

A photograph of two men in blue t-shirts and purple glasses with yellow starburst patterns. They are wearing white headbands and making playful, exaggerated faces and hand gestures against a black background. The man on the left has a wide, open-mouthed smile and his right hand is raised with fingers spread. The man on the right has a pouting, tongue-out expression and his hands are raised in a similar gesture.

Let's get Physical!

Spot the Differences



Too Many!

Spot the Differences



Still Many!

Spot the Differences



Better Screen

Bigger Disk

More RAM

Cooler Design

...

Better Screen

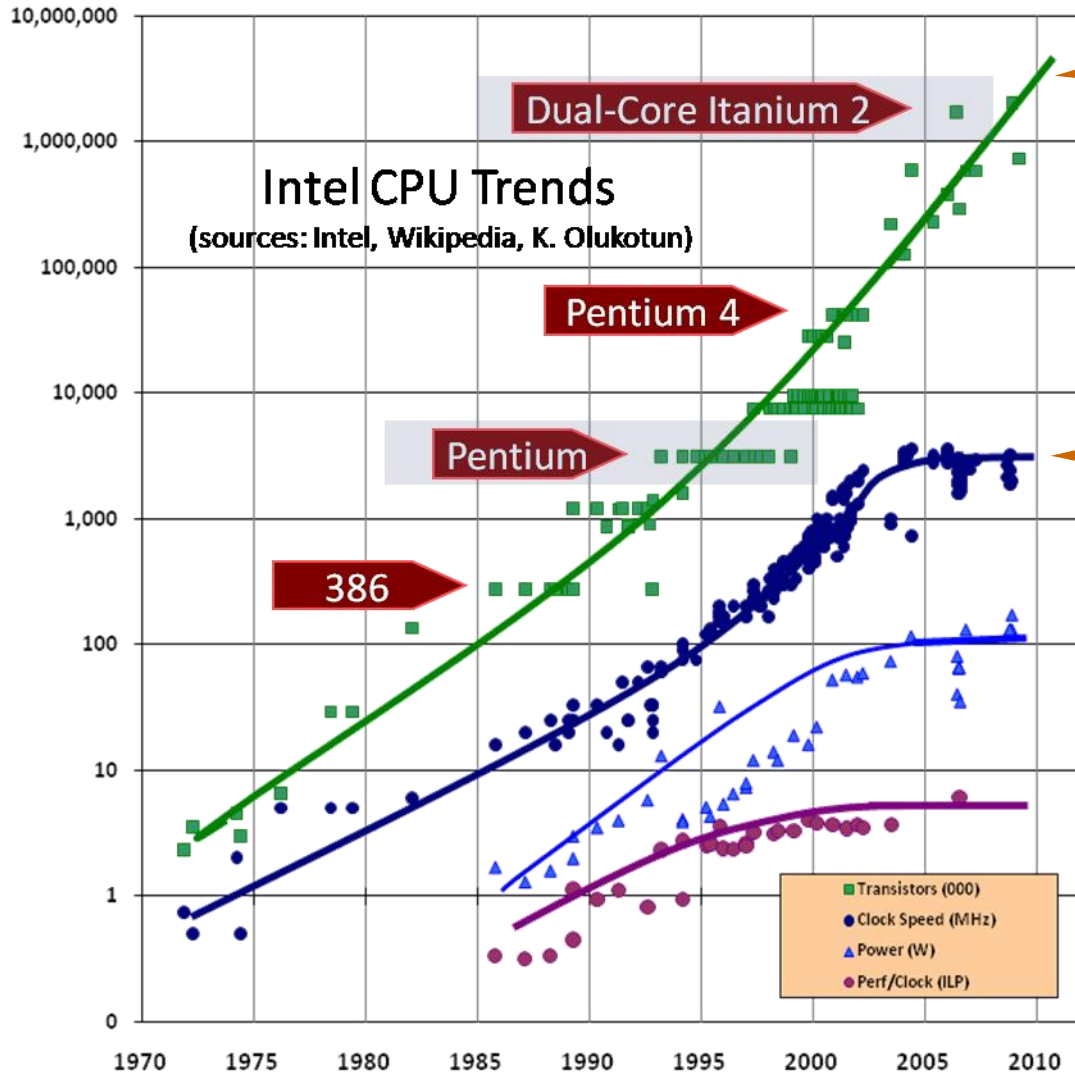
Bigger Disk

More RAM

Cooler Design

...

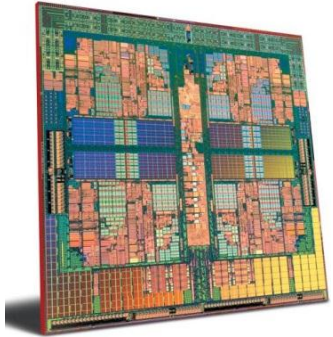
Same CPU Clock Speed



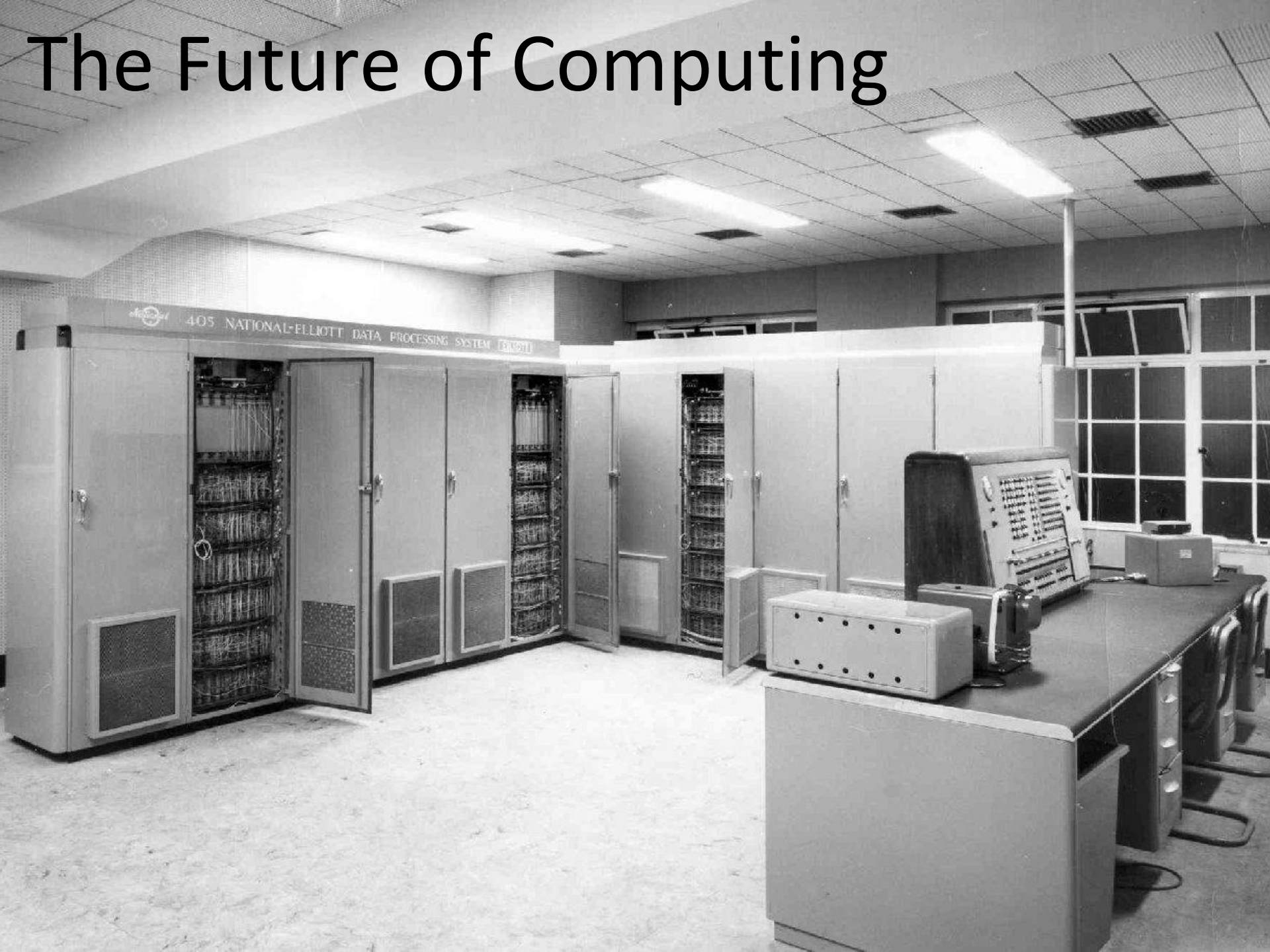
Transistor count still rising

Clock speed flattening sharply

Advent of multi-core processors!



The Future of Computing



Why Should I Care?



Computer Science → Washing Machine Science
[Roger Boyle, Maurice Herlihy]

Algorithms



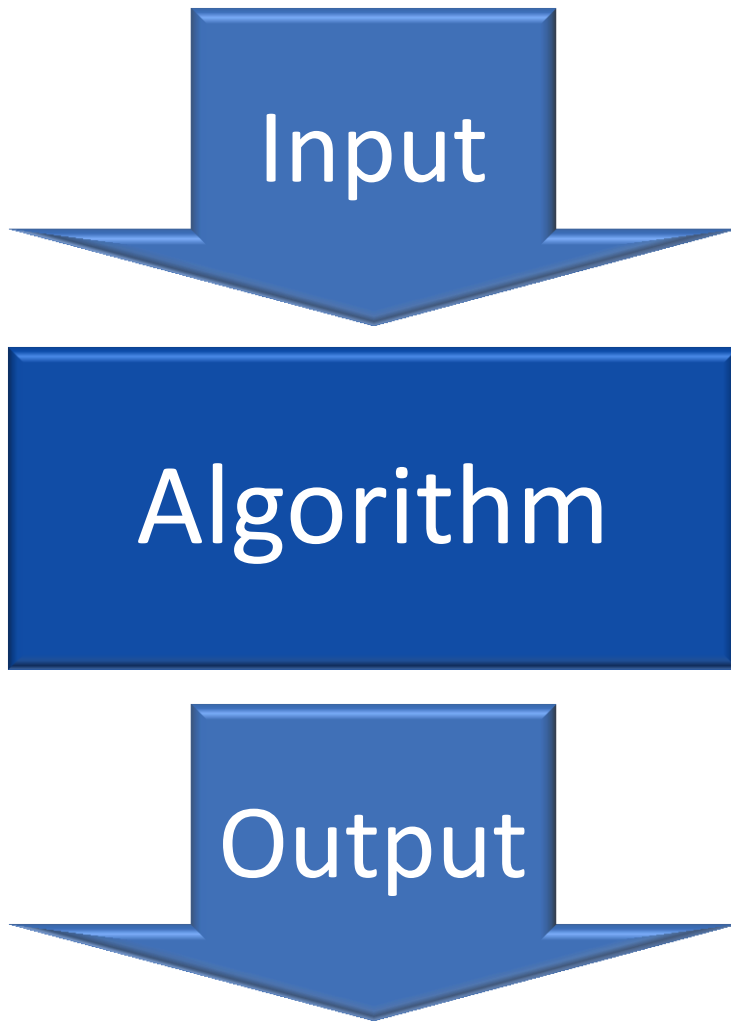
Input



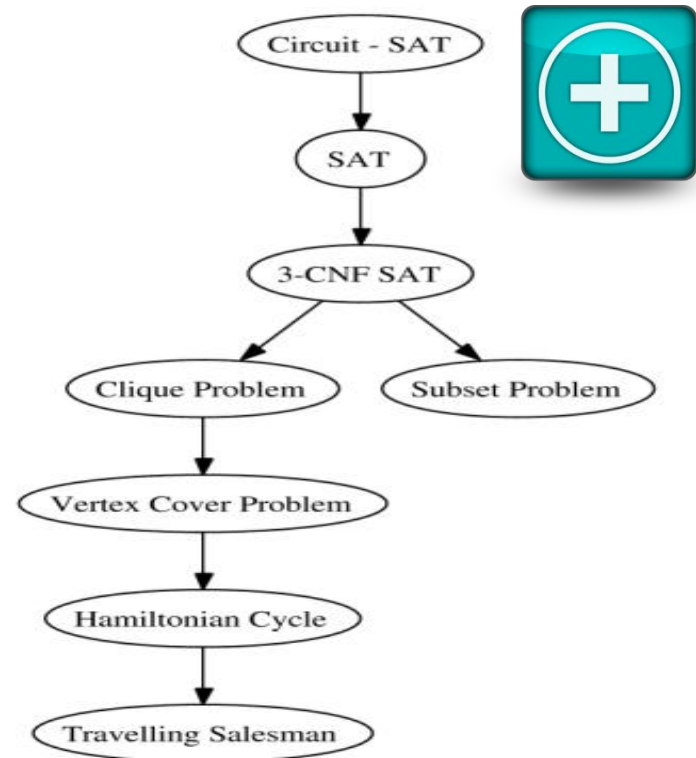
Algorithm



Output



simple and robust model
comparable results
complexity theory

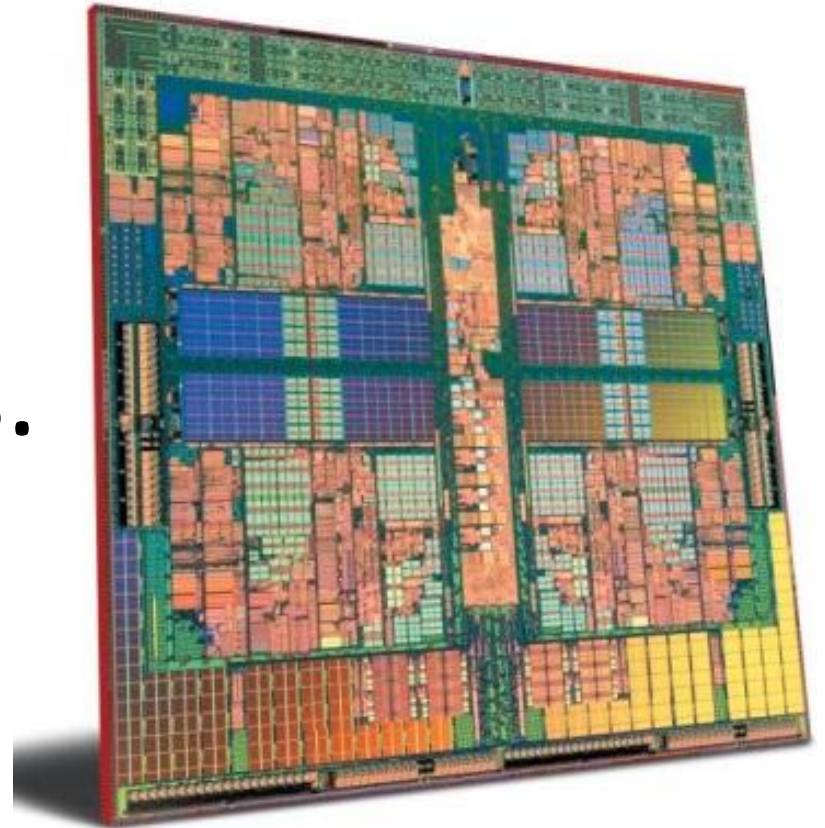


Input

Algorithm

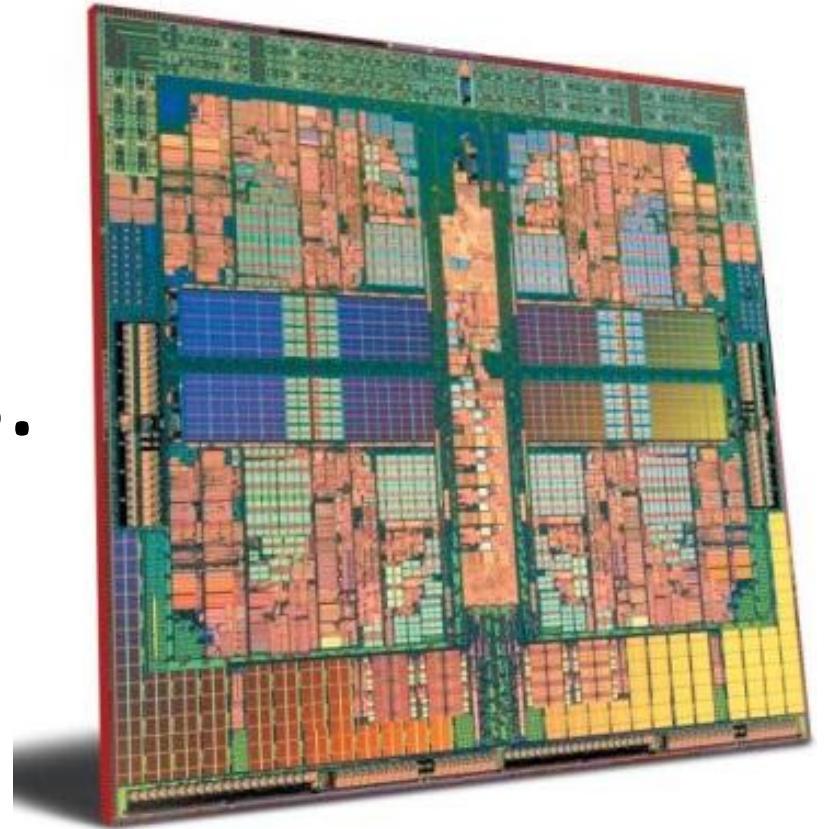
Output

vs.

