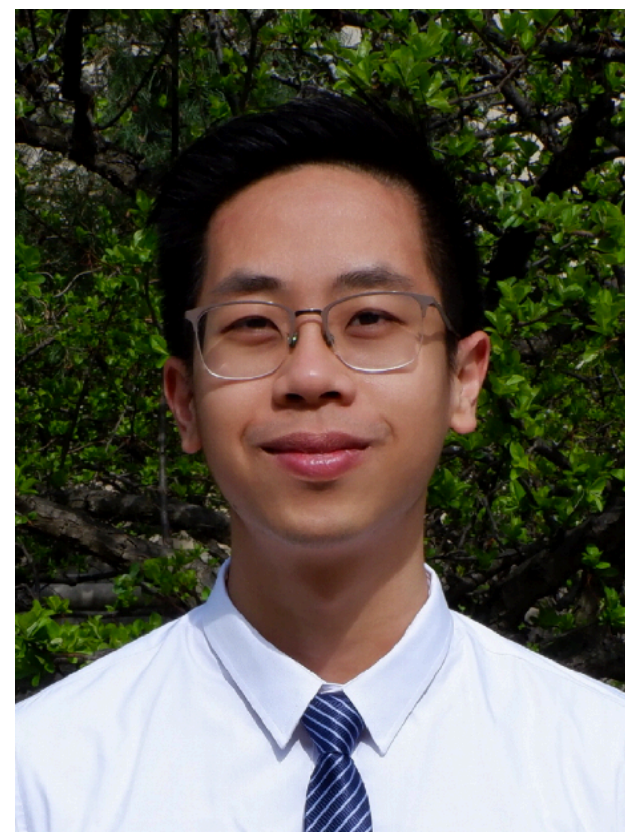


# Spartan & Bulletproofs are Simulation-Extractable (for Free!)

**Quang Dao**  
CMU



**Paul Grubbs**  
Michigan



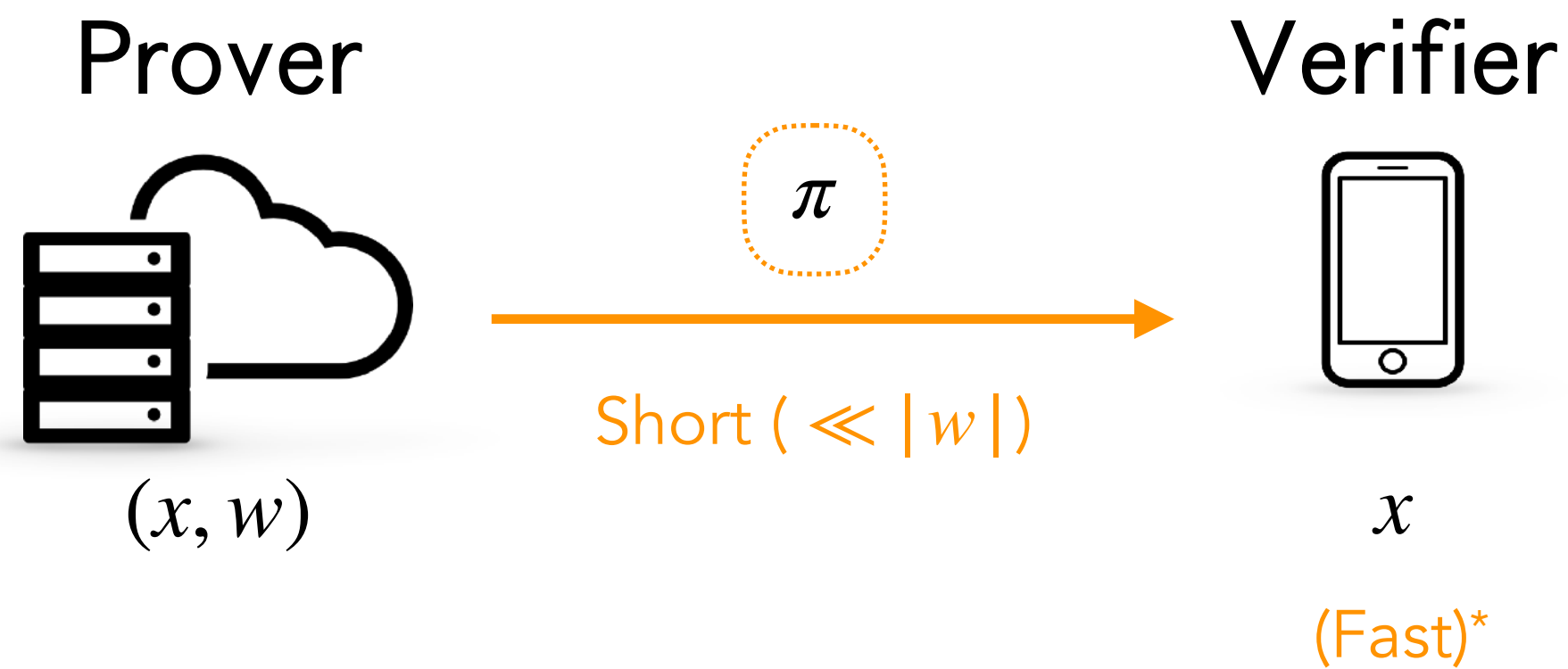
**Eurocrypt 2023**

# **zkSNARKs: Security & Use Cases**

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(Zero-knowledge Succinct Non-interactive ARguments of Knowledge)

*short, non-interactive proofs*

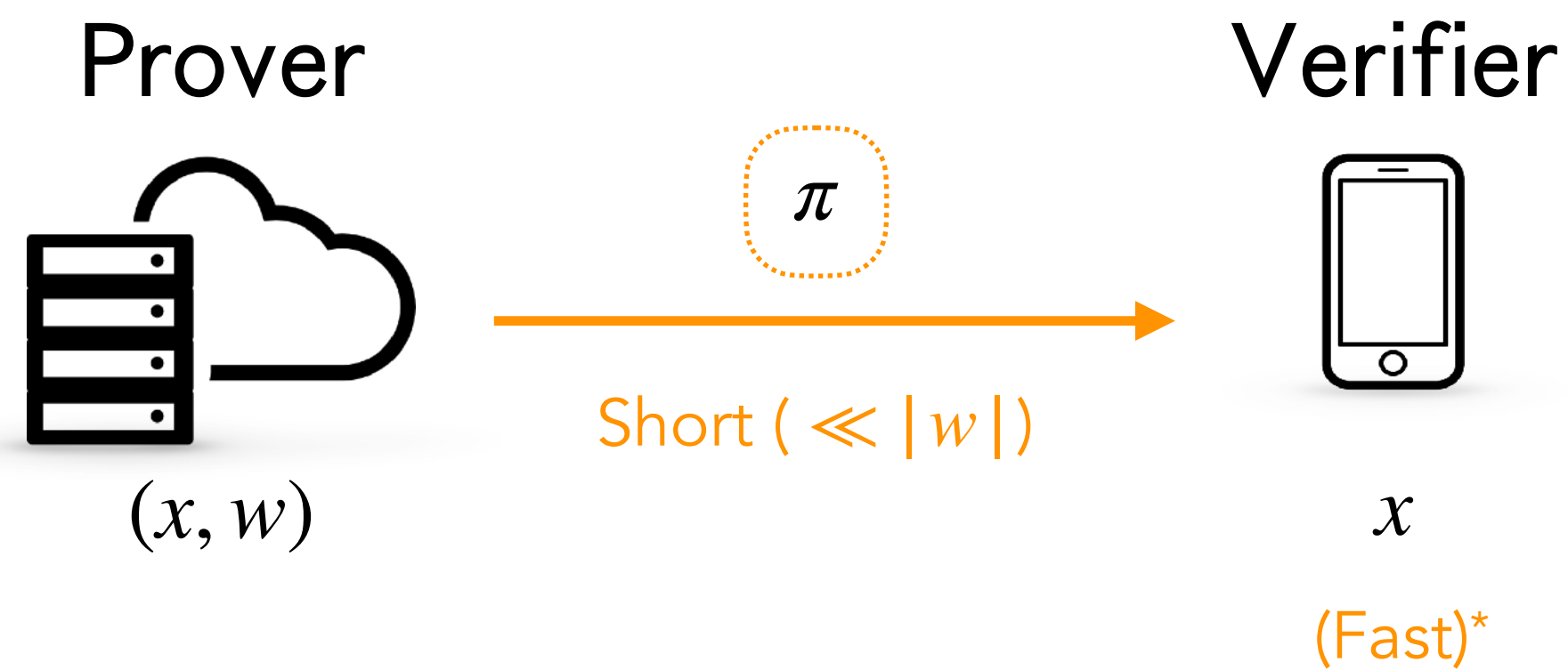


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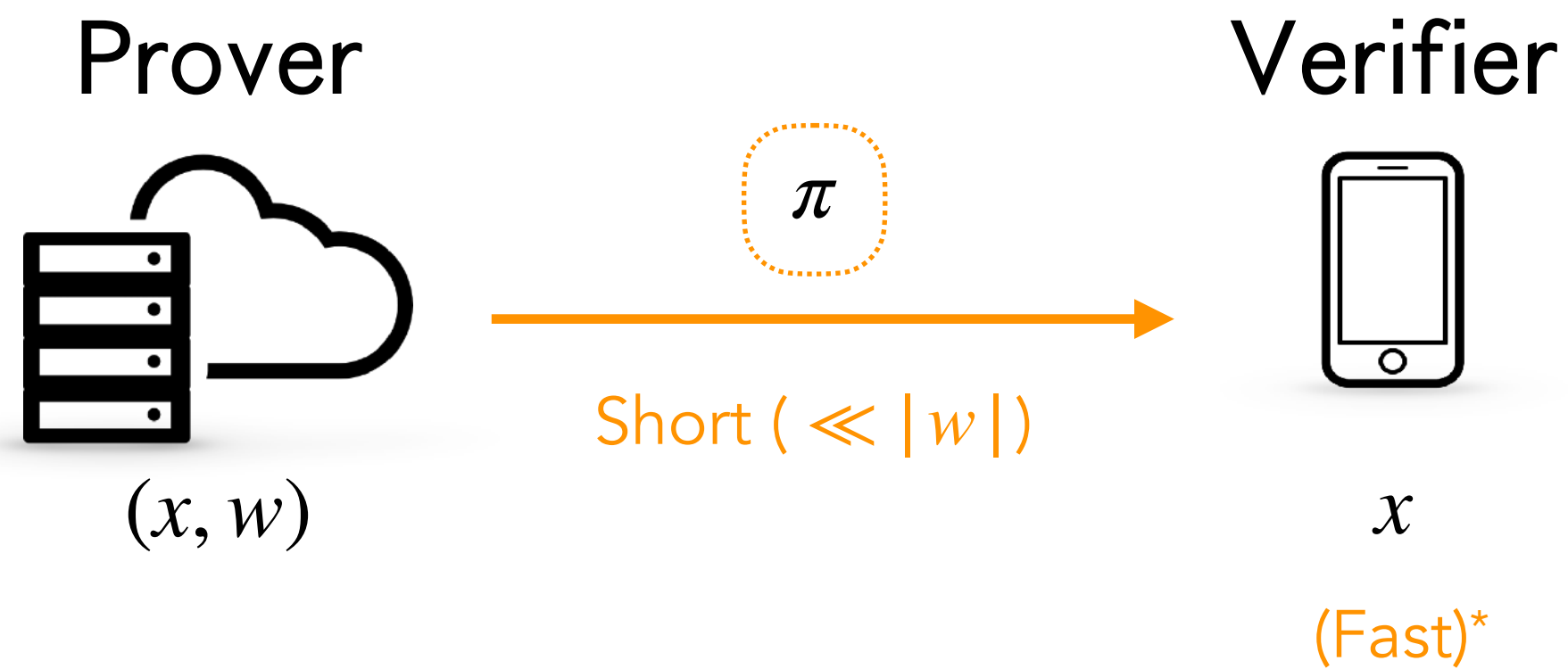
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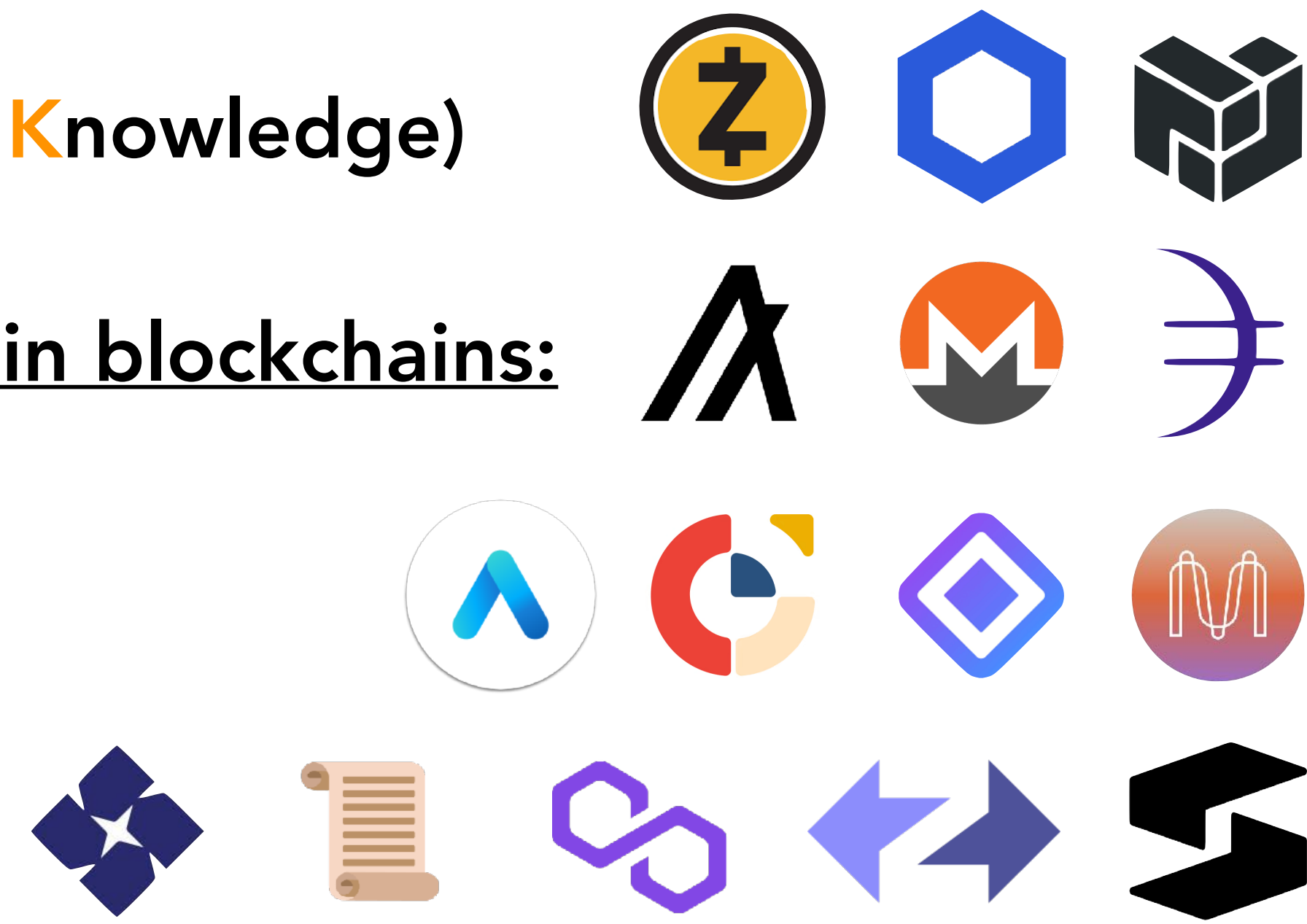
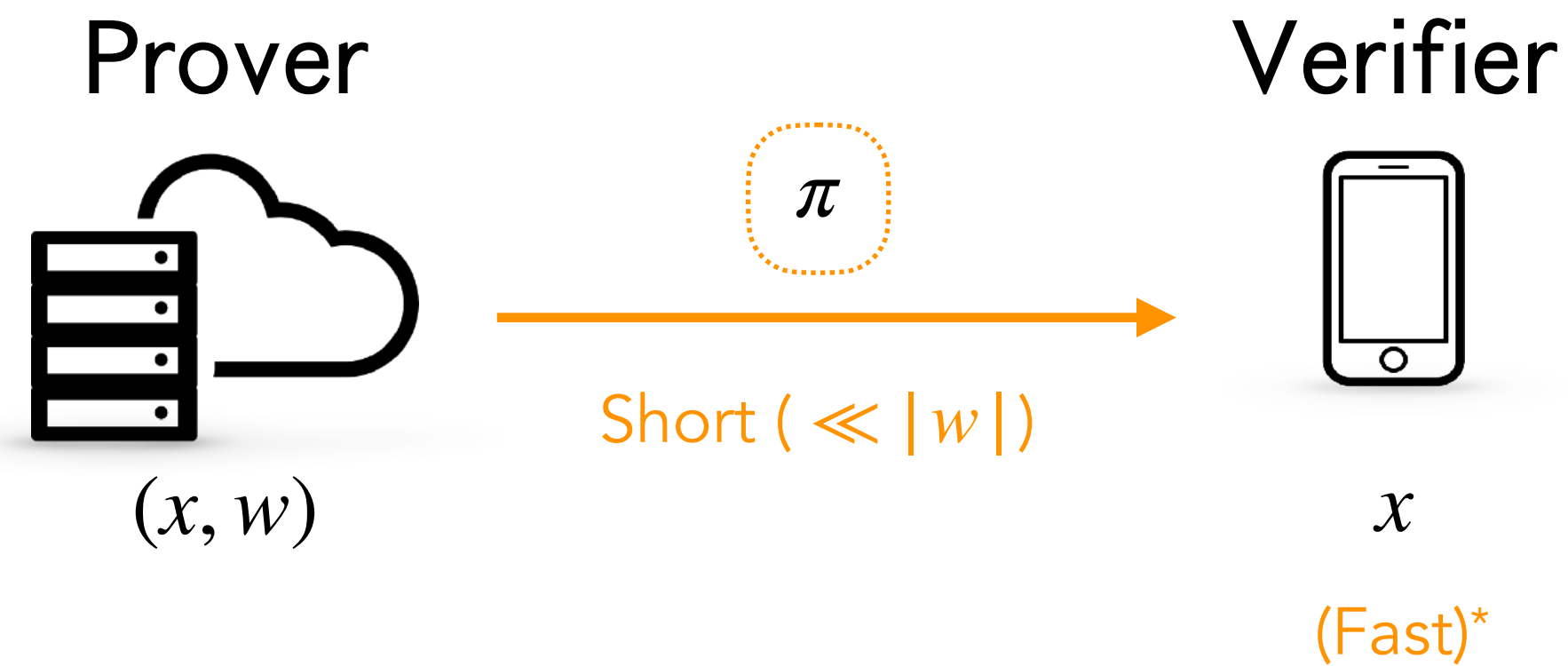
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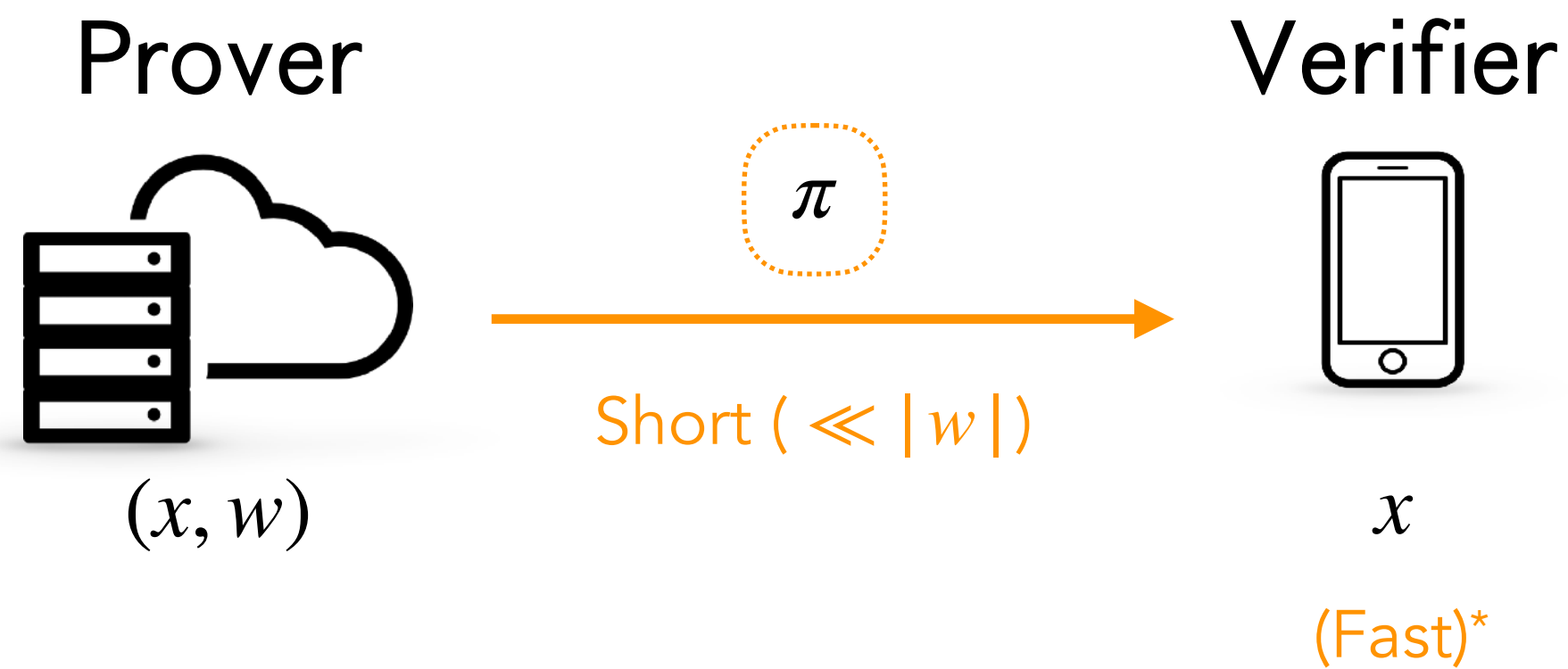
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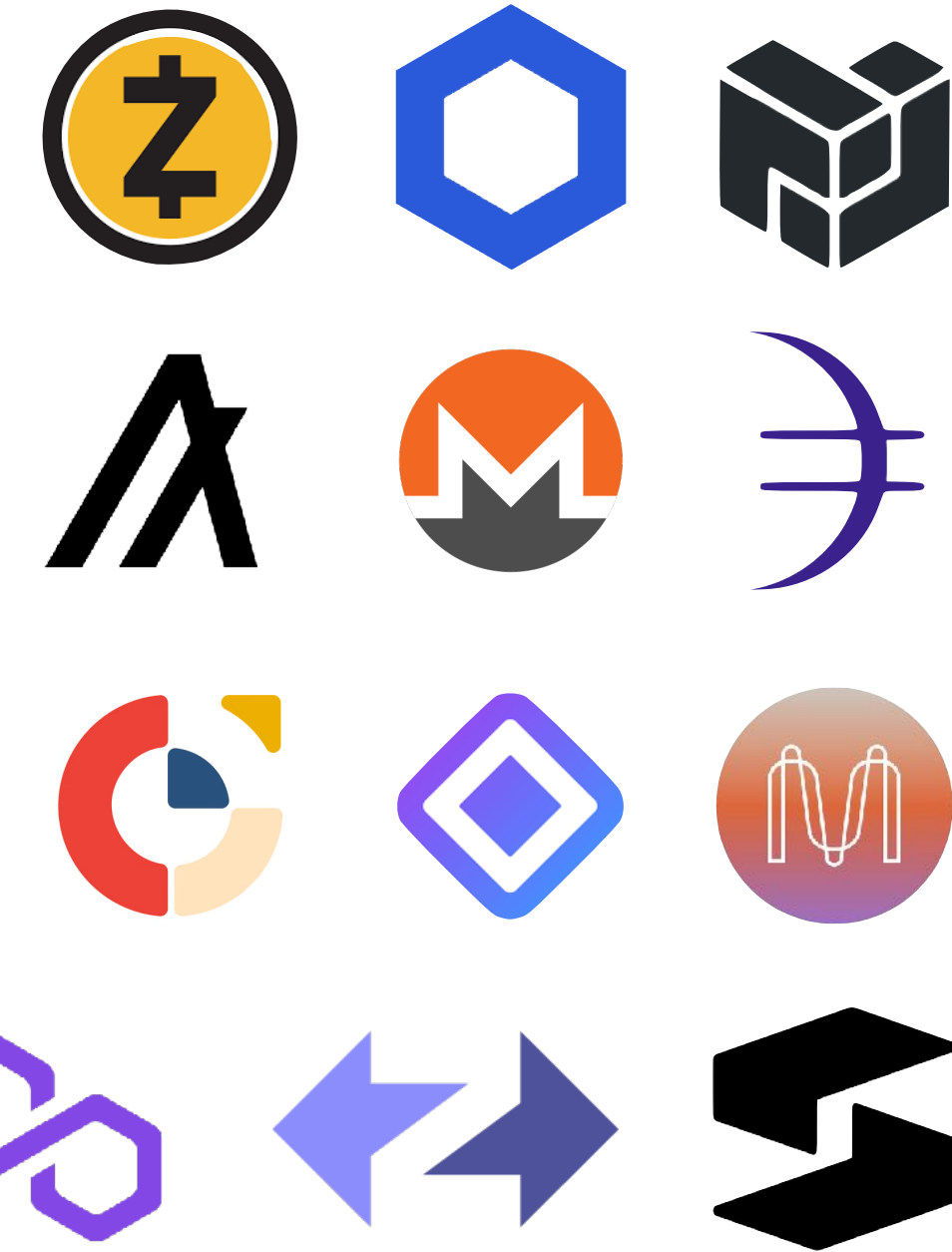


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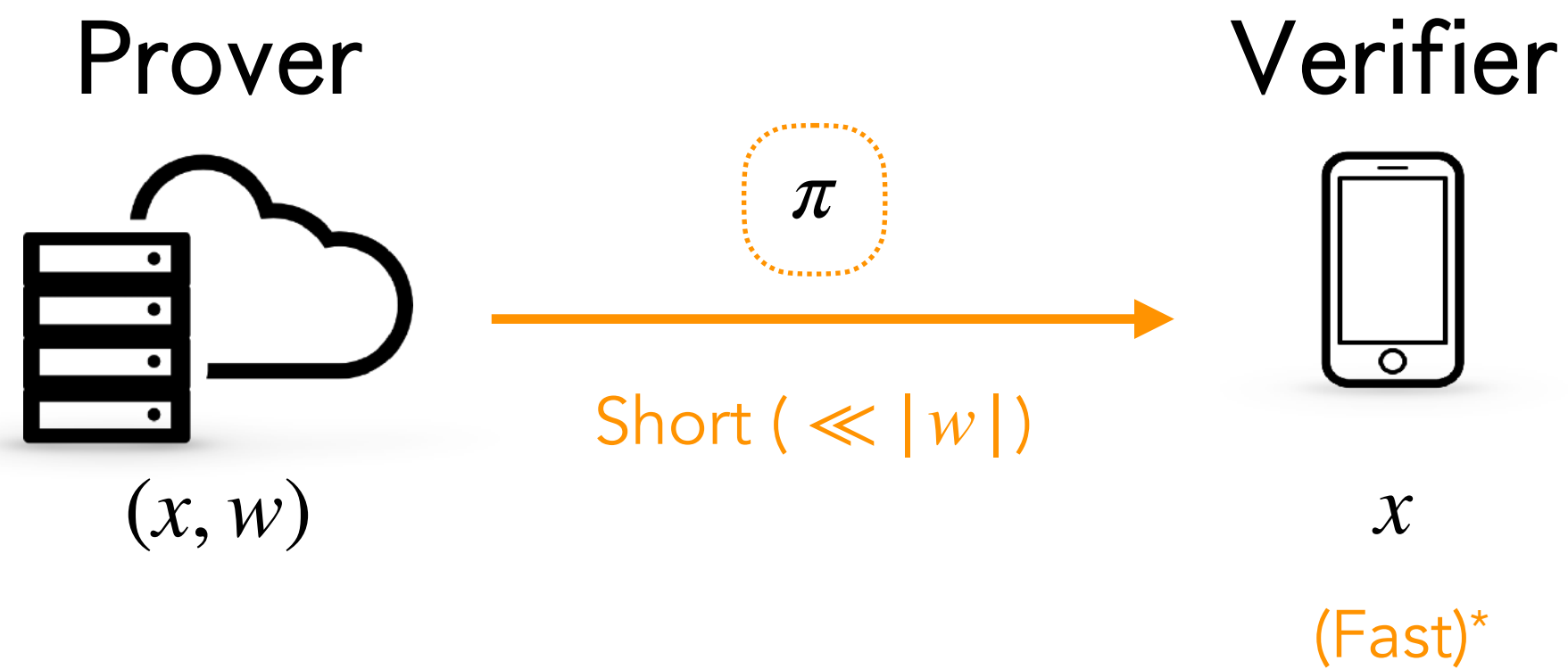


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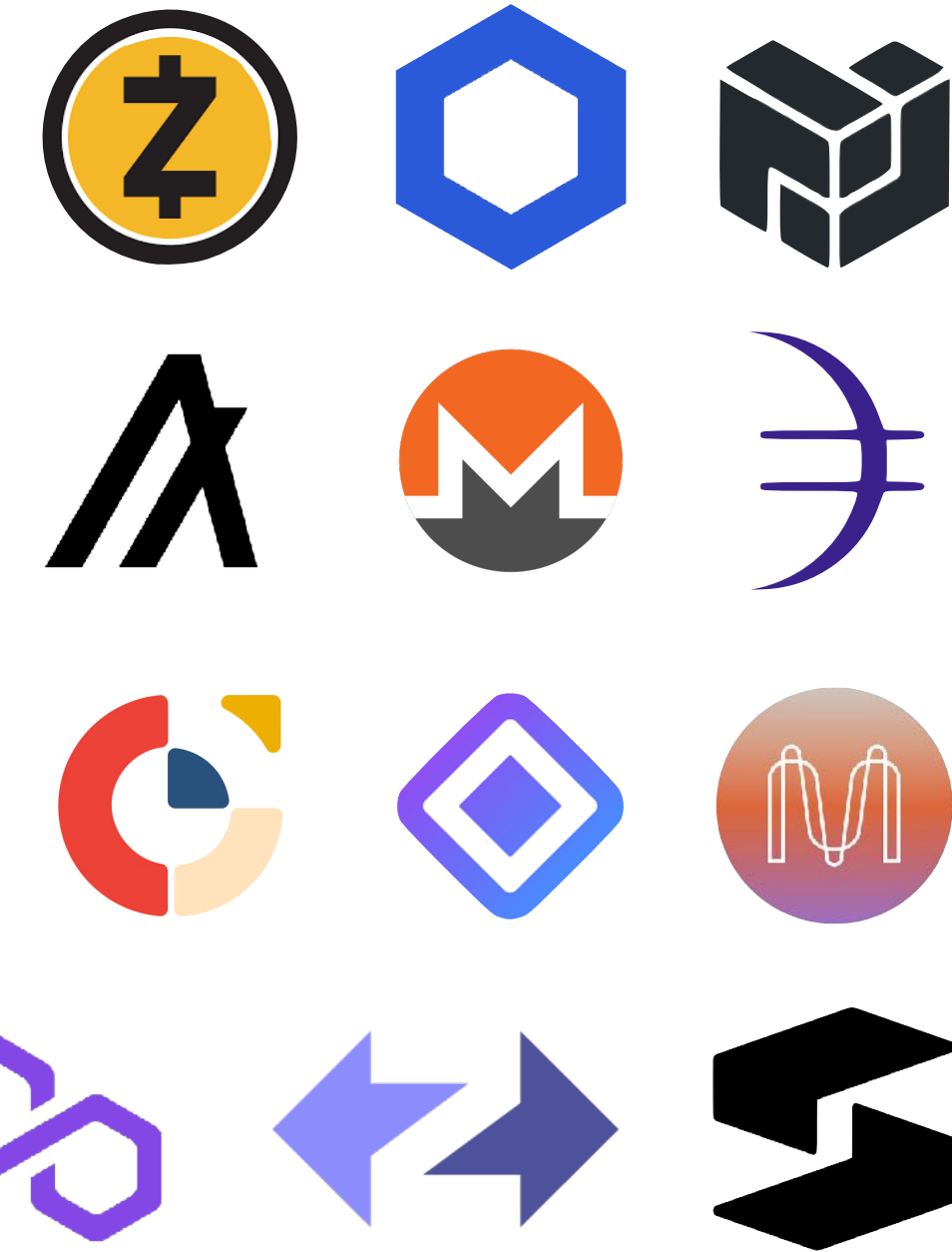
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## Other applications:

- Proof of solvency [DBBCB15]
- Image provenance [NT16], [BD22], [KHSS22]
- Content moderation [RMM22], [GAZBW22]
- And many more!



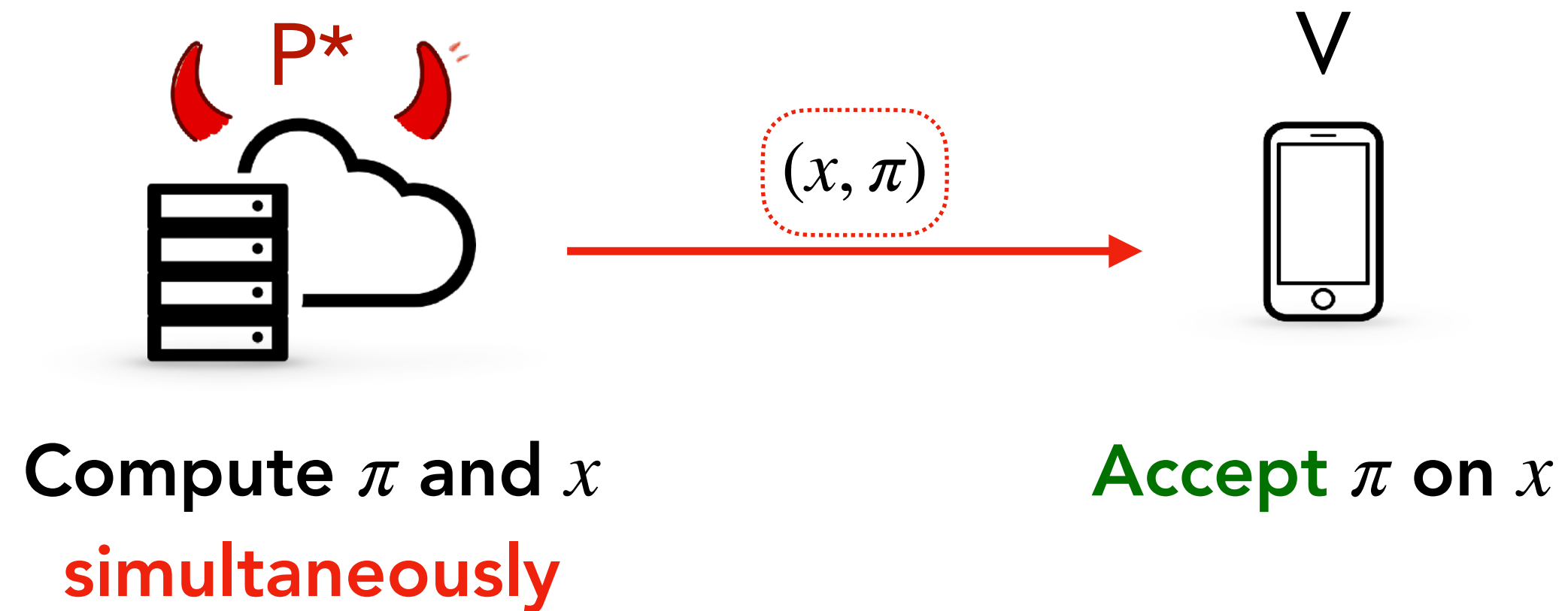
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**Standard ZKP security is not enough**

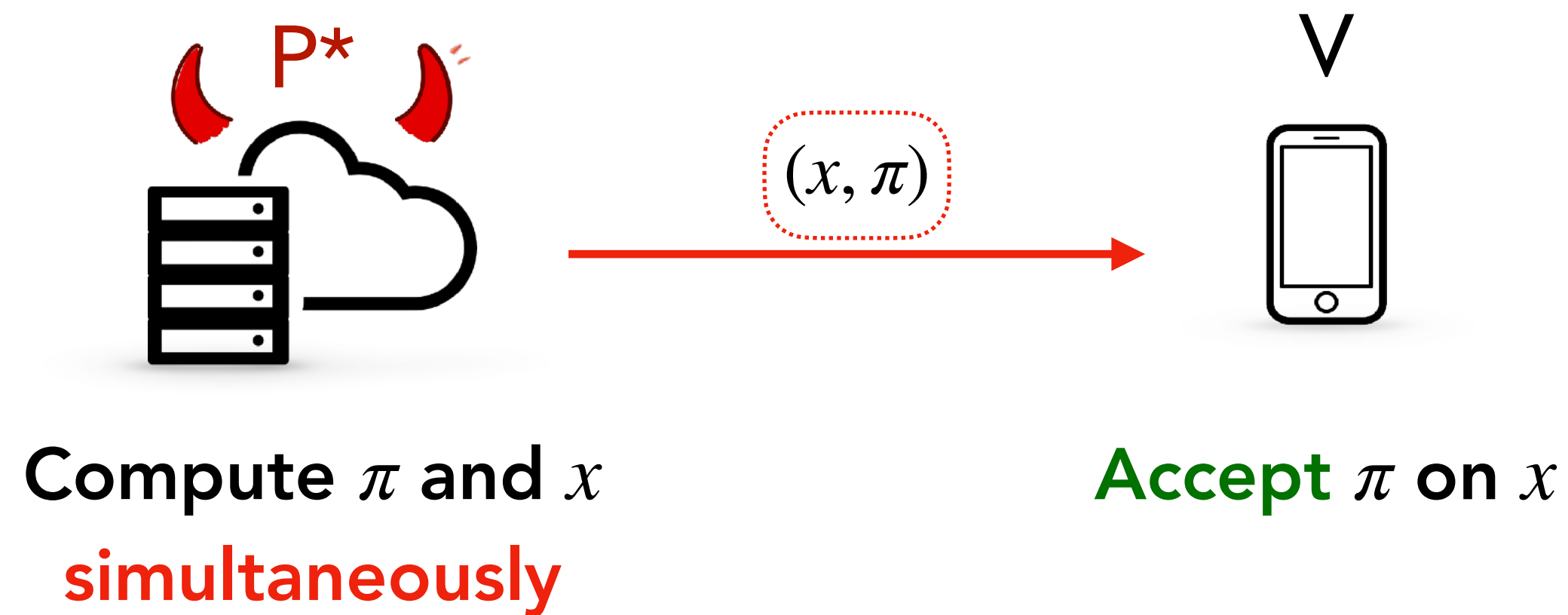
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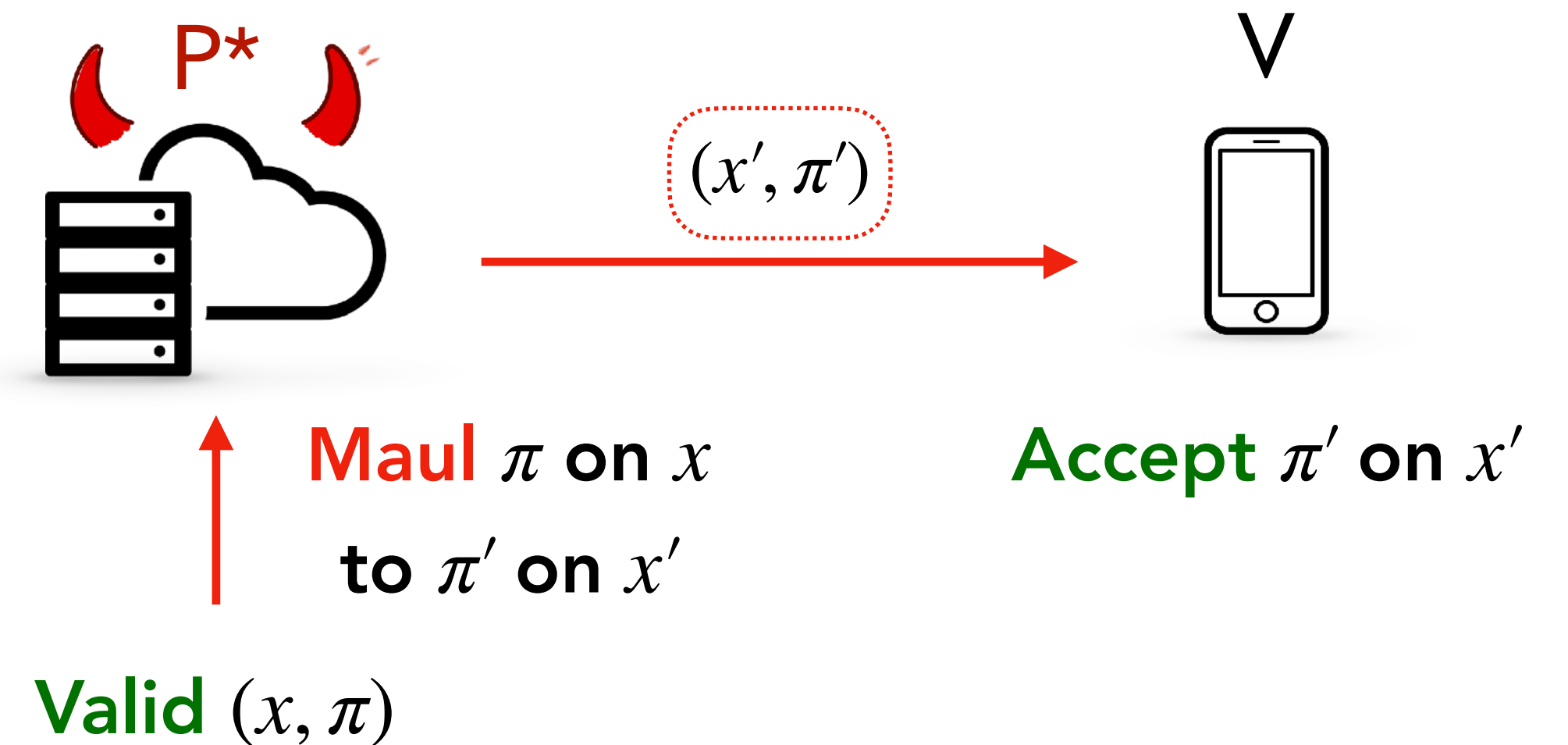


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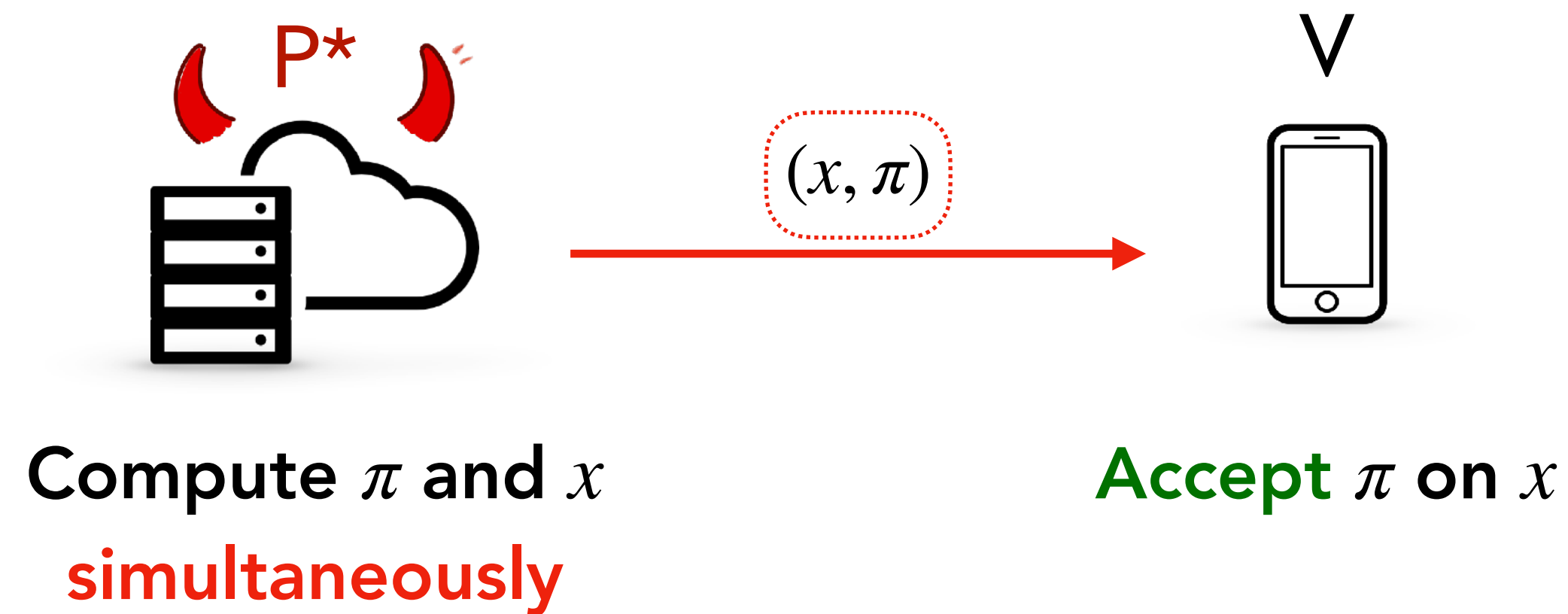


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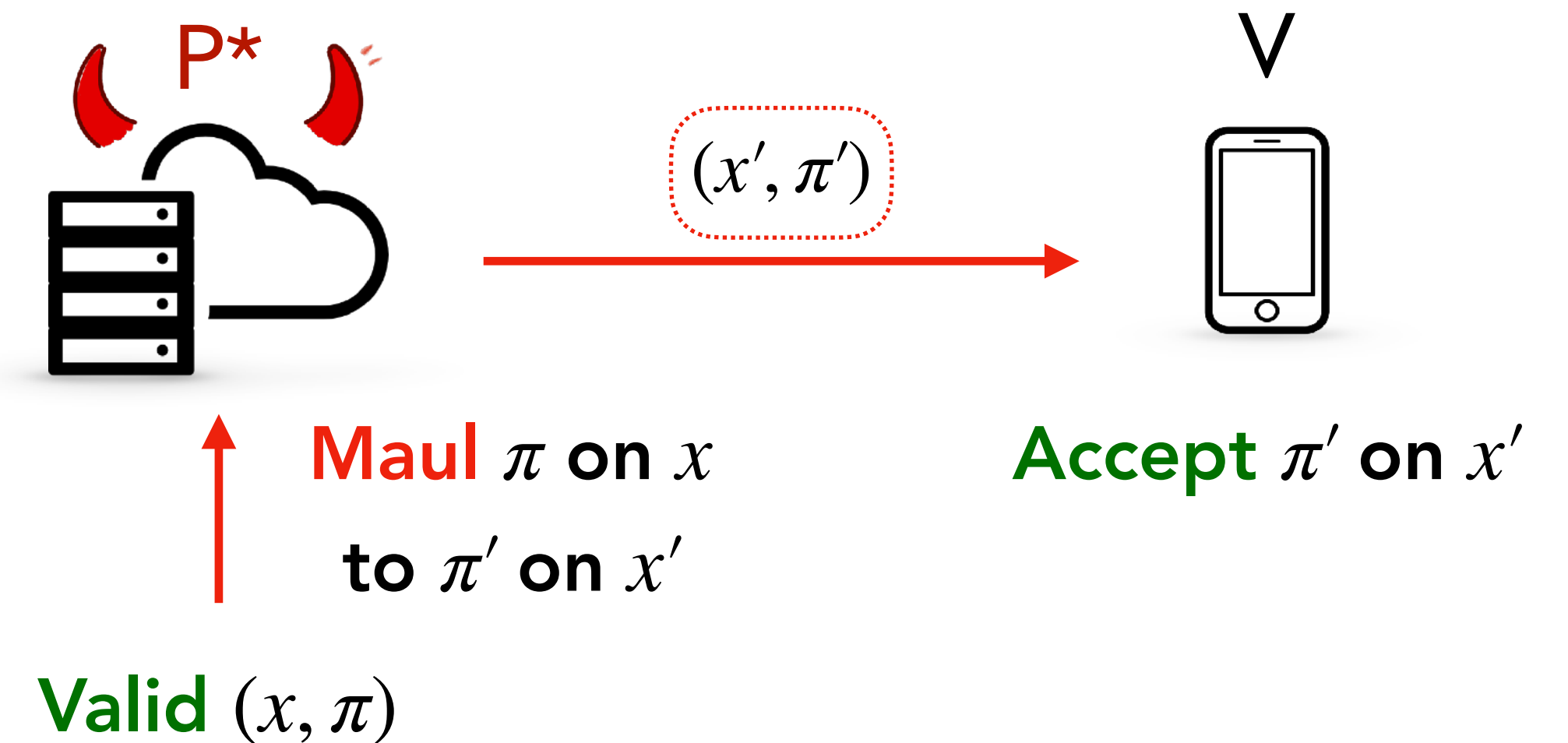


