

WHIR



Proximity testing for Reed–Solomon+

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Motivation

SNARKs

Succinct Non-interactive Arguments of Knowledge

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Want to show “knowledge” of w s.t. $(x, w) \in R$

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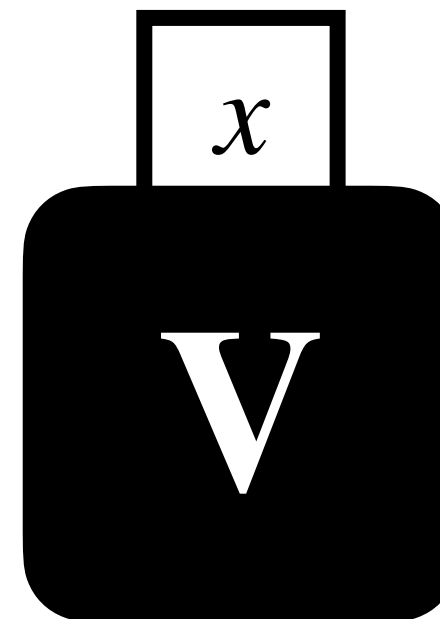
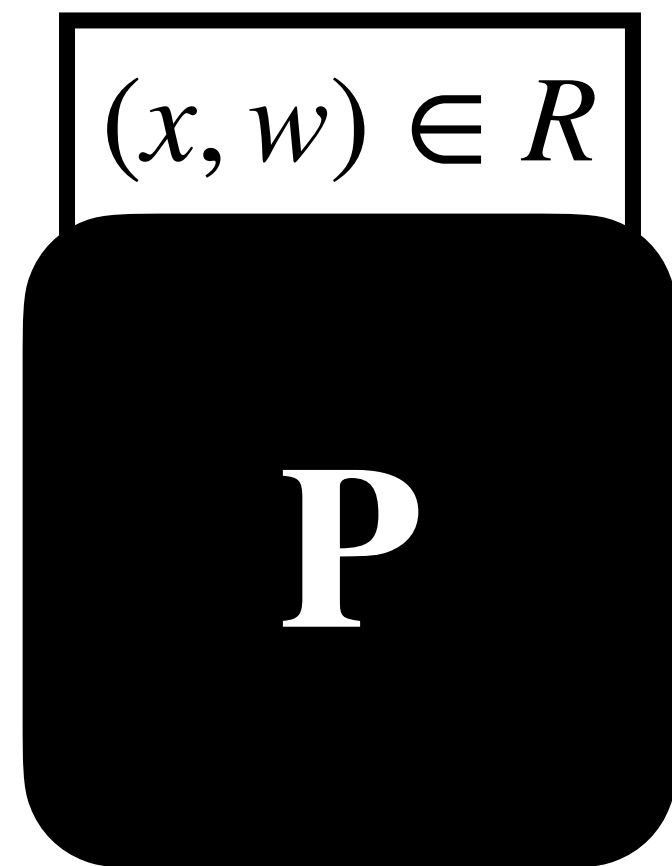
e.g. $R := \{(x, w) : \text{SHA3}(w) = x\}$

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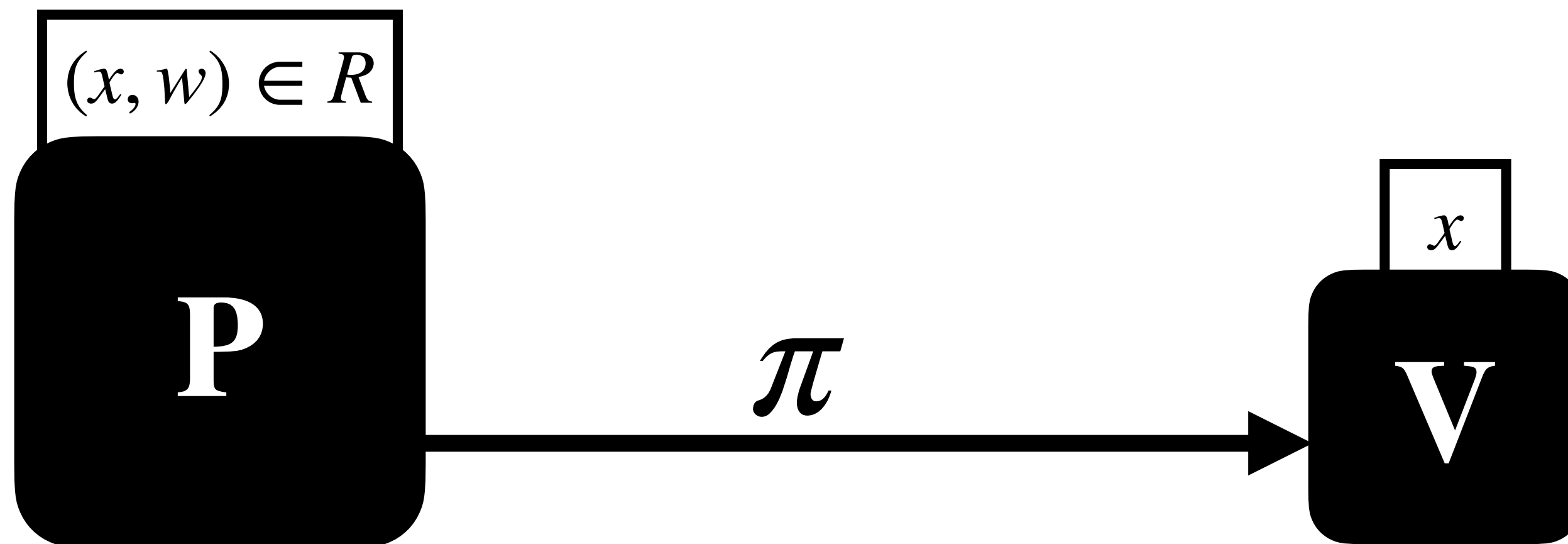


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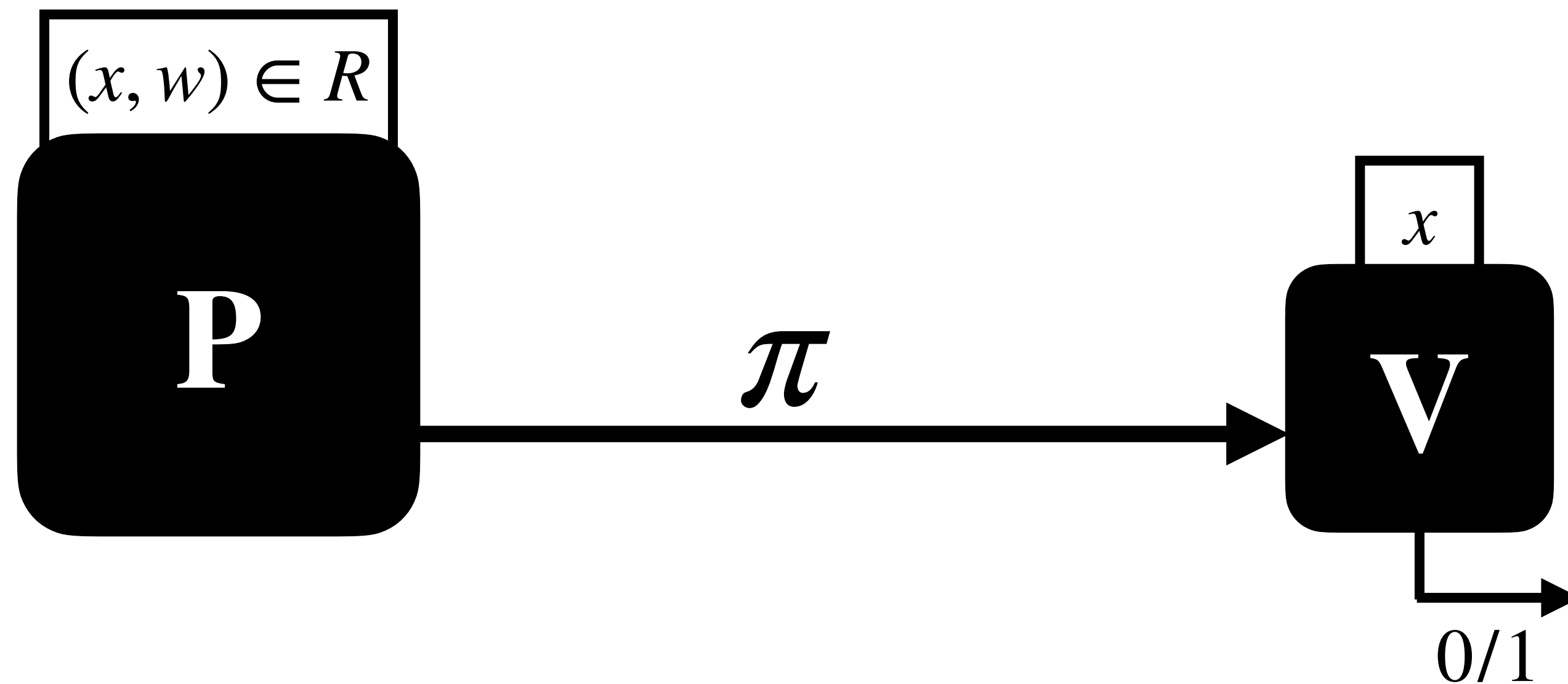


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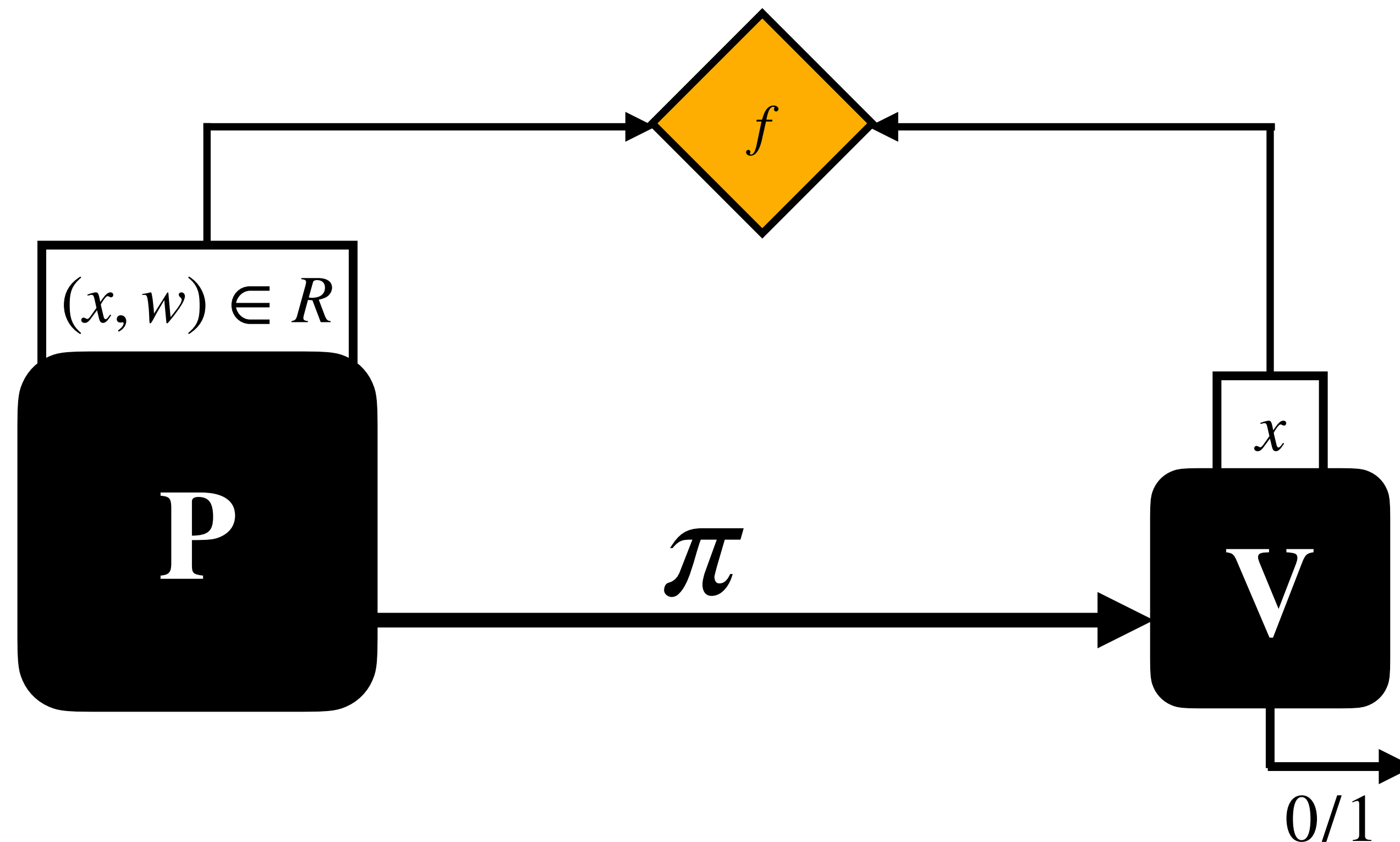


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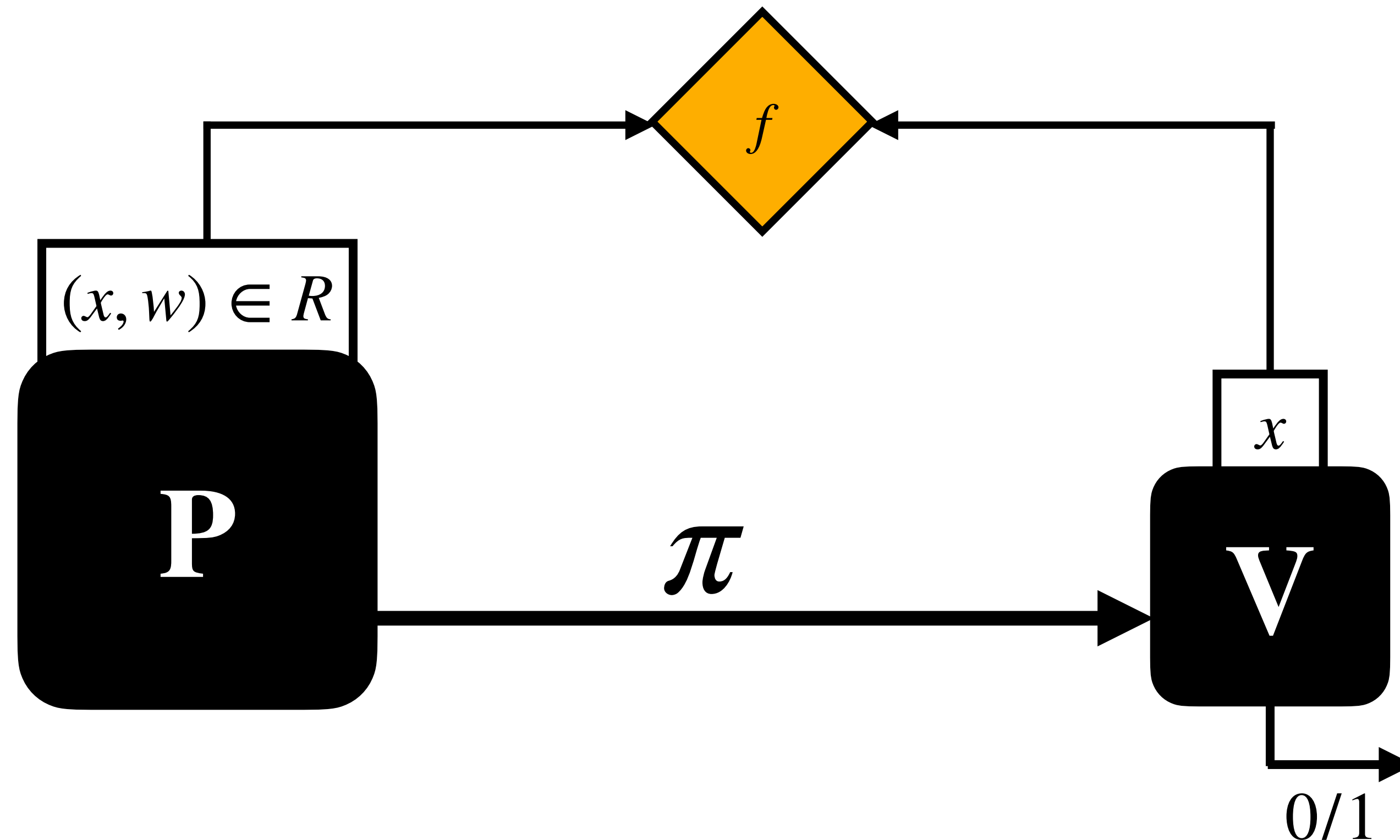
Today: we focus on
hash-based SNARKs

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Today: we focus on

hash-based SNARKs

i.e. sound in the **pure** random oracle model.

Hash-based SNARKs

In practice

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Irreducible



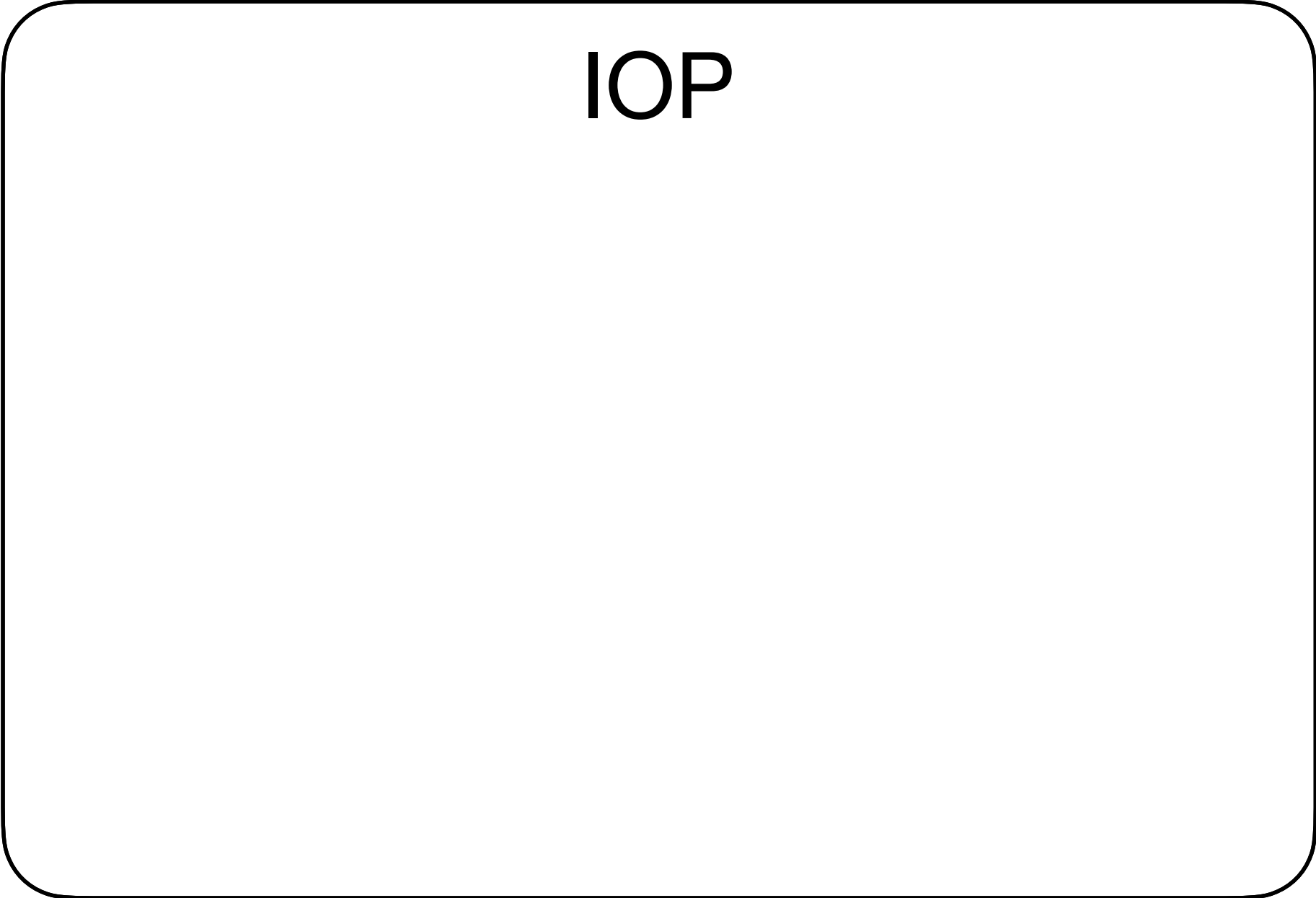
And many more...

Constructing SNARKs

[BCS16] Construction

Constructing SNARKs

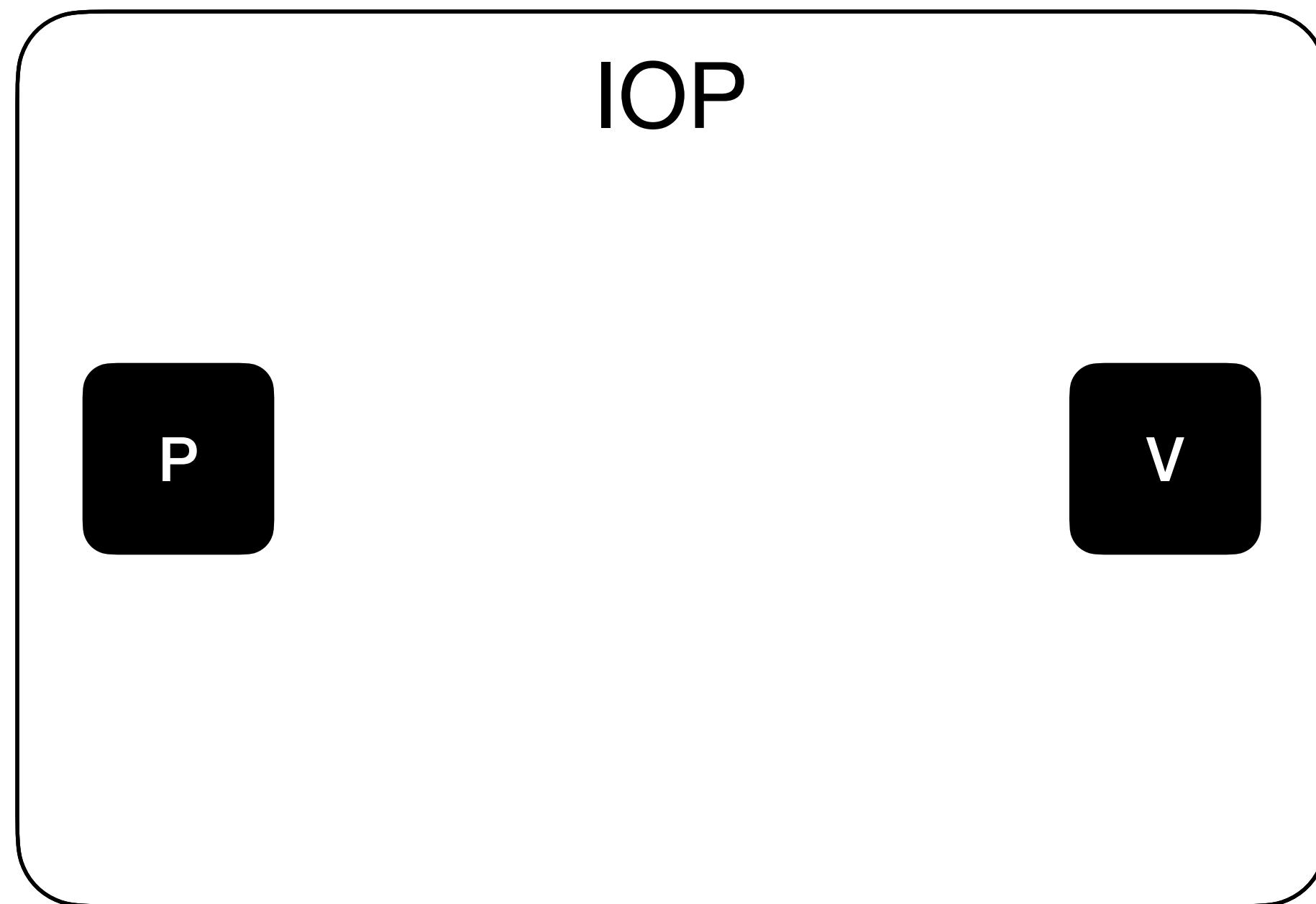
[BCS16] Construction



IOP

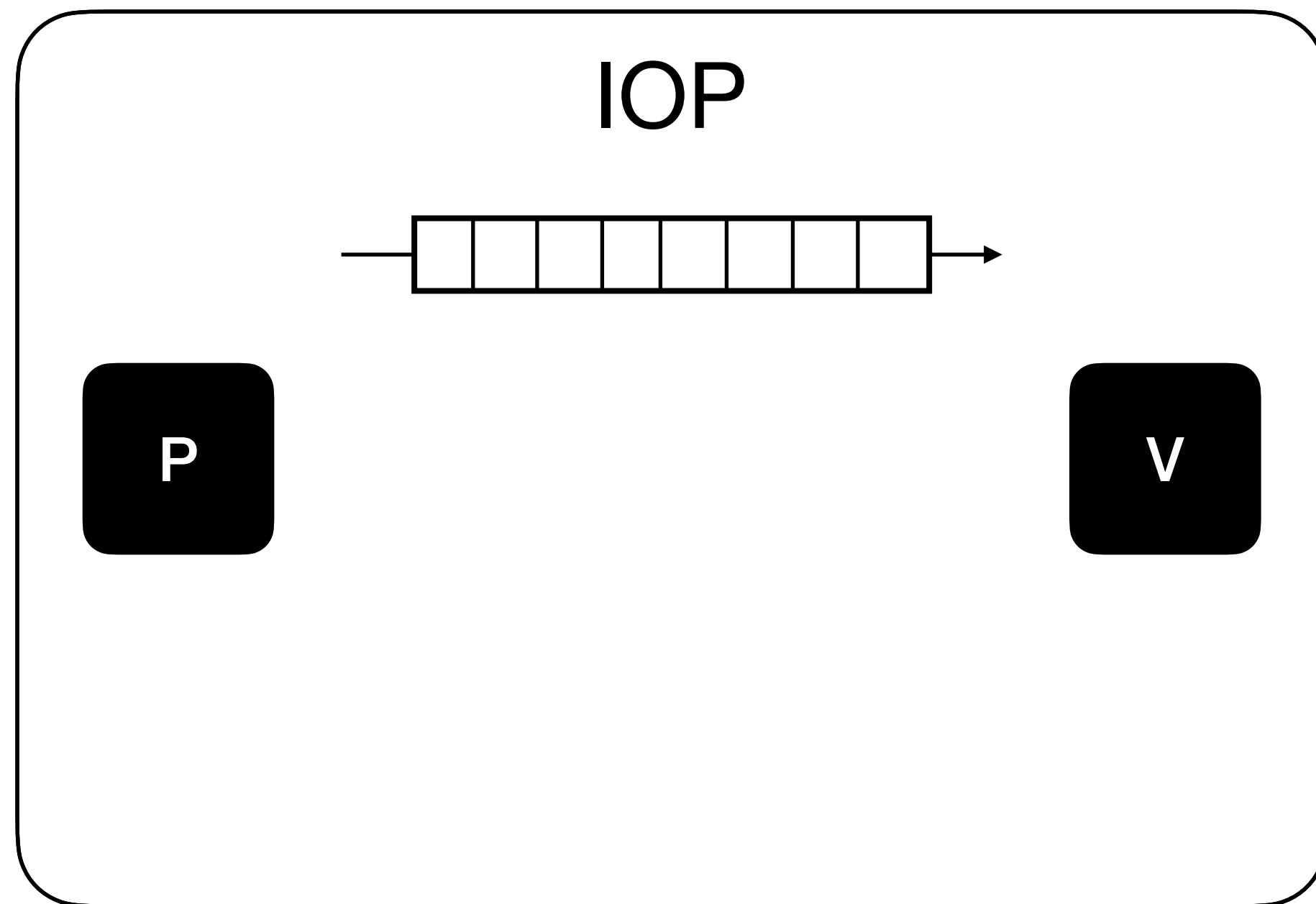
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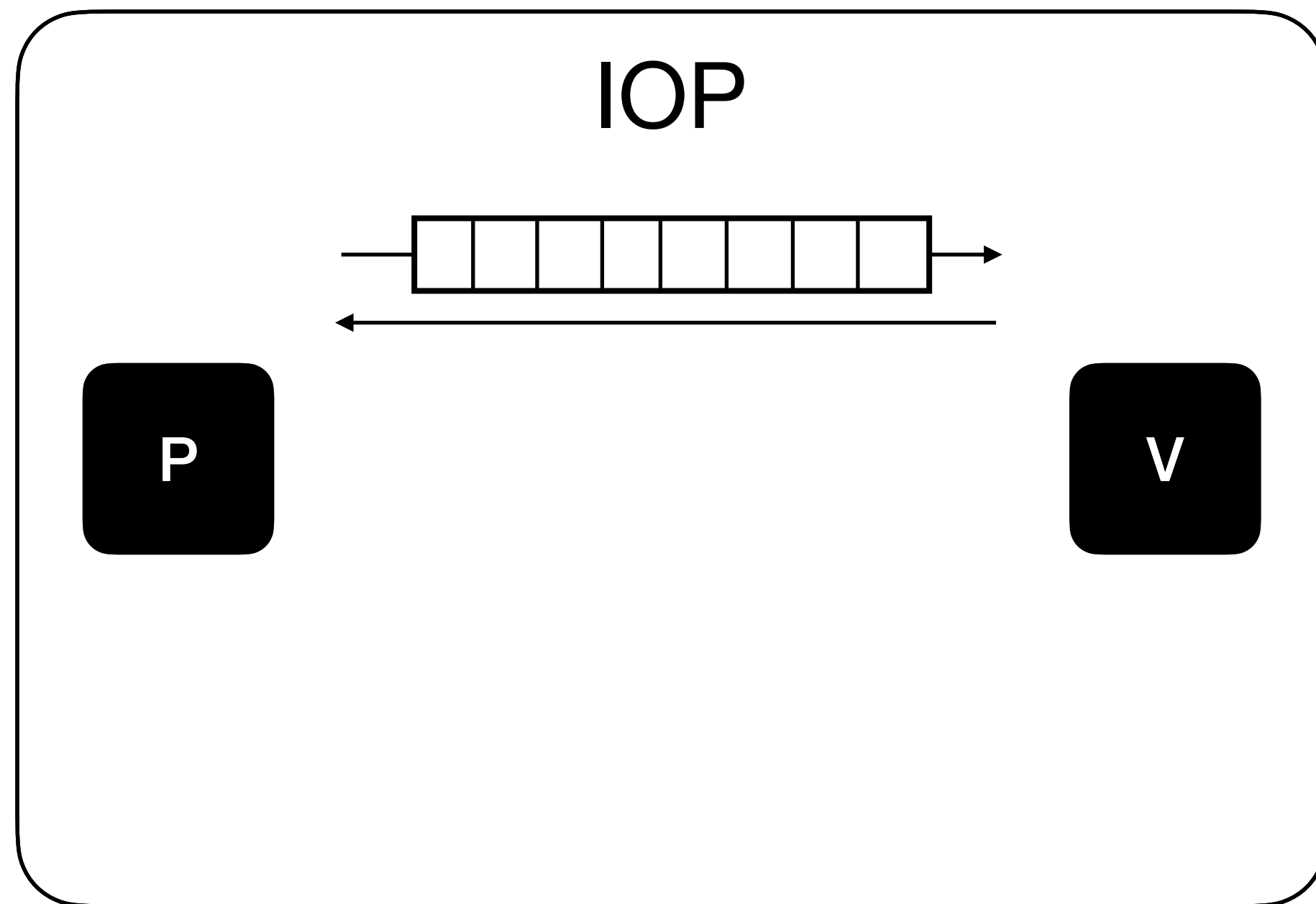
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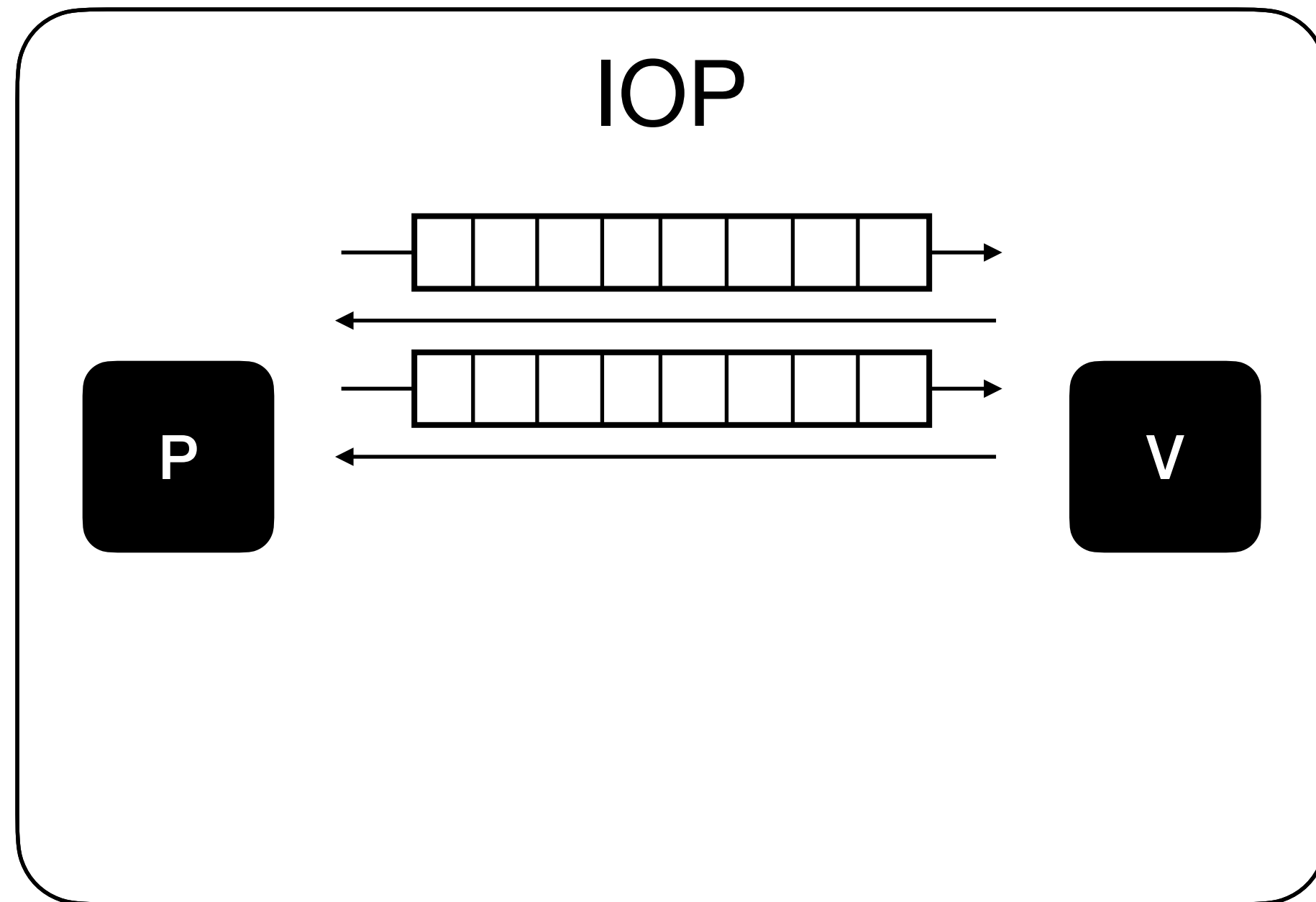
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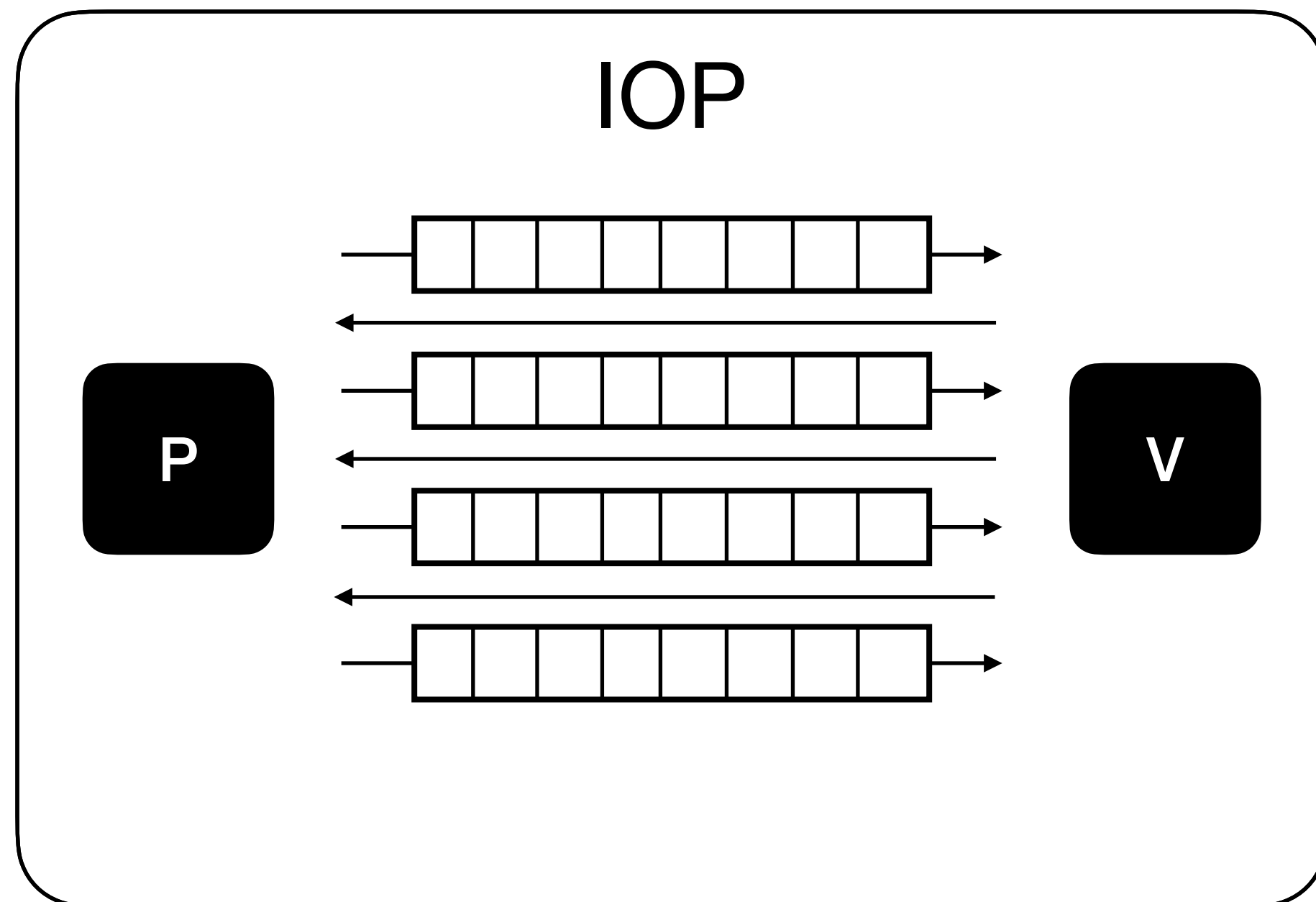
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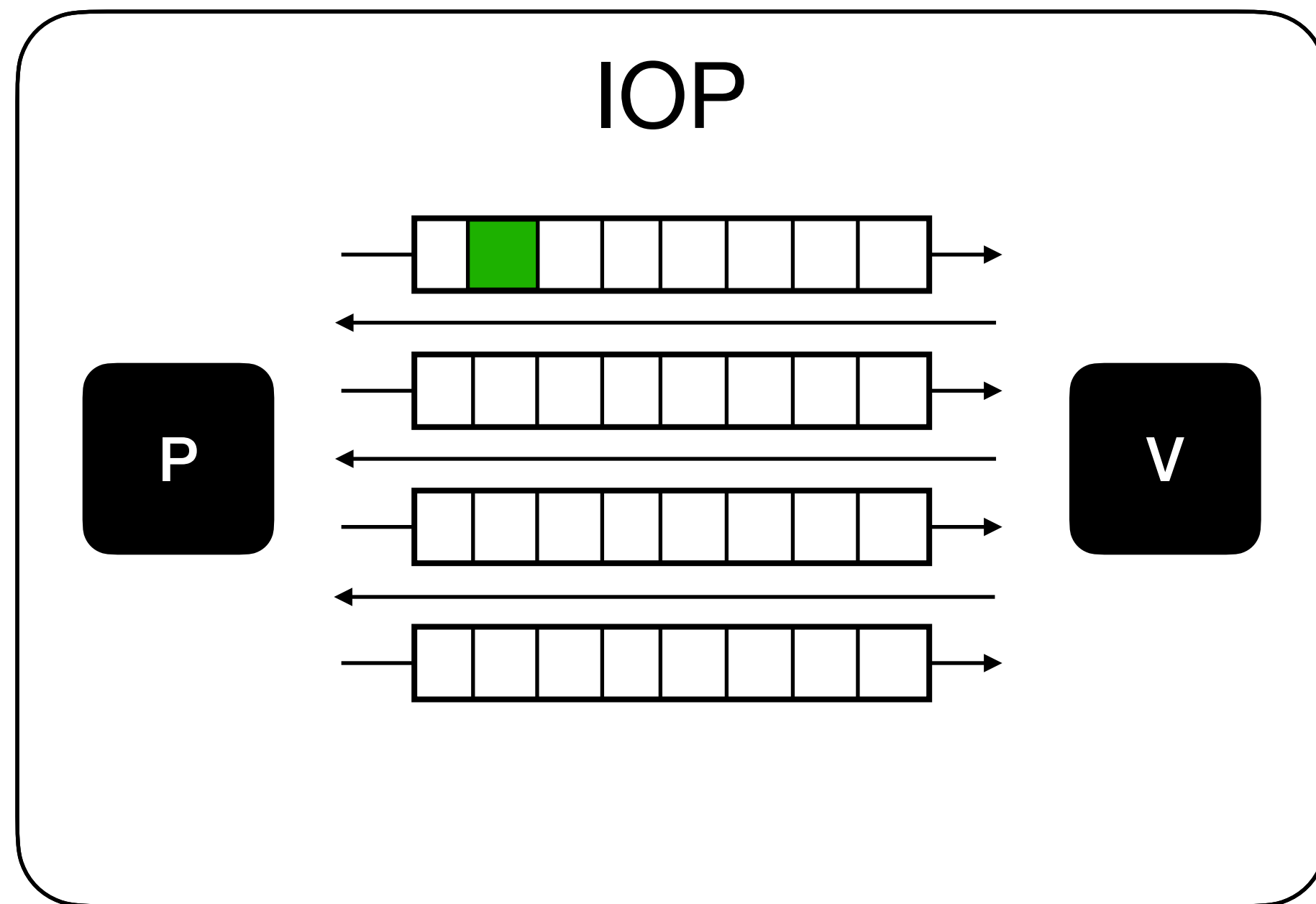
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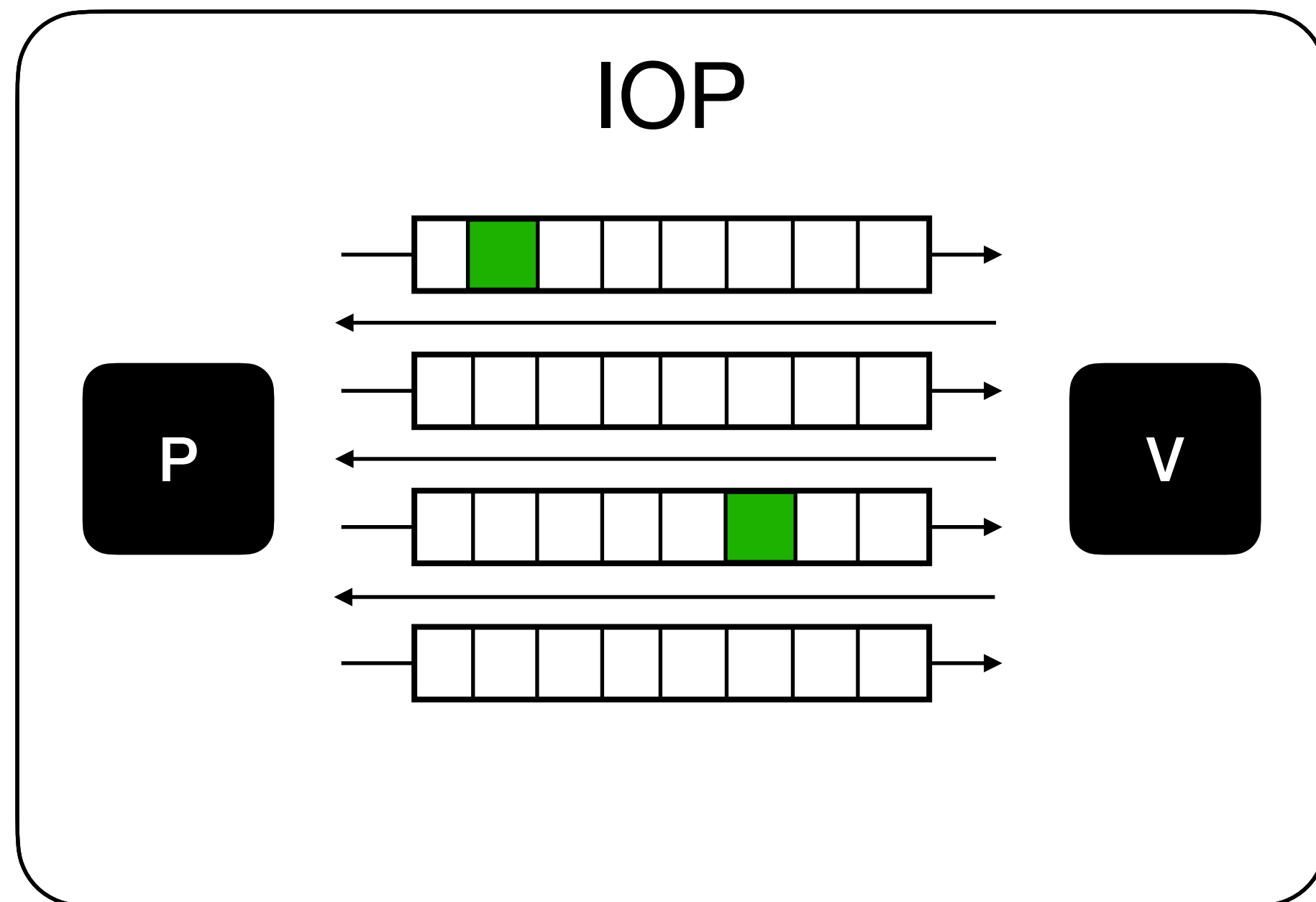
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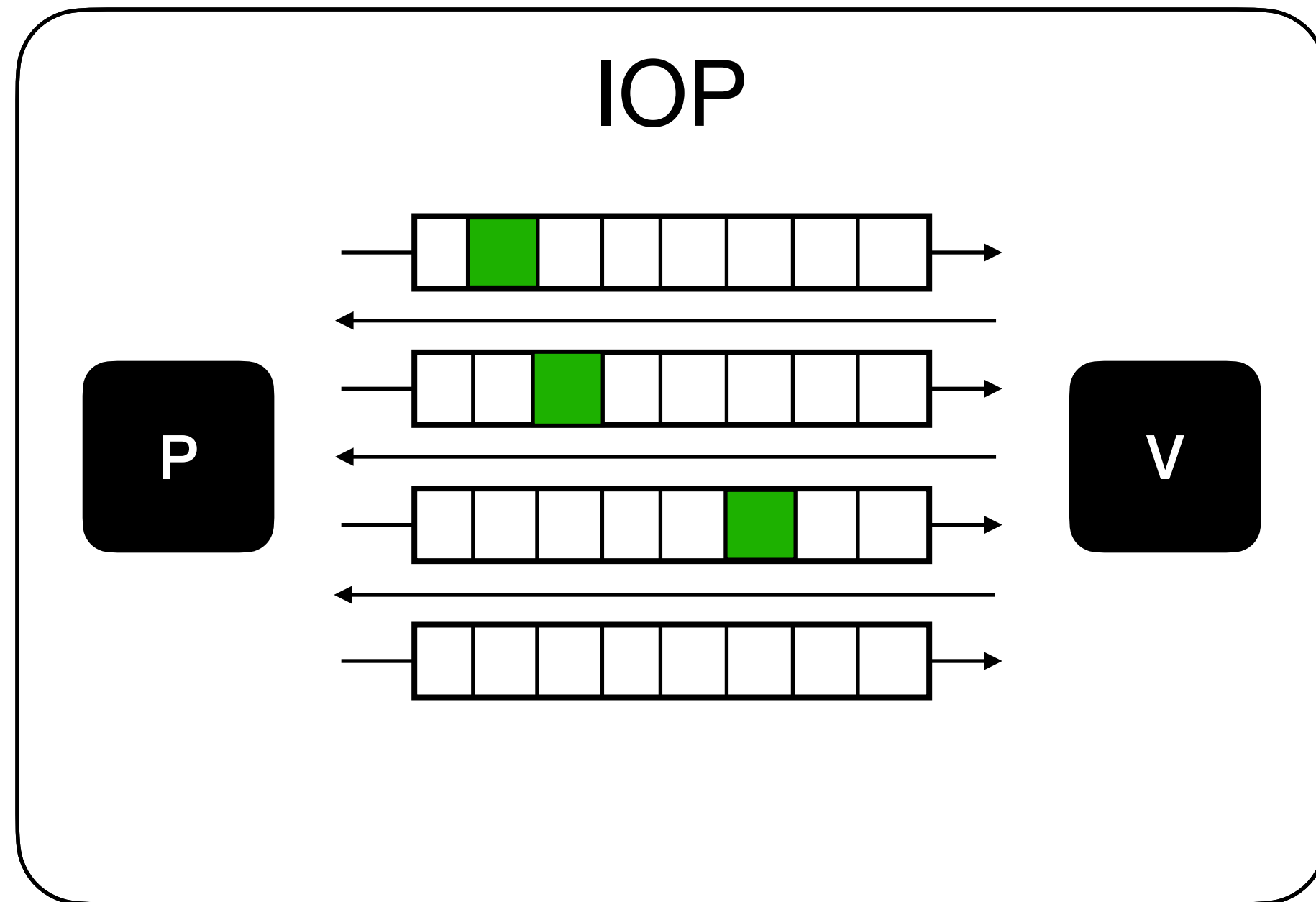
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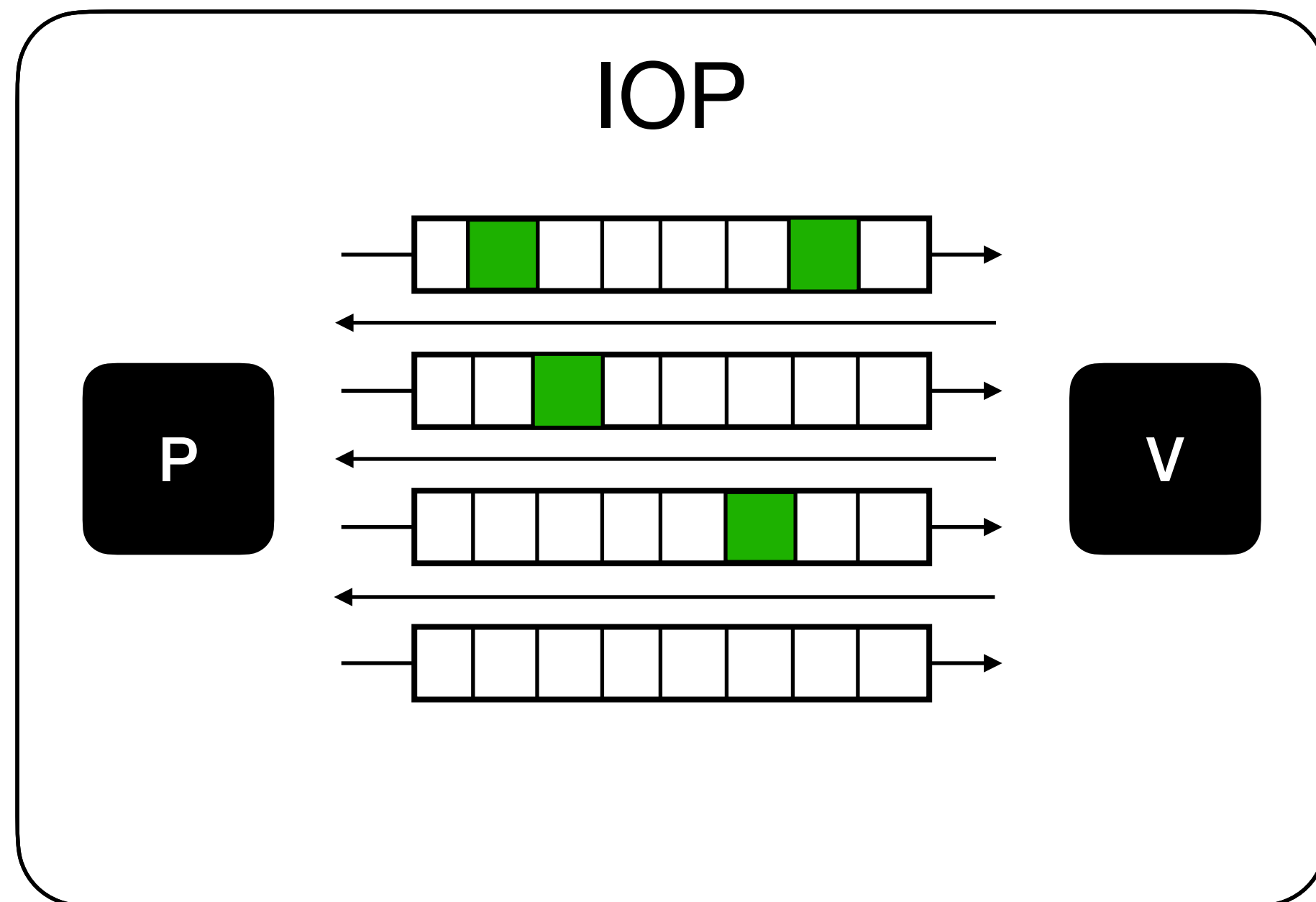
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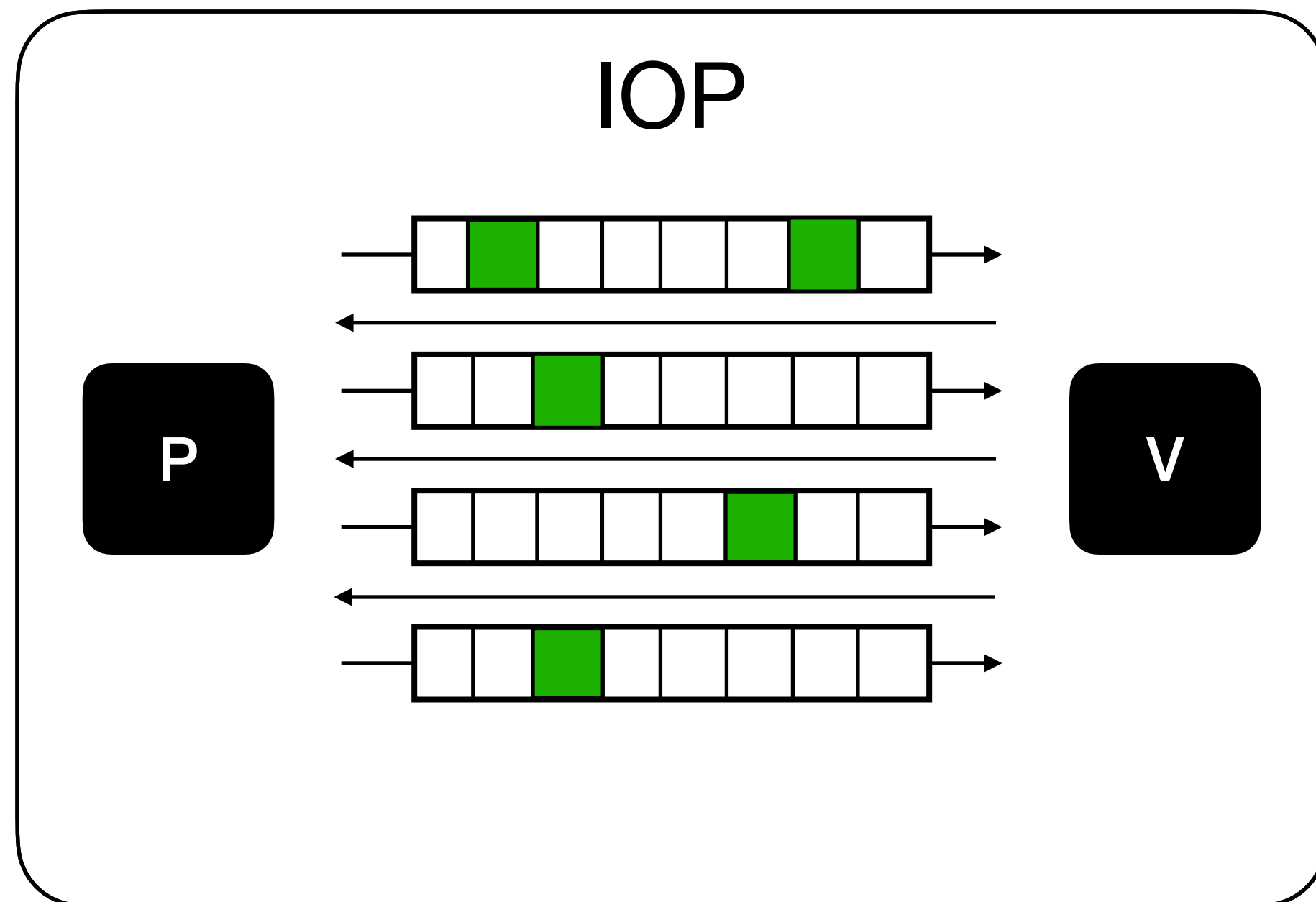
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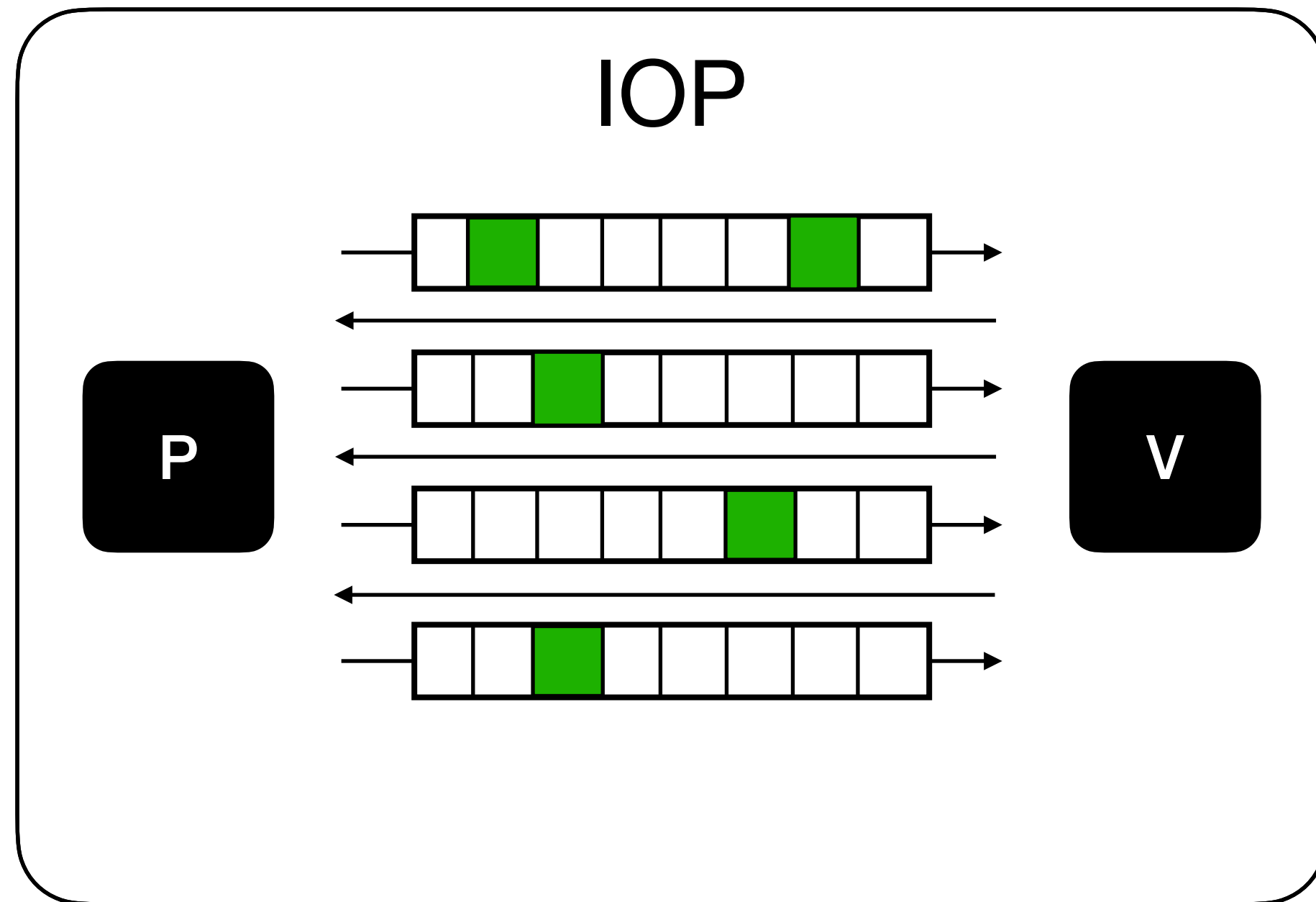
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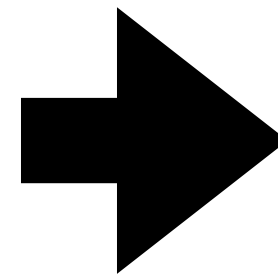


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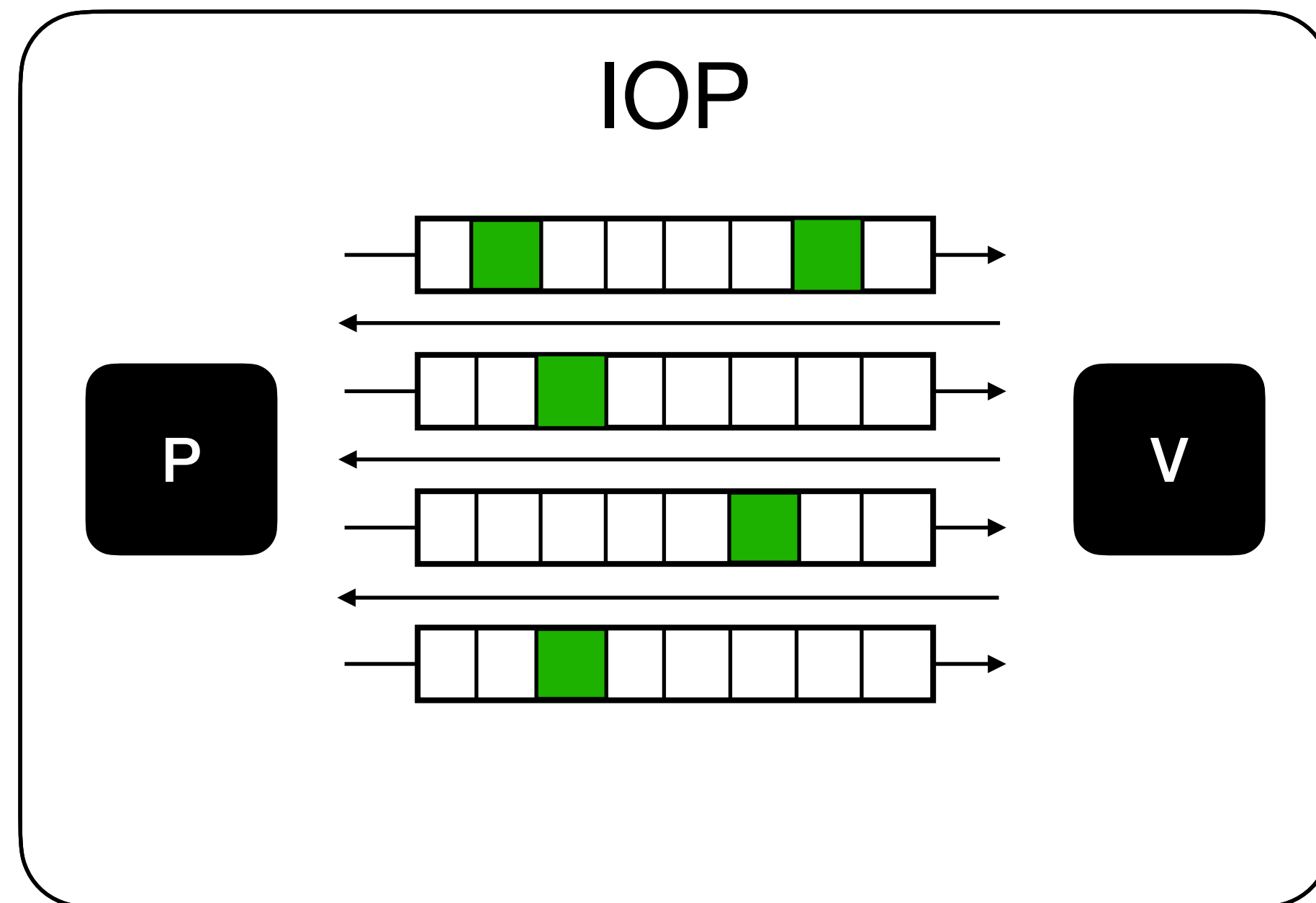


BCS construction:
Merkle Trees + FS

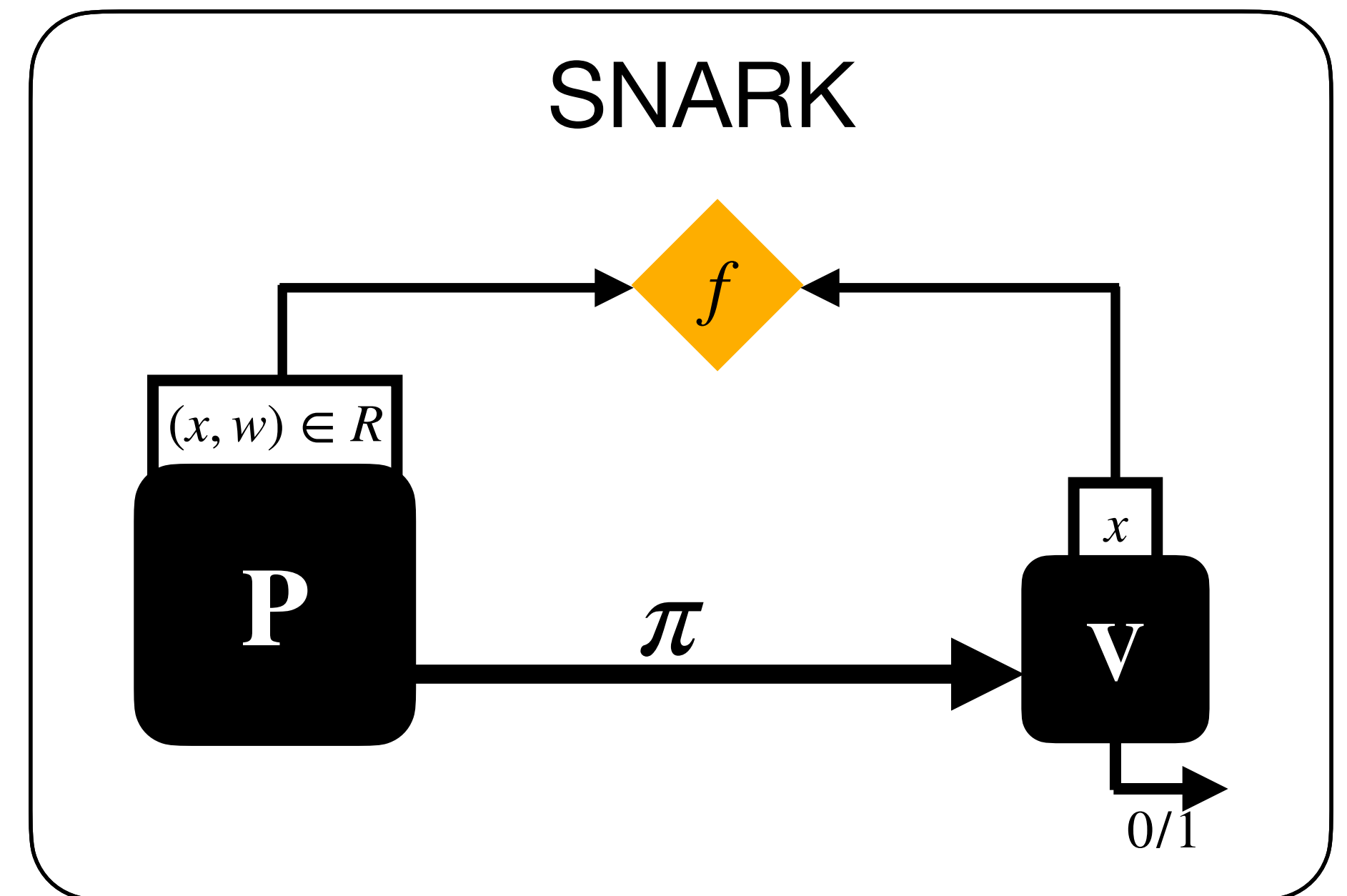
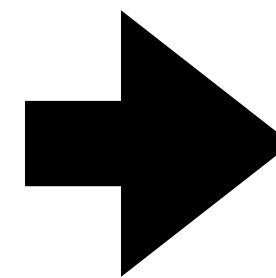


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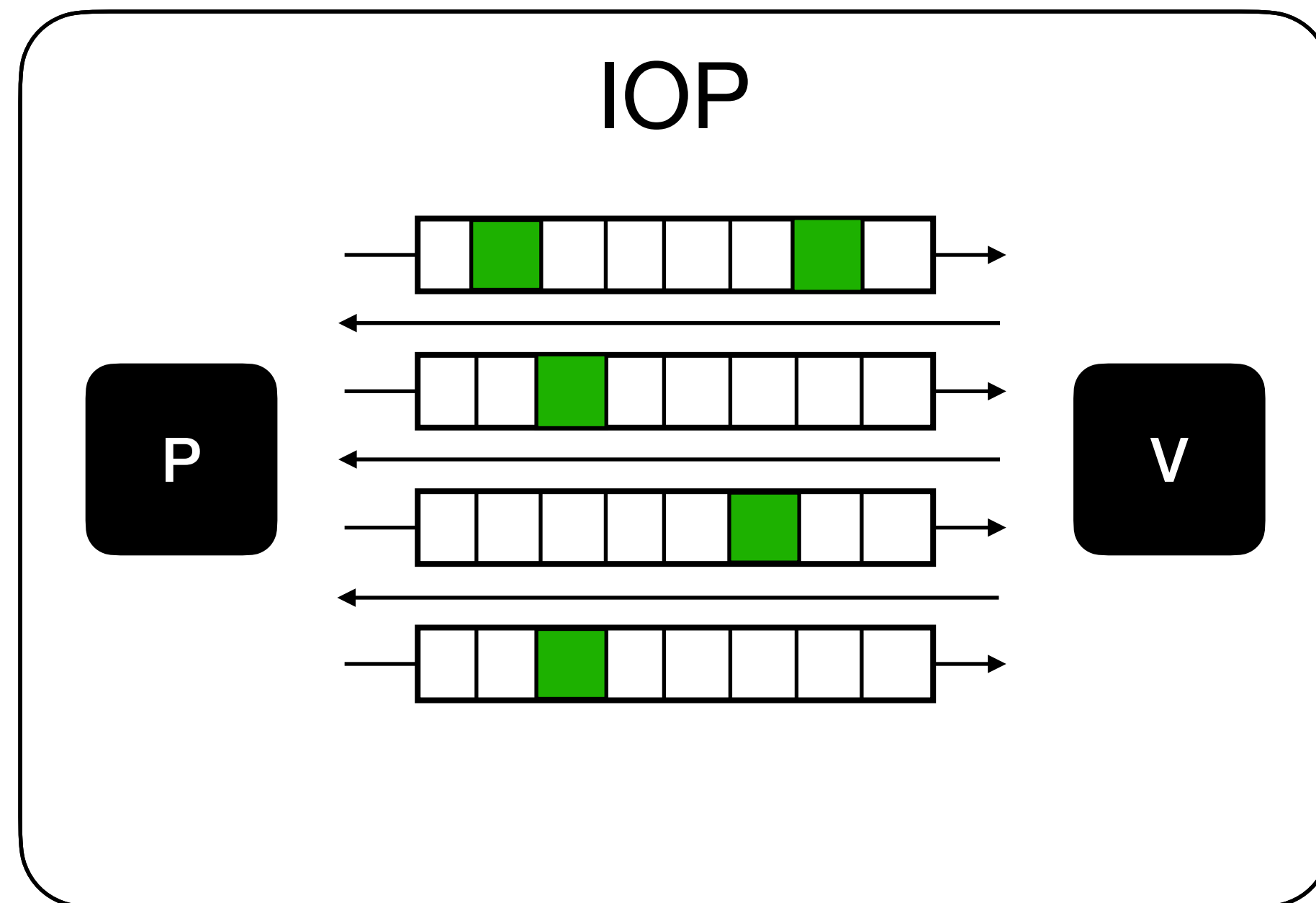


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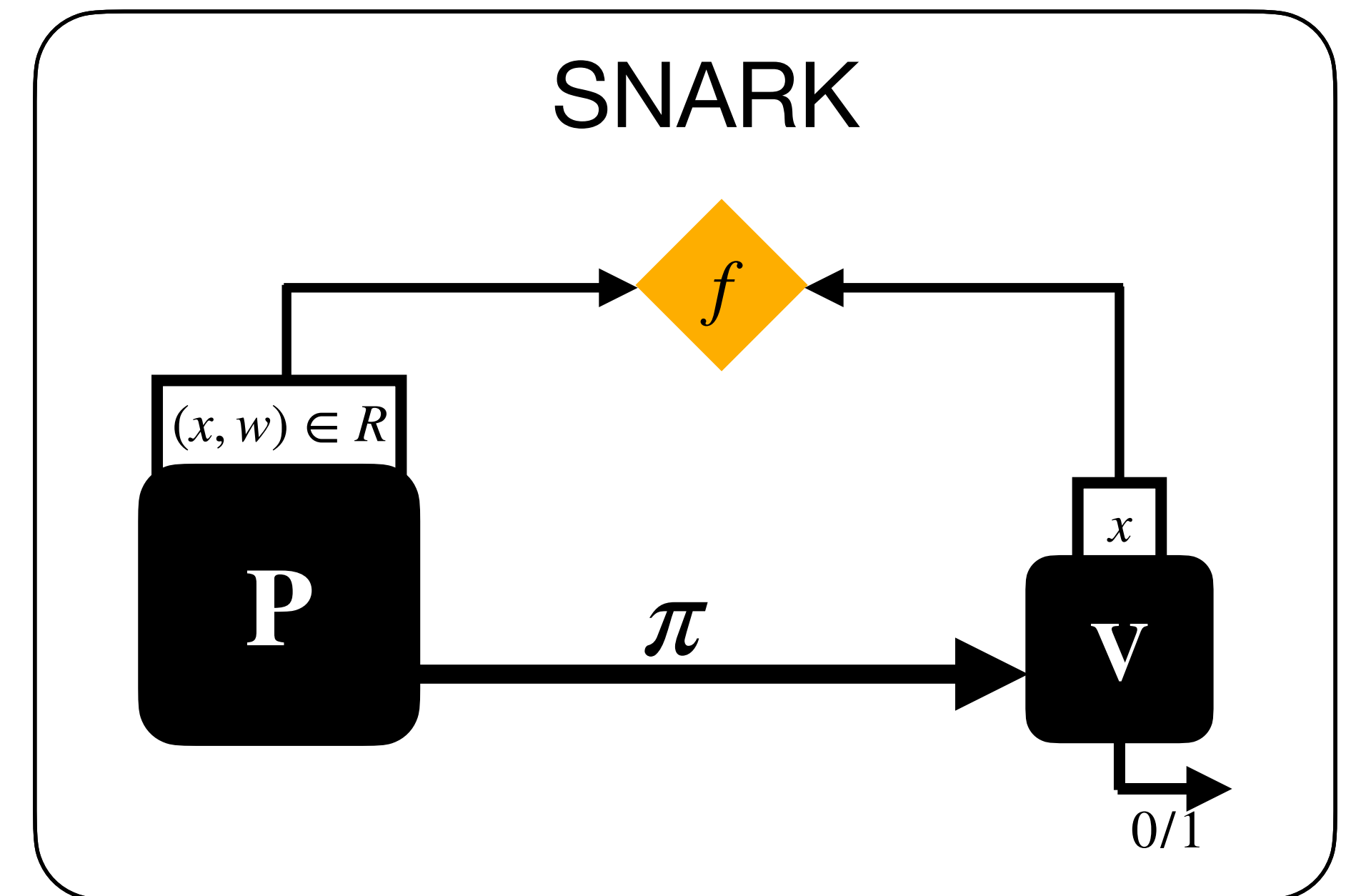
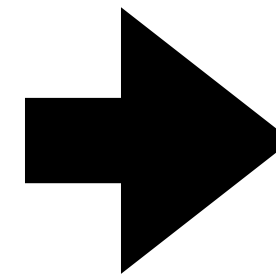


Constructing SNARKs

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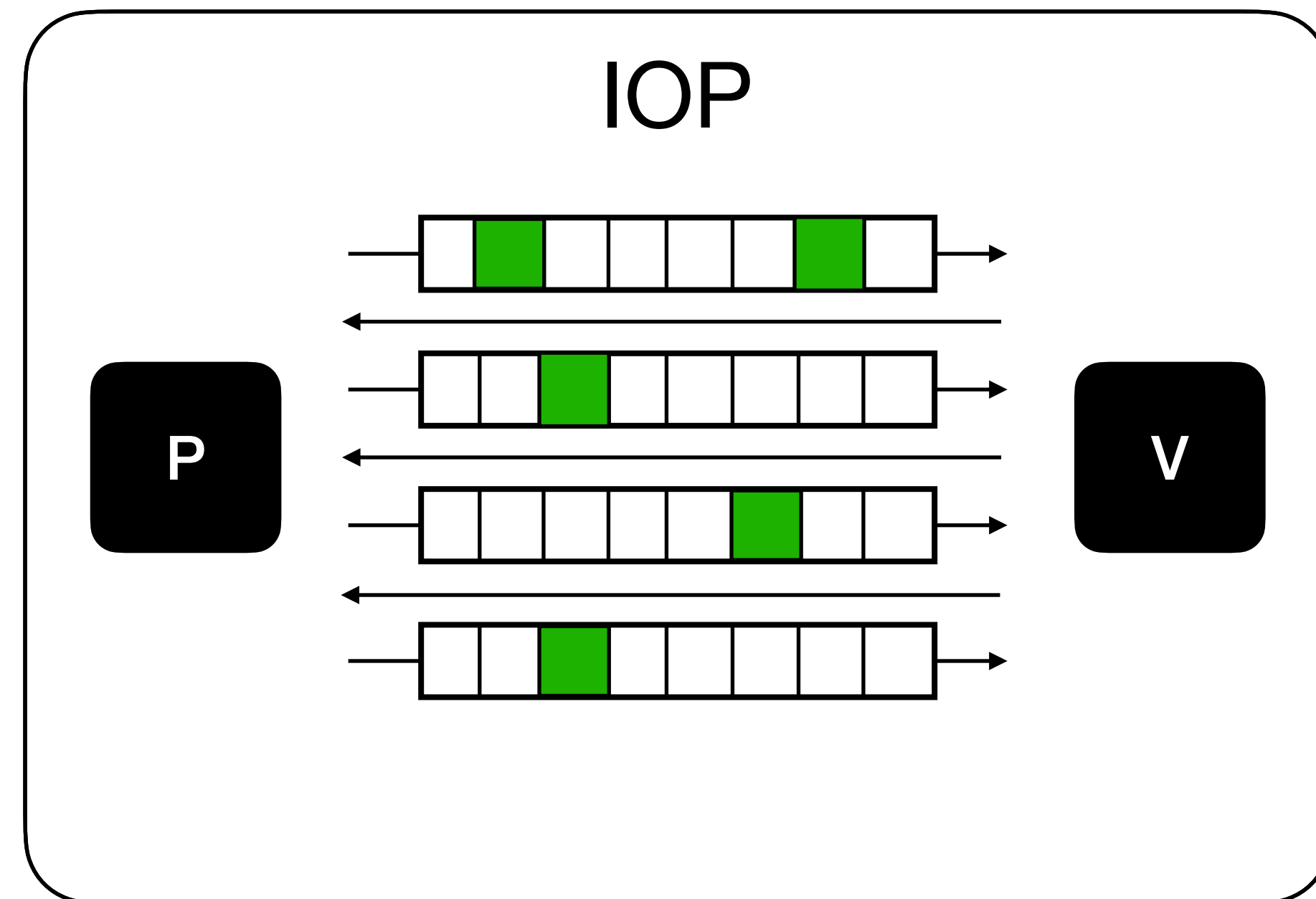


Proof length $l \approx O(n)$

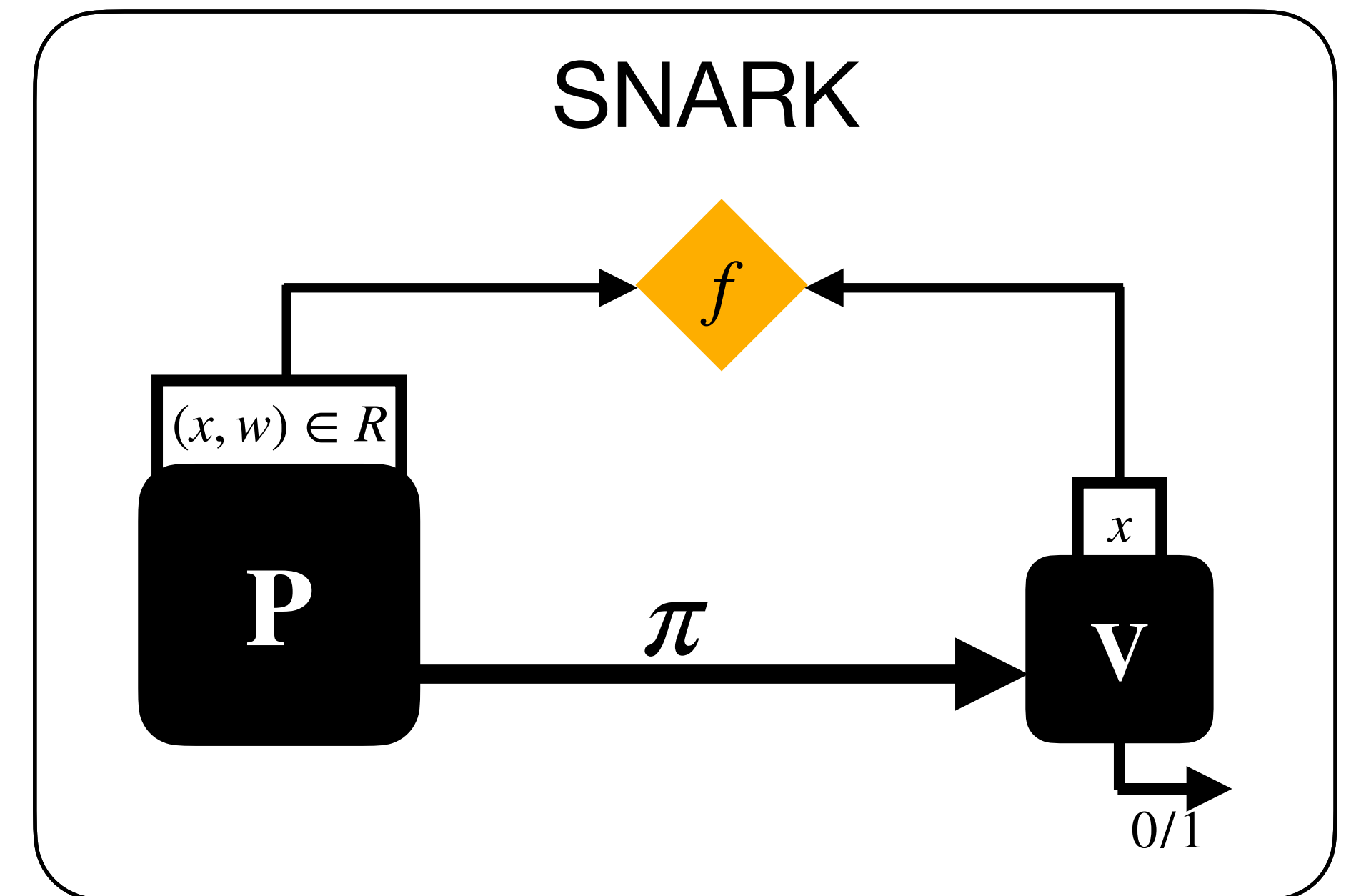
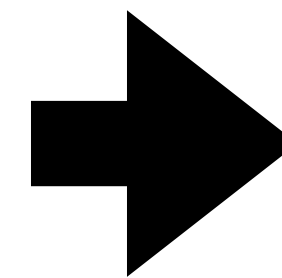
Queries $q \approx O(\log n)$

Constructing SNARKs

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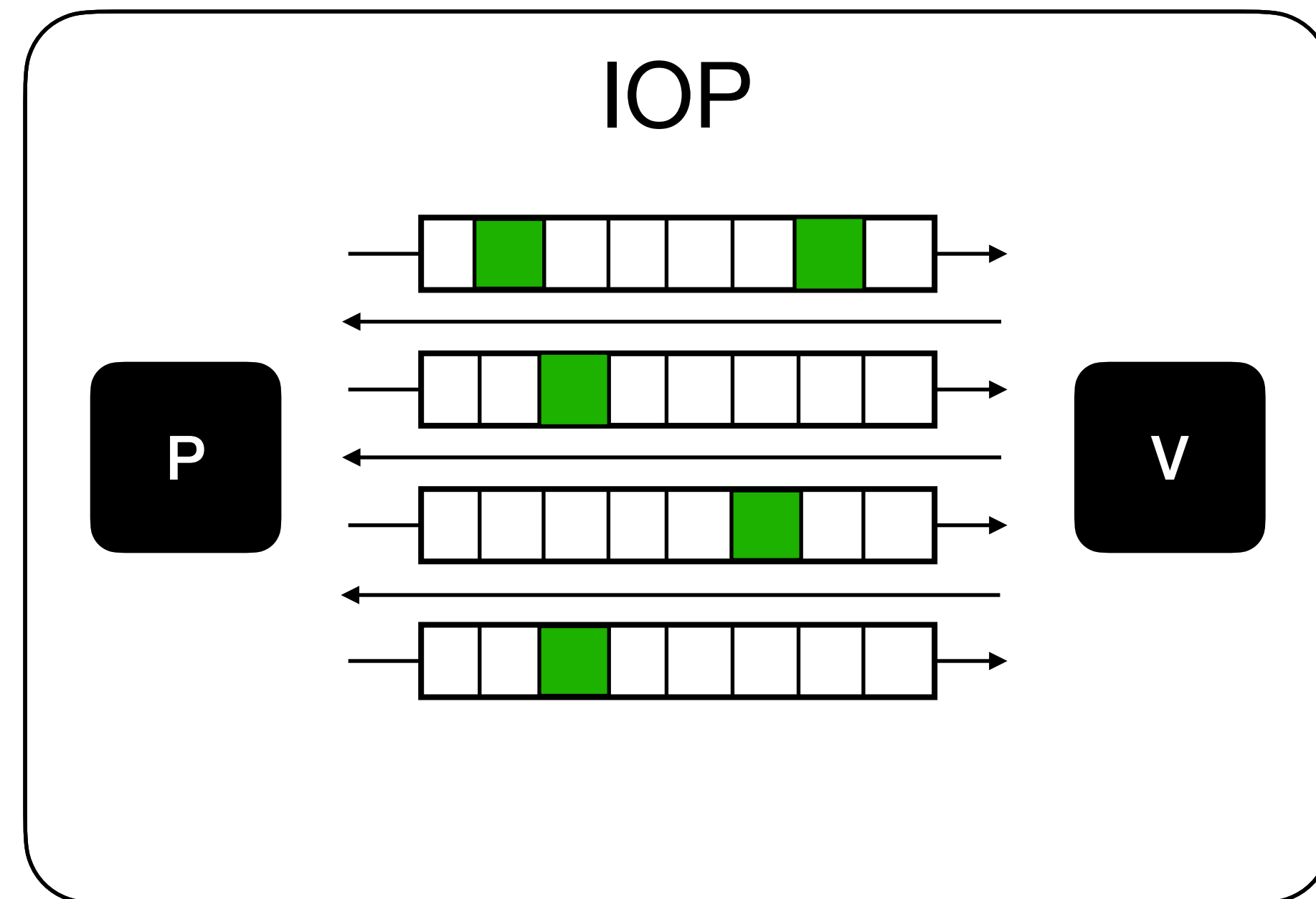


Proof length $l \approx O(n)$ **Large, think 2^{24}**

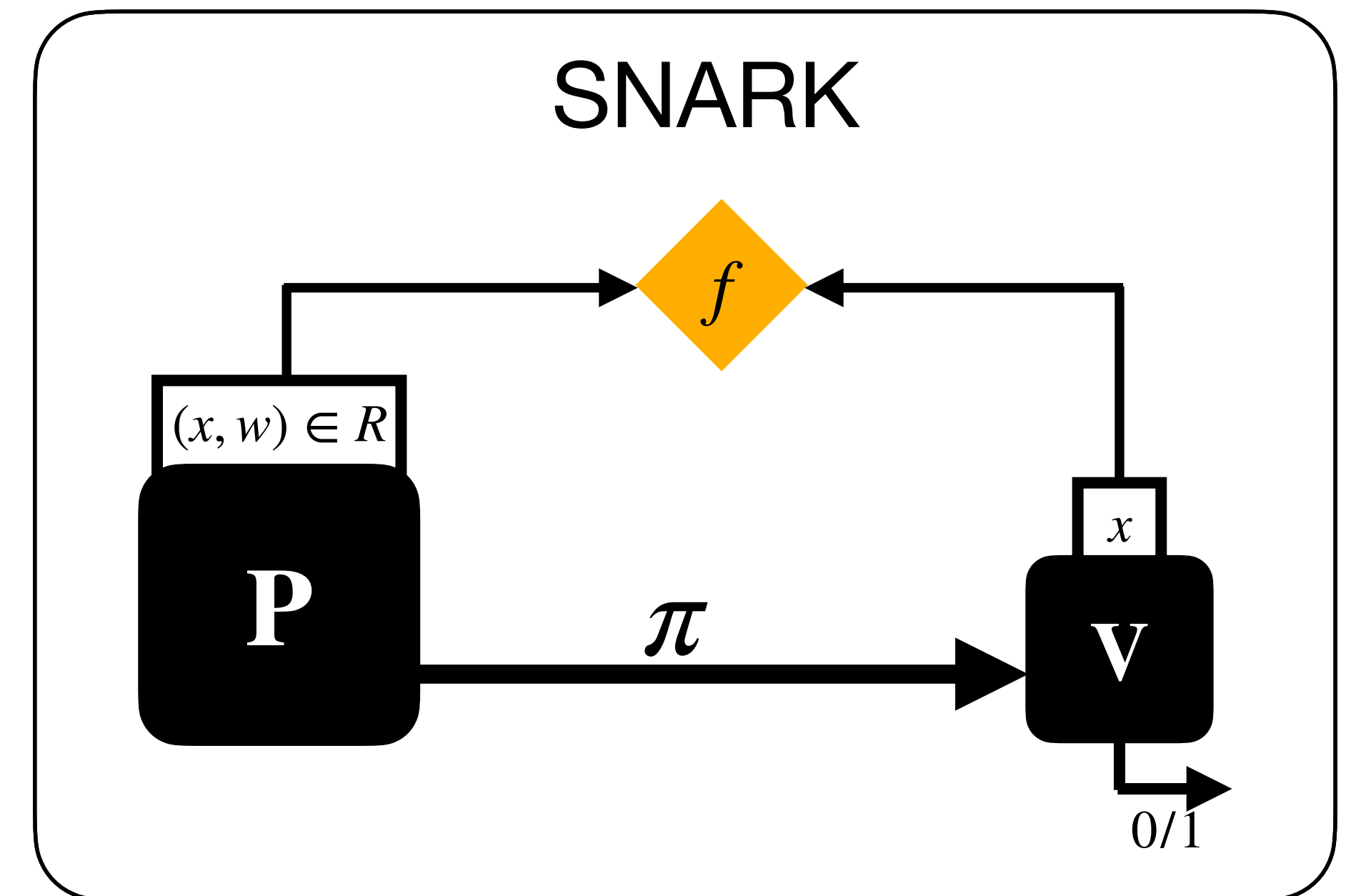
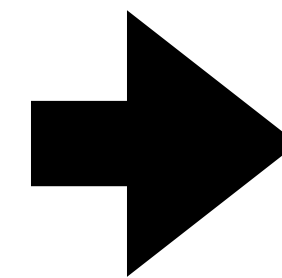
Queries $q \approx O(\log n)$ **Small, think ~ 400**

