

On the complexity of minimum-link path problems

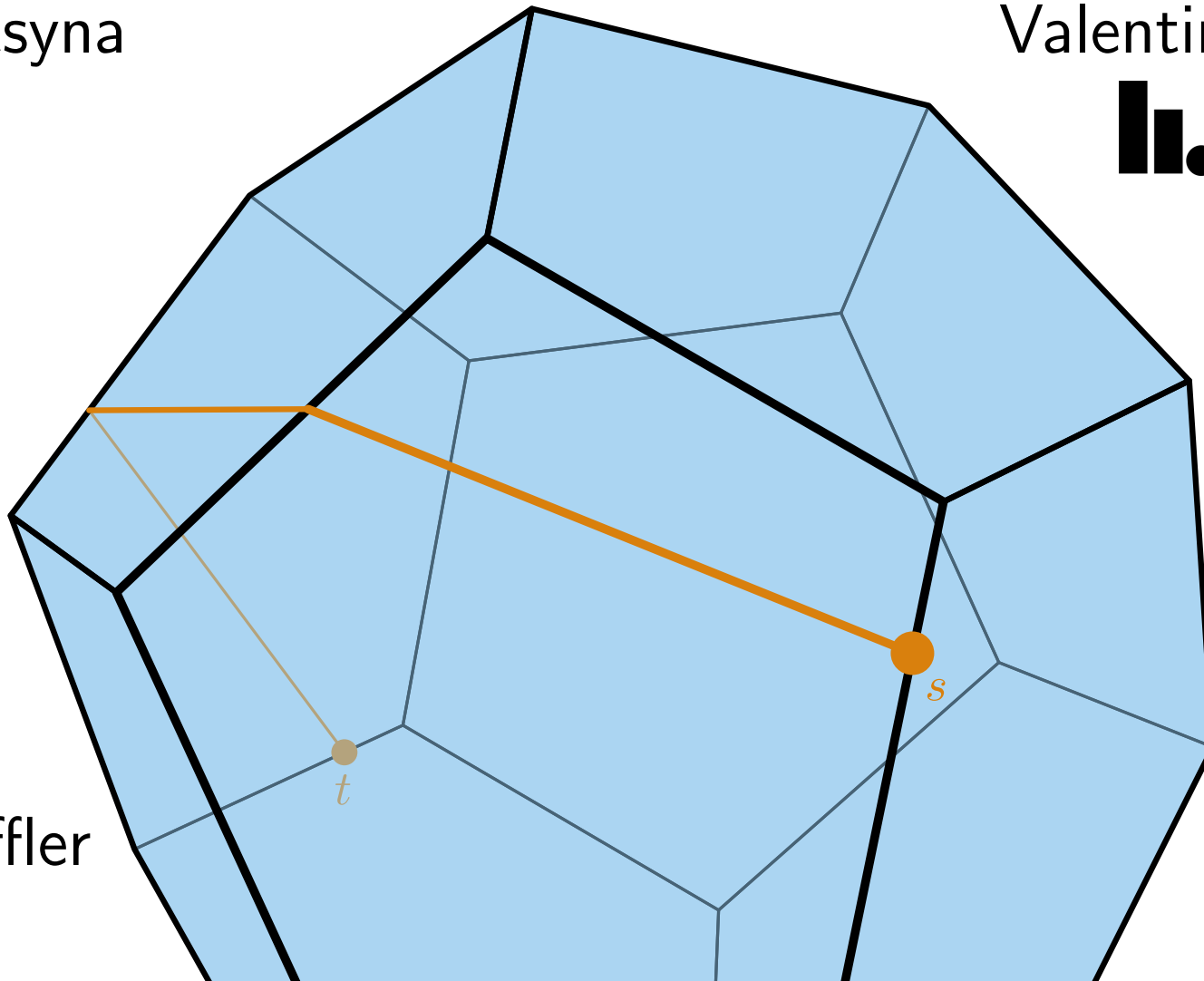
Irina Kostitsyna



Valentin Polishchuk



Maarten Löffler



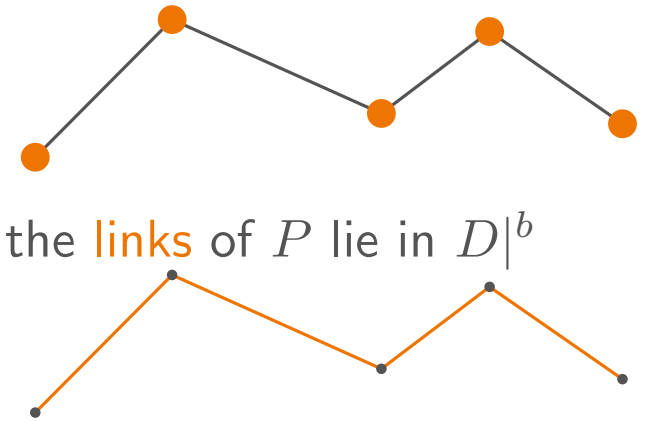
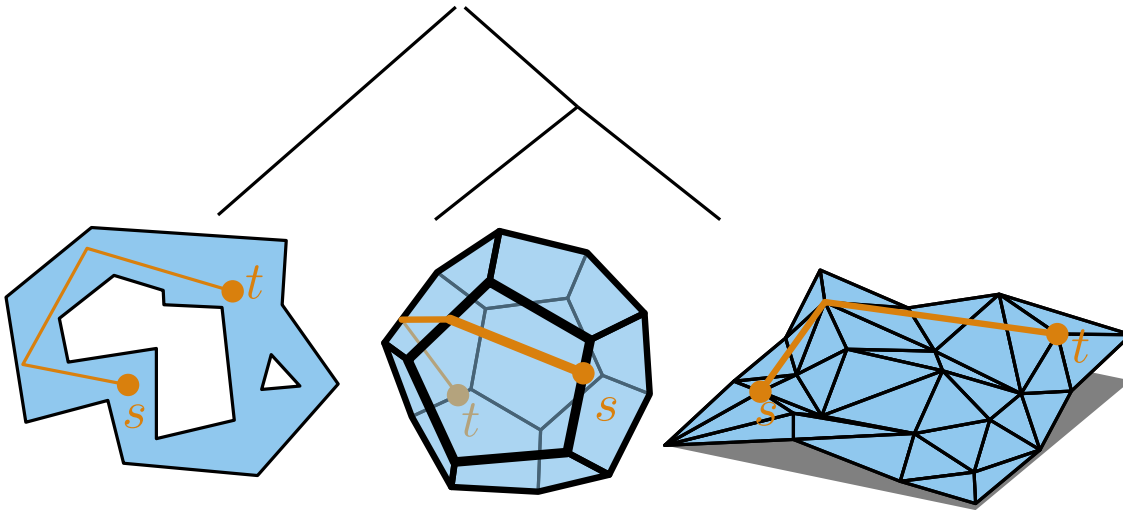
Frank Staals

Minimum-link path problems

Given a domain D , and two points $s, t \in D$ find a minimum-link path P between s and t ,

s.t. the **bends** of P lie in $D|_a$,

and the **links** of P lie in $D|_b$



Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)				
1 (edges)				
2 (faces)				
3 (anywhere)				

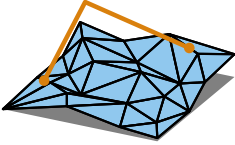
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)				
1 (edges)				
2 (faces)				
3 (anywhere)				


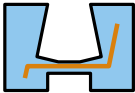
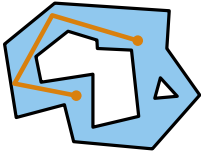
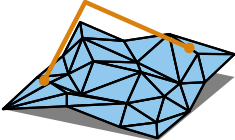
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)				
2 (faces)				
3 (anywhere)				

Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)				
2 (faces)				
3 (anywhere)				 $O(1)$

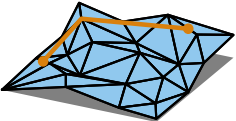
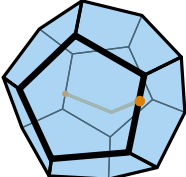
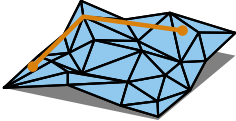
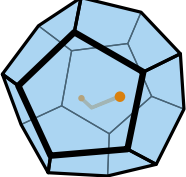
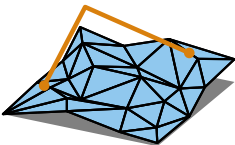
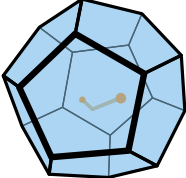
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			 $O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006]	
2 (faces)			 $O(n)$ [Suri, 1986]  $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992]	
3 (anywhere)				 $O(1)$

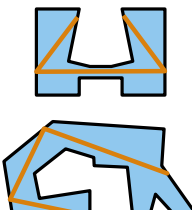
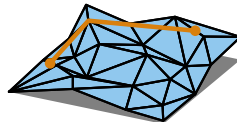
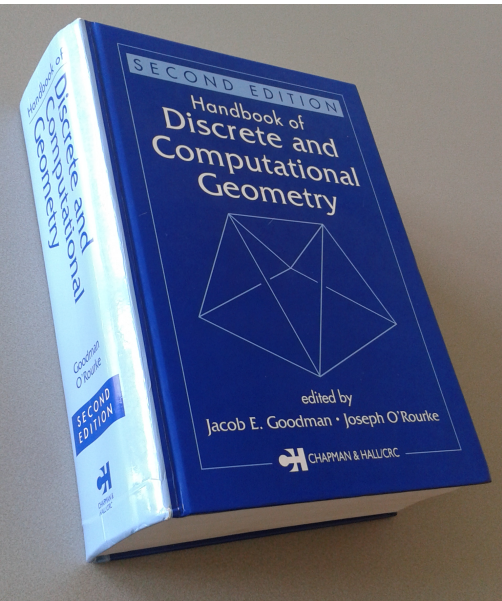
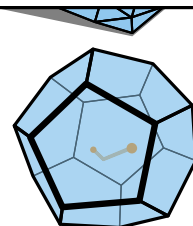
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			$O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006]	
2 (faces)			$O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992]	
3 (anywhere)				$O(1)$

