

# Threshold Computation in the Head

Matthieu Rivain

New Trends in PQC Workshop

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# Threshold Computation in the Head

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Joint work with Thibauld Feneuil



<https://ia.cr/2022/1407>

Original TCitH  
framework  
(Asiacrypt'23)



<https://ia.cr/2023/1573>

Improved TCitH  
framework  
(preprint)

# Roadmap

- MPC-in-the-Head paradigm
- TC-in-the-Head framework (and application to PQ signatures)
  - 🌲 TCitH with Merkle trees
  - 🌲 TCitH with GGM trees
  - ✘ TCitH using multiplication homomorphism
  - 📦 TCitH using packed secret sharing
- Application: post-quantum ring signatures
- Relation to other proof systems

# MPC-in-the-Head paradigm

# MPC-in-the-Head paradigm

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One-way function

$$F : x \mapsto y$$

E.g. AES, MQ system,  
Syndrome decoding

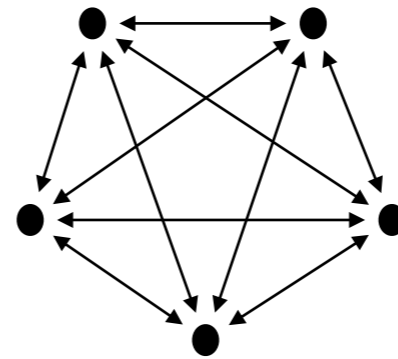
# MPC-in-the-Head paradigm

One-way function

$$F : x \mapsto y$$

E.g. AES, MQ system,  
Syndrome decoding

Multiparty computation (MPC)



Input sharing  $[[x]]$

Joint evaluation of:

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \text{Accept} & \text{if } F(x) = y \\ \text{Reject} & \text{if } F(x) \neq y \end{cases}$$

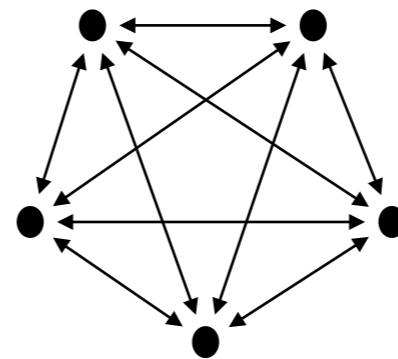
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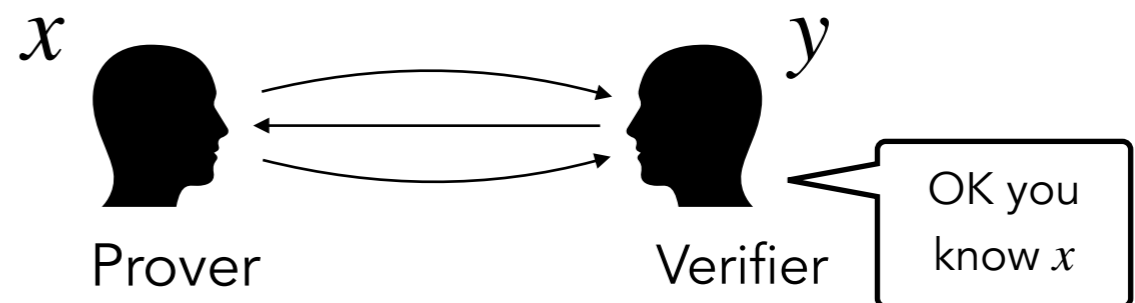


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Zero-knowledge proof



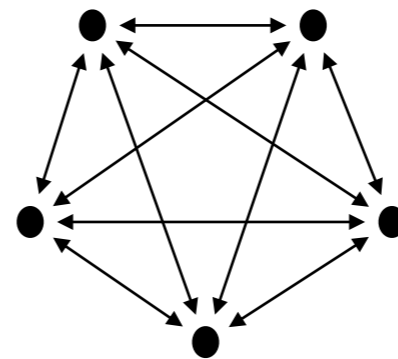
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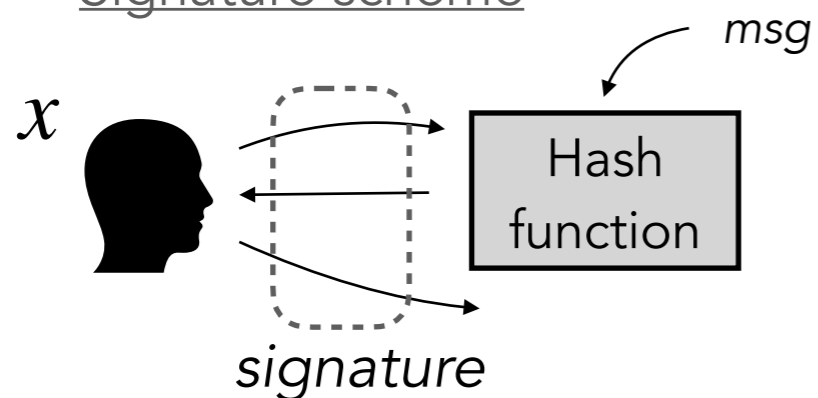


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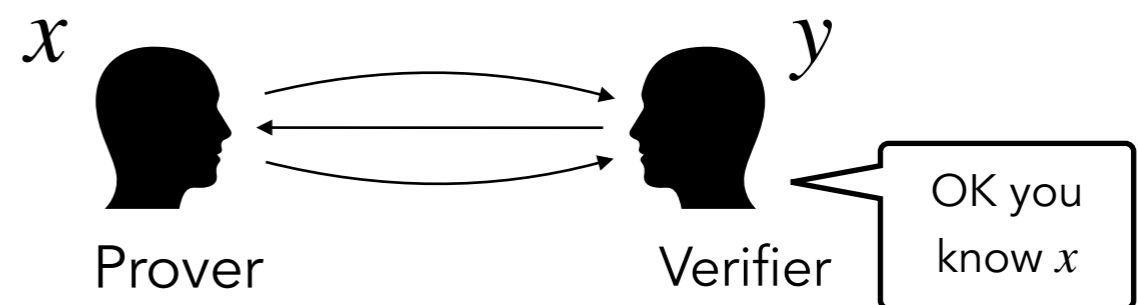
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## Signature scheme



## Zero-knowledge proof





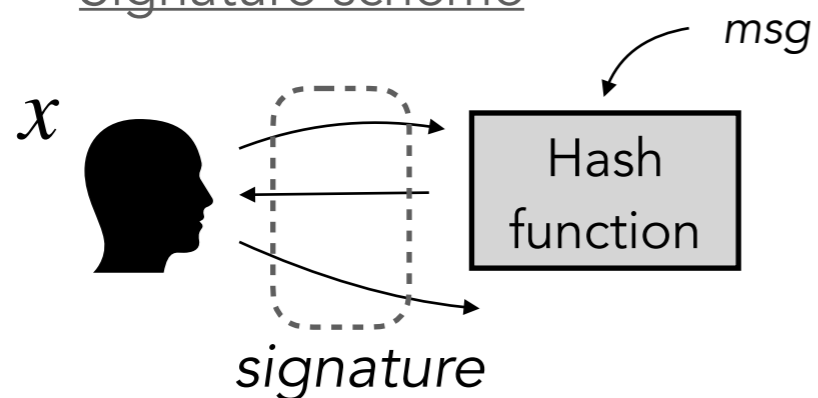
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One-way function

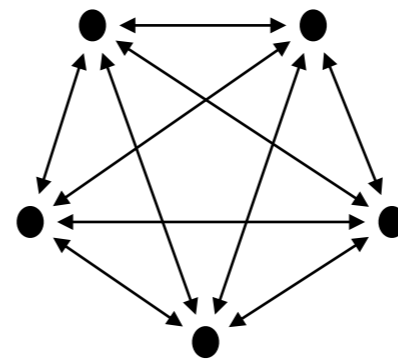
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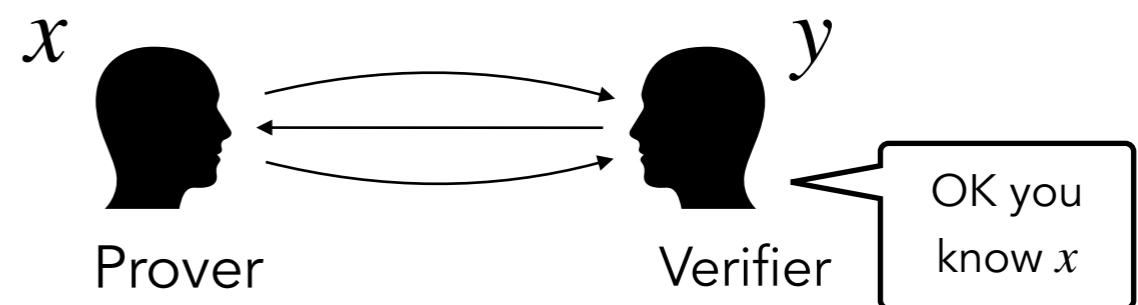
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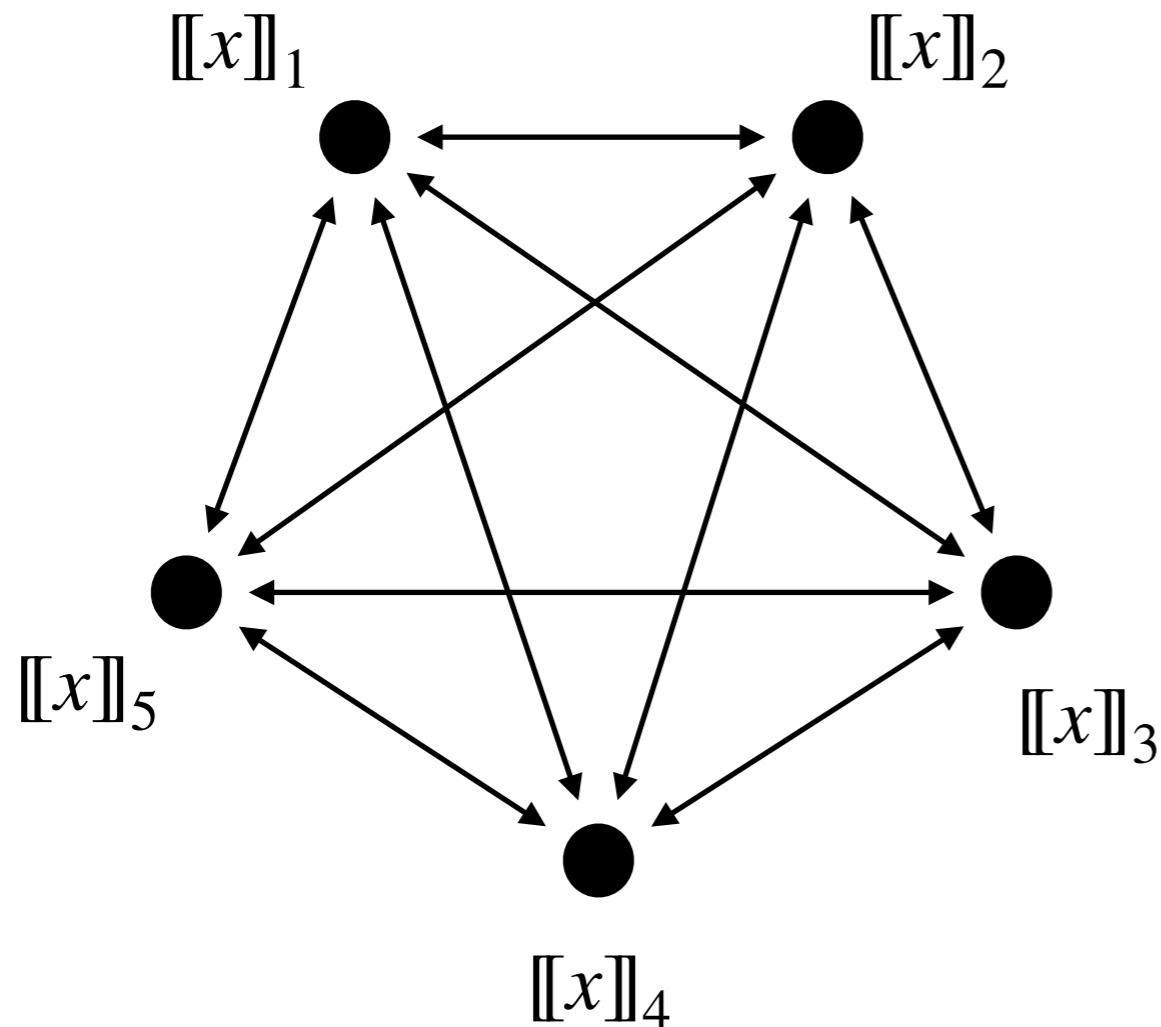
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**MPC-in-the-Head transform**

Zero-knowledge proof



# MPC model



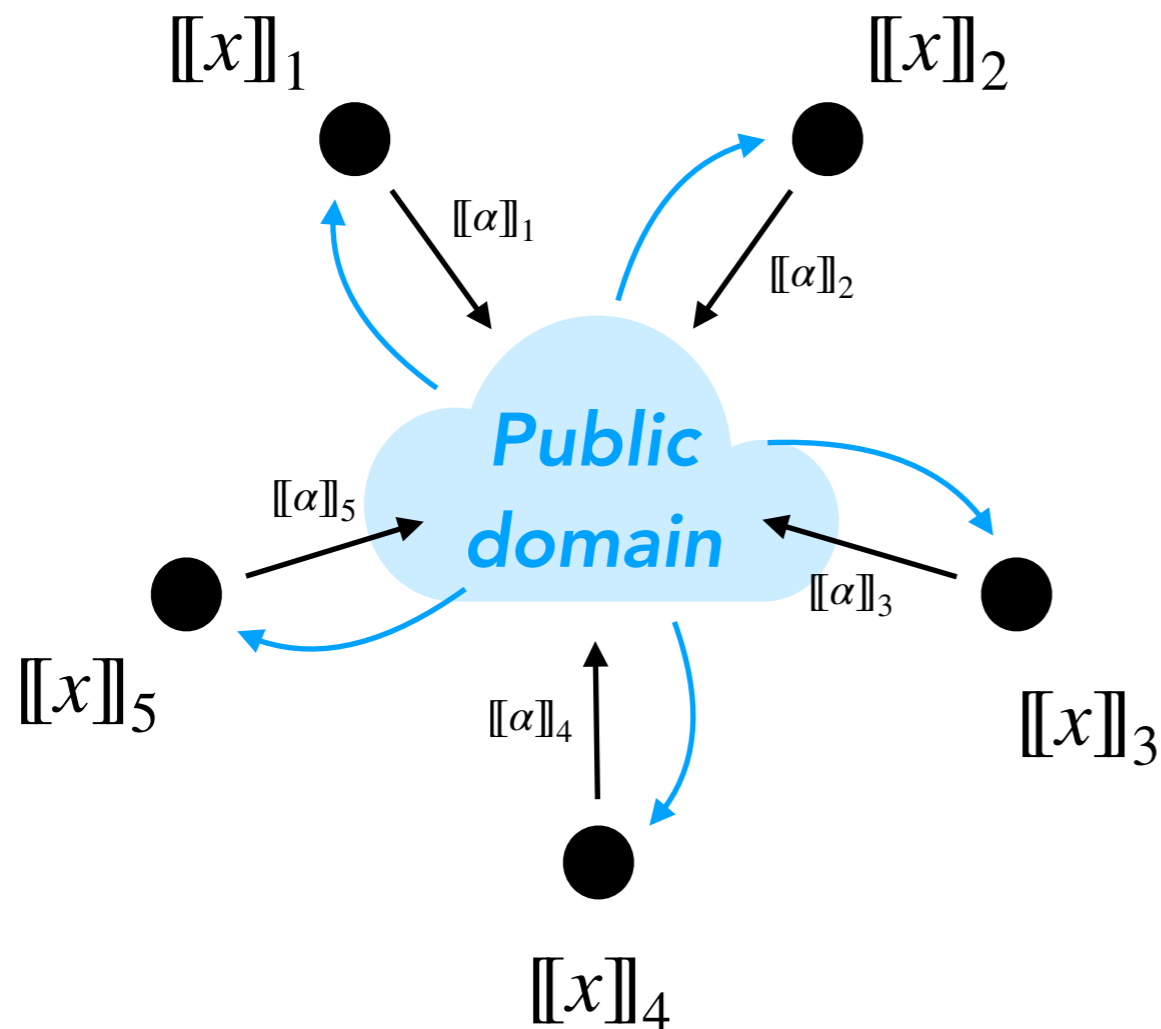
$[[x]]$  is a linear secret sharing of  $x$

- Jointly compute

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- $\ell$ -private
- Semi-honest model

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- $\ell$ -private
- Semi-honest model
- *Broadcast model*

# MPCitH transform

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Prover

Verifier

# MPCitH transform

- ① Generate and commit shares  
 $[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$

$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}([[x]]_1)$   
⋮  
 $\text{Com}^{\rho_N}([[x]]_N)$

