

# Multi-Party Computation in the Head: Techniques and Applications

**Damien Vergnaud**

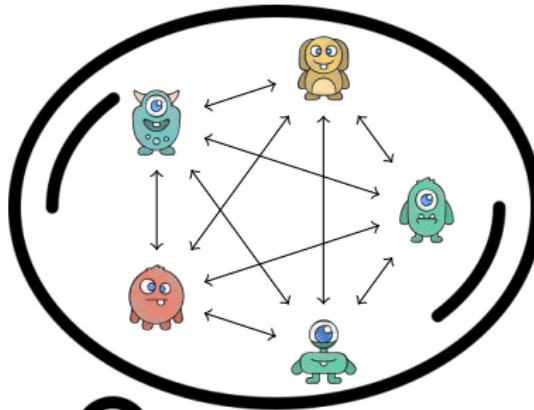
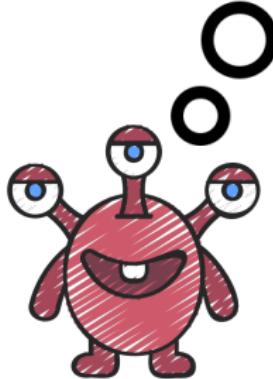
Sorbonne Université – LIP6

(with special thanks to Charles Bouillaguet, Thibauld Feneuil,  
Jules Maire, Matthieu Rivain and the CCA master students)



Images by juicy\_fish from flaticon

# Outline



**MPC-in-the-Head**

MPC protocol

ZK proof

**Generic technique**

**Optimizations**

**Applications**

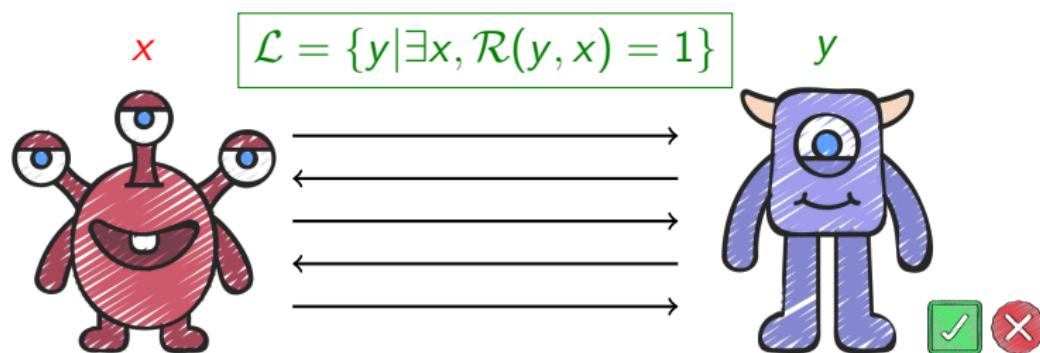
# Main Application: Digital Signatures

- consider some **one-way function**  $F$
- picks uniformly at random  $\text{sk}$  in  $F$ 's domain
- sets and publishes  $\text{pk} = F(\text{sk})$
- to sign  $m$ , Alice proves
  - in zero-knowledge
  - **non-interactively** (using Fiat-Shamir heuristic using  $m$ )  
that she knows  $\text{sk}$  such that  $\text{pk} = F(\text{sk})$
- $F$  one-way against quantum computers  
 $\rightsquigarrow$  **“post-quantum”** signatures  
(7-9 submission to the recent NIST call for signatures)

# Zero-knowledge interactive proof

Goldwasser, Micali, Rackoff – STOC 1985  
Goldreich, Micali, Wigderson – FOCS 1986

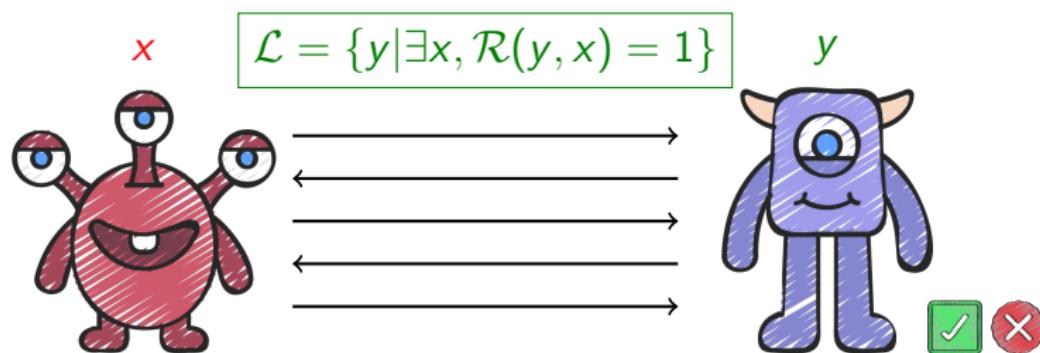
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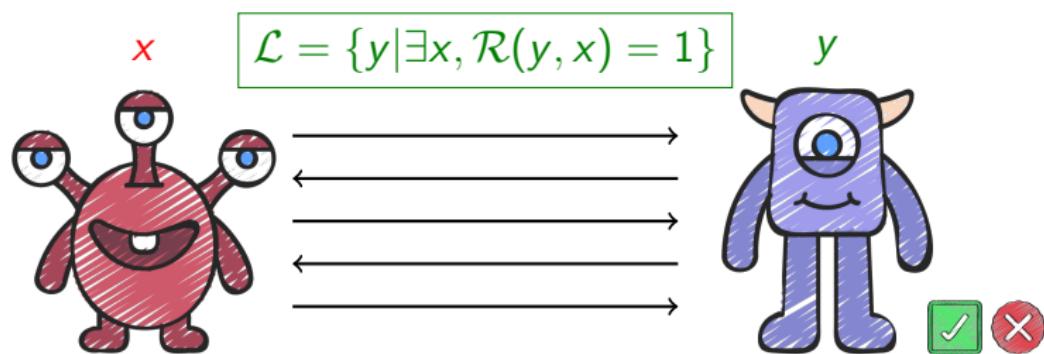


Completeness

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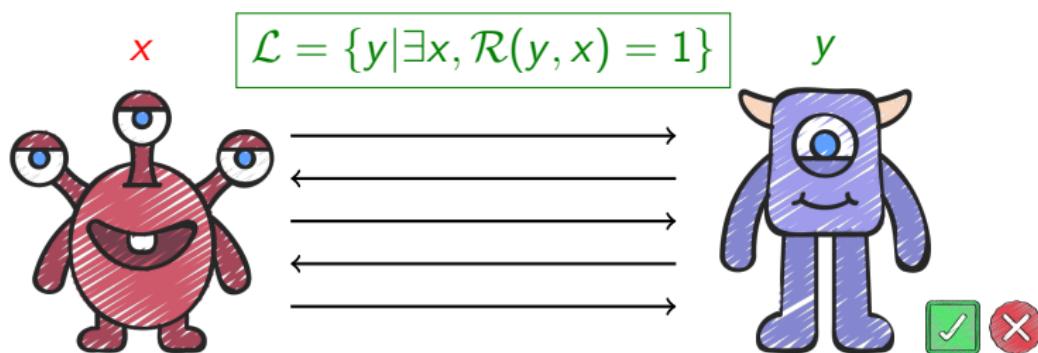
Completeness

(Knowledge)  
Soundness

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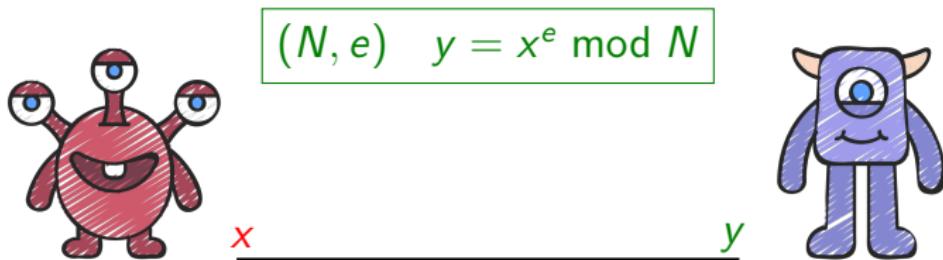


