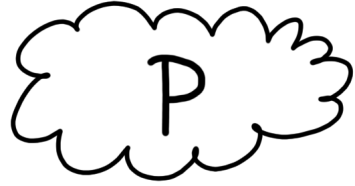


On the Insecurity of Kilian-Based SNARGs

James Bartusek	(UC Berkeley)
Liron Bronfman	(Technion)
Justin Holmgren	(Simons Institute)
Fermi Ma	(Princeton)
Ron D. Rothblum	(Technion)

instance x , witness w

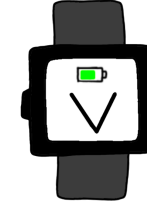


w



Language \mathcal{L}
(e.g. SAT)

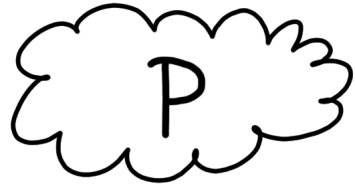
instance x



given w , efficiently
verifies $x \in \mathcal{L}$

$\mathcal{L} \in NP$ means efficiently verifiable proofs

instance x , witness w

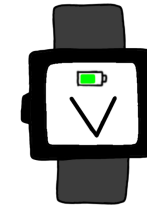


w



Language \mathcal{L}
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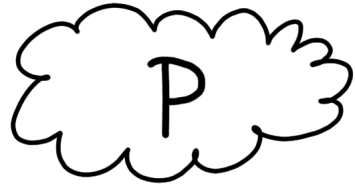


given w , efficiently
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A horizontal bracket with a vertical line pointing down from its center, positioned under the word 'efficiently' in the text above.
how efficient?

instance x , witness w

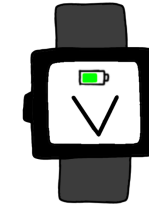


w



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instance x



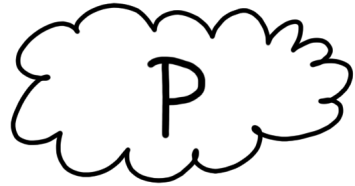
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$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$
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- w can't be too short: if $|w| = o(|x|)$, then $NP \in DTIME(2^{o(|x|)})$

instance x , witness w



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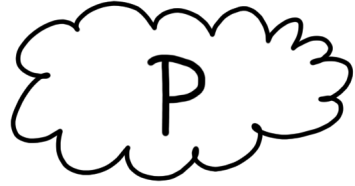
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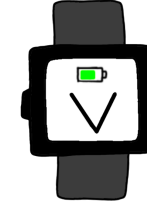
- w can't be too short: if $|w| = o(|x|)$, then $NP \in DTIME(2^{o(|x|)})$
- even with interaction [Goldreich-Håstad 98, Goldreich-Vadhan-Wigderson 02, Wee 05]


Random Oracle H

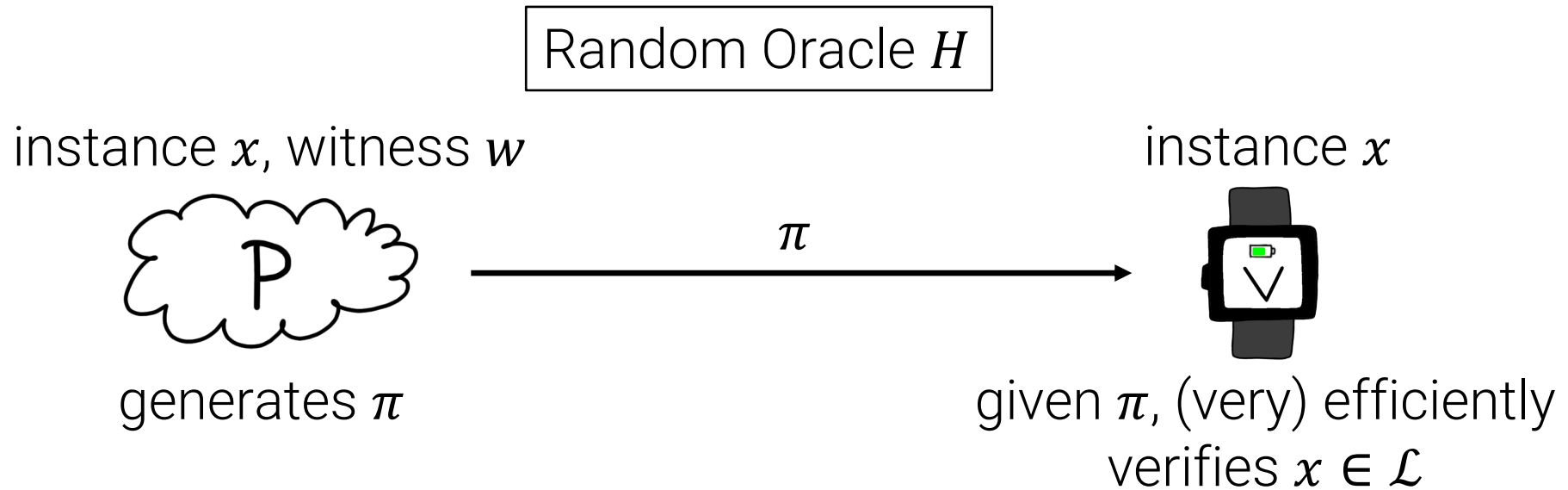
instance x , witness w




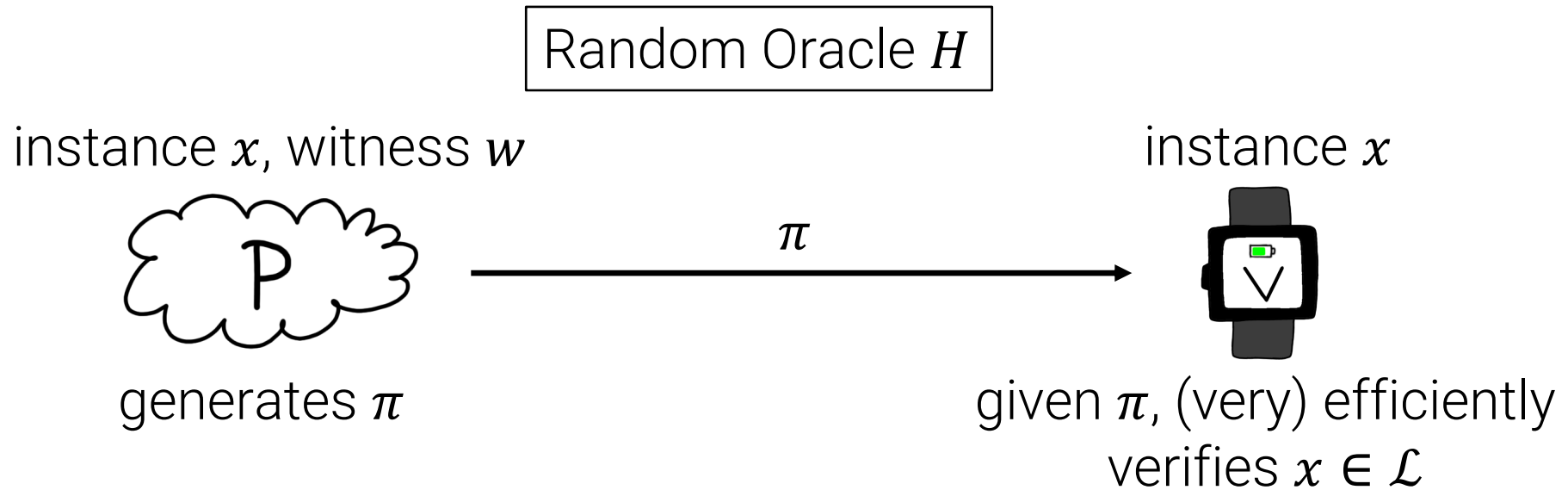
instance x






[Kilian 92, Micali 94]: Communication can be significantly shorter if we only require soundness against *computationally efficient* cheating 

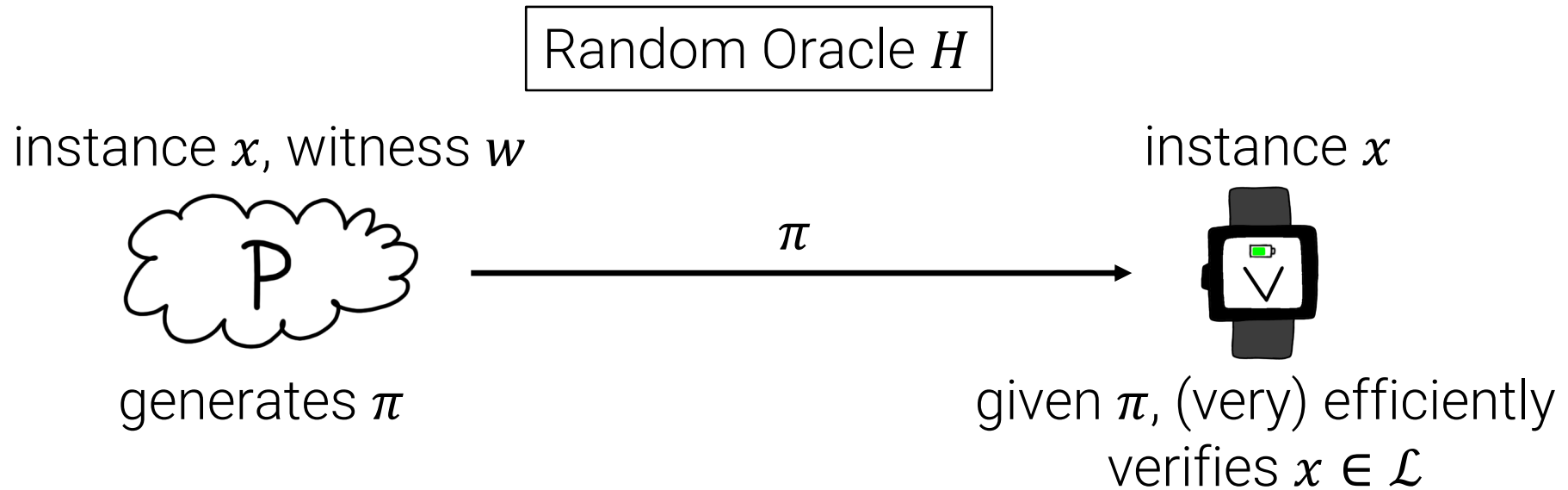



[Kilian 92, Micali 94]: Communication can be significantly shorter if we only require soundness against *computationally efficient* cheating 






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If  accepts, then **either** $x \in \mathcal{L}$ OR  inefficient



[Kilian 92, Micali 94]: Communication can be significantly shorter if we only require soundness against *computationally efficient* cheating 

If  accepts, then **either** $x \in \mathcal{L}$ OR  inefficient

- “Succinct” means $|\pi| = poly(\lambda, \log(|x| + |w|))$
- “Argument” means sound against efficient cheating 

[Kilian 92]

4-message **interactive** argument for NP

- public coin
- $poly(\lambda, \log(|x| + |w|))$ communication

Fiat-Shamir
Transform

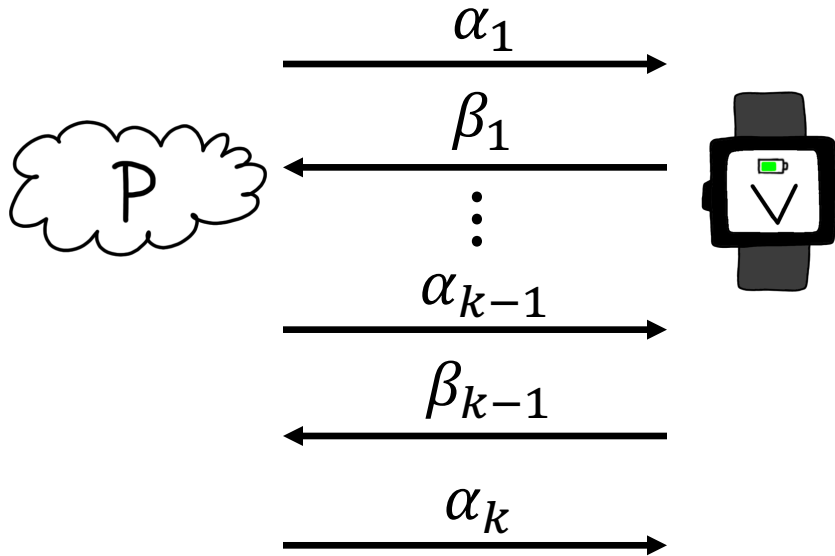
[Micali 94] "CS Proofs"

Succinct non-interactive argument (SNARG) for NP
(in Random Oracle Model)

The Fiat-Shamir Heuristic

[Fiat-Shamir 89]

public coin: β_i are uniformly random



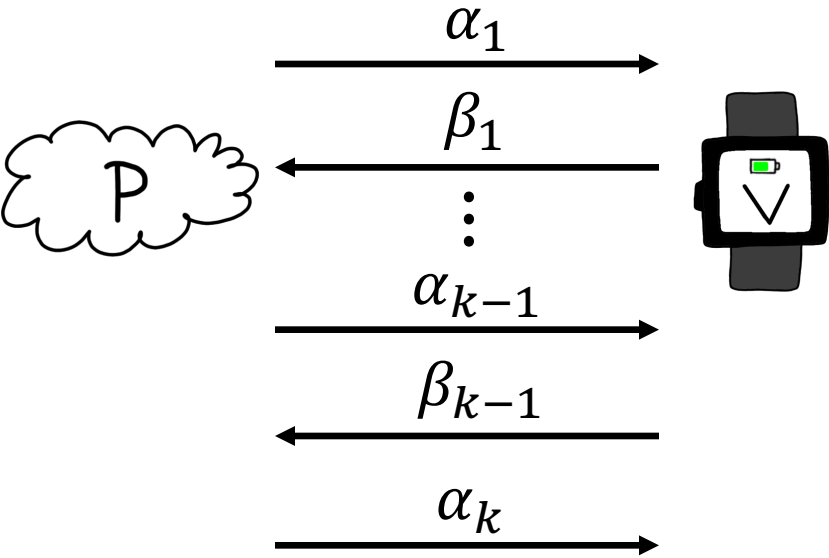
Interactive Protocol

(ex: Kilian's 4-message argument for NP)

The Fiat-Shamir Heuristic

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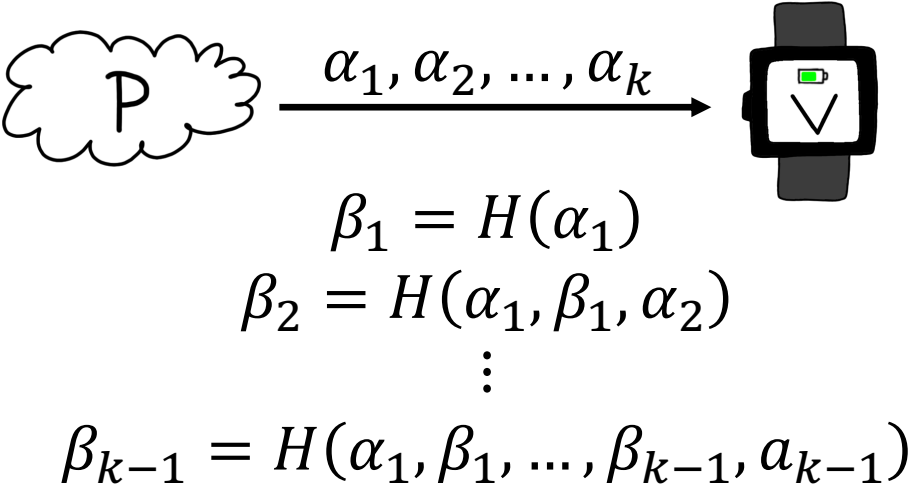


Interactive Protocol

(ex: Kilian's 4-message argument for NP)



Random Oracle H



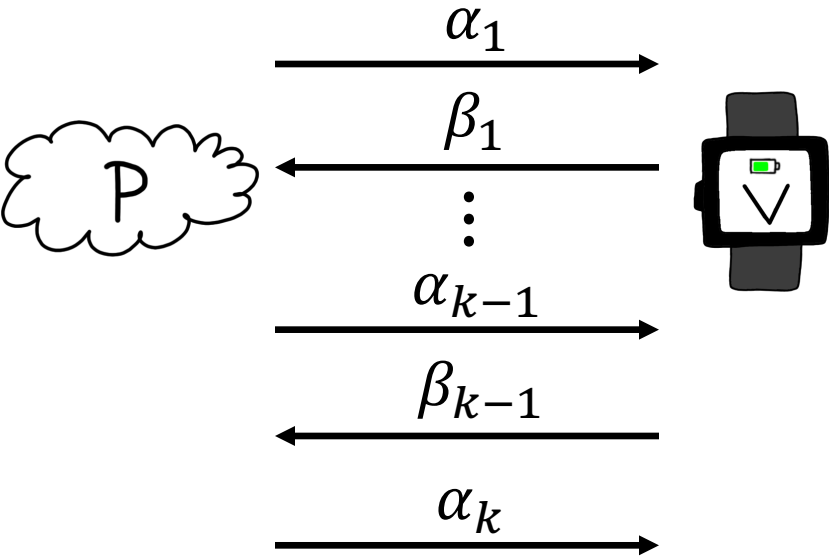
Non-Interactive Argument

(ex: Micali's CS Proofs)

The Fiat-Shamir Heuristic

[Fiat-Shamir 89]

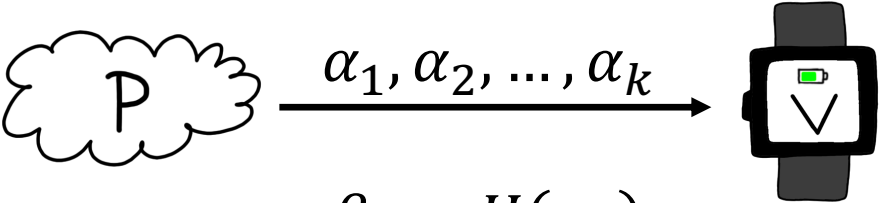
public coin: β_i are uniformly random



Interactive Protocol



Random Oracle H



$$\begin{aligned} \beta_1 &= H(\alpha_1) \\ \beta_2 &= H(\alpha_1, \beta_1, \alpha_2) \\ &\vdots \\ \beta_{k-1} &= H(\alpha_1, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_{k-1}, \alpha_{k-1}) \end{aligned}$$

Non-Interactive Argument

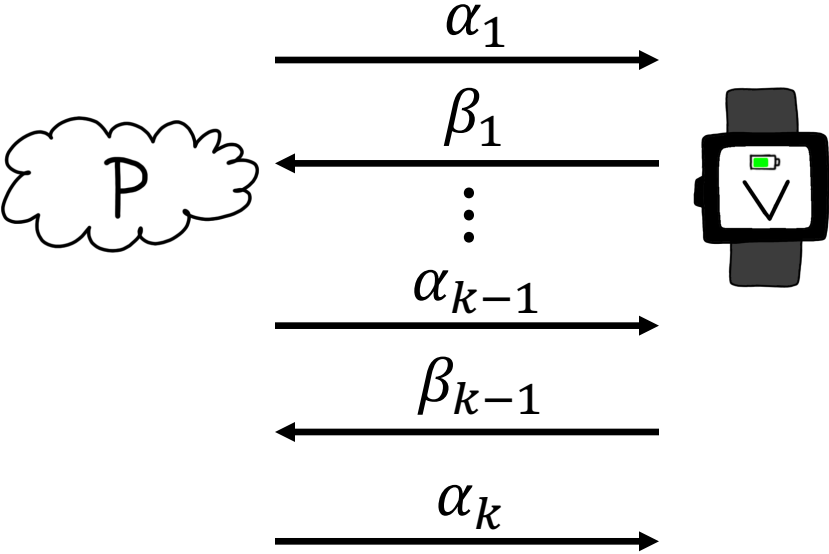
[Pointcheval-Stern 96]:
Sound for constant-round arguments in ROM.

The Fiat-Shamir Heuristic

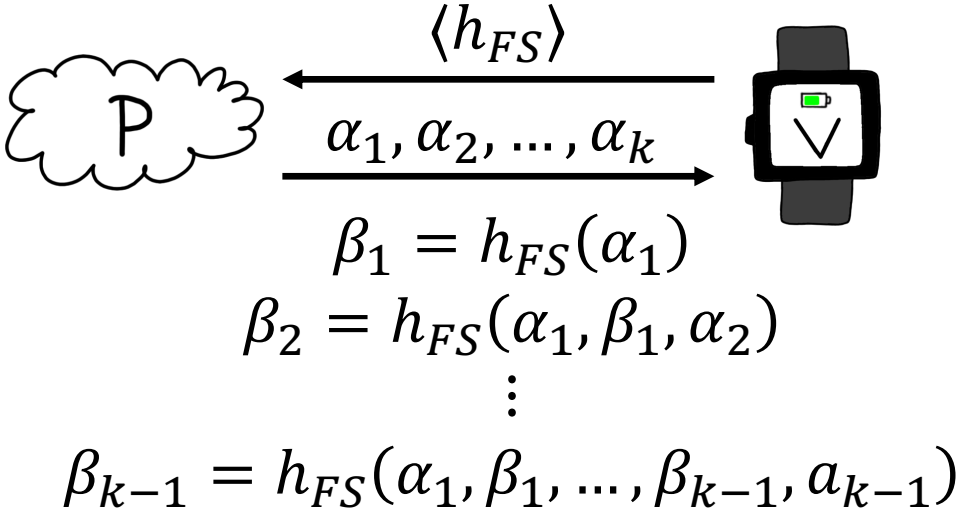
[Fiat-Shamir 89]

What if we replace H with an explicit hash function?

public coin: β_i are uniformly random



Interactive Protocol



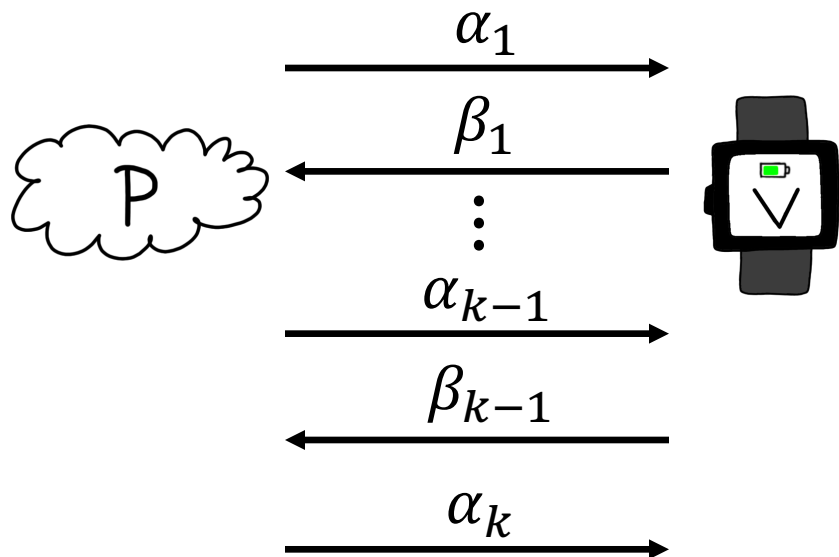
Non-Interactive Argument

The Fiat-Shamir Heuristic

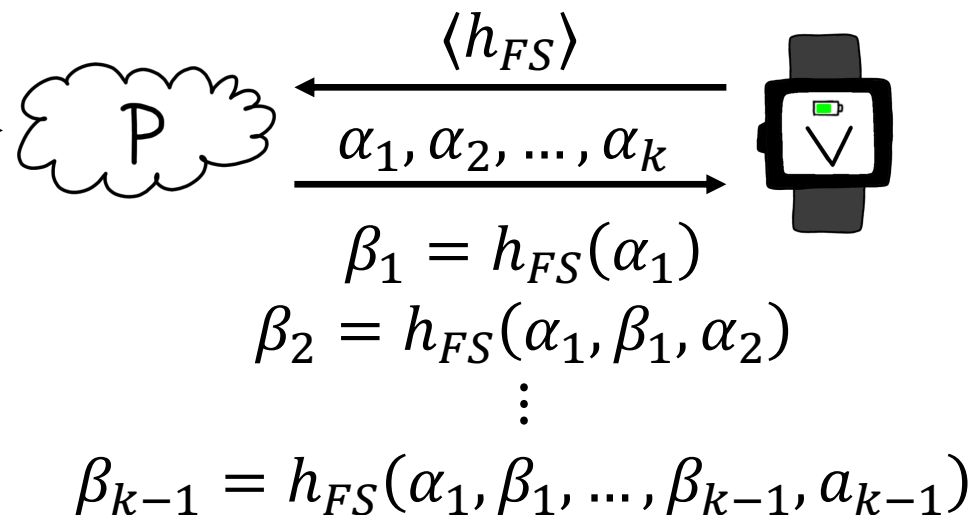
[Fiat-Shamir 89]

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Interactive Protocol



Non-Interactive Argument

[Barak 01, Goldwasser-Kalai 03]:

(Contrived) arguments where FS is **unsound** for any explicit h_{FS} .

[Barak 01, Goldwasser-Kalai 03]:
(plain model) counterexample for:

3-message ID protocol



Fiat-Shamir

Digital Signature

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Fiat-Shamir

Digital Signature

Possible interpretation:

Counterexample is so contrived that “natural” cryptographic protocols (with more structure) should still be safe for Fiat-Shamir.

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[This work]: (plain model) counterexamples for:

Kilian’s 4-message **interactive** argument for NP



Fiat-Shamir

succinct **non-interactive** argument (SNARG) for NP

(Kilian's protocol combines probabilistically checkable proof (PCP)/interactive oracle proof (IOP) with a CRHF.)

