

Parallelizing Greedy  
for

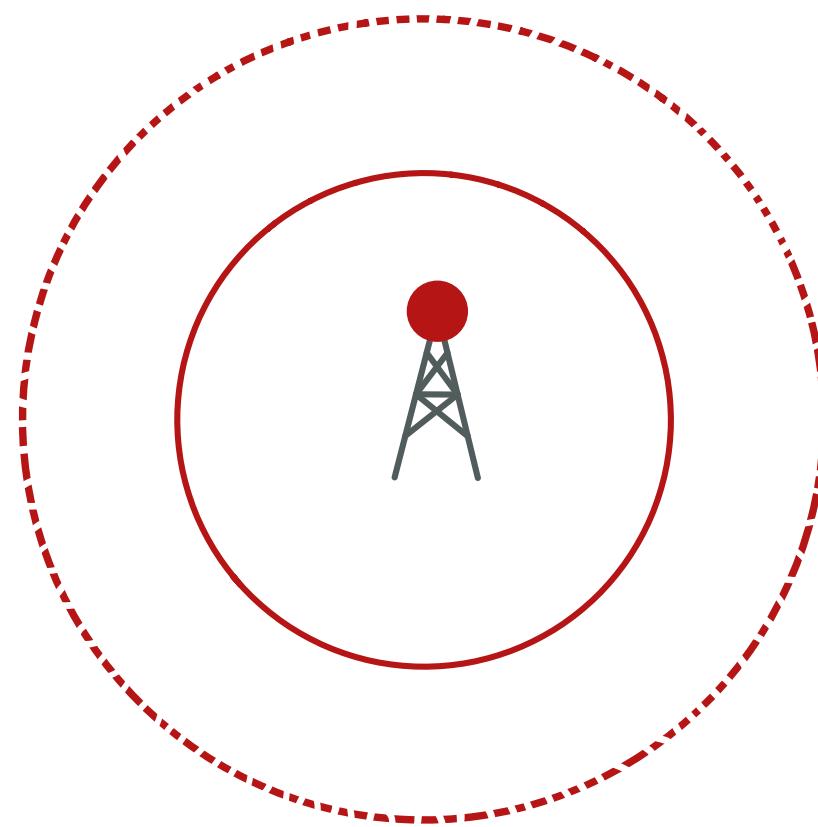
Submodular Function Maximization

Kent Quanrud, UIUC

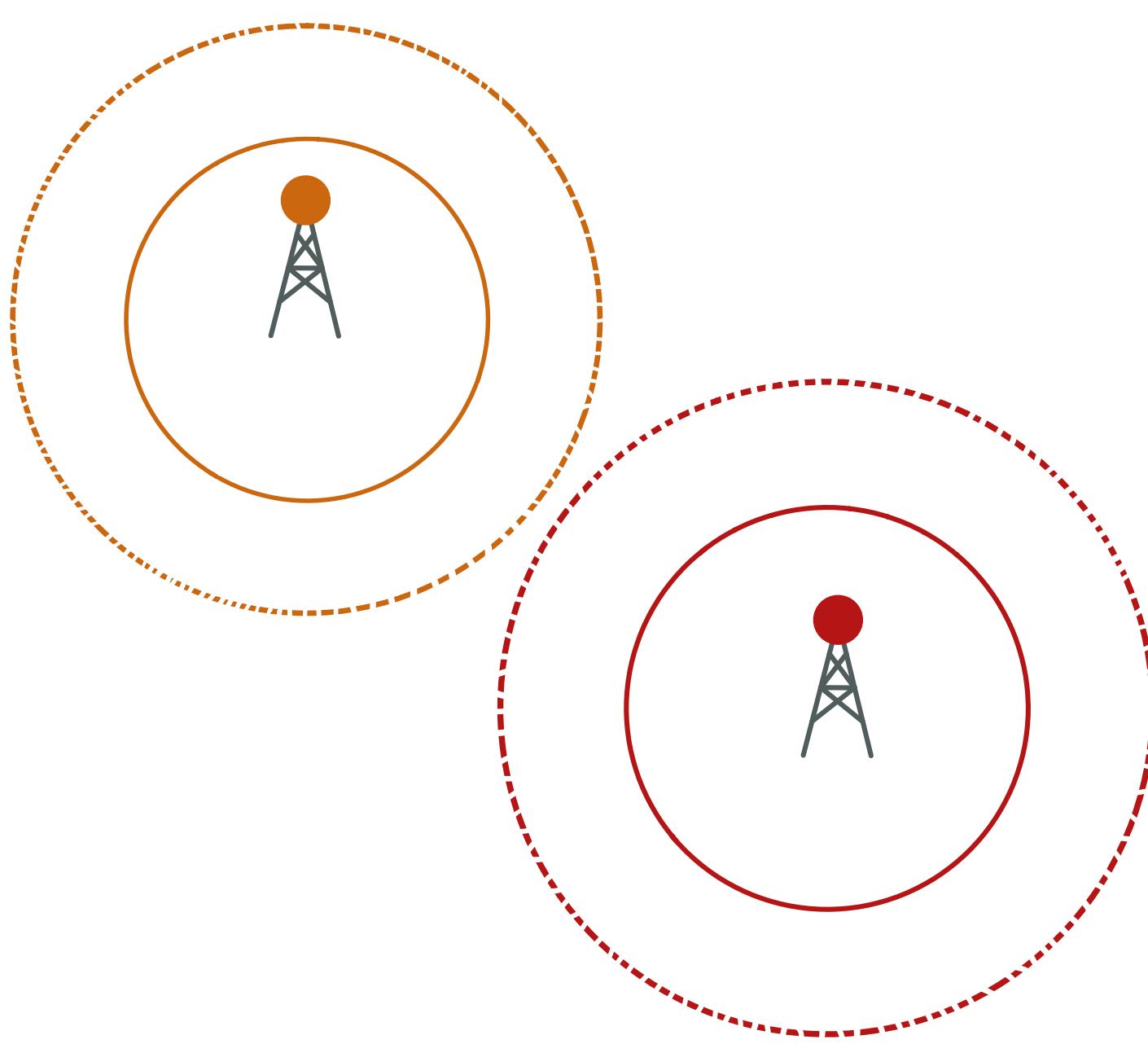
joint work w/ Chandra Chekuri, UIUC

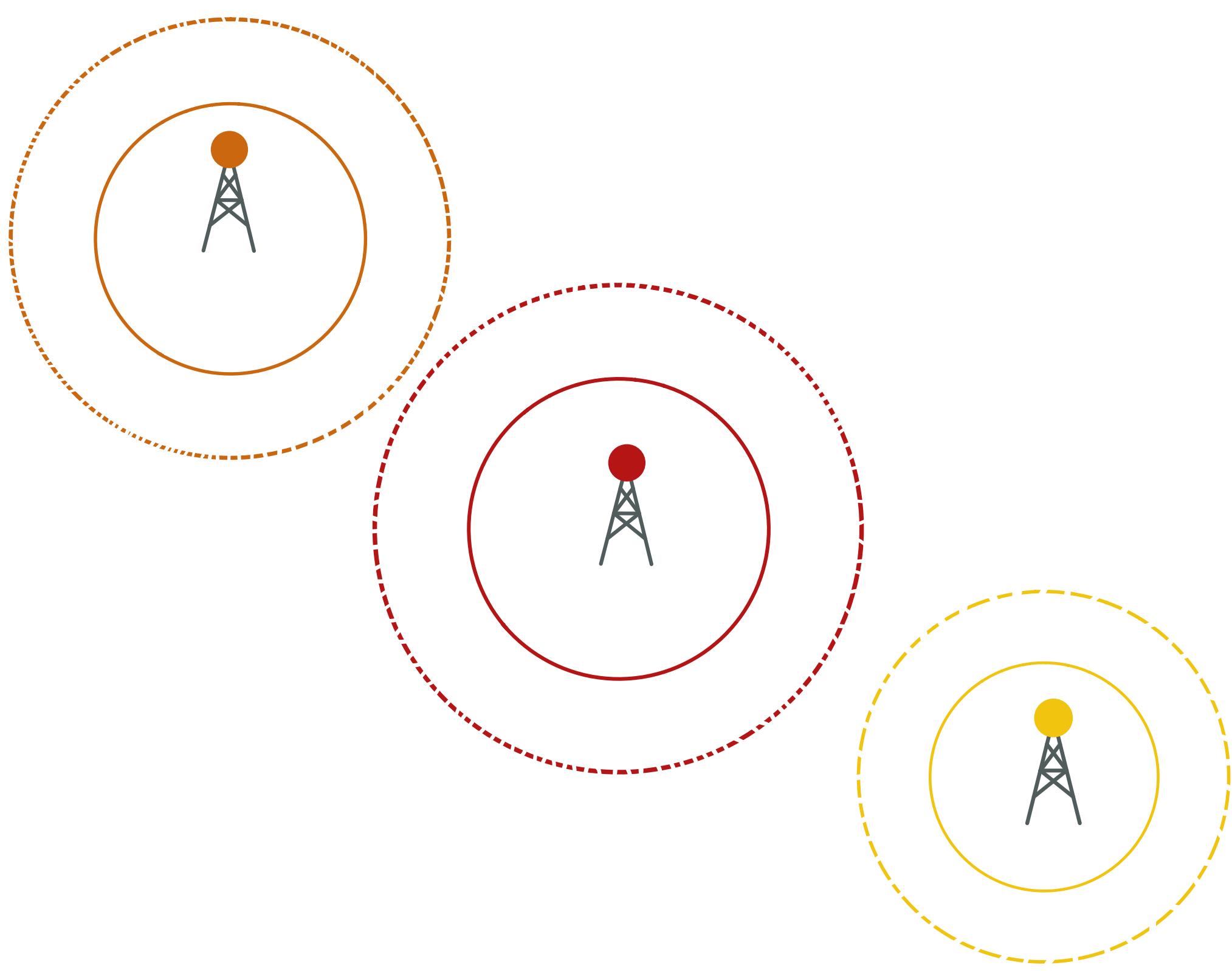
Bellairs Workshop on  
Discrete Optimization

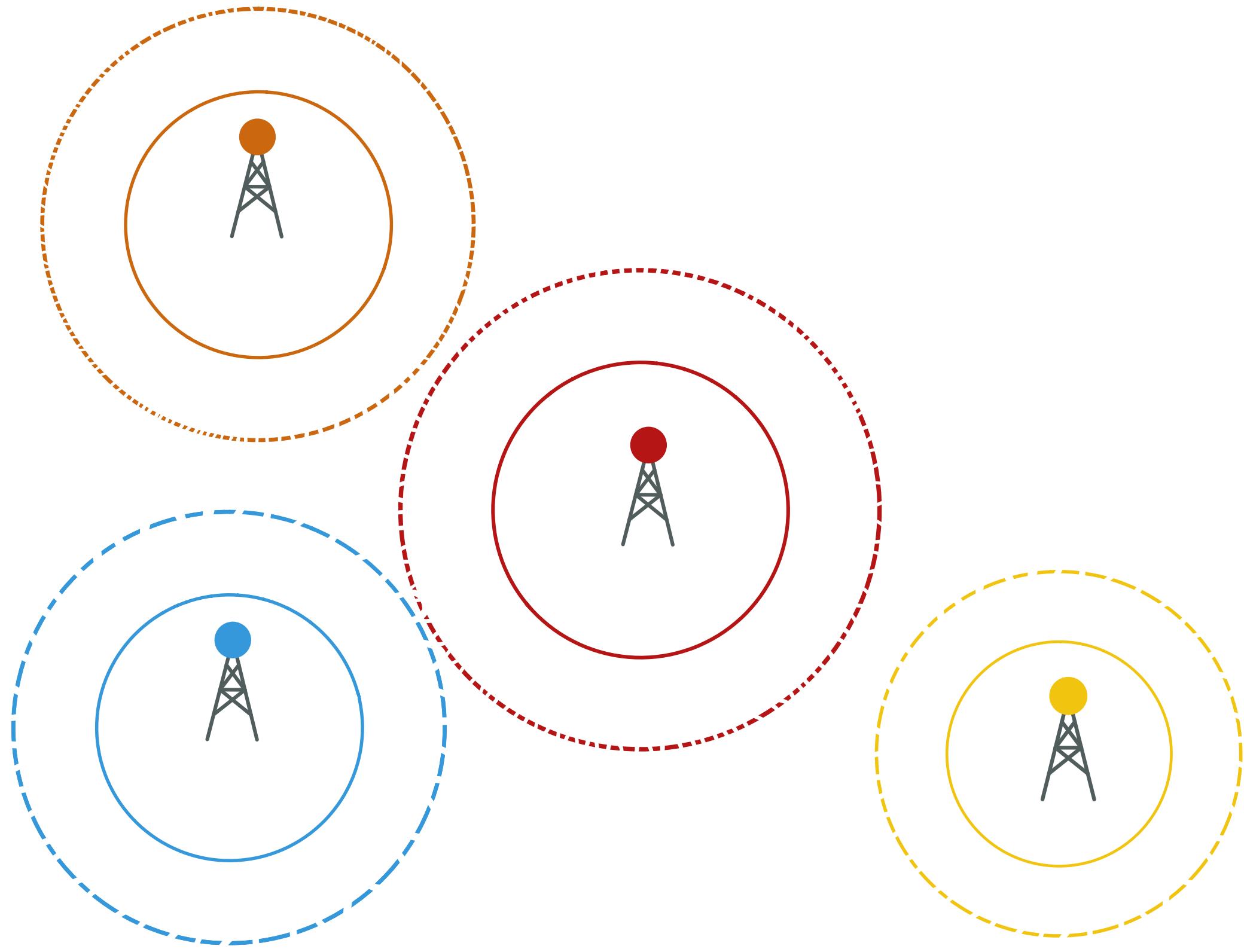
April 17, 2019

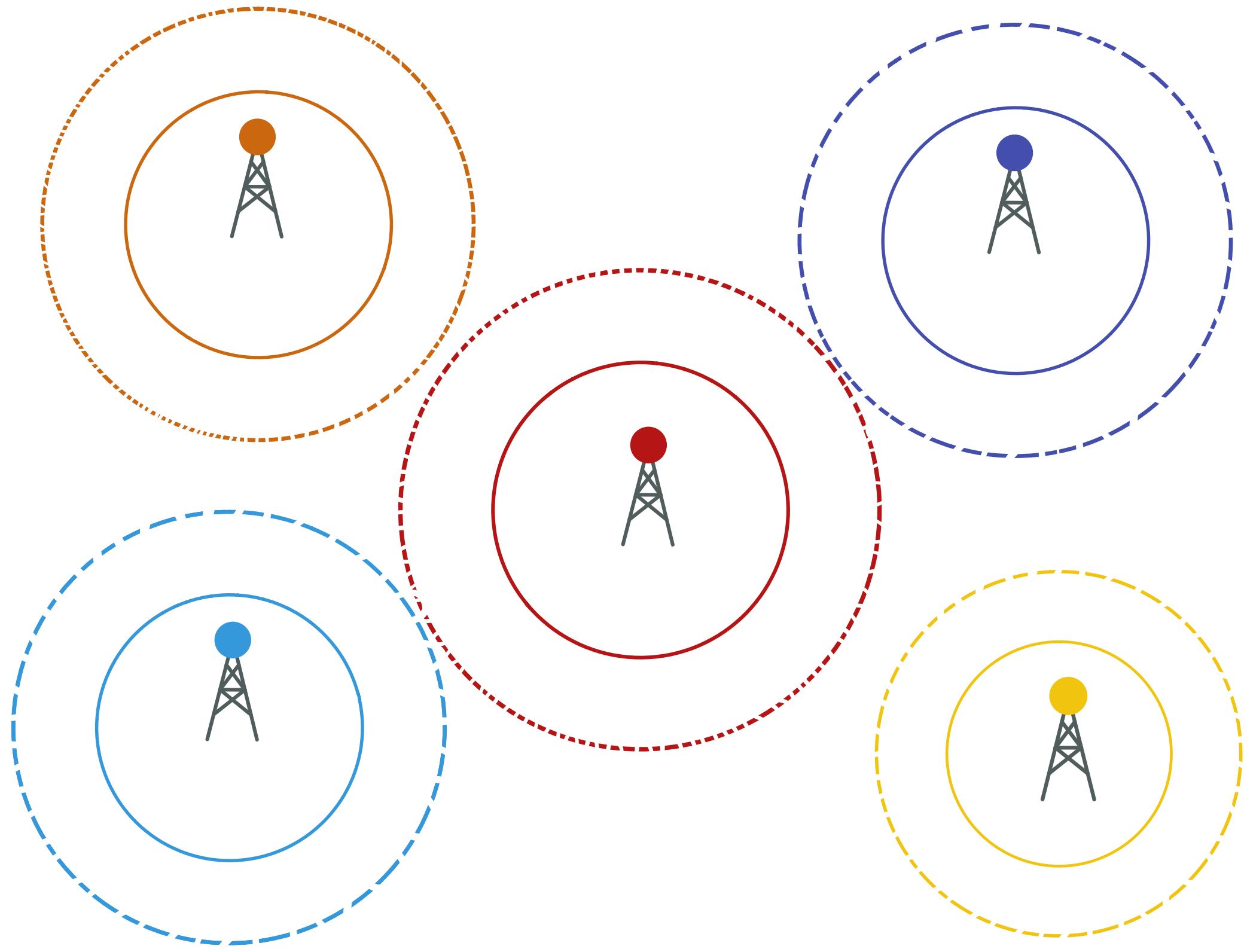


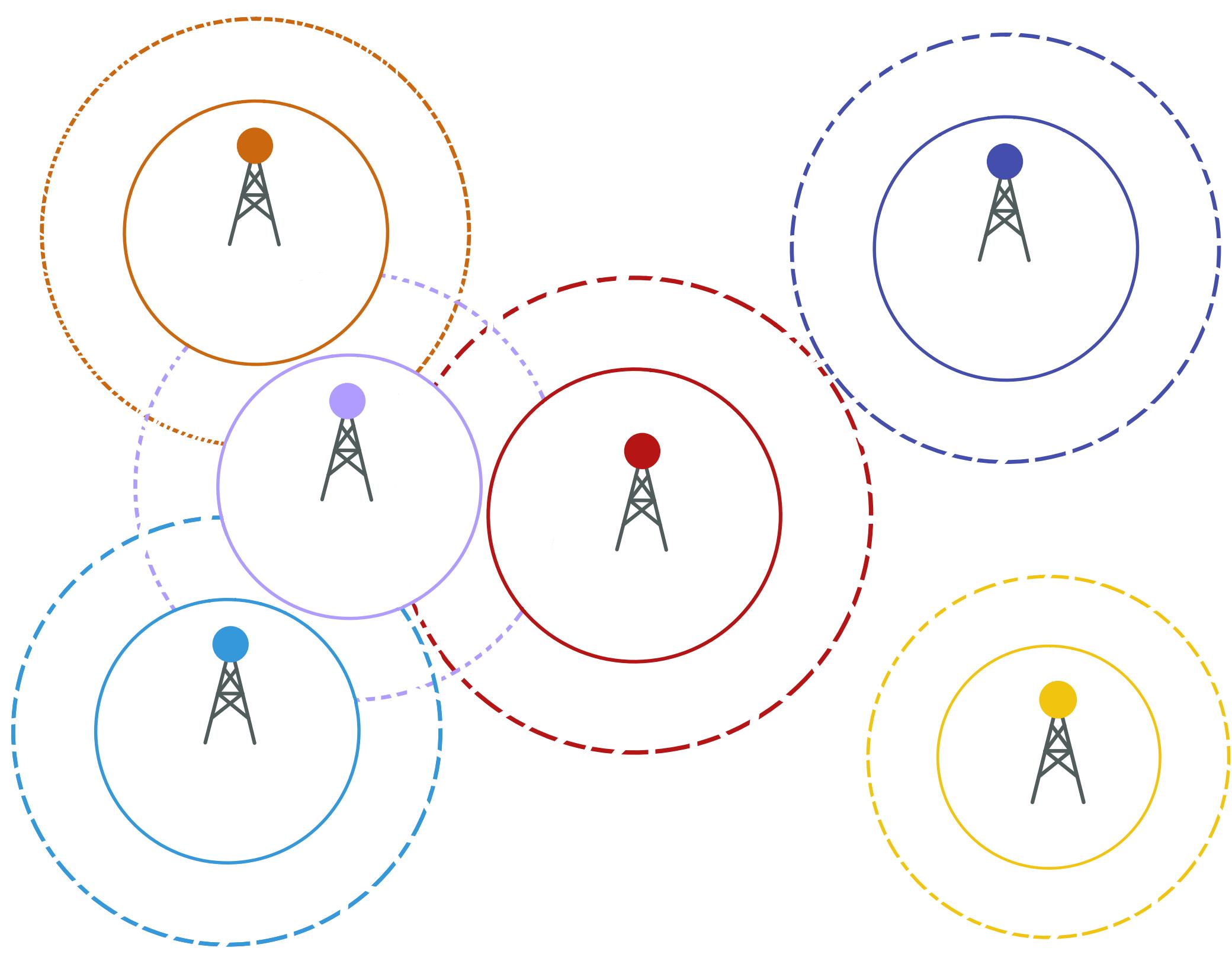
Sensor placement

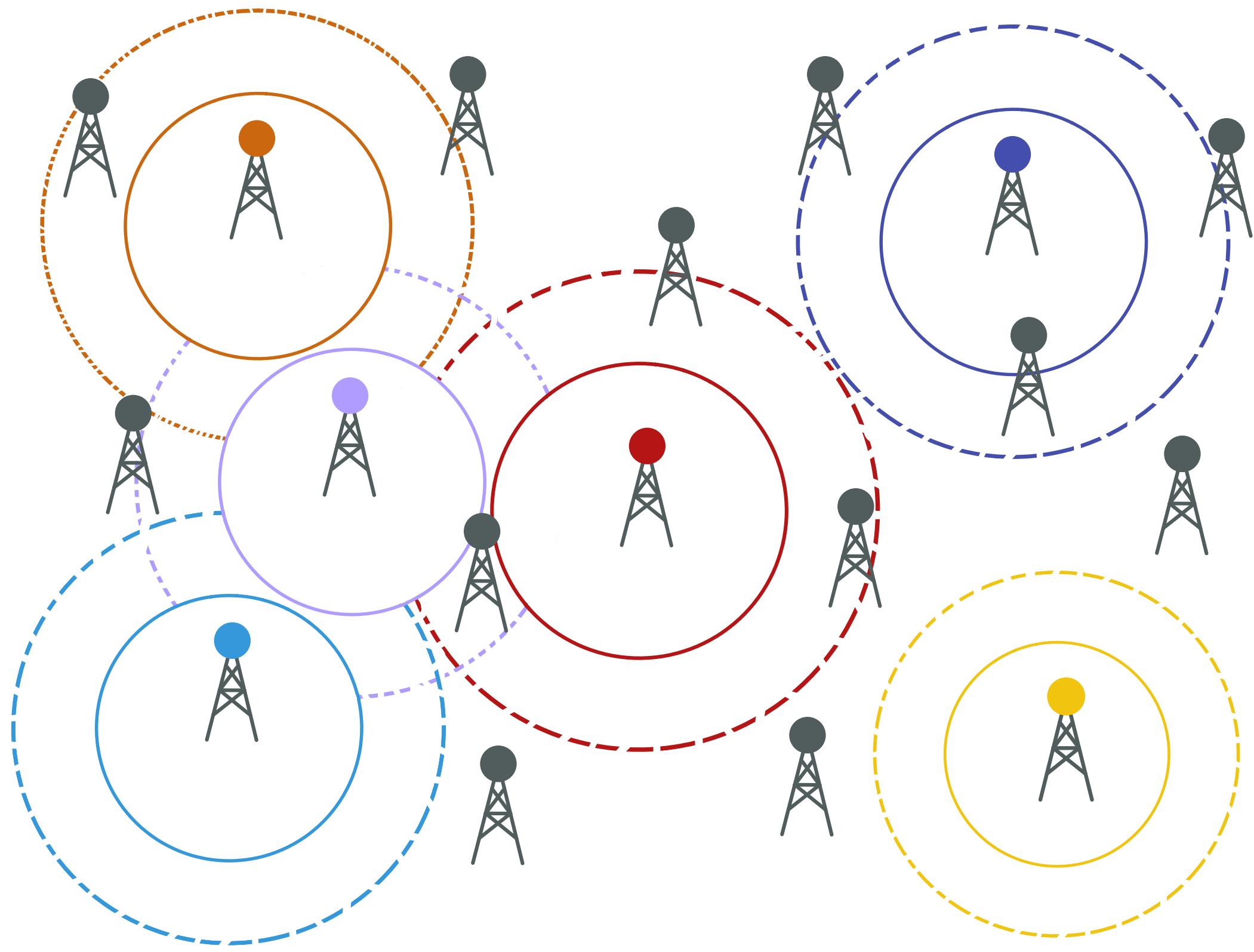












# Maximum Coverage

Input: sets  $S_1, \dots, S_n$ ; cardinality  $k \in \mathbb{N}$

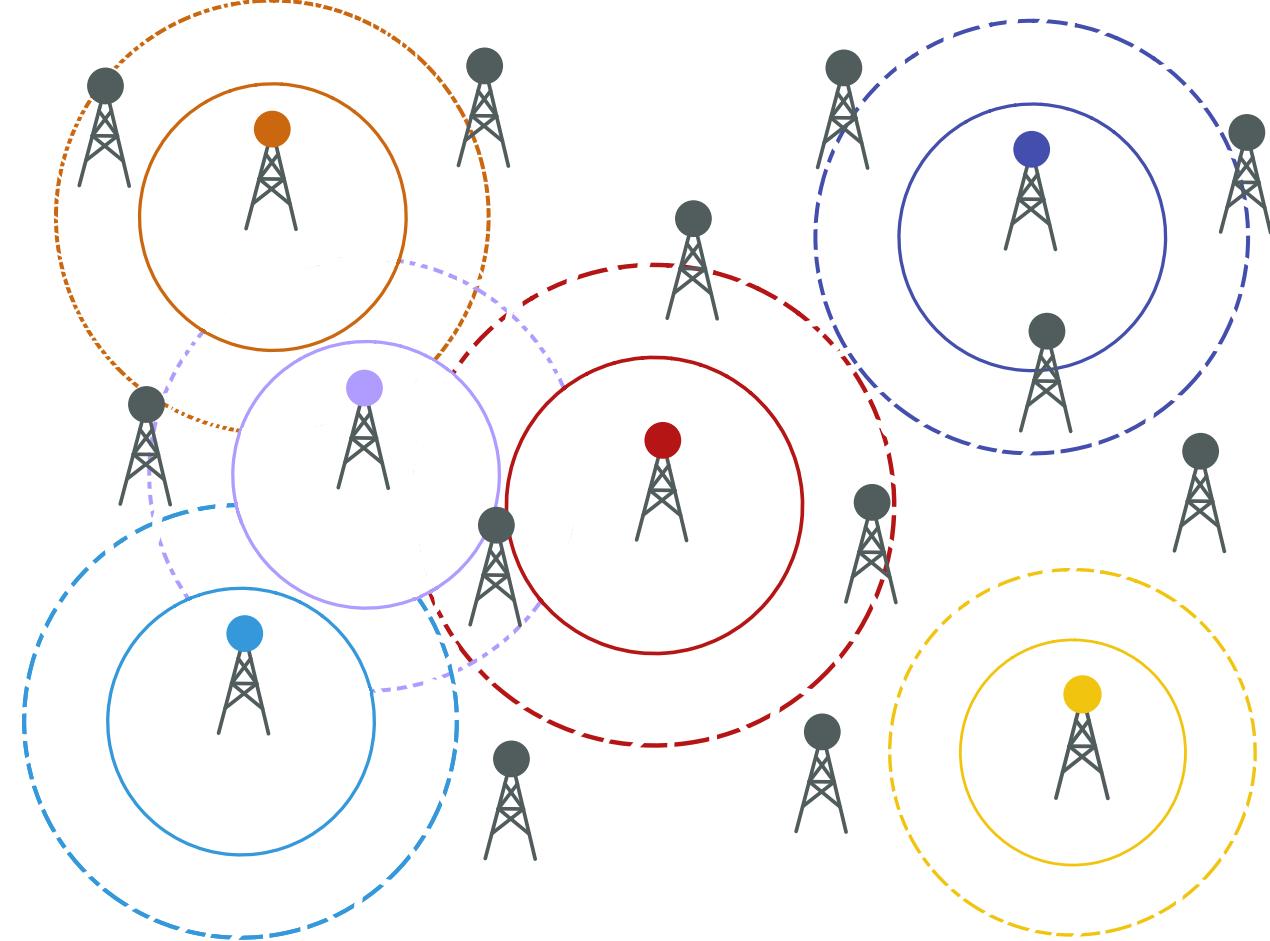
Goal: select  $k$  sets  $S_{i_1}, \dots, S_{i_k}$  maximizing their union  $\bigcup_{j=1}^k S_{i_j}$

NP-Hard

1- $\frac{1}{e}$  APX-hardness

1- $\frac{1}{e}$  APX by greedy

parallel?



Given:

- $f: 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

Submodular function

- $k \in \mathbb{N}$

cardinality constraint

Goal

maximize  $f(I)$  s.t.  $|I| \leq k$

(and in parallel?)

“submodular”  $f: 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

denote  $f_S(Z) = f(S \cup Z) - f(S)$   
“marginal value of  $Z$  to  $S$ ”

[decreasing  
marginal  
returns]

$$S \subseteq T \Rightarrow f_S(Z) \geq f_T(Z)$$

Oracle: given  $S$ , returns  $f(S)$

We say  $f$  is "monotone" if

$$S \subseteq T \Rightarrow f(S) \leq f(T)$$

[1978: Nemhauser,  
Wolsey, Fisher] greedy analysis for monotone  $f$

$1 - \frac{1}{e}$  for cardinality,  $\frac{1}{k+1}$  for  $k$  matroid intersection

[1978: Nemhauser, Wolsey, Fisher] greedy analysis for monotone  $f$

$1 - \frac{1}{e}$  for cardinality,  $\frac{1}{k+1}$  for  $k$  matroid intersection

...30 years later...

2000's: explosion of interest

Improved. matroids, packing constraints  
bounds • nonnegative  $f$ , Unconstrained,  $\approx$

New . Continuous relaxations, Swap/pipage rounding,  
techniques • randomized techniques,  $\approx$

growing . Machine learning, data mining,  
applications • new connections in Comb. OPT

Applications  $\Rightarrow$  need for efficient  
algorithms in new models of computation

random  
arrival  
streams

parallel  
(PRAM)  
models

MapReduce  
algorithms

oracle  
efficient  
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online  
algorithms

online w/  
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stochastic  
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secretary  
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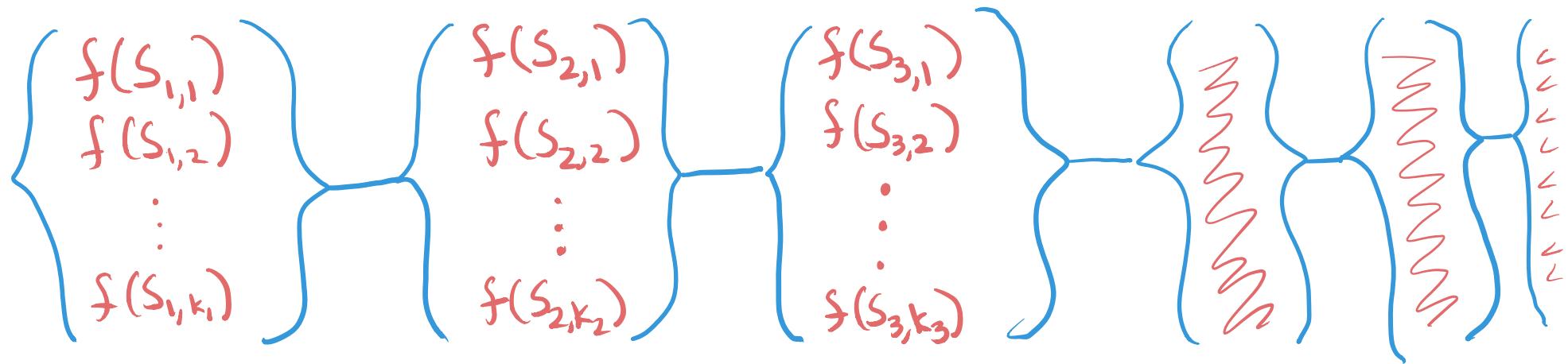
stochastic  
models

secretary  
problems

# Adaptivity and parallelization

[Balkanski,  
Singer]

- (essentially) PRAM oracle for  $f$
- Queries to  $f$  divided into "adaptive rounds"
- Choice of queries can only depend on queries to  $f$  of previous rounds



Recent interest in parallel submodular max  
for cardinality constraints

[Balkanski,  
Singer  
(STOC '18)] lower bound of  $\Omega\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$  rounds  
for  $\Omega(1)$ -APX

$\frac{1}{3}$ -APX in  $O(\log n)$  rounds

[Balkanski,  
Rubinstein,  
Singer  
(SODA '19)] [Ene,  
Nguyen]  $(1 - \frac{1}{e} - \epsilon)$ -APX in  $O\left(\frac{\log n}{\epsilon^2}\right)$  rounds

# Our results: beyond cardinality

## Packing constraints

[Chekuri, Quanrud]  $(1 - \frac{1}{e} - \varepsilon)$ -APX in  $\text{poly}(\log n, \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  rounds

takes continuous viewpoint

$Ax \leq b$  captures many constraints

## Matroids

[Chekuri, Quanrud] matches sequential bounds  
in  $\text{poly}(\log n, \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  rounds

monotone and generally nonnegative  $f$

extends to matroid intersection, matroids

Further interest in parallel submodular max;  
different constraints, nonnegative setting,  
better depth, better oracle complexity

Balkanski  
Singer

Ene  
Nguyen

Balkanski  
Rubinstein  
Singer

Fahrbaek  
Mirrokni  
Zadimoghaddam

Ene  
Nguyen  
Vladu

Chen  
Feldman  
Karbasi

(w/ multiplicities)

Parallelizing greedy for cardinality and beyond

$1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX for monotone  $f$  in sequential setting  
[Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]

[this talk]

$(1 - \frac{1}{e} - \varepsilon)$ -APX for monotone  $f$  w/  $\tilde{O}(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2})$  depth

general packing  
constraints in parallel

matroid constraints  
in parallel

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

Greedy algorithm

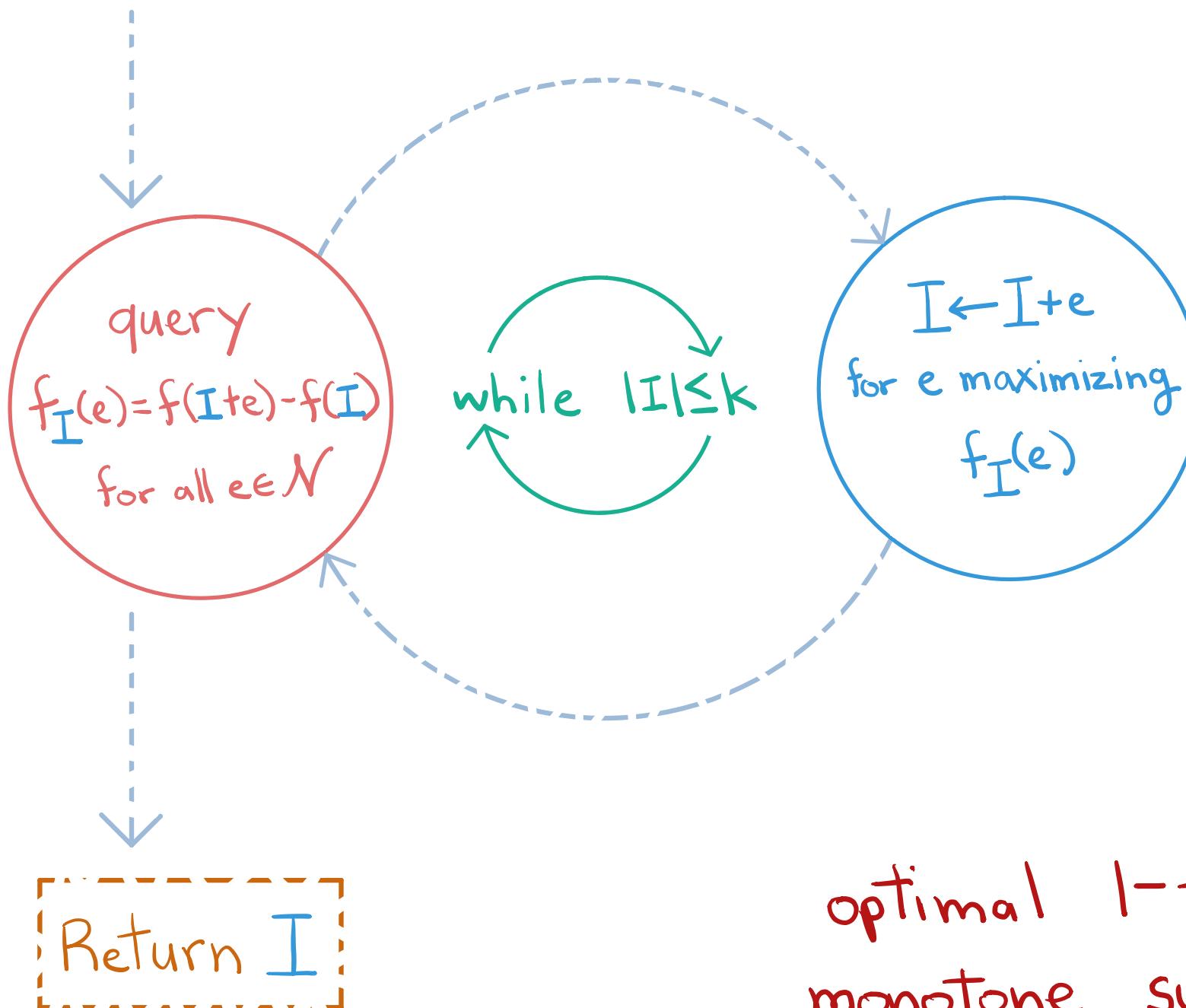
[Nemhauser,  
Wolsey,  
Fischer '78]

optimal  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX for  
monotone submodular  $f$

Return  $I$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

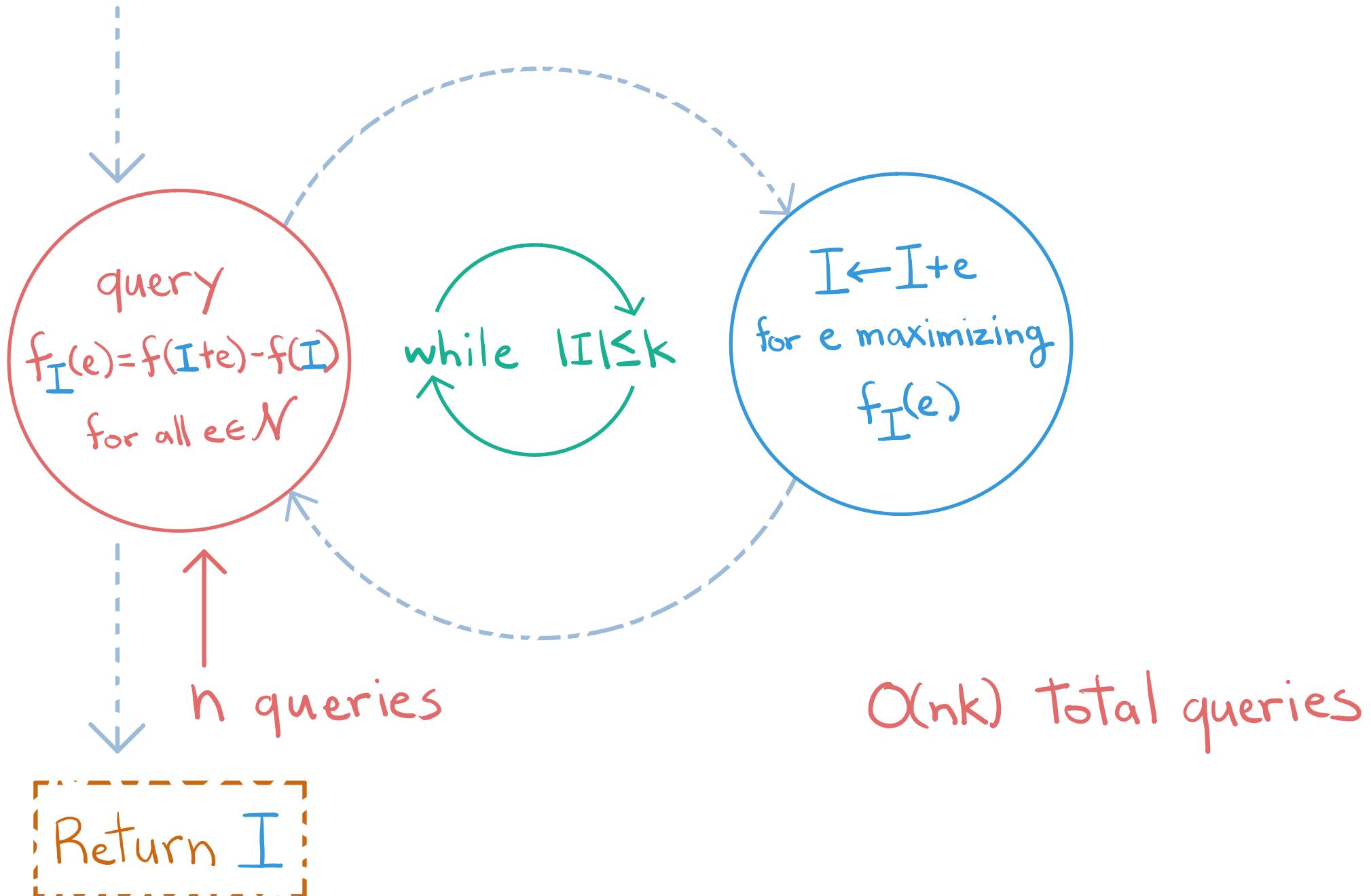
# Greedy algorithm



optimal  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX for  
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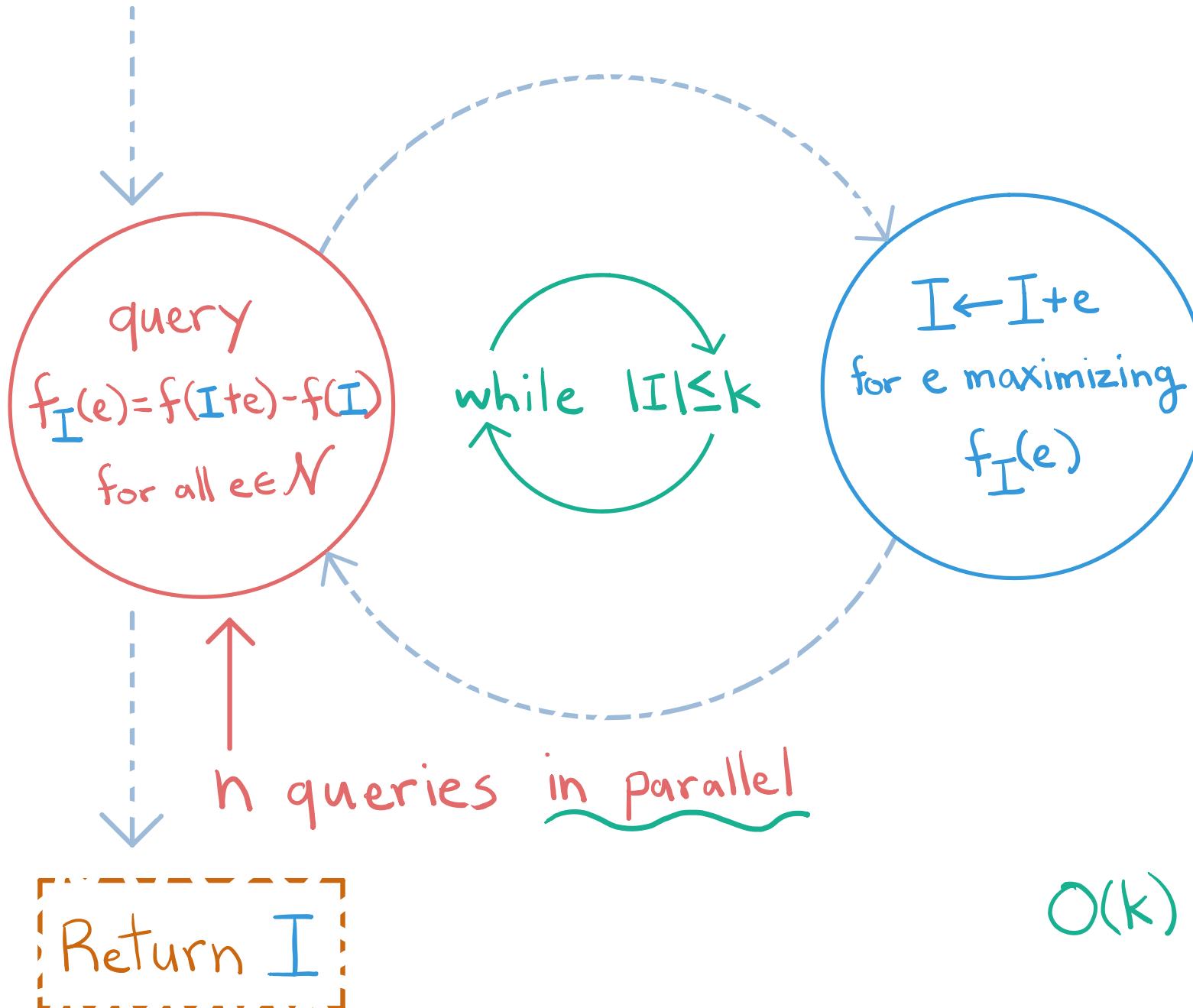
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# Greedy algorithm