Completeness

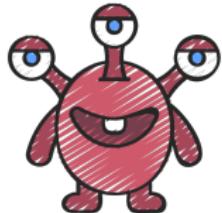
(Knowledge)  
Soundness

(Honest-Verifier)  
Zero-knowledge

# Guillou-Quisquater Protocol (ZK for RSA – 1988)

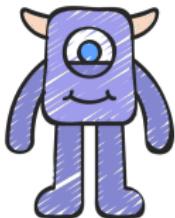


# Guillou-Quisquater Protocol (ZK for RSA – 1988)



$$(N, e) \quad y = x^e \bmod N$$

x

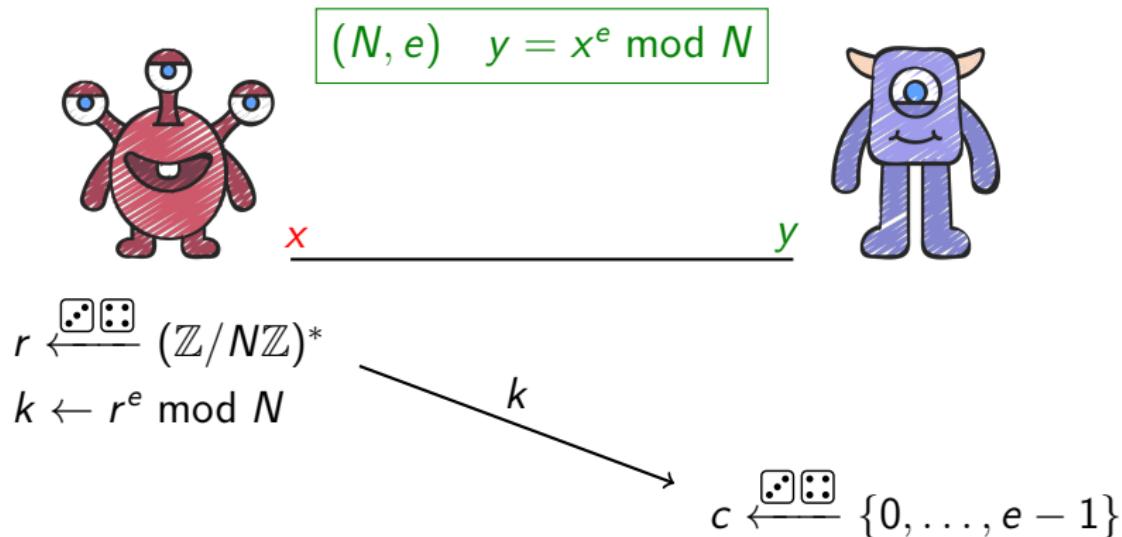


y

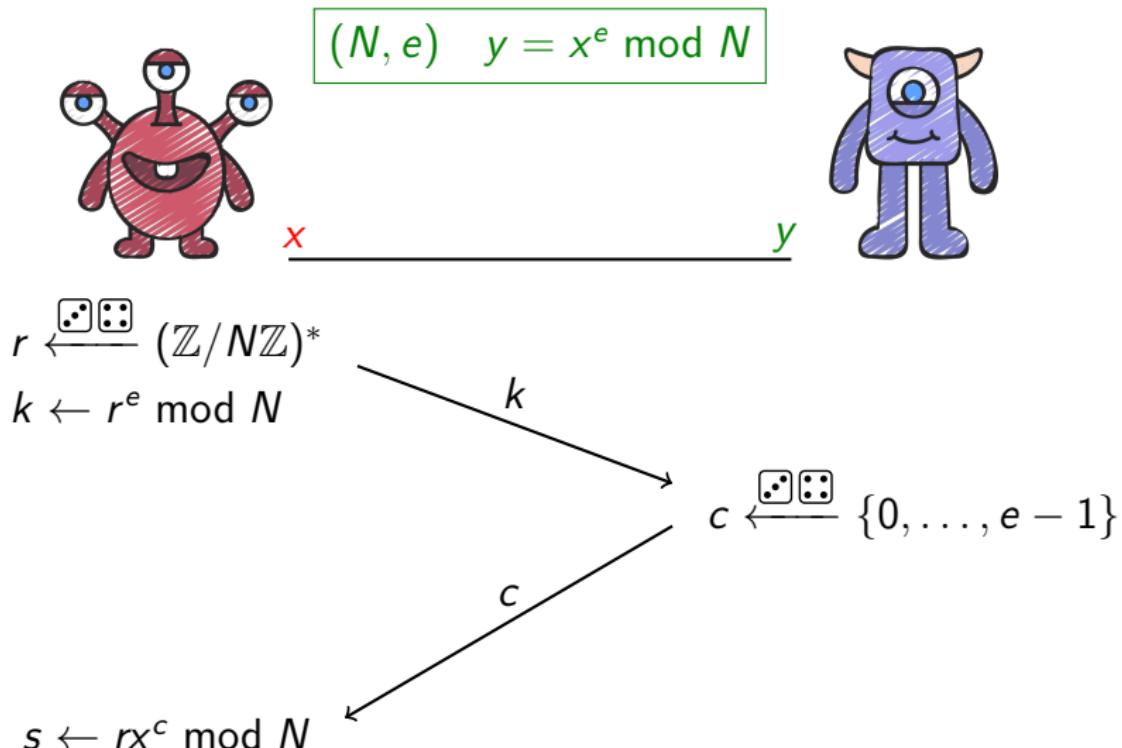
$$r \xleftarrow{[0,1]} (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$$

$$k \leftarrow r^e \bmod N$$

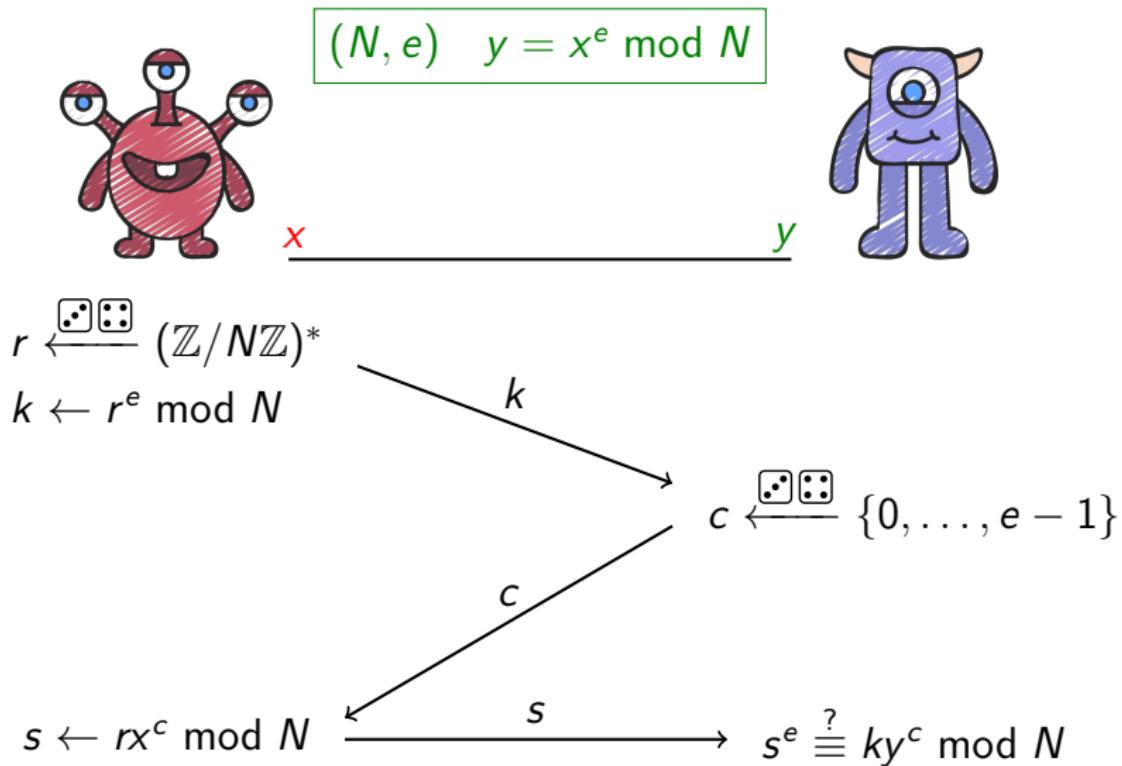
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# Commitments



- digital analogue of a sealed envelope
  - ~~ hide a value that cannot be changed
- (COMMIT, OPEN)
  - $\text{COMMIT}(m; r) \rightsquigarrow (c, s)$
  - $\text{OPEN}(c, s) \rightsquigarrow m \text{ or } \perp$

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Hiding

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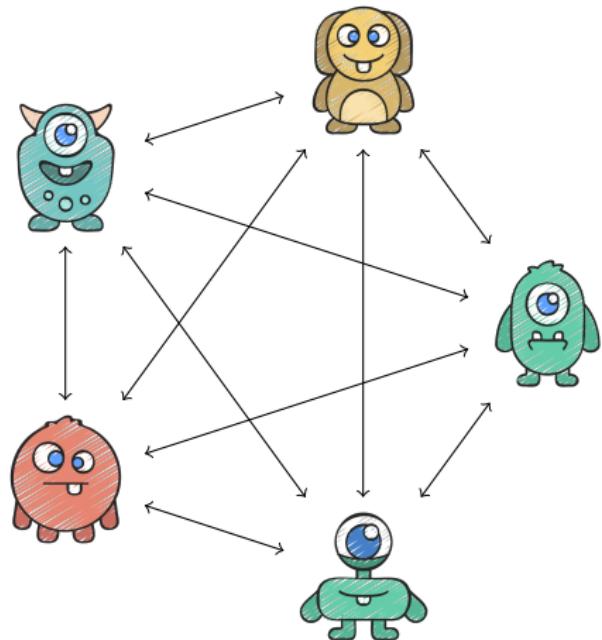


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Hiding

Binding

# Multi-Party Computation



- computation between parties who do not trust each other
- preserve the **privacy** of each player's inputs
- guarantee the **correctness** of the computation

# Multi-Party Computation

- Parties  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  with private input  $x_1, \dots, x_n$   
~~ wish to compute a joint function  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$
- Some parties might be corrupted:
  - **Semi-honest:** follow the protocol specifications
  - **Malicious:** might act arbitrarily

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$t$ -Privacy

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Perfect  
Correctness

*t*-Privacy

- For any  $f$ , there exist a  $t$ -private protocol (for  $t < n/2$ )  
with **unconditional** semi-honest security

Ben-Or, Goldwasser, Wigderson – STOC 1988

## $n$ -out-of- $n$ Secret Sharing

- Let  $x$  be a secret from a group  $(\mathbb{G}, \boxplus)$ .
- Dealer chooses random  $x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}$  in  $\mathbb{G}$  and computes

$$x_n = x \boxplus (x_1 \boxplus \dots \boxplus x_{n-1})$$

The **shares** are  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \xleftarrow{\text{SHARE}} \text{SHARE}(x)$

- Given  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , one can successfully recover

$$x = x_1 \boxplus \dots \boxplus x_n = \text{RECONSTRUCT}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

- Given all but one  $x_i$ 's  $\rightsquigarrow$  **no information** about  $x$

# MPC-in-the-Head

Ishai, Kushilevitz, Ostrovsky, Sahai – STOC 2007

- Given a public  $y$ , Alice wants to prove that she knows  $x$  s.t.

$$F(x) = y$$

- Alice uses a  $n$ -party secret-sharing (SHARE, RECONSTRUCT):

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \xleftarrow{\text{dice}} \text{SHARE}(x)$$

- Consider an  $n$ -party computation:

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) := F(\text{RECONSTRUCT}(x_1, \dots, x_n))$$

- Alice simulates (in her head) a secure MPC protocol for  $f$  with
  - 2-privacy** in the semi-honest model
  - perfect correctness**

# Views of Parties in MPC

- view of  $P_i$  denoted  $V_i$  is
  - its input  $w_i$ ;
  - its random coins  $r_i$ ;
  - all the messages **received** by  $P_i$  (in particular,  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ )
- Given  $V_i$  one can perform the same computation as  $P_i$  (using the description of the MPC protocol)
- $V_i$  and  $V_j$  are **consistent** if the outgoing messages  $P_i \rightarrow P_j$  are identical to the incoming messages  $P_j \leftarrow P_i$  (and *vice versa*)
- **Proposition 1:** All pairs of views  $(V_i, V_j)$  are consistent iff there exists an execution of the protocol in which the view of  $P_i$  is  $V_i$ .

