

# Permissionless Blockchains

Permissioned

Anyone can  
be Consensus Node

only  
authorized

Consensus: RAFT,  
PBFT

??, More  
trustworthy

MIDSEM  
 $\rightarrow$ SAFE

PoW

## What is good about PoW?

Hash ( Hash(Prev-Blk-hdr) ||Nonce || timestamp  
|| BITS || MerkleRoot )  
< target

Allows anyone  
to participate → no identity  
need some  
compute power SYBIL Attack

Permissioned

Instruction / Blk

log  $\leq 3$  yes activity ..

index 1 2 3 4

next ??

O D E

N-participants — each  
1 vote

KYC X

Permissionless (?)

20 participants

PAXOS: '80s (?)  
PBFT: '99

Lamport

1000 clones 21st  
new

SYBIL Attack

RAFT: → 2014

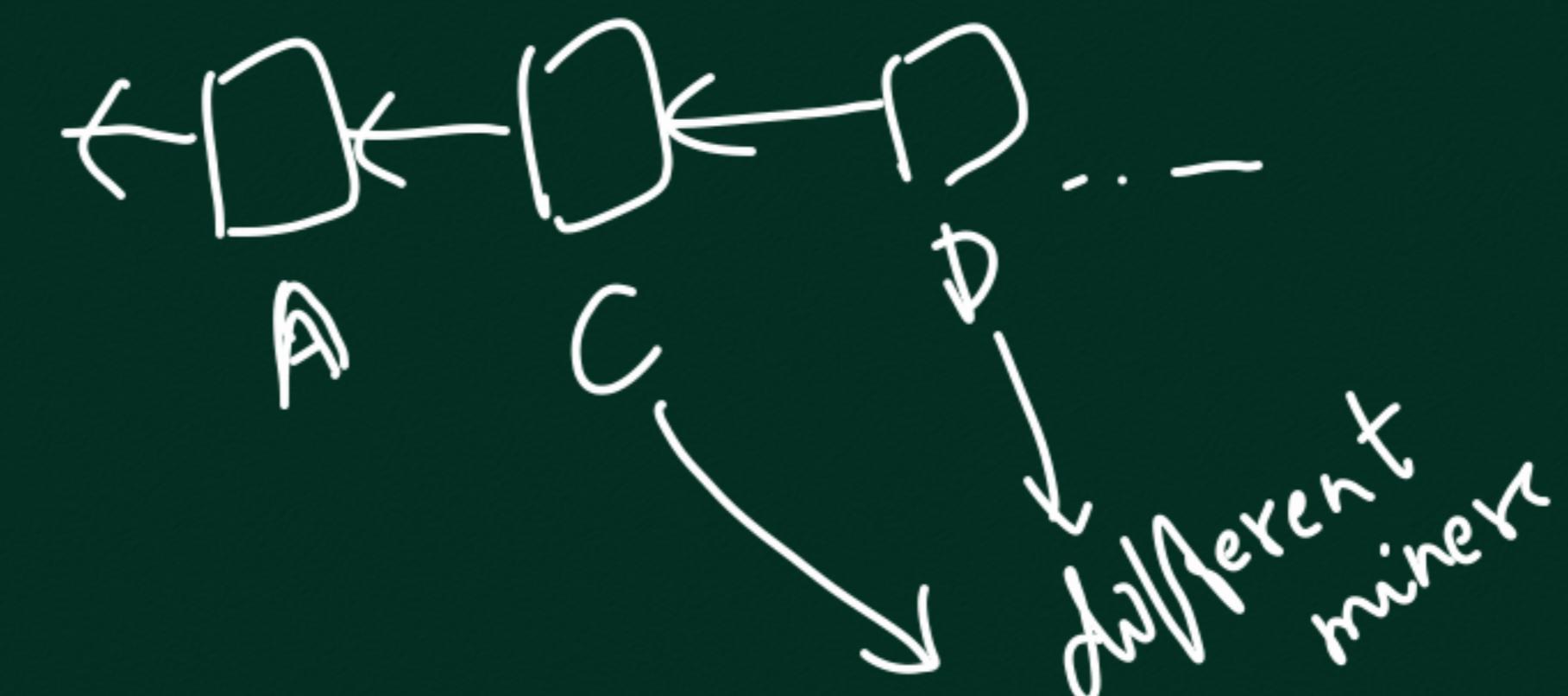
take identities  
to increase  
voting  
power

