

# Examples of non-algebraic classes in the Brown-Peterson tower

Derived algebraic geometry and  
chromatic homotopy theory

Isaac Newton Institute

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Steenrod's question:

Can **every class** in  $H_n(X; \mathbb{Z})$  be  
realized as the fundamental class  
of a **smooth n-manifold**  $M \rightarrow X$ ?

 & compact,  
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Thom's answer: In general, **no!**

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projective

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complex smooth algebraic variety  $X \subset \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^N$

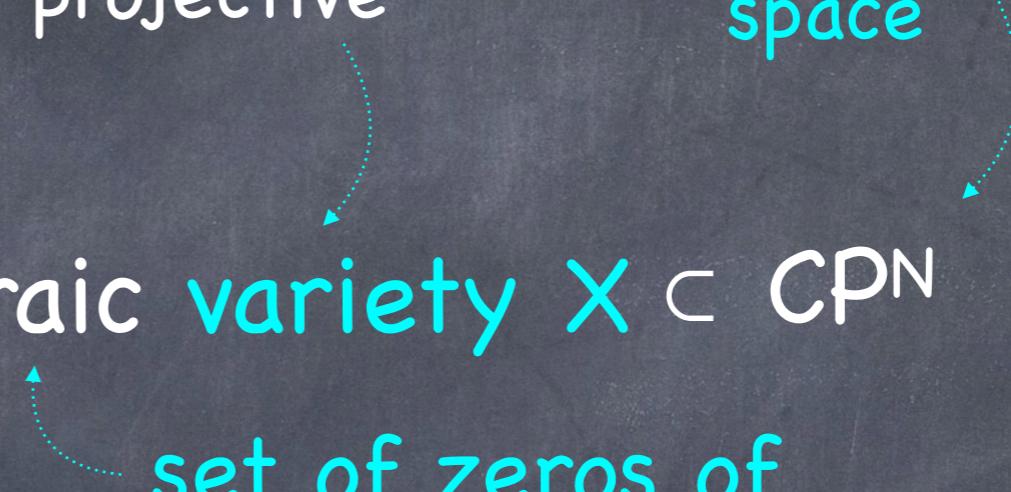
complex projective  
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set of zeros of  
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$[V] = [V_{sm}]$   
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{k-1} \\ \downarrow & \text{pullback} & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{\text{PD}}} & \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^k \subset \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty \end{array}$$

$K(2; \mathbb{Z})$

# How to do homotopy on $\text{Man}_c$ ?

category of complex  
manifolds

# How to do homotopy on $\text{Man}_C$ ?

$$\text{Man}_C \longrightarrow \text{Pre}_{\Delta}$$

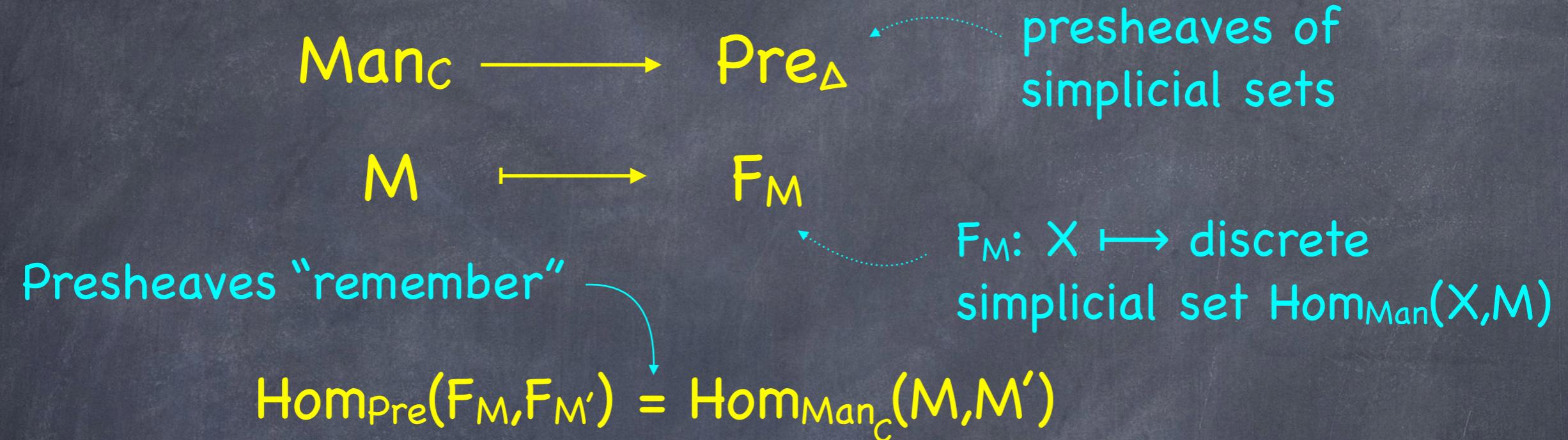
$$M \longrightarrow F_M$$

category of complex manifolds

presheaves of simplicial sets

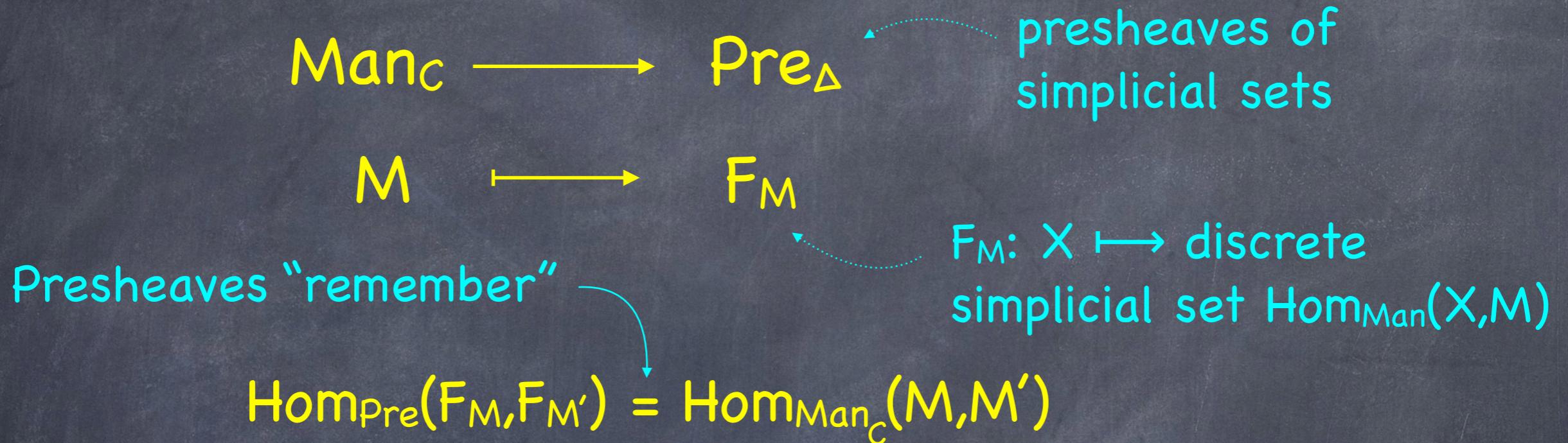
$F_M: X \mapsto$  discrete simplicial set  $\text{Hom}_{\text{Man}}(X, M)$

# How to do homotopy on $\text{Man}_C$ ?



# How to do homotopy on $\text{Man}_C$ ?

category of complex manifolds



- Given  $n \geq 0$ , the  $n$ -dimensional stalk of  $F_\bullet$ .

$$F_\bullet^{(n)} = \underset{r \rightarrow 0}{\operatorname{colim}} F_\bullet(B^n(r)) \text{ in } \text{Set}_\Delta$$

ball of radius  $r$  in  $n$ -dim. complex affine space

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$$M \longrightarrow F_M$$

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Presheaves “remember”

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Pre}}(F_M, F_{M'}) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Man}_C}(M, M')$$

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ball of radius  $r$  in  $n$ -dim. complex affine space

- A map  $F_\bullet \rightarrow G_\bullet$  is a **weak equivalence** in  $\text{Pre}_\Delta$

if  $F_\bullet^{(n)} \rightarrow G_\bullet^{(n)}$  is a weak equivalence in  $\text{Set}_\Delta$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

Homotopy category of  $\text{Man}_C$ :

- $\text{Man} \longrightarrow \text{Pre}_\Delta$

Homotopy category of  $\text{Man}_C$ : homotopy category of  
simplicial presheaves on  $\text{Man}_C$

- $\text{Man} \longrightarrow \text{hoPre}_\Delta = \text{Pre}_\Delta[\text{w.e.}^{-1}]$

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- Given  $M$  with an open cover  $\{U_\alpha\}$ :

$F_{U_\bullet} \rightarrow F_M$  is a weak equivalence.

$$\coprod U_\alpha \xrightarrow{\sim} \coprod U_\alpha \times_{X_\alpha} U_\beta \xrightarrow{\sim} \dots$$

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  - $\coprod U_\alpha \xrightarrow{\sim} \coprod U_\alpha \times_{X_\alpha} U_\beta \xrightarrow{\sim} \dots$
- Can replace  $\text{Set}_\Delta$  with  $\text{Spectra}$  and get a  
**stable** homotopy category  $\text{hoPrespectra}$  of  $\text{Man}_C$ .
  - $S^1 \wedge -$  with  $S^1$  viewed as a simplicial (constant) presheaf  
is made invertible.

Homotopy category of  $\text{Sm}_\mathbb{C}$ :

smooth complex varieties

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# Homotopy category of $\text{Sm}_C$ :

smooth complex varieties



simplicial presheaves on  $\text{Sm}_C$

Morel  
Voevodsky  
Jardine  
Joyal  
Isaksen  
Dugger  
...

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Homotopy category of  $\text{Sm}_C$ : motivic homotopy category of  
smooth complex varieties



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$A^1 \times X \rightarrow X$  for any  $X$

affine line over  $C$

Homotopy category of  $\text{Sm}_C$ : motivic homotopy category of  
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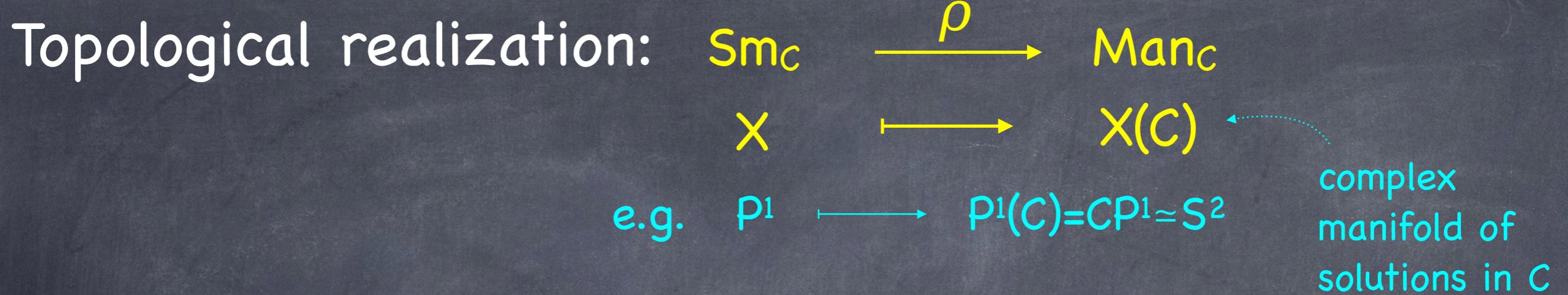
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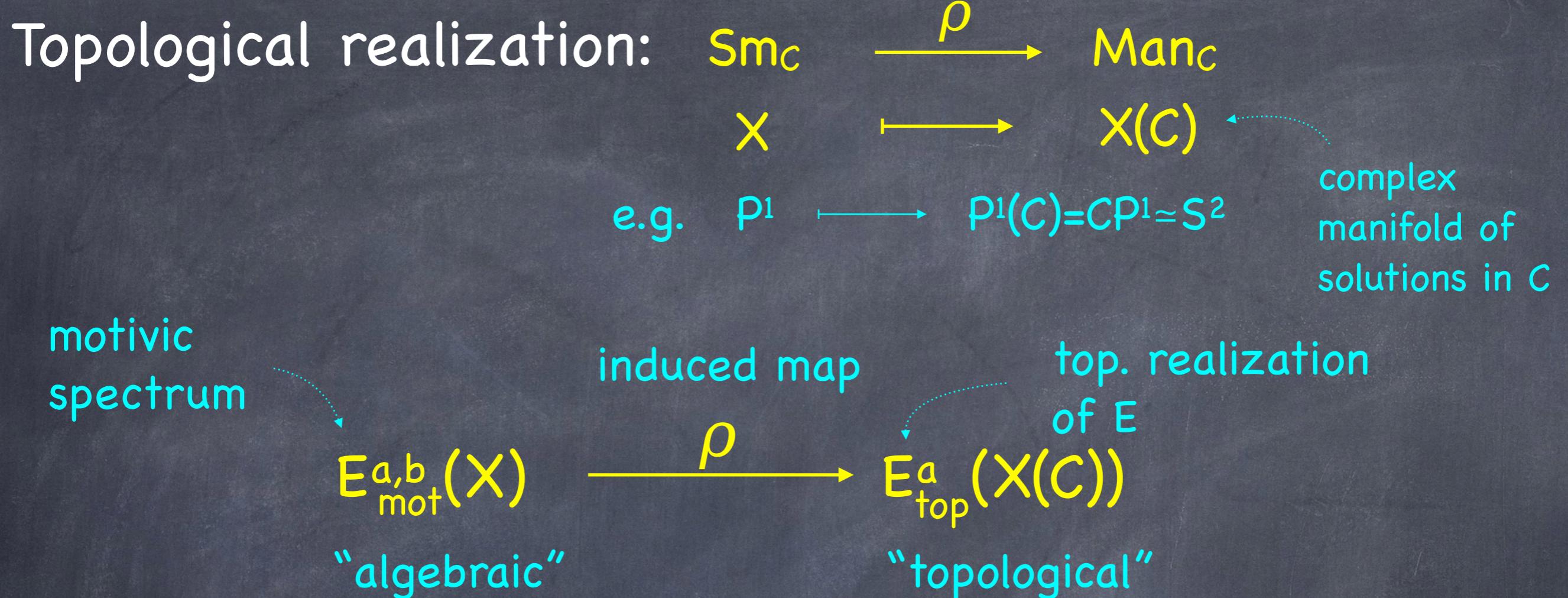
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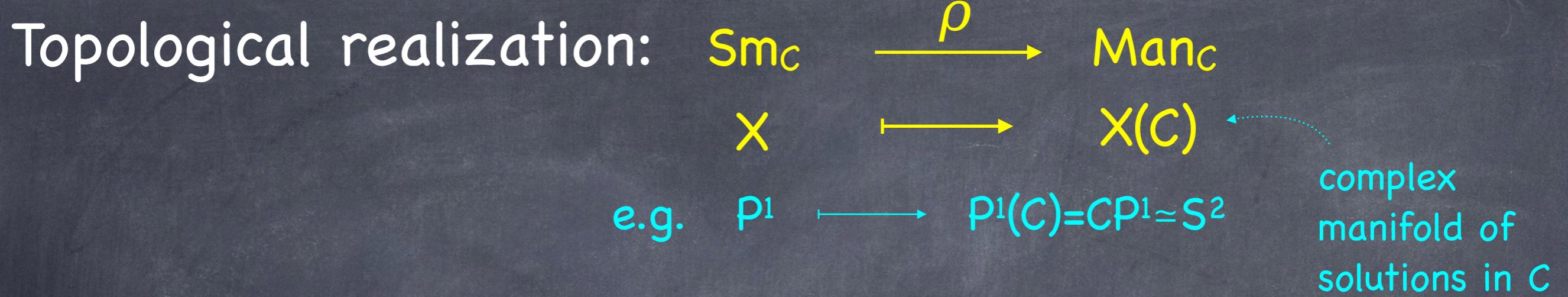
- stable motivic homotopy category of  $\text{Sm}_C$

