

# Bruisable Onions: Anonymous Communication in the Asynchronous Model

**Megumi Ando, Anna Lysyanskaya, and Eli Upfal**

TCC 2024

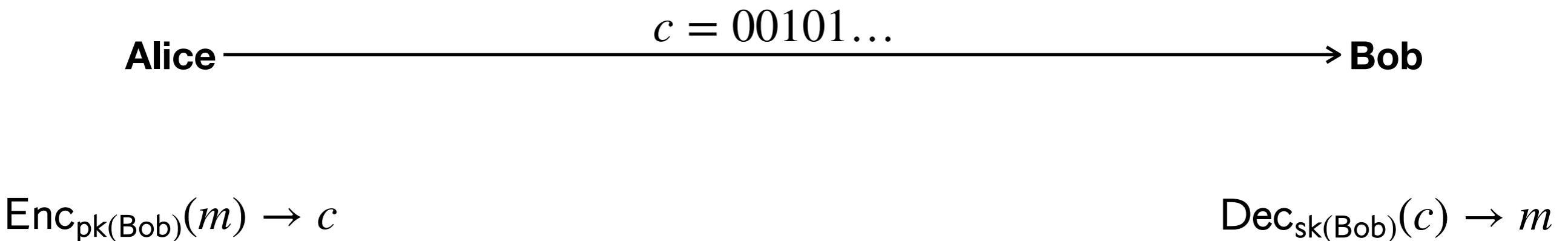


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[{anna, eli}@cs.brown.edu](mailto:{anna, eli}@cs.brown.edu)

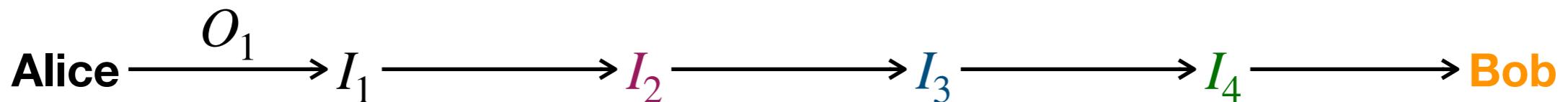
# The Technical Problem: Anonymous Communication



# A Practical Solution: Onion Routing [Chaum 81]

**Notation:**

$[\text{plaintext}]_{\text{key}}$  = encryption under key

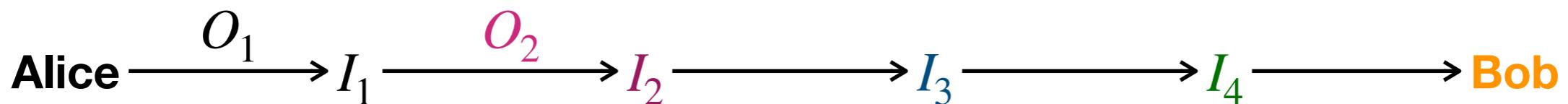


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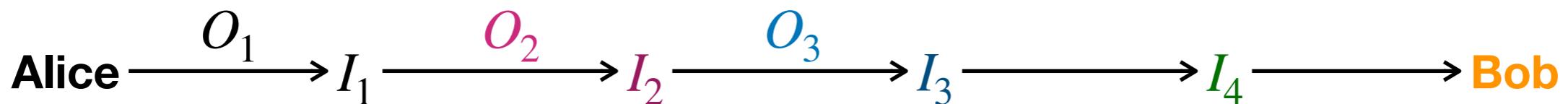
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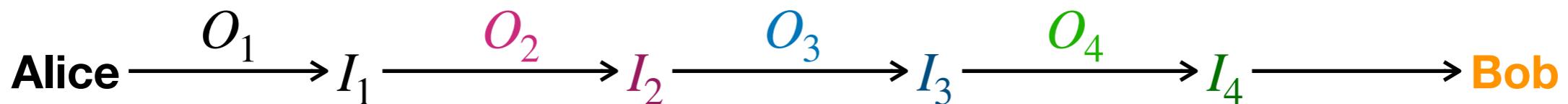
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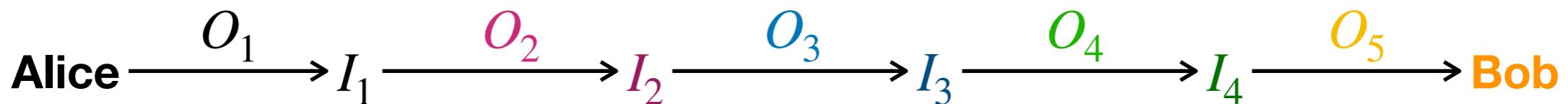
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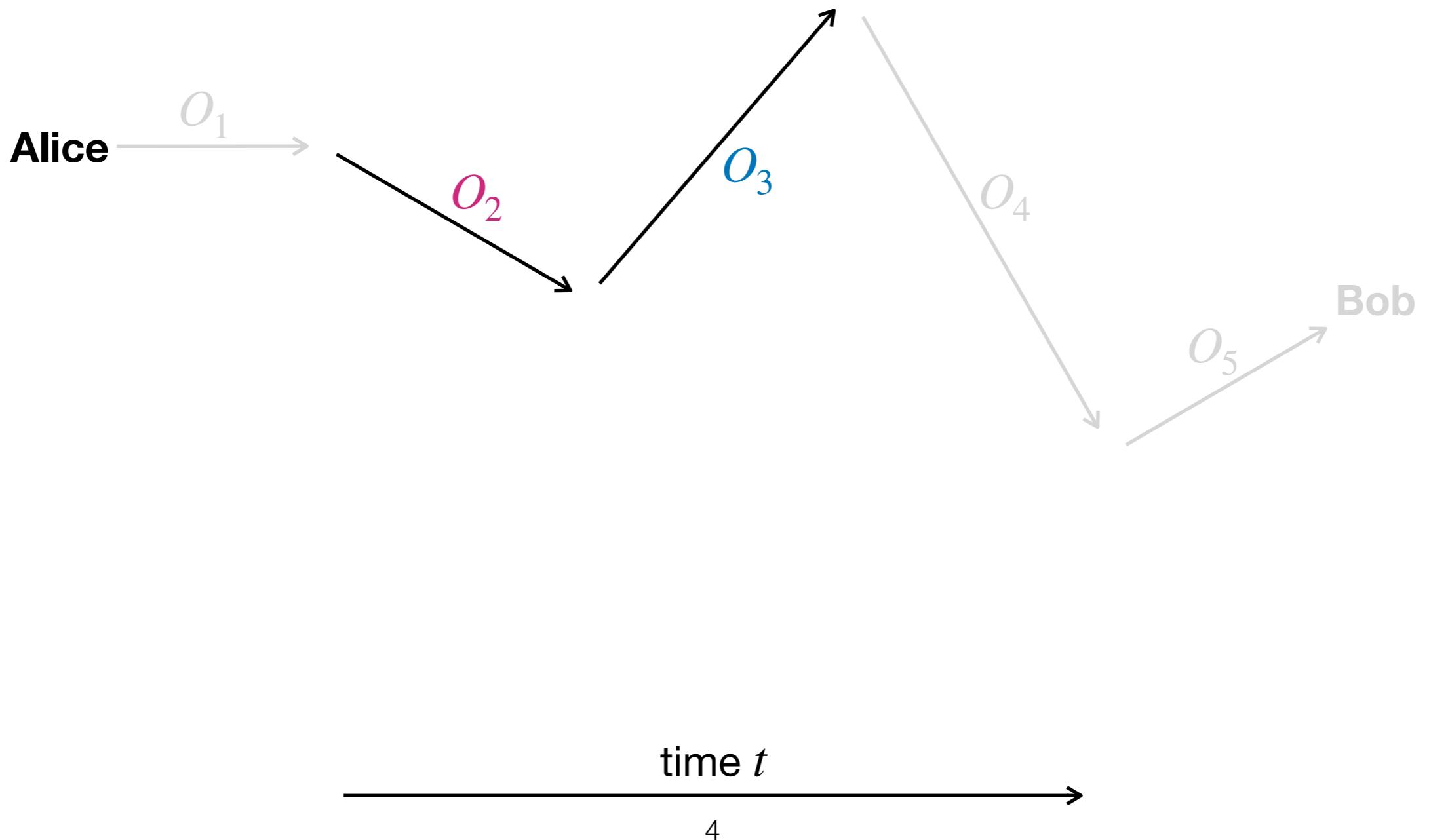
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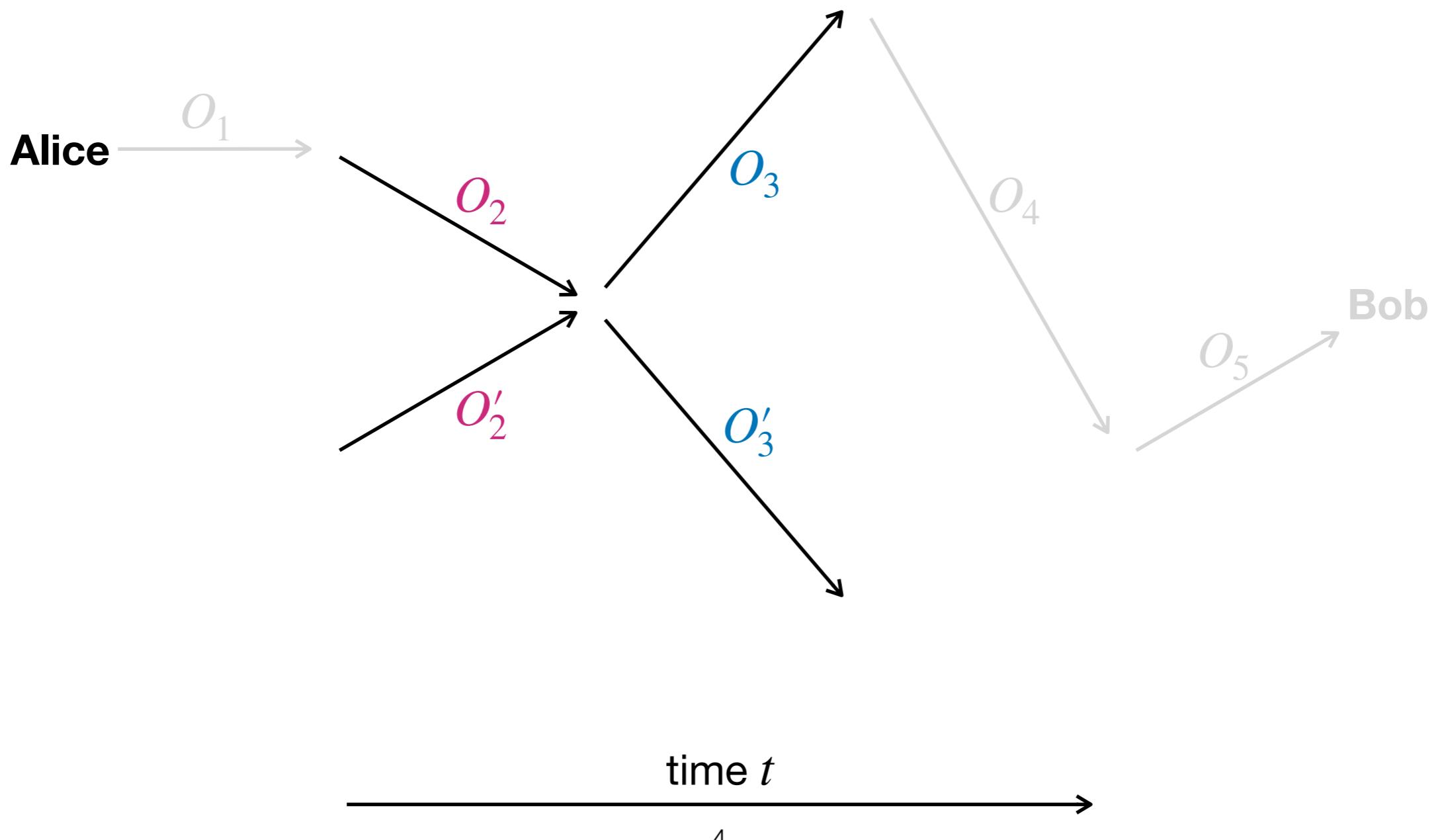
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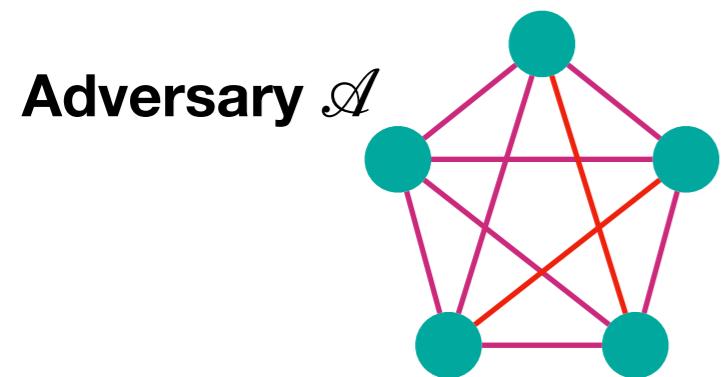
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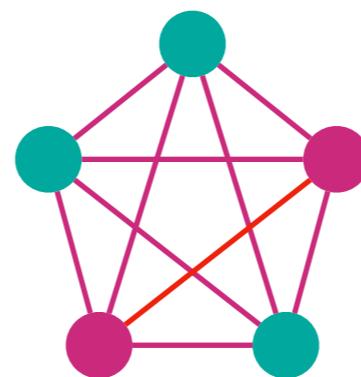
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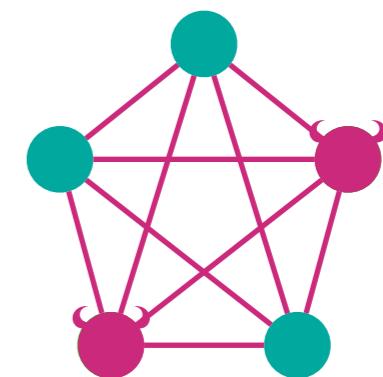
# Standard Adversary Models



*Network:*  
all links

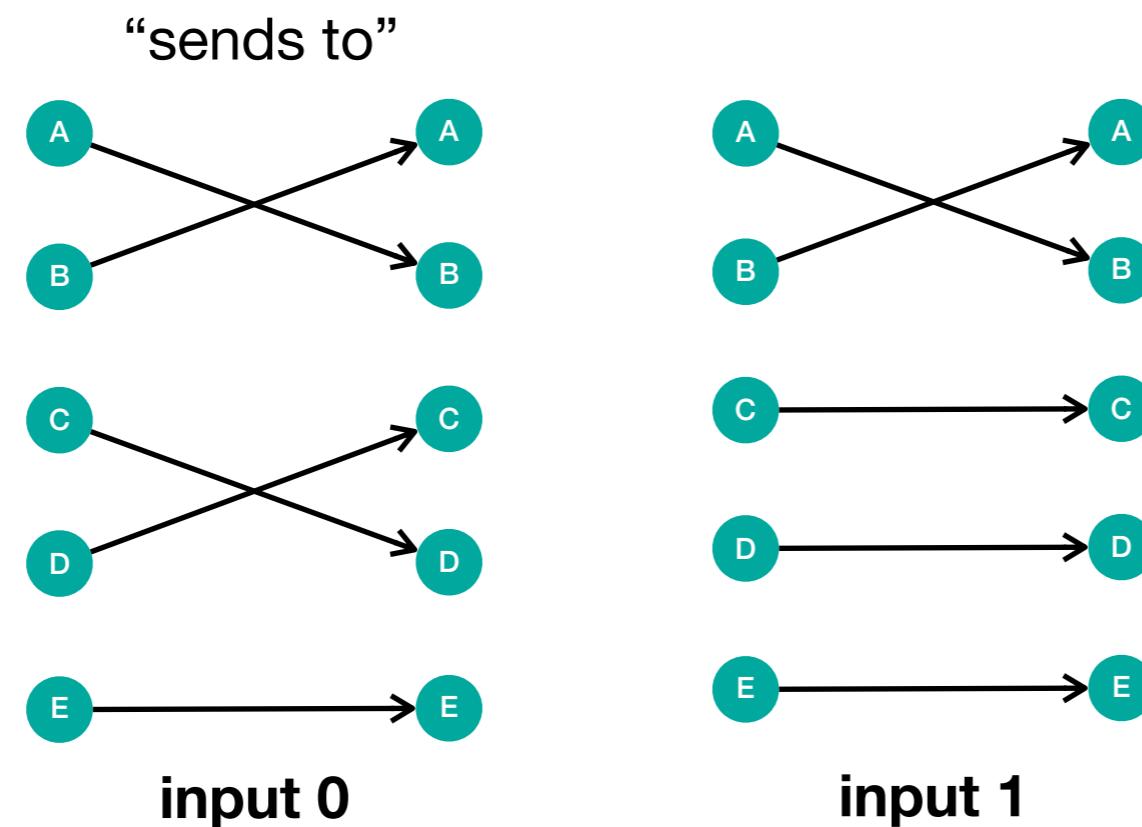
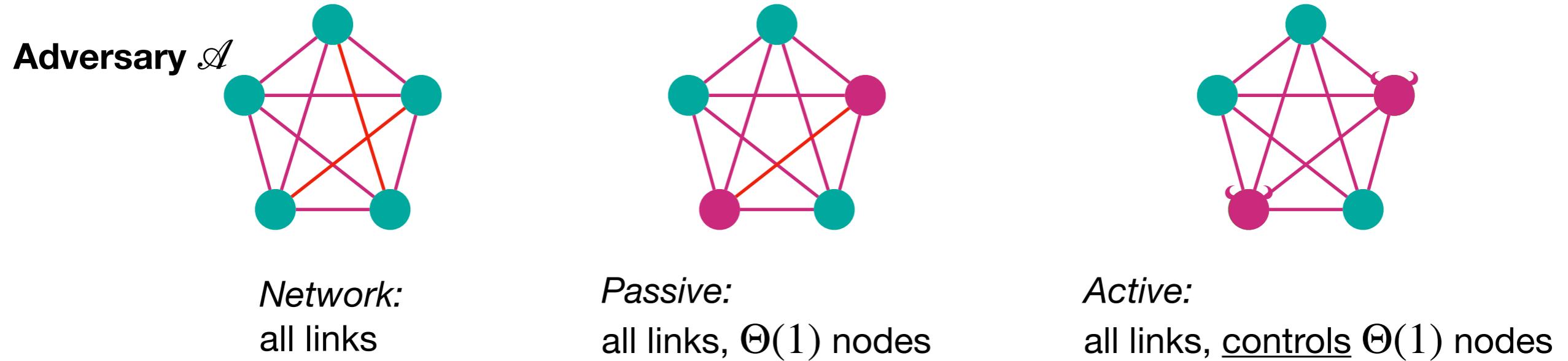