+ PoW solved SYBIL Attack → Cannot fake compute power

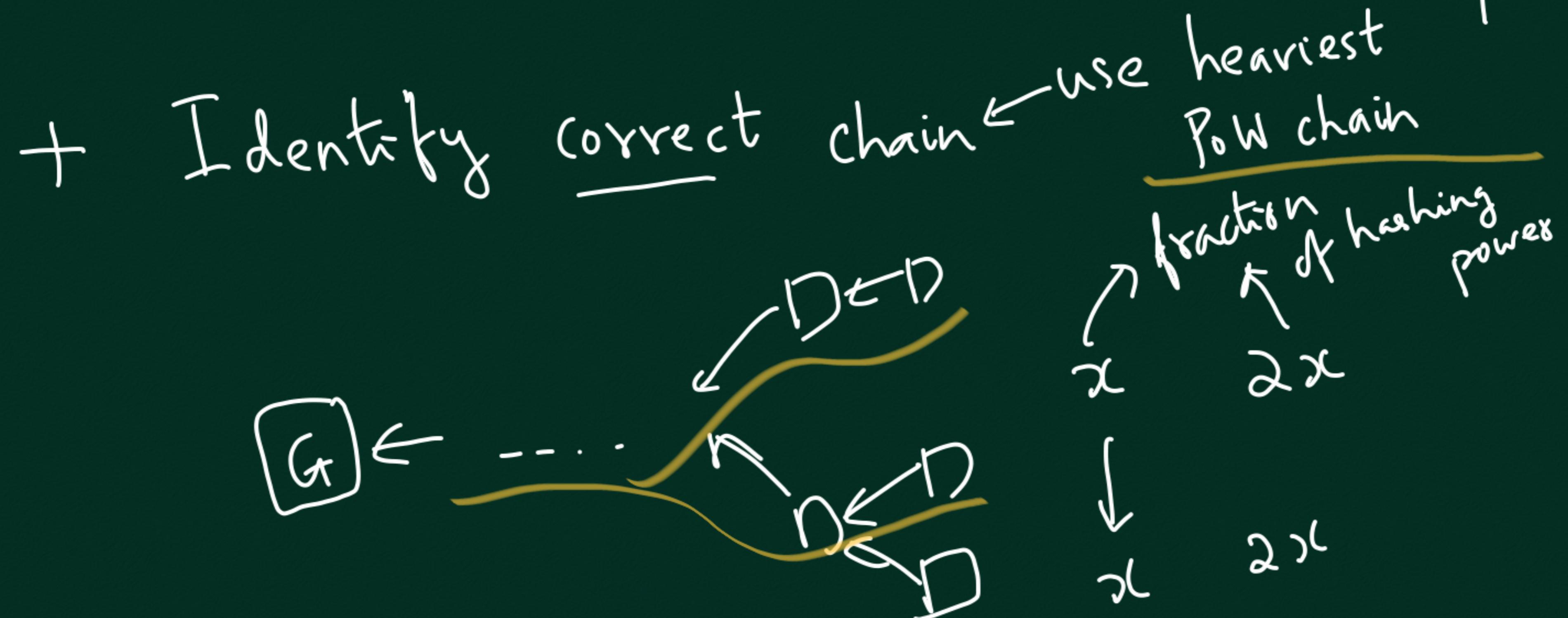
1 unit of compute Power  $\approx$  1 vote

