

Beyond “MPC in the Head”: Black-Box Constructions of Short Zero-Knowledge Proofs

Carmit Hazay

Muthuramakrishnan Venkatasubramanian

Mor Weiss



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



What This Talk Is About

- **Part (1): Beyond MPC in the Head**
 - New paradigm for ZKP design, extends [\[IKOS07\]](#)
 - Based on computations “in the head” from weak primitives
 - **Versatile:** applicable to many primitives (FHE, FE, FSS, HSS, RE, LFE) and protocols (IP, IOP), extends to commit-and-prove functionalities

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- **Part (2): Constructions of short (almost witness length) ZKPs**
 - New constructions for NC^1
 - Black-box alternatives to existing (non-BB) ZKPs for NC^1 , NP and more
 - Casting some existing BB ZKPs as special cases of the paradigm

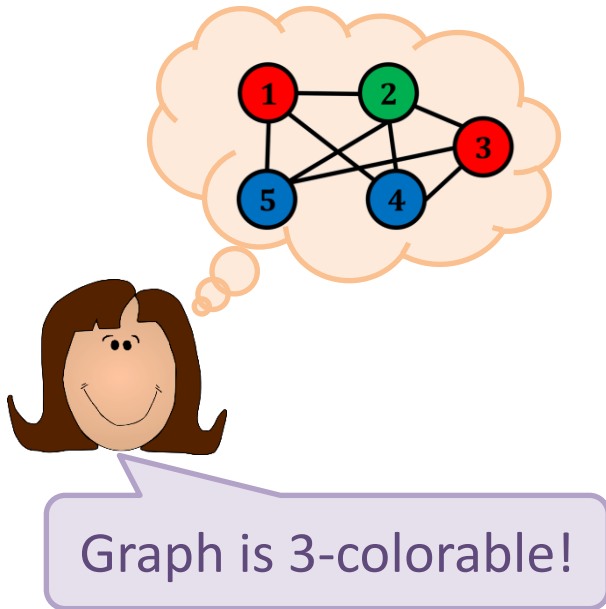
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Scary table coming up!

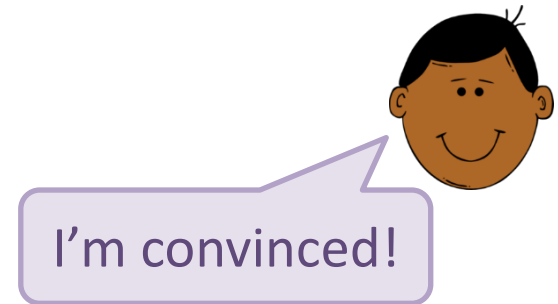
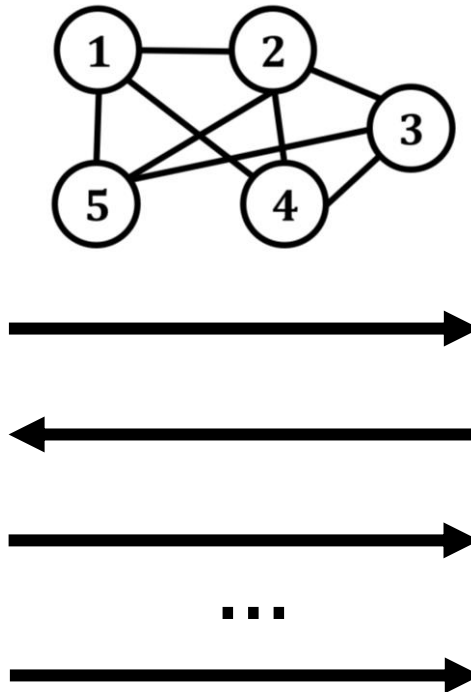


Zero-Knowledge Proofs



A cartoon woman with brown hair is shown in profile, looking thoughtful. Above her head is a thought bubble containing a graph with five nodes labeled 1 through 5. Node 1 is red, node 2 is green, node 3 is red, node 4 is blue, and node 5 is blue. The graph is connected with edges between (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (3,4), (3,5), (4,5).

Graph is 3-colorable!



