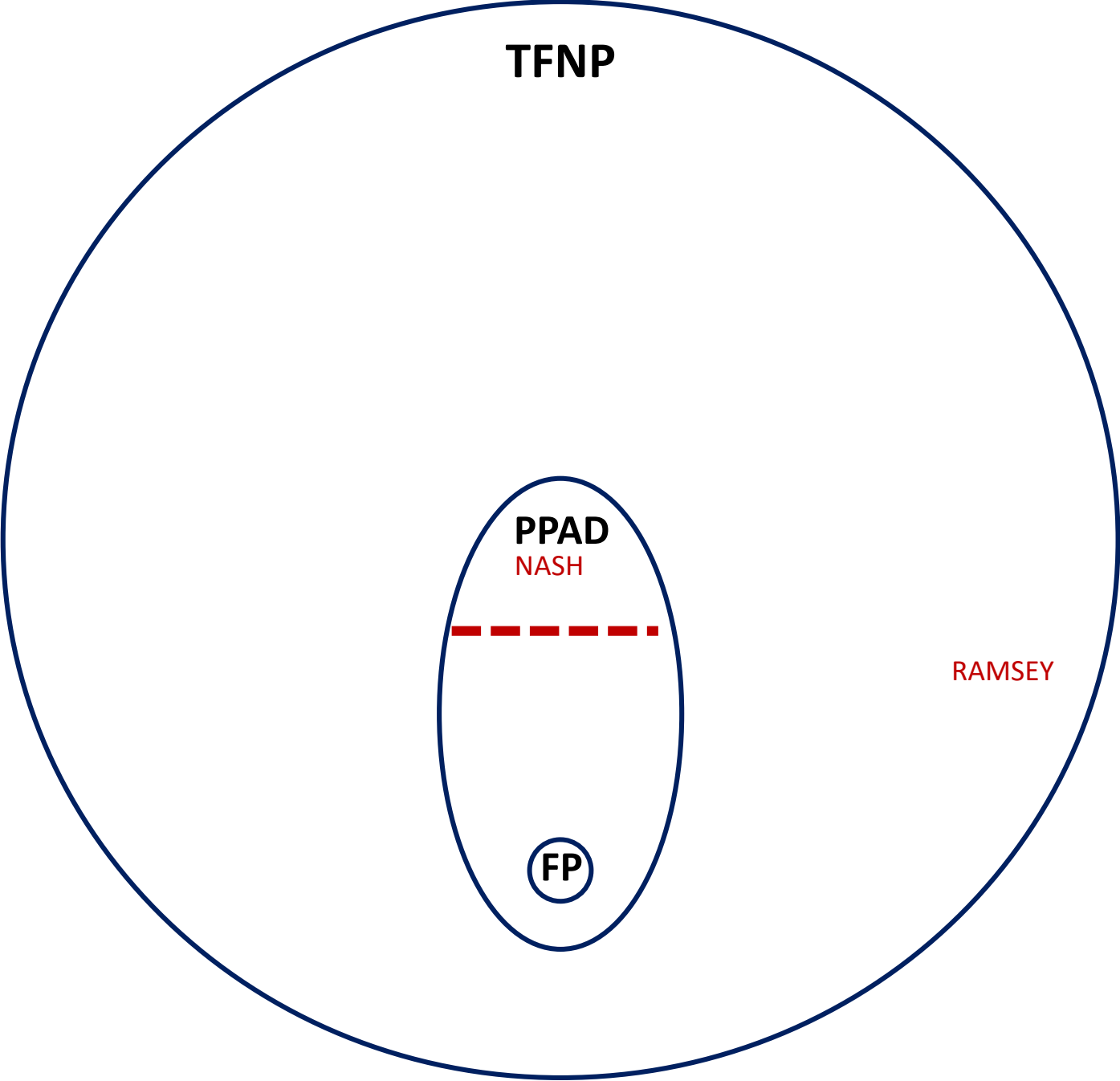


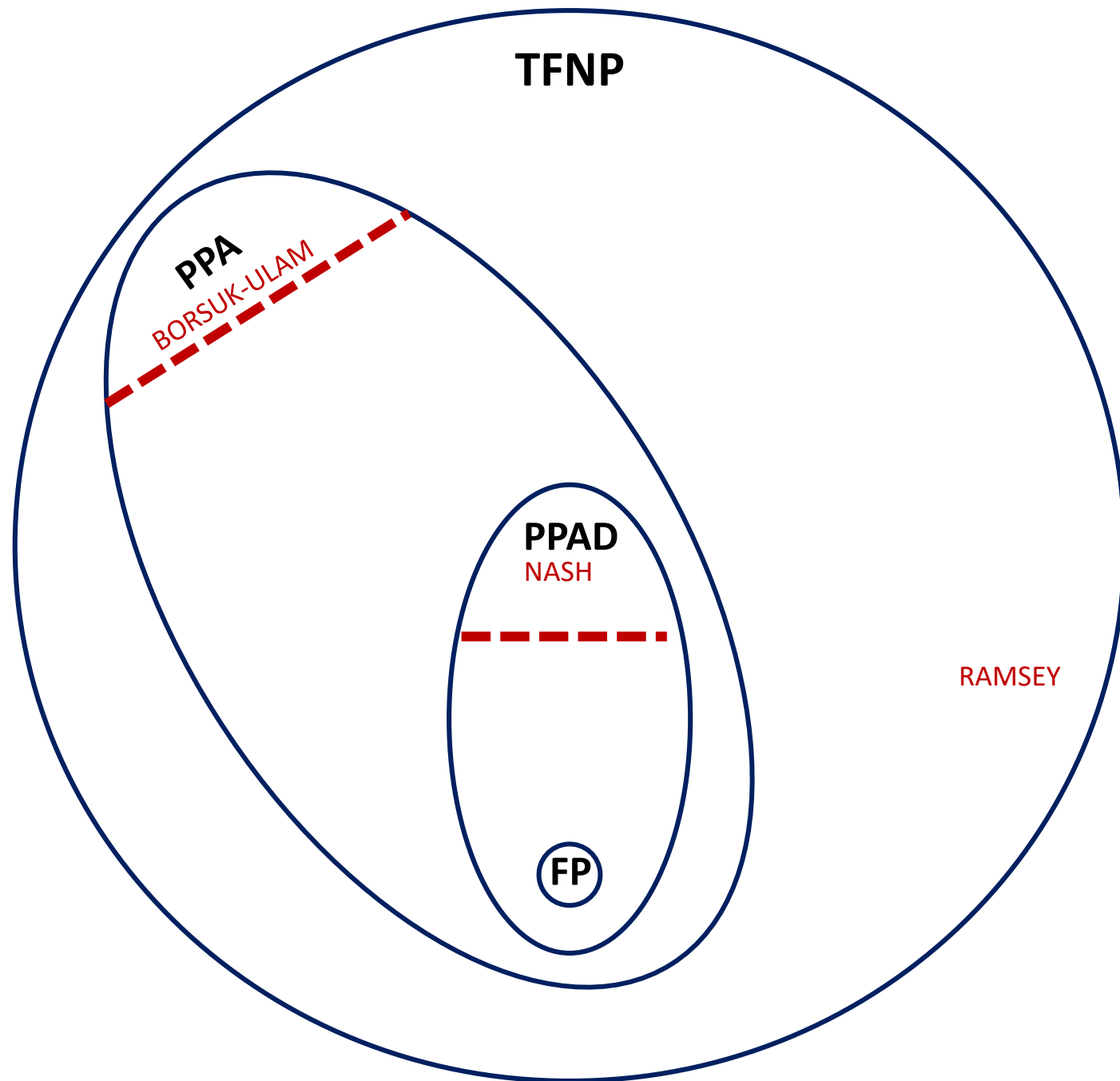
**TFNP**

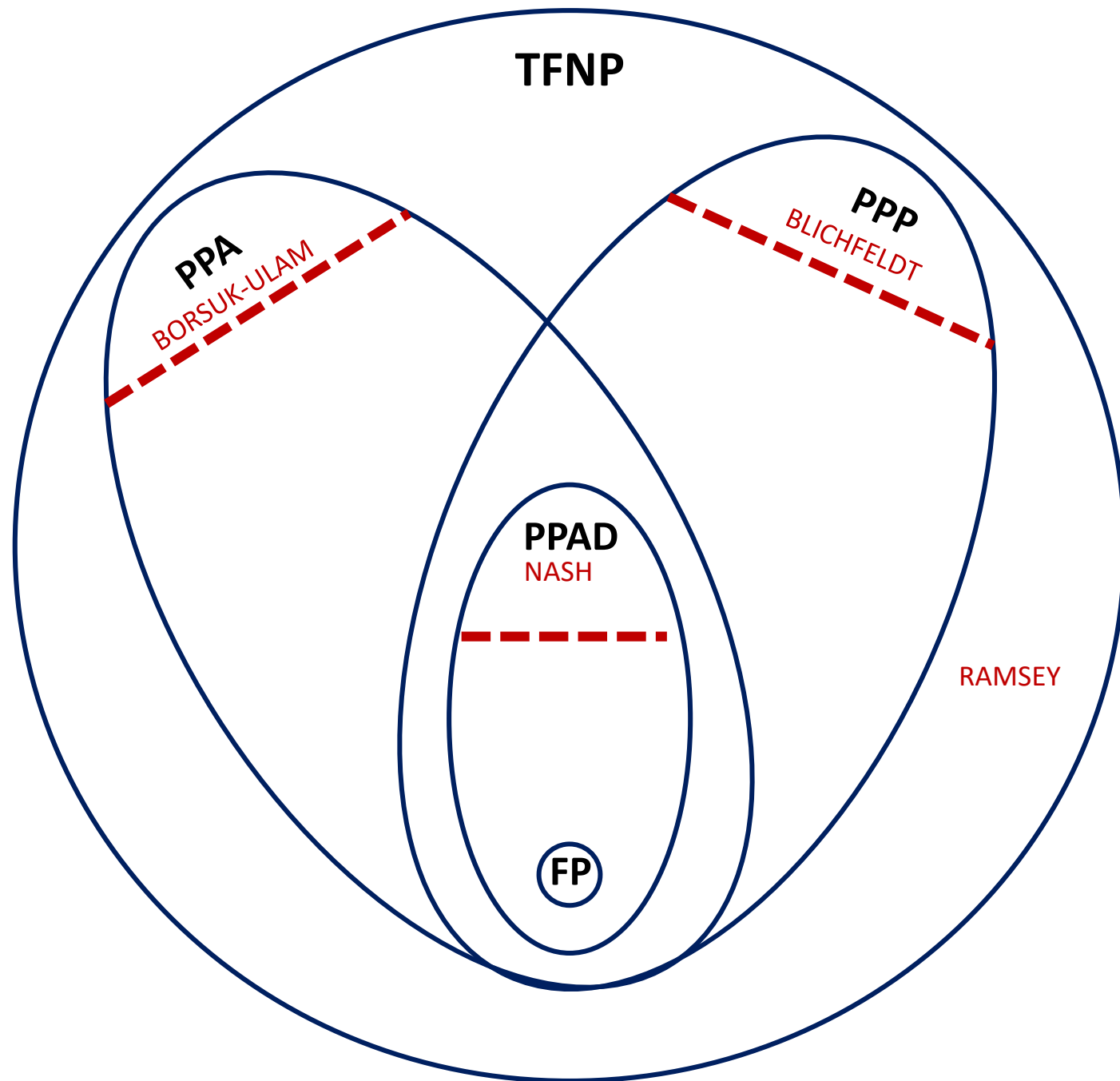
**PPAD**  
NASH

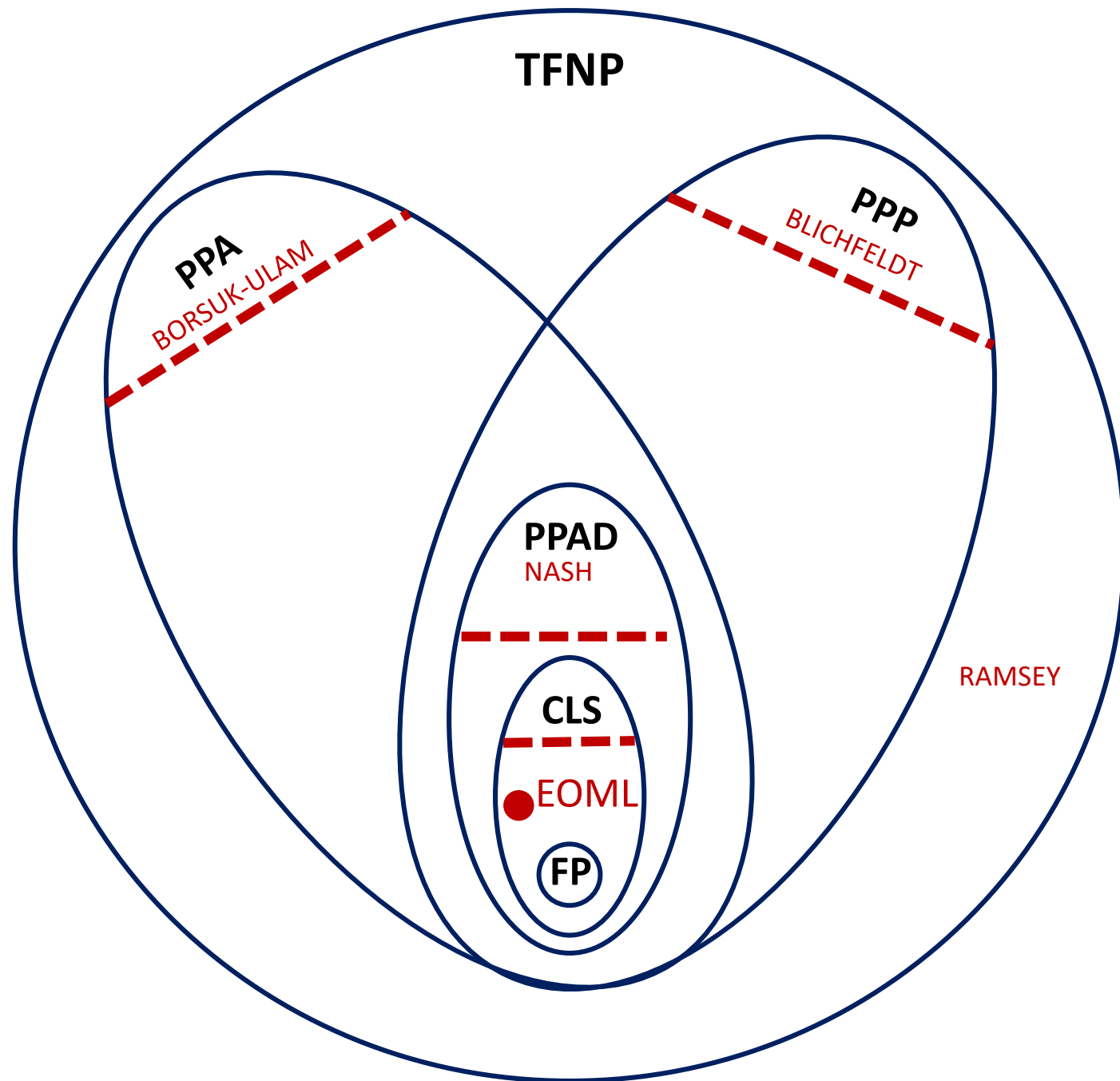
**FP**



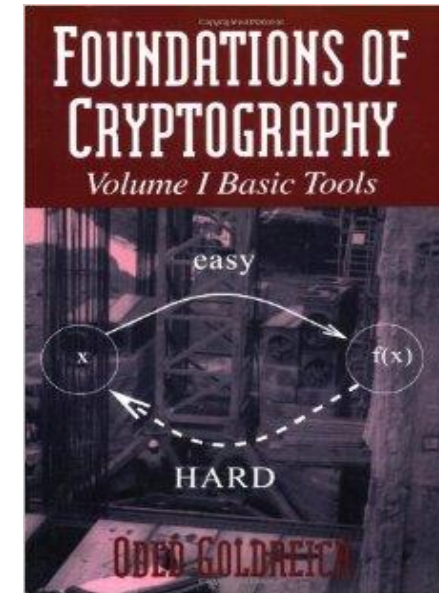








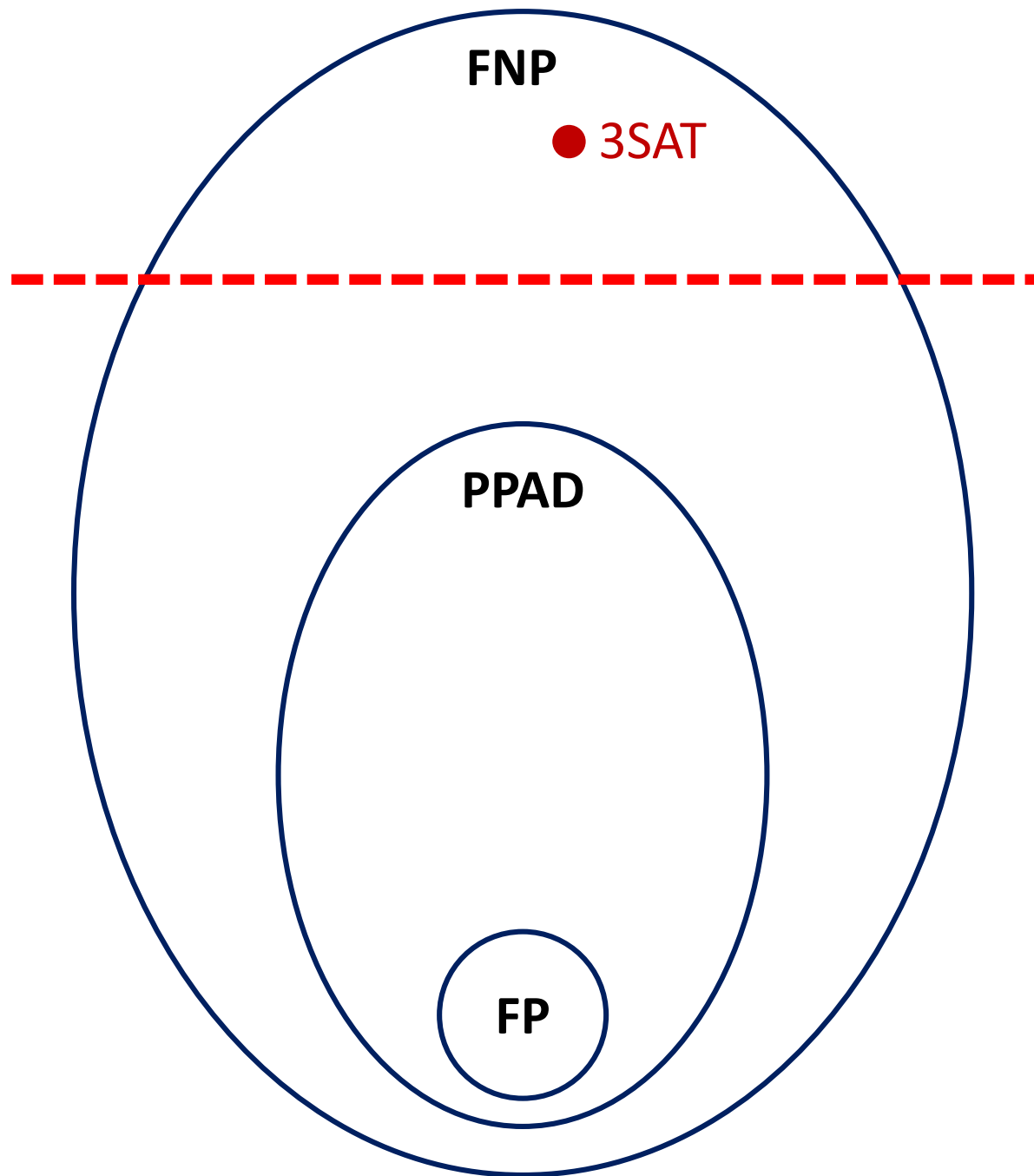
# The Story Line

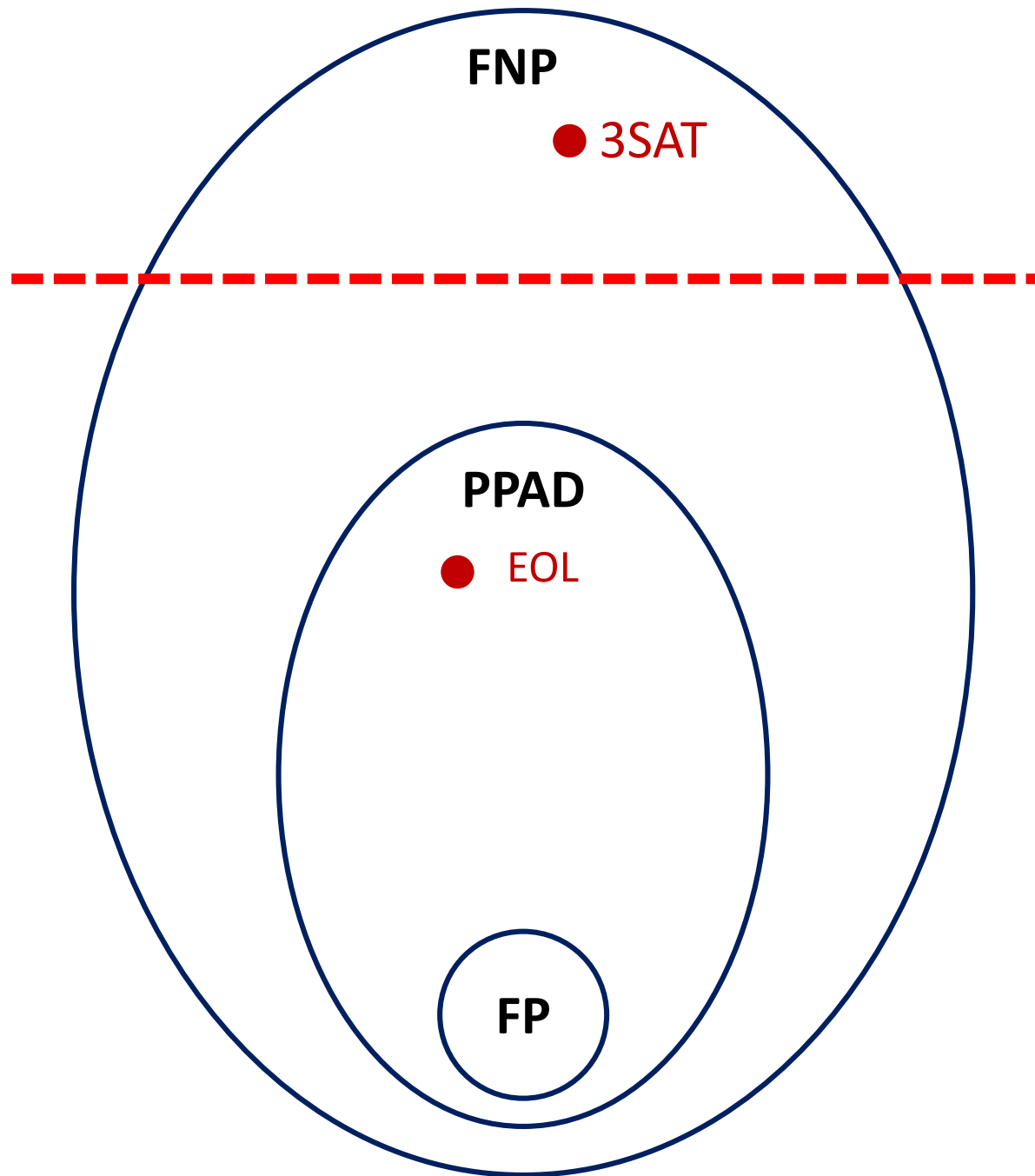


Games

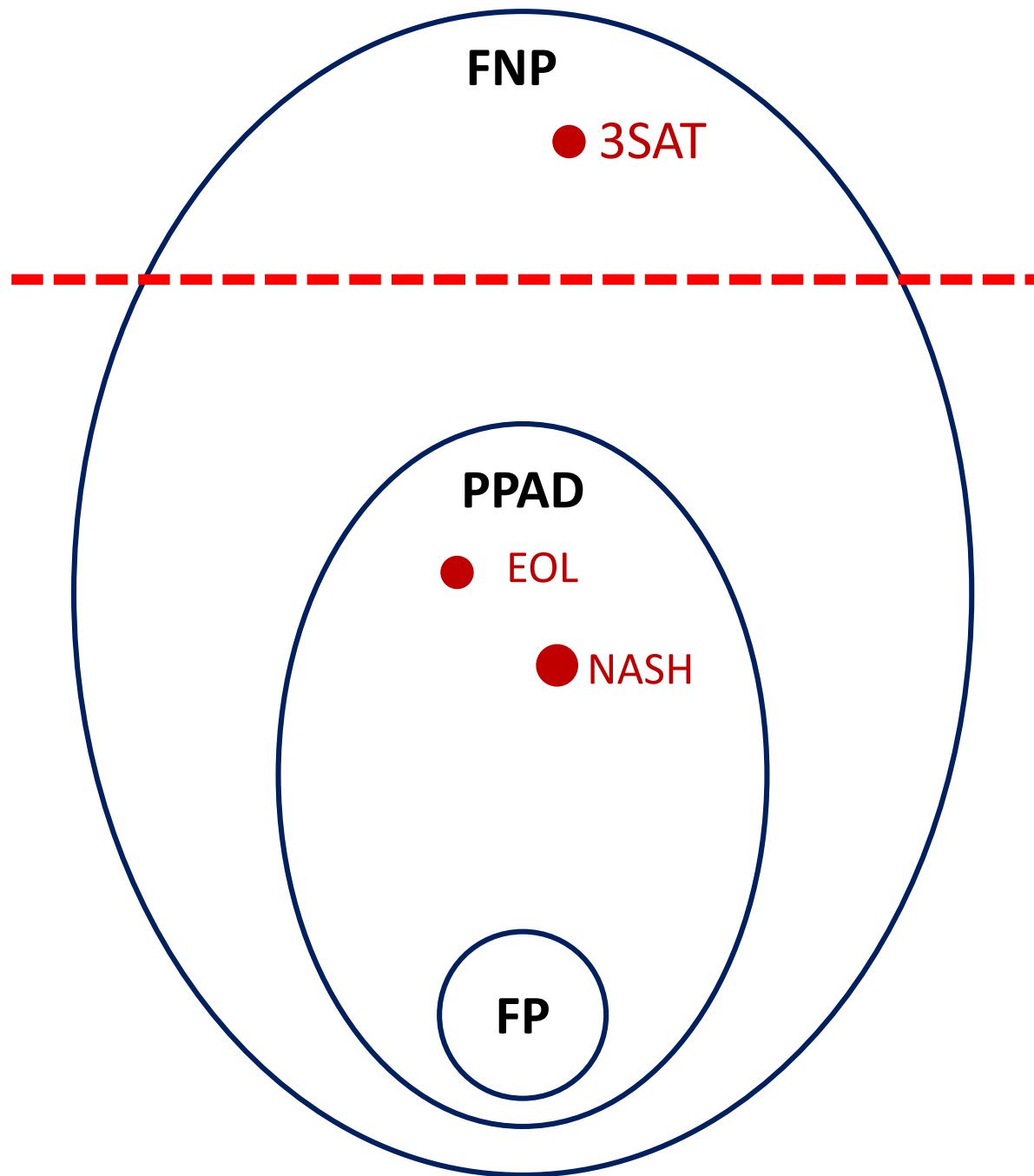
Complexity

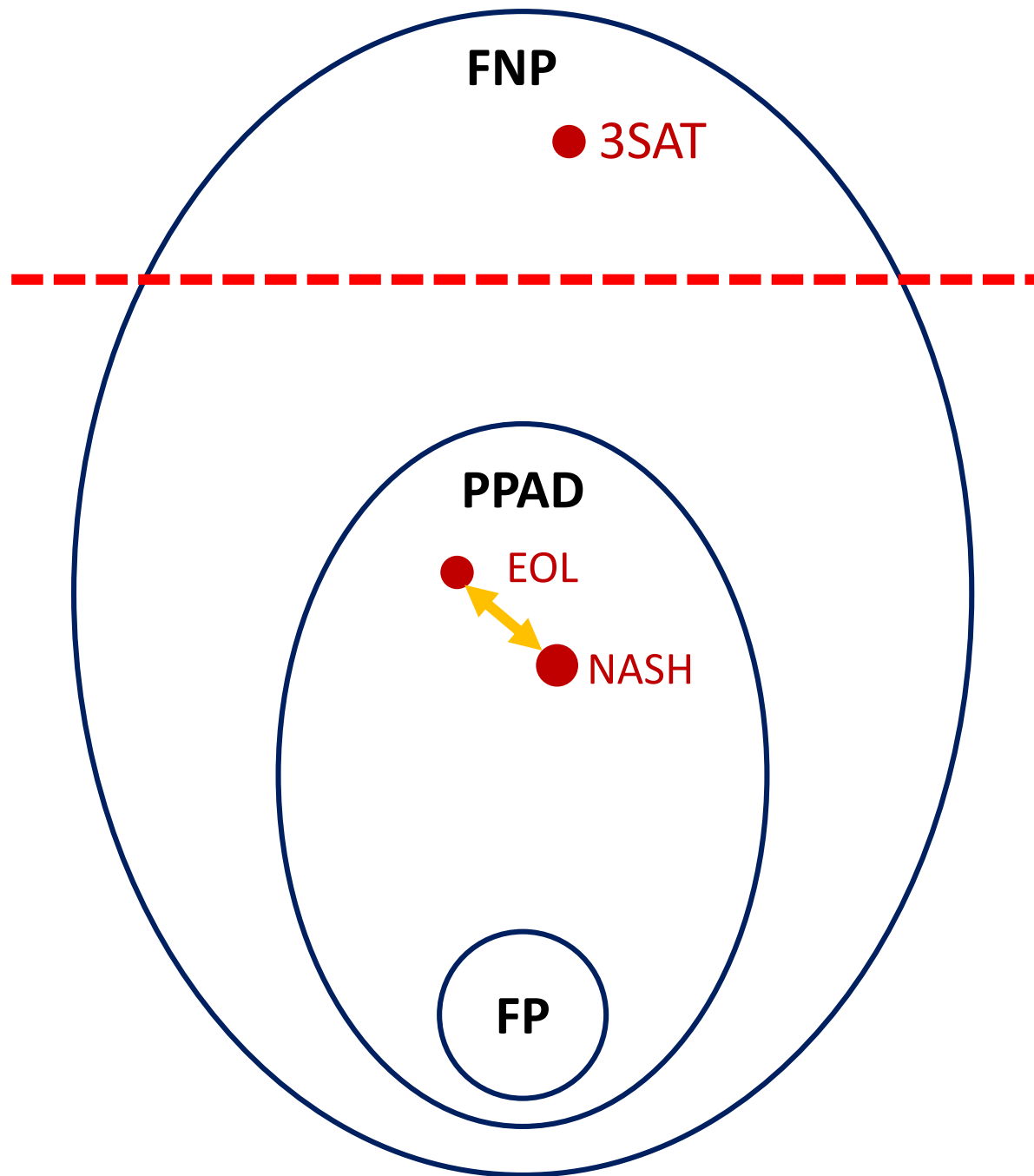
Crypto

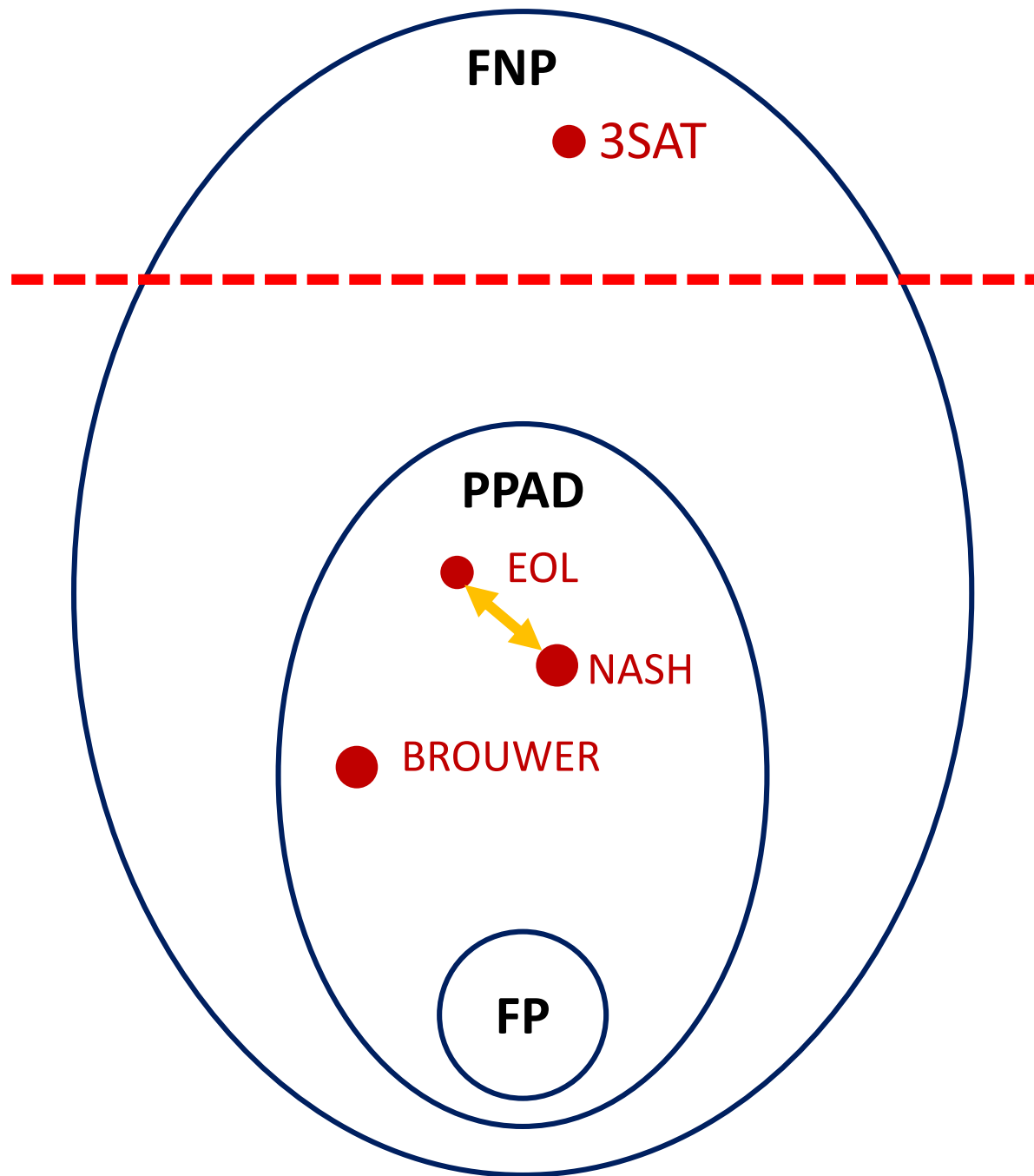


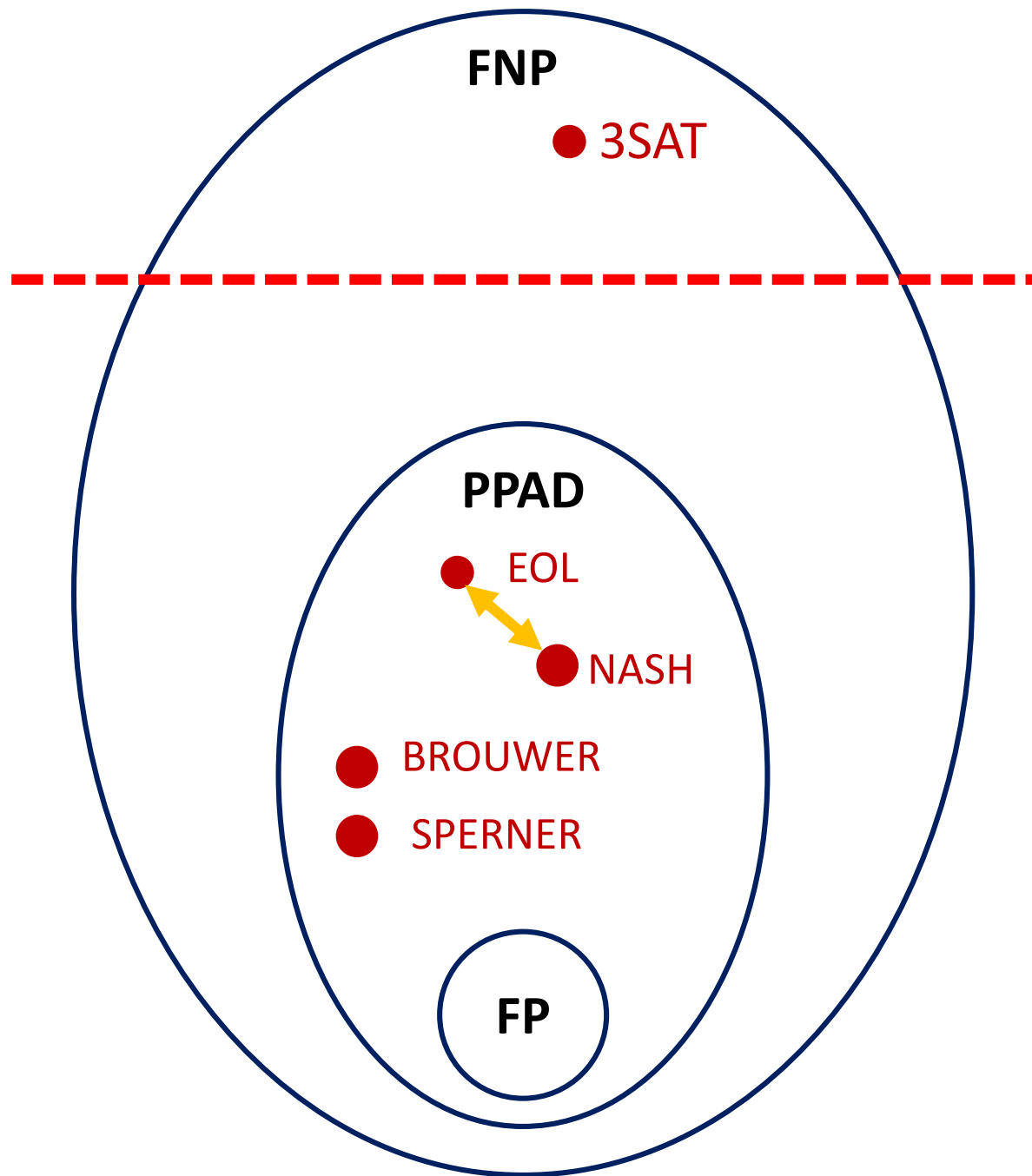


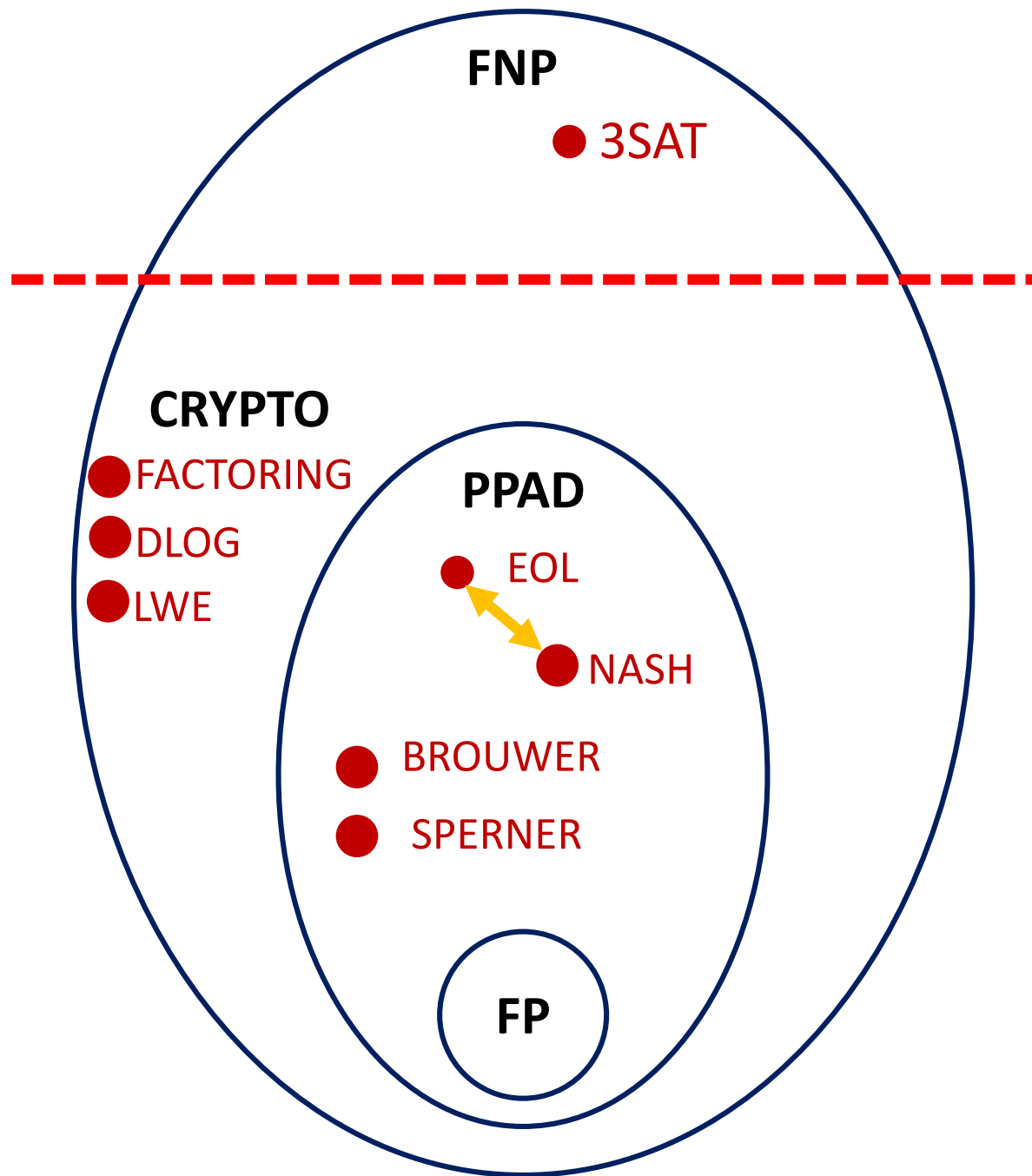


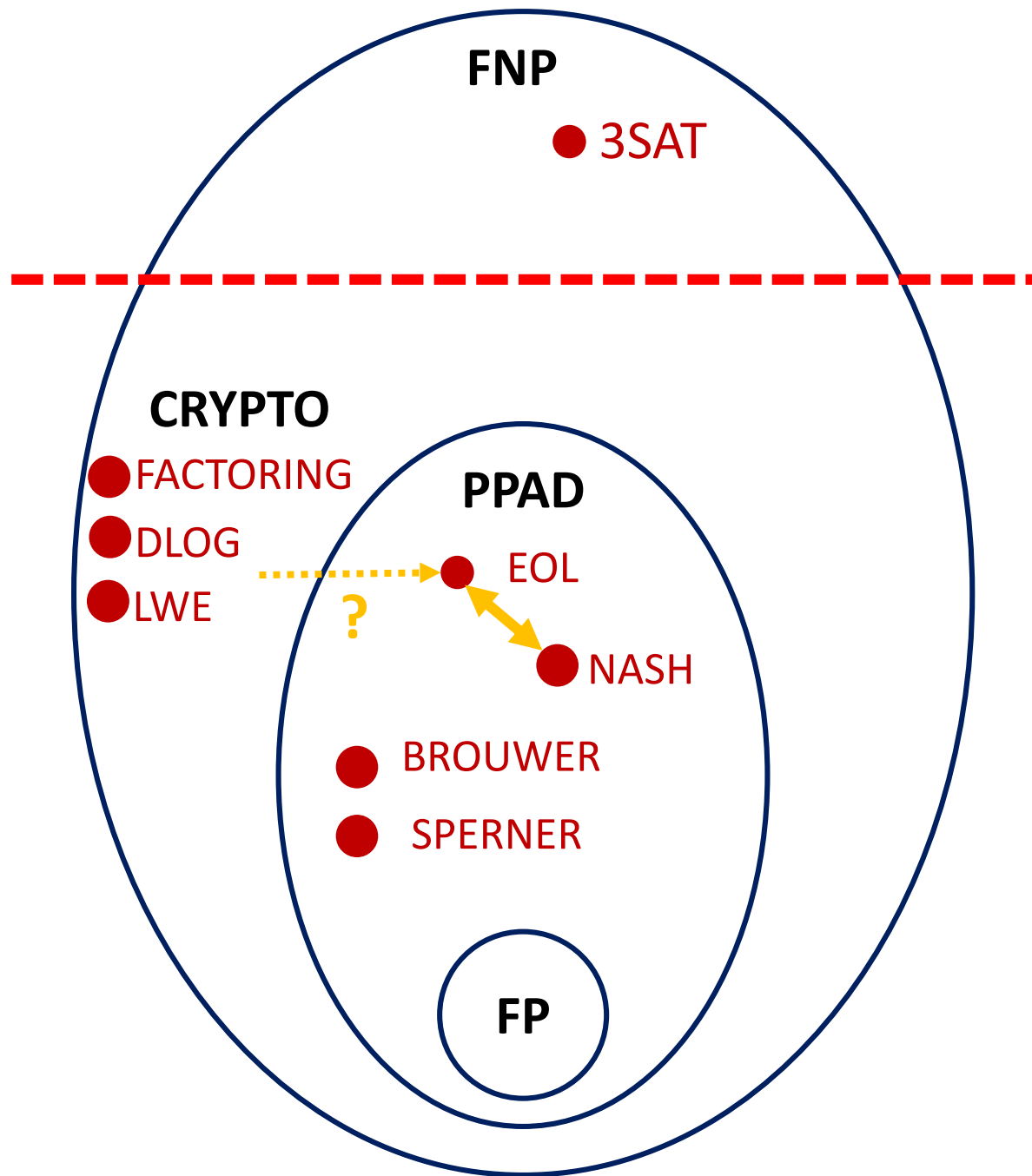


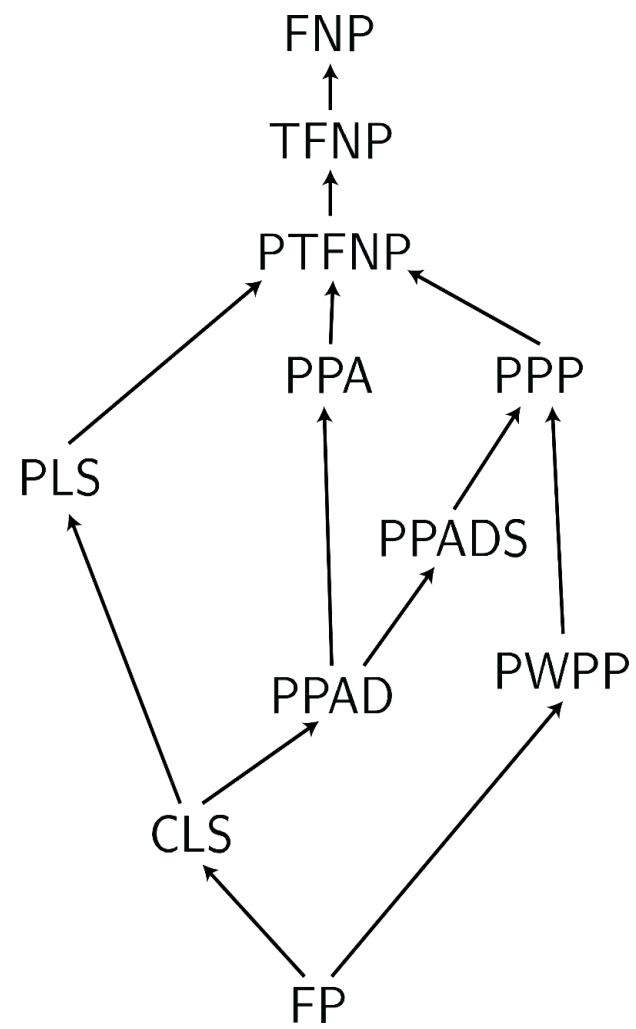




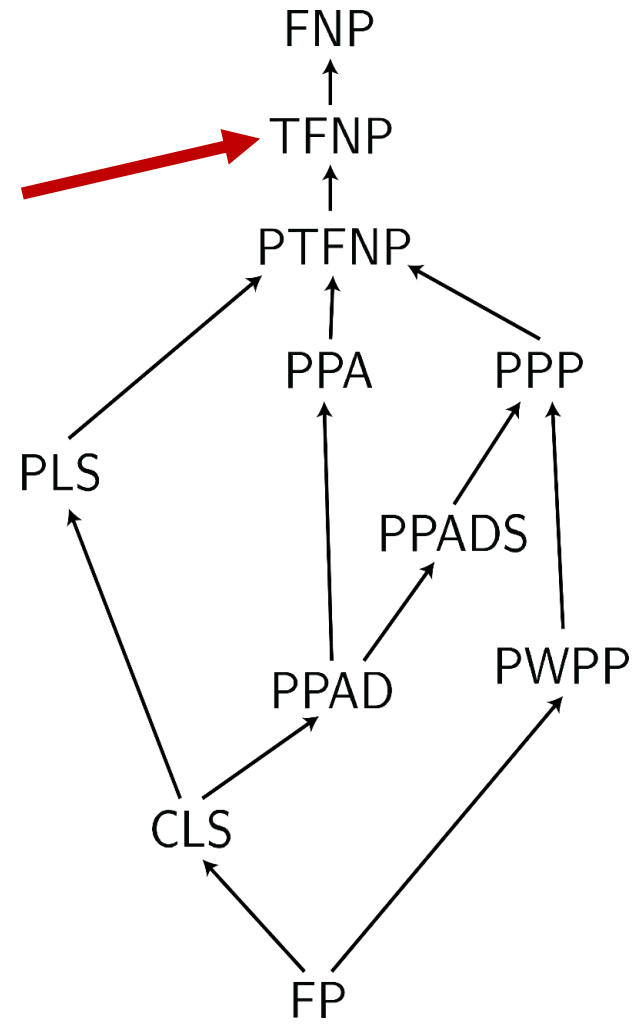




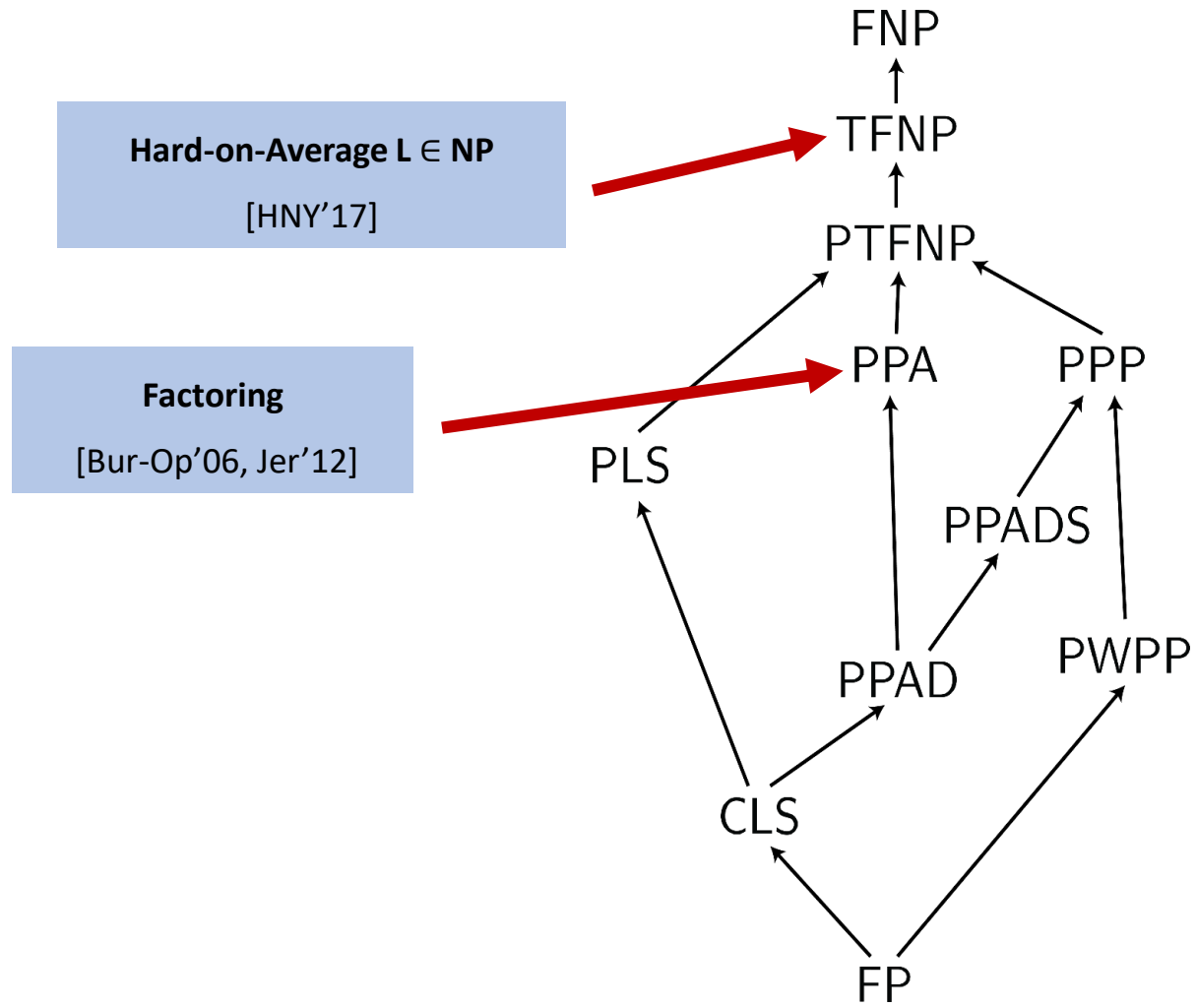


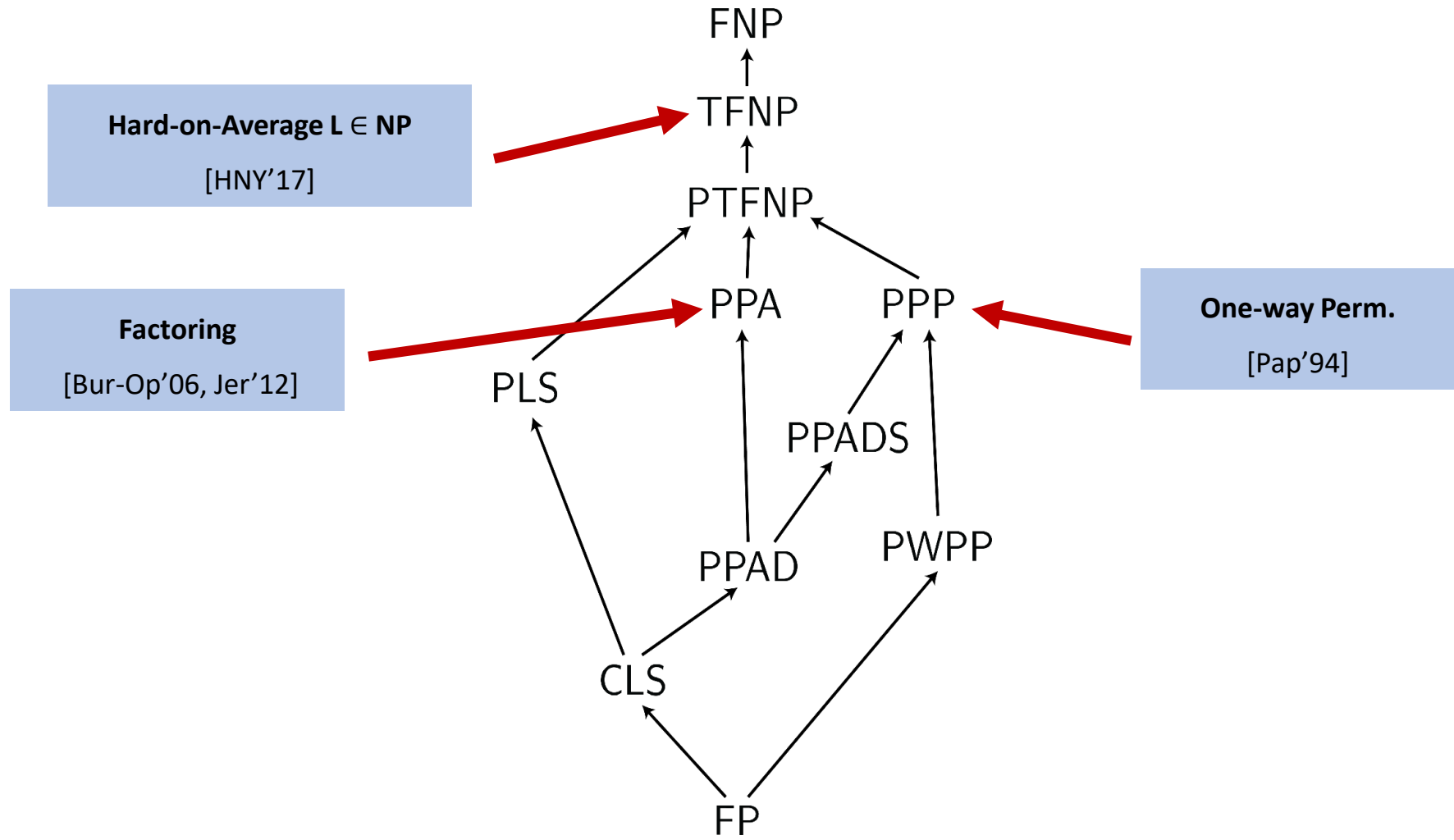


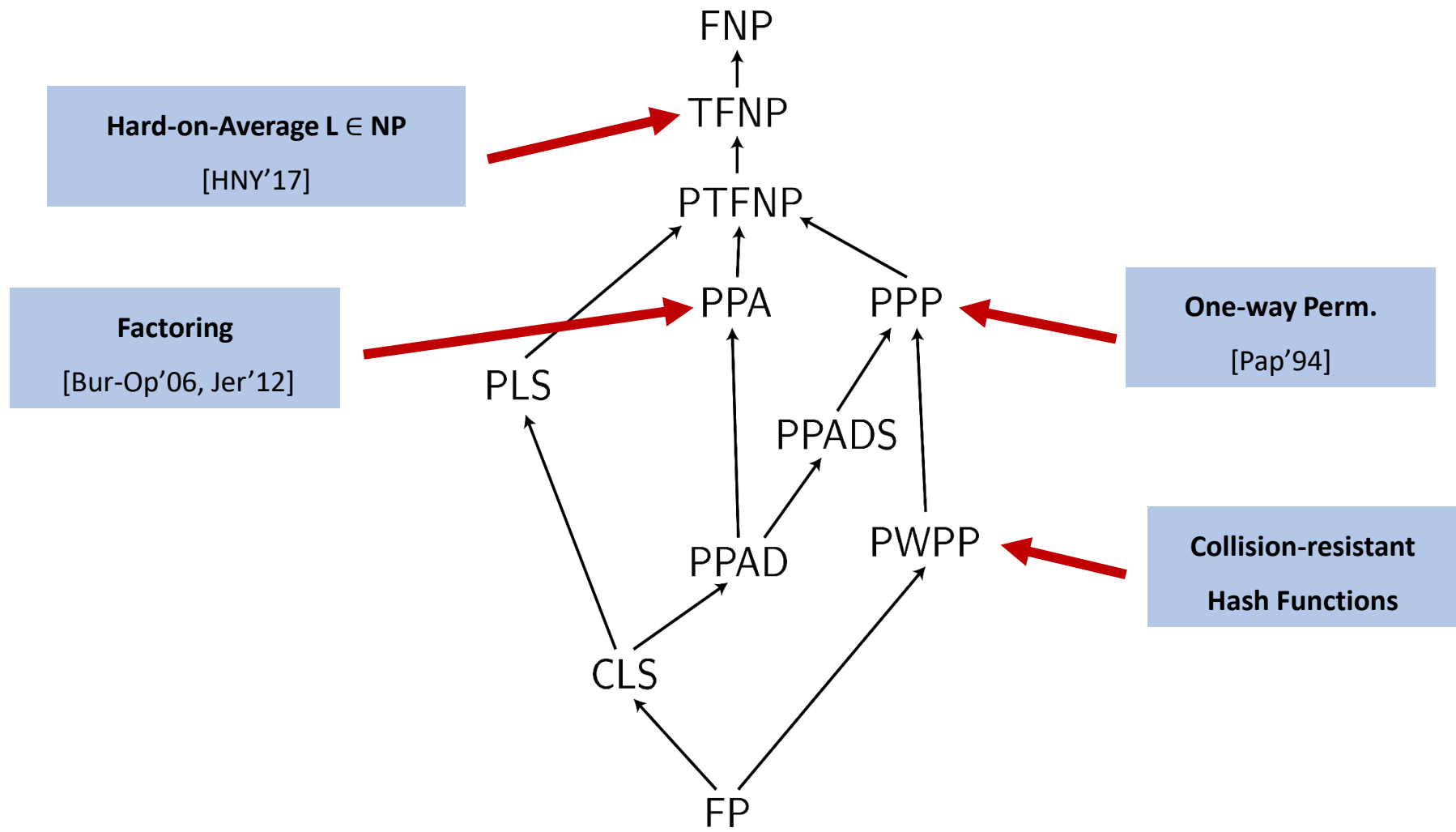
**Hard-on-Average  $L \in \text{NP}$**   
[HNY'17]

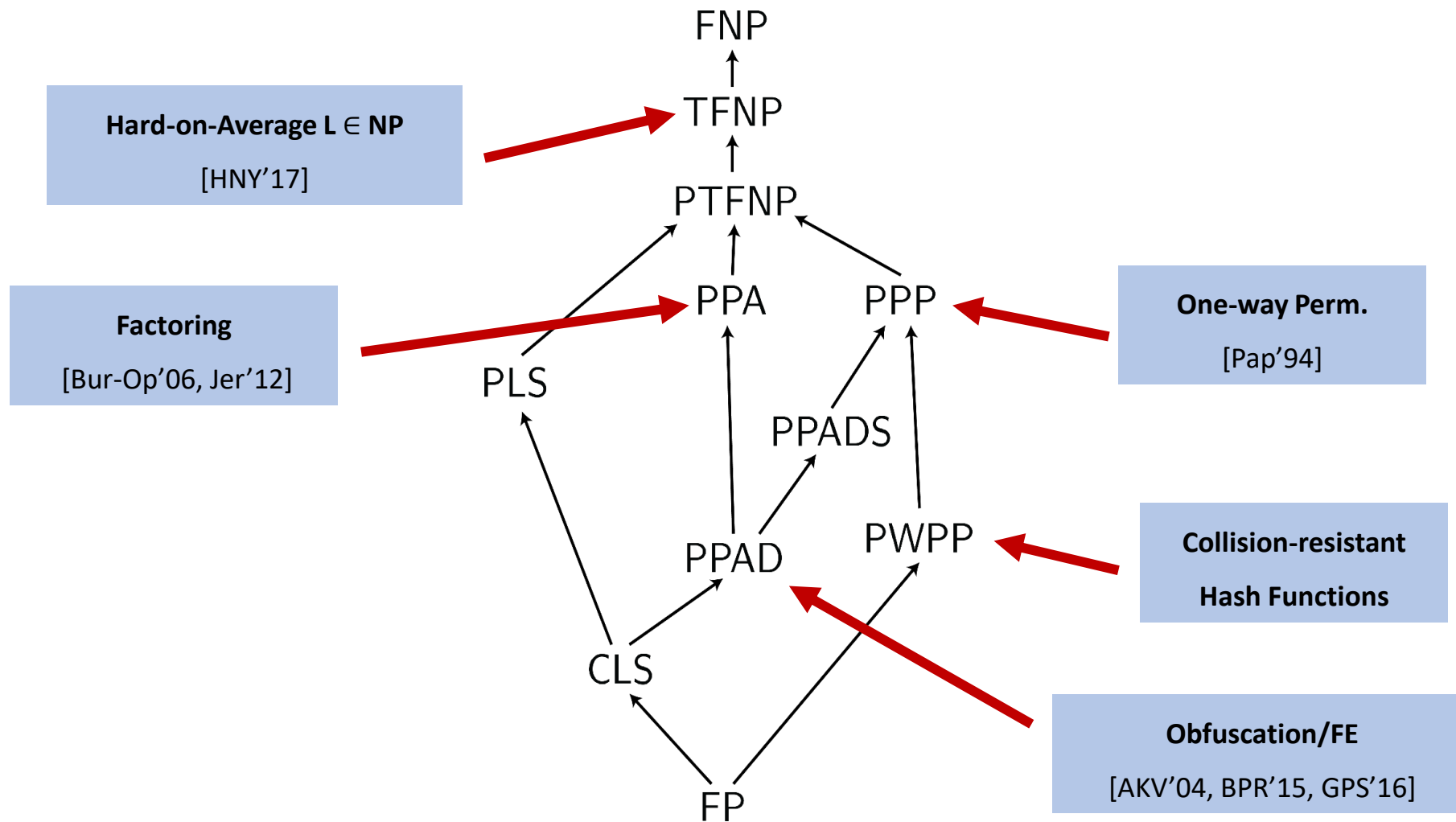


