

# Security of Hedged Fiat–Shamir Signatures under Fault Attacks

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# This Talk in a Nutshell...

- **Goal**

- Formally analyze the fault-resilience of existing Fiat–Shamir signatures, motivated by actual attacks.

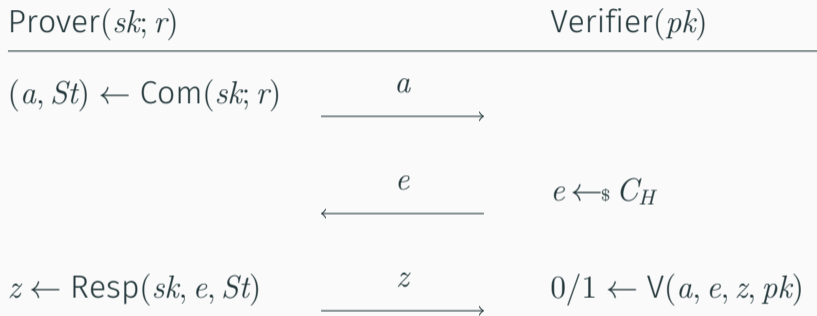
- **Outline**

1. Brief history of the fault attacks on FS signatures and randomness hedging.
2. Fault attacker model.
3. Overview of our provable security analysis.

# Fiat-Shamir-type Signatures and Attacks

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# Signature from Canonical ID Protocol



- If ID is special HVZK and special sound (=Σ-protocol), then  $\text{SIG} := \mathbf{FS}[\text{ID}]$  is UF-CMA secure.

# Signature from Canonical ID Protocol

$\text{Sign}(sk, m; r)$		$\text{Verifier}(pk, m)$
$(a, St) \leftarrow \text{Com}(sk; r)$		
$e \leftarrow H(a, m)$		
$z \leftarrow \text{Resp}(sk, e, St)$	$\xrightarrow{a, e, z}$	$0/1 \leftarrow V(a, e, z, pk)$
		$H(a, m) \stackrel{?}{=} e$

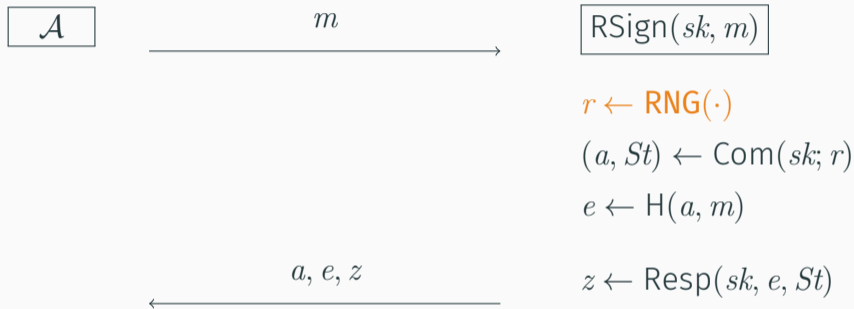
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# Sensitivity of Per-signature Randomness



- $r$  **must** follow the uniform distribution.
- Otherwise there is an attack!

- Poorly designed RNGs.
- VM resets  $\rightsquigarrow$  same snapshot will end up with the same seed.
- Side-channel leakage.
- and more...



The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a 'Sign in' button, and links for News, Sport, Weather, Shop, Earth, Travel, and More. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for Home, UK, World, Business, Politics, Tech, Science, Health, and Family & Education. The main content area is titled 'Technology' and features the article headline 'iPhone hacker publishes secret Sony PlayStation 3 key'. The author is identified as Jonathan Fildes, a Technology reporter for BBC News. The article is dated 6 January 2011. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, Email, and a general 'Share' button. A short summary of the article is provided, stating that PlayStation 3's security has been broken by hackers, potentially allowing anyone to run any software, including pirated games, on the console. An image of a PlayStation 3 console is shown to the right of the summary. The main text of the article begins with 'A collective of hackers recently showed off a method that could force the system to reveal secret keys used to load'.

