

The Round Complexity of Secure Computation Against Covert Adversaries

Arka Rai Choudhuri

Johns Hopkins University

Vipul Goyal

Carnegie Mellon University

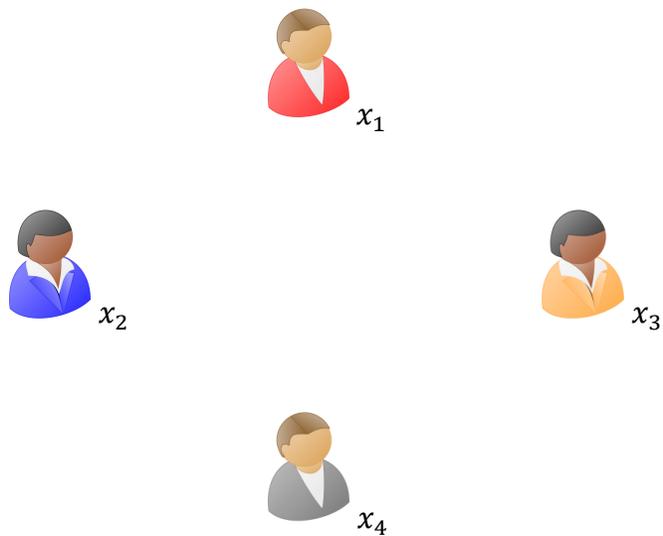
Abhishek Jain

Johns Hopkins University

SCN 2020

Multiparty Computation (MPC)

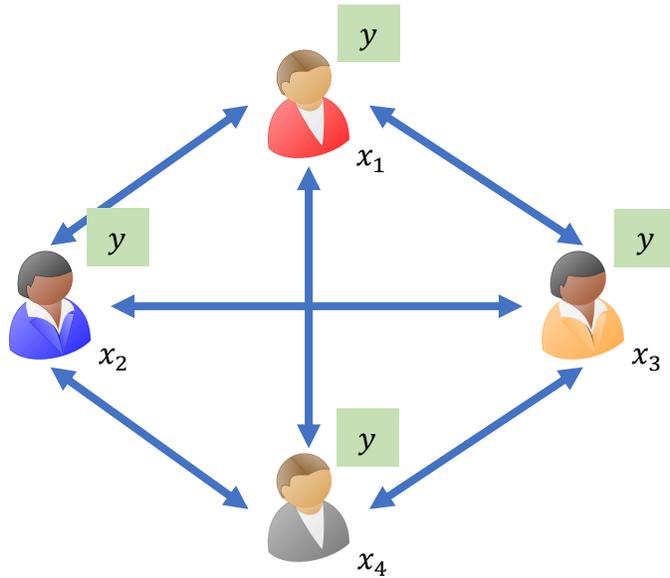
[Yao'86, Goldreich-Micali-Wigderson'87]



$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

Multiparty Computation (MPC)

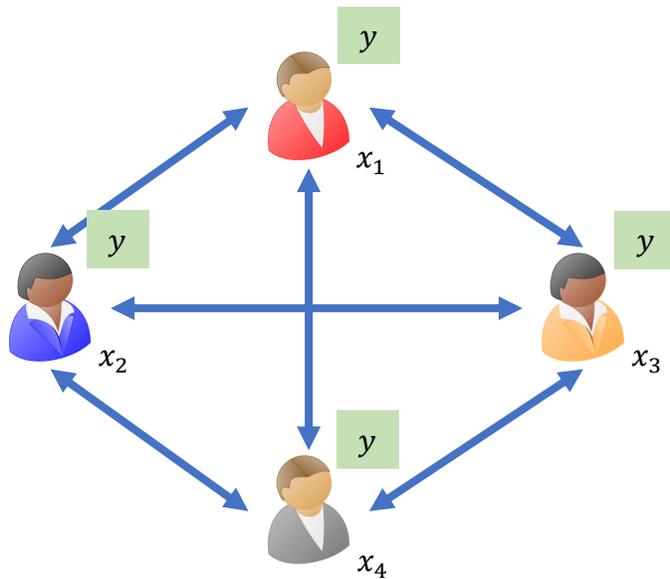
[Yao'86, Goldreich-Micali-Wigderson'87]



$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

Multiparty Computation (MPC)

[Yao'86, Goldreich-Micali-Wigderson'87]

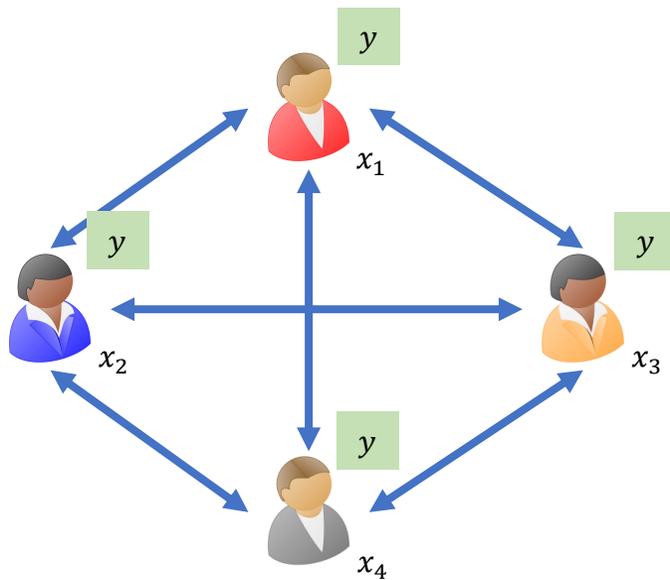


A **round** constitutes of every participant sending a message.

$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

Multiparty Computation (MPC)

[Yao'86, Goldreich-Micali-Wigderson'87]

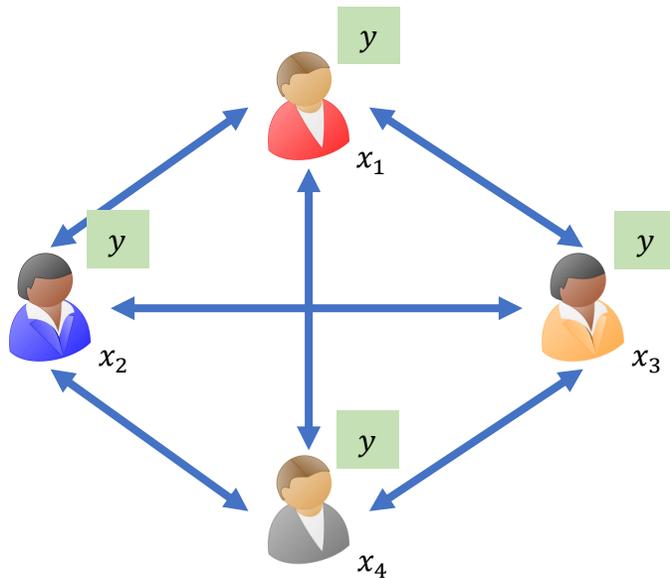


$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

A **round** constitutes of every participant sending a message.

Goal: For efficiency, **minimize rounds of interaction.**

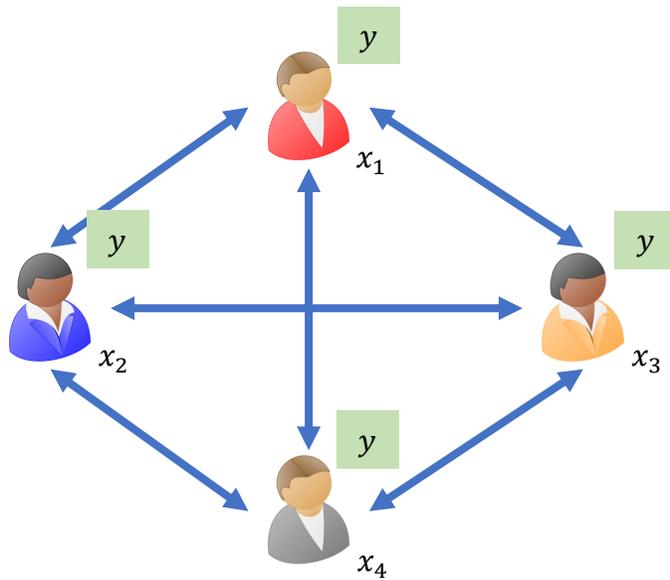
Security



$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

Misbehaving participants should not learn anything beyond the output of the function.