A cartoon man with dark skin and black hair is shown in profile, smiling. A speech bubble next to him says "I'm convinced!".

I'm convinced!

Beyond MPC in the Head

MPC in the Head 101 [IKOS07]

Claim: $C(w) = 1$ for some w

Witness Secret Share

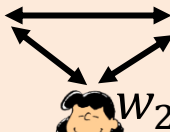
$$w = w_1 \oplus w_2 \oplus w_3$$

$$f(w_1, w_2, w_3) = C(w_1 \oplus w_2 \oplus w_3)$$

$w_1, \overset{\rightleftarrows}{\dots}, \dots$

$w_3, \overset{\rightleftarrows}{\dots}, \dots$

w_1



w_3

w_2

$w_2, \overset{\rightleftarrows}{\dots}, \dots$



Check correctness of execution

$$i \neq j \leftarrow \{1,2,3\}$$

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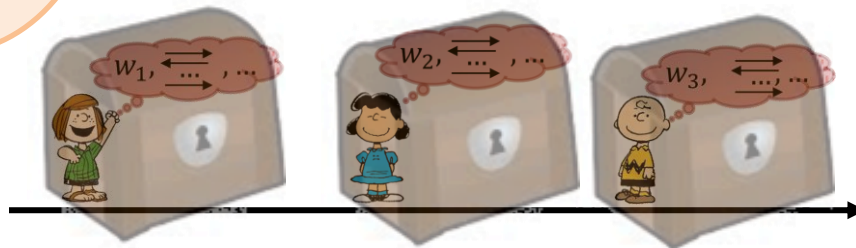
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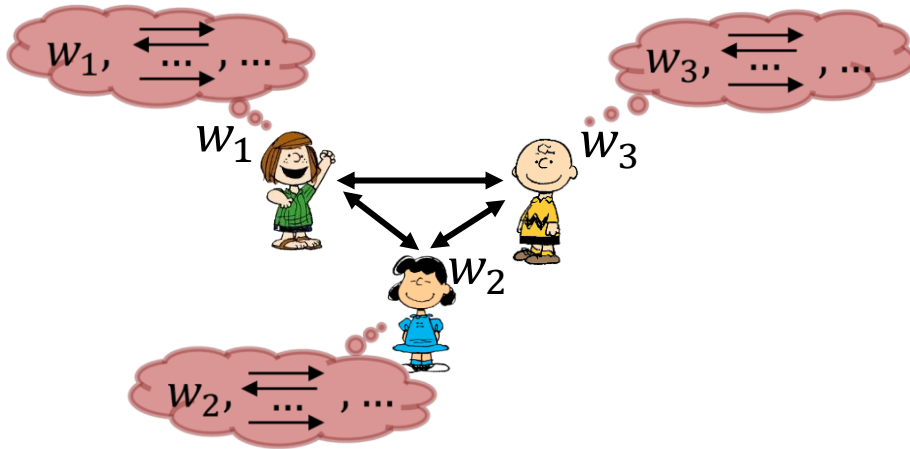
