

# **Distributed Verification and Hardness of Distributed Approximation 2**

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KTH

Based on

**Distributed Verification and Hardness of Distributed  
Approximation, STOC 2011 & SICOMP 2012,**

with Atish Das Sarma, Stephan Holzer, Liah Kor, Amos Korman,  
Gopal Pandurangan, David Peleg, Roger Wattenhofer

**Recap from last time**

**Direct Equality Verification**  
lower bound  $\Omega(b)$

Part 3.3

**Distributed Equality Verification**  
lower bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Well-known result in  
communication complexity

By the Simulation  
theorem

Part 3.2

$\Omega(b)$

ST verification lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Part 3.1

Approx MST lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

## Notes

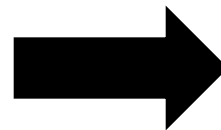
- The lower bounds hold on graphs of diameter  $D=O(\log n)$
- For simplicity, we will consider only  $D=O(n^{1/4})$

# Simulation Theorem

If the **distributed** equality verification can be solved in **T** days, for any  **$T \leq b/2$** , then the **direct** version can be solved in  **$\leq T$**  days



time:  **$T < b/2$**



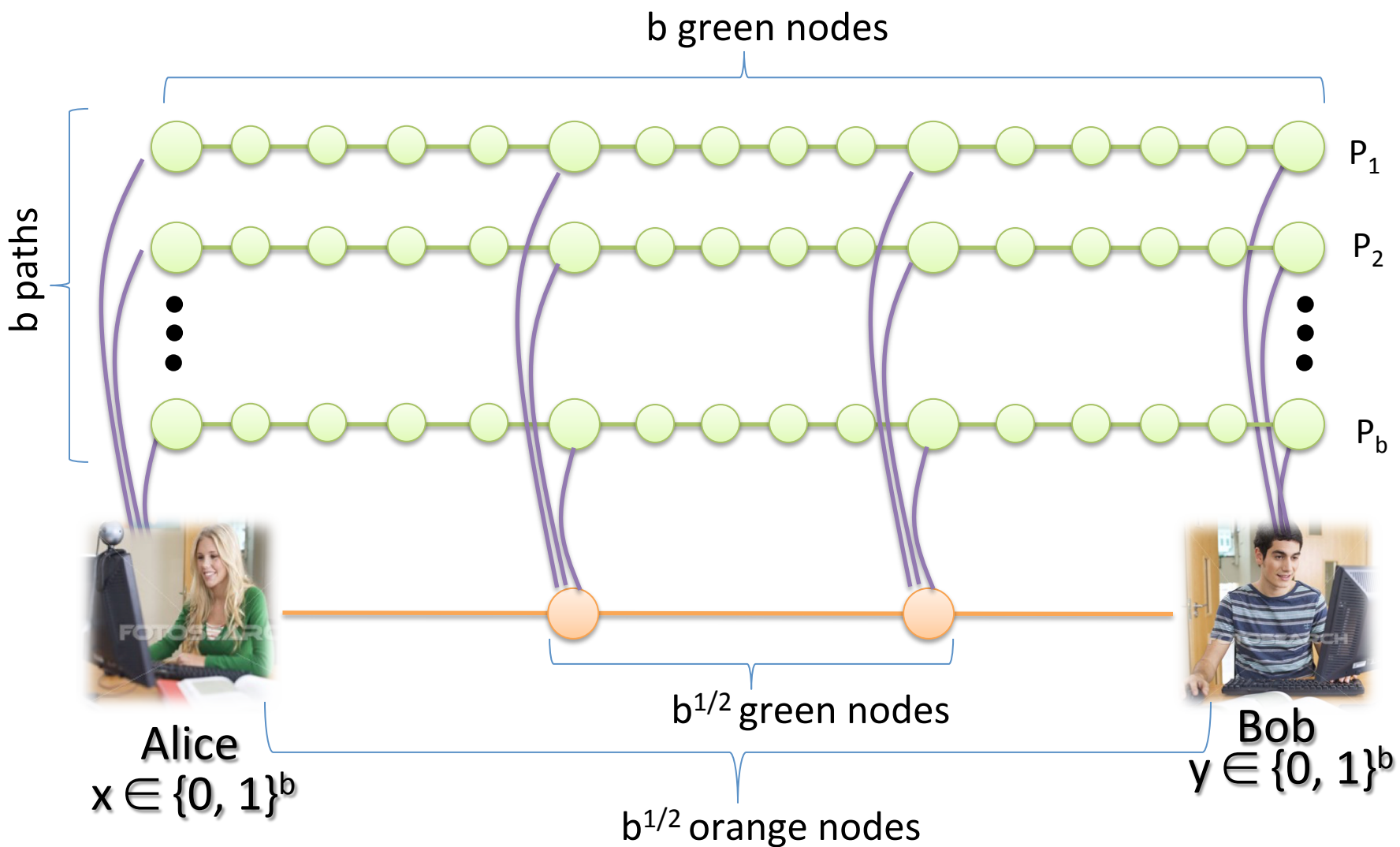
time =  **$T < b/2$**

known: need  **$\geq b$**

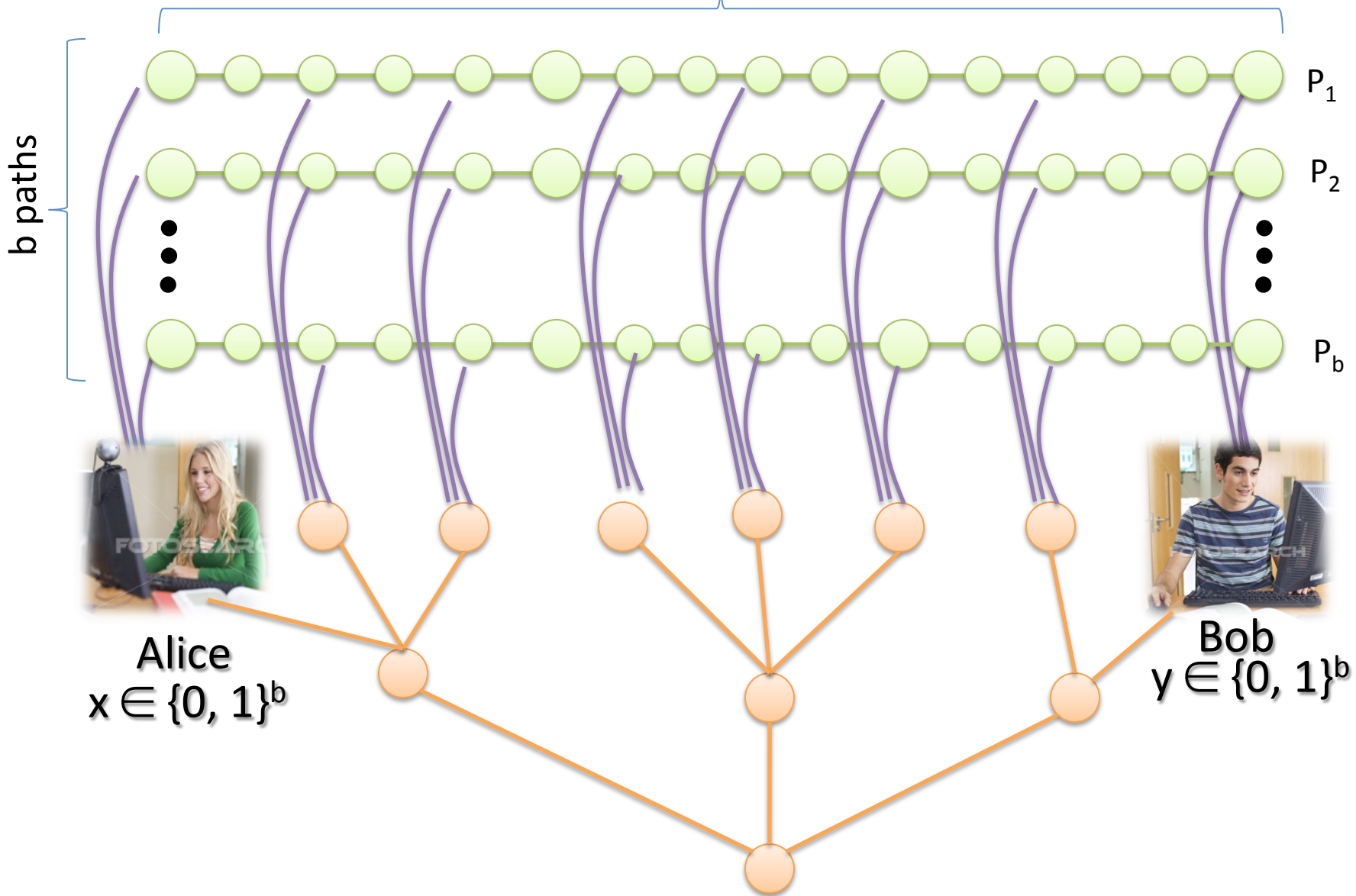
**Contradiction!**

Graph  $G(b)$  has diameter  $n^{1/4}$

We can use a similar analysis on  
some graphs of diameter  
 $O(\log n)$



b green nodes



**We are done**



**with deterministic algorithms**

**How about randomized  
algorithms?**

# Today: Extensions

- Extension to lower bounds for randomized algorithms
- Follow-up works since 2011 + open research questions
- Extension to round-efficient Simulation Theorem
- Extension to lower bounds for quantum algorithms

# Part 1

Extension to lower bounds for  
**randomized algorithms**

## Bad news

Direct and distributed equality  
can be verified in  $O(\log b)$  time  
by a randomized algorithm

~~Direct Equality Verification  
lower bound  $\Omega(b)$~~

Part 3.3

~~Distributed Equality Verification  
lower bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$~~

Well-known result in  
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Part 3.2

$\Omega(b)$

ST verification lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Part 3.1

Approx MST lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

# Good news

The simulation theorem is true for *any* function  $f$

(and for randomized algorithms)

# Simulation Theorem

If  $f$  can be computed distributively in  $T$  days, for any  $T \leq (\text{path length})/2$ , then the communication complexity of  $f$  is  $\leq T$

Proof Alice and Bob can simulate any distributed algorithm for  $b/2$  days with one bit exchanged per day.