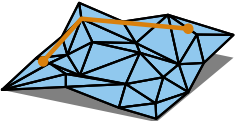
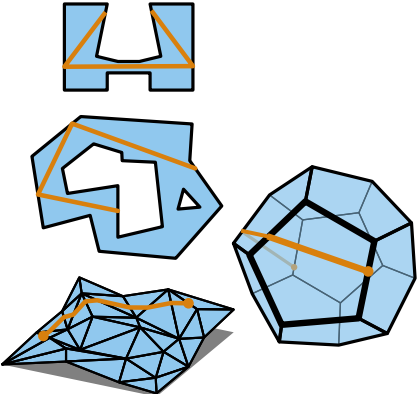
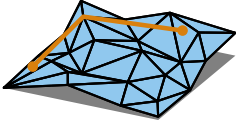
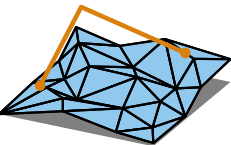
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			$O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006] Open	  Open
2 (faces)			$O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992] Open	  Open
3 (anywhere)				 $O(1)$  Open

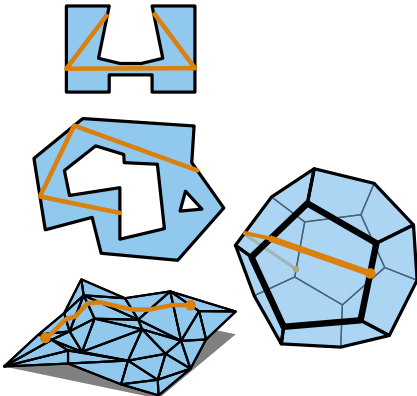
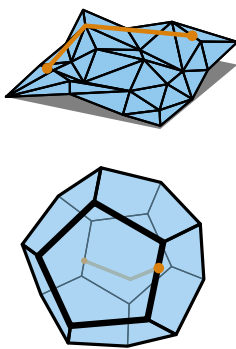
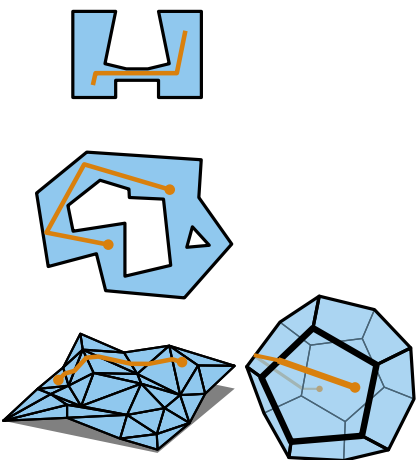
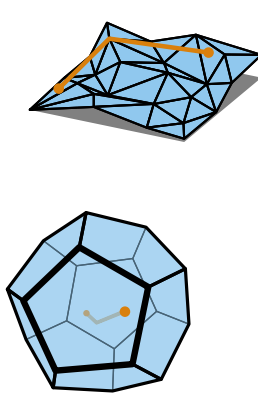
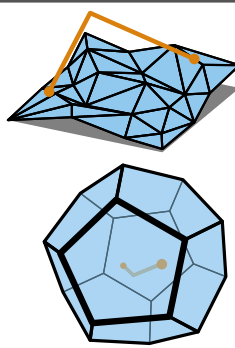
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)	$O(n)$		$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			$O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006]	 Open
2 (faces)		<div><p>“What is the complexity of the minimum-link path problem in 3-space?”</p></div>		
3 (anywhere)				 Open

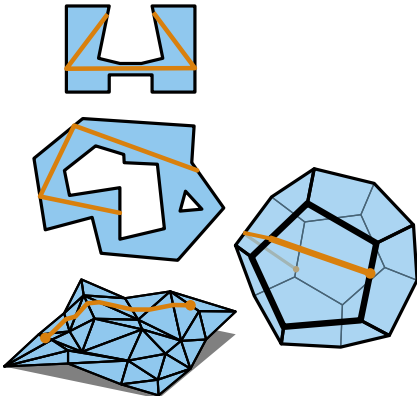
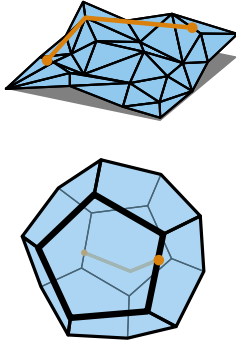
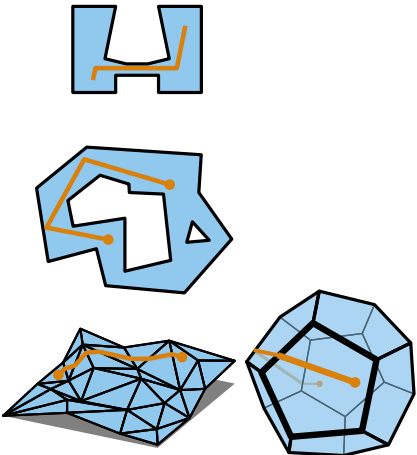
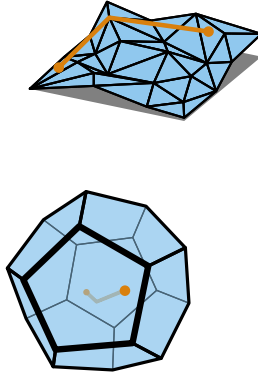
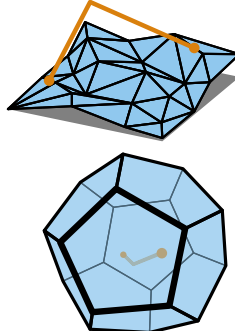
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			$O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006] NP-hard	 NP-hard
2 (faces)			 $O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992] NP-hard	 NP-hard
3 (anywhere)				 $O(1)$ NP-hard

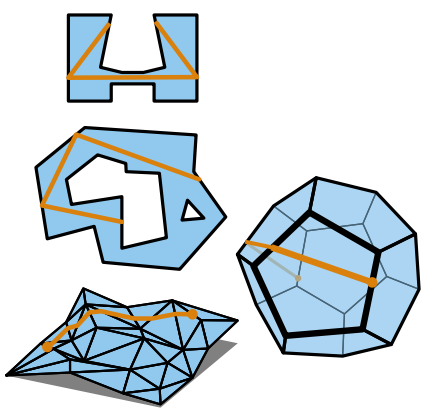
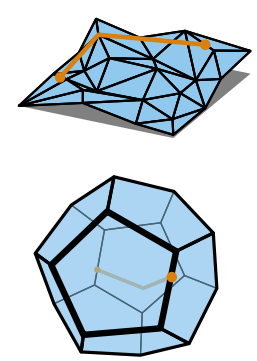
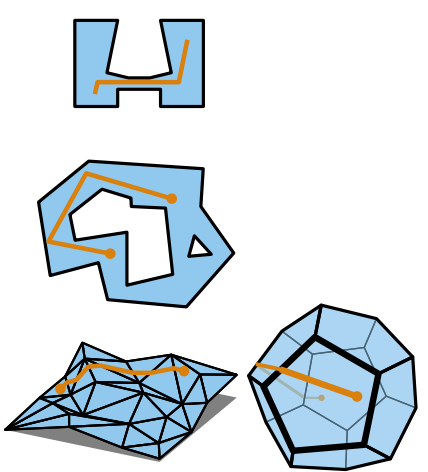
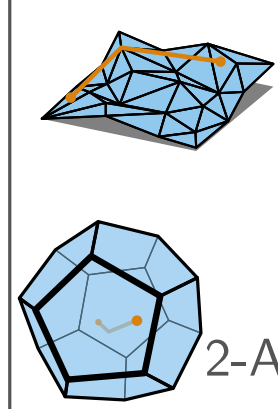
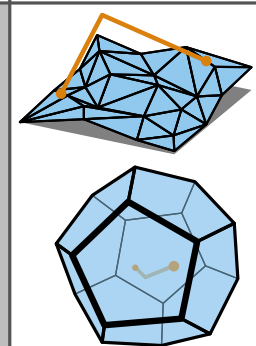
Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			 <p> $O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS </p>
2 (faces)			 <p> $O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] </p> <p> $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS </p>
3 (anywhere)				 <p> $O(1)$ </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS </p>

Minimum-link path problems

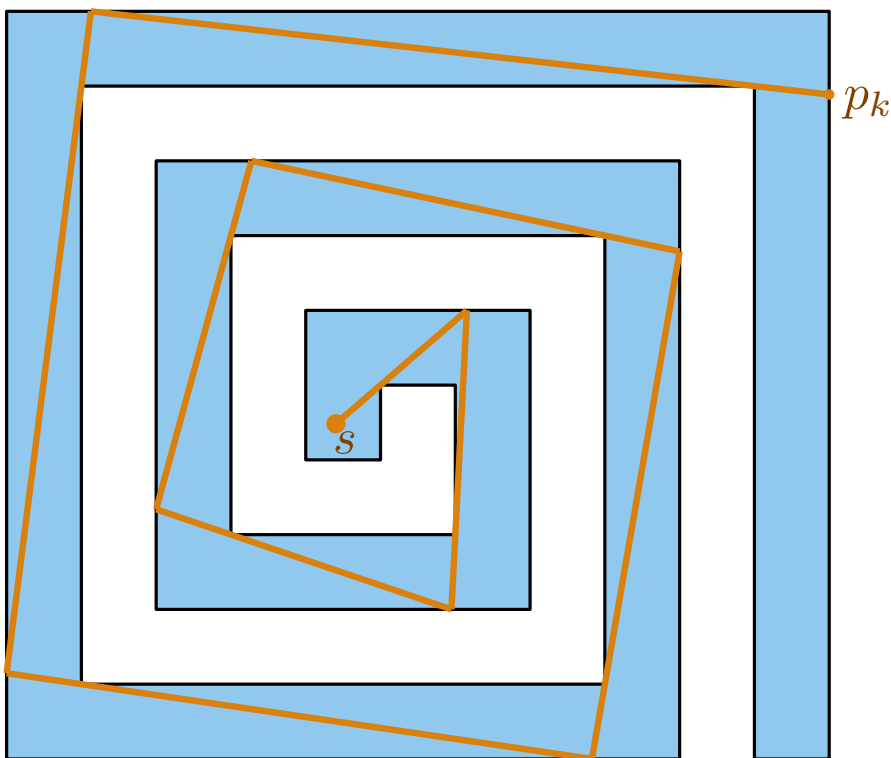
a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			 <p> $O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>
2 (faces)			 <p> $O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] </p> <p> $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>
3 (anywhere)				 <p> $O(1)$ </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>

Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			 <p> $O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>
2 (faces)			 <p> $O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] </p> <p> $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS 2-Aprx: $O(n^4)$ </p> <p> 2-Aprx: $O(n^{7+\epsilon})$ [4] </p>
3 (anywhere)				 <p> $O(1)$ </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>

Algebraic complexity in \mathbb{R}^2

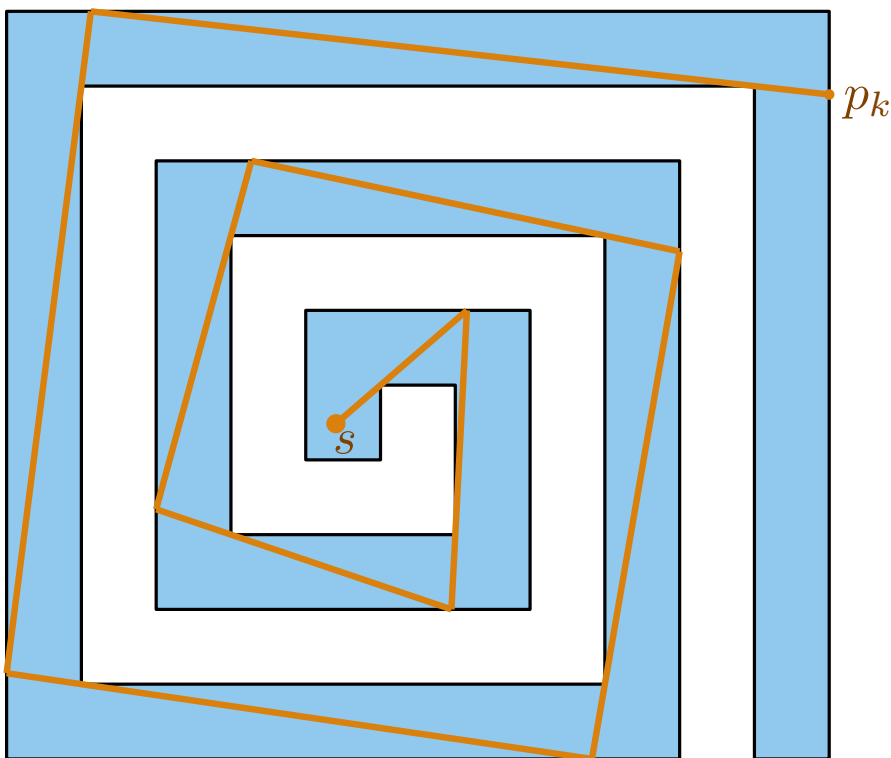
Algebraic complexity in \mathbb{R}^2



Lemma. [Kahan & Snoeyink, 1999]

There is a simple polygon with vertices of bit-complexity $\log n$ s.t. the boundary of the region reachable from s in k steps has vertices with bit-complexity $\Omega(k \log n)$.

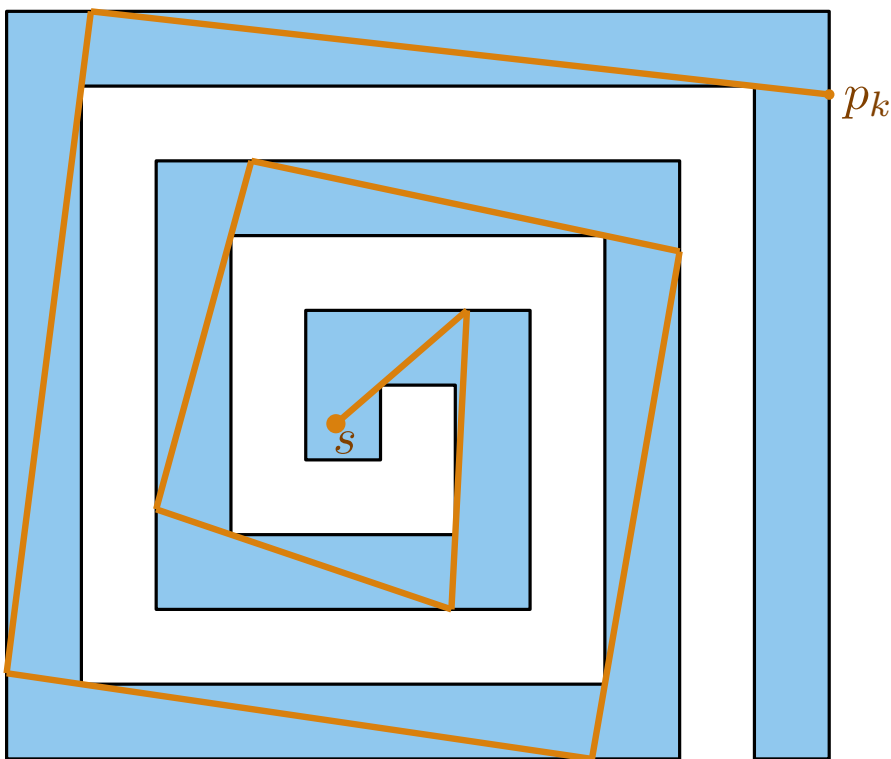
Algebraic complexity in \mathbb{R}^2



Lemma.

A MinLinkPath_{ab} of length k between s and t in a simple polygon whose vertices, as well as s and t , have bit-complexity $\log n$, may contain vertices of bit-complexity $\Omega(k \log n)$.

Algebraic complexity in \mathbb{R}^2



Lemma.

A MinLinkPath_{ab} of length k between s and t in a simple polygon whose vertices, as well as s and t , have bit-complexity $\log n$, may contain vertices of bit-complexity $\Omega(k \log n)$.

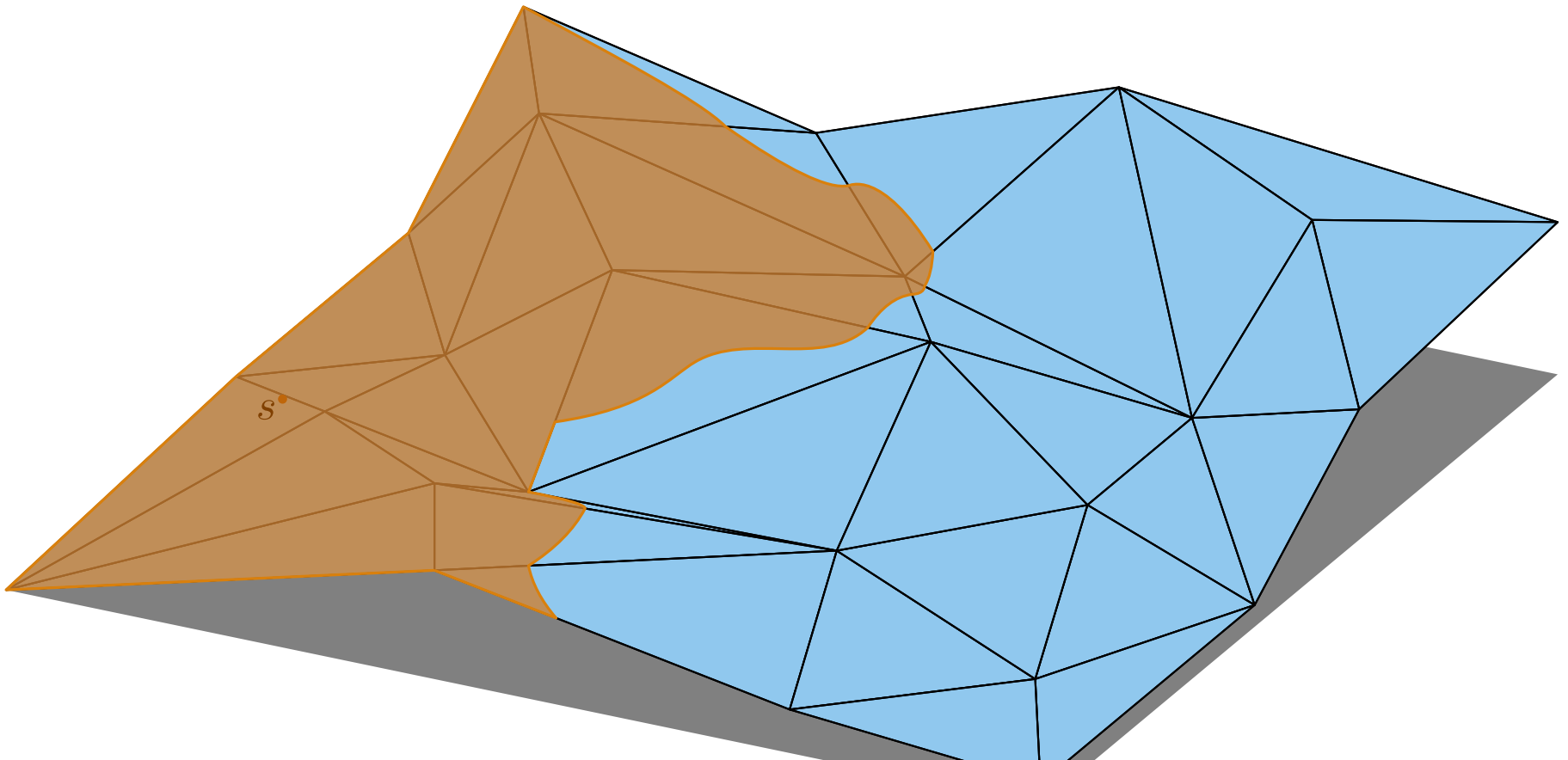
Lemma.

The k -reachable space has vertices with bit complexity $O(k \log n)$.

Algebraic complexity in \mathbb{R}^3

Lemma.

The boundary of the k -reachable space can be represented by curves of order $2k + 1$ (and order 2 when $k = 1$).