Constructing SNARKs

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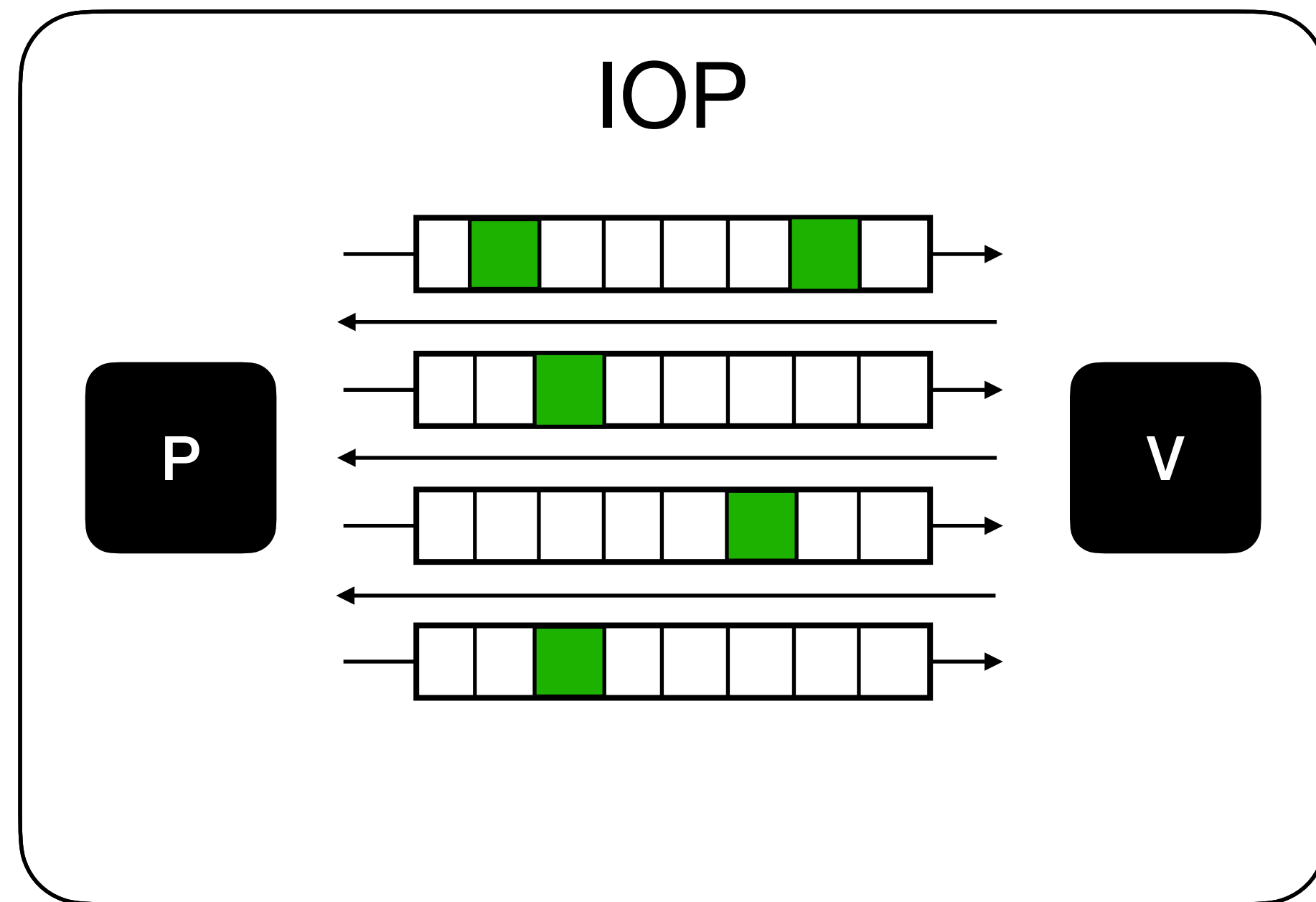
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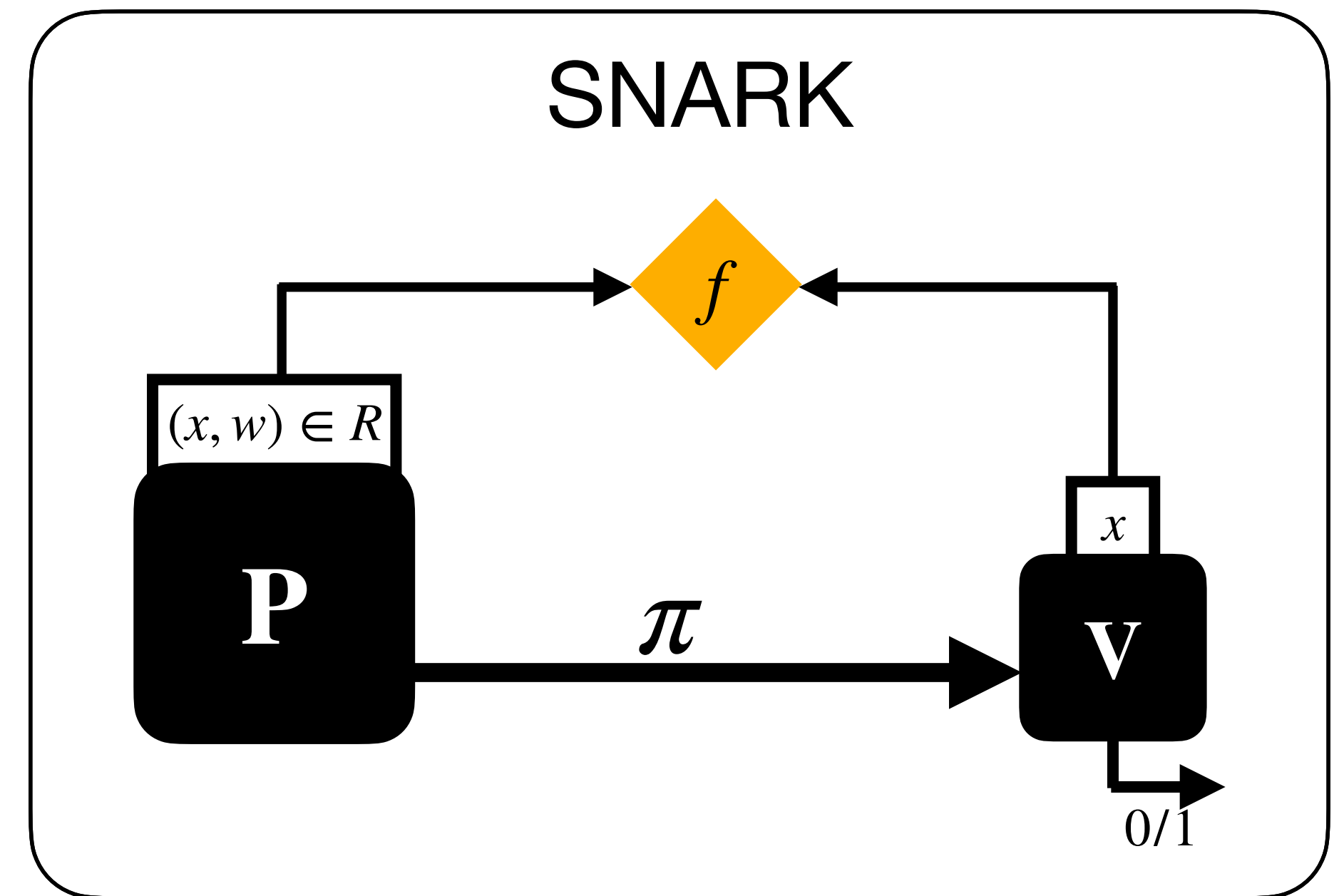
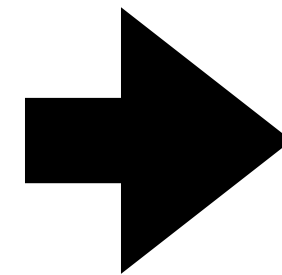
Argument size $O(\lambda \cdot q \cdot \log l)$

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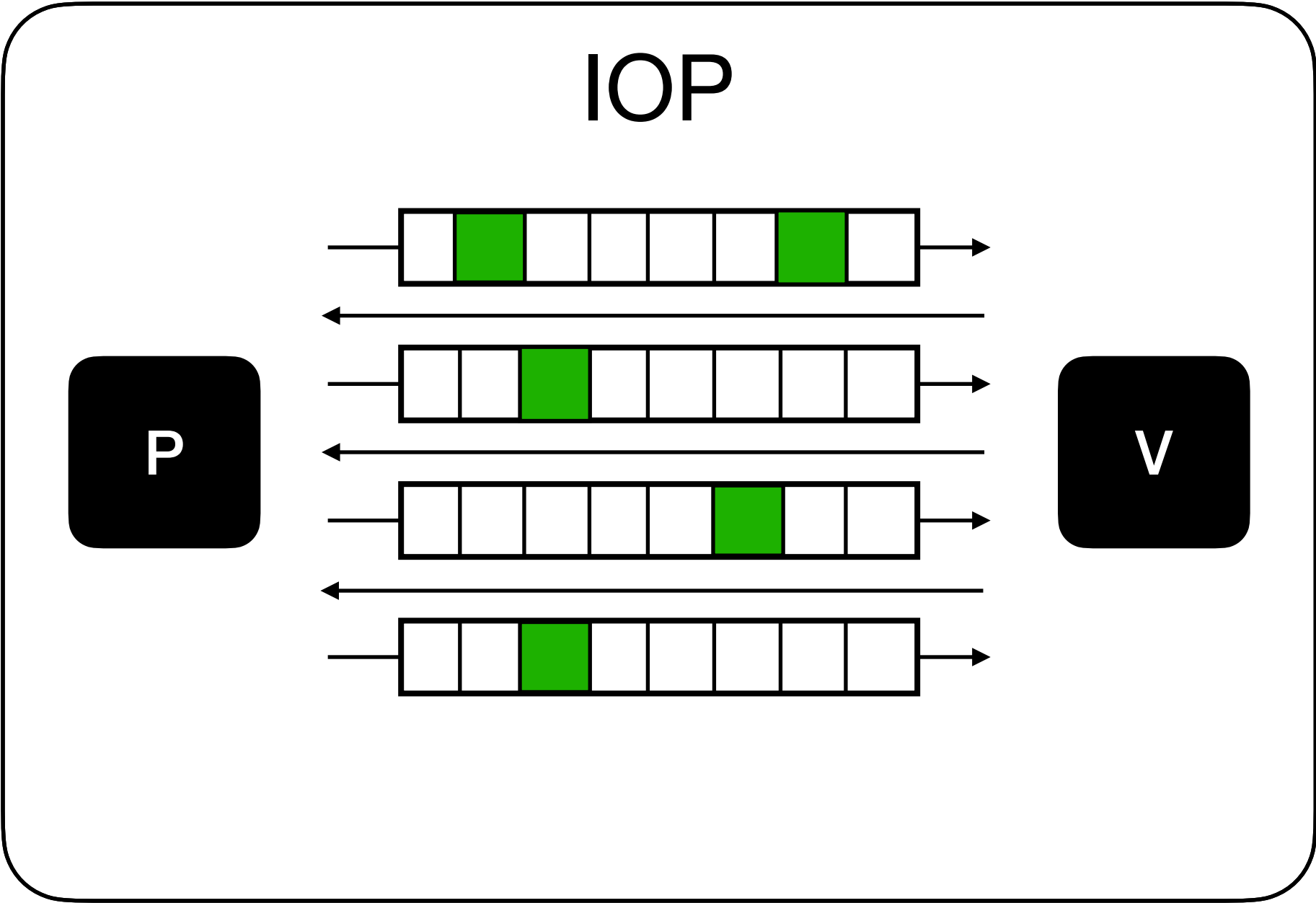
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Small, tens of KiB

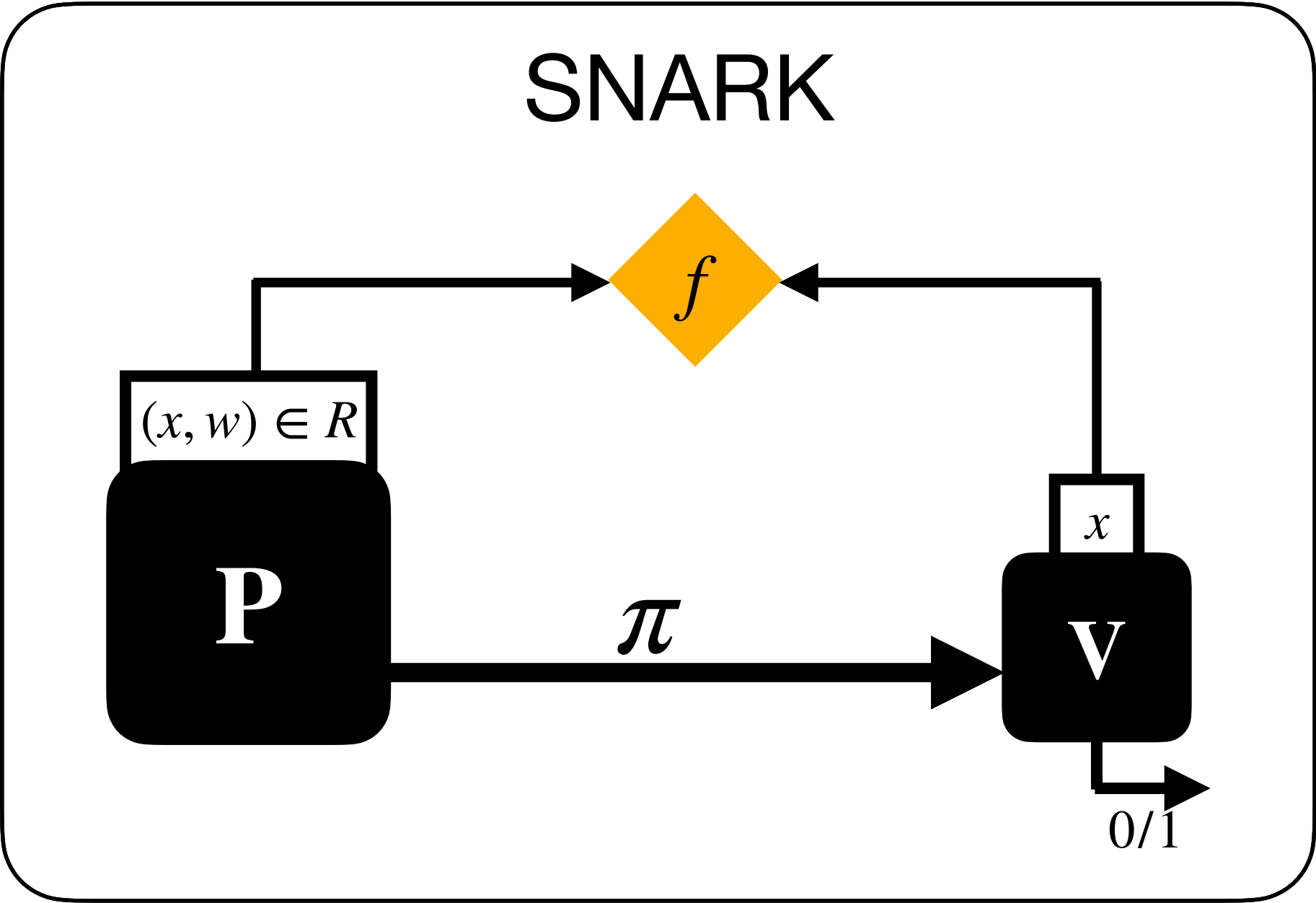
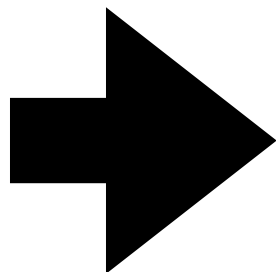
Constructing SNARKs

[BCS16] Construction

In this talk, we focus on the IOP!



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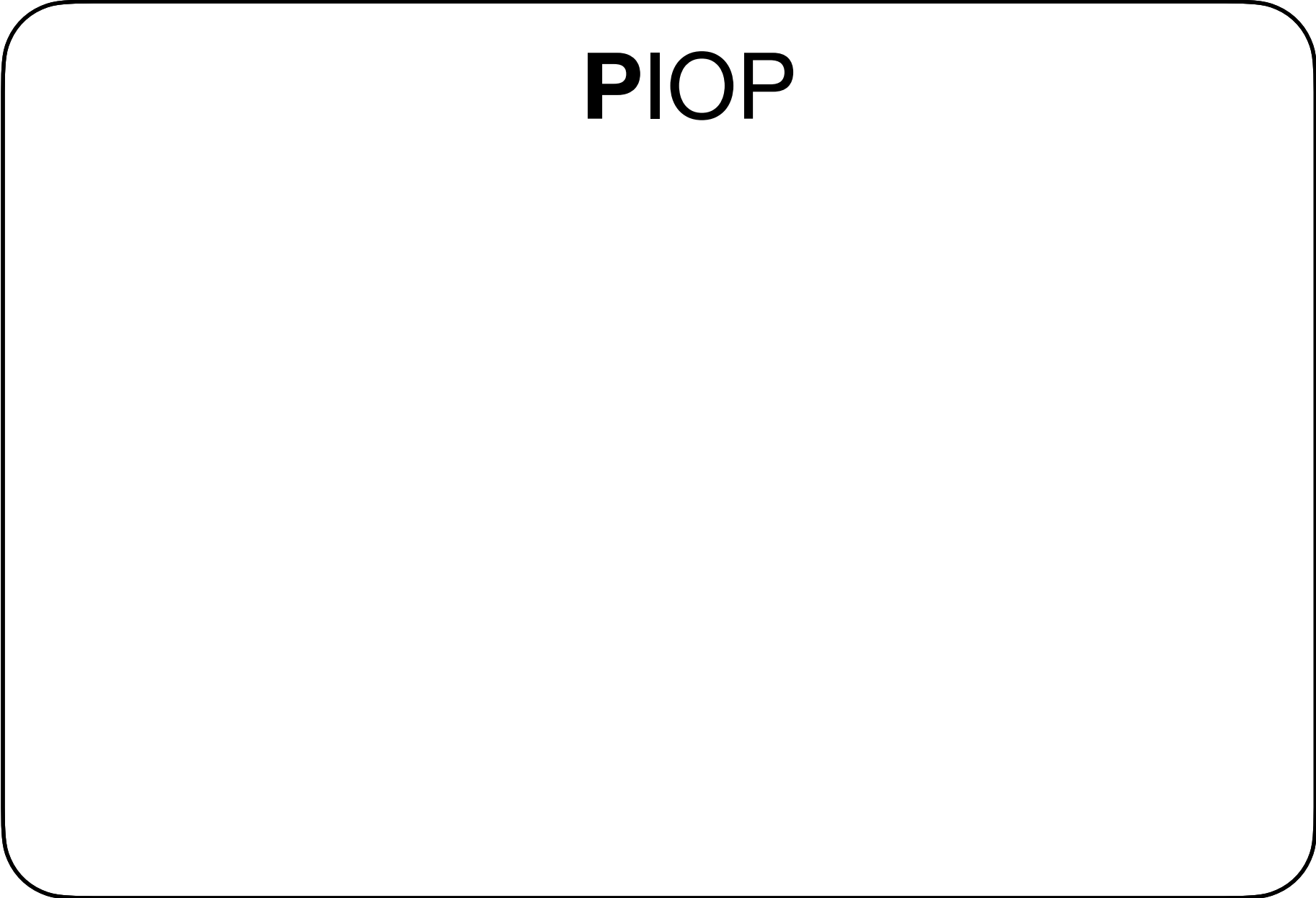
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Constructing IOPs

Traditionally

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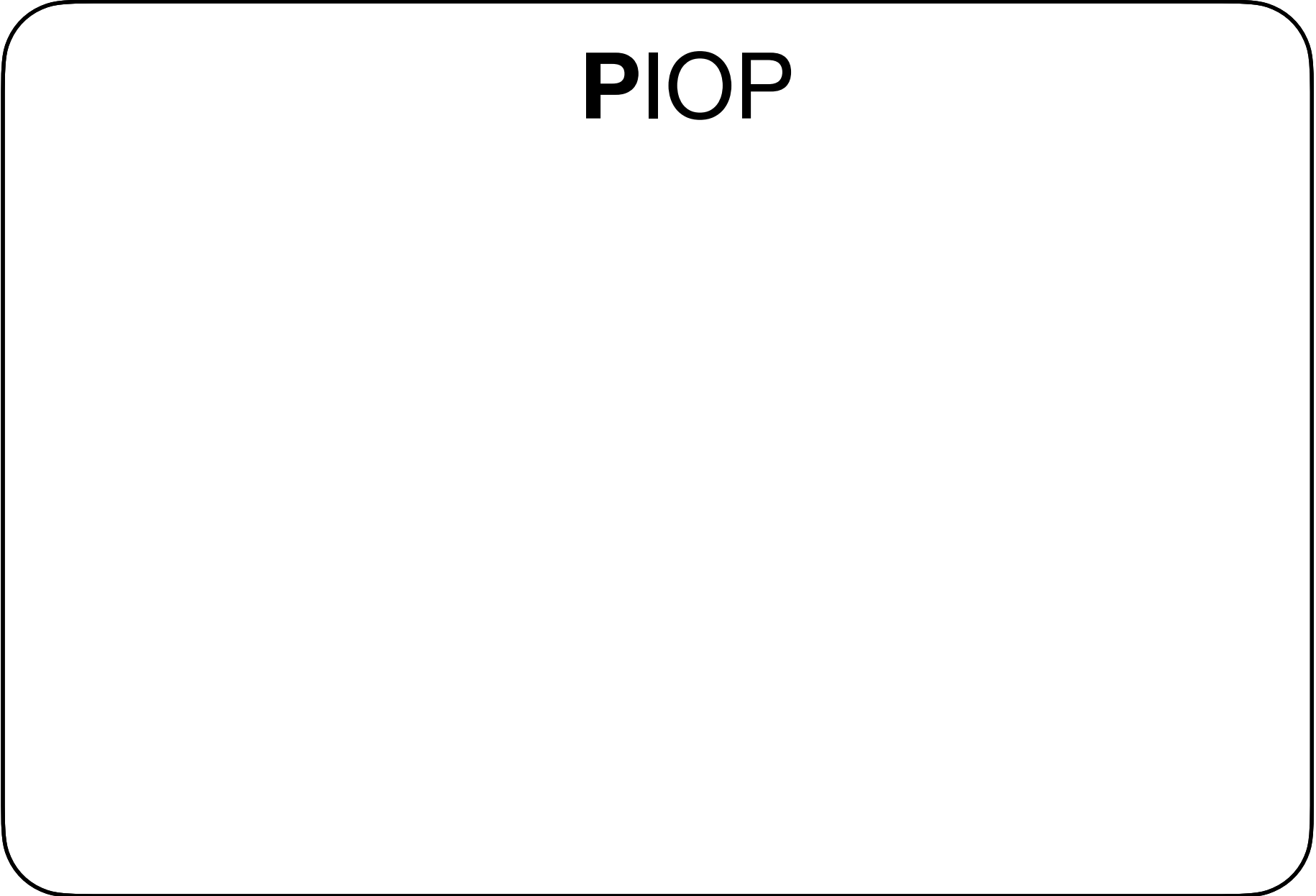
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PIOP

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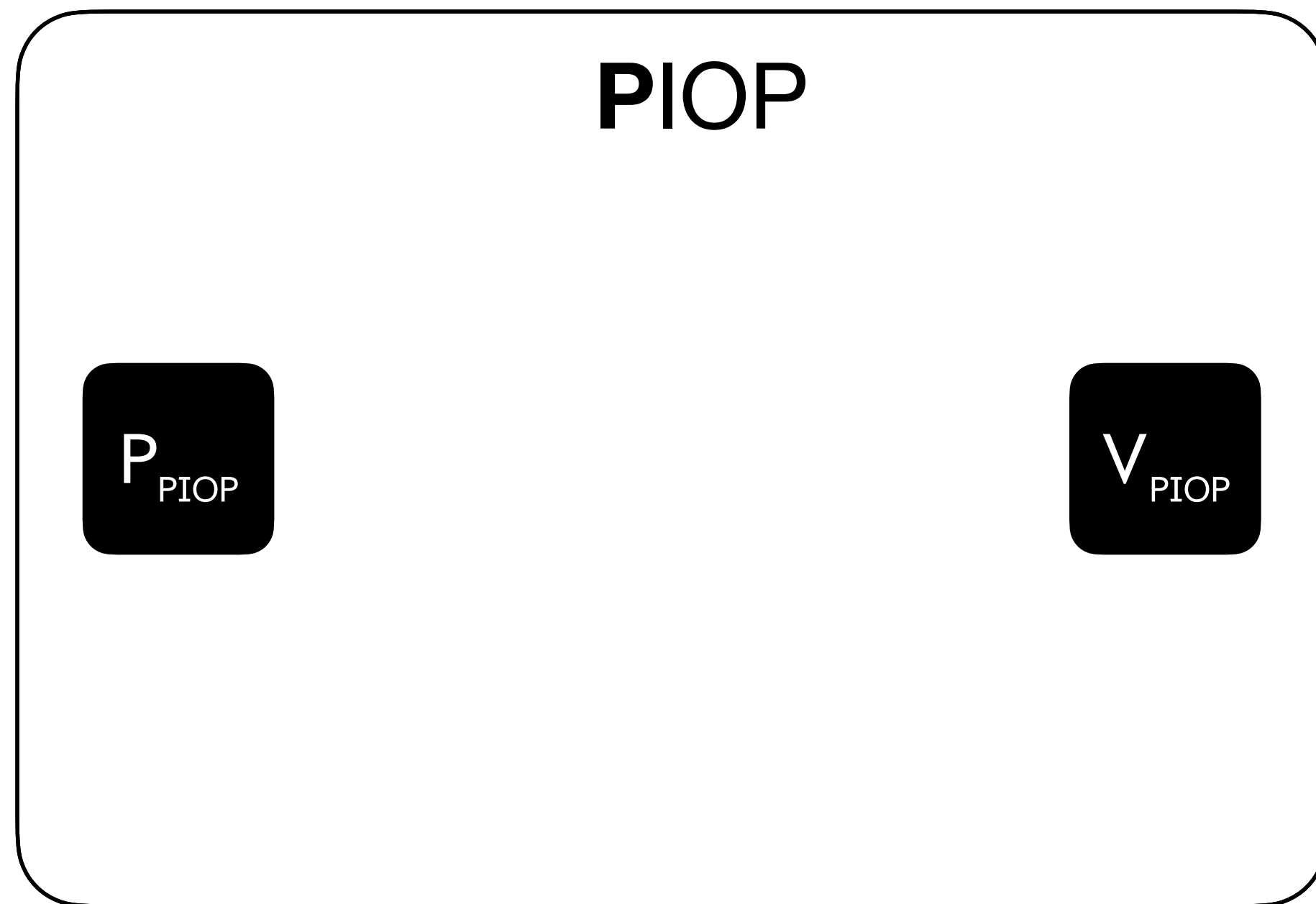
PIOP

Just like IOPs, but prover is forced to send polynomials $\mathbb{F}^{<d}[X]$.

E.g. Aurora, STARK PIOP etc.

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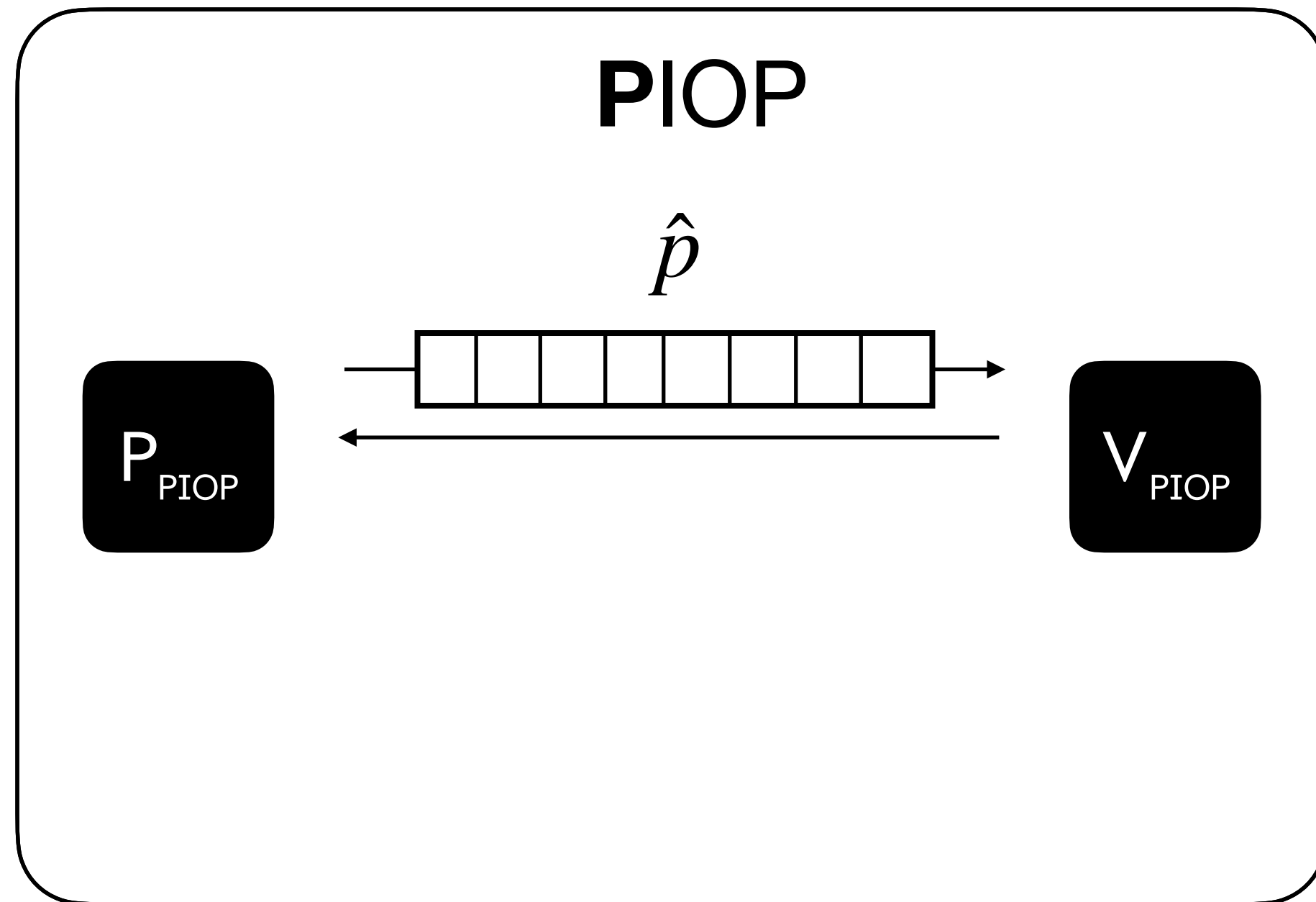


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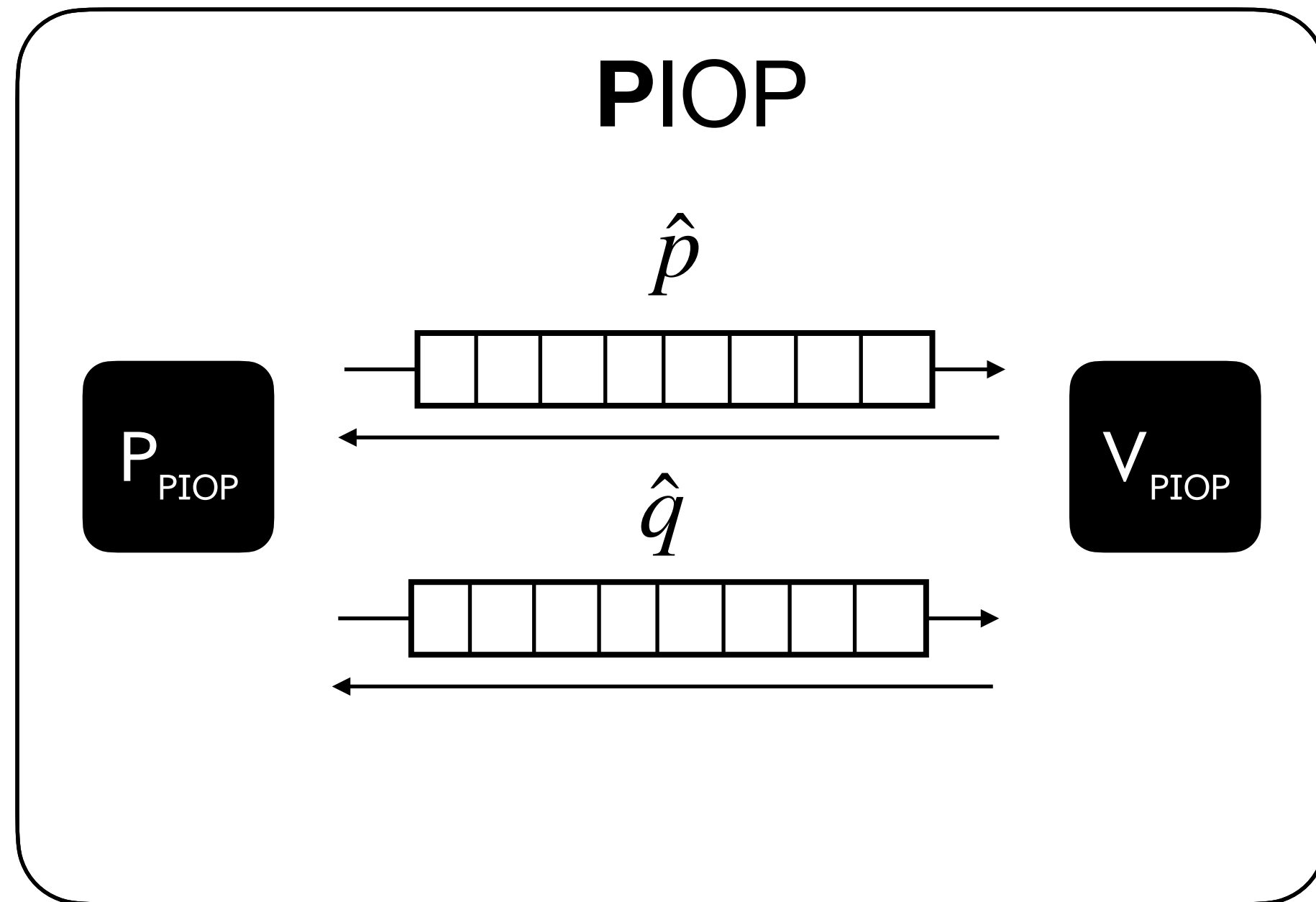


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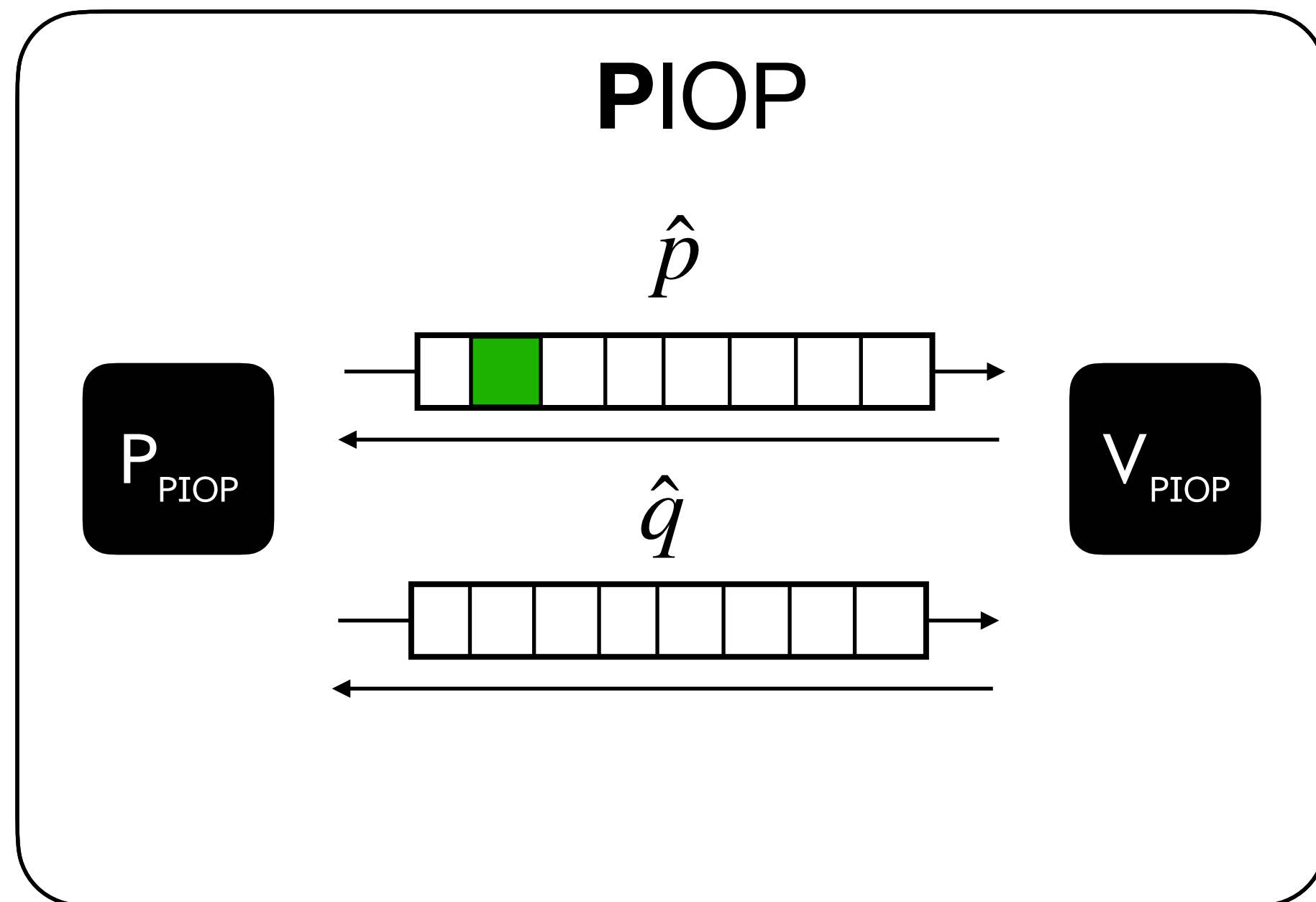


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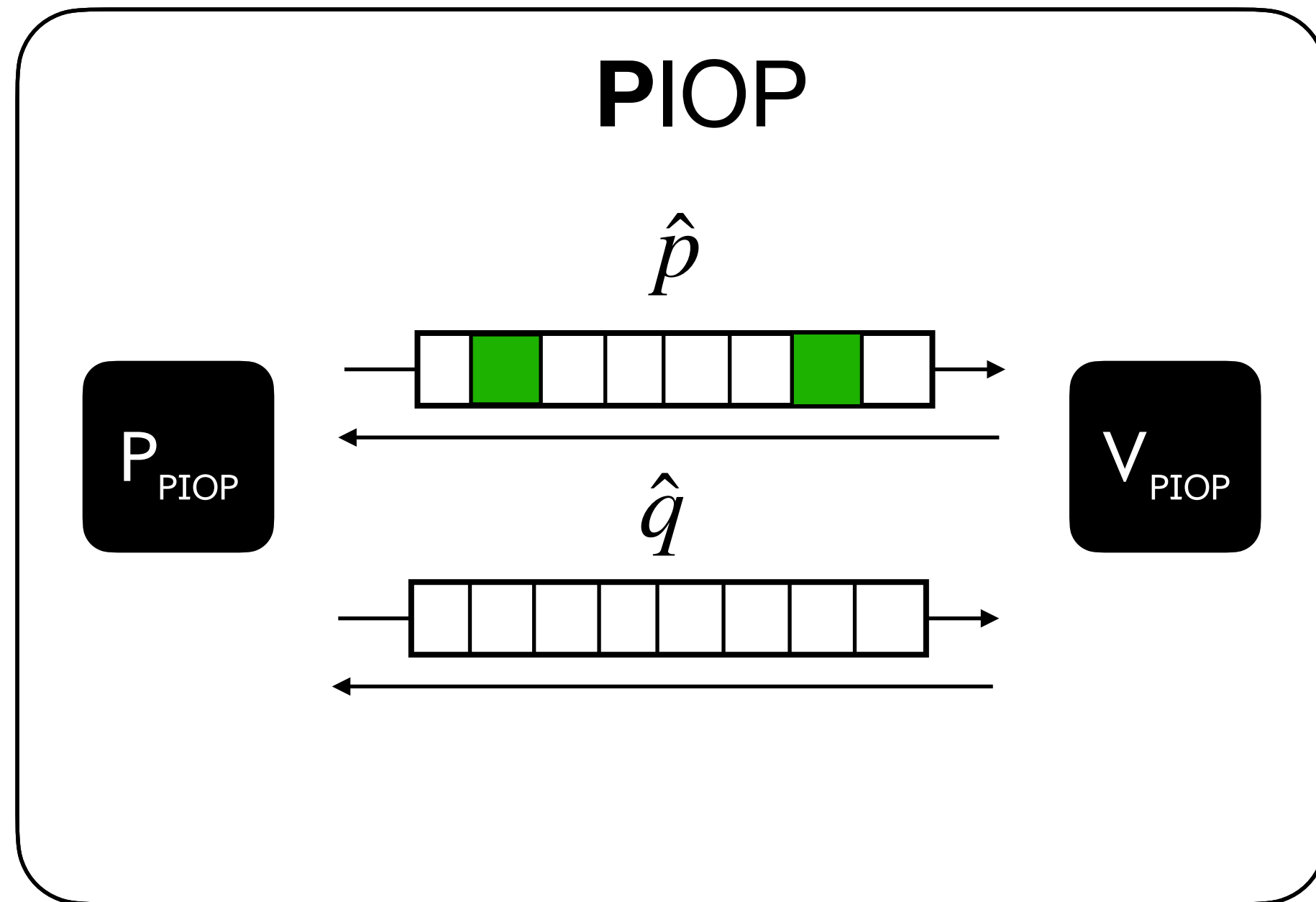


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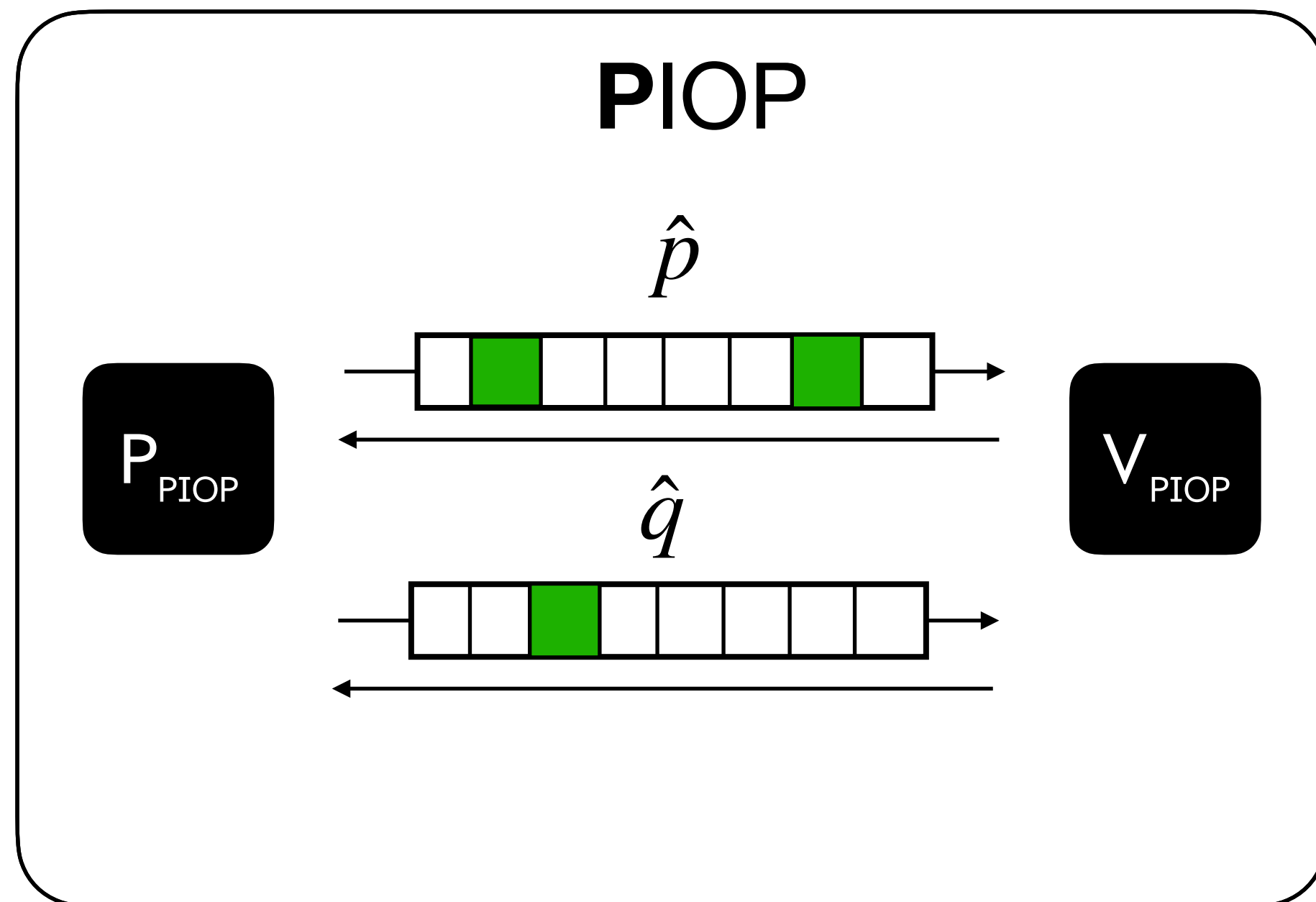


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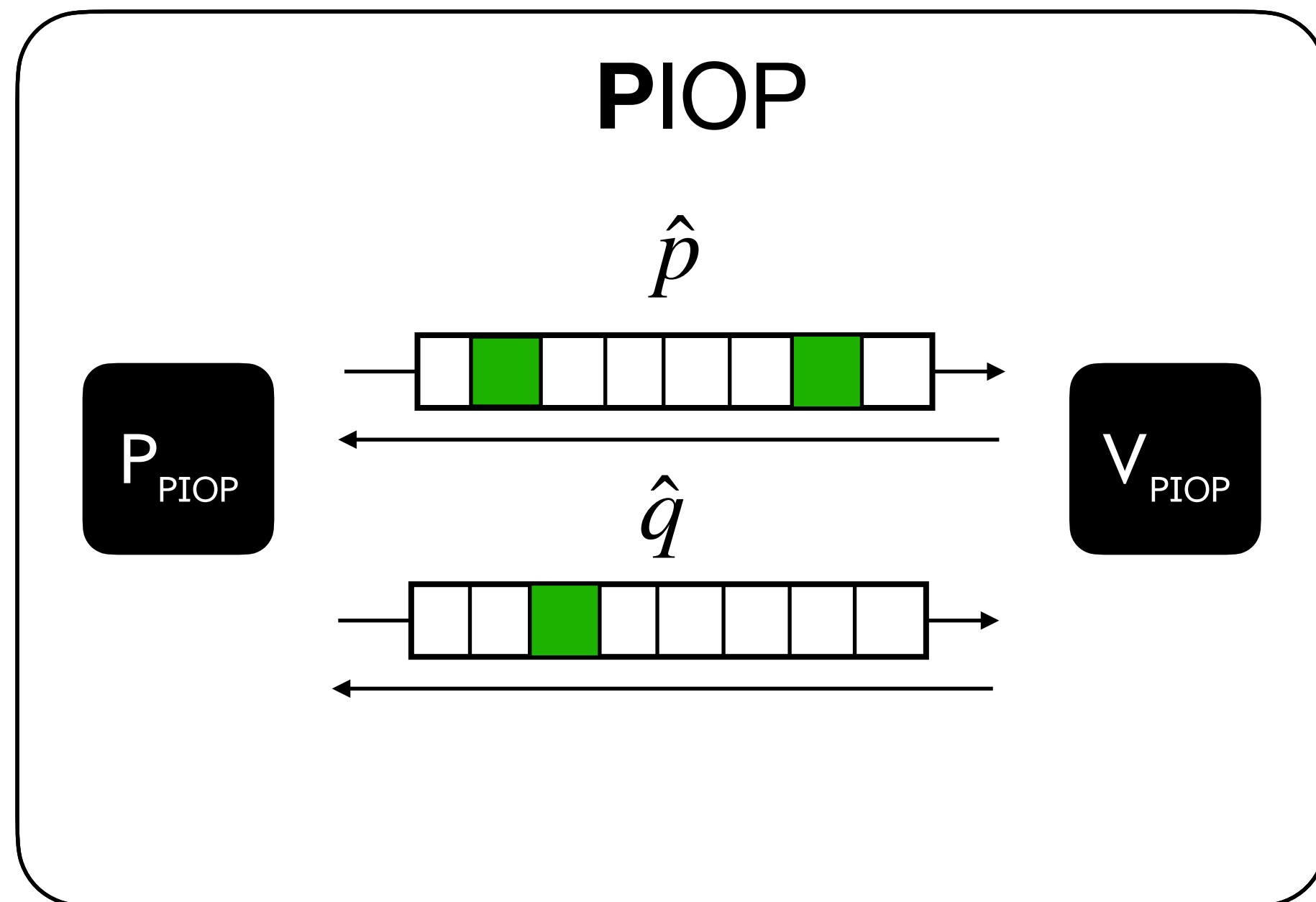
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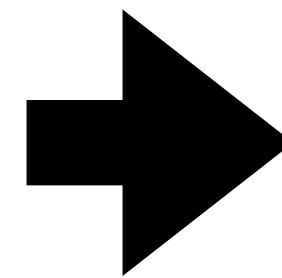
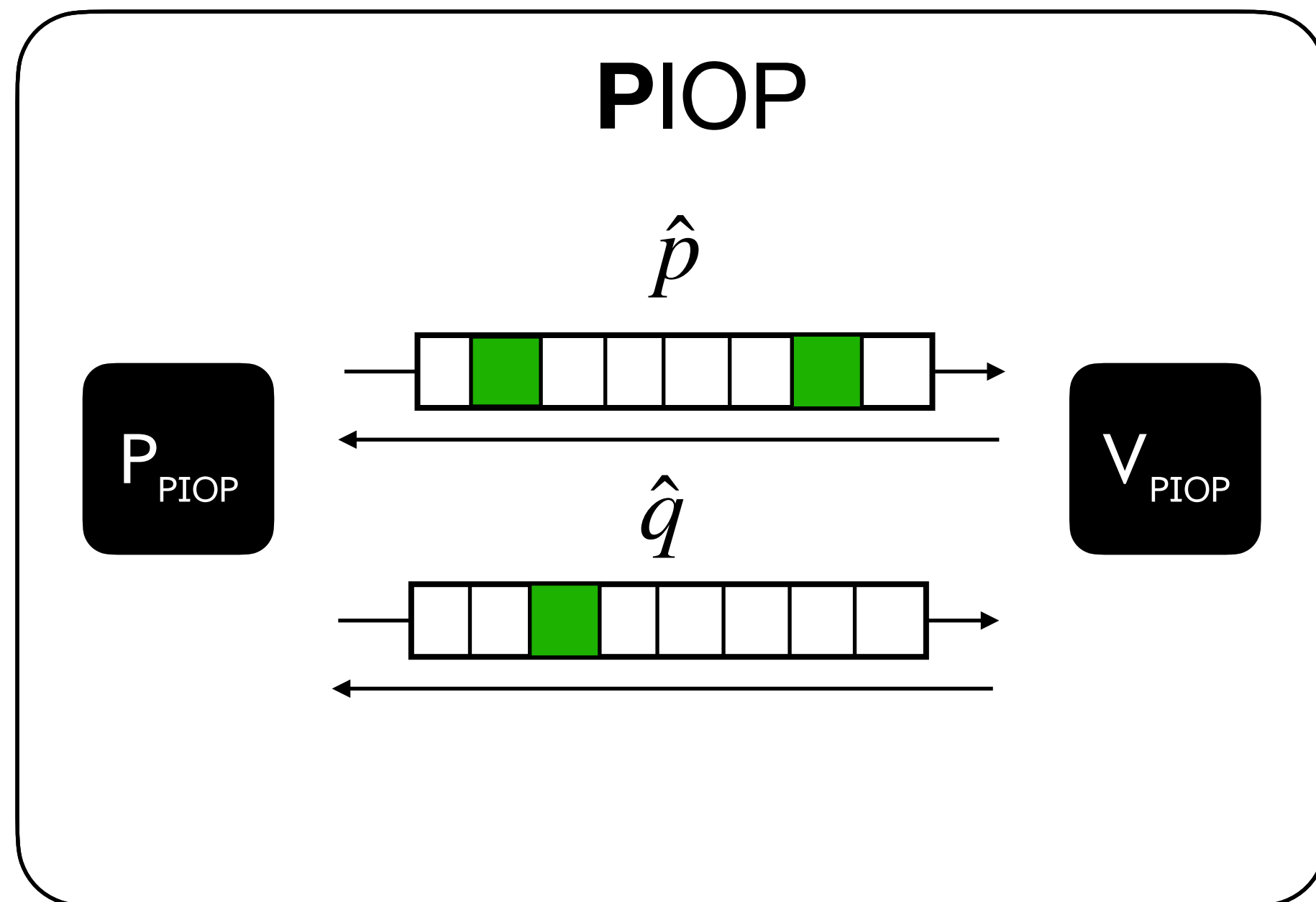
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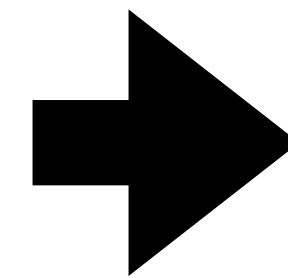
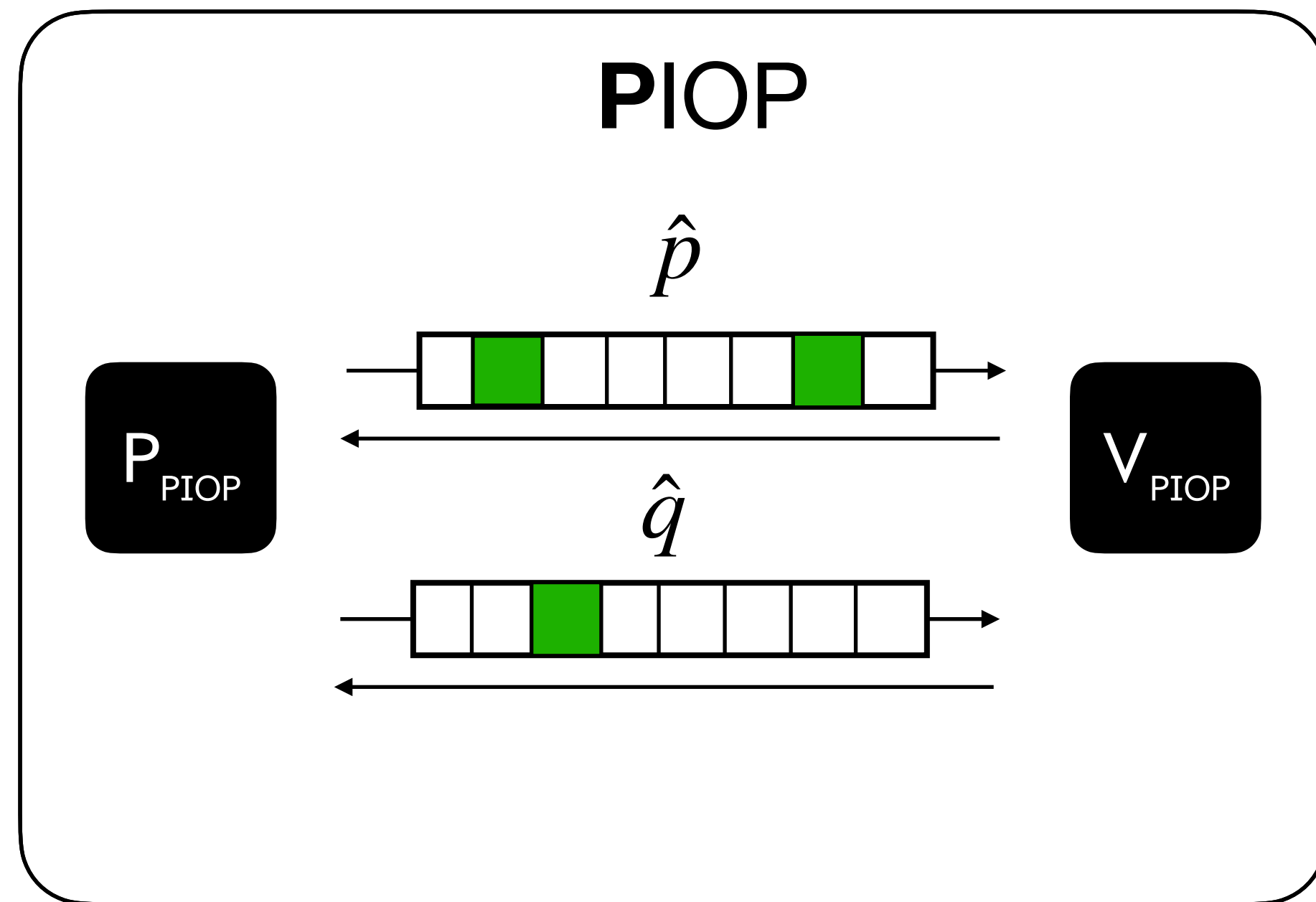


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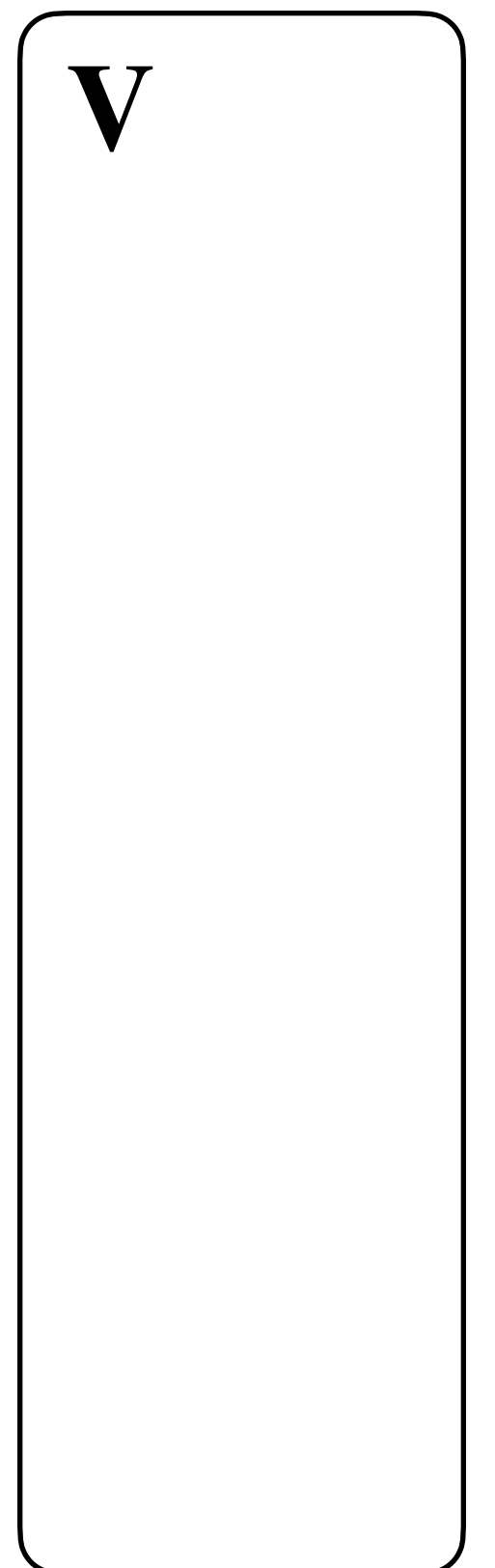
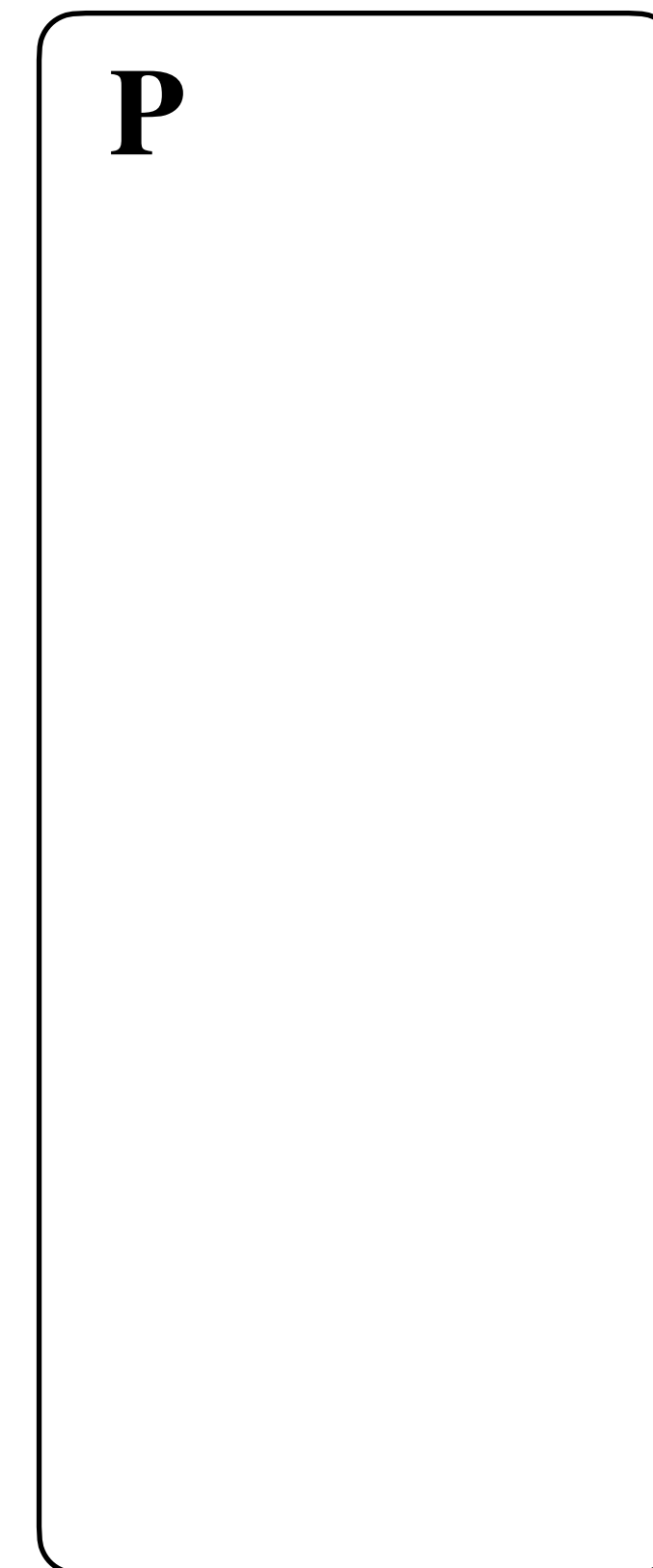
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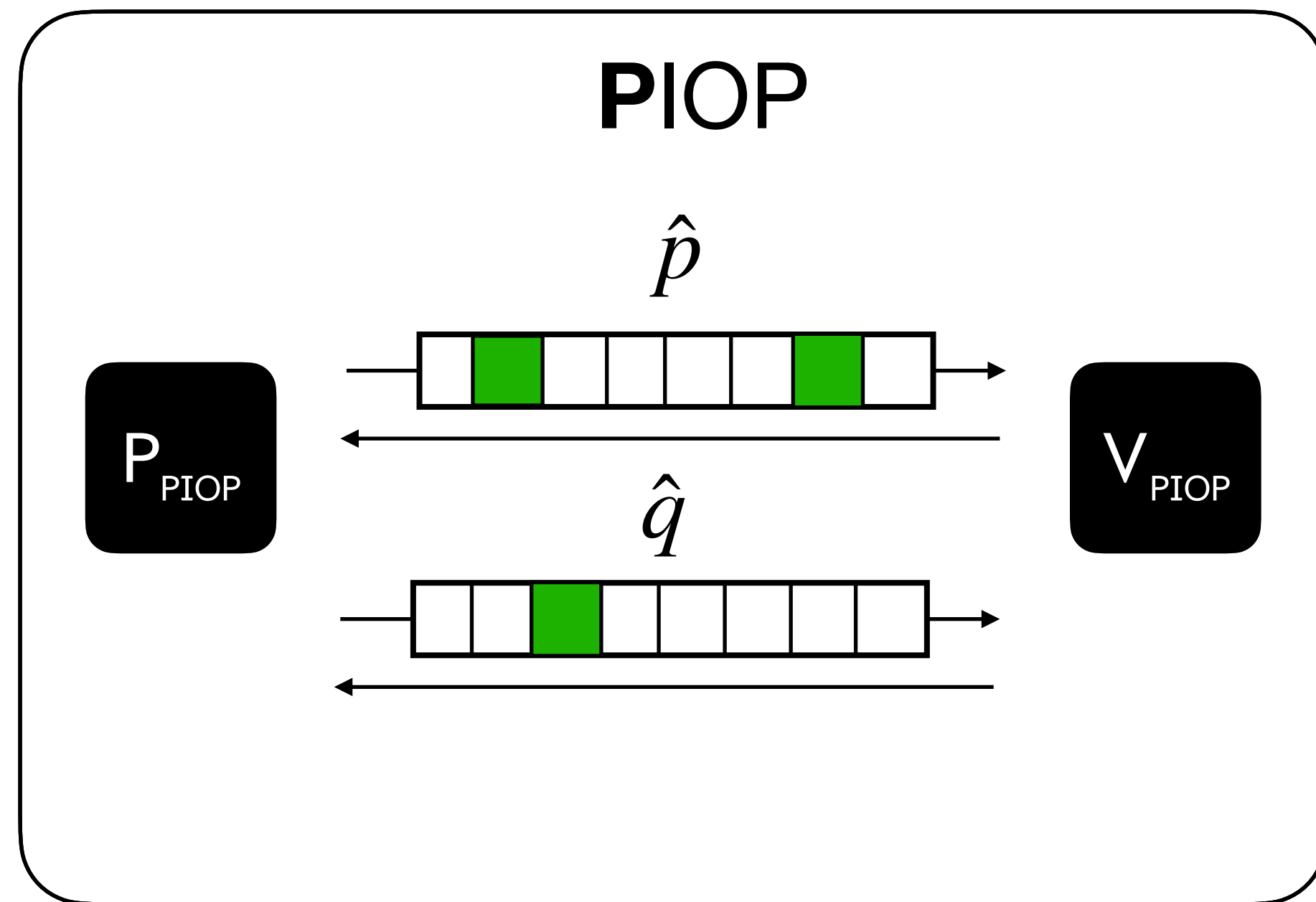
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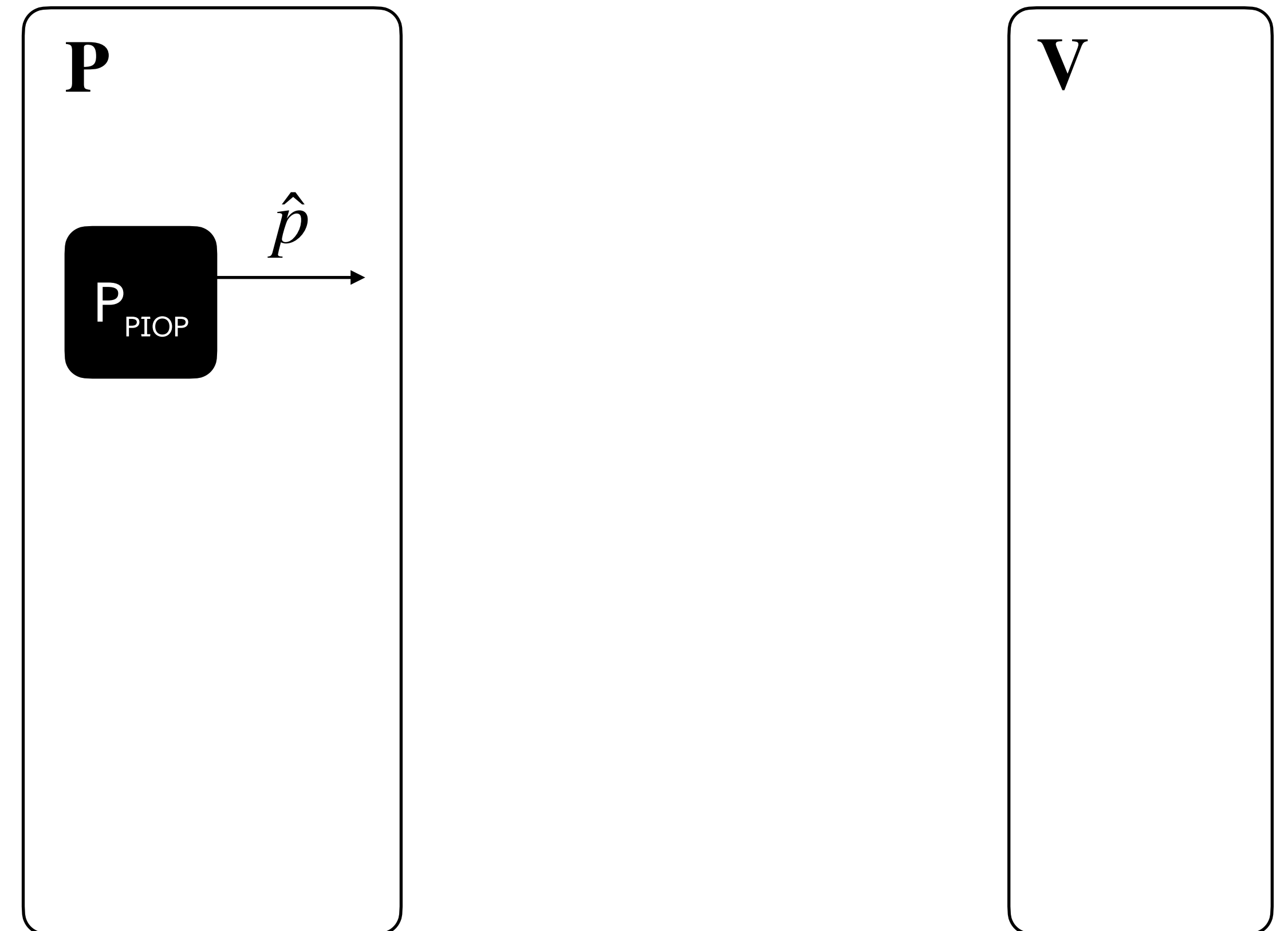
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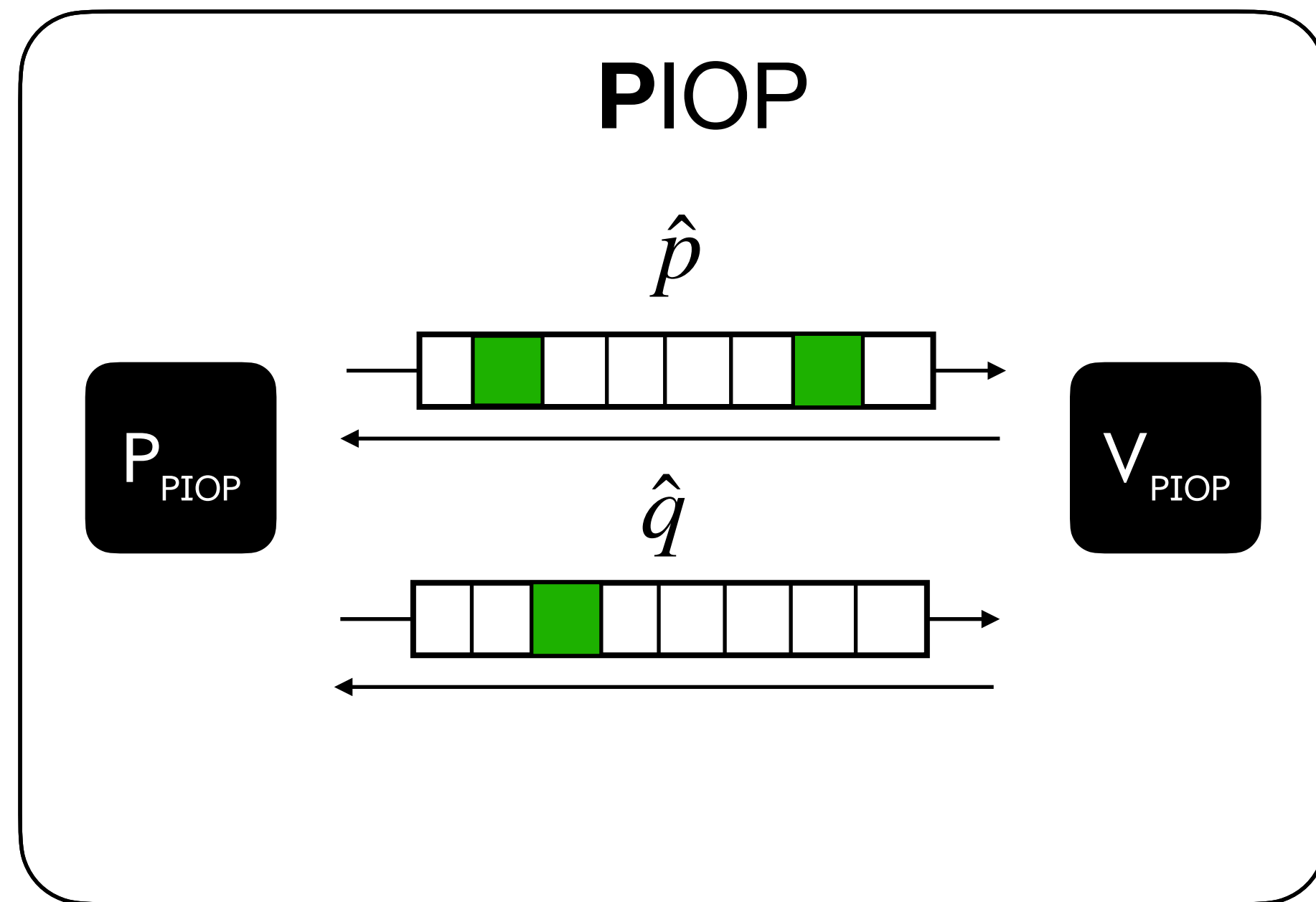
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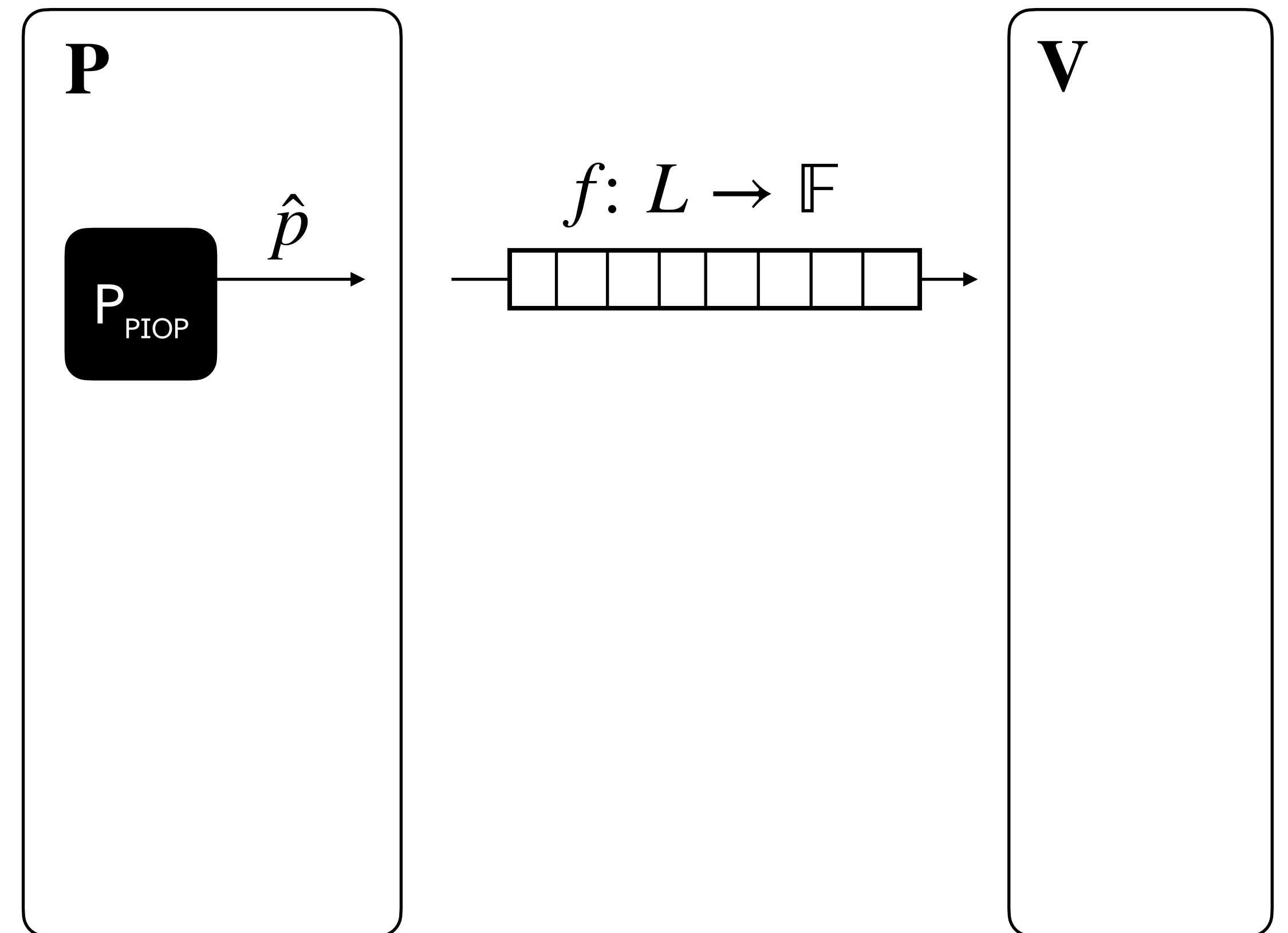
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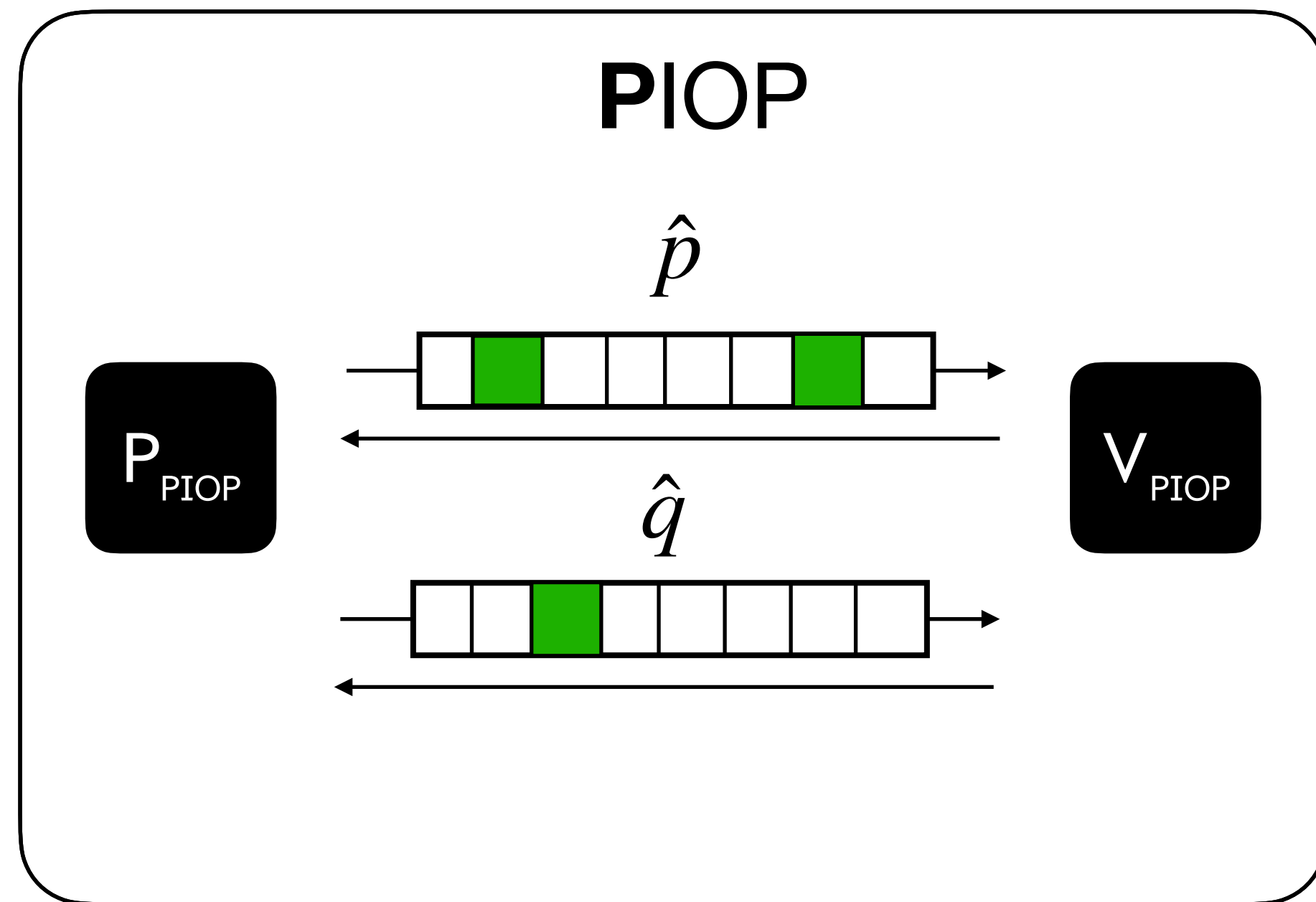
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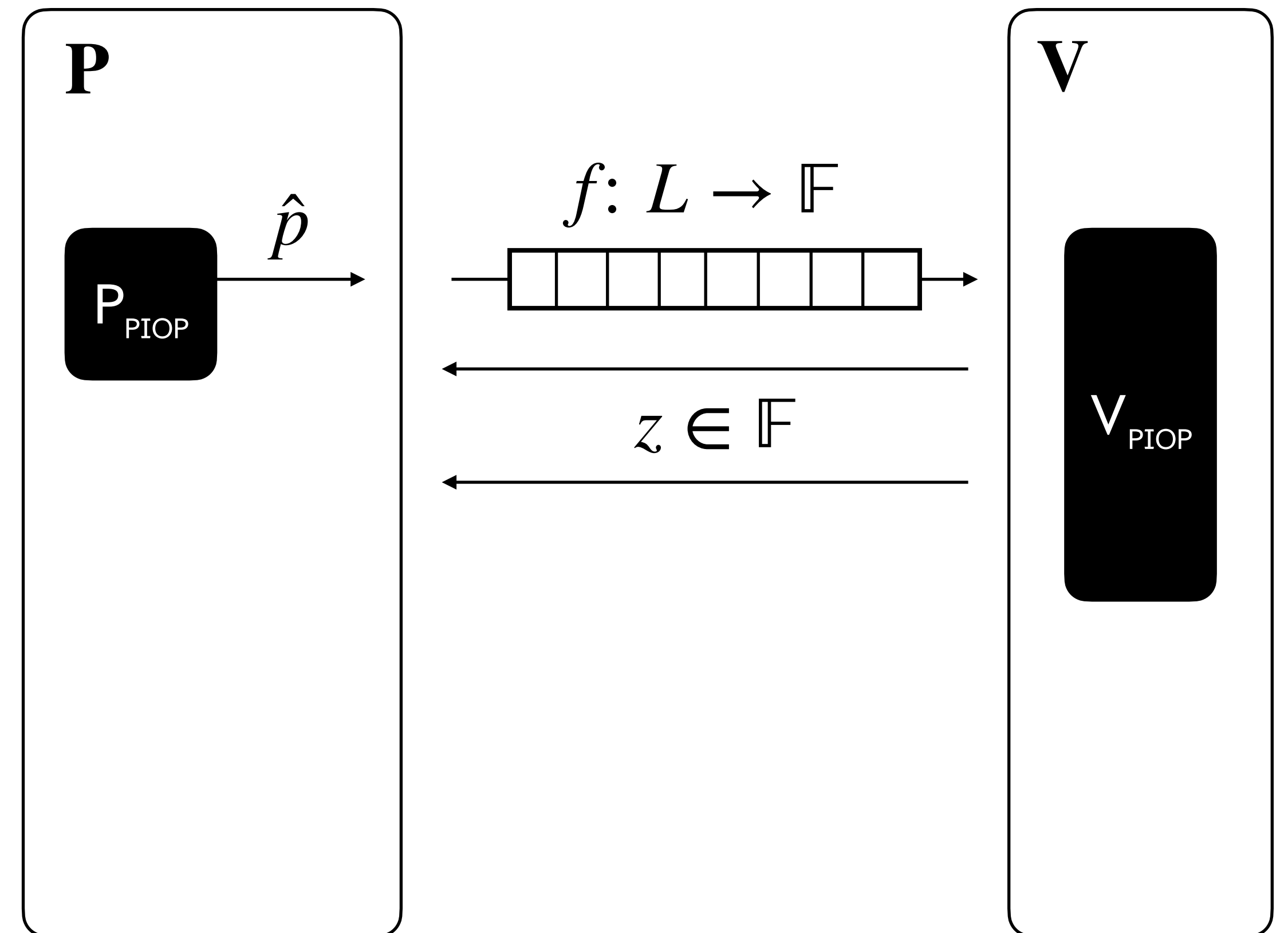
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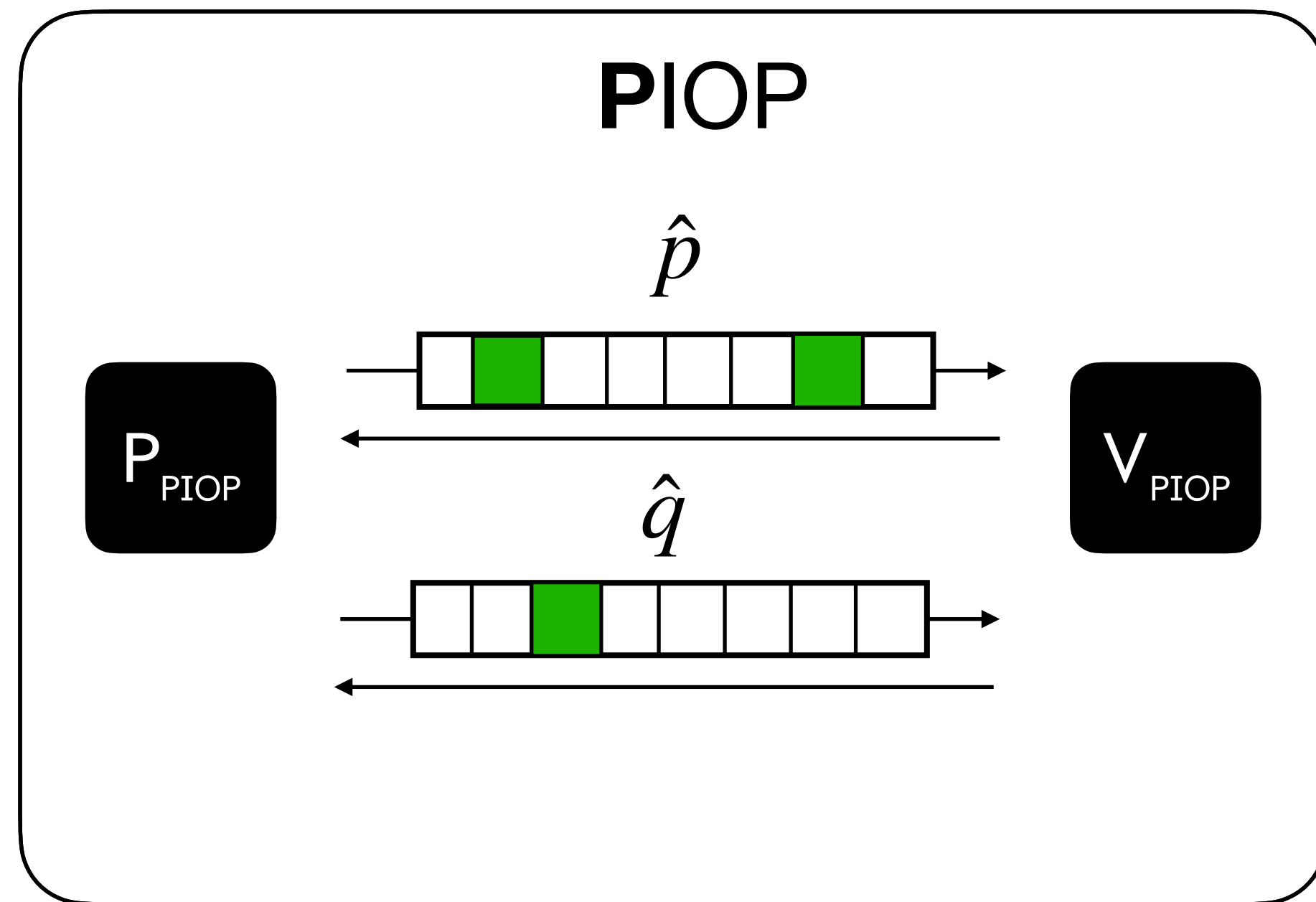
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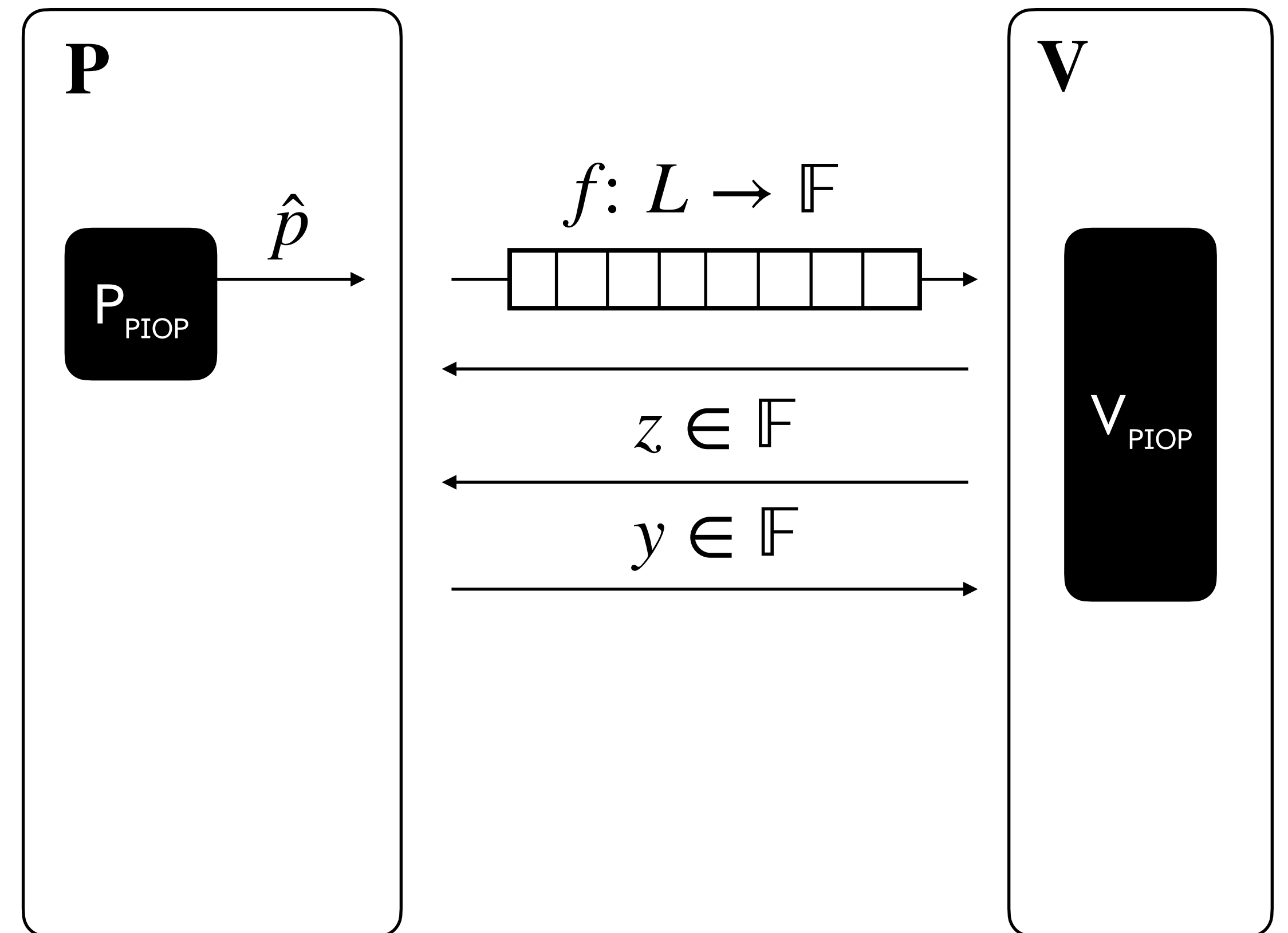
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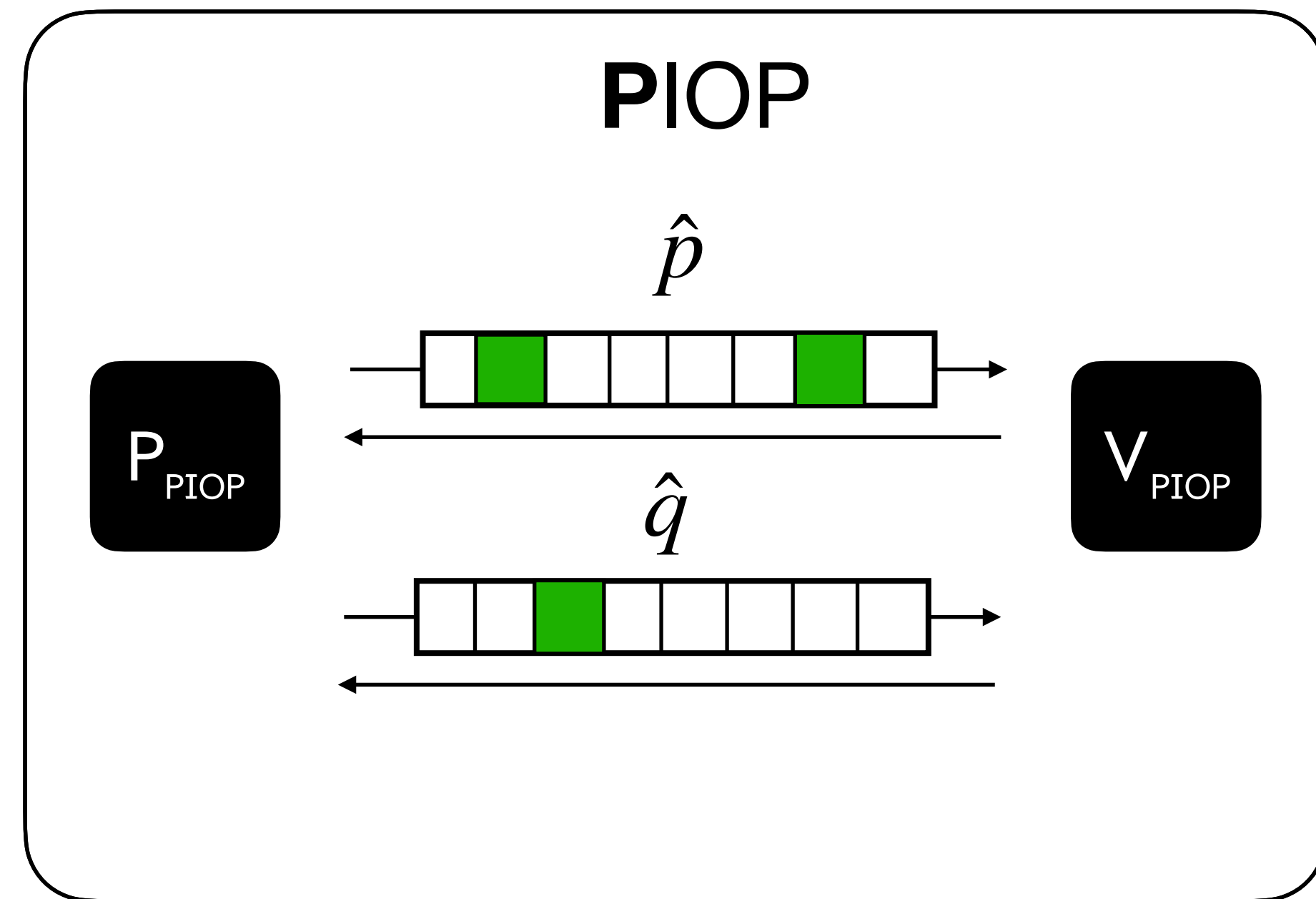
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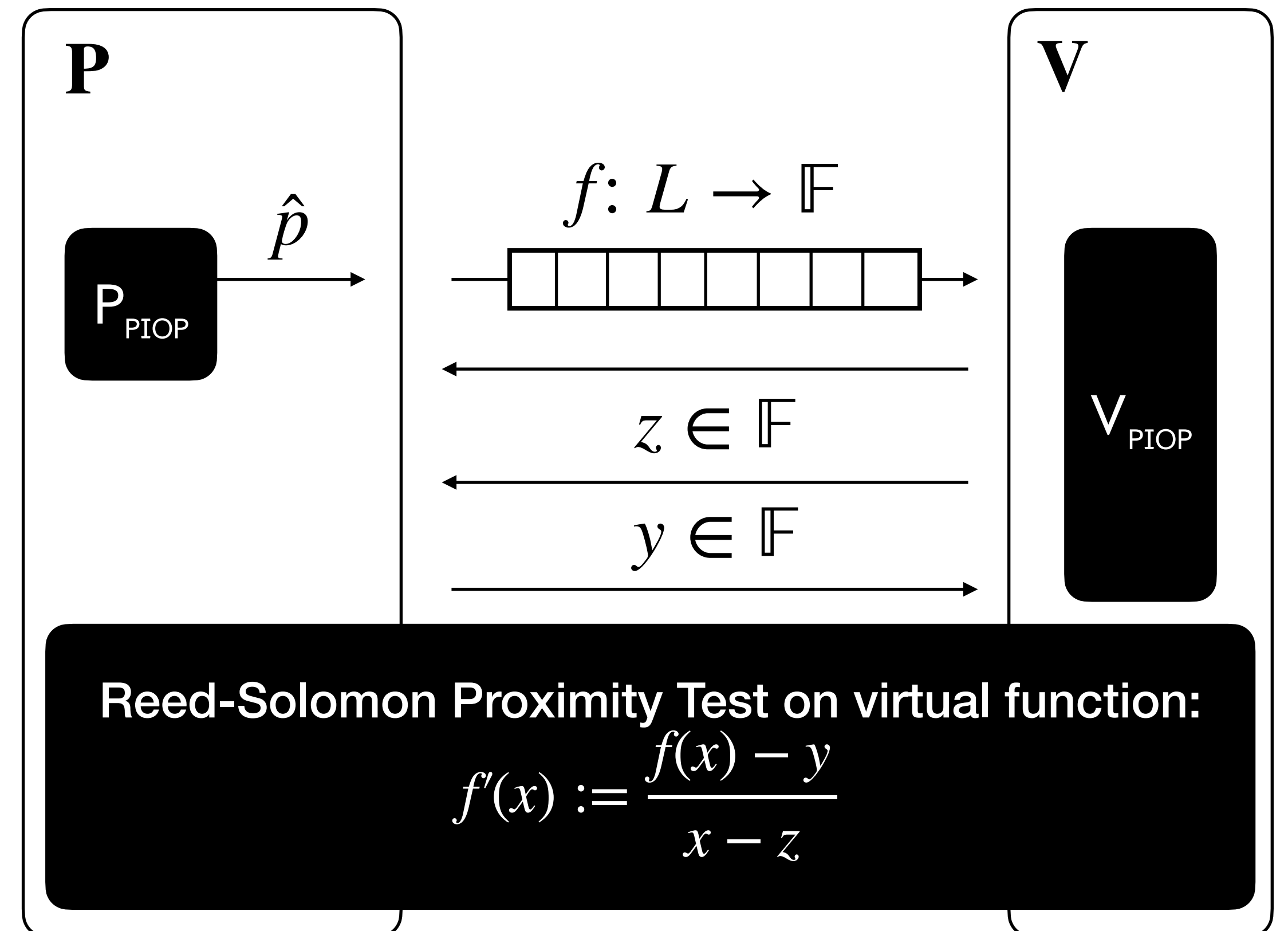
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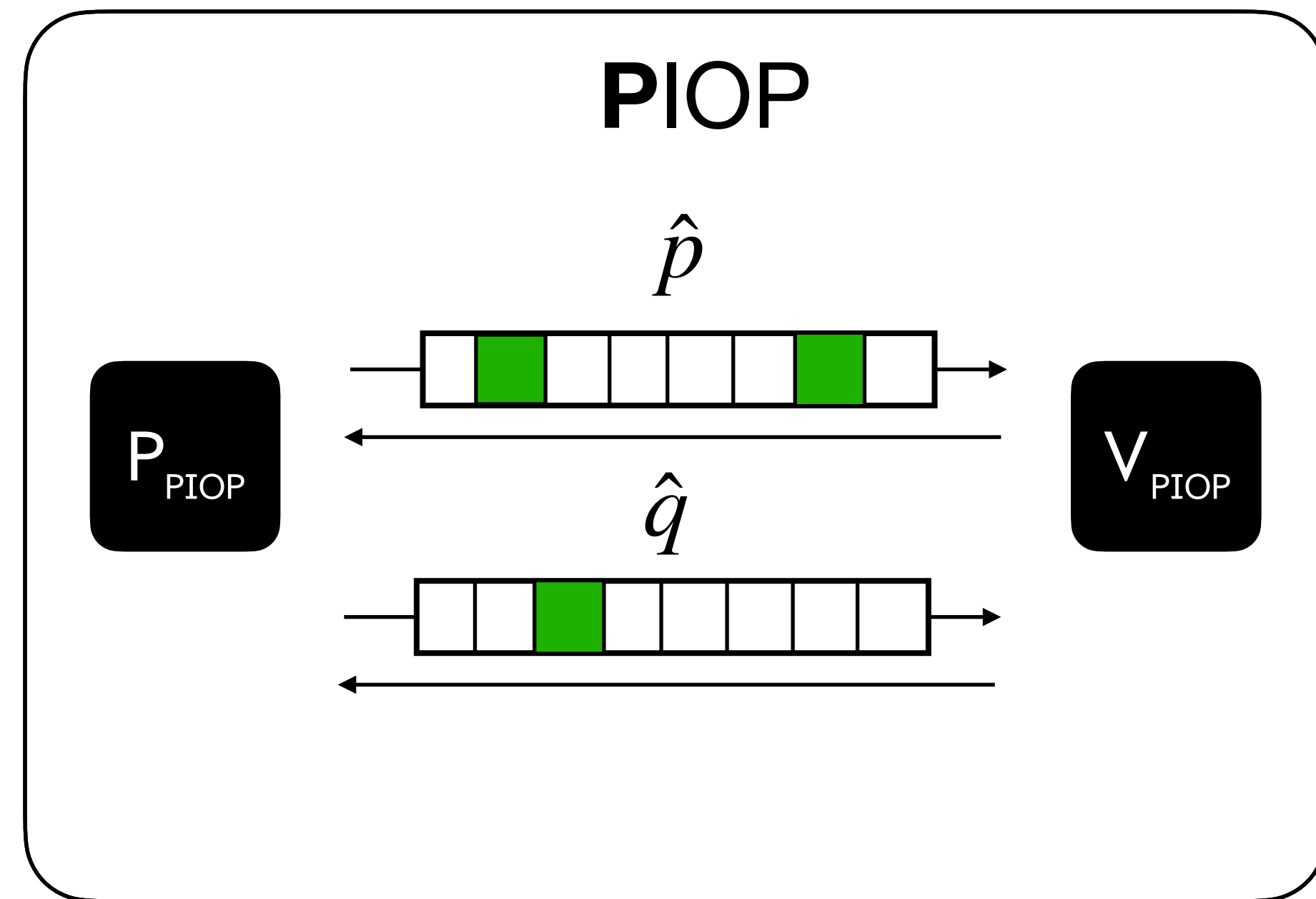
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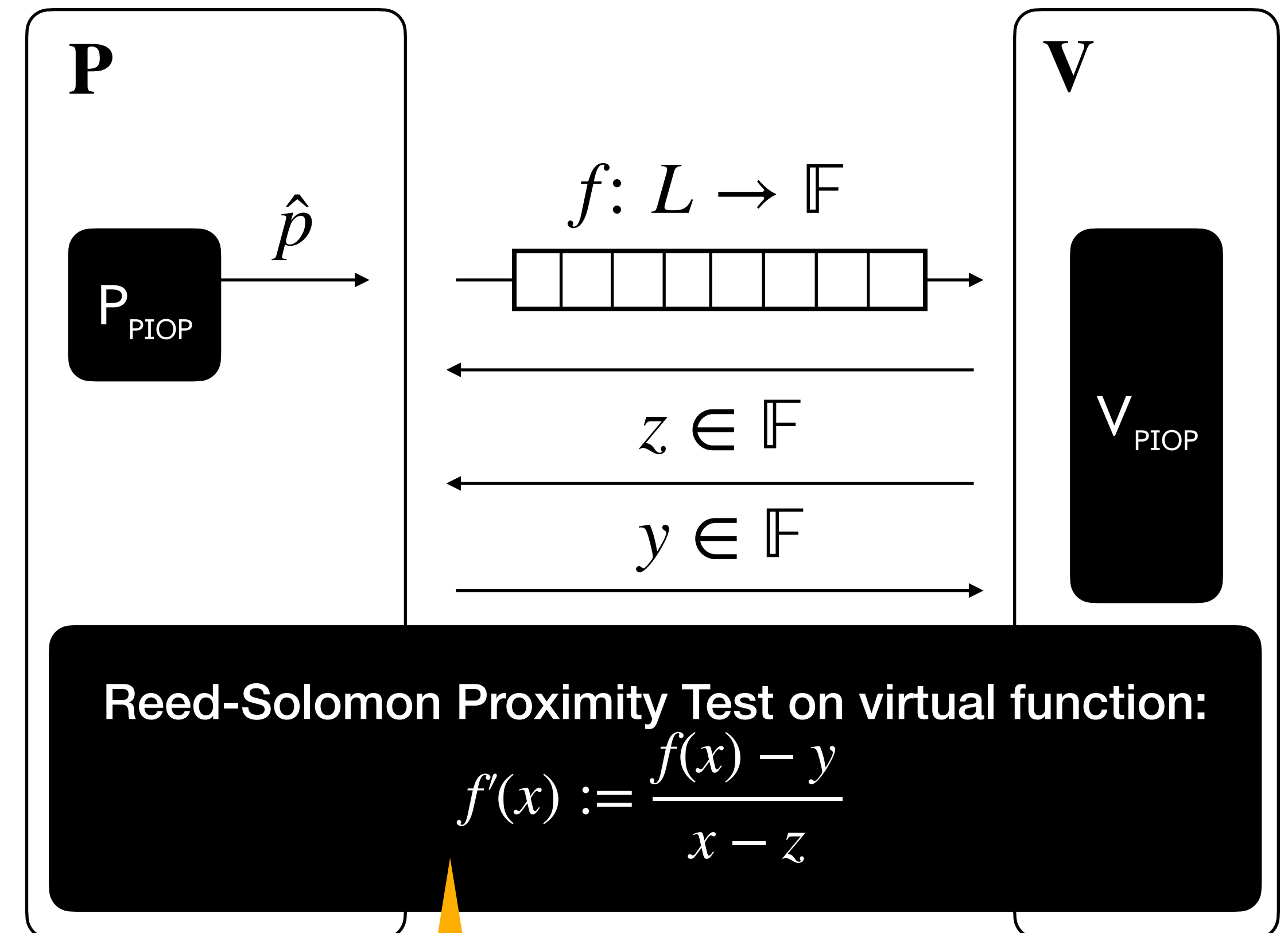
Constructing IOPs Traditionally