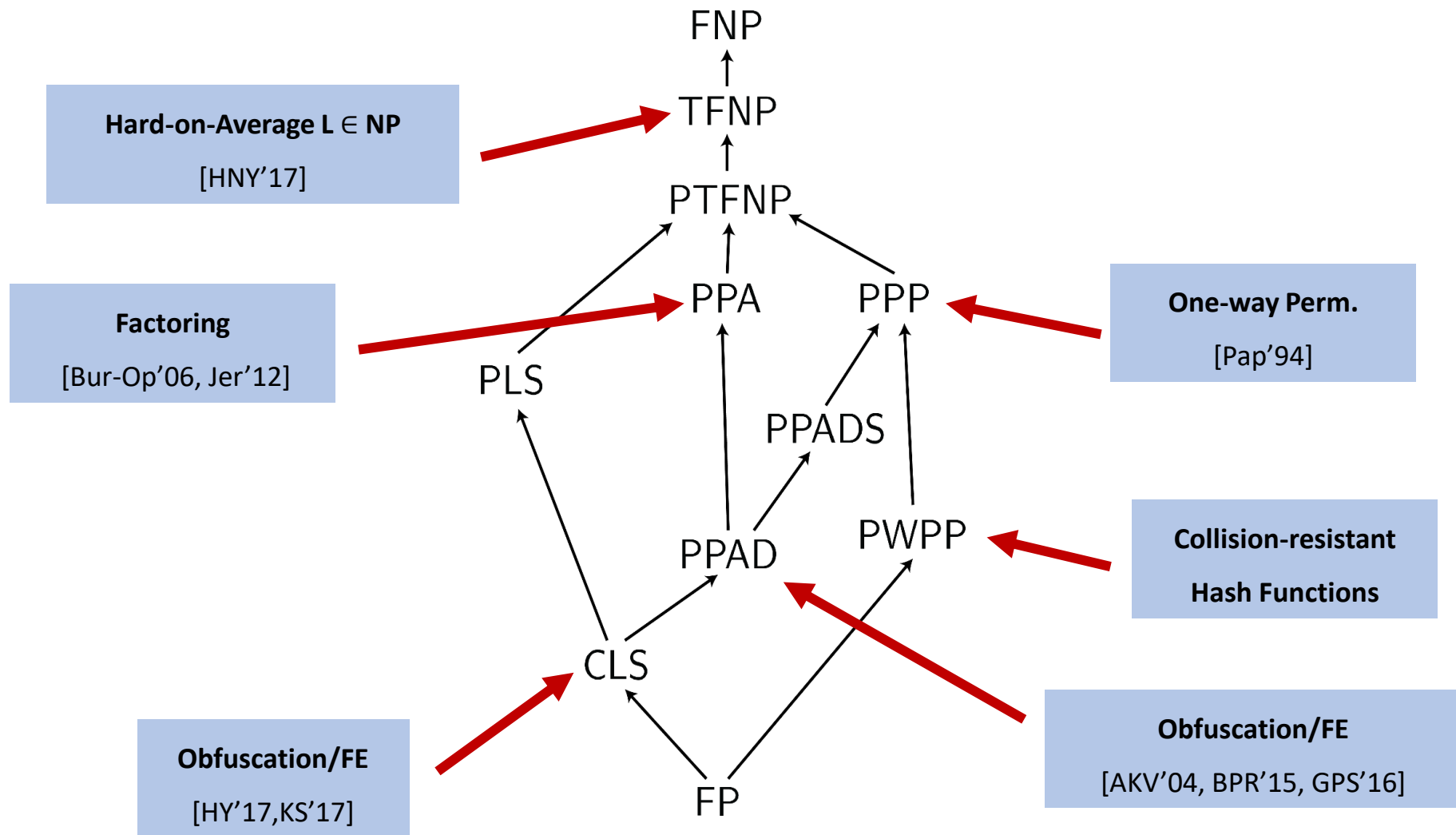


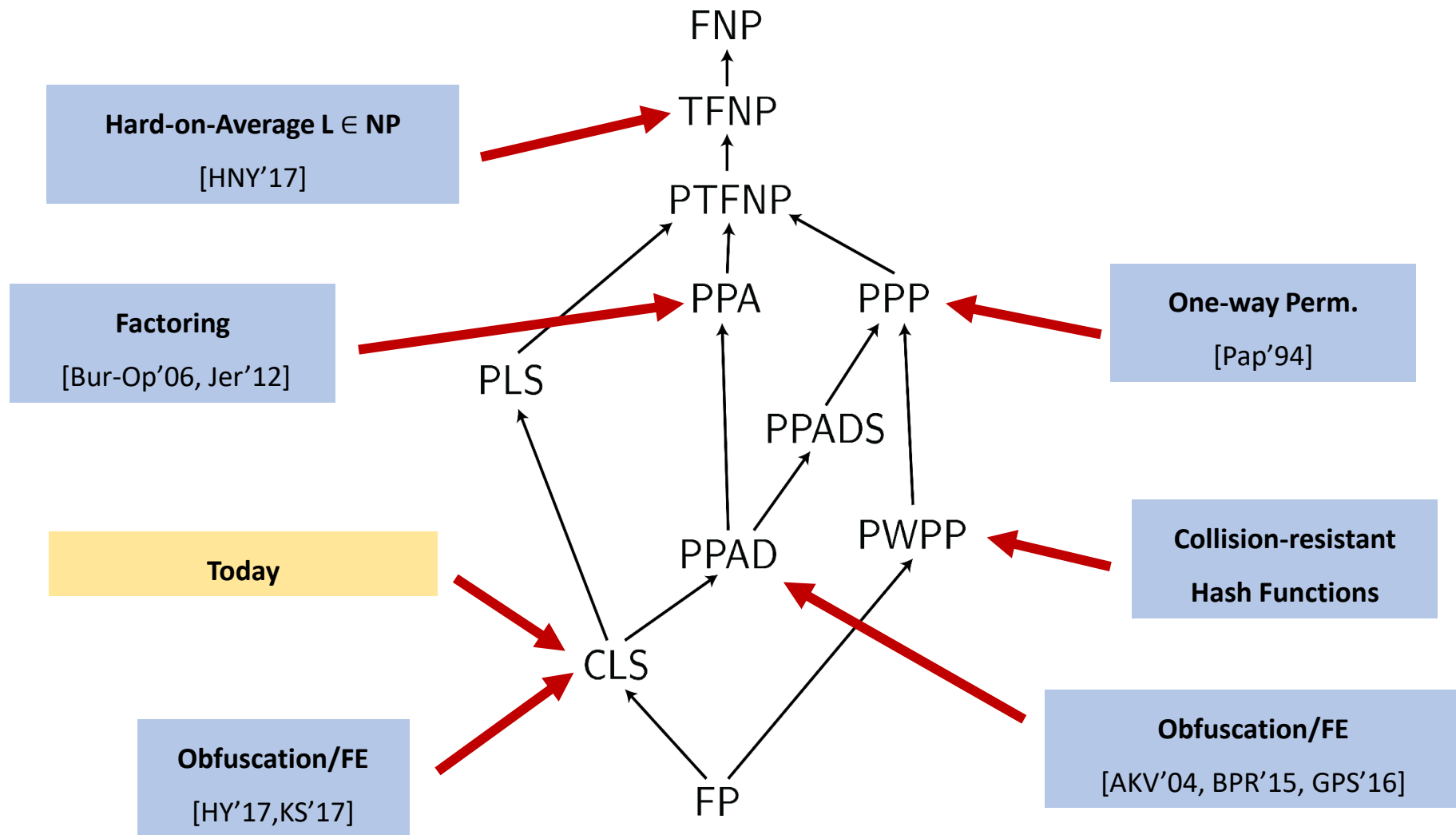






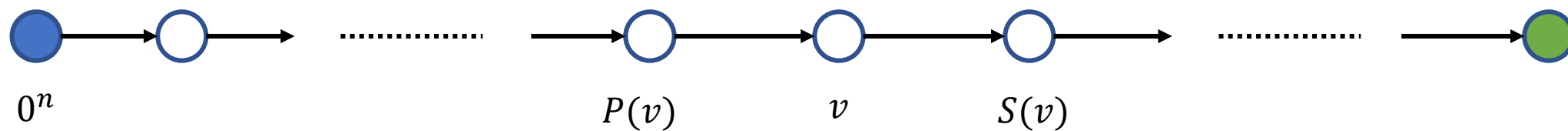






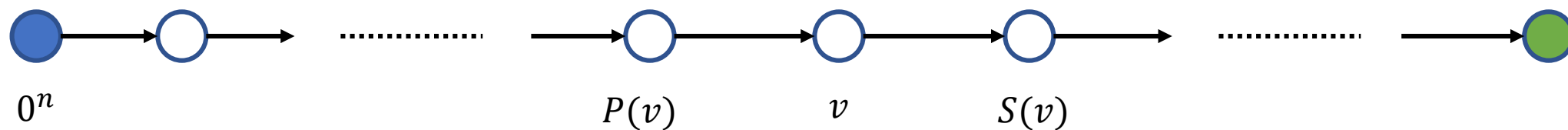
# EOL Hardness from Obfuscation

[Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15]



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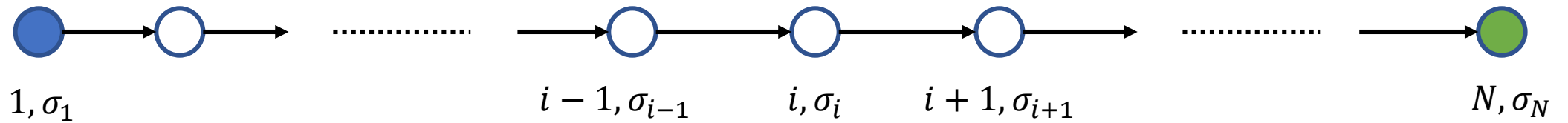


PPAD/CLS hardness can be based on  
indistinguishability obfuscation (iO)



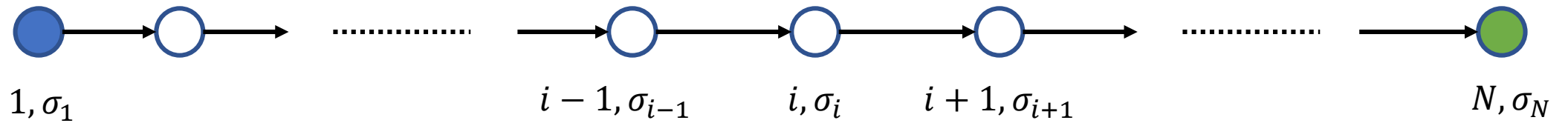
# Sink of Verifiable Line (SVL)

[Abbott-Kane-Valiant'04, Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15]



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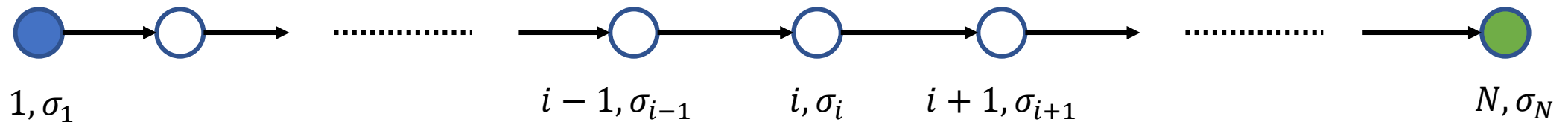
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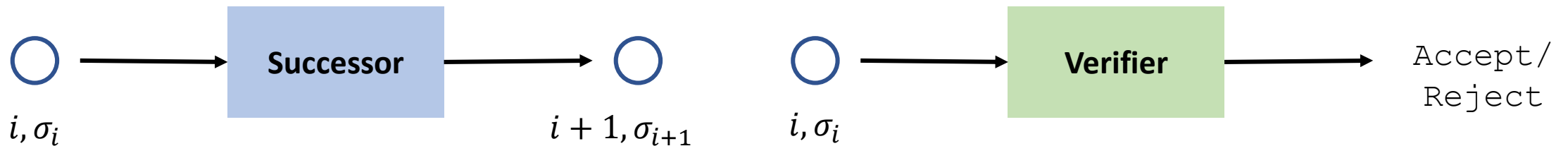
If the path is verifiable, then **Predecessor** is for free.

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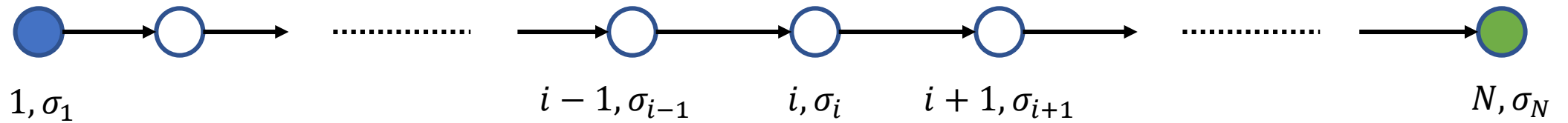


