



Forschungsinstitut  
Cyber Defence  
Universität der Bundeswehr München

# FHE Beyond IND-CCA1 Security

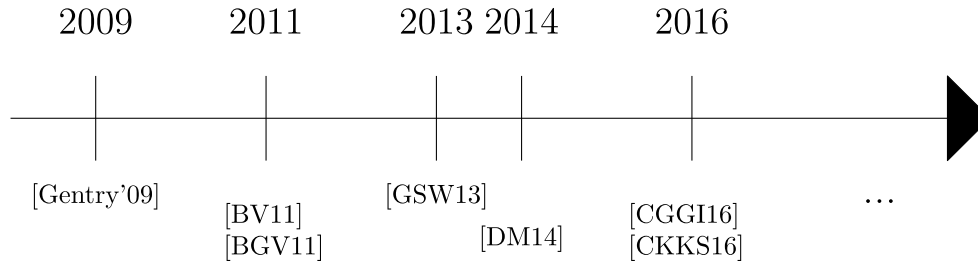
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Eurocrypt 2024

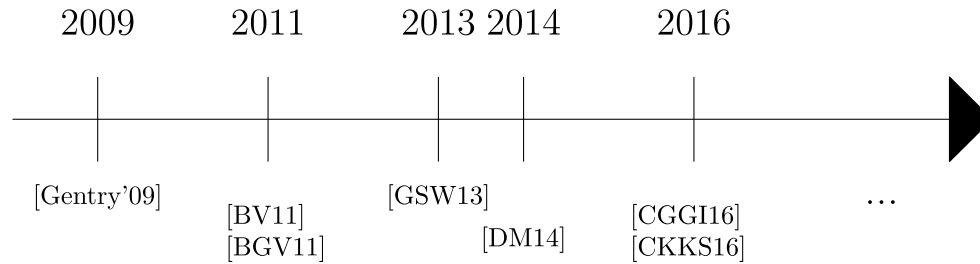
# Selected history of FHE : Early days

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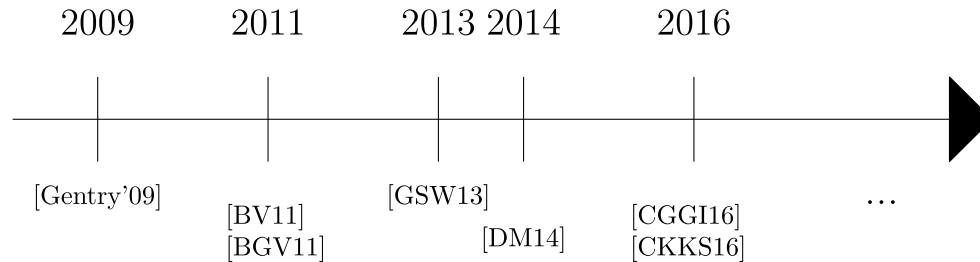
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- Security guarantees: Chosen-plaintext attack (CPA)

# Selected history of FHE : Early days

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- Security guarantees: Chosen-plaintext attack (CPA)

Reasonable start:

- FHE was too inefficient to be used in practice
- Applications seemed fine without stronger notions
- (FHE seems inherently vulnerable to chosen-ciphertext attacks)