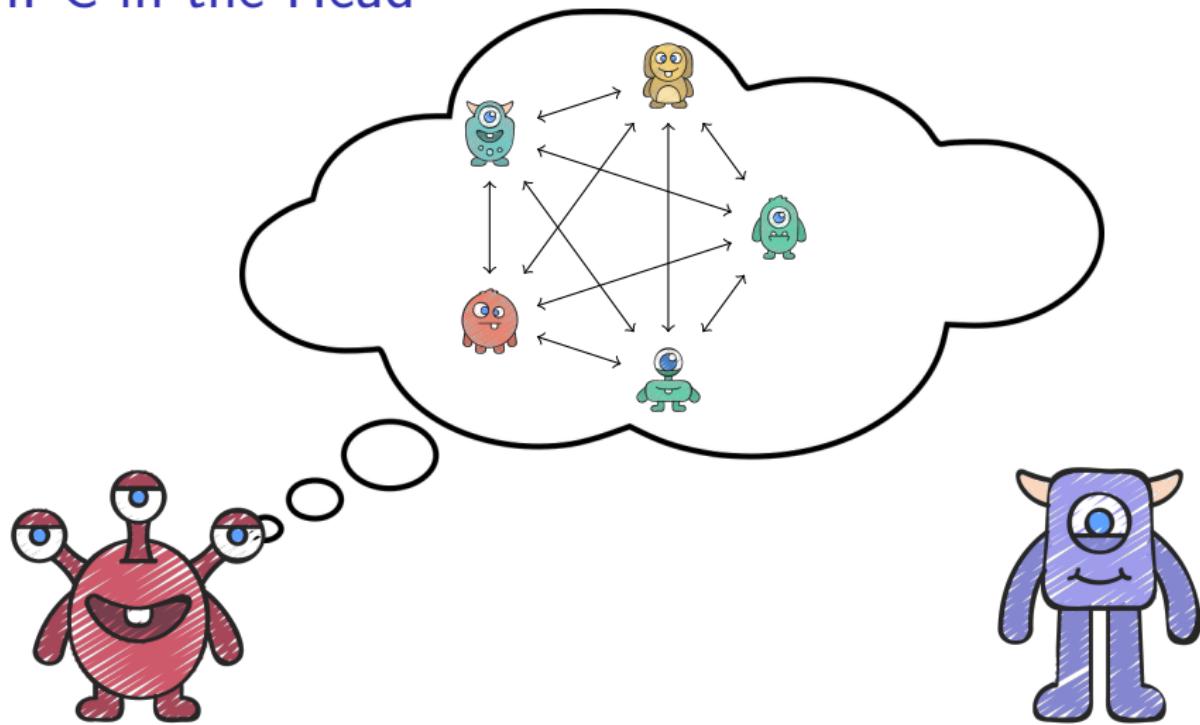
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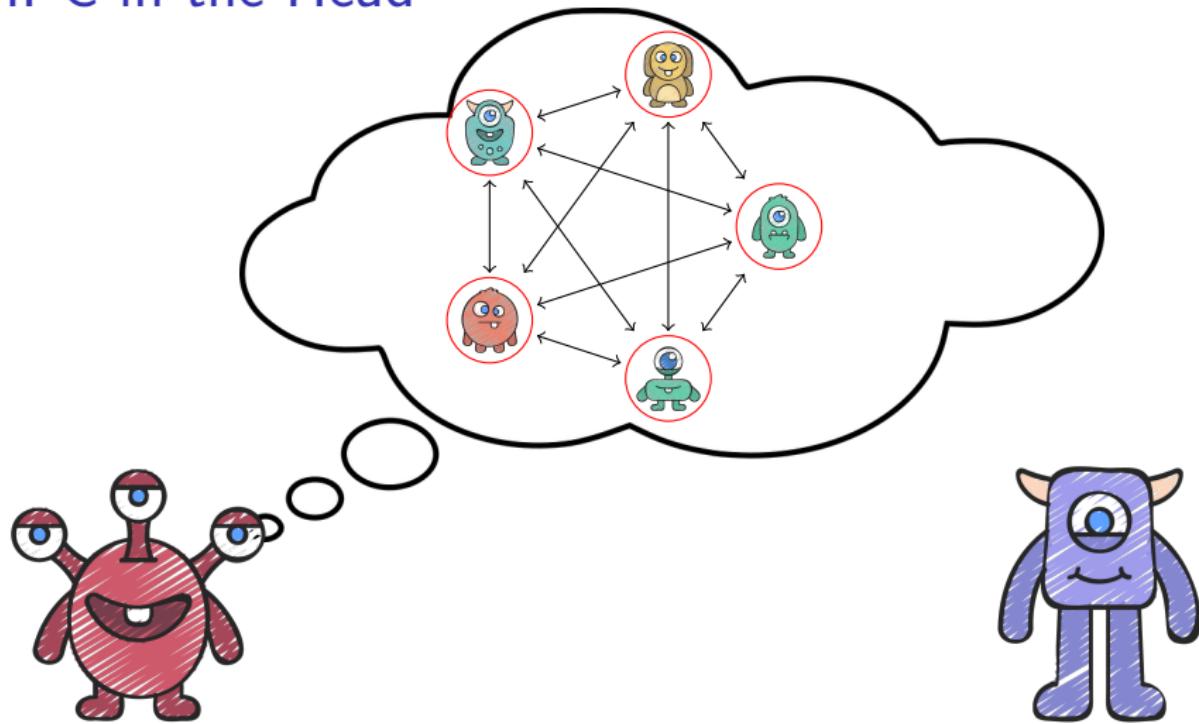
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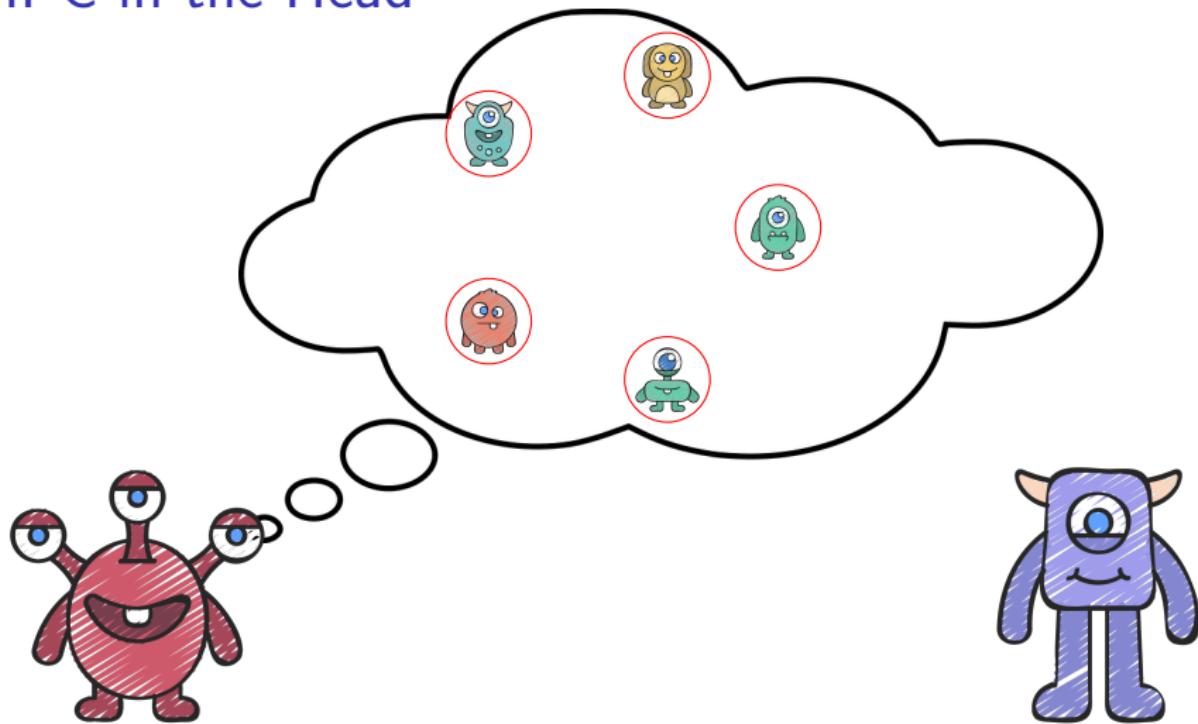
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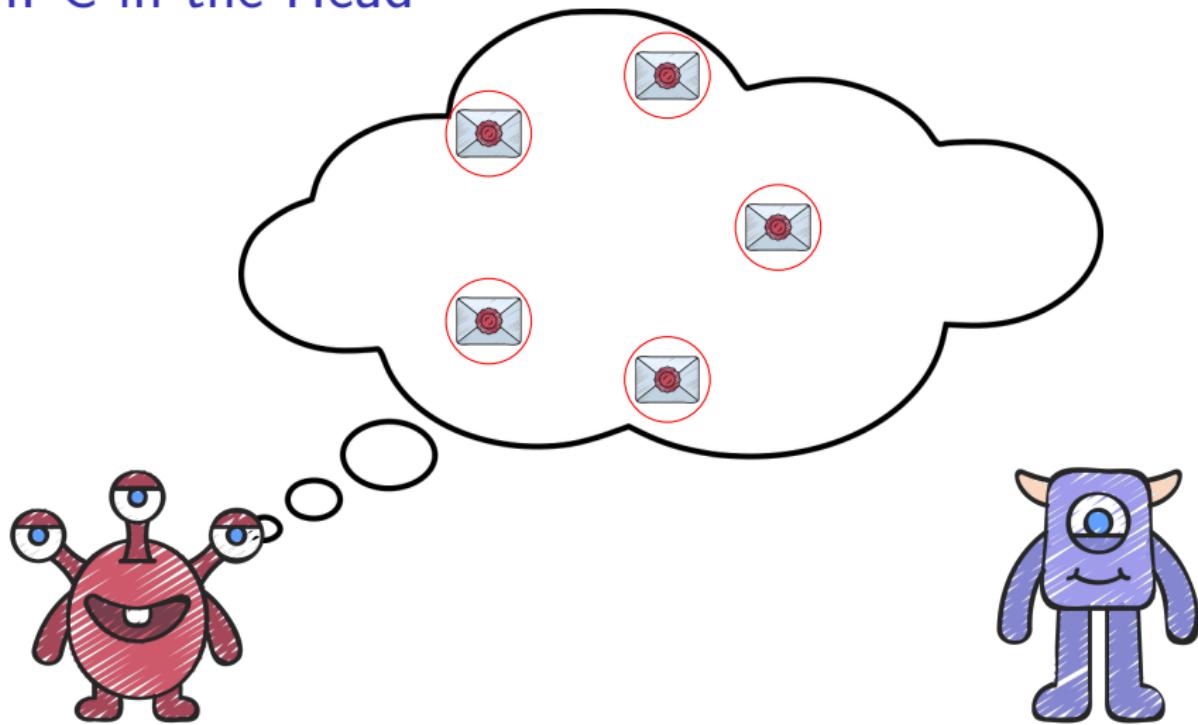
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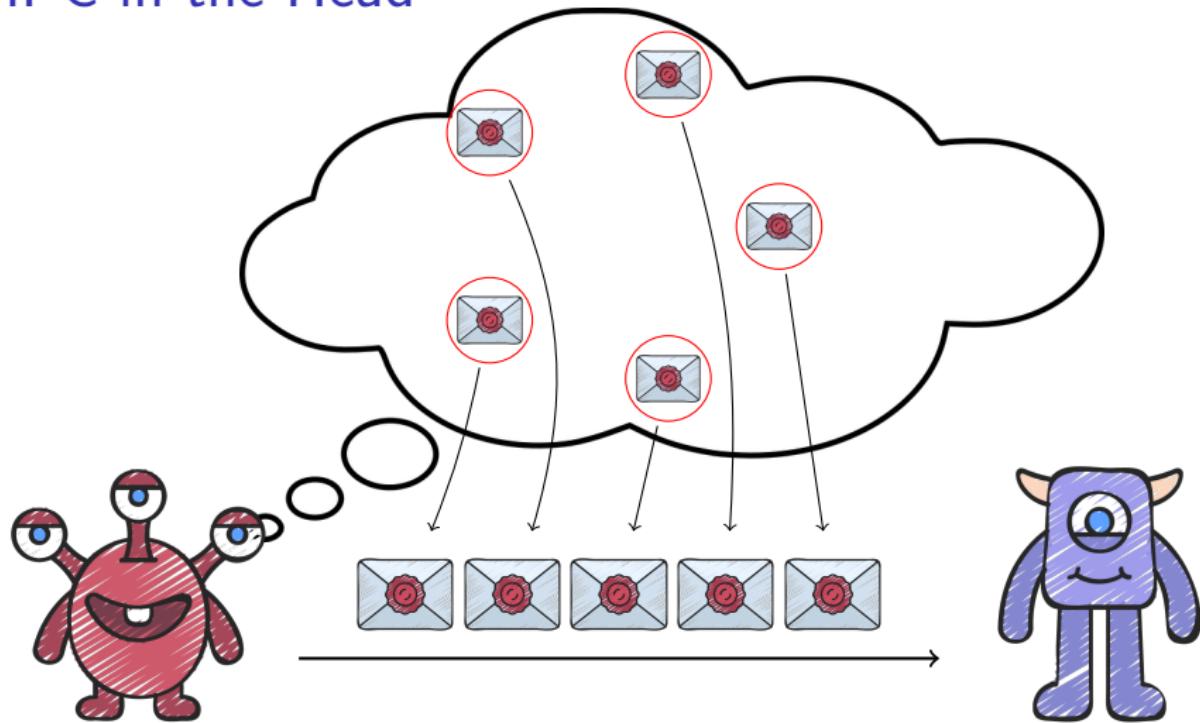
