

Agentic vs. Automated Block Building

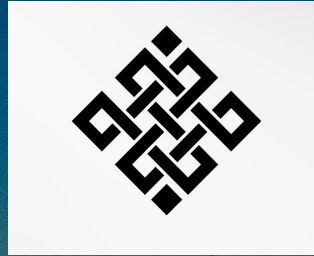
Maryam Bahrani
Ritual



based on joint work with Naveen
Durvasula

Agentic vs. Automated Block Building

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Introduction



*permissionless, verifiable compute
on a shared global state*

Introduction

supply



block



*permissionless, verifiable compute
on a shared global state*

Introduction

demand



supply



block



*permissionless, verifiable compute
on a shared global state*

Introduction

demand



fee market

supply

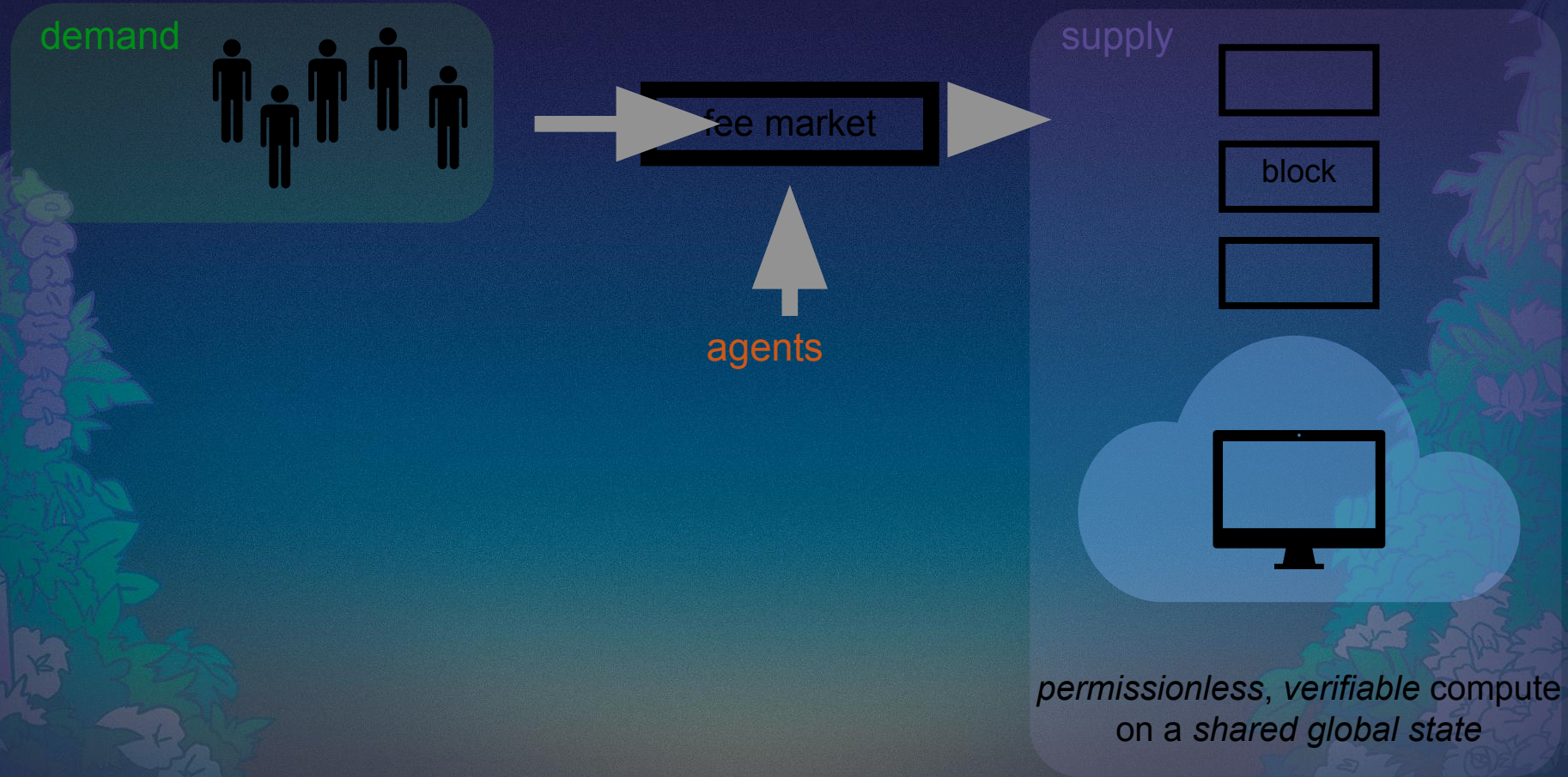


block



*permissionless, verifiable compute
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Introduction



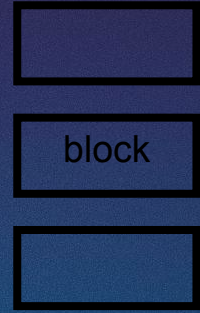
Introduction

demand

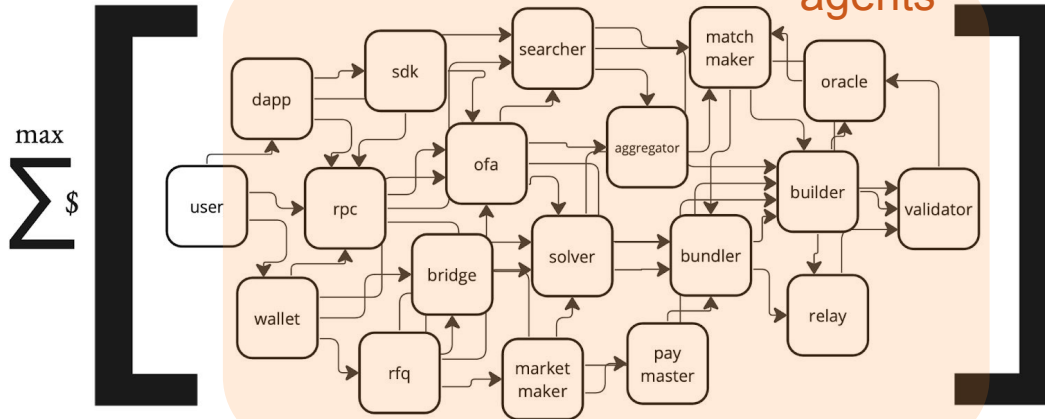


fee market

supply



Transaction Supply Network



Source: Frontier.tech

miro

*permissionless, verifiable compute
on a shared global state*

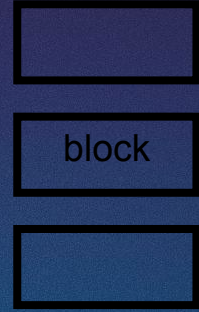
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demand



fee market

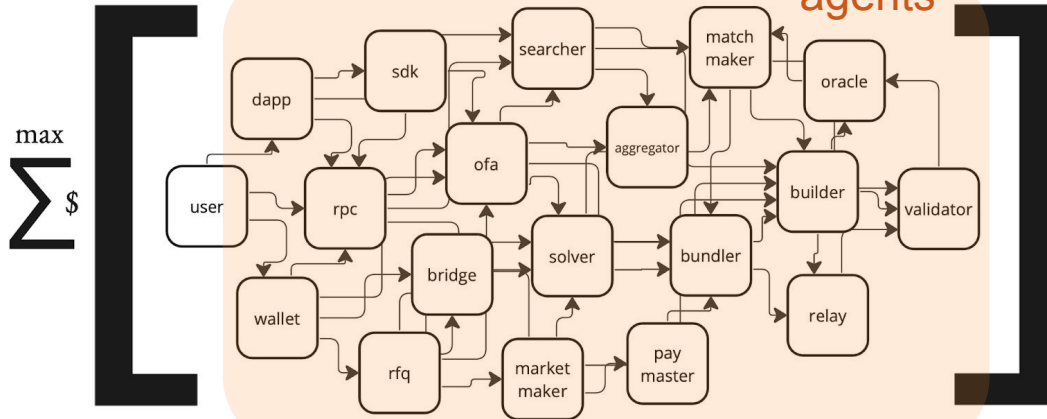
supply



Transaction Supply Network

“MEV”

agents








Source: Frontier.tech

miro

*permissionless, verifiable compute
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“Agents bad” — “MEV toxic”

- agents have their own objectives and outsized control over block production

Latest Blocks			Customize
	21191231 12 secs ago	Miner Titan Builder 286 txns in 12 secs	0.04896 Eth
	21191230 24 secs ago	Miner beaverbuild 135 txns in 12 secs	0.13521 Eth
	21191229 36 secs ago	Miner Titan Builder 173 txns in 12 secs	0.02886 Eth
	21191228 48 secs ago	Miner beaverbuild 147 txns in 12 secs	0.02635 Eth
	21191227 1 min ago	Miner Titan Builder 141 txns in 12 secs	0.02365 Eth

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- incentive misalignment between users and agents -> reduced user welfare

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Transaction Fee Mechanism Design in a Post-MEV World*

Maryam Bahrani[†]

Pranav Garimidi[‡]

Tim Roughgarden[§]

February 26, 2024

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(reduce) at the app layer

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responses to MEV:

(reduce) at the app layer

(mitigate) minimize the influence of agents

(democratize) accept as “inevitable evil,” and counter its negative side effects on e.g. centralization and censorship resistance.

