



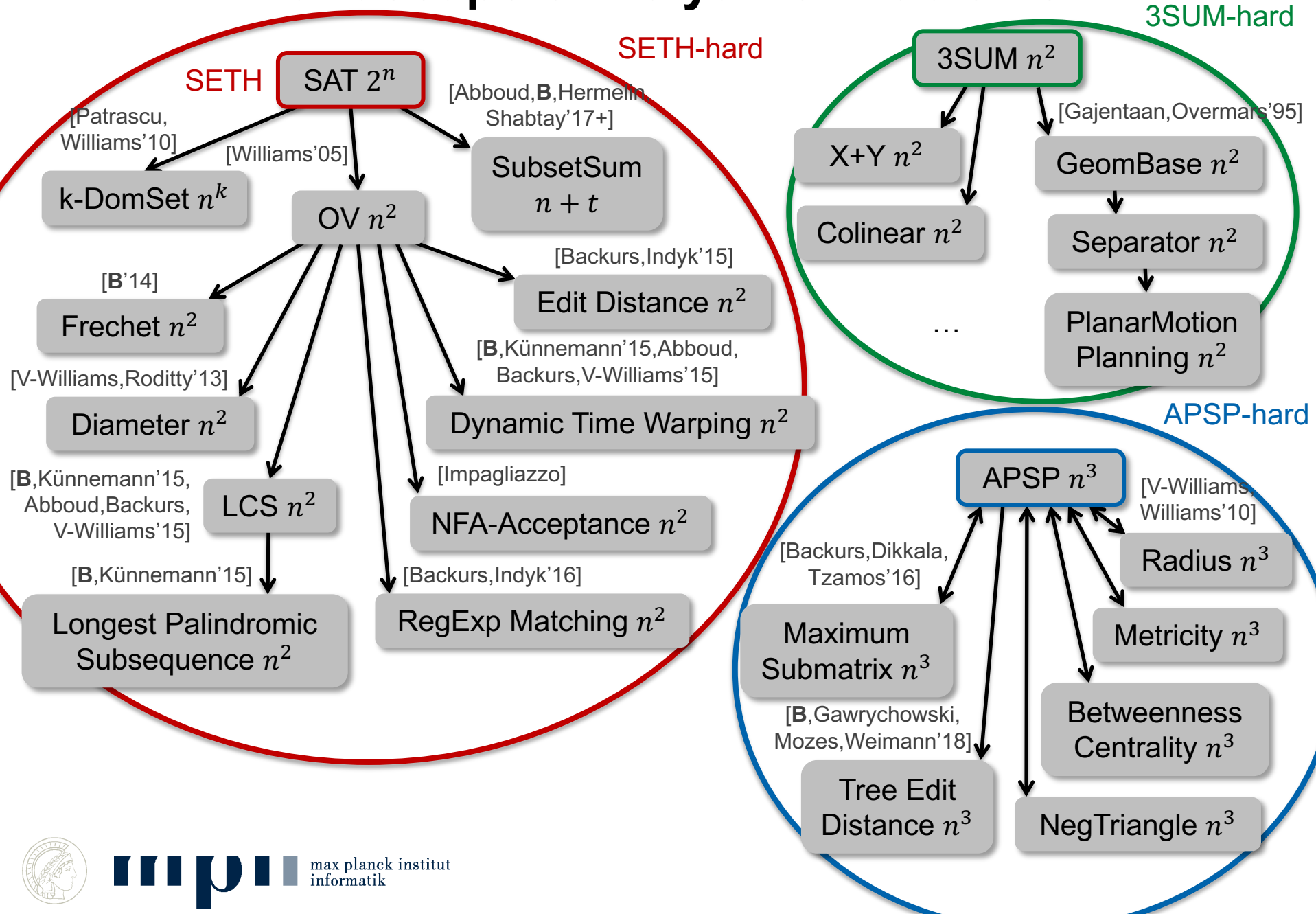
max planck institut  
informatik

# **Fine-Grained Complexity - Hardness in P**

Lecture 3: 3SUM

**Karl Bringmann**

# Landscape of Polytime Problems



# 3SUM

**Problem 3SUM:** Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$   
are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

**Algorithms:** Naïve:  $O(n^3)$   
Well-known:  $O(n^2)$

**3SUM-Hypothesis:**  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ : 3SUM has no  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ -time algorithm  
[Gajentaan, Overmars'95]

We assume that we can add/subtract/compare input integers in constant time

Can assume that the  $a_i, b_j, c_k$  are **distinct** and from some **universe**  $\{1, \dots, U\}$

**Proof:** Set  $M$  such that  $|a_i|, |b_j|, |c_k| < M$  for all  $i, j, k$

Add:  $2M$  to every  $a_i$   
 $4M$  to every  $b_j$   
 $6M$  to every  $c_k$

Resulting instance is **equivalent**,  
has **distinct** input numbers,  
and **universe**  $\{1, \dots, 7M\}$



# 3SUM

**Problem 3SUM:** Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$   
are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

**Algorithms:** Naïve:  $O(n^3)$   
Well-known:  $O(n^2)$

**3SUM-Hypothesis:**  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ : 3SUM has no  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ -time algorithm  
[Gajentaan, Overmars'95]

**$O(n^2 \log n)$ -time algorithm:**

sort  $c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $i, j$ :

binary search for  $a_i + b_j$

among  $c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

**$O(n^2)$ -time randomized algorithm:**

put each  $c_k$  into a hashmap

for each  $i, j$ :

check whether  $a_i + b_j$

is in the hashmap



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...	$a_n$
$b_1$					
$b_2$					
$b_3$					
...					
$b_n$					



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...	$a_n$			
$b_1$								
$b_2$								
$b_3$								
...								
$b_n$								



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$


while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...	$a_n$			
$b_1$								
$b_2$								
$b_3$								
...								
$b_n$								



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$


while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...	$a_n$			
$b_1$								
$b_2$								
$b_3$								
...								
$b_n$								





# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...	$a_n$	
$b_1$						●
$b_2$						
$b_3$						
...						
$b_n$						



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...			$a_n$
$b_1$						●	
$b_2$							
$b_3$							
...							
$b_n$							



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...			$a_n$
$b_1$						●	
$b_2$							
$b_3$							
...							
$b_n$							



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...			$a_n$
$b_1$						●	
$b_2$							
$b_3$							
...							
$b_n$							



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...	$a_n$
$b_1$					
$b_2$					
$b_3$					
...					
$b_n$					

A 2D grid representing the search space for the quadratic algorithm. The columns are labeled  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$  and the rows are labeled  $b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_n$ . The grid is shaded light blue. A dashed vertical line is drawn between the column  $a_3$  and the column  $a_n$ . A black circle is placed in the cell at the intersection of row  $b_2$  and column  $a_n$ .



# Quadratic Algorithm

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n, c_1, \dots, c_n$

are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

sort in increasing order:  $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n, b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n, c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_n$

for each  $c_k$ : check whether there are  $i, j$  s.t.  $a_i + b_j = c_k$

initialize  $i = n, j = 1$

while  $i > 0$  and  $j \leq n$ :

if  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ : return  $(a_i, b_j, c_k)$

if  $a_i + b_j > c_k$ :  $i := i - 1$

if  $a_i + b_j < c_k$ :  $j := j + 1$

return "no solution"