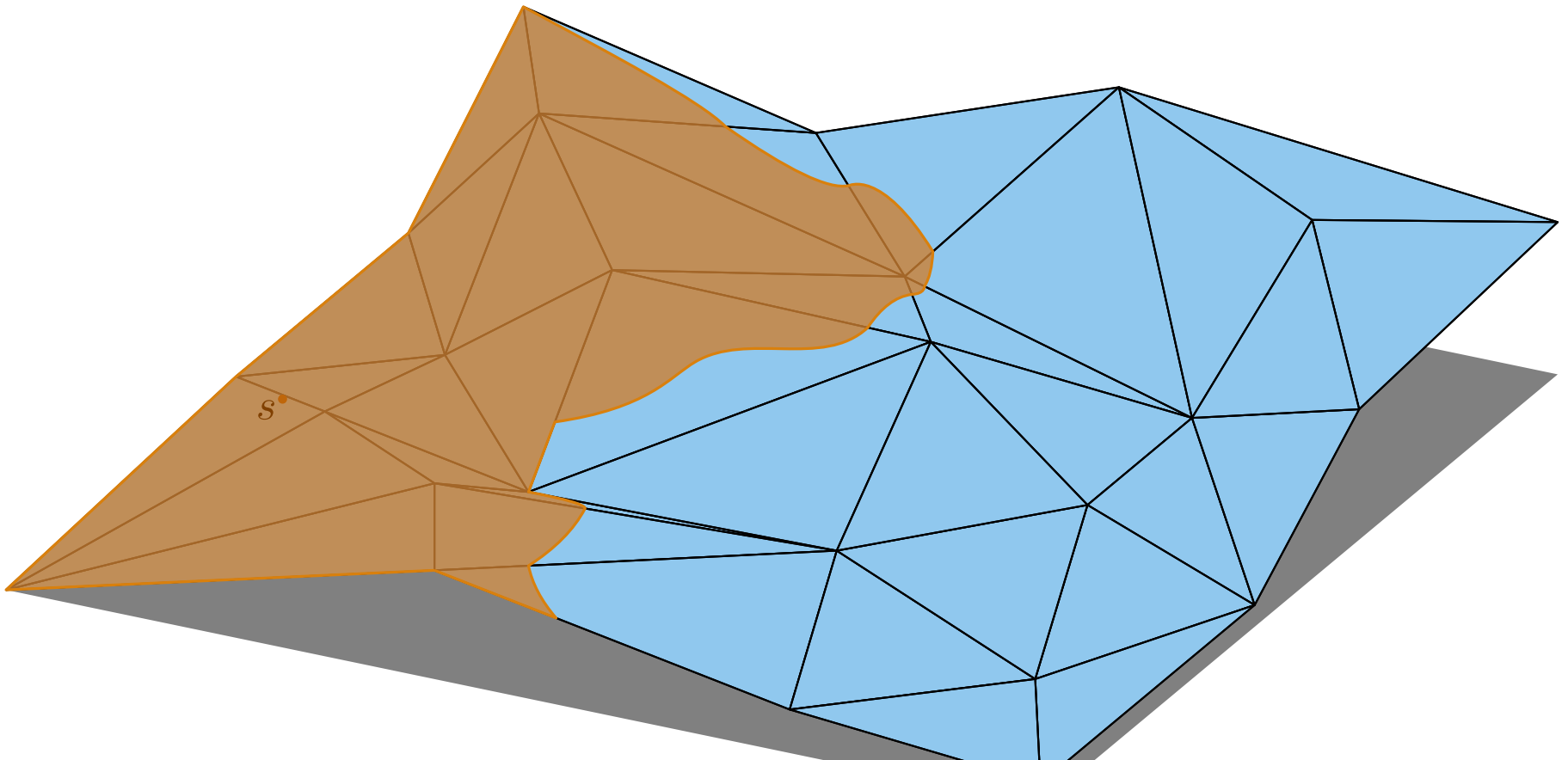
Algebraic complexity in \mathbb{R}^3

Lemma.

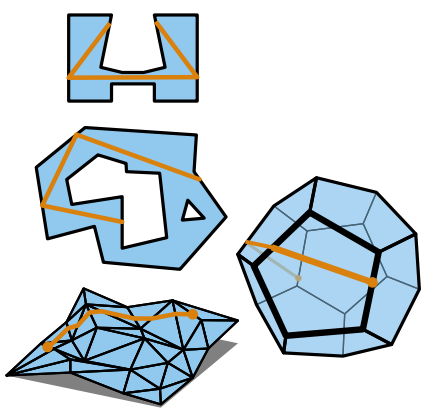
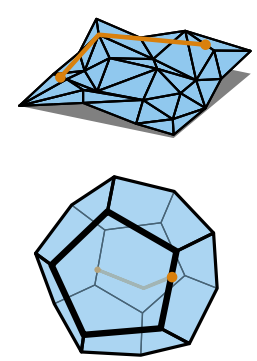
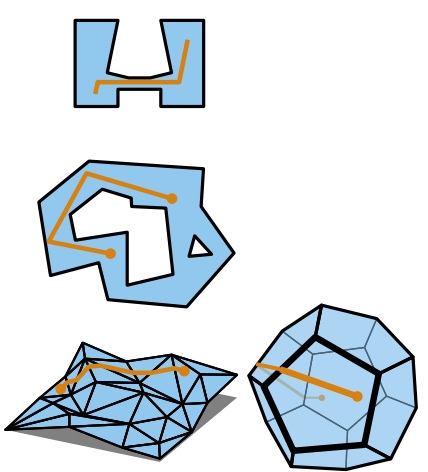
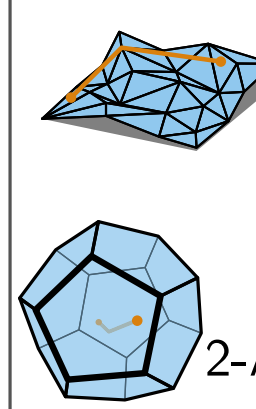
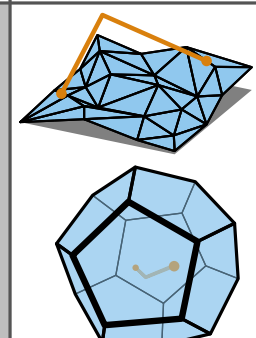
The boundary of the k -reachable space can be represented by curves of order $2k + 1$ (and order 2 when $k = 1$).

Lemma.

The k -reachable space has vertices with bit complexity $O(9^k)$.



Minimum-link path problems

a	b	1	2 (faces)	3 (anywhere)
0 (vertices)		$O(n)$	$O^*(n^2)$	$O^*(n^2)$
1 (edges)			 <p> $O(n^9)$ [Aronov et al., 2006] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>
2 (faces)			 <p> $O(n)$ [Suri, 1986] </p> <p> $O^*(n^2)$ [Mitchell et al., 1992] </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>	 <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS 2-Aprx: $O(n^4)$ </p> <p> 2-Aprx: $O(n^{7+\epsilon})$ [4] </p>
3 (anywhere)				 <p> $O(1)$ </p> <p> NP-hard no FPTAS PTAS </p>

Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

ℓ_0



ℓ_1

ℓ'_2

ℓ_2

ℓ'_i

ℓ_i

\dots

ℓ_n

Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

Min link path* with bends on lines,
from s to t with $2n - 1$ links

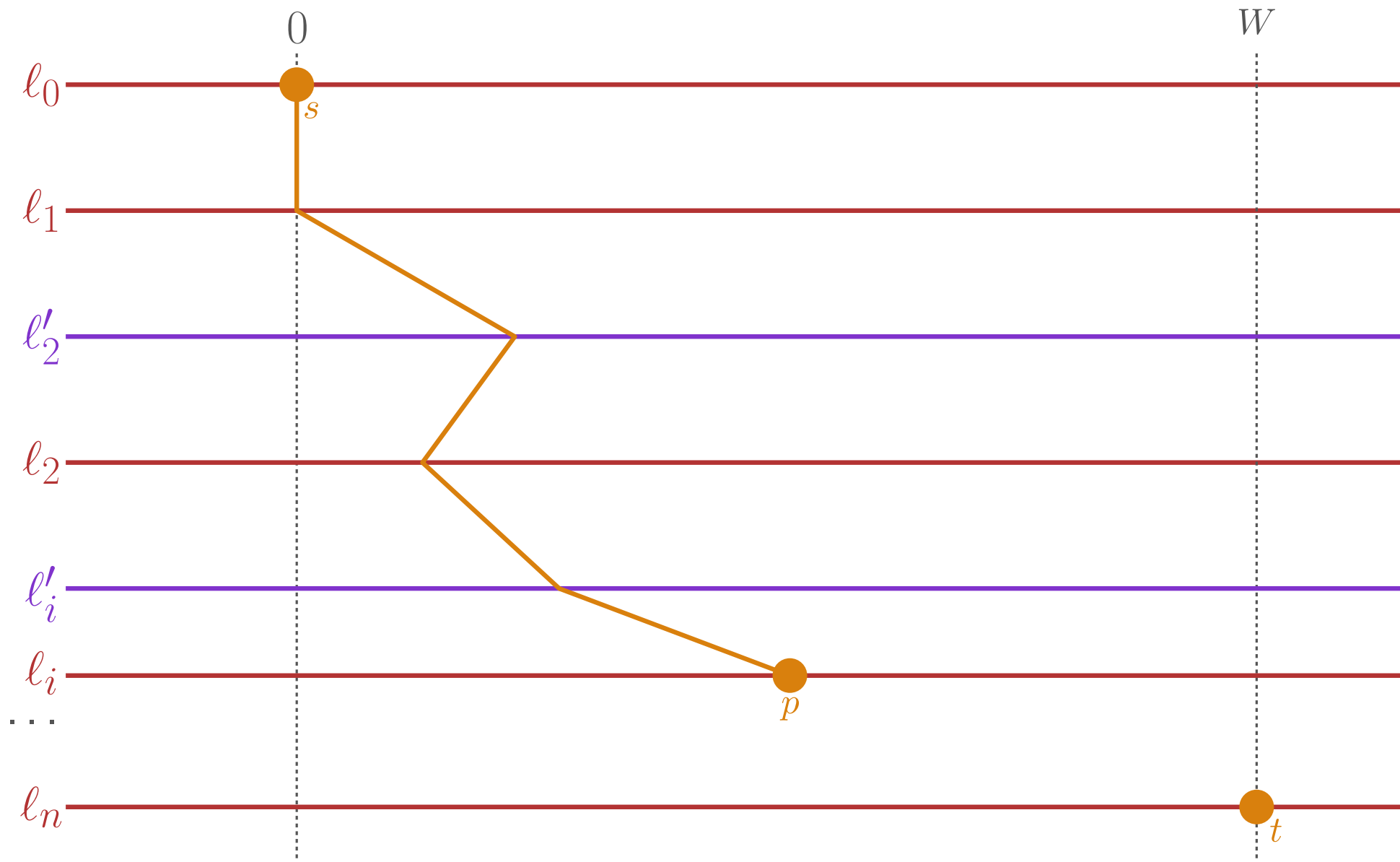
$\iff \exists$ subset S that sums to W



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

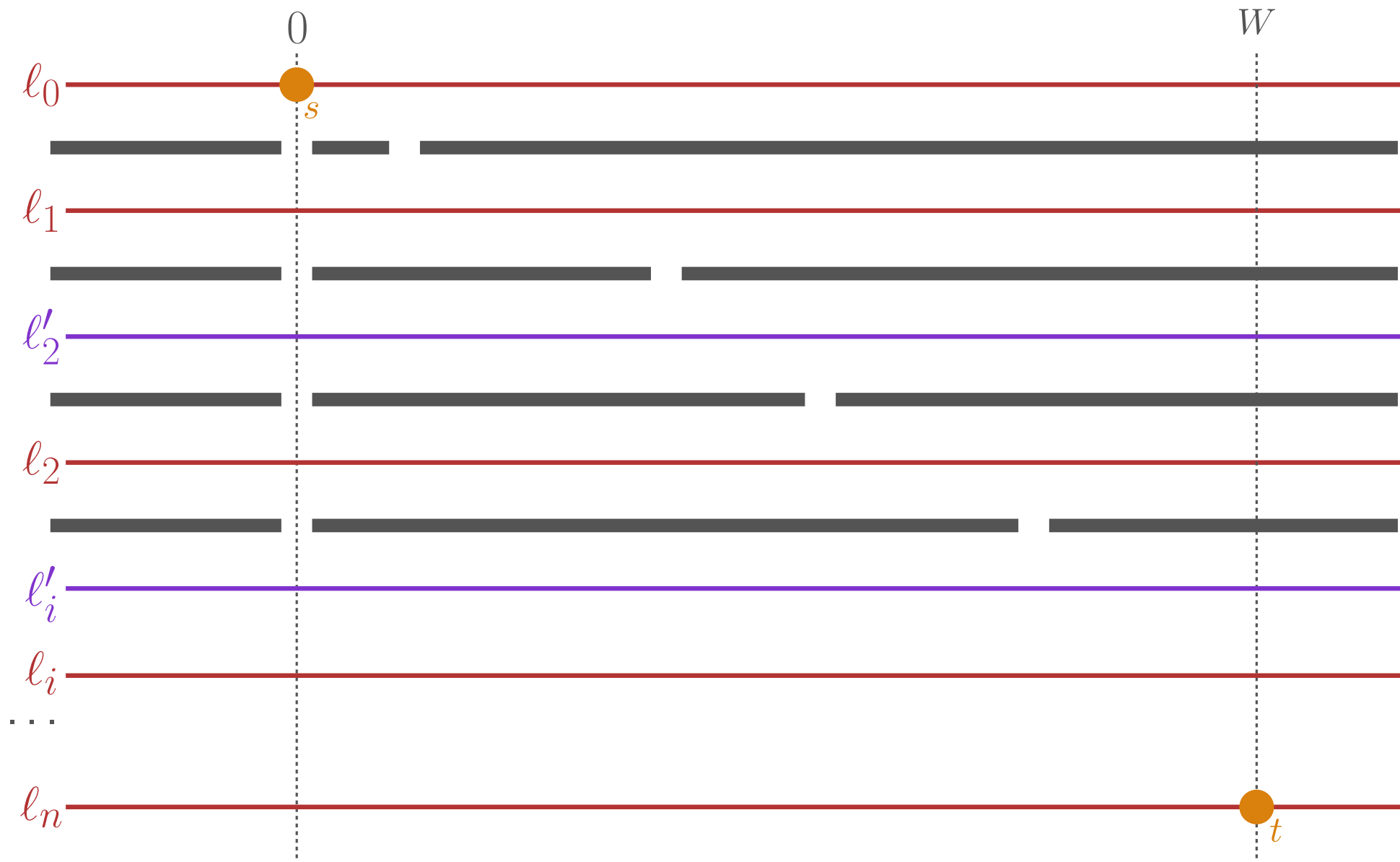
p on ℓ_i reachable with $2i - 1$ links $\iff p$ corresponds to the sum of a subset of a_1, \dots, a_i



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

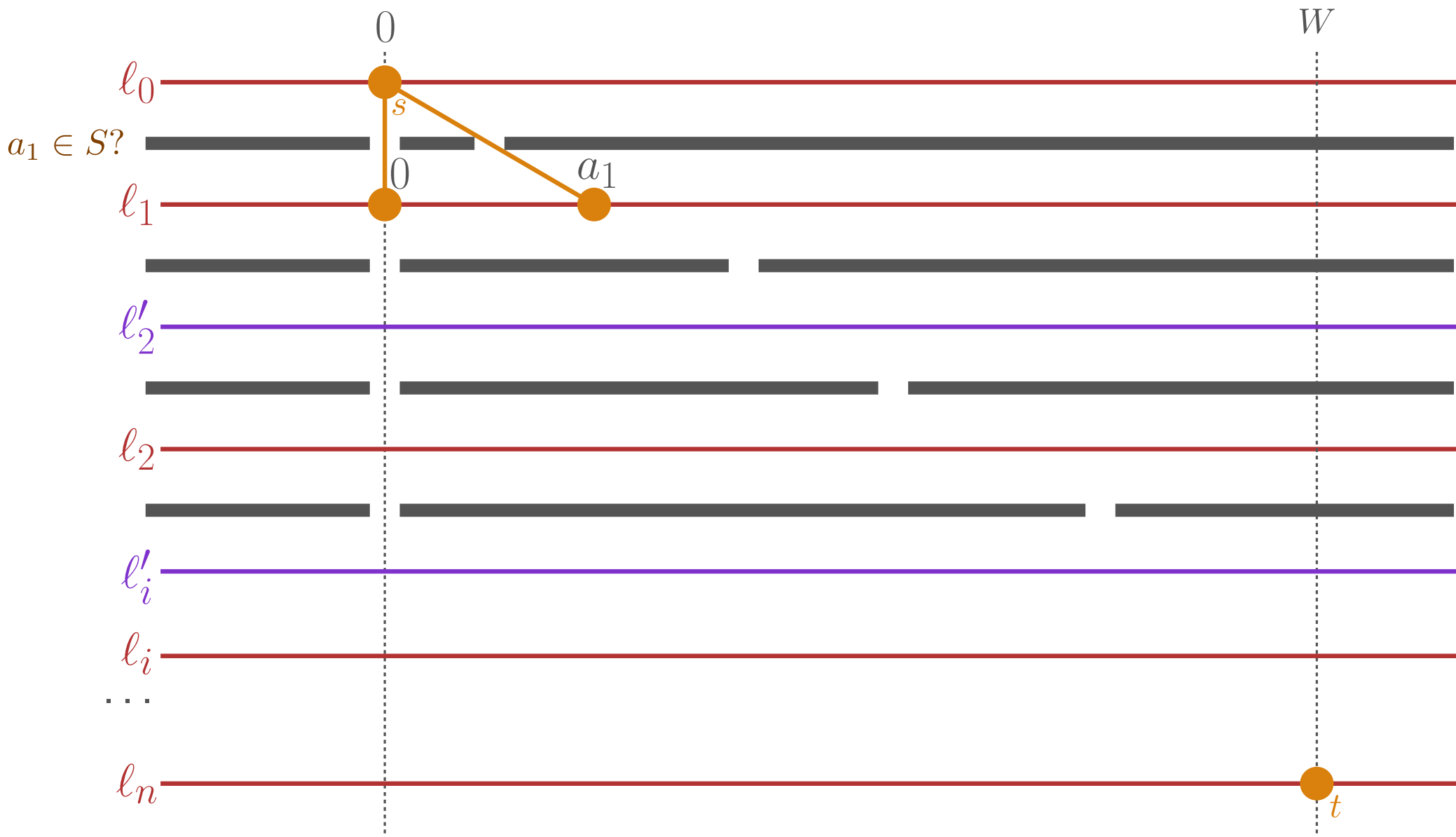
p on ℓ_i reachable with $2i - 1$ links $\iff p$ corresponds to the sum of a subset of a_1, \dots, a_i