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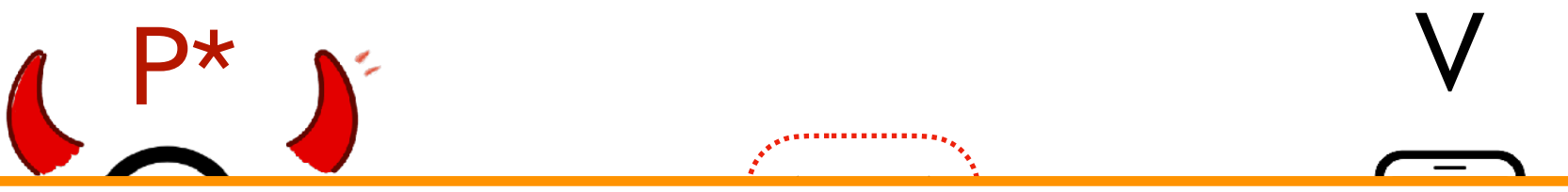


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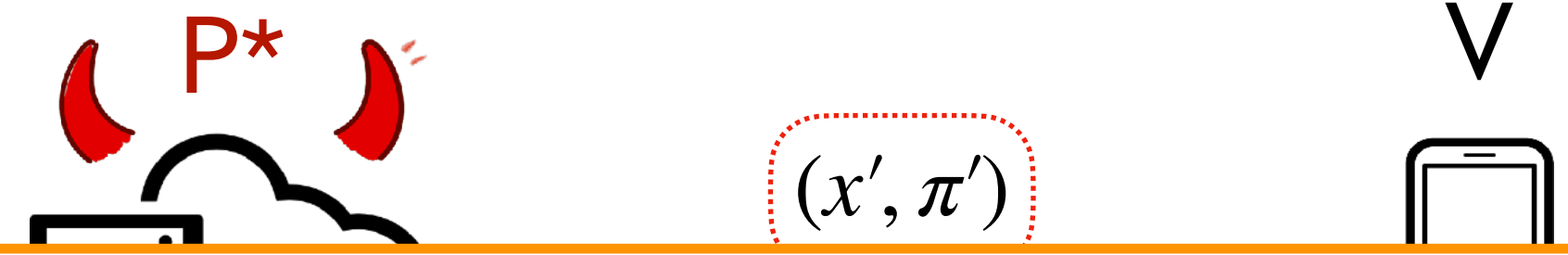
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**Bitcoin Transaction Malleability and MtGox**

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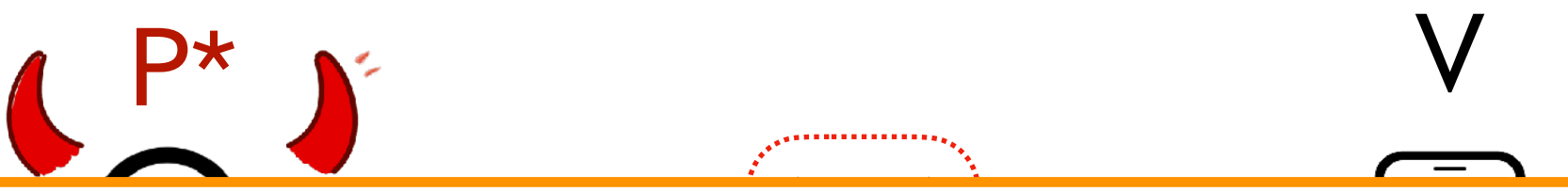
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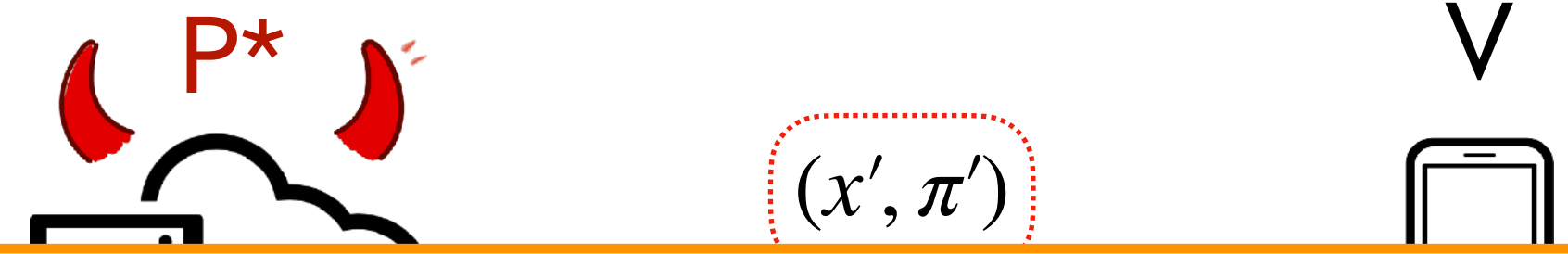
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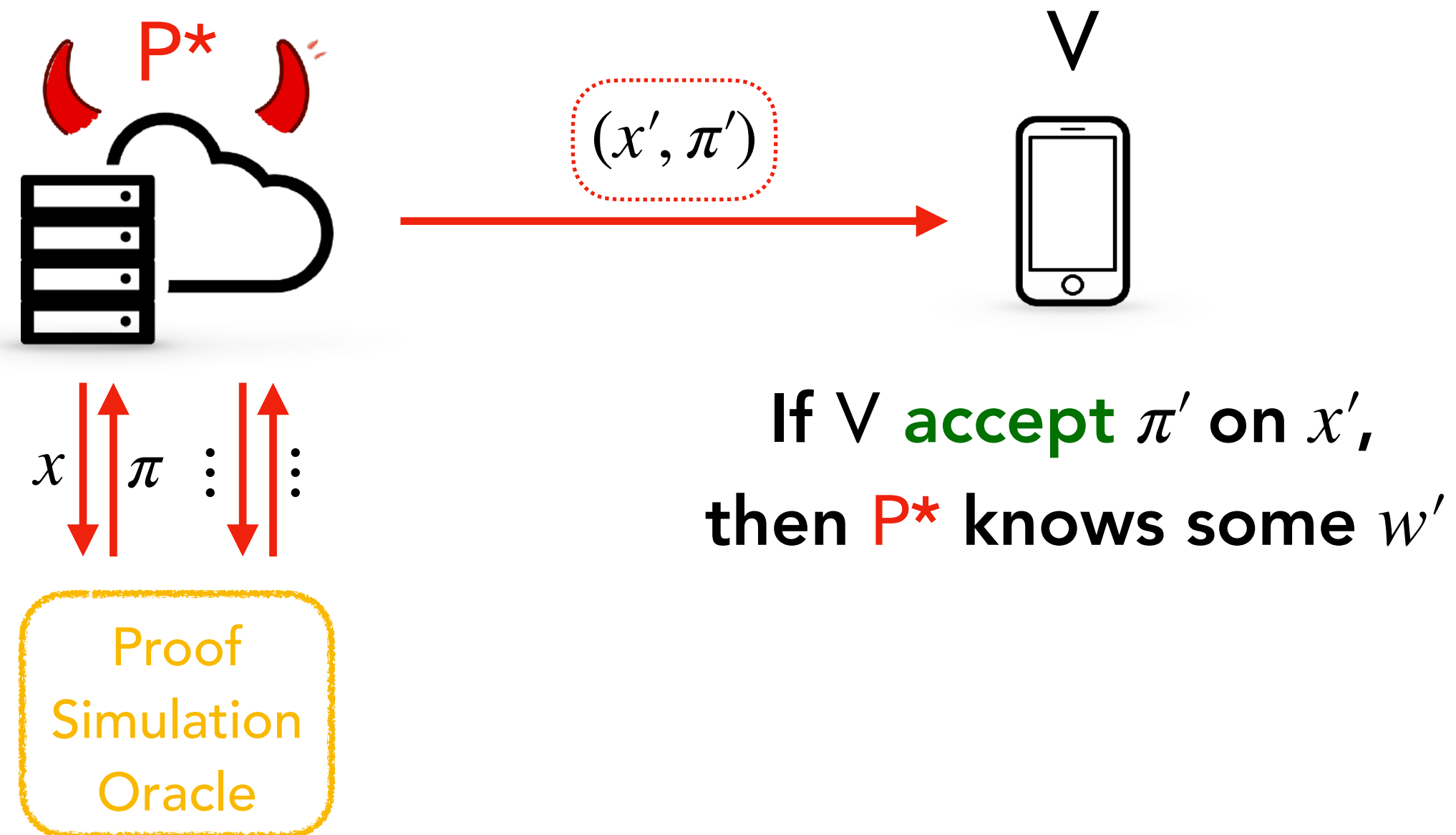
⇒ We need stronger security properties for deployment

# Simulation Extractability

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Knowledge soundness holds even when  $P^*$  gets extra power.

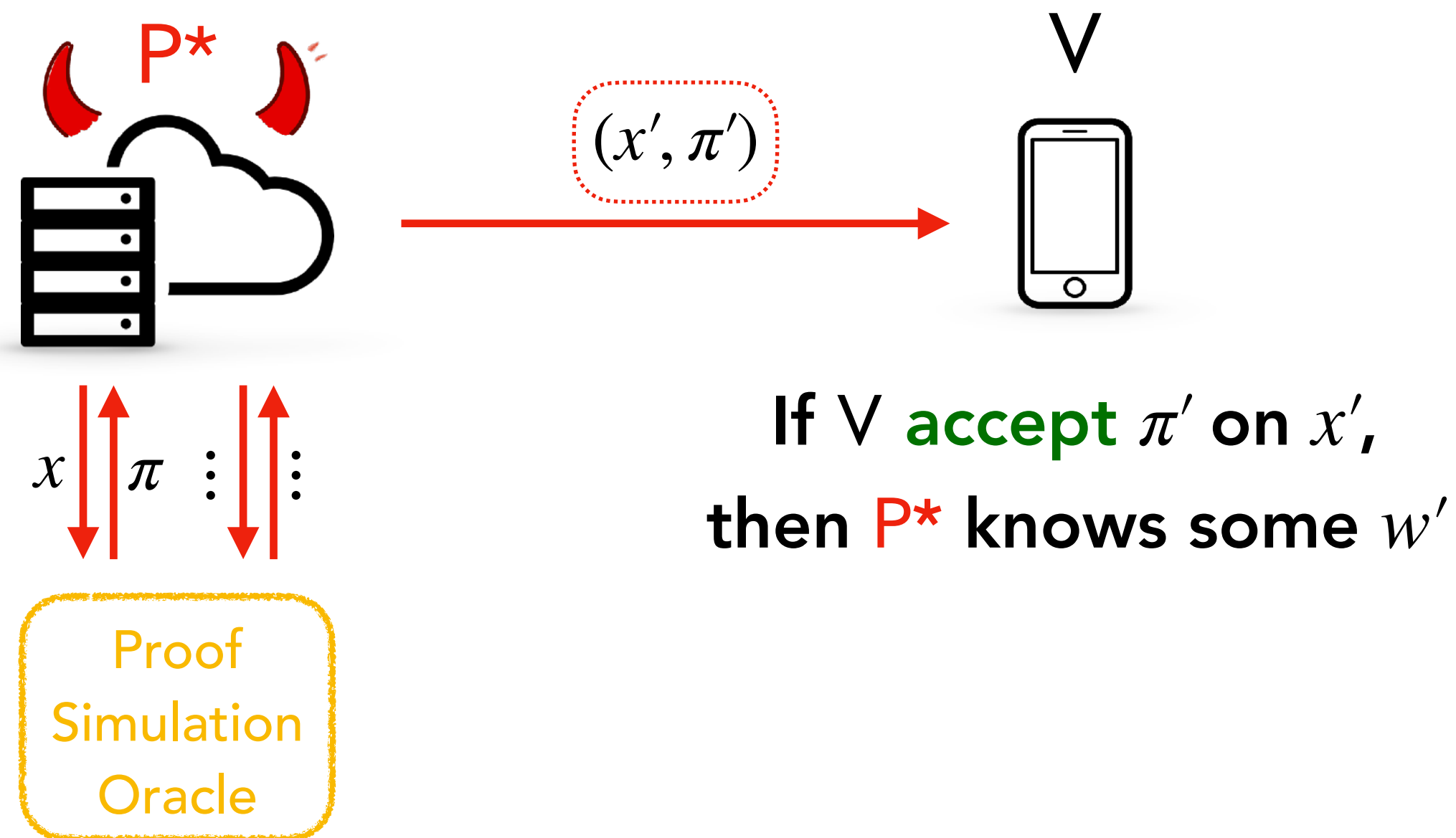




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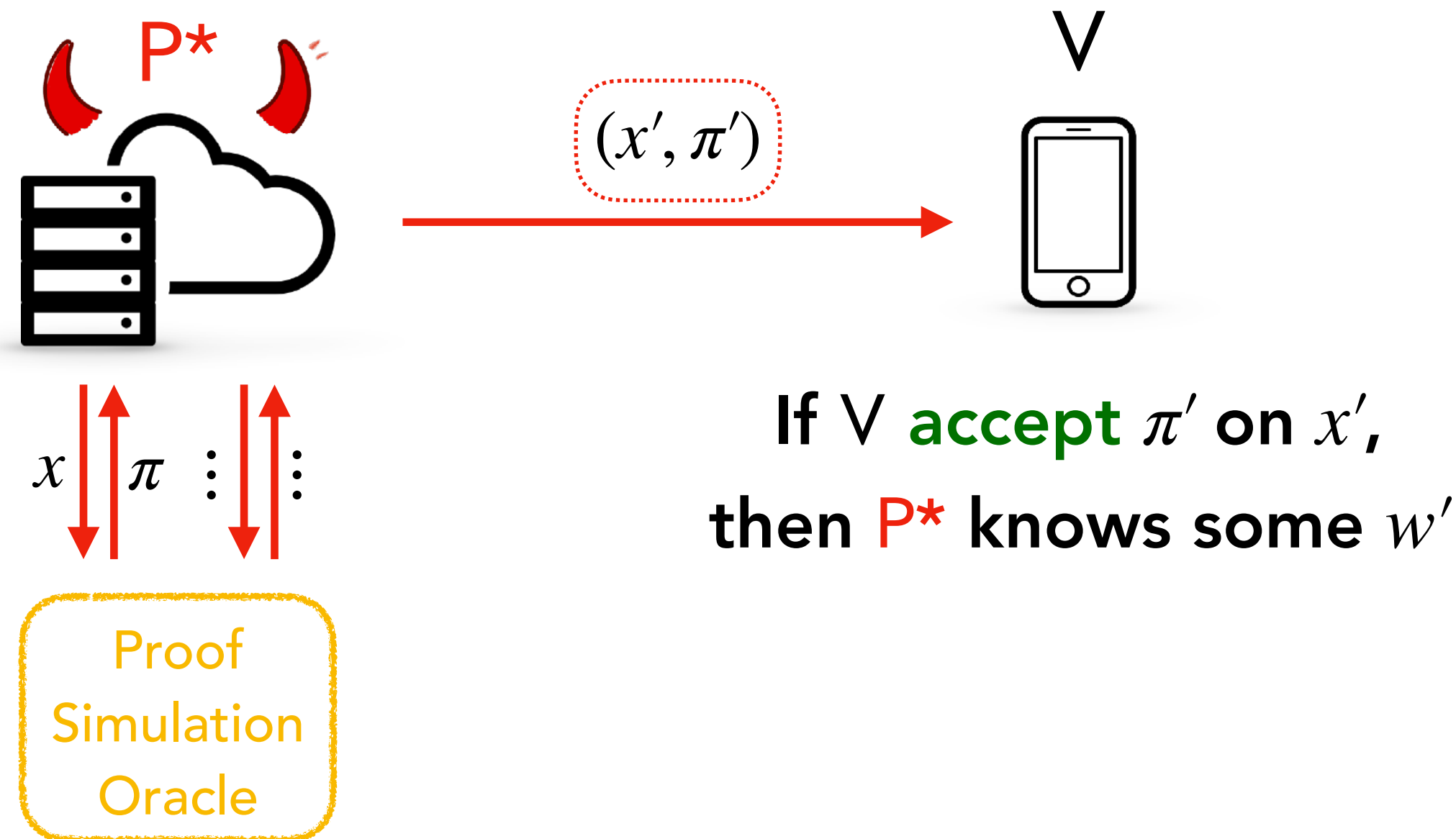
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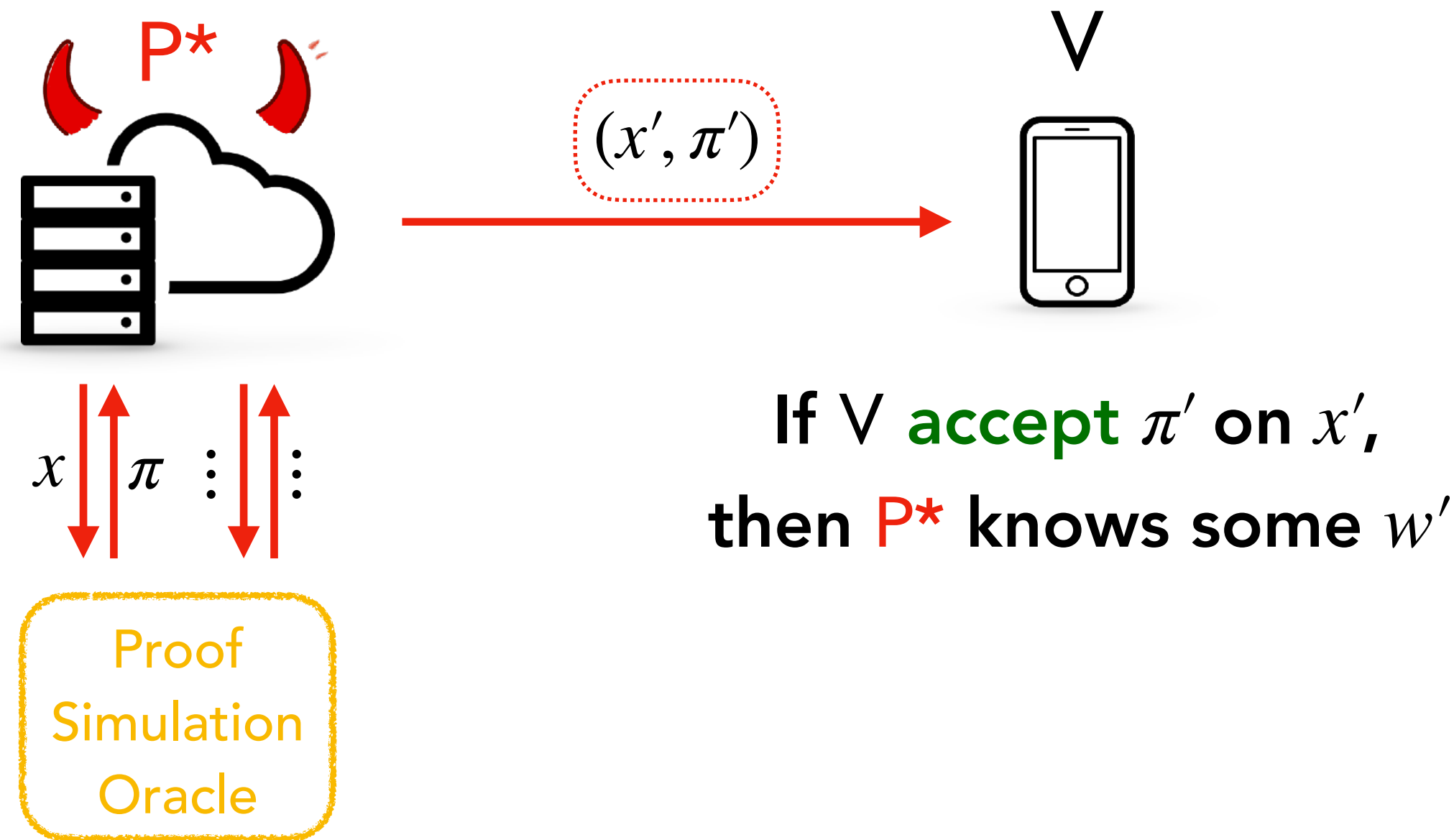
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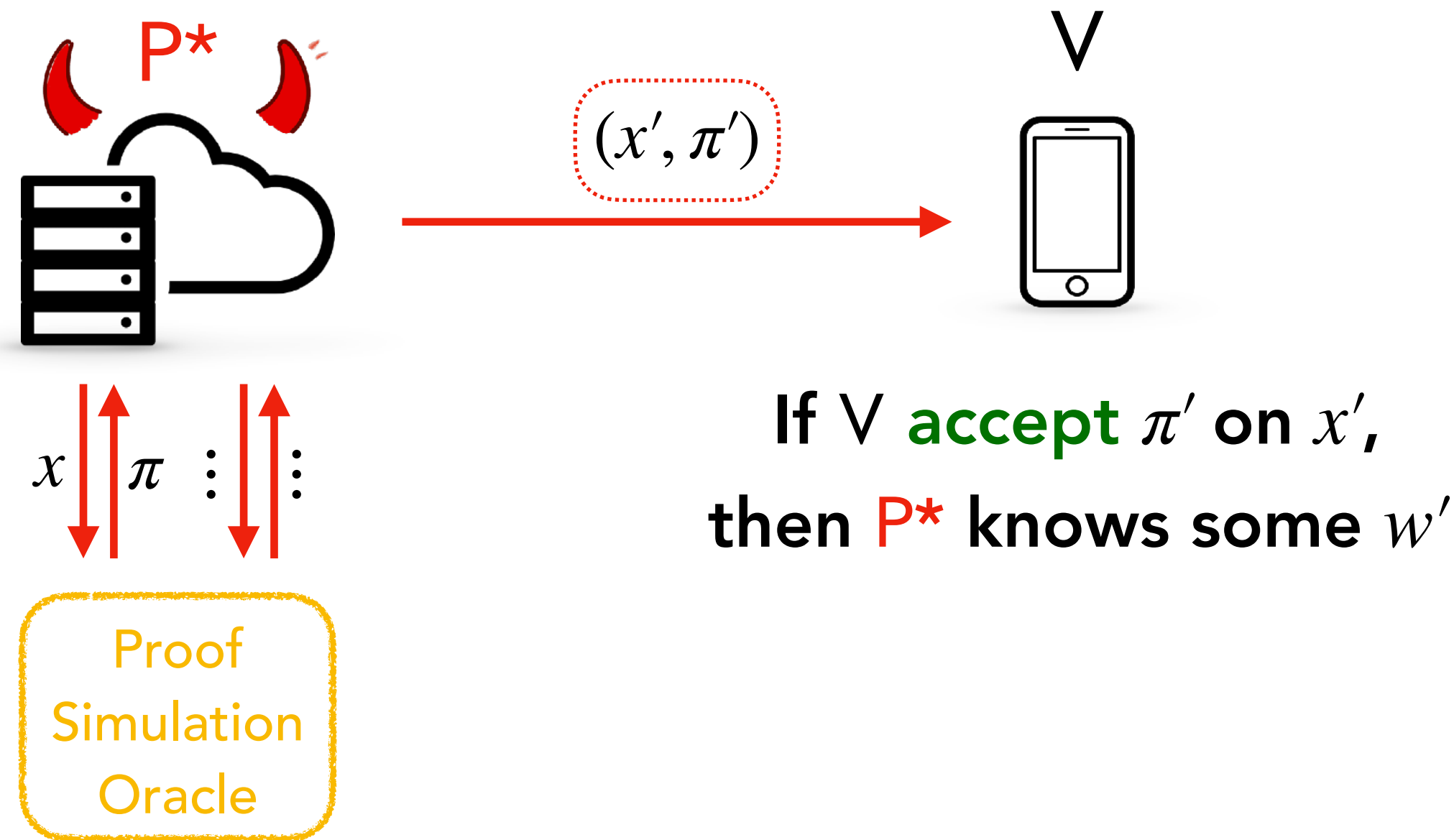
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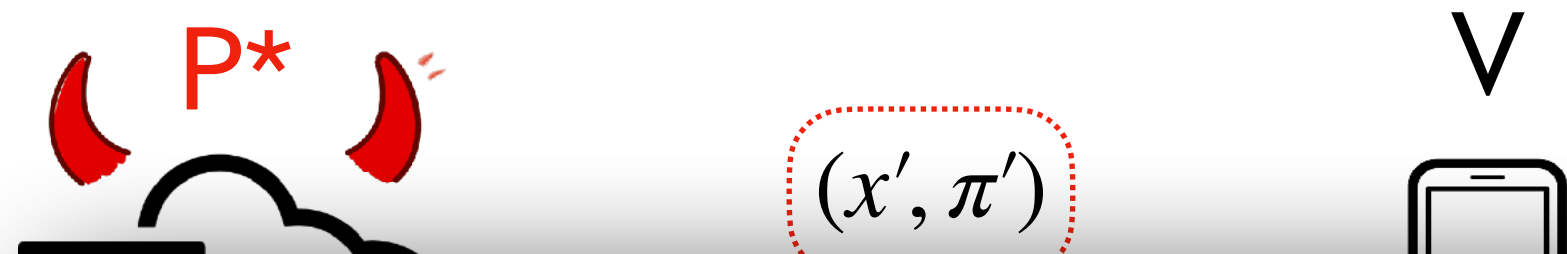
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Can we show that transparent zkSNARKs satisfy SIM-EXT under the same assumptions used to prove (knowledge) soundness?

Proof  
Simulation  
Oracle

Rules out adaptive & malleability attacks.

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# Agenda

- 1. Breaking SIM-EXT into smaller properties**
- 2. Instantiating SIM-EXT template for Bulletproofs**
- 3. Knowledge Soundness via Generalized Tree Builder**

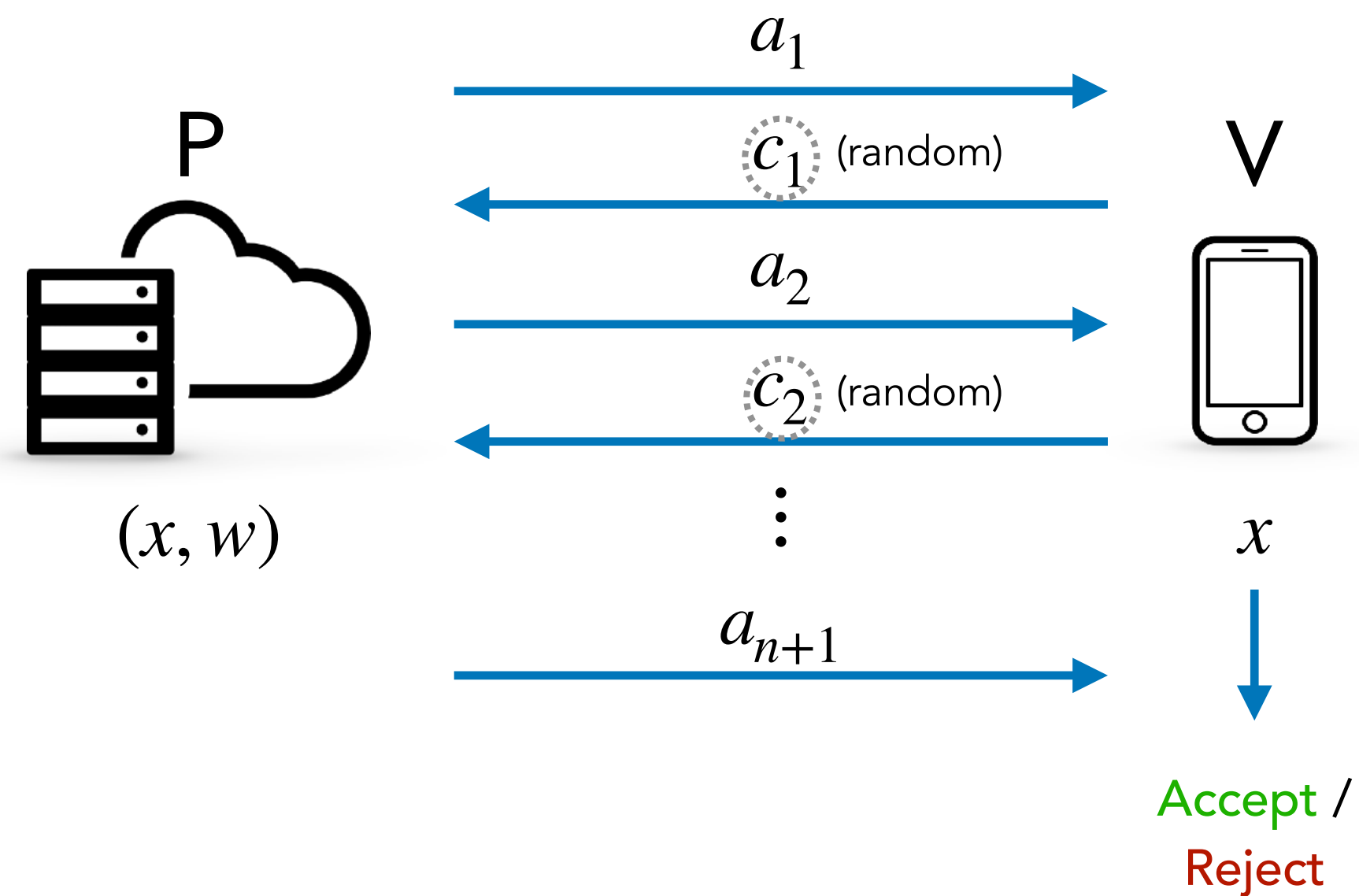
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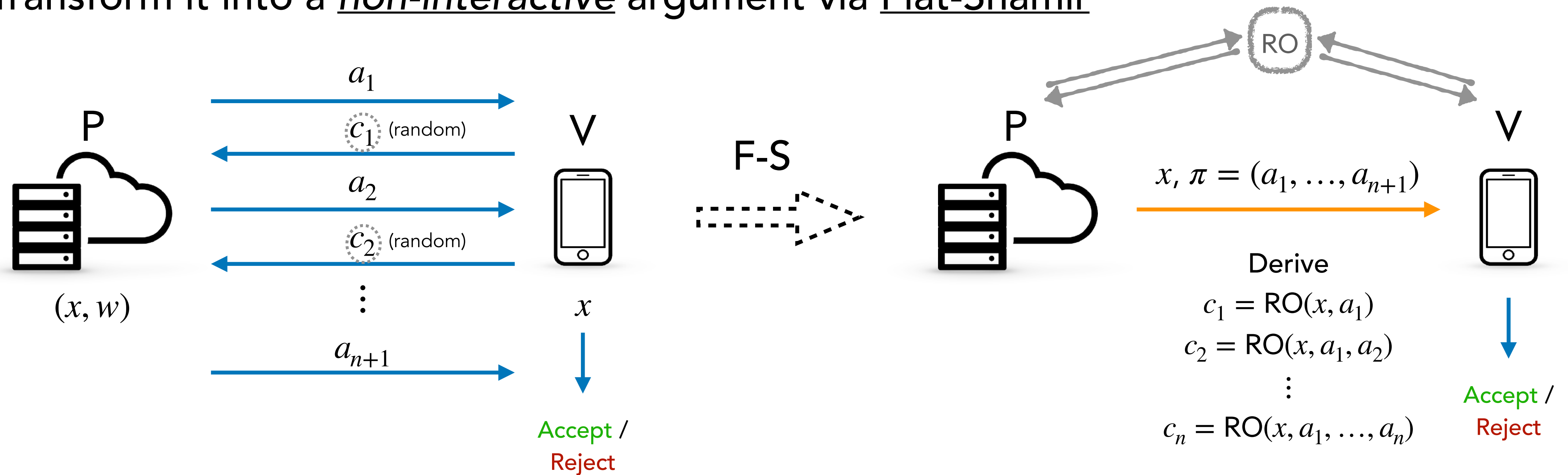
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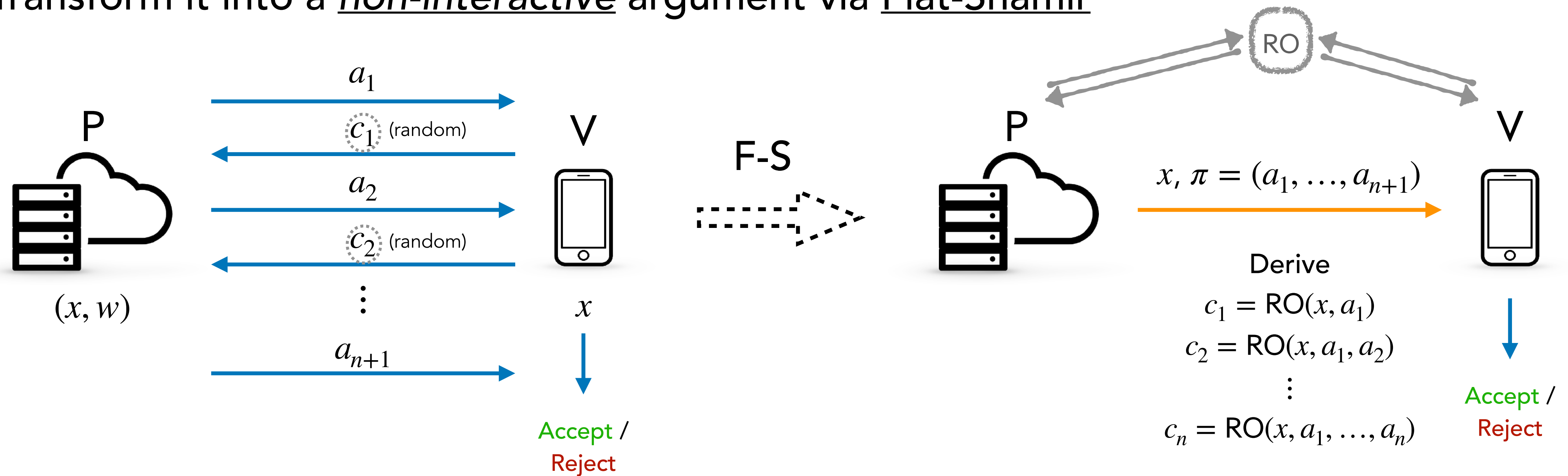
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**Insight:** [GKKNZ22] Assuming 2 smaller properties, SIM-EXT of F-S argument may be reduced to its knowledge soundness (KS).

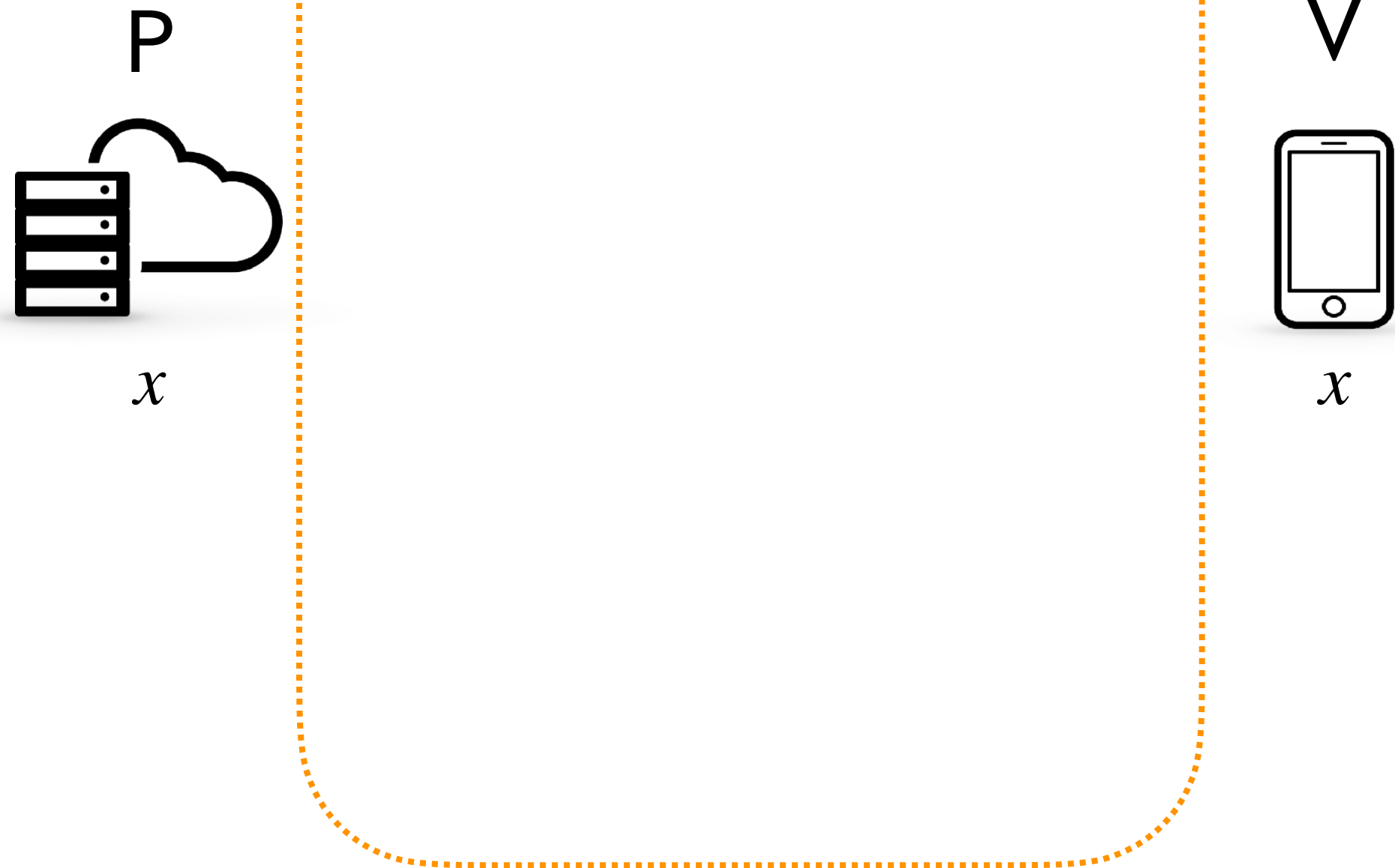
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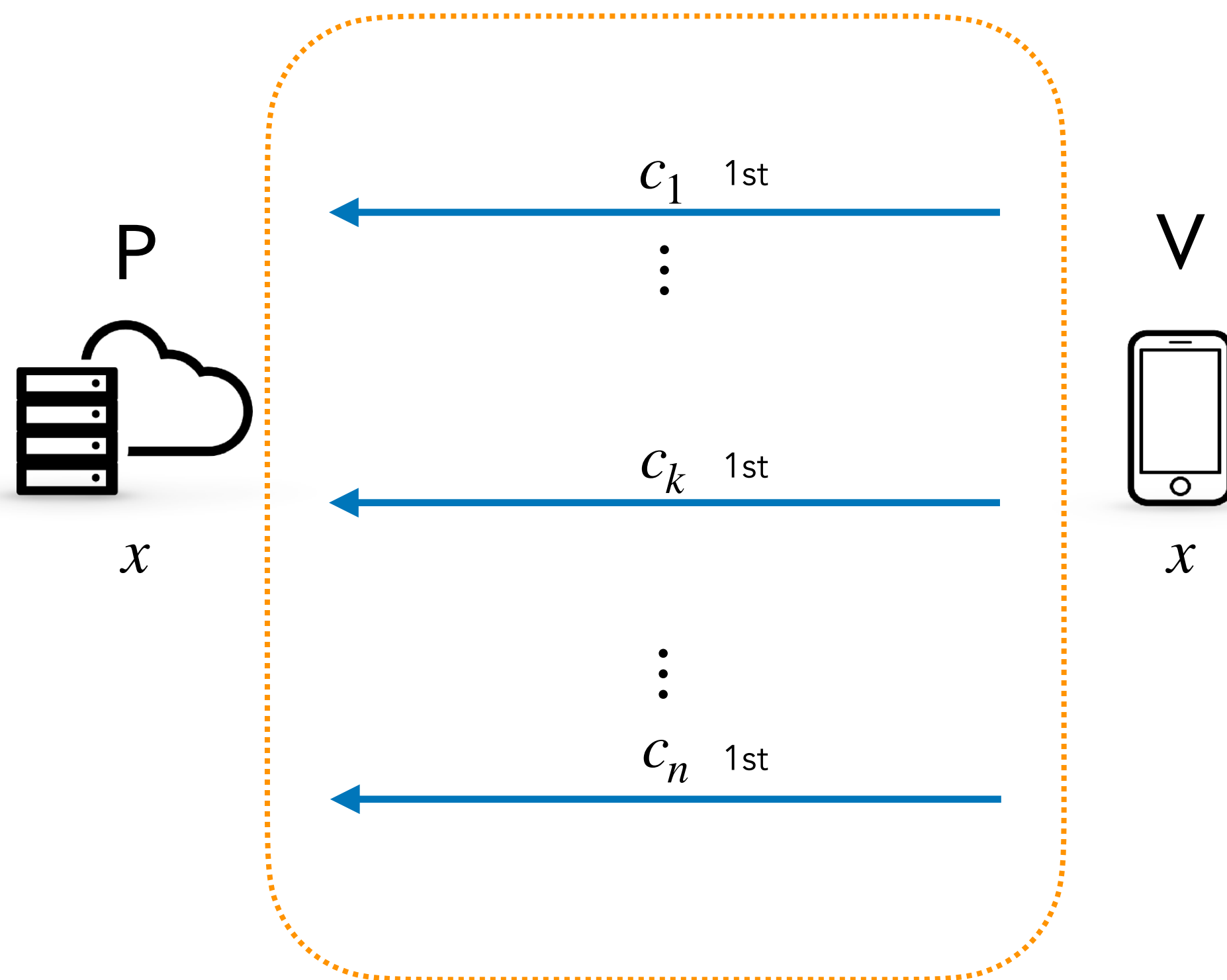
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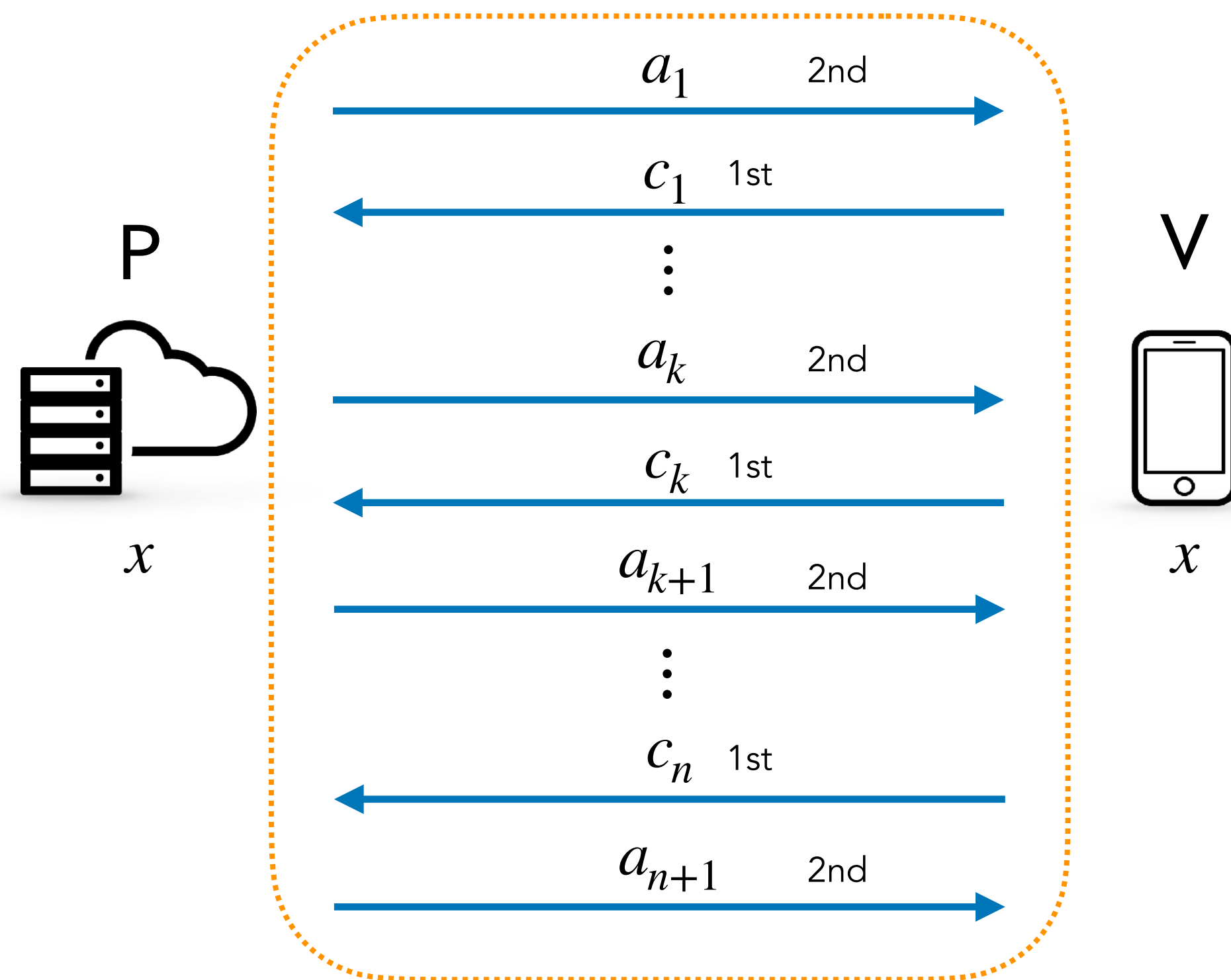
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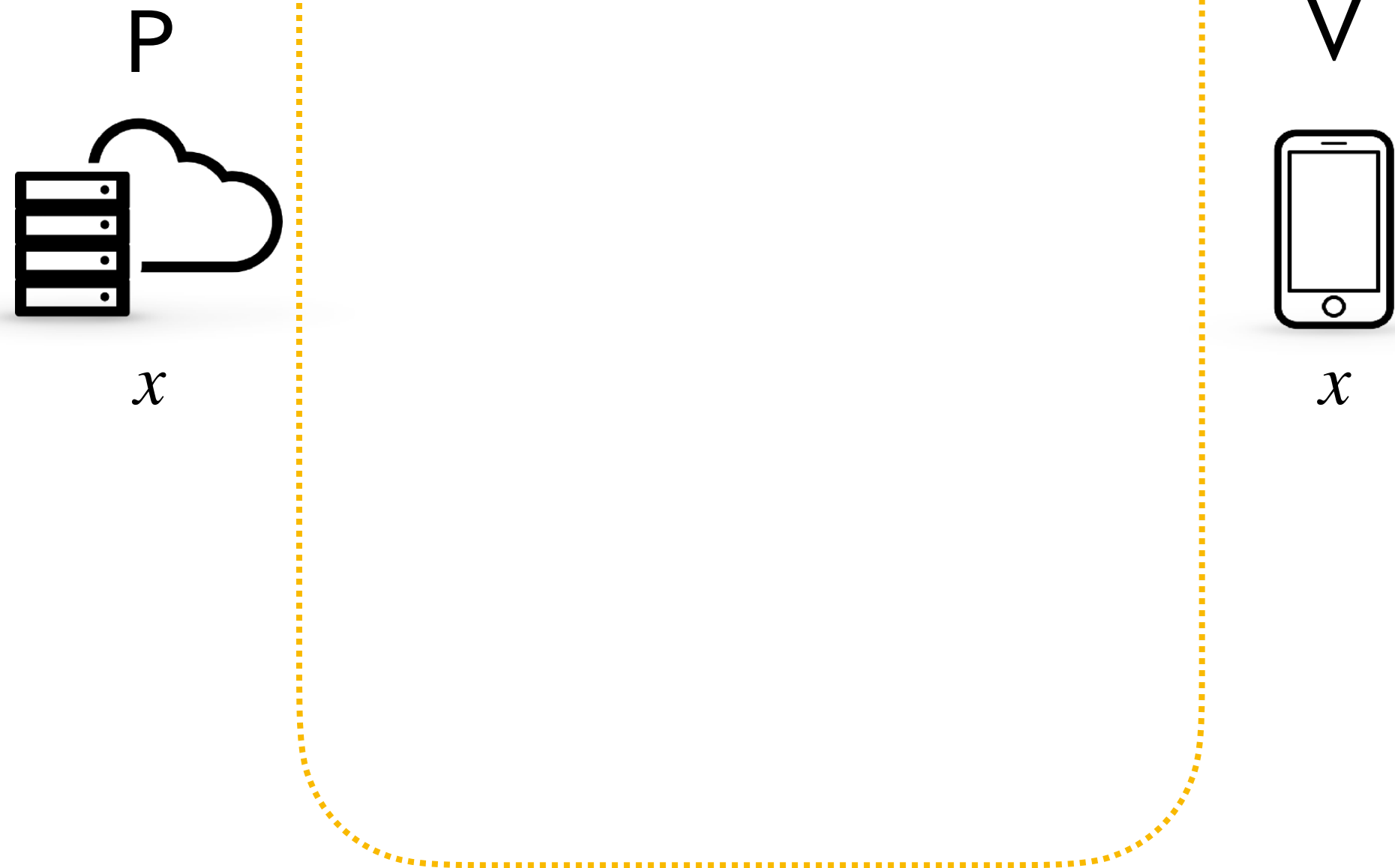