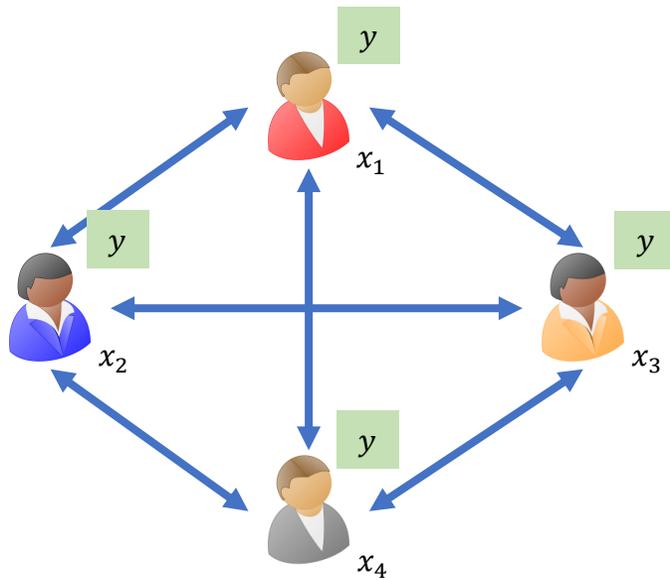
Security



$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

Security

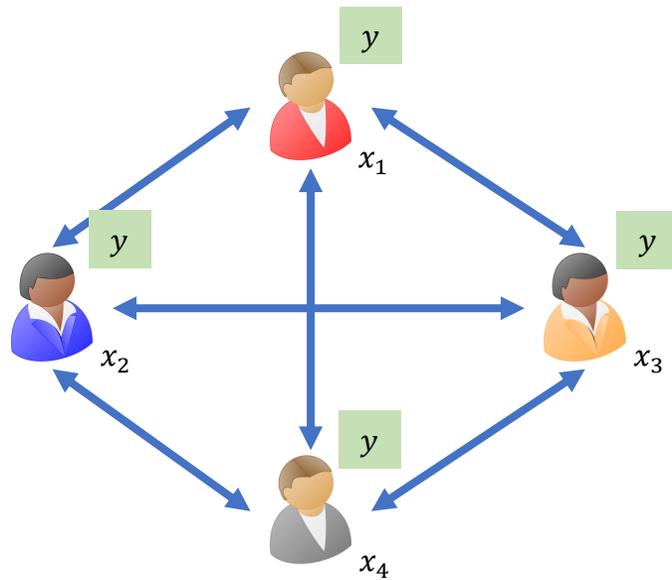
real world



$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

Security

real world

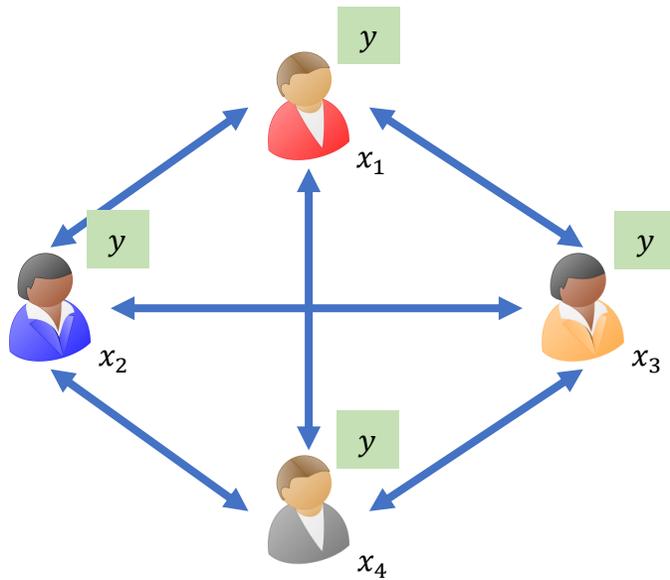


$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

ideal world

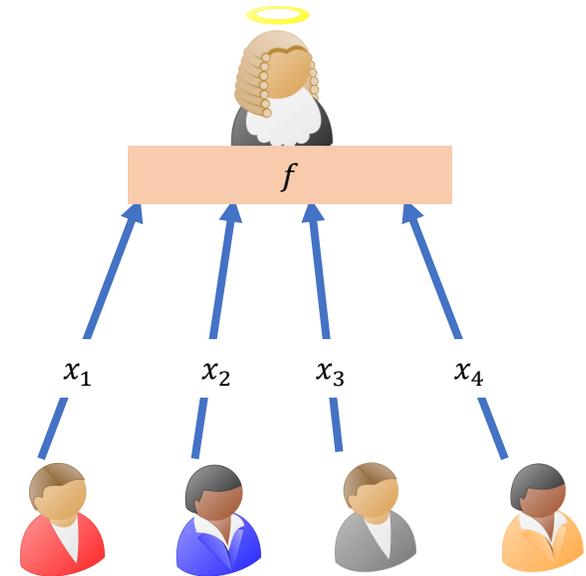
Security

real world



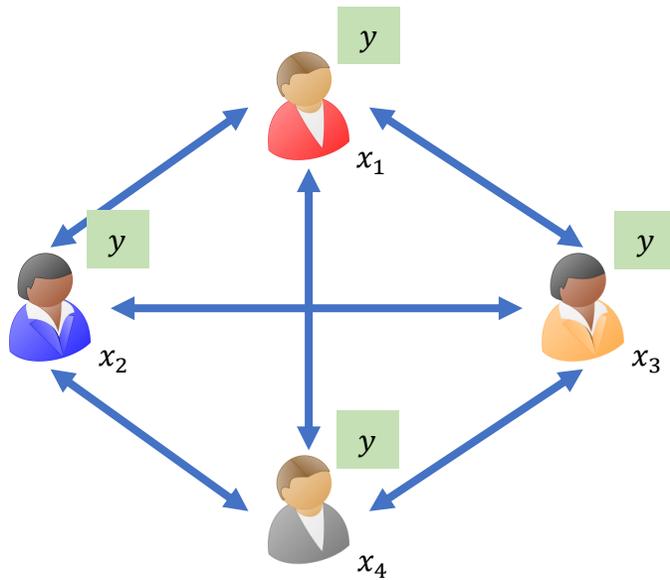
$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

ideal world



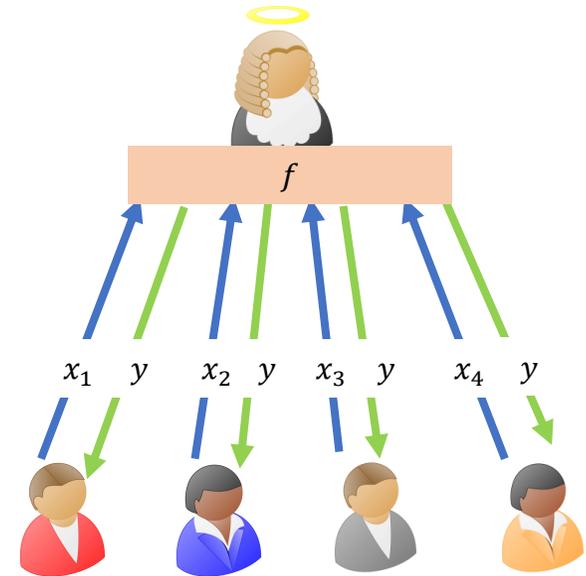
Security

real world



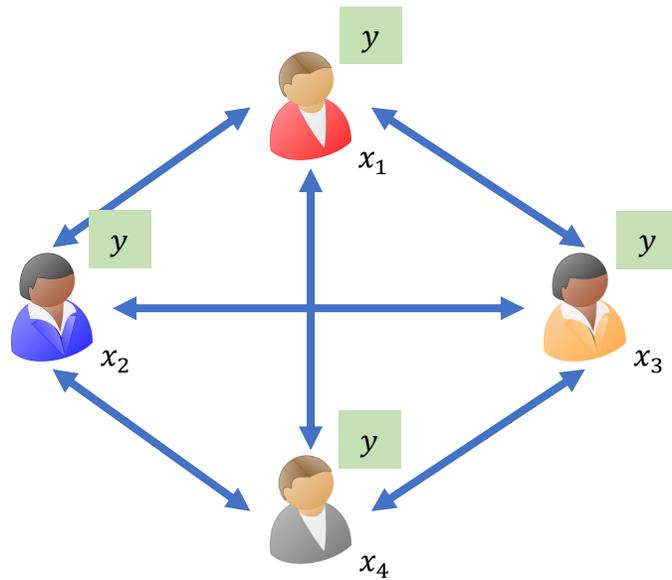
$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

ideal world



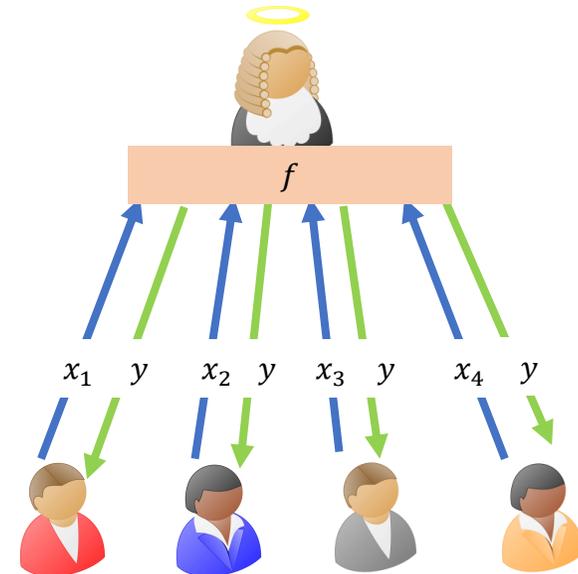
Security

real world

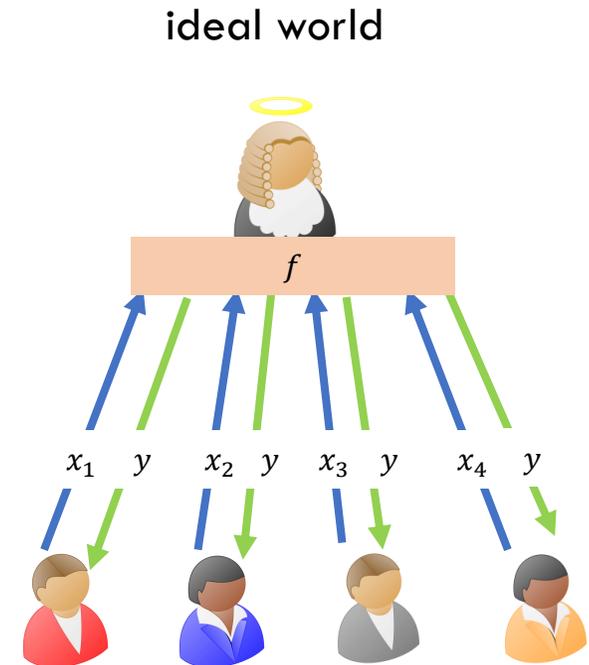
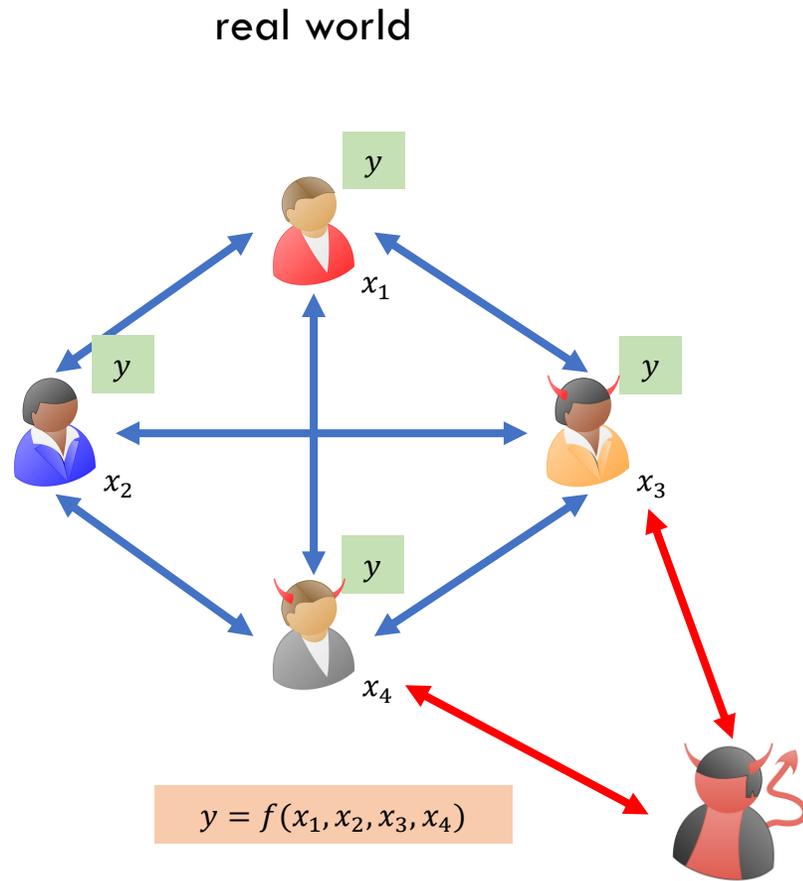