We show:

- IOP s.t. Fiat-Shamir + Kilian is always unsound

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- CRHF s.t. Fiat-Shamir + Kilian is (almost) always unsound

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↓ Fiat-Shamir

succinct **non-interactive** argument (SNARG) for NP

Fiat-Shamir-Kilian-Micali* used in some real-world SNARGs:

- SCI [Ben-Sasson, Ben-Tov, Chiesa, Gabizon, Genkin, Hamilis, Pergament, Riabzev, Silberstein, Tromer, Virza 17]
- Aurora [Ben-Sasson-Bentov-Horesh-Riabzev 18]
- STARK [Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Riabzev-Spooner-Virza-Ward 19]



*applied to Kilian's protocol for interactive oracle proofs (IOPs)

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+ only known approach to post-quantum publicly verifiable SNARGs

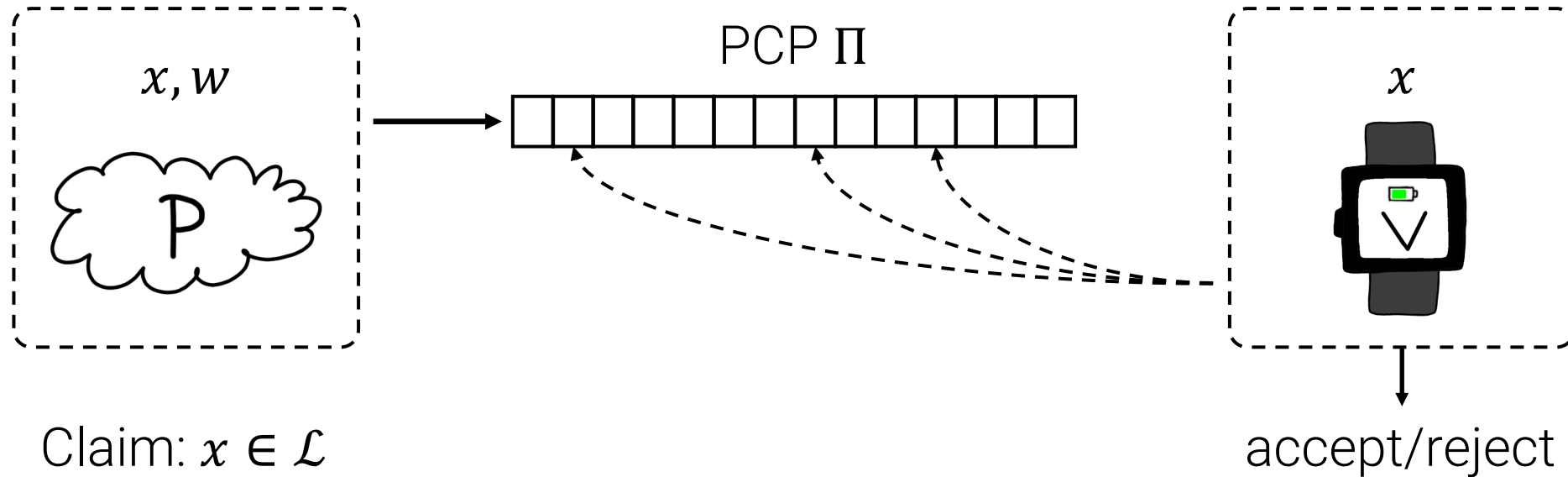
*applied to Kilian's protocol for interactive oracle proofs (IOPs)

Outline

- (Review) Kilian's Protocol
- A Bad IOP for IOP-Based SNARGs
- (If time) A Bad CRHF for PCP-Based SNARGs

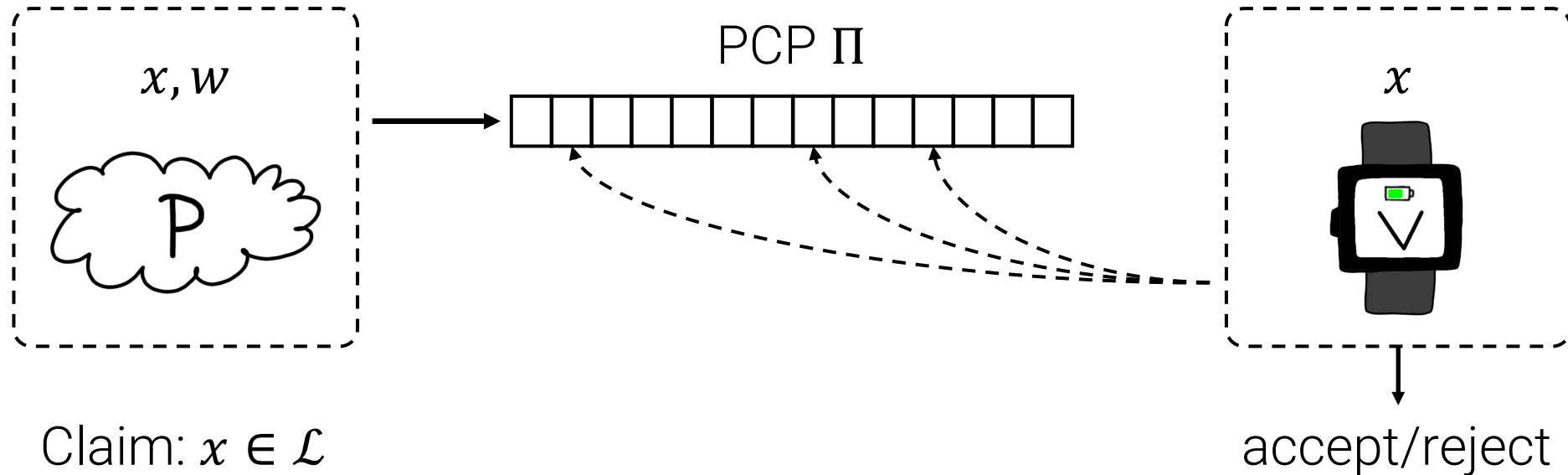
Probabilistically Checkable Proofs (PCPs)

[Fortnow-Rompel-Sipser 88, Feige-Goldwasser-Lovász-Safra-Szegedy 91, Babai-Fortnow-Levin-Szegedy 91, Arora-Safra 92, Arora-Lund-Mutwani-Sudan-Szegedy 92]



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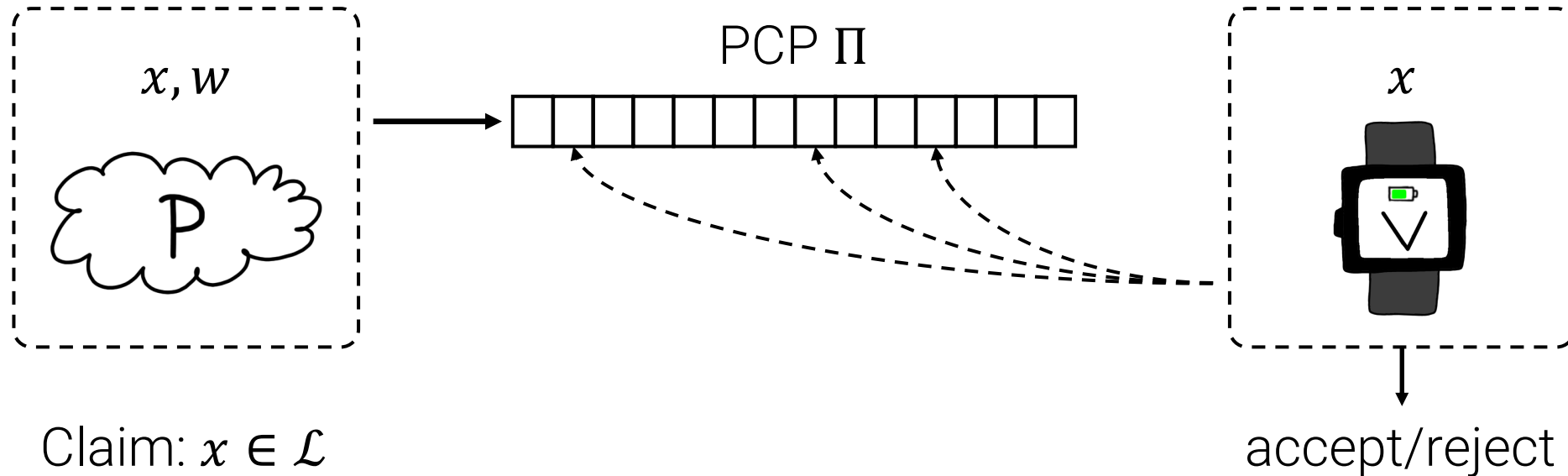


Thm. If $\mathcal{L} \in NP$,  making $O(1)$ queries:

- accepts if $x \in \mathcal{L}$
- rejects if $x \notin \mathcal{L}$ with $1/2$ probability.

Probabilistically Checkable Proofs (PCPs)

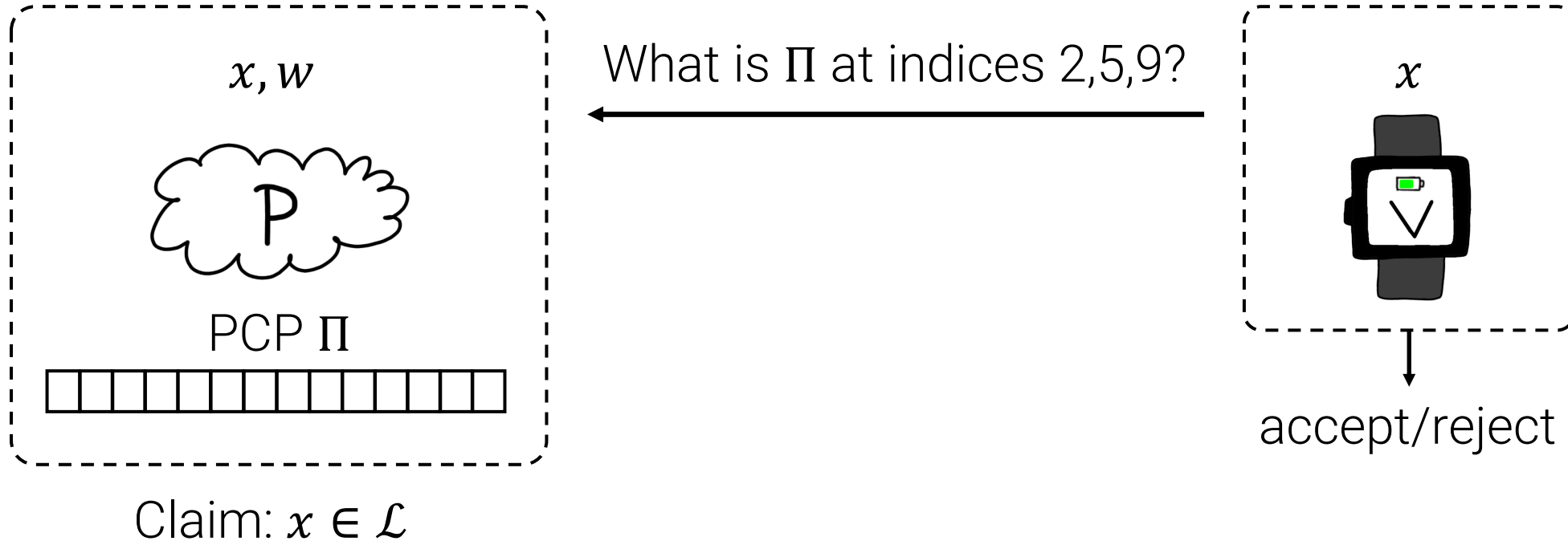
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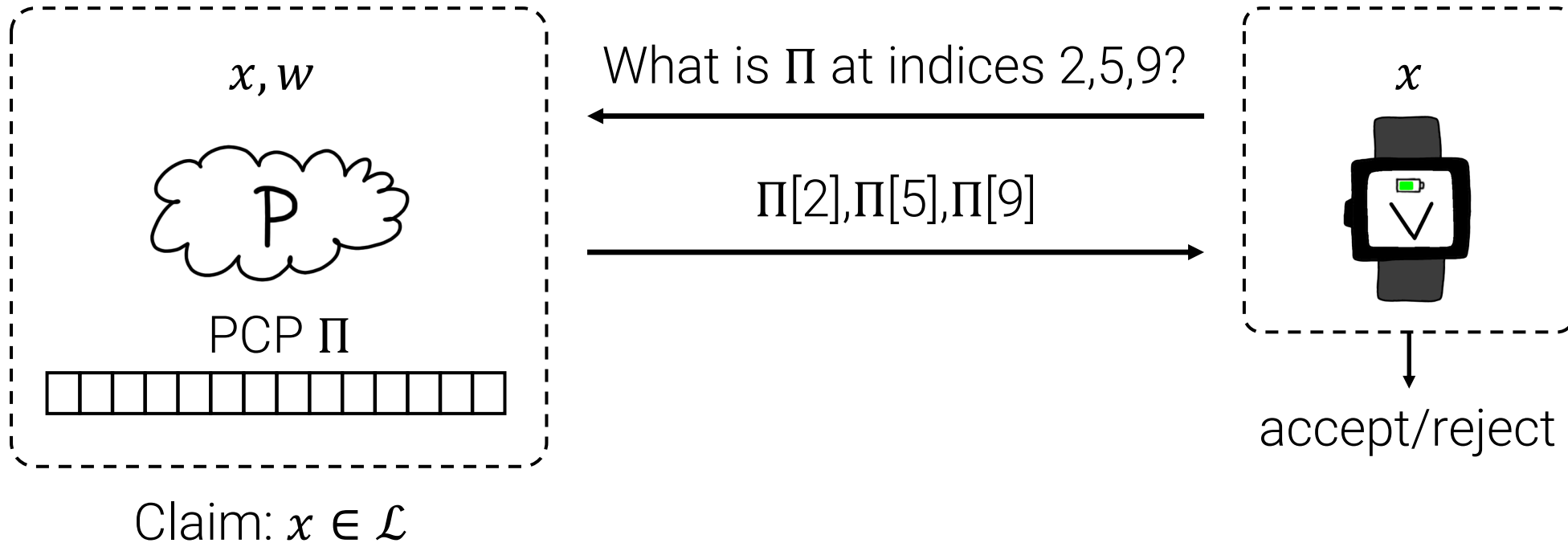
Thm. If $\mathcal{L} \in NP$,  making $polylog(n)$ queries:

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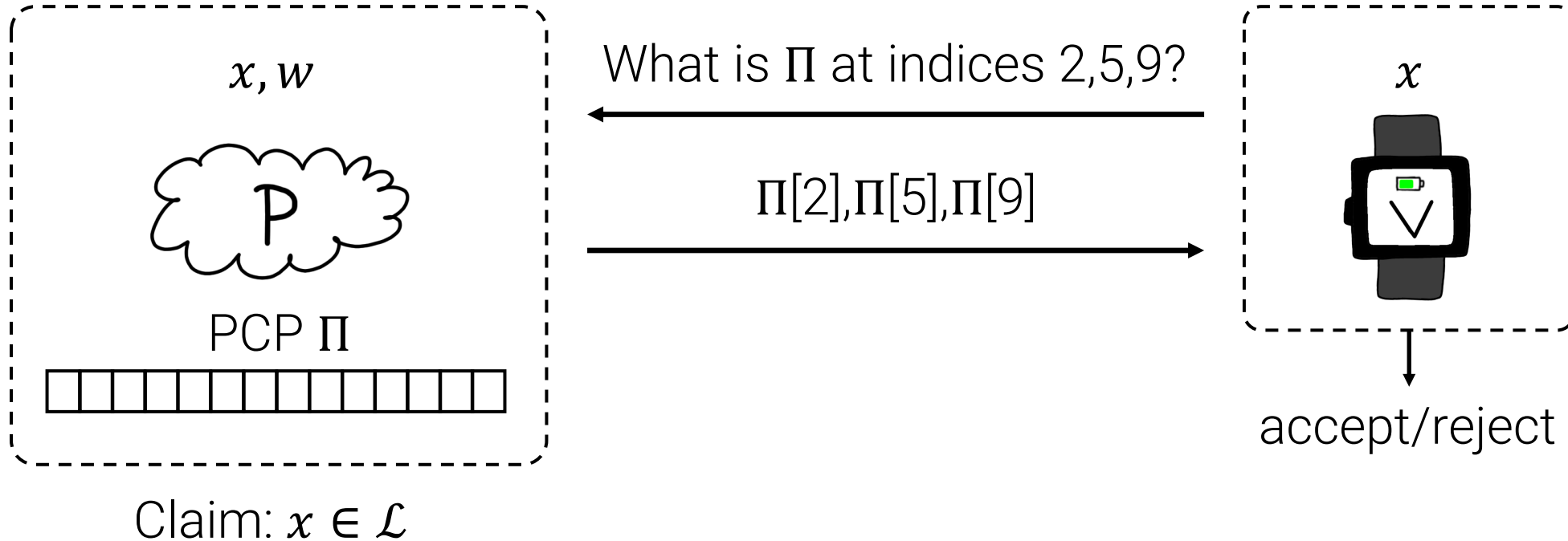
From PCPs to Arguments for NP




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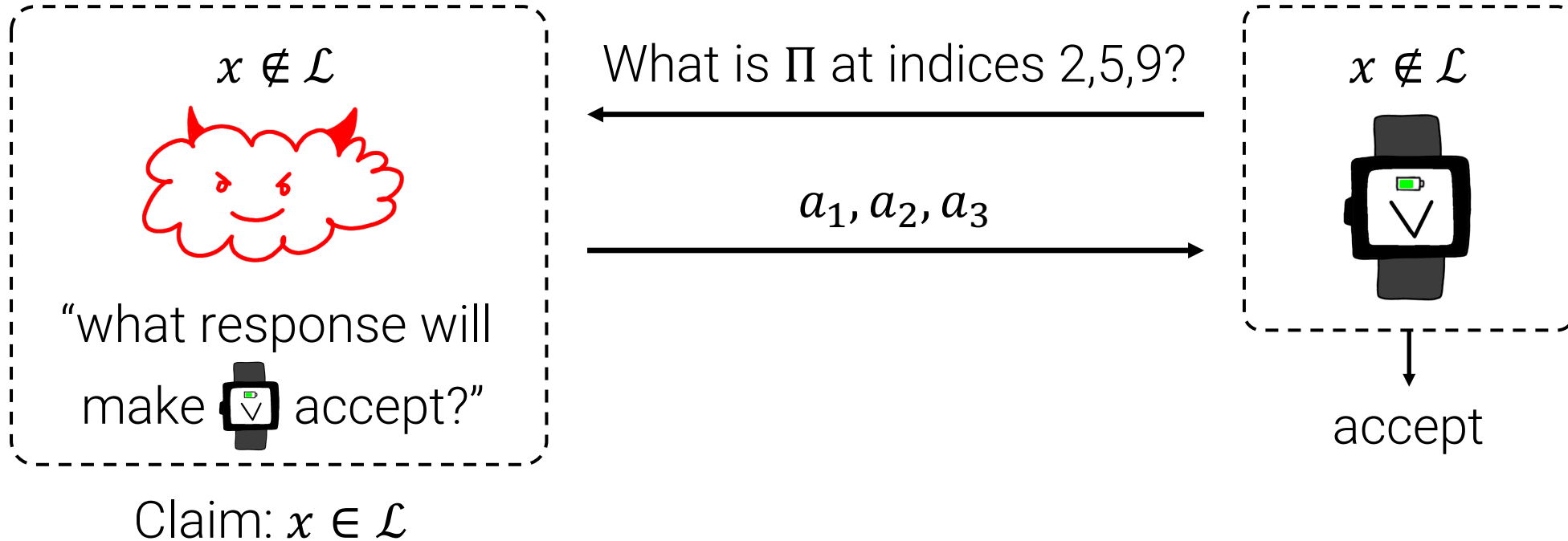



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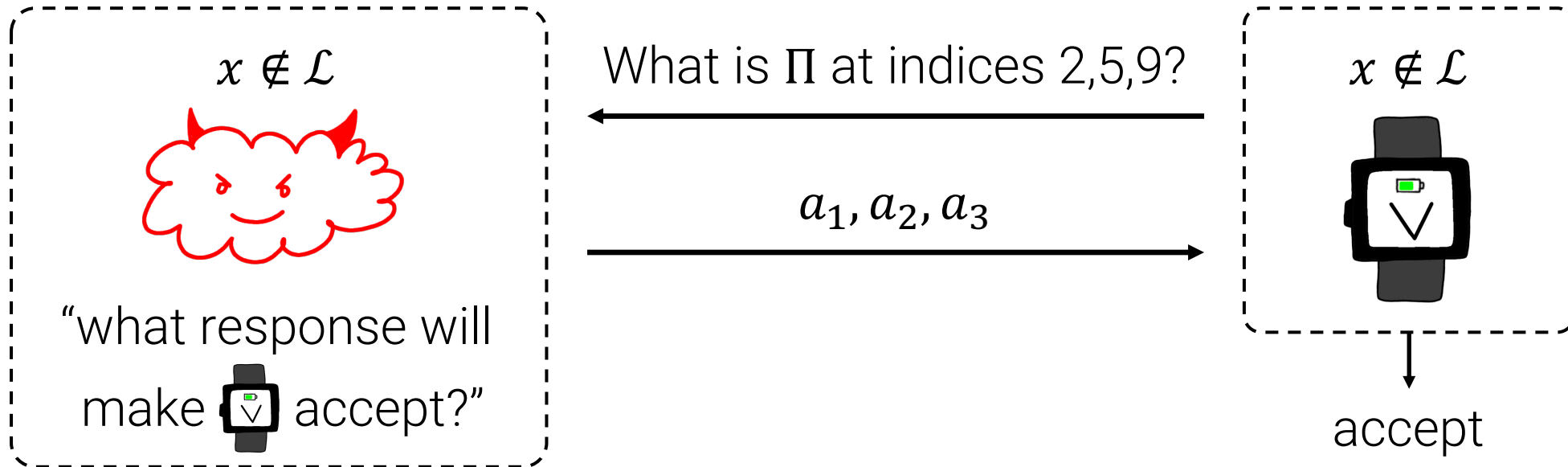
Problem:  can answer adaptively!

From PCPs to Arguments for NP


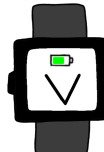


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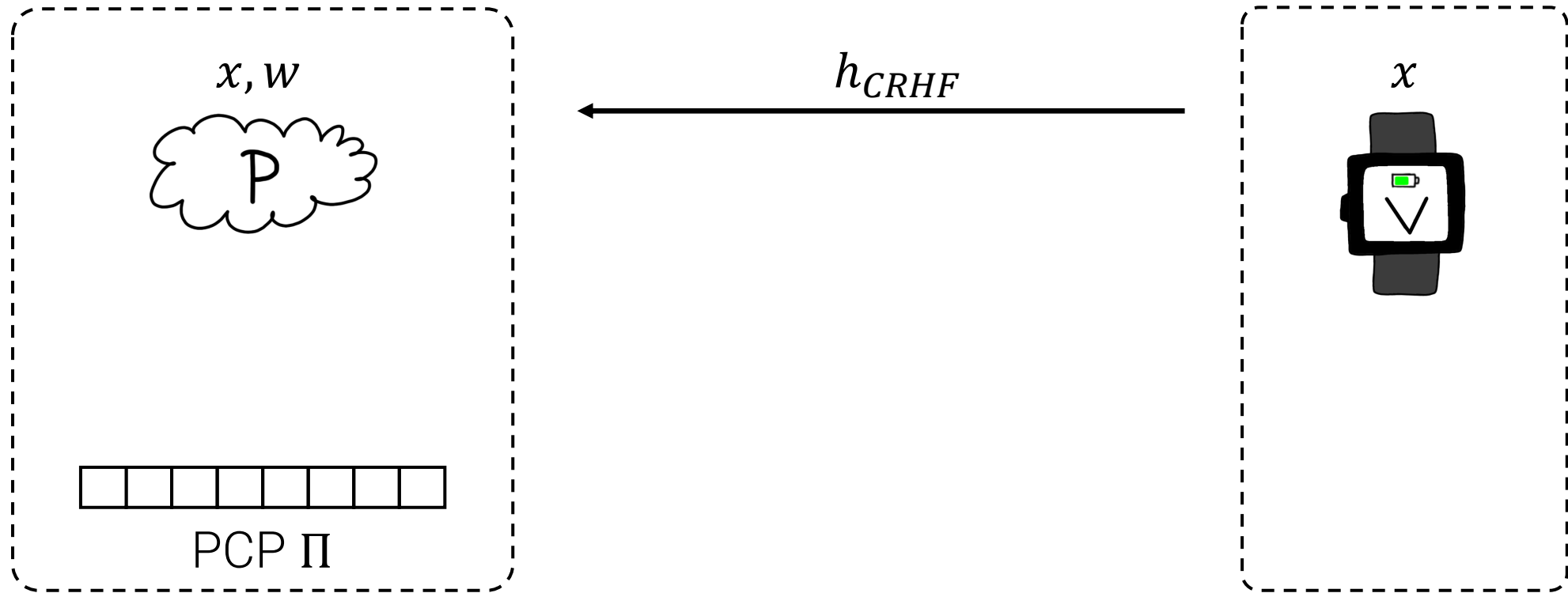
From PCPs to Arguments for NP



Claim: $x \in \mathcal{L}$

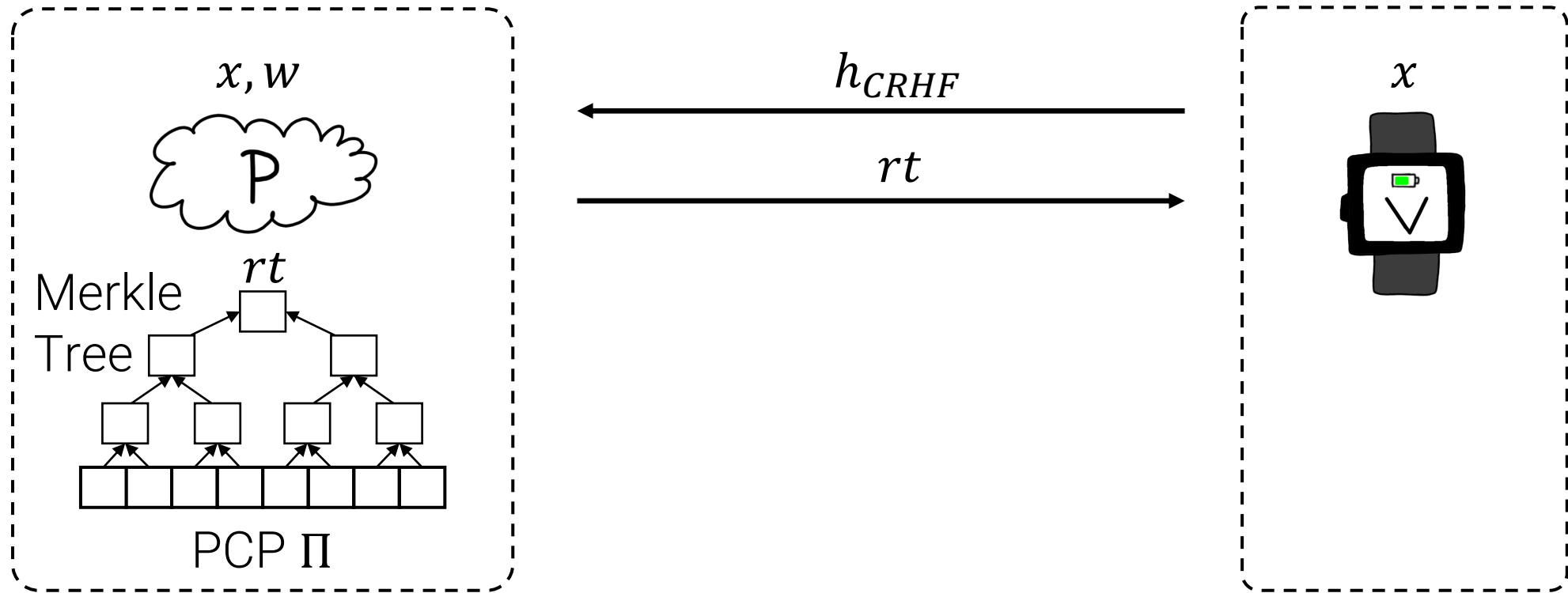
For soundness, must ensure  doesn't change PCP after seeing  message.

