

# Post-Quantum Proof Techniques, Part 2:

## How to Run a Quantum Attacker Many Times

Fermi Ma  
(Simons & Berkeley)

Based on:

- “Post-Quantum Succinct Arguments: Breaking the Quantum Rewinding Barrier” by Alessandro Chiesa, Fermi Ma, Nicholas Spooner, and Mark Zhandry (FOCS 2021)

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**This talk:** we'll see a significantly more powerful rewinding technique of [CMSZ21].

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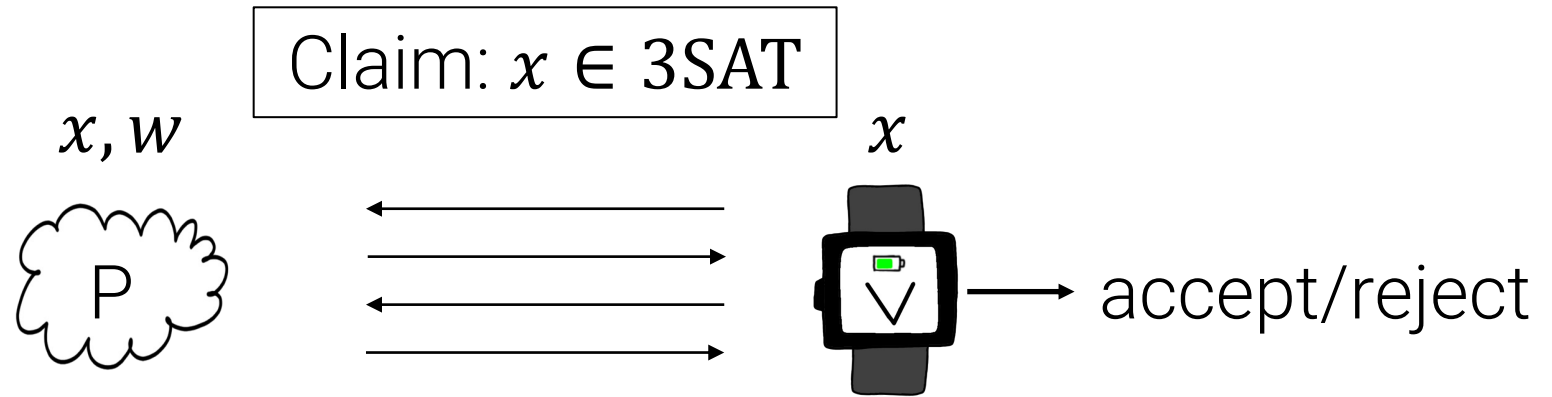
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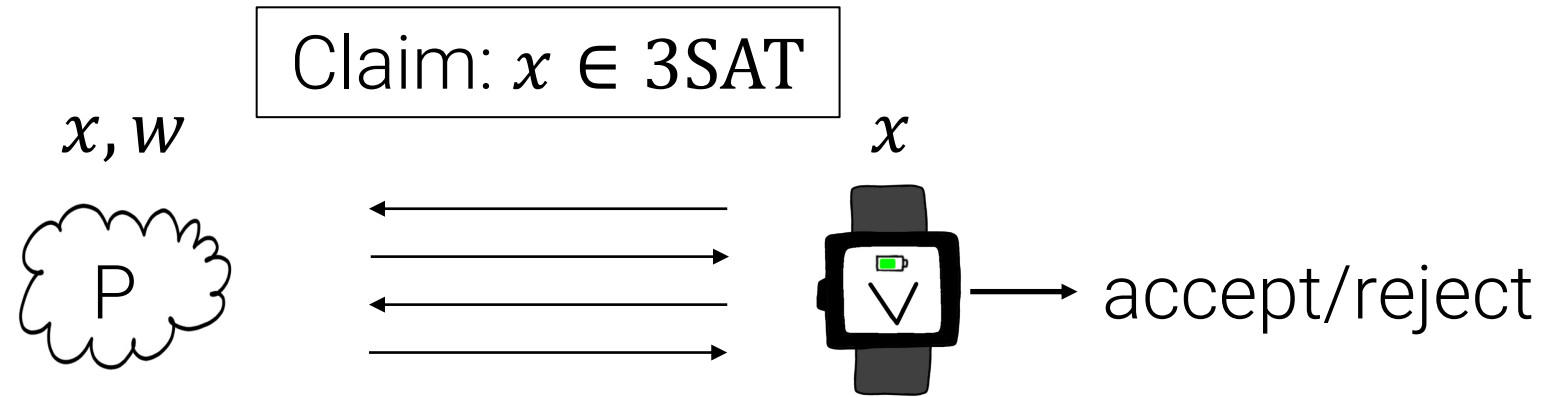
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Succinct Arguments for NP

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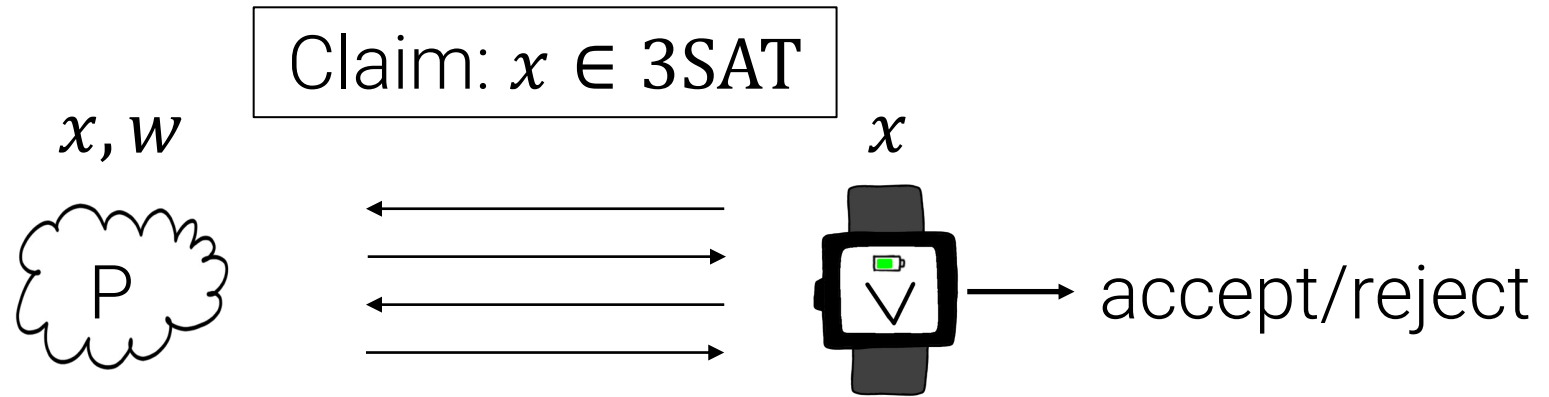


# Motivating example: Succinct Arguments for NP



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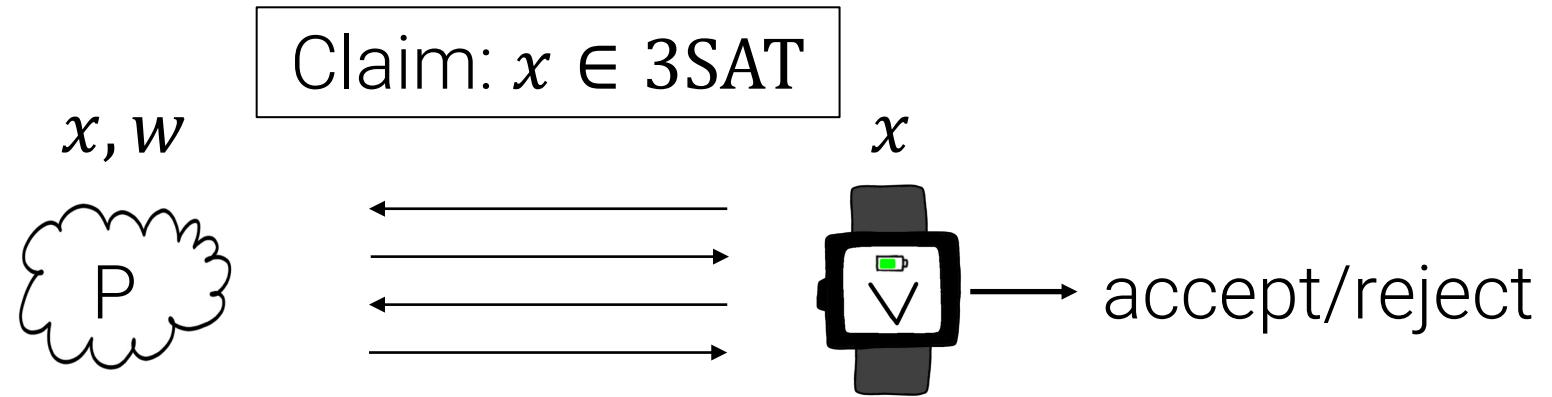


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“Argument” = sound against *efficient* cheating 

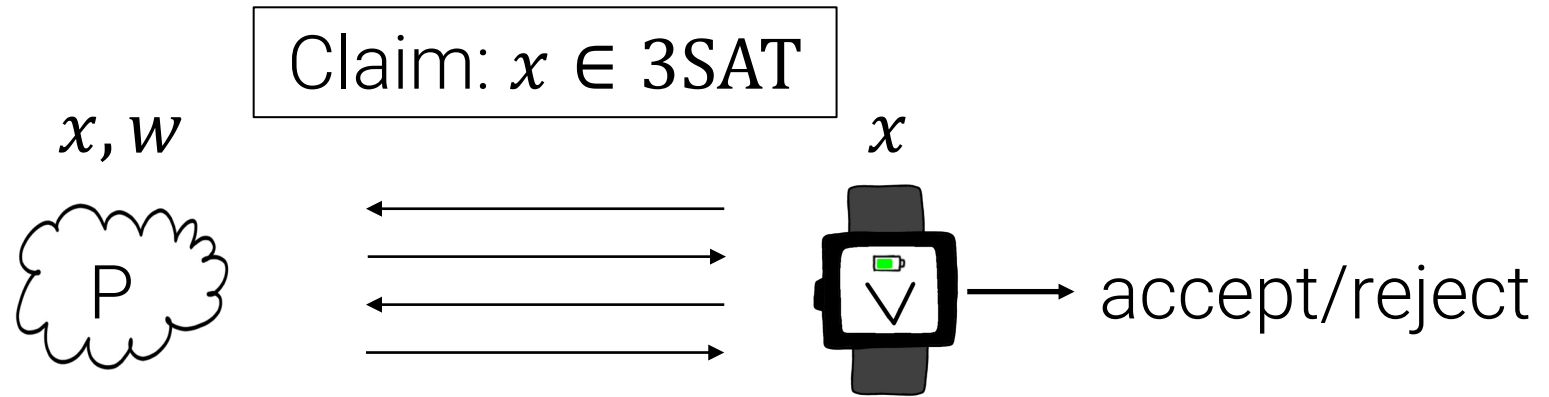


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[Kilian92] constructs a 4-message succinct argument for NP from collision-resistant hash functions (CRHFs).

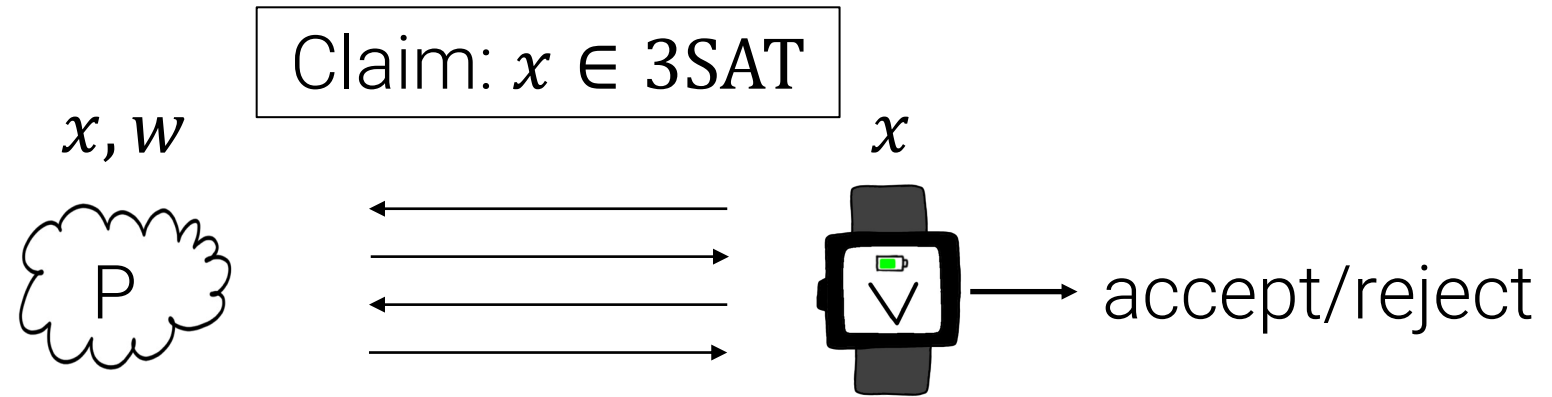
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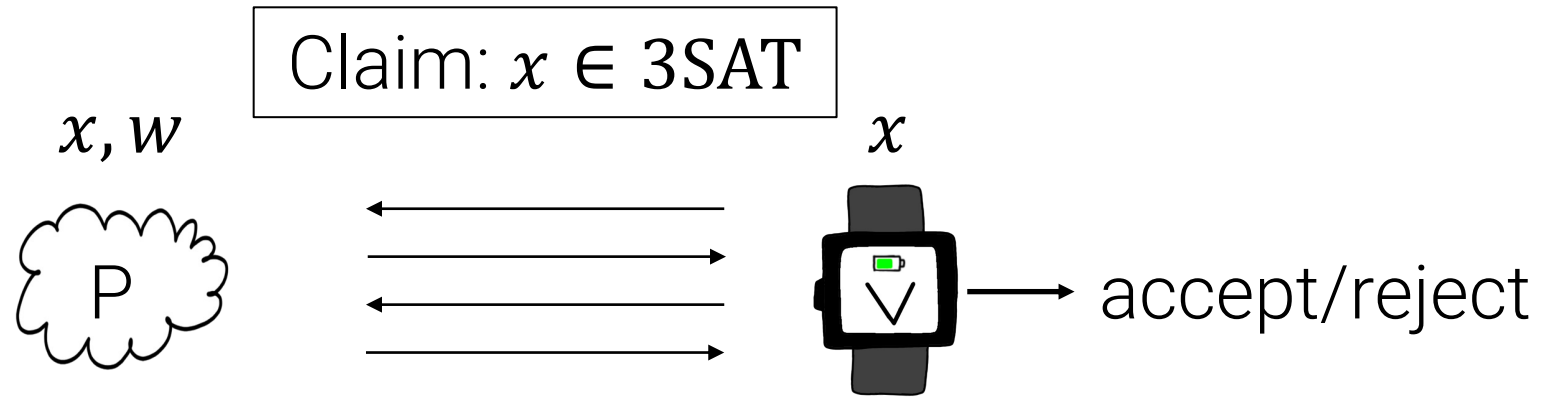
**Many applications:** universal arguments [BG01], zero knowledge [Barak01], SNARGs [Micali94, BCS16], ...

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**Extra motivation:** studying quantum rewinding for succinct arguments will force us to develop general-purpose techniques.

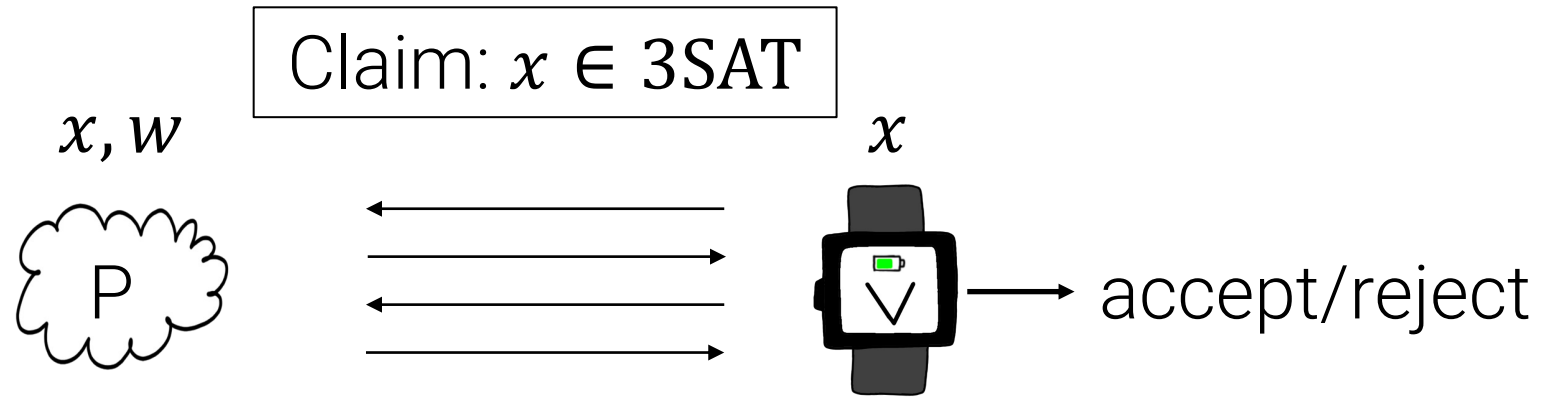
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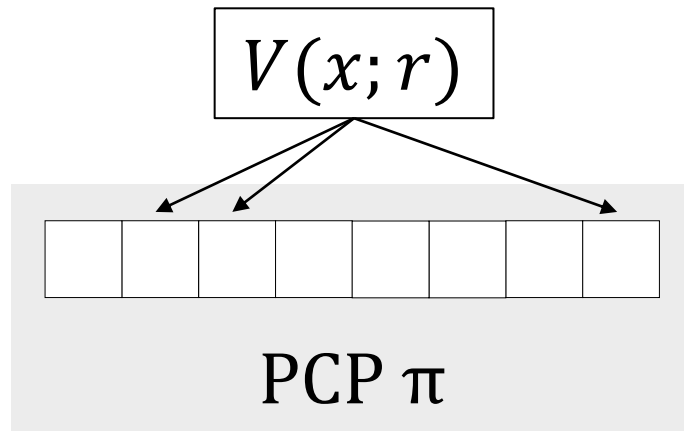
- Typically prove soundness using several transcripts to specify a witness.
- Succinct arguments inherently require many transcripts to specify a witness, so *lots* of rewinding is required.

Let's see how Kilian's protocol works

# Kilian's protocol

Compile a *probabilistically checkable proof\** (PCP) into an interactive argument system using cryptography.

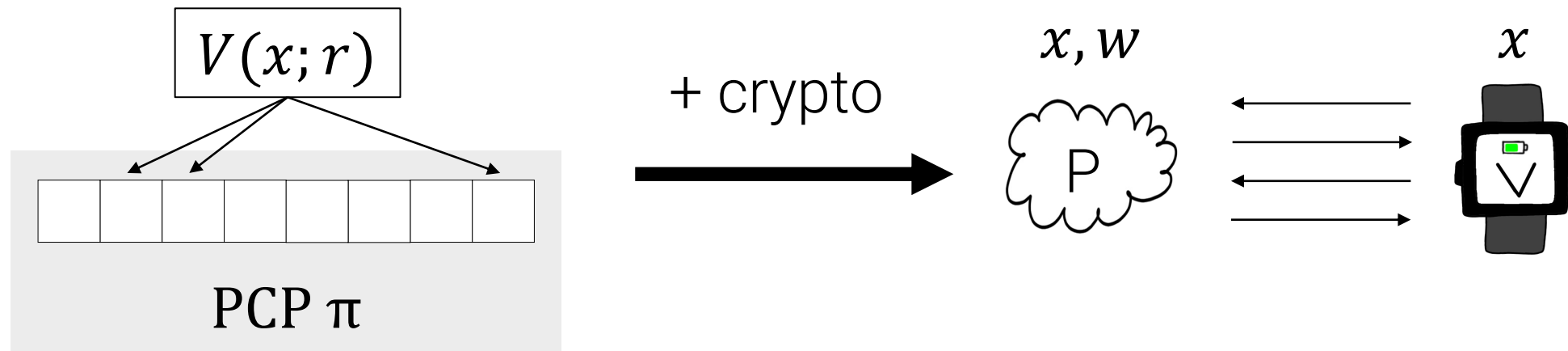
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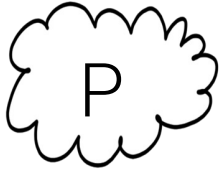
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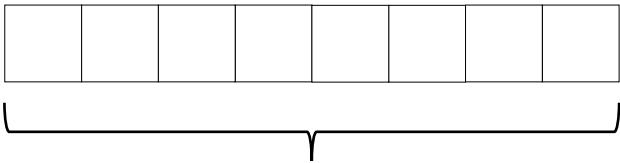
$x, w$



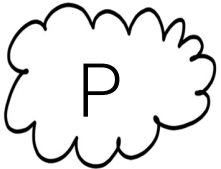
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Encode  $w$  as PCP  $\pi$



PCP  $\pi$

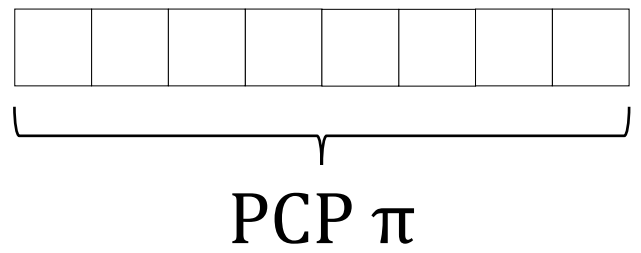


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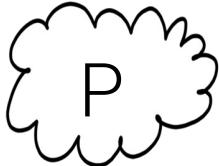
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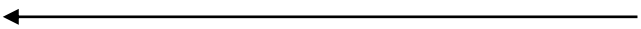
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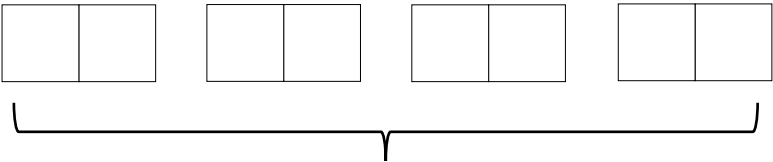
CRHF  $h$



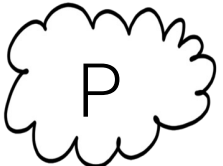
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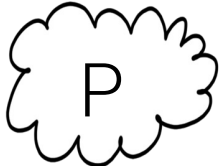
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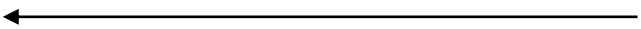
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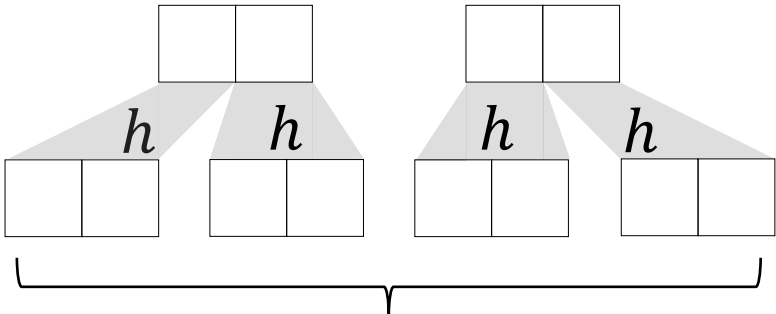
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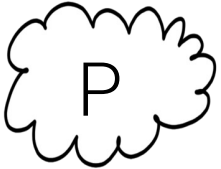
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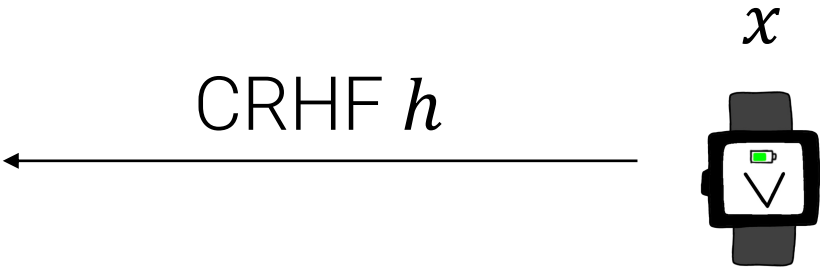
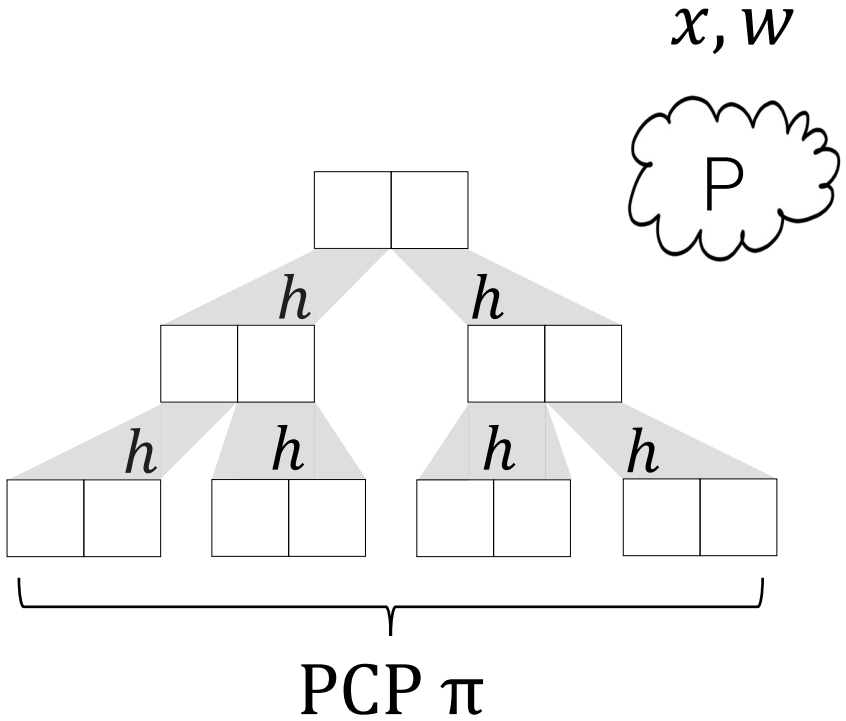


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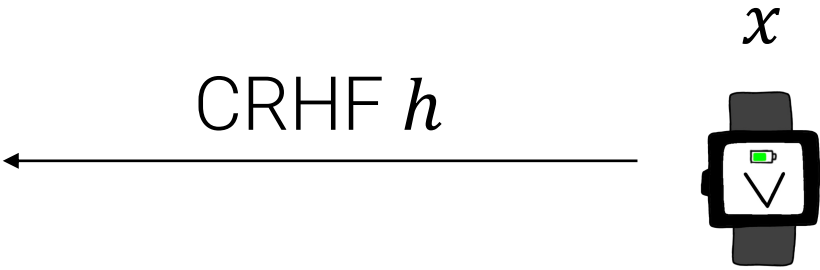
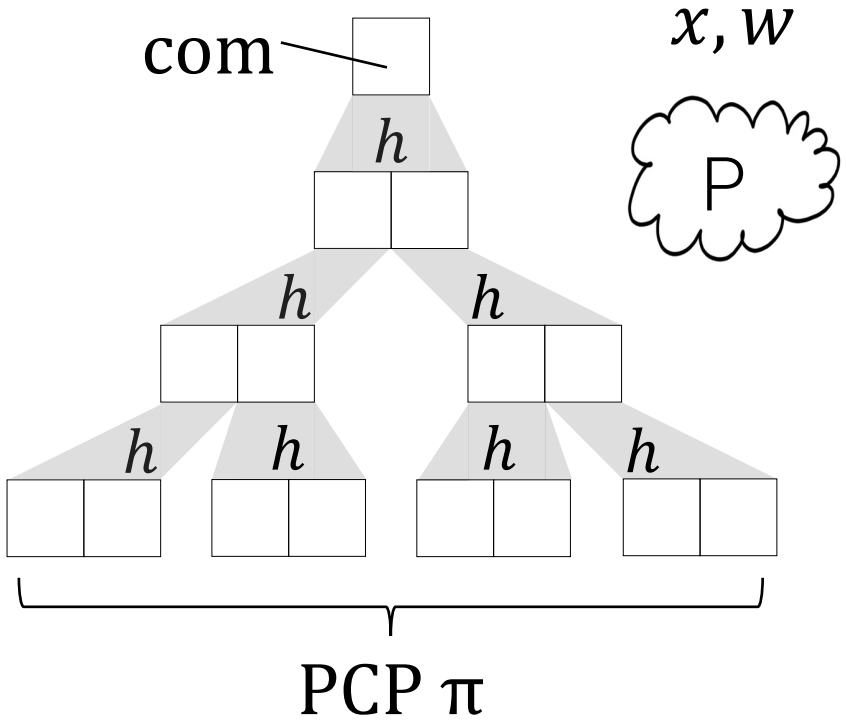
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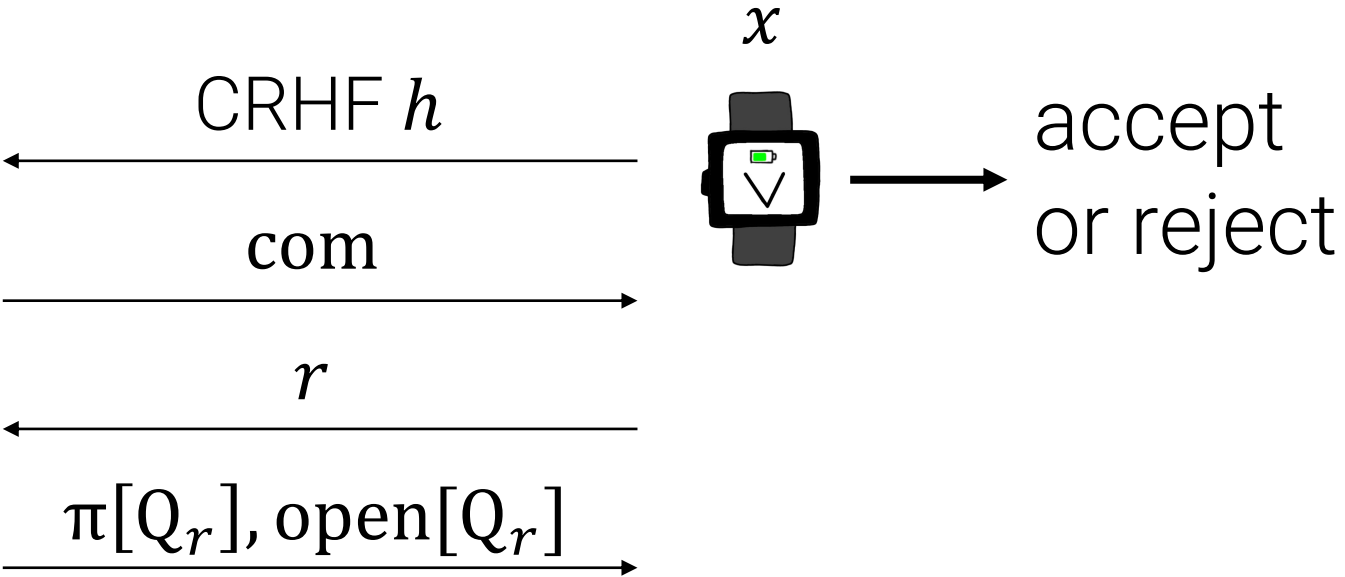
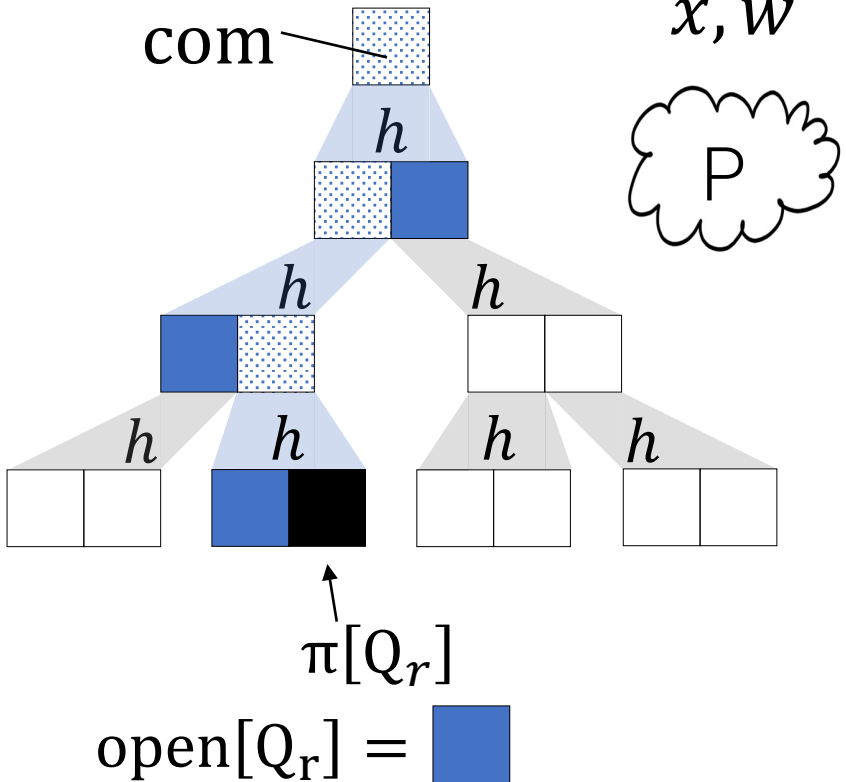






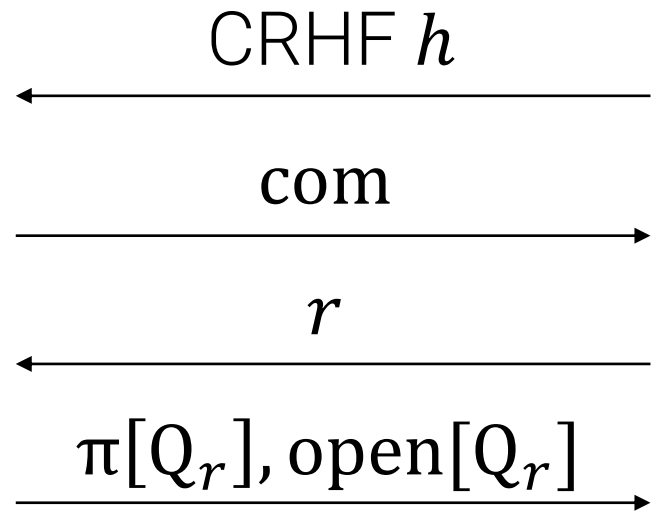
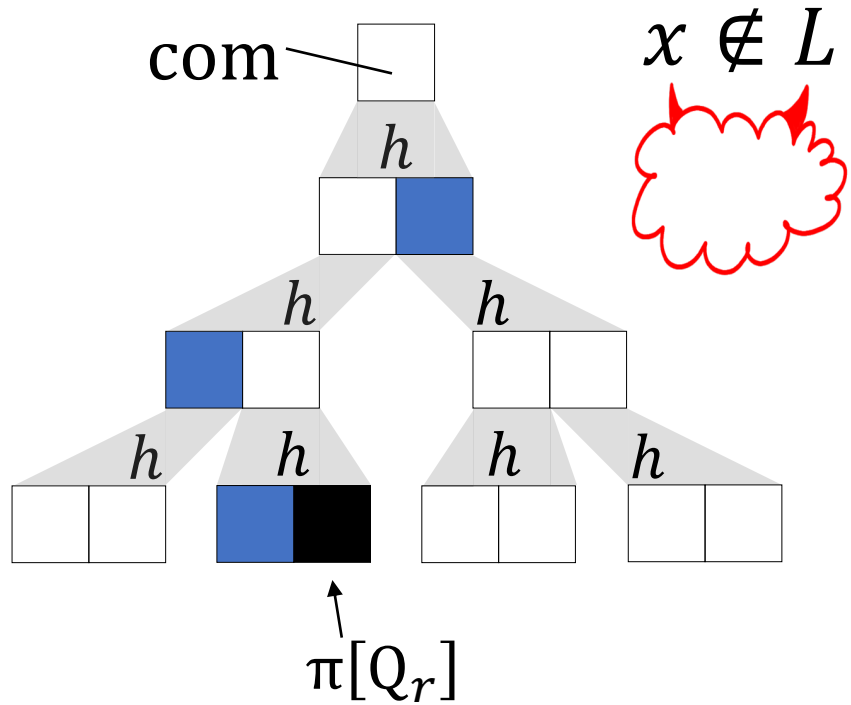


# Kilian's protocol




accepts if openings valid  
+ PCP verifier accepts

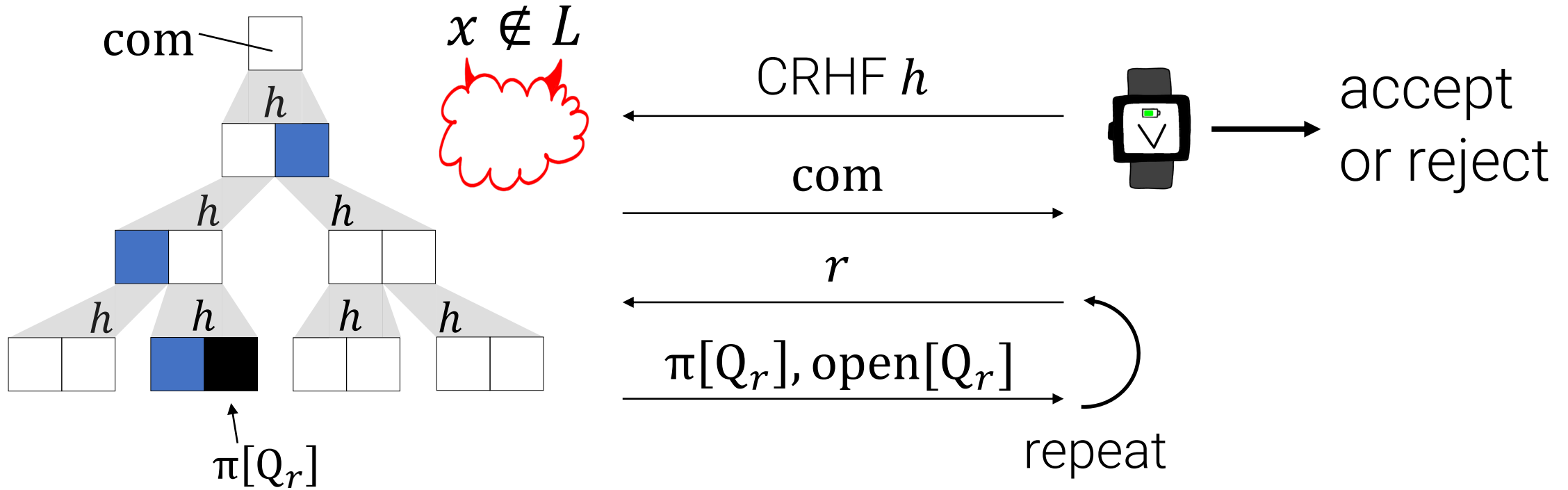
# Classical Security



accept  
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Intuition: want to show that the CRHF forces  to respond consistently with some PCP string  $\pi$ .