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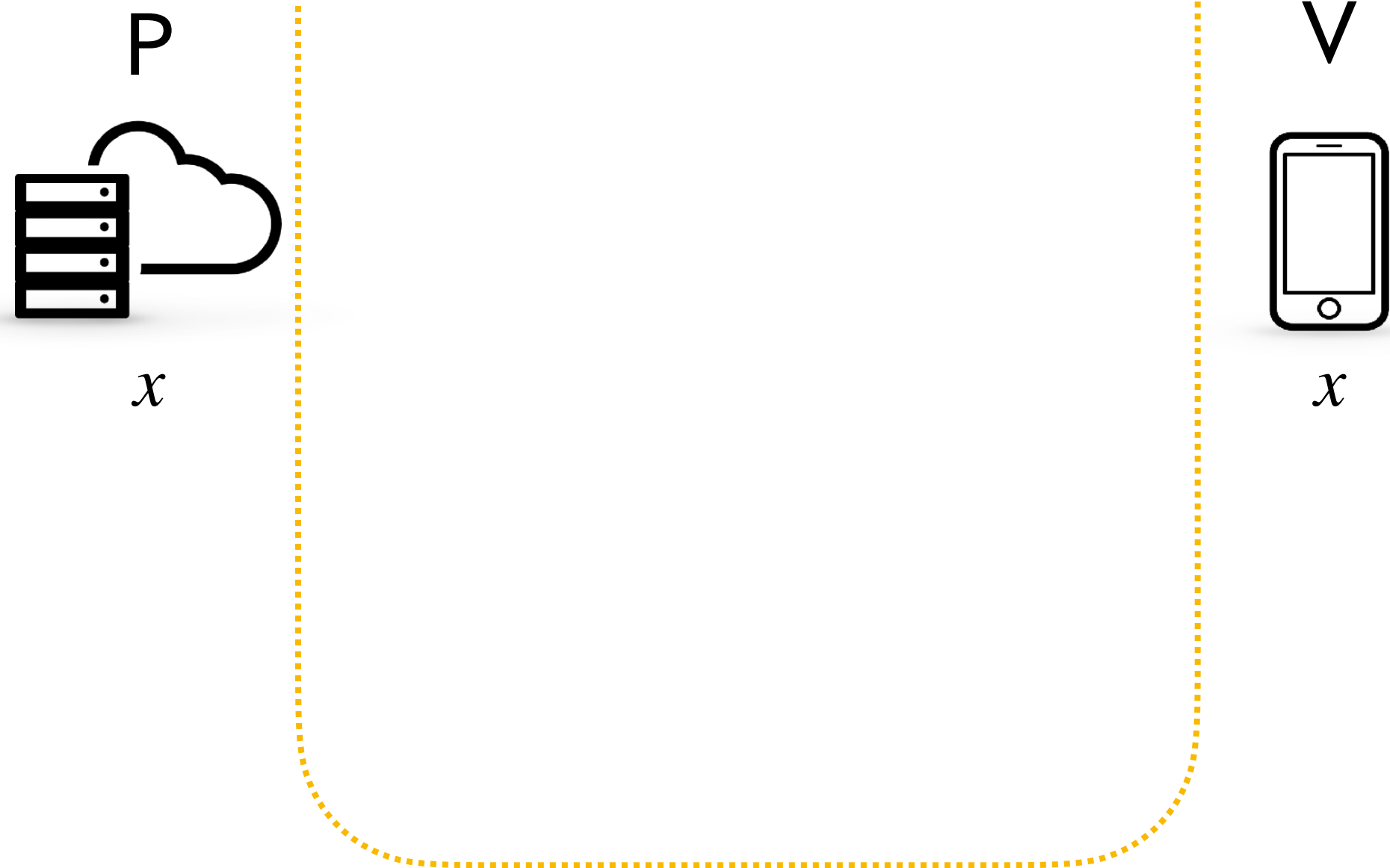


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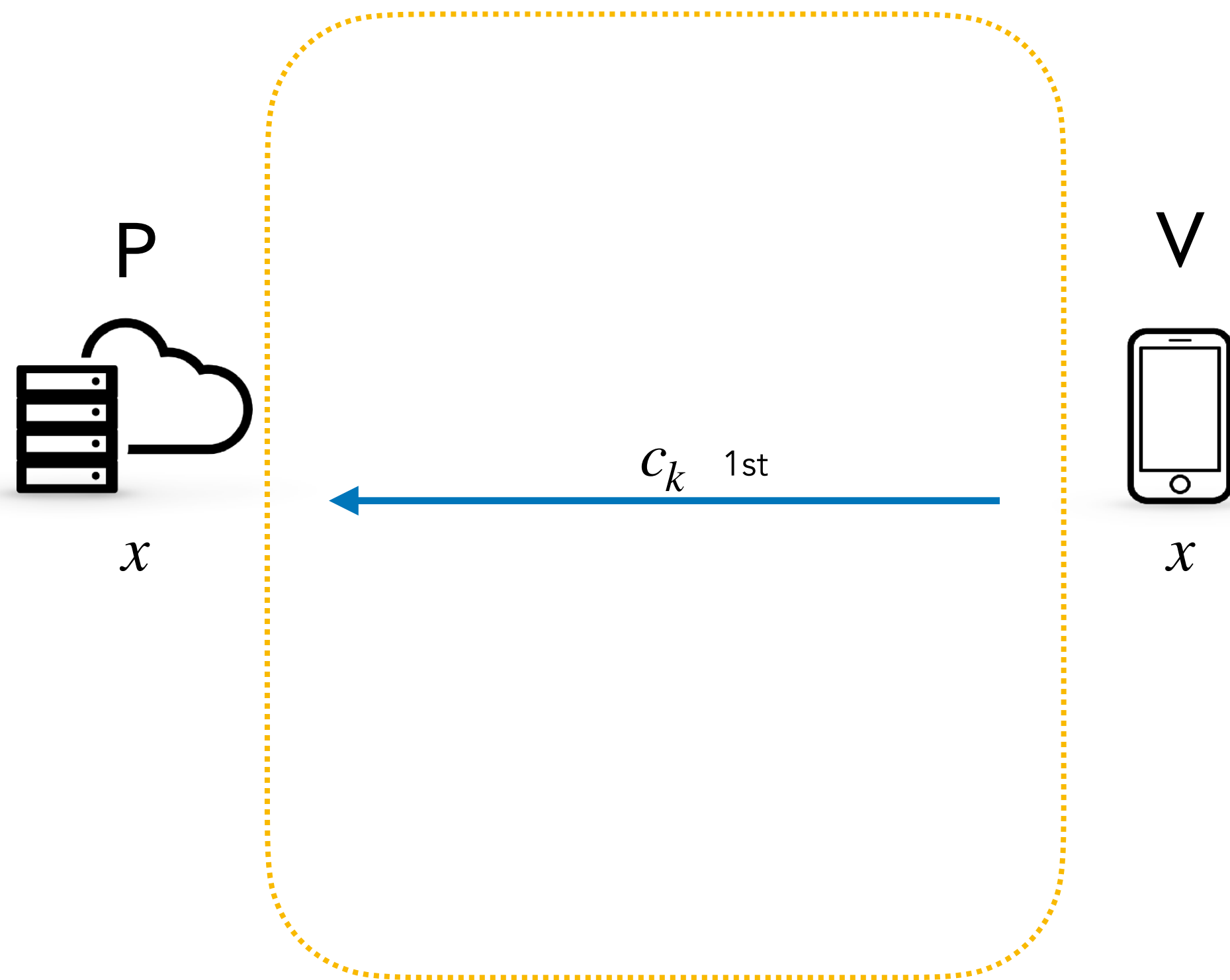
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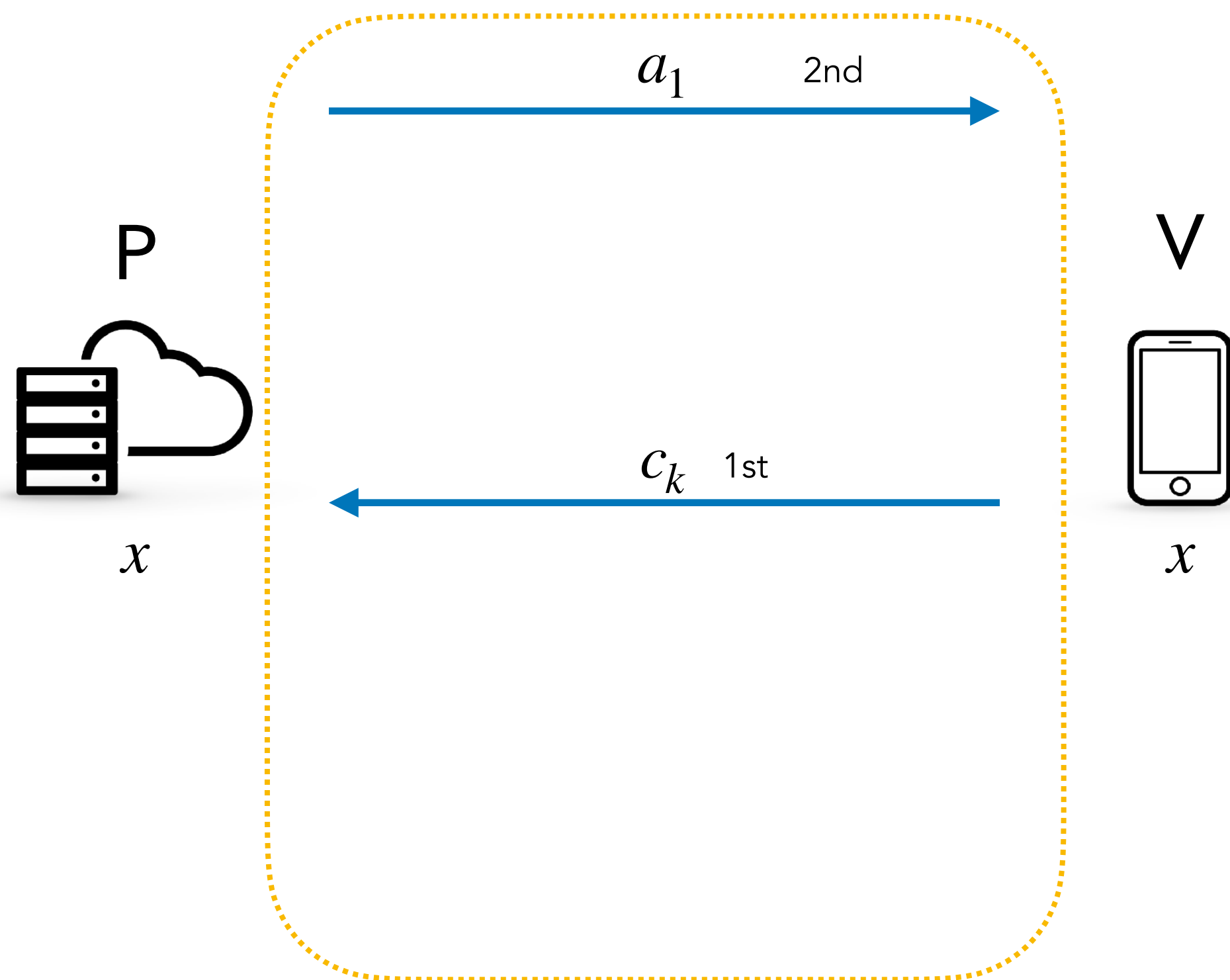
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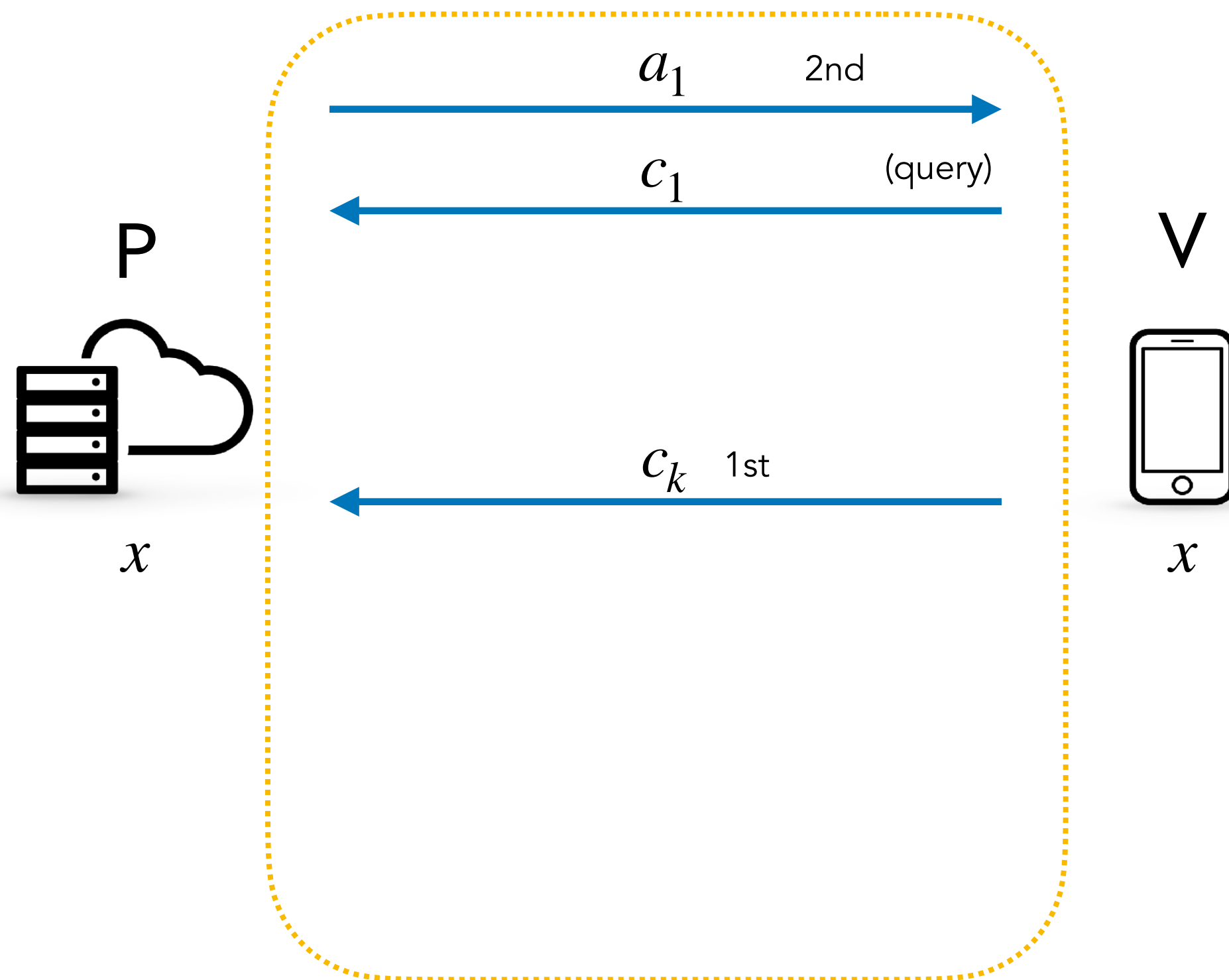
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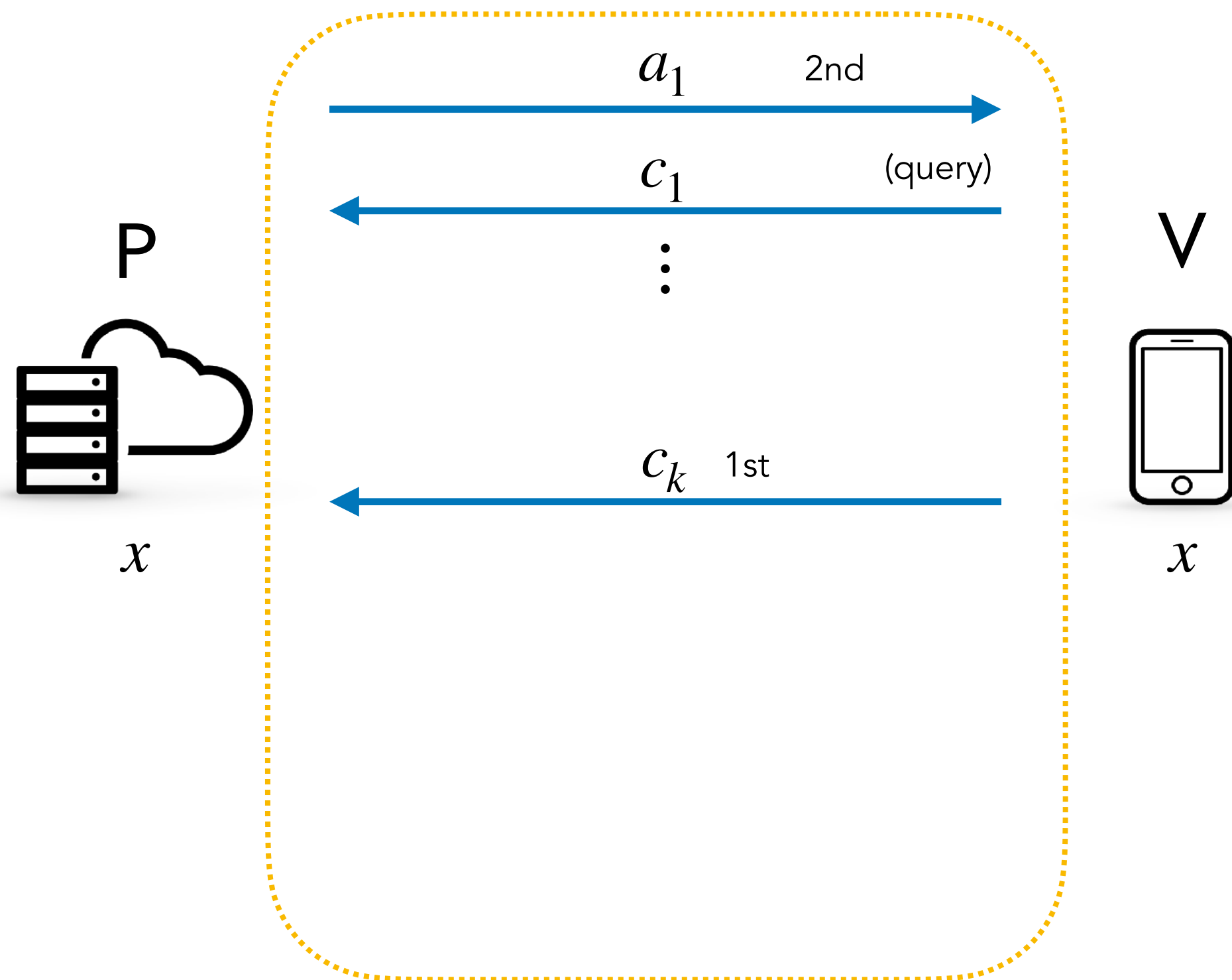
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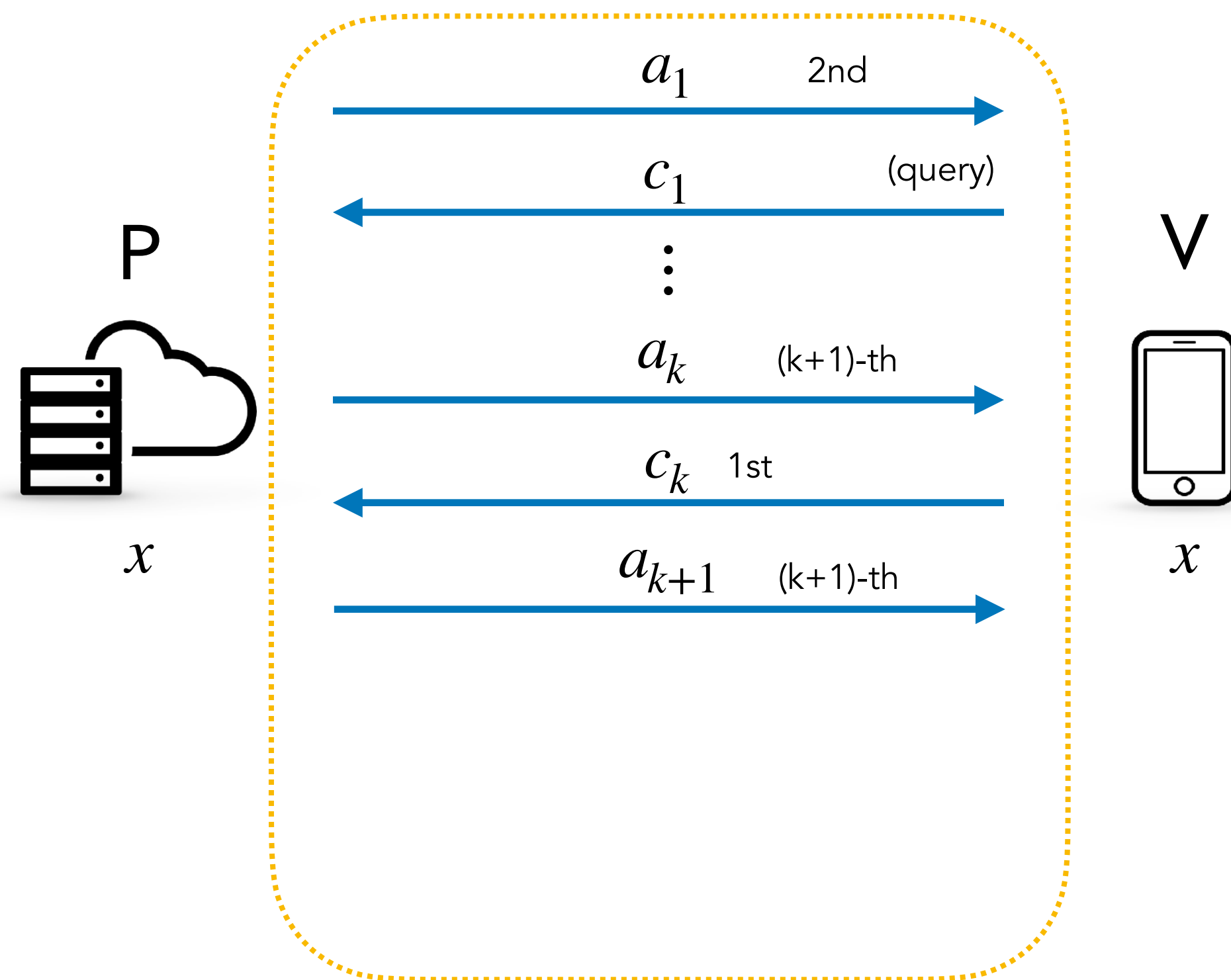
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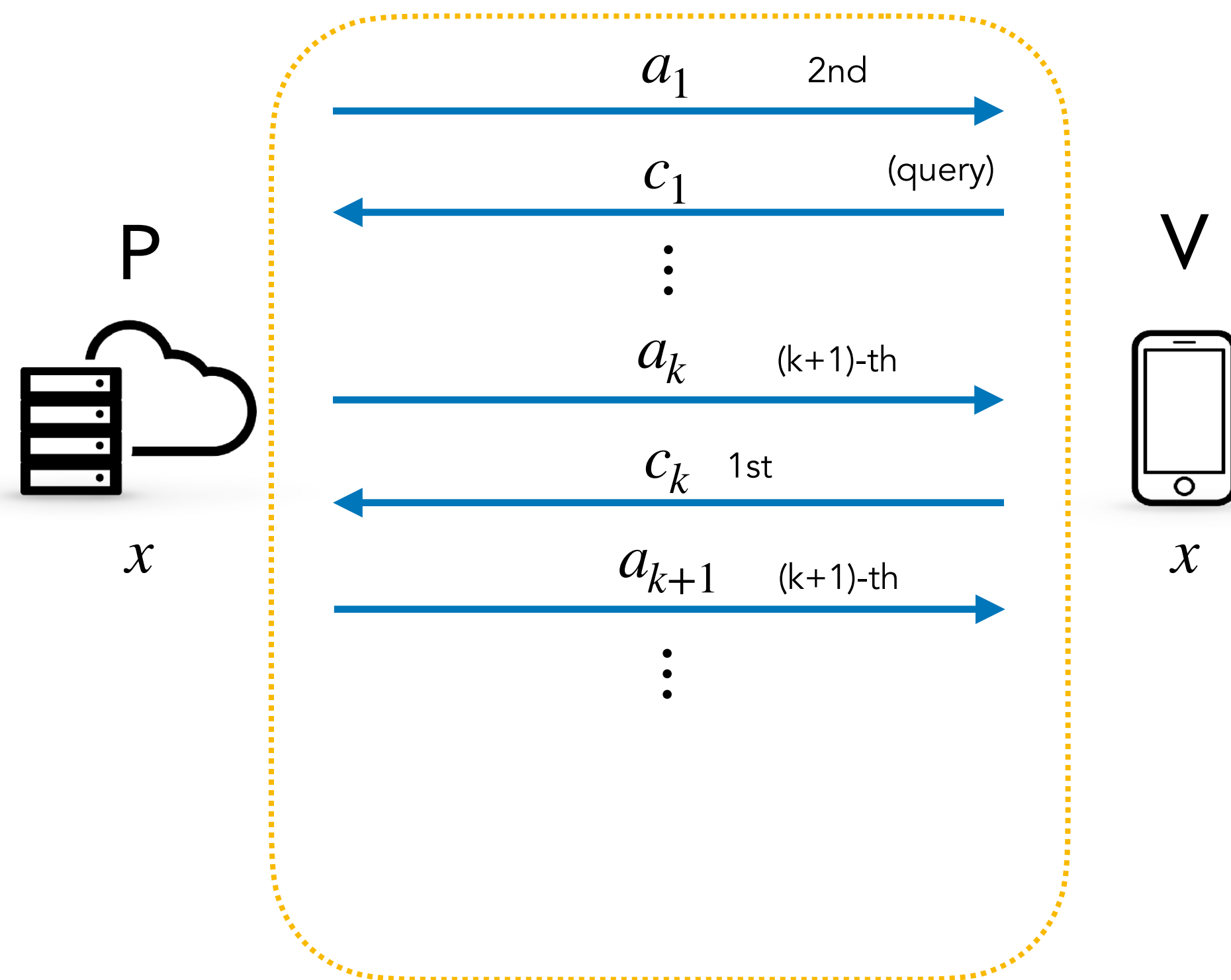
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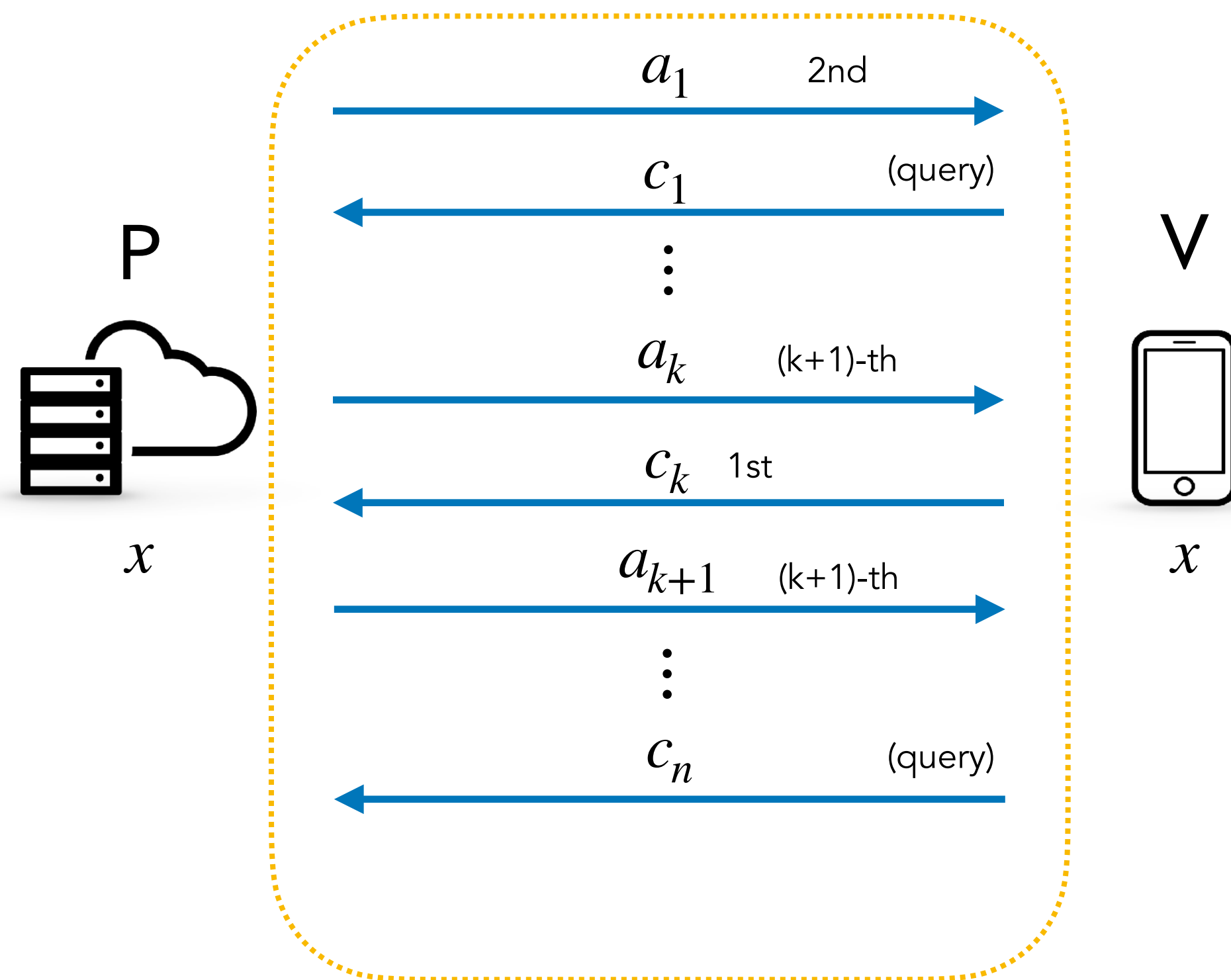
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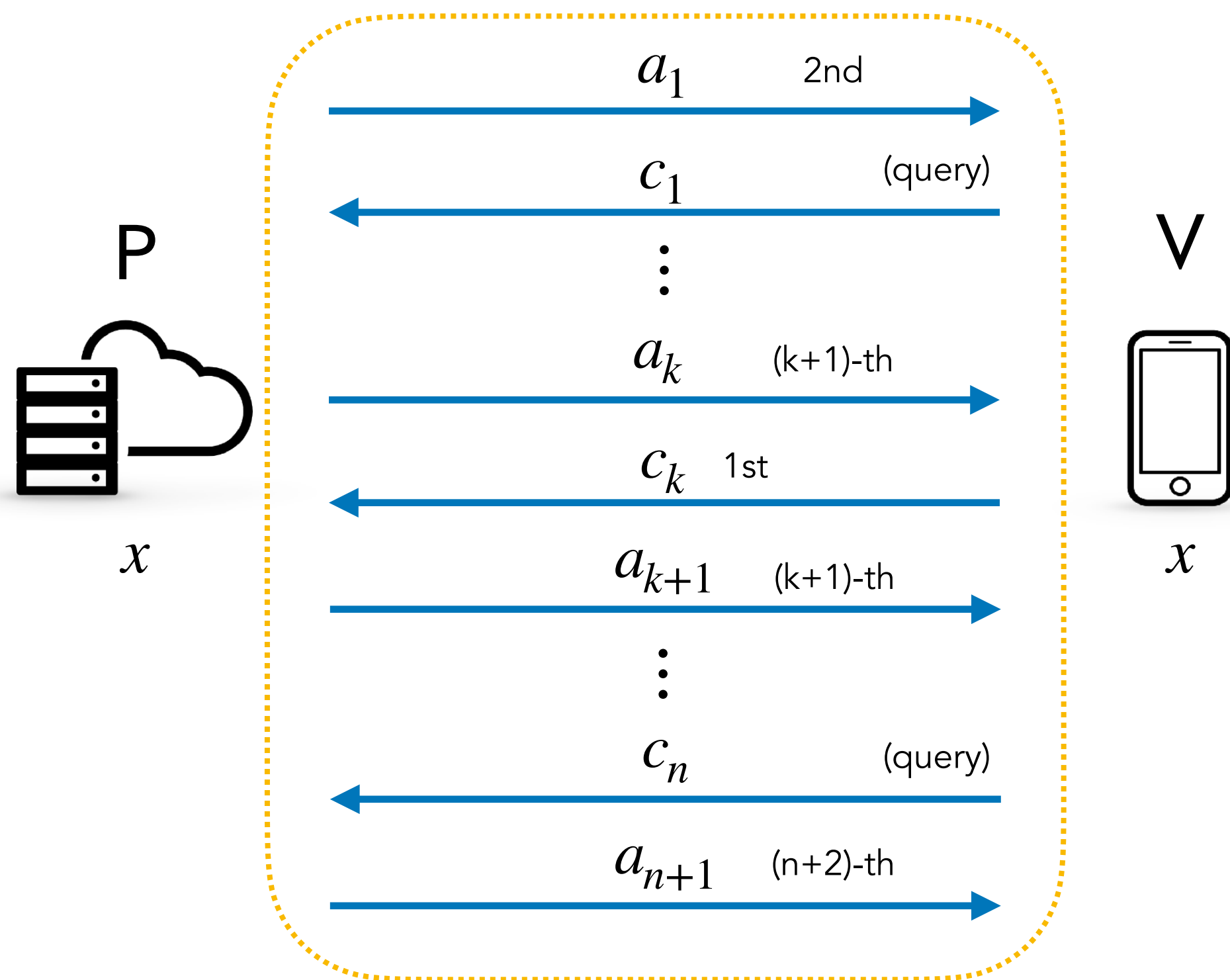
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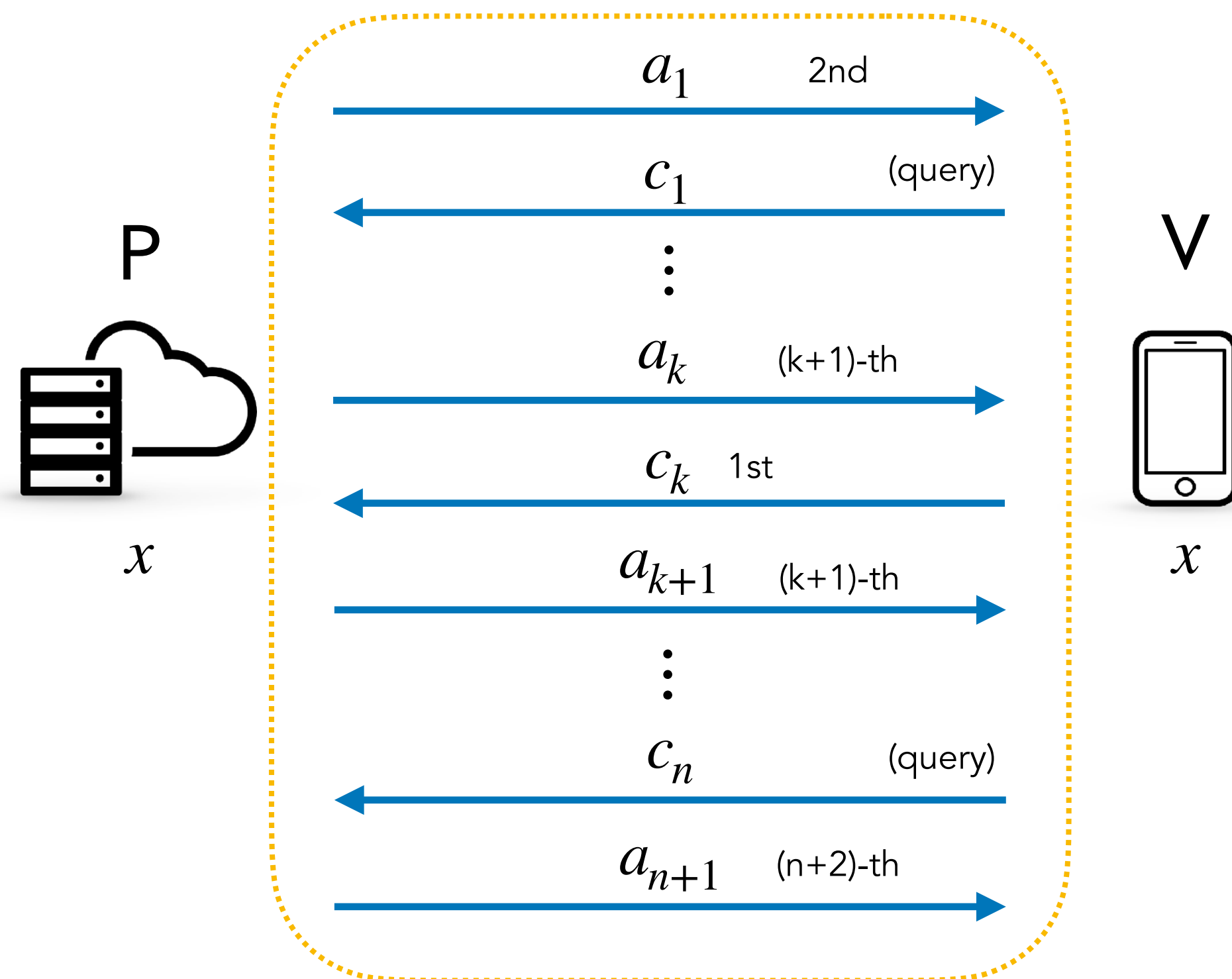




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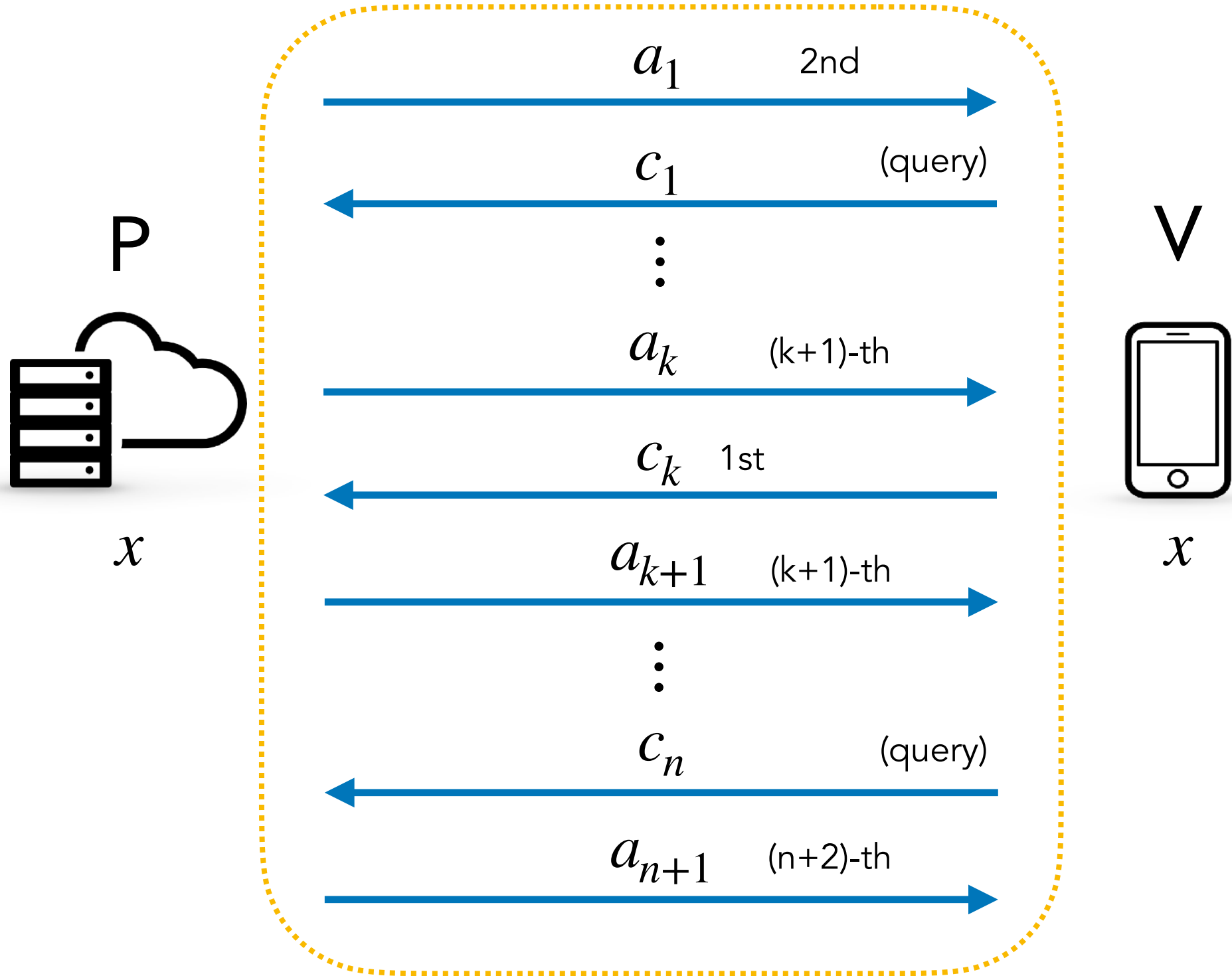
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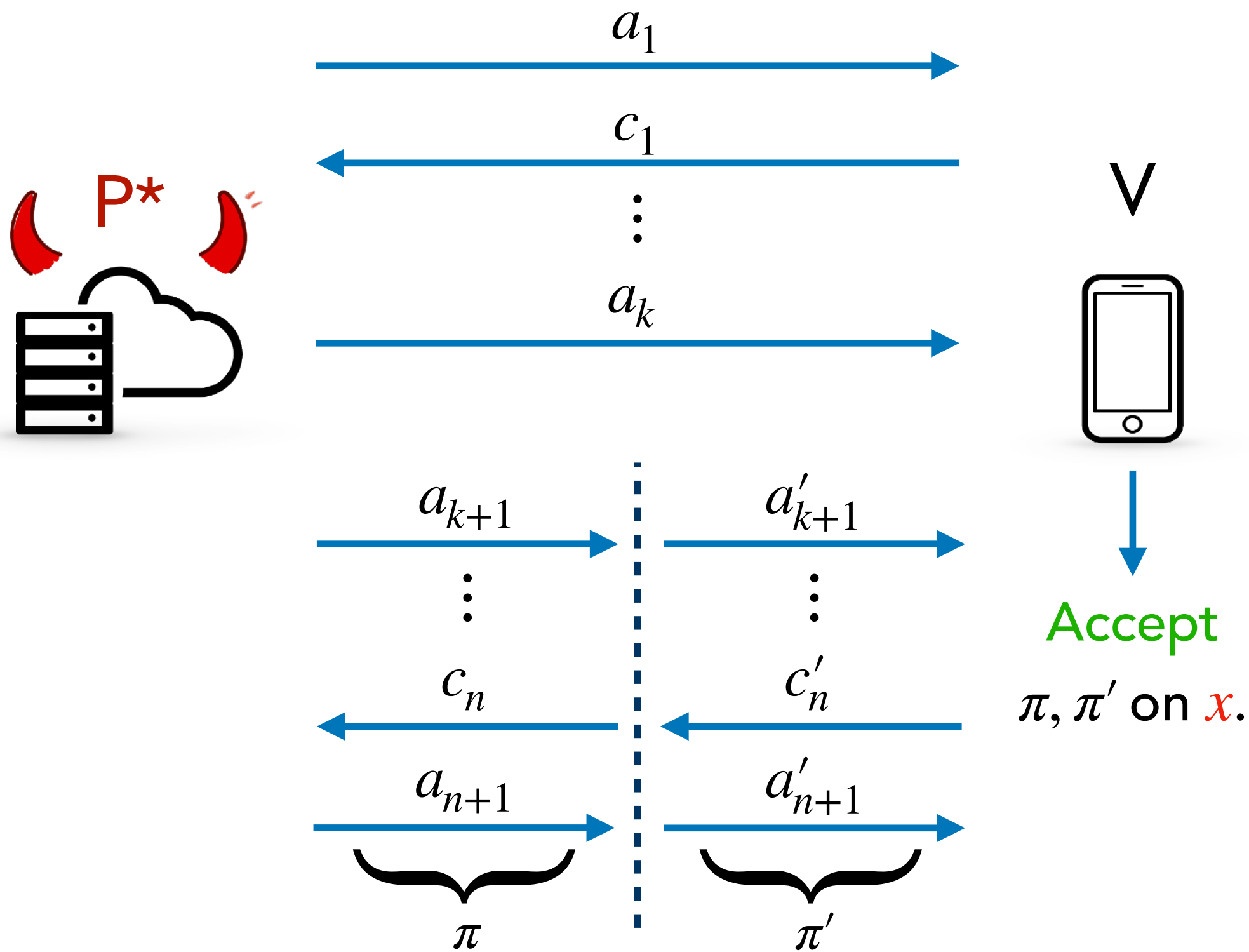