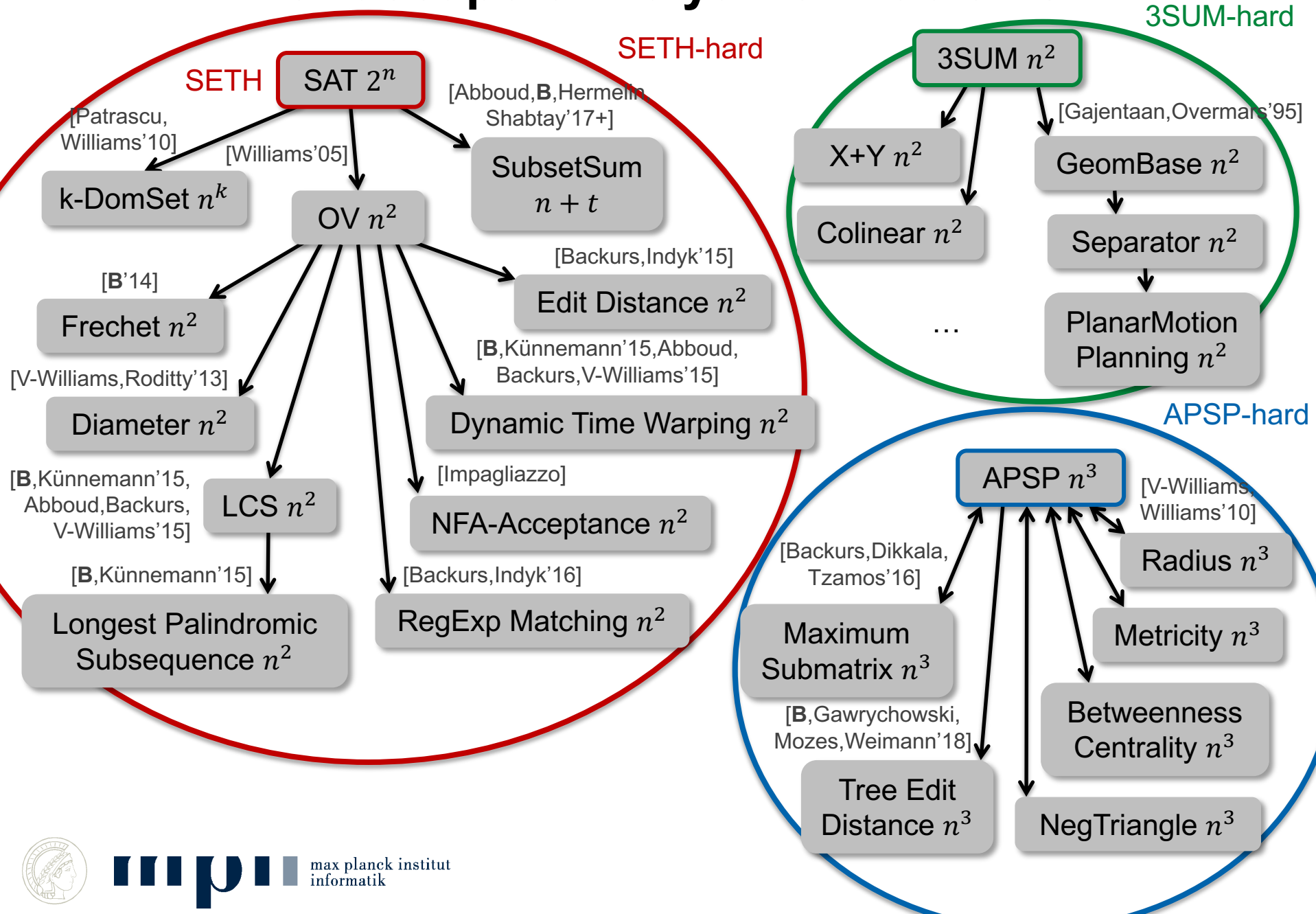
time  $O(n)$  per  $c_k$

time  $O(n^2)$  overall

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	...			$a_n$
$b_1$							
$b_2$						●	
$b_3$							
...							
$b_n$							



# Landscape of Polytime Problems



# Example: GeomBase

given a set of  $n$  points on three horizontal lines  $y = 0, y = 1, y = 2$ , determine whether there exists a non-horizontal line containing three of the points

**Thm:** GeomBase is 3SUM-hard.

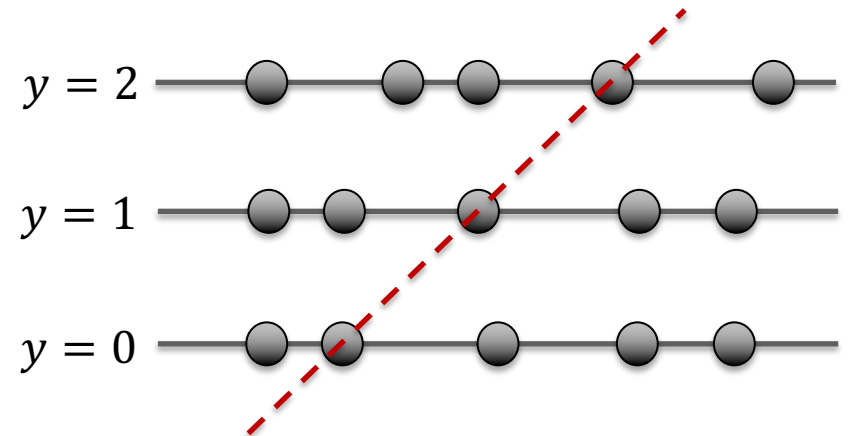
Given an instance  $(A, B, C)$  of 3SUM

construct points:

$(a, 0)$  for any  $a \in A$

$(b, 2)$  for any  $b \in B$

$(c/2, 1)$  for any  $c \in C$

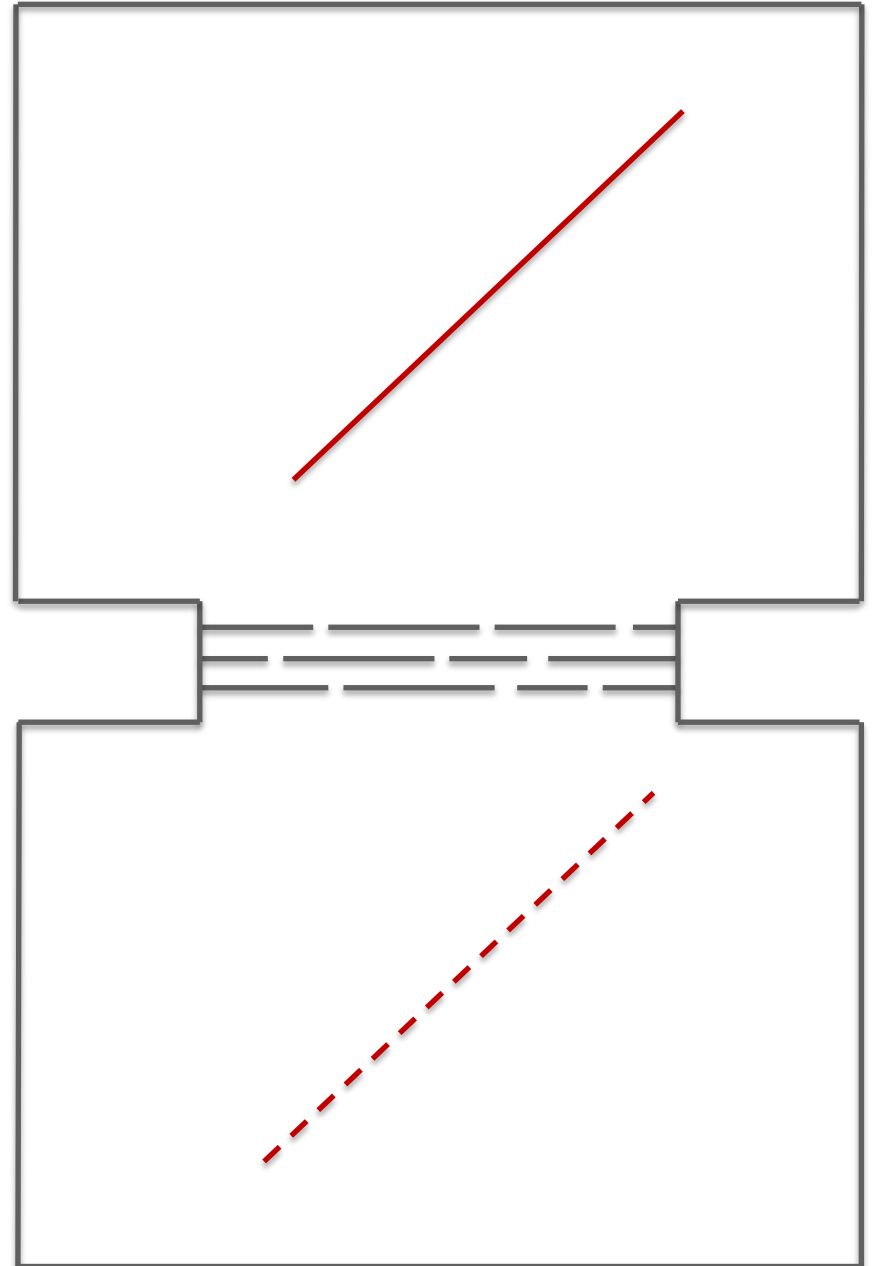


they lie on a line if  $c/2 - a = b - c/2 \Leftrightarrow a + b = c$



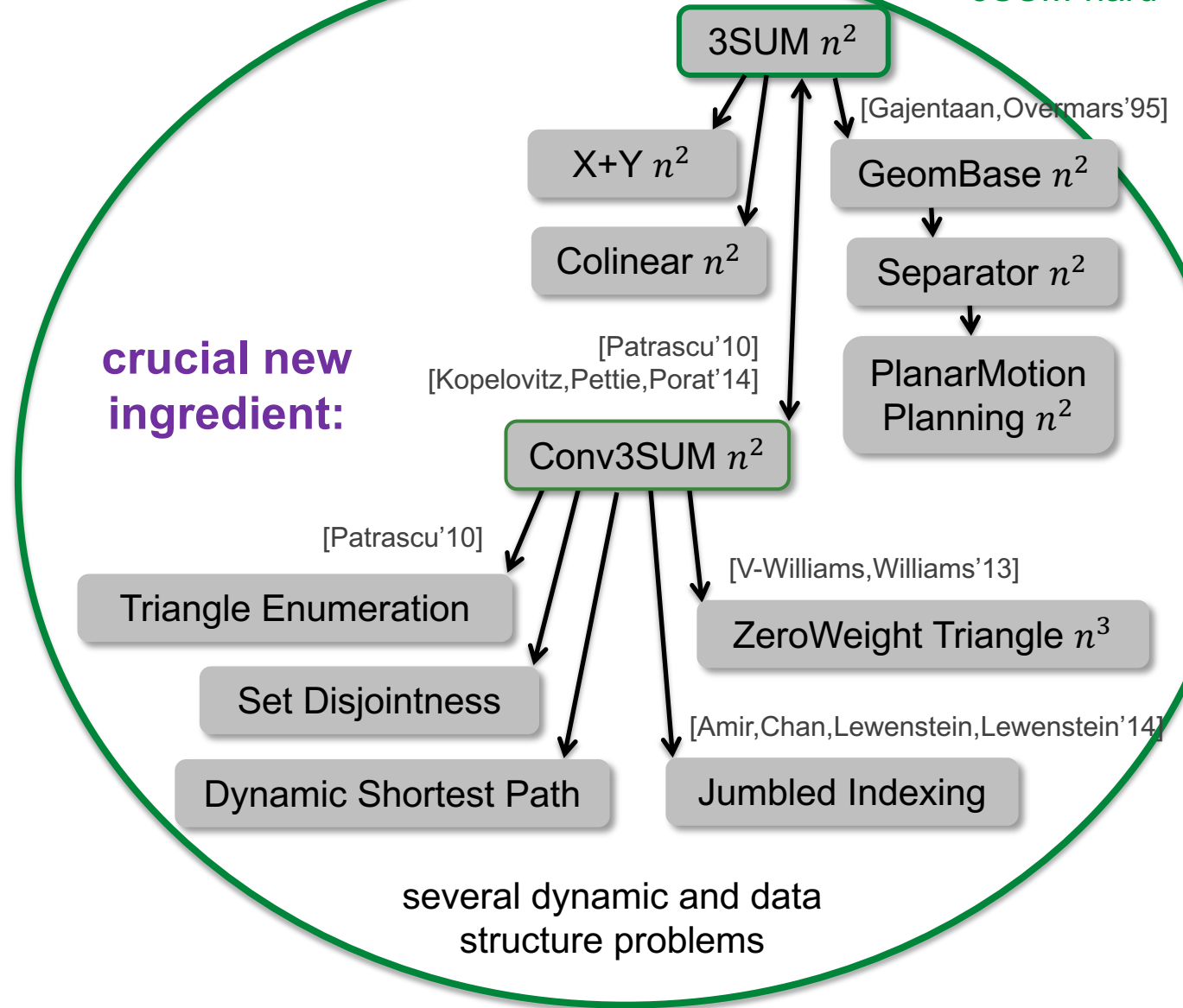
# Example Planar Motion Planning

**Thm:** PlanarMotionPlanning  
is 3SUM-hard.



# Landscape of Polytime Problems

3SUM-hard



# **I. Equivalence of 3SUM and Conv3SUM**

II. Subset Sum

III. Further Topics

IV. Conclusion



# Equivalence of 3SUM and Conv3SUM

**3SUM:** given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

**Conv3SUM:** given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $i + j = k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

**Thm:**

[Patrascu'10, Kopelovitz, Pettie, Porat'14]

- 1) If 3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then Conv3SUM is in time  $O(T(n))$
- 2) If Conv3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then 3SUM is in **randomized** time  $O(T(n))$ , with one-sided error probability  $\leq 1/2$

(Standard boosting yields any constant error probability  $\delta > 0$ )



# From Conv3SUM to 3SUM

**Thm:** 1) If 3SUM is in time  $T(n)$   
then Conv3SUM is in time  $O(T(n))$

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i + j = k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Given input  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$  for Conv3SUM, construct:

$$a'_i := a_i \cdot 3n + i \qquad b'_j := b_j \cdot 3n + j \qquad c'_k := c_k \cdot 3n + k$$

This is a YES-instance for 3SUM iff:

$$\exists i, j, k: a'_i + b'_j - c'_k = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists i, j, k: 3n \cdot (a_i + b_j - c_k) + \underbrace{(i + j - k)} = 0$$

divisible by  $3n$  iff  $i + j = k$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists i, j, k: i + j = k \text{ and } a_i + b_j = c_k$$

*„3SUM can simulate multiple linear equations“*



# Equivalent Variants of Conv3SUM

3SUM:  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Conv-3SUM:  $\exists i + j = k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $i + j = k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

$$a'_0, \dots, a'_{2n-1} = a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, \infty, \dots, \infty$$

$$b'_0, \dots, b'_{2n-1} = b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, \infty, \dots, \infty$$

$$c'_0, \dots, c'_{2n-1} = c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}, \infty, \dots, \infty$$

Assume  $a_i, b_j, c_k$  take  
values in  $\{1, \dots, U\}$

Use  $10 \cdot U$  as  $\infty$

Given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $k = (i + j) \bmod n$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?




# Equivalent Variants of Conv3SUM

3SUM:  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Conv-3SUM:  $\exists i + j = k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $i + j = k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?


$$\begin{aligned} a'_0, \dots, a'_{2n-1} &= a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, \infty, \dots, \infty \\ b'_0, \dots, b'_{2n-1} &= b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, \infty, \dots, \infty \\ c'_0, \dots, c'_{2n-1} &= c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $k = (i + j) \bmod n$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?



# Equivalent Variants of Conv3SUM

3SUM:  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Conv-3SUM:  $\exists i + j = k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $i + j = k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $i + j = k$  such that  $a_i + a_j + a_k = 0$ ?

Standard  
Version

Given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $k = (i + j) \bmod n$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?





# From 3SUM to Conv3SUM

**Thm:** 2) If Conv3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then 3SUM is in randomized time  $O(T(n))$

Given input  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$  for 3SUM

$A := \{a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}\}, B := \{b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}\}, C := \{c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}\},$

$\Omega := A \cup B \cup C$

(Can assume that input numbers are distinct)

Assume *magic* hash function  $h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$  s.t.

**Linearity:**  $h(x + y) = (h(x) + h(y)) \bmod R$  for all  $x, y \in \Omega$

**No overfull buckets:**  $|\{x \in \Omega \mid h(x) = r\}| \leq 100n/R$  for all  $r \in \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$

*Linearity:*

$h(x + y) = h(x) + h(y) \bmod R$

*No overfull buckets:*

$|\{x \in \Omega \mid h(x) = r\}| \leq 100n/R$



# From 3SUM to Conv3SUM

**Thm:** 2) If Conv3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then 3SUM is in randomized time  $O(T(n))$

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = k\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$

*Linearity:*

$h(x + y) = h(x) + h(y) \bmod R$

*No overflow buckets:*

$|\{x \in \Omega \mid h(x) = r\}| \leq 100n/R$

or  $\infty$ , if there are less elements in the bucket

**Running Time:**  $O((n/R)^3 \cdot T(R))$

Setting  $R := n$  we obtain time  $O(T(n))$  for 3SUM



# From 3SUM to Conv3SUM

**Thm:** 2) If Conv3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then 3SUM is in randomized time  $O(T(n))$

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = k\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$

*Linearity:*

$h(x + y) = h(x) + h(y) \bmod R$

*No overflow buckets:*

$|\{x \in \Omega \mid h(x) = r\}| \leq 100n/R$

or  $\infty$ , if there are less elements in the bucket

## Correctness I:

Any Conv3SUM-solution  $a'_i + b'_j = c'_k$  has  $a'_i \in A, b'_j \in B, c'_k \in C$  (not  $\infty$ !) and thus yields a solution for 3SUM



# From 3SUM to Conv3SUM

**Thm:** 2) If Conv3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then 3SUM is in randomized time  $O(T(n))$

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = k\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

**Correctness II:** If  $A, B, C$  has a solution  $a \in A, b \in B, c \in C$  with  $a + b = c$ , then

Set  $i := h(a), j := h(b), k := h(c)$

For some  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$  we have  $a'_i = a, b'_j = b, c'_k = c \implies a'_i + b'_j = c'_k$

And  $k = h(c) = h(a + b) = (h(a) + h(b)) \bmod R = (i + j) \bmod R$

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod R$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$

*Linearity:*

$h(x + y) = h(x) + h(y) \bmod R$

*No overflow buckets:*

$|\{x \in \Omega \mid h(x) = r\}| \leq 100n/R$

or  $\infty$ , if there are less elements in the bucket



# Now Without Magic

Want: almost-linear random hash function  $h$

$$\Omega \subseteq \{1, \dots, U\}$$

fix any prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p - 1\}$  uniformly at random

$$h(x) := (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$$

$$\text{3SUM: } \exists i, j, k: a_i + b_j = c_k?$$

$$\text{Conv-3SUM: } \exists i, j, k: k = (i + j) \bmod n \\ a_i + b_j = c_k?$$

$$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$$

Linearity:

$$h(x + y) = h(x) + h(y) \bmod R$$

No overfull buckets:

$$|\{x \in \Omega \mid h(x) = r\}| \leq 100n/R$$

This random hash function  $h: \{1, \dots, U\} \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$  satisfies:

**Almost-linearity:** there is a set  $D$  of **offsets**,  $|D| = O(1)$ , s.t.

for all  $x, y \in \{1, \dots, U\}$  there exists  $d \in D$  s.t.

$$h(x + y) = (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$$

**Unlikely overfull buckets:** for any  $x \in \Omega$ :  $\Pr[\underbrace{x \text{ is in overfull bucket}}_{|\{y \in \Omega \mid h(y) = h(x)\}| > 100n/R}] \leq 1/6$   
assuming  $R \leq n$

$$|\{y \in \Omega \mid h(y) = h(x)\}| > 100n/R$$



# Now Without Magic

Want: almost-linear random hash function  $h$

$$\Omega \subseteq \{1, \dots, U\}$$

fix any prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p - 1\}$  uniformly at random

$$h(x) := (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$$

$$\text{3SUM: } \exists i, j, k: \\ a_i + b_j = c_k?$$

$$\text{Conv-} \\ \text{3SUM: } \exists i, j, k: \\ k = (i + j) \bmod n \\ a_i + b_j = c_k?$$

$$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$$

$$\text{Almost-linearity: } h(x + y) \\ = (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R \\ \text{for some } d \in D, |D| = O(1)$$

Unlikely overfull buckets:

$$\Pr[x \text{ in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$$

This random hash function  $h: \{1, \dots, U\} \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$  satisfies:

**Almost-linearity:** there is a set  $D$  of **offsets**,  $|D| = O(1)$ , s.t.

for all  $x, y \in \{1, \dots, U\}$  there exists  $d \in D$  s.t.