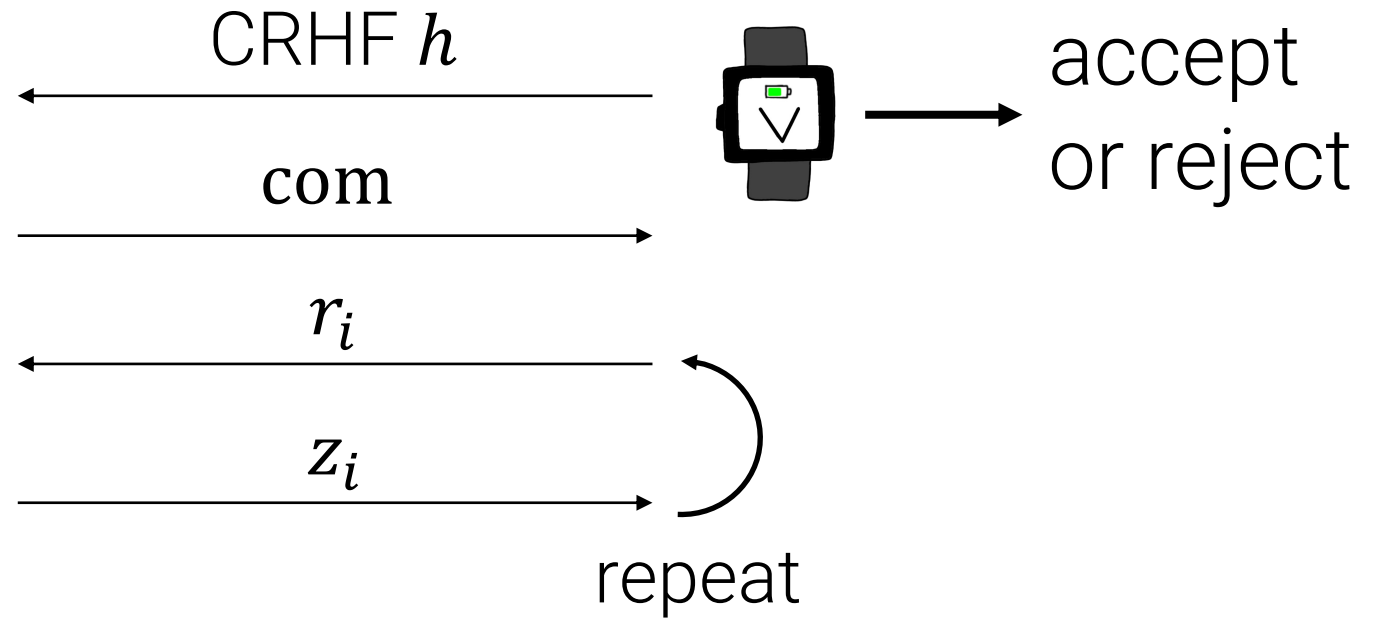
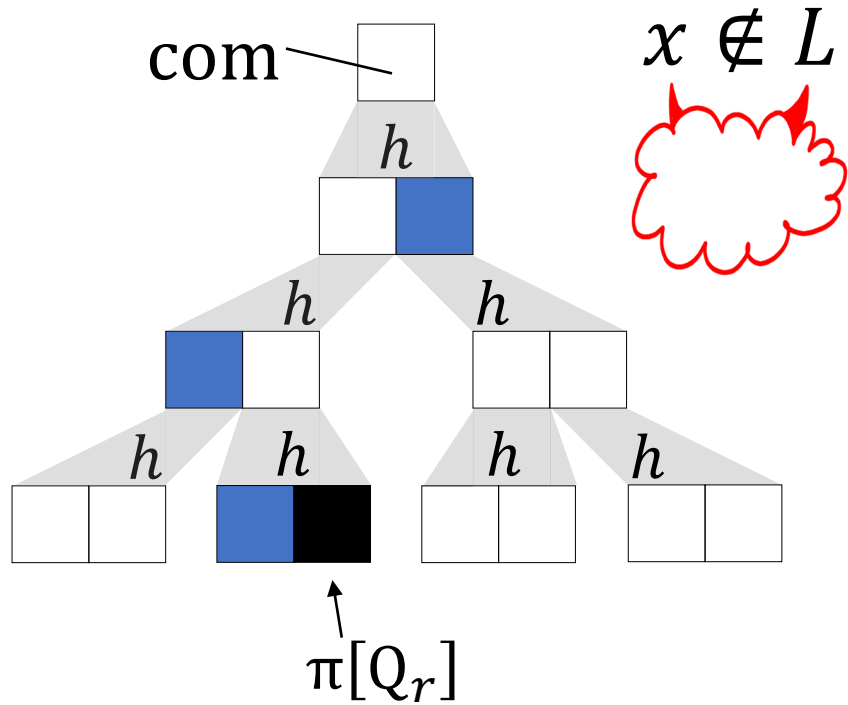
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Intuition: want to show that the CRHF forces  $x \notin L$  to respond consistently with some PCP string  $\pi$ .

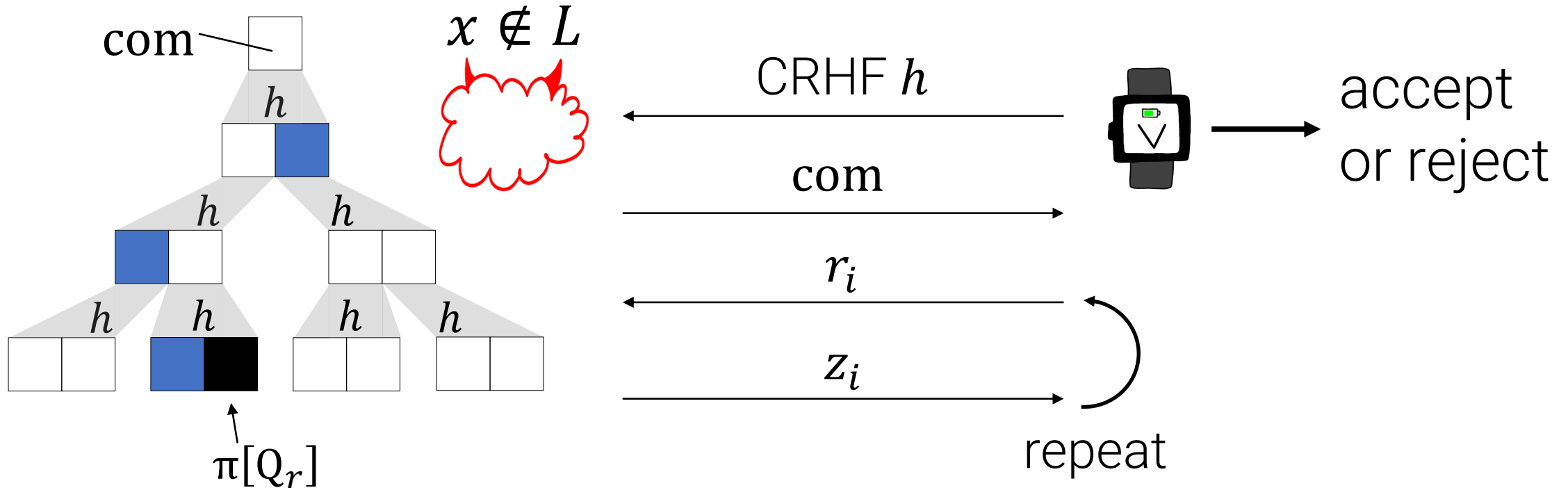
Formalize by *rewinding* last two messages many times.

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Eventually finds impossible  $\pi$  OR collision.

$$\Pr[\text{PCP verifier accepts } \pi] > \text{PCP soundness error}$$

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Step 1: Collapse-binding commitments [U16]:  
record adversary's response  
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**Aside:** Do collapsing hash functions exist?

**Yes!** Can be built assuming learning with errors (LWE) [U16b] or many other assumptions [Z22].

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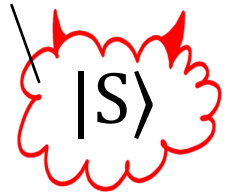
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- classical reduction needs adversary to succeed  $\text{poly}(\lambda)$  times.
- But  $p^{2d-1}$  is only a noticeable probability when  $d$  is *constant*!

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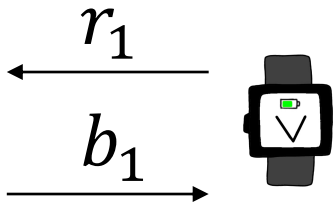
$r_1$

$b_1$



1-bit result of measuring  
( $\Pi_{r_1}, \mathbb{I} - \Pi_{r_1}$ )

success  
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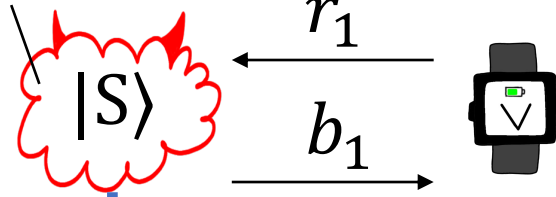
$|S'\rangle$

success  
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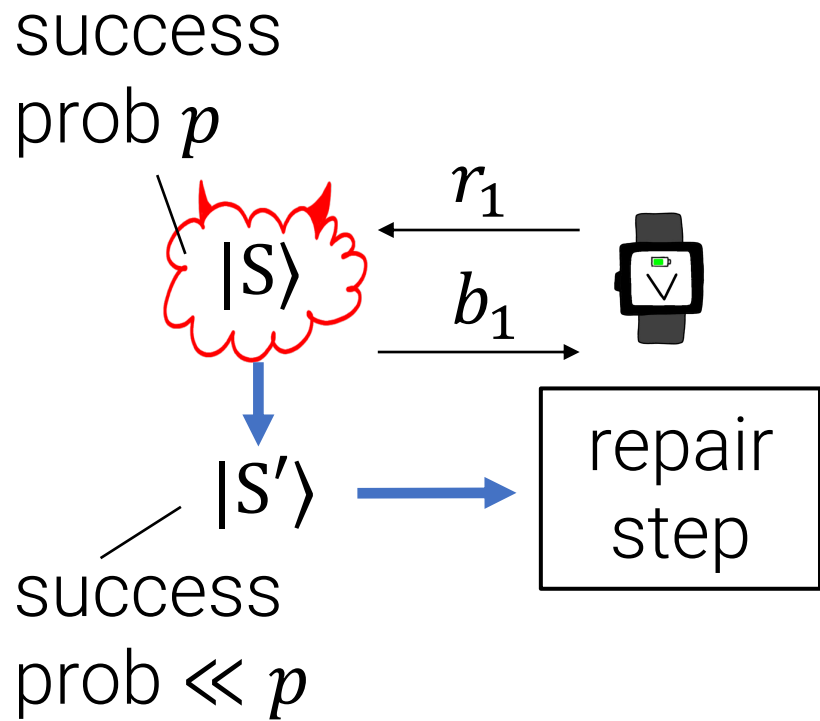
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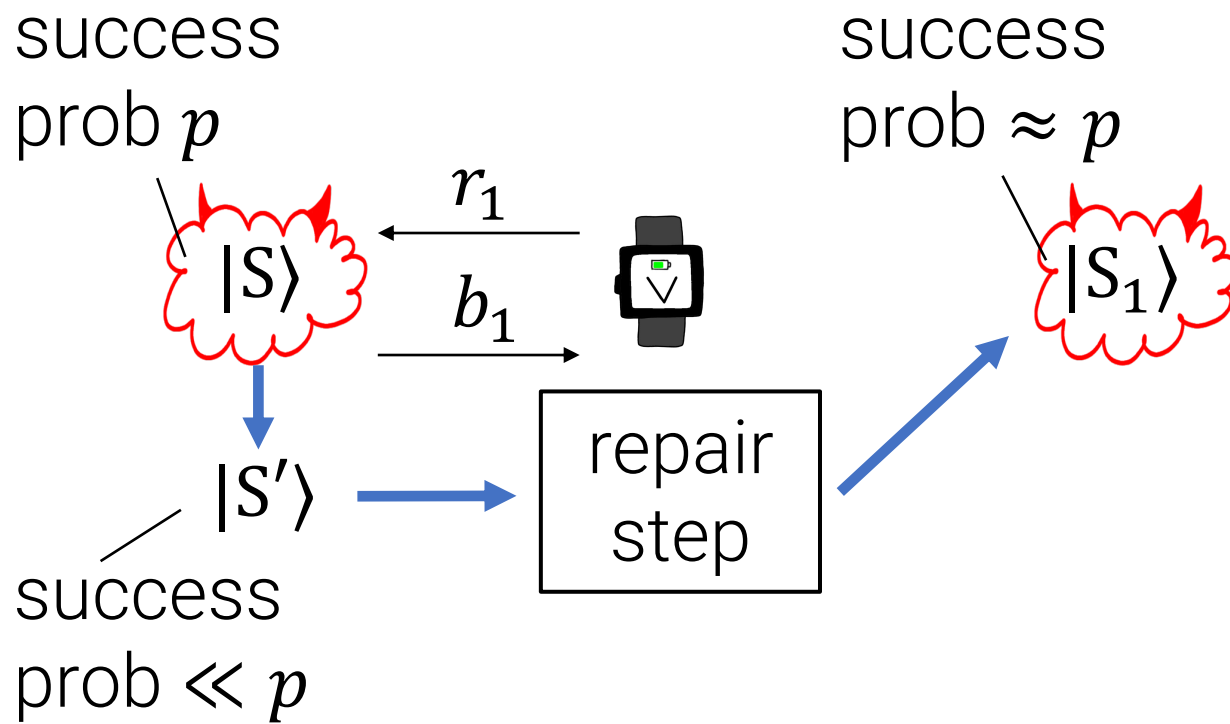
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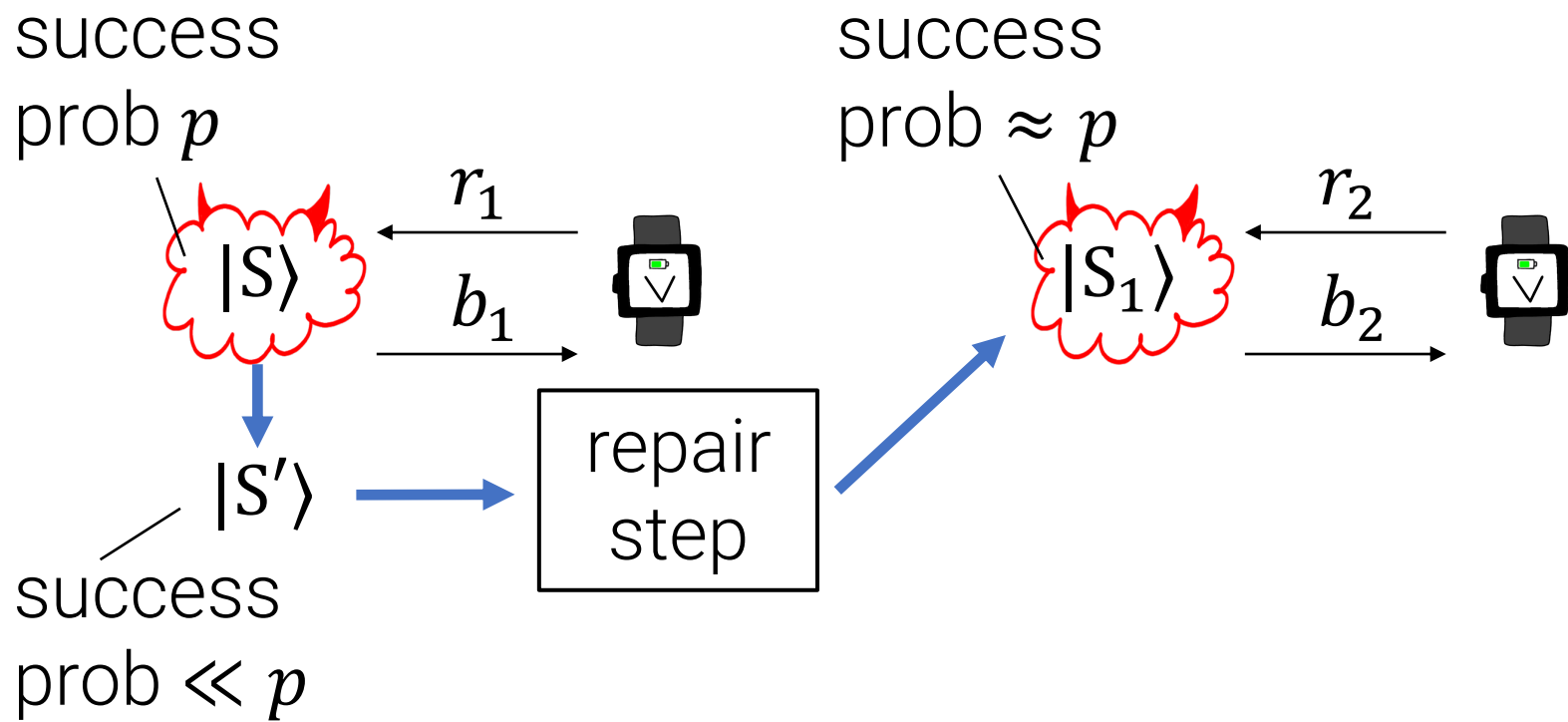
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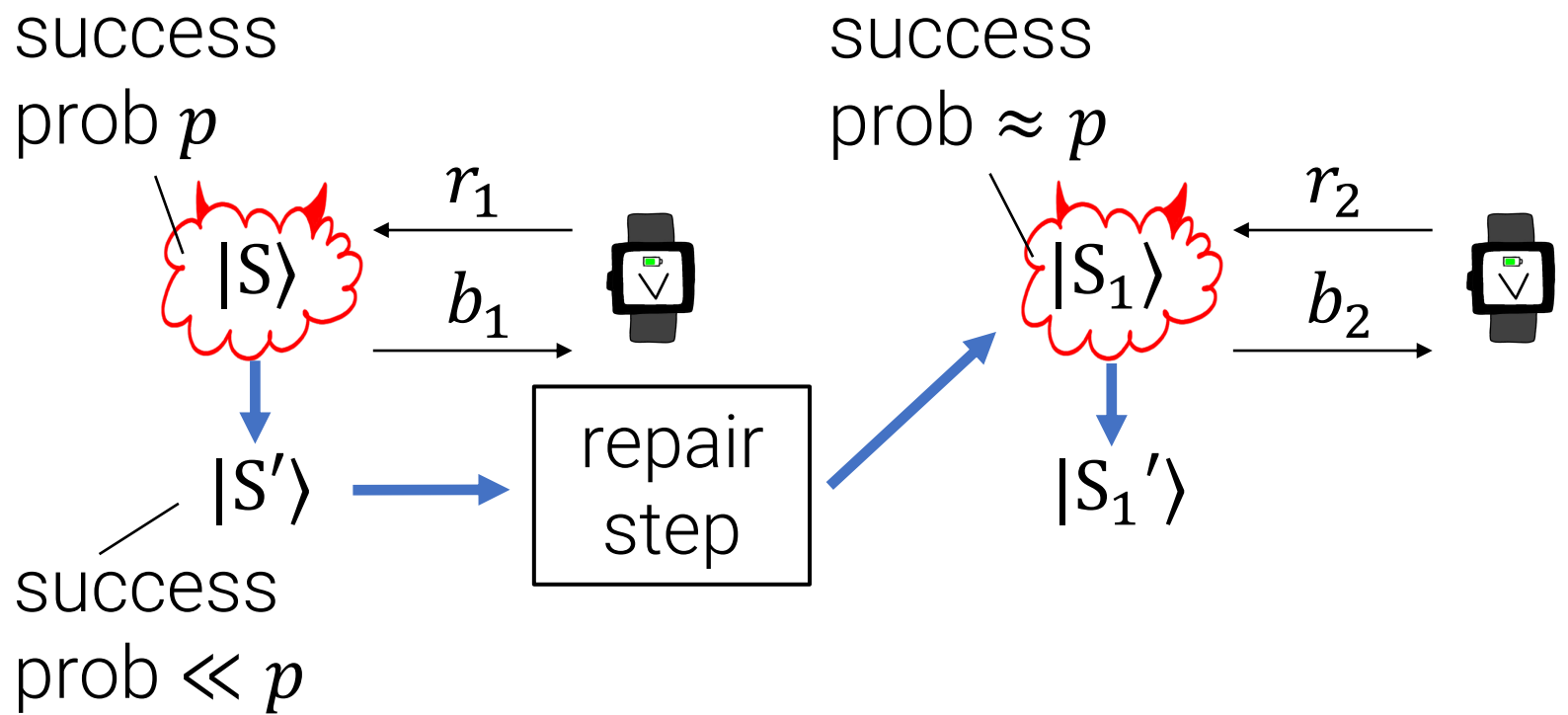
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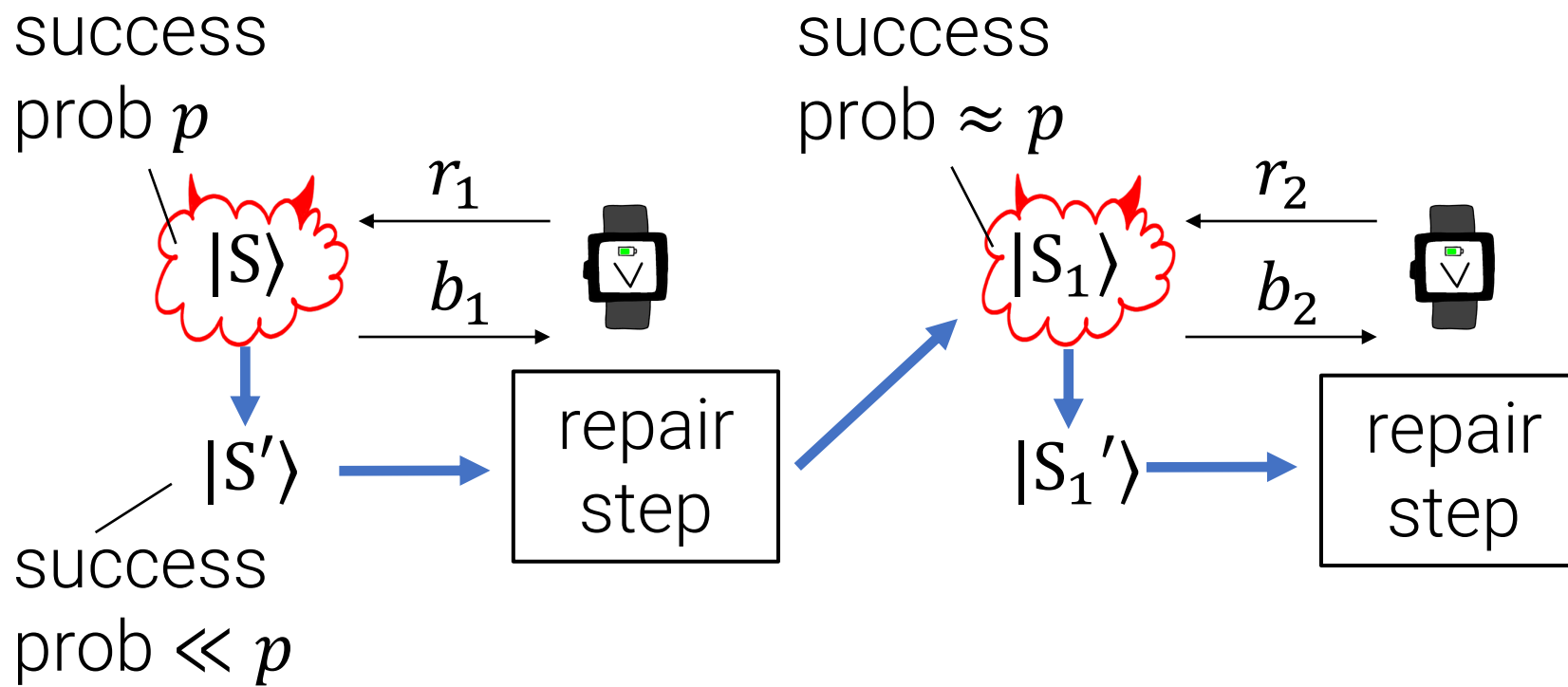
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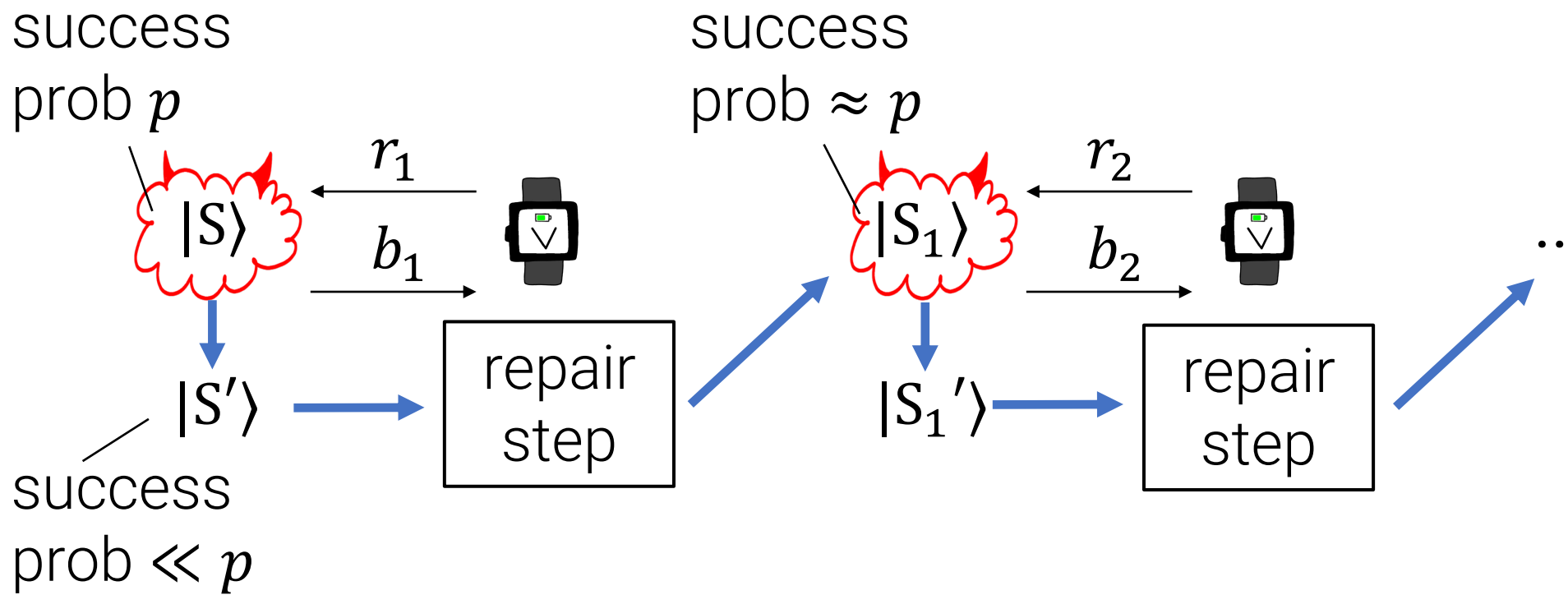
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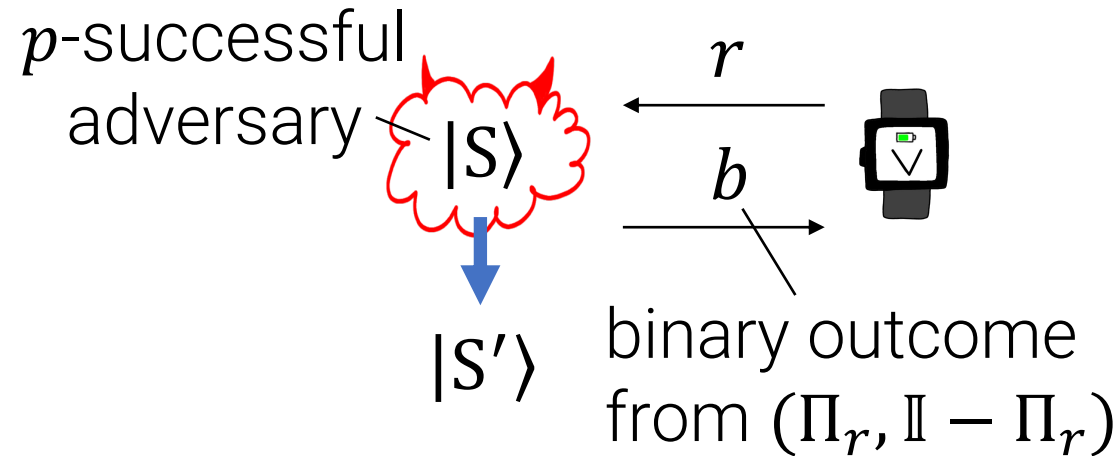
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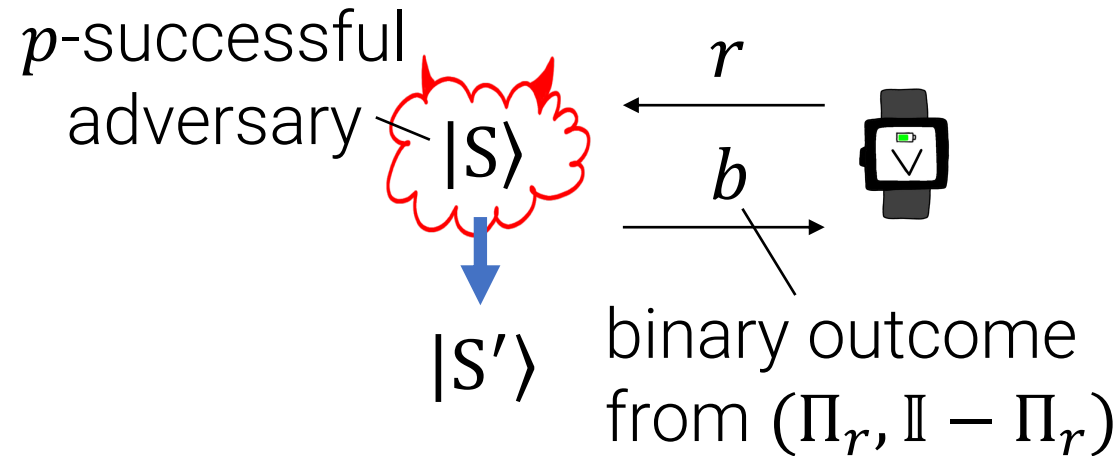
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State repair task: Given  $|S'\rangle$ , generate a  $p$ -successful adversary state.



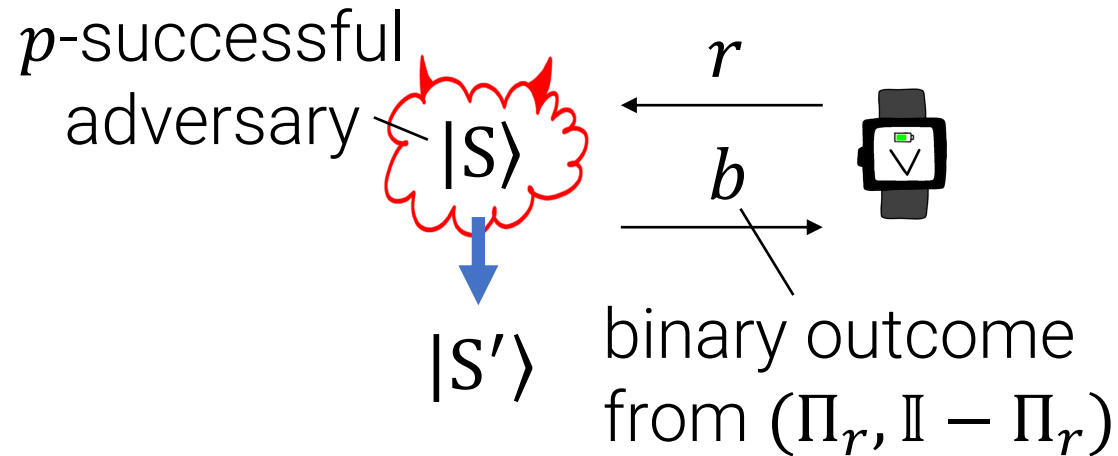
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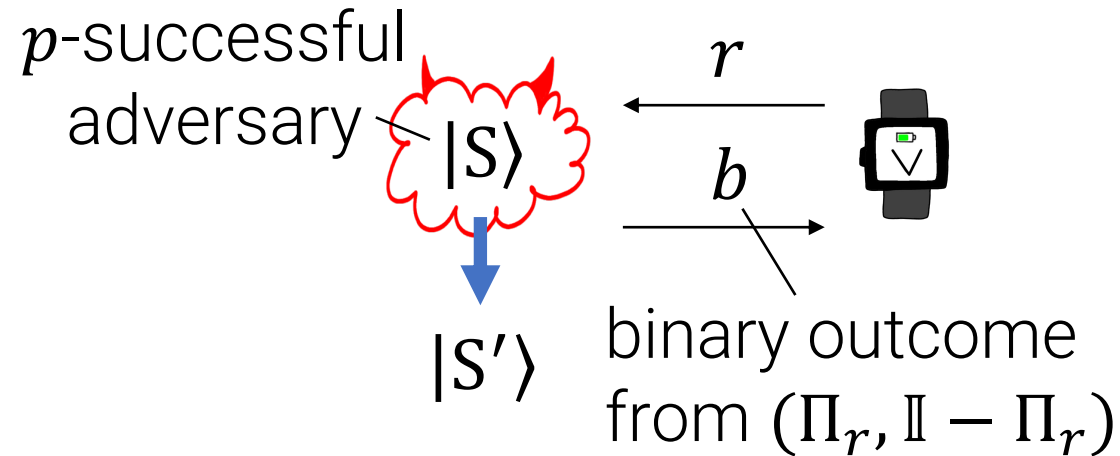


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But which projectors do we use? Recall what we did last time.

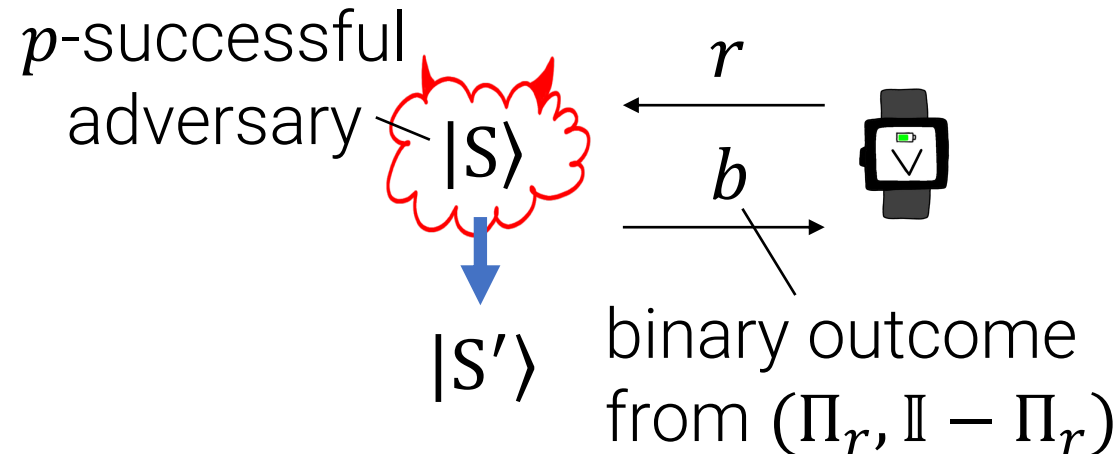
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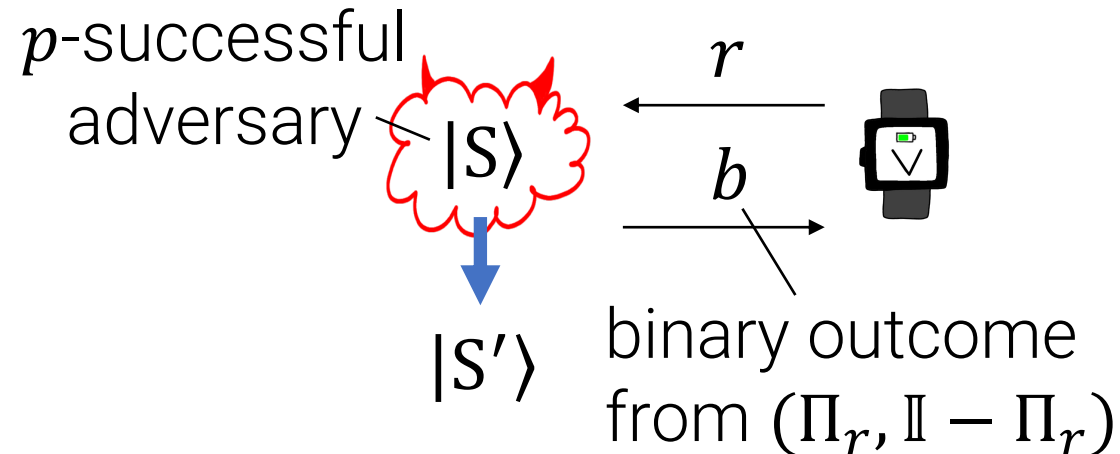


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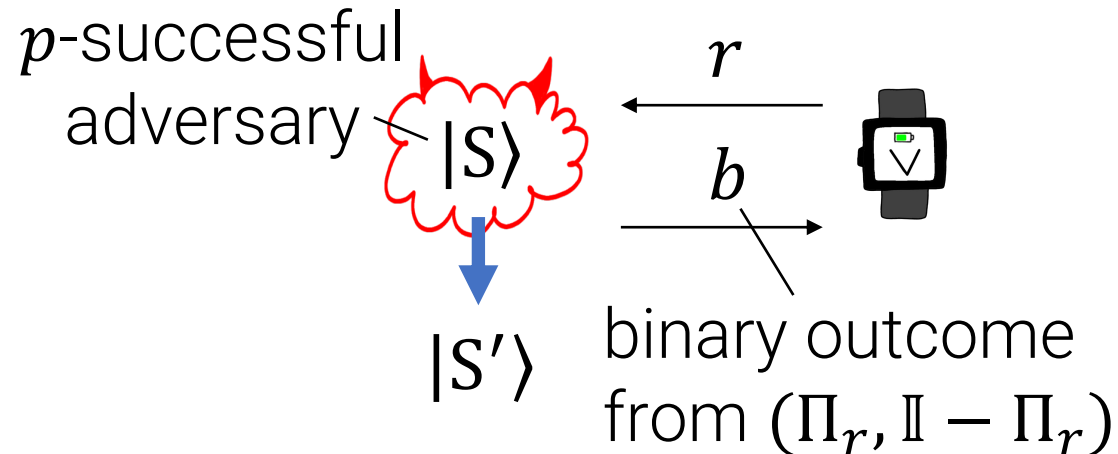
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Why these projectors?