- $P^1 \wedge$ - the projective line

- $S^1 \wedge$ - the “simplicial circle” and  $(A^1 - 0) \wedge$ - the “Tate circle”







motivic spectrum

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_{\text{mot}}^{a,b}(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{induced map}} & E_{\text{top}}^a(X(C)) \\ \text{"algebraic"} & & \text{"topological"} \end{array}$$

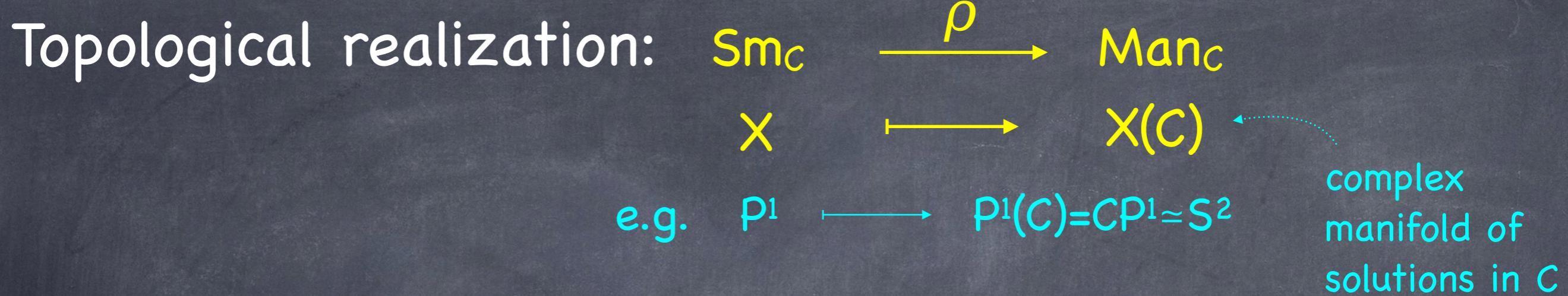
$\rho$

top. realization of  $E$

Example:

$$[V \subset X] \in HZ_{\text{mot}}^{2n,n}(X) \longrightarrow HZ_{\text{top}}^{2n}(X(C)) = H^{2n}(X; \mathbb{Z})$$

$[V_{\text{sm}}]$



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$[V_{\text{sm}}]$

Question: How can we produce classes in  $E_{\text{top}}^{2*}(X(C))$  which are not algebraic, i.e., are not in the image of  $\rho$ ?

Atiyah-Hirzebruch obstruction:

given

algebraic  $V \subset X$

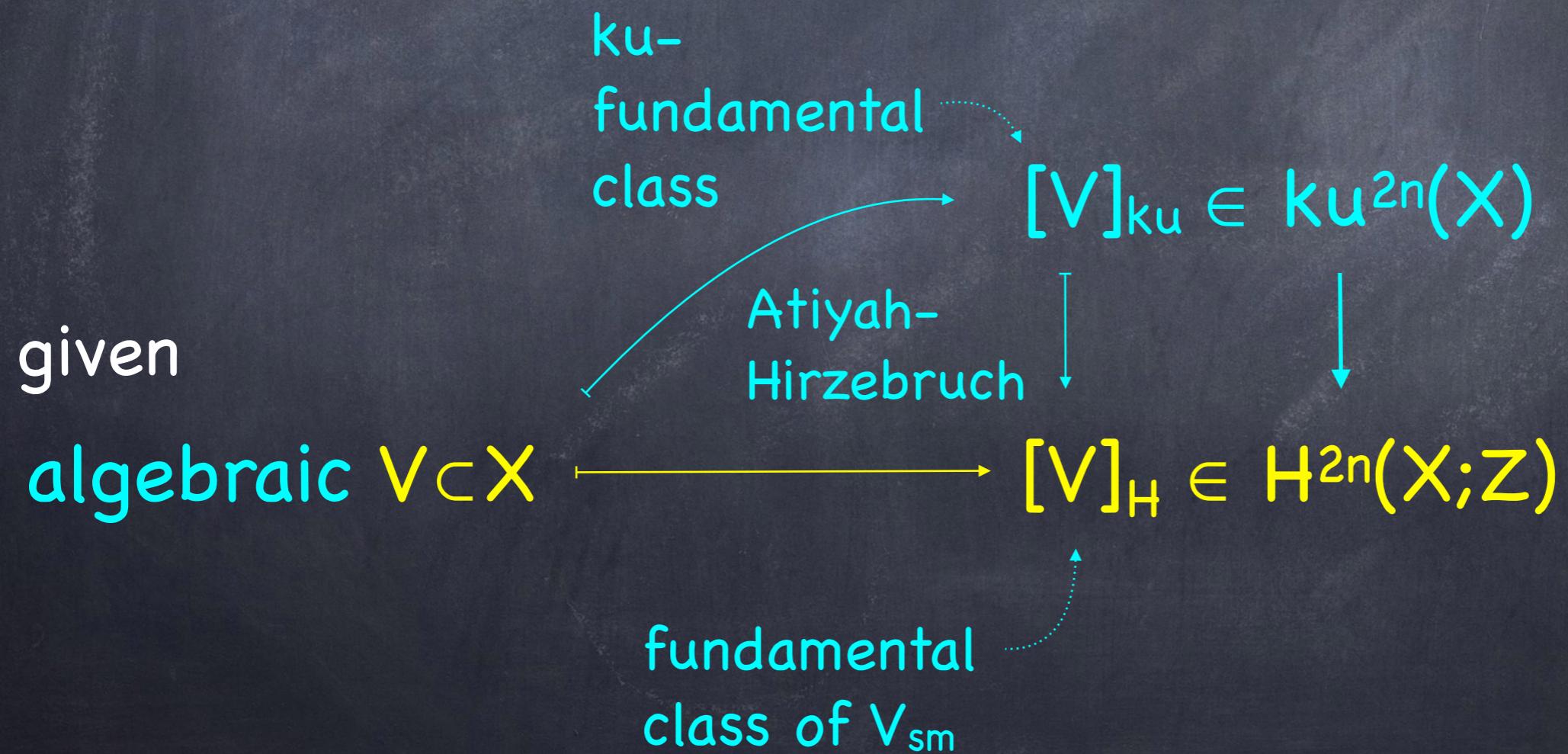
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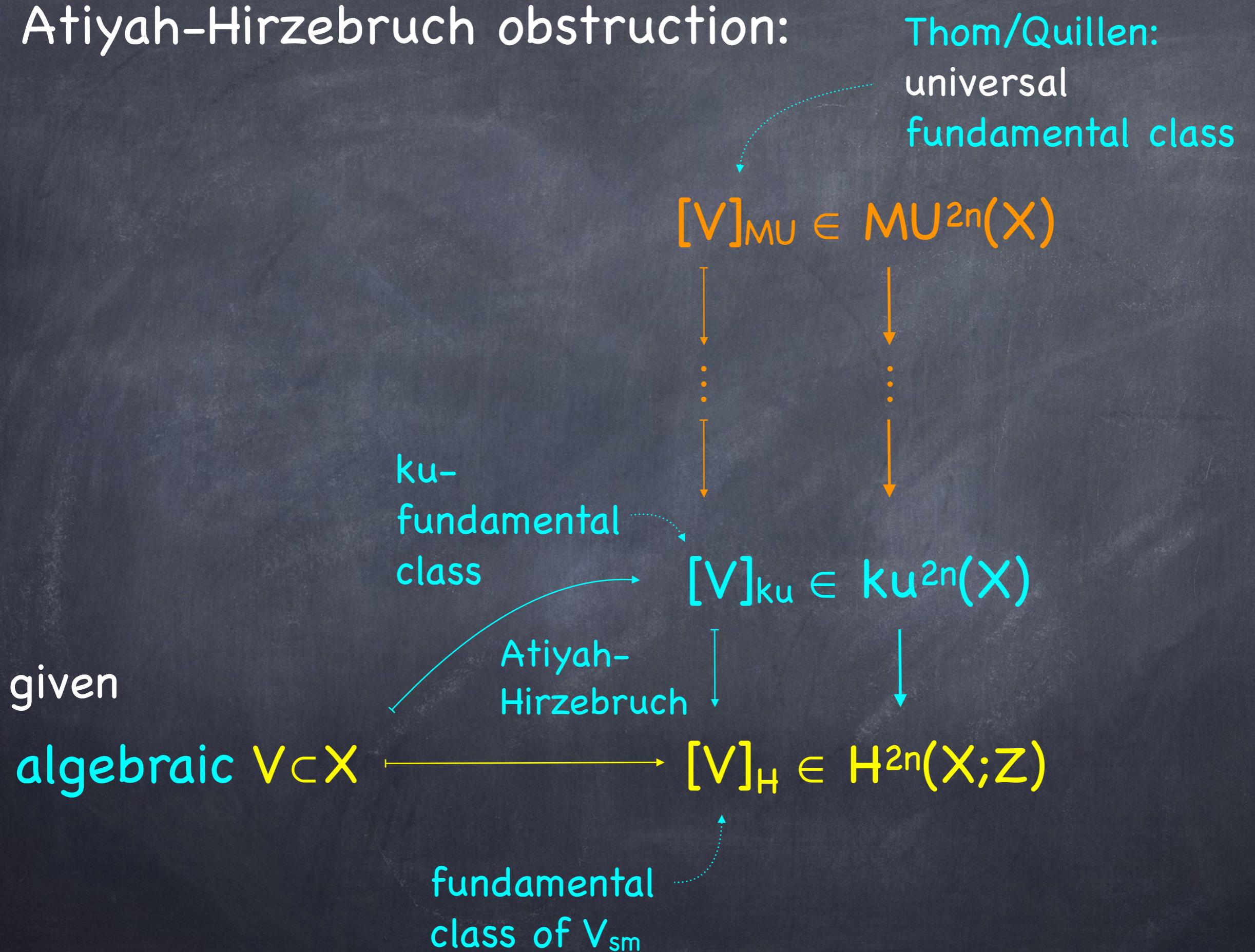
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fundamental  
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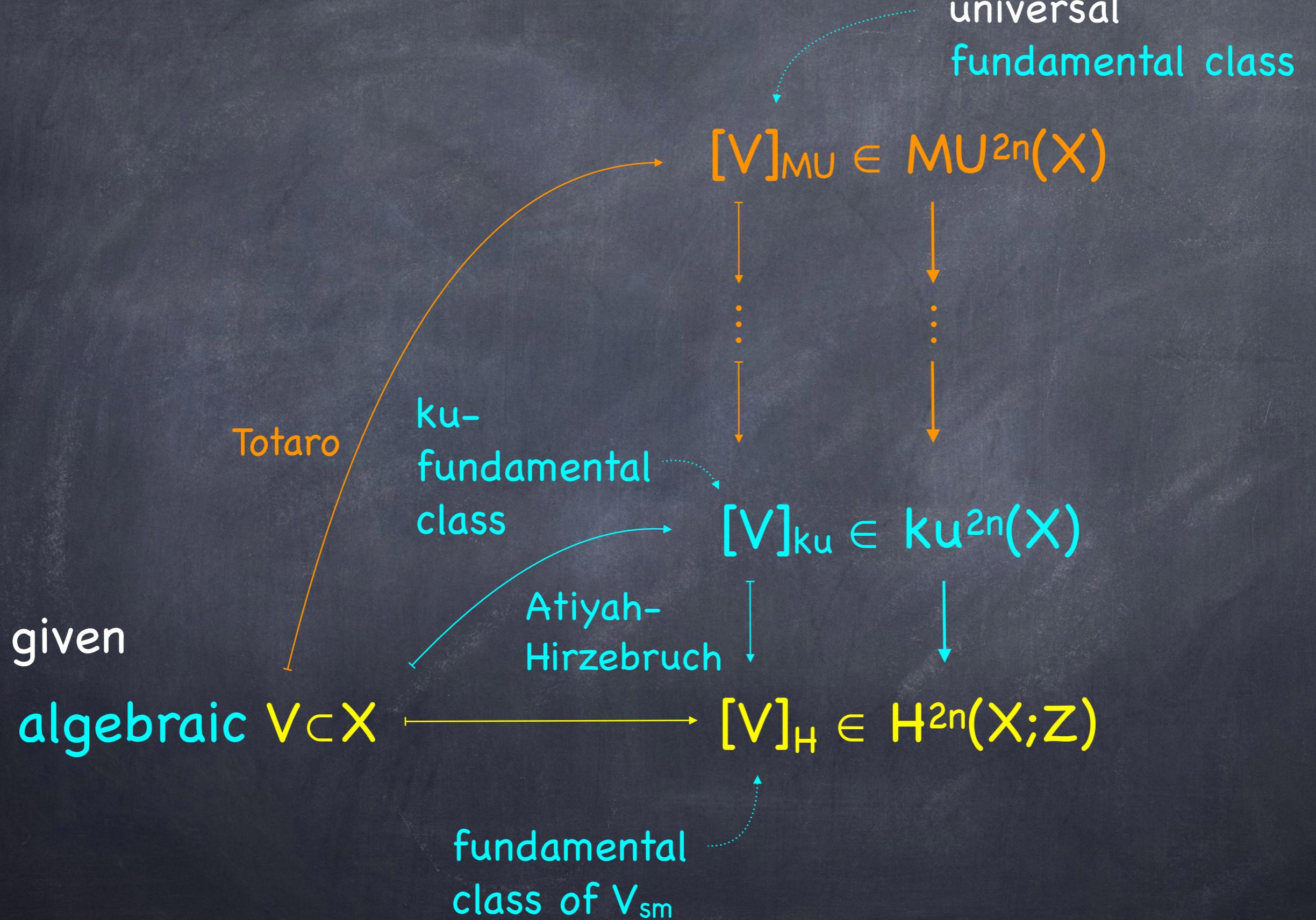
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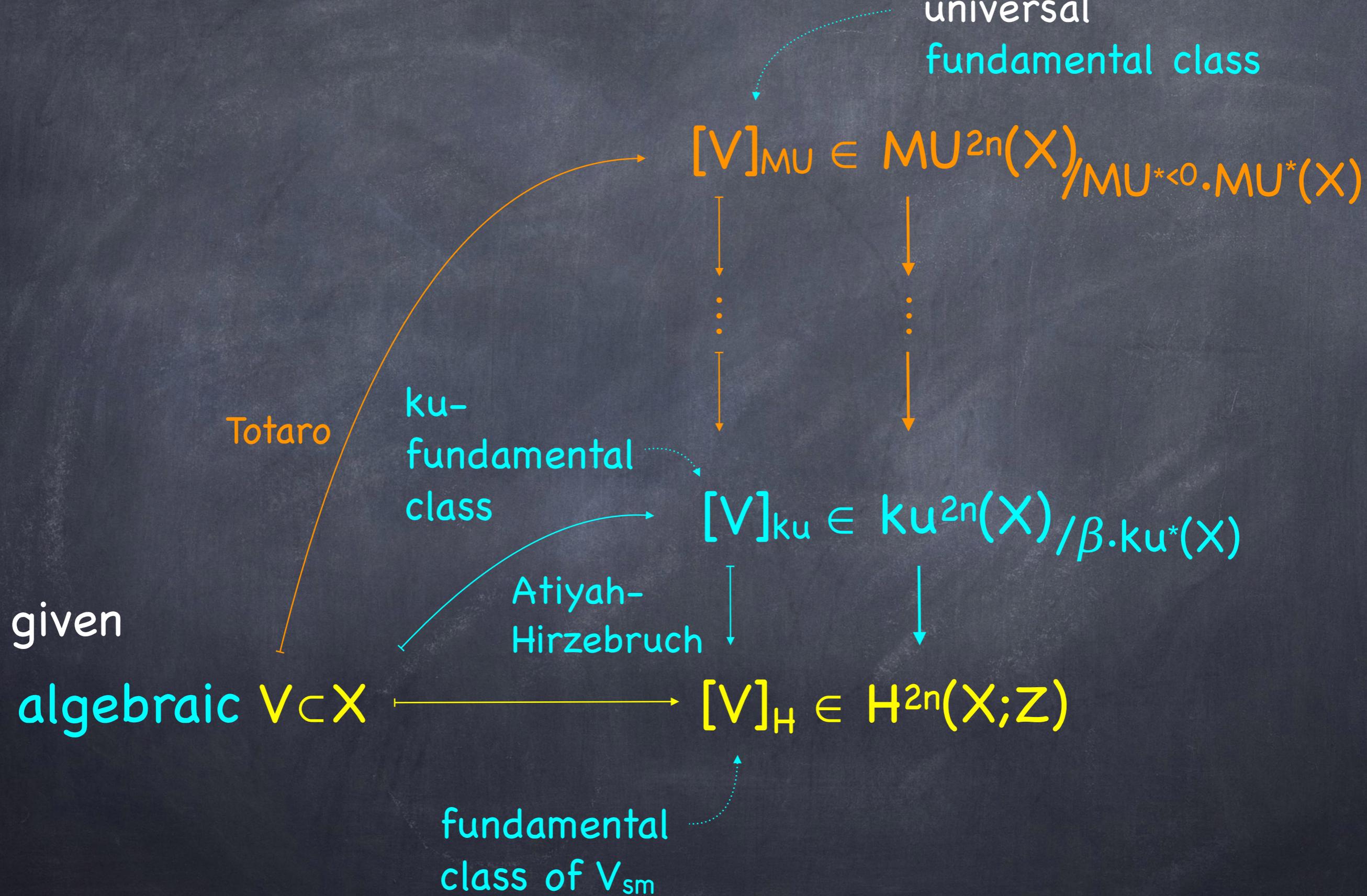
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Thom/Quillen:  
universal  
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# Atiyah-Hirzebruch obstruction:

alg. Thom spectrum  
 $MGL^{2n,n}(X)$

$H_{\text{mot}}^{2n,n}(X; \mathbb{Z})$

given

algebraic  $V \subset X$

Thom/Quillen:  
universal  
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$[V]_{MU} \in MU^{2n}(X) / MU^{* < 0} \cdot MU^*(X)$

$[V]_{ku} \in ku^{2n}(X) / \beta \cdot ku^*(X)$

$[V]_H \in H^{2n}(X; \mathbb{Z})$

fundamental  
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Totaro

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Atiyah-  
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# Atiyah-Hirzebruch obstruction:

alg. Thom spectrum

$$\mathbf{MGL}^{2n,n}(X) / \mathbf{MU}^{*, <0} \cdot \mathbf{MGL}^{2*, *}(X)$$

$\approx$  Levine-Morel

$$H_{\mathrm{mot}}^{2n,n}(X; \mathbb{Z})$$

Totaro

$$\xrightarrow{\quad \text{ku-fundamental class} \quad}$$

Atiyah-Hirzebruch

given algebraic  $V \subset X$

$$\xrightarrow{\quad \text{fundamental class of } V_{\mathrm{sm}} \quad}$$

Thom/Quillen:  
universal  
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$$\vdots$$

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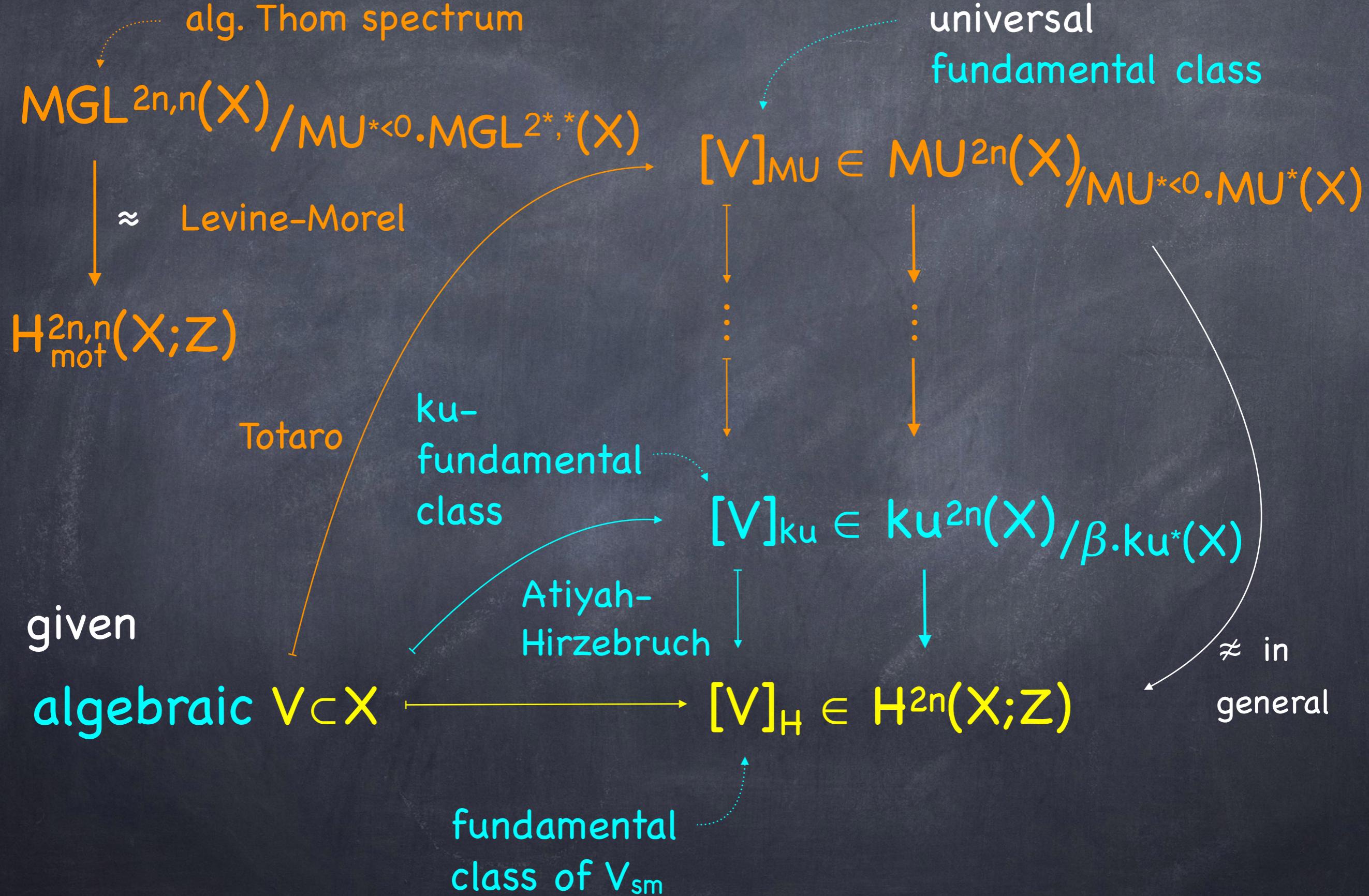
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$$\downarrow$$

$$[V]_H \in H^{2n}(X; \mathbb{Z})$$

fundamental class of  $V_{\mathrm{sm}}$

# Atiyah-Hirzebruch obstruction:



The Brown-Peterson tower:

fix a prime  $p$

$p$ -local universal theory

Brown-Peterson spectra  $BP$  with

$$BP_* = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, \dots].$$

$$|v_i| = 2(p^i - 1)$$

Brown-Peterson  
Quillen  
Wilson  
⋮

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⋮

quotient map

For every n:

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quotient map

For every  $n$ :  $BP \longrightarrow BP/(v_{n+1}, \dots) =: BP\langle n \rangle$

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The Brown-Peterson tower:

$$BP \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow BP\langle n \rangle \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow BP\langle 1 \rangle \rightarrow BP\langle 0 \rangle \rightarrow BP\langle -1 \rangle$$

$$\mathsf{HZ}_{(p)} \longrightarrow \mathsf{HF}_p$$

Milnor operations:

# Milnor operations:

For every  $n$ :

stable cofibre sequence

$$\Sigma^{|v_n|} BP\langle n \rangle \xrightarrow{v_n} BP\langle n \rangle \longrightarrow BP\langle n-1 \rangle \longrightarrow \Sigma^{|v_n|+1} BP\langle n \rangle$$

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with an induced exact sequence (for any space  $Y$ )

$$BP\langle n \rangle^{*+|v_n|}(Y) \longrightarrow BP\langle n \rangle^*(Y)$$
$$BP\langle n-1 \rangle^*(Y) \xrightarrow{q_n} BP\langle n \rangle^{*+|v_n|+1}(Y)$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & BP\langle n \rangle^* + |v_n| (Y) & \longrightarrow & BP\langle n \rangle^*(Y) \\ & \curvearrowright & & & \curvearrowright \\ BP\langle n-1 \rangle & \xrightarrow{\quad} & BP\langle n-1 \rangle^*(Y) & \xrightarrow{q_n} & BP\langle n \rangle^* + |v_n| + 1 (Y) \\ \downarrow \text{Thom map} & \curvearrowright & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ HF_p & & H^*(Y; F_p) & \longrightarrow & H^* + |v_n| + 1 (Y; F_p) \end{array}$$

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 HF_p & \curvearrowright & H^*(Y; F_p) & \xrightarrow{Q_n} & H^{*+|v_n|+1}(Y; F_p)
 \end{array}$$

nth Milnor operation:  
 $Q_0 = \text{Bockstein}$   
 $Q_n = P^{p^{n-1}} Q_{n-1} - Q_{n-1} P^{p^{n-1}}$