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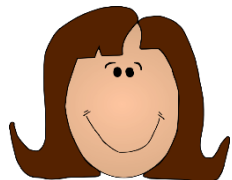
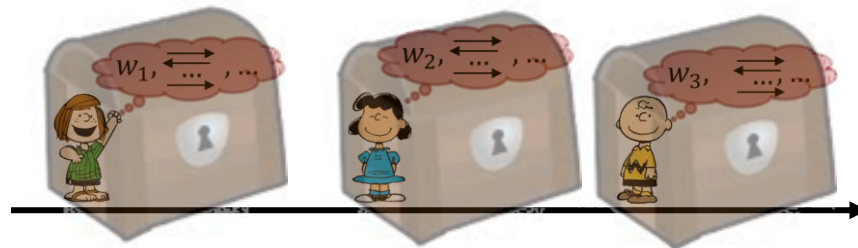
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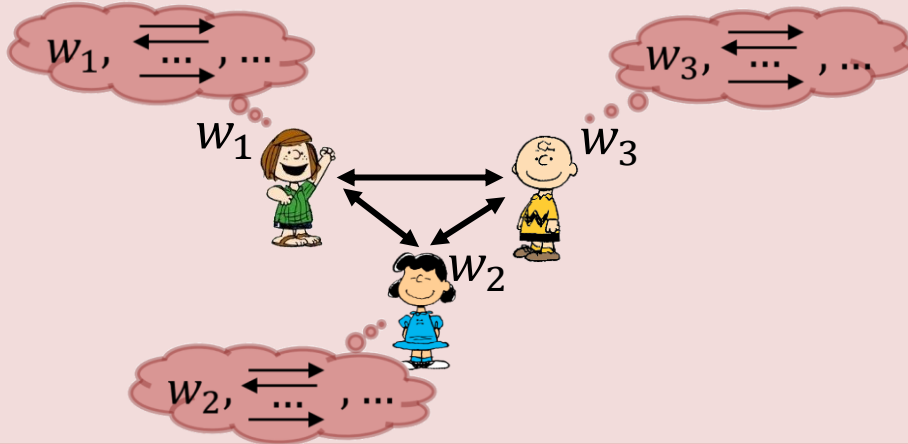
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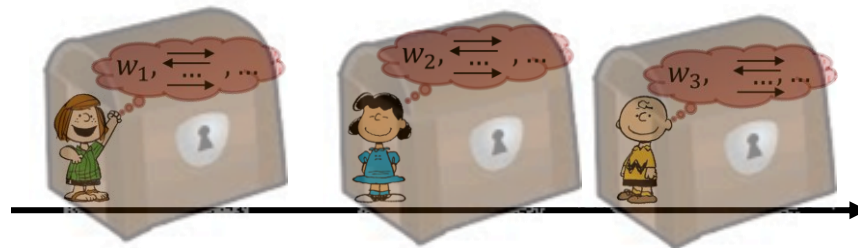
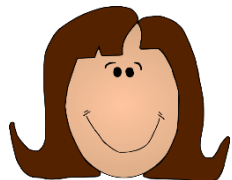
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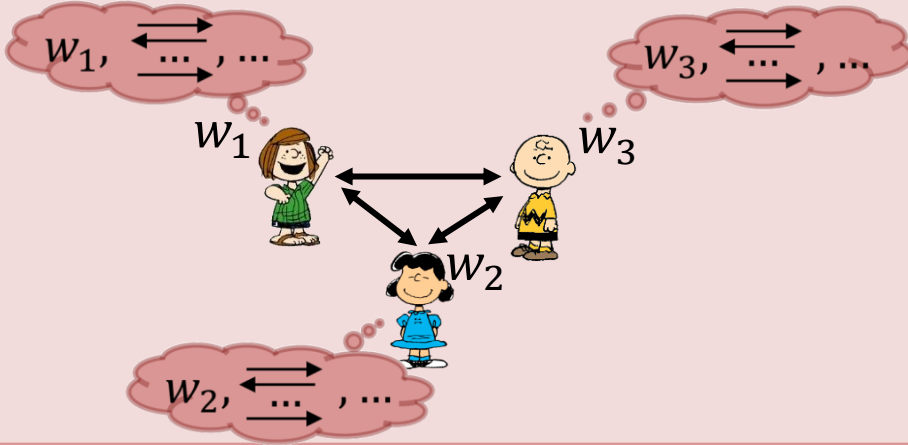
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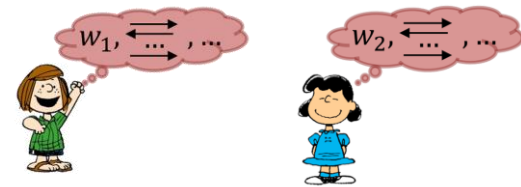
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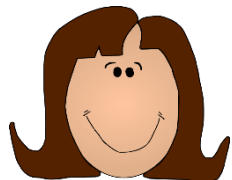
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MPC correctness \Rightarrow soundness