# Repairing the Prover After Measurement



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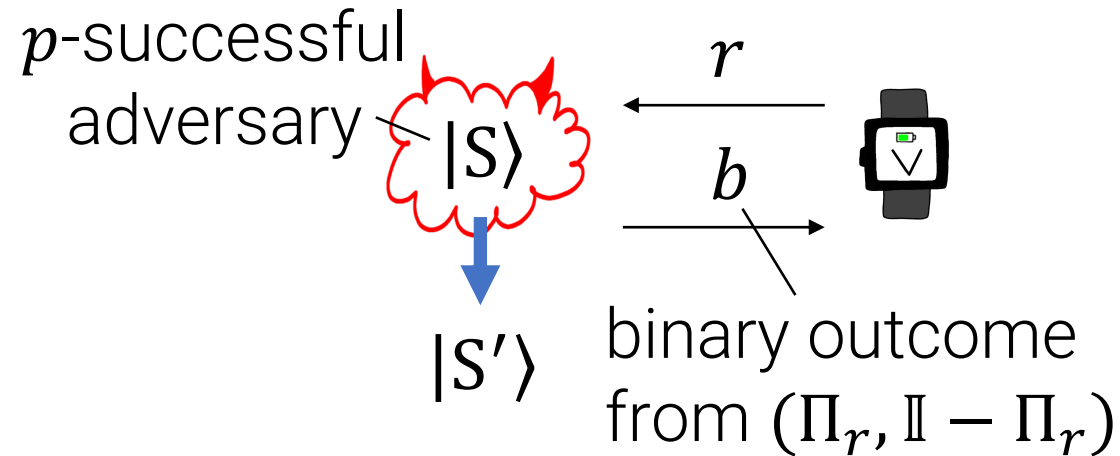
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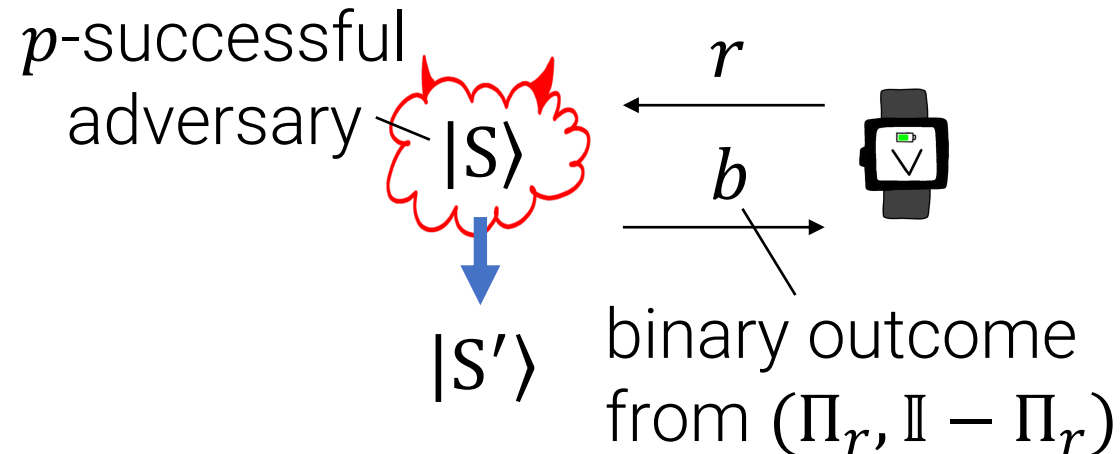
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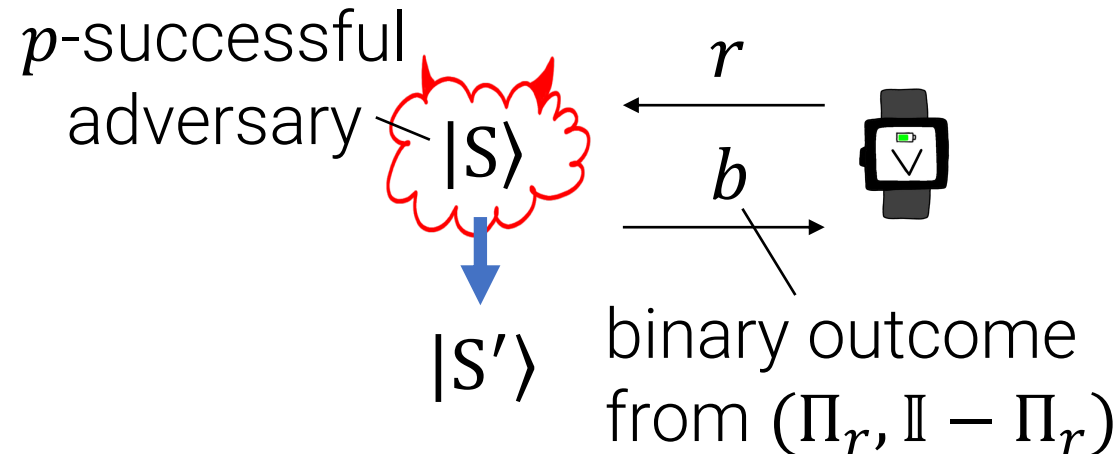
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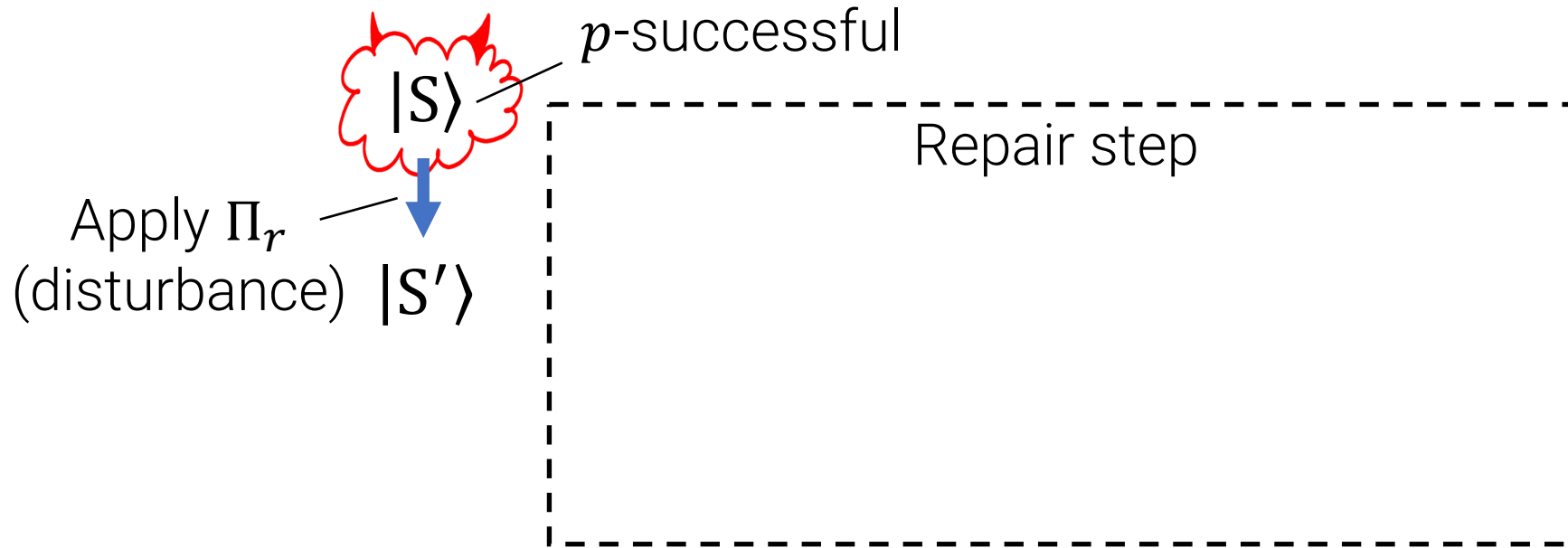
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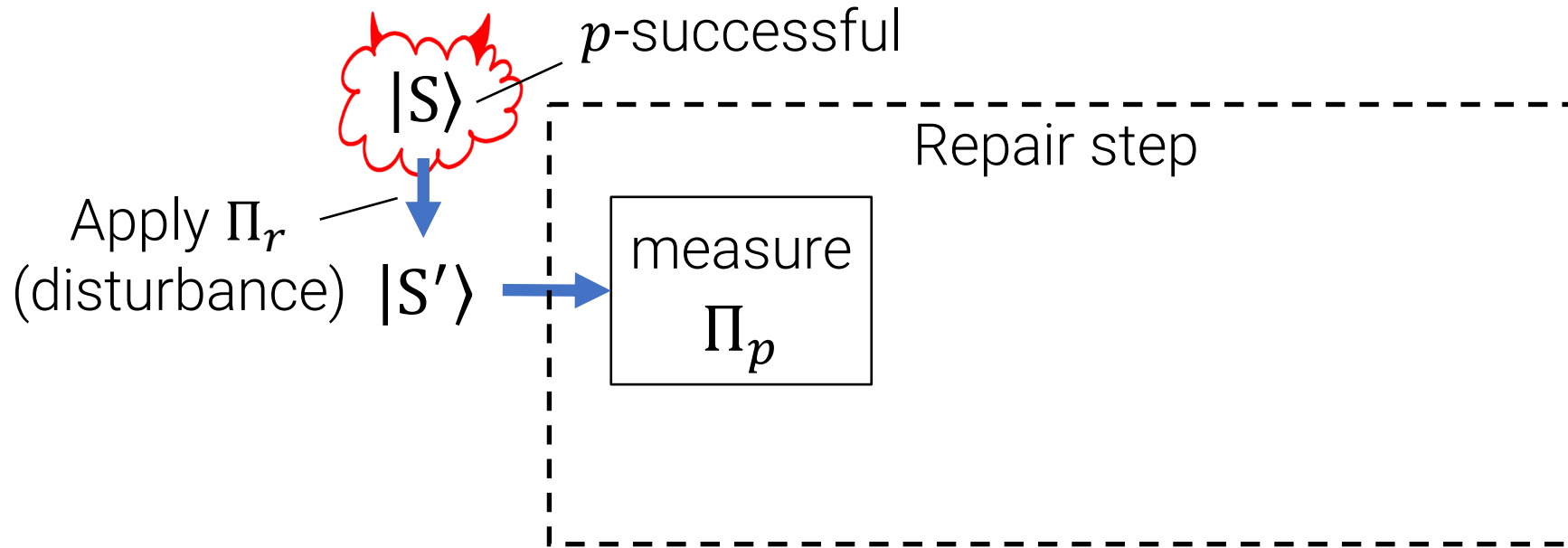
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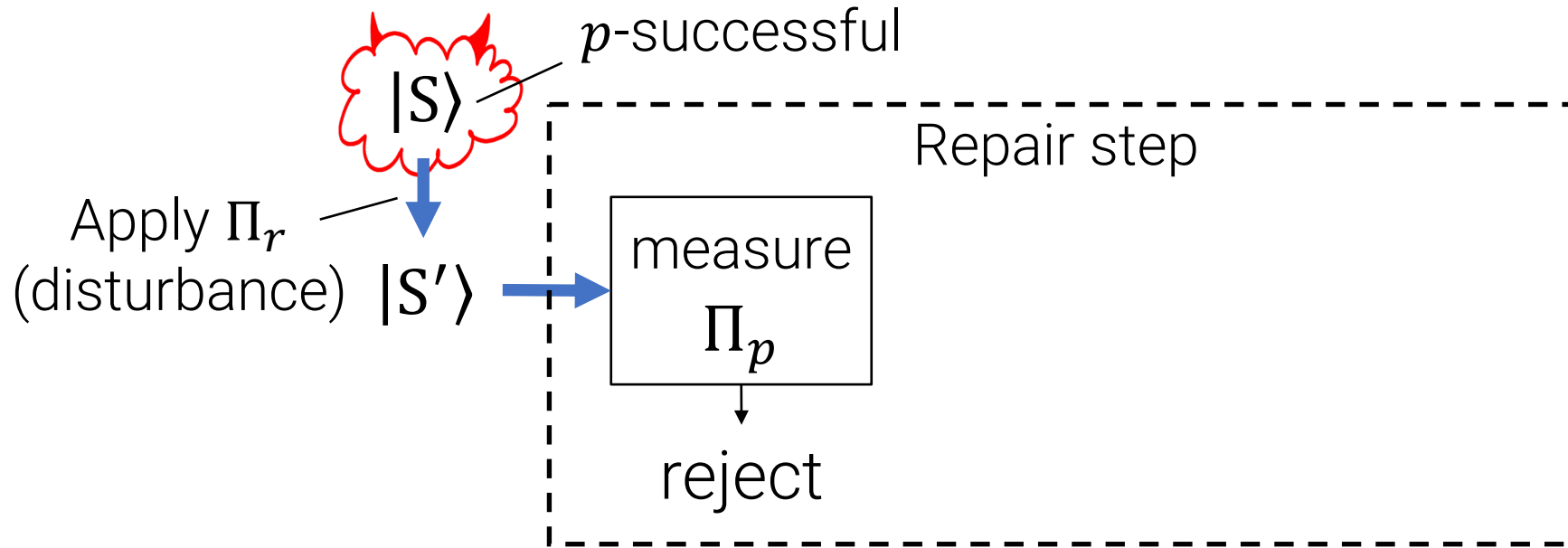
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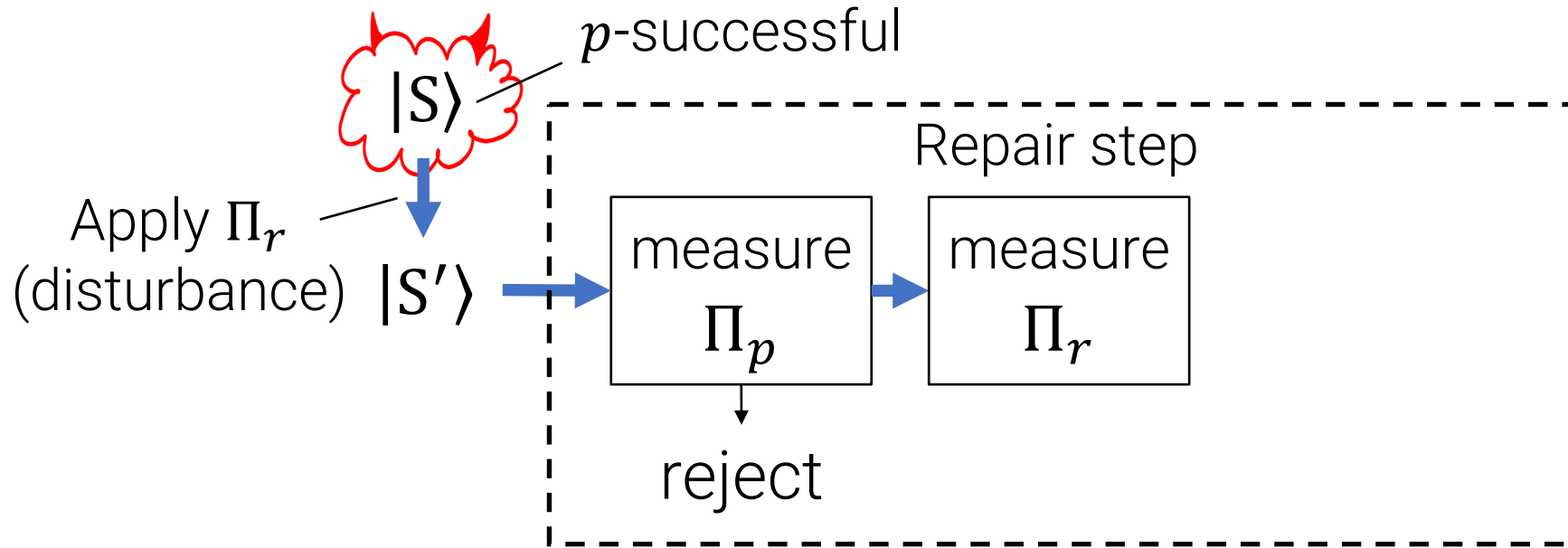
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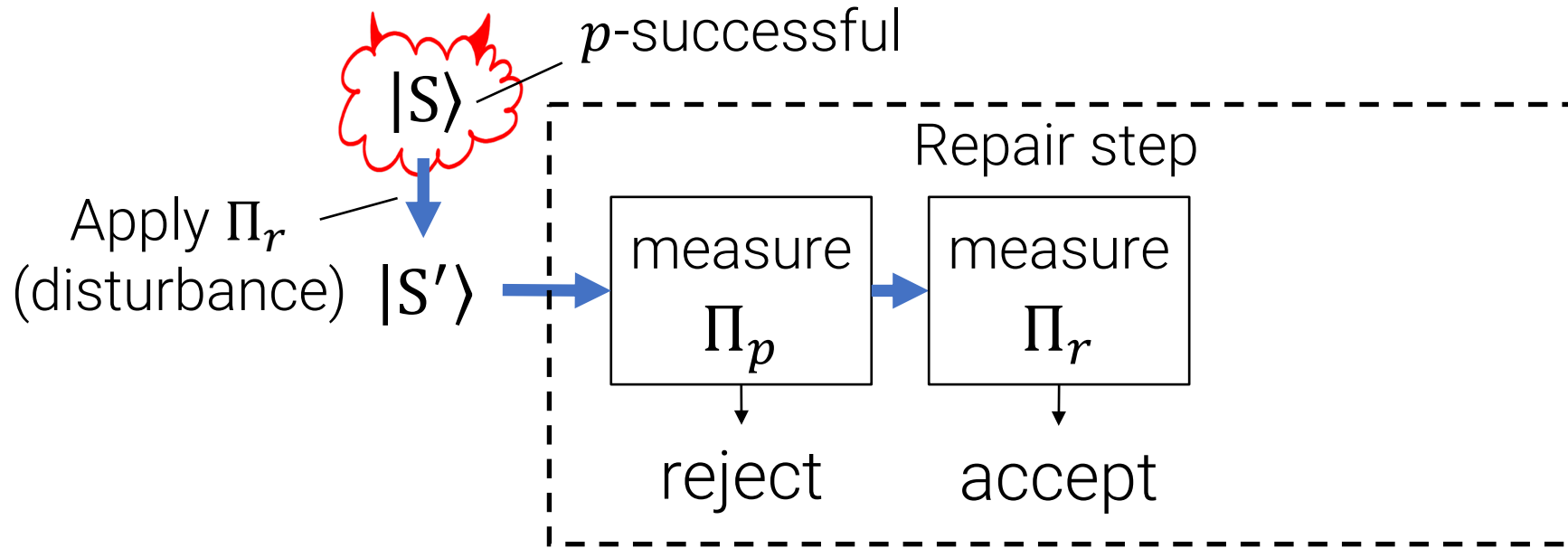
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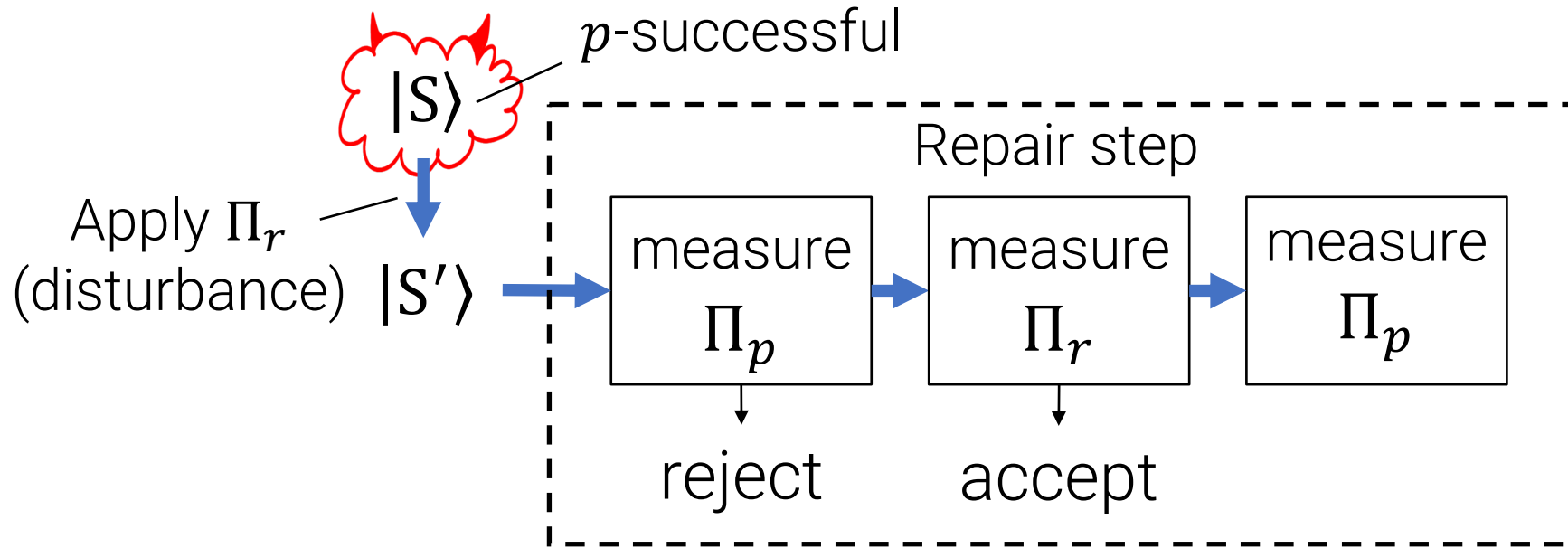
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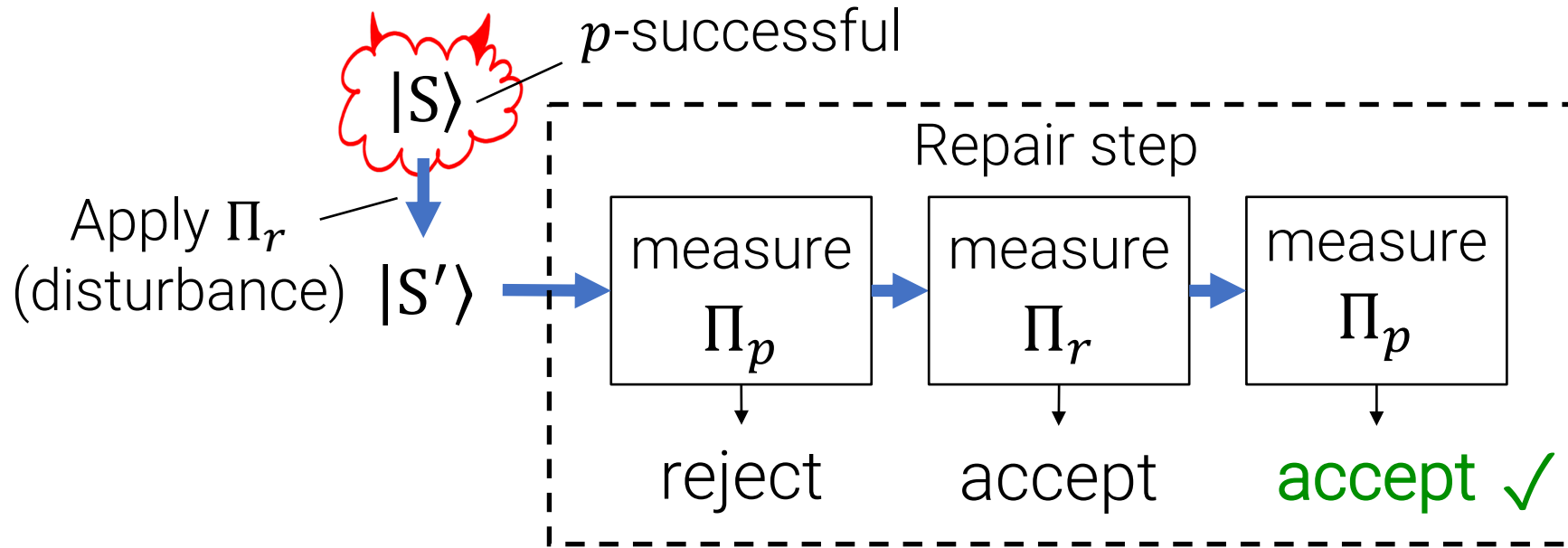
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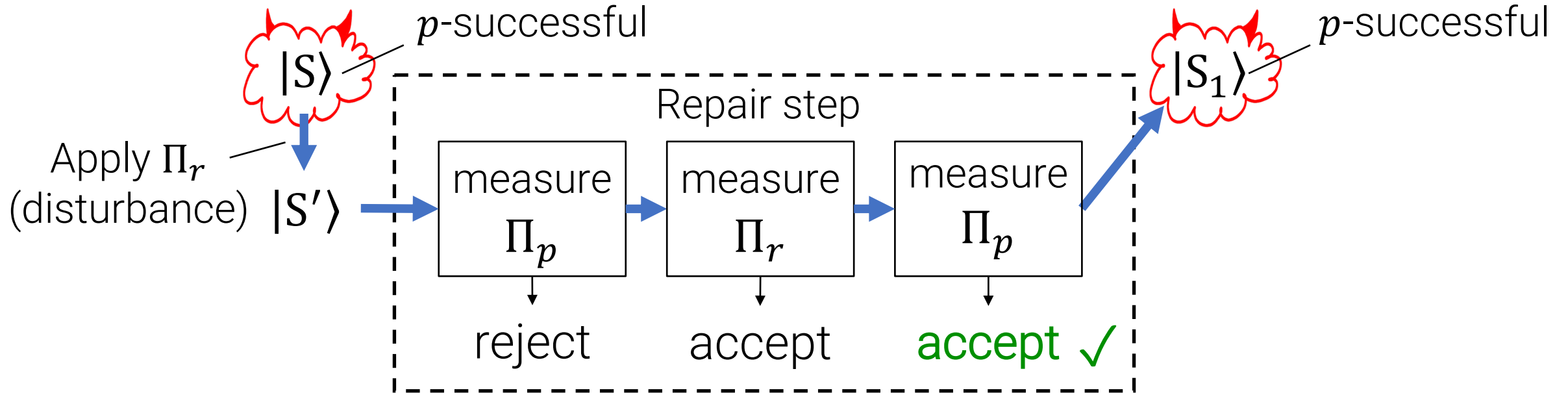


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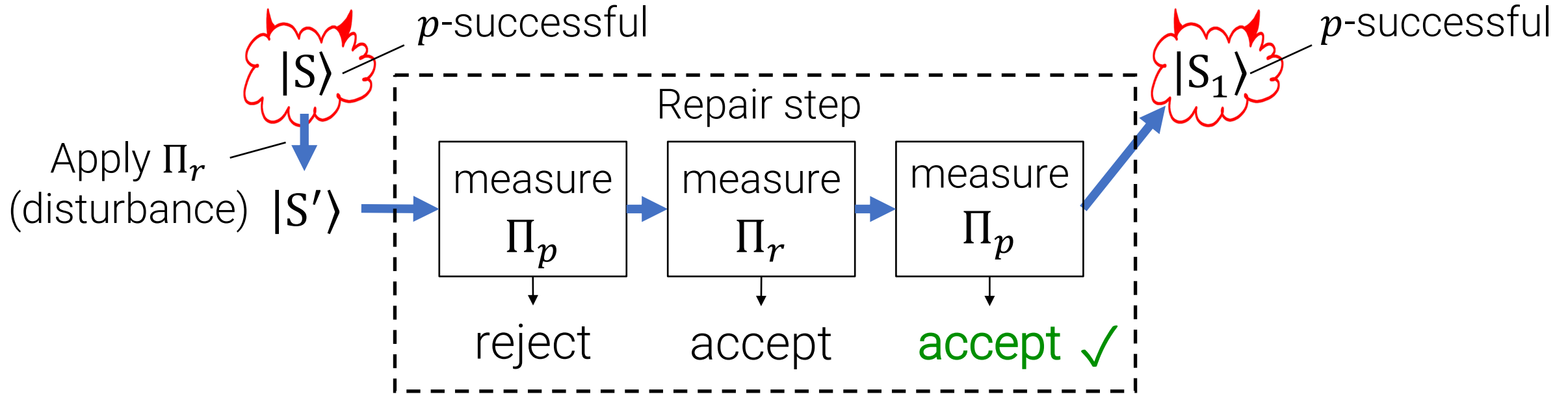
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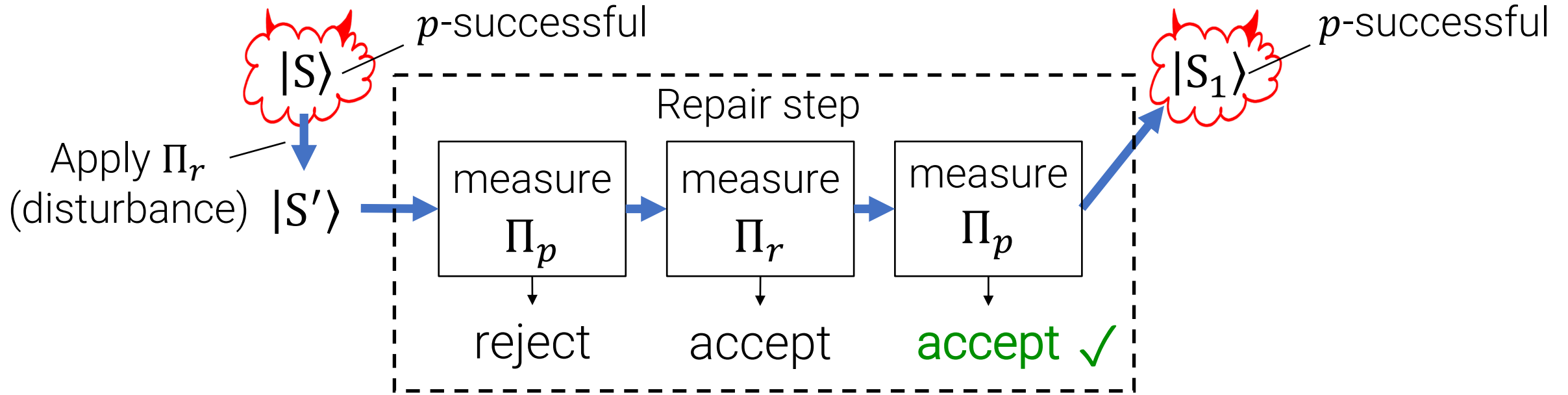
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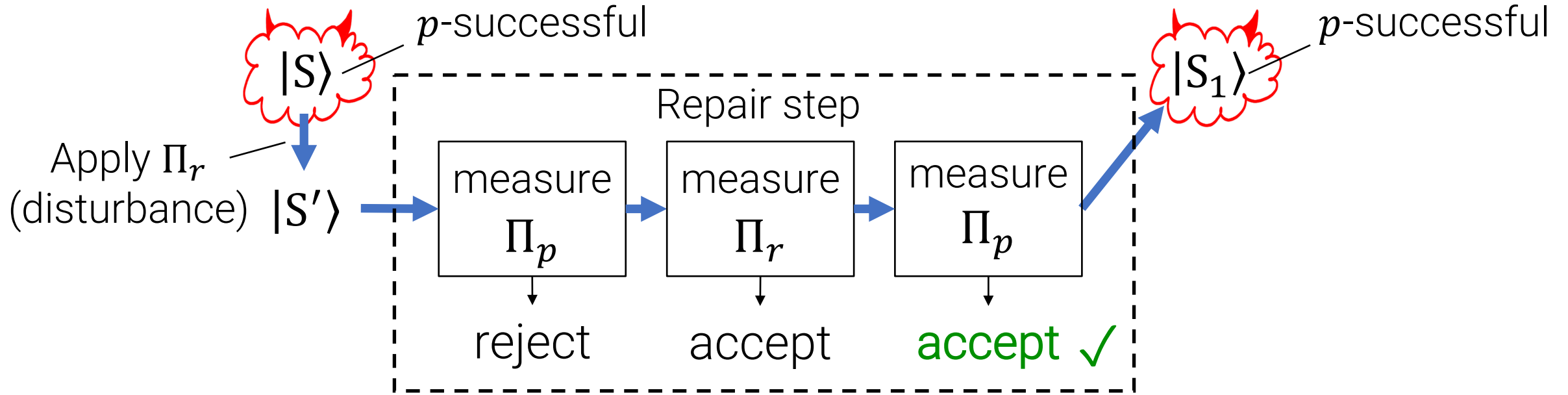
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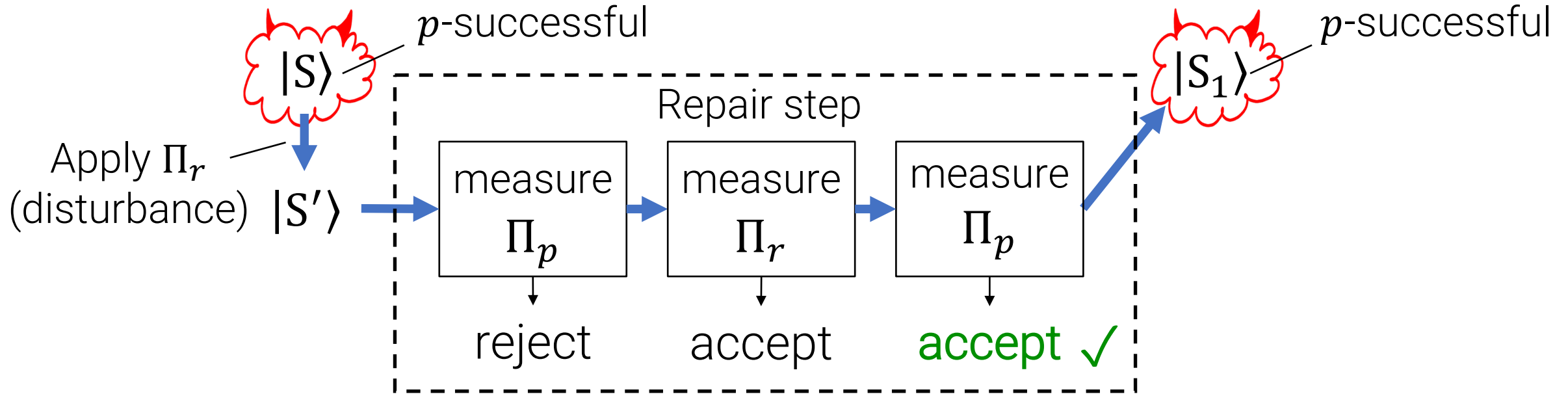


