

# Too Many Hints

When LLL breaks LWE

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# LWE

Given:

$$\boxed{\mathbf{A}} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times n}, \quad \boxed{\mathbf{b}} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m,$$

$$\boxed{\mathbf{b}} = \boxed{\mathbf{A}} \boxed{\mathbf{s}} + \boxed{\mathbf{e}}$$

short vectors

Find:

$$\boxed{\mathbf{s}} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$$

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Find:

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**Question**

How side-channel resistant are real-world LWE schemes?

# LWE with Hints [DDGR20]

An attacker obtains a few inner products

$$\ell_i = \langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{s} \rangle$$

for **known** vectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$ .

Inner products may be defined over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_q$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$ , ...

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The diagram shows the text "Inner products may be defined over  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}_q, \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}, \dots$ ". The terms  $\mathbb{Z}_q, \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}, \dots$  are enclosed in an oval. An arrow labeled "perfect hints" points from the text to  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Another arrow labeled "modular hints" points from the text to the oval.

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perfect hints

modular hints

Many side-channel leaks can be modeled as inner products:

1. Coordinate of  $\mathbf{s}$ :  $\mathbf{v}_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,
2. NTT coefficient of  $\mathbf{s}$ :  $\mathbf{v}_i = (1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{n-1})$ ,  $\zeta \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ ,
3. ...

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perfect hints  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{Z}$       modular hints  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{Z}_q, \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}, \dots$

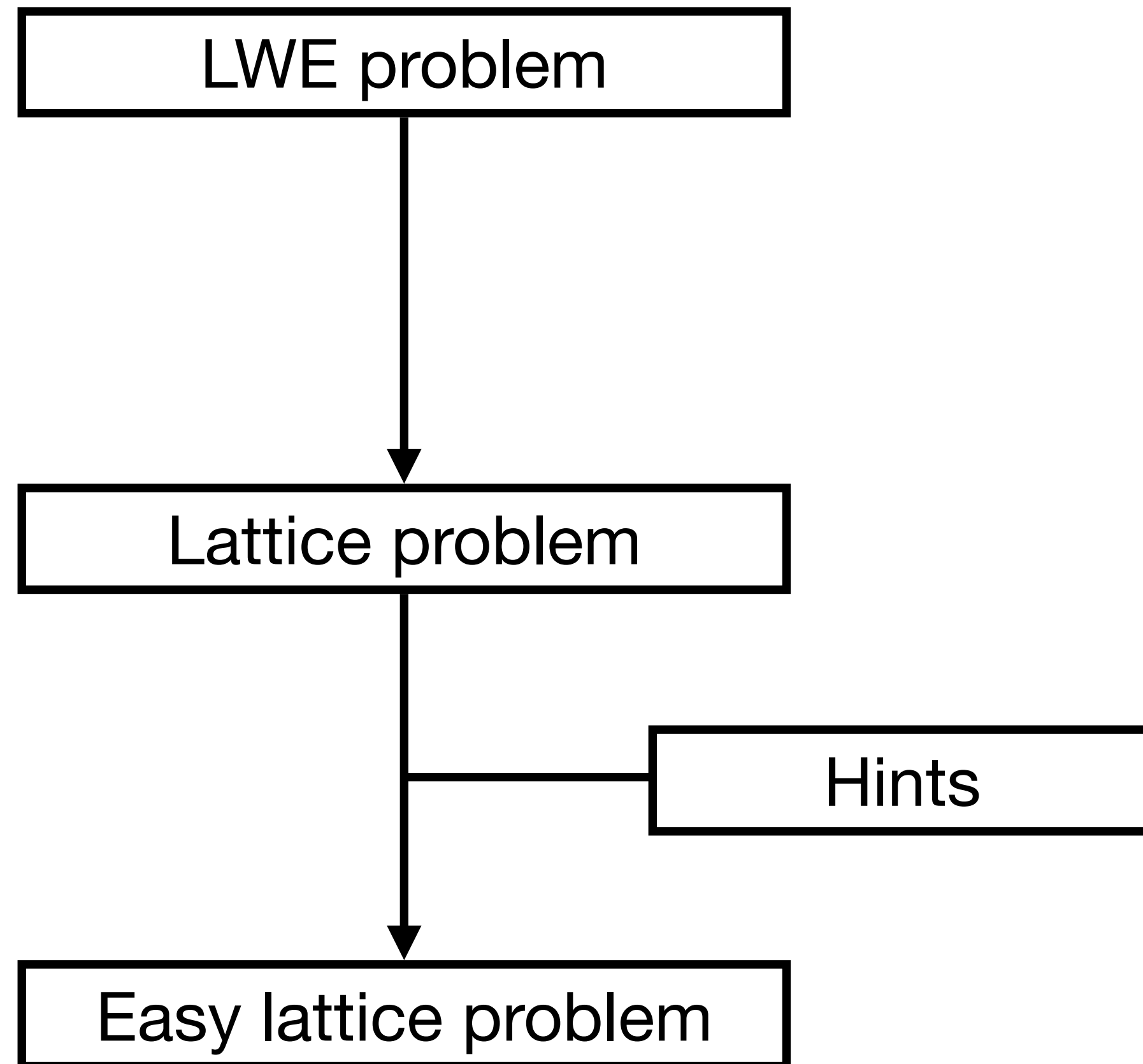
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## LWE decryption in a nutshell

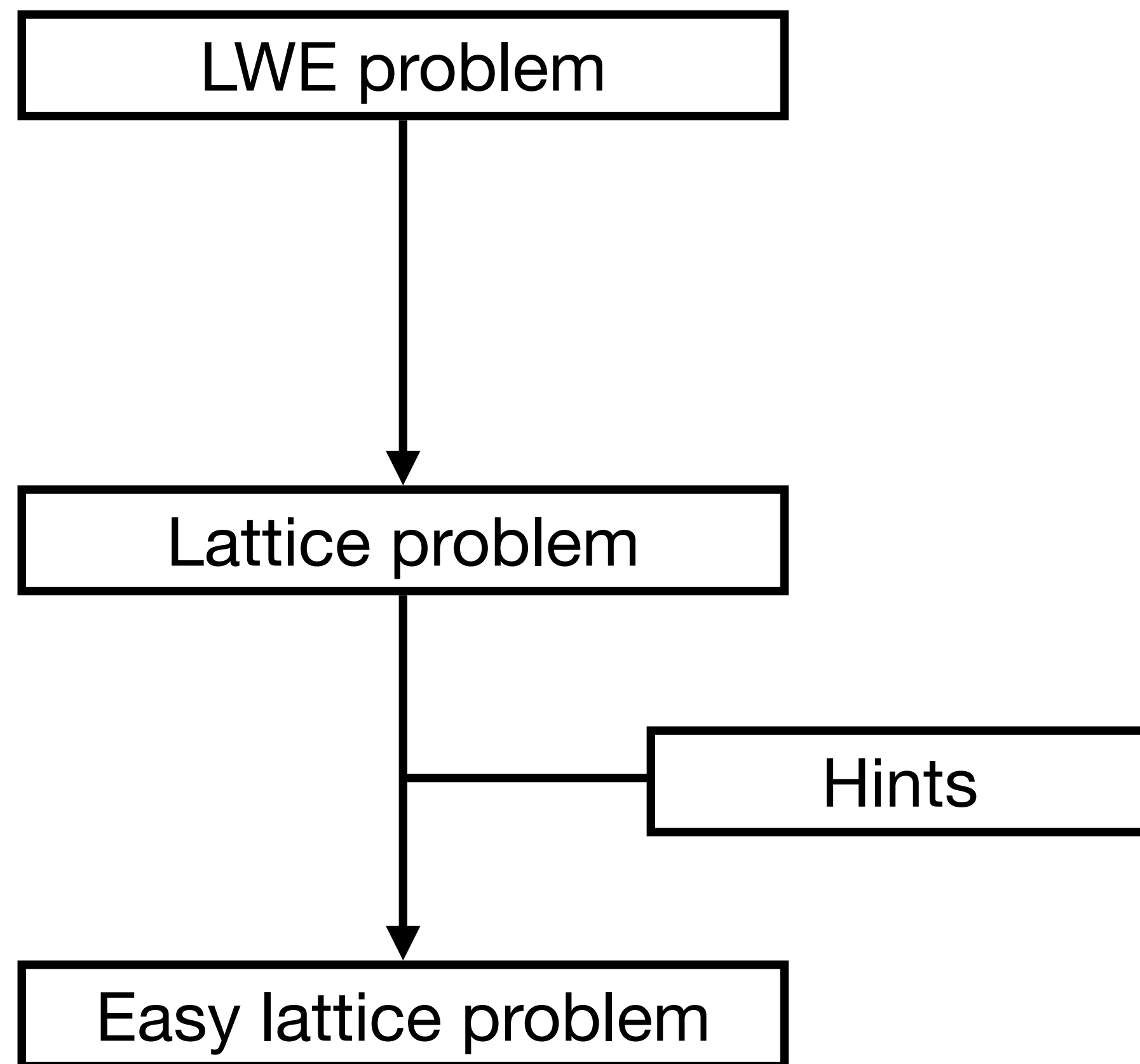
1. Compute inner product between cipher text  $\mathbf{c}$  and secret  $\mathbf{s}$ .
2. Round to closest message  $m$ .