Initially  
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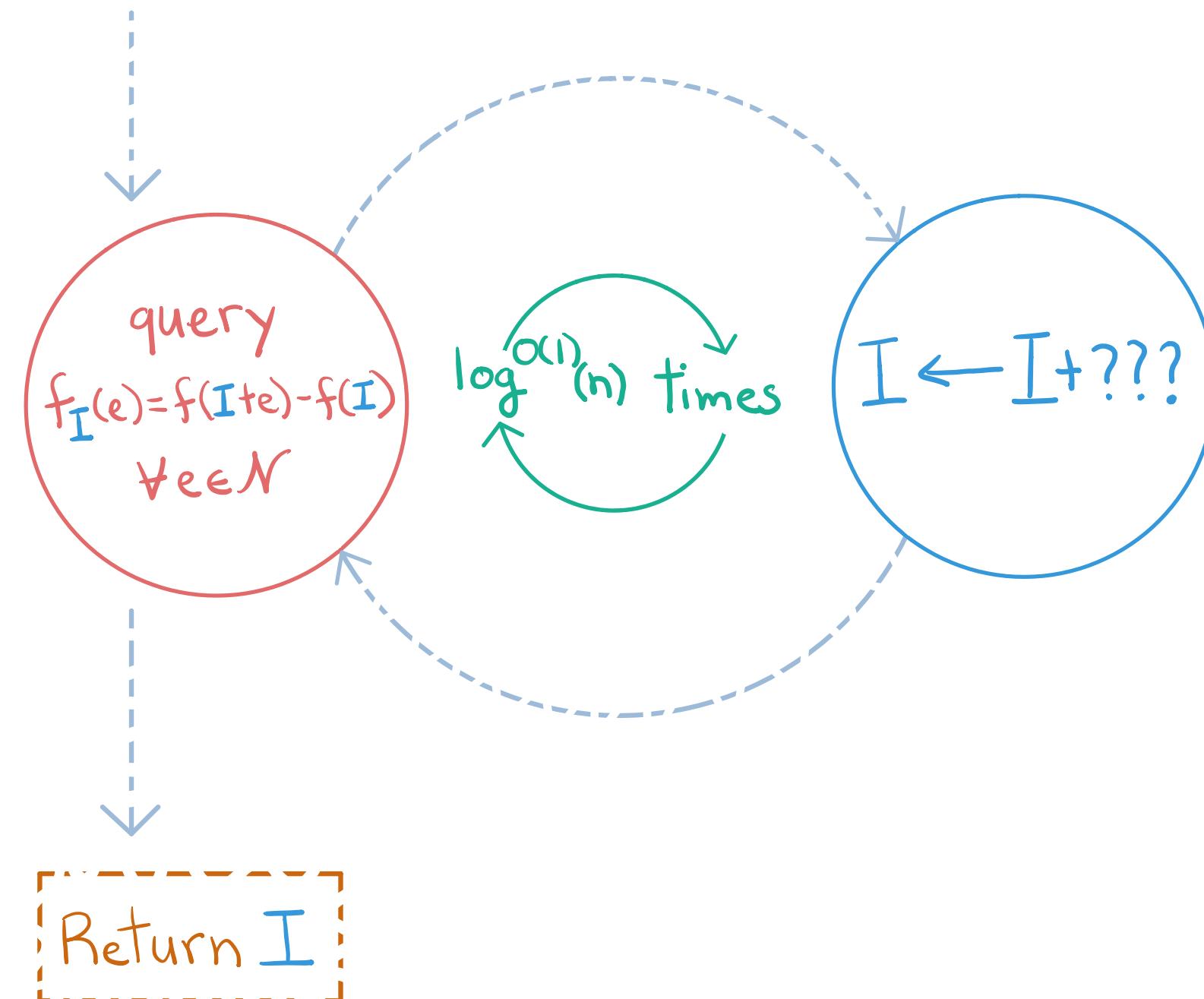
# Greedy algorithm



$O(k)$  adaptivity

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

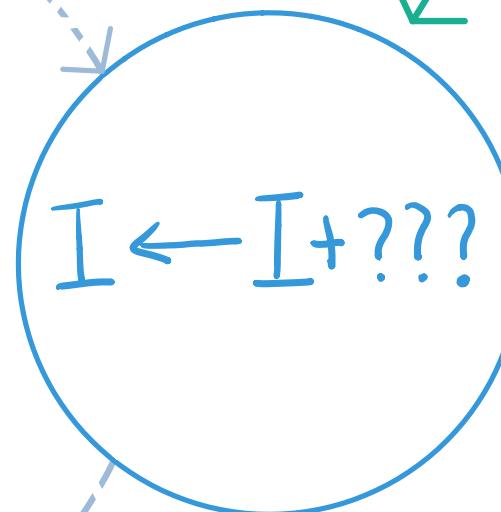
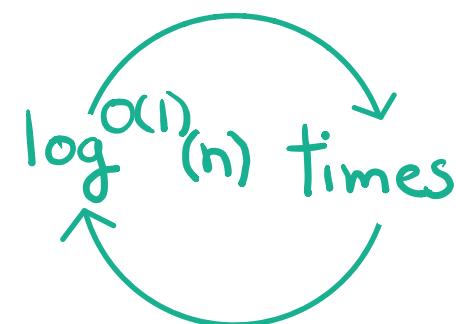
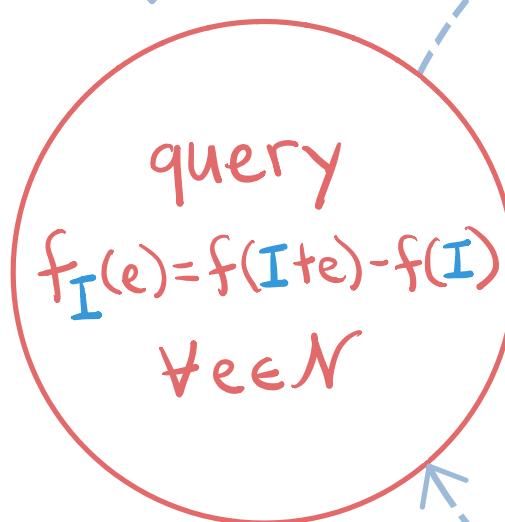
Parallel Greedy?



Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

Parallel Greedy?

need to take  
 $\frac{k}{\text{polylog}(n)}$  elements

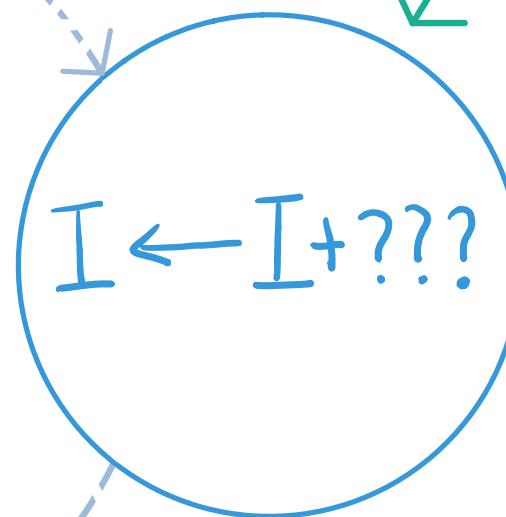
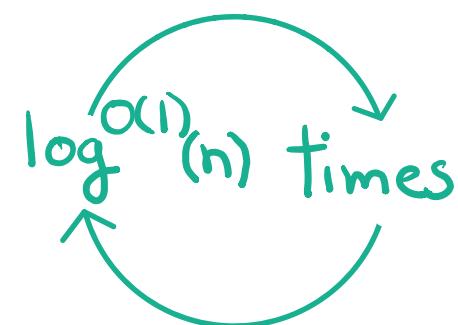
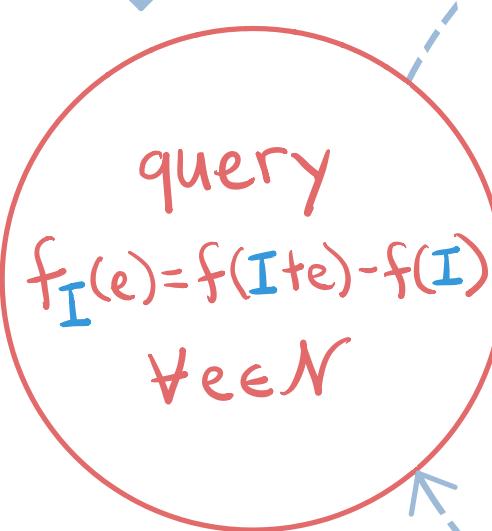


Return  $I$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

Parallel Greedy?

need to take  
 $\frac{k}{\text{polylog}(n)}$  elements



... but the elements:

negate each other w.r.t  $f$

[e.g., overlapping sets in coverage]

Return  $I$

Suppose we plot  
the marginal values  
of greedy

$\max_e f_S(e)$



plotting greedy  
=greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX

greedy order



$$\max_e f_S(e)$$

plotting greedy  
=greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX

OPT/k  
 $(1-\epsilon)OPT/k$   
 $(1-\epsilon^2)OPT/k$   
 $\vdots$   
 $OPT/10k$   
 $\overline{\alpha(\frac{1}{\epsilon}) \text{ levels}}$

greedy order

$$\max_e f_g(e)$$

$\text{OPT}/k$   
 $(1-\varepsilon)\text{OPT}/k$   
 $(1-\varepsilon^2)\text{OPT}/k$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\text{OPT}/10k$   
 $\frac{1}{\alpha(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})} \text{ levels}$

plotting greedy  
 =greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX  
 approximates greedy,  
 $\Rightarrow (1 - \frac{1}{e} - \varepsilon) \text{ APX}$

greedy order

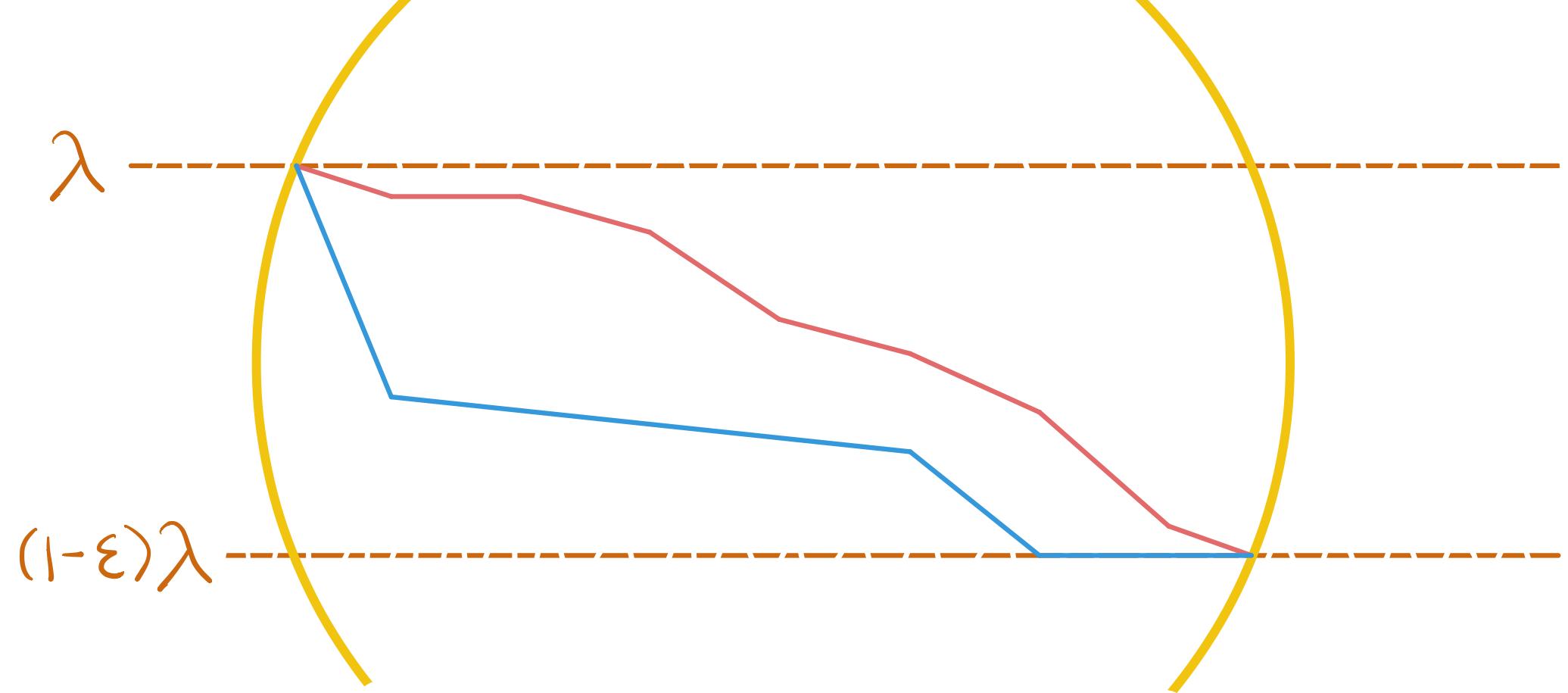
$$\max_e f_S(e)$$

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 $\text{OPT}/10k$   
 $\frac{1}{\alpha(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})} \text{ levels}$

plotting greedy

=greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX  
 approximates greedy,  
 $\Rightarrow (1 - \frac{1}{e} - \varepsilon) \text{ APX}$

greedy order



Goal: drive down max margin to  $(1-\varepsilon)\lambda$   
while taking elements w/ margin  $\approx \lambda$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

choose some  $R \subseteq S$

query margins  $f_I^{(e)}$   
 $\lambda \leftarrow \max_e f_I^{(e)}$

$O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$  iter.

gather  $\{e \in N \text{ s.t. } f_I^{(e)} \geq (1-\epsilon)\lambda\}$

while  $S \neq \emptyset$

$I \leftarrow I + R$

query margins  $f_I^{(e)} \nmid e$

$\lambda \downarrow$  by  $(1-\epsilon)$ -factor

Return  $I$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

choose some  $R \subseteq S$

query margins  $f_I^{(e)}$   
 $\lambda \leftarrow \max_e f_I^{(e)}$

$O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$  iter.

① gather  
 $S = \{e \in N \text{ s.t. } f_I^{(e)} \geq (1-\epsilon) \lambda\}$

while  $S \neq \emptyset$

$I \leftarrow I + R$

query margins  $f_I^{(e)} \forall e$

$\lambda \downarrow$  by  $(1-\epsilon)$ -factor

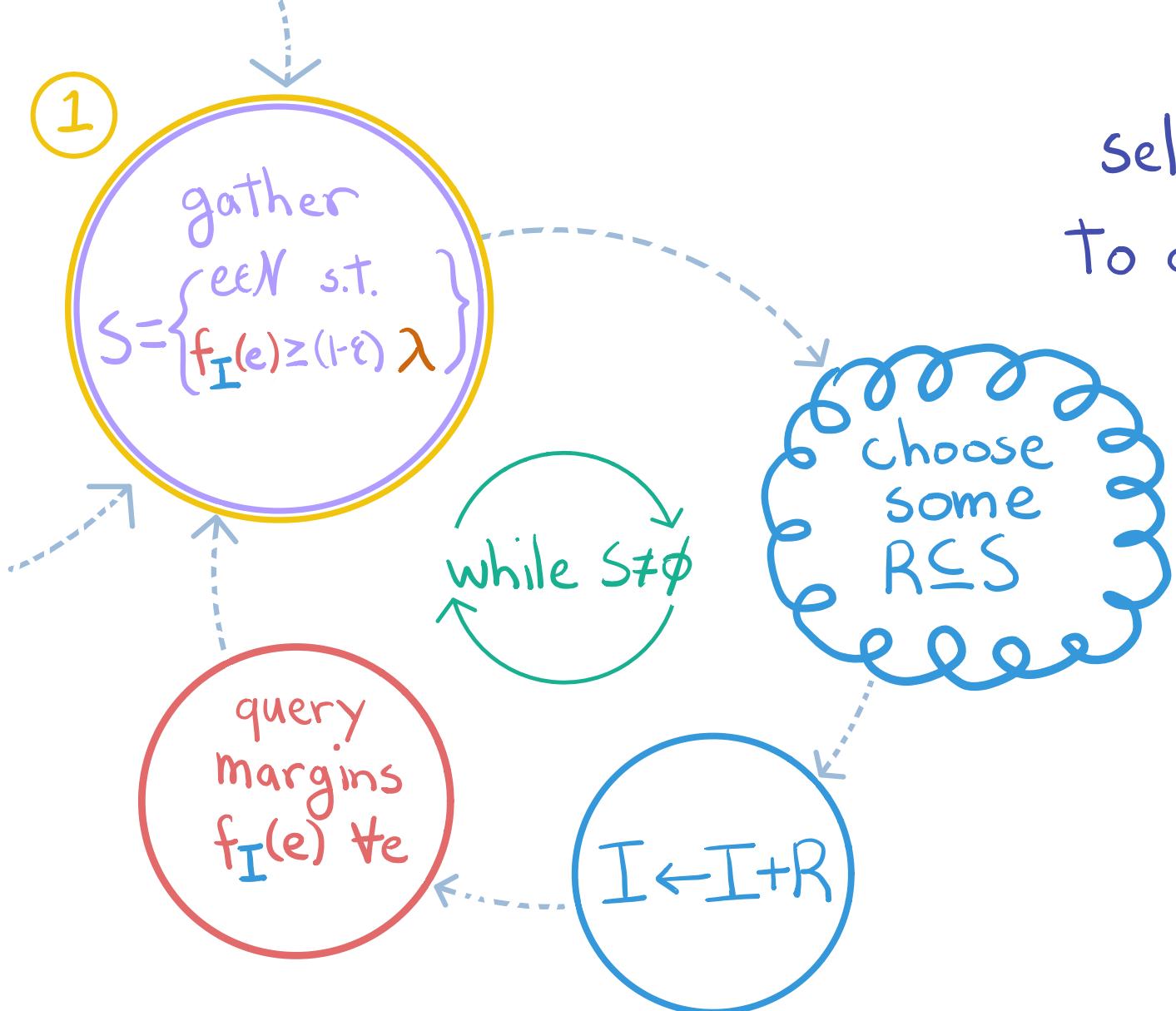
① gather  
 $S = \{e \in N \text{ s.t. } f_I^{(e)} \geq (1-\epsilon) \lambda\}$

set of elements that  
 $\approx$  greedy ( $\max$ -margin) elem.

## Goal

select a set  $R \subseteq S$   
To add to  $I$  that is both

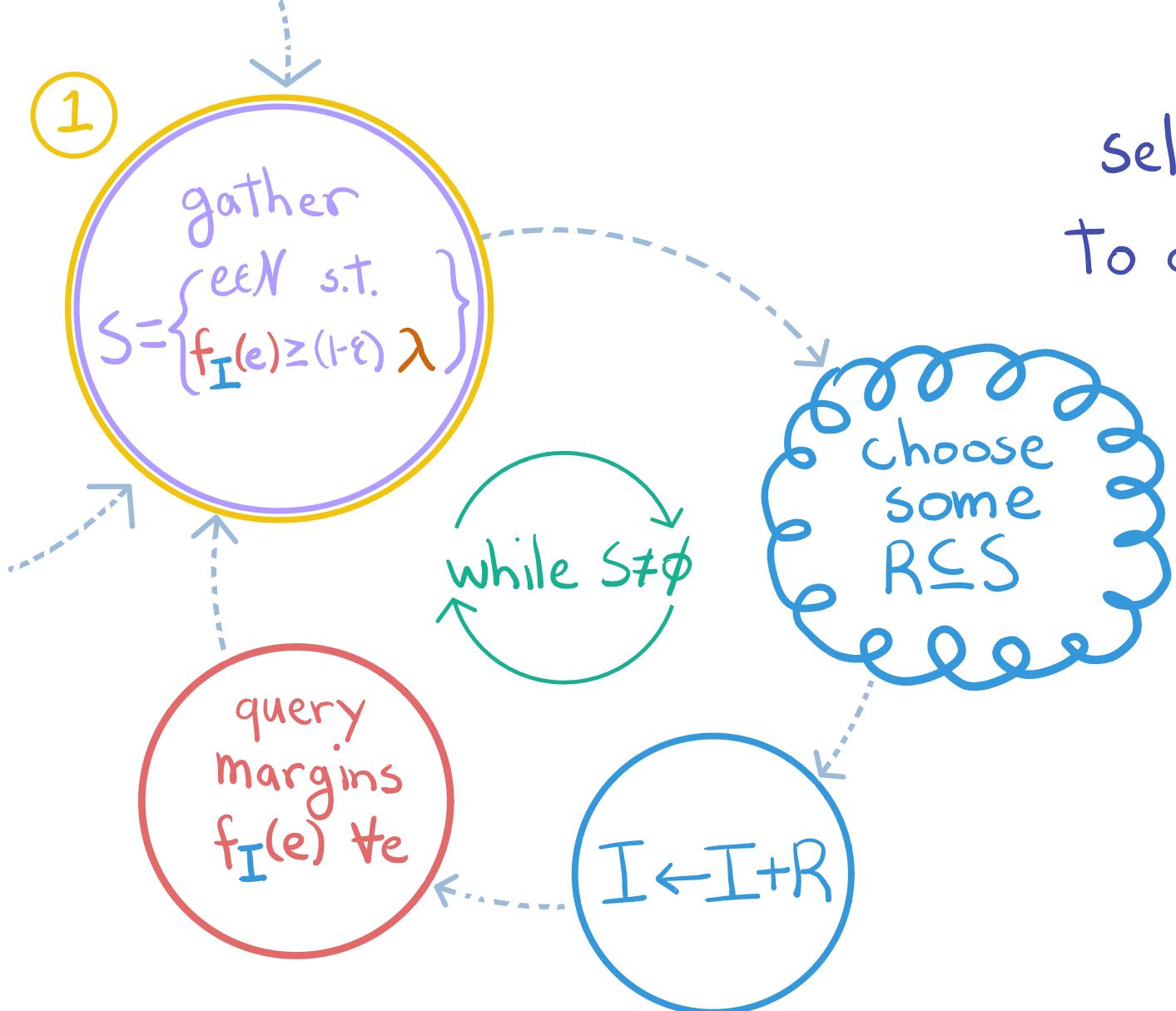
"good"  
and  
"large"



## Goal

select a set  $R \subseteq S$   
To add to  $I$  that is both

"good"  
and  
"large"



Now we're stuck again

let's take a *Continuous* point of view



need:

- ① continuous relaxation of  $f$
- ② continuous version of greedy

"Multilinear extension"

want  $F(x)$ ,  $x \in [0,1]^N$

extending  $f$

"Multilinear extension"

want  $F(x)$ ,  $x \in [0,1]^N$

extending  $f$

interpret  $x$  as independent sample  $S$

w/  $\Pr[e \in S] = x_e \quad \forall e$

“Multilinear extension”

$$F(x) = E[f(S) | S \sim x]$$

interpret  $x$  as independent sample  $S$

w/  $\Pr[e \in S] = x_e \quad \forall e$

# the derivative $F'(x)$

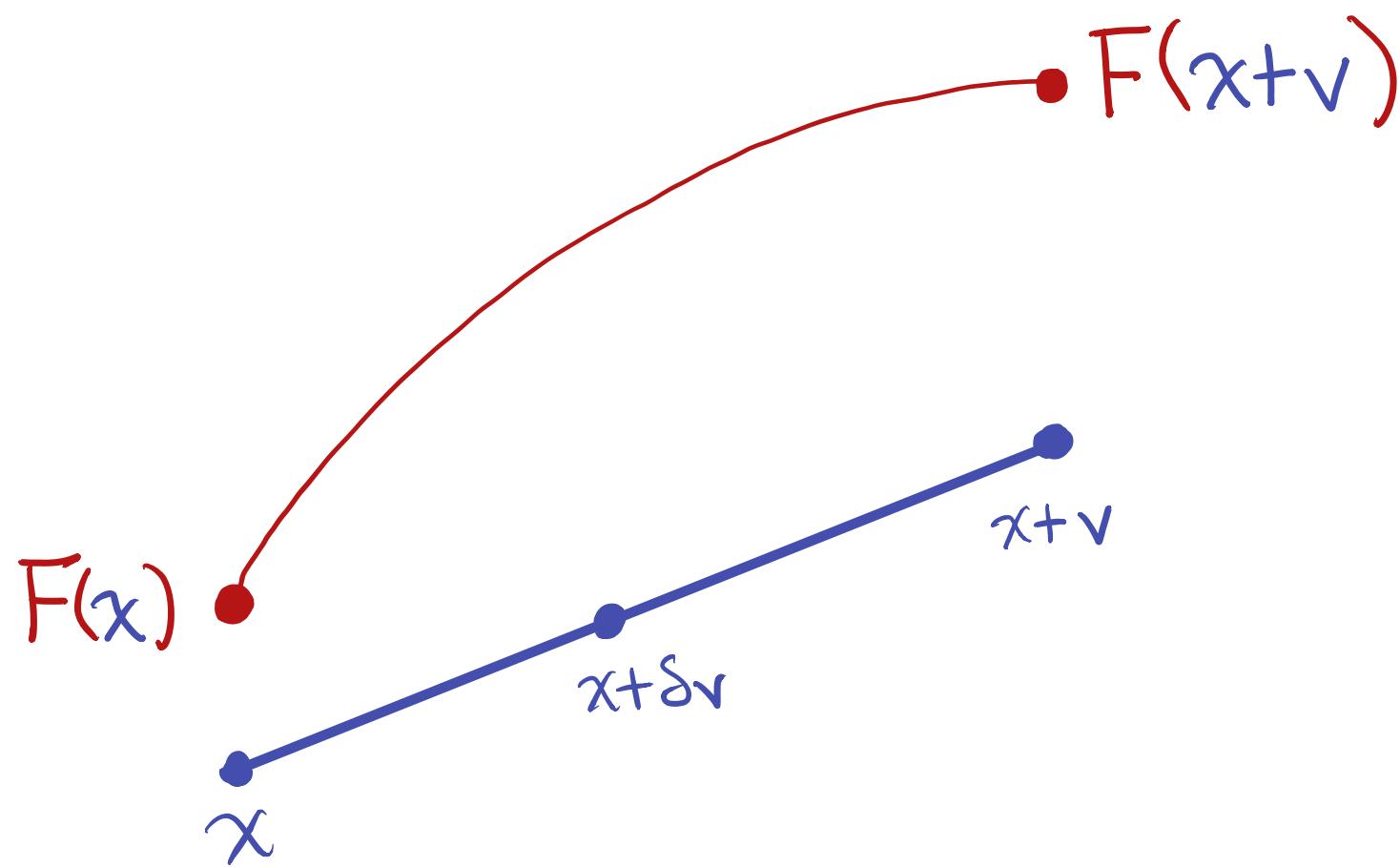
for element e,

$$F'_e(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_e} F(x) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x + \delta e_1) - F(x)}{\delta}$$



continuous analogue  
of marginal returns

- monotone-concave: for  $x \in [0,1]^N$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^N$ ,  $\delta > 0$   
 $F(x + \delta v)$  is concave in  $\delta$



new goal

maximize  $F(x)$  over  $x \geq 0$  s.t.  $\sum_i x_i \leq k$

in parallel in the oracle model

(rounding is easy)

Initially  
 $x = \emptyset^N$

# Continuous Greedy

[Wolsey] [Vondrák]

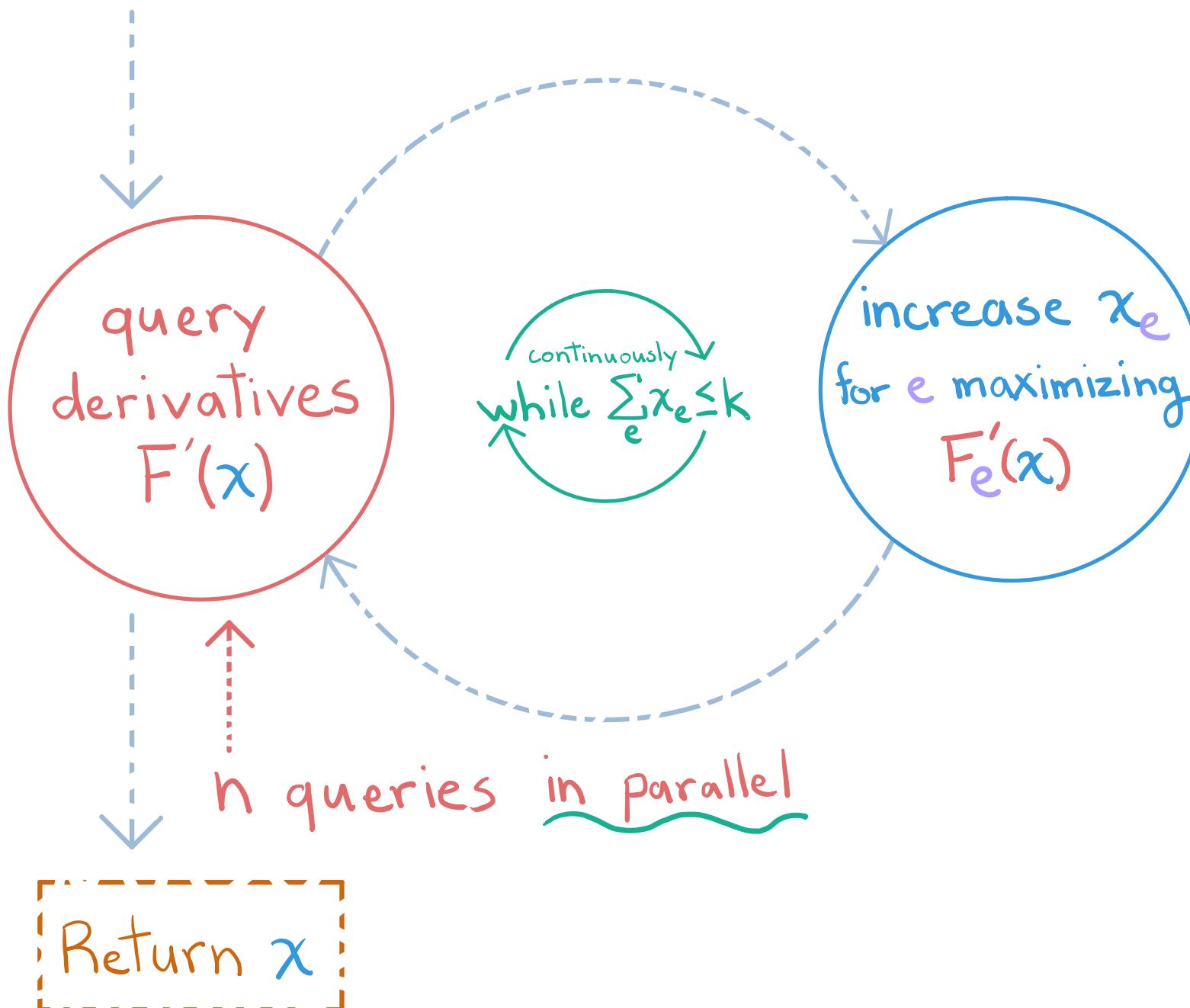
[Calinescu, Chekuri,  
Pál, Vondrák]



Return  $x$

Initially  
 $x = \emptyset^N$

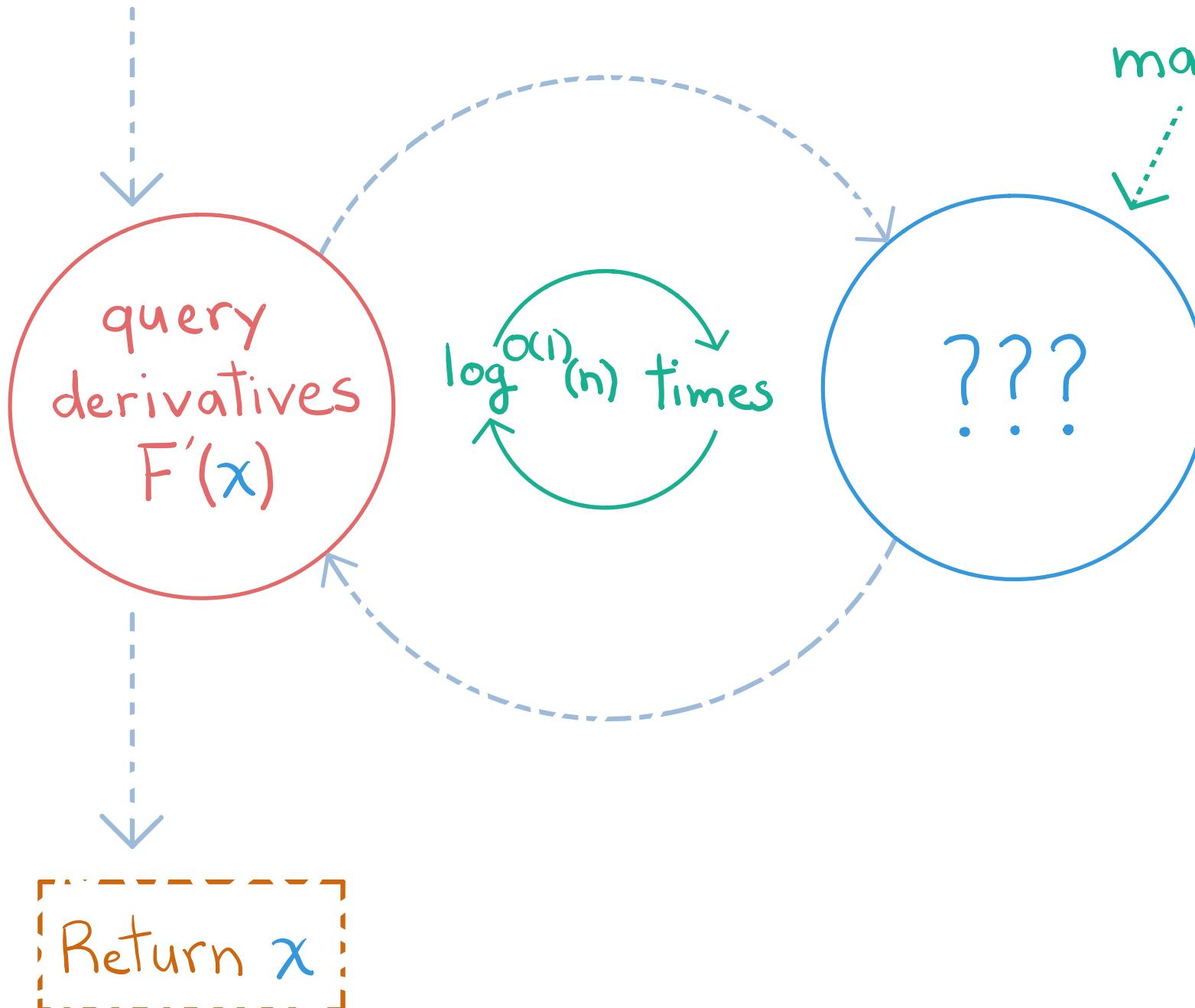
continuous greedy



Initially  
 $x = \emptyset^N$

parallel continuous greedy?

want to increase  
many coordinates  
by a lot



Suppose we plot  
the derivatives of  
continuous greedy

$$\max_e F'_e(x)$$



plotting cont. greedy  
=greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX

greedy order

$\sum_e x_e$



$$\max_e F'_e(x)$$

plotting cont. greedy  
 =greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX

$\text{OPT}/k$   
 $(1-\varepsilon)\text{OPT}/k$   
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 $\overline{\alpha(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}) \text{ levels}}$



greedy order

$\sum_e x_e$

$$\max_e F'_e(x)$$

$\text{OPT}/k$   
 $(1-\varepsilon)\text{OPT}/k$   
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 $\frac{1}{\alpha(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})} \text{ levels}$

plotting cont. greedy  
 =greedy w/  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX  
 approximates greedy,  
 $\Rightarrow (1 - \frac{1}{e} - \varepsilon) \text{ APX}$

greedy order

$\sum_e x_e$

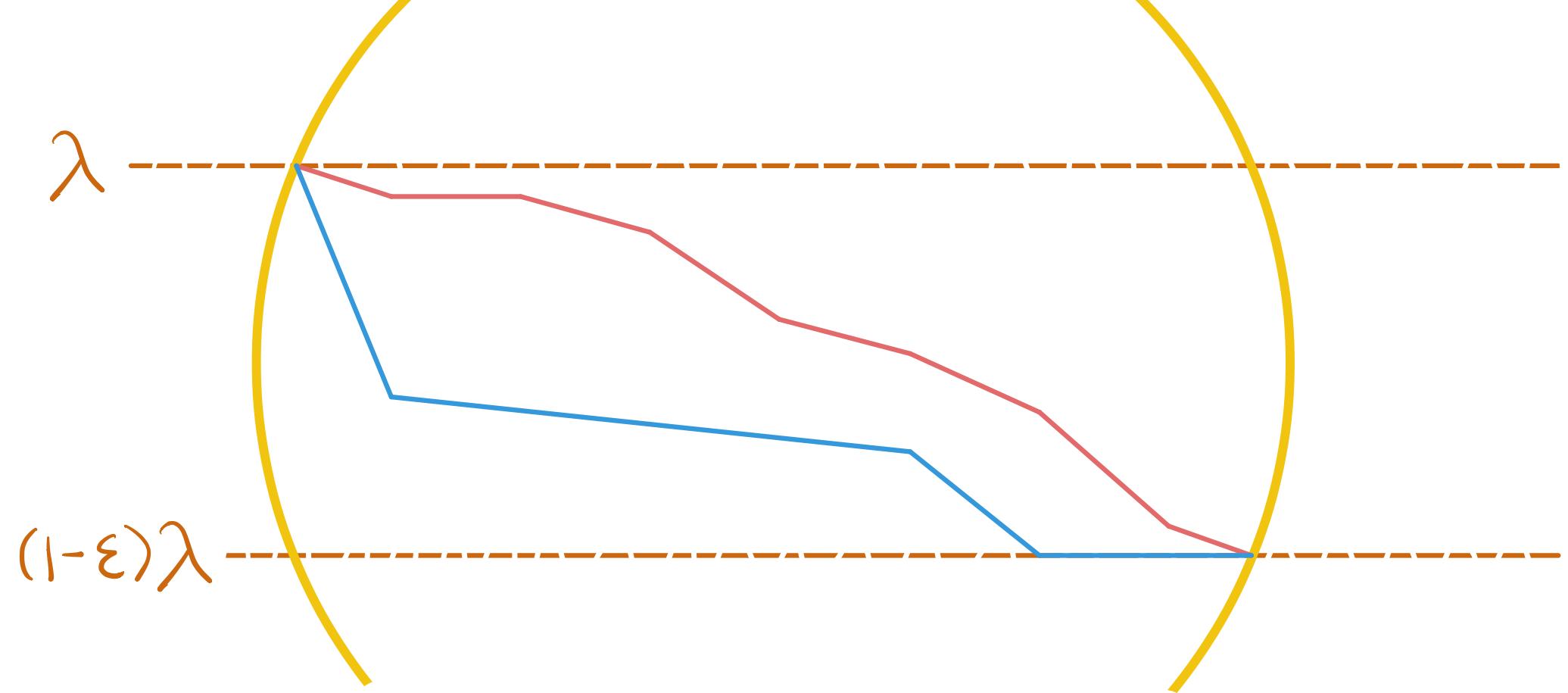
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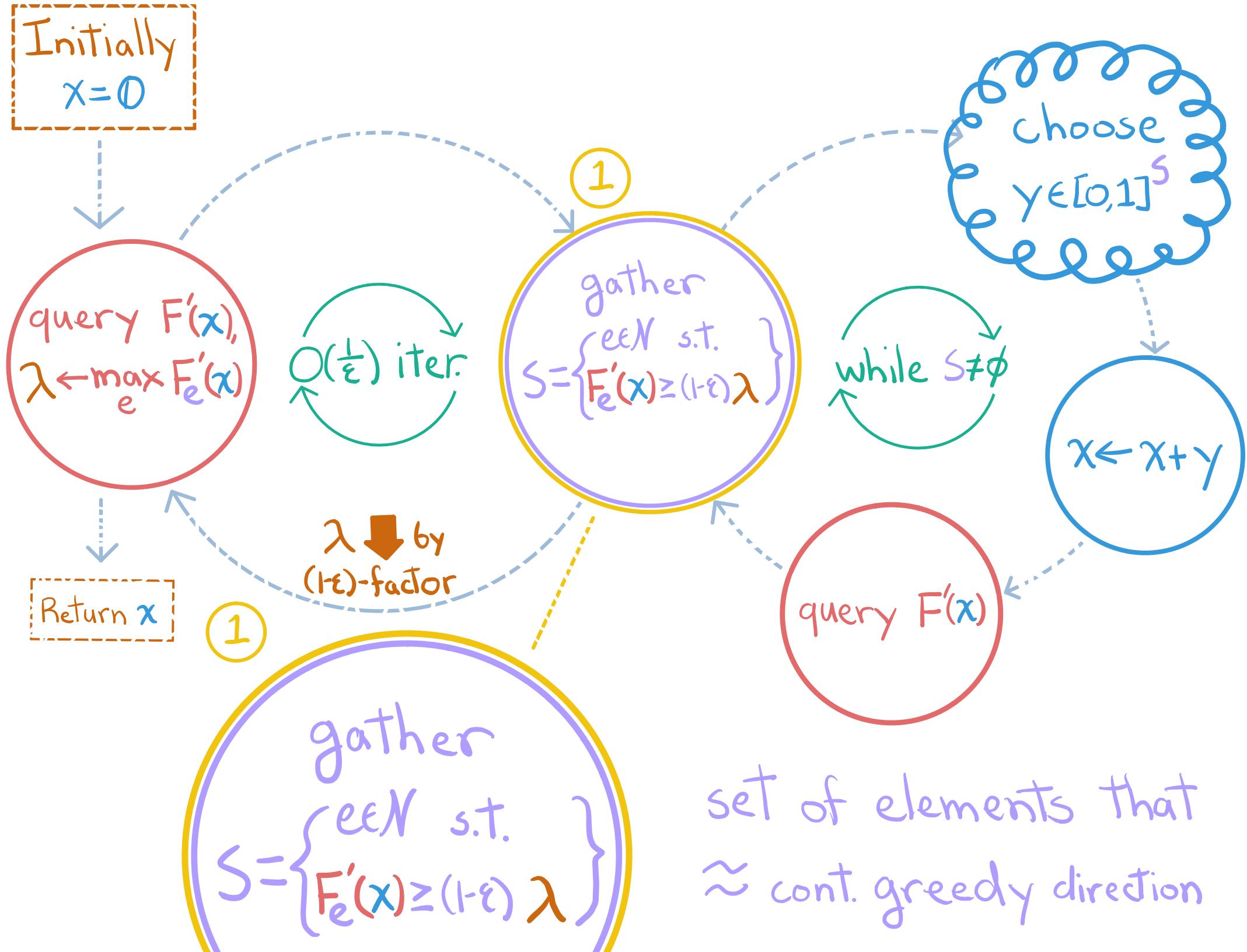
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$\sum_e x_e$

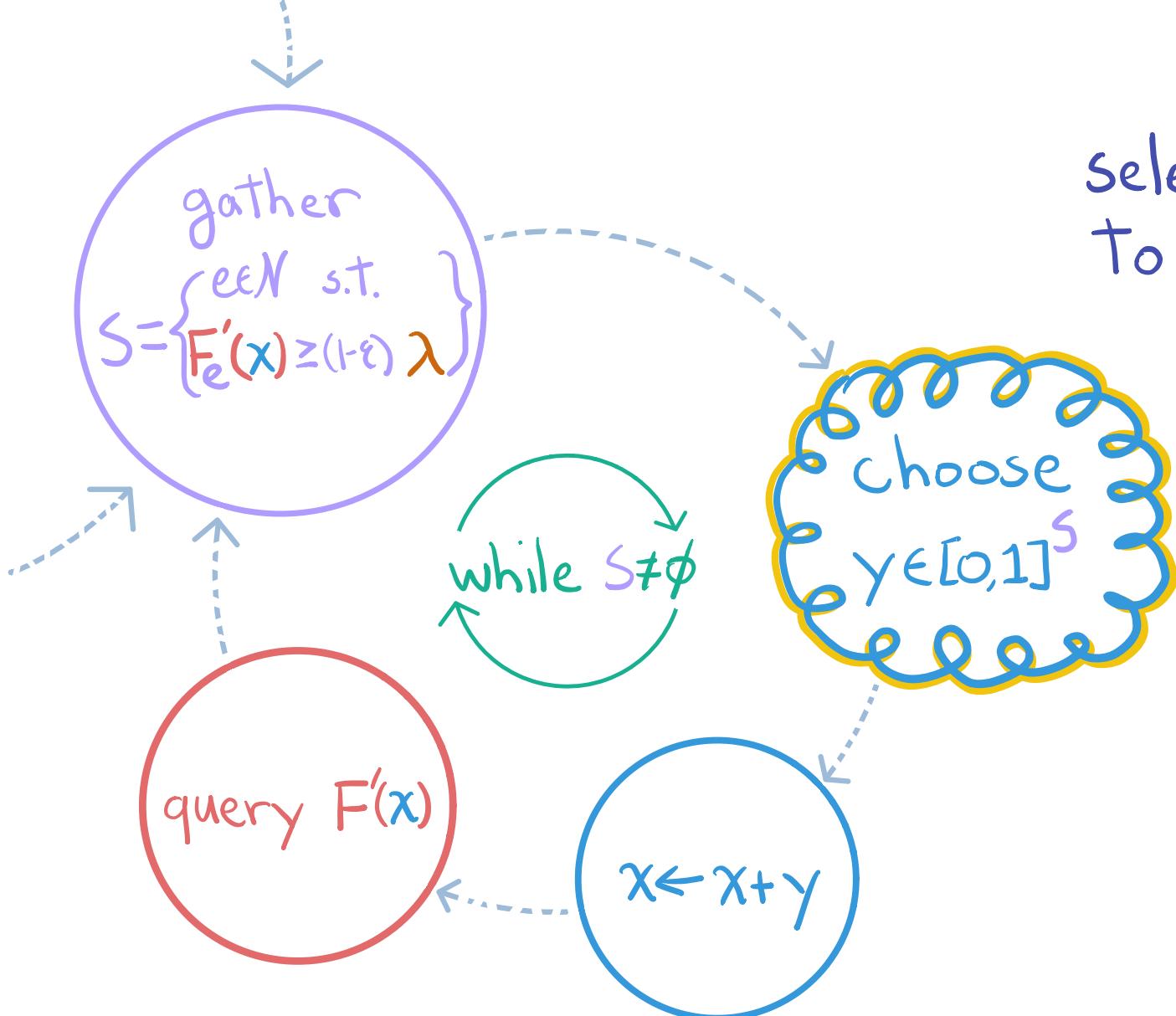


Goal: drive down max margin to  $(1-\varepsilon)\lambda$   
while taking elements w/ margin  $\approx \lambda$



## Goal

Select a vector  $y \in [0,1]^S$   
To add to  $x$  that is both  
"good" and "large"



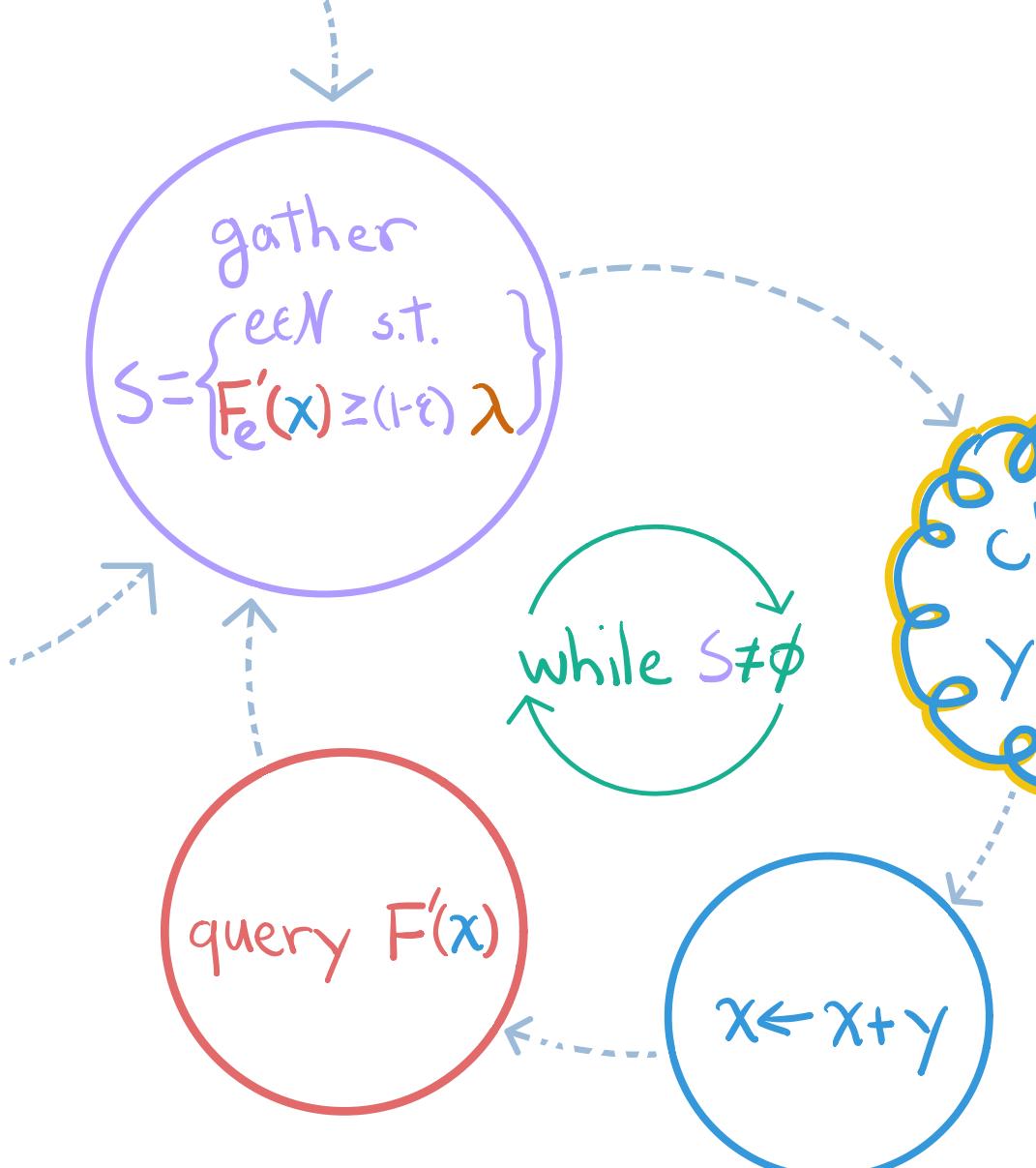
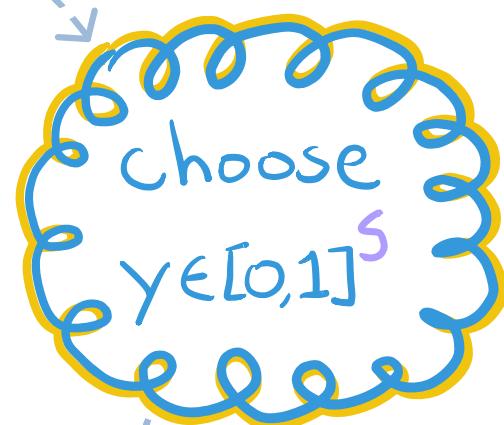
## Goal

Select a vector  $y \in [0,1]^S$   
To add to  $x$  that is both

"good"

and

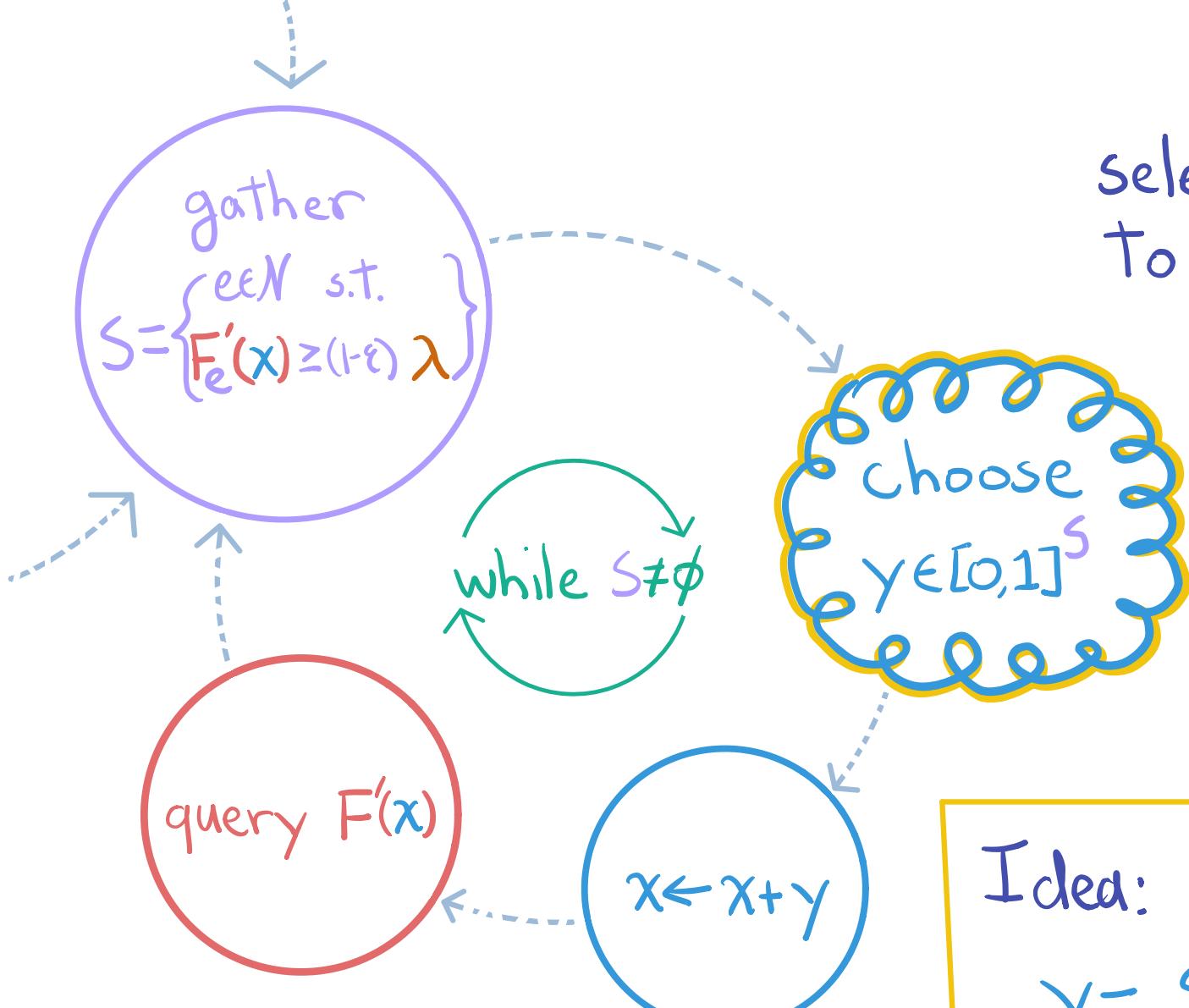
"large"



Idea: choose  
 $y = \delta \mathbf{1}_S$  for some  $\delta > 0$

## Goal

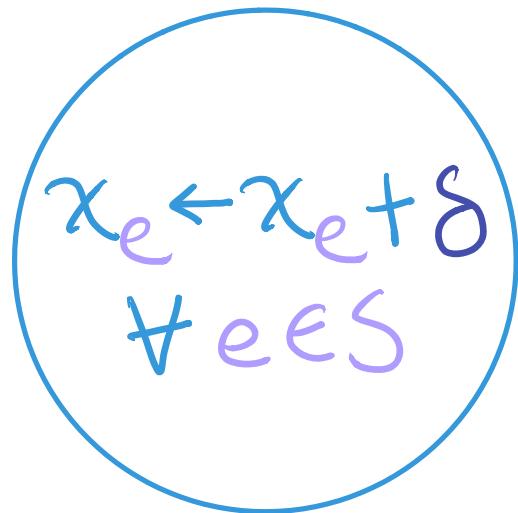
Select a vector  $y \in [0,1]^S$   
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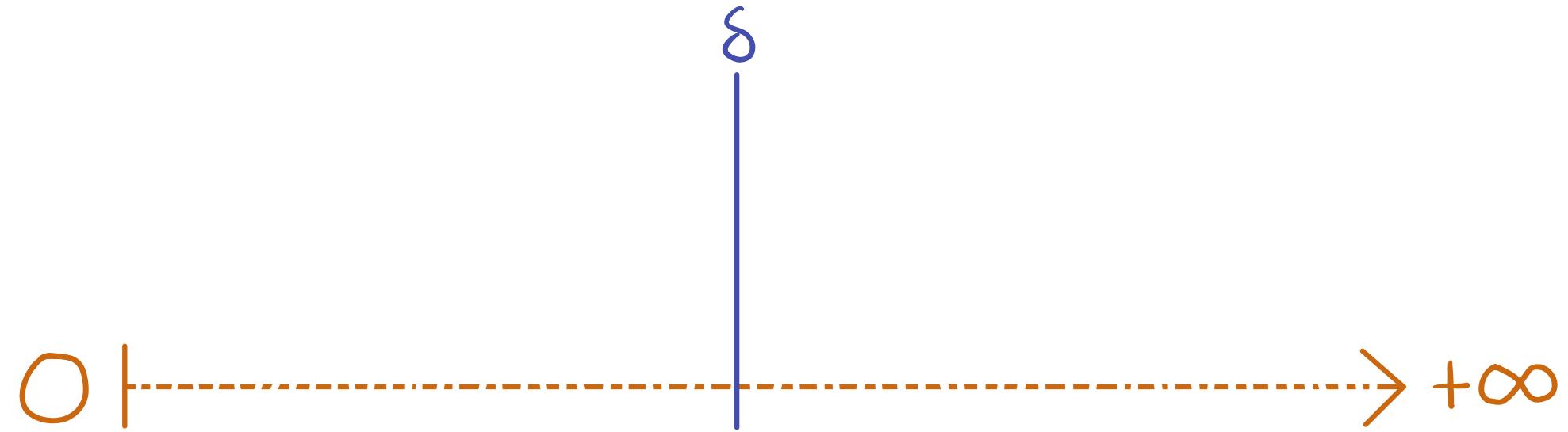
Idea: choose  
 $y = \delta \mathbf{1}_S$  for some  $\delta > 0$

how to choose  $\delta$ ?

choosing  $\delta$

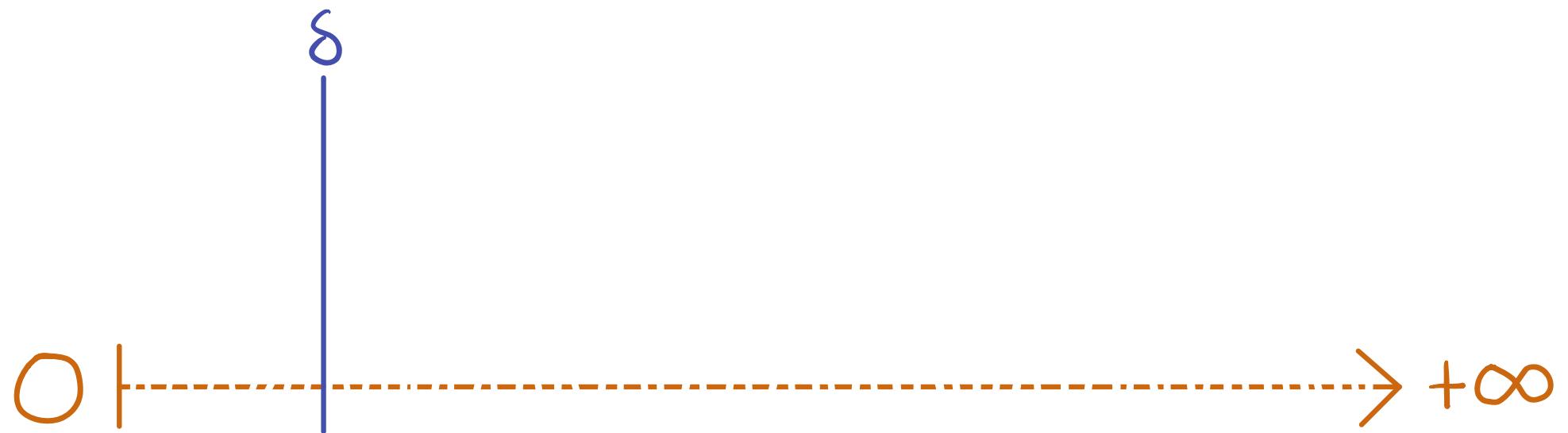


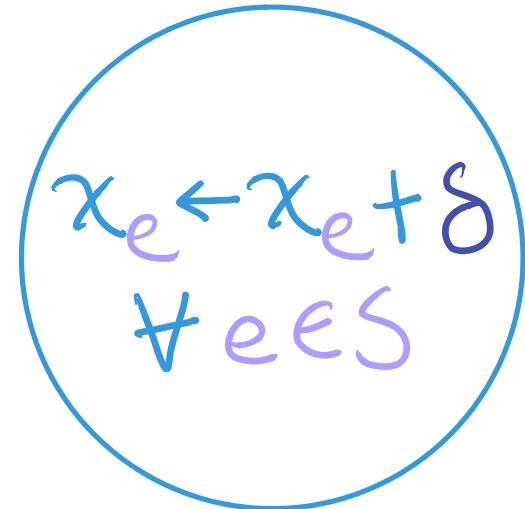
$S = \{ \text{good } e \}$



$x_e < x_e + \delta$   
 $\forall e \in S$

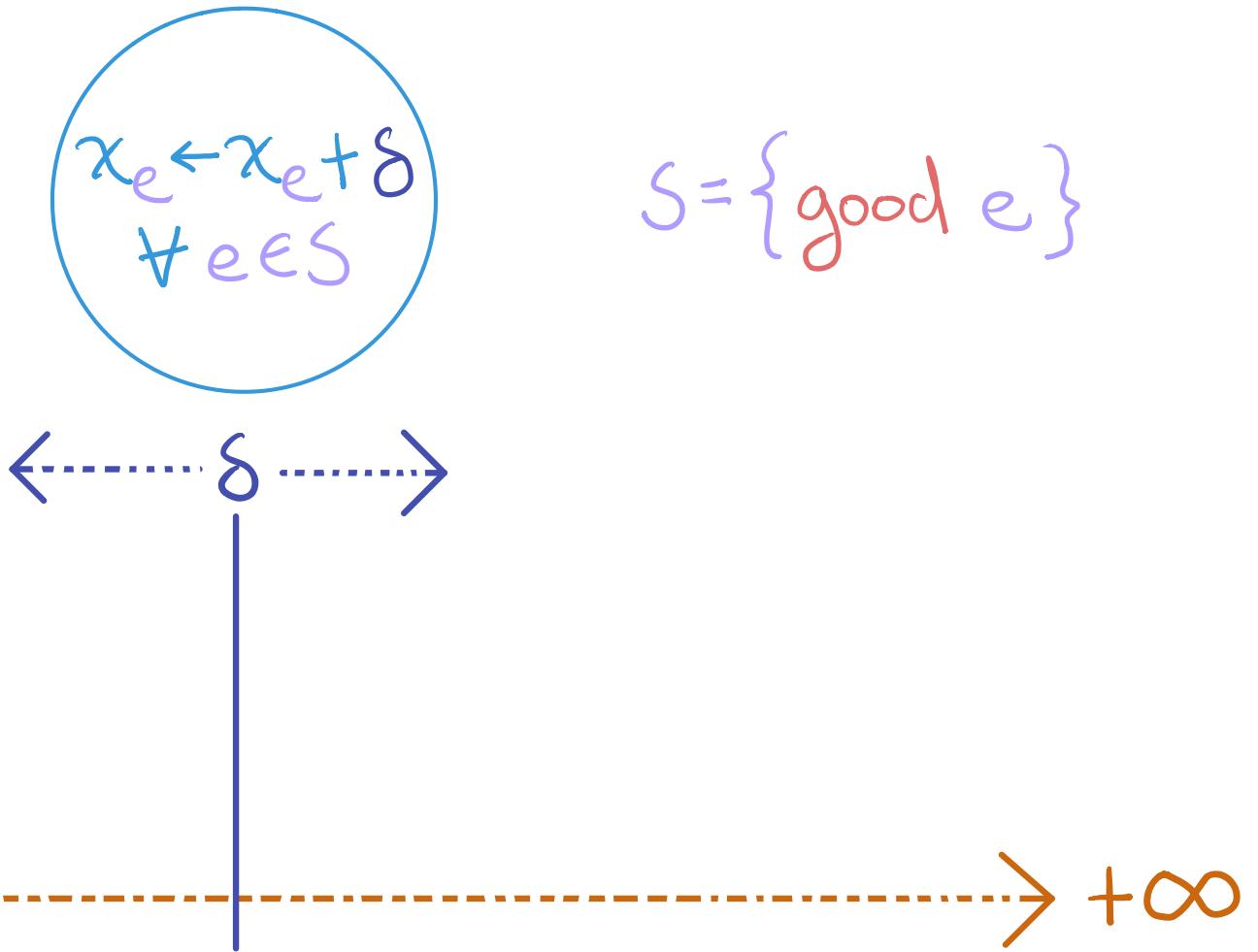
$S = \{ \text{good } e \}$





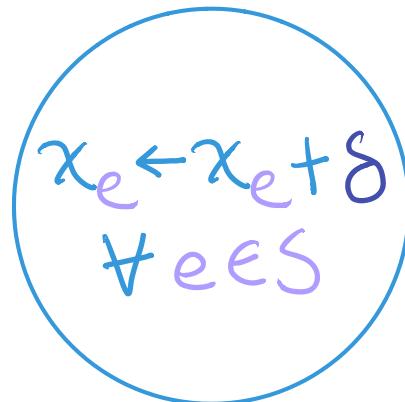
$x_e \leftarrow x_e + \delta$   
 $\forall e \in S$





we want

$$\frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} = \frac{F(x + \delta s) - F(x)}{\delta |s|}$$



$S = \{\text{good } e\}$

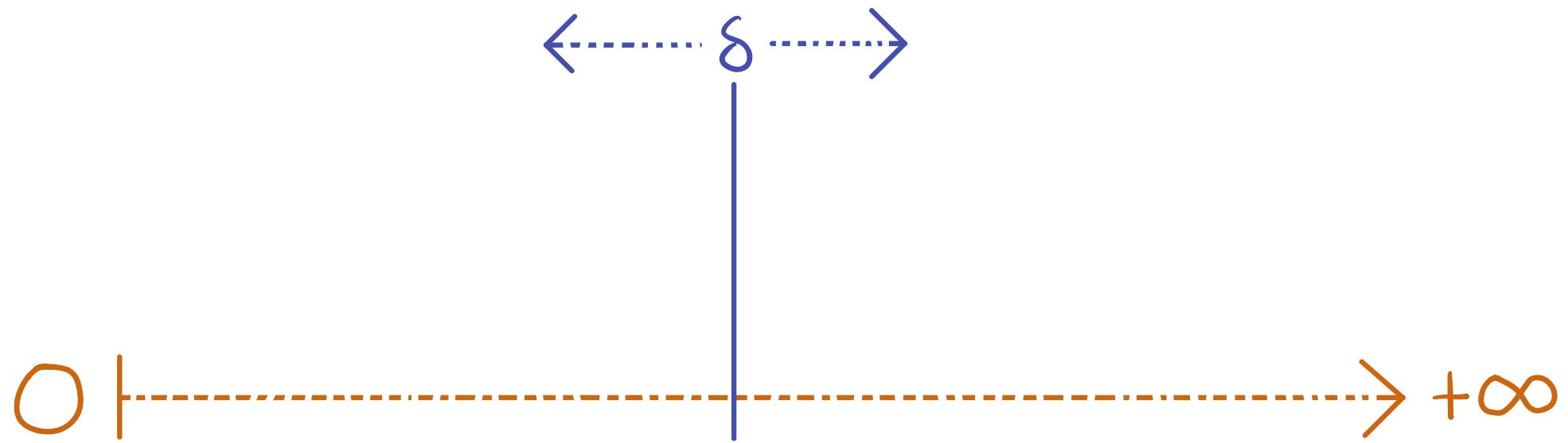
$\xleftarrow{\delta} \xrightarrow{\delta}$



$$\frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} = \frac{F(x+\delta S) - F(x)}{\delta |S|}$$

←----- linear in  $\delta$

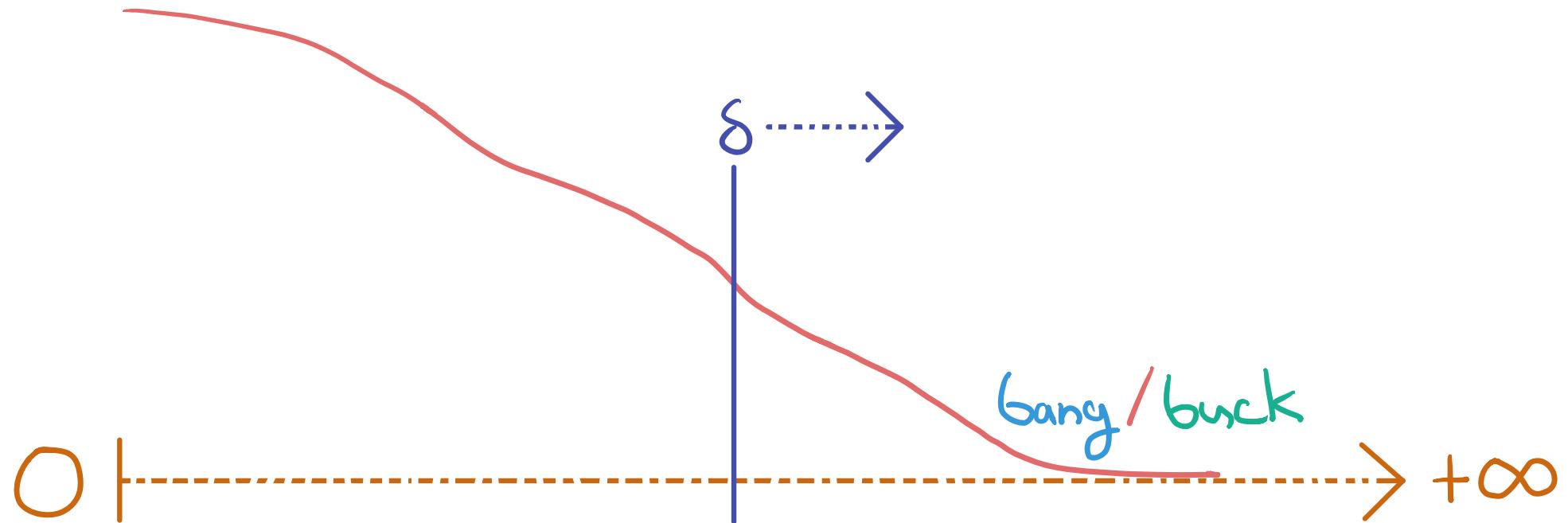
concave in  $S$



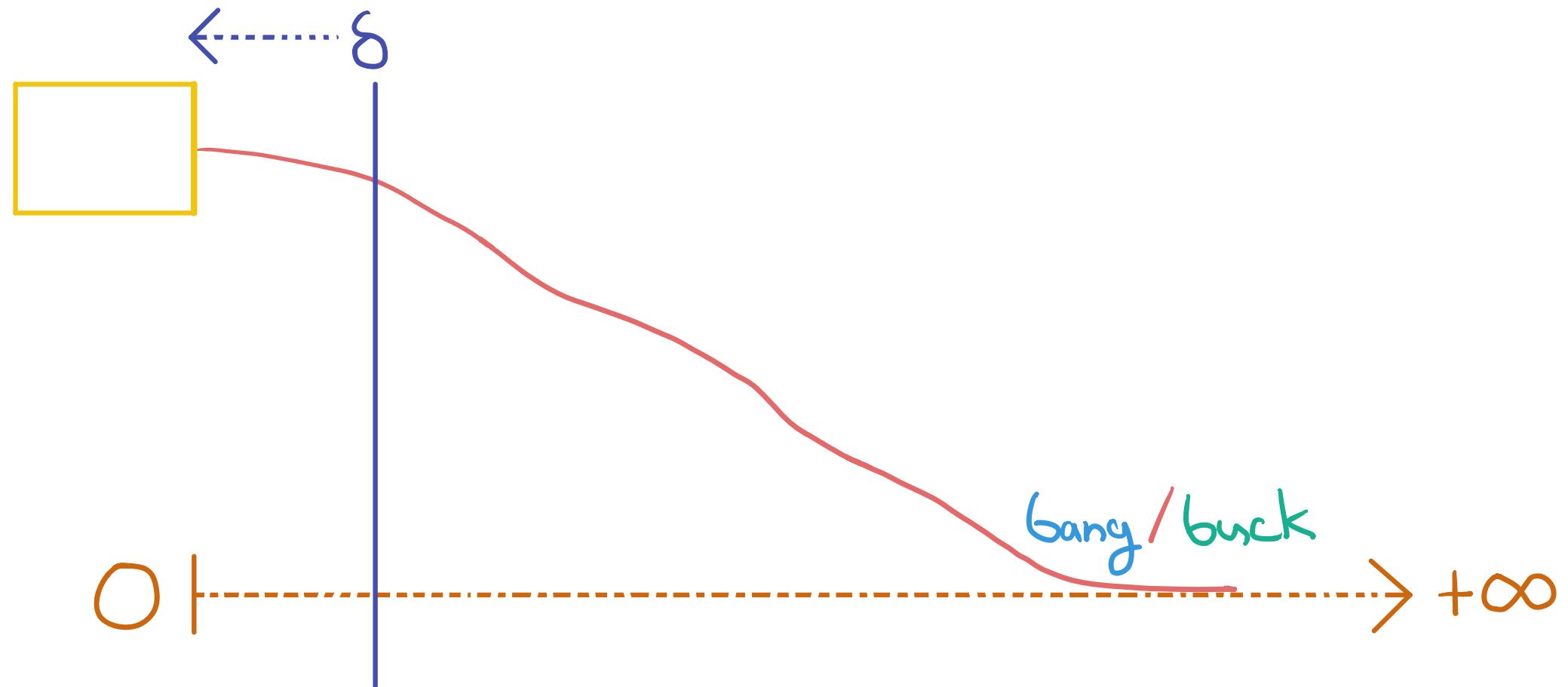
↓ in  $\delta$

$$\left\{ \frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} = \frac{F(x+\delta S) - F(x)}{\delta |S|} \right.$$

← concave in  $\delta$   
← linear in  $\delta$

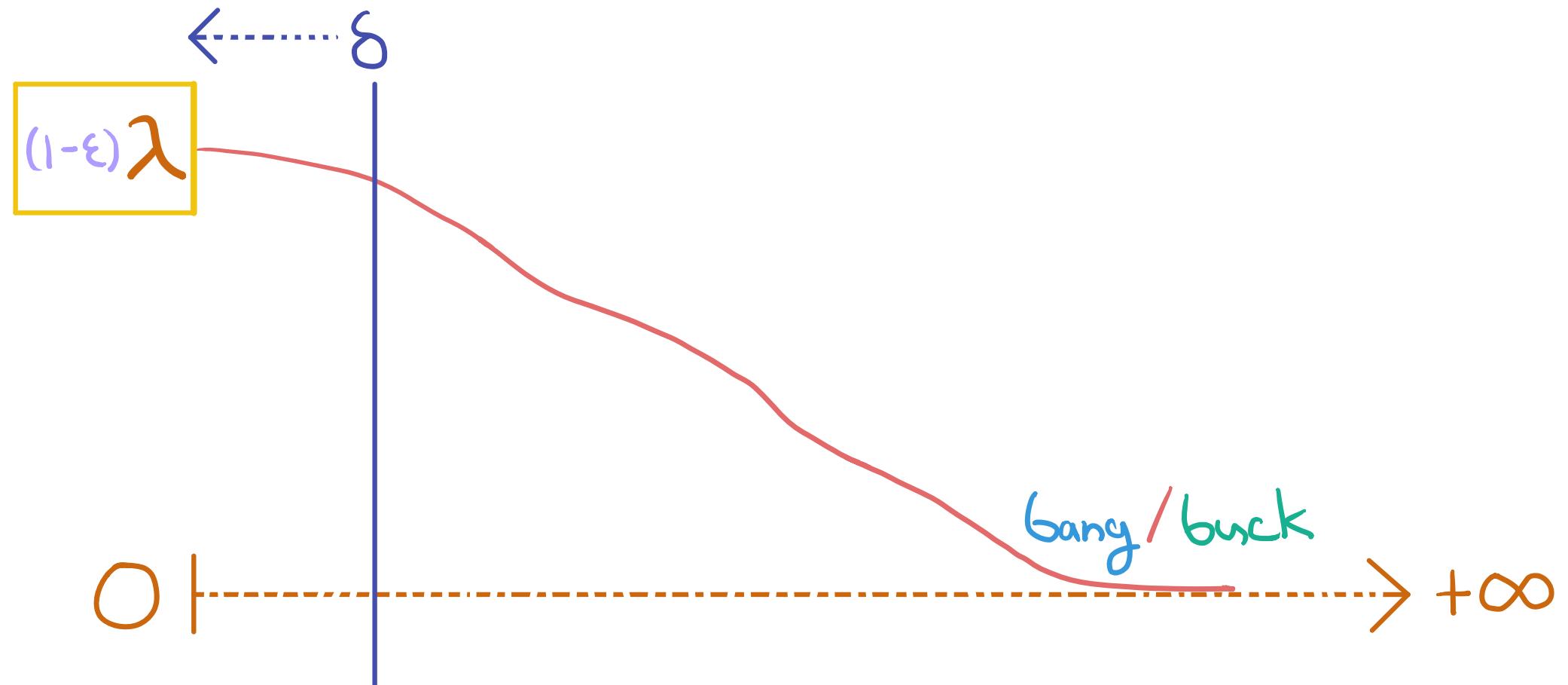


$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \frac{F(x+\delta s) - F(x)}{\delta |s|} =$$

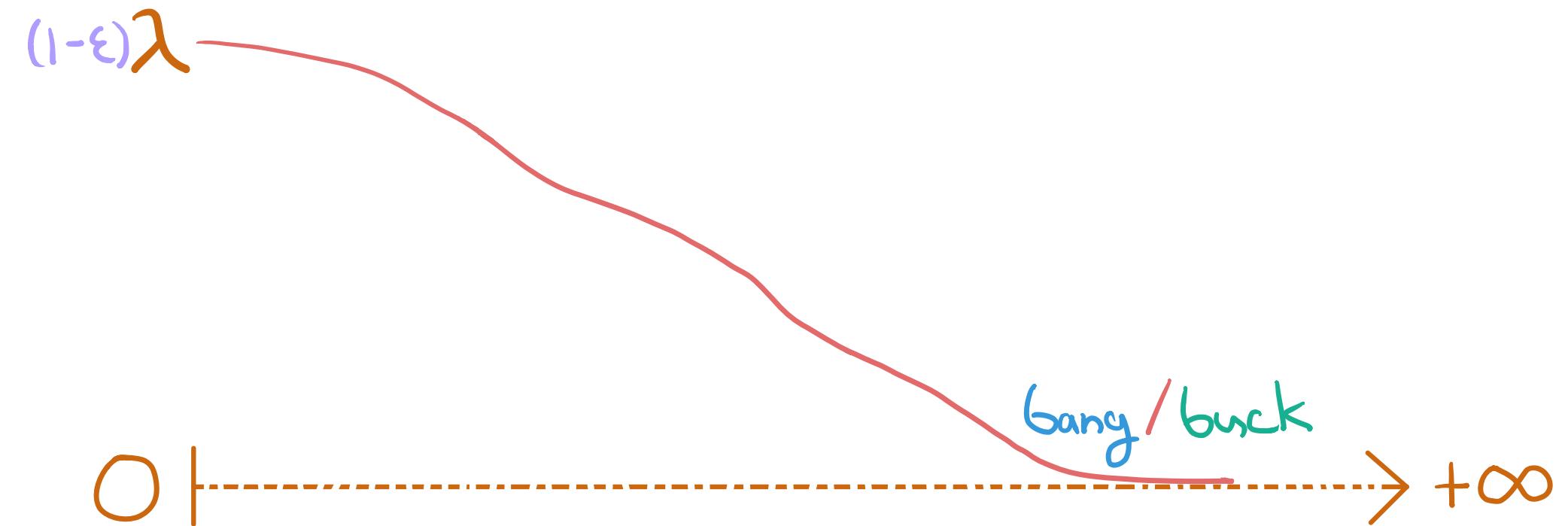


$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \frac{F(x+\delta s) - F(x)}{\delta |s|} = \frac{1}{|s|} \langle F'(x), s \rangle \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda$$