The LMT obstruction in action:

$X \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$  smooth  
projective algebraic

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \text{BP}^{2*}(X) & & \\ & \curvearrowleft & & & \\ \text{BP}\langle n \rangle^{2*}(X) & \longrightarrow & \text{BP}\langle n-1 \rangle^{2*}(X) & \xrightarrow{q_n} & \text{BP}\langle n \rangle^{2*+|v_n|+1}(X) \\ & & \downarrow & \curvearrowright & \downarrow \\ & & H^{2*}(X; \mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{Q_n} & H^{2*+|v_n|+1}(X; \mathbb{F}_p) \end{array}$$

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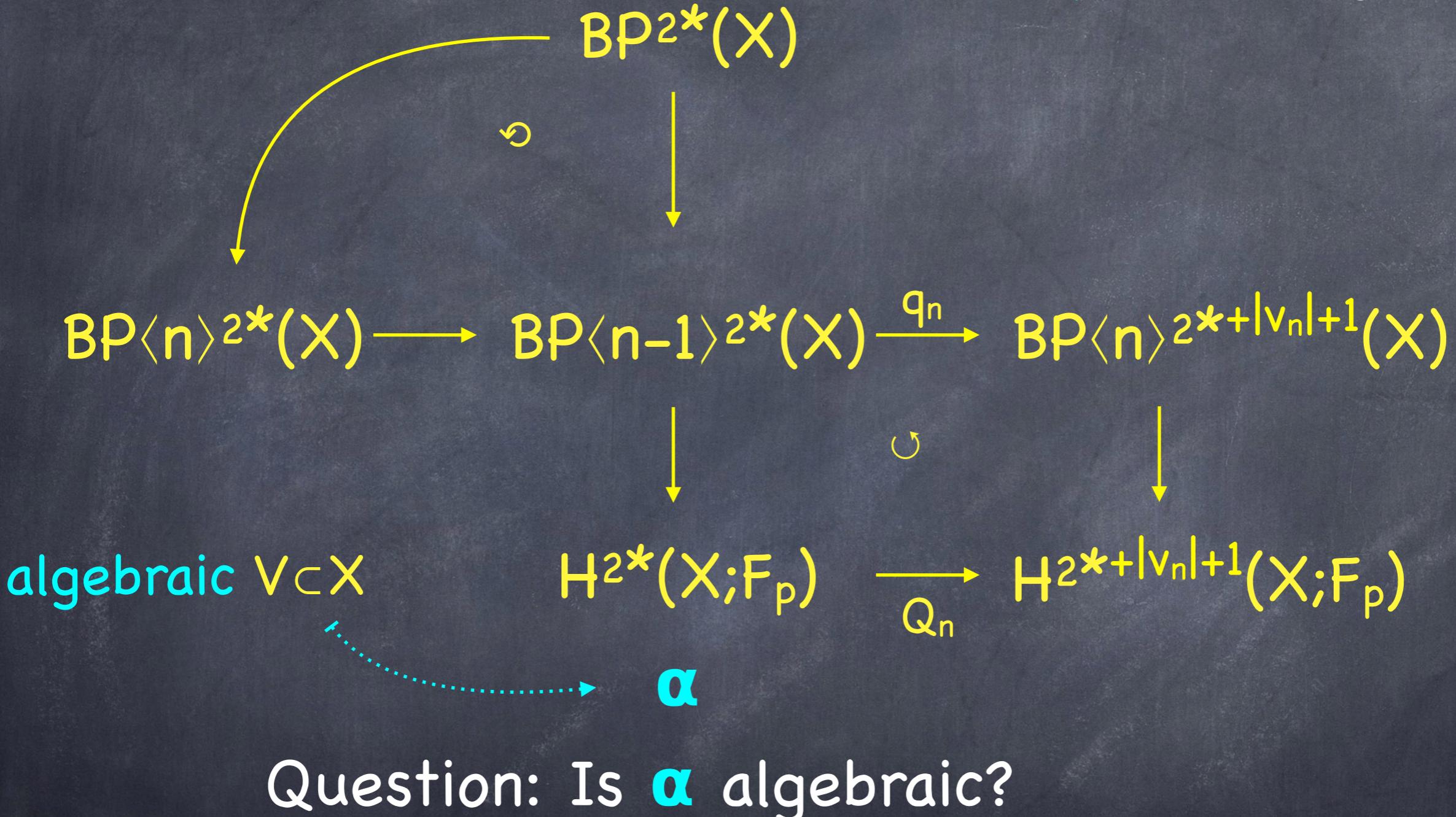
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 \end{array}$$

**$\alpha$**

Question: Is  $\alpha$  algebraic?