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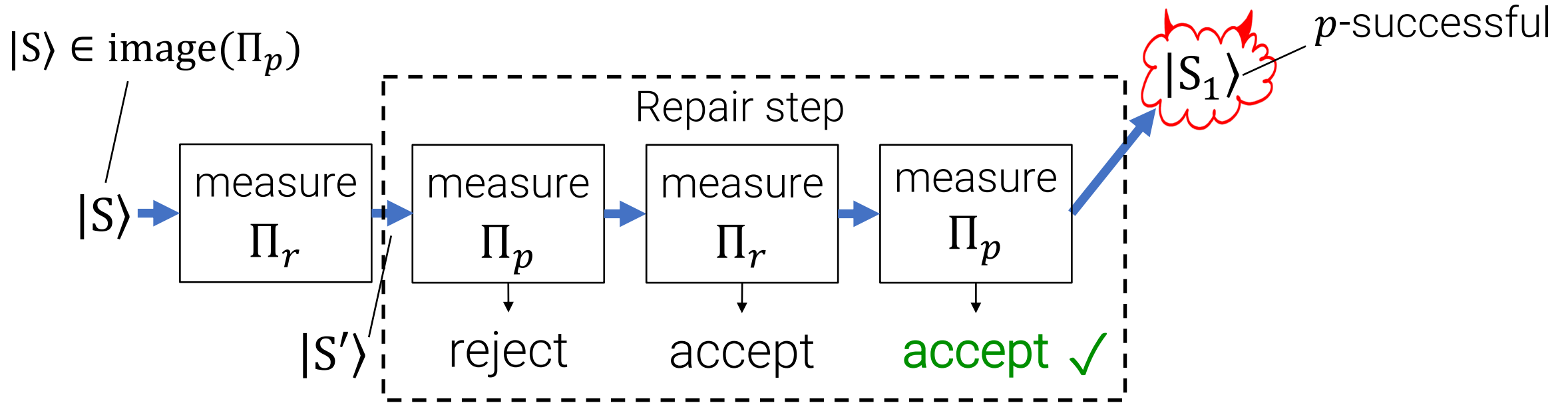
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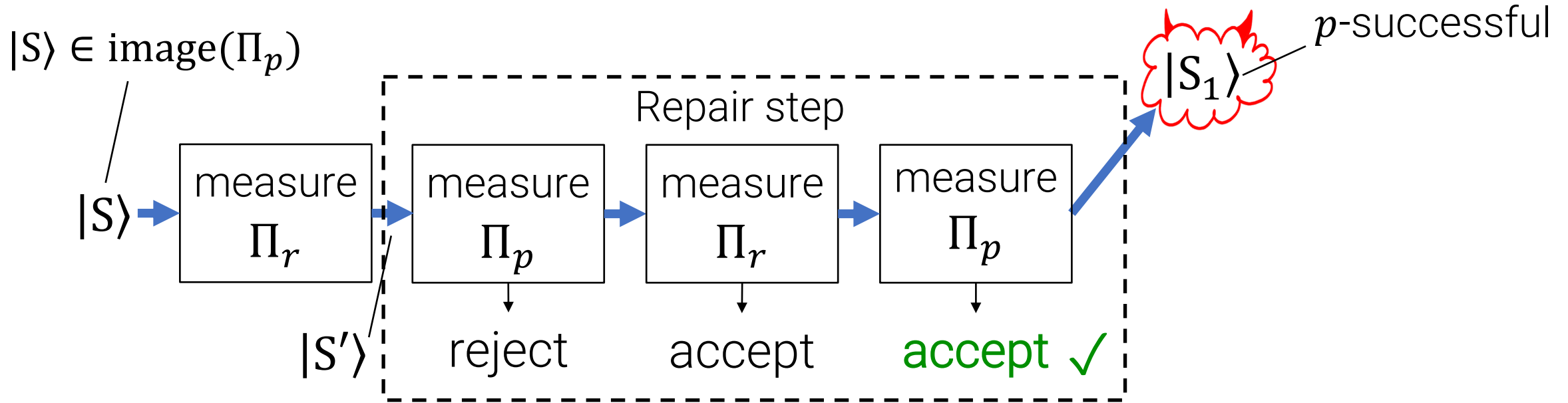
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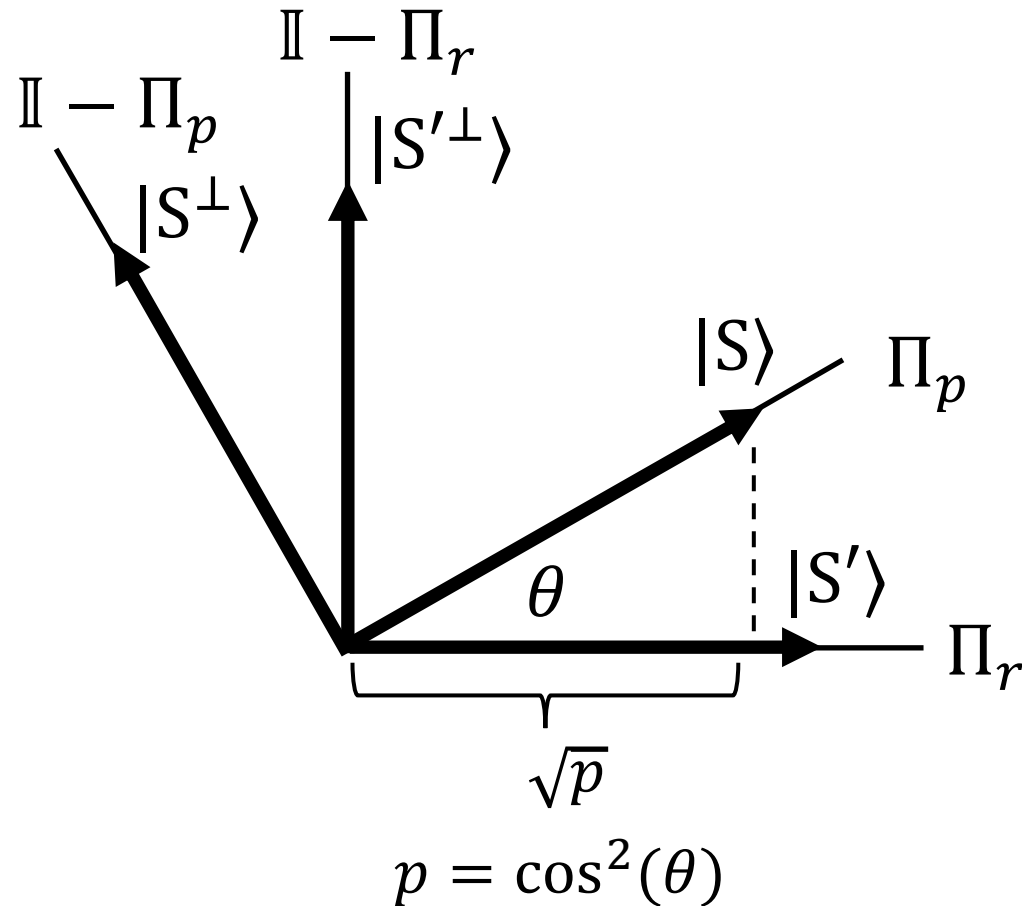
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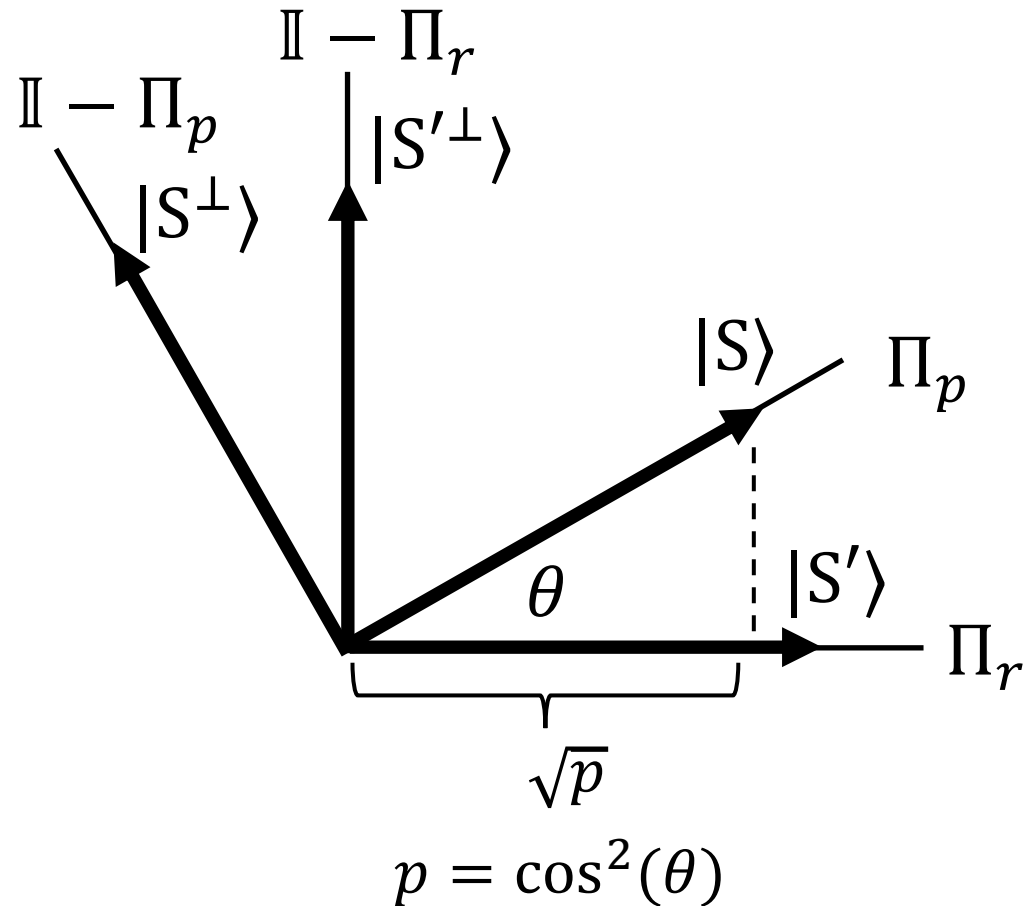


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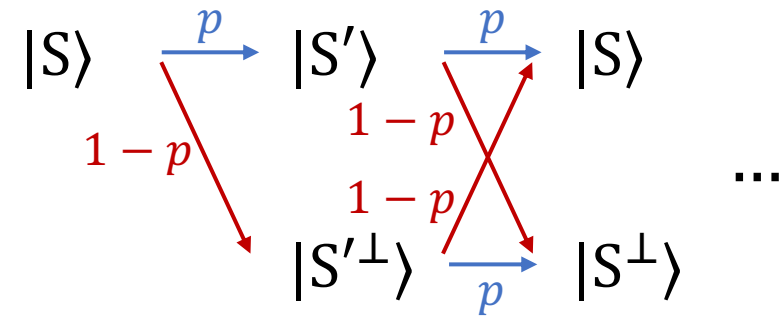
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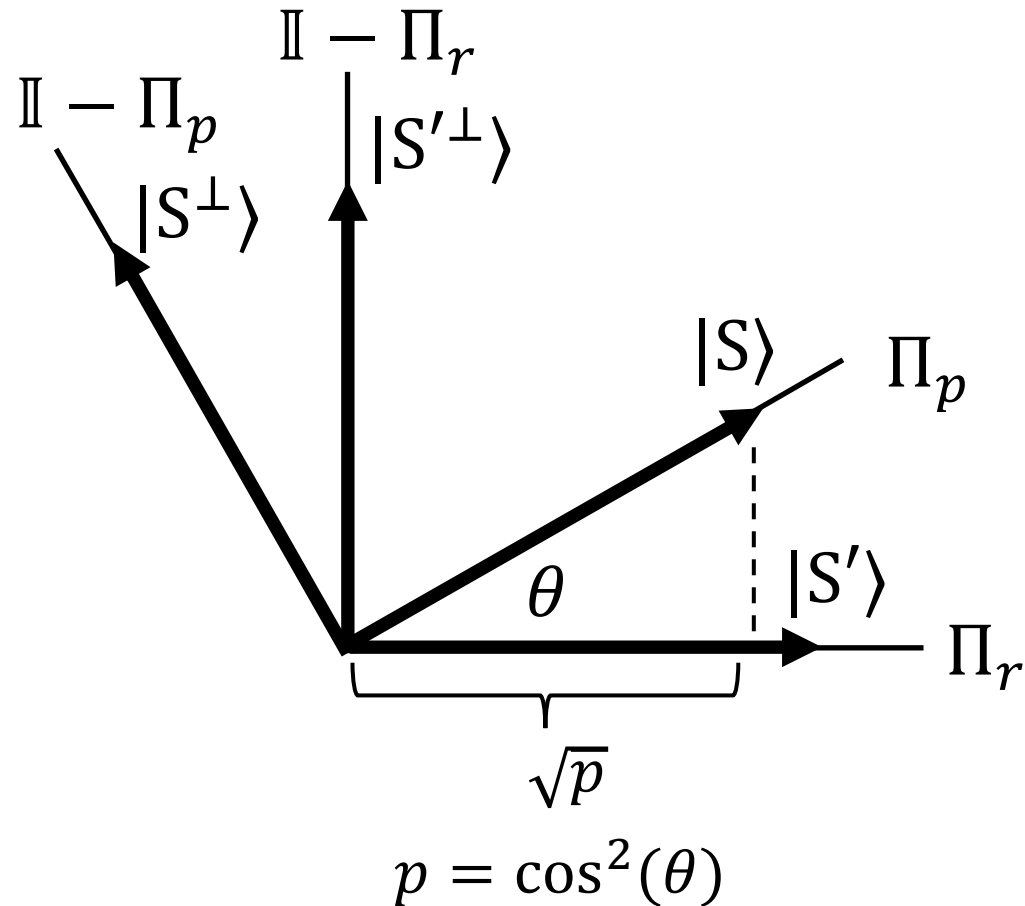
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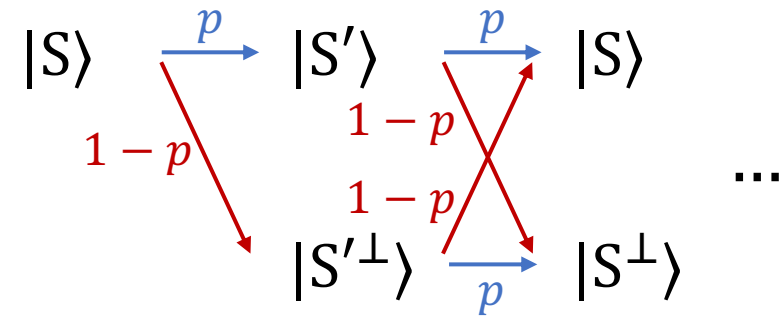
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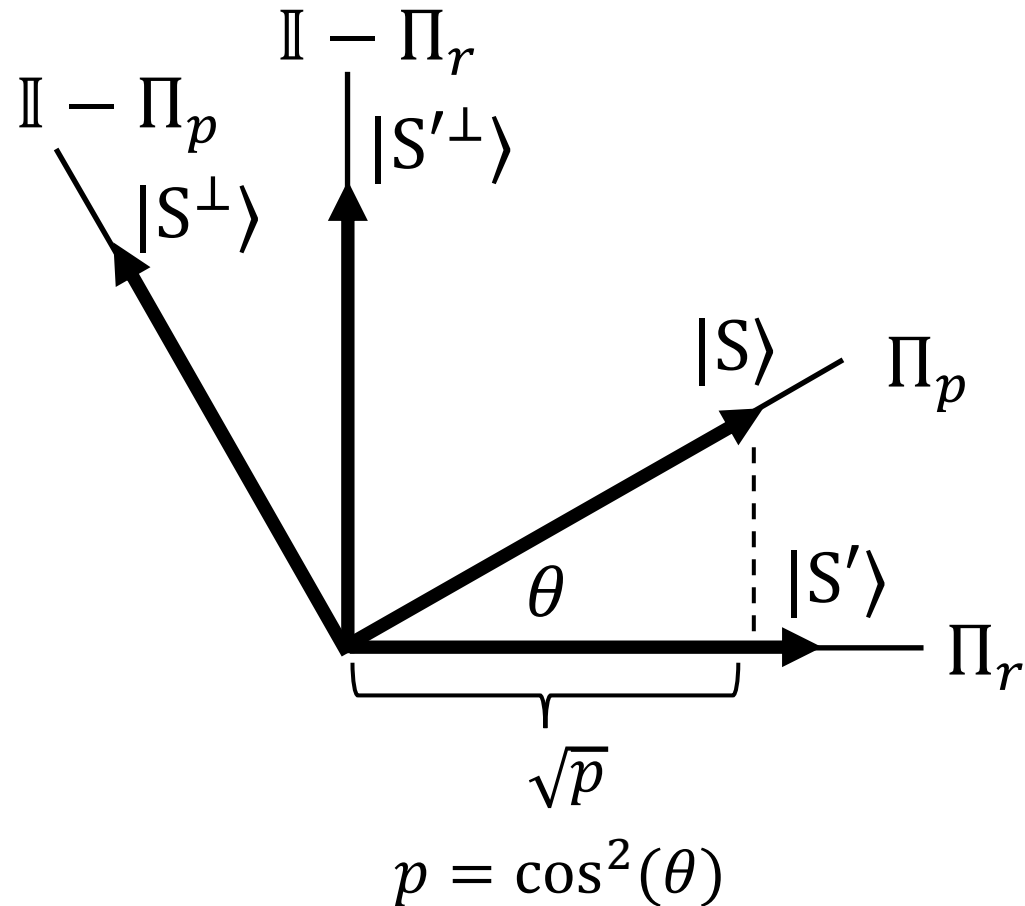


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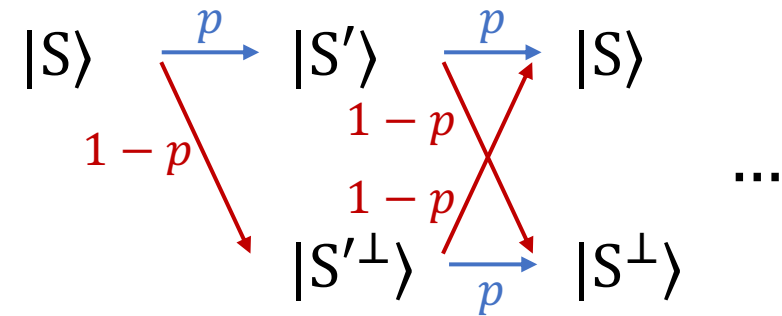


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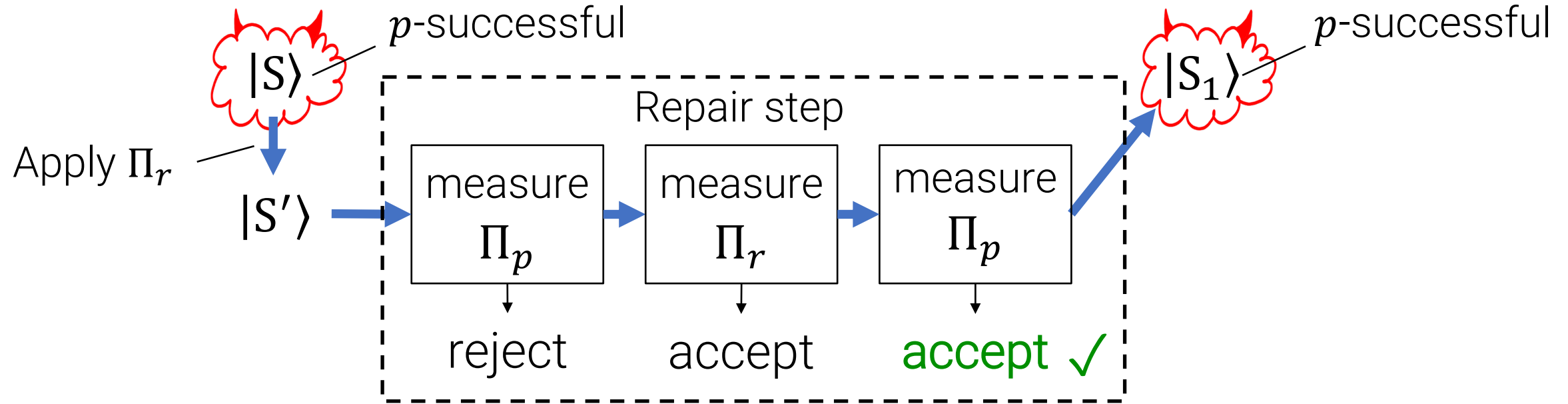
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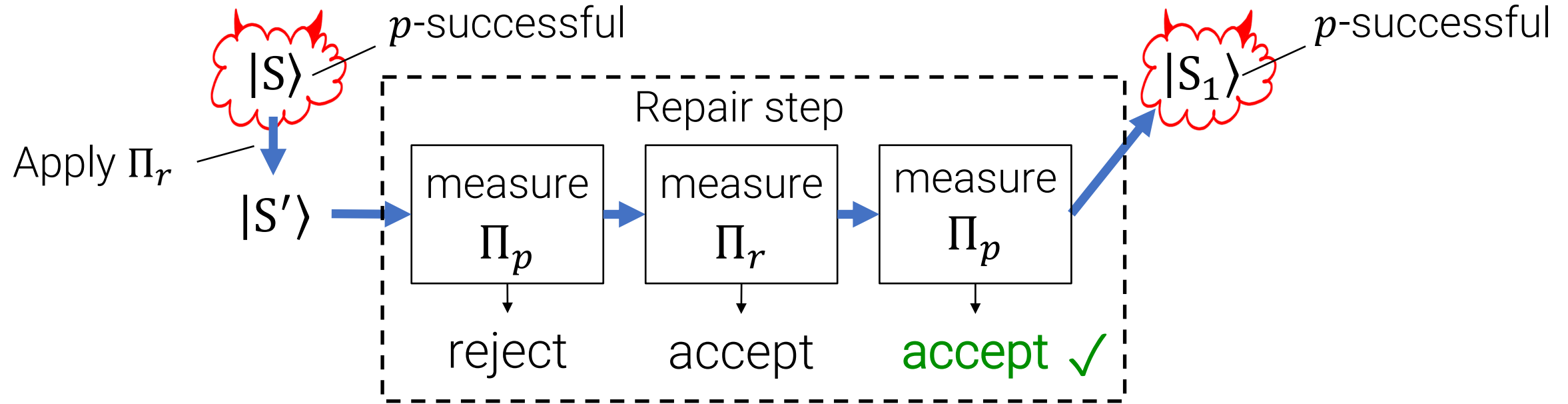
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Alternating projectors *again!*

# What this talk will cover:

1. Motivating example: Kilian's succinct arguments for NP
2. Why is post-quantum security of Kilian difficult?
3. Rewinding a quantum attacker many times
  - New idea: "repair" the adversary after each query
  - **Estimating success probability**
  - The full rewinding procedure
  - Analysis

# How to Estimate Success Probability [MW05,Z20]

Instead of running the prover on a random challenge  $r \leftarrow R$ , we'll introduce a challenge register  $R$  and run the prover  $|S\rangle$  in superposition on all challenges.

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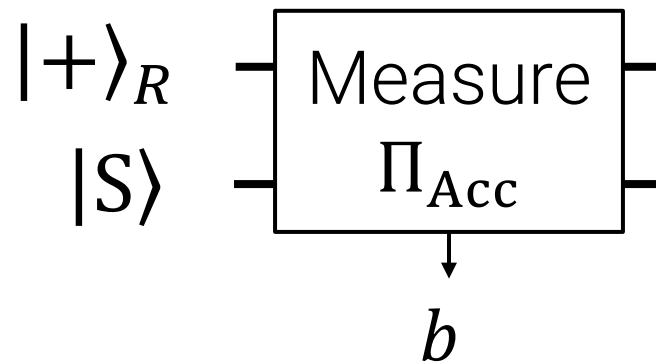
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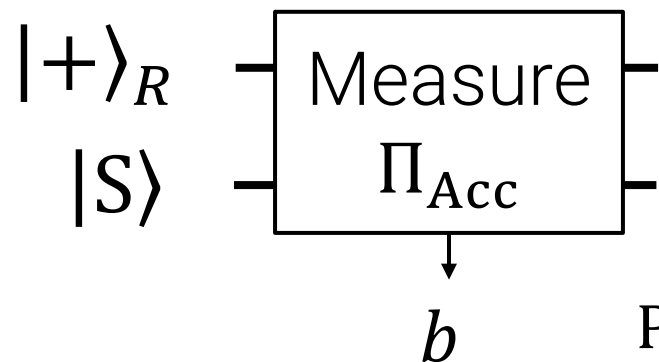


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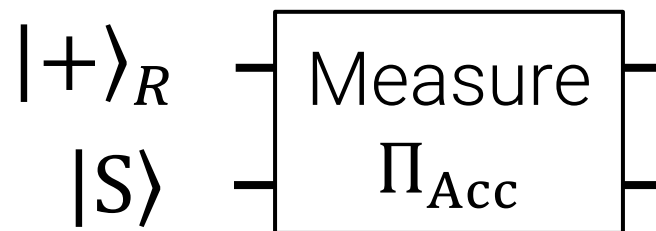


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[MW05, Z20]: learn success probability  
by alternating  $\Pi_{\text{Acc}}$  measurements with  
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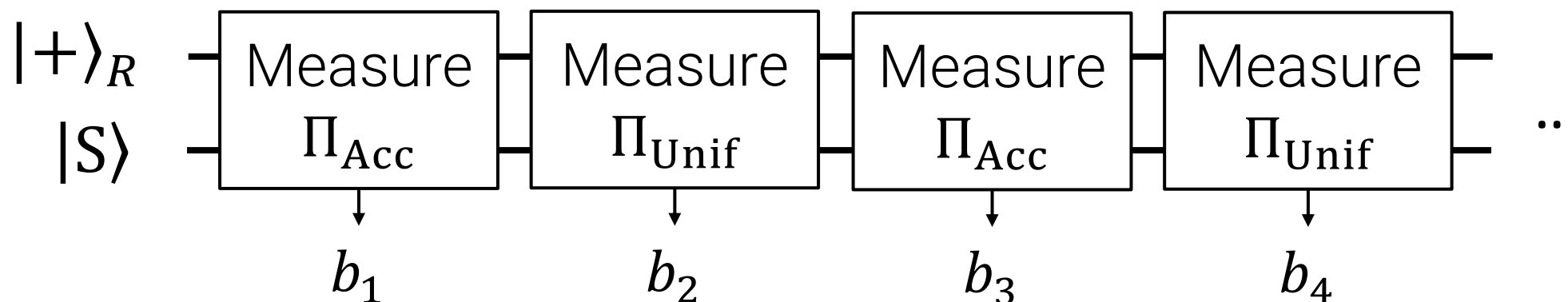
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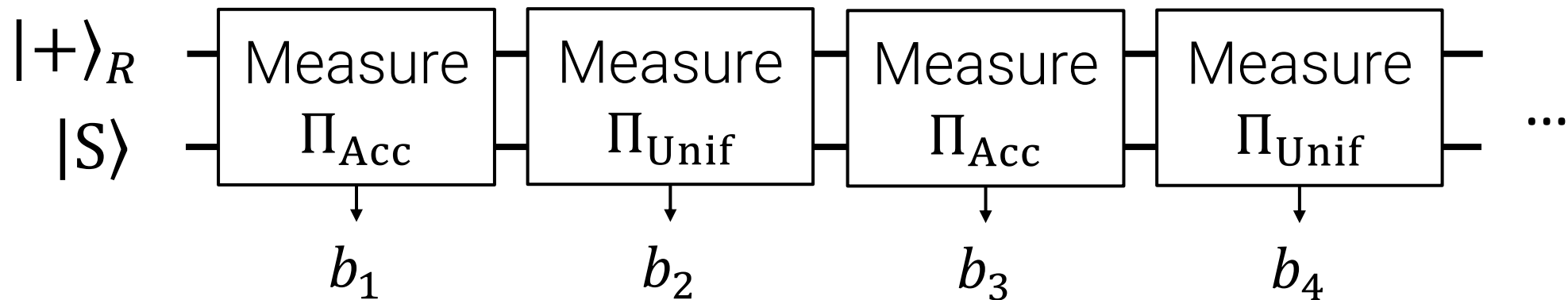
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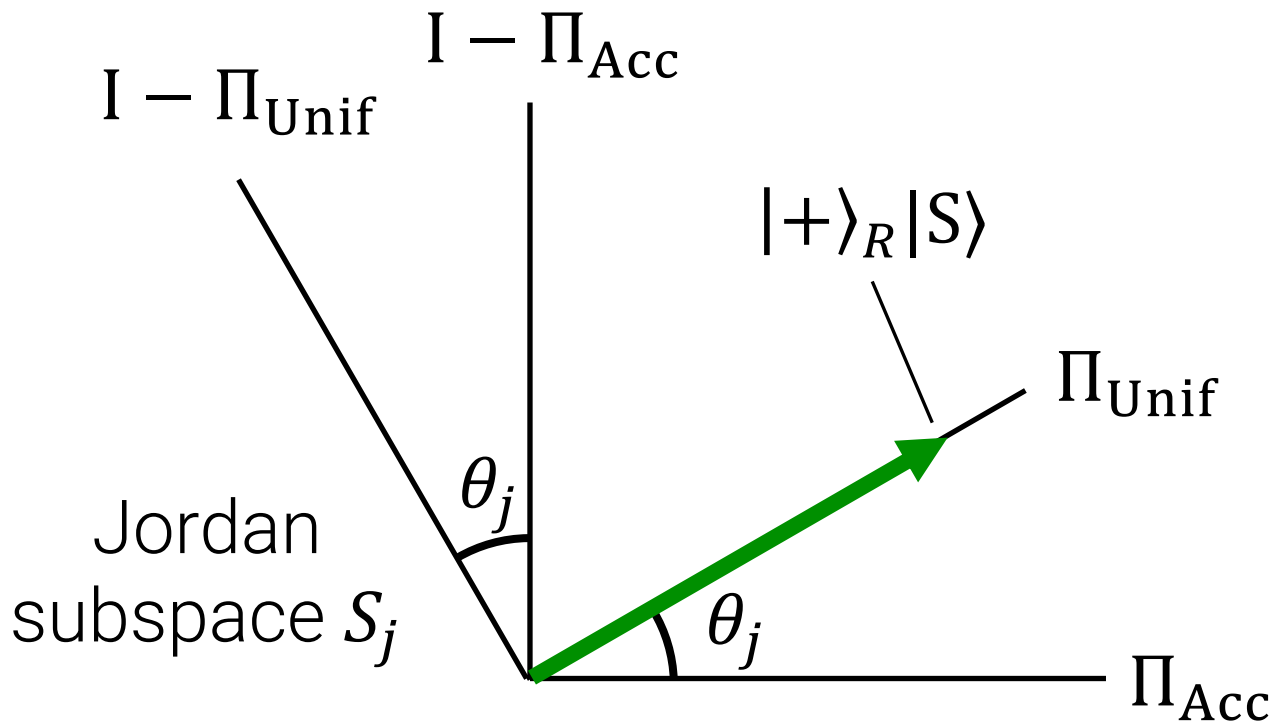
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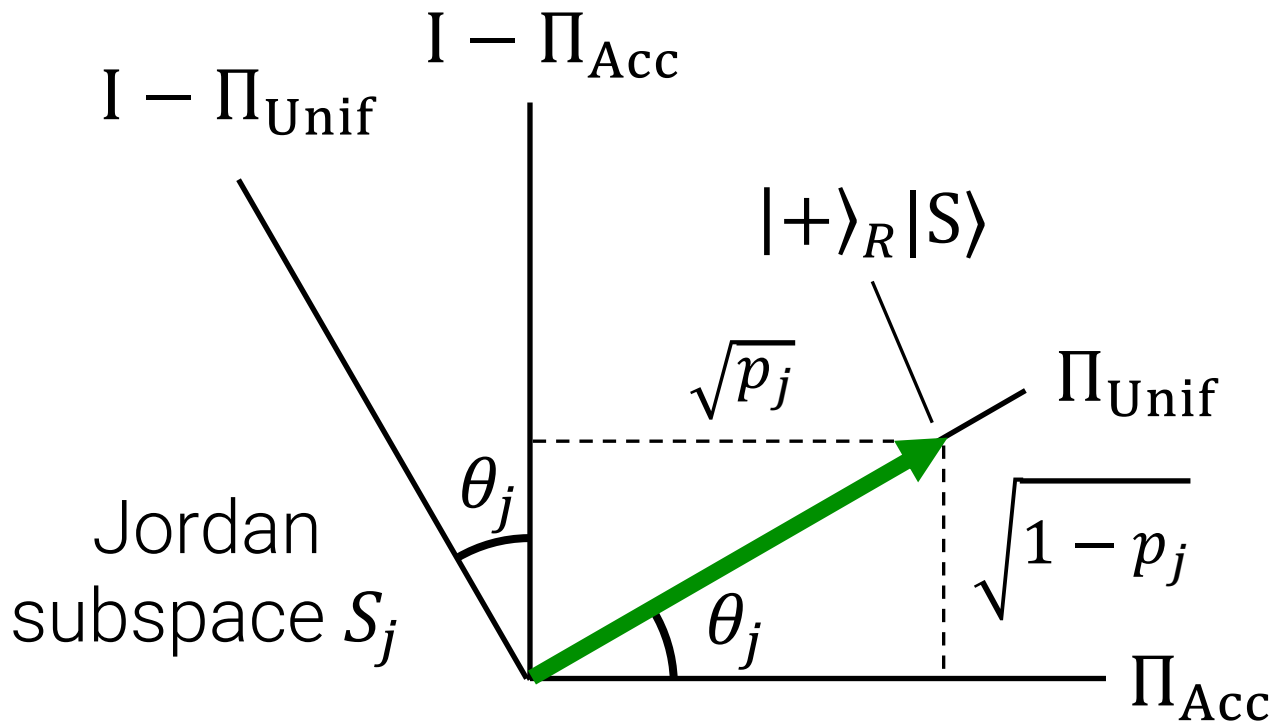
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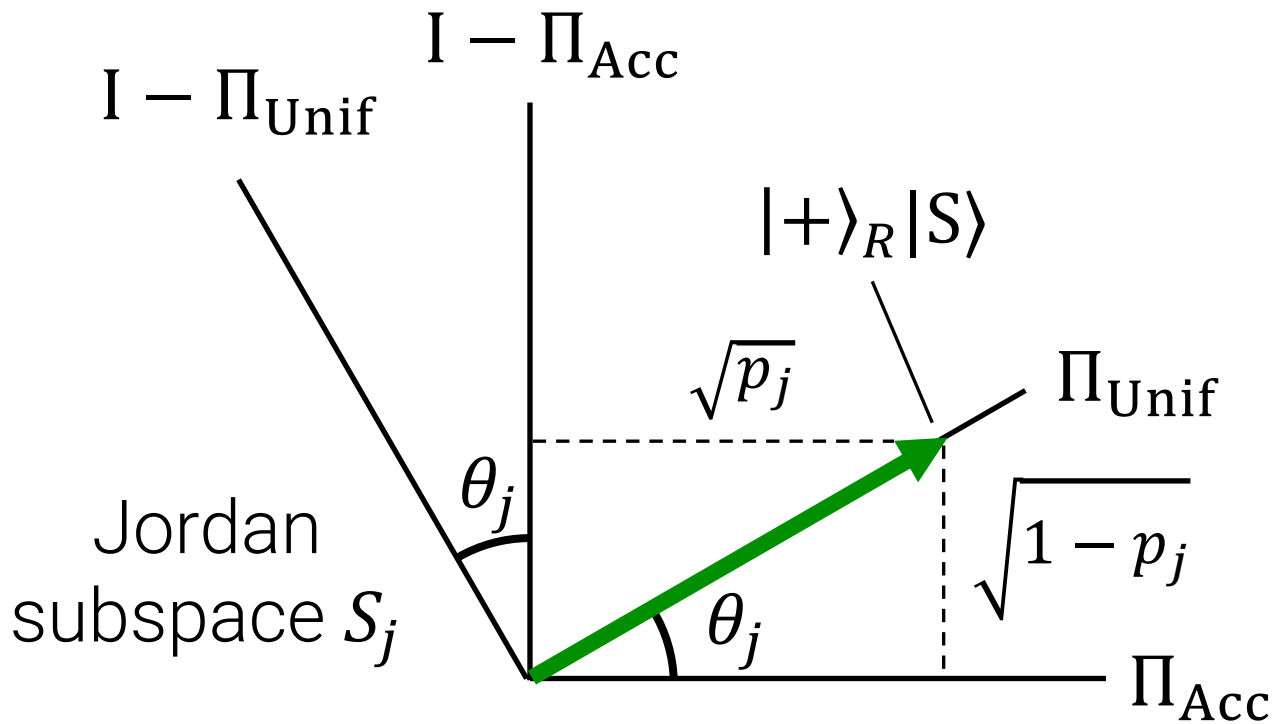




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Eigenvalue  $p_j = \cos^2(\theta_j) = \|\Pi_{\text{Acc}} |+\rangle_R |S\rangle\|^2$

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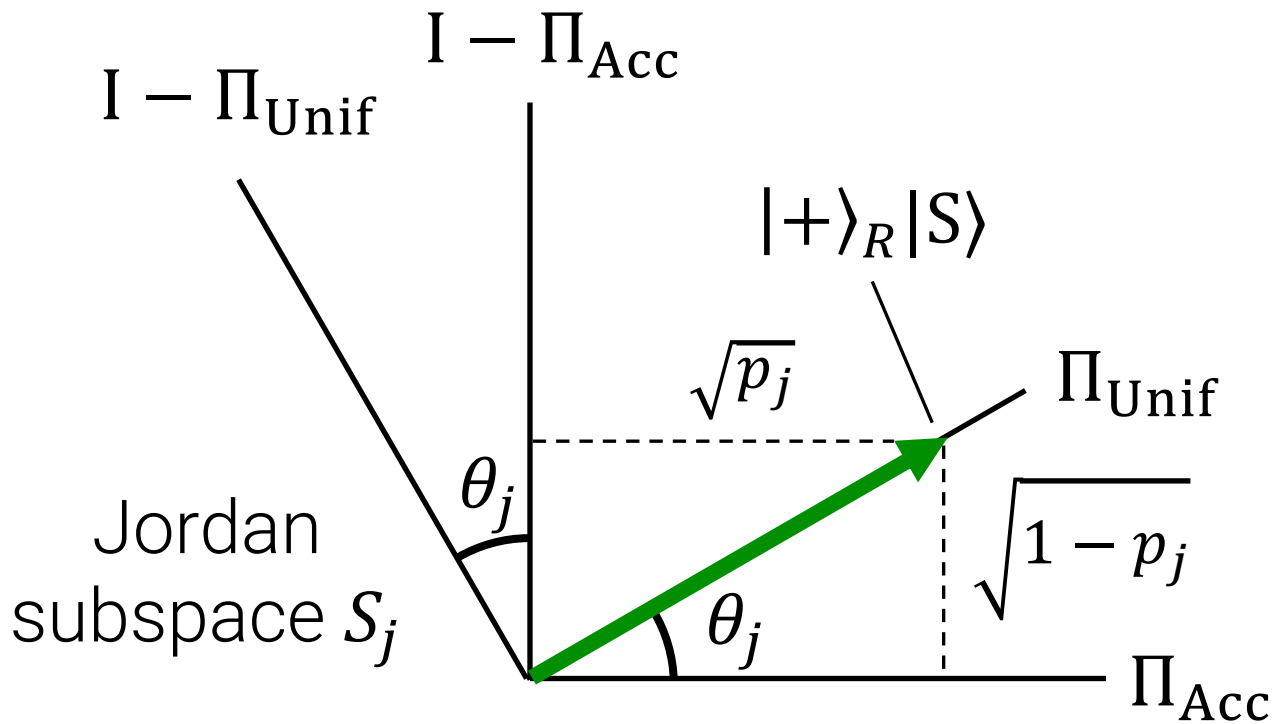


