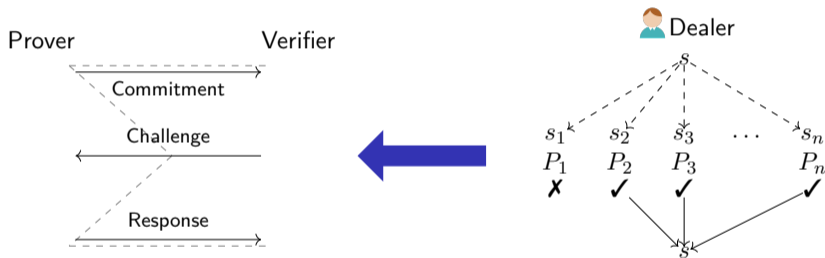


# Sigma Protocols from Verifiable Secret Sharing and Their Applications



Min Zhang  
Shandong University

joint work<sup>1</sup> with Yu Chen, Chuanzhou Yao and Zhichao Wang

<sup>1</sup>ASIACRYPT 2023: Sigma Protocols from Verifiable Secret Sharing and Their Applications.  
Min Zhang, Yu Chen, Chuanzhou Yao, Zhichao Wang.

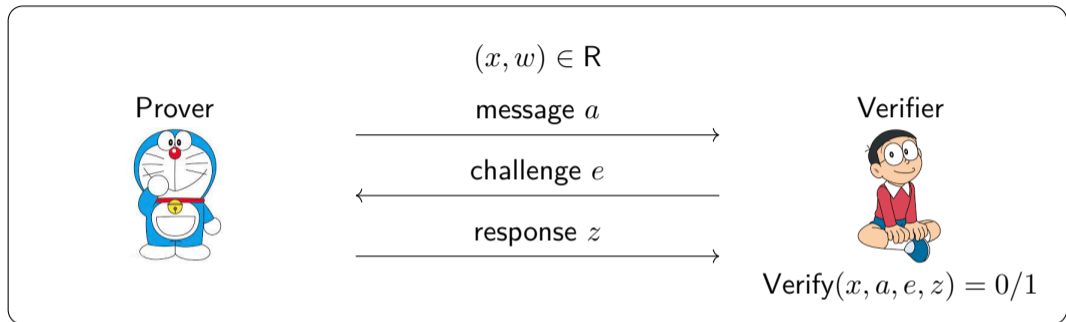
# Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Sigma Protocols from VSS-in-the-Head
- 3 Applications of VSS-in-the-Head
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## Sigma ( $\Sigma$ ) Protocols (PhD Thesis 1996: Cramer)



- **Completeness:**  $\Pr[\langle \mathcal{P}(x, w), \mathcal{V}(x) \rangle = 1 \mid (x, w) \in R] = 1$
- **$n$ -Special soundness:**  $\exists$  PPT Ext that given any  $x$  and any  $n$  accepting transcripts  $(a, e_i, z_i)$  with distinct  $e_i$ 's can extract  $w$  s.t.  $(x, w) \in R$
- **Special honest verifier zero-knowledge (SHVZK):**  $\exists$  PPT Sim s.t. for any  $x$  and  $e$ ,  $\text{Sim}(x, e) \equiv \langle \mathcal{P}(x, w), \mathcal{V}(x, e) \rangle$

## Attractive Properties of Sigma Protocols

- Efficient for algebraic statements
  - Schnorr protocol [Sch91]:  $x = g^w$
  - Okamoto protocol [Oka92]:  $x = g^w h^r$
  - Guillou-Quisquater (GQ) protocol [GQ88]:  $x = w^e \pmod N$
- Can be easily combined to prove compound statements, such as AND/OR
- Provide a simple way to establish proof-of-knowledge property
- Fiat-Shamir heuristic [FS86] helps to remove interaction: SHVZK  $\rightsquigarrow$  Full ZK
- Enable numerous real-world applications



Identification protocols



(Ring) Signature schemes



Anonymous credentials



Privacy-preserving cryptocurrency

## Research on Sigma Protocols

### Classic $\Sigma$ protocols

- Schnorr [Sch91]
- Okamoto [Oka92]
- GQ [GQ88]



### Improve efficiency

- Batch-Schnorr [GLSY04]



### Enrich functionality

- Commitments to bits [Bou00, GK15, BCC<sup>+</sup>15]
- $k$ -out-of- $n$  proofs [CDS94, GK15, AAB<sup>+</sup>21]
- Lattice-based problems [YAZ<sup>+</sup>19, BLS19, LNP22]

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- Okamoto [Oka92]
- GQ [GQ88]

ingenious

but hand-crafted



### Improve efficiency

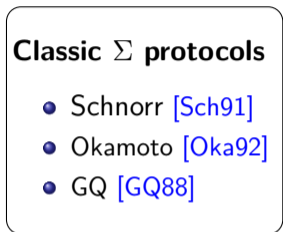
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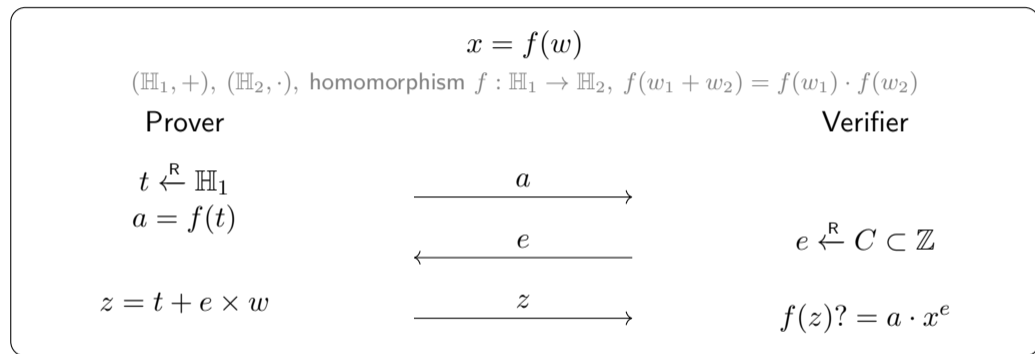
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*Whether there exists a common design principal of Sigma protocols?* 



## Related Works

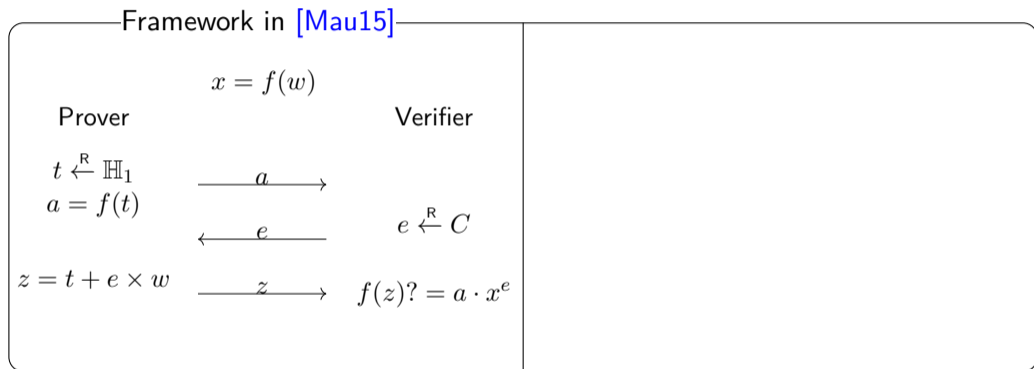
[Mau15] U. Maurer. Zero-knowledge proofs of knowledge for group homomorphisms.