BBC news. 2011. <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-12116051>



## Popular Solution: Deterministic Randomness Generation

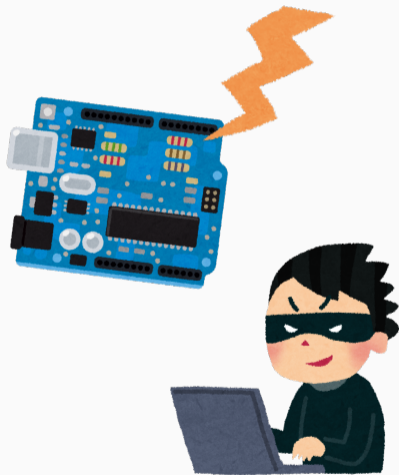
$$~~r \leftarrow \text{RNG}(\cdot)~~$$

$$r \leftarrow H'(sk, m)$$

- Hash each message keyed with  $sk$ .
- Widely implemented, e.g., in EdDSA, ECDSA, Dilithium, etc.
- However, another practical issue arises...

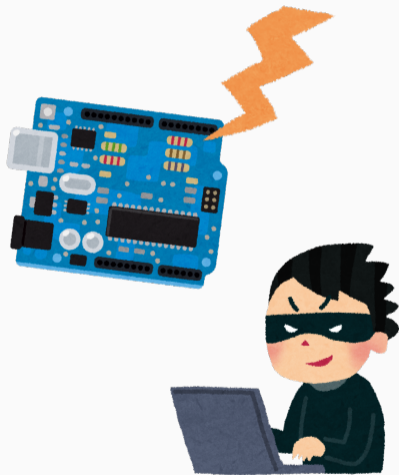
# Deterministic FS is Vulnerable to Faults!

- Fault attack
  - Modifies the internal state of the device.
  - Can be performed remotely (e.g., **Rowhammer**)
- Many recent fault attacks on FS! [BP16, ABF<sup>+</sup>18, RP17, PSS<sup>+</sup>18, SB18, BP18, RJH<sup>+</sup>19]
- Idea: exploit determinism to rewind the prover (= signer).



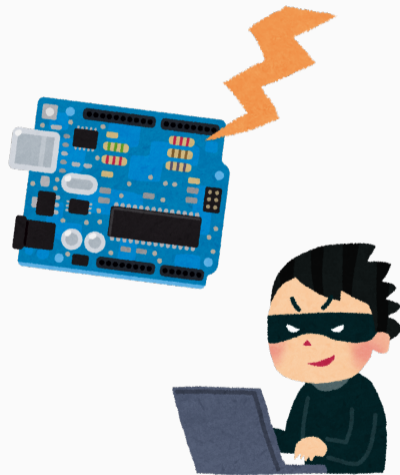
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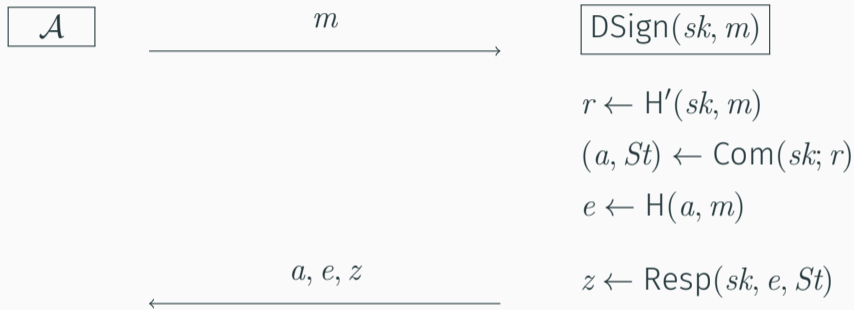


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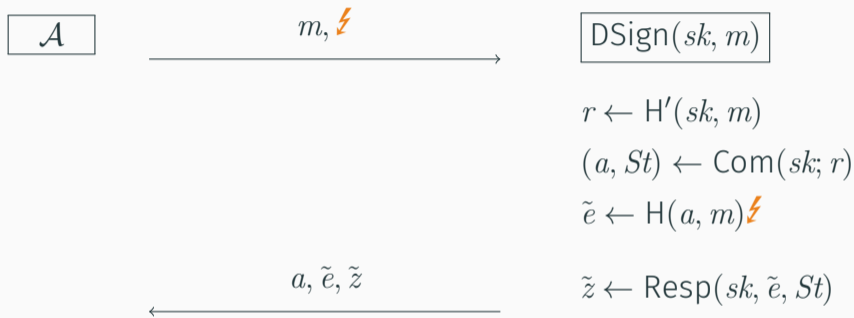