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

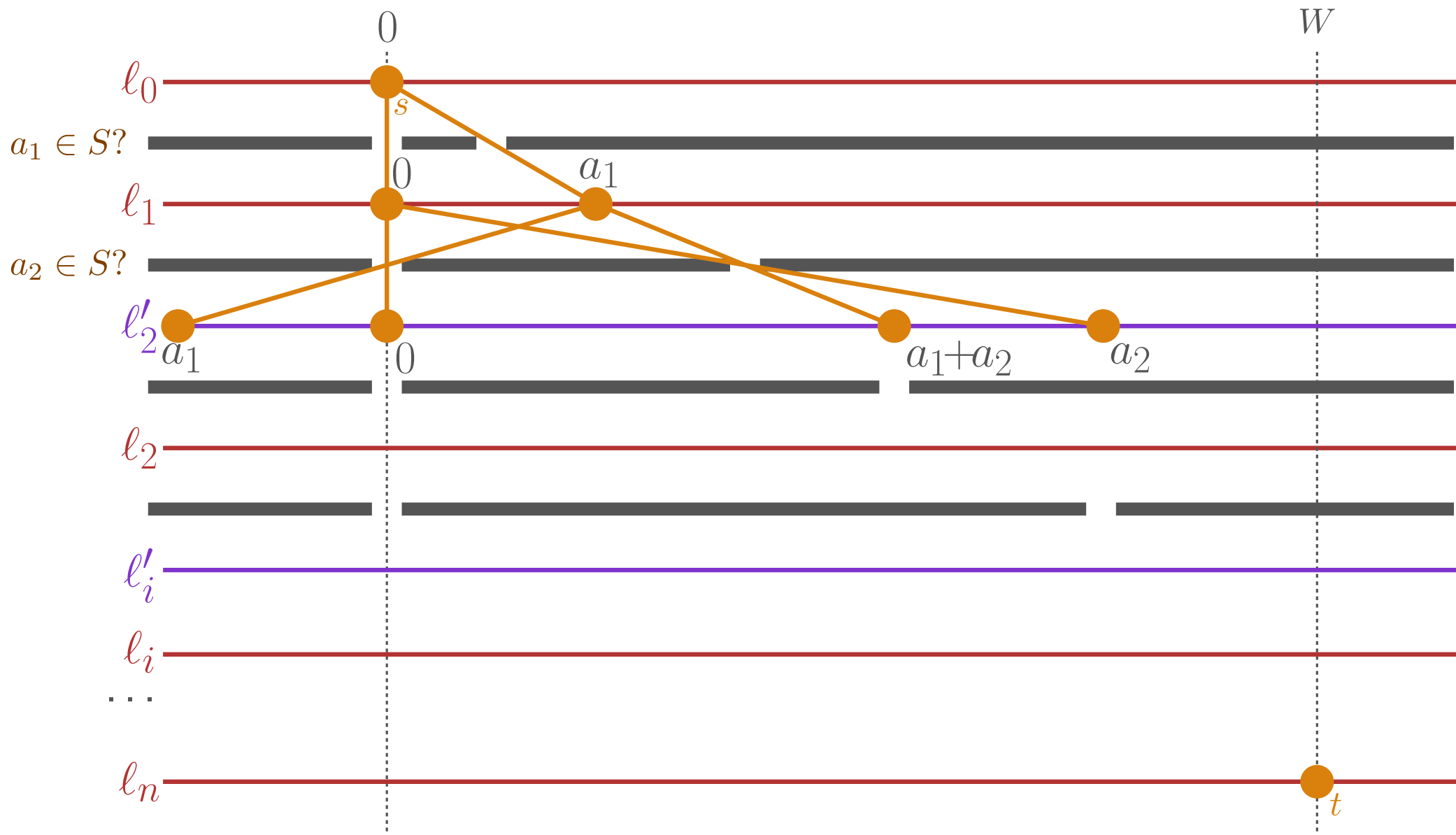
p on ℓ_i reachable with $2i - 1$ links $\iff p$ corresponds to the sum of a subset of a_1, \dots, a_i



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

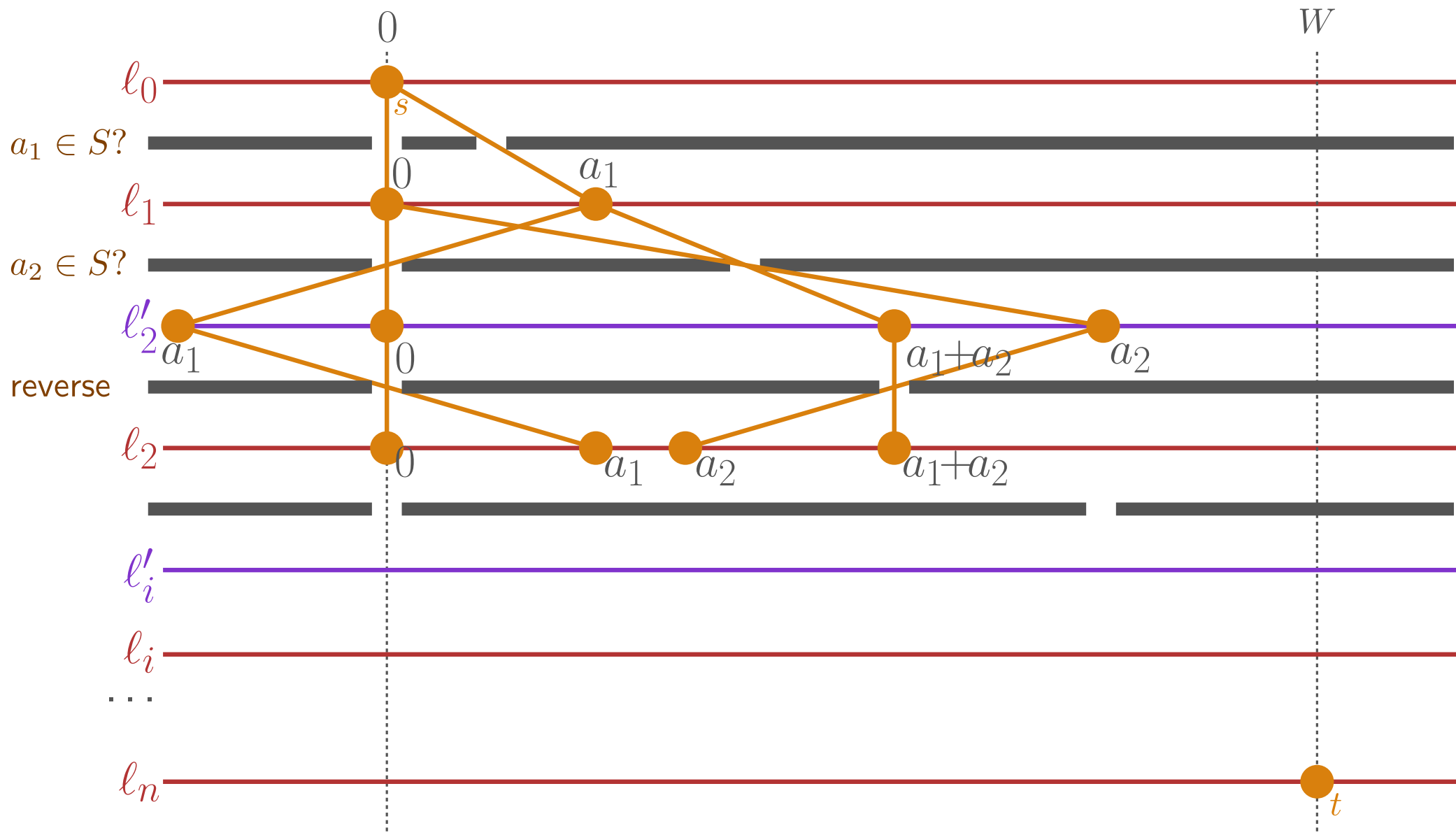
p on ℓ_i reachable with $2i - 1$ links $\iff p$ corresponds to the sum of a subset of a_1, \dots, a_i



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

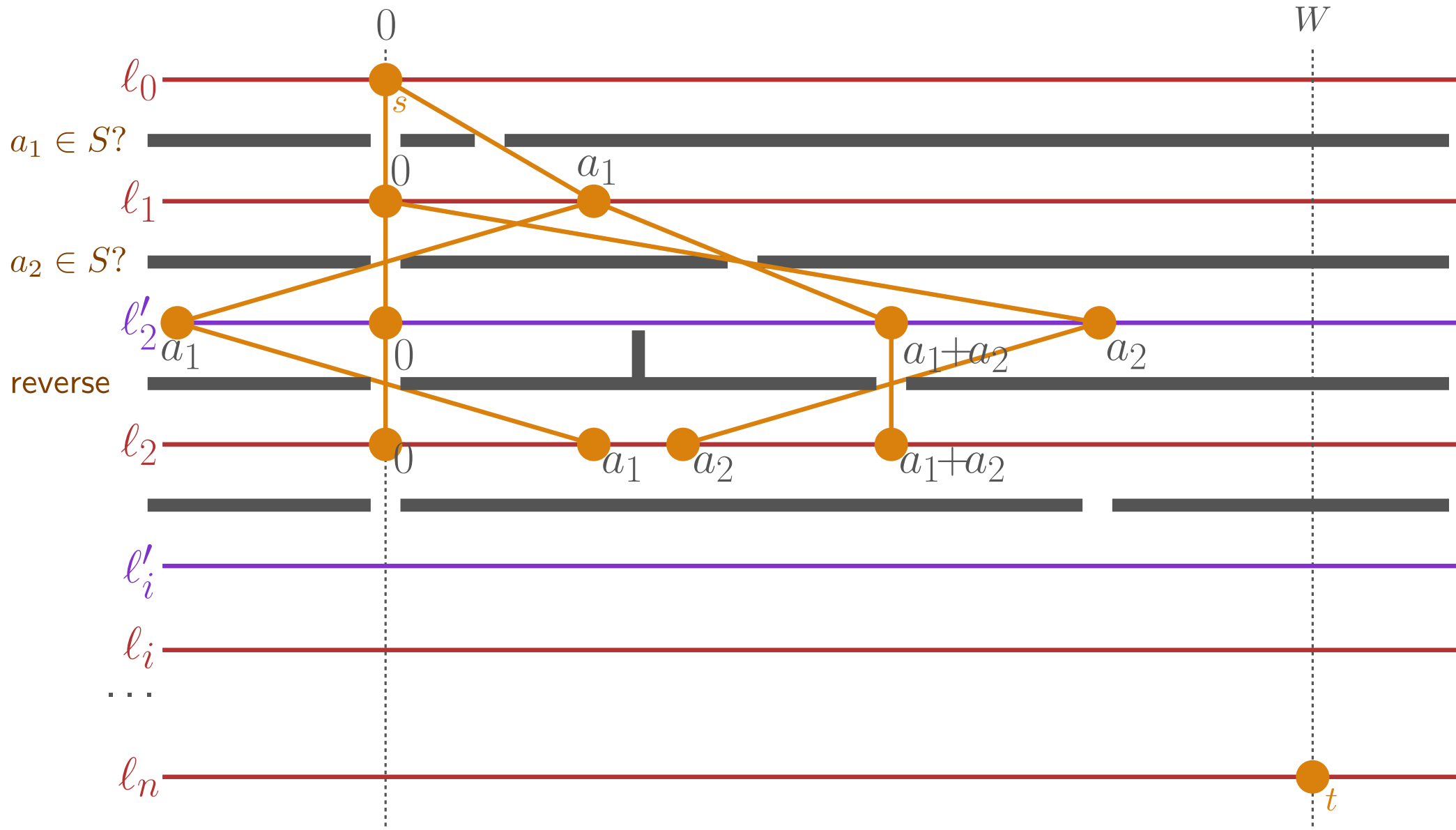
p on ℓ_i reachable with $2i - 1$ links $\iff p$ corresponds to the sum of a subset of a_1, \dots, a_i



Blueprint for the Reduction

2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

p on ℓ_i reachable with $2i - 1$ links $\iff p$ corresponds to the sum of a subset of a_1, \dots, a_i