It unifies a substantial body of works, including classic Schnorr [Sch91], GQ [GQ88] and Okamoto [Oka92] protocols. 😊

## Related Works

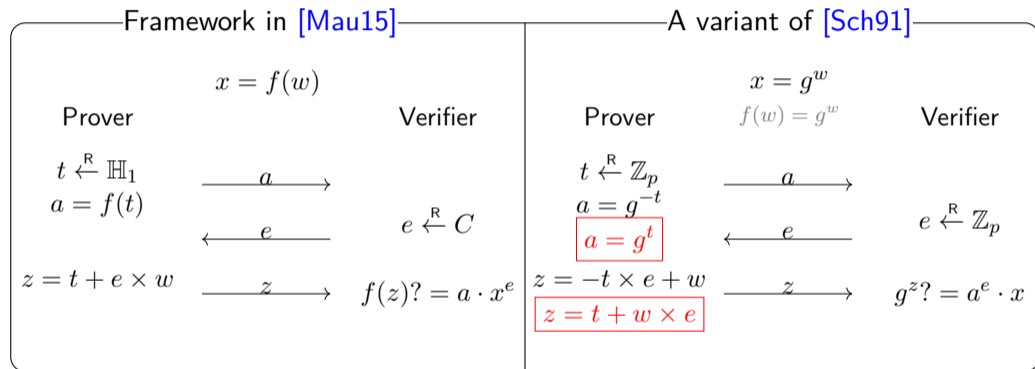
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The pattern is fixed  $\rightsquigarrow$  fail to explain some simple variants of classic protocols 😞

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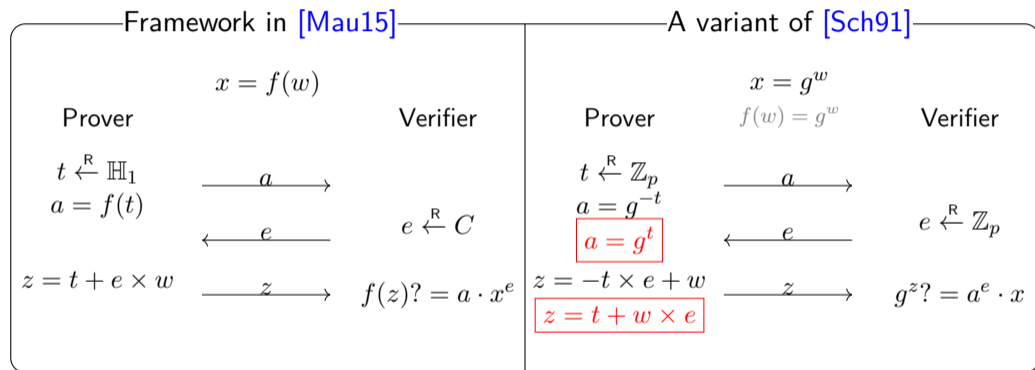
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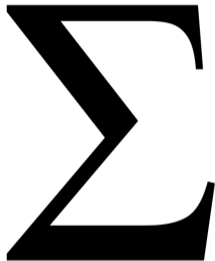
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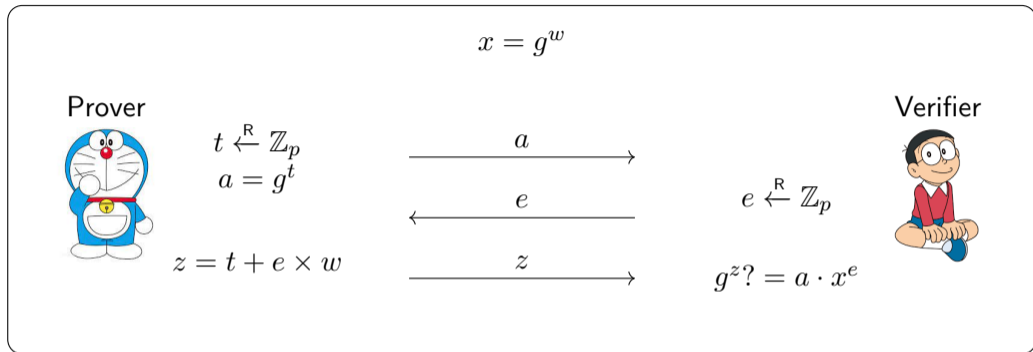
The pattern is fixed  $\rightsquigarrow$  fail to explain some simple variants of classic protocols 😞  
 $\rightsquigarrow$  the machinery of Sigma protocols is still unclear.

## Motivation



*Is there a more generic framework of Sigma protocols?*

## The Schnorr Protocol (JoC 1991: Schnorr)



- **Completeness:**  $g^z = g^{t+e \times w} = g^t \cdot g^{w \times e} = a \cdot x^e$
- **2-Special soundness:**  $\text{Ext}(x, (a, e_1, z_1), (a, e_2, z_2)) \rightarrow w = (z_1 - z_2)/(e_1 - e_2)$
- **SHVZK:**  $\text{Sim}(x, e) \rightarrow (a, e, z)$ : pick  $z \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_p$  and set  $a = g^z \cdot x^{-e}$

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## MPC-in-the-head Revisit (STOC 2007: Ishai-Kushilevitz-Ostrovsky-Sahai)

MPC-in-the-Head

Prover



Verifier



$$C(w) = y$$

$C$ : arithmetic or  
boolean circuit



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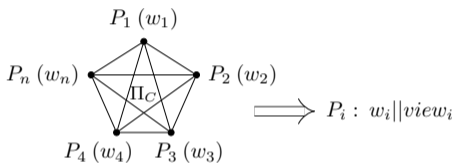


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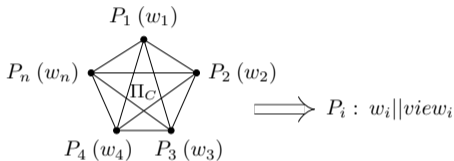
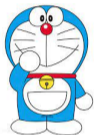


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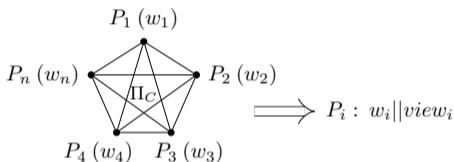
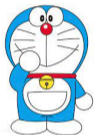


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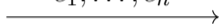
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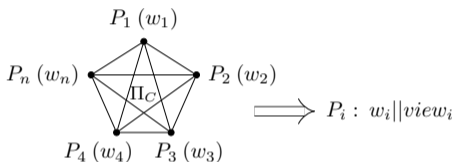
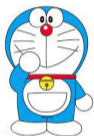


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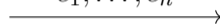
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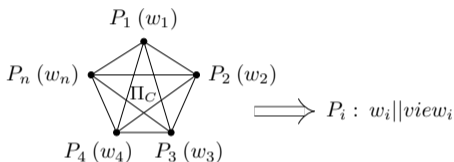


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$c_1, \dots, c_n$  →

←  $I \subset [n]$

→  $(w_i || \text{view}_i)_{i \in I}$

Verifier

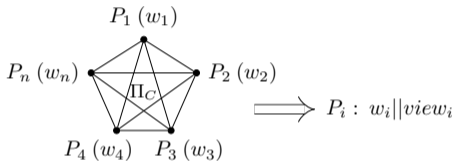


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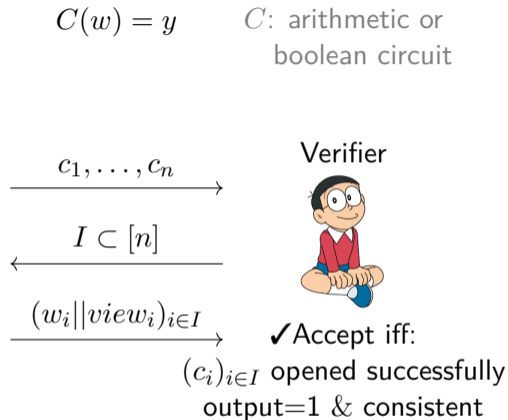
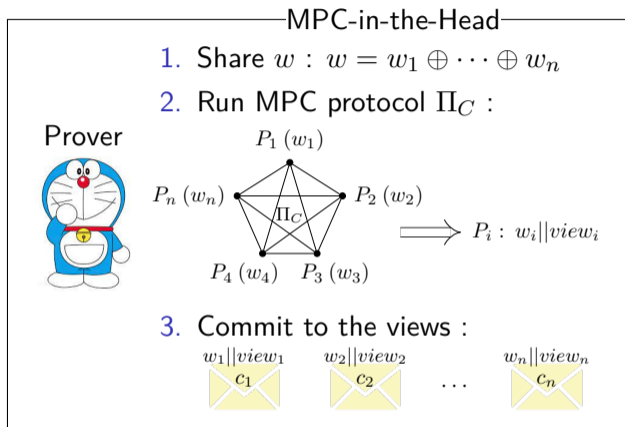
$I \subset [n]$

$(w_i || \text{view}_i)_{i \in I}$

✓ Accept iff:

$(c_i)_{i \in I}$  opened successfully  
output=1 & consistent

# MPC-in-the-head Revisit (STOC 2007: Ishai-Kushilevitz-Ostrovsky-Sahai)



**Fact:** MPC-in-the-head is a  $\Sigma$ -pattern protocol for arithmetic statements!

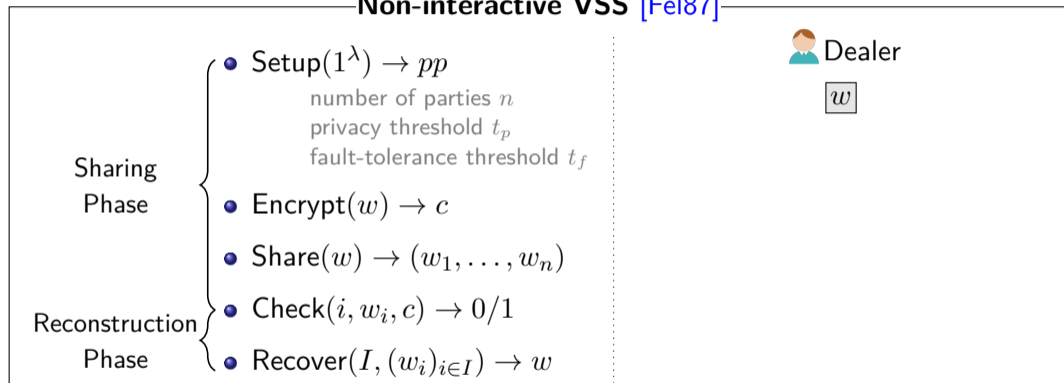
**Thinking:** algebraic statements are arguably simpler than arithmetic statements. When scaling down to algebraic statements, we may start from a lite machinery than MPC.