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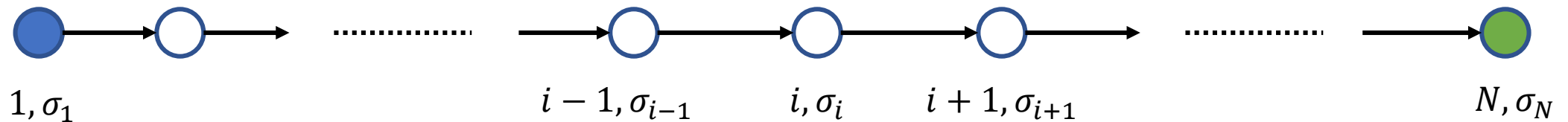
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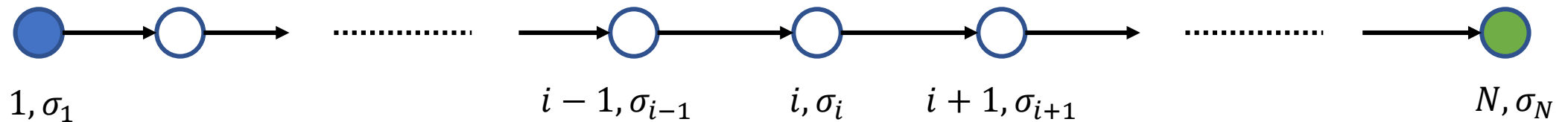


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Based on reversible computation [Bennett'84]

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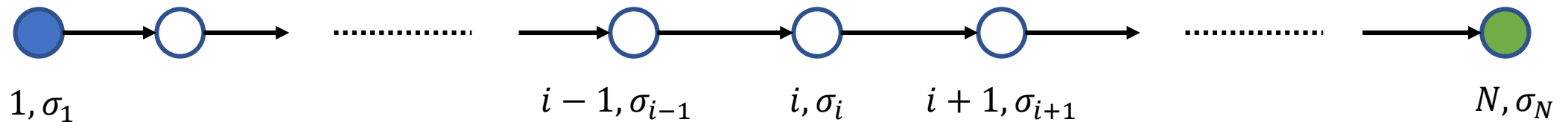
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[AKV'04, BPR'15]

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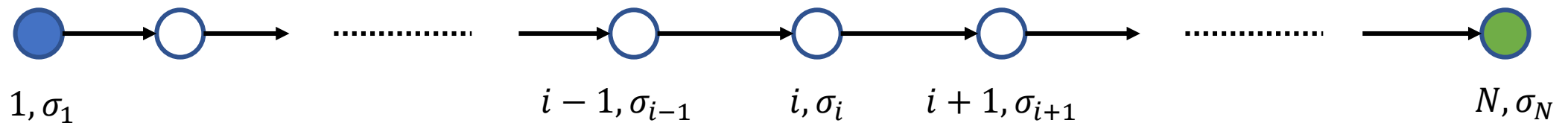
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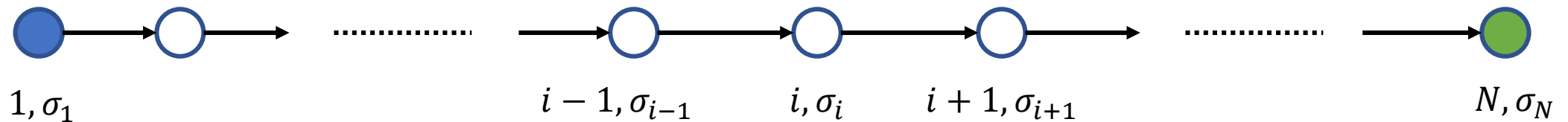
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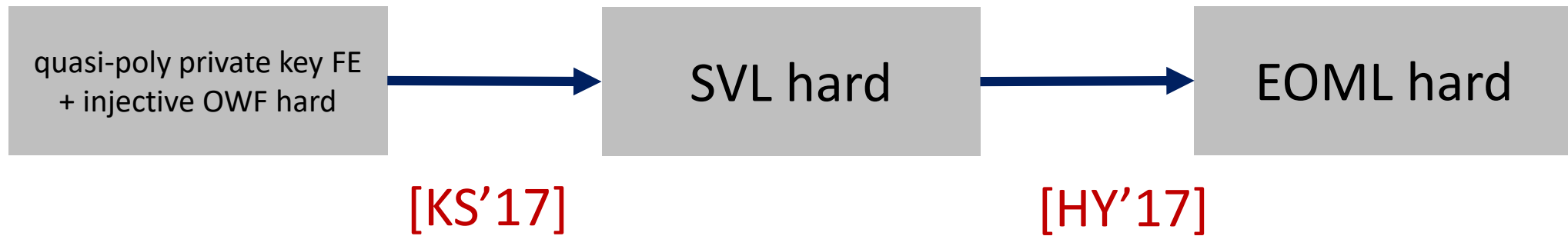
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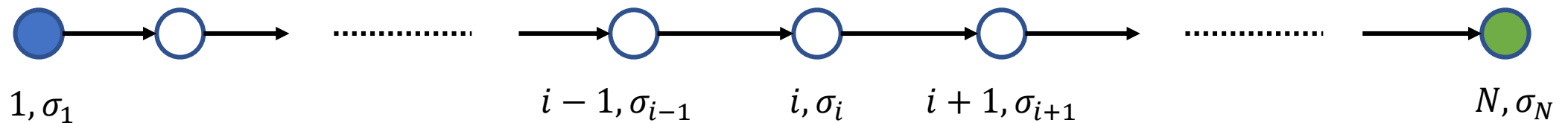
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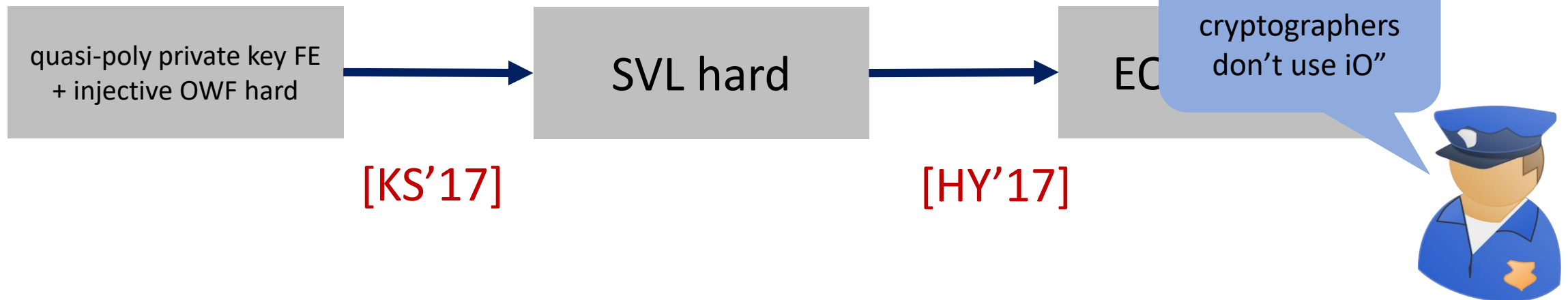
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# Our Result