**Direct  $f$  Verification**  
lower bound  $\Omega(b)$

Well-known result in  
communication complexity

Part 3.3

By the Simulation  
theorem

**Distributed  $f$  Verification**  
lower bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Part 3.2

$\Omega(b)$

ST verification lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Part 3.1

Approx MST lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

We will use

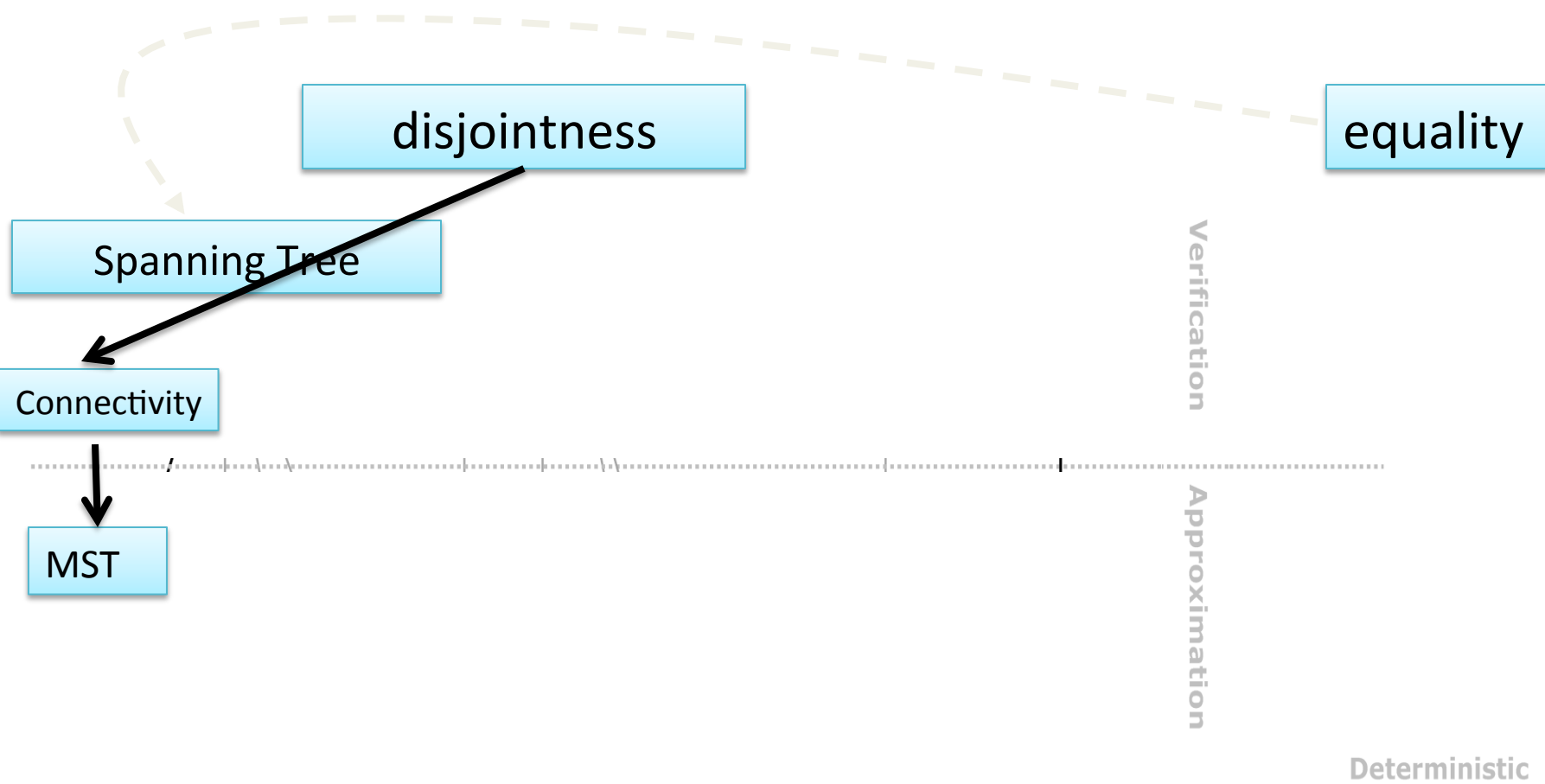
$f_1$  = “disjointness” function

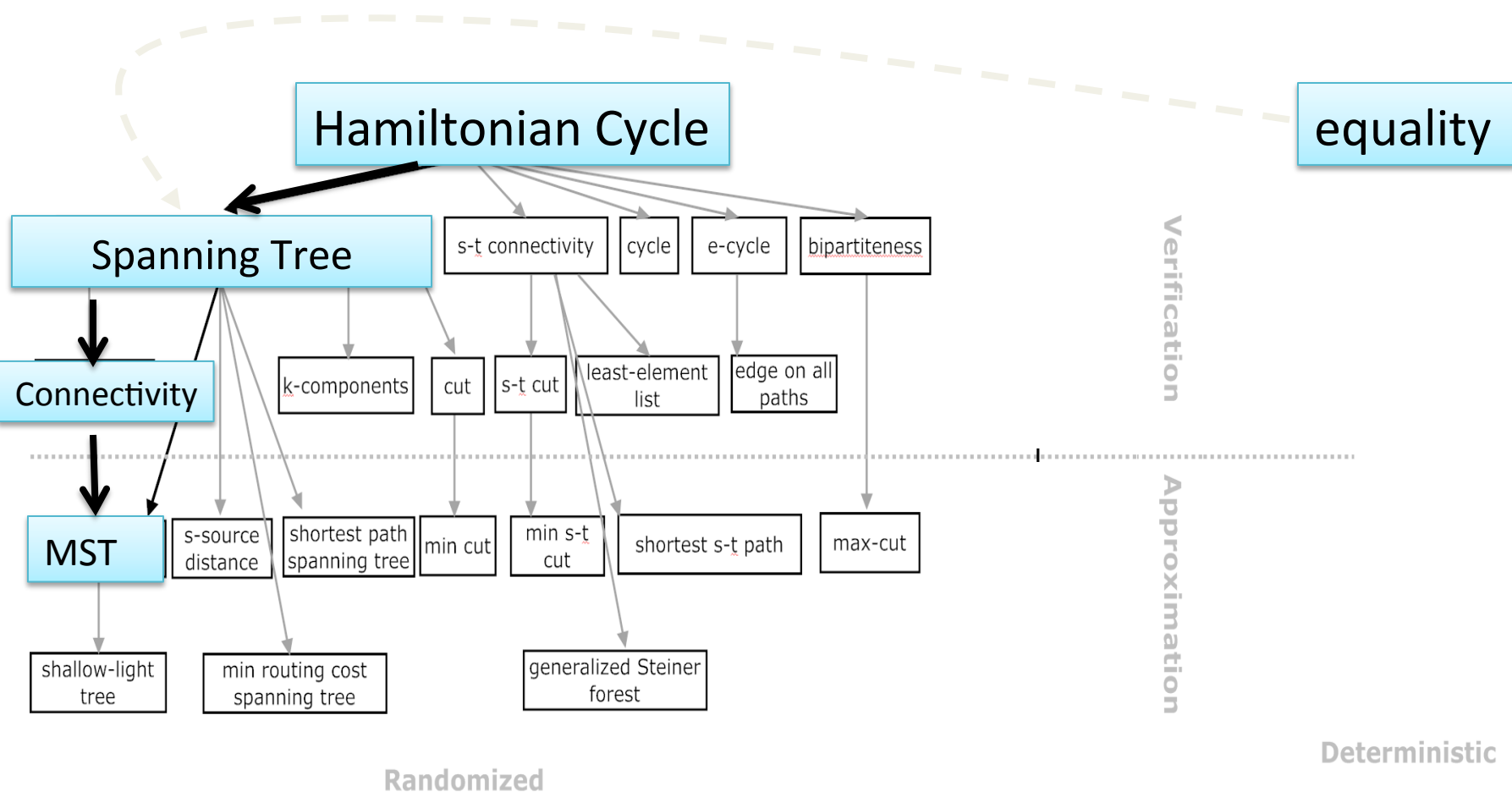
$f_2$  = “Hamiltonian cycle”

function

(Randomized lower bound =  $\Omega(b)$ )

( $f_2$  gives slightly better results)





To prove lower bound of Hamiltonian Cycle, we need the *IPmod3* problem

# Part 1.1

## Disjointness

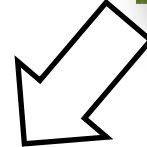
# Two parties are sharing a stadium



**A**(rgentina)



**B**(razil)



# They want to have a disjoint schedule



June 2014							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						

June 2014							
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26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						

# There are two players, Alice and Bob



Alice



Bob



Each player received some numbers  
(e.g. dates of their matches)



Alice

1 4 7 ...



Bob

2 6 7 ...

# Did they receive the same number?



Alice

1 4 7 ...



Bob

2 6 7 ...

# Did they receive the same number?

Yes



Yes



Alice

1 4 7 ...

Bob

2 6 7 ...

# Disjointness (more formally)

- Alice gets  $x = \{0, 1\}^b$ , Bob gets  $y = \{0, 1\}^b$
- Wants to know  $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$  or not, where  $\langle x, y \rangle$  is the inner product
- Lower bound:  $\Omega(b)$

**Direct** disjointness  
lower bound  $\Omega(b)$   
(randomized)

**Distributed** disjointness lower  
bound  
 $\Omega(b) = \Omega(n^{1/2})$

By the Simulation  
theorem

**Exercise**

**Connectivity** verification  
lower bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Approx MST lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

# Connectivity verification problem

- Verify if the subgraph  $H$  is a connected graph that spans all nodes in the network

(We actually call this “spanning connected subgraph problem”)

## Part 1.2

# Hamiltonian Cycle

# Hamiltonian cycle problem

- Alice gets  $(V, E_1)$ , Bob gets  $(V, E_2)$ .
- Wants to know  $G=(V, E_2 \cup E_1)$  is a Hamiltonian cycle or not, i.e. whether it is a cycle that includes all nodes
- Lower bound:  $\Omega(|V|)$



**Direct Hamiltonian Cycle**  
lower bound  $\Omega(n)$   
(randomized)

**Distributed Hamiltonian Lower**  
bound  
 $\Omega(b) = \Omega(n^{1/2})$

Sketched next

**Direct IPmod3**  
lower bound  $\Omega(b)$   
(randomized)

ST verification lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

Approx MST lower  
bound  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$

IPmod3 = Inner Project mod 3

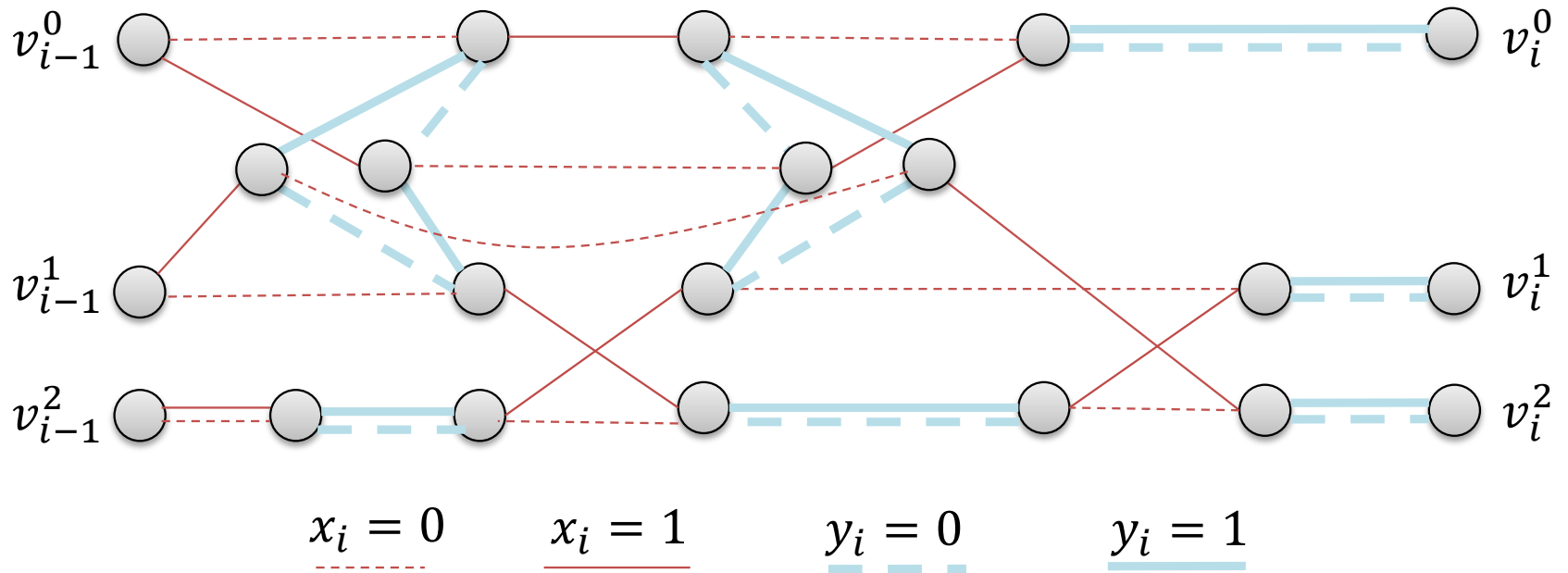
**Direct** Hamiltonian Cycle lower bound  
via **Direct** IPmod3 lower bound

# Definition: IPmod3

- Alice gets  $x = \{0, 1\}^b$ , Bob gets  $y = \{0, 1\}^b$
- Wants to know  $\langle x, y \rangle \bmod 3 = 0$  or not, where  $\langle x, y \rangle$  is the inner product
- Observe: disjointness = IPmod(n+1)
- Lower bound:  $\Omega(b)$ 
  - Holds even in the *quantum* setting

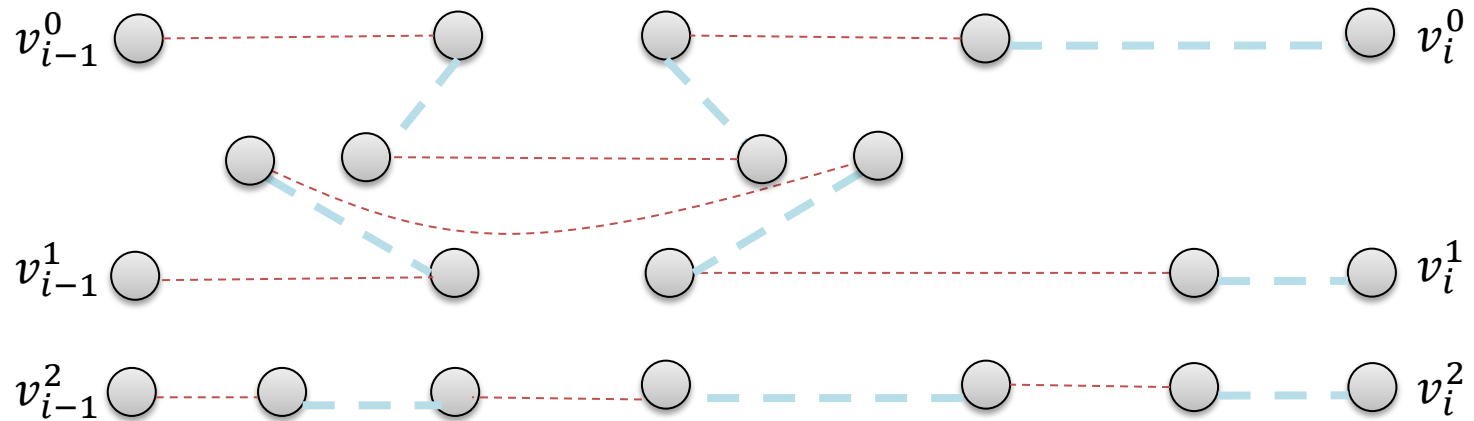
# Reduction (sketched)