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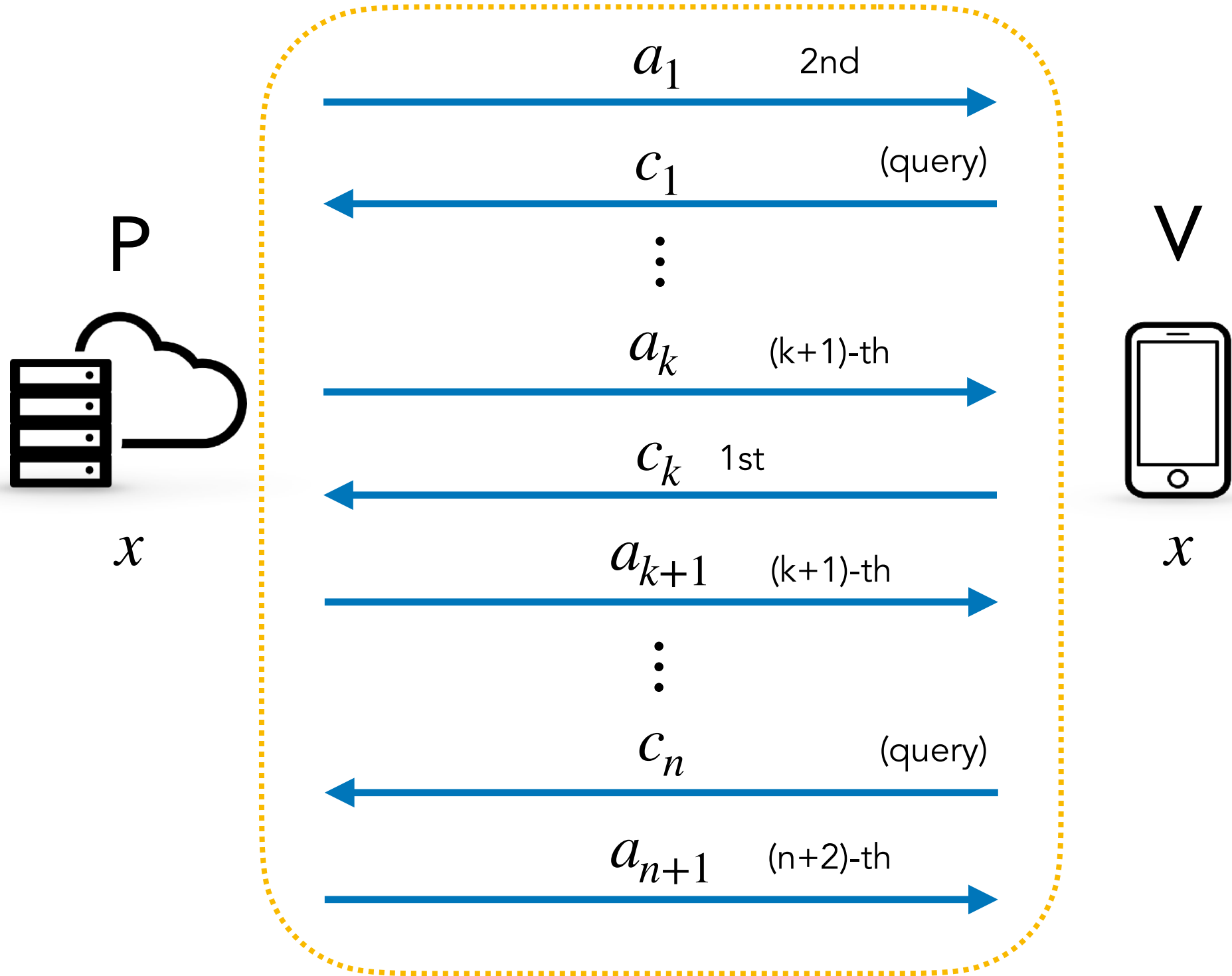


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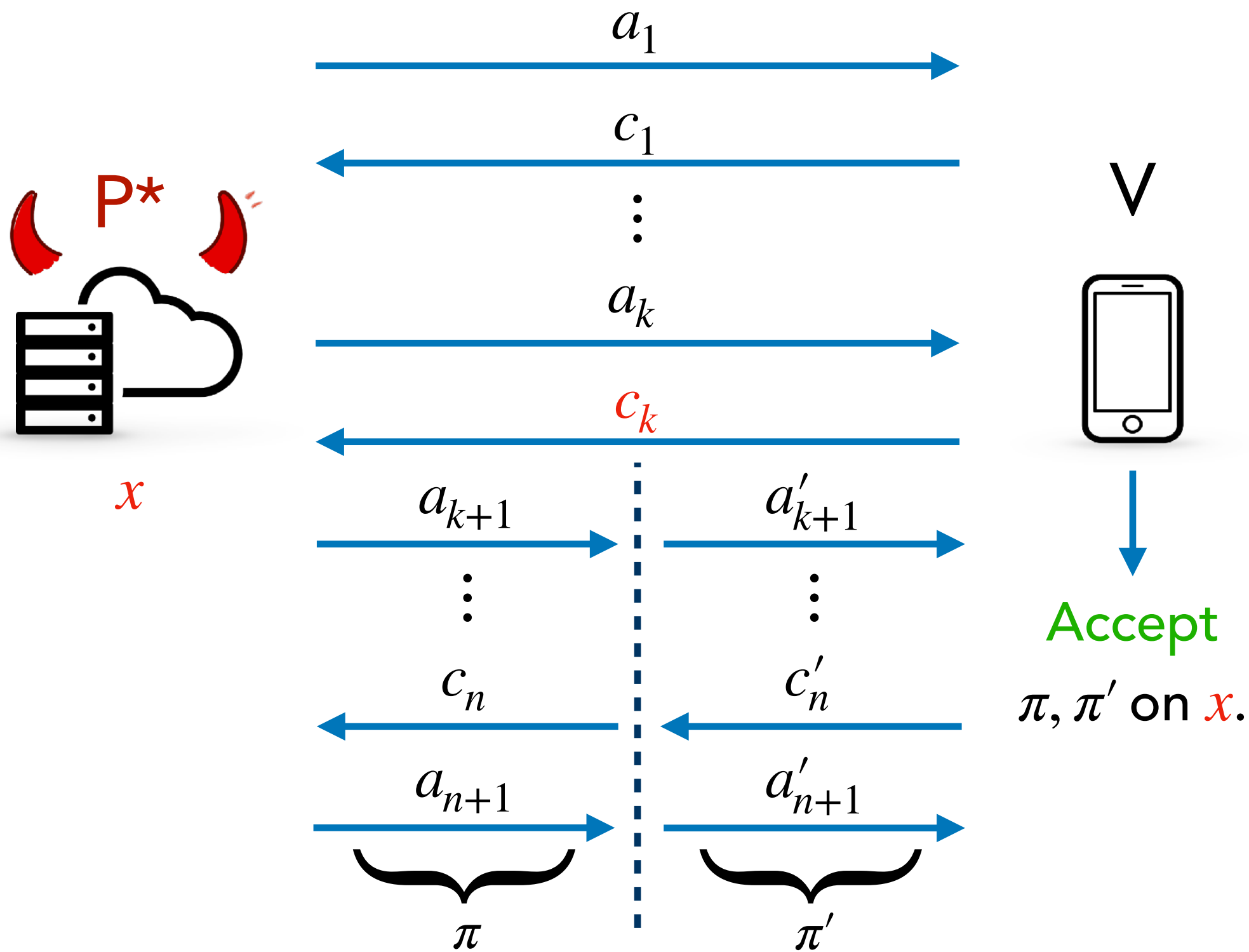


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k-Zero-Knowledge (k-ZK): The simulator  $\text{Sim}_k$  may only choose  $k^{\text{th}}$  challenge, and compute other messages in order.



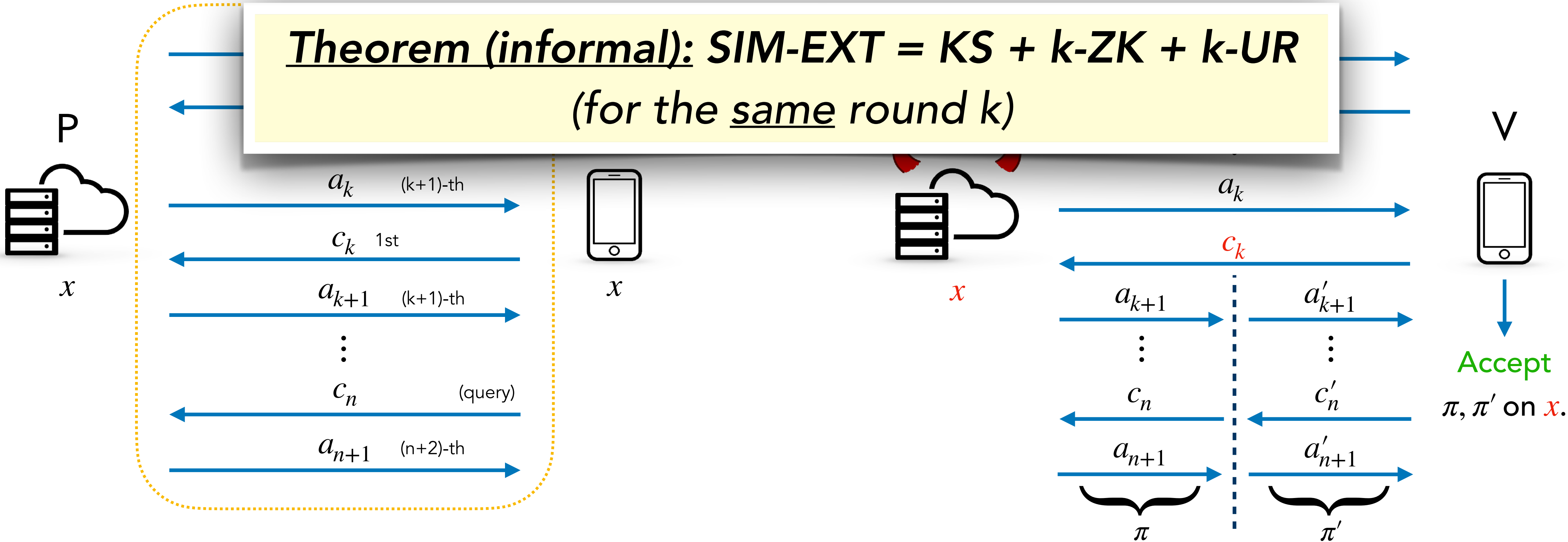
k-Unique Response (k-UR):  $P^*$  cannot output accepting proofs  $\pi \neq \pi'$  that agree up to round  $k$ , even given power to choose statement  $x$  and  $k^{\text{th}}$  challenge  $c_k$ .



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# Agenda

1. SIM-EXT = KS + k-ZK + k-UR (for same k)
- 2. Instantiating SIM-EXT template for Bulletproofs**
3. Knowledge Soundness via Generalized Tree Builder

# Bulletproofs Range Proof

# Bulletproofs Range Proof

Public

Private

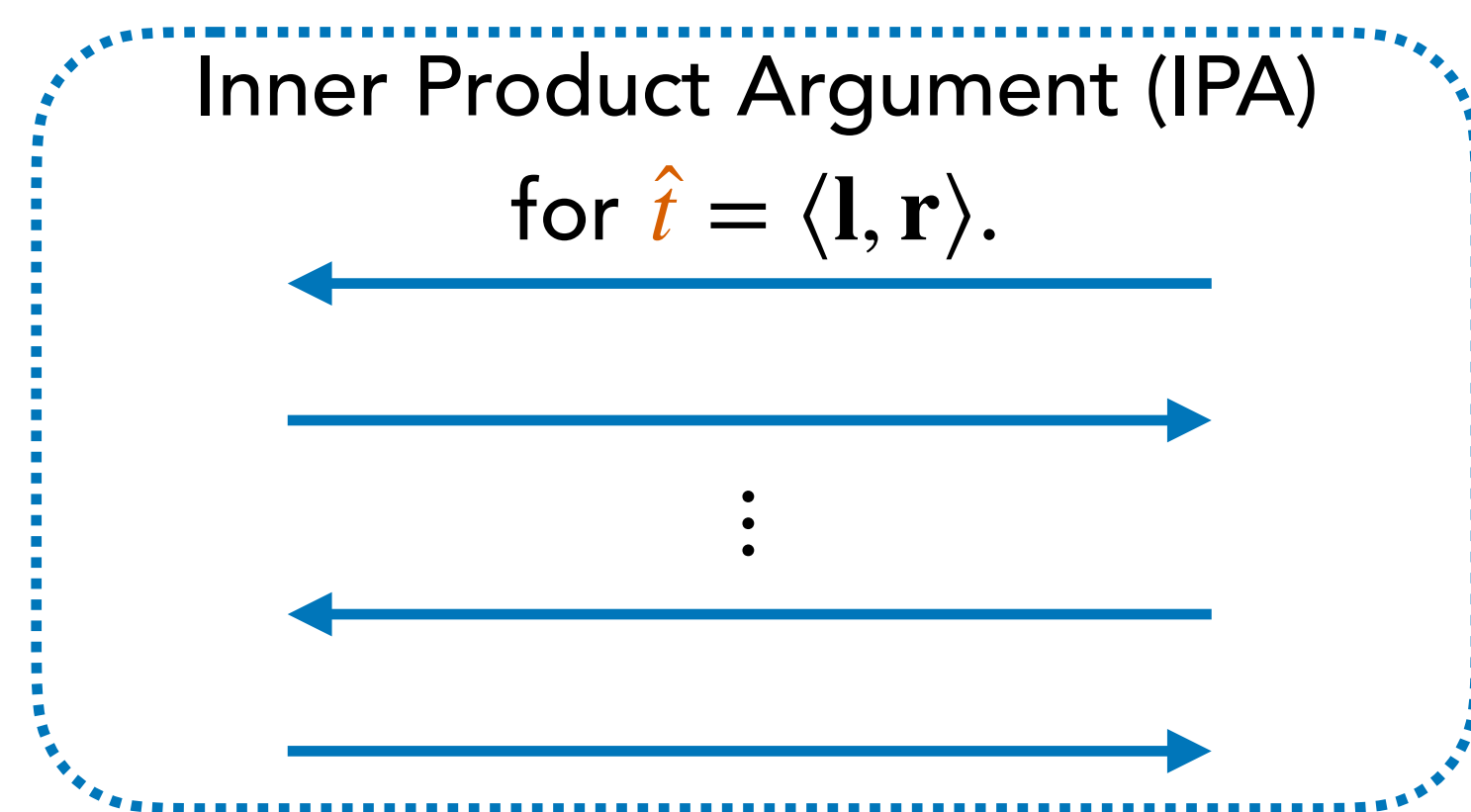
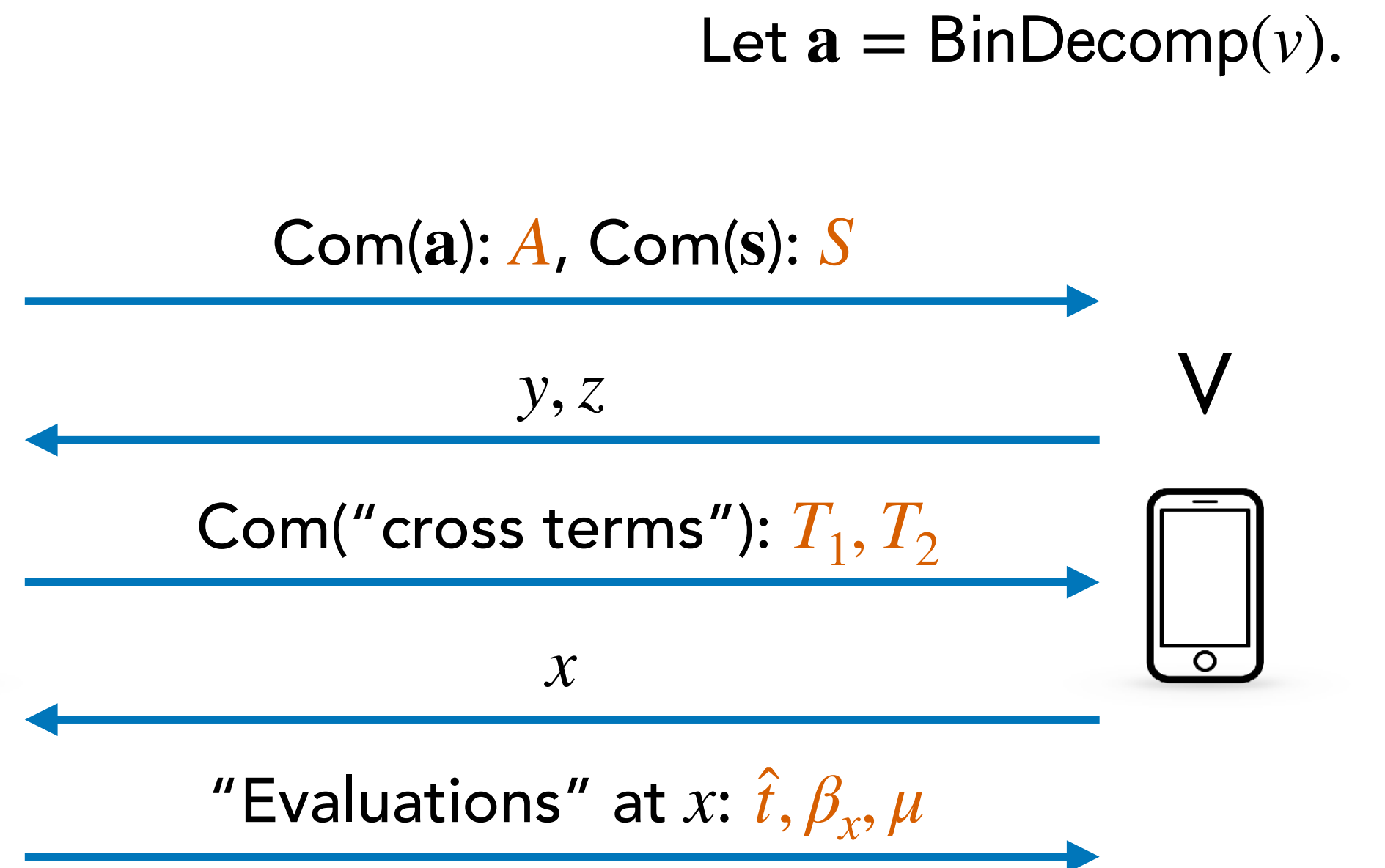
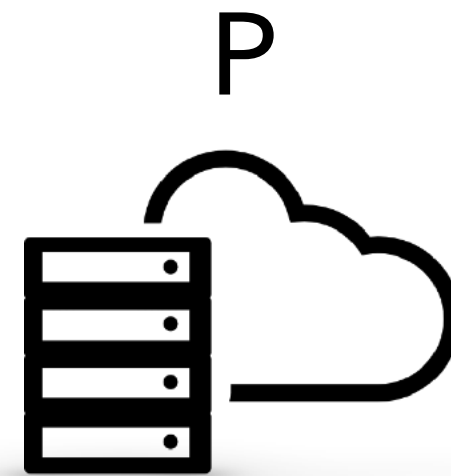
Relation:  $V = g^v h^r$  and  $0 \leq v \leq 2^n - 1$

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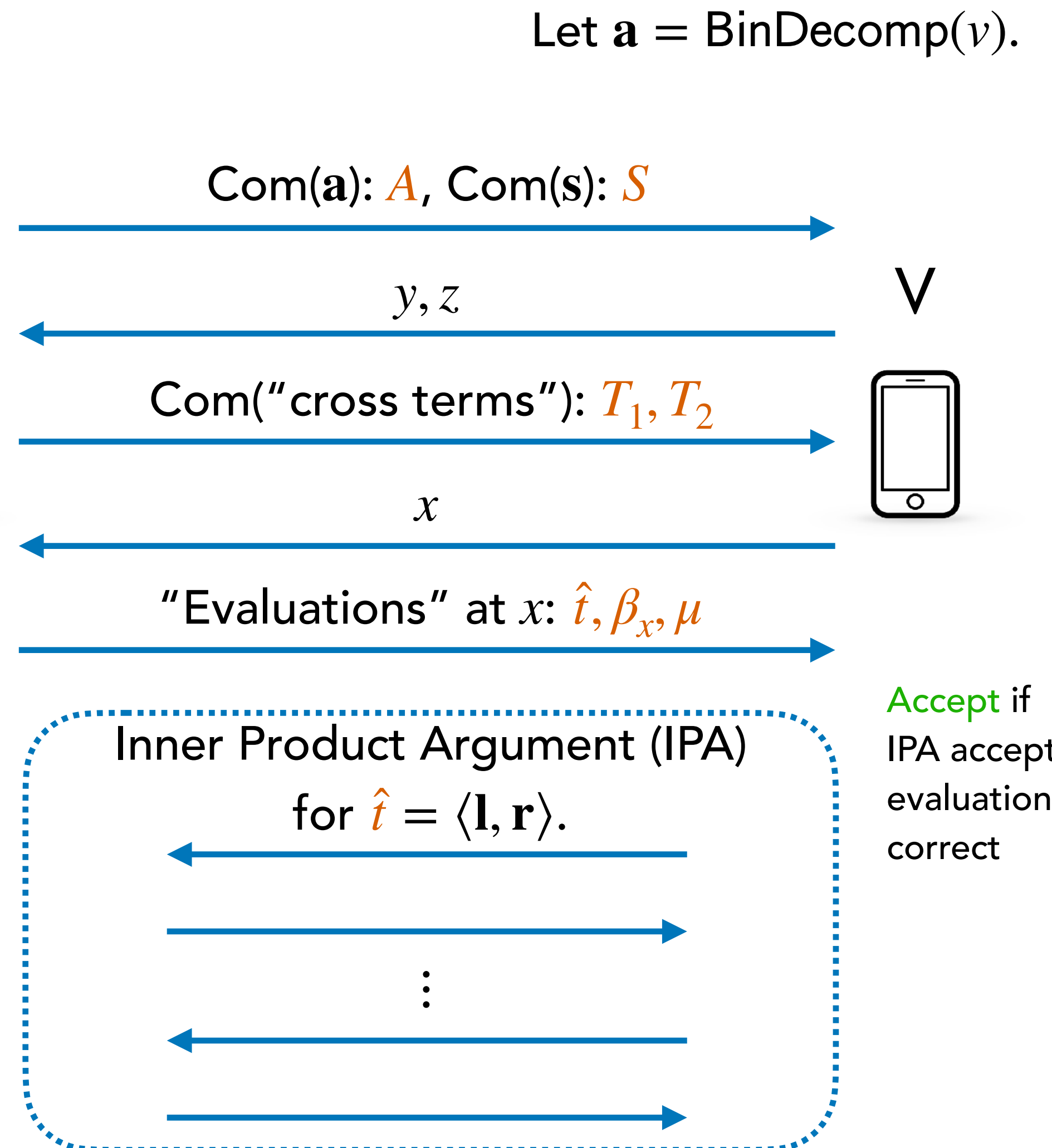
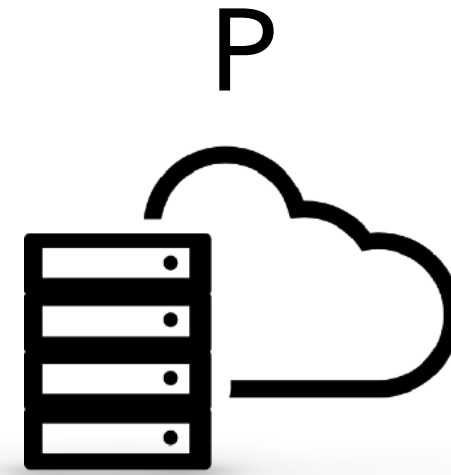
# Bulletproofs Range Proof

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**Relation:**  $V = g^v h^r$  and  $0 \leq v \leq 2^n - 1$

**Recall:** We need to show Bulletproofs satisfy KS,  $k$ -ZK, and  $k$ -UR for the same round  $k$ .



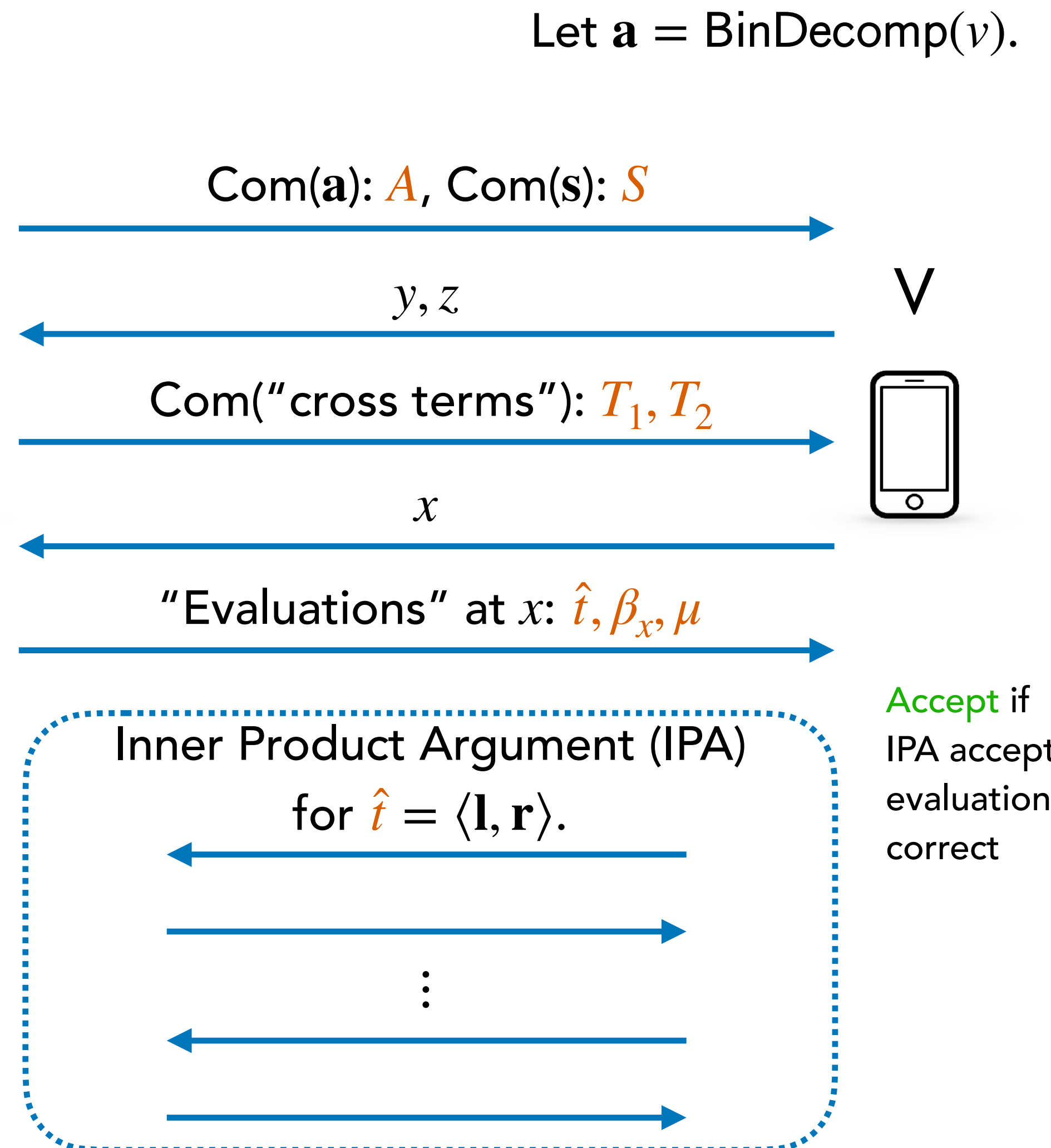
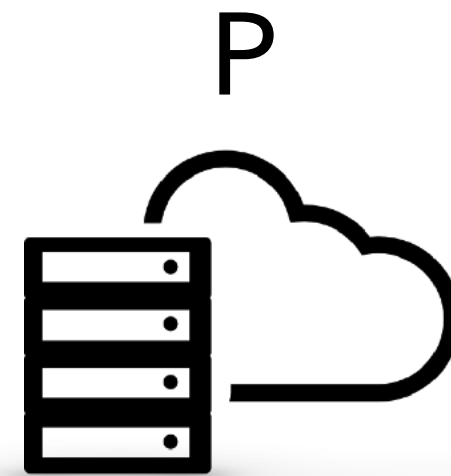
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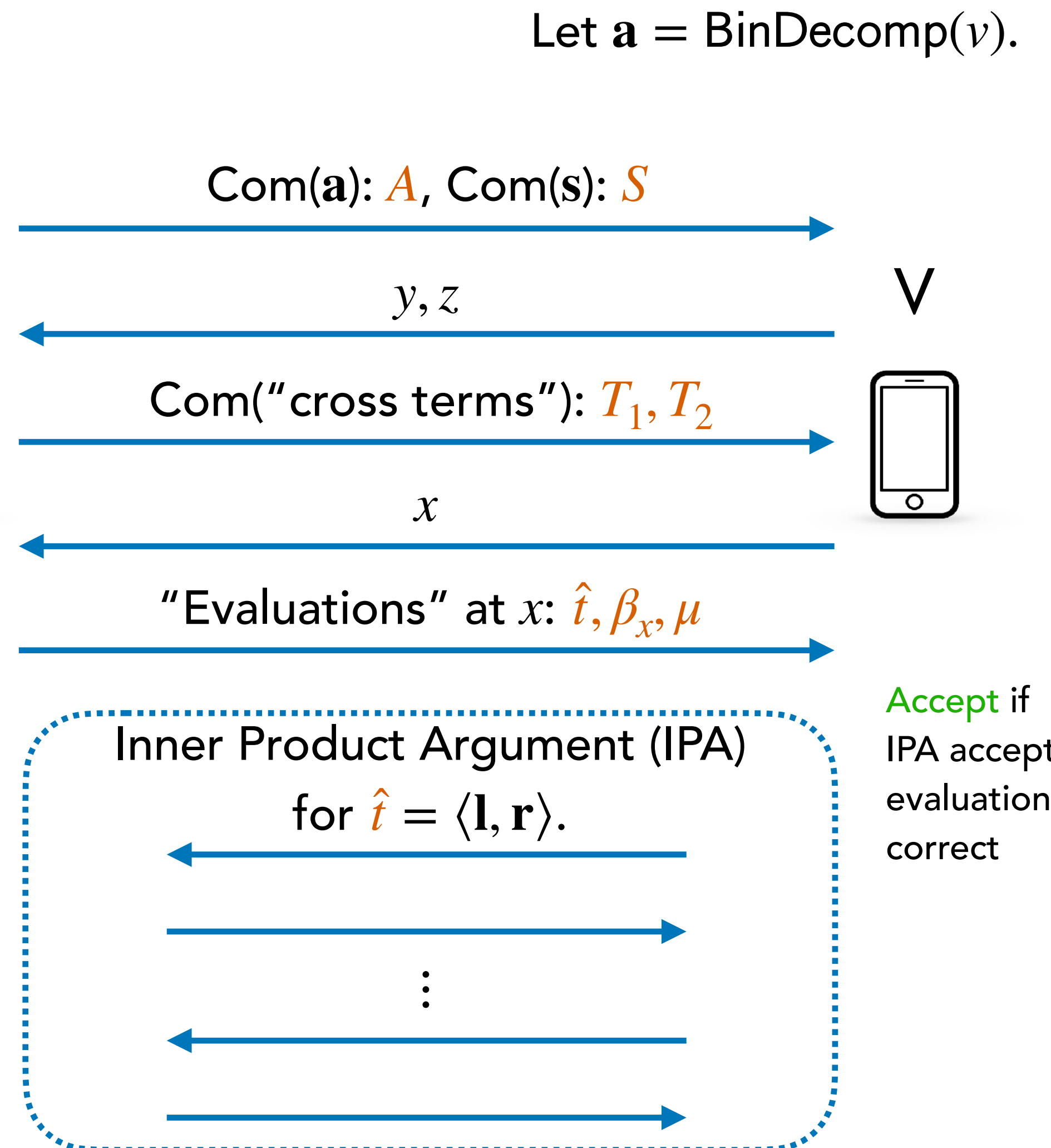
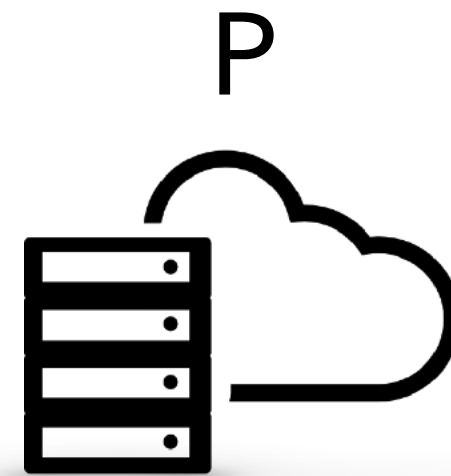
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# Bulletproofs Range Proof

Public

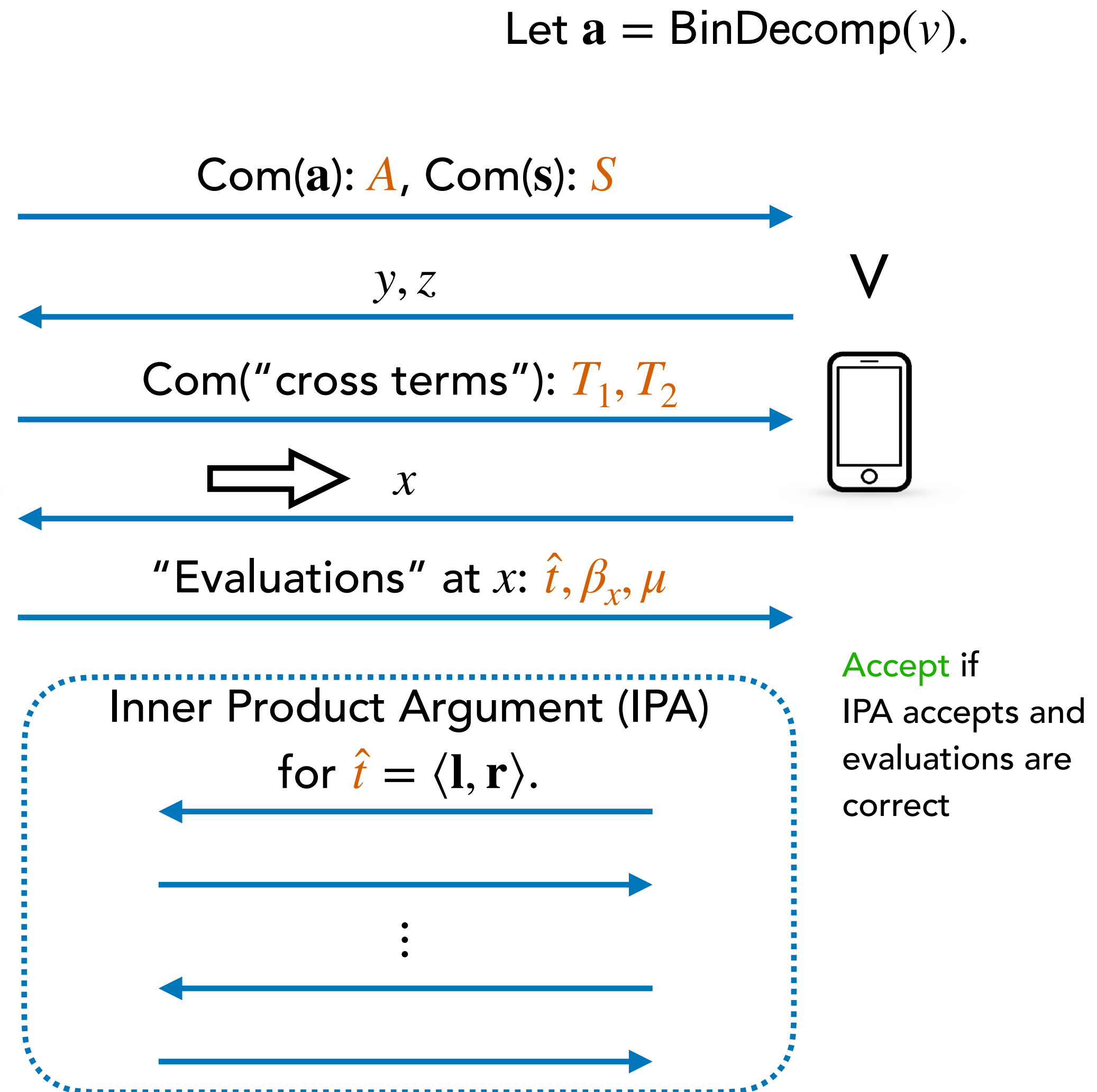
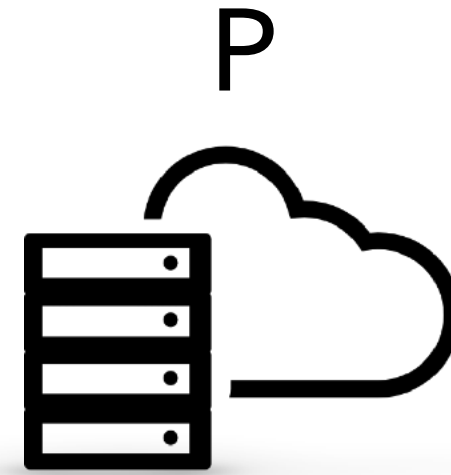
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**Q:** Which round  $k$  to prove  $k$ -ZK and  $k$ -UR?

**A:** Choose the last round with P's randomness.  
( $k = 2$  in this case)



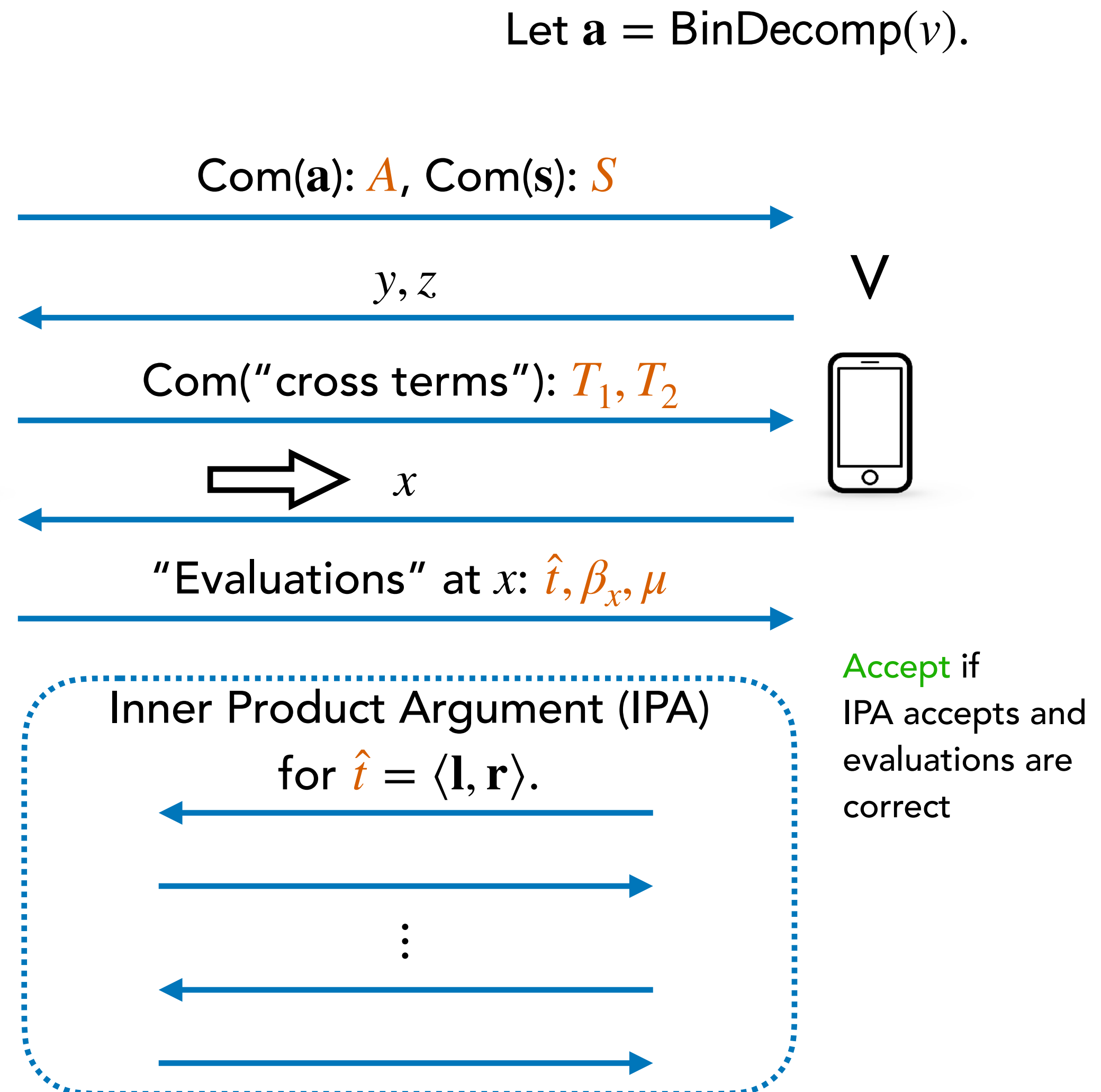
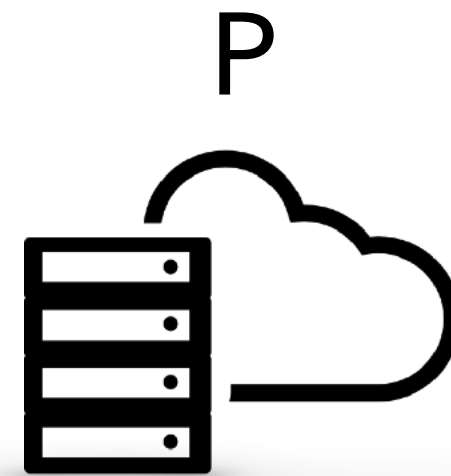
# Bulletproofs Range Proof

Public

Private

**Relation:**  $V = g^v h^r$  and  $0 \leq v \leq 2^n - 1$

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# Bulletproofs Range Proof

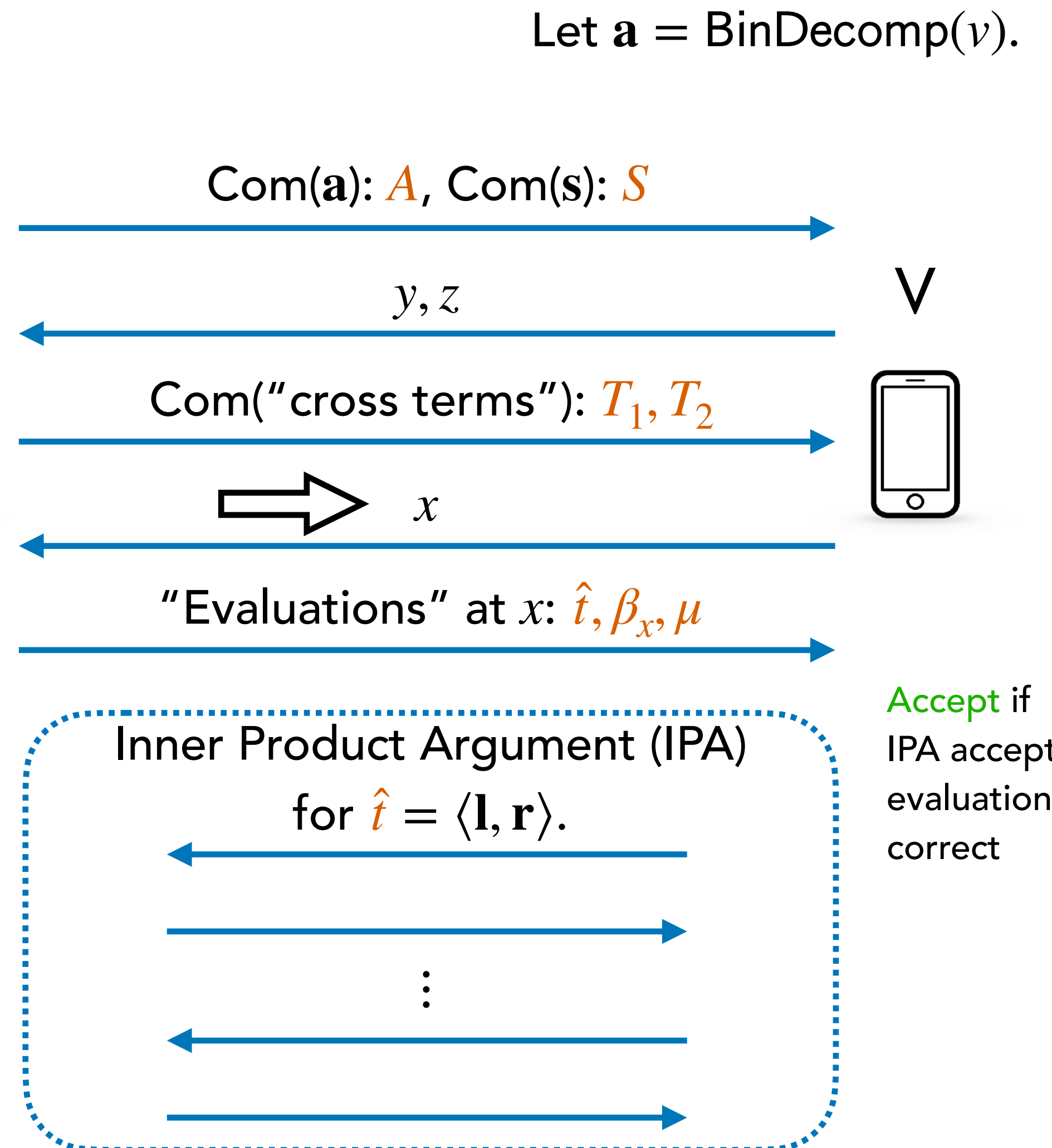
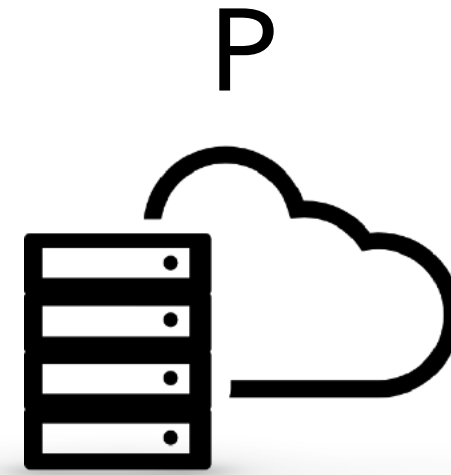
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**Relation:**  $V = g^v h^r$  and  $0 \leq v \leq 2^n - 1$