# The [DDGR20] Framework





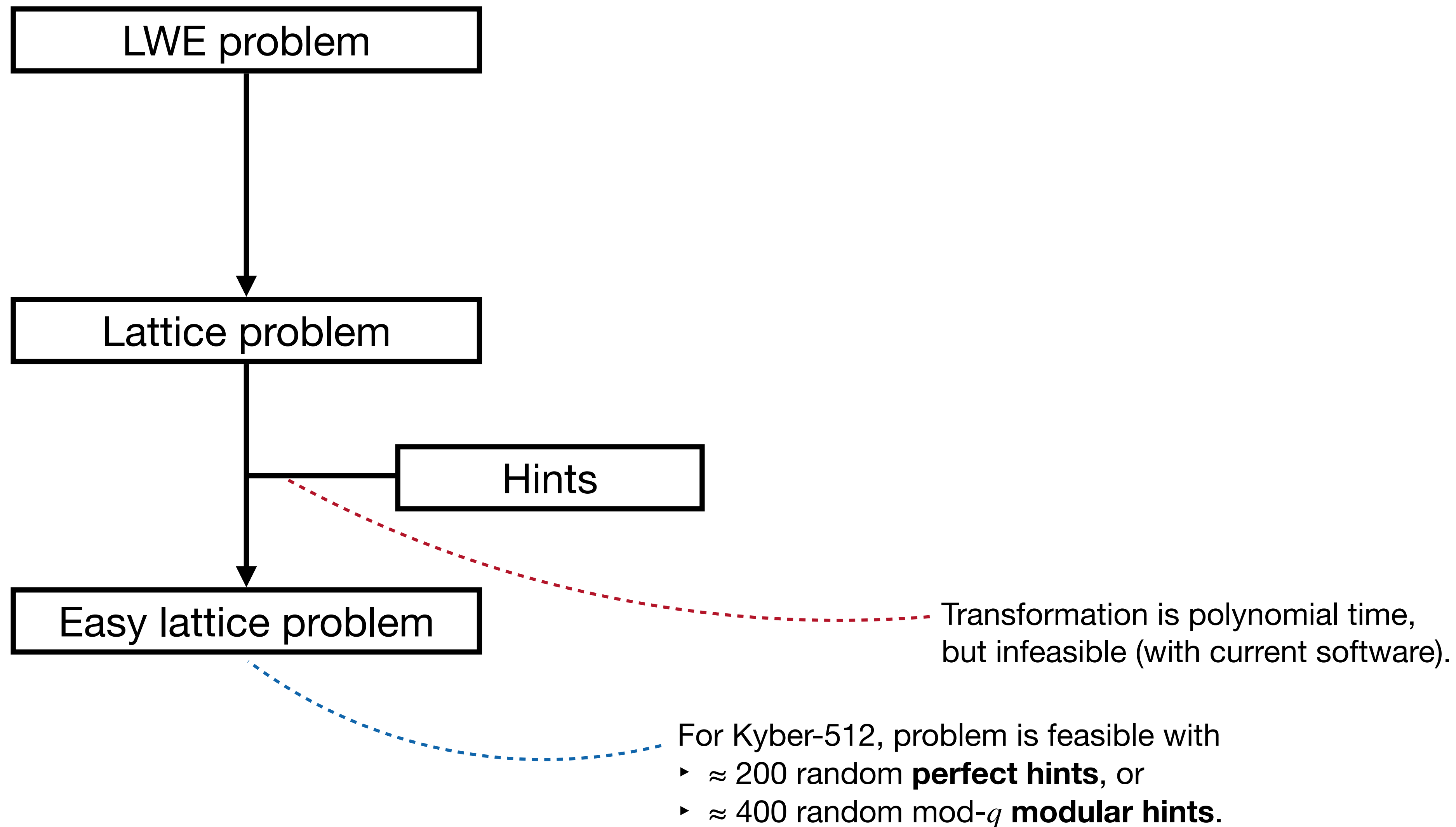
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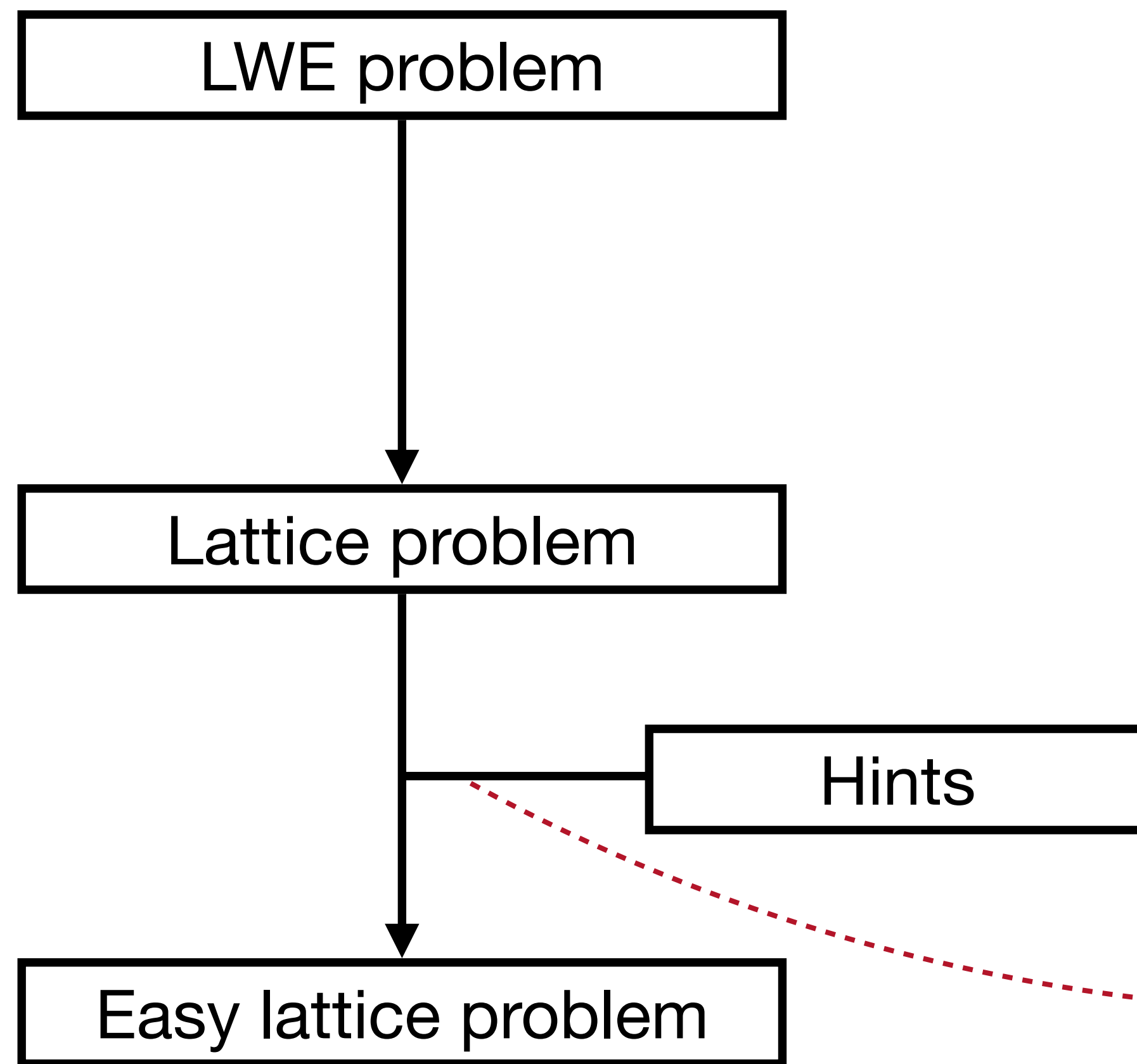
For Kyber-512, problem is feasible with