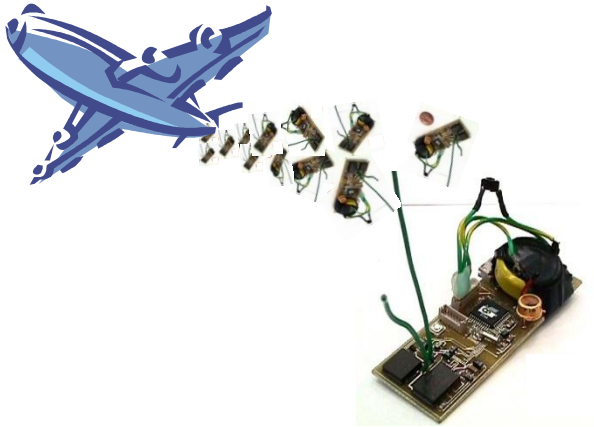
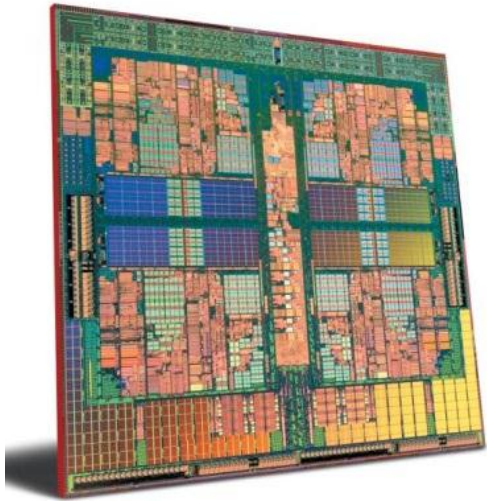




VS.



The Future of Computing?



Talk Overview

Introduction & Motivation

Some Examples for Physical Algorithms

What are Physical Algorithms?

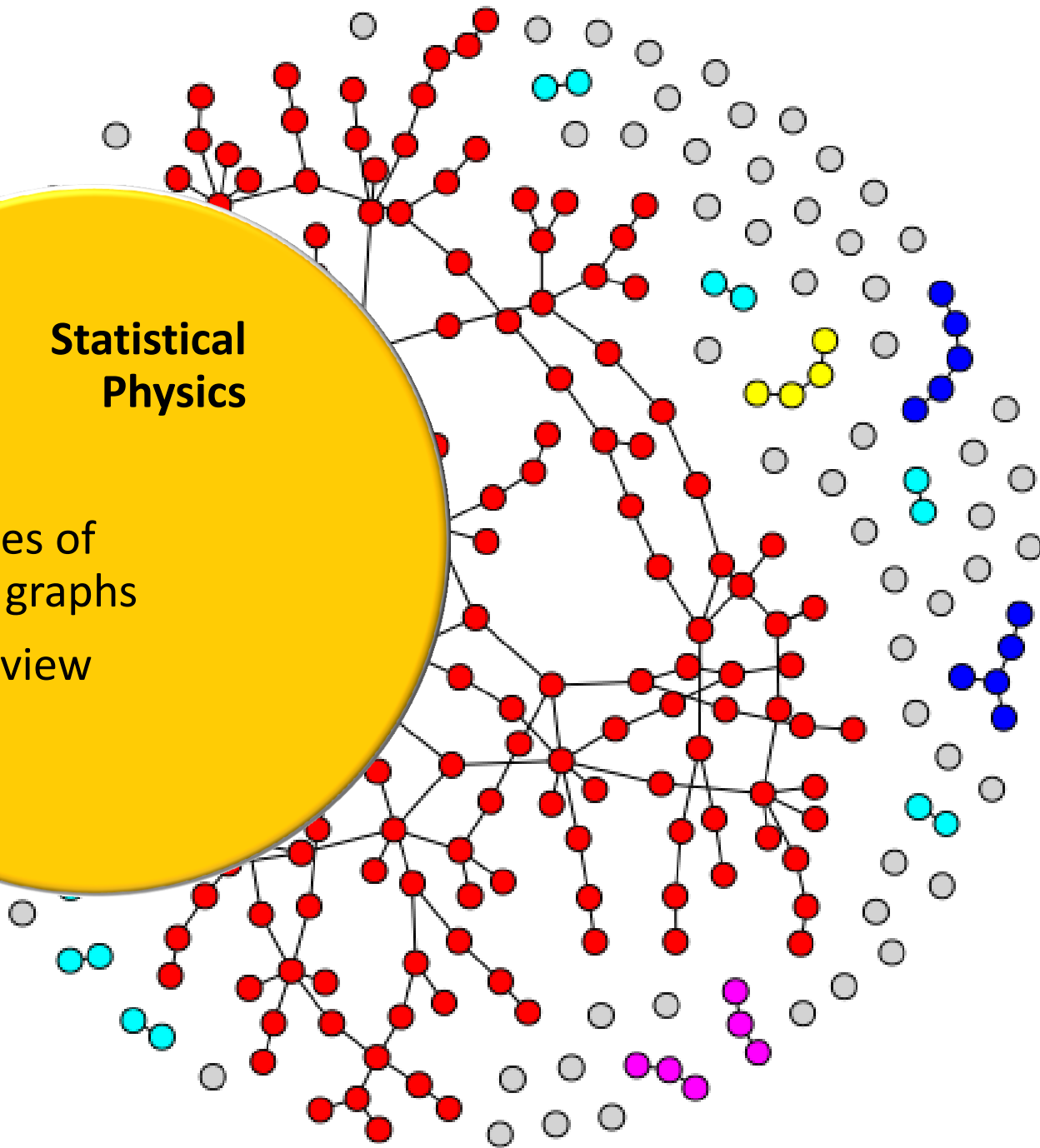
Well-Known Examples

Small World Phenomenon



Statistical Physics

Properties of random graphs
"Static" view





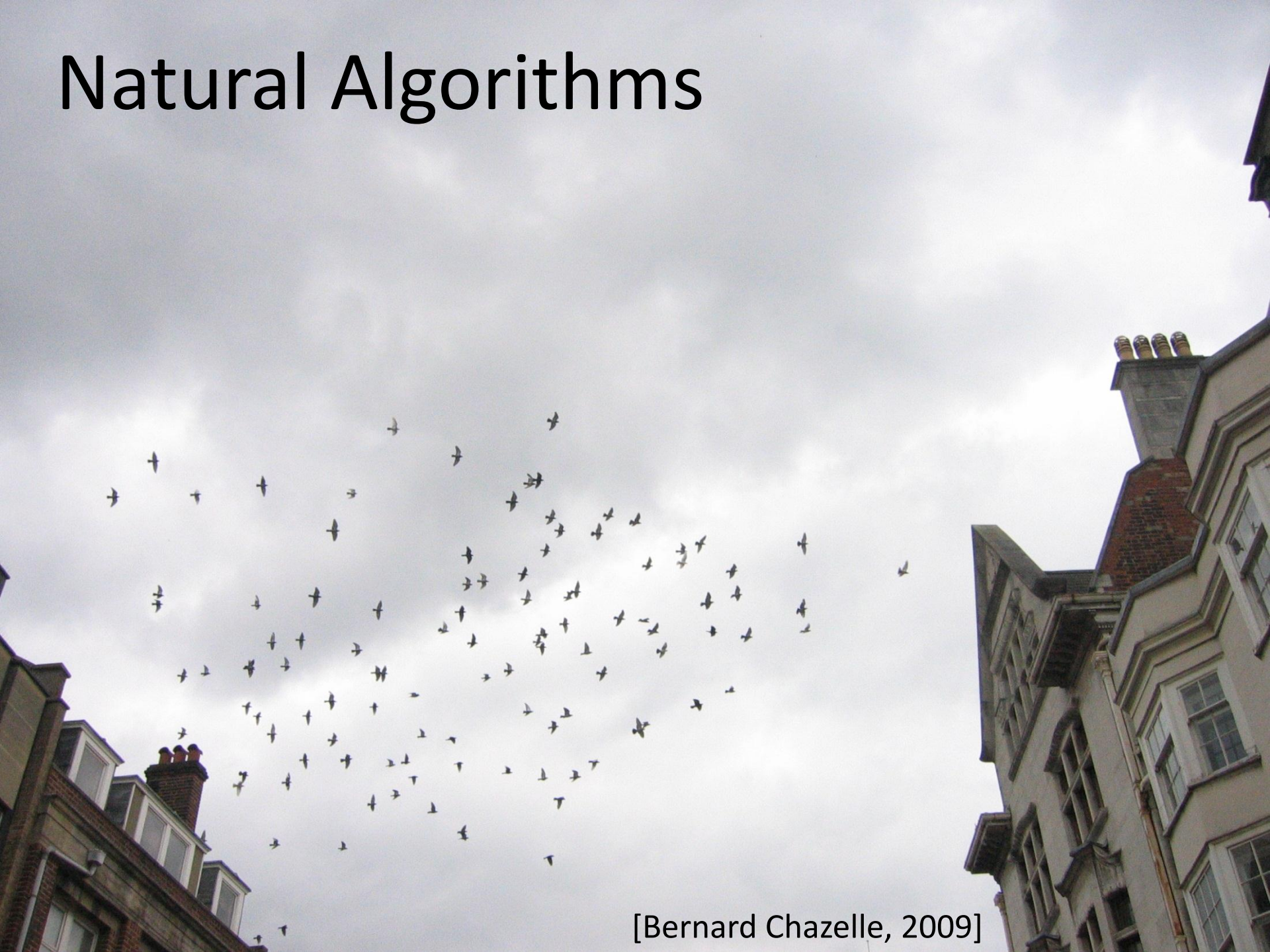
Statistical Physics

Properties of
random graphs
“Static” view

Physical Algorithms

People will make
decisions
[Kleinberg 2000]

Natural Algorithms



[Bernard Chazelle, 2009]



game theory

BitThief-Worded T-shirt by bit_thief (0 votes)

Views: Model Product Design



Ladies Basic T-Shirt (starting at \$21.00)

The classic t-shirt, made specifically for women. Pre-shrunk, 5.0 ounce 100% super-soft cotton, baby jersey knit. Coverstitched 3/4" bottom hem and sleeve opening. Custom contoured fit. Made by Bella.

Gender and category filters: Men, Women, Kid, Baby. All, Classic, Fashion, Sport, Sustainable. Color swatches and counts for each category.

Color: Yellow (+\$2.55) [info for dark colors]. Color selection swatches with a checked yellow swatch.

Size: Adult 2X [view size chart]. Size selection buttons: S, M, L, XL, 2X (checked).

Model: Lindsay. Model selection thumbnails with a checked Lindsay model thumbnail.

Qty: 1 (save in bulk) \$23.55 Add to cart

Customize: Change the design, add your own ideas! Customize it

Email this | Link to this | Add to favorites | Bookmark this | Report violation

Marketplace Categories: Arts, Design, Fashion > Graphic Design > Graffiti > Digital Graffiti

Clock Synchronization

Clock Synchronization in Networks

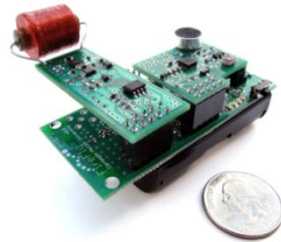
Global Positioning System (GPS)



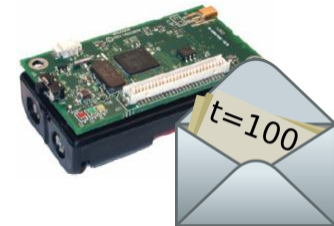
Radio Clock Signal



AC-power line radiation



Synchronization messages



Clock Synchronization in Networks

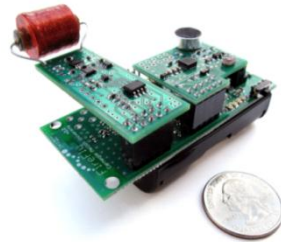
Global Positioning System (GPS)



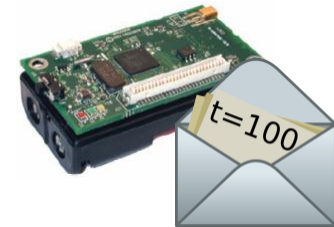
Radio Clock Signal



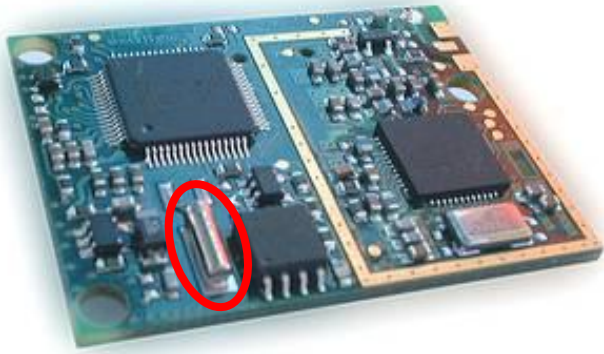
AC-power line radiation



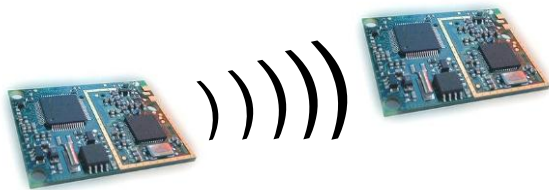
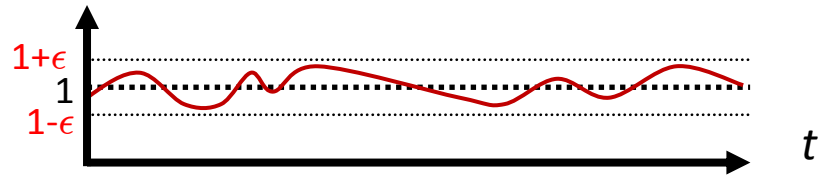
Synchronization messages



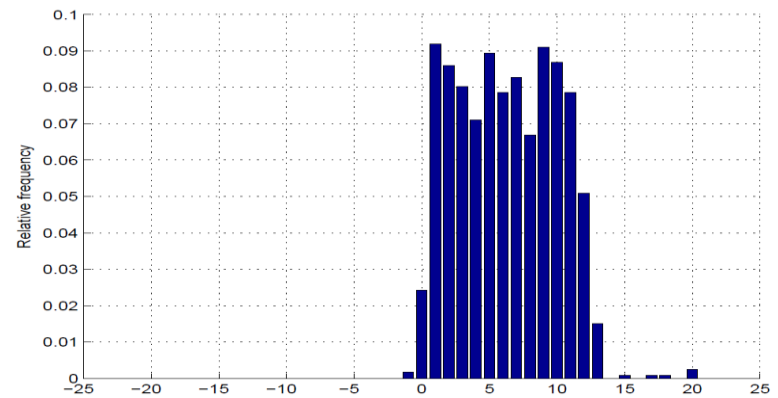
Problem: Physical Reality



clock rate



message delay

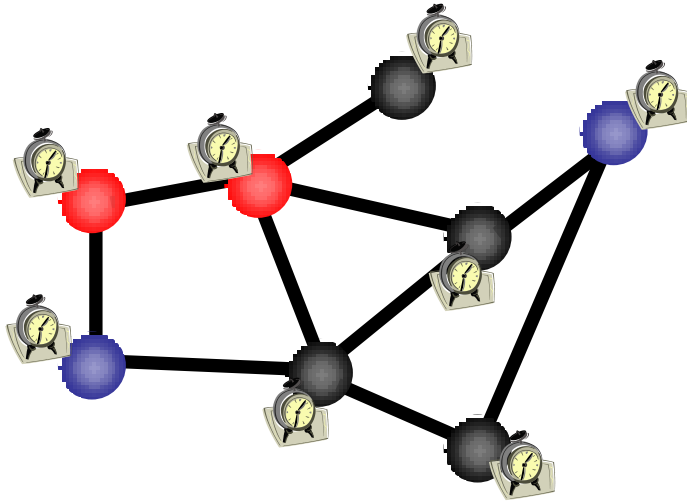


Clock Synchronization in Theory?

Given a communication network

1. Each node equipped with hardware clock with **drift**
2. Message delays with **jitter**

worst-case (but constant)



Goal: Synchronize Clocks (“Logical Clocks”)

- Both **global** and **local** synchronization!

Time Must Behave!

- Time (logical clocks) should **not** be allowed to **stand still** or **jump**



Time Must Behave!