$$y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$

ideal world

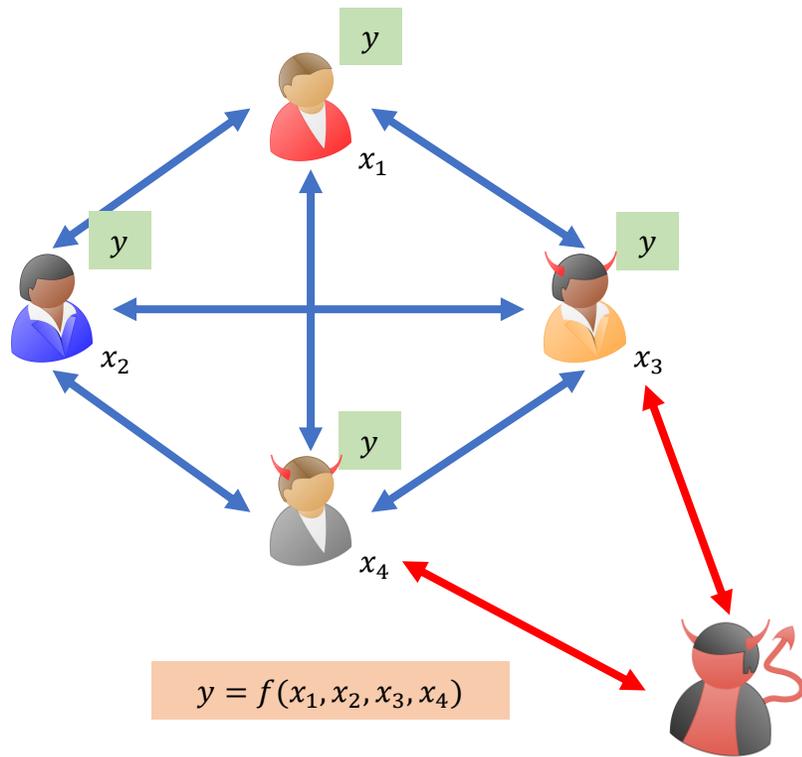


Security

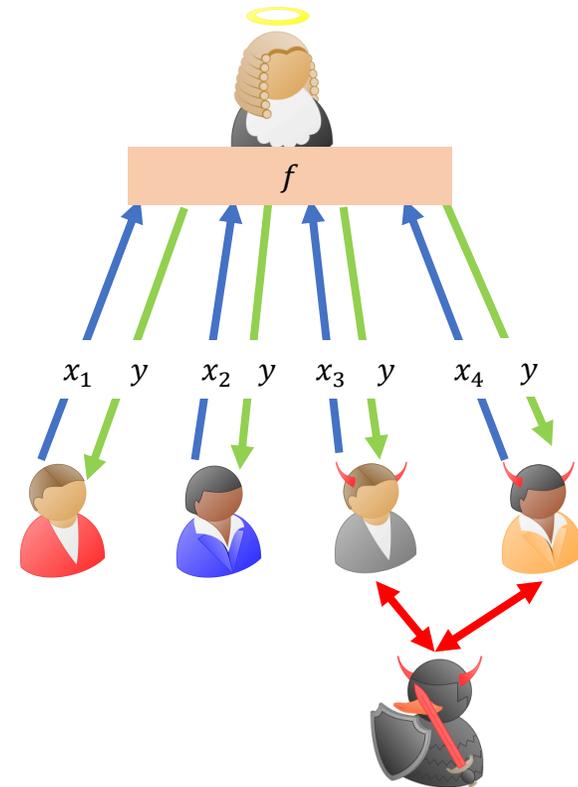


Security

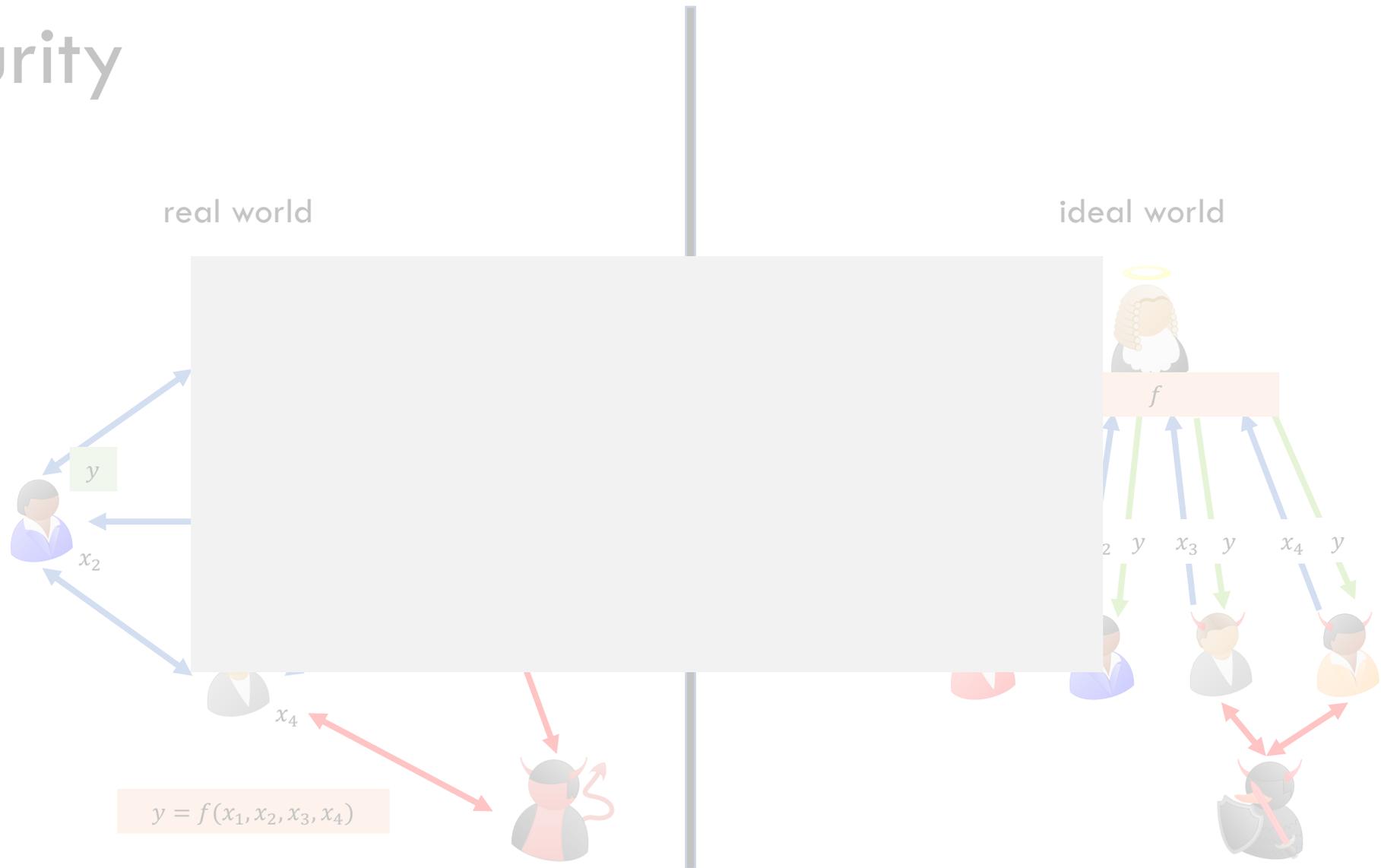
real world



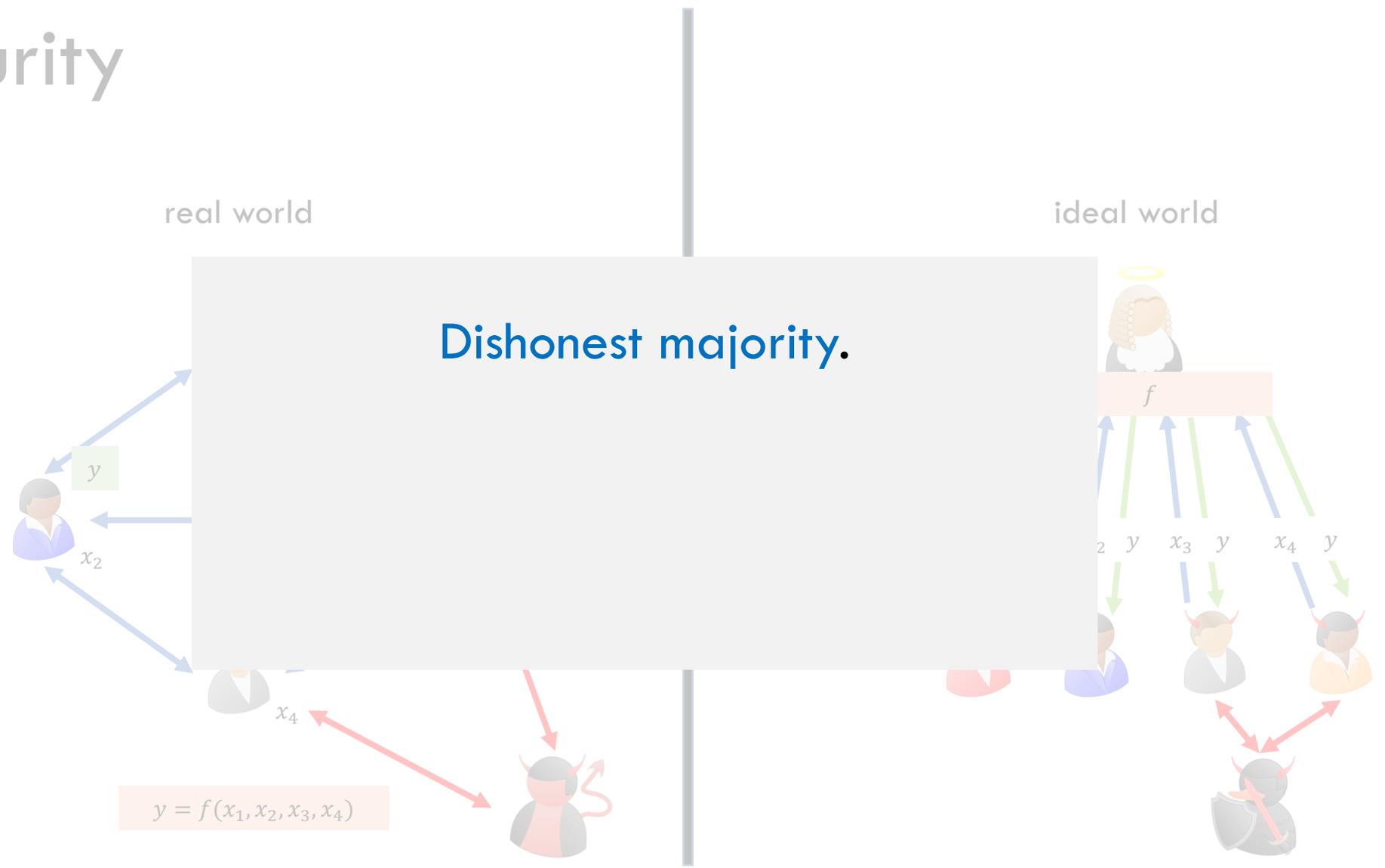
ideal world



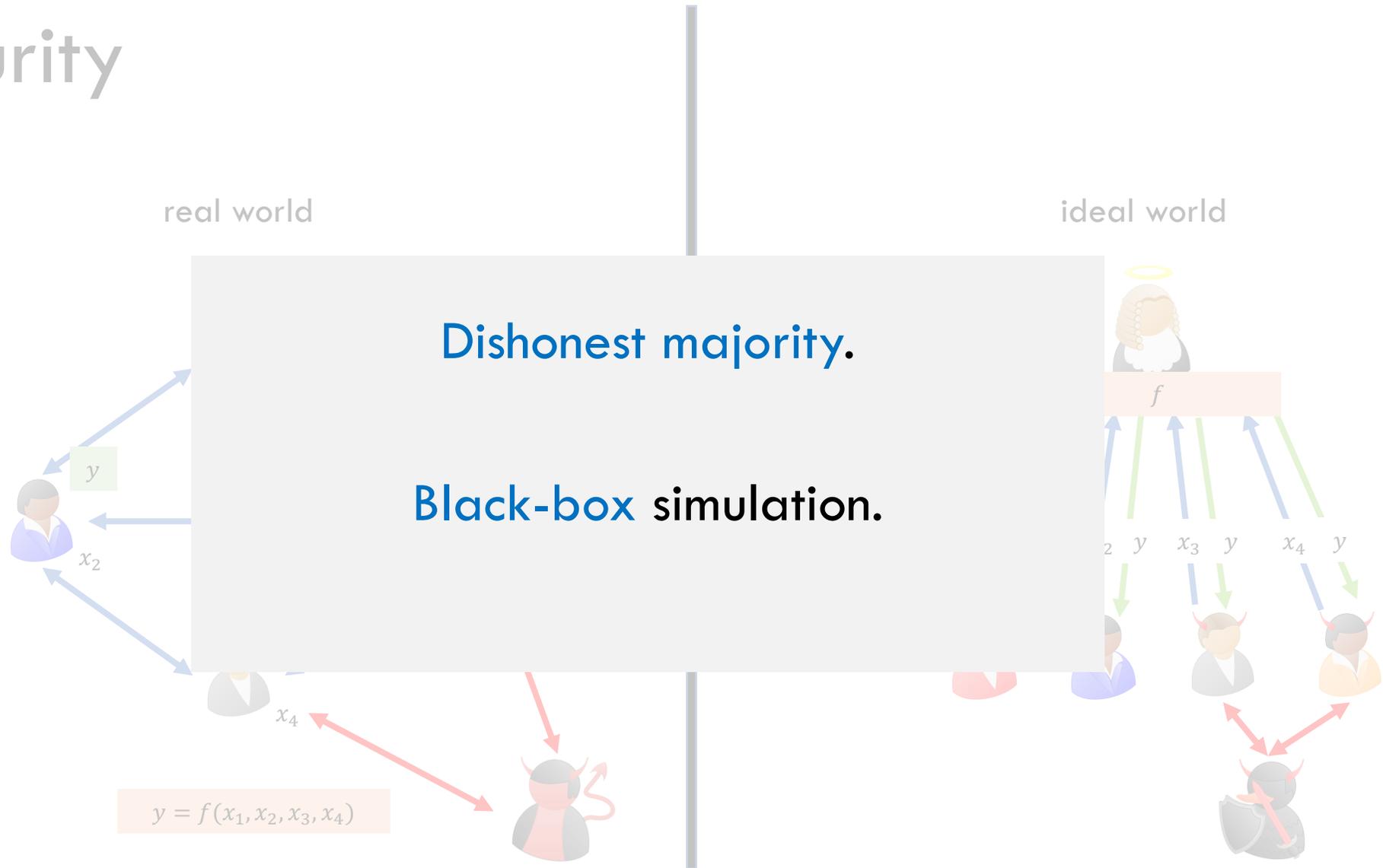
Security



Security



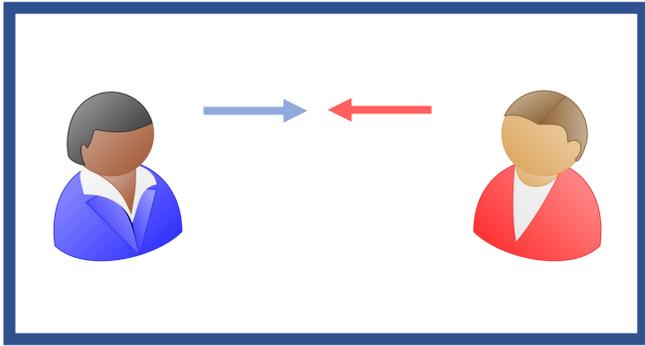
Security



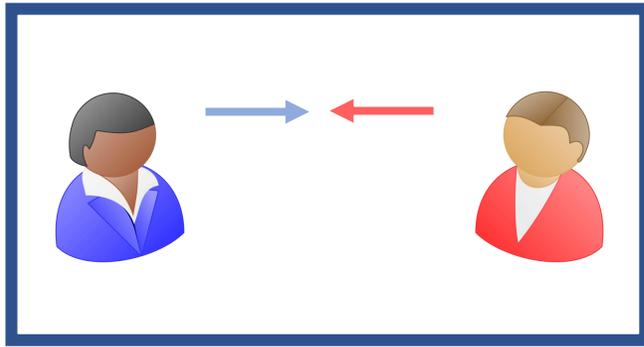
Known Round Complexity Bounds

(Semi-Honest)

Known Round Complexity Bounds (Semi-Honest)

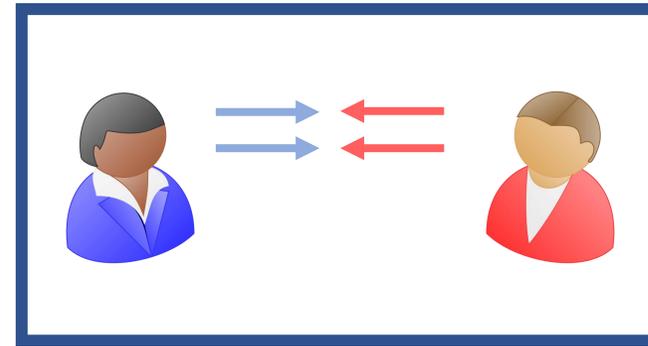
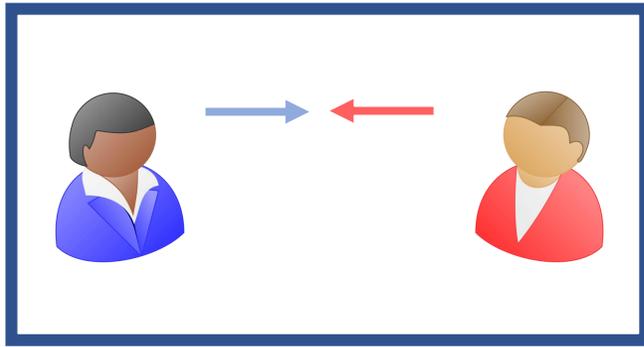


Known Round Complexity Bounds (Semi-Honest)