$$h(x + y) = (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$$

**Unlikely overfull buckets:** for any  $x \in \Omega$ :  $\Pr[x \text{ is in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$   
assuming  $R \leq n$

$$|\{y \in \Omega \mid h(y) = h(x)\}| > 100n/R$$



# Now Without Magic

*Adapted algorithm:*

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

Pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  uniformly at random

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$  and any  $d \in D$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = (k + d) \bmod R\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R-1\}$

*Almost-linearity:*  $h(x + y)$   
 $= (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$   
for some  $d \in D, |D| = O(1)$

*Unlikely overfull buckets:*

$\Pr[x \text{ in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$

**Running Time:**  $O((n/R)^3 \cdot T(R))$

Setting  $R := n$  we obtain a **randomized** algorithm in time  $O(T(n))$  for 3SUM



# Now Without Magic

*Adapted algorithm:*

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

Pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  uniformly at random

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$  and any  $d \in D$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = (k + d) \bmod R\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R-1\}$

*Almost-linearity:*  $h(x + y)$   
 $= (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$   
for some  $d \in D, |D| = O(1)$

*Unlikely overfull buckets:*

$\Pr[x \text{ in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$

## Correctness I:

Any Conv3SUM-solution  $a'_i + b'_j = c'_k$  has  $a'_i \in A, b'_j \in B, c'_k \in C$  (not  $\infty!$ )  
and thus yields a solution for 3SUM

Thus, if  $A, B, C$  has no solution, then we always return NO





# Now Without Magic

*Adapted algorithm:*

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

Pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  uniformly at random

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$  and any  $d \in D$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = (k + d) \bmod R\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

**3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

**Conv-3SUM:**  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R-1\}$

*Almost-linearity:*  $h(x + y)$   
 $= (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$   
for some  $d \in D, |D| = O(1)$

*Unlikely overfull buckets:*

$\Pr[x \text{ in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$

**Correctness II:** If  $A, B, C$  has a solution  $a \in A, b \in B, c \in C$  with  $a + b = c$ , then:

Error event  $\mathcal{E}$ :  $a, b$  or  $c$  are in an overfull bucket

By union bound,  $\Pr[\mathcal{E}] \leq 3 \cdot 1/6 = 1/2$

$\Rightarrow \Pr[\bar{\mathcal{E}}] \geq 1/2$

Assume  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$  from now on



# Now Without Magic

*Adapted algorithm:*

Given input  $A, B, C$  for 3SUM, compute:

Pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  uniformly at random

For any  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$  and any  $d \in D$ :

$a'_i :=$  the  $x$ -th element of bucket  $\{a \in A \mid h(a) = i\}$

$b'_j :=$  the  $y$ -th element of bucket  $\{b \in B \mid h(b) = j\}$

$c'_k :=$  the  $z$ -th element of bucket  $\{c \in C \mid h(c) = (k + d) \bmod R\}$

If  $a'_0, \dots, a'_{R-1}, b'_0, \dots, b'_{R-1}, c'_0, \dots, c'_{R-1}$  is a YES-instance of Conv3SUM: return YES

Return NO

3SUM:  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

Conv-3SUM:  $\exists i, j, k:$   
 $k = (i + j) \bmod n$   
 $a_i + b_j = c_k?$

$h: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R-1\}$

Almost-linearity:  $h(x + y)$   
 $= (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$   
for some  $d \in D, |D| = O(1)$

Unlikely overfull buckets:  
 $\Pr[x \text{ in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$

**Correctness II:** If  $A, B, C$  has a solution  $a \in A, b \in B, c \in C$  with  $a + b = c$ , then:

Let  $d \in D$  s.t.  $h(a + b) = (h(a) + h(b) + d) \bmod R$

Set  $i := h(a), j := h(b), k \in \{0, \dots, R-1\}$  s.t.  $h(c) = (k + d) \bmod R$

For some  $x, y, z \in \{1, \dots, 100n/R\}$  we have  $a'_i = a, b'_j = b, c'_k = c \implies a'_i + b'_j = c'_k$

And  $(k + d) \bmod R = h(c) = h(a + b) = (h(a) + h(b) + d) \bmod R = (i + j + d) \bmod R$

Thus  $k = k \bmod R = (i + j) \bmod R \implies$  We return YES with probability  $\geq 1/2$

# Equivalence of 3SUM and Conv3SUM

**3SUM:** given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

**Conv3SUM:** given integers  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, b_0, \dots, b_{n-1}, c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$   
are there  $i, j, k$  with  $i + j = k$  such that  $a_i + b_j = c_k$ ?

**Thm:**

[Patrascu'10, Kopelovitz, Pettie, Porat'14]

- 1) If 3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then Conv3SUM is in time  $O(T(n))$
- 2) If Conv3SUM is in time  $T(n)$  then 3SUM is in **randomized** time  $O(T(n))$ , with one-sided error probability  $\leq 1/2$

(Standard boosting yields any constant error probability  $\delta > 0$ )



# Hashing Analysis

fix prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p - 1\}$  u.a.r.

$h(x) = (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$

$\Omega \subseteq \{1, \dots, U\}$

fix any prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p - 1\}$  uniformly at random

$h(x) := (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$

This random hash function  $h: \{1, \dots, U\} \rightarrow \{0, \dots, R - 1\}$  satisfies:

**Almost-linearity:** there is a set  $D$  of **offsets**,  $|D| = O(1)$ , s.t.

for all  $x, y \in \{1, \dots, U\}$  there exists  $d \in D$  s.t.

$$h(x + y) = (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$$

**Unlikely overfull buckets:** for any  $x \in \Omega$ :  $\Pr[x \text{ is in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$

assuming  $R \leq n$

$$|\{y \in \Omega \mid h(y) = h(x)\}| > 100n/R$$



# Almost-Linearity

there is a set  $D$  of **offsets**,  $|D| = O(1)$ , s.t.  
for all  $x, y \in \{1, \dots, U\}$  there exists  $d \in D$  s.t.

$$h(x + y) = (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R$$

fix prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p - 1\}$  u.a.r.

$$h(x) = (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$$

$$D := \{0, -p\}$$

## Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} h(x + y) &= ((m \cdot x + m \cdot y) \bmod p) \bmod R \\ &= \left( \underbrace{((m \cdot x \bmod p) + (m \cdot y \bmod p))}_{\in \{0, \dots, 2(p-1)\}} \bmod p \right) \bmod R \\ &= ((m \cdot x \bmod p) + (m \cdot y \bmod p) + d) \bmod R \\ &\hspace{15em} \text{for some } d \in D := \{0, -p\} \\ &= (h(x) + h(y) + d) \bmod R \end{aligned}$$



# Near-Universality

for any  $x \neq y$ ,  $x, y \in \{-U, \dots, U\}$ :

$$\Pr[h(x) = h(y)] \leq 4/R$$

fix prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  u.a.r.

$$h(x) = (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$$

**Proof:**  $h(x) = h(y) \iff (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R = (m \cdot y \bmod p) \bmod R$

$$\iff \underbrace{(m \cdot x \bmod p) - (m \cdot y \bmod p)}_{\in \{-(p-1), \dots, p-1\}} = i \cdot R \quad \text{for some } i \in \mathbb{Z}$$
$$\implies -p/R < i < p/R$$

take mod  $p$ :  $\implies ((m \cdot x \bmod p) - (m \cdot y \bmod p)) \bmod p = i \cdot R \bmod p$

$$\iff (m \cdot (x - y)) \bmod p = i \cdot R \bmod p$$

Since  $|x|, |y| \leq U < p/2$ :  $|x - y| < p$

Since  $x \neq y$ :  $(x - y) \bmod p \neq 0$

Since  $p$  prime: there is inverse  $(x - y)^{-1}$



# Near-Universality

for any  $x \neq y$ ,  $x, y \in \{-U, \dots, U\}$ :

$$\Pr[h(x) = h(y)] \leq 4/R$$

fix prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  u.a.r.

$$h(x) = (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$$

**Proof:**  $h(x) = h(y) \Leftrightarrow (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R = (m \cdot y \bmod p) \bmod R$

$$\Leftrightarrow \underbrace{(m \cdot x \bmod p) - (m \cdot y \bmod p)}_{\in \{-(p-1), \dots, p-1\}} = i \cdot R \quad \text{for some } i \in \mathbb{Z}$$
$$\Rightarrow -p/R < i < p/R$$

take mod  $p$ :  $\Rightarrow ((m \cdot x \bmod p) - (m \cdot y \bmod p)) \bmod p = i \cdot R \bmod p$

$$\Leftrightarrow (m \cdot (x - y)) \bmod p = i \cdot R \bmod p$$

multiply by  $(x - y)^{-1}$ :  $\Rightarrow m \bmod p = i \cdot R \cdot (x - y)^{-1} \bmod p$   
 $= m$

So  $m$  is among the values  $M = \{i \cdot R \cdot (x - y)^{-1} \bmod p \mid -p/R < i < p/R, i \neq 0\}$

$$\text{Thus } \Pr[h(x) = h(y)] \leq \Pr[m \in M] = \frac{|M|}{p-1} \leq \frac{2p/R}{p-1} \leq 4/R$$



# Unlikely Overfull Buckets

for any  $x \in \Omega$ :  $\Pr[x \text{ is in overfull bucket}] \leq 1/6$

$$|\{y \in \Omega \mid h(y) = h(x)\}| > 100n/R$$

fix prime  $p > 2U$

pick  $m \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  u.a.r.