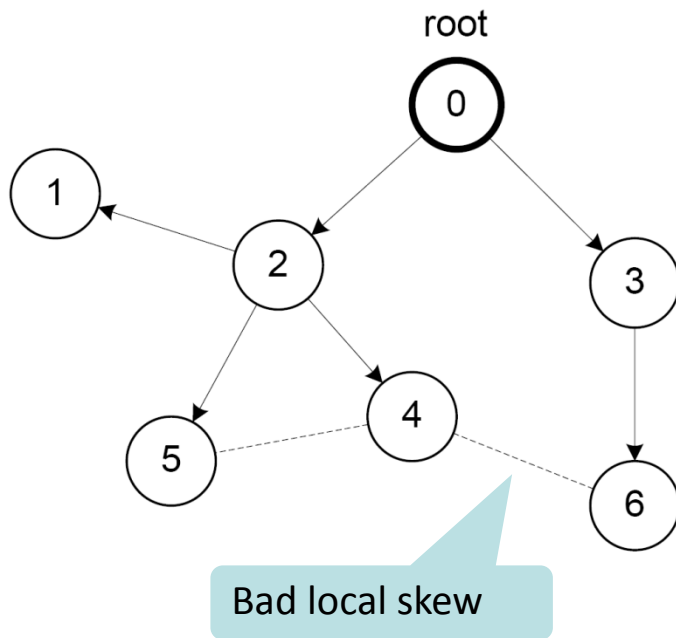
- Time (logical clocks) should **not** be allowed to **stand still** or **jump**



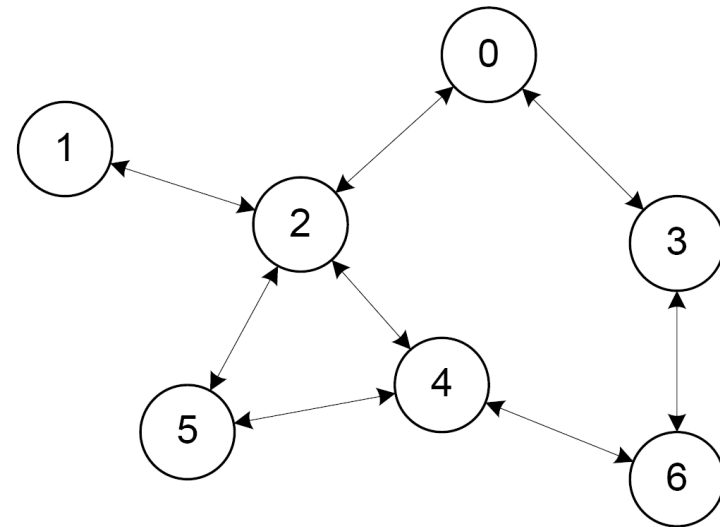
- Let's be more careful (and ambitious):
- Logical clocks should **always move forward**
 - Sometimes faster, sometimes slower is OK.
 - But there should be a minimum and a maximum speed.
 - **As close to correct time as possible!**

Local Skew

Tree-based Algorithms
e.g. FTSP

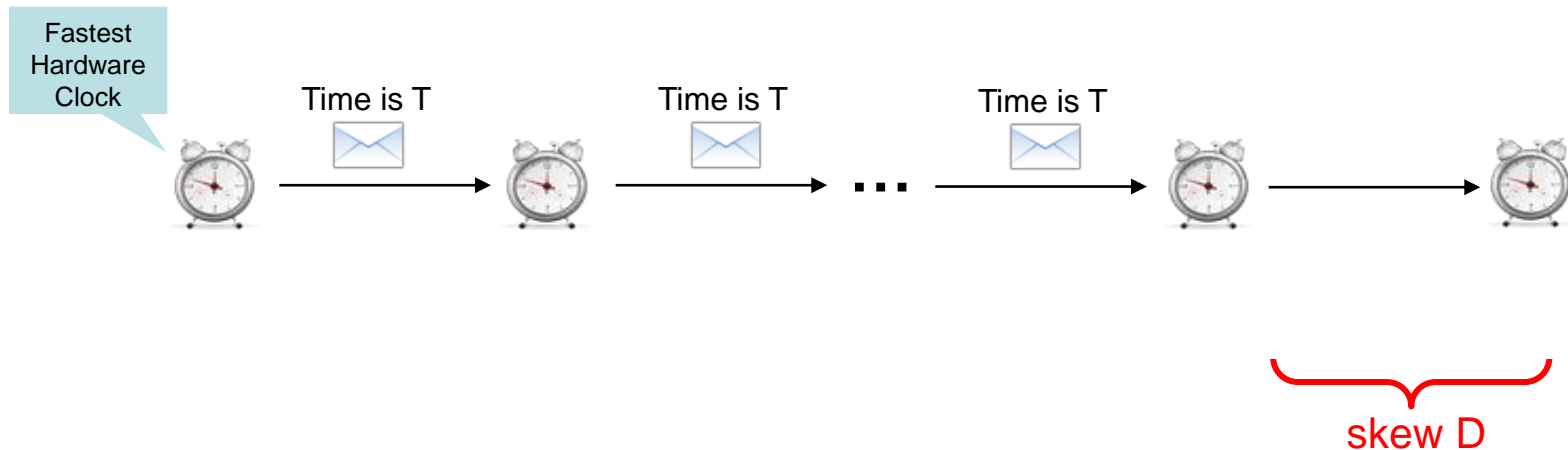


Neighborhood Algorithms
e.g. GTSP

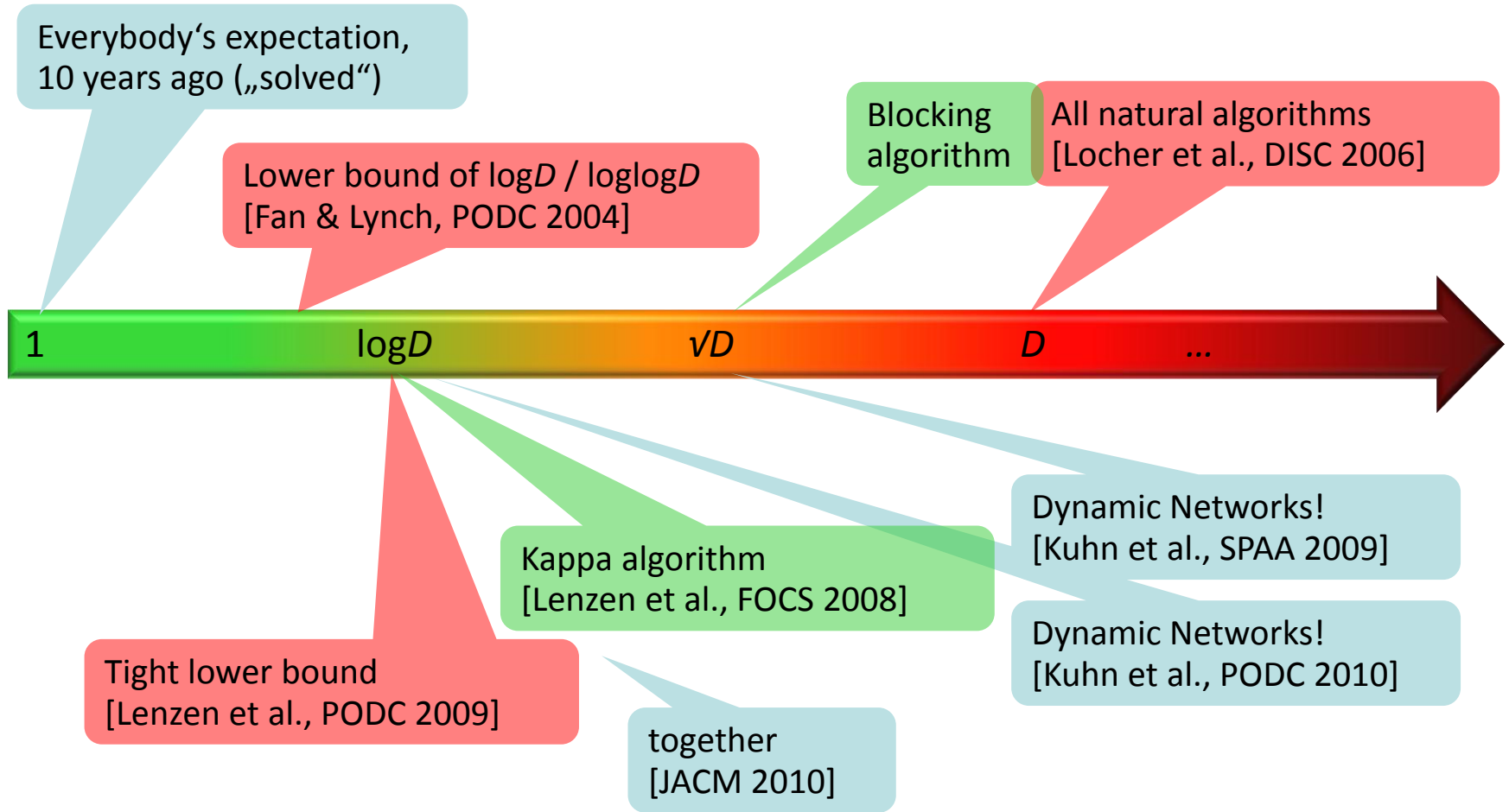


Synchronization Algorithms: An Example (“ A^{\max} ”)

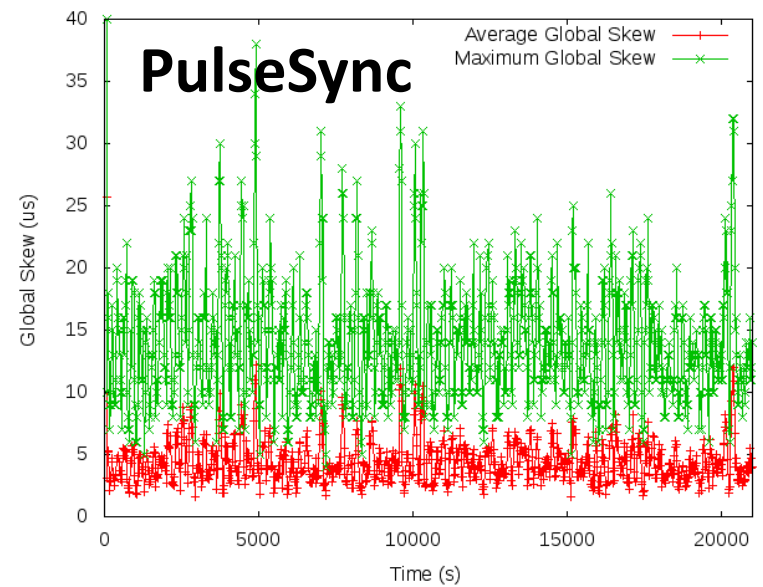
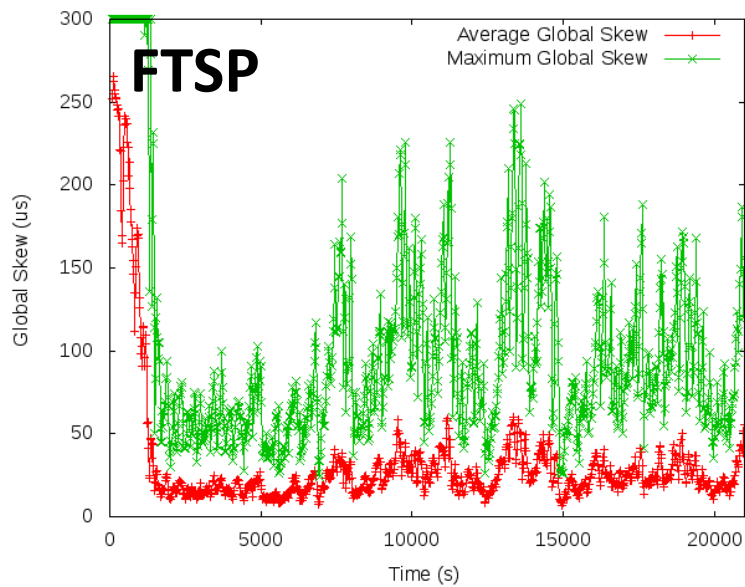
- Question: How to update the logical clock based on the messages from the neighbors?
- Idea: Minimizing the skew to the **fastest** neighbor
 - Set clock to **maximum** clock value you know, forward new values immediately
- First all messages are slow (1), then suddenly all messages are fast (0)!



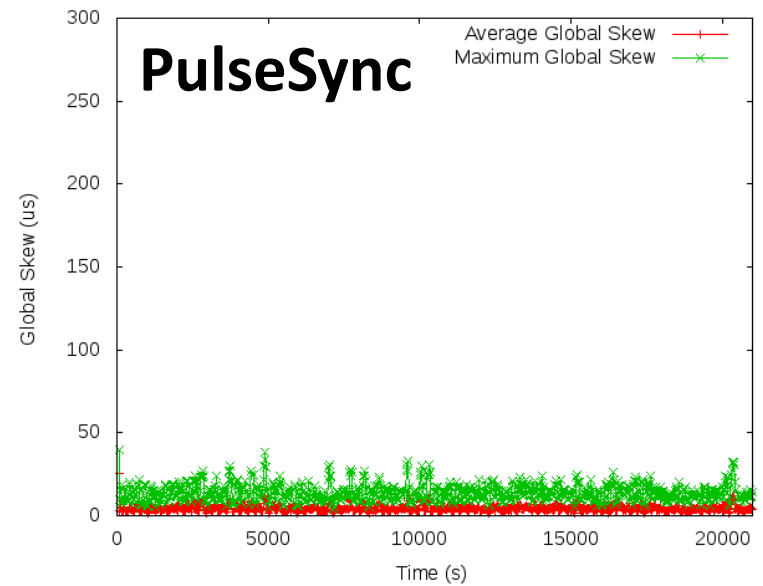
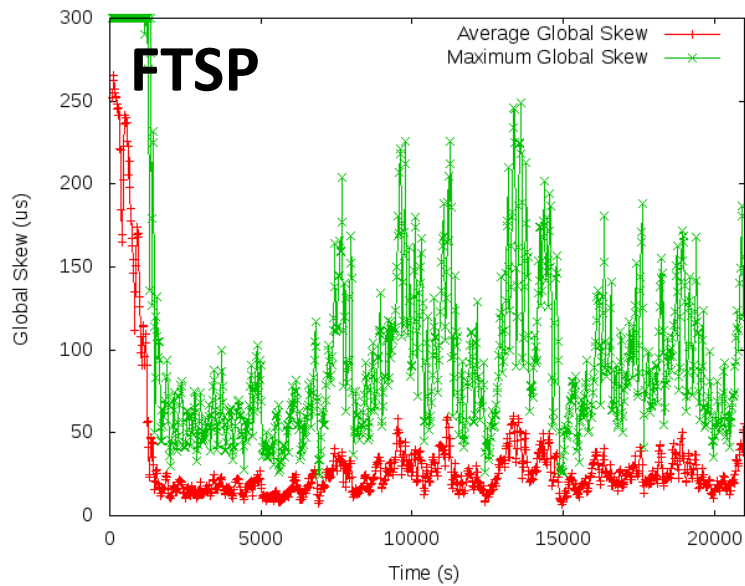
Local Skew: Overview of Results



Experimental Results for Global Skew



Experimental Results for Global Skew



Clock Synchronization vs. Car Coordination

- In the future cars may travel at high speed despite a tiny safety distance, thanks to advanced sensors and communication



Clock Synchronization vs. Car Coordination

- In the future cars may travel at high speed despite a tiny safety distance, thanks to advanced sensors and communication



- How fast & close can you drive?
- Answer possibly related to clock synchronization
 - clock drift \leftrightarrow cars cannot control speed perfectly
 - message jitter \leftrightarrow sensors or communication between cars not perfect

Wireless Communication

Wireless Communication

EE, Physics

Maxwell Equations

Simulation, Testing

'Scaling Laws'