- $\approx 200$  random **perfect hints**, or
- $\approx 400$  random mod- $q$  **modular hints**.

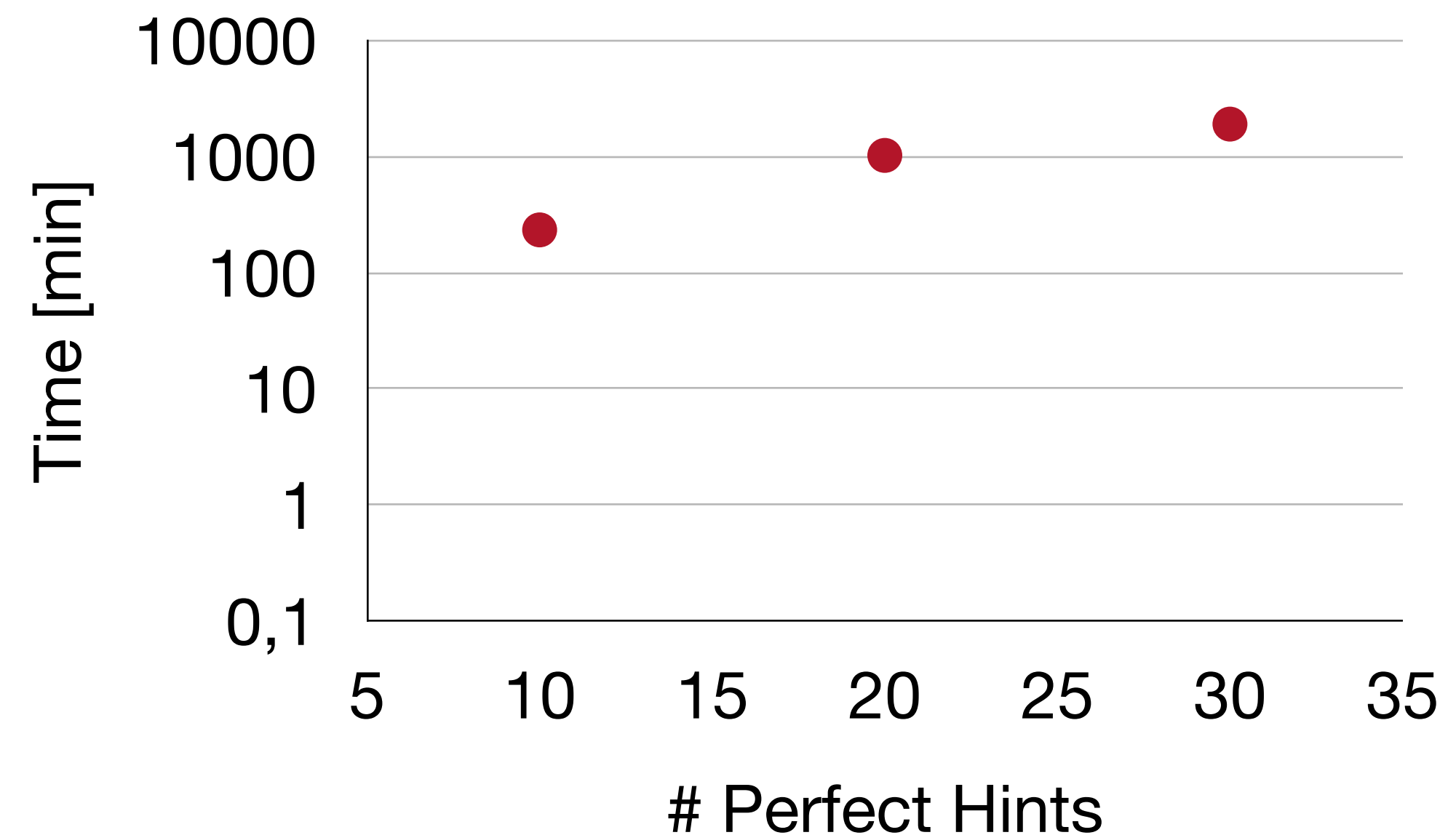
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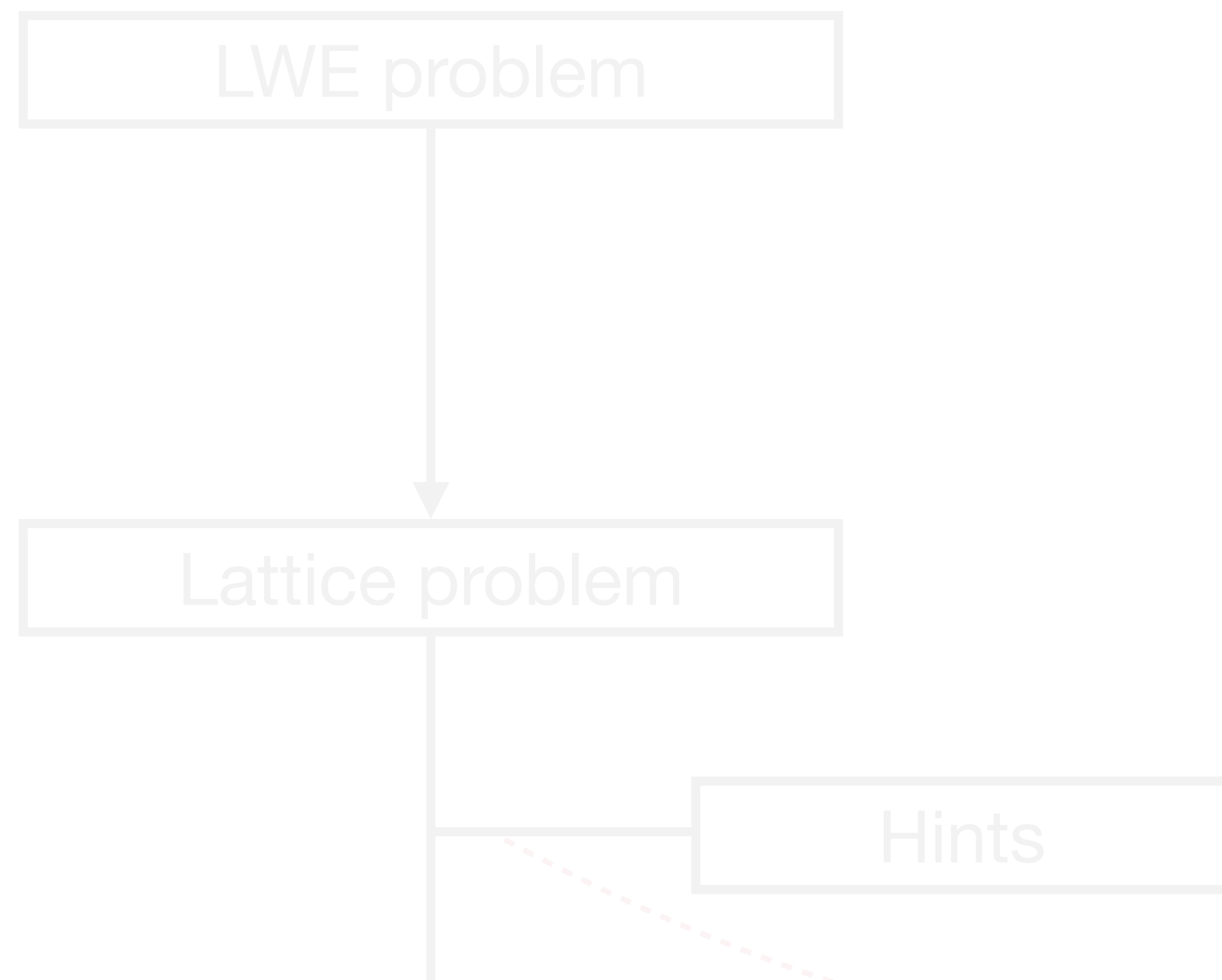
Runtime of transformation for Kyber-512  
Original [DDGR20] implementation