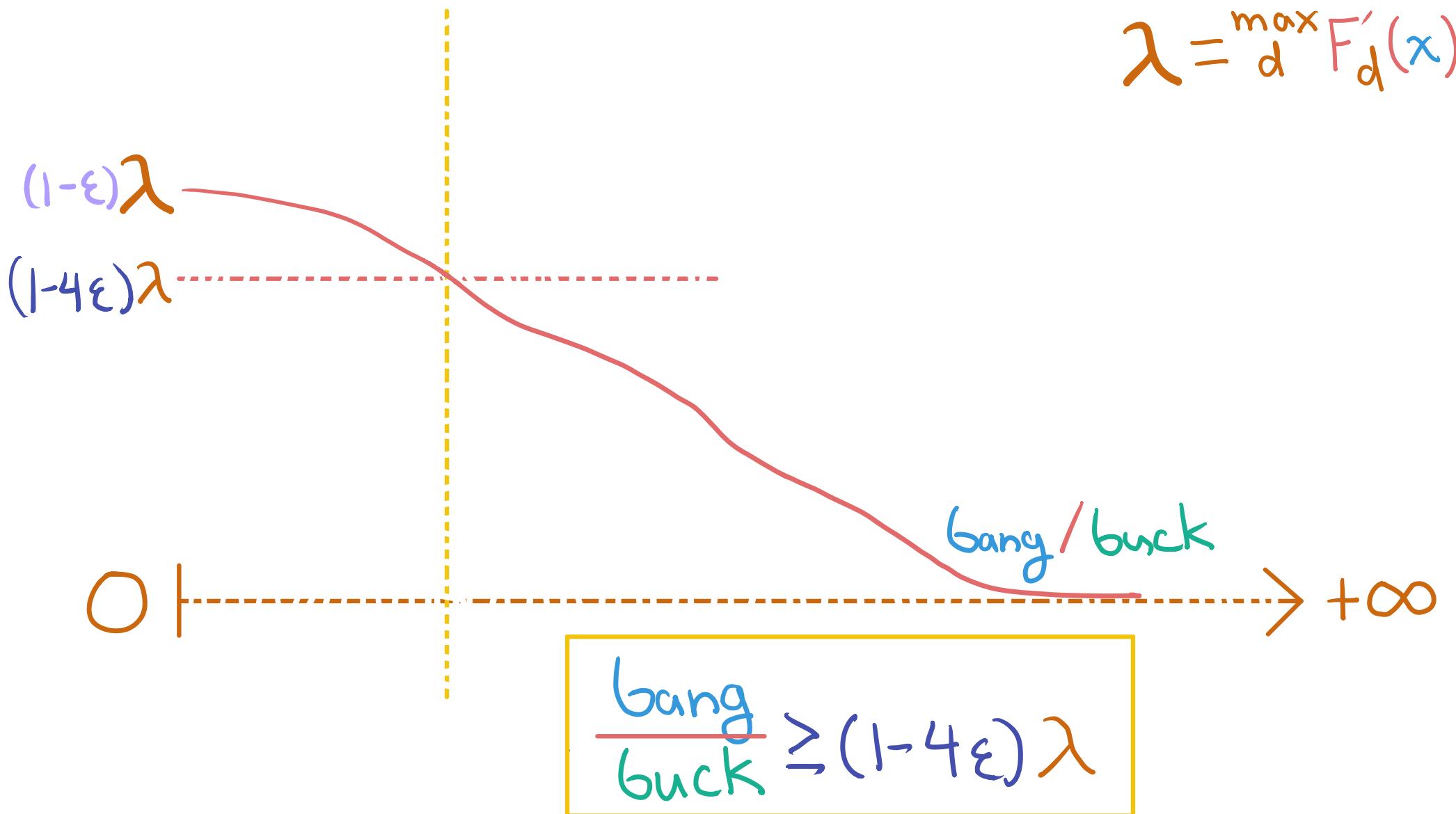
$$\lambda = \max_d F'_d(x)$$



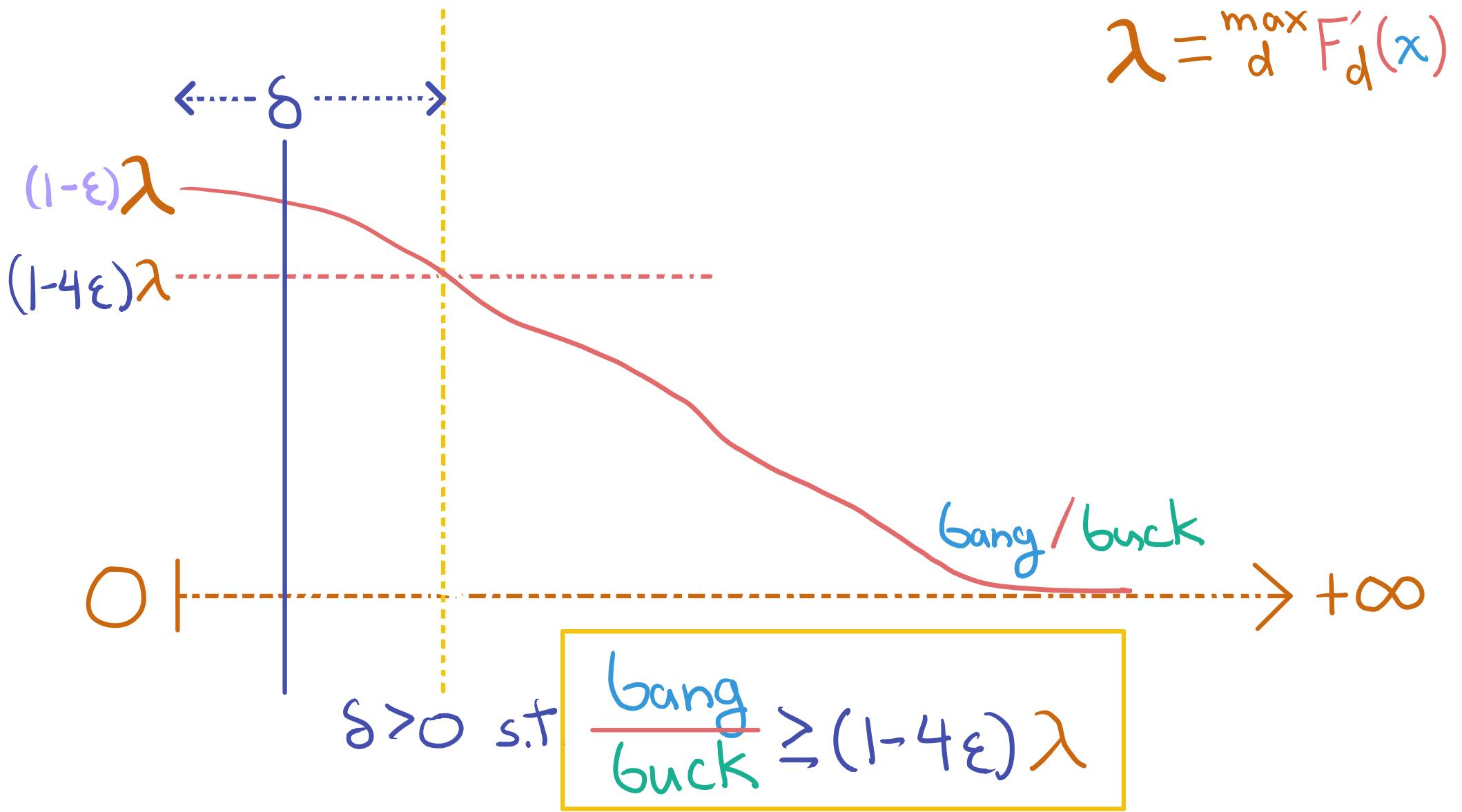
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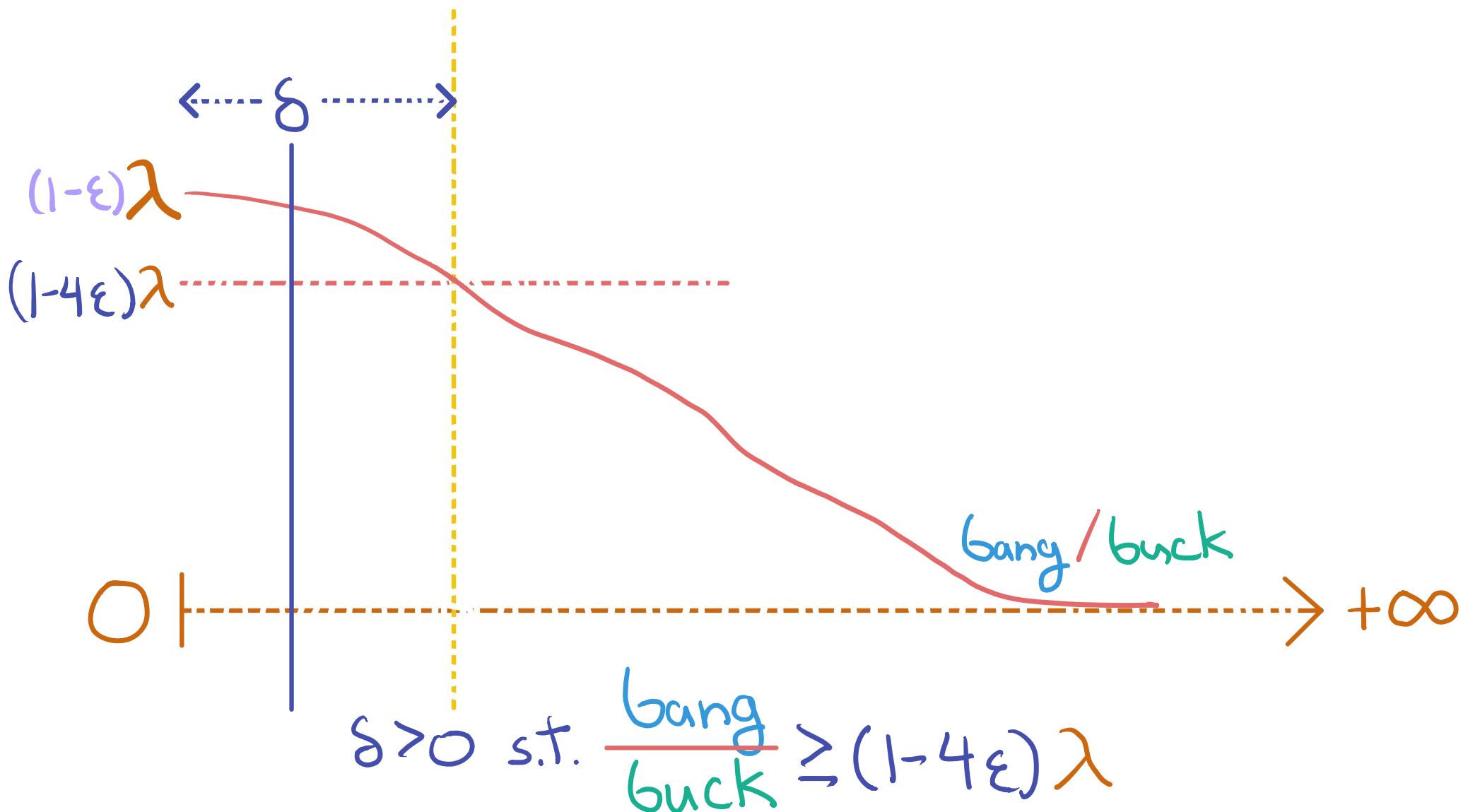


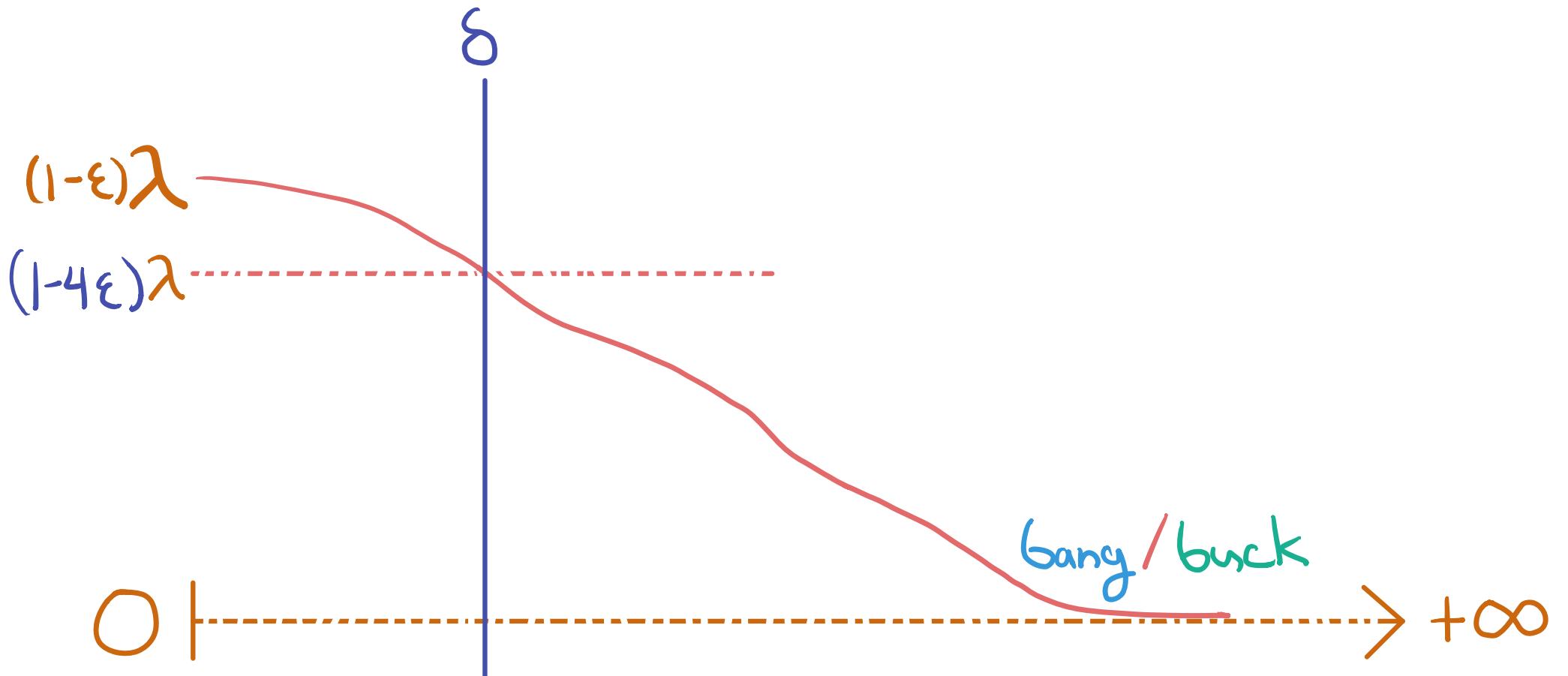
$$\frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} \geq (1-4\epsilon)\lambda$$

$\frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} \approx \lambda \approx_{\text{continuous greedy's}} \frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}}$

$\Rightarrow \approx_{\text{Same}} (1-\frac{1}{e})\text{-APX guarantee}$

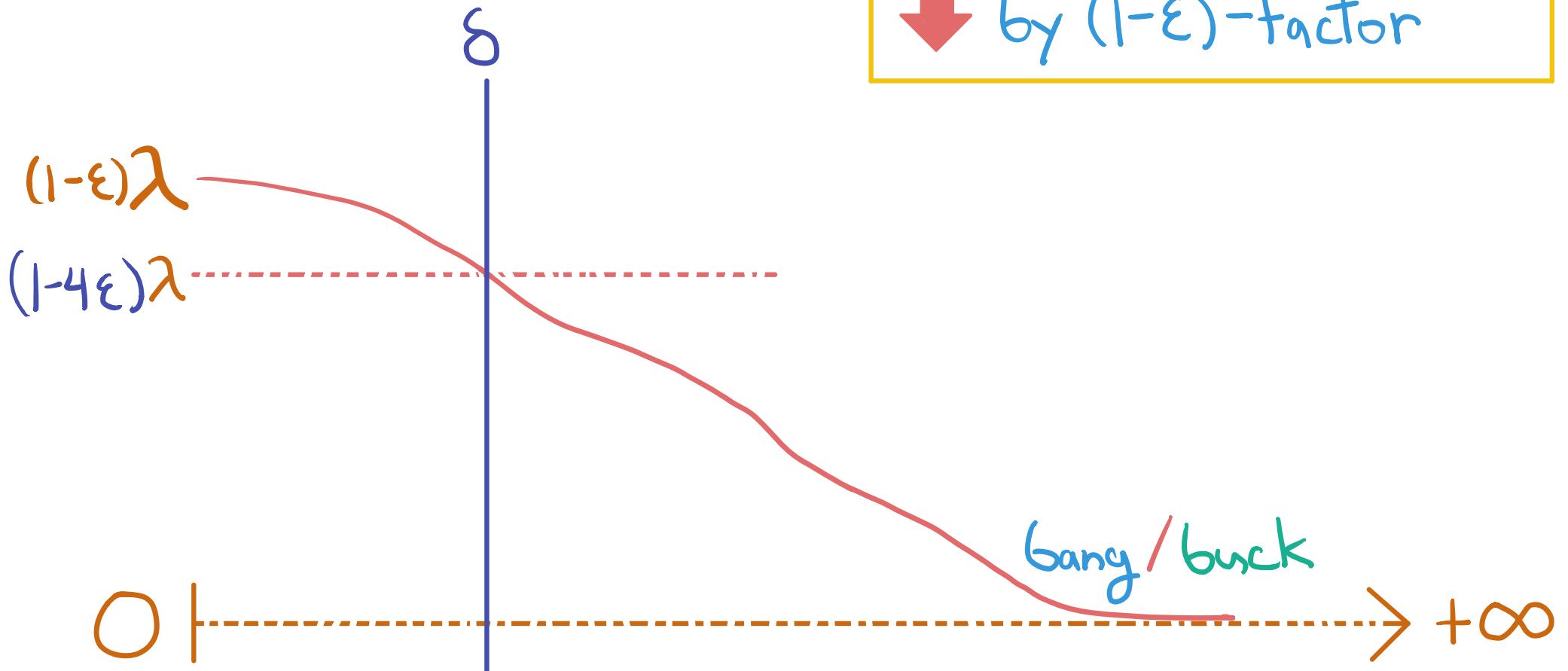
as continuous greedy





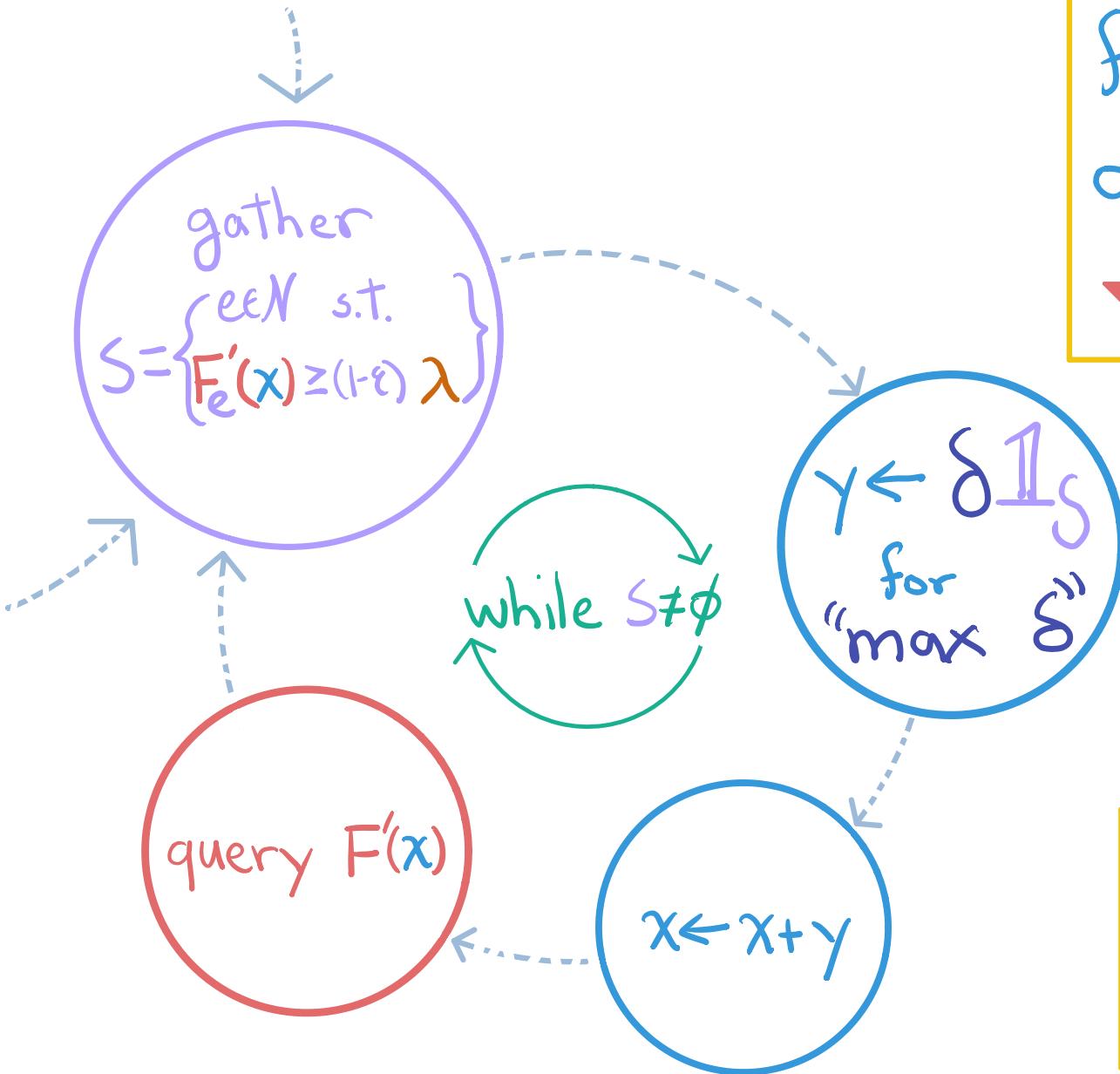
$$\boxed{\max \delta > 0} \text{ s.t. } \frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} \geq (1-4\varepsilon)\lambda$$

for max  $\delta$ ,  $\varepsilon$ -fraction  
of  $S$  has derivatives  
↓ by  $(1-\varepsilon)$ -factor

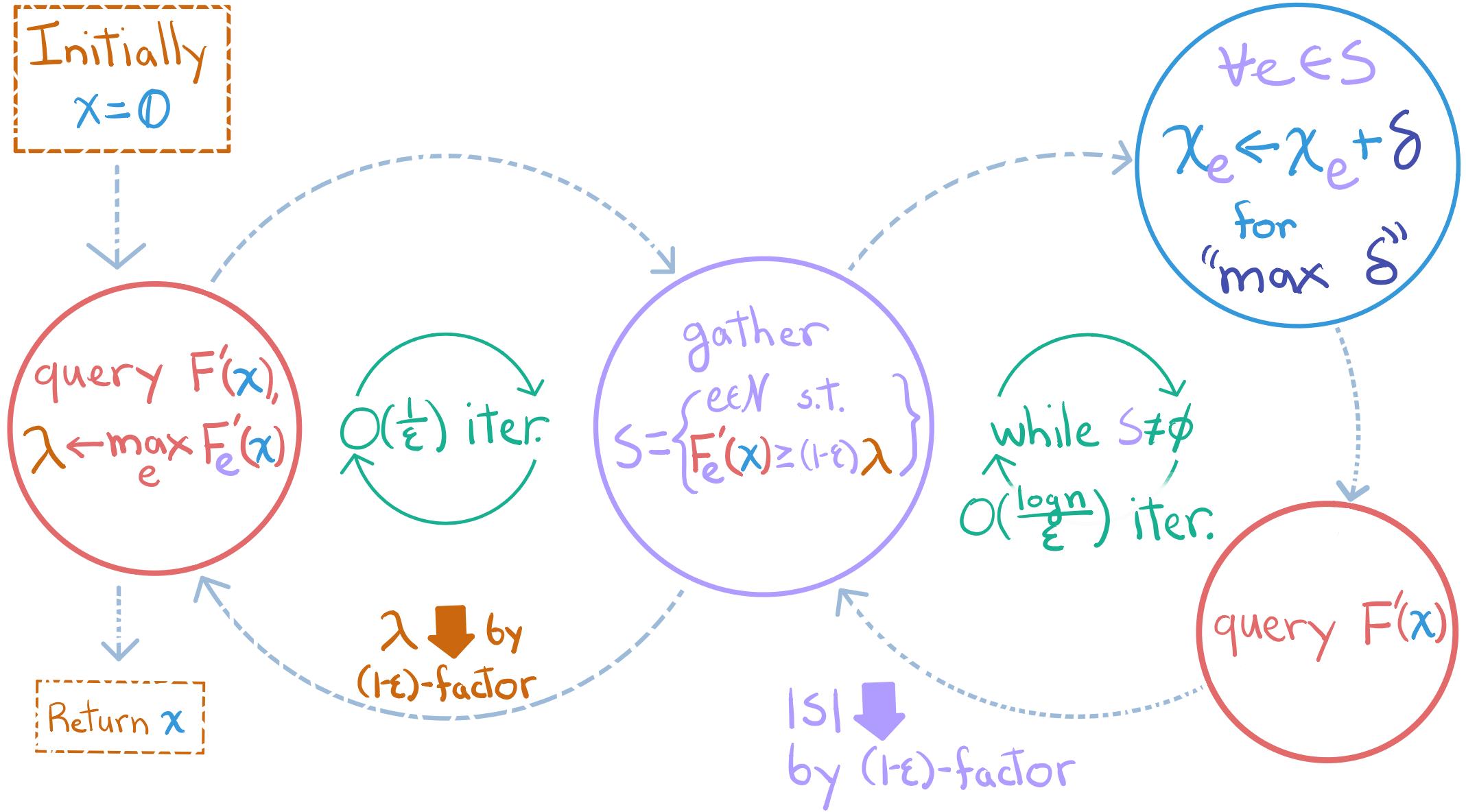


$\boxed{\max \delta > 0}$  s.t.  $\frac{\text{bang}}{\text{buck}} \geq (1-4\varepsilon)\lambda$

for max  $\delta$ ,  $\epsilon$ -fraction  
of  $S$  has derivatives  
↓ by  $(1-\epsilon)$ -factor



after  $O(\frac{\log n}{\epsilon})$  iter.,  
 $S = \emptyset$



$$O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right) \times O\left(\frac{\log n}{\epsilon}\right) = O\left(\frac{\log n}{\epsilon^2}\right) \text{ depth}$$

DISCRETE  
↑  
*Continuous*  
↓

can we get a DISCRETE algorithm?

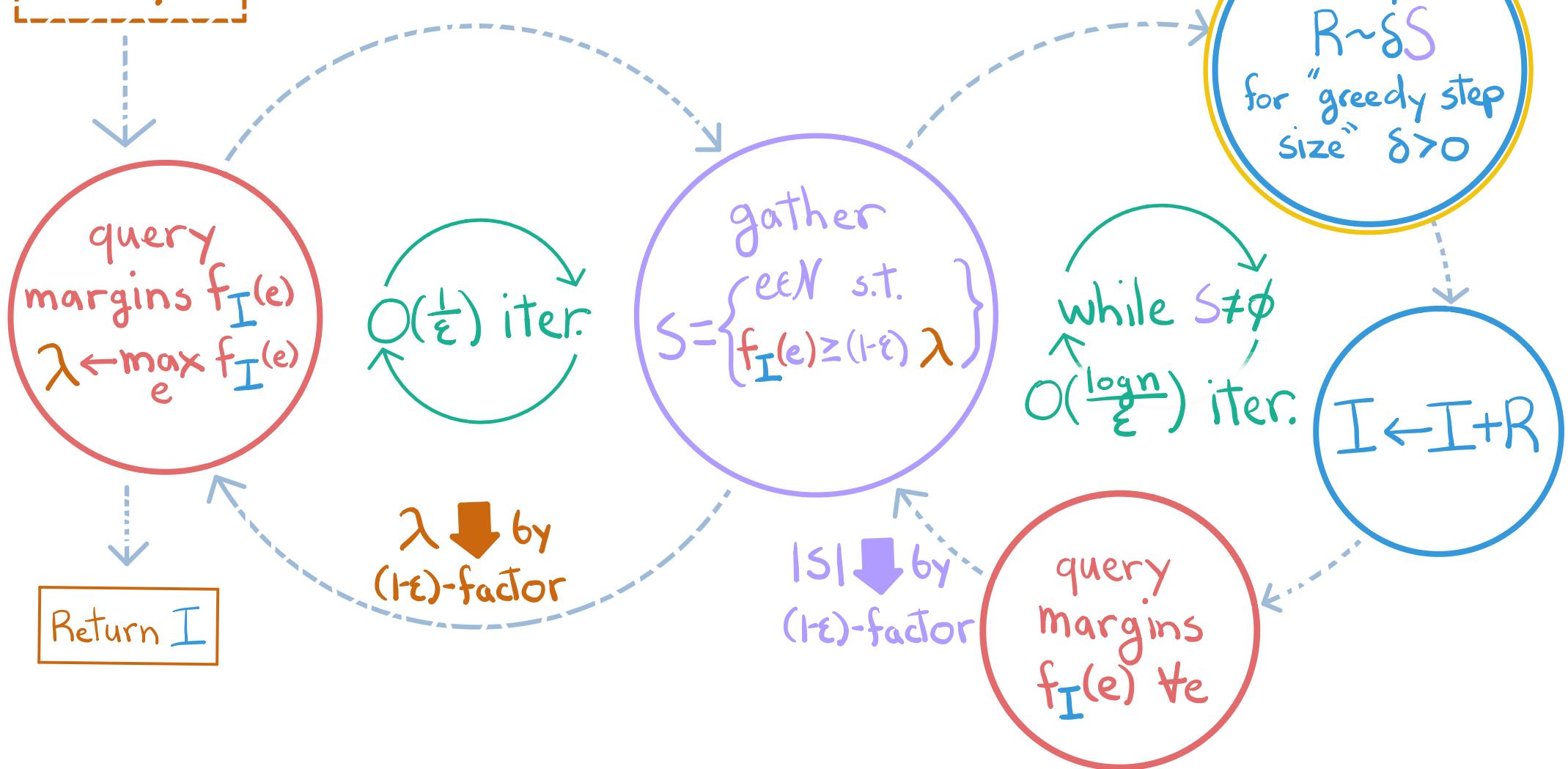
DISCRETE  
↑  
*Continuous*  
↓

can we get a DISCRETE algorithm?

yes: round (i.e. sample) online

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

# Randomized-Parallel-Greedy



$$O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right) \times O\left(\frac{\log n}{\epsilon}\right) = O\left(\frac{\log n}{\epsilon^2}\right) \text{ depth}$$

# Parallelizing greedy for cardinality and beyond

$1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX for monotone  $f$  in sequential setting

[Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]

DISCRETE  
↑  
Continuous  
↓

- continuous approach
- calculus “flattens” submodularity
- “greedy step size”  $\delta$

$(1 - \frac{1}{e} - \varepsilon)$ -APX for monotone  $f$  w/  $\tilde{O}(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2})$  depth

general packing  
constraints in parallel

matroid constraints  
in parallel



and half of talk

## Given:

- $f: 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  submodular function
- $M = (N, \mathcal{L})$  matroid set system  
 $(\mathcal{L} \subseteq 2^N)$

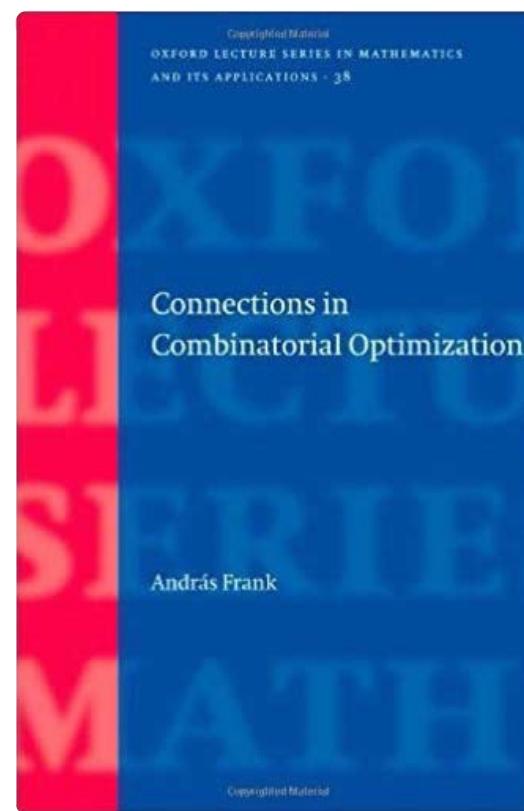
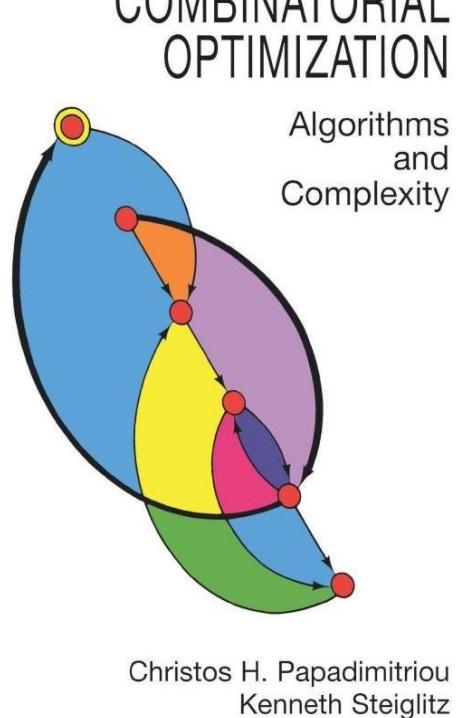
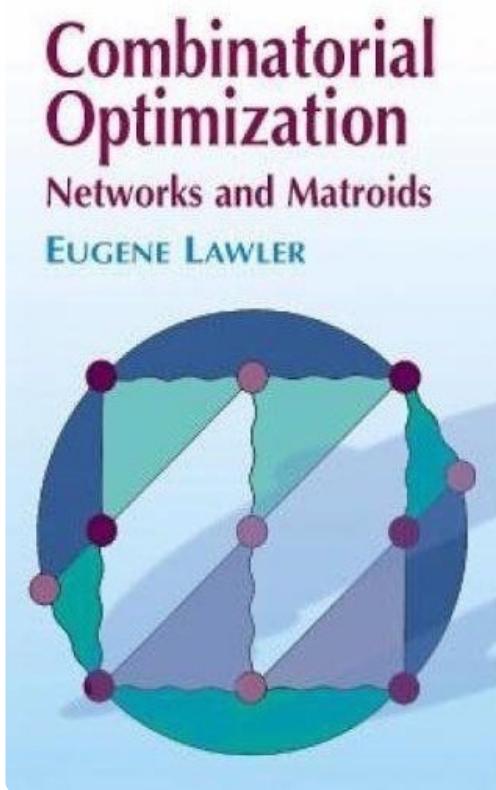
## Goal

maximize  $f(I)$  s.t.  $I \in \mathcal{L}$   
in parallel in the oracle model

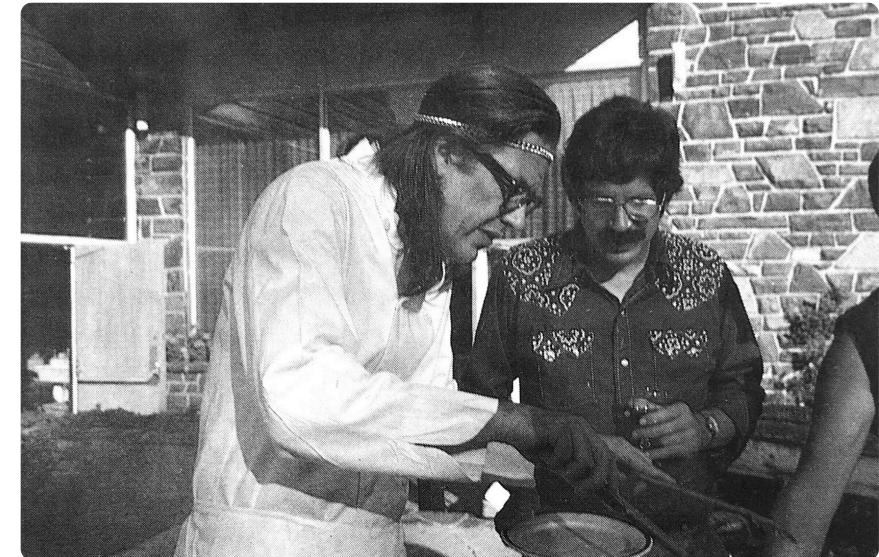
why matroids?