Prover

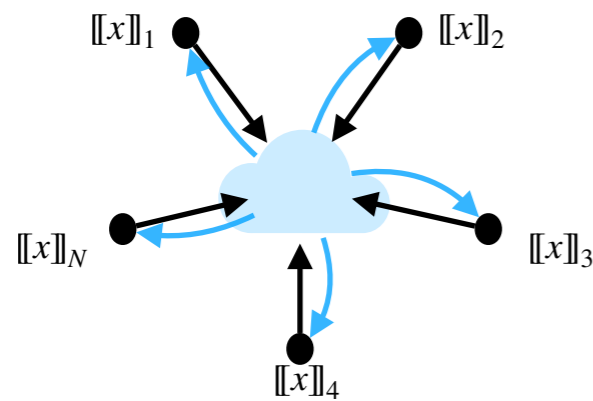
Verifier

# MPCitH transform

- ① Generate and commit shares

$$[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$$

- ② Run MPC in their head



Prover

$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}([[x]]_1)$

$\dots$   
 $\text{Com}^{\rho_N}([[x]]_N)$

send broadcast

$[[a]]_1, \dots, [[a]]_N$

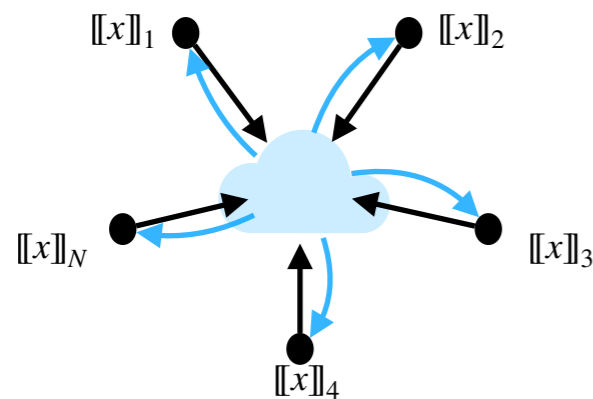
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Prover

$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}([[x]]_1)$

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send broadcast

$[[\alpha]]_1, \dots, [[\alpha]]_N$

$I$

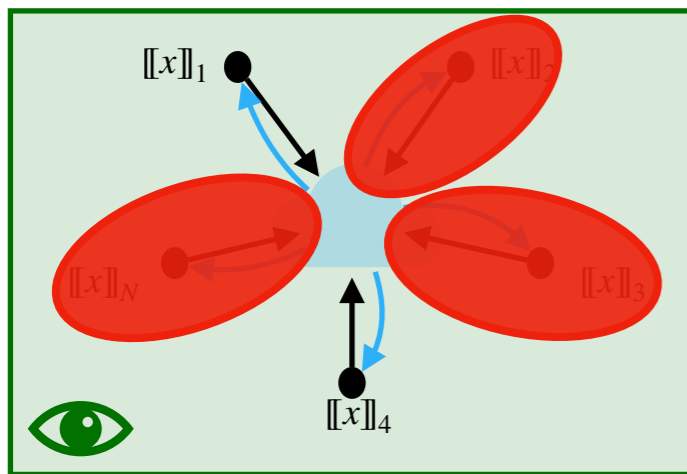
③ Choose a random set of parties  
 $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, N\}$ , s.t.  $|I| = \ell$ .

Verifier

# MPCitH transform

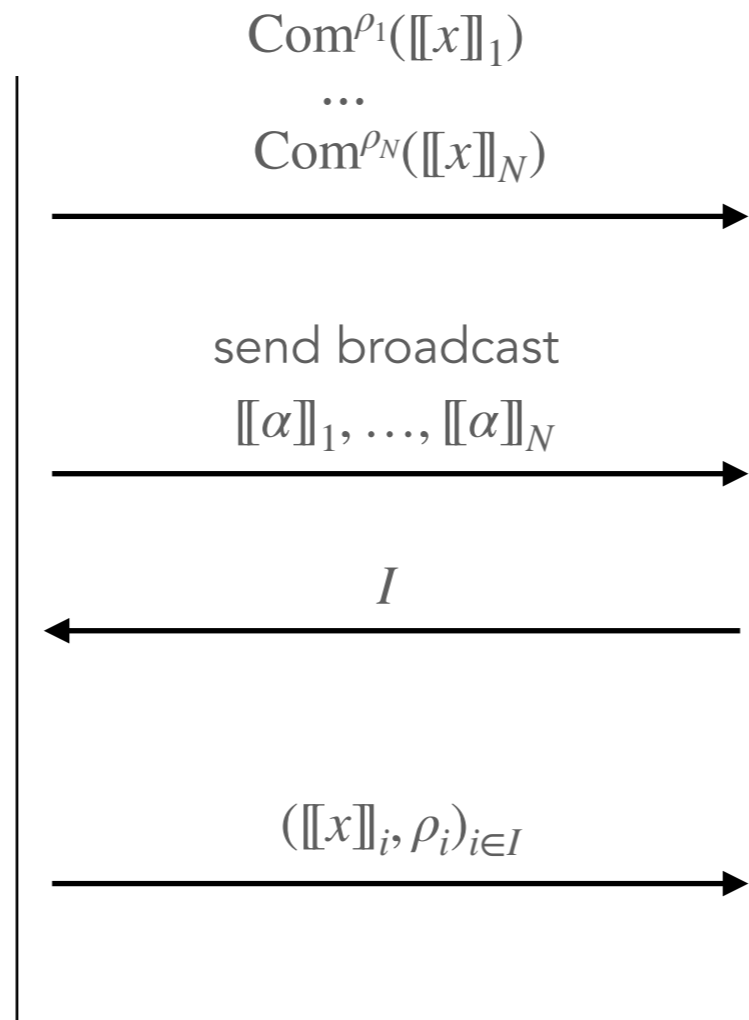
① Generate and commit shares  
 $[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$

② Run MPC in their head



④ Open parties in  $I$

Prover



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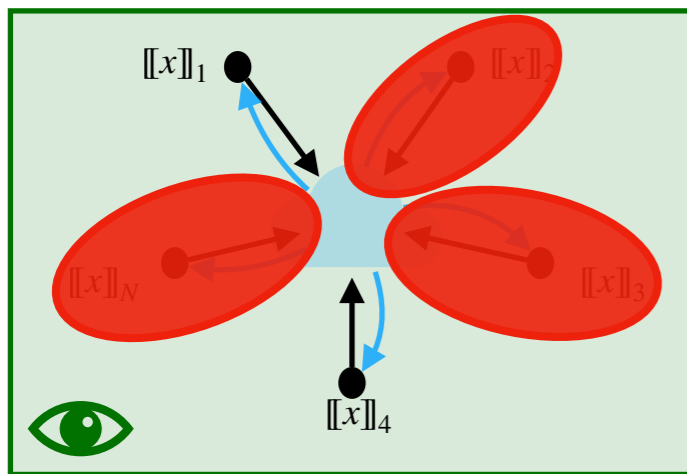
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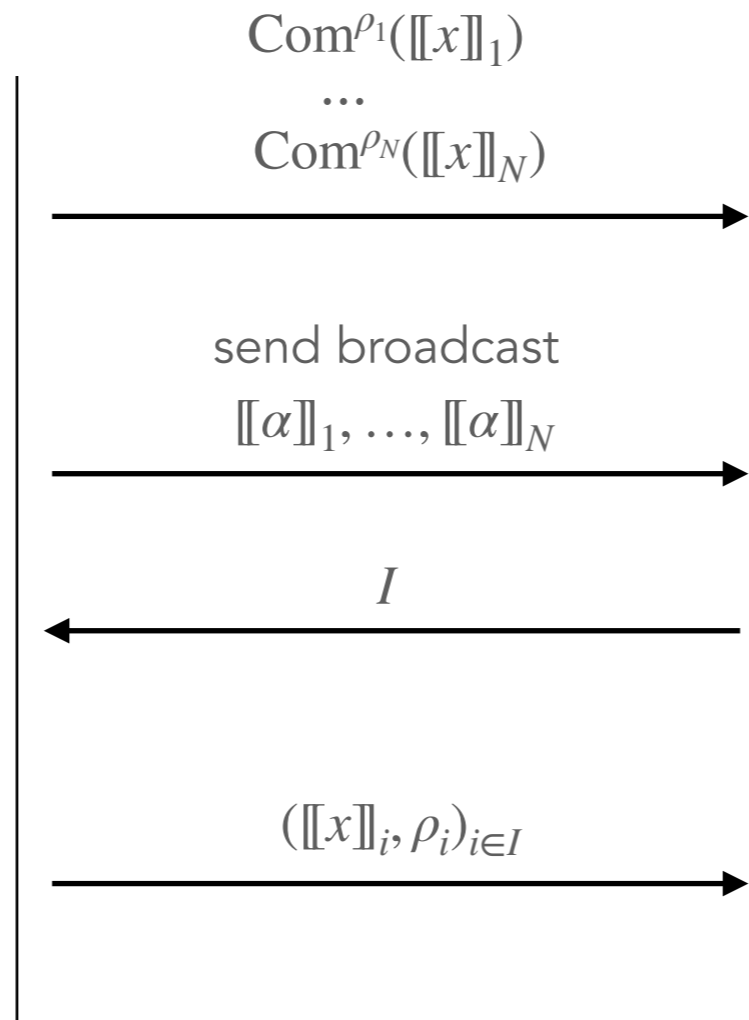
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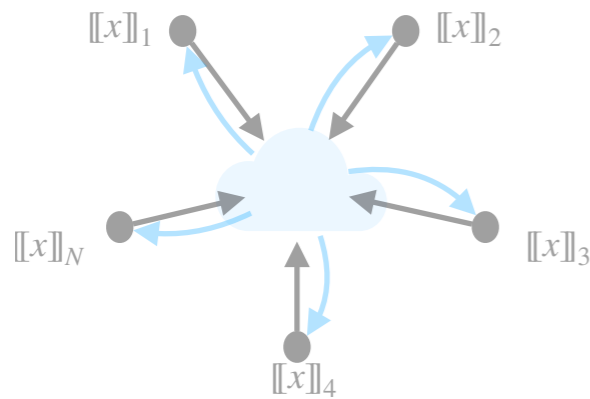
⑤ Check  $\forall i \in I$   
 - Commitments  $Com^{\rho_i}([[x]]_i)$   
 - MPC computation  $[[\alpha]]_i = \varphi([[x]]_i)$   
 Check  $g(y, \alpha) = \text{Accept}$

Verifier

# MPCitH transform: with additive sharing

① Generate and commit shares  
 $[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$

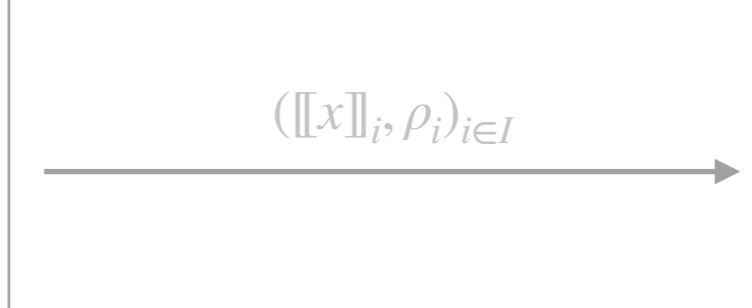
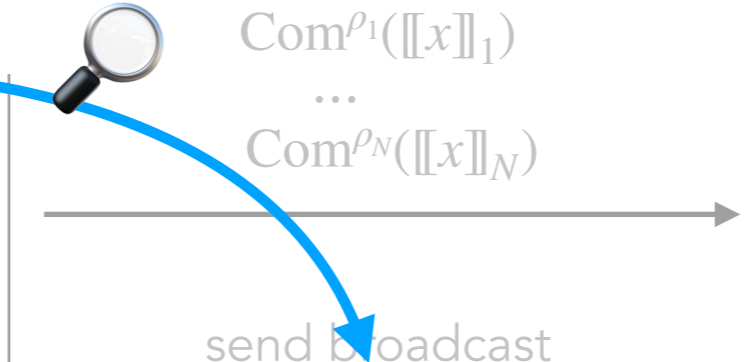
② Run MPC in their head



④ Open parties in  $I$

Prover

Additive sharing:  
 $x = [[x]]_1 + \dots + [[x]]_N$



③ Choose a random set of parties  
 $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, N\}$ , s.t.  $|I| = \ell$ .

⑤ Check  $\forall i \in I$

- Commitments  $\text{Com}^{\rho_i}([[x]]_i)$
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Check  $g(y, \alpha) = \text{Accept}$

Verifier

# MPCitH transform: with additive sharing

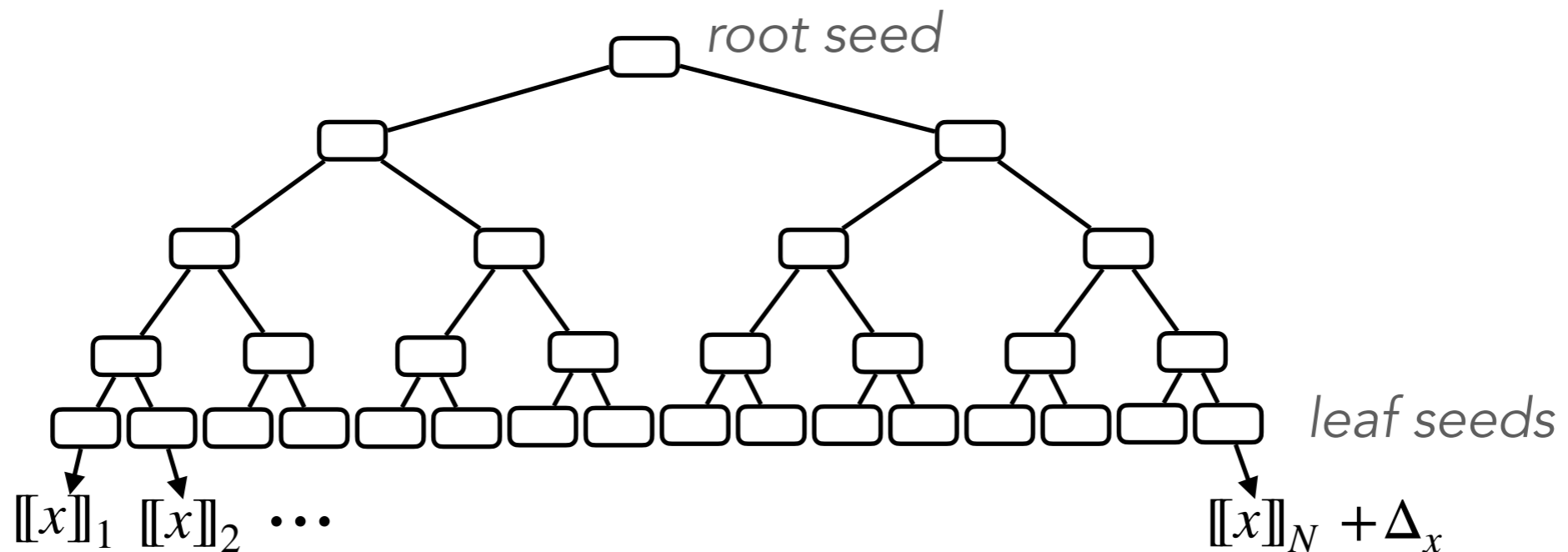
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 $[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$