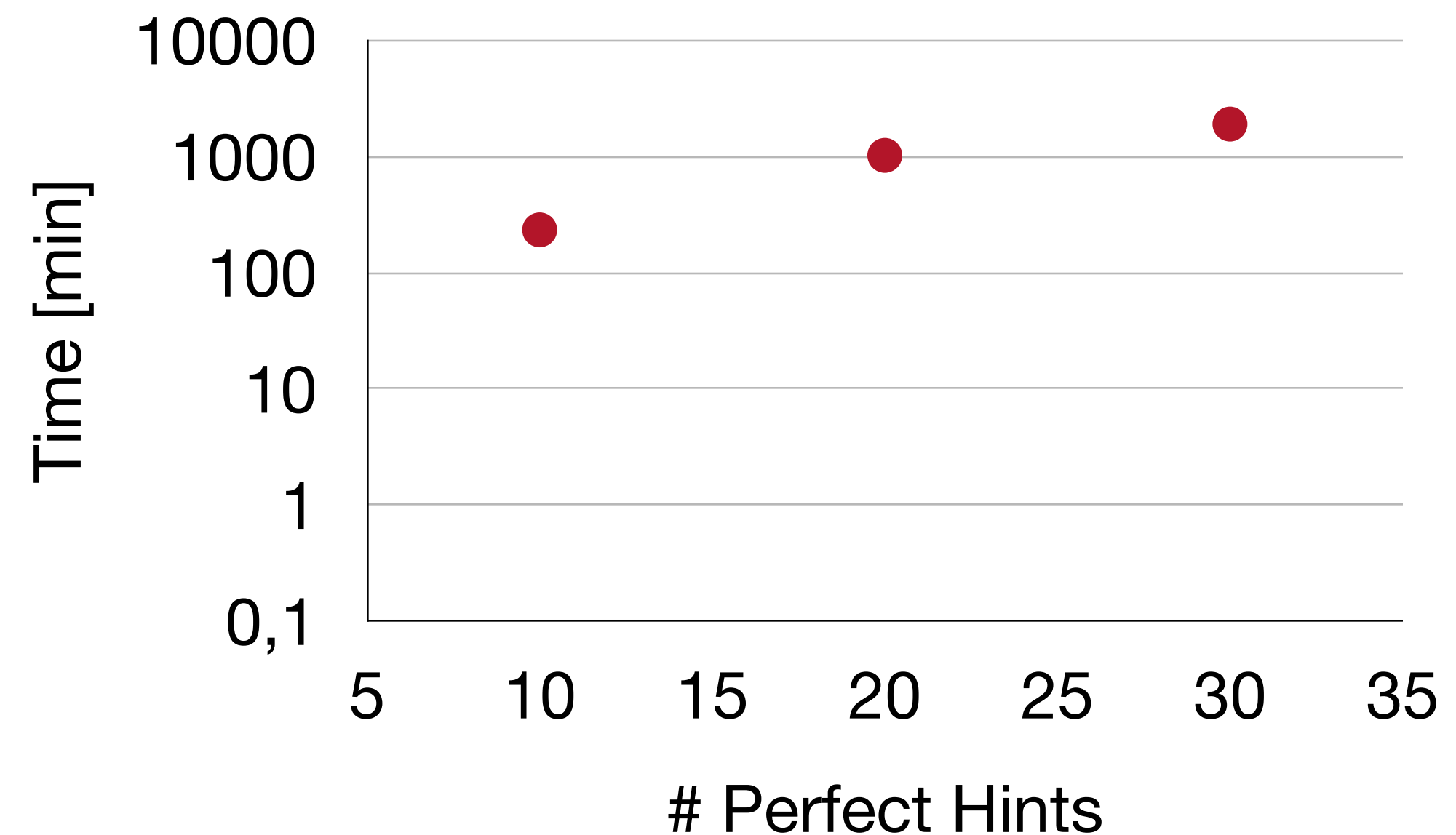
Transformation is polynomial time,  
but infeasible (with current software).

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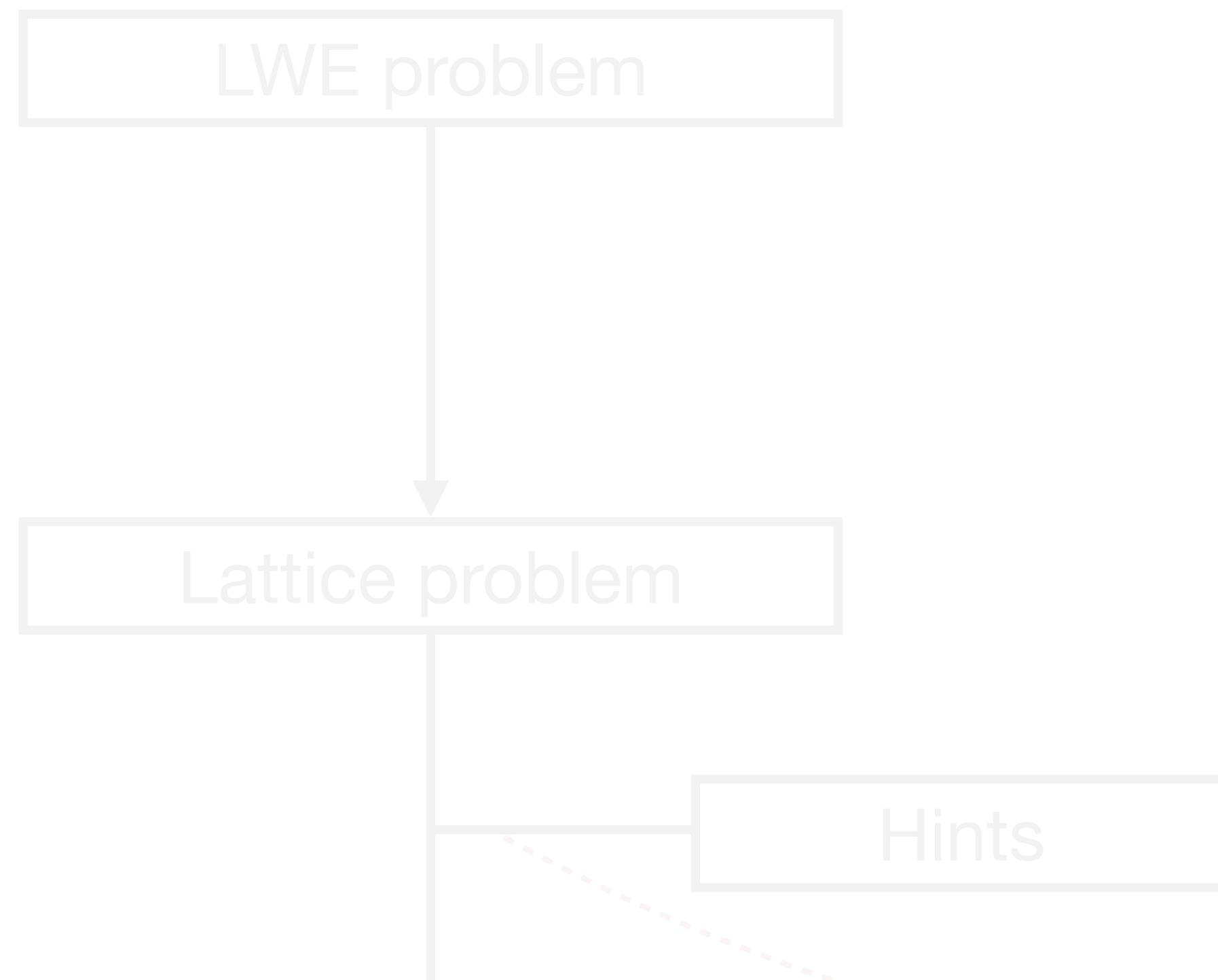


