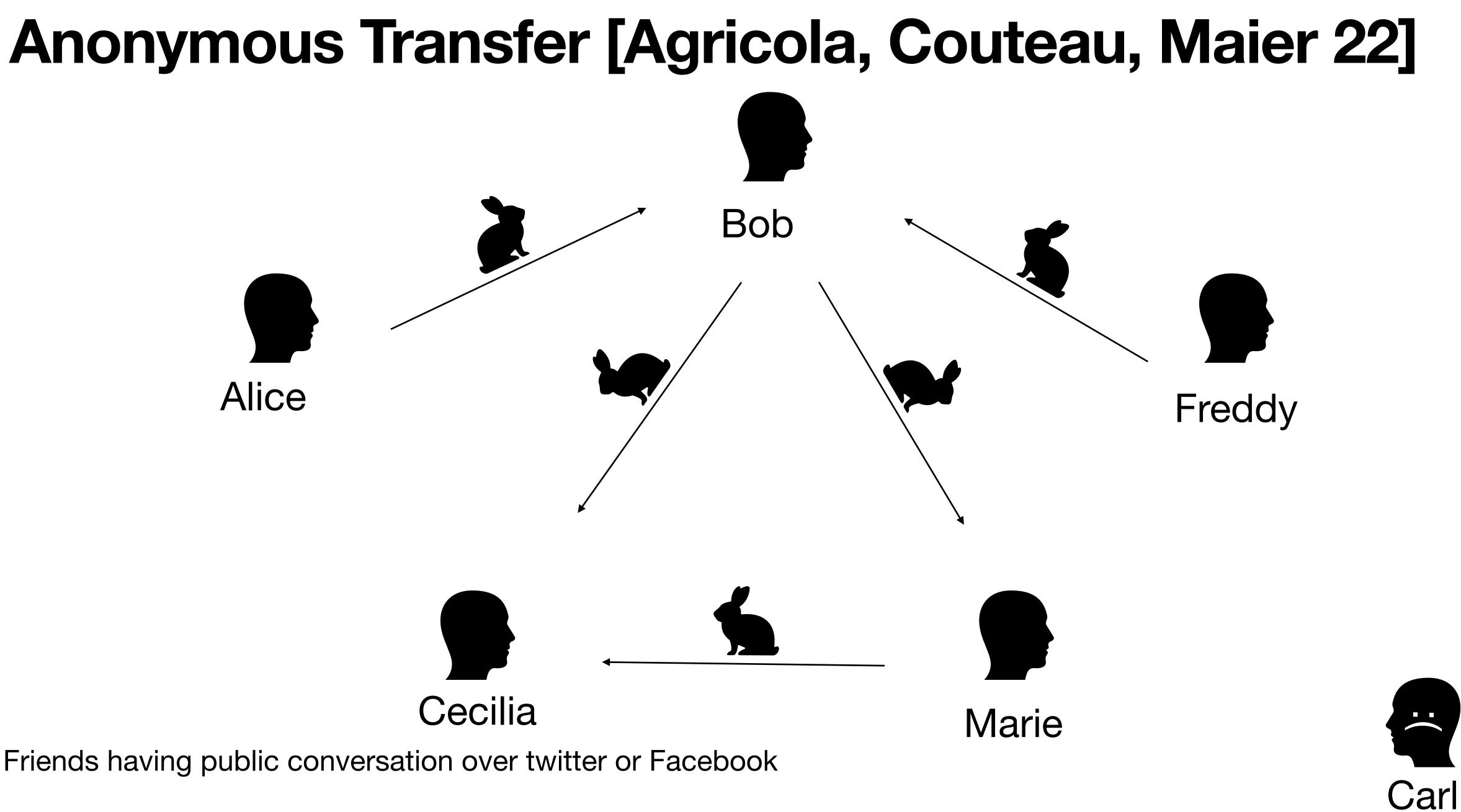
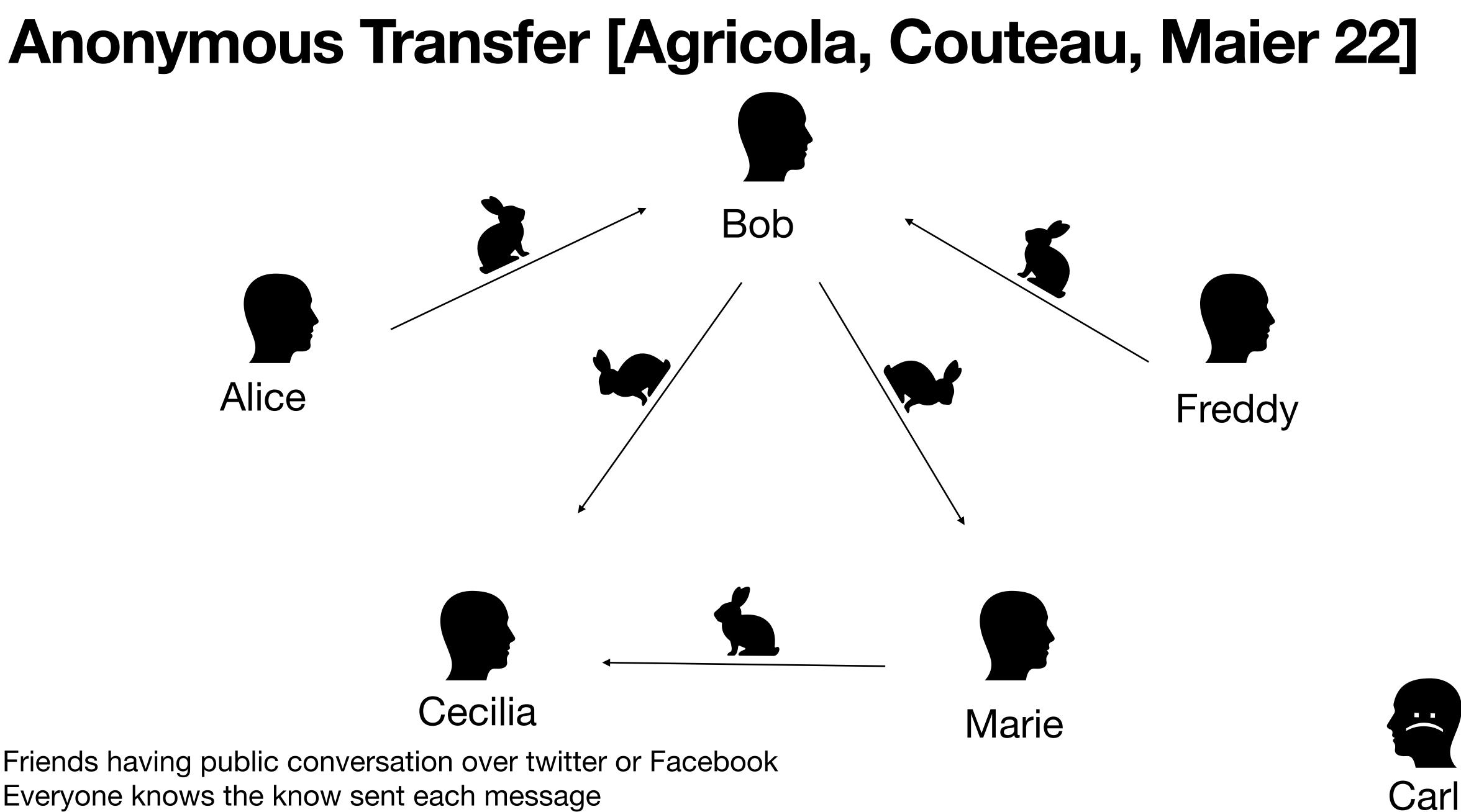
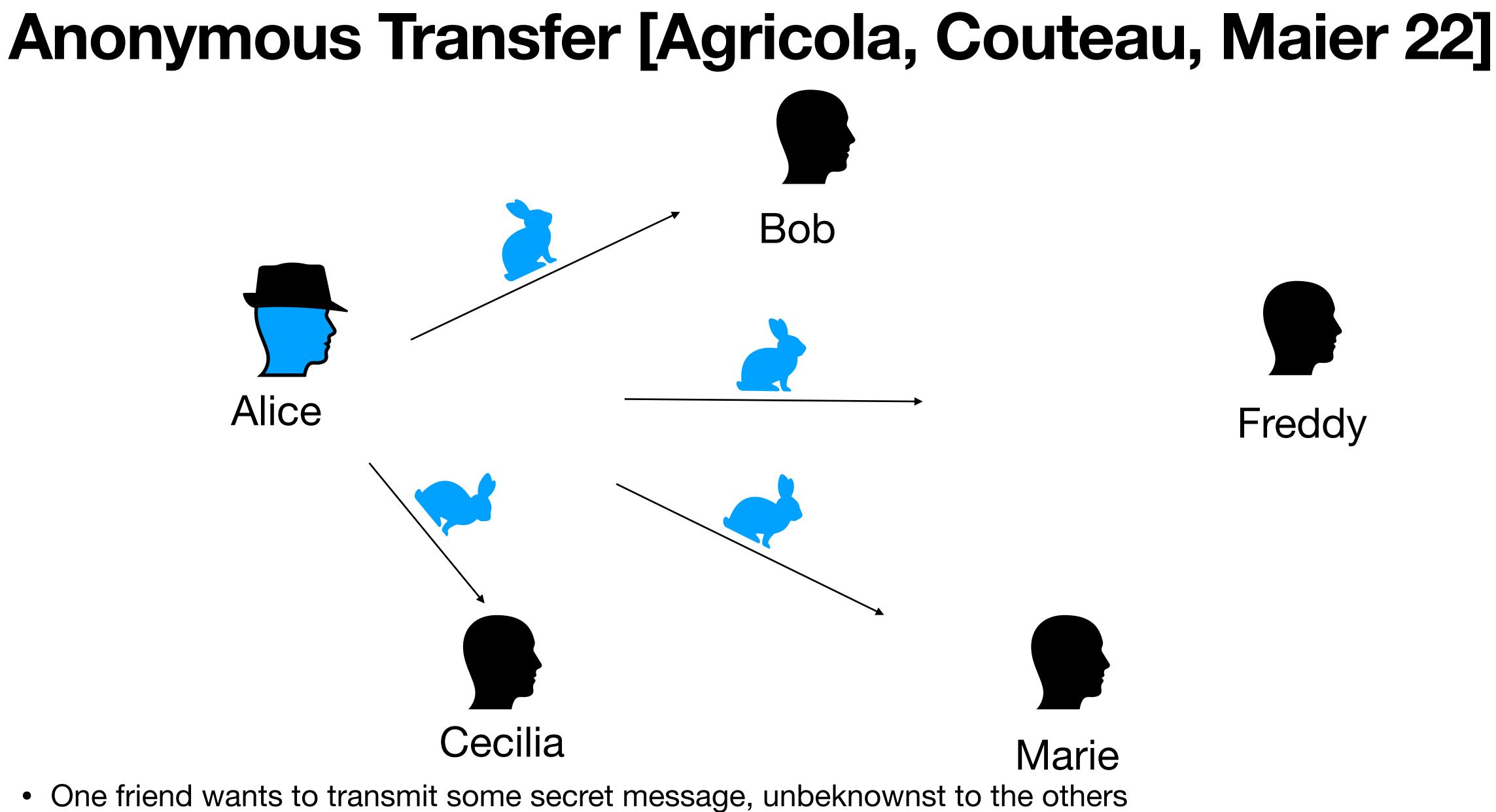
# Lower Bounds for Anonymous Whistleblowing Willy Quach, LaKyah Tyner, Daniel Wichs