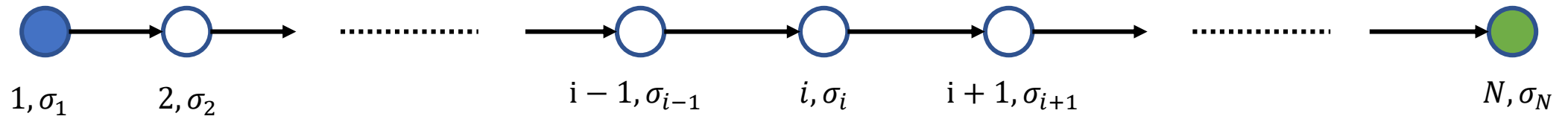
# Our Result

**CLS** is as hard as breaking  
soundness of **Fiat-Shamir** when applied to the  
**sumcheck** protocol

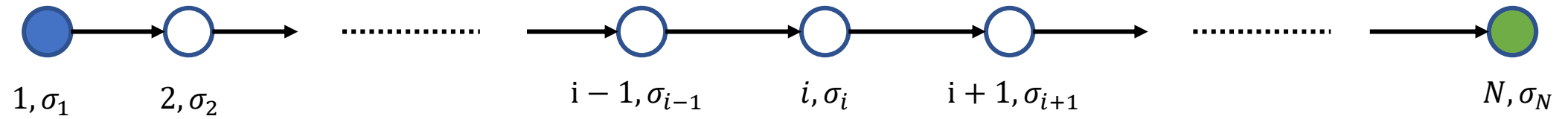
# Our Construction

SVL Is No Easier Than Breaking Fiat-Shamir

# Basic Idea

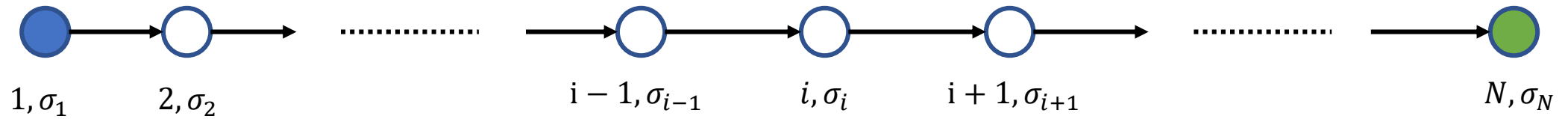


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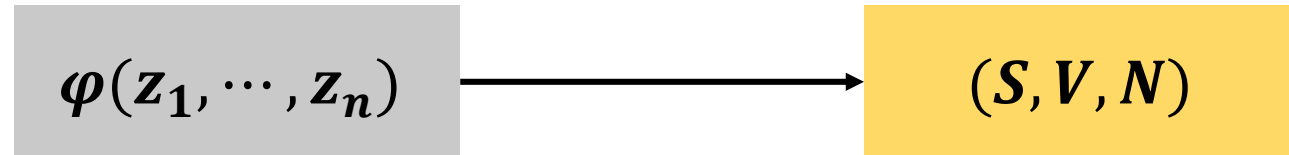


Reduce to SVL from #SAT

# Basic Idea

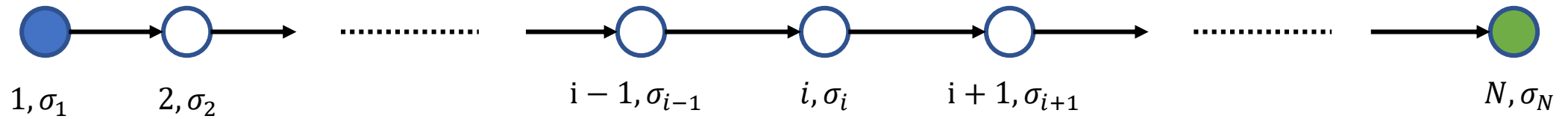


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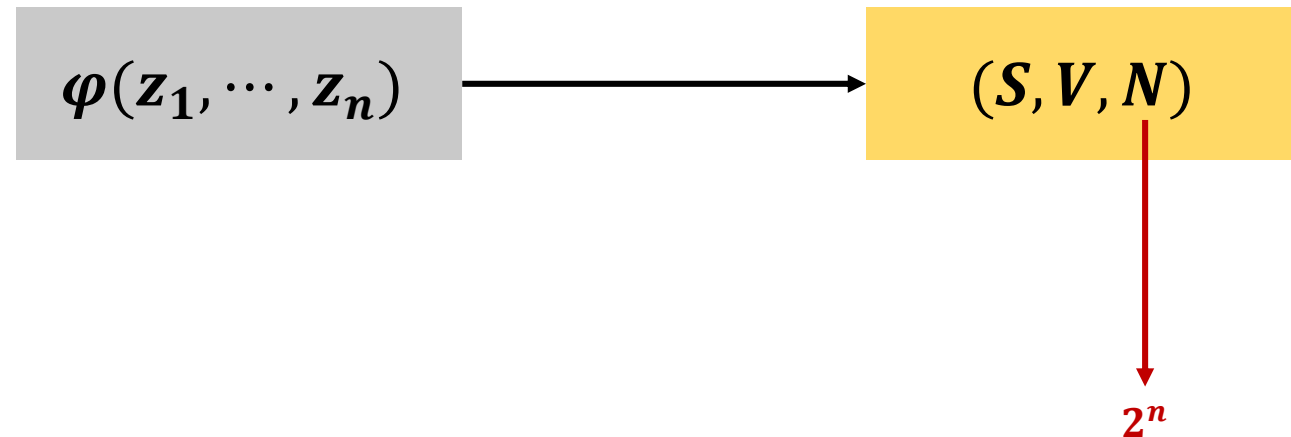




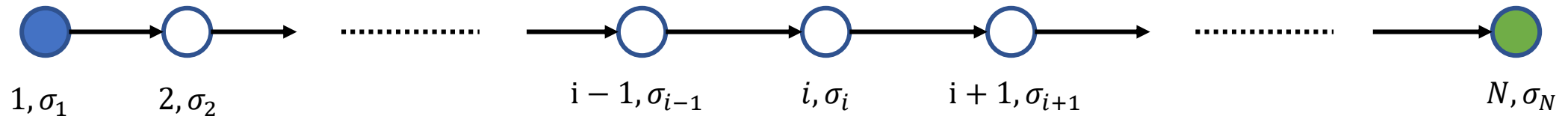
# Basic Idea



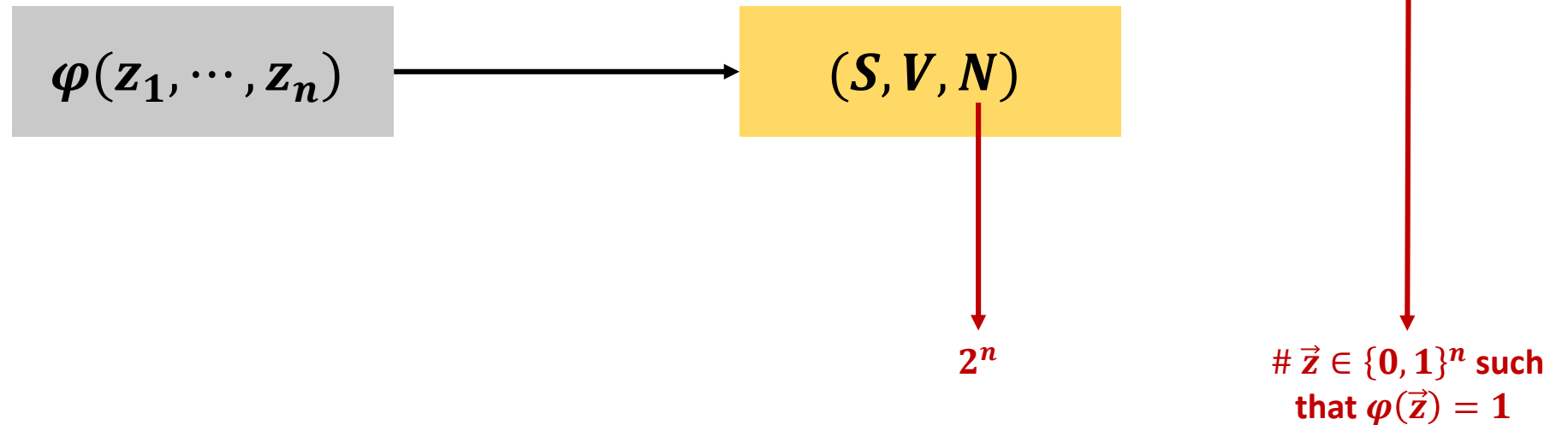
Reduce to SVL from #SAT



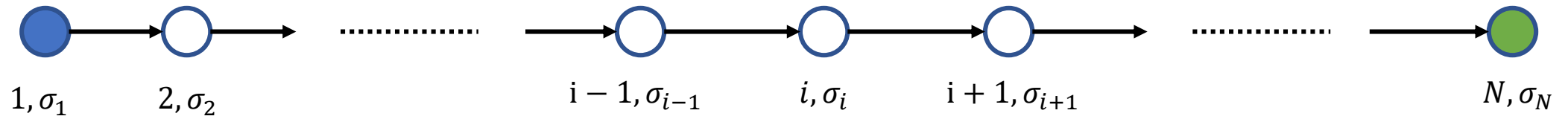
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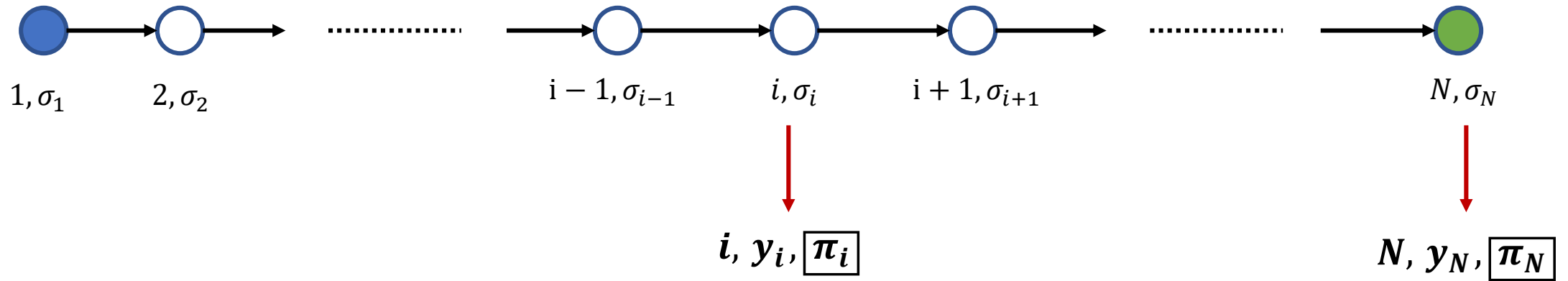
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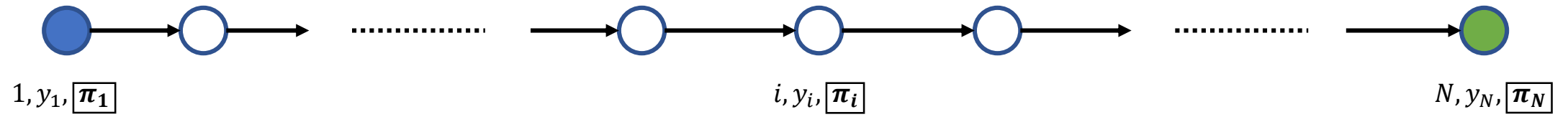
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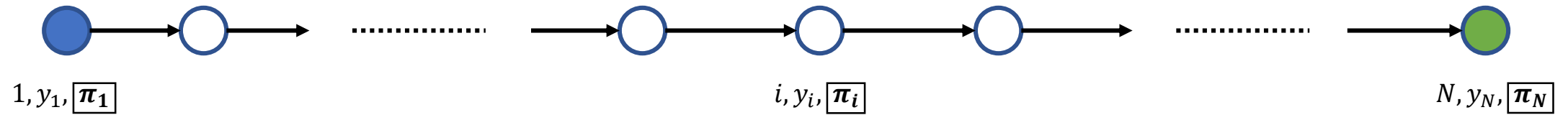
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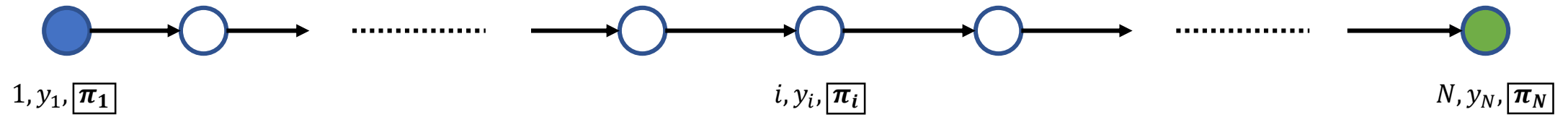


# Basic Idea



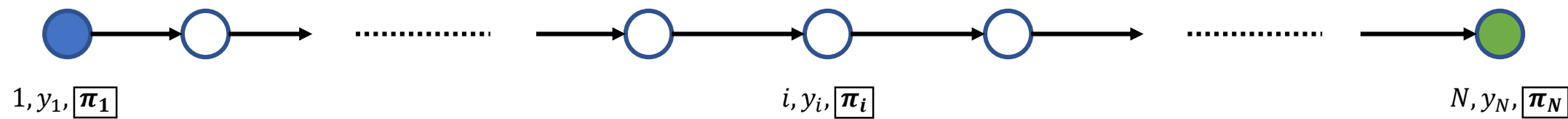
$$V(i, y_i, \pi_i) = \text{ACCEPT} \iff y_i \text{ is the \# of } \vec{z} \leq i \text{ such that } \varphi(\vec{z}) = 1$$

# Basic Idea



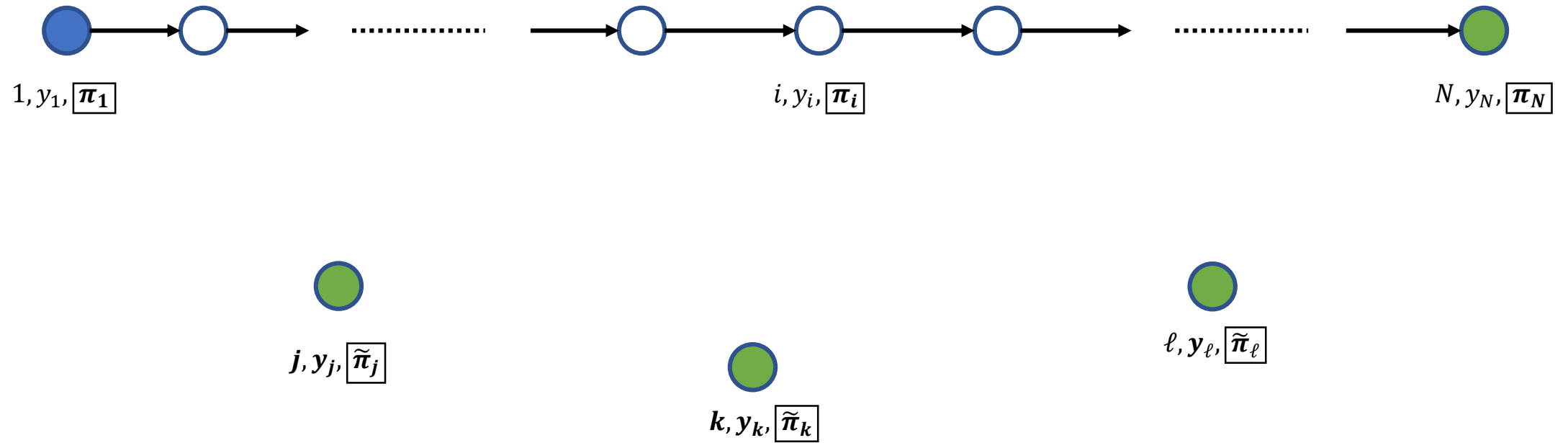
$$S(i, y_i, \pi_i) = i + 1, y_{i+1}, \pi_{i+1}$$

# Relaxed SVL (rSVL)

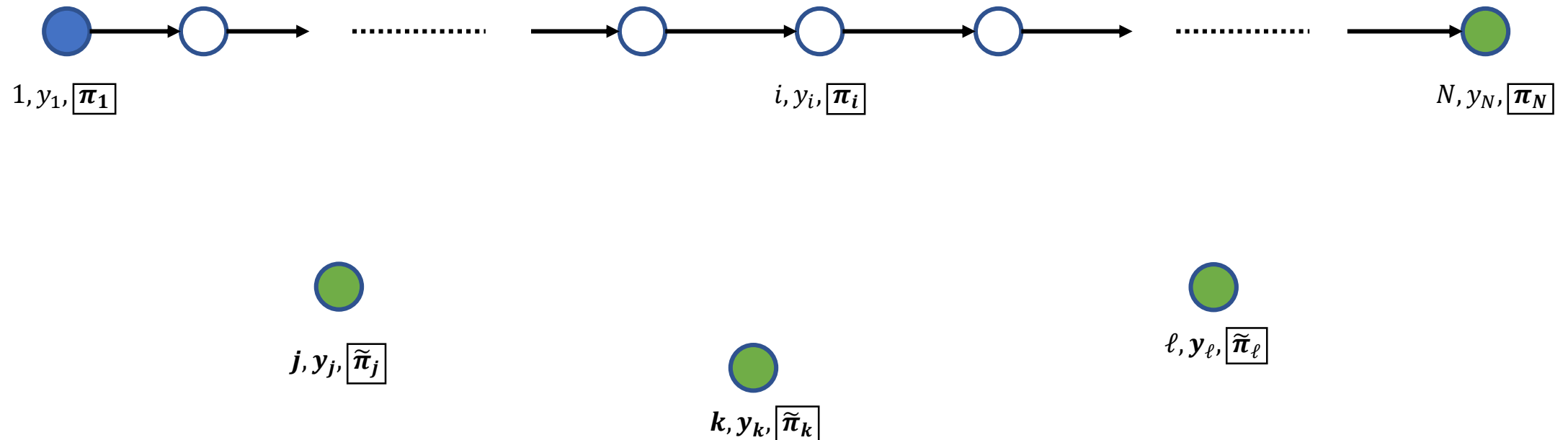




# Relaxed SVL (rSVL)



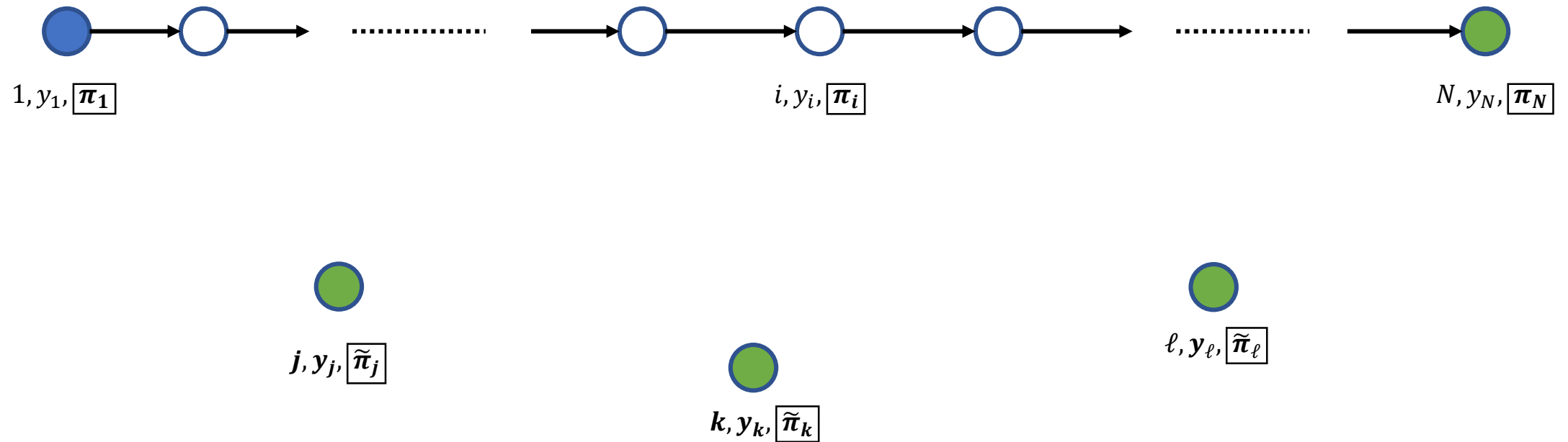
# Relaxed SVL (rSVL)



Should be hard to find “off-path”  $j, y_j, [\tilde{\pi}_j]$  such that

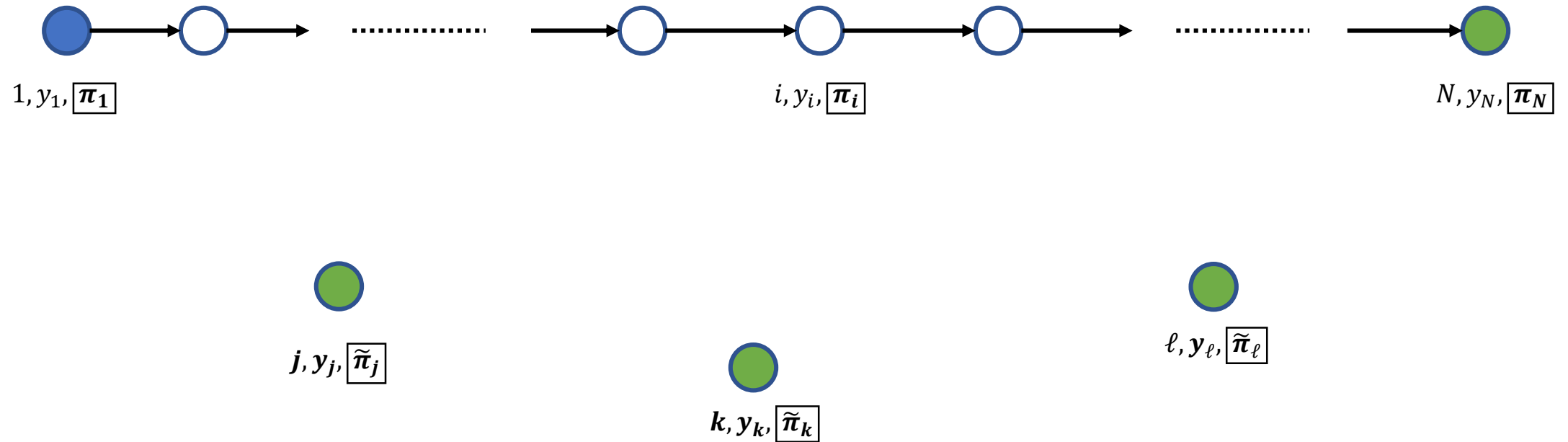
$$V(j, y_j, [\tilde{\pi}_j]) = \text{ACCEPT}$$

# Relaxed SVL (rSVL)



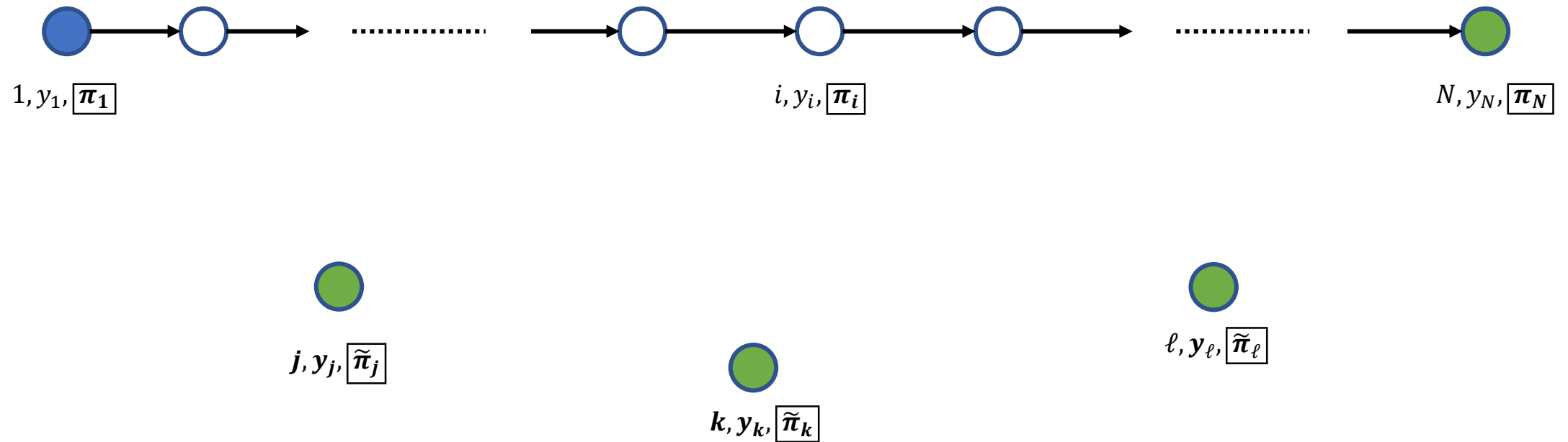
Solving an instance of rSVL

# Relaxed SVL (rSVL)



Solving an instance of rSVL  
solve #SAT instance  $\varphi$

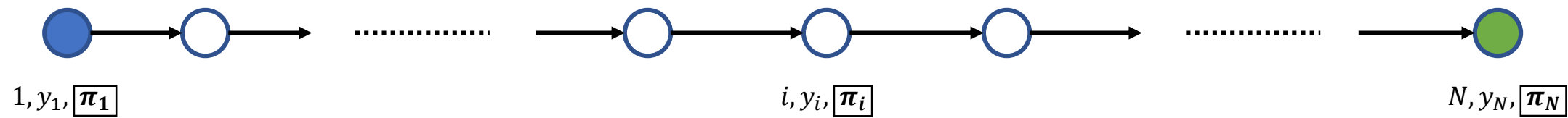
# Relaxed SVL (rSVL)