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# Bulletproofs Range Proof

Public

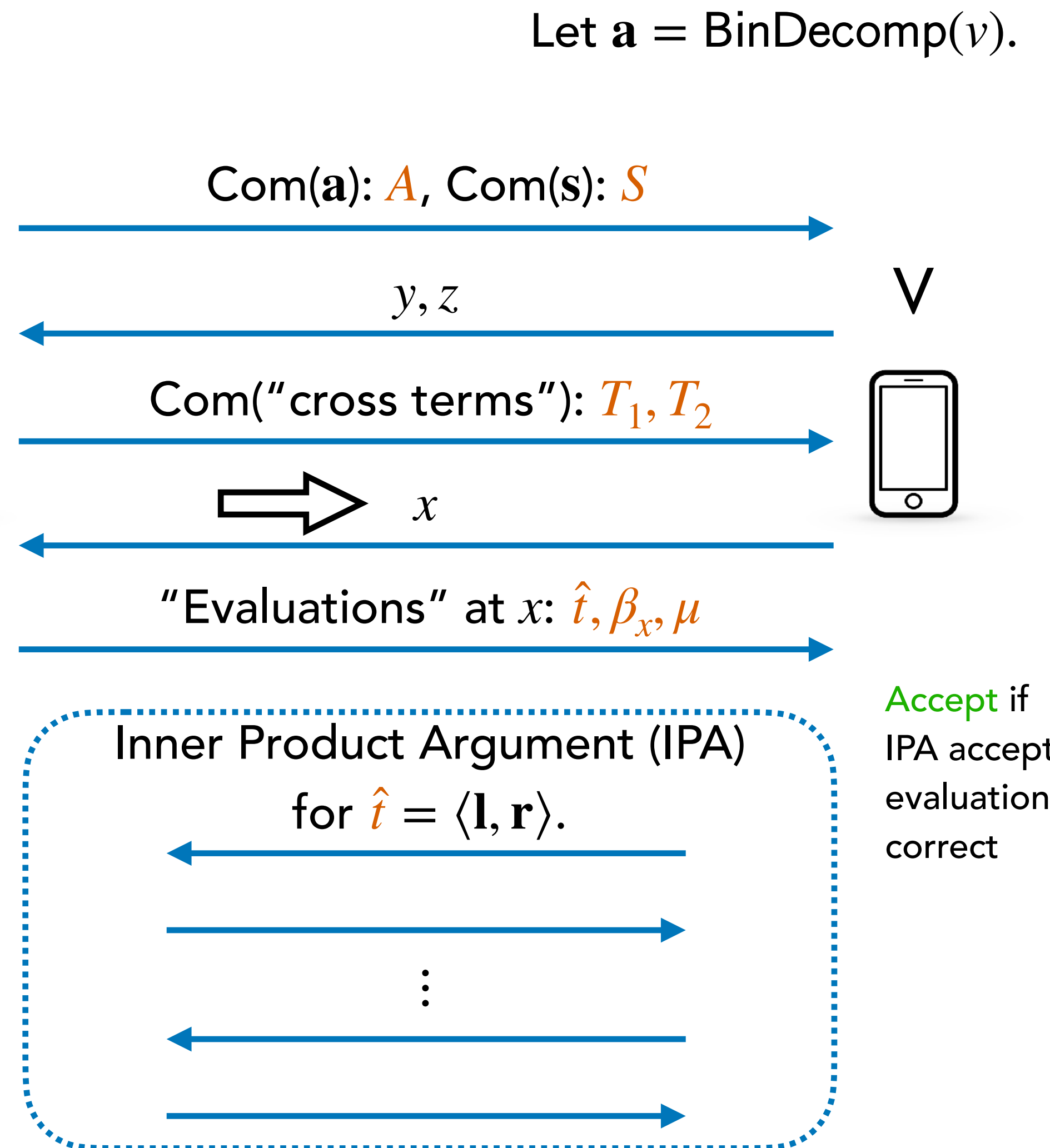
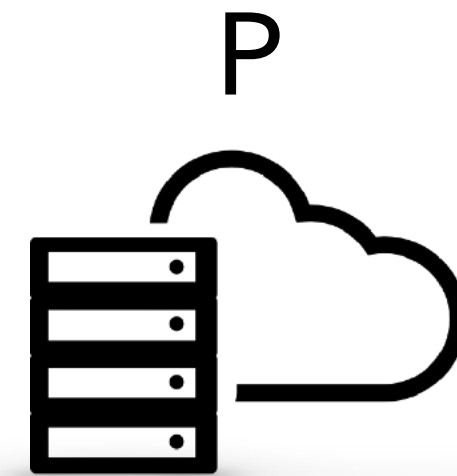
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**Idea:**



# Bulletproofs Range Proof

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Private

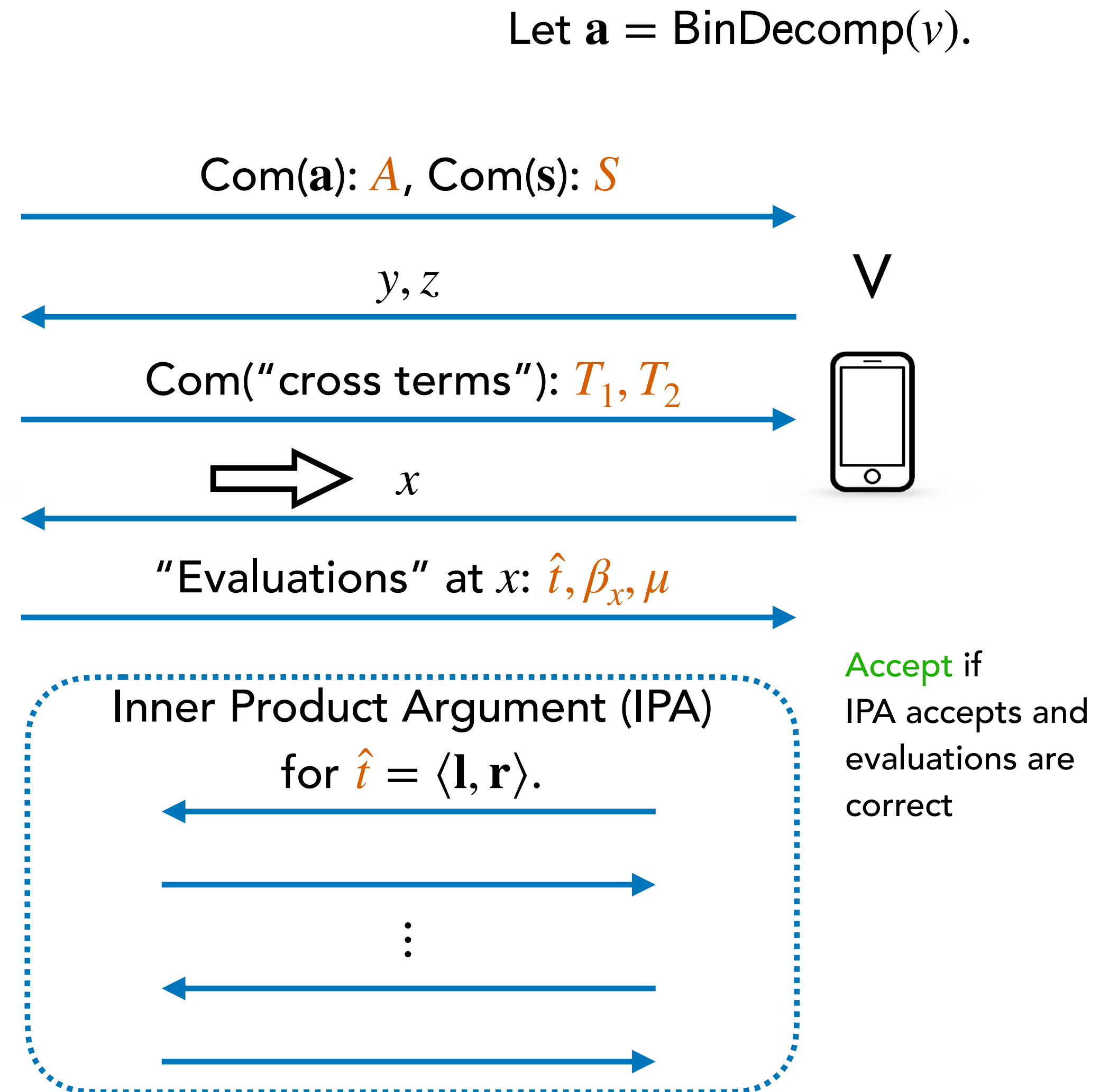
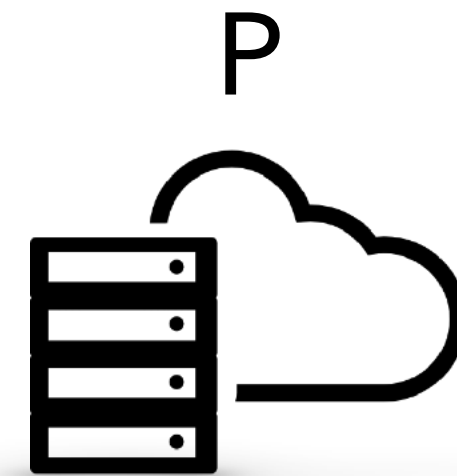
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1. Run the honest prover's algorithm with a "fake" witness.





# Bulletproofs Range Proof

Public

Private

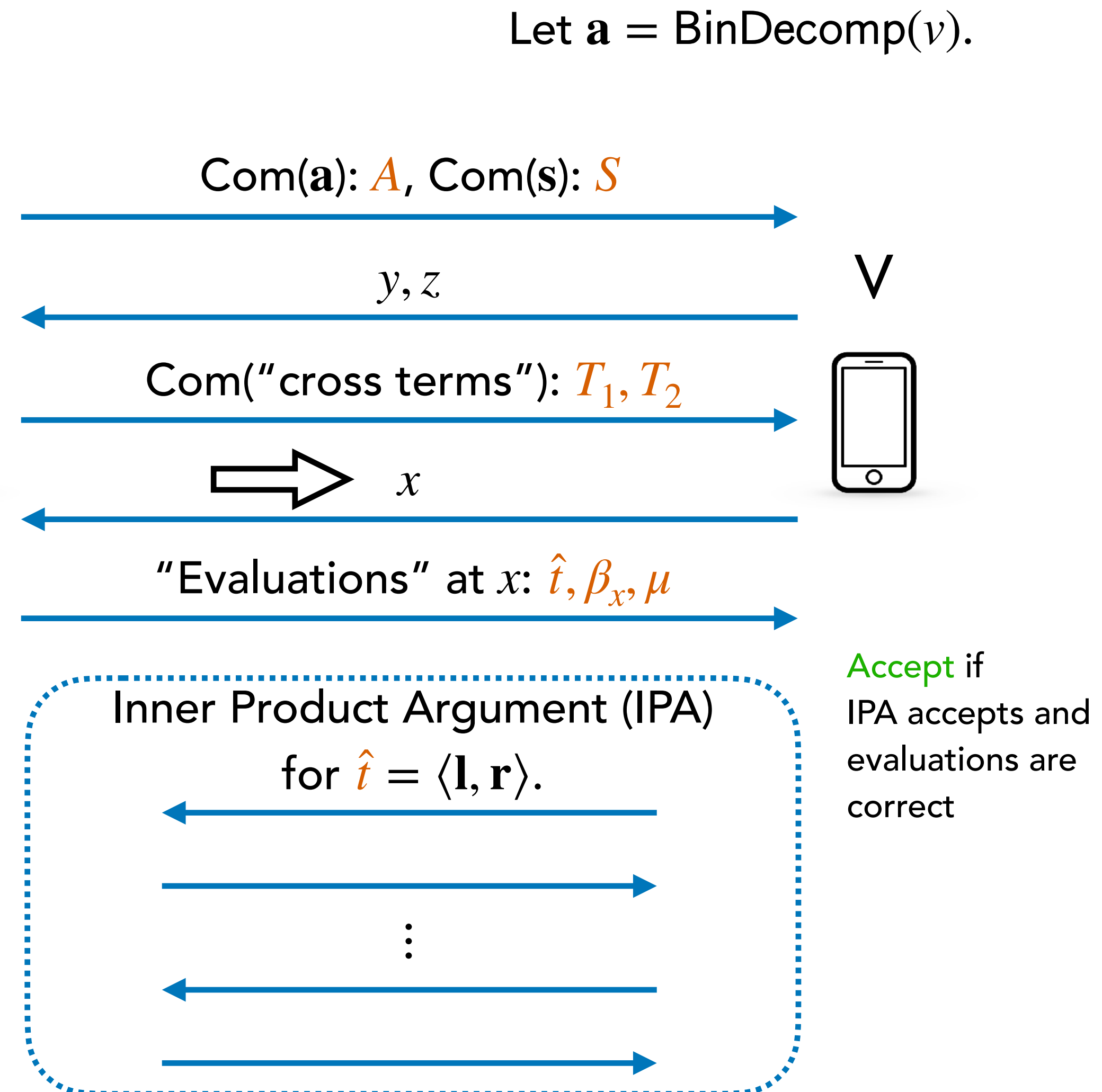
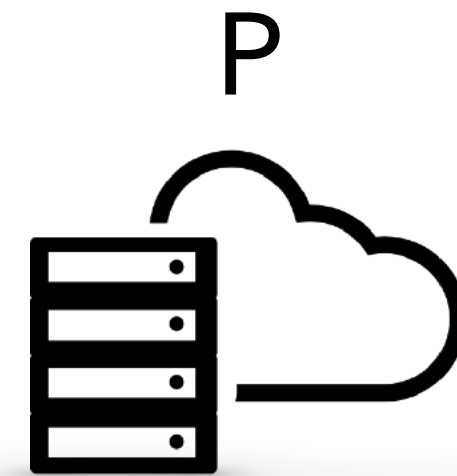
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**Idea:**

1. Run the honest prover's algorithm with a "fake" witness.
2. Resolve contradiction via choosing  $k^{th}$  and  $(k + 1)^{th}$  message at the same time.



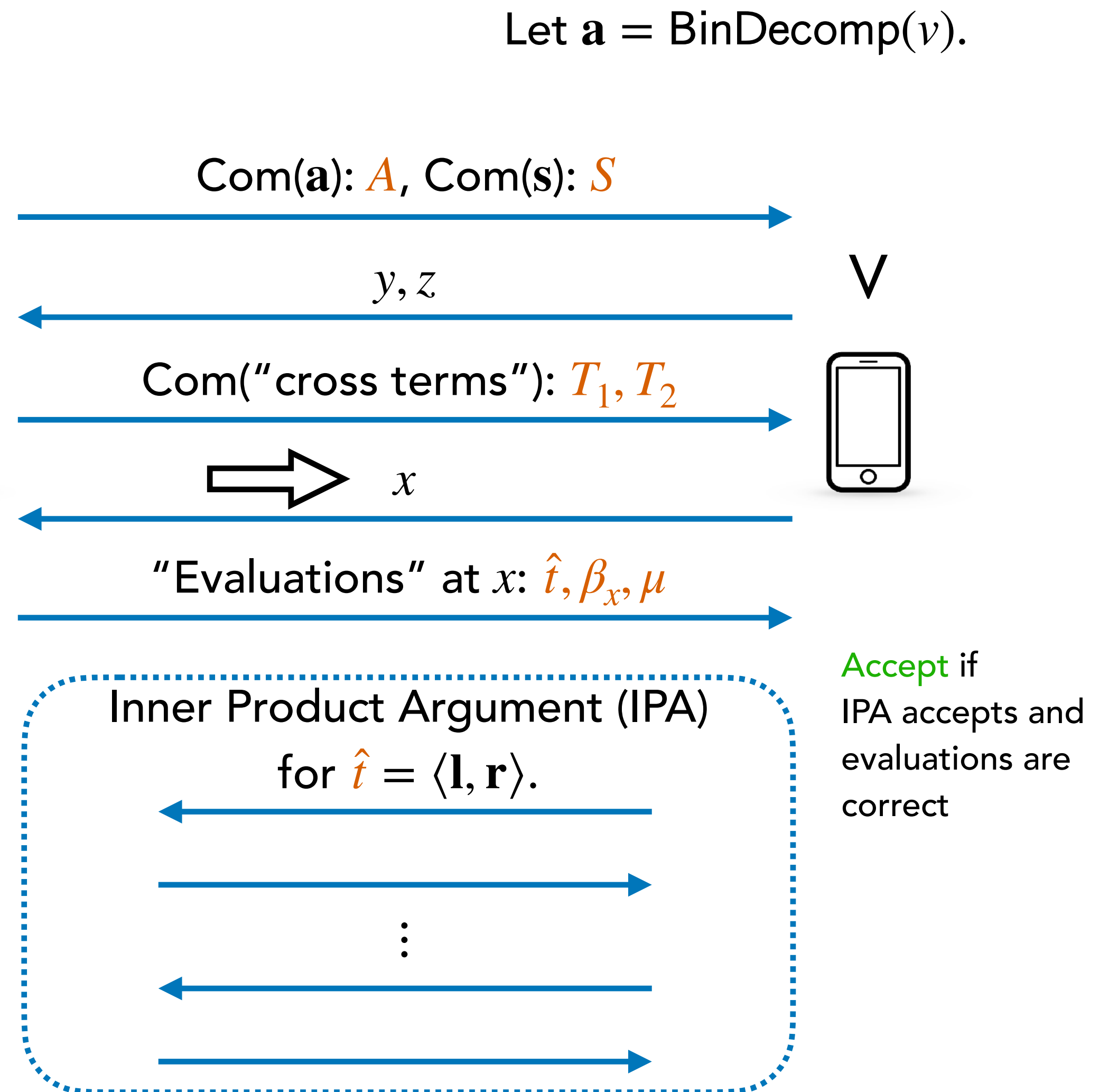
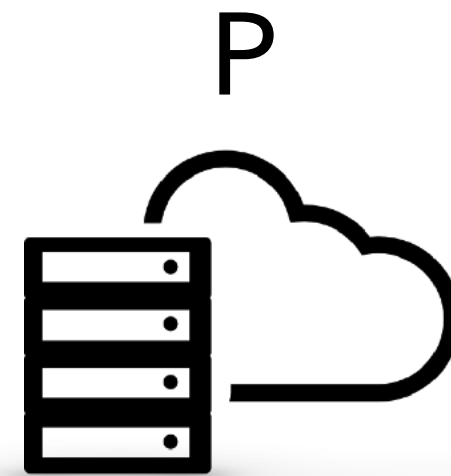
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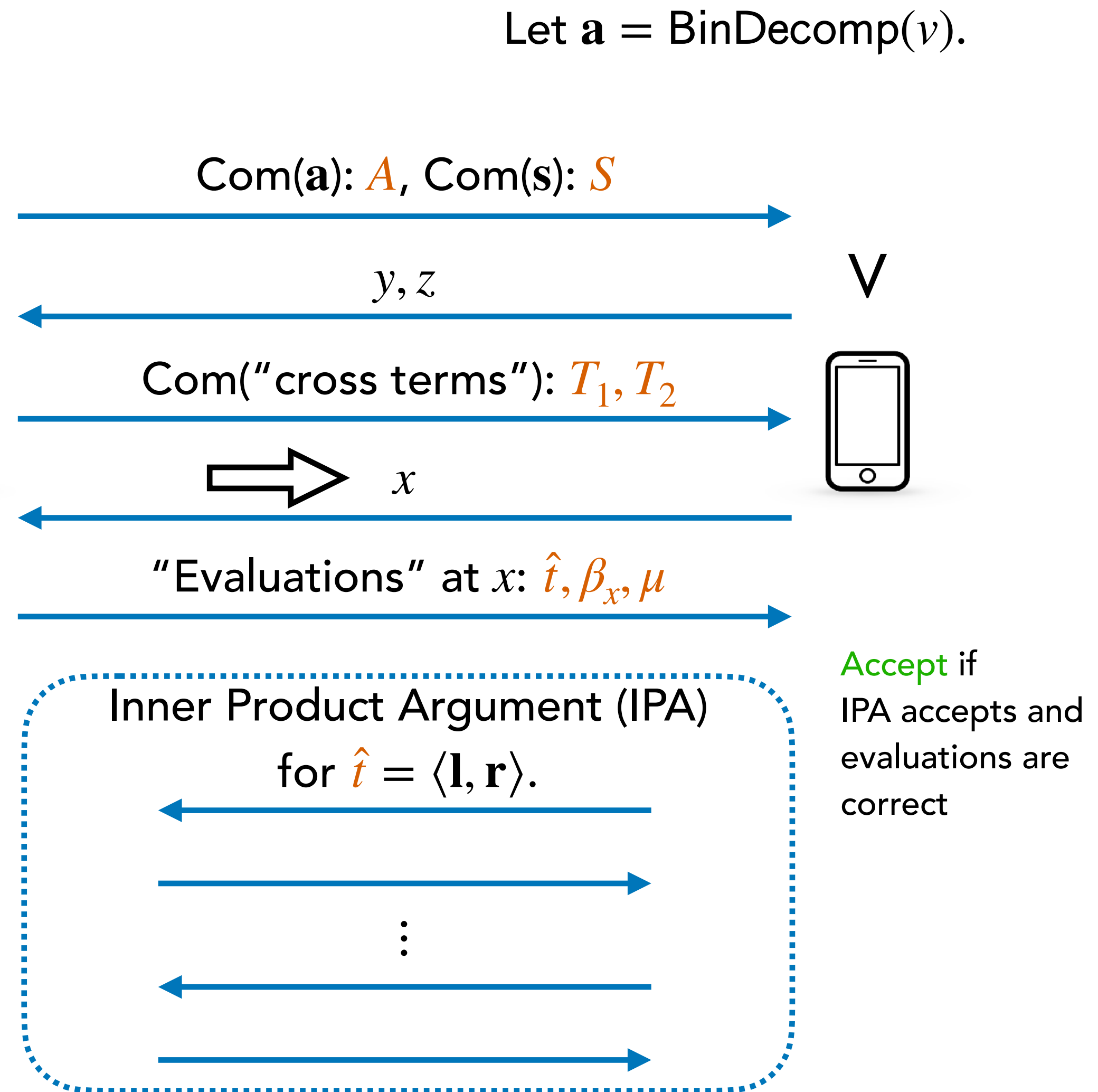
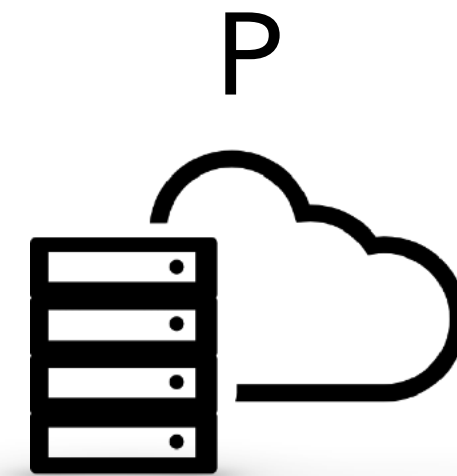
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1. Pick random  $2^{nd}$  challenge  $x$ .



# Bulletproofs Range Proof

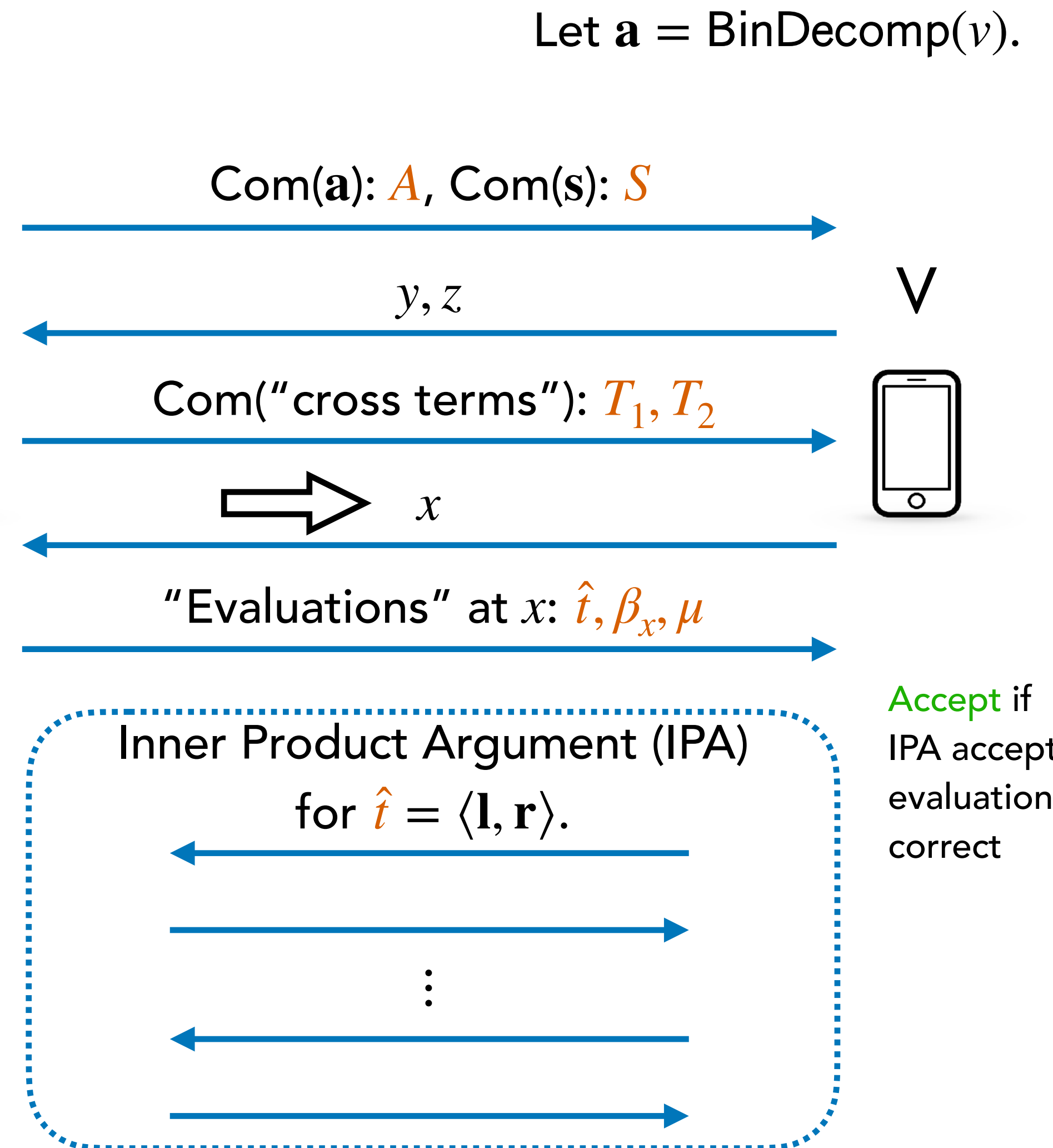
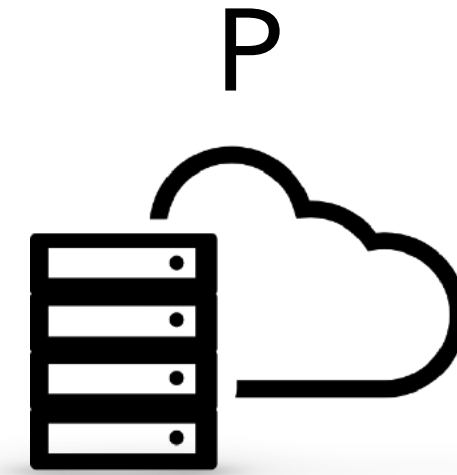
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# Bulletproofs Range Proof

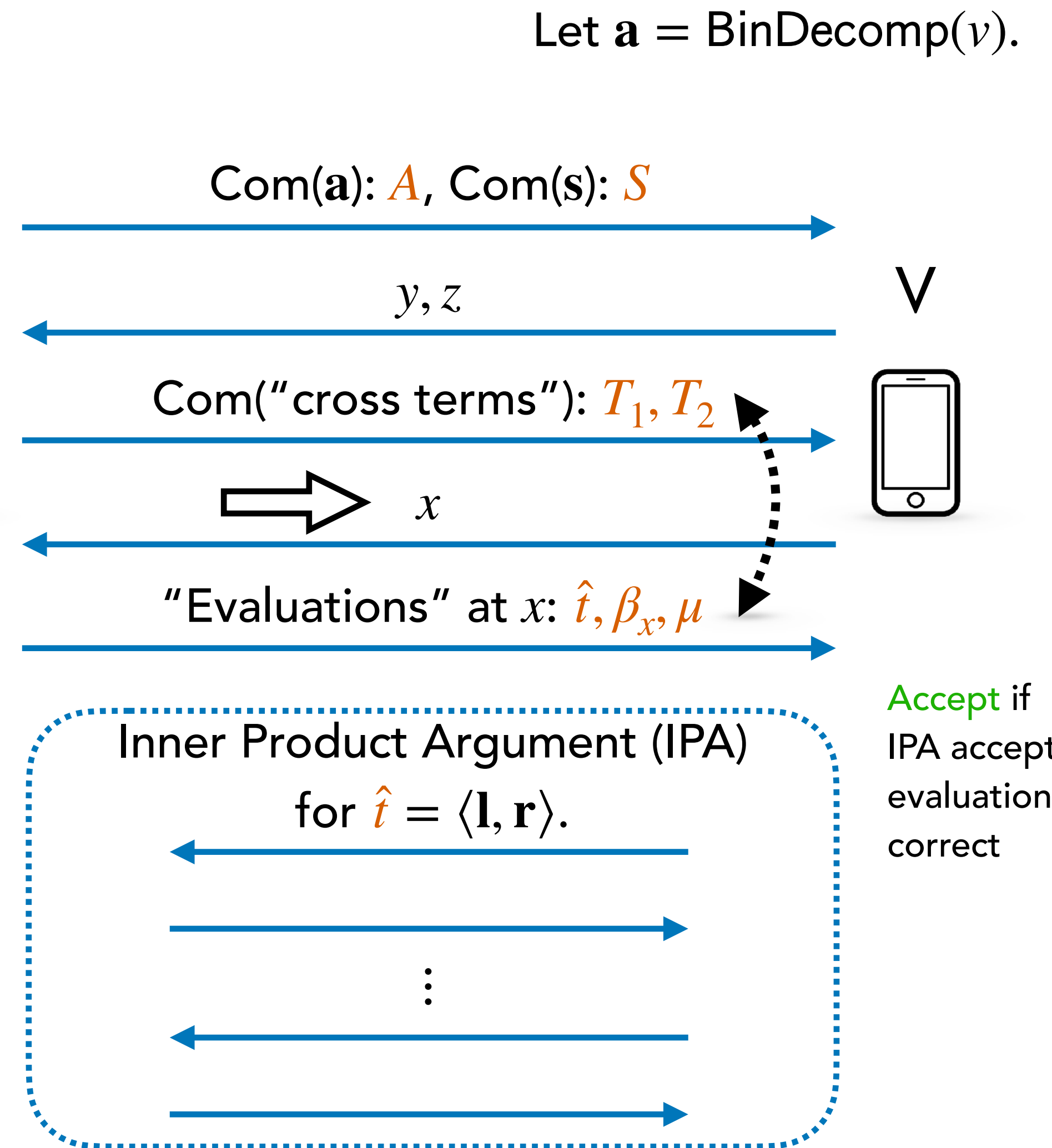
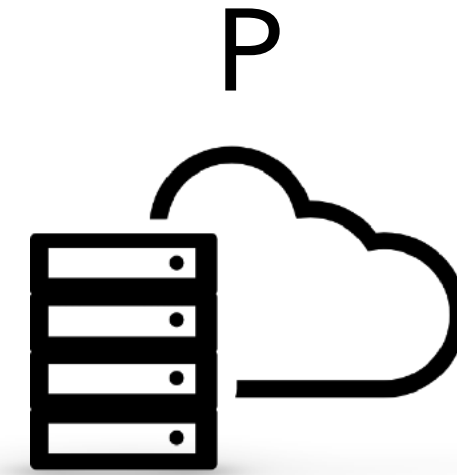
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Public

Private

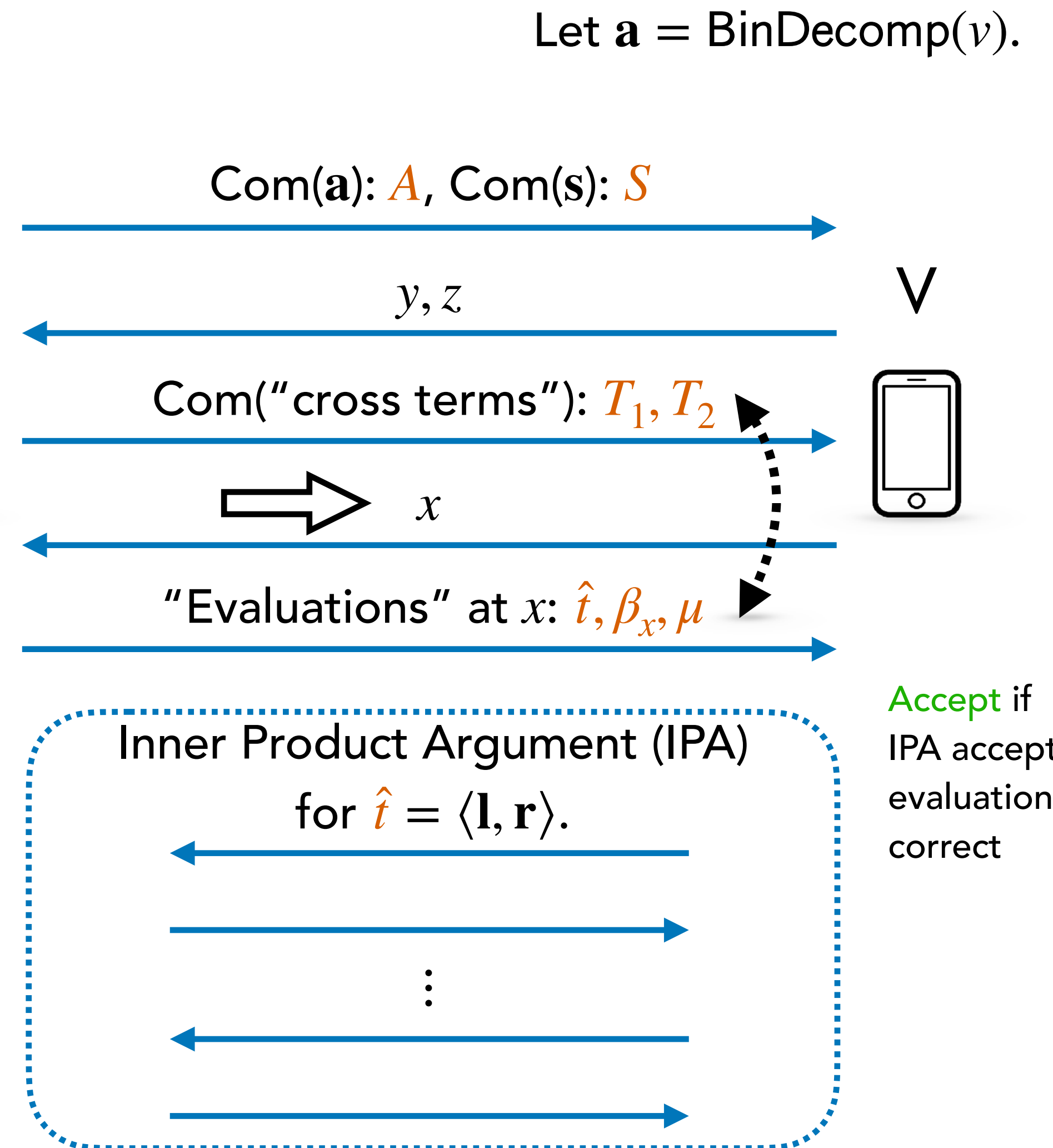
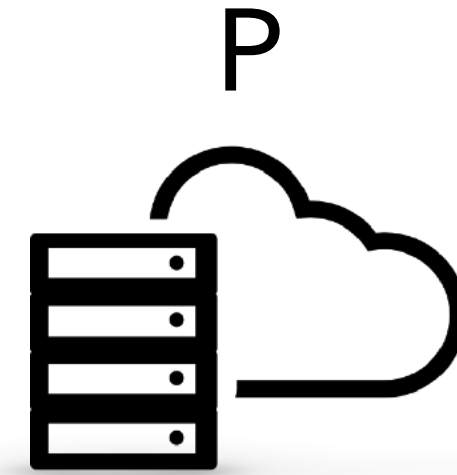
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(eval check)



# Bulletproofs Range Proof

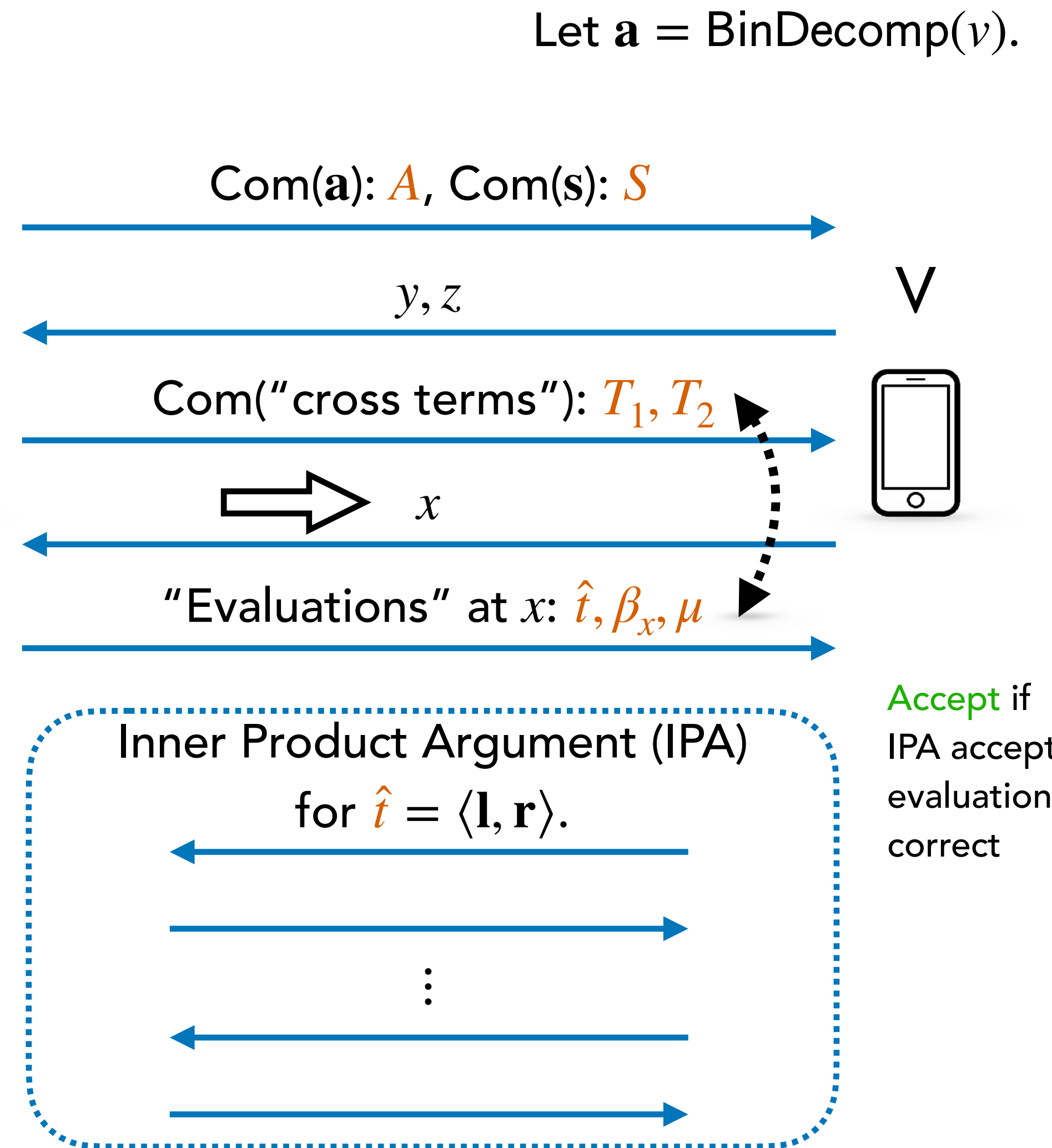
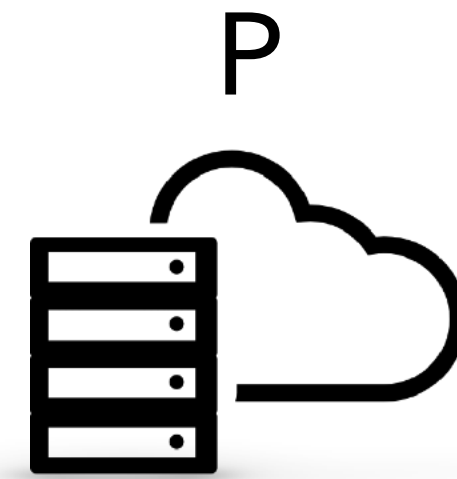
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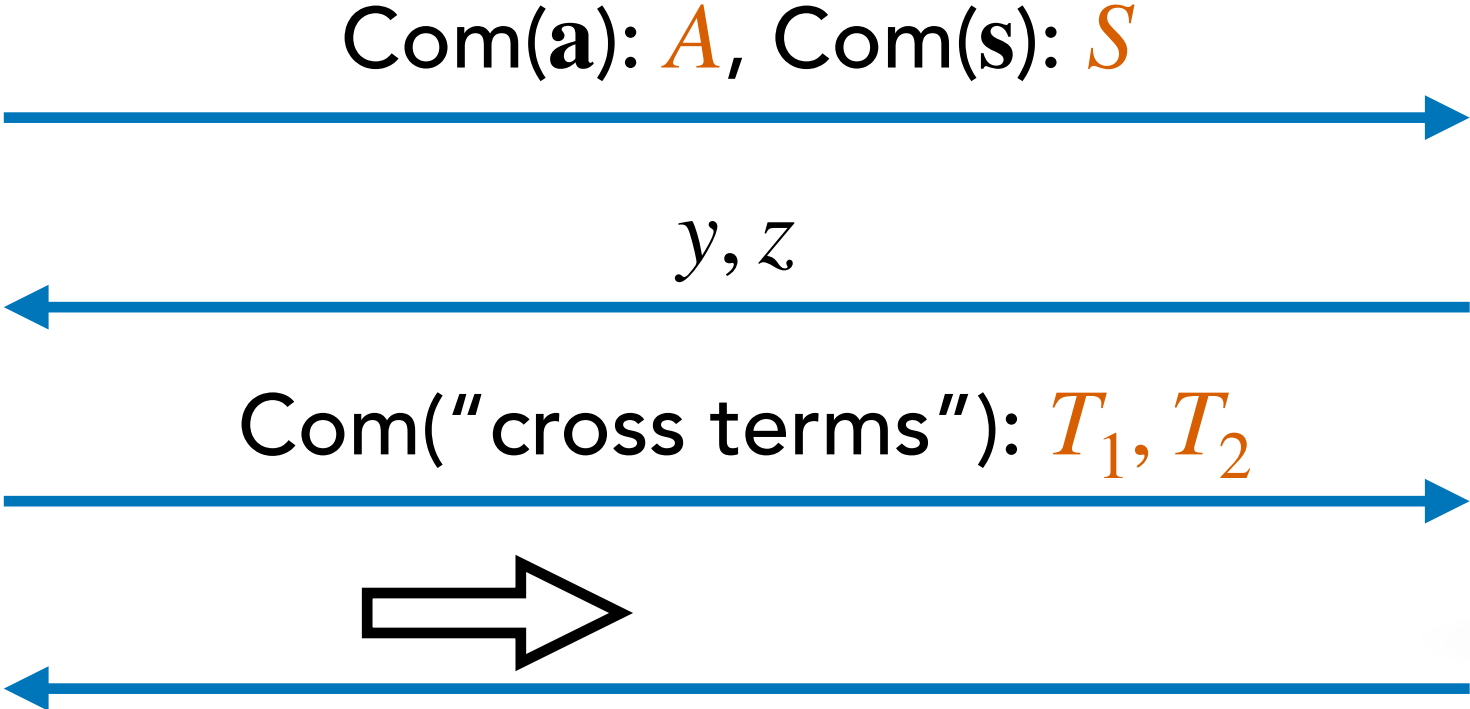
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Choose  $T_1, T_2$  consistent with evaluations.
4. Execute IPA with satisfying witness  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{r}$   
(derived from  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}$ ).



# Bulletproofs Range Proof

Let  $a = \text{BinDecomp}(v)$ .

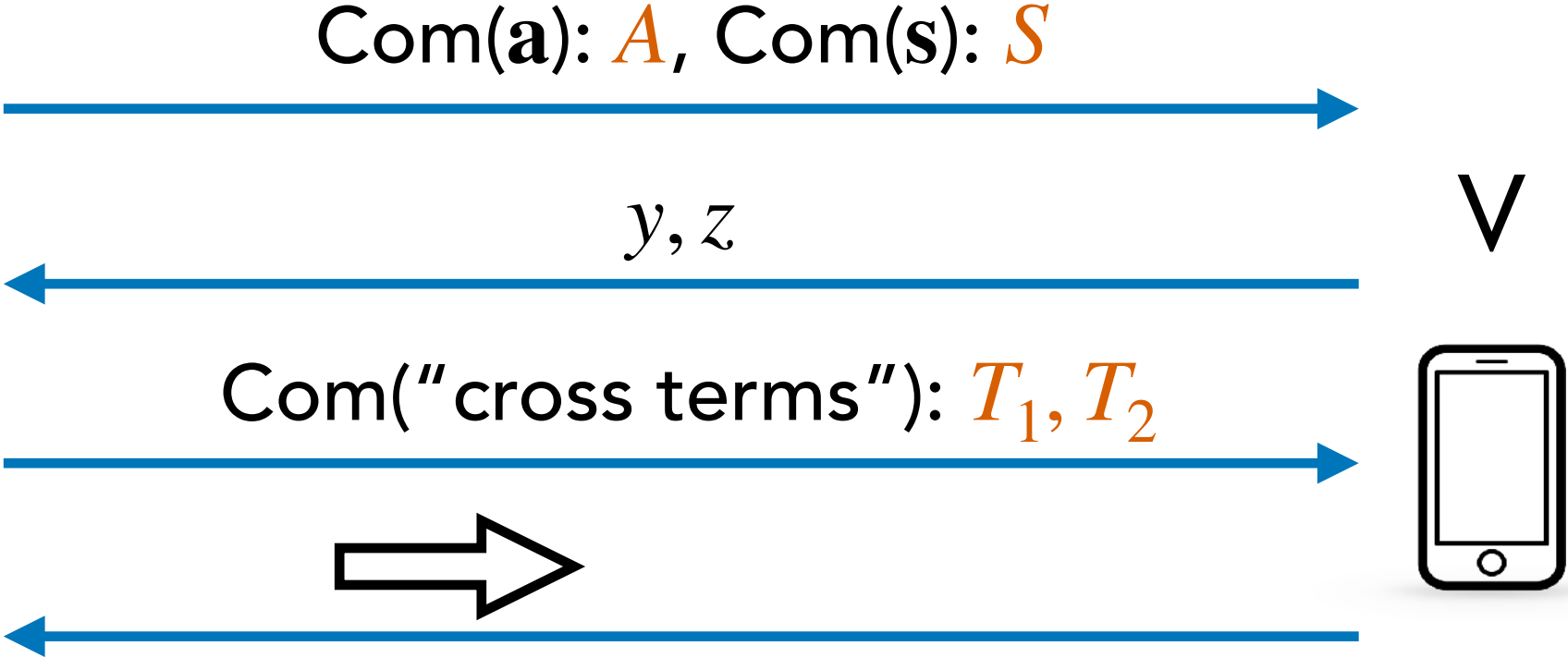


Accept if  
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# Bulletproofs Range Proof

**2-UR:**  $P^*$  cannot produce two accepting proofs  $\pi \neq \pi'$  that agree on  $A, S, T_1, T_2$  (even if it can choose  $V$  and  $x$ ).