## VSS: A Lite Machinery than MPC

### A lite machinery than MPC: Verifiable Secret Sharing (VSS) [CGMA85]

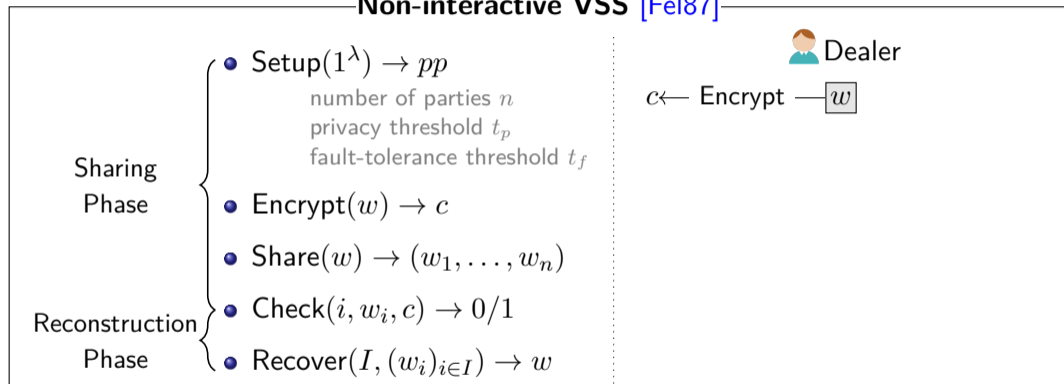
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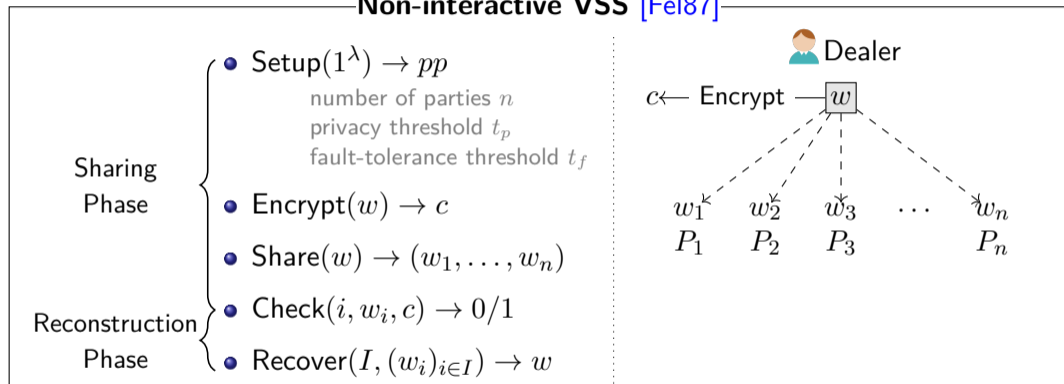
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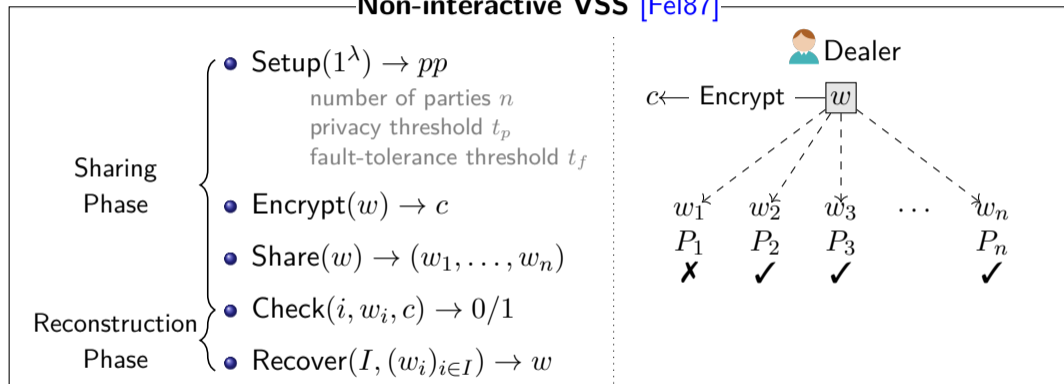
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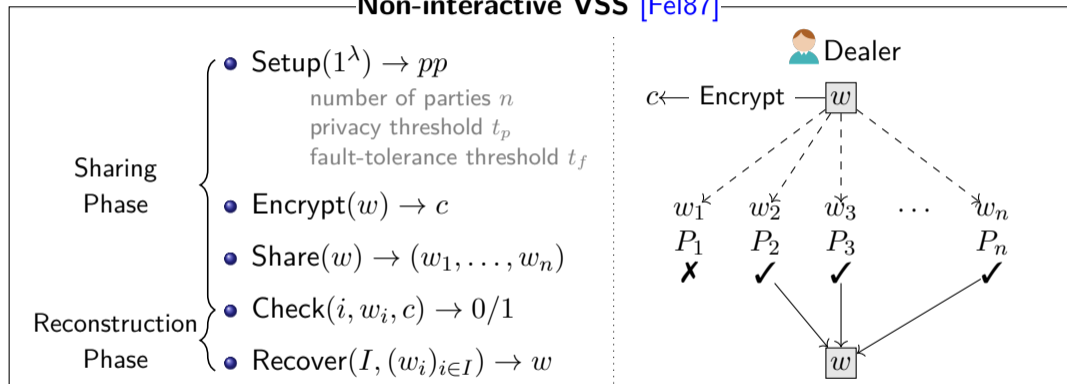
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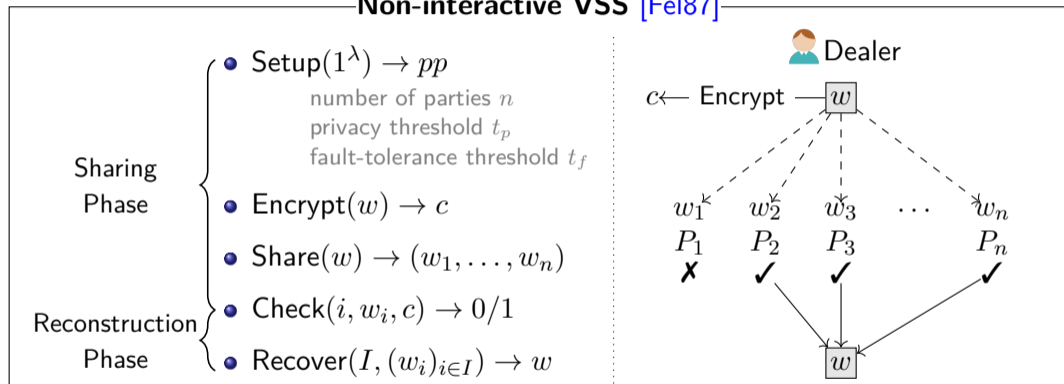
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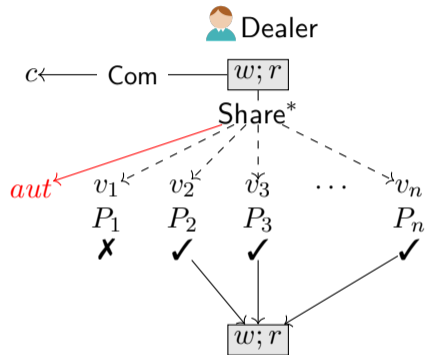
#### Non-interactive VSS [Fel87]