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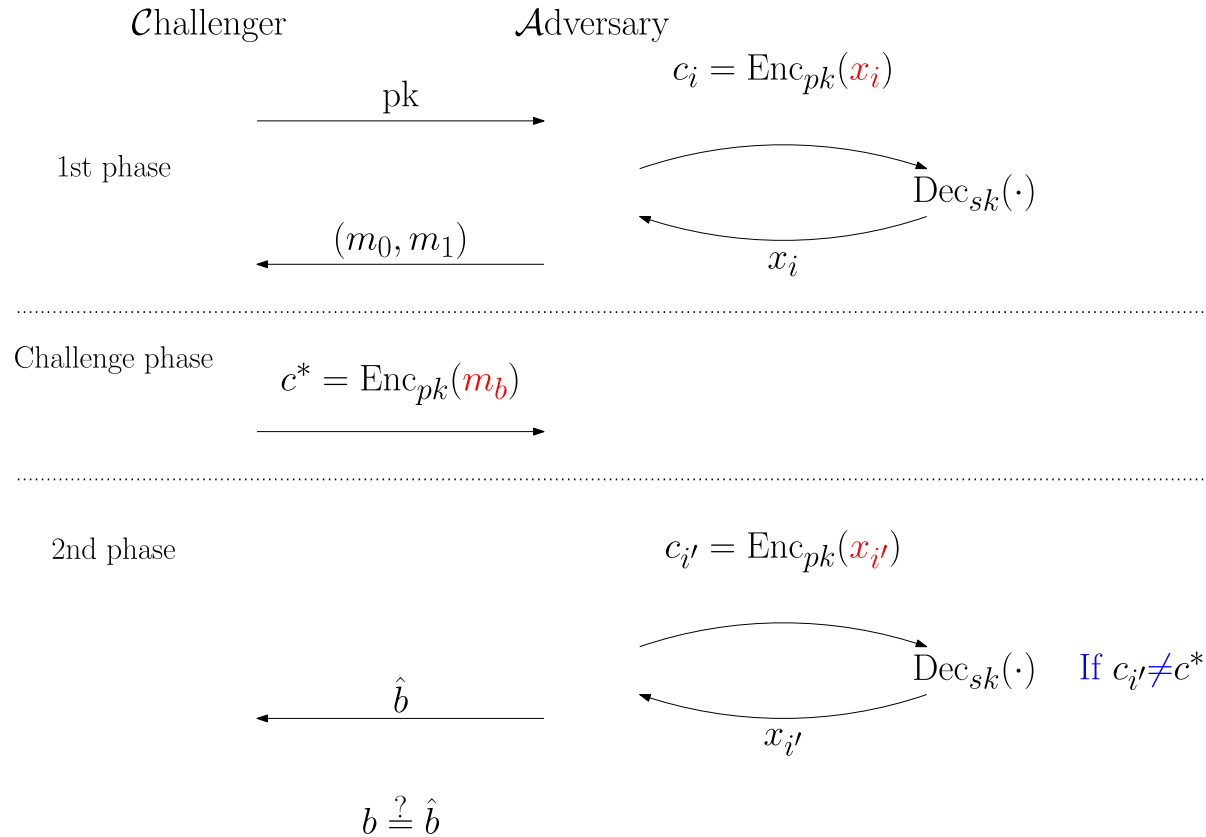
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What security notion should we aim for?

# For “regular” encryption schemes : CCA2

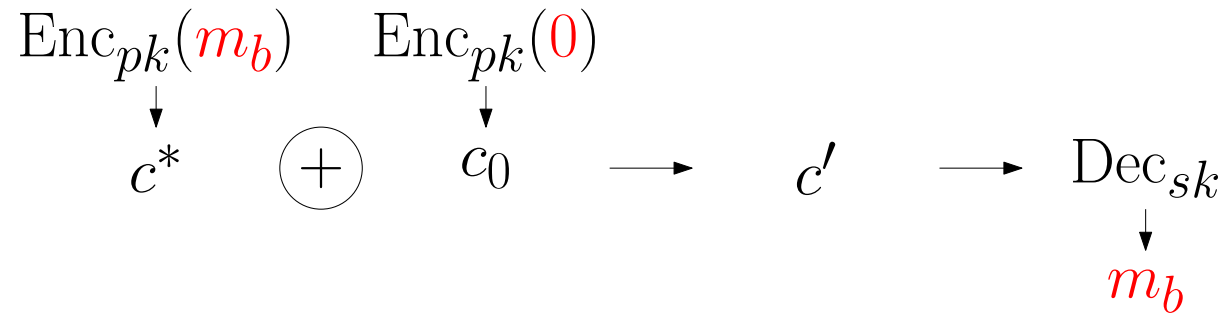
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# CCA2: Impossible!