1

matroids play a central  
& unifying role in  
combinatorial optimization

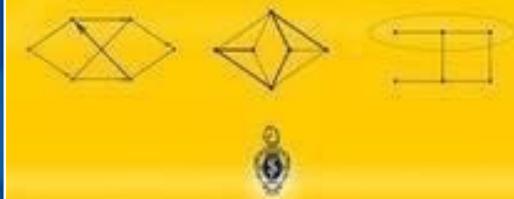


Edmonds & Lawler, 1977



24

Alexander Schrijver



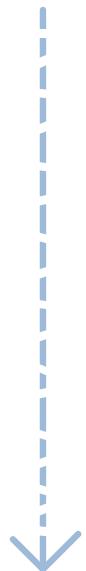
Combinatorial  
Optimization

Polyhedra and Efficiency

A-B-C

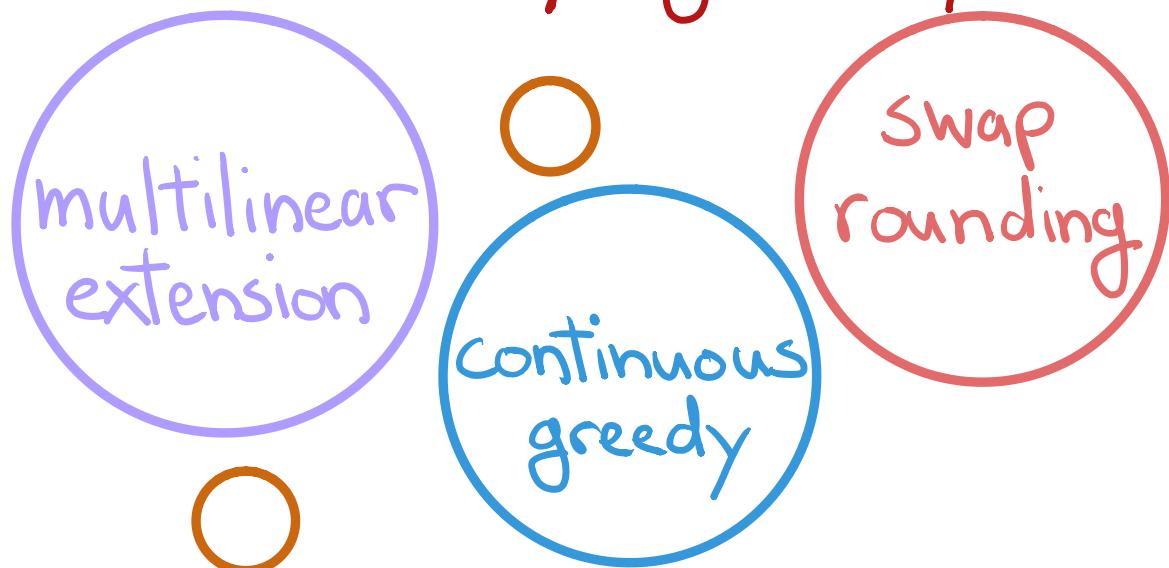
② For theory of submodular maximization,  
matroid constraints were a technical  
challenge inspiring many techniques

1978:  $\frac{1}{2}$  APX by greedy



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② For theory of submodular maximization,  
matroid constraints were a technical  
challenge inspiring many techniques

1978:  $\frac{1}{2}$  APX by greedy



2007:  $1 - \frac{1}{e}$  APX for monotone

2011:  $\frac{1}{e}$  APX for nonnegative

③

## generality

between submodular objective and  
matroid constraints, we get  
approximations for many  
problems at once

Matroid  $(N, \mathcal{I})$

$N$  "ground set"

$\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^N$  "independent sets"

s.t. (1)

(2)

(3)

Matroid  $(N, \mathcal{I})$

$N$  "ground set"

$\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^N$  "independent sets"

s.t. (1)  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{I}$

(2)

(3)

Matroid  $(N, \mathcal{I})$

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s.t. (1)  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{I}$

(2) hereditary:

$S \subseteq T \subseteq N, T \in \mathcal{I} \Rightarrow S \in \mathcal{I}$

(3)

Matroid  $(N, \mathcal{I})$

$N$  "ground set"

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$$S \subseteq T \subseteq N, T \in \mathcal{I} \Rightarrow S \in \mathcal{I}$$

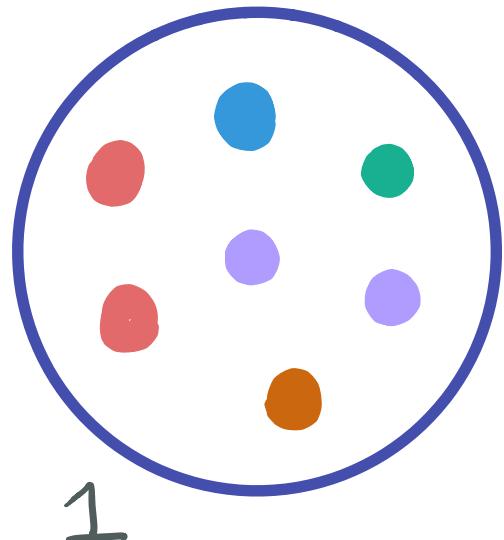
(3) extendability:  $S \in \mathcal{I}, |S| < |T|$

$\Rightarrow \exists e \in T \setminus S$  such that  $S \cup \{e\} \in \mathcal{I}$

e.g. "partition matroid"

$N$  = set of elements w/ colors

$\mathcal{L}$  = sets w/ limited # of elements  
of each color



limit:

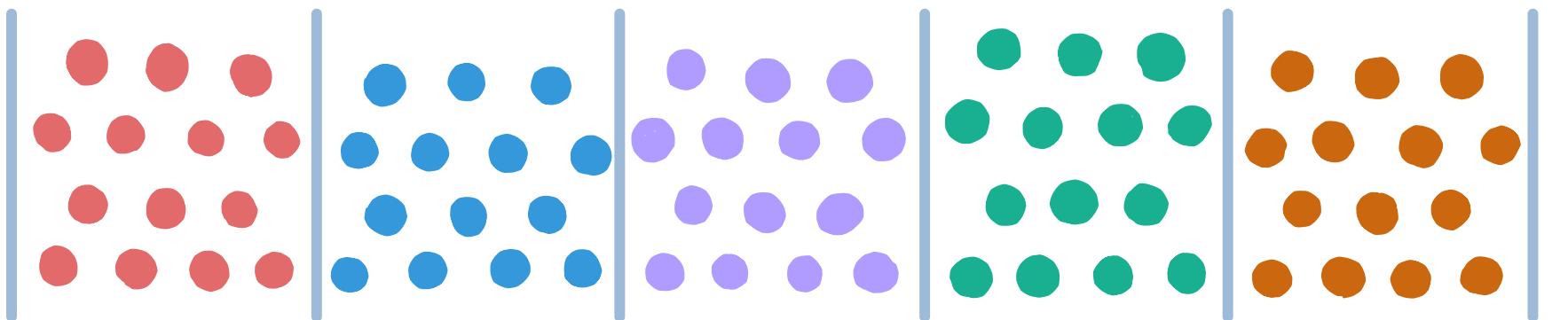
2

1

2

1

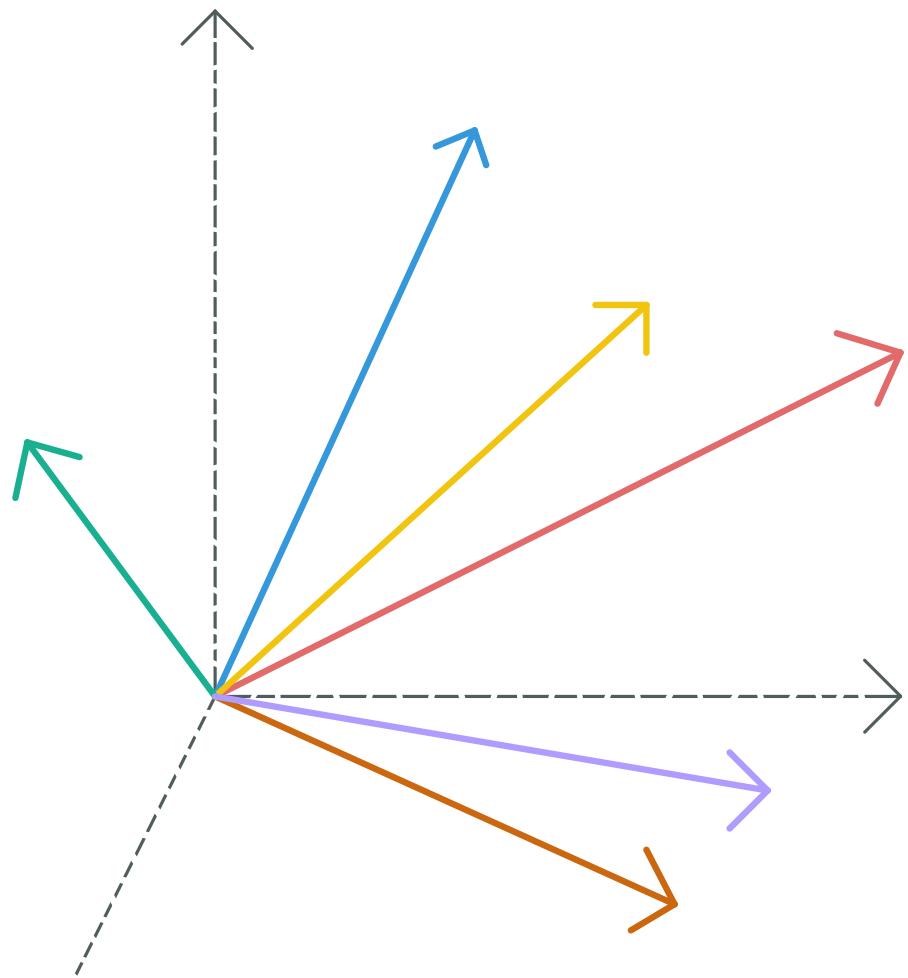
1



e.g. "linear matroid"

$\mathcal{N}$  = set of vectors in vector space

$\mathcal{I}$  = independent sets of vectors

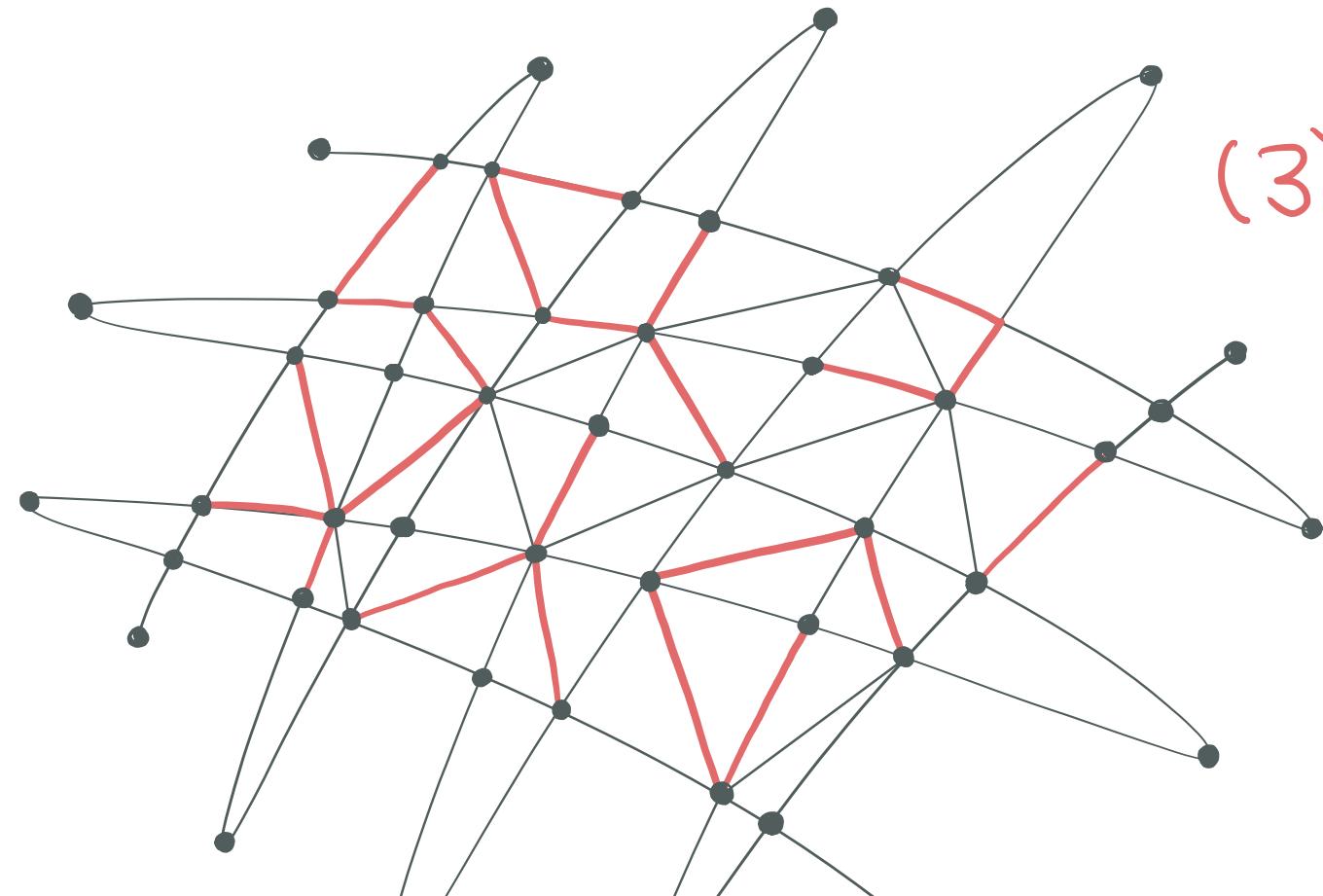


(3) extendability:  
one can always extend  
an independent set of  
vectors to a base

e.g. "graphic matroid"

$\mathcal{N}$  = edges of a fixed graph

$\mathcal{Q}$  = acyclic sets of edges (forests)



(3) extendability:  
every forest in  
connected graph  
extends to a  
spanning tree

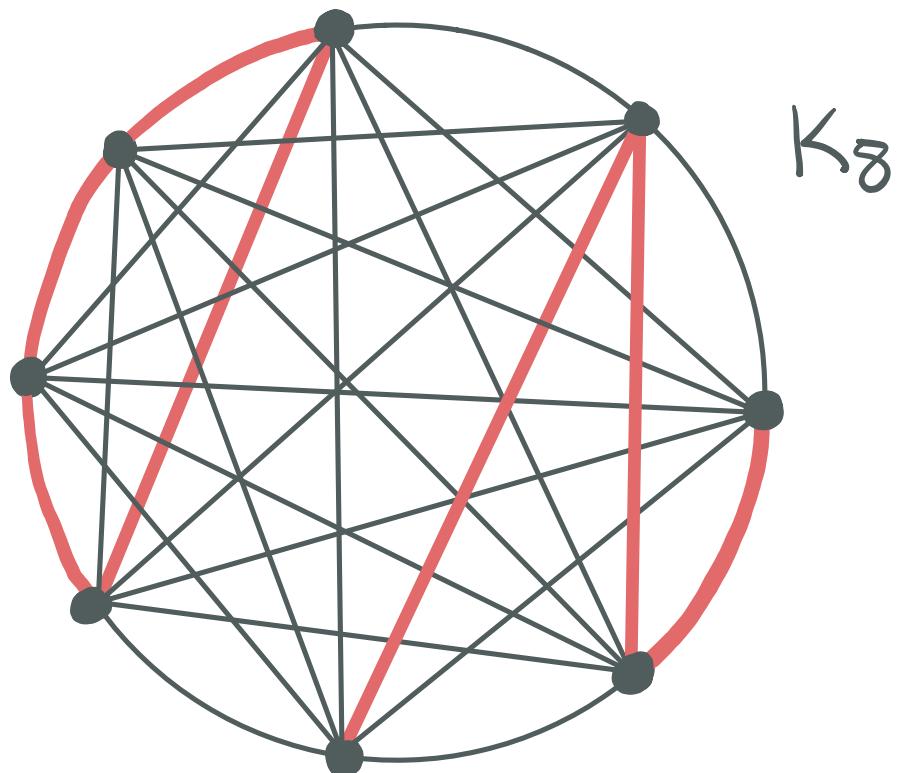
# Matroid terminology

$\text{rank}(S)$   $[S \subseteq M]$

max. cardinality of any independent set in  $S$

e.g. graphic matroid

$$\text{rank}(S) = n - \#\left\{\begin{array}{l} \text{connected} \\ \text{components} \end{array}\right\} \text{in } S$$



$$\text{rank} = 8 - 2 = 6$$

# Matroid terminology

$\text{rank}(S)$

max. cardinality of any independent set in  $S$

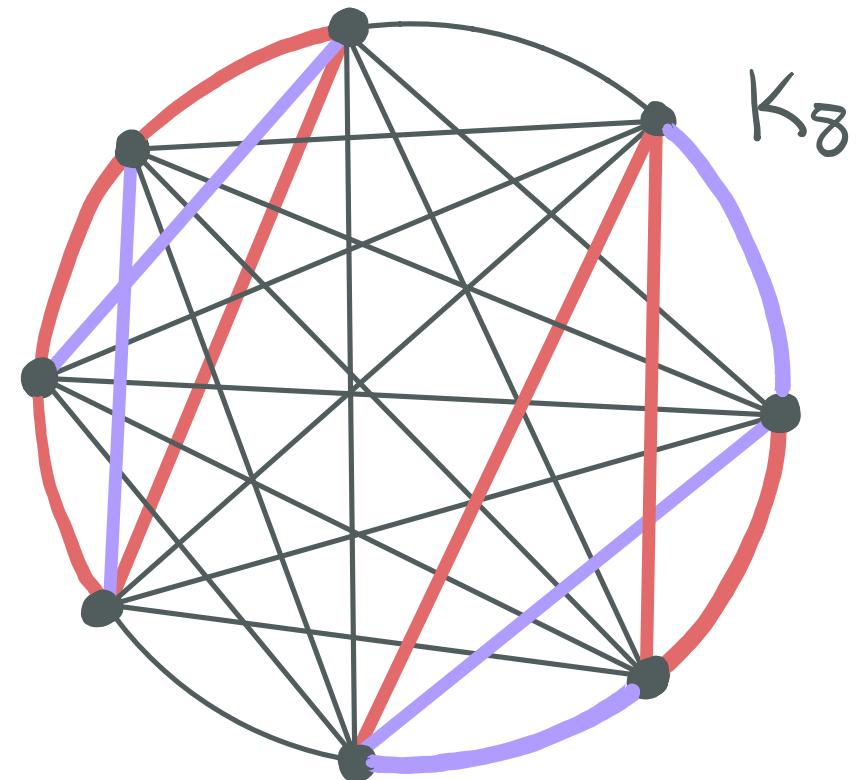
$\text{span}(S)$

$\{e : \text{rank}(S \cup e) = \text{rank}(S)\}$

e.g. graphic matroid

$\text{span}(S) =$

{edges whose endpoints  
are connected by  $S$ }



# Span Oracle

Query:  $e \in \text{span}(S)$ ?

weaker\* than rank oracle

PRAM rank oracles known for  
linear matroids, graphic matroids

## Given:

- $f: 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- $M = (N, \mathcal{L})$

Submodular function

matroid set system  
 $(\mathcal{L} \subseteq 2^N)$

## Goal

maximize  $f(I)$  s.t.  $I \in \mathcal{L}$

in parallel in the oracle model

$\frac{1}{2}$ -APX for monotone  $f$  [Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]

this talk

$\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon$ -APX for ~~monotone~~  
constant ~~nonnegative~~  $f$  w/  $\tilde{O}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}\right)$  depth

see paper

fractional  $\frac{1 - \frac{1}{e} - \epsilon}{\frac{1}{e} - \epsilon}$ -APX for ~~monotone~~  
~~nonnegative~~  $f$  w/  $\tilde{O}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}\right)$  depth

Initially  
 $S = \emptyset$

# Greedy algorithm

(for matroids)

[Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]

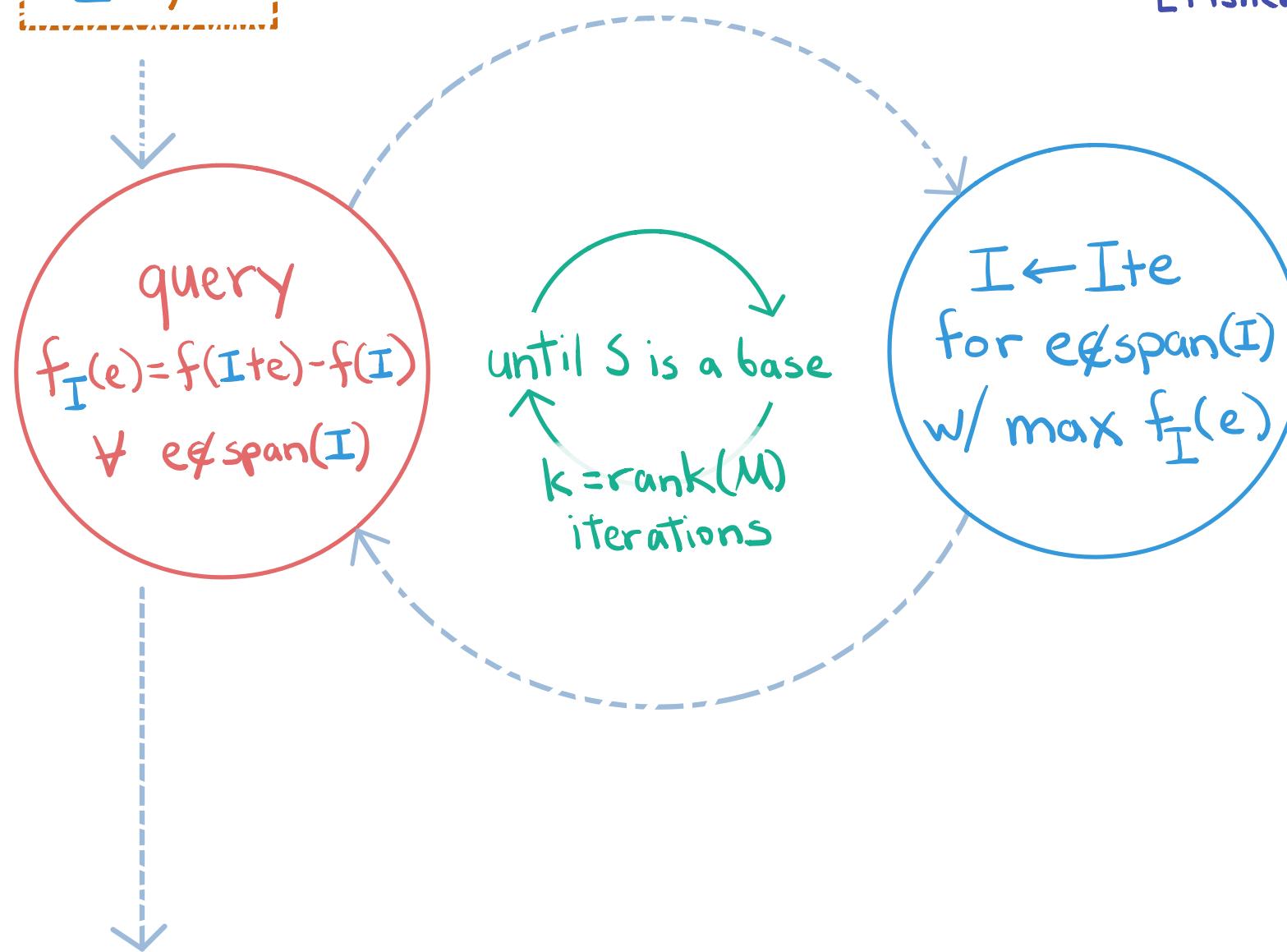
$\frac{1}{2}$ -APX for monotone f

Return S

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

# Greedy algorithm (for matroids)

[Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]

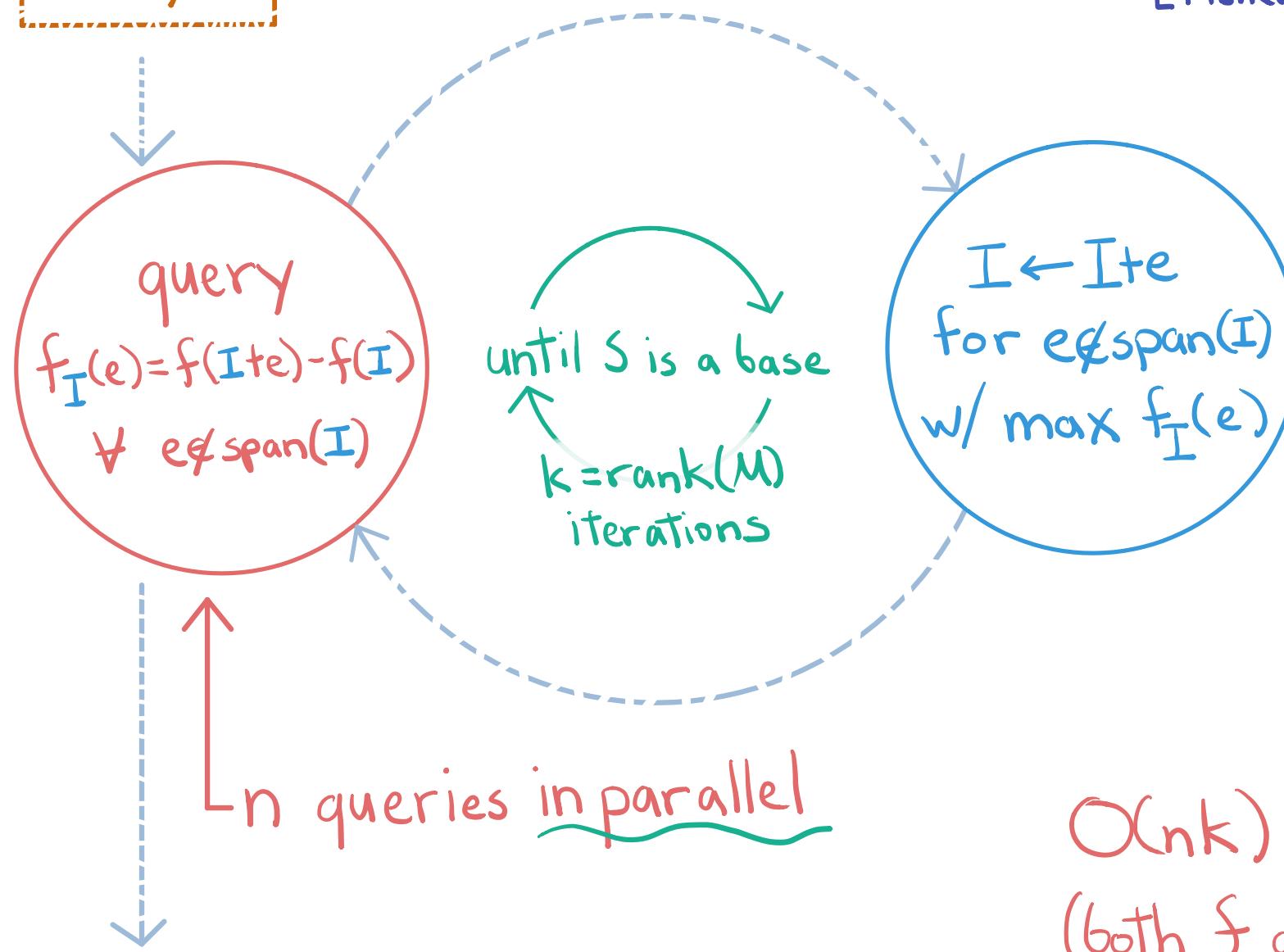


Return  $I$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

# Greedy algorithm (for matroids)

[Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]



Return  $I$

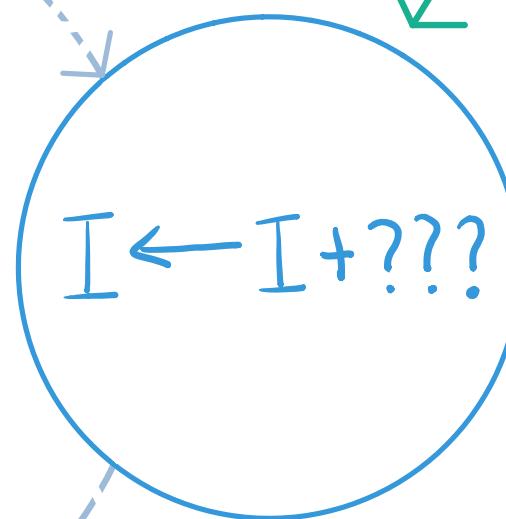
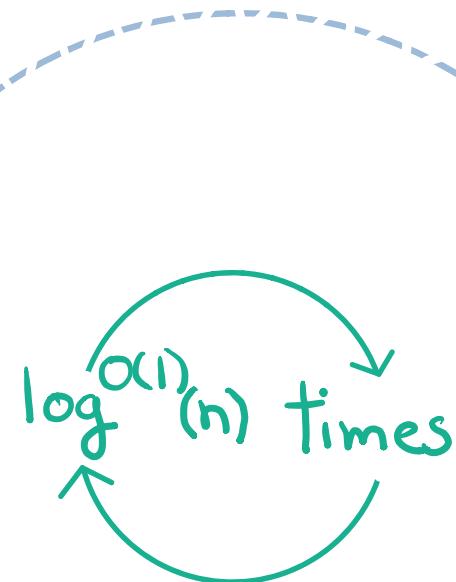
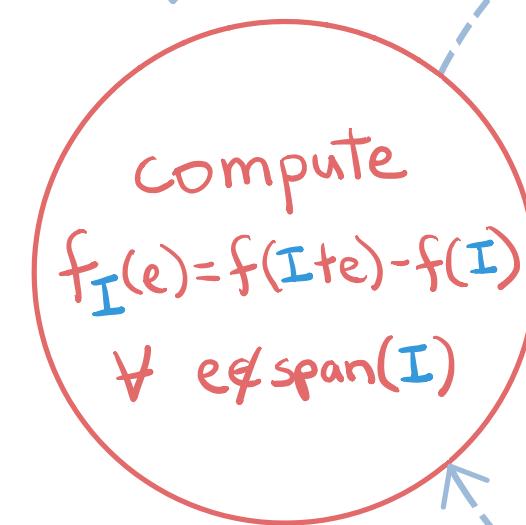
$O(nk)$  total queries  
(both  $f$  and span oracles)

$O(k)$  adaptivity

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

Parallel Greedy?

need to take  
 $\frac{k}{\text{polylog}(n)}$  elements

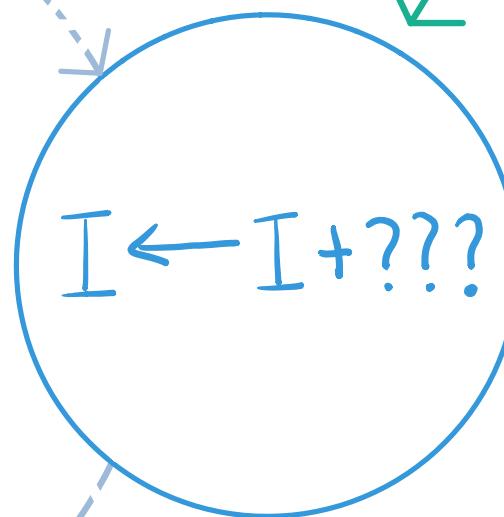
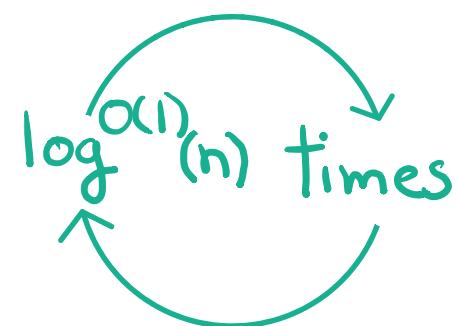
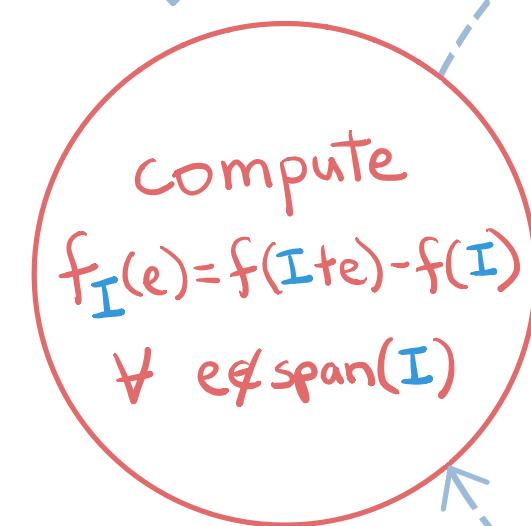


Return  $I$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

Parallel Greedy?

need to take  
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... but the elements:

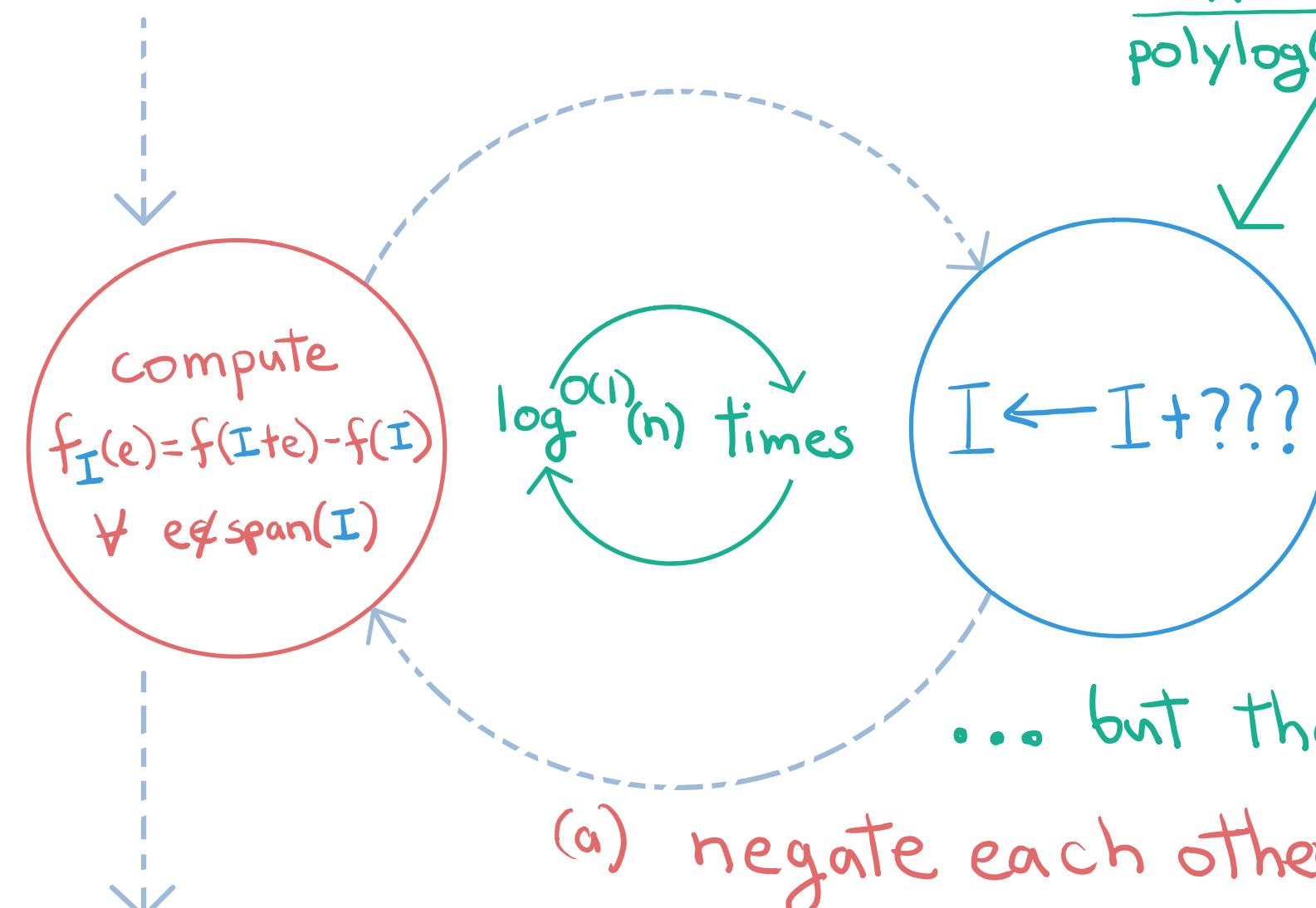
(a) negate each other w.r.t  $f$   
[e.g., overlapping sets in coverage]

Return  $I$

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

Parallel Greedy?

need to take  
 $\frac{k}{\text{polylog}(n)}$  elements



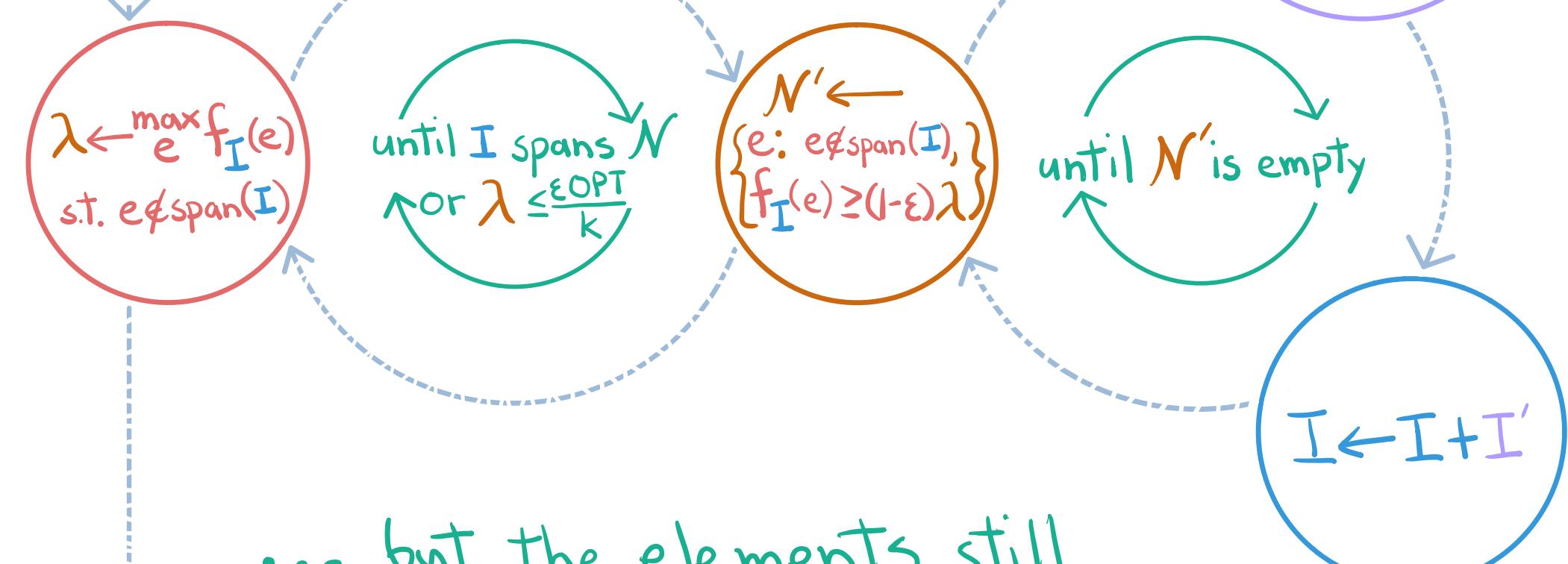
... but the elements:

- (a) negate each other w/r/t  $f$
- (b) generate dependencies w/r/t  $M$   
[e.g., cycles in graphic matroid]

Initially  
 $I = \emptyset$

reintroduce threshold  $\lambda$ ,  
 greedy step size  $\delta$

sample  
 $I' \sim \mathcal{S}N'$   
 for "greedy step  
 size"  $\delta > 0$



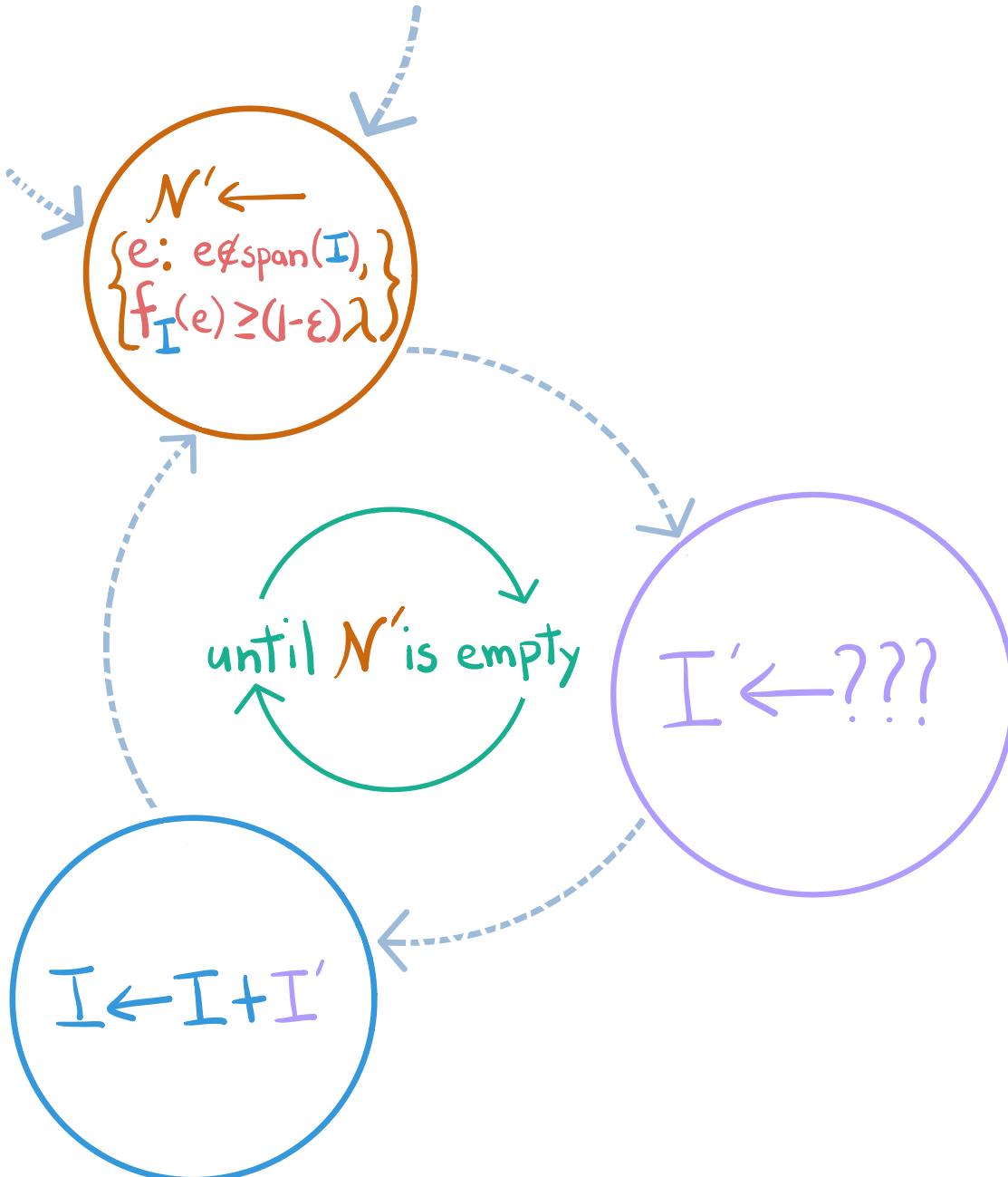
... but the elements still  
 generate dependencies w/r/t M  
 [e.g., cycles in graphic matroid]

Return I

## Goal

select a set  $I' \subseteq N'$   
To add to  $I$  that is both

"good"  
and  
"large"



## Goal

select a set  $I' \subseteq N'$  s.t.

(a)  $I + I'$  is independent

and  $f_{I'}(I') \approx \lambda |I'|$

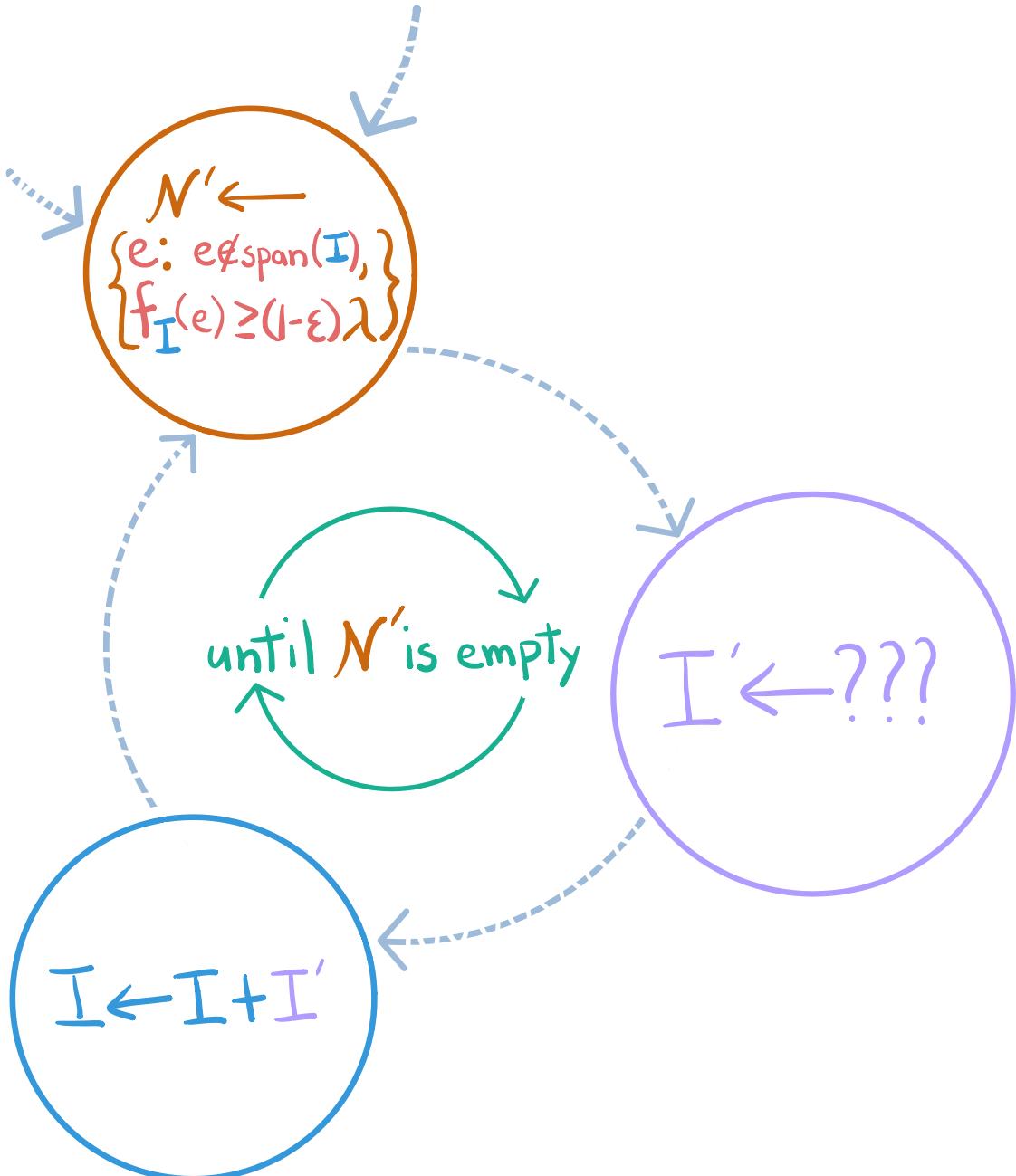
(b)  $|N'| \downarrow$  a lot w.r.t  $I + I'$

by combination of:

(i)  $I + I'$  spans many  $e \in N'$

(ii)  $f_{I+I'}(e) \ll f_I(e)$

for many  $e \in N'$



## Goal

select a set  $I' \subseteq N'$  s.t.