- **Acceptance:** valid shares  $w_i \Rightarrow \text{Check}(i, w_i, c) = 1$
- $t_p$ -**Privacy:**  $\#$  [shares]  $\leq t_p \Rightarrow$  leak nothing about  $w$
- **Consistency:**  $\#$  [valid shares]  $\geq t_f \Rightarrow$  unique  $w$  and recover  $w$

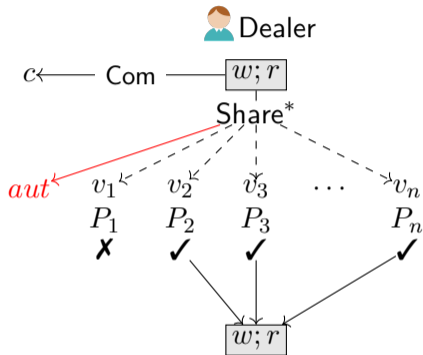
## A Refined Definition of VSS

- $\text{Setup}(1^\lambda) \rightarrow pp$   
include  $n, t_p, t_f$
- $\text{Share}(w) \rightarrow (c, (v_i)_{i \in [n]}, \text{aut})$ 
  - $\text{Com}(w; r) \rightarrow c$   
 $r$ : could be empty
  - $\text{Share}^*(w, r) \rightarrow ((v_i)_{i \in [n]}, \text{aut})$   
 $\text{aut}$ : authentication information  
(a commitment to the sharing procedure)
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- $\text{Recover}(I, (v_i)_{i \in I}) \rightarrow (w, r)$



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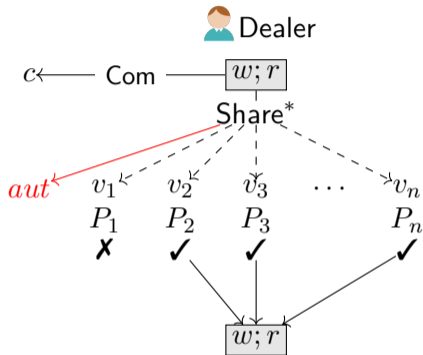


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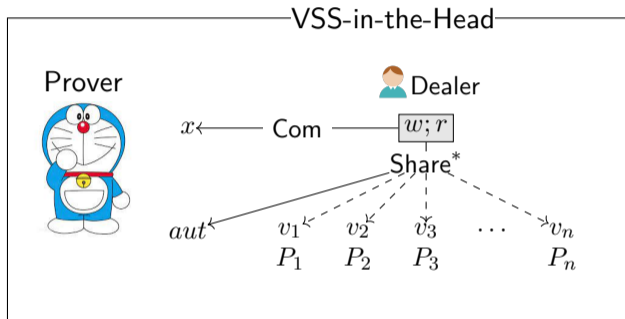
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- $t_p$ -**Privacy:**  $\#$  [shares]  $\leq t_p \Rightarrow$  leak nothing about  $w$
- $t_f$ -**Correctness:**  $\#$  [valid shares]  $\geq t_f \Rightarrow \text{recover}(w, r) \wedge \text{Com}(w; r) = c$

## Sigma Protocols from VSS



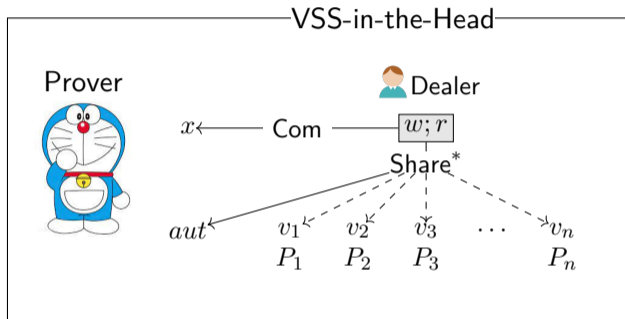
$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$

Com: an algebraic committing algorithm

Verifier

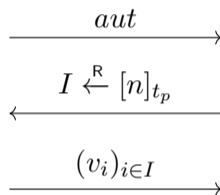


# Sigma Protocols from VSS



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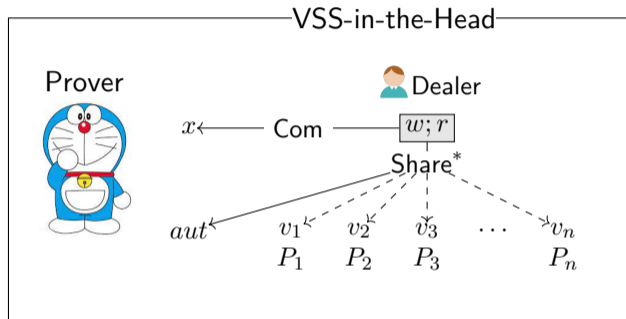
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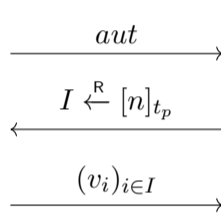


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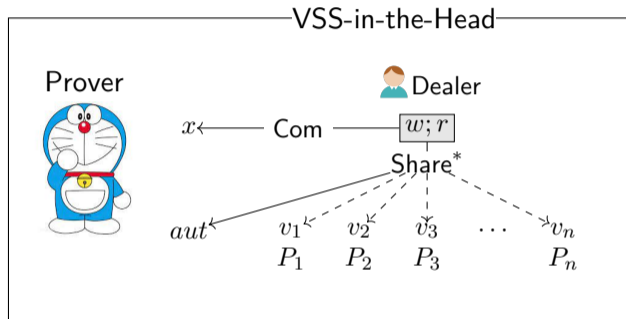
Verifier



✓ Accept iff:

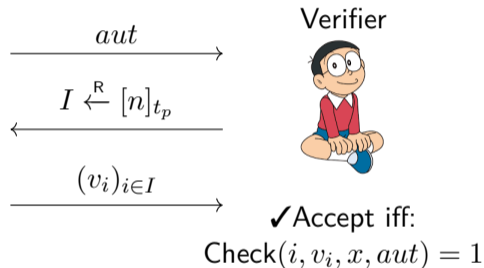
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## Sigma Protocols from VSS



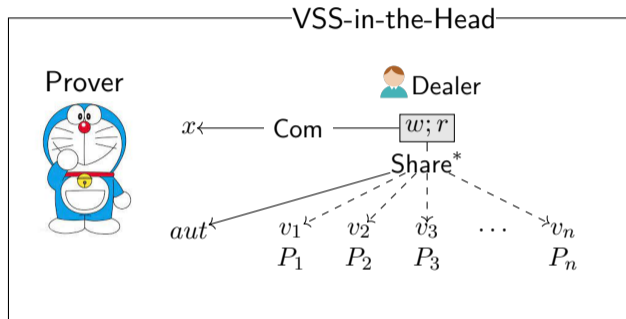
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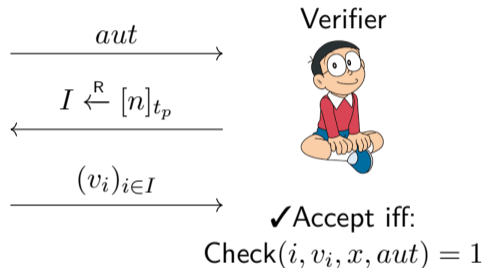
- Completeness  $\Leftarrow$  VSS Acceptance
- Special soundness  $\Leftarrow$  VSS  $t_f$ -Correctness
- SHVZK  $\Leftarrow$  VSS  $t_p$ -Privacy

## Sigma Protocols from VSS



$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$

Com: an algebraic committing algorithm

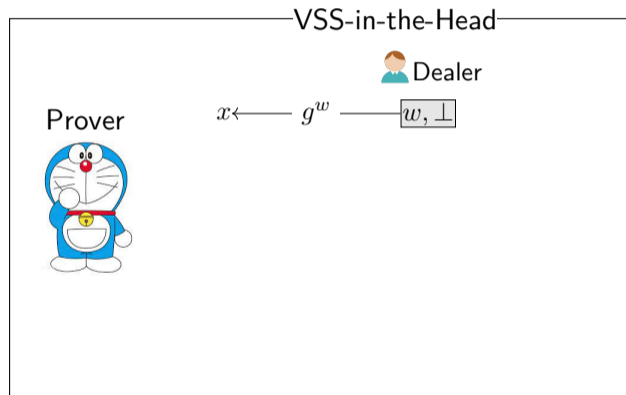


- Neatly explain classic Sigma protocols [Sch91, GQ88, Oka92].
- Give a generic way to construct Sigma protocols.