Network Algorithms

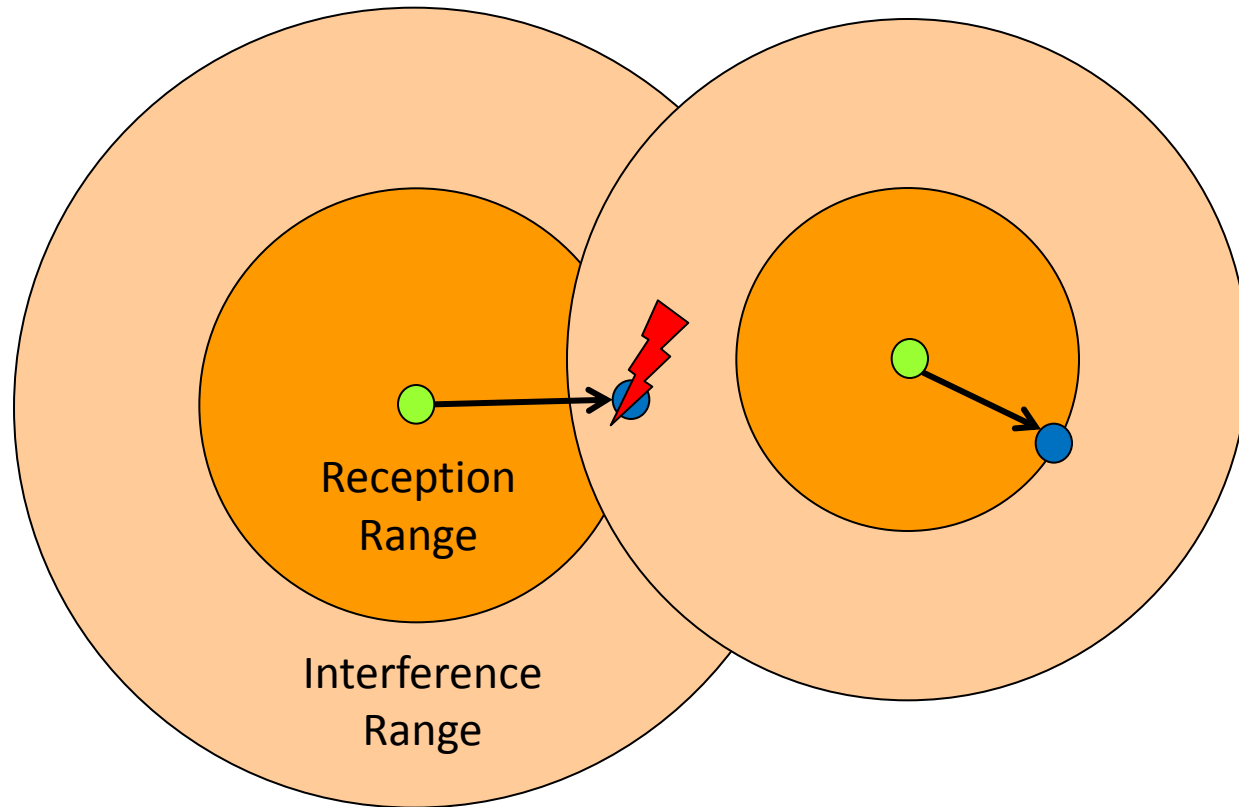
CS, Applied Math

[Geometric] Graphs

Worst-Case Analysis

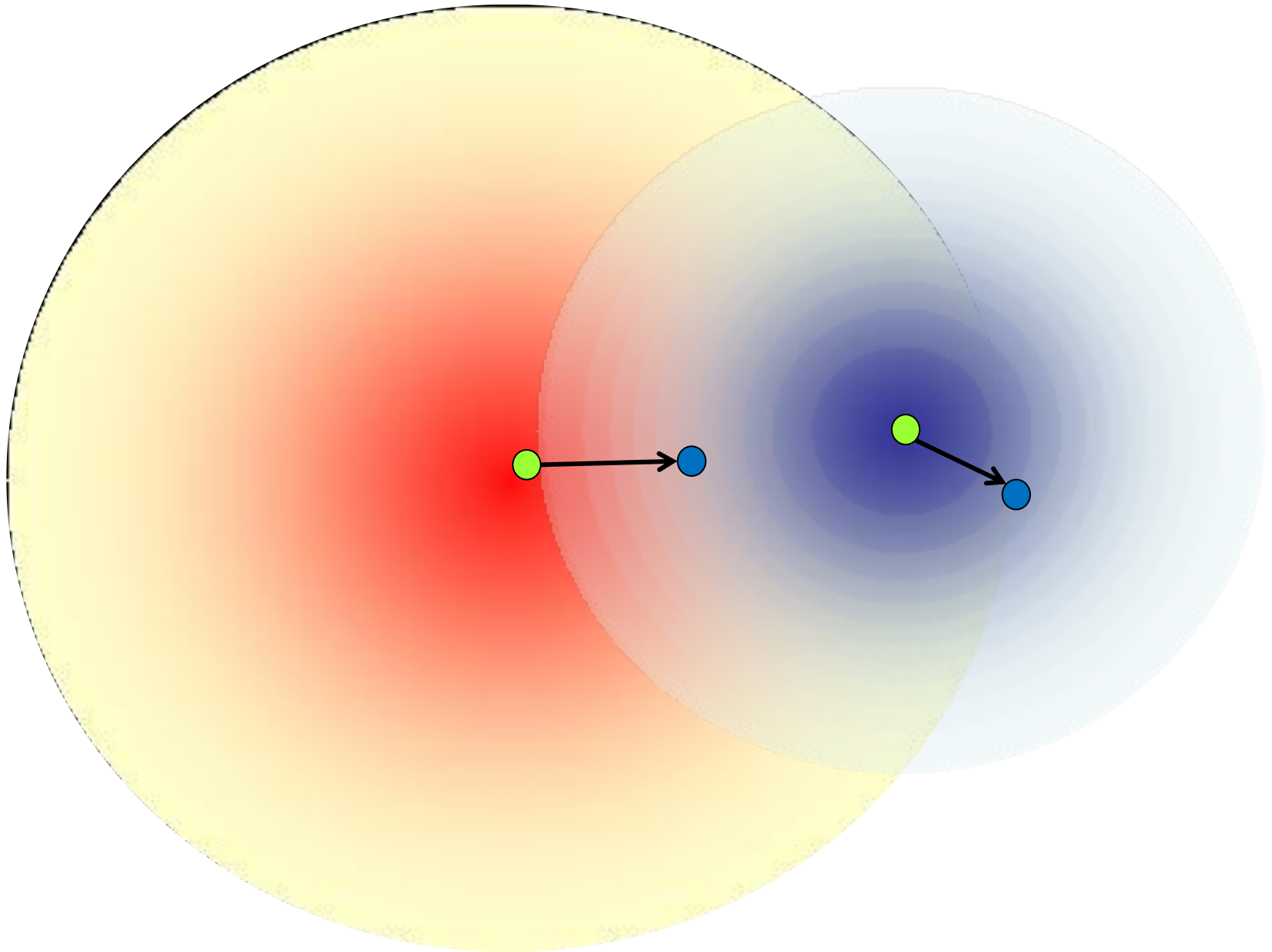
Any-Case Analysis

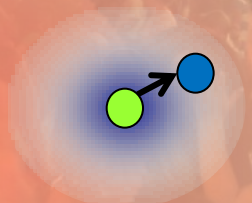
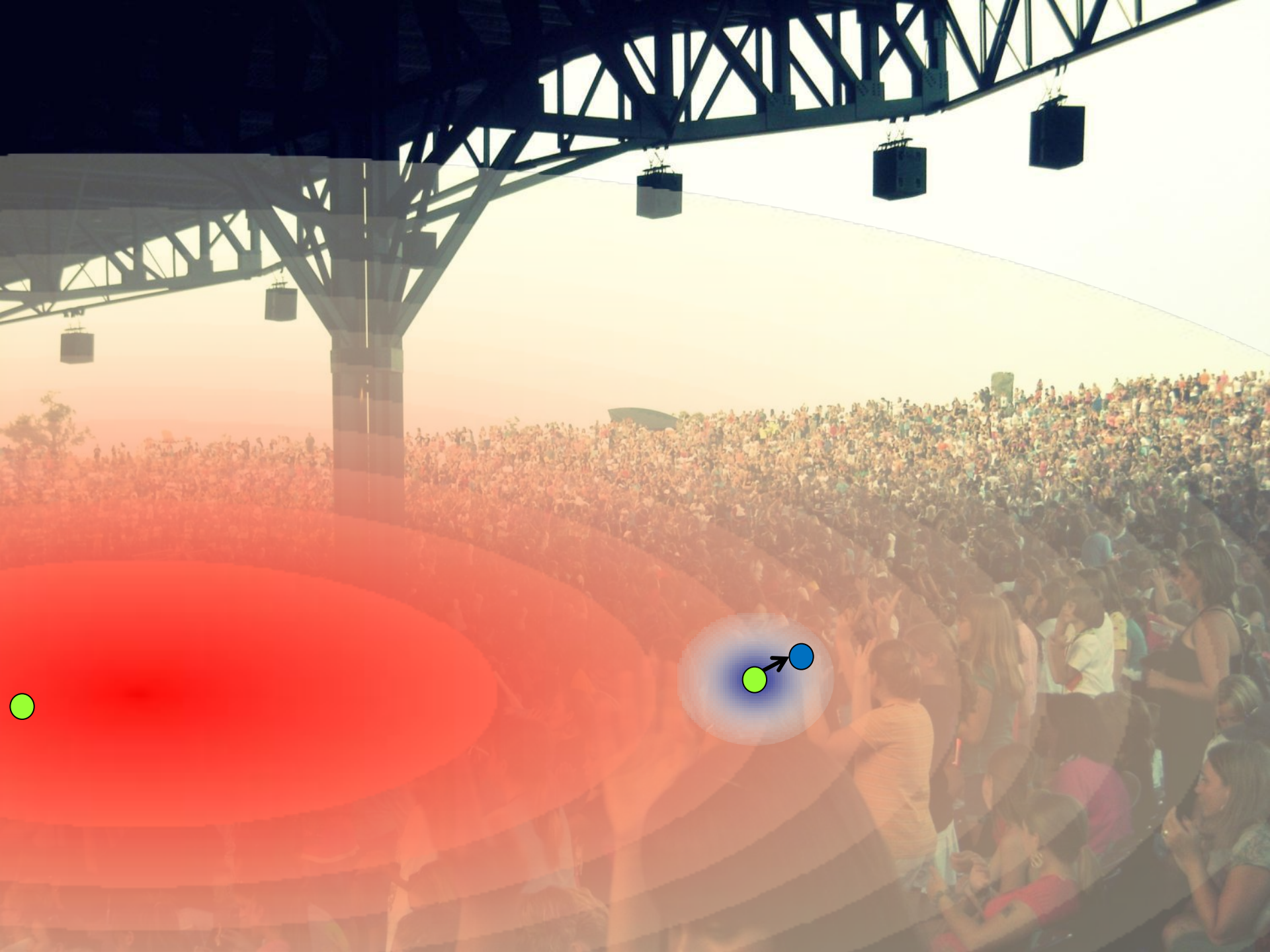
CS Models: e.g. Disk Model (Protocol Model)



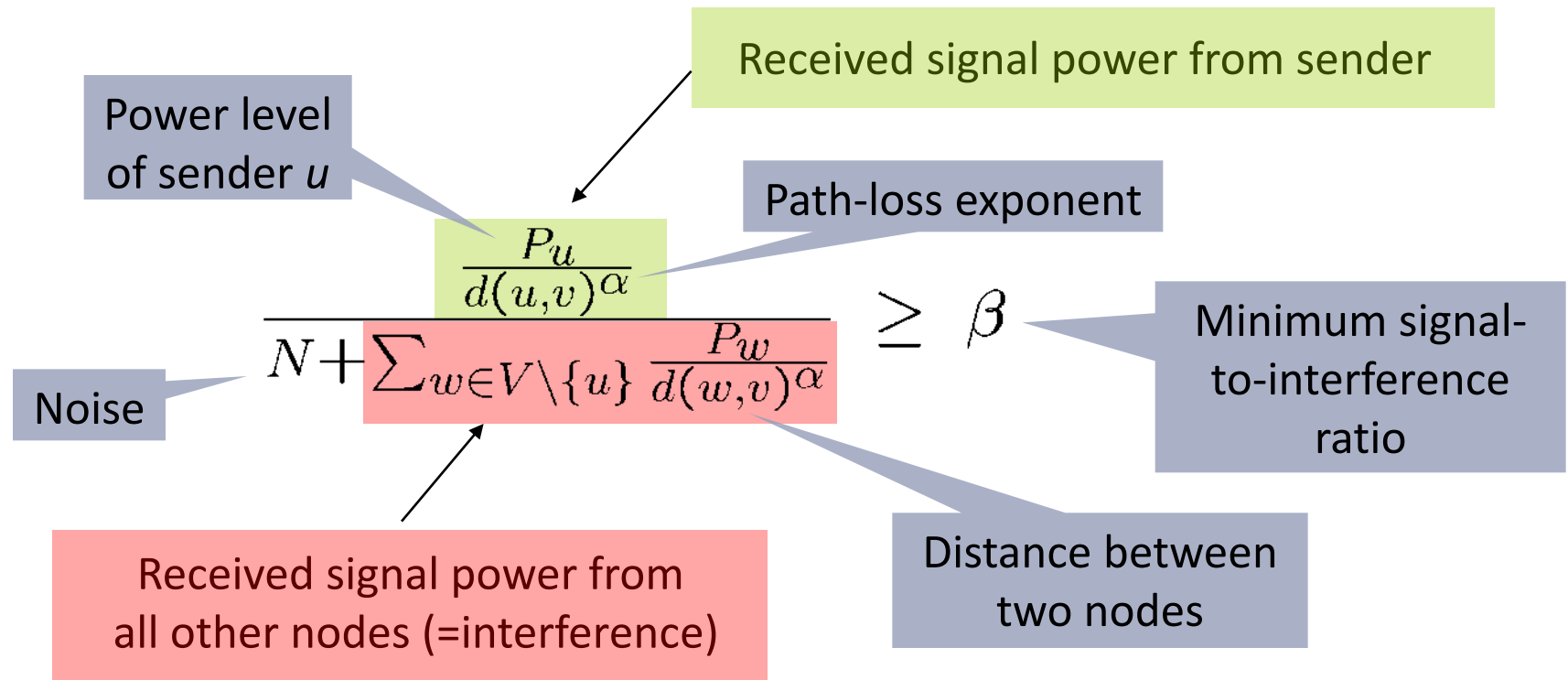


EE Models: e.g. SINR Model (Physical Model)

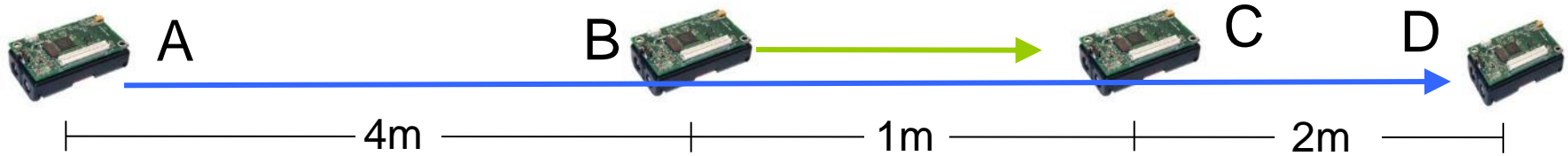




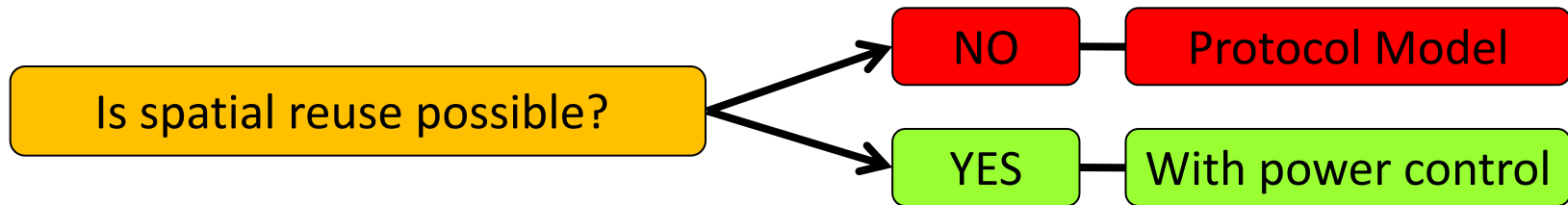
Signal-To-Interference-Plus-Noise Ratio (SINR) Formula



Example: Protocol vs. Physical Model





Assume a **single frequency** (and no fancy decoding techniques!)



Let $\alpha=3$, $\beta=3$, and $N=10\text{nW}$

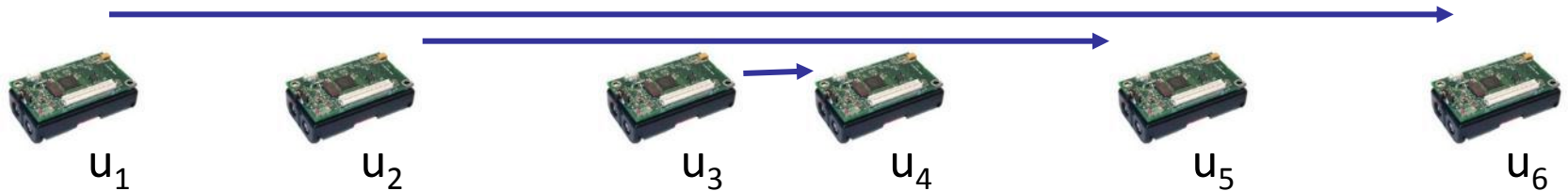
Transmission powers: $P_B = -15\text{ dBm}$ and $P_A = 1\text{ dBm}$

SINR of A at D:
$$\frac{1.26\text{mW}/(7\text{m})^3}{0.01\mu\text{W} + 31.6\mu\text{W}/(3\text{m})^3} \approx 3.11 \geq \beta$$
 

SINR of B at C:
$$\frac{31.6\mu\text{W}/(1\text{m})^3}{0.01\mu\text{W} + 1.26\text{mW}/(5\text{m})^3} \approx 3.13 \geq \beta$$
 

This works in practice!

... even with very simple hardware (sensor nodes)



Time for transmitting 20'000 packets:

	Time required	
	standard MAC	"SINR-MAC"
Node u_1	721s	267s
Node u_2	778s	268s
Node u_3	780s	270s

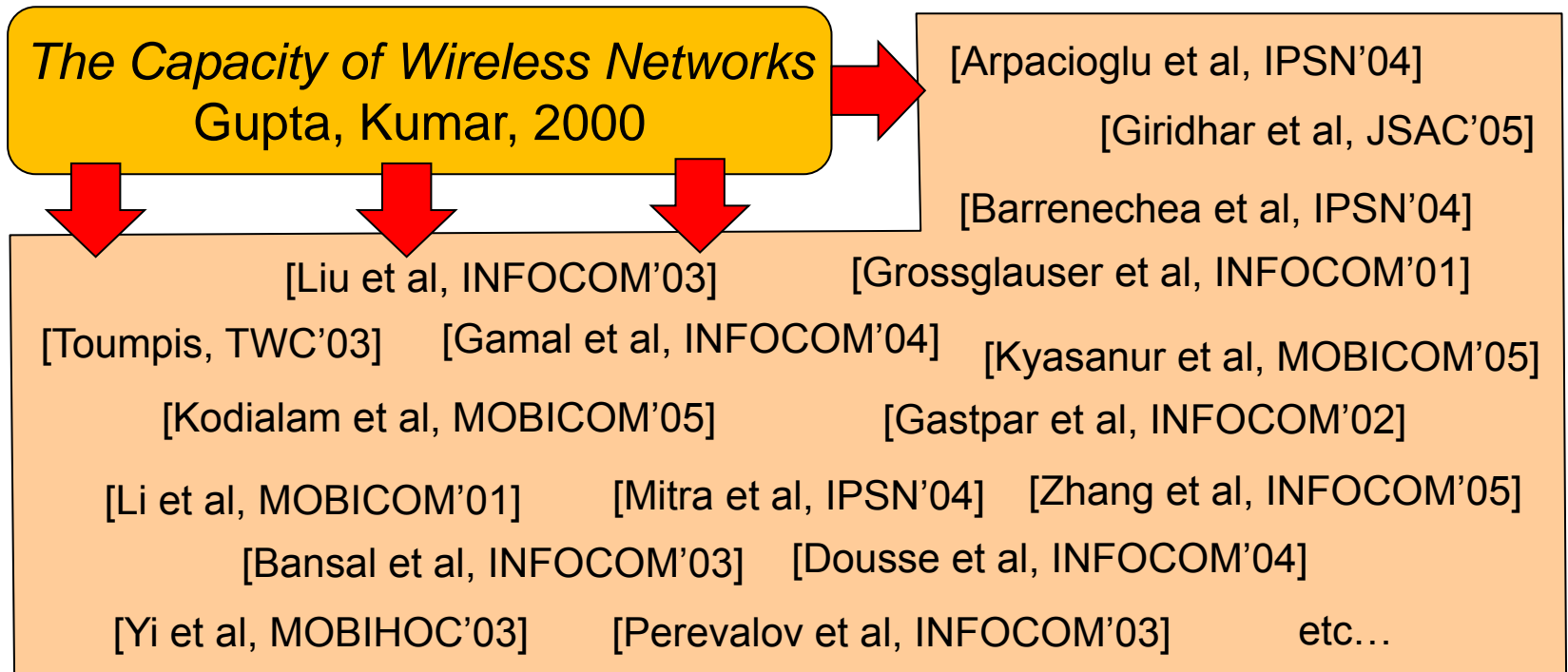
	Messages received	
	standard MAC	"SINR-MAC"
Node u_4	19999	19773
Node u_5	18784	18488
Node u_6	16519	19498