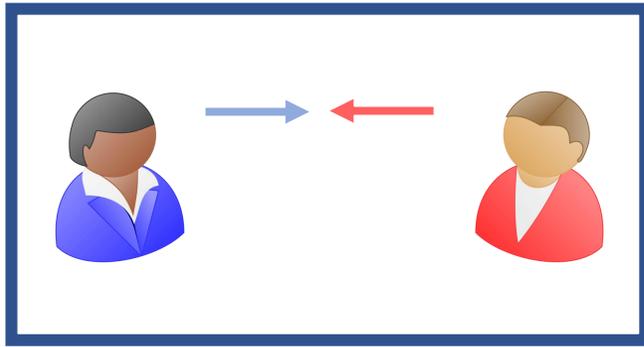
Impossible

Known Round Complexity Bounds (Semi-Honest)

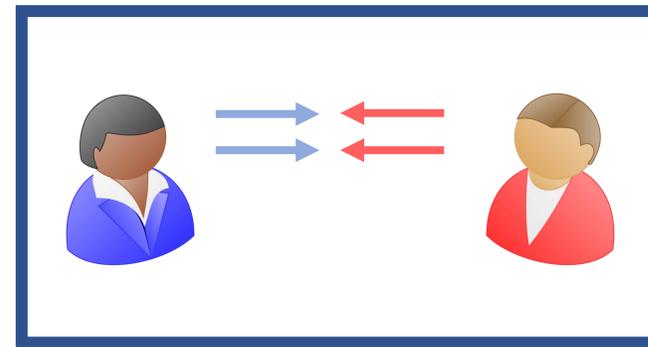


Impossible

Known Round Complexity Bounds (Semi-Honest)



Impossible



Possible

[Garg-Gentry-Halevi-Raykova'14]

[Mukherjee-Wichs'16]

[Garg-Srinivasan'17]

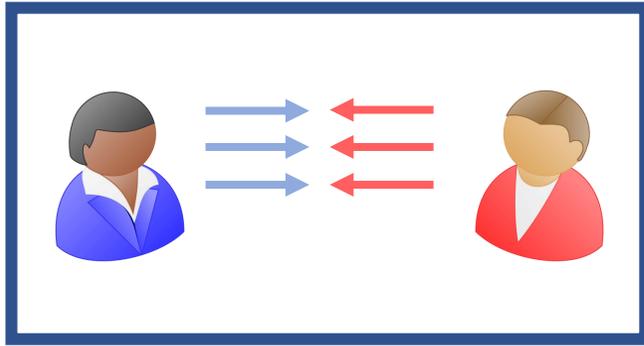
[Garg-Srinivasan'18]

[Benhamouda-Lin'18]

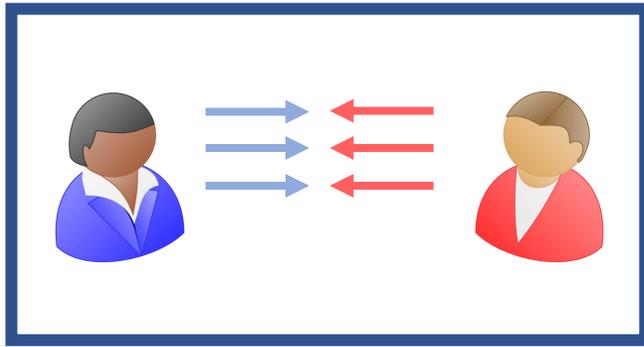
Known Round Complexity Bounds

(Malicious)

Known Round Complexity Bounds (Malicious)



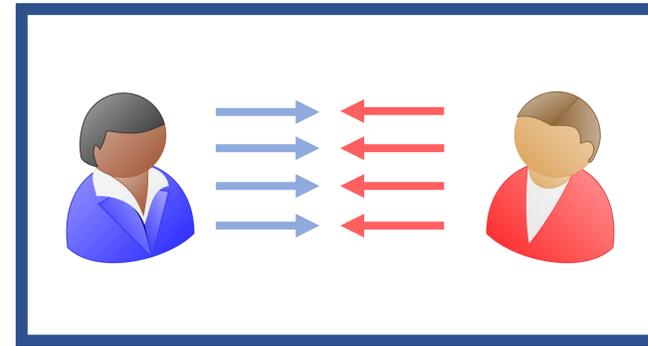
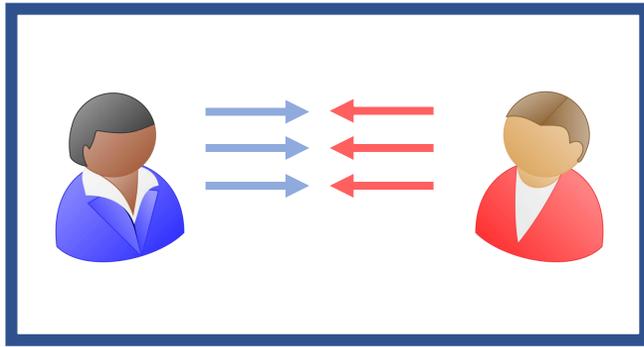
Known Round Complexity Bounds (Malicious)



Impossible

[Garg-Mukherjee-Pandey-Polychroniadou'16]