# Gadget $G_i$ for each bit $i$



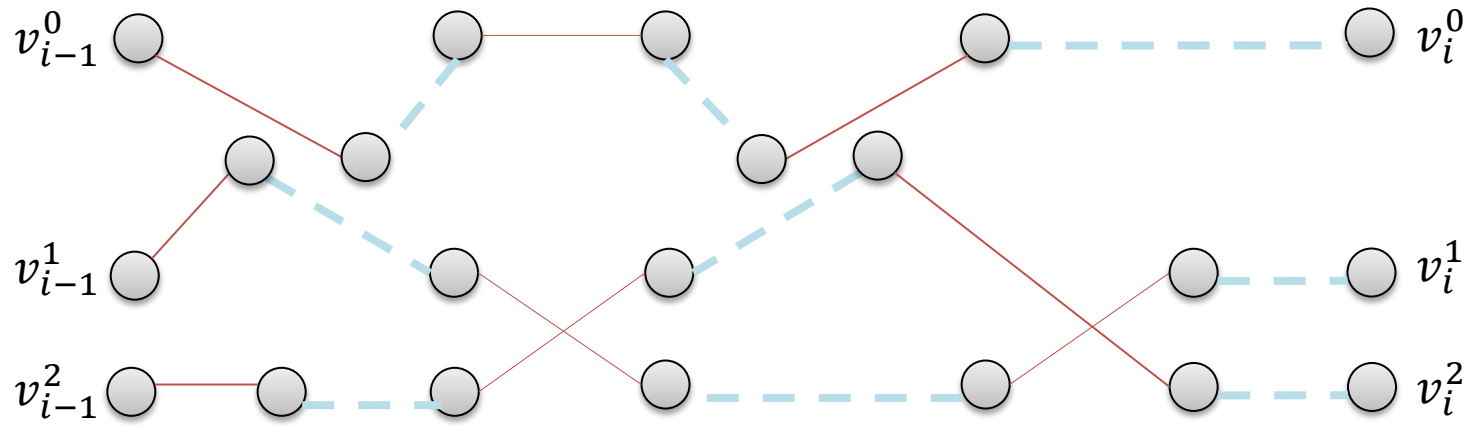
Red: Alice's edges, Blue: Bob's edges

If  $(x_i, y_i) = (0, 0)$



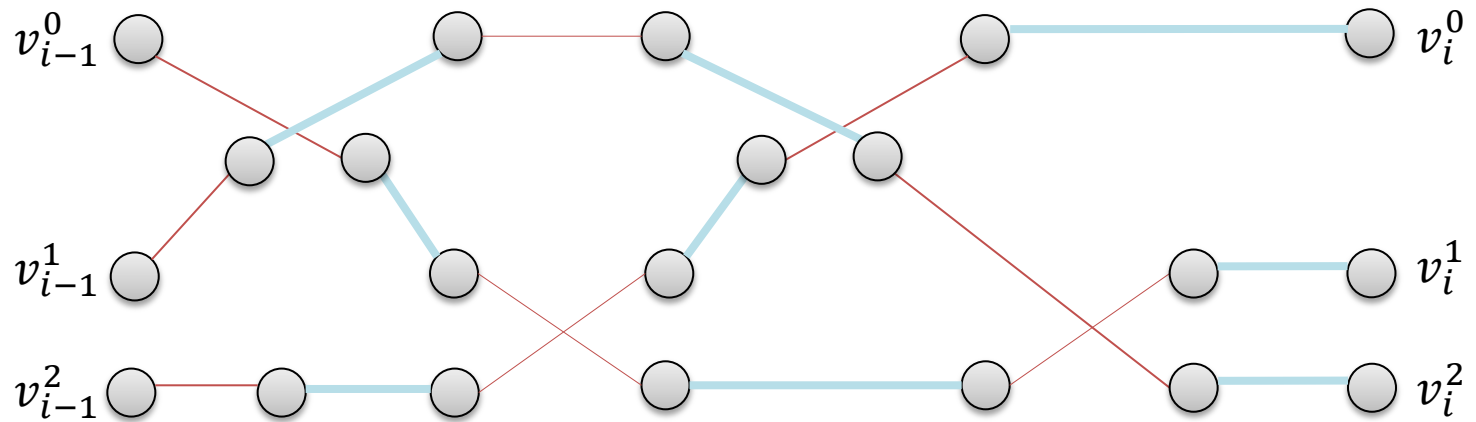


If  $(x_i, y_i) = (1, 0)$

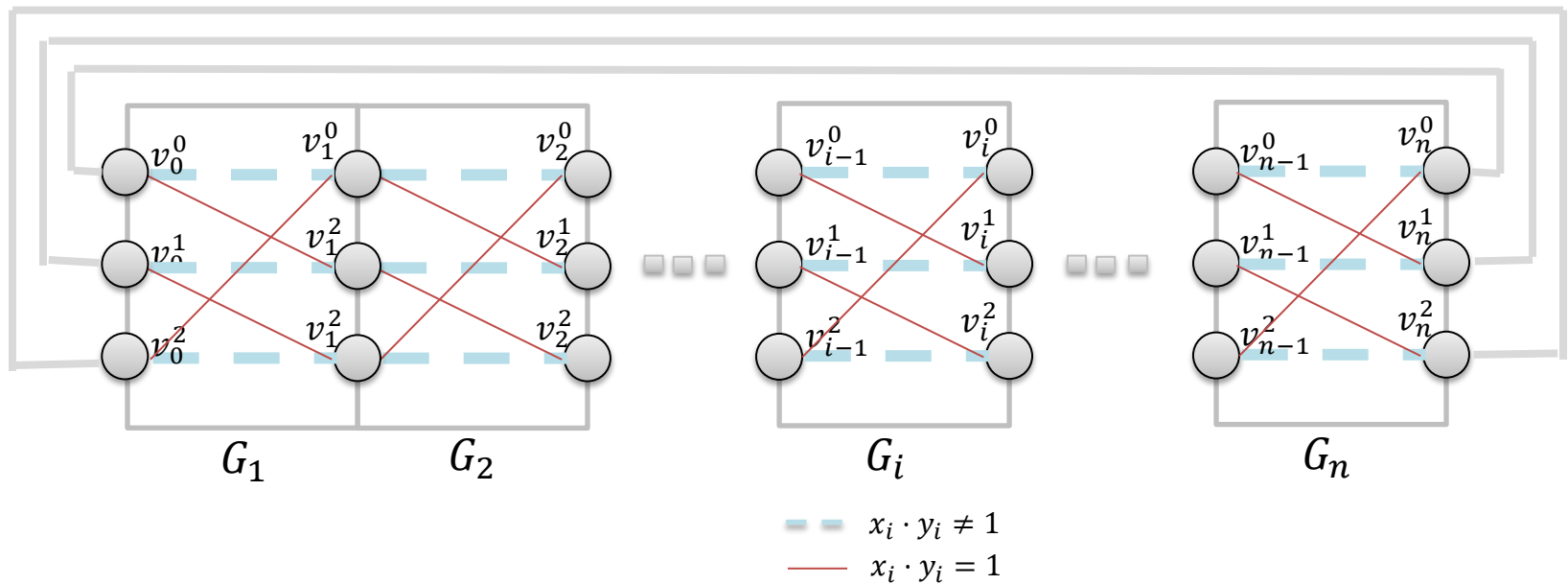




If  $(x_i, y_i) = (1, 1)$



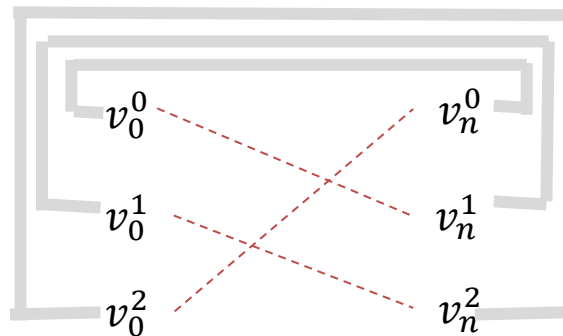
# When connect everything together



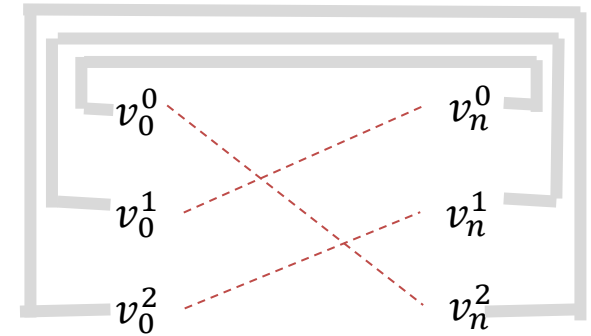
# Three possible end results



$$\sum_i x_i \cdot y_i \text{ mod } 3 = 0$$



$$\sum_i x_i \cdot y_i \text{ mod } 3 = 1$$



$$\sum_i x_i \cdot y_i \text{ mod } 3 = 2$$

# Exercise

- Reduce from direct Hamiltonian cycle to distributed spanning tree verification
- (Harder) Reduce from direct Hamiltonian cycle to distributed Hamiltonian cycle verification

## Part 2

Some follow-up works

## Part 2.1

# Minimum Spanning Tree

Gallager, Humblet, Spira, **TOPLAS'83**

Chin, Teng, **FOCS'85**

Gafni, **PODC'85**

Awerbuch, **STOC'87**

Garay, Kutten, Peleg, **FOCS'93**

Kutten, Peleg, **PODC'95**

$O(D + n^{1/2} \log^* n)$ -time

Lotker, Patt-Shamir, Peleg **PODC'01**

Lotker, Patt-Shamir, Peleg

Elkin **SODA'04**

Khan, Pandurangan **DISC'06**

Elkin + N + others **PODC'14**

Ookawa, Izumi **SOFSEM'15**

$\Omega(D+n^{1/2})$  –time lower bound

Peleg, Rubinfeld **FOCS'99**

Elkin **STOC'04**

Das Sarma + N + 6 others **STOC'11**

“Any” approximation algorithm requires  
 $\Omega(D+(n/\log n)^{1/2})$  –time when  $D=O(\log n)$