*Passive:*  
all links,  $\Theta(1)$  nodes

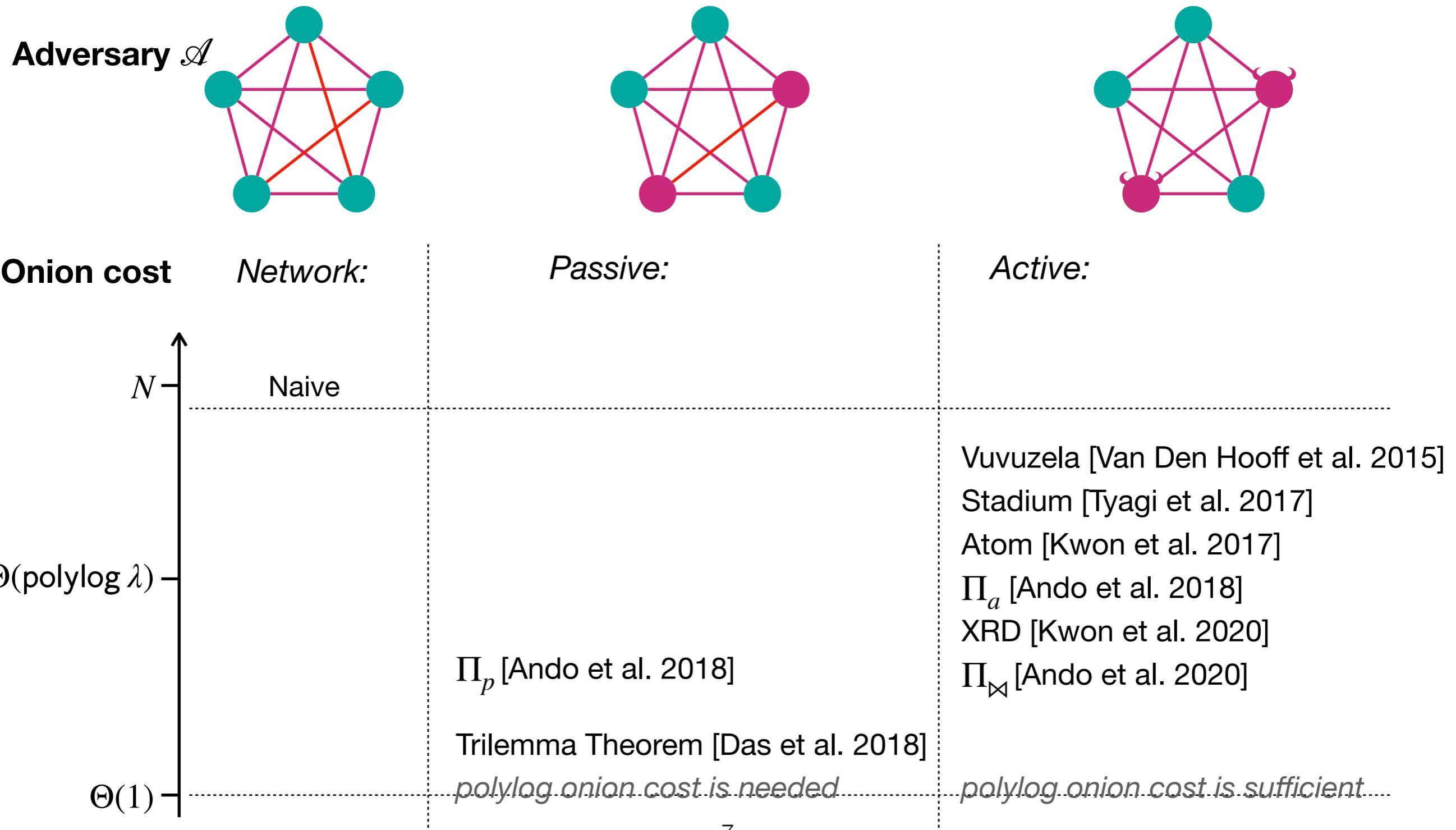


*Active:*  
all links, controls  $\Theta(1)$  nodes

# Defining Anonymity



# Existing Related Work: All in Synchronous Setting



# **Challenges in Achieving Anonymity in the Asynchronous Setting**

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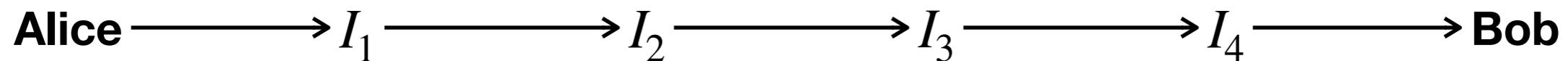
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$t = 3$

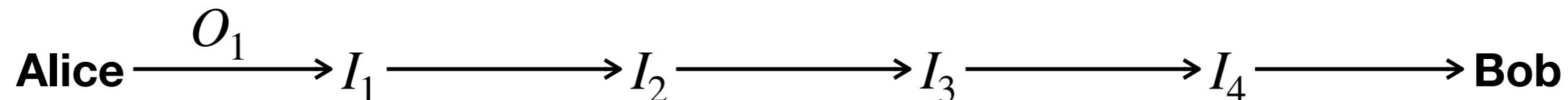
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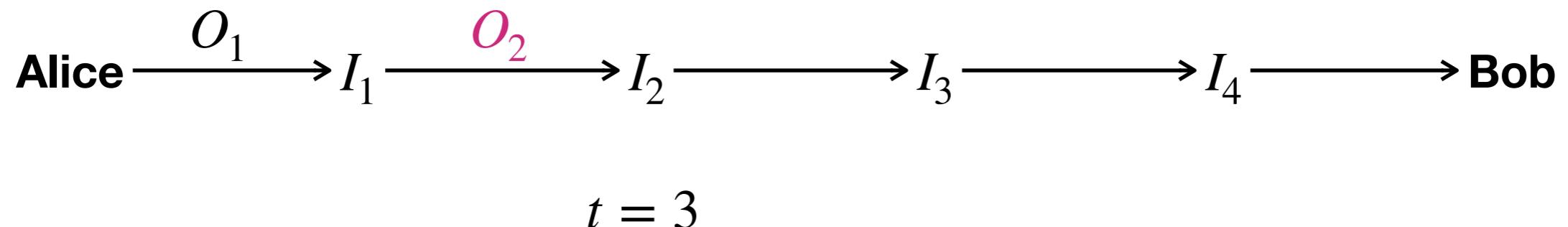
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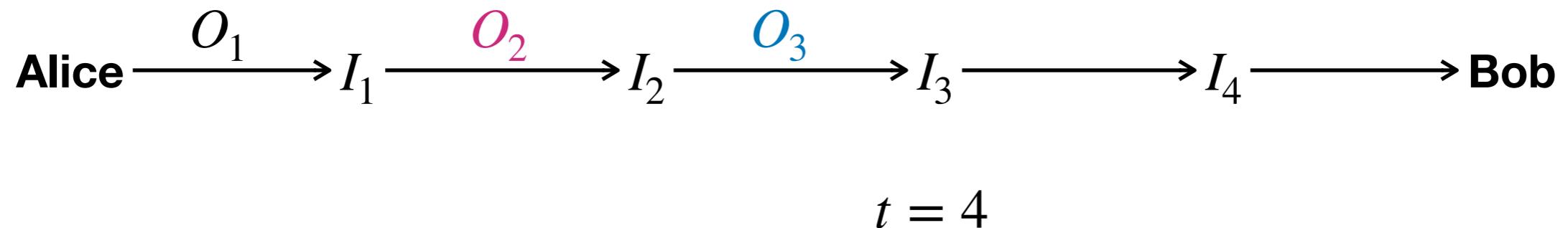
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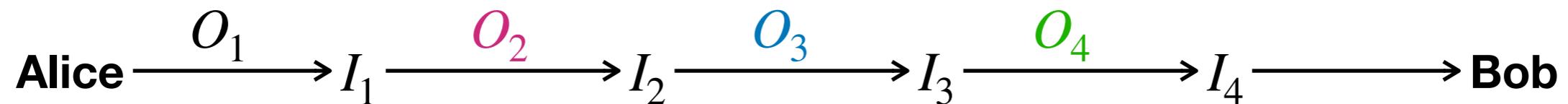
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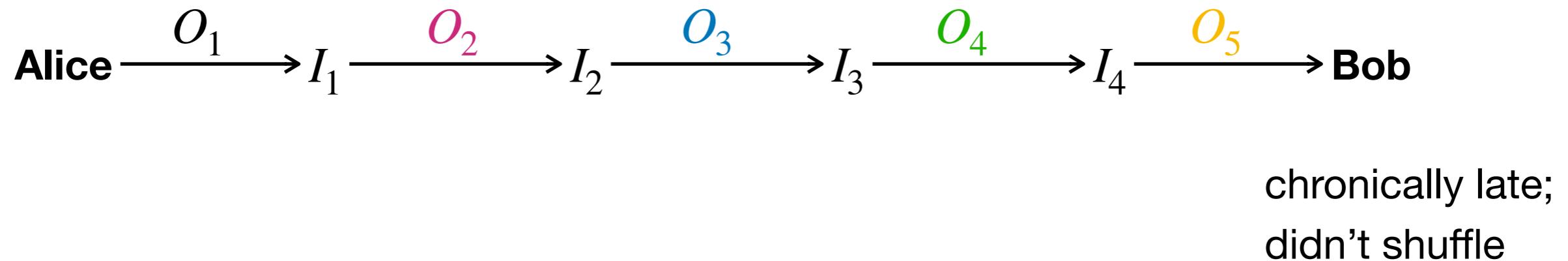
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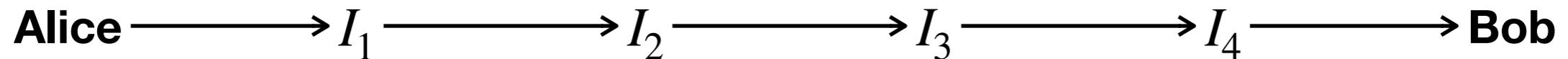
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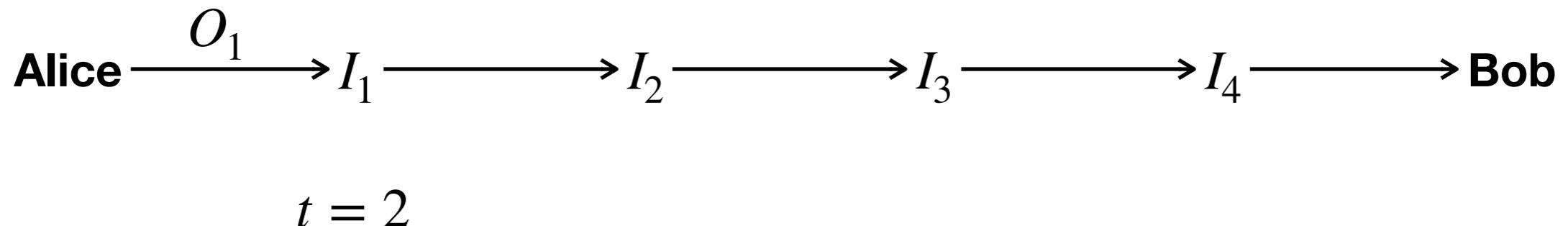
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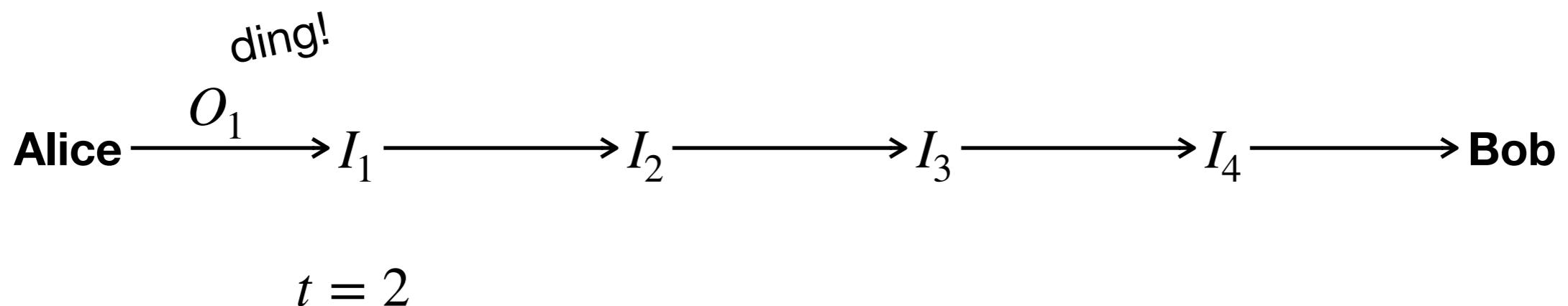
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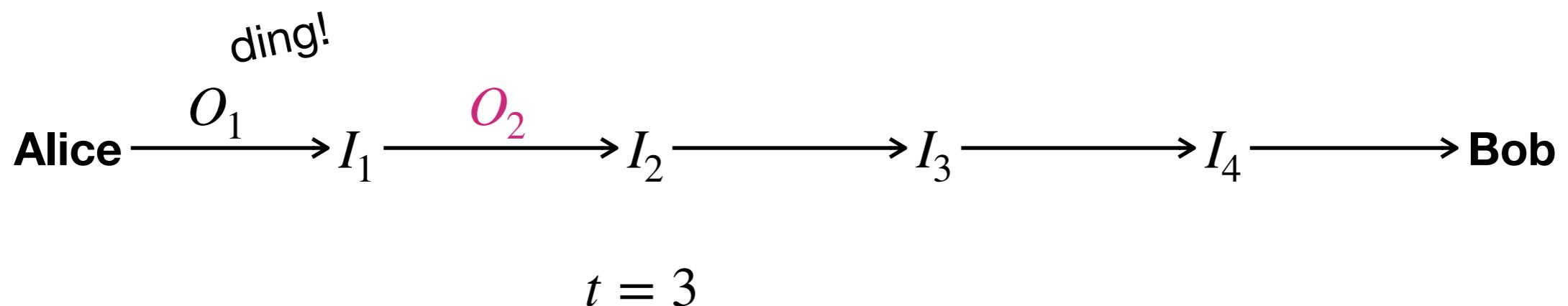
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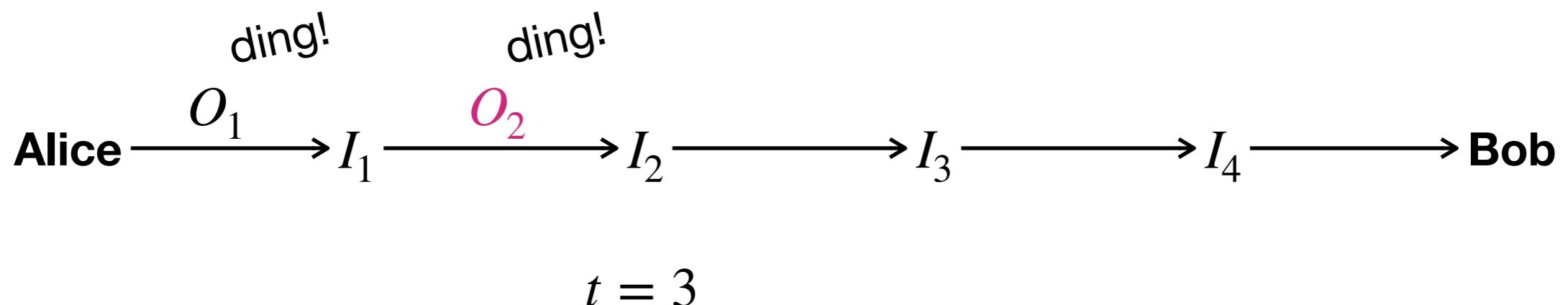
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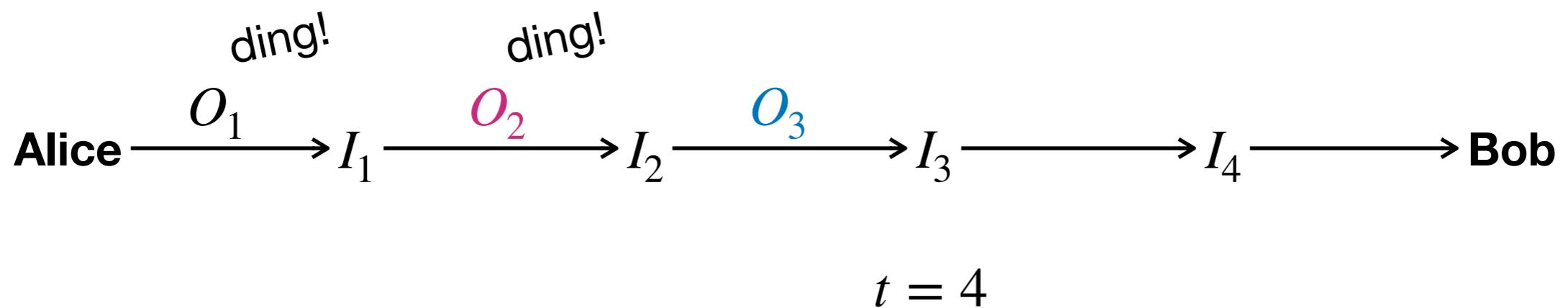
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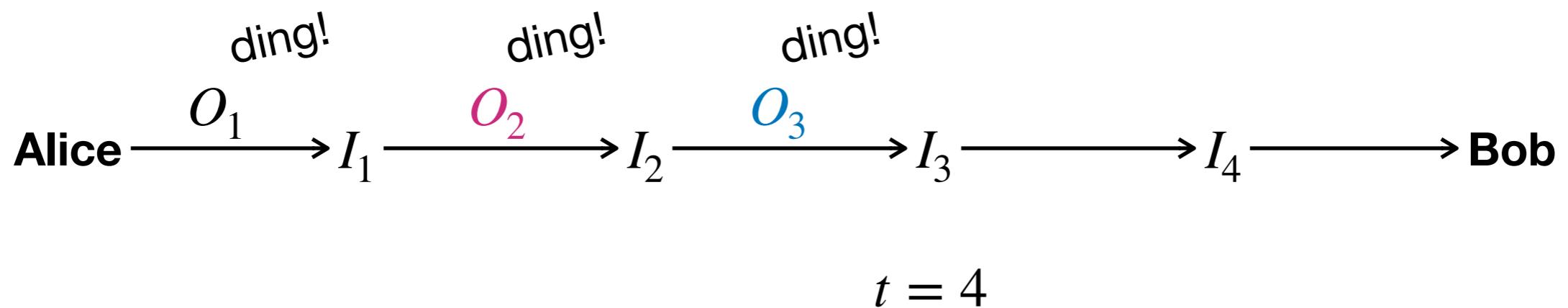
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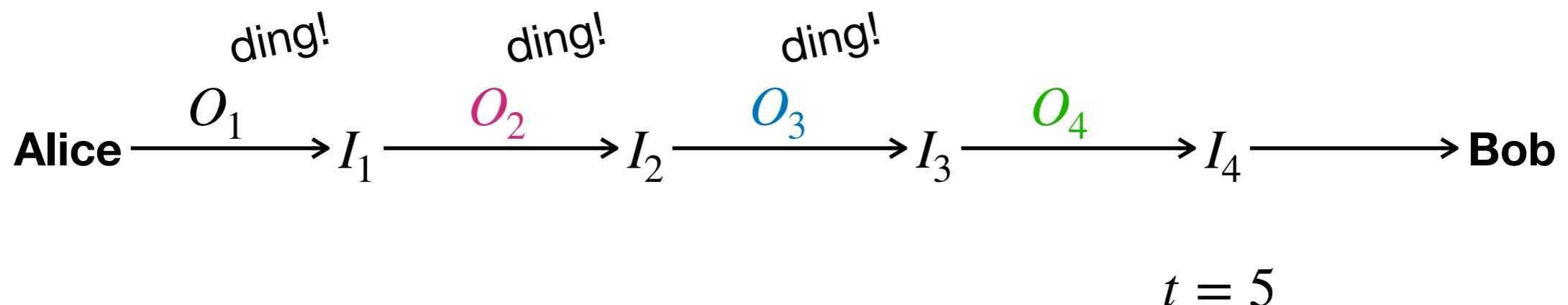
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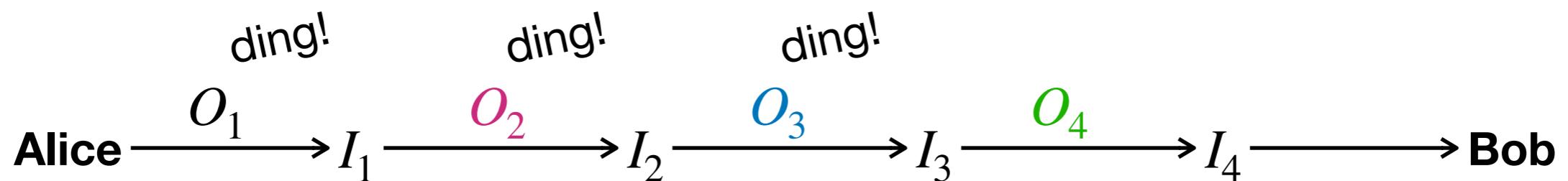
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$t = 5$