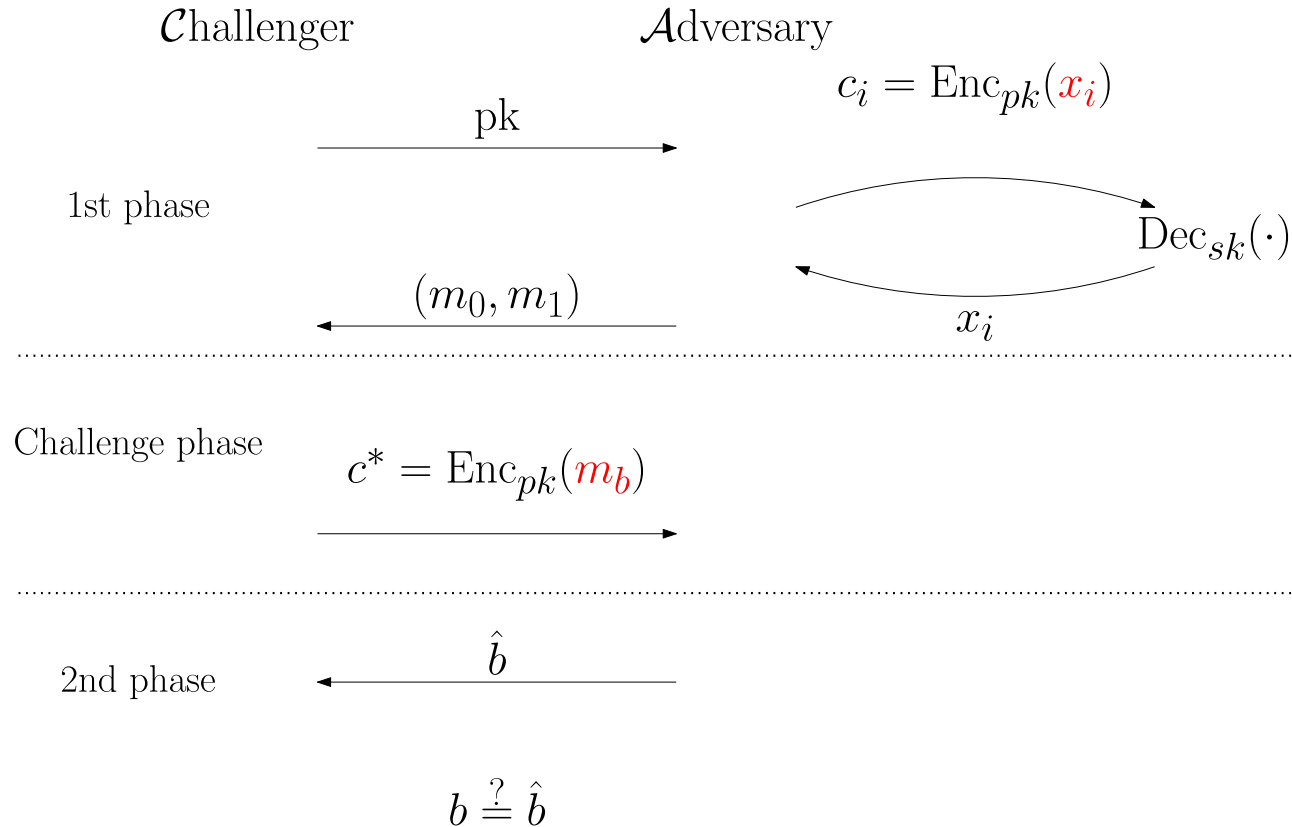
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- FHE cannot be CCA2



# Security for FHE schemes : CCA1

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# CCA1: Impossible in practice (?)

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- Positive results for general FHE (or leveled) [BSW12, CRRV17, YKT18]

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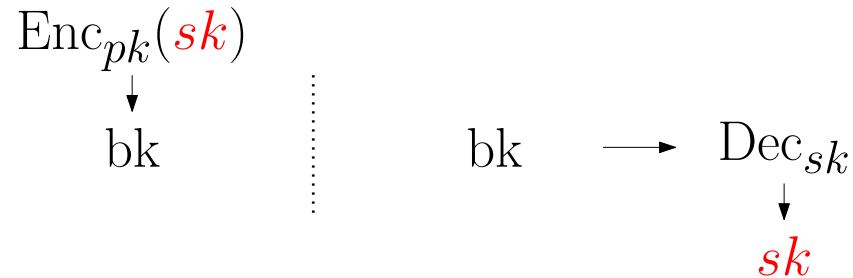
Bootstrapping key is **public**