(a)  $I + I'$  is independent

and  $f_{I'}(I') \approx \lambda |I'|$

(b)  $|N'| \downarrow$  a lot w.r.t  $I + I'$

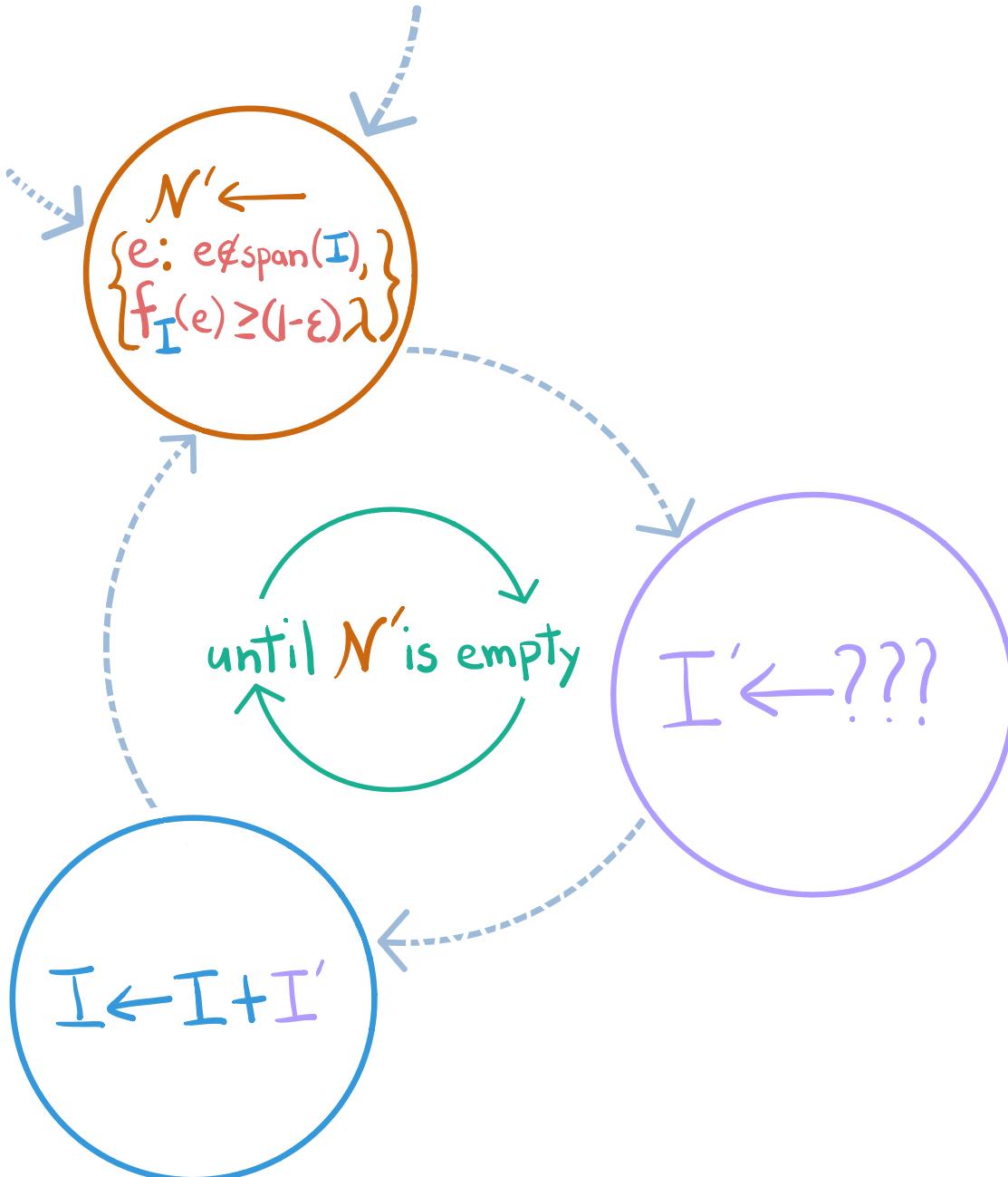
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But (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b)



## Goal

select a set  $I' \subseteq N'$  s.t.

(a)  $I + I'$  is independent  
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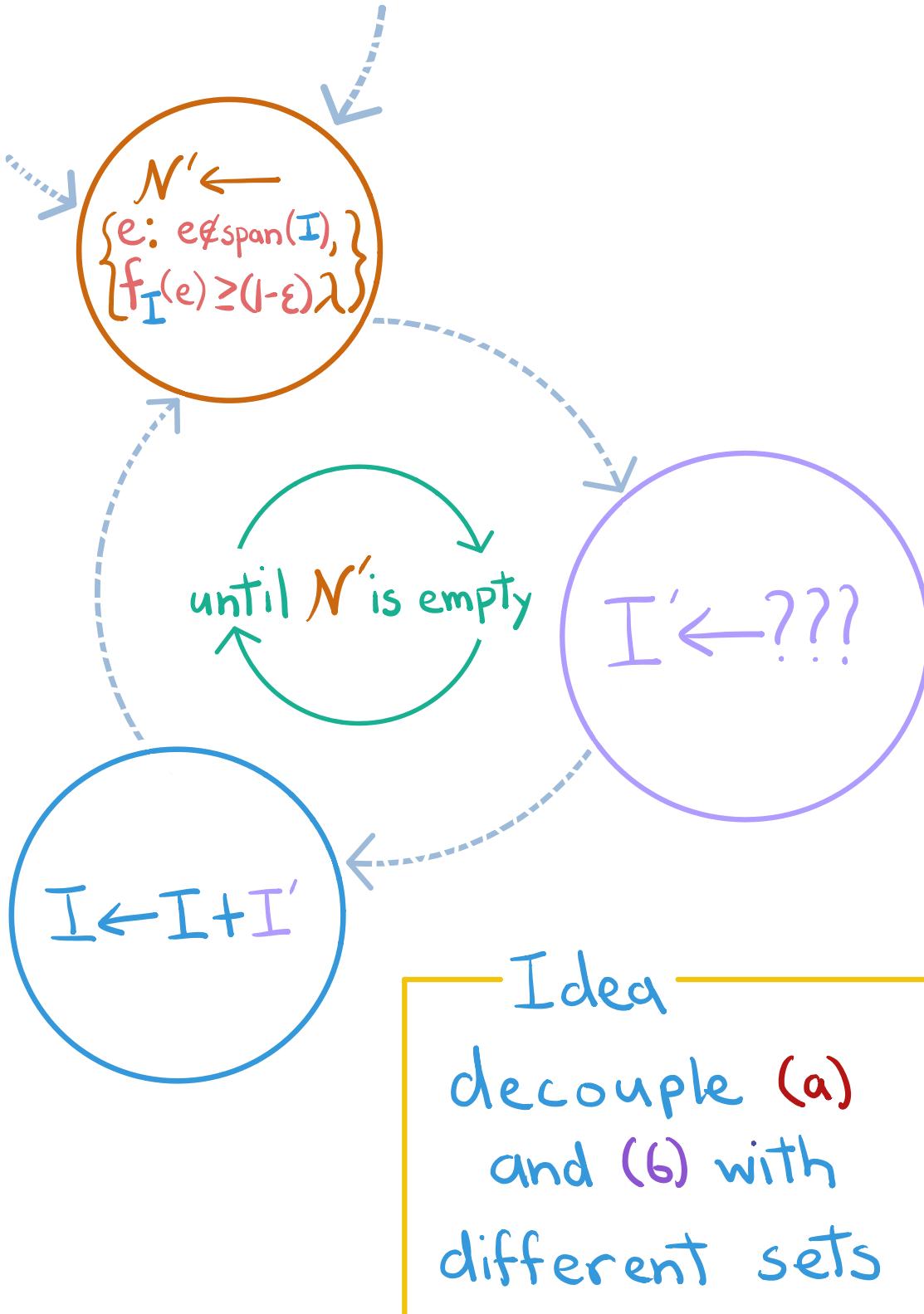
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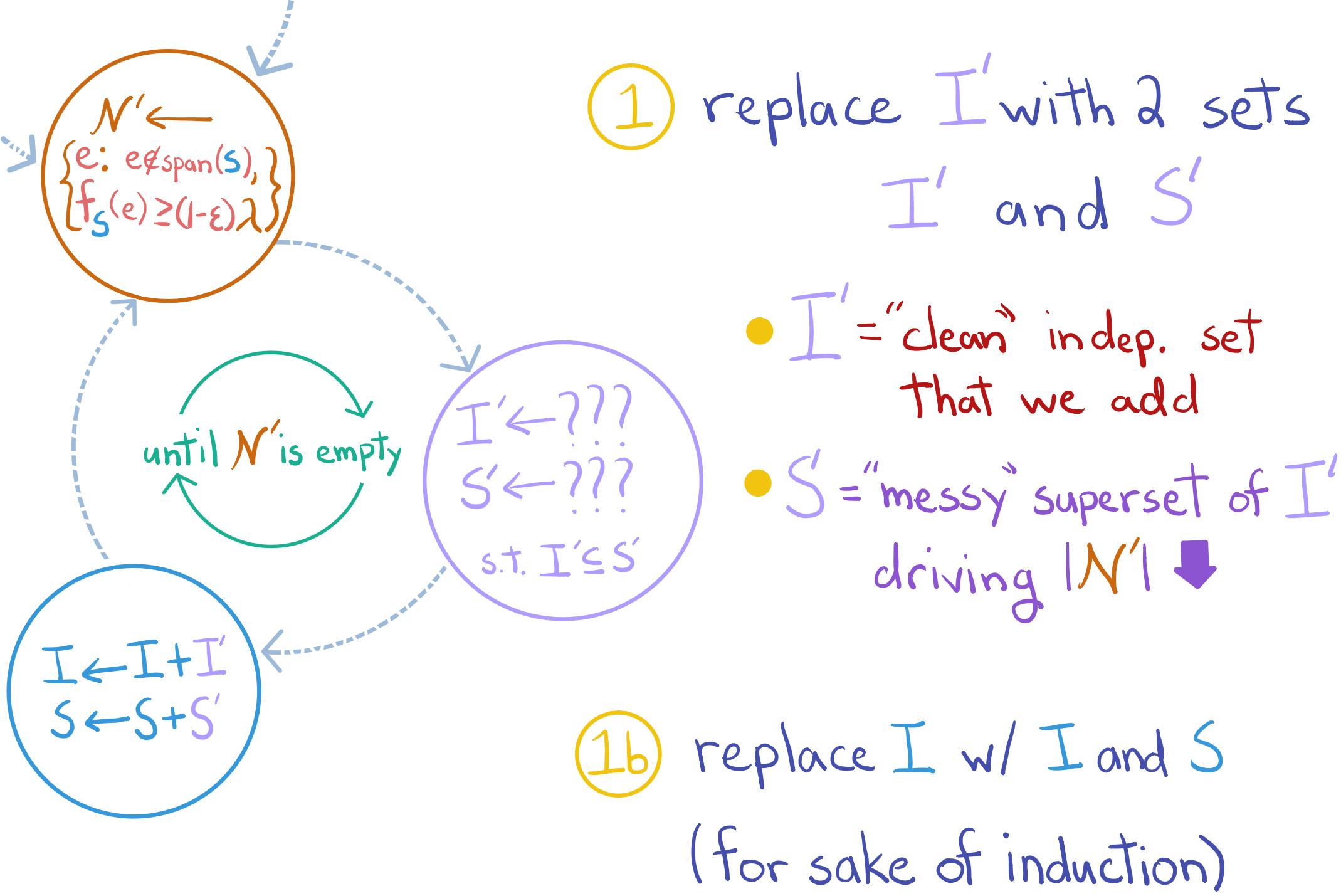
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for many  $e \in N'$

But (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b)

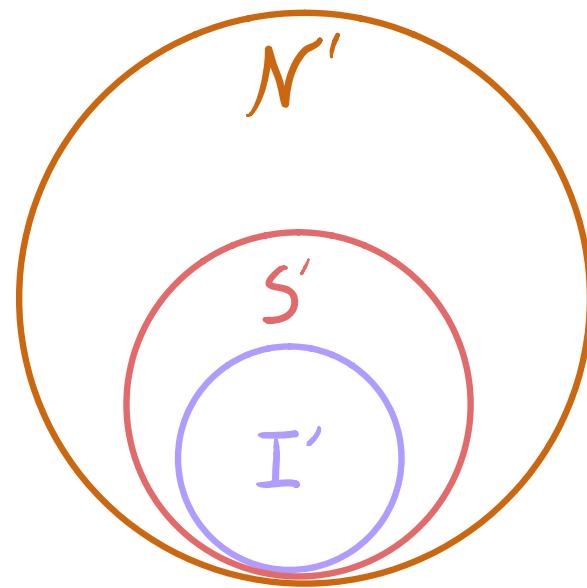
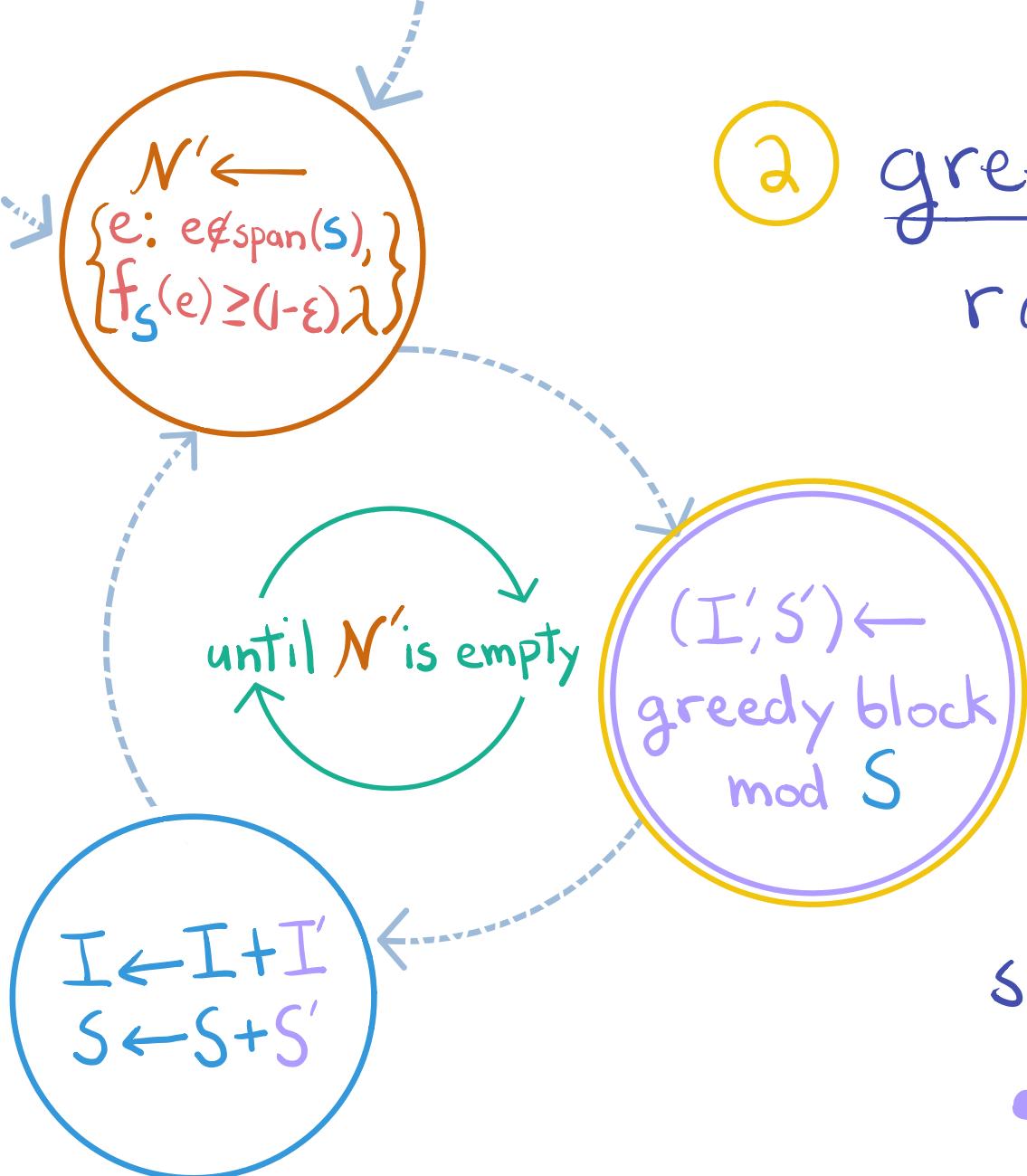


Idea  
 decouple (a)  
 and (b) with  
 different sets



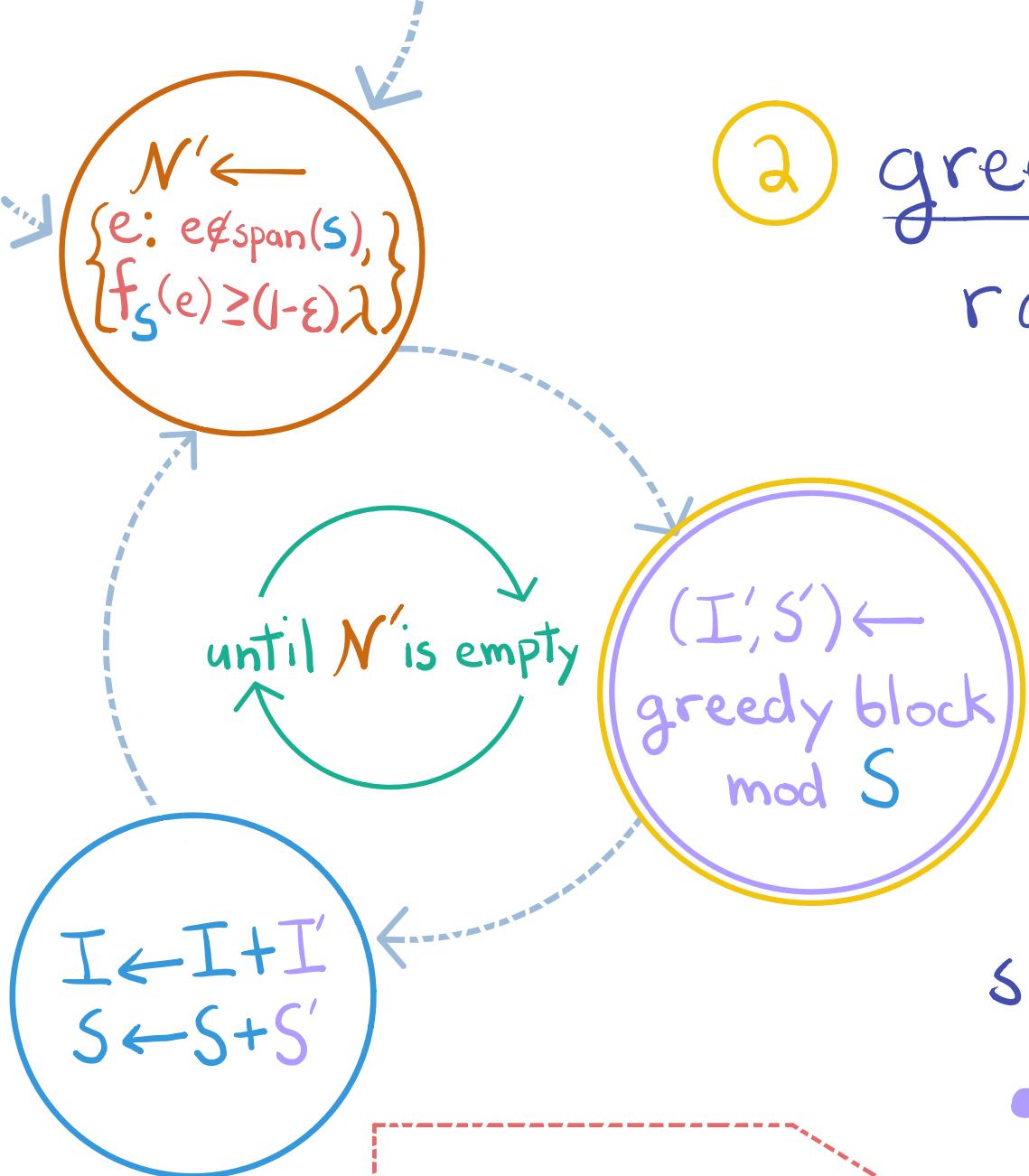
② greedy block  $(I', S') \bmod S$

random sets  $I' \subseteq S' \subseteq N'$

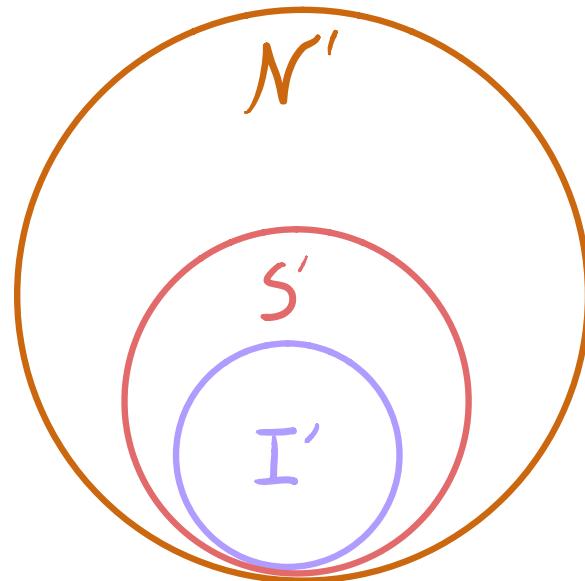


such that:

- $I + I'$  independent
- $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-\varepsilon)E[|S'|]\lambda$



greedy block  $(I', S')$  mod  $S$   
random sets  $I' \subseteq S' \subseteq N'$

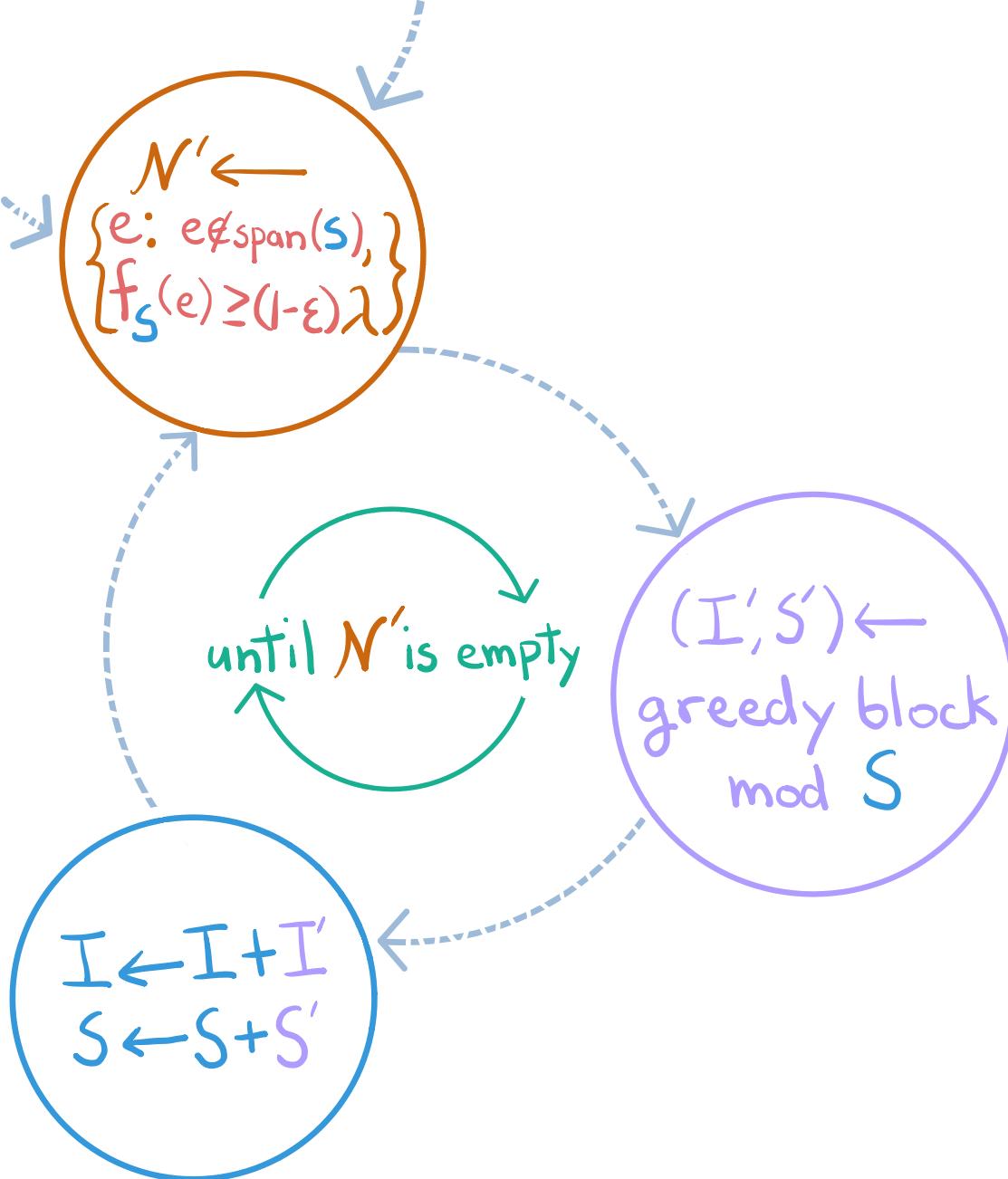


such that:

- $I + I'$  independent

$$\frac{E[\text{bang}]}{E[\text{buck}]} \geq (1 - o(\epsilon)) \lambda$$

$$E\left[\underbrace{f_S(I')}_\text{bang}\right] \geq (1-\varepsilon) E\left[\underbrace{|S'|}_\text{buck}\right] \lambda$$



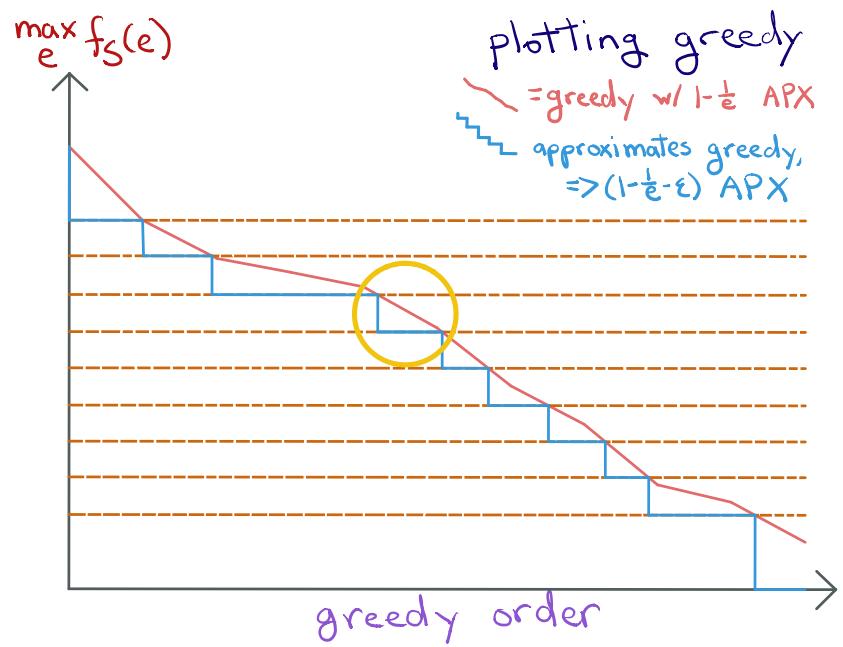
Need to show

- Ⓐ APX factor
- Ⓑ how? and depth

greedy blocks guarantee:

$$\frac{E[\text{bang}]}{E[\text{buck}]} \geq (1-o(\varepsilon)) \lambda$$

(more or less) follows greedy



(complicated by  $\text{bang} = f(I)$   
decoupled from  $\text{buck} = S$ )

$\Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow$

same APX guarantees as greedy

# APX guarantees

Standard greedy

returns  $I \in \mathcal{L}$  s.t.

- for all  $J \in \mathcal{L}$ ,

$$f(I) \geq f_I(J)$$

"block greedy" (Lemma)

returns  $I \in \mathcal{L}, S \subseteq N$  s.t.

- for all  $J \in \mathcal{L}$ ,

$$E[f(I)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) E[f_S(J)]$$

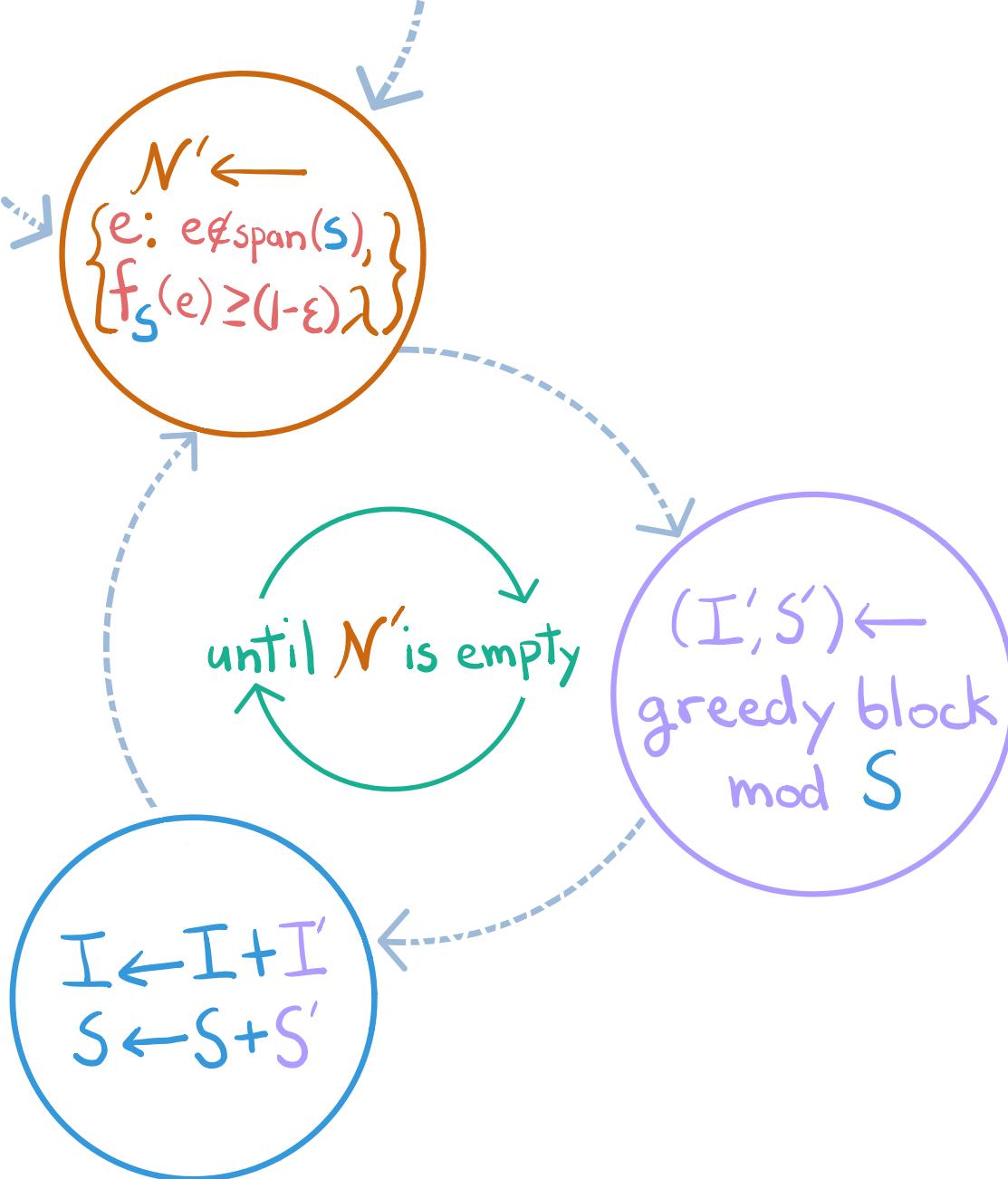
- $E[f(I)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) E[f(S)]$

Corollary

$(1-\varepsilon)\frac{1}{2}$ -APX for monotone  $f$ ,

constant APX for nonnegative  $f$

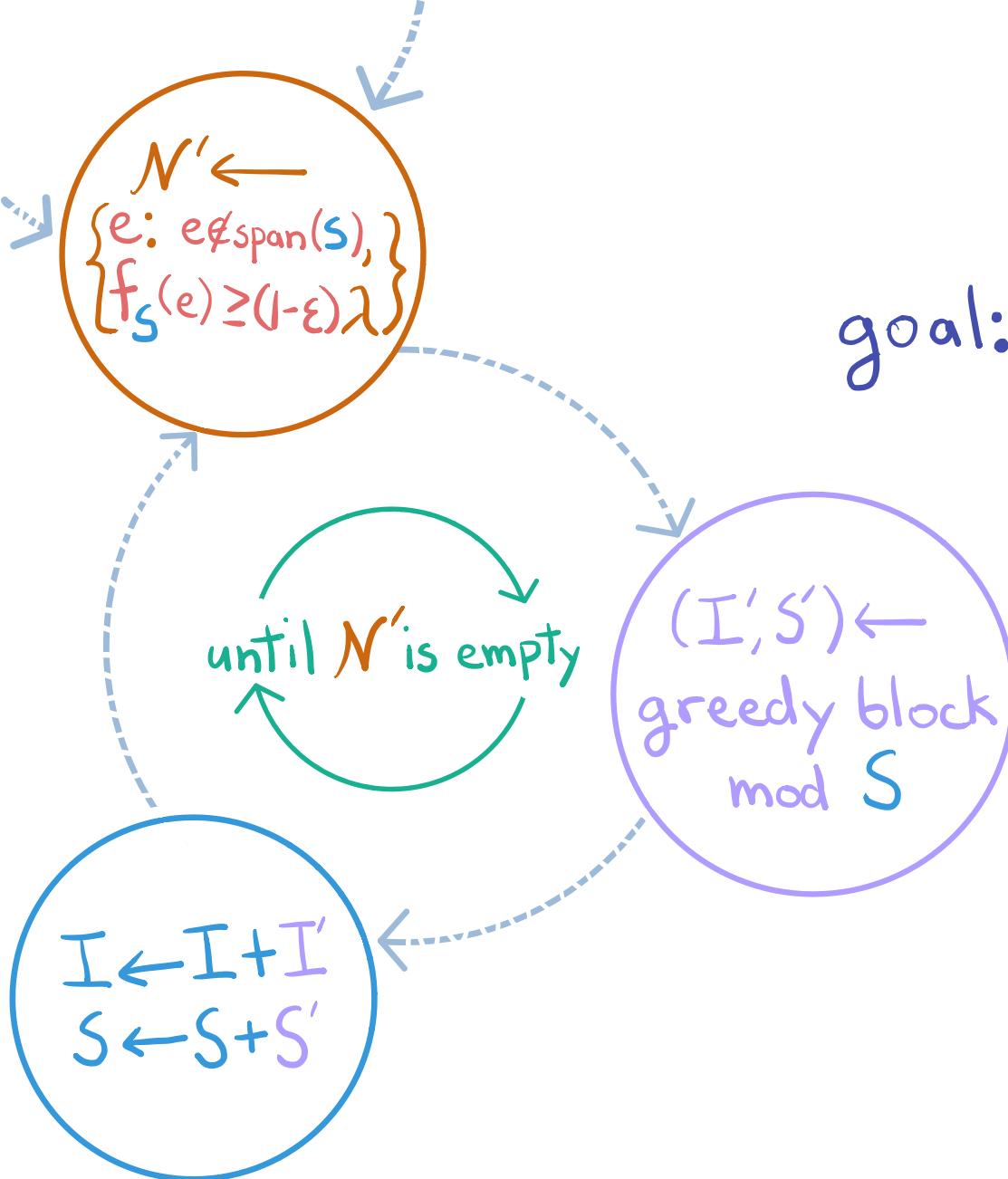
[omit proof]



Need to show

a) APX factor

b) how? and depth



"greedy sampling"

goal: compute greedy block  
s.t.  $|N'|$  decreases a lot

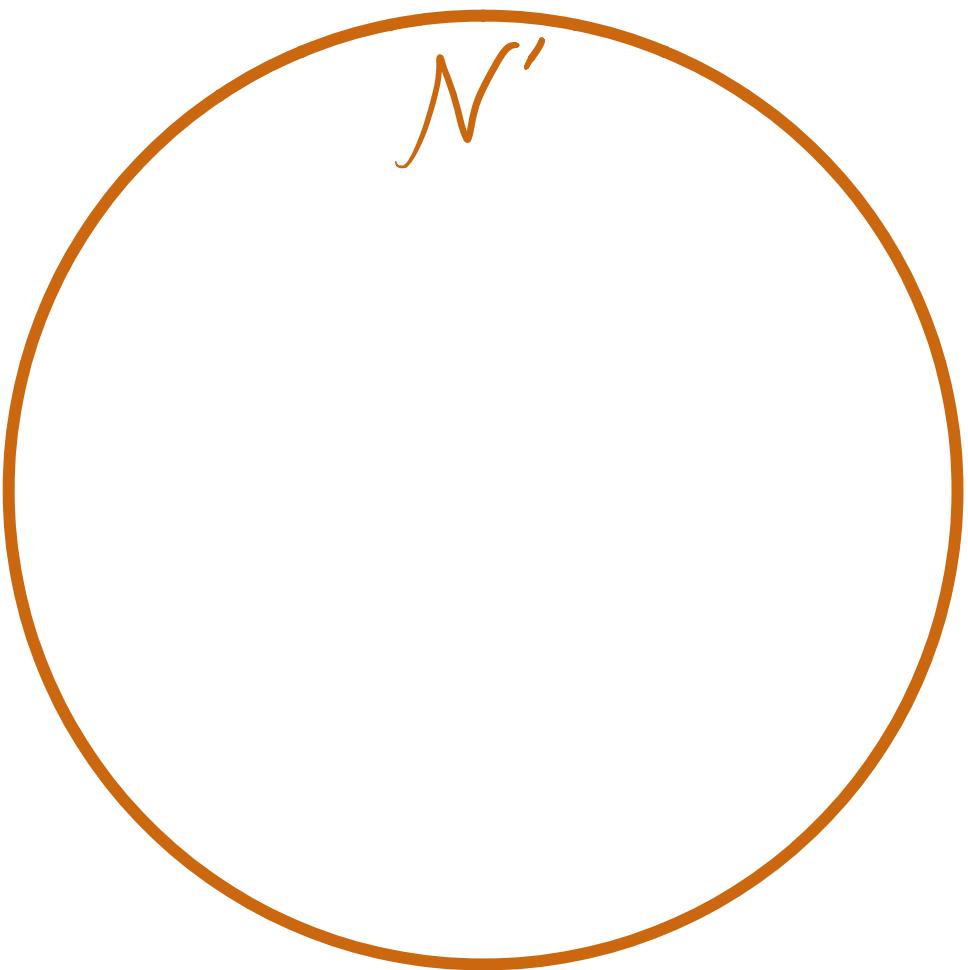
Need to show

a) APX factor

b) how? and depth

"greedy sampling"