Just like IOPs, but prover is forced to send polynomials $\mathbb{F}^{<d}[X]$.

E.g. Aurora, STARK PIOP etc.

Strategy: use Reed-Solomon codes as “redundant” encoding. Use a proximity test to check claims on encoded oracles.



The IOP inherits asymptotics almost entirely from the proximity test

IOP of Proximity to RS codes

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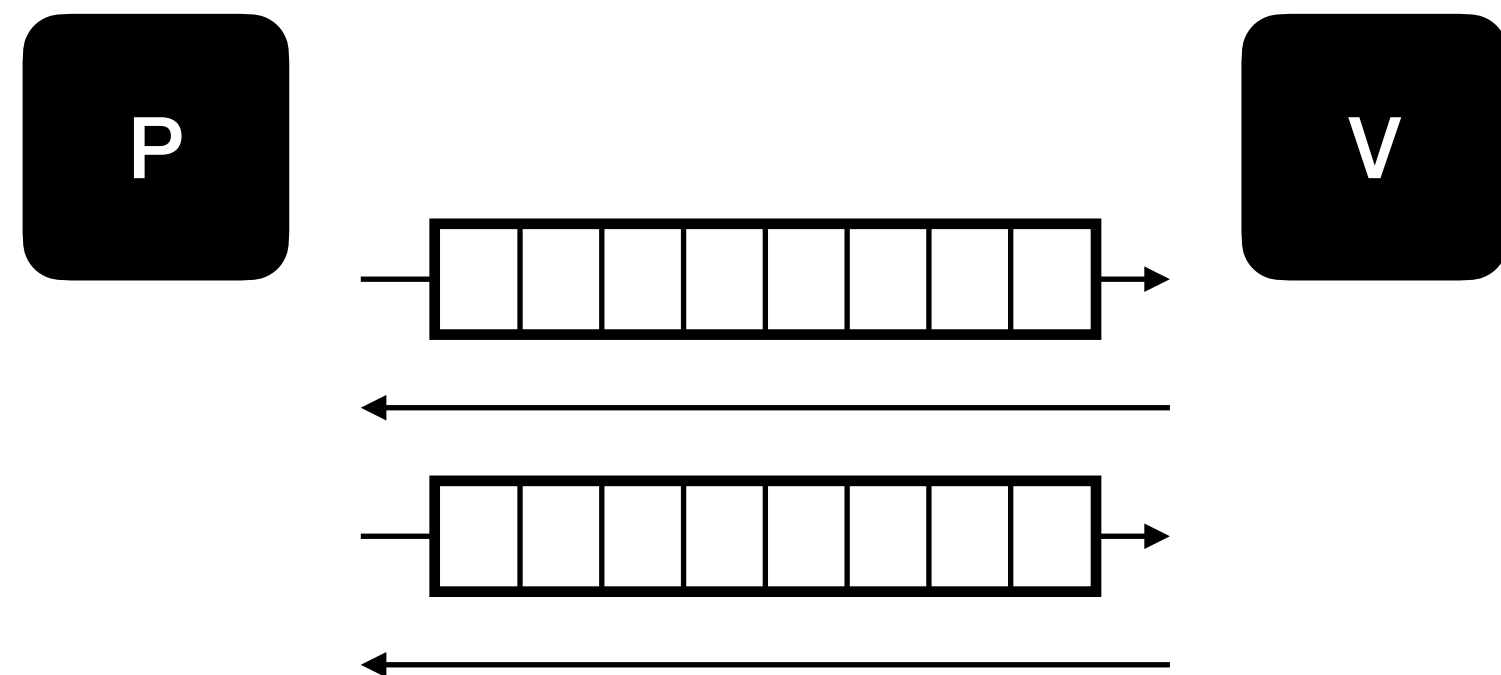
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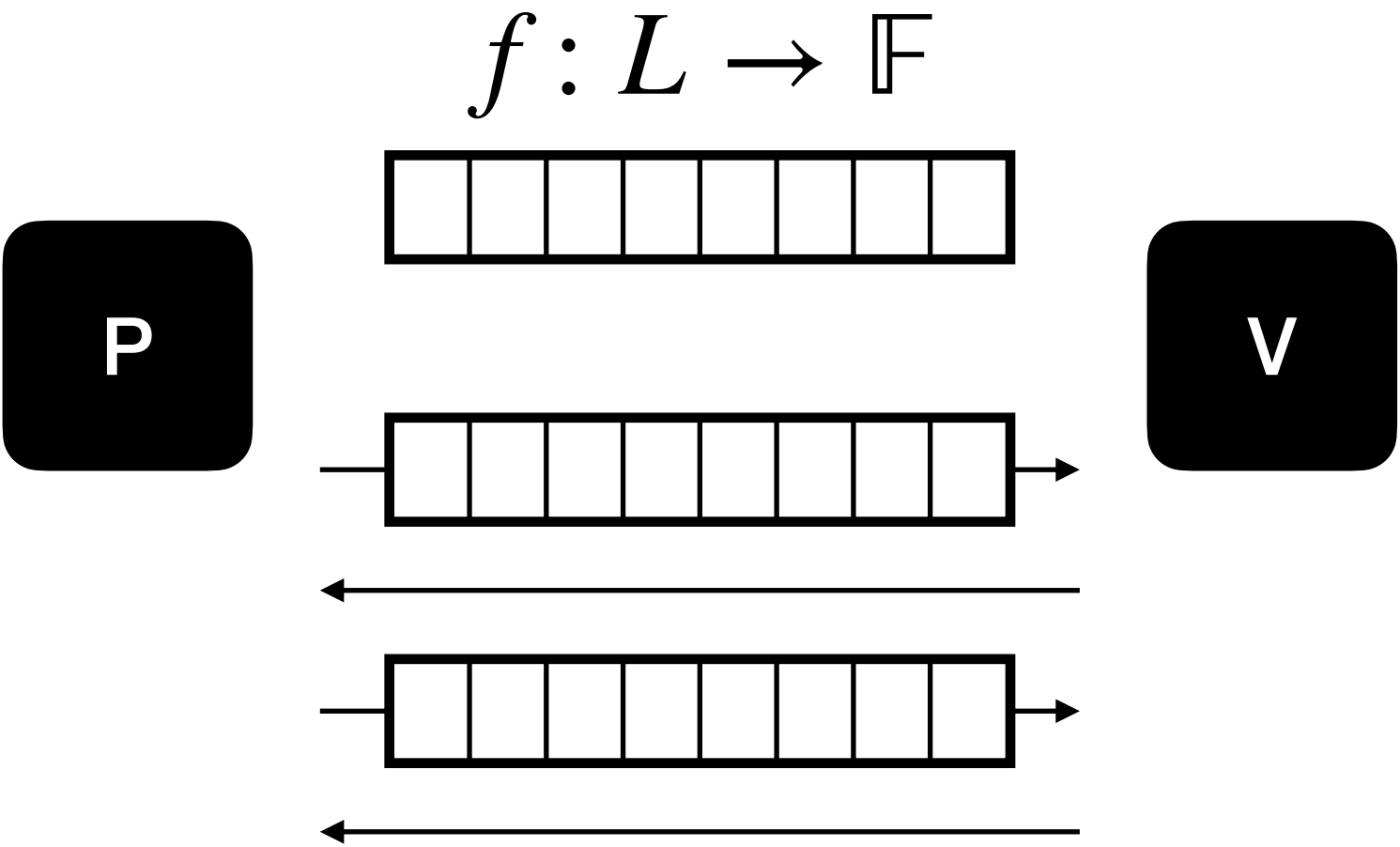
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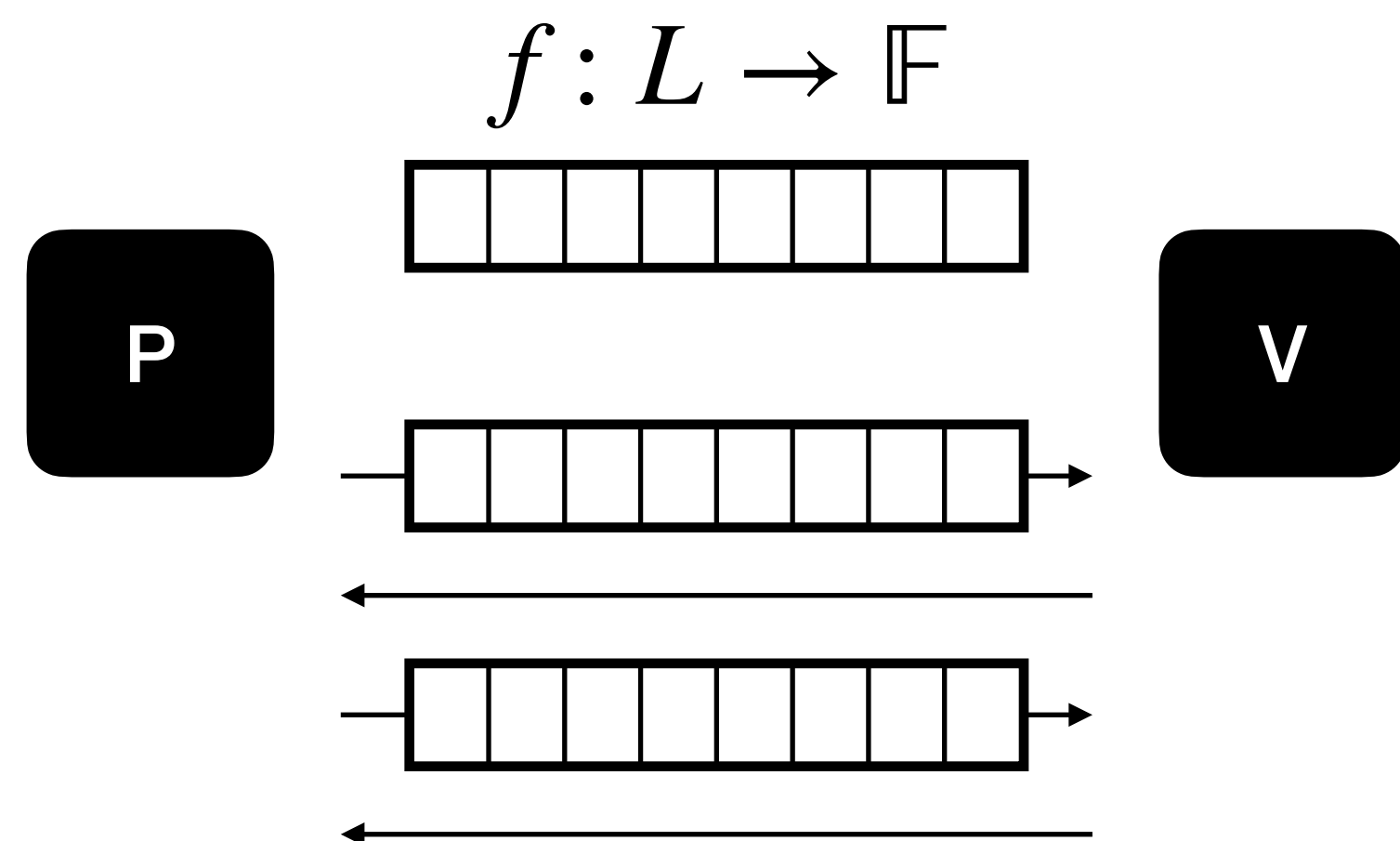
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- If $f \in \text{RS}[n, m, \rho]$, V accepts.
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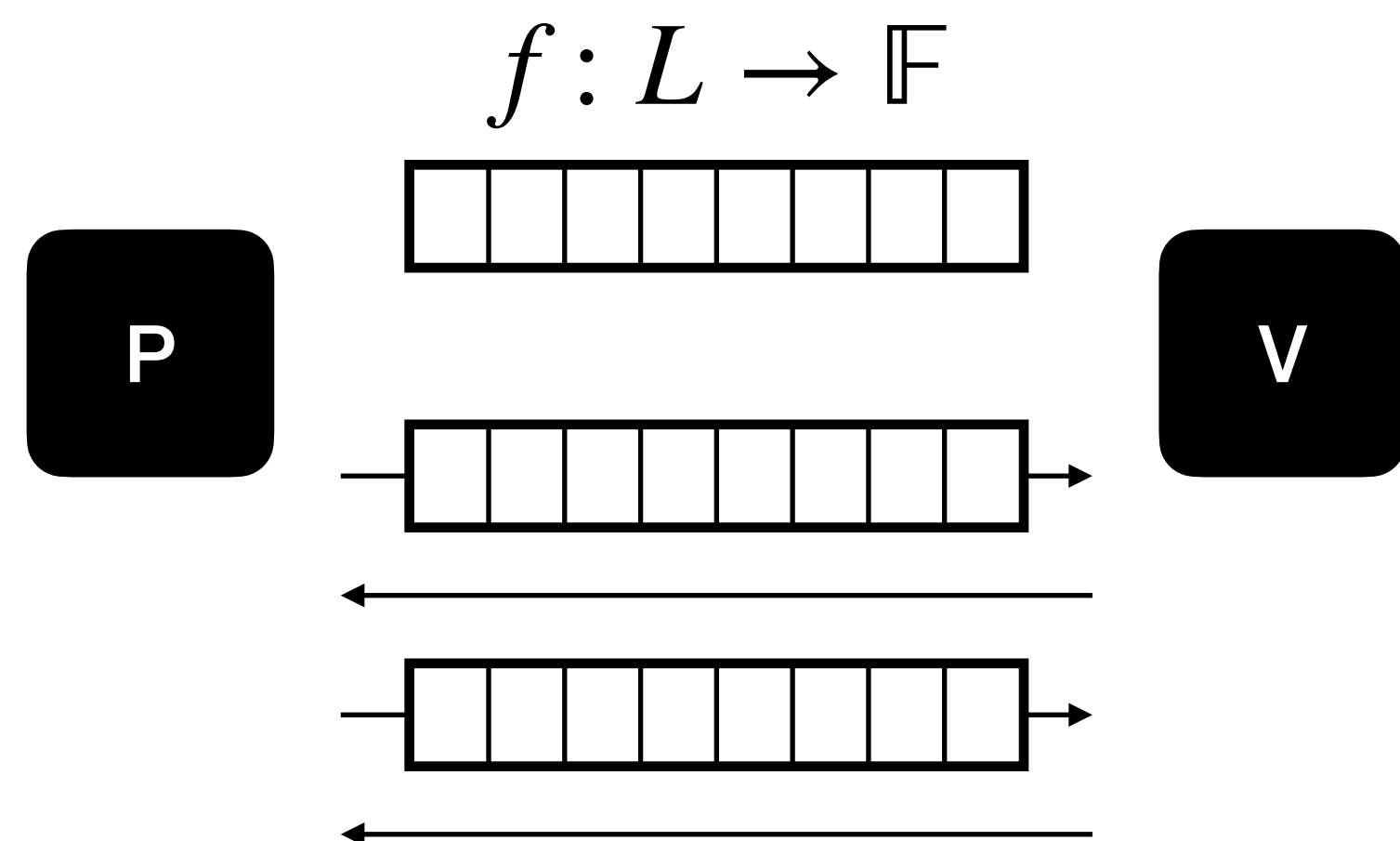
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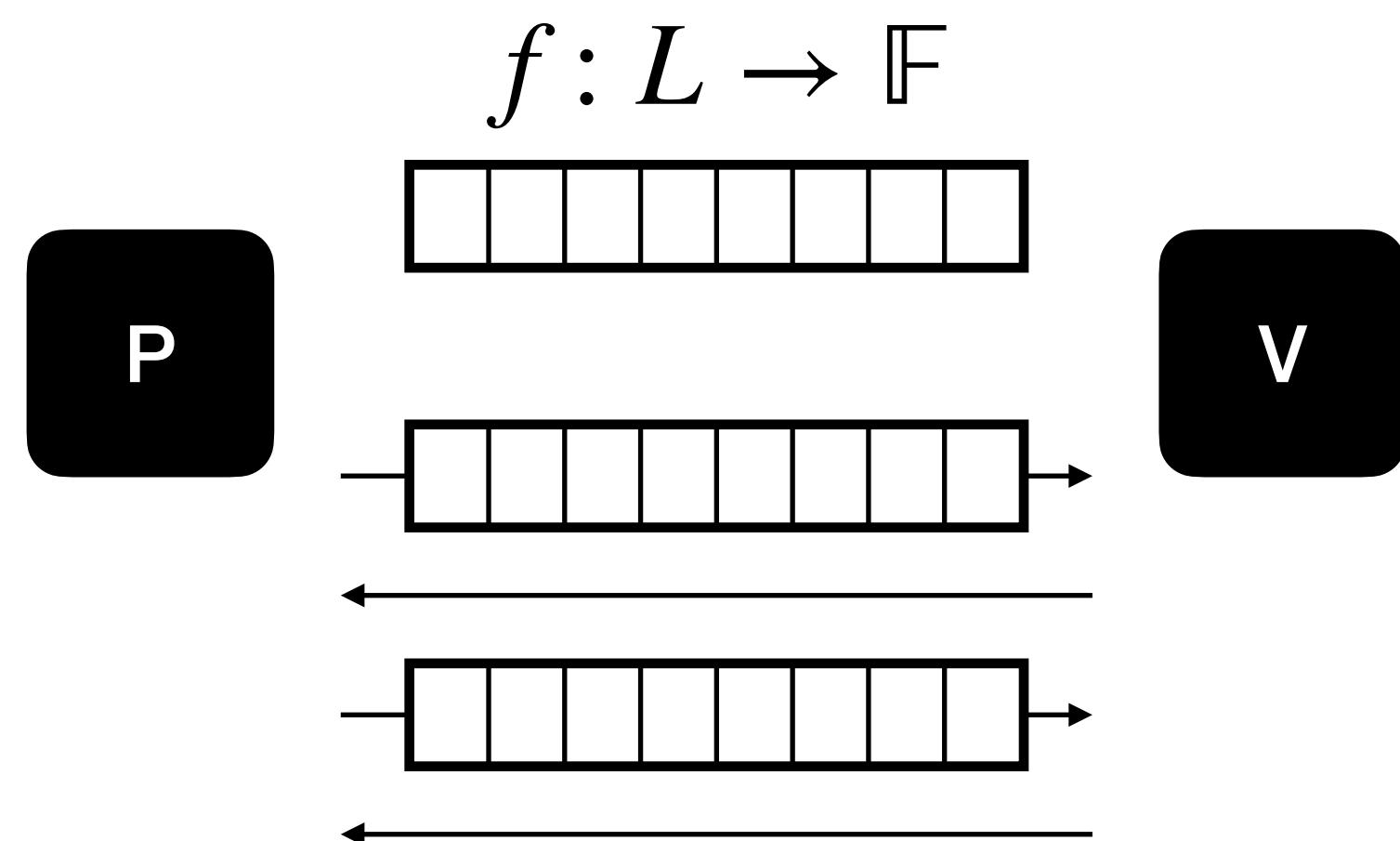
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Round by round, required by BCS transform.

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Constrained RS tests

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What we are running:

Reed-Solomon Proximity Test on virtual function:

$$f'(x) := \frac{f(x) - y}{x - z}$$

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Yes! IOPP for **constrained codes**

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We test **proximity** to CRS!

Our results

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$k > 1$ is a folding
parameter

A constrained Reed-Solomon proximity test



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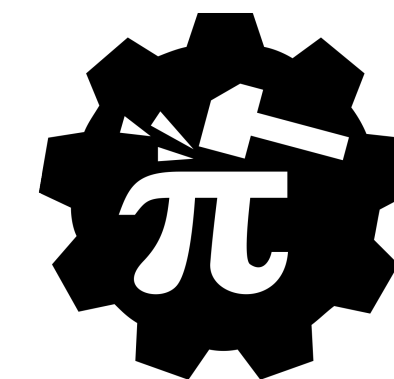
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Implementation available at
[WizardOfMenlo/whir](https://github.com/WizardOfMenlo/whir)

Comparison with prior work

	Queries	Verifier Time	Alphabet
BaseFold	$q_{\text{BF}} = O(\lambda \cdot m)$	$O(q_{\text{BF}})$	$\mathbb{F}^2$
FRI	$q_{\text{FRI}} = O\left(\frac{\lambda}{k} \cdot m\right)$	$O(q_{\text{FRI}} \cdot 2^k)$	$\mathbb{F}^{2^k}$
STIR	$q_{\text{STIR}} = O\left(\frac{\lambda}{k} \cdot \log m\right)$	$O(q_{\text{STIR}} \cdot 2^k + \lambda^2 \cdot 2^k)$	$\mathbb{F}^{2^k}$
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When $k \approx \log m$
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Improving is an open question

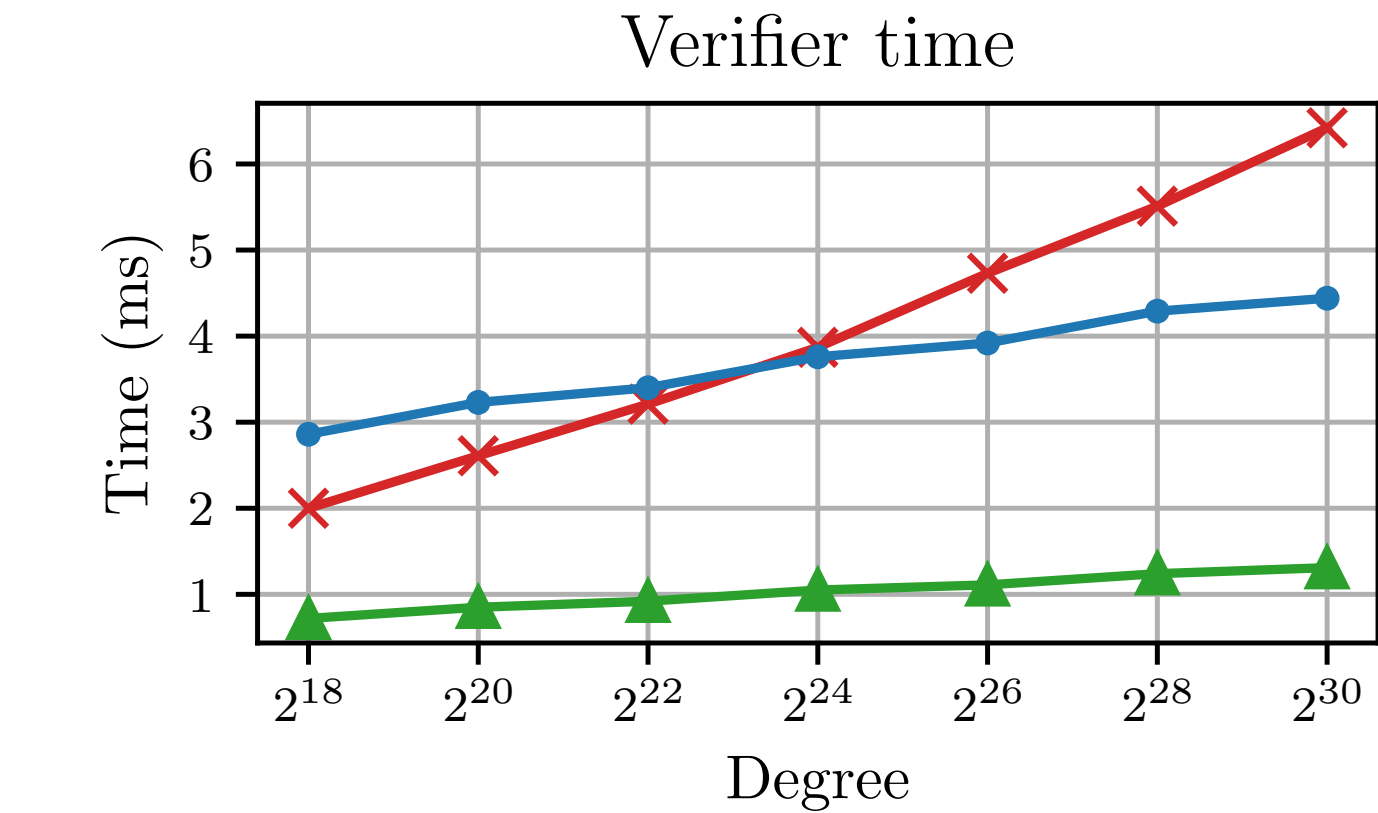
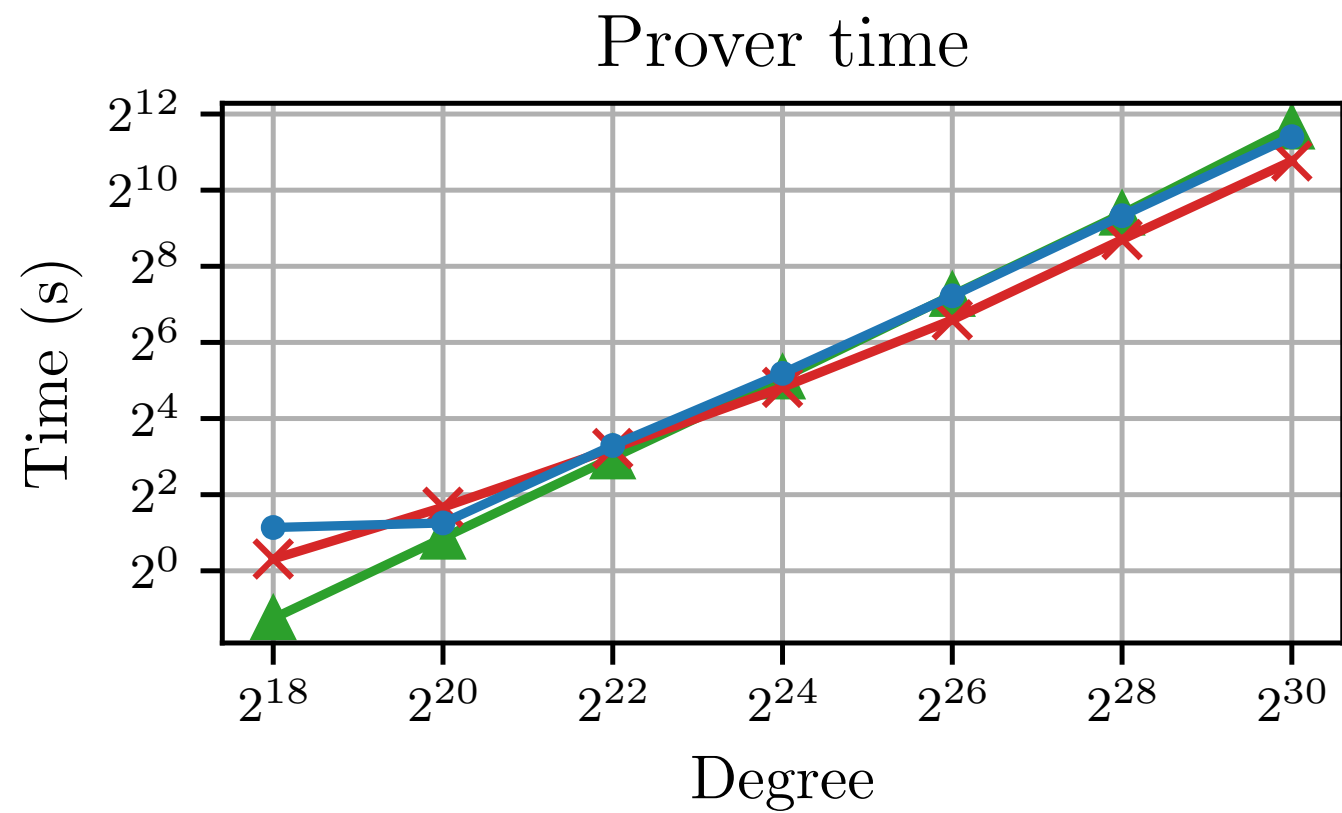
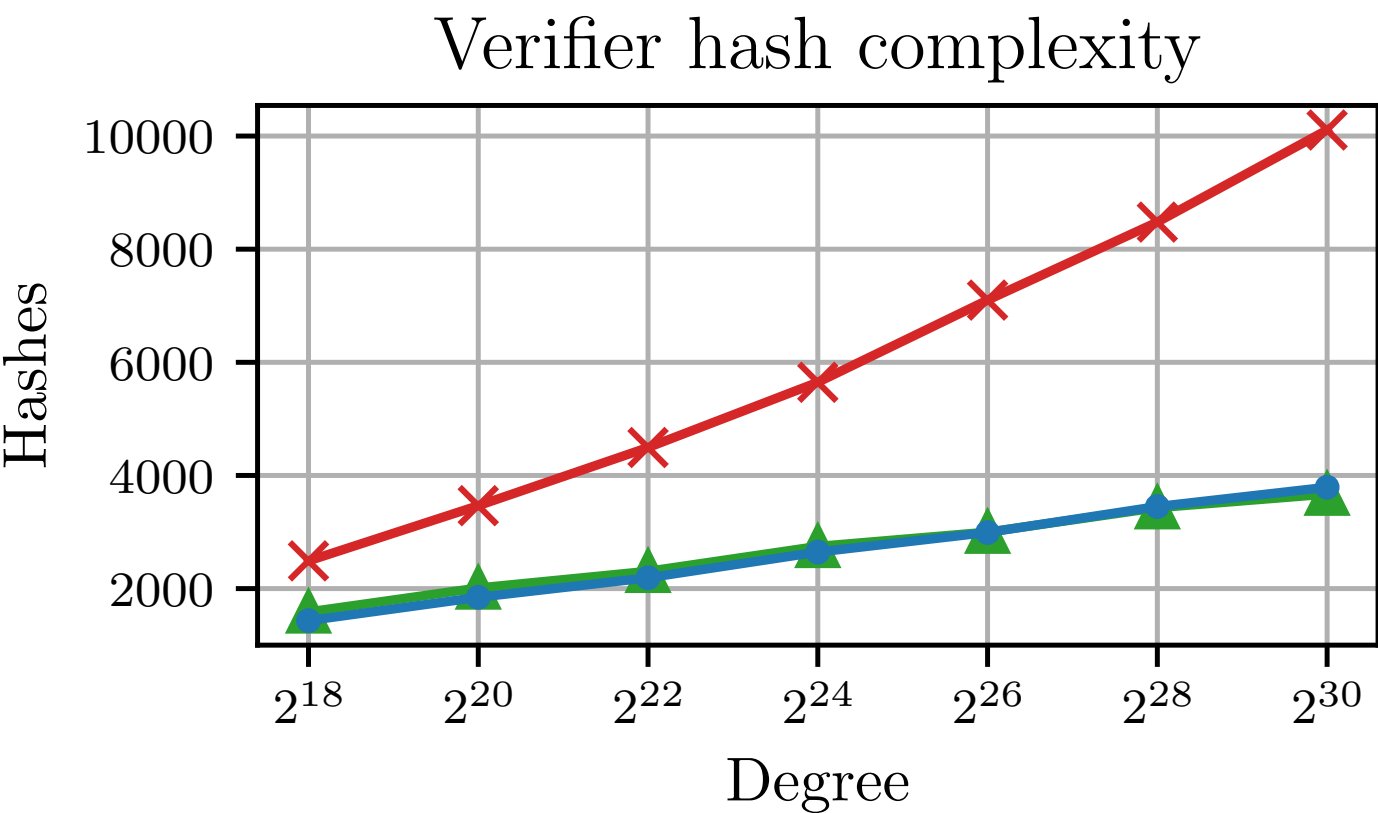
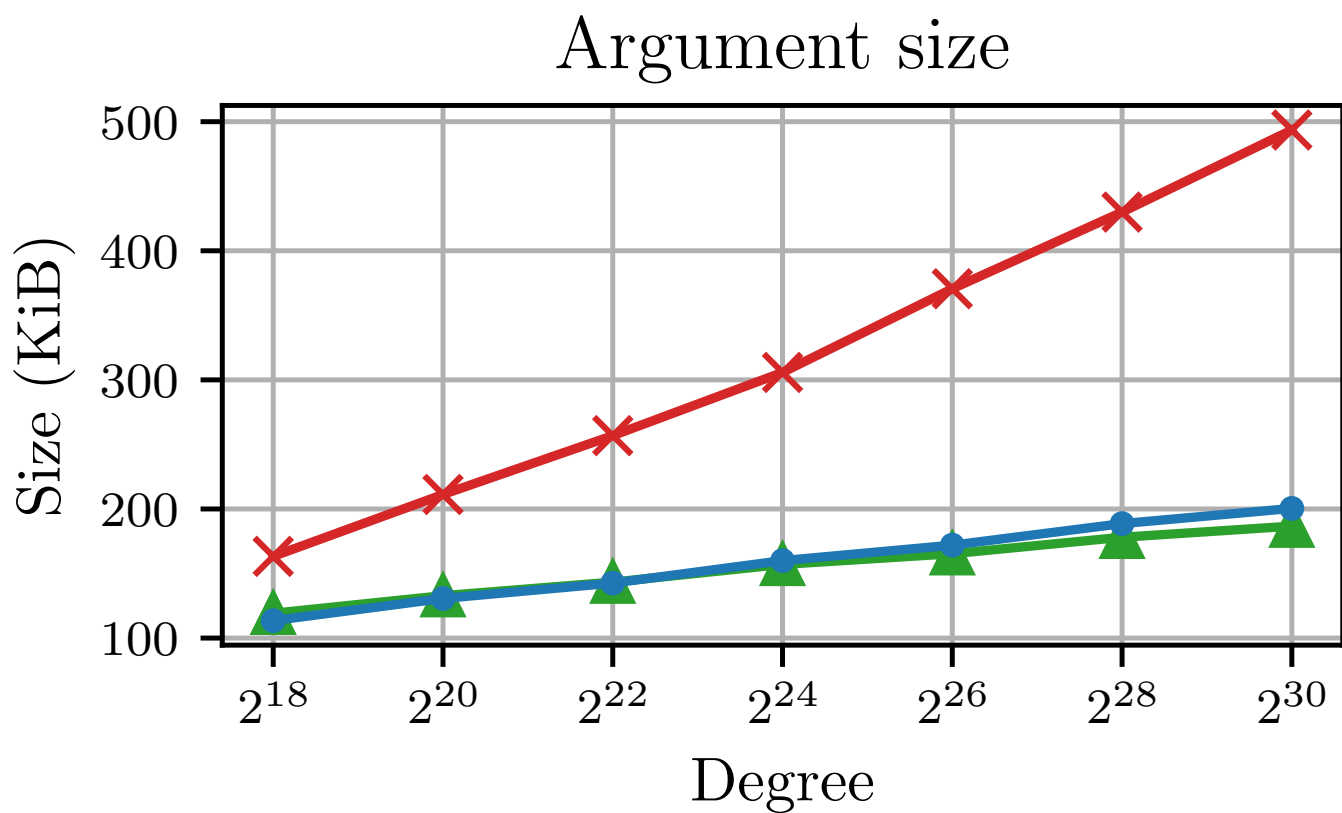
Comparison with FRI and STIR

Note: prover time graph is now outdated due to new optimizations discovered

128-bits security level.

$\lambda = 106 + 22$ bits of PoW + “list-decoding” assumptions.

Rate of the code $\rho = 1/2$



FRI, STIR, WHIR

Comparison with FRI and STIR

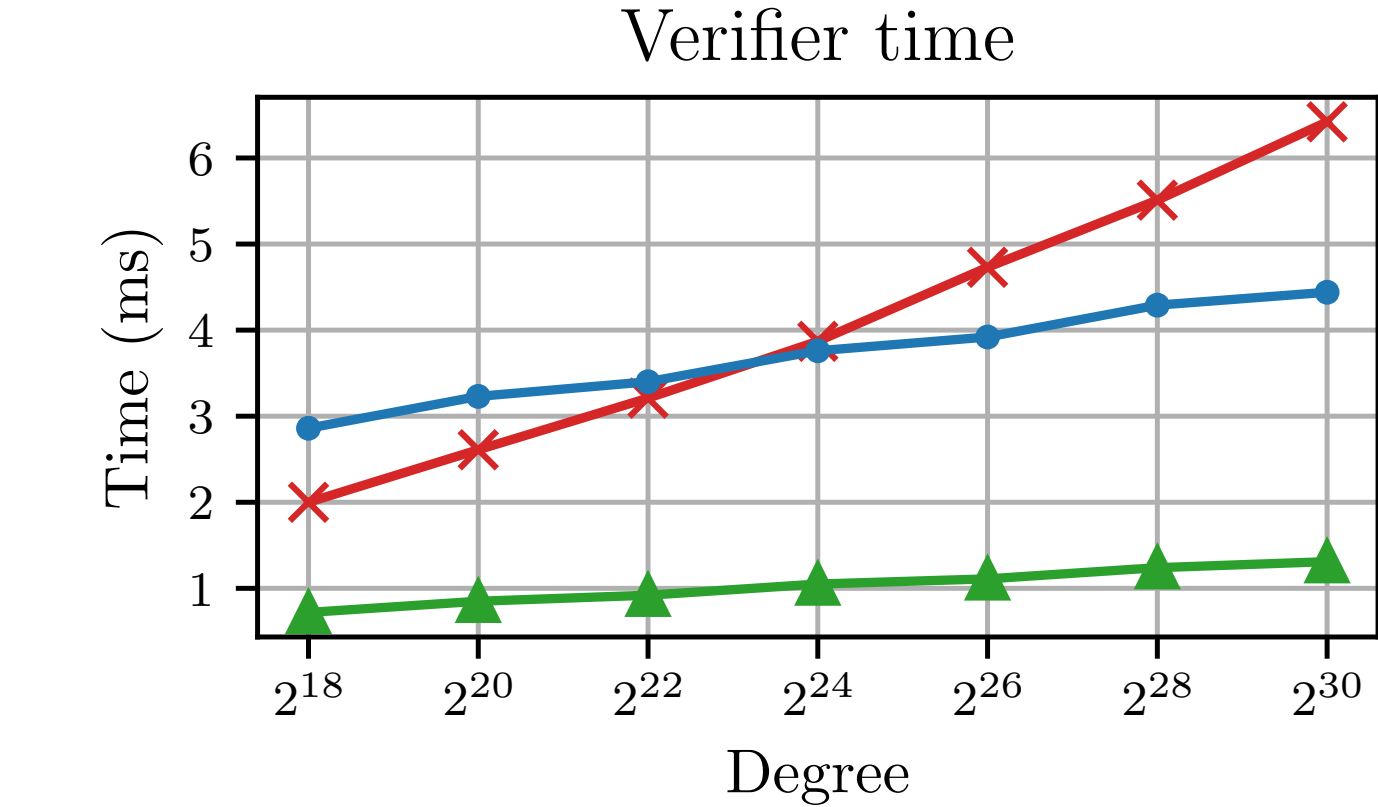
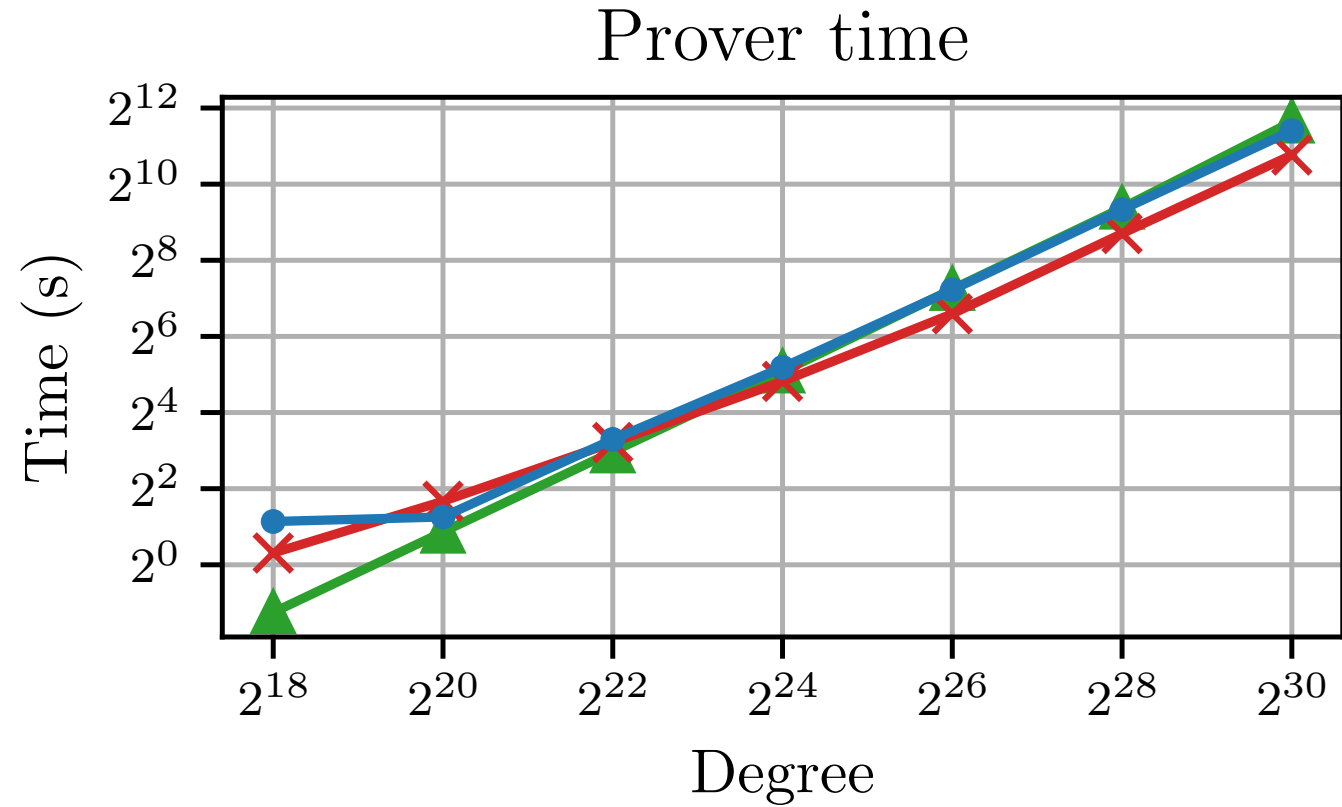
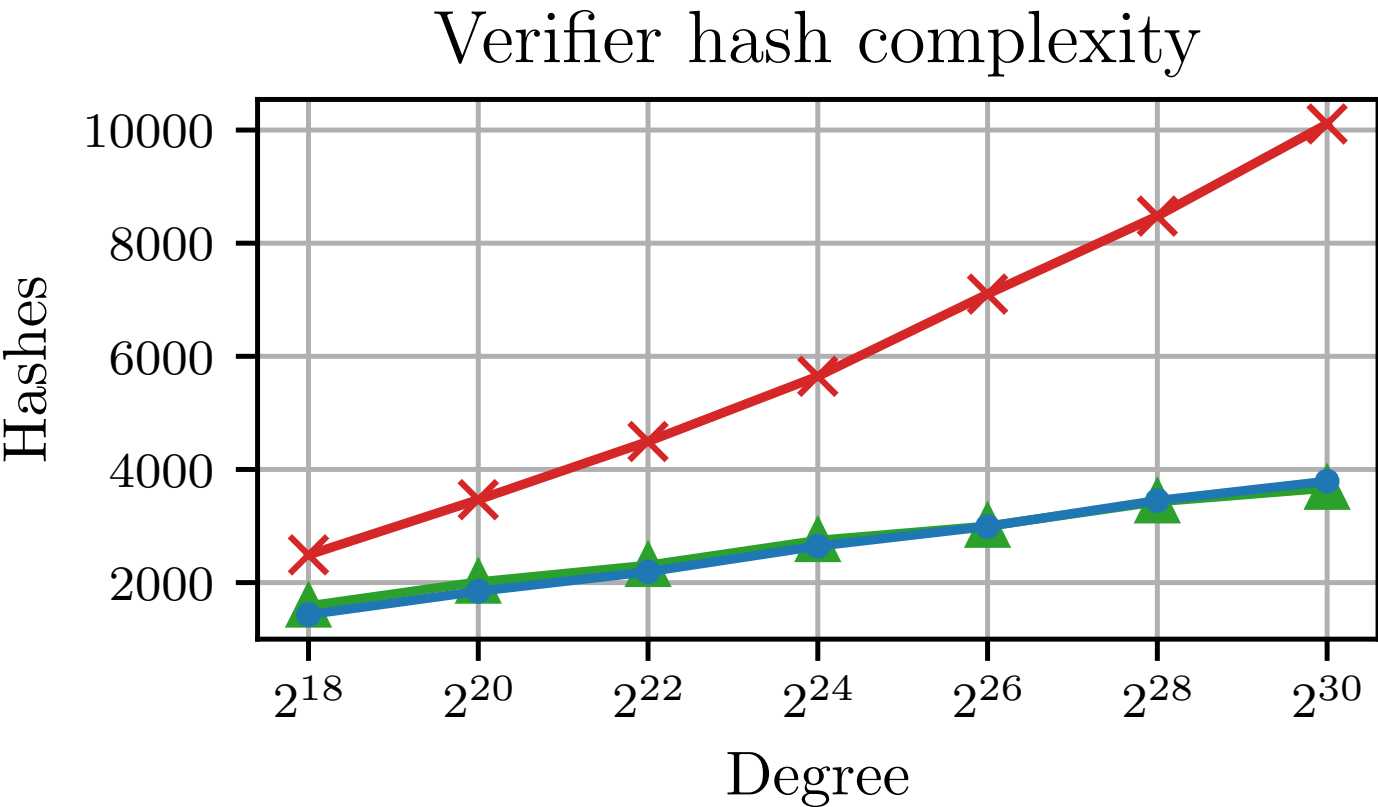
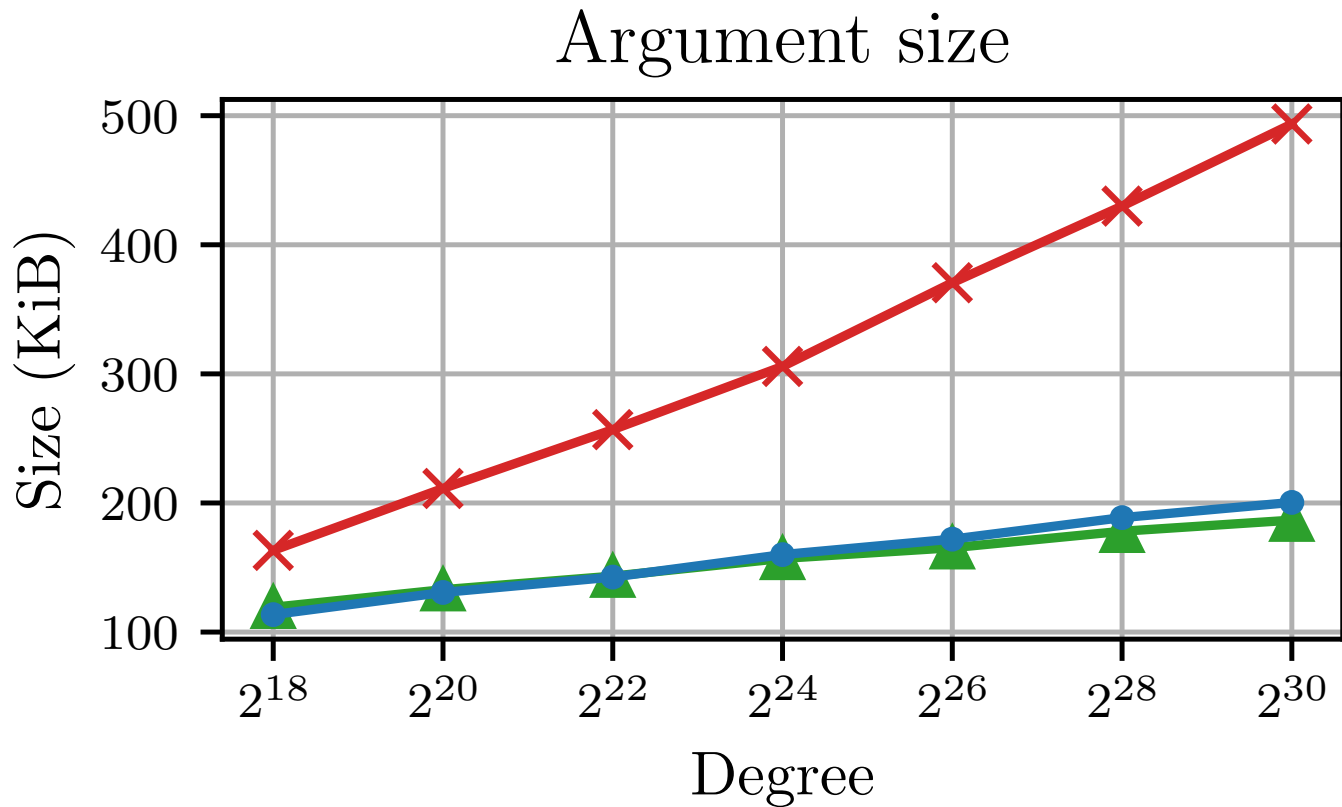
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2^24 coeffs rate = 1/4	FRI	WHIR
Size (KiB)	177	110
Verifier time	2.4ms	700μs



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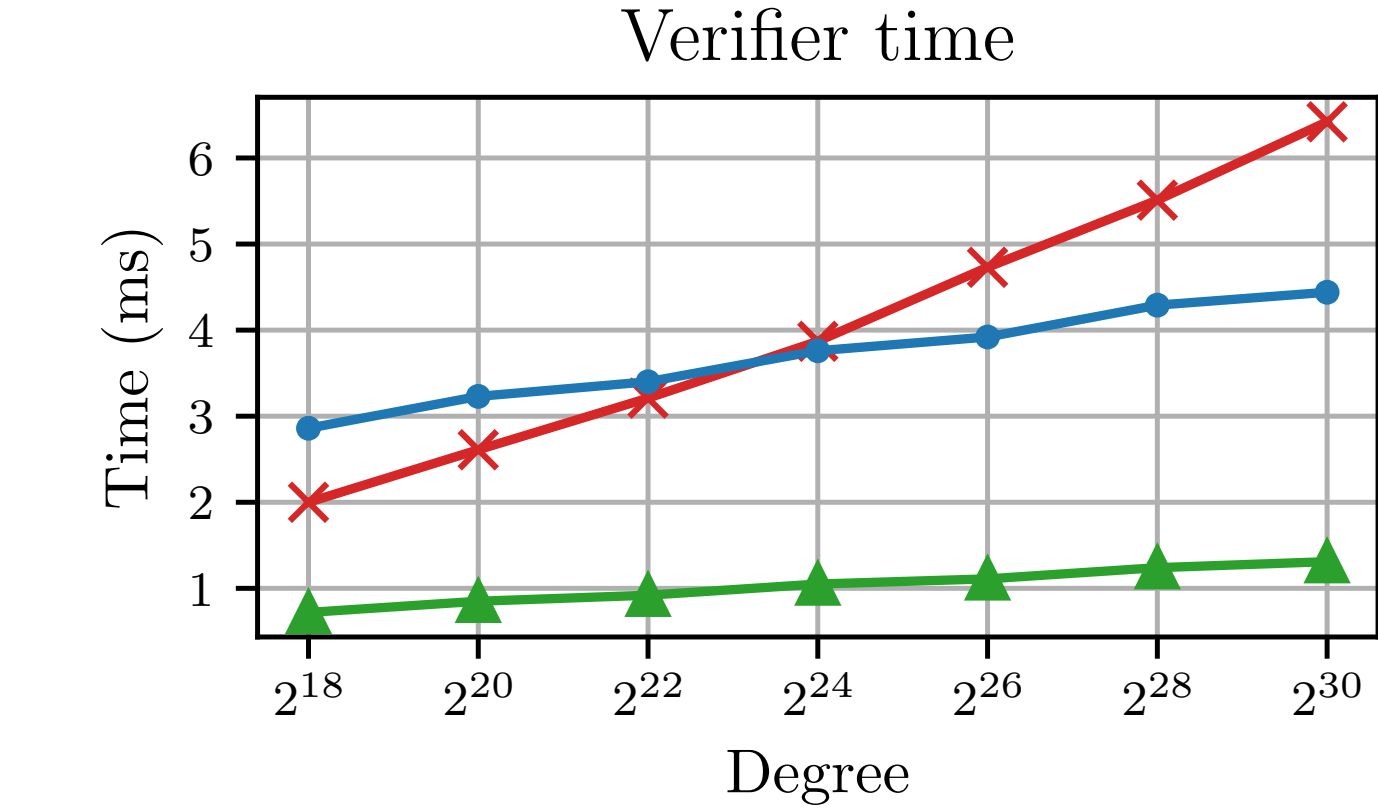
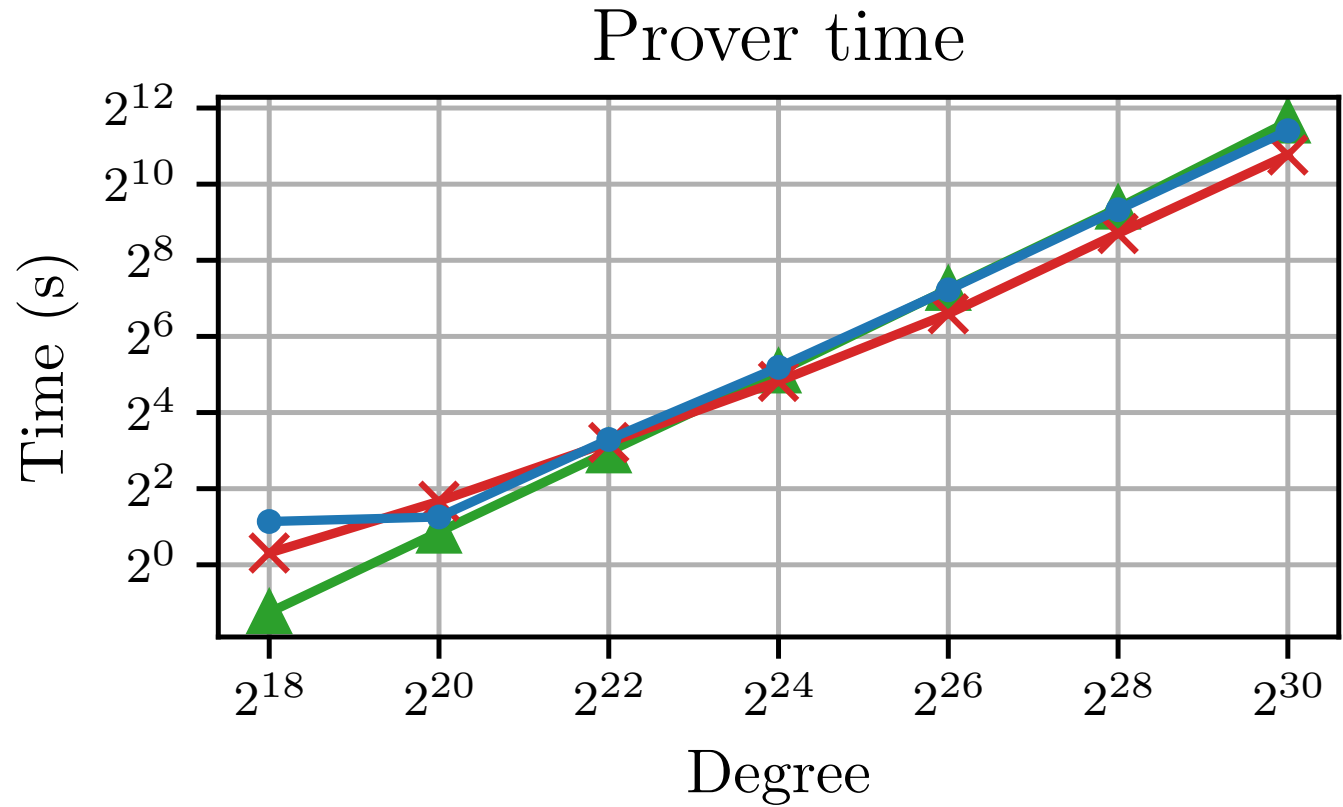
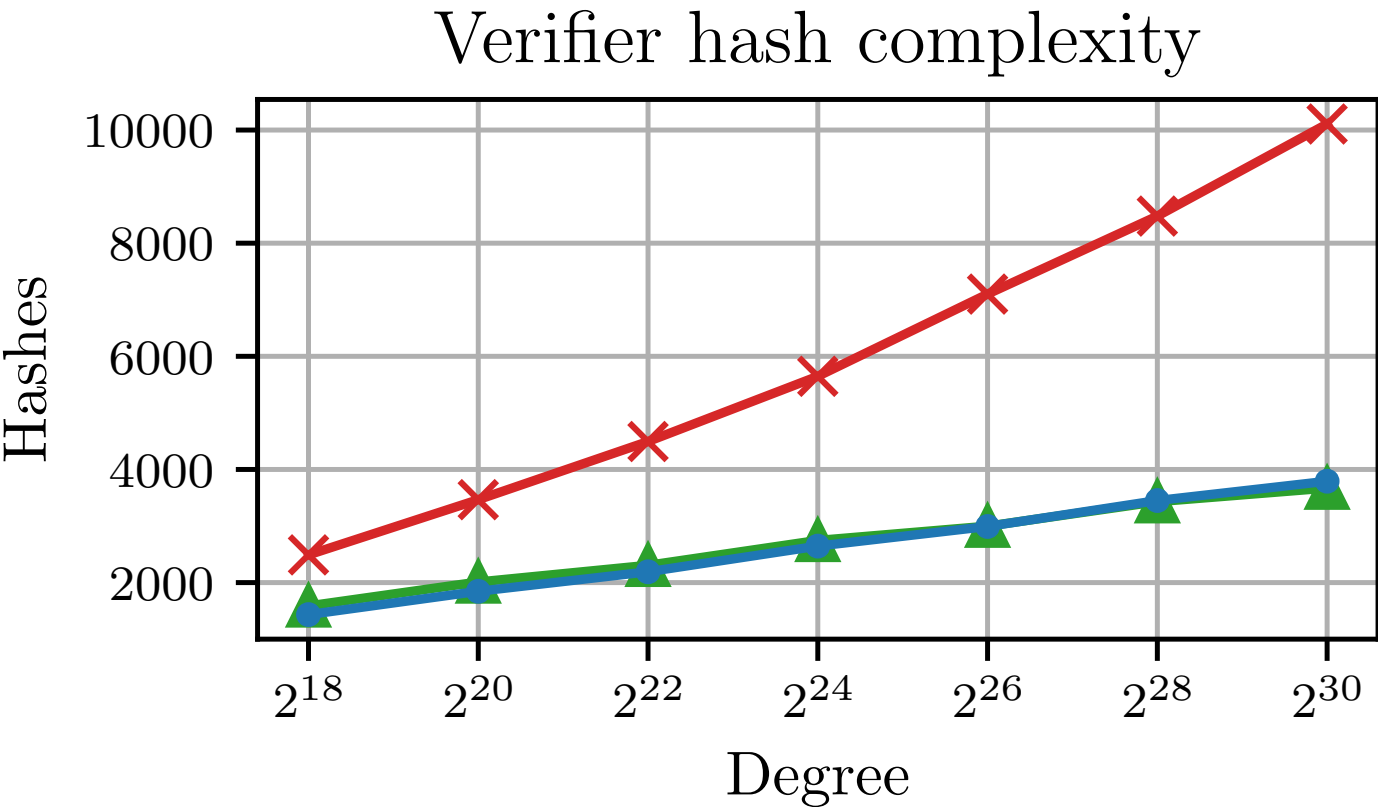
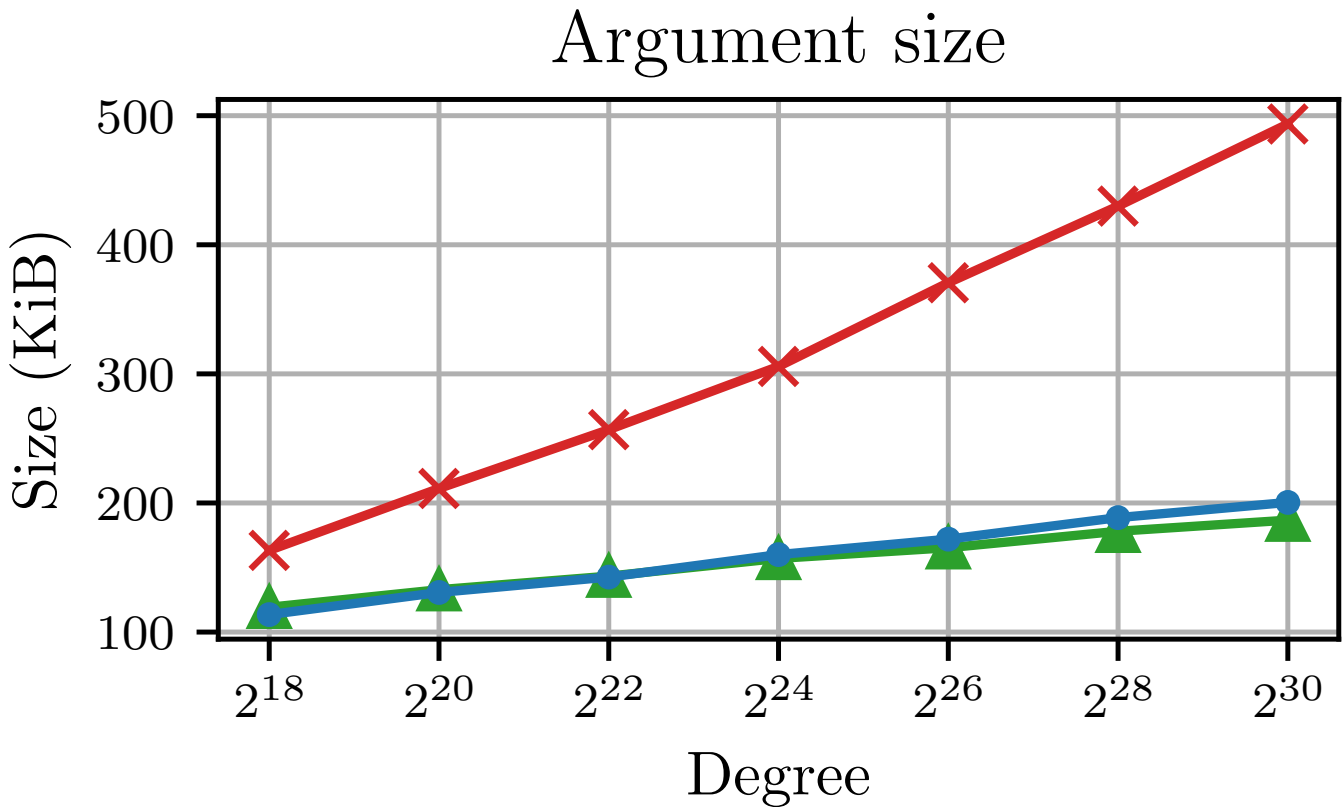
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2³⁰ coeffs rate = 1/2	FRI	WHIR
Size (KiB)	494	187
Verifier time	4.4ms	1.3ms



Super fast verifier

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Verifier time (ms)	Brakedown	Ligero	Greyhound	Hyrax	PST	KZG	WHIR[1/2]	WHIR[1/16]
$\lambda = 100$	3500	733	-	100	7.81	2.42	0.61	0.29
$\lambda = 128$	3680	750	130	151	9.92	3.66	1.4	0.6

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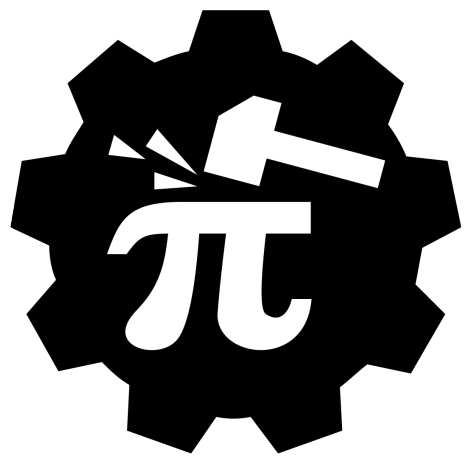
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Schemes with trusted setup using pairings!

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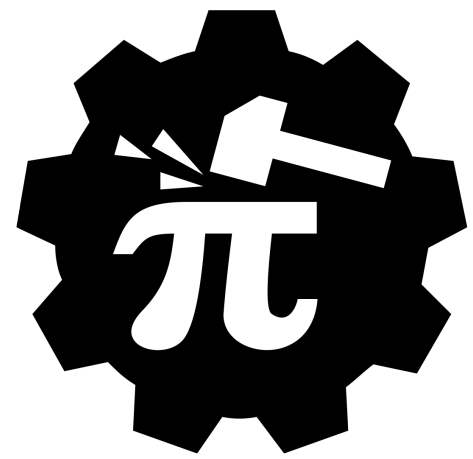
Practical adoption

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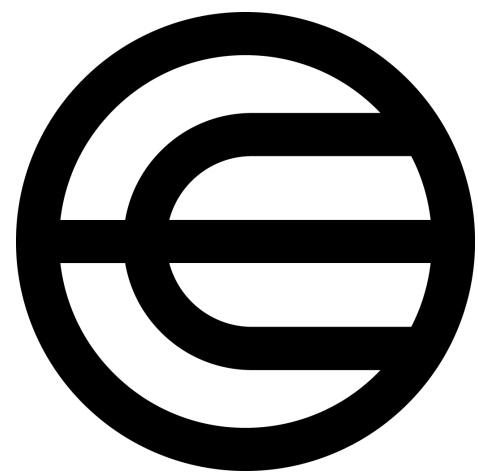


Implementation available
@ [WizardOfMenlo/whir](https://github.com/WizardOfMenlo/whir)

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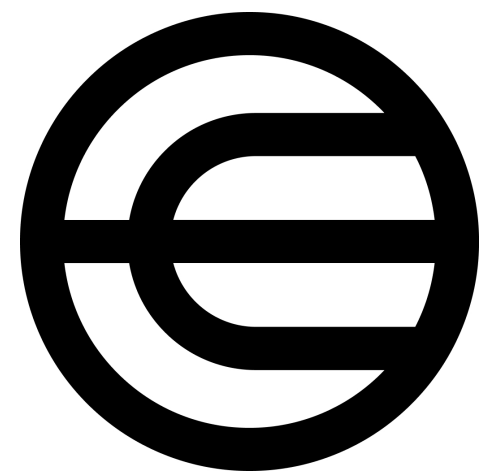


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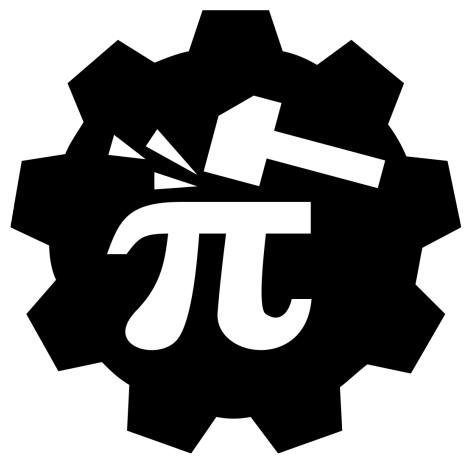
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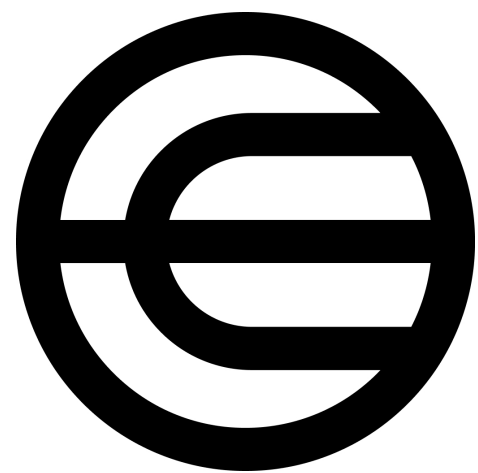
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1 Dec 2024

On the gas efficiency of the WHIR polynomial commitment scheme

Joint post with @WizardOfMenlo

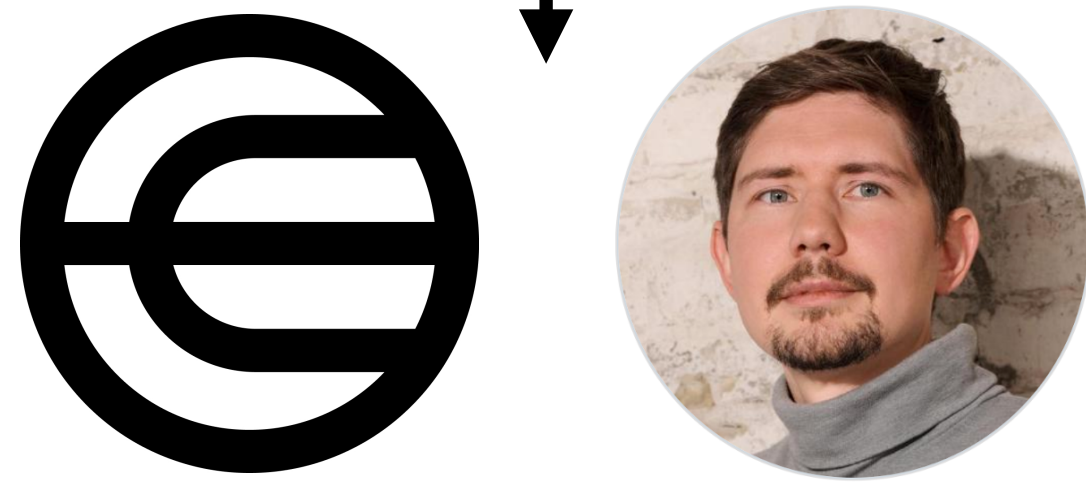
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Solidity verifier implementation
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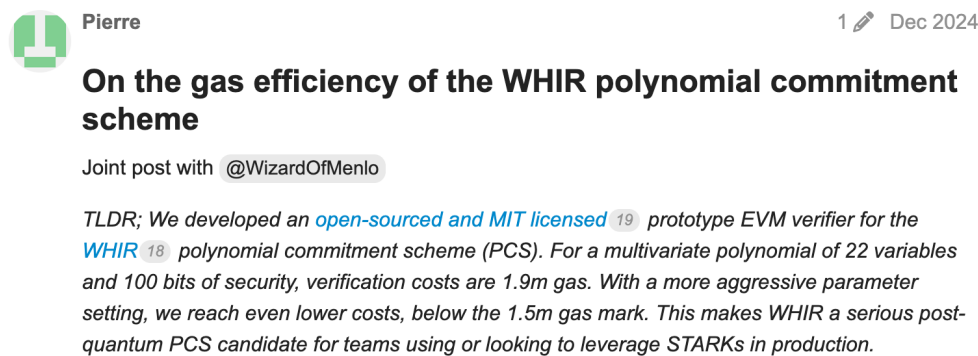


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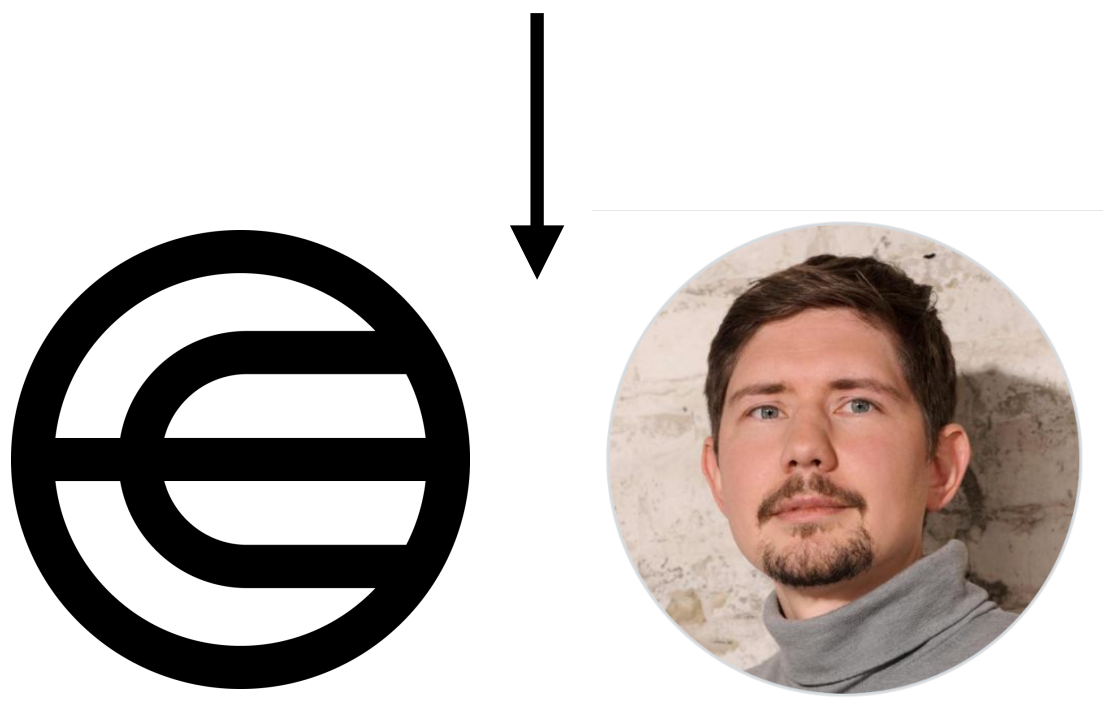
~1M gas for verification,
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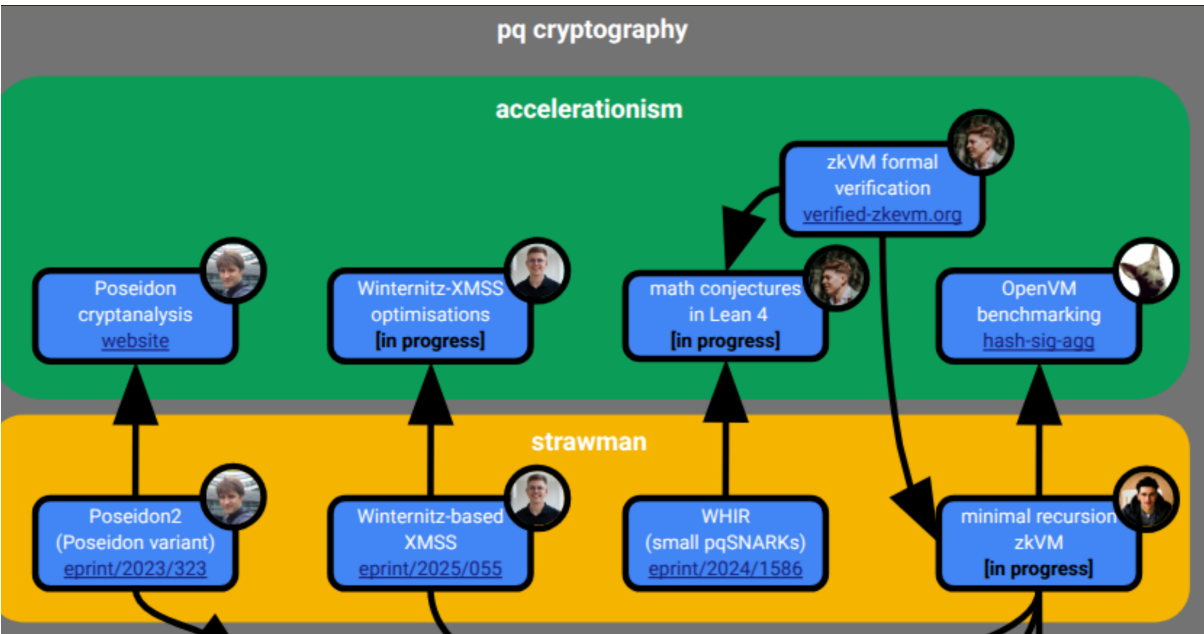
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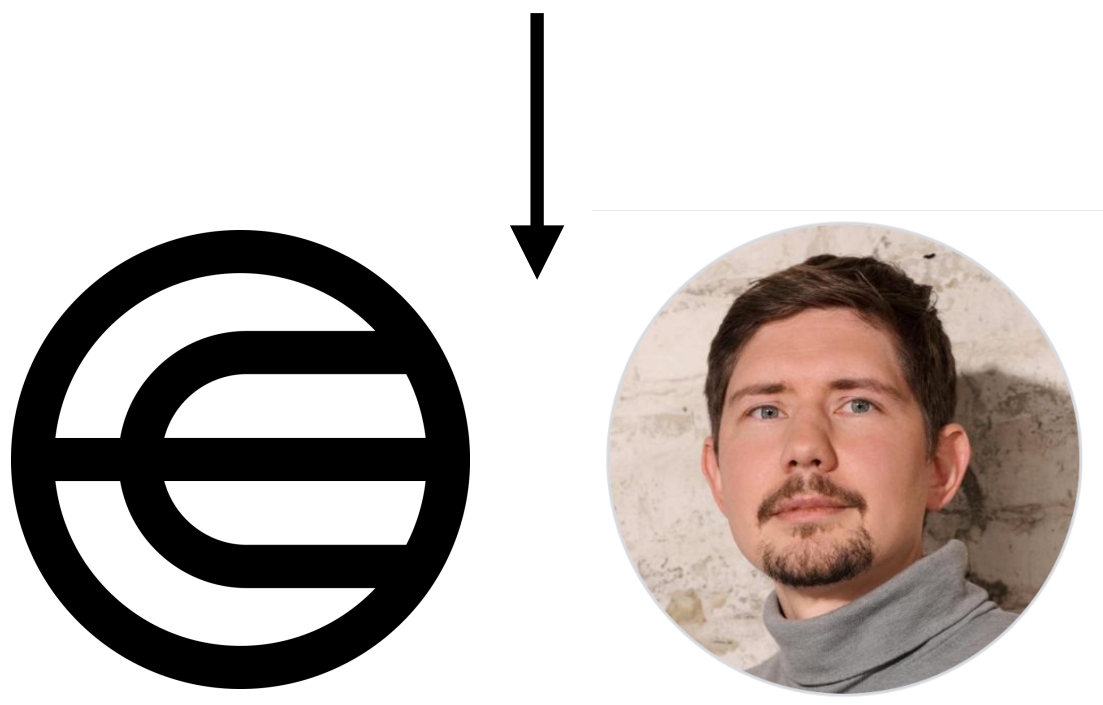
Ethereum pq transition



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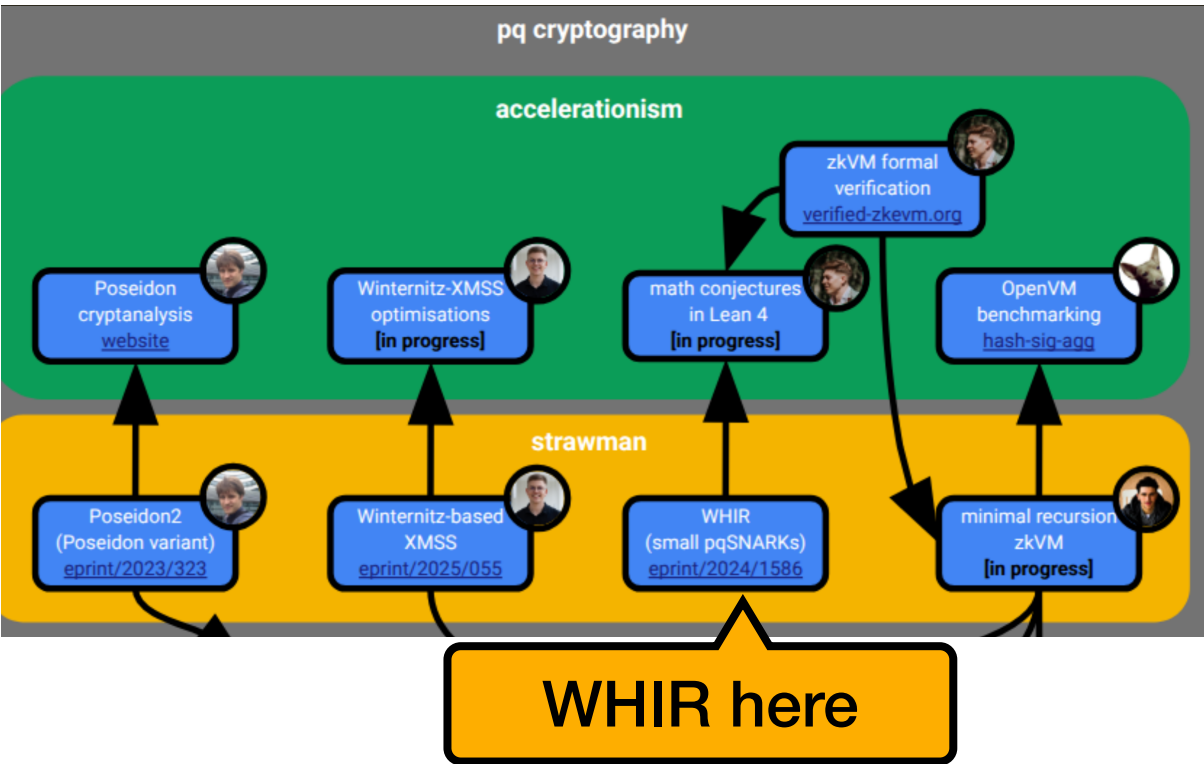
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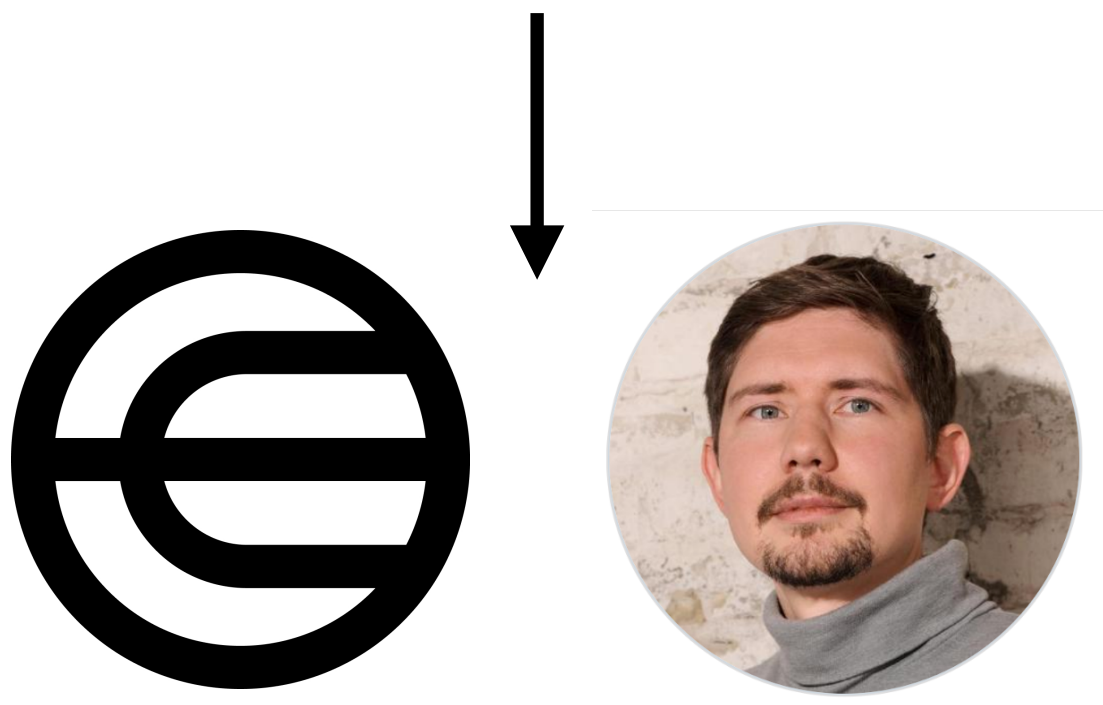
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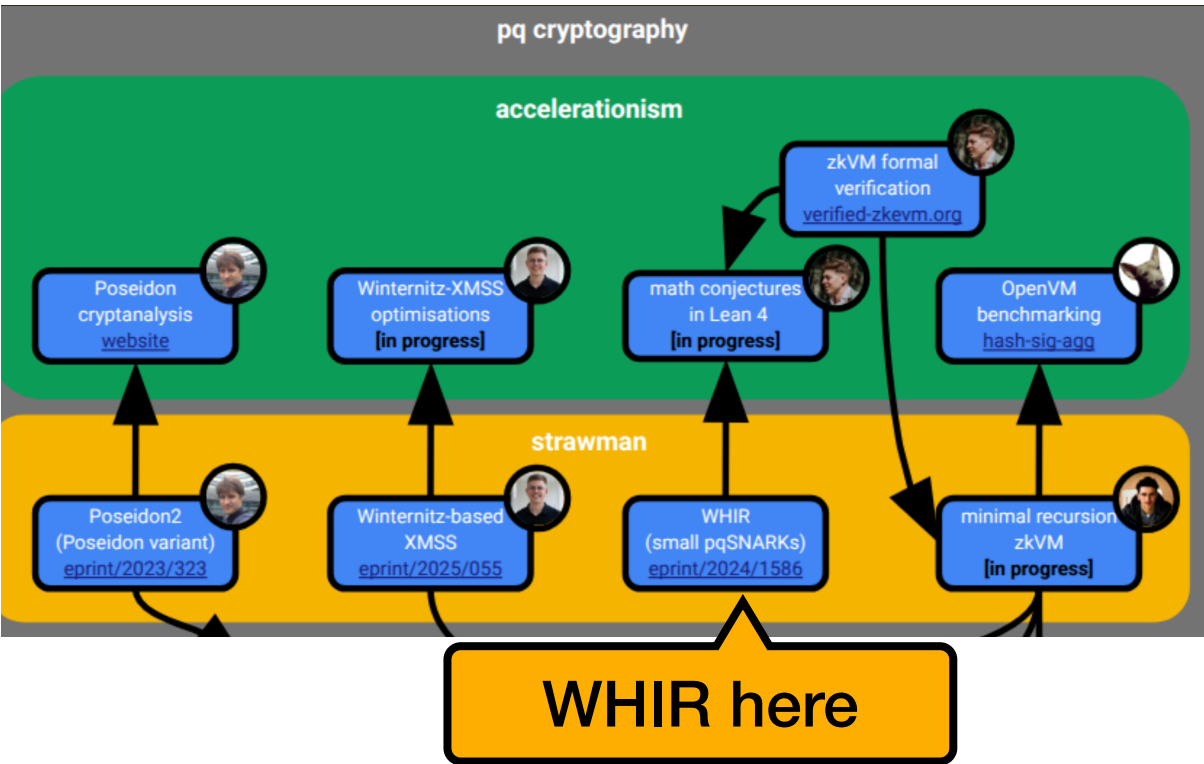
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Plonky3

POWERED BY  polygon

Plonky3 implementation
@ [tcoratger/whir-p3](#)

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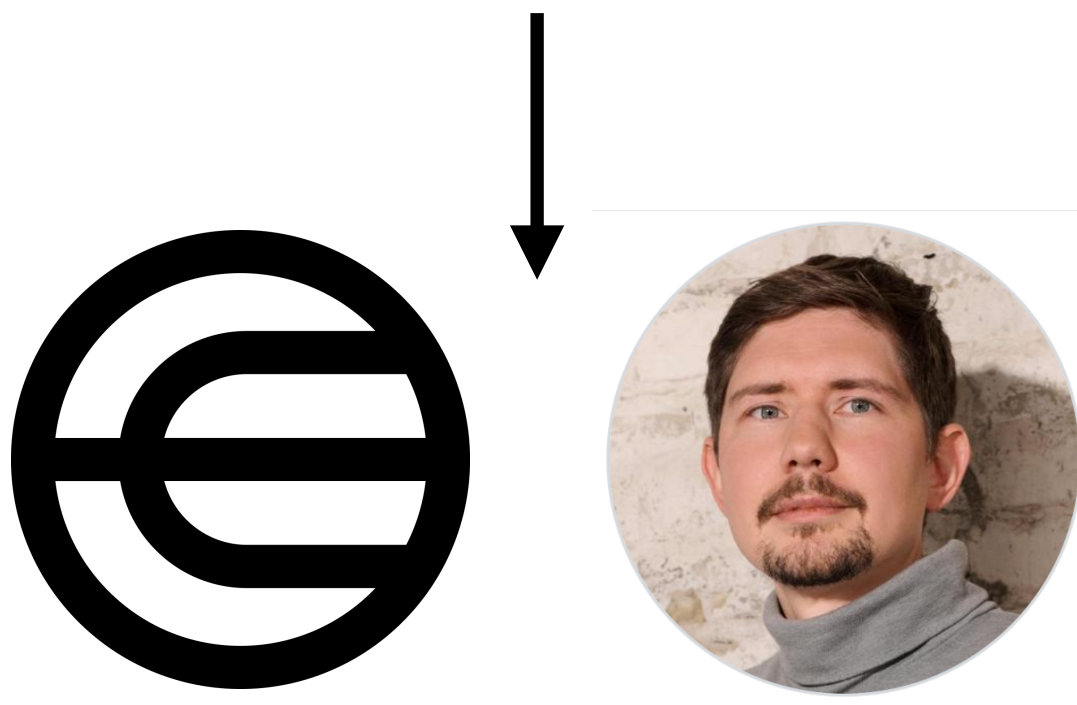
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Whirlaway

A hash-based SNARK with lightweight proofs, powered by the [Whir](#) Polynomial Commitment Scheme.