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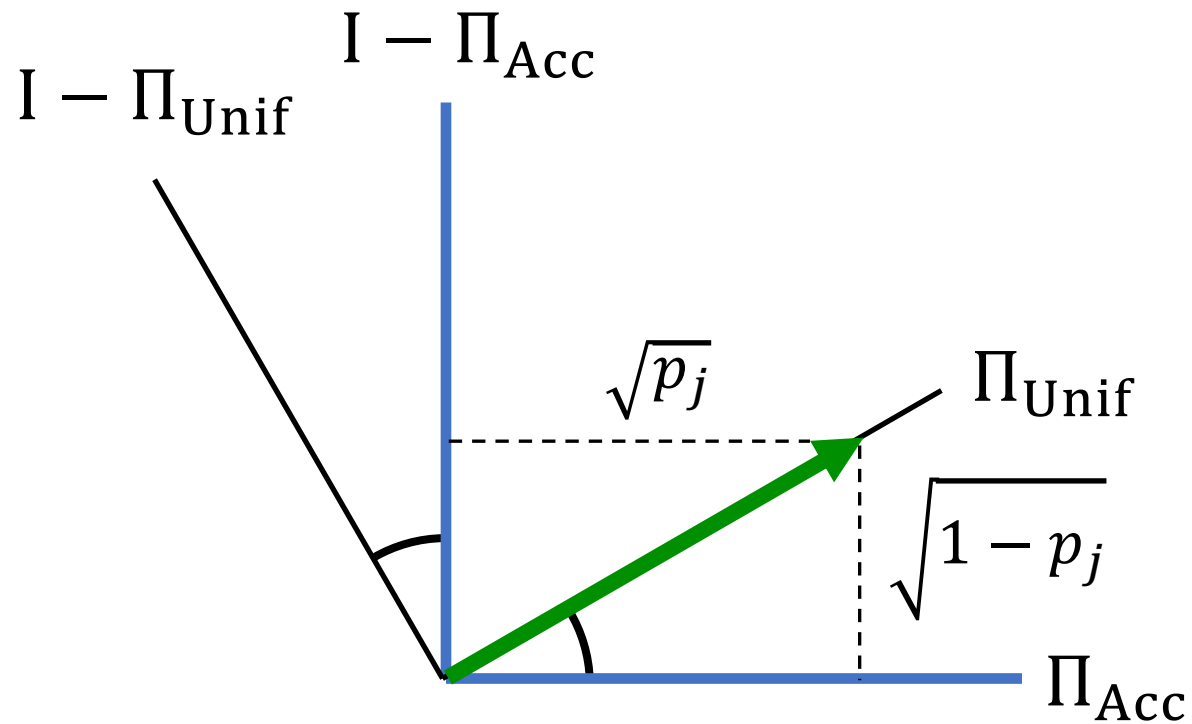


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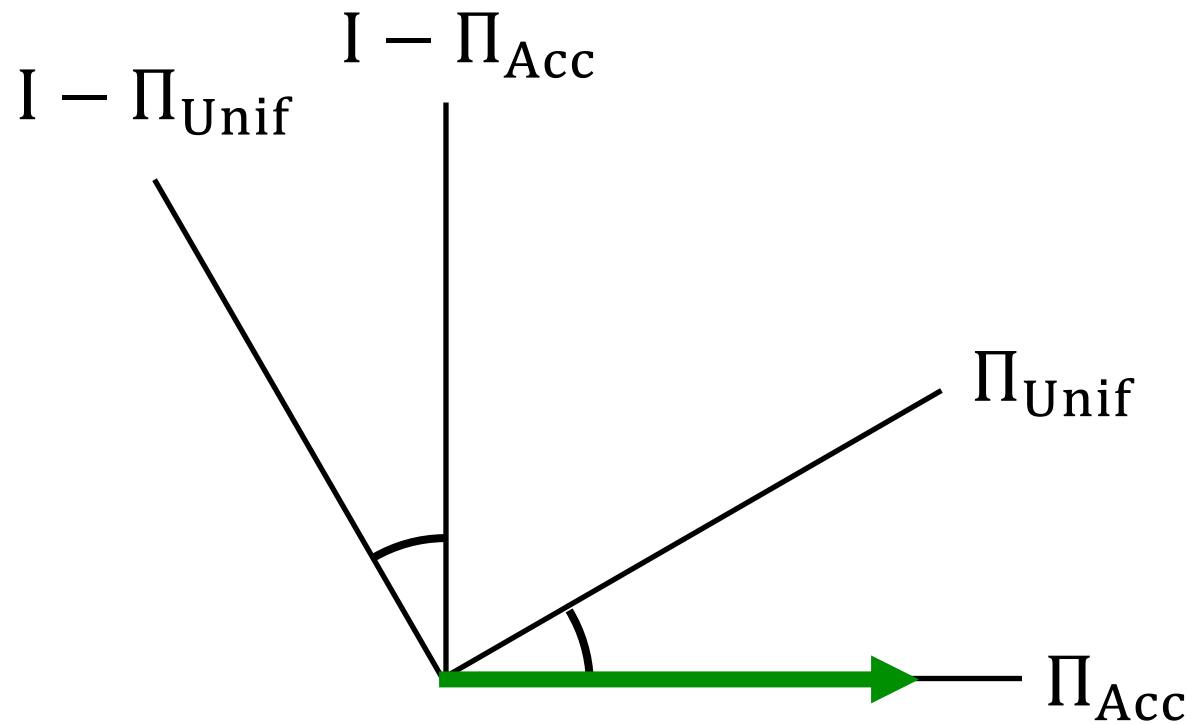
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outcomes

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Unif

$$b_0 = 1$$



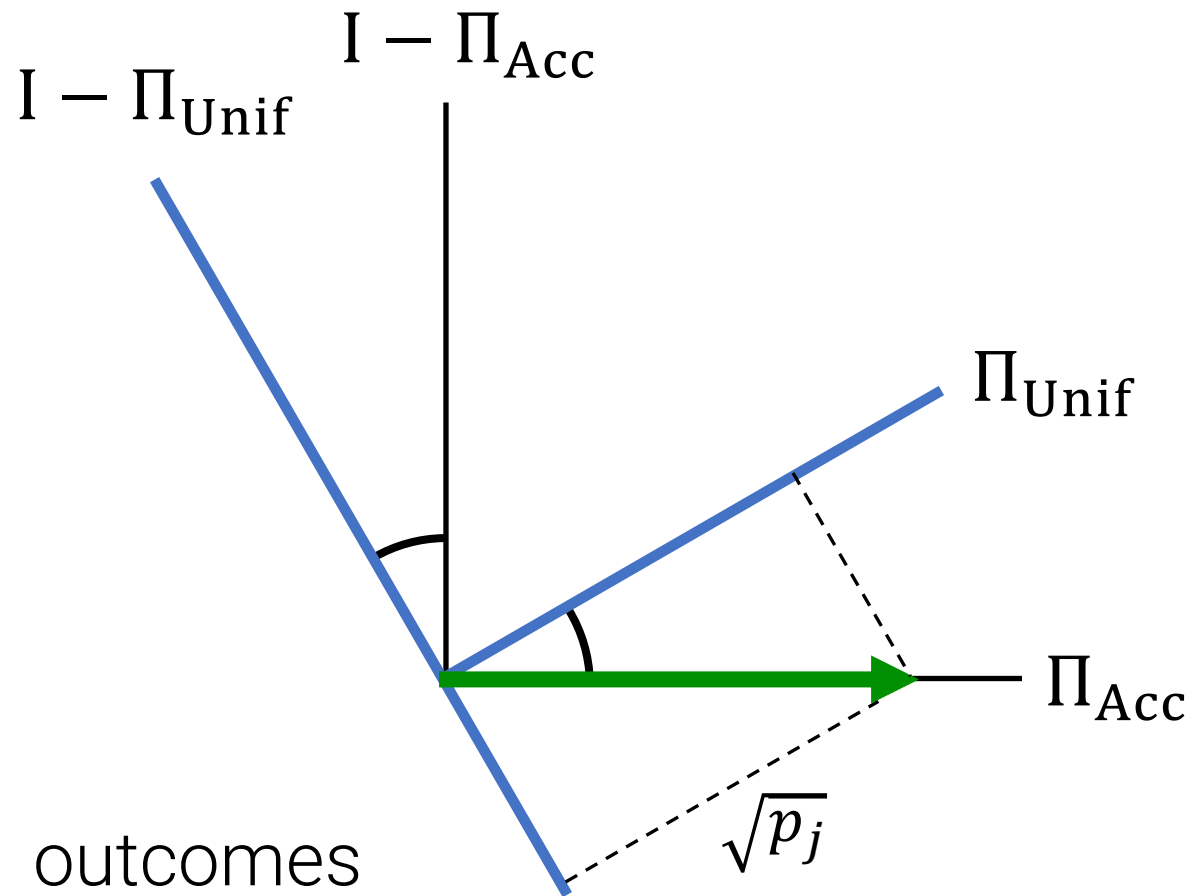
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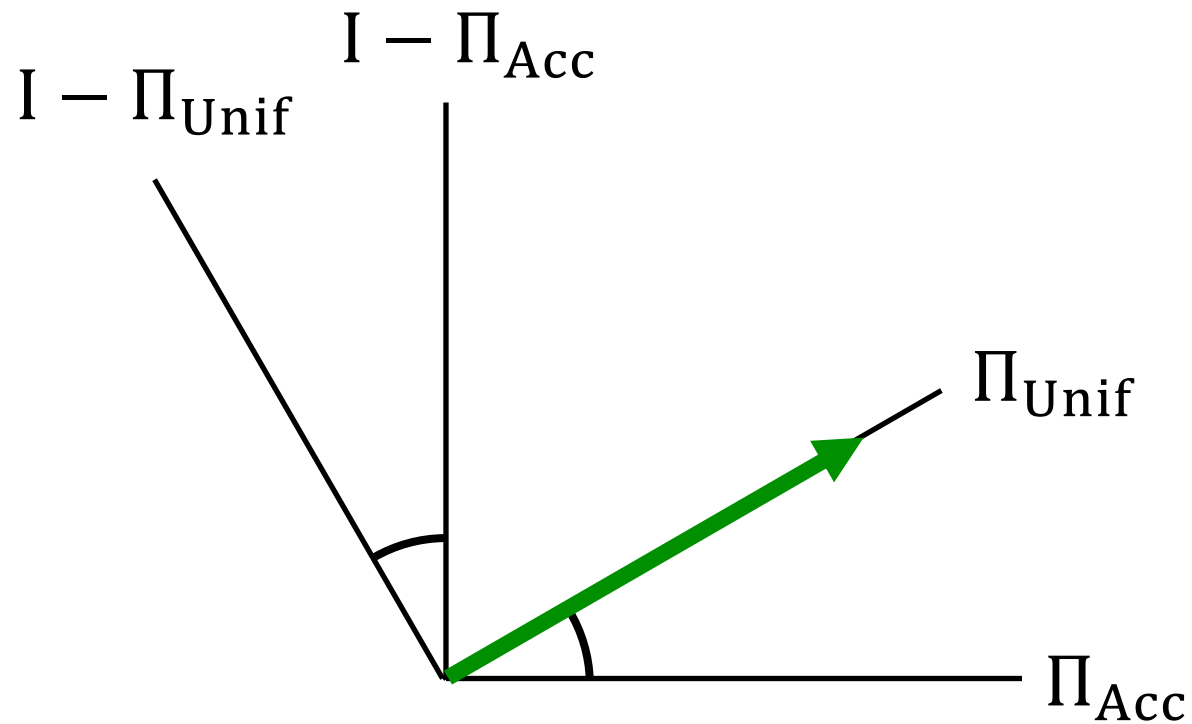
Unif	Acc
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Suppose  $|+\rangle_R |S\rangle$  lies in a 2-dim Jordan subspace  $S_j$ .

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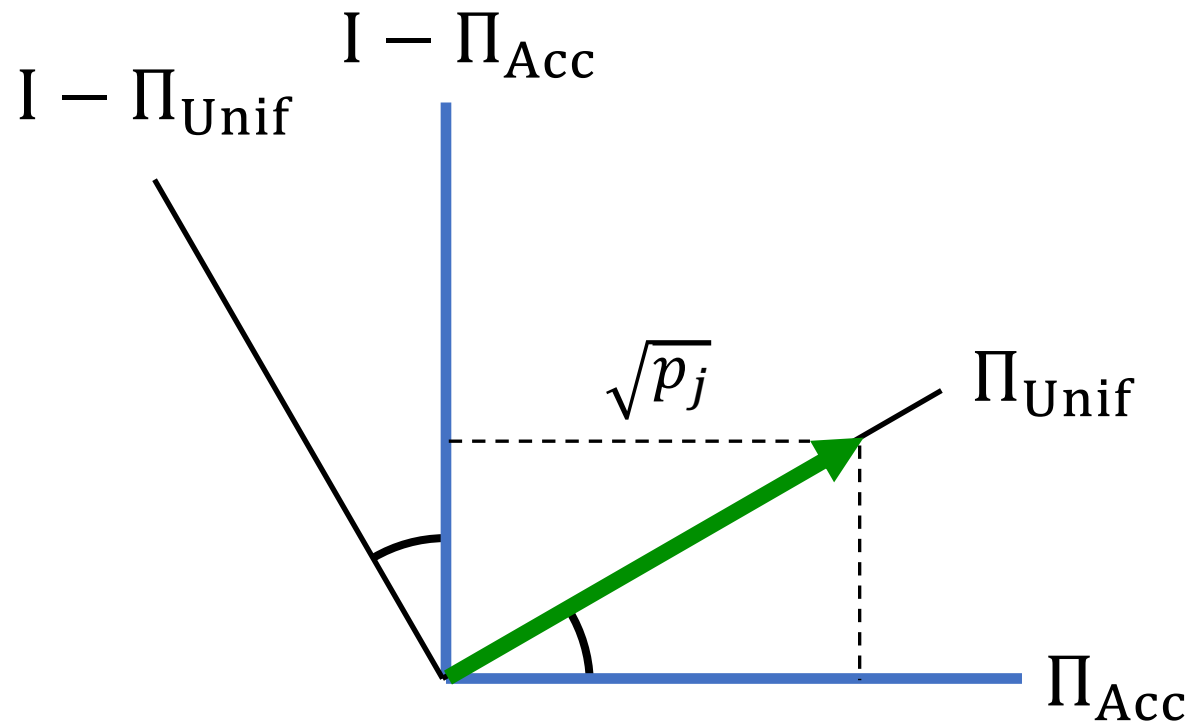
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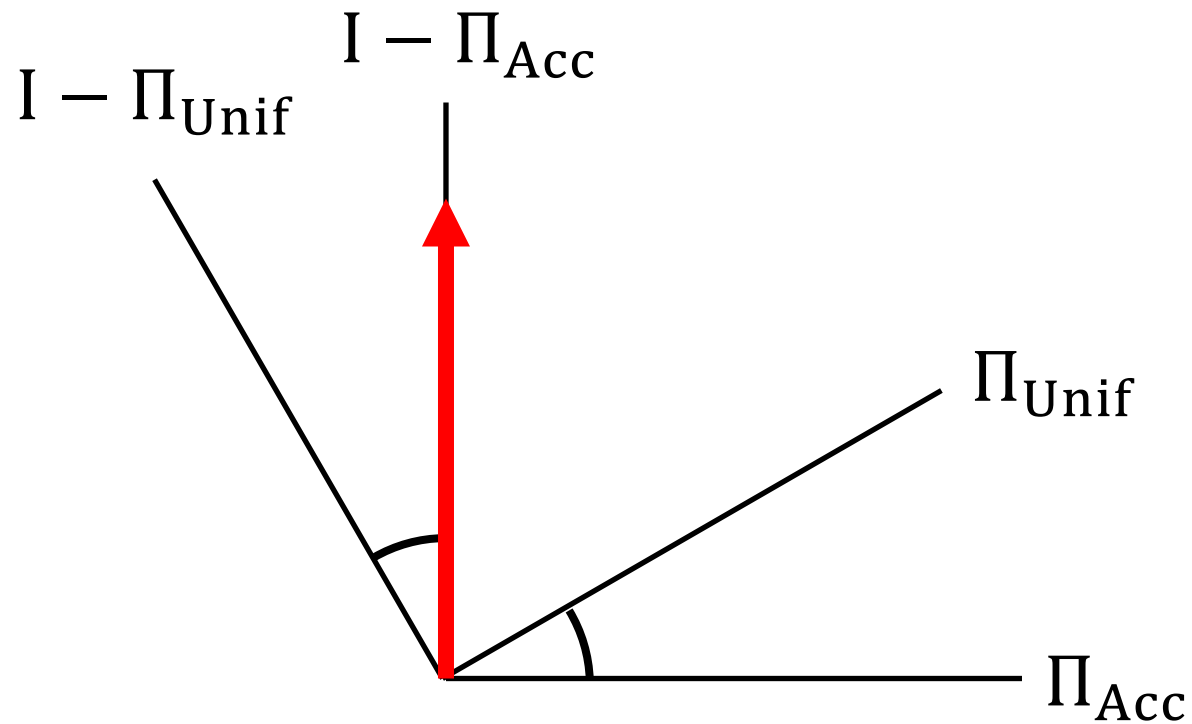
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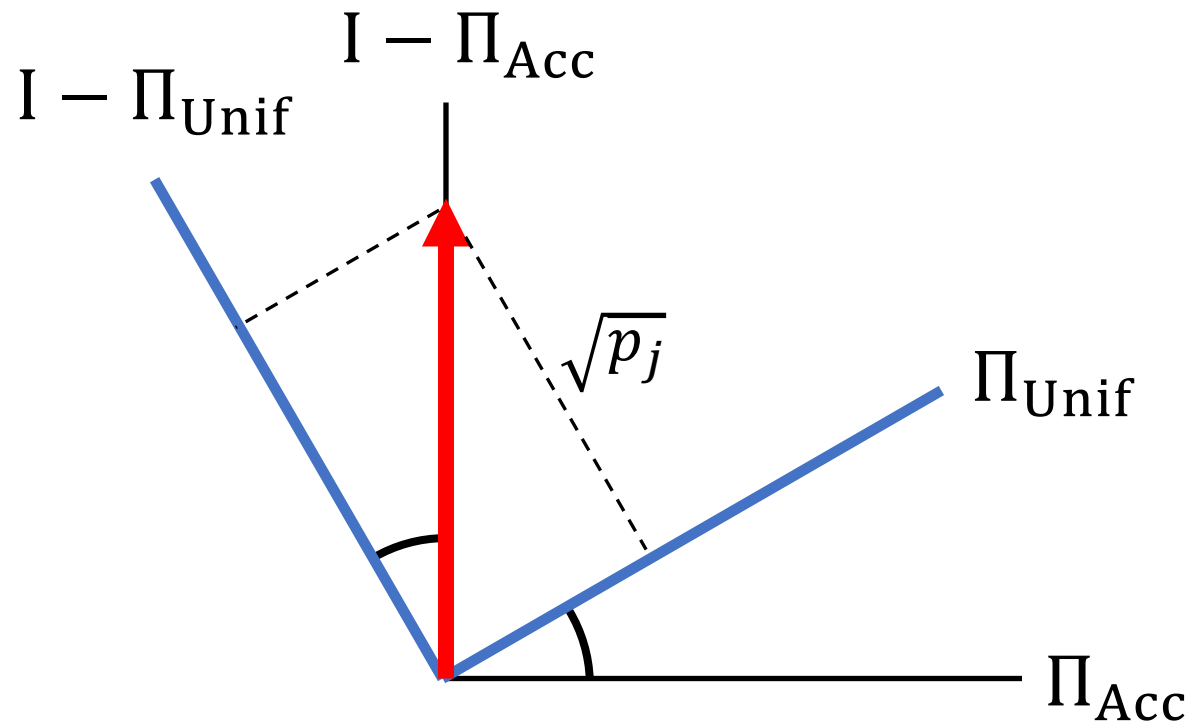
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Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc
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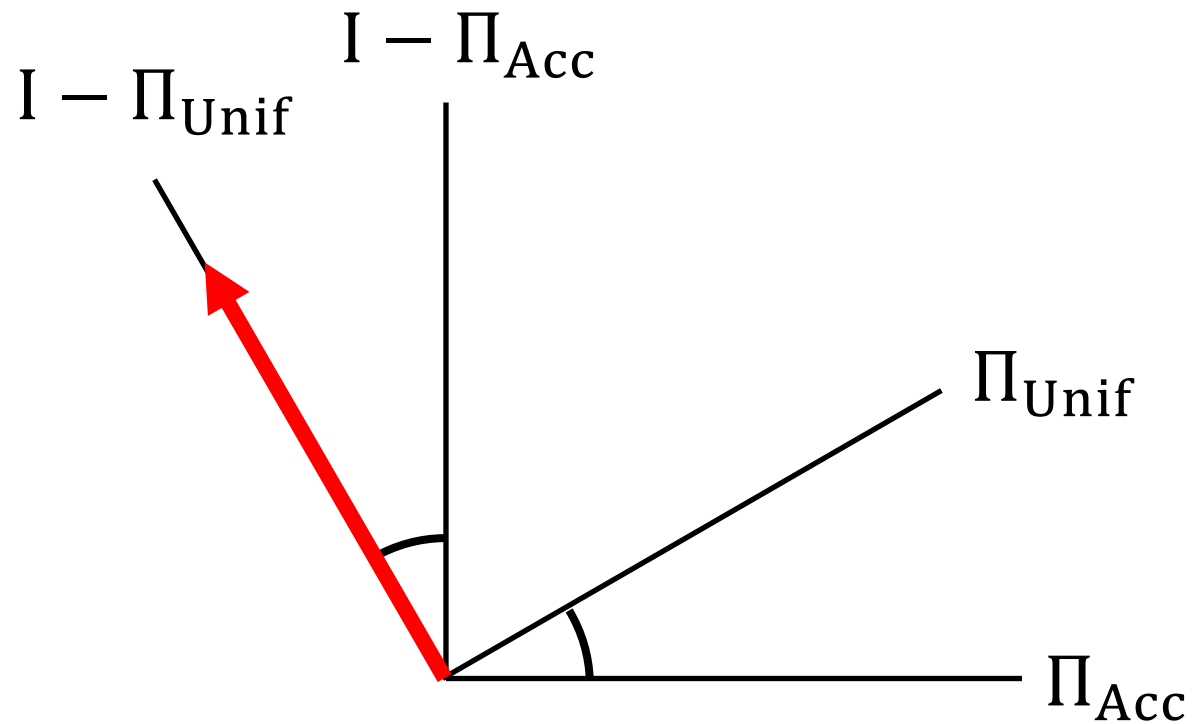
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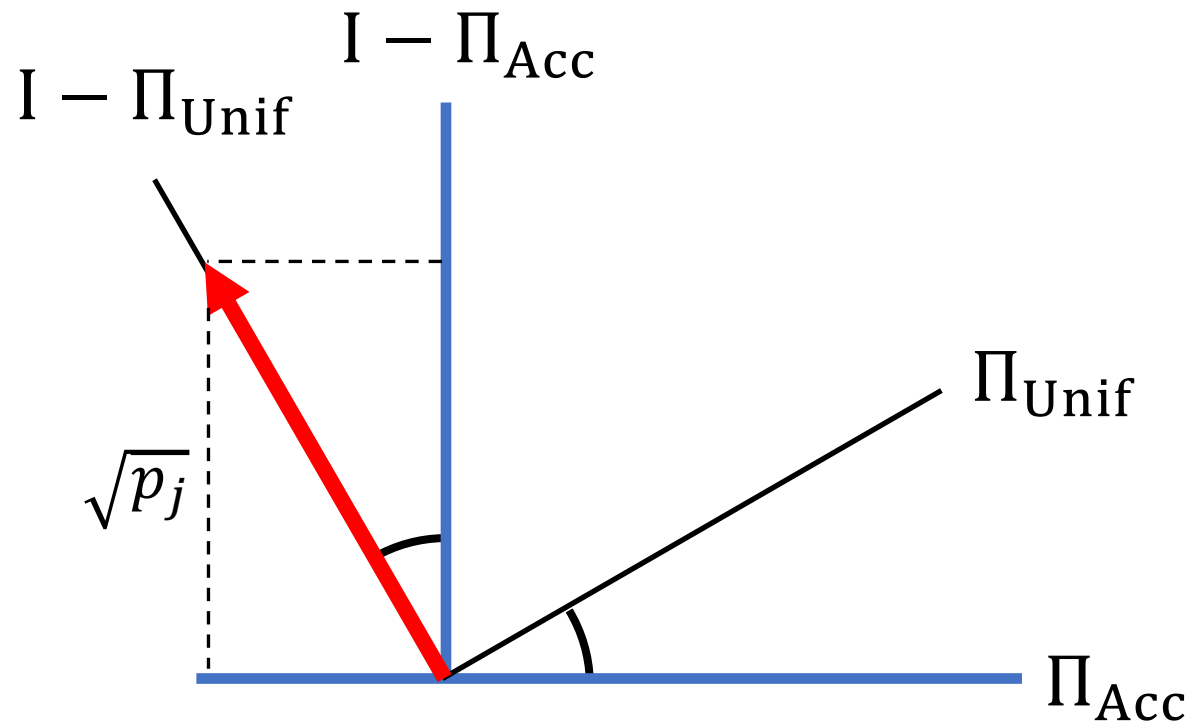
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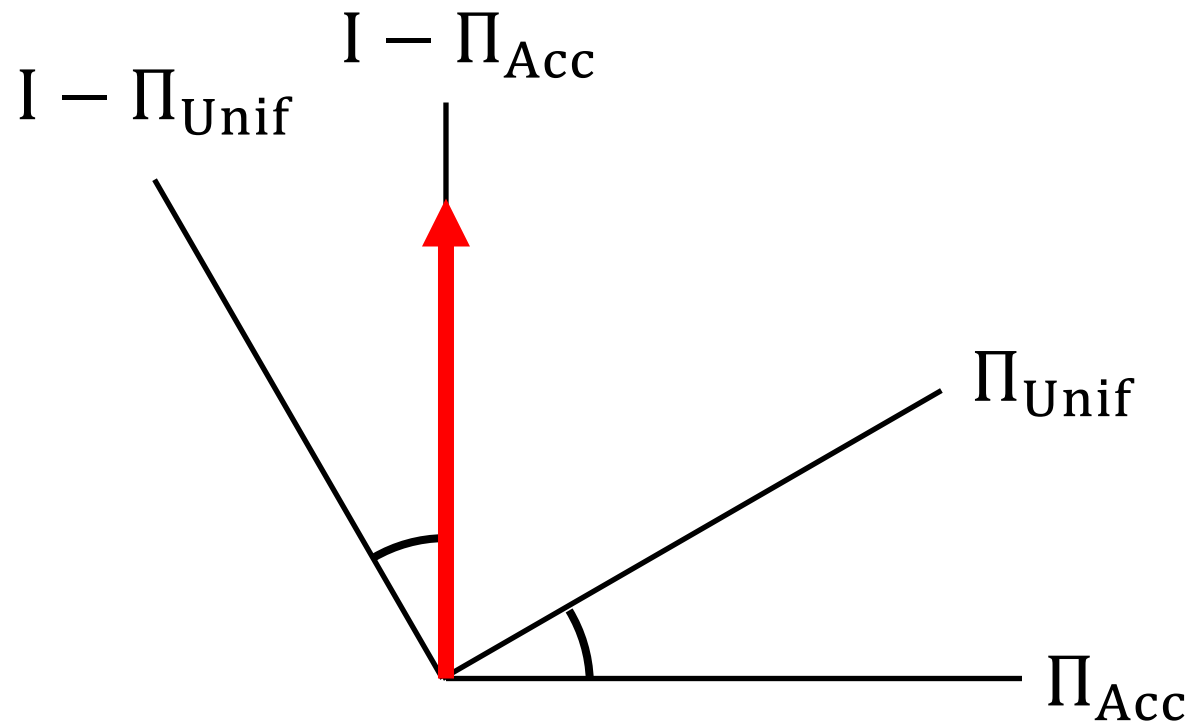
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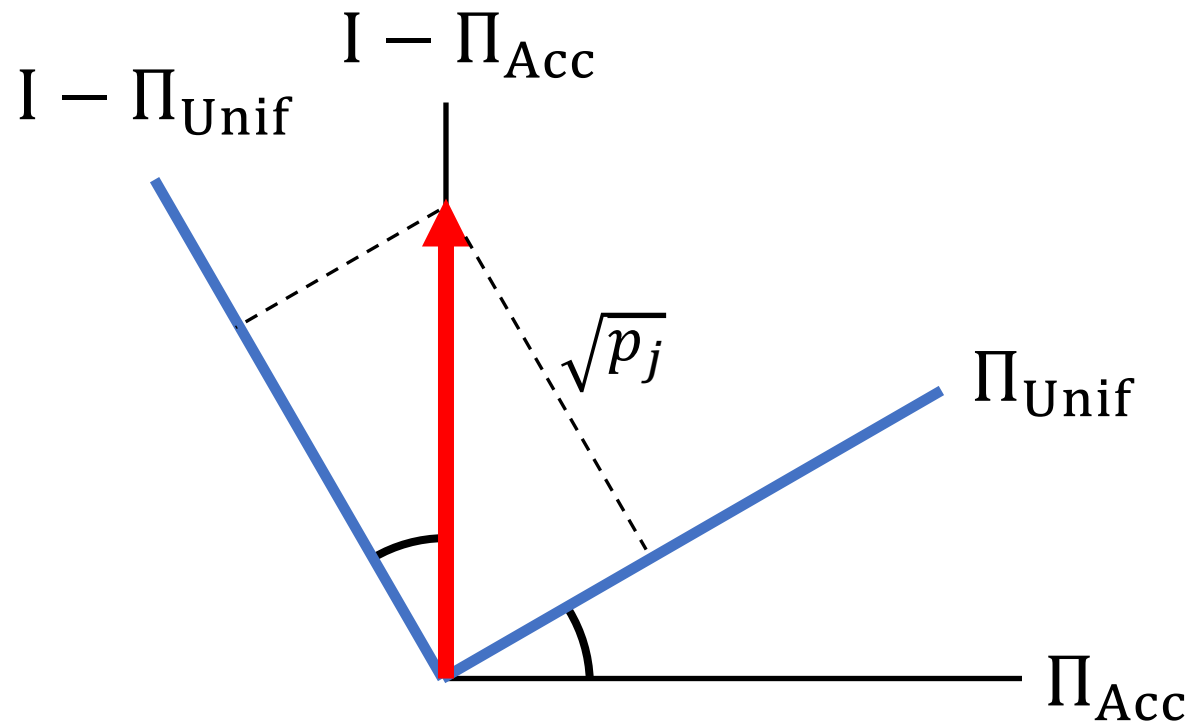
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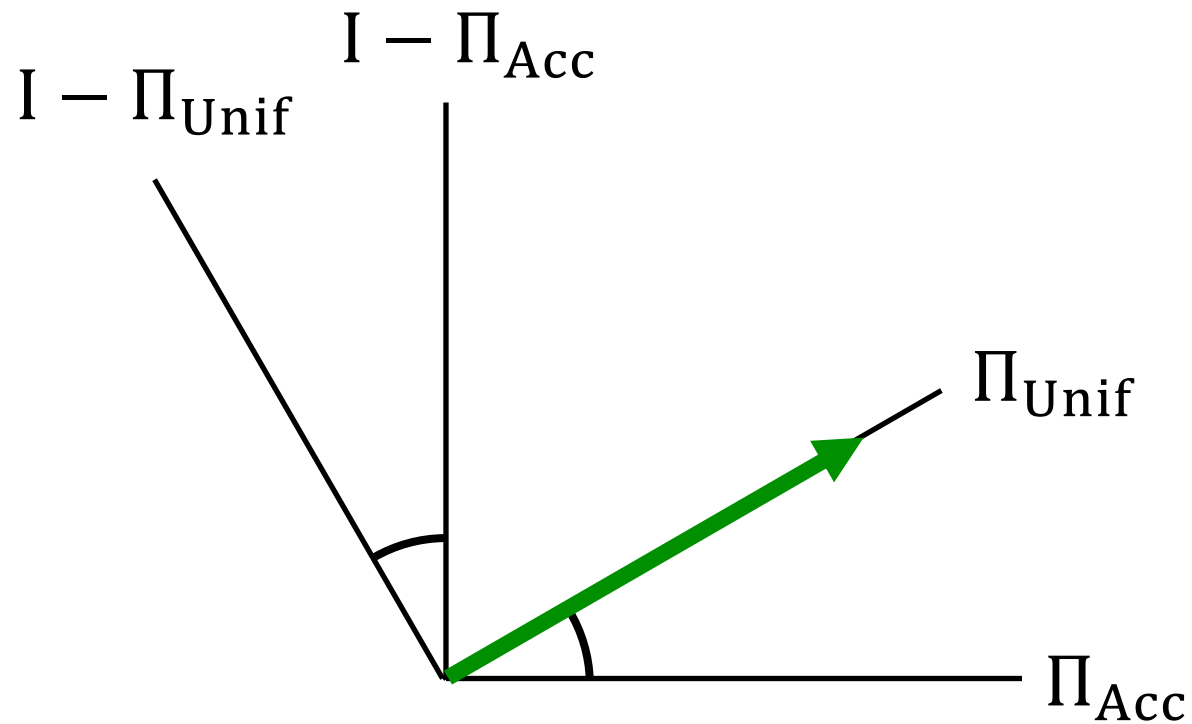
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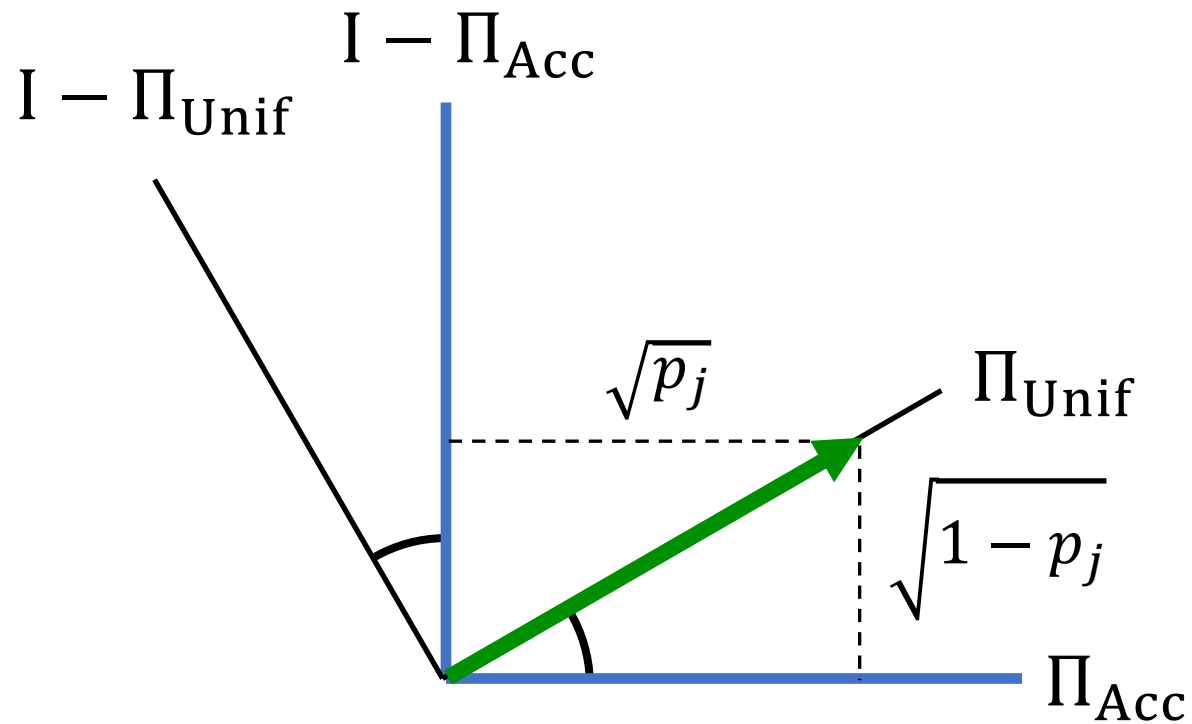
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Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif
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Suppose  $|+\rangle_R|S\rangle$  lies in a 2-dim Jordan subspace  $S_j$ .