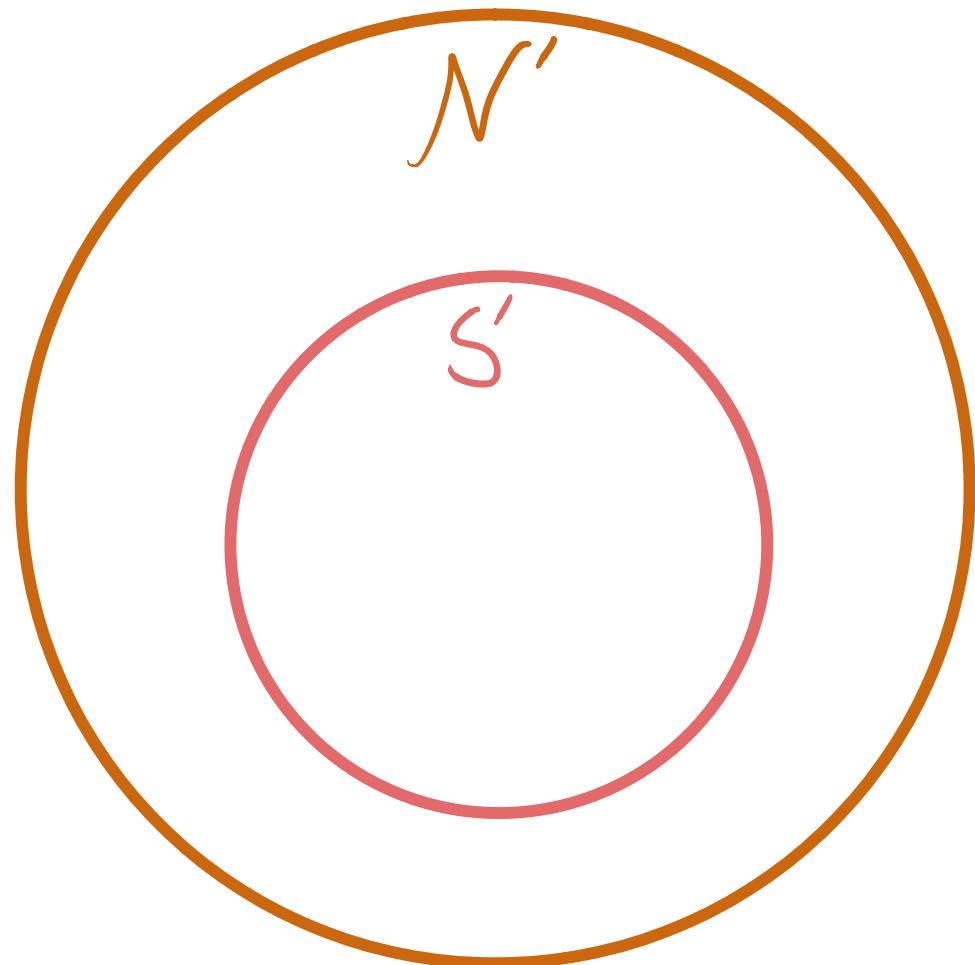
let  $\delta > 0$  TBD



"greedy sampling"

let  $\delta > 0$  TBD

(a) sample  $S' \sim S|N'$

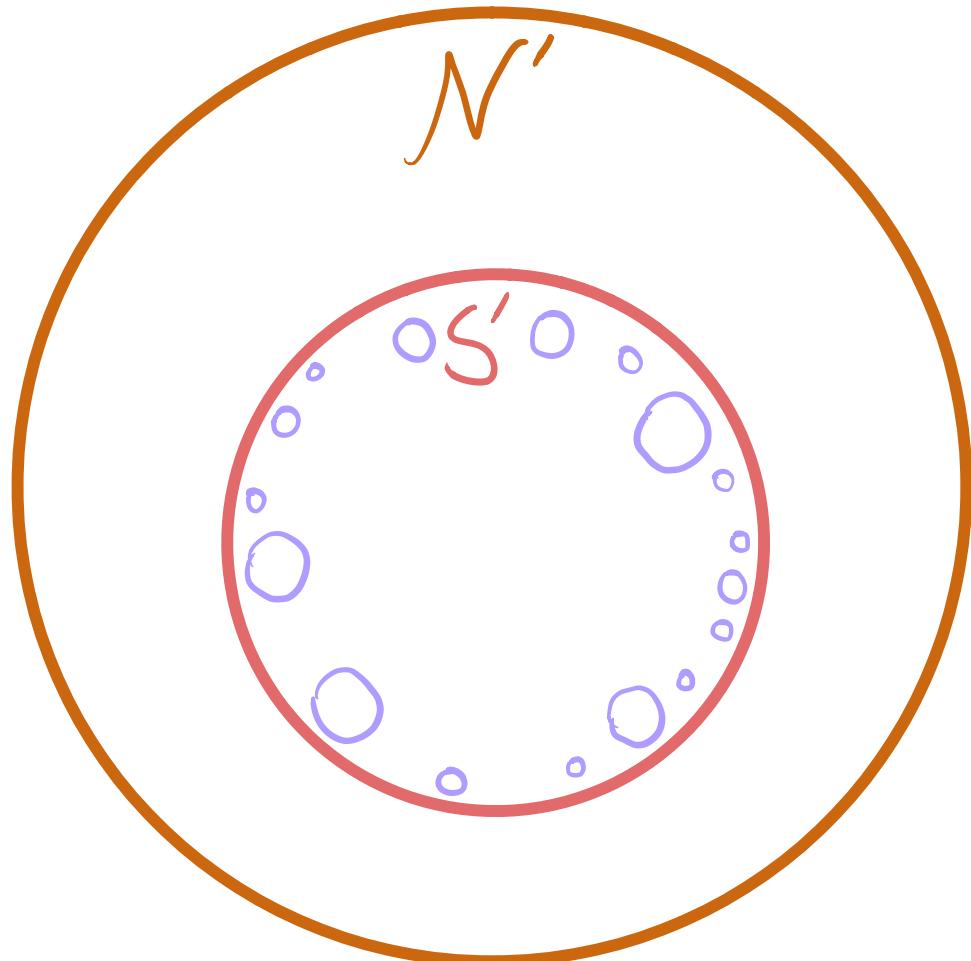


"greedy sampling"

let  $S > 0$  TBD

(a) sample  $S' \sim S|N'$

[ $S'$  may have dependencies,  
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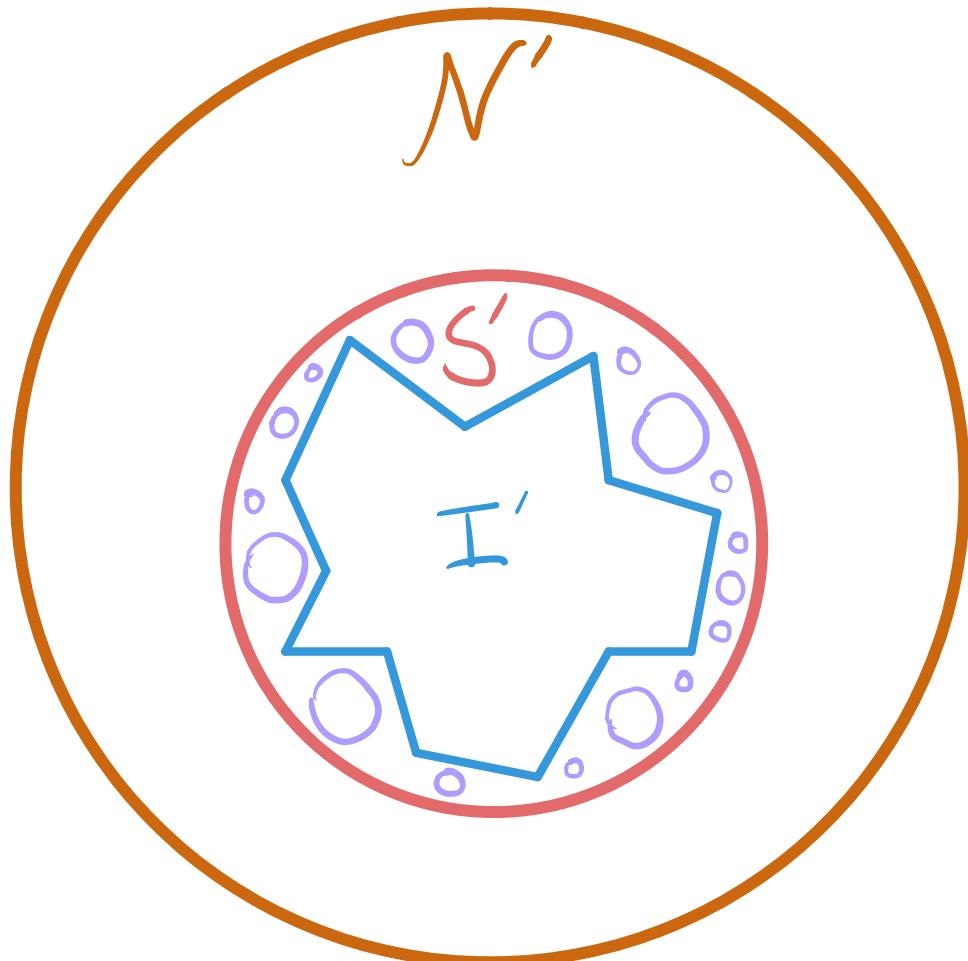
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let  $\delta > 0$  TBD

(a) sample  $S' \sim \delta N'$

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(b)  $I' \leftarrow \{e \in S' : e \notin \text{span}(S + S' - e)\}$   
and  $f_{S + S' - e}(e) \geq (1 - \varepsilon)\lambda$



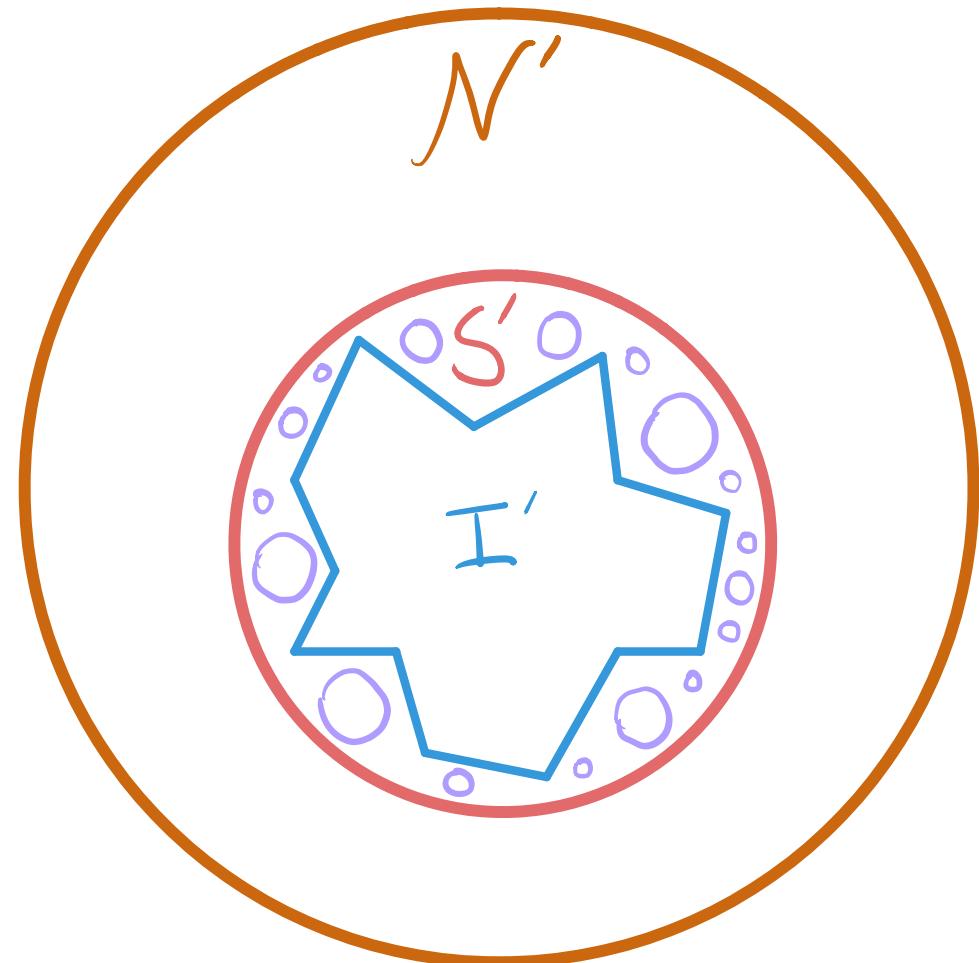
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in parallel w/  
independent queries to  
 $f$  and  $\text{span}$  oracles

# "greedy sampling"

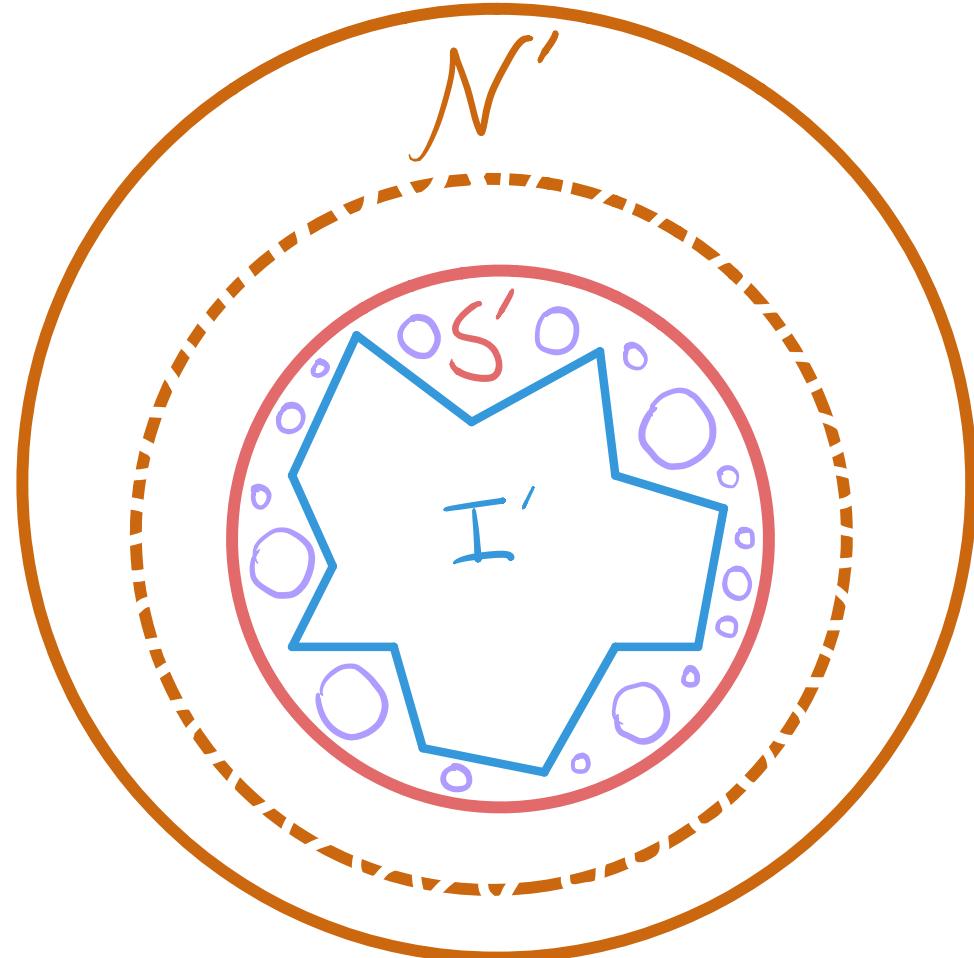
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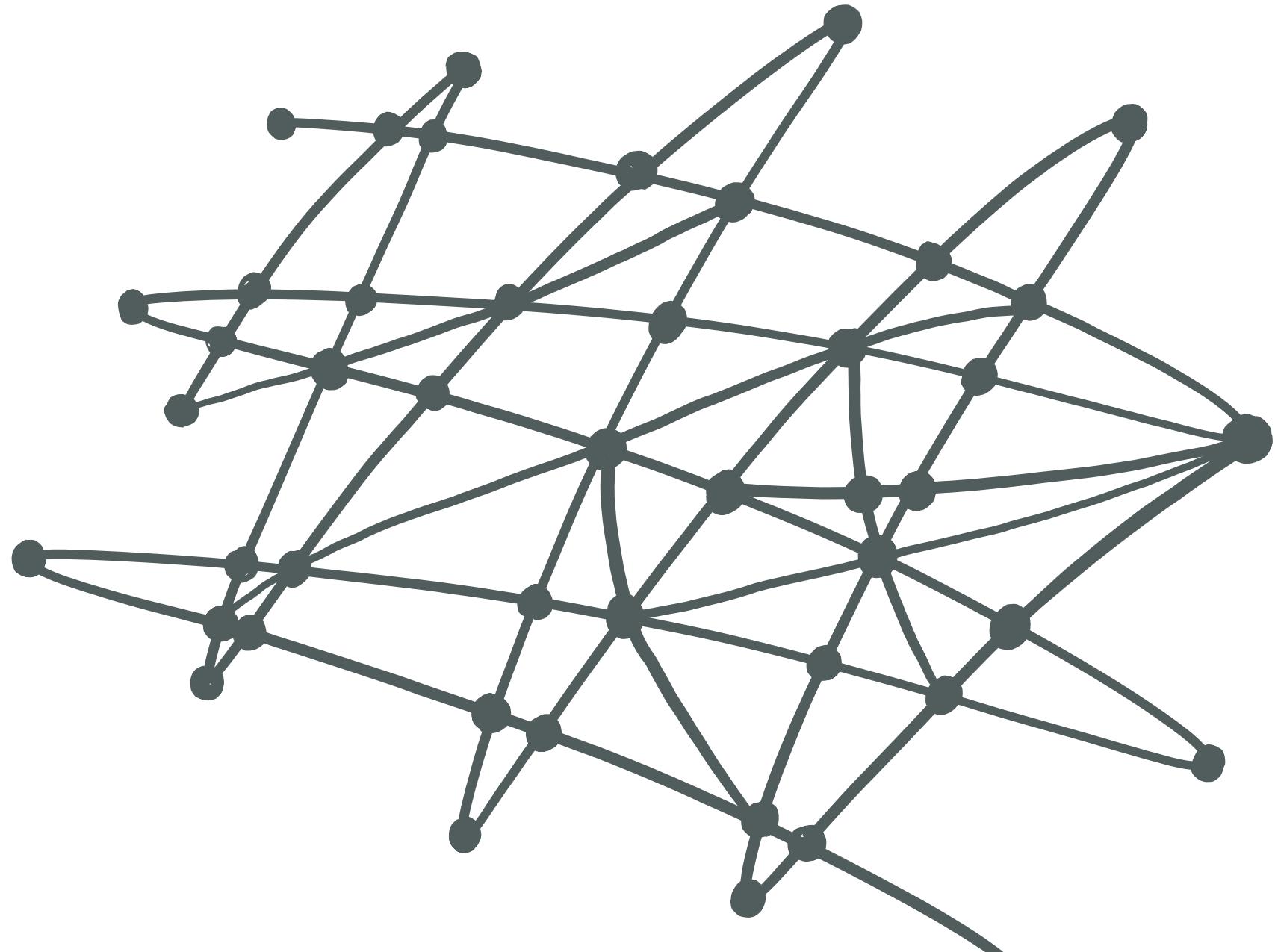
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(and then  $N'$  shrinks)

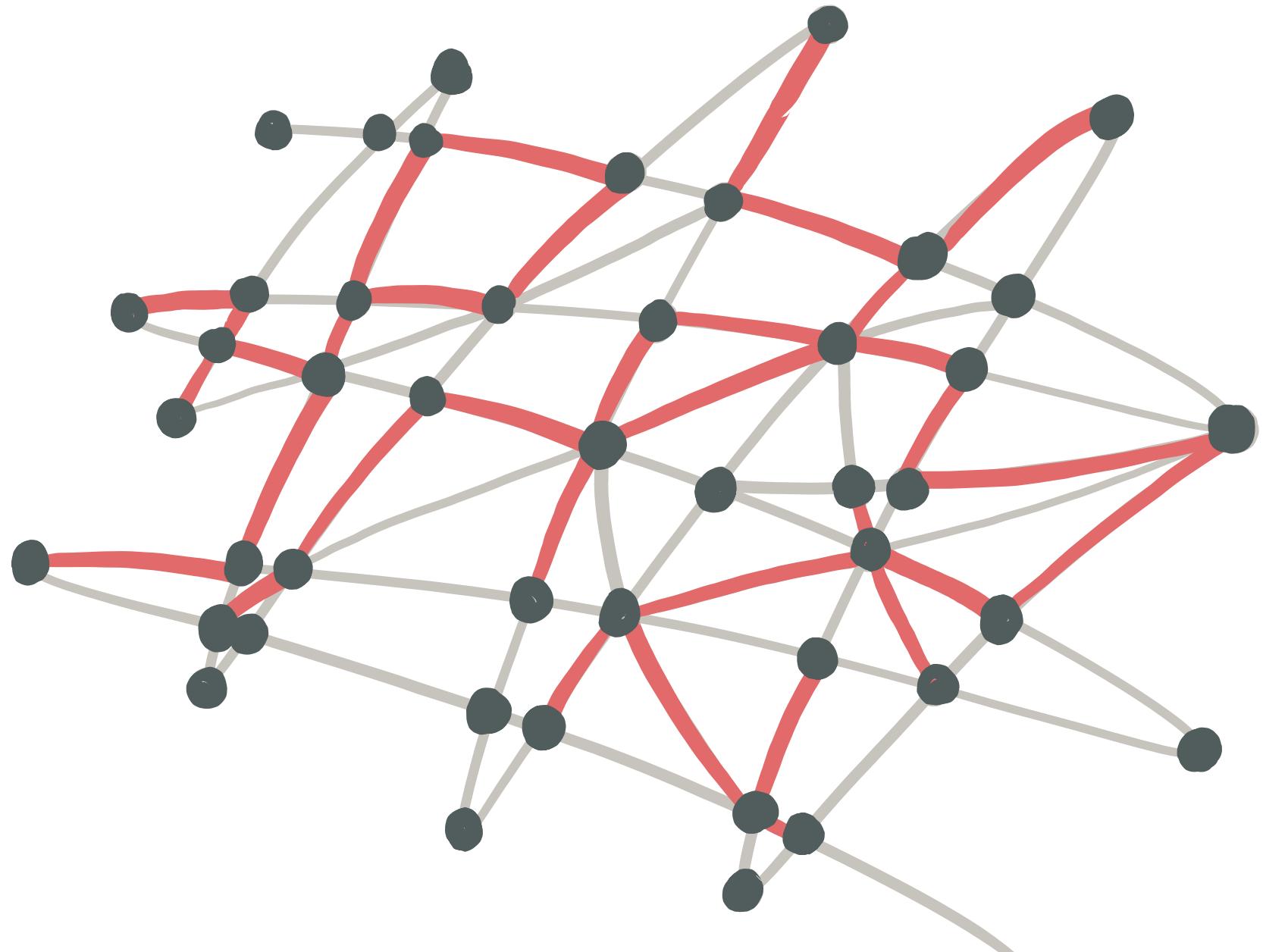


← in parallel w/  
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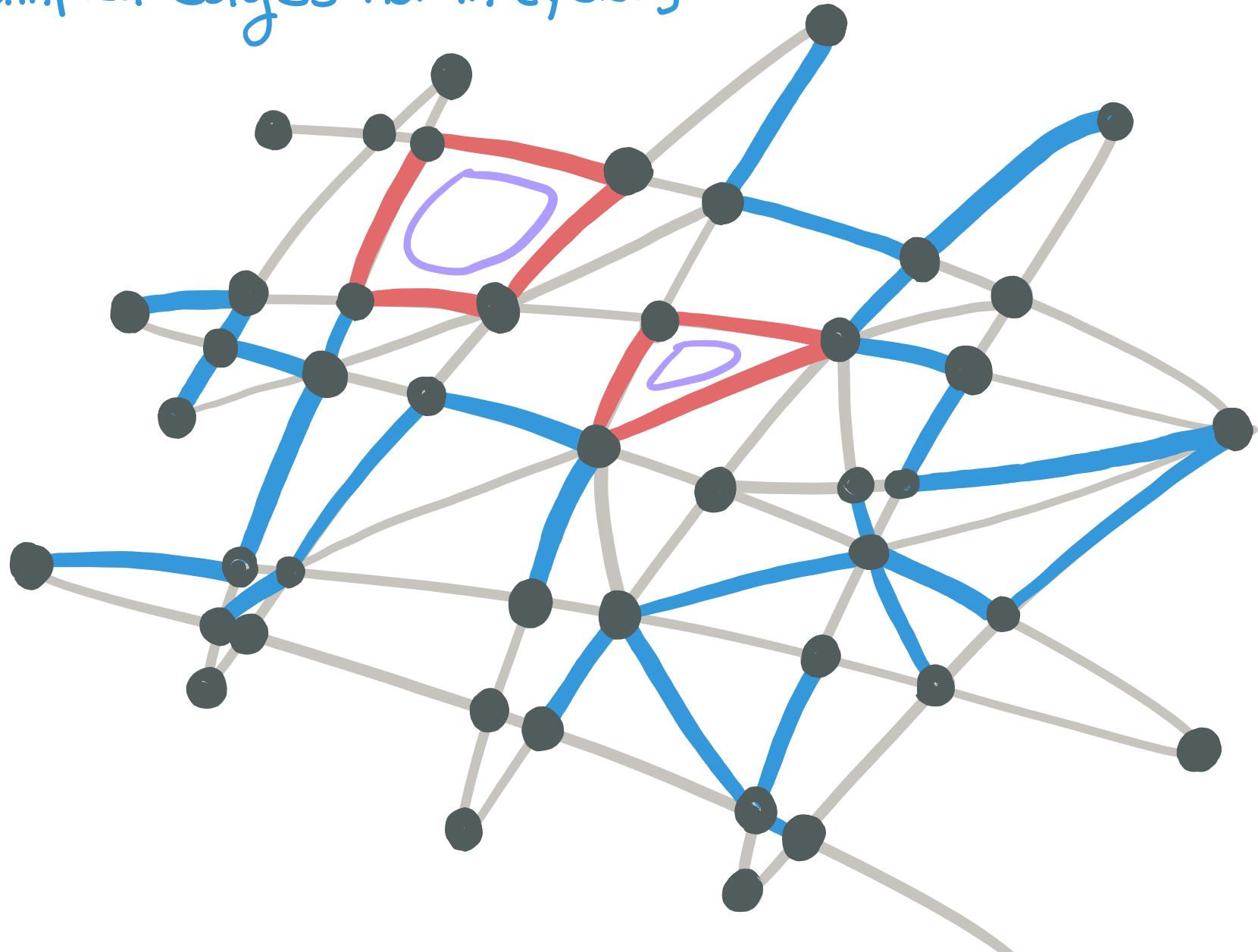
e.g. Graphic Matroid ( $N=E$ ,  $\mathcal{C}=\{\text{forests}\}$ )



① let  $S'$  sample each edge w/ prob  $\delta$



- ① let  $S'$  sample each edge w/ prob  $\delta$
- ②  $I' \subseteq \{\text{sampled edges not in cycles}\}$



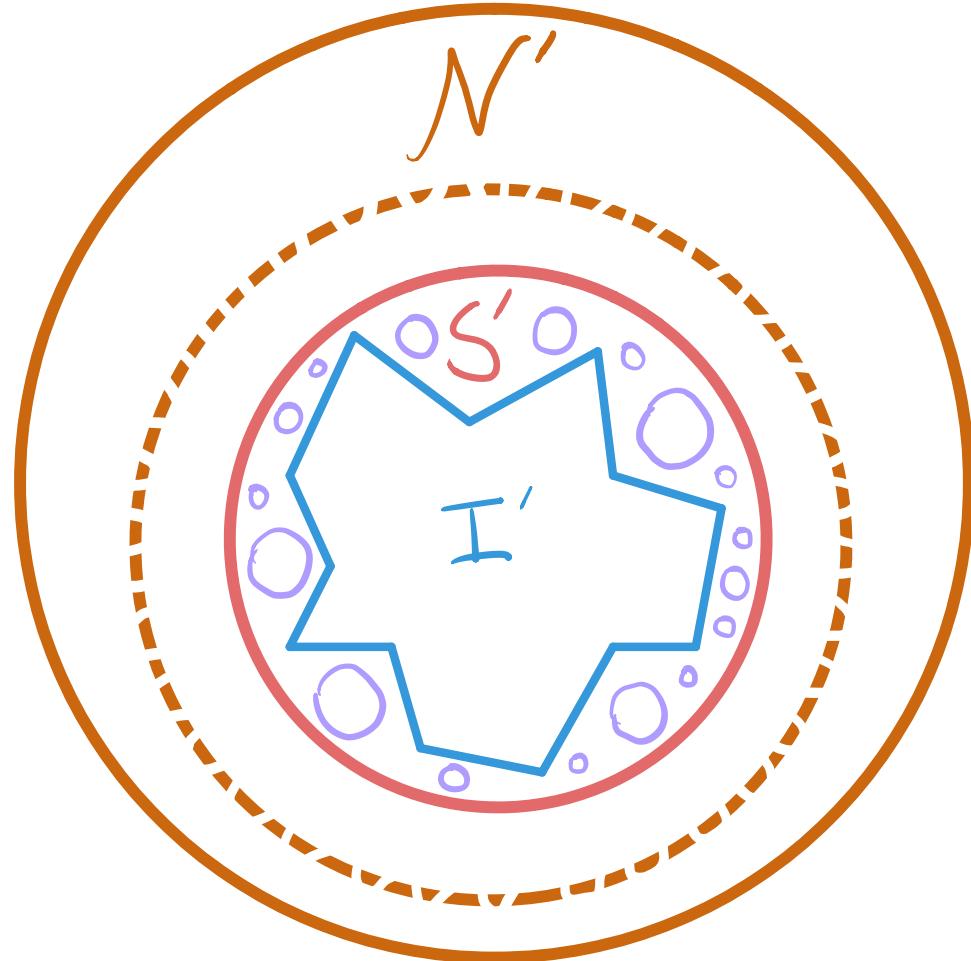
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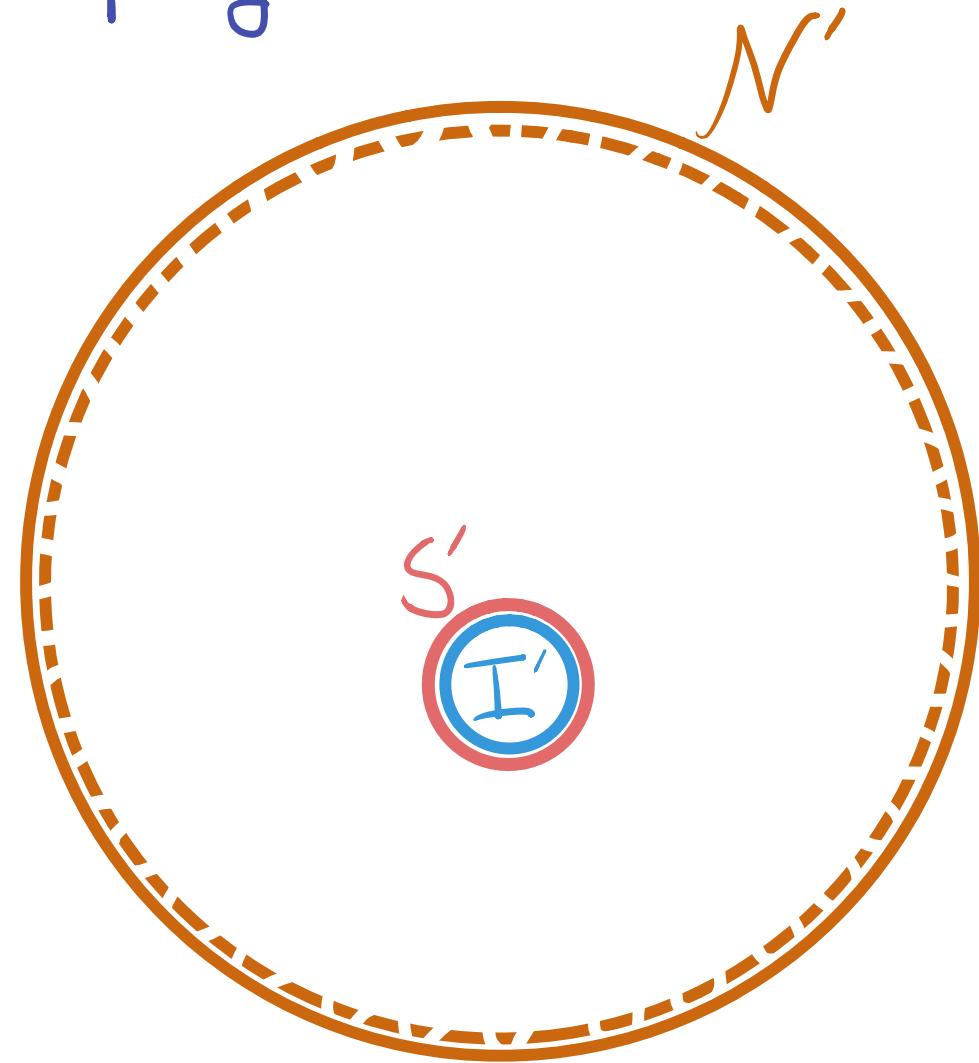
$S'$  very very small

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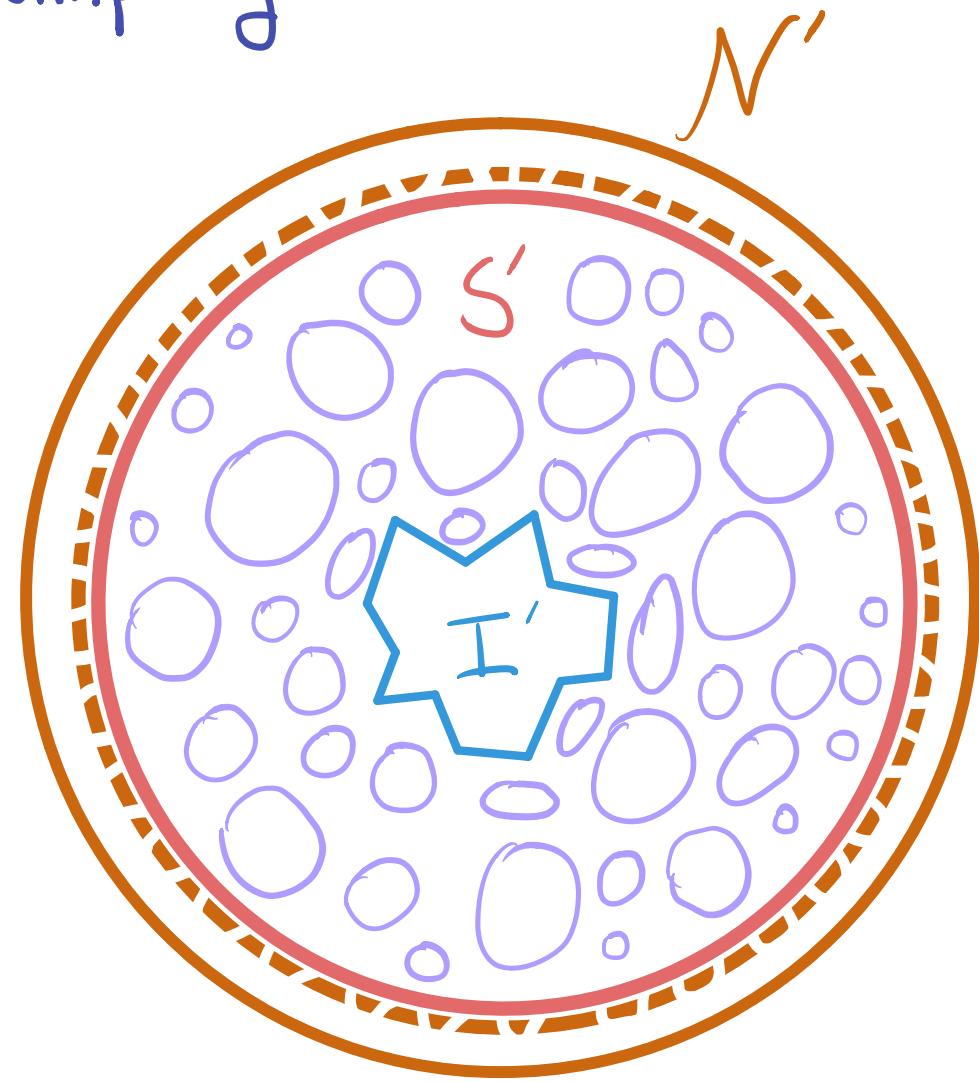
$\delta$  very very big

(a) sample  $S' \sim \delta N'$

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(and then  $N'$  shrinks)



$S$  shrinks  $N'$  but  
many dependencies  
leads to small  $I$

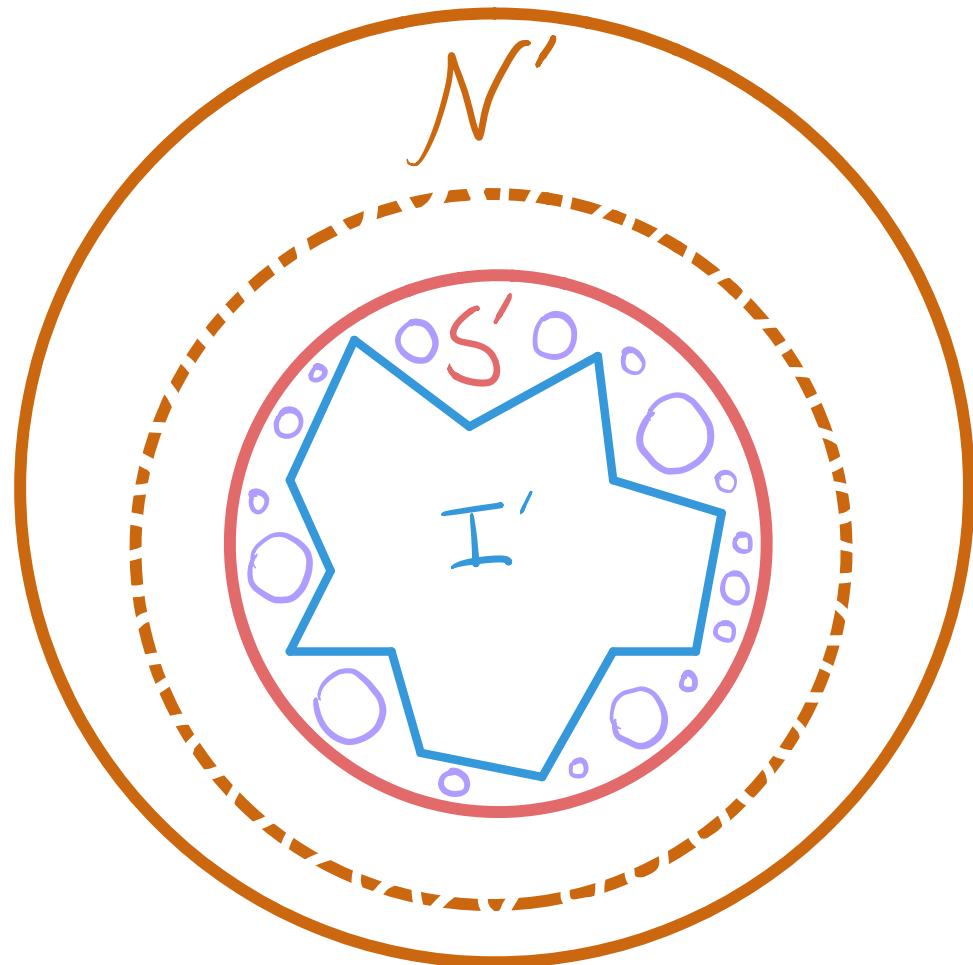
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"greedy sampling"

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(a)  $E[|\{e \in N': f_{S+S'}(e) \leq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda^3\}|] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$

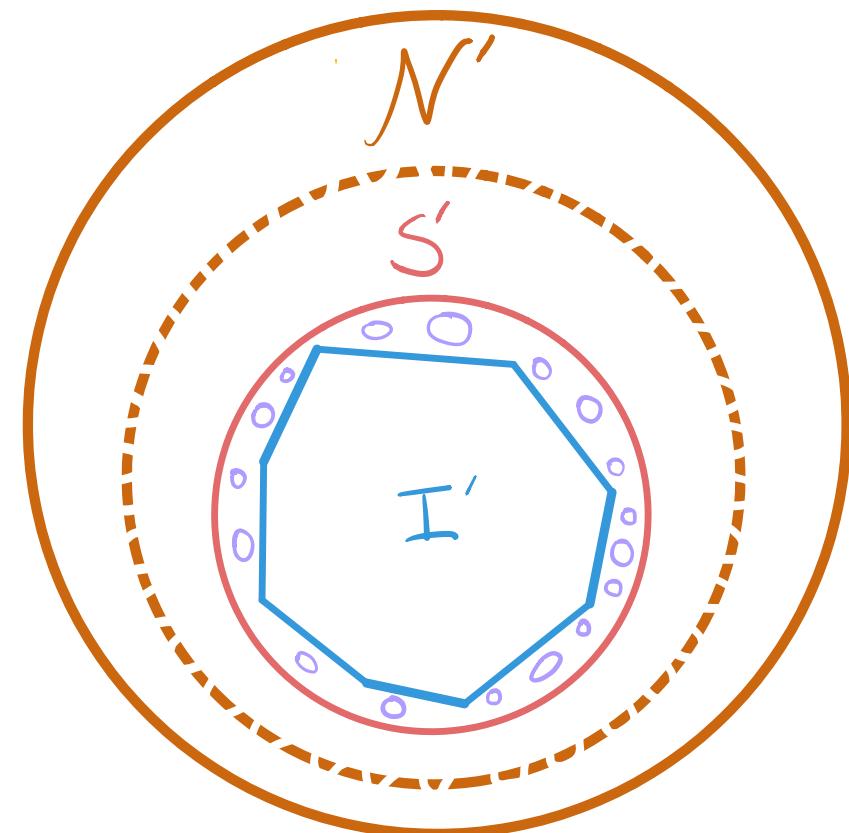
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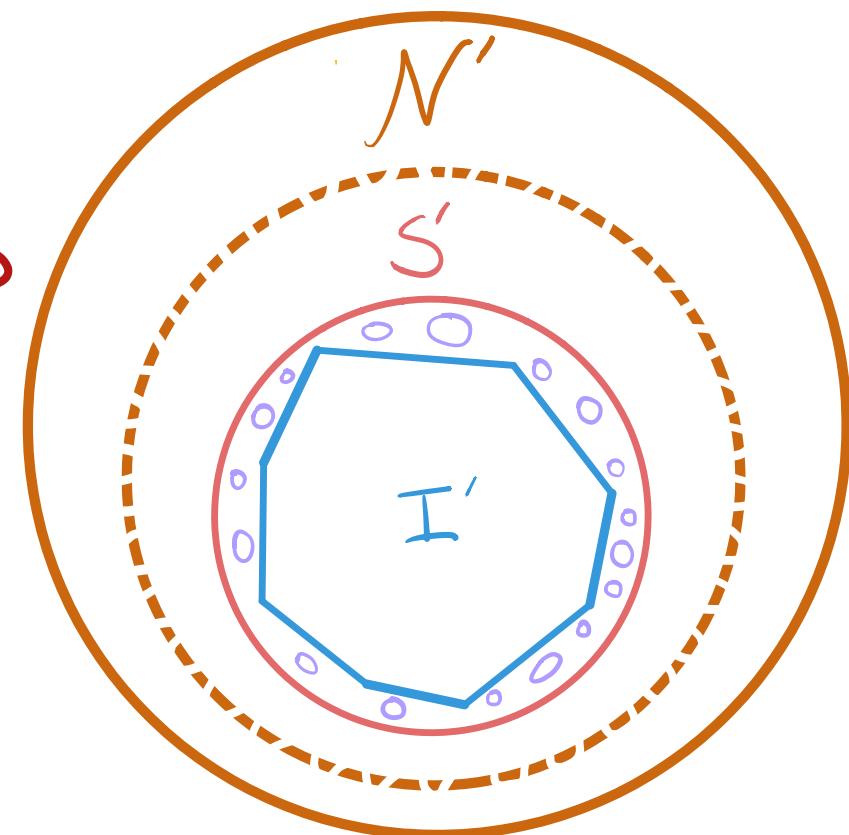
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Key Claims

(1)  $(I', S')$  is greedy block mod  $S$

(namely,  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-o(\varepsilon))\lambda E[|S'|]$ )

(2)  $N'$  shrinks by  $(1-\varepsilon)$ -factor



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Proof is subtle but main ideas are:

- (1)  $\delta$  is chosen conservatively small
- (2) submodular functions and matroids  
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proof slides in appendix

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

"greedy sampling"

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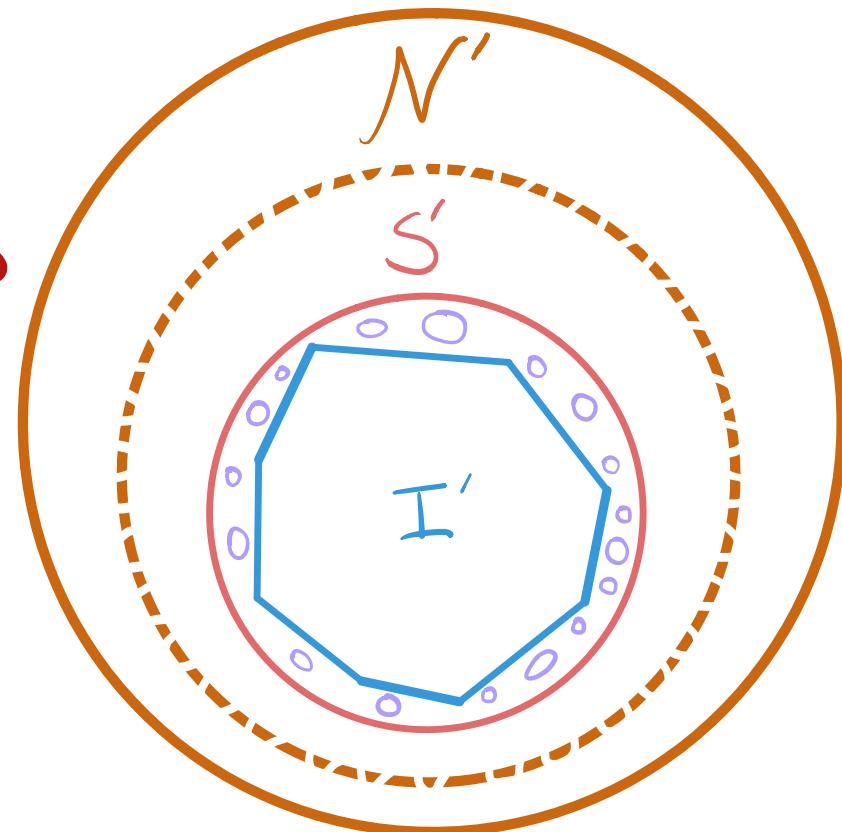
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both

$$(b) E[|\{e \in N': e \notin \text{span}(S+S')\}|] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

---

both  $E[|\{\dots\}|]$  terms  $\uparrow$  as  $\delta \uparrow$

choose  $\min \delta > 0$  s.t.