From PCPs to Delegation [Kilian 92]



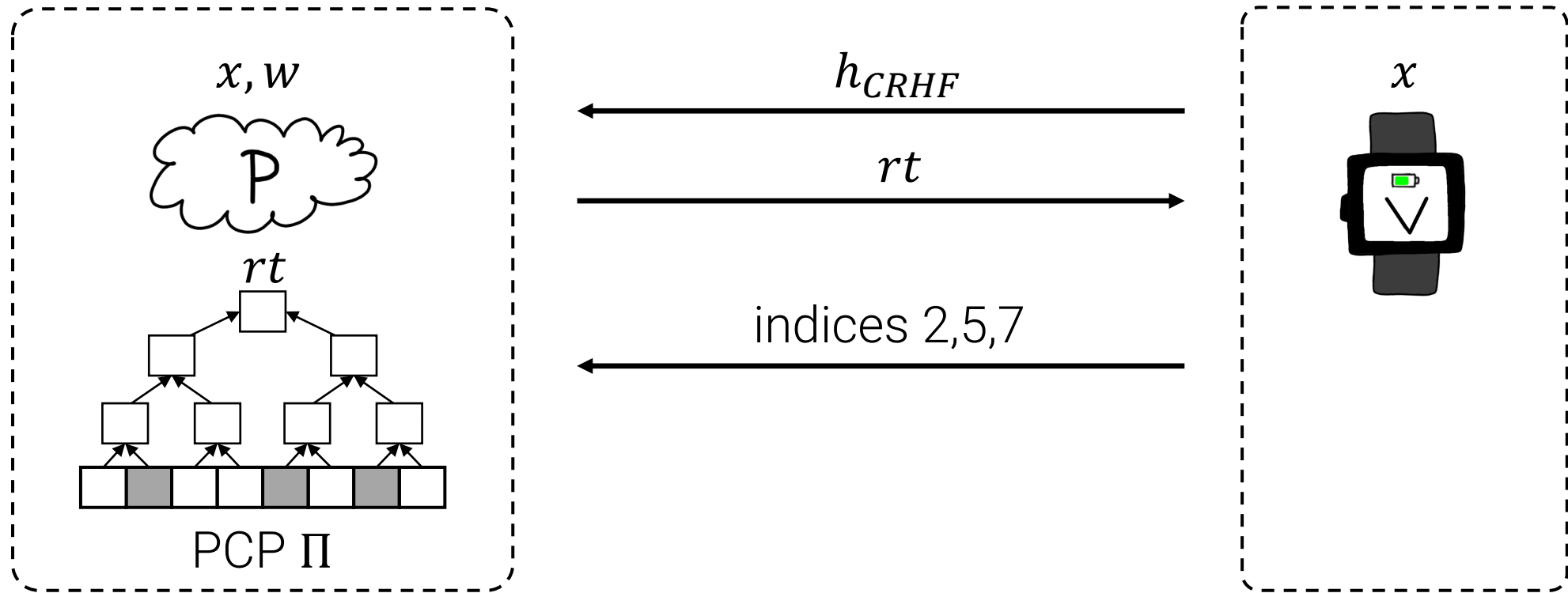
Kilian's protocol: Force  to send short commitment to Π

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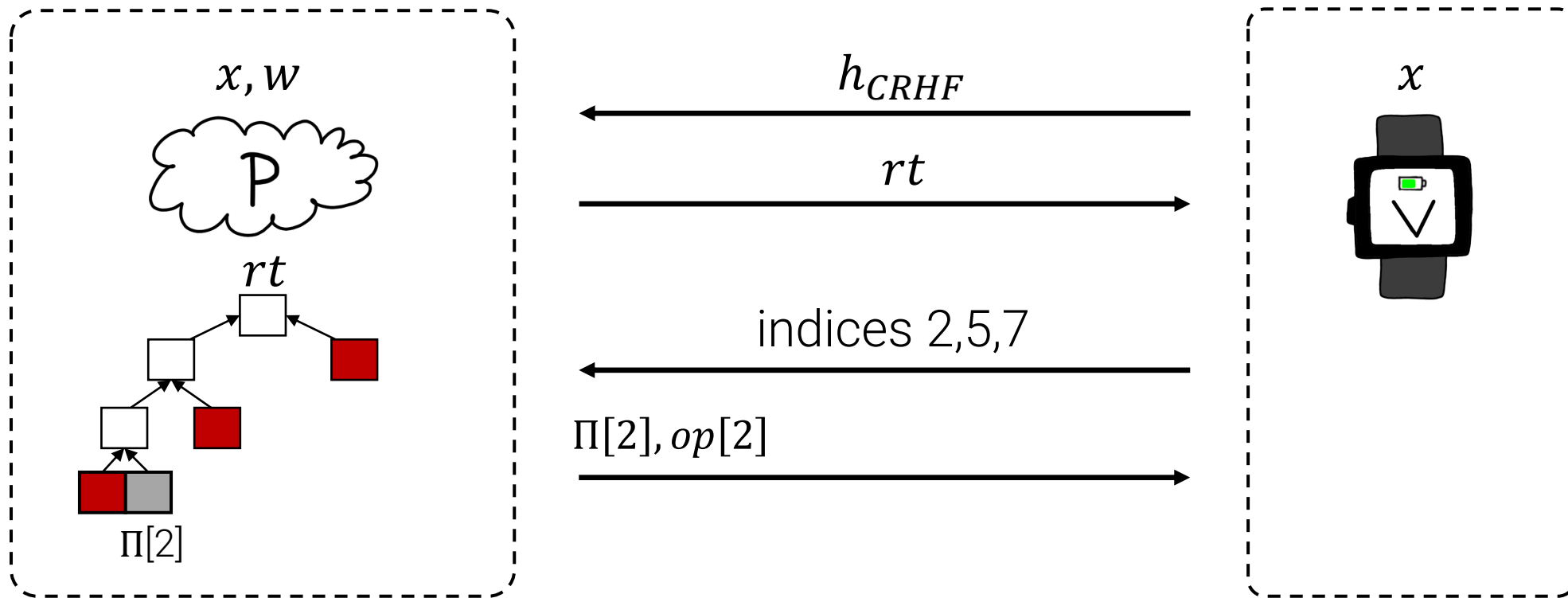
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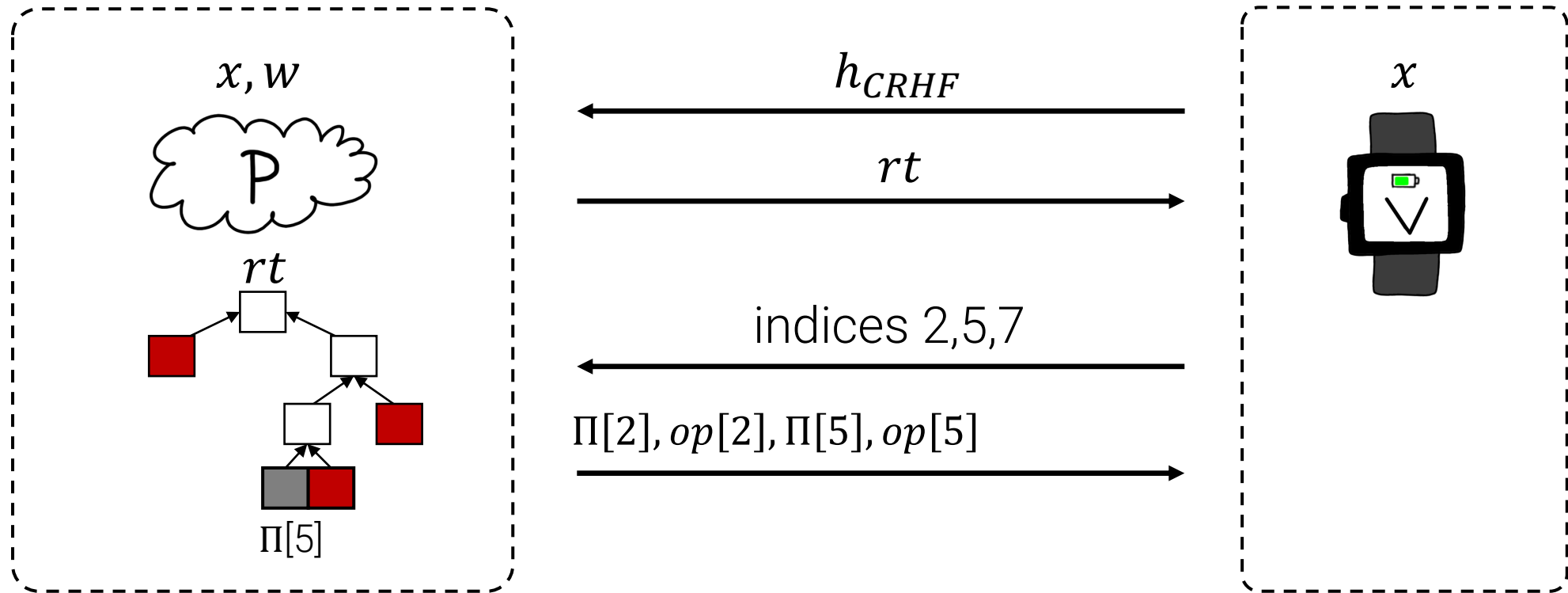
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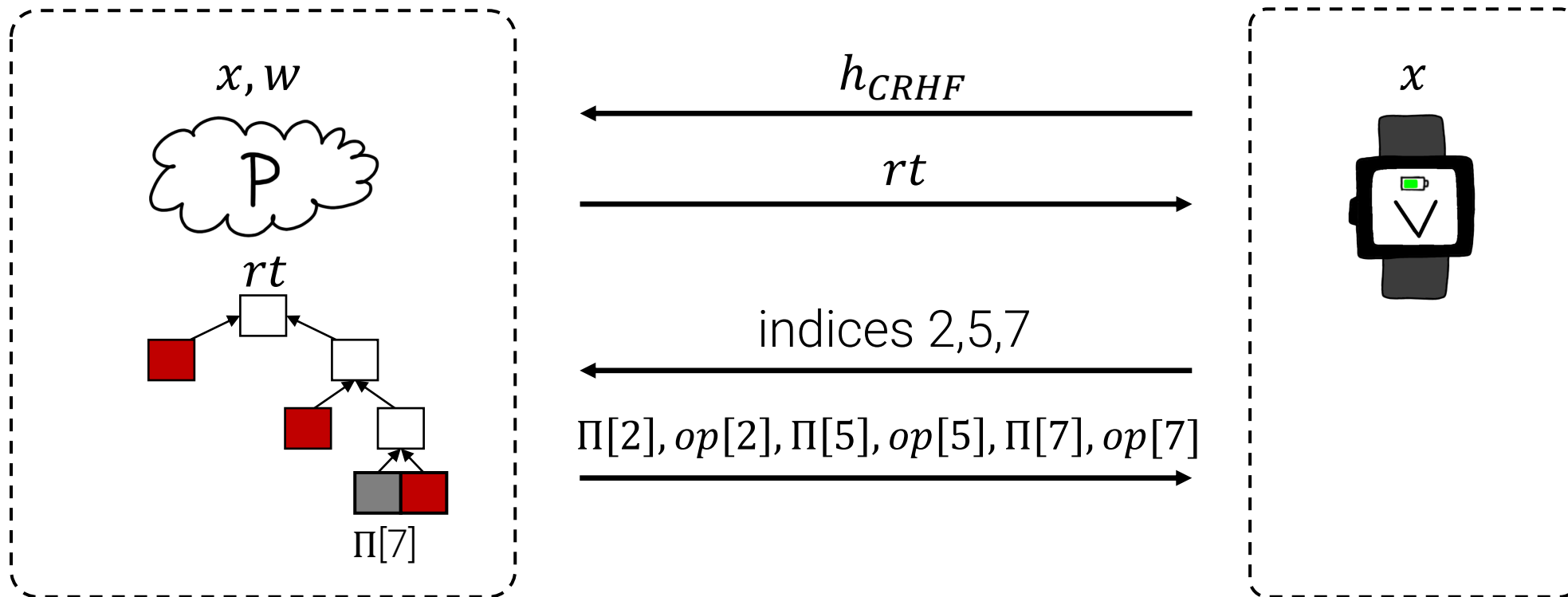
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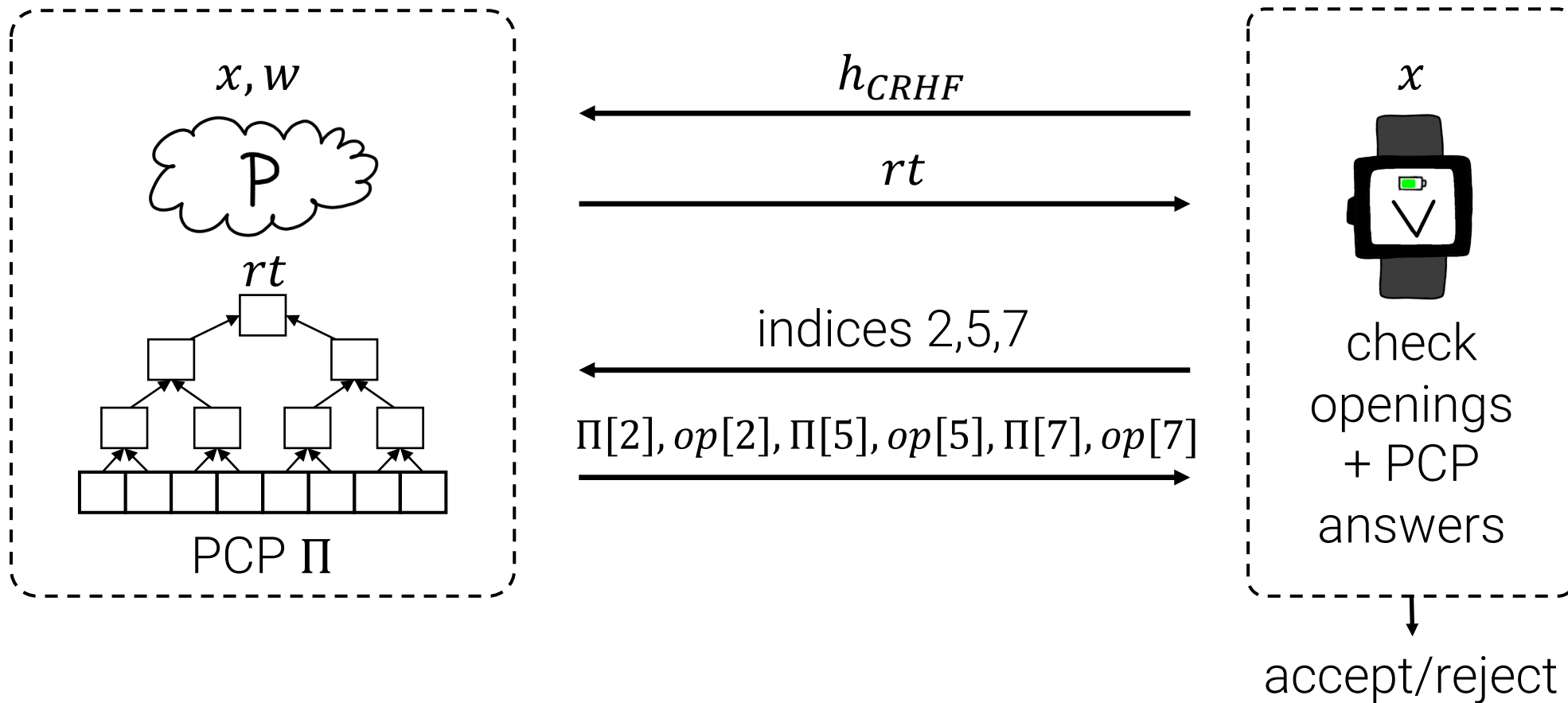
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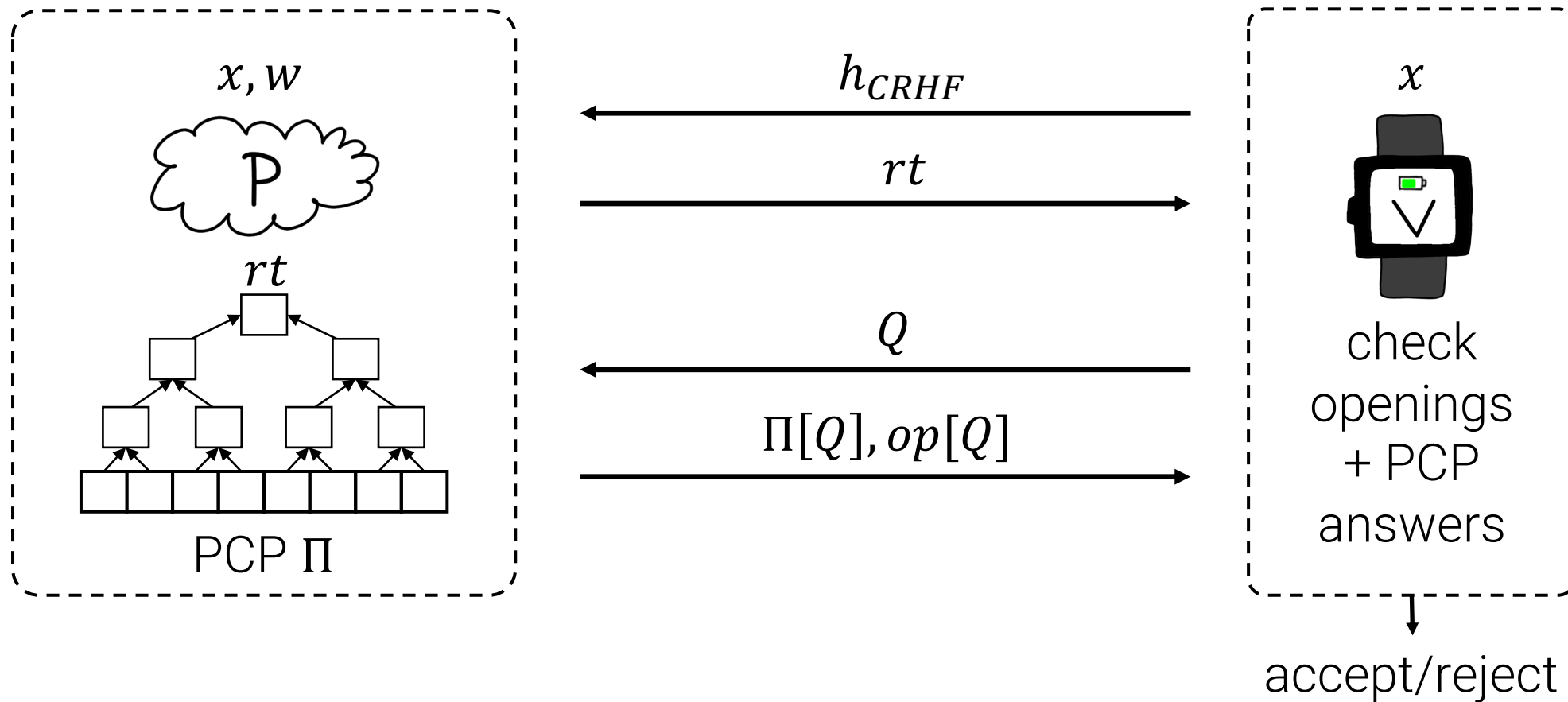
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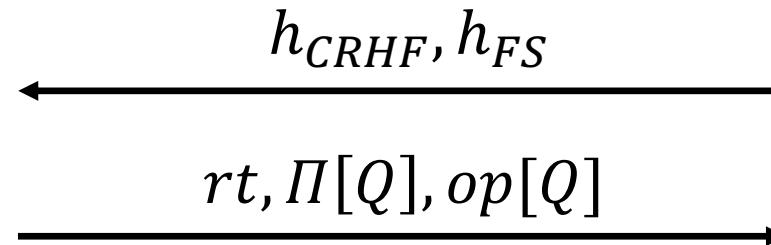
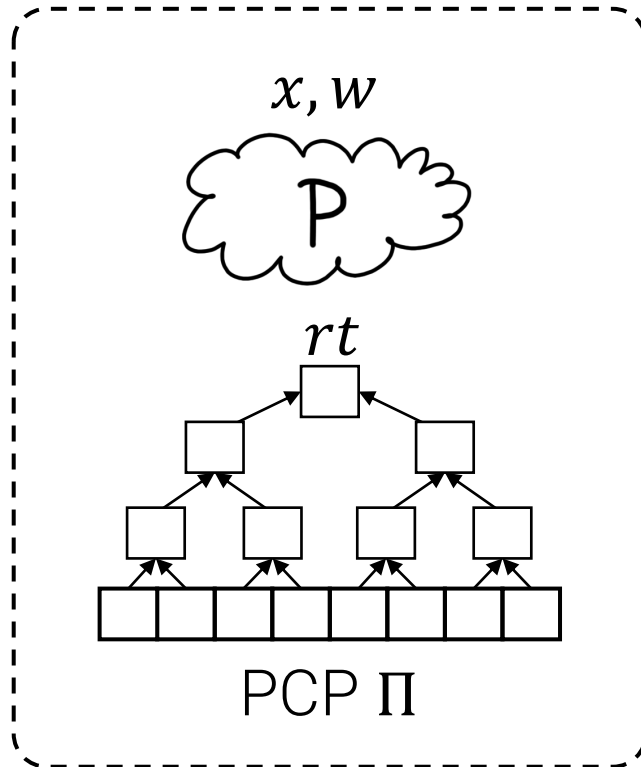
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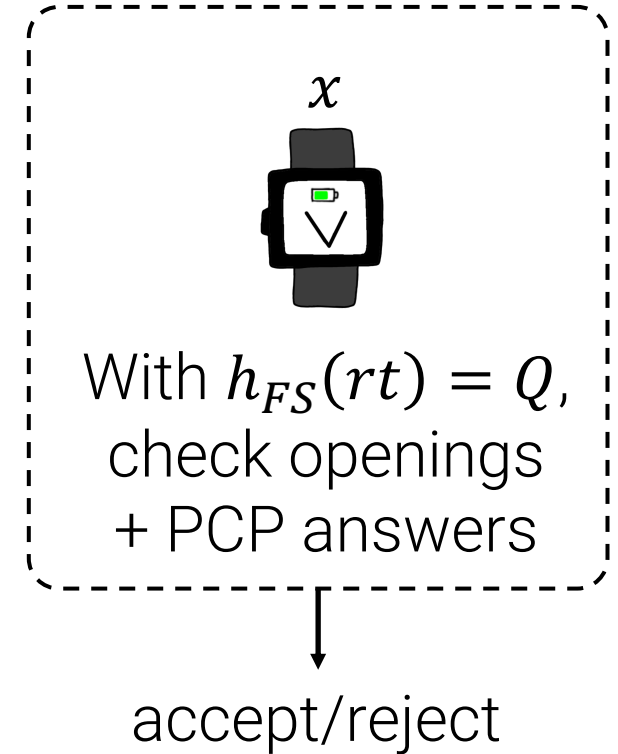


Kilian's protocol: Force P to send short commitment to Π

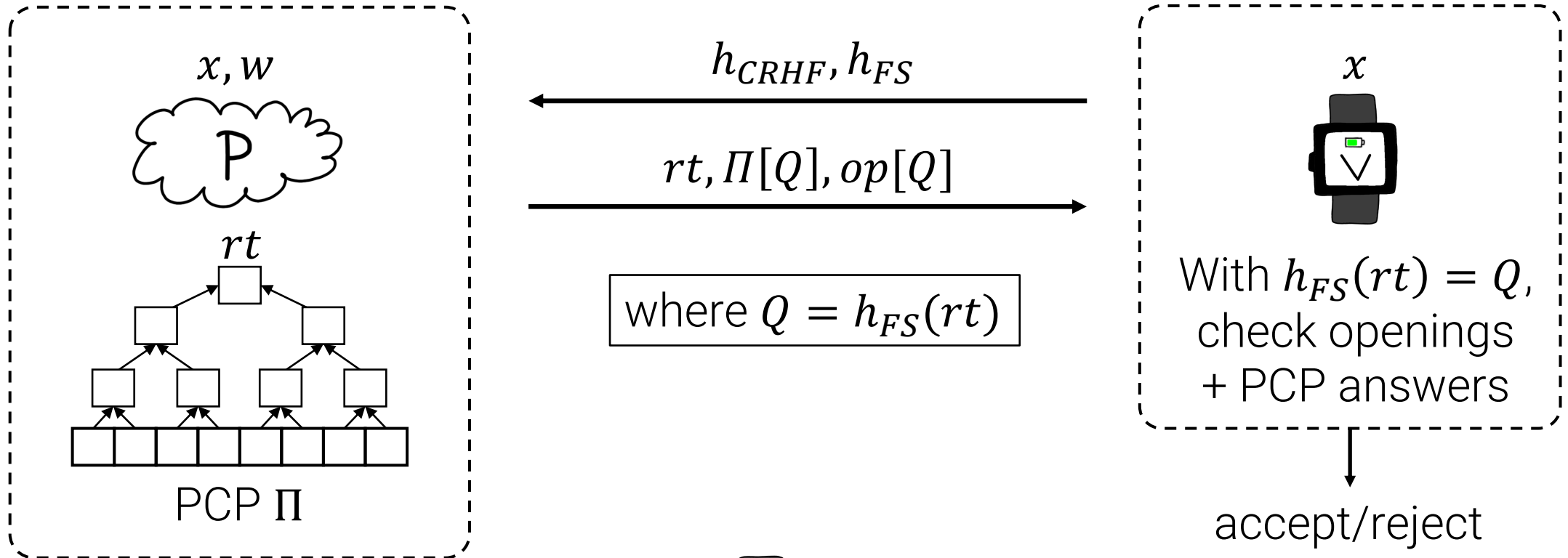
Fiat Shamir + Kilian = SNARG



where $Q = h_{FS}(rt)$



Fiat Shamir + Kilian = SNARG

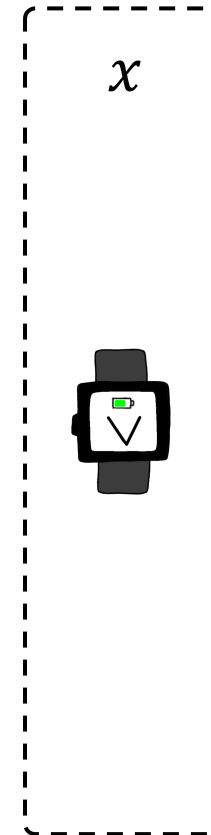
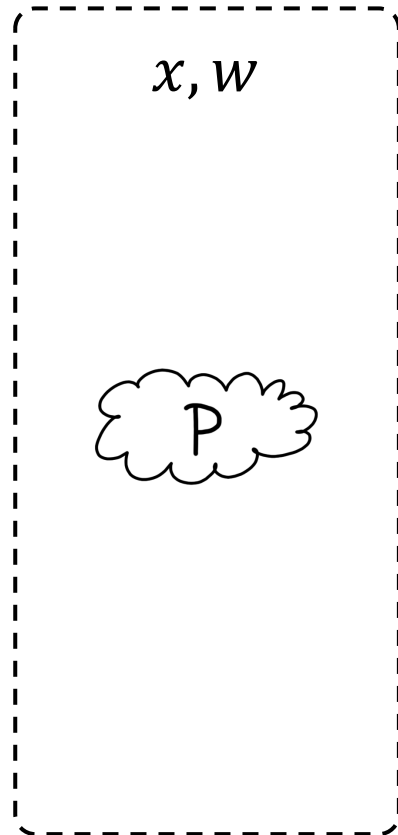


In plain model,  sends h_{CRHF}, h_{FS}

(In ROM, both are replaced by the oracle [Micali94])

Interactive Oracle Proofs (IOPs)

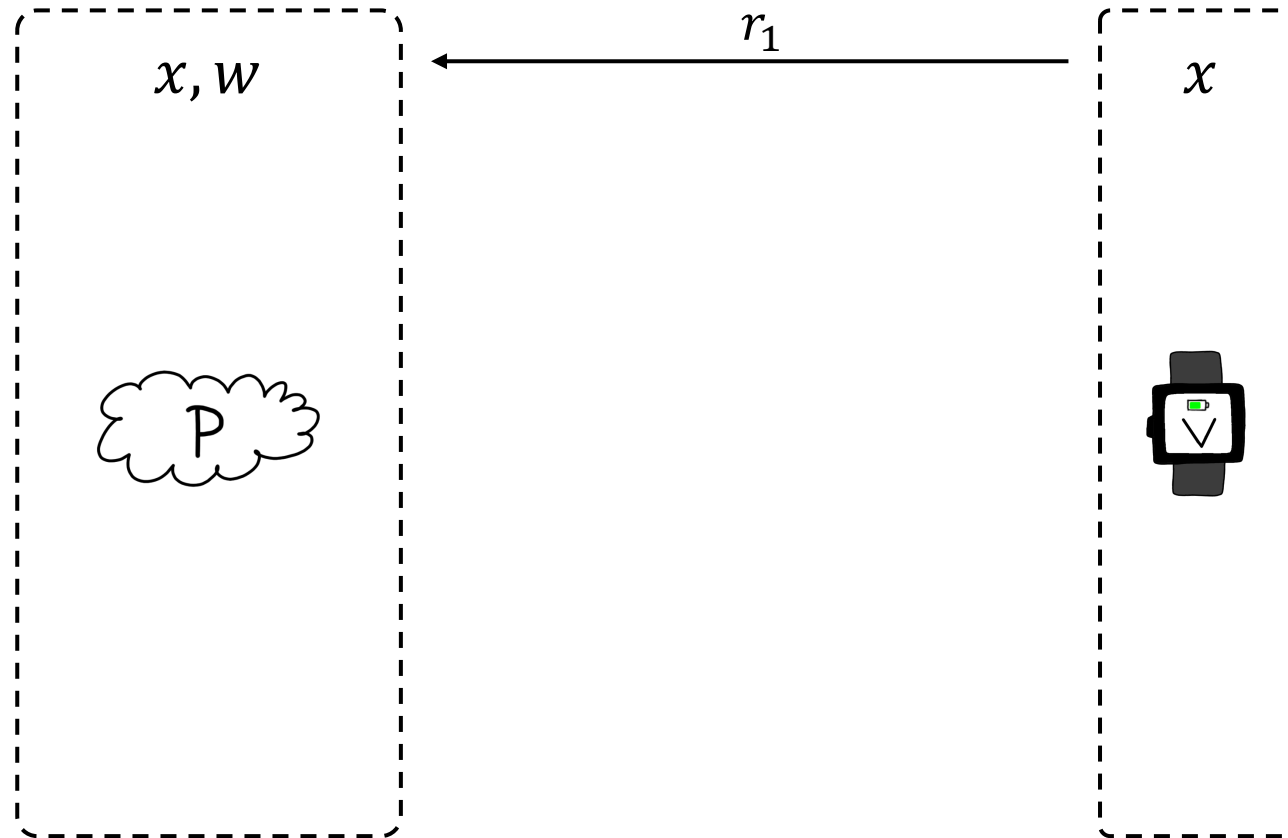
[Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16, Reingold-Rothblum-Rothblum 16]