too bruised;  
can't be delivered!

# Our Contributions

1. Formal definitions for bruisable onion encryption
2. Bruisable onion construction: Tulip Onion Encryption
3. First provably anonymous onion routing protocol for the asynchronous setting:  $\Pi_t$

# Onion Encryption I/O

## [Camenisch-Lysyanskaya 05]

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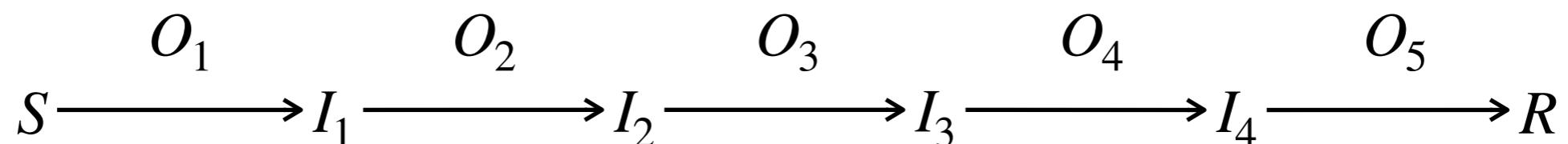
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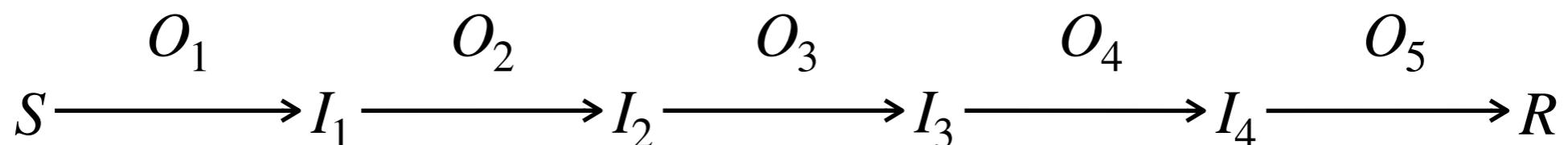


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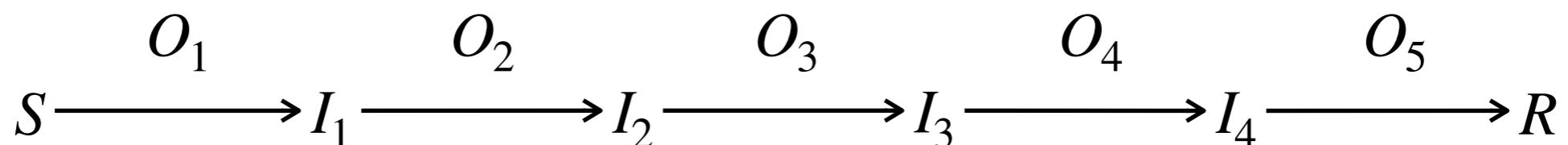


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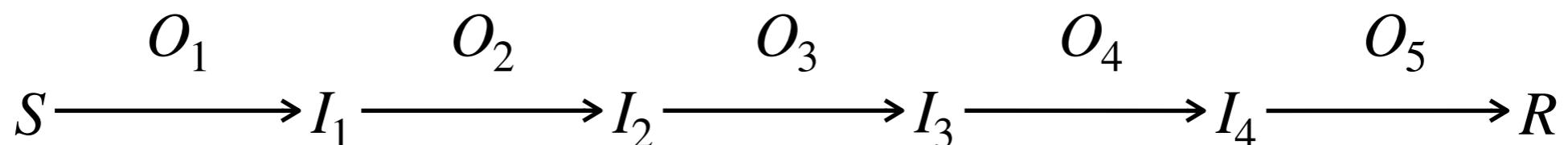
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$$\text{PeelOnion}(O_2, \text{sk}(I_2)) \rightarrow (Y_2, O_3, I_3)$$

# **Contribution 1.**

Game-based security definition

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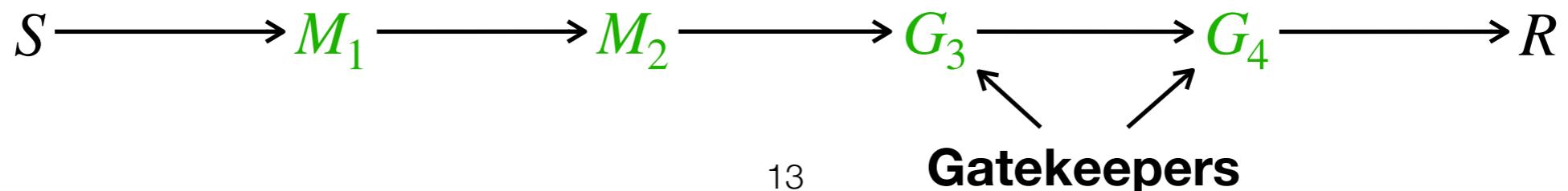
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- $\text{PeelOnion}(O_t, \text{sk}(Q_t)) \rightarrow (t, Y_t, O_{t+1}, Q_{t+1})$
- *Onion bruising algorithm:*  $\text{BruiseOnion}(O_t, \text{sk}(Q_t)) \rightarrow O_{t+1}$

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$$O_1 \in (o_1)$$

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- $\text{KeyGen}(1^\lambda, P_t) \rightarrow (\text{pk}(P_t), \text{sk}(P_t))$
- $\text{FormOnion}(m, \vec{Q} = (\textcolor{blue}{M}_1, M_2, G_3, \textcolor{blue}{G}_4, R), \text{pk}(\vec{Q}), (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4)) \rightarrow (\vec{O}_1, \vec{O}_2, \vec{O}_3, \vec{O}_4, \vec{O}_5)$
- $\text{PeelOnion}(O_t, \text{sk}(Q_t)) \rightarrow (t, Y_t, O_{t+1}, Q_{t+1})$
- *Onion bruising algorithm:*  $\text{BruiseOnion}(O_t, \text{sk}(Q_t)) \rightarrow O_{t+1}$

$$O_{2,0} \in \begin{pmatrix} O_{2,0} \\ O_{2,1} \end{pmatrix}$$

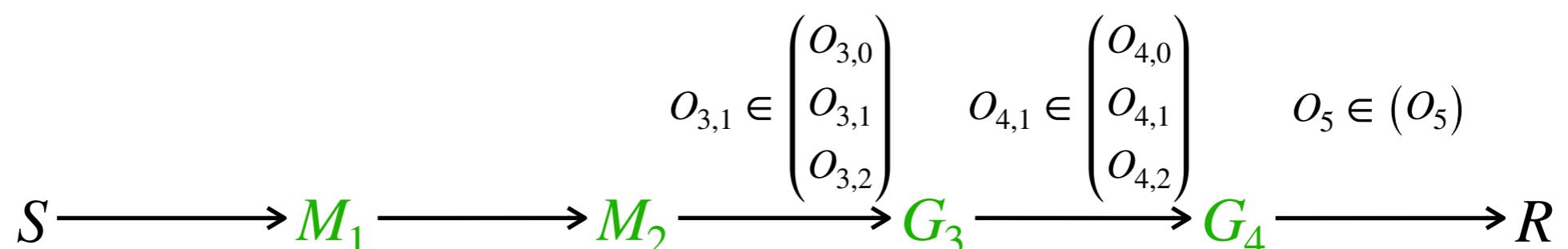
$$S \longrightarrow \textcolor{blue}{M}_1 \longrightarrow M_2 \longrightarrow G_3 \longrightarrow \textcolor{blue}{G}_4 \longrightarrow R$$

$$\text{PeelOnion}(O_{2,0}, \text{sk}(M_2)) \rightarrow (2, Y_2, O_{3,0}, P_3)$$

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**Intuition.** Information behind an honest party remains hidden, including bruise count

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↑  
onion layer

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# Bruisable Onion Encryption: Security

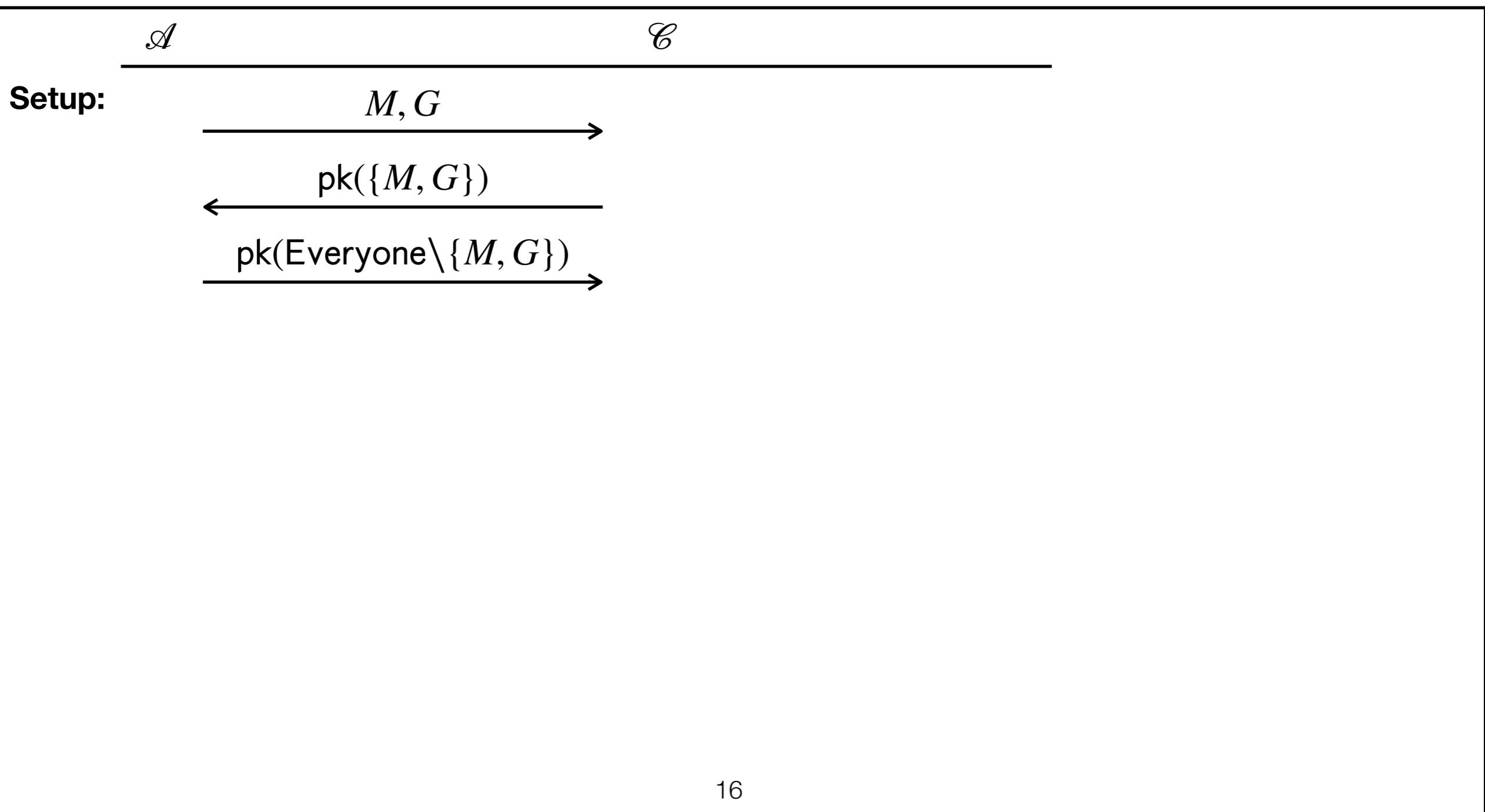
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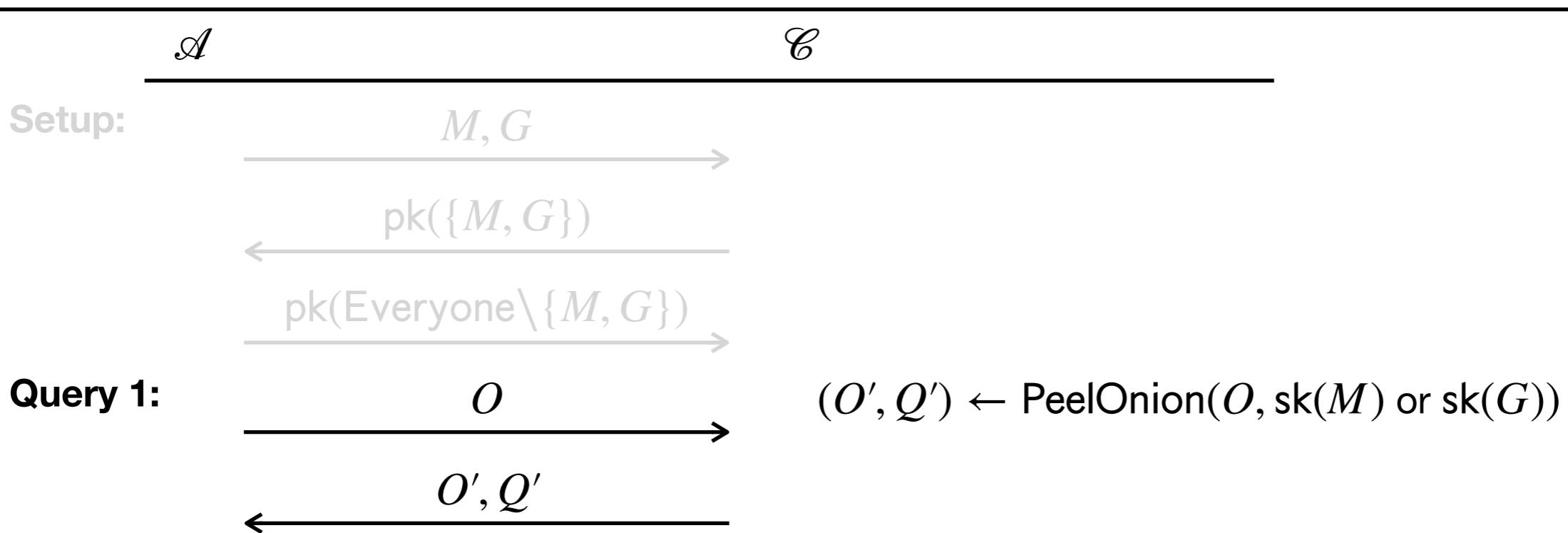
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**Formal Definition.** CCA2-like, defined w.r.t. Onion Security Game:



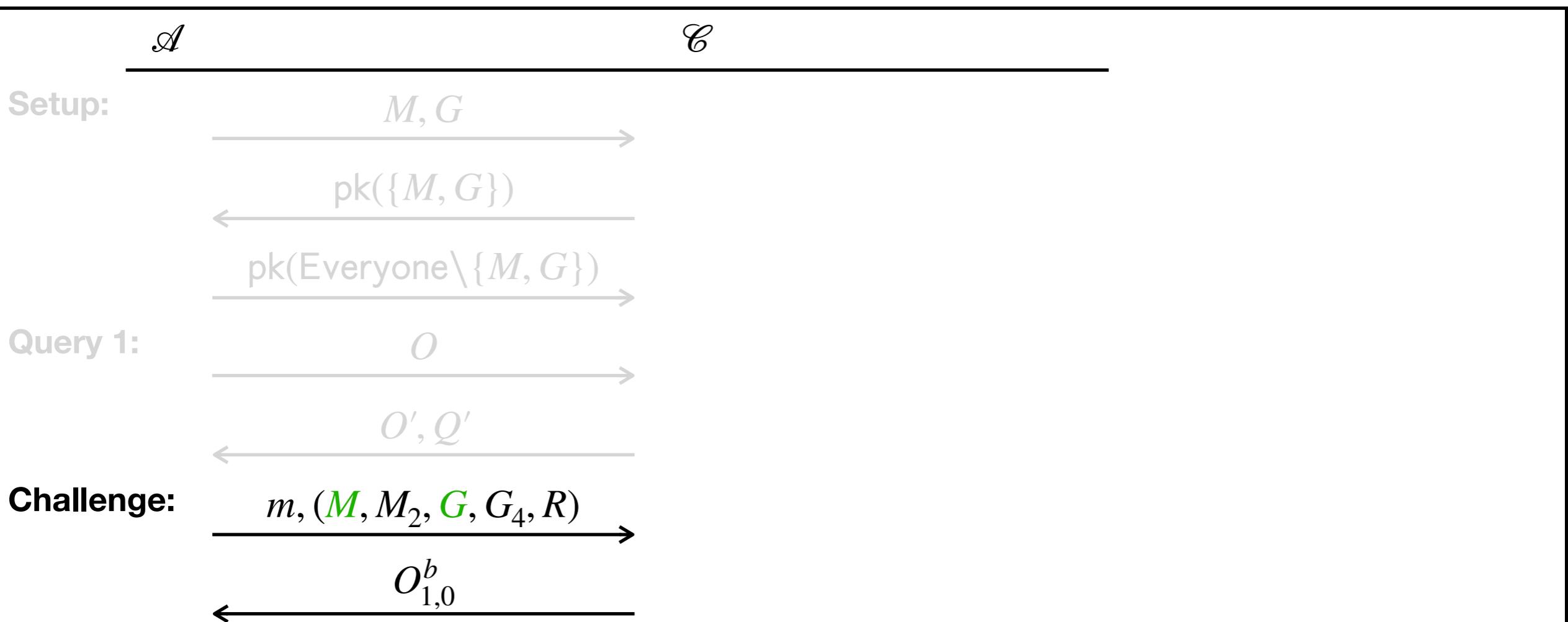
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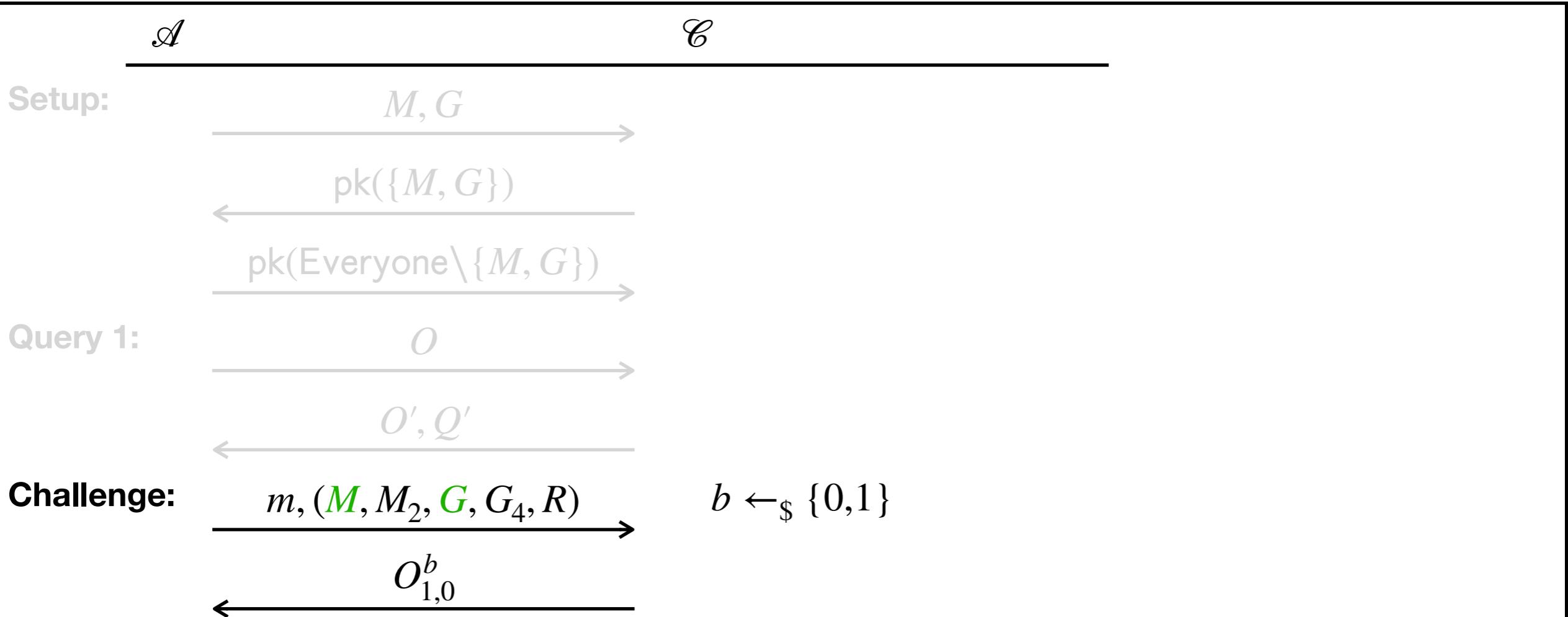
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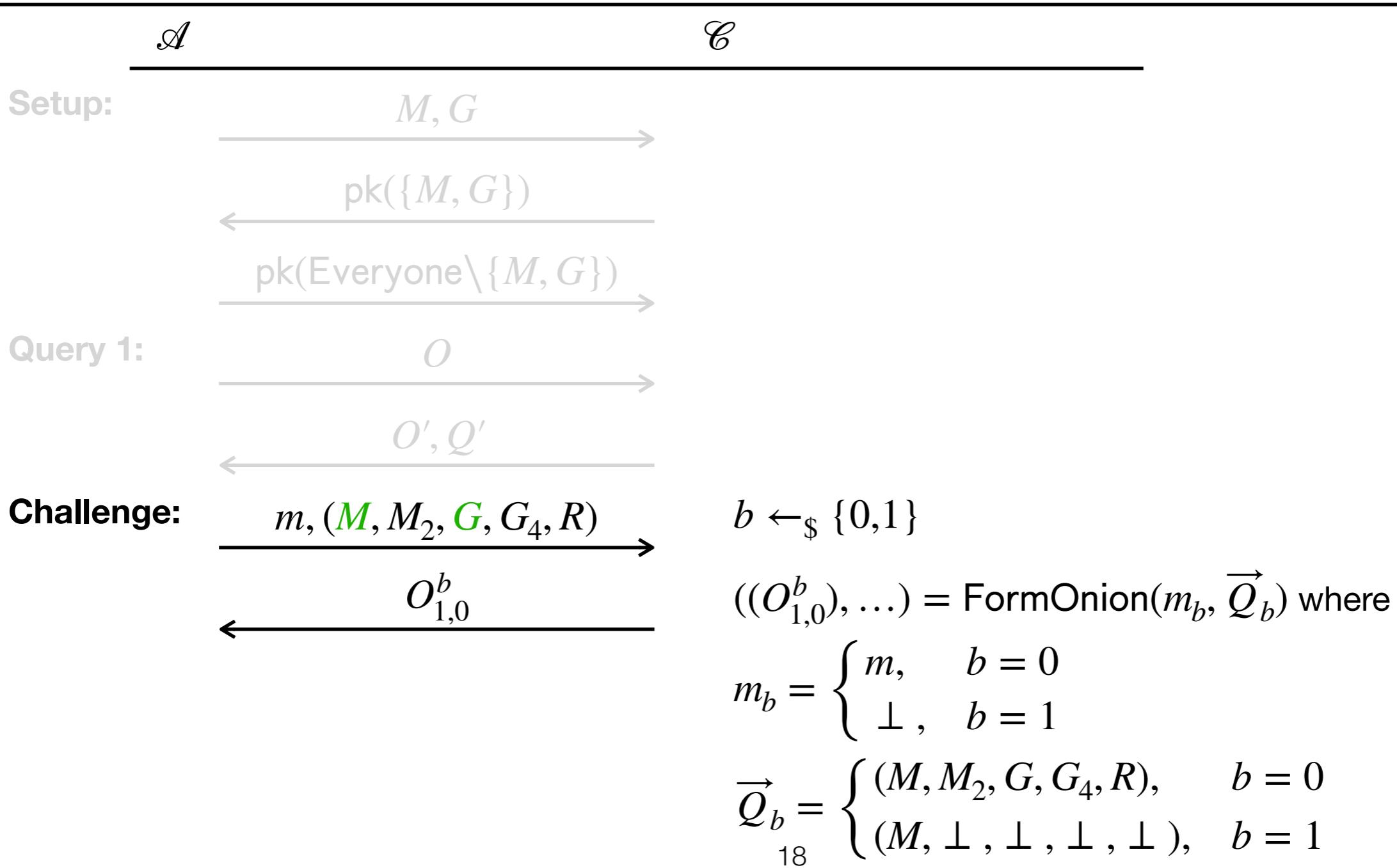
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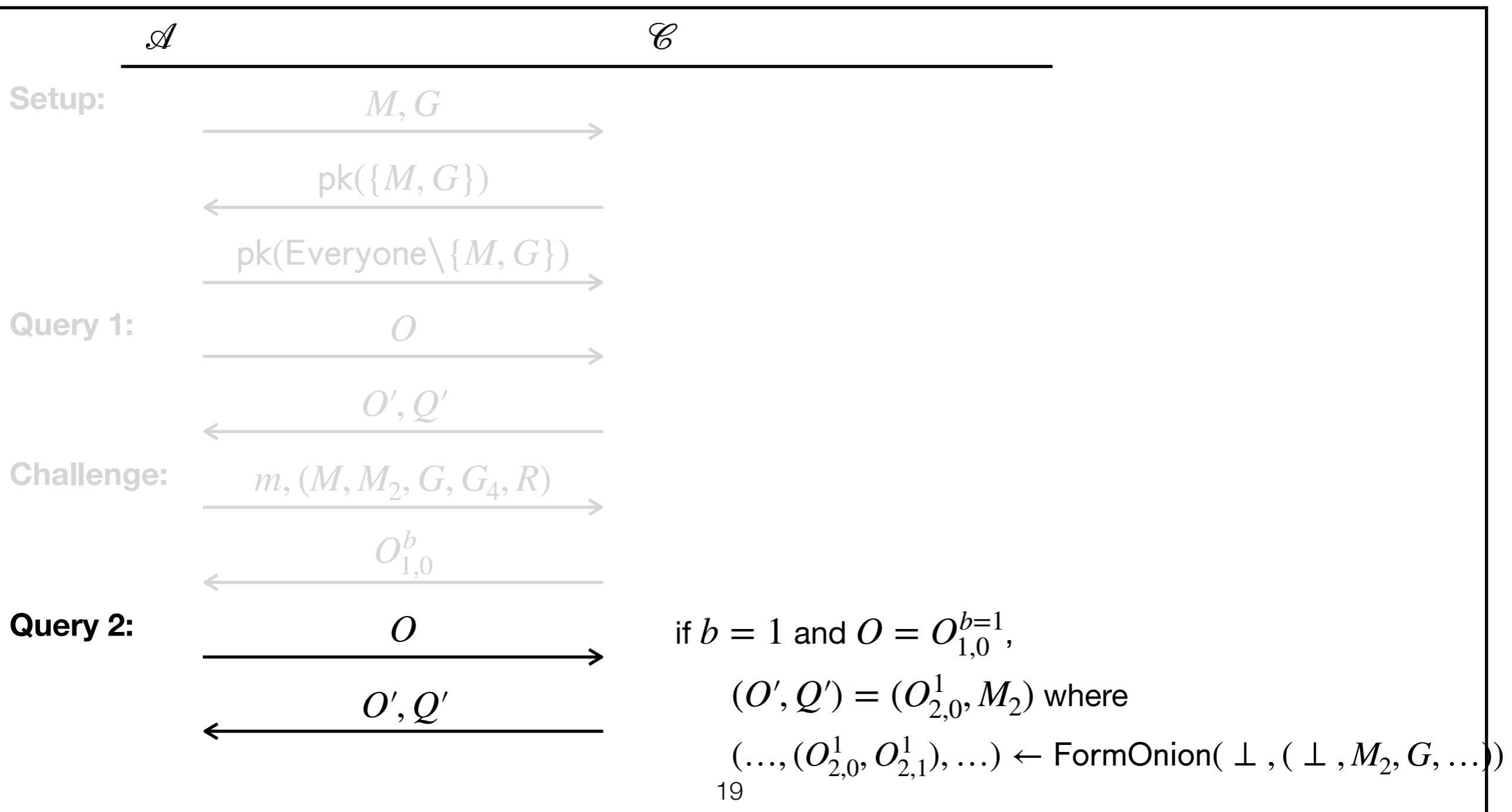
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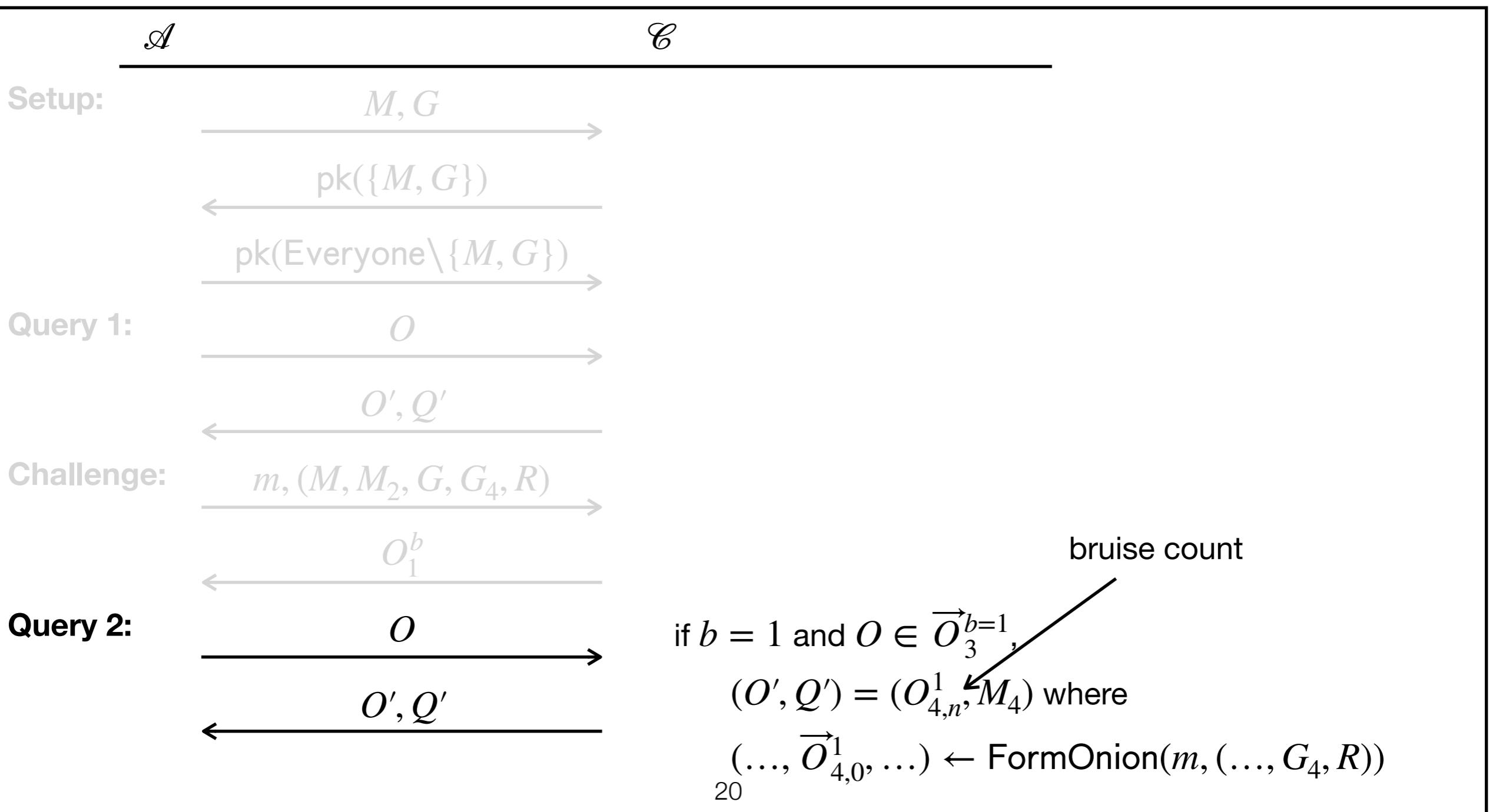
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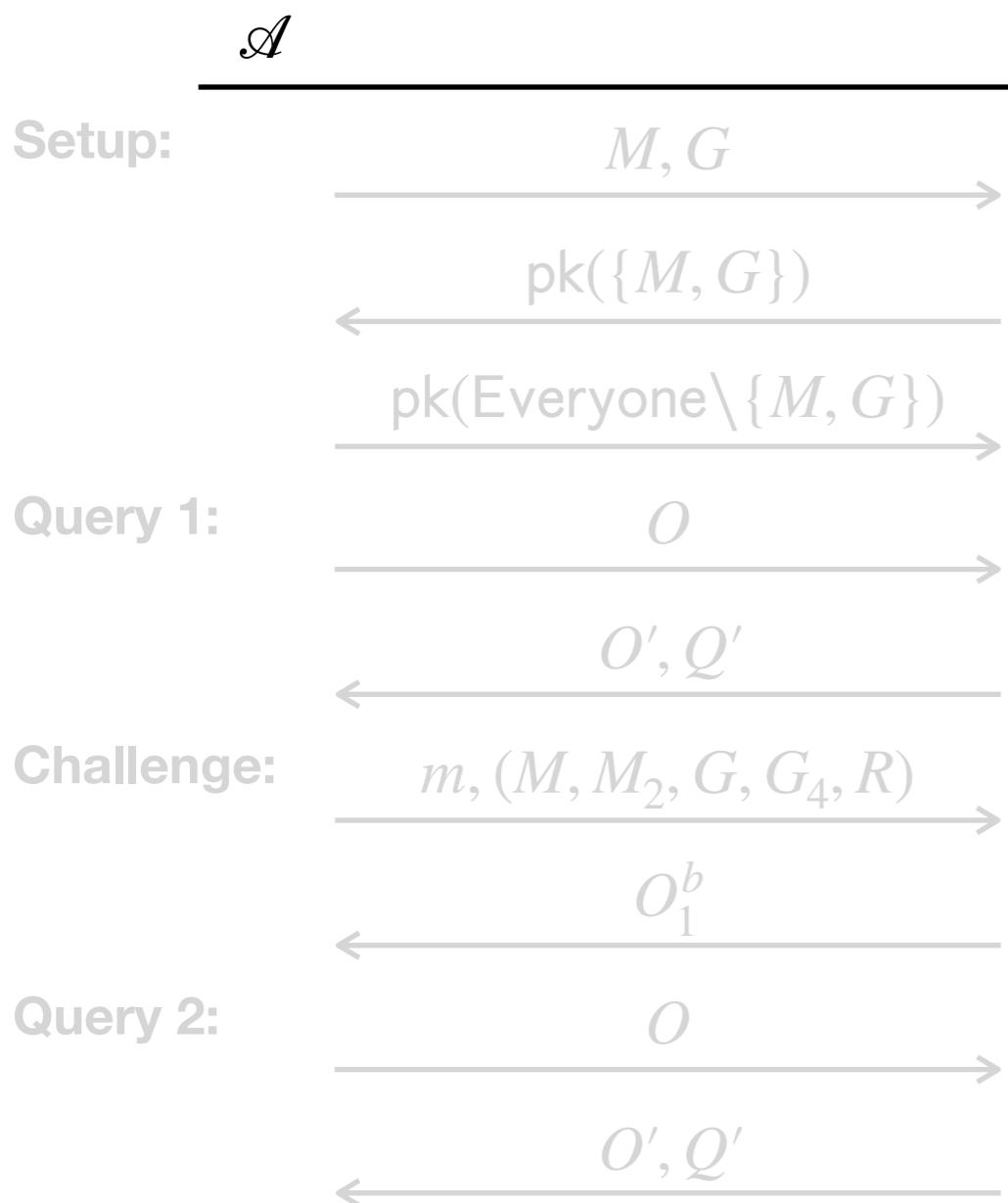
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# Bruisable Onion Encryption: Security