$$h(x) = (m \cdot x \bmod p) \bmod R$$

assuming  $R \leq n$

**Proof:** Write  $S(x) := |\{y \in \Omega \mid h(y) = h(x)\}|$

$$\mathbb{E}[S(x)] = \sum_{y \in \Omega} \Pr[h(x) = h(y)] = 1 + \sum_{y \in \Omega \setminus \{x\}} \Pr[h(x) = h(y)]$$

(by linearity of  
expectation)

$$\leq 1 + \frac{4}{R} \cdot |\Omega| \quad (\text{by near-universality})$$

$$\leq 1 + \frac{4}{R} \cdot 3n \leq 13n/R \quad (\text{by } R \leq n)$$

Markov's inequality:  $\Pr[S(x) > t] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[S(x)]}{t} \leq \frac{13n/R}{t}$

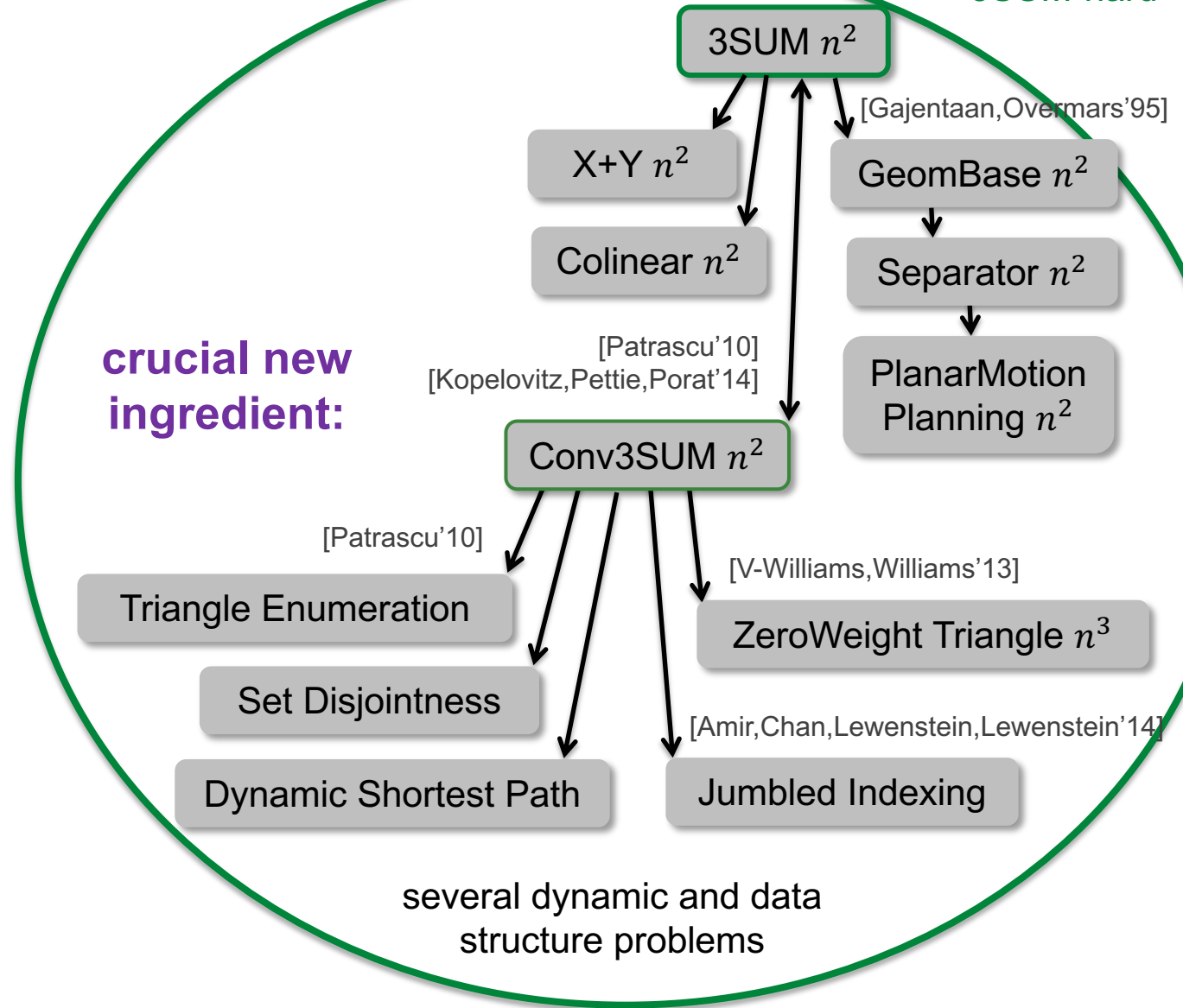
In particular:  $\Pr\left[S(x) > \frac{100n}{R}\right] \leq \frac{13n/R}{100n/R} \leq \frac{1}{6}$





# Landscape of Polytime Problems

3SUM-hard



I. Equivalence of 3SUM and Conv3SUM

**II. Subset Sum**

III. Further Topics

IV. Conclusion



max planck institut  
informatik

# Subset Sum

Given a set  $X$  of  $n$  positive integers and a target  $t$ ,  
is there a subset  $Y$  of  $X$  summing to exactly  $t$ ?

note:  $n \leq t$

many applications, connections to other problems, educational value...

**pseudopolynomial** time algorithm by dynamic programming: [Bellman'57]

$$T[i, s] := T[i - 1, s] \vee T[i - 1, s - x_i] \quad X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

time  $O(nt)$ , space  $O(t)$



# Attempts to break $O(nt)$

Is time  $O(nt)$  optimal? Is there an  $\tilde{O}(t)$  algorithm?

use basic Word RAM parallelism, word size  $w$ :  $O(nt/w)$  [Pisinger'03]

consider  $s := \max X$ ; we can assume  $s \leq t$ :  $O(ns)$  [Pisinger'99]

recent breakthrough:  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{n} \cdot t)$  [Koiliaris, Xu Arxiv'15/SODA'17]

all previous algorithms are deterministic

**Thm:**

Subset Sum is in randomized time  $\tilde{O}(t)$ .

[B. SODA'17]

one-sided error probability  $1/n$ , time  $O(t \log t \log^5 n)$



# $\tilde{O}(t)$ -Algorithm - Preliminaries

$A, B$  sets of non-negative integers

**sumset:**  $A \oplus B := \{a + b \mid a \in A \cup \{0\}, b \in B \cup \{0\}\}$

**$t$ -capped sumset:**  $A \oplus_t B := (A \oplus B) \cap \{0, \dots, t\}$

**Fact:**  $A \oplus_t B$  can be computed in time  $O(t \log t)$

**how to use „ $\oplus_t$ “:**  $X \oplus_t X$  contains forbidden sums  $x + x$  ☹️

however, for a **partitioning**  $X = X_1 \cup X_2$ :

$X_1 \oplus_t X_2$  contains only valid subset sums of  $X$

New goal: compute all valid subset sums:  $\{\Sigma(Y) \mid Y \subseteq X\} \cap \{0, \dots, t\}$

where  $\Sigma(Y) := \sum_{y \in Y} y$



# $\tilde{O}(t)$ -Algorithm - Step 1: Color Coding

we use color-coding to detect sums of **small** subsets:

ColorCoding( $X, t, k$ ):

for  $r = 1, \dots, O(\log n)$ :

consider a **random** partitioning  $X = X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_{k^2}$

compute  $S_r := X_1 \oplus_t \dots \oplus_t X_{k^2}$

return  $\cup_r S_r$

for a solution  $Y$ , we say that the partitioning *splits*  $Y$  if  $|Y \cap X_i| \leq 1$  for all  $i$

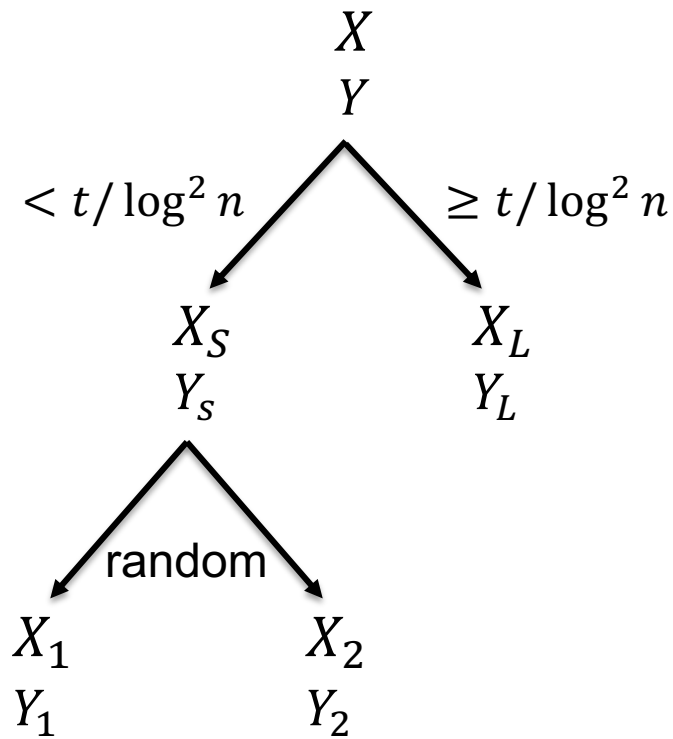
**if the partitioning splits  $Y$  then  $S_r$  contains  $\Sigma(Y)$**

since we can choose the element in  $Y \cap X_i$  (or 0) in each  $X_i$  to obtain  $\Sigma(Y)$

$\Pr[\text{random partitioning splits } Y] \geq 1/e$  by birthday paradox



# $\tilde{O}(t)$ -Algorithm – Step 2: Recursion



fix solution  $Y$  of instance  $(X, t)$

$S_L = \text{ColorCoding}(X_L, t, \log^2 n)$  contains  $Y_L$  w.h.p.