• Friends having public conversation over twitter or Facebook



- Friends having public conversation over twitter or Facebook
- Everyone knows the know sent each message



- lacksquare
- Without revealing identity

### **Anonymous Transfer [Agricola, Couteau, Maier 22]** Bob ... Alice Freddy Carl





Anyone can recover secret message (even an outsider) without discovering the sender



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  - Can we mitigate risk using cryptographic techniques?

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    - Their very weak form of AT is the best we can hope for

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For all secret messages  $\mu \in \{0,1\}^{\ell}$  $\Pr[\mu' \neq \mu]$  is negligible

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 $\delta$ -anonymity "Distinguishing Advantage" For all PPT D and all  $\mu \in \{0,1\}^{\ell}$  $|\Pr[D(\pi^A) = 1] - \Pr[D(\pi^B) = 1]| \le \delta$ 



[ACM22] Negative Result

Cannot get negligible anonymity  $\delta$  against all poly-time adversaries

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Big Gap: Can we get "decent" anonymity (say  $\delta = .01$ ) against all poly adversaries? Can we get negligible anonymity against fine grained adversaries? Our results: NO

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[ACM22] Positive Result

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Our Negative Result 2

Cannot get negligible anonymity even against fine-grained adversaries

### **Our Main Contribution** Attack on anonymity of AT

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$$\pi = \{m_1, \ldots, m_i, m_{i+1}, \ldots, m_{n_i}\}$$

 $\{m_{|\pi|}\} \to \pi[i] = \{m_1, \dots, m_i, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_{|\pi|}\}$ 

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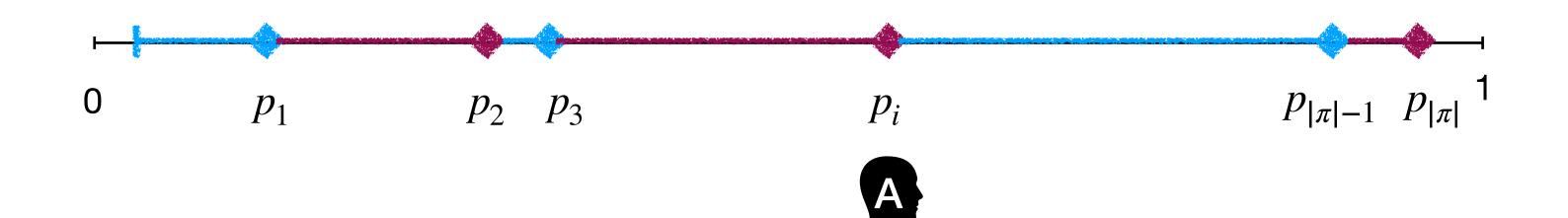
The party who makes the most progress is the sender

 $\pi_{n}$   $\} \to \pi[i] = \{m_{1}, \dots, m_{i}, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_{n}\}$ 



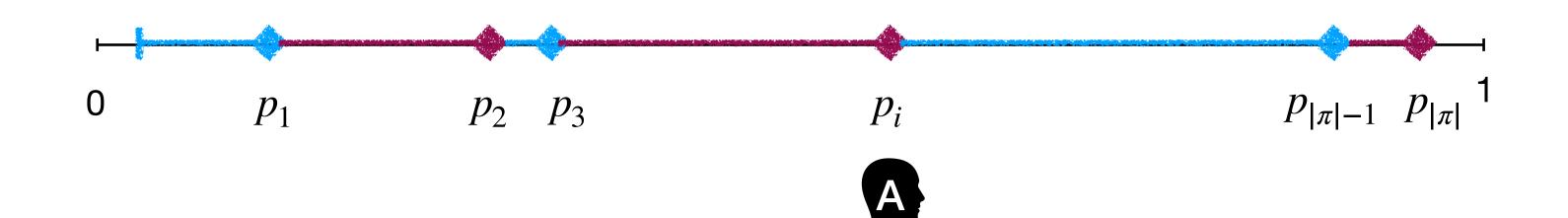








 $p_i :=$  probability of correctly recovering message after the *i*-th message associated with  $\pi[i]$ 



• Assign progress from  $p_{i-1} \rightarrow p_i$  to A





- Assign progress from  $p_{i-1} \rightarrow p_i$  to A
- Main insight: Non-sender messages do not (on expectation) change  $p_i$







Blueprint: Estimate each party's contribution









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1. The contribution of the non-sender is small









Blueprint: Estimate each party's contribution Argue:

- The contribution of the non-sender is small 1.
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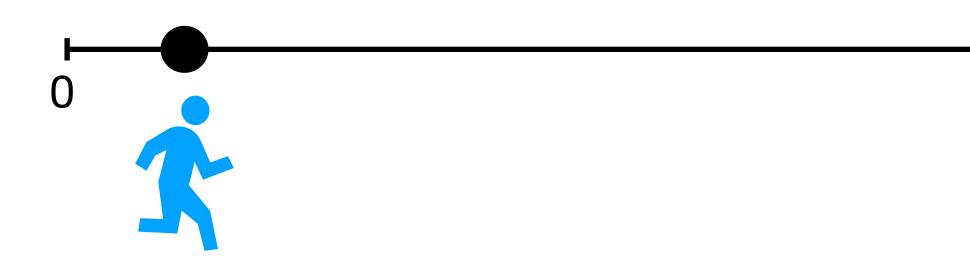
2. Total contribution is large so, the party who contributed the most must be

 $p_{|\pi|-1} p_{|\pi|}$  $p_i$ 

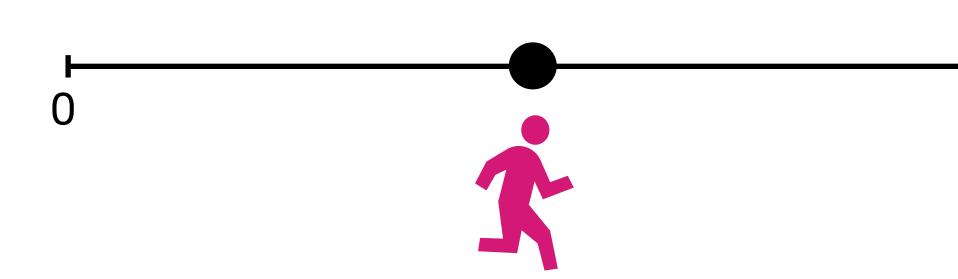


- Abstract blueprint into the Cover Cheating Game
- Between two player stand stand