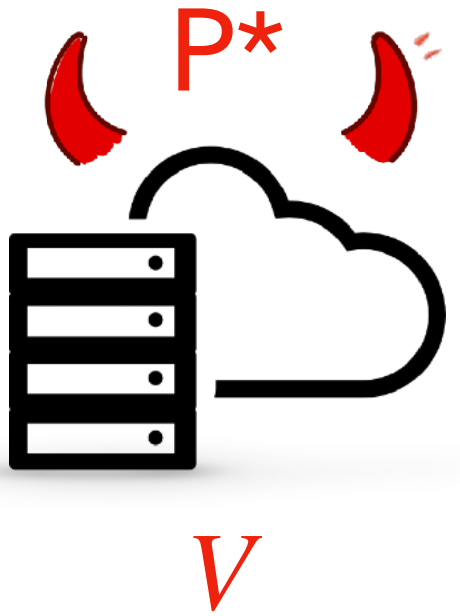


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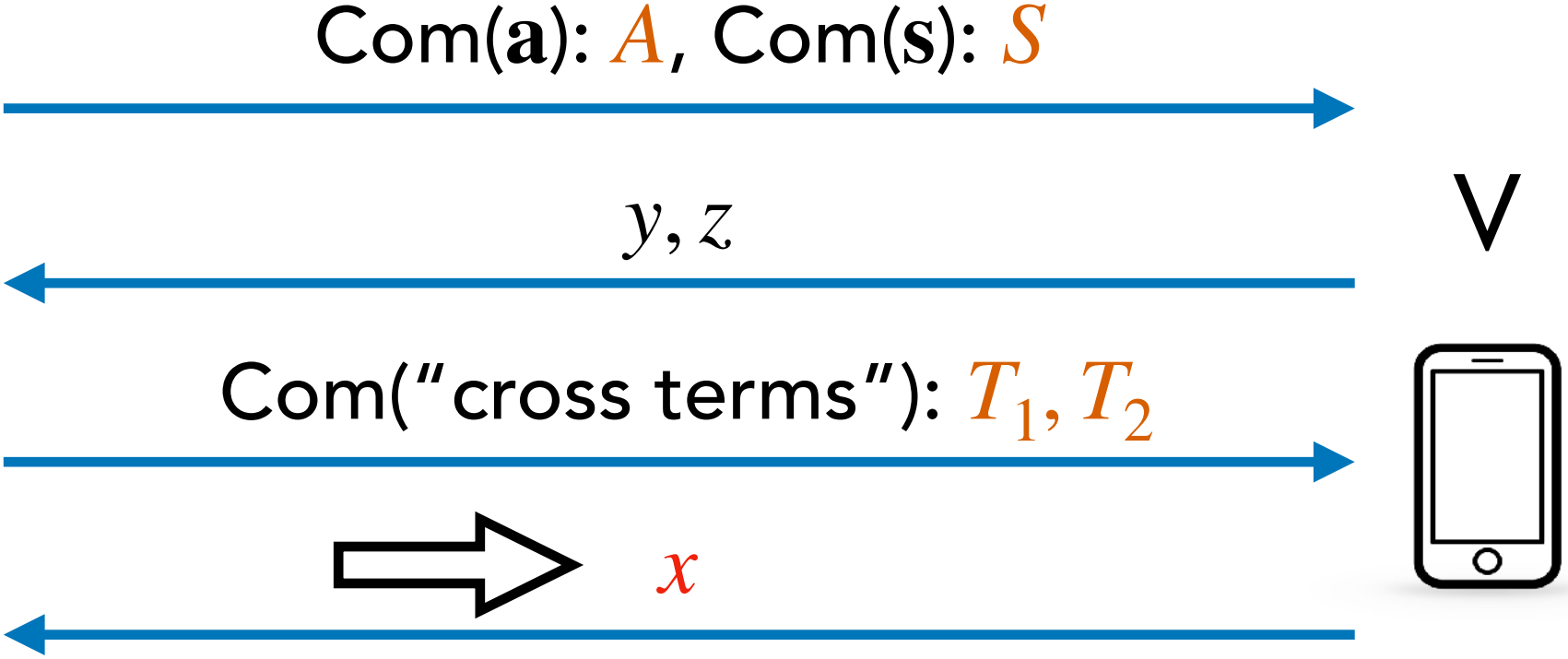
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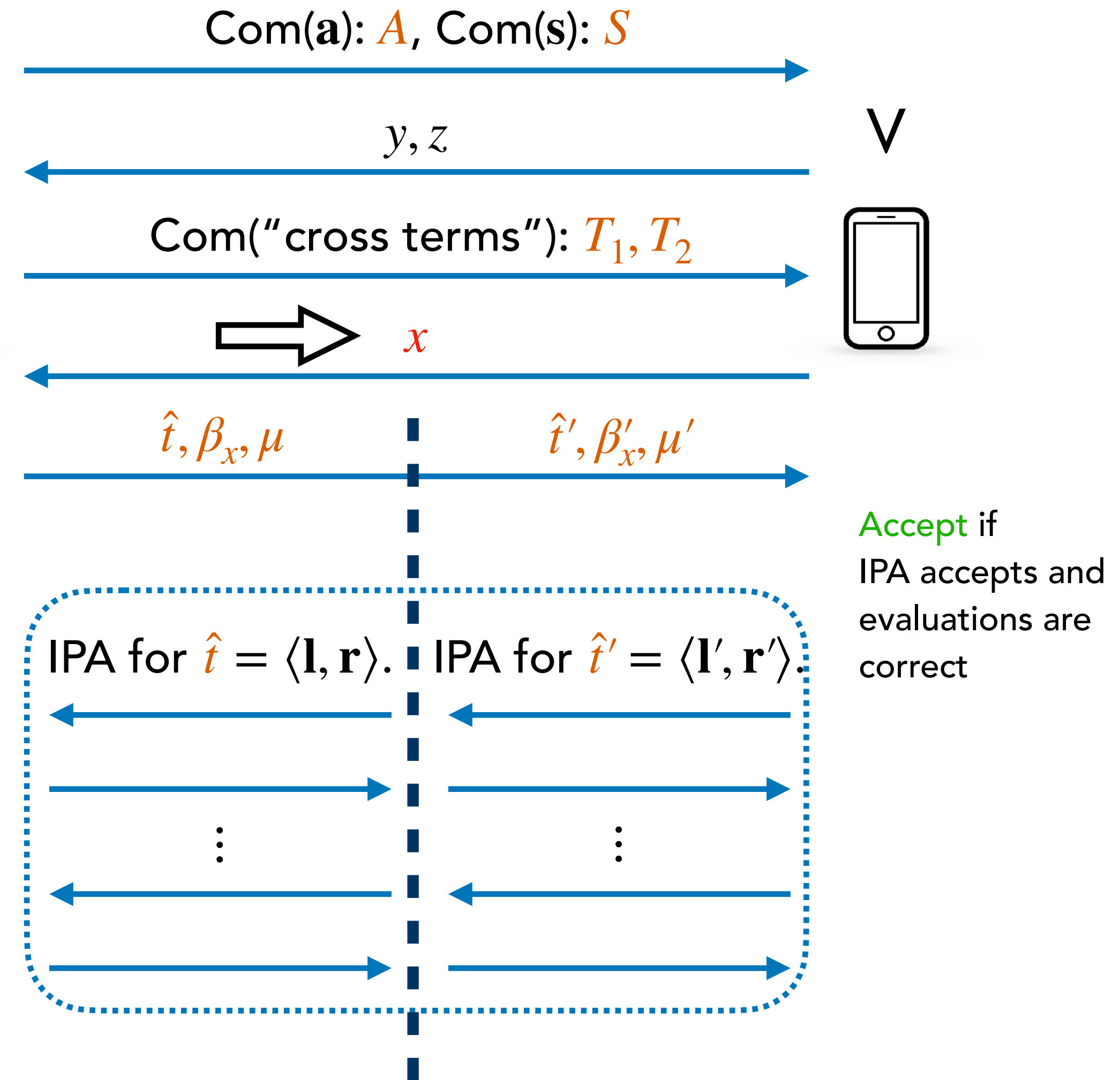
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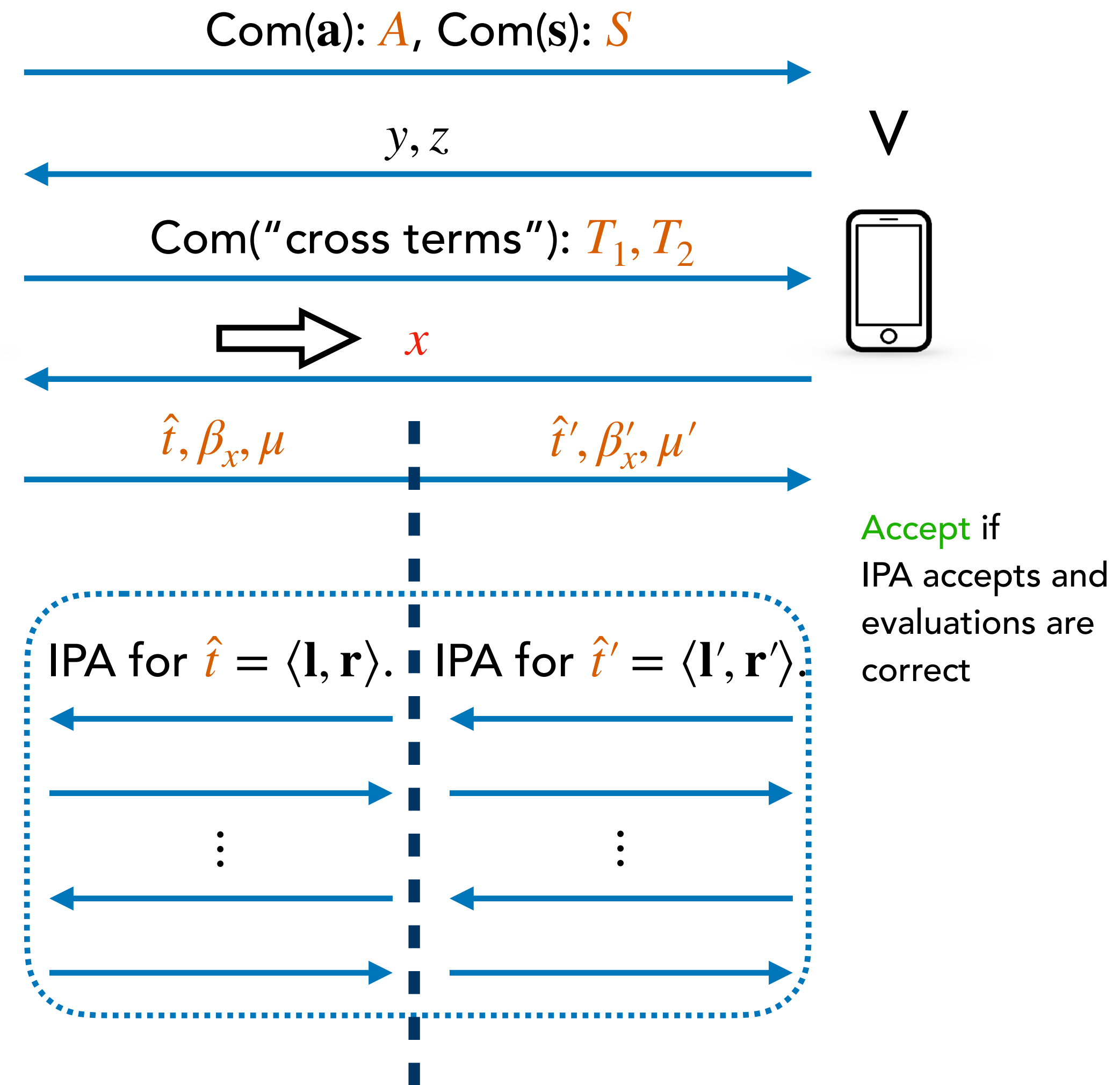
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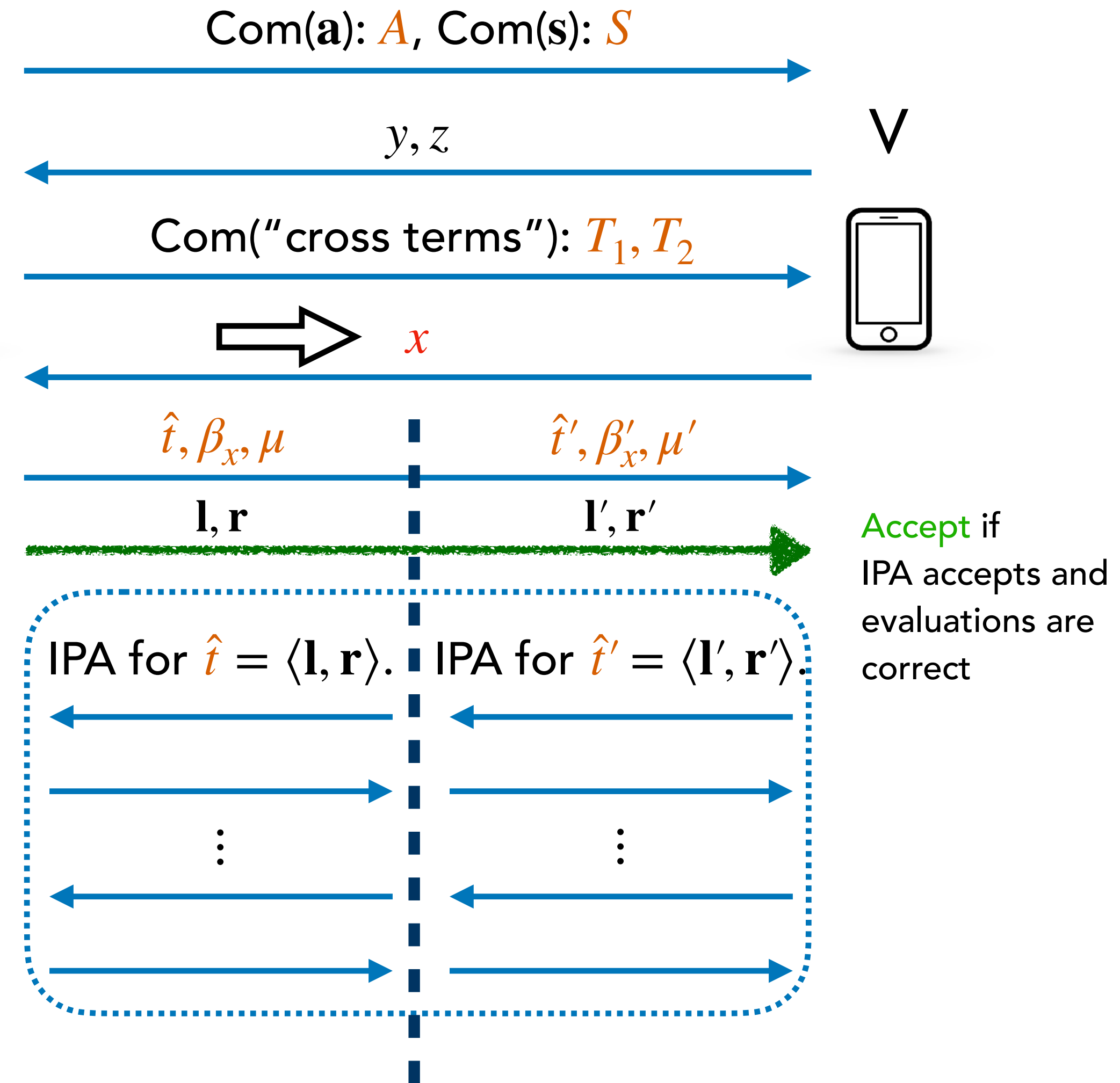


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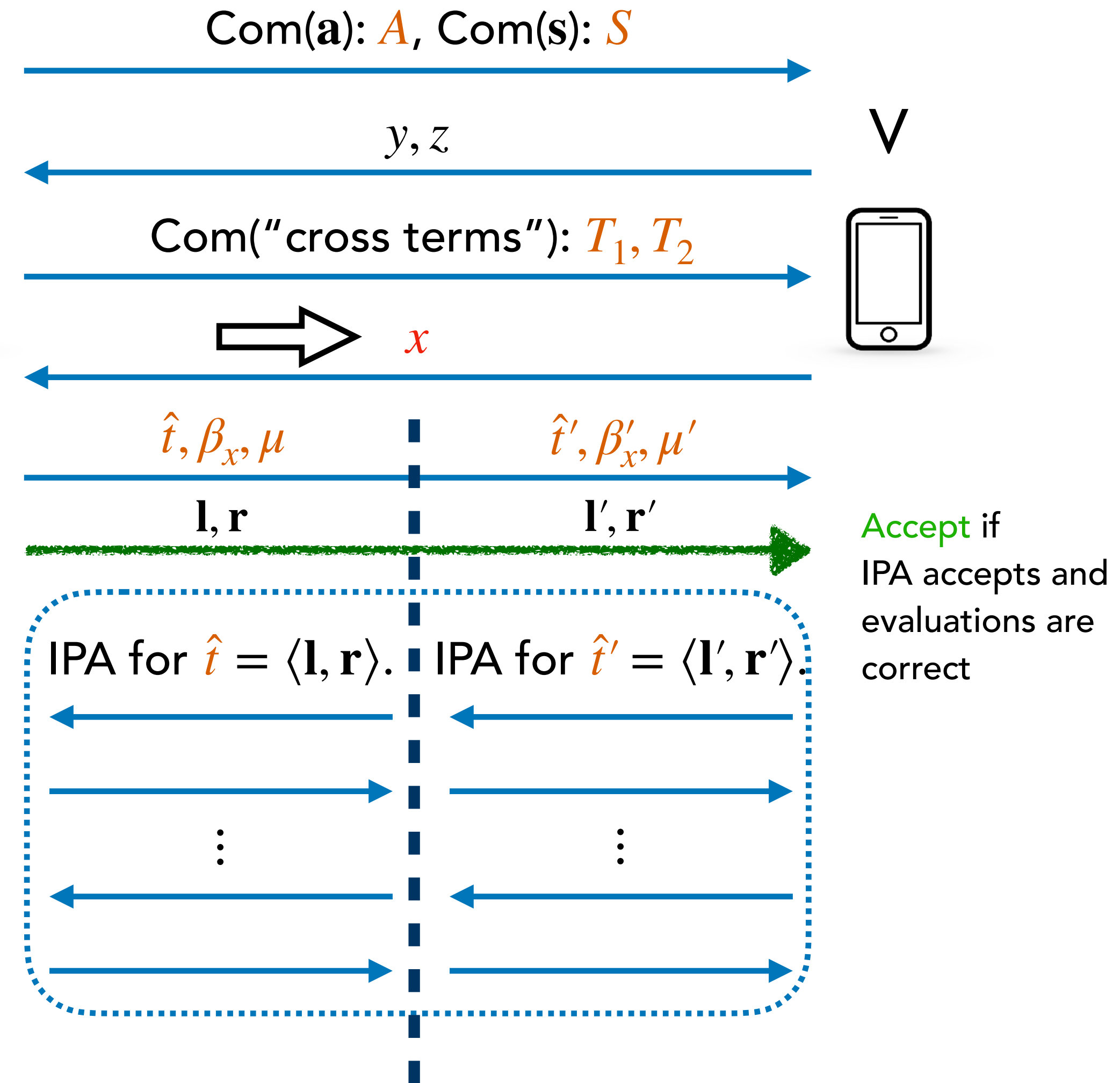


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# Bulletproofs Range Proof

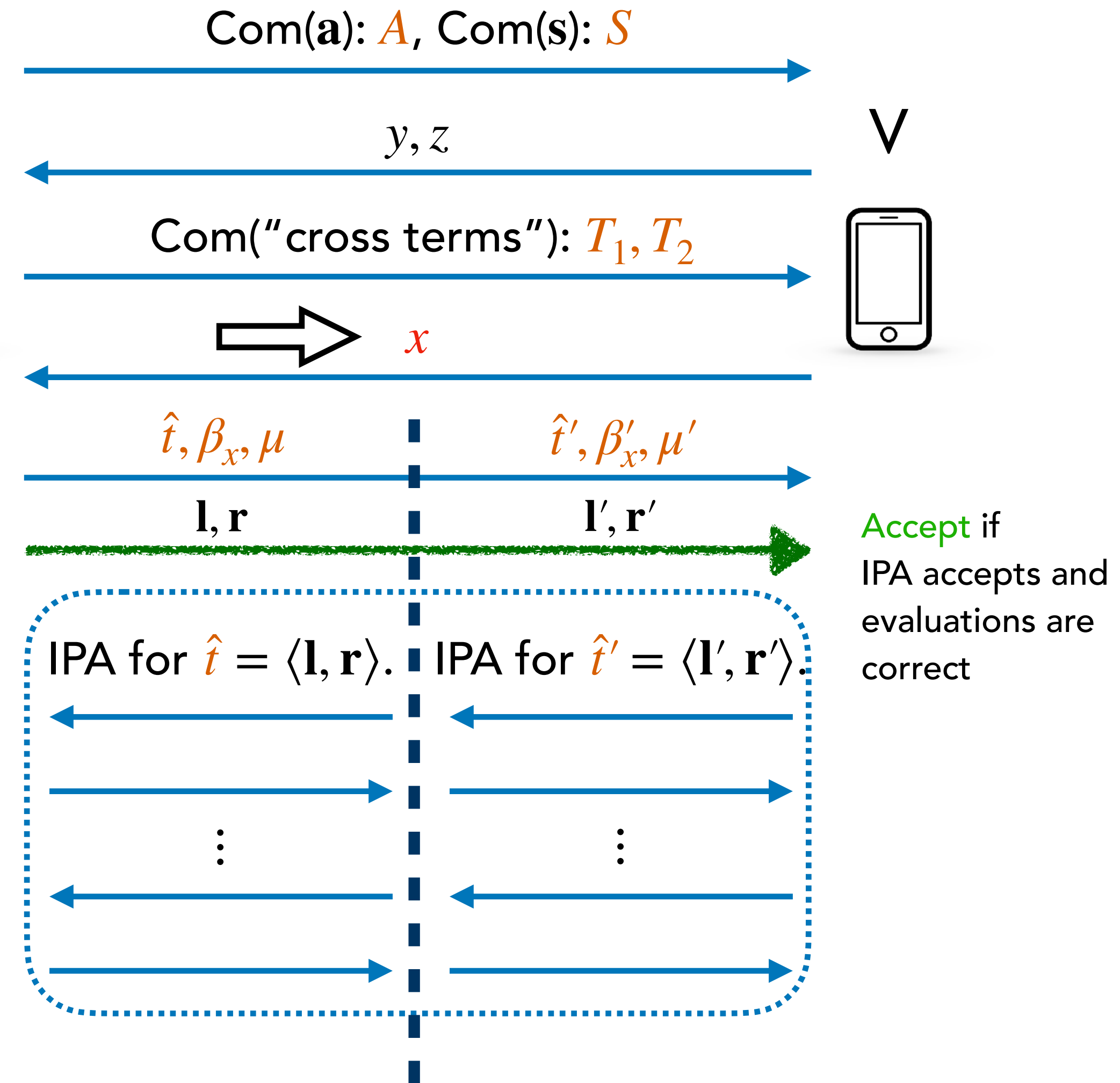
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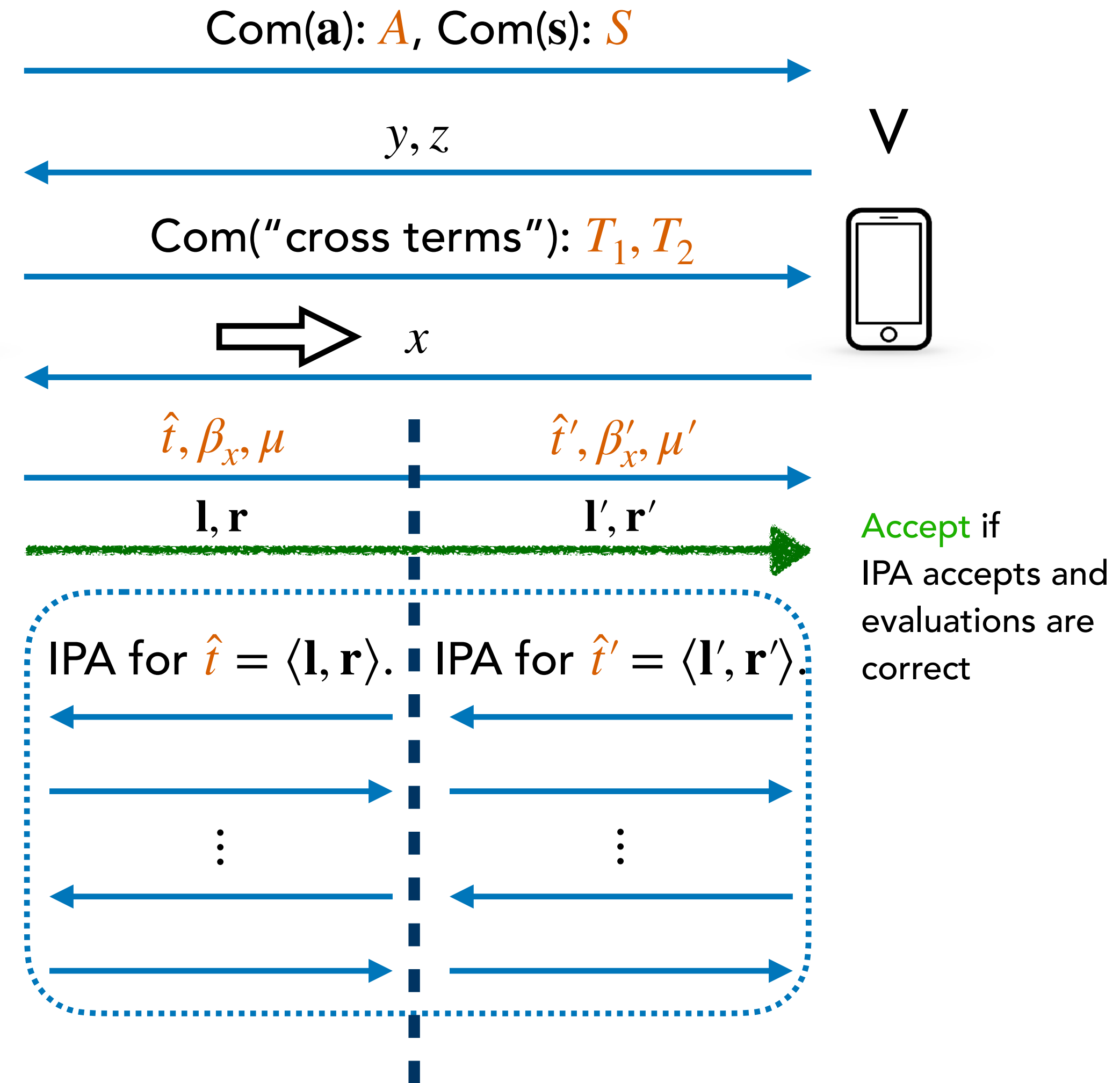
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3. Else if  $(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{r}, \mu) \neq (\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{r}', \mu')$ , we also get a non-trivial DLOG relation  $\implies P^*$  breaks DLOG.





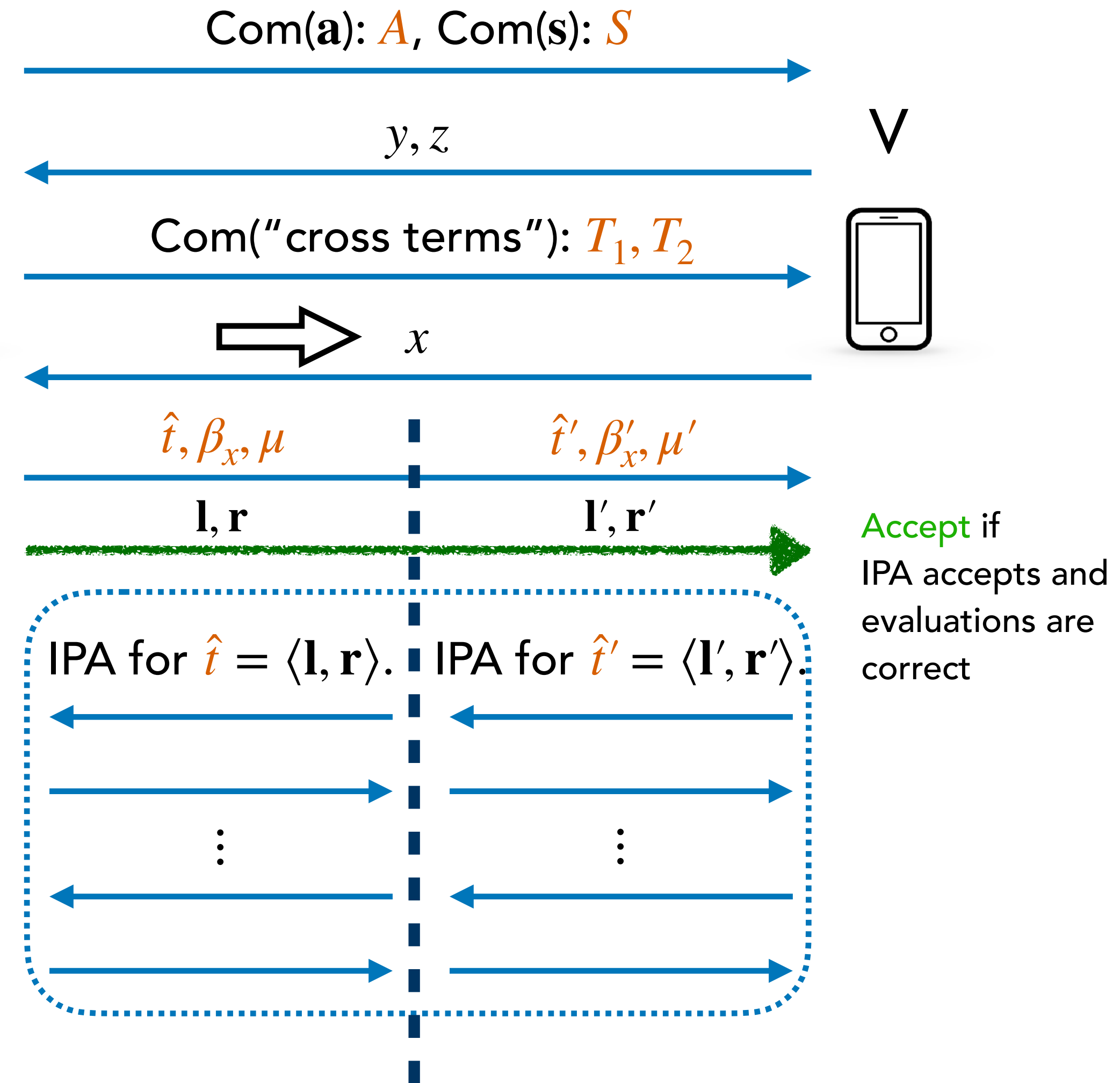
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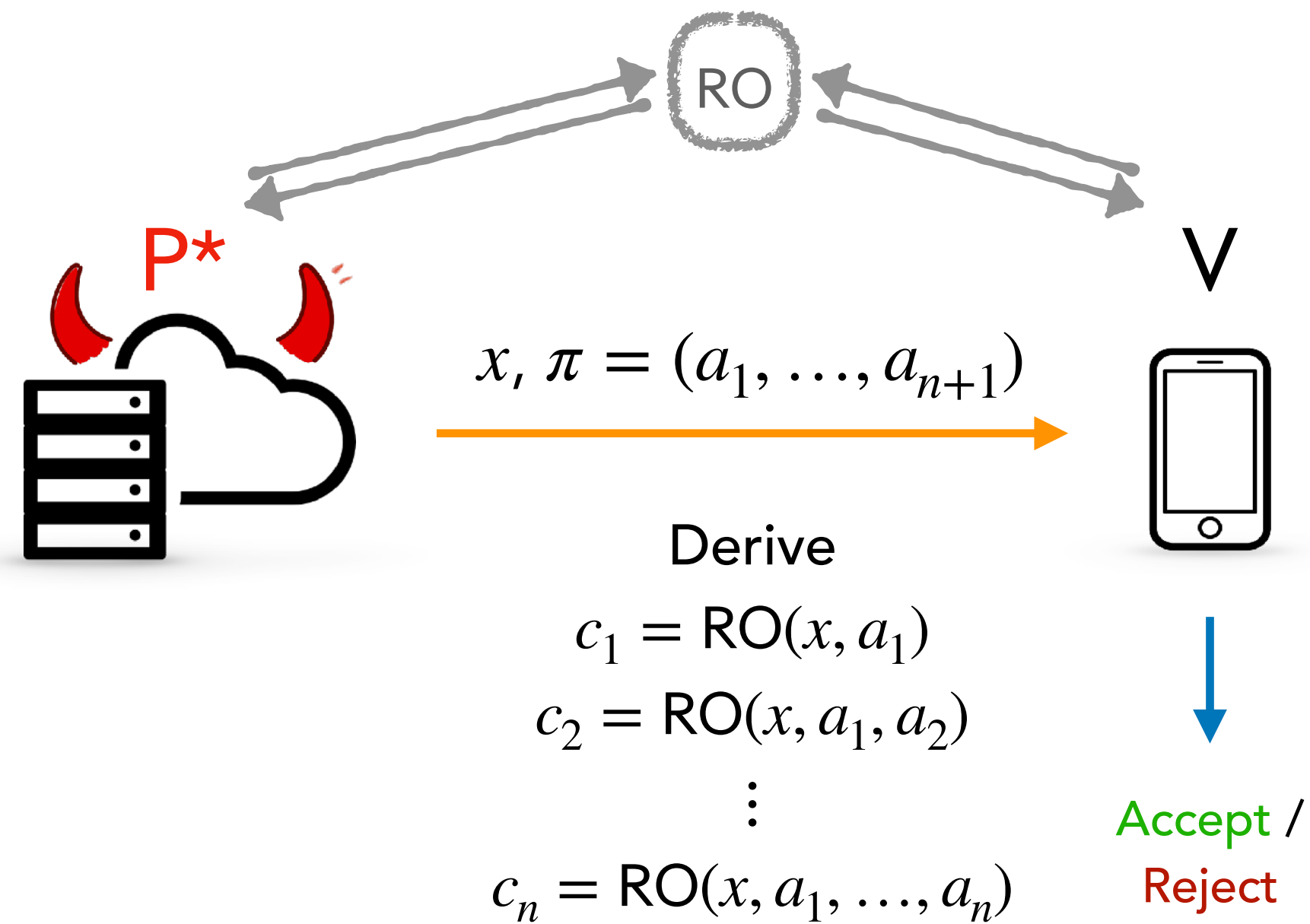
# Agenda

1. SIM-EXT = KS + k-ZK + k-UR (for same k)
2. k-ZK and k-UR for Bulletproofs
3. **Knowledge Soundness via Generalized Tree Builder**

# **Knowledge Soundness from Special Soundness**

# Knowledge Soundness from Special Soundness

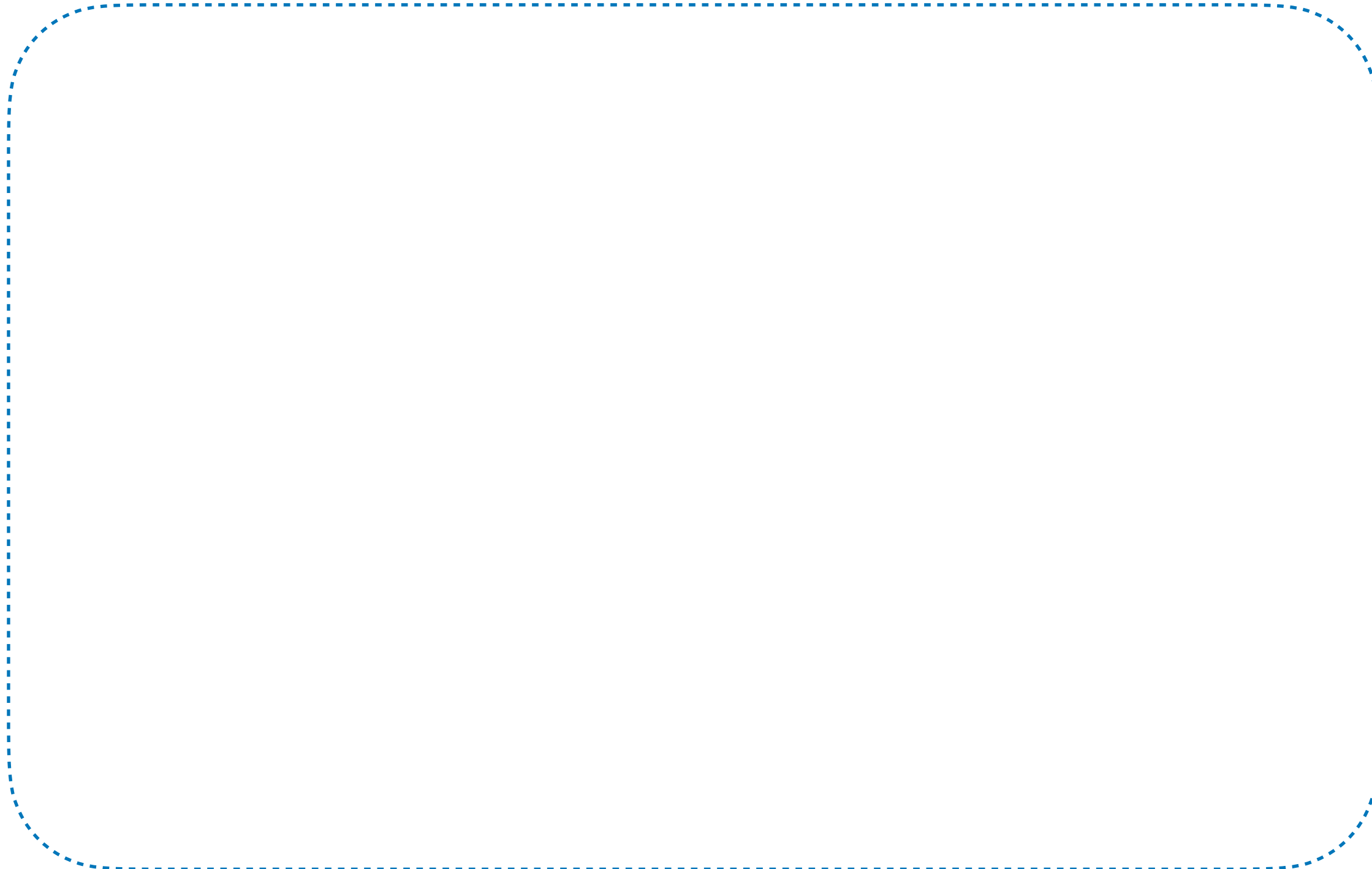
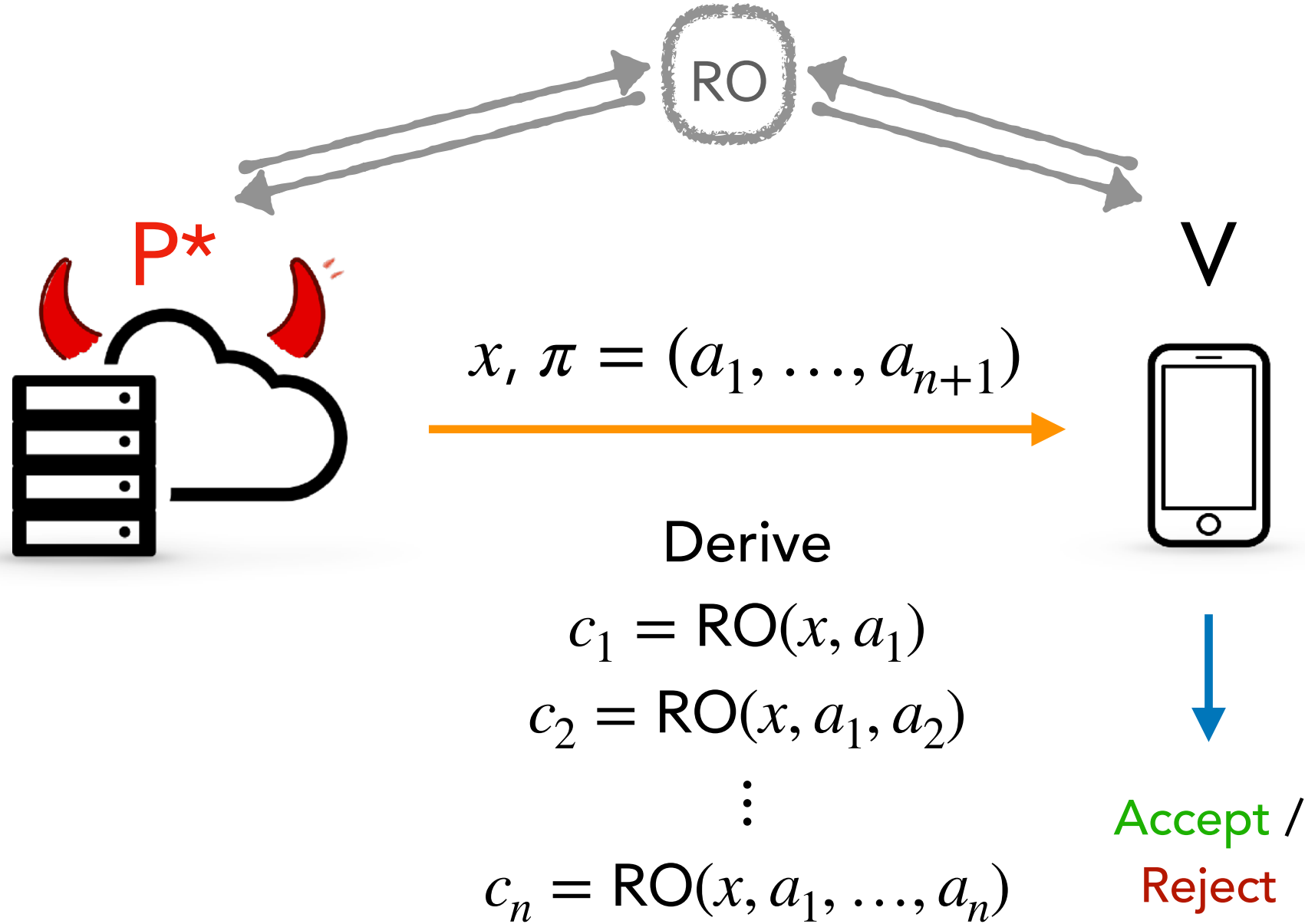
## F-S Argument:



# Knowledge Soundness from Special Soundness

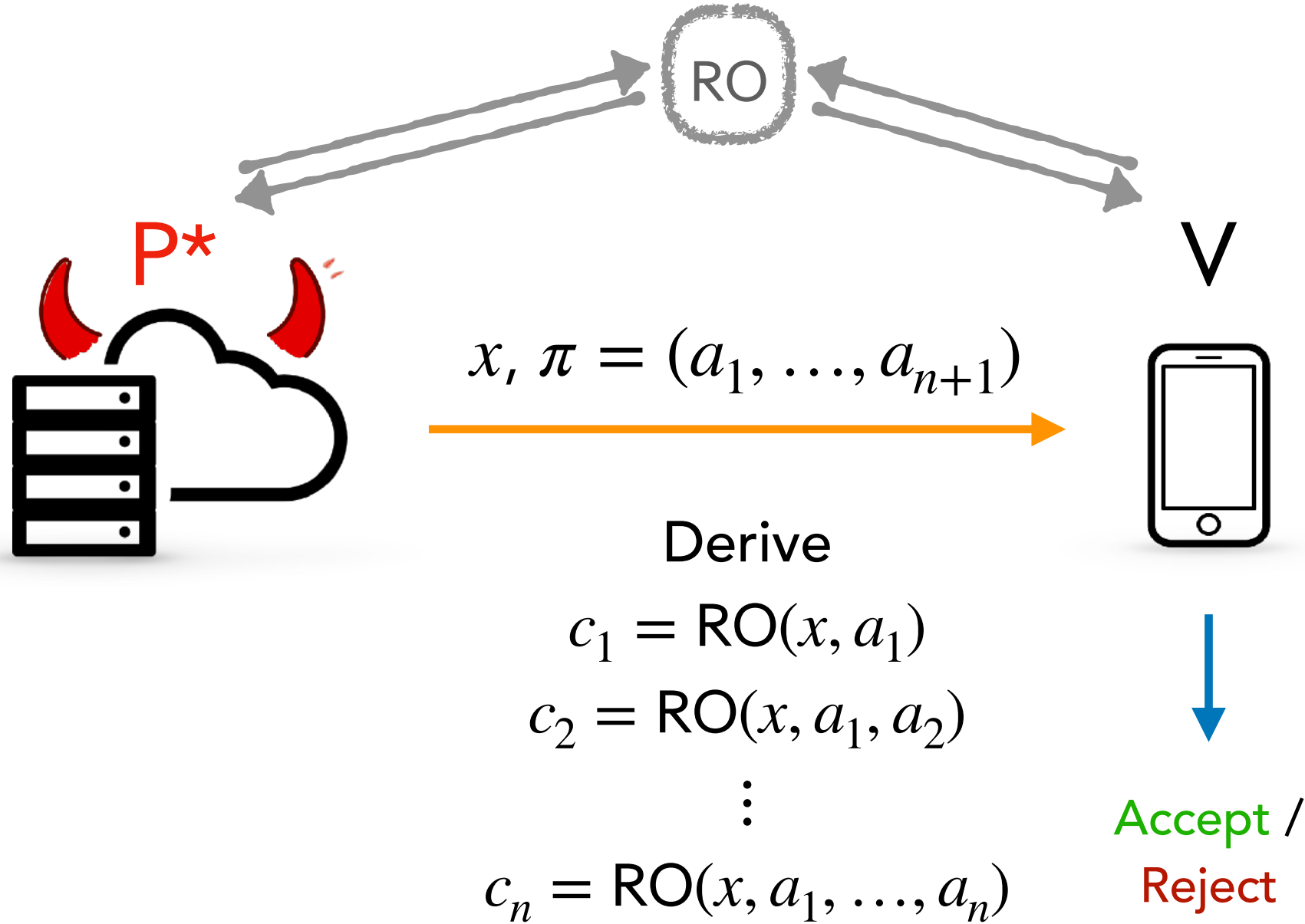
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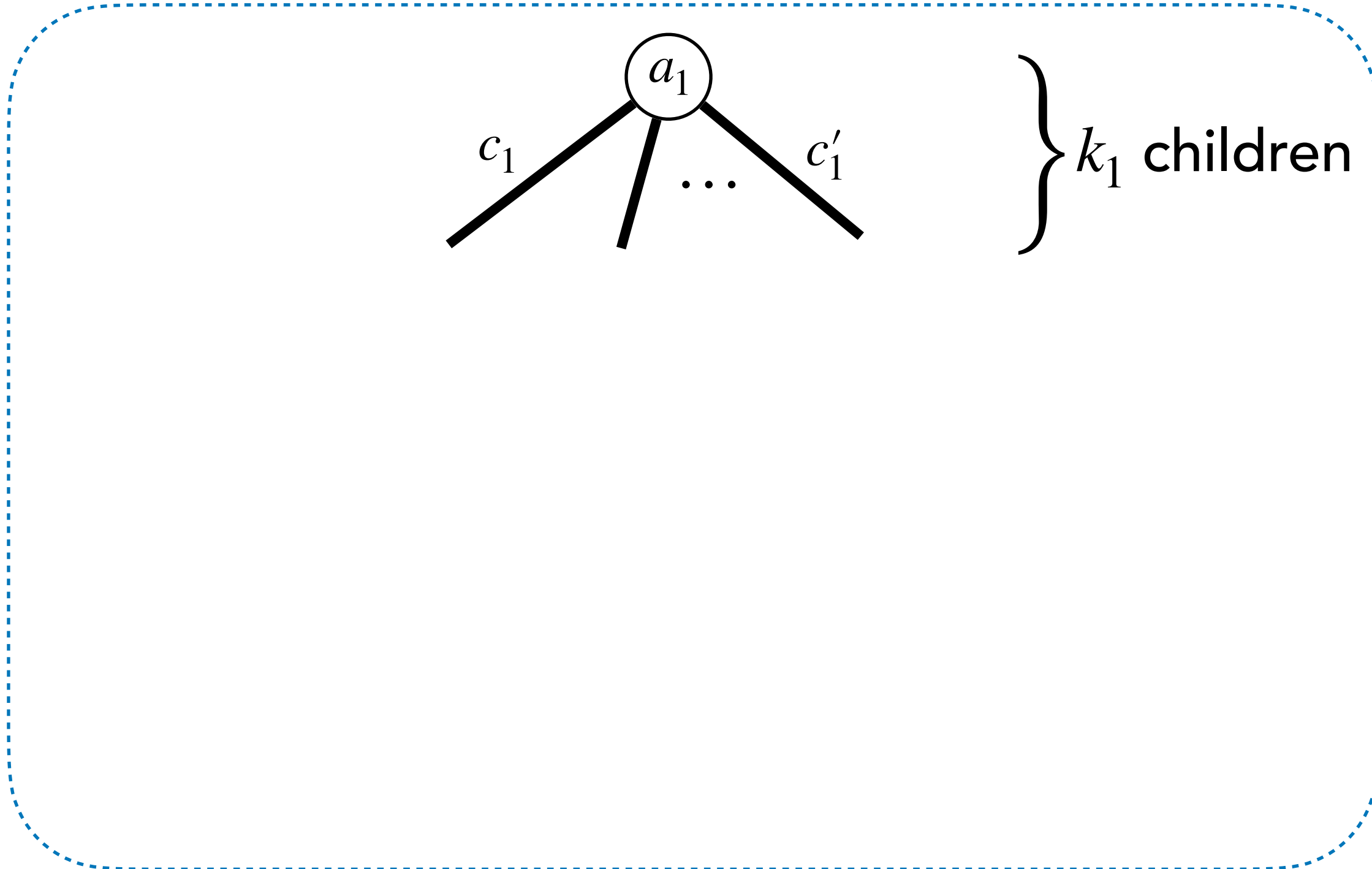