**Formal Definition.** CCA2-like, defined w.r.t. Onion Security Game:



**Definition:** A bruisable onion encryption scheme ( $\text{KeyGen}$ ,  $\text{FormOnion}$ ,  $\text{PeelOnion}$ ,  $\text{BruiseOnion}$ ) is *secure* if every adversary wins with negligible advantage.

Output guess  $b'$  and wins if  $b' = b$

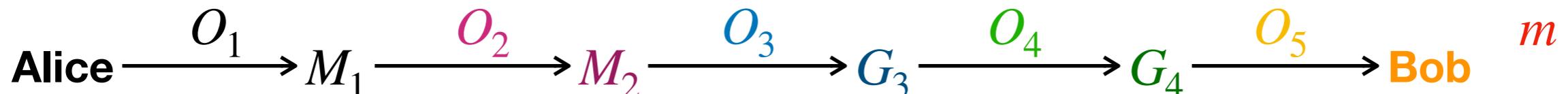
# **Contribution 2.**

Our construction: Tulip Encryption Scheme

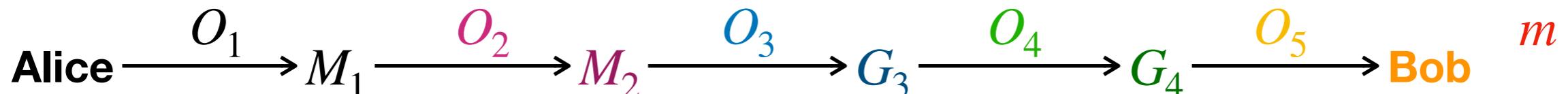
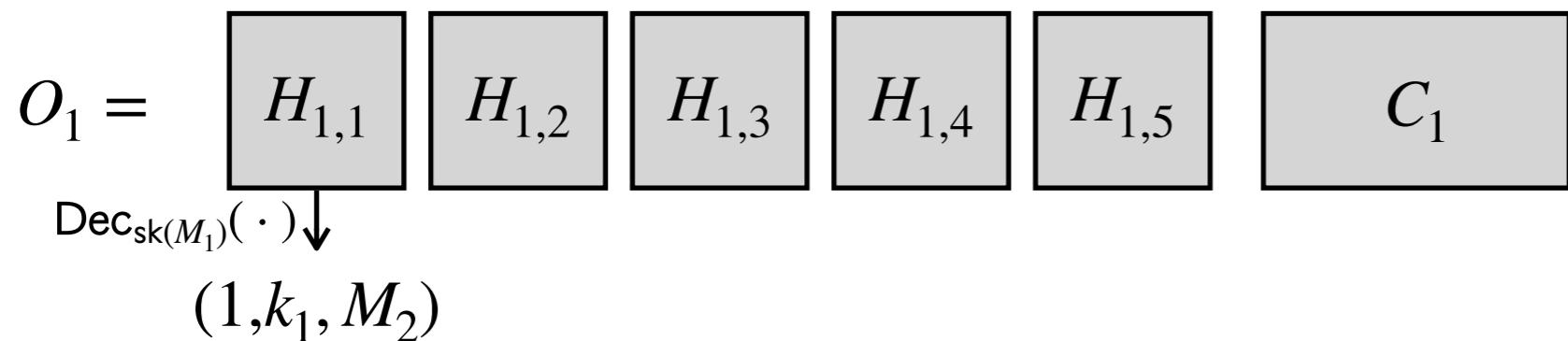
# Tulip Onion Encryption

$$O_1 = \begin{array}{c} H_{1,1} \\ H_{1,2} \\ H_{1,3} \\ H_{1,4} \\ H_{1,5} \\ C_1 \end{array}$$

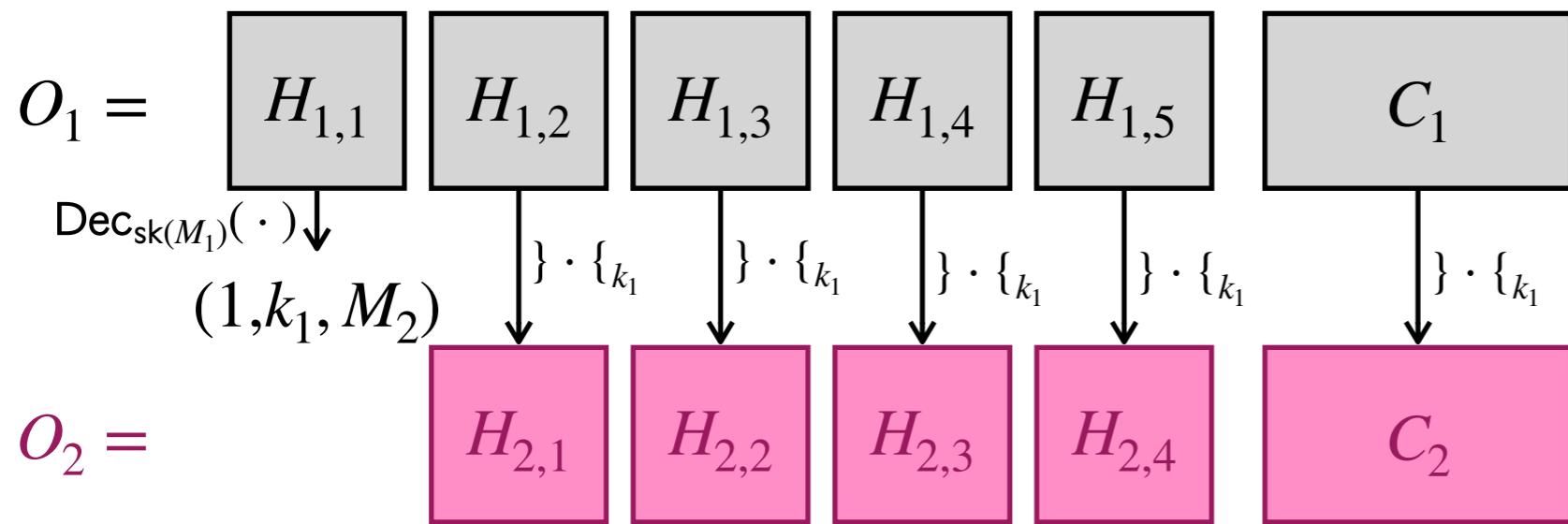
*header blocks* = encrypted path      *content* = encrypted payload



# Tulip Onion Encryption



# Tulip Onion Encryption

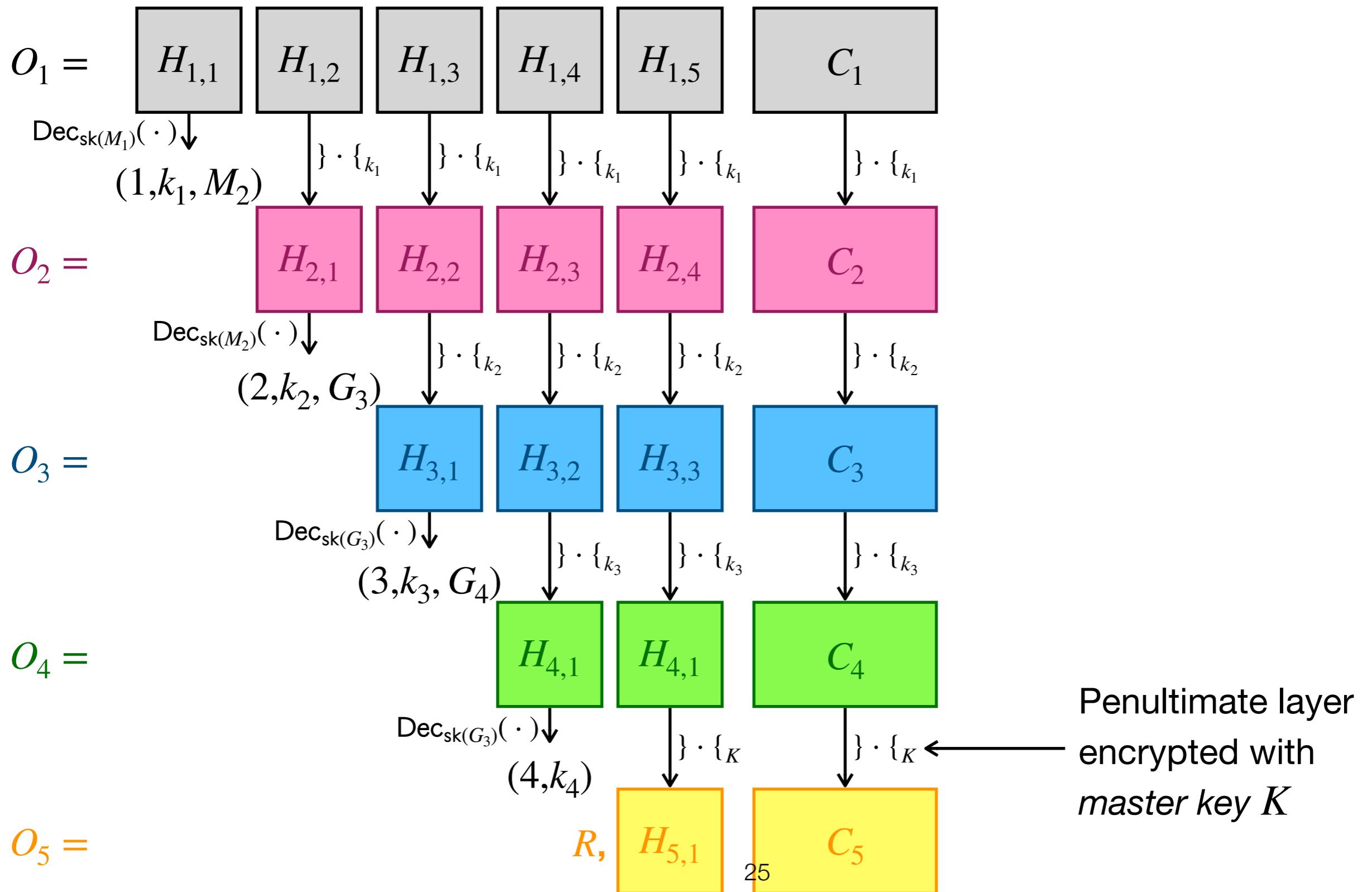


**Notation:**

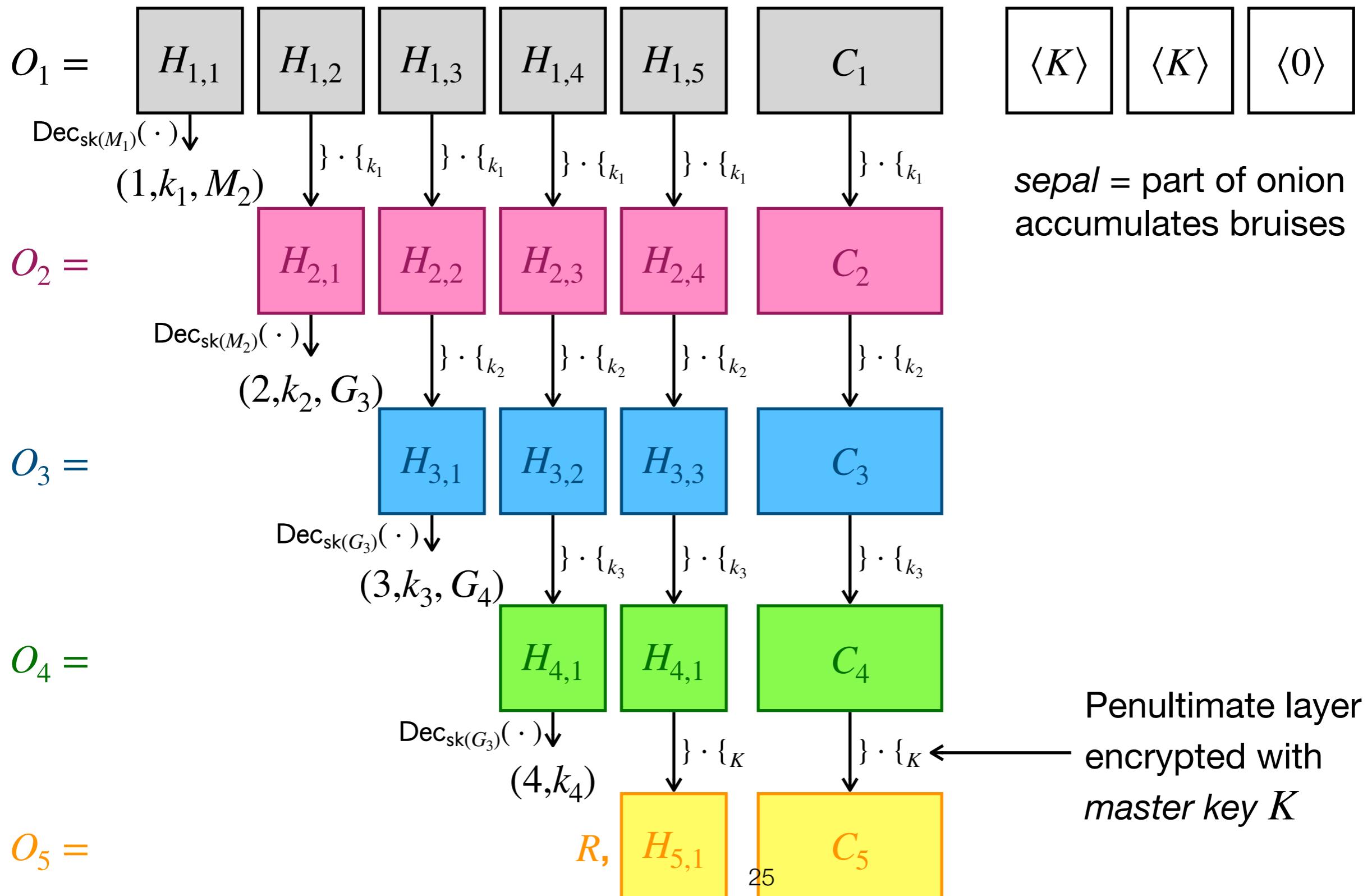
$\} \cdot \{\text{key}$  = decryption under key