**Approximation  
algorithm?**

# Distributed MST is essentially resolved

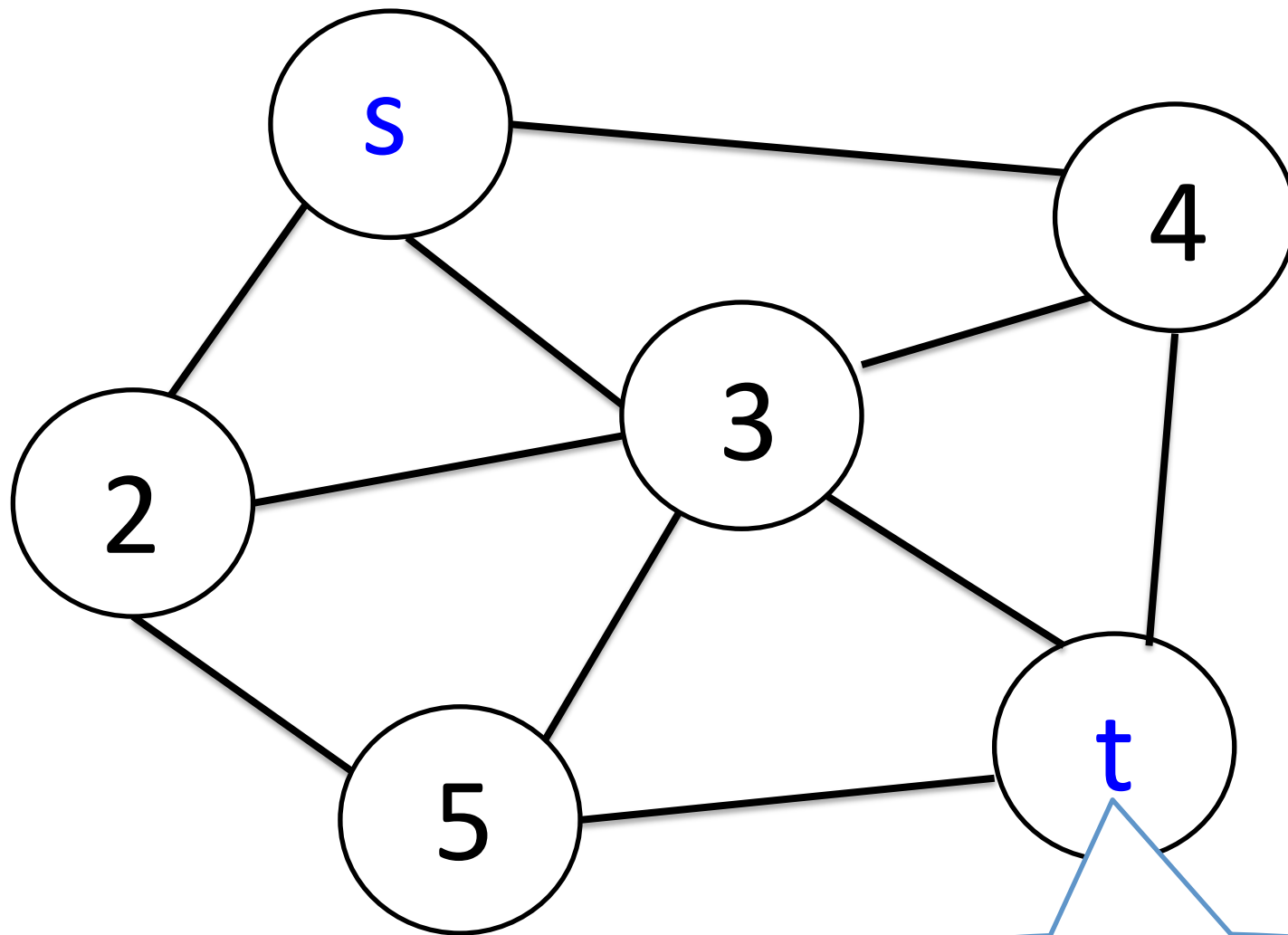
Still open:  $O(\log^* n)$  gap between upper and lower bounds



## Part 2.2

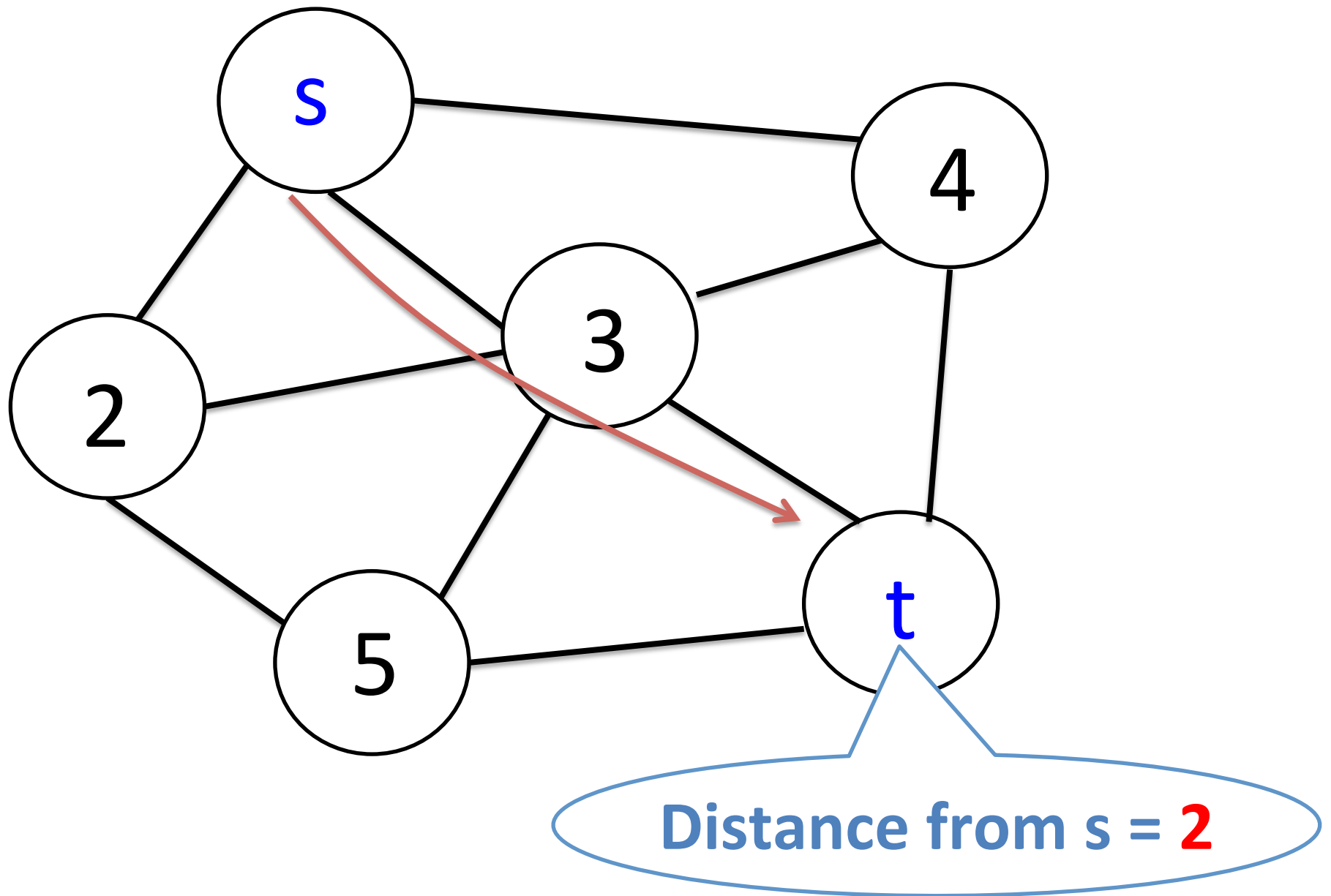
s-t distance,  
single-source distances

Definition: unweighted  
s-t distance



Distance from s = ?

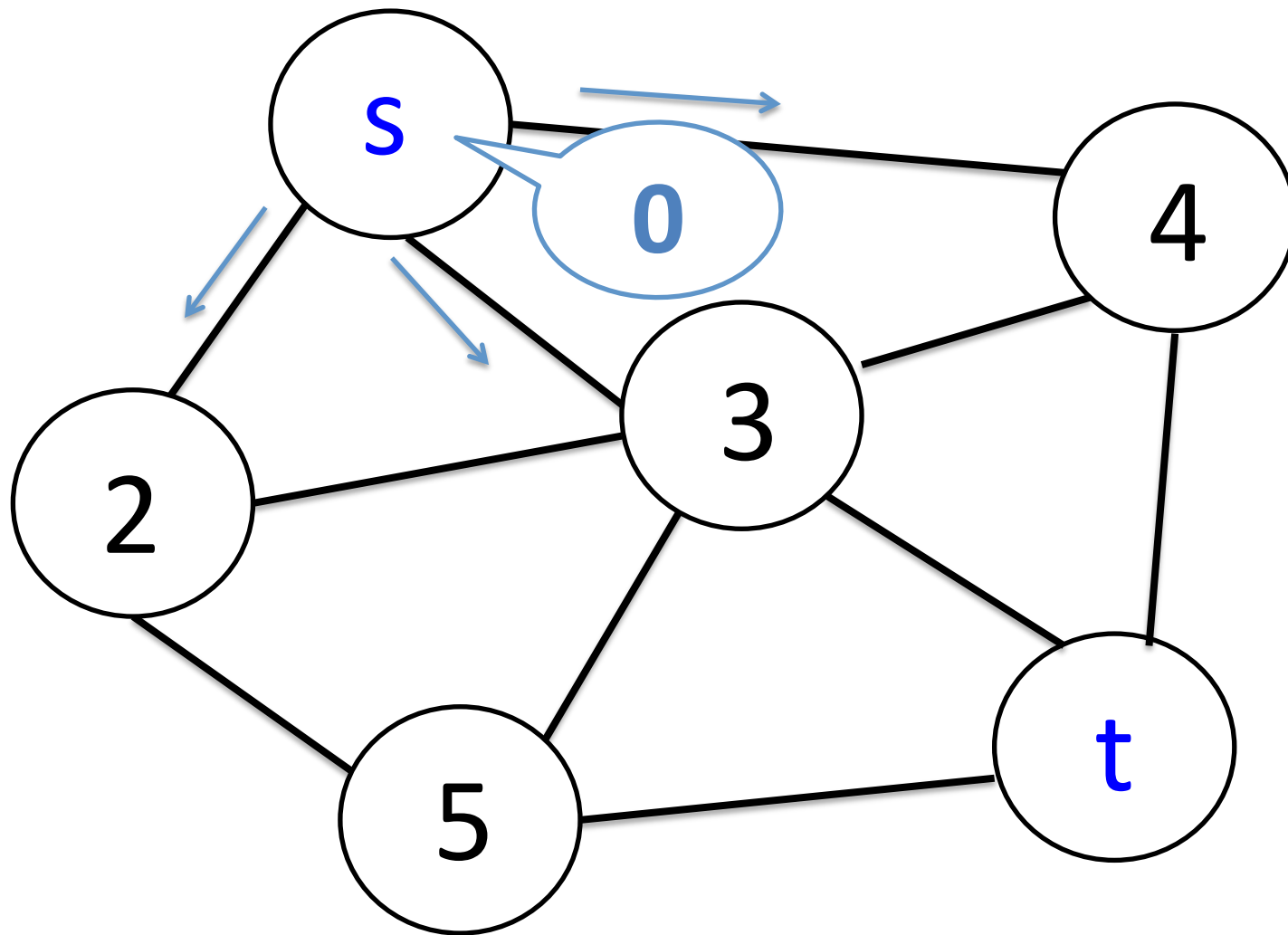
Goal: **t** knows distance from **s**



Goal: **t** knows distance from **s**

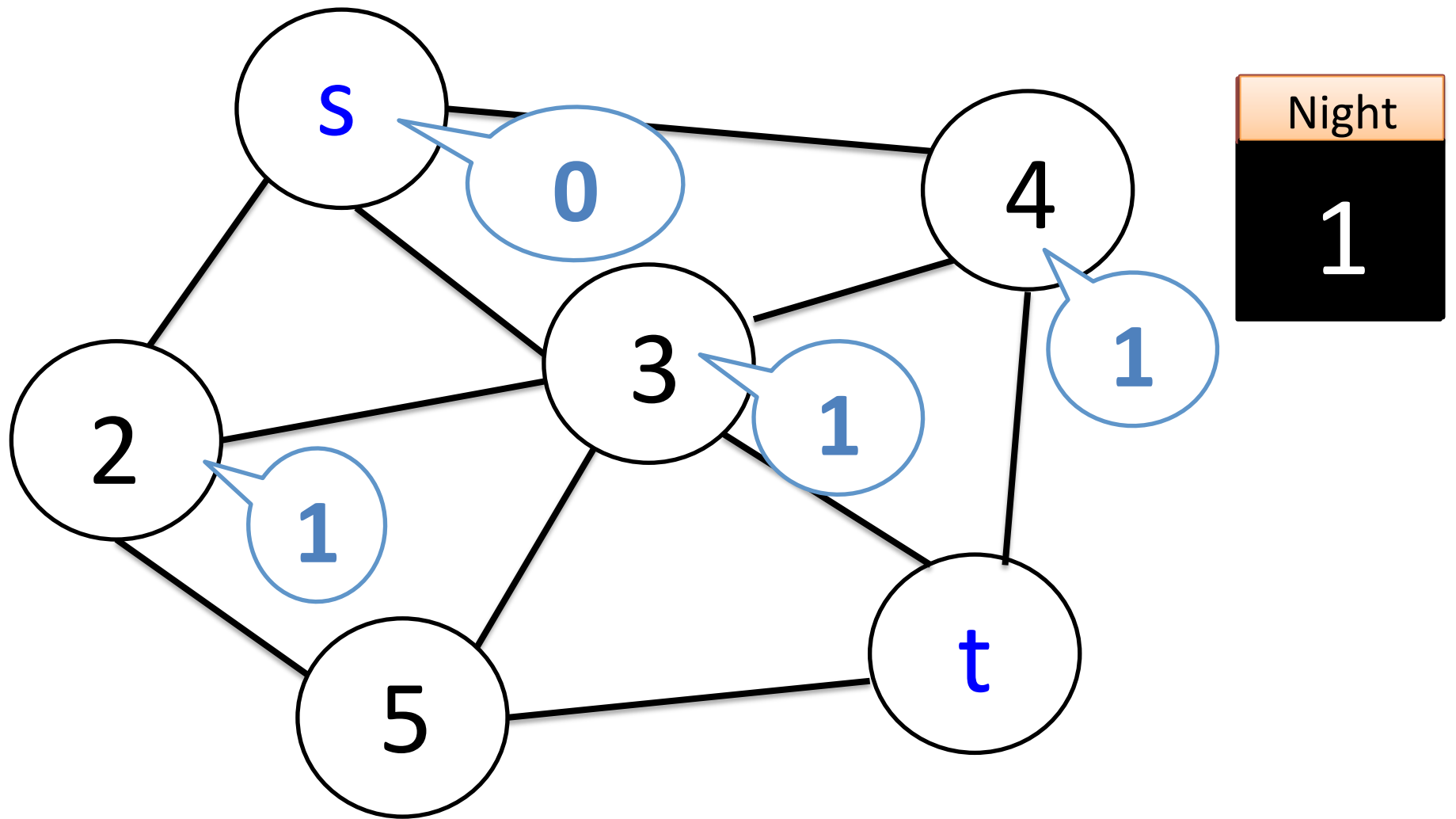
# Claim

Computing s-t distance can be done  
in  $O(D)$  time by using the  
**Breadth-First Search (BFS)** algorithm.