Speed-up is almost a factor 3

The Capacity of a Network

(How many concurrent wireless transmissions can you have)

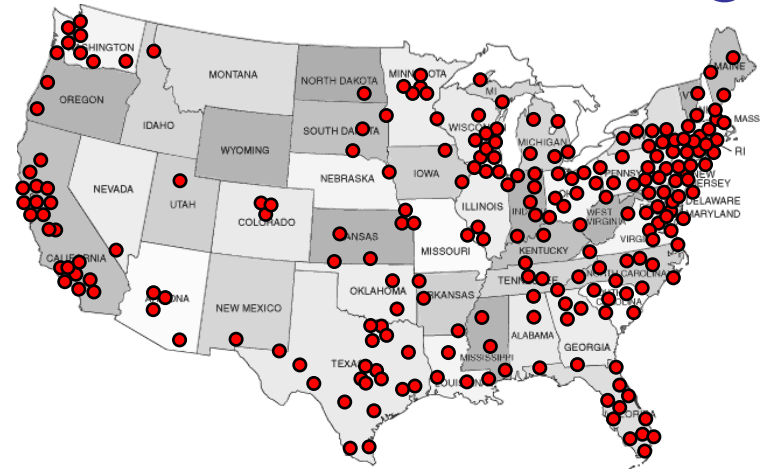
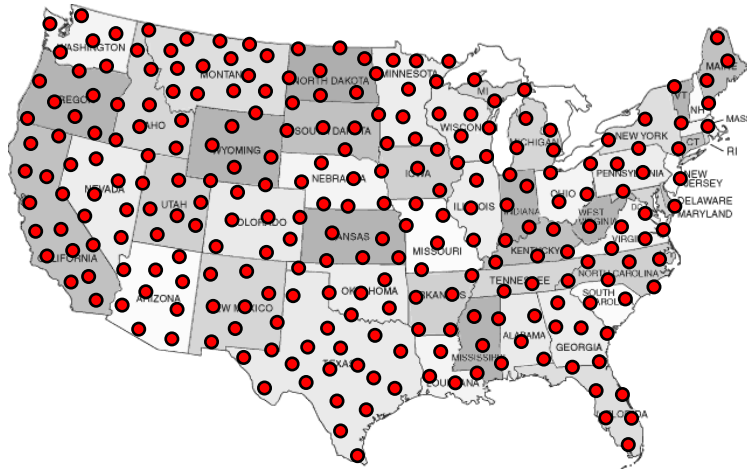
... is a well-studied problem in Wireless Communication



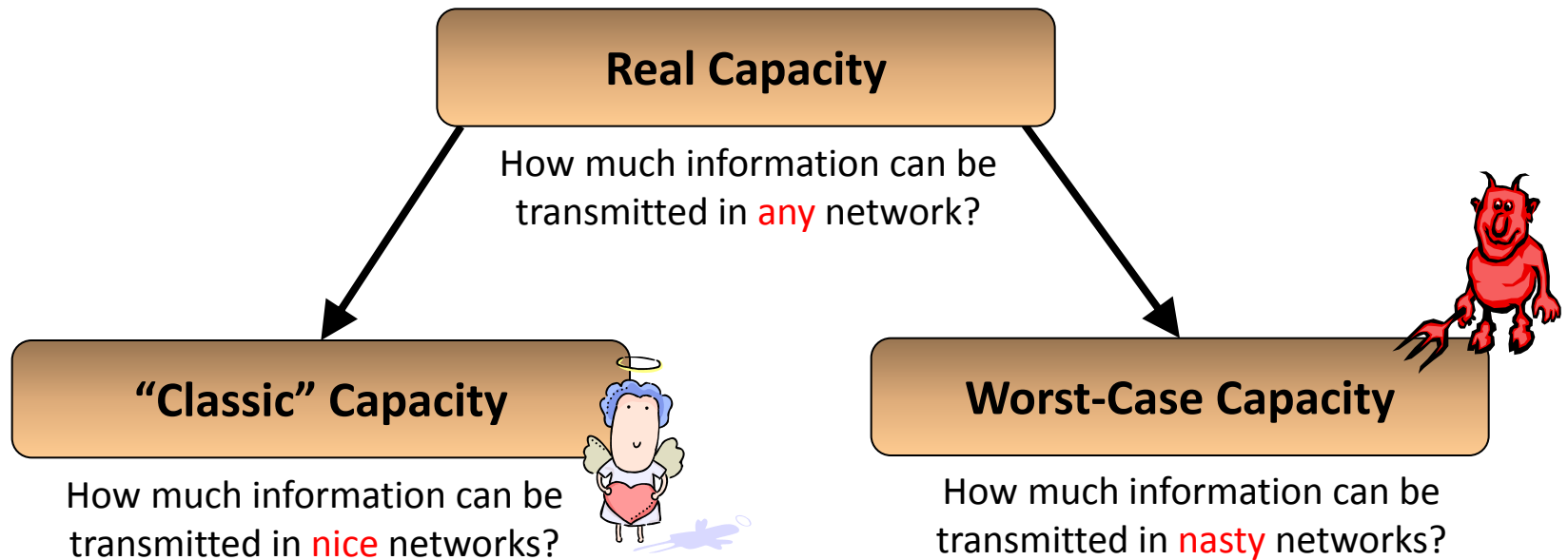
Network Topology?

- All these capacity studies make very **strong assumptions** on node deployment, topologies
 - randomly, uniformly distributed nodes
 - nodes placed on a grid
 - etc.

What if a network looks differently...?



Physical Algorithms



“Convergecast Capacity” in Wireless Networks

[Moscibroda, W, 2006]

Worst-Case Capacity

[Giridhar, Kumar, 2005]

Best-Case Capacity

Model/Power \ Networks	Max. rate in arbitrary, worst-case deployment	Max. rate in random, uniform deployment
Protocol Model	$\Theta(1/n)$	$\Theta(1/\log n)$
Physical Model (power control)	$\Omega(1/\log^3 n)$	$\Omega(1/\log n)$

Exponential gap between protocol and physical model!

The Price of Worst-Case Node Placement

- Exponential in protocol model
- Polylogarithmic in physical model (almost no worst-case penalty!)

**Wireless
Communication**

EE, Physics

Maxwell Equations

Simulation, Testing

'Scaling Laws'

**Network
Algorithms**

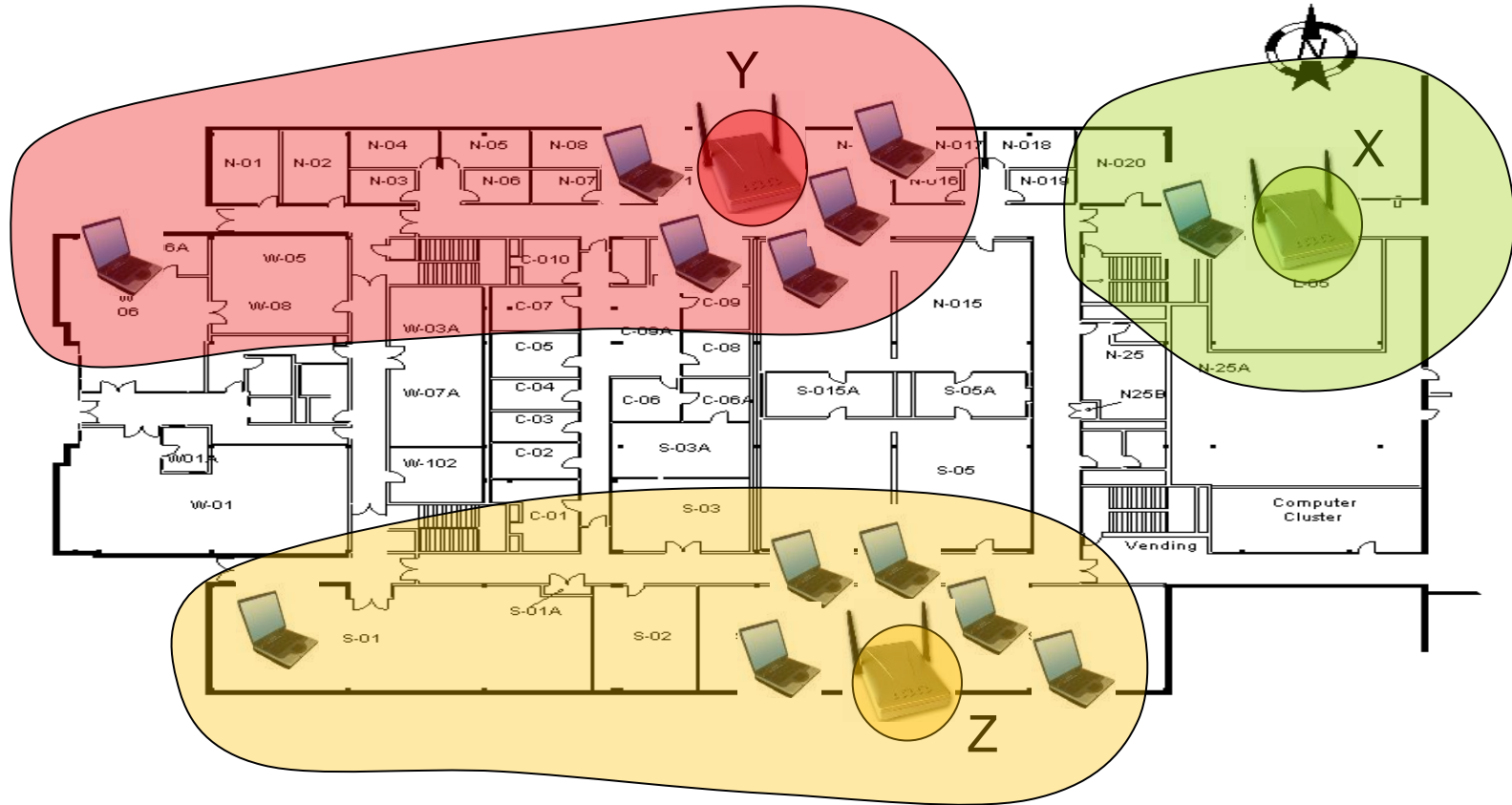
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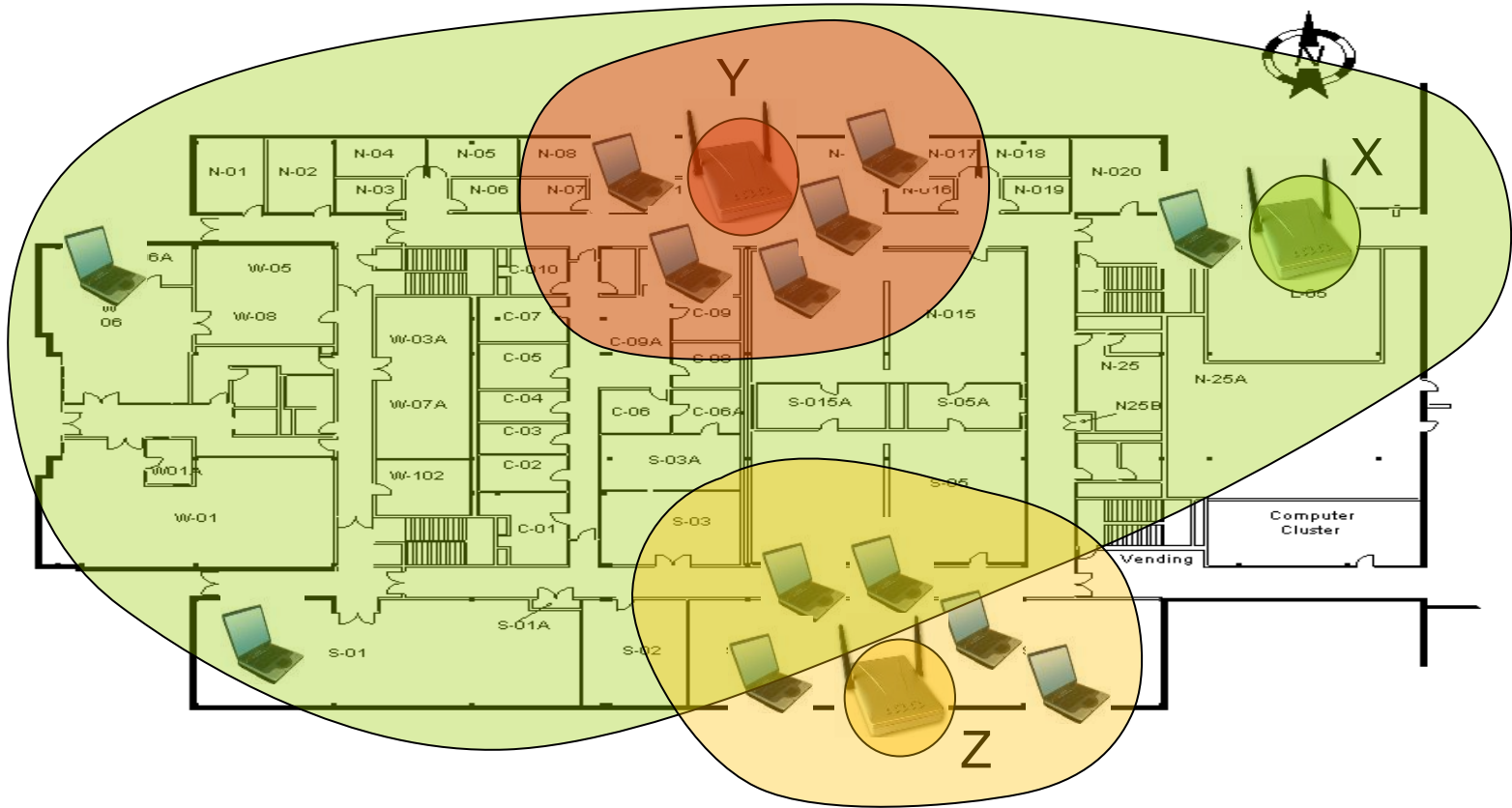
Worst-Case Analysis

Any-Case Analysis

Possible Application – Hotspots in WLAN

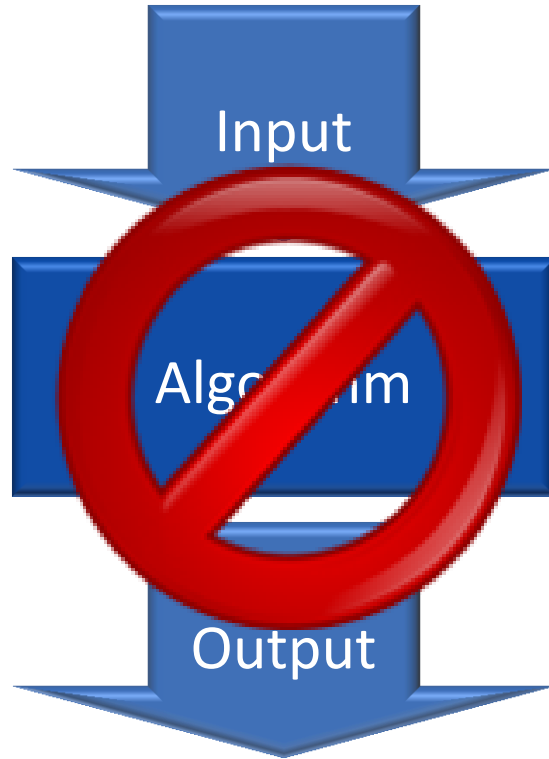


Possible Application – Hotspots in WLAN



Physical Algorithms?