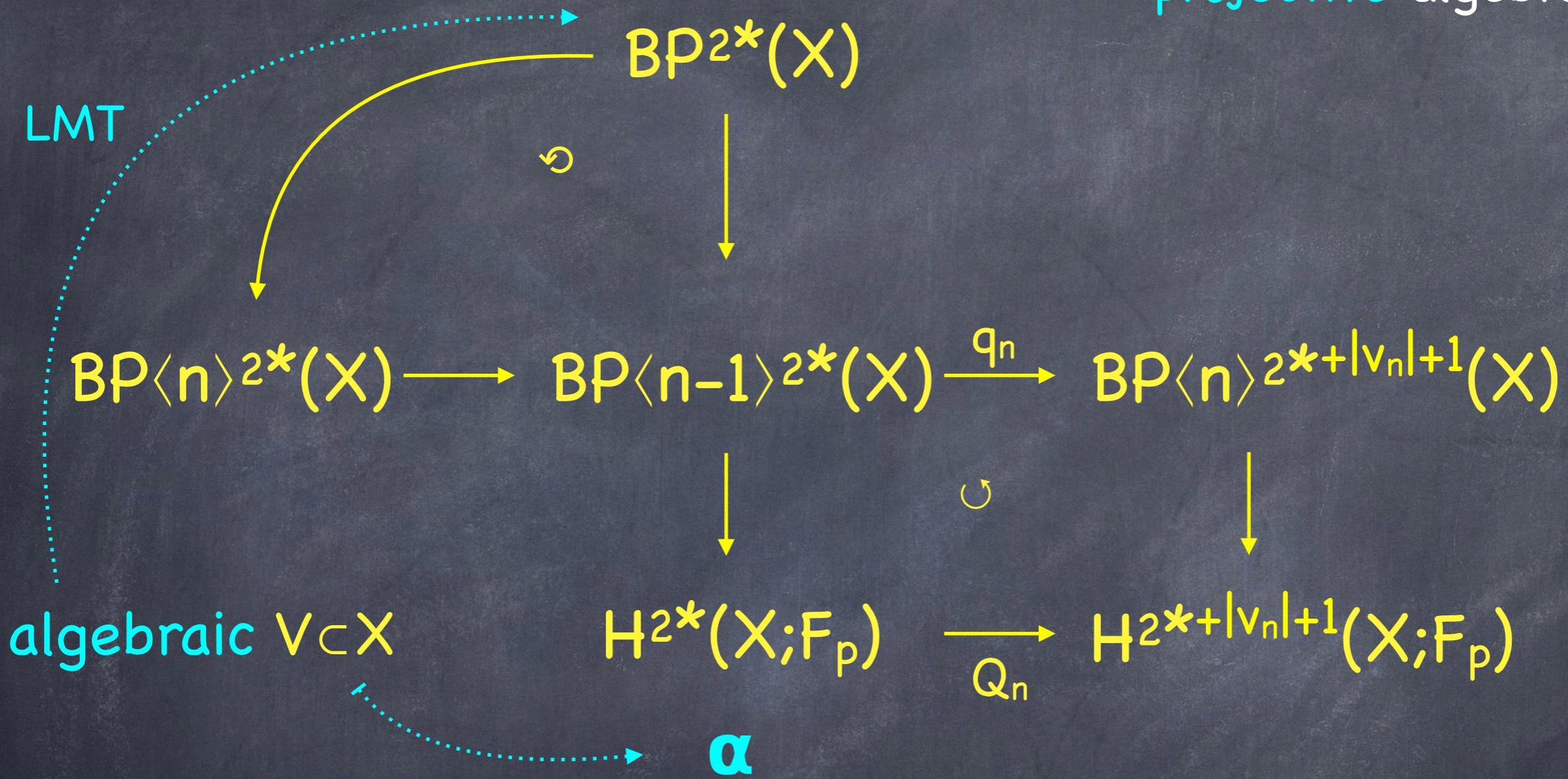
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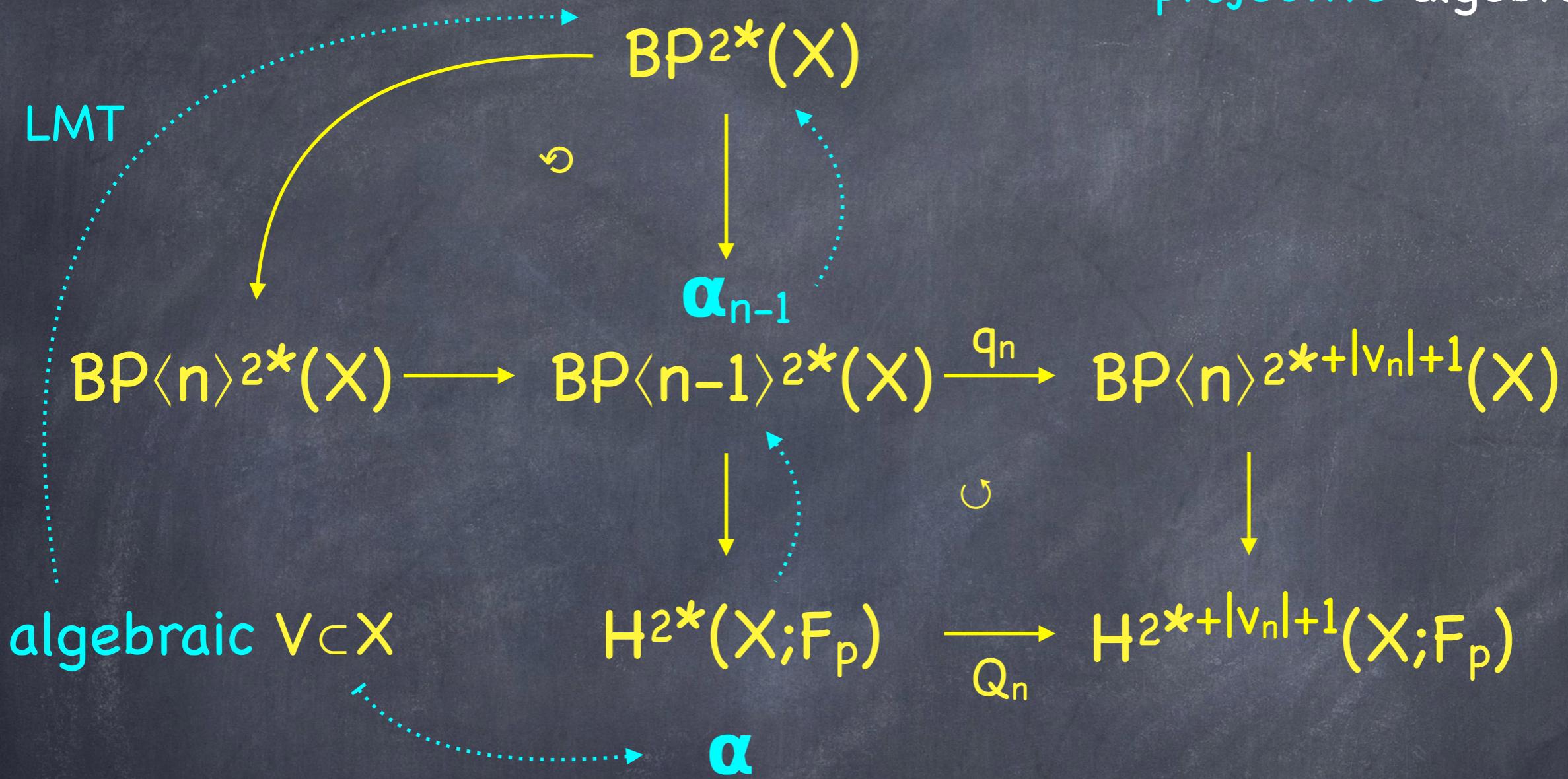
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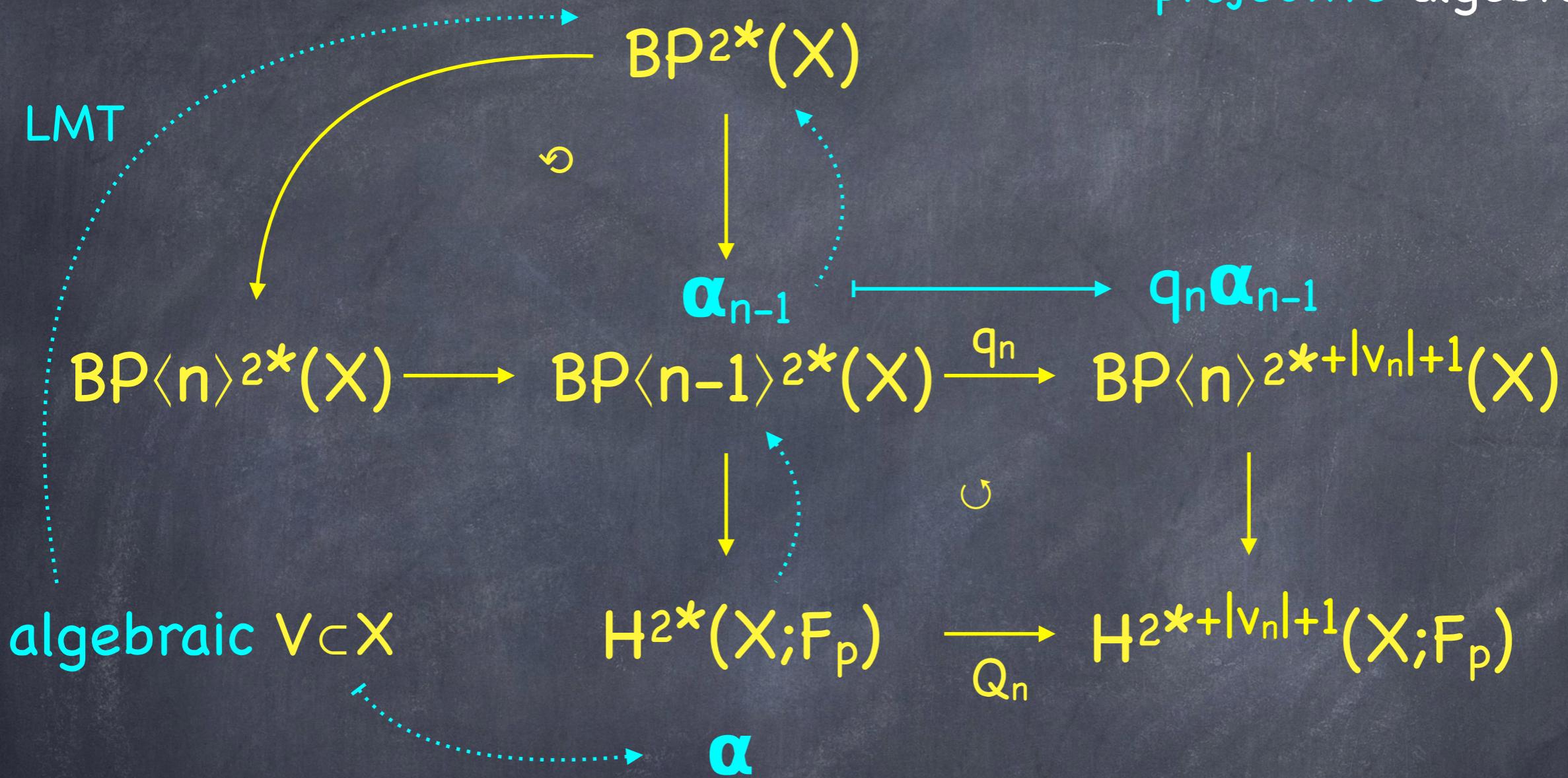
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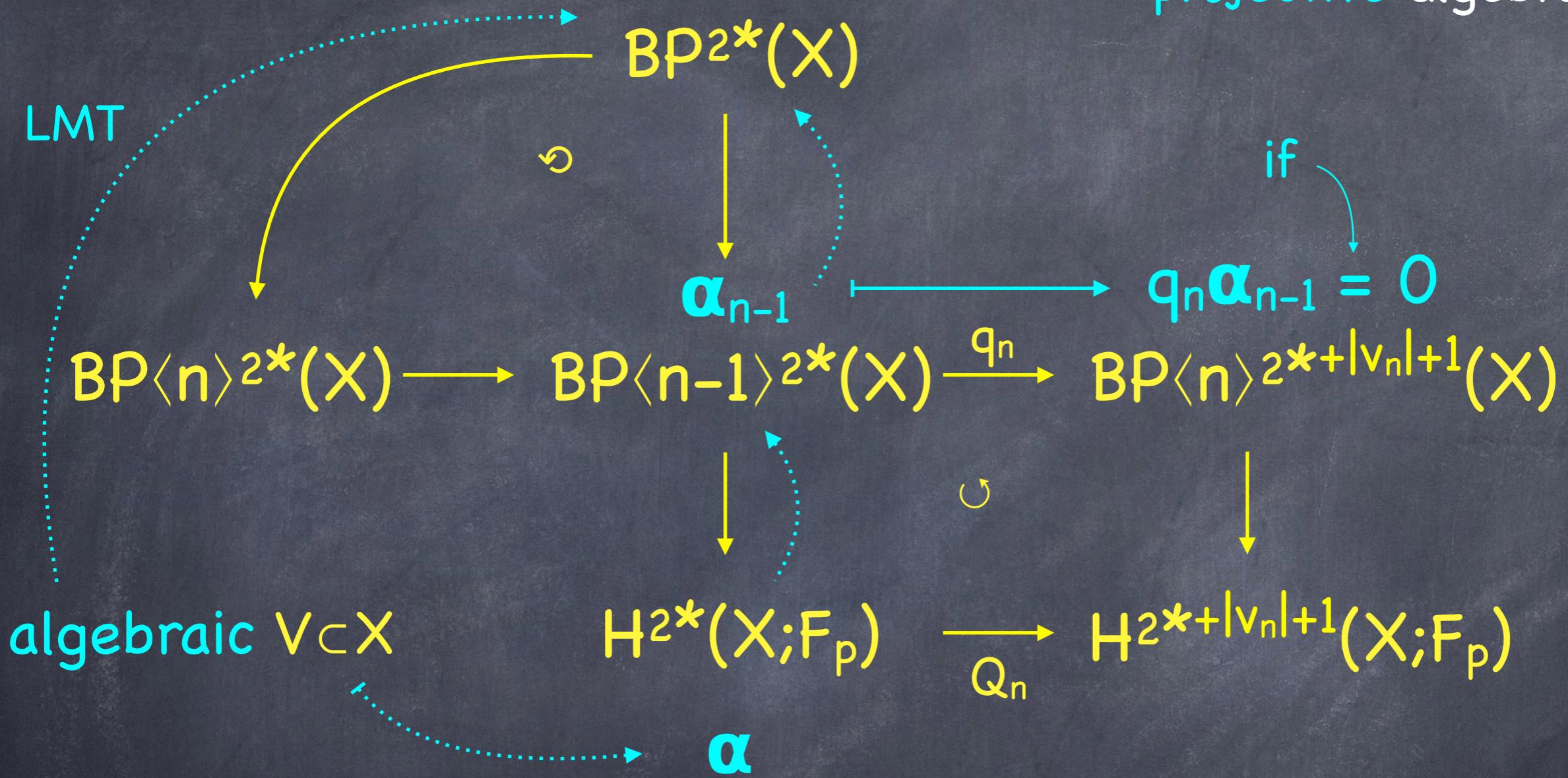
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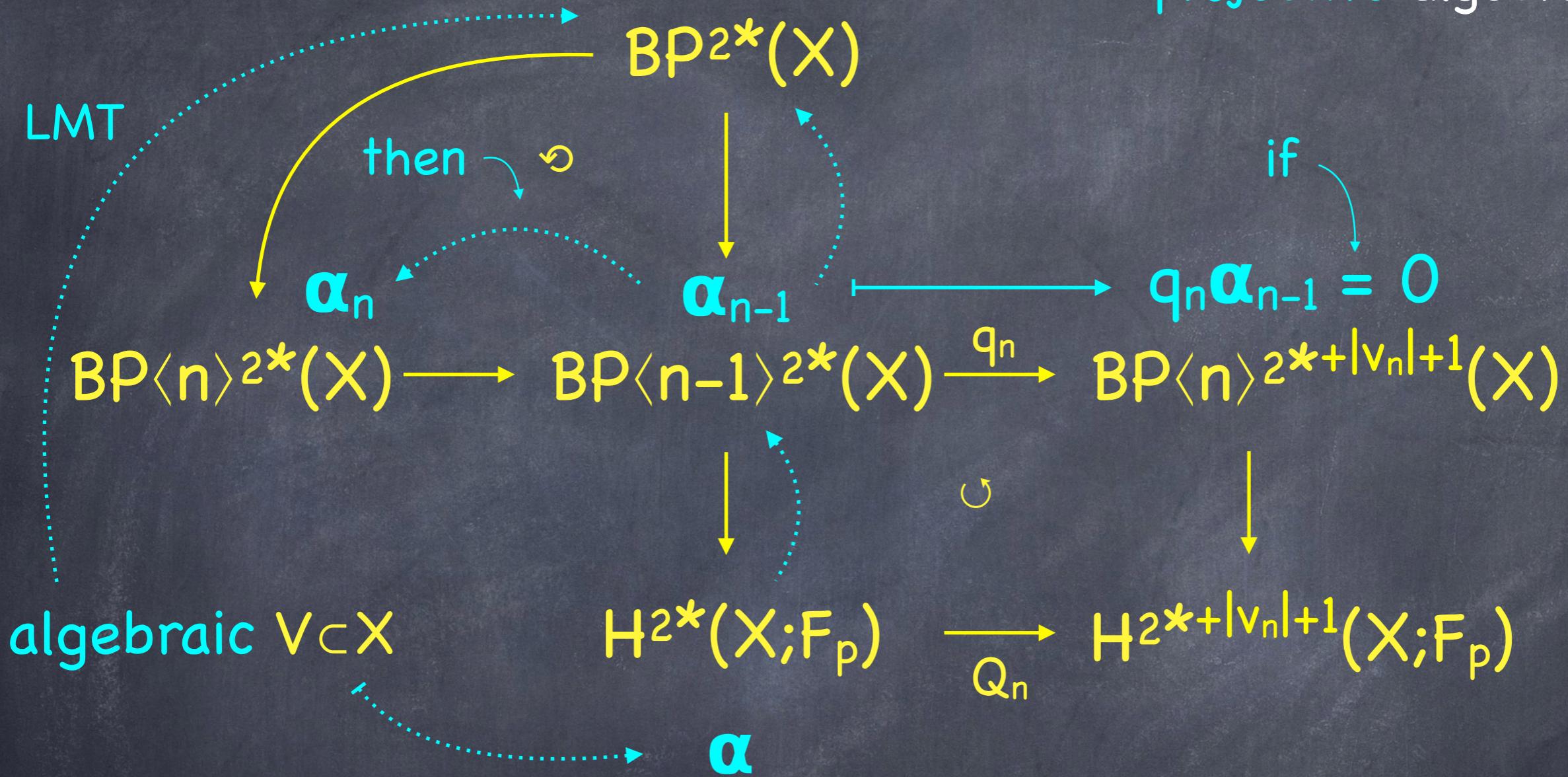
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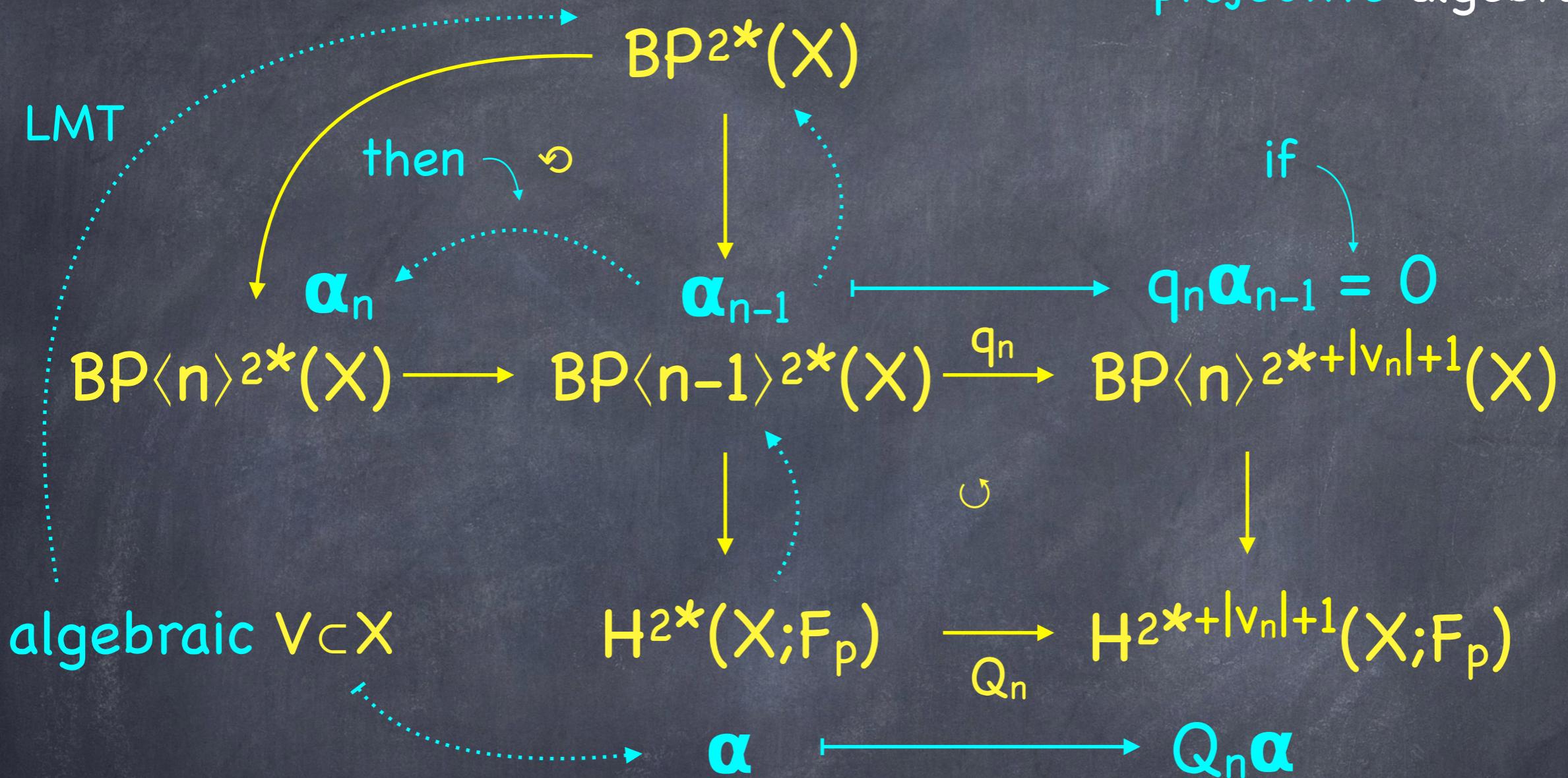
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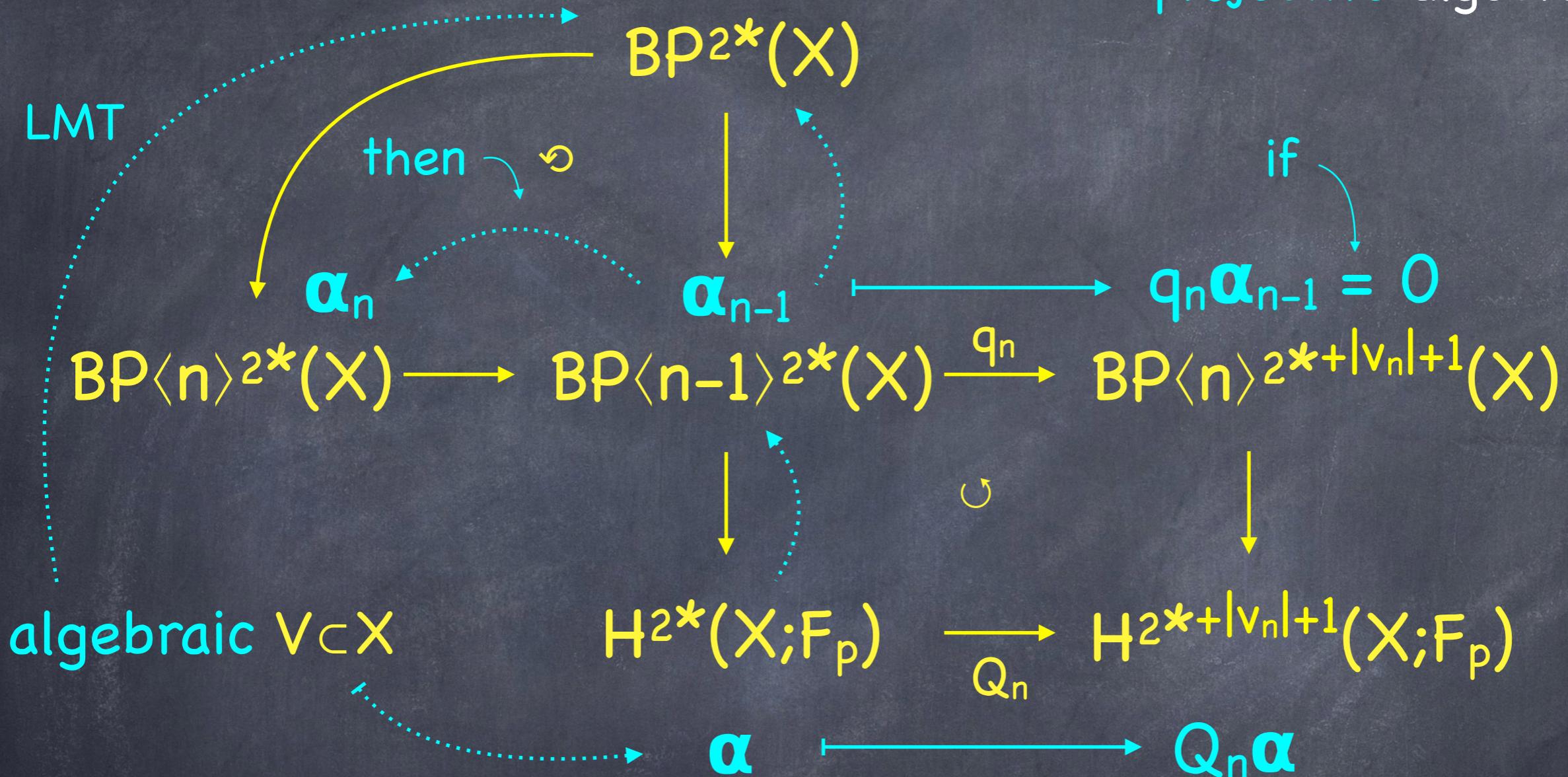
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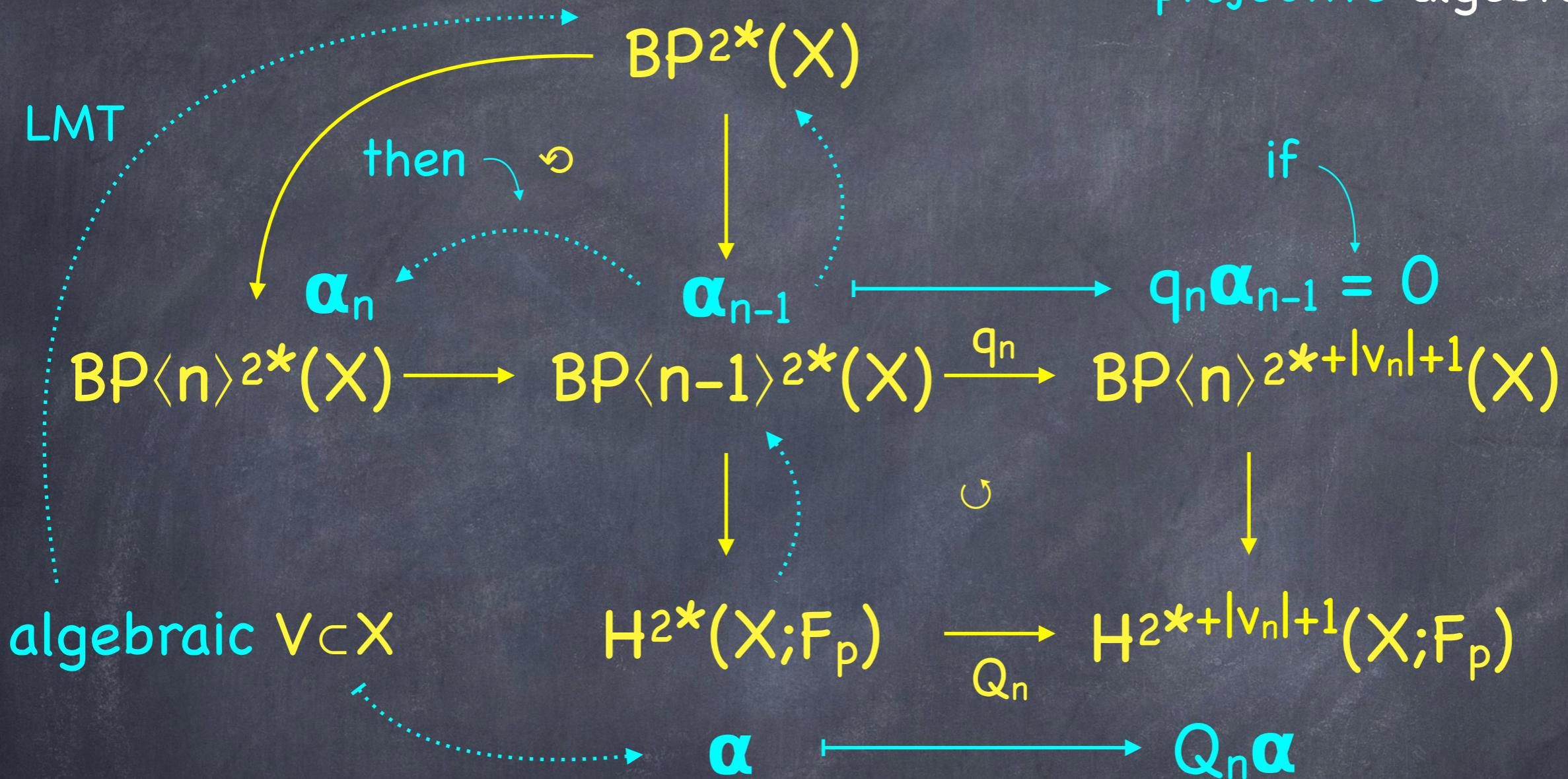
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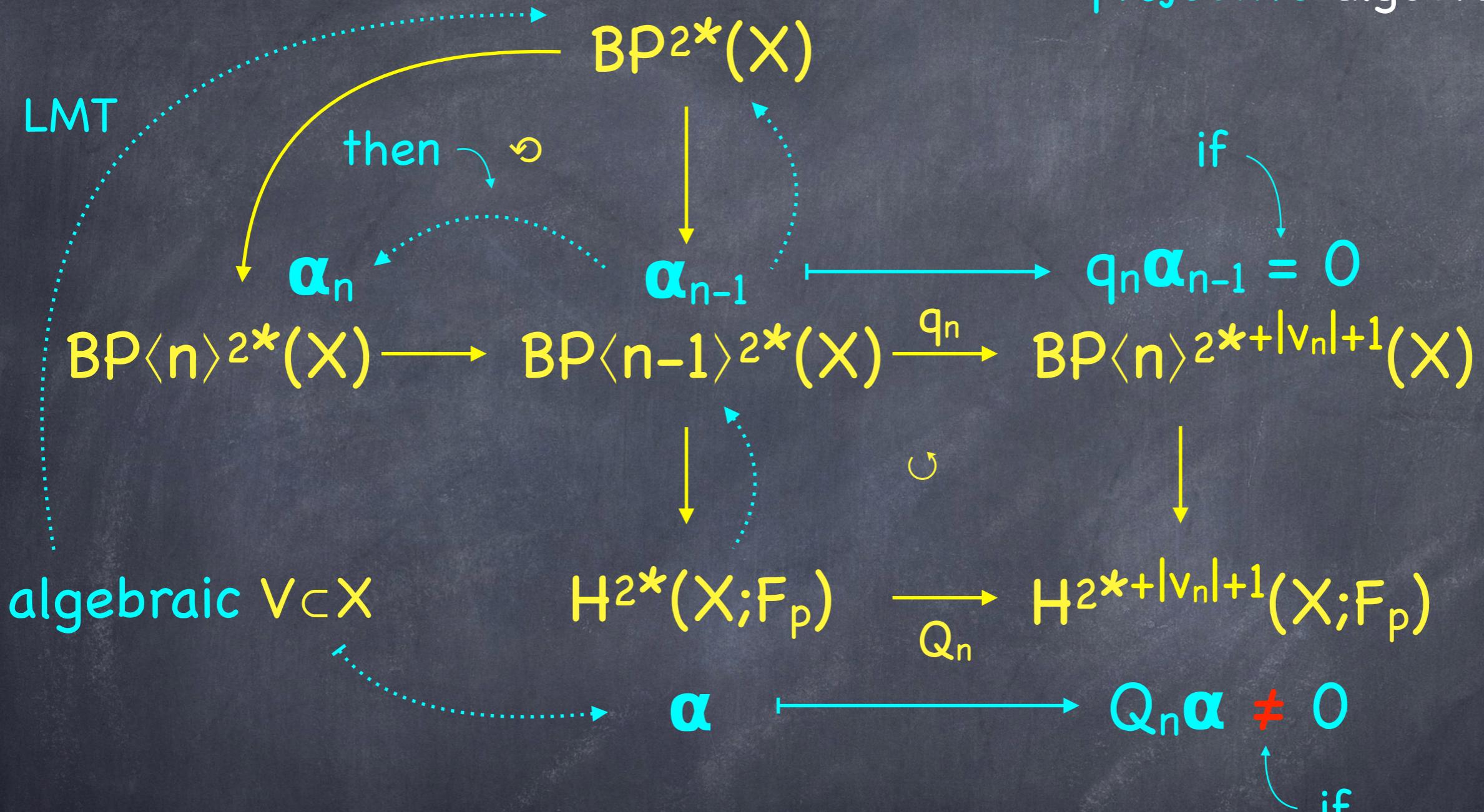
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Levine-Morel-Totaro obstruction:

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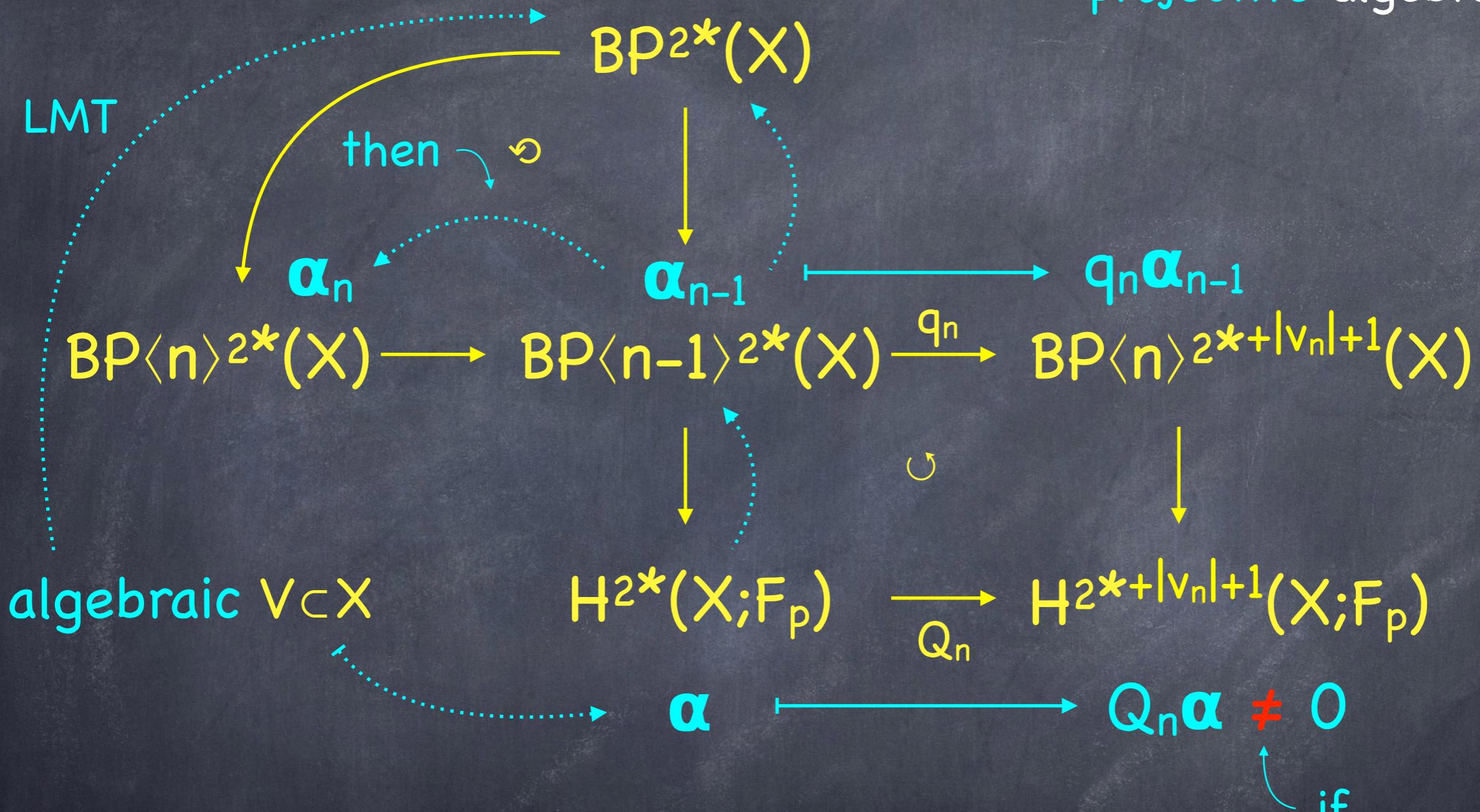