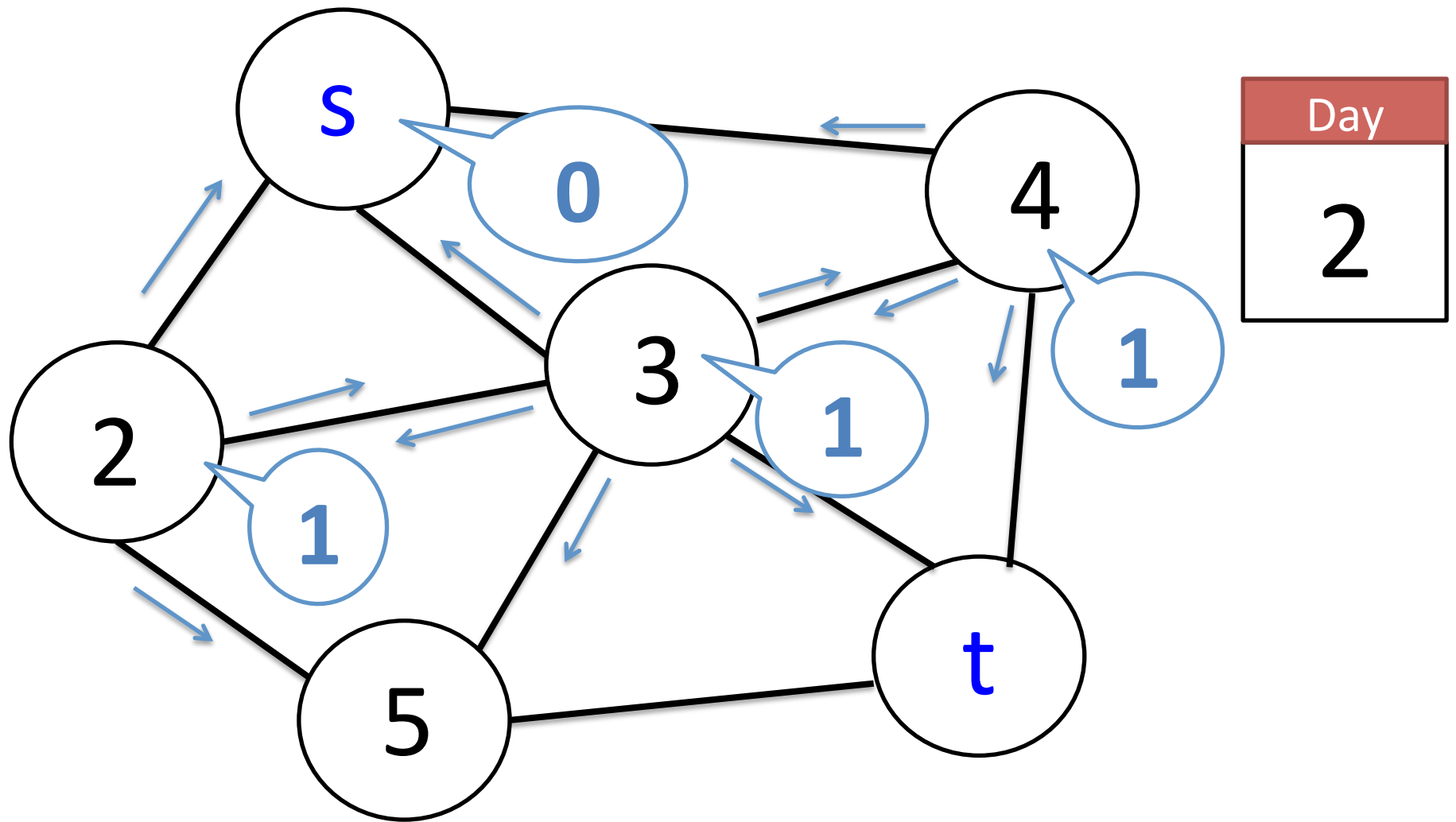


Day
1

Source node sends its distance to neighbors

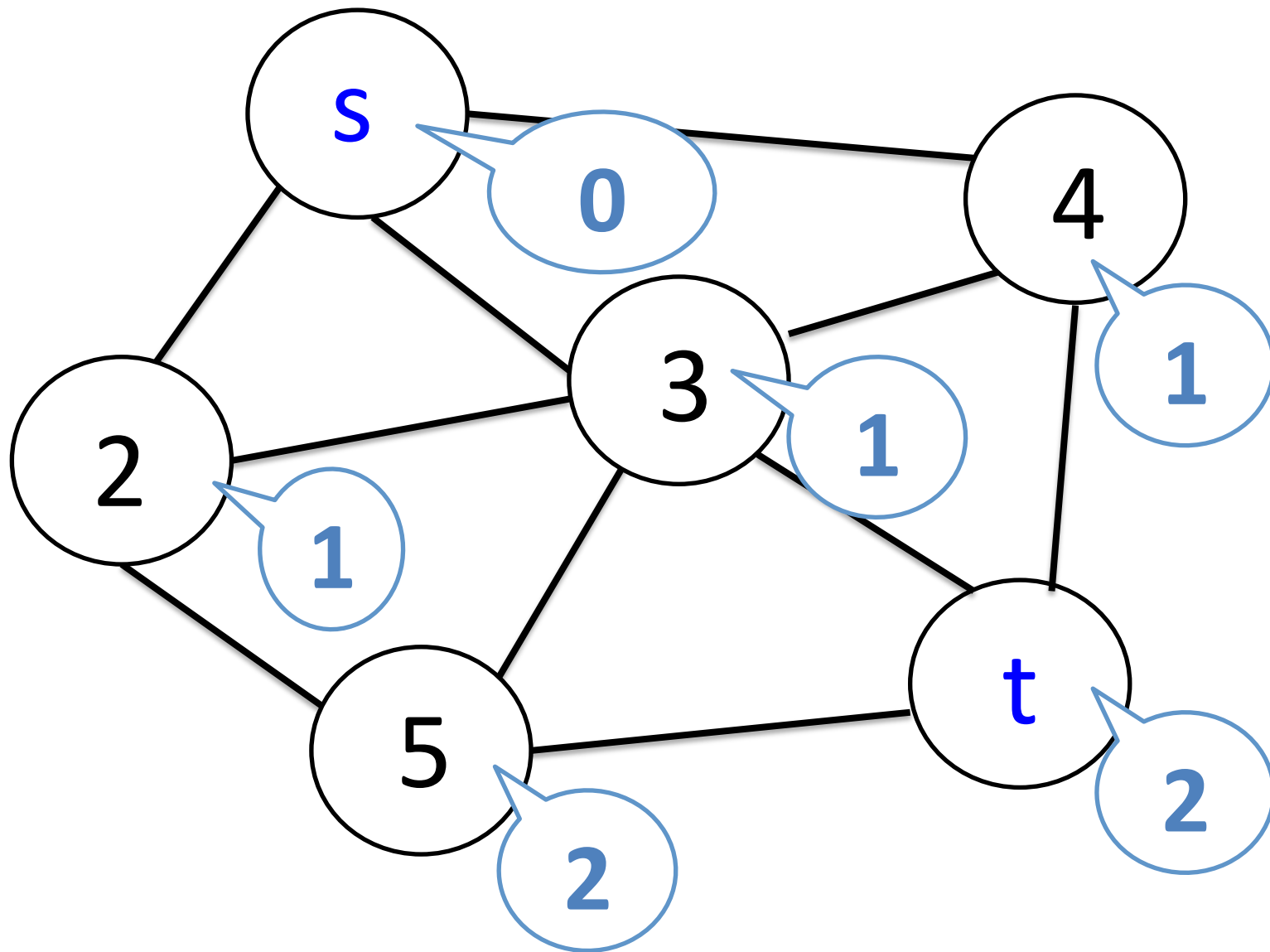


Each node updates its distance



Nodes tell new knowledge to neighbors





Night
2

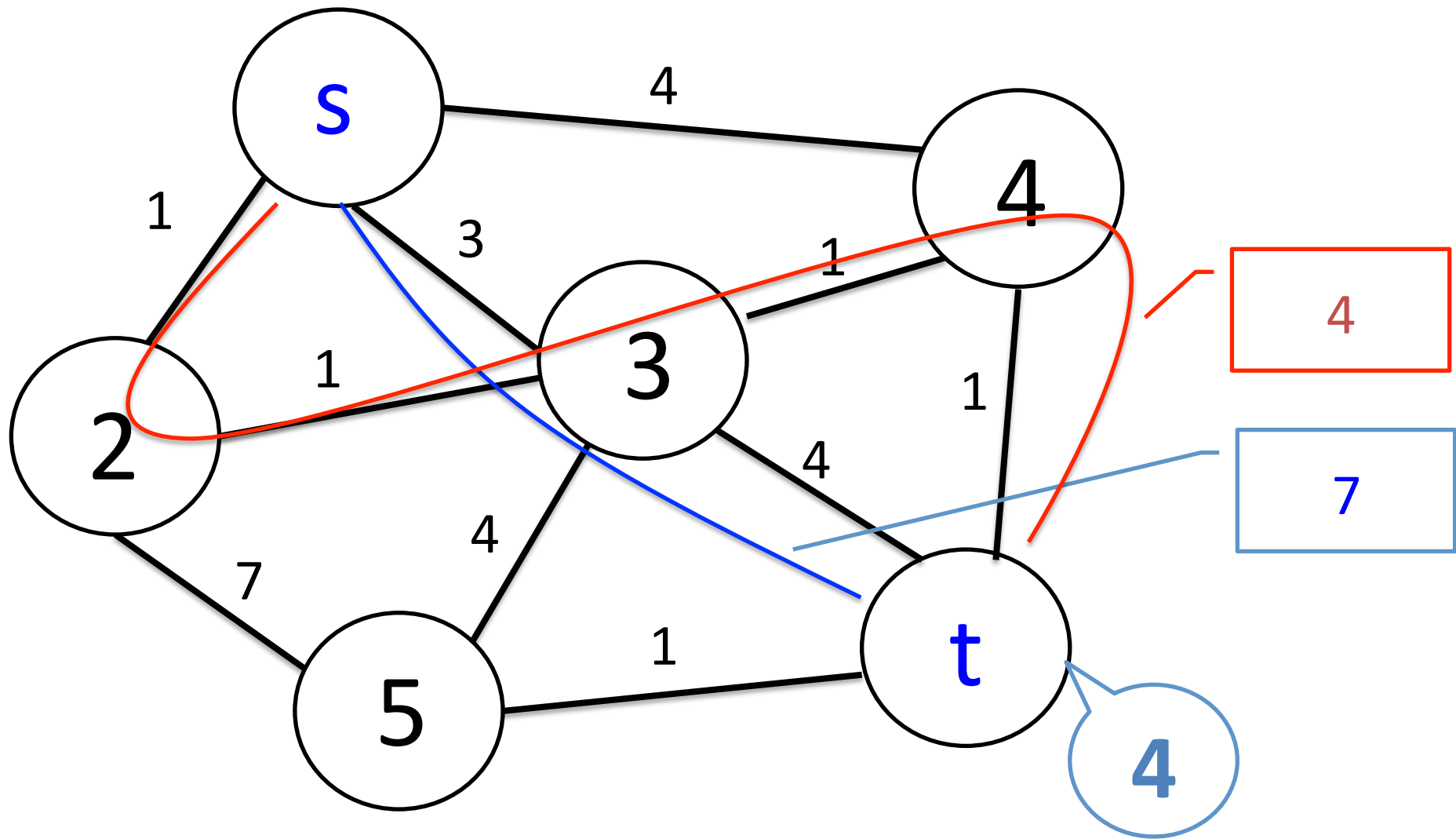
Each node updates its distance

## Claim

s-t distance can be computed  
in  **$O(D)$**  time.