Physical Algorithms



no seq. input/output



beyond laws of physics

Agents

Byzantine

Selfish

Crashing

Altruistic/Reliable

No Mobility

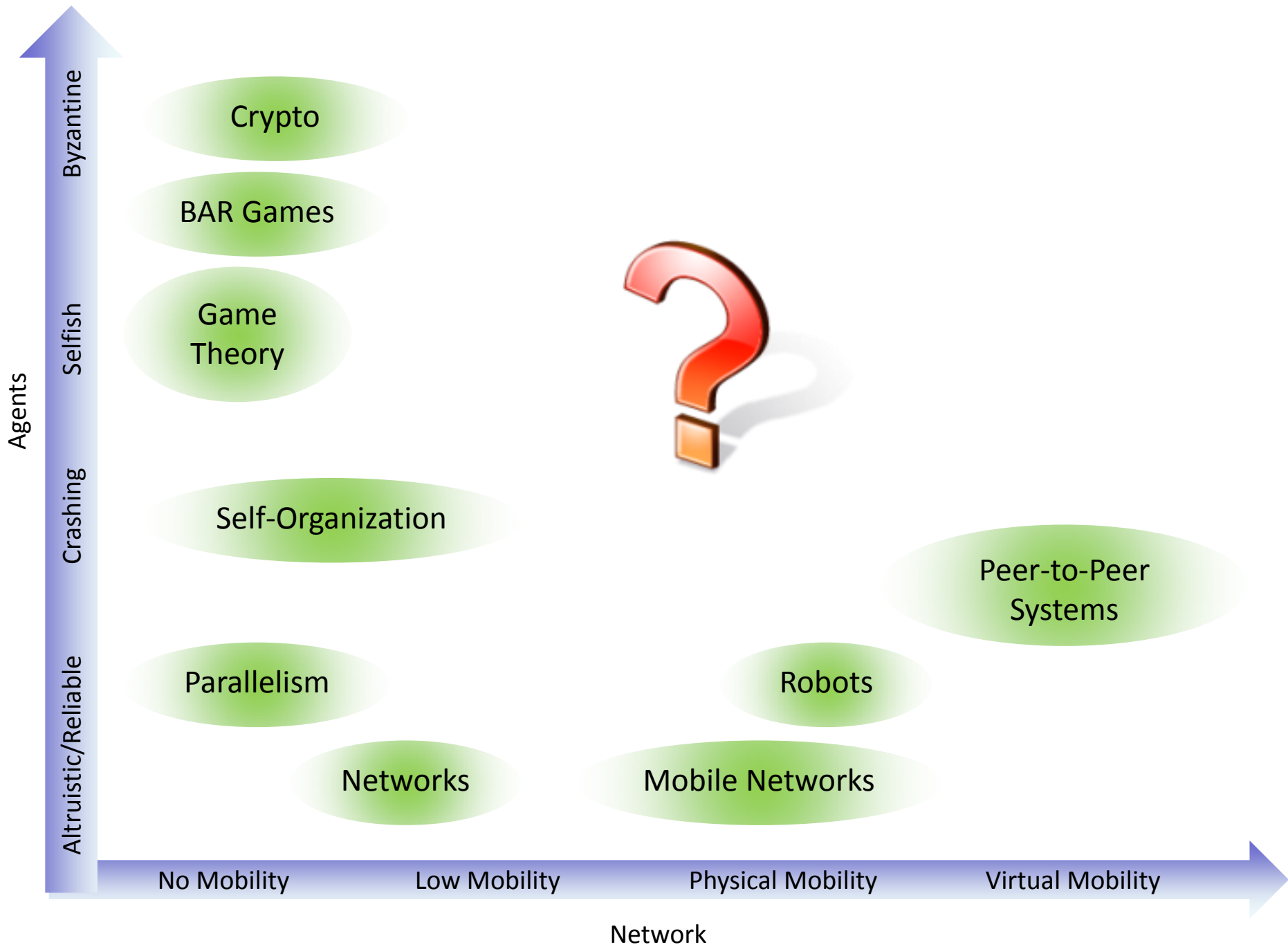
Low Mobility

Physical Mobility

Virtual Mobility

Network

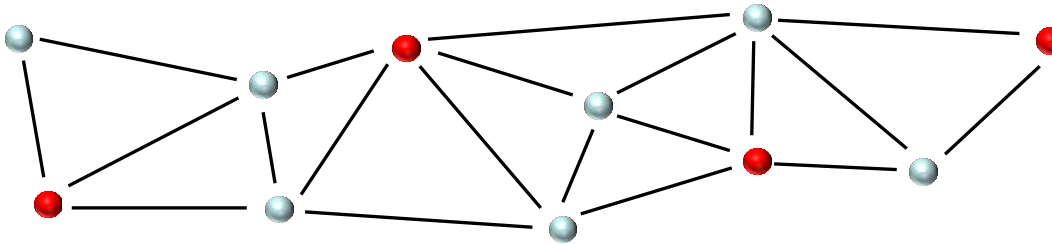




Some Unifying Theory?

Example: Maximal Independent Set (MIS)

- Given a **mobile network**, nodes with **unique IDs**.
- Maintain a Maximal Independent Set (MIS)
 - a non-extendable set of pair-wise non-adjacent nodes

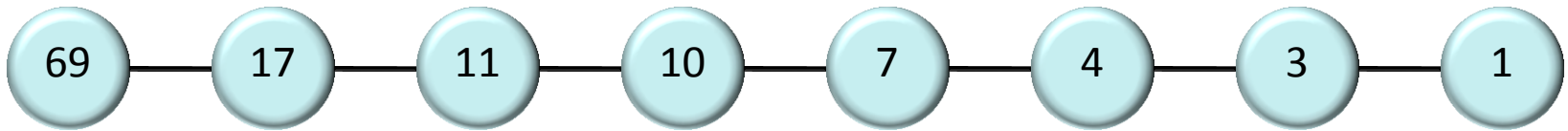


- A simple algorithm:
IF no higher ID neighbor is in MIS → join MIS
IF higher ID neighbor is in MIS → do not join MIS
- Can be implemented by constantly sending (ID, in MIS or not in MIS)
- Algorithm is simple, and it will eventually stabilize!

Example

IF **no** higher ID neighbor is in MIS \rightarrow **join MIS**

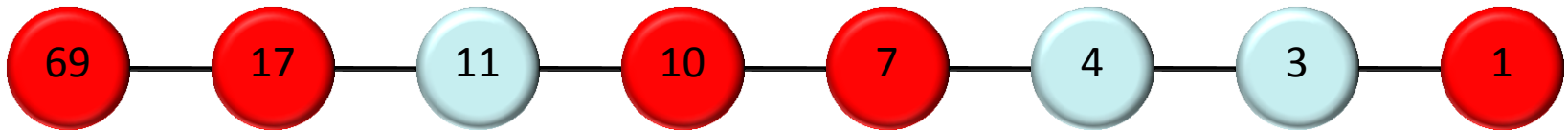
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Example

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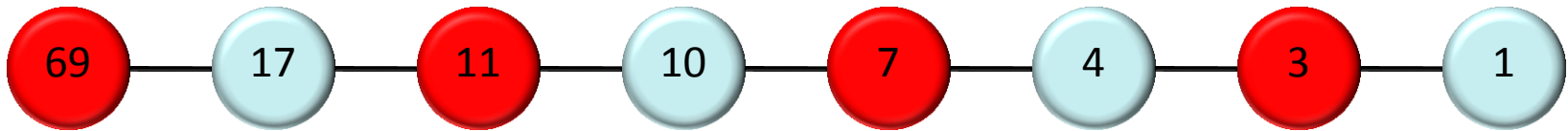
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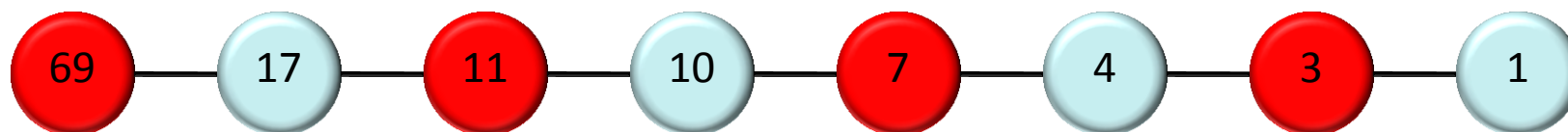
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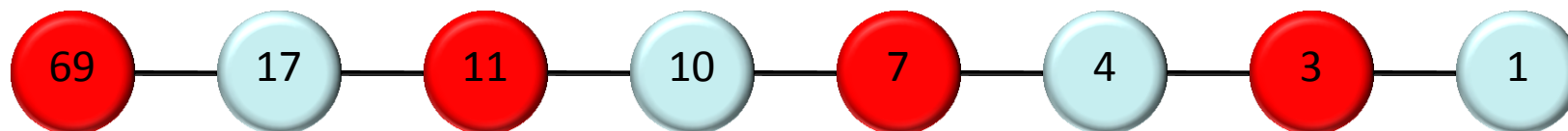
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IF **no** higher ID neighbor is in MIS \rightarrow **join MIS**

IF higher ID neighbor is in MIS \rightarrow do not join MIS



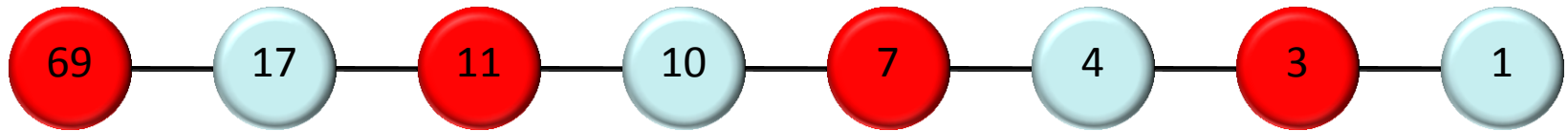
- What if we have minor changes?



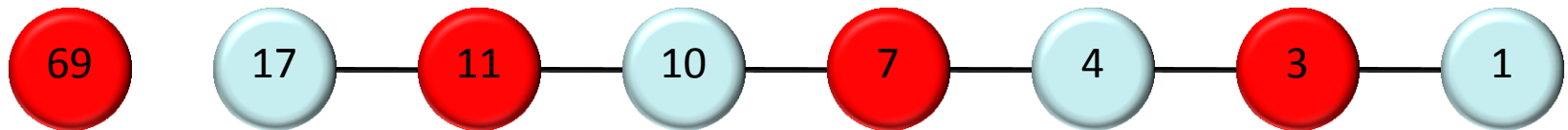
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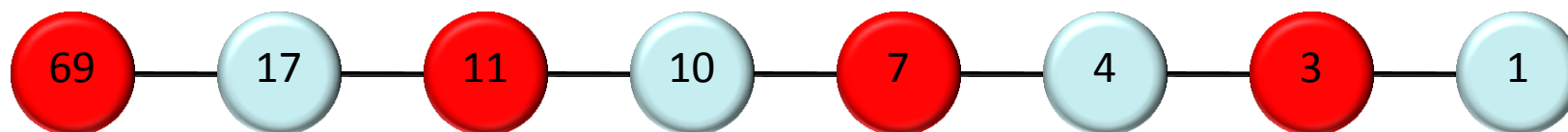
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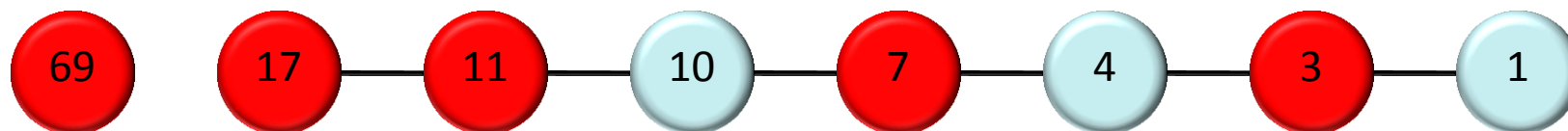
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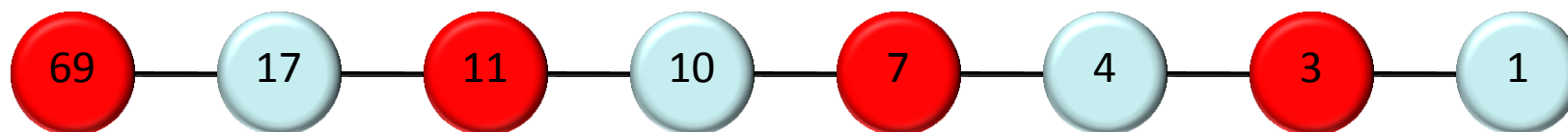
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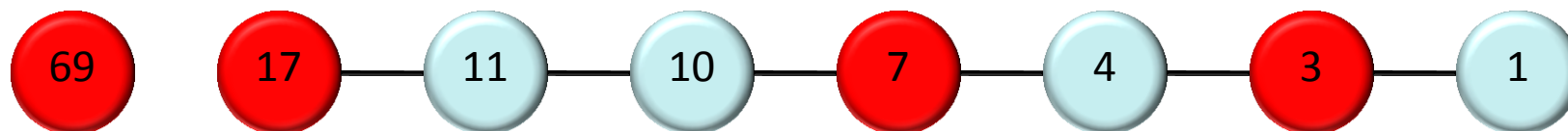
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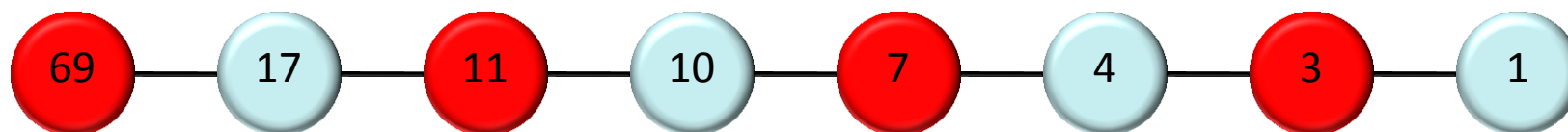
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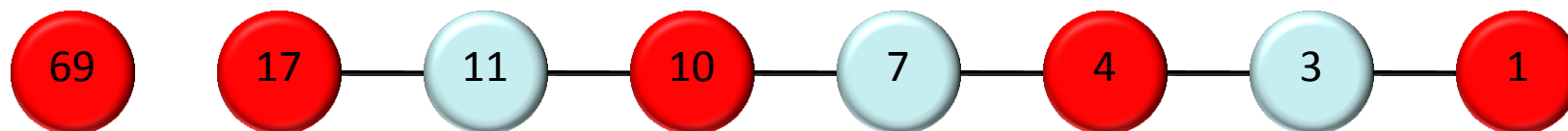
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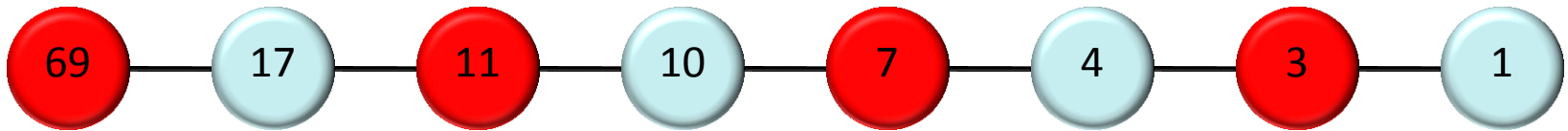
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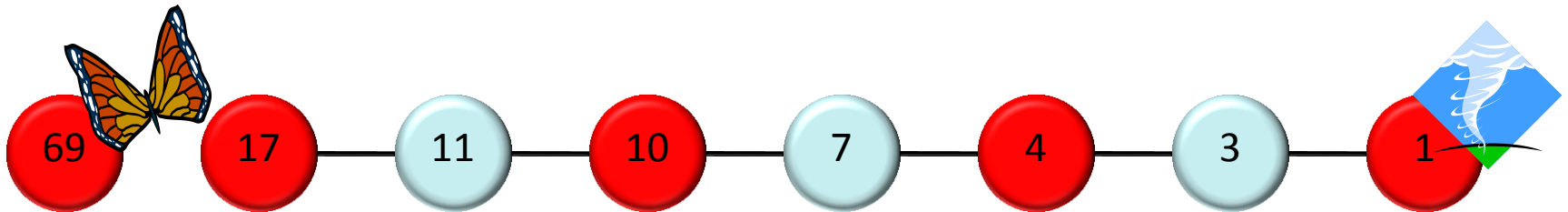
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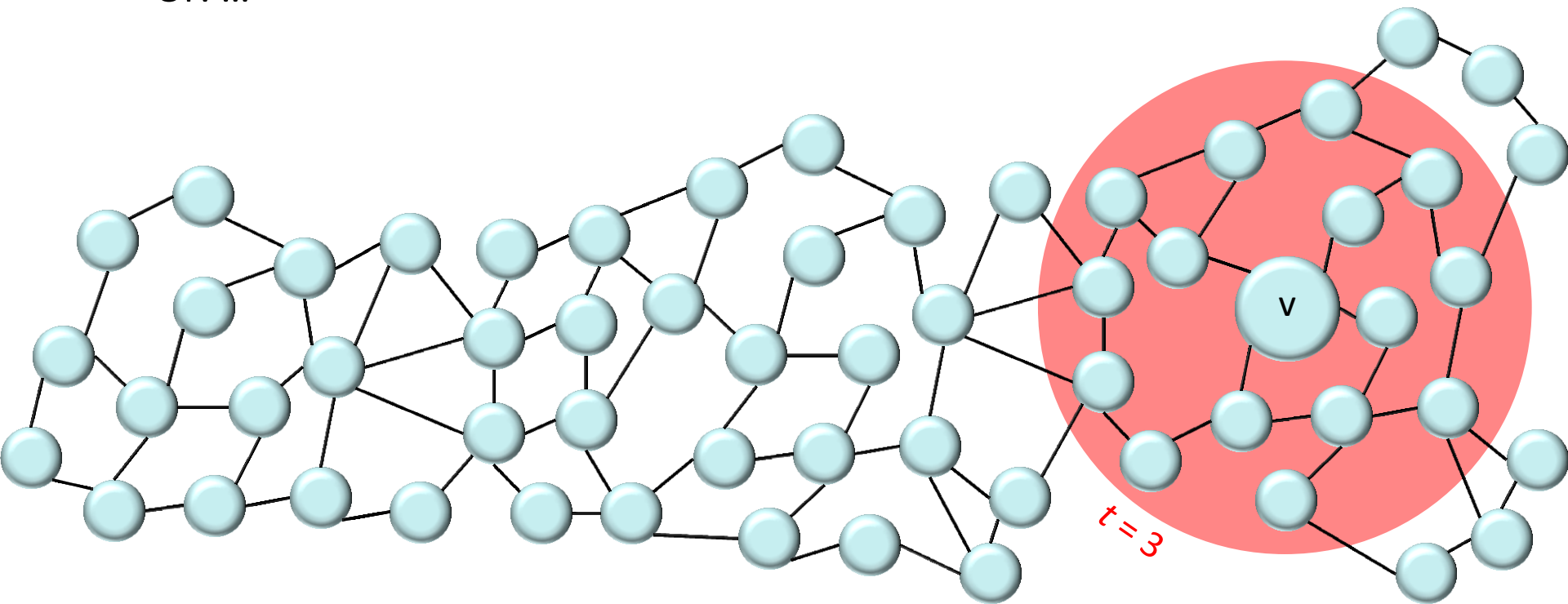
- What if we have minor changes?