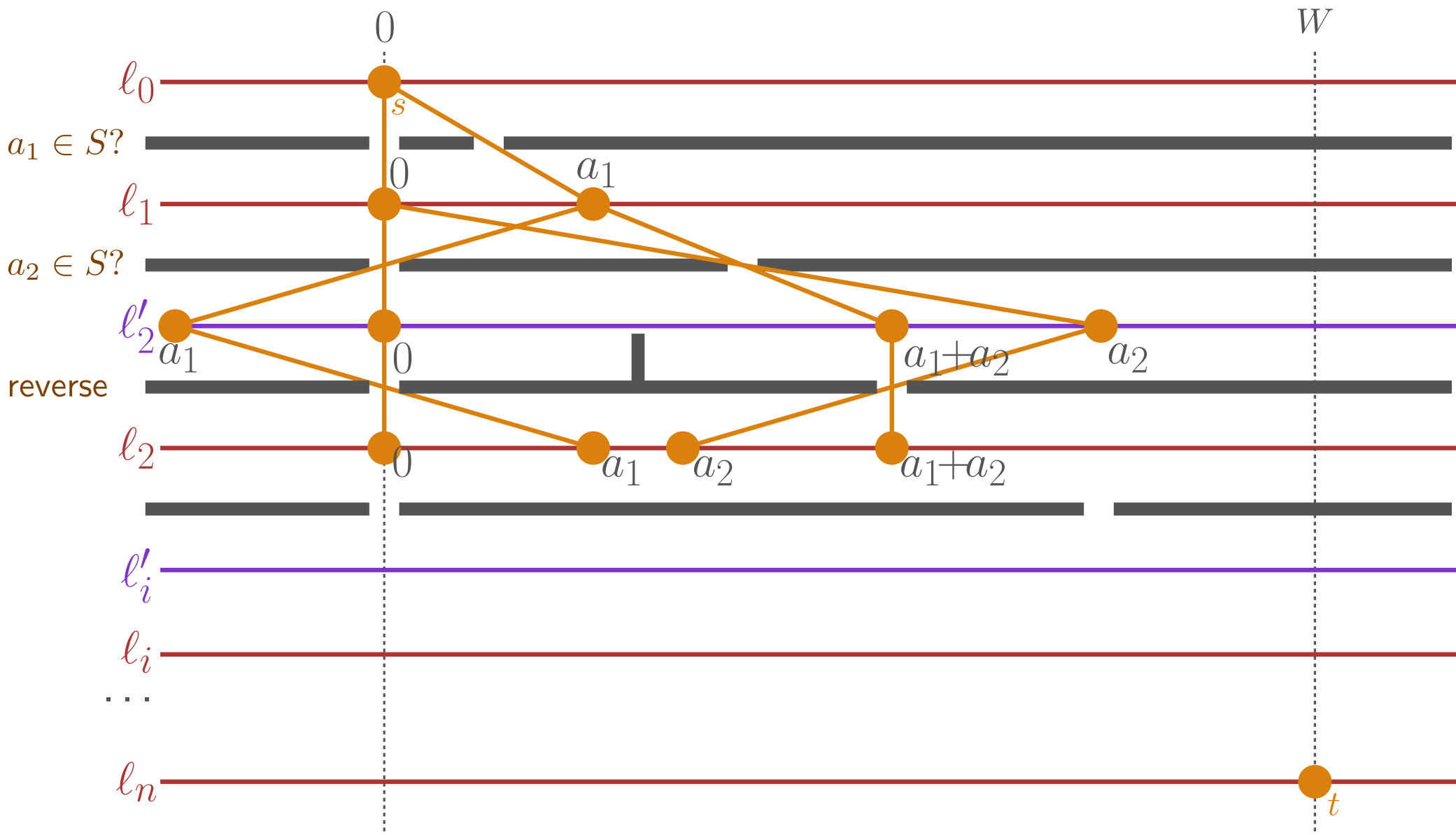


Blueprint for the Reduction

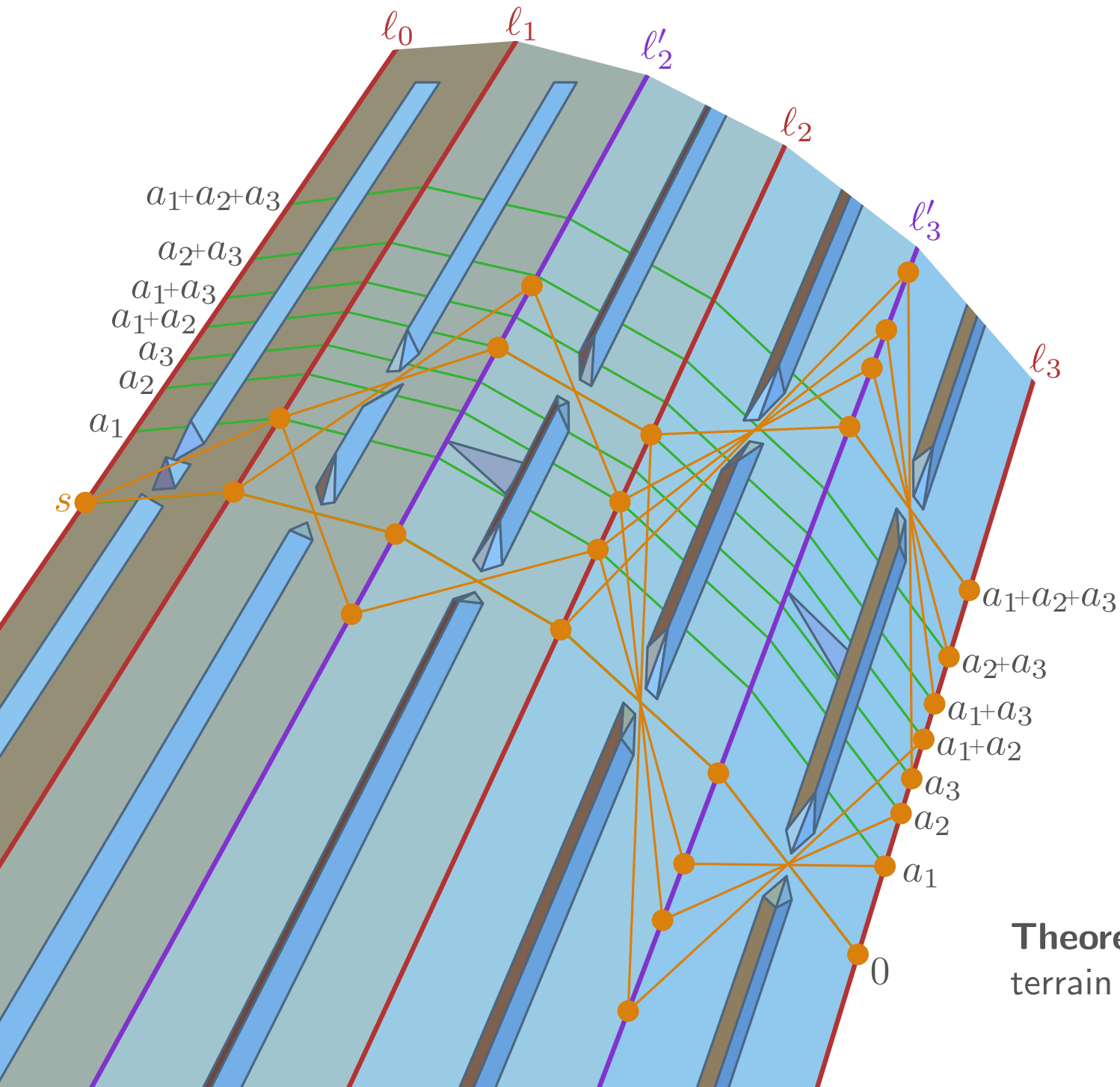
2-Partition: n integers a_1, \dots, a_n with $\sum a_i = 2W$. Is there a subset S that sums to W ?