Goal of this talk

“Agents bad” — “MEV toxic”



“Agents ok?” — “MEV
nuanced”

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Give a framework for

talking about degree of agenticism in different block production paradigms

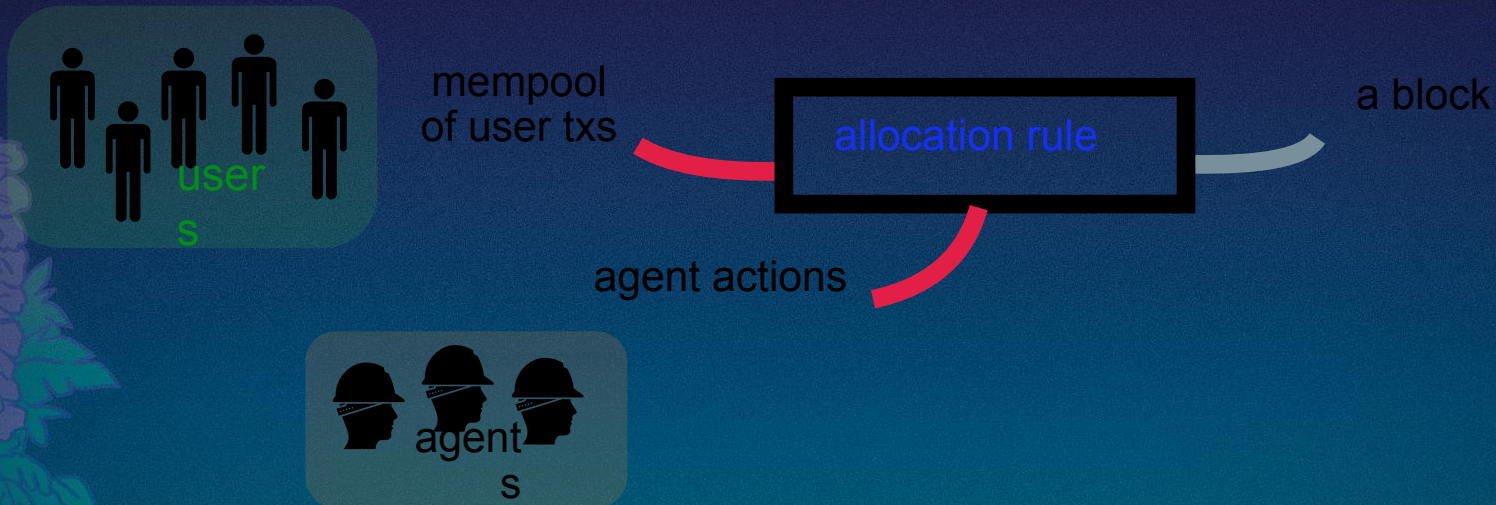
reasoning about when an agentic design is appropriate

Automated Block Building

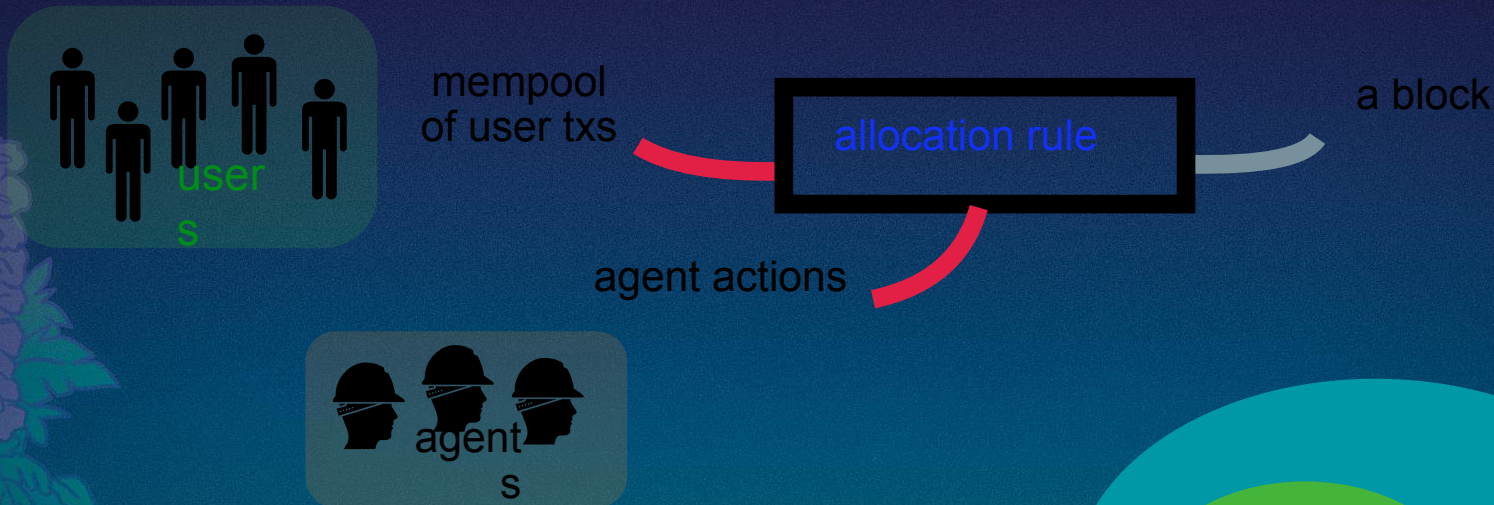


An allocation rule is *automated* if it is only a function of the mempool

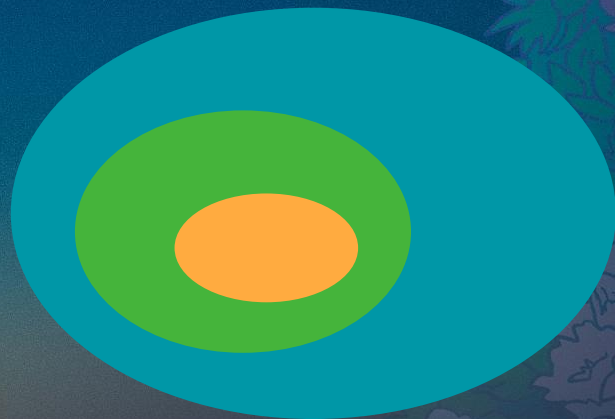
Agentic Block Building



Agentic Block Building



An allocation rule f is *more agentic* than g if for all M ,



The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

Automated



Bitcoin
Solana
a

The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

Automated



Bitcoin
Solana

EIP-1559
mev-boost

The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

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Bitcoin
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EIP-1559
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shared
sequencing

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Agentic

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Bitcoin
Solana

EIP-155
9
mev-boost

shared
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ordering enforced by
consensus/cryptography/TEE

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Fair Sequencing
Service
most L2
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The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

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The Agentic — Automated Spectrum


Agentic

Automated




How to choose the right place on the spectrum?

Desired Properties in a fee market


low latency		

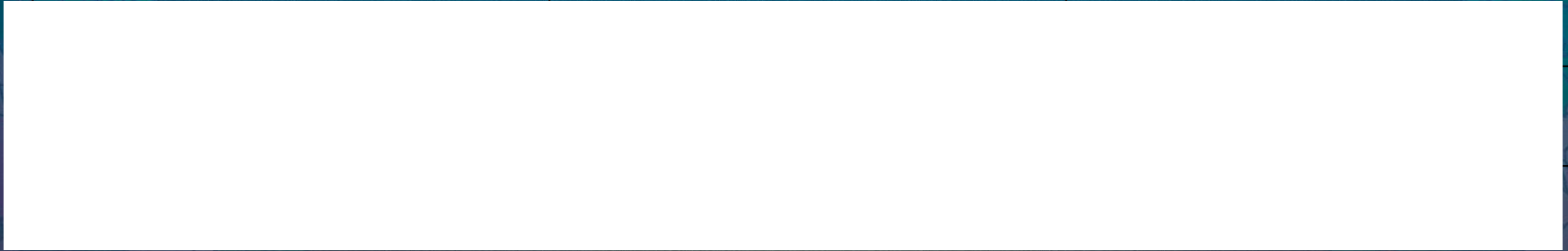


Desired Properties in a fee market


low latency		
tractability	possible to run on-chain (computationally)	

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Two Examples

frontrunning

CEX-DEX arbitrage

Frontrunning

user pays
3200



Buy 1 ETH



ETH price

3200

0



Frontrunning

user pays
3200

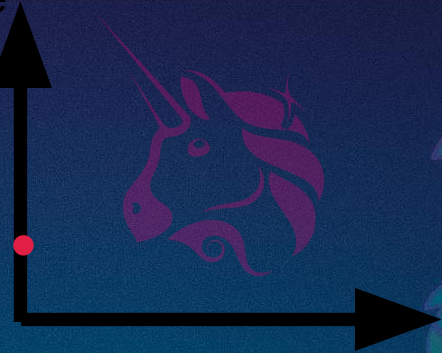


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Sell 10 ETH



Frontrunning

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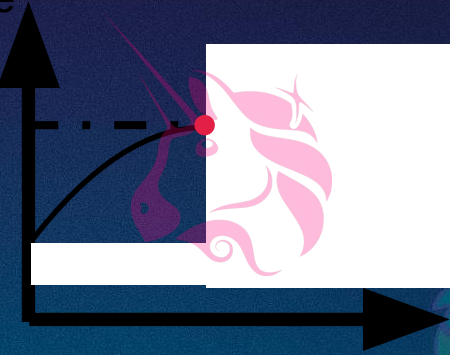


Buy 1 ETH



ETH price

350
0
320
0



Buy 10 ETH



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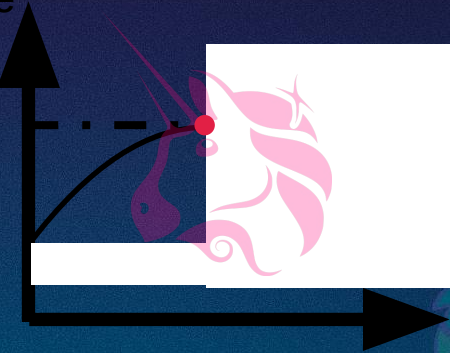