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- ② Run MPC in their head

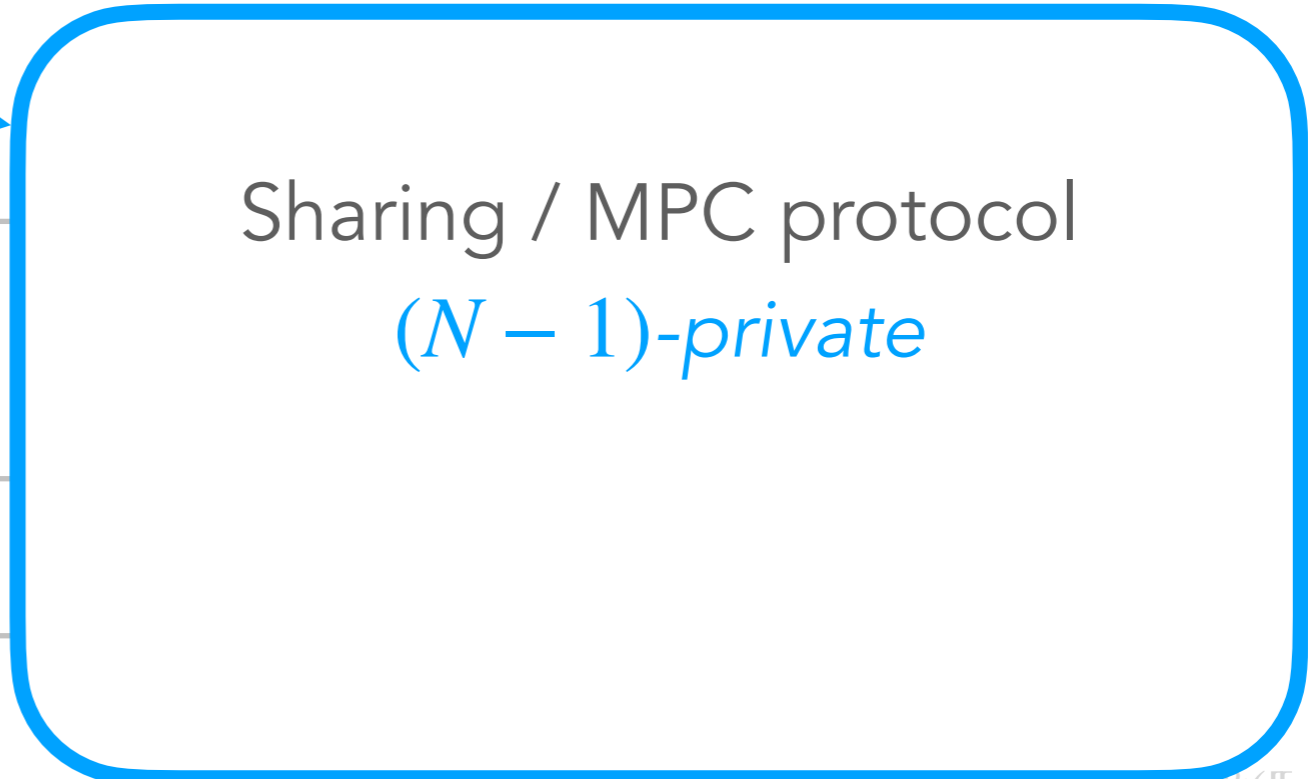
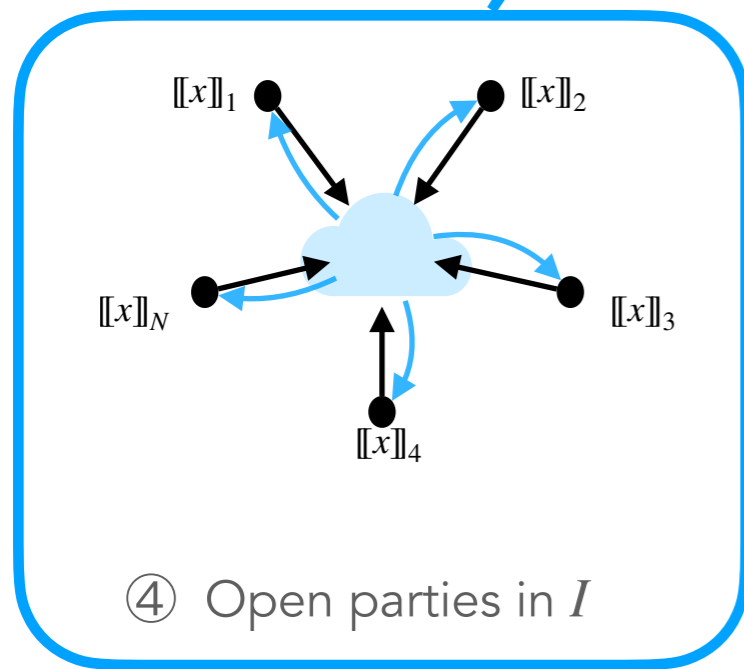
Generated using a GGM seed tree [KKW18]:



# MPCitH transform: with additive sharing

① Generate and commit shares  
 $[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$

② Run MPC in their head



parties  
 $\ell$ .

$([[x]]_i, \rho_i)_{i \in I}$

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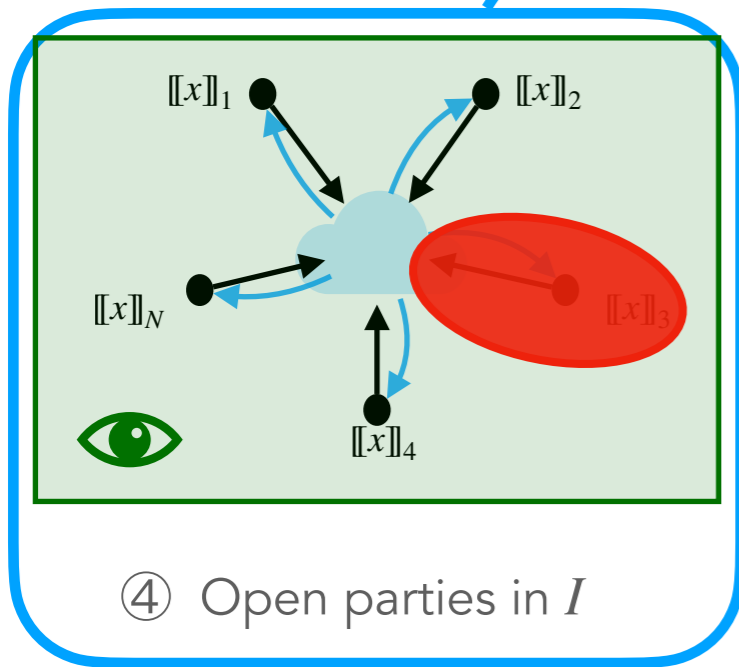
Prover

Verifier

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Prover

Sharing / MPC protocol  
*(N - 1)-private*

parties  
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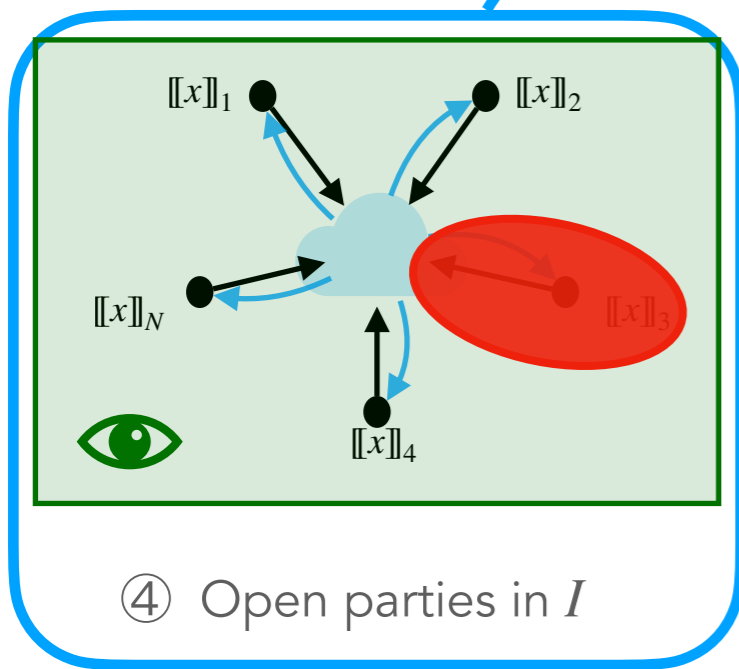
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Sharing / MPC protocol  
*(N - 1)-private*

$\Rightarrow$  soundness error =  $\frac{1}{N}$

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$([[x]]_i, \rho_i)_{i \in I}$

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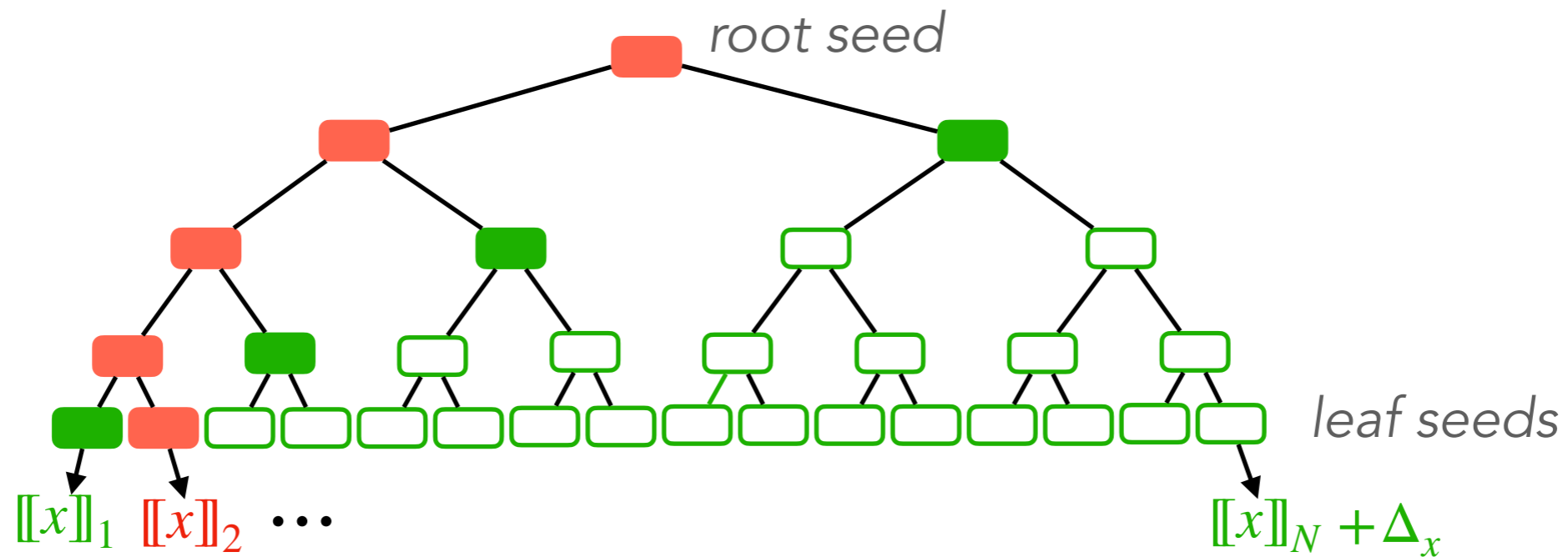
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$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}([[x]]_1)$   
 $\dots$   
 $\text{Com}^{\rho_N}([[x]]_N)$

Only  $\log_2 N$  seeds to be revealed:



es  
ties  
  
 $([[x]]_i)$   
 $\varphi([[x]]_i)$

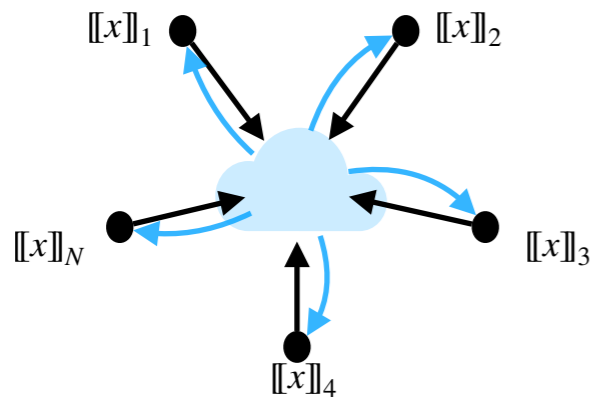
# TC-in-the-Head framework (with Merkle trees)



# Threshold Computation in the Head

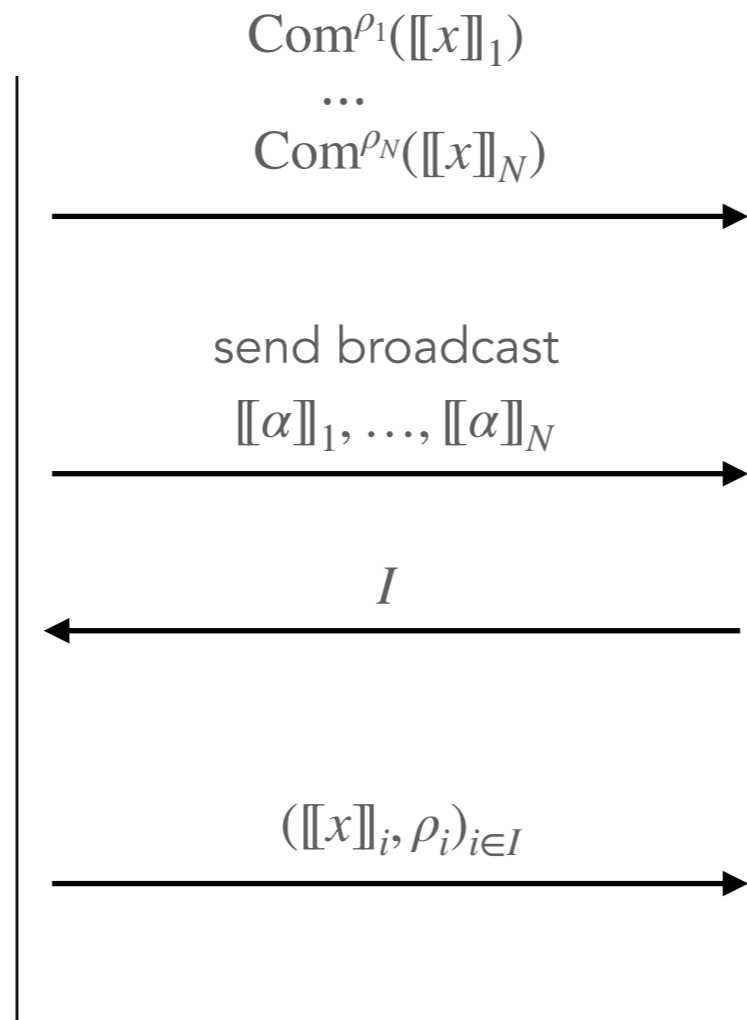
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② Run MPC in their head



④ Open parties in  $I$

Prover



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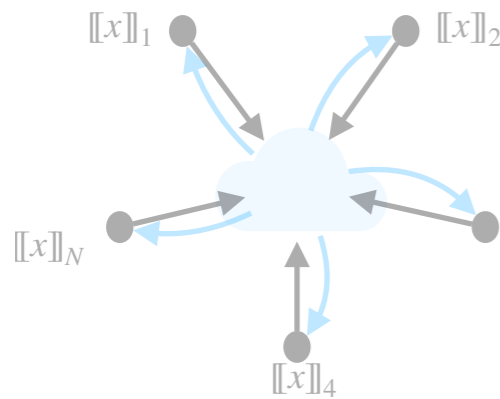
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# Threshold Computation in the Head

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 $\dots$   
 $\text{Com}^{\rho_N}([[x]]_N)$

- ② Run MPC in their head



Shamir secret sharing:

$$[[x]]_i := P(e_i) \quad \forall i$$

$$\text{for } P(X) := x + r_1 \cdot X + \dots + r_\ell \cdot X^\ell$$

a set of parties  
 $I$  s.t.  $|I| = \ell$ .

$\text{Com}^{\rho_i}([[x]]_i)$   
 a decommitment  $[[\alpha]]_i = \varphi([[x]]_i)$   
 accept

- ④ Open parties in  $I$

Prover

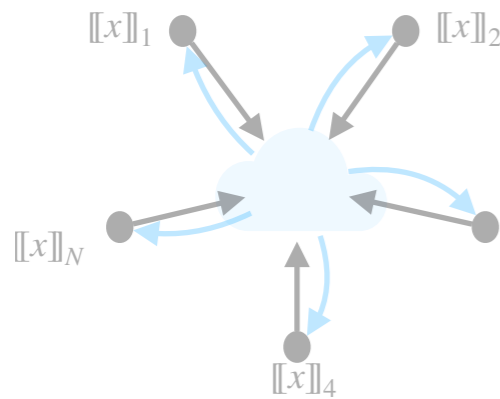
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$\Rightarrow \ell$ -privacy

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Prover

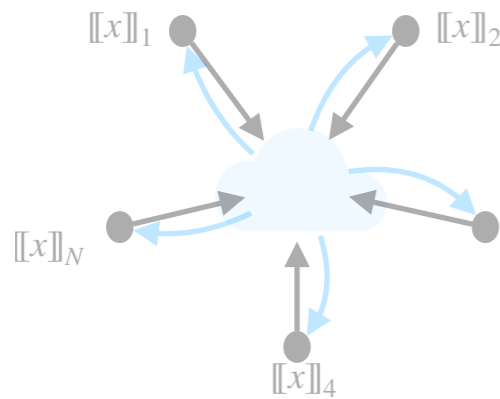
Verifier

# Threshold Computation in the Head

- ① Generate and commit shares  
 $\llbracket x \rrbracket = (\llbracket x \rrbracket_1, \dots, \llbracket x \rrbracket_N)$

$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}(\llbracket x \rrbracket_1)$   
 $\dots$   
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- ② Run MPC in their head



Shamir secret sharing:

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket_i := P(e_i) \quad \forall i$$

$$\text{for } P(X) := x + r_1 \cdot X + \dots + r_\ell \cdot X^\ell$$

$\Rightarrow \ell$ -privacy

We use  $\ell \ll N$  (e.g.  $\ell = 1$ )

any set of parties  
 of size  $\ell$ .  $|I| = \ell$ .