+ No one can censor txns for very long

→ because random winner every time

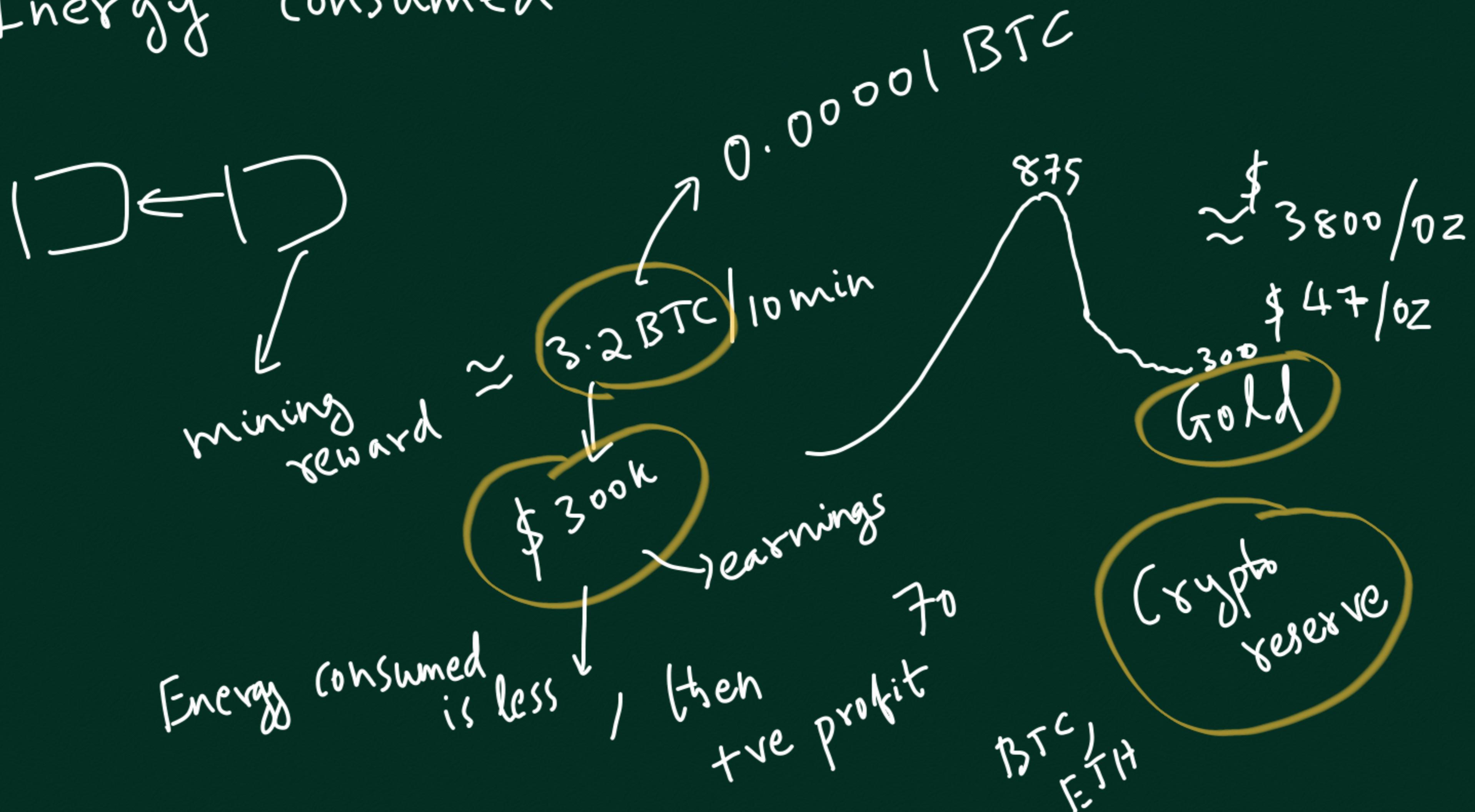


+ Fairness: fraction of blocks  
mined & fraction of hashing power



## What is Bad about PoW?

→ Energy consumed



$300K / 10\text{ min}$

Reward  $\approx \$3K / 10\text{ min}$

$200K / 10\text{ min}$

electricity

supply

stock  
flow

$\$2K / 10\text{ min}$

51% attack  
easy

Litecoin

LTC

— performance (L1)

↳ Nakamoto Consensus

7 txs/sec

# Alternatives to PoW?

Resource

Compute: CPU

Memory

bandwidths

secure hardware

Method to find out  
amt. of resource of participant

PoW puzzle

Some algo

1GB

2 kB

"  
"