Claim: $x \in \mathcal{L}$

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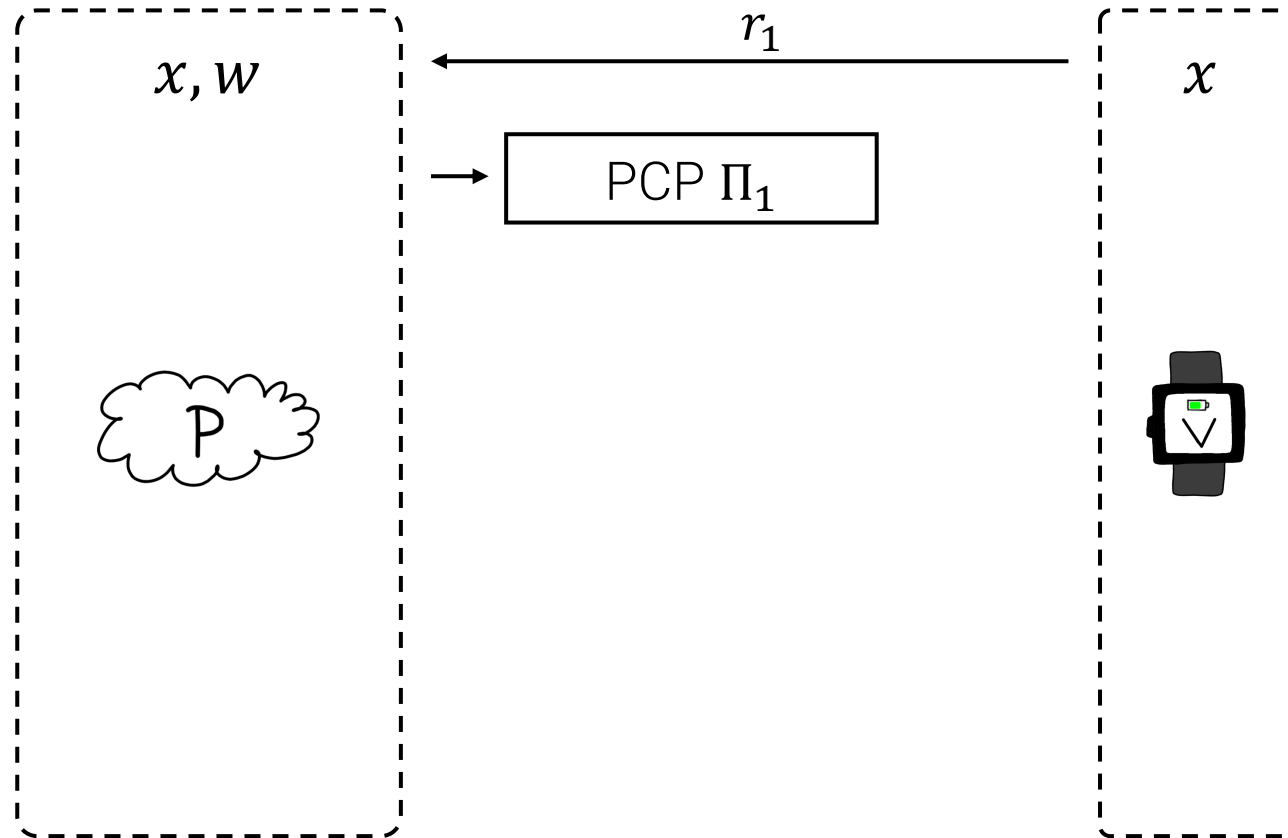
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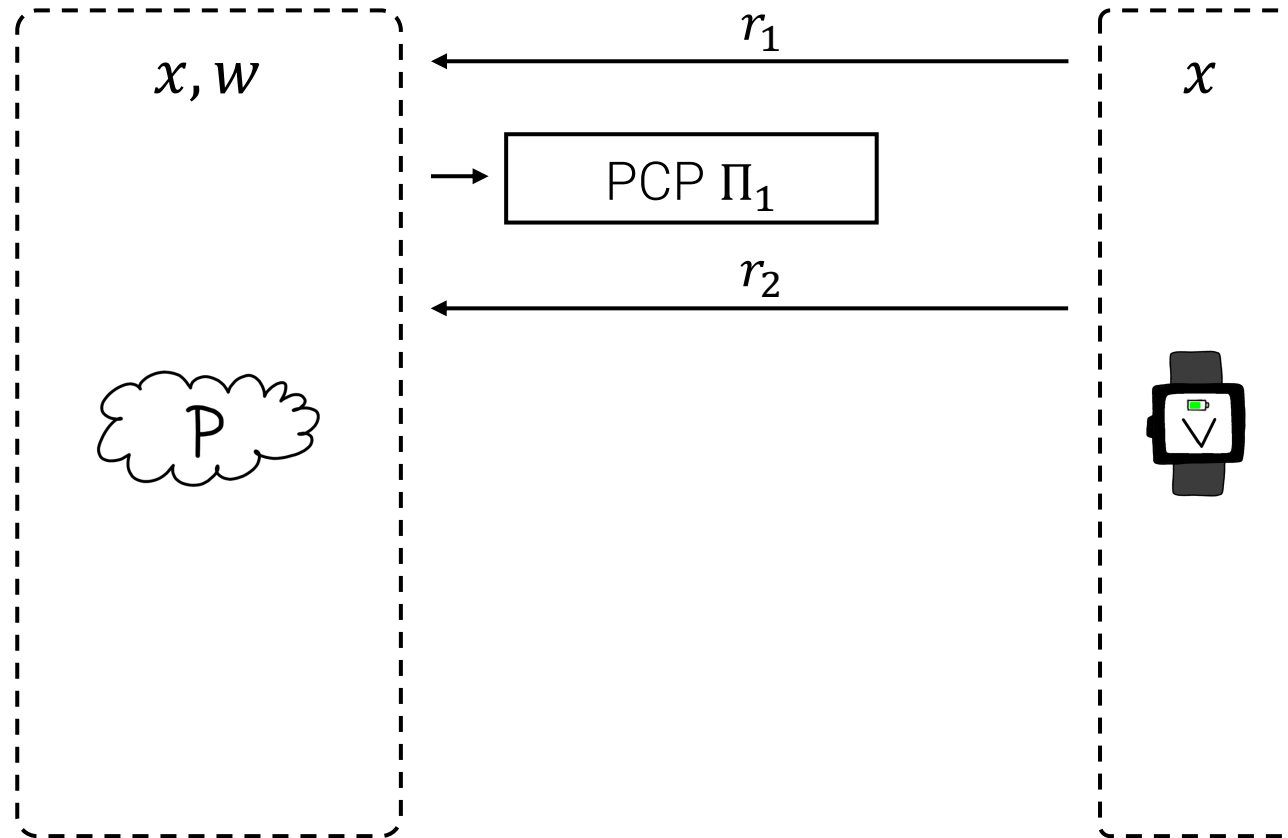
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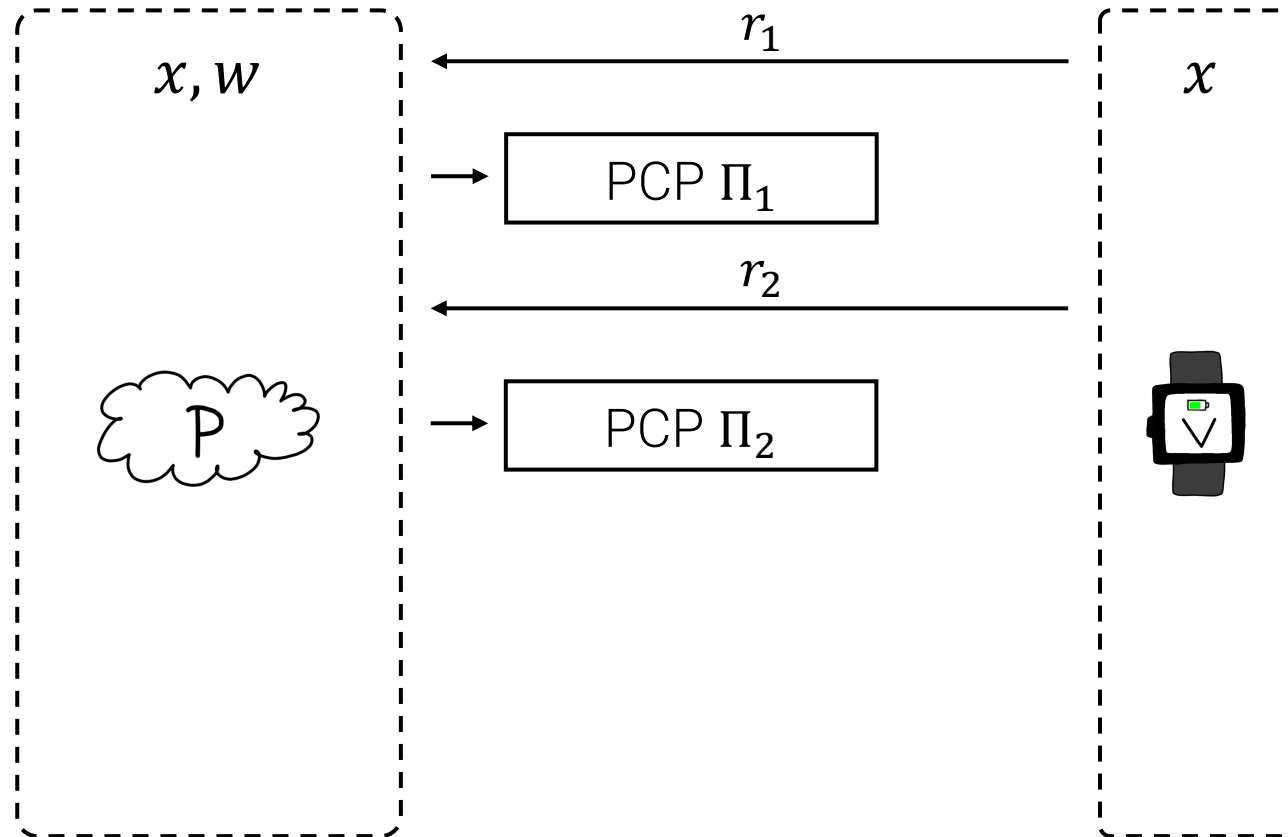
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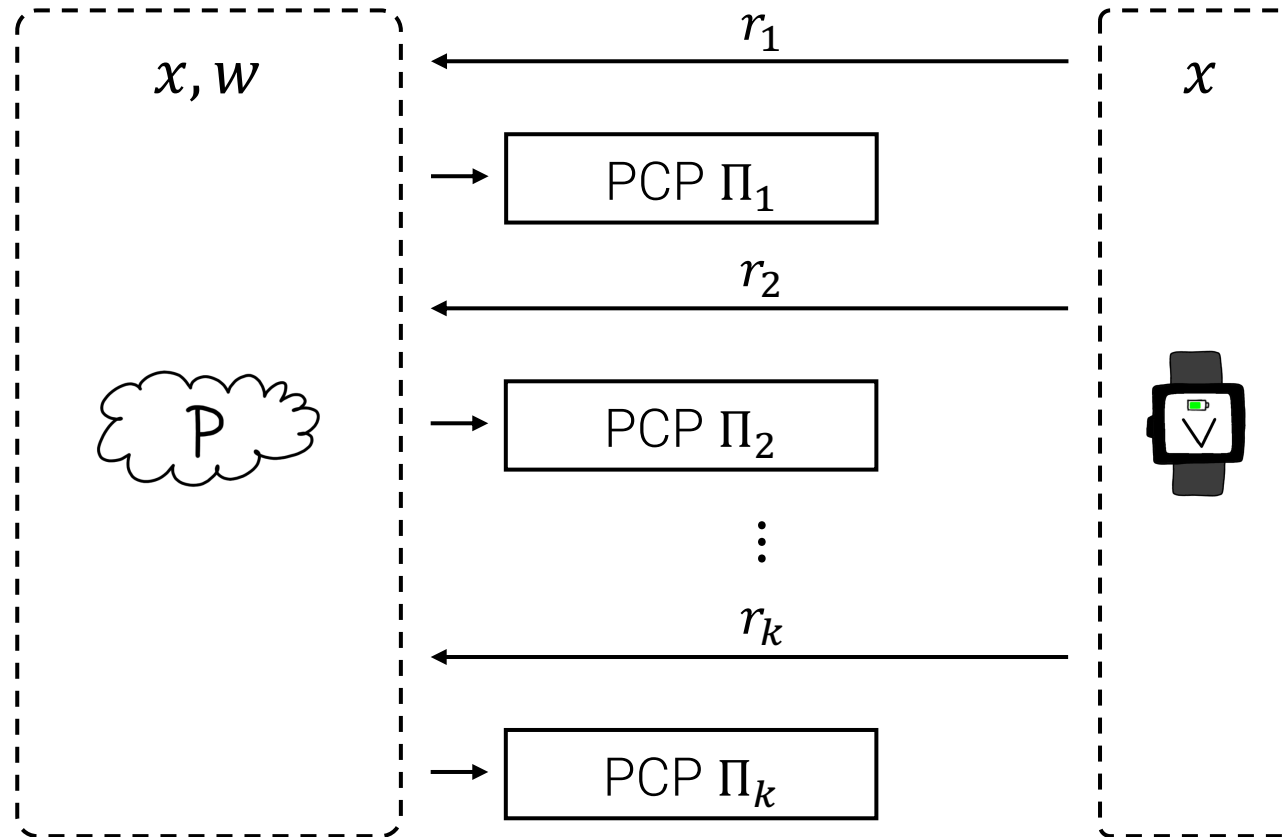
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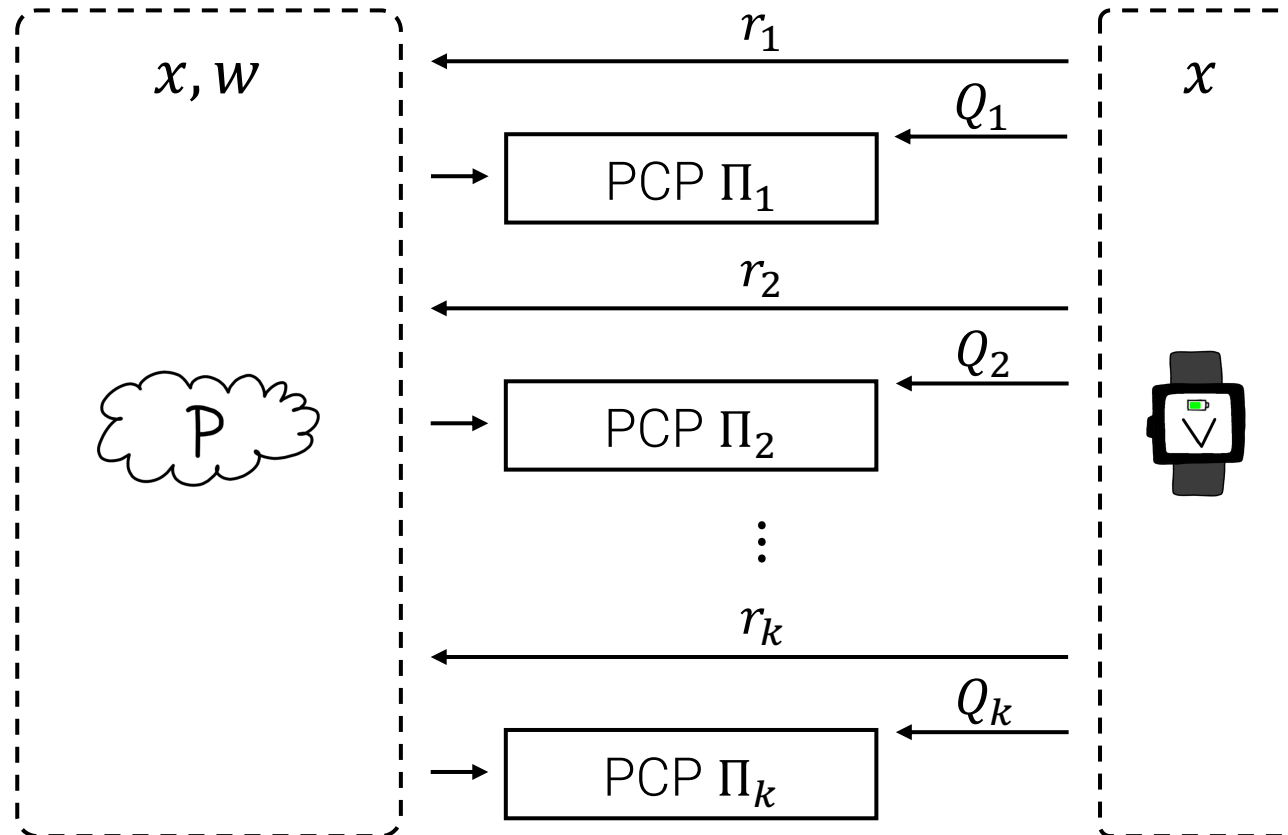
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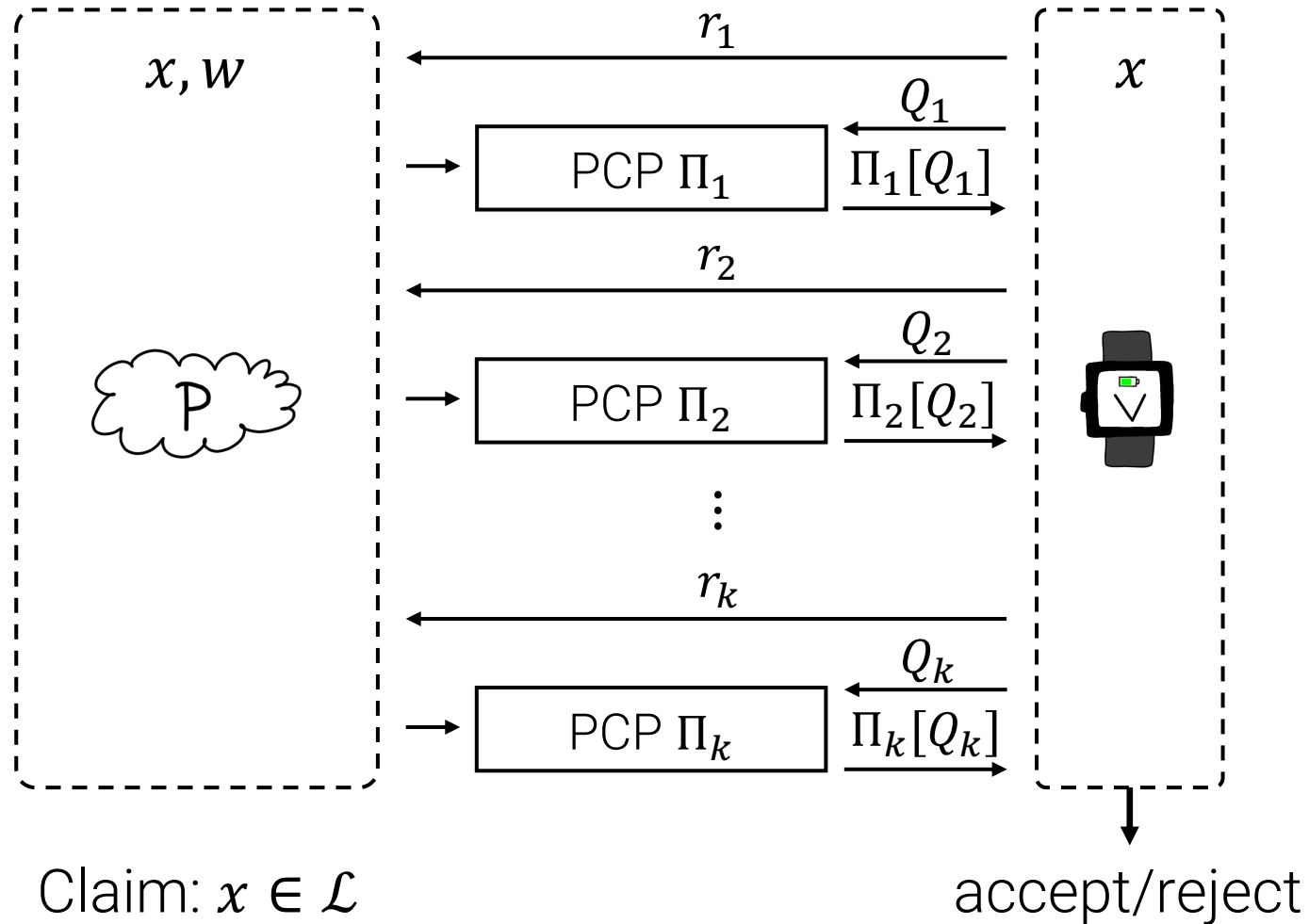
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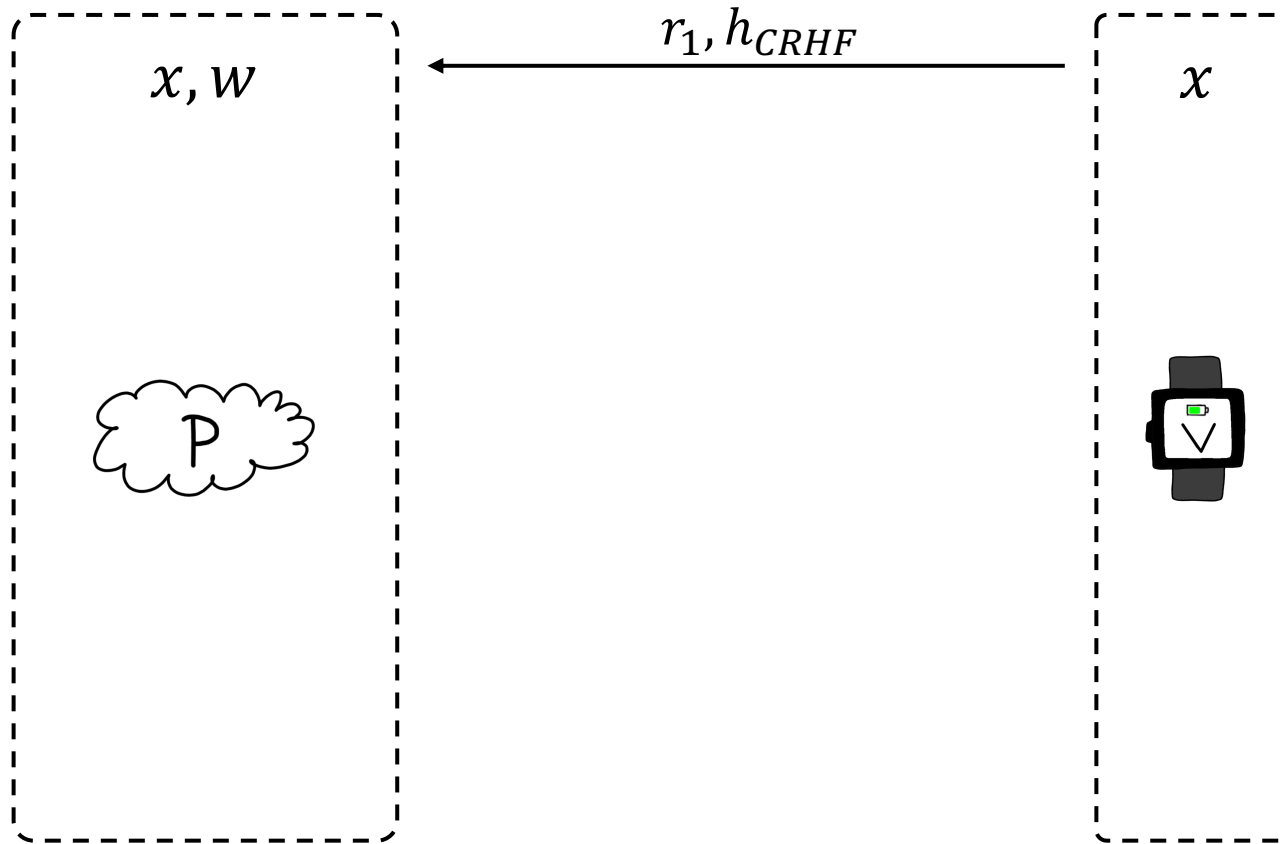
Interactive Oracle Proofs (IOPs)

[Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16, Reingold-Rothblum-Rothblum 16]






Kilian for IOPs

[Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16]



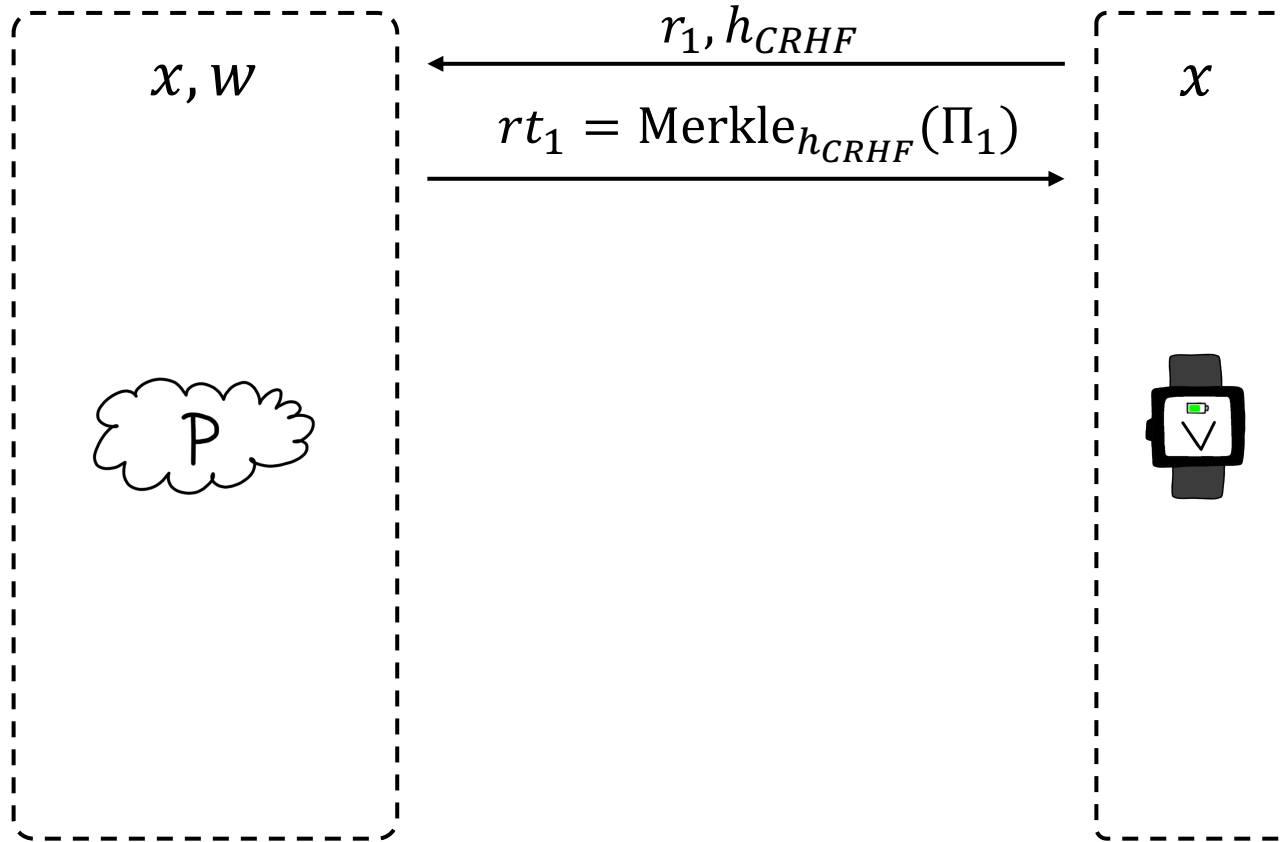
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Same idea as Kilian for PCPs:

-  sends h_{CRHF}
-  commits to Π_i with $rt_i = \text{Merkle}_{h_{CRHF}}(\Pi_i)$
-  accepts if IOP verifier accepts and openings valid




Kilian for IOPs

[Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16]



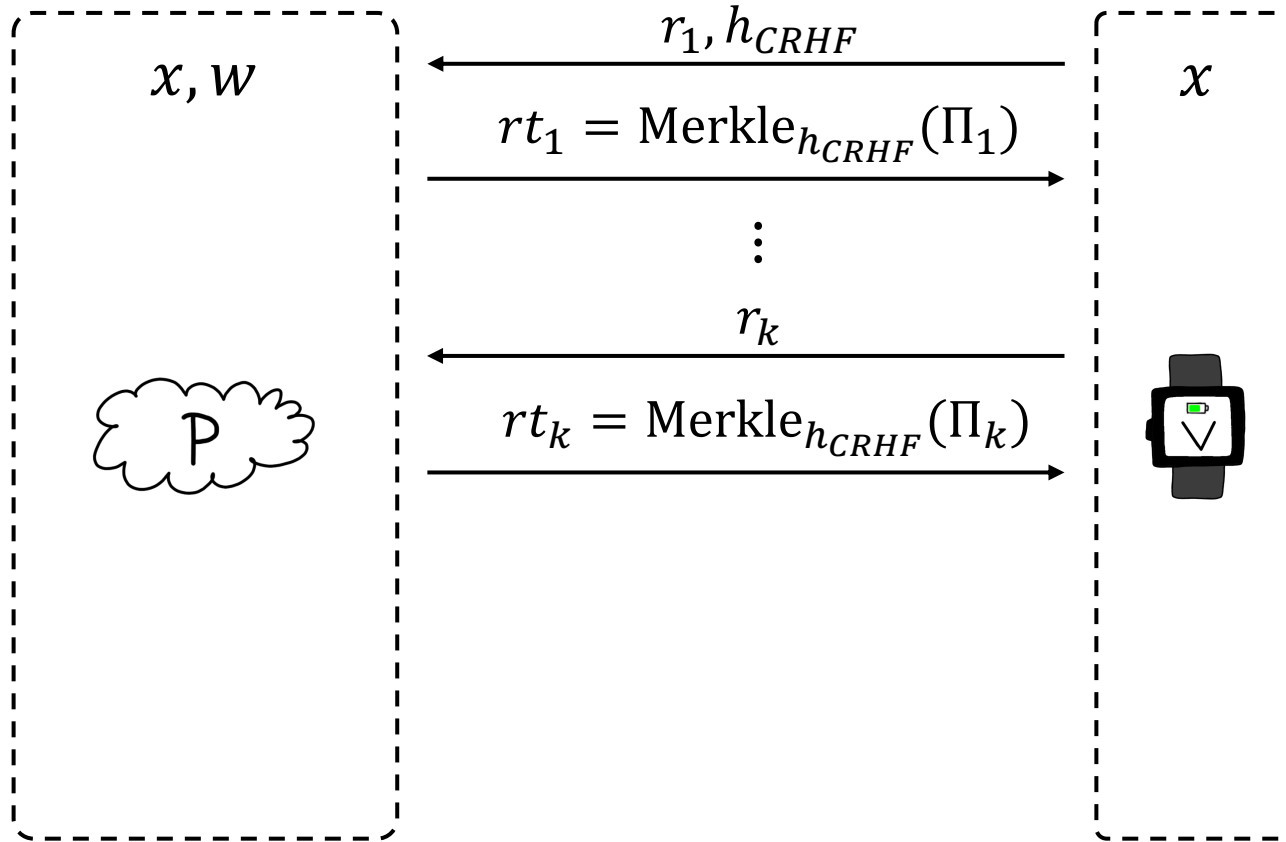
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-  accepts if IOP verifier accepts and openings valid




Kilian for IOPs

[Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16]



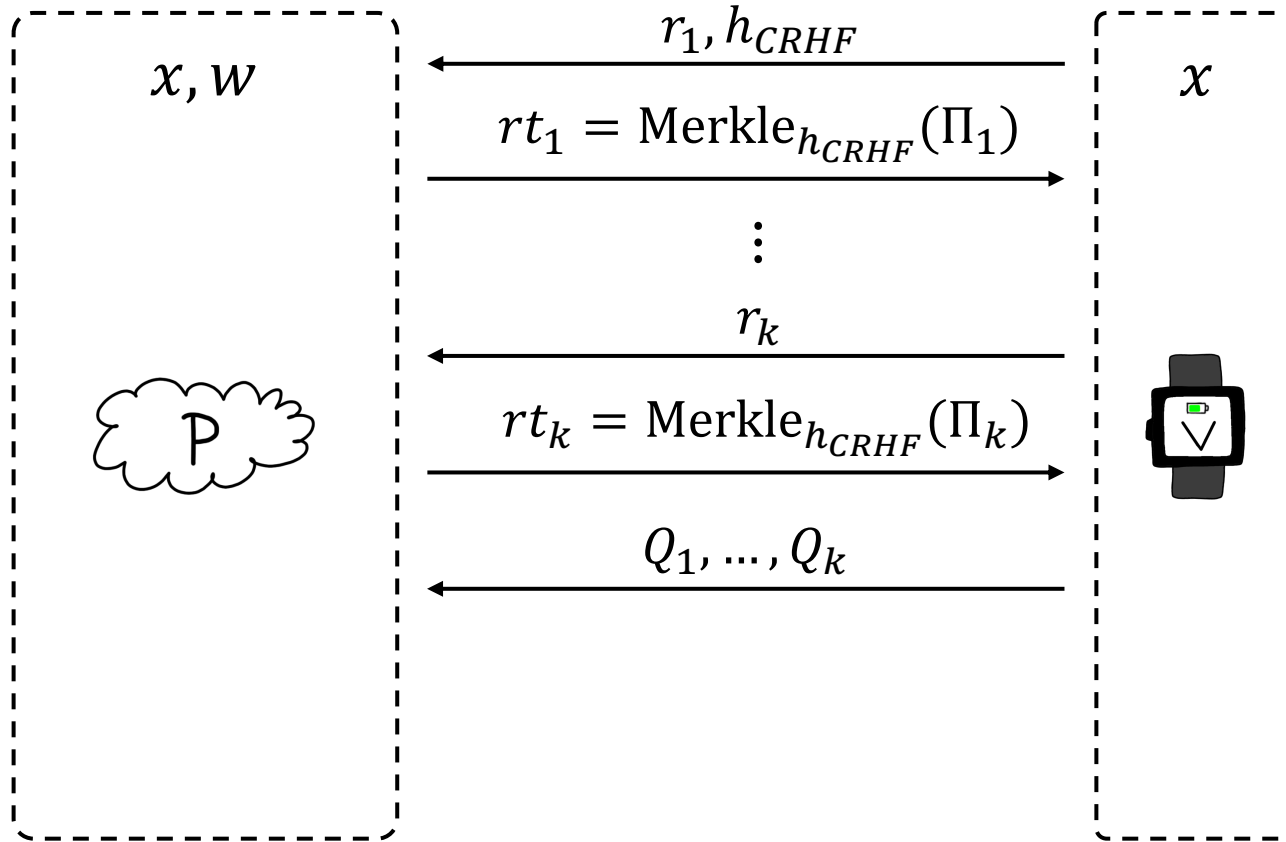
Claim: $x \in \mathcal{L}$

Same idea as Kilian for PCPs:

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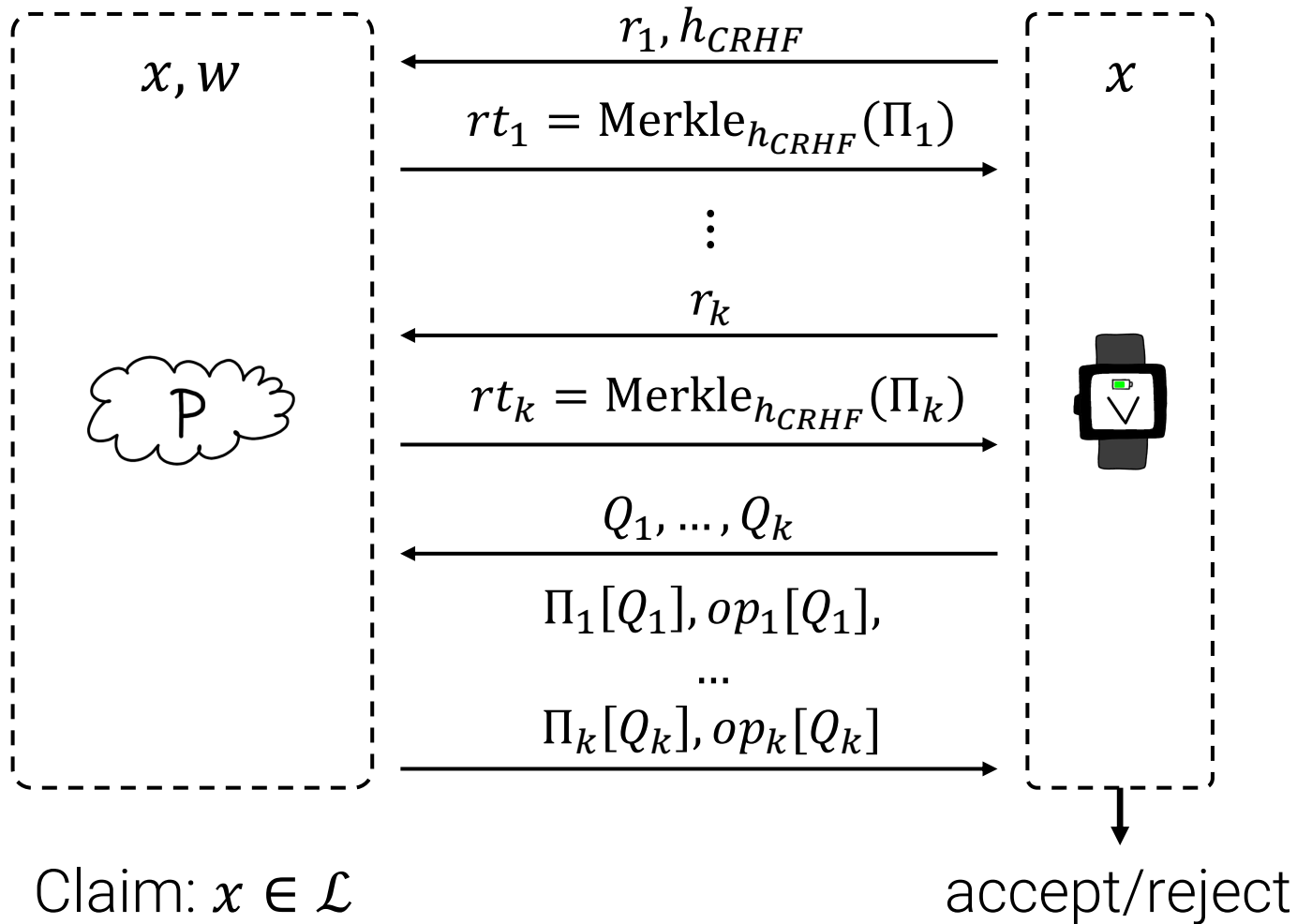
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Kilian for IOPs

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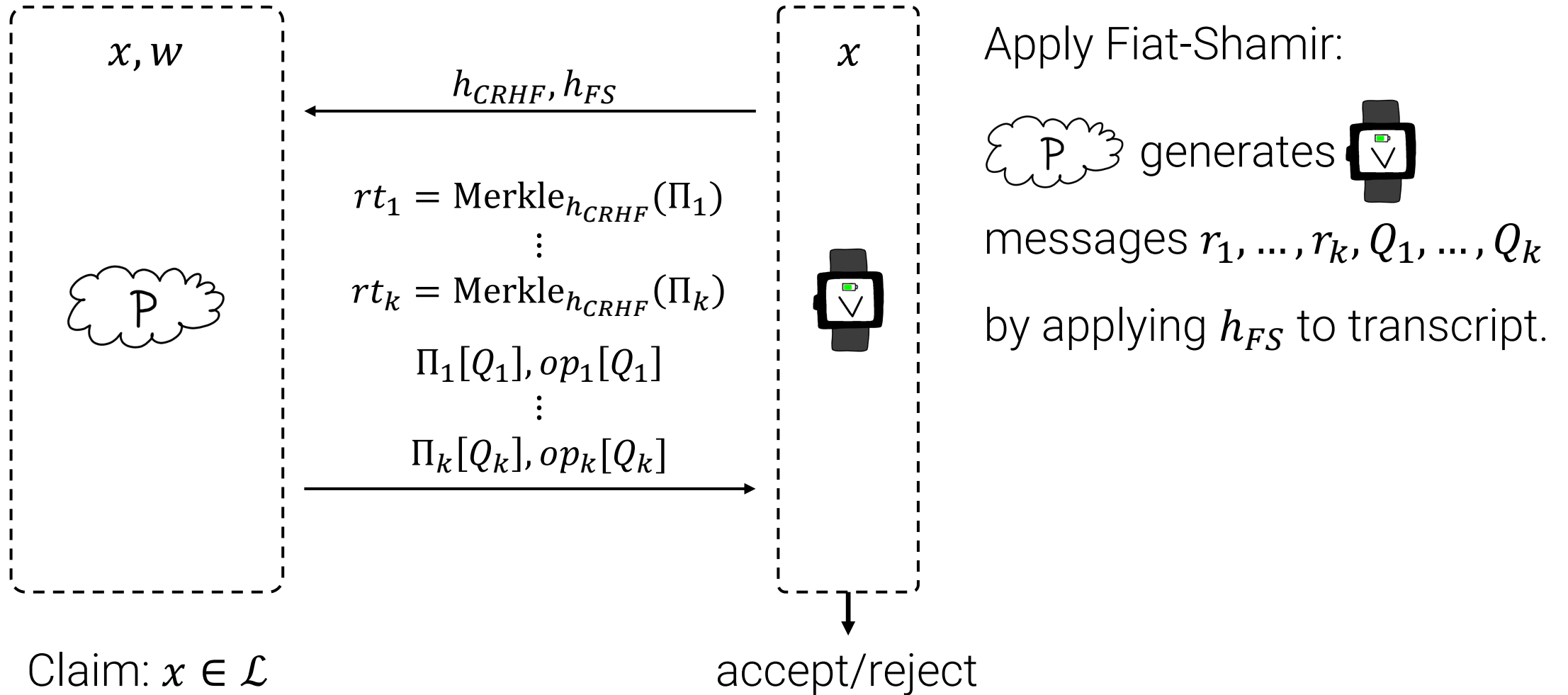


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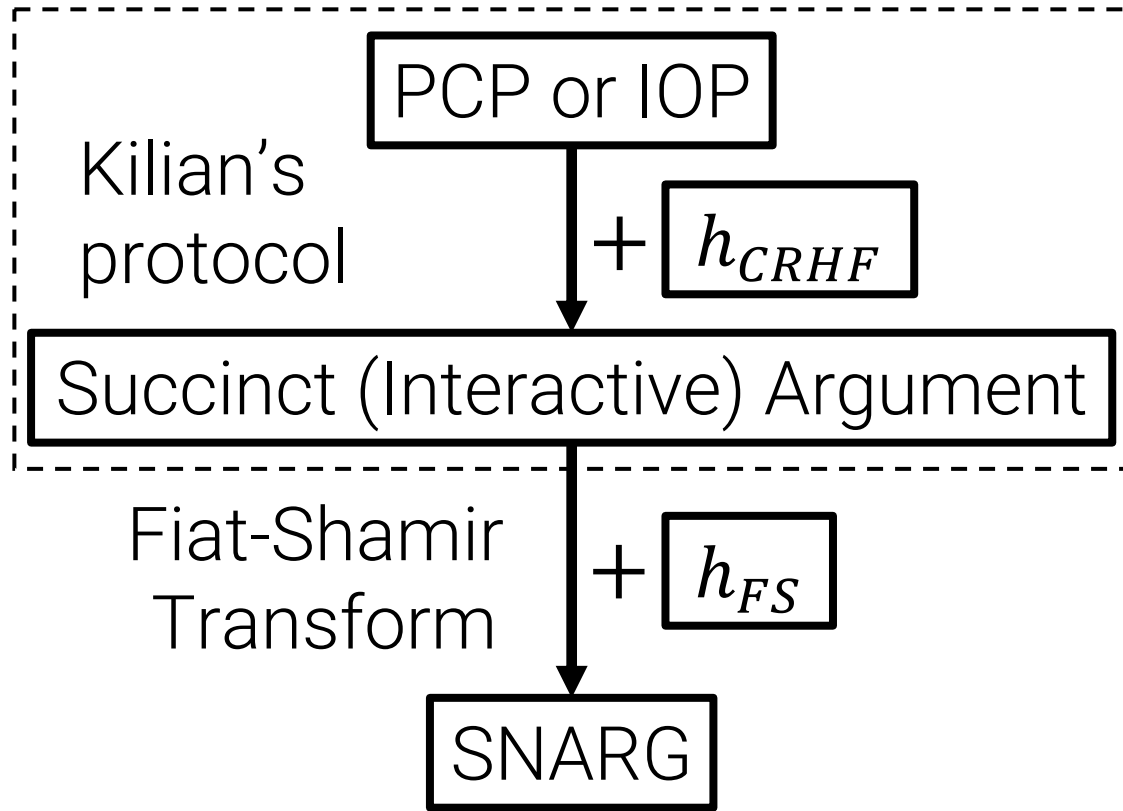
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IOP-based SNARGs

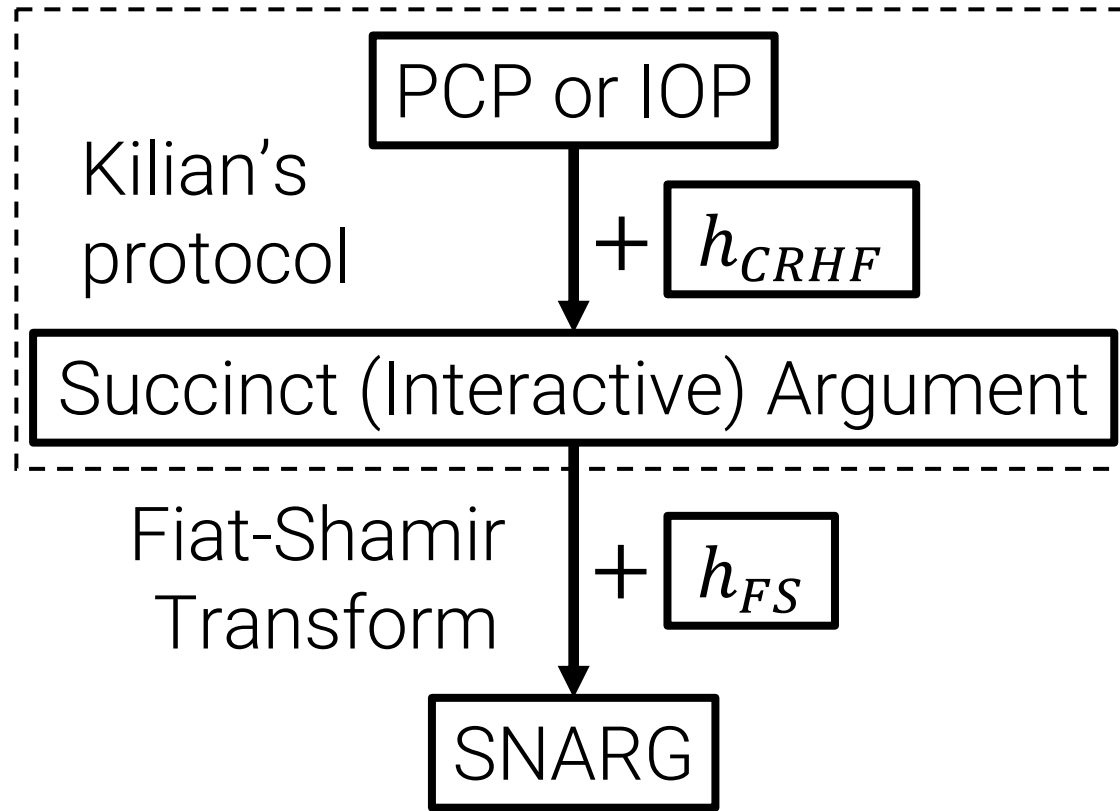
[Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16]



FSKM Compiler

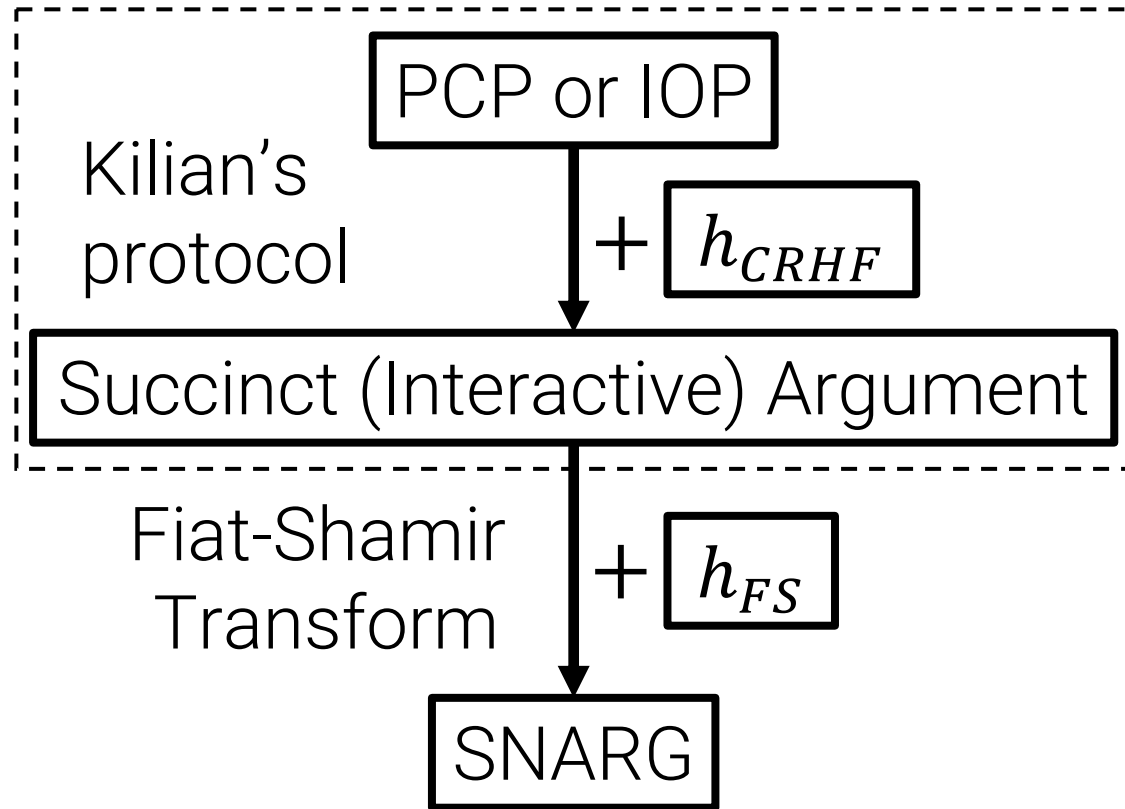


FSKM Compiler



[Micali 94, Ben-Sasson-Chiesa-Spooner 16]
Sound in ROM for PCPs and IOPs
with state restoration soundness

FSKM Compiler

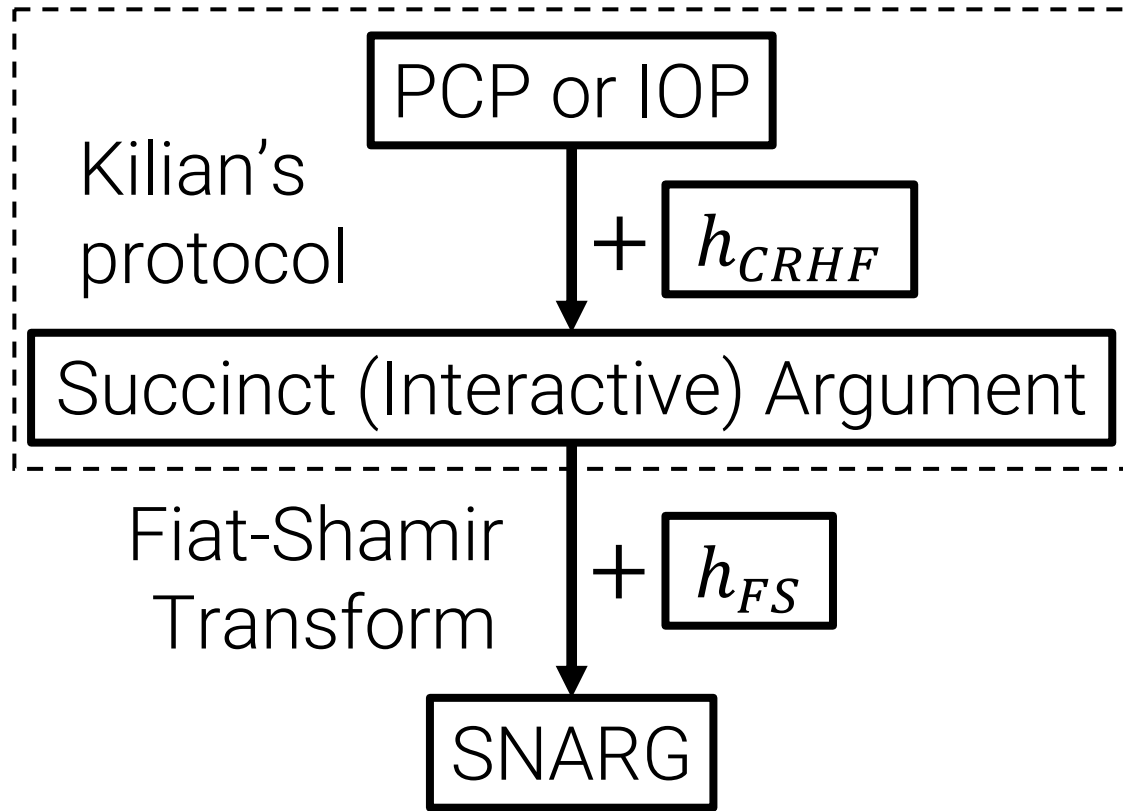


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[Result 1] There exists "bad" two-round IOP s.t. FSKM is unsound for any h_{CRHF} and any h_{FS} .

Takeaway: FSKM cannot generically turn IOPs into SNARGs (in the plain model).

FSKM Compiler



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[Result 1] There exists “bad” two-round IOP s.t. FSKM is unsound for any h_{CRHF} and any h_{FS} .

Takeaway: FSKM cannot generically turn IOPs into SNARGs (in the plain model).

[Result 2] There exists* “bad” h_{CRHF} s.t. FSKM is unsound for (almost) any PCP and any h_{FS} .