## Our contribution

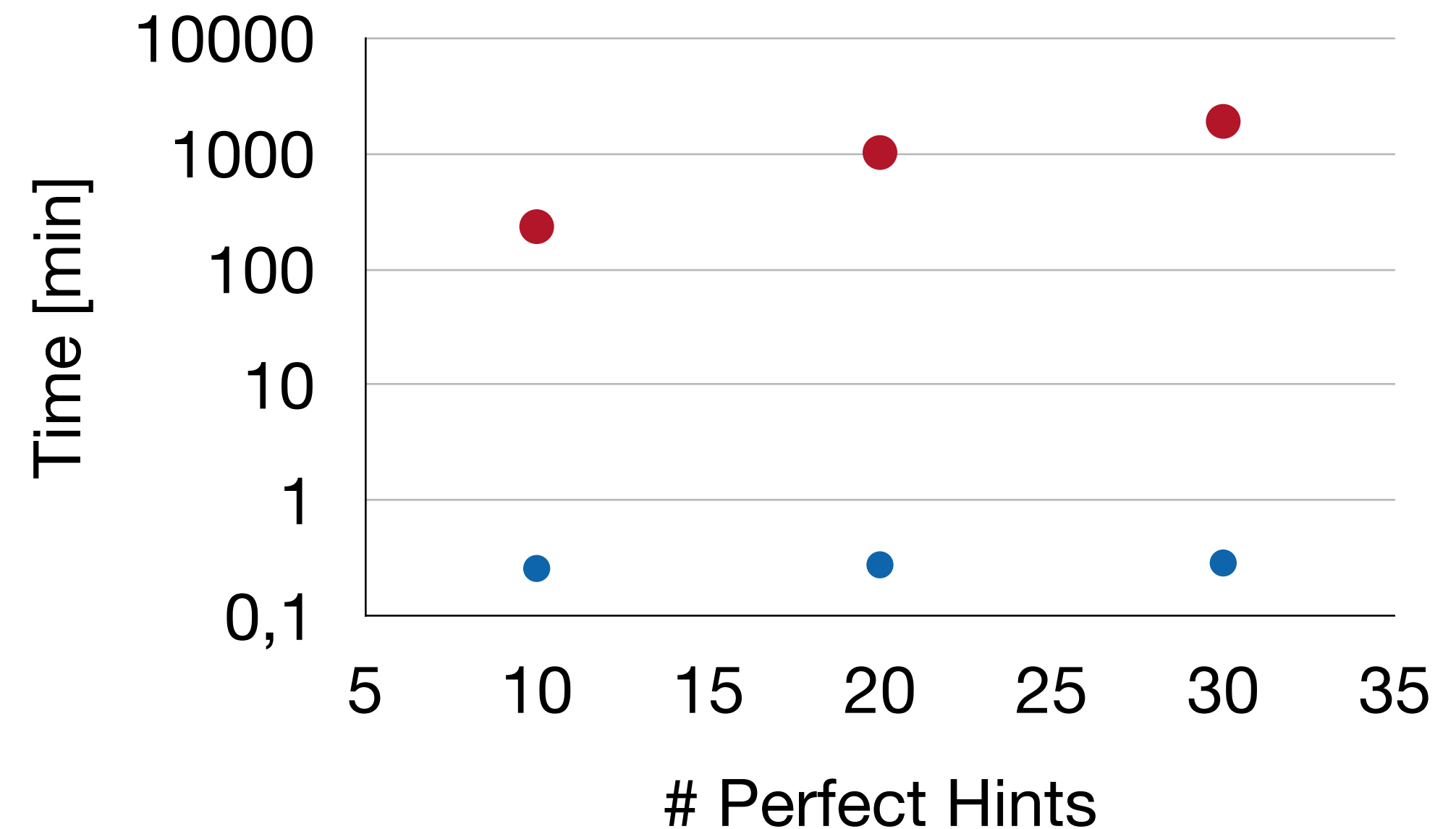
Novel approach, that transforms the lattice efficiently.