Known Round Complexity Bounds (Malicious)

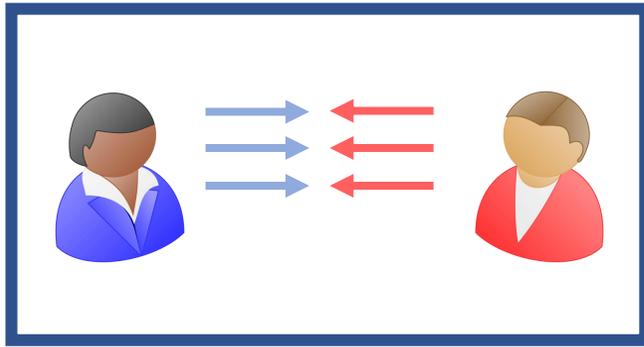


Impossible

[Garg-Mukherjee-Pandey-Polychroniadou'16]

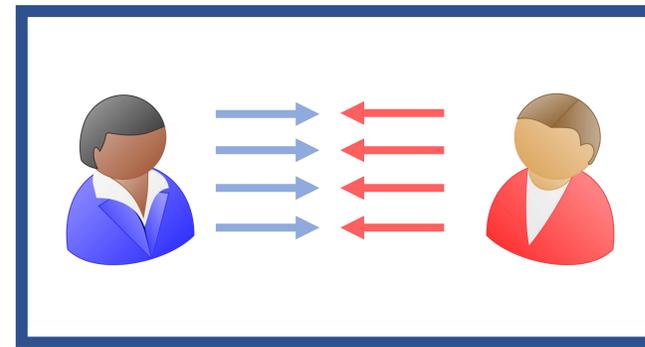
Known Round Complexity Bounds

(Malicious)



Impossible

[Garg-Mukherjee-Pandey-Polychroniadou'16]



Possible

[Ananth-C-Jain'17]

[Brakerski-Halevi-Polychroniadou'17]

[Badrinarayanan-Goyal-Jain-Kalai-Khurana-Sahai'18]

[Halevi-Hazay-Polychroniadou-Venkatasubramaniam'18]

[C-Ciampi-Goyal-Jain-Ostrovsky'19]

Can we design a protocol that spans the spectrum of round complexity with an intermediate security notion?

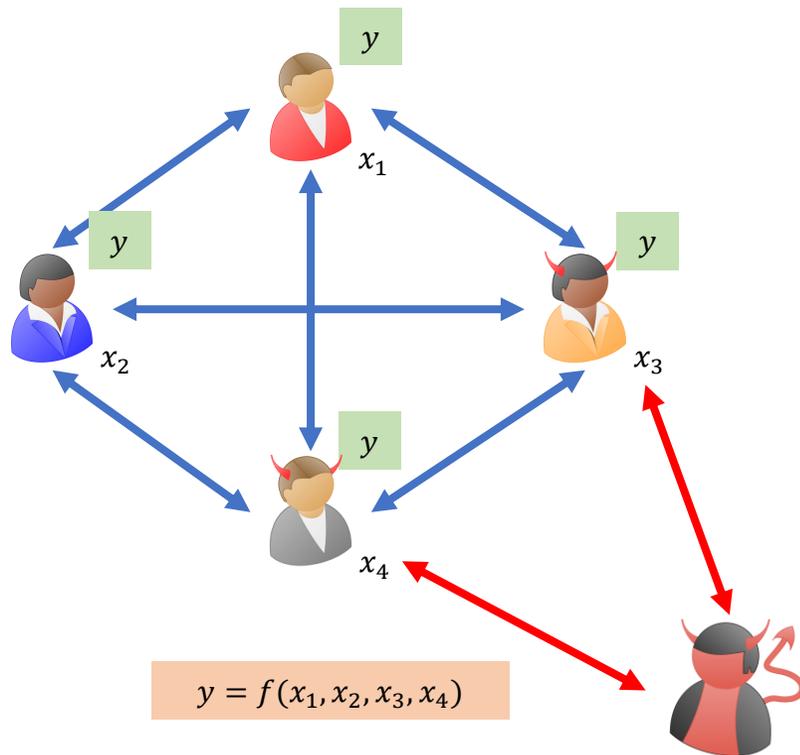
Can we design a protocol that spans the spectrum of round complexity with an intermediate security notion?

Covert Adversaries: Behaves maliciously if it can do so undetected.

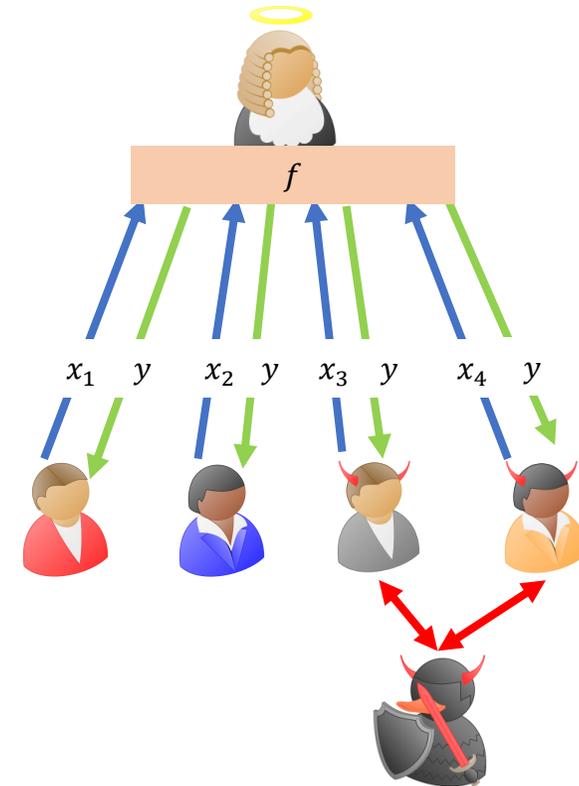
Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]

real world



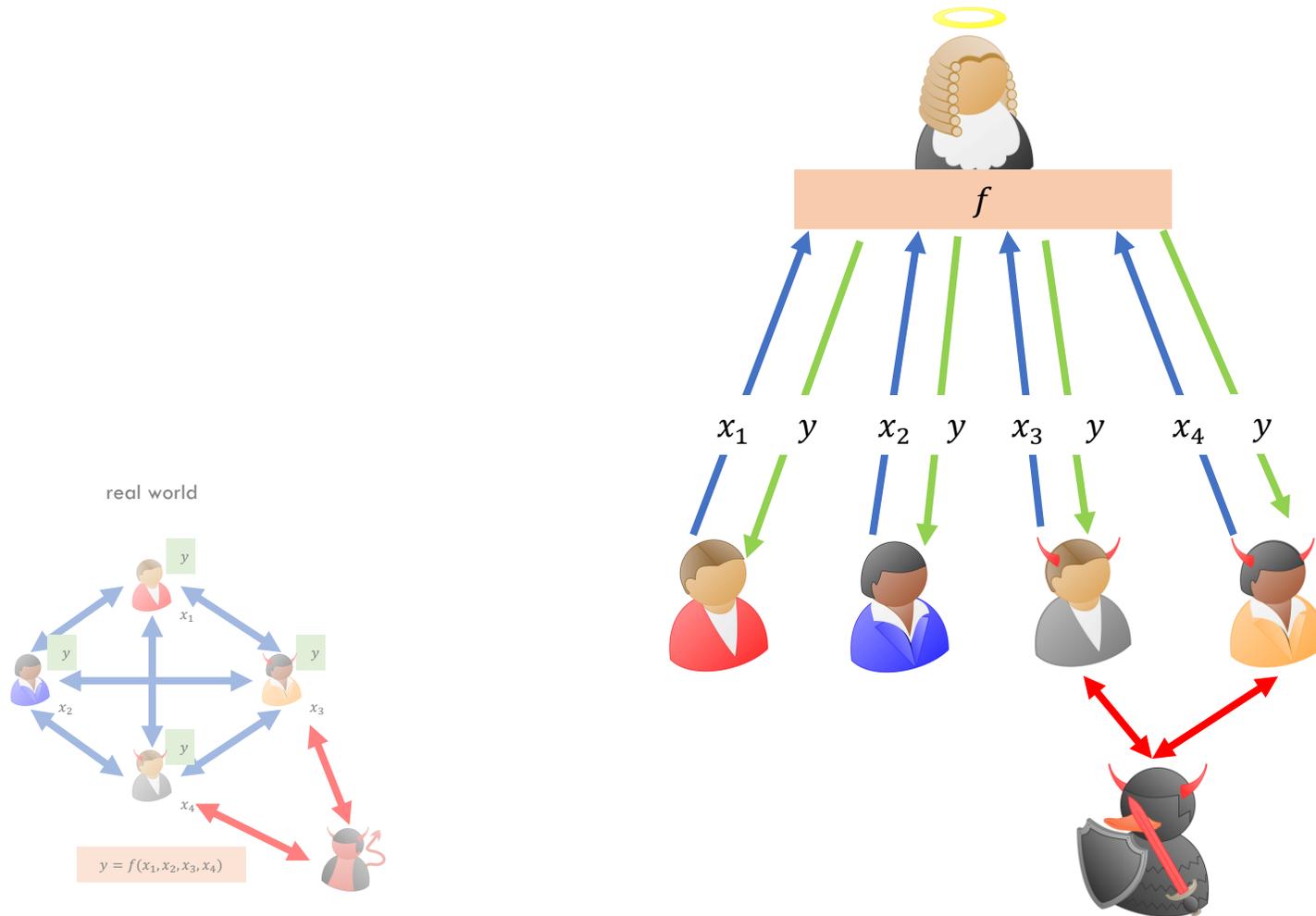
ideal world



Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]