Takeaway: No “good enough” h_{FS} for Kilian \rightarrow SNARG

*need “computationally-unique” SNARKs

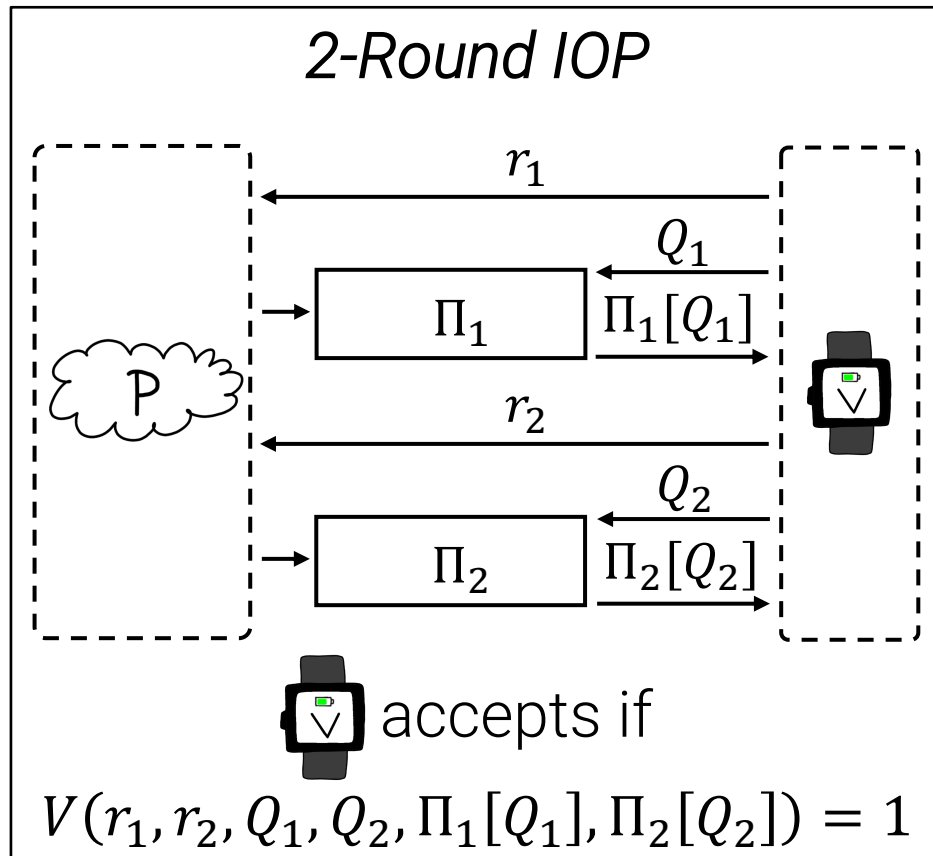
Outline

- (Review) Kilian's Protocol
- **A Bad IOP for IOP-Based SNARGs**
- (If time) A Bad CRHF for PCP-Based SNARGs

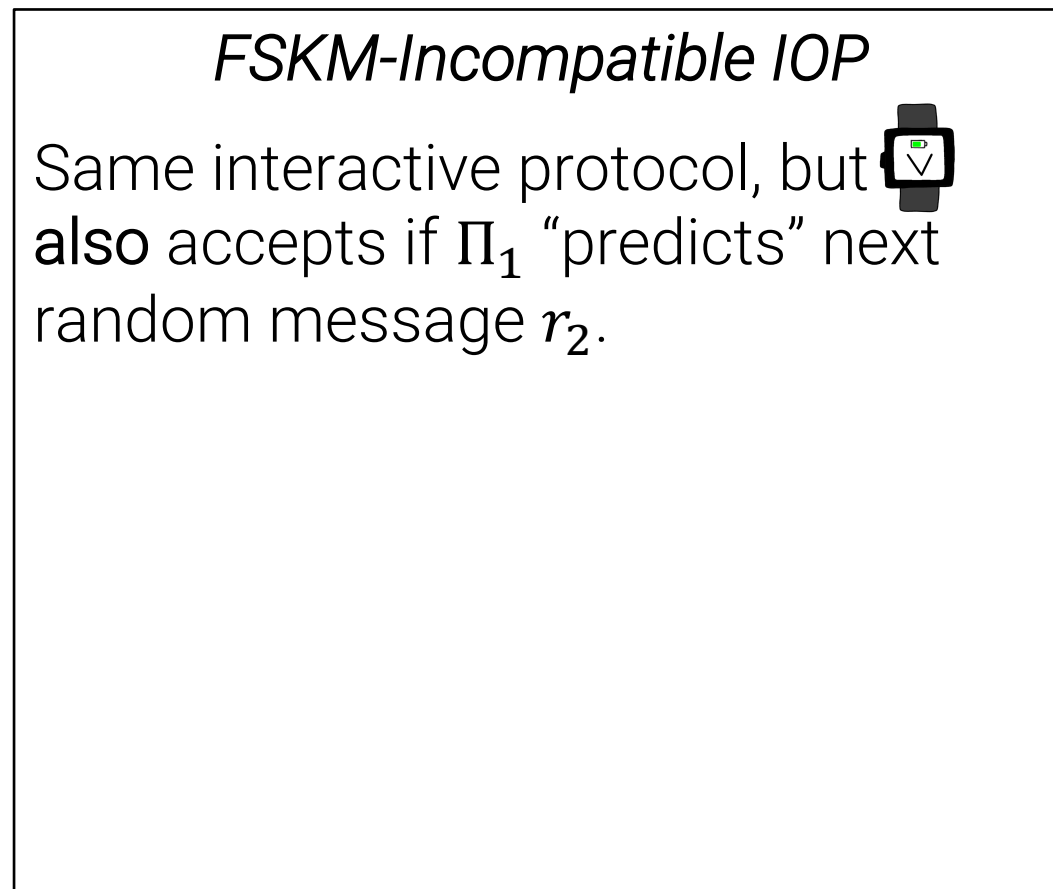
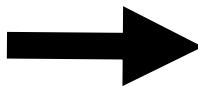
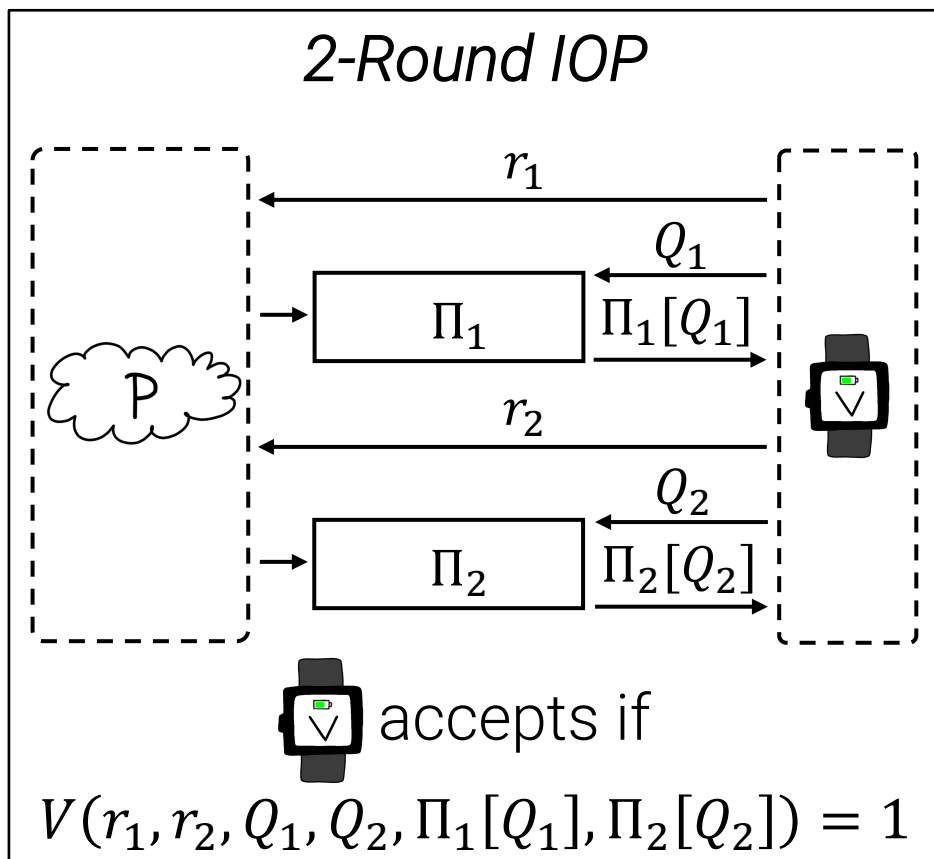
Result: For any $\mathcal{L} \in NP$, there is an FSKM-incompatible 2-round IOP

Proof strategy: Turn any 2-round IOP into 2-round FSKM-incompatible IOP
(unsound for any h_{FS}, h_{CRHF})

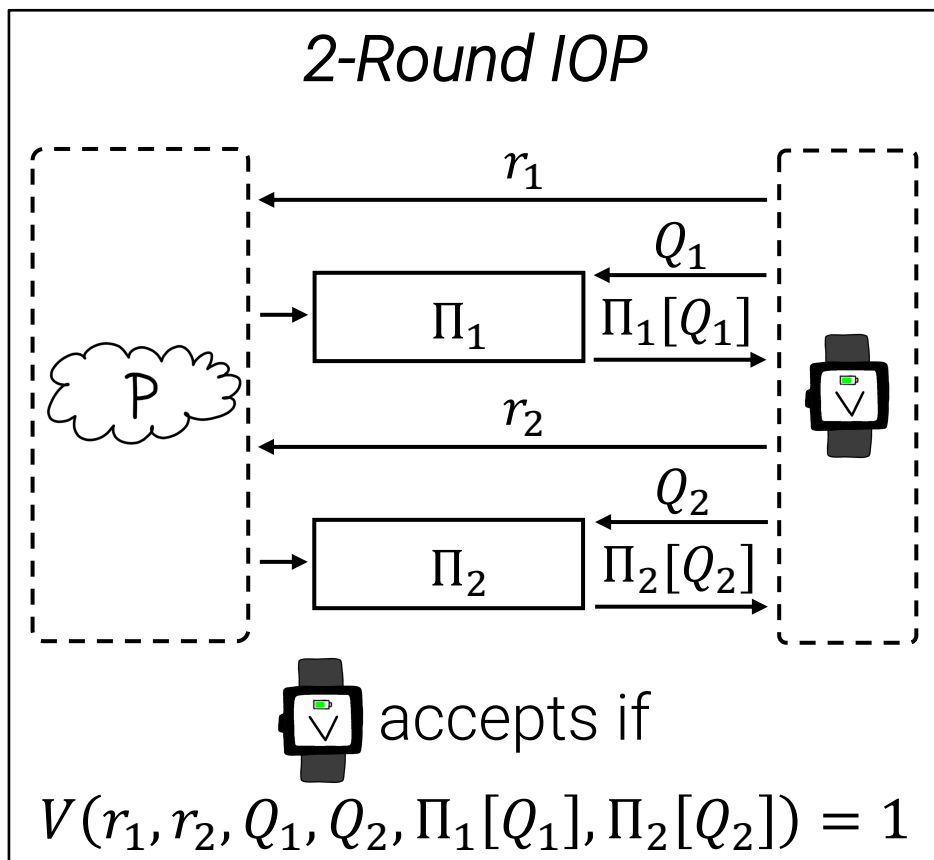
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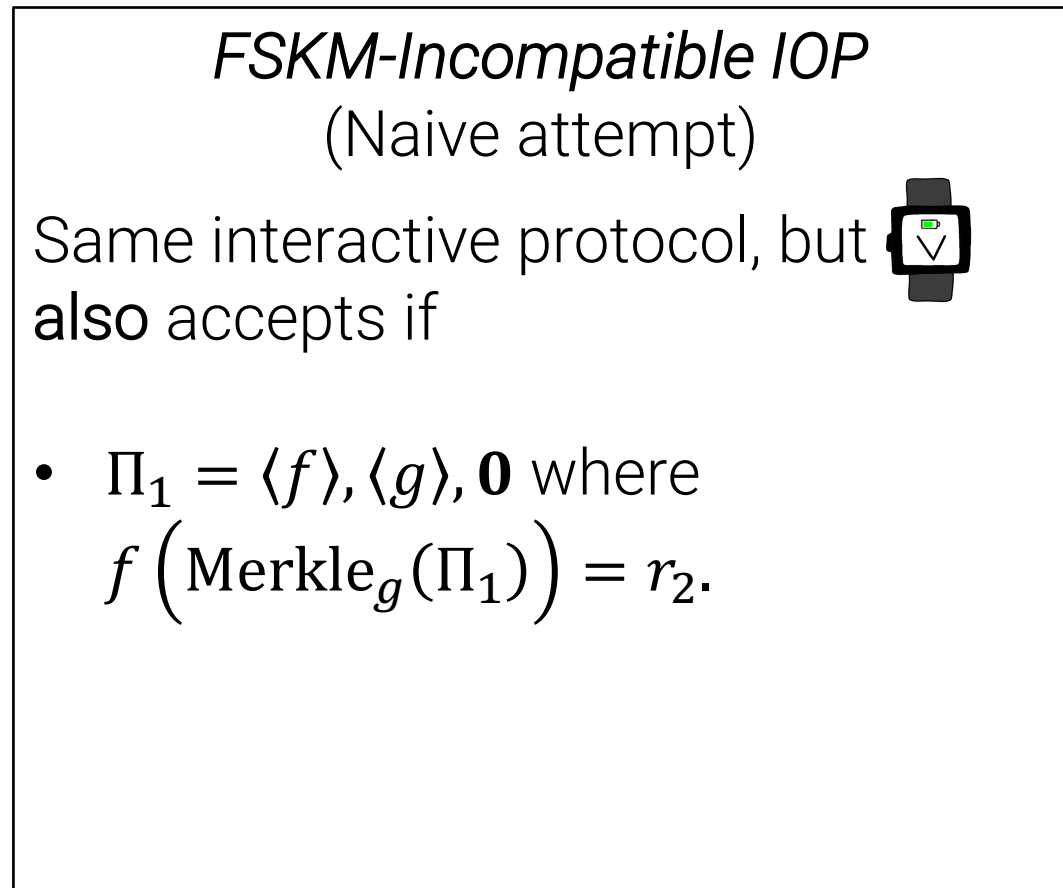
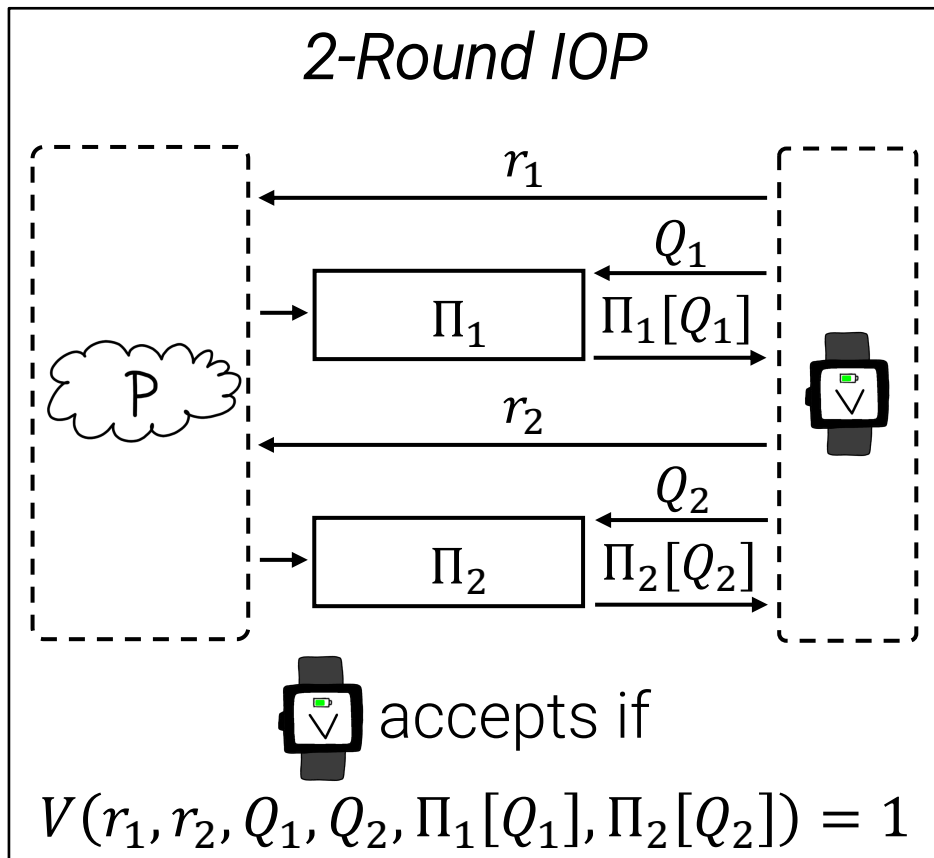
FSKM-Incompatible IOP

Same interactive protocol, but  **also** accepts if Π_1 “predicts” next random message r_2 .

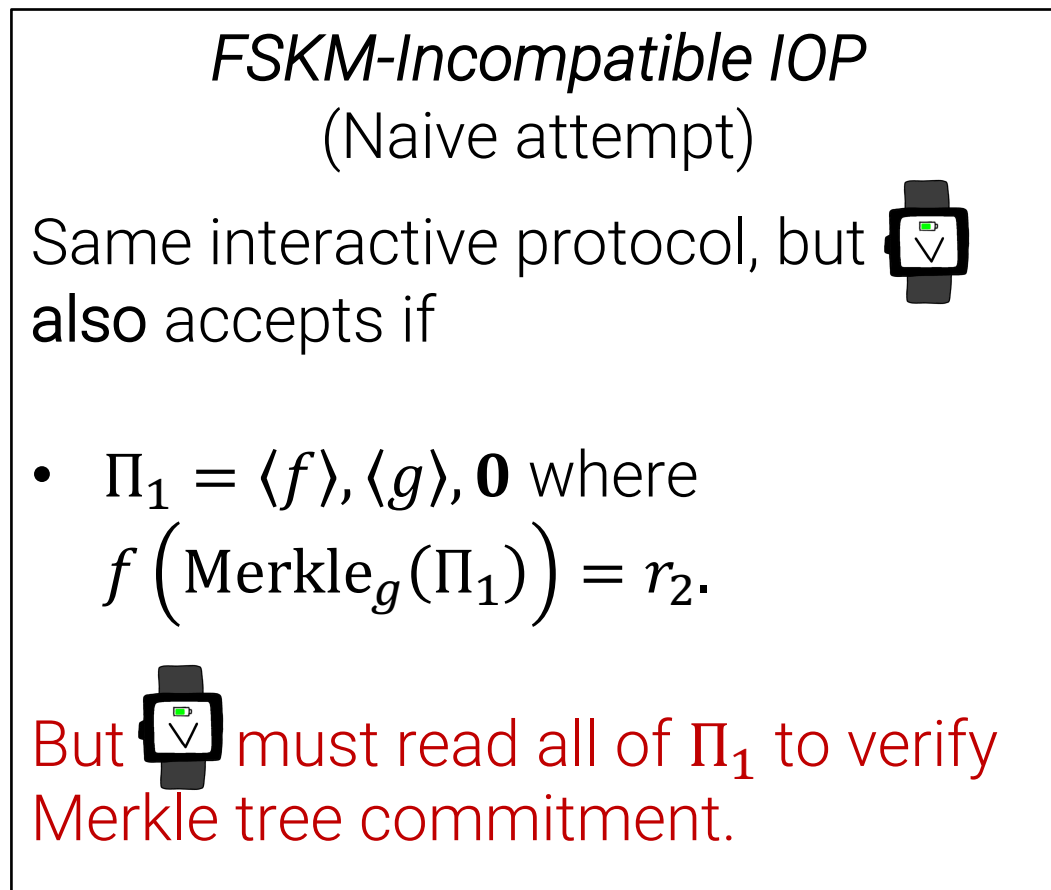
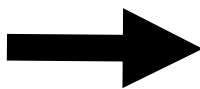
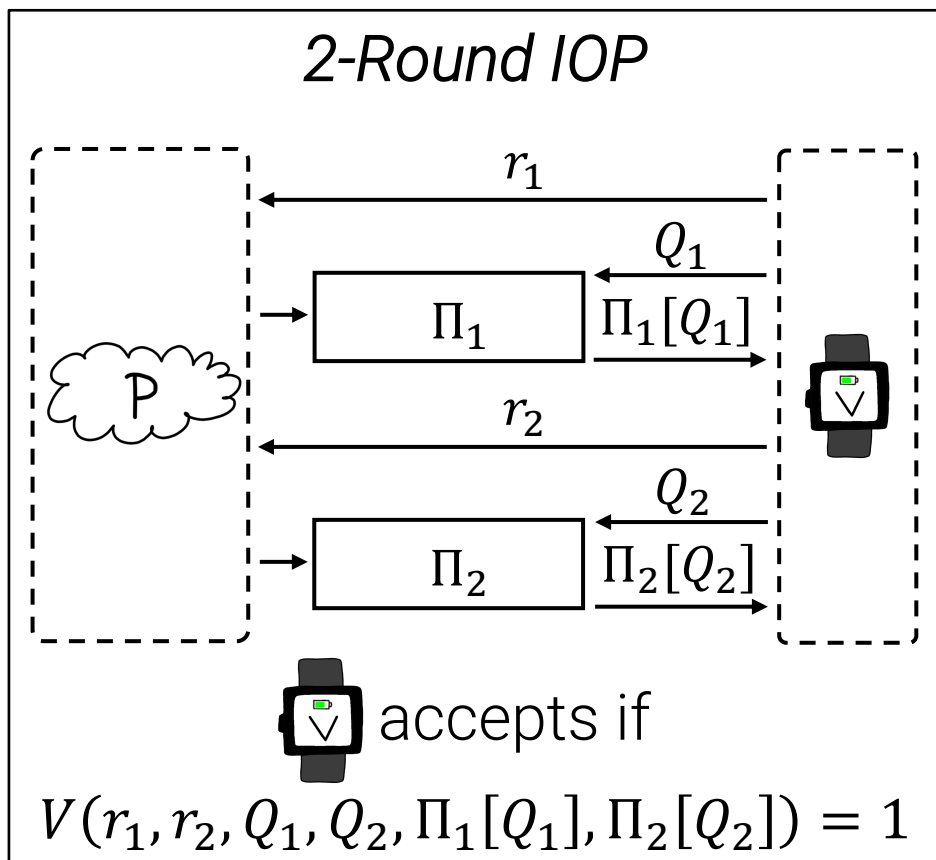
Intuition:  can cheat in FSKM since $r_2 = h_{FS}(\text{Merkle}_{h_{CRHF}}(\Pi_1))$ but original IOP still sound.

(Similar technique in [Barak 01, Goldwasser-Kalai 03])

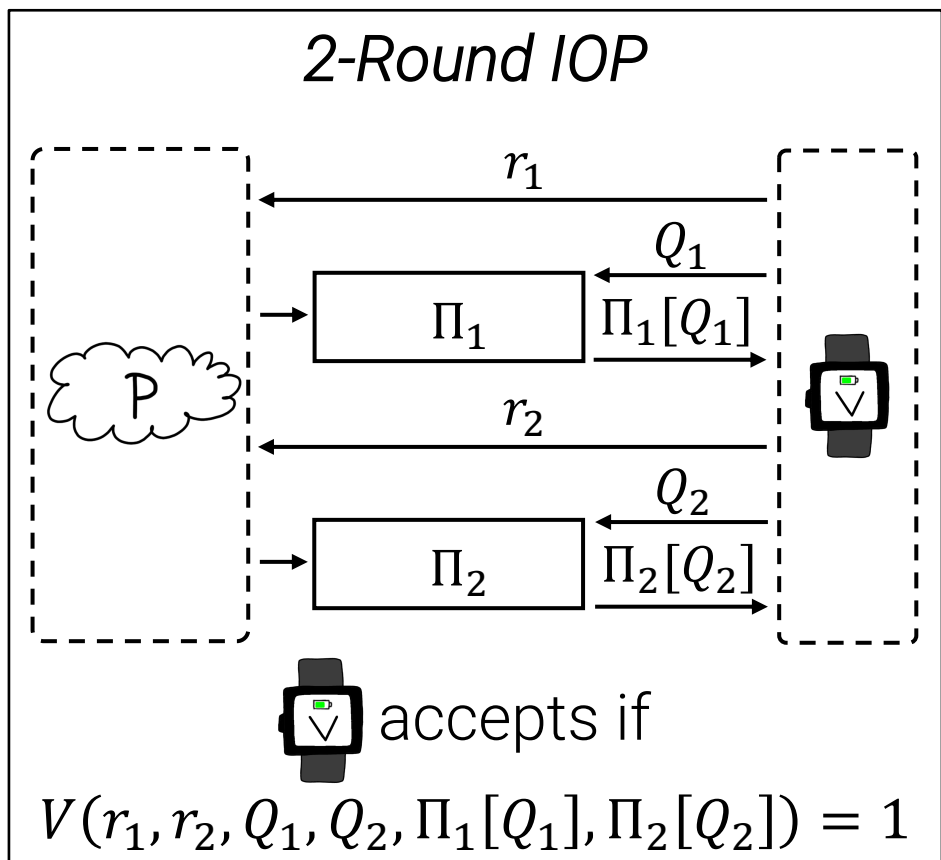
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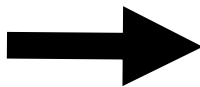
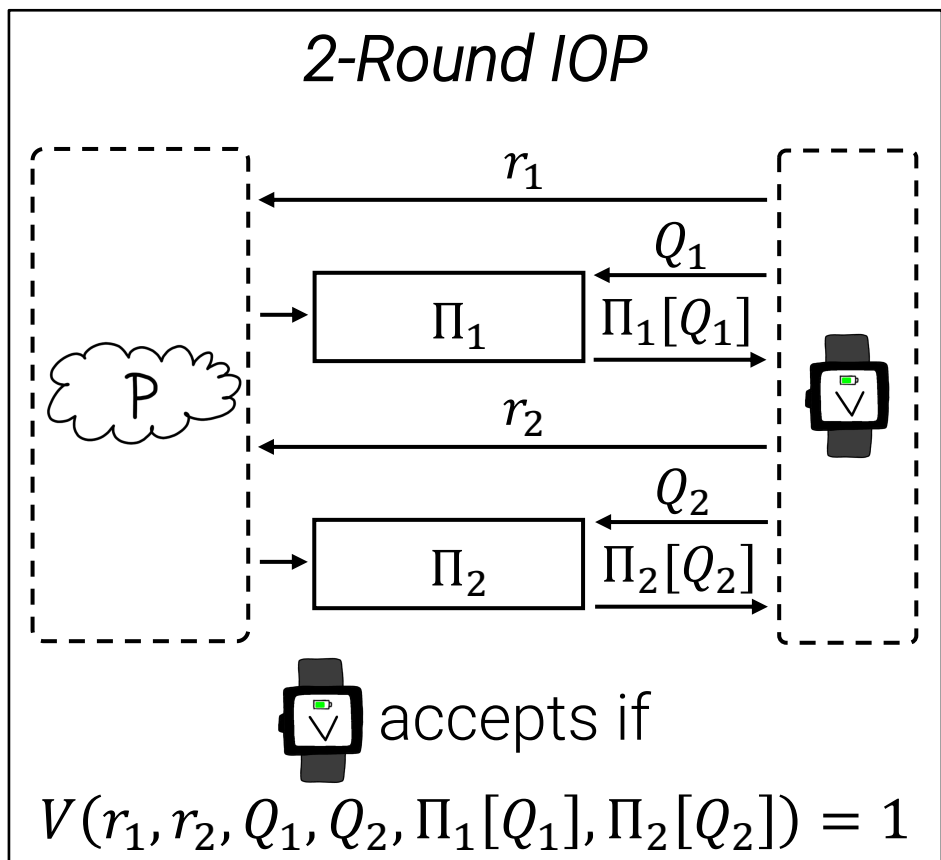


FSKM-Incompatible IOP
(Second attempt)

Same interactive protocol, but  also accepts if

- Π_2 is PCP that (r_2, Π_1) satisfies
“ $\Pi_1 = \langle f \rangle, \langle g \rangle, \mathbf{0}$ where
 $f(\text{Merkle}_g(\Pi_1)) = r_2$ ”

Result: For any $\mathcal{L} \in NP$, there is an FSKM-incompatible 2-round IOP



FSKM-Incompatible IOP

(Second attempt)

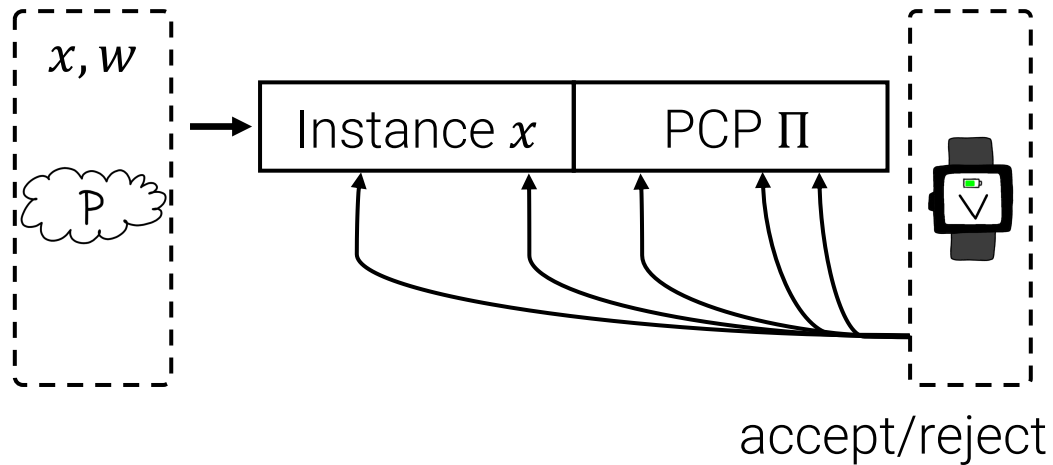
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Problem: verifying PCP requires  to know the instance.