Memory

Network  
b/w

CPU

Deep blue  
vs. Kasparov

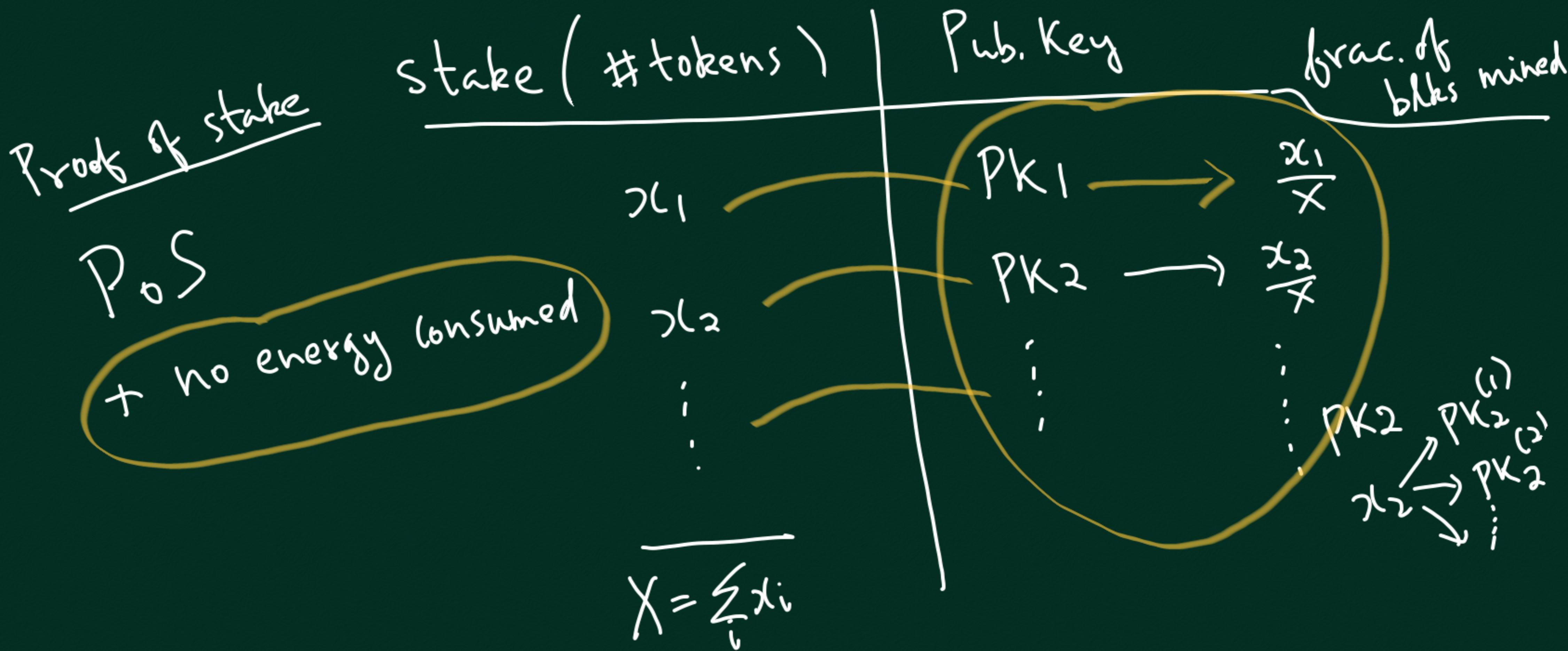
Proof of elapsed time

Secure  
hardware

Virtual Resource

≡

resource on blockchain



- Random winner (?)
- SYBIL Attack(?) → Solved
- Can anyone participate — <sup>YES</sup> Buy Tokens
- Identify correct chain easily(?)
- Fairness (?) — if <sup>blocks mined</sup> <sub>n prop.</sub> to stake
- Incentives — mining reward

Naive PoS, Ethereum PoS, Algorand  
(2.0)

Pow:

$$\text{Hash} \left( \text{Hash}(\text{Prev}) \parallel \text{Nonce} \parallel \overset{\text{Hash}}{\wedge} \text{BITS} \parallel \text{Timestamp} \parallel \text{Merk.Root} \right) < \text{target}$$

Whire  
P.S.

The diagram illustrates the construction of a blockchain block header hash. It shows the inputs and the resulting hash calculation.

**Inputs:**

- $B_k$  (represented by a box labeled "Header")
- $TXNS$  (represented by a box labeled "TXNS")
- $B_{k+1}$  (represented by a box labeled "Header")
- $TXNS$  (represented by a box labeled "TXNS")

**Hash Calculation:**

$$\text{Hash} \left( \text{Hash}(B_k\text{-Header}) \parallel B_{k+1}\text{-Header} \parallel \text{addr} \parallel t \right) < \text{target}$$

**Table:**

stake	Key
$\text{bal}(\text{addr})$	addr addr1 addr2 : i

**Annotations:**

- A yellow oval encloses the term  $\text{bal}(\text{addr})$ .
- An arrow points from the term  $\text{xbal}(\text{addr})$  to the table entry  $\text{bal}(\text{addr})$ .
- A label "timestamp" with an arrow points to the timestamp  $t$  in the hash formula.