There is an  **$\Omega(D)$**  lower bound.  
So, the algorithm is tight.

How about  
**weighted** graphs?



s-t distance

---

**Reference****Time****Approximation**

Folklore

 $\Omega(D)$ 

any

- Polylog n factors are hidden

---


Reference	Time	Approximation
Folklore	$\Omega(D)$	any
⇒ Bellman&Ford [1950s]	$O(n)$	exact

---

- Polylog n factors are hidden

Reference	Time	Approximation
Folklore	$\Omega(D)$	any
Bellman&Ford [1950s]	$O(n)$	exact
⇒ Elkin [STOC 2006]	$\Omega((n/\alpha)^{1/2} + D)$	any $\alpha$

- Polylog n factors are hidden


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 Das Sarma et al [STOC 2011] Elkin et al. [PODC 2014]	$\Omega(n^{1/2} + D)$	any $\alpha$ also quantum

- Polylog n factors are hidden



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⇒ Lenzen, Patt-Shamir [STOC 2013]	$O(n^{1/2+\varepsilon} + D)$	$O(1/\varepsilon)$

- Polylog n factors are hidden
- Lenzen&Patt-Shamir actually achieve more than computing distances

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Lenzen, Patt-Shamir [STOC 2013]	$O(n^{1/2+\varepsilon} + D)$	$O(1/\varepsilon)$
 N [STOC 2014]	$O(n^{1/2}D^{1/4} + D)$	$1+\varepsilon$

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Lenzen, Patt-Shamir [STOC 2013]	$O(n^{1/2+\varepsilon} + D)$	$O(1/\varepsilon)$
N [STOC 2014]	$O(n^{1/2}D^{1/4} + D)$	$1+\varepsilon$
⇒ Henzinger, Krinninger, N [2015]	$O(n^{1/2+o(1)} + D^{1+o(1)})$	$1+\varepsilon$

- Polylog n factors are hidden

- Lenzen&Patt-Shamir actually achieve more than computing distances

Distributed s-t distance **approximation**  
is essentially resolved

# Exercise (easy)

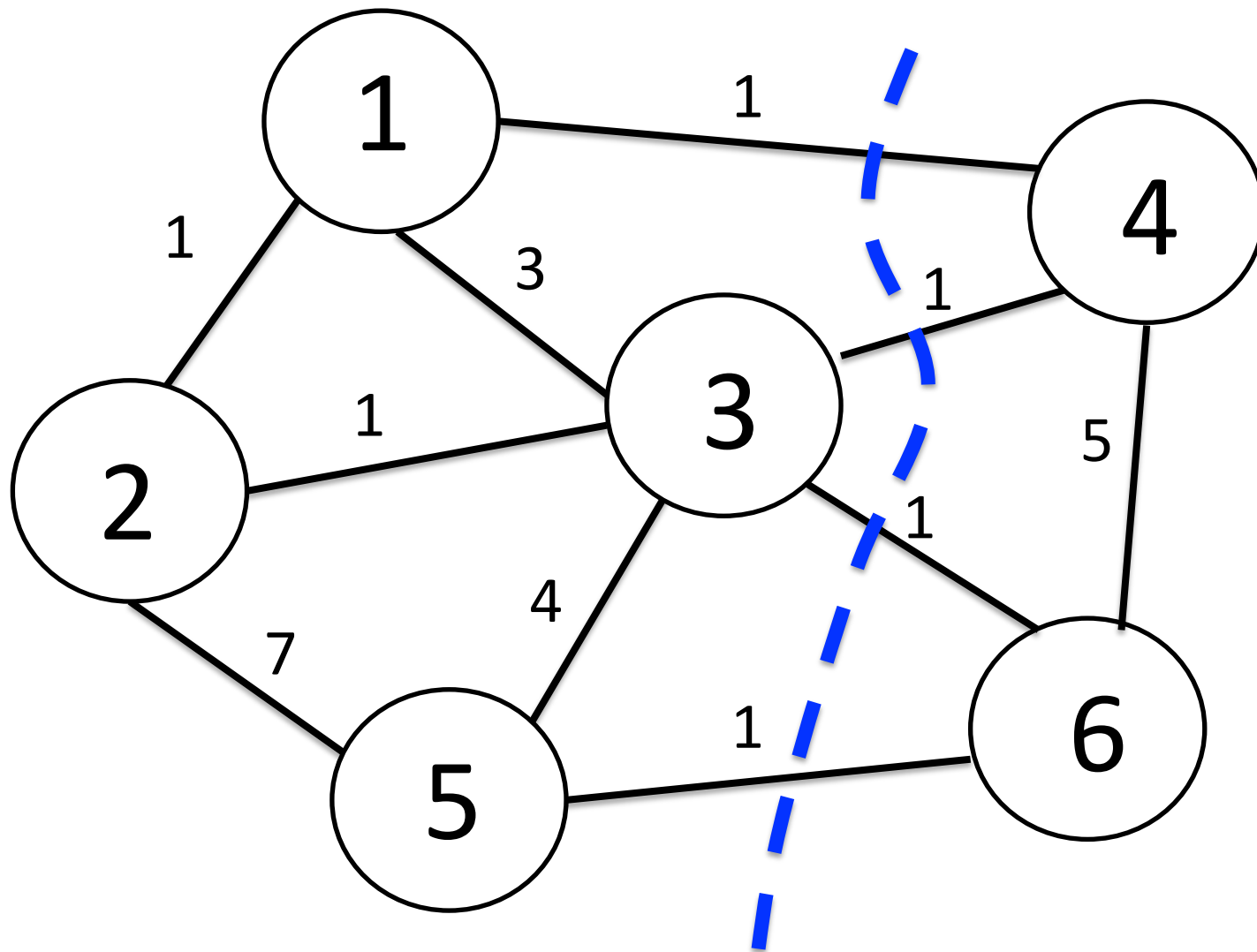
- Argue that approximating st-distance require  $\Omega(n^{1/2})$  time on some network of diameter  $n^{1/4}$

## Open Problem

Computing s-t distance  
**exactly in sublinear-time**  
i.e. in  $O(n^{1-\varepsilon}+D)$  time

## Part 2.3

Some other distributed  
approximation algorithms



Minimum cut  
(weight = 4)



# Global min cut (a.k.a. edge-connectivity)

$\lambda$  = optimal solution

Reference	Time	Approximation
Pritchard, Thurimella [TALG'11]	$O(D)$ for $\lambda \leq 2$	exact
	$O(n^{1/2} + D)$ for $\lambda \leq 3$	exact
N.-Su [DISC'14]	$O((n^{1/2} + D) \lambda^4)$ thus $O((n^{1/2} + D))$ for constant $\lambda$	exact
Das Sarma et al [STOC'11] Elkin et al. [PODC 2014]	$\Omega(n^{1/2} + D)$ for large enough $\lambda$	any also quantum
Ghaffari, Kuhn [DISC'13]	$O(n^{1/2} + D)$	2
N + Su [DISC'14]	$O(n^{1/2} + D)$	$1 + \epsilon$

\*polylog n terms are omitted

# Global min cut (a.k.a. edge-connectivity)

$\lambda$  = optimal solution

Distributively **approximating** mincut is essentially resolved

Open:

- Sublinear-time **exact** algorithm.
- Lower bound when  $\lambda$  is small.

## Probabilistic Tree Embedding (in particular, FRT embedding)

Reference	Time	Approximation
Das Sarma et al. [STOC'11]	$\Omega(n^{1/2} + D)$	any also quantum
Ghaffari, Lenzen [DISC'14]	$O(n^{1/2+\varepsilon} + D)$	$O(\log n/\varepsilon)$

## Minimum-Weight Connected Dominating Set

Das Sarma et al. [STOC'11]	$\Omega(n^{1/2} + D)$	any also quantum
Ghaffari [ICALP'14]	$O(n^{1/2} + D)$	$O(\log n)$

## Steiner Forest

Lenzen, Patt-Shamir [PODC'14]	$\Omega(n^{1/2} + D + k)$	any
Lenzen, Patt-Shamir [PODC'14]	$O(n^{1/2} + D + k)$	$O(\log n)$

# Open problems

- Exact algorithms
  - st-distance  $O(n)$  vs.  $\Omega(n^{1/2}+D)$
  - mincut  $O(m)$  vs.  $\Omega(n^{1/2}+D)$
- k-edge connectivity when k is constant  $O(n^{1/2}+D)$  vs. nothing