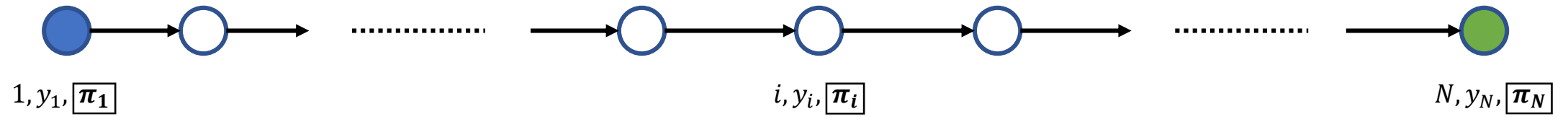
Solving an instance of rSVL  
solve #SAT instance  $\varphi$

break (computational) soundness of  $\boxed{\pi}$

# Challenges

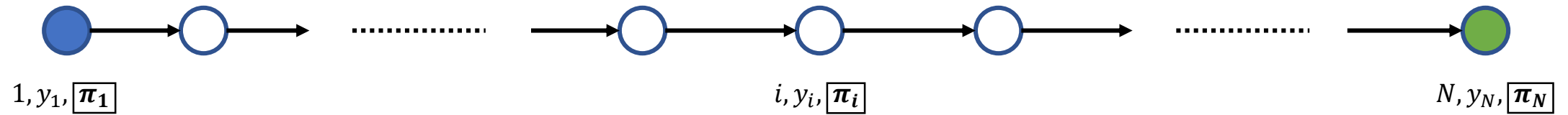


# Challenges



Several Challenges:

# Challenges



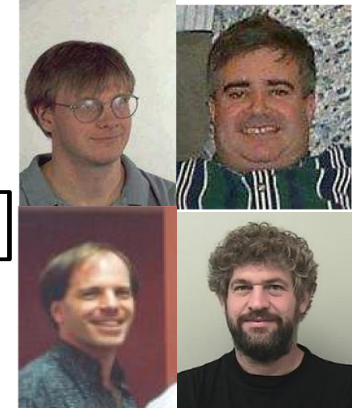
Several Challenges:

Proof size has to be polynomial



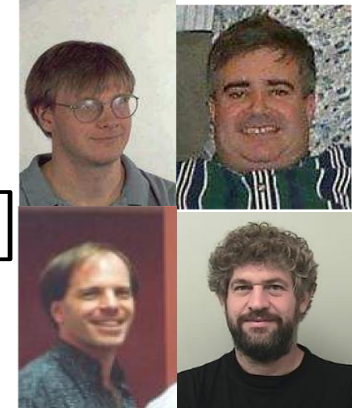
# Sumcheck Protocol [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'90]

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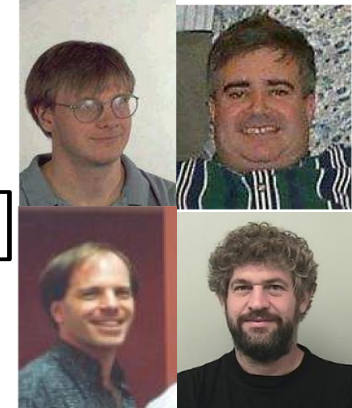


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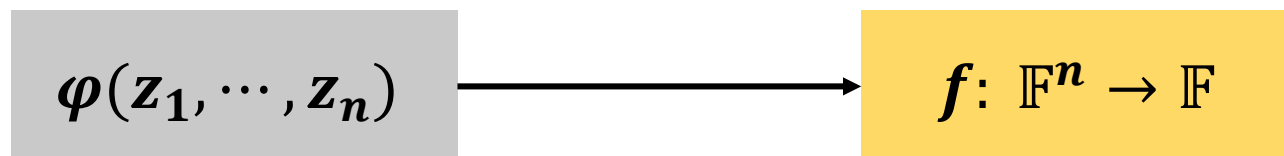
Arithmetization



# Sumcheck Protocol [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'90]



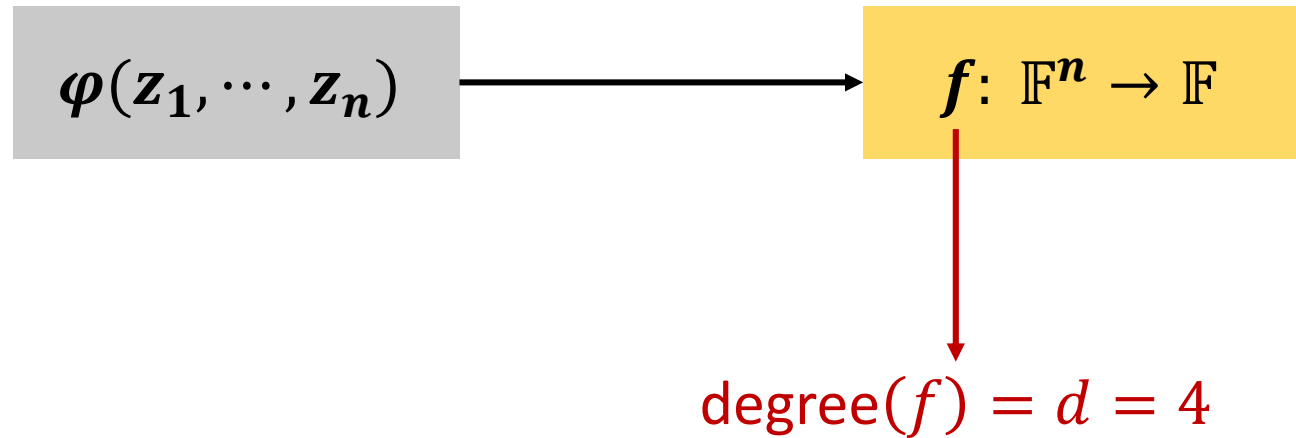
Arithmetization



# Sumcheck Protocol [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'90]



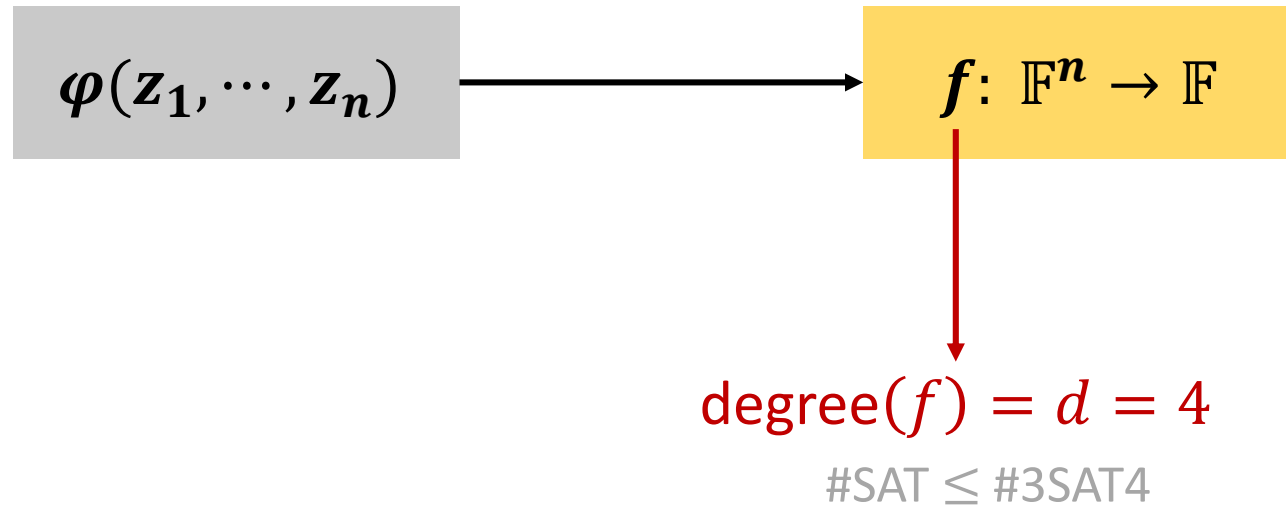
## Arithmetization



# Sumcheck Protocol [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'90]



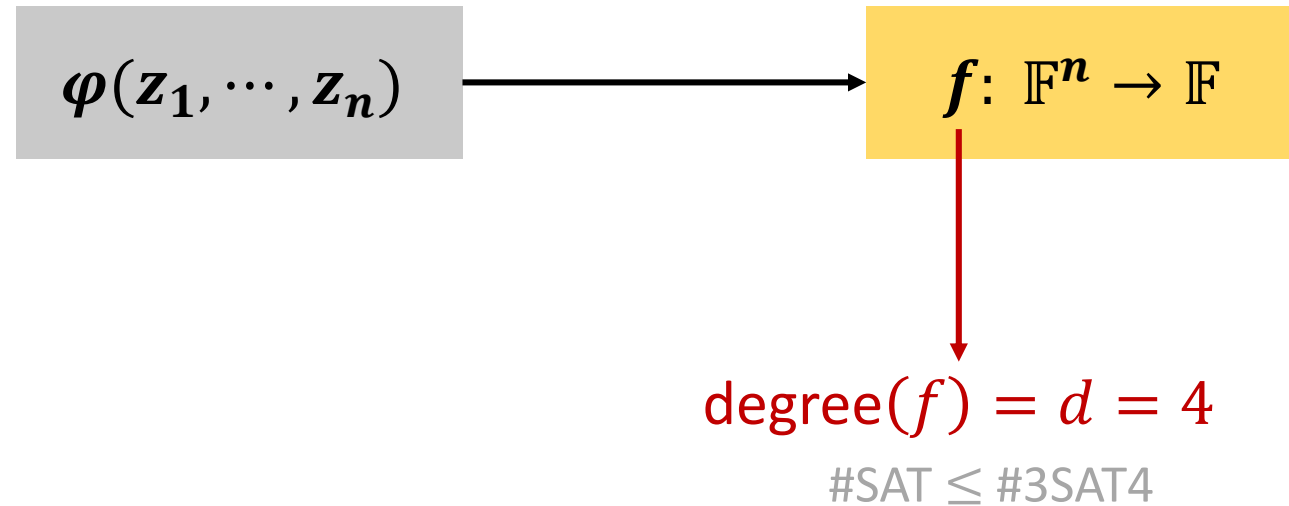
## Arithmetization



# Sumcheck Protocol [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'90]



## Arithmetization



Number of  $\vec{z} \in \{0,1\}^n$  such that  $\varphi(\vec{z}) = 1$  is

$$y = \sum_{\vec{z} \in \{0,1\}^n} f(\vec{z})$$

# Sumcheck Protocol





# Sumcheck

The sum  
 $\sum_{z \in \{0,1\}^n} f(z)$  is some  
value  $y$



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Prove it!



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$$\tilde{g}_1(x) := \sum_{z_2, \dots, z_n \in \{0,1\}} f(x, z_2, \dots, z_n)$$

Prove it!



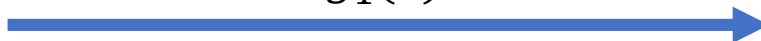
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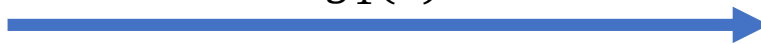
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Prove it!



$$\tilde{g}_1(0) + \tilde{g}_1(1) \stackrel{?}{=} y$$

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$$\beta_1 \leftarrow_R \mathbb{F}$$

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$$\beta_1 \leftarrow_R \mathbb{F}$$

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$\{\tilde{g}_1(0), \dots, \tilde{g}_1(d)\}$

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$$y_1 := \tilde{g}_1(\beta_1)$$

$$\tilde{g}_2(x) := \sum_{z_3, \dots, z_n \in \{0,1\}} f(\beta_1, x, z_3, \dots, z_n)$$

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$\{\tilde{g}_1(0), \dots, \tilde{g}_1(d)\}$

Prove it!



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$\beta_1$

$\tilde{g}_2(x)$

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The sum  $\sum_{z \in \{0,1\}^n} f(z)$  is some value  $y$



Prove it!



$\tilde{g}_1(x)$

$\beta_1$

$\vdots$

# Sumcheck

The sum  $\sum_{z \in \{0,1\}^n} f(z)$  is some value  $y$



Prove it!



$\tilde{g}_1(x)$

$\beta_1$

$\vdots$

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$\beta_1$

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$$y_j := \tilde{g}_j(\beta_j)$$

**$j$ -th claim**

# Sumcheck

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Prove it!



$\tilde{g}_1(x)$

$\beta_1$

$\vdots$

$\tilde{g}_j(x)$

$\beta_j$

$\vdots$

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$\tilde{g}_1(x)$

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$\vdots$

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Prove it!



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Prove it!



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$\beta_1$

$\vdots$

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$\beta_j$

$\vdots$

$\beta_{n-1}$

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The sum  $\sum_{z \in \{0,1\}^n} f(z)$  is some value  $y$

size  $N = 2^n$   
claim



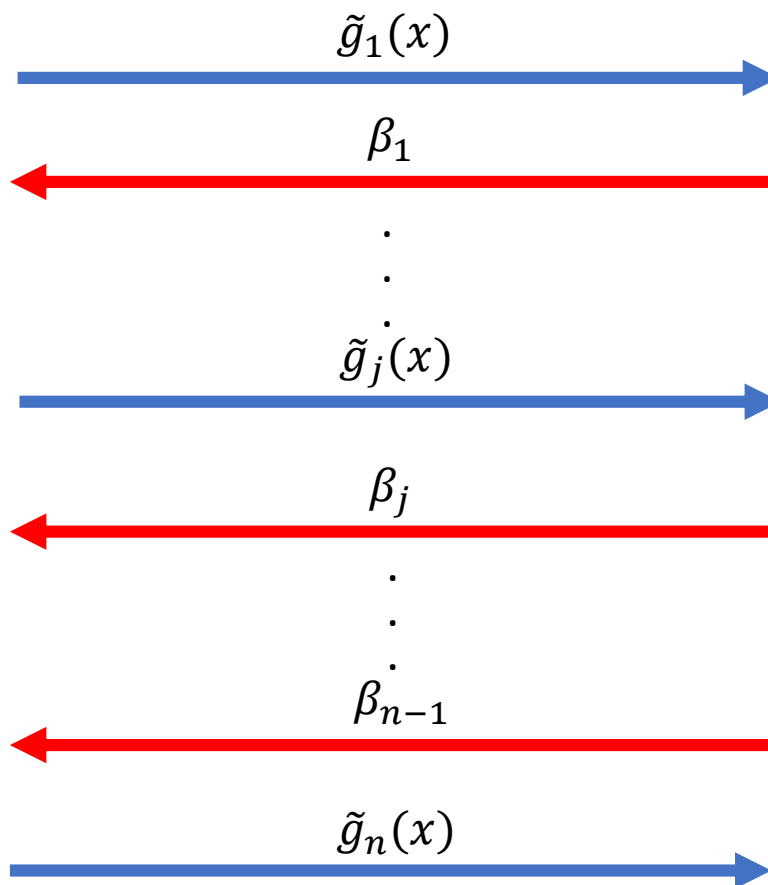
Prove it!



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Prove it!

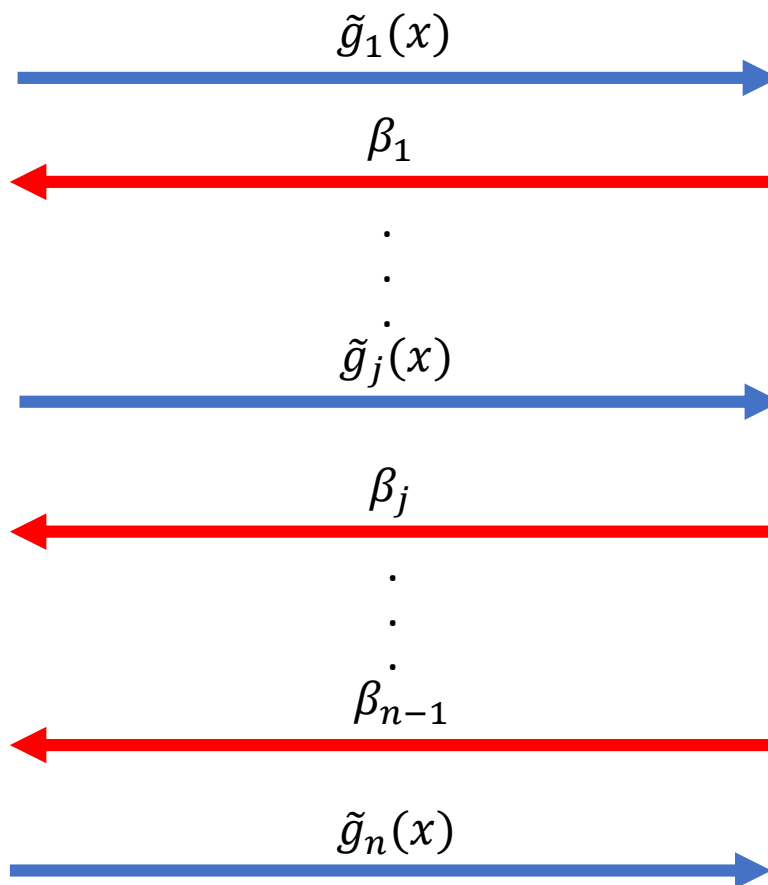


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$j$ -th claim

size  $N/2^j$   
claim



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$$\beta_n \leftarrow_R \mathbb{F}$$

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**size  $N/2^j$   
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claim

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Recall

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# Soundness

**Soundness:** if the  $j$ -th claim is **false** then  $\forall \tilde{g}_{j+1}(x)$  the  $(j + 1)$ -th claim is **also false**

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**Unambiguous Soundness:** if  $\tilde{g}_{j+1}(x) \neq g_{j+1}(x)$ , then the  $(j + 1)$ -th claim is **false**  
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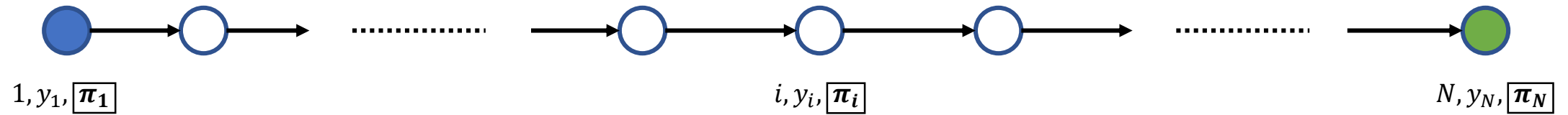
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even if  $j$ -th claim was true

Both with high probability over  $\beta_{j+1}$  - Schwartz-Zippel.

# Basic Idea

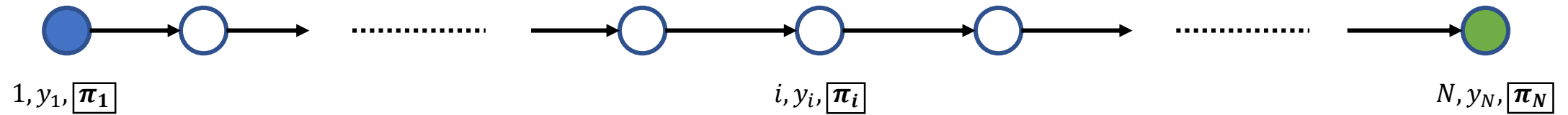


Several Challenges:

Proof size has to be polynomial



# Basic Idea

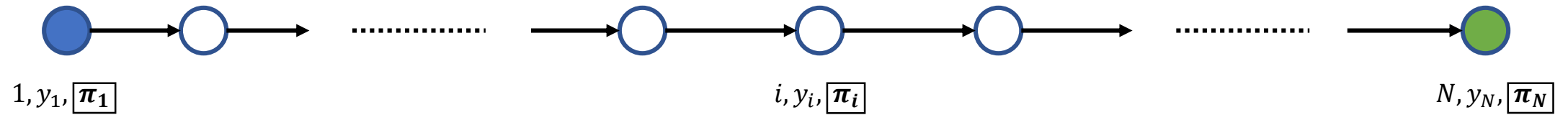


Several Challenges:

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Sumcheck protocol

# Basic Idea



Several Challenges:

Proof size has to be polynomial

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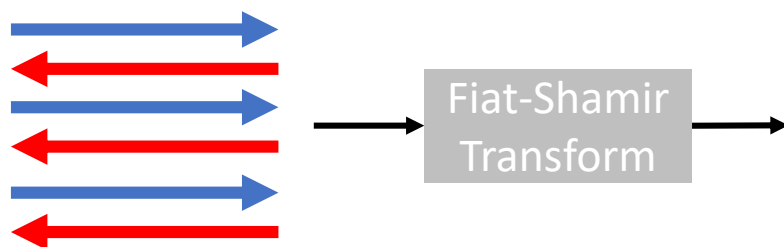
Sumcheck Protocol is interactive

# [Fiat-Shamir'86] Transformation

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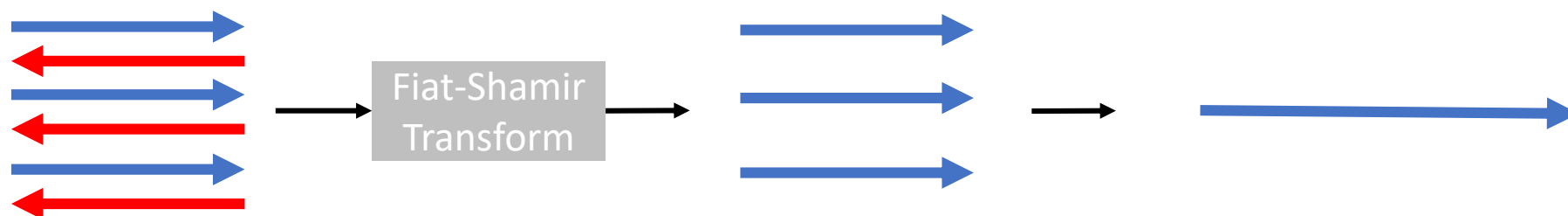
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Replaced by a hash function  $h$

# [Fiat-Shamir'86] Transformation



Replaced by a hash function  $h$

$$\leftarrow = h \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{blue arrow} \rightarrow \\ \text{red arrow} \leftarrow \\ \text{blue arrow} \rightarrow \end{array} \right)$$



# Fiat-Shamir for Sumcheck

$$\overleftarrow{\beta_j} = h \left( \begin{array}{c} \overrightarrow{\tilde{g}_1(x)} \\ \overleftarrow{\beta_1} \\ \vdots \\ \overrightarrow{\tilde{g}_j(x)} \end{array} \right)$$

# Fiat-Shamir for Sumcheck

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Resulting non-interactive (deterministic) argument is (adaptively) **unambiguously sound**

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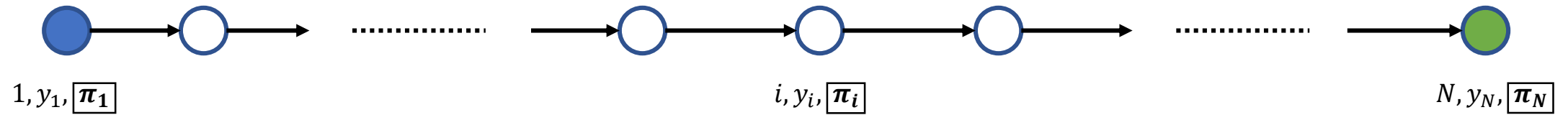
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**True if  $h$  is a random oracle.**

# Basic Idea



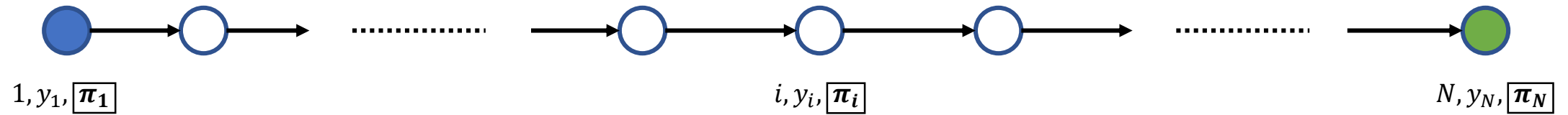
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Proof size has to be polynomial

Sumcheck protocol

Sumcheck Protocol is interactive

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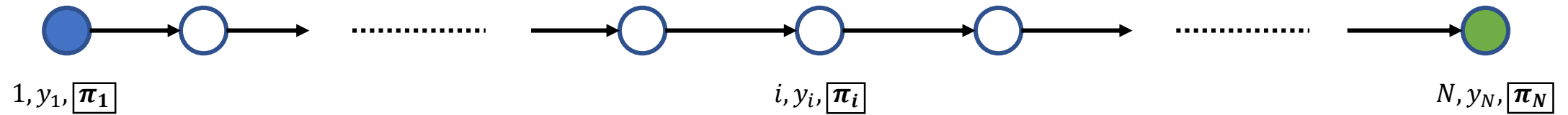
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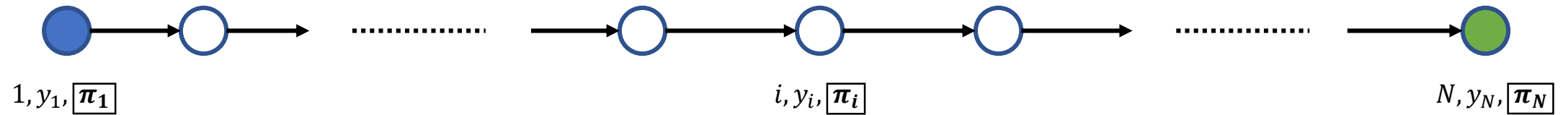
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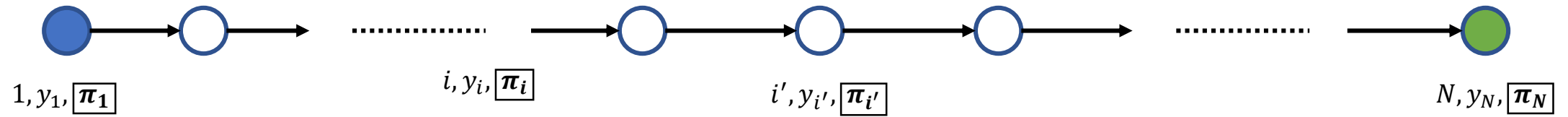
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Fiat-Shamir Transform