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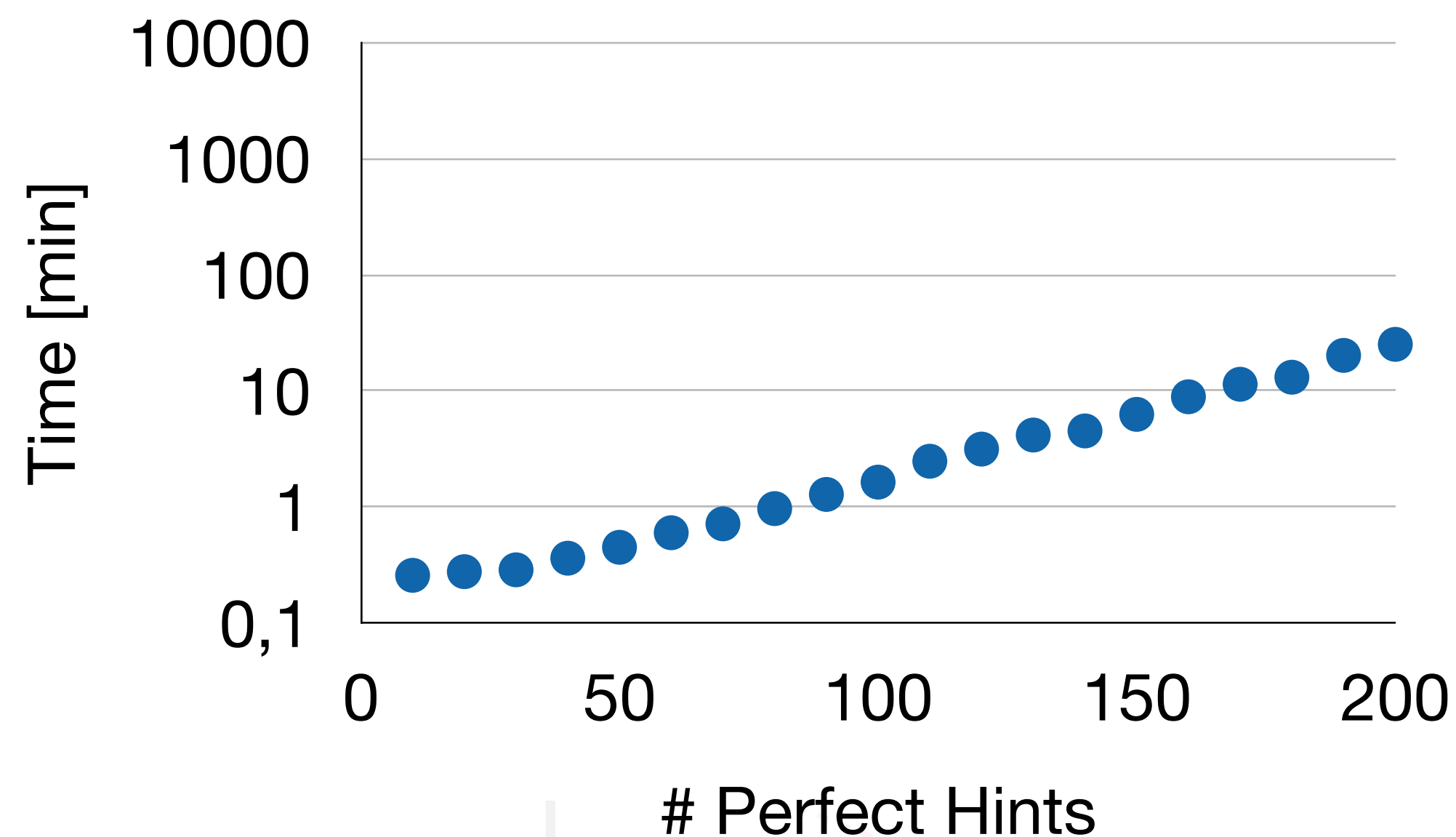
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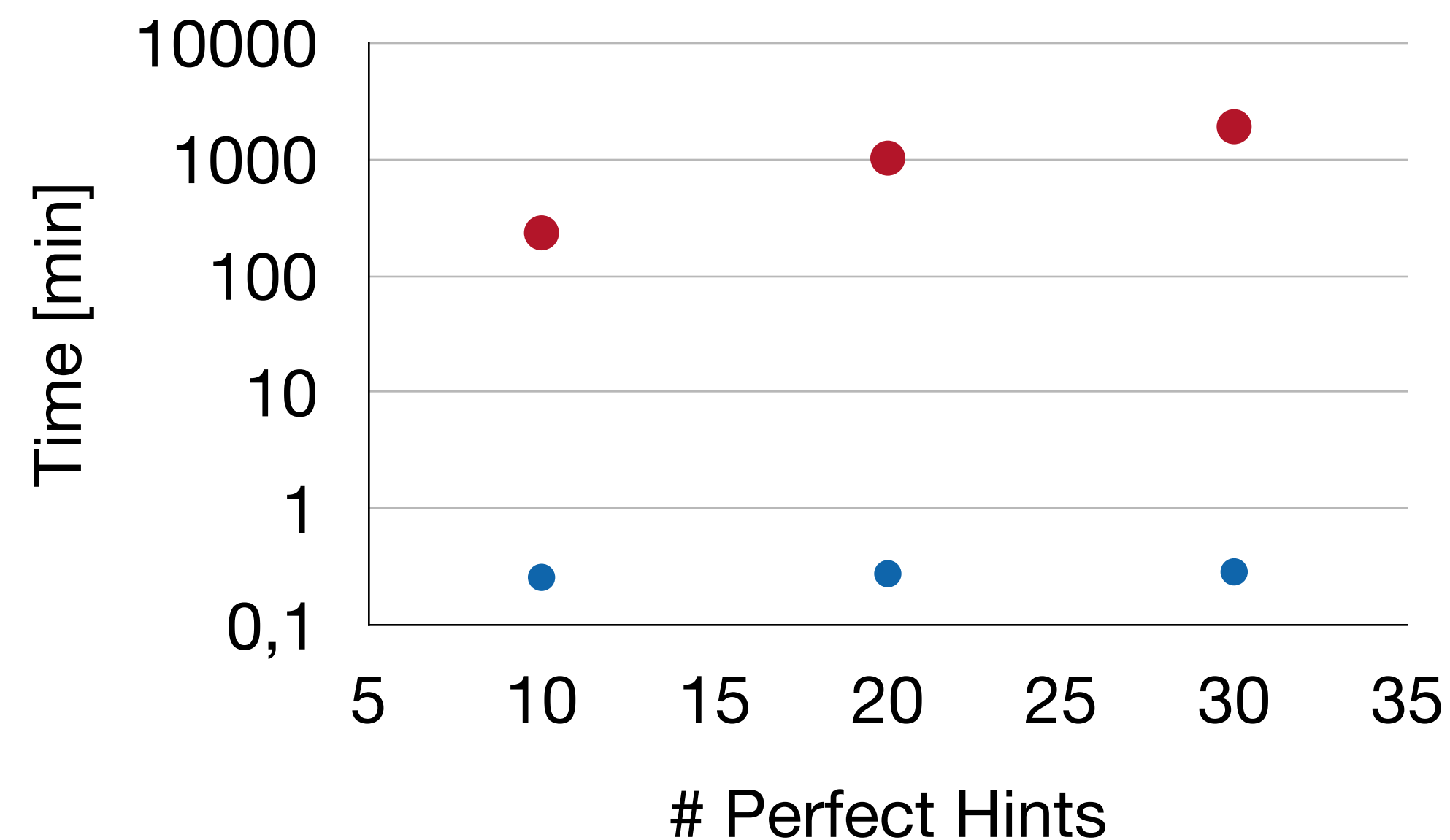
Runtime of transformation for Kyber-512

Our new implementation



Runtime of transformation for Kyber-512

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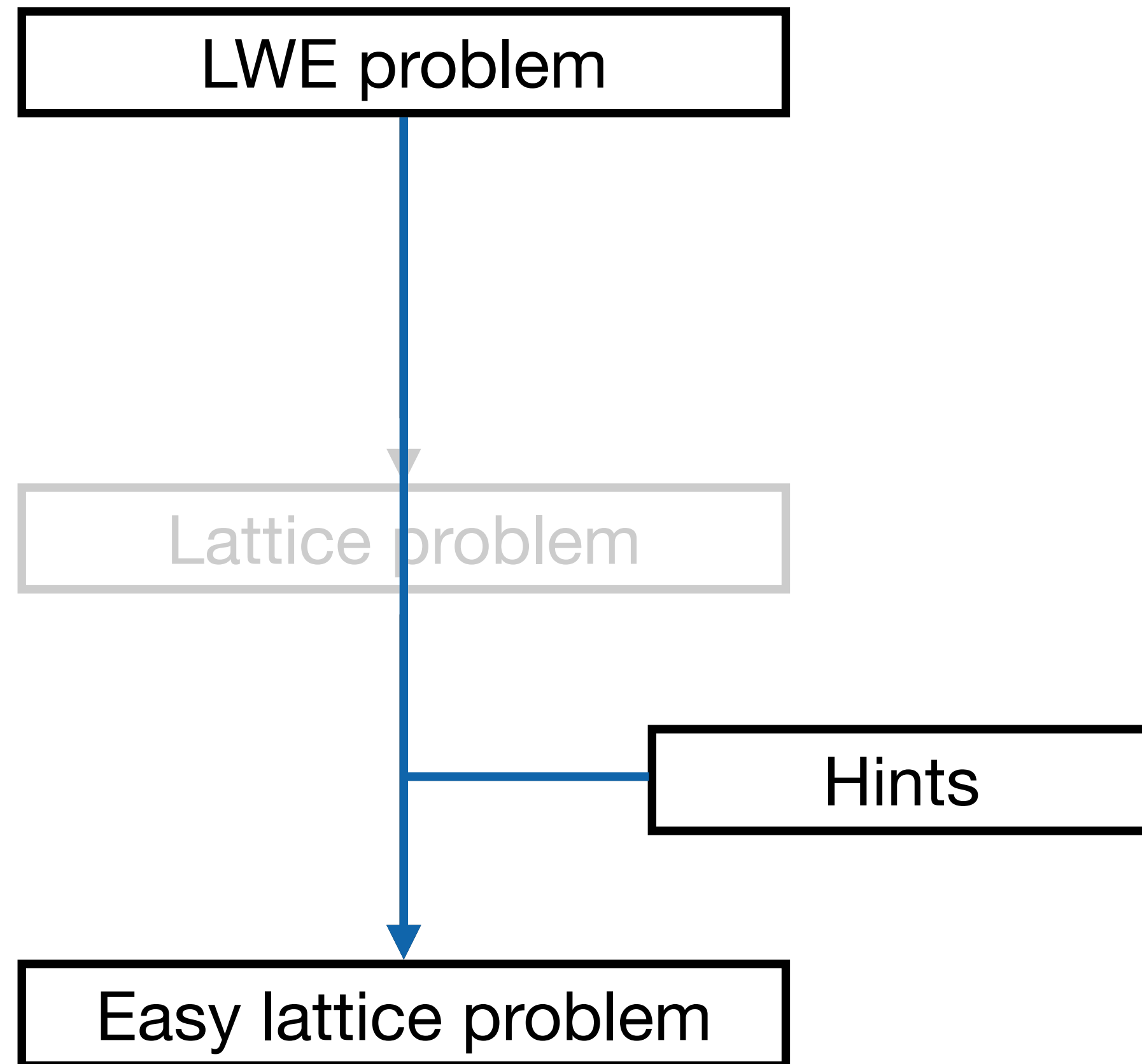