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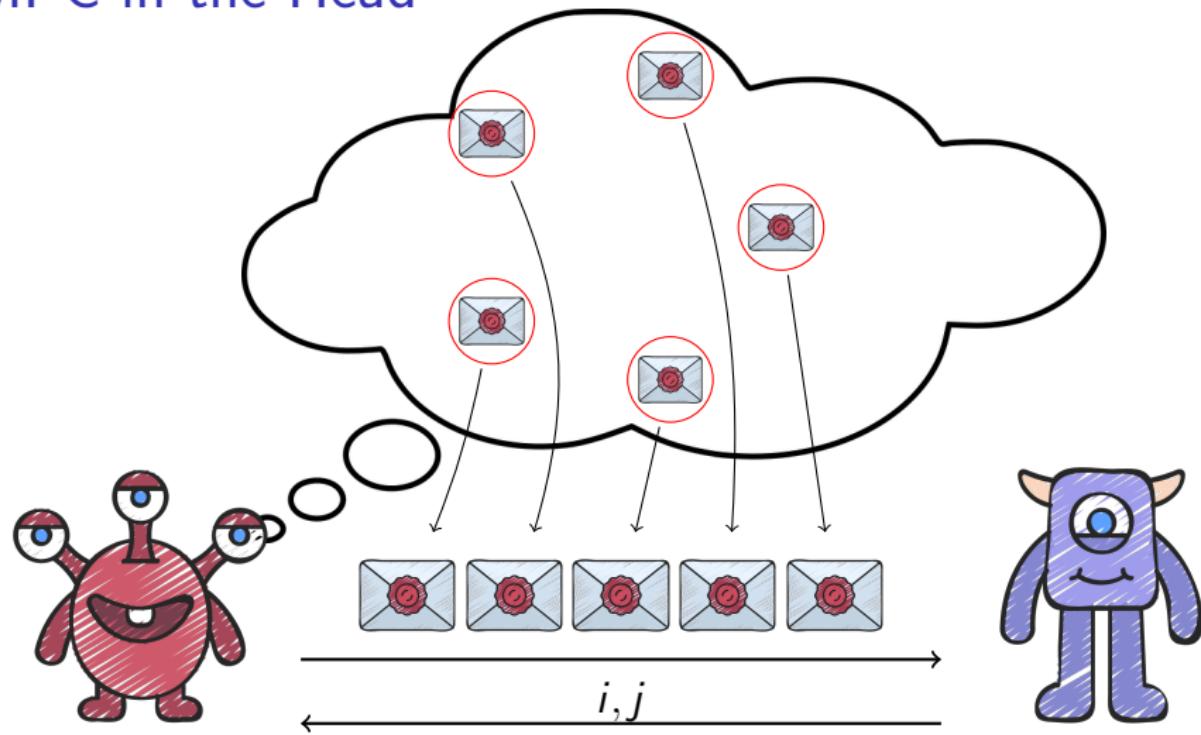
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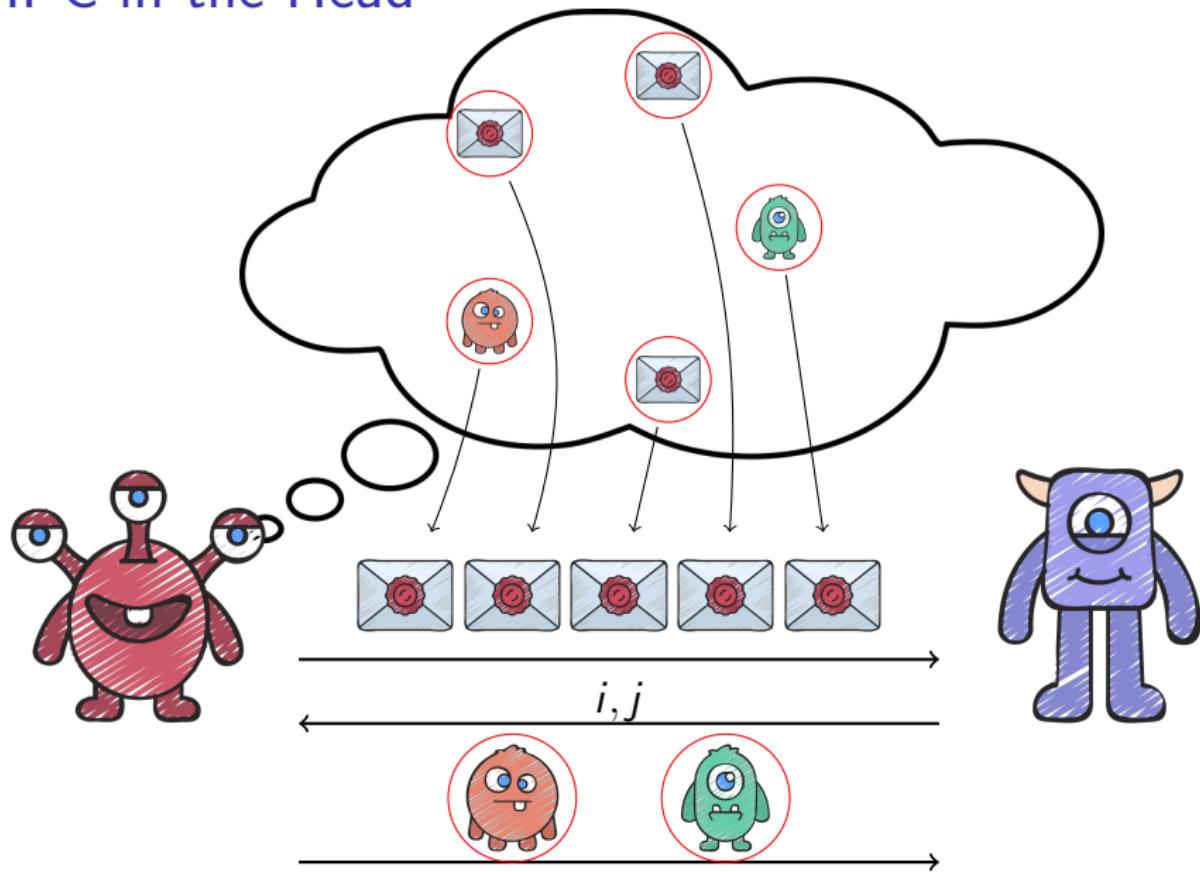
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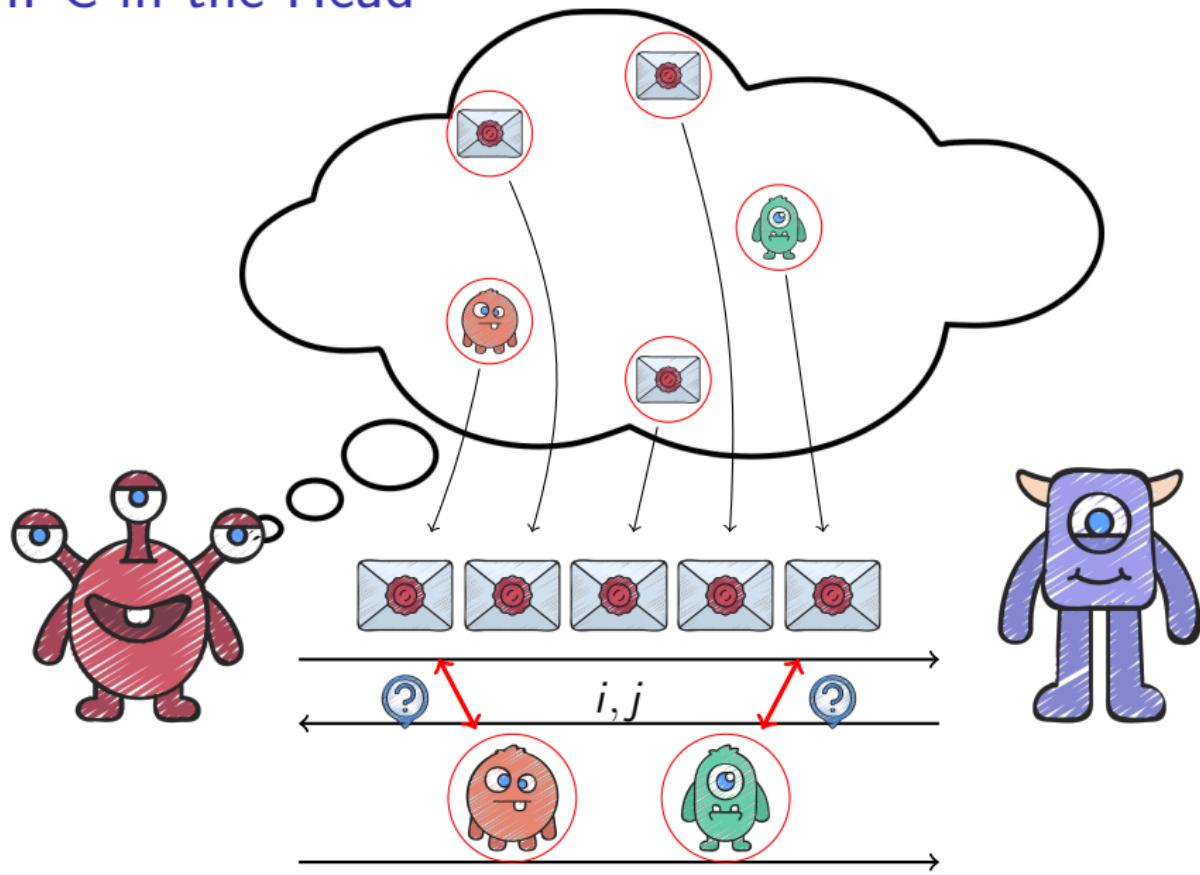
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# MPC-in-the-Head – Security