Aside: PCPs of Proximity

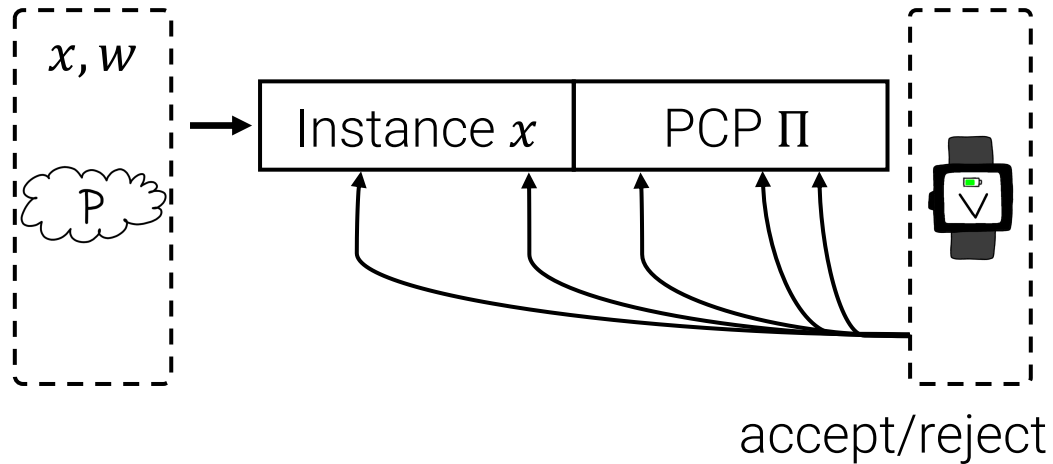
[Ben-Sasson-Goldreich-Harsha-Sudan-Vadhan 06,
Dinur-Reingold 06, Dinur 07]





- Completeness:  accepts $x \in \mathcal{L}$
- Soundness:  rejects if x is "far" (hamming dist) from all $x' \in \mathcal{L}$

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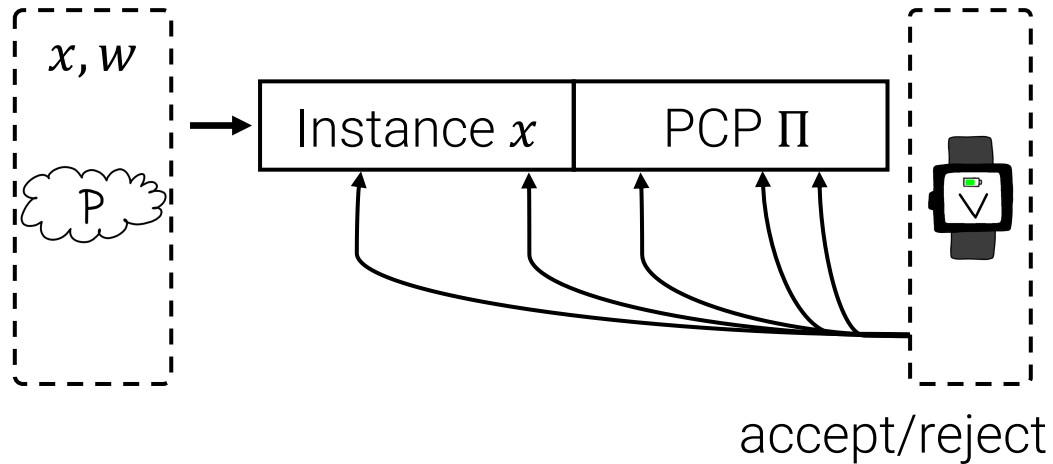
FSKM-Incompatible IOP (Third attempt)



Same interactive protocol, but  also accepts if

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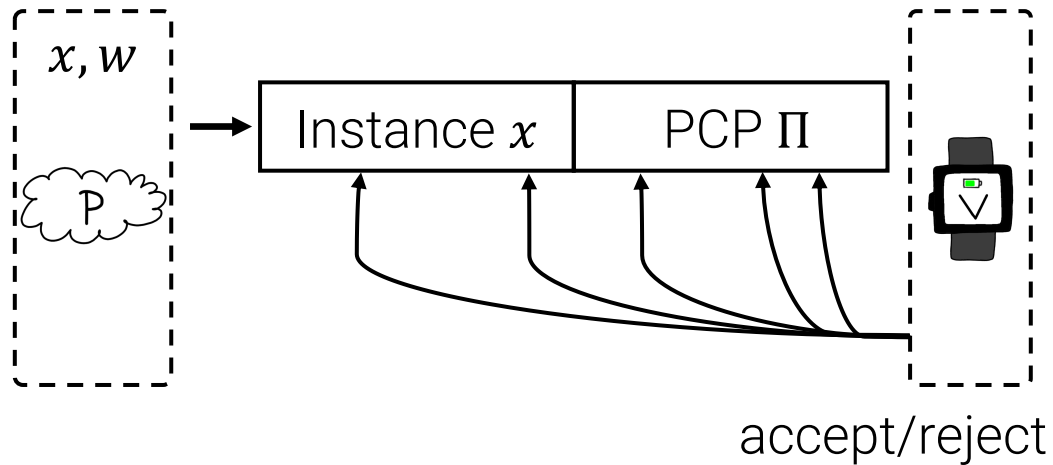
- Π_2 is PCP of proximity that (r_2, Π_1) satisfies



$$\text{"}\Pi_1 = \langle f \rangle, \langle g \rangle \text{ where} \\ f(\text{Merkle}_g(\Pi_1)) = r_2\text{"}$$

IOP might not remain sound (maybe $\Pi_1 = \langle f \rangle, \langle g \rangle$ does not "predict" r_2 , but some close $\Pi'_1 = \langle f' \rangle, \langle g' \rangle$ does)

Aside: PCPs of Proximity

[Ben-Sasson-Goldreich-Harsha-Sudan-Vadhan 06,
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- Completeness:  accepts $x \in \mathcal{L}$
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FSKM-Incompatible IOP (final version)

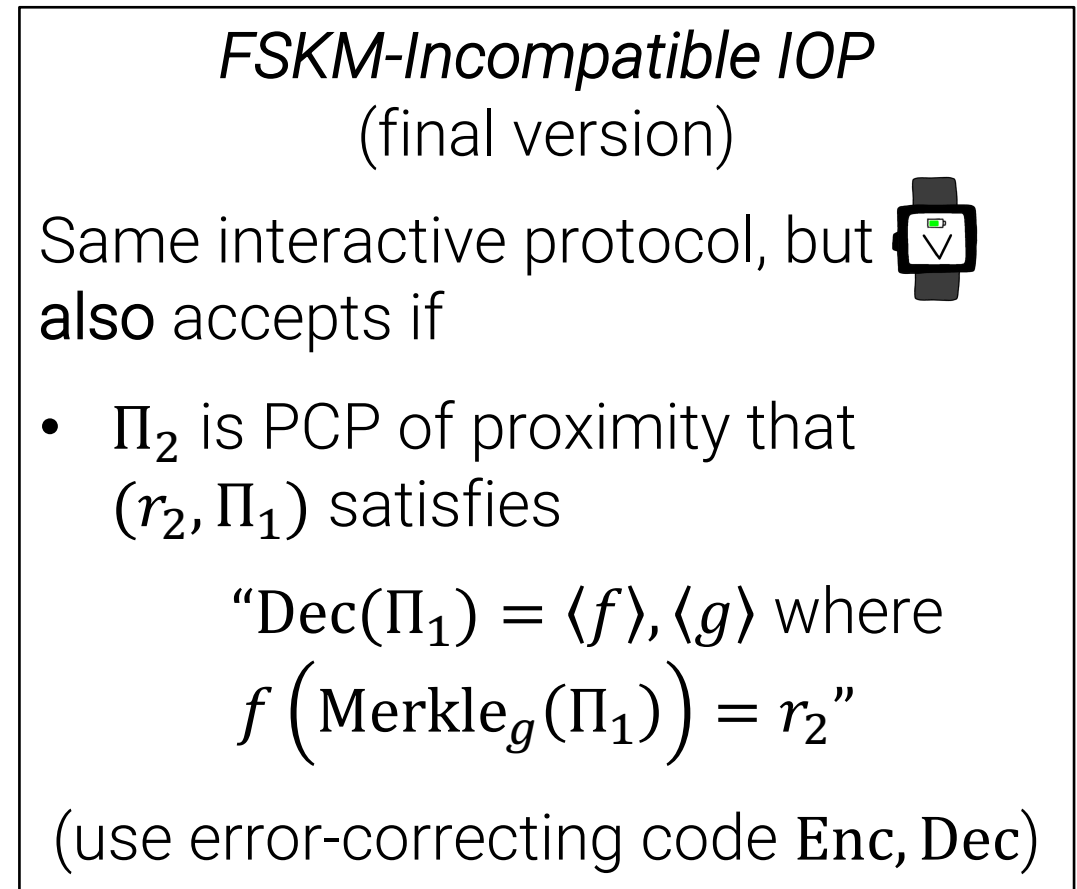
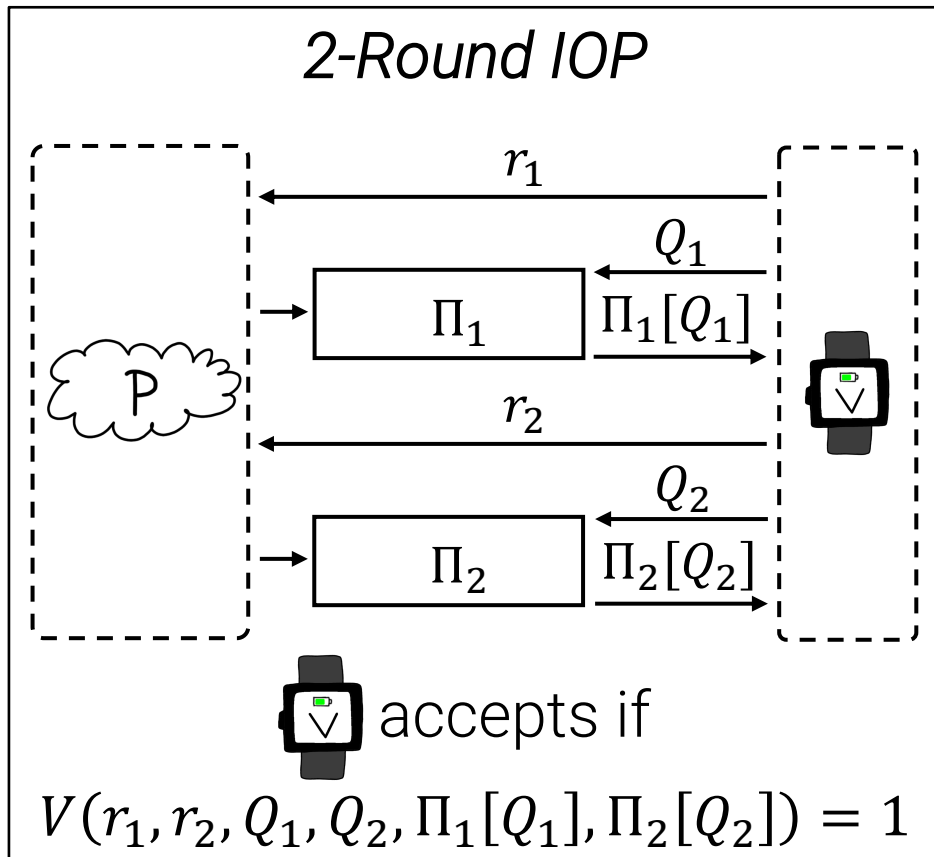
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- Π_2 is PCP of proximity that (r_2, Π_1) satisfies

"Dec(Π_1) = $\langle f \rangle, \langle g \rangle$ where
 $f(\text{Merkle}_g(\Pi_1)) = r_2$ "


(use error-correcting code Enc, Dec)

Result: There exists “bad” 2-round IOP s.t. FSKM is unsound for any h_{CRHF}, h_{FS} .



Result: There exists “bad” 2-round IOP s.t. FSKM is unsound for any h_{CRHF}, h_{FS} .

New IOP retains soundness:

- If  accepts, then (r_2, Π_1) is close to accepting (r_2, Π'_1)
- By error-correction, Π'_1 and Π_1 encode same $\langle f \rangle, \langle g \rangle$.
- But r_2 sampled after Π_1 !

FSKM-Incompatible IOP (final version)

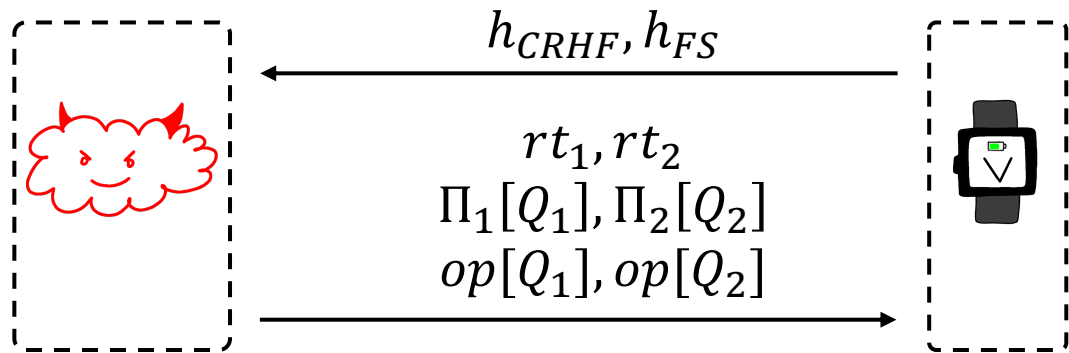
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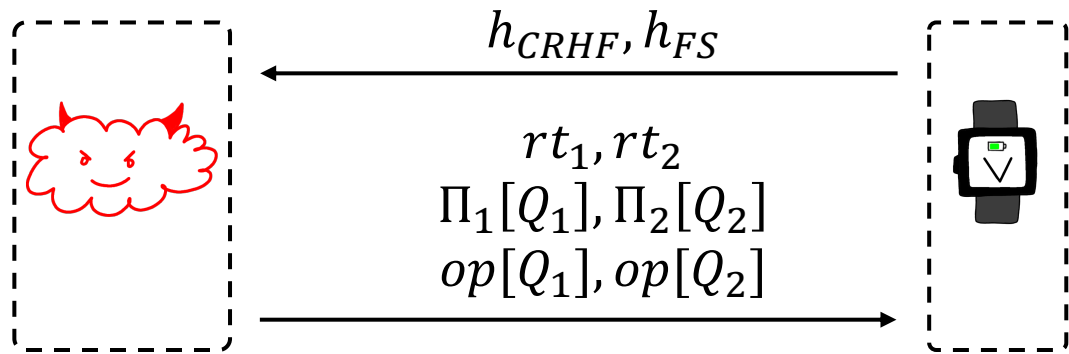
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New IOP is unsound after FSKM



1. Set $\Pi_1 = Enc(\langle h_{FS} \rangle, \langle h_{CRHF} \rangle)$.
2. Set $r_2 = h_{FS}(\text{Merkle}_{h_{CRHF}}(\Pi_1))$
3. PCPP Π_2 that (r_2, Π_1) satisfies



will *always* accept

FSKM-Incompatible IOP (final version)

Same interactive protocol, but  also accepts if

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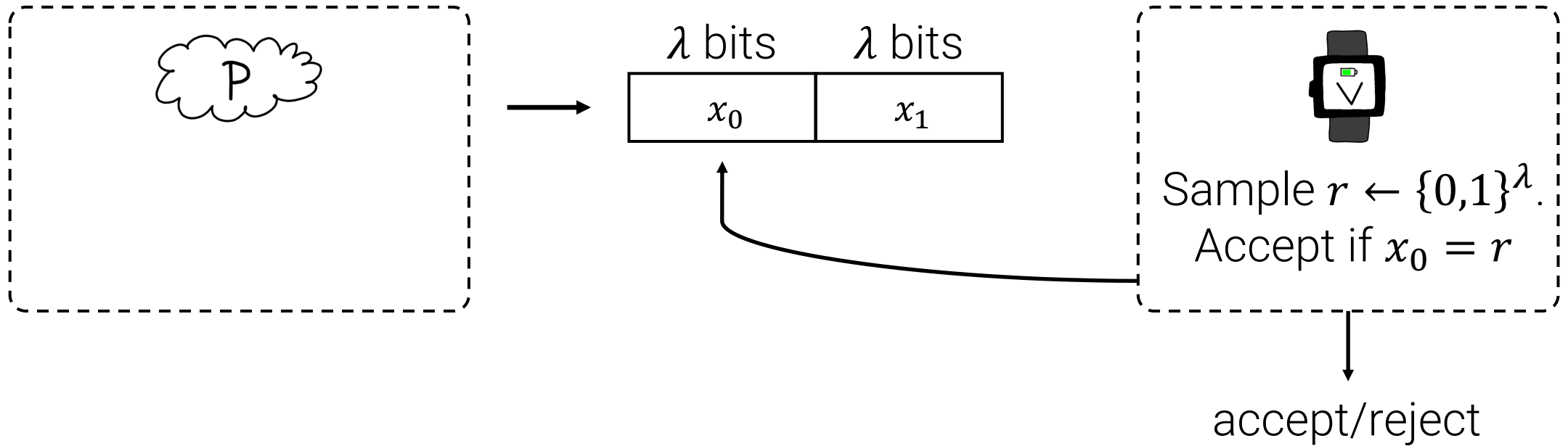
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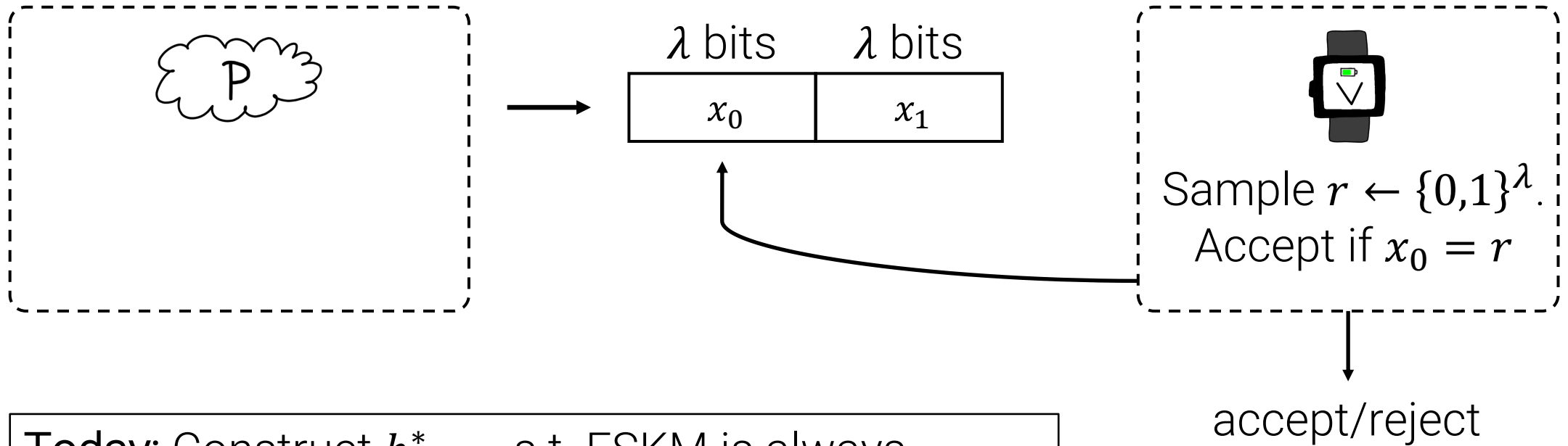
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A Silly PCP for the Empty Language

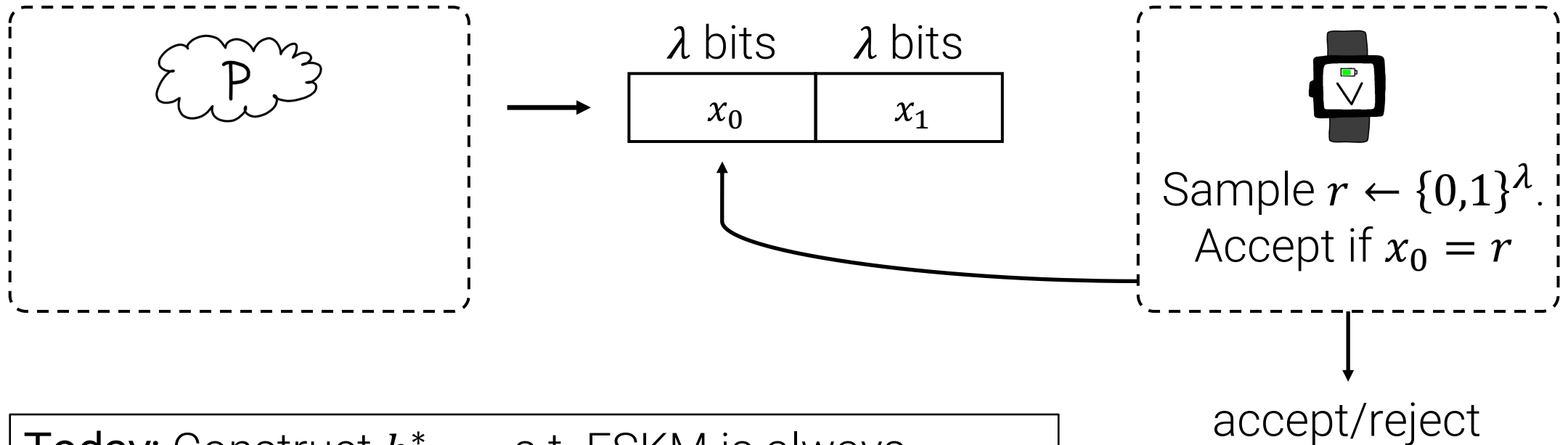


A Silly PCP for the Empty Language



Today: Construct h_{CRHF}^* s.t. FSKM is always insecure **for this** PCP **for any** h_{FS} .

A Silly PCP for the Empty Language

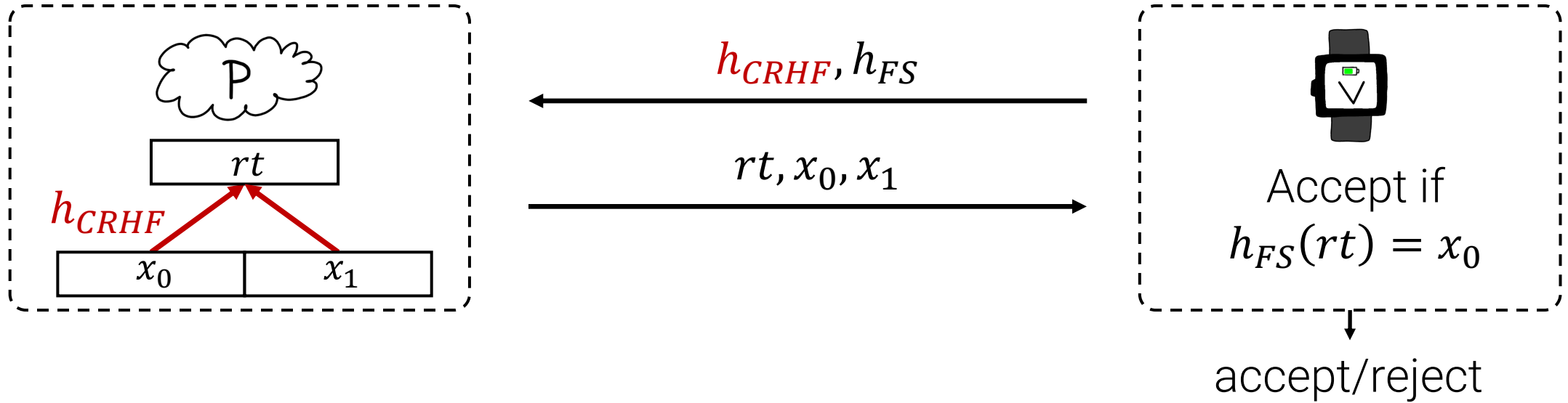


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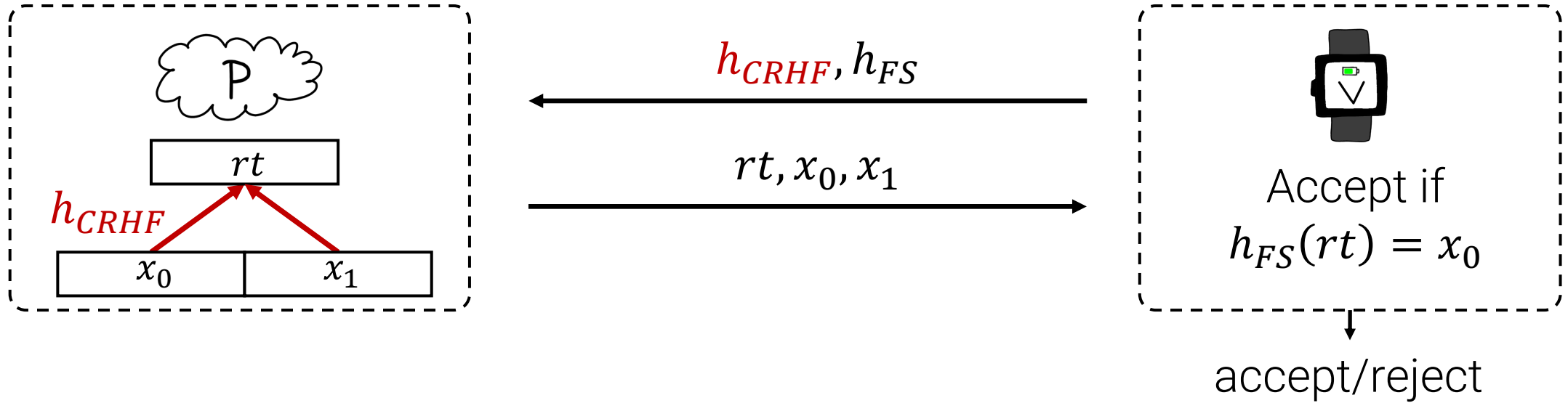
In the paper: Construct h_{CRHF}^* s.t. FSKM is always insecure **for any**** PCP **for any** h_{FS} .