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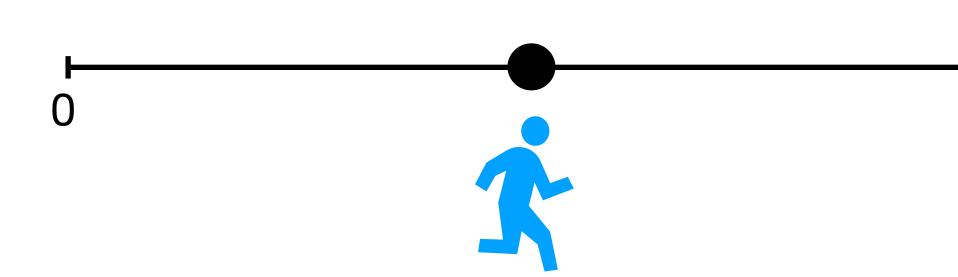


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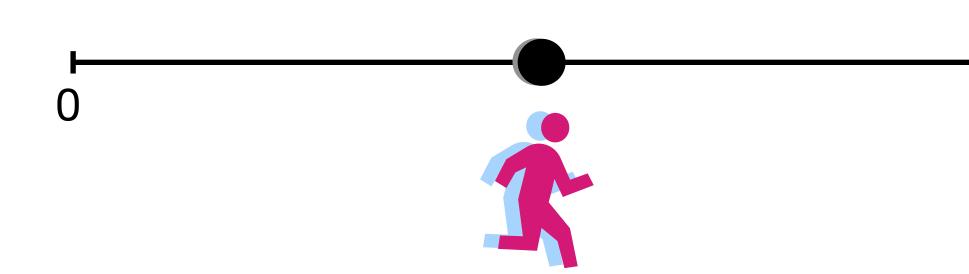
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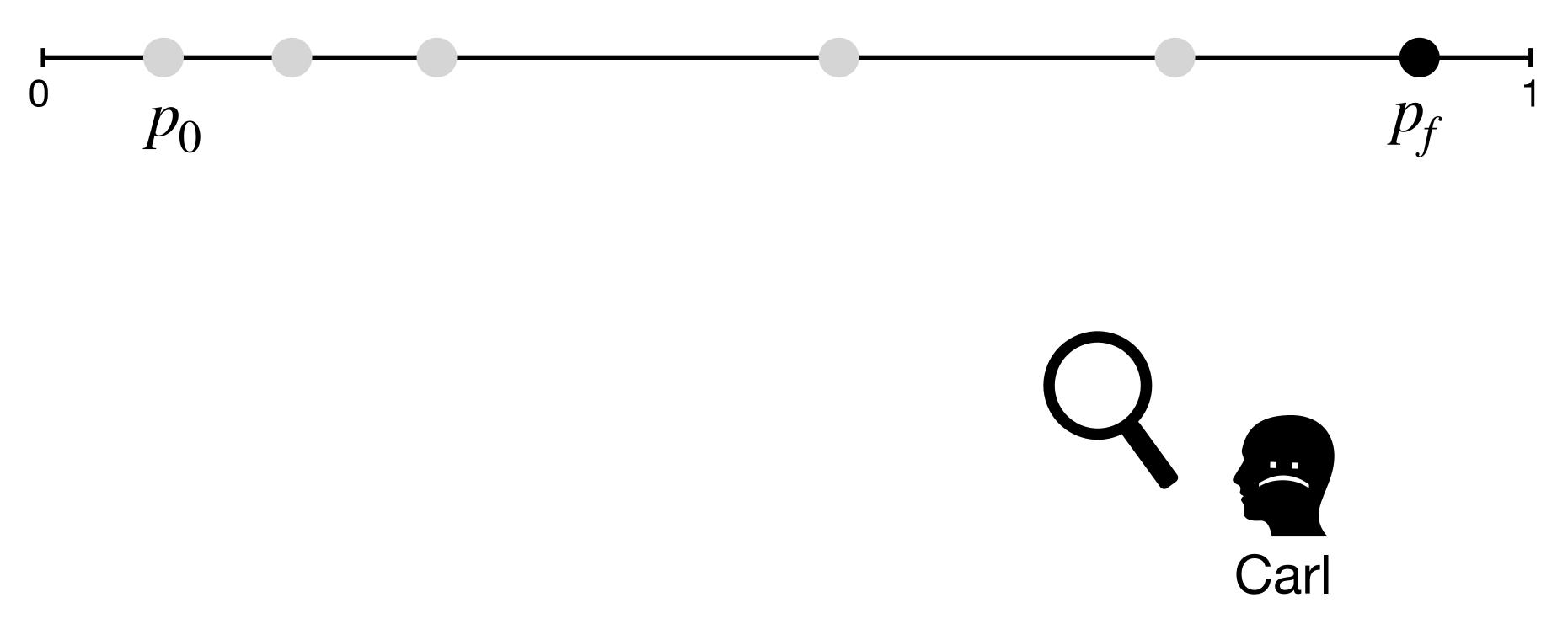
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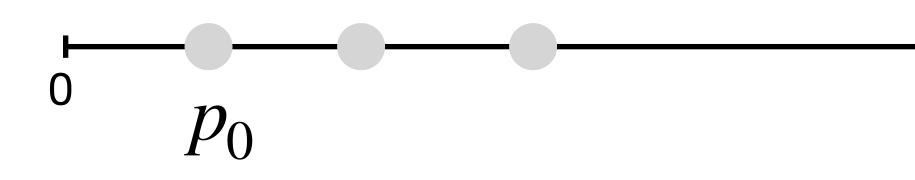