## Instantiation I: the Schnorr Protocol

Feldman's VSS scheme [Fel87]:

# [parties] =  $n$ , privacy threshold  $t_p = 1$ , fault-tolerance threshold  $t_f = 2$ .



$$g^w = x \quad (r = \perp)$$

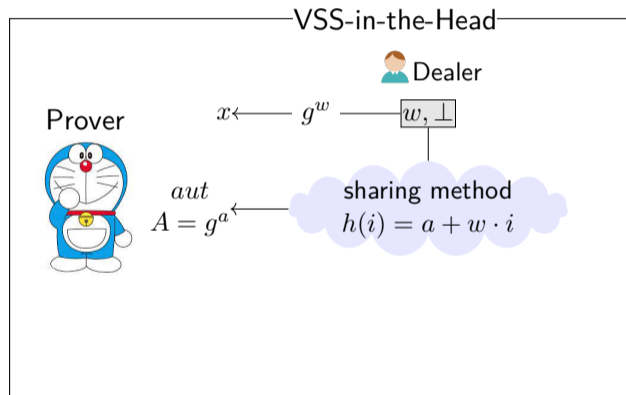
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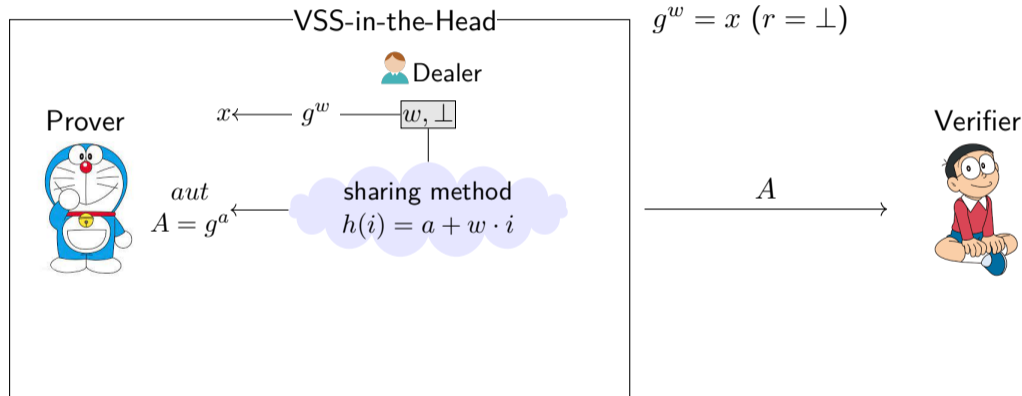
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Feldman's VSS scheme [Fel87]:

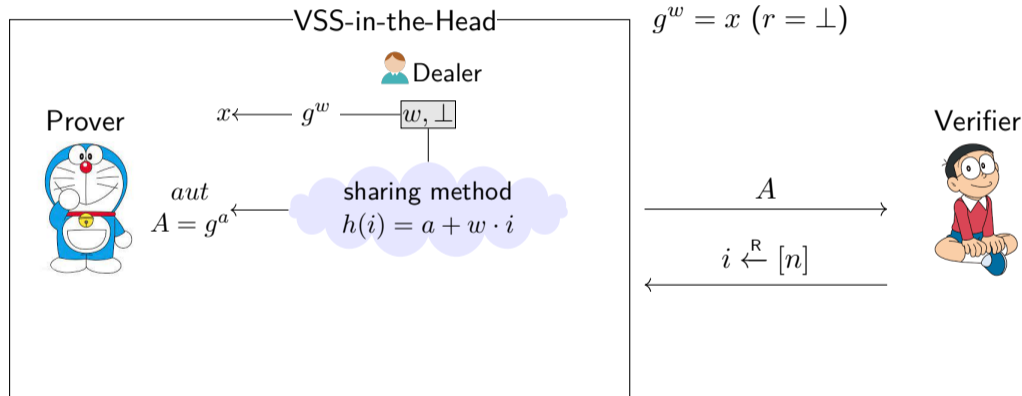
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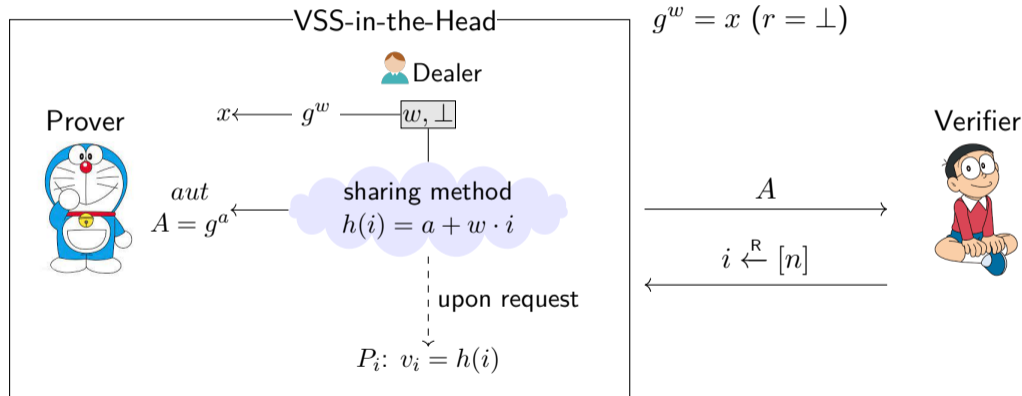
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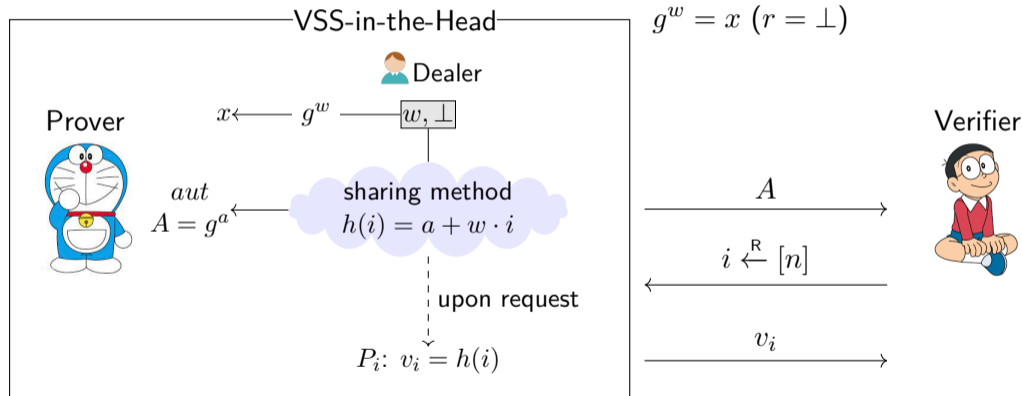
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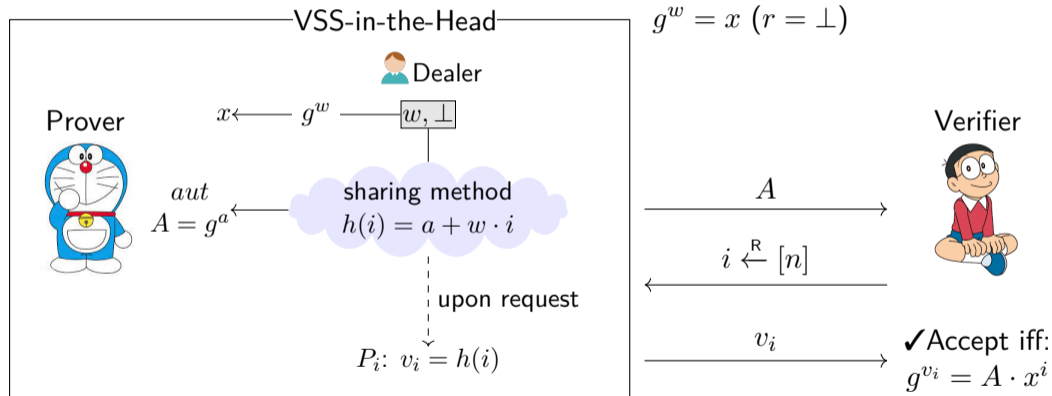
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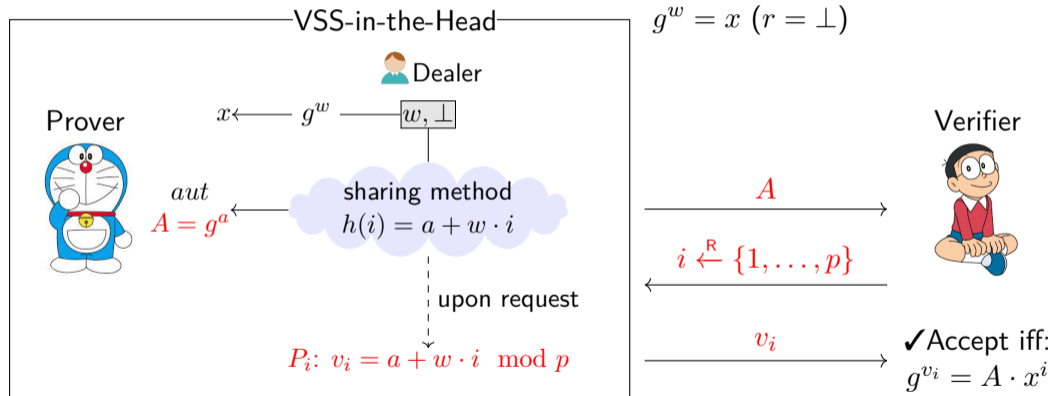
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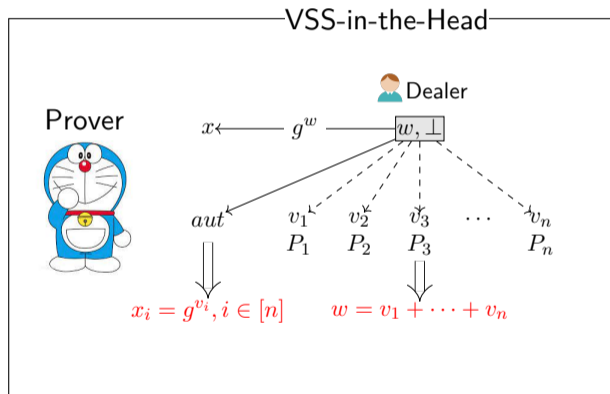