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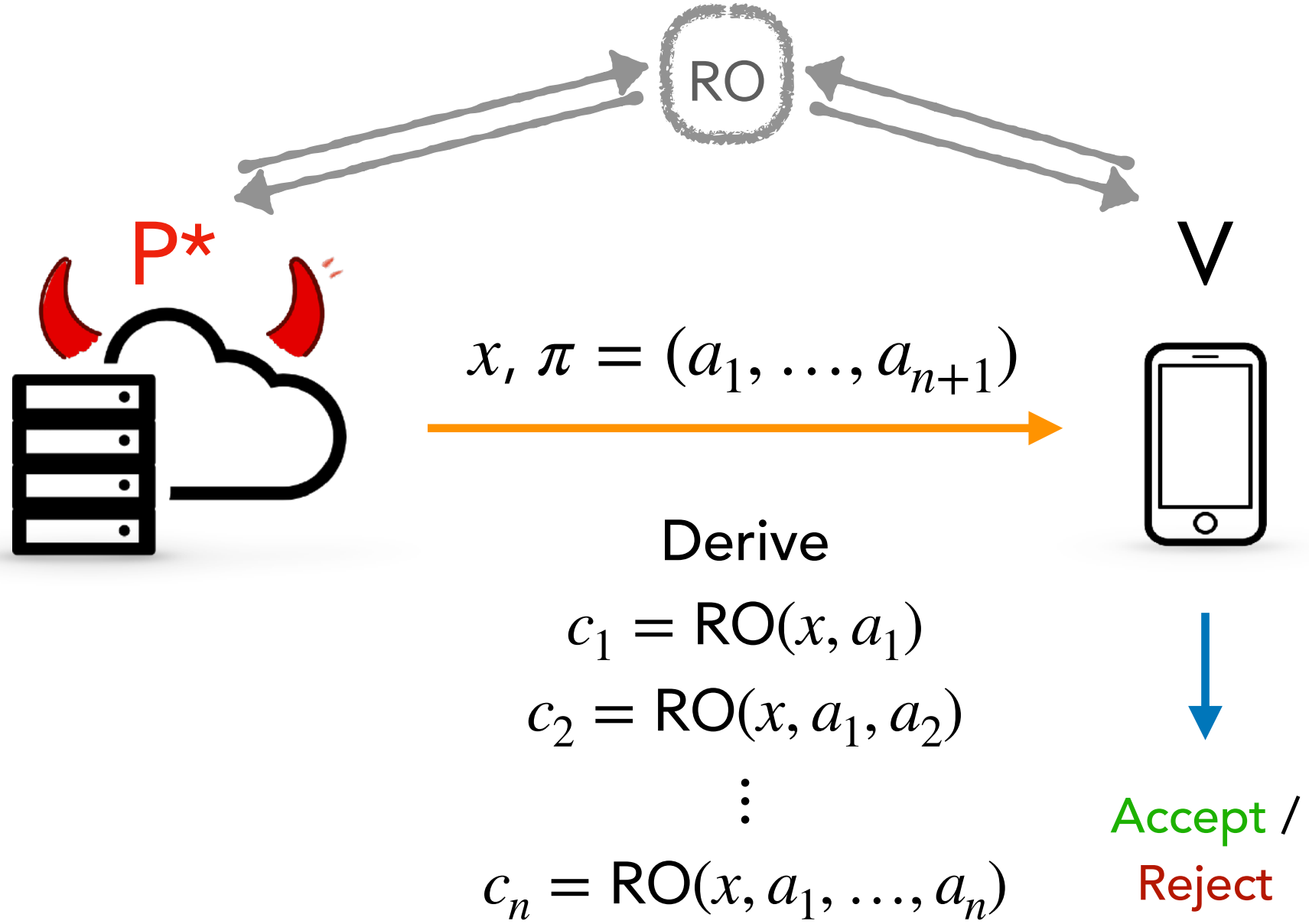


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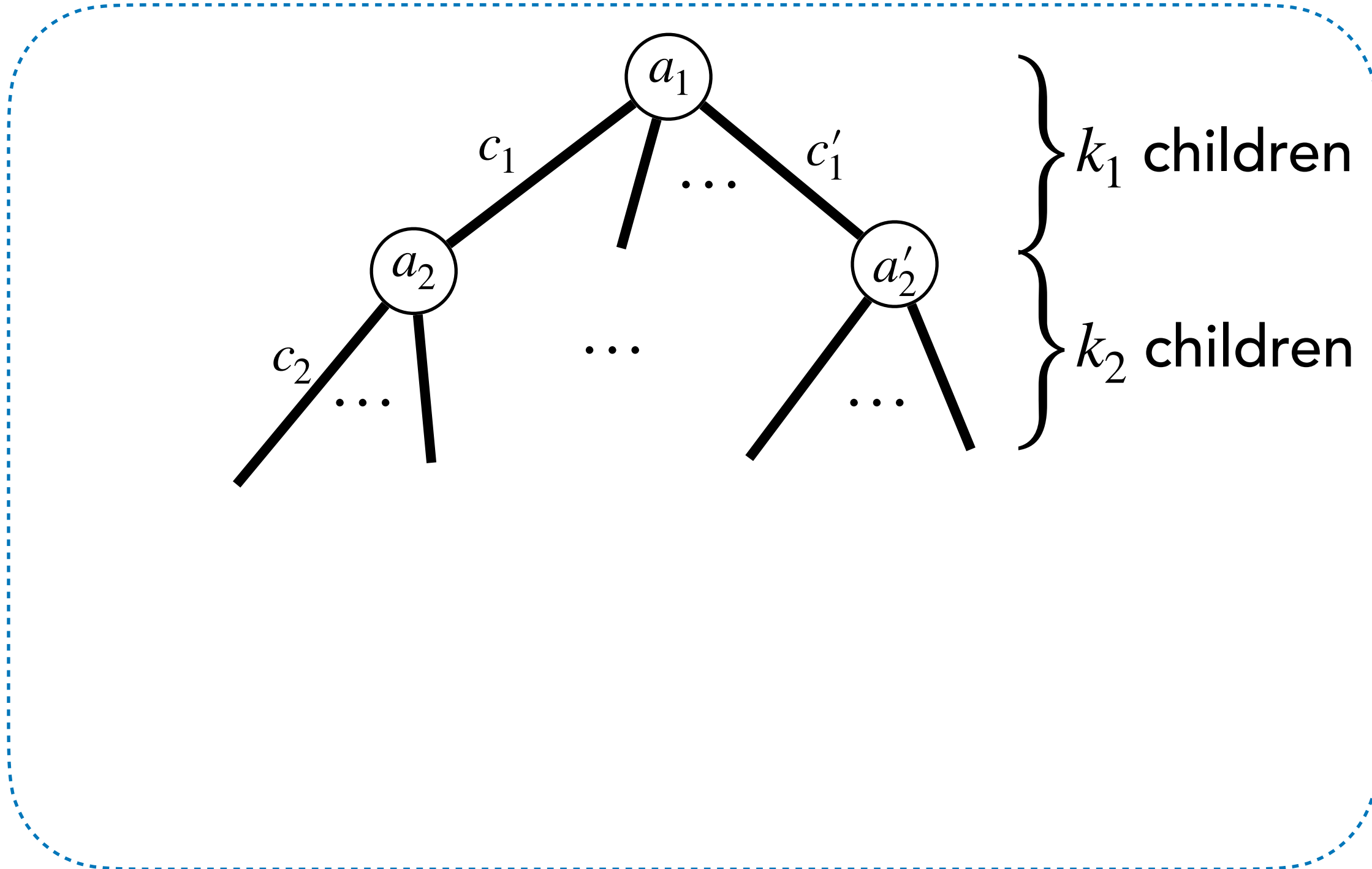


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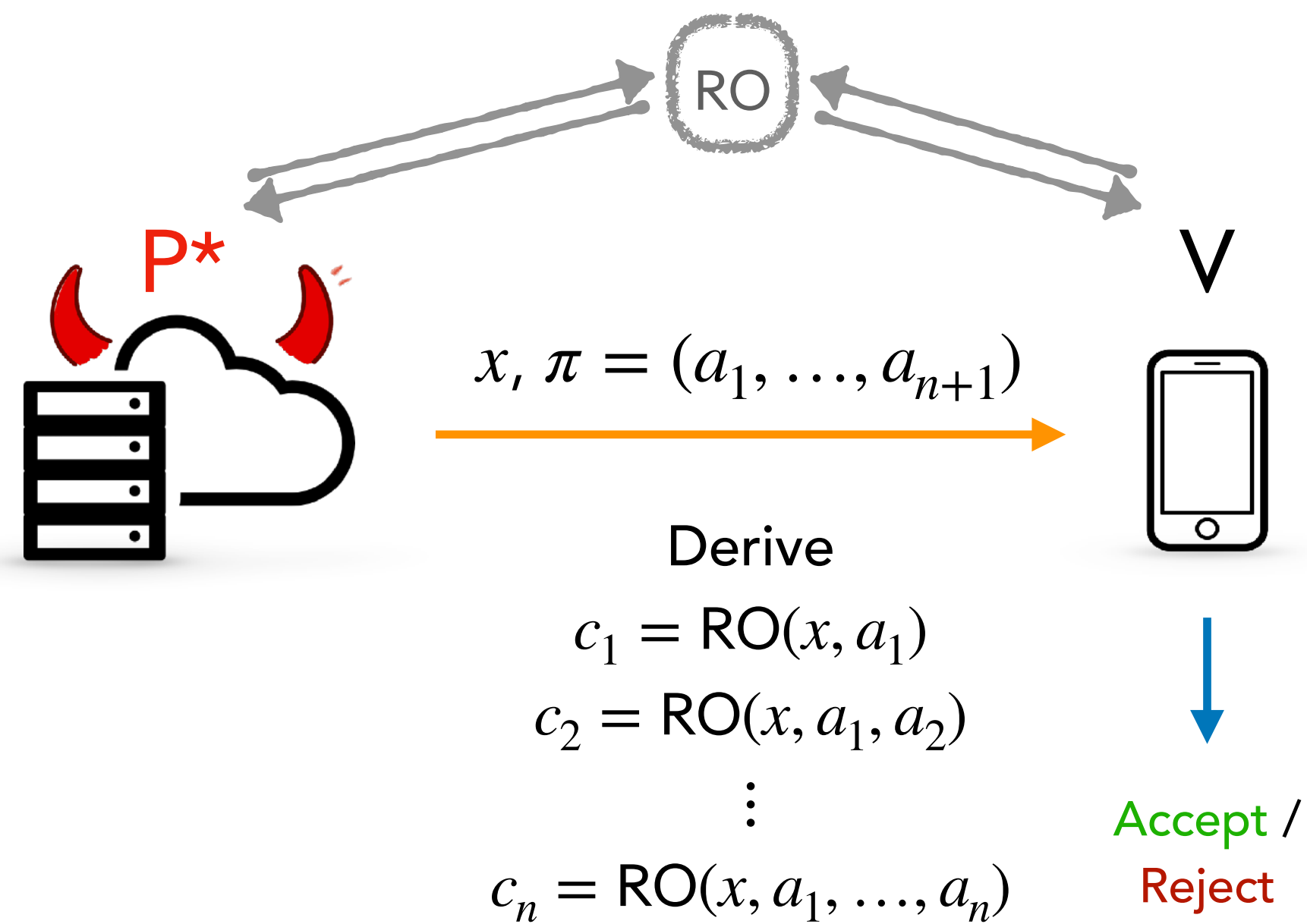


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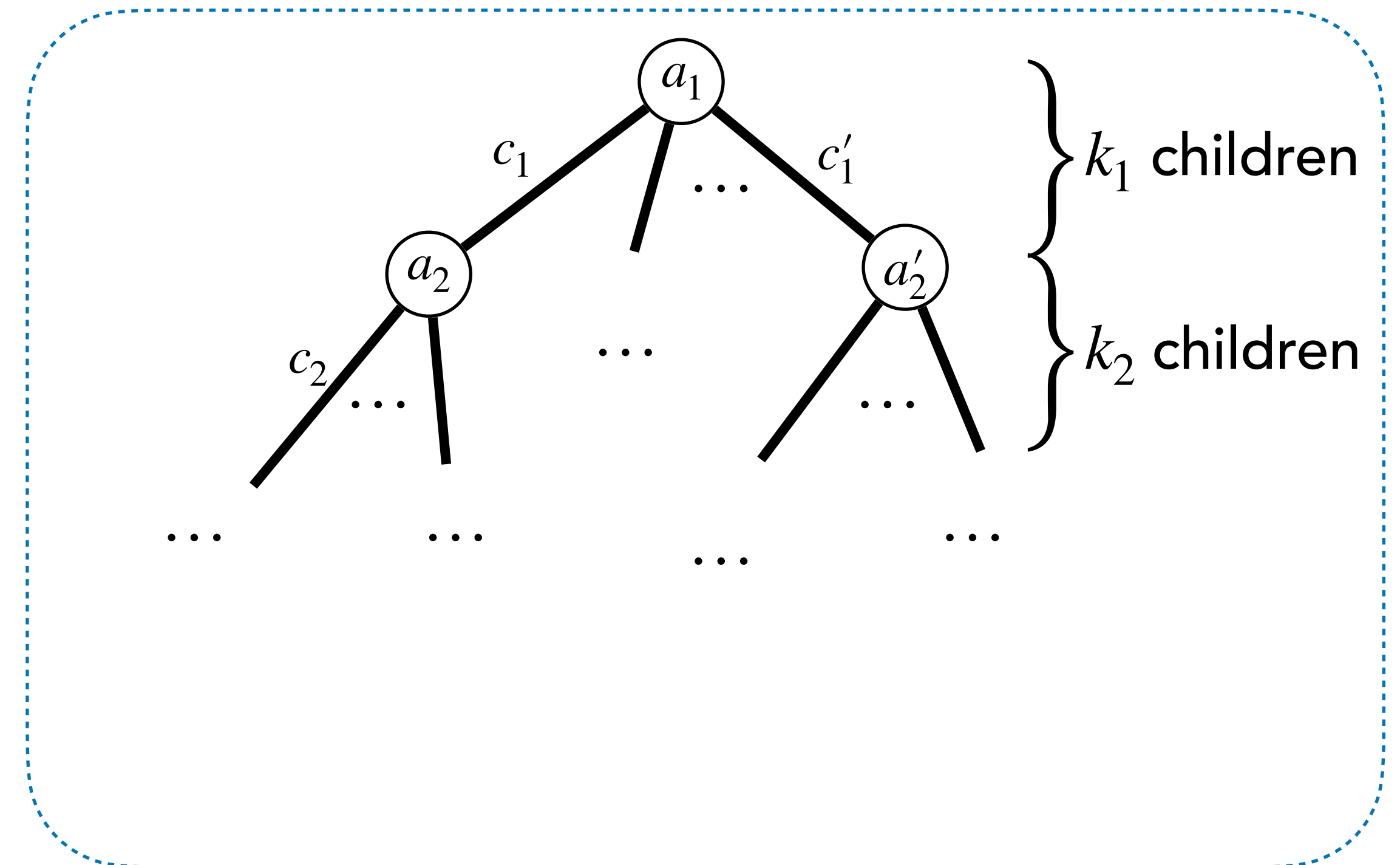


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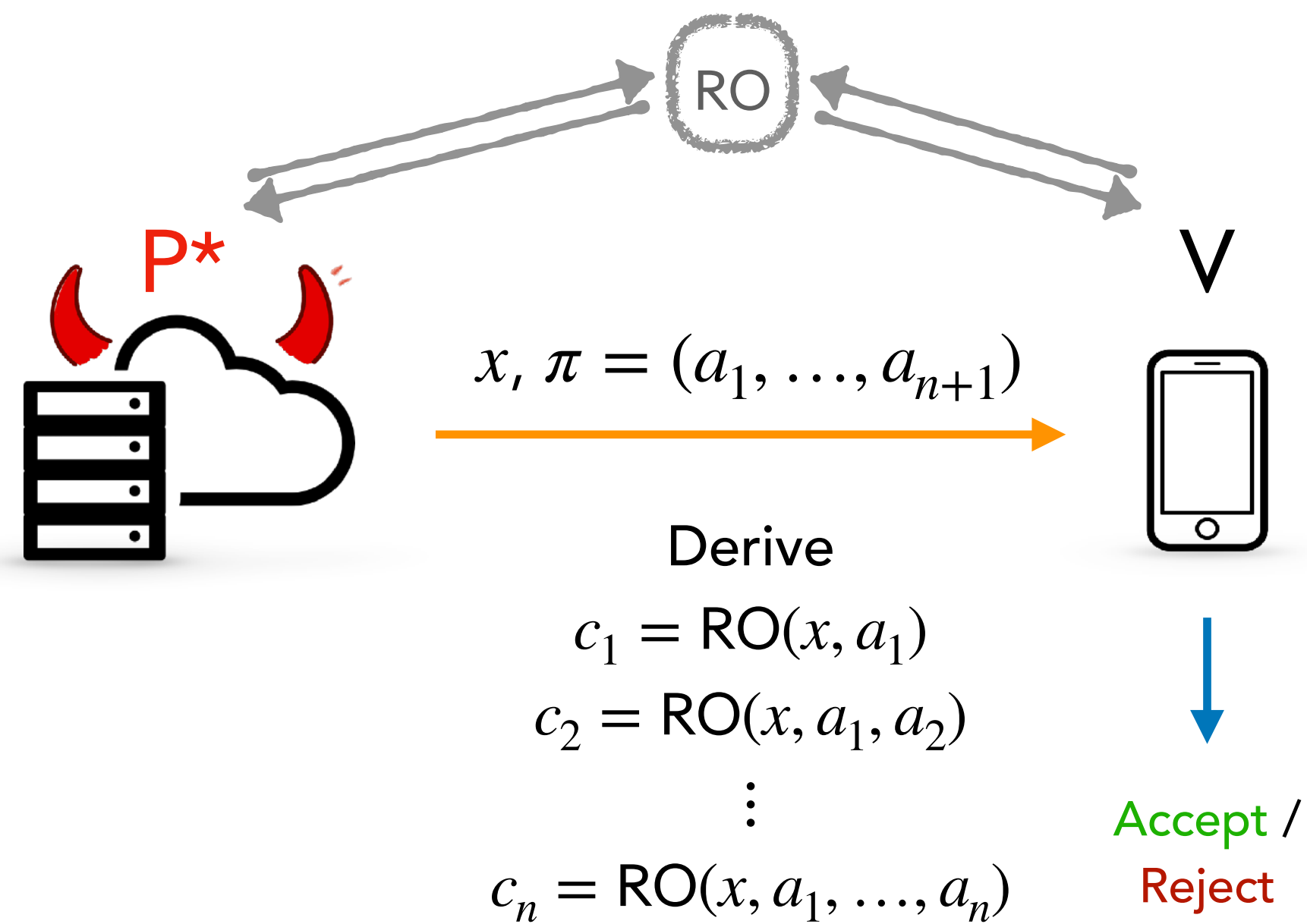
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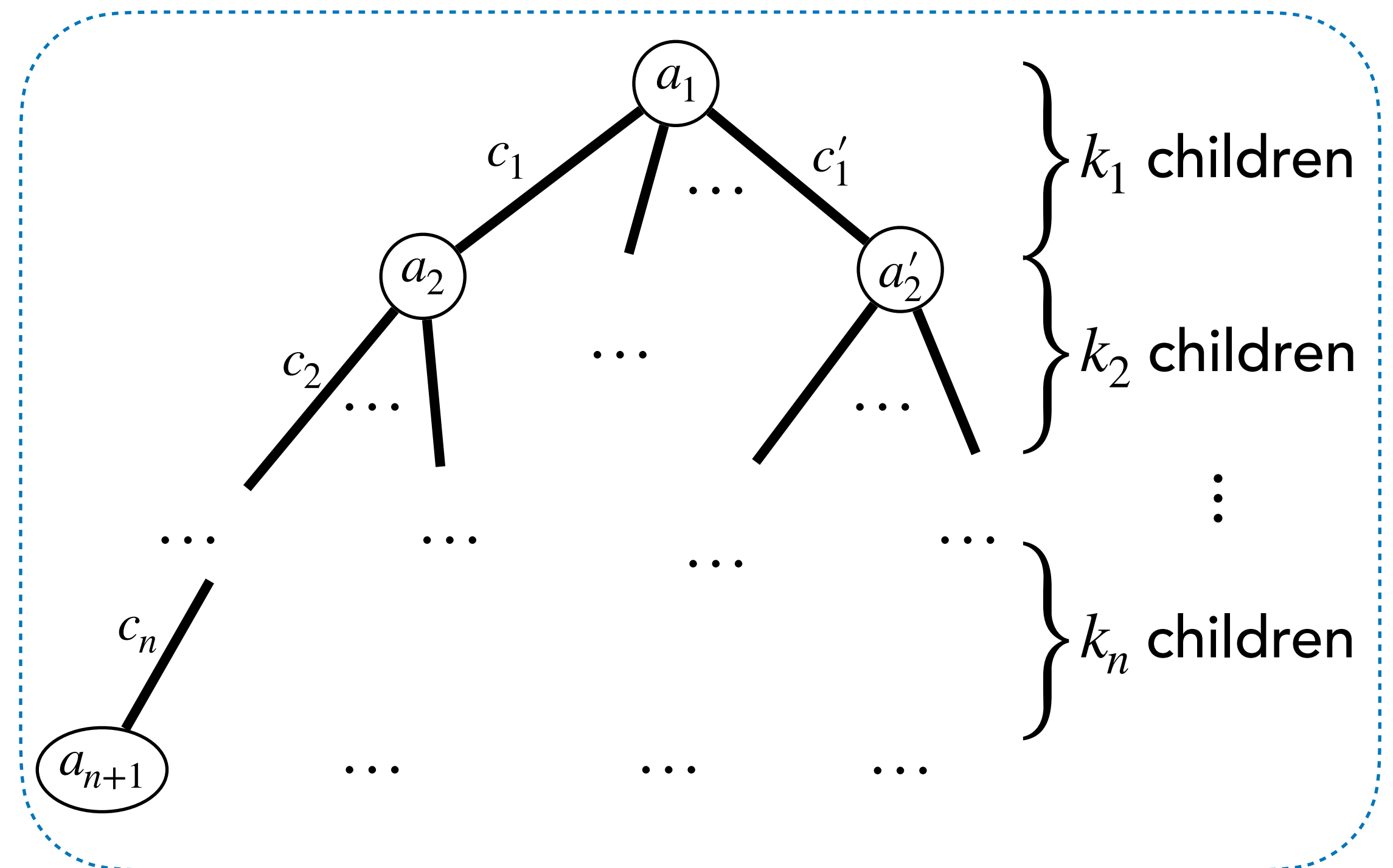


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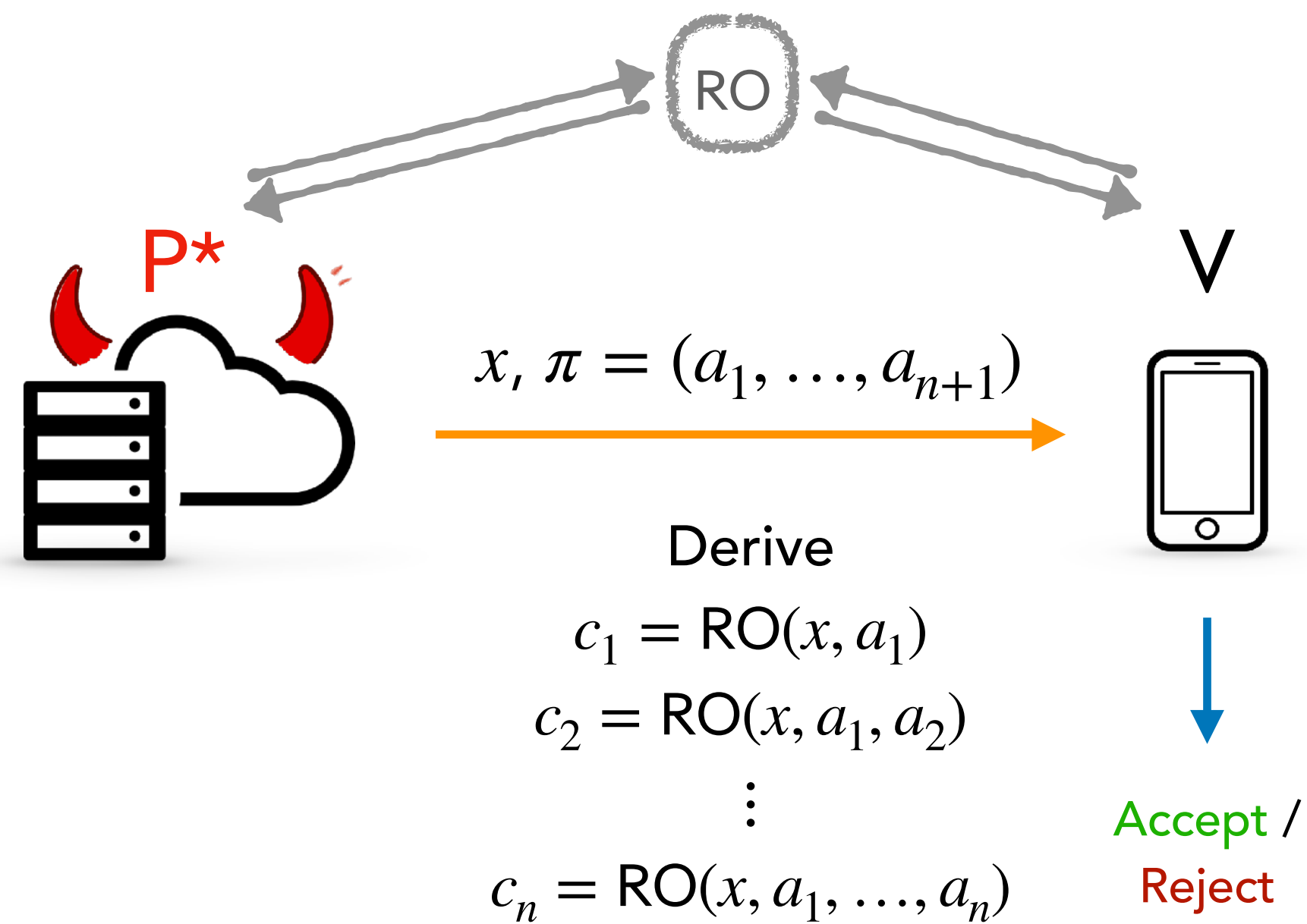


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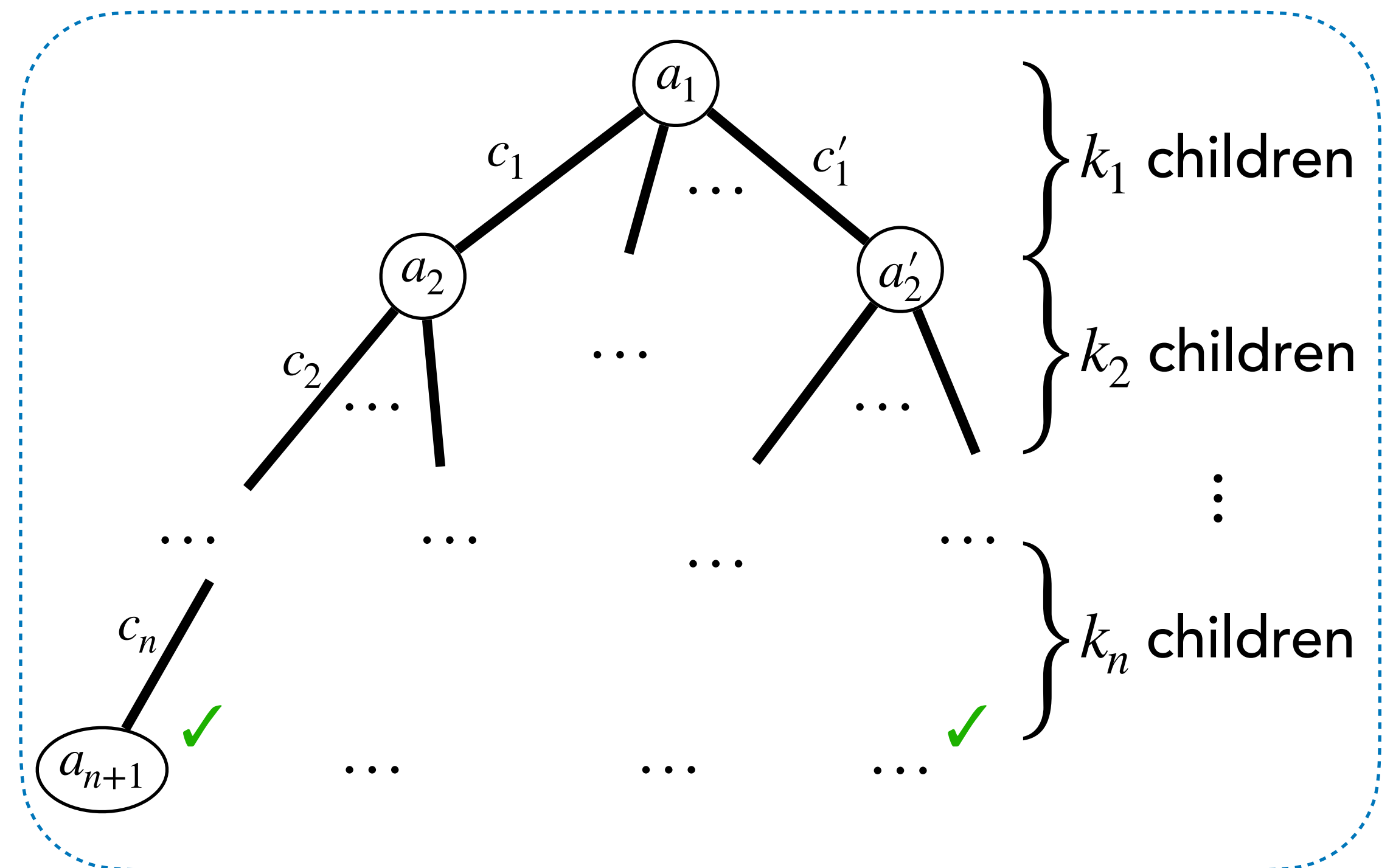


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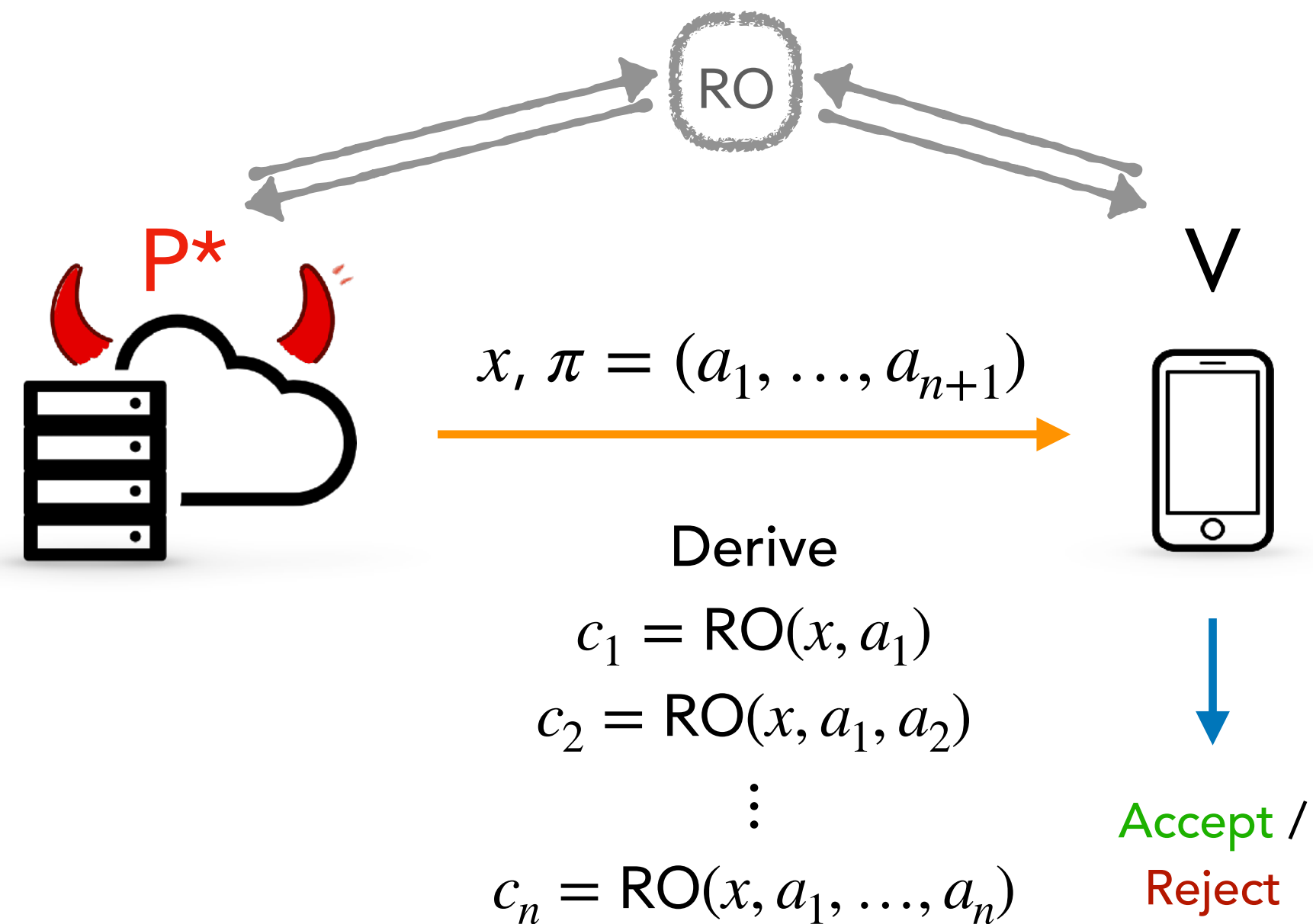


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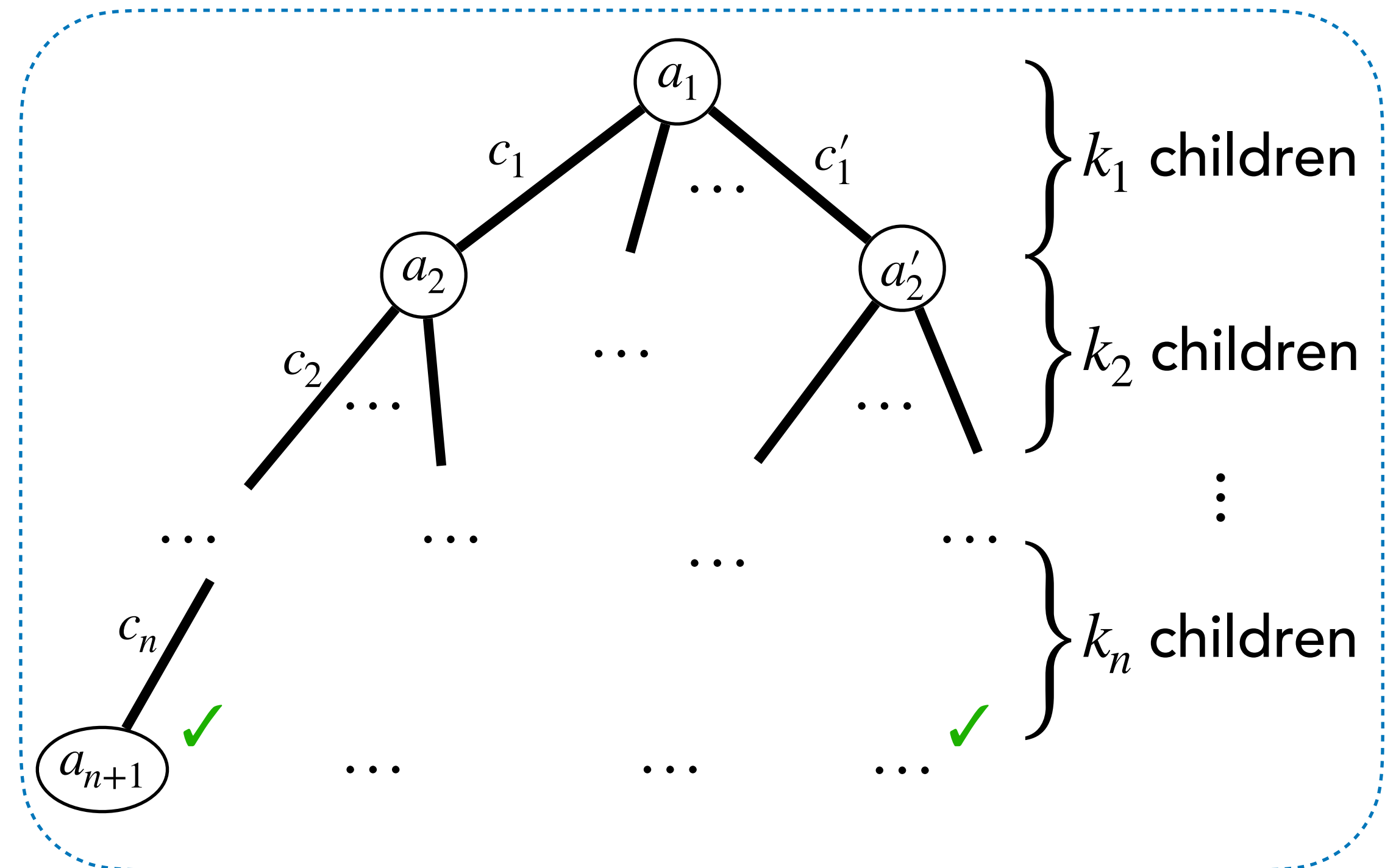


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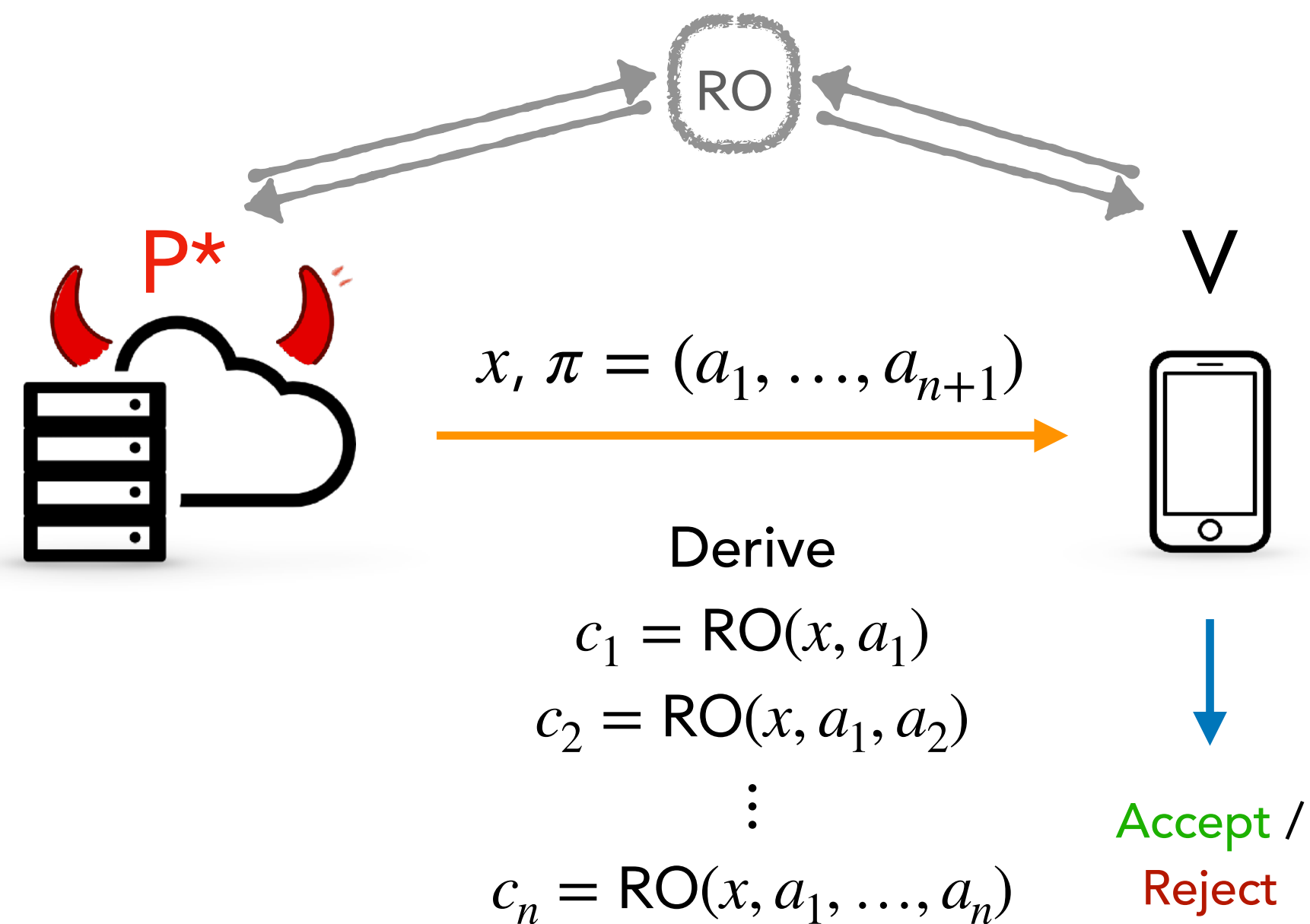
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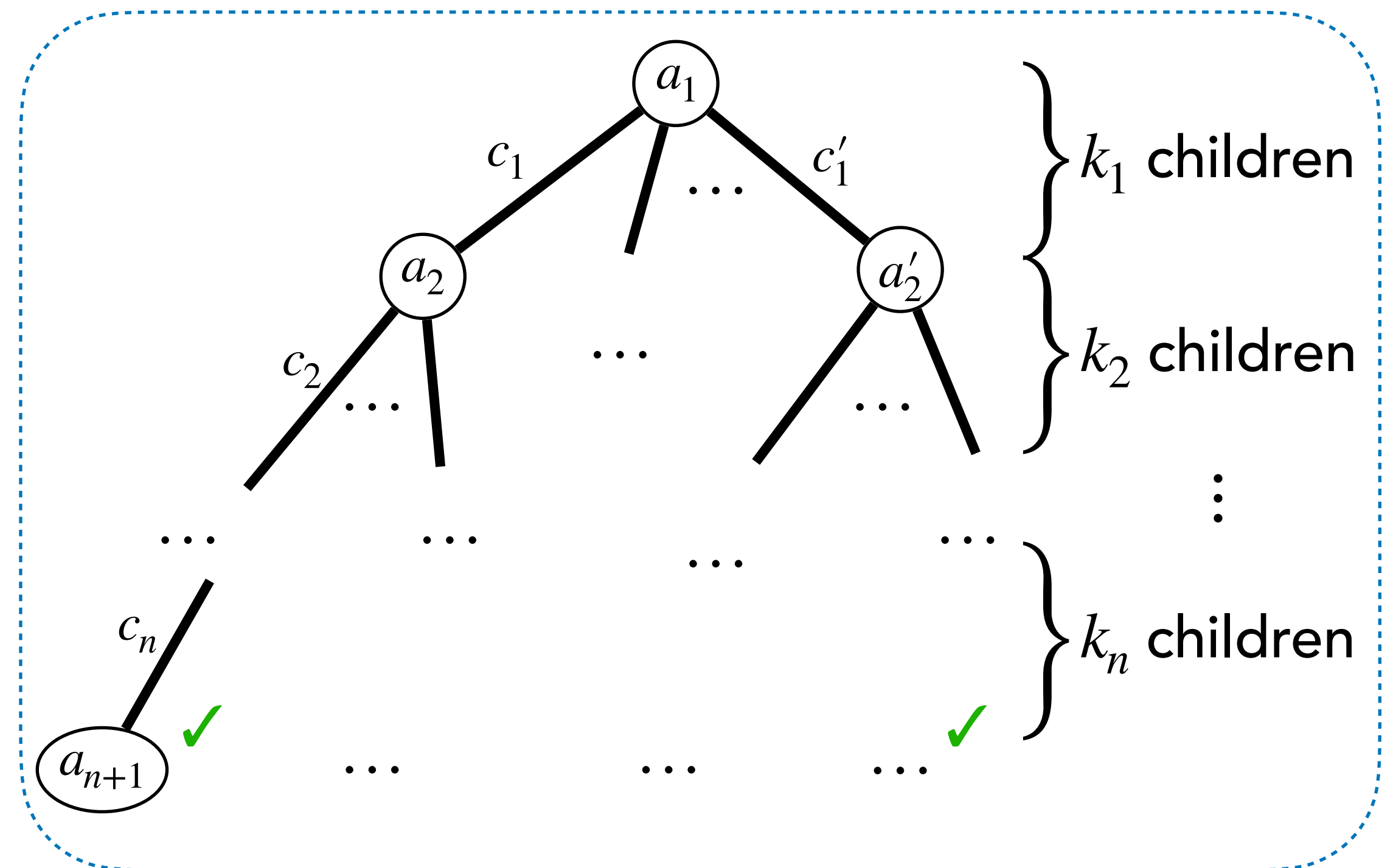
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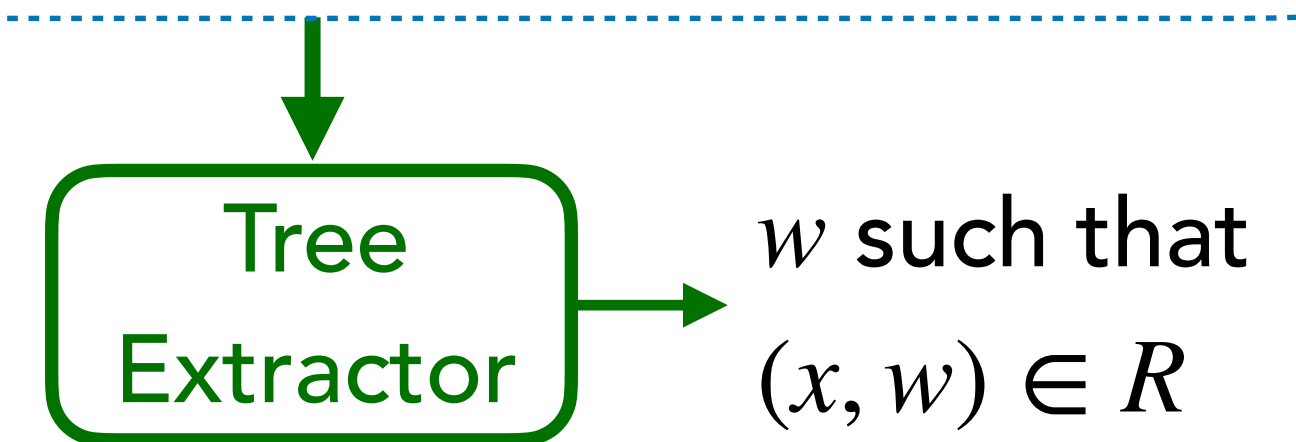
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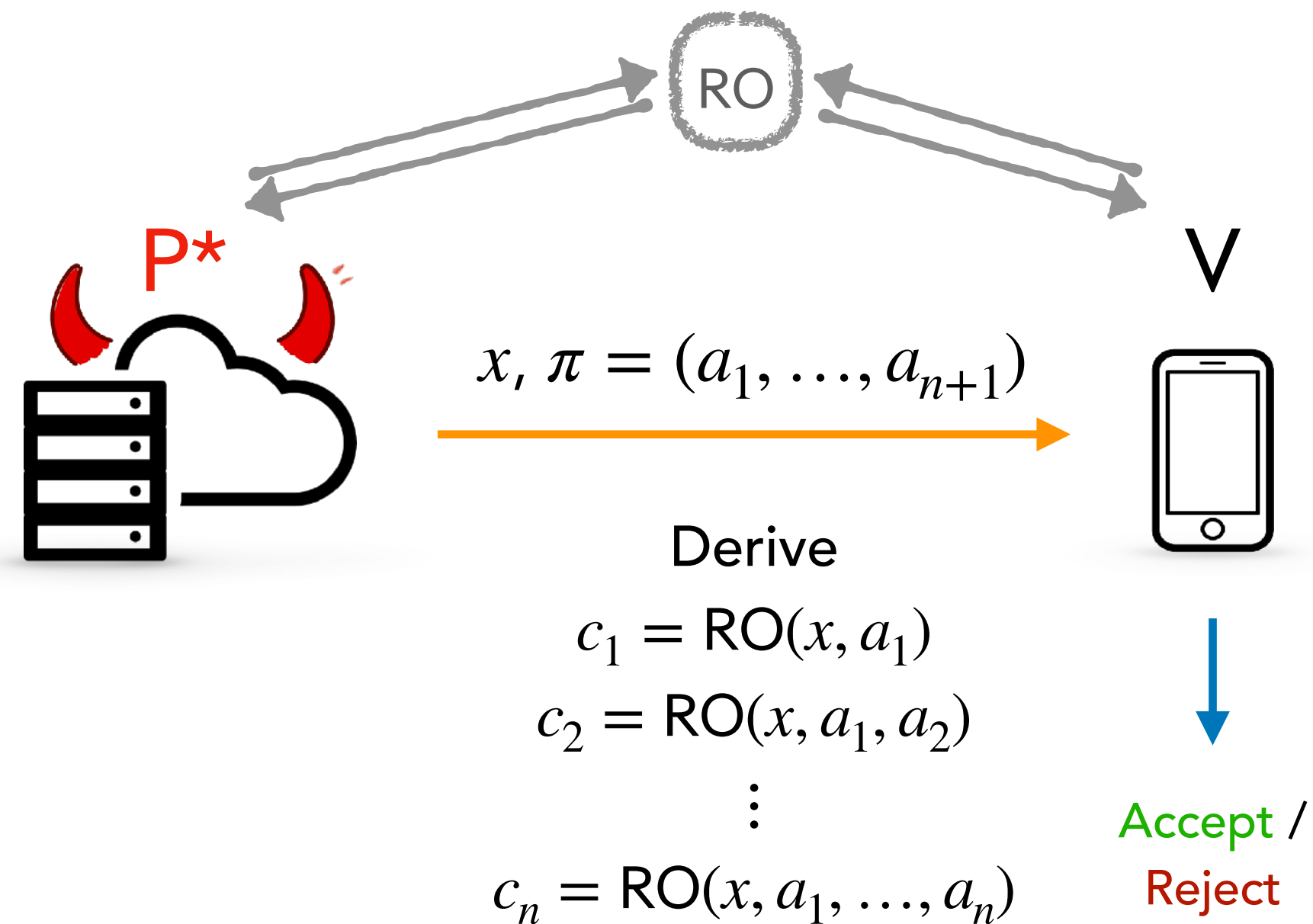