MPC privacy \Rightarrow only 2 witness shares revealed \Rightarrow ZK



MPC in the Head: Digest

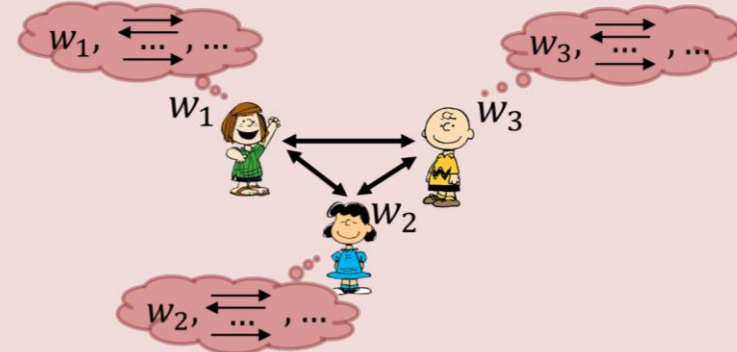
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 - Witness secret sharing
 - Evaluation of relation on secret shares
 - Correctness and privacy
(full MPC security not needed!)

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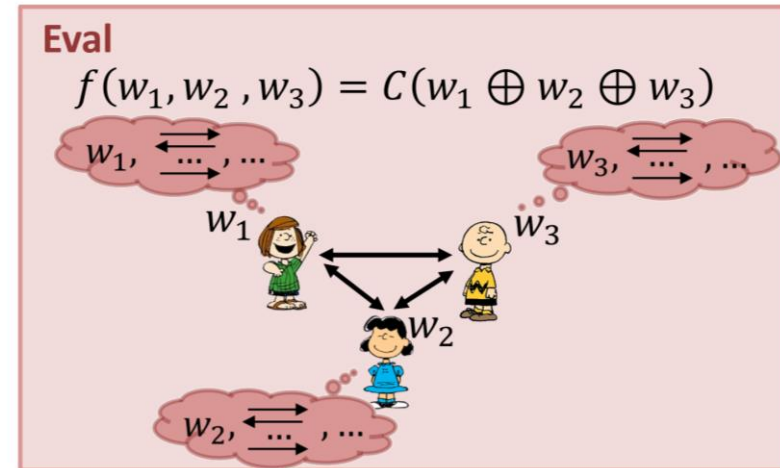
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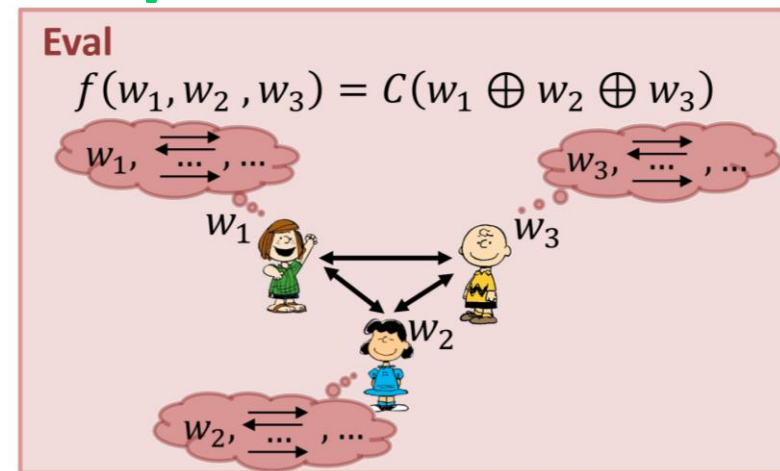
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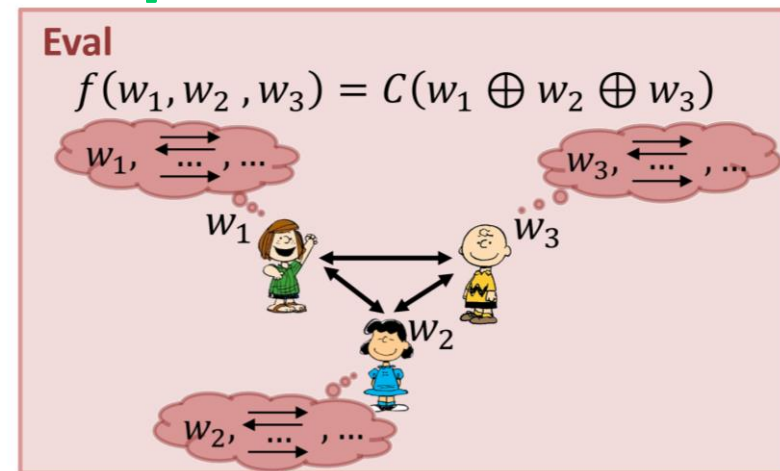
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- **Today:** Beyond MPC in the Head
 - Generalized paradigm
 - From **game-based** primitives, enabling encrypting secrets and homomorphic computations