$\text{Com}^{\rho_i}(\llbracket x \rrbracket_i)$   
 decommitment  $\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket_i = \varphi(\llbracket x \rrbracket_i)$   
 accept

Prover

Verifier

# Threshold Computation in the Head

① Generate and commit shares

$$[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$$

$$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}([[x]]_1)$$

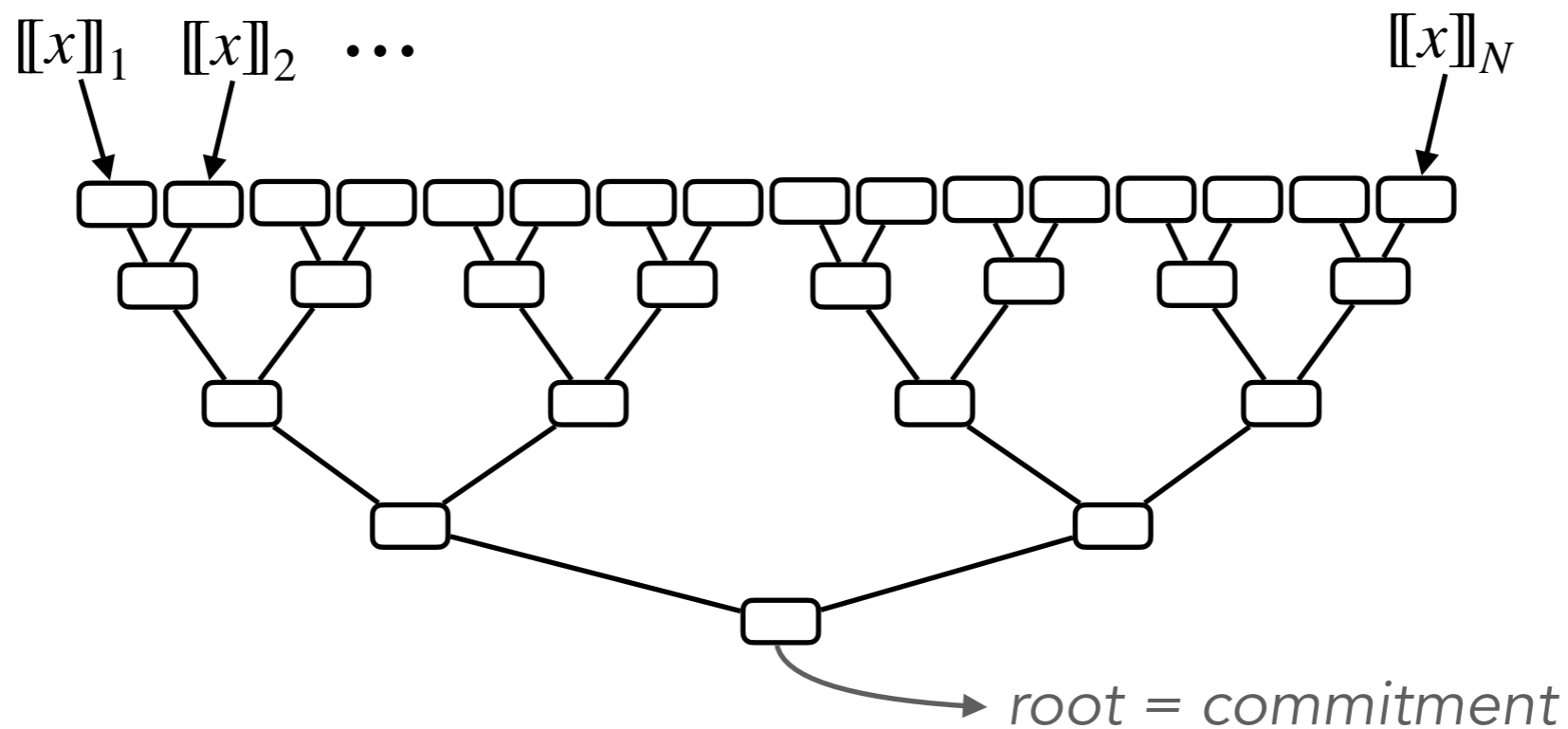
...

$$\text{Com}^{\rho_N}([[x]]_N)$$



② Run MPC in their head

Committed using a Merkle tree:



es

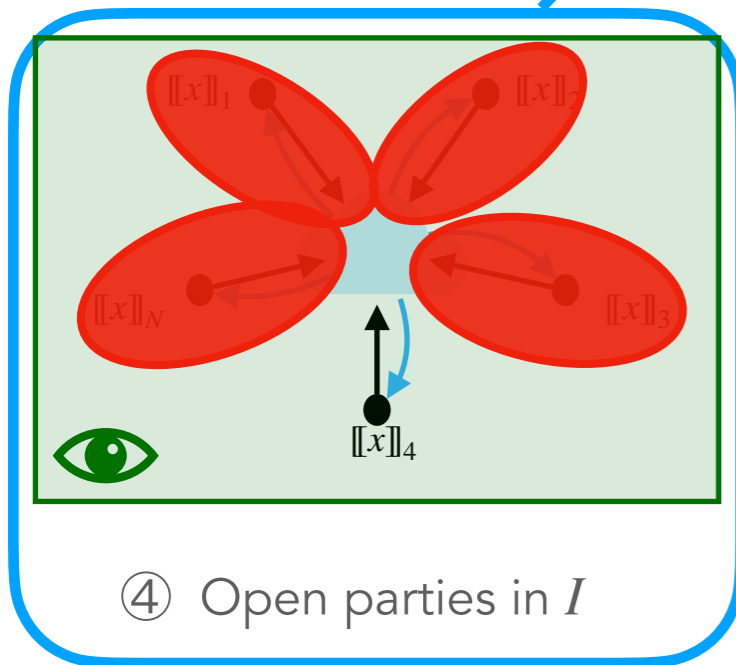
$([[x]]_i)$

# Threshold Computation in the Head

① Generate and commit shares

$$[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$$

② Run MPC in their head



Sharing / MPC protocol  $\ell$ -private

Prover

Verifier

parties

$\ell$ .

$[[x]]_i$

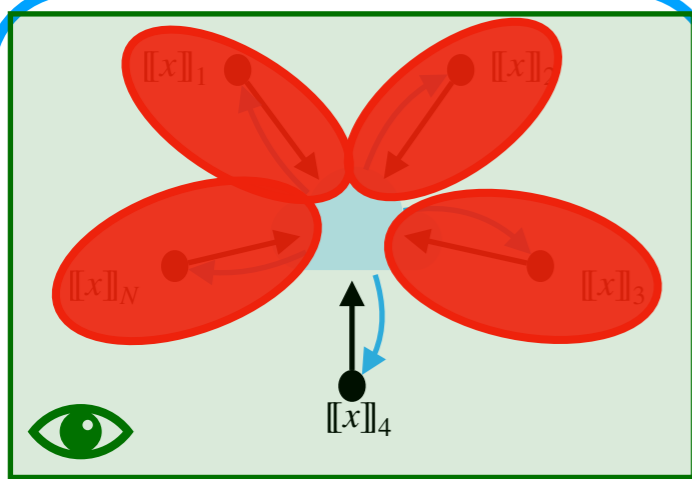
$$= \varphi([[x]]_i)$$

# Threshold Computation in the Head

① Generate and commit shares

$$[[x]] = ([[x]]_1, \dots, [[x]]_N)$$

② Run MPC in their head



④ Open parties in  $I$

Prover

Sharing / MPC protocol  $\ell$ -private

$$\Rightarrow \text{soundness error} = (N - \ell)/N \quad \text{🤔}$$

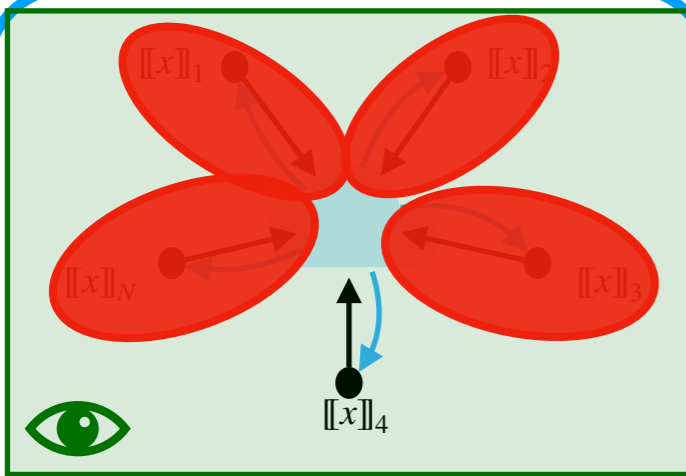
Verifier

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Sharing / MPC protocol  $\ell$ -private

$$\Rightarrow \text{soundness error} = (N - \ell)/N \quad \text{🤔}$$

💡 broadcast messages must be valid Shamir's sharings

Verifier

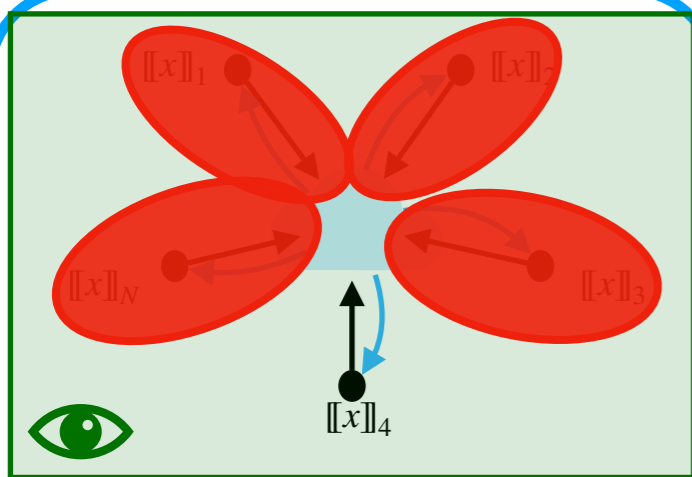


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② Run MPC in their head



④ Open parties in  $I$

Prover

Sharing / MPC protocol  $\ell$ -private

$$\Rightarrow \text{soundness error} = (N - \ell) / N \quad \text{🤔}$$

💡 broadcast messages must be valid Shamir's sharings

$$\Rightarrow \text{soundness error} = \frac{1}{\binom{N}{\ell}} \quad \text{😄}$$

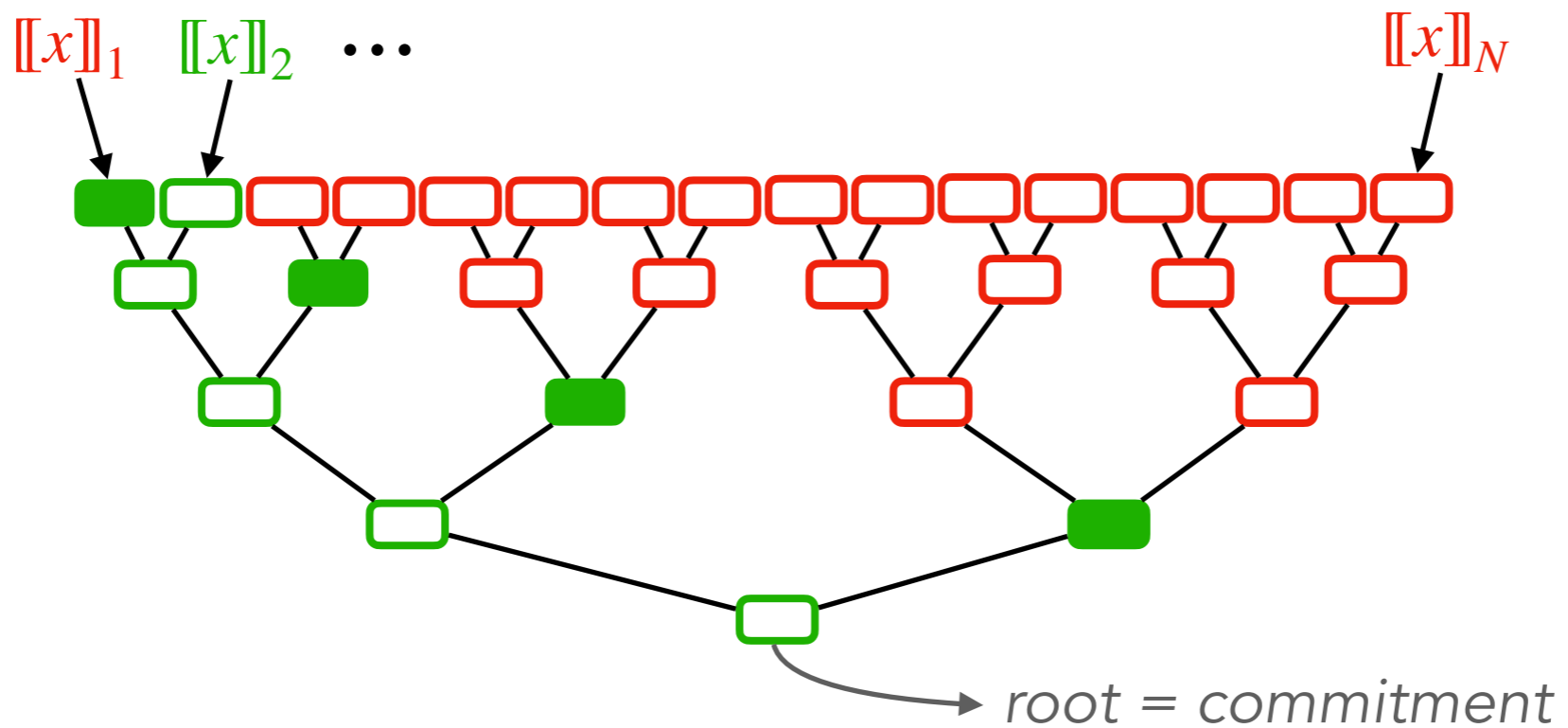
Verifier

# Threshold Computation in the Head

① Generate and commit shares

$\text{Com}^{\rho_1}(\llbracket x \rrbracket_1)$

Only  $\log_2 N$  labels to be revealed:



ties

$\rho(\llbracket x \rrbracket_i)$

# Soundness

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \text{"false positive probability"} \\ &= P[\text{MPC protocol accepts } \llbracket x \rrbracket \text{ while } f(x) \neq y] \end{aligned}$$

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$$\frac{1}{N} + p$$

Soundness error of  
standard MPCitH

# Soundness

$p$  = "false positive probability"  
=  $P[\text{MPC protocol accepts } \llbracket x \rrbracket \text{ while } f(x) \neq y]$

$$\frac{1}{N} + p$$

Soundness error of  
standard MPCitH

hope 🙏

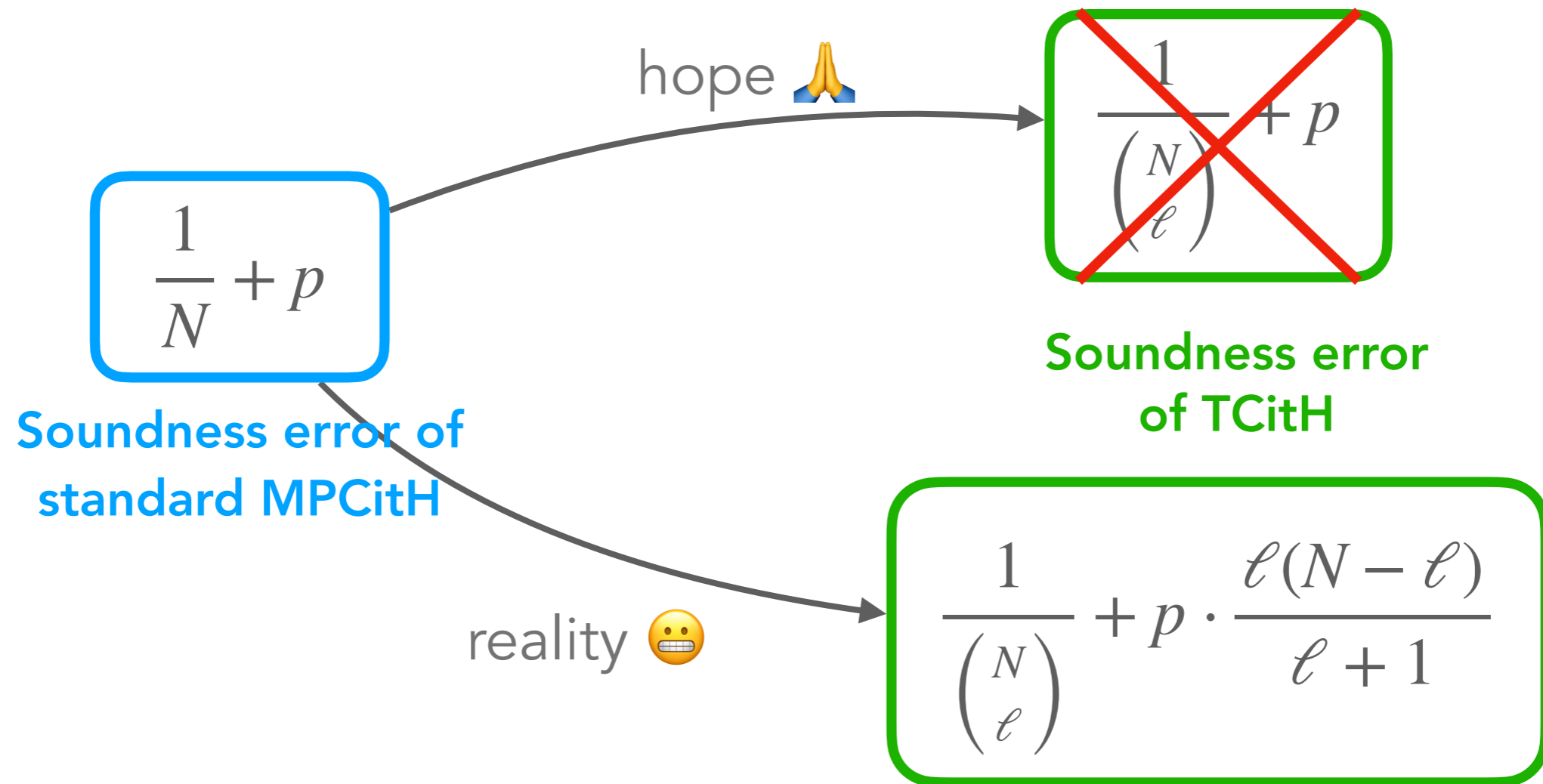
$$\frac{1}{\binom{N}{\ell}} + p$$

Soundness error  
of TCitH

# Soundness

$p$  = "false positive probability"

=  $P[\text{MPC protocol accepts } \llbracket x \rrbracket \text{ while } f(x) \neq y]$



# Soundness



$$\frac{1}{\binom{N}{\ell}} + p \frac{\ell(N - \ell)}{\ell + 1}$$

Why?