## Fault Adversary Type I: Special Soundness Attack



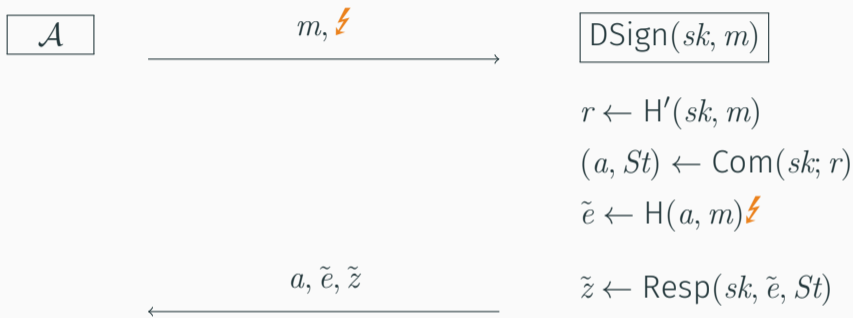
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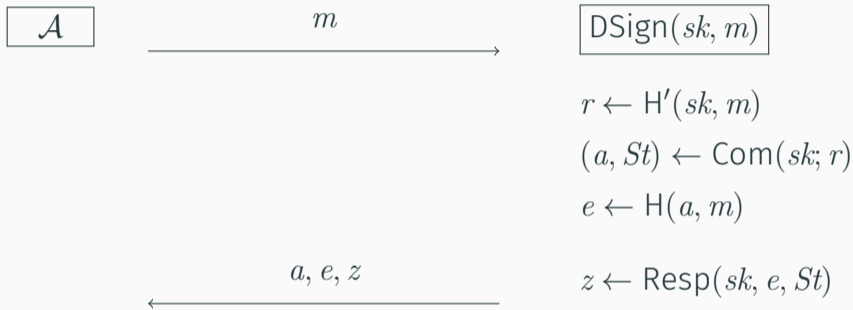
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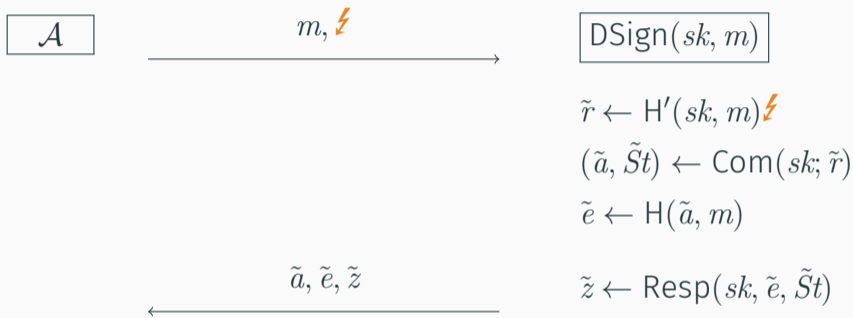
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- Second signature relies on correlated randomness  $\tilde{r} = r + \Delta!$

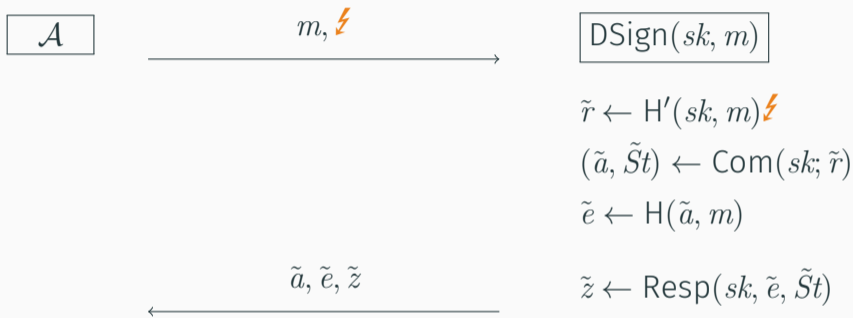


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## Better Countermeasure? – Randomness Hedging

$$\cancel{r \leftarrow \text{RNG}(\cdot)}$$

$$\cancel{r \leftarrow H'(sk, m)}$$

$$r \leftarrow H'(sk, m, \textit{nonce})$$

- Nonces could be from low-quality PRNG, or just a counter.
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*To what extent are hedged FS signatures secure against fault attacks?*

- Formal attacker model and security notions to capture the corrupted nonces and previous fault attacks.
- Proved that **hedged FS schemes in general** are (in)secure against certain class of fault attacks.
- Application to concrete instantiations.
  - XEdDSA: Variant of EdDSA used in Signal
  - Picnic2: NIST PQC competition round 2 candidate

# Attacker Model and Security Notions

---



- **UF-fCMNA Security**
  - **UnForgeability** against **Faults**, **Chosen Message** and **Nonce Attacks**
  - Models hedged construction and corrupted nonces (inspired by [BPS16, BT16]).
  - Equips the adversary with bit-tampering fault attacks.
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# Modeling Fault Attackers

- $\text{flip\_bit}_i(x)$  does a logical negation of the  $i$ -th bit of  $x$ .