Set  $n = |\mathbb{Z}_p| \Rightarrow$  Schnorr protocol [Sch91].

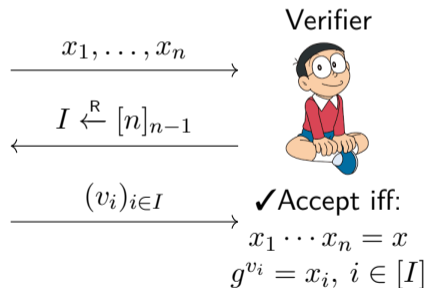
## Instantiation II: A New Sigma Protocol for DL

Additive VSS scheme:

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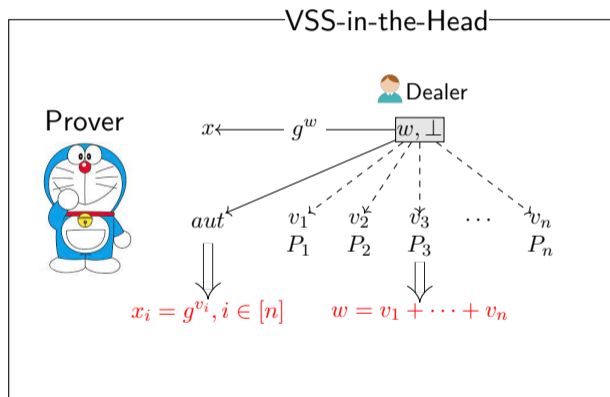
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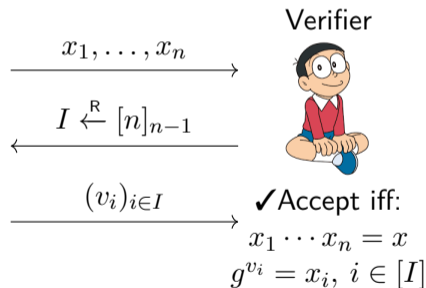
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Additive VSS scheme:

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$$g^w = x(r = \perp)$$



A Sigma protocol for DL with 2-special soundness.

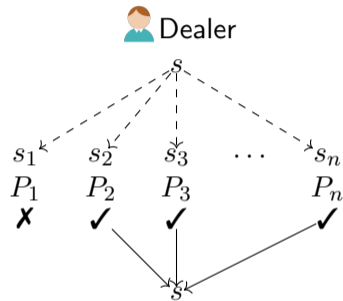
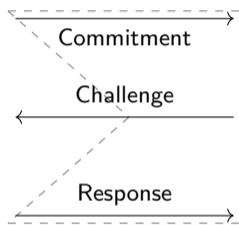


# Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Sigma Protocols from VSS-in-the-Head
- 3 Applications of VSS-in-the-Head**
- 4 Summary

Prover

Verifier



*Is there any other application of VSS-in-the-Head?*

# Forms of Statements in Zero-knowledge Proofs (ZKPs)

## Algebraic Statements

functions over some groups



Sigma ( $\Sigma$ ) protocols

- Schnorr [Sch91]
- Okamoto [Oka92]
- GQ [GQ88]

I know  $w$  such that

$$g^w = x$$



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$$g^w = x$$



## Non-Algebraic Statements

boolean/arithmetic circuits



General-purpose ZKPs

- PCP, IPCP, IOP [Kil92]
- Linear PCP [IKO07]
- Garbled circuit [JKO13]

I know  $w$  such that

$$\text{SHA}(w) = x$$



# Composite Statements

Algebraic Statements

e.g.  $g^{w_1} = x$

+

Non-Algebraic Statements

e.g.  $\text{SHA}(w_2) = y$

$\sqcap$

combine in arbitrary ways

e.g.  $w_1 = w_2$

$\Downarrow$

Composite Statements

I know  $w$  such that  
 $g^w = x \wedge \text{SHA}(w) = y$



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**Commit-and-Prove Type:**

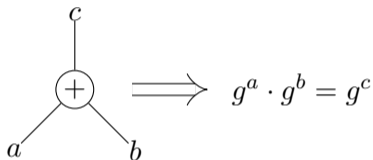
I know  $w$  such that  
 $\text{Com}(w) = x \wedge C(w) = y$

algebraic      arithmetic or  
commitment    boolean circuit

## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

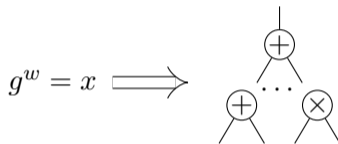
Naïve method: Homogenize the form then use only  $\Sigma$  protocols or general-purpose ZKPs.

circuits  $\Rightarrow$  algebraic constraints



# [public-key ops] and # [group elements]  
linear to the circuit size

algebraic constraints  $\Rightarrow$  circuits



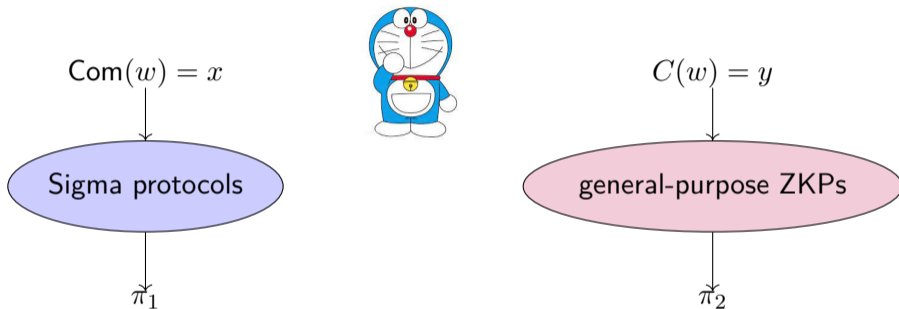
size of the statements  
dramatically increases <sup>2</sup>

☹ Both directions introduce significant overhead.

<sup>2</sup>As noted by [AGM18], the circuit for computing a single exponentiation could be of thousands or millions of gates depending on the group size.

## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

- A better method:

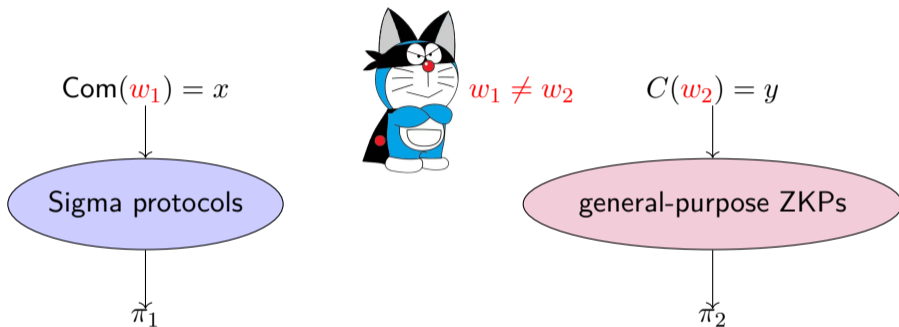


Take advantages of both Sigma protocols and general-purpose ZKPs. 😊



## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

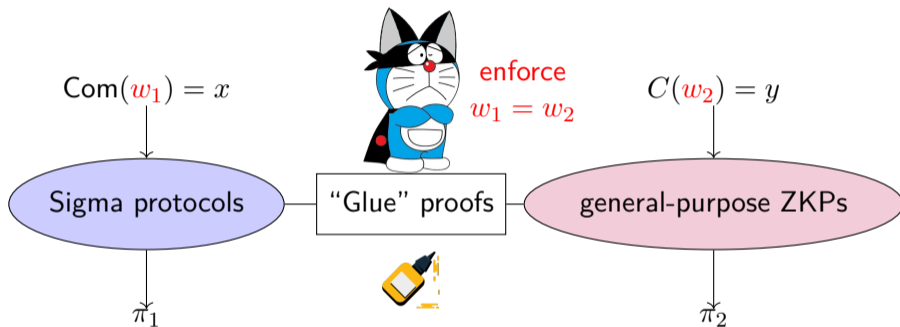
- A better method:



A malicious prover could generate  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  using  $w_1 \neq w_2$ . 😞

## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

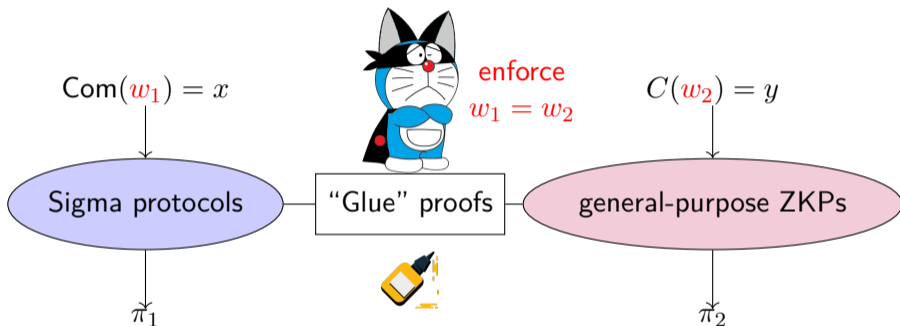
- A better method: [CGM16, AGM18, CFQ19, ABC<sup>+</sup>22, BHH<sup>+</sup>19]



The prover is enforced to generate  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  using  $w_1 = w_2$ . 😊

## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

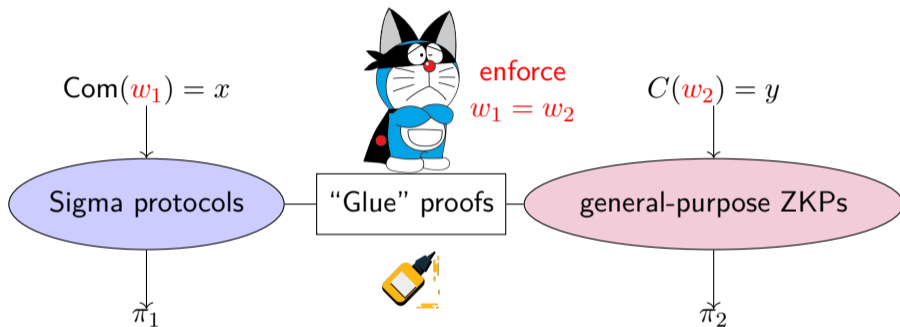
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- ① Inevitably incur additional overheads in computation cost and proof size 😞
- ② Must be tailored in a specific way to align with the general-purpose ZKPs  
↪ Require extra design efforts 😞

## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

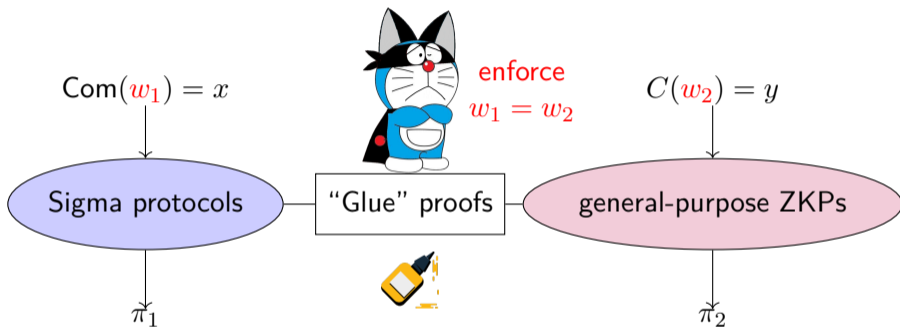
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*Whether the seemingly indispensable "glue" proofs are necessary?*

## ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

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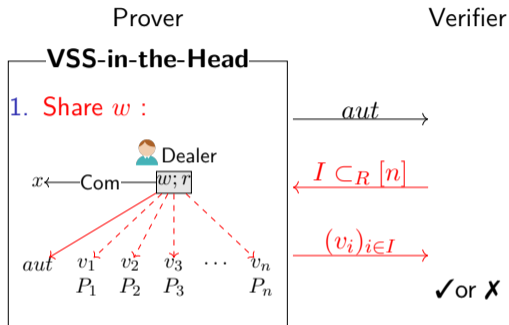
*Whether the seemingly indispensable "glue" proofs are necessary?*



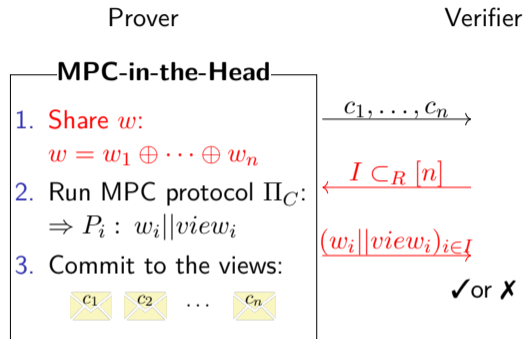
VSS-in-the-head paradigm gives rise to a generic construction of ZKPs for composite statements without "glue" proofs

## Main Observation

$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$

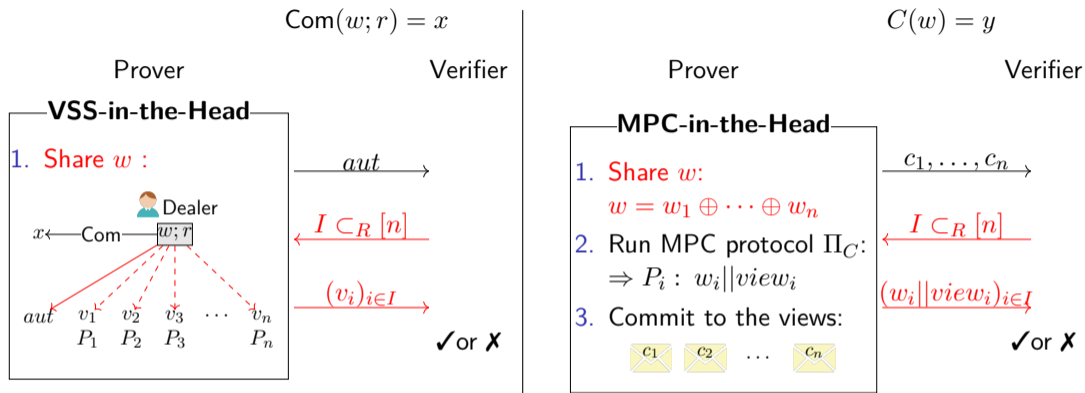


$$C(w) = y$$



Share the same  $\Sigma$  pattern & same secret sharing procedure!

## Main Observation



Share the same  $\Sigma$  pattern & same secret sharing procedure!

reuse witness sharing procedure

⇒ Enforce the prover to use consistent witness without “glue” proofs



## Two Main Technical Obstacles

1. The secret sharing mechanism in the MPC-in-the-head [IKOS07] sticks to  $w = w_1 \oplus \dots \oplus w_n$  (a special case of  $(n, n - 1, n)$ -SS scheme).

↪ Make it hard to interact with general  $(n, t_p, t_f)$ -VSS schemes.

2. The relationship between VSS and SS is unclear.

↪ Make it difficult to reuse the common part of witness sharing procedure.



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## A Generalized Version of MPC-in-the-Head

### MPC-in-the-Head

Prover



1. Share  $w$  :

$$w = w_1 \oplus \dots \oplus w_n$$

$(n, n-1, n)$ -secret sharing scheme

$$(w_1, \dots, w_n) \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(w)$$

$(n, t_p, t_f)$ -secret sharing scheme

2. Run MPC protocol  $\Pi_C$  :

$$\Rightarrow P_i : w_i || \text{view}_i$$

3. Commit to the views :

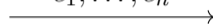


...