Specifications

- **Arithmetization:** AIR (Algebraic Intermediate Representation) with preprocessed columns
- **Security level:** 128 bits (without conjectures), presumably post-quantum (hash-based protocol)
- **Ingredients:** WHIR + Ring-Switching + Sumcheck + Univariate Skip

Hash-based SNARK
based on WHIR
@ [TomWambsgans/Whirlaway](#)

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1 Dec 2024

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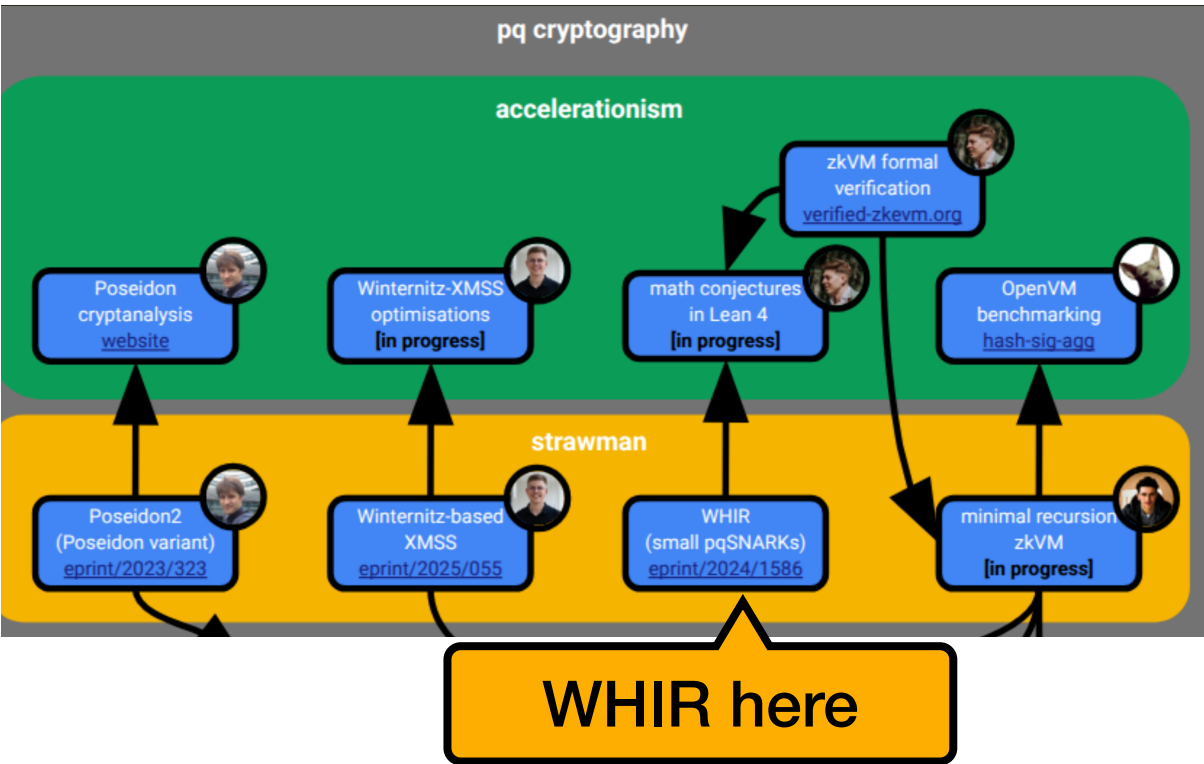
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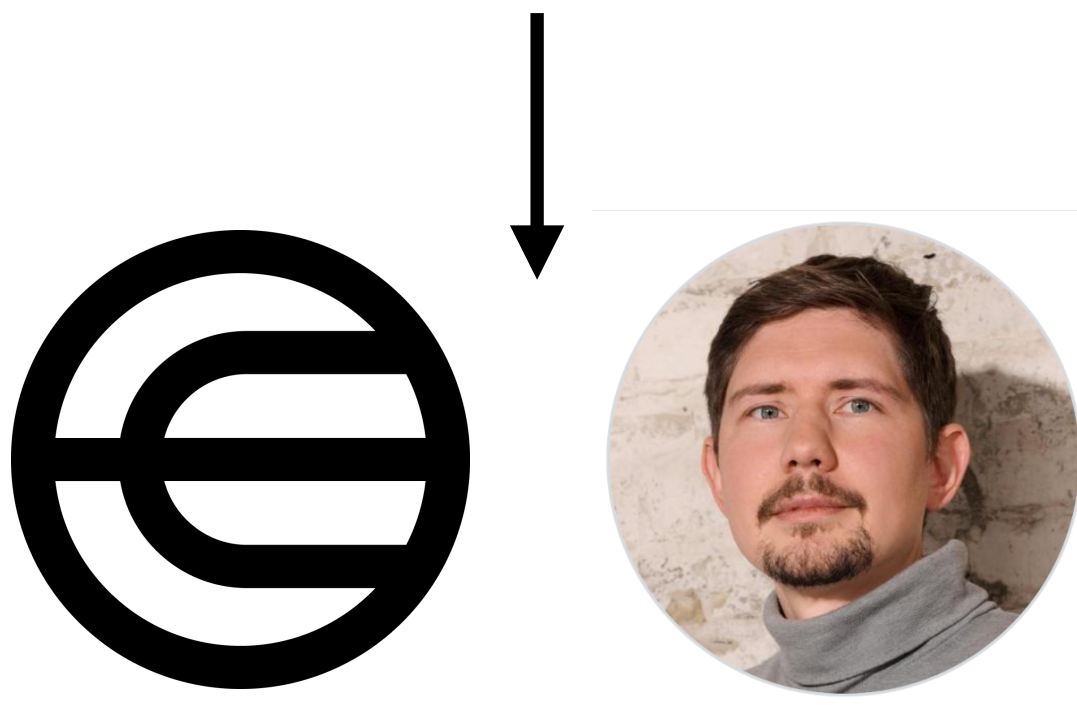
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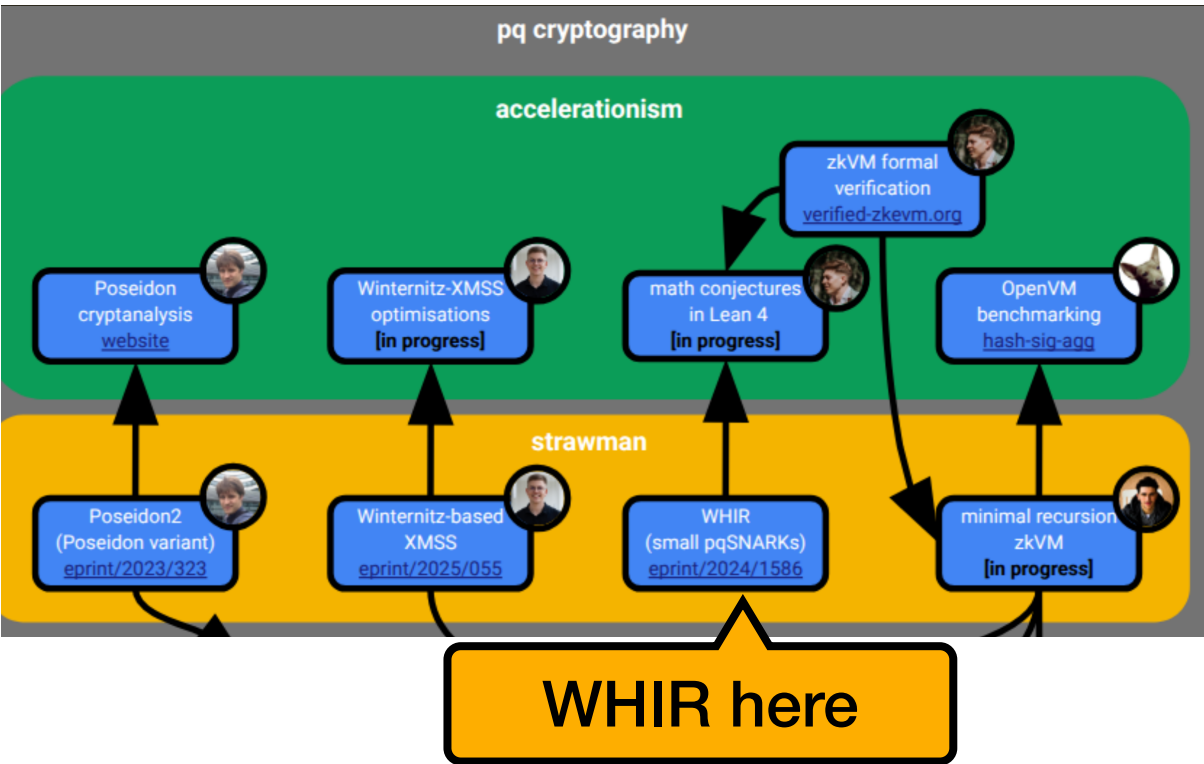
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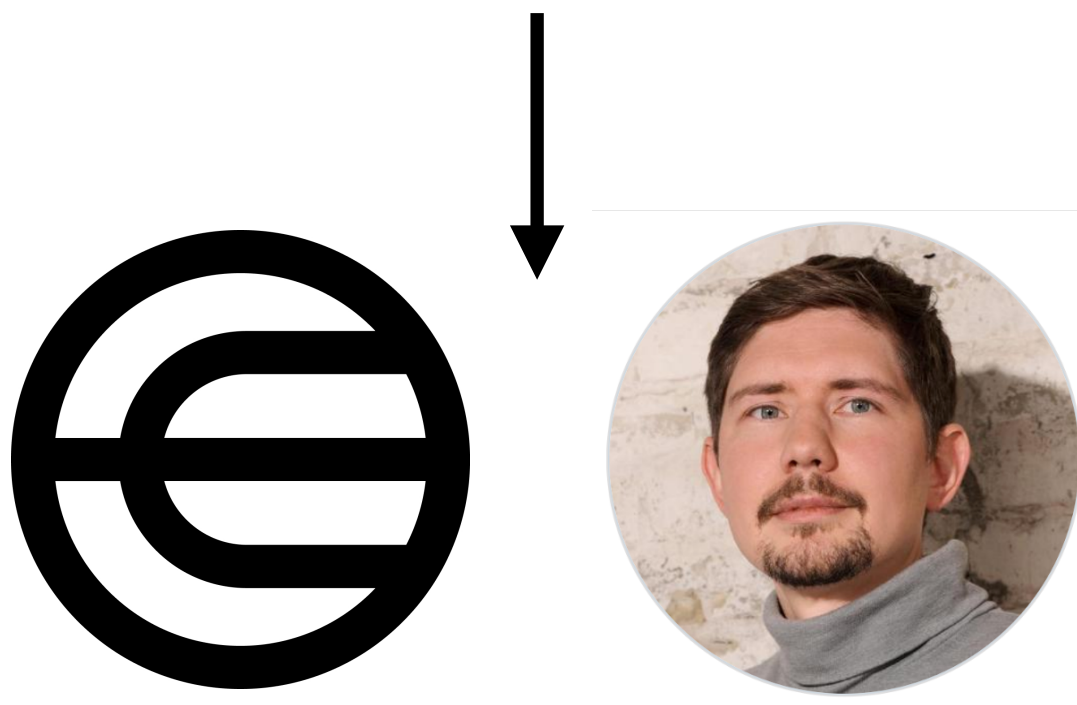
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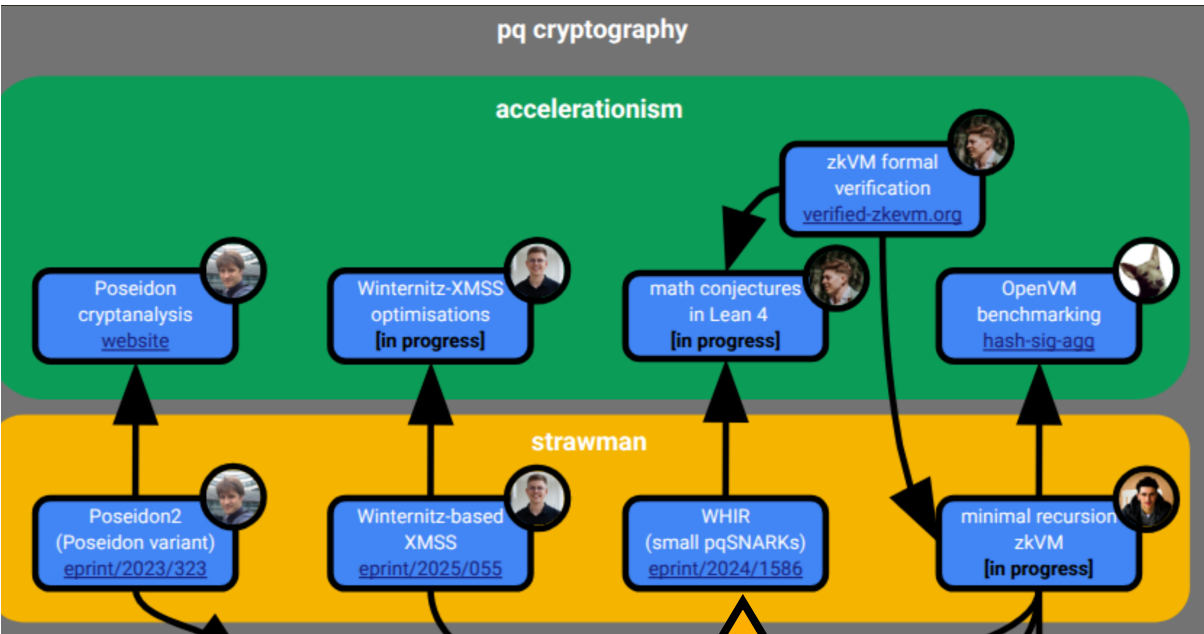
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WHIR here

Formal Verification

Progress 10%

Mathematically prove the security properties of cryptographic proof systems like FRI, STIR, and WHIR using the Lean 4 framework, creating structured blueprints that map out theorem dependencies to verify that the zkEVM implementations are correct.

Key Milestones

- zkEVM formal verification project initiation Jan 2025
- Lean 4 framework implementation Mar 2025
- FRI proof system specification
- STIR proof system specification
- WHIR proof system specification

Formal verification effort

Conclusion

Summary



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WHIR 🌀: a new IOPP for CRS codes.



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$$O\left(\frac{\lambda}{k} \cdot \log m\right)$$

Verifier complexity:

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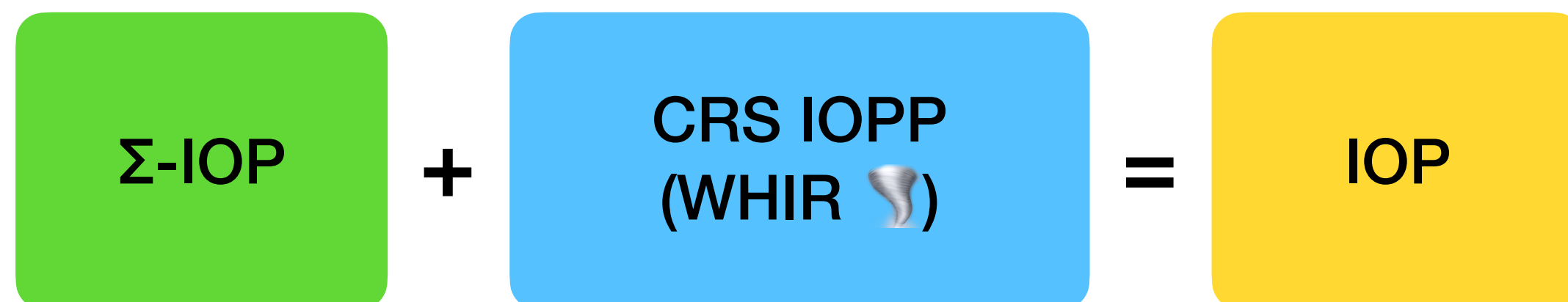
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Open question:
Can argument size be improved at the same prover cost?

Extra slides

Techniques

FRI & STIR Folding

Reduce $\text{RS}[n, m, \rho]$ to $\text{RS}[n/2^k, m - k, \rho]$

(Think $k = 4$)

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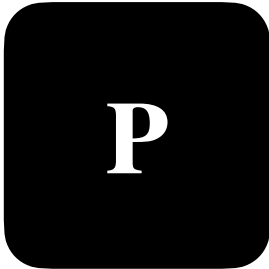
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$$f : L \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

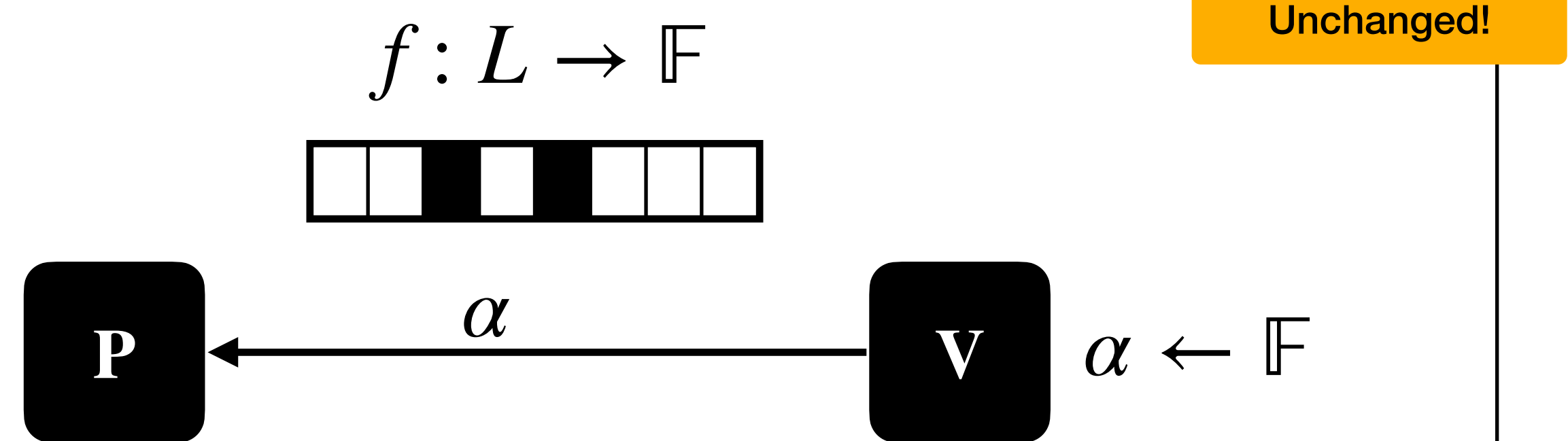


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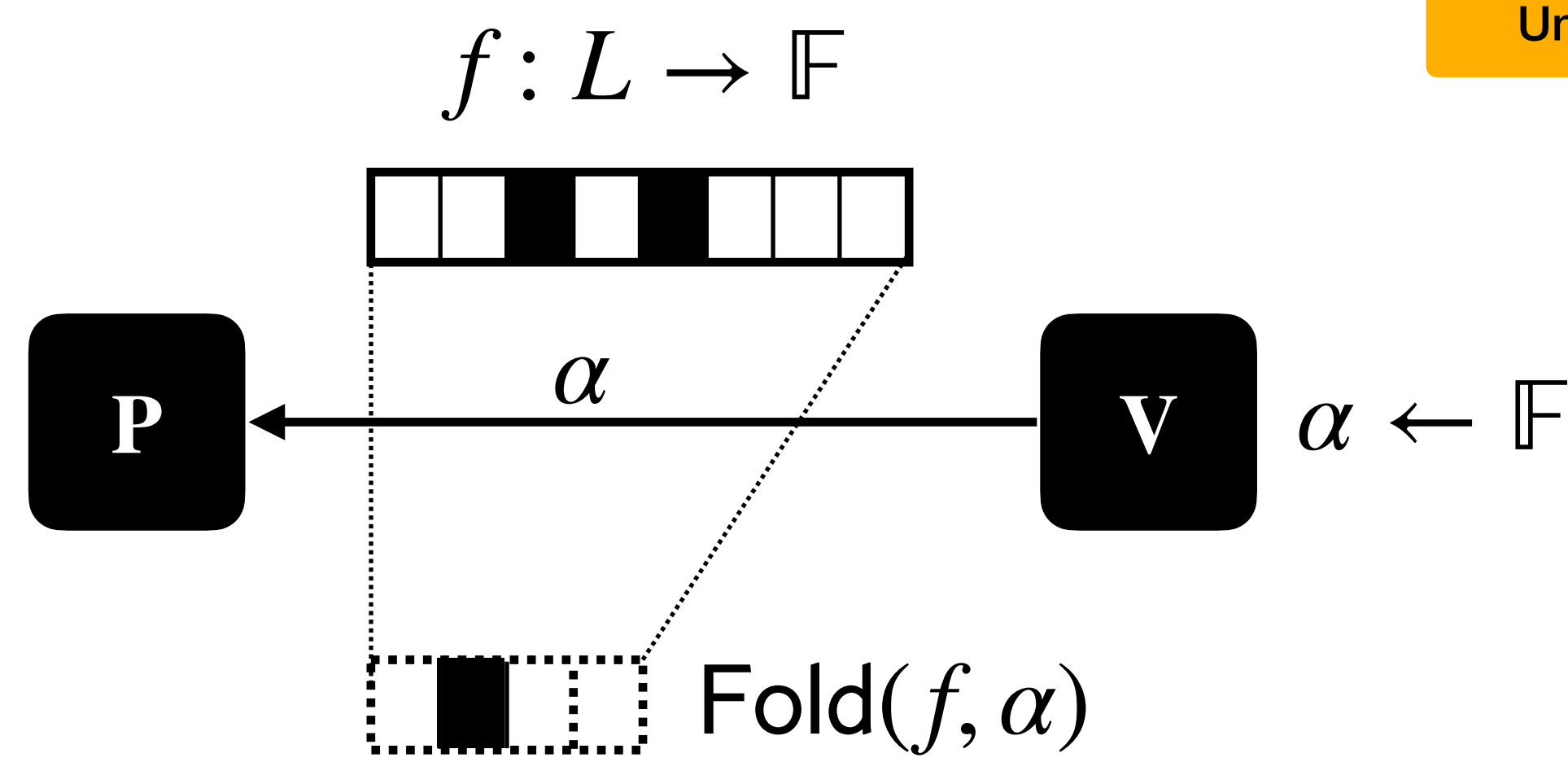
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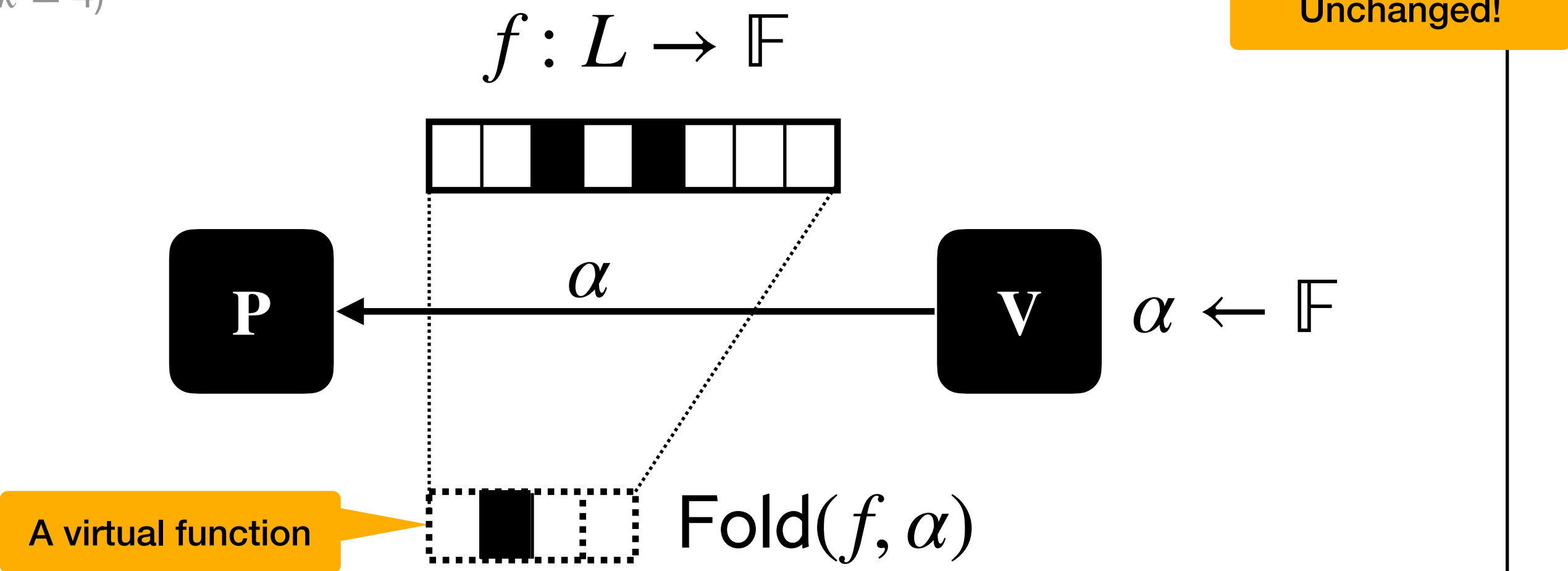


Unchanged!

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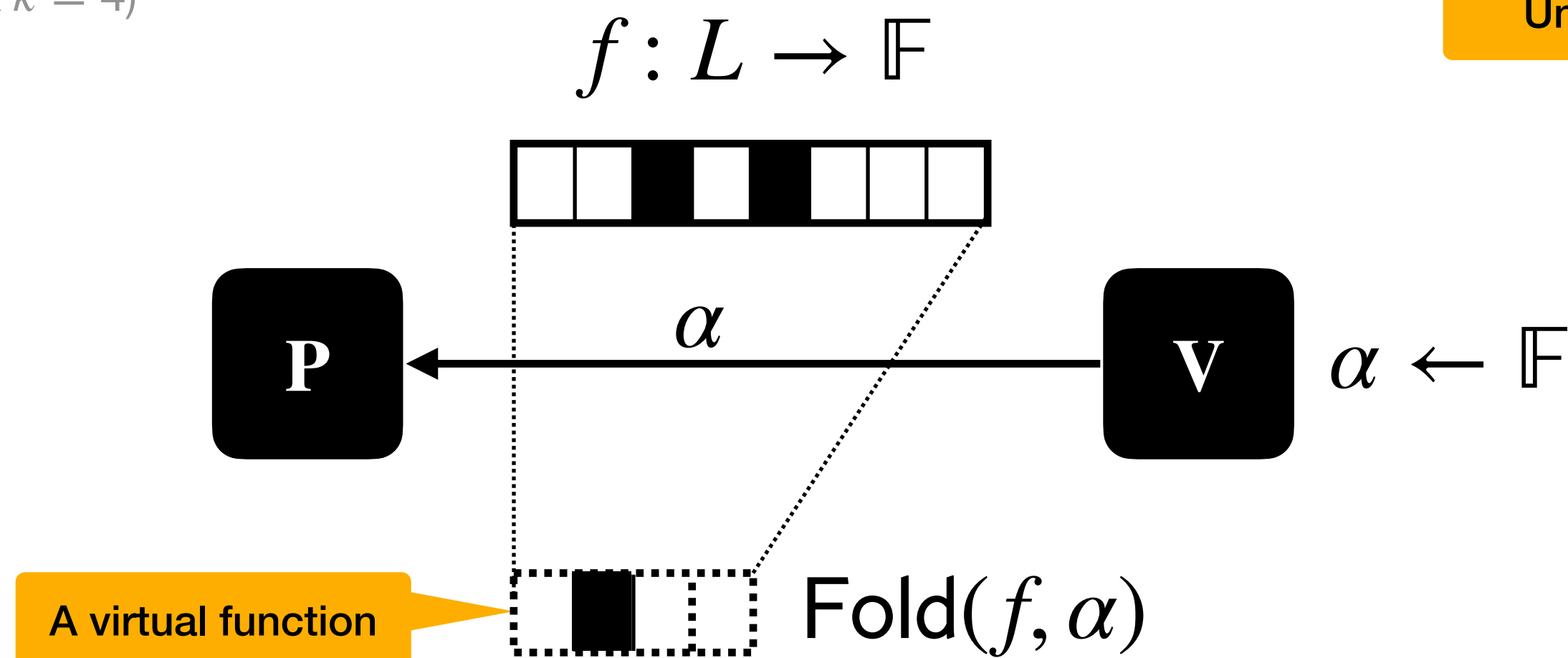


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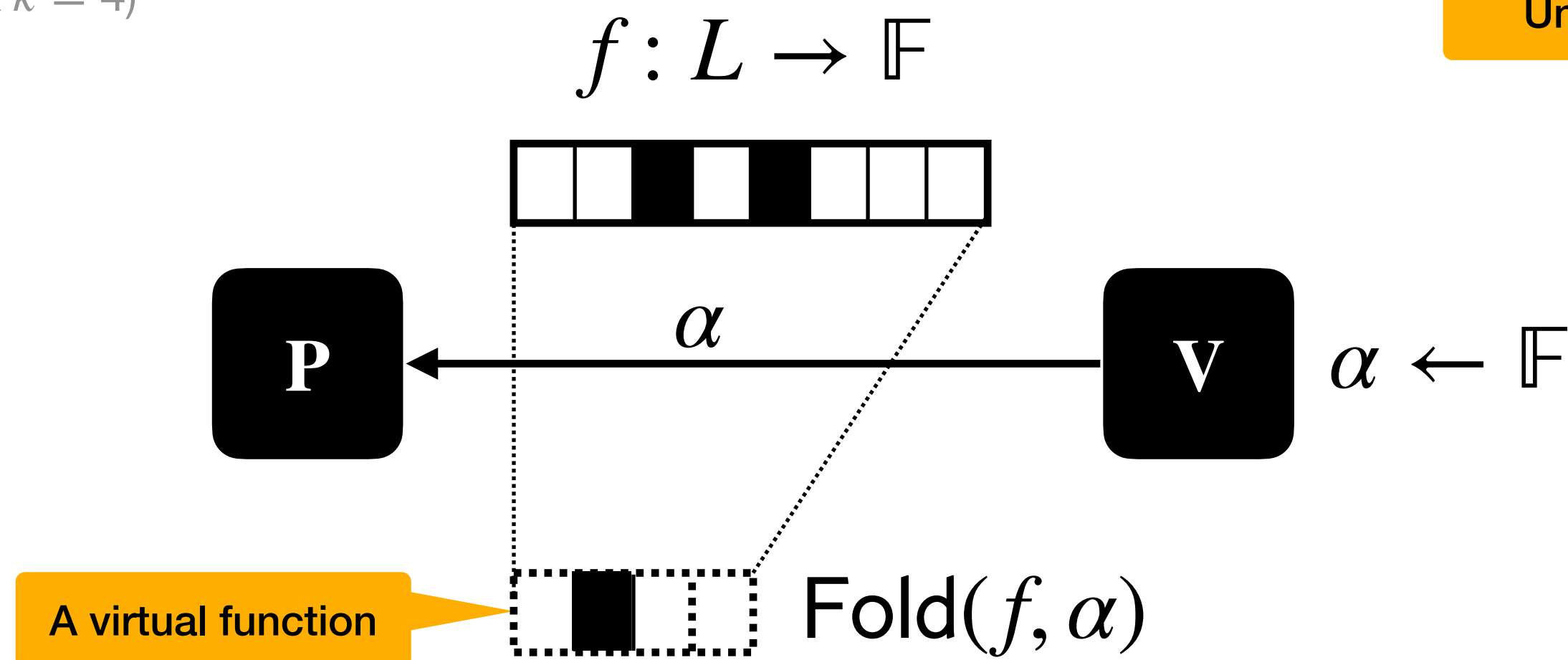
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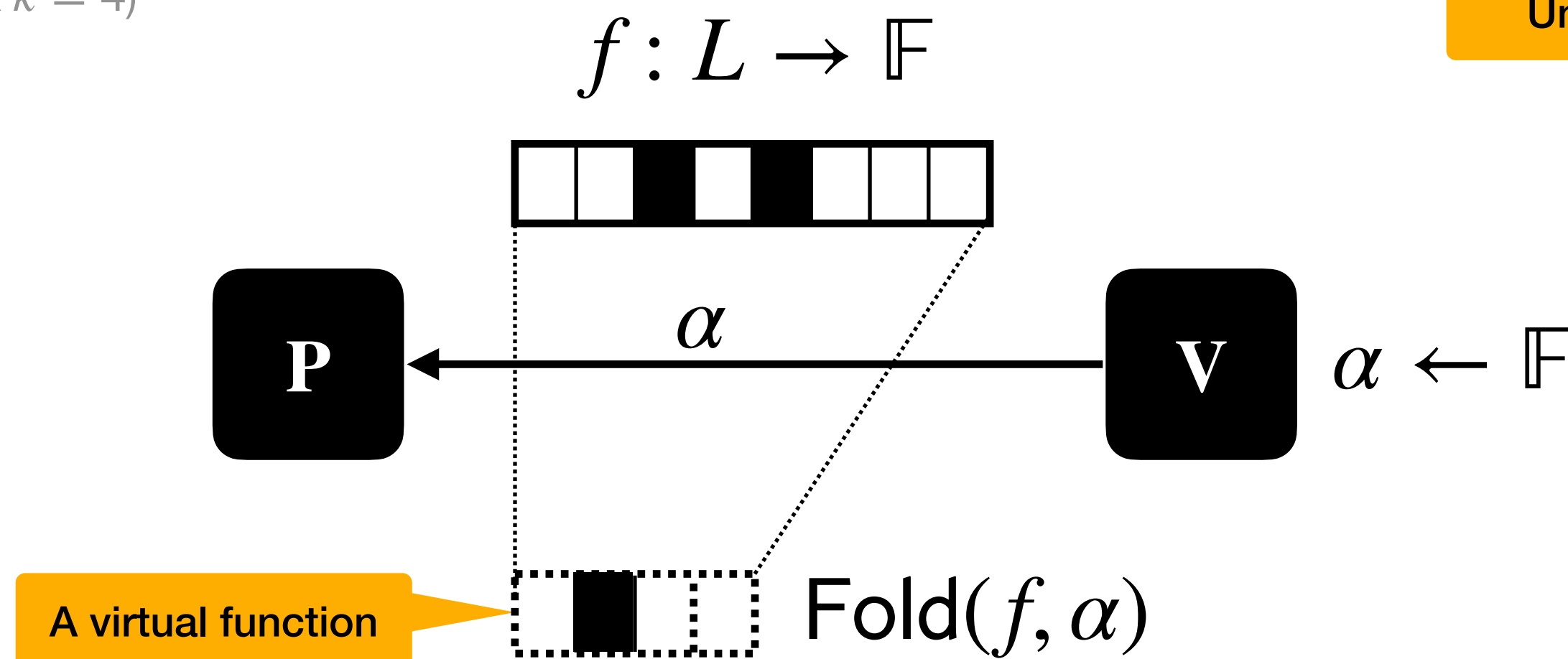
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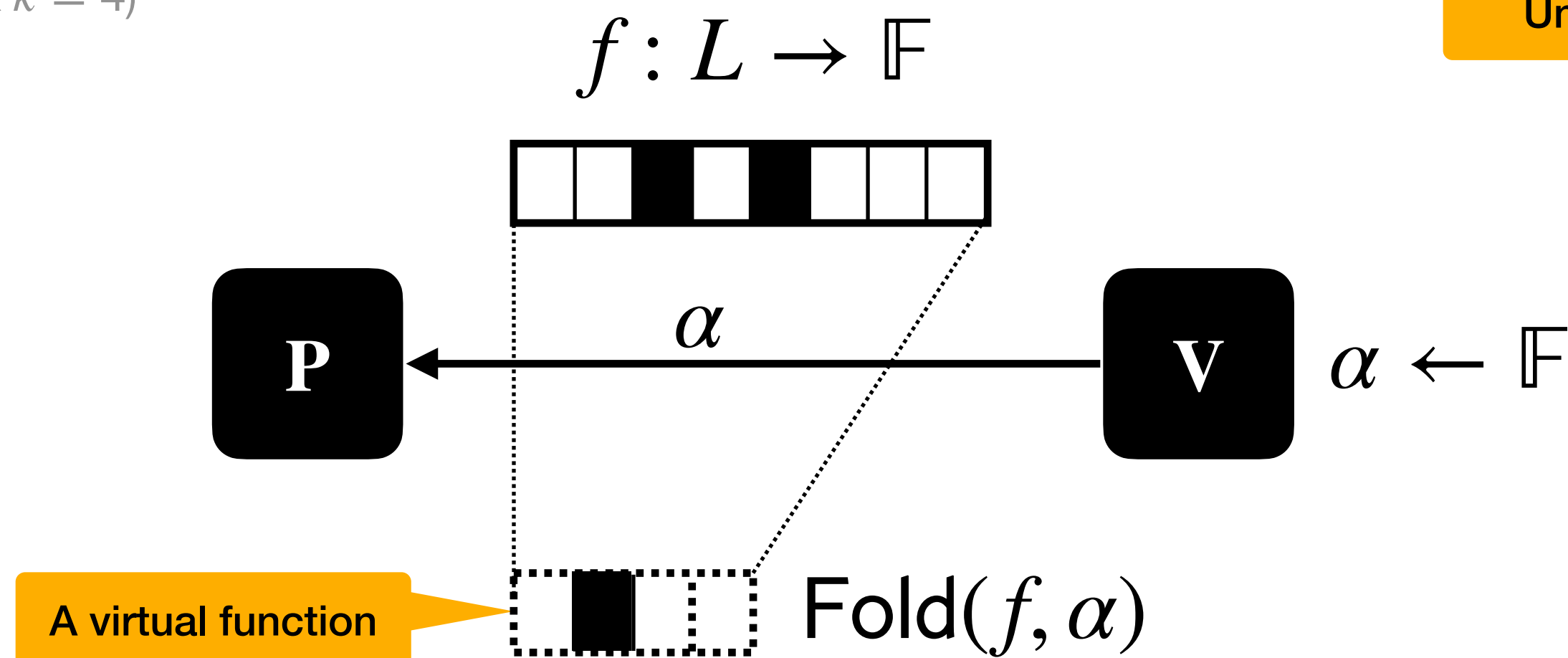
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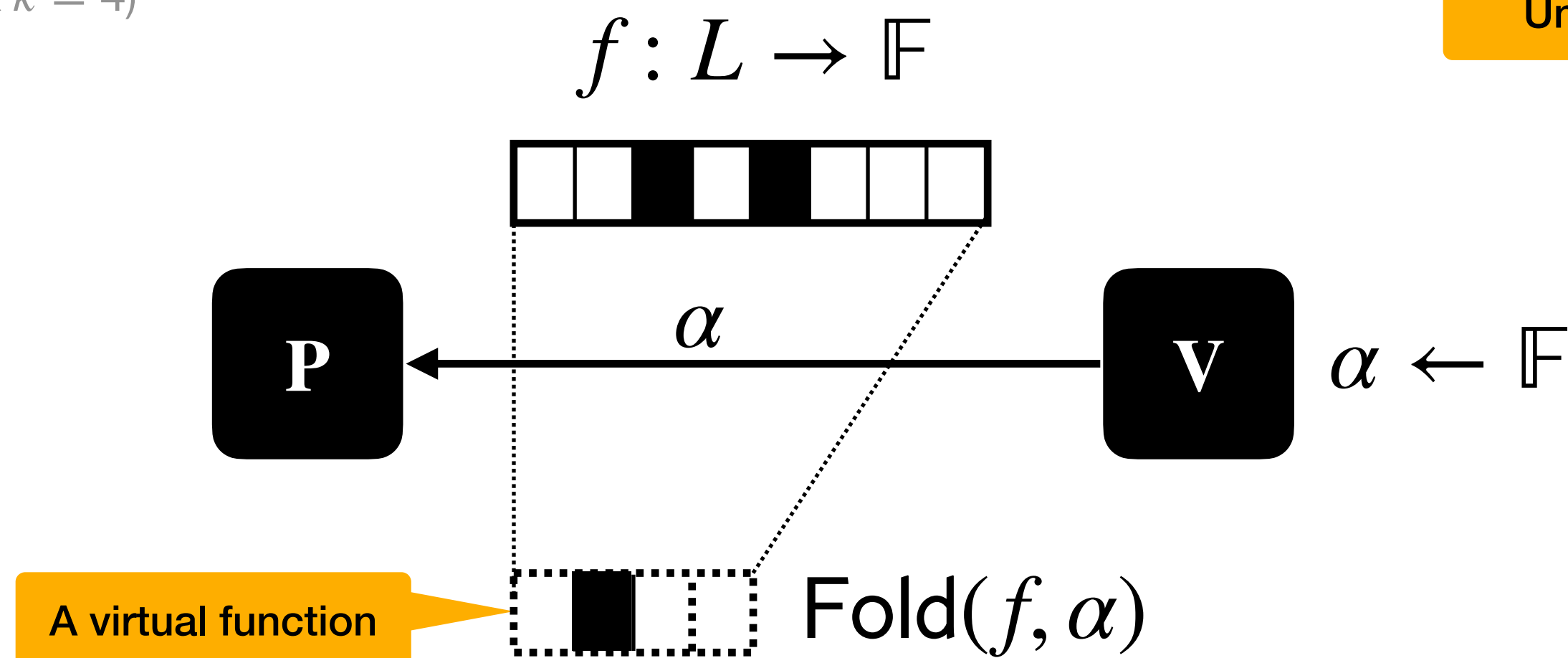
$$\delta \in (0, 1 - \sqrt{\rho})$$

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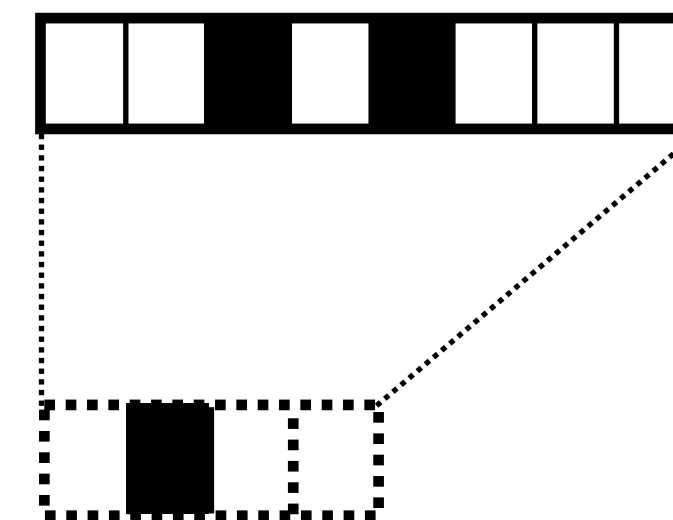
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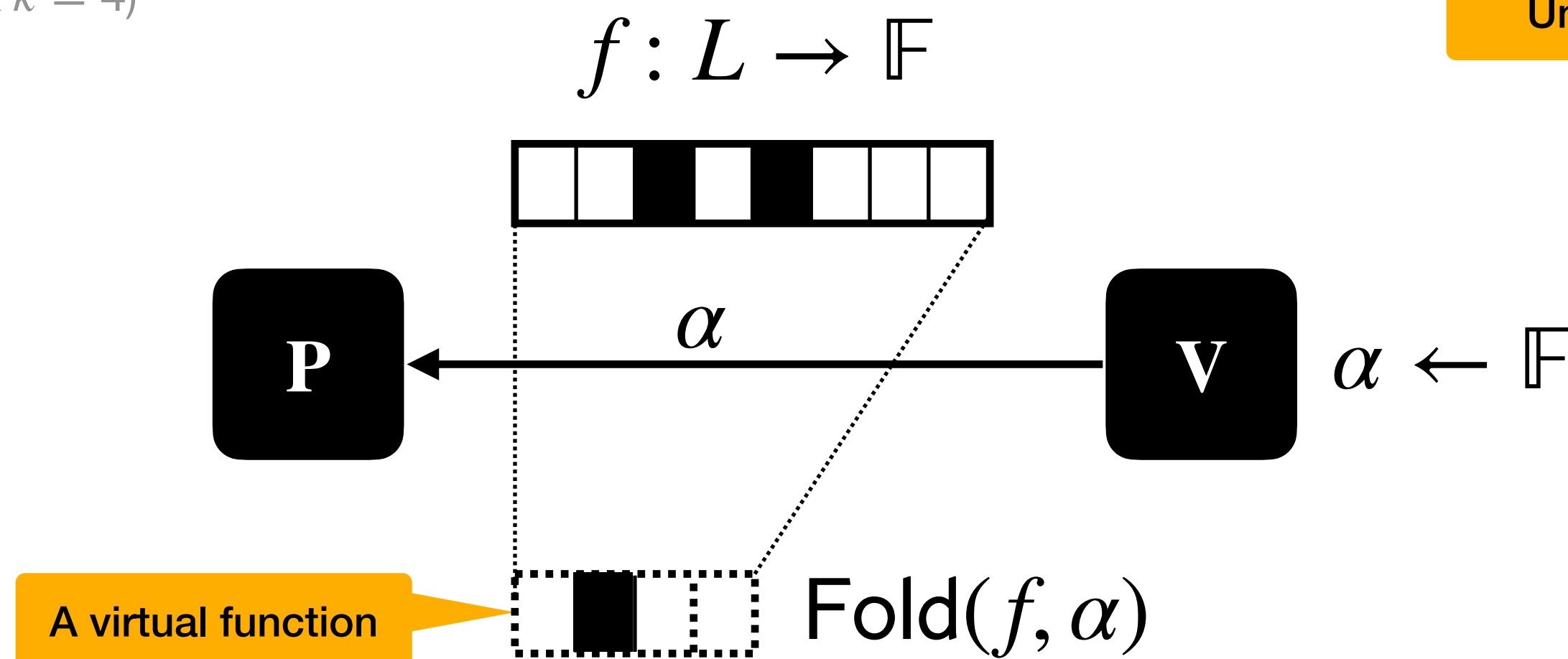


Unless w.p. $\approx \frac{\text{poly}(n, 2^m)}{|\mathbb{F}|}$, the fraction of “corrupted” entries does not decrease.

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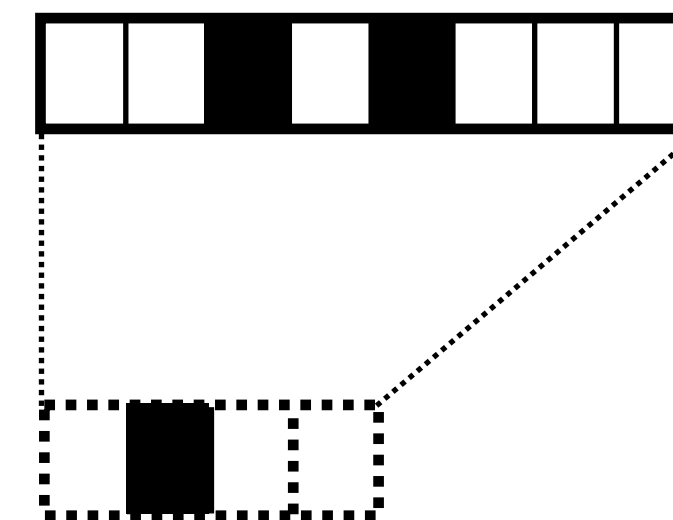
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Proximity Gaps for Reed–Solomon Codes

Eli Ben-Sasson*

Dan Carmon*

Yuval Ishai†

Swastik Kopparty ‡

Shubhangi Saraf§

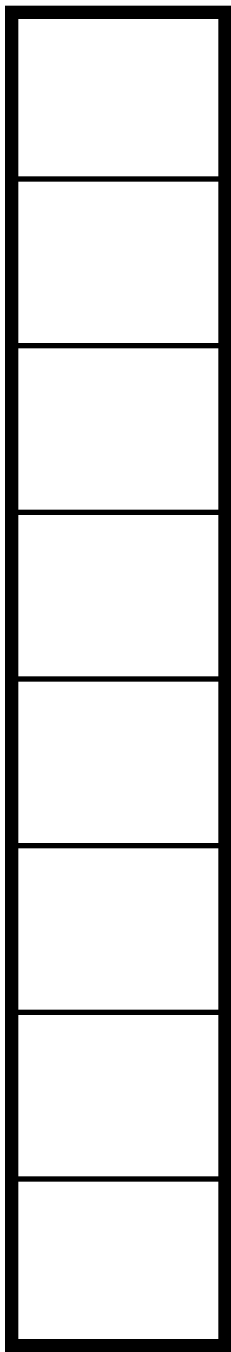
July 3, 2021

Mutual correlated agreement

Test a random linear combination

Mutual correlated agreement

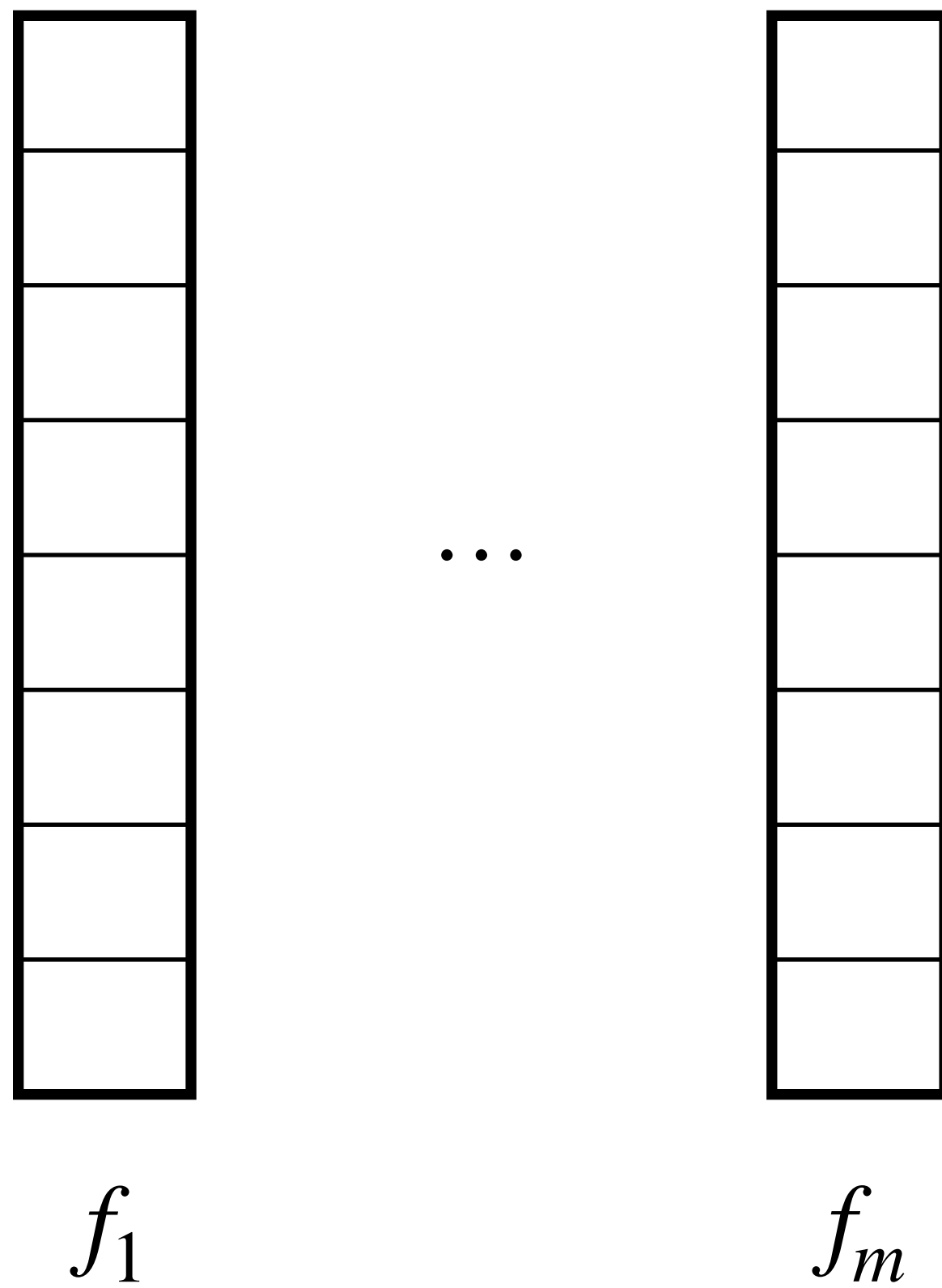
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f_1

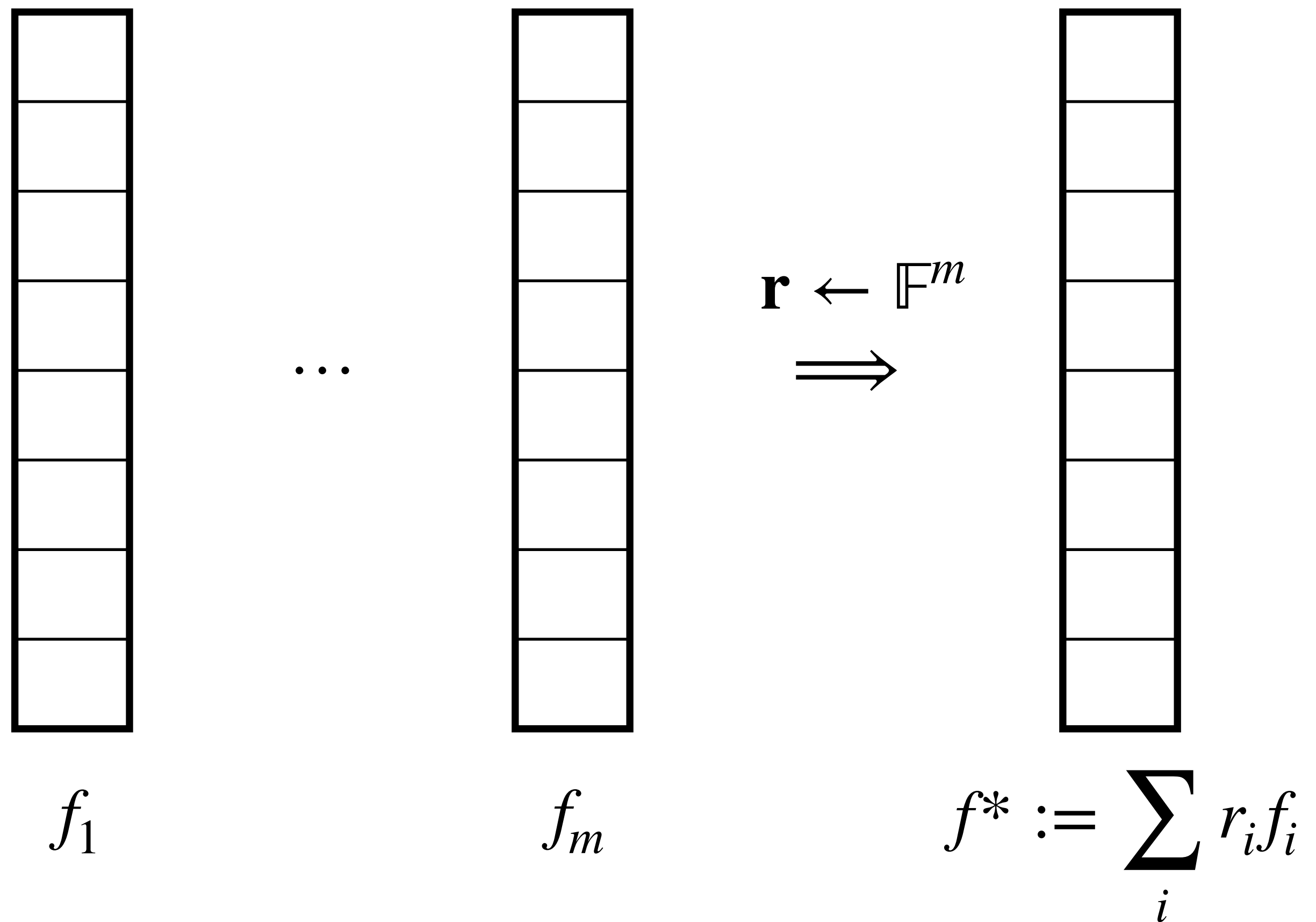
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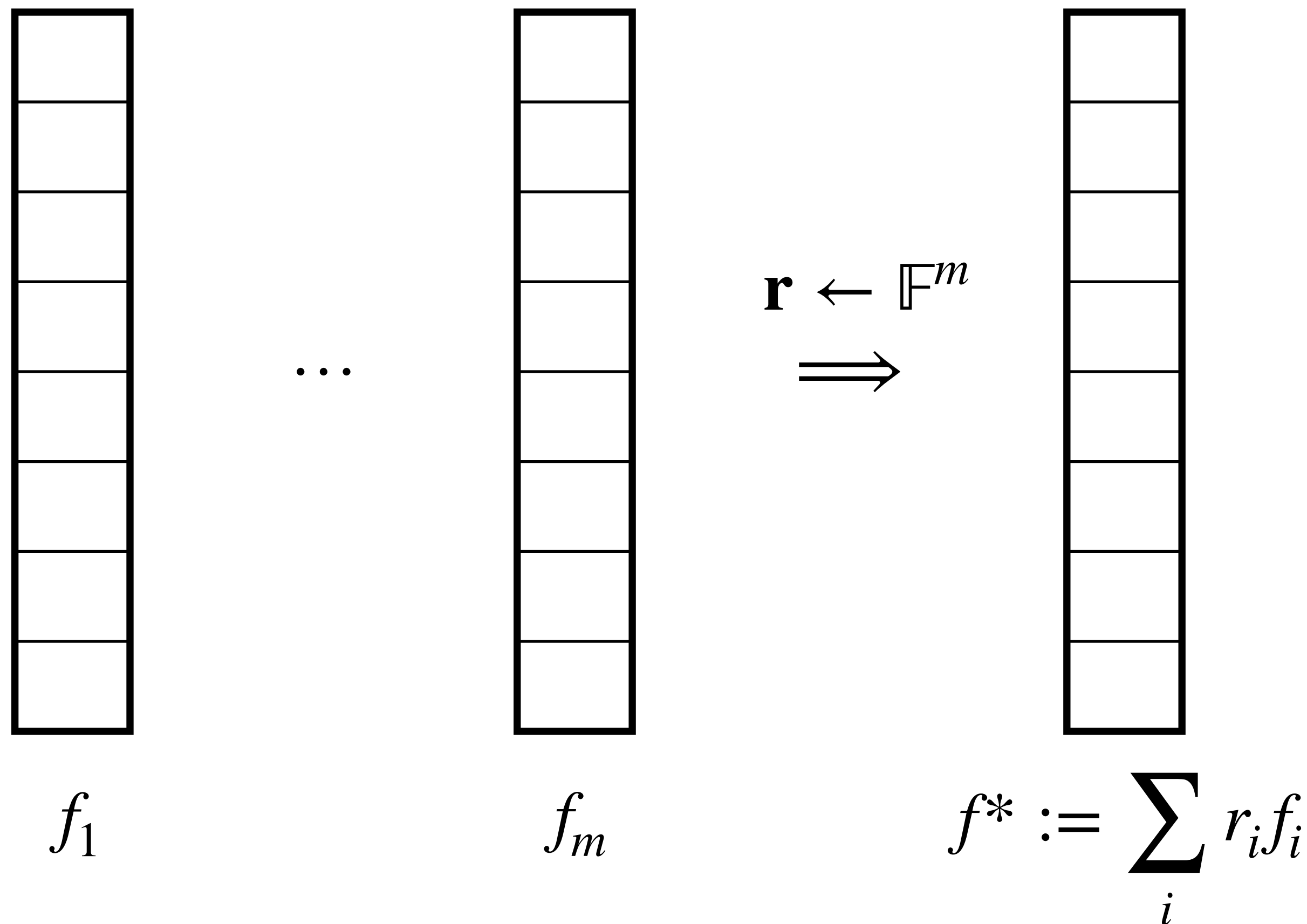
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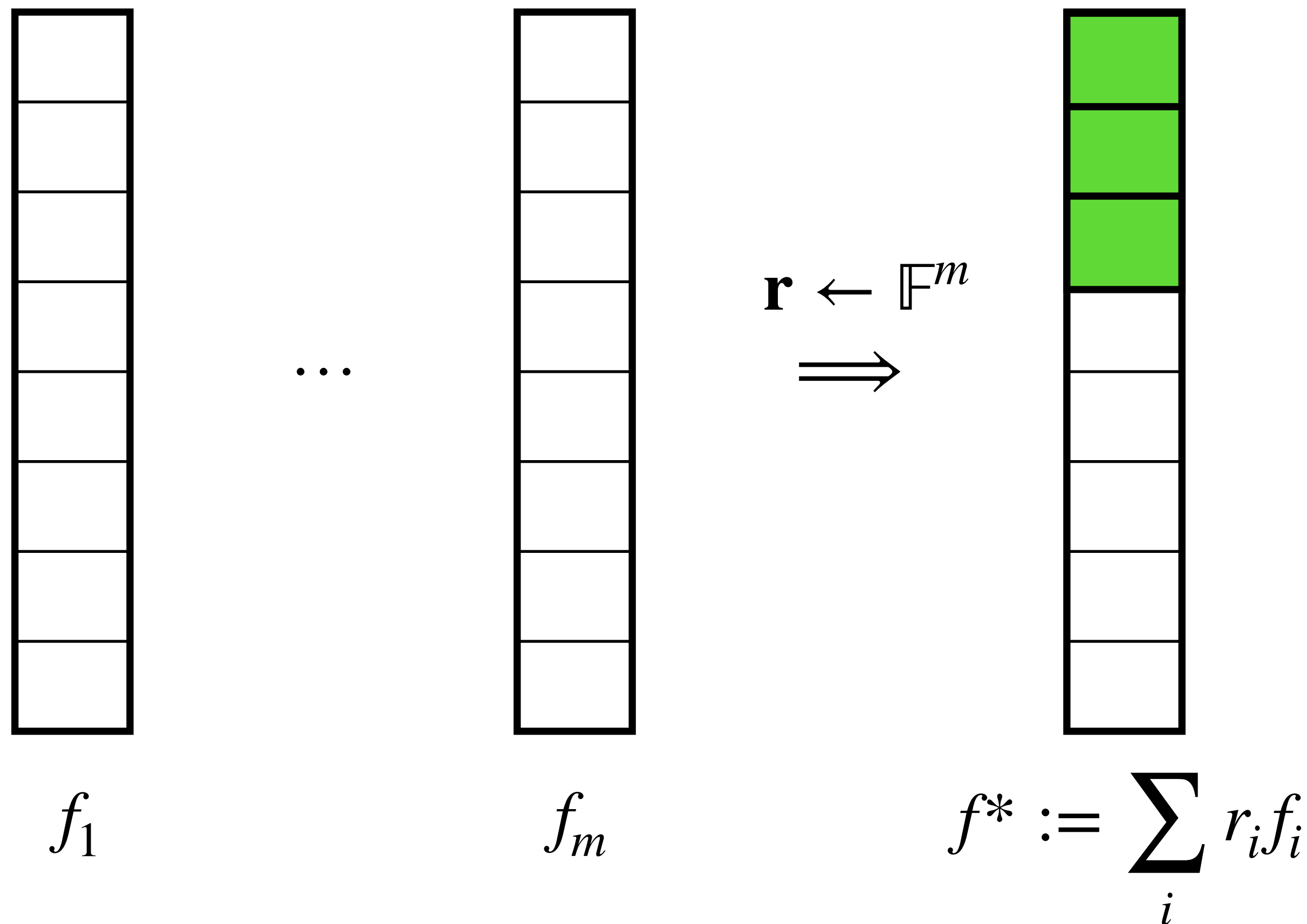
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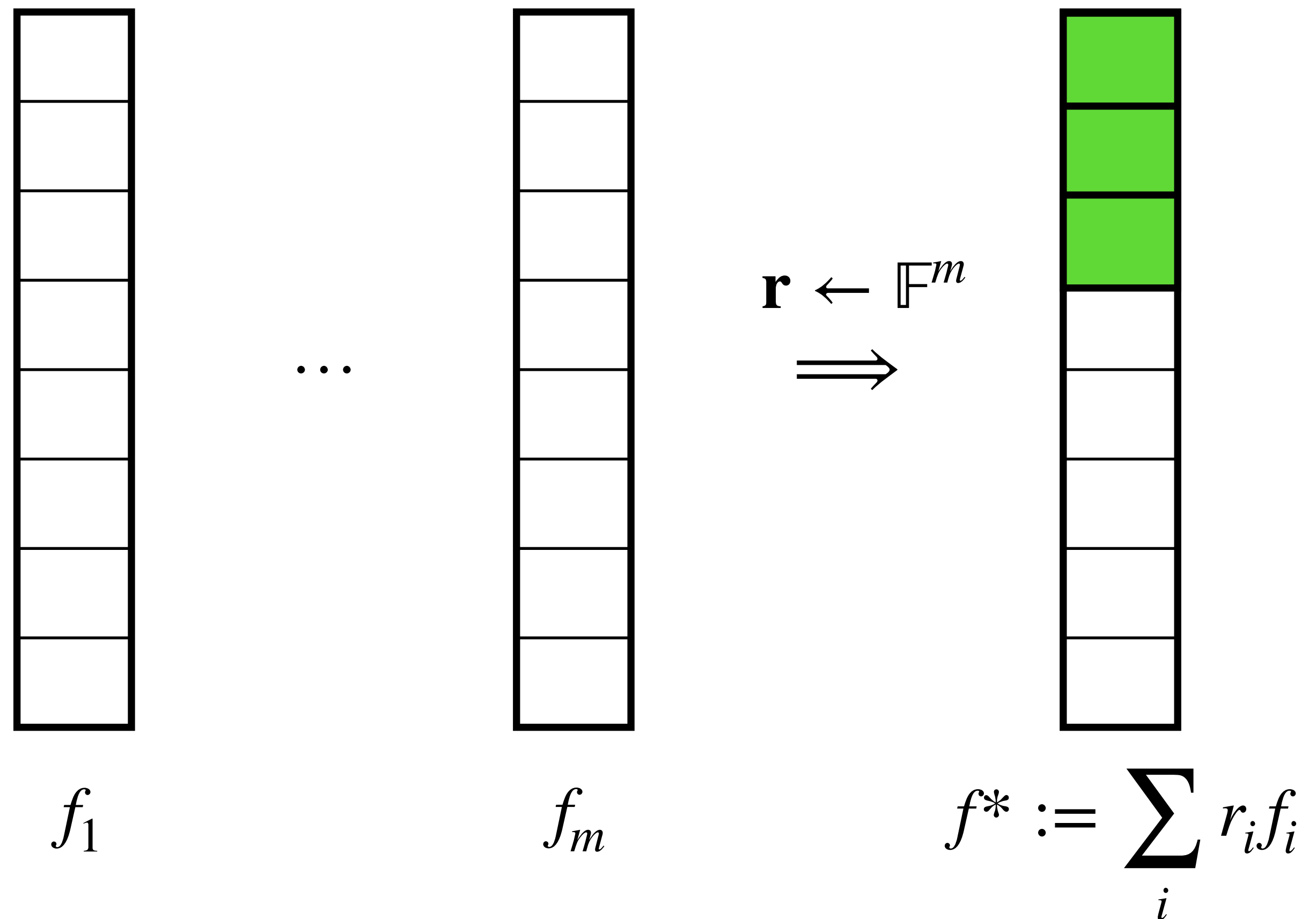
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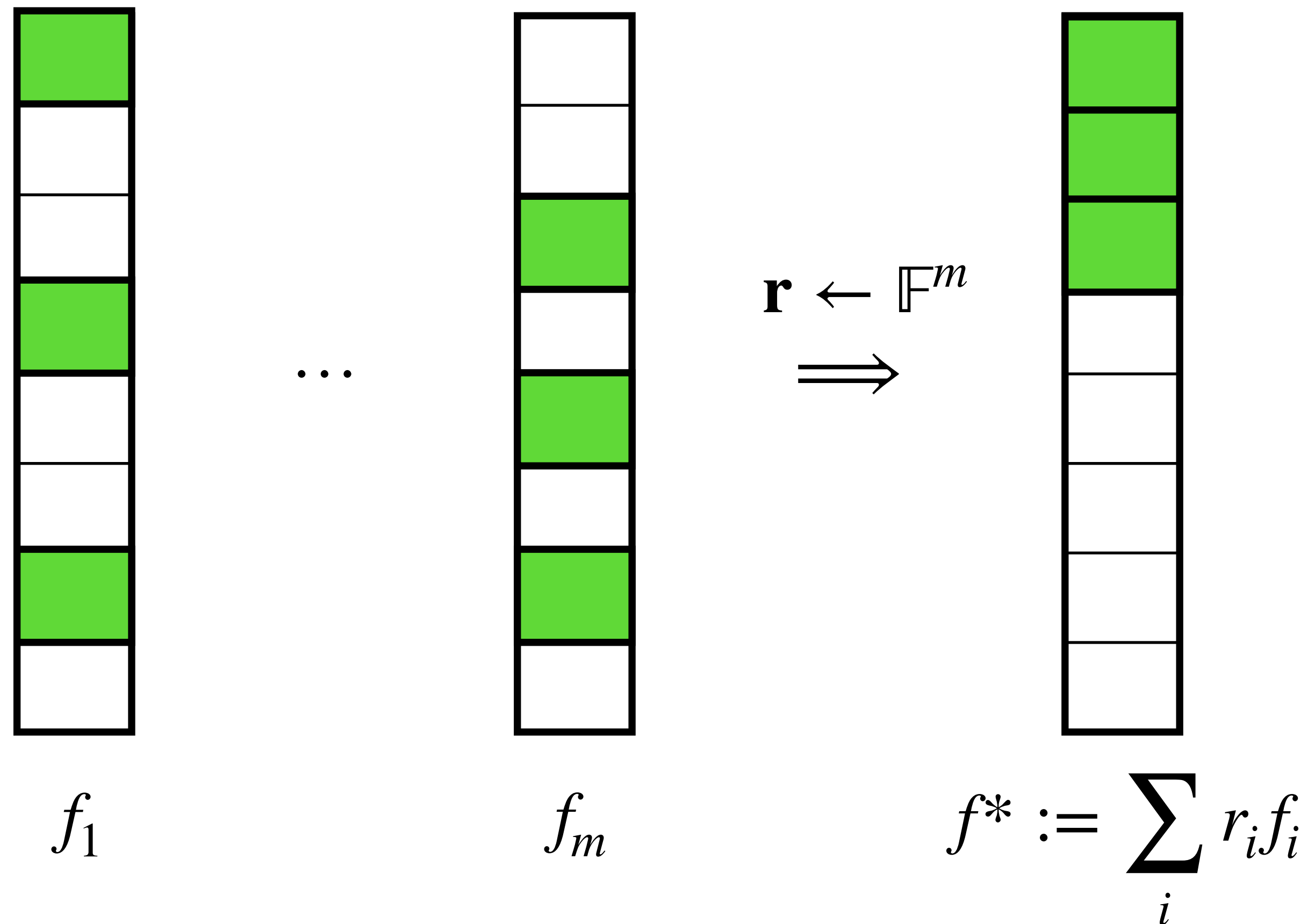


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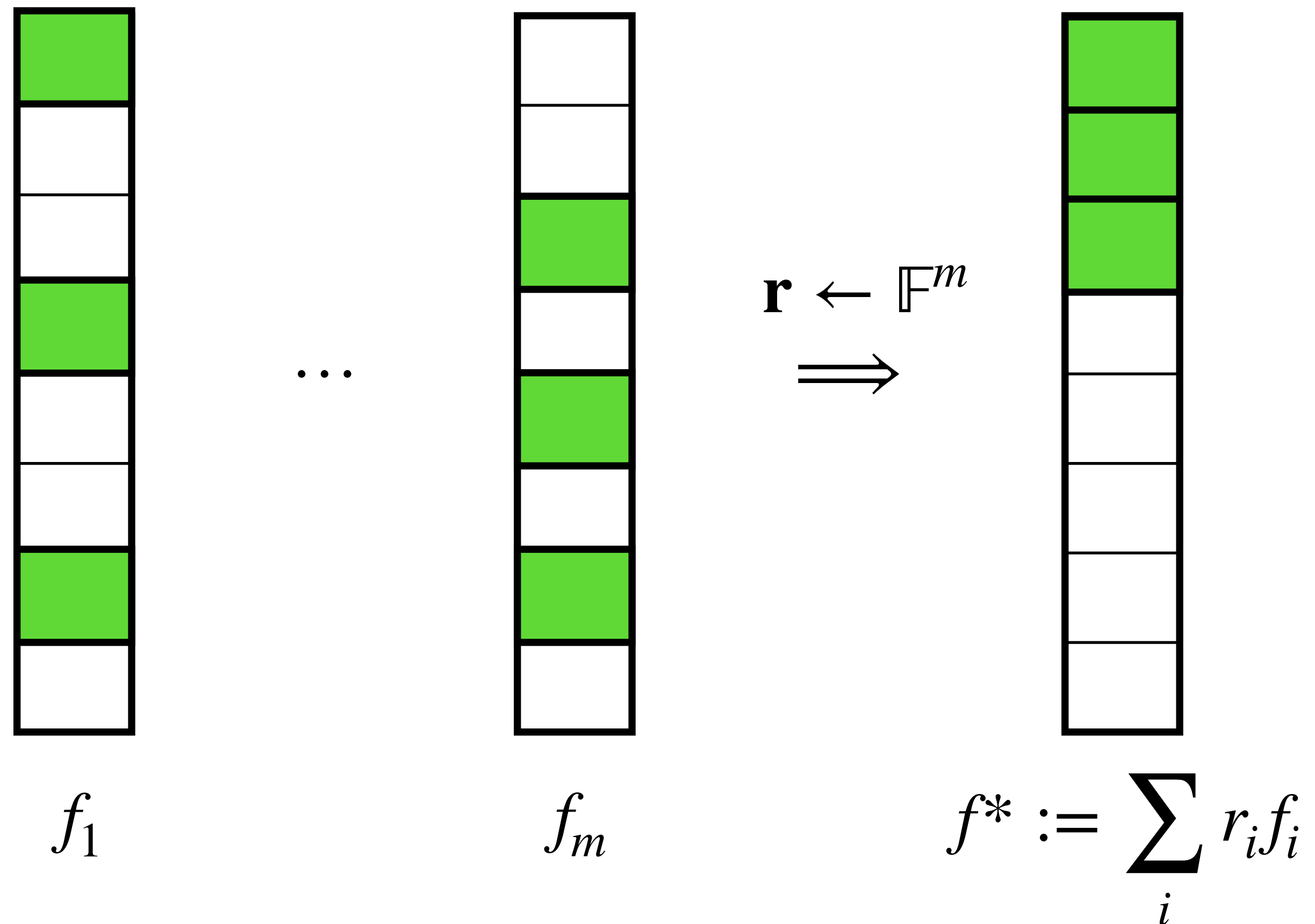


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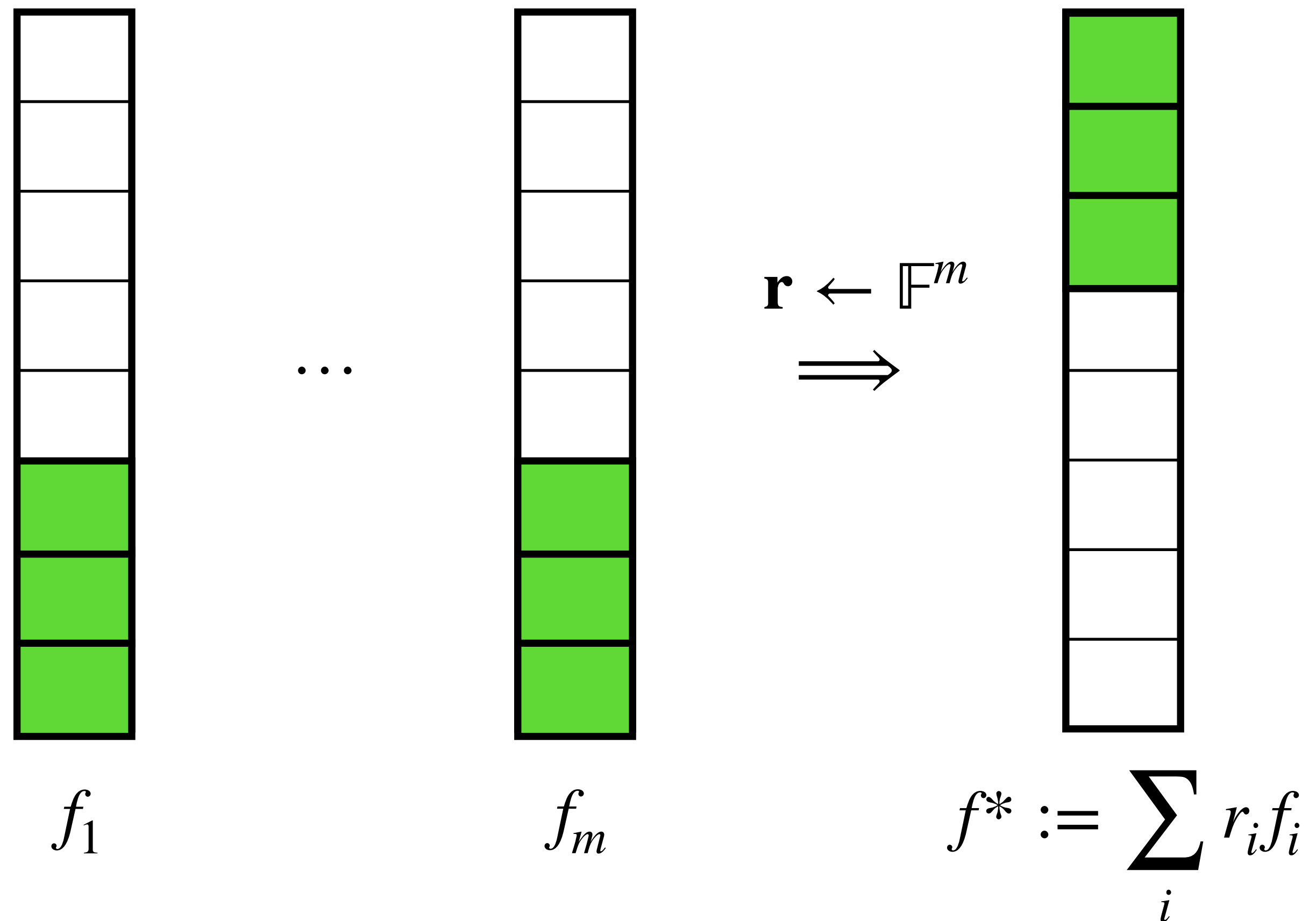
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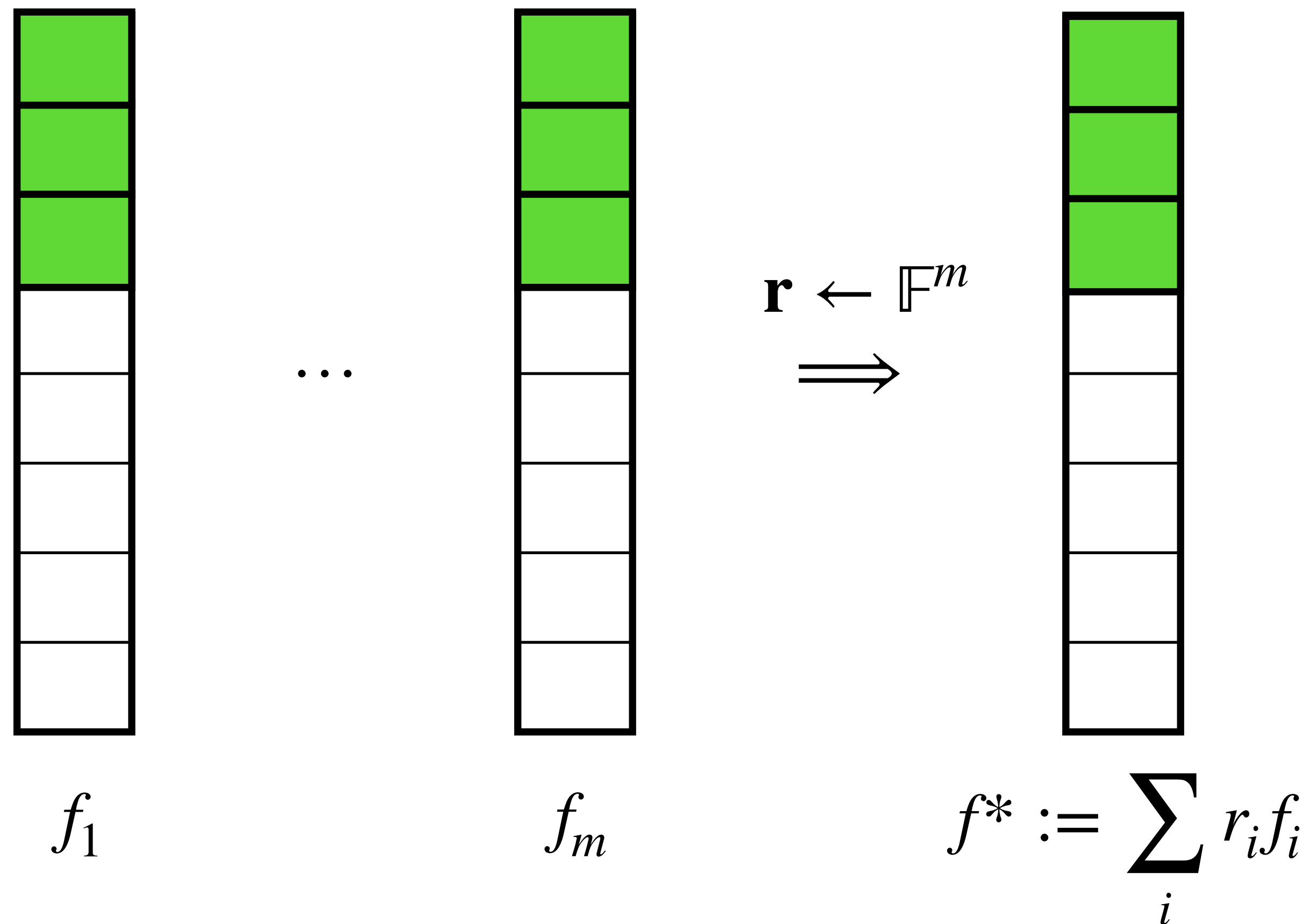
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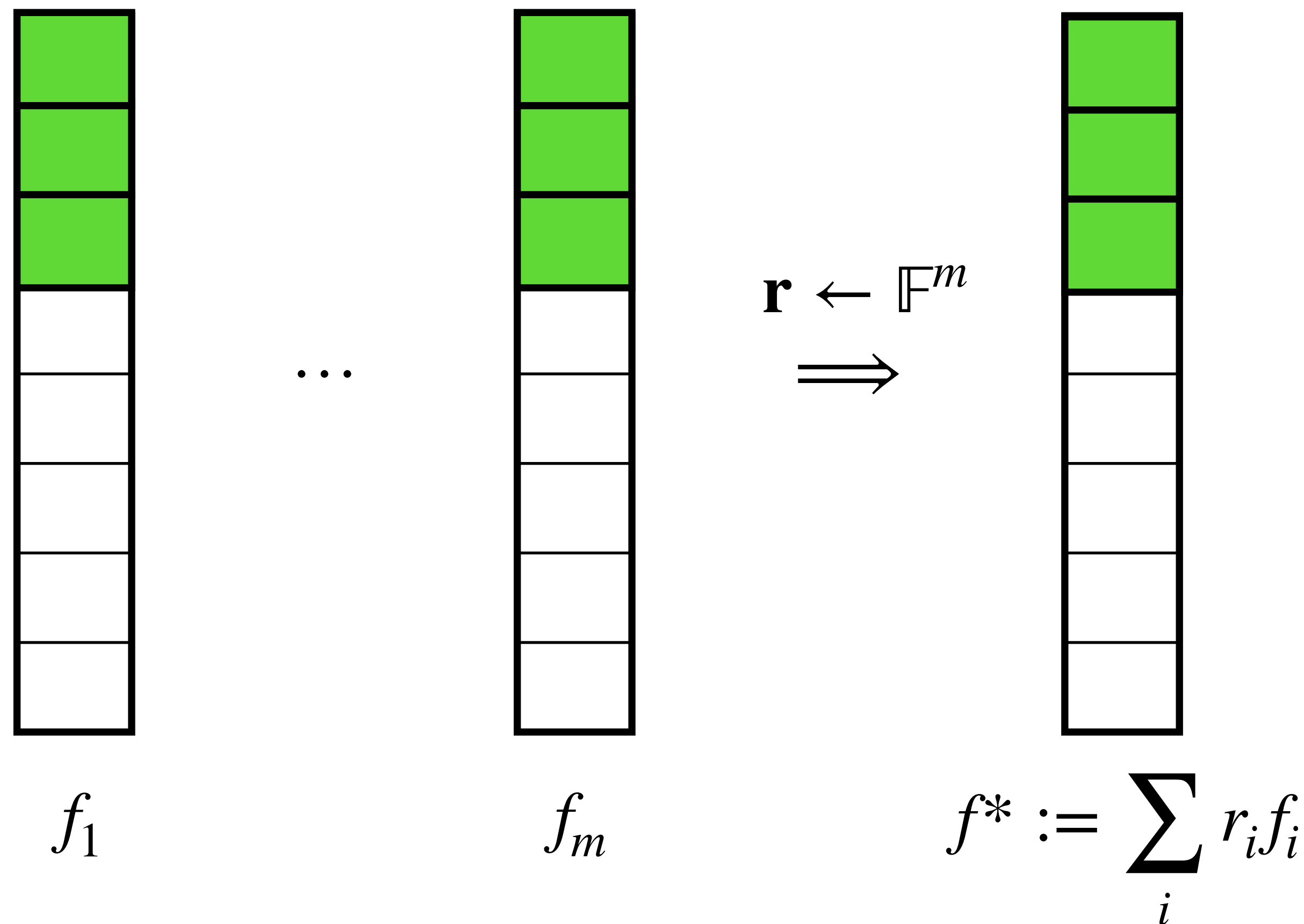
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Mutual correlated agreement: the stripe in which $f_1, \dots, f_m$ agree with $\mathcal{C}$ is the same on which f^* does:

“No new correlated domains appear”

Folding and lists commute

Implied by mutual correlated agreement

$\Lambda(\mathcal{C}, f, \delta)$ is the list of
codewords of $\mathcal{C}$ that are δ -close
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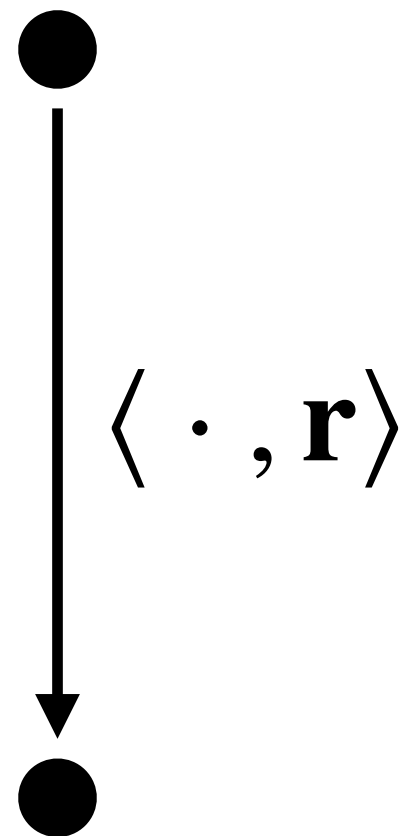


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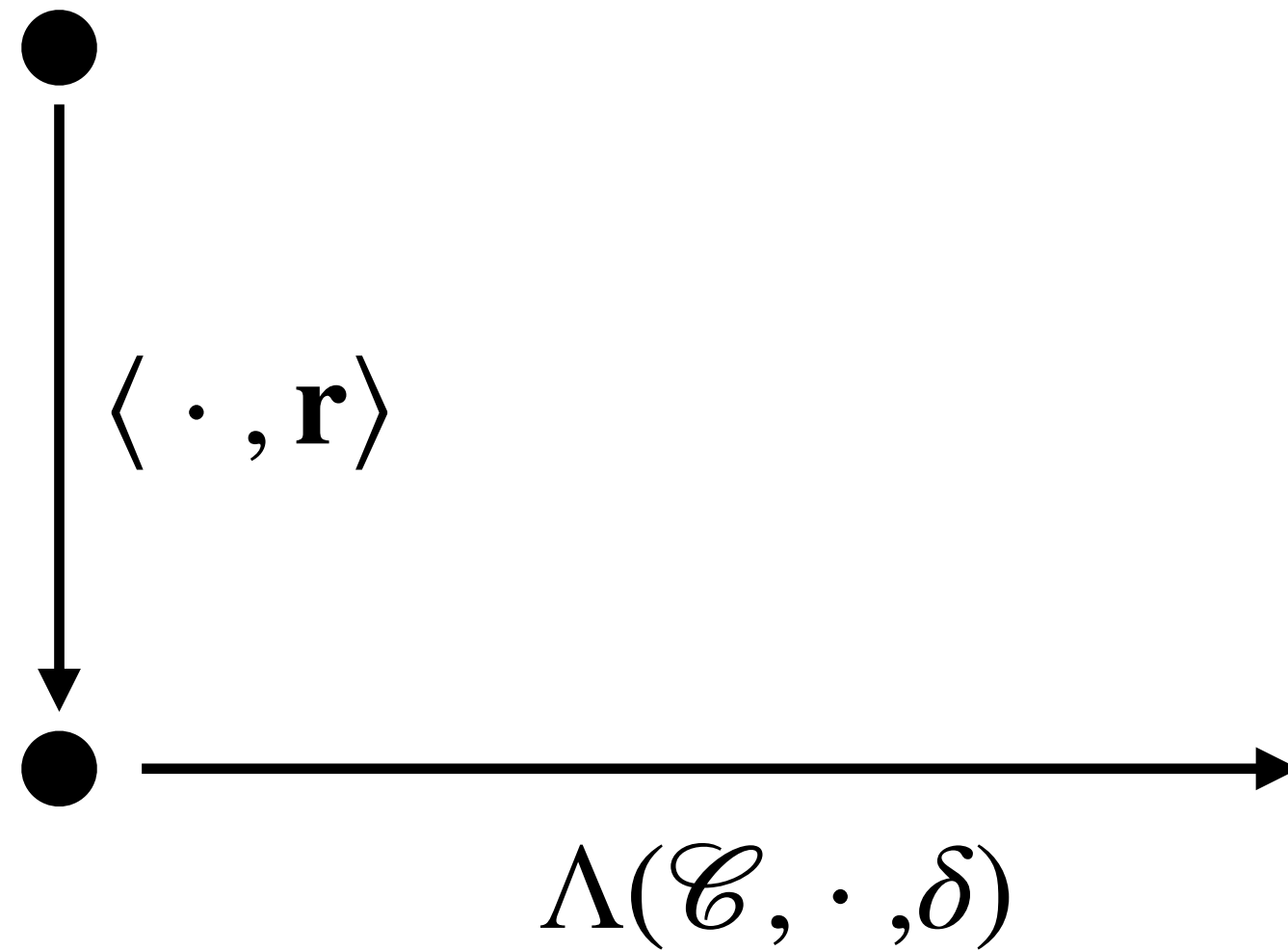


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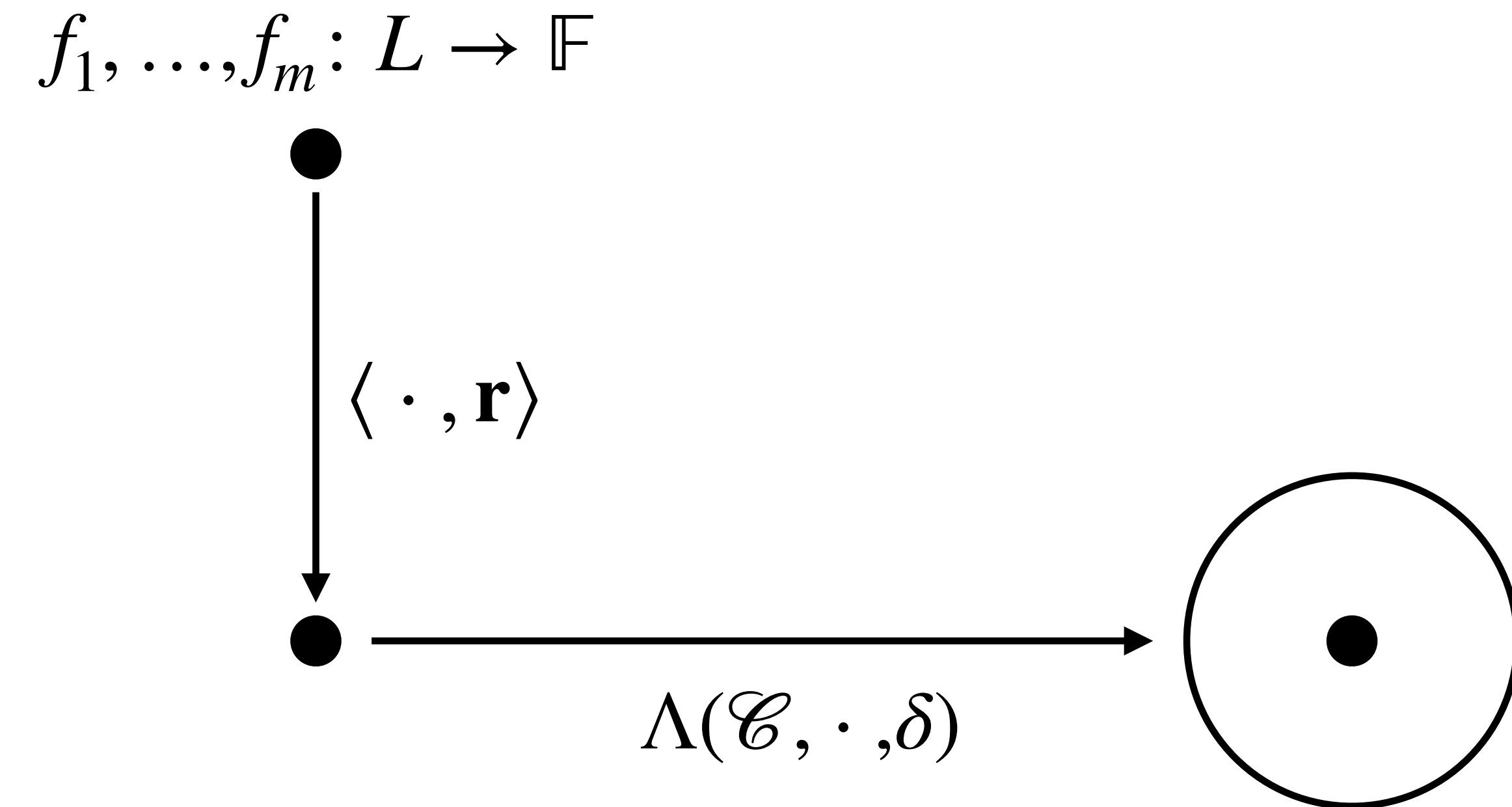
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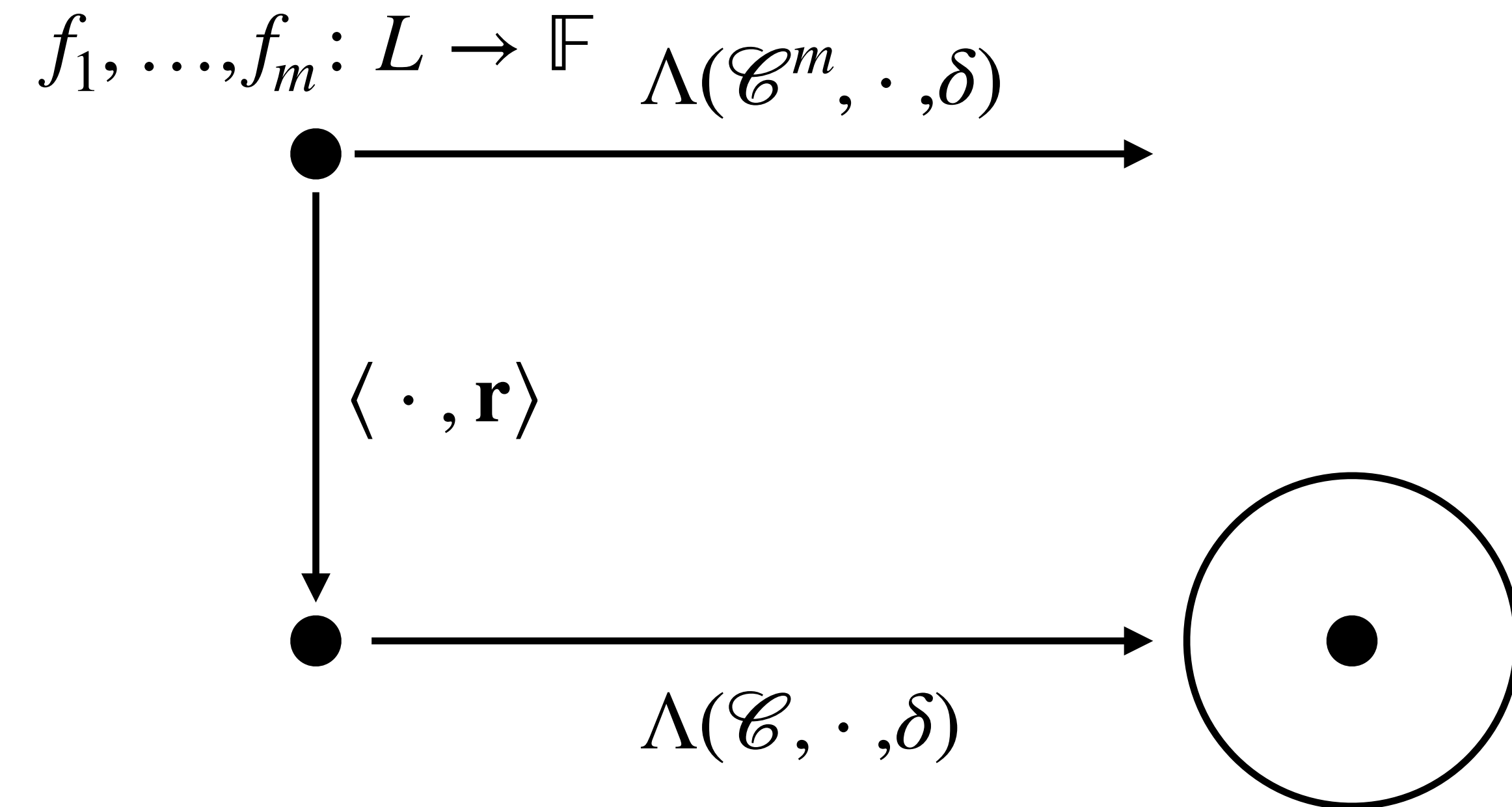
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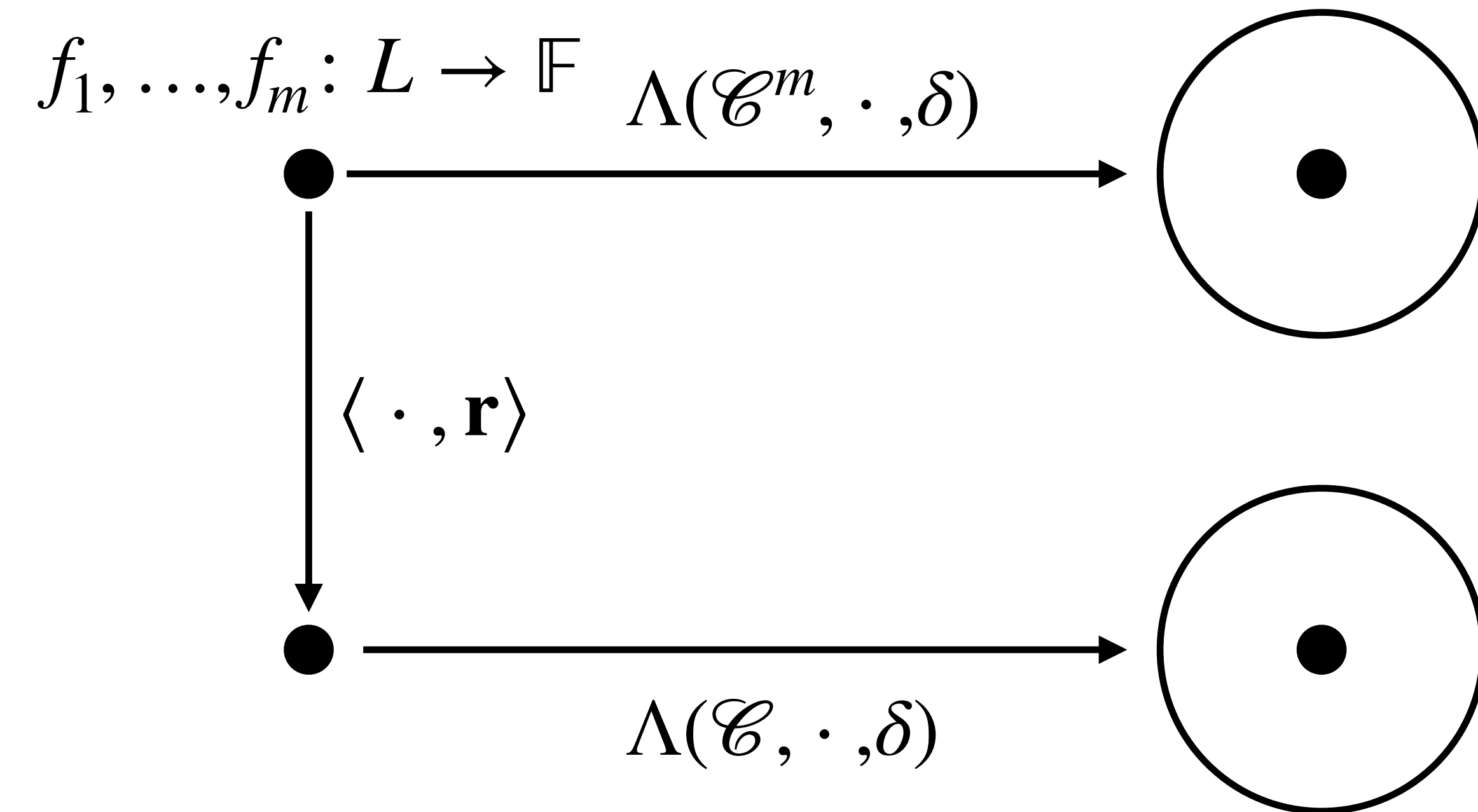
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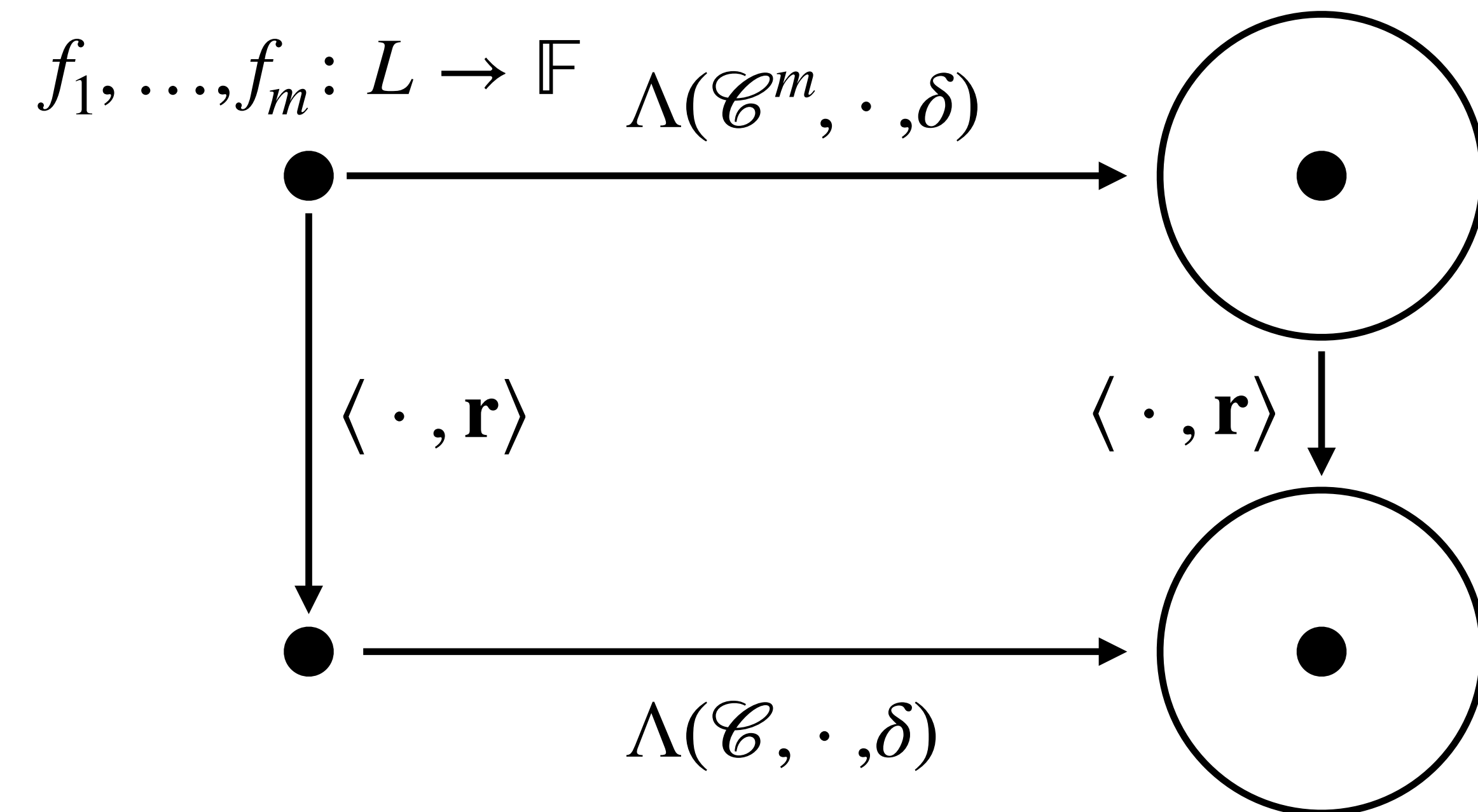
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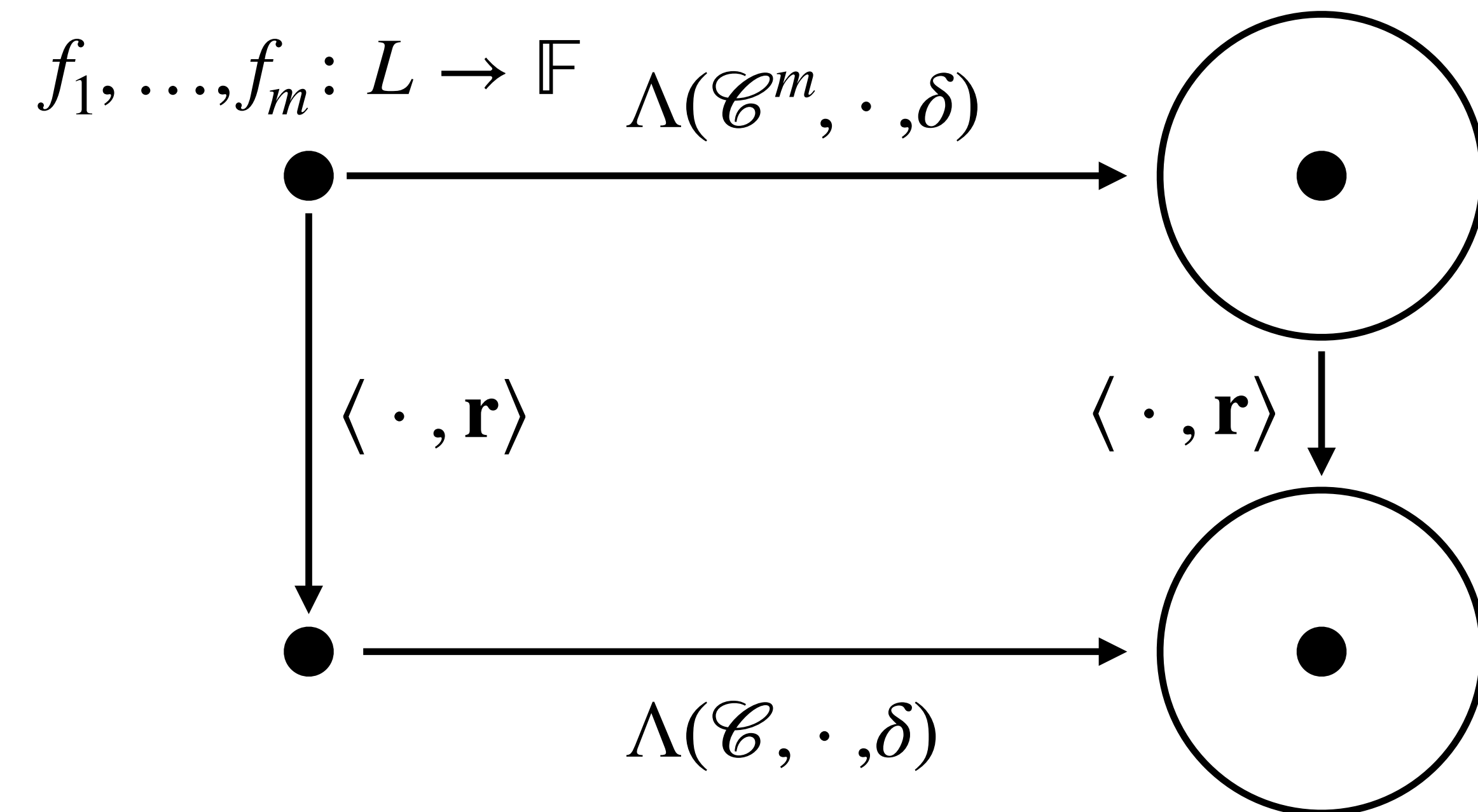
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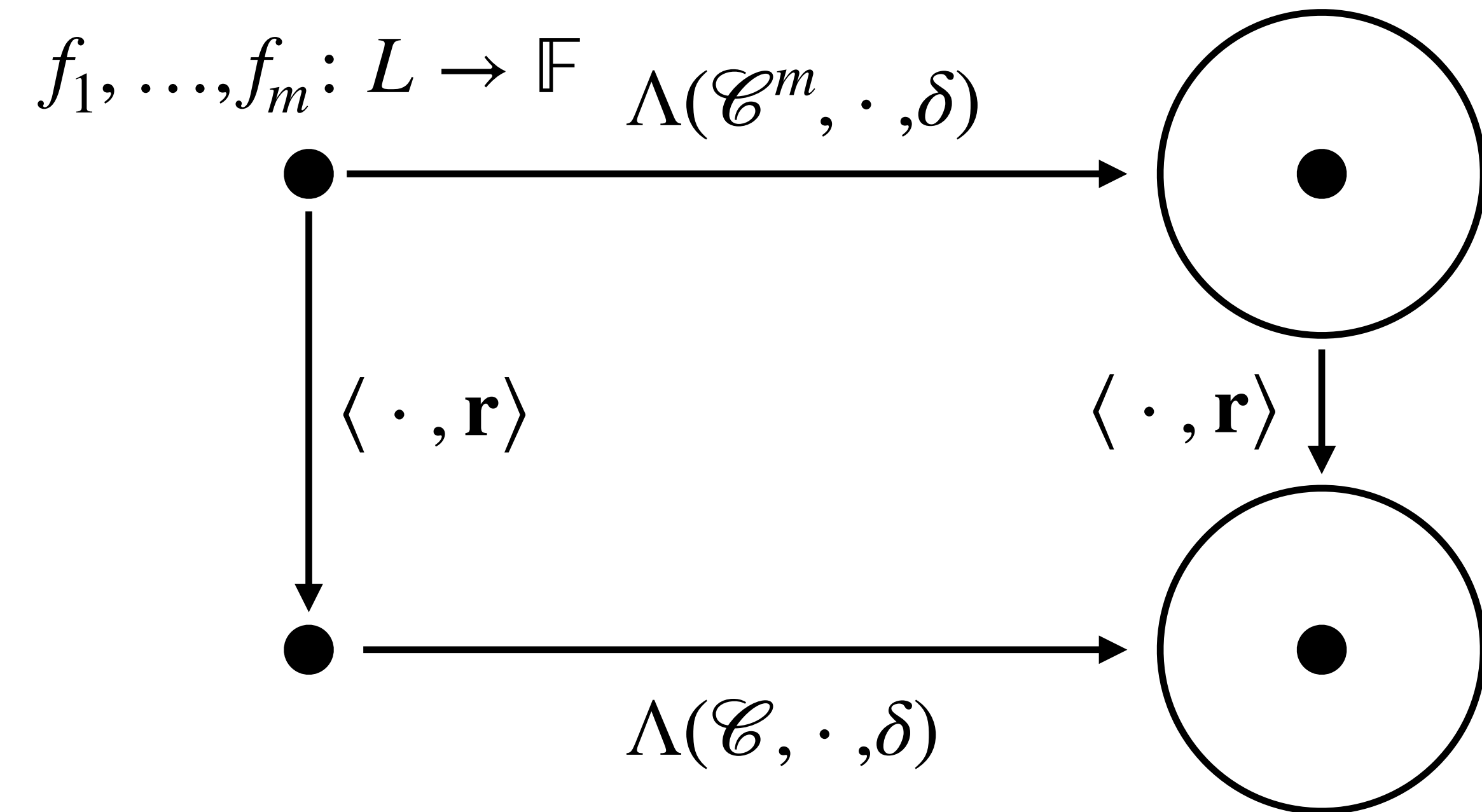


Stronger than what is required
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w.h.p. over $\mathbf{r}$:

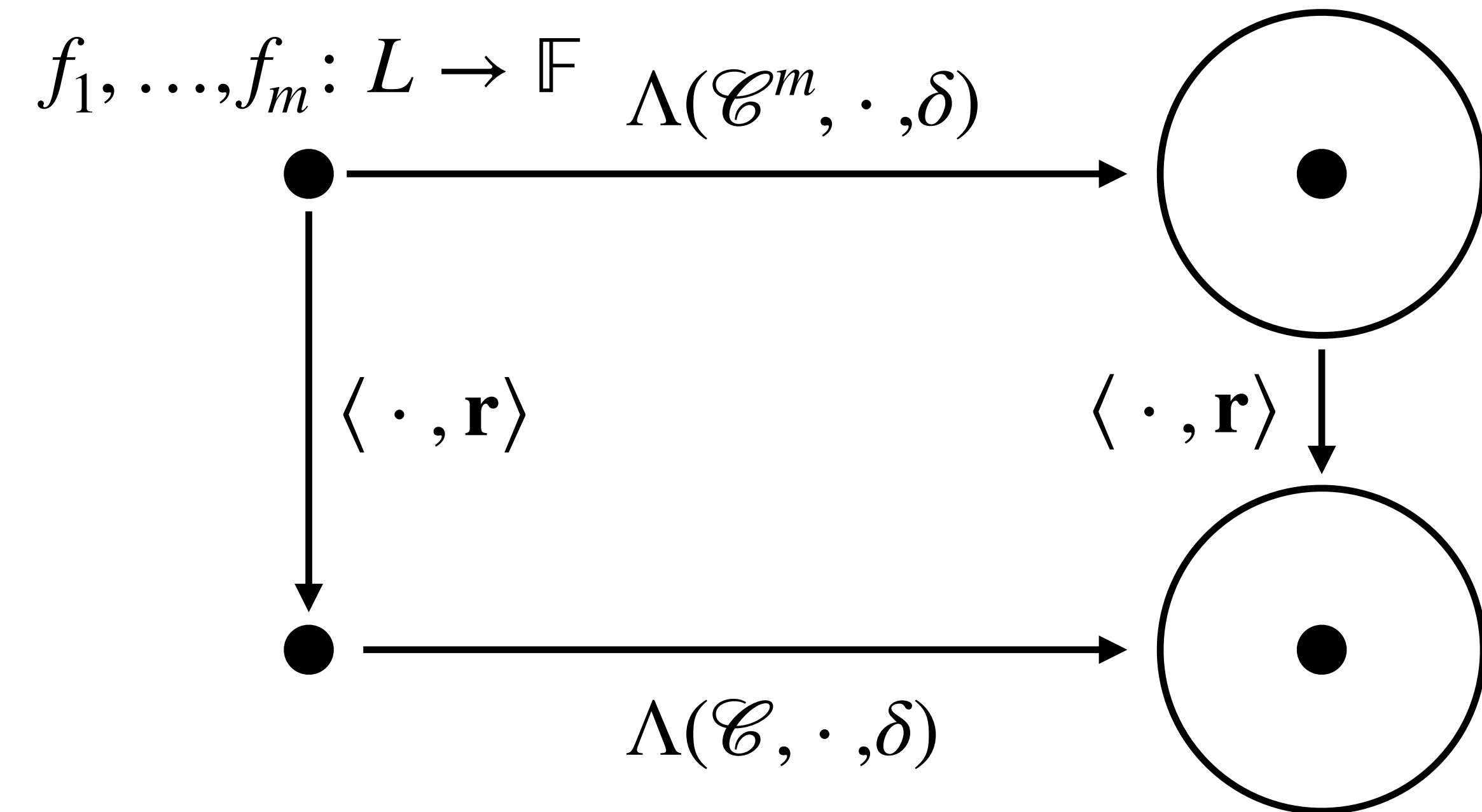
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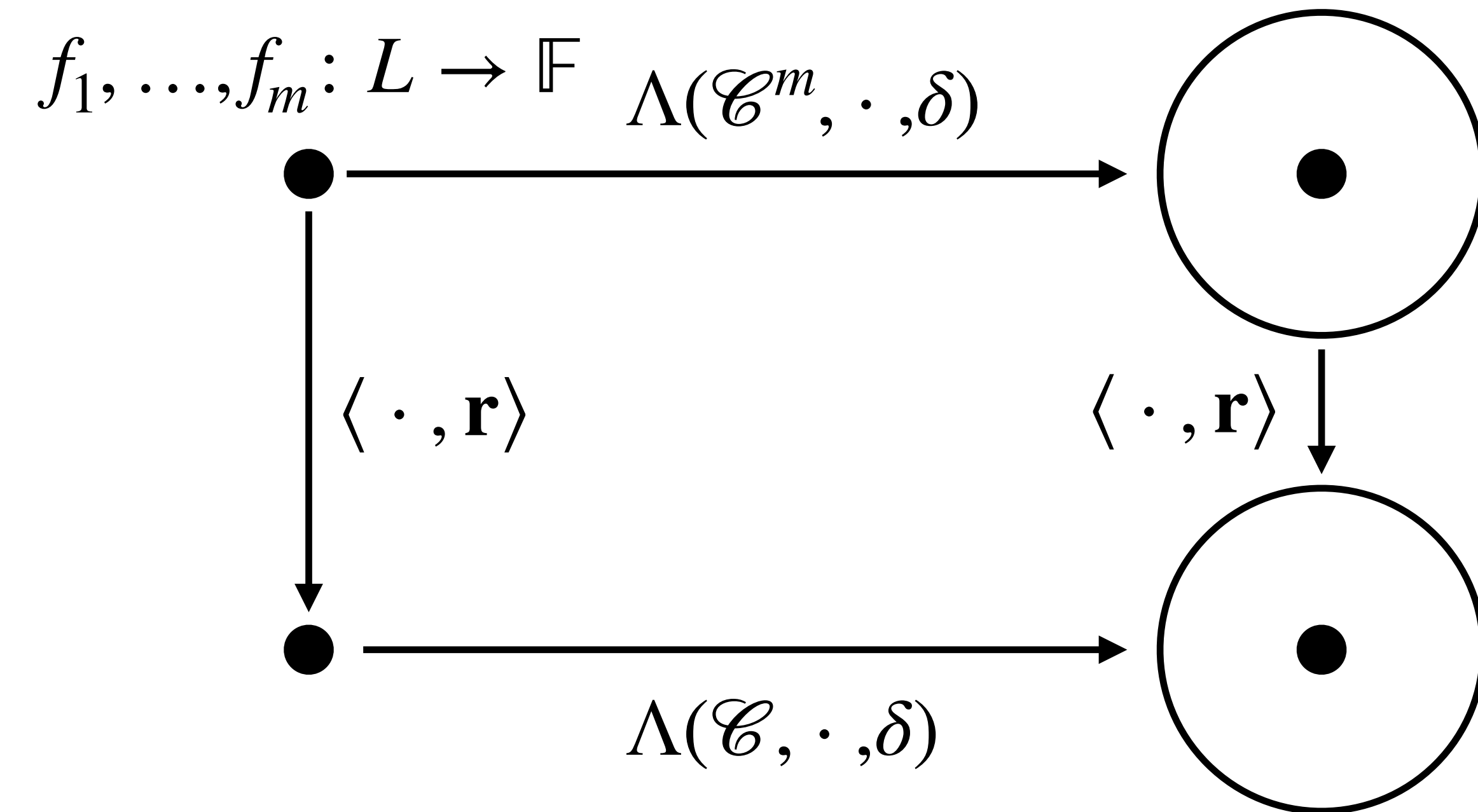
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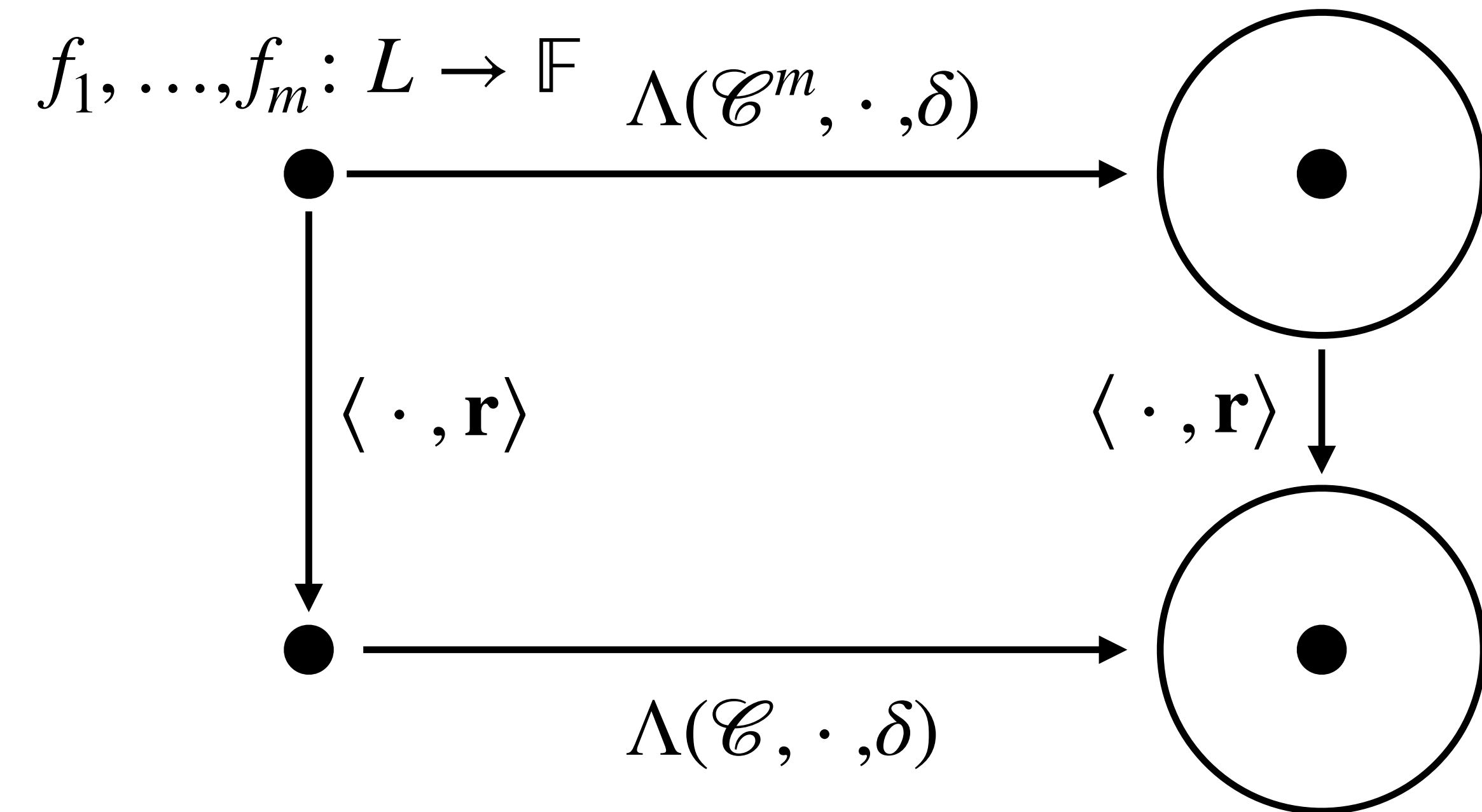
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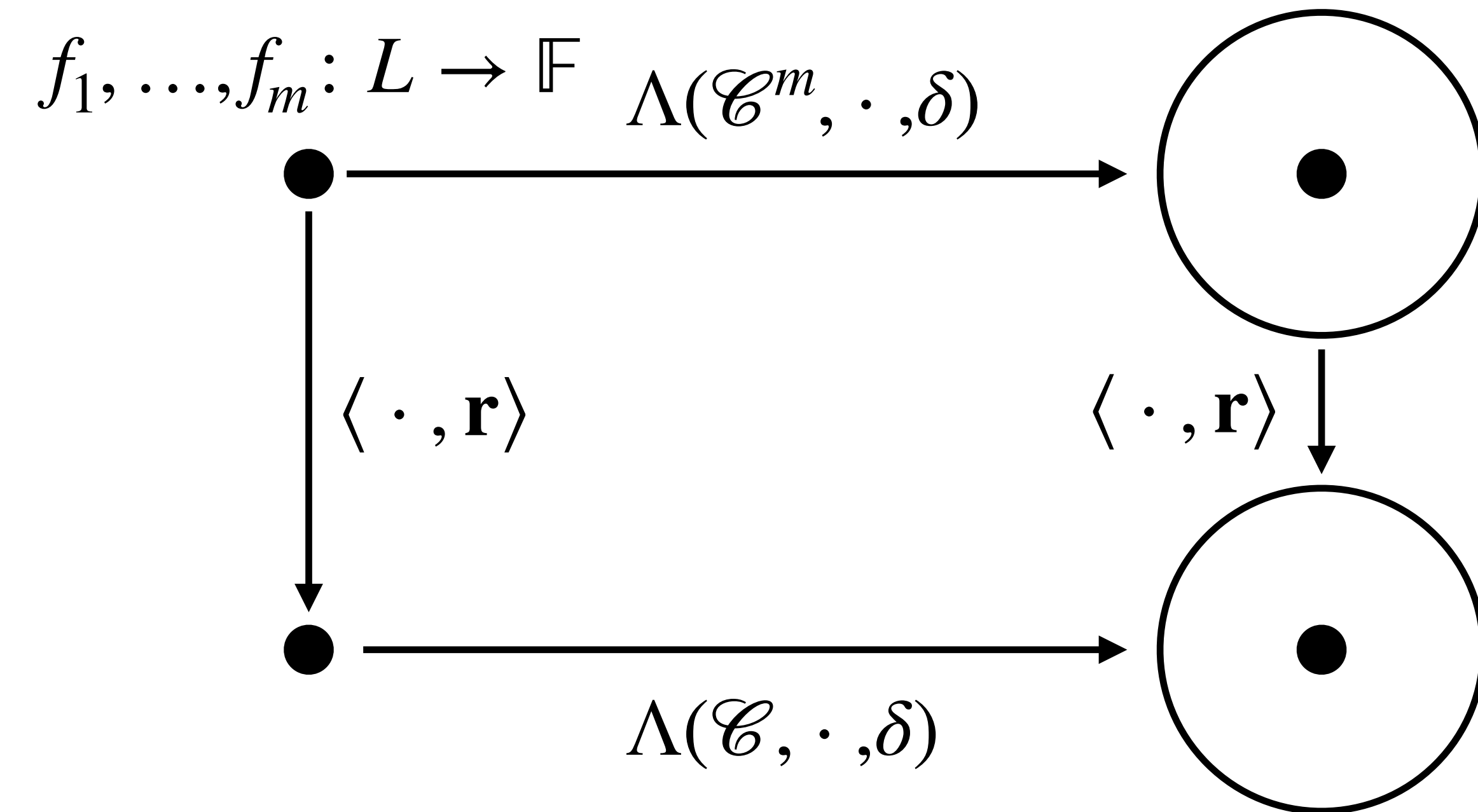
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Recent results show that mutual correlated agreement holds up to 1.5 Johnson for general linear codes!

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Reduce $\text{CRS}[n, m, \rho, \hat{w}, \sigma]$ to $\text{CRS}[n/2, m - 1, \rho, \hat{w}_\alpha, \sigma_\alpha]$

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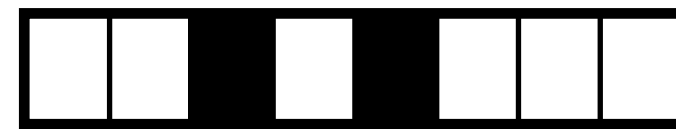
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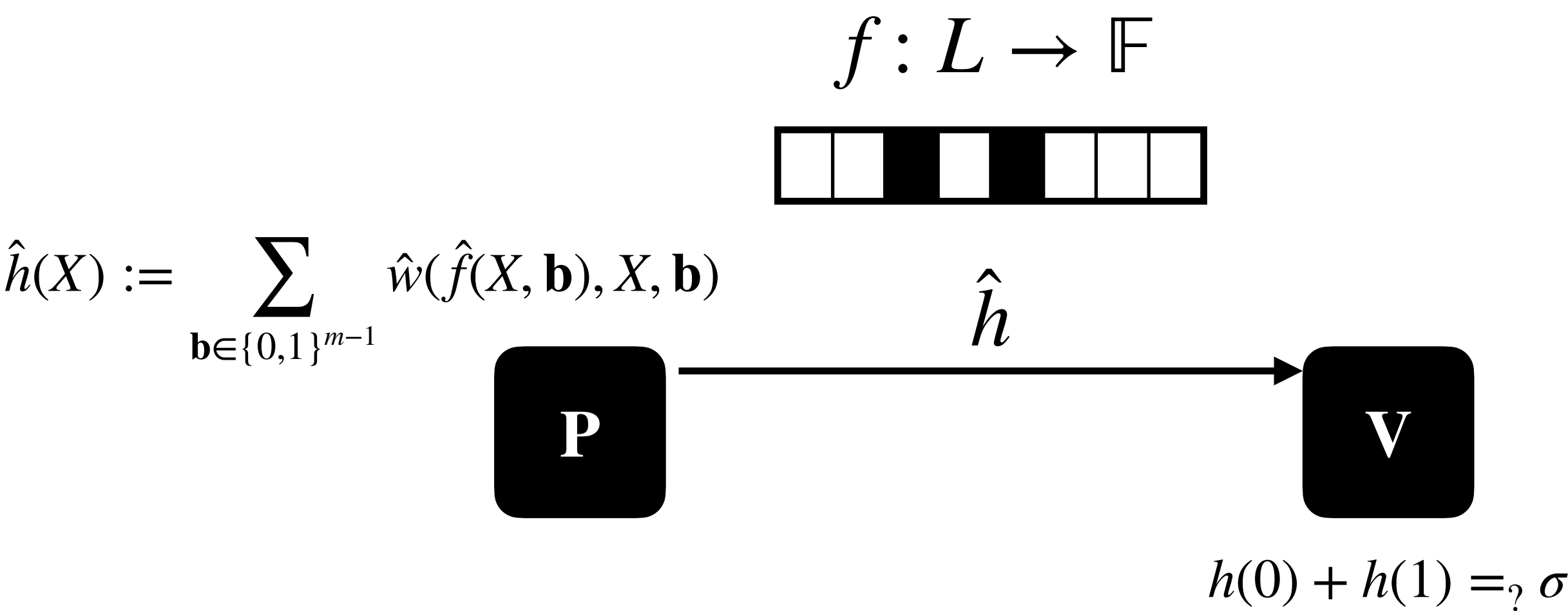


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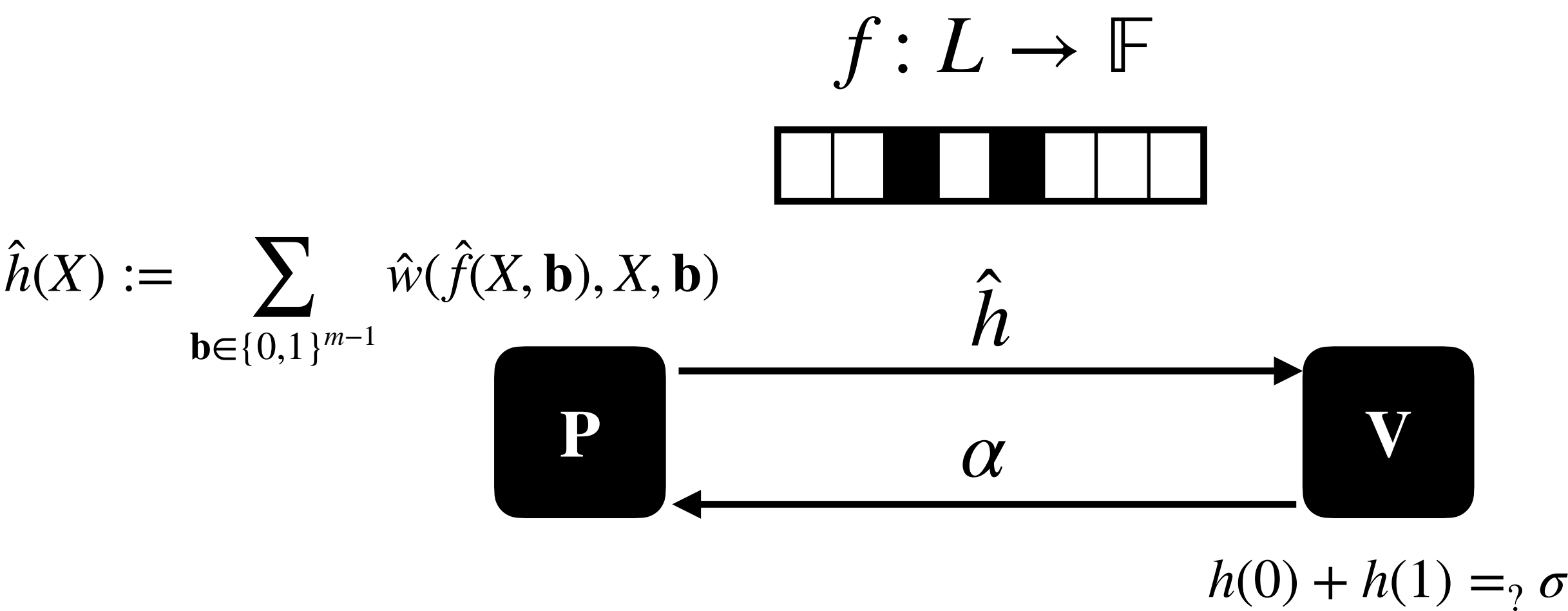
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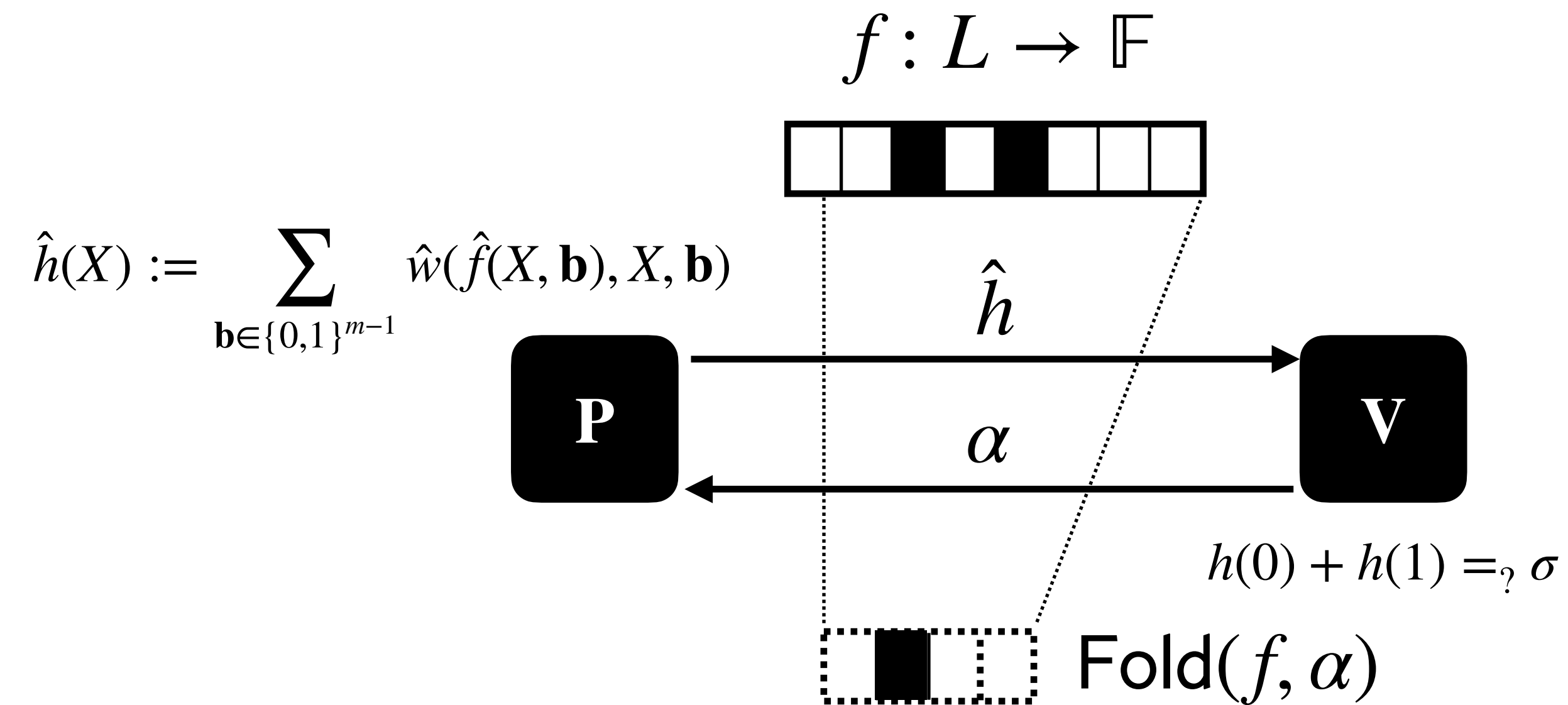
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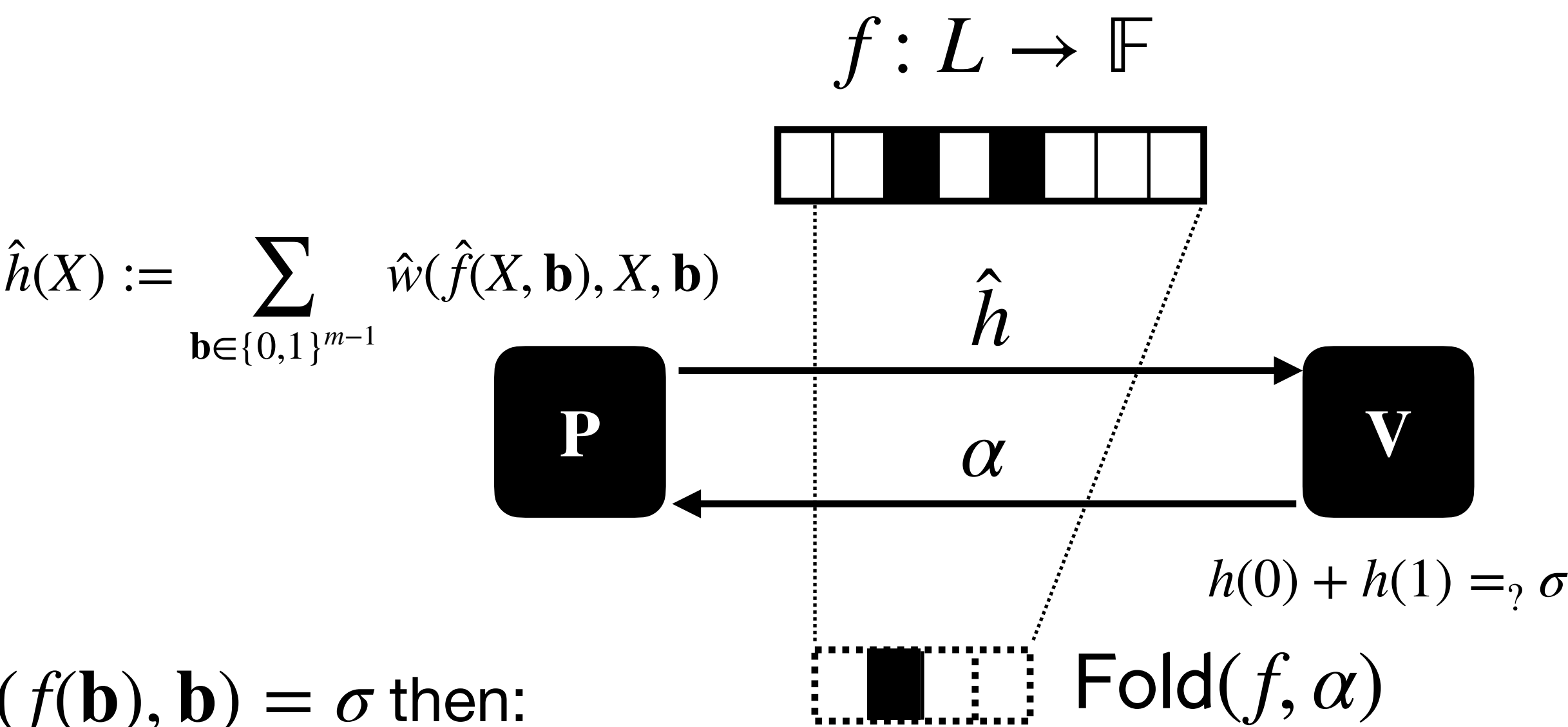
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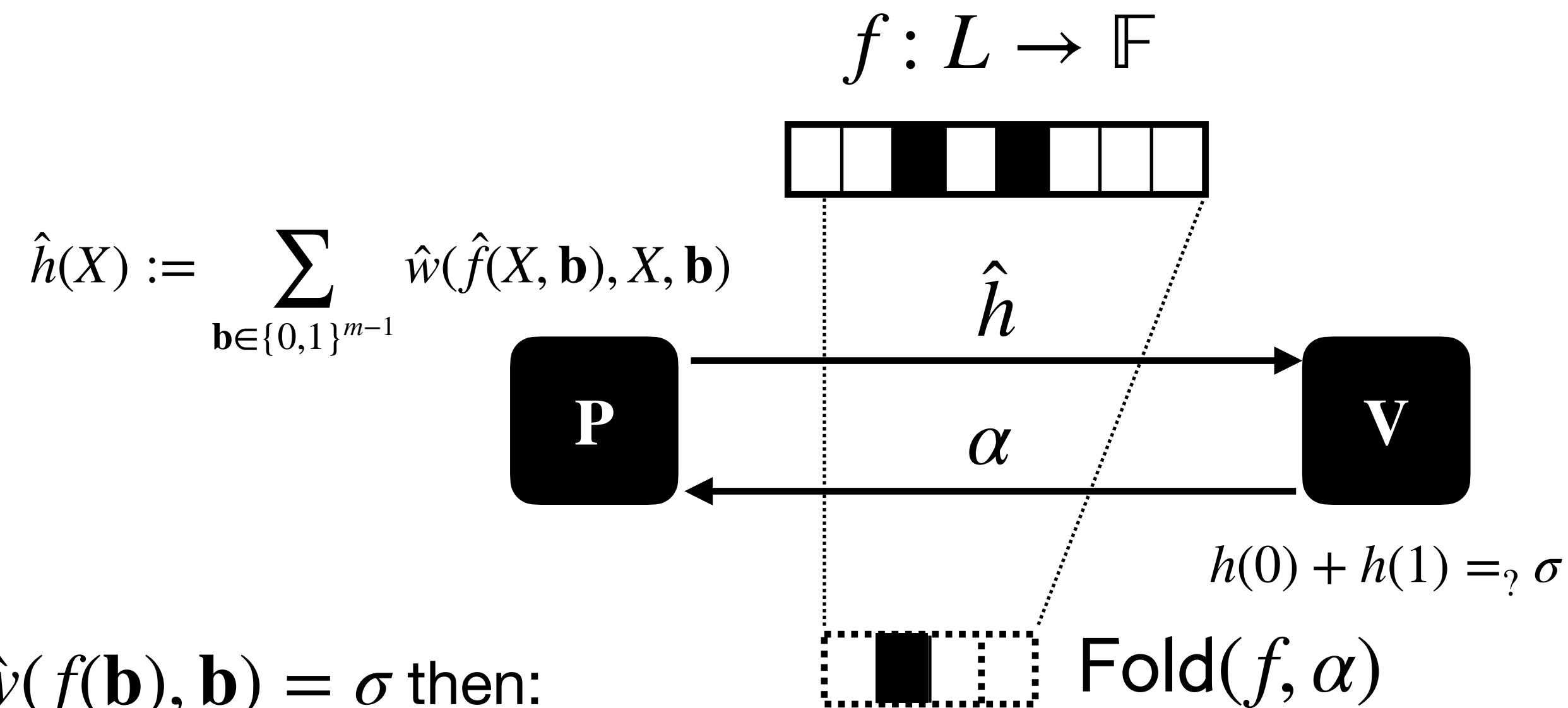


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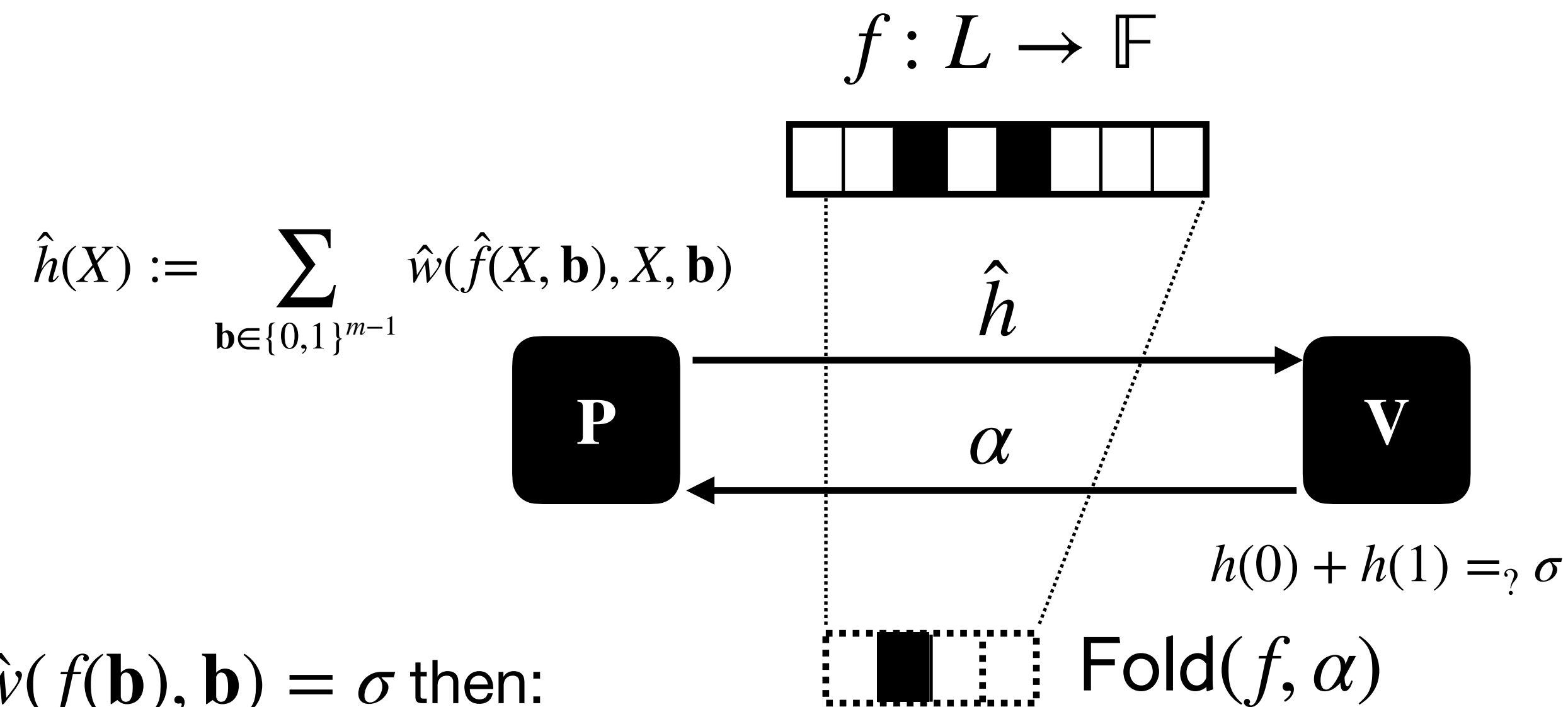
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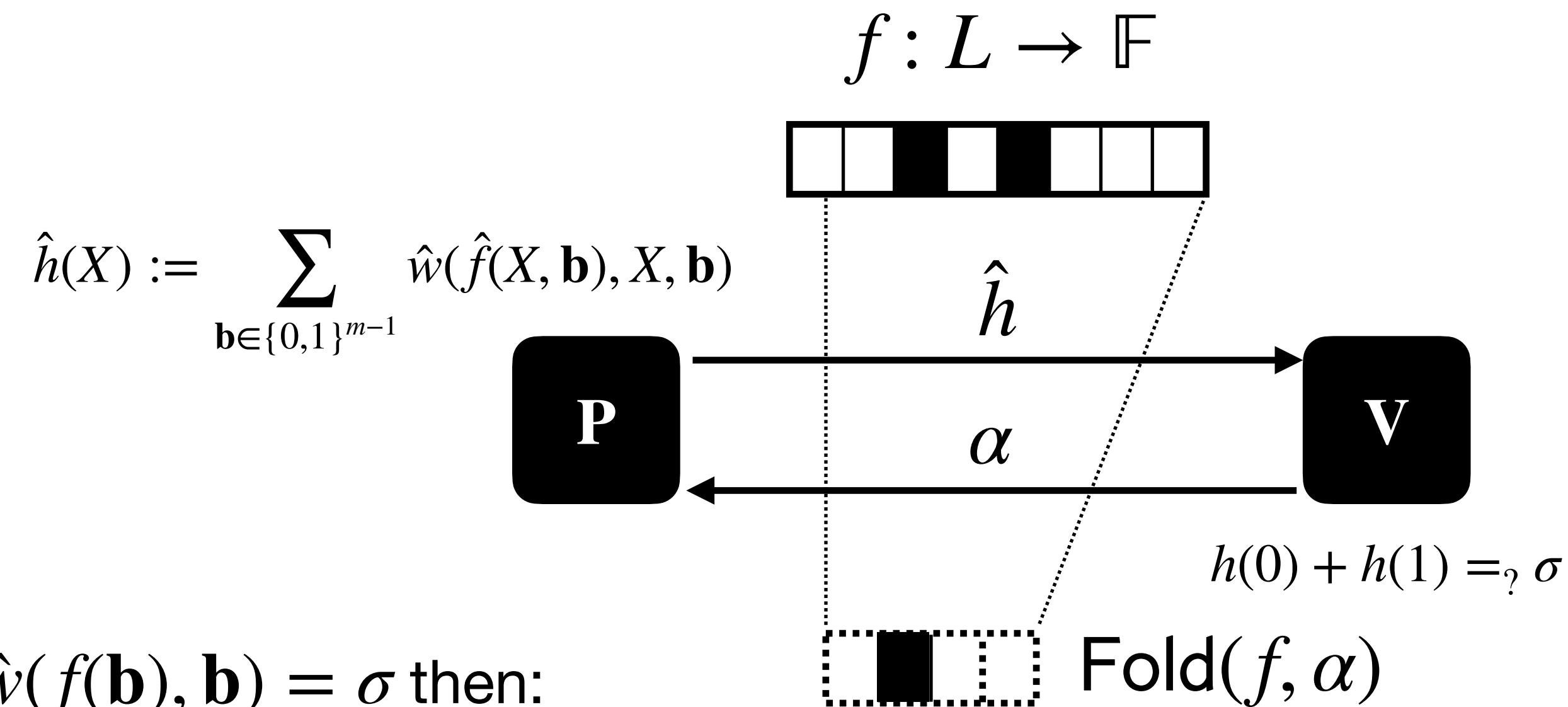
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WHIR Folding

Interleave sumcheck with FRI folding,
similar to BaseFold, Hyperplonk, Gemini

Reduce $\text{CRS}[n, m, \rho, \hat{w}, \sigma]$ to $\text{CRS}[n/2, m-1, \rho, \hat{w}_\alpha, \sigma_\alpha]$



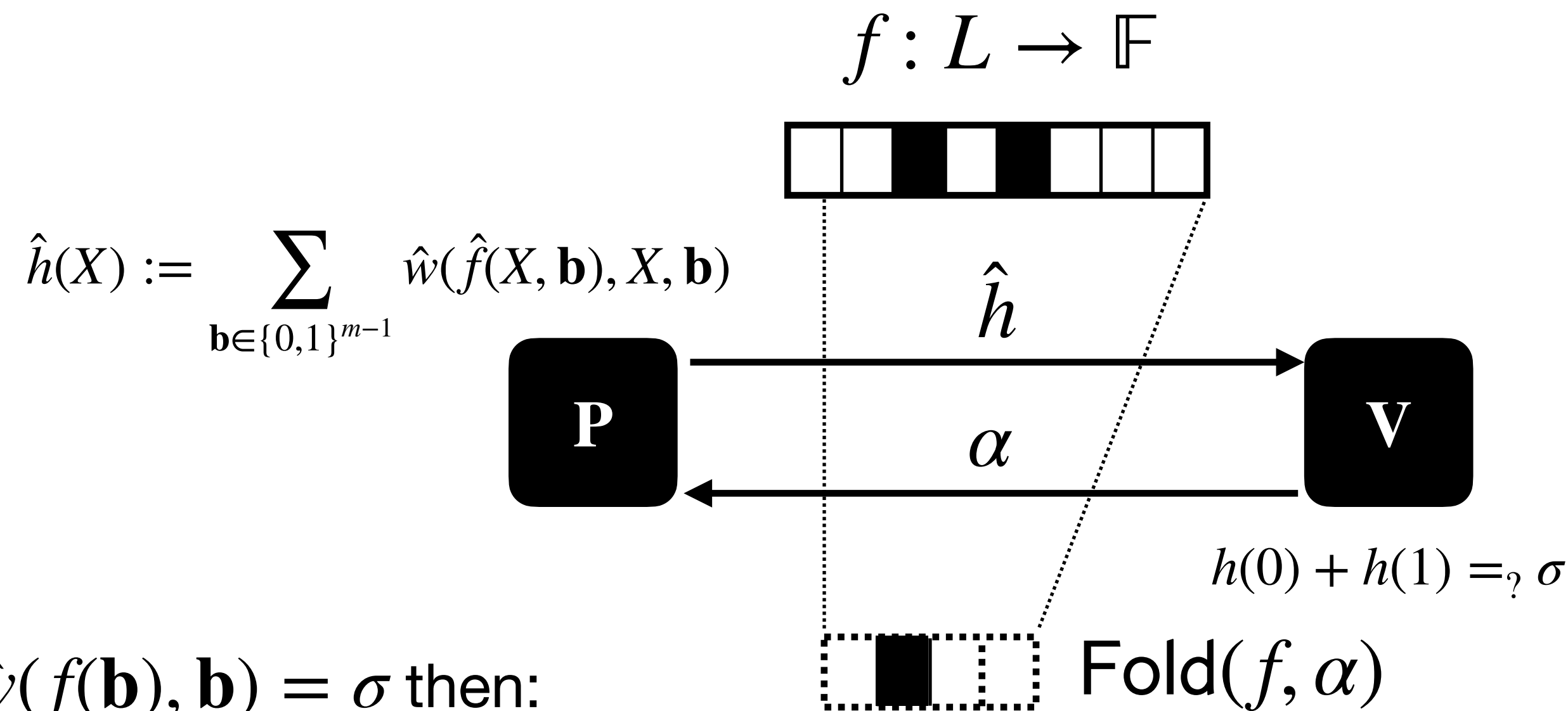
Completeness: $\sum_{\mathbf{b}} \hat{w}(f(\mathbf{b}), \mathbf{b}) = \sigma$ then:

- $h(0) + h(1) = \sigma$,
- $\sum_{\mathbf{b}} \hat{w}(f(\alpha, \mathbf{b}), \alpha, \mathbf{b}) = \hat{h}(\alpha)$
- $\widehat{\text{Fold}(f, \alpha)} = \hat{f}(\alpha, \cdot)$

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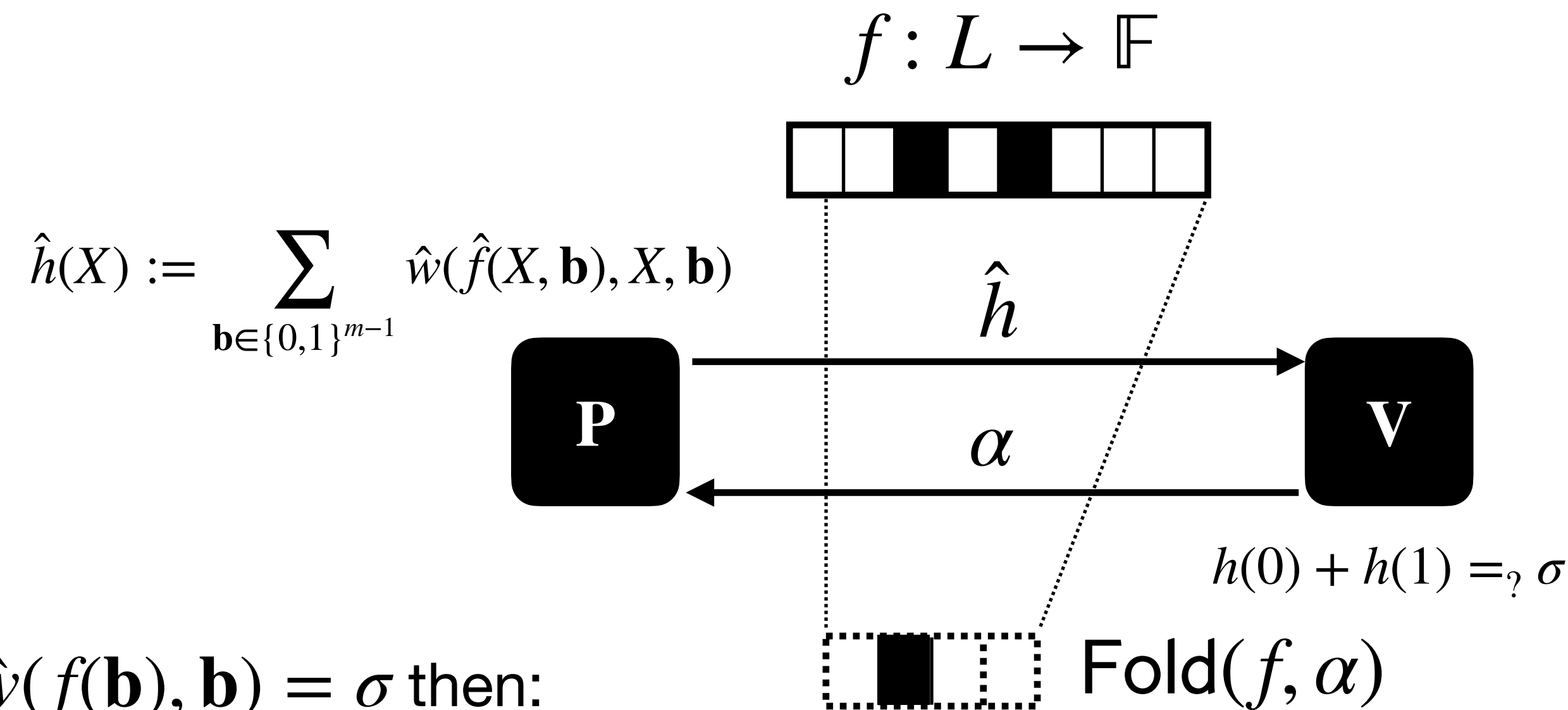
- $h(0) + h(1) = \sigma$,
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Soundness: by mutual correlated agreement,
w.h.p. if $\Delta(f, \text{CRS}[n, m, \rho, \hat{w}, \sigma]) > \delta$ then
 $\Delta(\text{Fold}(f, \alpha), \text{CRS}[n/2, m-1, \rho, \hat{w}_\alpha, \hat{h}(\alpha)]) > \delta$

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Interleave sumcheck with FRI folding,
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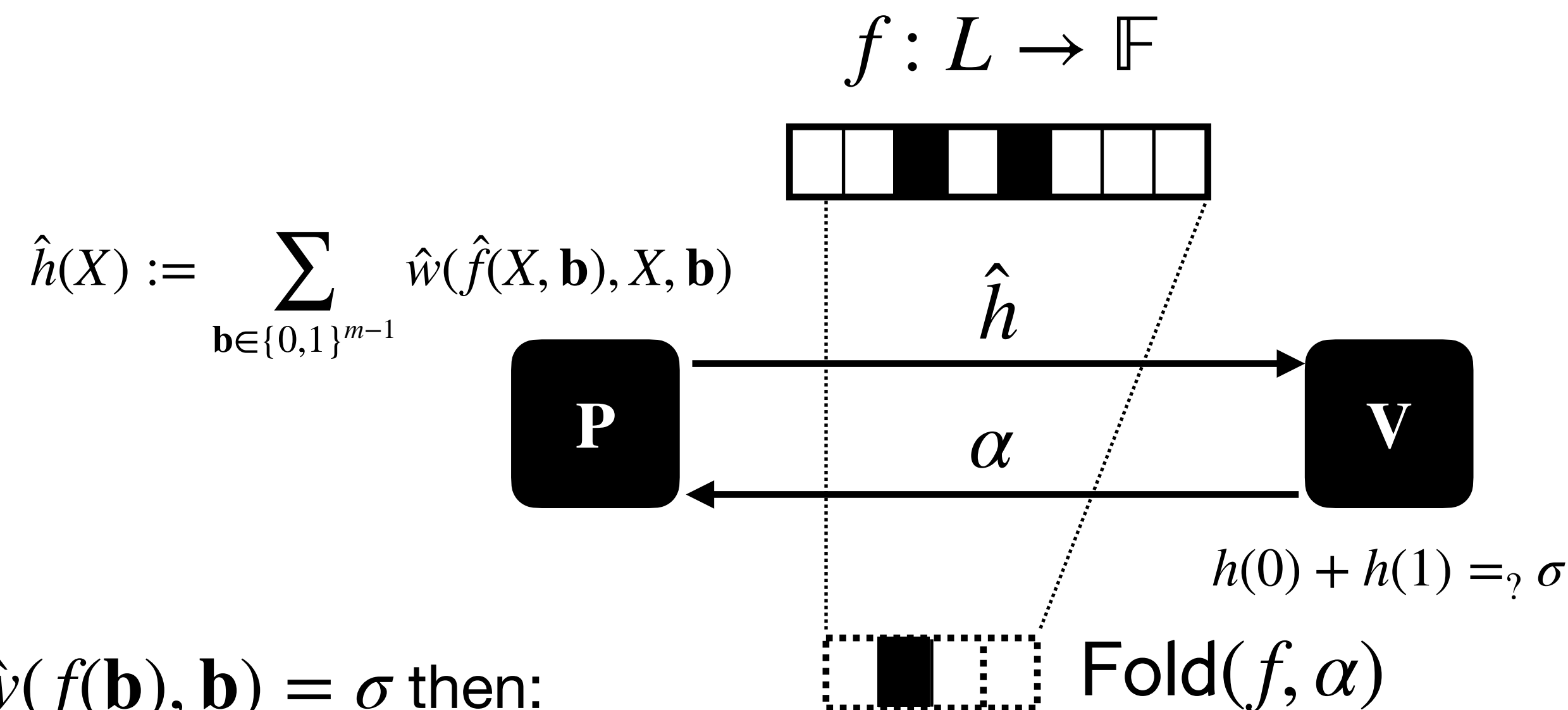
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$$\hat{w}_\alpha(Z, \mathbf{X}) = \hat{w}(Z, \alpha, \mathbf{X})$$

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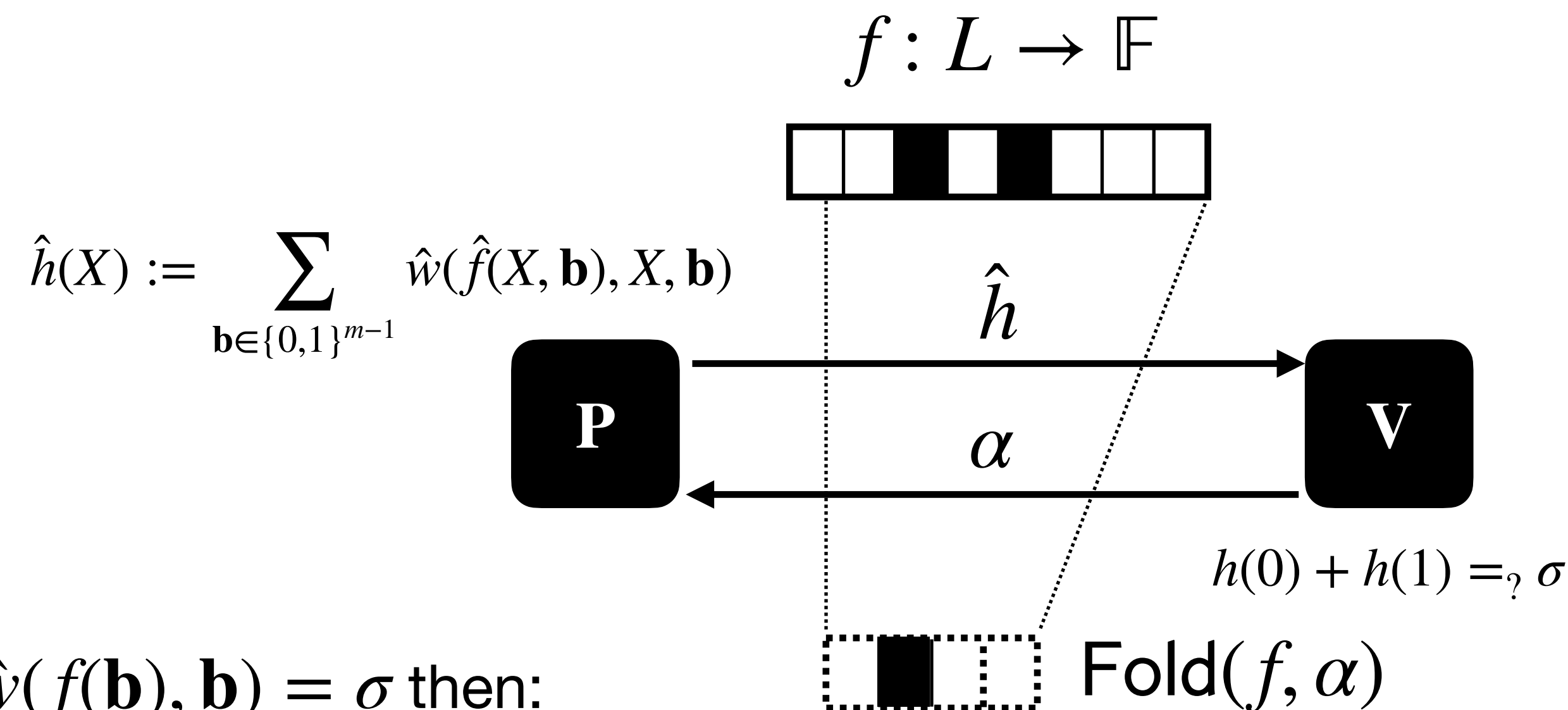
$$\hat{w}_\alpha(Z, \mathbf{X}) = \hat{w}(Z, \alpha, \mathbf{X})$$

Unchanged!

WHIR Folding

Interleave sumcheck with FRI folding,
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Reduce $\text{CRS}[n, m, \rho, \hat{w}, \sigma]$ to $\text{CRS}[n/2, m-1, \rho, \hat{w}_\alpha, \sigma_\alpha]$



In the full protocol, we
fold by 2-by-2 k times.
Can also fold by 2^k at a
time (nice for first round!)

Completeness: $\sum_{\mathbf{b}} \hat{w}(f(\mathbf{b}), \mathbf{b}) = \sigma$ then:

- $h(0) + h(1) = \sigma$,
- $\sum_{\mathbf{b}} \hat{w}(f(\alpha, \mathbf{b}), \alpha, \mathbf{b}) = \hat{h}(\alpha)$
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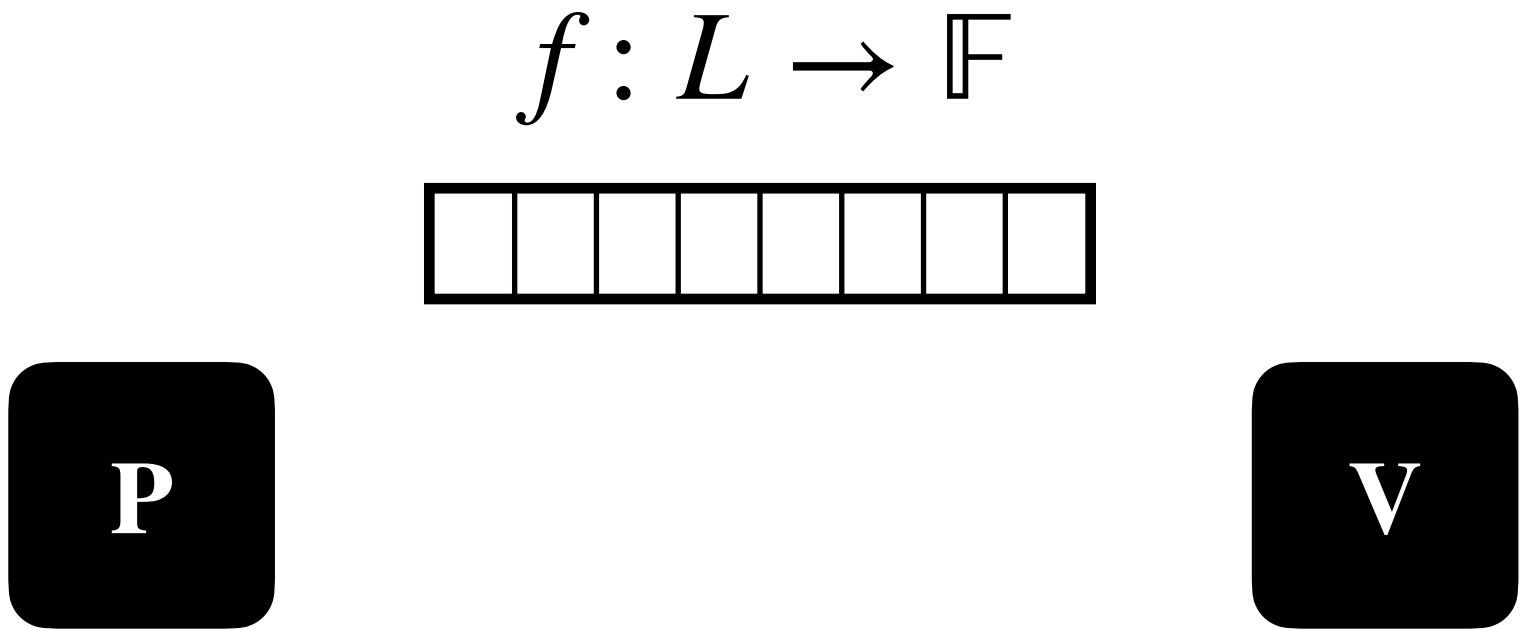
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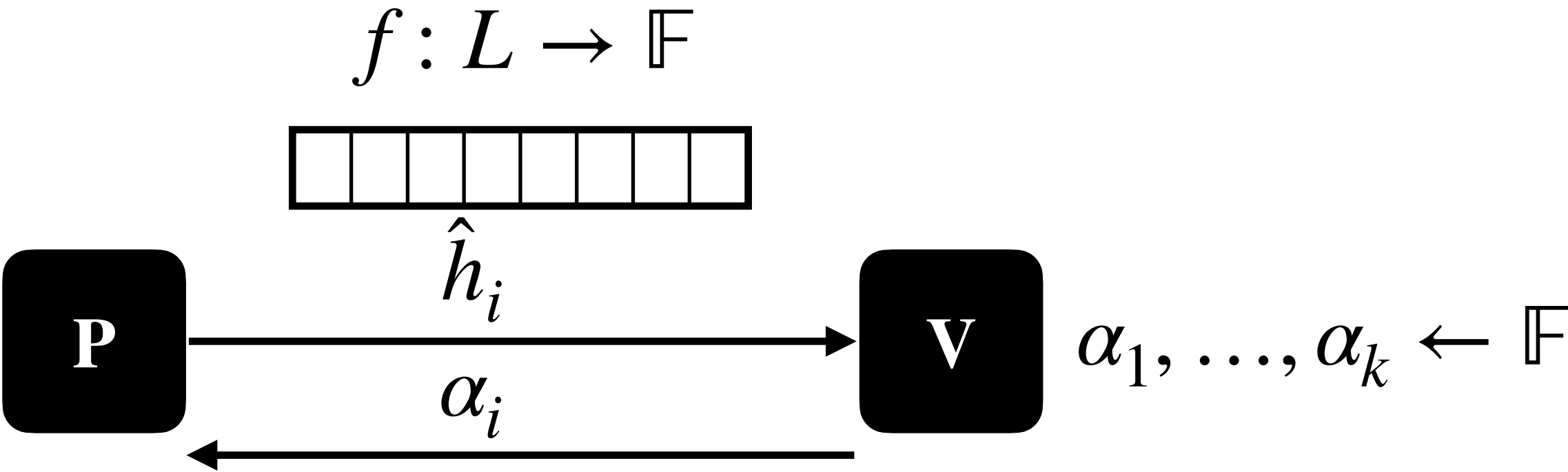
Unchanged!