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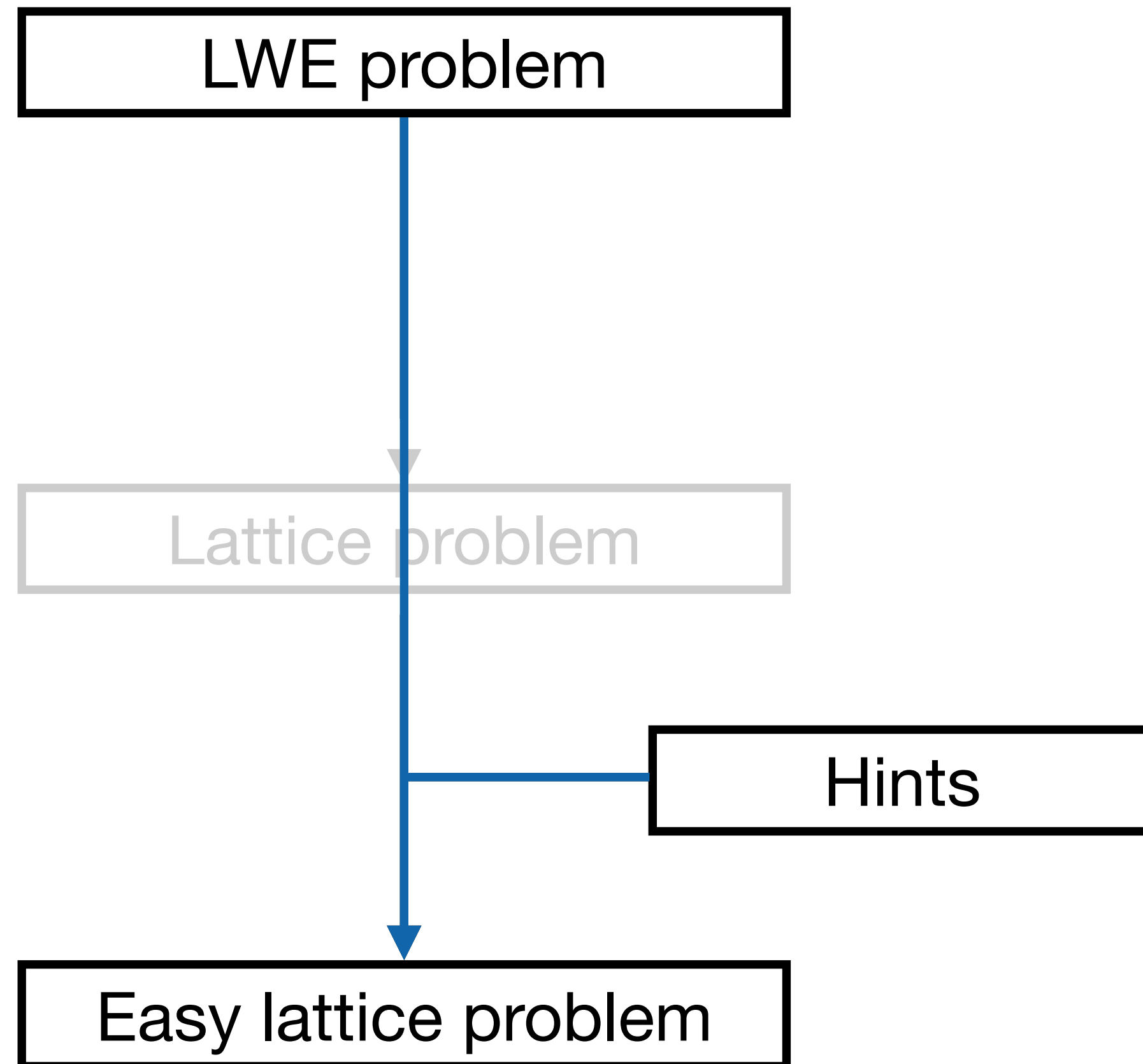
# Our Novel Framework



**Main idea:**

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# Our Novel Framework



## Main idea:

Get rid of the intermediate step.

## Two new algorithms:

- ▶ Alg. 1 works for perfect and modular hints.
- ▶ Alg. 2 works for mod- $q$  modular hints only.

**Extremely efficient,  
runtime in the order of seconds.**



# A Novel Approach for LWE with Hints

**LWE:**

Find short  $\mathbf{s}$ , s.t.

$$-\mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{b} \equiv \mathbf{e} \pmod{q},$$

for some short  $\mathbf{e}$ .

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## New attack:

Compute shortest vector of  $\Lambda_{\text{Hint}} := \{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{B}) \mid v_{m+1} = v_{m+2} = \dots = v_{m+k} = 0 \}$ .

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### Advantage of our approach

Computing a basis for  $\Lambda_{\text{Hint}}$  is easy.

# Computing a Basis for $\Lambda_{\text{Hint}}$

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Unimodular  
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Already has  
the desired shape

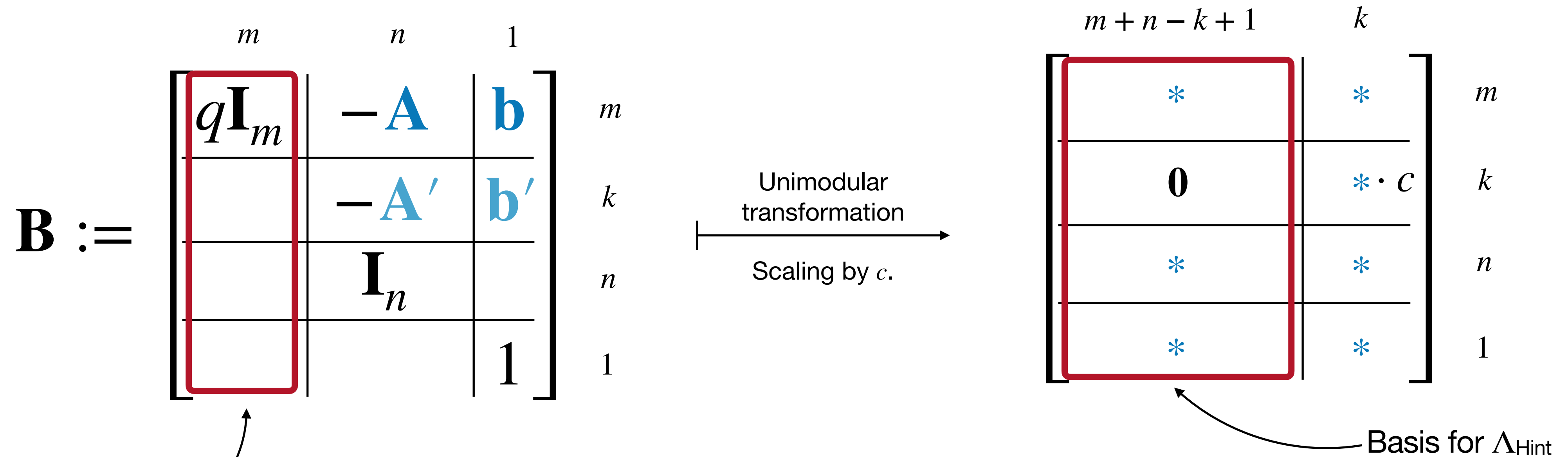
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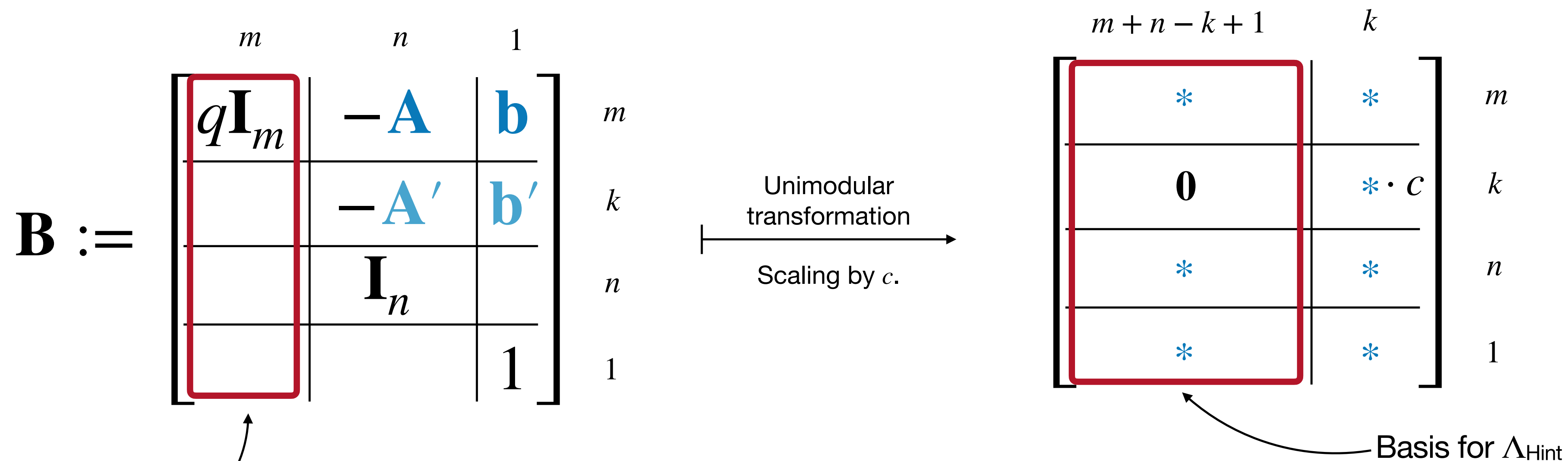
## Algorithm