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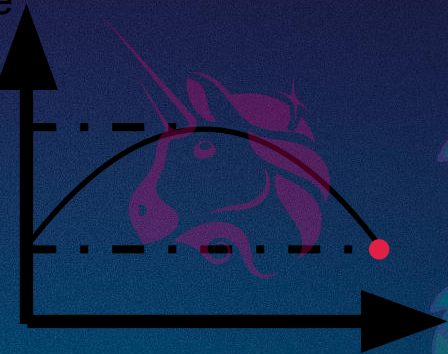


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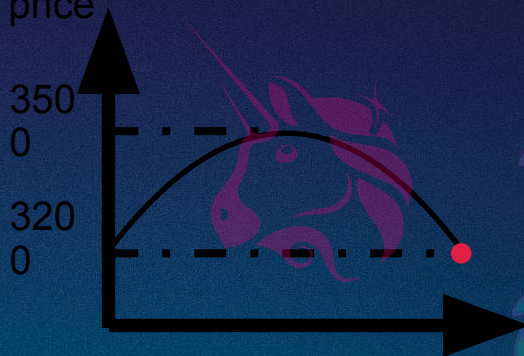
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zero-sum game between user and agent:

user paid \$300 extra
agent made \$300 profit

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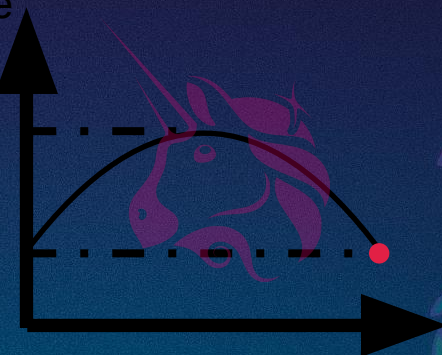


Sell 10 ETH



ETH price

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0
320
0



zero-sum game between user and
agent:

purely extractive MEV!

user paid \$300 extra
agent made \$300 profit

Frontrunning (extractive MEV)

Agentic block building can be vulnerable to **extraction**
e.g. Ethereum public mempools / mev-boost

Frontrunning (extractive MEV)

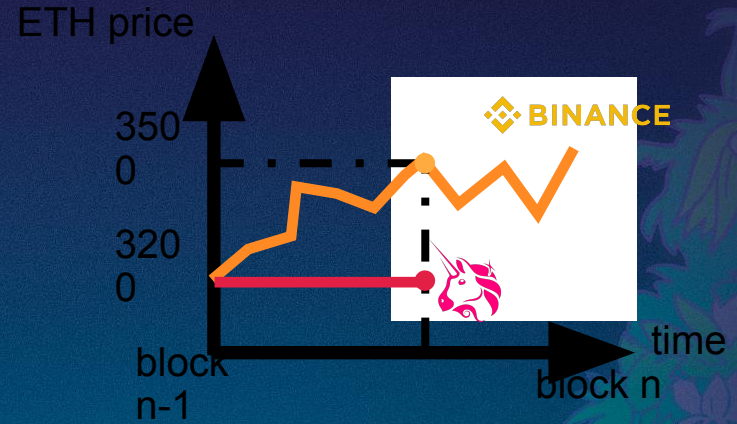
Agentic block building can be vulnerable to **extraction**
e.g. Ethereum public mempools / mev-boost

Automated block building can achieve **no extraction**
e.g. SUAVE — encrypted mempool + deterministic ordering



CEX-DEX arbitrage (external coordination)

*bringing off-chain information
on-chain*



CEX-DEX arbitrage (external coordination)

bringing off-chain information
on-chain

simultaneously

:



Buy 10 ETH



on-chain
n

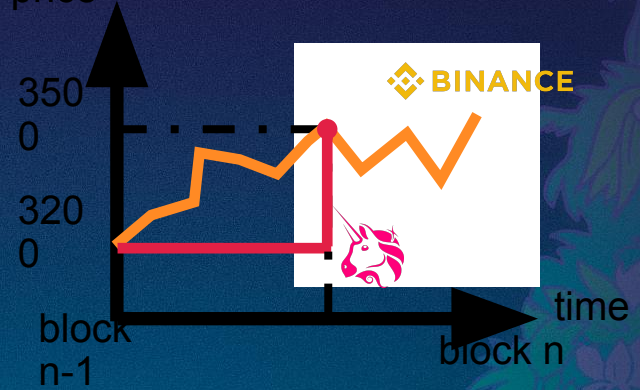


Sell 10 ETH on



off-chain
n

ETH price



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Buy 10 ETH



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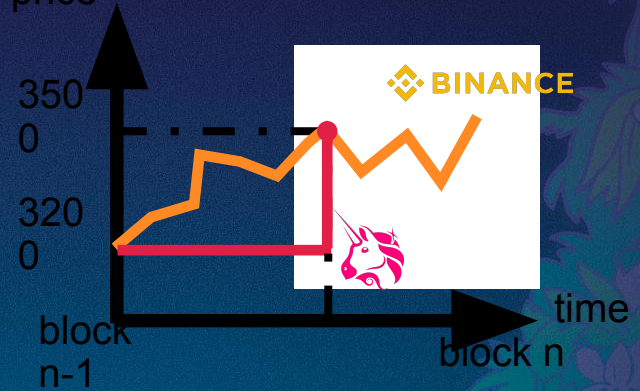


off-chain
n

surplus generation for users:

Uniswap prices will reflect the most recent market information

ETH price



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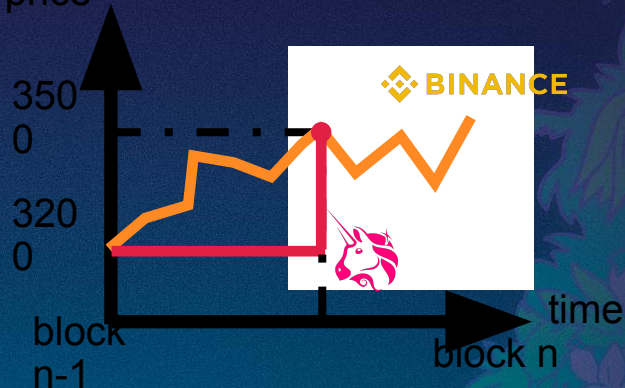
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extraction from liquidity providers:

agent's profit = loss to liquidity providers (minus trading fees)

ETH price



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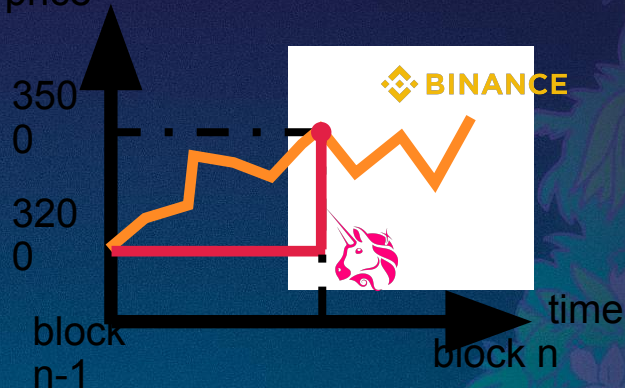
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“Loss-vs-Rebalancing
(LVR)”

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Sell 10 ETH on



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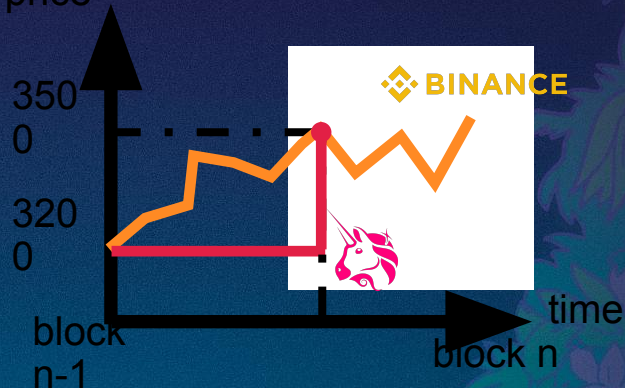
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tension between surplus maximization and no extraction!

ETH price



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on-chain
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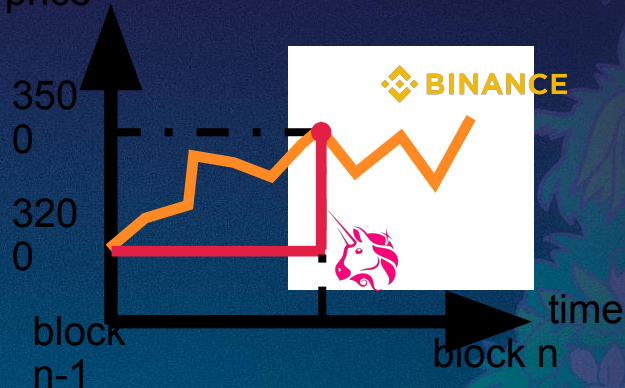
off-chain
 n

surplus generation for users:

Uniswap prices will reflect the most recent market information

observation. Crucial that the agent has certainty about the on-chain trade going through.