WHIR iteration

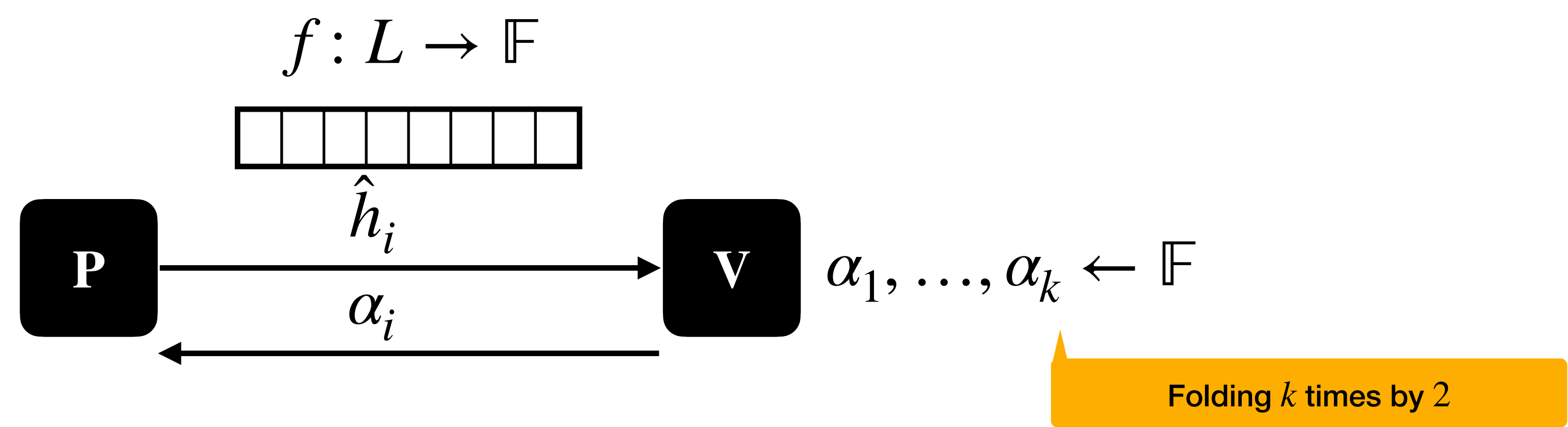
WHIR iteration



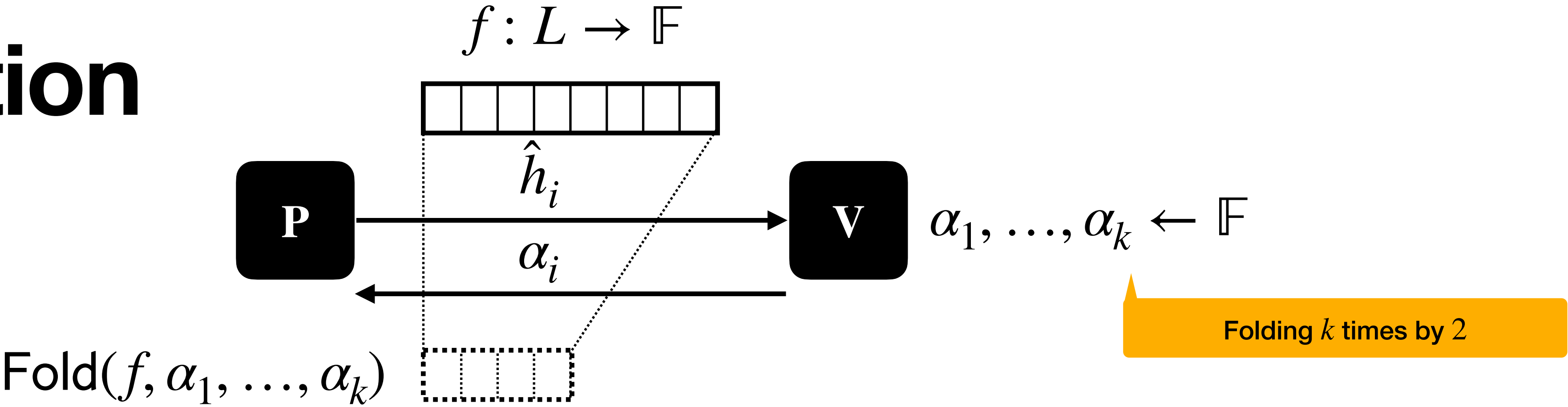
WHIR iteration



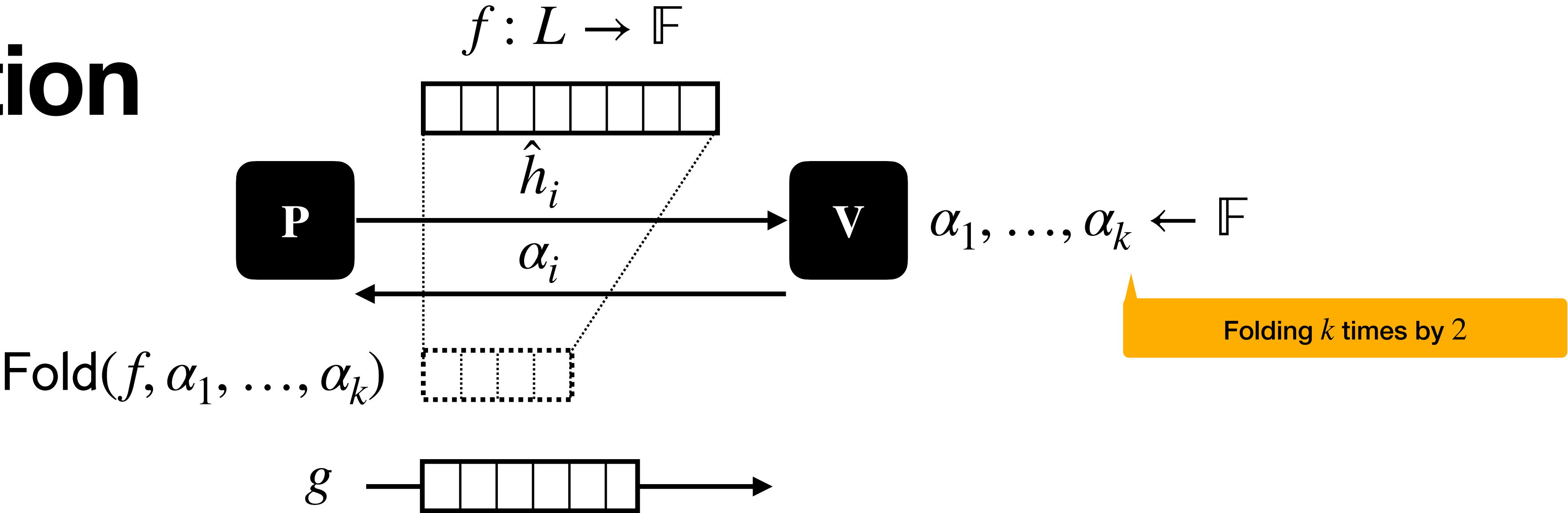
WHIR iteration



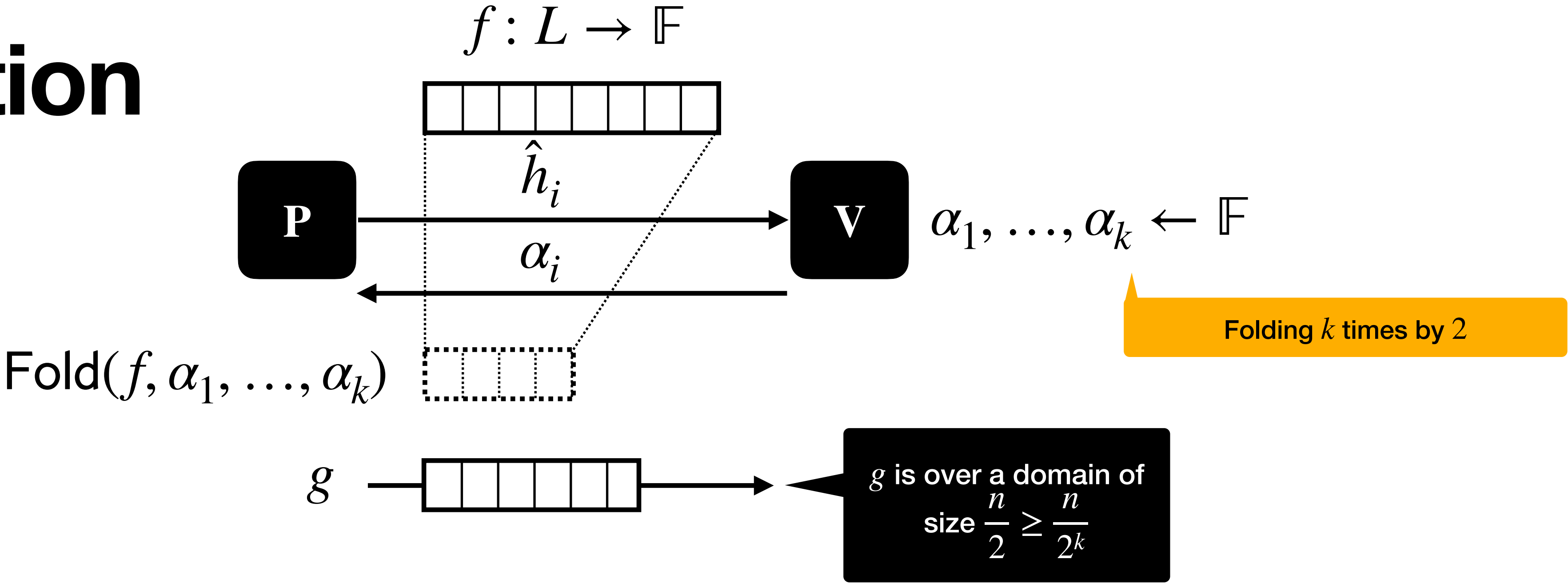
WHIR iteration



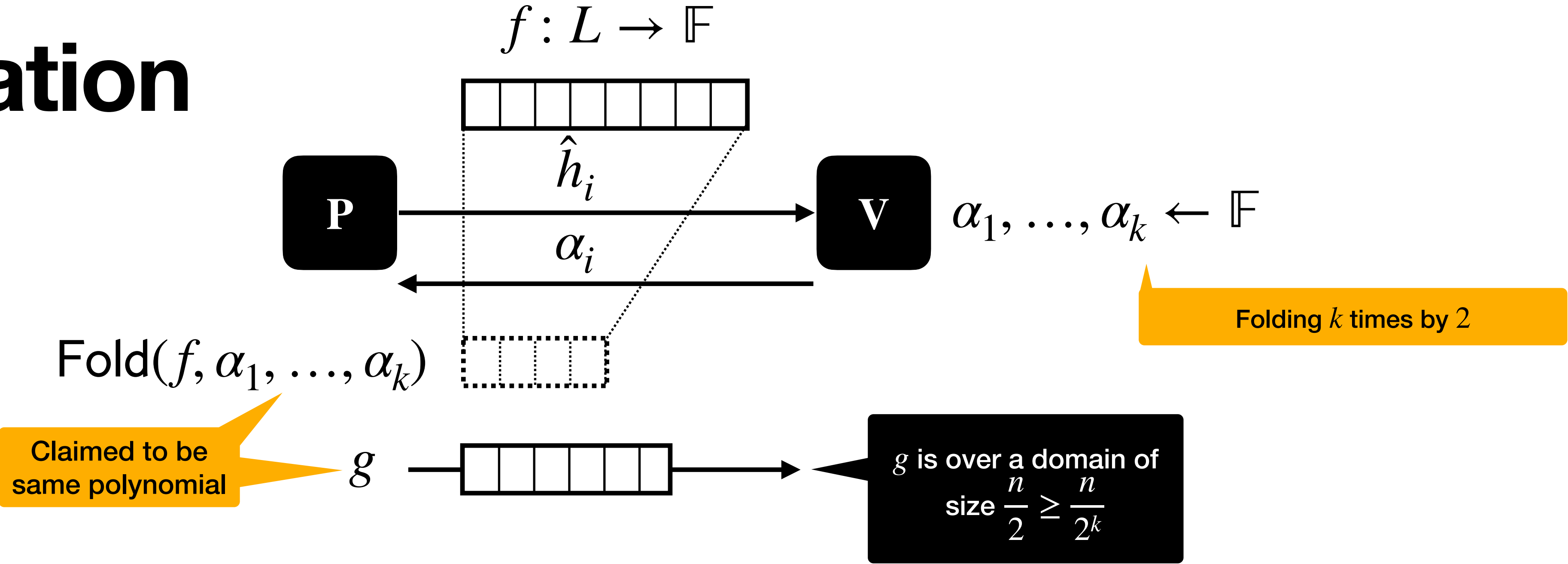
WHIR iteration



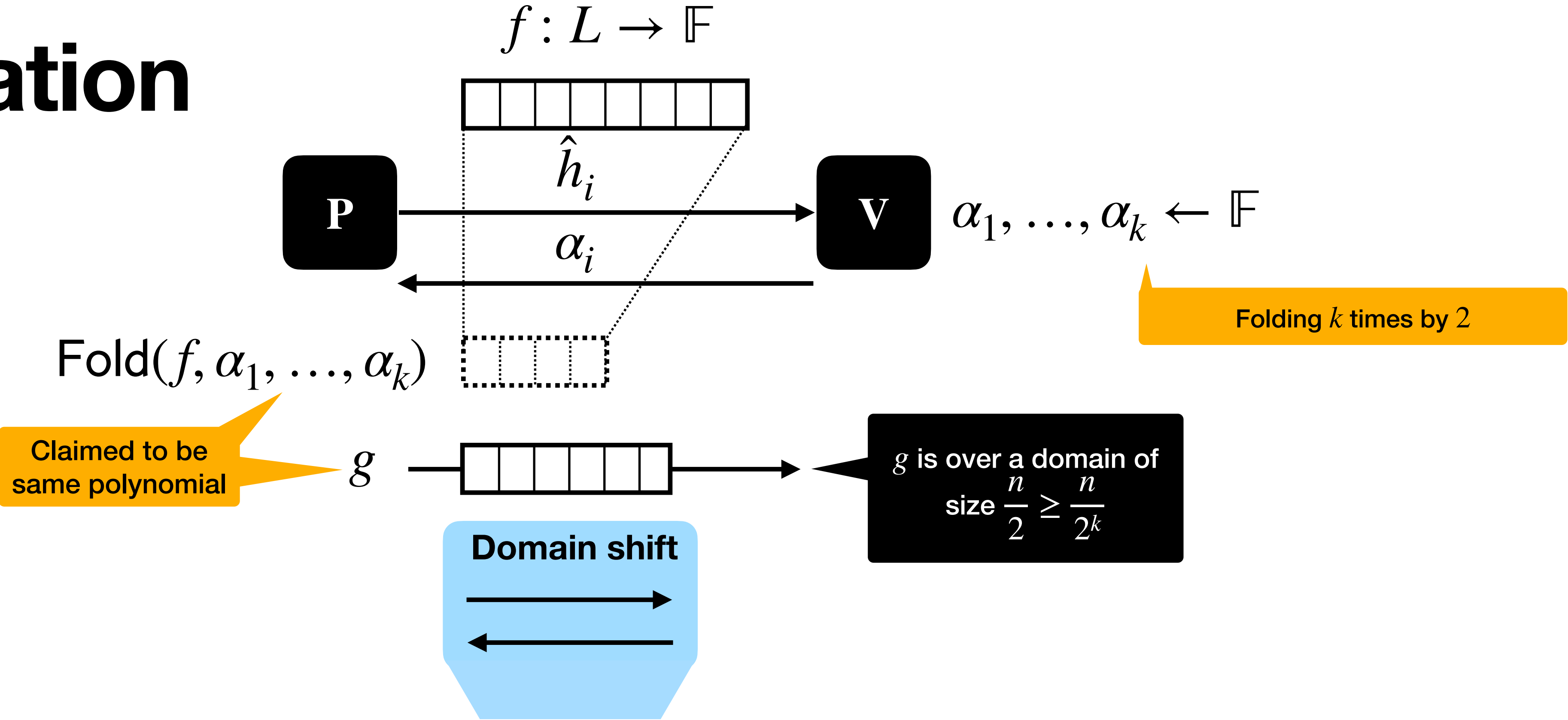
WHIR iteration



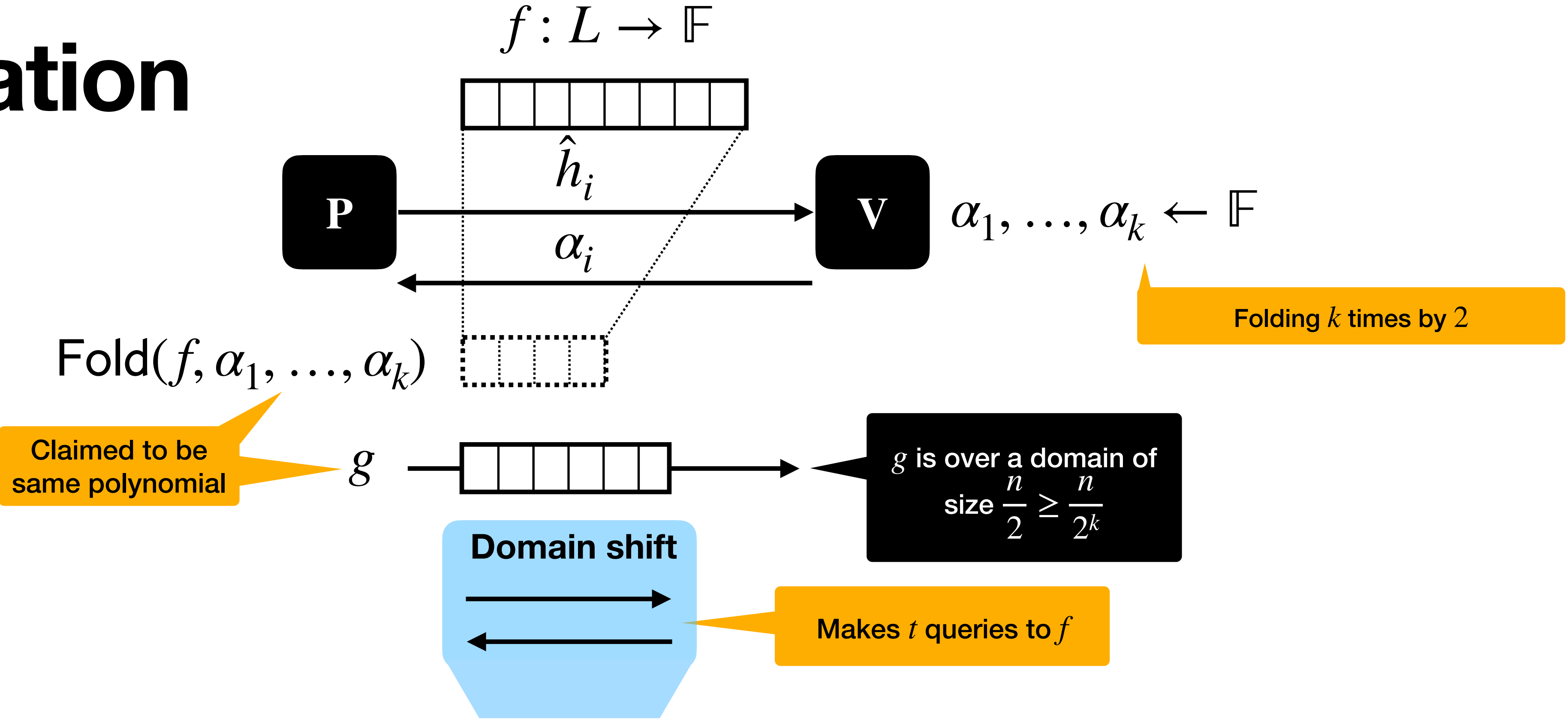
WHIR iteration



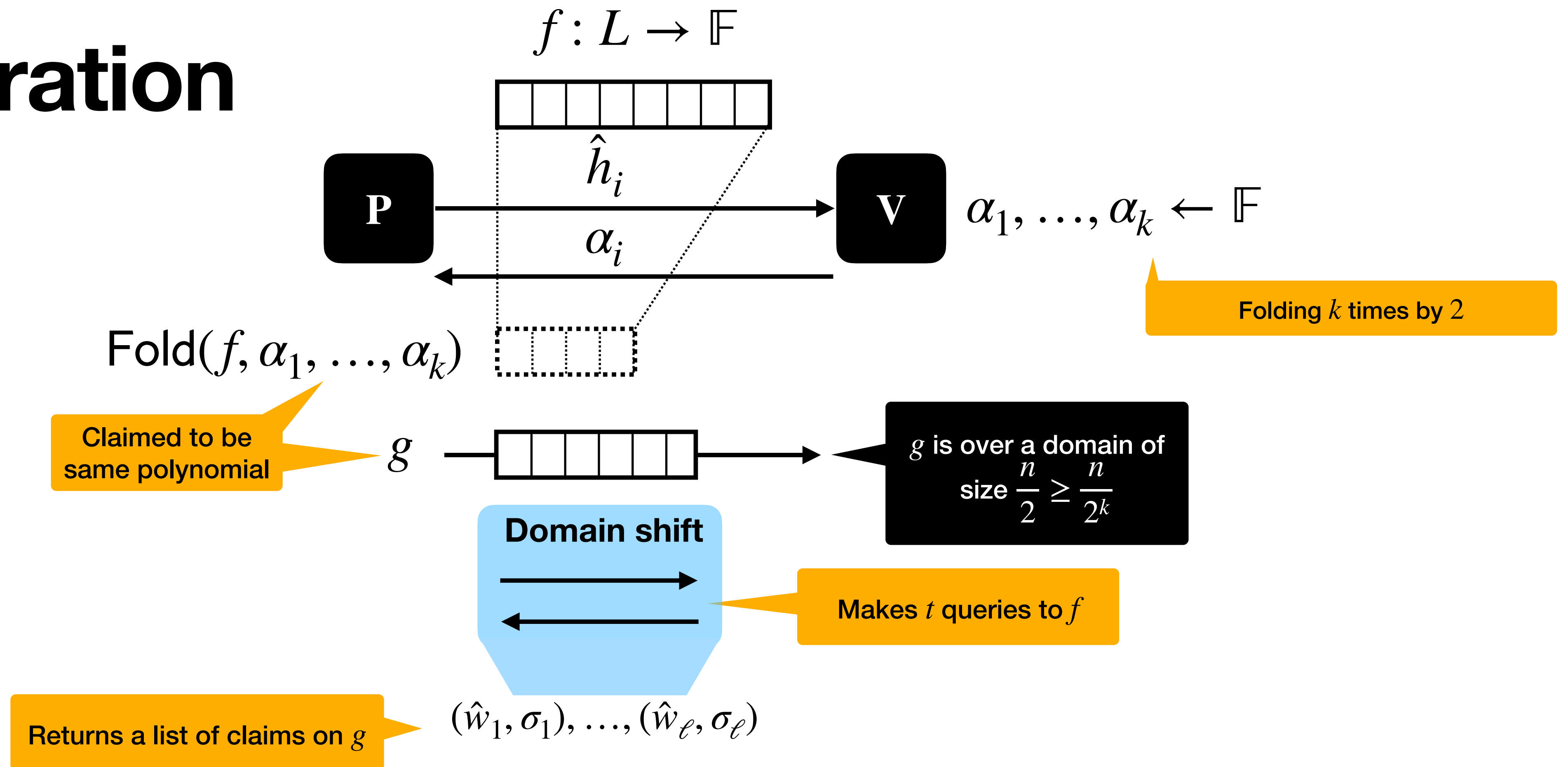
WHIR iteration



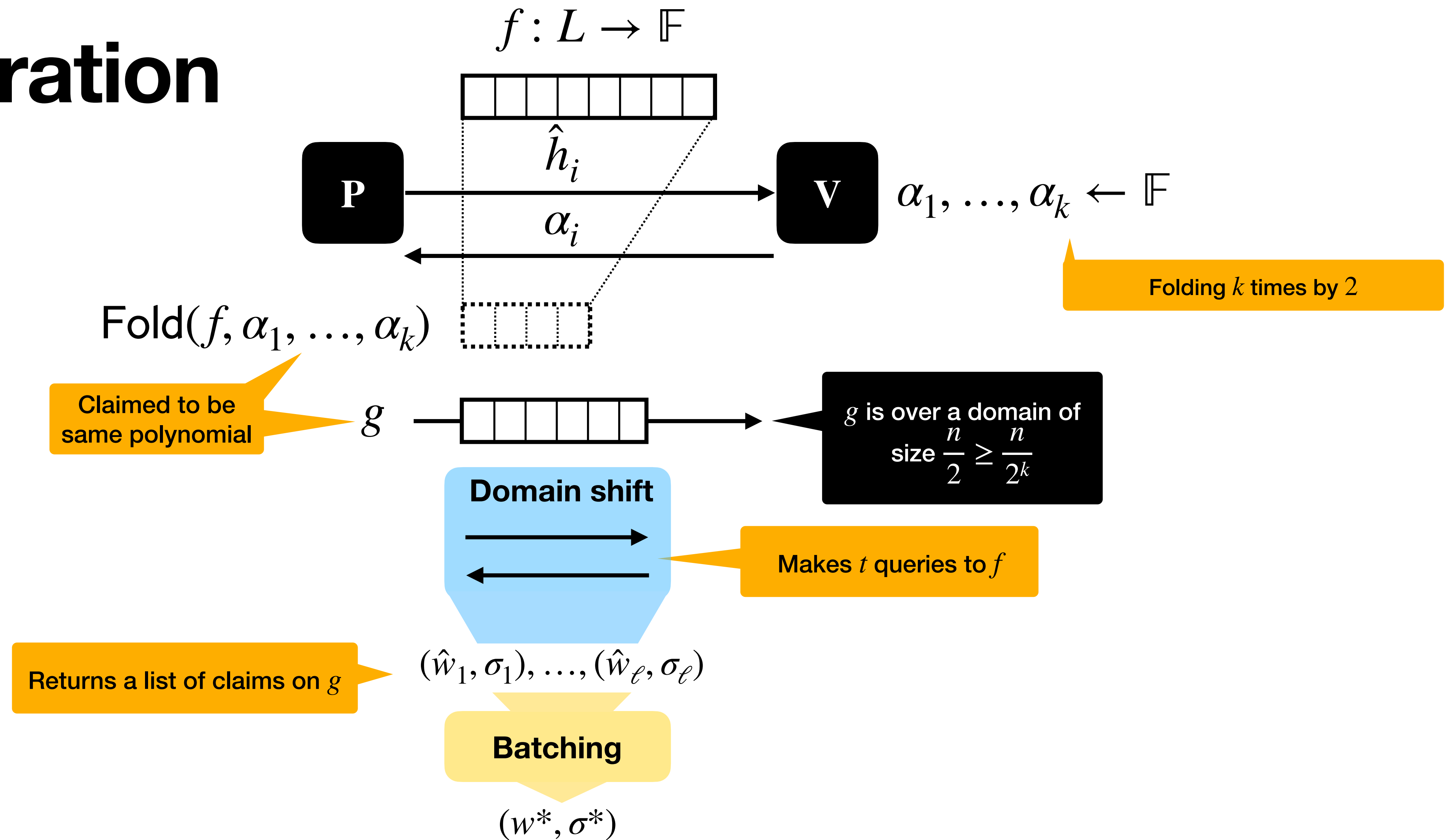
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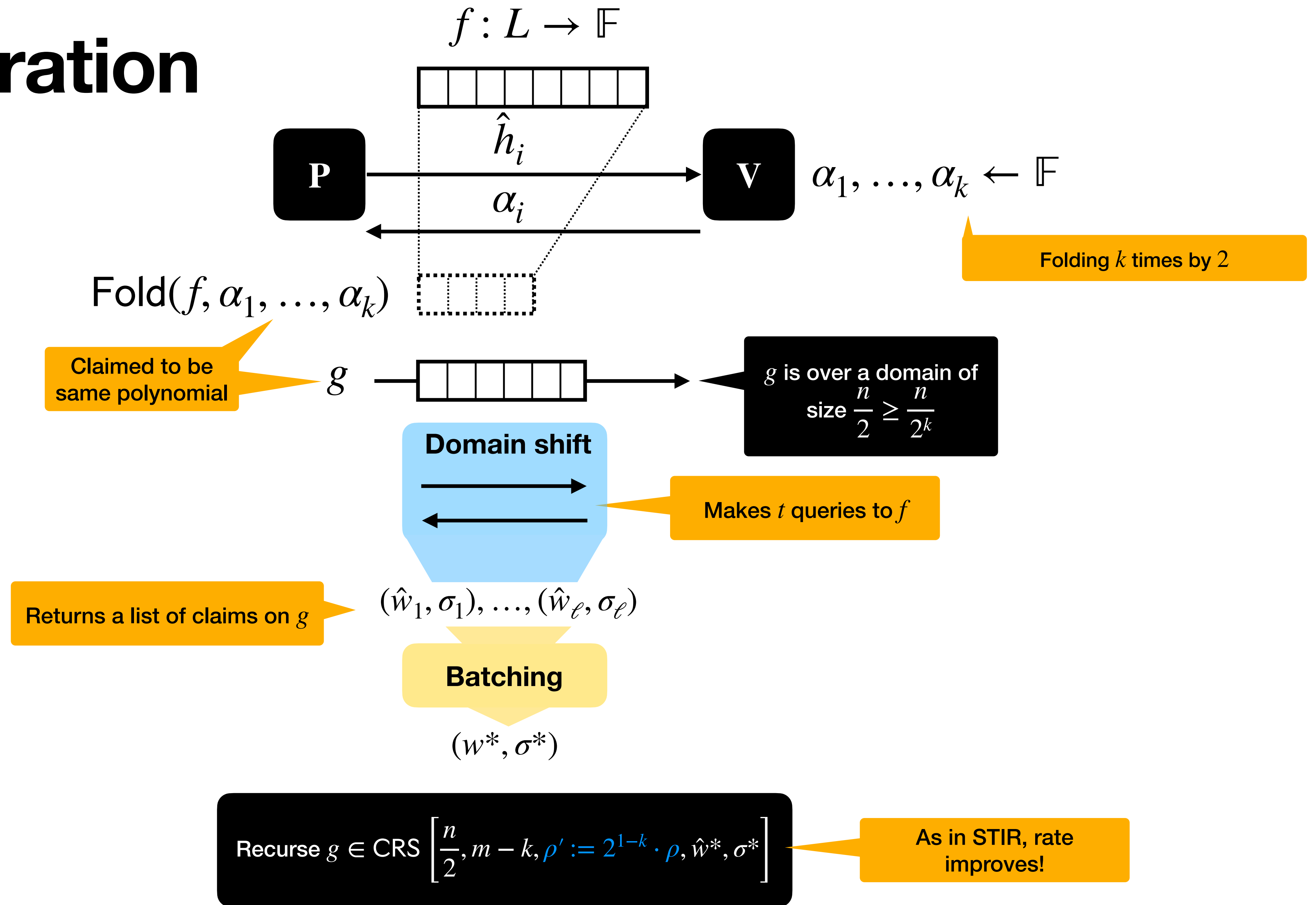
WHIR iteration



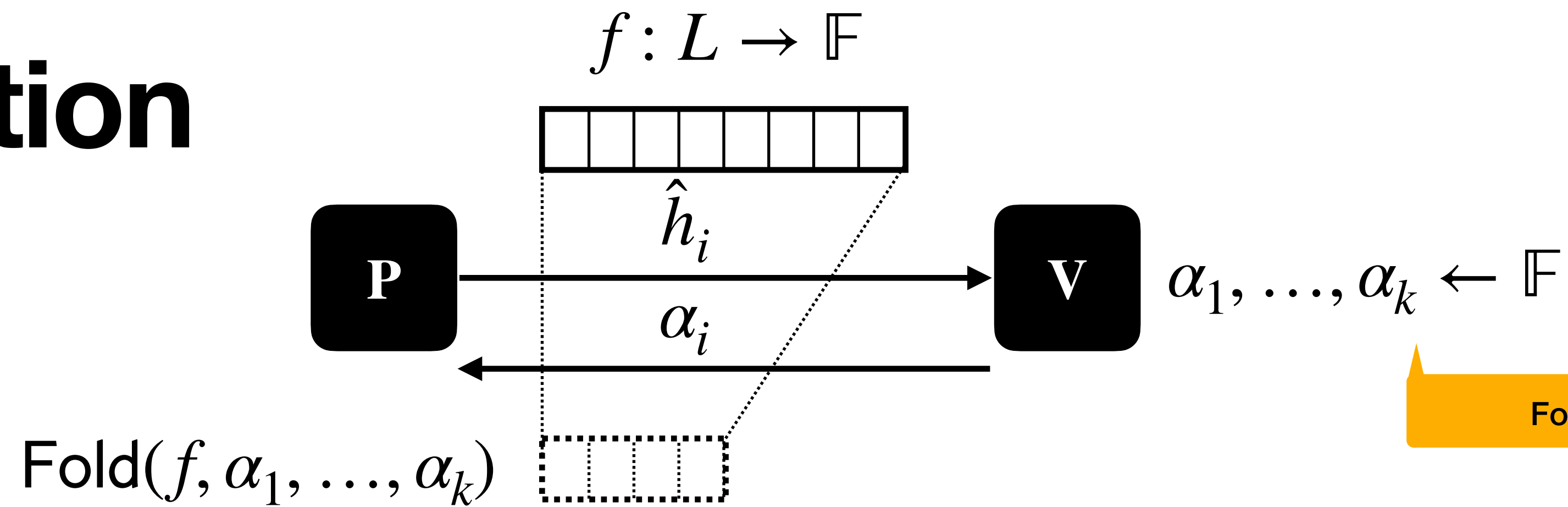
WHIR iteration



WHIR iteration



WHIR iteration



Folding k times by 2

Claimed to be
same polynomial

g

g is over a domain of
size $\frac{n}{2} \geq \frac{n}{2^k}$

Domain shift

Makes t queries to f

Returns a list of claims on g

$(\hat{w}_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (\hat{w}_\ell, \sigma_\ell)$

Batching

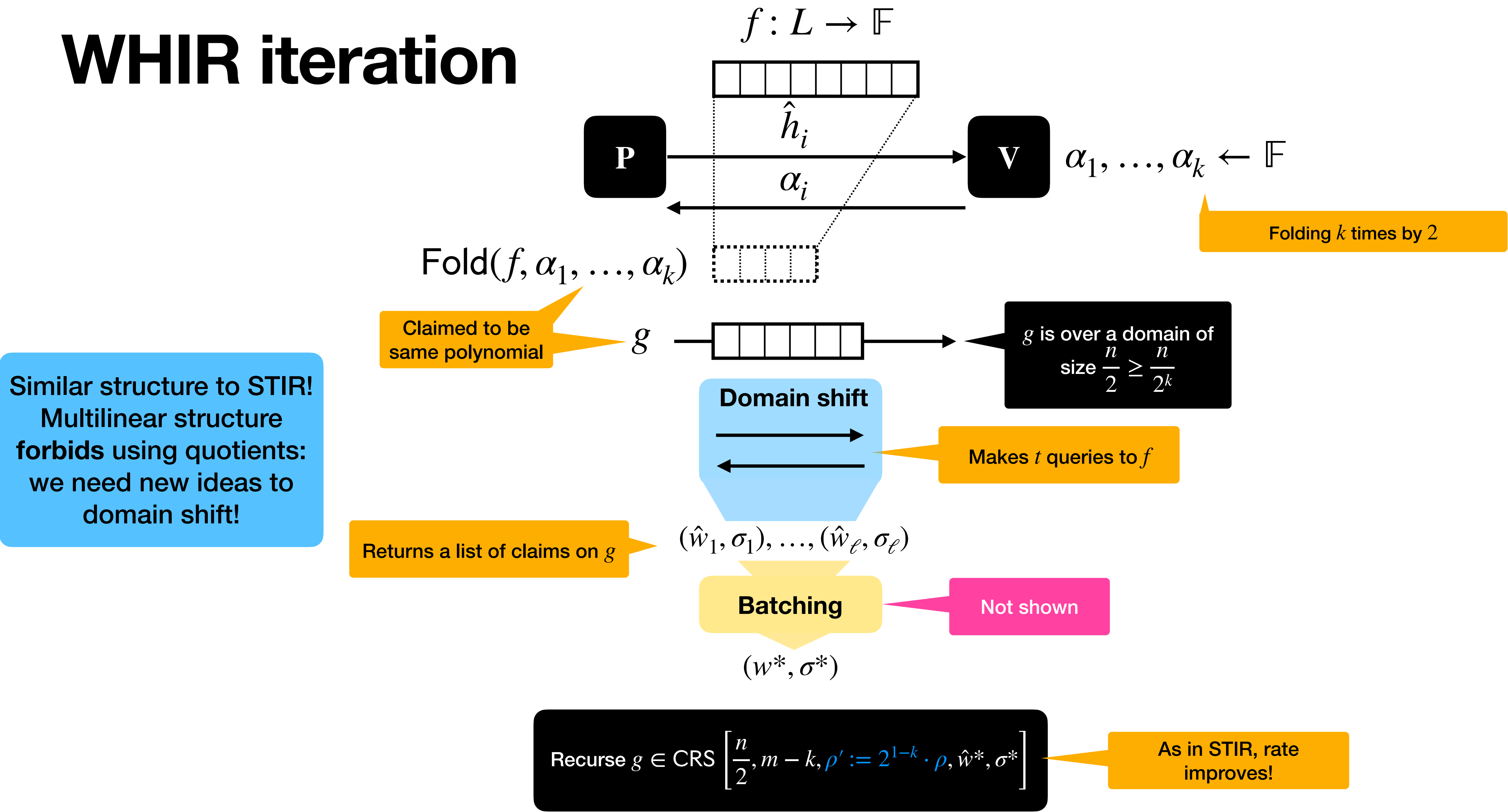
(w^*, σ^*)

Recurse $g \in \text{CRS} \left[\frac{n}{2}, m - k, \rho' := 2^{1-k} \cdot \rho, \hat{w}^*, \sigma^* \right]$

As in STIR, rate
improves!

Similar structure to STIR!
Multilinear structure
forbids using quotients:
we need new ideas to
domain shift!

WHIR iteration



Domain shifting

Domain shifting

Claim on $f: (\hat{w}, \sigma)$

$$f: L \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

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Domain shifting

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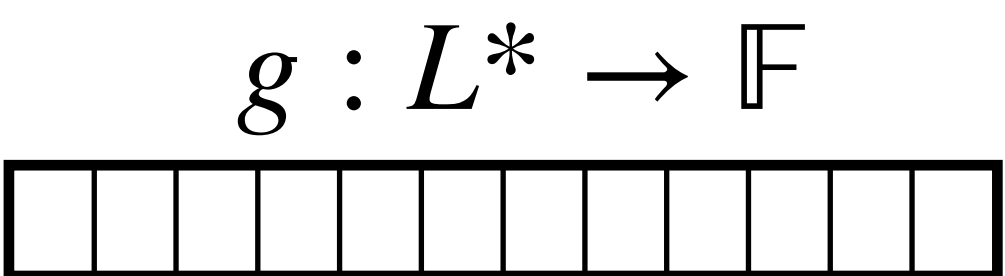
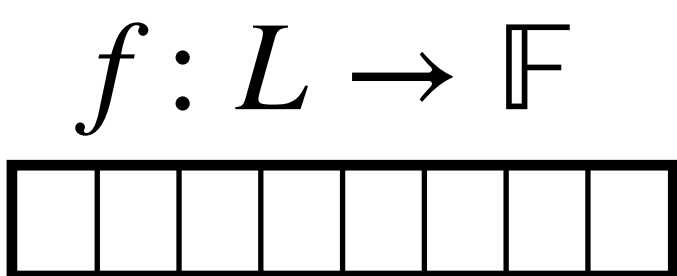
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$$g : L^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Domain shifting

Claim on f : $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$



Output claims on g :
 $(\hat{w}_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (\hat{w}_\ell, \sigma_\ell)$

Domain shifting

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$$f : L \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$



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Output claims on g :
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f and g claimed to be evaluations of same polynomial. Want to output **claims** on g .

Goal: If f is $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho}\right)$ -far from $\text{CRS}[|L|, m, \rho, \hat{w}, \sigma]$, w.h.p. g is $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho'}\right)$ -far from $\text{CRS}[|L^*|, m, \rho', \hat{w}_i, \sigma_i]$ for at least one $i \in [\ell]$

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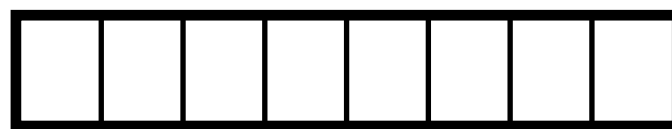
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Assume there is unique polynomial $\hat{p}$ that is $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho'}\right)$ -close to g .

OOD subprotocol (next)

Domain shifting

Claim on f : $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$

$$f : L \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$


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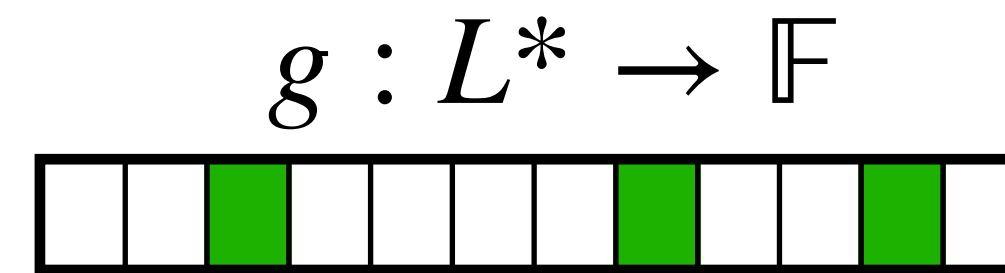
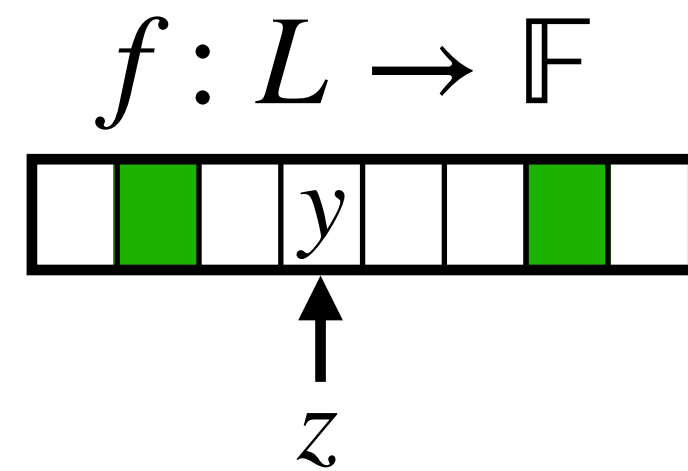
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OOD subprotocol (next)

Then, if $\hat{p}$ satisfies the $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$ -constraint f must be $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho}\right)$ -far from it.

Domain shifting

Claim on f : $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$



Output claims on g :
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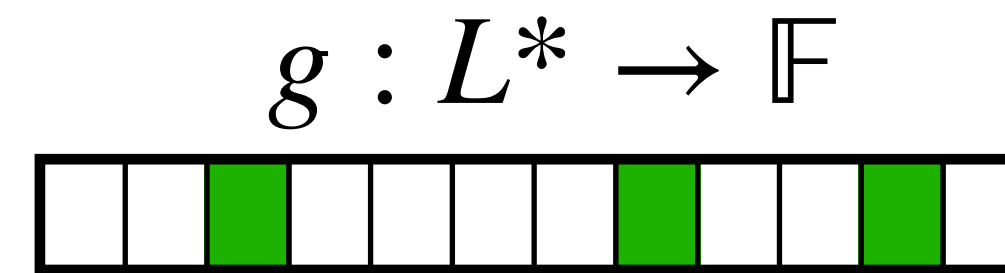
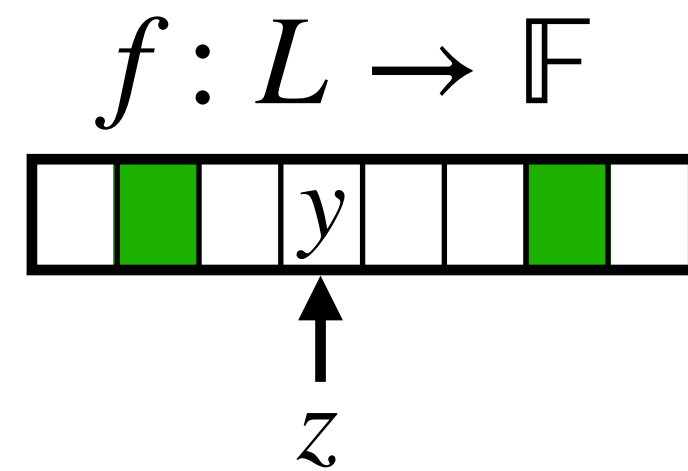
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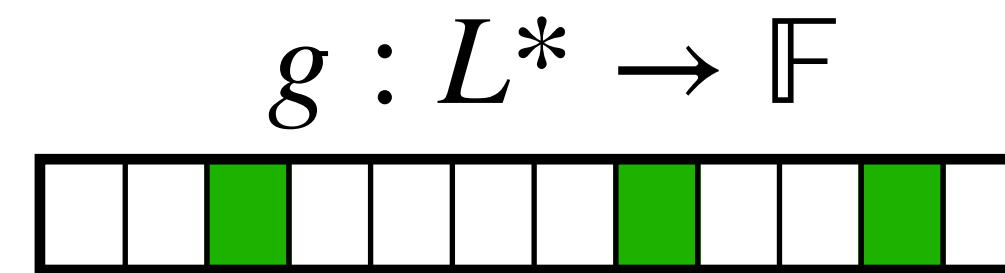
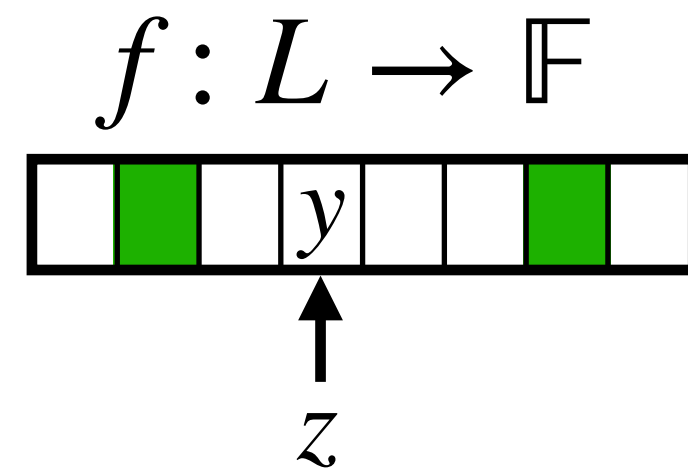
Then, if $\hat{p}$ satisfies the $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$ -constraint f must be $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho}\right)$ -far from it.

New constraints: (i) original constraint $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$ (ii) $\hat{p}(z) = y$ for some random point z .

Just an evaluation constraint which we know how to handle!

Domain shifting

Claim on f : $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$



Output claims on g :
 $(\hat{w}_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (\hat{w}_\ell, \sigma_\ell)$

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Then, if $\hat{p}$ satisfies the $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$ -constraint f must be $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho}\right)$ -far from it.

New constraints: (i) original constraint $(\hat{w}, \sigma)$ (ii) $\hat{p}(z) = y$ for some random point z .

Just an evaluation constraint which we know how to handle!

So, except with probability $\sqrt{\rho}$, g is $\left(1 - \sqrt{\rho'}\right)$ -far from $\text{CRS}[|L^*|, m, \rho', (\hat{w}_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (\hat{w}_\ell, \sigma_\ell)]$.

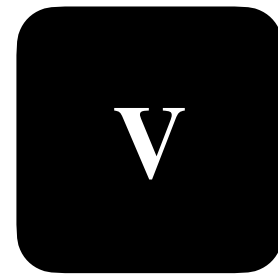
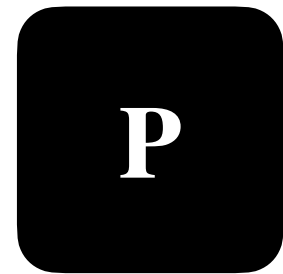
Can amplify to $\sqrt{\rho}^t$

Out Of Domain

Subprotocol to force unique

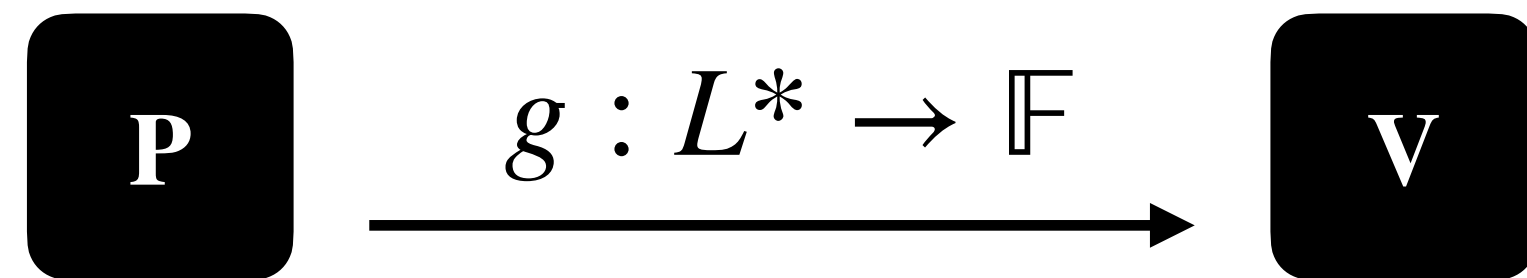
Out Of Domain

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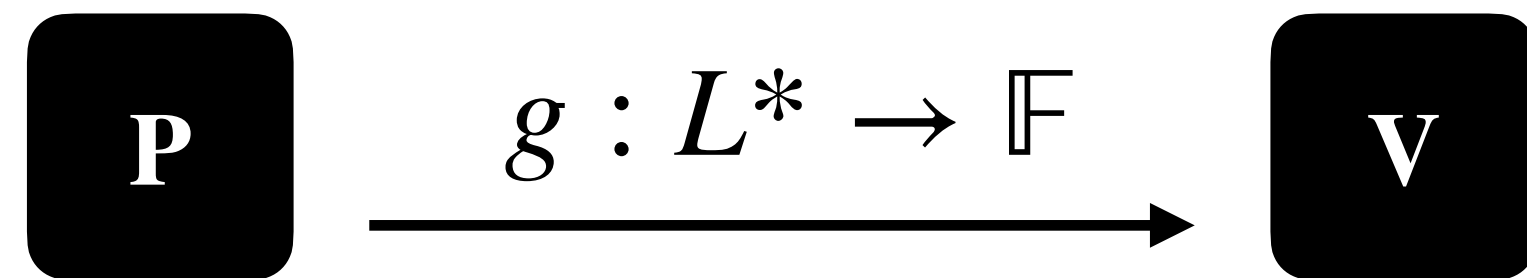
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Out Of Domain

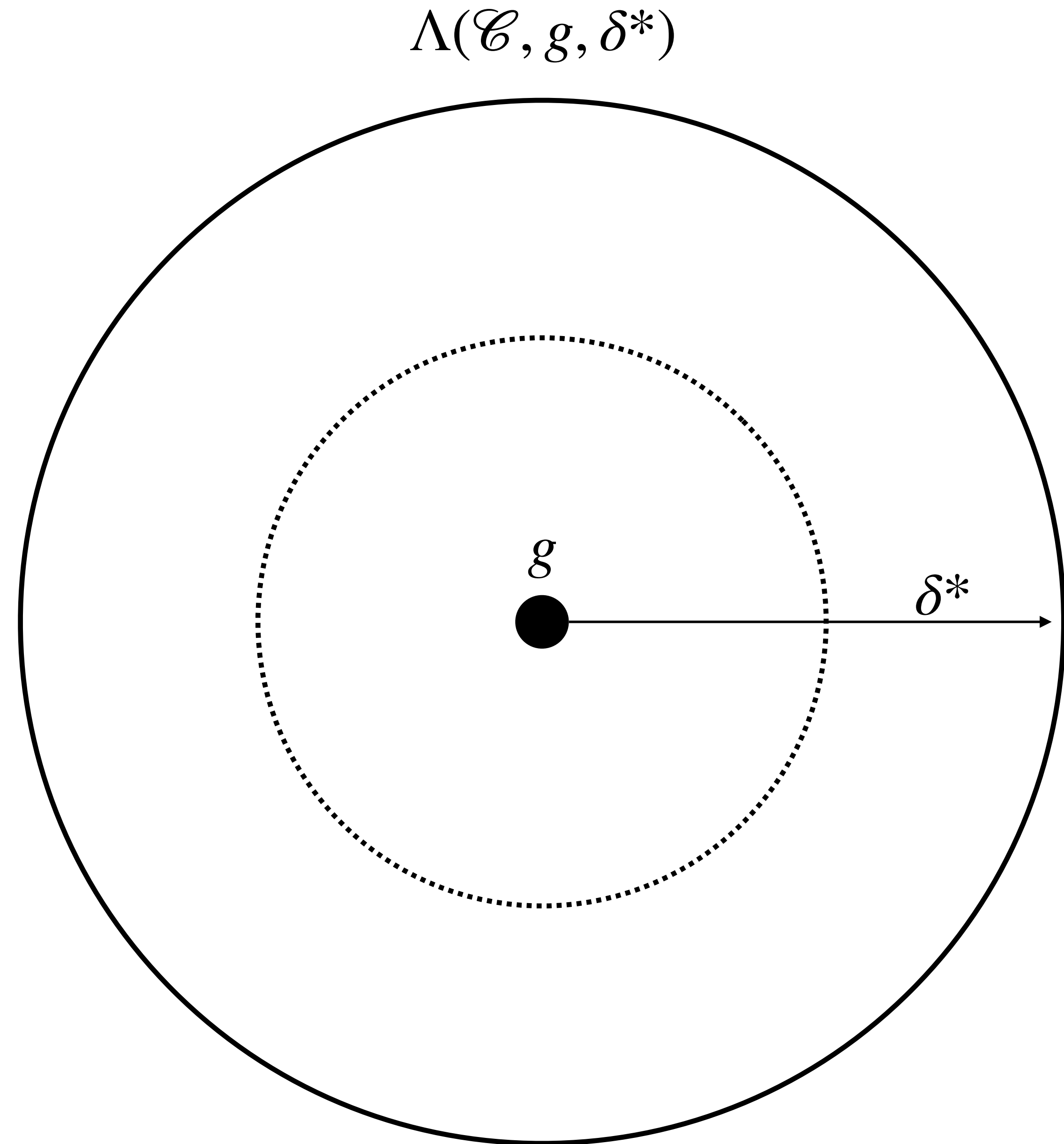
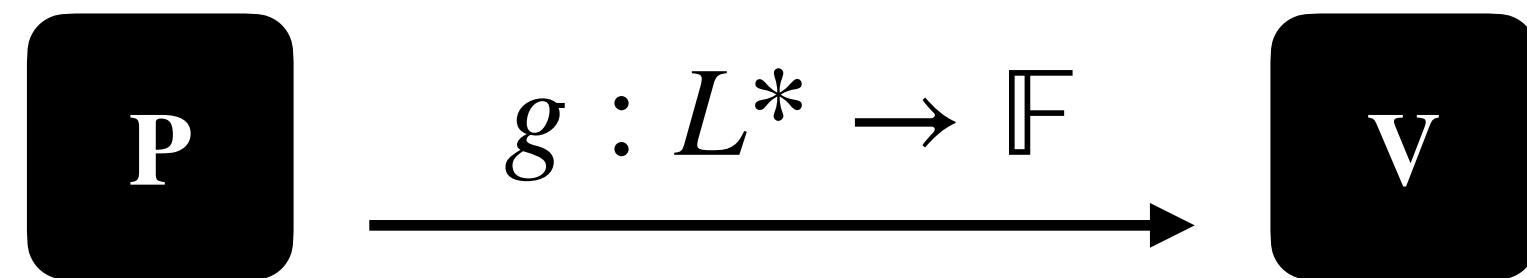
Subprotocol to force unique



g

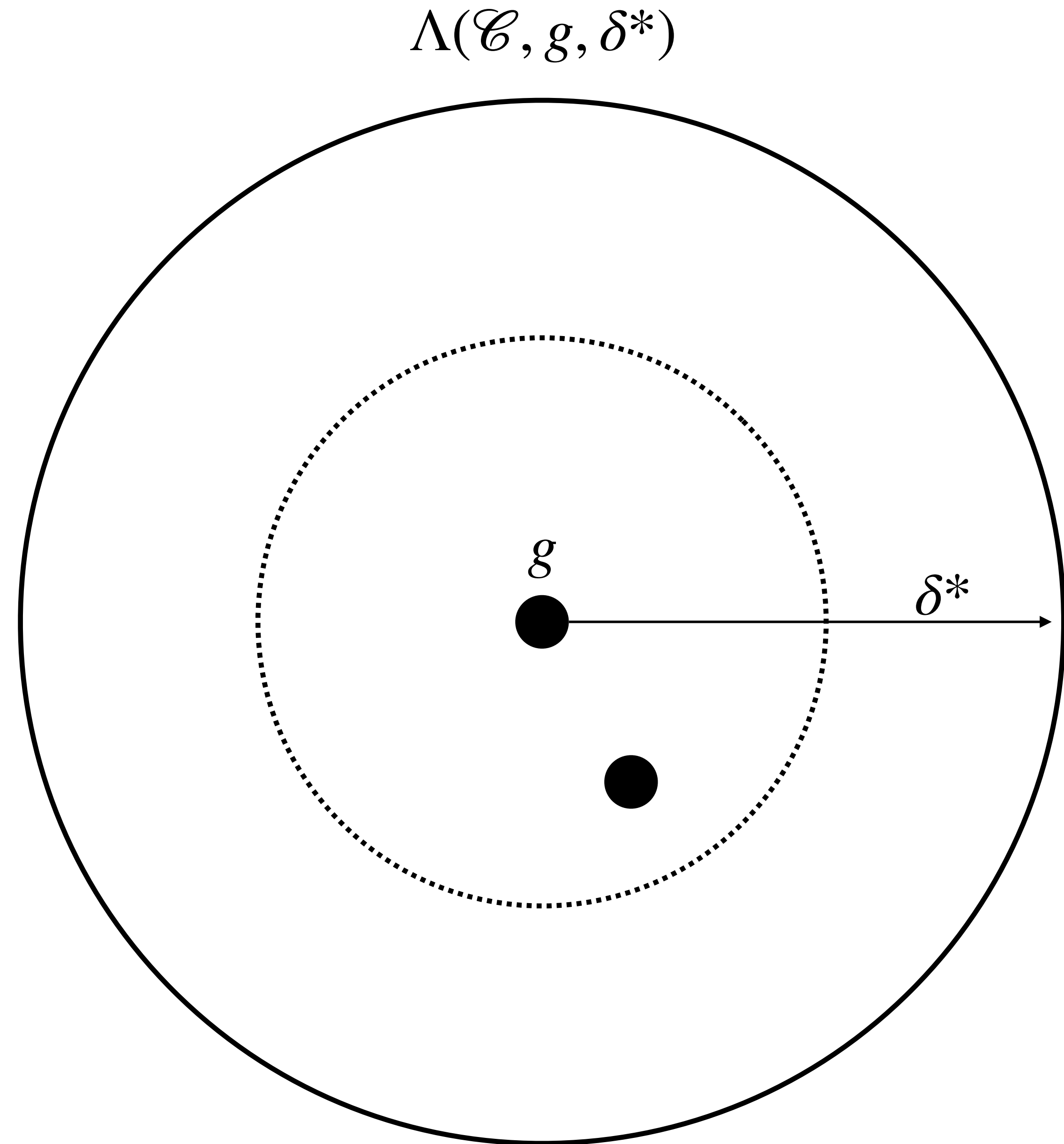
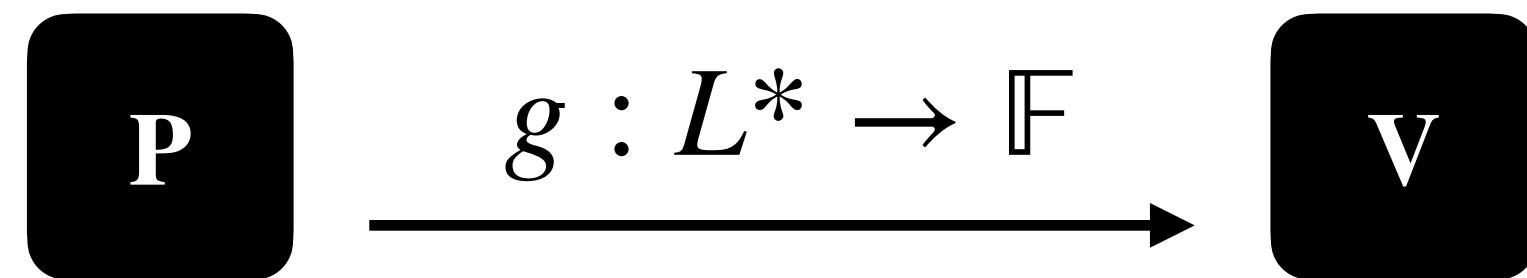
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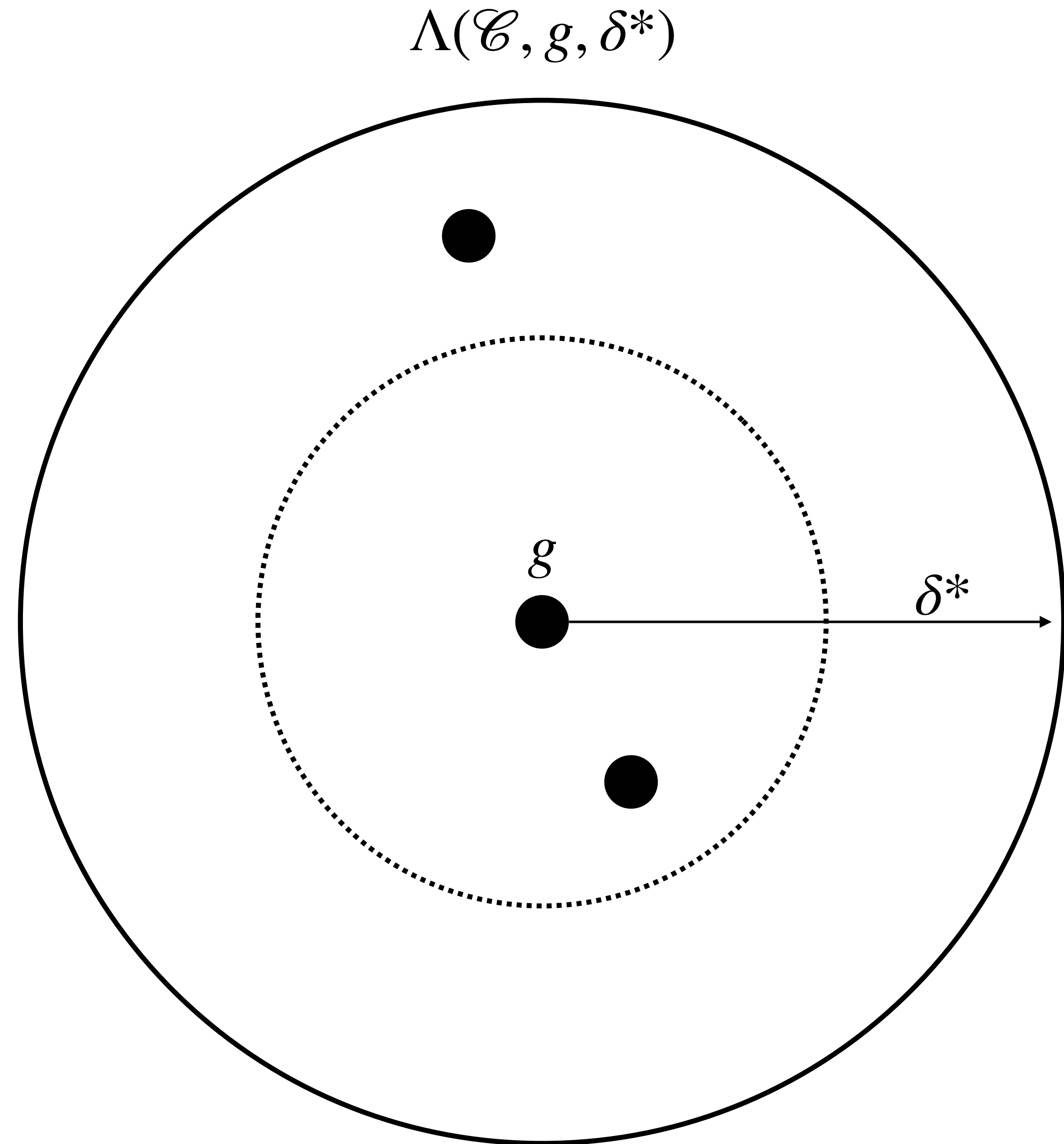
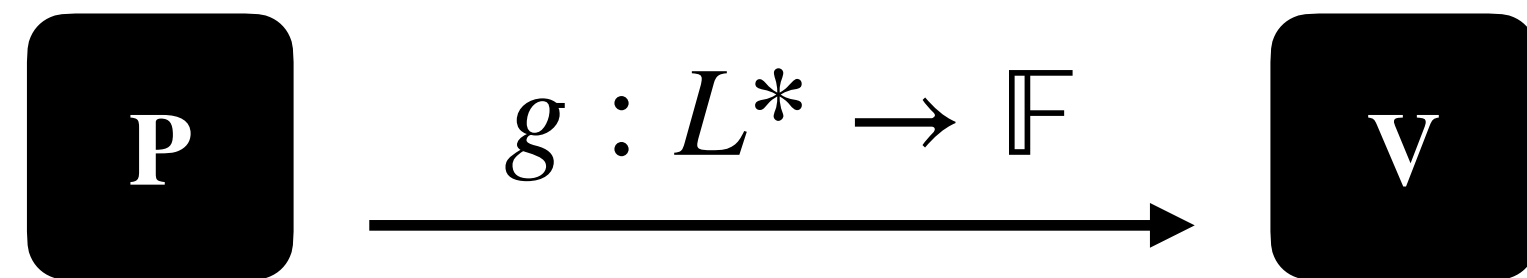
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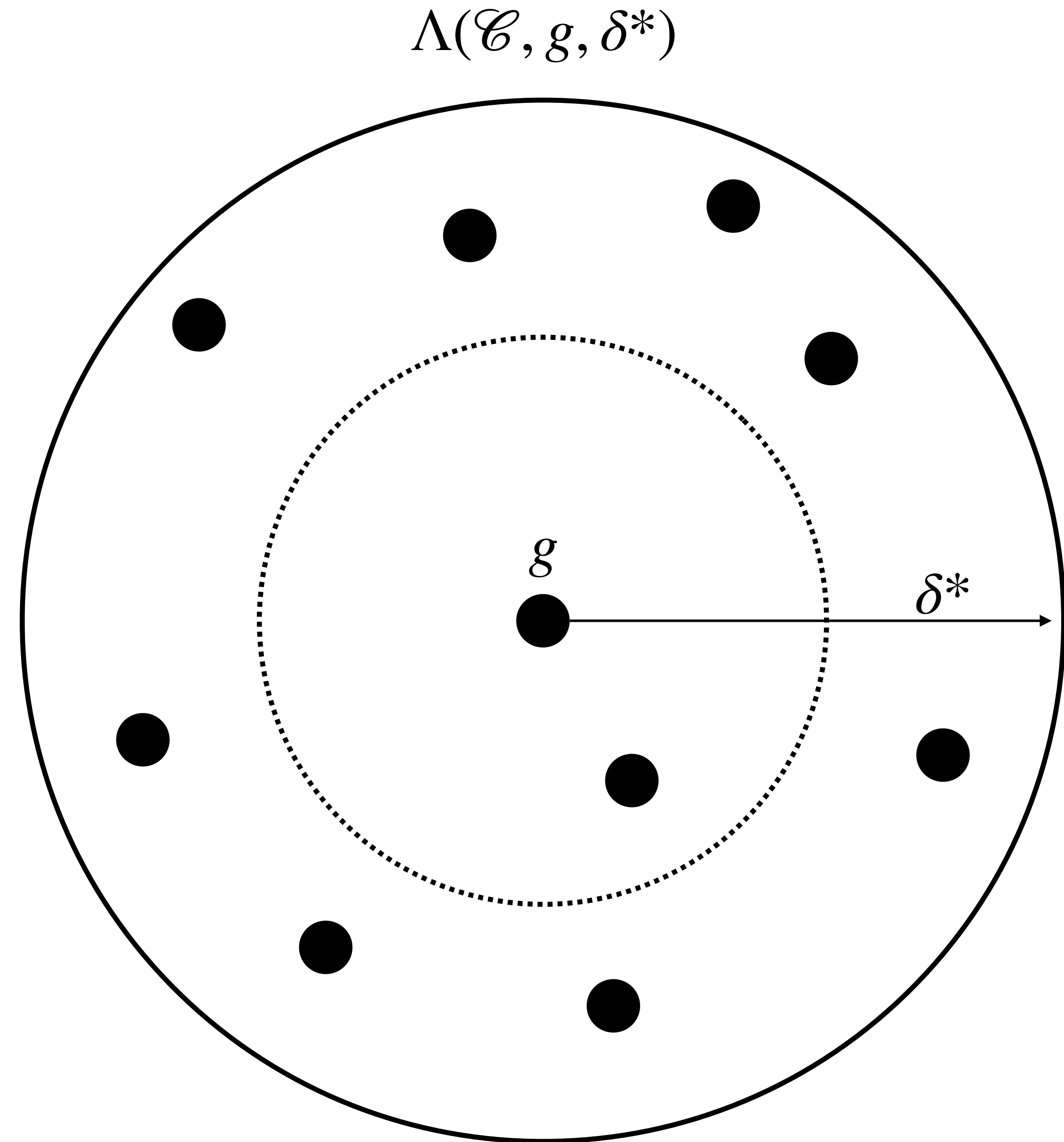
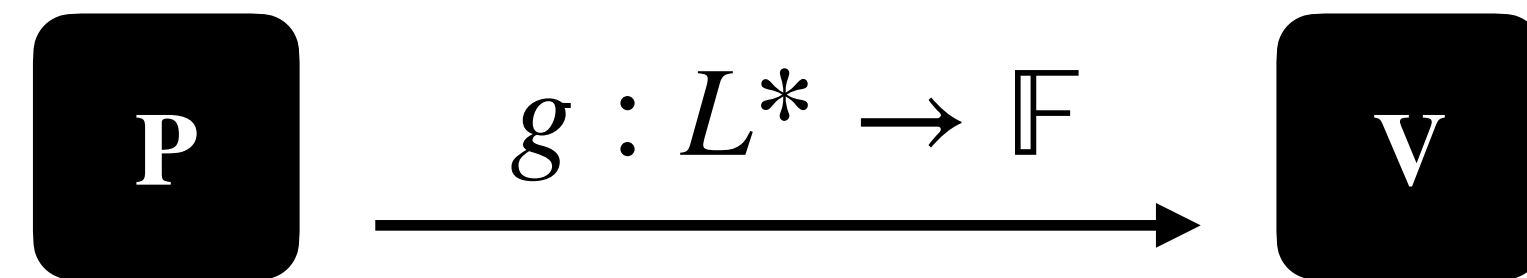
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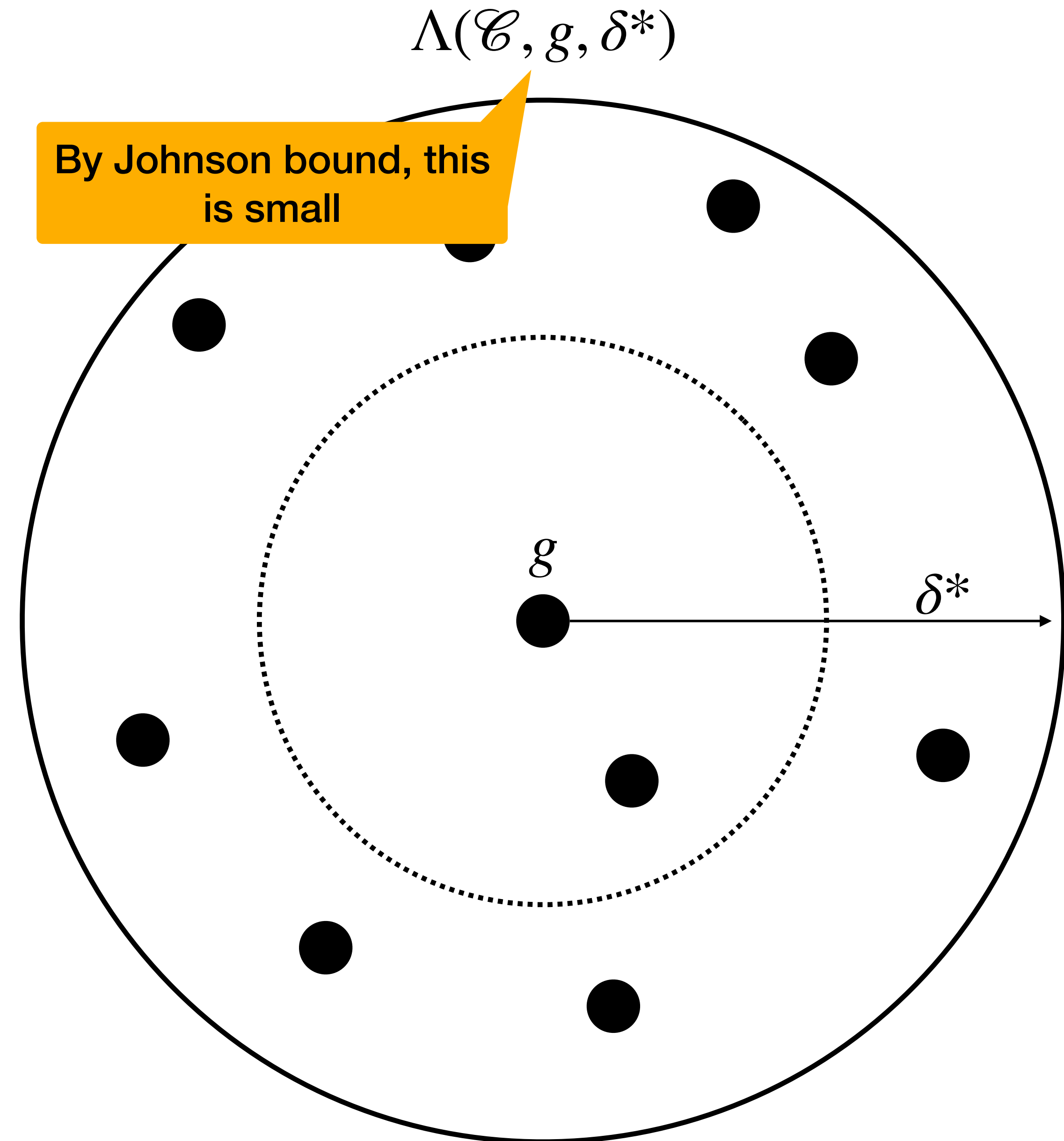
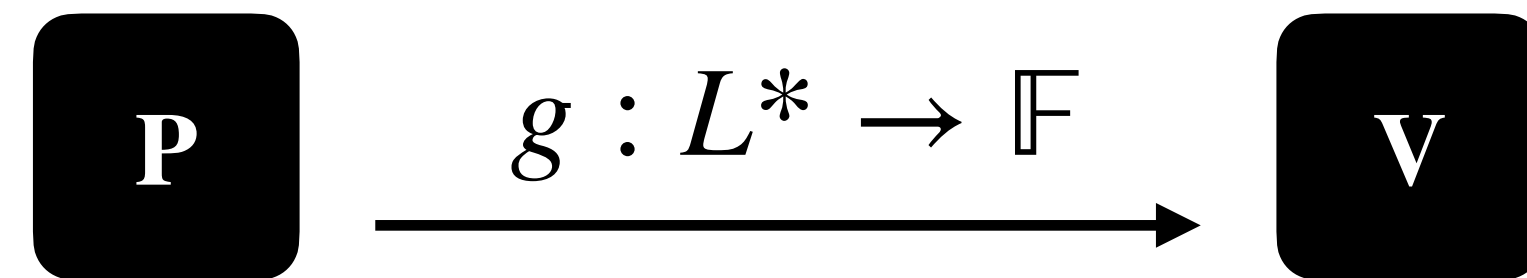
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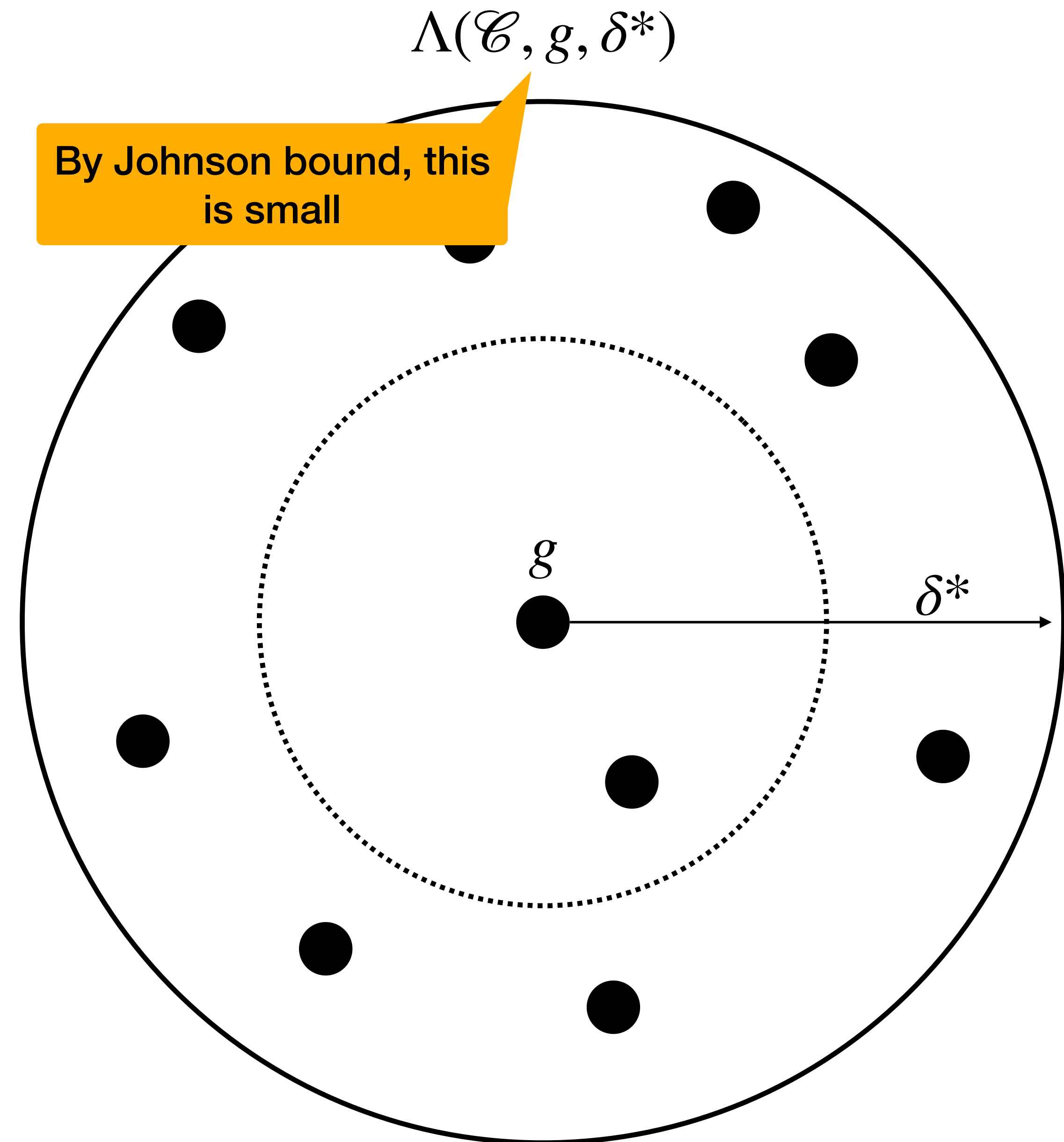
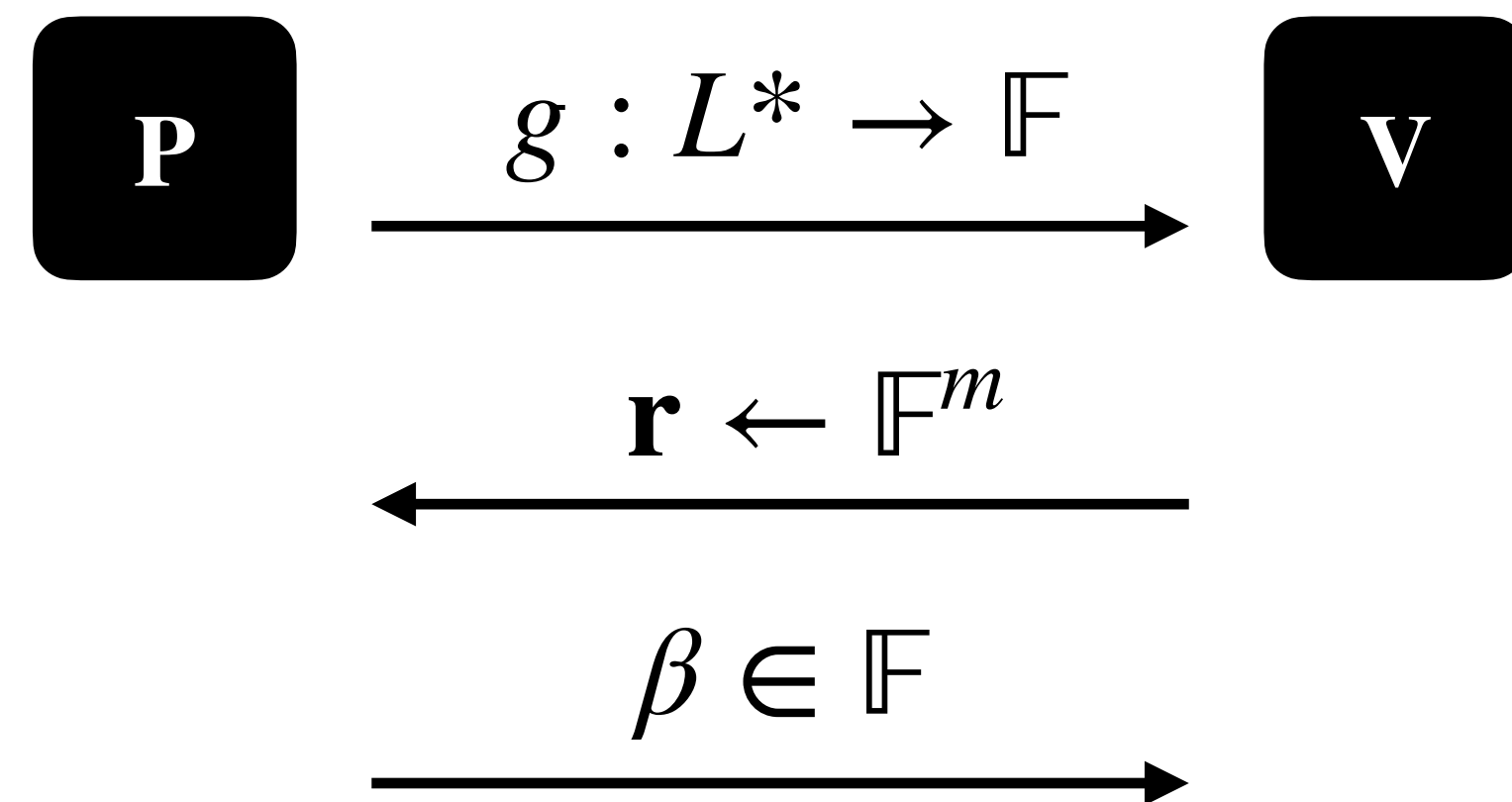
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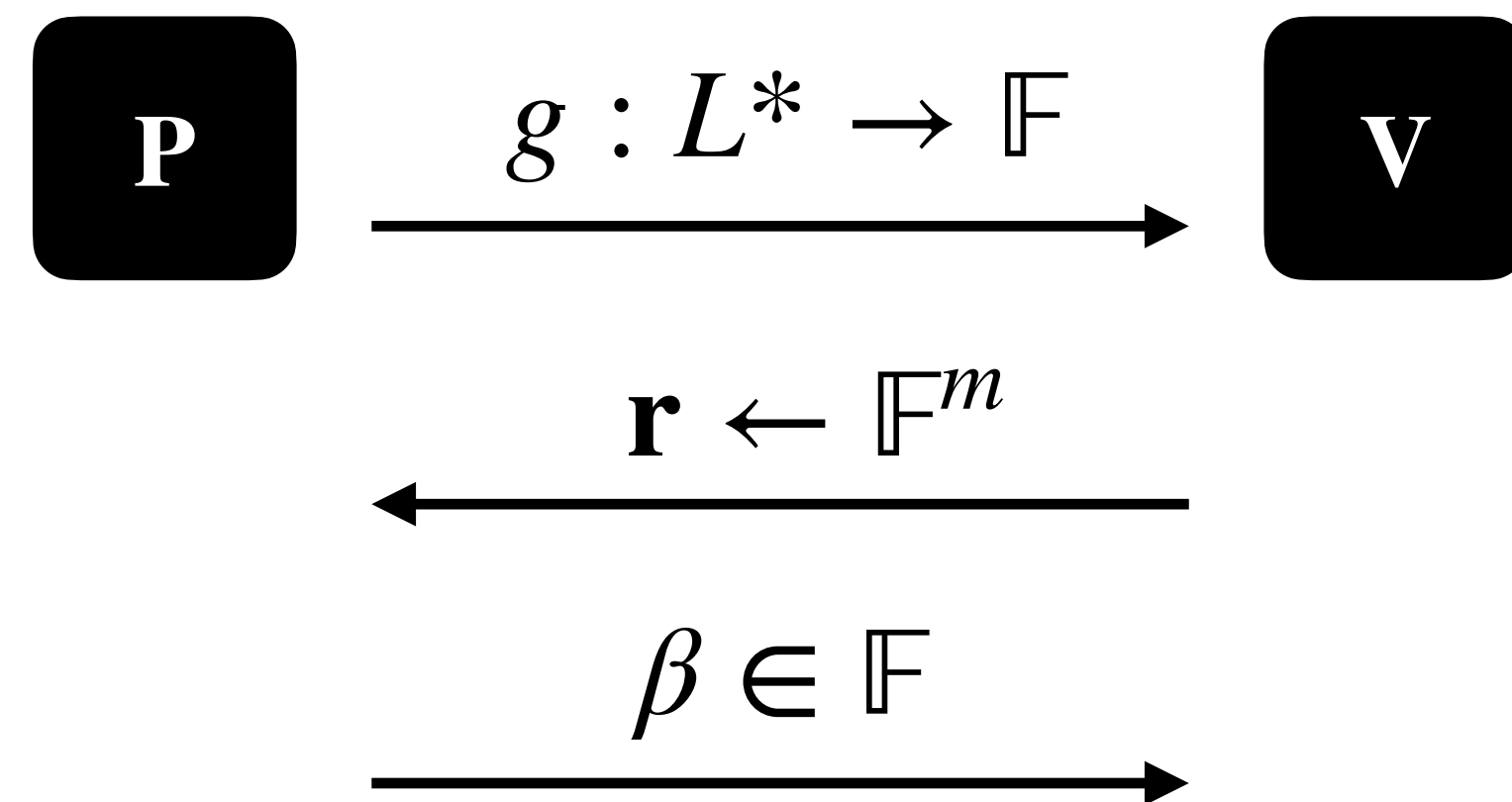
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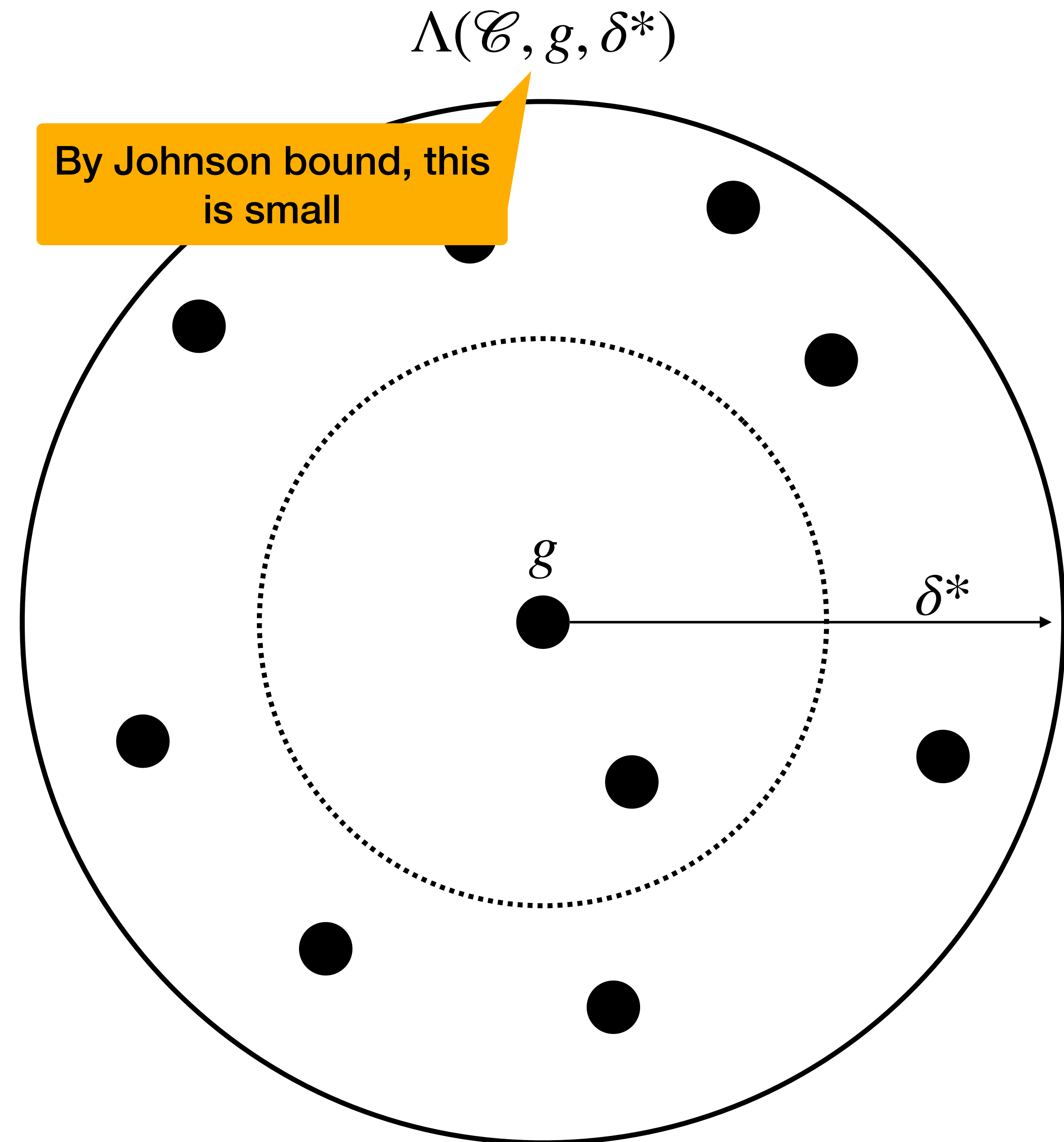


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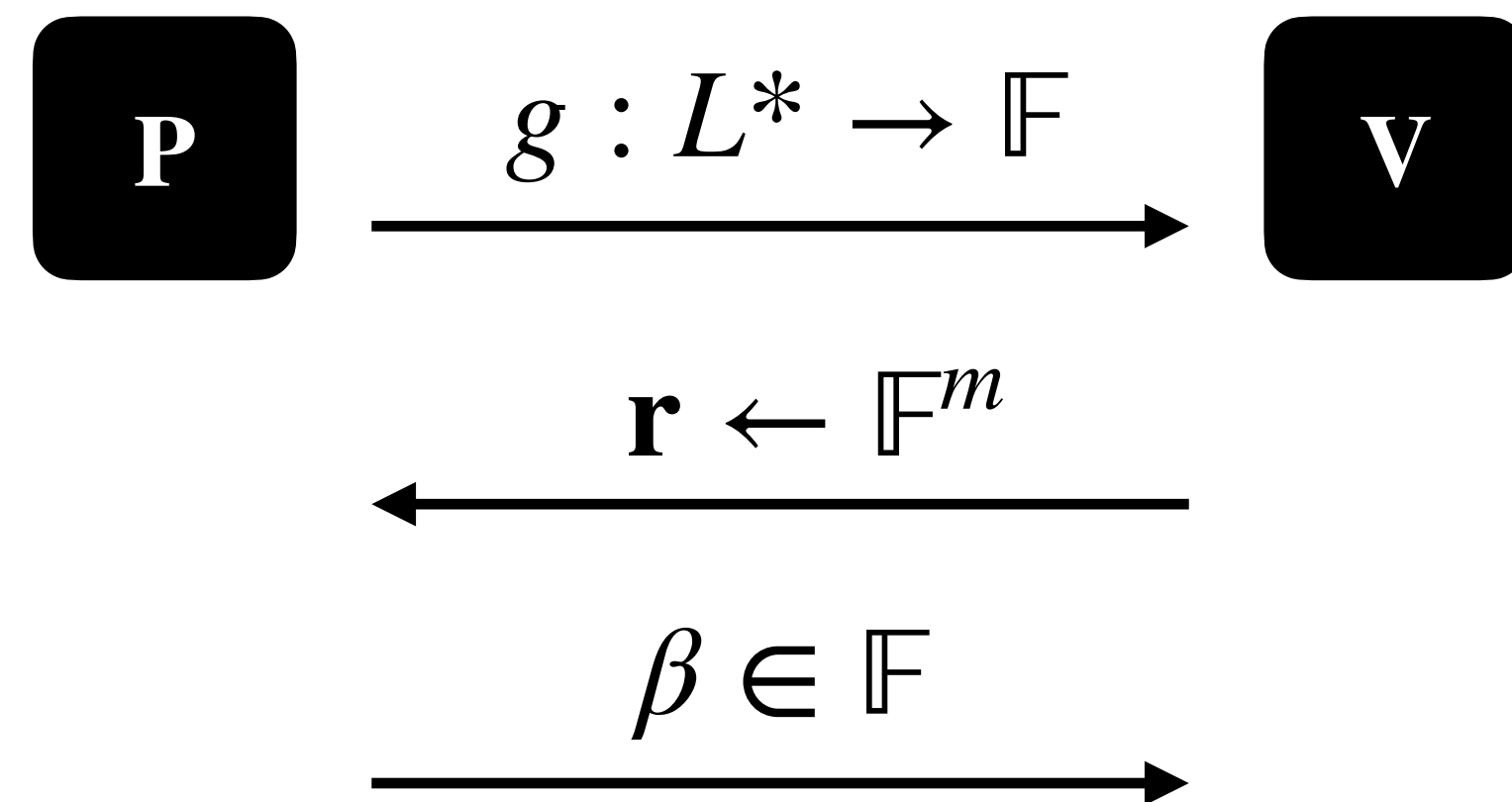


- By SZ lemma w.h.p. no pair $\hat{u}, \hat{v}$ with $\hat{u}(\mathbf{r}) = \hat{v}(\mathbf{r})$
- Prover "chooses" which codeword $\hat{u}$ it "commits" to