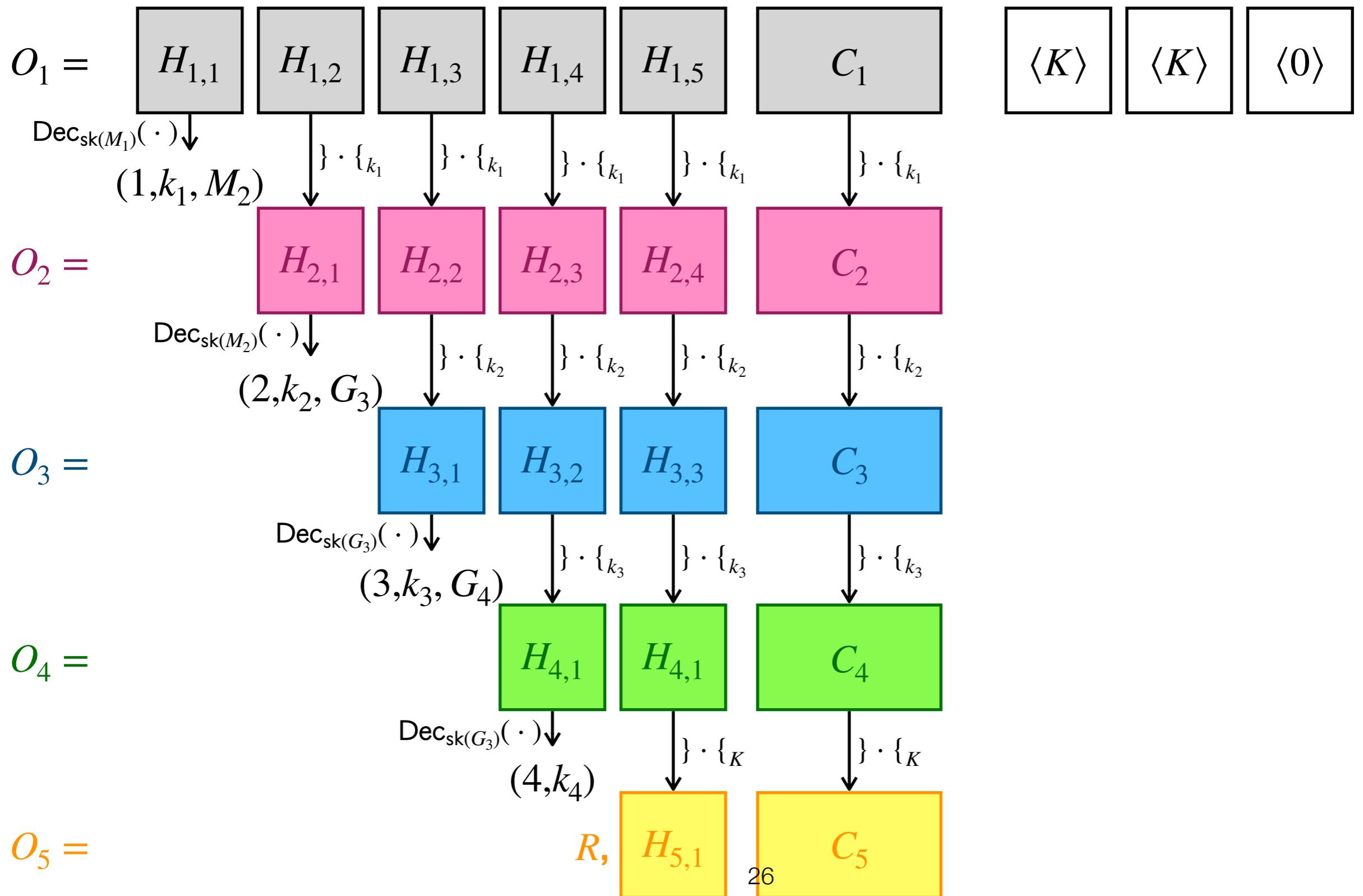
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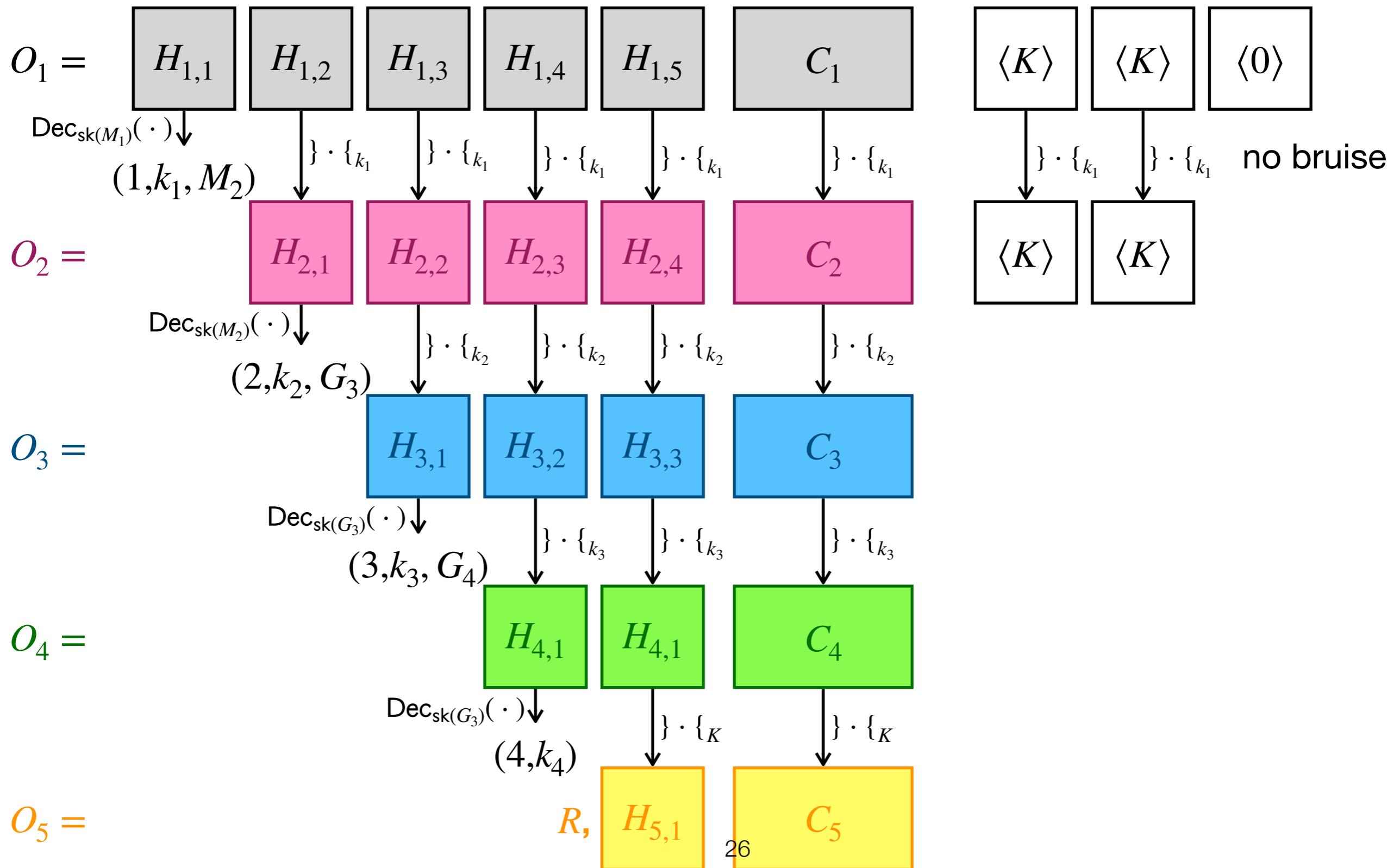
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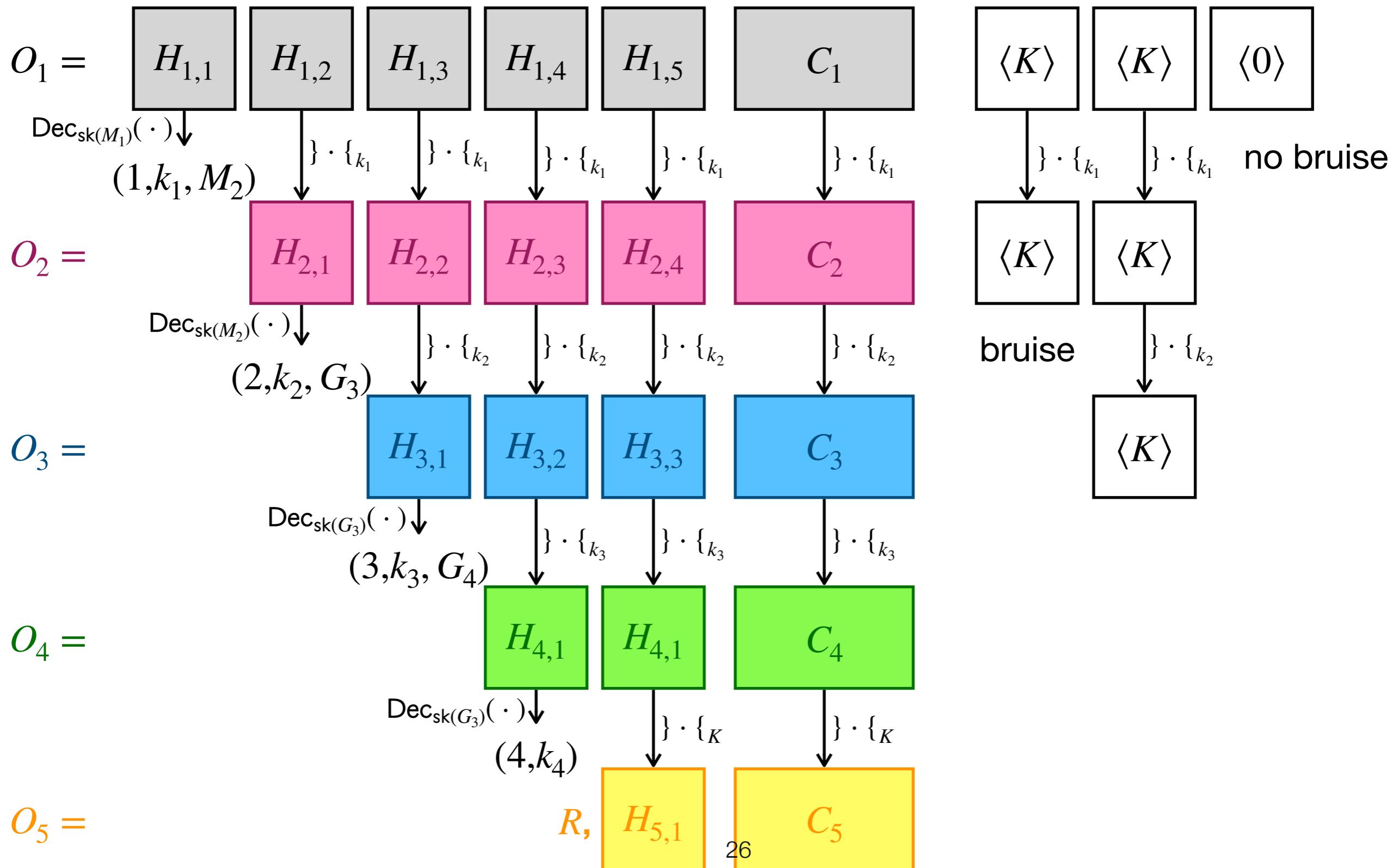
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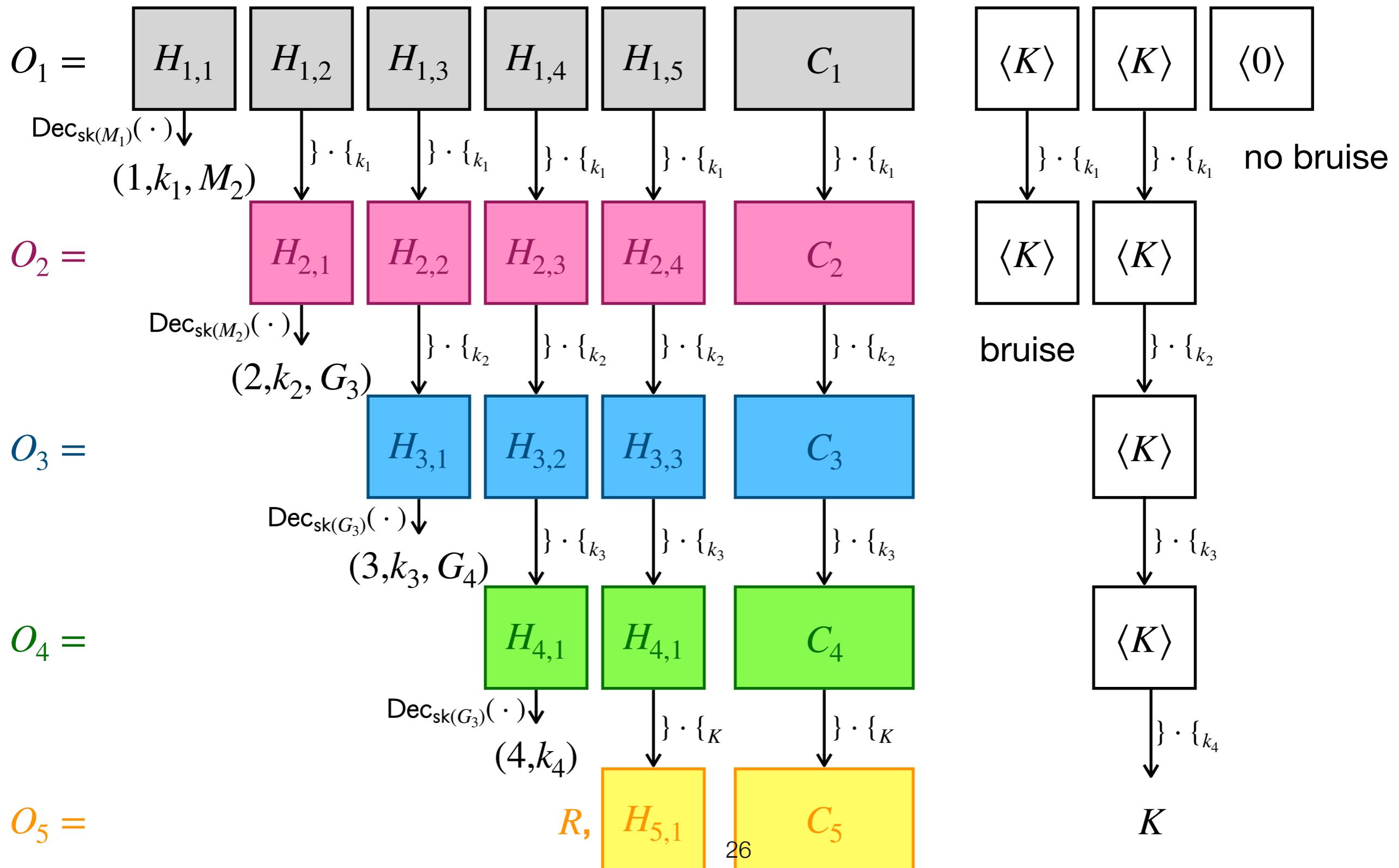
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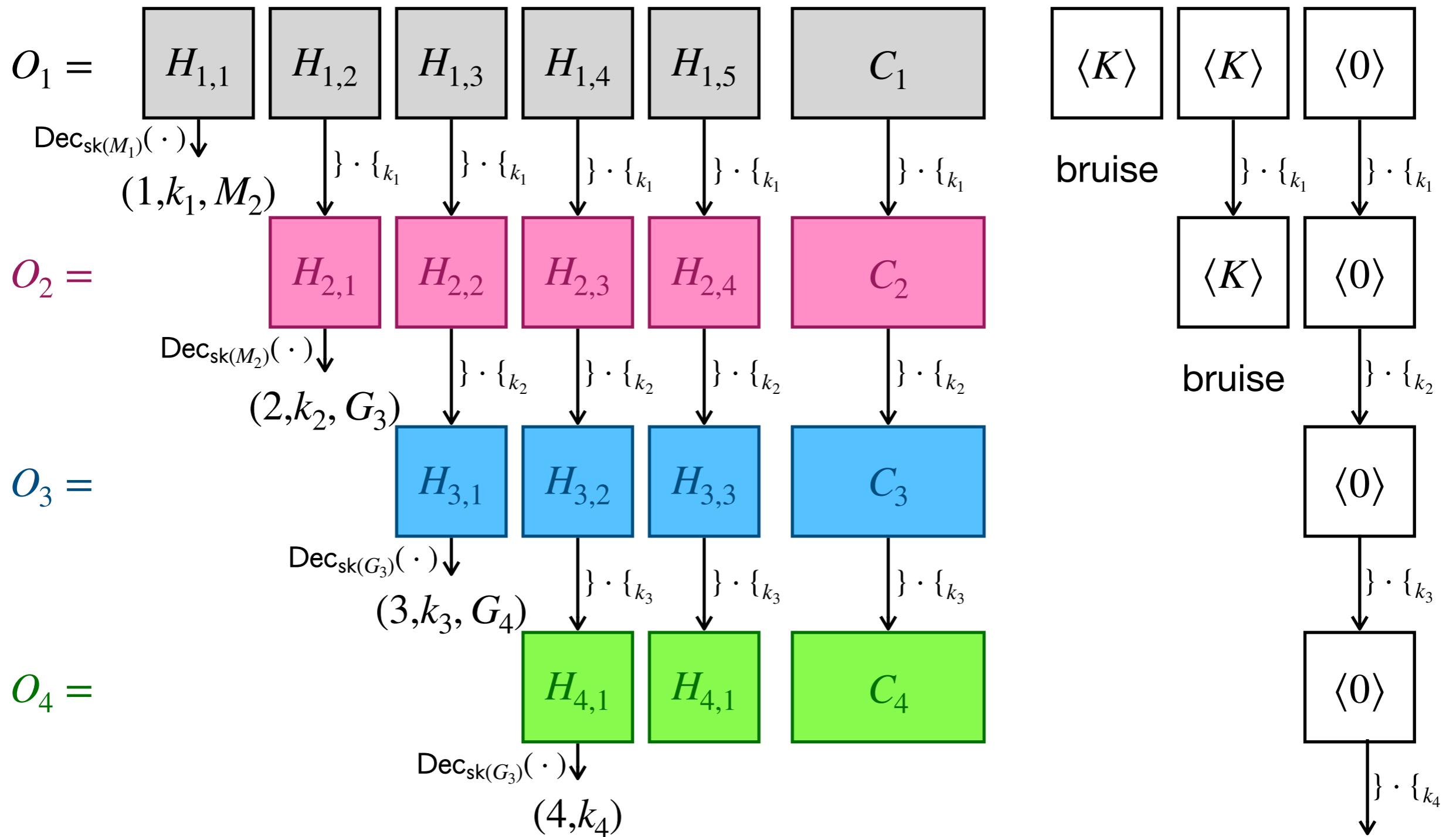
# Tulip Onion Encryption