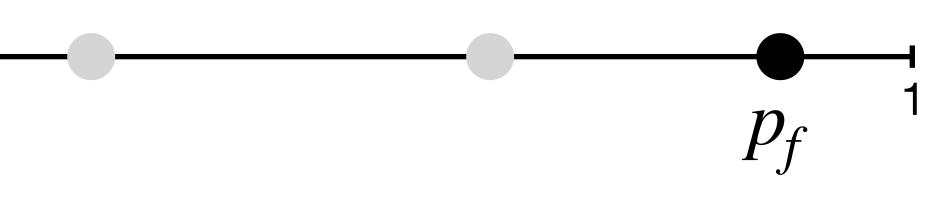
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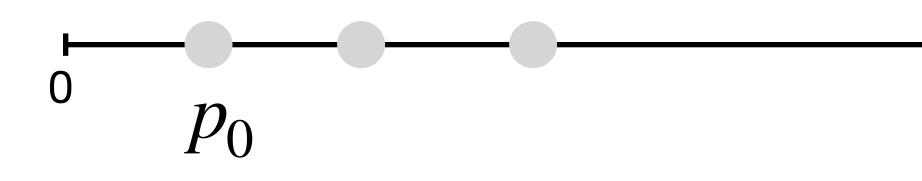
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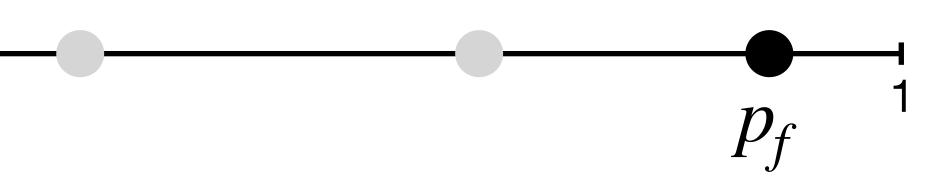




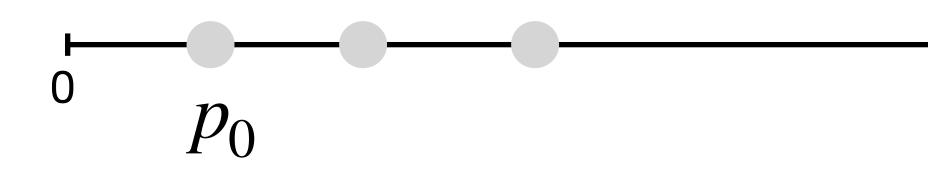


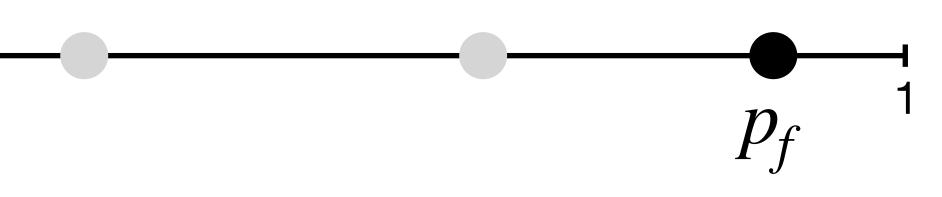
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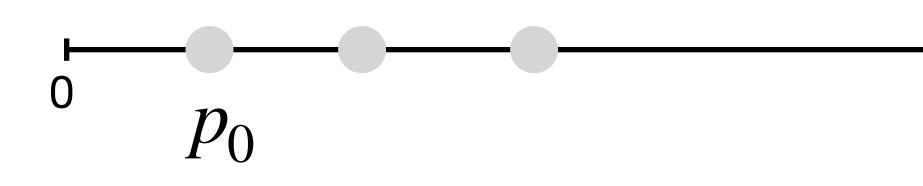


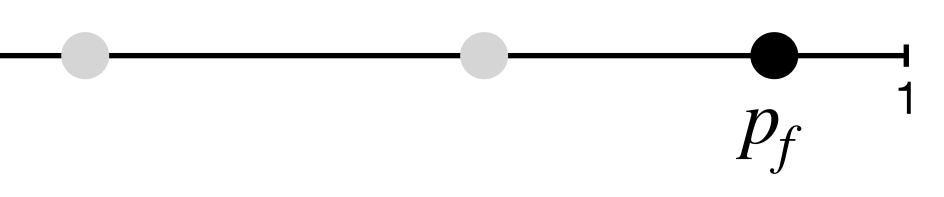
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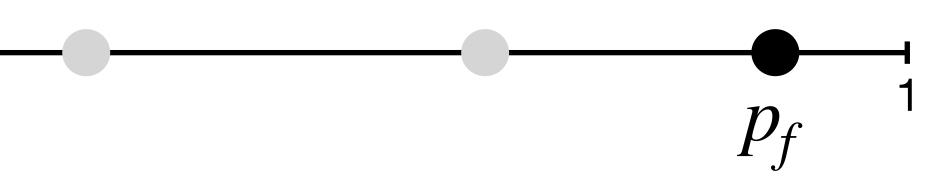


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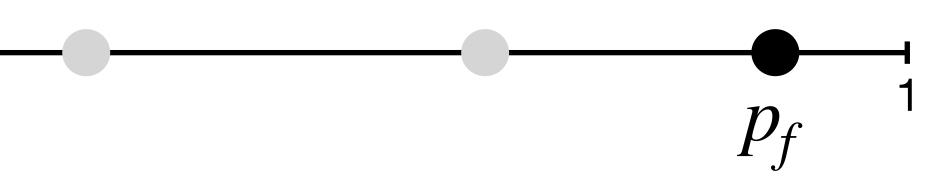