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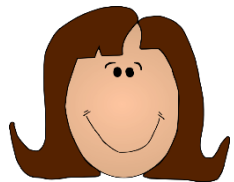
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Example: ZKPs from FHE

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FHE: KeyGen, Enc, Eval, Dec

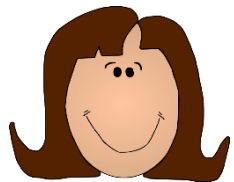


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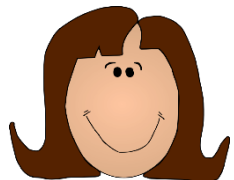
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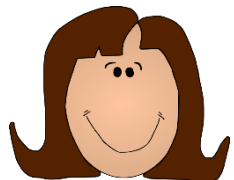
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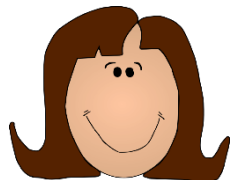
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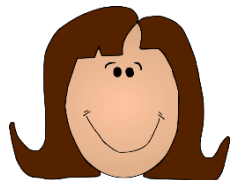
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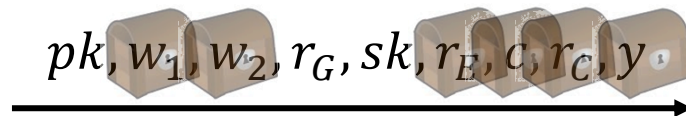
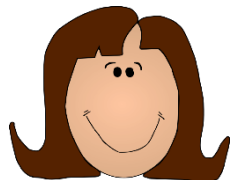
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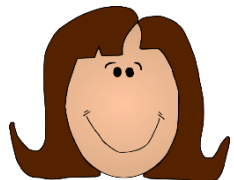
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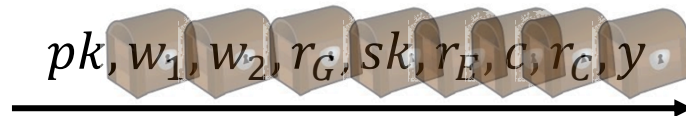
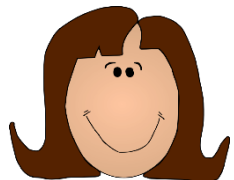
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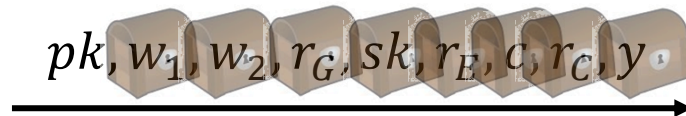
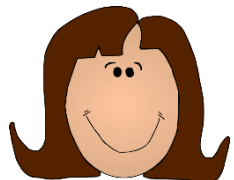
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	Output read sk, y

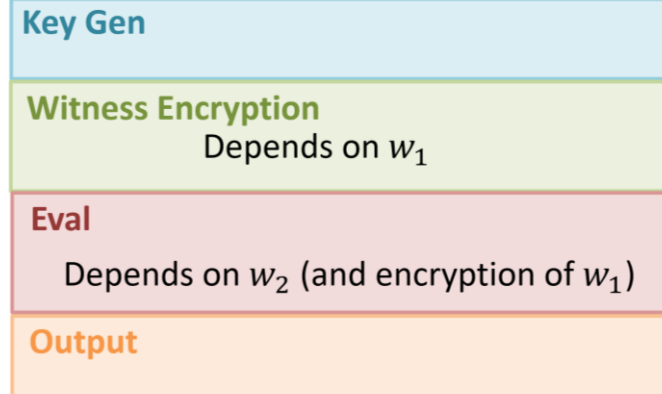


ZKPs from Game-Based Primitives (Blueprint)