# Tulip Onion Encryption



# Tulip Onion Encryption



Too bruised; can't recover  $R, O_5$

# Contribution 3.

Our construction:  $\Pi_t$

# Onion Routing Protocol $\Pi_t$

**Onion forming phase.** Every  $P_i$  forms many *brisable onions*:

- An onion to recipient
- A random number of checkpoint onions to random locations:
  - Expected number is polylog in security parameter

**Onion routing (execution) phase.** Every  $P_i$  does:

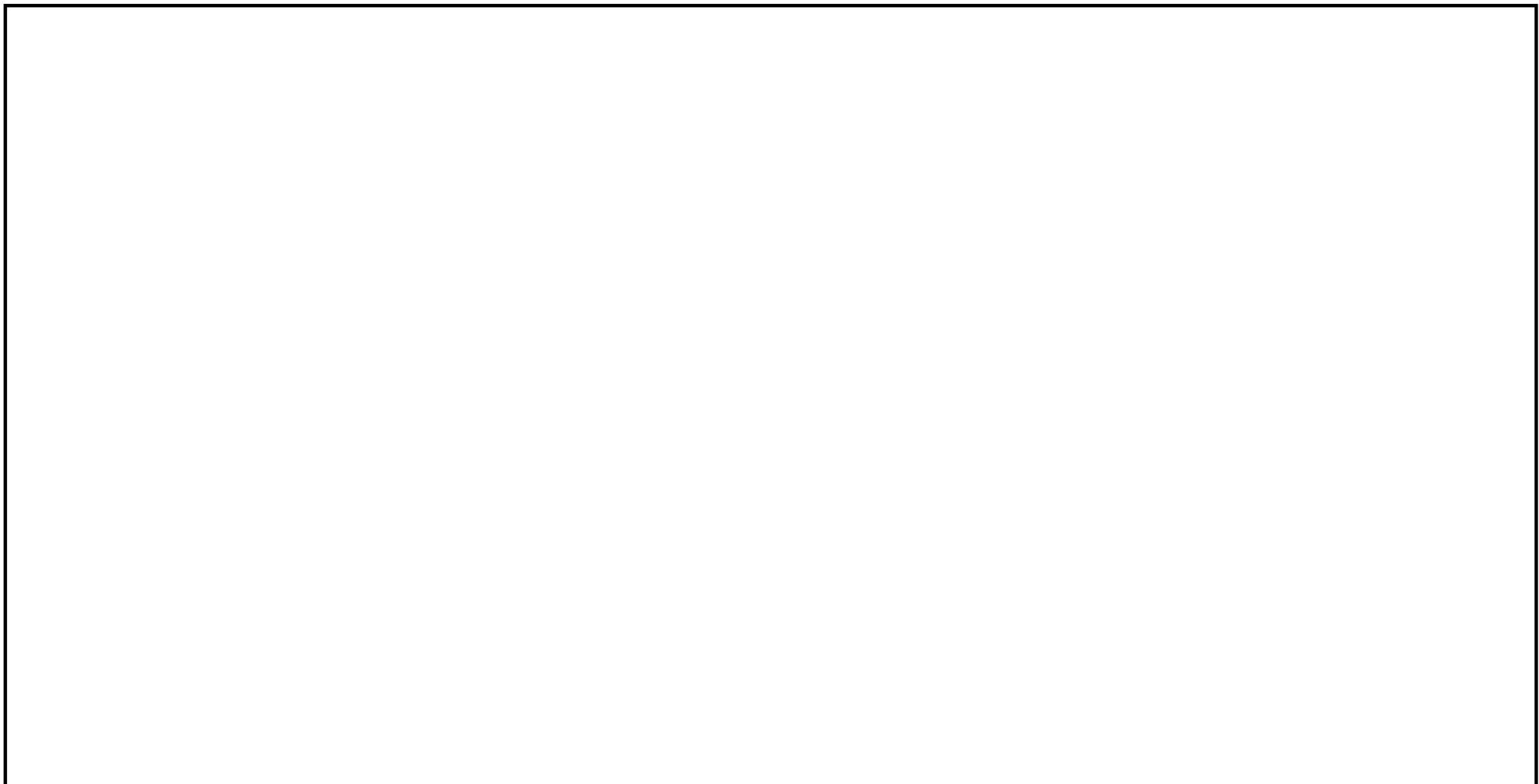
1. Initialize time to  $t = 1$ .
2. Peels onions as they arrive:
  - a. If onion is “on time” or “early”, place in outbox. Update onion counts, accordingly.
  - b. If onion is “late,” bruise and send immediately.
3. If onion count for time  $t \geq$  threshold:
  - a. Send onions for time  $t$  in random order.
  - b. Update  $t = t + 1$ .

# Thank you!

# **Backup Slides**

# **Standard Onion Security**

## **[Ando-Lysyanskaya]**



# Standard Onion Security

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**Intuition.** Information behind an honest party remains hidden.