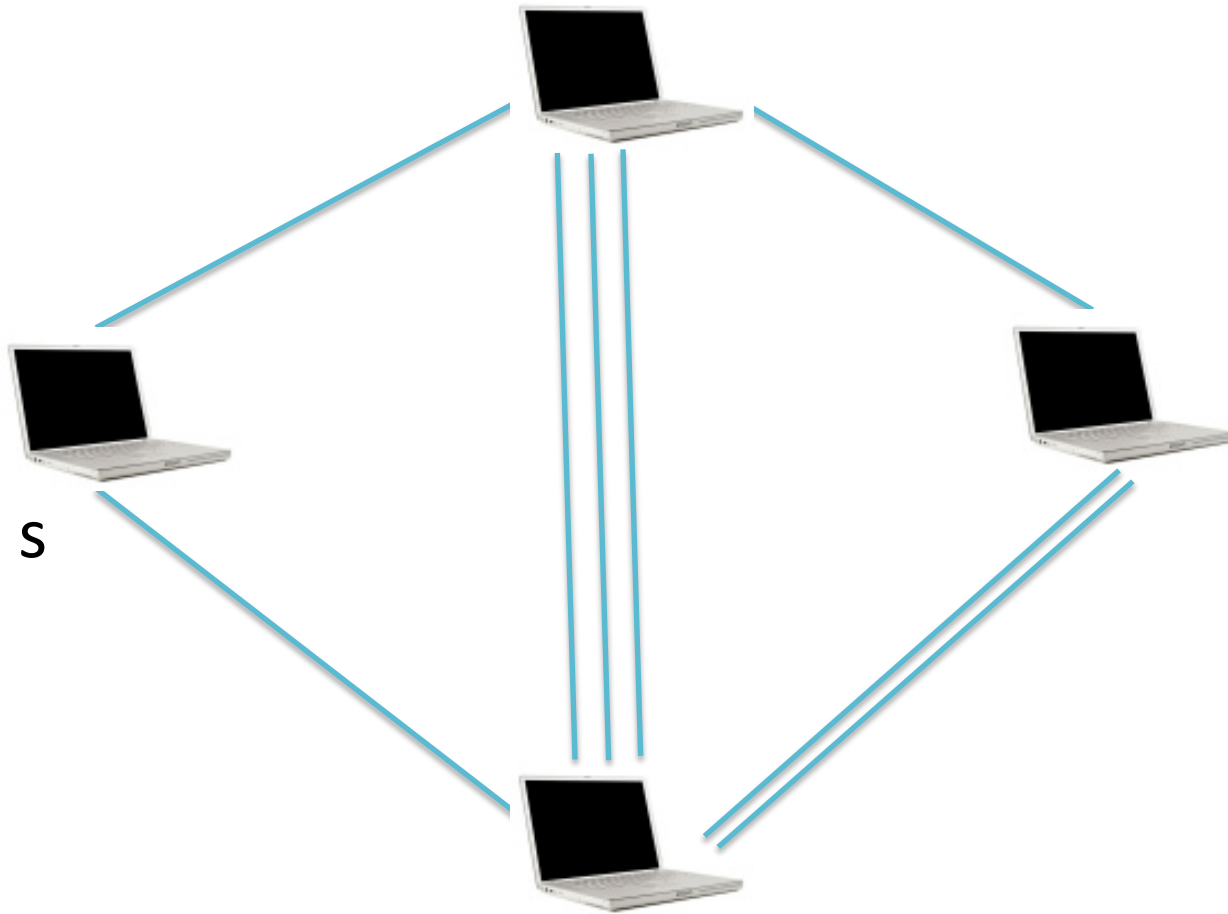
## Part 3

# Extension to round-efficient Simulation Theorem

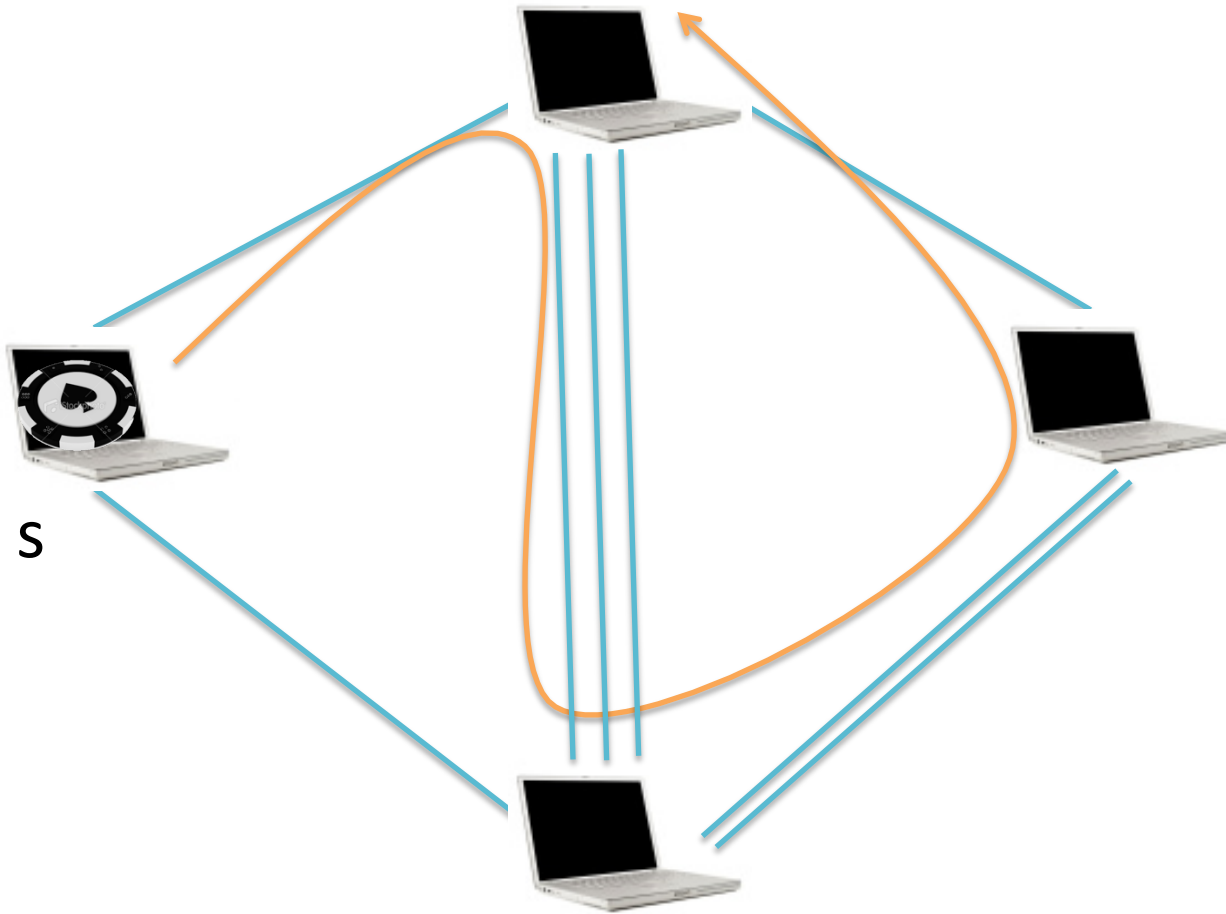
# Motivation

## Distributed Random Walks

# Want a random walk of length $\ell$ from $s$

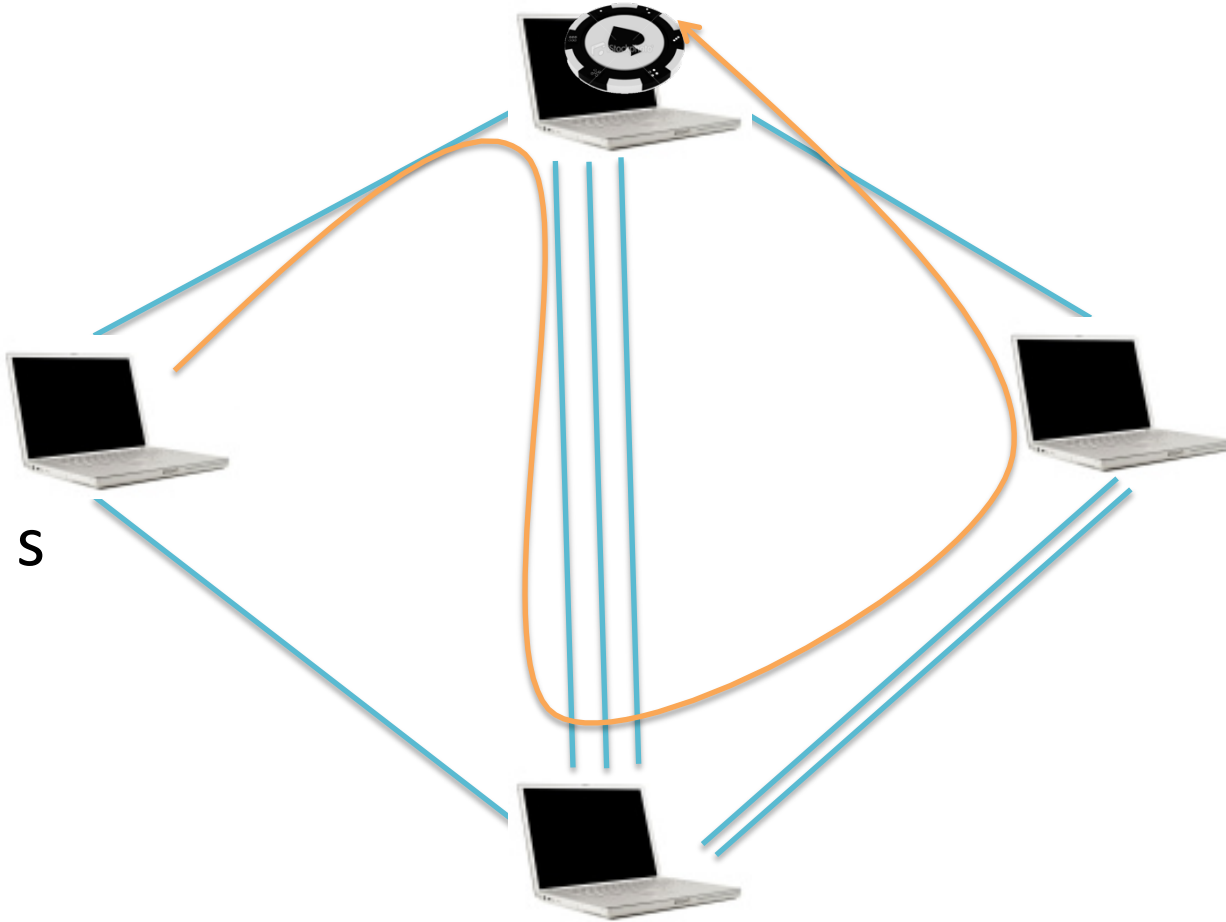


# Trivial algorithm: Forward a token randomly for $\ell$ rounds

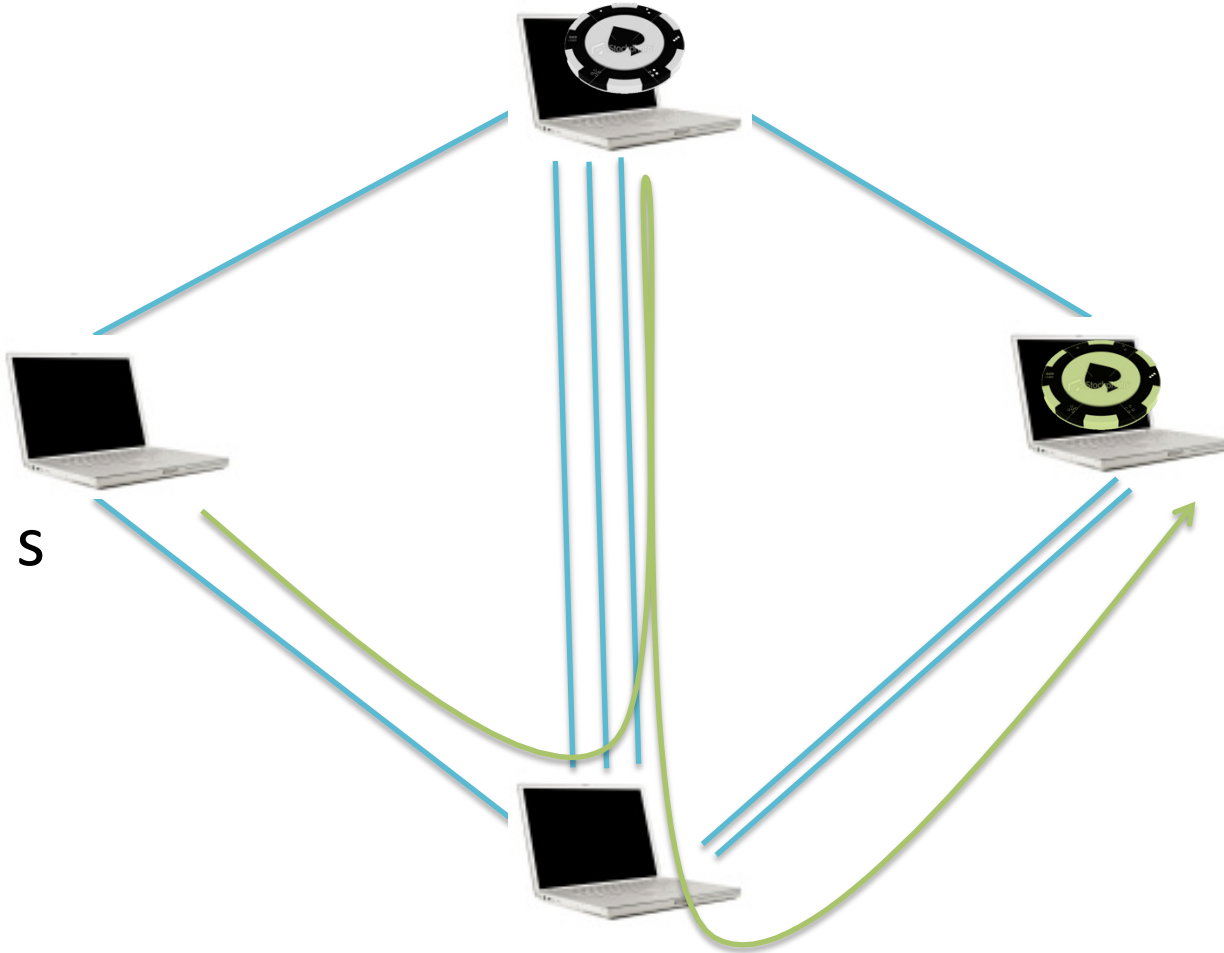




# The token ends somewhere



# If we repeat, the token might end in a different node



This process takes  $\ell$  rounds to send a token in a random walk manner.

# Distributed random walk problem

Can we forward the token in a random walk manner **faster than  $\ell$  rounds?**

(Formally, we want to sample a destination node according to the distribution induced by the  **$\ell$** -step random walk.)

# Random walks

[Das Sarma, N., Pandurangan, Tetali, PODC'09+10]:

- A random walk of length  $\ell$  can be found in  $O((\ell D)^{1/2})$  time
- *Conditional* lower bound of  $\Omega(\ell^{1/2})$  time for small  $D$  on multigraphs

[N. Das Sarma, Pandurangan]:

- Lower bound of  $\Omega((\ell D)^{1/2})$ -time for any  $n$ ,  $D$ , and  $D \leq \ell \leq (n/D^3 \log n)^{1/4}$  on multigraphs
- First lower bound that  $D$  plays a role of multiplicative factor

# The Simulation Theorem is not Enough

Impossible to get **D** in the lower bound  
since **D** is not part of the Simulation  
Theorem

# Previous Reductions

## Communication Complexity

EQALITY/DISJ/etc  
verification

## Distributed Algorithms

EQALITY/DISJ/etc  
Verification

Simulation  
theorem

Spanning Tree  
verification

MST  
Approximation

# New Reductions

## Bounded-round Communication complexity

## Distributed Algorithms

Pointer Chasing  
(Search problem)



NEW  
Simulation  
theorem



Pointer Chasing



Distributed random walk



# Previous Simulation Theorem

If  $f$  can be computed distributively in  $T$  days, for any  $T \leq (\text{path length})/2$ , then the communication complexity of  $f$  is  $\leq T$

Proof Alice and Bob can simulate any distributed algorithm for  $b/2$  days with one bit exchanged per day.