$\Sigma(Y_i) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)t/2$  for  $\varepsilon = O(1/\log n)$  w.h.p.

since either  $\Sigma(Y_S) \leq t/2$  or  $|Y_S| = \Omega(\log^2 n)$

$|X_i| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)n/2$  w.h.p.

recursively solve  $(X_1, (1 + \varepsilon)t/2) \rightarrow S_1$

recursively solve  $(X_2, (1 + \varepsilon)t/2) \rightarrow S_2$

return  $S_1 \oplus_t S_2 \oplus_t S_L$

time  $T(n, t) \leq \tilde{O}(t) + 2T((1 + \varepsilon)n/2, (1 + \varepsilon)t/2)$

$\approx \tilde{O}(t) + 2T(n/2, t/2) = \tilde{O}(t)$



# Conditional Lower Bounds

Thm:

Subset Sum is in randomized time  $\tilde{O}(t)$ .

[B. SODA'17]

*Is time  $\tilde{O}(t)$  optimal? Can we prove a conditional lower bound?*

Thm:

Subset Sum is not in time  $t^{1-\varepsilon}2^{o(n)}$  unless SETH fails.

[Abboud,B.,Hermelin,Shabtay'17+]

Strong Exponential Time Hypothesis:  
 $\forall \varepsilon > 0: \exists k: k\text{-SAT is not in time } O(2^{(1-\varepsilon)n})$





# Conditional Lower Bounds

**Thm:**

Subset Sum is in randomized time  $\tilde{O}(t)$ .

[B. SODA'17]

*Is time  $\tilde{O}(t)$  optimal? Can we prove a conditional lower bound?*

**Thm:**

Subset Sum is not in time  $t^{1-\varepsilon}2^{o(n)}$  unless SETH fails.

[Abboud,B.,Hermelin,Shabtay'17+]

---

**$k$ -Sum problem:** Given set  $A$ , are there  $a_1, \dots, a_k \in A$  with  $a_1 + \dots + a_k = 0$ ?

Recall:  $k$ -Sum is in time  $O(n + t \text{ polylog } t)$  and in time  $O(n^{\lceil k/2 \rceil} \log n)$  (for const.  $k$ )

**Cor:**

$k$ -Sum is not in time  $t^{1-\varepsilon}n^{o(k)}$  unless SETH fails.

[Abboud,B.,Hermelin,Shabtay'17+]



# Ingredient: $k$ -sum-free Sets

$S \subseteq \{1, \dots, U\}$  is called  $k$ -sum-free if  $\forall \ell \leq k: \forall x_1, \dots, x_\ell, x \in S:$

$$x_1 + \dots + x_\ell = \ell \cdot x \quad \Rightarrow \quad x_1 = \dots = x_\ell = x$$

Consistency  
constraint

**Thm:** For any  $k, n$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a  $k$ -sum-free set  $S$  [Behrend'46]  
of size  $n$  over universe  $U = n^{1+\varepsilon} k^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$

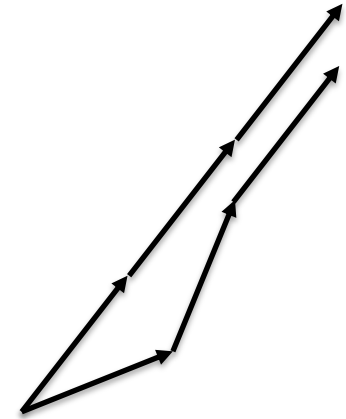
**Proof:**  $R := \{y \in [b]^r \mid \|y\| = z\}$  is  $k$ -sum-free

since  $\|\ell \cdot y\| = \ell \cdot z$

but  $\|y_1 + \dots + y_\ell\| < \ell \cdot z$  if  $y_i \neq y_j$  for some  $i, j$

embed  $R$  into the integers:

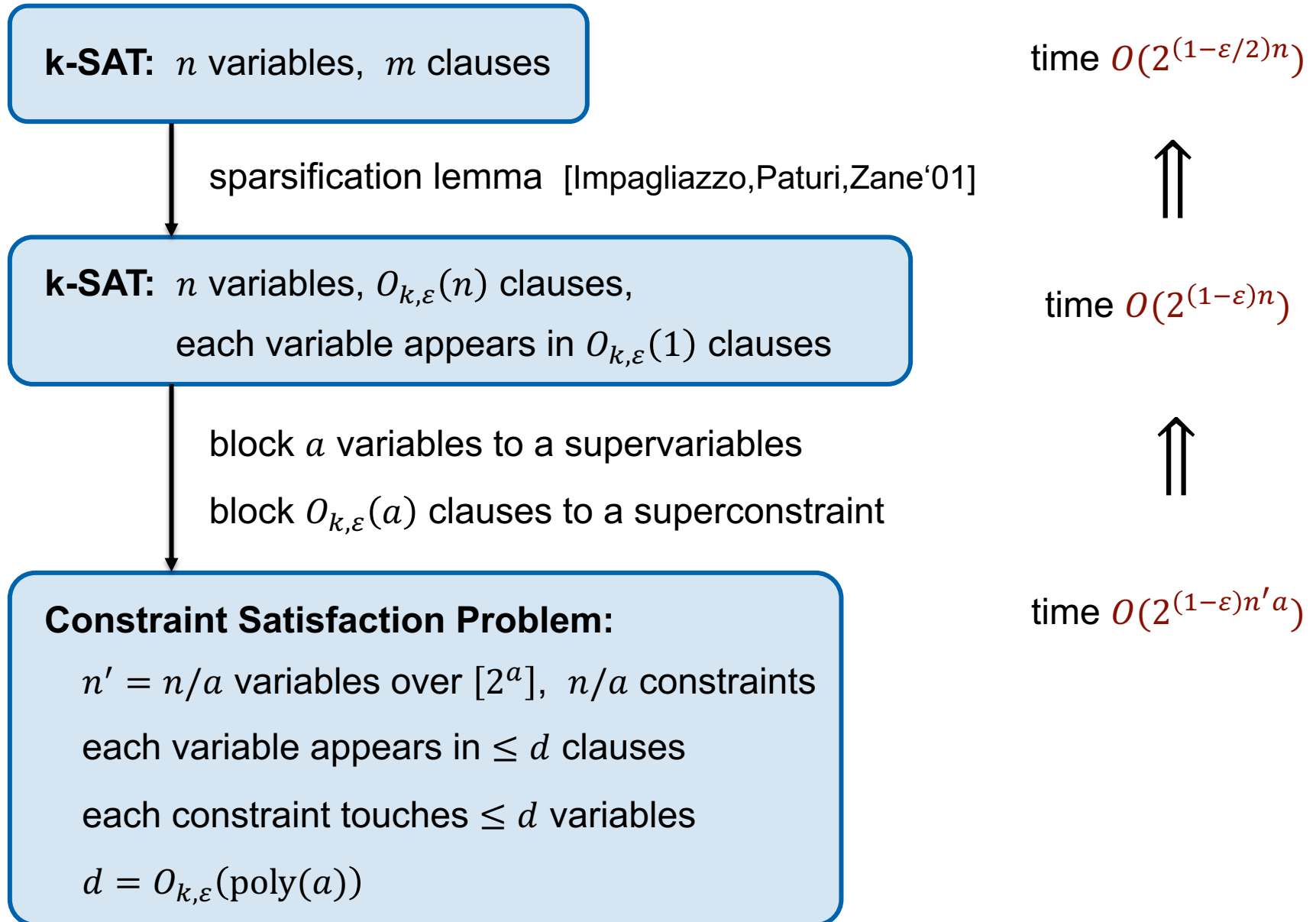
$S := \{\sum_{i=1}^r y[i] \cdot (kb)^{i-1} \mid y \in R\}$  is  $k$ -sum-free, since there is no overflow



0 ... 0 $y[r]$	...	0 ... 0 $y[2]$	0 ... 0 $y[1]$
----------------	-----	----------------	----------------



# SETH-Hardness of Subset Sum I



# SETH-Hardness of Subset Sum II

Subset Sum  
instance:

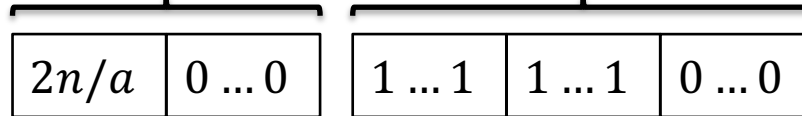
highest bits

lowest bits

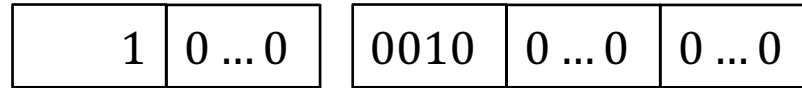
$2 \log n$  bits

$3n/a$  bits

**target  $t$ :**



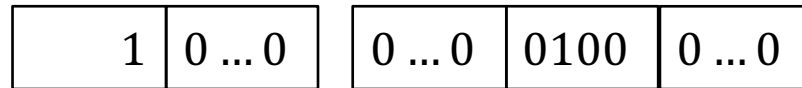
**item  $(x, \alpha)$ :**



for any variable  $x$ ,  
assignment  $\alpha \in [2^a]$

at position corresponding to  $x$

**item  $(C, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$ :**



for any constraint  
 $C = C(x_1, \dots, x_s)$ ,  
satisfying assignment  
 $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s \in [2^a]$

at position corresponding to  $C$



choose exactly

choose exactly one item

$2n/a$  items

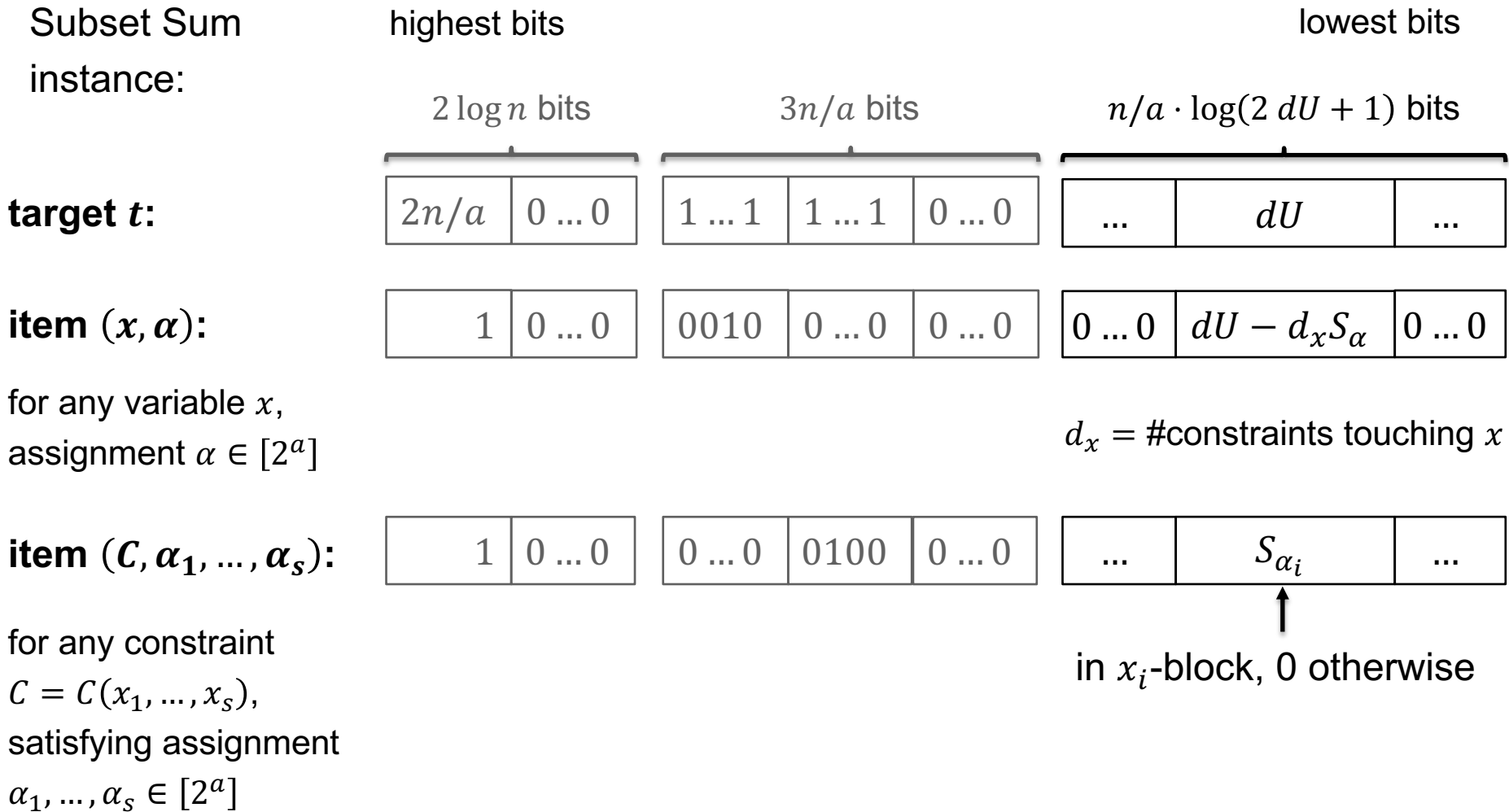
$\Rightarrow$

for each variable and

each clause



# SETH-Hardness of Subset Sum II

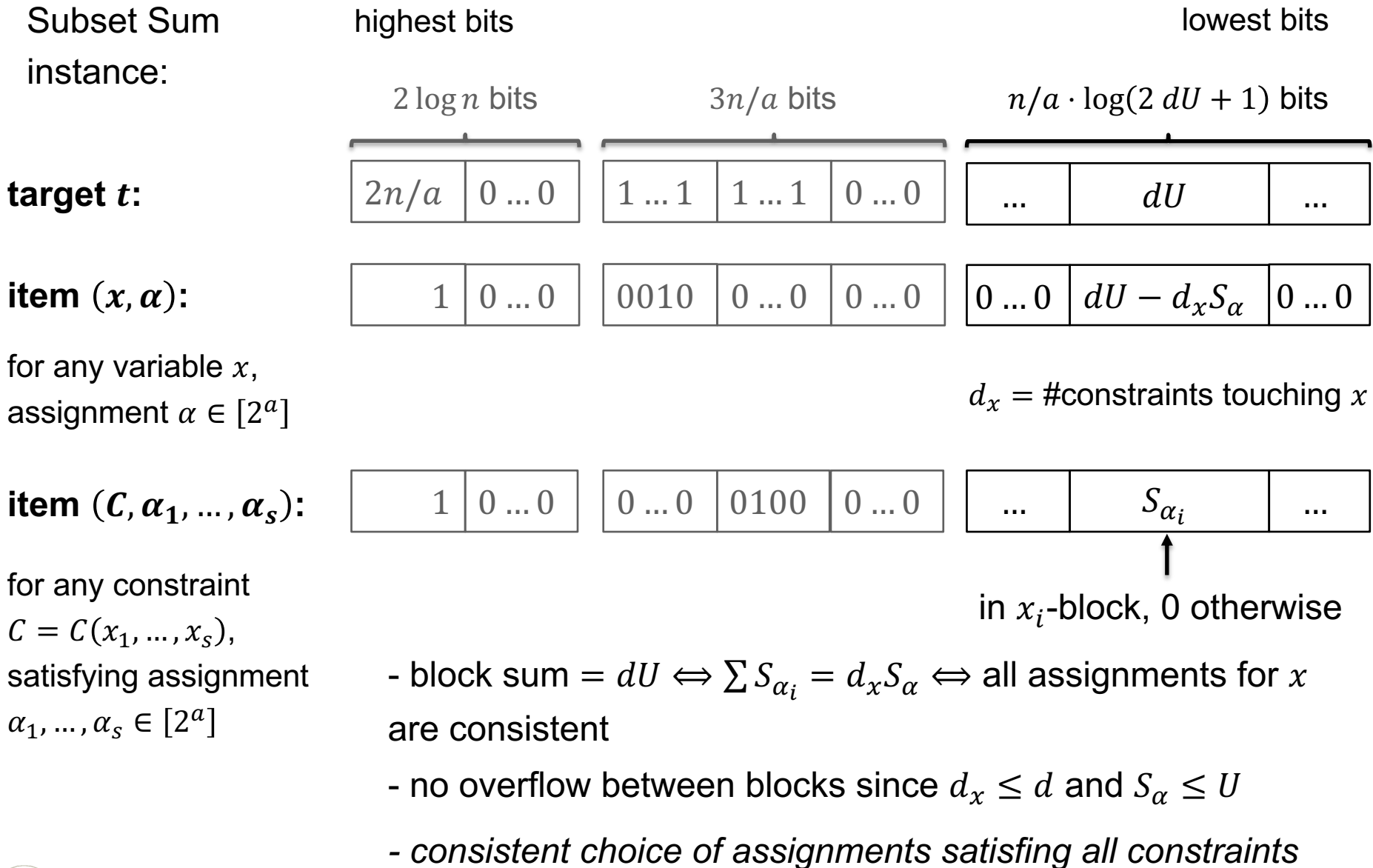


construct  $d$ -sum-free set  $S \subseteq [U]$  of size  $2^a$  with  $U = 2^{(1+\varepsilon)a} d^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$

write  $S = \{S_1, \dots, S_{2^a}\}$ , construction time  $T(a, k, \varepsilon) = O(1)$



# SETH-Hardness of Subset Sum II



# SETH-Hardness of Subset Sum II



for any constraint  
 $C = C(x_1, \dots, x_s)$ ,  
satisfying assignment  
 $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s \in [2^a]$

recall:

$$\#bits = n/a \cdot \log(O(dU))$$

$$d = O_{k,\varepsilon}(\text{poly}(a))$$

$$= (1 + \varepsilon)n + O_{k,\varepsilon}(n \log(a)/a)$$

$$U = 2^{(1+\varepsilon)a} d^{O(1/\varepsilon)}$$

$$\leq (1 + 2\varepsilon)n$$

for sufficiently large  $a = a(k, \varepsilon)$

$$\#items = O_{k,\varepsilon}(n)$$

**$t^{1-4\varepsilon} 2^{o(n)}$  algorithm for Subset Sum would break SETH**



# Conditional Lower Bounds

**Thm:**

Subset Sum is in randomized time  $\tilde{O}(t)$ .

[B. SODA'17]

*Is time  $\tilde{O}(t)$  optimal? Can we prove a conditional lower bound?*

**Thm:**

Subset Sum is not in time  $t^{1-\varepsilon}2^{o(n)}$  unless SETH fails.