$\text{flip\_bit}_2(0110\dots) \rightarrow 0010\dots$

- $\text{set\_bit}_{i,b}(x)$  sets the  $i$ -th bit of  $x$  to  $b$ .

$\text{set\_bit}_{4,1}(0110\dots) \rightarrow 0111\dots$

- Focuses on the single-bit faults, characterizing recent attacks on FS.
- Models most basic transient fault attackers on data flow, e.g.,
  - CPU register values
  - Data buses
  - Memory cells

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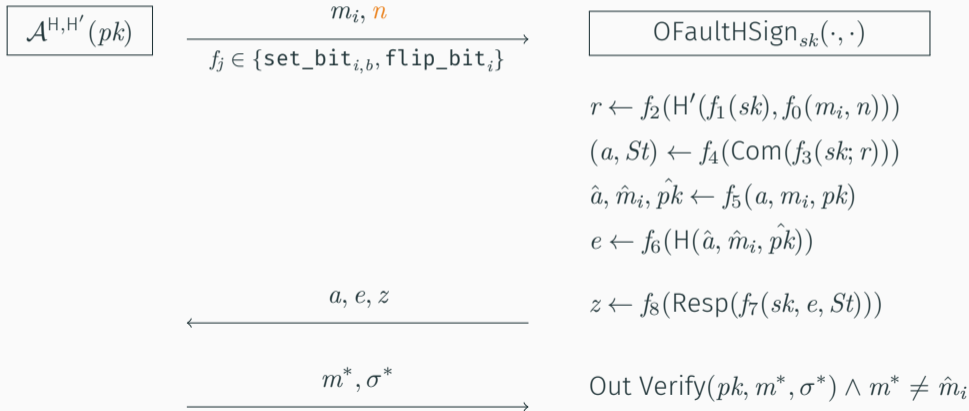
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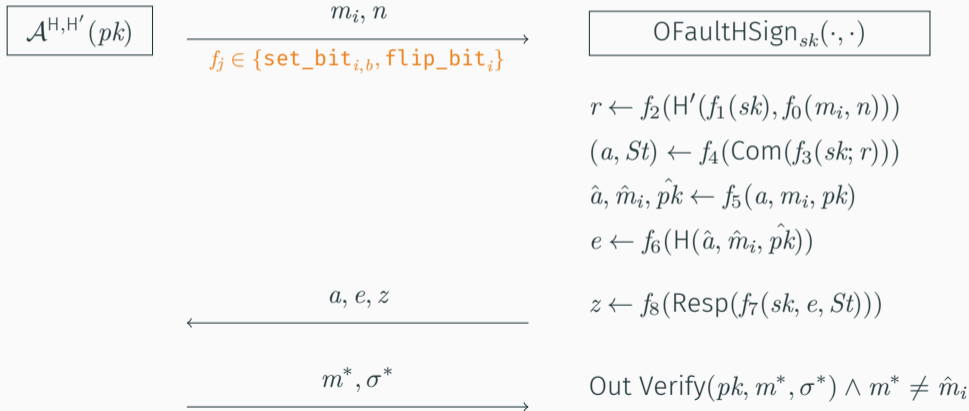
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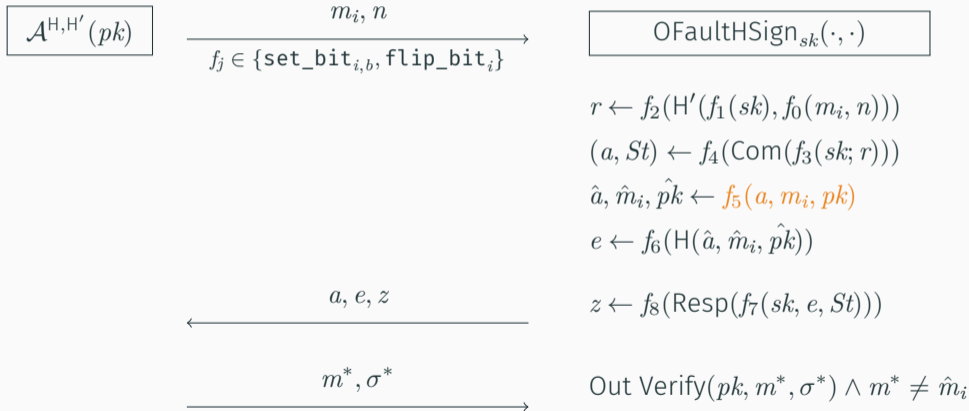
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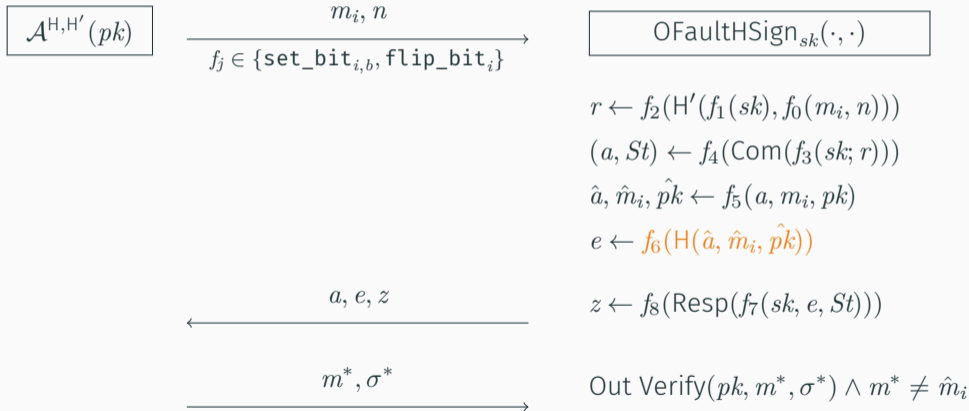
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# Provable Security Analysis