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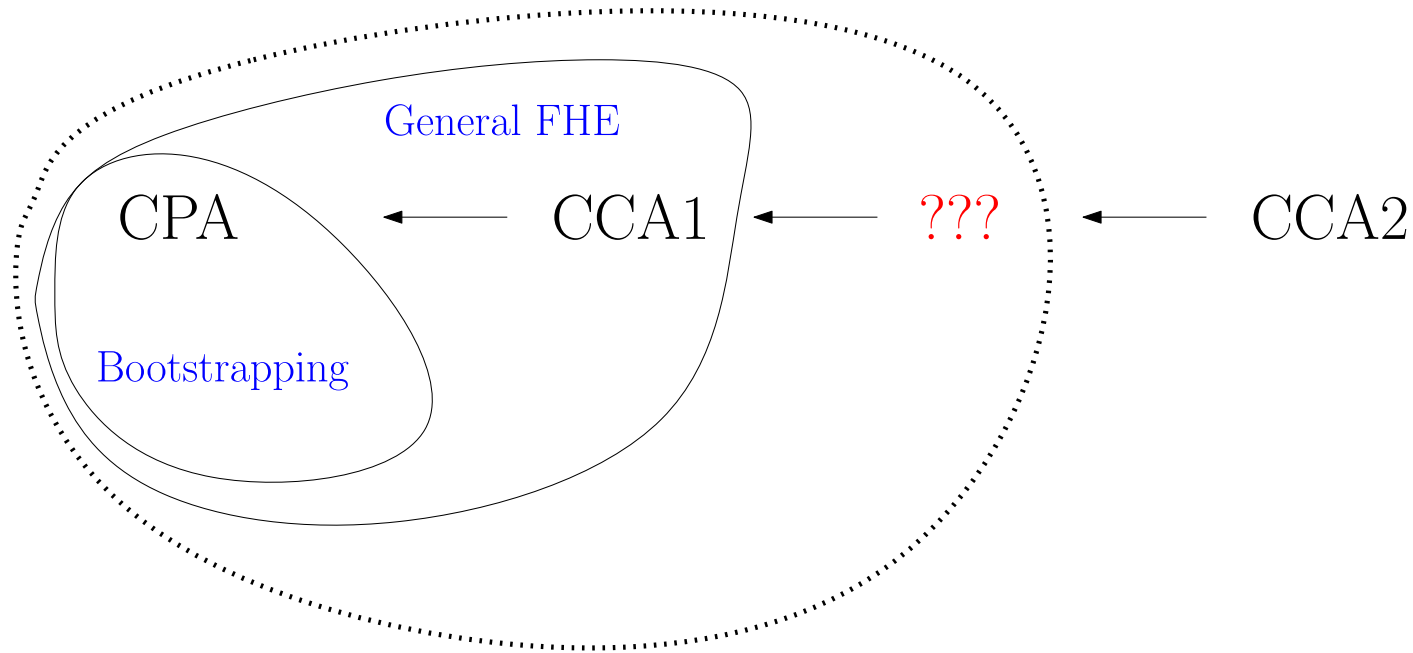
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# Questions

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- Is it possible to relax CCA2 for FHE?
- Can bootstrapping schemes be stronger than CPA?



# Our results

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- Define a new security notion: **IND-vCCA**
  - Strictly between CCA1 & CCA2
  - Strongest among the (known) achievable notions for FHE
  - Equivalent formulation as “non-malleability definition”: **TNM-vCCA**
- **Achievable** in the ROM for (**bootstrapping-based**) FHE schemes from:
  - Passively secure FHE (CPA/CPA<sup>D</sup>)
  - General CCA2 transformation
  - Succinct non-interactive argument of knowledge (SNARK)

# The extraction algorithm (informal)

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$$\text{Eval}(f, c_1 \dots, c_l) \rightarrow \hat{c}$$

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- Soundness:

$$\text{Dec}_{sk}(\hat{c}) = f(\text{Dec}_{sk}(c_1), \dots, \text{Dec}_{sk}(c_l))$$

# The vCCA oracle

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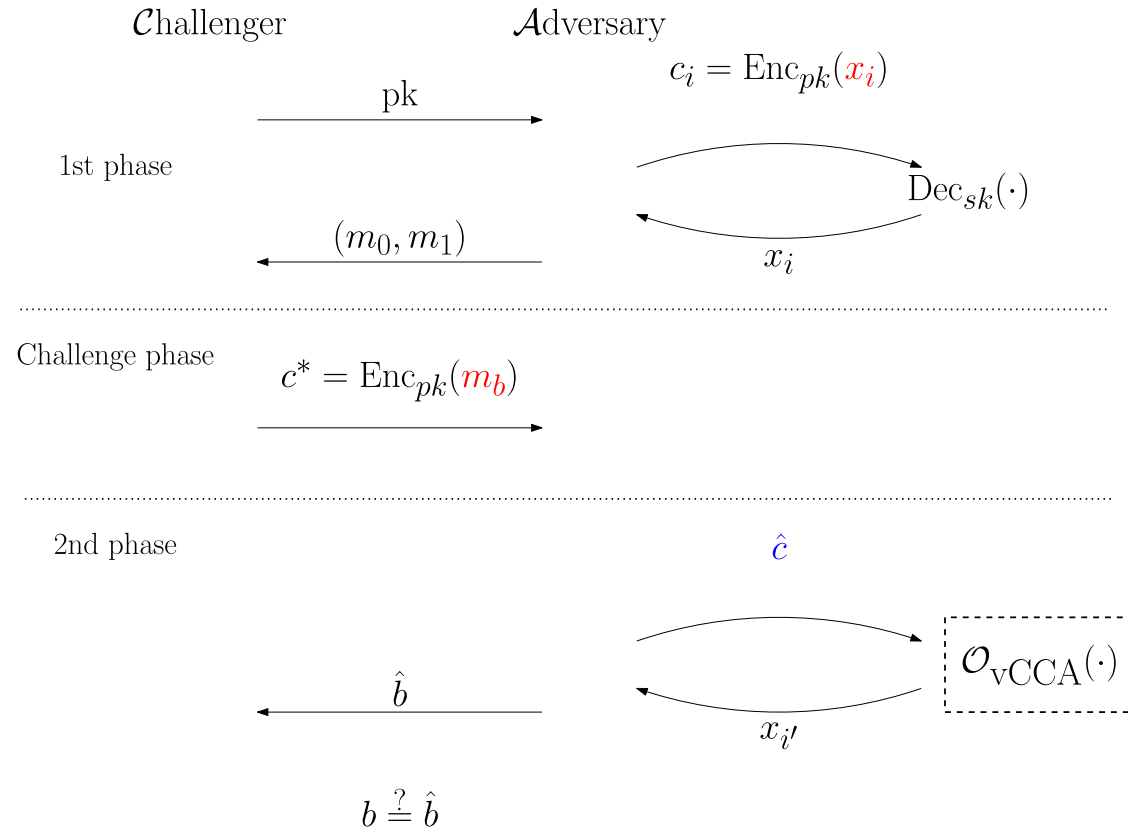
Define a new **oracle** using the **extraction** algorithm:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{vCCA}}(\hat{c}) :$$