ETH price



CEX-DEX arbitrage (external coordination)

bringing off-chain information
on-chain

simultaneously

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Buy 10 ETH



on-chain
n



Sell 10 ETH on



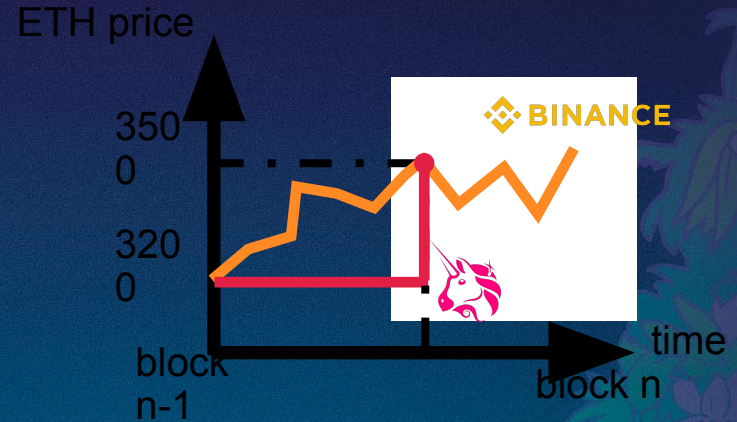
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Uncertainty -> higher arb bounds -> less efficient DEX
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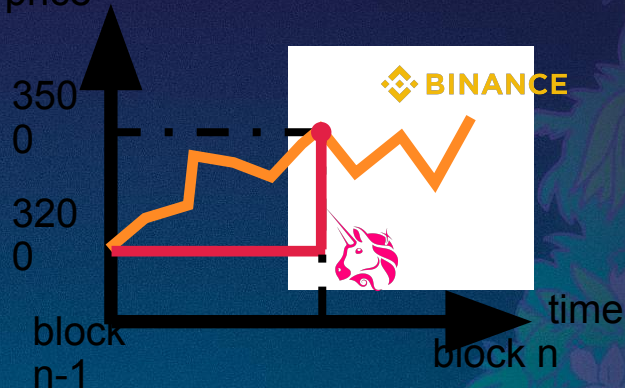
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claim. Automated block building can't get *surplus maximization* + *tractability*

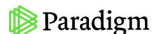
candidate automated ordering

rules:

- First-come-first-serve: side competition for **latency reduction**
- Random: incentivizes **spamming**
- Priority Ordering:

Priority Is All You Need

06.04.2024 | By Dan Robinson, Dave White



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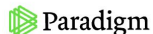
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coordination in mempool: competition => contention => uncertainty due to **reversions**

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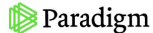
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e.g.
mev-boost

The trade-offs

	agentic	automated
low latency		+
tractability	+	
simple UX	+	
economic efficiency	?	?
no extraction		+

Conclusion

The Agentic—Automated spectrum as a design axis for block building mechanisms

Automated block building has **low latency** and **less extraction**, but can fail to create the most economic value due to on-chain computational constraints

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“NYSE
on-chain”

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Ritual Resonance Marketplace for AI computation
complex preferences (heterogenous supply and demand)
potential for generating **large surplus** from optimal resource allocation
low toxicity — few extraction opportunities

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devnet today!





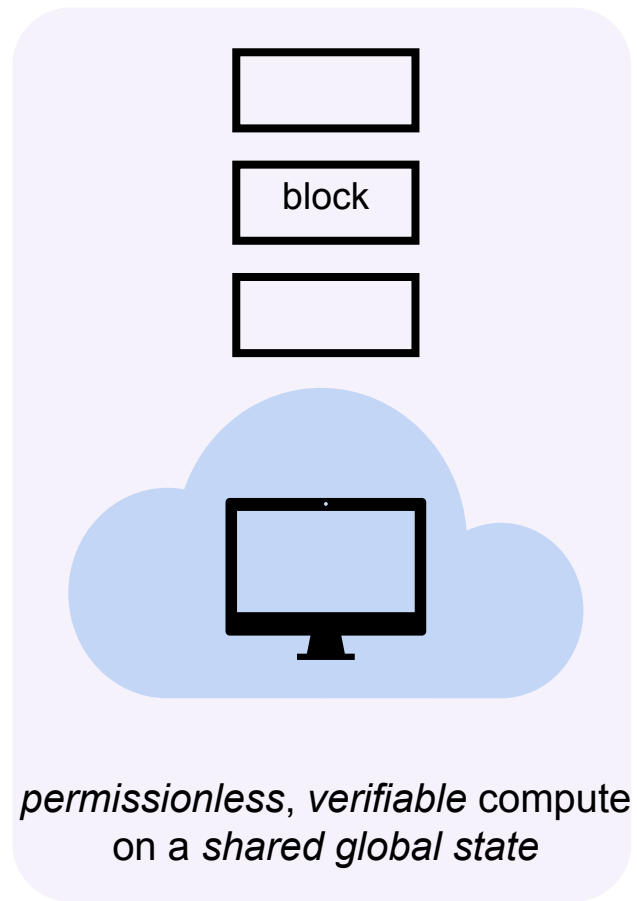
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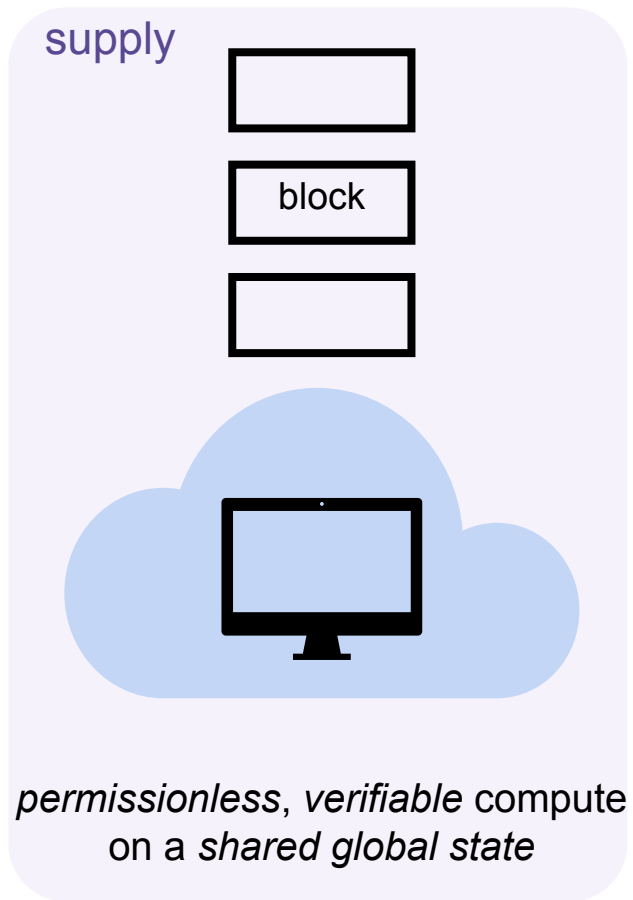
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@bahrani_mary
am