- ➊ **Completeness:** by inspection
- ➋ **Soundness:** by Proposition 1, if all pairs of views are consistent and  $\Pi$  outputs 1 then

$$F(\text{RECONSTRUCT}(x_1, \dots, x_n)) = y$$

If ( $F(x) \neq y$  or (at least) one pair of views is inconsistent), Bob detects it with probability

$$\geq \binom{n}{2}^{-1} = \frac{2}{n(n-1)}$$

- ➌ **Zero-knowledge:** by the hiding property of the commitment scheme and the 2-privacy of  $\Pi$

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# MPC-in-the-Head using BGW

- the complexity **increases** with  $n$   
the cheating probability **increases** with  $n$   
 $\rightsquigarrow$  pick the **minimal**  $n$ !
- for 2-privacy with BGW, we need at least  $n \geq 5$  players
- with  $n = 5$ ,
  - Alice has to commit 5 views of the protocol (and reveals 2)
  - If she cheats, Bob detects it with probability  $\geq 1/10$
- with  $n = 5$ , a cheating Alice is not detected
  - in one run with probability  $\leq 9/10$
  - in  $k$  independent runs with probability  $\leq (9/10)^k$   
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# $n$ -out-of- $n$ Secret Sharing in MPC

- Is it possible to reveal  $n - 1$  shares in the MPC and remain secure?  
~~ would lead to better soundness!
- impossible classically for general functions (for IT security)
- but, possible for “linear” functions, e.g. for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} a \cdot x \boxplus b \cdot y &= a \cdot (x_1 \boxplus \cdots \boxplus x_n) \boxplus b \cdot (y_1 \boxplus \cdots \boxplus y_n) \\ &= (a \cdot x_1 \boxplus b \cdot y_1) \boxplus \cdots \boxplus (a \cdot x_n \boxplus b \cdot y_n) \end{aligned}$$

where  $a \cdot x = \underbrace{x \boxplus \cdots \boxplus x}_{a \text{ times}}$  (for  $a \geq 0$ )

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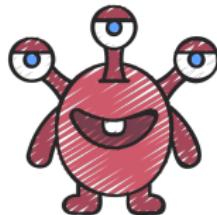
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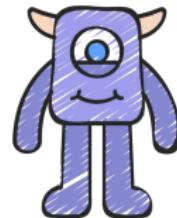
# RSA-in-the-head

(Maire-V. 2023)

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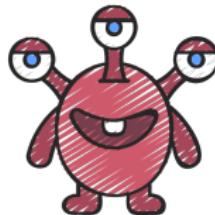


y

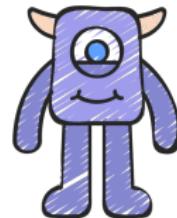
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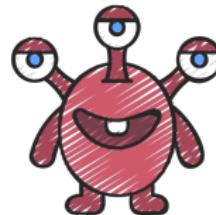
$y$

$$[\![x]\!] \xleftarrow{[\![\cdot]\!]} [(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*]^n$$

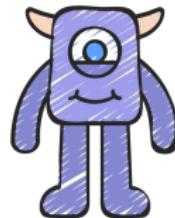
$$(y_i \leftarrow x_i^e \bmod N)_i$$

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x

y

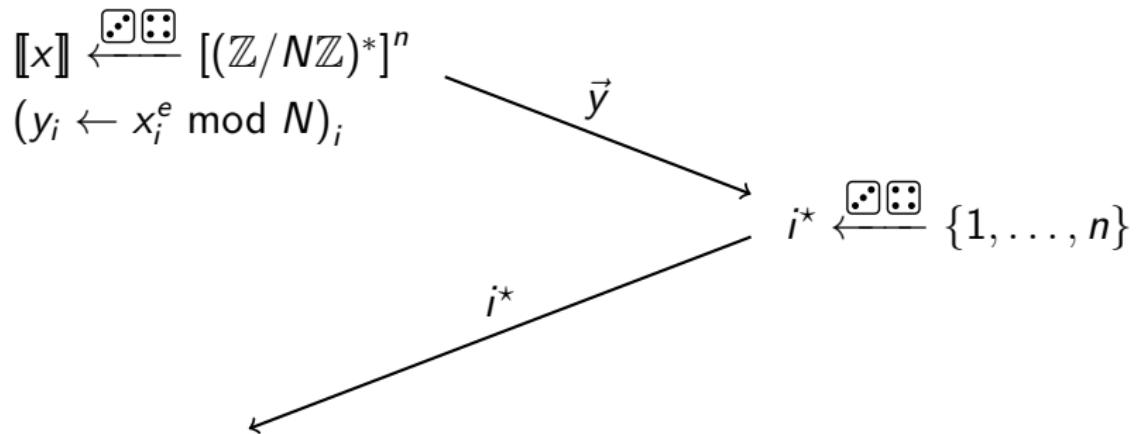
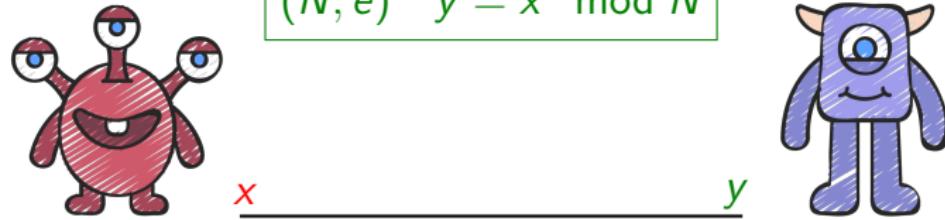
$$[x] \xleftarrow{[ ]} [(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*]^n$$
$$(y_i \leftarrow x_i^e \bmod N)_i$$

$$\vec{y}$$

$$i^* \xleftarrow{[ ]} \{1, \dots, n\}$$

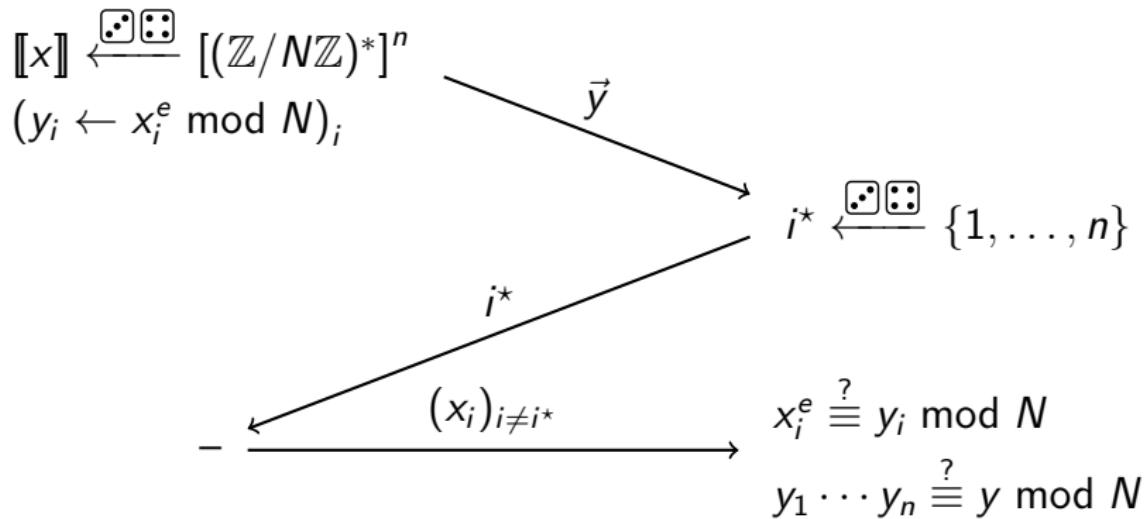
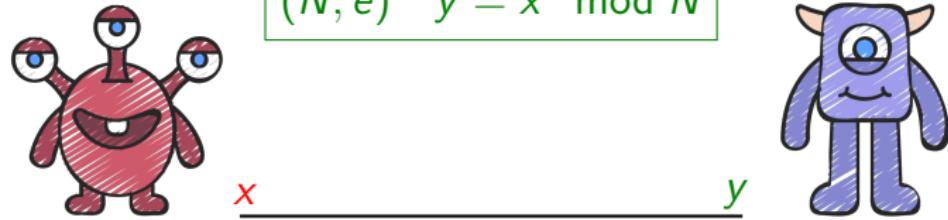
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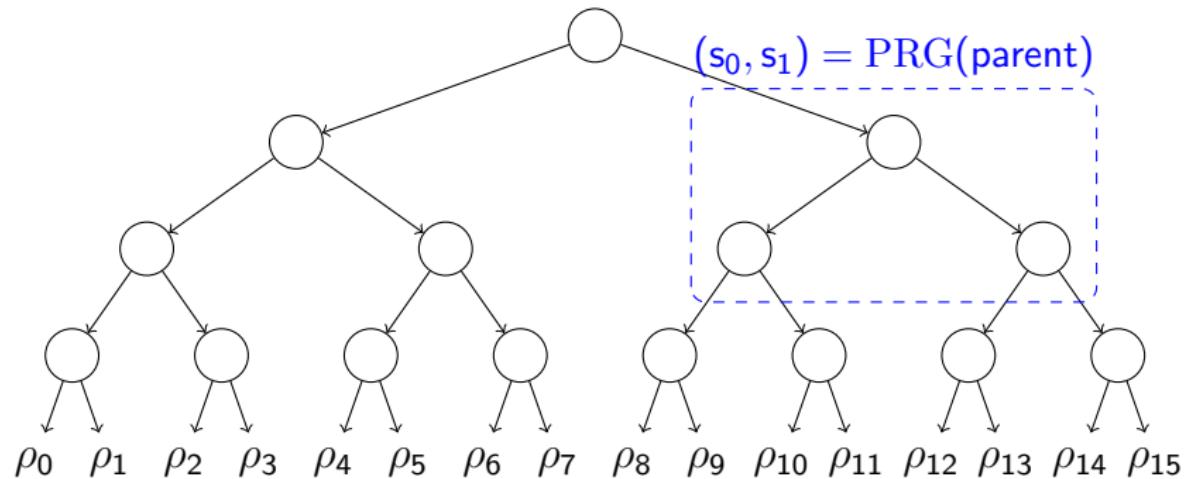


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# Compressing the Proof - Tree PRG