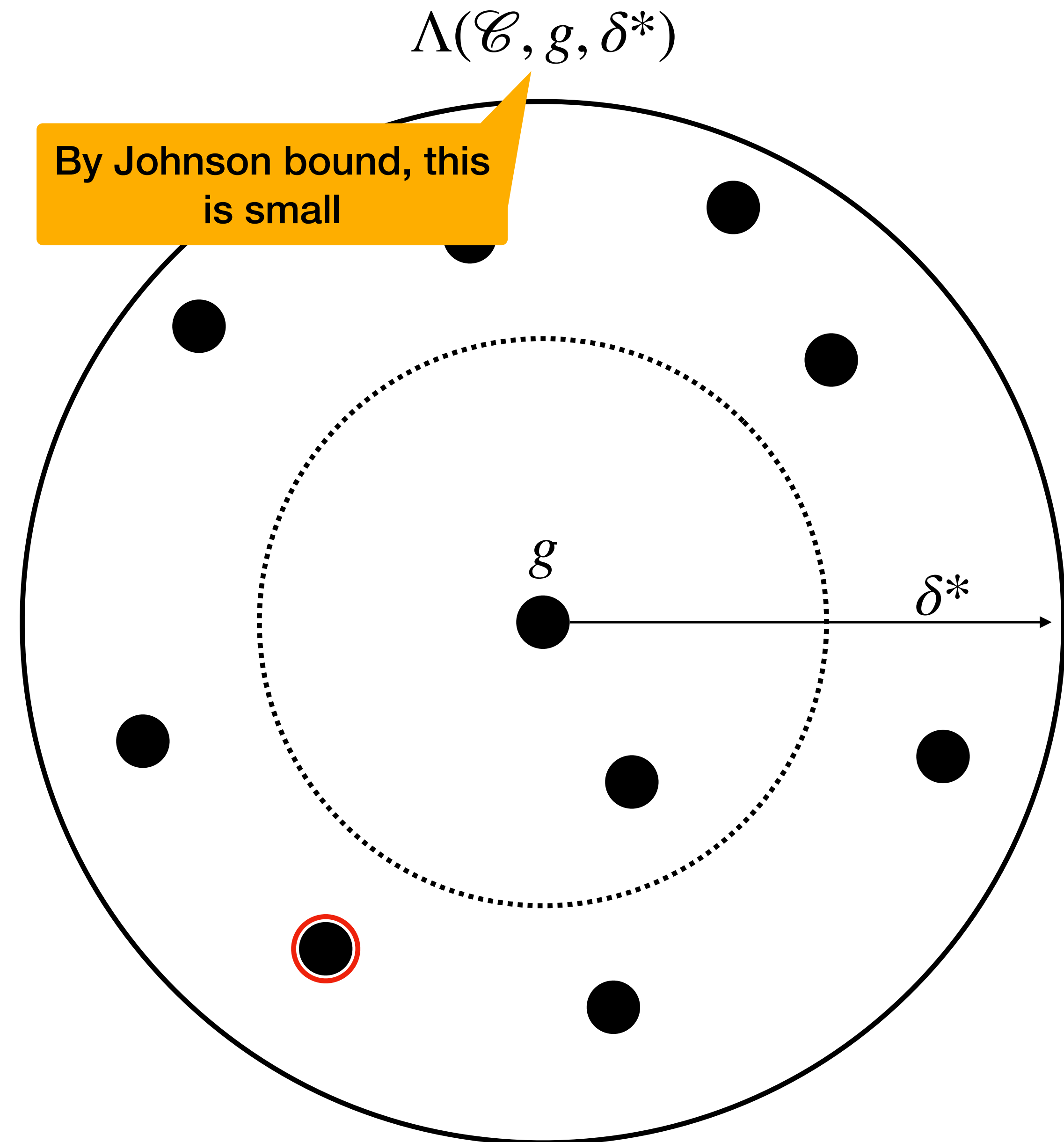


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Subprotocol to force unique

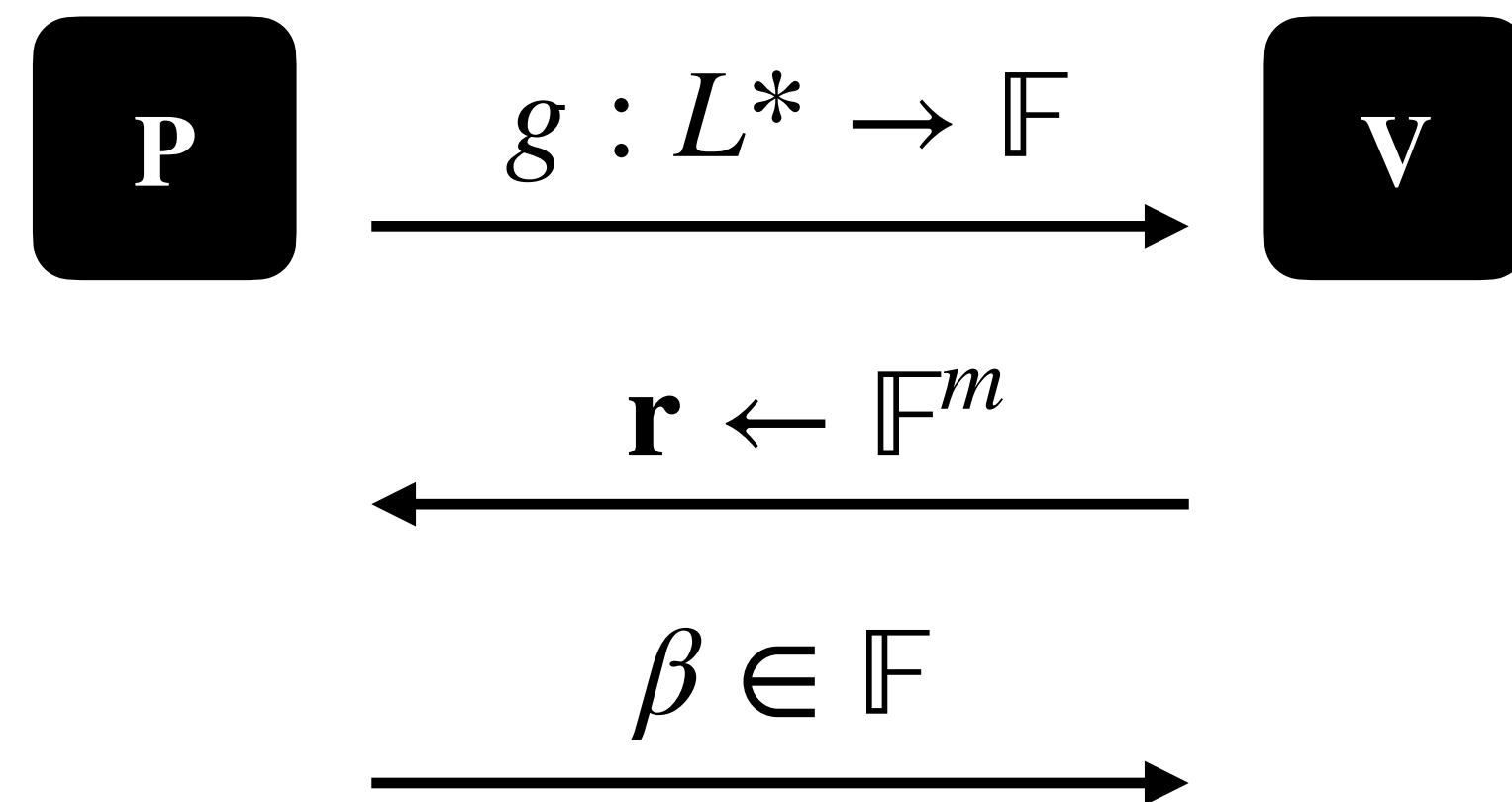


- By SZ lemma w.h.p. no pair $\hat{u}, \hat{v}$ with $\hat{u}(\mathbf{r}) = \hat{v}(\mathbf{r})$
- Prover "chooses" which codeword $\hat{u}$ it "commits" to



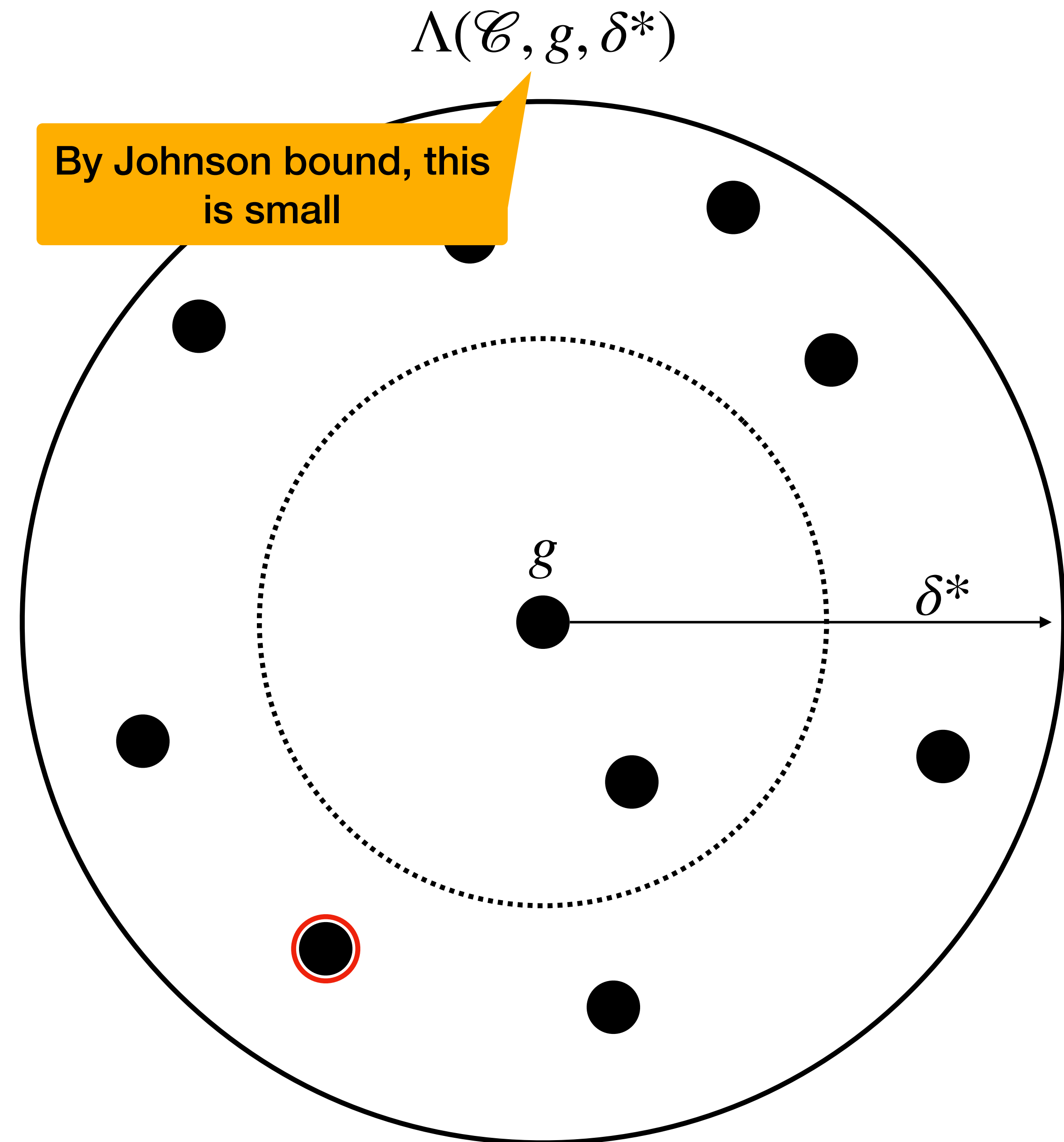
Out Of Domain

Subprotocol to force unique



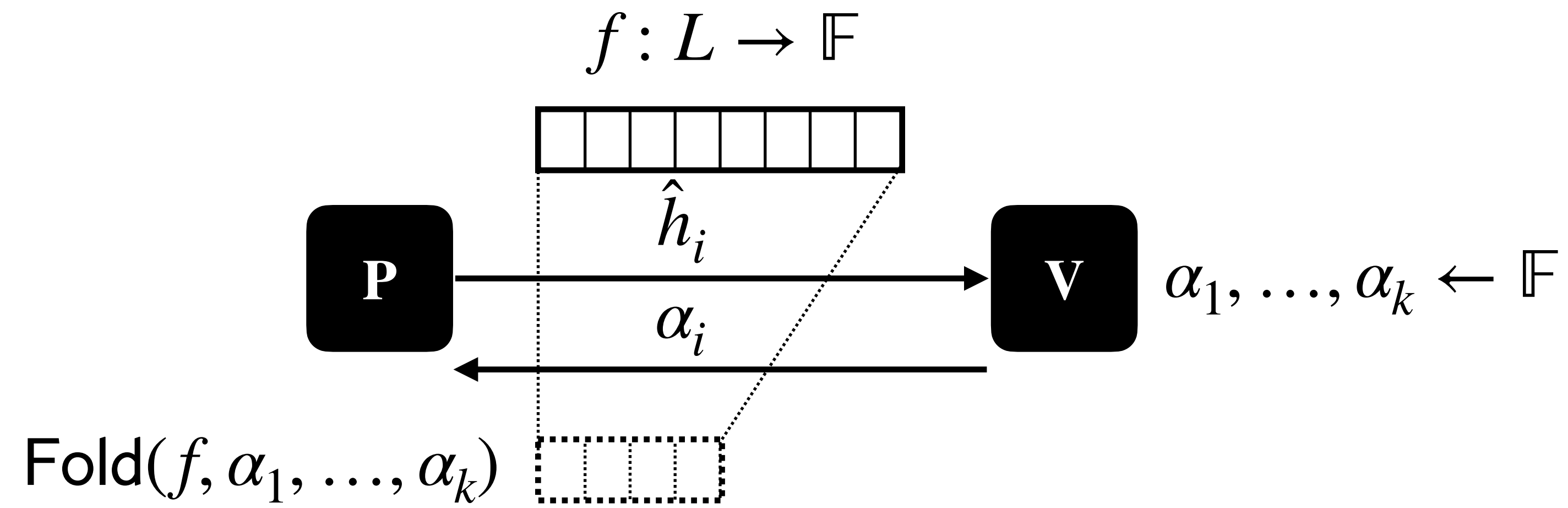
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Add to list of constraints to **enforce!**

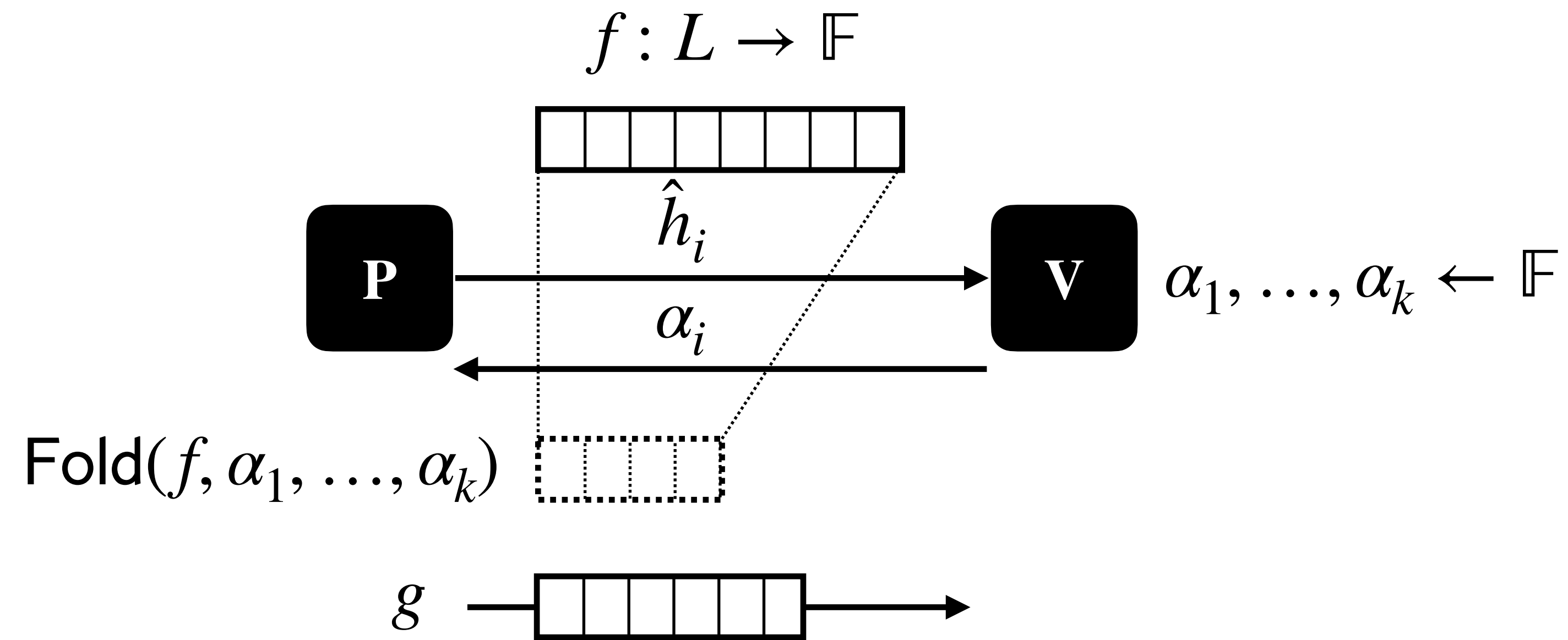


WHIR 

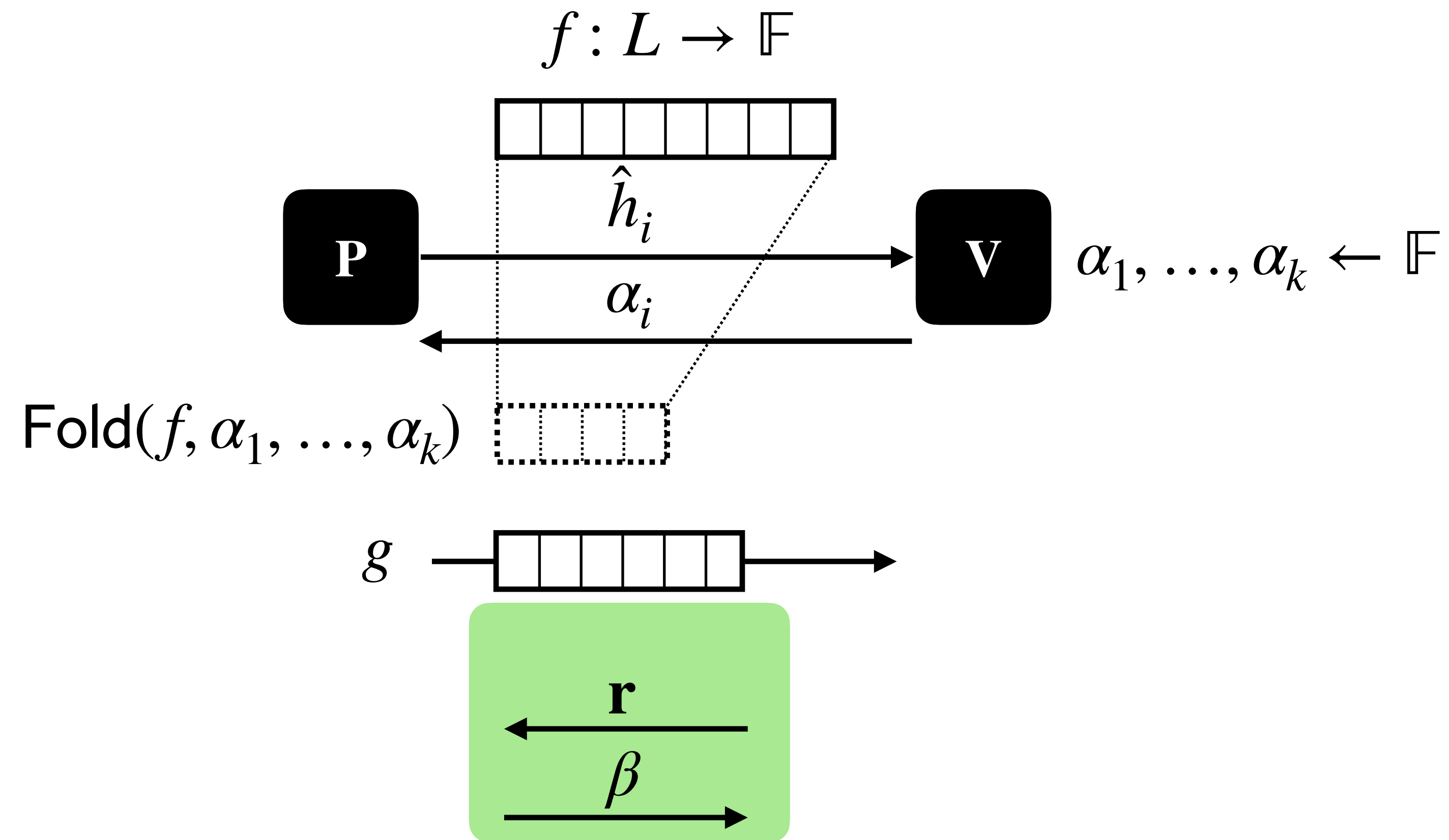
WHIR



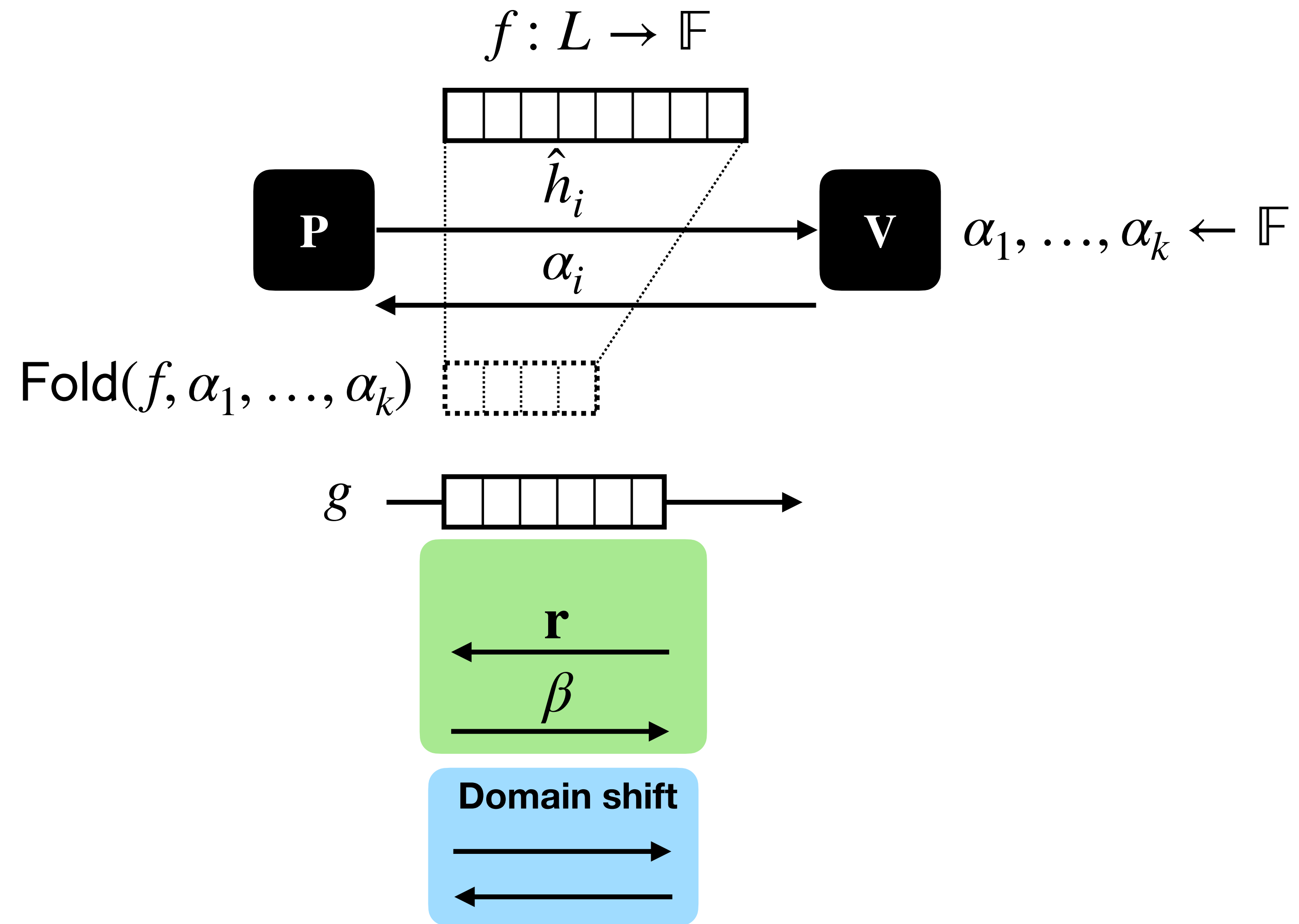
WHIR



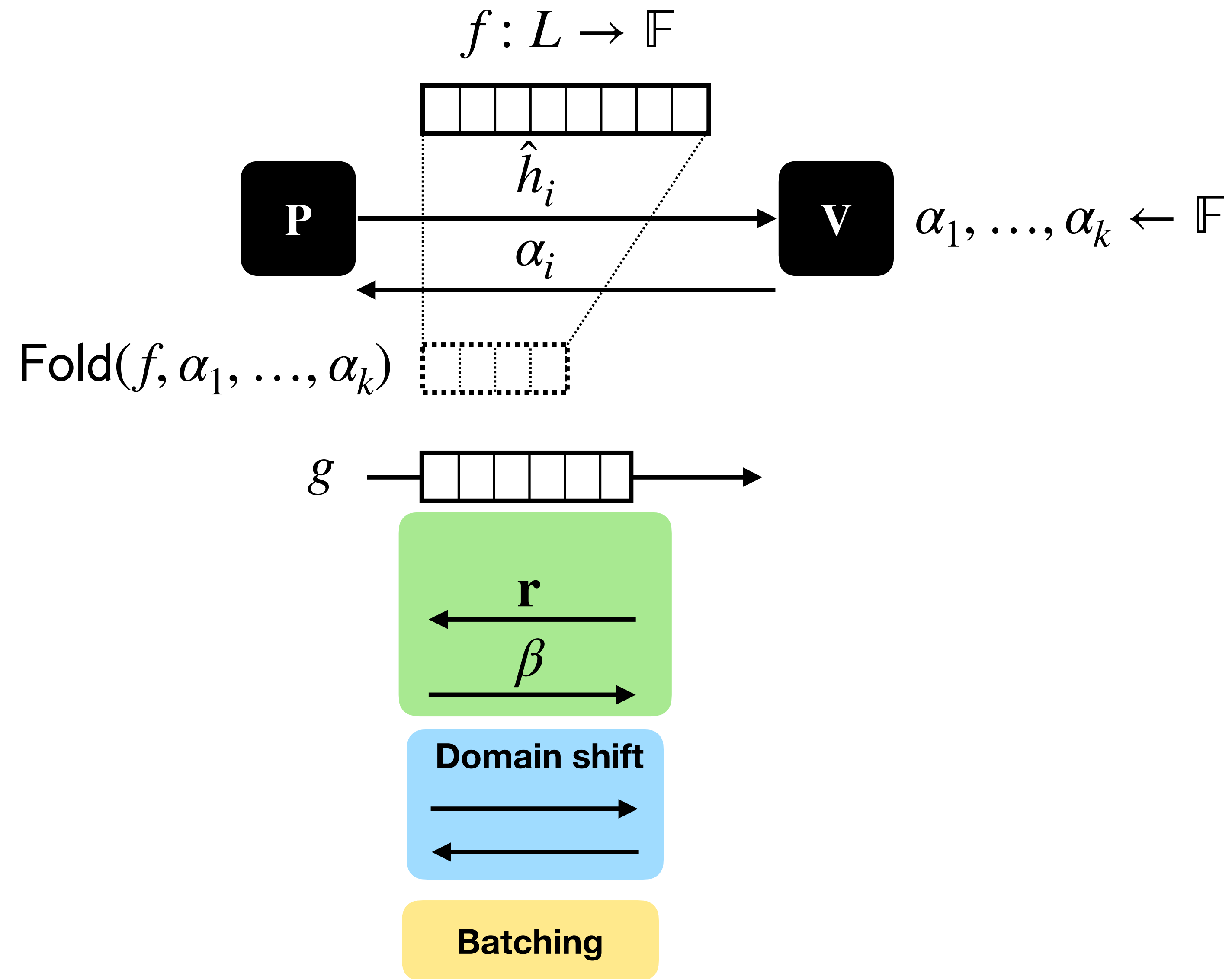
WHIR



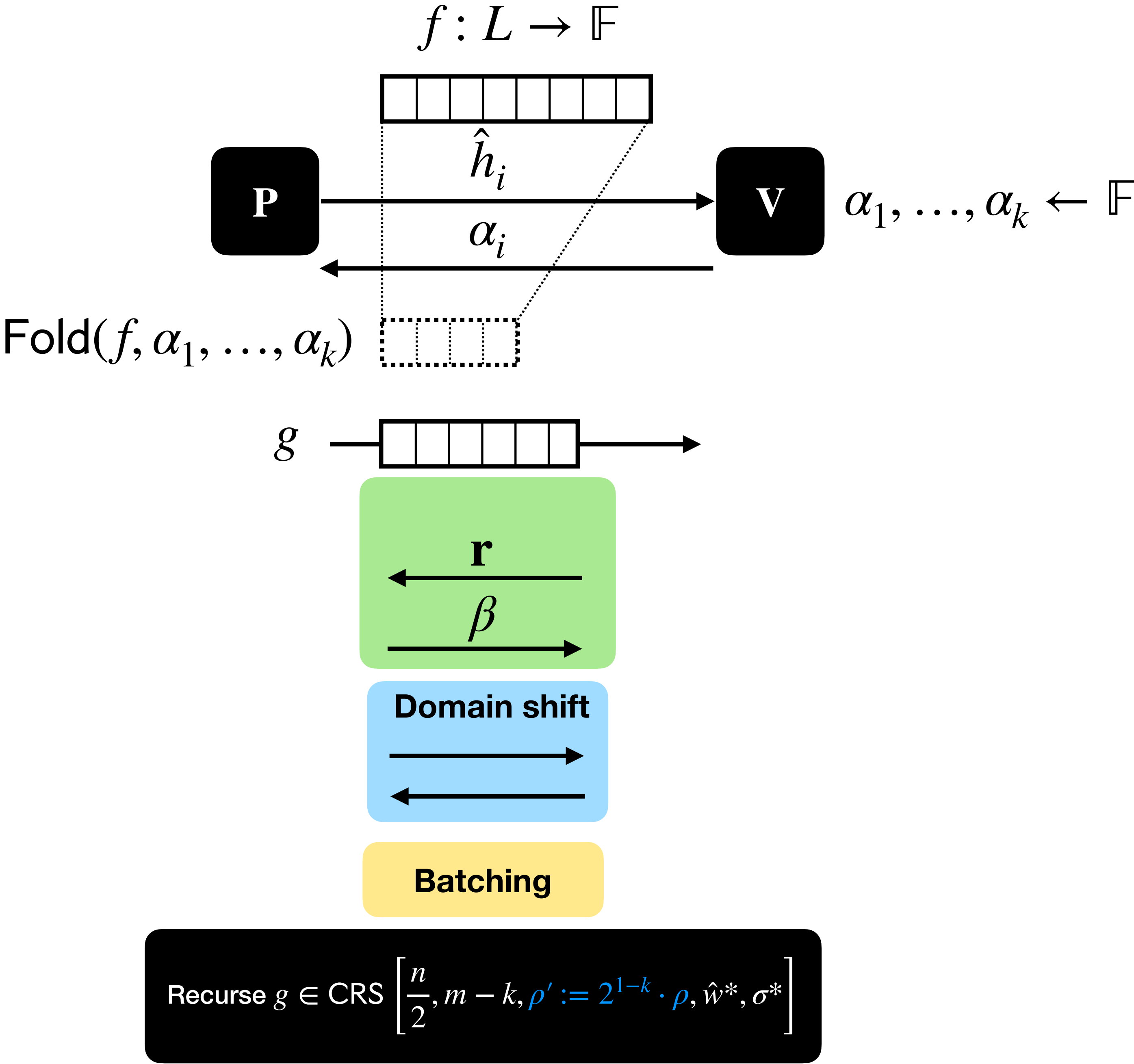
WHIR



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WHIR

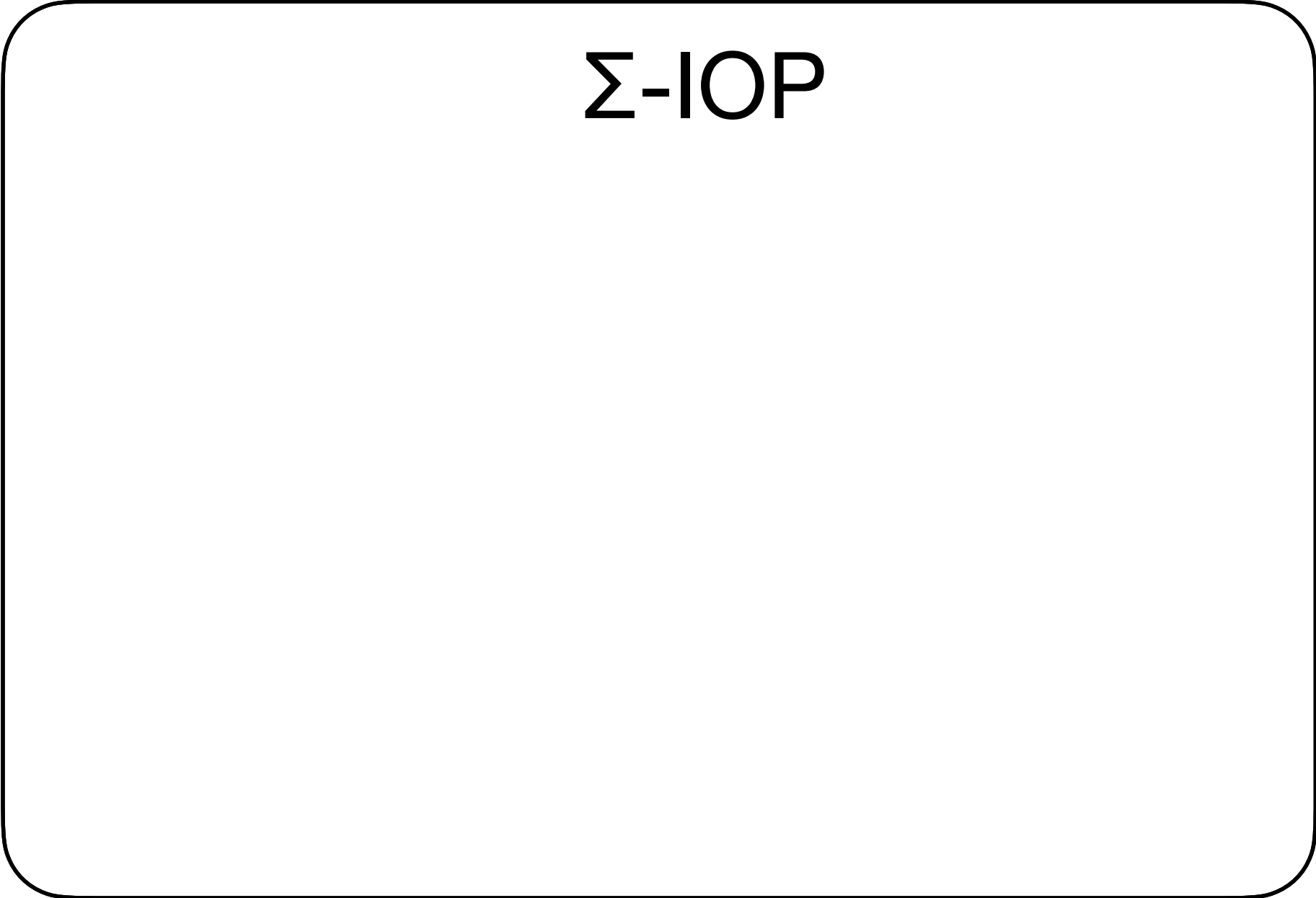


Application: Σ -IOP

High soundness compilation using constrained codes

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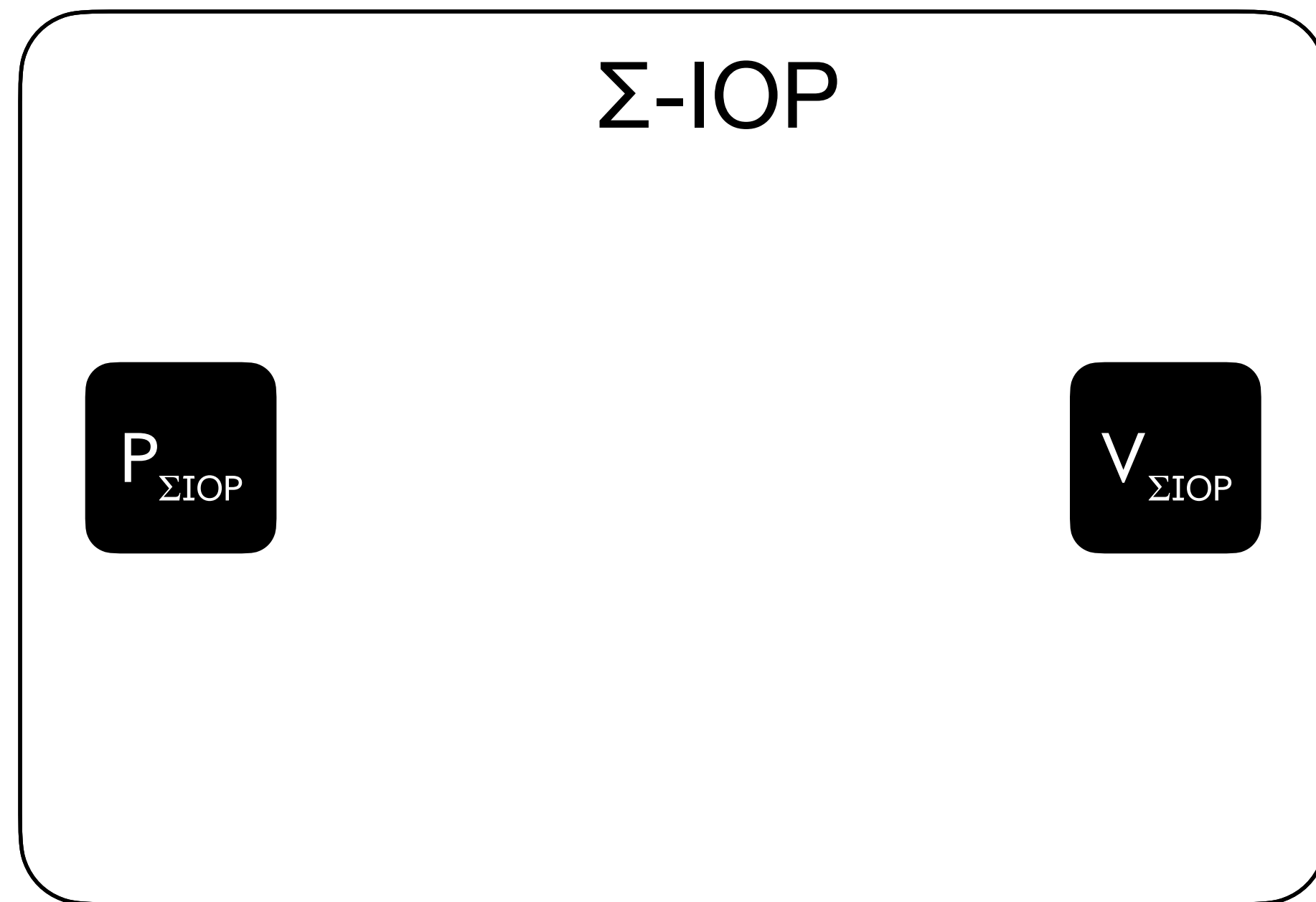
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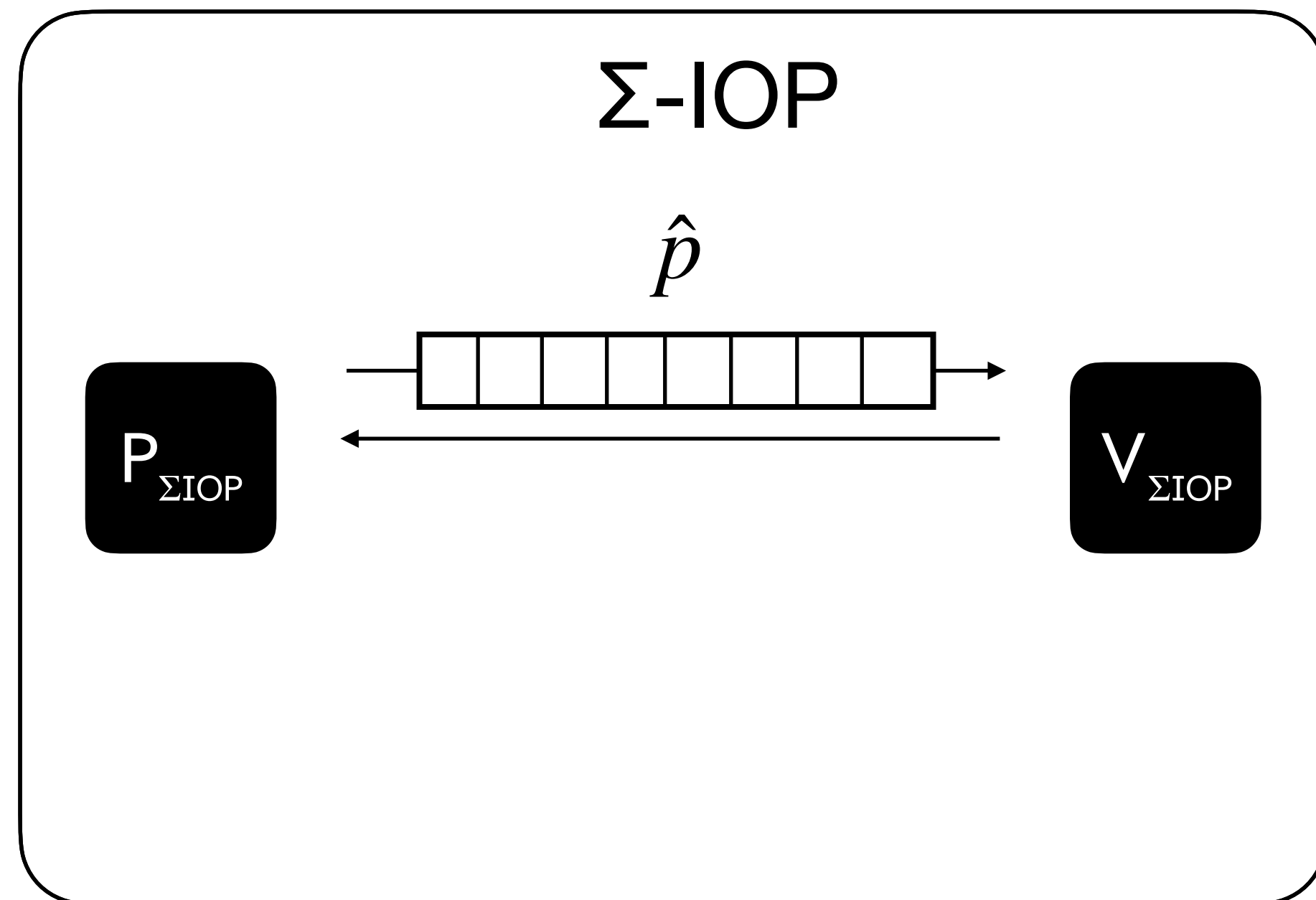
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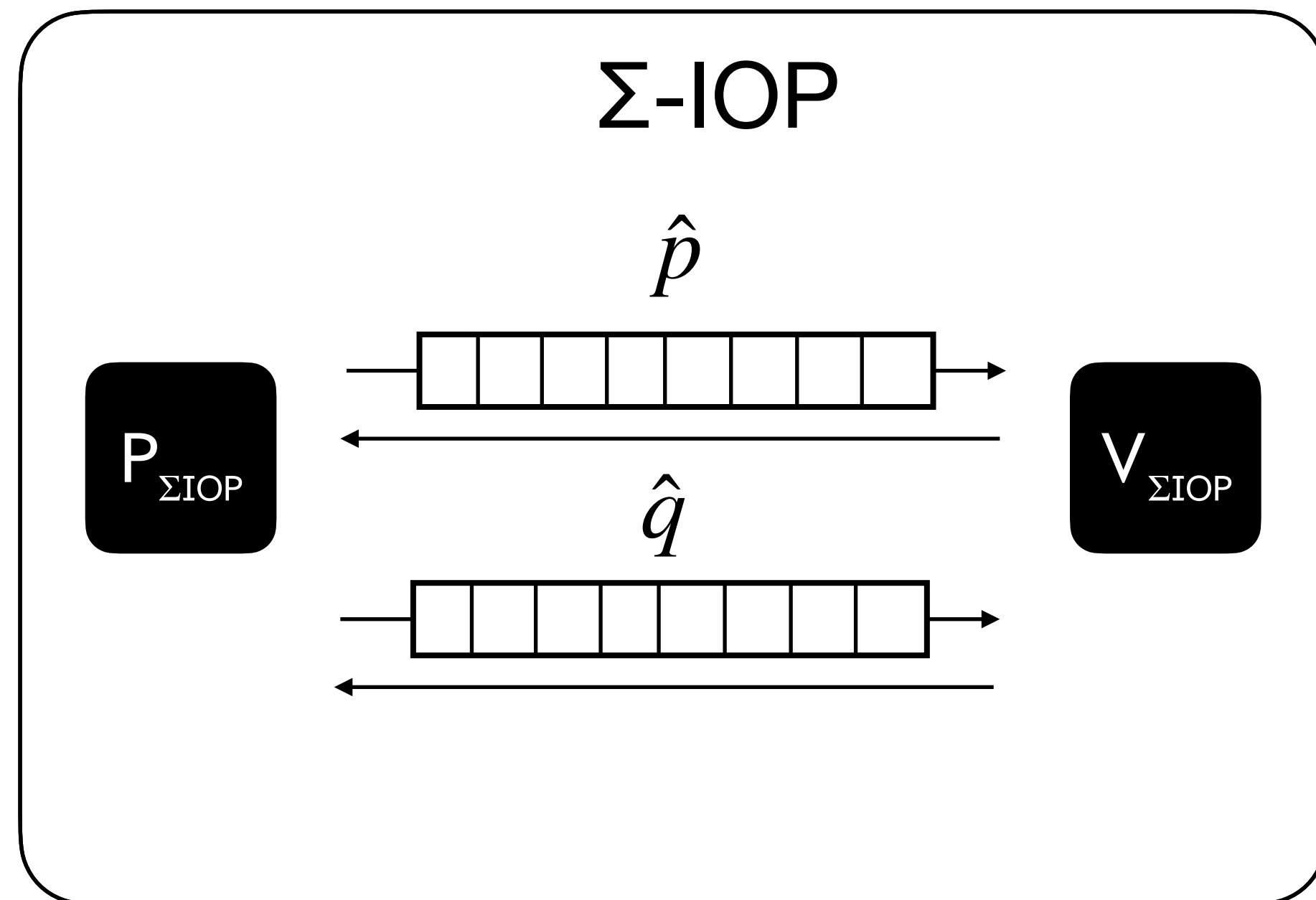
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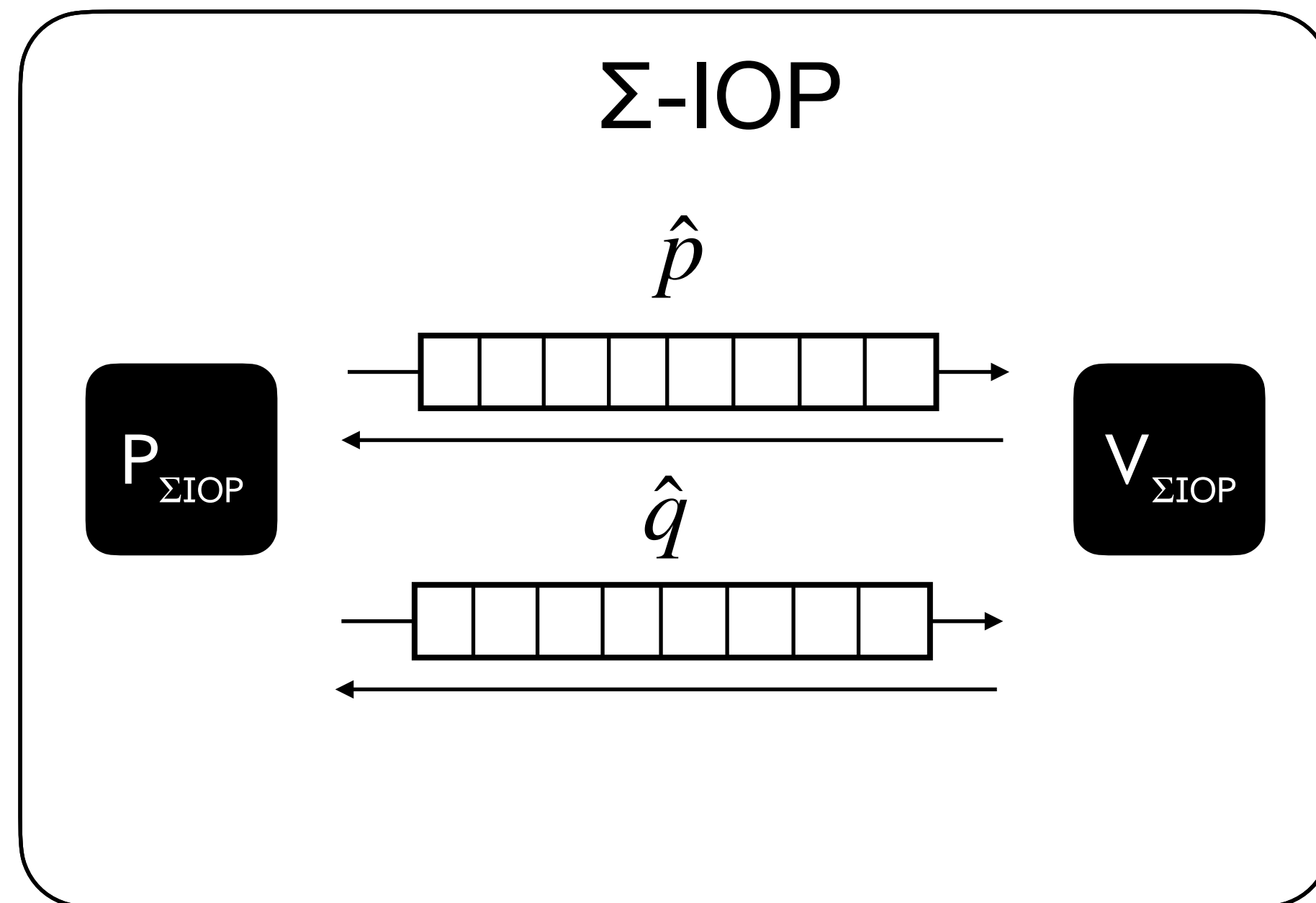
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Generalizes univariate and multilinear PIOPs at no extra cost!



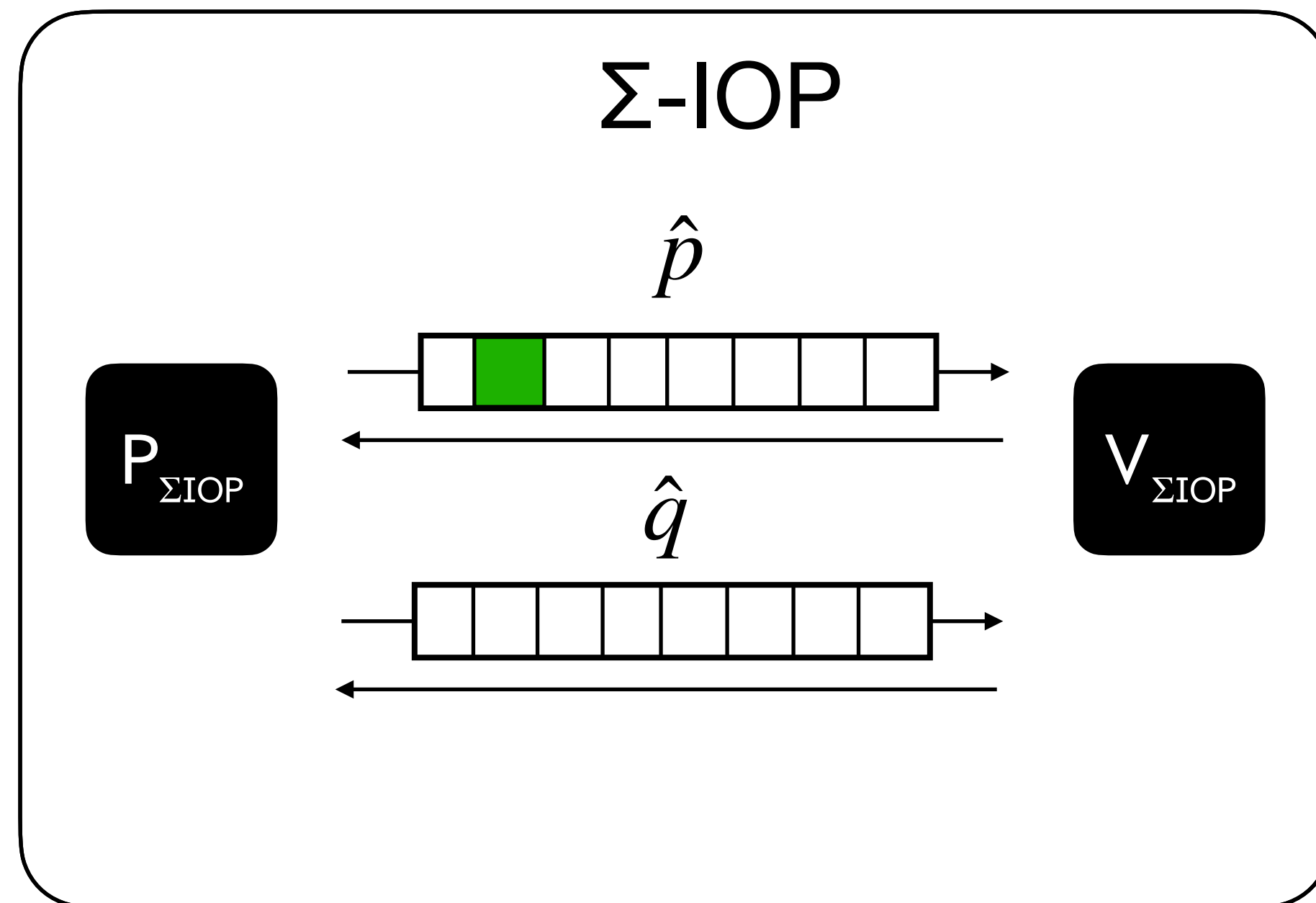
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i.e. send $\hat{w}$ and receive $\sum_{\mathbf{b}} \hat{w}(\hat{f}(\mathbf{b}), \mathbf{b})$

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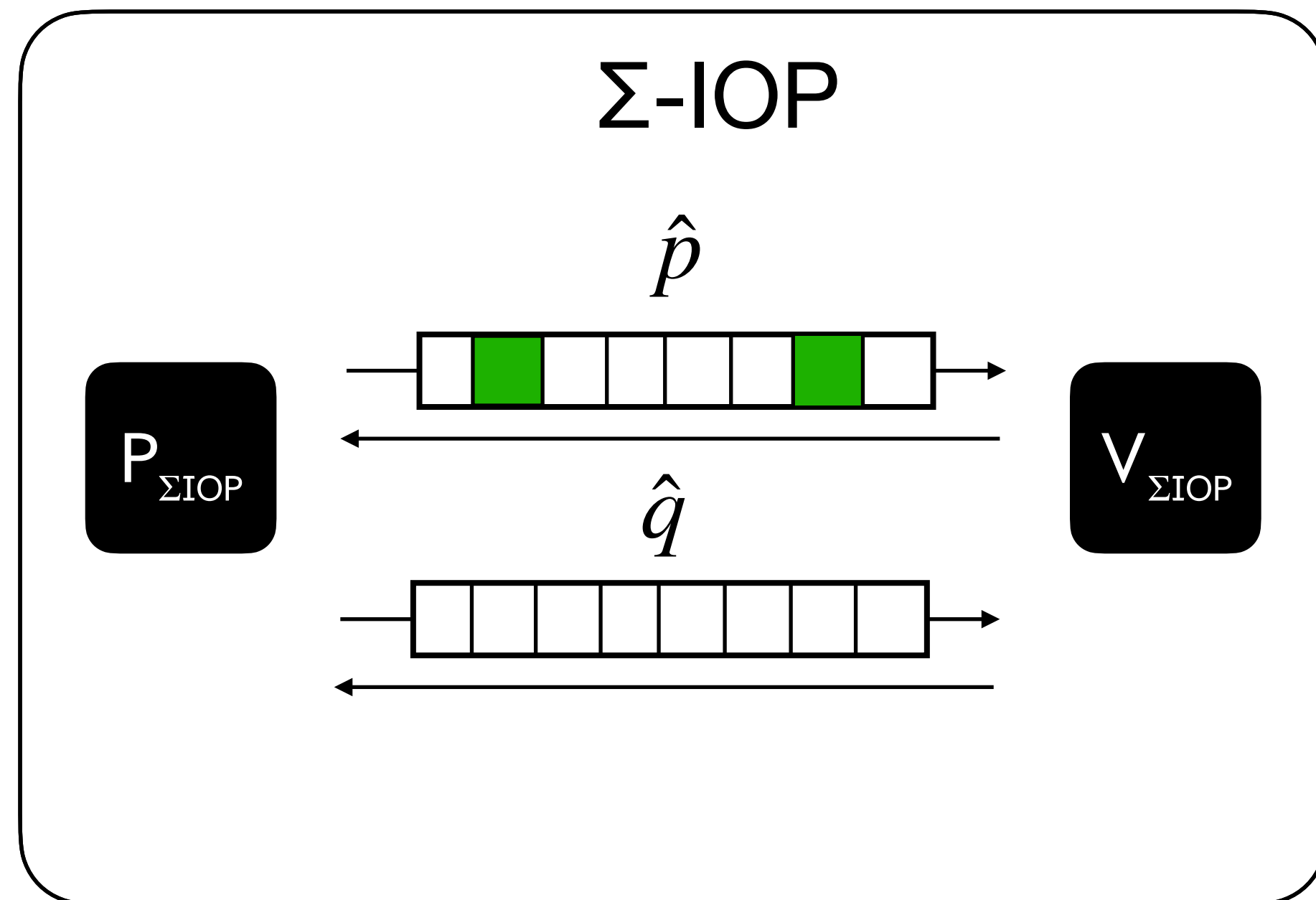
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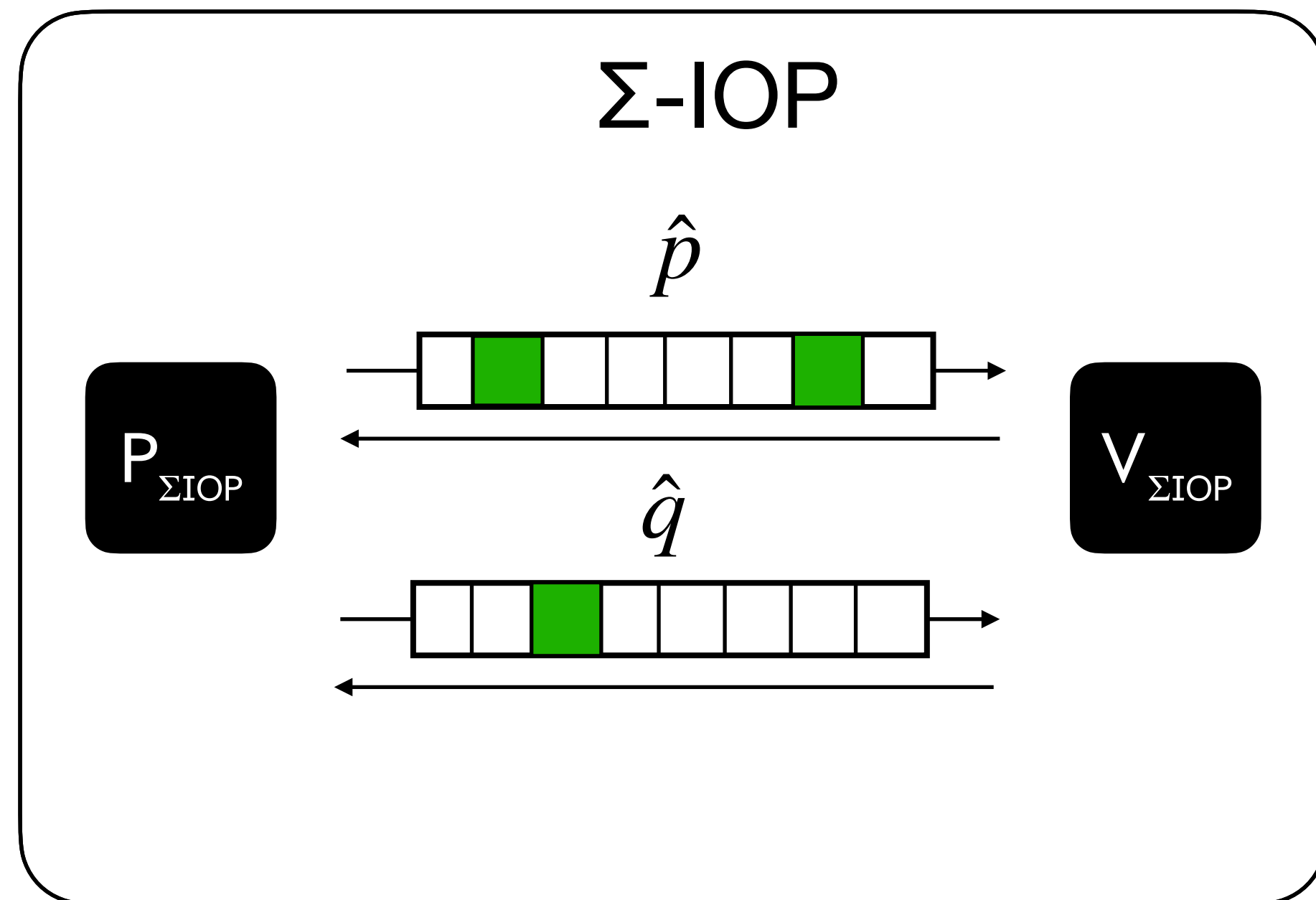
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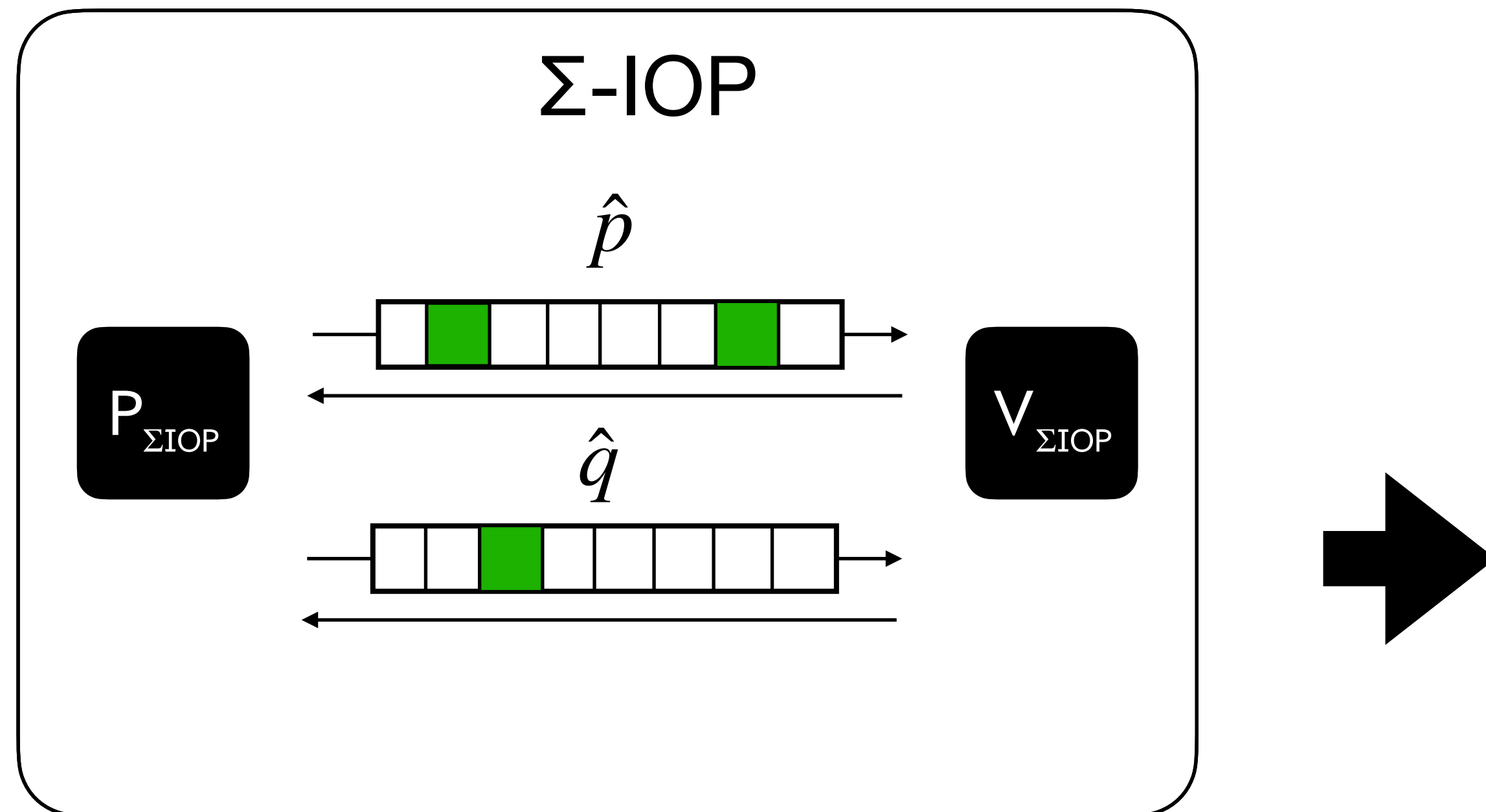
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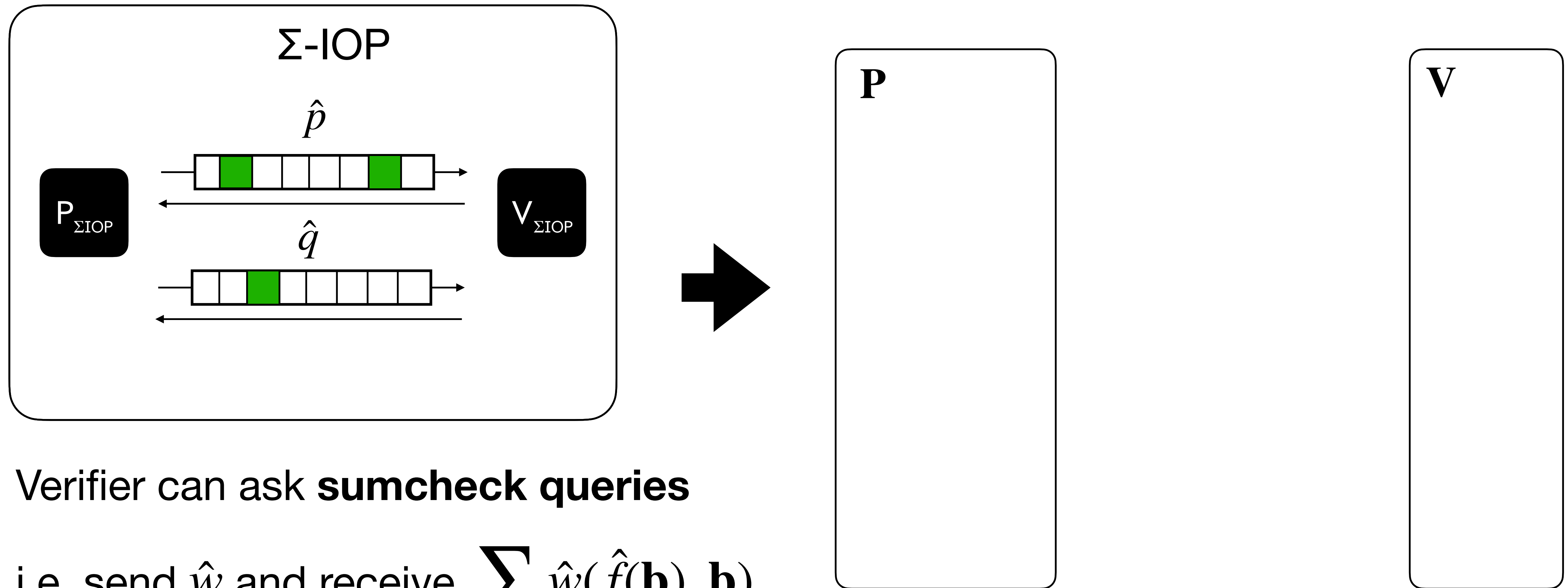
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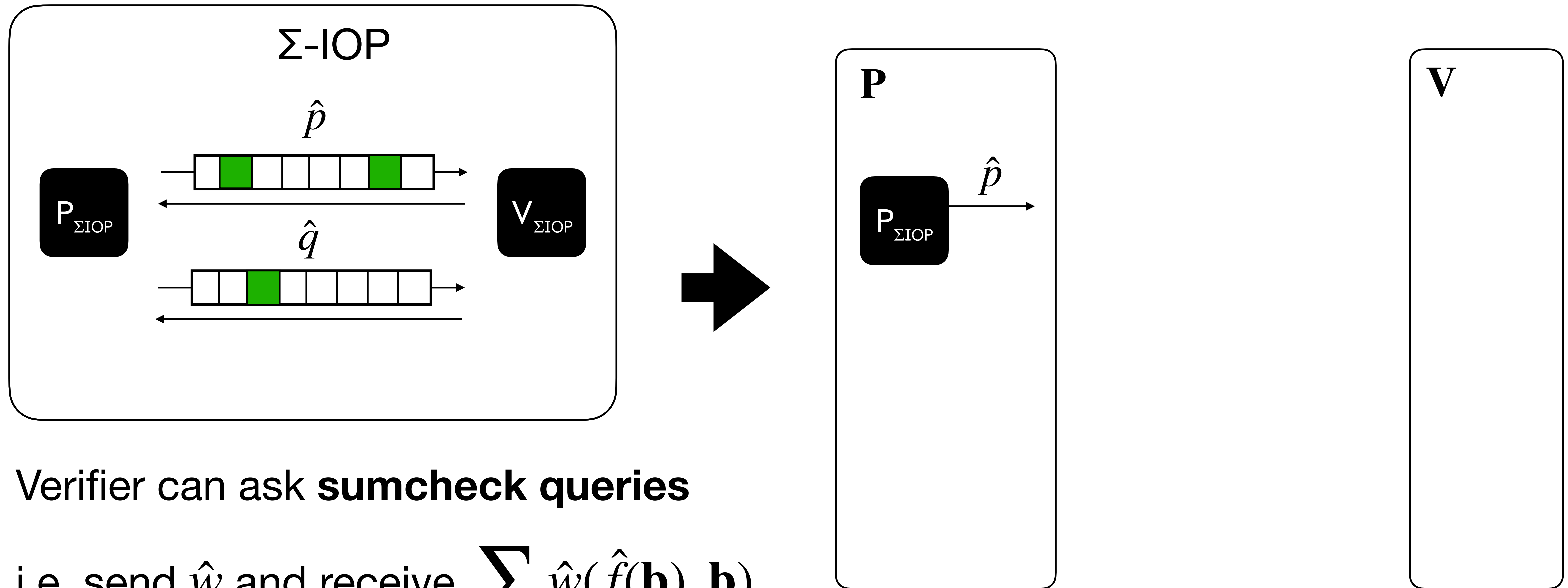
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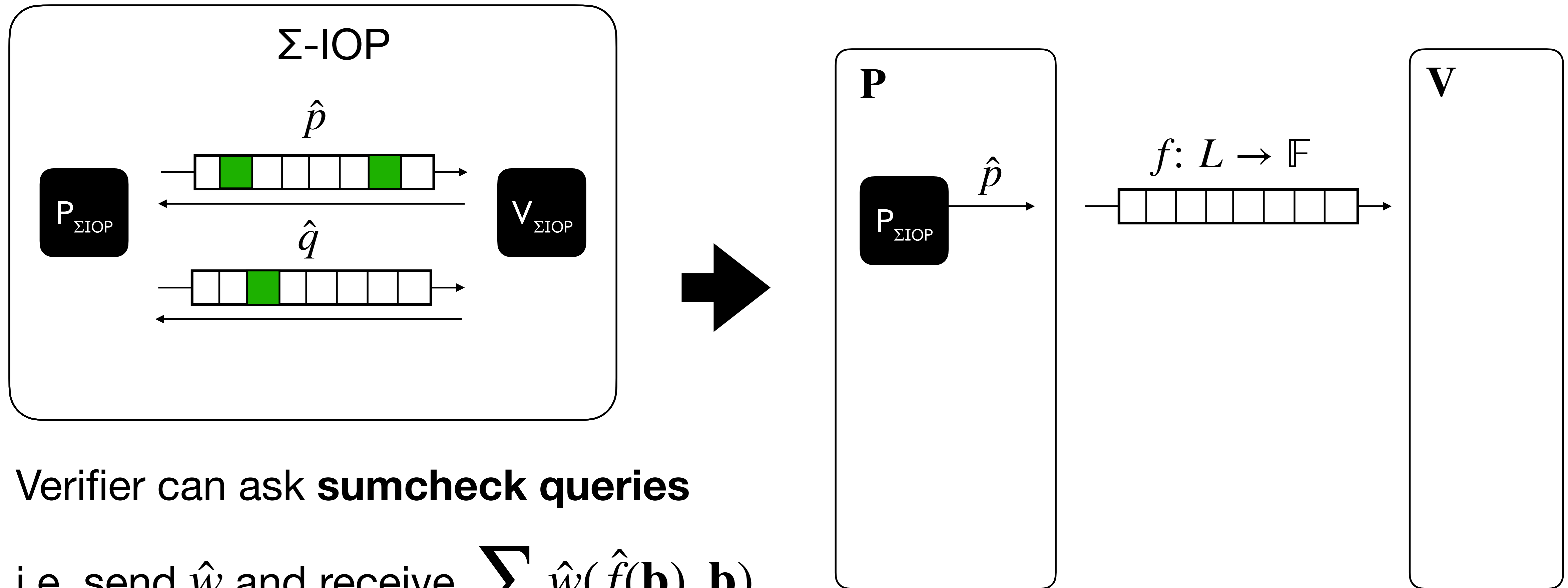
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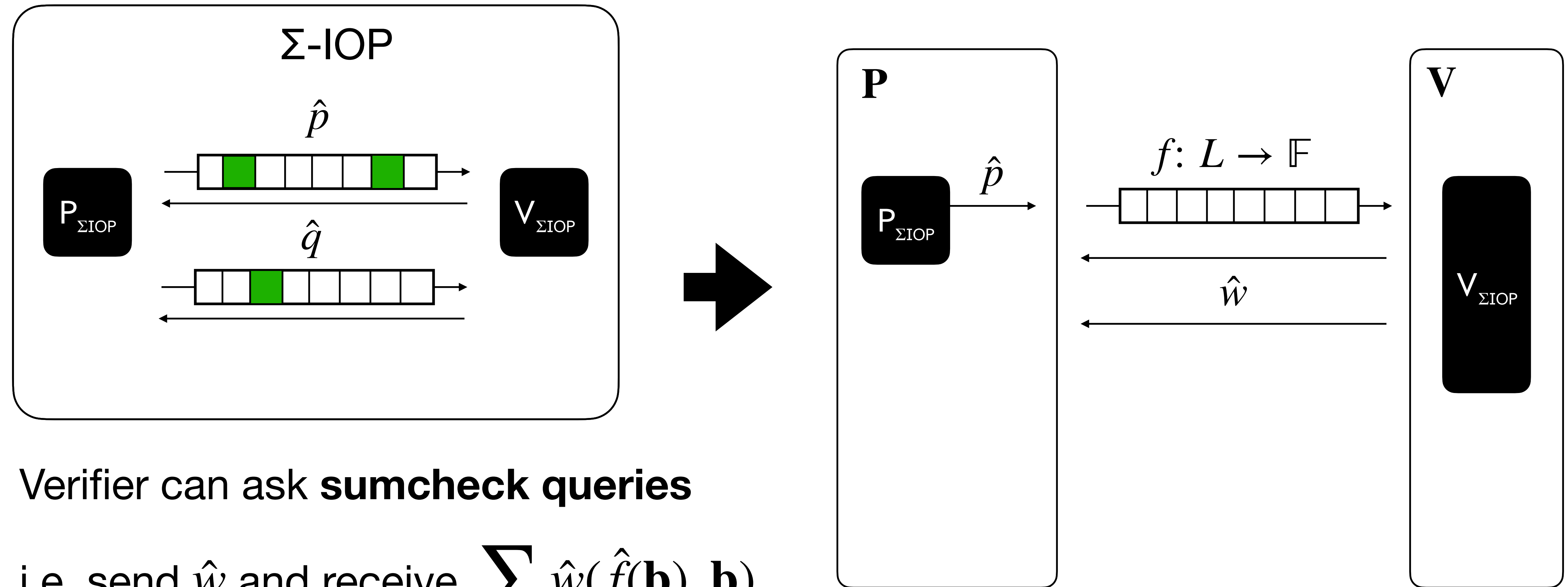
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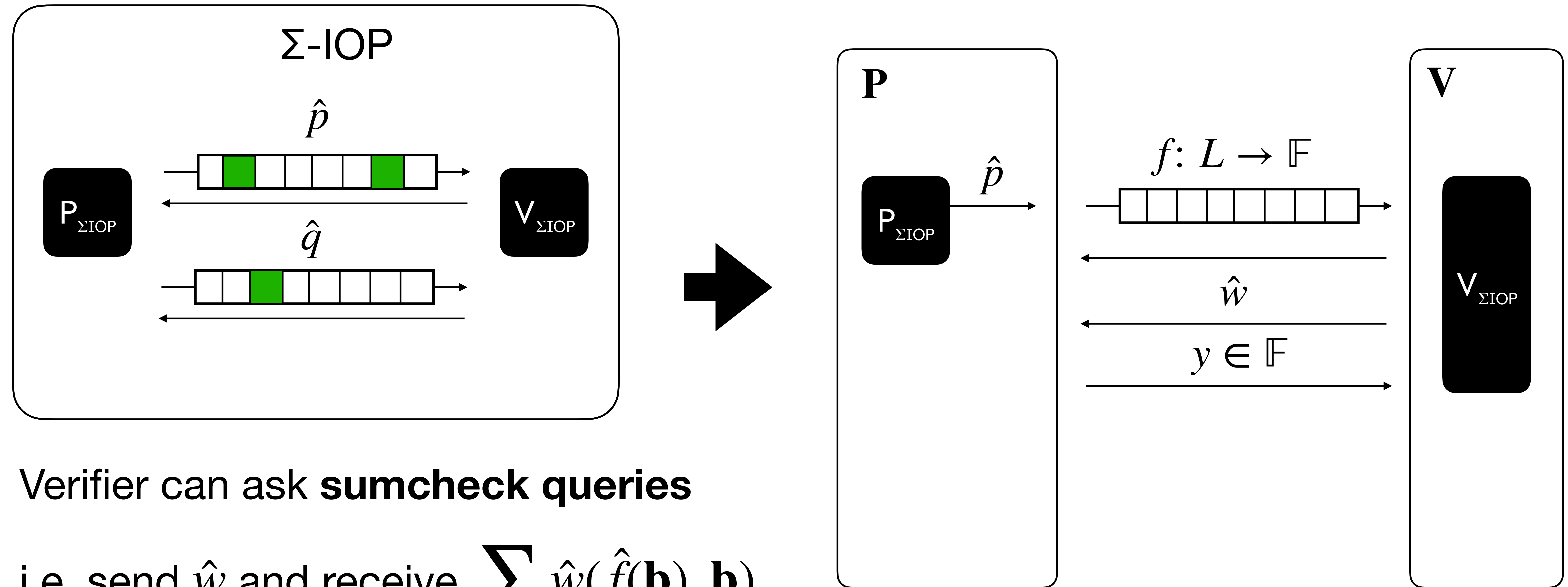
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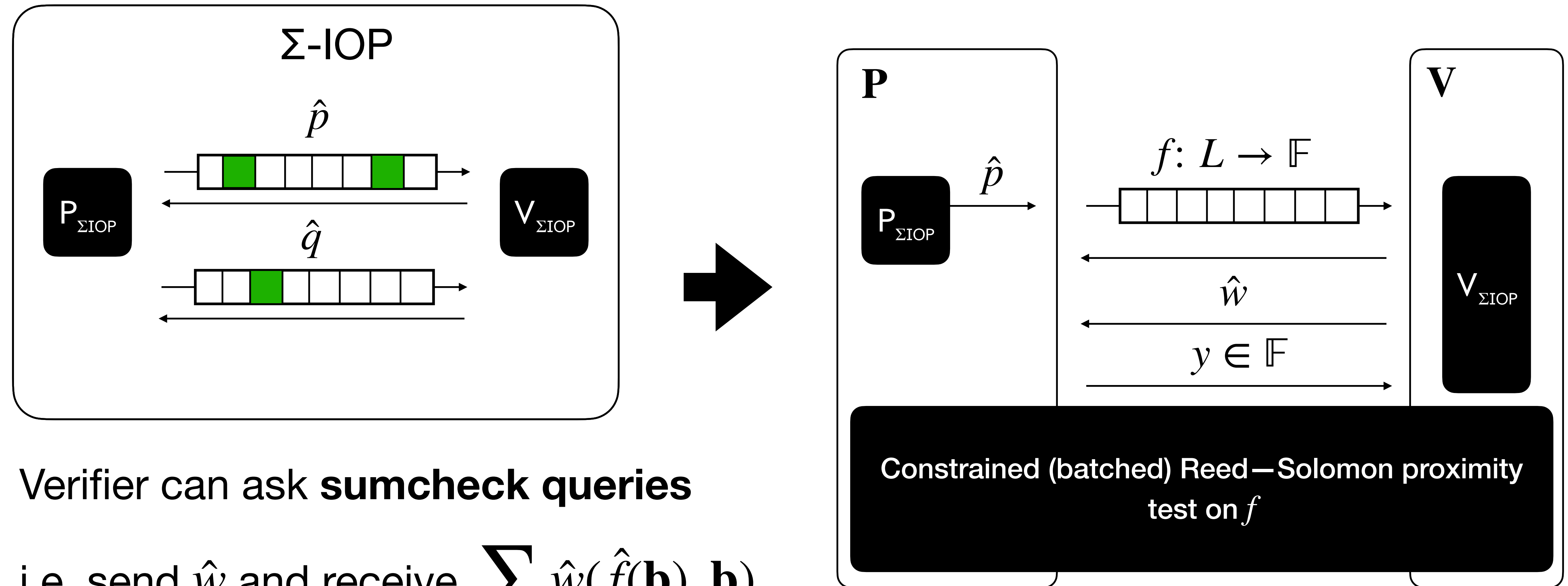
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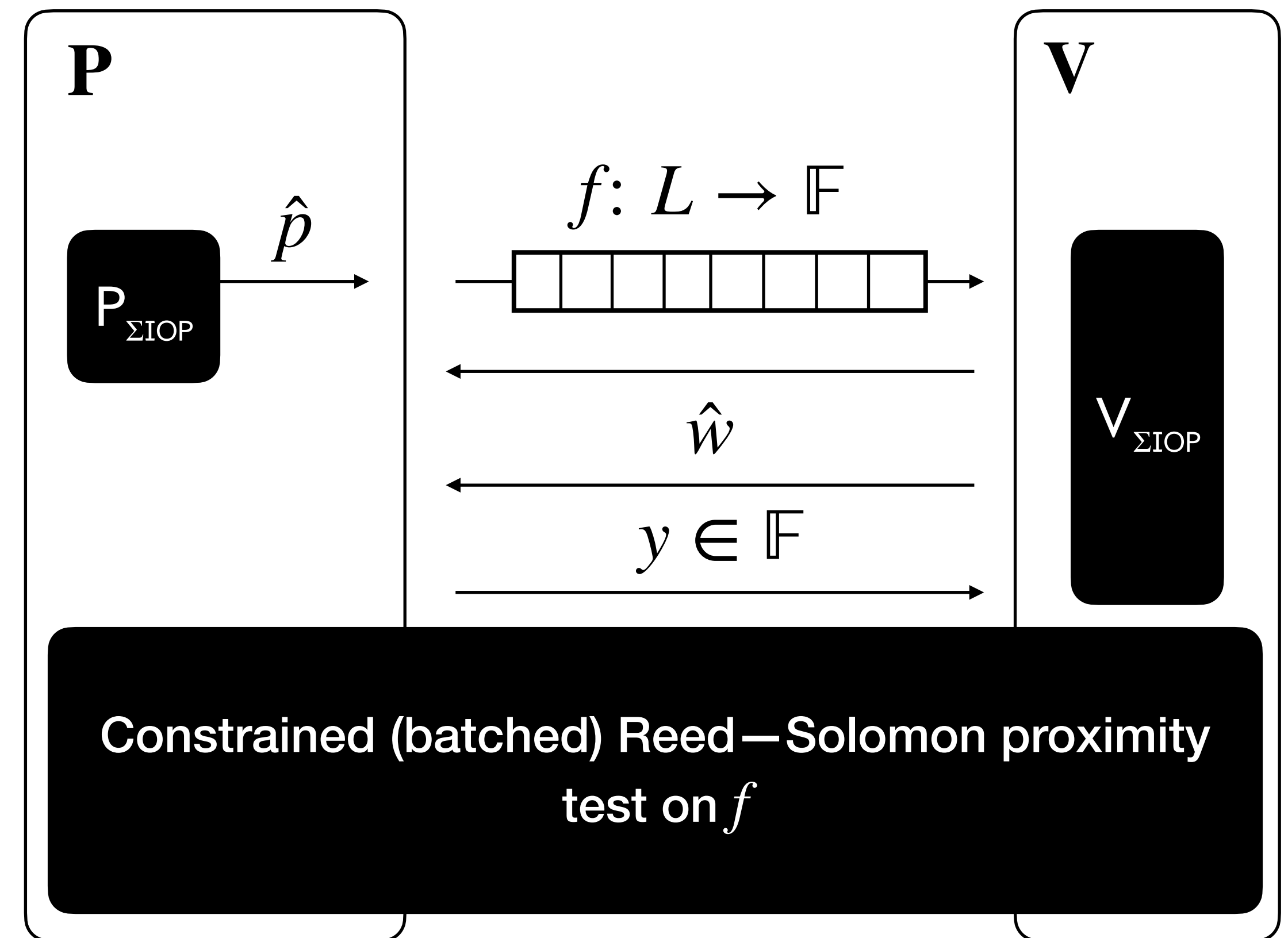
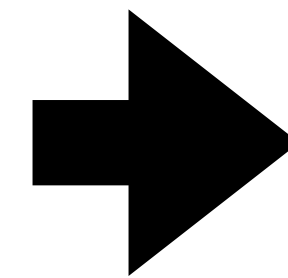
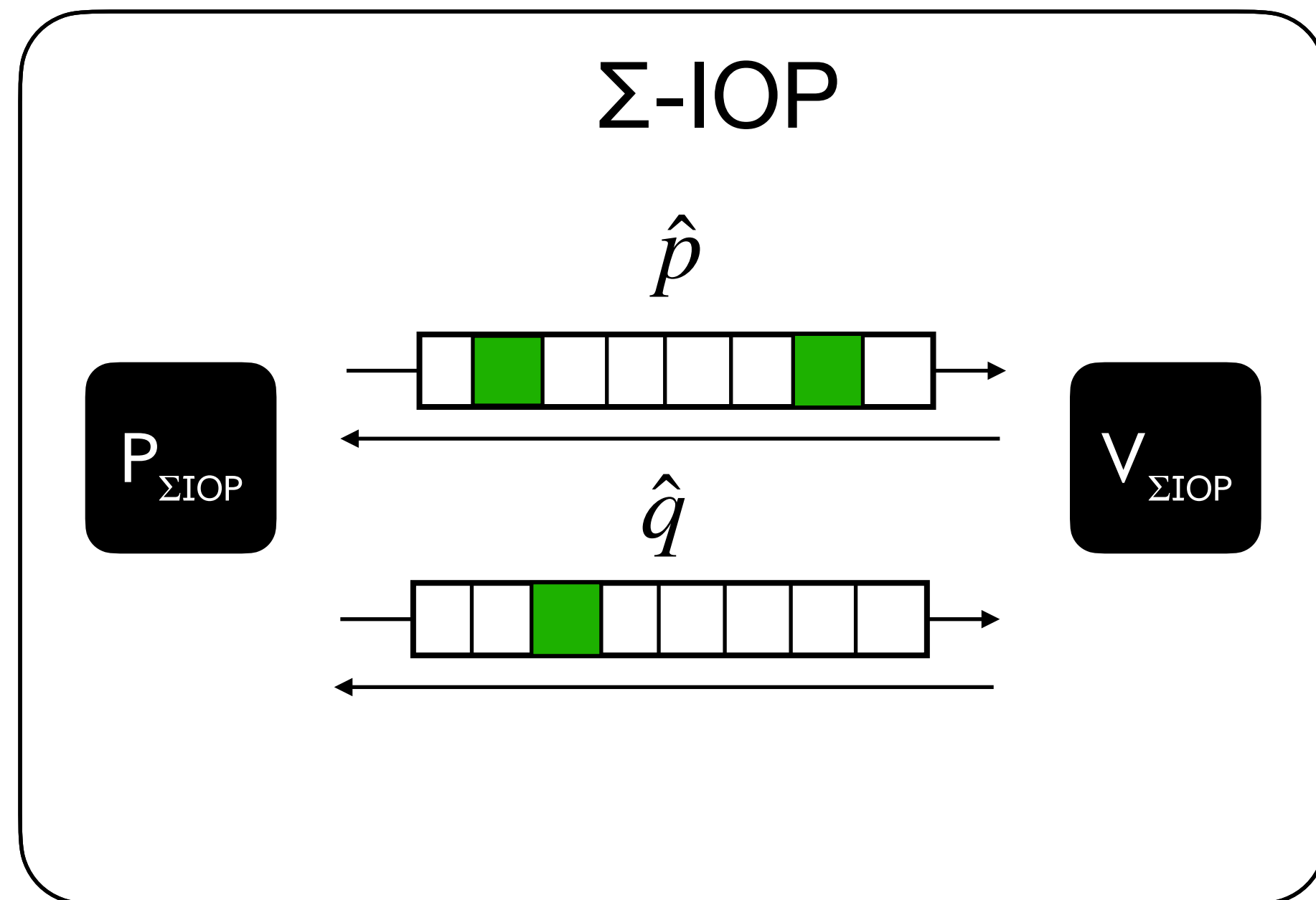


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Q: Can we use this to do more efficient arithmetizations?