Introduction

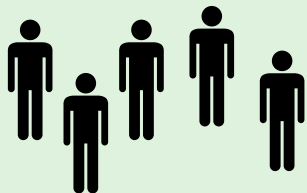


Introduction



Introduction

demand

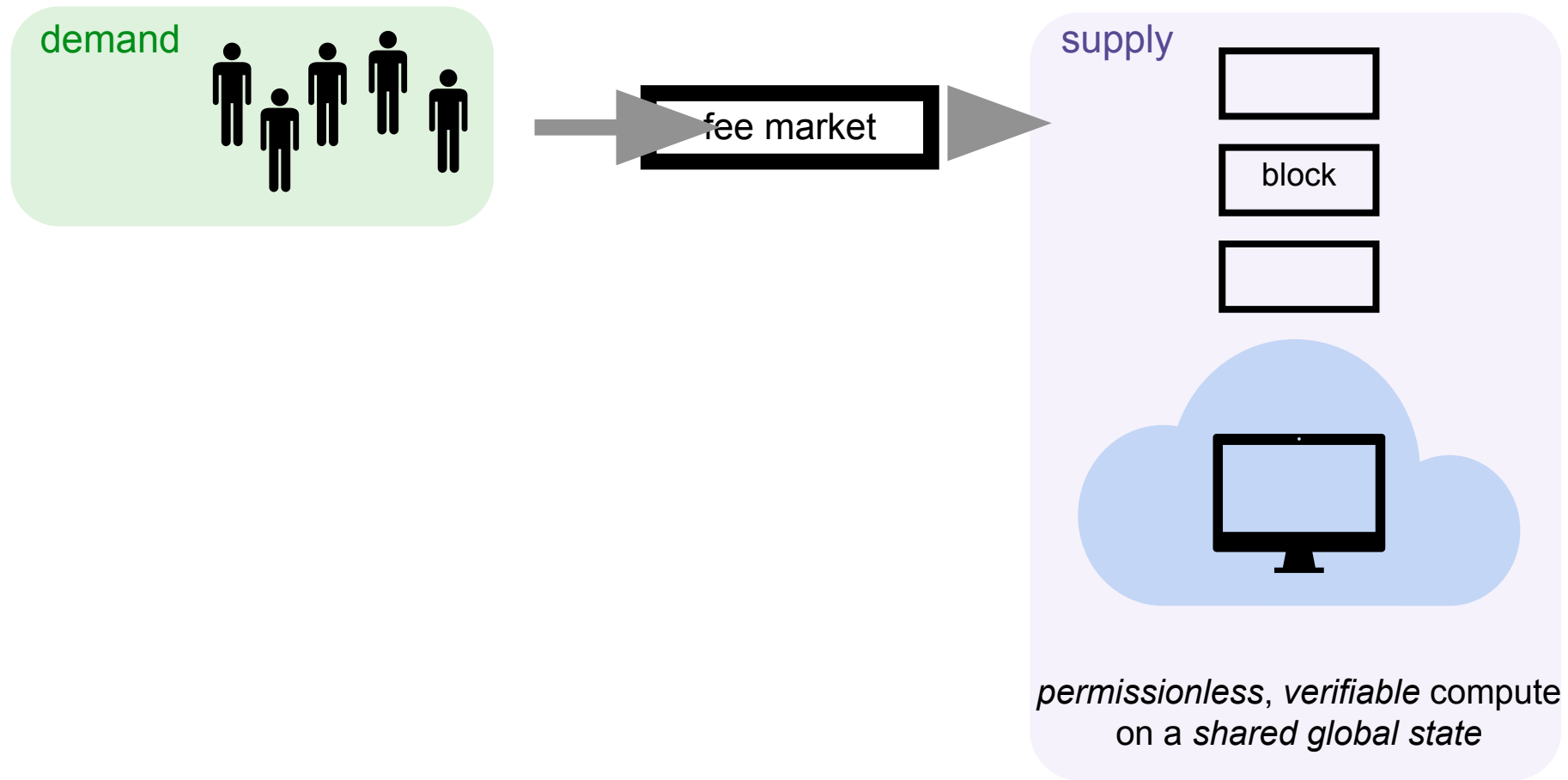


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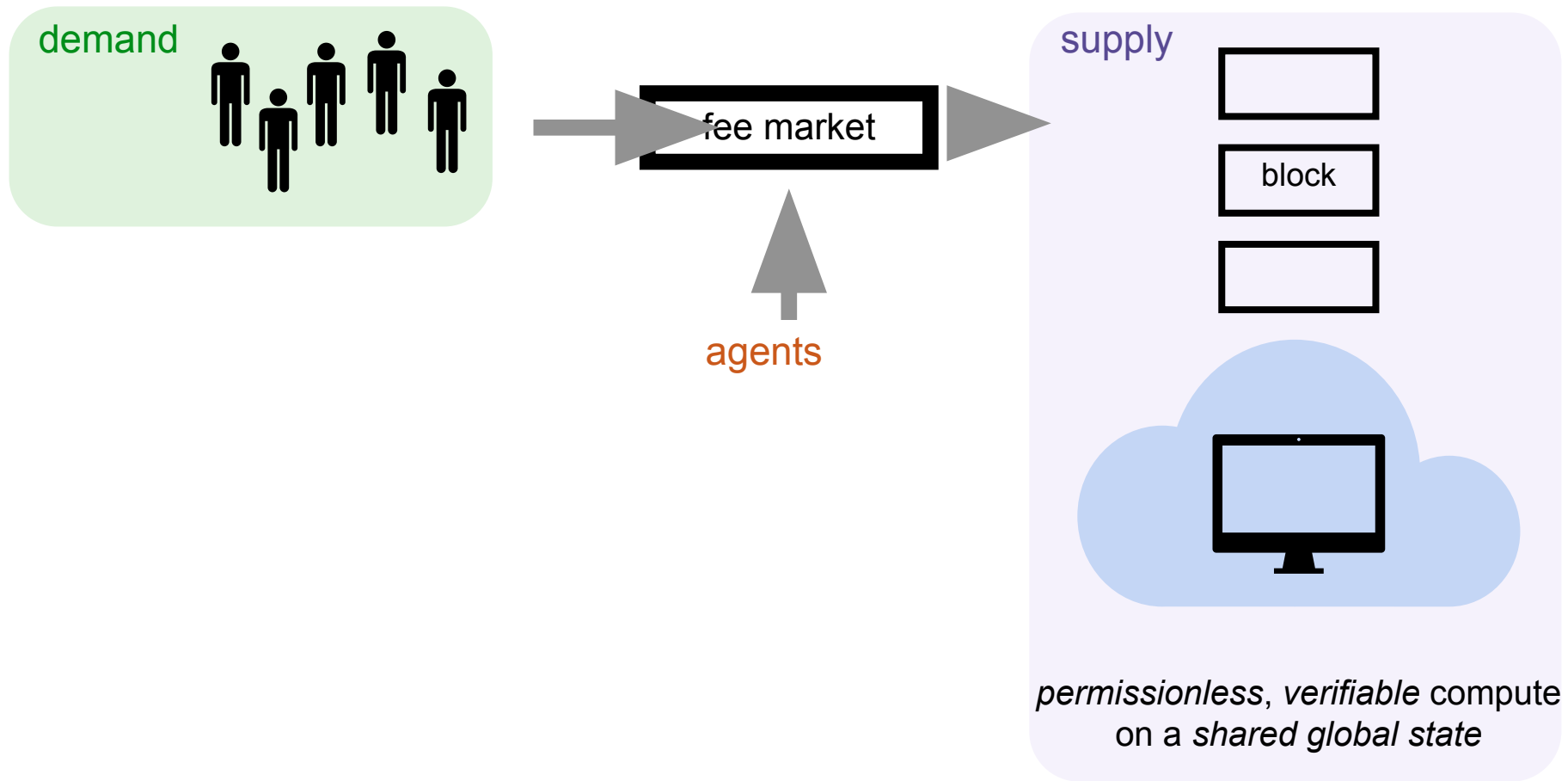


*permissionless, verifiable compute
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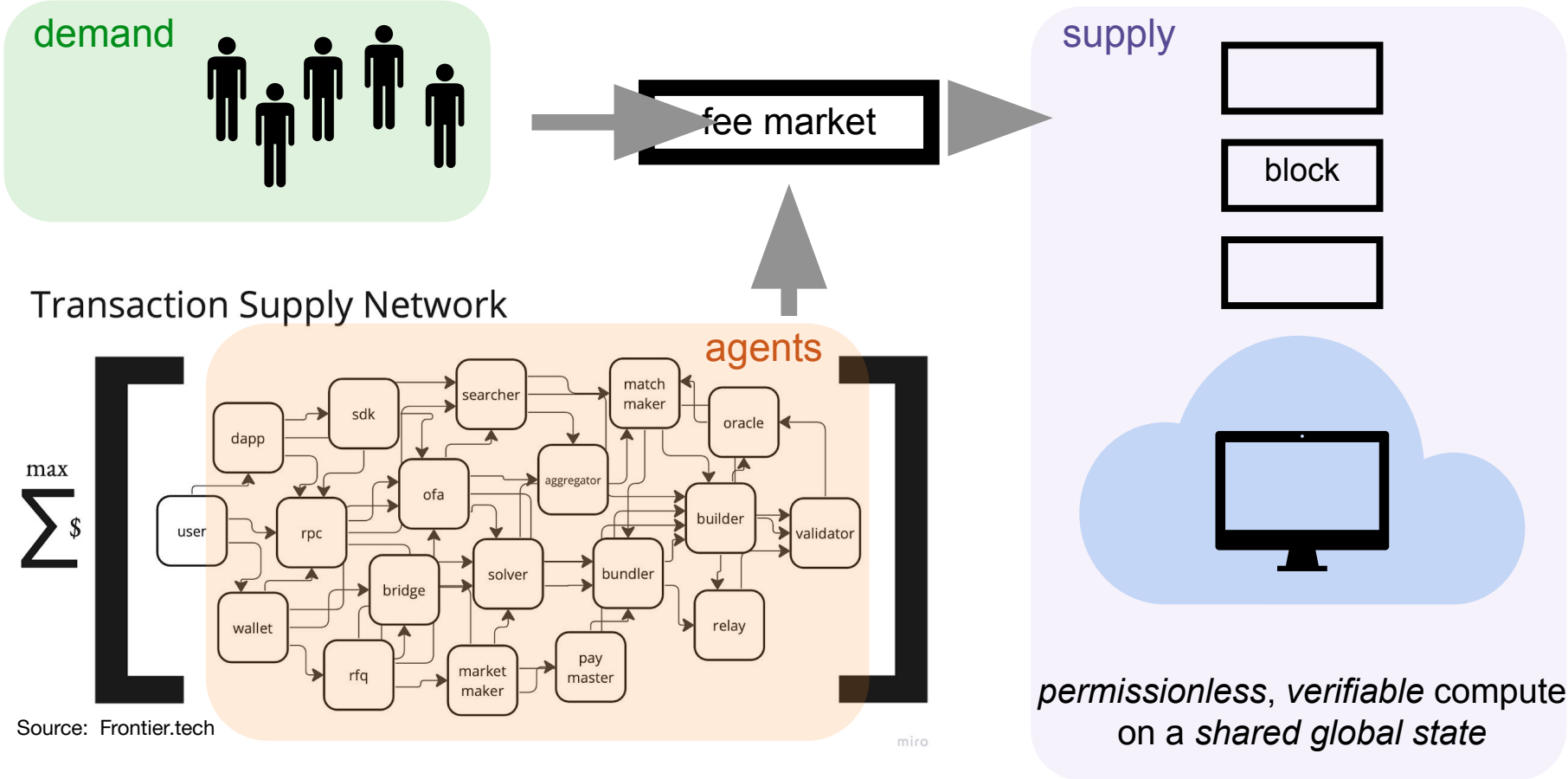
Introduction