Levine-Morel-Totaro obstruction:

If  $Q_n \alpha \neq 0$ ,

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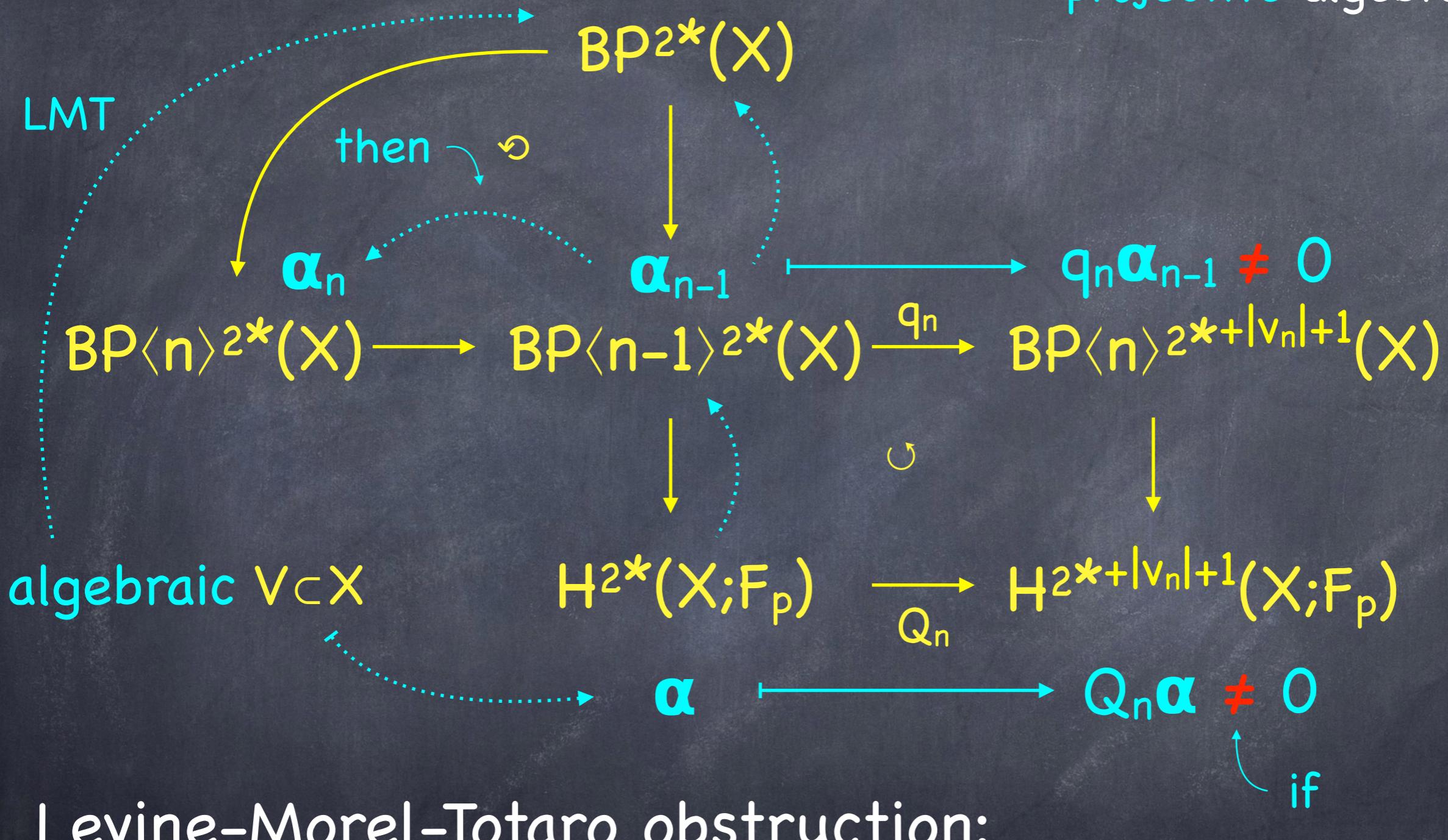


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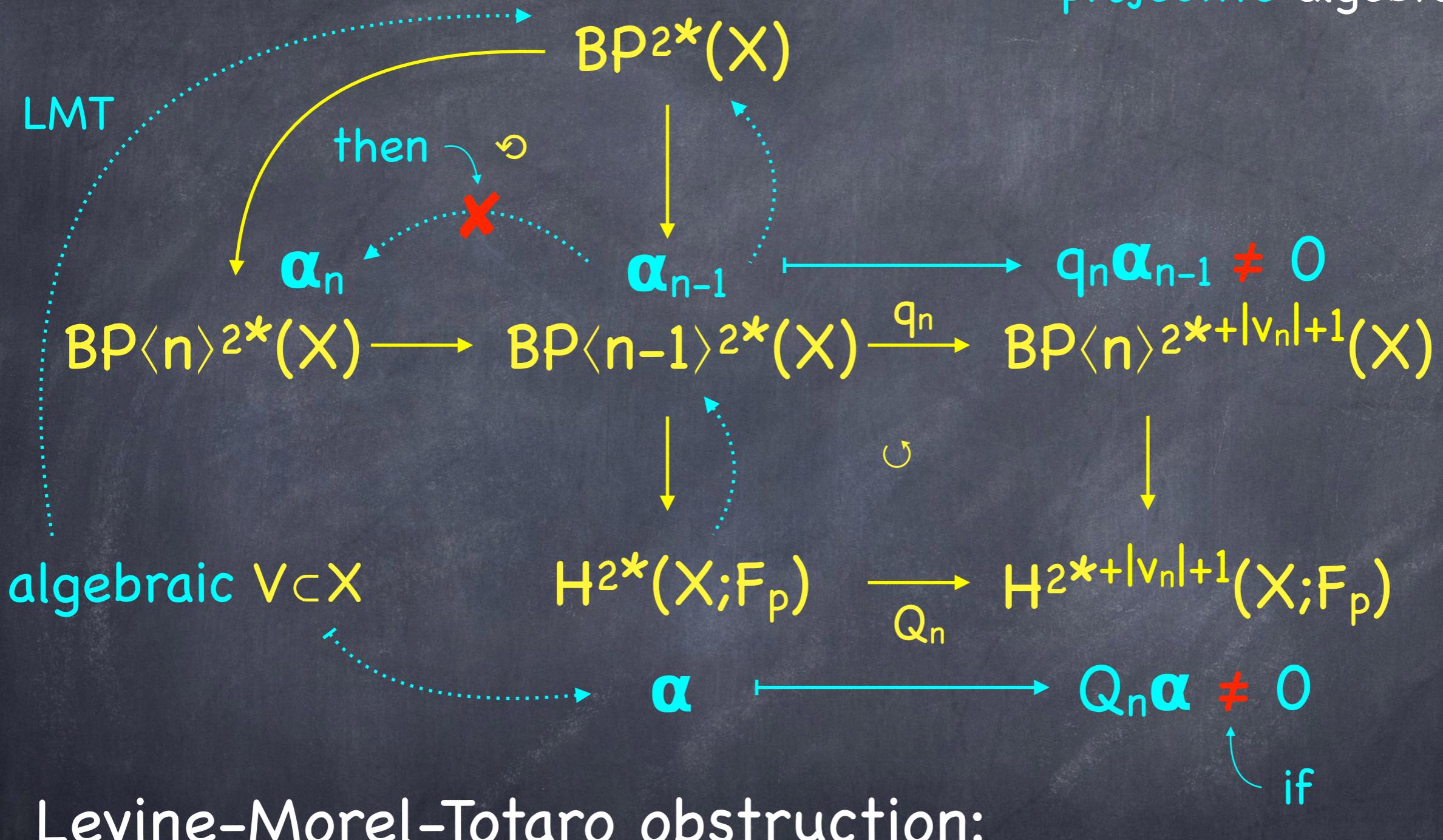


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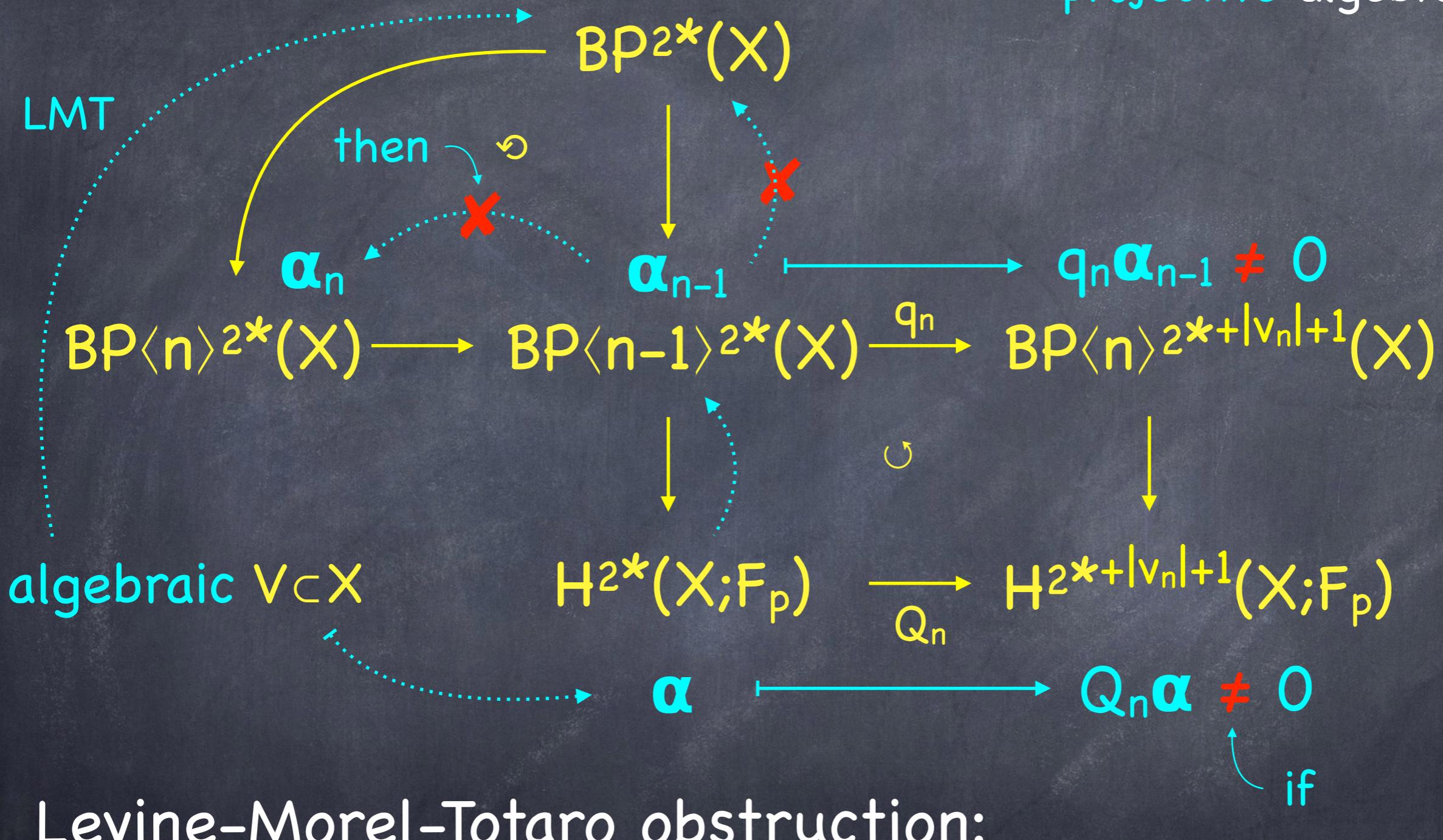