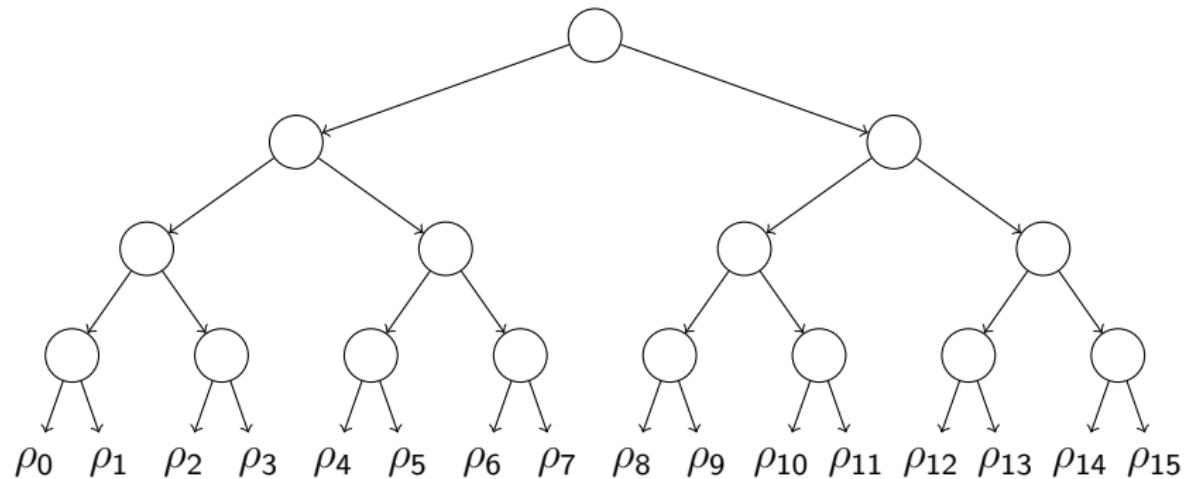
## Commitment

- ①  $(x_i, r_i) = \text{PRG}(\rho_i)$
- ②  $r_n, r$  picked at random
- ③  $c_i = H(y_i, r_i)$
- ④  $c = H(c_0, \dots, c_n, r)$  and  $\Delta_x$

## Response

- Alice reveals  $r$  and
- ⑤  $\log_2(n)$  values in the tree (in blue)
  - ⑥  $c_{i^*}$

# Compressing the Proof - Tree PRG



## Commitment

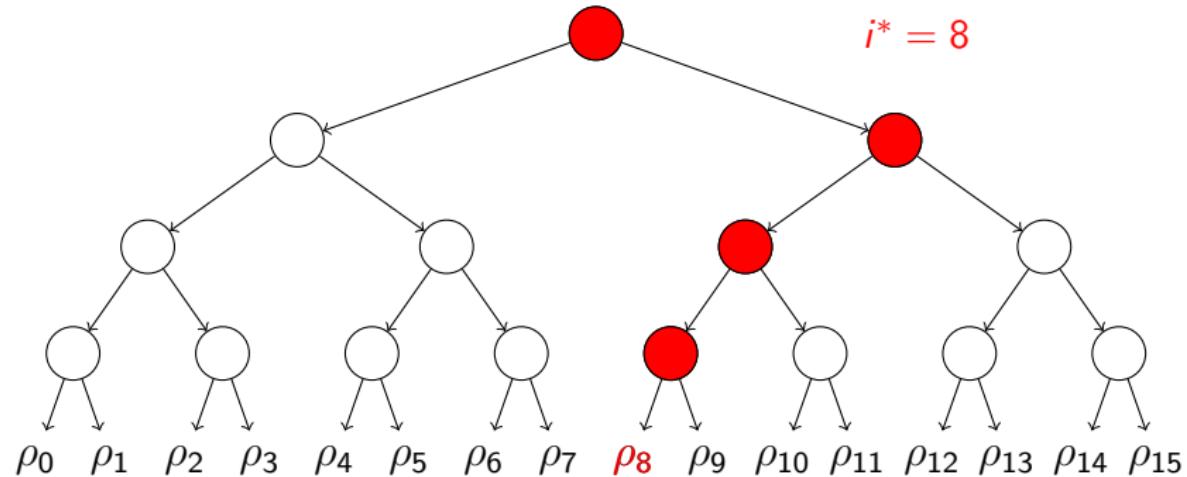
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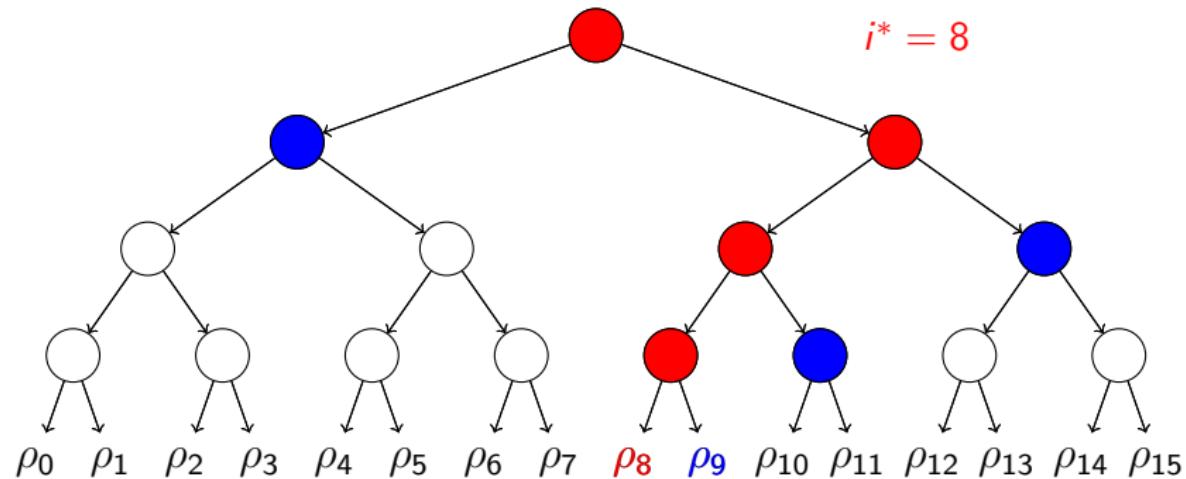
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# RSA-in-the-head

$$e = 3, N \simeq 2^{2048}, \lambda = 128$$

## ① Guillou-Quisquater

- Soundness error:  $1/e = 1/3$
- Iterations: 80
- Proof size:  $80 \times 2048 + 256 = 20.5 \text{ KBytes}$

## ② RSA-in-the-head

- Soundness error:  $1/n = 1/256$
- Iterations: 16
- Proof size:  $16 \times (8 \times 128 + 2048) + 256 + 128 = 6.5 \text{ KBytes}$

# RSA-in-the-head

$$e = 17, N \simeq 2^{2048}, \lambda = 128$$

## ① Guillou-Quisquater

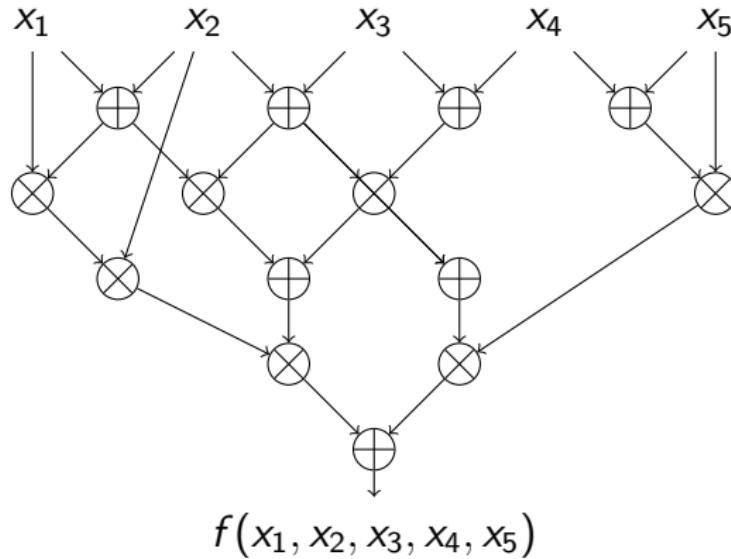
- Soundness error:  $1/e = 1/17$
- Iterations: 32
- Proof size:  
 $32 \times 2048 + 256 = 8.2 \text{ KBytes}$

## ② RSA-in-the-head

- Soundness error:  $1/n = 1/256$
- Iterations: 16
- Proof size:  $16 \times (8 \times 128 + 2048) + 256 + 128 = 6.5 \text{ KBytes}$

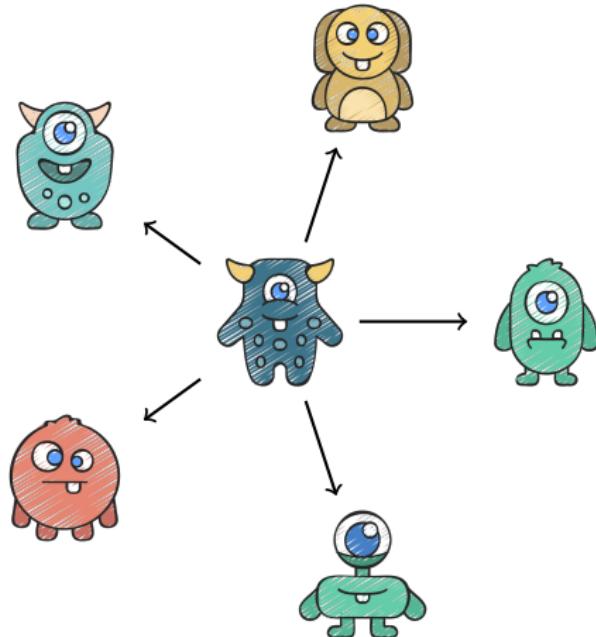
# Beyond Linear functions?

- use **additive sharing** ( $n$ -out-of- $n$ ) in a finite field  $\mathbb{F}$
- represent  $f$  using an arithmetic circuit over  $\mathbb{F}$



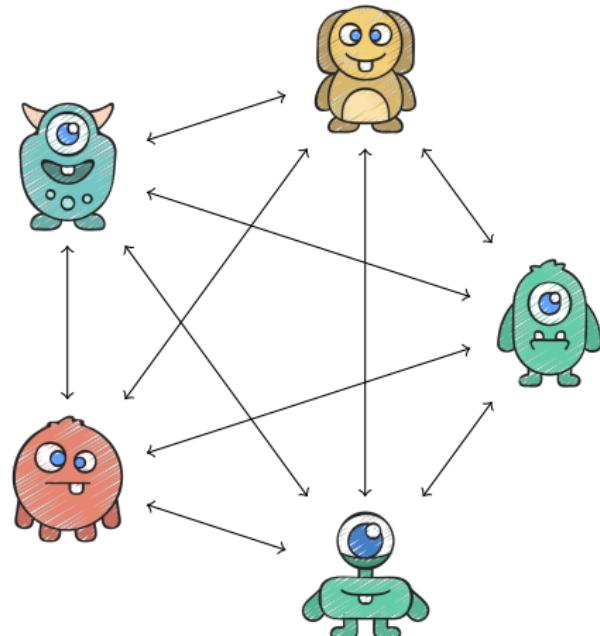
- linear gates are “easy”
- How to handle **multiplication gates**?