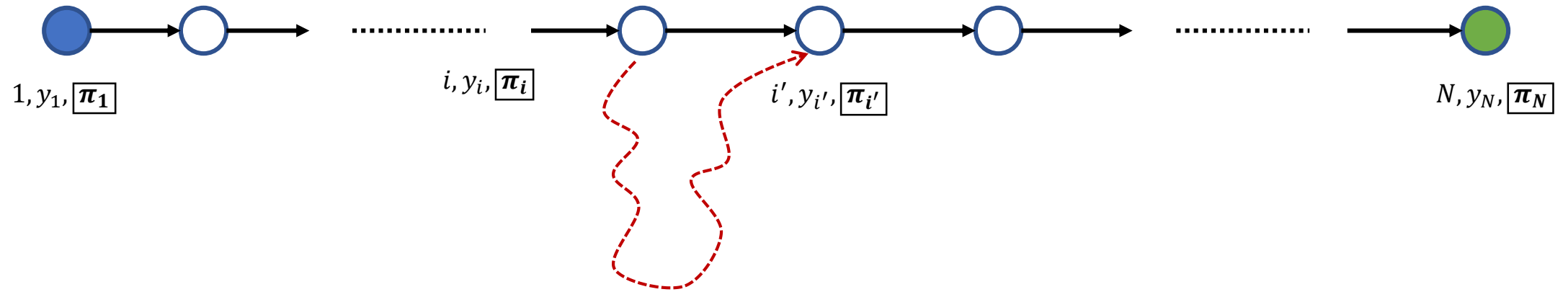
Computing  $\mathcal{S}(i, y_i, \pi_i)$

Incremental Proof Updates

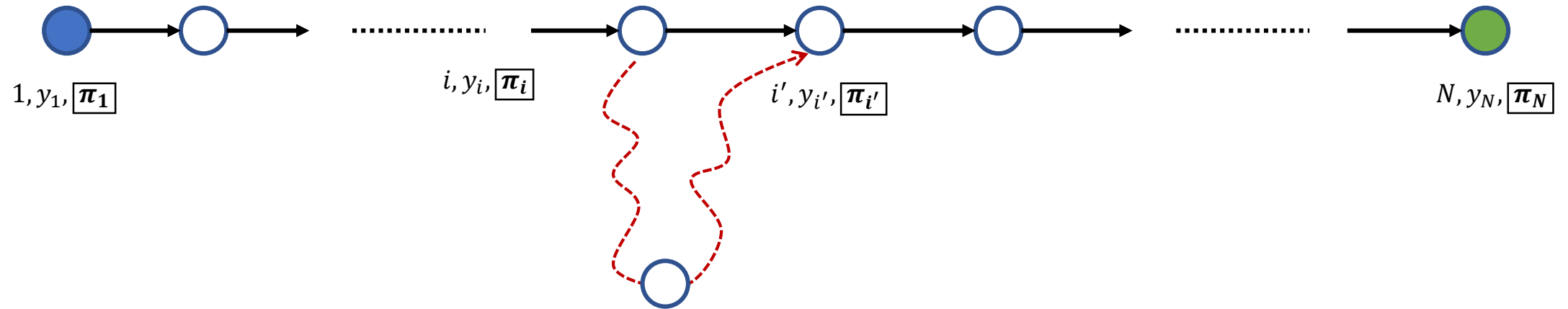
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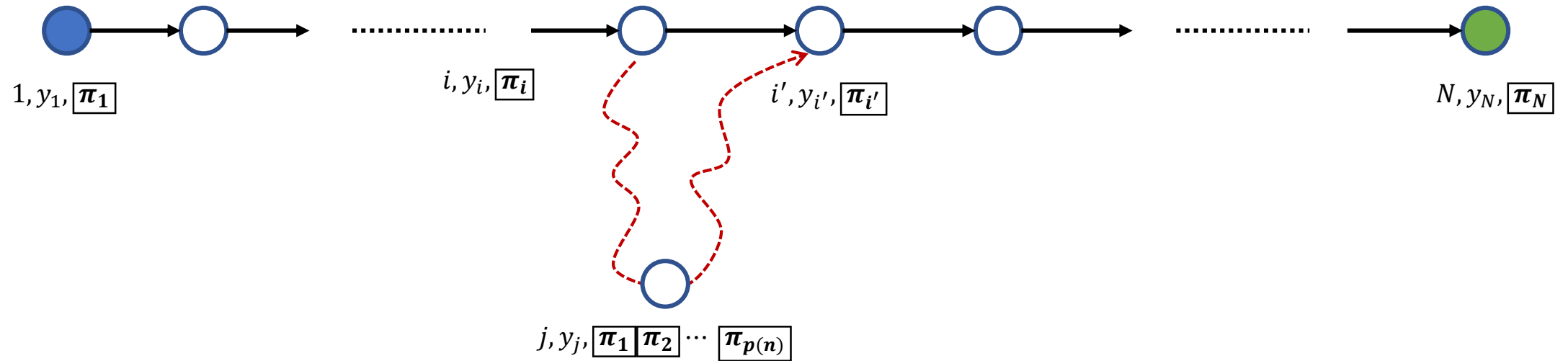
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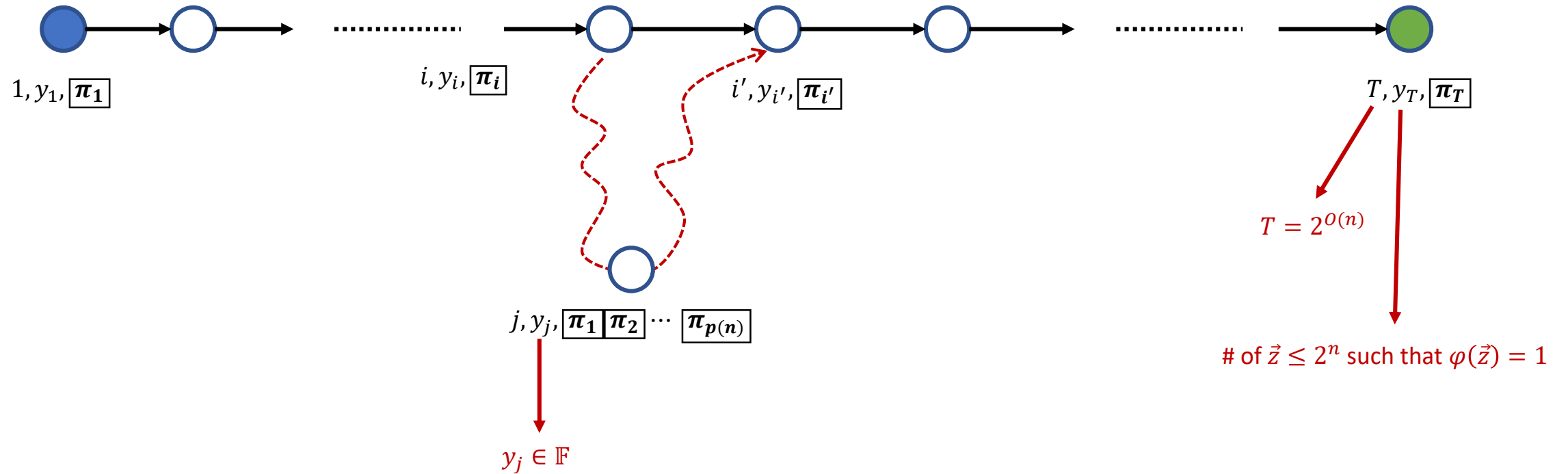
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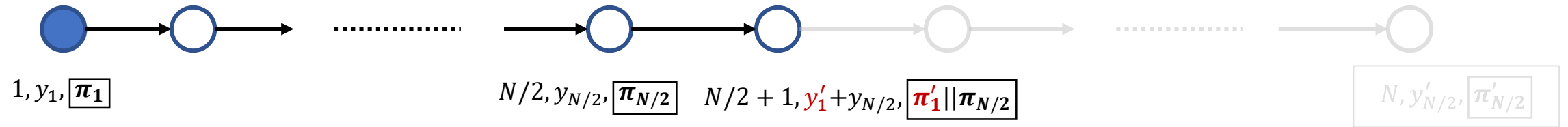
# Incremental Proof Updates



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# Naïve Recursive Construction



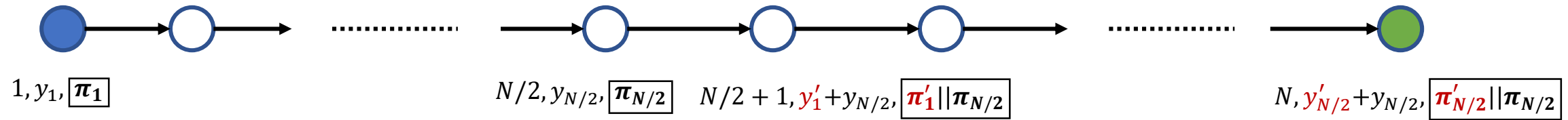
Construction for  $N/2 \rightarrow$  to construction for  $N$

First  $N/2$  assignments: Do recursively

Second  $N/2$  assignments: Add second proof  $y_i, \pi_i$



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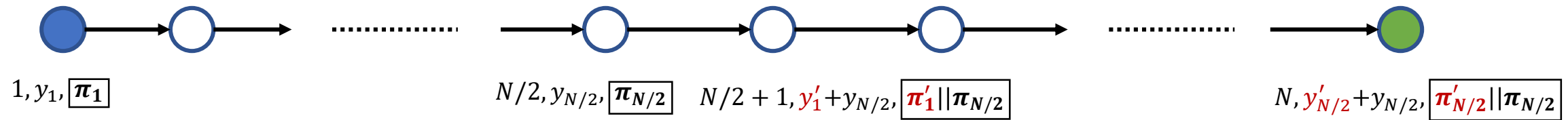


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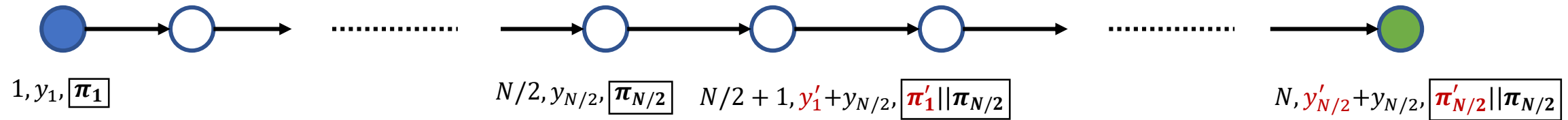
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**Proof size:  $P(N) = 2 P(N/2)$**

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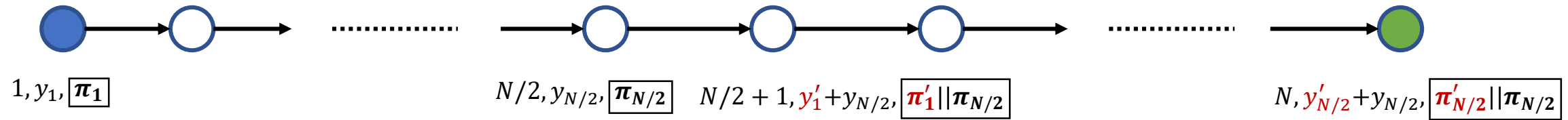
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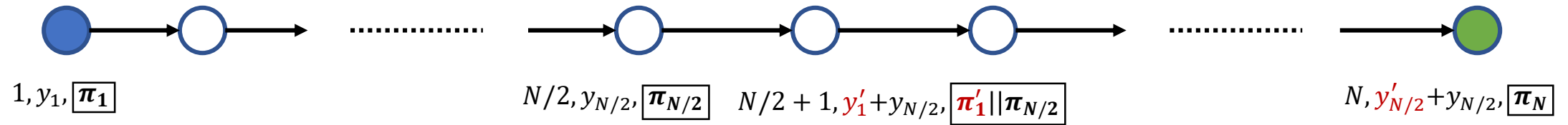
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# Merge Proofs [Valiant'06]



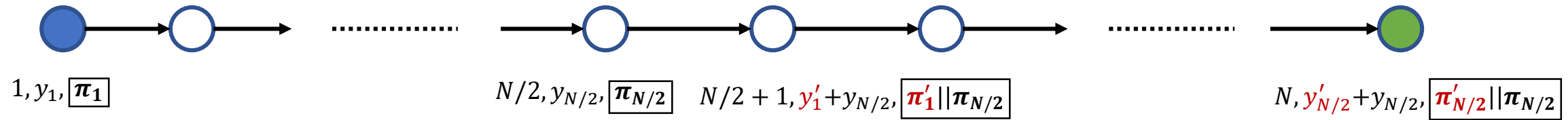
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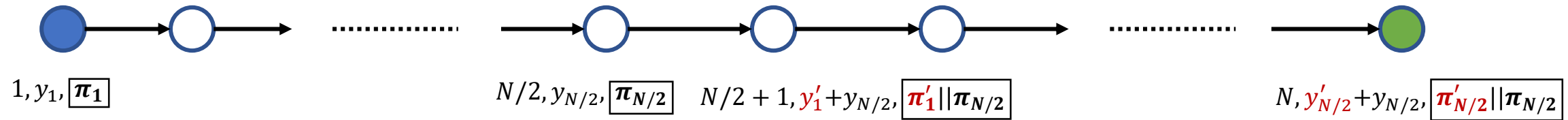


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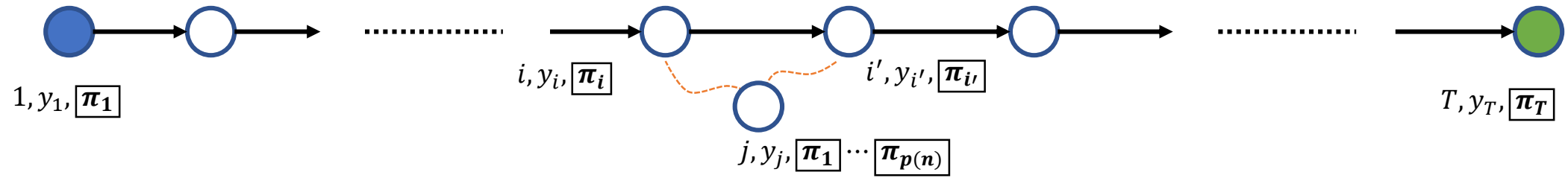
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Requires "super-extractable" SNARKs

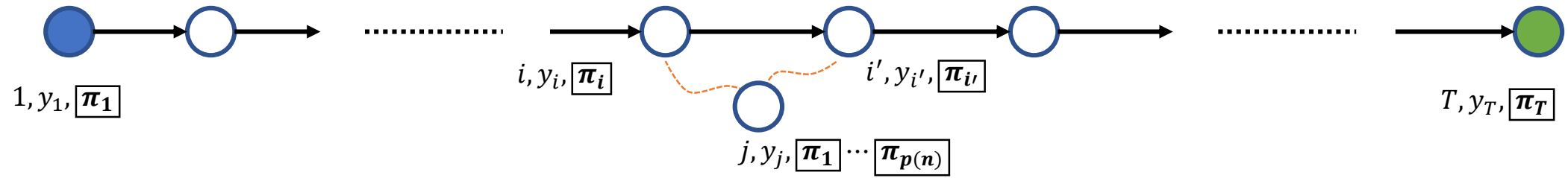
# New Idea: Incremental Merge



Merge via (long) incrementally verifiable computation.



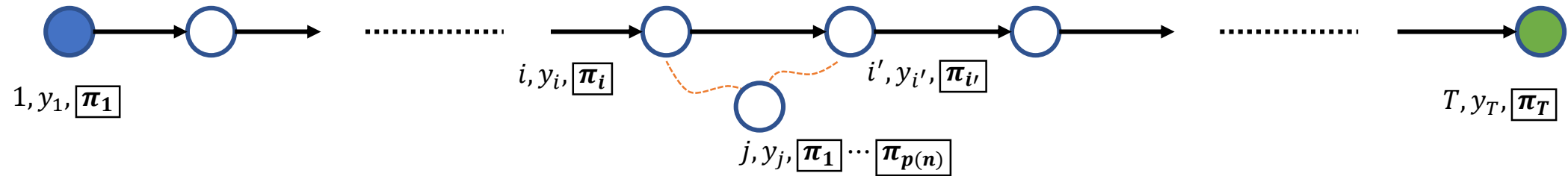
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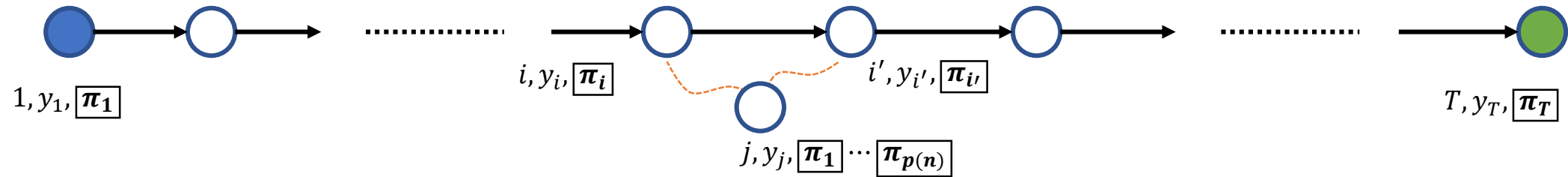
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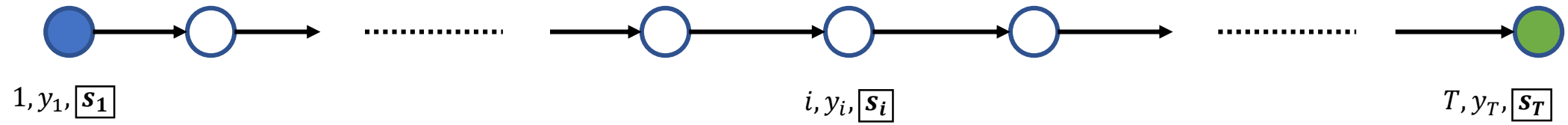
Merge via (long) incrementally verifiable computation.

How long?  $\mathcal{O}(T(N/2))$

Proof size:  $P(N) = P(N/2) + \text{poly}(n)$

# Steps:  $T(N) = d T(N/2) + \text{poly}(n)$

# New Idea: Incremental Merge



How do you efficiently compute

$$S(i, y_i, \boxed{\pi_i}) = i + 1, y_{i+1}, \boxed{\pi_{i+1}}$$

# Proof Merging for (Fiat-Shamir) sumcheck



$$\sum_{z_{j+1}, \dots, z_n \in \{0,1\}} f(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{j-1}, \beta_j, z_{j+1}, \dots, z_n) = y_j$$

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**$j + 1$ -th claim**

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claim**

**$(d + 2)$  size  $N/2^{j+1}$  claims**

Proving the  $j$ -th claim

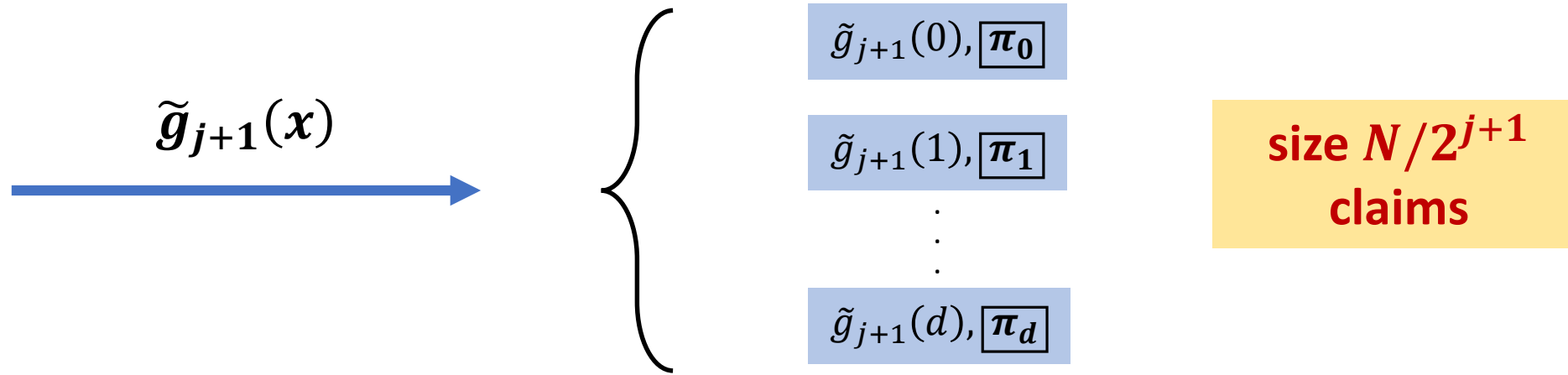
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \tilde{g}_{j+1}(0), \boxed{\pi_0} \\ \tilde{g}_{j+1}(1), \boxed{\pi_1} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{g}_{j+1}(d), \boxed{\pi_d} \end{array} \right.$$

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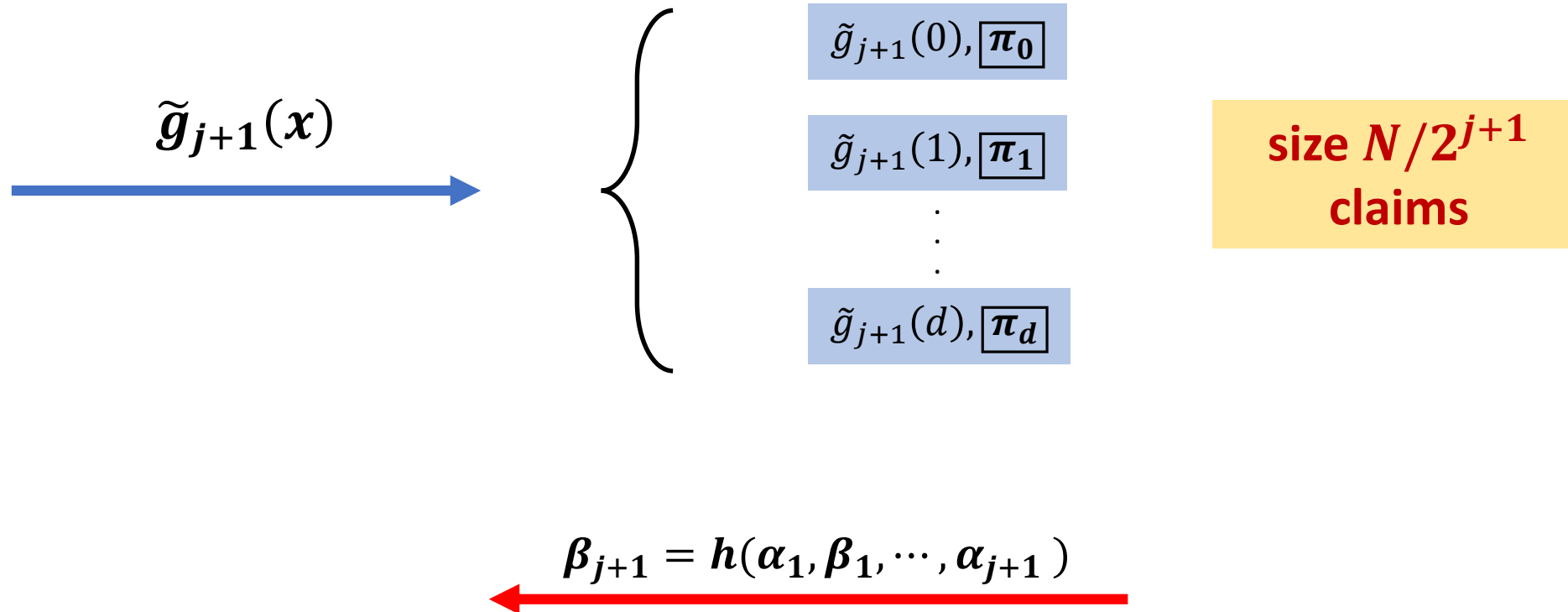
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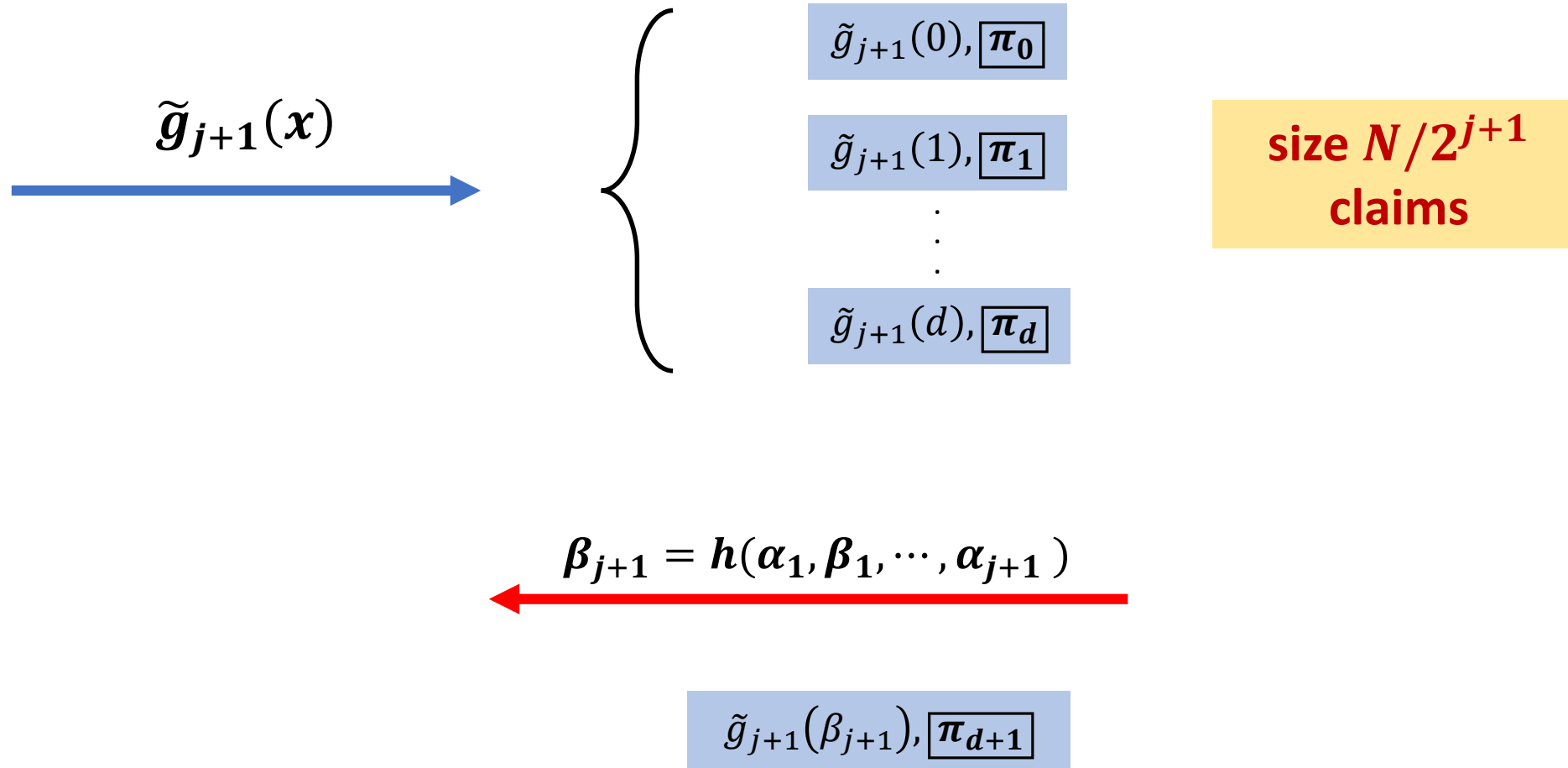