# Soundness

$$\frac{1}{\binom{N}{\ell}} + p \frac{\ell(N - \ell)}{\ell + 1}$$

Why?



- Prover can commit invalid sharings
- Let  $\llbracket x \rrbracket^{(J)}$  = sharing interpolating  $(\llbracket x \rrbracket_i)_{i \in J}$
- Many different  $\llbracket x \rrbracket^{(J)} \Rightarrow$  many possible false positives



# Soundness

$$\frac{1}{\binom{N}{\ell}} + p \frac{\ell(N - \ell)}{\ell + 1}$$

Why?



- Prover can commit invalid sharings
- Let  $[[x]]^{(J)}$  = sharing interpolating  $([[x]]_i)_{i \in J}$
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- “Degree-enforcing commitment scheme”
- Verifier  $\rightarrow$  Prover : random  $\{\gamma_j\}$
- Prover  $\rightarrow$  Verifier :  $[[\xi]] = \sum_j \gamma_j \cdot [[x_j]]$
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# TCitH vs. standard MPCitH

---

$\ell = 1 \Rightarrow$  Similar soundness:  $\frac{1}{N} + p$



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Prover runtime	Party emulations $\log N + 1$ Symmetric crypto: $O(N)$	Party emulations $2$ Symmetric crypto: $O(N)$



*fewer party emulations*

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Prover runtime	Party emulations: $\log N + 1$ Symmetric crypto: $O(N)$	Party emulations: 2 Symmetric crypto: $O(N)$
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Size of tree	128-bit security: ~2KB 256-bit security: ~8KB	128-bit security: ~4KB 256-bit security: ~16KB



$\times 2$



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Size of tree	128-bit security: ~2KB 256-bit security: ~8KB	128-bit security: ~4KB 256-bit security: ~16KB
Number of parties	<p>Getting rid of these limitations</p> <p><math>\rightarrow</math> TCitH with GGM tree <math>N \leq  \mathbb{F} </math></p>	

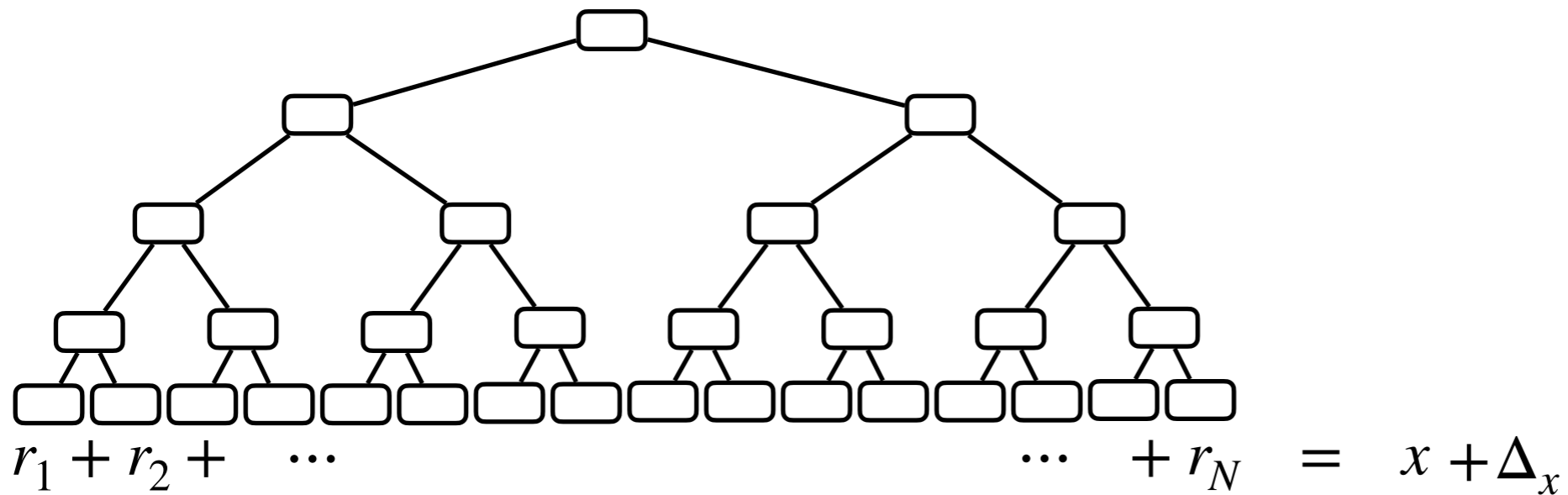


# TC-in-the-Head framework with GGM trees

# TCitH with GGM trees

Step 1: Generate a replicated secret sharing [ISN89]

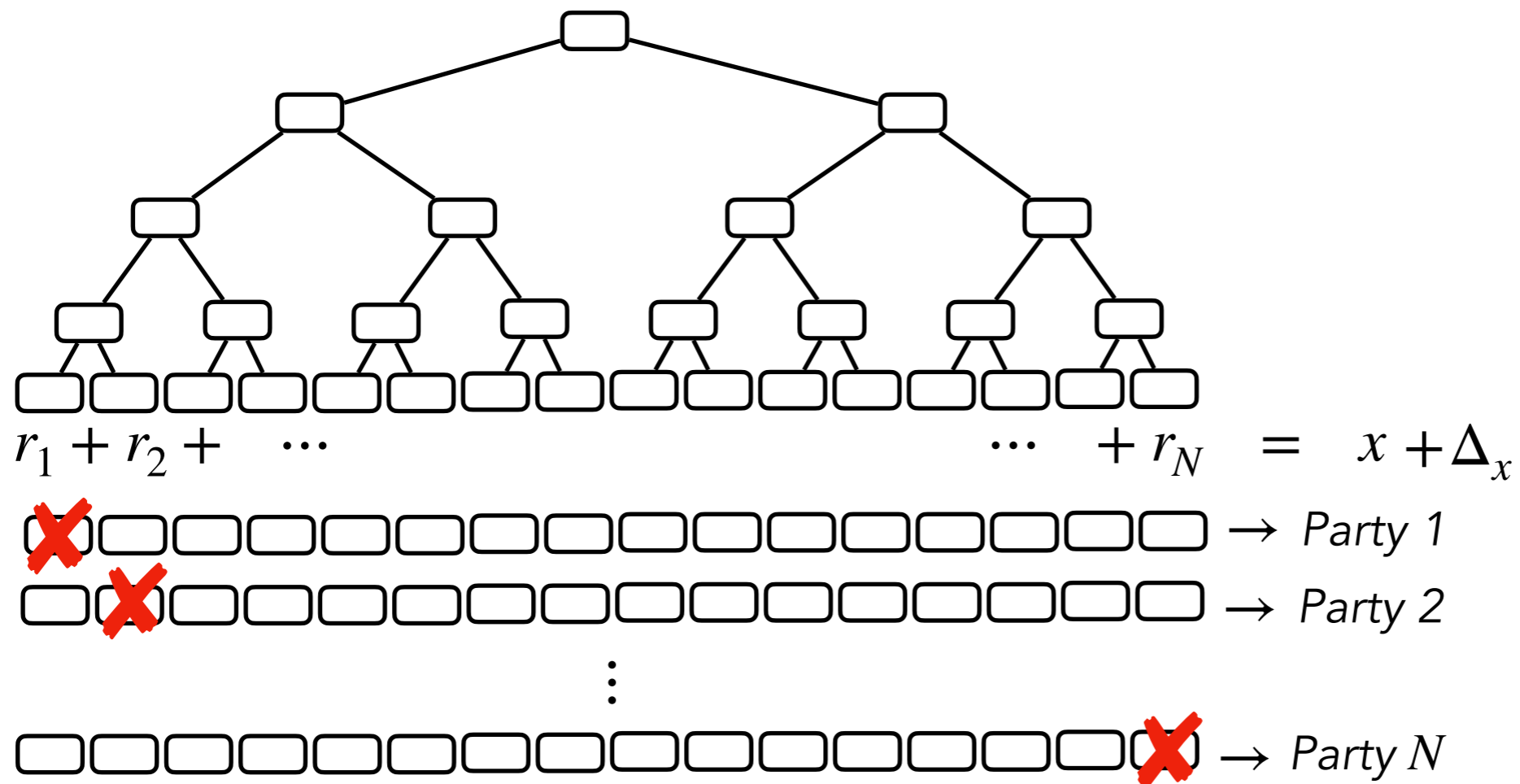
$$x = r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_N$$



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# TCitH with GGM trees

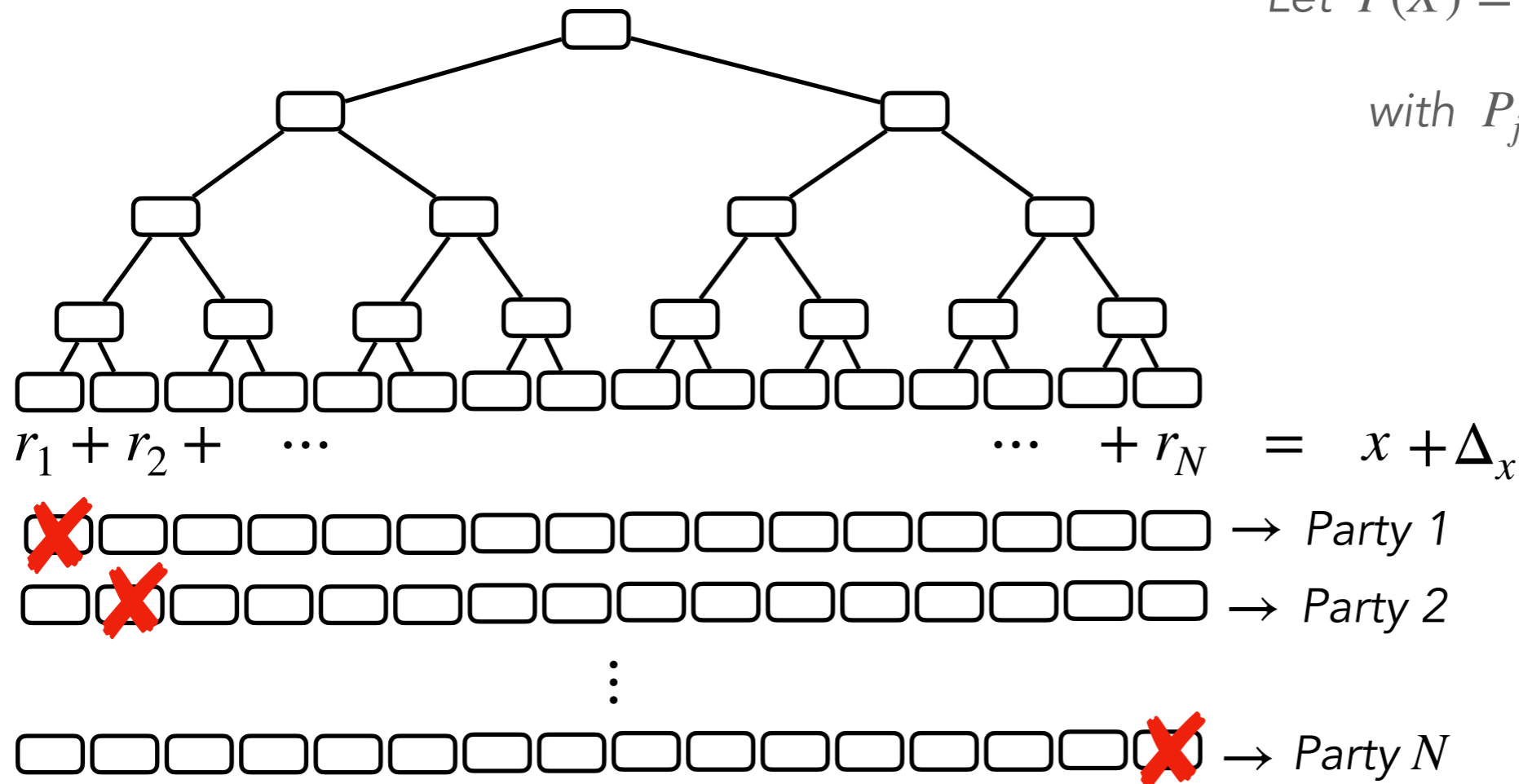
*Step 1: Generate a replicated secret sharing [ISN89]*

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$$\text{Let } P(X) = \Delta_x + \sum_j r_j P_j(X)$$