# MPC with Pre-Processing



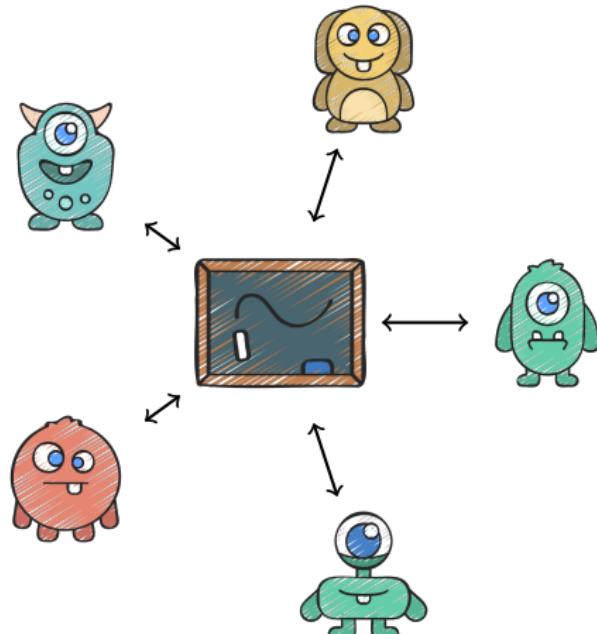
- parties obtain **correlated secret inputs**
- pre-processing is input independent

# MPC with Pre-Processing



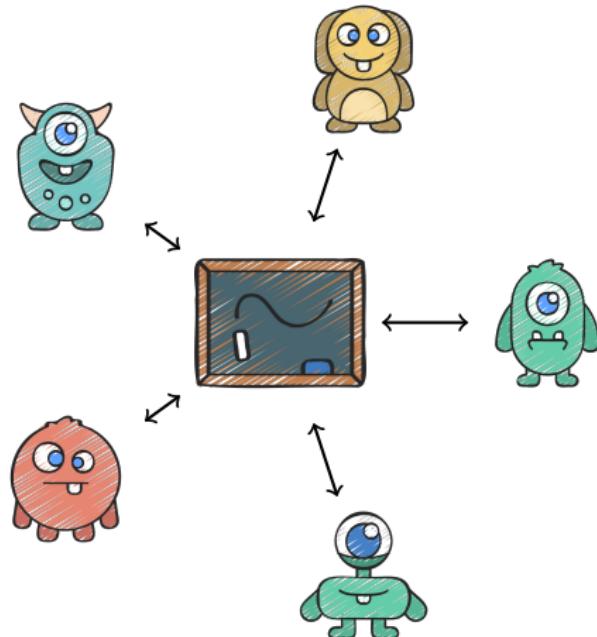
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# MPC with Pre-Processing



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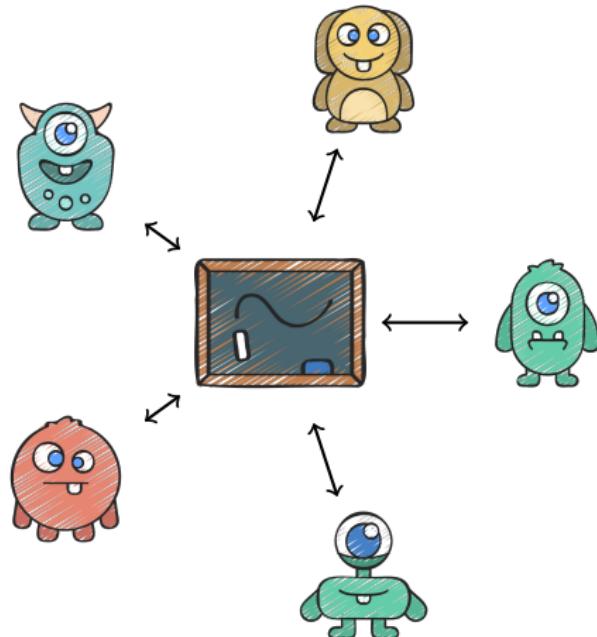
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# MPC with Pre-Processing



- parties obtain **correlated secret inputs**
- pre-processing is input independent
- parties then run the MPC protocol
- lowers the cost (broadcast only)

- **How to use it in MPC in the head?**
- ... gives Alice more opportunities to cheat!

# Beaver Triples

Beaver – Crypto 1991

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket = \text{SHARE}(x) = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad \llbracket y \rrbracket = \text{SHARE}(y) = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

- Given  $\llbracket a \rrbracket$ ,  $\llbracket b \rrbracket$  and  $\llbracket c \rrbracket$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are random and  $c = a \cdot b$
- $P_i$  computes  $\alpha_i = x_i - a_i$  and  $\beta_i = y_i - b_i$  and broadcasts them

$$\alpha = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n = x - a \quad \beta = \beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_n = y - b$$

- We have

$$\alpha \cdot \beta + \beta \cdot a + \alpha \cdot b + c = xy$$

- $P_i$  computes  $z_i = \alpha \cdot \beta + \beta \cdot a_i + \alpha \cdot b_i + c_i$

$$\llbracket z \rrbracket = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \simeq \text{SHARE}(x \cdot y)$$

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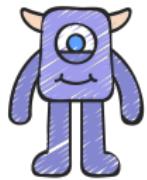
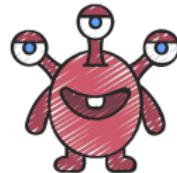
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# MPC in the Head with Beaver Triples

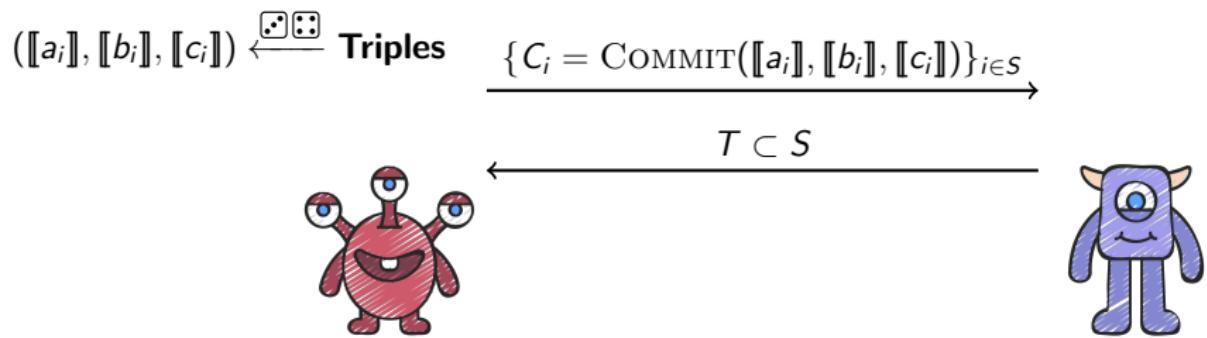
Katz, Kolesnikov, Wang – CCS 2018

$$(\llbracket a_i \rrbracket, \llbracket b_i \rrbracket, \llbracket c_i \rrbracket) \xleftarrow{\text{Triples}} \frac{\text{Triples}}{\{C_i = \text{COMMIT}(\llbracket a_i \rrbracket, \llbracket b_i \rrbracket, \llbracket c_i \rrbracket)\}_{i \in S}}$$



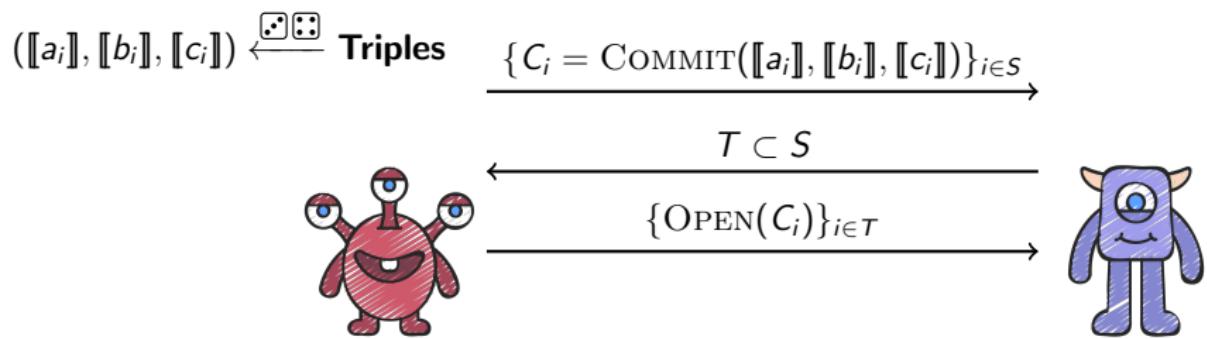
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Katz, Kolesnikov, Wang – CCS 2018