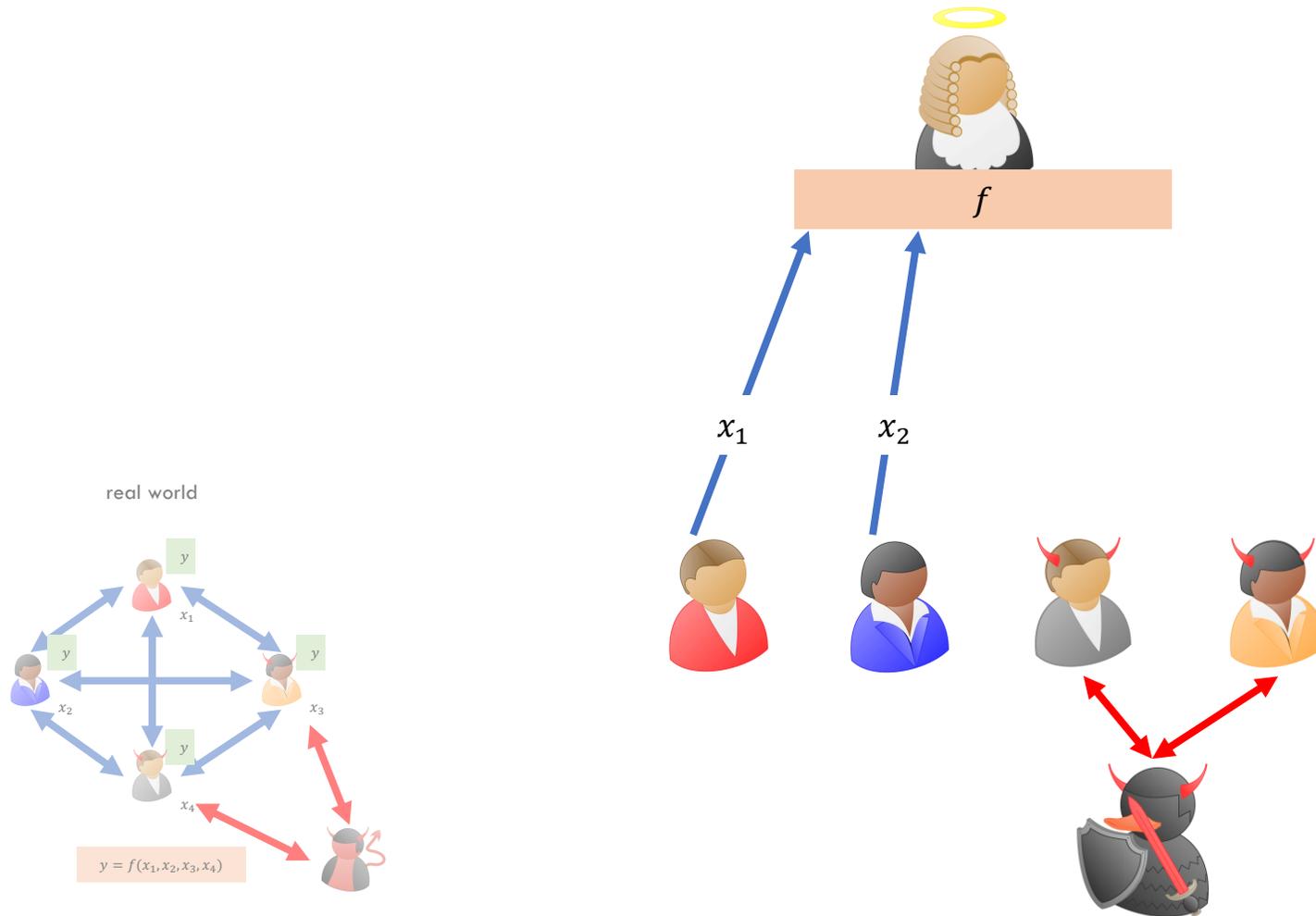
ideal world



Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]

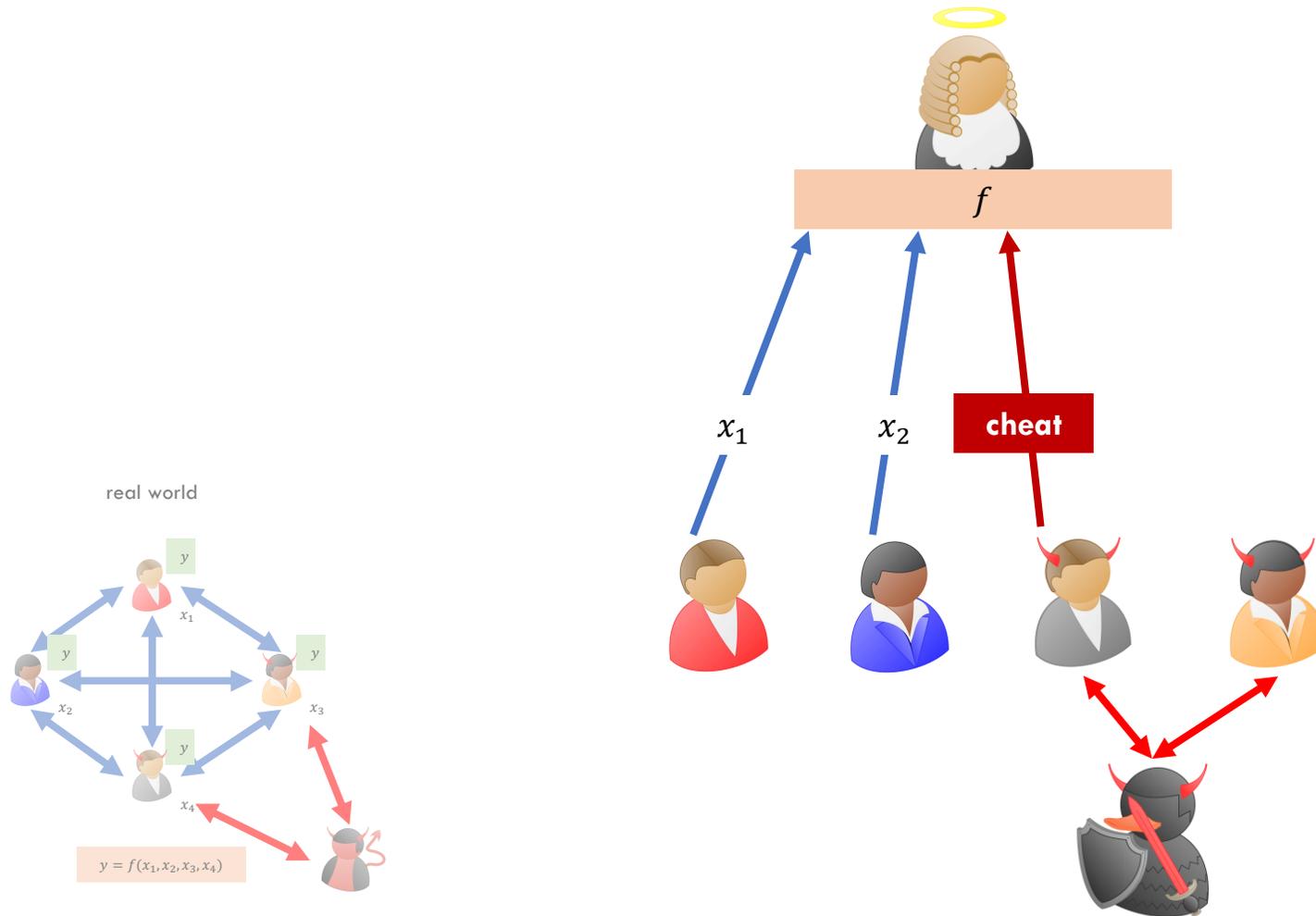
ideal world



Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]

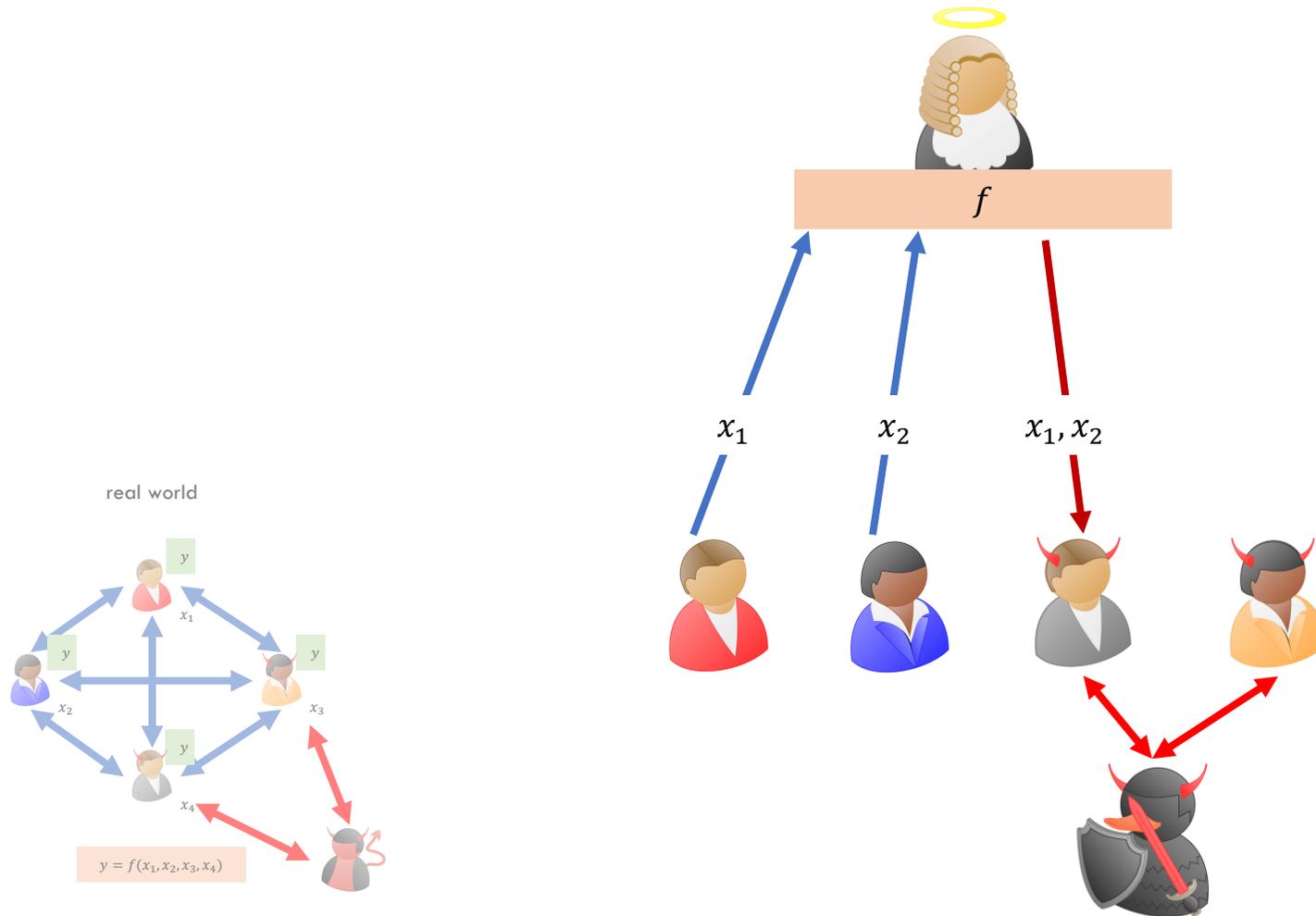
ideal world



Covert Adversaries

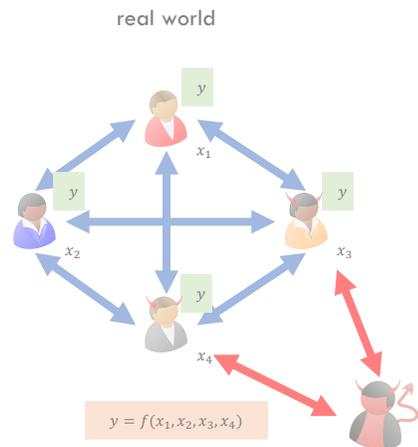
[Aumann-Lindell'07]

ideal world



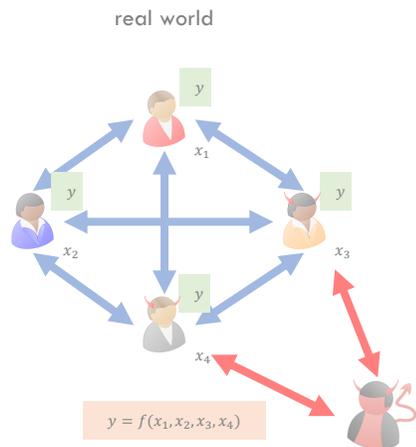
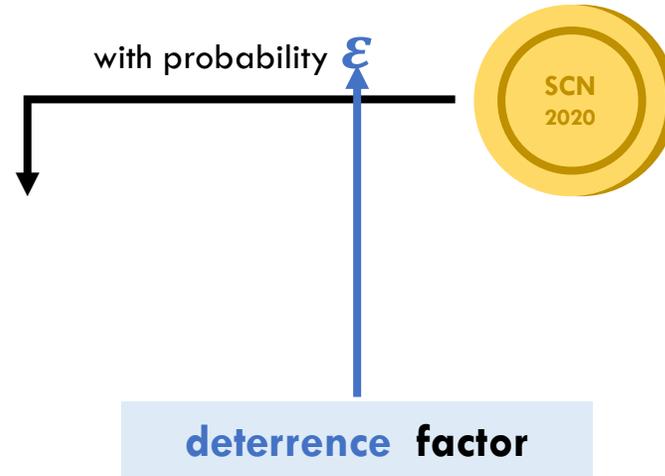
Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]



Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]

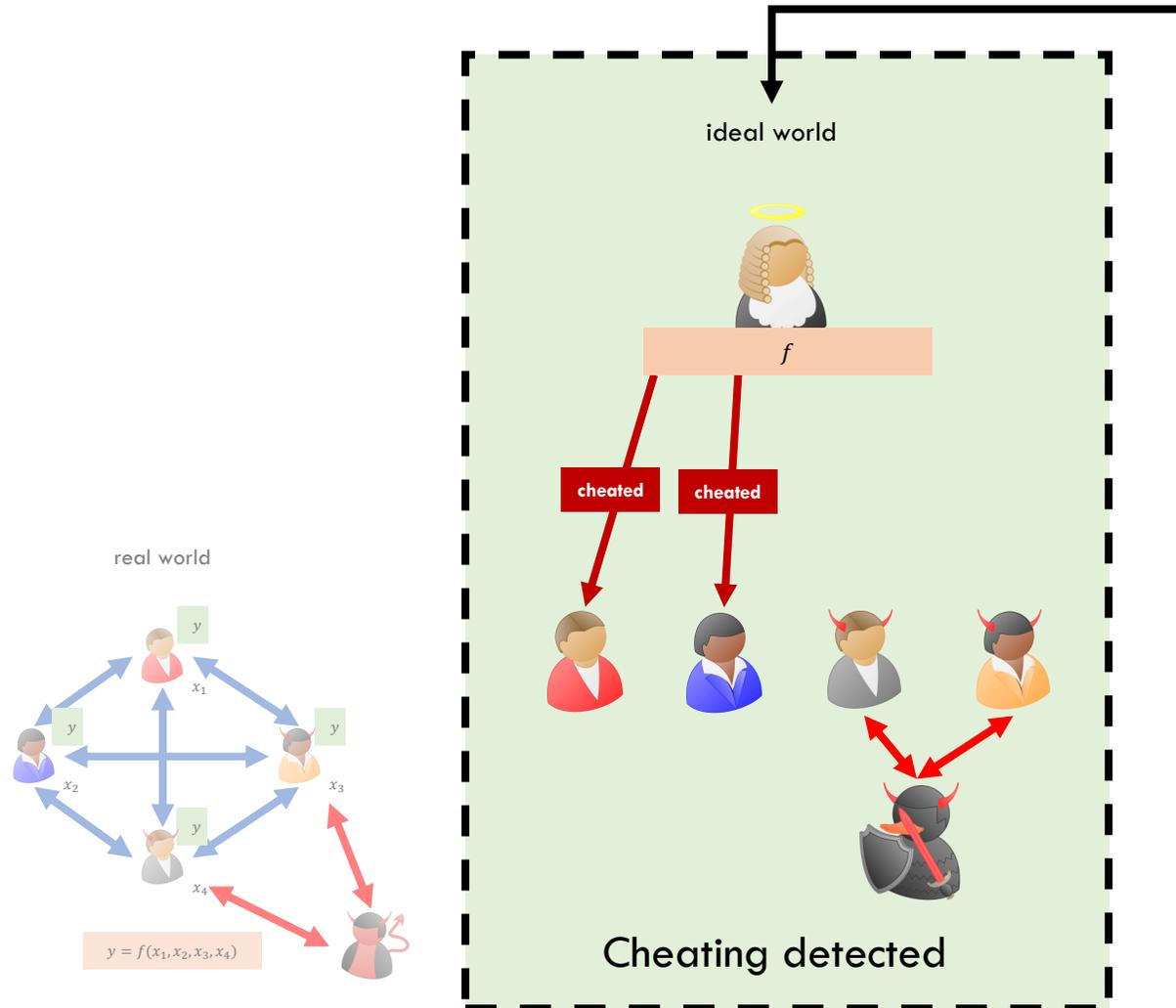


Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]

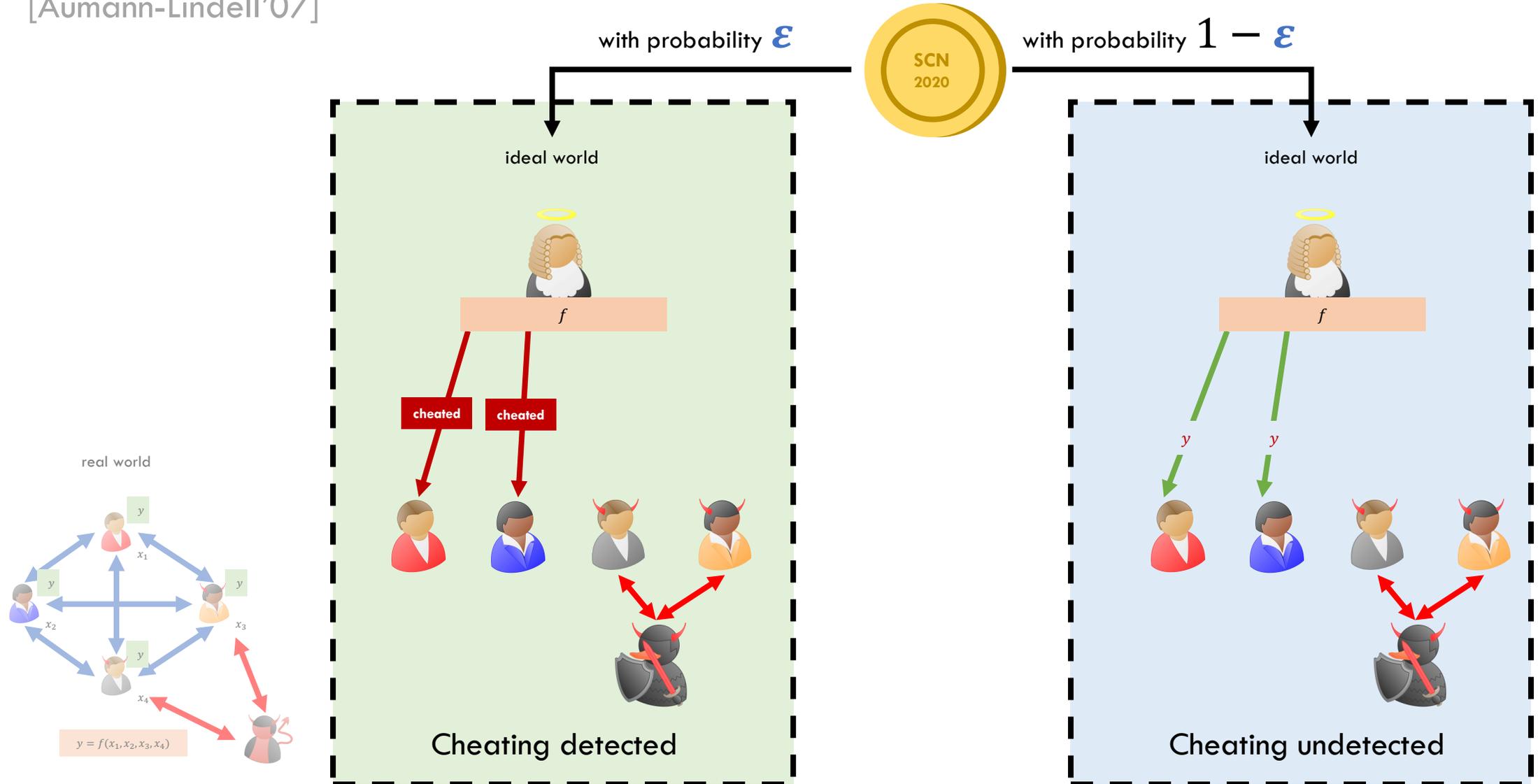


with probability ϵ



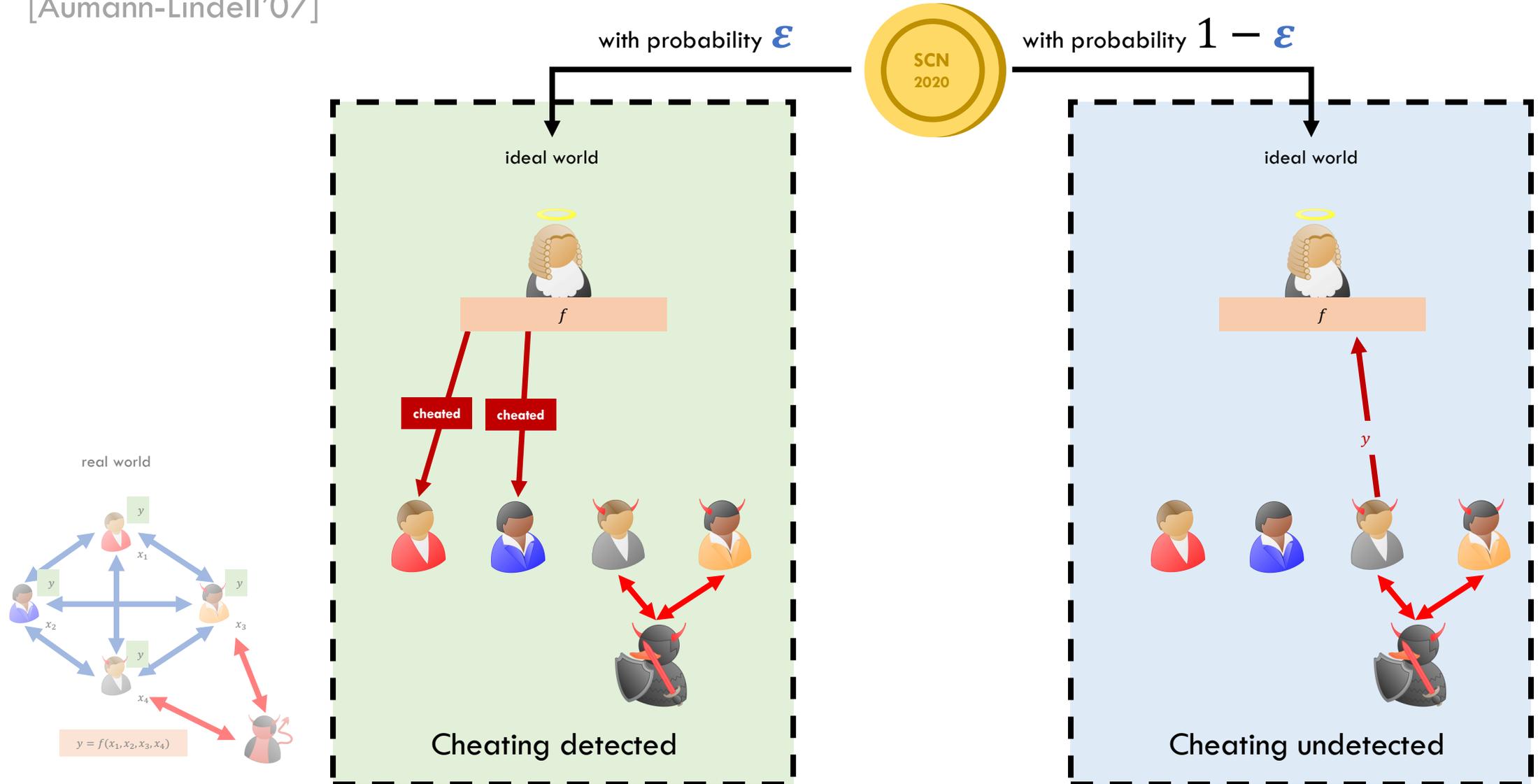
Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]