- 1)  $\text{Extract}(\hat{c}) \rightarrow (f, c_1, \dots, c_l)$
- 2) If  $c^* \notin (c_1, \dots, c_l)$   
Return  $\text{Dec}_{sk}(\hat{c})$

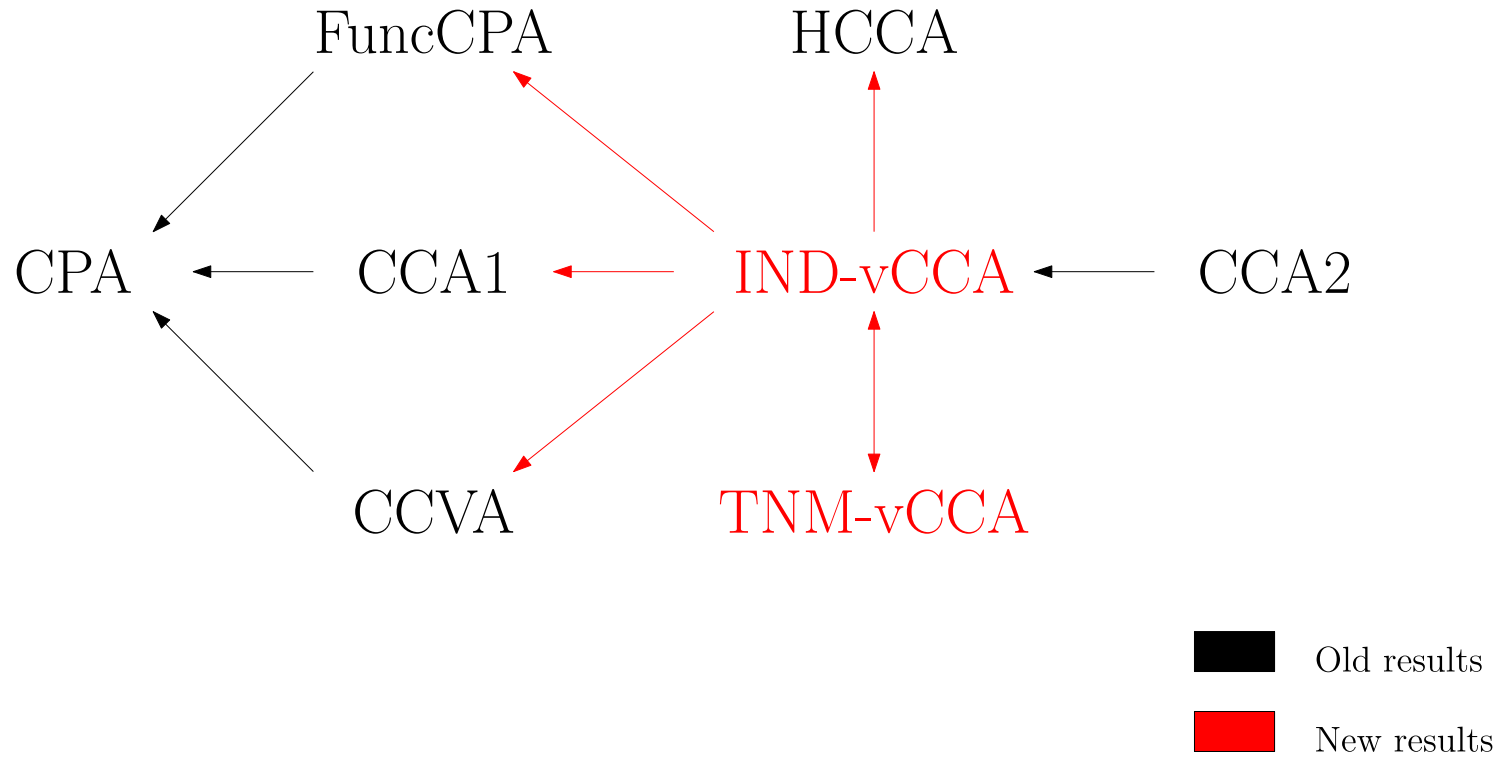
# IND-vCCA

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# vCCA: Simplified relationship graph

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# Achieving vCCA: The CCA2 transform

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- First step: Lose the homomorphism!  
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- Let  $\text{CCA2}(m)$  be a generic CCA2 transform such that:

$$\text{CCA2}(m) \rightarrow c = (c', t)$$

With

$$\text{Enc}_{pk}(m) \longrightarrow c'$$


# Achieving vCCA: Example CCA2 transform

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## Symmetric FHE

- Encrypt-then-MAC:  
 $(c', \text{MAC}(c'))$