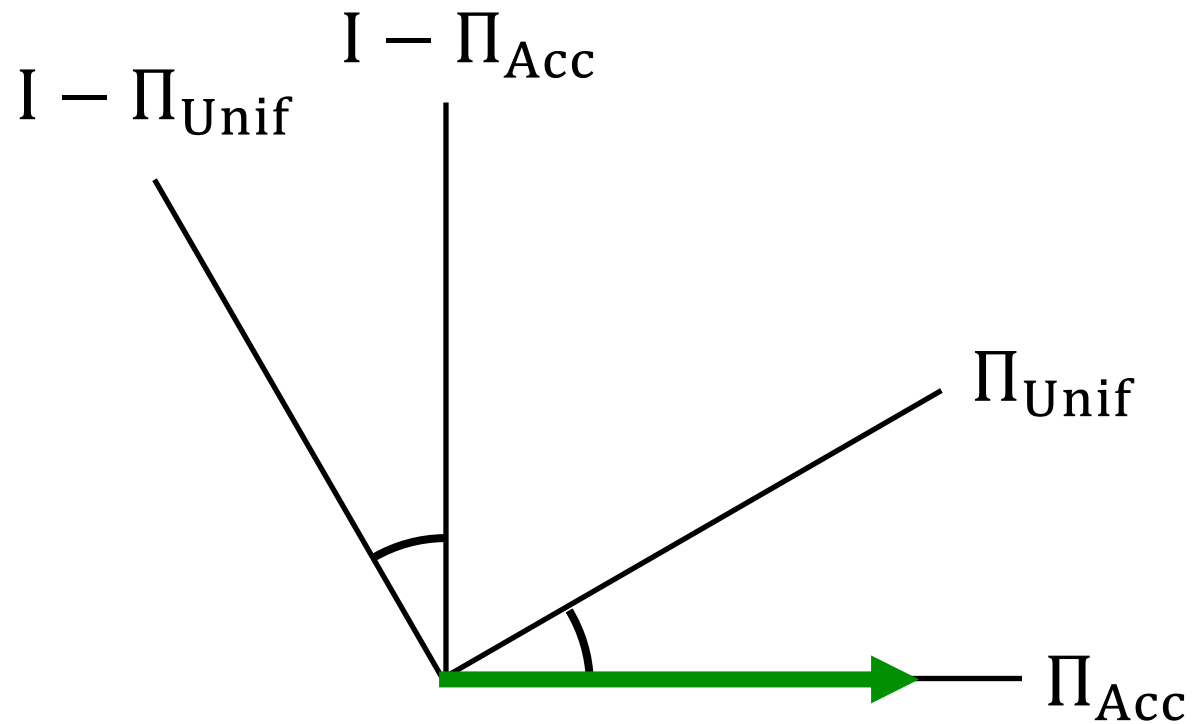
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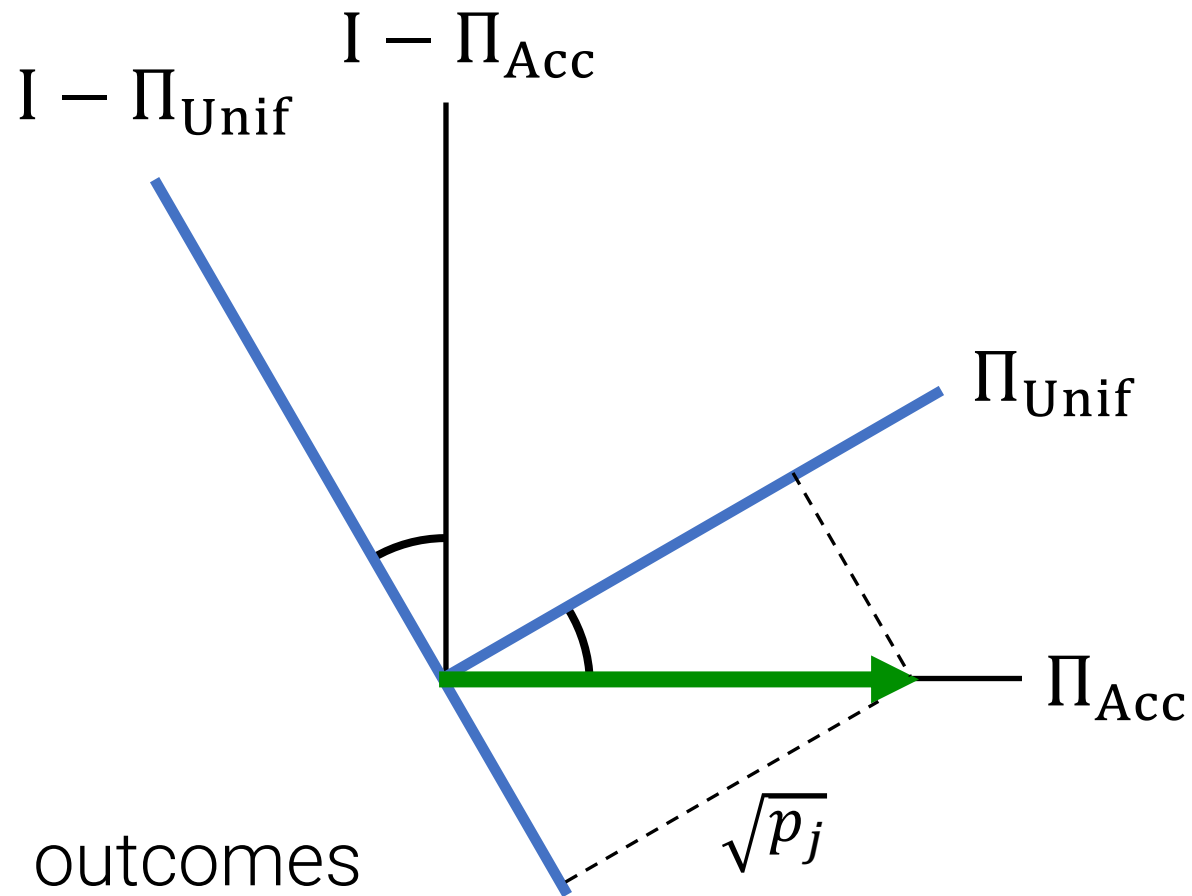
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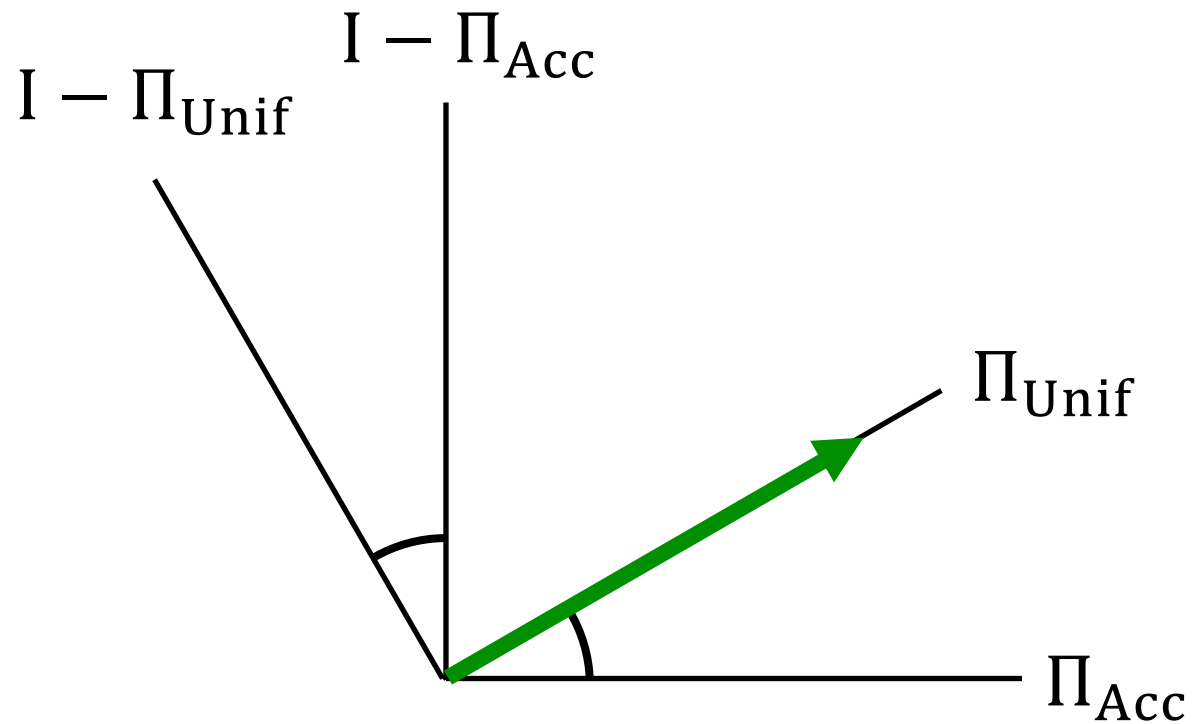
Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc
$b_0 = 1$	$b_1 = 1$	$b_2 = 1$	$b_3 = 0$	$b_4 = 0$	$b_5 = 0$	$b_6 = 1$	$b_7 = 1$



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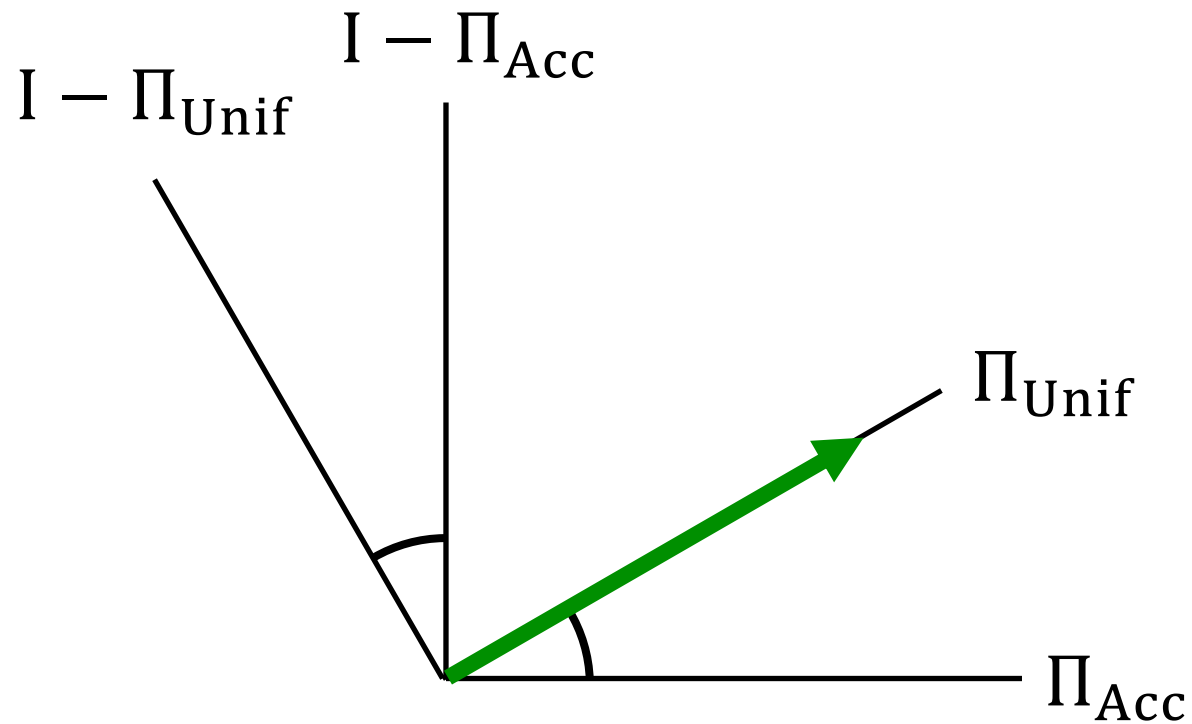
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Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif	Acc	Unif
$b_0 = 1$	$b_1 = 1$	$b_2 = 1$	$b_3 = 0$	$b_4 = 0$	$b_5 = 0$	$b_6 = 1$	$b_7 = 1$	$b_8 = 1$



In this example,  $b_i = b_{i+1}$  occurs 6 times out of 8, so we estimate  $\approx 6/8$ .

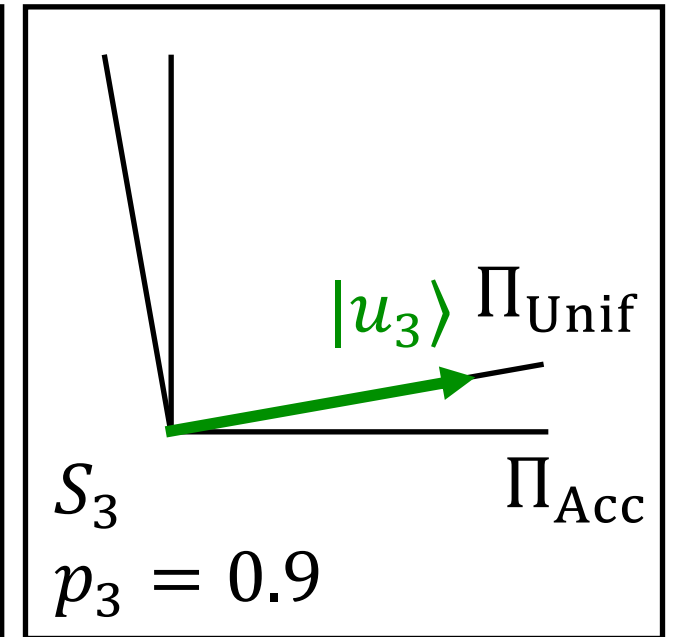
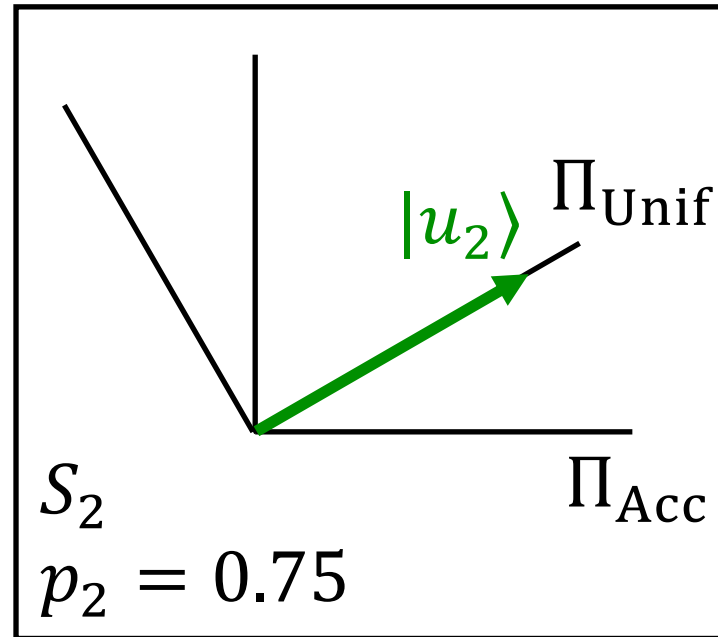
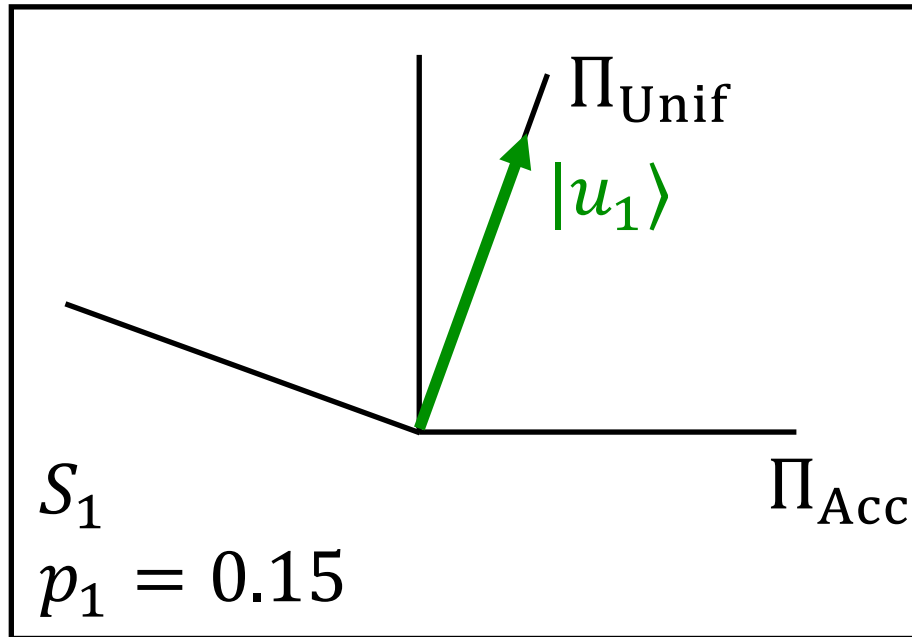
outcomes

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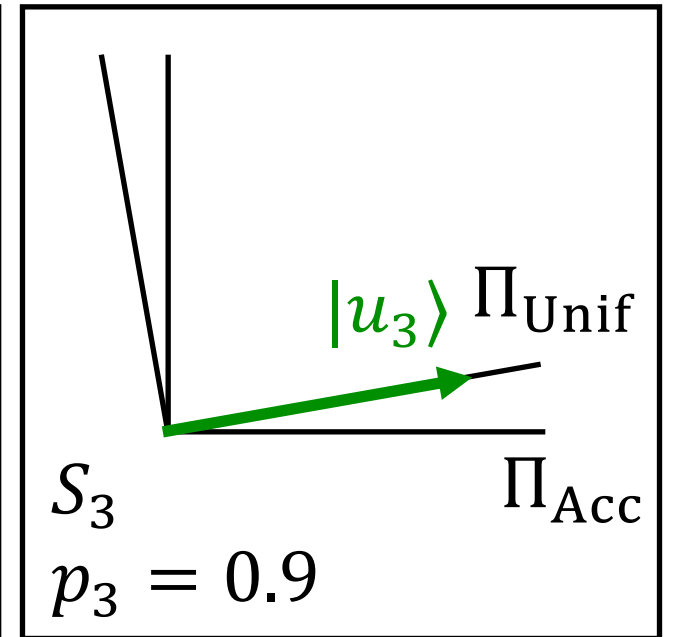
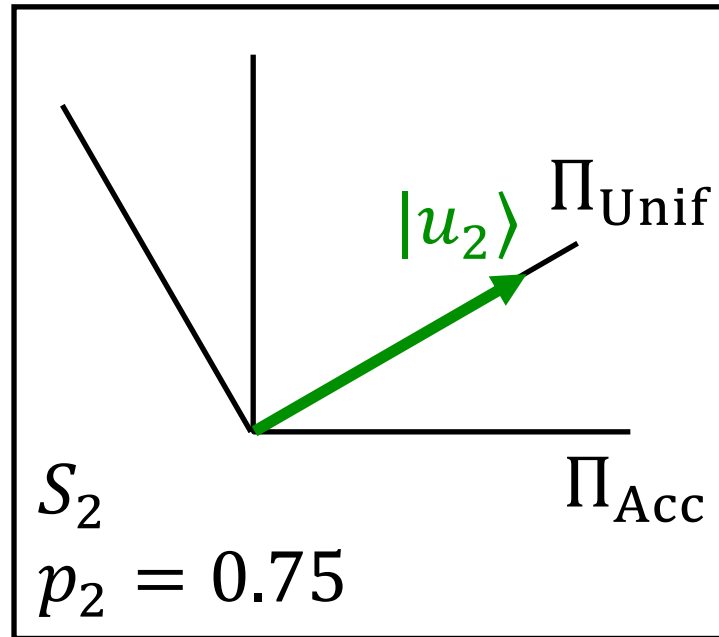
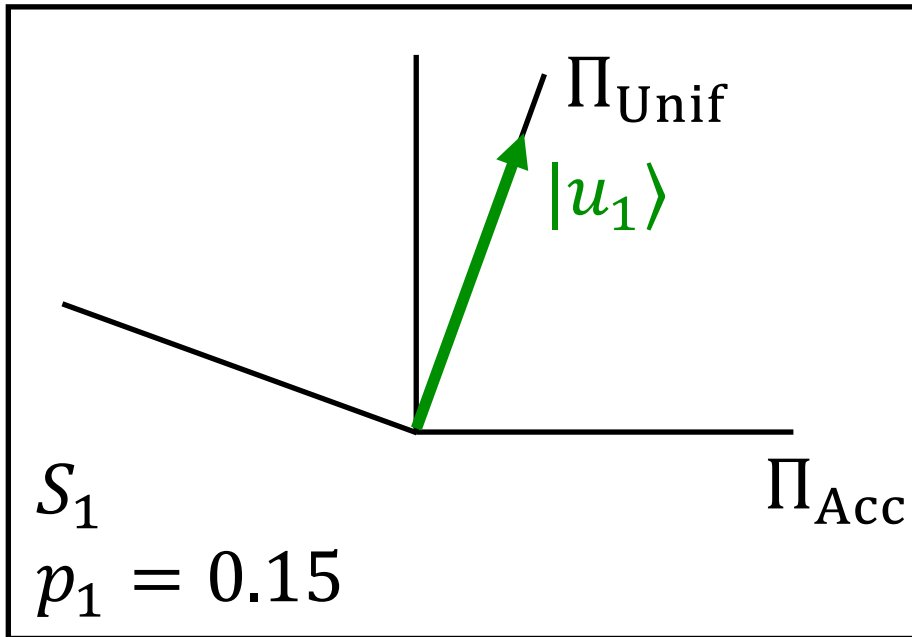
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{
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In general,  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle$  can have components in more than one Jordan subspace  $S_j$ .



Suppose  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle = \alpha_1 |u_1\rangle + \alpha_2 |u_2\rangle + \alpha_3 |u_3\rangle$ .

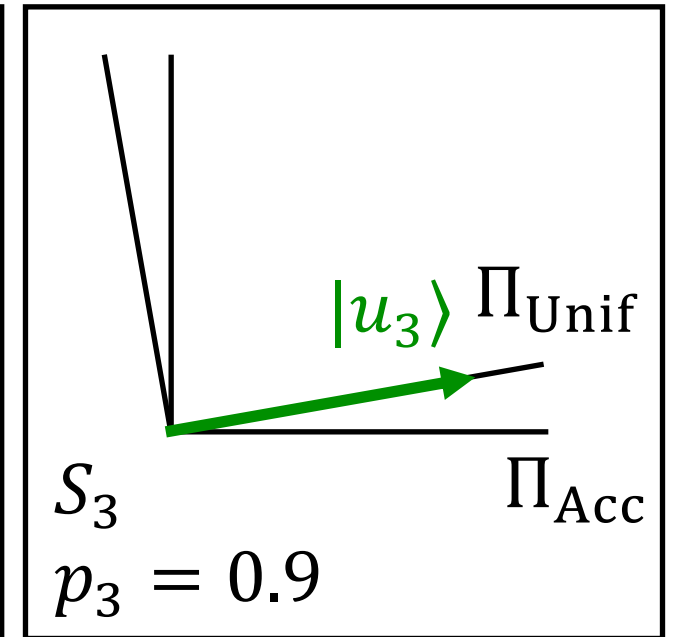
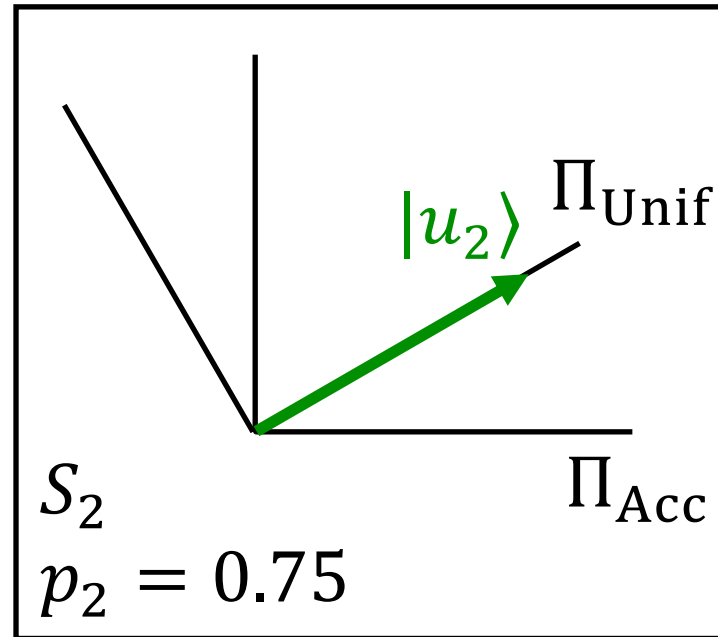
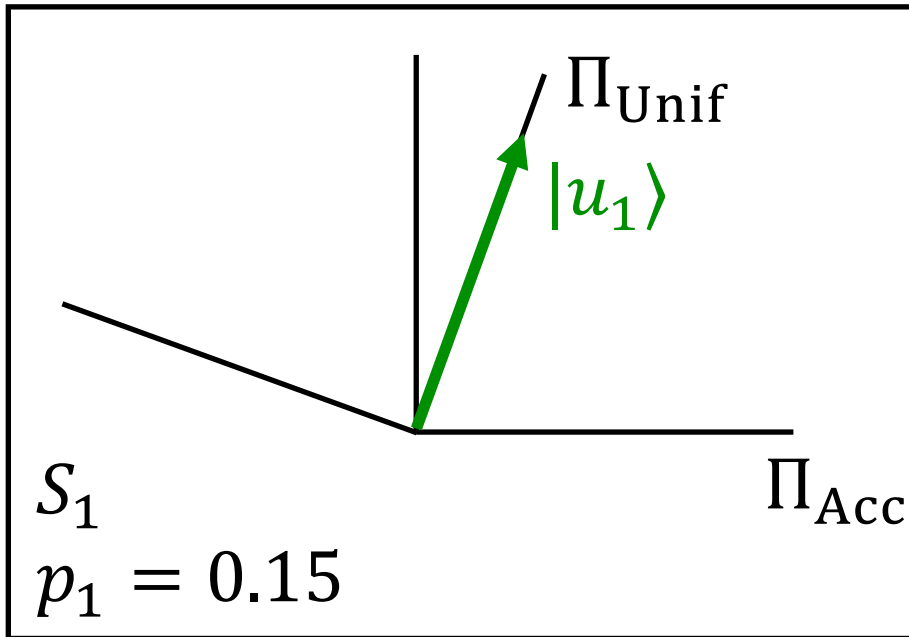


Suppose  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle = \alpha_1 |u_1\rangle + \alpha_2 |u_2\rangle + \alpha_3 |u_3\rangle$ .

success prob  $p_1$

success  
prob  $p_2$

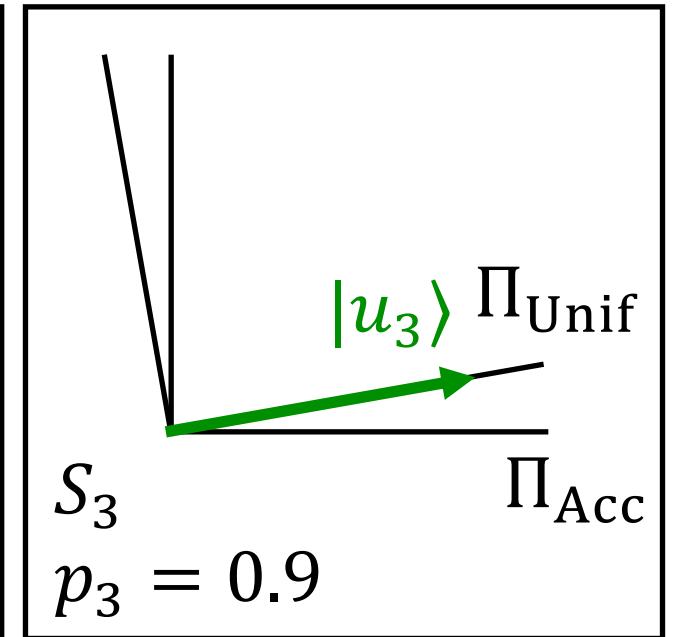
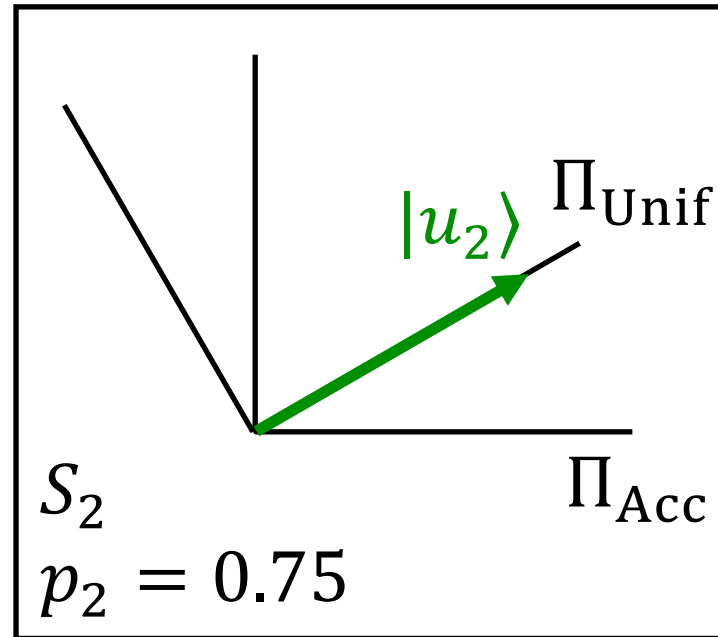
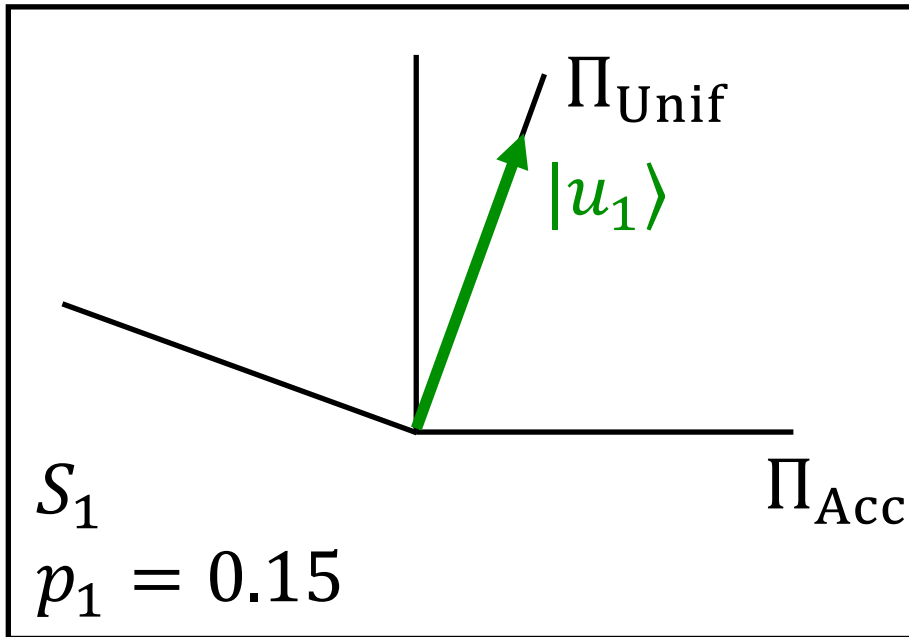
success  
prob  $p_3$



Suppose  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle = \alpha_1 |u_1\rangle + \alpha_2 |u_2\rangle + \alpha_3 |u_3\rangle$ .

**Key fact:** Alternating measurement outcomes distributed as though  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle$  were contained in  $S_j$  with prob  $|\alpha_j|^2$ .

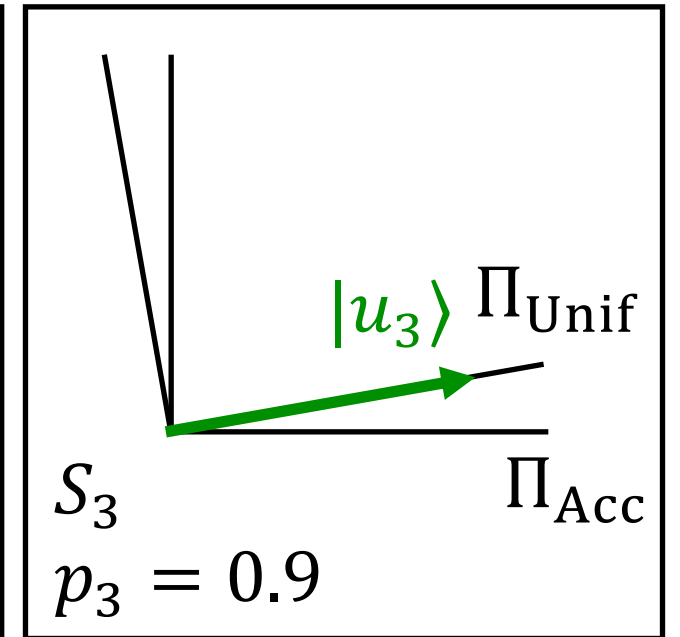
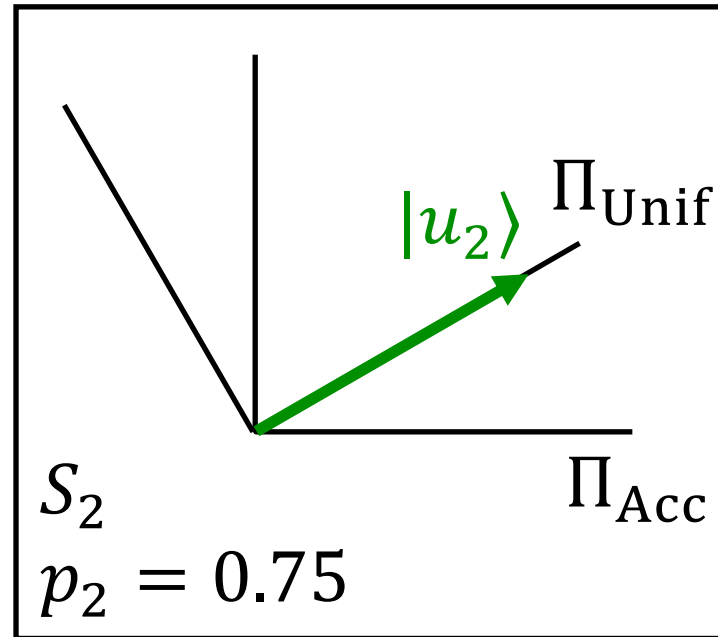
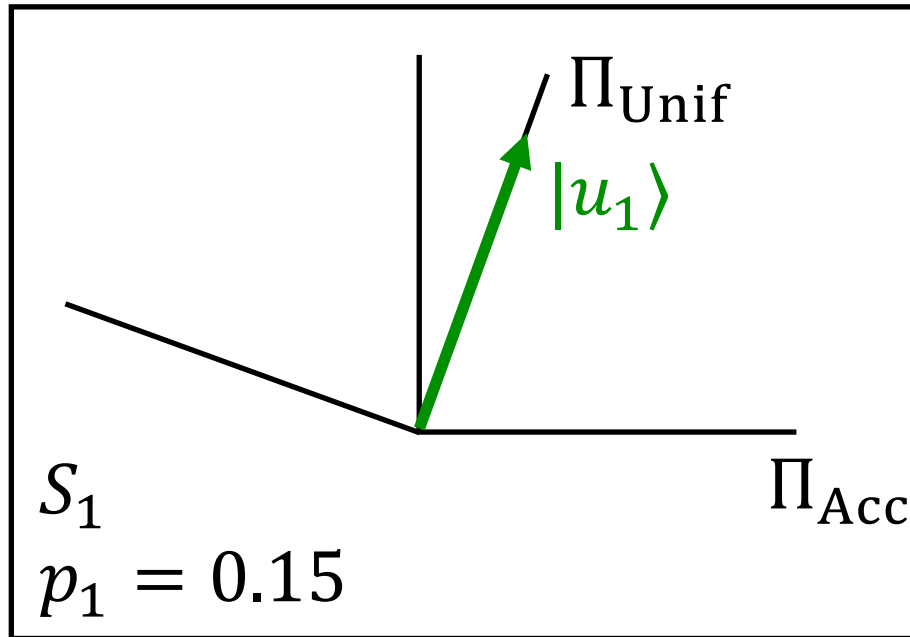




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**Key fact:** Alternating measurement outcomes distributed as though  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle$  were contained in  $S_j$  with prob  $|\alpha_j|^2$ .

Leftover state concentrated on  $S_j$ 's most consistent w/ outcomes.



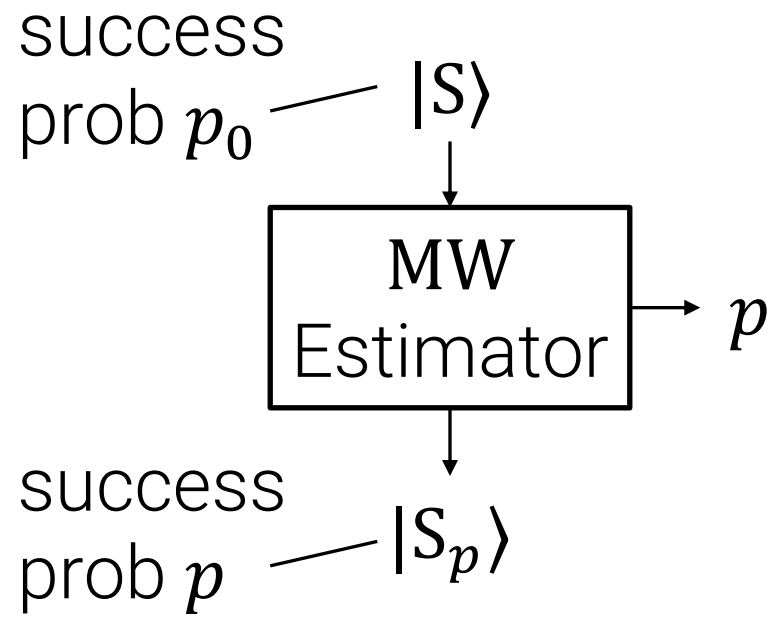
Suppose  $|+\rangle_R \otimes |S\rangle = \alpha_1 |u_1\rangle + \alpha_2 |u_2\rangle + \alpha_3 |u_3\rangle$ .