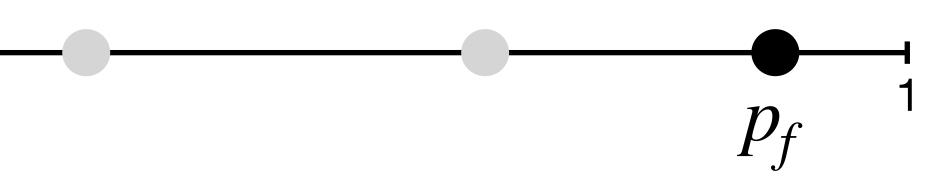
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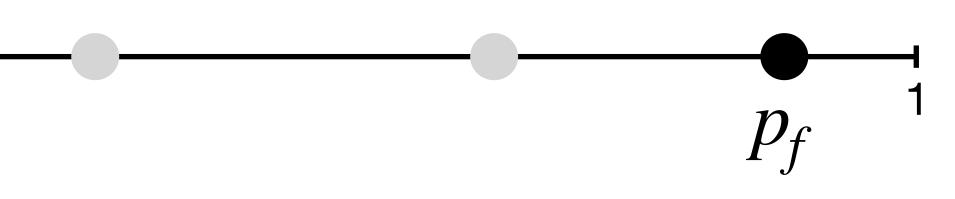


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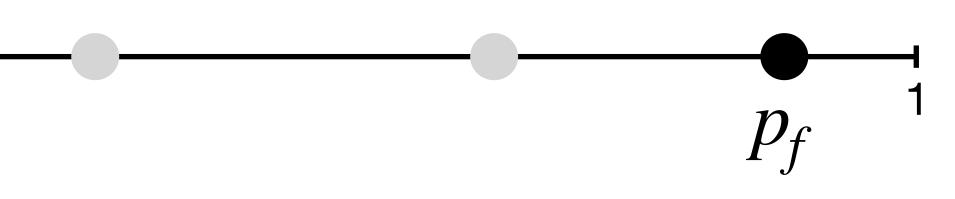
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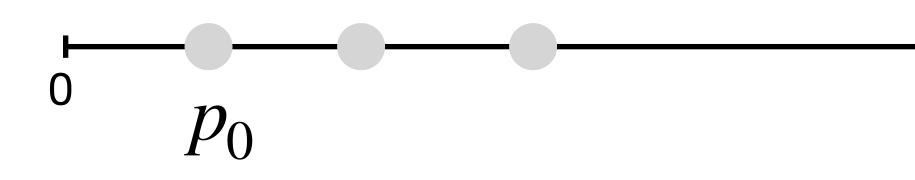
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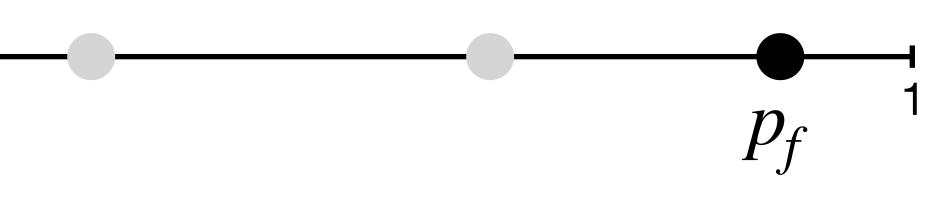
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 $\prod_i r_i$ :

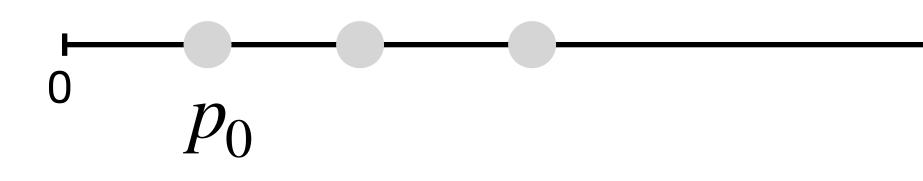
$$r_{i} = \frac{r_{i}}{p_{i-1}}$$
$$= \prod_{i} \frac{p_{i}}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_{f}}{p_{0}}$$

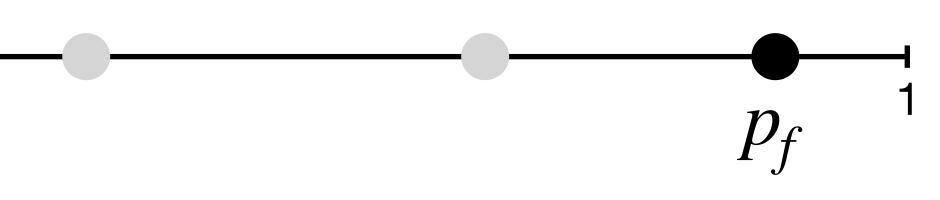
 $p_i$ 



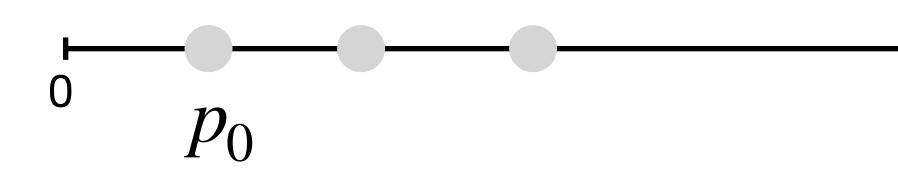


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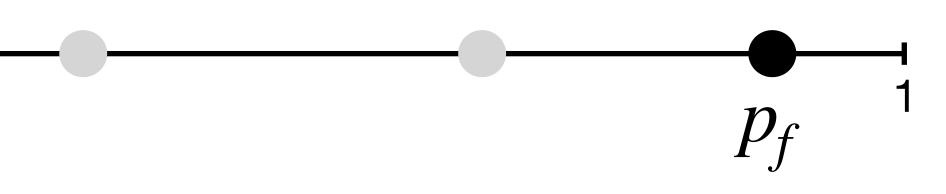




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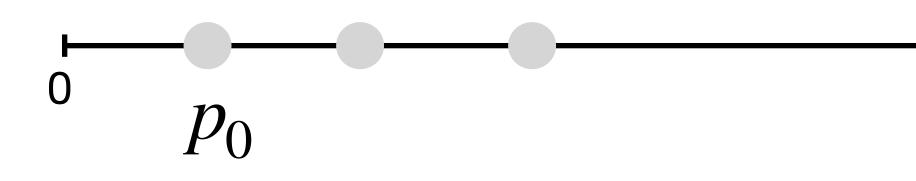


 $\Pi_{i} r_{i} = \Pi_{i} \frac{p_{i}}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_{f}}{p_{0}}$ 