- Encrypt-then-Sign:  
 $(c', \text{Sign}(c'))$

## Asymmetric FHE

- Naor-Yung: Double encryption & NIZK  
 $(c_1, c_2, \text{Proof}(c_1, c_2, m))$
- Fujisaki-Okamoto 

# Achieving vCCA: Handling bootstrapping

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If the scheme uses a bootstrapping key  $bk = \text{Enc}(sk)$ :

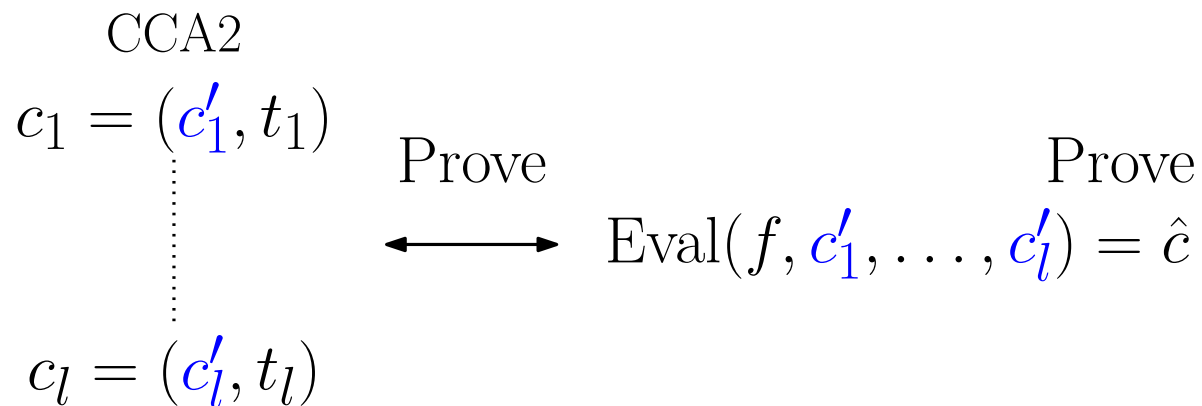
- Do **NOT** release  $\text{CCA2}(sk)$
- The bootstrapping key remains  $bk$  – not a **valid CCA2** ciphertext

# Achieving vCCA: The SNARK

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Use SNARK to prove:

- **Computation** of the evaluation algorithm
- **Knowledge** of corresponding **valid** CCA2 ciphertexts



# Achieving vCCA: The SNARK properties

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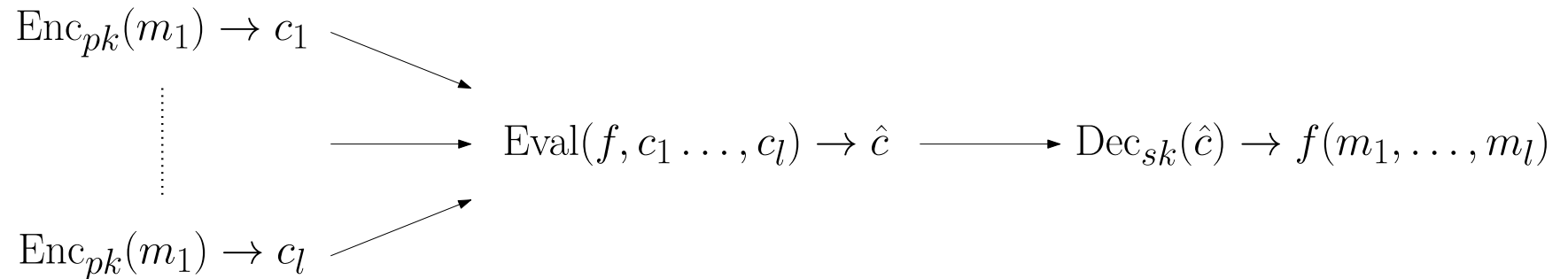
The SNARK must be:

- Non-rewinding
- Simulation-extractable (non-malleable)
- Black-box

Suitable SNARKs exist in the [random oracle model](#)

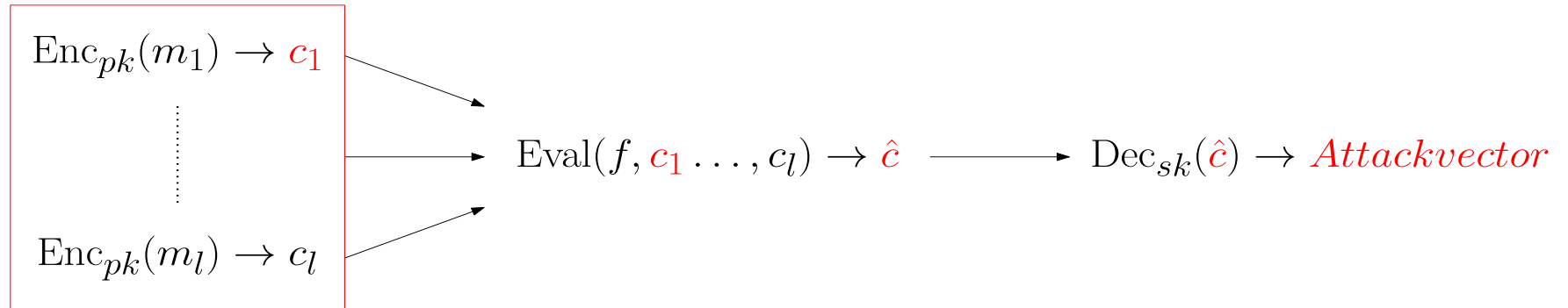
# Achieving vCCA: Putting it together

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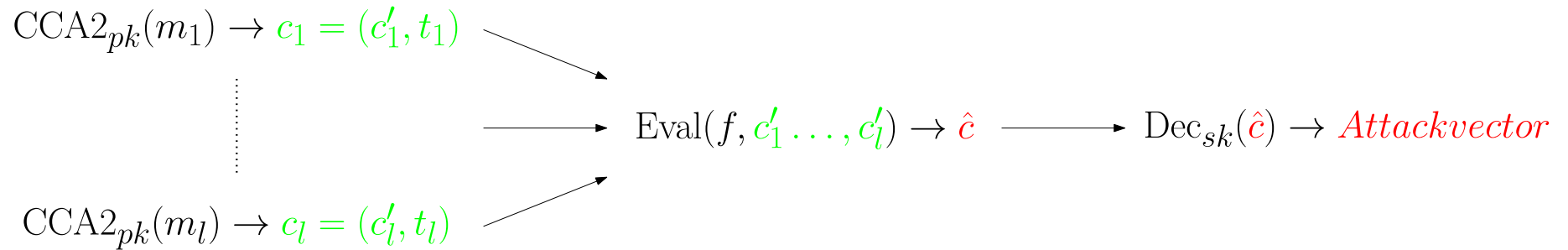
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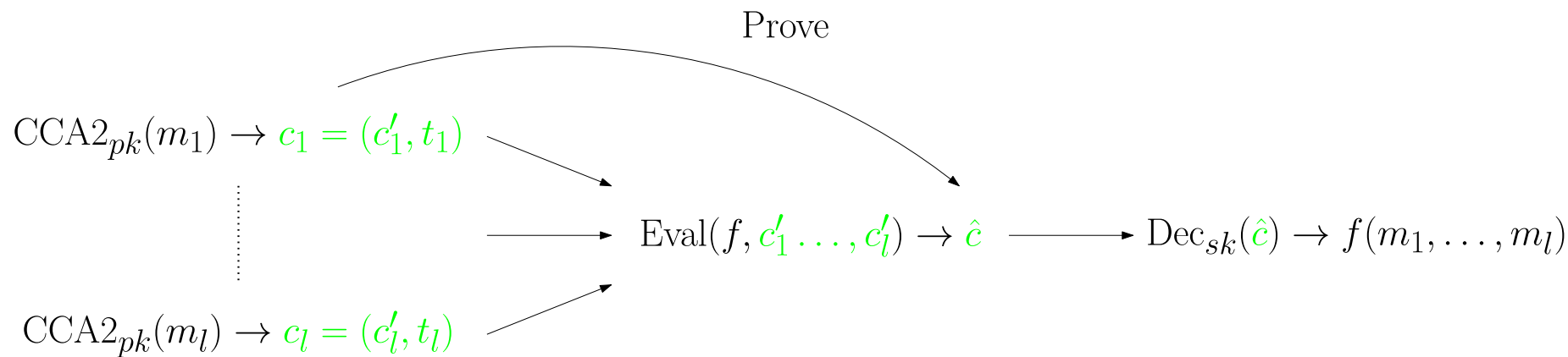
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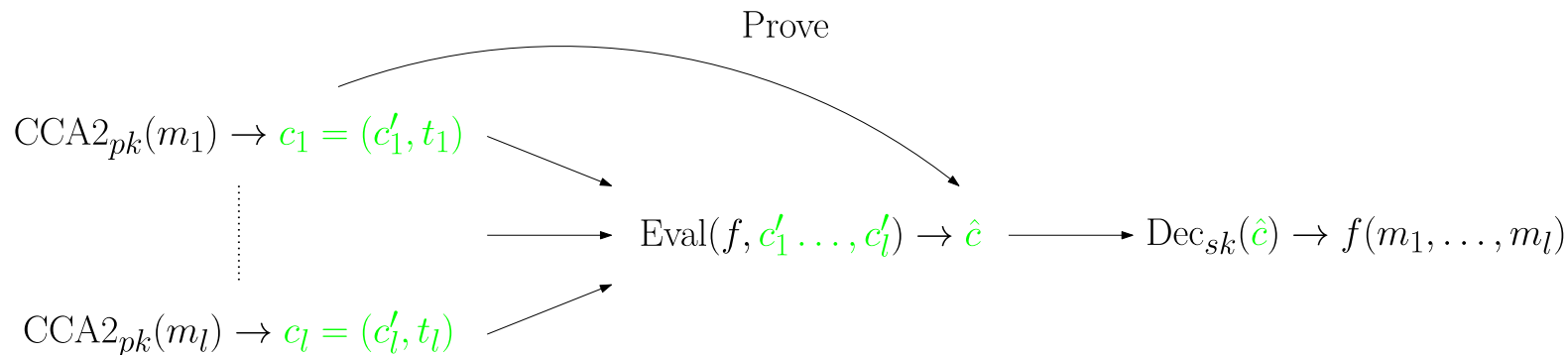
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Theorem: This construction is **IND-vCCA** secure.