[MW05] Estimation “approximately” projects onto  $\{S_j\}$

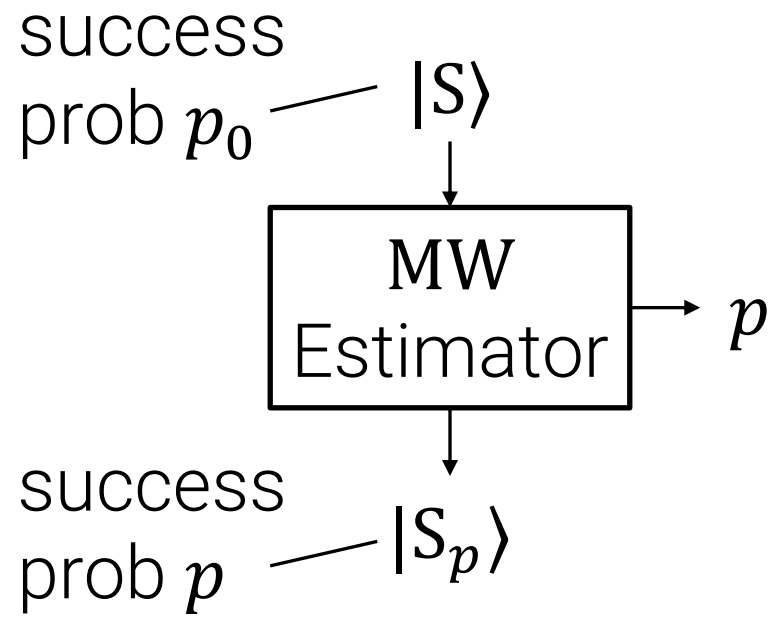
- w/ prob  $\approx |\alpha_j|^2$  obtain estimate  $\approx p_j$  and leftover state  $\approx |u_j\rangle$

success  
prob  $p_0$  —  $|S\rangle$

We'll need two key properties about  
the MW estimator.



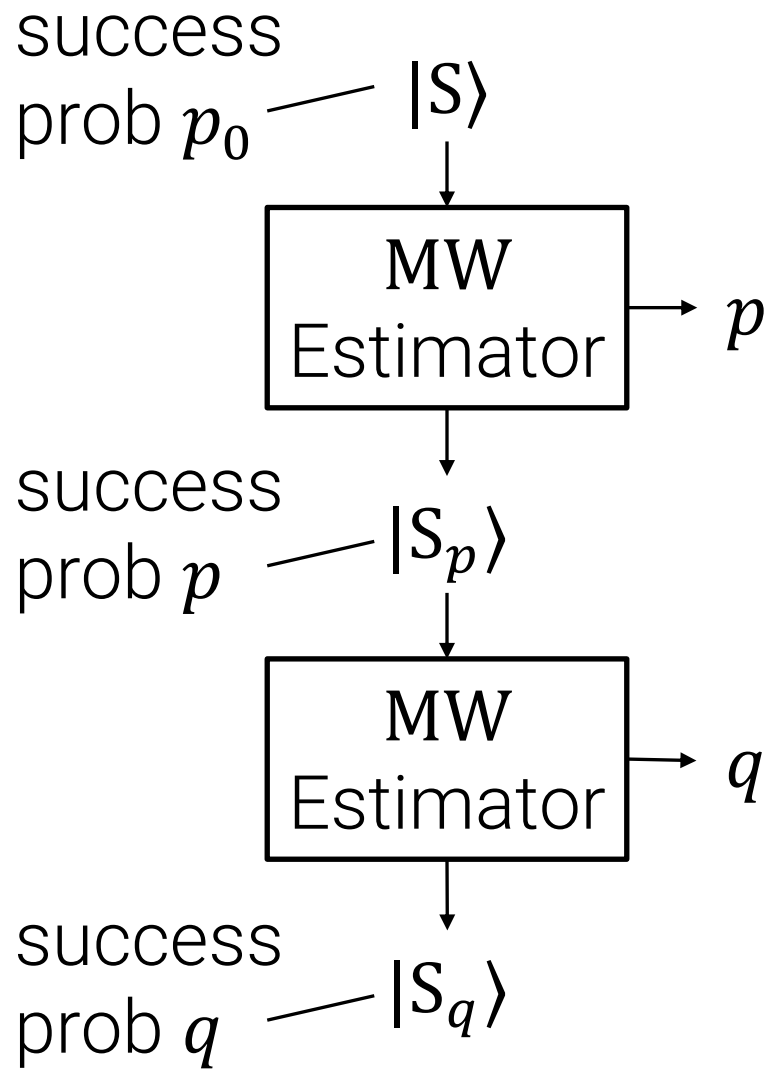
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### Key Properties

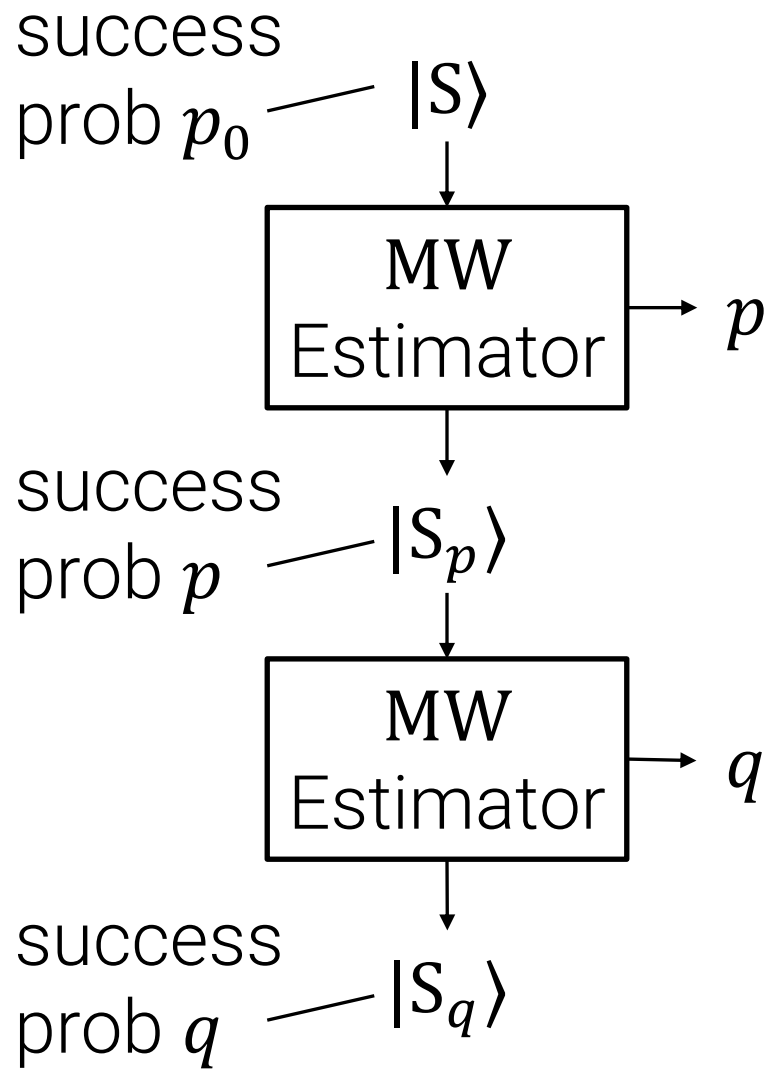
1)  $\mathbb{E}[p] = p_0$



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### Key Properties

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$$\Pr[|p - q| \leq \varepsilon] \geq 1 - \delta$$

with  $\text{poly}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \log\left(\frac{1}{\delta}\right)\right)$  runtime.

For this talk, we'll need to know two things about the MW estimator.

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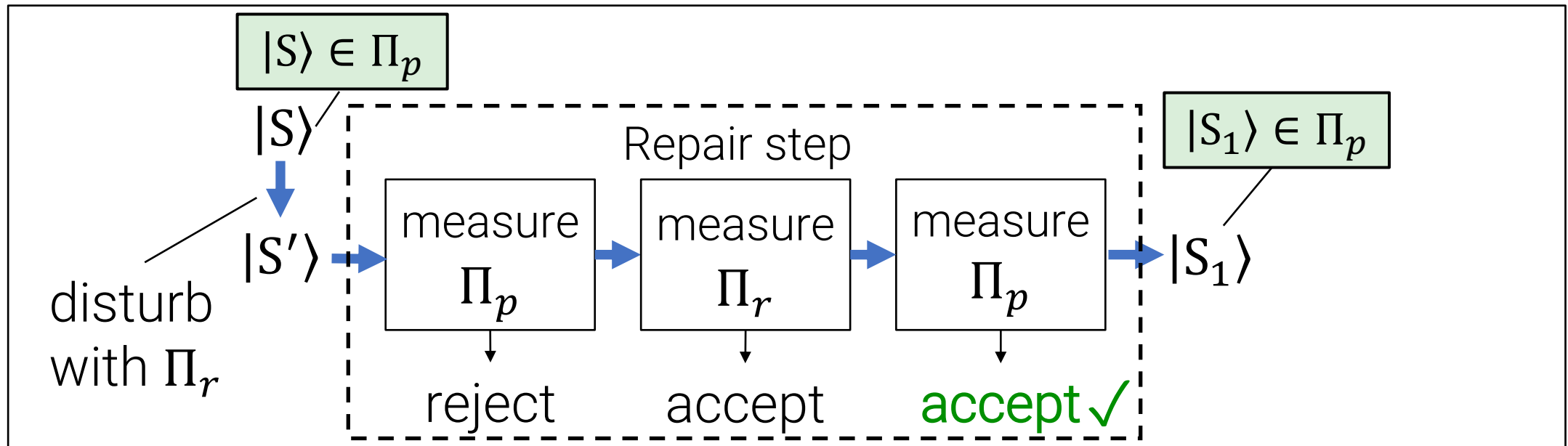
As in [Zha20], we call this “ $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -almost-projective.”



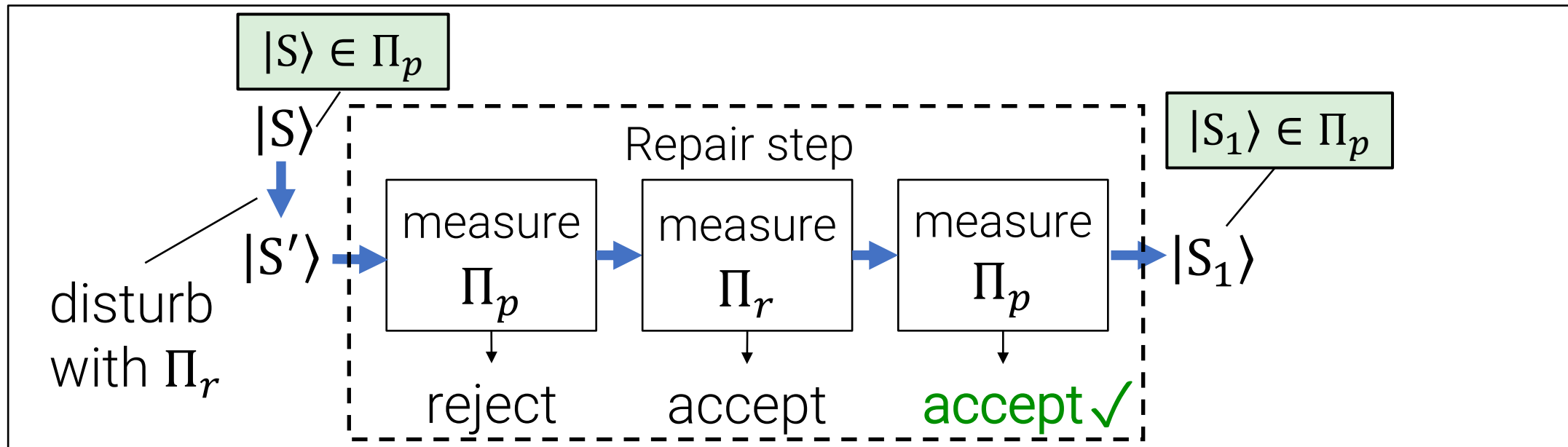
# What this talk will cover:

1. Motivating example: Kilian's succinct arguments for NP
2. Why is post-quantum security of Kilian difficult?
3. Rewinding a quantum attacker many times
  - New idea: "repair" the adversary after each query
  - Estimating success probability
  - **The full rewinding procedure**
  - Analysis

Let's see how [MW05] fits into our approach.



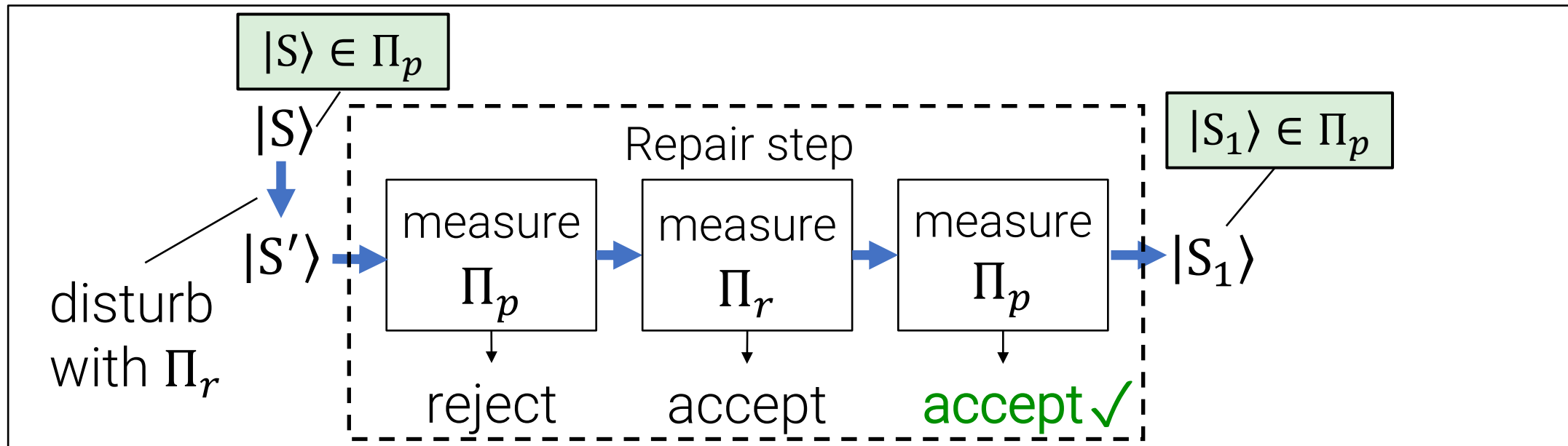
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We don't know how to measure  $\Pi_p$ , but we can approximate it:

**MW<sub>p</sub>:** run the **MW** estimator and accept if the output is  $\geq p$ .

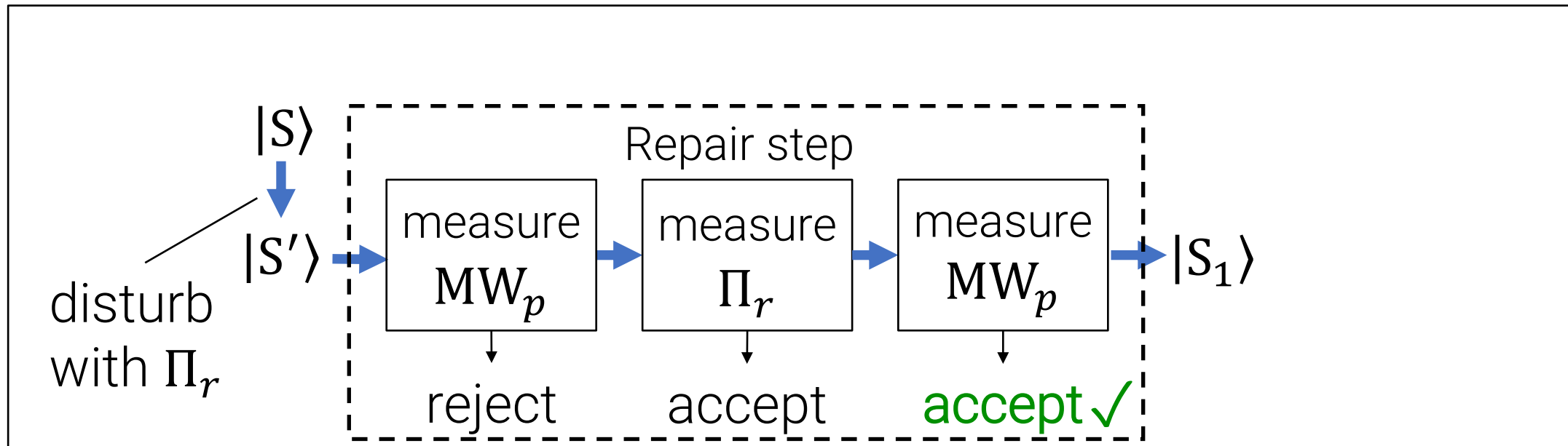


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Idea: run Marriott-Watrous on Marriott-Watrous!

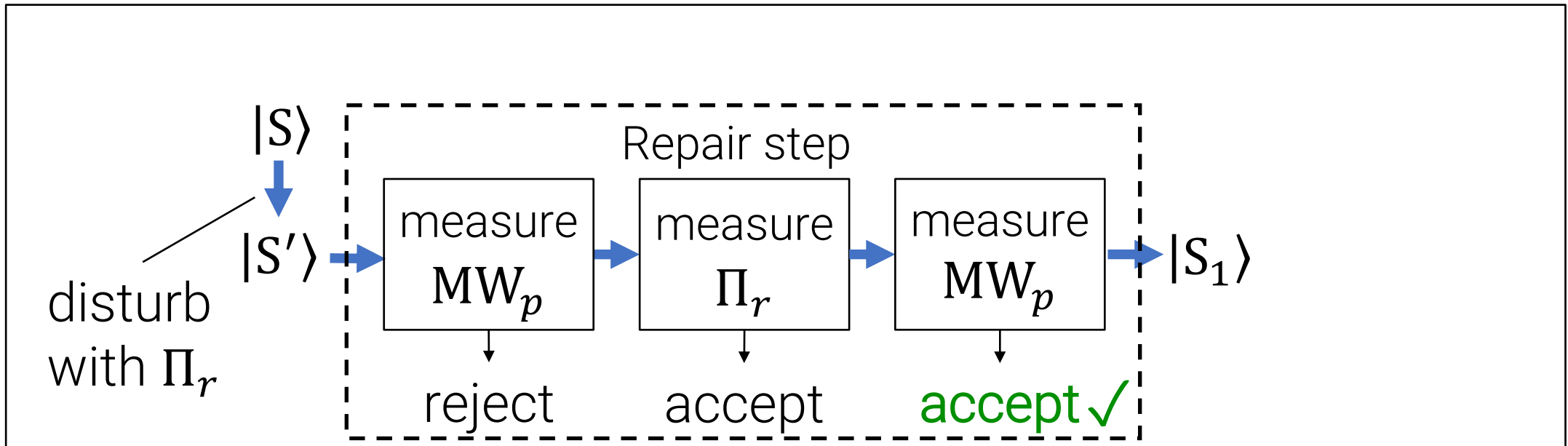


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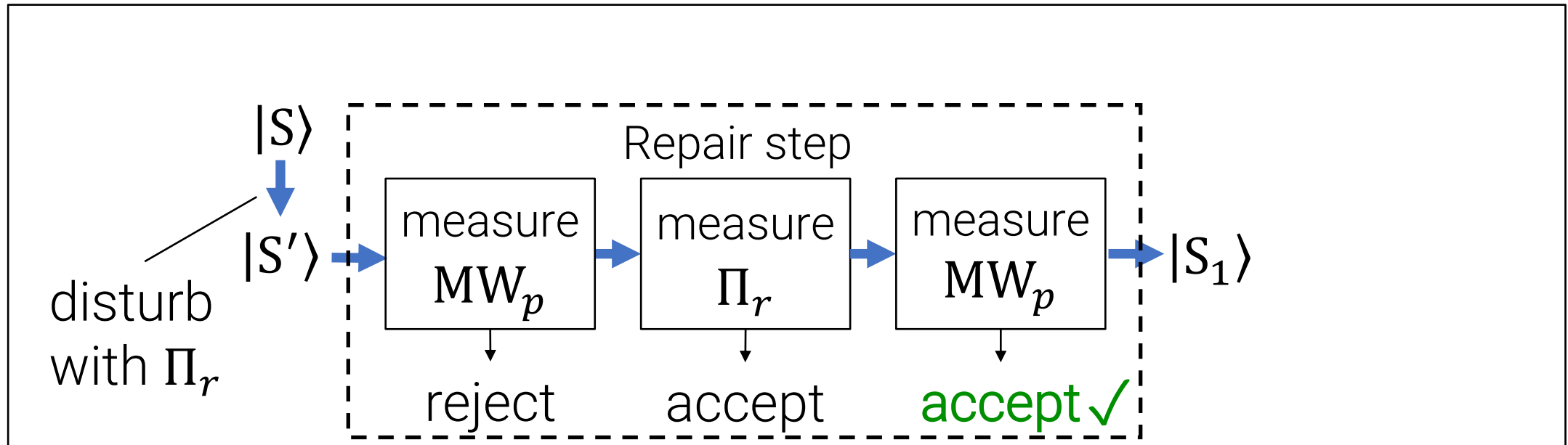
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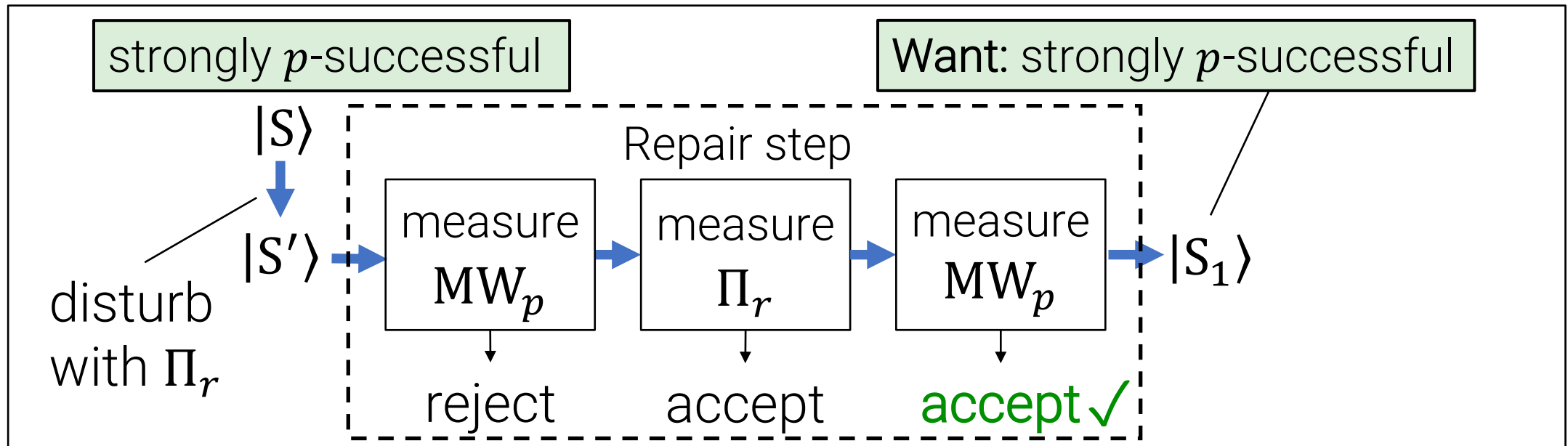
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Definition:  $|S\rangle$  is *strongly  $p$ -successful* if it is concentrated on  $(\Pi_{\text{Acc}}, \Pi_{\text{Unif}})$ -Jordan subspaces with eigenvalue  $\geq p$

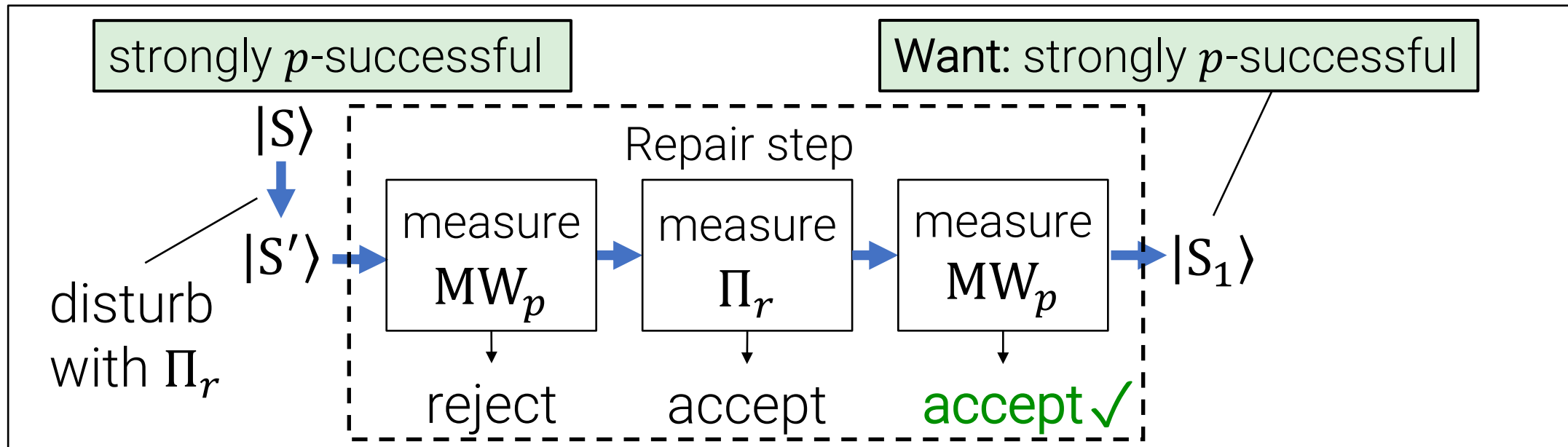




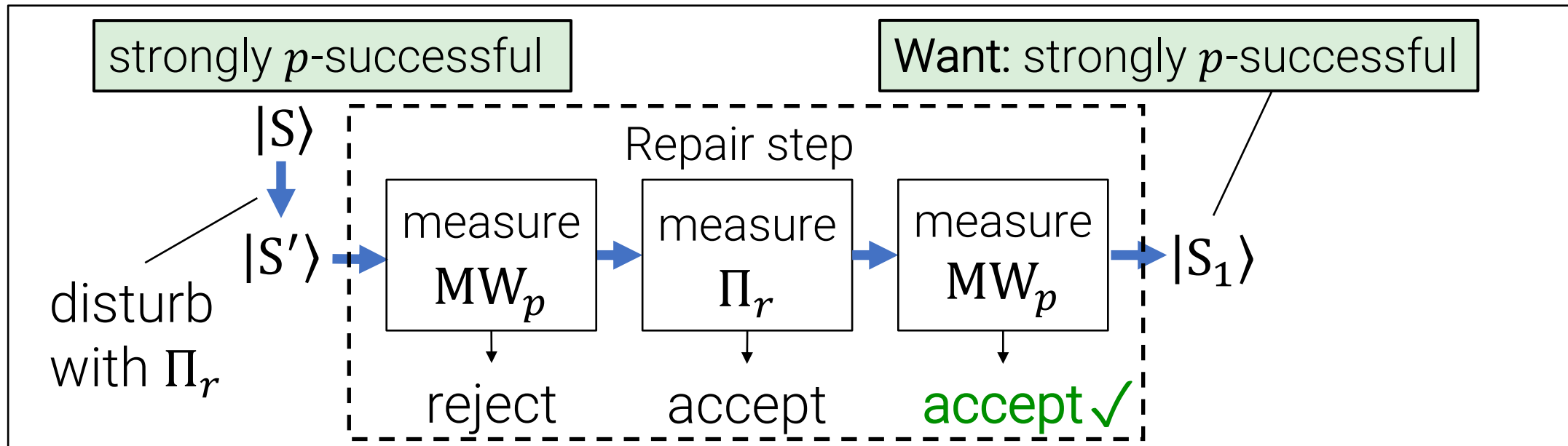
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Definition:  $|S\rangle$  is *strongly  $p$ -successful* if it is concentrated on  $(\Pi_{\text{Acc}}, \Pi_{\text{Unif}})$ -Jordan subspaces with eigenvalue  $\geq p$

We want: If  $|S\rangle$  is strongly  $p$ -successful, then  $|S_1\rangle$  is strongly  $p$ -successful

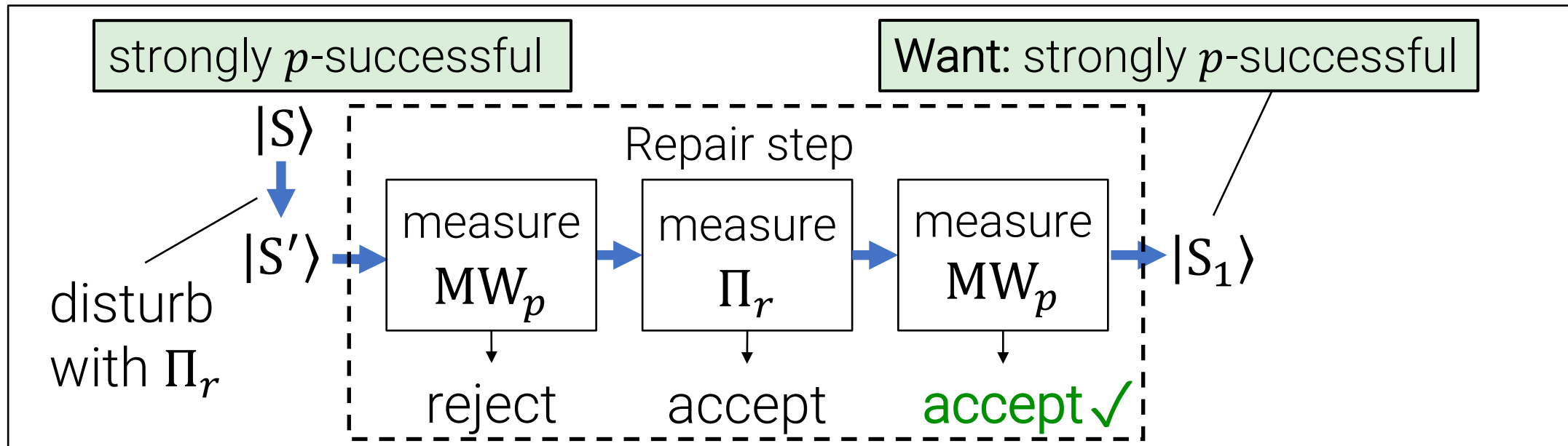


This seems promising, but we have a problem:  
 Our proof that this procedure terminates requires the measurements to be projective, but  $MW_p$  is not!



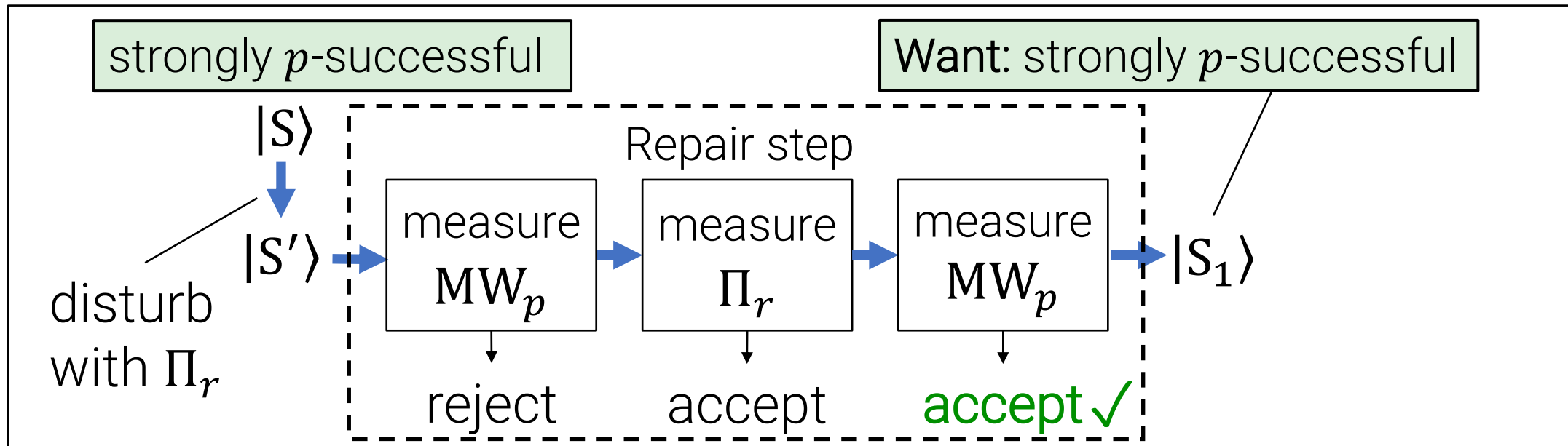
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(running it twice may give different outcomes)



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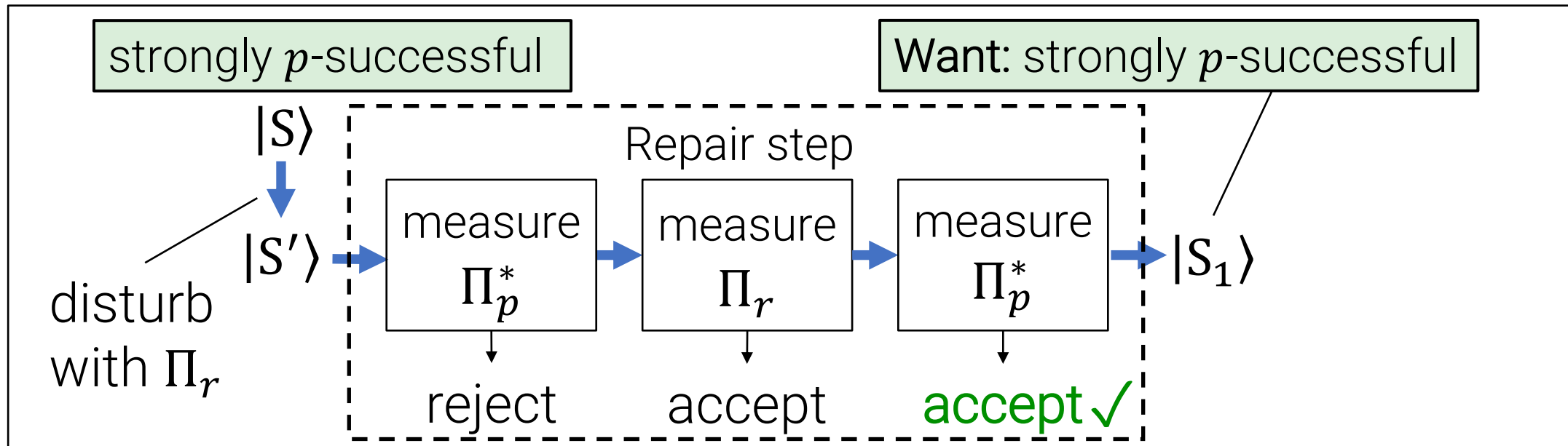
Easy(?) fix: Make  $MW_p$  projective by expanding the Hilbert space.



Measuring  $|S'\rangle$  with  $MW_p$  can be implemented as a projective measurement of some  $\Pi_p^*$  on  $|S'\rangle_A |0\rangle_W \in A \otimes W$ .

adversary state register

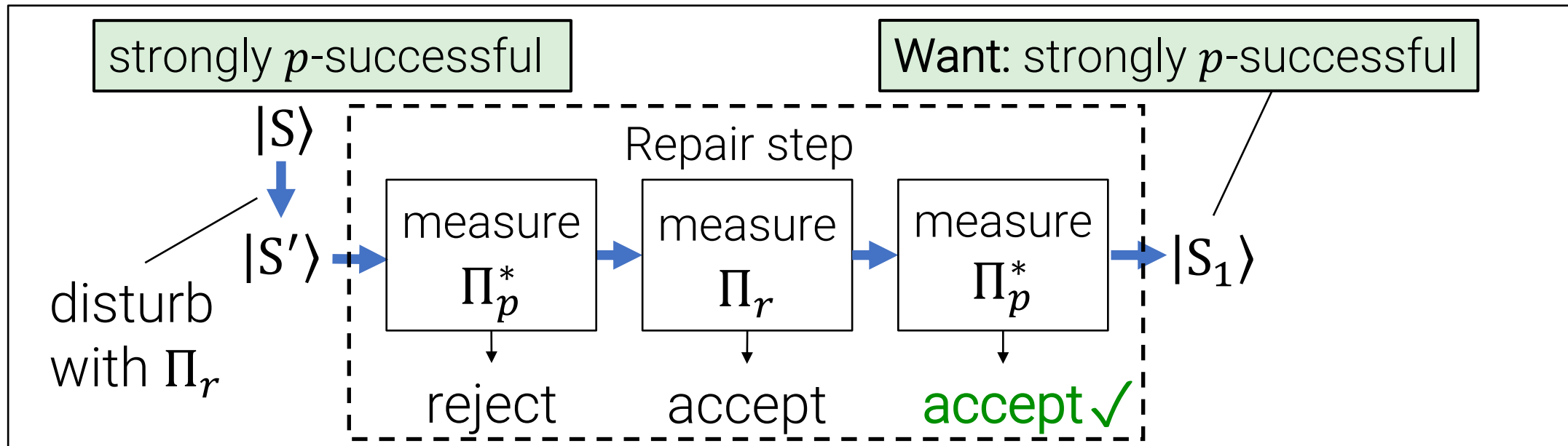
workspace/ancilla



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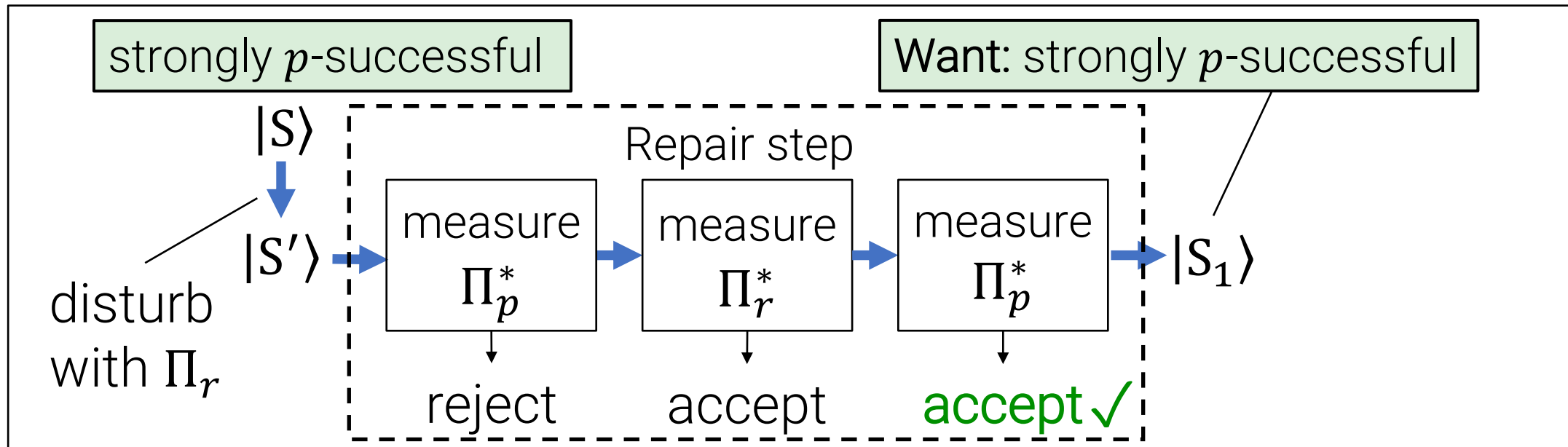
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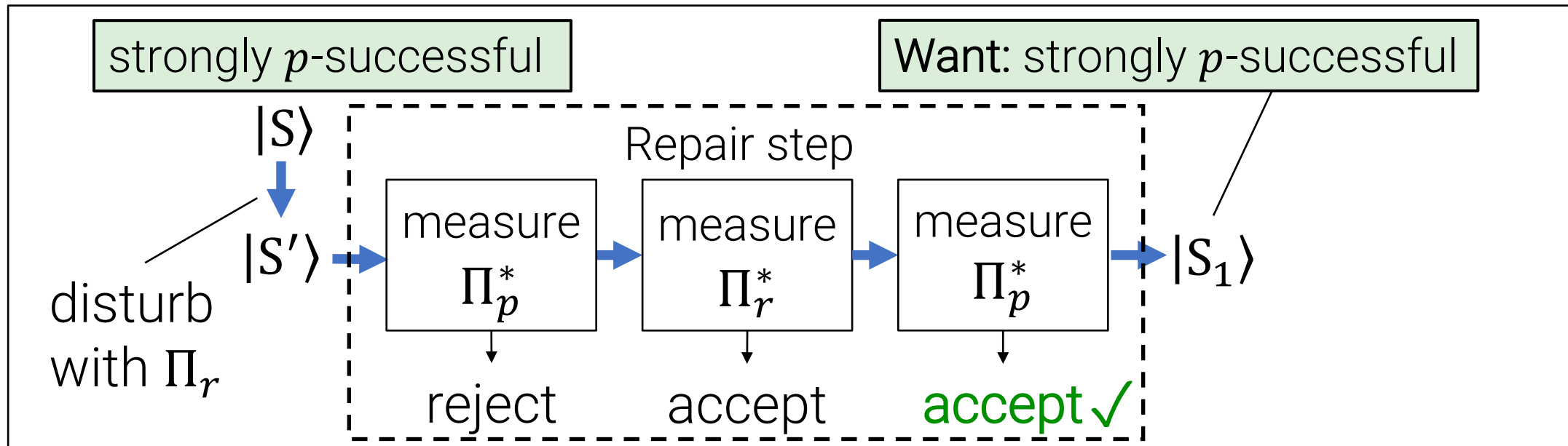
Measuring  $|S'\rangle$  with  $\text{MW}_p$  can be implemented as a projective measurement of some  $\Pi_p^*$  on  $|S'\rangle_A |0\rangle_W \in A \otimes W$ .