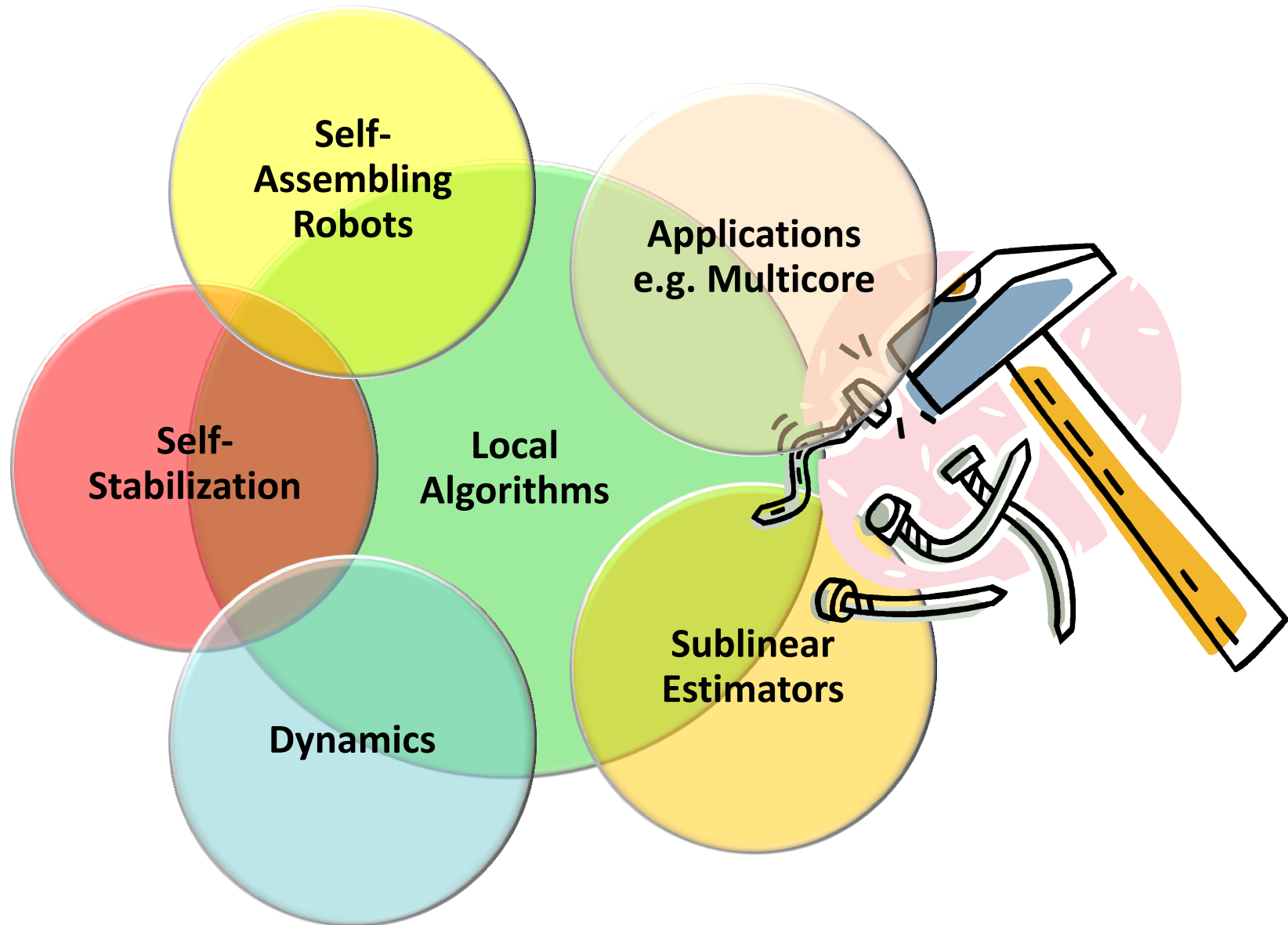
- Proof by animation: **Stabilization time is linear in the diameter of the network**
 - We need an algorithm that does not have linear causality chain („butterfly effect“)

Local Algorithms

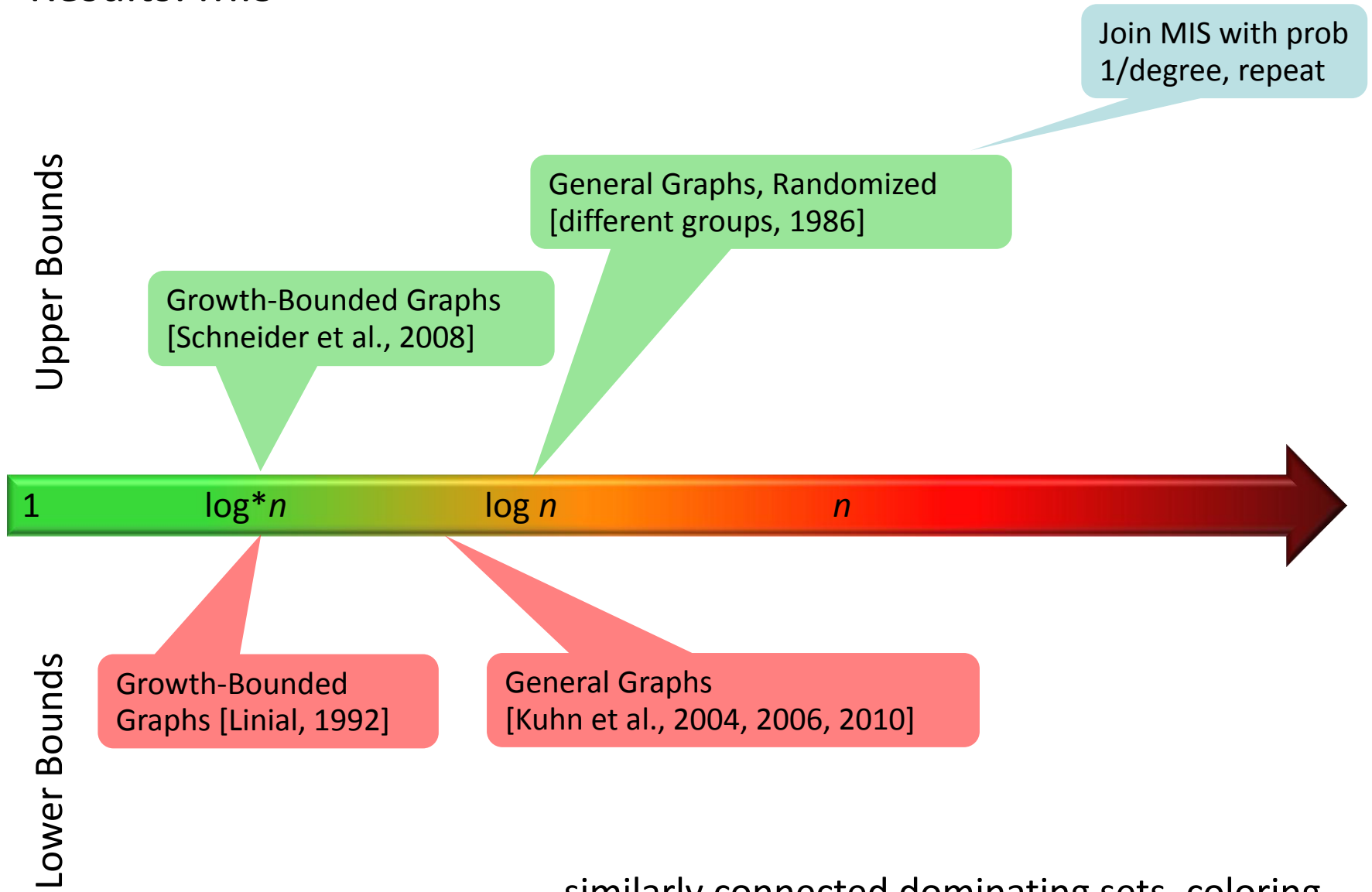
- Given a graph, each node must determine its decision as a **function of the information available within radius t** of the node.
- Or: Each node can exchange a message with all neighbors, for **t communication rounds**, and must then decide.
- Or: Change can only **affect nodes in distance t** . 
- Or: ...



Locality is Way to Understand Physical Algorithms



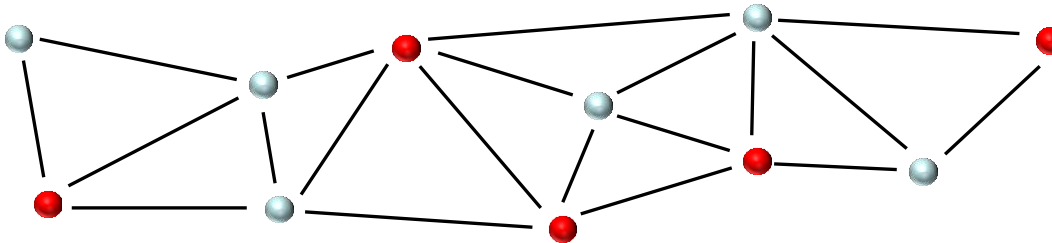
Results: MIS



...similarly connected dominating sets, coloring, matching, covering, packing, max-min LPs, etc.

Lower Bound Example: Minimum Dominating Set (MDS)

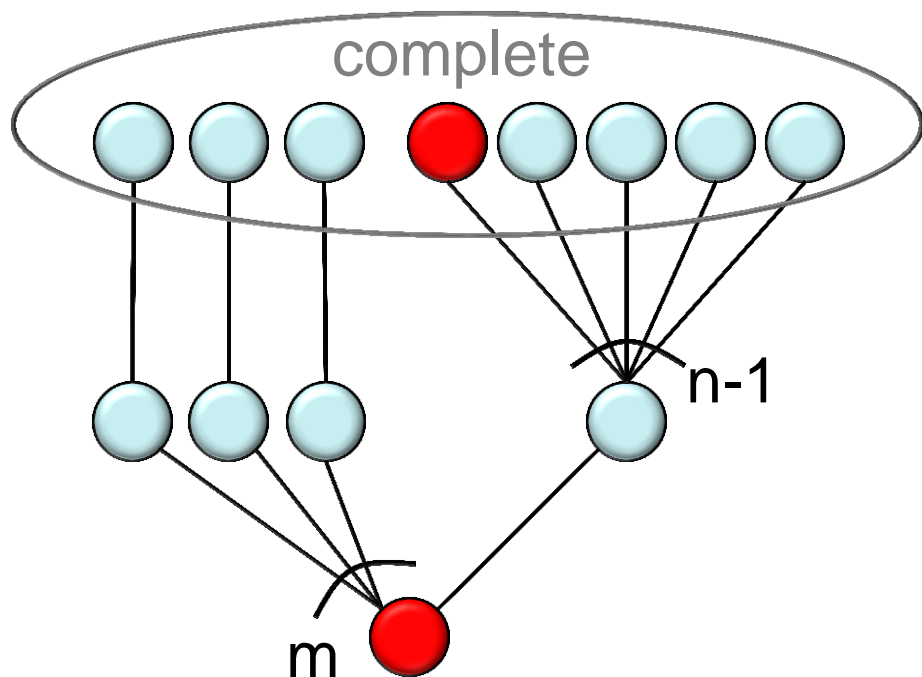
- Input: Given a graph (network), nodes with **unique IDs**.
- Output: Find a Minimum Dominating Set (MDS)
 - Set of nodes, each node is either in the set itself, or has neighbor in set



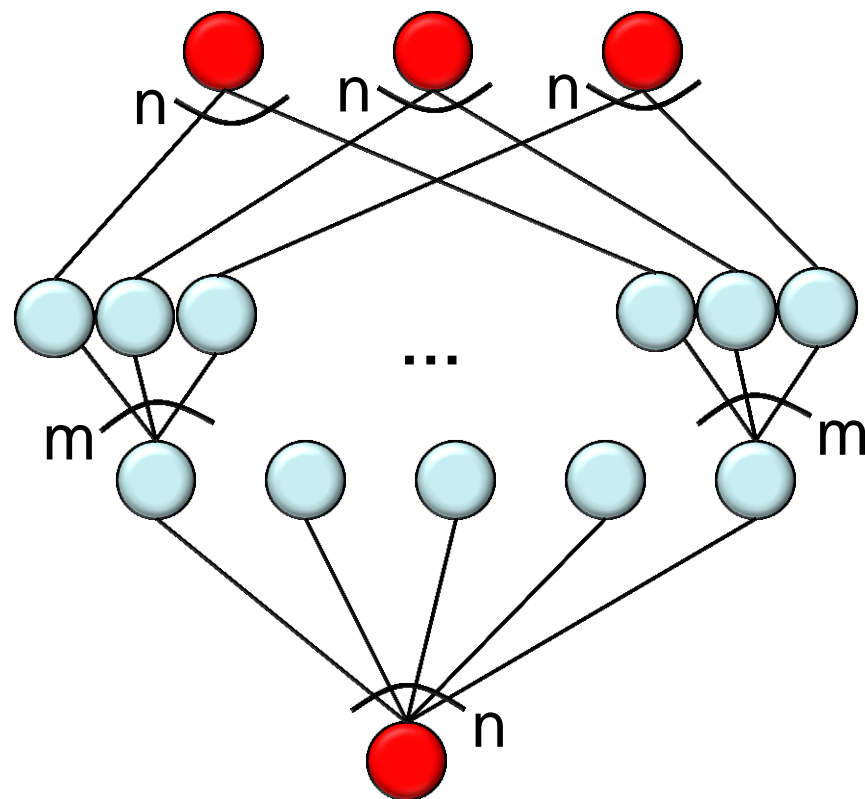
- Differences between MIS and MDS
 - Central (non-local) algorithms: MIS is trivial, whereas MDS is **NP-hard**
 - Instead: Find an MDS that is “close” to minimum (**approximation**)
 - **Trade-off** between time complexity and approximation ratio

Lower Bound for MDS: Intuition

- Two graphs ($m \ll n$). Optimal dominating sets are marked red.



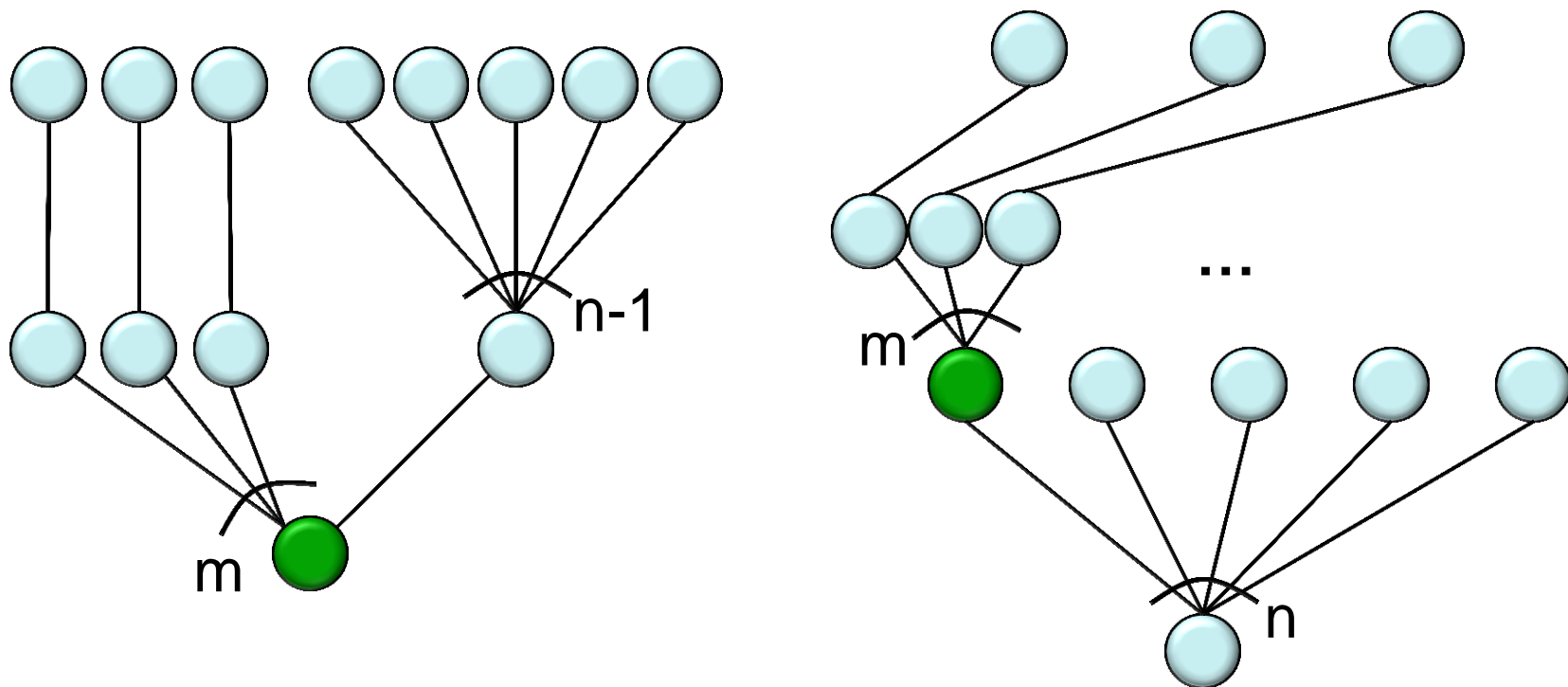
$$|DS_{OPT}| = 2.$$



$$|DS_{OPT}| = m+1.$$

Lower Bound for MDS: Intuition (2)

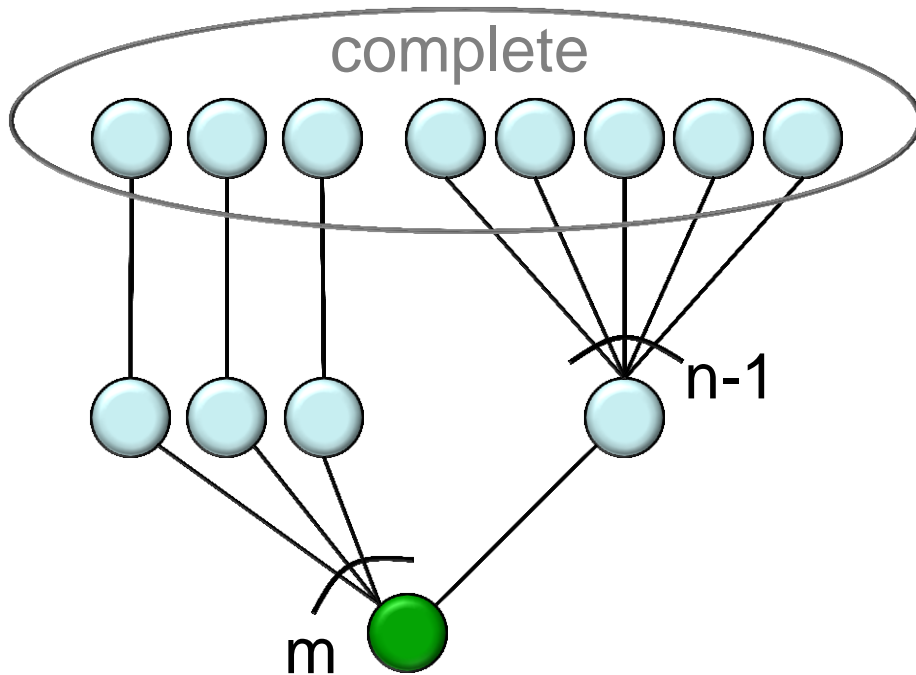
- In local algorithms, nodes must decide only using local knowledge.
- In the example **green** nodes see exactly the same neighborhood.