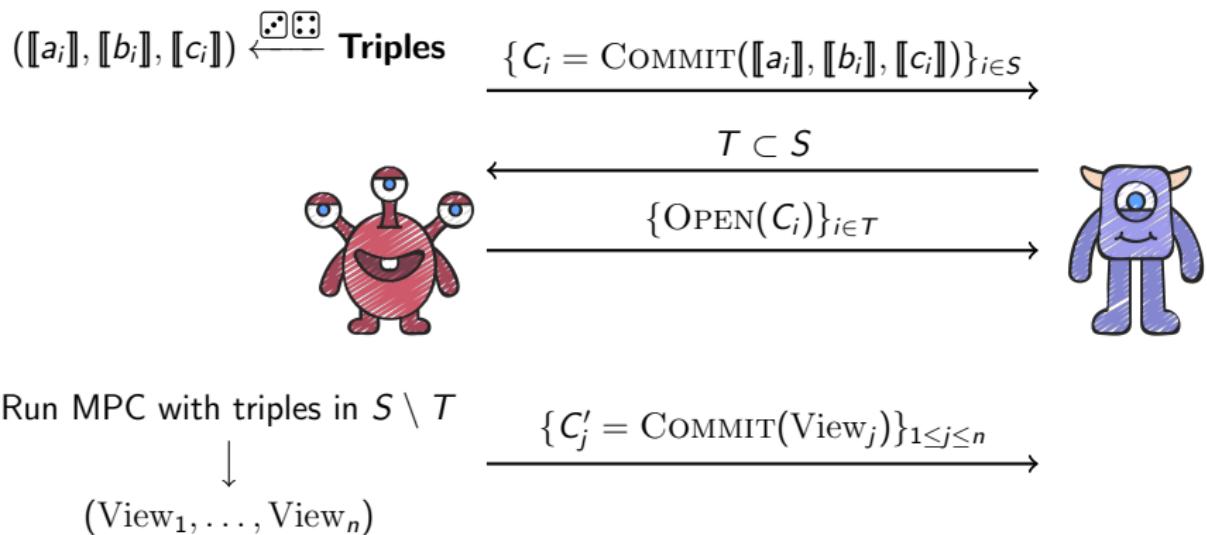
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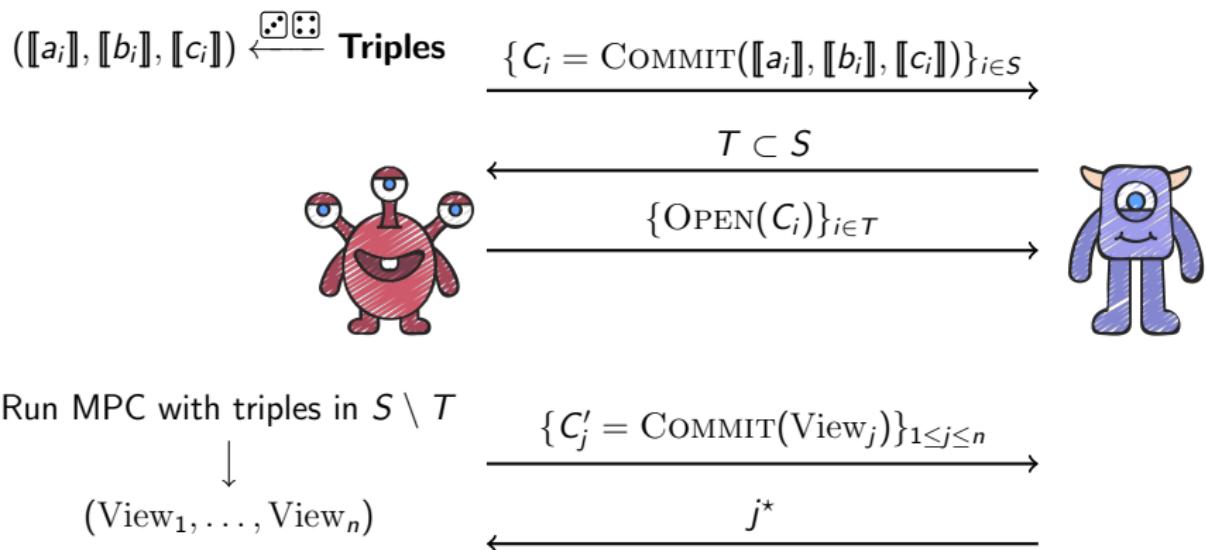
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Katz, Kolesnikov, Wang – CCS 2018



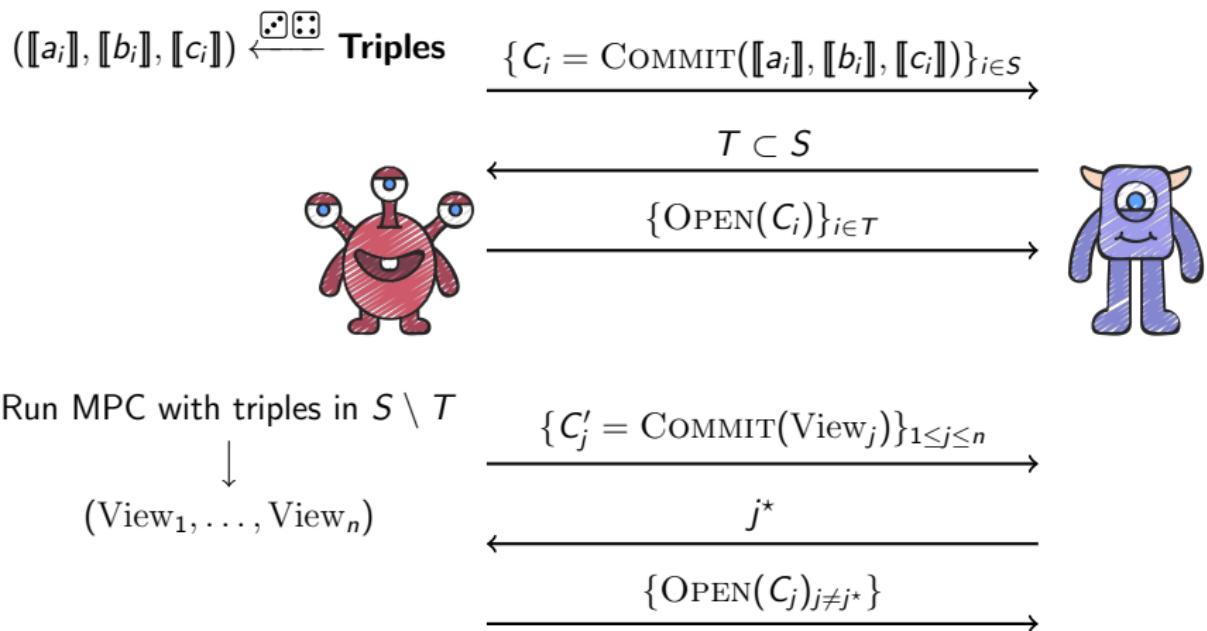
# MPC in the Head with Beaver Triples

Katz, Kolesnikov, Wang – CCS 2018



# MPC in the Head with Beaver Triples

Katz, Kolesnikov, Wang – CCS 2018



# Verifying is Cheaper than Computing . . .

- $|S \setminus T| =$  number of multiplication gates
- $S$  has to be large enough to detect a cheating Alice with high probability  
(e.g. for  $n = 128$ ,  $\simeq \times 7$  overhead)
- Idea: Replace computing  $x \cdot y$  from their sharing by committing  $z = x \cdot y$  and checking that  $z$  is correct
- “sacrifice” a committed triple  $(a, b, c)$  with  $c = a \cdot b$  (that is checked simultaneously)  
~~ no need for ‘cut and choose’

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~~ no need for ‘**cut and choose**’

Baum, Nof – PKC 2018

# Checking Products



...

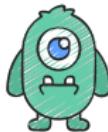


$\llbracket x \rrbracket_1, \llbracket y \rrbracket_1, \llbracket z \rrbracket_1$   
 $\llbracket a \rrbracket_1, \llbracket b \rrbracket_1, \llbracket c \rrbracket_1$

$\llbracket x \rrbracket_2, \llbracket y \rrbracket_2, \llbracket z \rrbracket_2$   
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# Checking Products



...



$\llbracket x \rrbracket_1, \llbracket y \rrbracket_1, \llbracket z \rrbracket_1$   
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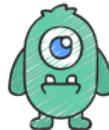
$\varepsilon$

$\varepsilon$

$\varepsilon$



# Checking Products



...



$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket_1, \llbracket y \rrbracket_1, \llbracket z \rrbracket_1 \\ \llbracket a \rrbracket_1, \llbracket b \rrbracket_1, \llbracket c \rrbracket_1 \end{aligned}$$

$\varepsilon$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket_1 &= \varepsilon \llbracket x \rrbracket_1 + \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 \\ \llbracket \beta \rrbracket_1 &= \llbracket y \rrbracket_1 + \llbracket b \rrbracket_1 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket v \rrbracket_1 &= \varepsilon \llbracket z \rrbracket_1 + \alpha \llbracket b \rrbracket_1 \\ &\quad - \llbracket c \rrbracket_1 + \beta \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 - \alpha \beta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket v \rrbracket_2 &= \varepsilon \llbracket z \rrbracket_2 + \alpha \llbracket b \rrbracket_2 \\ &\quad - \llbracket c \rrbracket_2 + \beta \llbracket a \rrbracket_2 - \alpha \beta \end{aligned}$$

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$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_n$$

# Checking Products



...



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$$\varepsilon$$

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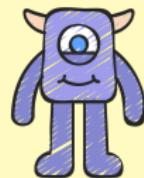
$$\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket_1, \llbracket \beta \rrbracket_1$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_1 = \varepsilon \llbracket z \rrbracket_1$$

$$-\llbracket c \rrbracket_1 + \beta \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 - \alpha \beta$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_1$$

$$v = \varepsilon(xy - z) + (ab - c)$$



$$v = 0$$

$$v \neq 0$$



$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket_n, \llbracket y \rrbracket_n, \llbracket z \rrbracket_n \\ \llbracket a \rrbracket_n, \llbracket b \rrbracket_n, \llbracket c \rrbracket_n \end{aligned}$$

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$$\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket_n, \llbracket \beta \rrbracket_n$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_n = \varepsilon \llbracket z \rrbracket_n + \alpha \llbracket b \rrbracket_n$$

$$-\llbracket c \rrbracket_n + \beta \llbracket a \rrbracket_n - \alpha \beta$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_n$$

# Checking Products



...



$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket_1, \llbracket y \rrbracket_1, \\ \llbracket a \rrbracket_1, \llbracket b \rrbracket_1, \end{aligned}$$

$$\varepsilon$$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket_1 = \varepsilon \llbracket x \rrbracket_1 \\ \llbracket \beta \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket y \rrbracket_1 \end{aligned}$$

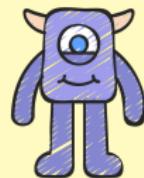
$$\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket_1, \llbracket \beta \rrbracket_1$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_1 = \varepsilon \llbracket z \rrbracket_1$$

$$-\llbracket c \rrbracket_1 + \beta \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 - \alpha \beta$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_1$$

$$v = \varepsilon(xy - z) + (ab - c)$$



$$v = 0$$

$$v \neq 0$$



Soundness error:  $1/|\mathbb{F}|$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket_n, \llbracket y \rrbracket_n, \llbracket z \rrbracket_n \\ \llbracket a \rrbracket_n, \llbracket b \rrbracket_n, \llbracket c \rrbracket_n \end{aligned}$$

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$$-\llbracket c \rrbracket_n + \beta \llbracket a \rrbracket_n - \alpha \beta$$

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_2$$

...

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket_n$$

## Example: Subset-Sum

Given  $(w_1, \dots, w_\ell, t) \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^{\ell+1}$ , find  $(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$  s.t.

$$w_1 \cdot x_1 + \cdots + w_\ell \cdot x_\ell = t \bmod p$$

- **Linear relation:**  $w_1 \cdot x_1 + \cdots + w_\ell \cdot x_\ell = t \bmod p$
- $x_i \in \{0, 1\} \xrightarrow{\text{Arithmetization}} x_i(x_i - 1) = 0 \bmod p$   
 $\rightsquigarrow \ell$  triples  $\rightsquigarrow 2\ell$  auxiliary values + Tree PRG
- For  $\ell = [\log_2(p)] = 256$ ,  $n = 256 \rightsquigarrow 264$  KB!

Shamir – Unpublished, 1986

1186 KB

Ling, Nguyen, Stehlé, Wang – PKC 2013

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|                                             |         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
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  - $\rightsquigarrow$  post-quantum signatures (but not only!)
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