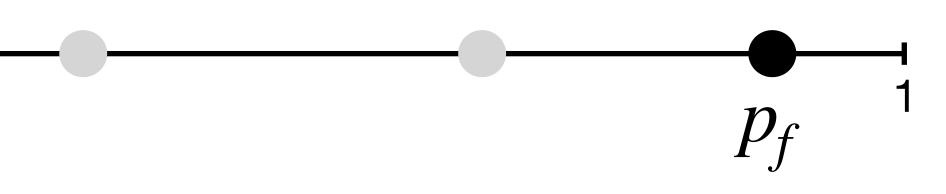


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• One player must have progress



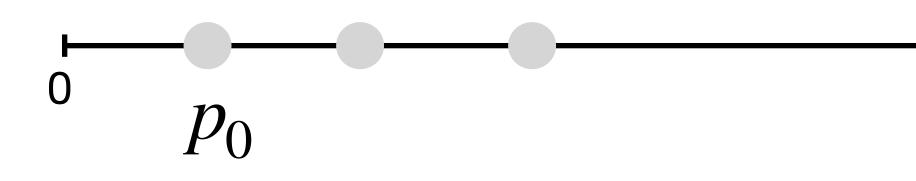
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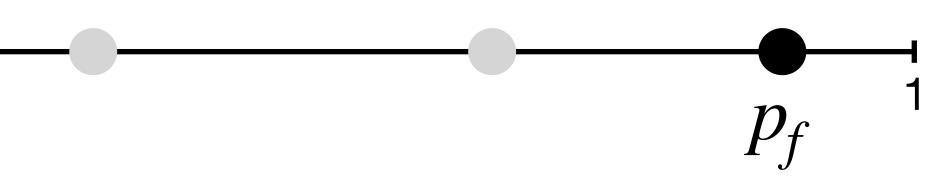
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$$= \prod_{i} \frac{p_{i}}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_{f}}{p_{0}}$$
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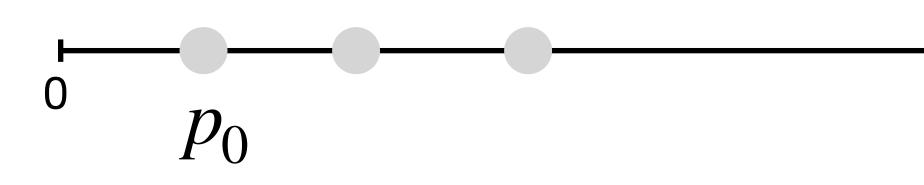


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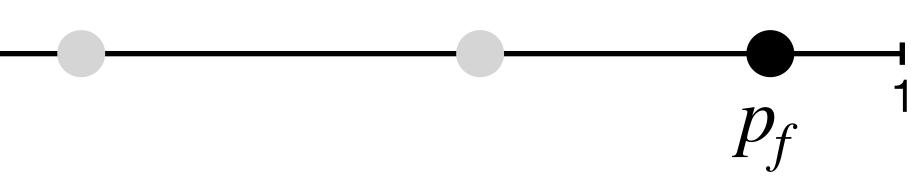
 $\prod_i r_i =$ 

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• Let N be the set of indices for non-biased player, then



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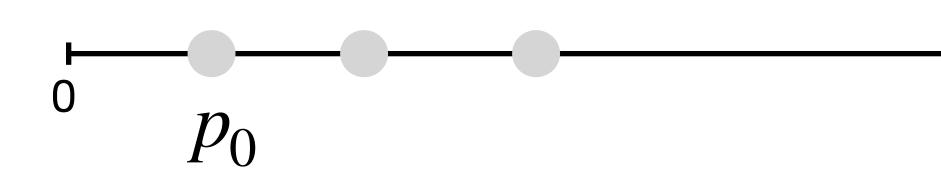


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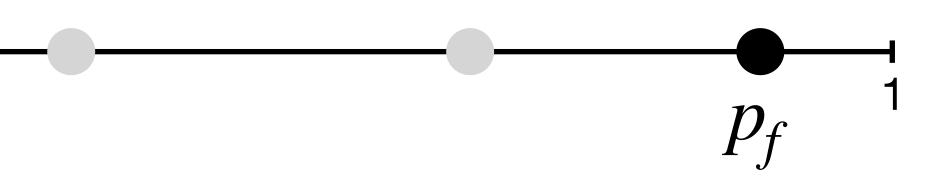
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$$= \prod_{i} \frac{p_{i}}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_{f}}{p_{0}}$$
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 $E[\prod_{i \in N} r_i] = 1$ 

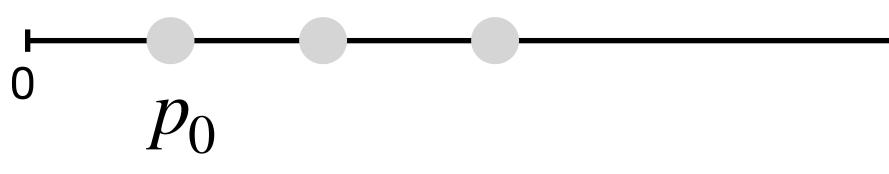


Total progress is

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• Let N be the set of indices for non-biased player, then

and by Markov the probability that  $\prod_{i \in N} r_i \ge \sqrt{2}$ 



$$\Pi_i r_i = \Pi_i \frac{p_i}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_f}{p_0}$$
$$\geq \sqrt{\frac{p_f}{p_0}}$$

 $E[\prod_{i \in N} r_i] = 1$ 

$$\frac{\overline{p_f}}{p_0} \text{ is less than or equal to } \sqrt{\frac{p_0}{p_f}}$$