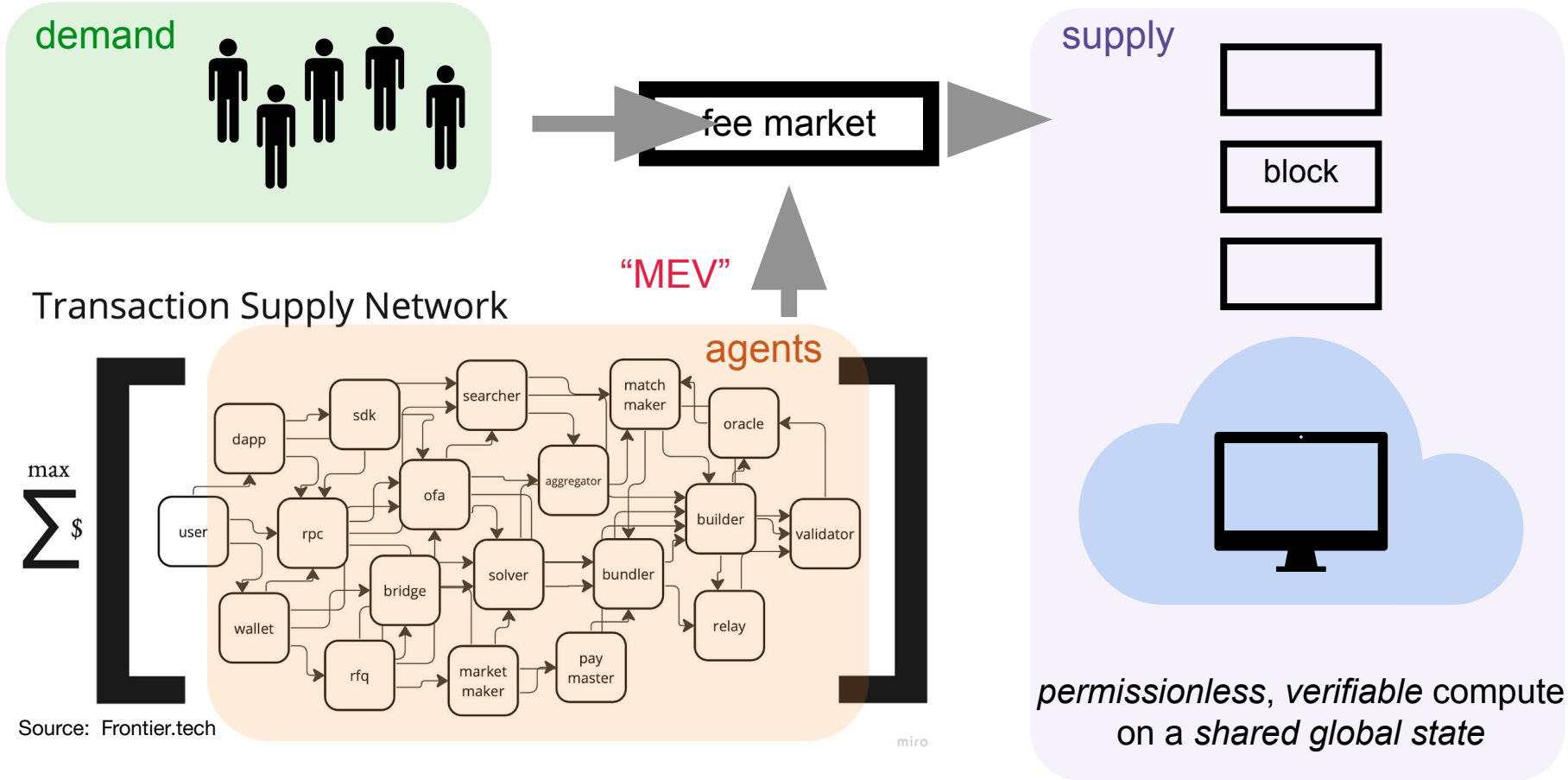
Introduction



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“Agents bad” — “MEV toxic”

- agents have their own objectives and outsized control over block production

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Latest Blocks			 Customize
	21191231 12 secs ago	Miner Titan Builder 286 txns in 12 secs	0.04896 Eth
	21191230 24 secs ago	Miner beaverbuild 135 txns in 12 secs	0.13521 Eth
	21191229 36 secs ago	Miner Titan Builder 173 txns in 12 secs	0.02886 Eth
	21191228 48 secs ago	Miner beaverbuild 147 txns in 12 secs	0.02635 Eth
	21191227 1 min ago	Miner Titan Builder 141 txns in 12 secs	0.02365 Eth

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Transaction Fee Mechanism Design in a Post-MEV World*

Maryam Bahrani[†]

Pranav Garimidi[‡]

Tim Roughgarden[§]

February 26, 2024

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(mitigate) minimize the influence of agents

(democratize) accept as “inevitable evil,” and counter its negative side effects on e.g. centralization and censorship resistance.

Goal of this talk

“Agents bad” — “MEV toxic”



“Agents ok?” — “MEV
nuanced”

Goal of this talk

“Agents bad” — “MEV toxic”



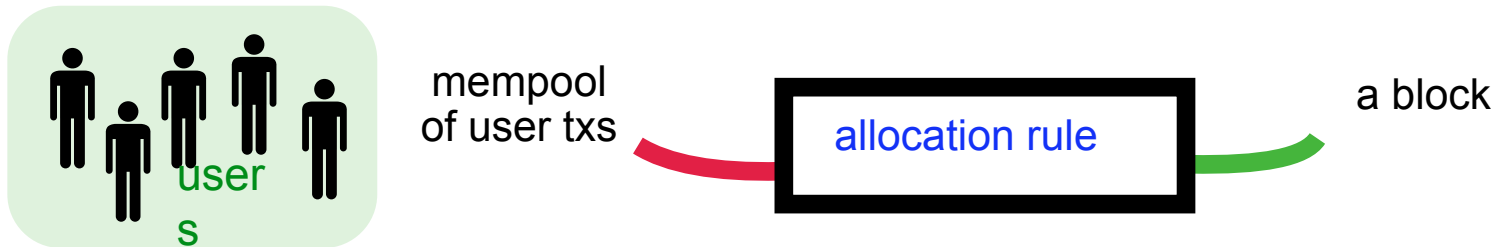
“Agents ok?” — “MEV
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Give a framework for

talking about degree of agenticism in different block production paradigms

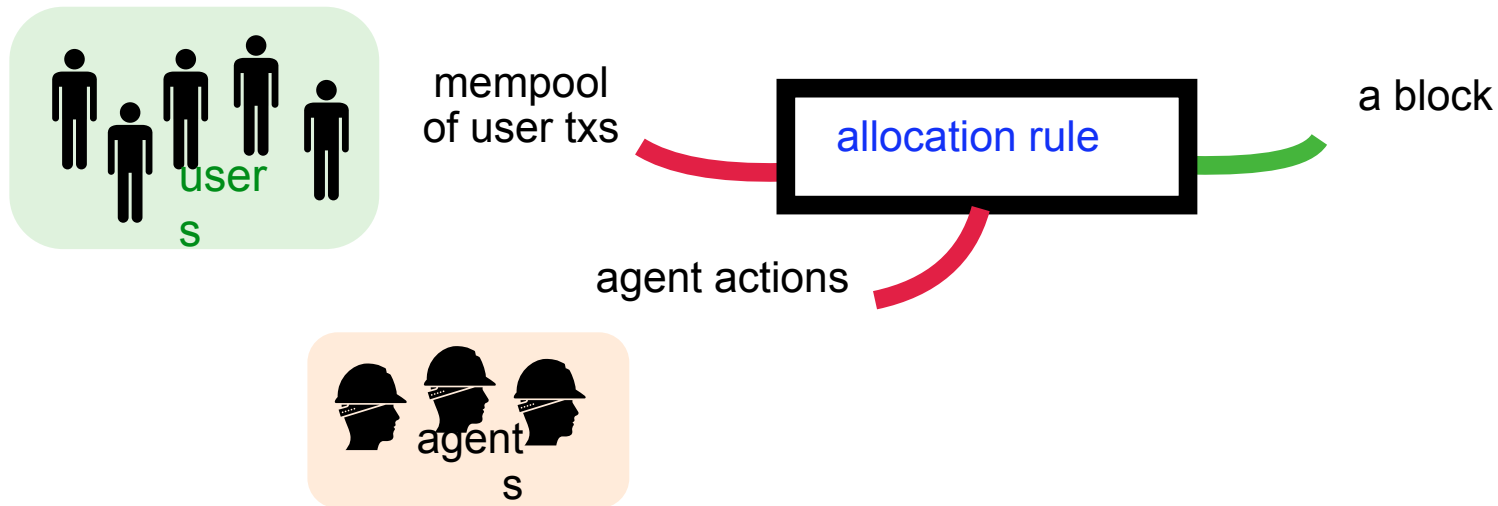
reasoning about when an agentic design is appropriate