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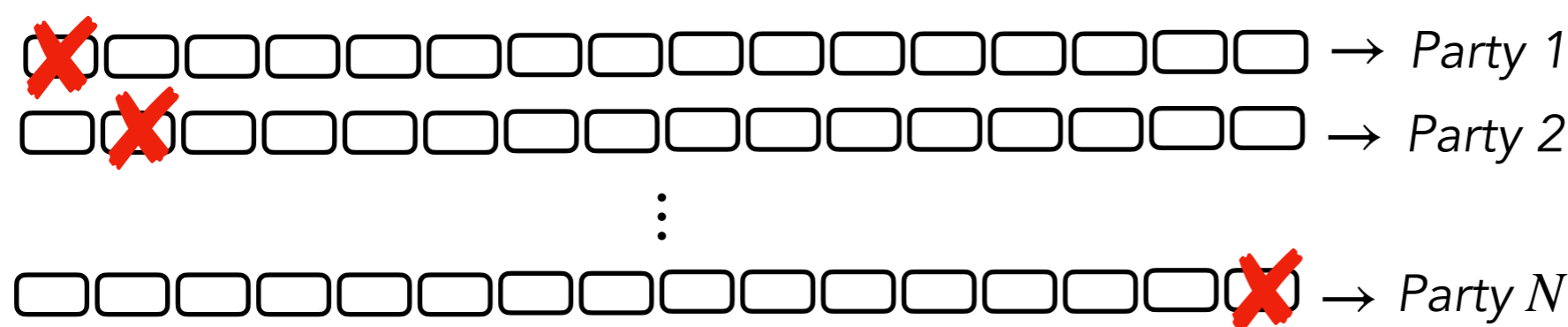
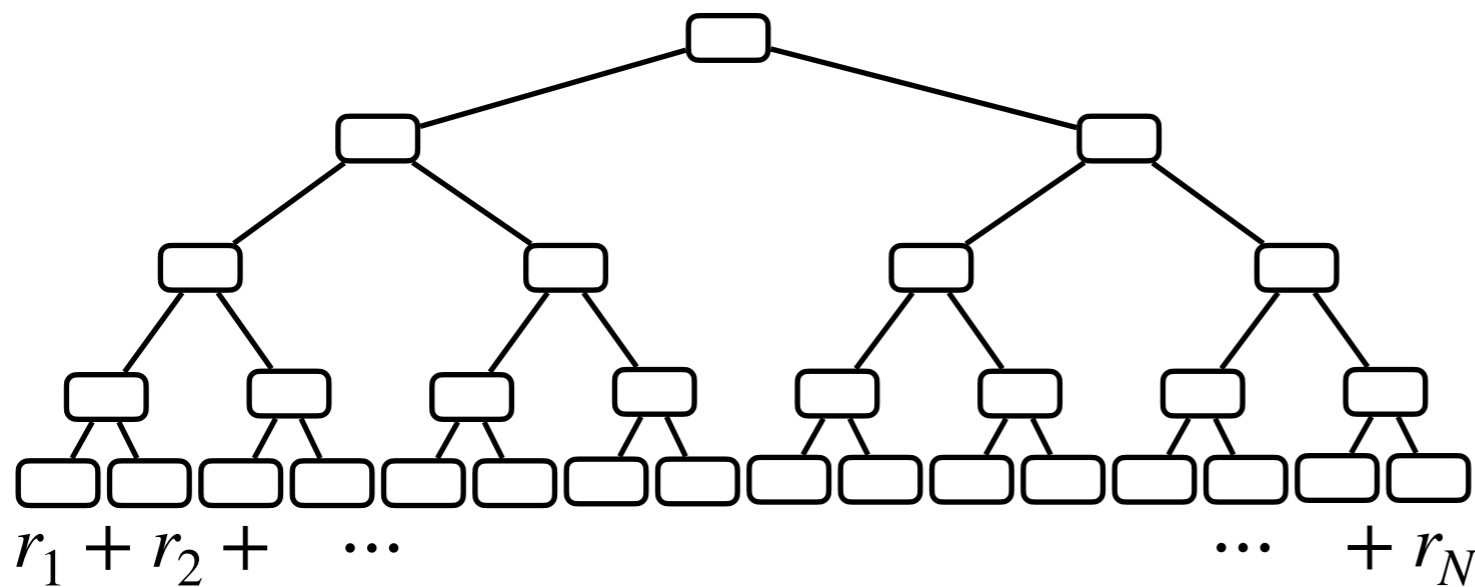
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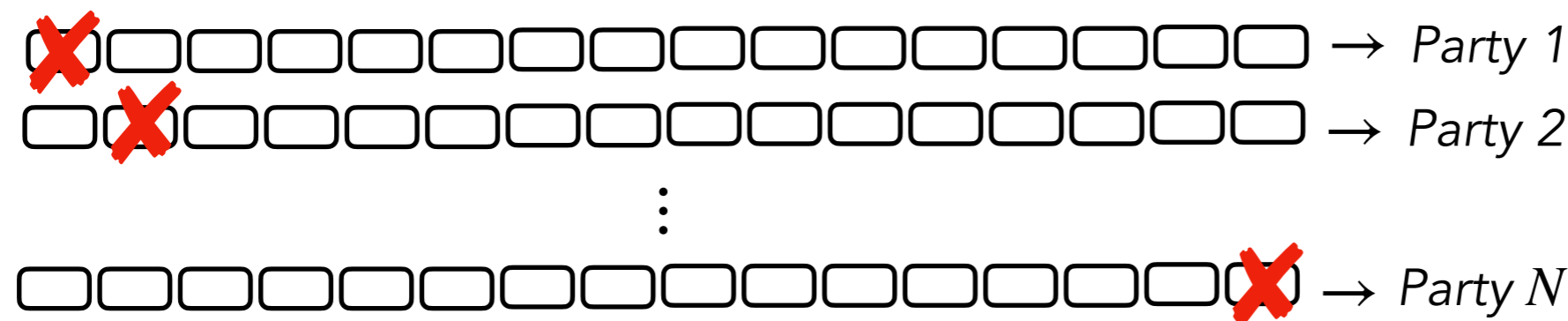
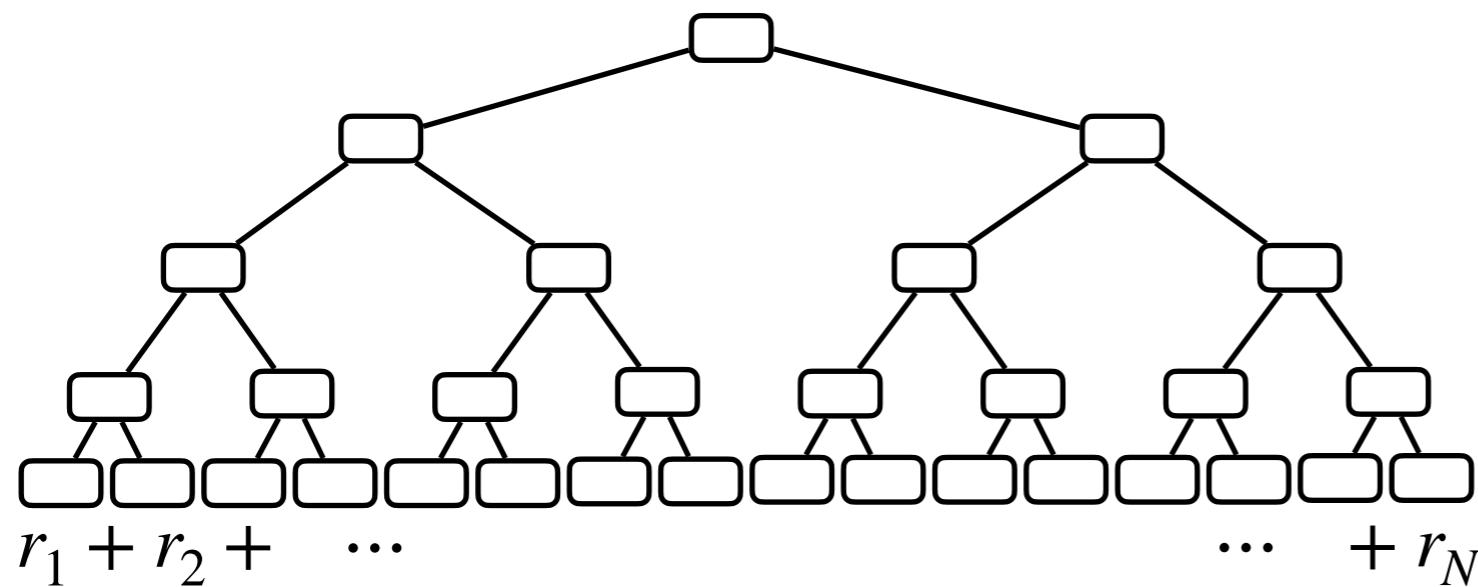
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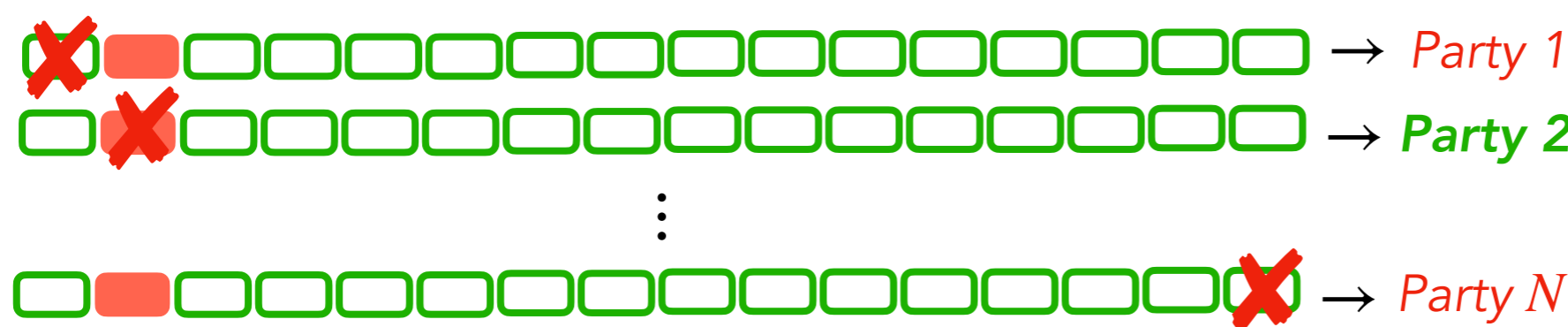
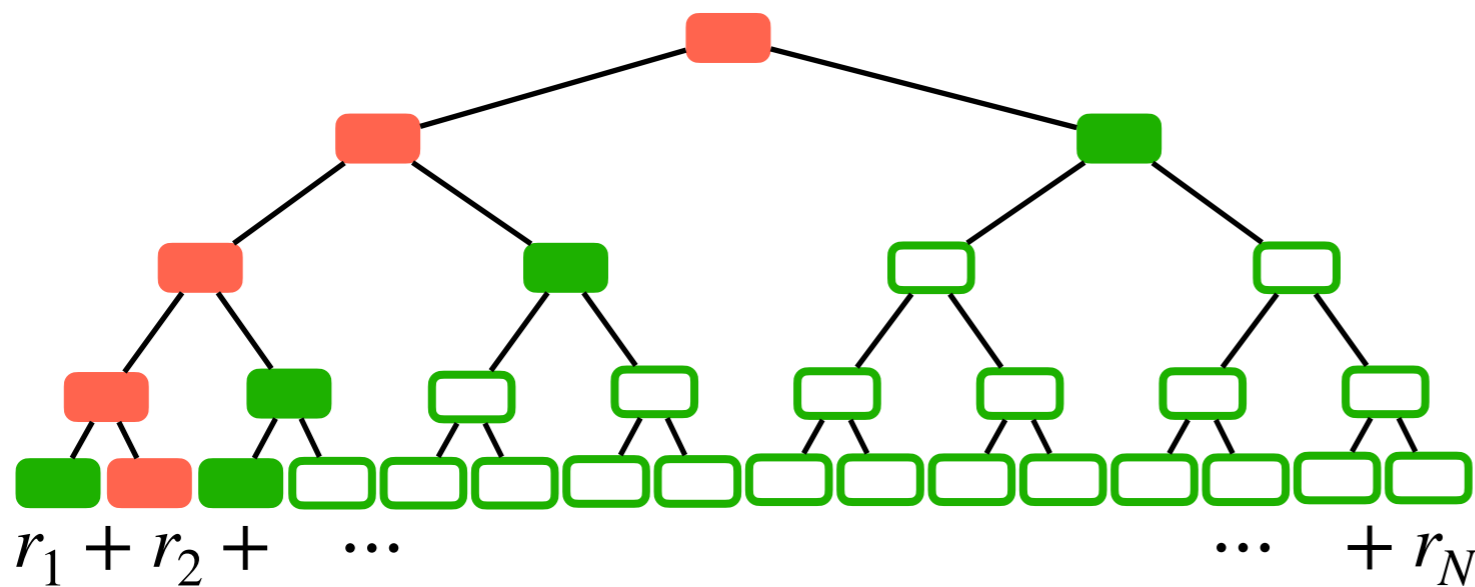
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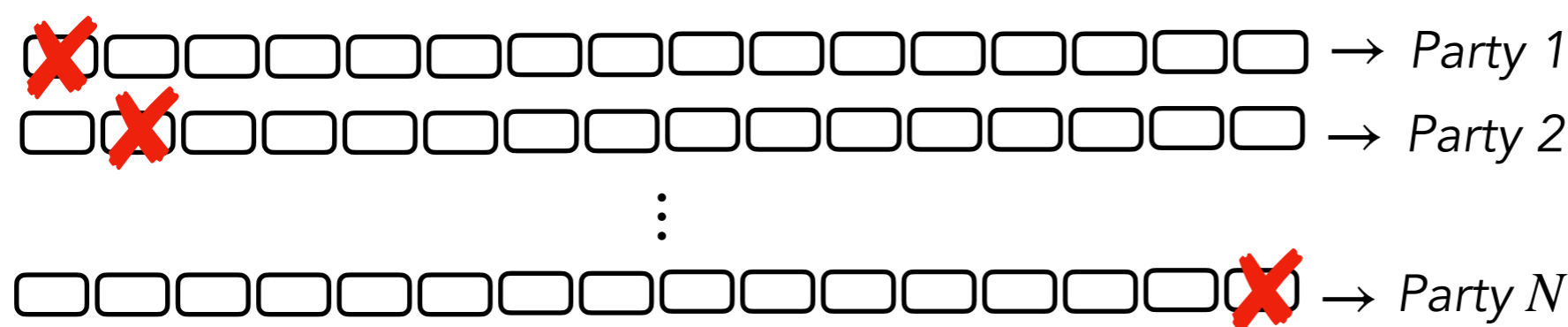
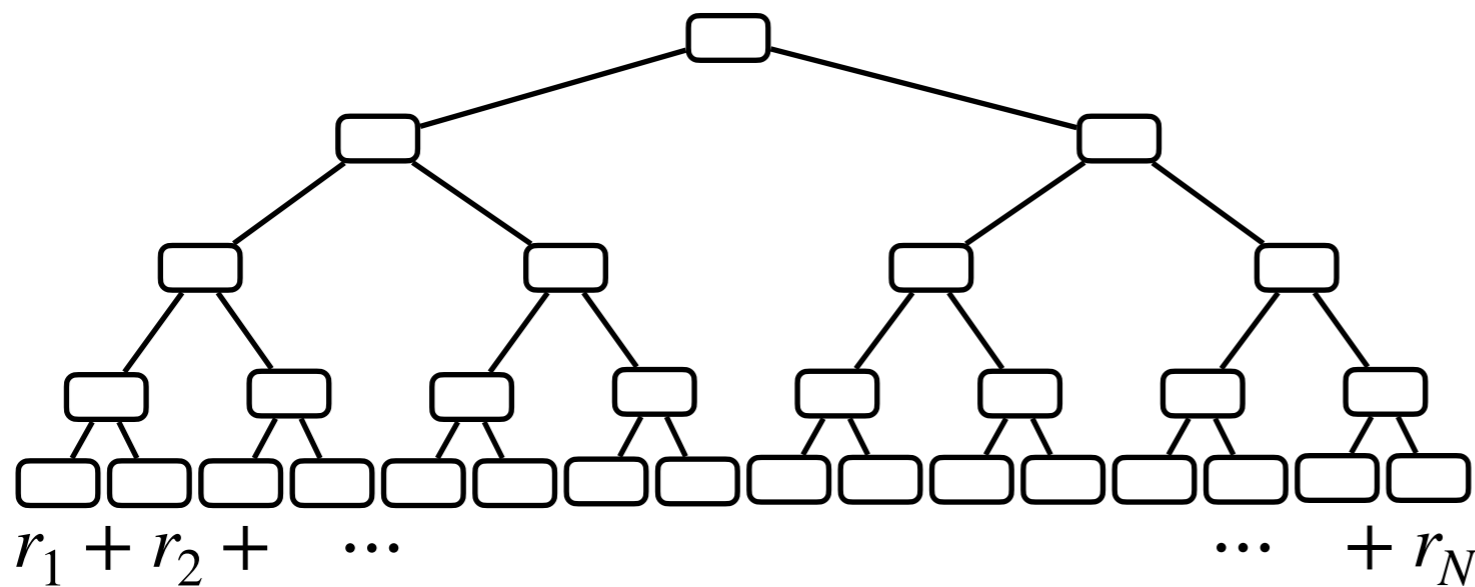
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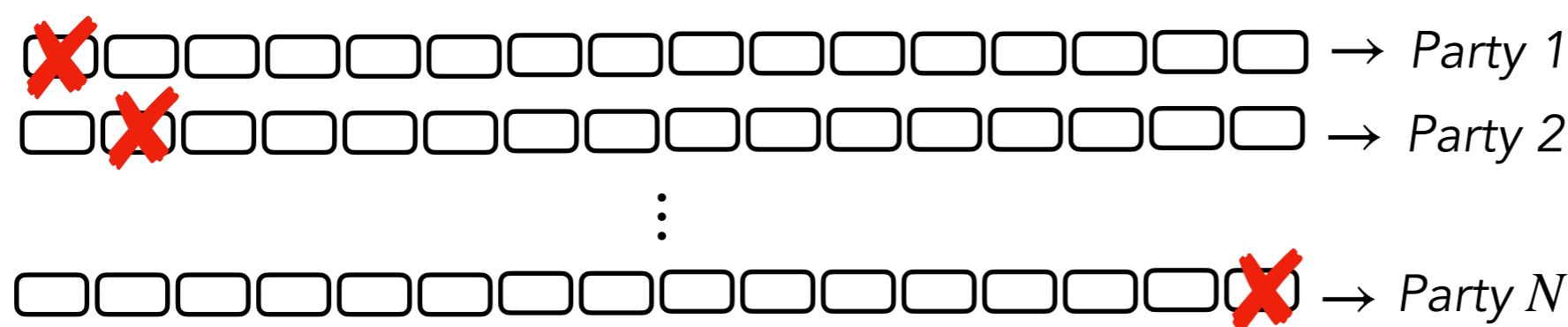
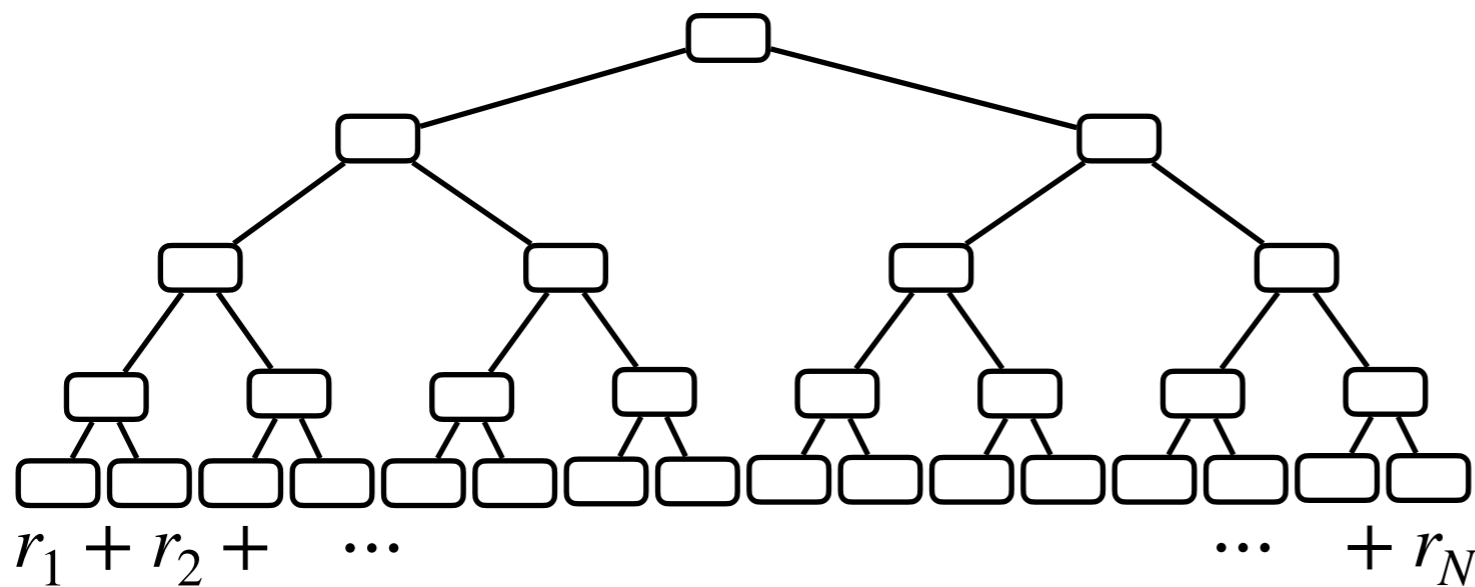
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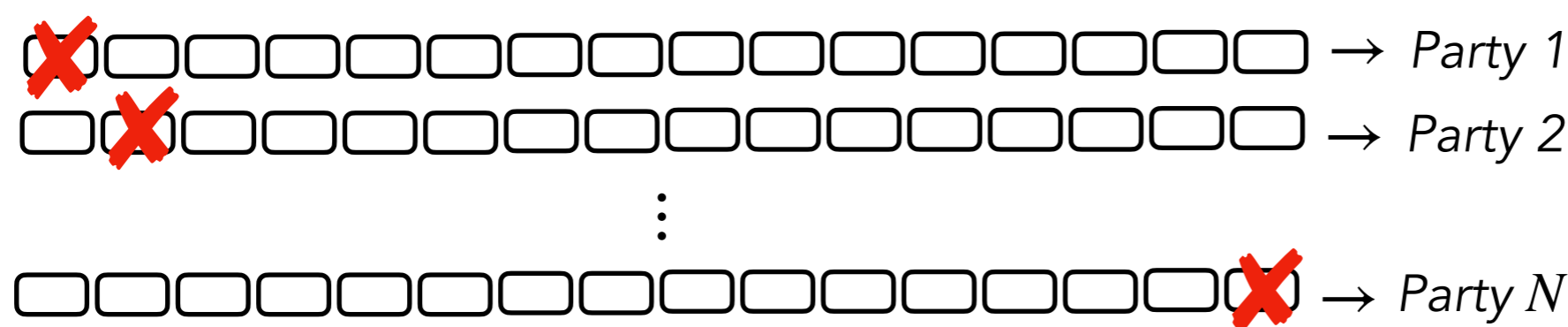
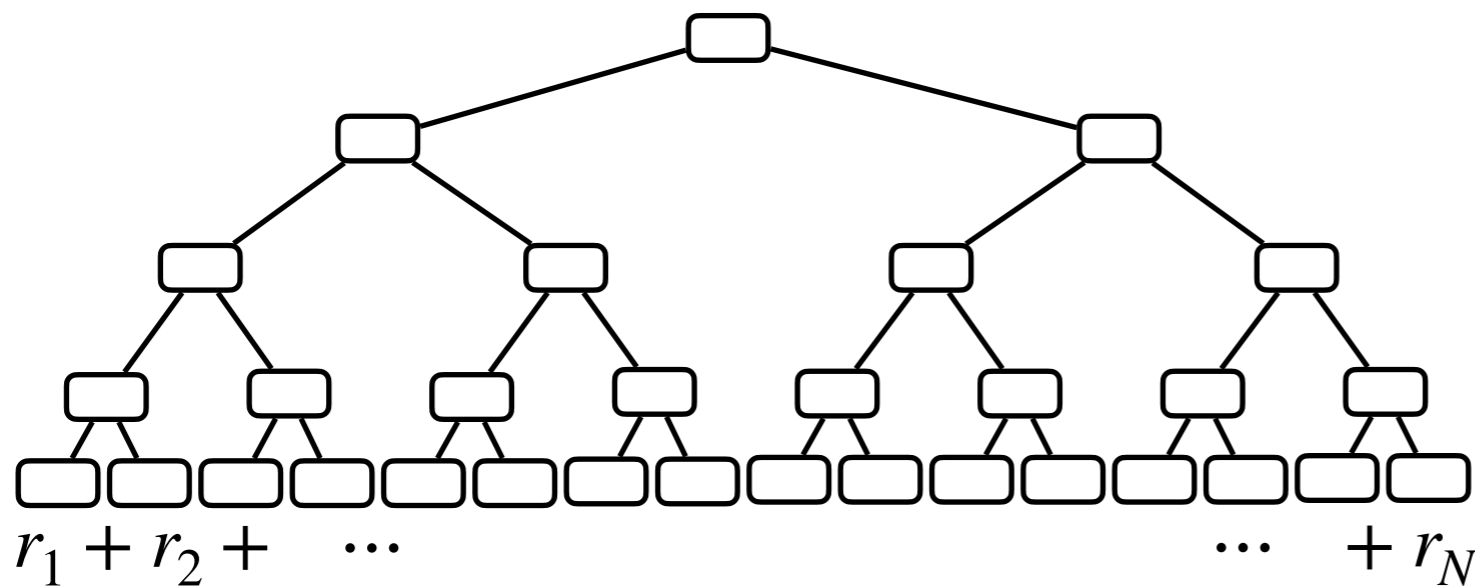
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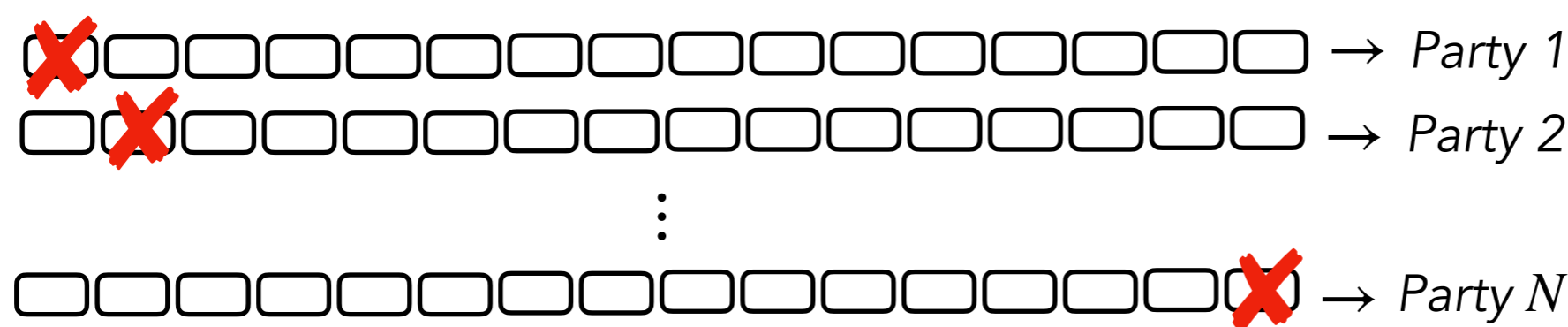
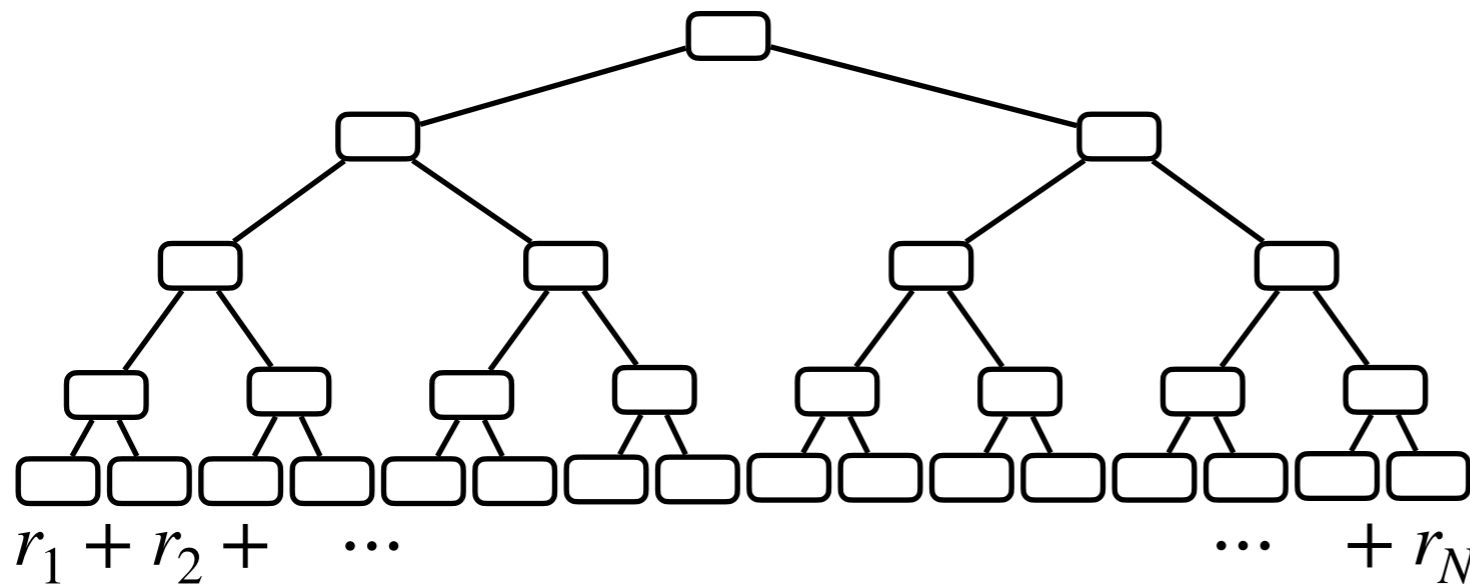
🌲 Size of GGM tree