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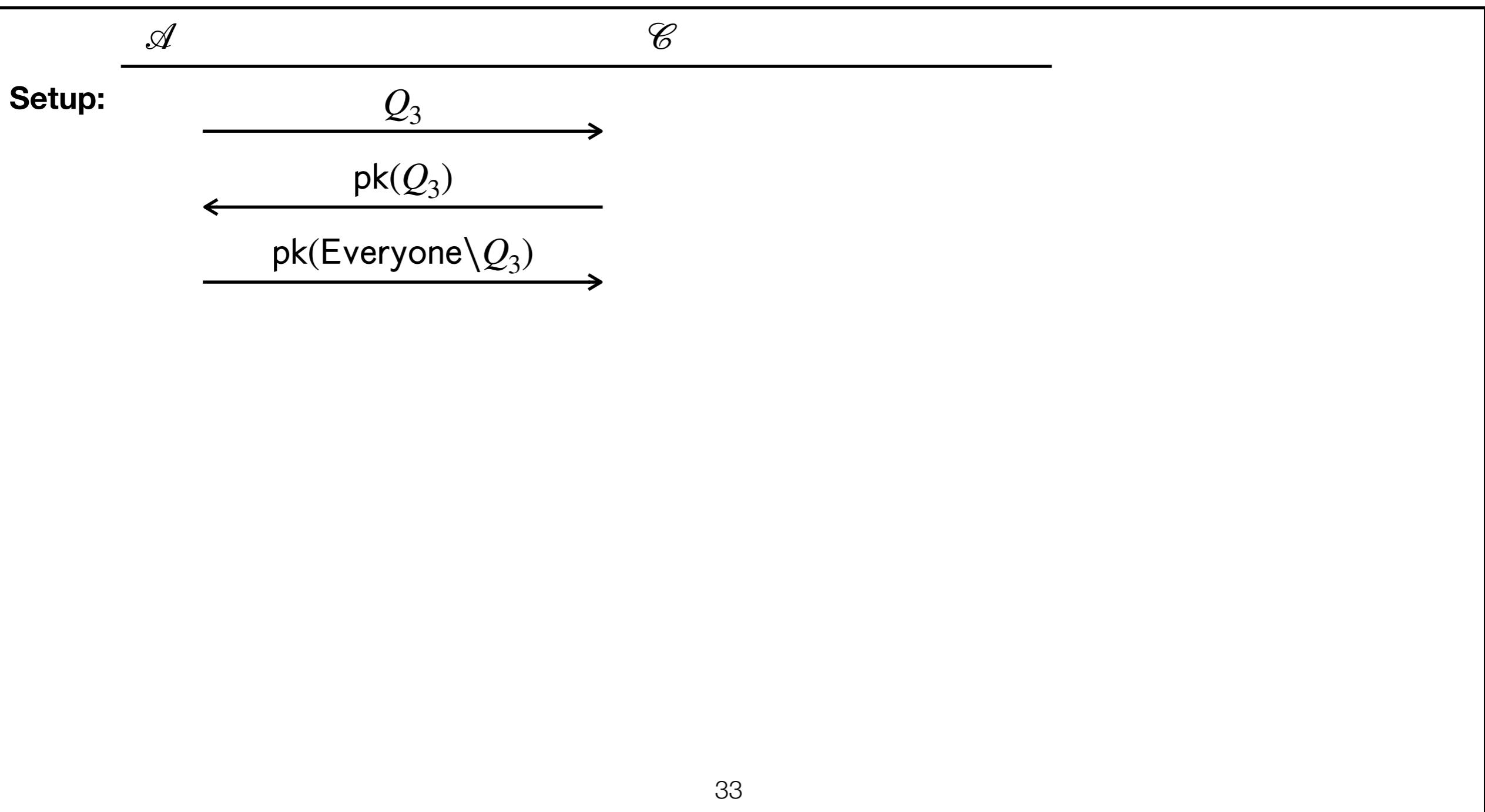
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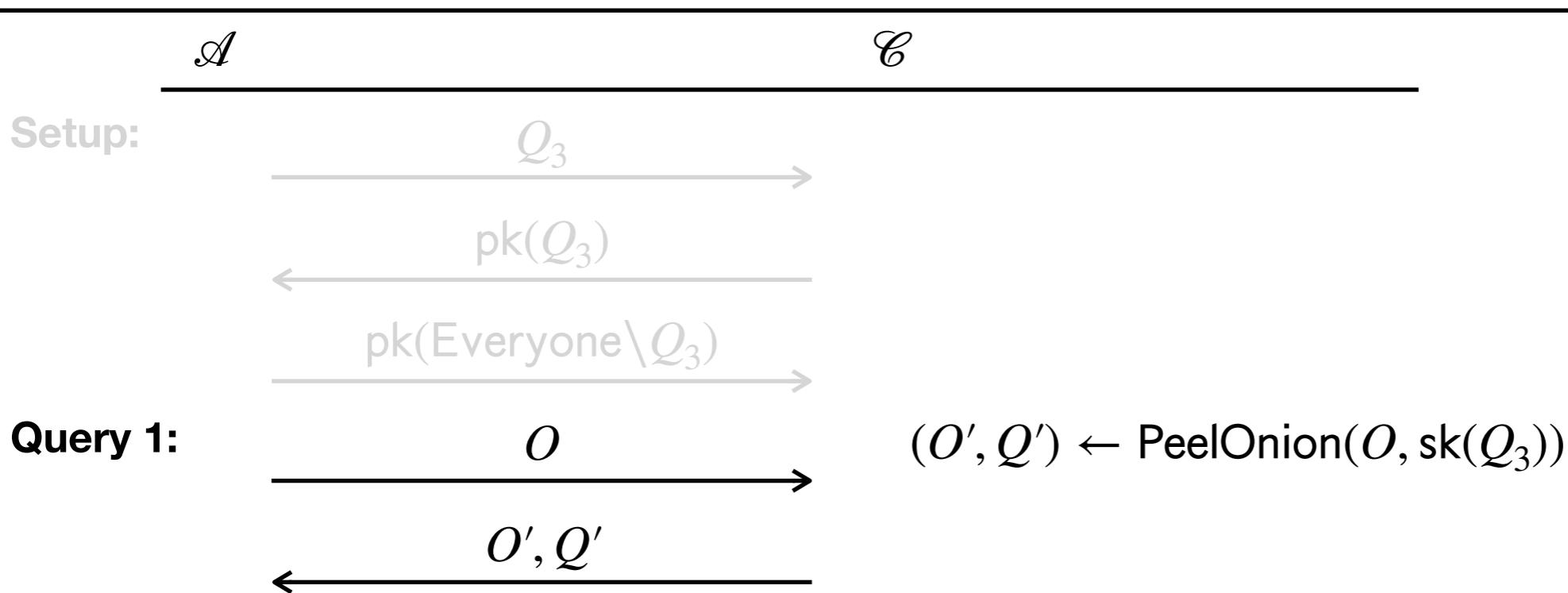
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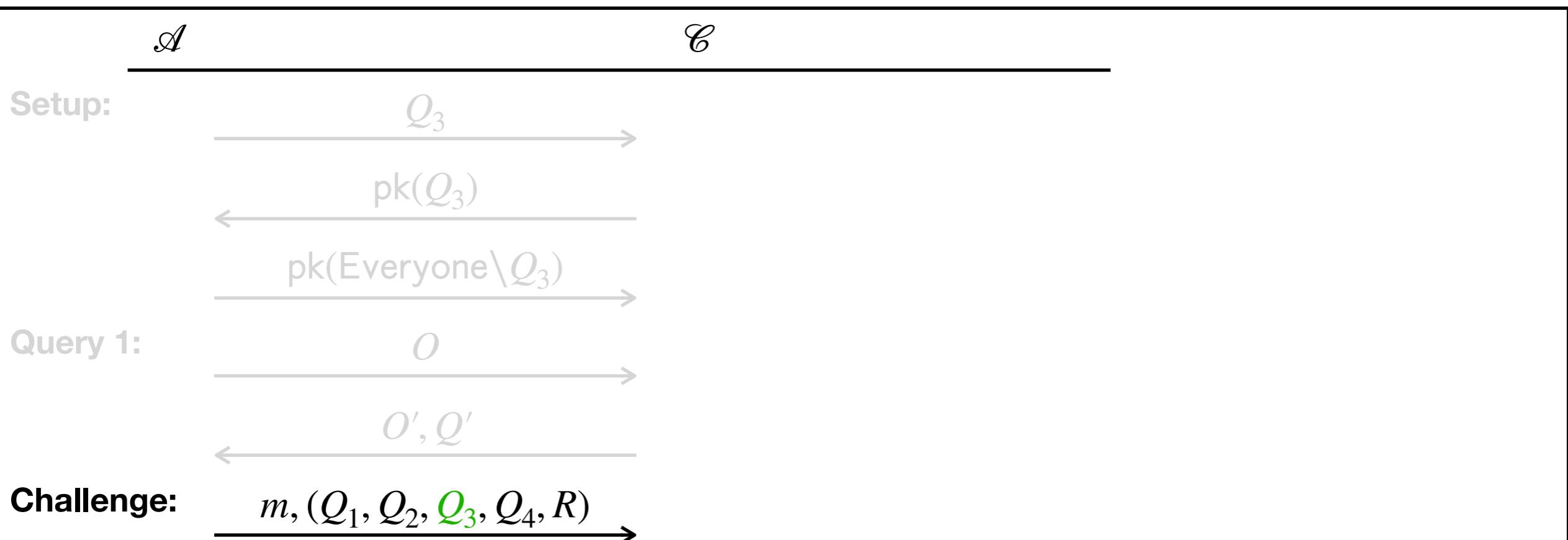
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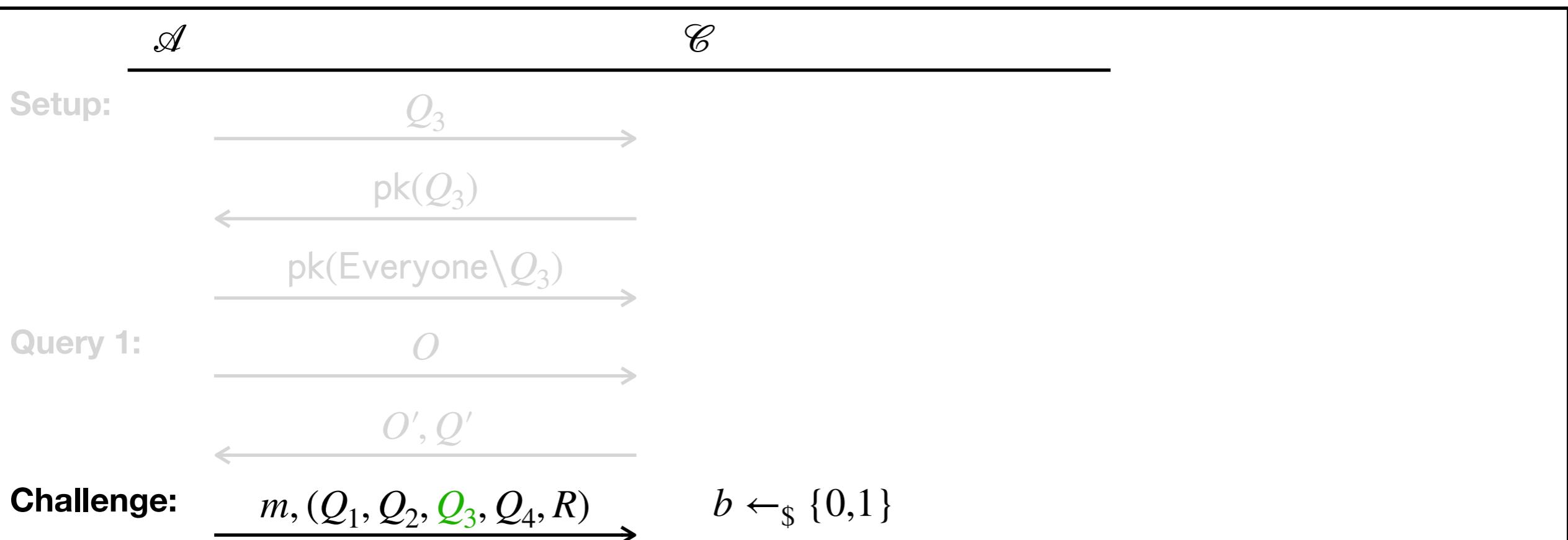
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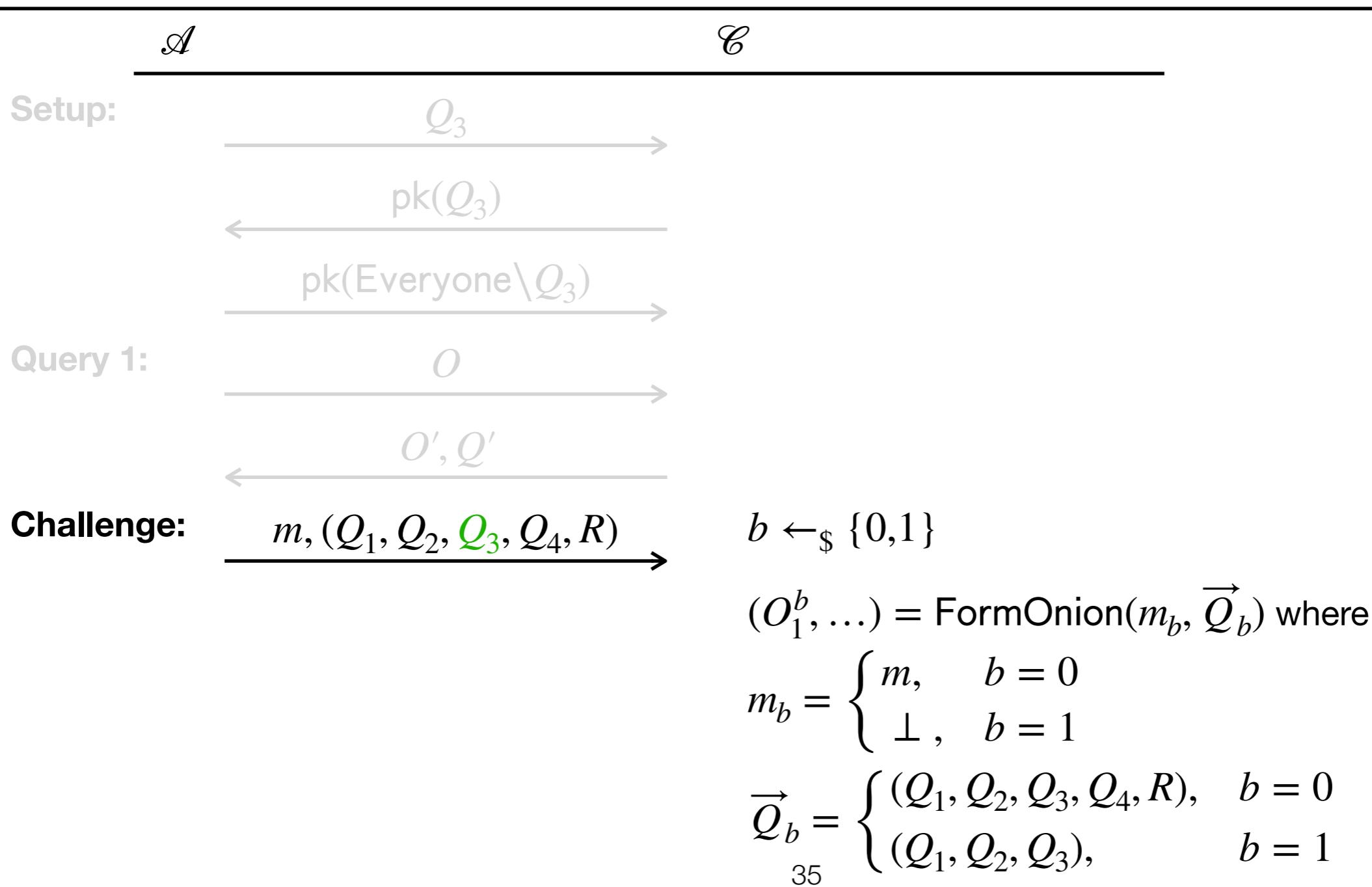
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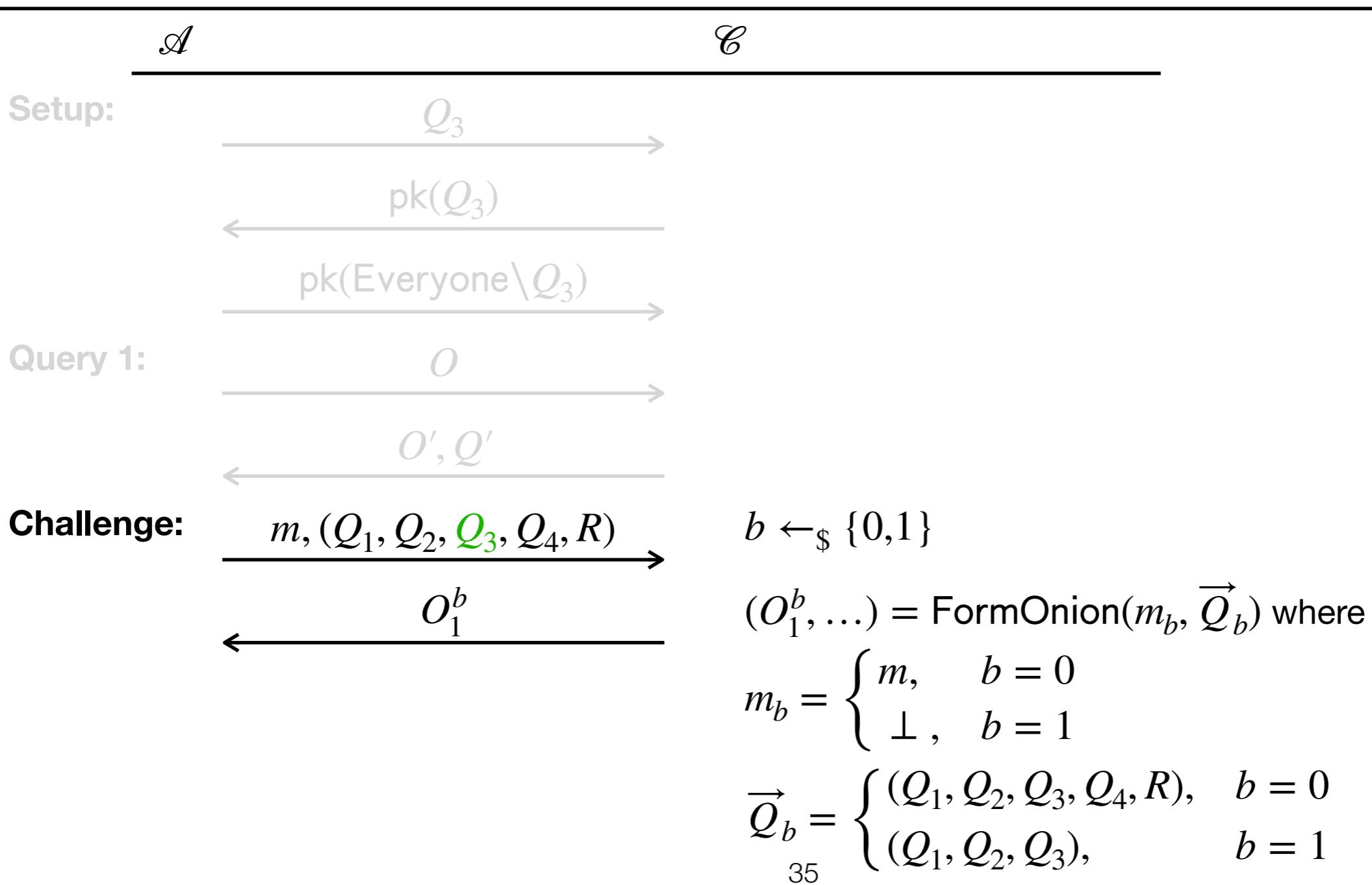
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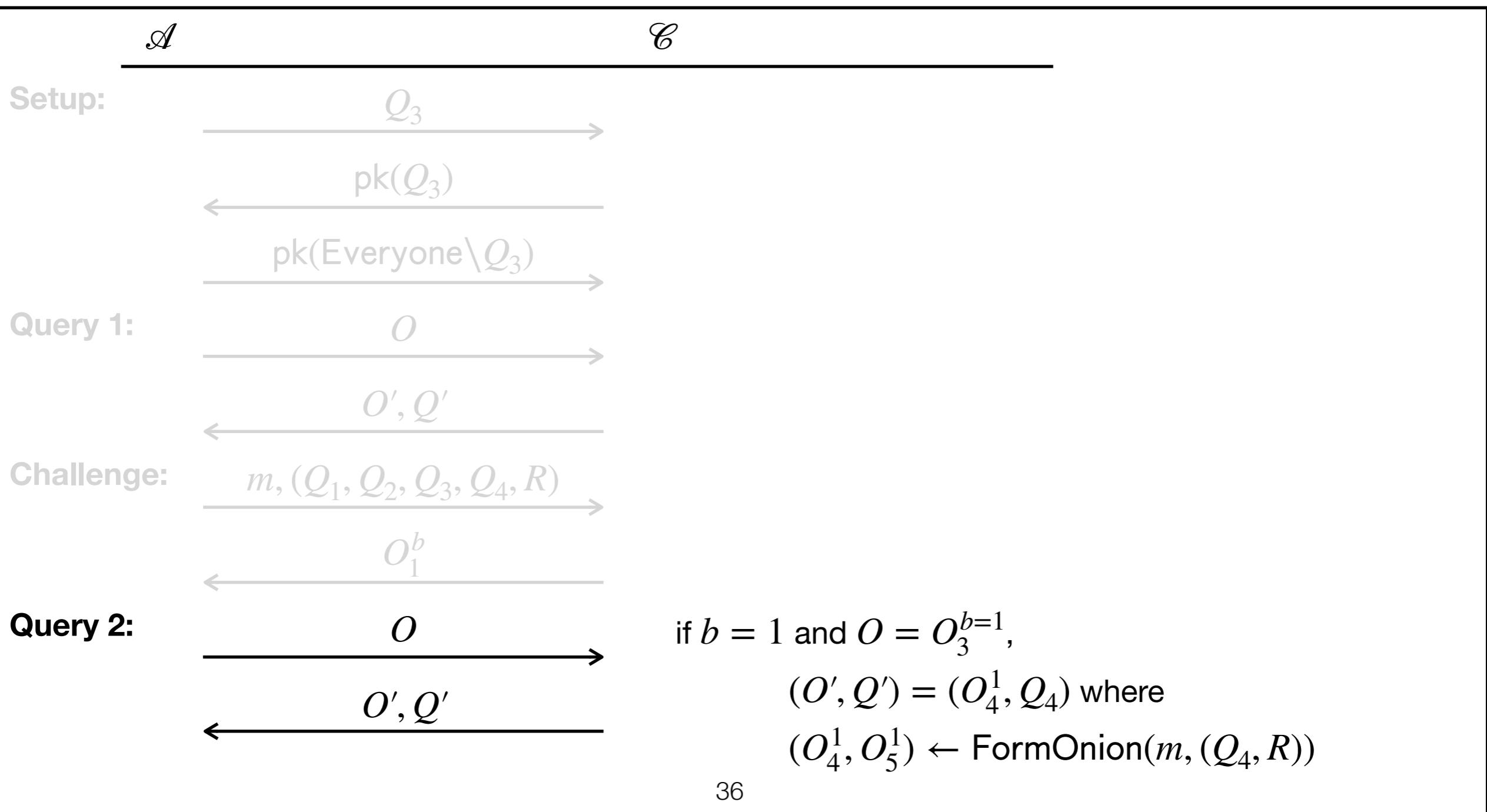
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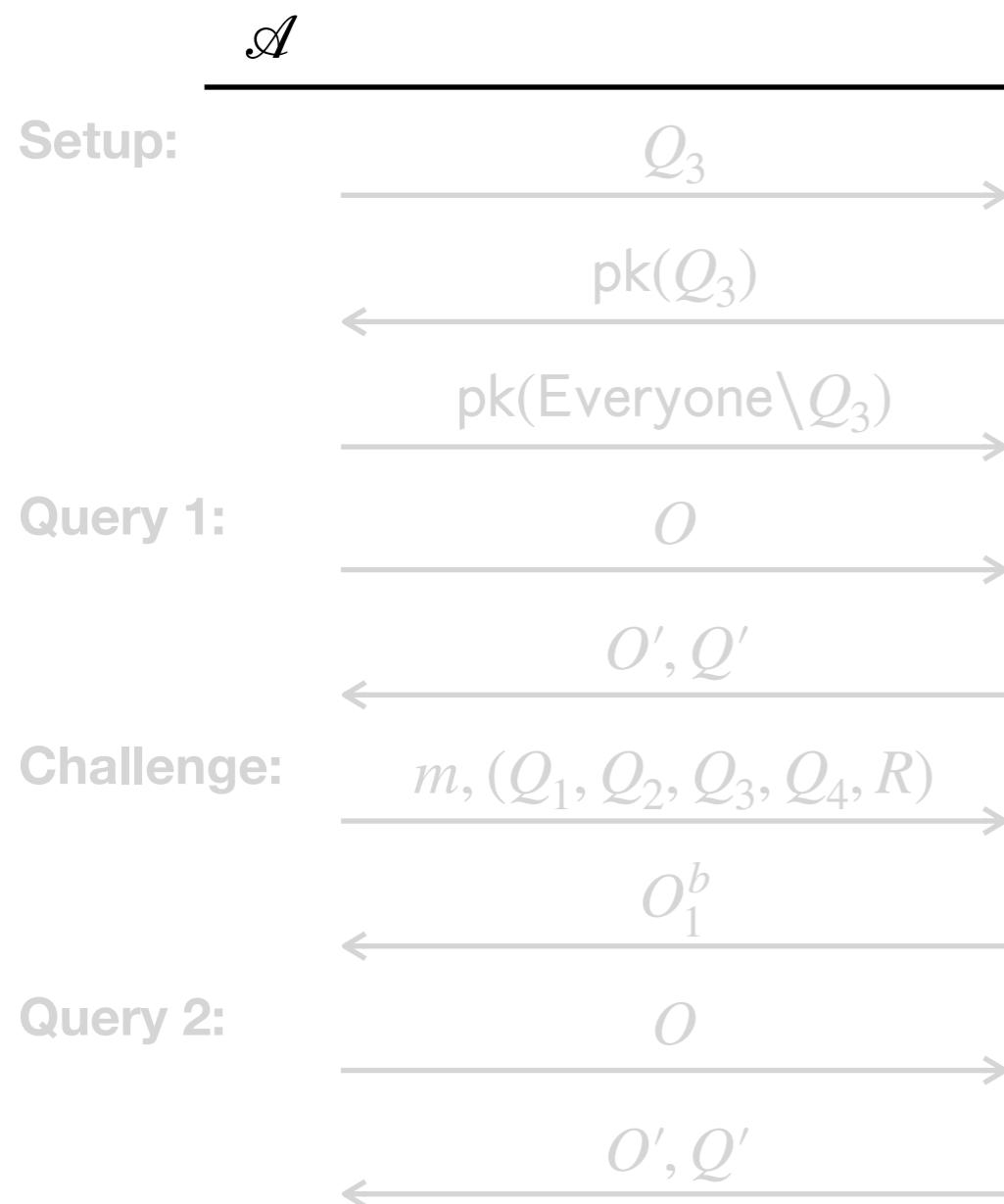
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