Automated Block Building

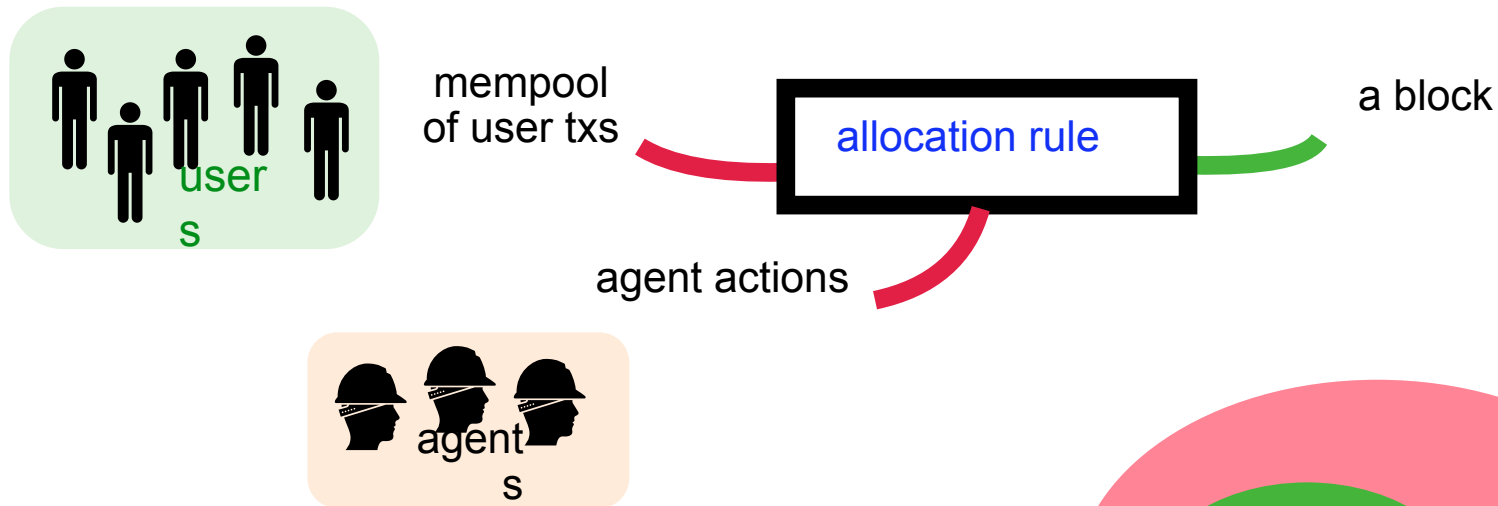


An allocation rule is *automated* if it is only a function of the mempool

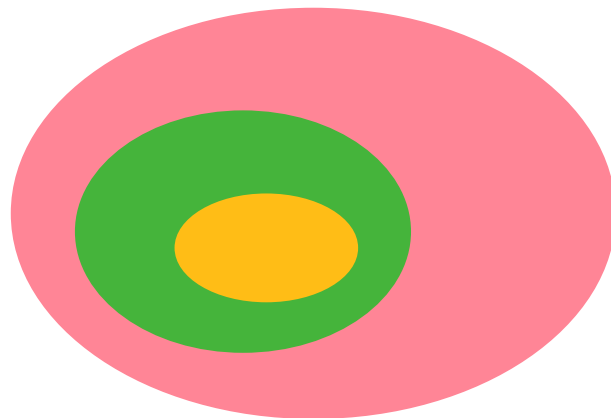
Agentic Block Building



Agentic Block Building



An allocation rule f is *more agentic* than g if for all M ,



The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

Automated

Bitcoin
Solana
a



The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

Automated



Bitcoin
Solana
a

EIP-155
9
mev-boost

The Agentic — Automated Spectrum

Agentic

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Bitcoin
Solana
a

EIP-155
9
mev-boost

shared
sequencing

The Agentic — Automated Spectrum



The Agentic — Automated Spectrum



The Agentic — Automated Spectrum



The Agentic — Automated Spectrum




The Agentic — Automated Spectrum




How to choose the right place on the spectrum?


Desired Properties in a fee market

low latency		


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tractability	possible to run on-chain (computationally)	


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Two Examples

frontrunning

CEX-DEX arbitrage

Frontrunning

user pays
3200

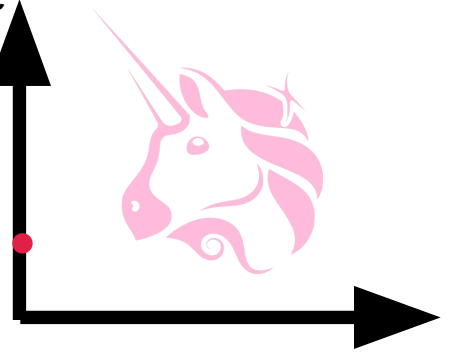


Buy 1 ETH



ETH price

320
0



Frontrunning

user pays
3200

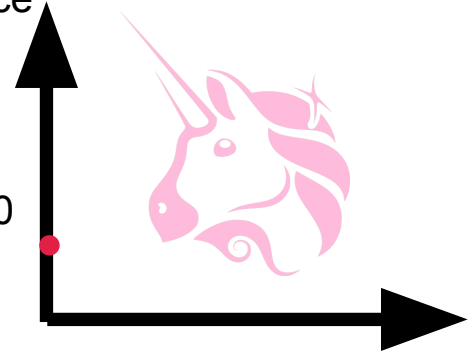


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Sell 10 ETH



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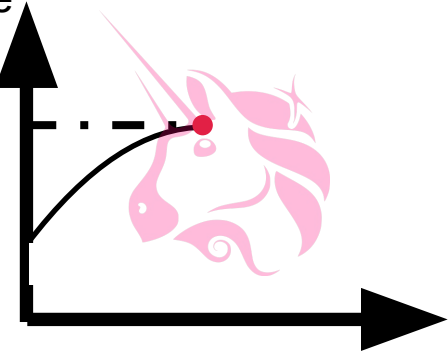


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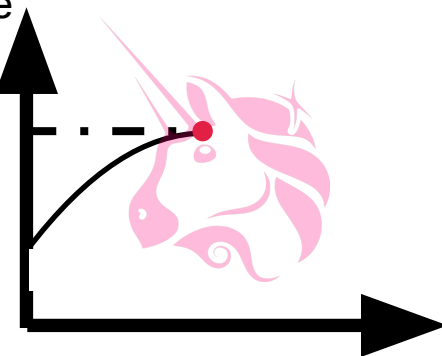


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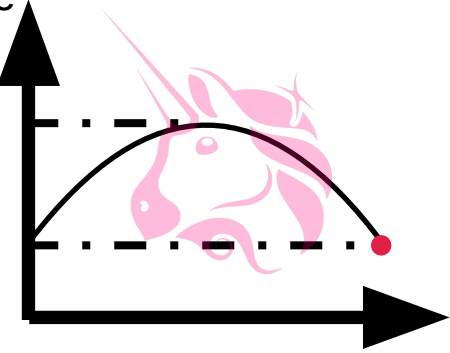


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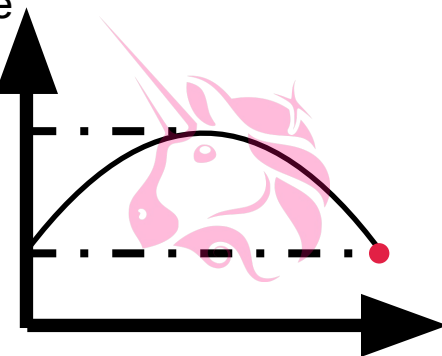


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zero-sum game between user and agent:

user paid \$300 extra
agent made \$300 profit

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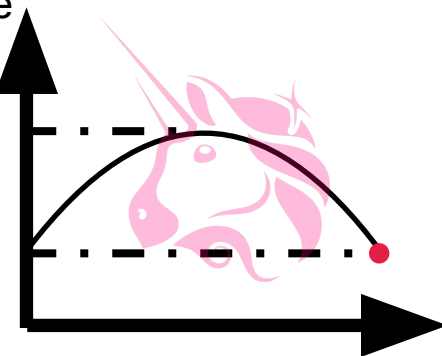


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zero-sum game between user and
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purely extractive MEV!

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Frontrunning (extractive MEV)

Agentic block building can be vulnerable to **extraction**
e.g. Ethereum public mempools / mev-boost

Frontrunning (extractive MEV)

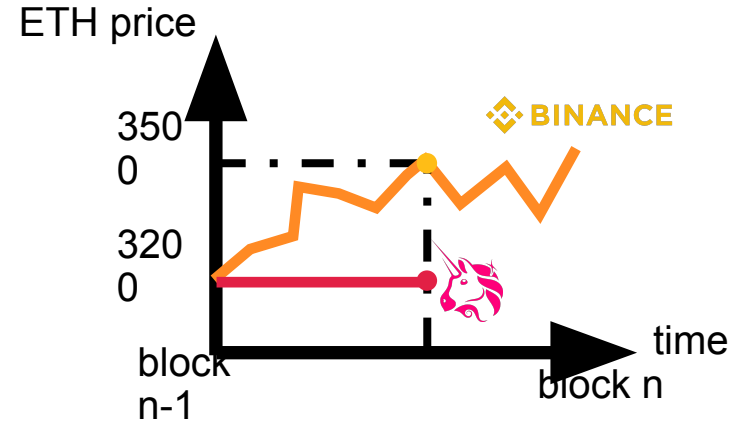
Agentic block building can be vulnerable to **extraction**
e.g. Ethereum public mempools / mev-boost

Automated block building can achieve **no extraction**
e.g. SUAVE — encrypted mempool + deterministic ordering



CEX-DEX arbitrage (external coordination)

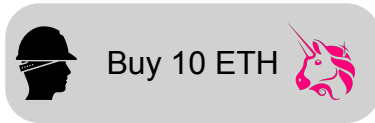
*bringing off-chain information
on-chain*



CEX-DEX arbitrage (external coordination)