😊 Good soundness (only valid sharings)

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 Loose fast verification

# Speedups for MPCitH candidates

	Additive MPCitH		TCitH (GGM tree)	
	Traditional (ms)	Hypercube (ms)	TCitH (ms)	Saving
<i>Party emulations / repetition</i>	$N$	$1 + \log_2 N$	2	

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AIMer	4.53	3.22	3.22	-0 %
Biscuit	17.71	4.65	4.24	-16 %
MIRA	384.26	20.11	9.89	-51 %
MiRitH-Ia	54.15	6.60	5.42	-18 %
MiRitH-Ib	89.50	8.66	6.66	-23 %
MQOM-31	96.41	11.27	8.74	-21 %
MQOM-251	44.11	7.56	5.97	-21 %
RYDE	12.41	4.65	4.65	-0 %
SDitH-256	78.37	7.23	5.31	-27 %
SDitH-251	19.15	7.53	6.44	-14 %

- Comparison based on a generic MPCitH library ( libmpcith)
- Code for MPC protocols fetched from the submission packages

Using multiplication  
homomorphism  
& packed secret sharing

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$$[[\alpha]] = \underbrace{[[v]]}_{\text{pre-committed sharing of 0}} + \sum_{j=1}^m \underbrace{\gamma_j}_{\text{randomness from the verifier}} f_j([[w]])$$



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check  $\alpha = 0$   
false positive proba  $1/|\mathbb{F}|$

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$$\frac{\binom{d_\alpha}{\ell}}{\binom{N}{\ell}} + p$$

Soundness error

# Using multiplication homomorphism

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Here:  $\ell \cdot \deg f_j$   $\left(\frac{1}{|\mathbb{F}|}\right)^{\#\alpha}$

- Simple protocol to verify polynomial constraints

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## Shorter signatures for MPCitH-based candidates

	<i>Original Size</i>	<i>Our Variant</i>	<i>Saving</i>
Biscuit	4 758 B	4 048 B	-15 %
MIRA	5 640 B	5 340 B	-5 %
MiRitH-Ia	5 665 B	4 694 B	-17 %
MiRitH-Ib	6 298 B	5 245 B	-17 %
MQOM-31	6 328 B	4 027 B	-37 %
MQOM-251	6 575 B	4 257 B	-35 %
RYDE	5 956 B	5 281 B	-11 %
SDitH	8 241 B	7 335 B	-27 %
MQ over GF(4)	8 609 B	3 858 B	-55 %
SD over GF(2)	11 160 B	7 354 B	-34 %
SD over GF(2)	12 066 B	6 974 B	-42 %

\*  $N = 256$

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	<i>Original Size</i>	<i>Our Variant</i>	<i>Saving</i>
Biscuit	4 758 B	3 431 B	
MIRA	5 640 B	4 314 B	
MiRitH-Ia	5 665 B	3 873 B	
MiRitH-Ib	6 298 B	4 250 B	
MQOM-31	6 328 B	3 567 B	
MQOM-251	6 575 B	3 418 B	
RYDE	5 956 B	4 274 B	
SDitH	8 241 B	5 673 B	
MQ over GF(4)	8 609 B	3 301 B	
SD over GF(2)	11 160 B	7 354 B	-34 %
SD over GF(2)	12 066 B	6 974 B	-42 %

\*  $N = 256$     \*  $N = 2048$

# Shorter signatures for MPCitH-based candidates

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## Two very recent works :

- Baum, Beullens, Mukherjee, Orsini, Ramacher, Rechberger, Roy, Scholl. *One Tree to Rule Them All: Optimizing GGM Trees and OWFs for Post-Quantum Signatures*. <https://ia.cr/2024/490>
  - General techniques to reduce the size of GGM trees
  - **Apply to TCitH-GGM** (gain of ~500 B at 128-bit security)
- Bidoux, Feneuil, Gaborit, Neveu, Rivain. *Dual Support Decomposition in the Head: Shorter Signatures from Rank SD and MinRank*. <https://ia.cr/2024/541>
  - New MPC protocols for TCitH / VOLEitH signatures based on **MinRank & Rank SD**

# Using packed secret sharing

---

- Shamir's secret sharing can be packed
  - $P(\omega_1) = x_1, \dots, P(\omega_s) = x_s$
  - $P(\omega_{s+1}) = r_1, \dots, P(\omega_{s+\ell}) = r_\ell$
  - $[[x]]_1 = P(e_1), \dots, [[x]]_N = P(e_N)$

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  - $[[x]]_1 = P(e_1), \dots, [[x]]_N = P(e_N)$
- $[[x]] + [[y]] =$  sharing of  $(x_1, \dots, x_s) + (y_1, \dots, y_s)$
- $[[x]] \cdot [[y]] =$  sharing of  $(x_1, \dots, x_s) \circ (y_1, \dots, y_s)$



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  - $[[x]]_1 = P(e_1), \dots, [[x]]_N = P(e_N)$
- $[[x]] + [[y]] =$  sharing of  $(x_1, \dots, x_s) + (y_1, \dots, y_s)$
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Soundness error

# Using packed secret sharing

- Shamir's secret sharing can be packed
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$\Rightarrow$  interesting for statements with "medium size" witness

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- E.g. an ISIS statement  $\vec{t} = A \cdot \vec{e}$  with  $\|\vec{e}\|_\infty \leq \beta$

Here:  $(\ell + s - 1) \cdot \deg f_j$





$$\frac{\binom{d_\alpha}{\ell}}{\binom{N}{\ell}} + p$$

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# TCitH-GGM vs. TCitH-MT

<b><i>TCitH-GGM</i></b>	<b><i>TCitH-MT</i></b>
 Smaller tree	 Larger tree (~x2)









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 Naturally enforce degree of committed sharings	 Need degree enforcing commitment (+1 round)

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 Better for "small-size" statements	 Better for "medium-size" statements



**Application: post-quantum  
ring signatures**

# Post-quantum ring signatures

- Secret key  $w$
- One-way function  $f$
- Public key  $y = f(w)$
- MPC protocol  $\Pi : \llbracket w \rrbracket \mapsto 0/1$

$TCitH$   
→  
 $FS$

 signature  
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🔧 Solution:  $\llbracket s^{(1)} \rrbracket, \dots, \llbracket s^{(d)} \rrbracket$  s.t.  $s = s^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes s^{(d)}$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{O}(d \sqrt[d]{r}) \text{ signature size} \Rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\log r)$$



# Post-quantum ring signatures

---

Protocol  $\Pi'$

Input:  $[[w]], [[s^{(1)}]], \dots, [[s^{(d)}]]$

# Post-quantum ring signatures

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TCitH / FS

  ring  
signature  
scheme



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# Post-quantum ring signatures

#users		$2^3$	$2^6$	$2^8$	$2^{10}$	$2^{12}$	$2^{20}$	Assumption	Security
Our scheme	2023	4.41	4.60	4.90	5.48	5.82	8.19	MQ over $\mathbb{F}_{251}$	NIST I
Our scheme	2023	4.30	4.33	4.37	4.45	4.60	5.62	MQ over $\mathbb{F}_{256}$	NIST I
Our scheme	2023	7.51	8.40	8.72	9.36	10.30	12.81	SD over $\mathbb{F}_{251}$	NIST I
Our scheme	2023	7.37	7.51	7.96	8.24	8.40	10.09	SD over $\mathbb{F}_{256}$	NIST I
Our scheme	2023	7.87	7.90	7.94	8.02	8.18	9.39	AES128	NIST I
Our scheme	2023	6.81	6.84	6.88	6.96	7.12	8.27	AES128-EM	NIST I
KKW [KKW18]	2018	-	250	-	-	456	-	LowMC	NIST V
GGHK [GGHAK22]	2021	-	-	-	56	-	-	LowMC	NIST V
Raptor [LAZ19]	2019	10	81	333	1290	5161	-	MSIS / MLWE	100 bit
EZSLL [EZS <sup>+</sup> 19]	2019	19	31	-	-	148	-	MSIS / MLWE	NIST II
Falafel [BKP20]	2020	30	32	-	-	35	-	MSIS / MLWE	NIST I
Calamari [BKP20]	2020	5	8	-	-	14	-	CSIDH	128 bit
LESS [BBN <sup>+</sup> 22]	2022	11	14	-	-	20	-	Code Equiv.	128 bit
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# Post-quantum ring signatures