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UF-KOA  $\xrightarrow[\text{Non-repeating } (m, n)]{\text{special HVZK}}$  UF-fCMNA for  $\{f_1, f_5, f_6, f_8, f_9, f_{10}\}$

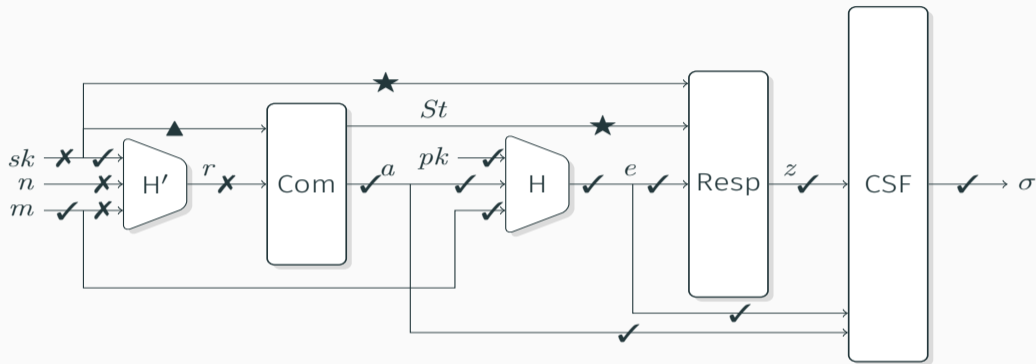
- UF-KOA (Key Only Attack):  $\mathcal{A}$  is not given signing oracle.
- UF-KOA  $\rightarrow$  UF-fCMNA
  - Simulate the faulty HSign oracle by invoking special HVZK simulator.
  - Non-repeating (message, nonce) is crucial, since otherwise the scheme is deterministic!