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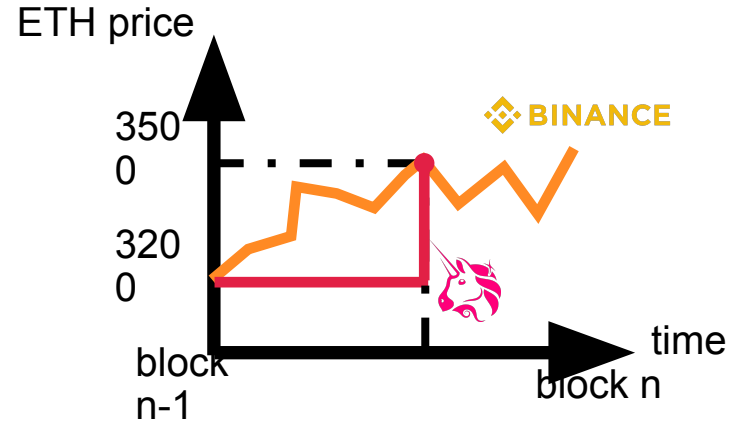
simultaneously
:



on-chain
n



off-chain
n

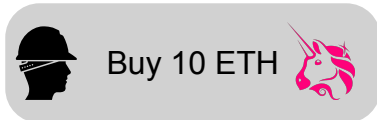


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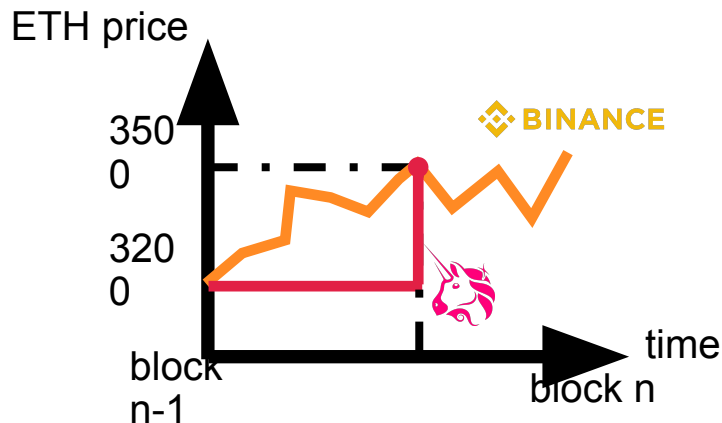


Sell 10 ETH on
 **BINANCE**

off-chain
n

surplus generation for users:

Uniswap prices will reflect the most recent market information

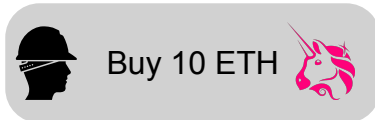


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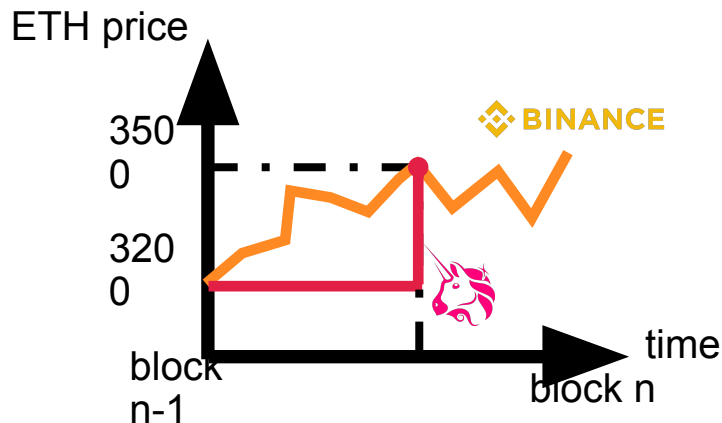
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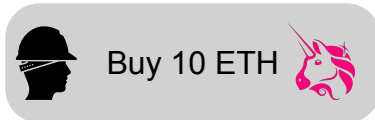


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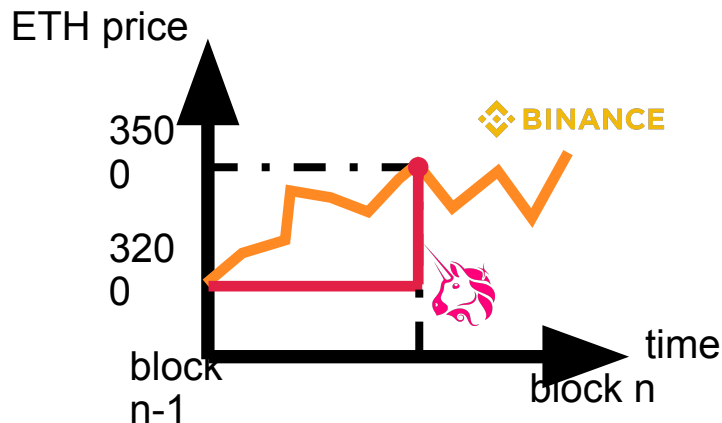
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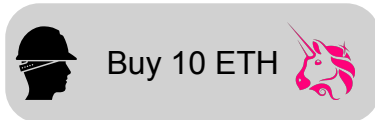
“Loss-vs-Rebalancing
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on-chain
n



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off-chain
n

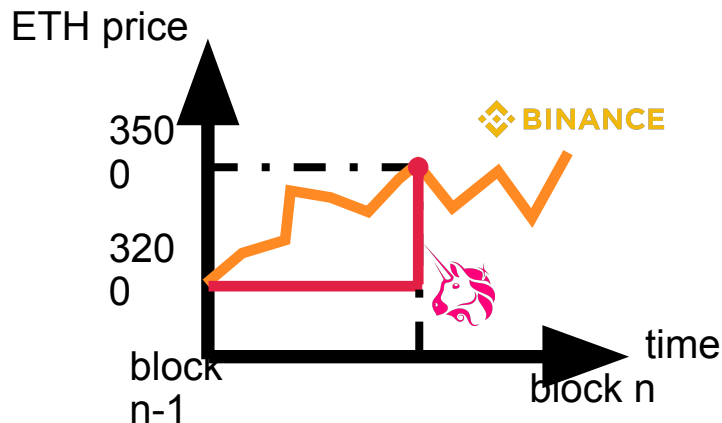
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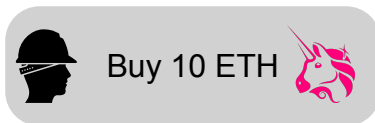
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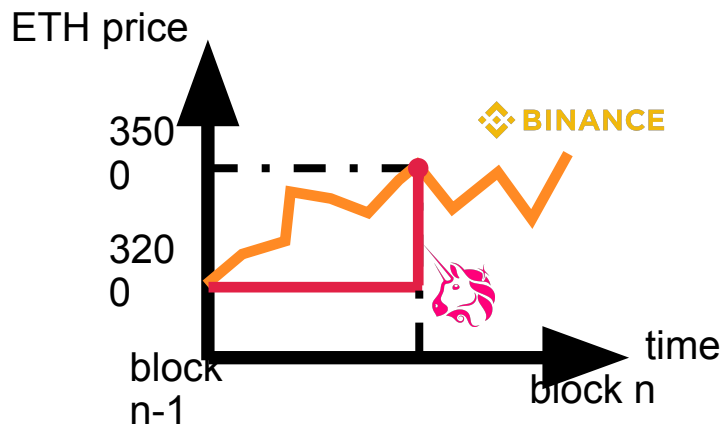
Sell 10 ETH on
 **BINANCE**

off-chain
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observation. Crucial that the agent has certainty about the on-chain trade going through.

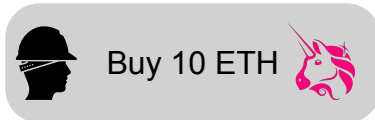


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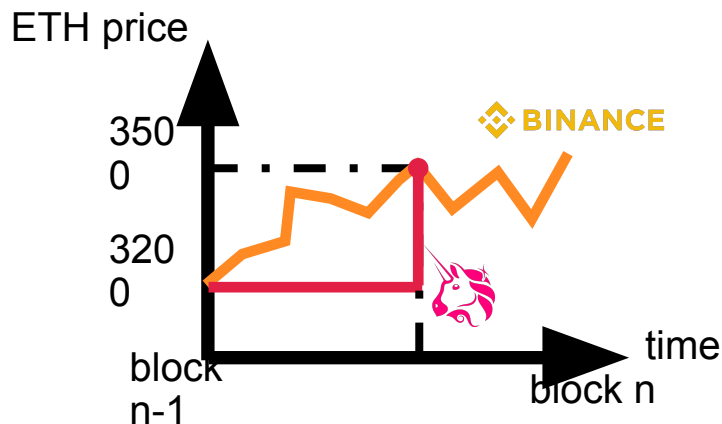


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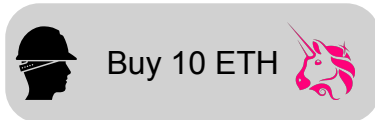
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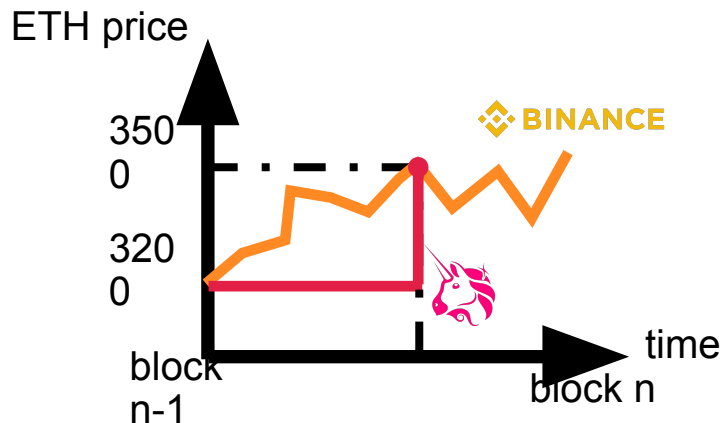


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candidate automated ordering

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06.04.2024 | By Dan Robinson, Dave White



coordination in mempool: competition => contention => uncertainty due to **reversions**

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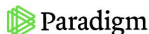
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e.g.
mev-boost

The trade-offs

	agentic	automated
low latency		+
tractability	+	
simple UX	+	
economic efficiency	?	?
no extraction		+

Conclusion

The Agentic—Automated spectrum as a design axis for block building mechanisms

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potential for generating **large surplus** from optimal resource allocation
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devnet today!





anks :)



@ritualnet
@bahrani_mary
am