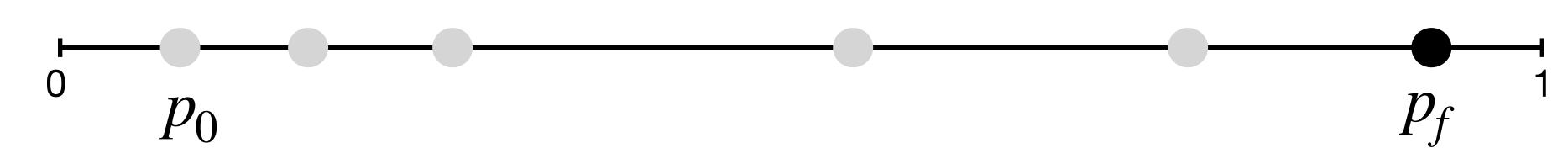
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 $\prod_{i \in [2c]} r_i =$ 

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 $\Pr[\prod_{i \in N} r]$ 



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$$\geq \sqrt{\frac{p_f}{p_0}}$$

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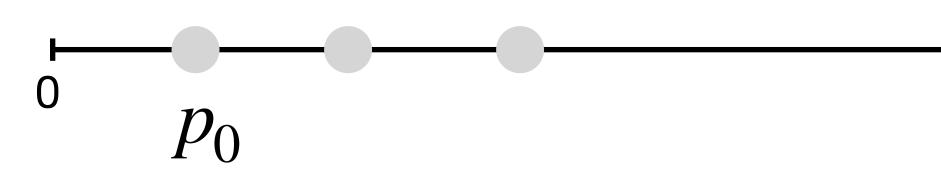
$$i_i \ge \sqrt{\frac{p_f}{p_0}} \le \sqrt{\frac{p_0}{p_f}}$$

Total progress is

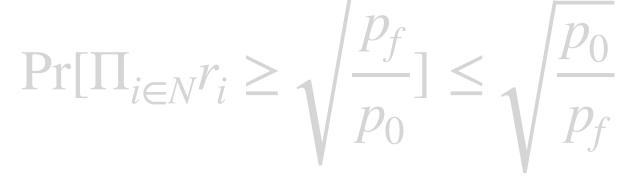
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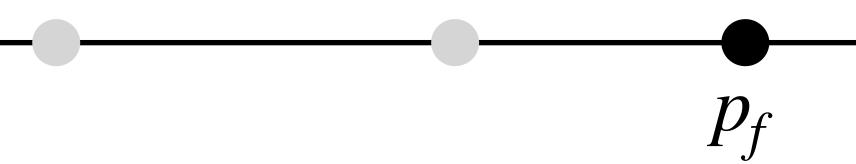
• Let N be the

and by Marl



 $\Pi_{i \in [2c]} r_i = \Pi_{i \in [2c]} \frac{p_i}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_f}{p_0}$ 





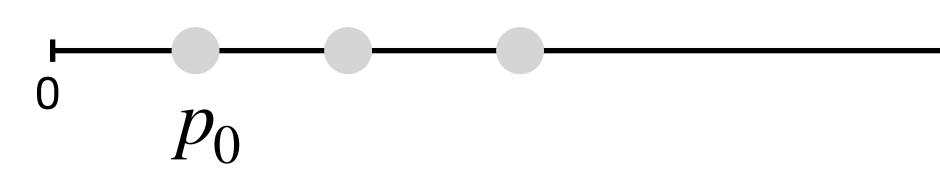
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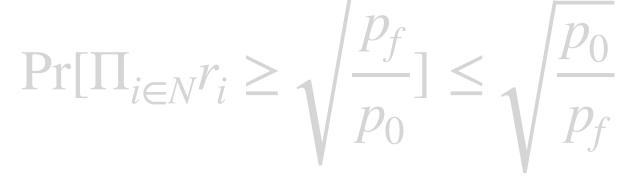
Estimate each  $p_i$ 

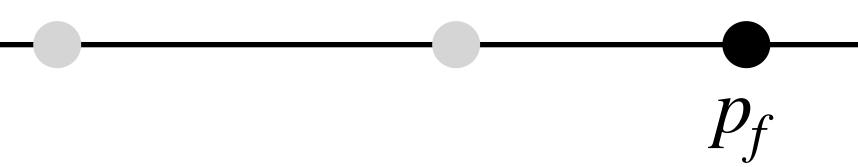
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and by Mark



 $\Pi_{i \in [2c]} r_i = \Pi_{i \in [2c]} \frac{p_i}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{p_f}{p_0}$ 





Total progress is



One player must have progress

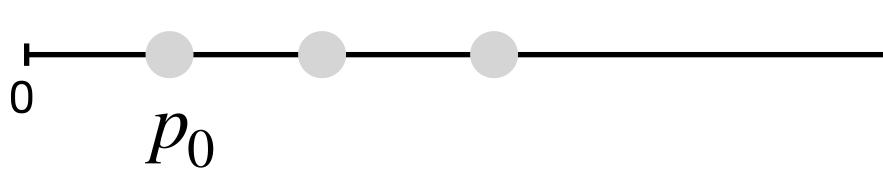


- **1.** Estimate each  $p_i$
- 2. Compute contribution of each player

• Let N be the

and by Mark

 $\Pr[\prod_{i \in N} n]$ 



 $\Pi_{i\in[2c]}r_i = \Pi_{i\in[2c]}\frac{p_i}{p_{i-1}} = \frac{P_f}{p_0}$ 

$$r_i \ge \sqrt{\frac{p_f}{p_0}} \le \sqrt{\frac{p_0}{p_f}}$$

$$p_f$$

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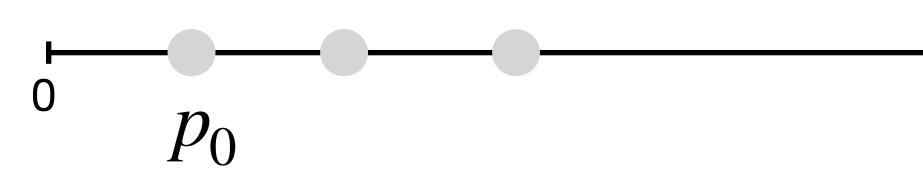
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    - Their positive result is the best we can get

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- Covert Cheating Attack runs in fairly large polynomial time
  - Improve the runtime of the attack