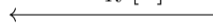


$$C(w) = y$$

$c_1, \dots, c_n$



$I \subset_R [n]$



$(w_i || \text{view}_i)_{i \in I}$



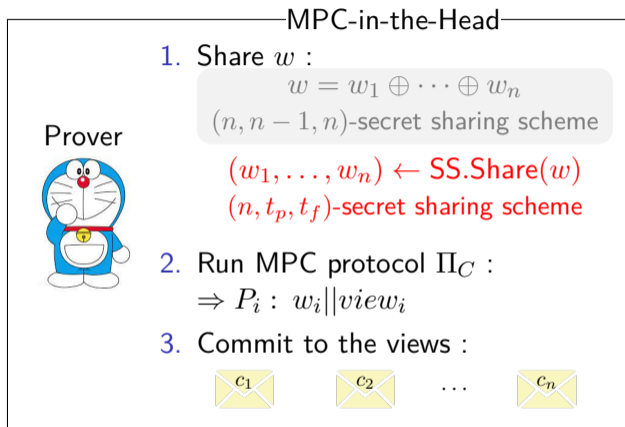
Verifier



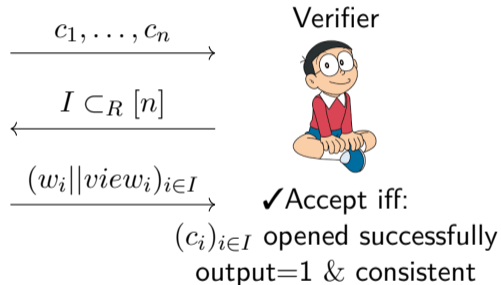
✓ Accept iff:

$(c_i)_{i \in I}$  opened successfully  
output=1 & consistent

## A Generalized Version of MPC-in-the-Head



$$C(w) = y$$



- Completeness  $\Leftarrow$  SS +  $\Pi_C$  + Commit correctness
- Special soundness  $\Leftarrow$   $\Pi_C$  consistency + SS correctness
- SHVZK  $\Leftarrow$  SS +  $\Pi_C$  privacy

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↪ Make it hard to interact with  $(n, t_p, t_f)$ -VSS schemes.

2. The relationship between VSS and SS is unclear.

↪ Make it difficult to reuse the common part of witness sharing procedure.

## Separable VSS: A Relationship between VSS and SS

### Definition 1 (Separability)

The algorithms  $\text{VSS.Share}^*(w, r) \rightarrow ((v_i)_{i \in [n]}, aut)$  can be dissected as below:

$$(w_i)_{i \in [n]} \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(w)$$

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$$\text{VSS.Share}^*(w, r)$$

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## Separable VSS: A Relationship between VSS and SS

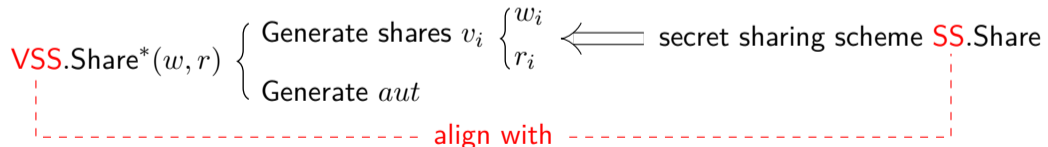
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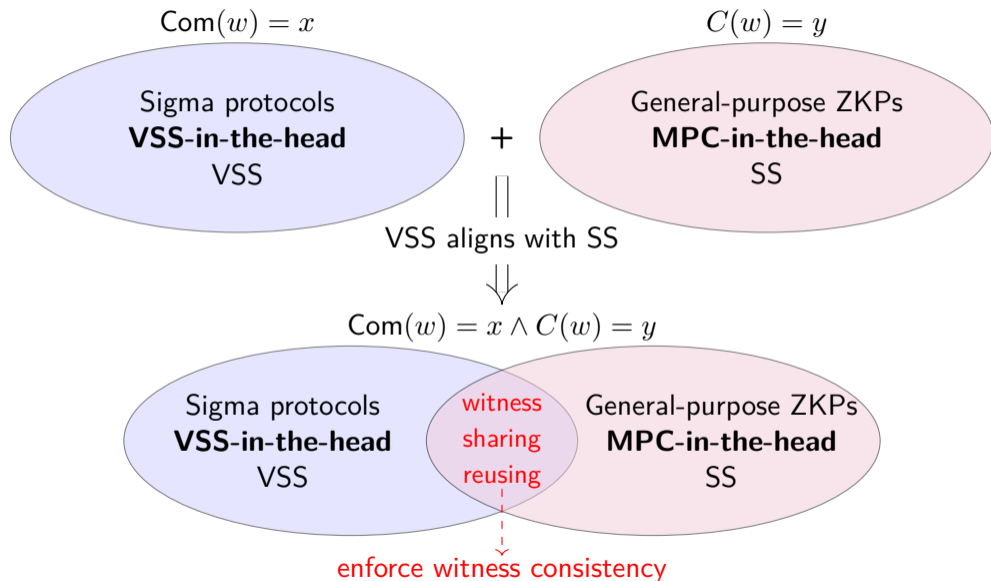
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## Combination of Two Worlds



## A Generic Construction of ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x \wedge C(w) = y$$

(VSS+MPC)-in-the-Head

Prover



1. Share  $w, r$  using  $\text{VSS.Share}^*$ :

$$(w_1, \dots, w_n) \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(w)$$

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2. Run MPC protocol  $\Pi_C$ :

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3. Commit to the views:



$$\xrightarrow{c_1, \dots, c_n, \text{aut}}$$

$$\xleftarrow{I \subset_R [n]}$$

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Verifier



Accept iff:

MPC-in-the-head check ✓

VSS-in-the-head check ✓

- Completeness  $\Leftarrow$  VSS separability+(VSS/MPC)-in-the-head completeness
- Special soundness  $\Leftarrow$  witness sharing reusing+(VSS/MPC)-in-the-head special soundness
- SHVZK  $\Leftarrow$  (VSS/MPC)-in-the-head SHVZK

## A Generic Construction of ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

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Verifier



Accept iff:

MPC-in-the-head check ✓

VSS-in-the-head check ✓



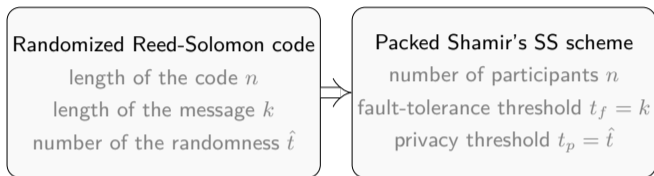
no “glue” proofs

public-coin

transparent

## An Instantiation from Ligero++ (CCS 2020: Bhaduria et al.)

Step 1: Identify the SS scheme  
used in Ligero++



## An Instantiation from Liger++ (CCS 2020: Bhaduria et al.)

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Step 2: Construct a VSS scheme  
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## An Instantiation from Ligero++ (CCS 2020: Bhaduria et al.)

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Solve the open problem  
left in [BHH<sup>+</sup>19] 😊:

the prover's running time is critical. As future work, it would be interesting to explore whether the approach by Ames et al. [4] can be used to achieve yet more efficient and compact NIZK proofs in cross-domains.

Protocols	Prover time	Verifier time	Proof size
[BHH <sup>+</sup> 19]	$O(( w  + \lambda)$ pub $O( C  \cdot \lambda)$ sym	$O(( w  + \lambda)$ pub $O( C  \cdot \lambda)$ sym	$O( C \lambda +  w )$
This work	$O(\lambda)$ pub $O( C  \log( C ))$ sym	$O(\frac{( w  + \lambda)^2}{\log( w  + \lambda)})$ pub $O( C )$ sym	$O(\text{polylog}( C ) + \lambda)$



# Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Sigma Protocols from VSS-in-the-Head
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- 4 Summary**

## Summary

- **A framework of Sigma protocols for algebraic statements**

- A refined definition of VSS
- VSS-in-the-head paradigm



- Neatly explain classic Sigma protocols [Sch91, GQ88, Oka92].
- Give a generic way to construct Sigma protocols.

- **A generic construction of ZKPs for commit-and-prove type composite statements**

- Technique: witness sharing reusing
- A Generalization of MPC-in-the-head paradigm
- Separability of VSS scheme: define the relationship between VSS and SS
- An instantiation from Liger++



no “glue” proofs







public-coin

transparent







Thanks for Your Attention!

Any Questions?







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