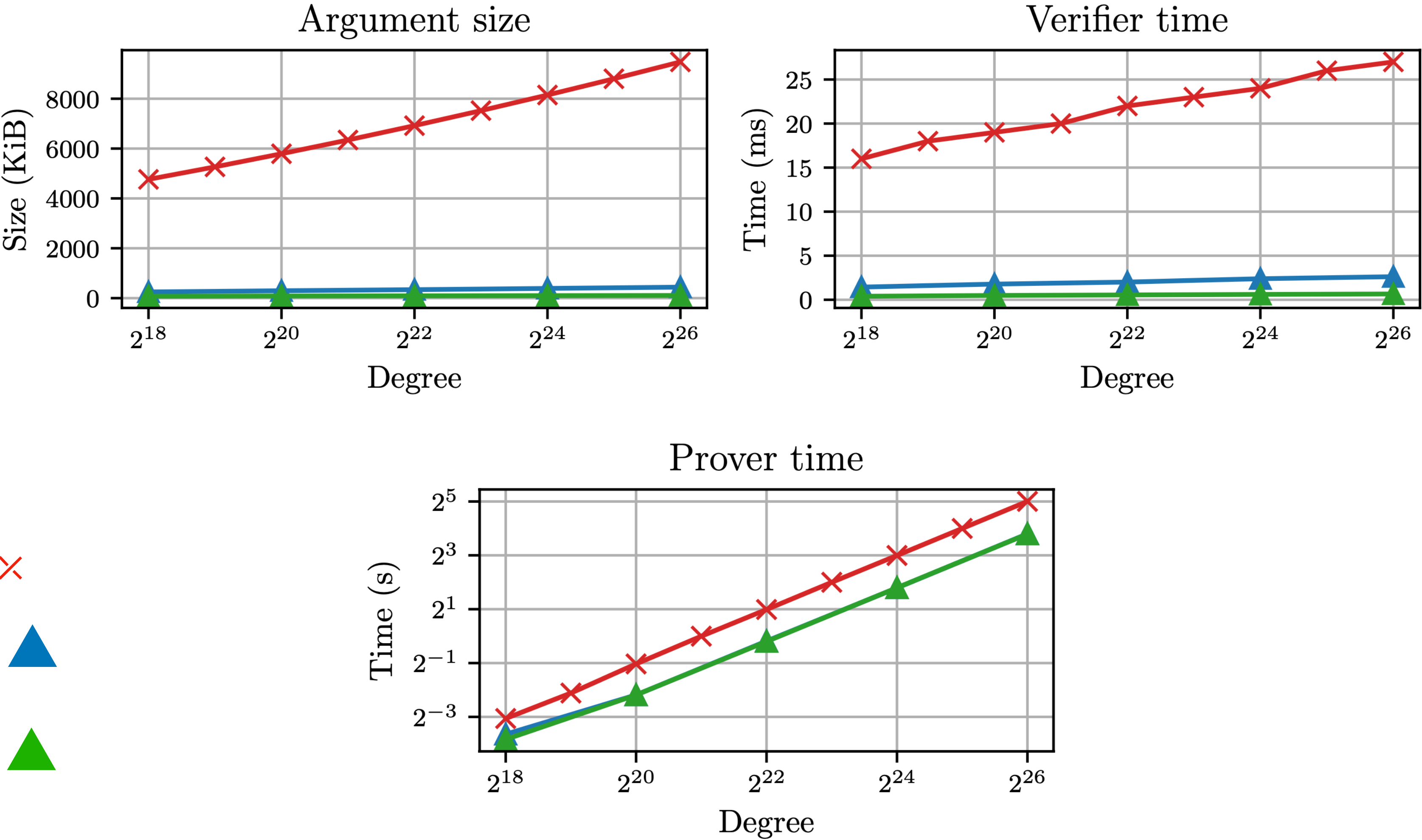


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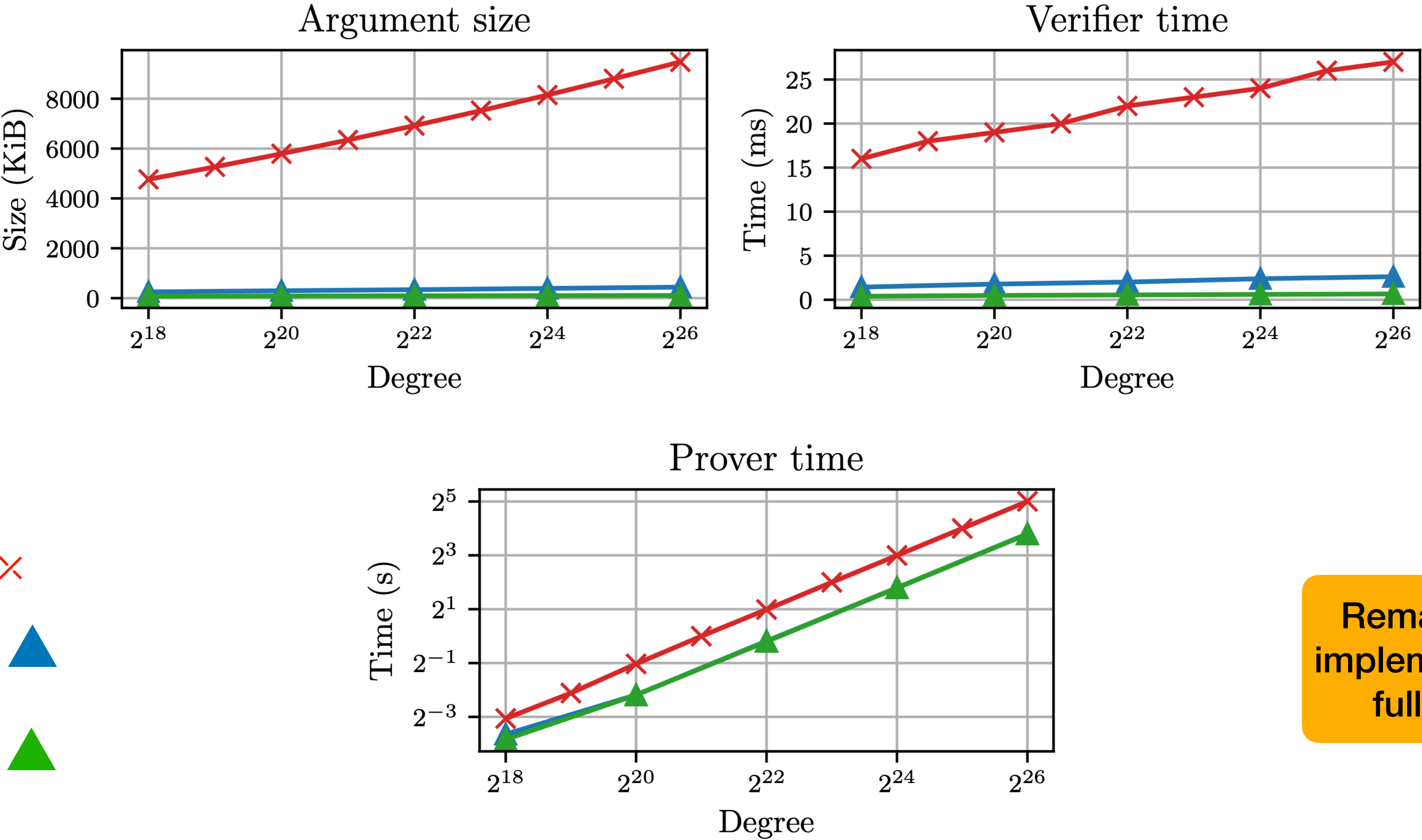
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Extra slides

Comparison with BaseFold



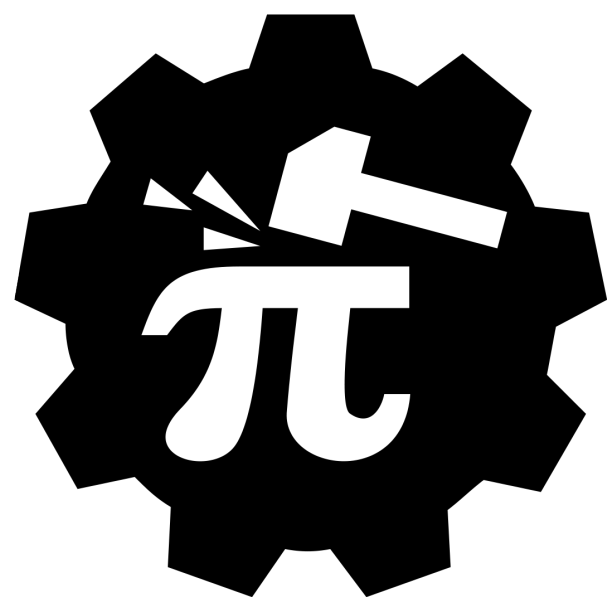
Comparison with BaseFold



BaseFold: x
WHIR-UD: ▲
WHIR-CB: ▲

Remark: BaseFold implementation is not fully optimised

Implementation

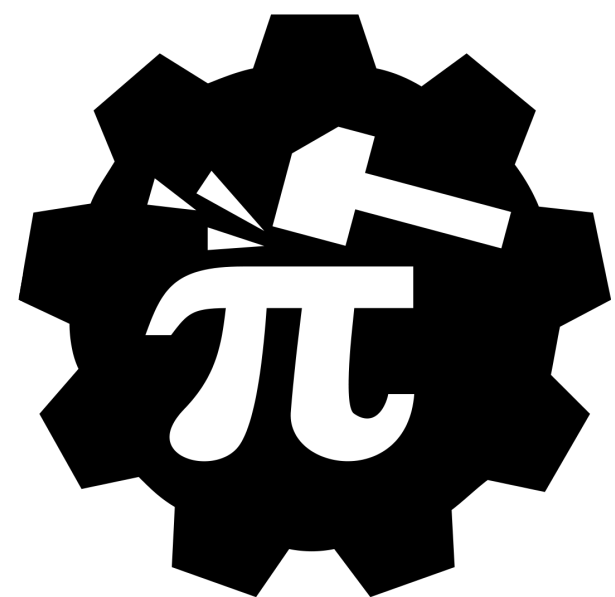


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Whir (PCS) 🌀
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Number of variables: 20, folding factor: 4
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Prover time: 356.9ms
Proof size: 58.7 KiB
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Implementation

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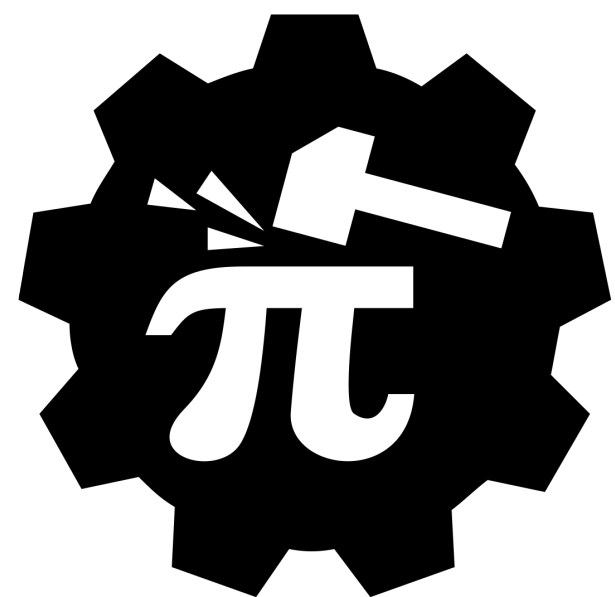
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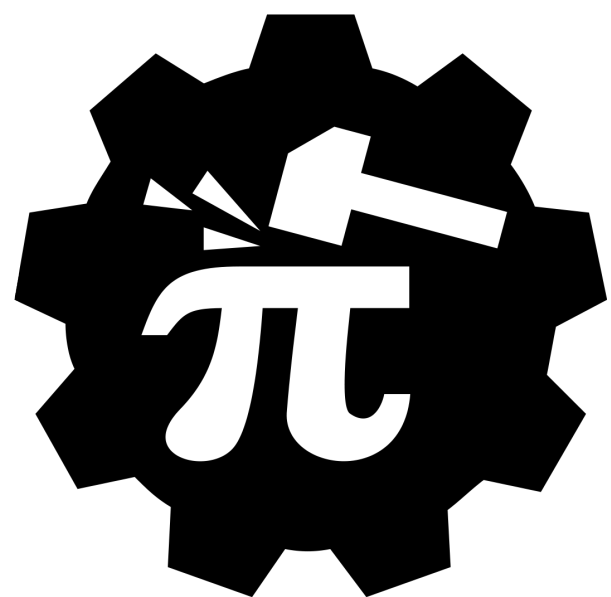
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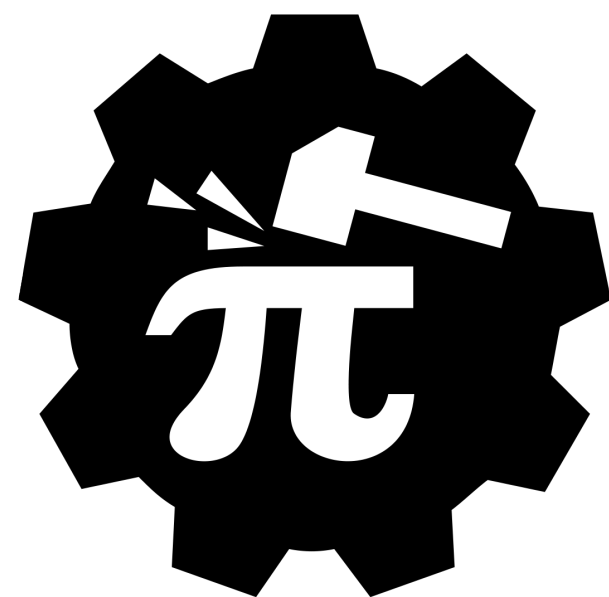
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- **Additionally, richer proximity tests means that:**
 - Can be used as a **multilinear** PCS (instead of BaseFold, FRI-Binius, etc)

Comparison to STIR and FRI

$$\text{FRI: } O\left(\frac{\lambda}{k} \cdot m\right)$$

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- **Further**, super-fast verification (next)

Batching

Pick your favourite sumcheck batching

Batching

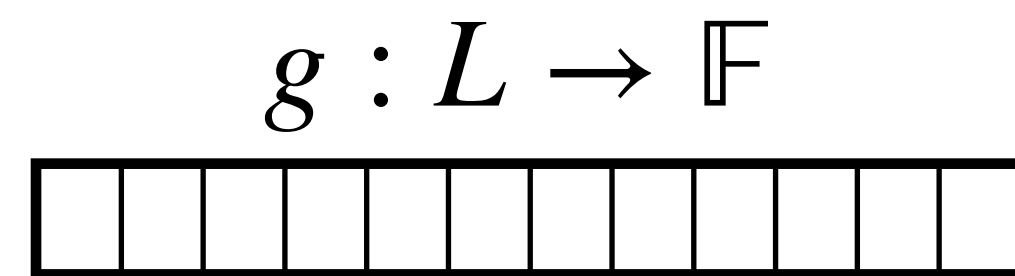
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Sumcheck claims on g :
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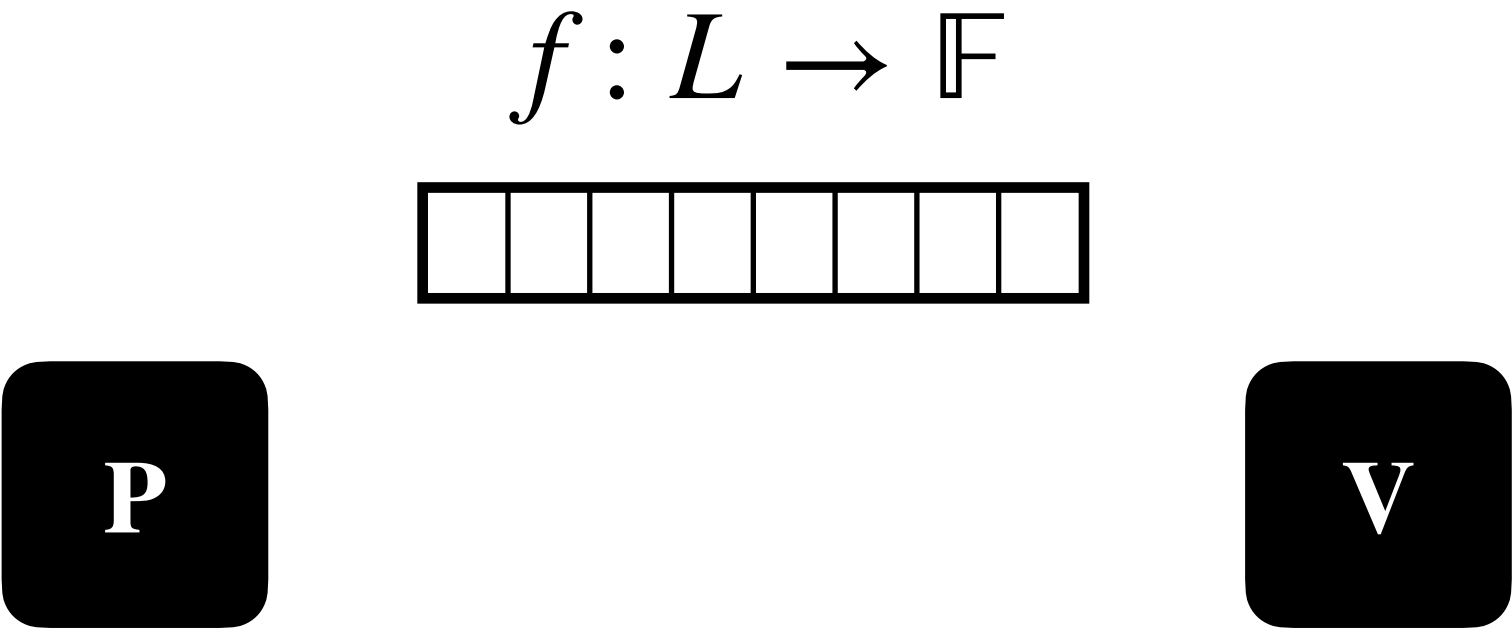


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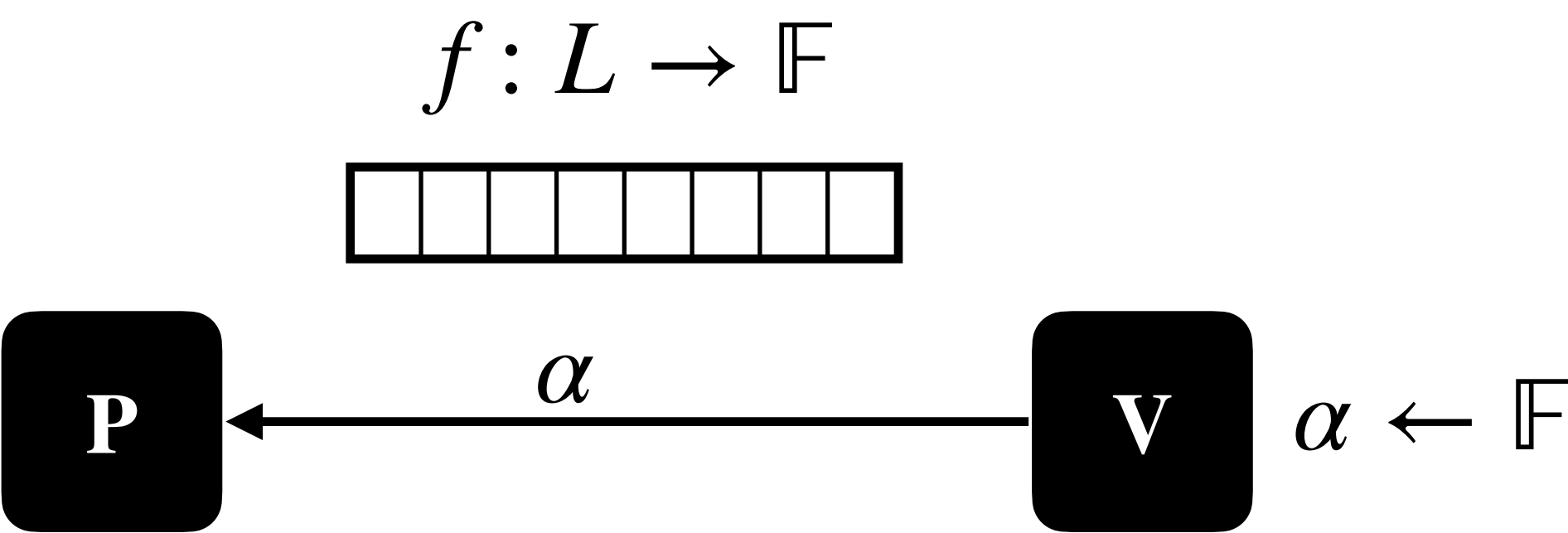
Many ways this can be done: **we chose random linear combination.**

Review: FRI iteration

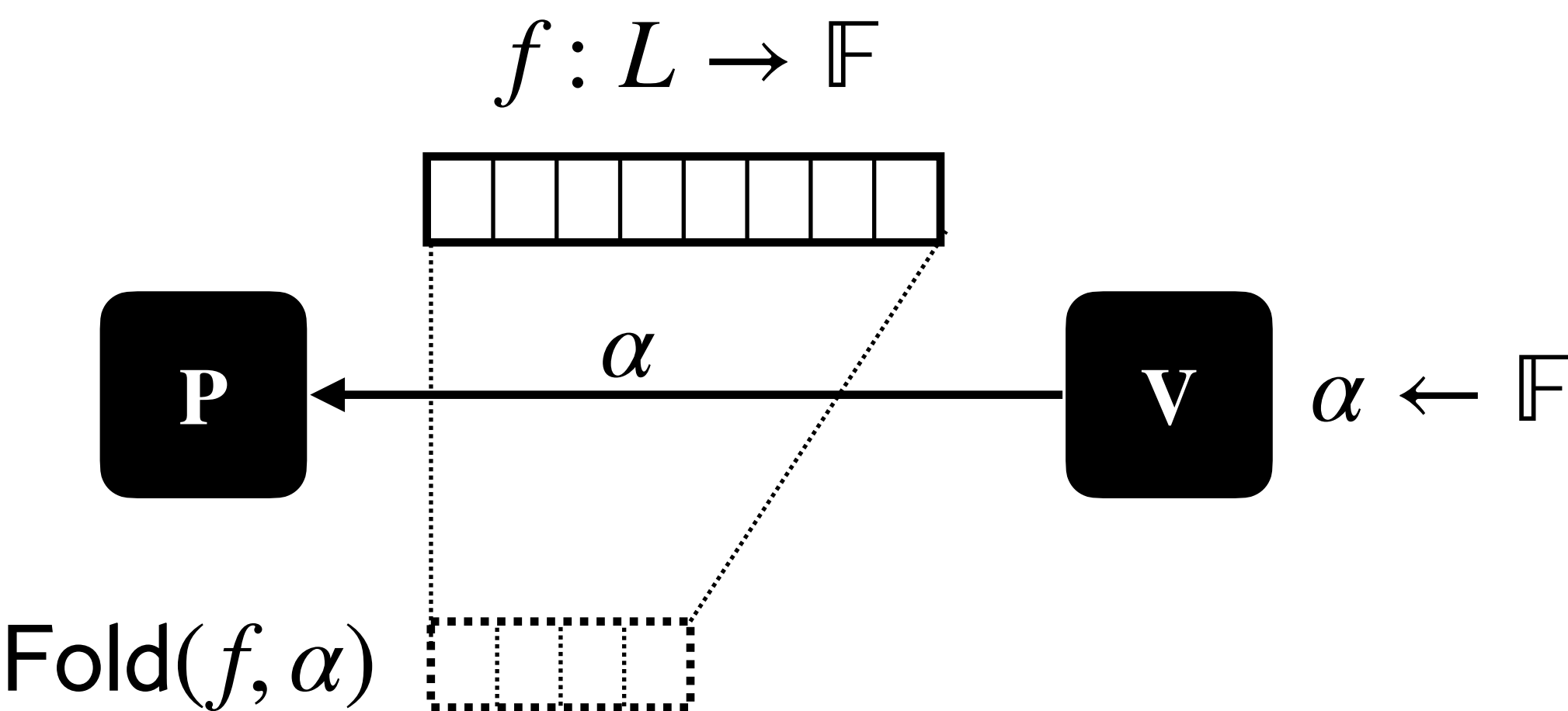
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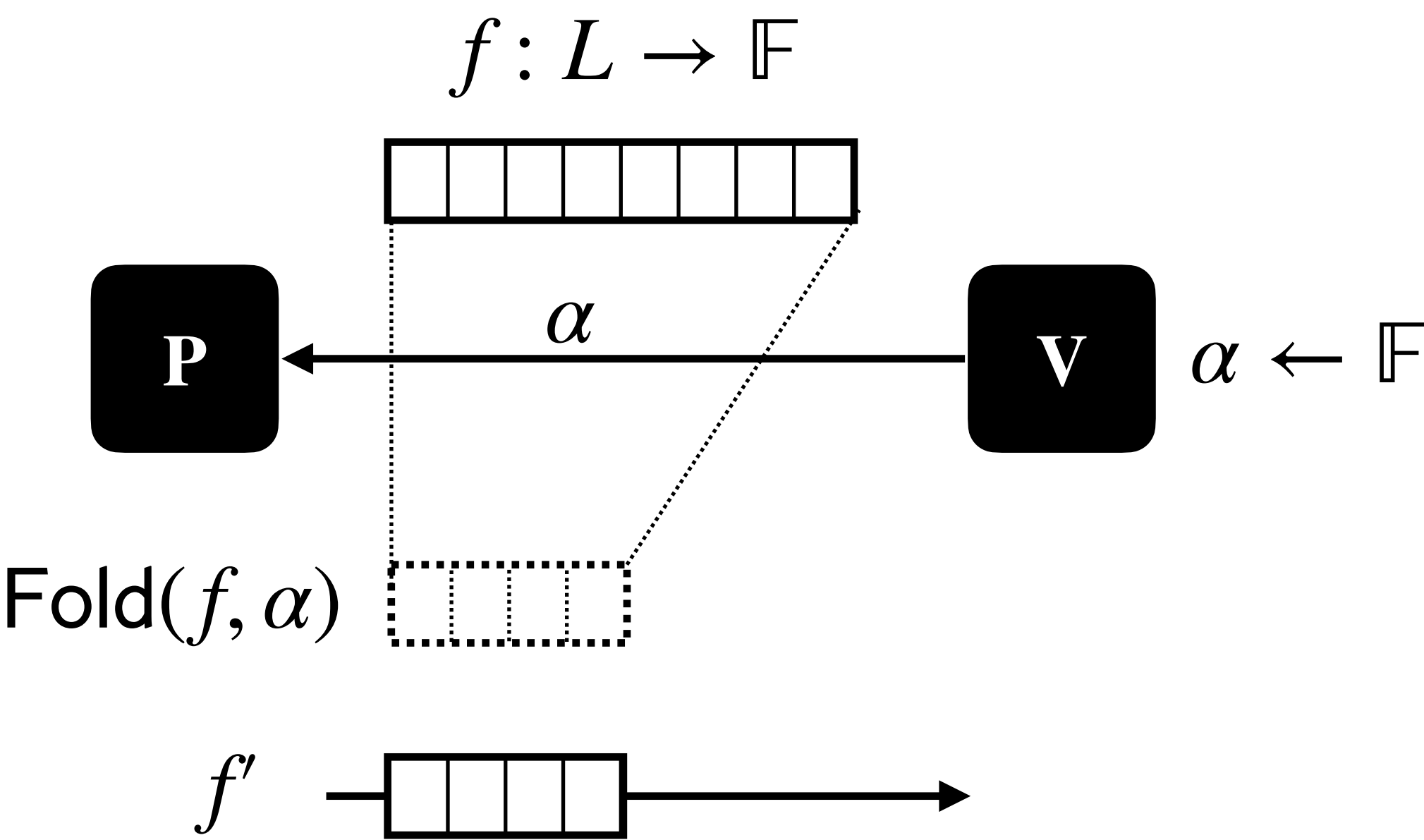
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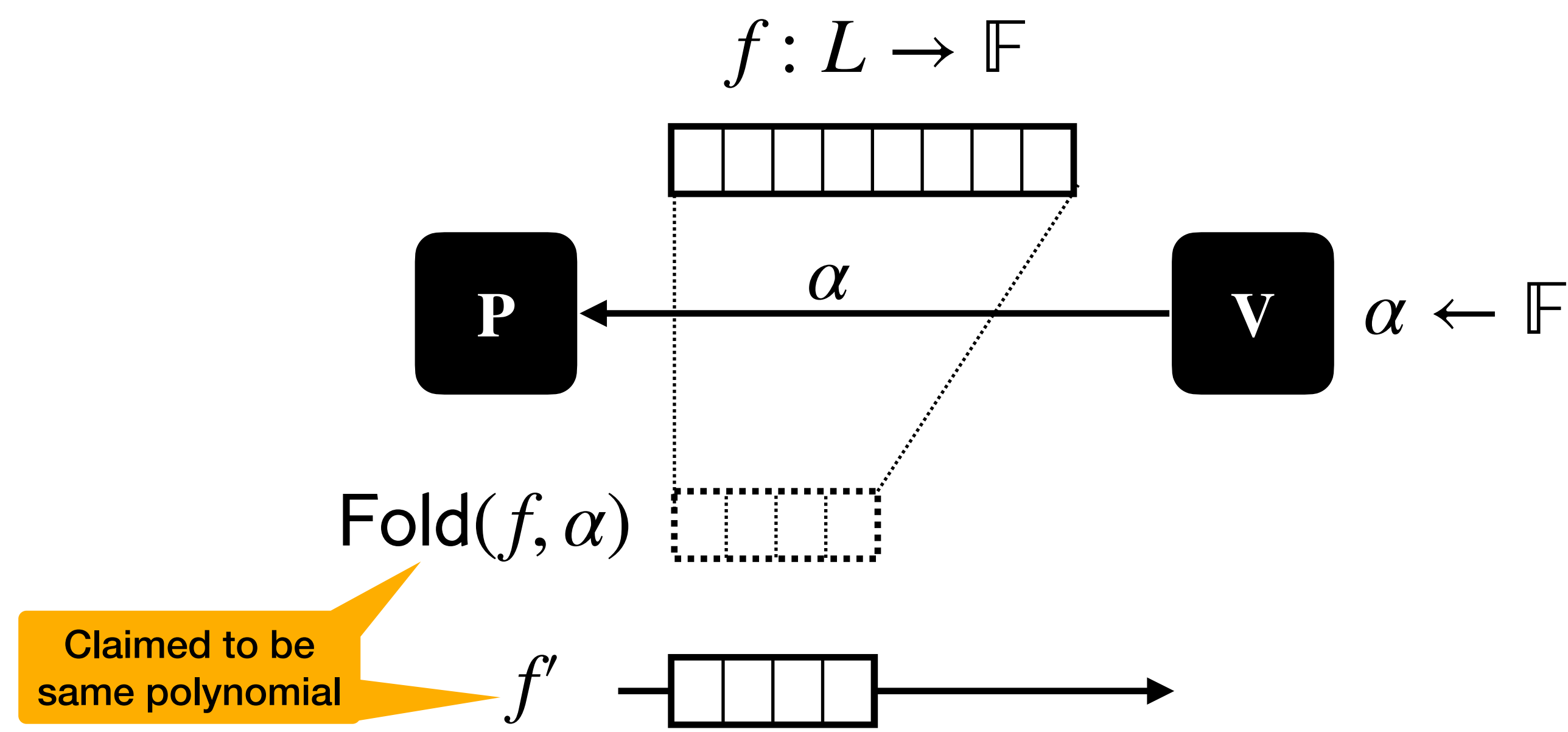
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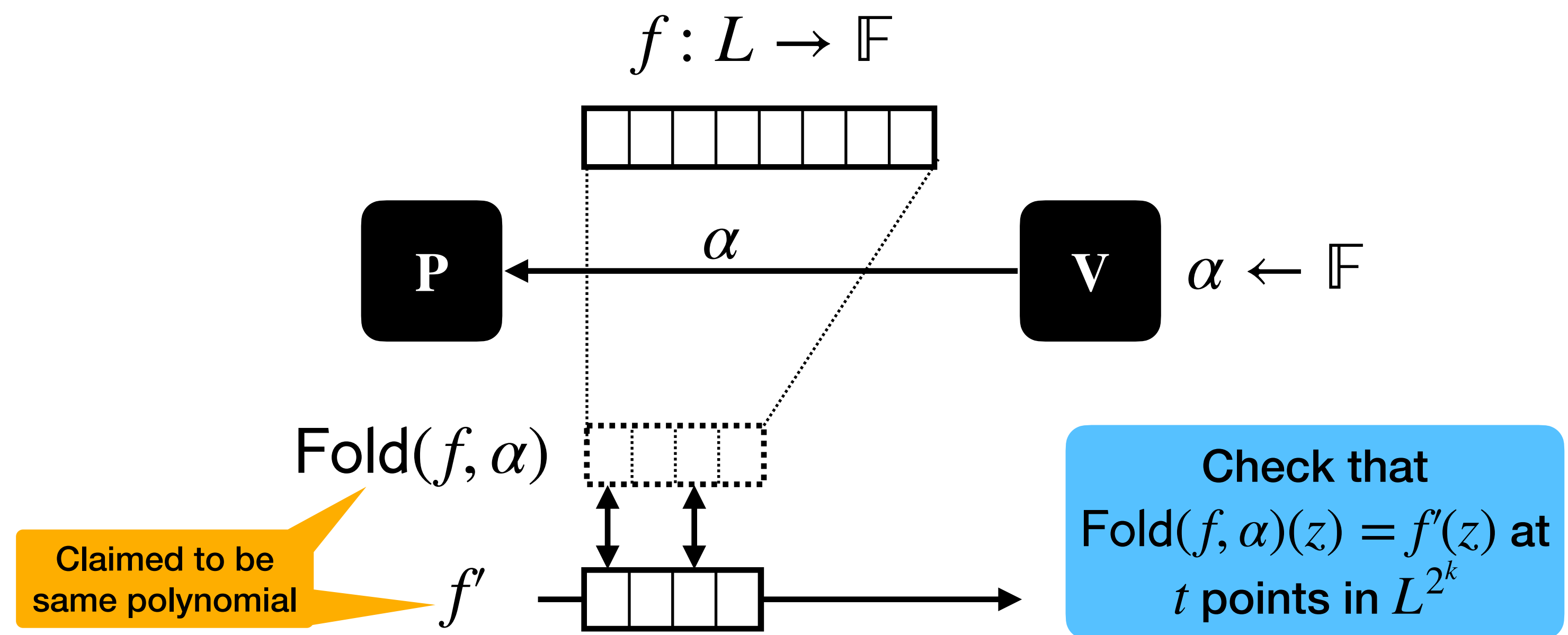
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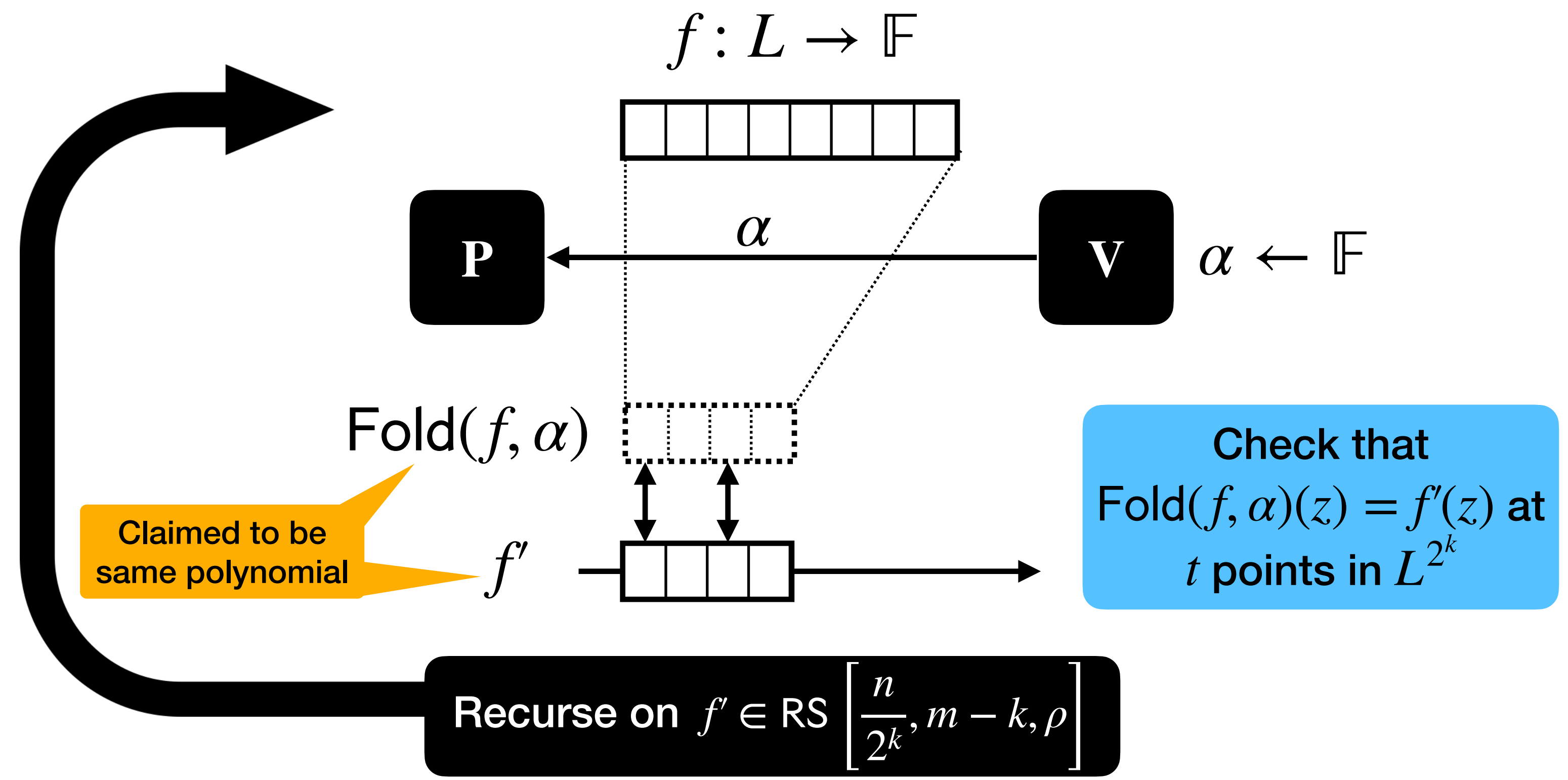
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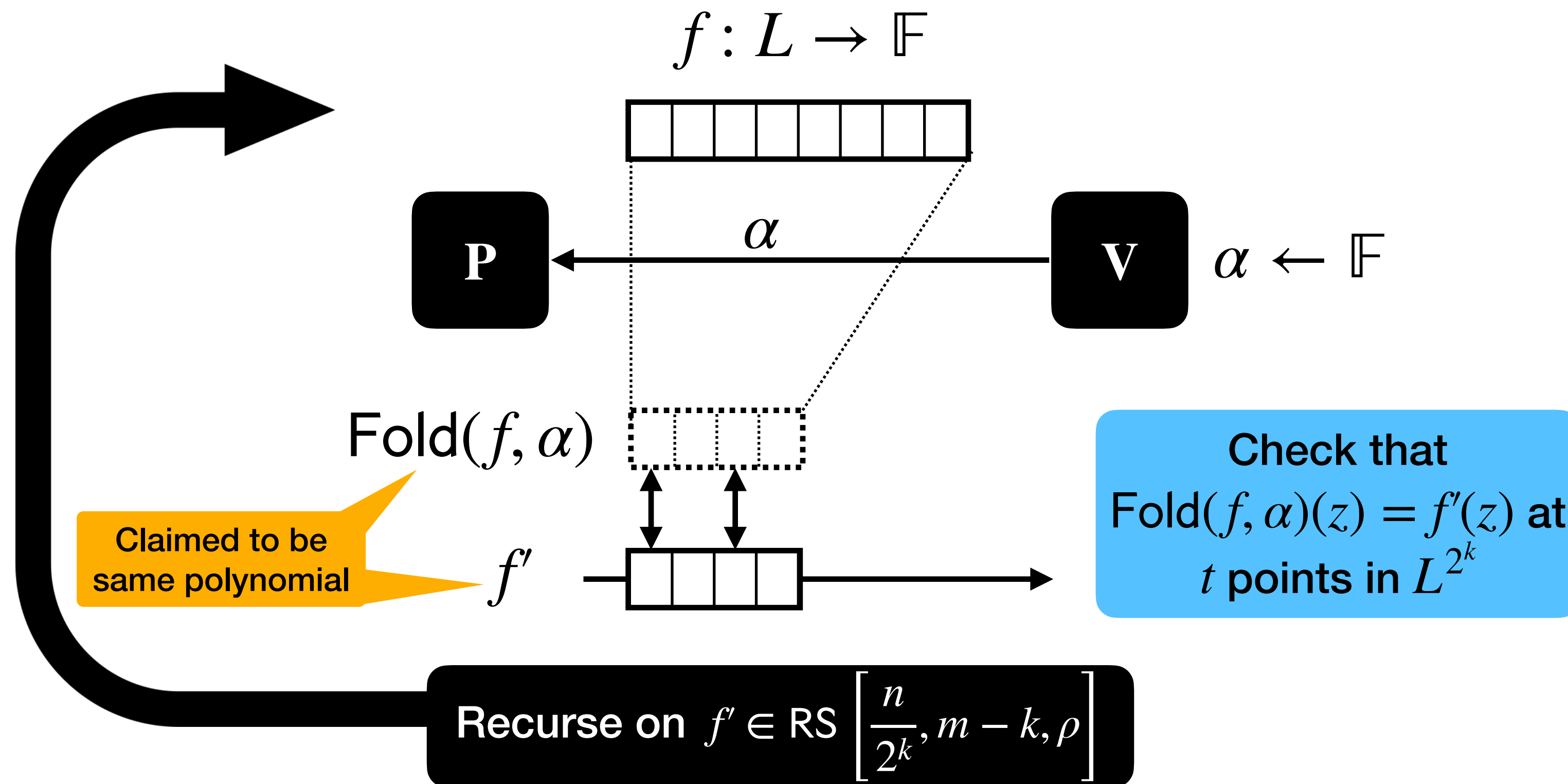
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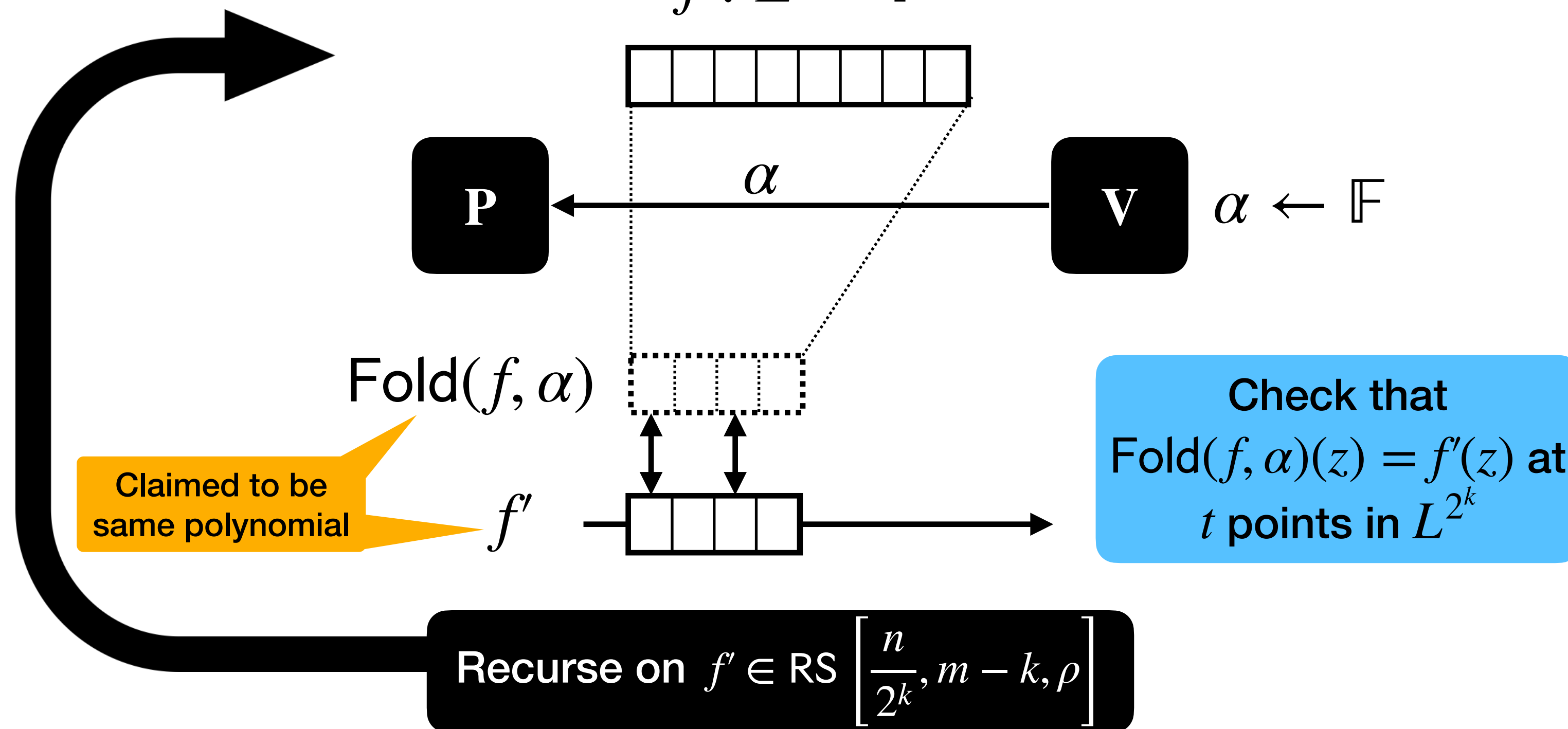


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Disclaimer: in full FRI consistency checks are correlated between rounds.

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Soundness:

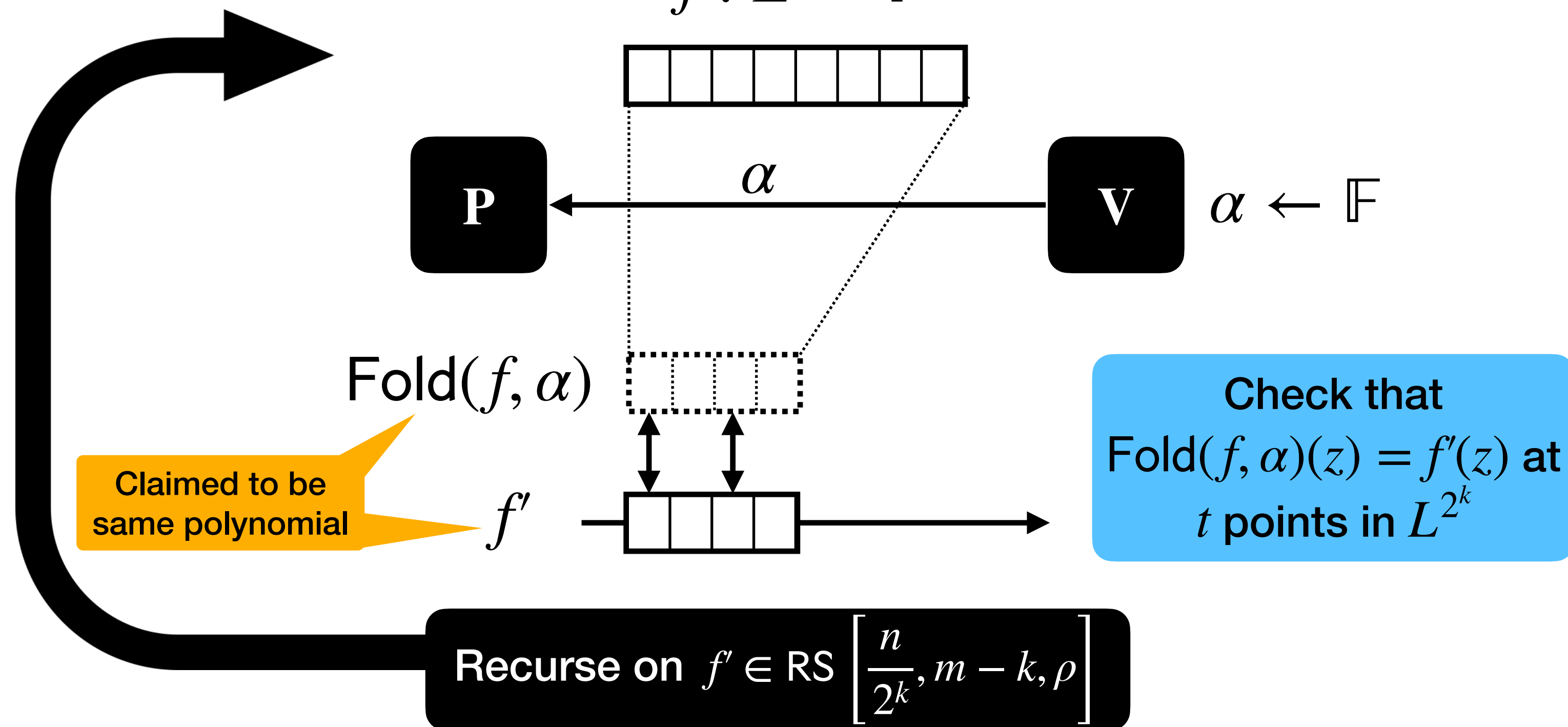
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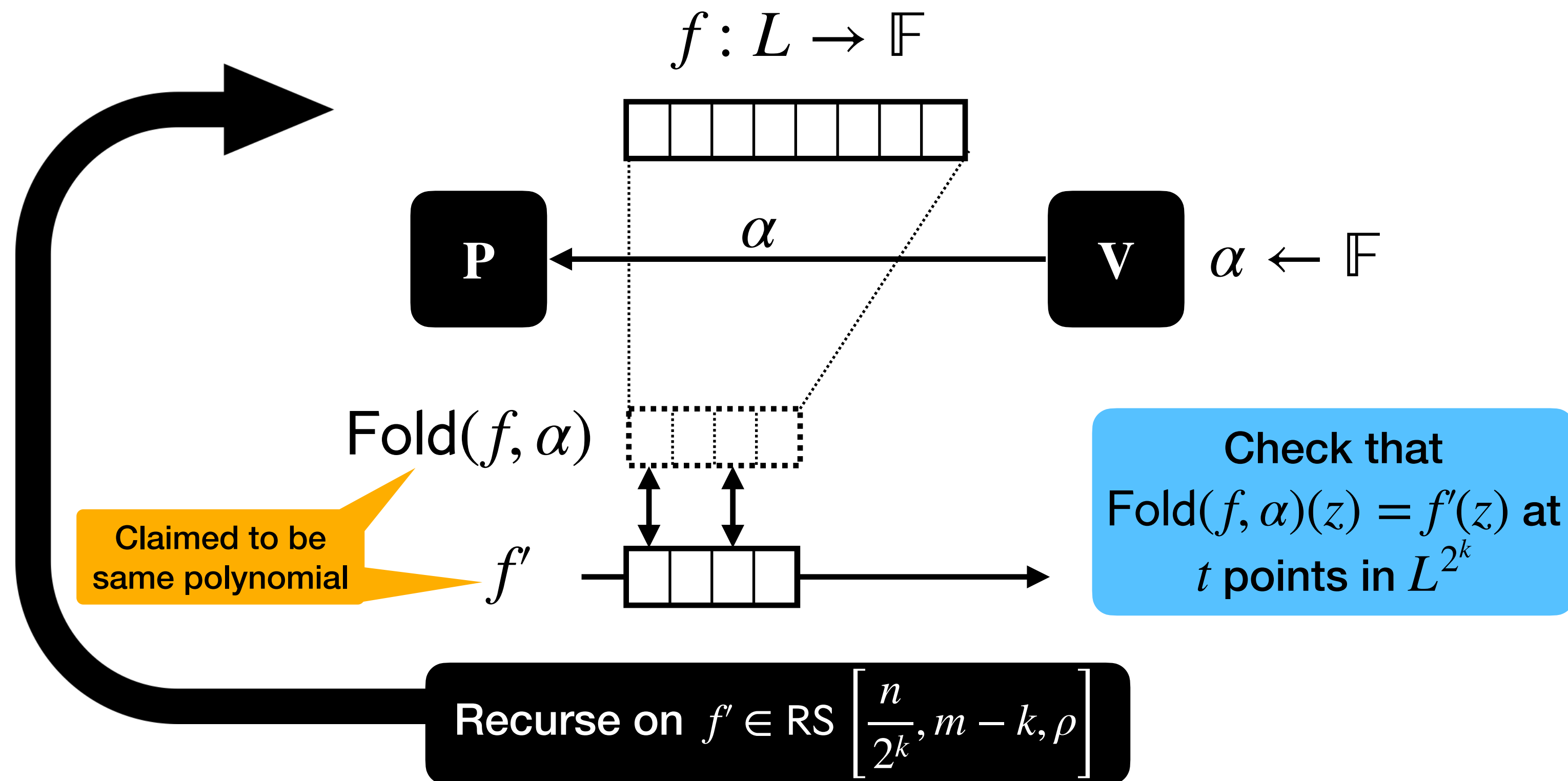
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To get soundness error $\epsilon_{\text{RBR}} \leq 2^{-\lambda}$:
 set $\delta := 1 - \sqrt{\rho}$ and $t := \frac{\lambda}{-\log \sqrt{\rho}}$

List-RLC lemma and List-Fold

Implied by mutual correlated agreement

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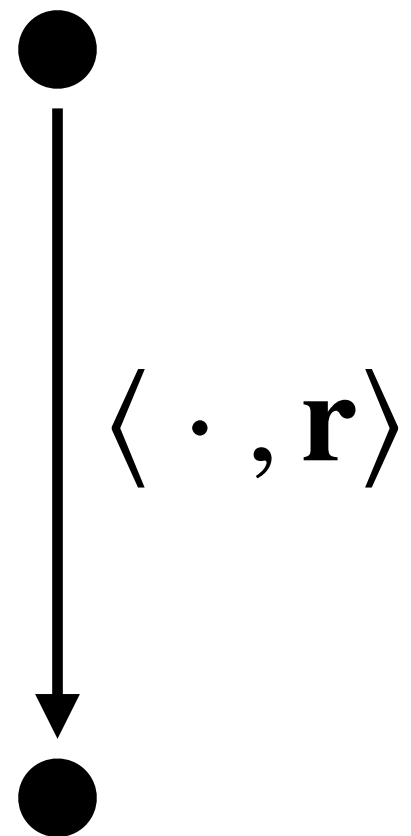
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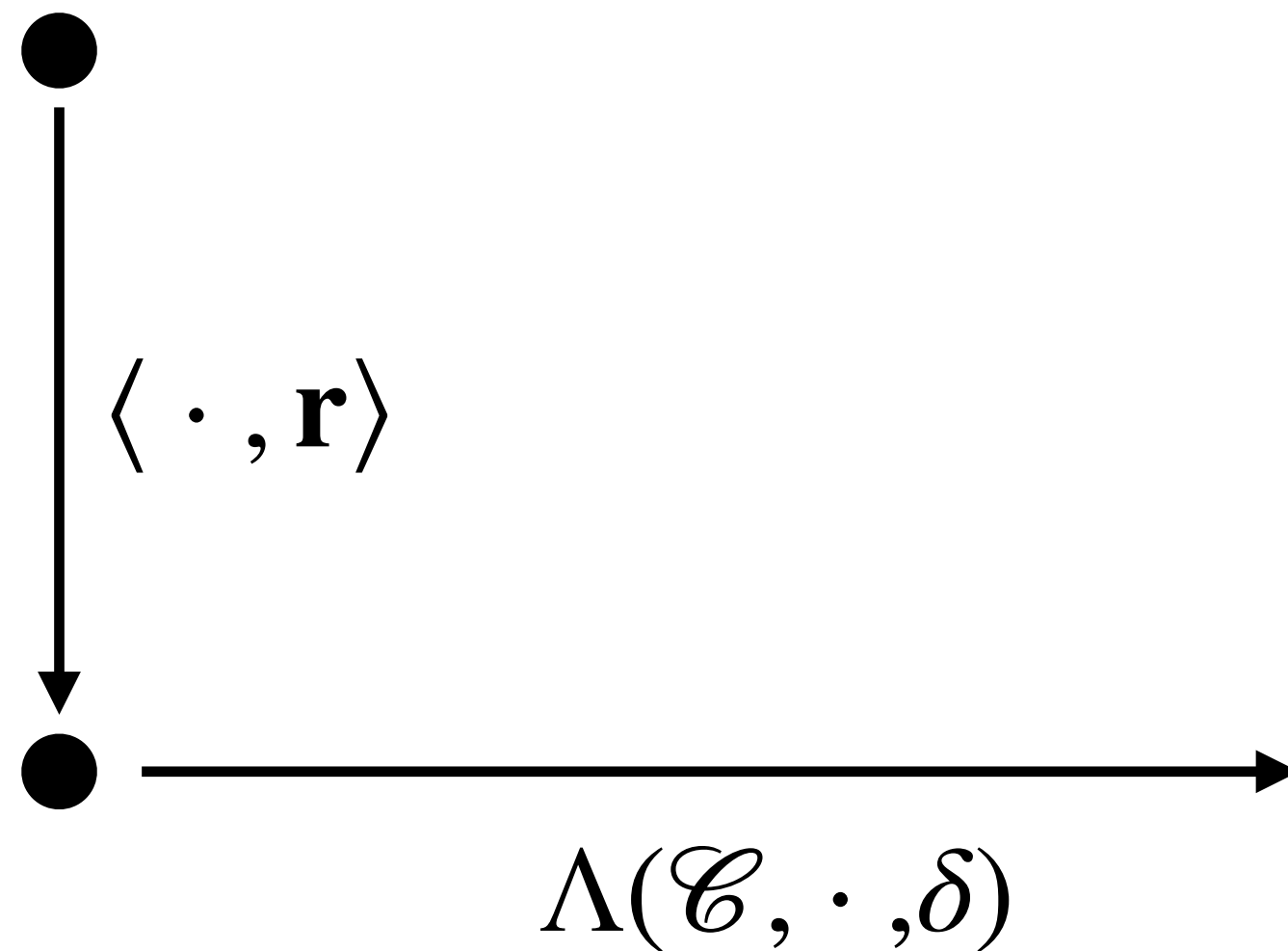
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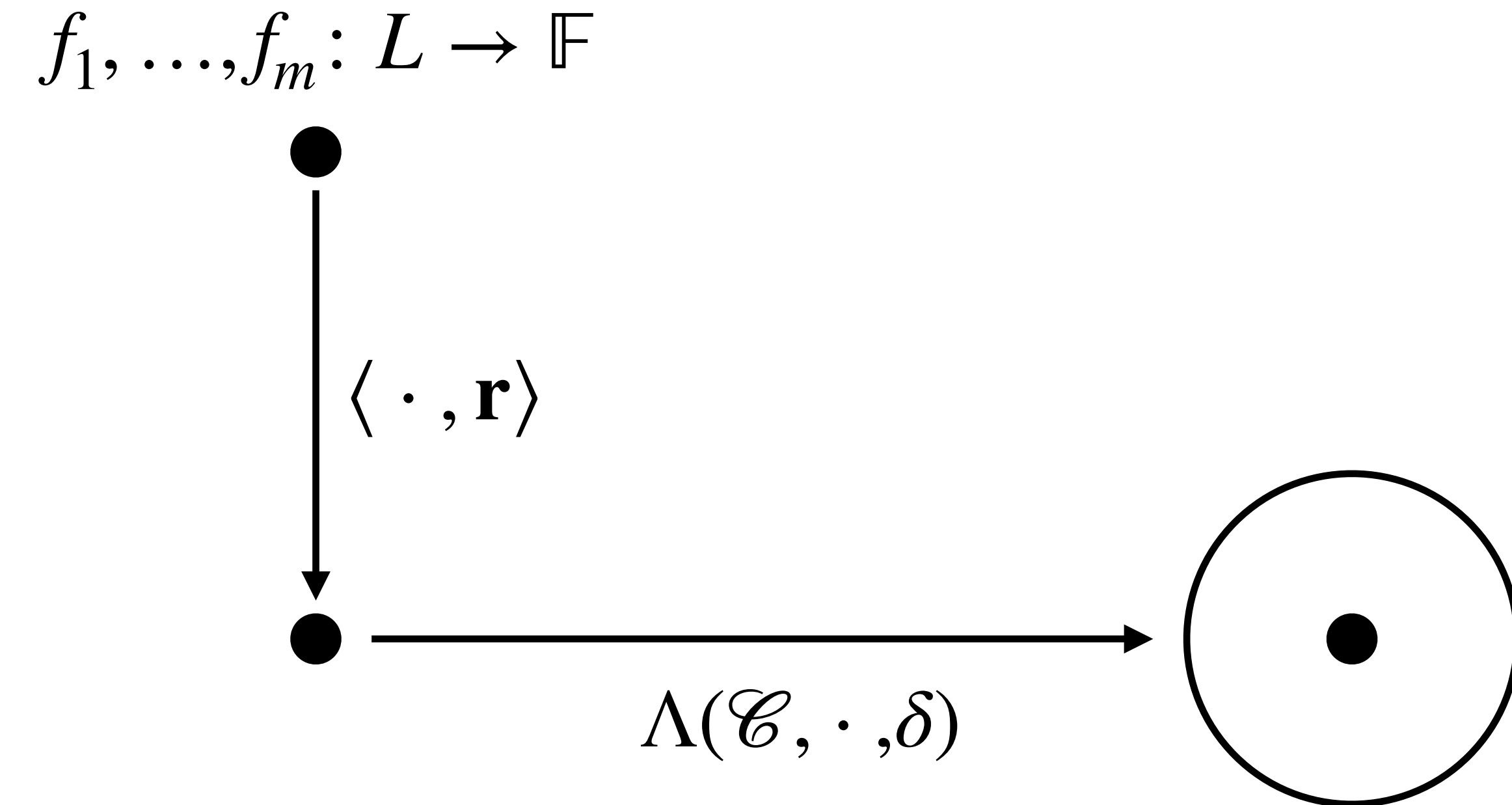


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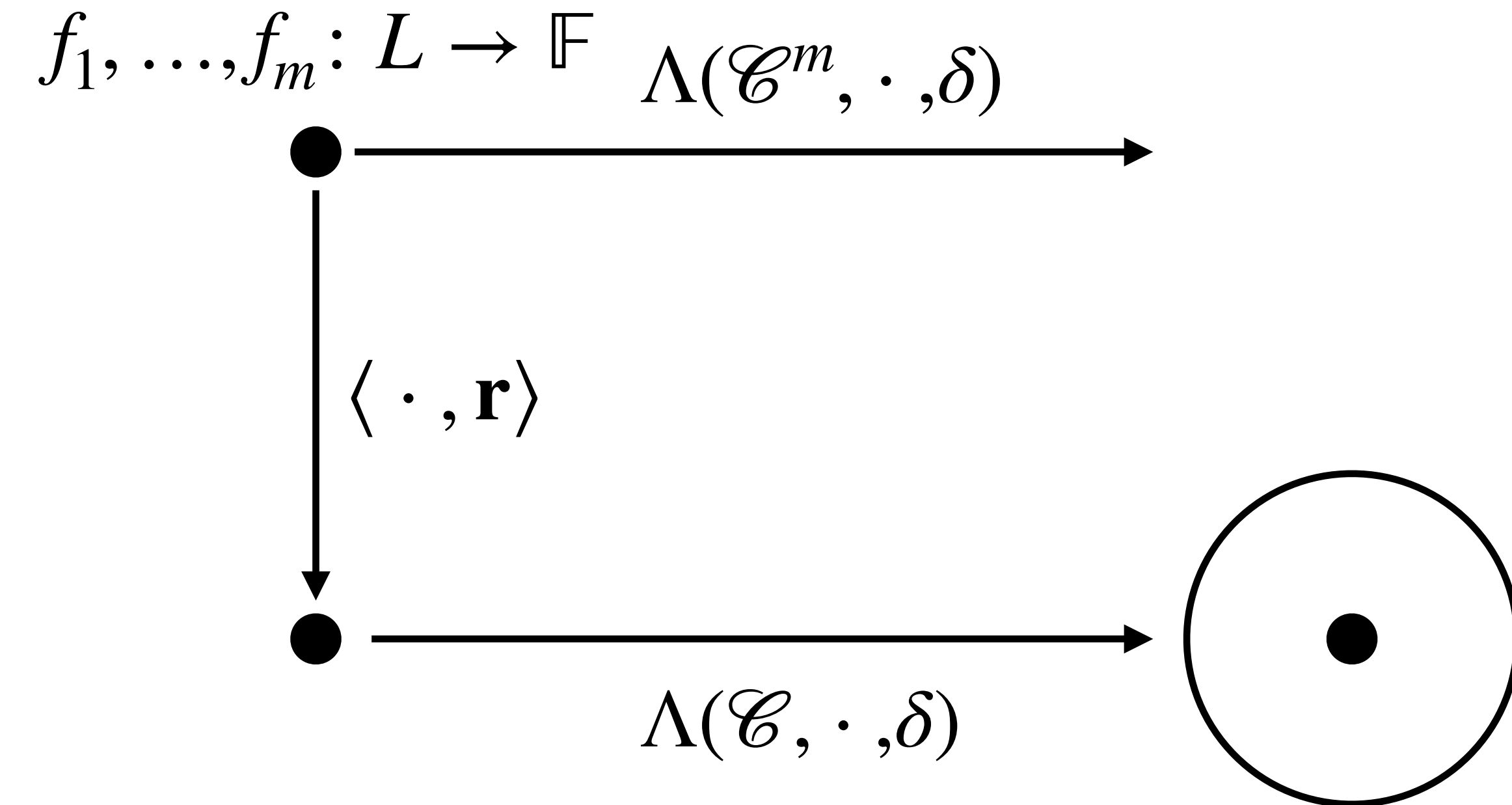


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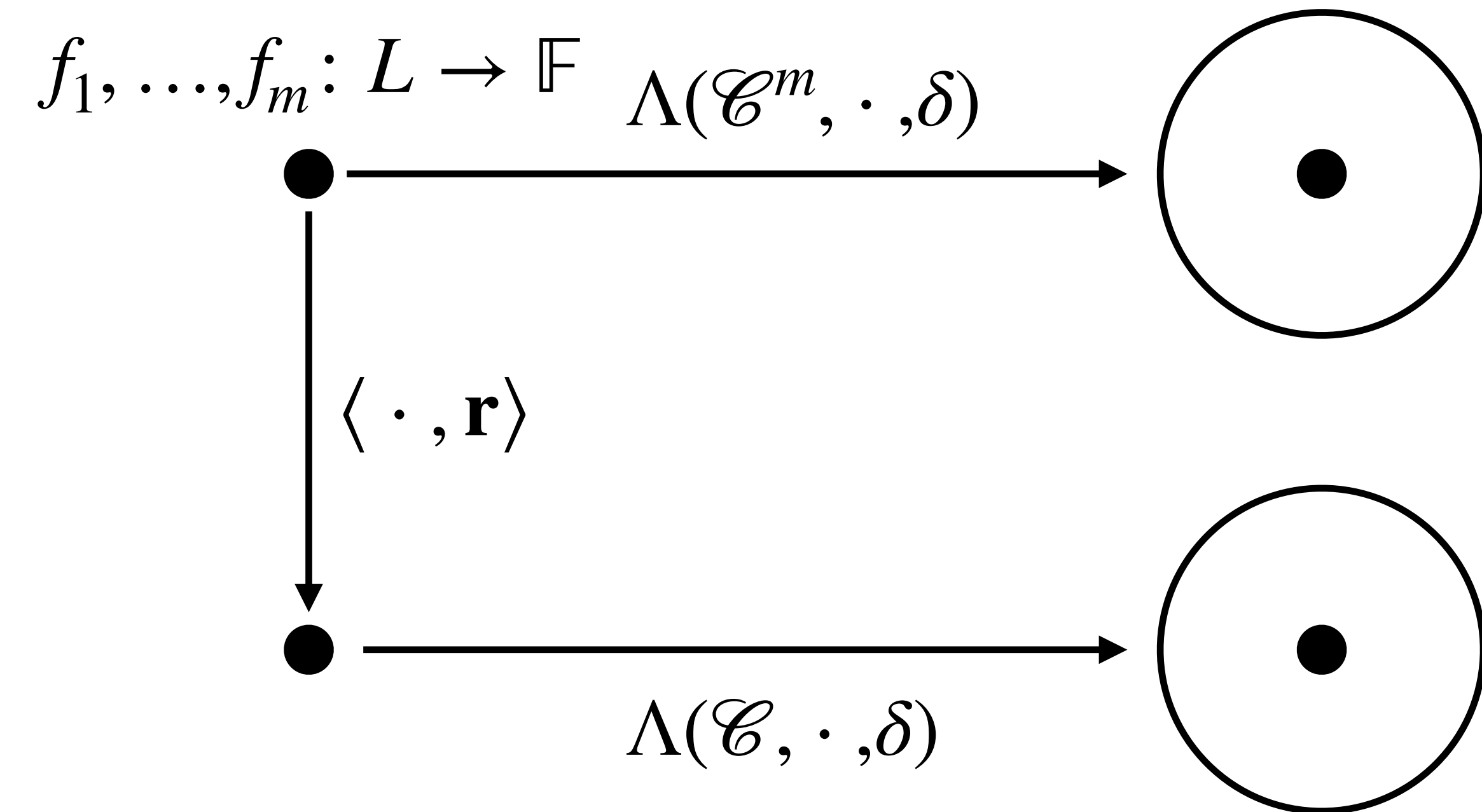
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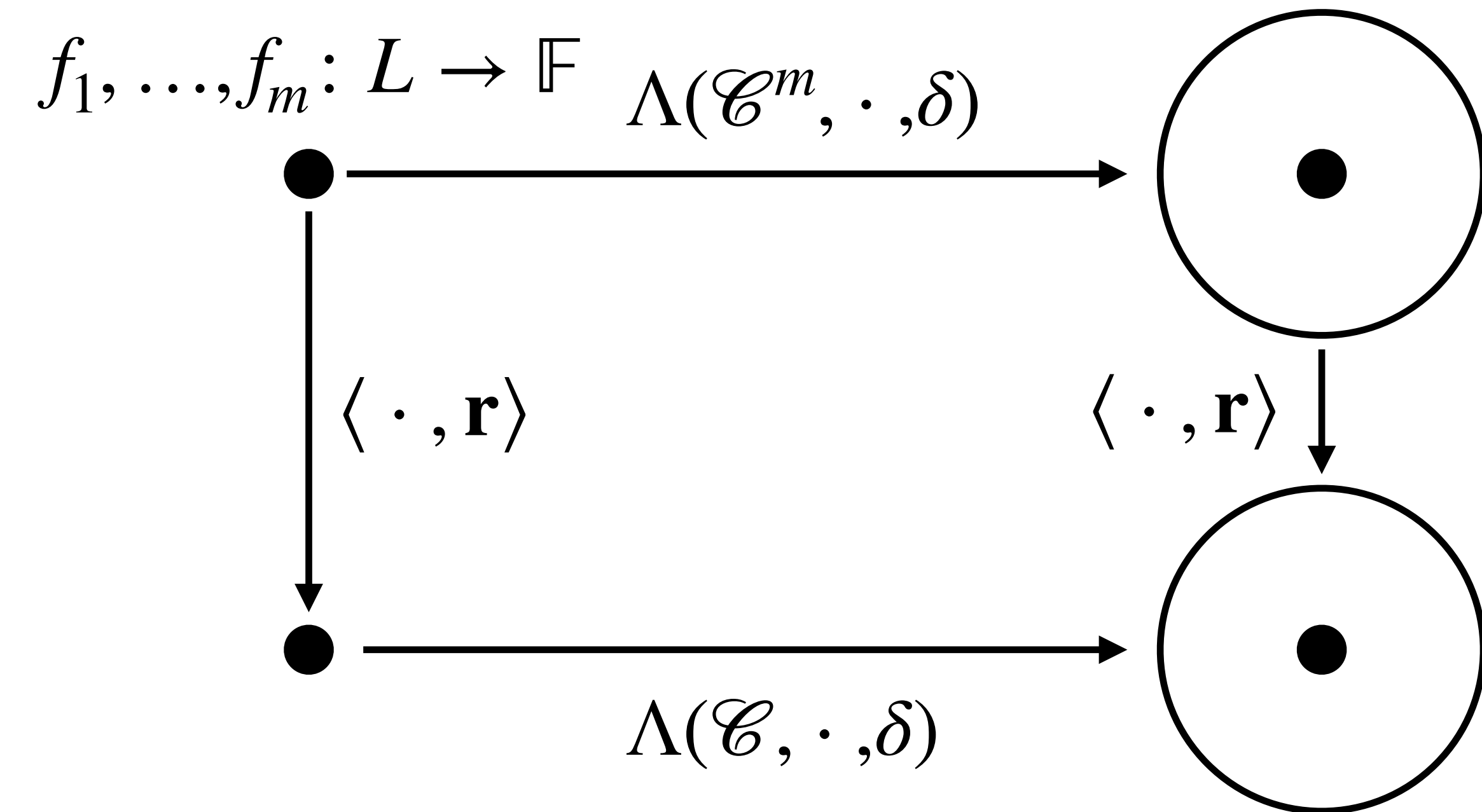


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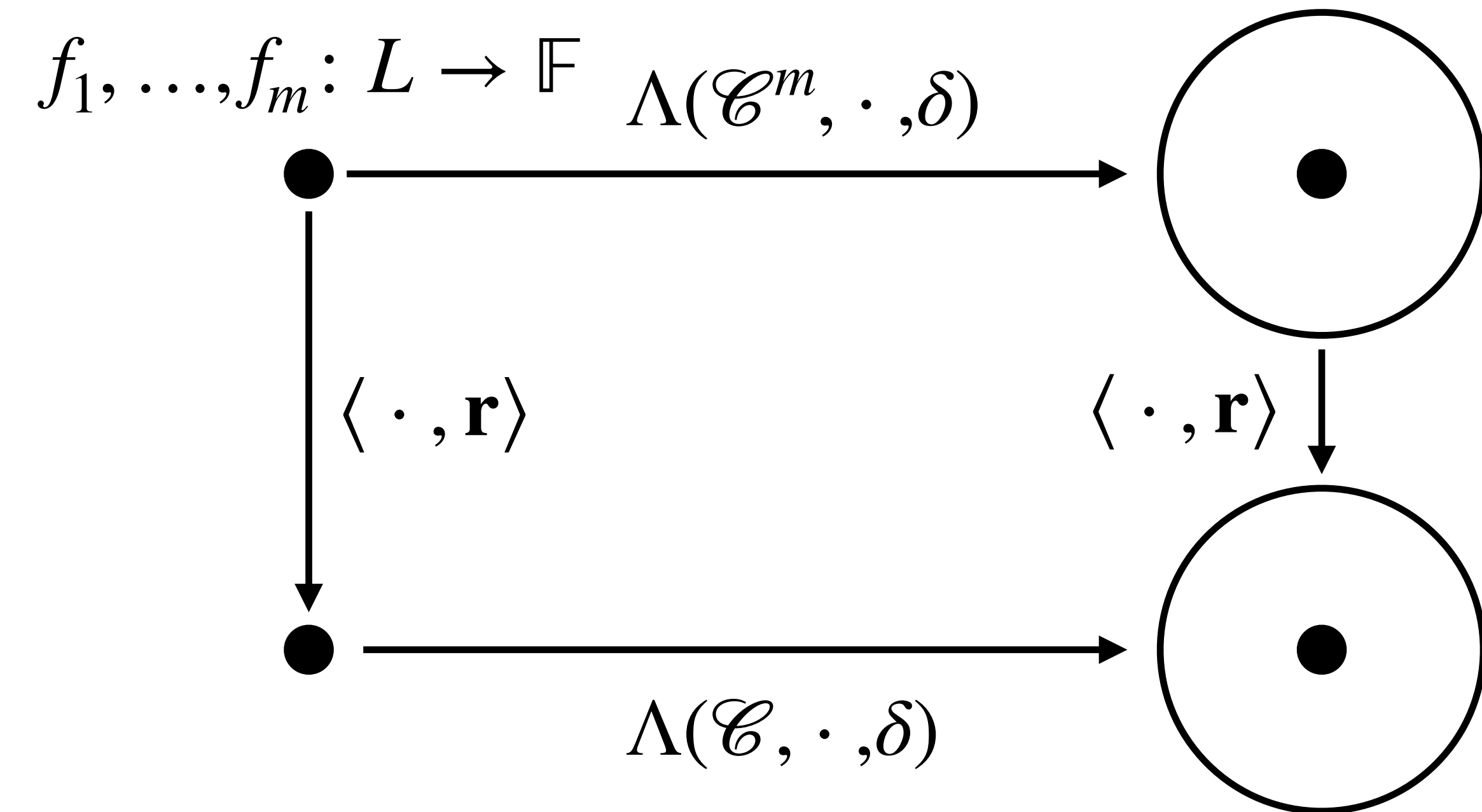


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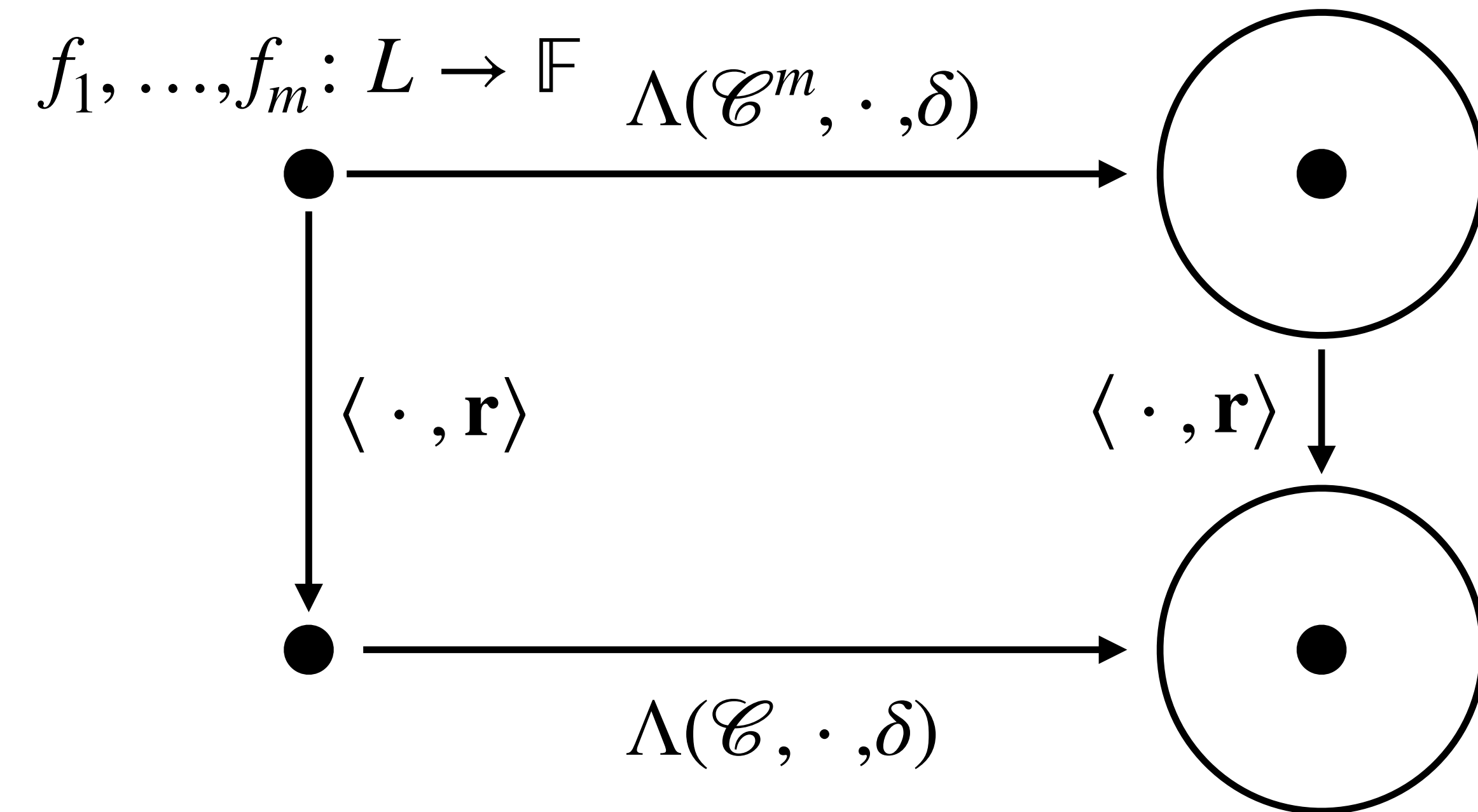
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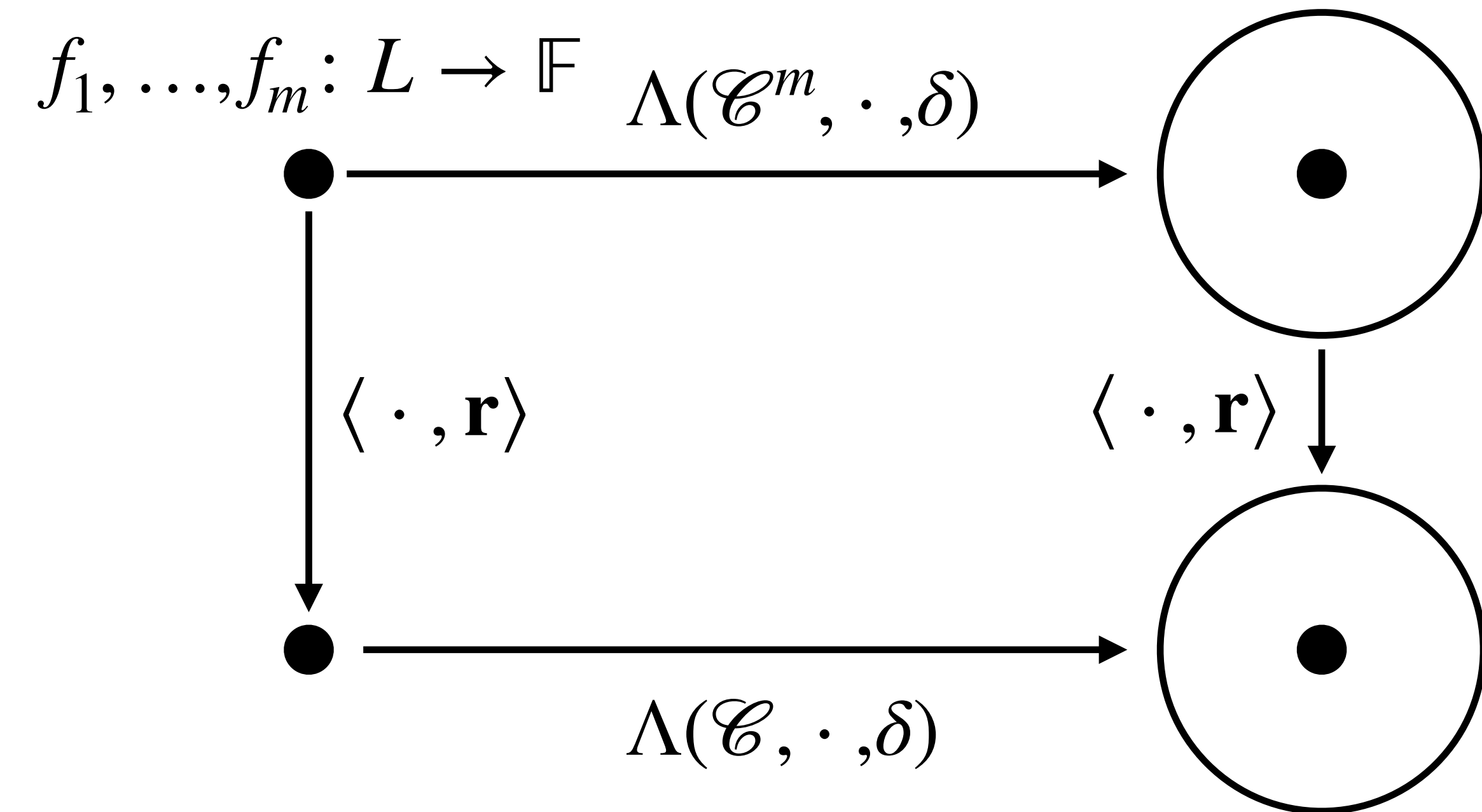
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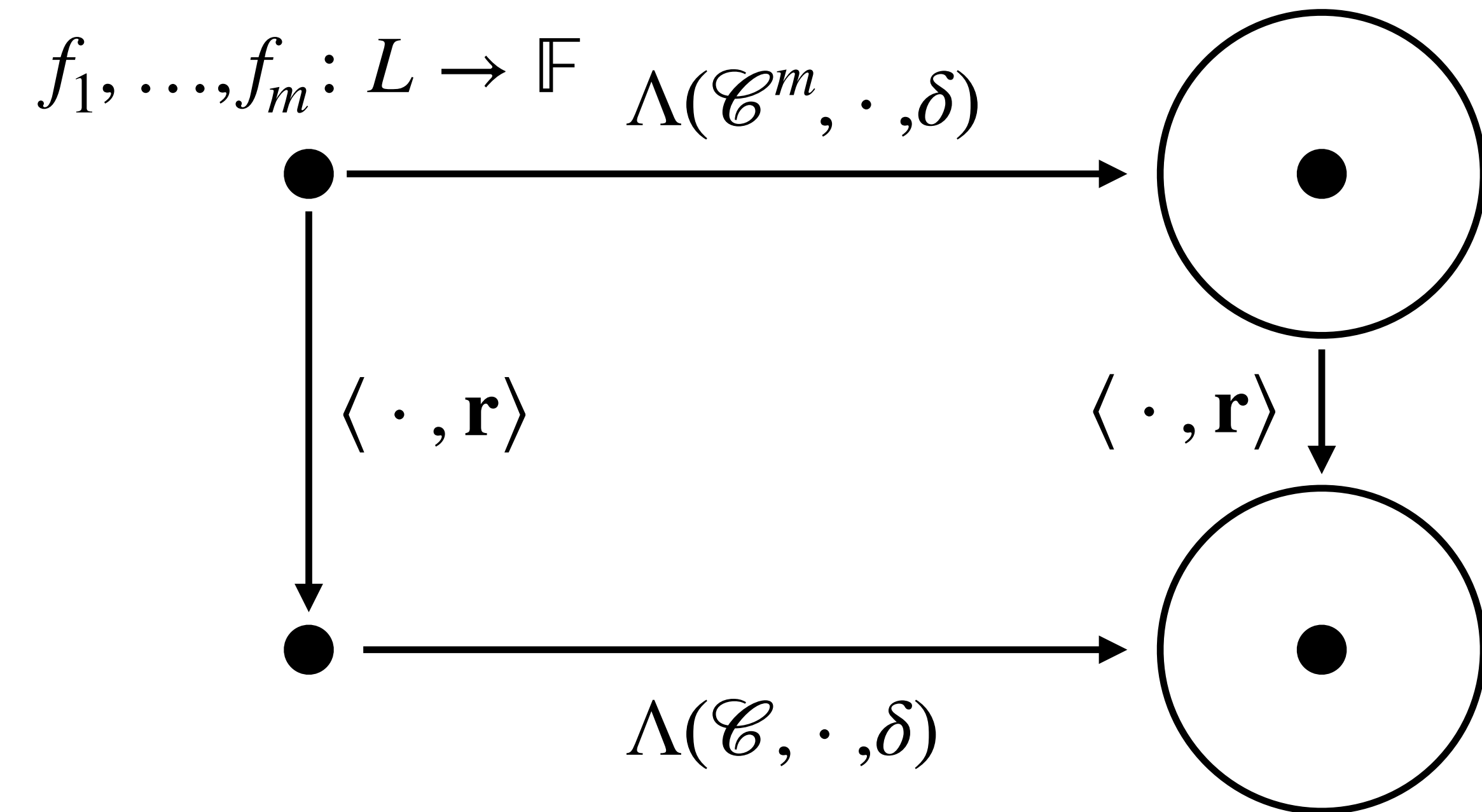
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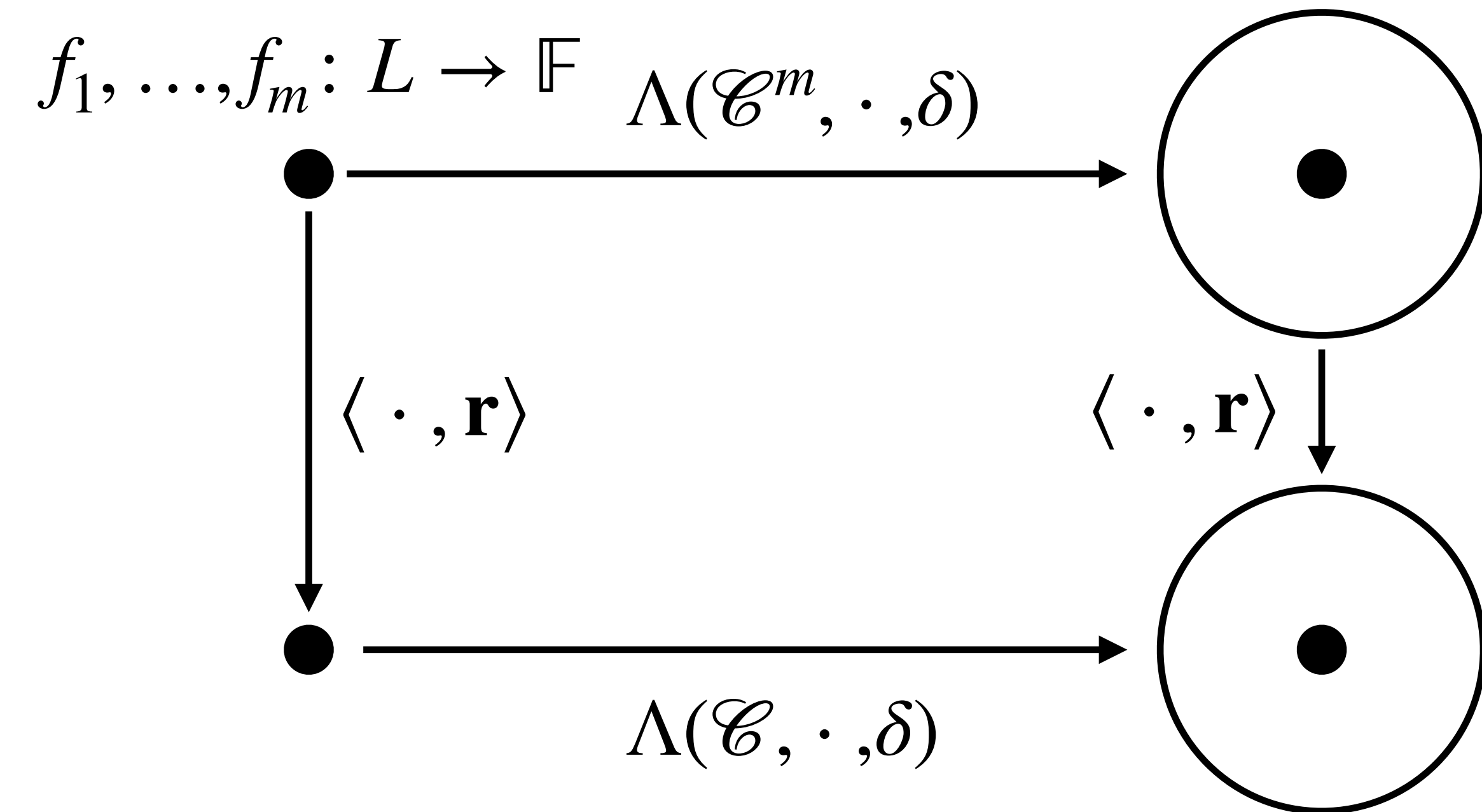
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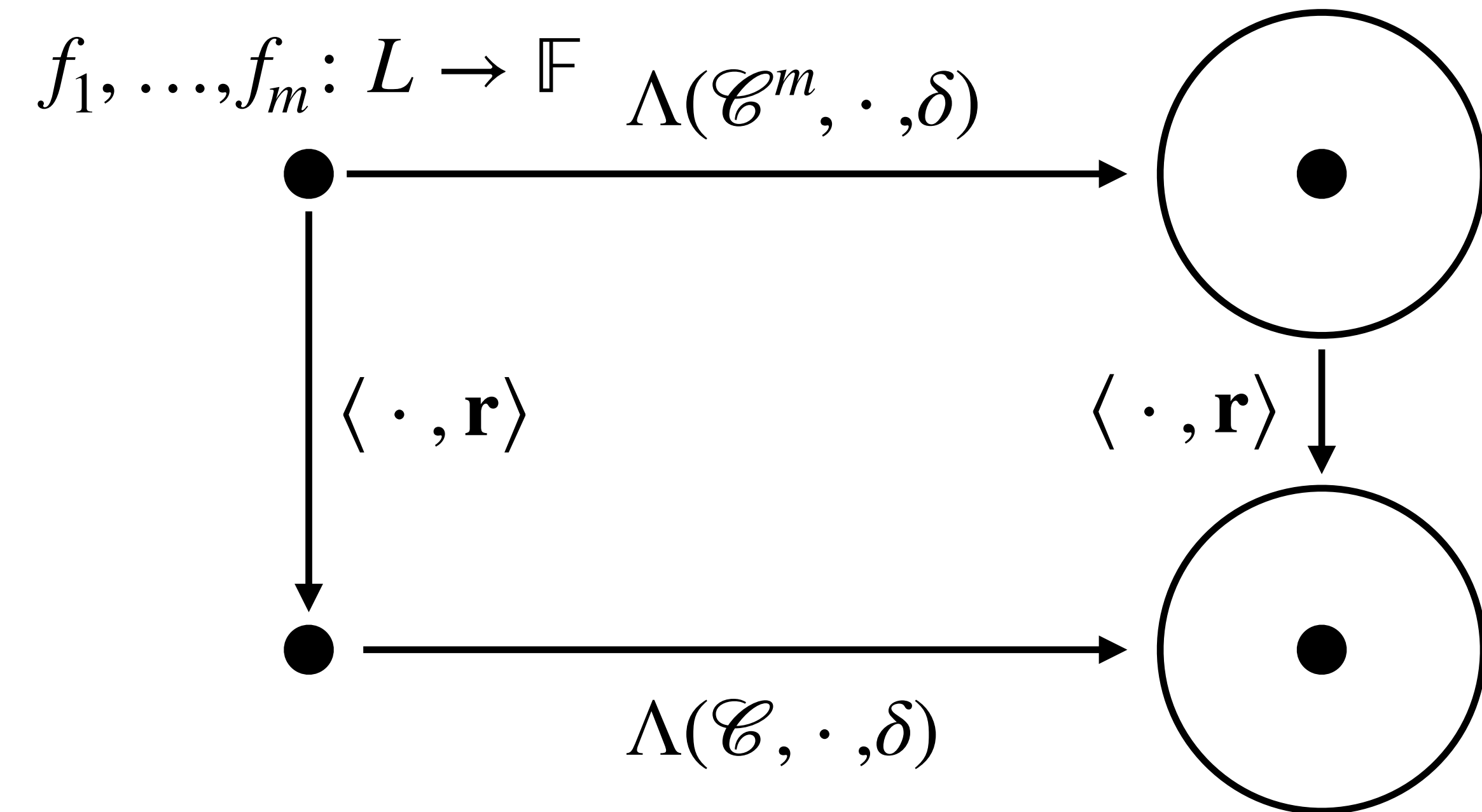
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Recent results show it holds up to 1.5 Johnson for general linear codes!