- So these **green** nodes must decide the same way!

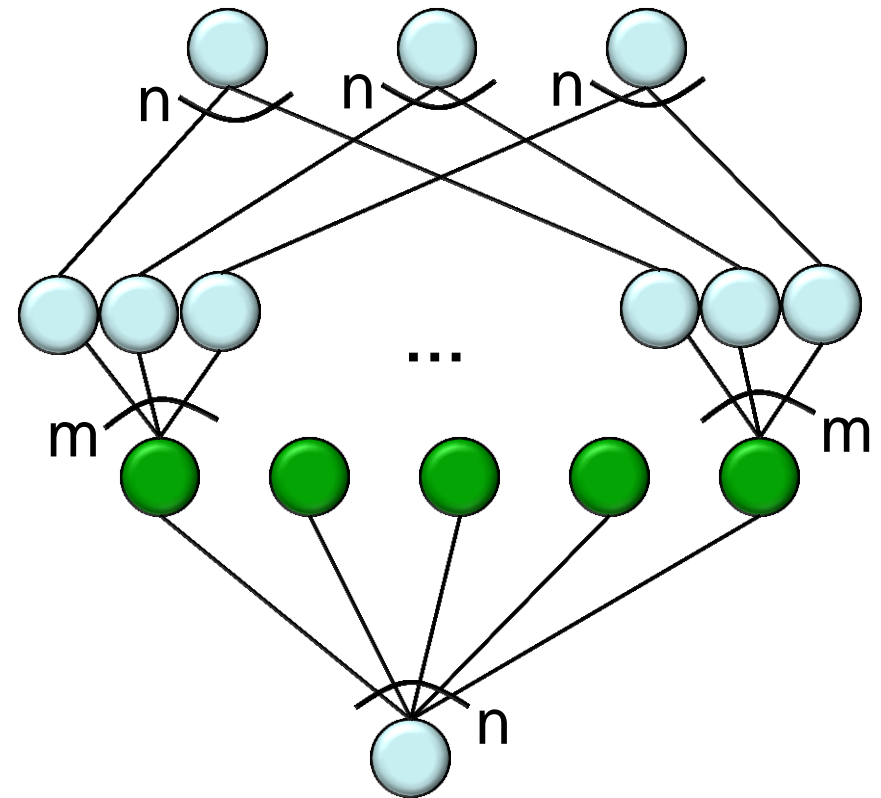
Lower Bound for MDS: Intuition (3)

- But however they decide, one way will be **devastating** (with $n = m^2$)!



$$|DS_{OPT}| = 2.$$

$$|DS_{OPT \text{ without green}}| \geq m.$$

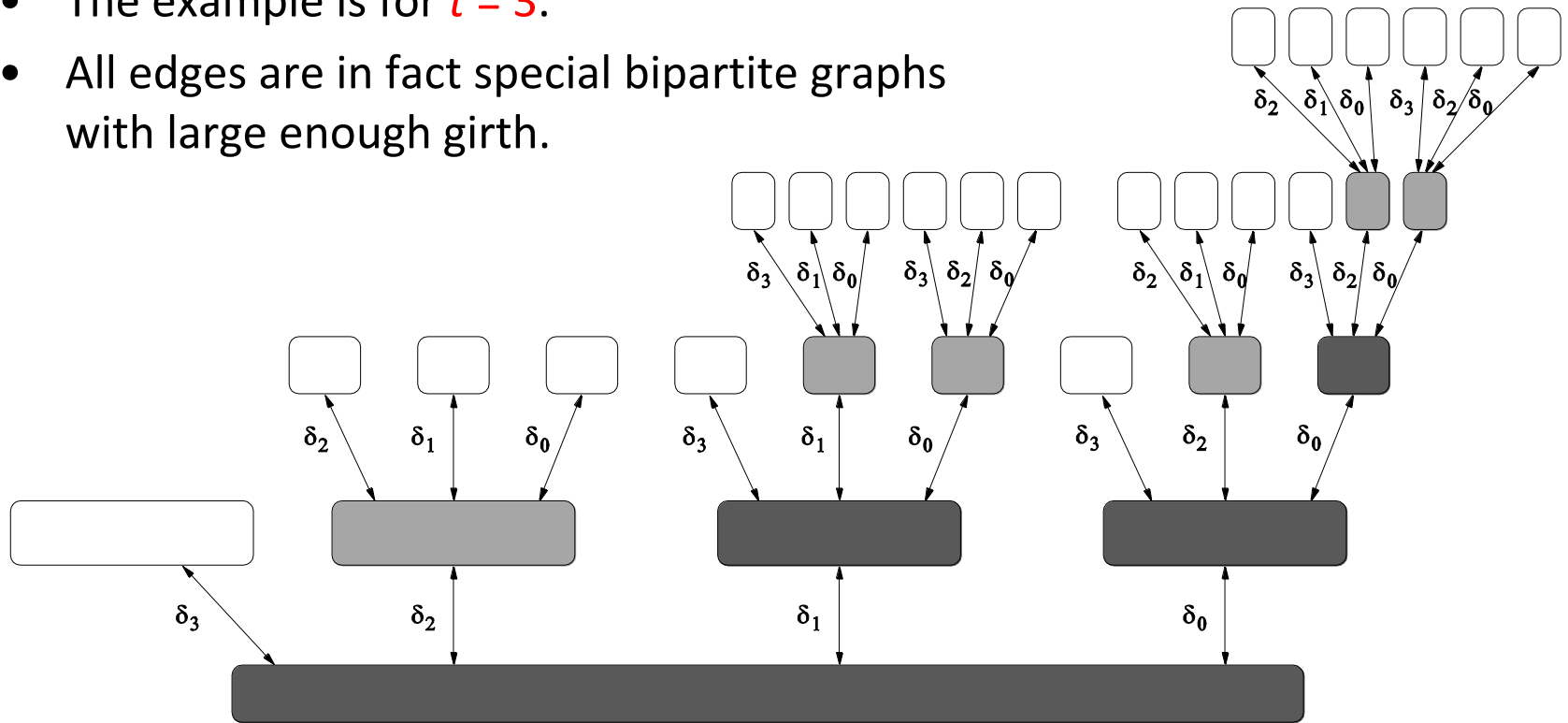


$$|DS_{OPT}| = m+1.$$

$$|DS_{OPT \text{ with green}}| > n$$

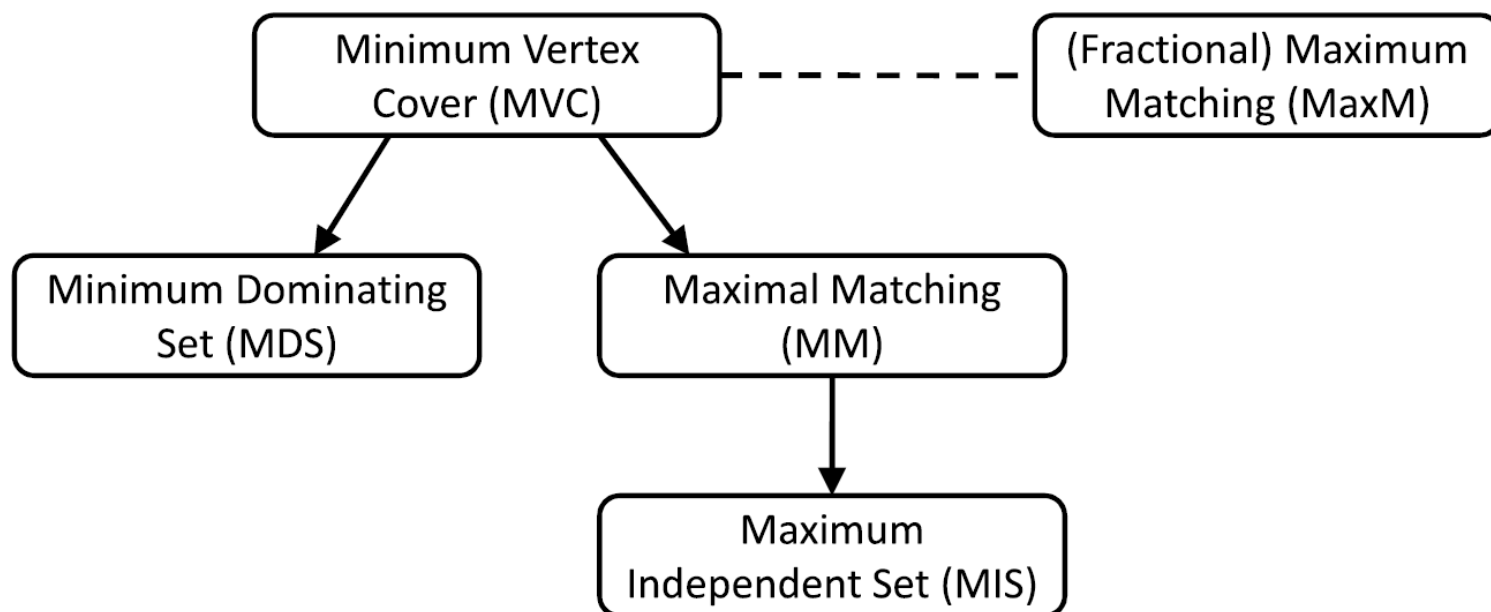
Graph Used in the Lower Bound

- The example is for $t = 3$.
- All edges are in fact special bipartite graphs with large enough girth.

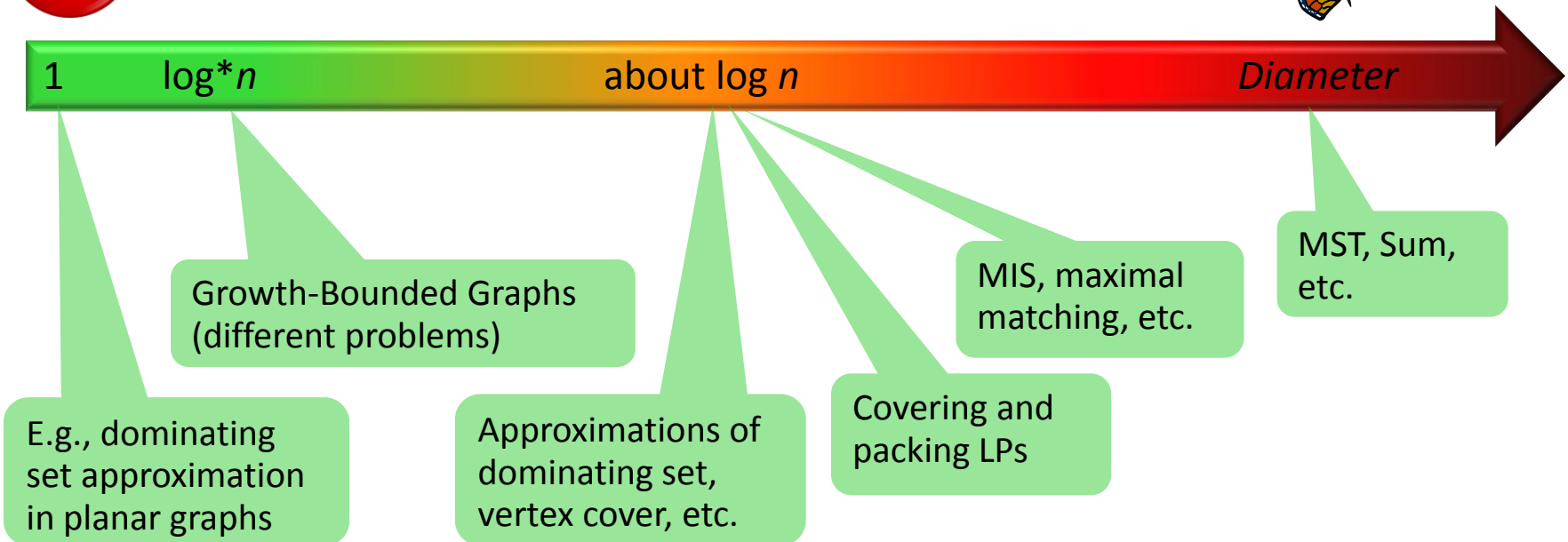


Lower Bounds

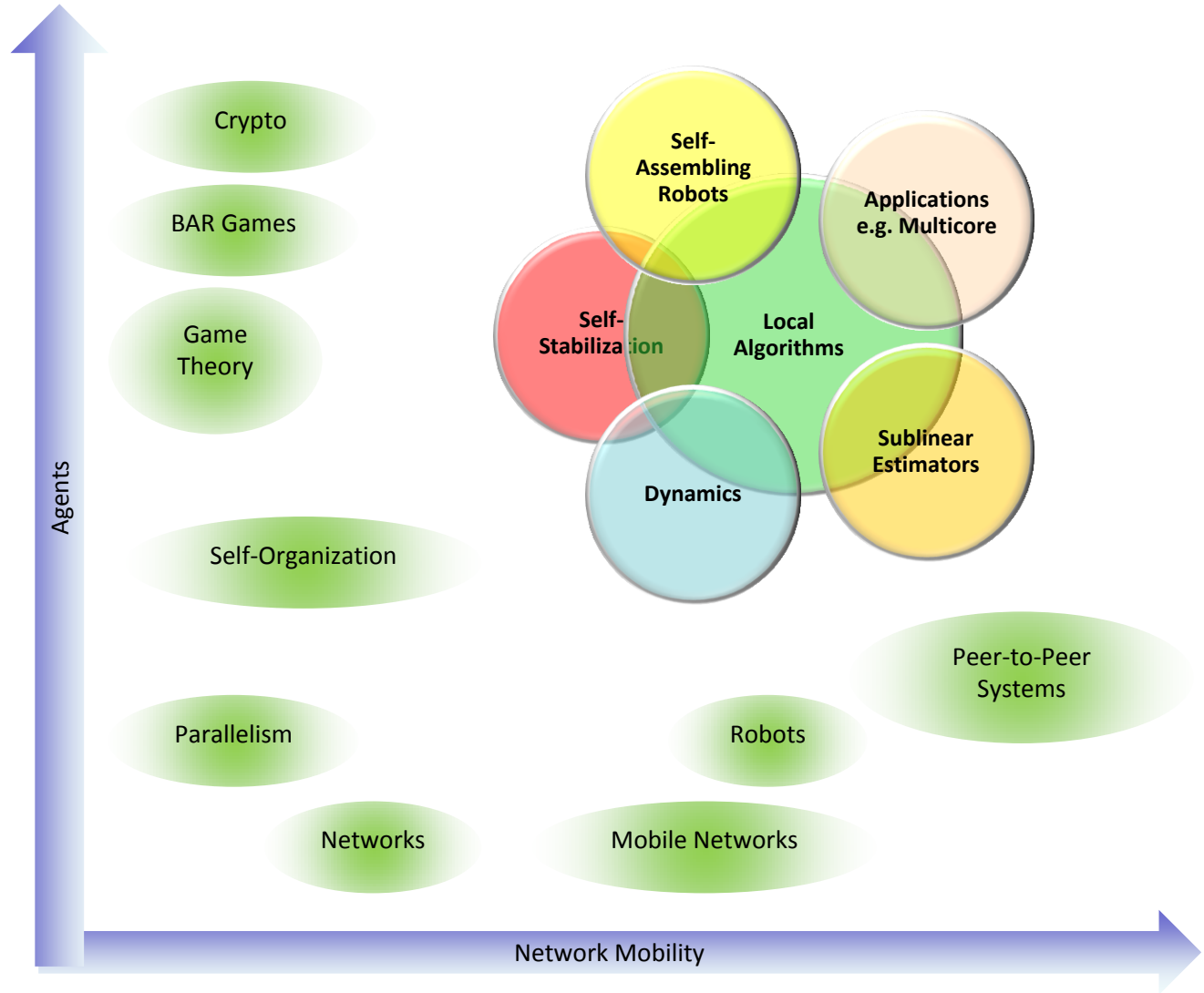
- Results: Many “local looking” problems need non-trivial t .
- E.g., a polylogarithmic dominating set approximation (or a maximal independent set, etc.) needs at least $\Omega(\log \Delta)$ and $\Omega(\log^{1/2} n)$ time.



Local Algorithms (“Tight” Lower & Upper Bounds)



Summary & Open Problems



Thank You!

Questions & Comments?



Thanks to my co-authors

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Johannes Schneider

Philipp Sommer

www.disco.ethz.ch

*Let's get
Physical!*



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Roger Wattenhofer