**But we need to be careful:** Simply being in  $\text{image}(\Pi_p^*)$  doesn't tell us anything! If the ancilla is not  $|0\rangle$ , then measuring  $\Pi_p^*$  does not correspond to running  $\text{MW}_p$ .



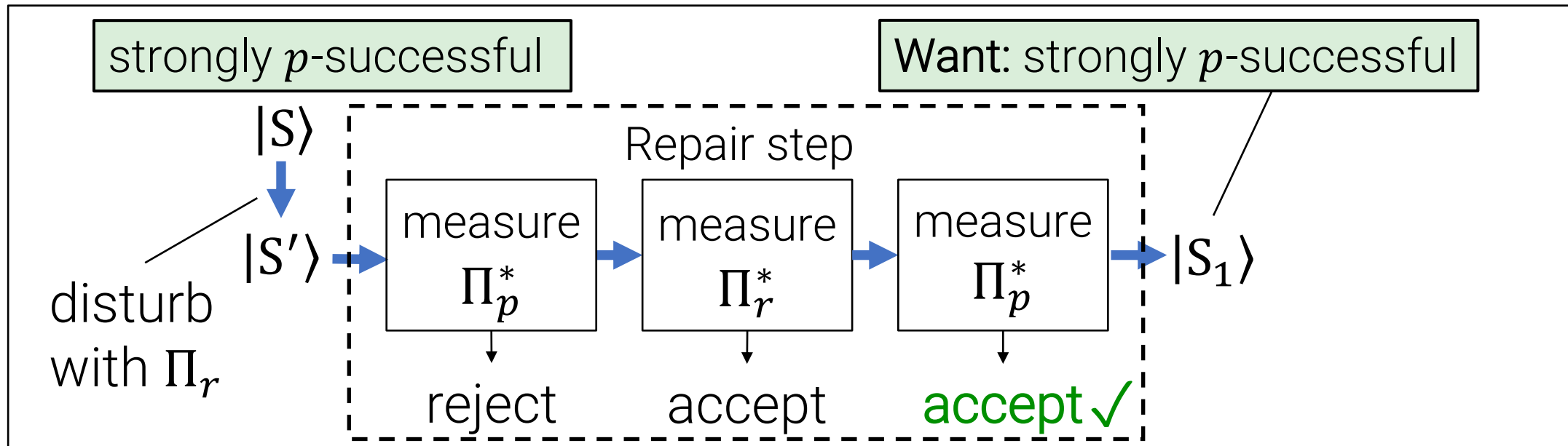
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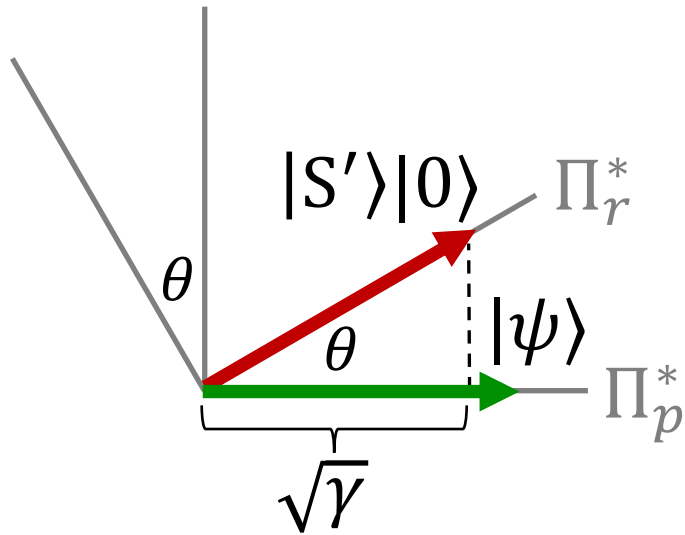
Not obvious: *why* does this choice of  $\Pi_r^*$  make repair work?

# What this talk will cover:

1. Motivating example: Kilian's succinct arguments for NP
2. Why is post-quantum security of Kilian difficult?
3. Rewinding a quantum attacker many times
  - New idea: "repair" the adversary after each query
  - Estimating success probability
  - The full rewinding procedure
  - **Analysis**

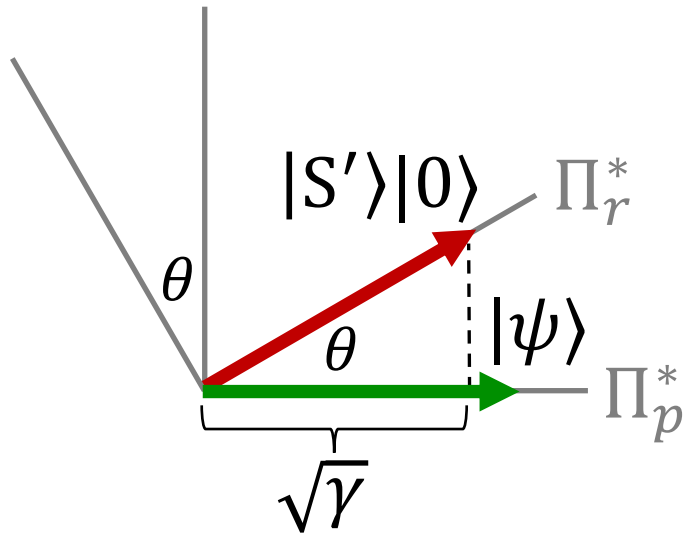
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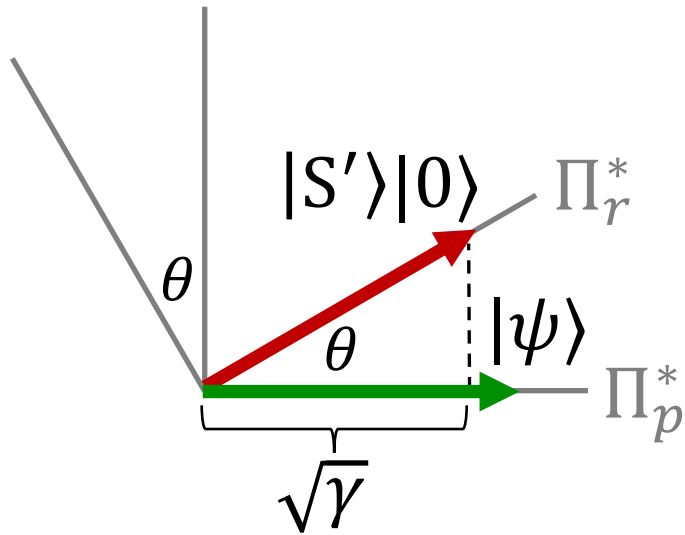
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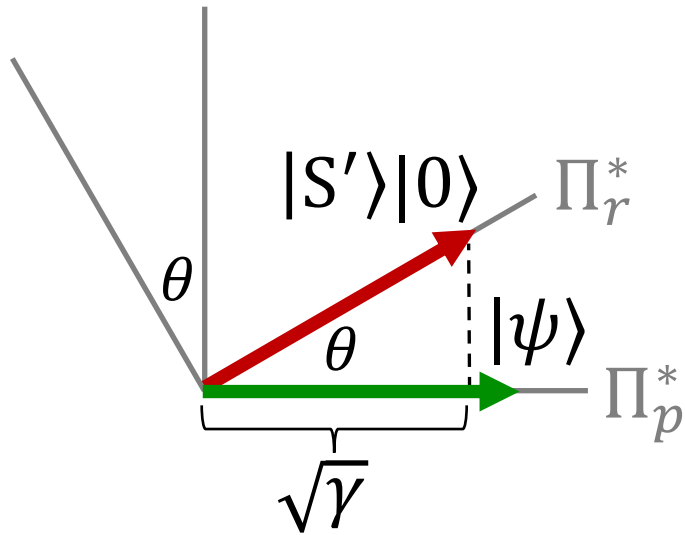
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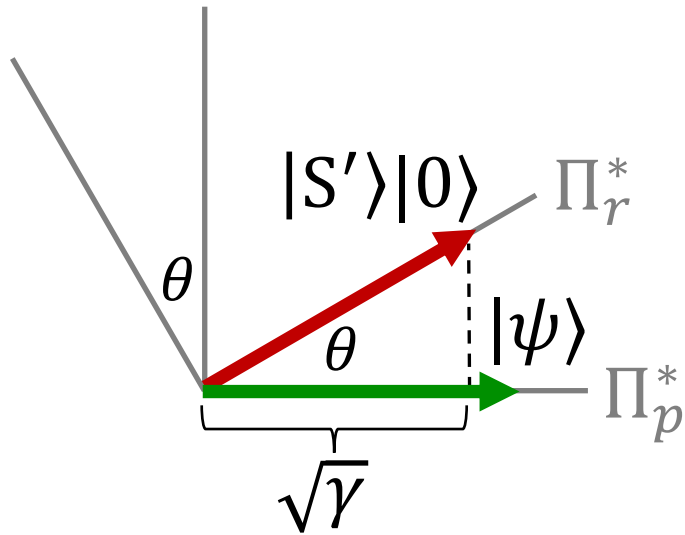


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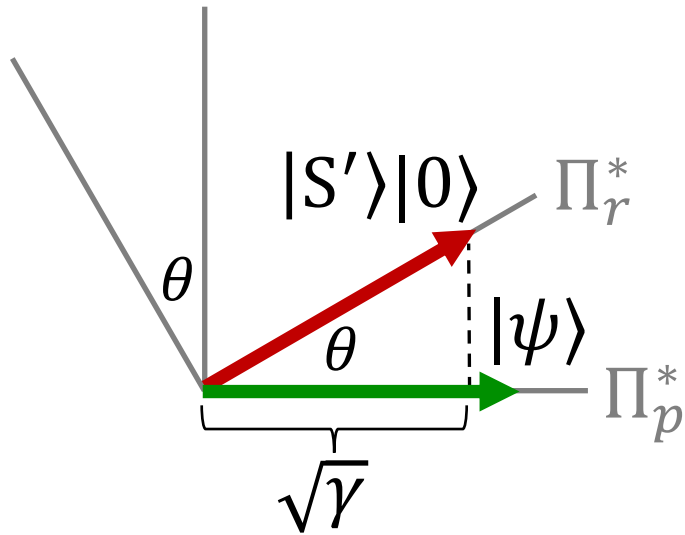


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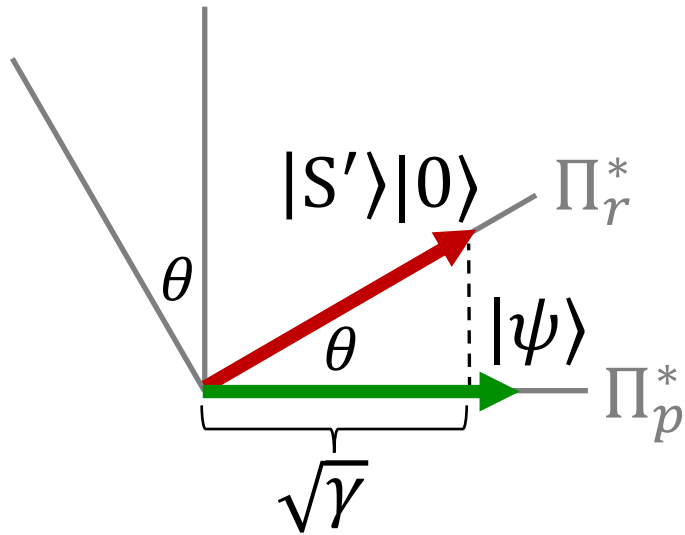


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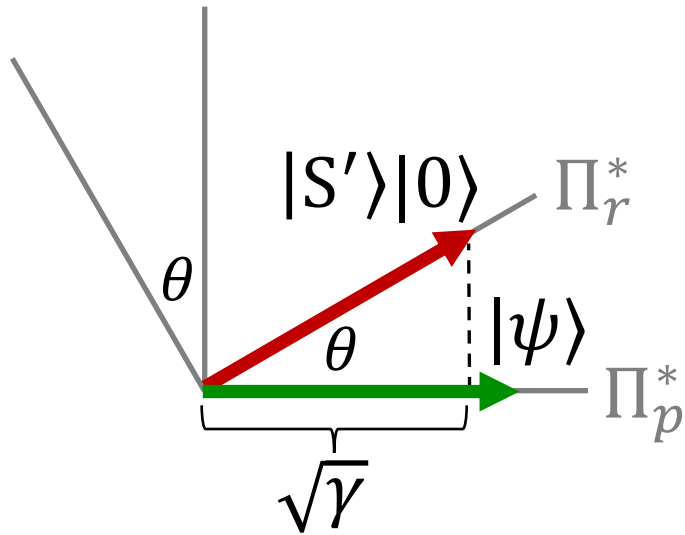


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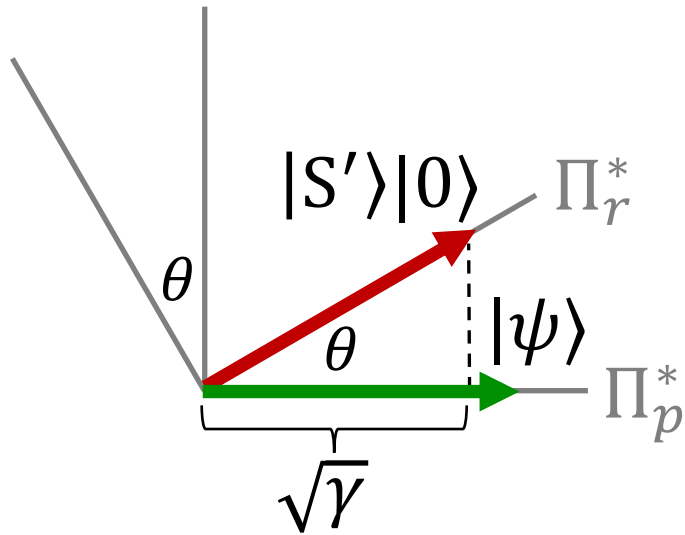


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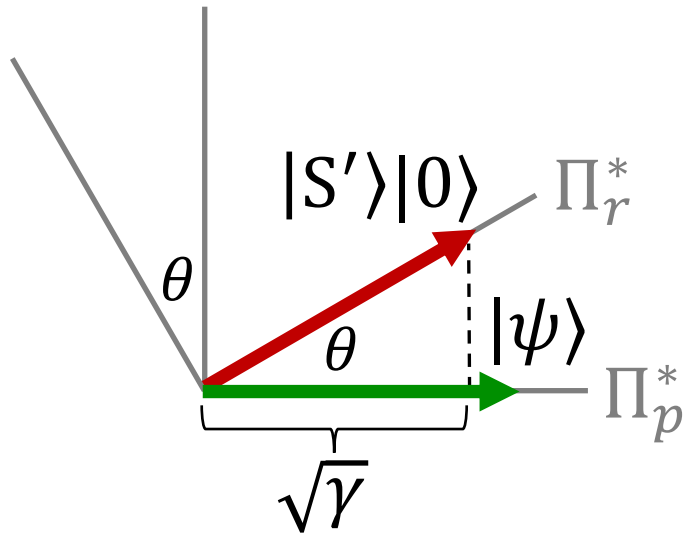


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- After conditioning, the bad event happens with probability  $\leq \delta/\gamma$ . This implies  $\Pr_{\text{MW}(\psi_A) \rightarrow q} [q \geq p - \varepsilon] \geq 1 - \delta/\gamma$ .

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For the general case, need to show that most of the state is on subspaces where  $\gamma_j$  is not too small.

# Recap: The [CMSZ21] Rewinding Procedure

initial  
adversary



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$|S\rangle$

MW  
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$p$



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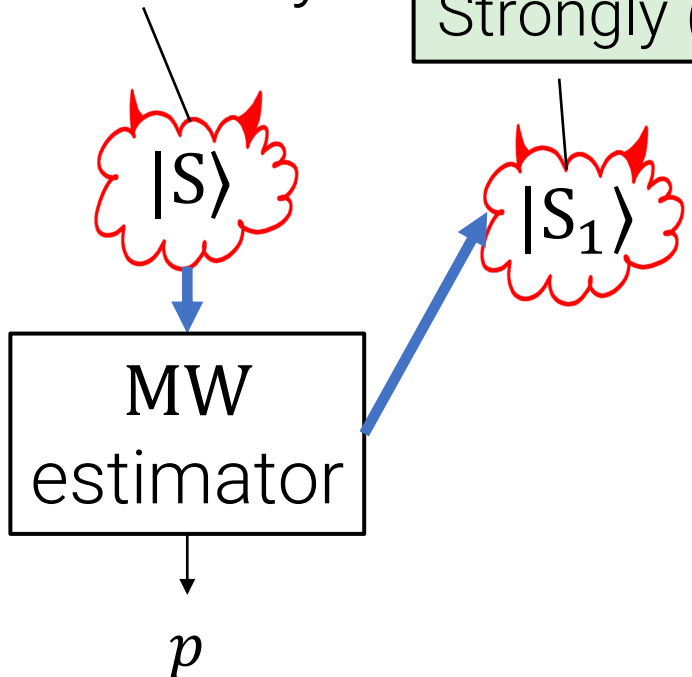
Strongly  $(p - \epsilon)$ -successful

$|S\rangle$

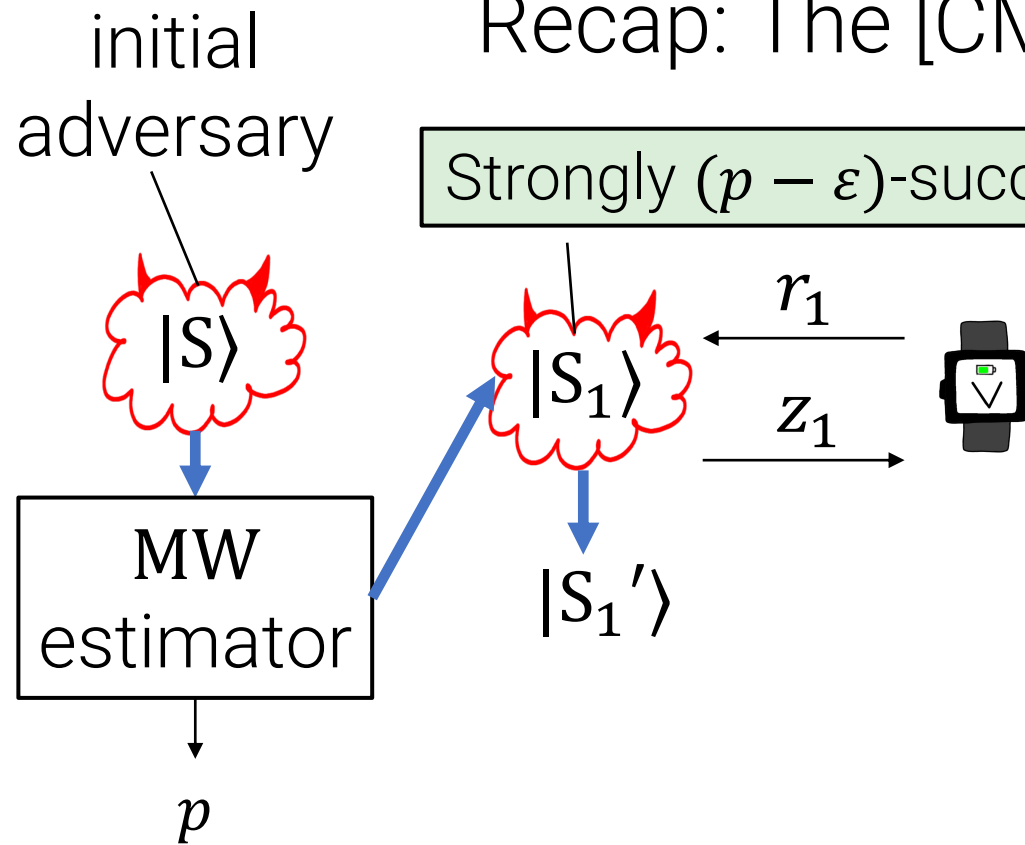
$|S_1\rangle$

MW  
estimator

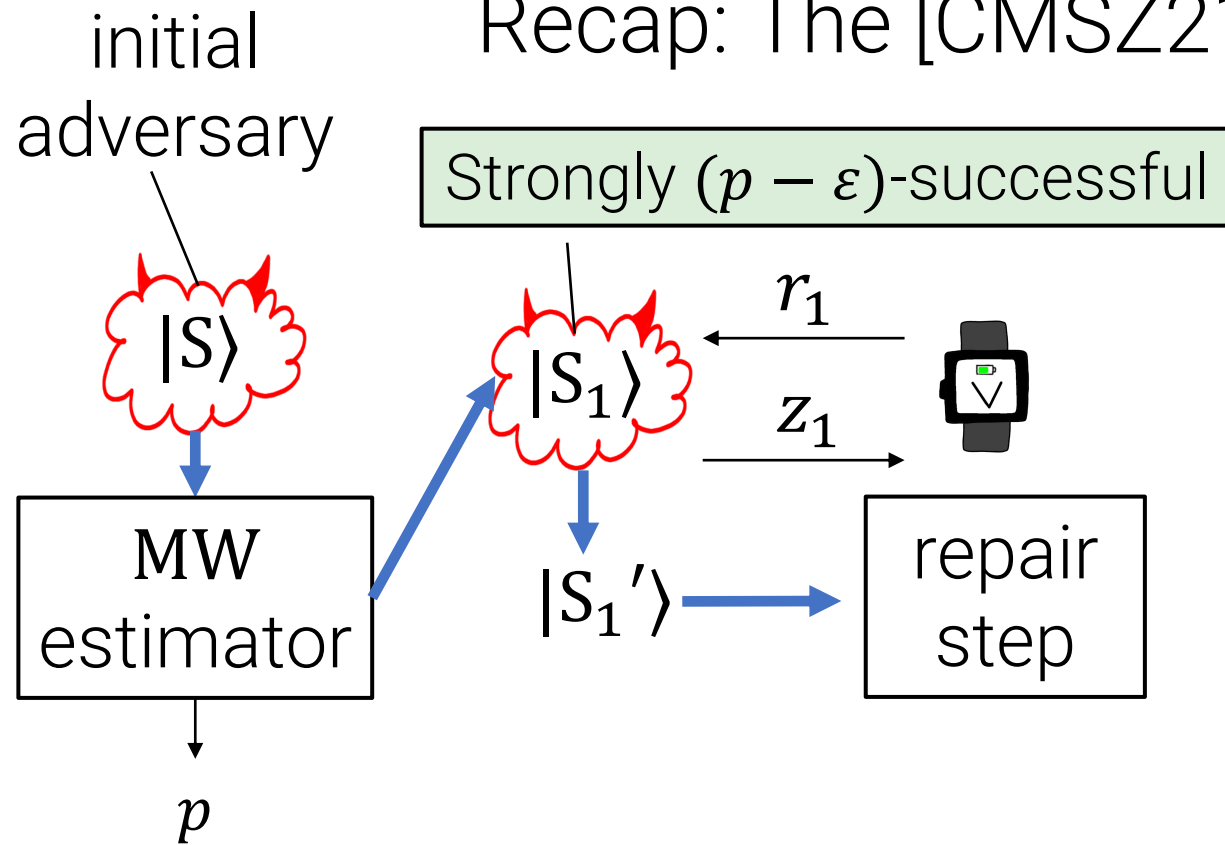
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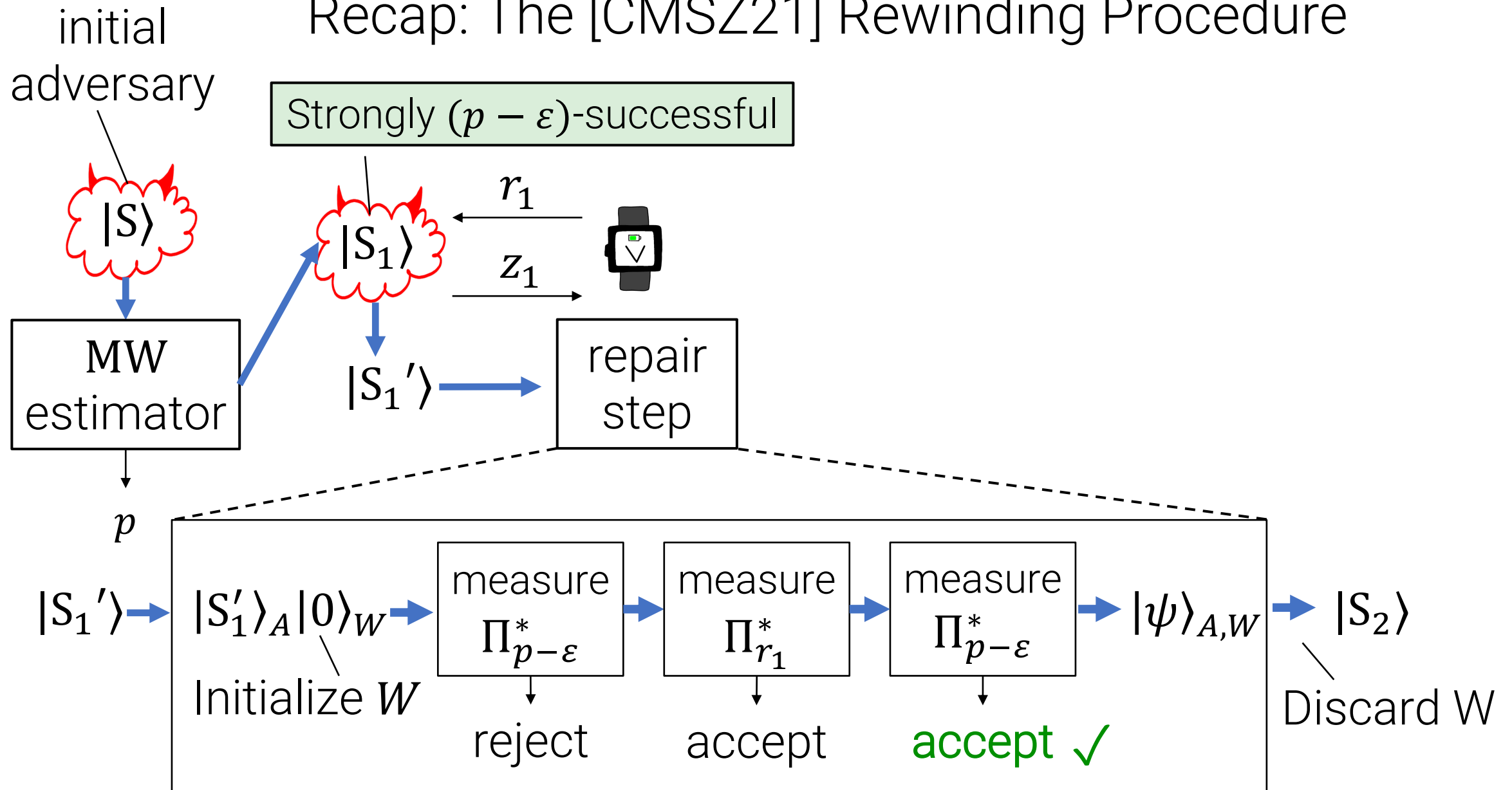
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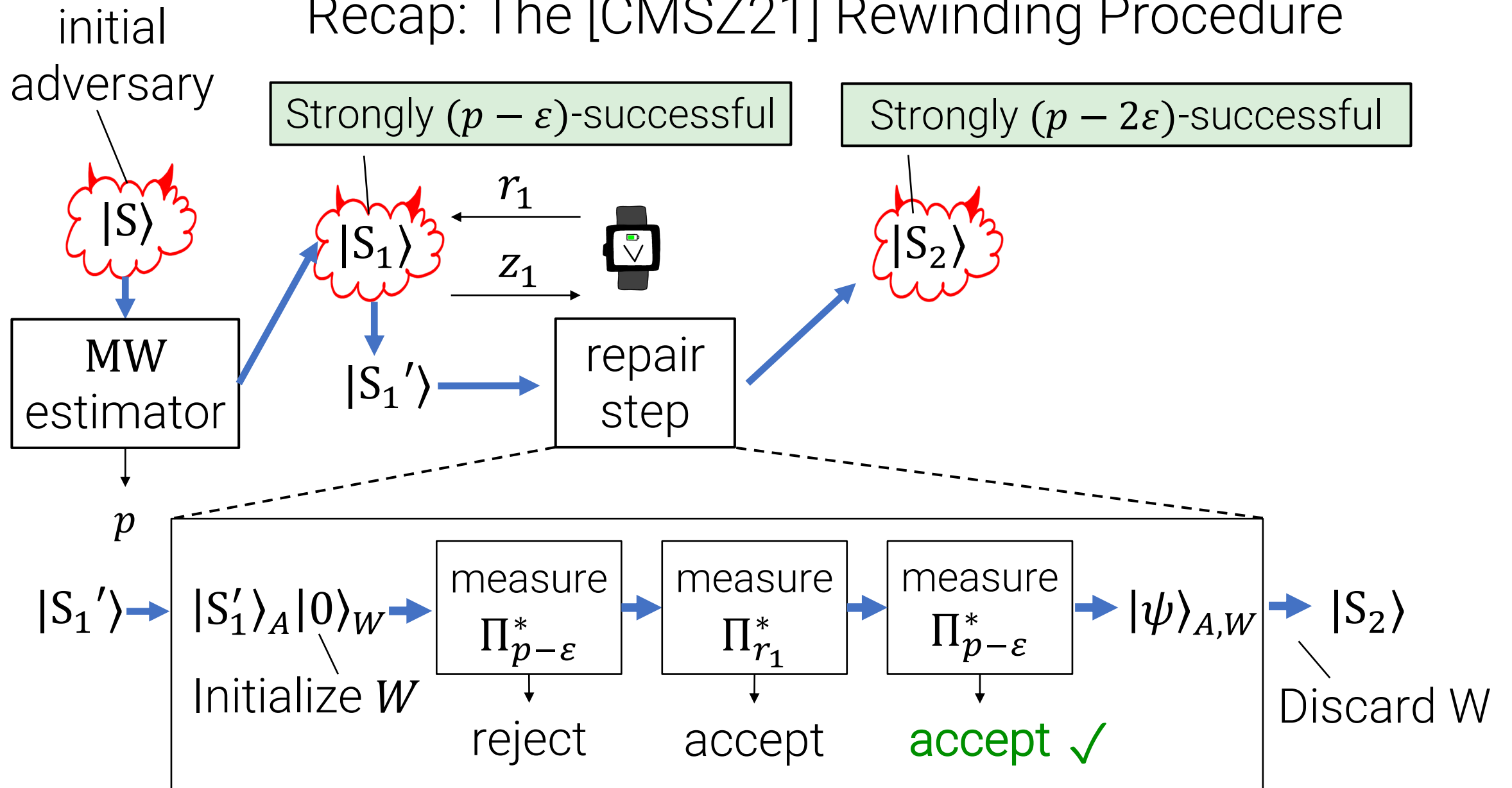
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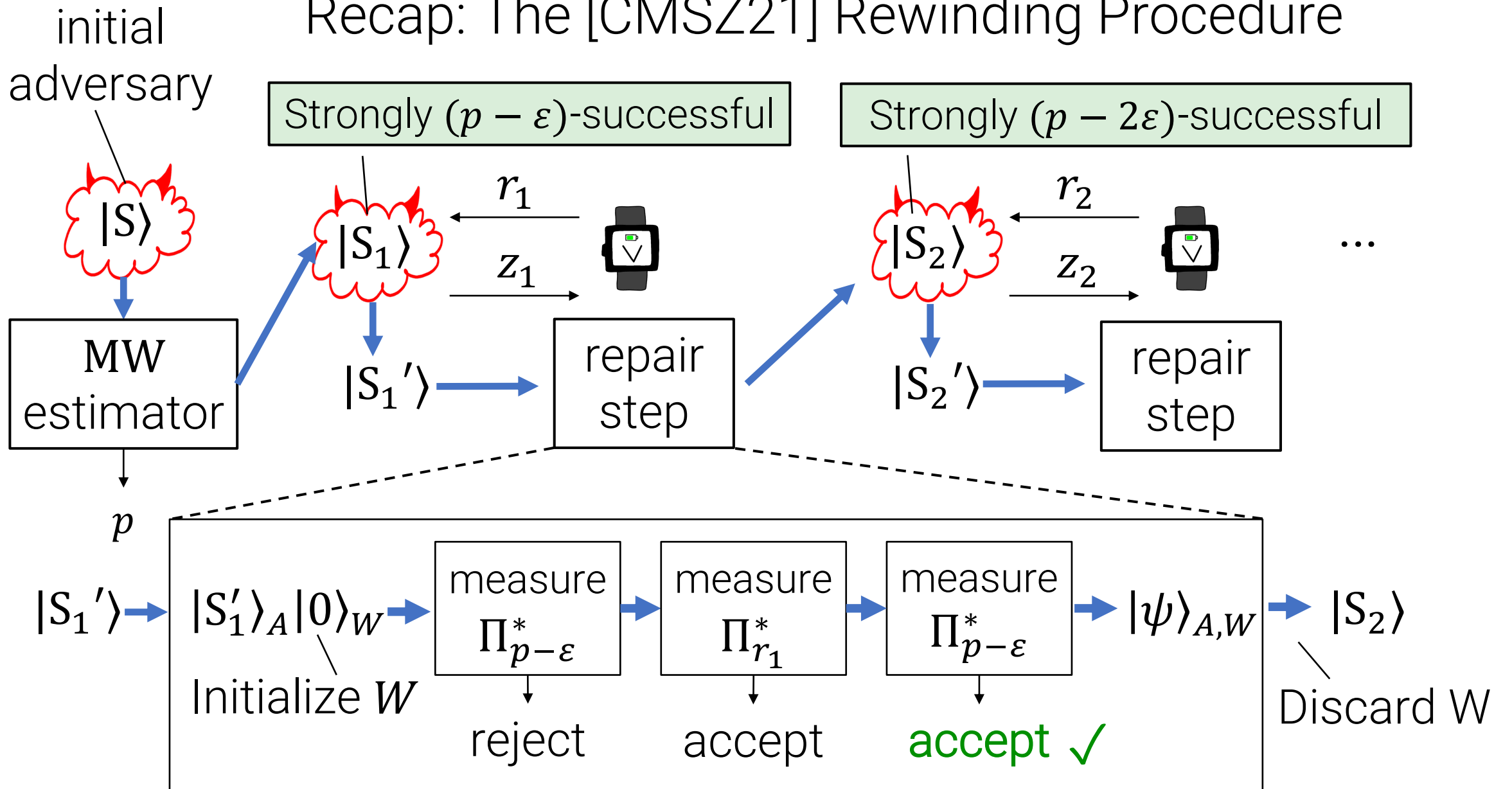
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  - [Gunn-Ju-M-Zhandry'22]: quantum succinct arguments (from assumptions weaker than one-way functions)

Thank You!

Questions?