# NEW Simulation Theorem

If  $f$  can be computed distributively in  $T$  days, for any  $T \leq (\text{path length})/2$ , then the communication complexity of  $f$  is  $\leq T$  in  $\leq T/D$  rounds

Proof Alice and Bob can simulate any distributed algorithm for  $b/2$  days with one bit exchanged per day.

# NEW Simulation Theorem

If  $f$  can be computed distributively in  $T$  days, for any  $T \leq (\text{path length})/2$ , then the communication complexity of  $f$  is  $\leq T$  in  $\leq T/D$  rounds

Proof Alice and Bob can simulate any distributed algorithm for  $b/2$  days with one bit exchanged per day. They wait for  $D$  rounds before sending messages

# Exercise

- Fill in the details for the proof of the New Simulation Theorem

Some changes are needed

## Bad news

With quantum communication,  
disjointness is **too easy**

## Good news

Many other problems are still hard

e.g. IPmod2, IPmod3, ...

So, you can prove lower bounds for quantum algorithms using, e.g., [IPmod3](#).



## Part 4.1

Warning: You **can't** use **arbitrary**  
problem in the quantum  
communication complexity  
model

## Bad news

We can't make the simulation theorem work for the quantum setting

## Bad news

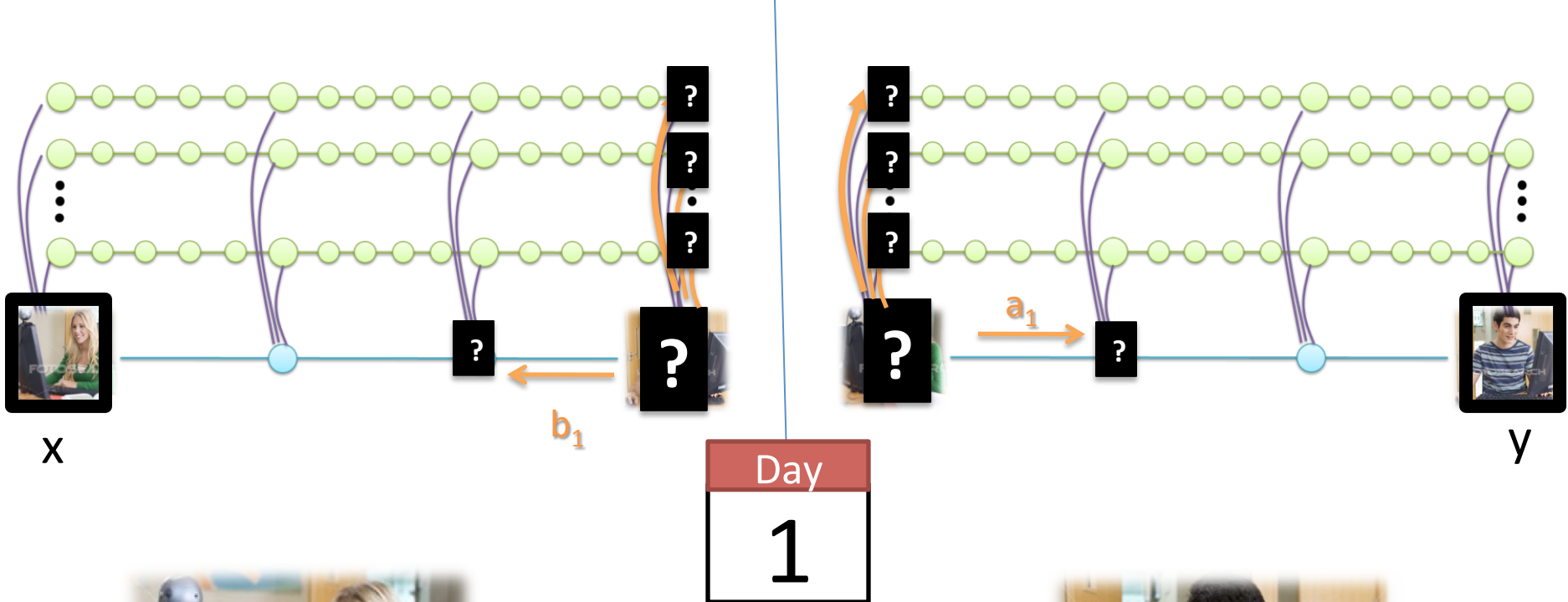
We can't make the simulation theorem work for the quantum setting

## Reason

No-Cloning Theorem

(We can't make a copy of qubit)

Main problem:  
Alice and Bob simulates  
the same machines



Alice  
 $x \in \{0, 1\}^b$



Bob  
 $y \in \{0, 1\}^b$

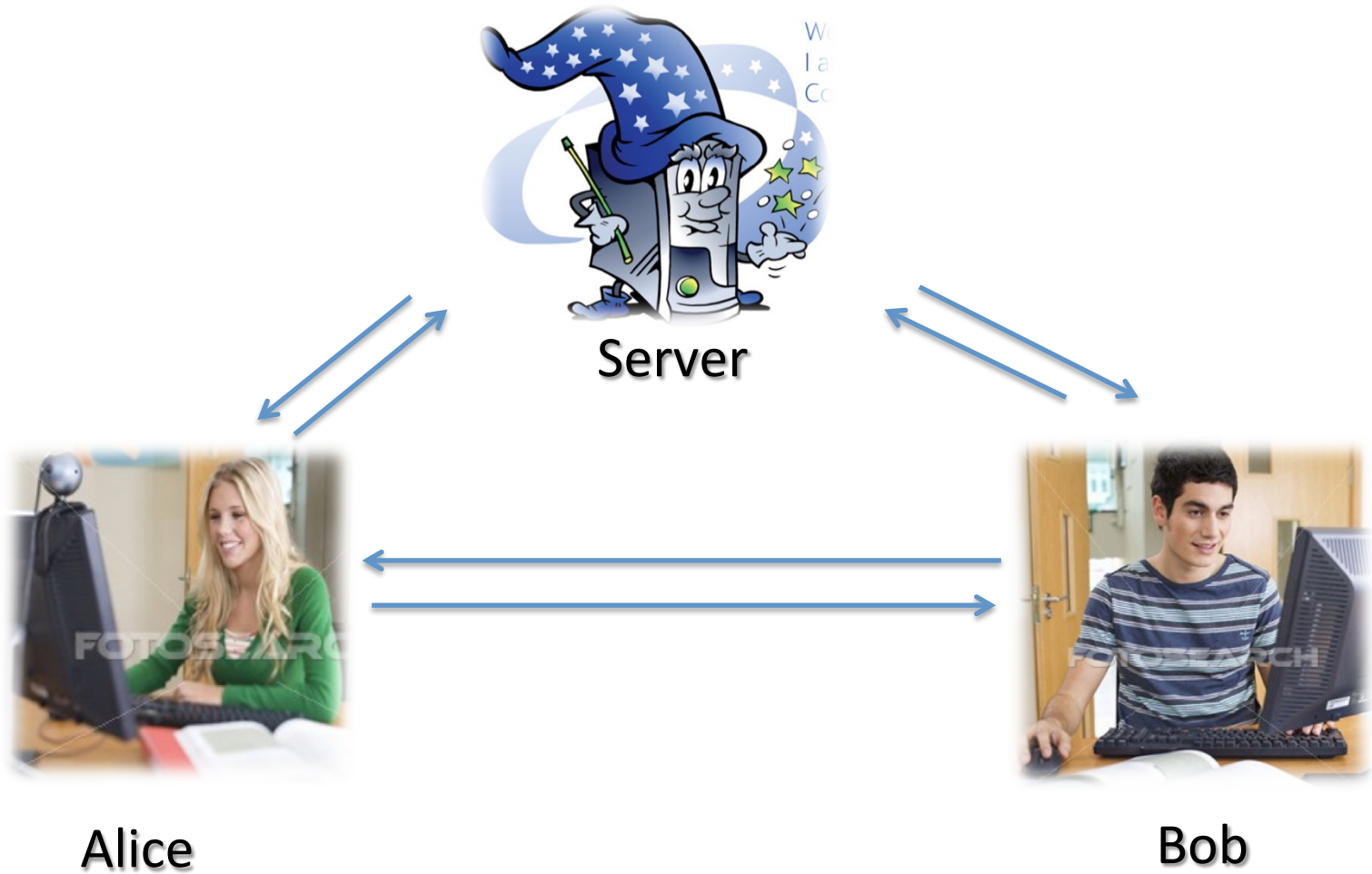
Main problem: Alice and Bob simulates the same machines

## Good news

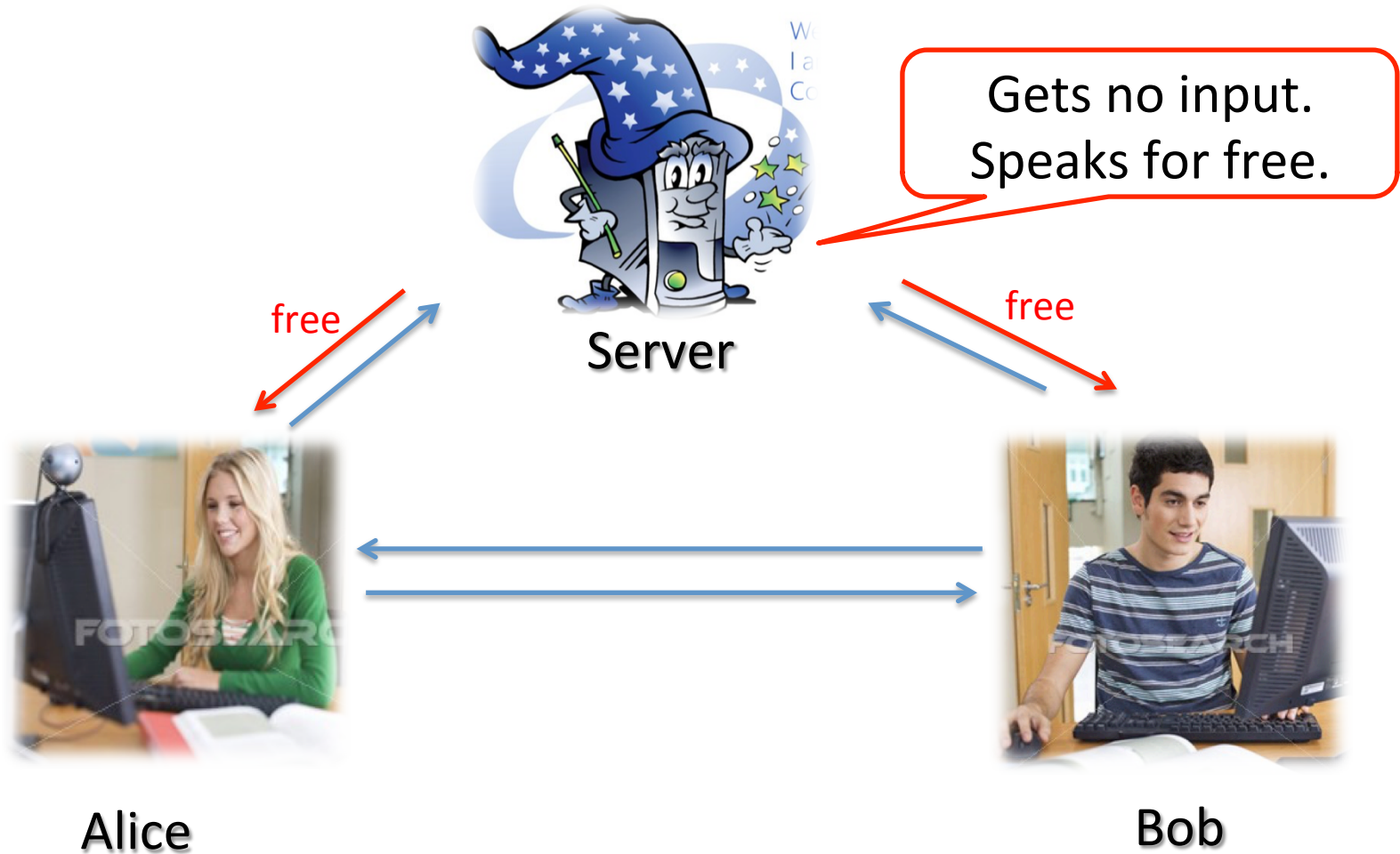
The simulation theorem works for  
a new model called

**Server model**

# Server Model



# Server Model





## Good news

We show that problems such as  $IP_{\text{mod}2}$ ,  $IP_{\text{mod}3}$ , ... are still hard in the Server model.

# Exercise

- Prove a new version of the Simulation Theorem where you start from the server model instead. Make sure that every machine in the network is simulated by exactly one party (among 3).