[Abboud, B., Hermelin, Shabtay'17+]





I. Equivalence of 3SUM and Conv3SUM

II. Subset Sum

**III. Further Topics**

IV. Conclusion



# More Algorithms for 3SUM

trivial:  $O(n^3)$

well-known:  $O(n^2)$

using Word RAM bit-tricks:  $O\left(n^2 \cdot \frac{\log^2 w}{w}\right)$ ,  $O\left(n^2 \cdot \frac{(\log \log n)^2}{\log^2 n}\right)$   
(cell size  $w = \Omega(\log n)$ ,  
each number fits in a cell)

[Baran, Demaine, Patrascu'05]

no bit-tricks:  $O\left(n^2 \cdot \frac{(\log \log n)^{O(1)}}{\log^2 n}\right)$

[Gronlund, Pettie'14]

[Gold, Sharir'15]

[Chan'17]

---

decision tree complexity:  $O\left(n^{\frac{3}{2}} \cdot \sqrt{\log n}\right)$

[Gronlund, Pettie'14]

$O(n \cdot \log^2 n)$

[Kane, Lovett, Moran'18]



# Strong 3SUM Hypothesis

using FFT: 3SUM is in time  $O(n + U \text{ polylog } U)$  over universe  $\{1, \dots, U\}$

3SUM over any universe  $\{1, \dots, n^c\}$  is equivalent to 3SUM over universe  $\{1, \dots, n^3\}$   
via hashing, follows from [Baran, Demaine, Patrascu'05]

**Strong 3SUM Hypothesis:** 3SUM over universe  $\{1, \dots, n^2\}$  is not in time  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$



# (min,+)-Convolution

## Problem (min,+)-Convolution:

Given integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n$ , compute  $c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}$  with

$$c_k := \min_{1 \leq i \leq k} a_i + b_{k-i}$$

## (min,+)-Conv-Hypothesis:

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ : (min,+)-Conv has no  $O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ -time algorithm

APSP,  $n^3$

3SUM,  $n^2$



[Bremner  
et al.'06]

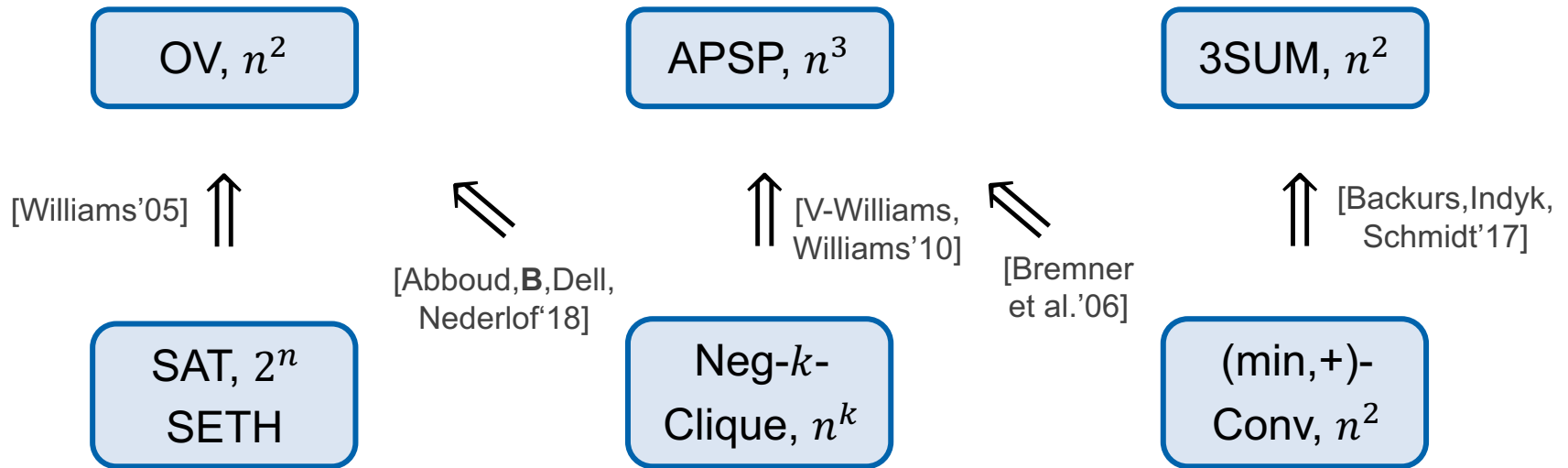


[Backurs, Indyk,  
Schmidt'17]

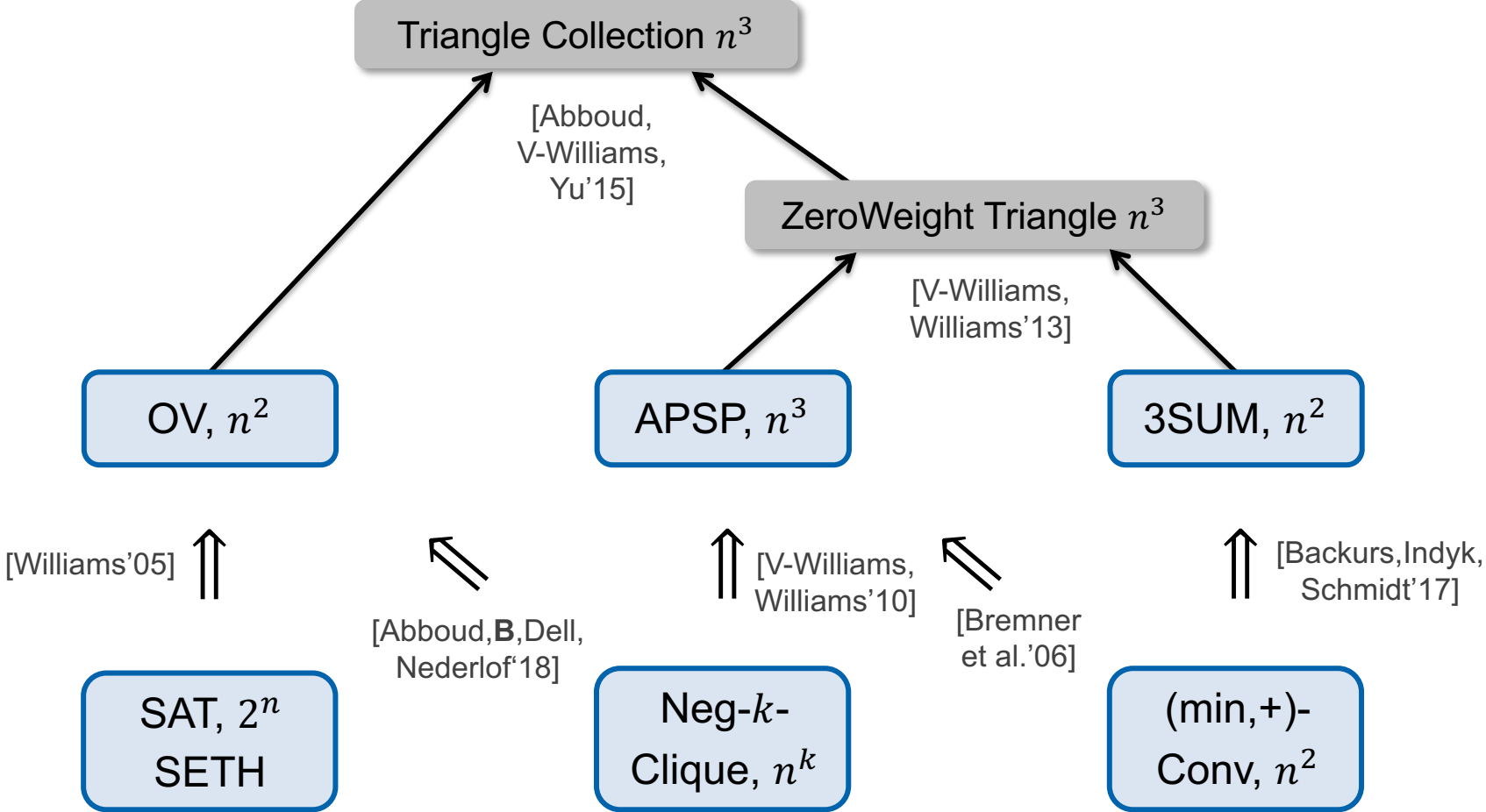
(min,+)-  
Conv,  $n^2$



# Current Landscape of Hypotheses



# Harder Problems



I. Equivalence of 3SUM and Conv3SUM

II. Subset Sum

III. Further Topics

**IV. Conclusion**



# Conv3SUM

3SUM-hard

SETH

SAT  $2^n$

[Abboud, B, Hermelin, Shabtay'17+]

SubsetSum  
 $n + t$

we have seen:

$k$ -sum-free sets

almost-linear hashing

further topics,  
e.g. (min,+)-Conv

crucial new ingredient:

3SUM  $n^2$

X+Y  $n^2$

Colinear  $n^2$

[Patrascu'10]  
[Kopelovitz, Pettie, Porat'14]

Conv3SUM  $n^2$

[Patrascu'10]

Triangle Enumeration

Set Disjointness

Dynamic Shortest Path

[Gajentaan, Overmars'95]

GeomBase  $n^2$

Separator  $n^2$

Planar Motion Planning  $n^2$

[V-Williams, Williams'13]

ZeroWeight Triangle  $n^3$

[Amir, Chan, Lewenstein, Lewenstein'14]

Jumbled Indexing

several dynamic and data structure problems

Open: **Knapsack**: improve time  $O(nW)$  to  $O(n^2 + W)$ ?

Is **3SUM** over universe  $\{1, \dots, n^2\}$  equivalent to 3SUM?