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MQ, SD, AES

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Size range: 5–13 kB

for  $|ring|=2^{20}$

# Post-quantum ring signatures

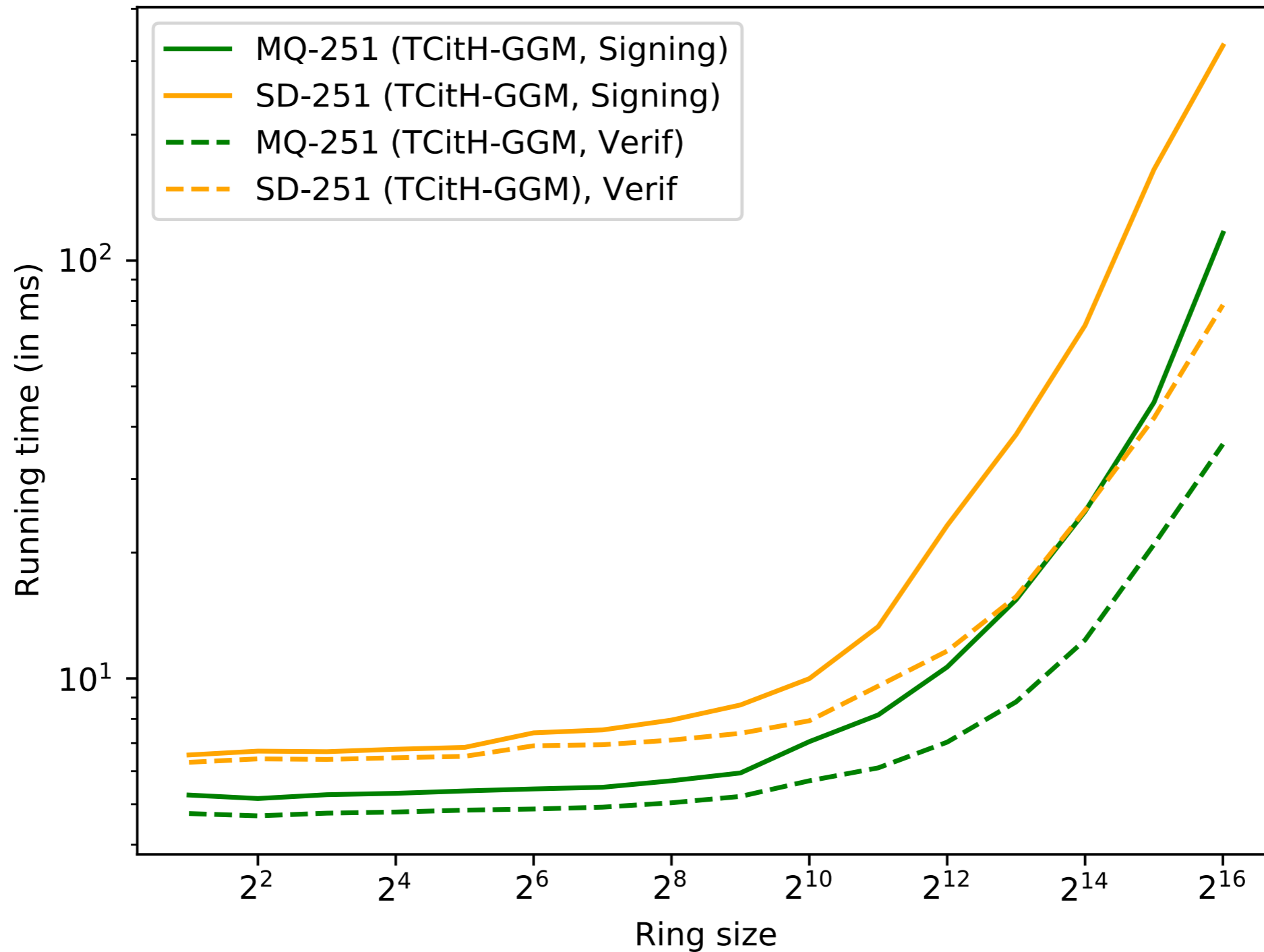
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Size range: 5–13 kB  
for  $|ring|=2^{20}$

Previous works:  
 $\geq 14$  kB for  $|ring|=2^{10}$   
no / slow implementations

# Post-quantum ring signatures



# Relation to other proof systems

# Connections to other proof systems

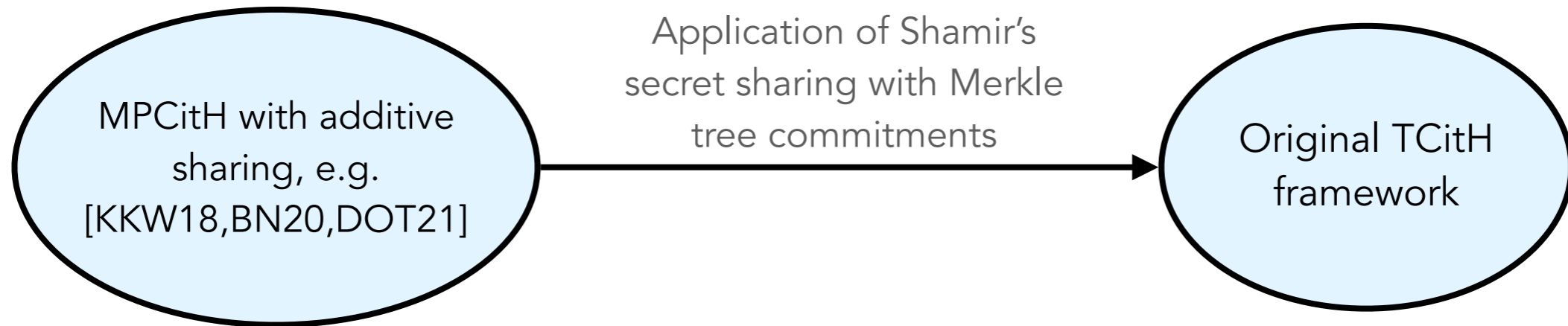
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MPCitH with additive  
sharing, e.g.  
[KKW18,BN20,DOT21]

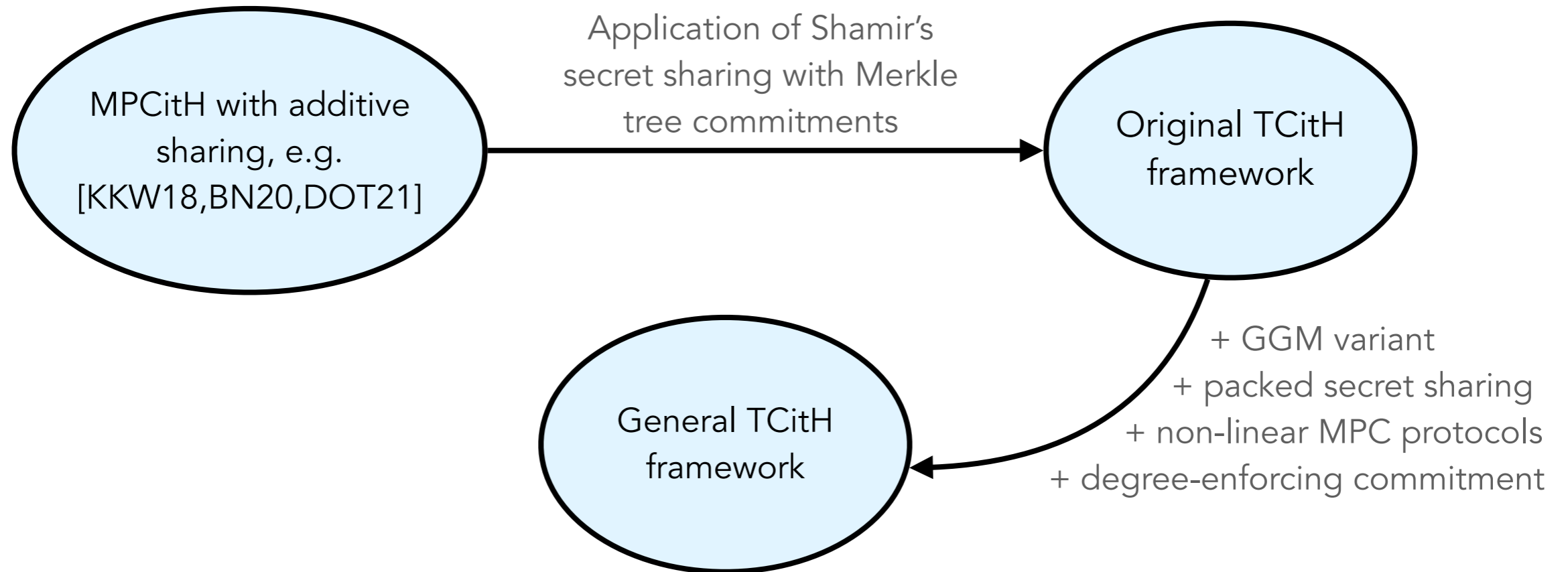


# Connections to other proof systems

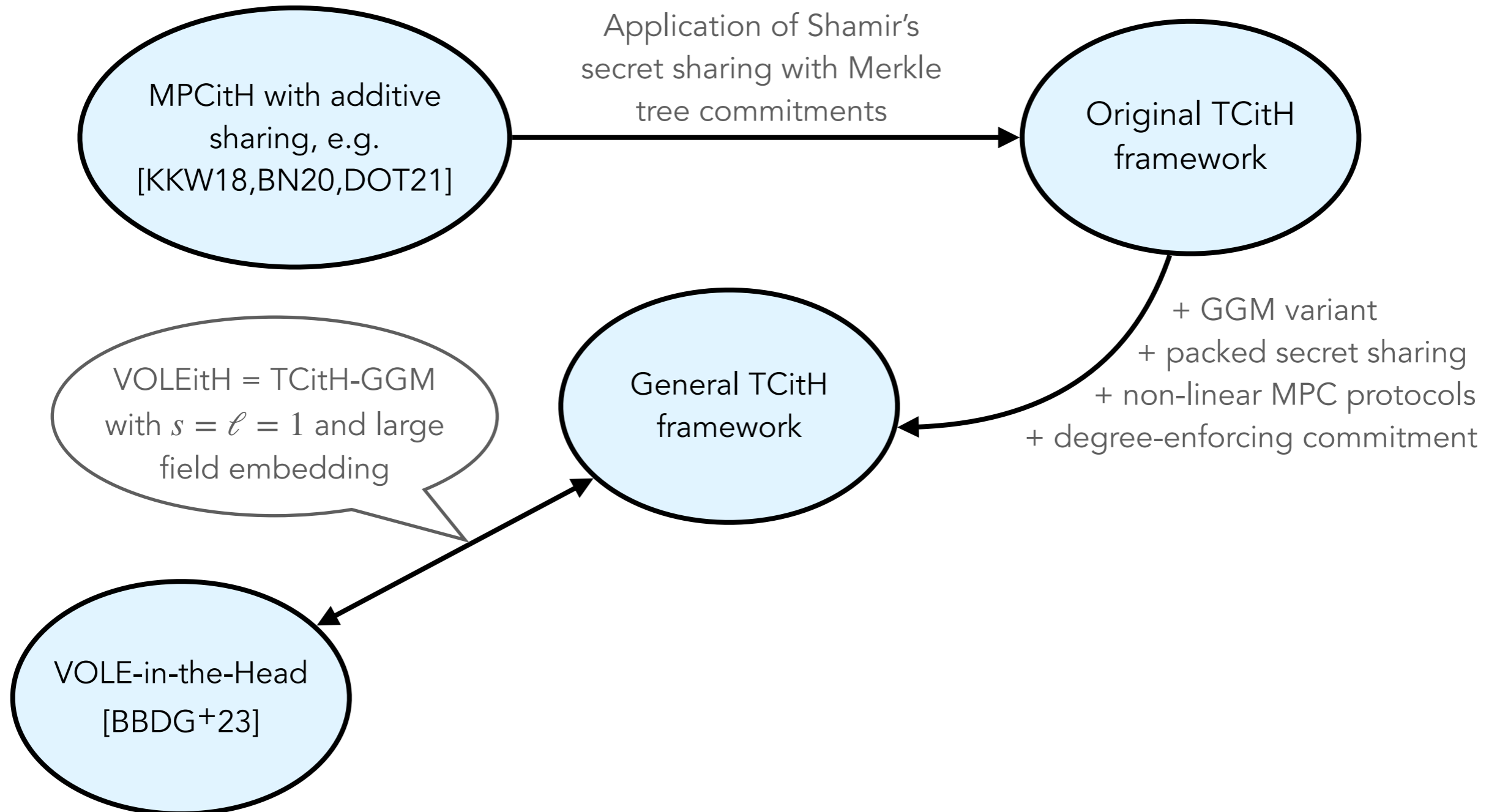
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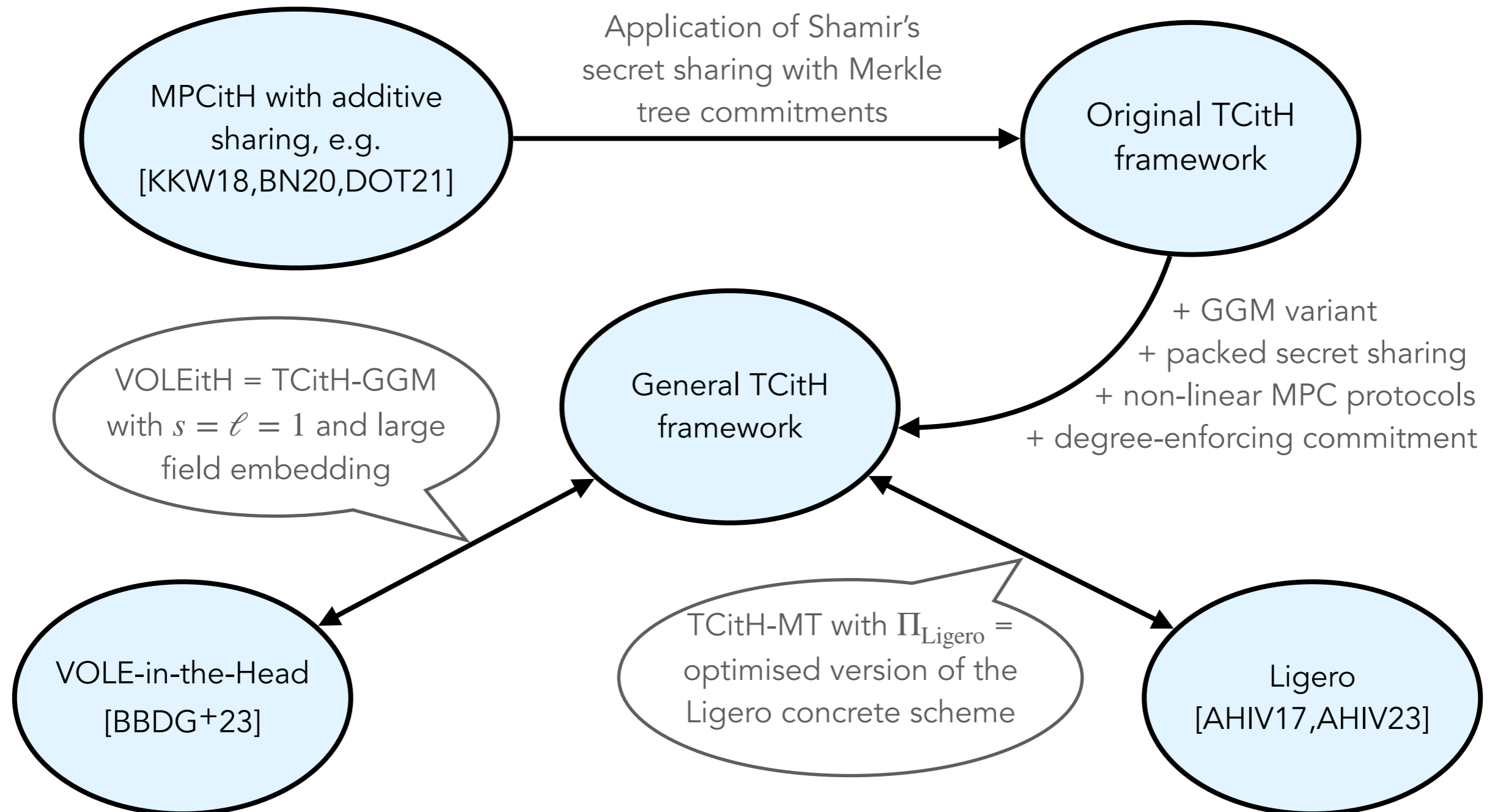
# Connections to other proof systems



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# Connections to other proof systems



**Thank you!**

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