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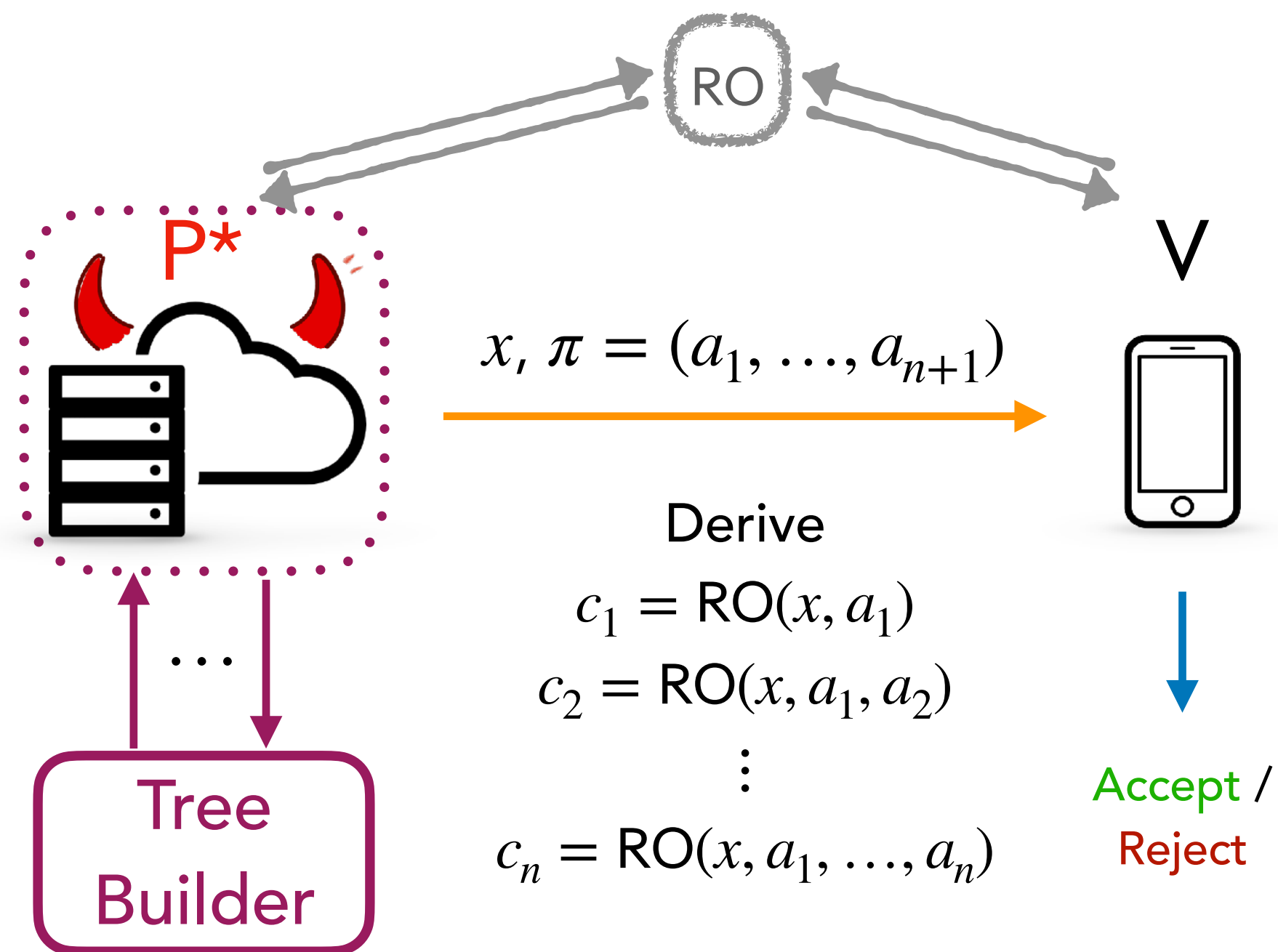
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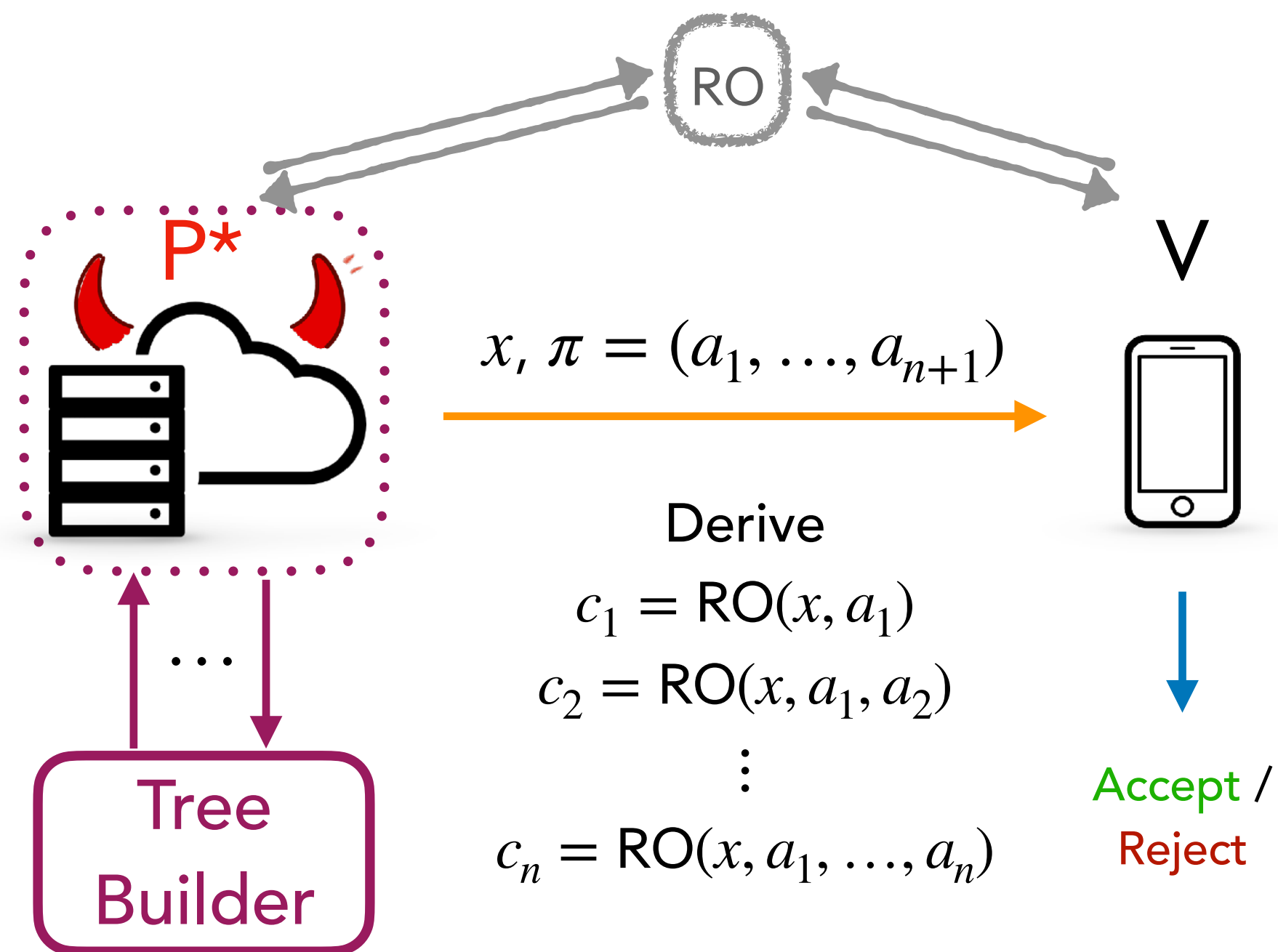
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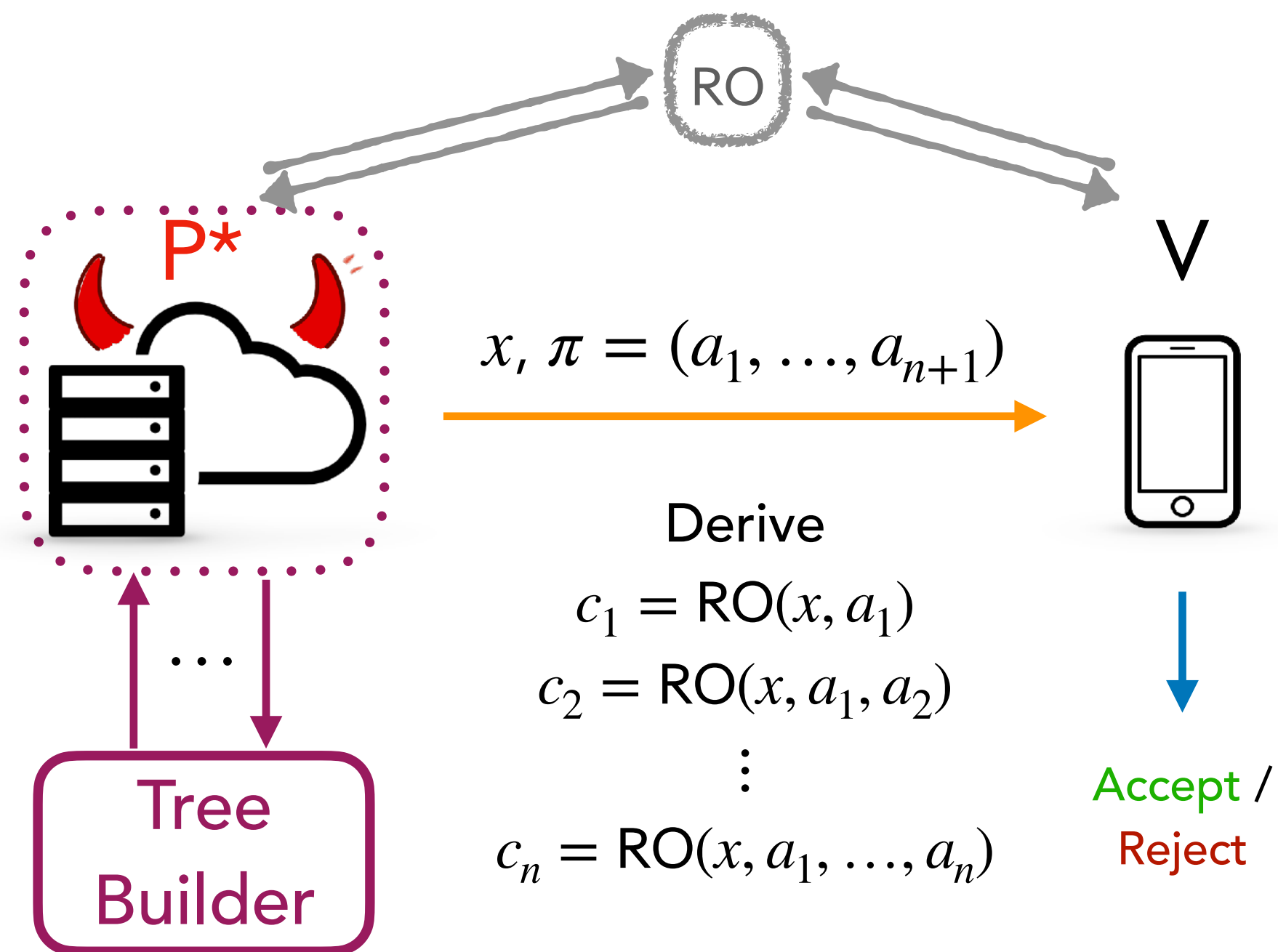


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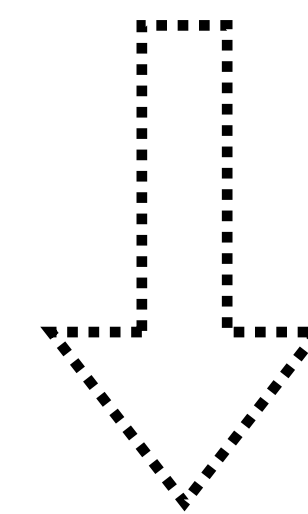
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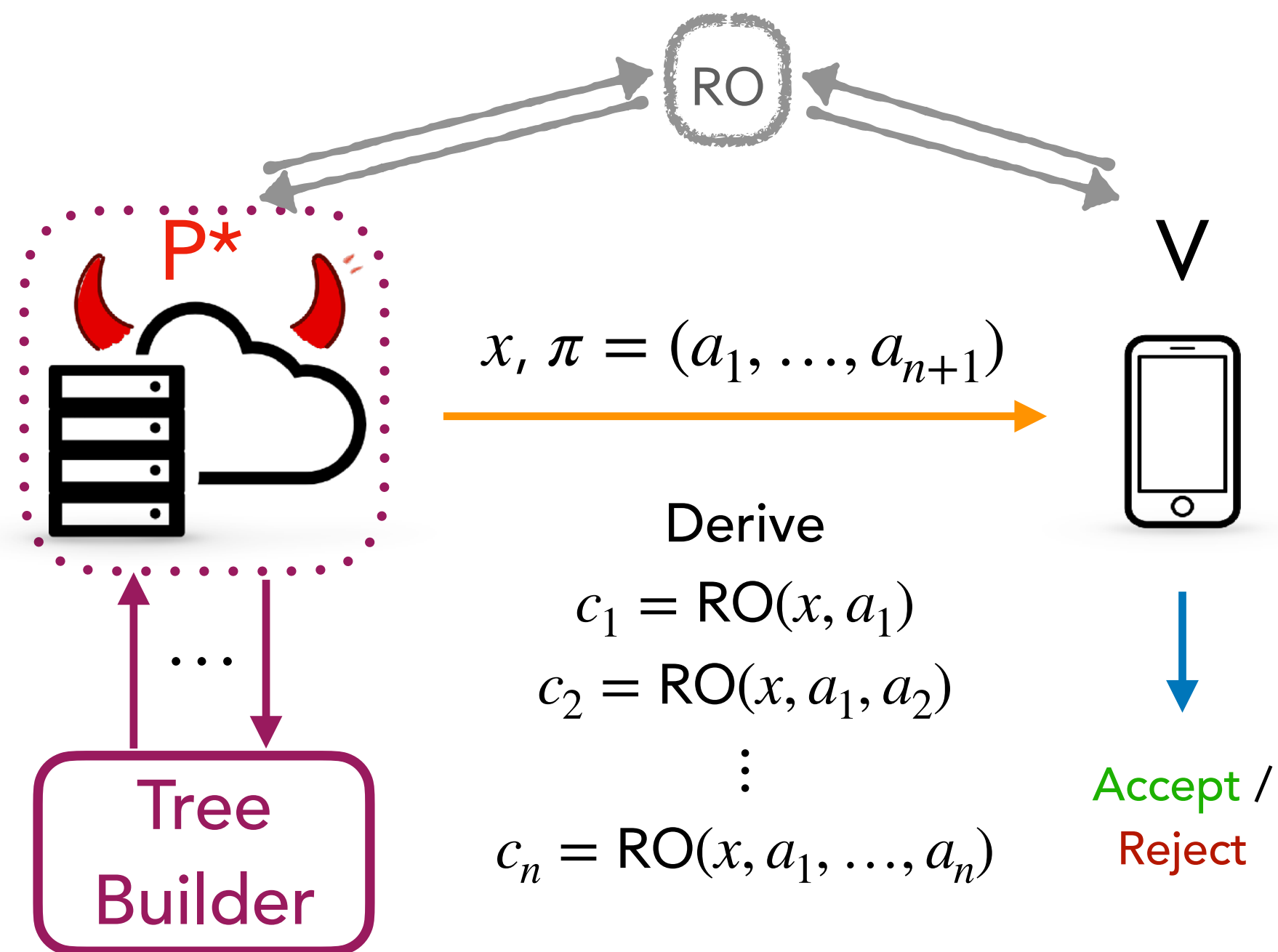
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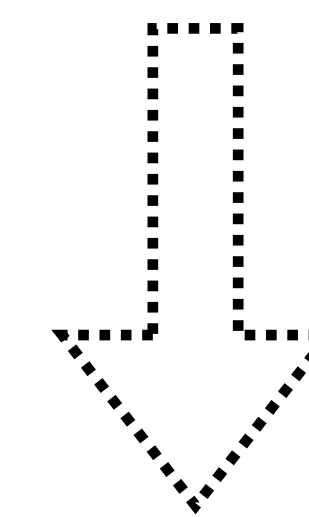
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Corollary: If a proof system satisfies special soundness, then it satisfies knowledge soundness.

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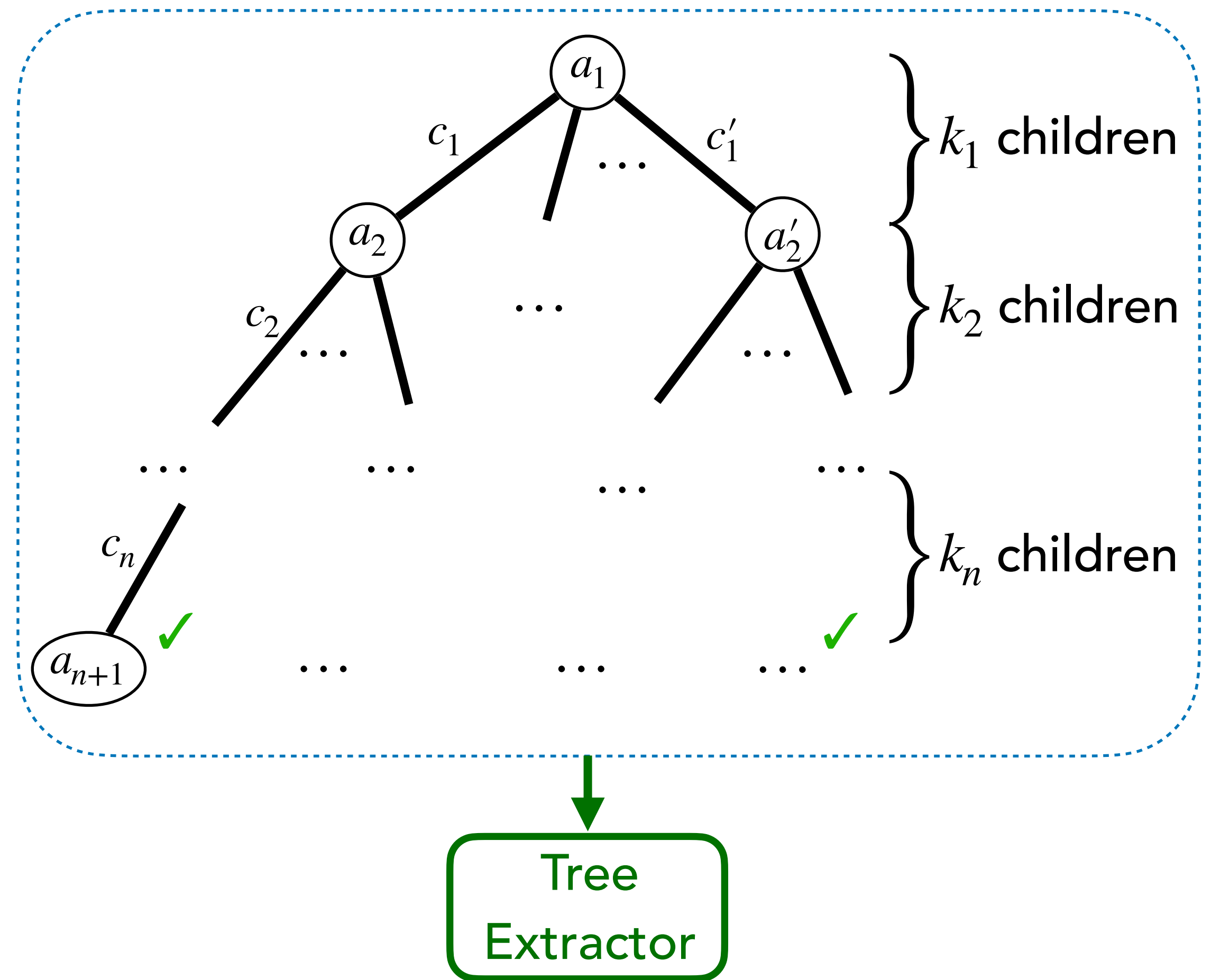
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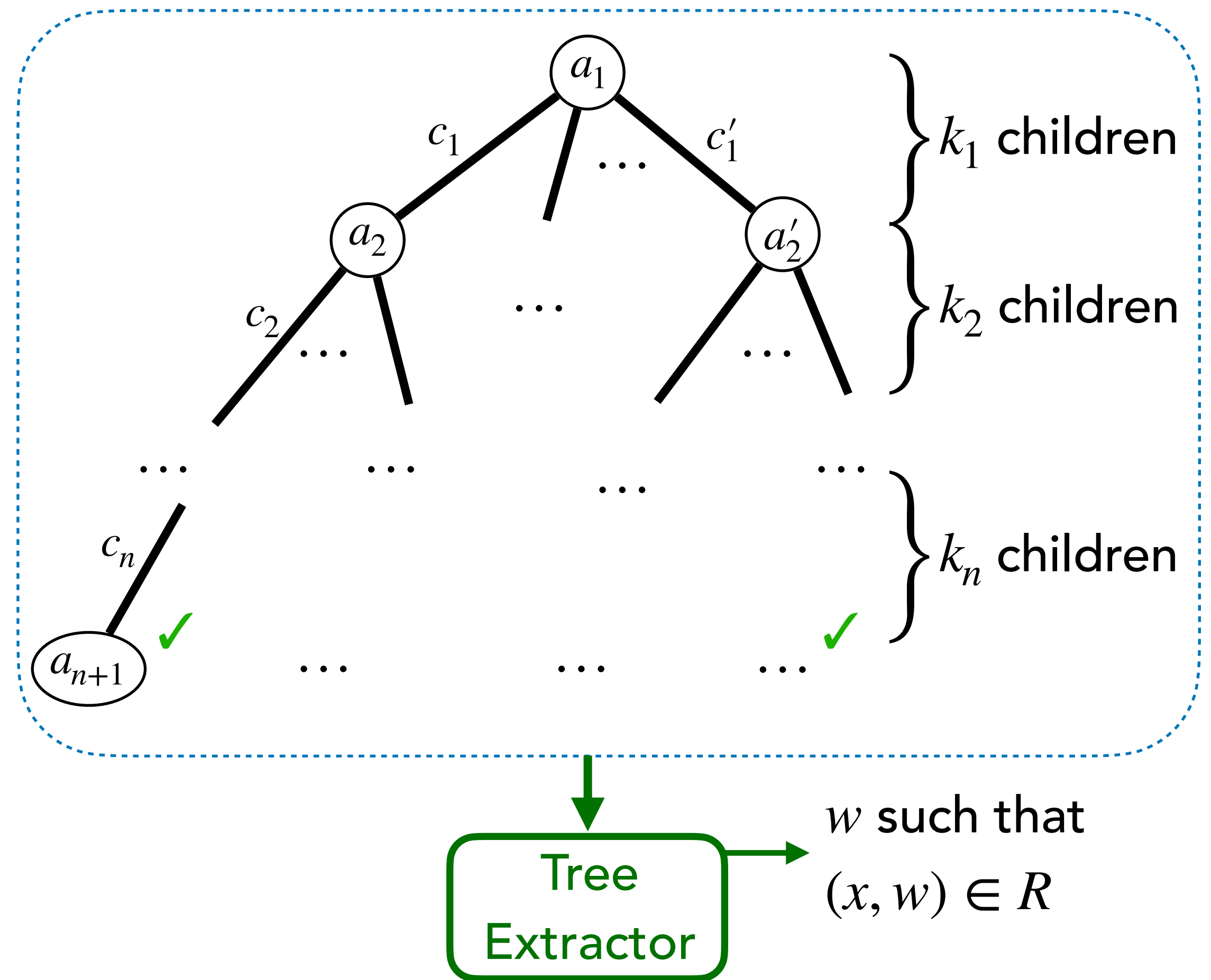
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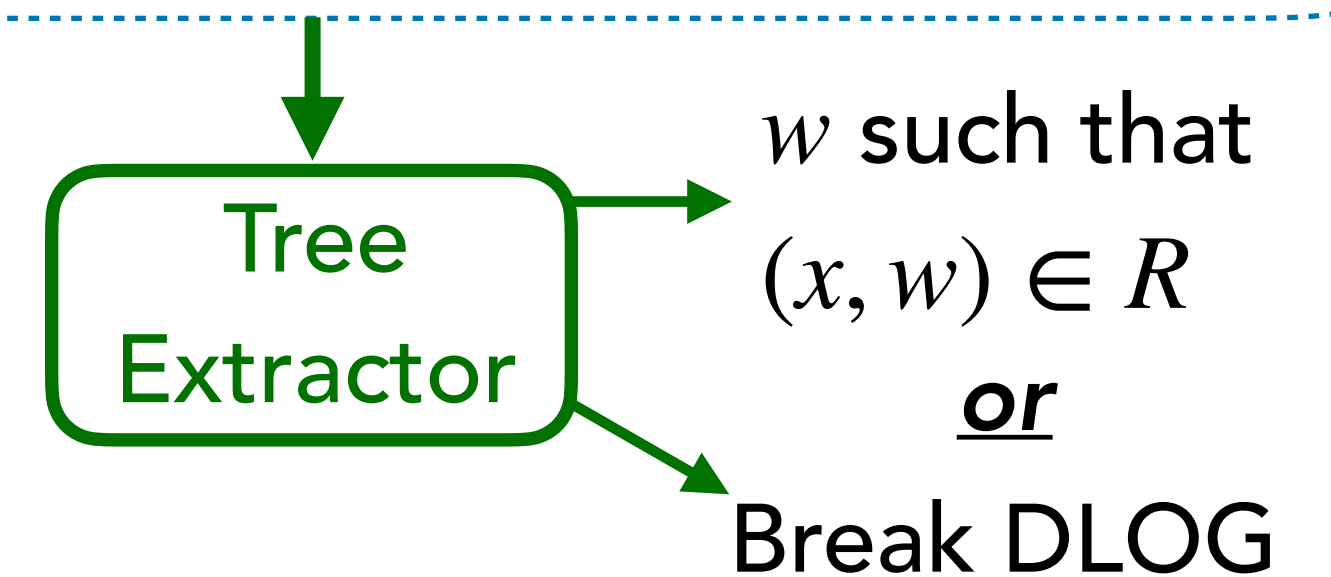
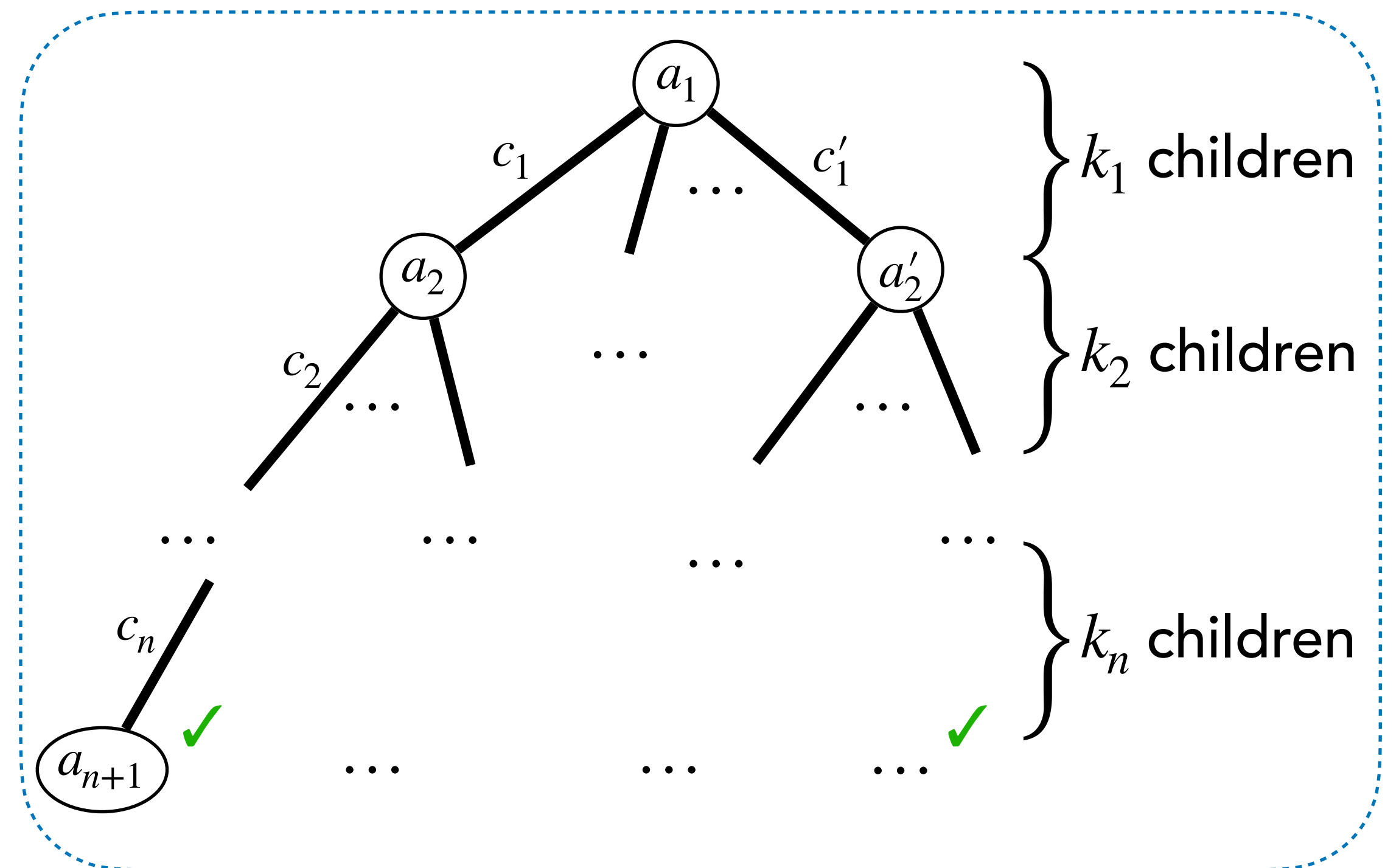
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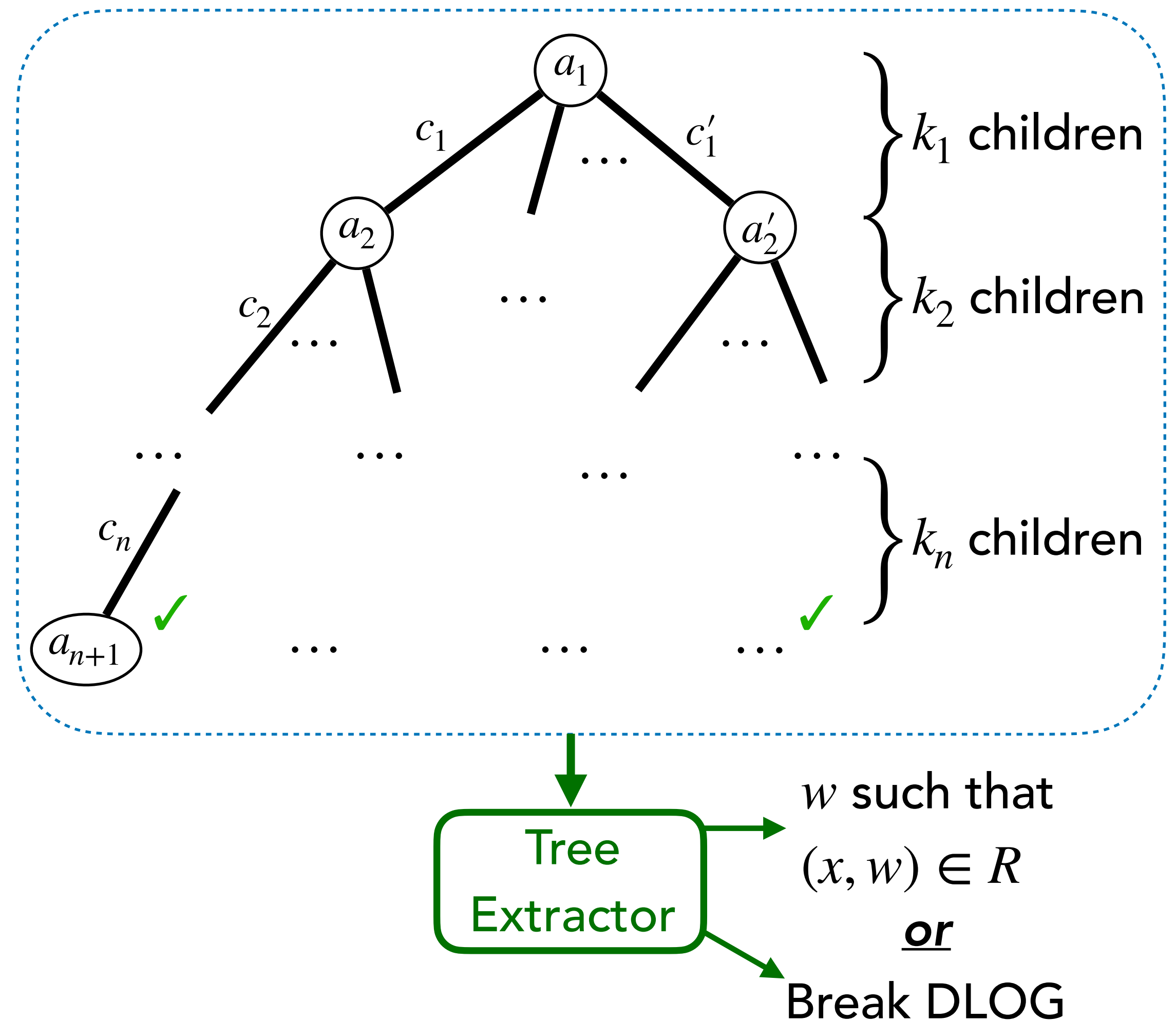
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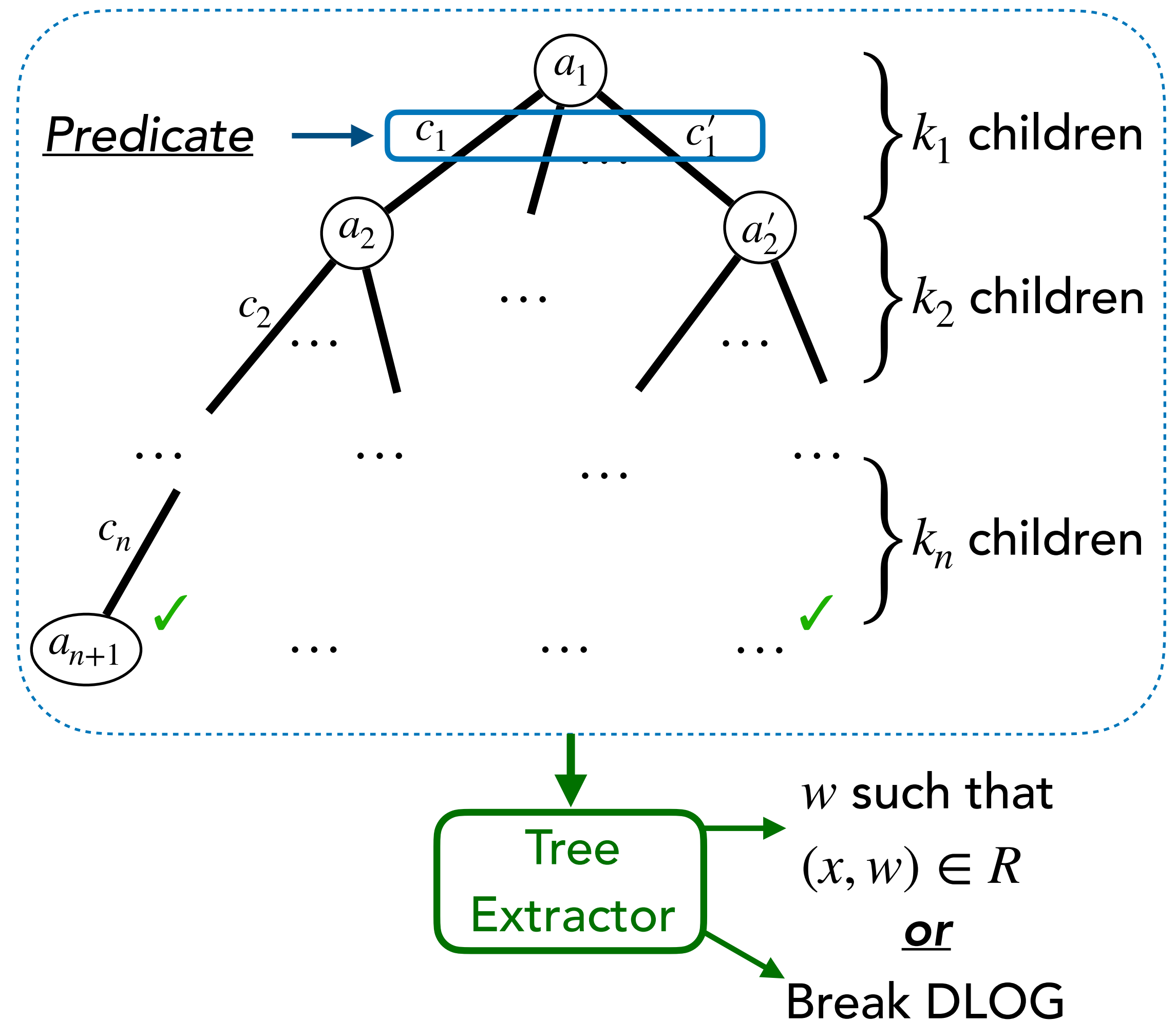
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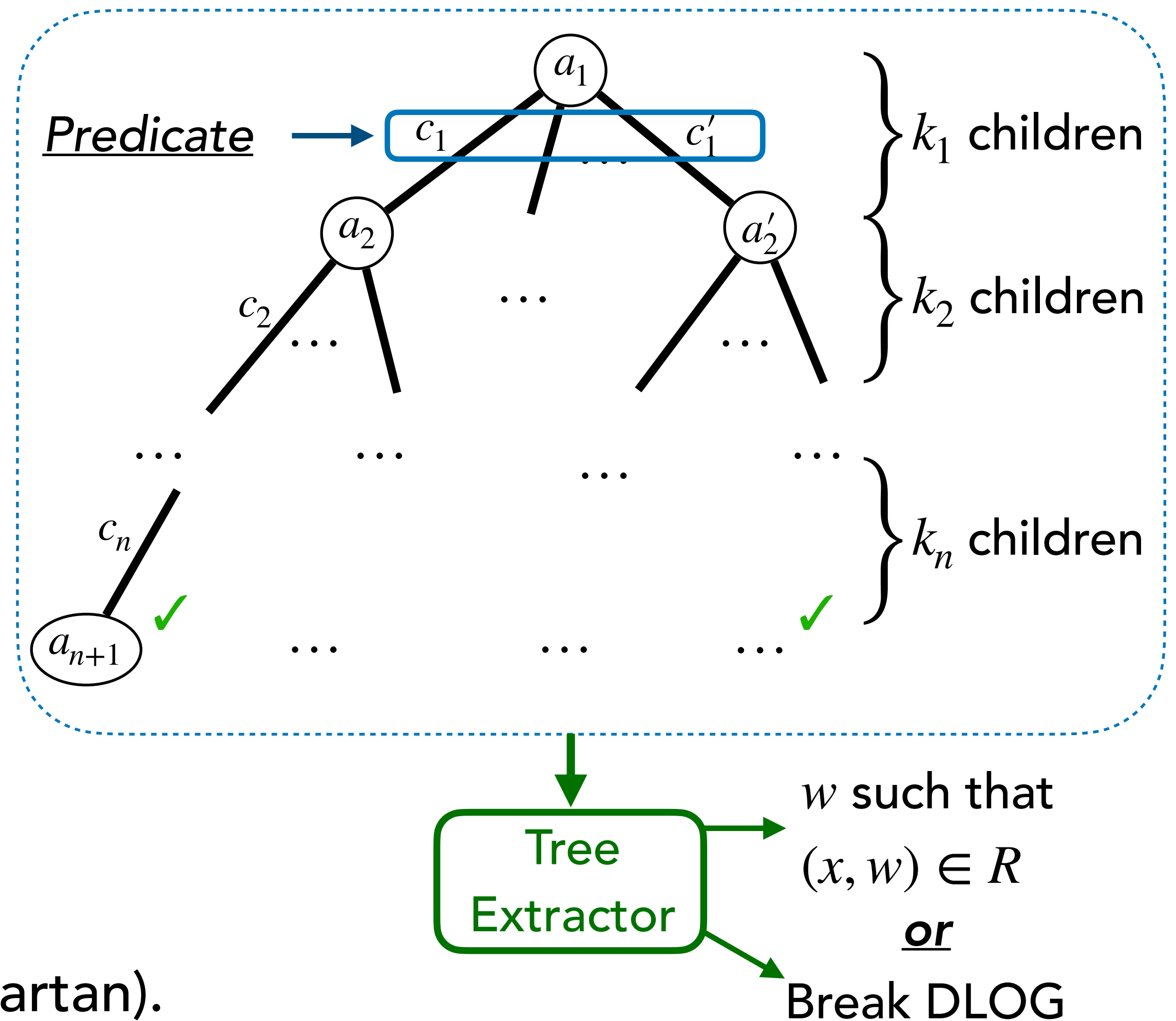
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We construct a generalized tree builder that can handle these predicates (for Bulletproofs and Spartan).

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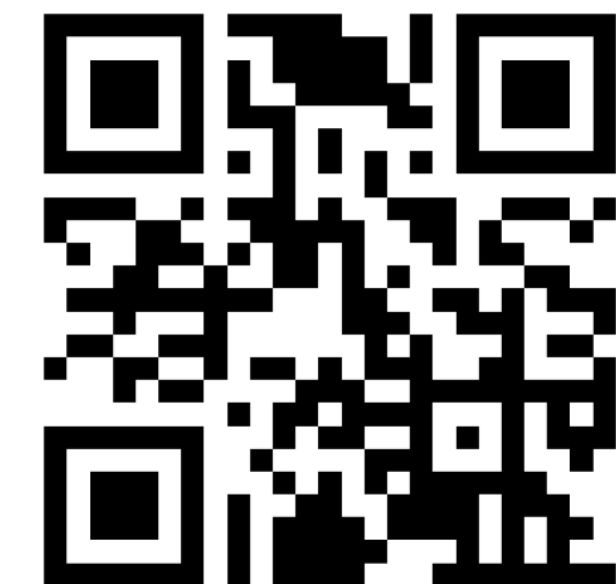
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Read our paper!  
(ePrint 2023/494)



Thank You!