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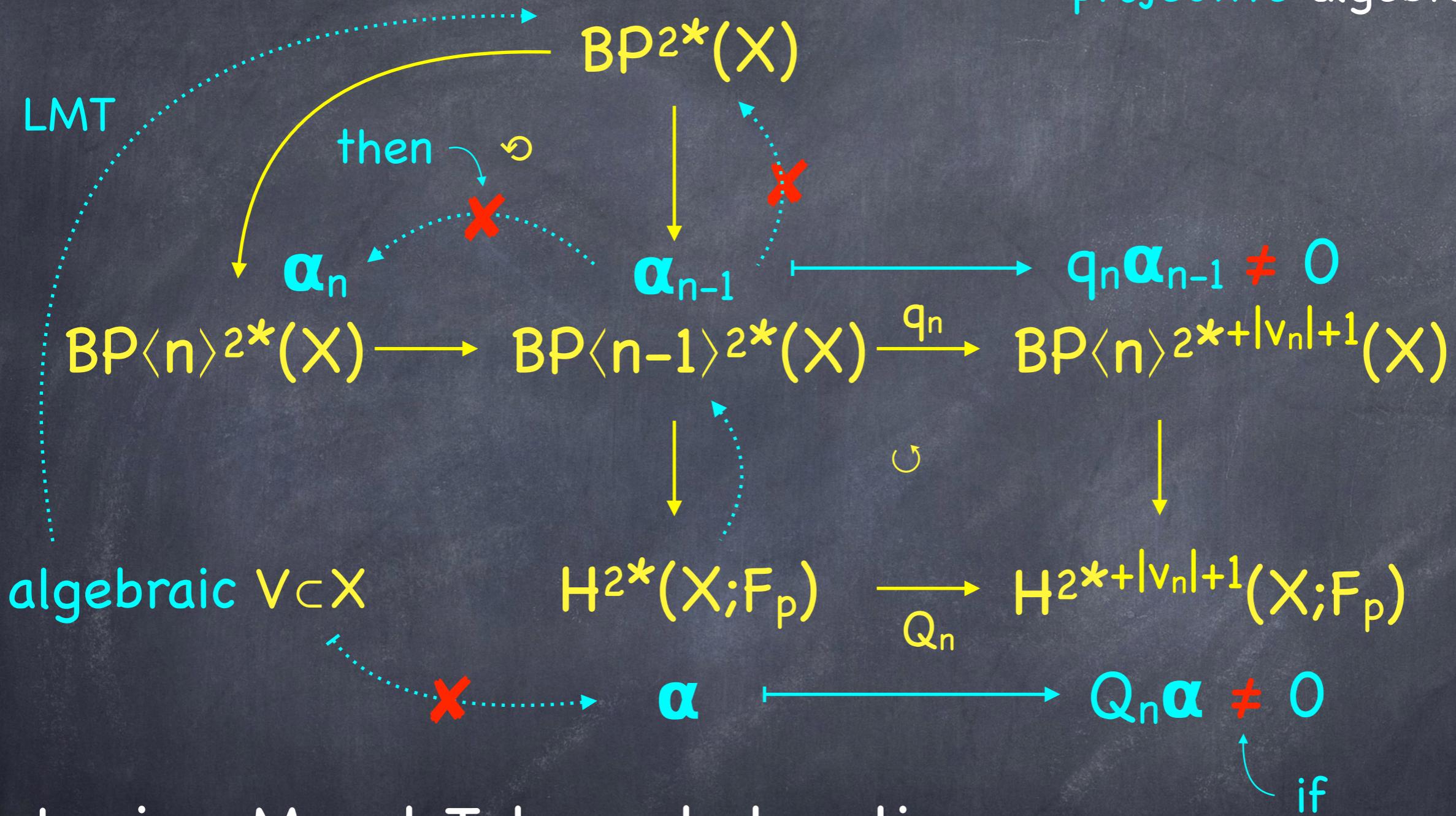


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projective algebraic



Levine-Morel-Totaro obstruction:

If  $Q_n \alpha \neq 0$ , then  $\alpha$  is **not** algebraic.

Voevodsky's motivic Milnor operations:

# Voevodsky's motivic Milnor operations:

There are motivic operations

$$Q_n^{\text{mot}} \in \mathcal{A}^{2p^n-1, p^n-1}$$

mod  $p$ -motivic  
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For a smooth complex variety  $X$ :

$$H_{\text{mot}}^{i,j}(X; \mathbb{F}_p) \xrightarrow{Q_n^{\text{mot}}} H_{\text{mot}}^{i+2p^n-1, j+p^n-1}(X; \mathbb{F}_p)$$

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Recall:  $H_{\text{mot}}^{i,j}(X; \mathbb{F}_p) = 0$  if  $i > 2j$ .

# Obstructions revisited:

$X$  smooth complex variety

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 H_{\text{mot}}^{2i,i}(X; \mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{Q_n^{\text{mot}}} & H_{\text{mot}}^{2i+2p^n-1, i+p^n-1}(X; \mathbb{F}_p) \\
 \downarrow & \curvearrowleft \text{topological realization} & \downarrow \\
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**a**

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$Q_n$

if

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$\circlearrowleft$

if

Observation: The LMT-obstruction is particular to smooth varieties and bidegrees  $(2i, i)$ .

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Observation: The LMT-obstruction is particular to smooth varieties and bidegrees  $(2i, i)$ .

Example:  $Q_n \mathbf{u} \neq 0$  for  $\mathbf{u}$  the fundamental class of a suitable Eilenberg-MacLane space, though  $\mathbf{u}$  is algebraic.

Back to our task:

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Find non-algebraic classes in  $E_{\text{top}}^{2*}(X)$ .

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For example:  $E = \text{BP} \langle n \rangle$ ?

Recall:  $\text{BP}$  and  $\text{BP} \langle n \rangle$  exist in the motivic world  
(e.g. Hopkins, Vezzosi, Hu-Kriz, Ormsby, Hoyois, Ormsby-  
 $\emptyset$ stvær).

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Find non-algebraic classes in  $E_{\text{top}}^{2*}(X)$ .

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Recall:  $BP$  and  $BP\langle n \rangle$  exist in the motivic world  
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Question: How can we produce non-algebraic  
elements in  $BP\langle n \rangle_{\text{top}}^{2*}(X)$ ?

We can lift...

$$H^k(X; \mathbb{F}_p)$$

We can lift...

$$H^{k+1}(X; \mathbb{Z}_{(p)})$$

$$q_0 \uparrow$$

$$H^k(X; \mathbb{F}_p)$$

We can lift...

$$BP\langle 1 \rangle^{k+1+2p-1}(X)$$

$$q_1 \uparrow$$

$$H^{k+1}(X; \mathbb{Z}_{(p)})$$

$$q_0 \uparrow$$

$$H^k(X; F_p)$$

We can lift...

$$BP\langle n \rangle^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X)$$

$$q_n$$


⋮

$$q_2$$


$$BP\langle 1 \rangle^{k+1+2p-1}(X)$$

$$q_1$$


$$H^{k+1}(X; \mathbb{Z}_{(p)})$$

$$q_0$$


$$H^k(X; \mathbb{F}_p)$$

We can lift...

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{BP}\langle n \rangle^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) & \xrightarrow{q_{n+1}} & \mathbf{BP}\langle n+1 \rangle^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_{n+1}|}(X) \\ q_n \uparrow & & \\ \vdots & & \\ q_2 \uparrow & & \\ \mathbf{BP}\langle 1 \rangle^{k+1+2p-1}(X) & & \\ q_1 \uparrow & & \\ \mathbf{H}^{k+1}(X; \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}) & & \\ q_0 \uparrow & & \\ \mathbf{H}^k(X; \mathbb{F}_p) & & \end{array}$$

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$\mathbf{BP}\langle n+1 \rangle$   
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BP $\langle n+1 \rangle$   
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 $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{F}_p$

Lifting classes:

We produced

# Lifting classes:

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- a map  $\varphi$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^k(X; \mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{\varphi := q_n \dots q_0} & BP\langle n \rangle^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) \\ \alpha & \xrightarrow{\varphi(\alpha)} & \end{array}$$

# Lifting classes:

We produced

- a map  $\varphi$
- an obstruction

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \text{BP}^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) & & \\ & \curvearrowleft & \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ H^k(X; F_p) & \xrightarrow{\varphi := q_n \dots q_0} & \text{BP}^{<n>k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) & & \\ \alpha & \xrightarrow{\qquad\qquad\qquad} & \varphi(\alpha) & \downarrow q_{n+1} & \\ Q_{n+1}Q_n\dots Q_0 \downarrow & & & & \\ H^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_{n+1}|}(X; F_p) & \longleftarrow & \text{BP}^{<n+1>k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_{n+1}|}(X) & & \end{array}$$

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 H^k(X; \mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{BP}^{<n>k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) & & \\
 \alpha & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \varphi(\alpha) & \xleftarrow{\qquad\qquad\qquad} & \\
 \downarrow Q_{n+1}Q_n \dots Q_0 & & \downarrow \neq 0 & & \downarrow q_{n+1} \\
 & & \neq 0 & & \\
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 & & & \downarrow & \\
 & & & \times & \\
 & & & | & \\
 & & & \text{BP}^{<n>k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) & \\
 & & \xrightarrow{\varphi:=q_n\dots q_0} & & \\
 H^k(X; F_p) & & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & & \varphi(\alpha) \\
 & \downarrow Q_{n+1}Q_n\dots Q_0 & \downarrow & & \downarrow q_{n+1} \\
 & \neq 0 & & \neq 0 & \\
 & & \xleftarrow{\quad} & & \\
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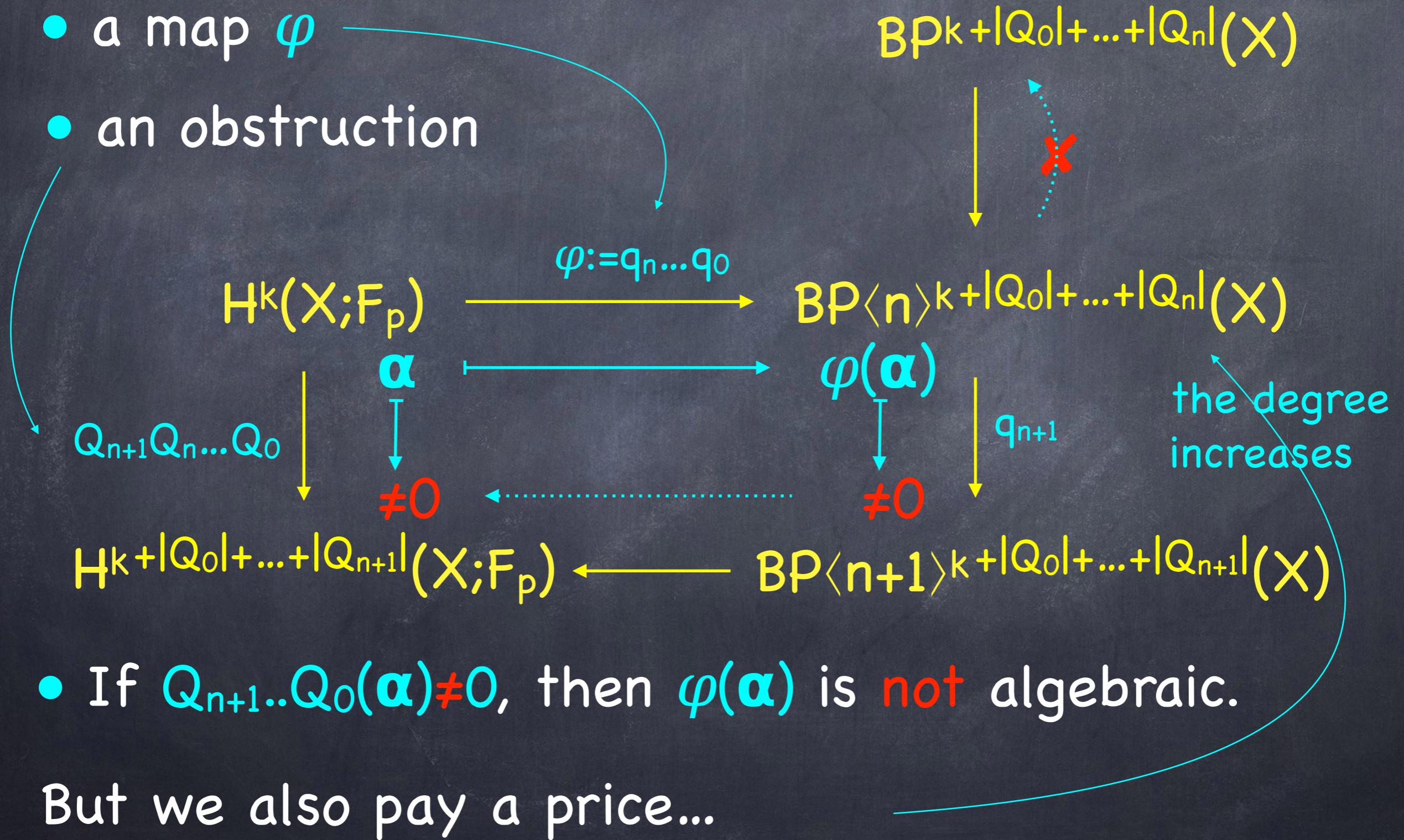
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 H^k(X; F_p) & \xrightarrow{\varphi := q_n \dots q_0} & \text{BP}^{<n>k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X) & & \\
 \alpha \downarrow \begin{matrix} Q_{n+1} \\ Q_n \\ \vdots \\ Q_0 \end{matrix} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \varphi(\alpha) \downarrow \begin{matrix} q_{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ q_0 \end{matrix} & & \\
 H^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_{n+1}|}(X; F_p) & \longleftarrow & \text{BP}^{<n+1>k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_{n+1}|}(X) & & 
 \end{array}$$

- If  $Q_{n+1}..Q_0(\alpha) \neq 0$ , then  $\varphi(\alpha)$  is **not** algebraic.

# Lifting classes:

We produced

- a map  $\varphi$
- an obstruction



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A red 'X' is placed on the arrow from  $H^k(X; F_p)$  to  $BP\langle n \rangle^{k+|Q_0|+\dots+|Q_n|}(X)$ .

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Finally, set  $X = \text{Godeaux-Serre variety}$   
associated to the group  $G_{n+3}$  and pullback  $x$  via

$$X \longrightarrow BG_{n+3} \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^\infty.$$

a  $2(p^{n+1} + \dots + 1) + 1$ -connected map

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Thank you!