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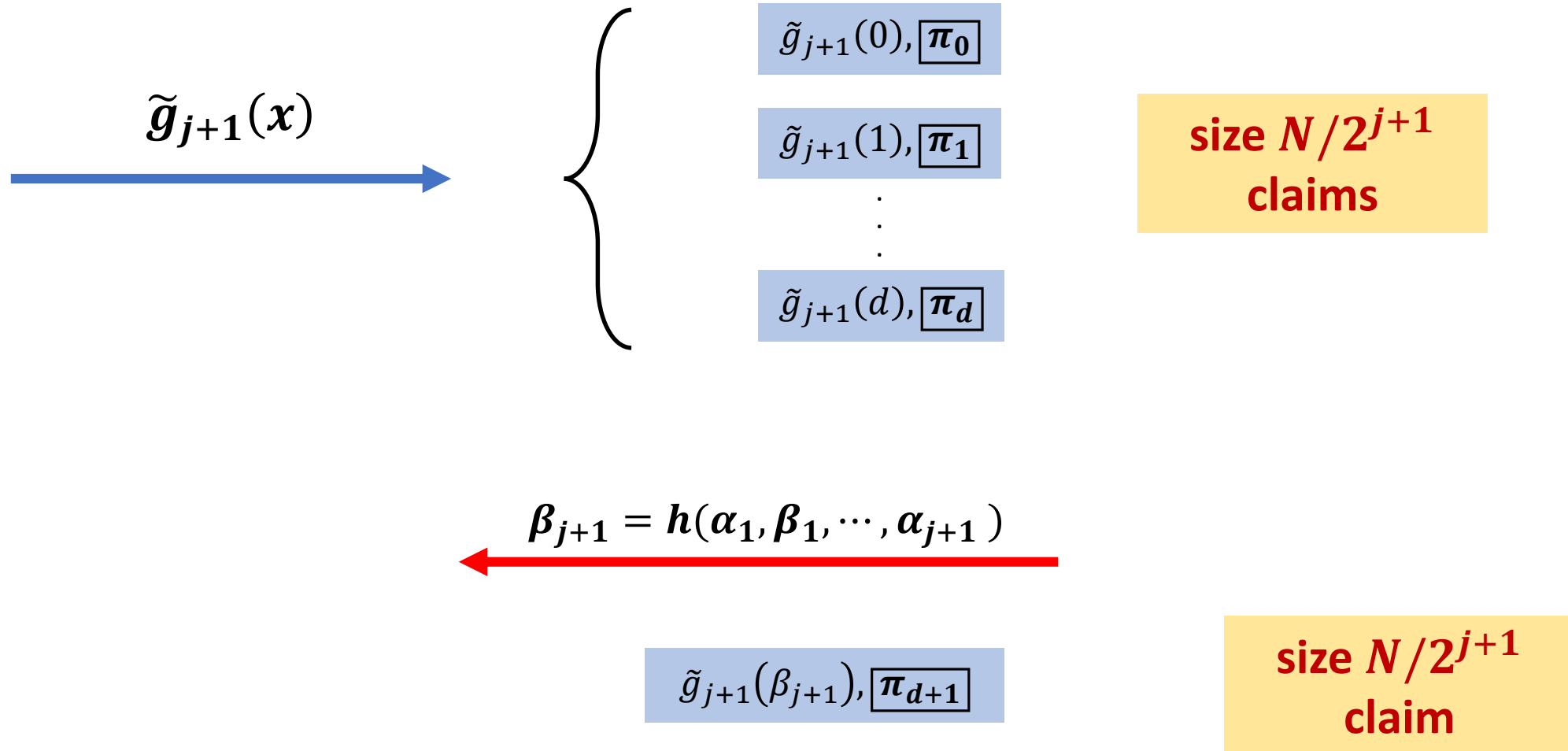




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$$\text{Proof size: } P(N) = P(N/2) + \log|\mathbb{F}|$$

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$$T(0) = \text{poly}(\log|\mathbb{F}|)$$



# Parameters

**Proof size:**  $P(N) = P(N/2) + \log|\mathbb{F}|$

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**# Steps:**  $T(N) = (d + 2) T(N/2) + \text{poly}(n)$

$$T(0) = \text{poly}(\log|\mathbb{F}|)$$

$$T(n) = 2^{O(n)}$$

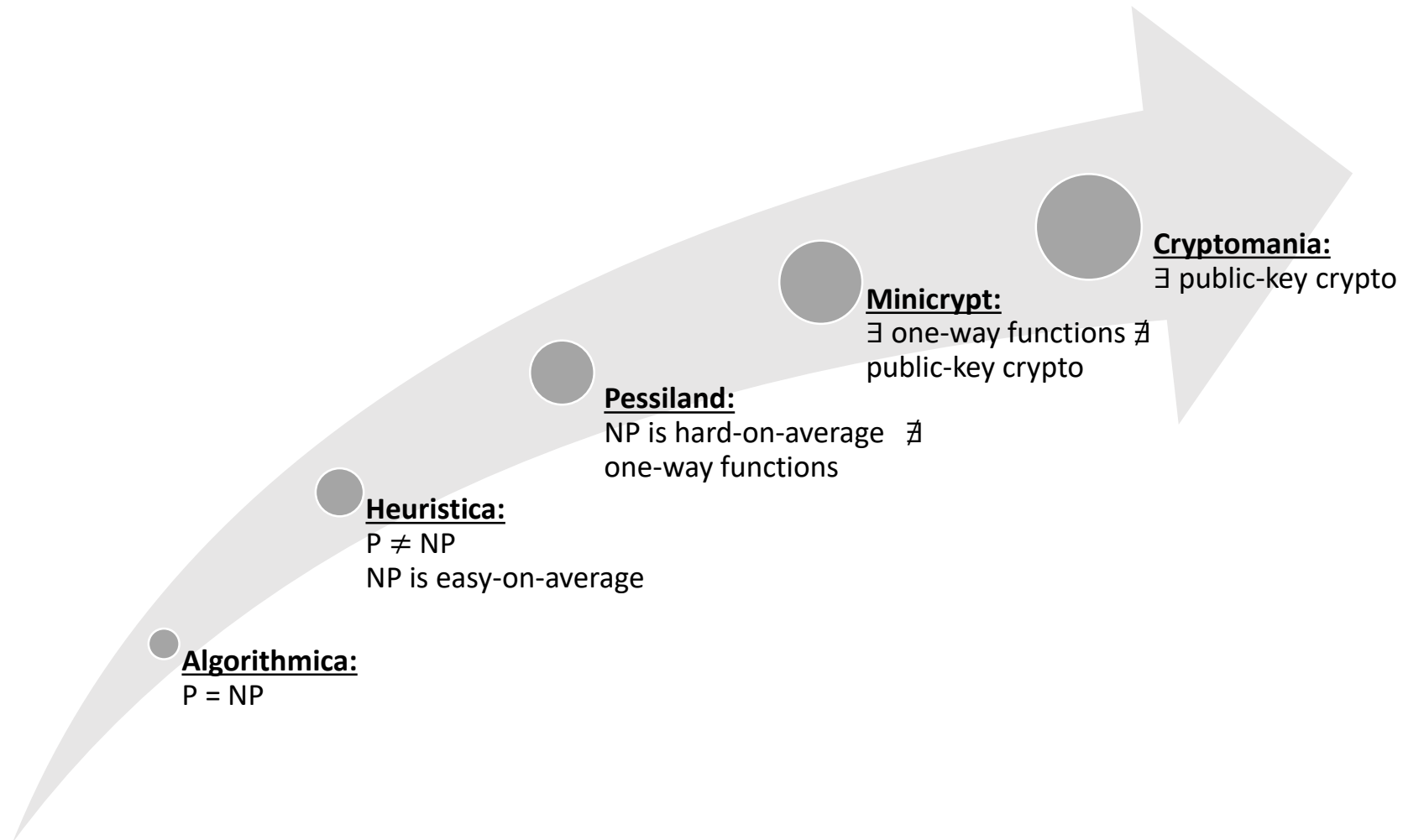
# Open Problems

Instantiating Fiat-Shamir for sumcheck

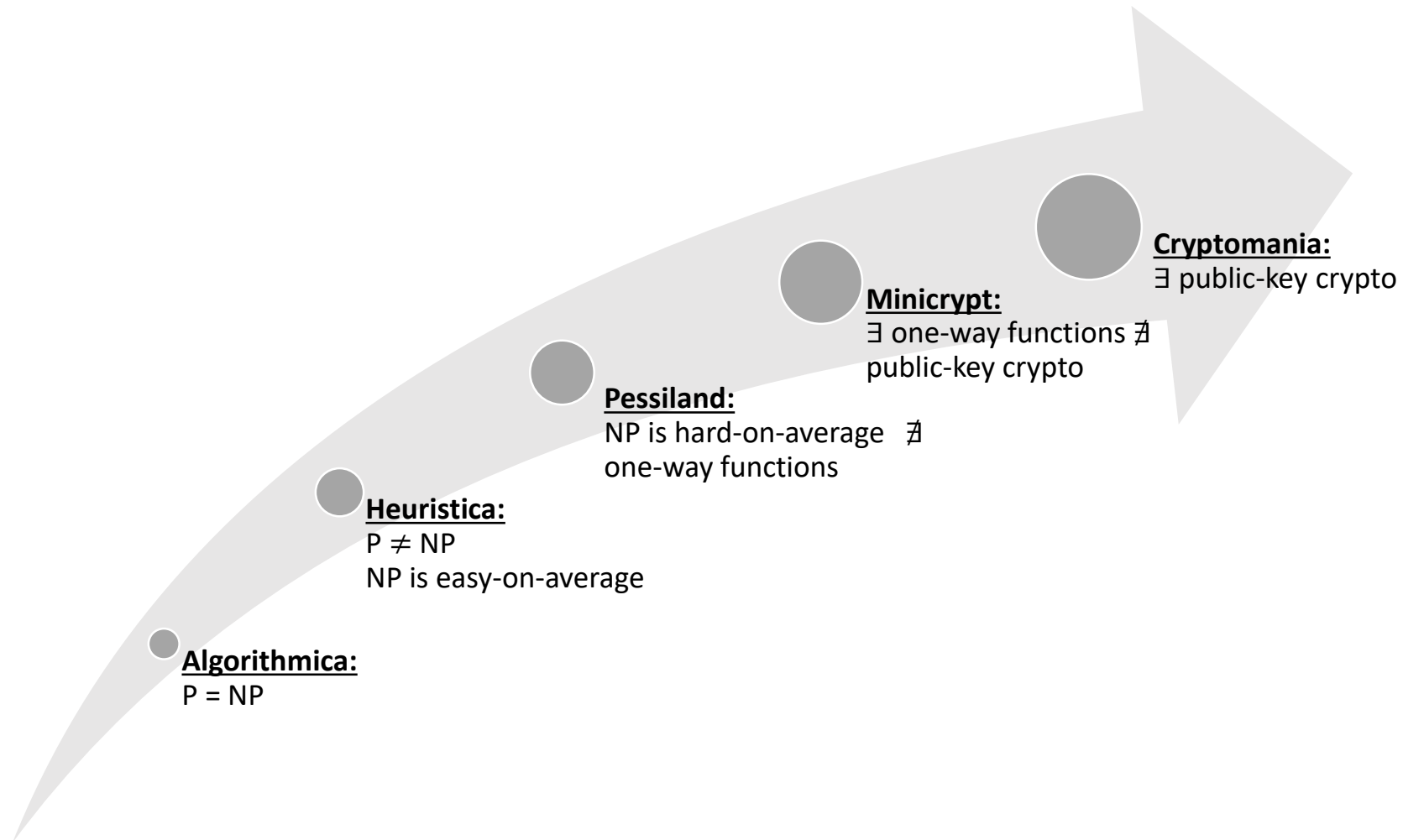
Sampling small(ish) hard instances of NASH

Thank you. Questions?

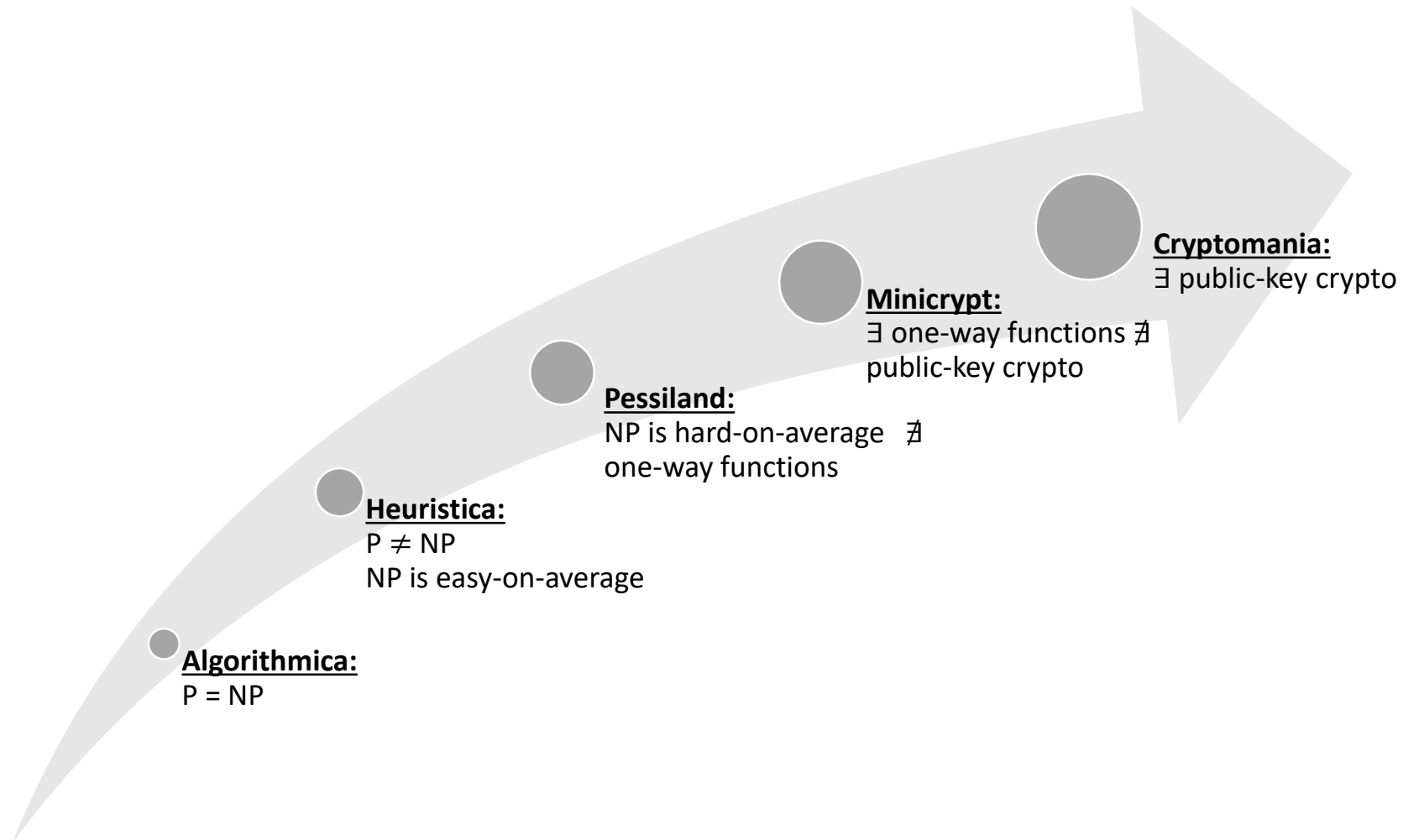
# The Five Worlds of Impagliazzo



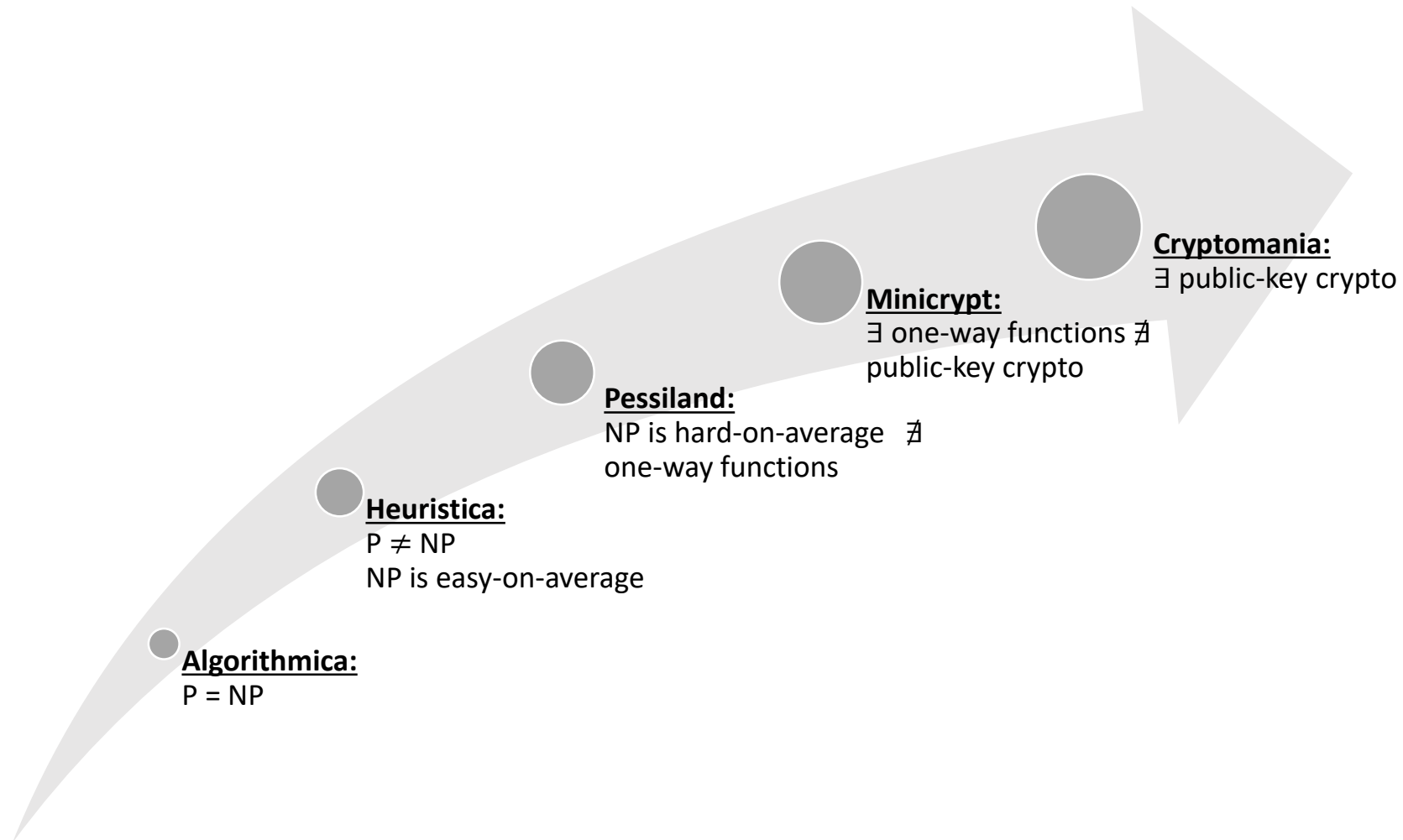
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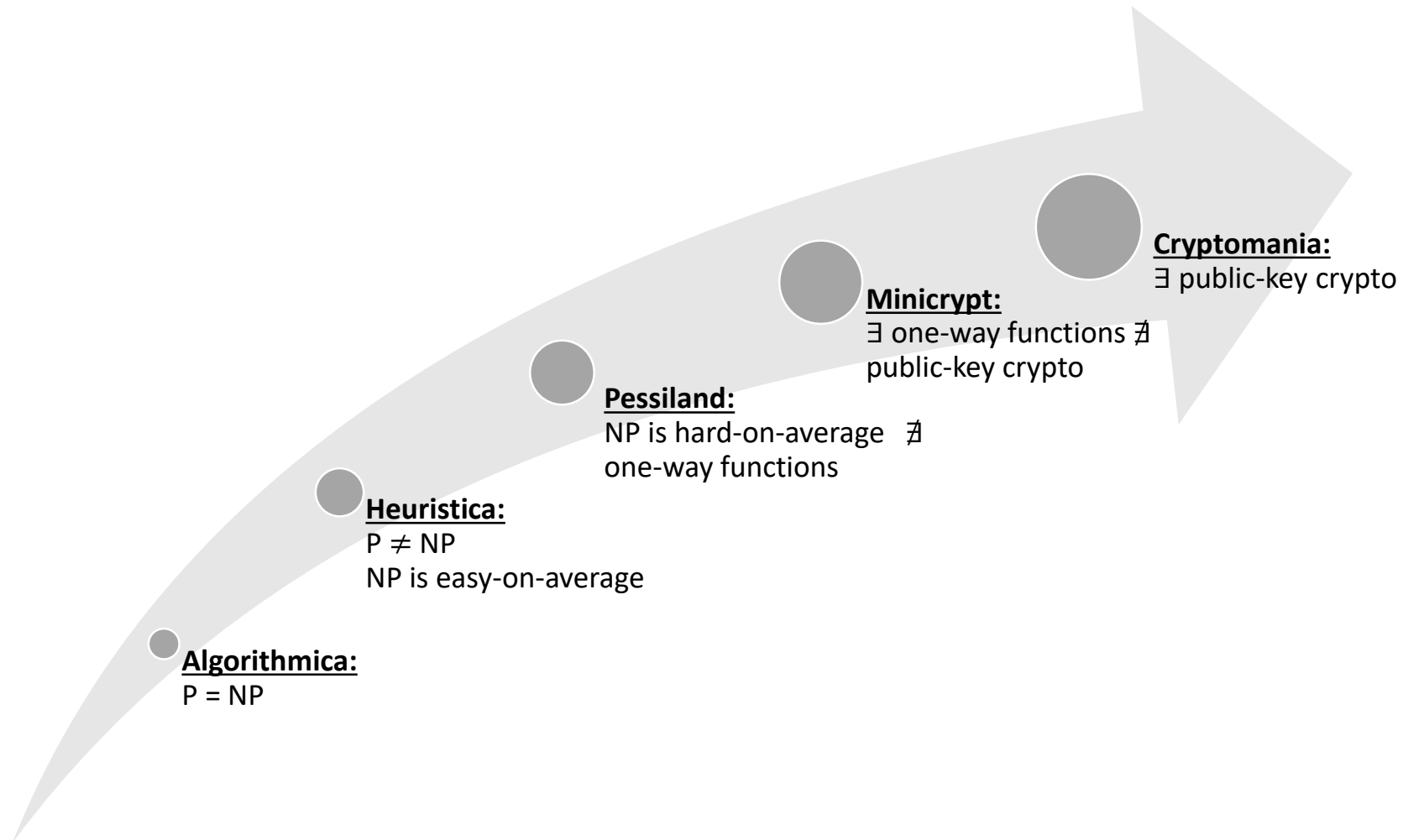
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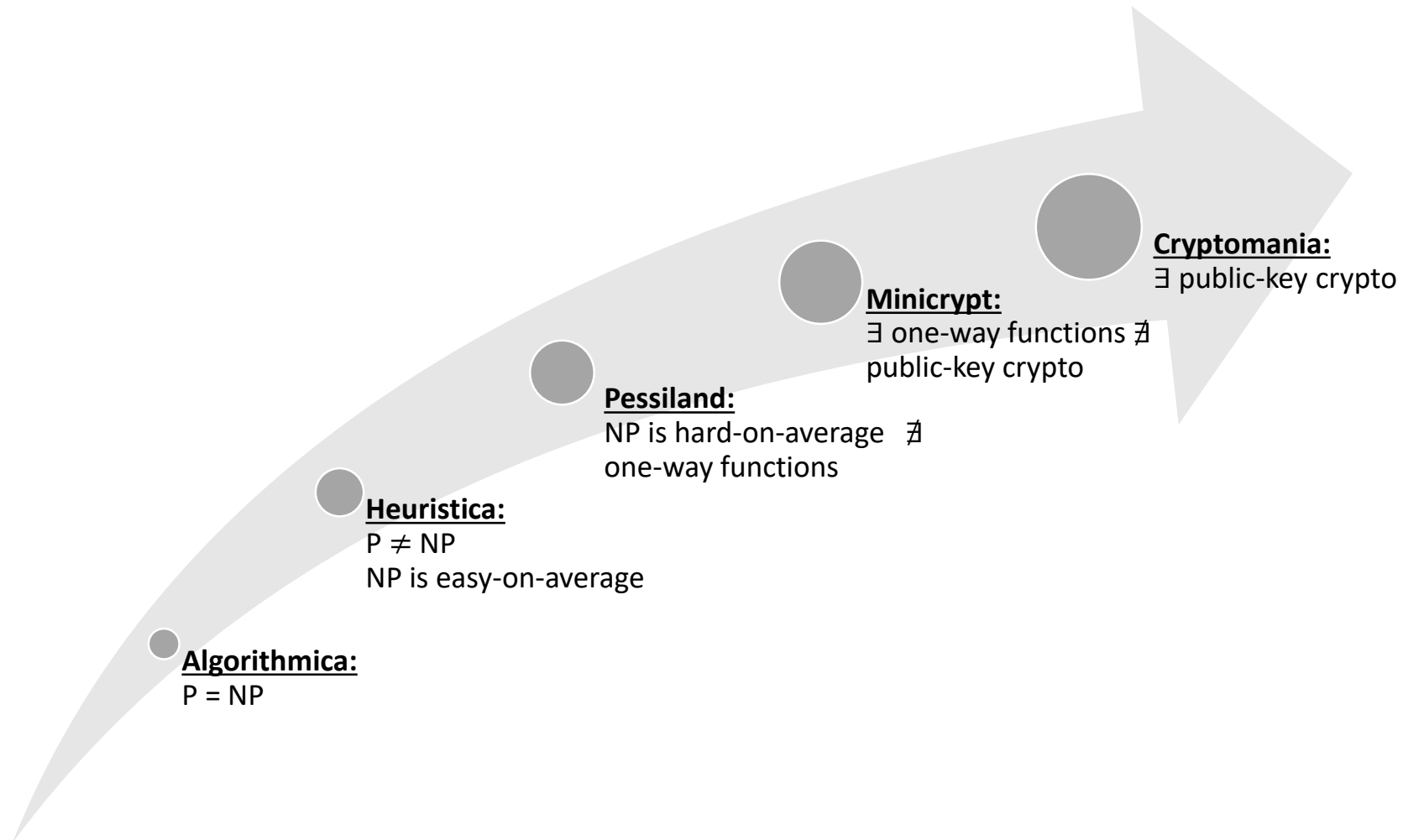


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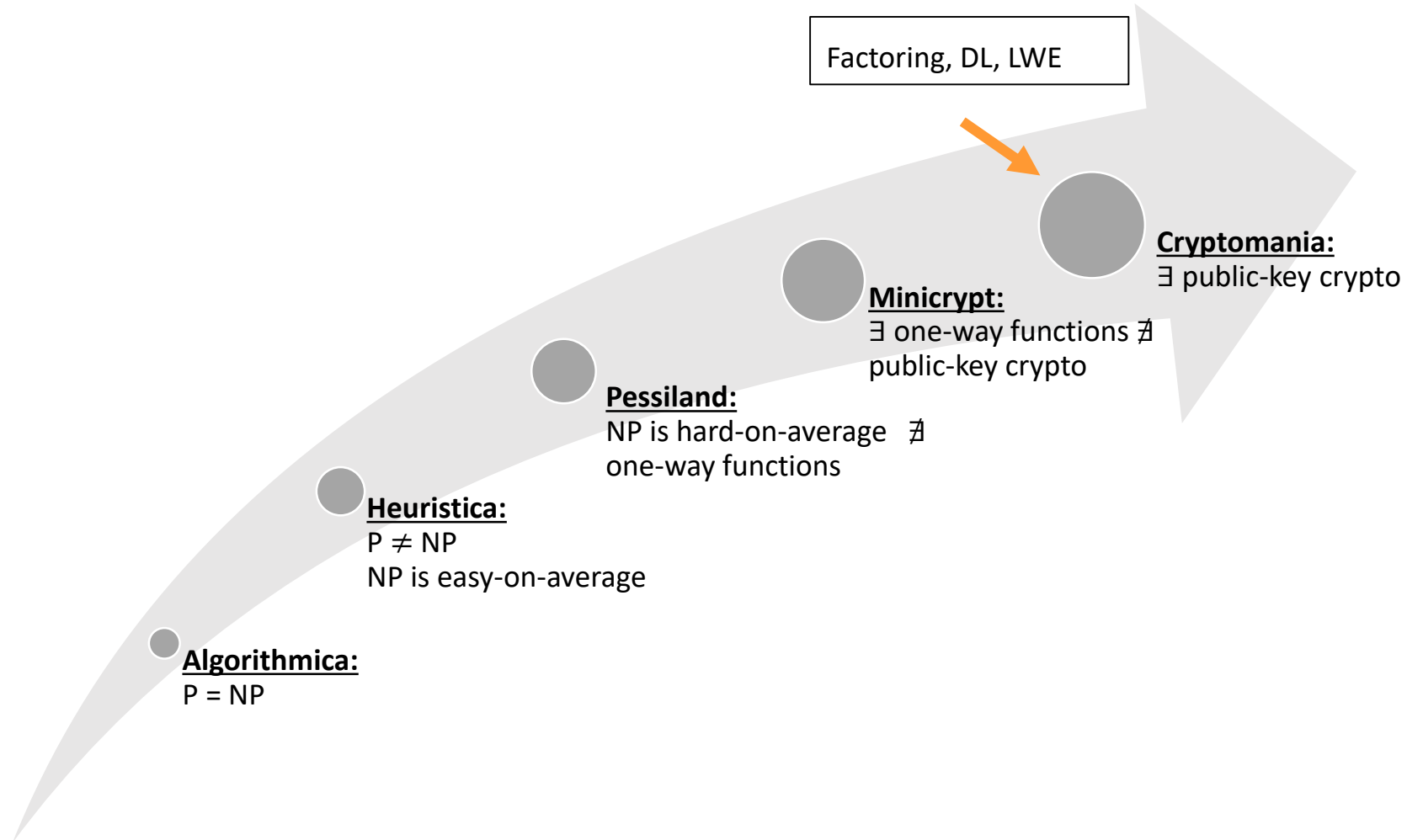