Proof Idea: Reduce to **CCA2** security. Answer decryption queries by **extracting** each query.

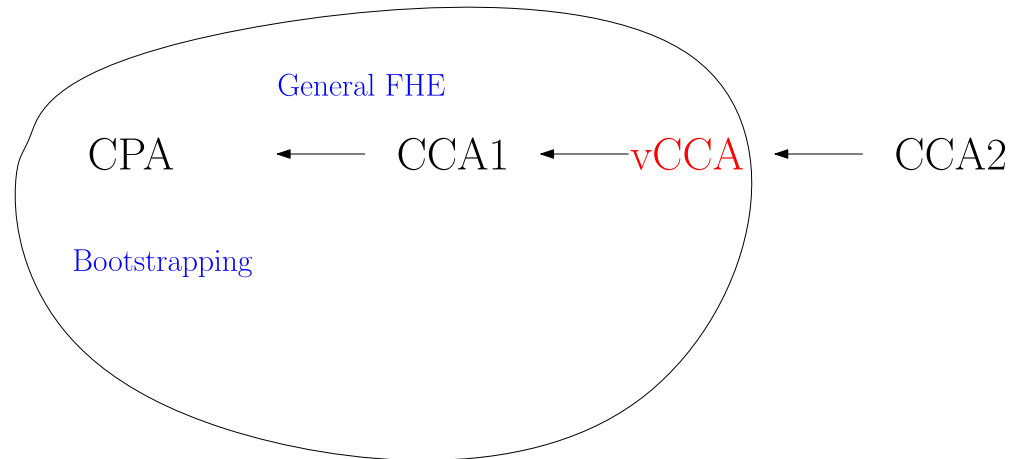
# Conclusion

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Proposed new security notion for FHE schemes: **IND-vCCA**

It is:

- **Achievable** through **generic** transformation in the ROM
- The **strongest** achievable security notion known for FHE
- Allows for **bootstrapping**





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# Thank You!

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