Min link path* with bends on lines,
from s to t with $2n - 1$ links

$\iff \exists$ subset S that sums to W

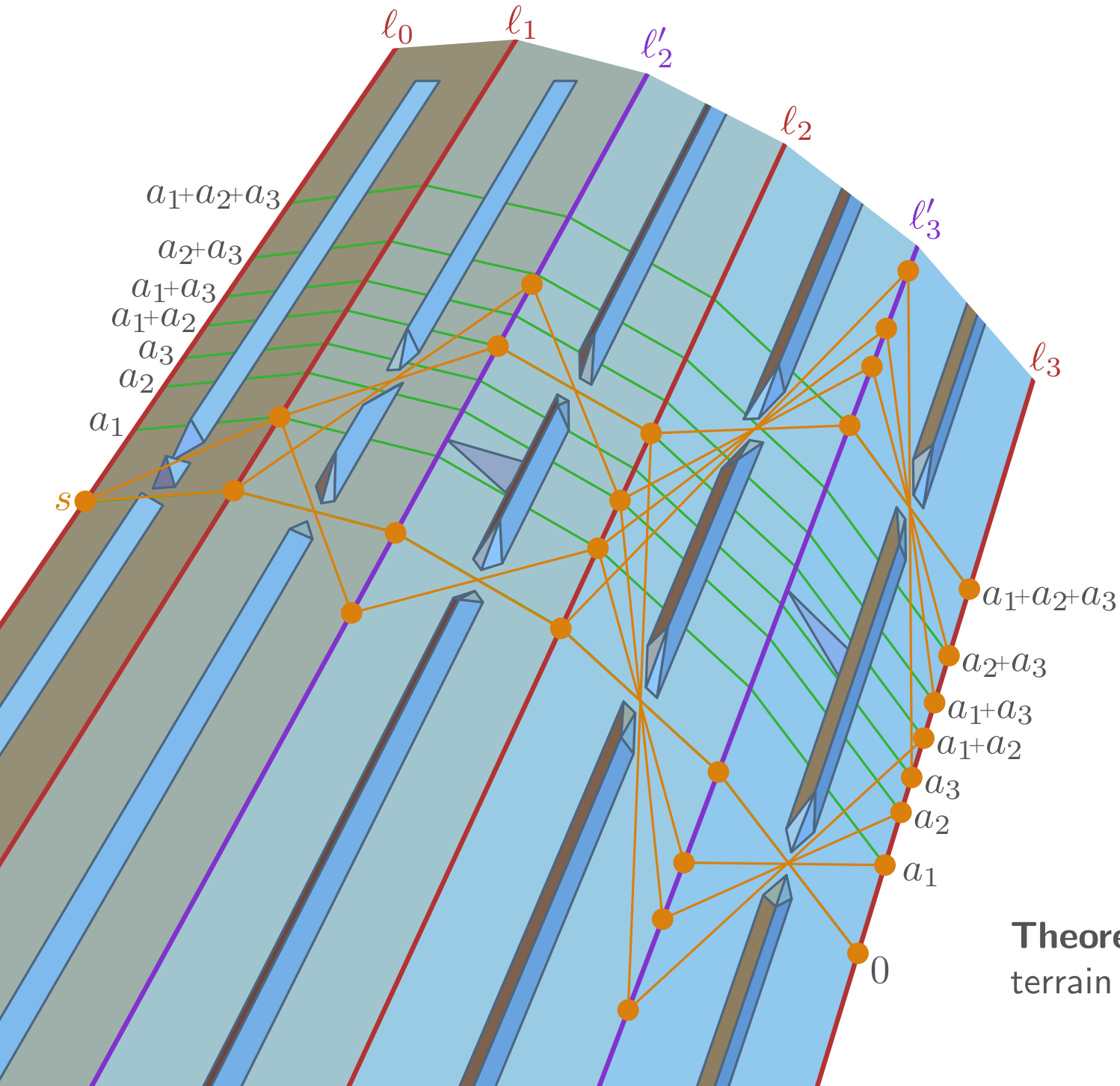


MinLinkPath in \mathbb{R}^3



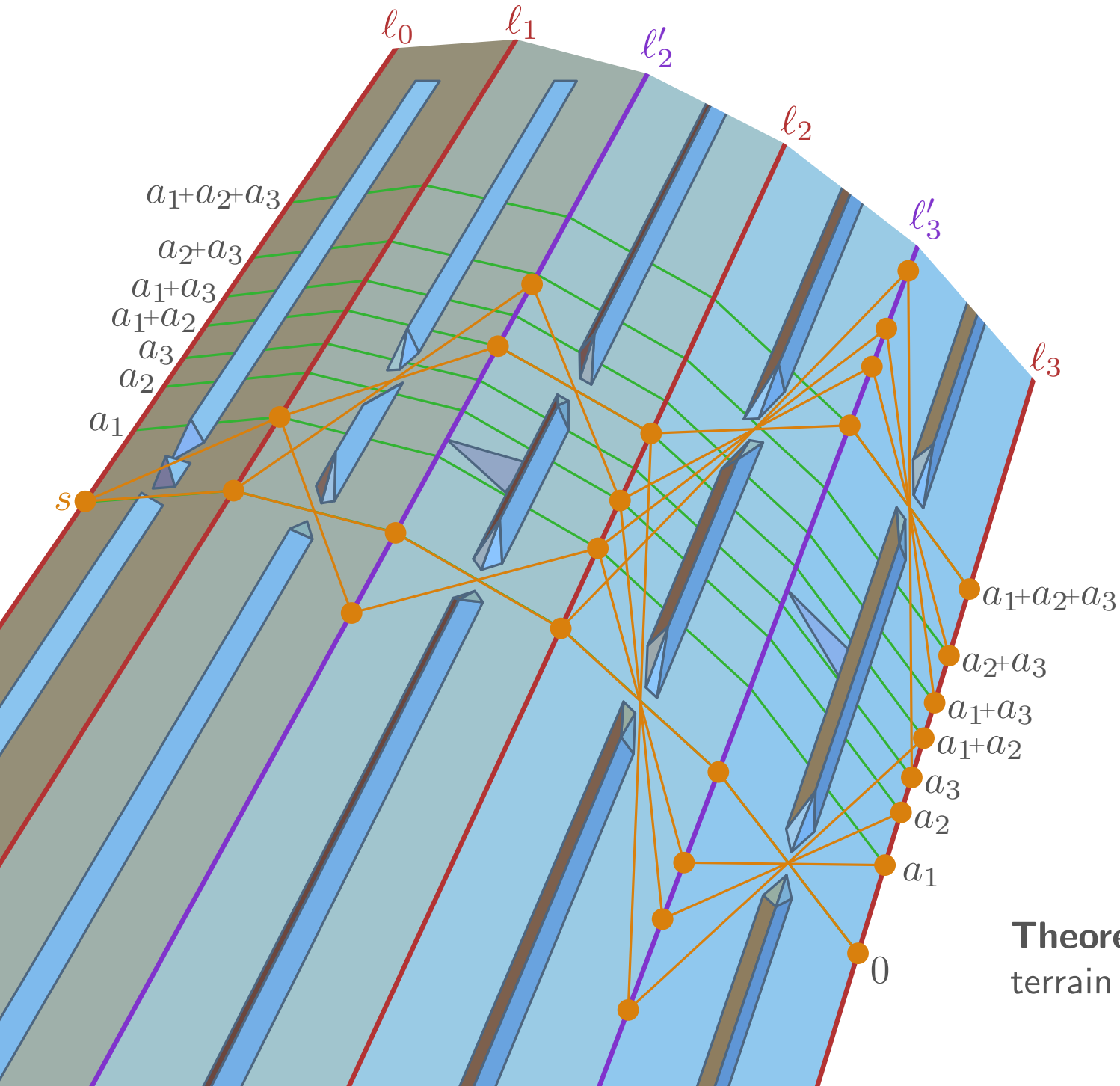
Theorem. MinLinkPath₁₂ on a terrain is NP-hard

MinLinkPath in \mathbb{R}^3



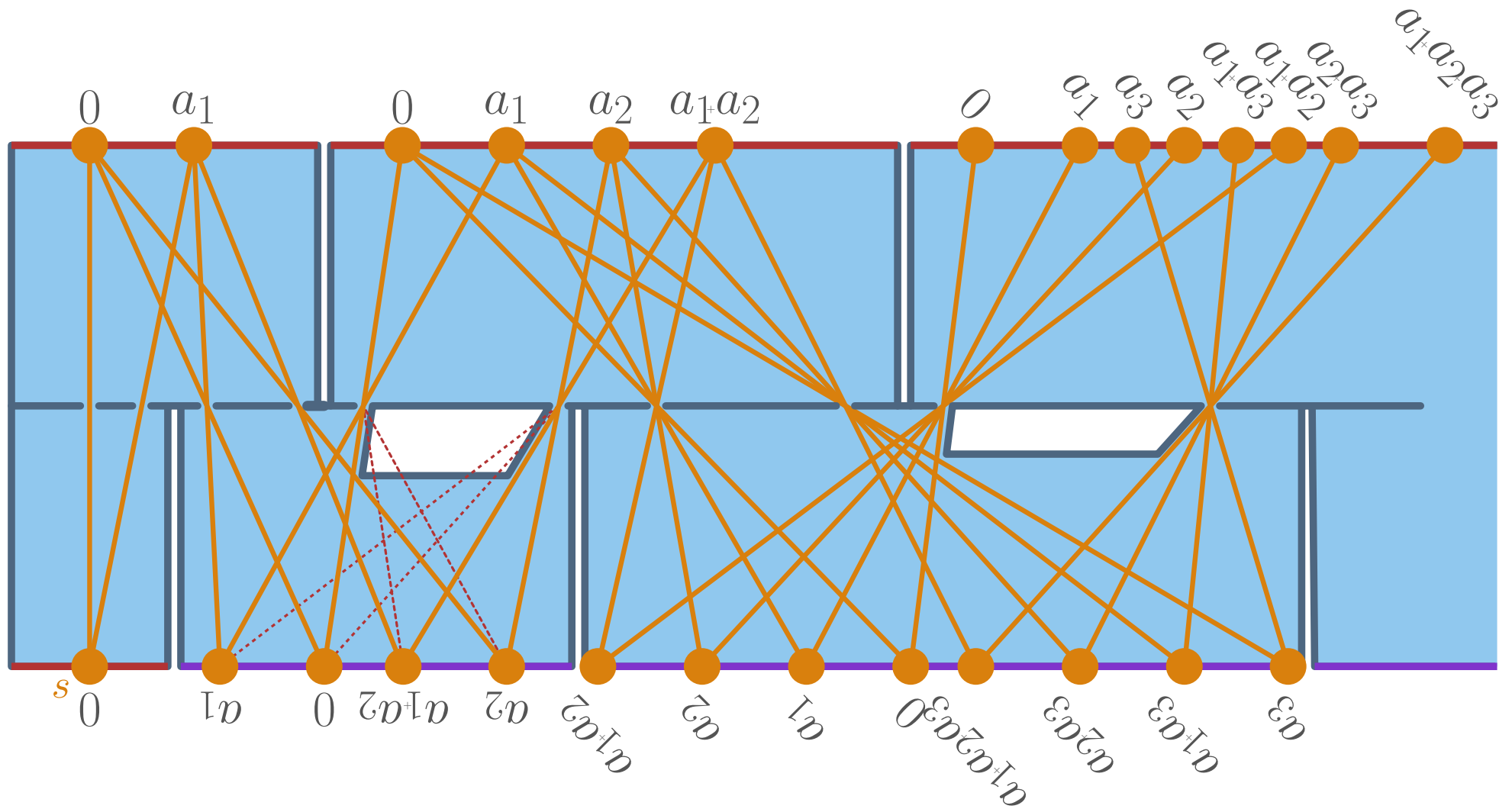
Theorem. MinLinkPath_{a_2} on a terrain is NP-hard.

MinLinkPath in \mathbb{R}^3



Theorem. MinLinkPath_{a_3} on a terrain is NP-hard.

MinLinkPath in \mathbb{R}^2



Theorem. MinLinkPath_{a_2} in a polygon with holes is NP-hard.

Future Work

- Is Minimum link path strongly NP-hard?
or, can design a pseudo polynomial time algorithm?

Future Work

- Is Minimum link path strongly NP-hard?
or, can design a pseudo polynomial time algorithm?
- Is there a polynomial upper bound on the bit-complexity in \mathbb{R}^3 ?
- lower bound on the bit-complexity in \mathbb{R}^3 ?

Future Work

- Is Minimum link path strongly NP-hard?
or, can design a pseudo polynomial time algorithm?
- Is there a polynomial upper bound on the bit-complexity in \mathbb{R}^3 ?
- lower bound on the bit-complexity in \mathbb{R}^3 ?

Thank you!