- Instead of MPC, use weaker primitive
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- **Primitive syntax:** enables encrypting secrets and homomorphic computations

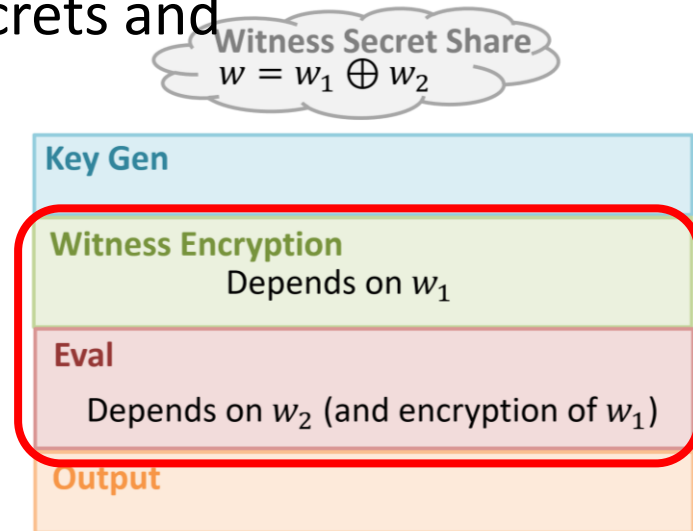


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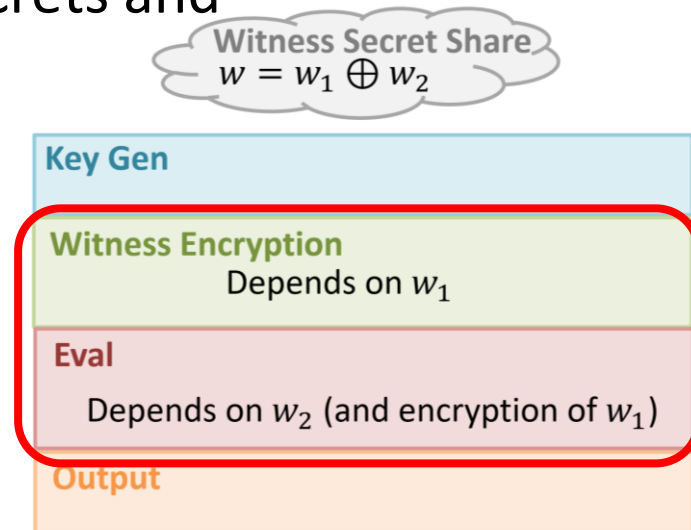
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- **Versatile:** primitive can be
 - 1-party (FHE, FE, LFE, RE) or multi-party (HSS, FSS)
 - Interactive (IP, IOP)
 - Secret- or public-key
 - With imperfect correctness
- Extends also to commit-and-prove functionalities



New ZKP Constructions



- ZKPs with $O(1)$ rounds and soundness error, BB in underlying primitive

New ZKP Constructions



Circuit Class	Communication	Assumption	SotA (Same Params, NBB)
NC^1	$n \cdot poly(\kappa)$	DCR (BB in HSS)	AC^0 , BB from OWFs [IKOS07]
NC^1	$n \cdot poly(\kappa)$	OWF	[GR20] ($O(\log n)$ -round, NC [GKR08])
NP	$O(n + poly(\kappa))$ $O(\kappa \cdot S)$	FHE OWF	[GGIPSS15] [HV16] (BB in OWF)
$poly(m)$ -size, $d(m)$ -depth NP	$n \cdot poly(\kappa, d(m))$ $O(d_m)$ rounds	OWF	[GKR08]
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- **ZKPs with $O(1)$ rounds and soundness error, BB in underlying primitive**
- n = witness length, κ = sec param, S = verification circuit size, m = instance length
- NC^1 results for poly-time uniform relations
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