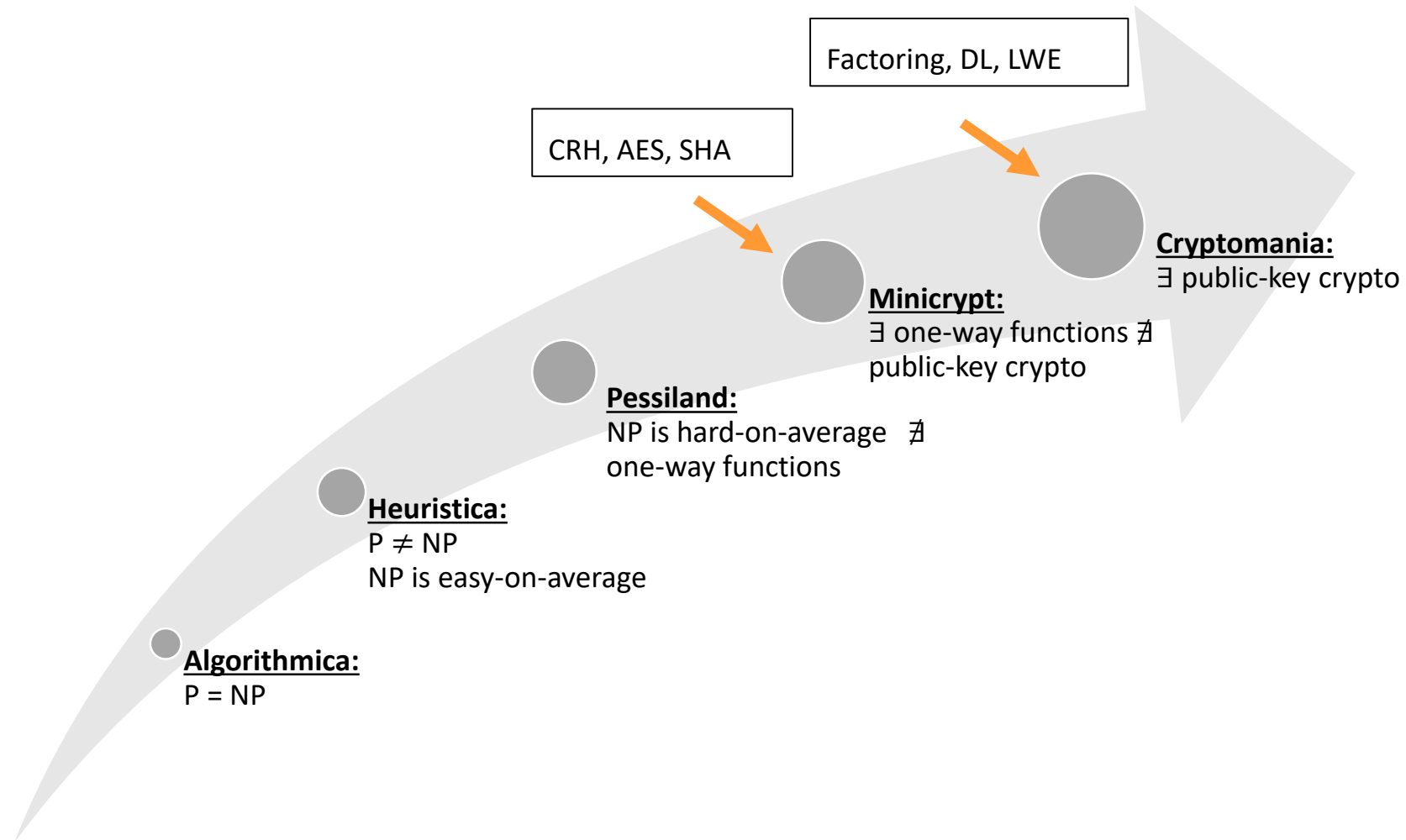
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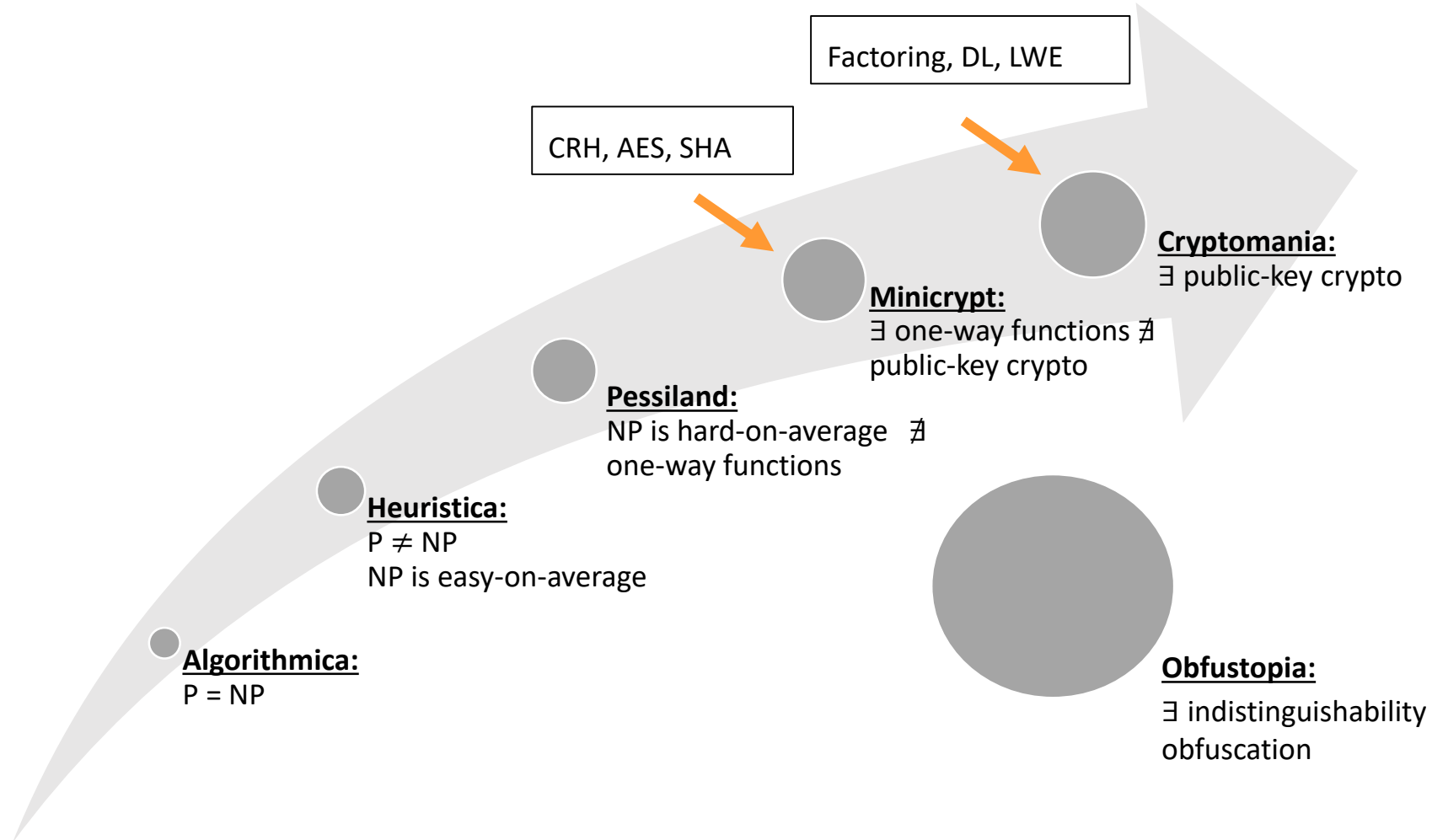
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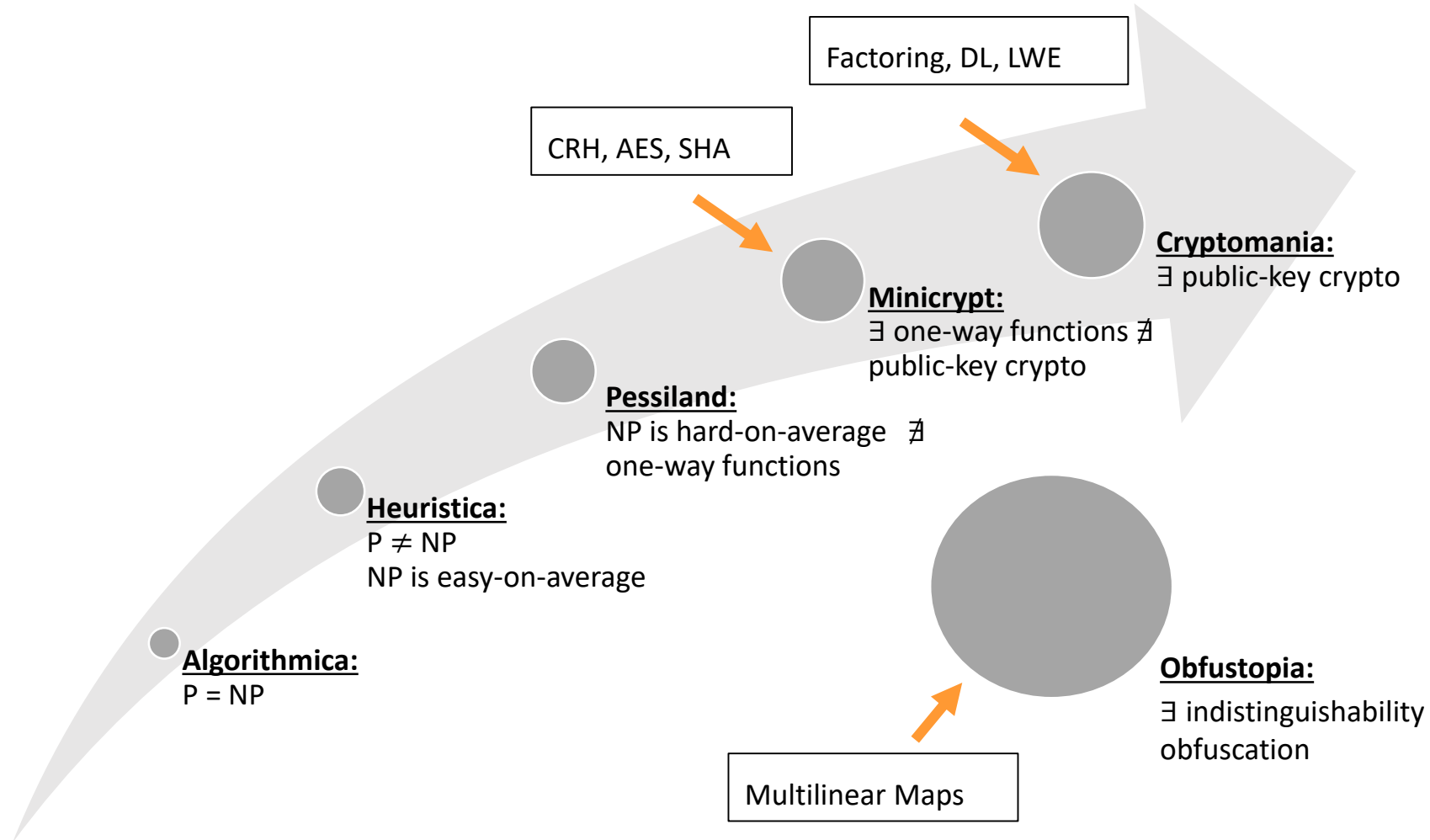
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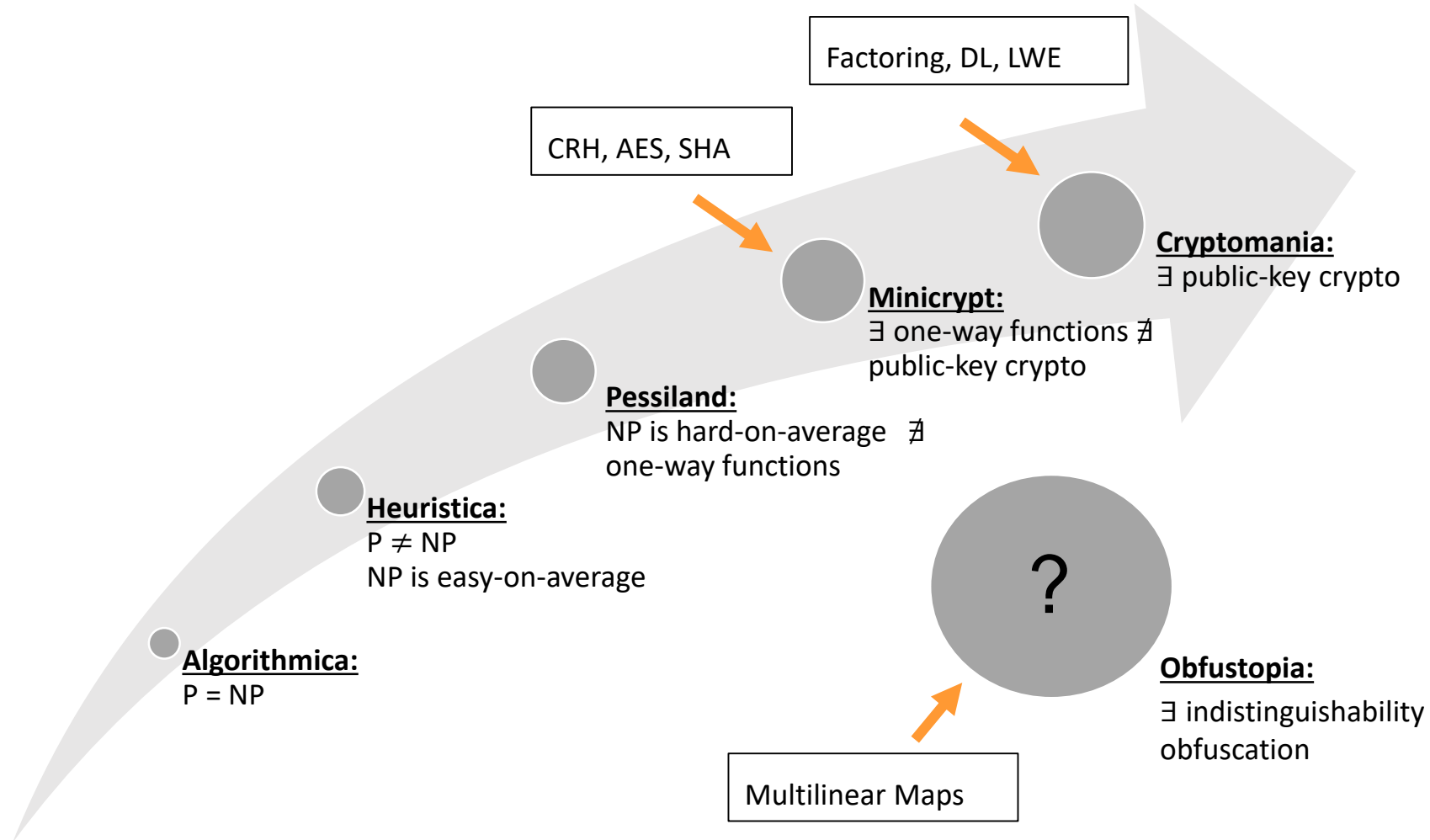
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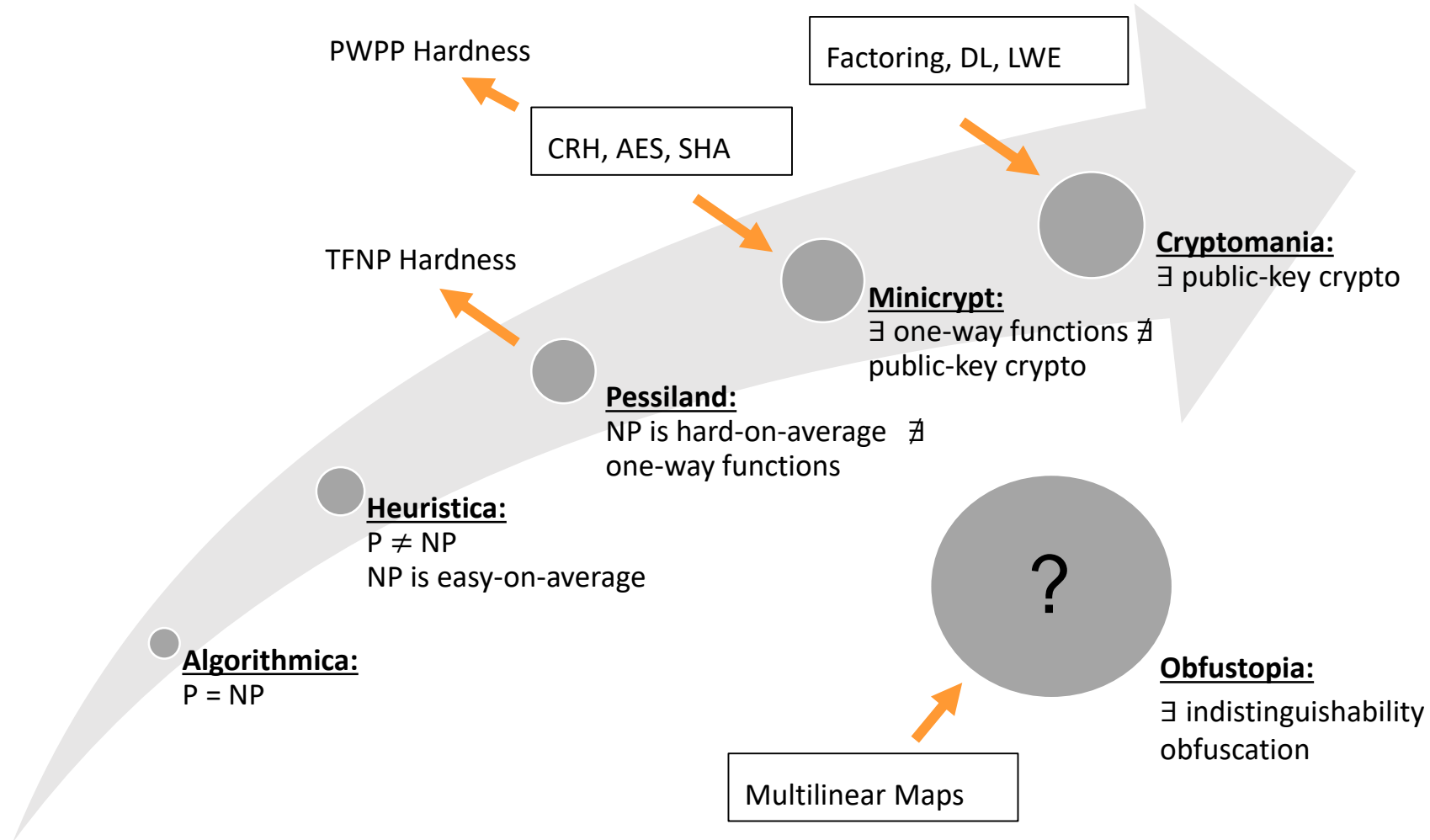
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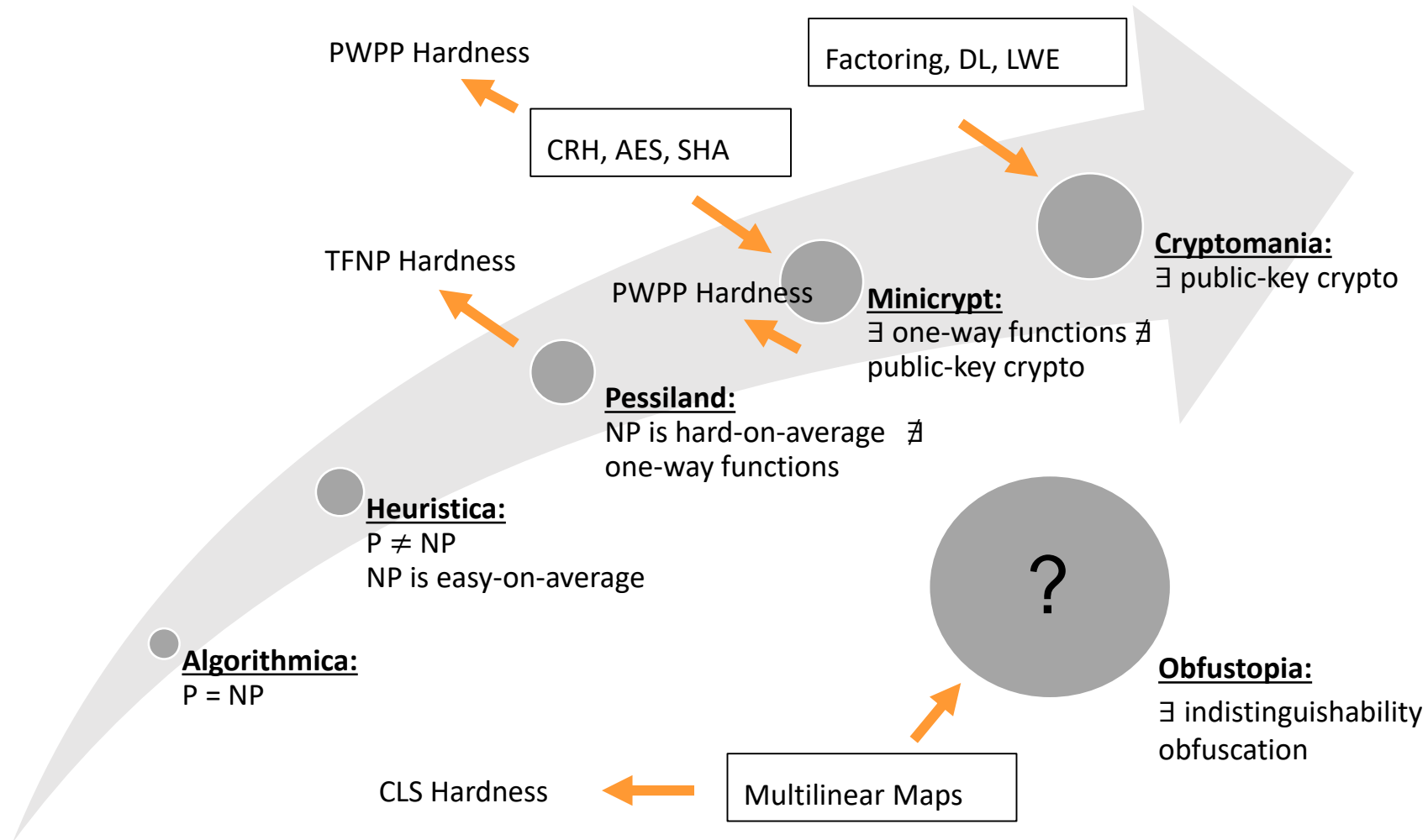
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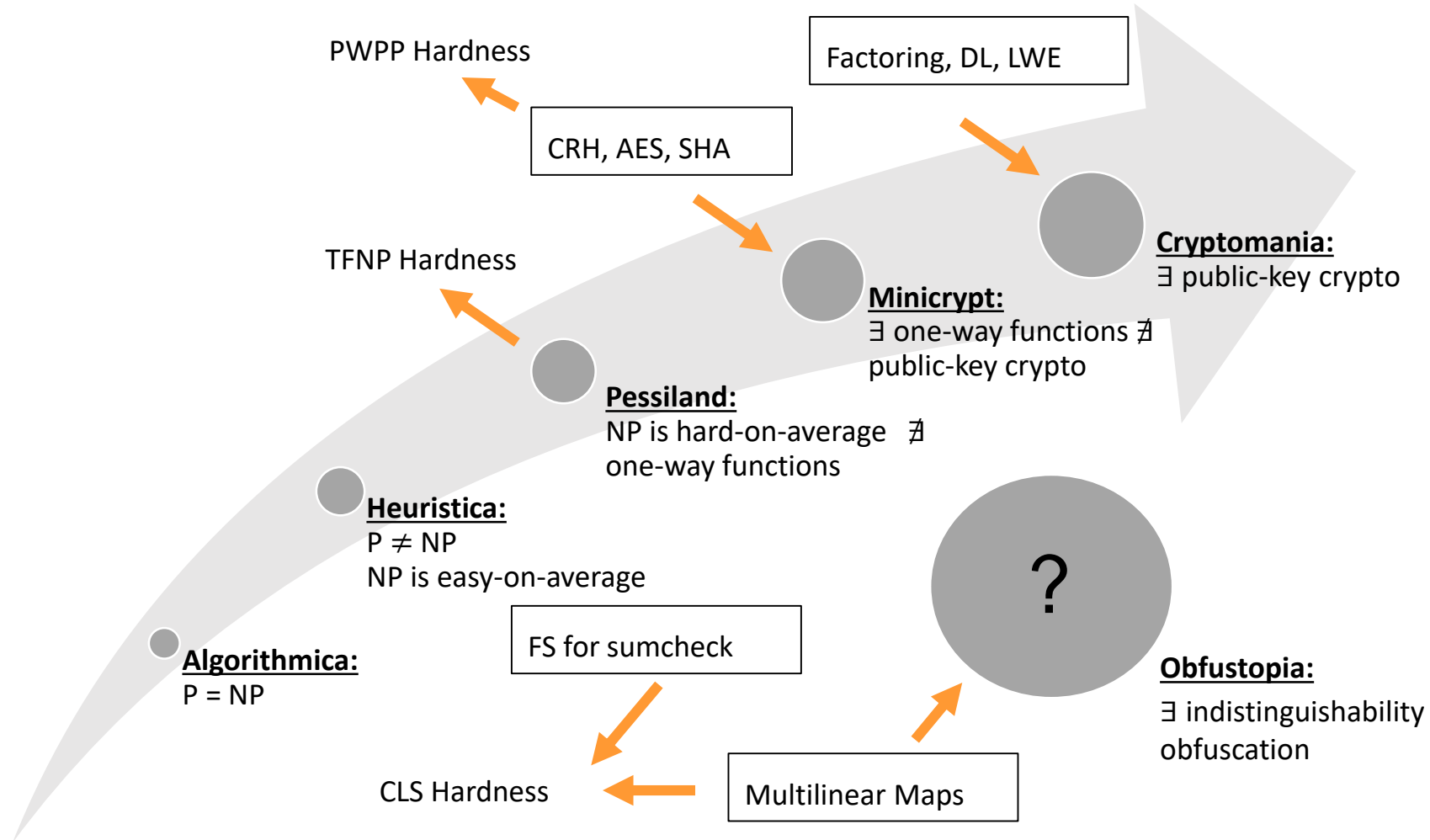


# The Five Worlds of Impagliazzo





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# Is Crypto hardness Necessary?

[Rosen-Segev-Shachaf'17]

Black box separations

SVL hardness **not essential** for PPAD hardness

Basing PPAD hardness on OWFs:

**cannot go through SVL**, and  
must have **exponential** #sol