---

for  $S' \sim \delta S$ :

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---

both  $E[\#\{\cdot\}]$  terms  $\uparrow$  as  $\delta \uparrow$

i.e.,  $\min \delta$  s.t.  $|N'| \downarrow$  by  $(1-\varepsilon)$  factor

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

"greedy sampling"

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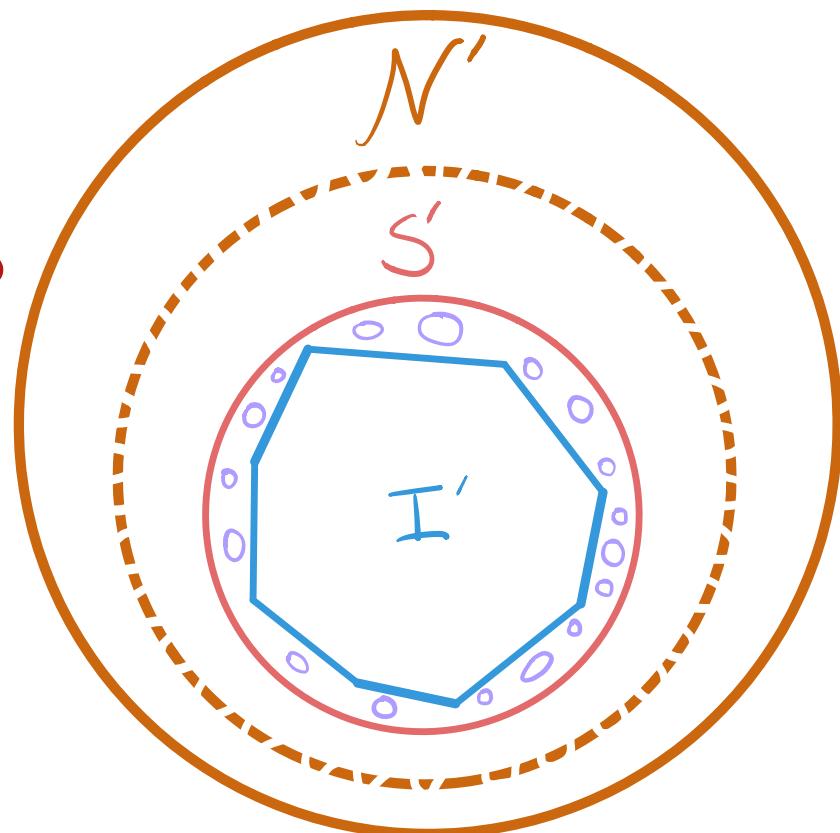
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Initially

$$I = \emptyset$$
$$S = \emptyset$$

greedy sample

$$(I', S') \leftarrow \text{greedy block mod } S \text{ in } N'$$

$$\lambda \leftarrow \max_{e: e \notin \text{span}(S)} f_S(e)$$

s.t.  $e \notin \text{span}(S)$

until  $S$  spans  $N$   
or  $\lambda \leq \frac{\varepsilon \text{OPT}}{k}$   
 $O\left(\frac{\log k}{\varepsilon}\right)$  iter.

$$N' \leftarrow \{e: e \notin \text{span}(S), f_S(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}$$

until  $N'$  is empty  
 $O\left(\frac{\log n}{\varepsilon}\right)$  iter.

$$I \leftarrow I + I'$$
$$S \leftarrow S + S'$$

$\lambda \downarrow$  by  $(1-\varepsilon)$ -factor

$|N'| \downarrow$   
by  $(1-\varepsilon)$ -factor

Return  $I$

$$O\left(\frac{\log k}{\varepsilon}\right) \times O\left(\frac{\log n}{\varepsilon}\right) = O\left(\frac{\log(k) \log(n)}{\varepsilon^2}\right) \text{ depth}$$

$\frac{1}{2}$ -APX for monotone  $f$  [Fisher, Nemhauser, Wolsey]

this talk

Iterate along greedy blocks

generate greedy blocks w/ greedy sampling

$\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon$ -APX for  $\frac{\text{monotone}}{\text{nonnegative}}$   $f$  w/  $\tilde{O}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}\right)$  depth

see paper

"multilinear amplification" for monotone  $f$

[Vondrák,  
Badanidiyuru]

generalize to nonnegative  $f$

fractional  $\frac{1 - \frac{1}{e} - \epsilon}{\frac{1}{e} - \epsilon}$ -APX for  $\frac{\text{monotone}}{\text{nonnegative}}$   $f$  w/  $\tilde{O}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}\right)$  depth

## Summary of results (related to matroids)

matroid constraint in polylog depth

integral approximations matching greedy

fractional\* approx. matching continuous greedy

\* can be rounded oblivious to f

k-matroid constraints in polylog depth  
similar results to greedy

## Open problems

rounding matroids in parallel

further (combinations) of constraints

THANKS

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Proof is subtle but main ideas are:

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choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

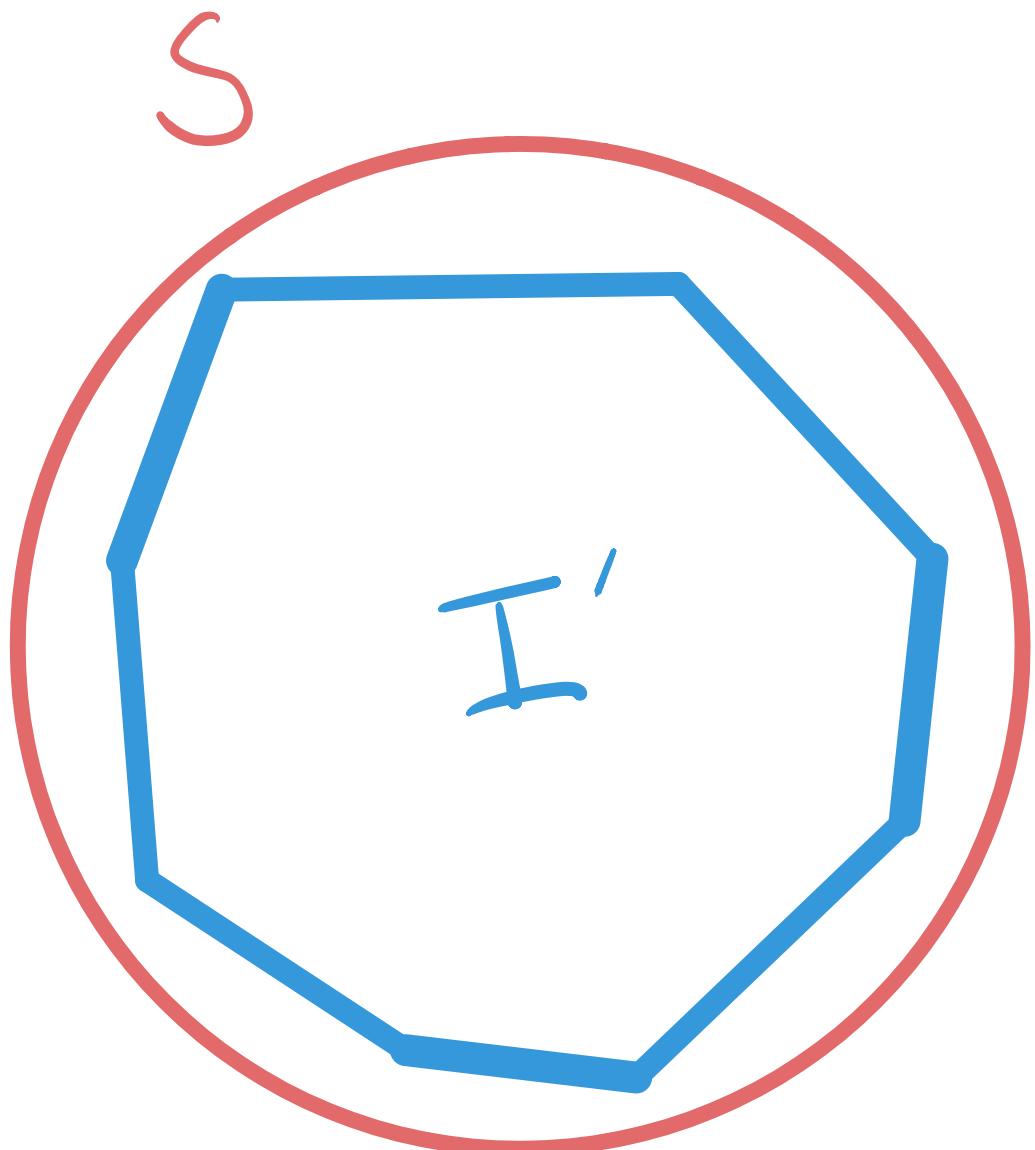
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(a) Sample  $S' \sim \delta N'$

(b)  $I' \leftarrow \left\{ e \in S' : e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e) \right\}$   
and  $f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda$



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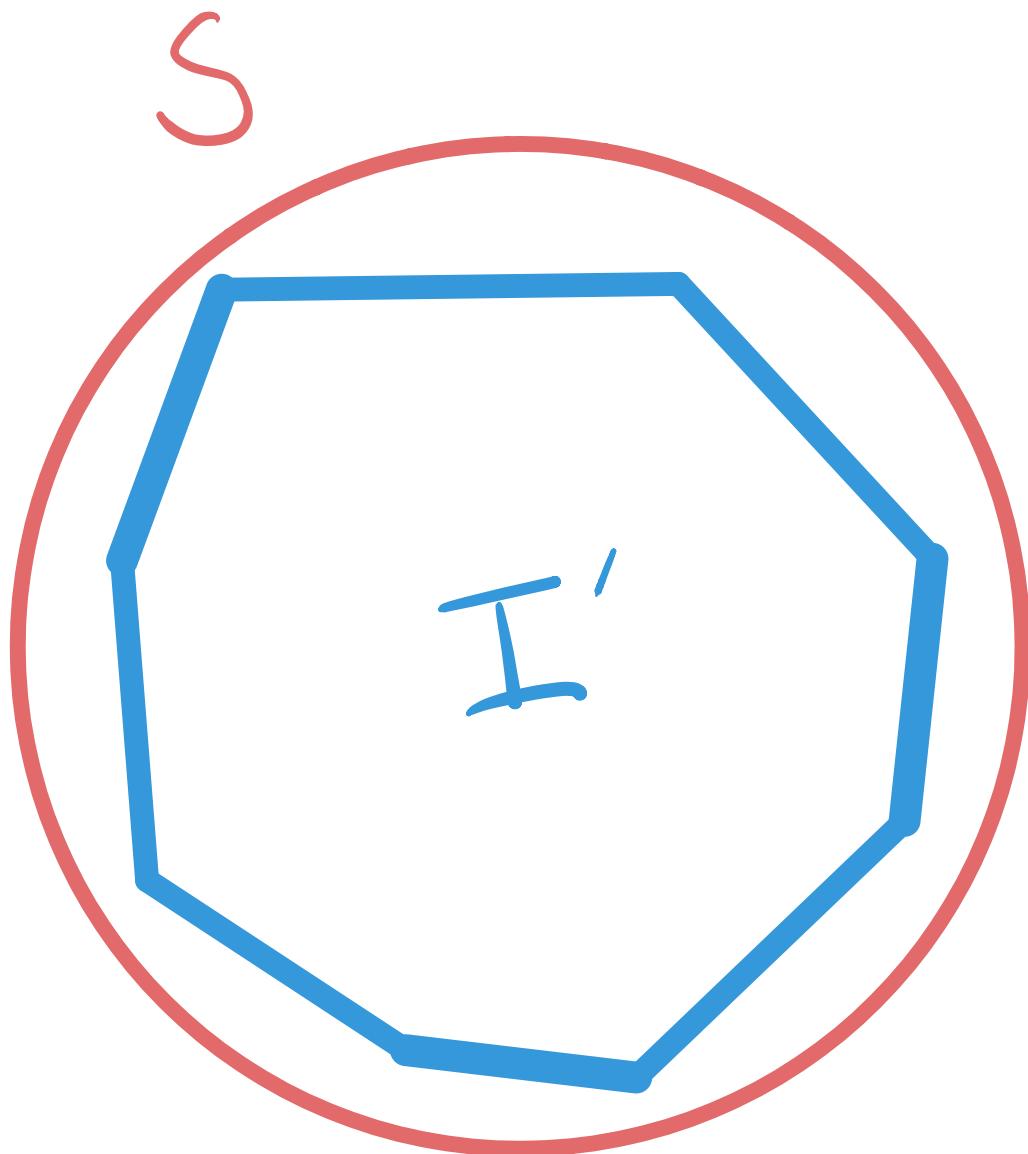
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Define

$$Q = \left\{ e \in S' : f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda \right\}$$

$$P = \left\{ e \in S' : e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e) \right\}$$



"greedy sampling"

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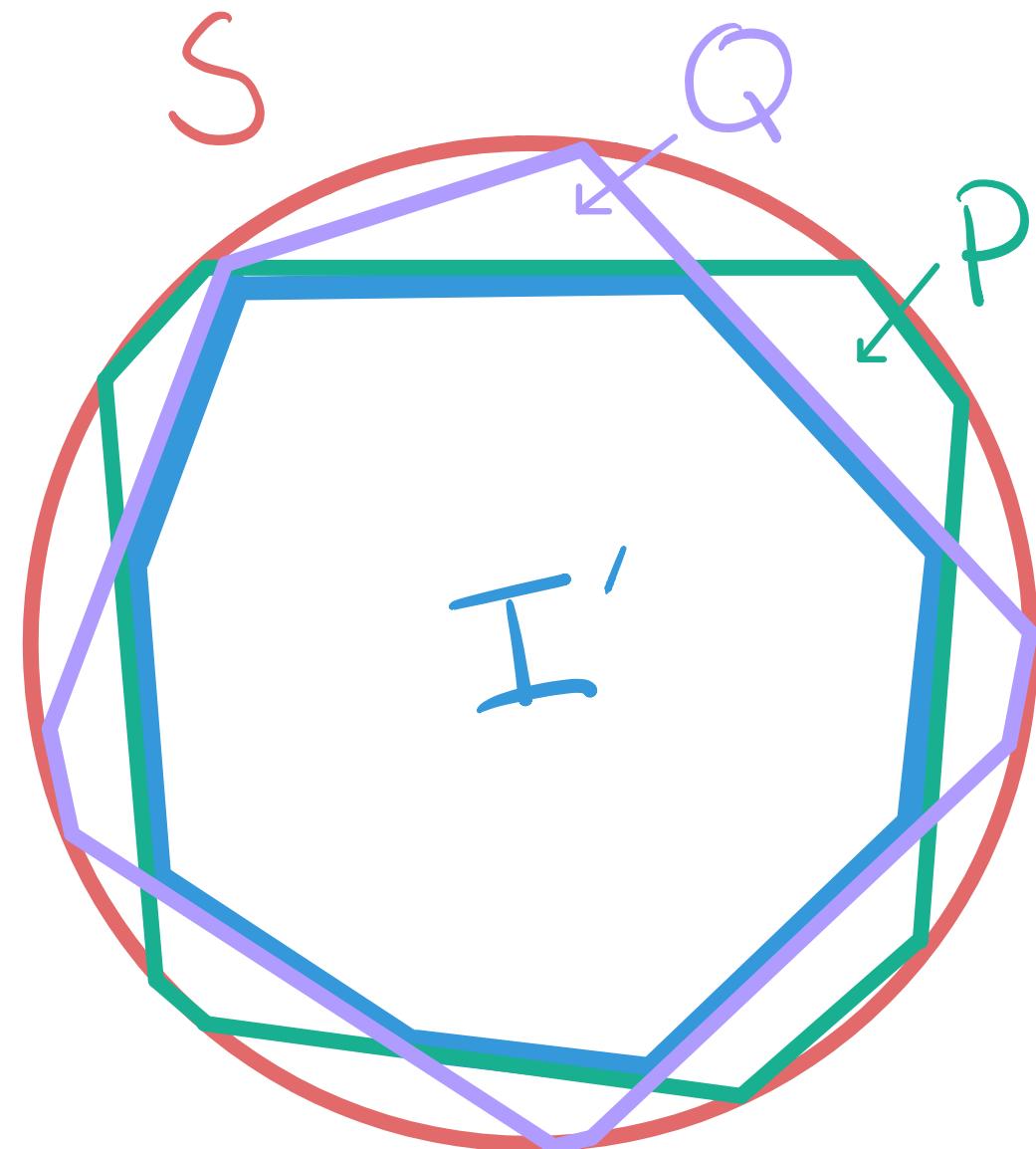
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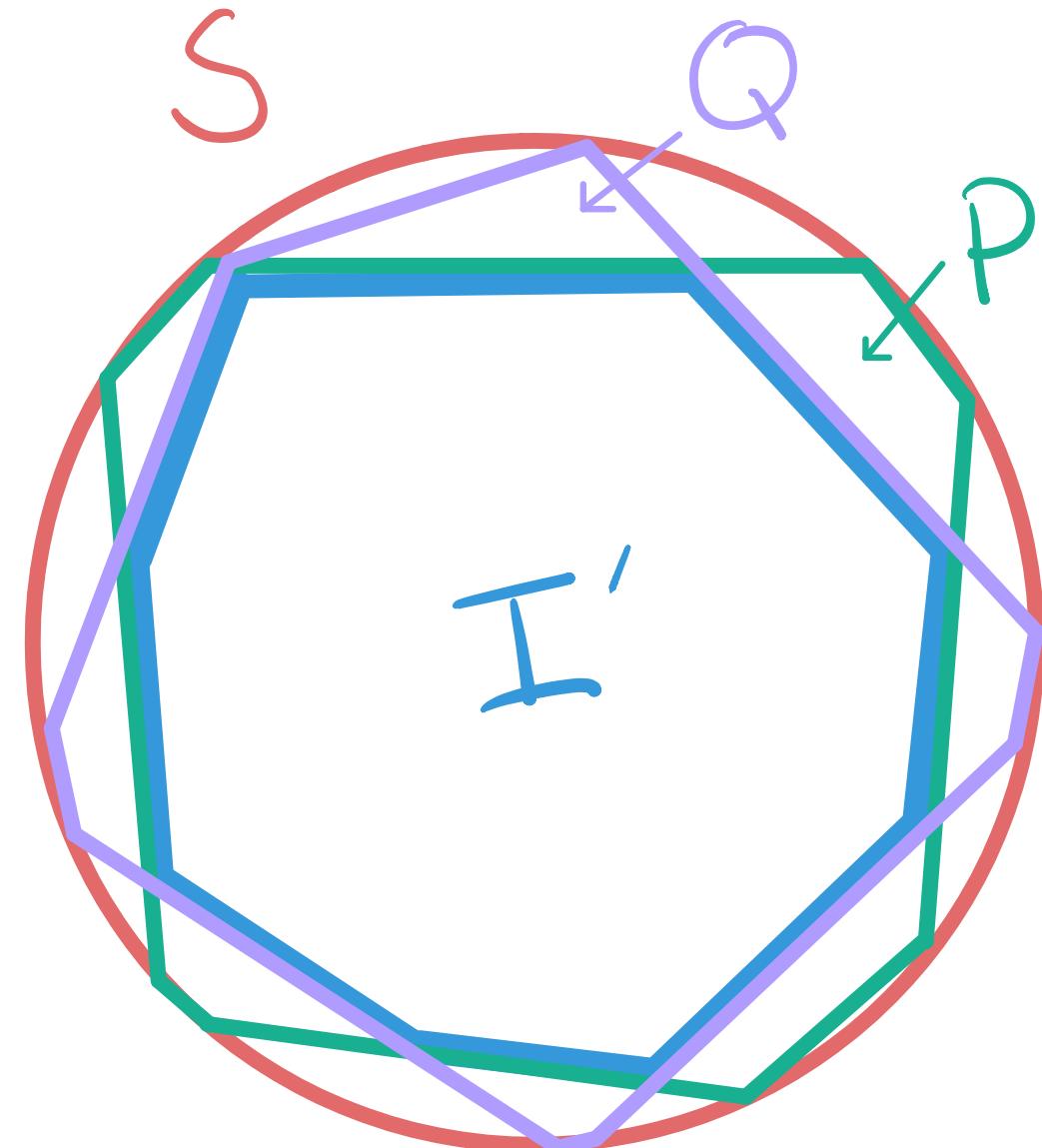
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Then  $I' = Q \cap P$

3 claims

$$\text{claim 1: } E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$$

Q has good "bang-for-buck"

$$\text{claim 2: } E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$$

most sampled elements are  
not in cycles, retained by P

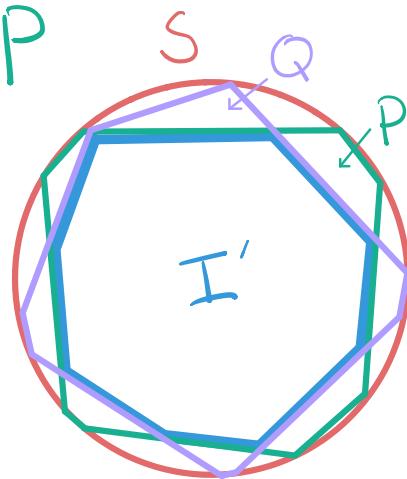
$$\text{claim 3: } E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$$

I' has good "bang-for-buck"

$$Q = \{e \in S': f_{S+S-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}$$

$$P = \{e \in S': e \notin \text{span}(S+S-e)\}$$

$$(6) I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$$



# "greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

for  $S' \sim \delta S$ :

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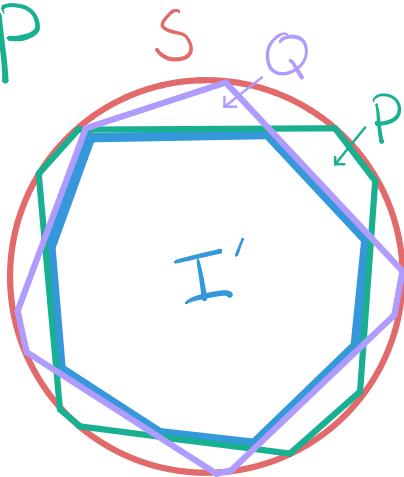
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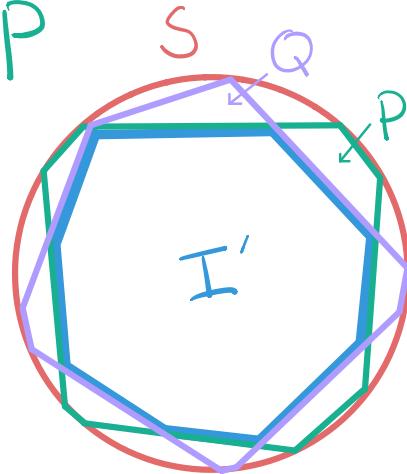
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## Proof ideas

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

$\delta$  small enough that  $Q$  has good "bang-for-buck"

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

$\delta$  small enough that  $P$  keeps most of  $S'$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

Submodularity allows us to combine claims 1 and 2 for  $I' = Q \cap P$

# "greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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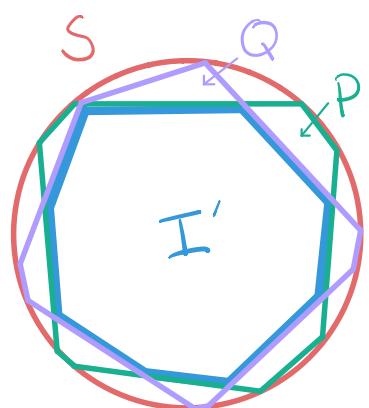
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(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



[skip]

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda E[|S'|]$

Fix  $e$ .

$$P[e \in Q] = P[e \in S' \wedge f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

by definition of  $Q$

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon)\lambda E[|S'|]$

"greedy sampling"

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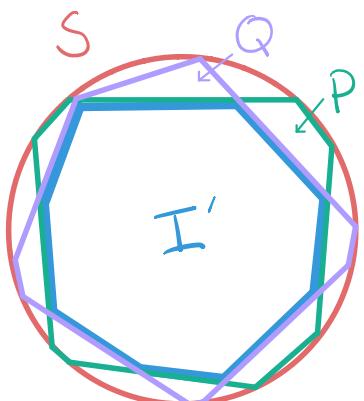
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$$P = \{e \in S' : e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e)\}$$

(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

Fix  $e$ .

$$P[e \in Q] = P[e \in S' \wedge f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

$$= P[e \in S'] P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

by independence of  $\delta$

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

# "greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

for  $S' \sim \delta S$ :

$$(a) E[\#\{e \in N : f_{S+S'}(e) \leq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

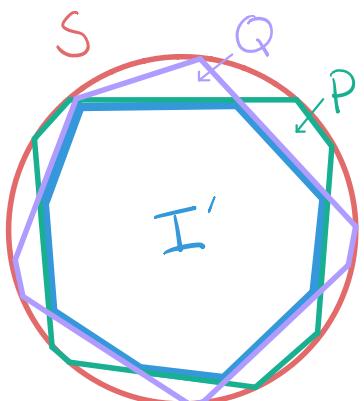
$$(b) E[\#\{e \in N : e \notin \text{span}(S+S')\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

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[skip]

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claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

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"greedy sampling"

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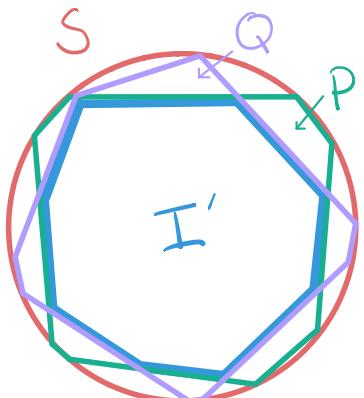
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[skip]

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

$$P[e \in Q] = \delta P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

$$E[f_S(Q)] \geq \sum_{e \in N'} P[e \in Q] E[f_{S+Q-e}(e)] |e \in Q|$$

(by submodularity)

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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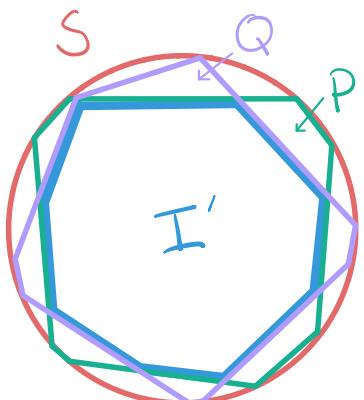
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[skip]

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

$$(*) P[e \in Q] = \delta P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

$$E[f_S(Q)] \geq \sum_{e \in N'} P[e \in Q] E[f_{S+Q-e}(e) | e \in Q]$$

$$= \delta \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda] E[f_{S+Q-e}(e) | e \in Q]$$

by the above (\*)

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

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"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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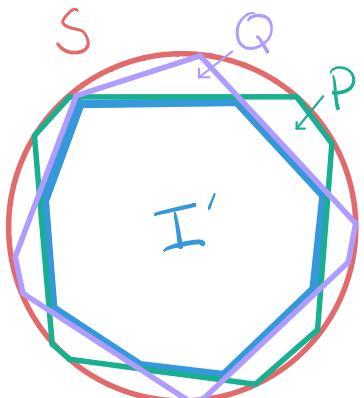
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[skip]

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda E[|S'|]$

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$$E[f_S(Q)] \geq \sum_{e \in N'} P[e \in Q] E[f_{S+Q-e}(e) | e \in Q]$$

$$= \delta \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda] E[f_{S+Q-e}(e) | e \in Q]$$

$$\geq \delta \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda] \underbrace{E[f_{S+S'-e}(e) | e \in Q]}$$

by submodularity

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

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# "greedy sampling"

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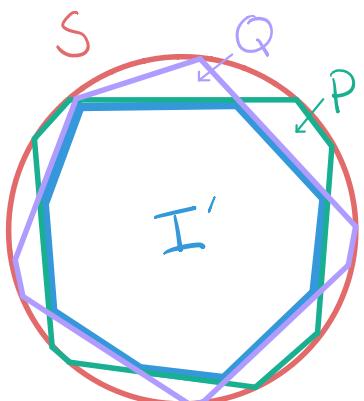
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$$\geq \delta \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda] E[f_{S+S'-e}(e) | e \in Q]$$

$$\geq \delta (1-\varepsilon) \lambda \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

Since  $e \in Q \Rightarrow f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda$

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

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# "greedy sampling"

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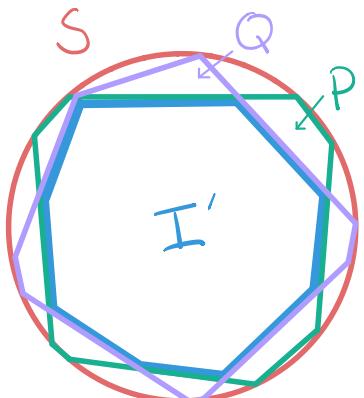
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[skip]

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$$\geq \delta (1-\varepsilon) \lambda \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

$$\geq \delta (1-\varepsilon)^2 |N'|$$

by choice of  $\delta$  per (a)

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

# "greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

for  $S' \sim \mathcal{S}N'$ :

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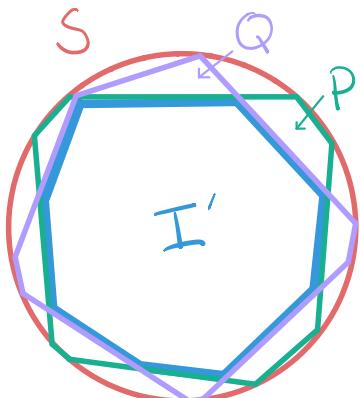
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[skip]

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda E[|S'|]$

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$$\geq \delta (1-\varepsilon) \lambda \sum_{e \in N'} P[f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda]$$

$$\geq \delta (1-\varepsilon)^2 |N'| \geq (1-\varepsilon)^2 \lambda E[|S'|]$$

since  $S \sim \mathcal{S}N'$



claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

# "greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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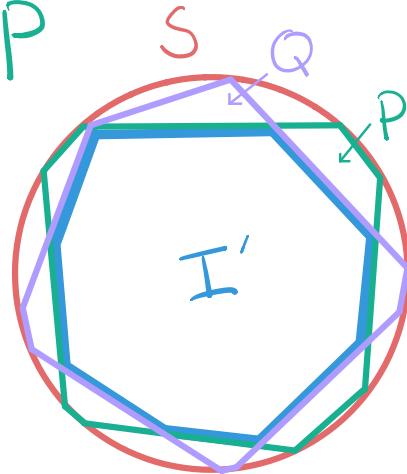
$$(b) E[\{e \in N : e \notin \text{span}(S+S')\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

(a) sample  $S' \sim \delta N'$

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(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



## Proof ideas

claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

$\delta$  small enough that  $Q$  has good "bang-for-buck"

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

$\delta$  small enough that  $P$  keeps most of  $S'$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[|S'|]$

Submodularity allows us to combine claims 1 and 2 for  $I' = Q \cap P$

# "greedy sampling"

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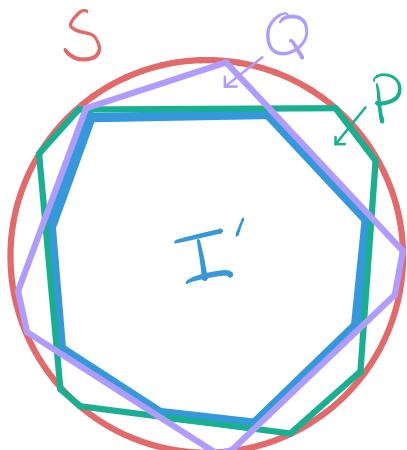
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(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



✓ claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[I'']$

claim 2:  $E[I'' \setminus P] \leq \varepsilon E[I'']$

fix  $e$ .

events  $[e \in S']$ ,  $[e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e)]$   
are independent. so

$$P[e \in S' \setminus P] = \underbrace{P[e \in S']}_{=\delta} P[e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e)]$$

$$E[I'' \setminus P] = \delta \sum_{e \in N} P[e \notin \text{span}(S-e)]$$

$$\leq \delta E[\text{span}(S)]$$

$$\leq \delta \varepsilon |N'| = \varepsilon E[I'']$$

[skip]

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I'']$

"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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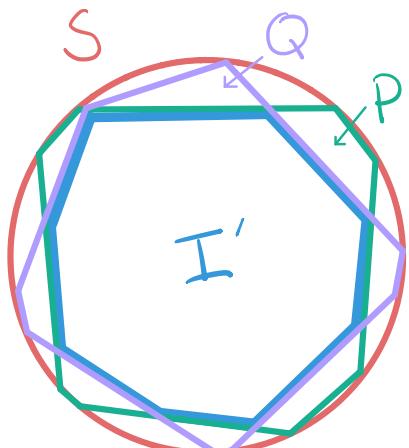
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Submodularity allows us to combine claims 1 and 2 for  $I' = Q \cap P$

"greedy sampling"

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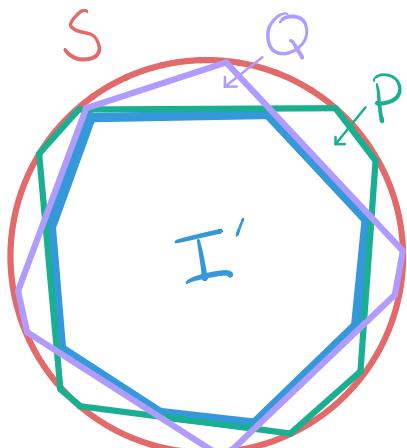
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(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[I']$

claim 2:  $E[|S' \setminus P|] \leq \varepsilon |S'|$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I']$

$$E[f_S(I')] = E[f_S(Q)] - E[f_{S+I'}(Q)]$$

[since  $I' \subseteq Q$ ]

"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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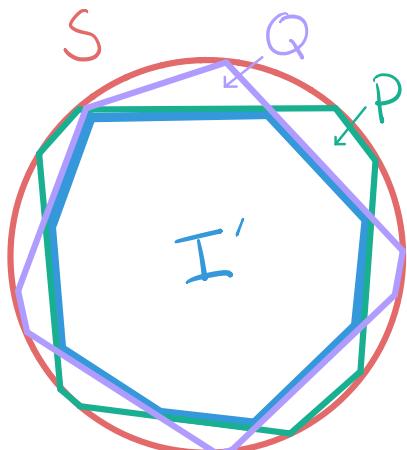
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claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I']$

$$\begin{aligned} E[f_S(I')] &= E[f_S(Q)] - E[f_{S+I'}(Q)] \\ &\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} [f_{S+I'}(e)] \end{aligned}$$

[by submodularity]

"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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$$(a) E[\#\{e \in N : f_{S+S'}(e) \leq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

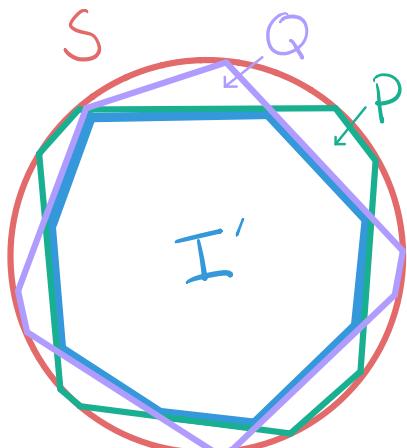
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$$E[f_S(I')] = E[f_S(Q)] - E[f_{S+I'}(Q)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} [f_{S+I'}(e)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} P[e \in Q \setminus I'] f_S(e)$$

[by submodularity]

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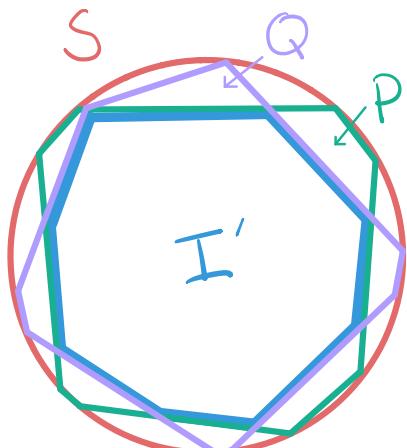
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claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I']$

$$E[f_S(I')] = E[f_S(Q)] - E[f_{S+I'}(Q)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} [f_{S+I'}(e)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} P[e \in Q \setminus I'] f_S(e)$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \lambda E[I' \setminus P]$$

[by  $\lambda \geq \max_{e \in \text{span}(S)} f_S(e)$ ]

"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

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$$(a) E[\{e \in N : f_{S+S'}(e) \leq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

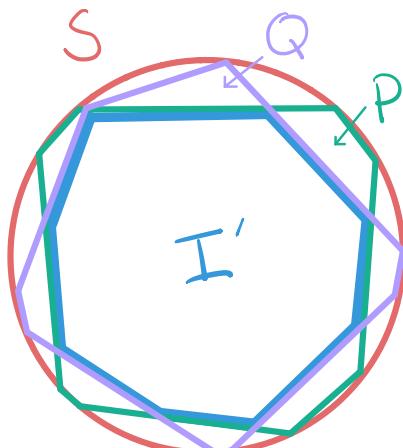
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claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[I]$

claim 2:  $E[I \setminus P] \leq \varepsilon E[I]$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I]$

$$E[f_S(I')] = E[f_S(Q)] - E[f_{S+I'}(Q)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} [f_{S+I'}(e)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} P[e \in Q \setminus I'] f_S(e)$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \lambda E[I \setminus I']$$

$$\geq E[f(Q)] - \lambda E[I \setminus P]$$

[by  $Q \setminus I \subseteq S \setminus P$ ]

# "greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

for  $S' \sim \delta S$ :

$$(a) E[\{e \in N : f_{S+S'}(e) \leq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

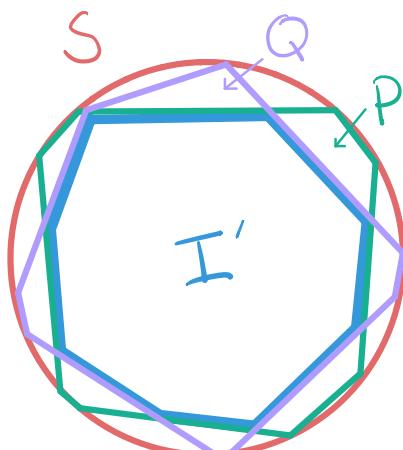
$$(b) E[\{e \in N : e \notin \text{span}(S+S')\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

(a) sample  $S' \sim \delta N'$

$$Q = \{e \in S' : f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}$$

$$P = \{e \in S' : e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e)\}$$

(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[I'S']$

claim 2:  $E[I'S' \setminus P] \leq \varepsilon E[I'S']$

claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I'S']$

$$E[f_S(I')] = E[f_S(Q)] - E[f_{S+I'}(Q)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} [f_{S+I'}(e)]$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \sum_{e \in Q} P[e \in Q \setminus I'] f_S(e)$$

$$\geq E[f_S(Q)] - \lambda E[I'Q \setminus I']$$

$$\geq E[f(Q)] - \lambda E[I'S' \setminus P]$$

$$\geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I'S']$$

by claim 1 and claim 2



"greedy sampling"

choose max  $\delta > 0$  s.t.

for  $S' \sim \delta S$ :

$$(a) E[\#\{e \in N : f_{S+S'}(e) \leq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

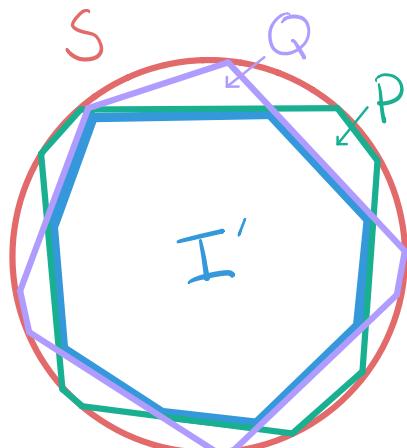
$$(b) E[\#\{e \in N : e \notin \text{span}(S+S')\}] \leq \varepsilon |N'|$$

(a) sample  $S' \sim \delta N'$

$$Q = \{e \in S' : f_{S+S'-e}(e) \geq (1-\varepsilon)\lambda\}$$

$$P = \{e \in S' : e \notin \text{span}(S+S'-e)\}$$

(b)  $I' \leftarrow Q \cap P$



✓ claim 1:  $E[f_S(Q)] \geq (1-\varepsilon) \lambda E[I']$

$\delta$  small enough that  $Q$  has good "bang-for-buck"

✓ claim 2:  $E[I' \setminus P] \leq \varepsilon [I']$

$\delta$  small enough that  $P$  keeps most of  $S'$

✓ claim 3:  $E[f_S(I')] \geq (1-2\varepsilon) \lambda E[I']$

Submodularity allows us to combine claims 1 and 2 for  $I' = Q \cap P$