**For any PCP that does not already yield a SNARG

FSKM for Empty Language PCP



FSKM for Empty Language PCP

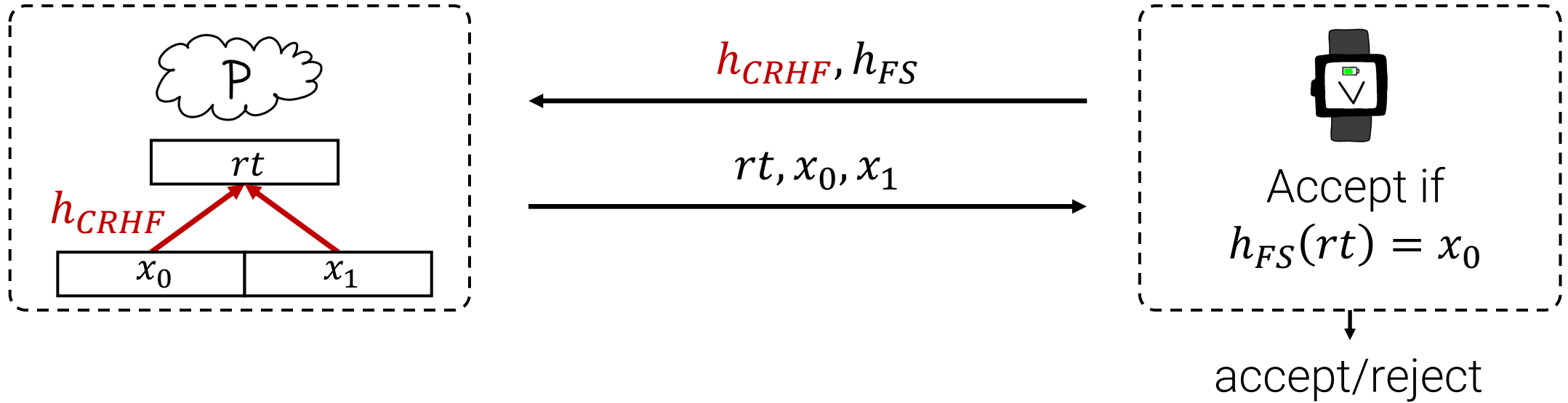



Cheating  finds x_0, x_1 s.t.

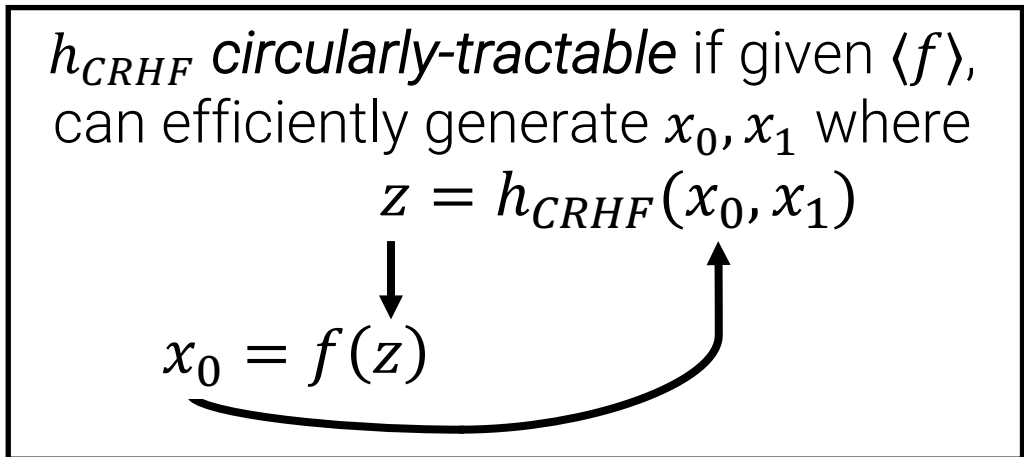
$h_{CRHF}(x_0, x_1) = rt$ and $h_{FS}(rt) = x_0$.

Strategy: Build h_{CRHF} to enable this

FSKM for Empty Language PCP

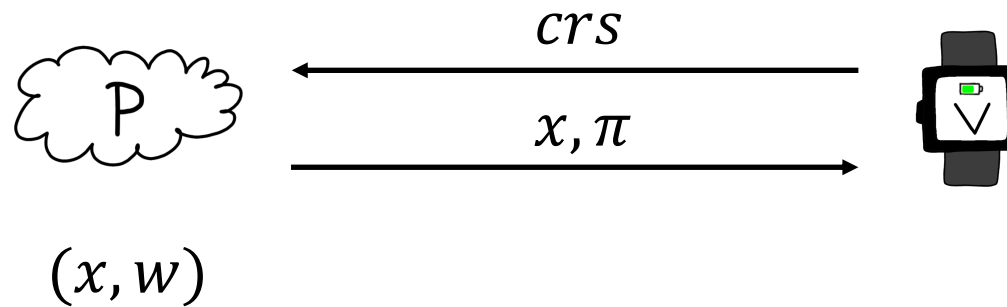


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Aside: SNARKs for NP

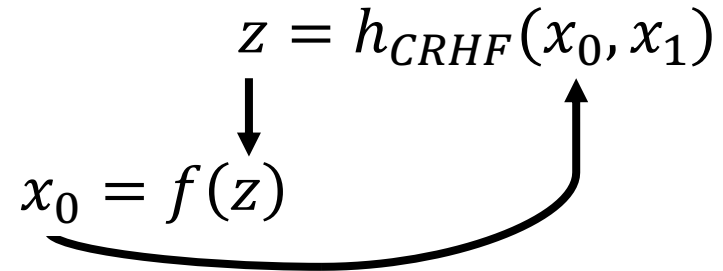
[Bitansky-Canetti-Chiesa-Tromer 11]



Very roughly: SNARK = SNARG + Knowledge

- Adaptive Proof of Knowledge: If P convinces V to accept x , there is efficient \mathcal{E}_P outputting (x, w) .

h_{CRHF}^* circularly-tractable if given $\langle f \rangle$,
can efficiently generate x_0, x_1 where

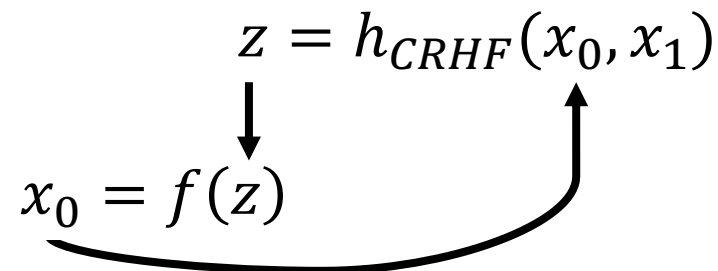


Constructing h_{CRHF}^* :
 $\{0,1\}^{2\lambda} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$

h_{CRHF}^* hash key

- Two CRHFs:
 $h_1: \{0,1\}^{2\lambda} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$
 $h_2: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\lambda/2}$
- SNARK crs

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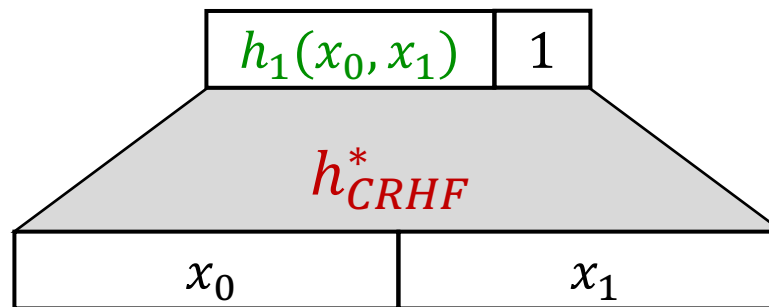


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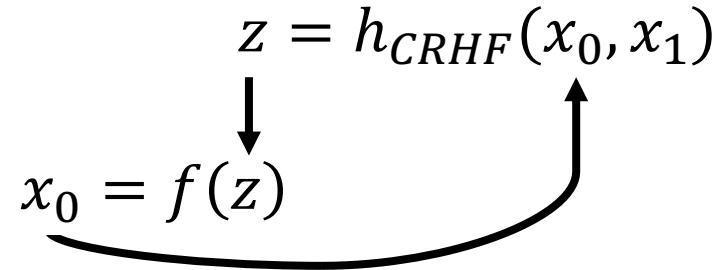
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“Normal” inputs:



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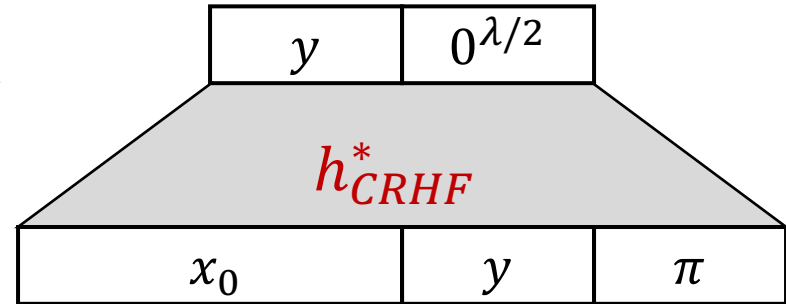


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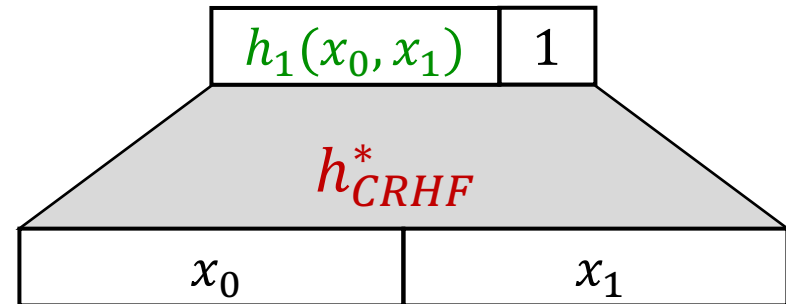
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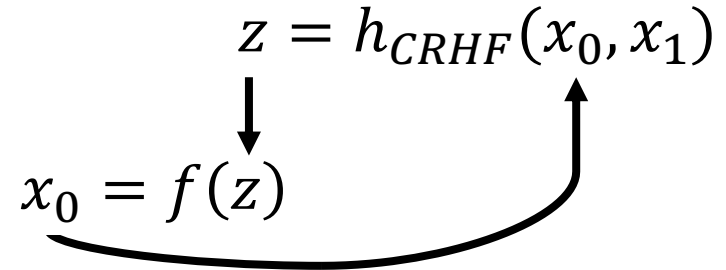
“Special” inputs:
 (x_0, y, π) s.t. π is SNARK of
 $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$
 and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



“Normal” inputs:
 everything else



h_{CRHF}^* circularly-tractable if given $\langle f \rangle$,
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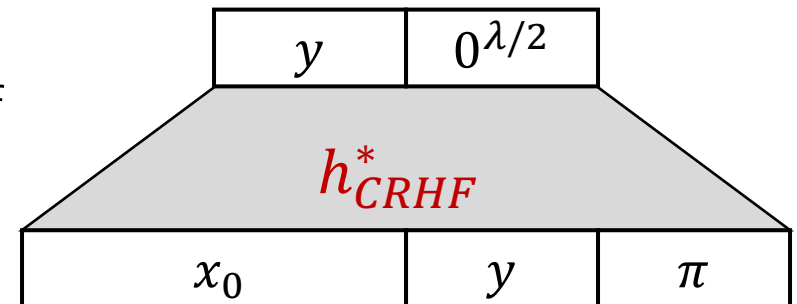


h_{CRHF}^* is circularly-tractable



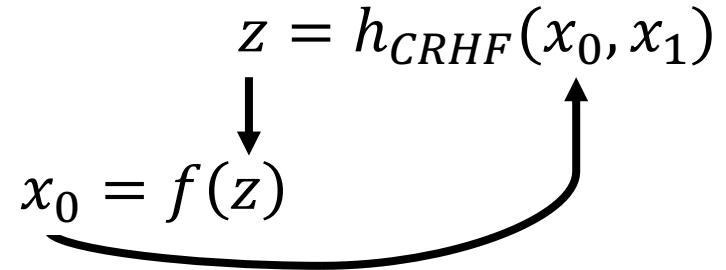
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h_{CRHF}^* hash key

h_{CRHF}^* circularly-tractable if given $\langle f \rangle$,
 can efficiently generate x_0, x_1 where



h_{CRHF}^* is circularly-tractable

- Given $\langle f \rangle$, compute $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$
- Let $x_0 = f(y, 0^\lambda)$

$$x_0 = f(y, 0^\lambda)$$

- Two CRHFs:

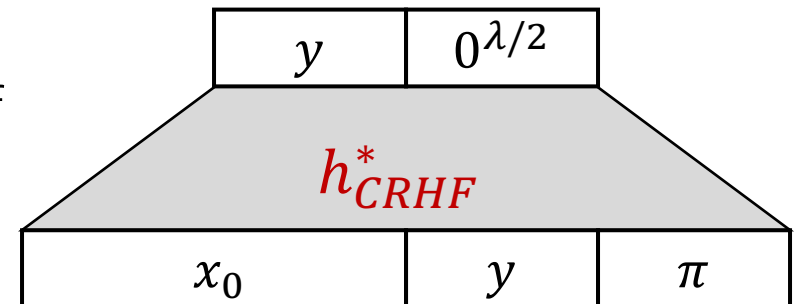
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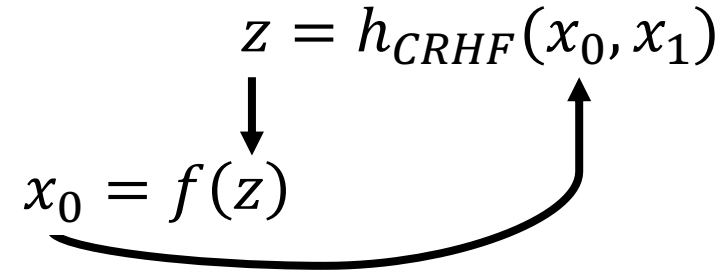
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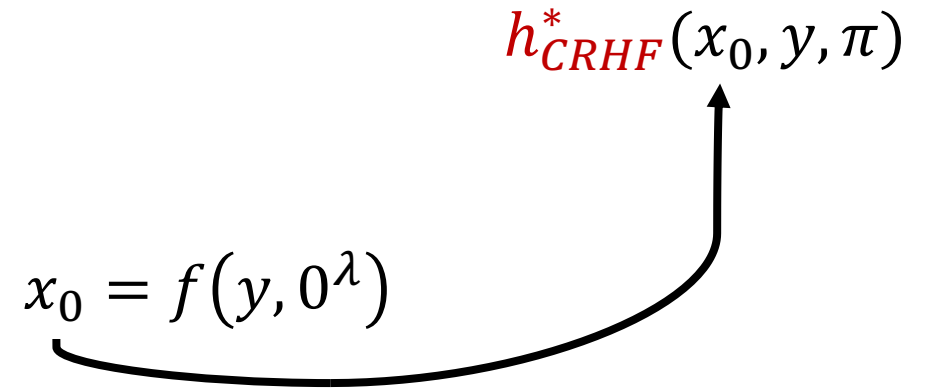
h_{CRHF}^* hash key

h_{CRHF}^* circularly-tractable if given $\langle f \rangle$,
can efficiently generate x_0, x_1 where



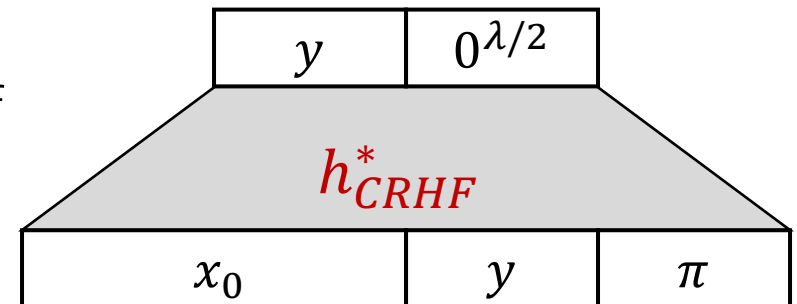
h_{CRHF}^* is circularly-tractable

- Given $\langle f \rangle$, compute $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$
- Let $x_0 = f(y, 0^\lambda)$
- Use $\langle f \rangle$ to generate SNARK π
- Let $x_1 = y, \pi$



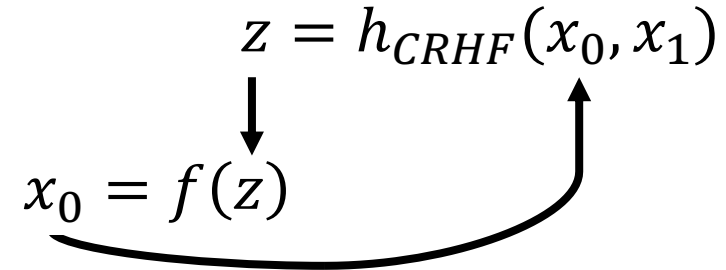
- Two CRHFs:
 $h_1: \{0,1\}^{2\lambda} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$
 $h_2: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\lambda/2}$
- SNARK crs

“Special” inputs:
 (x_0, y, π) s.t. π is SNARK of
 $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$
and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



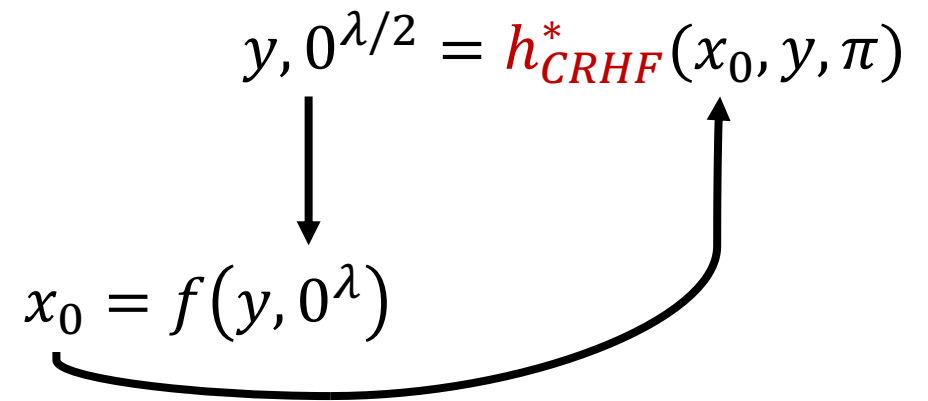
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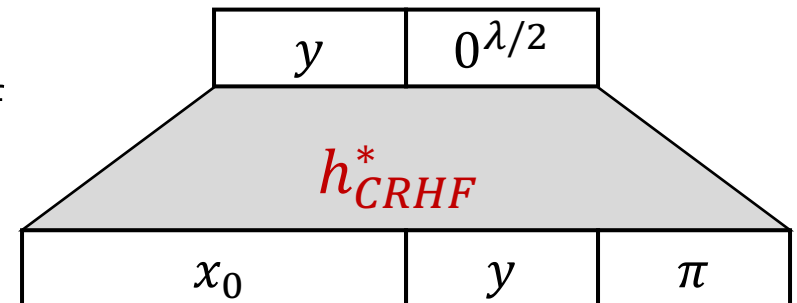
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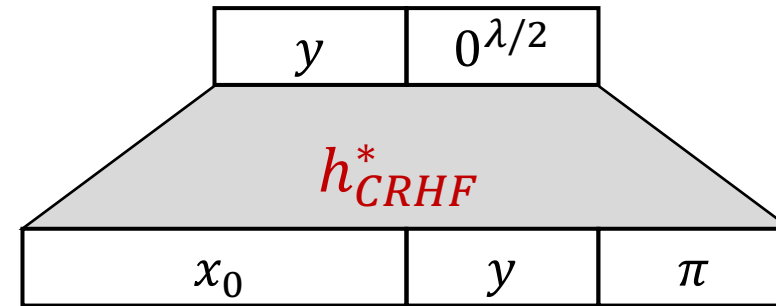
“Special” inputs:
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h_{CRHF}^* hash key

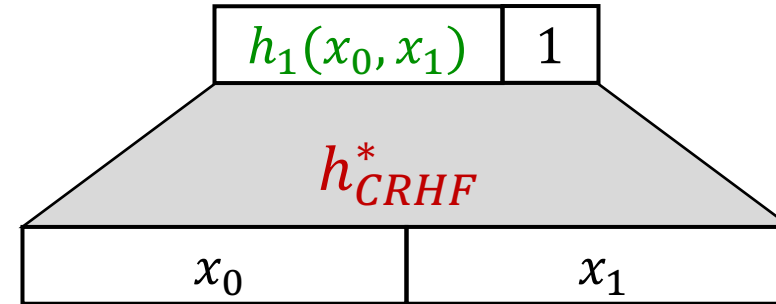
“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK of $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$ and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



“Normal” inputs:

everything else



- Two CRHFs:
 $h_1: \{0,1\}^{2\lambda} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$
 $h_2: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\lambda/2}$
- SNARK crs

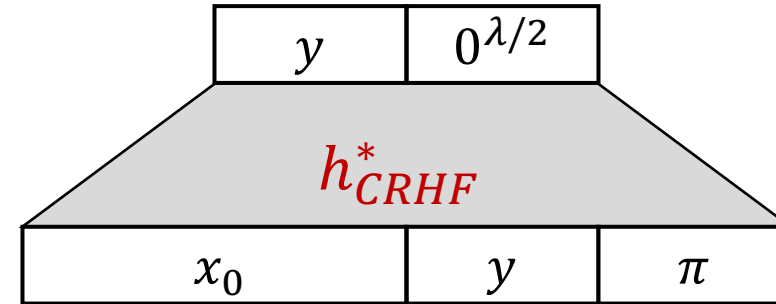
h_{CRHF}^* hash key

Collision resistance?

Only need to check “special” inputs

“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK of $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$ and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



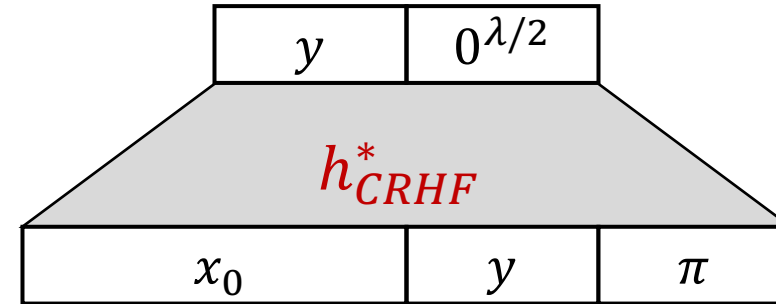
Collision must be of form $(x_0, y, \pi), (x'_0, y, \pi')$

If $x_0 \neq x'_0$:

- π extracts to $\langle f \rangle$, π' extracts to $\langle f' \rangle$

“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK of $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$ and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



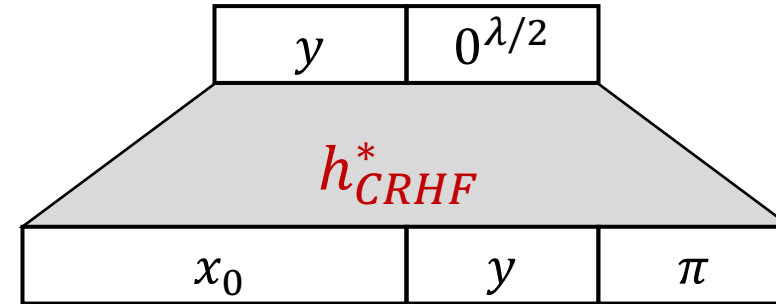
Collision must be of form $(x_0, y, \pi), (x'_0, y, \pi')$

If $x_0 \neq x'_0$:

- π extracts to $\langle f \rangle$, π' extracts to $\langle f' \rangle$
- $f(y, 0^{\lambda/2}) = x_0$ and $f'(y, 0^{\lambda/2}) = x'_0$.

“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK of $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$ and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



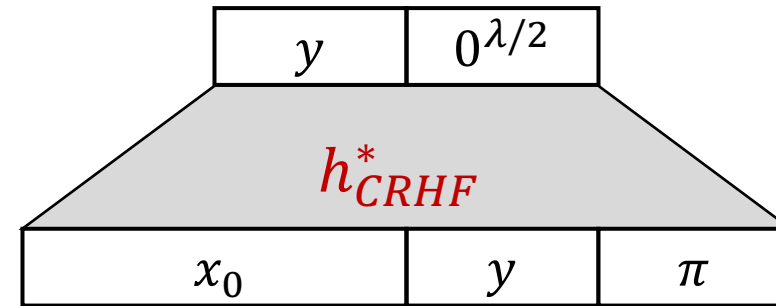
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- $f(y, 0^{\lambda/2}) = x_0$ and $f'(y, 0^{\lambda/2}) = x'_0$.
- implies $\langle f \rangle \neq \langle f' \rangle$ (collision for h_2)

“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK of $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$ and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



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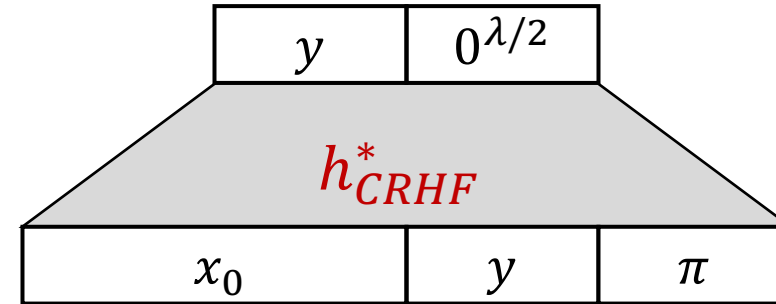
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- $f(y, 0^{\lambda/2}) = x_0$ and $f'(y, 0^{\lambda/2}) = x'_0$.
- implies $\langle f \rangle \neq \langle f' \rangle$ (collision for h_2)

So $x_0 = x'_0$, but $\pi \neq \pi'$

“Special” inputs:

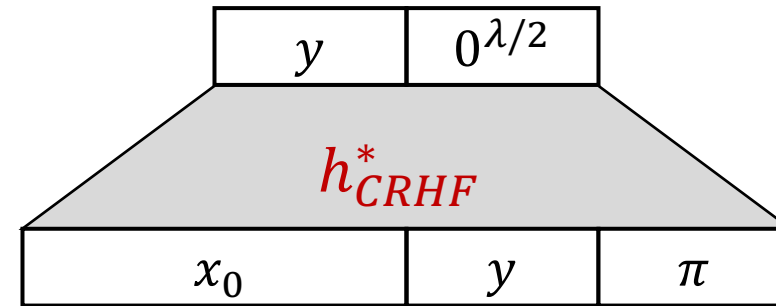
(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK
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and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



So collision must be $(x_0, y, \pi), (x_0, y, \pi')$ for $\pi \neq \pi'$

“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK
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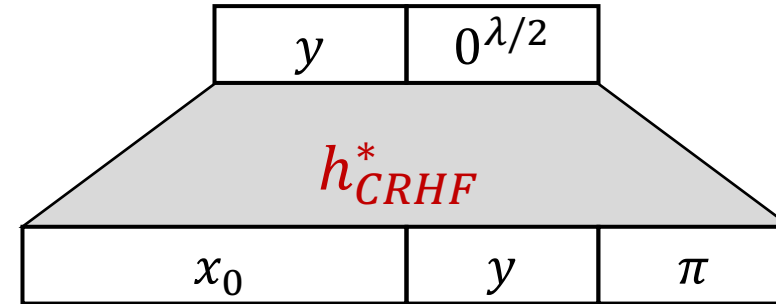
So collision must be $(x_0, y, \pi), (x_0, y, \pi')$ for $\pi \neq \pi'$

“Computationally-Unique” SNARK

If $\pi \neq \pi'$, then \mathcal{E}_{P} can extract distinct witnesses $\langle f \rangle, \langle f' \rangle$.

“Special” inputs:

(x_0, y, π) where π is SNARK
of $\langle f \rangle$ satisfying $h_2(\langle f \rangle) = y$
and $x_0 = f(y, 0^{\lambda/2})$



So collision must be $(x_0, y, \pi), (x_0, y, \pi')$ for $\pi \neq \pi'$

“Computationally-Unique” SNARK

If $\pi \neq \pi'$, then \mathcal{E}_{P} can extract **distinct witnesses** $\langle f \rangle, \langle f' \rangle$.

Yields collision for h_2 !

Thank You!

Questions?

Slide Artwork by Eysa Lee