# Security Proof Overview

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# Overview of Our Results



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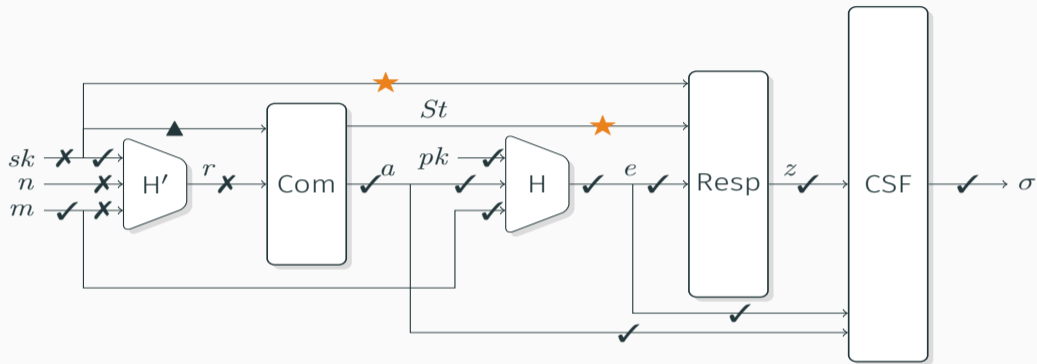
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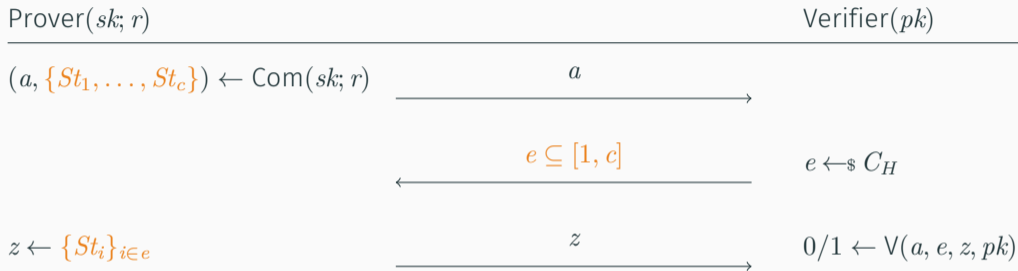
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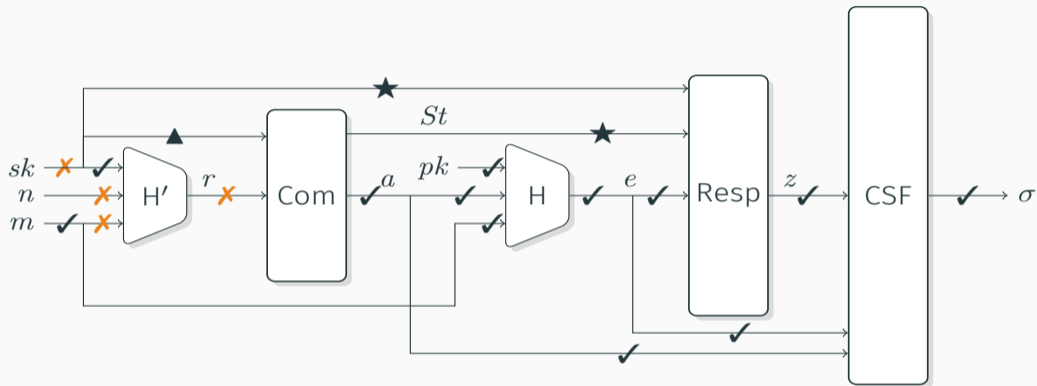
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## Main Positive Result + Subset Revealing ID



**Intuition:**  $\{St_i\}$  is resilient to faults since it doesn't rely on  $sk$ !

## Negative Results



- Fault on  $H'$  input  $(m, n) \rightsquigarrow$  degenerates to deterministic signature.
- Fault on  $H'$  output  $r \rightsquigarrow$  directly causes randomness bias.
  - Remark: still better than DSign, as large randomness bias doesn't occur.

# Application to Concrete Schemes

---

## XEdDSA

- EdDSA is essentially a deterministic Schnorr.
- XEdDSA = hedged Schnorr.
- More fault resilient than EdDSA/Schnorr!
- Already deployed in Signal protocol.

## Picnic2

- Derived from ZKP based on MPC-in-the-head by [KKW18].
- Picnic2 follows FS.
- Underlying ZKP is subset-revealing  
~> Hedged Picnic2 has more fault resistance!
- Specification recommends randomness hedging.

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## Conclusion

- Defined formal model and security notions tailored to FS.
- Proved (in)security of hedged FS signatures against basic faults and corrupt nonces.
- Hedging is provably more resilient than the randomized/deterministic FS, but  $H'$  input/output should be protected!
- Open questions
  - Extension to more advanced fault attacker model.
    - Multi-bit/position faults. Partially handled by Fischlin and Günther [FG20] (CT-RSA'20) for generic signatures.
    - Fault within Com, Resp or public parameters.
    - Model for instruction skipping faults.
    - Fault + QROM.
  - Lattice signatures from FS with aborts.

*Thank you!*

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- Proved (in)security of hedged FS signatures against basic faults and corrupt nonces.
- Hedging is provably more resilient than the randomized/deterministic FS, but  $H'$  input/output should be protected!
- Open questions
  - Extension to more advanced fault attacker model.
    - Multi-bit/position faults. Partially handled by Fischlin and Günther [FG20] (CT-RSA'20) for generic signatures.
    - Fault within Com, Resp or public parameters.
    - Model for instruction skipping faults.
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  - Lattice signatures from FS with aborts.

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