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2. LLL-reduce the  $(n+1)$ -right-most columns.



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When given sufficiently many hints, Step 2 recovers the LWE secret.

# Runtime of our Novel Approach

## Too Many Hints Regime, where LLL Breaks LWE

	Kyber-512	Falcon-512	Kyber-768	Dilithium-1024
#Hints	234	233	390	463
#Hints / Dim.	46 %	46 %	51 %	45 %
Runtime Basis Construction	3h	3h	1d	7d
Runtime Attack	immediate			

Perfect Hints

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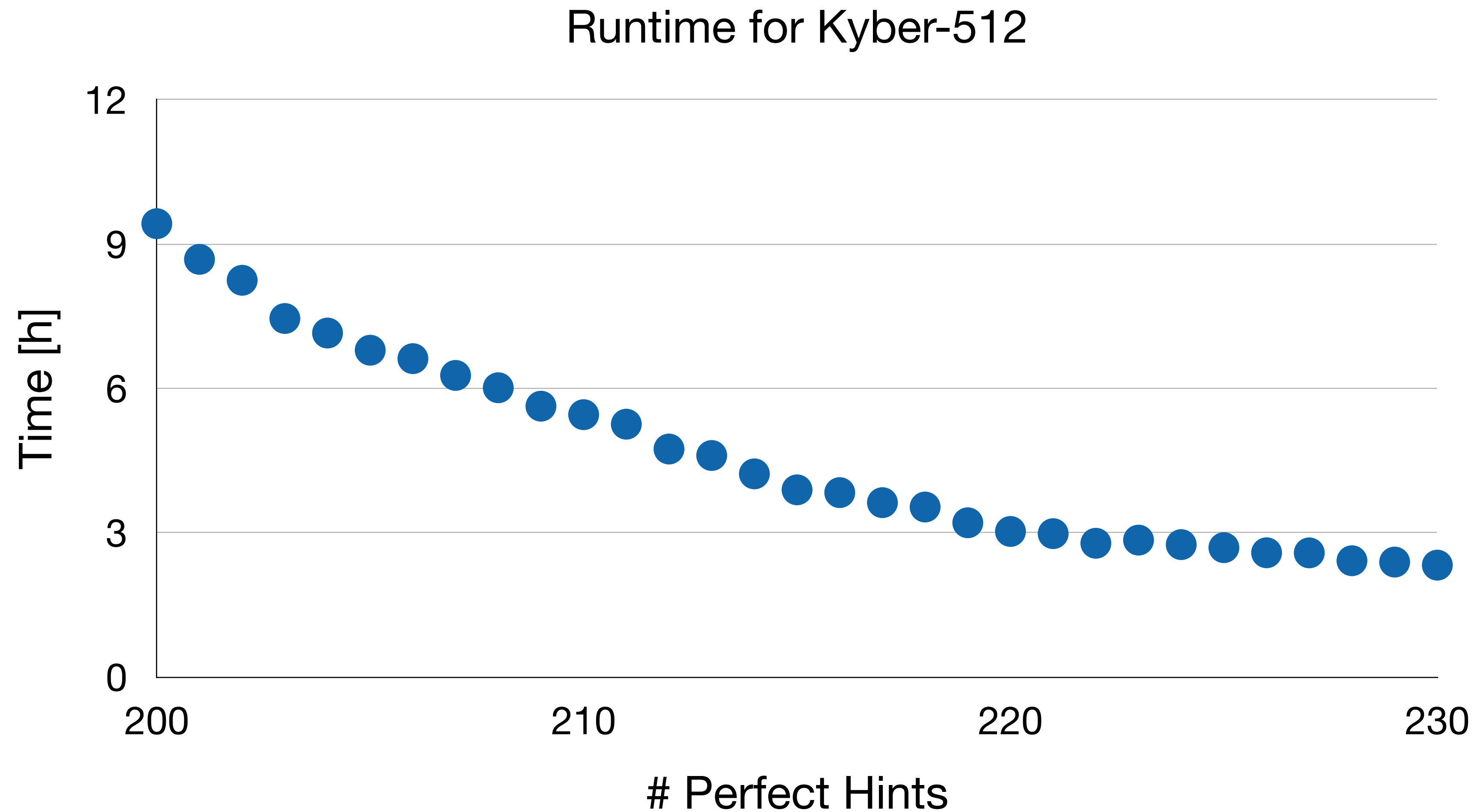
Perfect Hints

	Kyber-512	Falcon-512	Kyber-768	Dilithium-1024
#Hints	449	452	702	876
#Hints / Dim.	88 %	88 %	91 %	85 %
Runtime Basis Construction	immediate			
Runtime Attack	20min	20min	35min	10h

Mod- $q$  modular hints

# Runtime of our Novel Approach

## When Low-Blocksize BKZ Breaks LWE



# Summary

- ▶ **Novel approach for LWE with Hints**
  - ▶ Can efficiently construct lattice basis
  - ▶ Particularly efficient for mod- $q$  modular hints
  - ▶ Bases have same quality as original DDGR bases



<https://ia.cr/2023/777>

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  - ▶ Bases have same quality as original DDGR bases
- ▶ **Open source Python implementation**
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# Summary

- ▶ **Novel approach for LWE with Hints**
  - ▶ Can efficiently construct lattice basis
  - ▶ Particularly efficient for mod- $q$  modular hints
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- ▶ **Open source Python implementation**
  - ▶ [https://github.com/juliannowakowski/lwe\\_with\\_hints](https://github.com/juliannowakowski/lwe_with_hints)
- ▶ **Open Problem:**
  - ▶ DDGR framework also allows for **approximate hints**  $\ell_i \approx \langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{s} \rangle$ .
  - ▶ Efficiently integrating approximate hints remains an open problem.



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