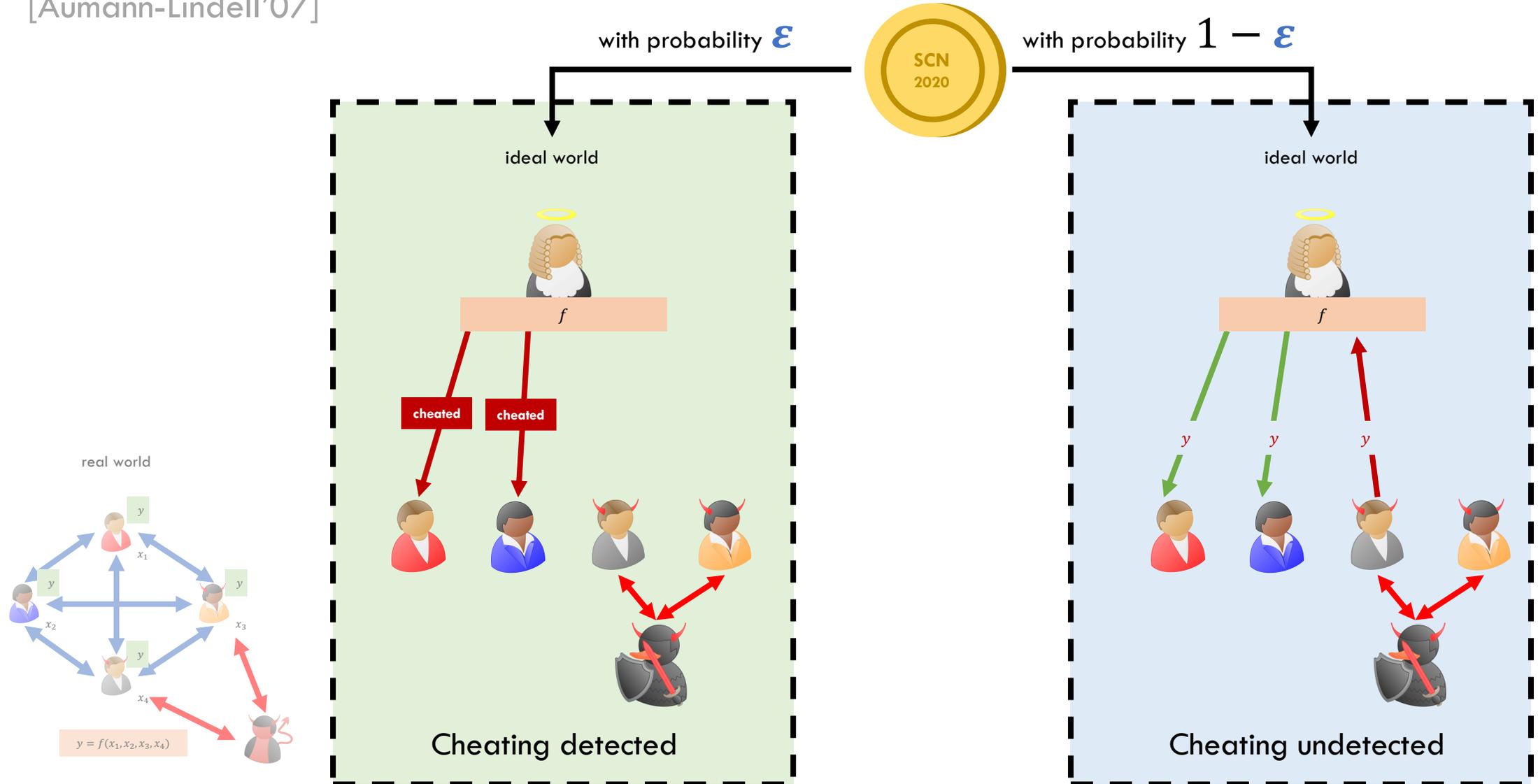
Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]



Covert Adversaries

[Aumann-Lindell'07]



What is the precise **round complexity** of MPC protocols
in the presence of **covert adversaries**?

What is the precise **round complexity** of MPC protocols in the presence of **covert adversaries**?

Best known results are those achieving malicious security, i.e. **4 rounds**.

Prior works focus on computational complexity.

Our Results

Our Results

There **does not exist** a **three round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries with respect to **black-box simulation**.

Our Results

There **does not exist** a **three round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries with respect to **black-box simulation**.

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot f(\varepsilon, n)$$

Our Results

There **does not exist** a **three round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries with respect to **black-box simulation**.

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot \underbrace{f(\varepsilon, n)}$$



Our Results

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot \underbrace{f(\varepsilon, n)}$$



Our Results

n – number of 

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot \underbrace{f(\varepsilon, n)}$$

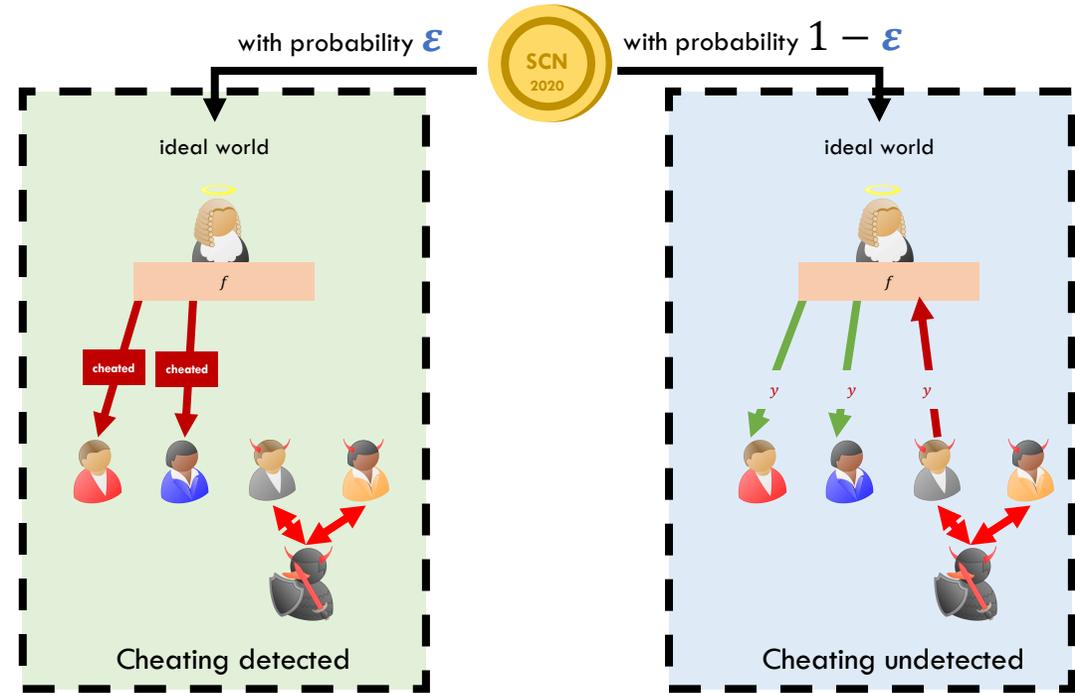


Our Results

n – number of



ϵ – deterrence factor



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot f(\epsilon, n)$$



Our Results

n – number of 

ε – deterrence factor 

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot \underbrace{f(\varepsilon, n)}$$



Our Results

n – number of 

ε – deterrence factor 

Best case:

2 rounds

$\varepsilon = 0$

semi-honest

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot \underbrace{f(\varepsilon, n)}$$



Our Results

n – number of 

ε – deterrence factor 

Best case:

2 rounds

$$\varepsilon = 0$$

Worst case:

5 rounds

$$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$$

semi-honest

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot f(\varepsilon, n)$$



Our Results

n – number of 

ε – deterrence factor 

Best case:

2 rounds

$$\varepsilon = 0$$

Semi-honest

Worst case:

5 rounds

$$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$$



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot \underbrace{f(\varepsilon, n)}$$



Lower Bound

There **does not exist** a **three round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries with respect to **black-box simulation**.

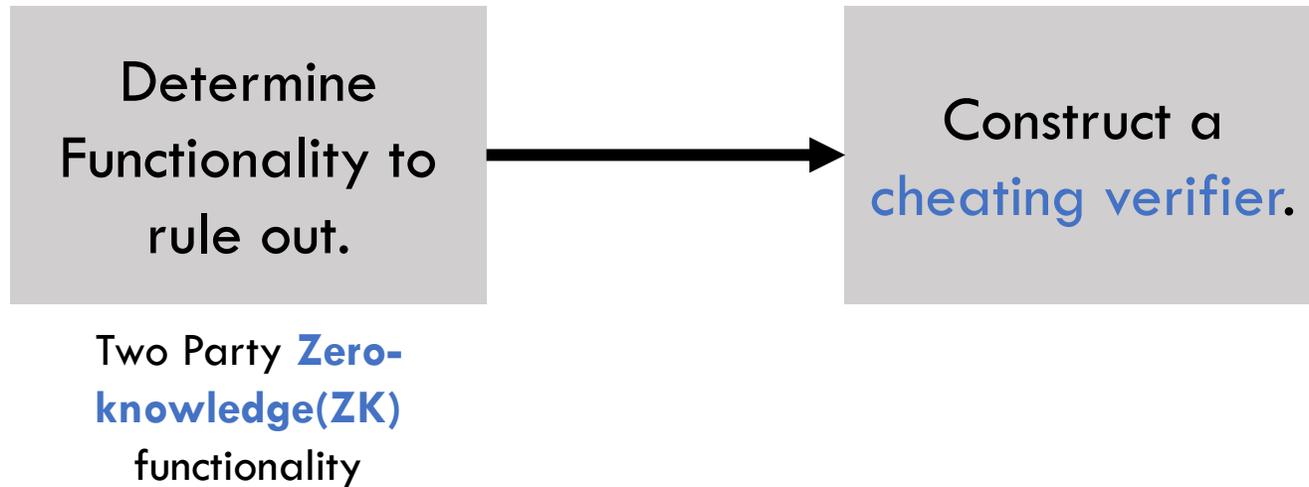
High Level Strategy

High Level Strategy

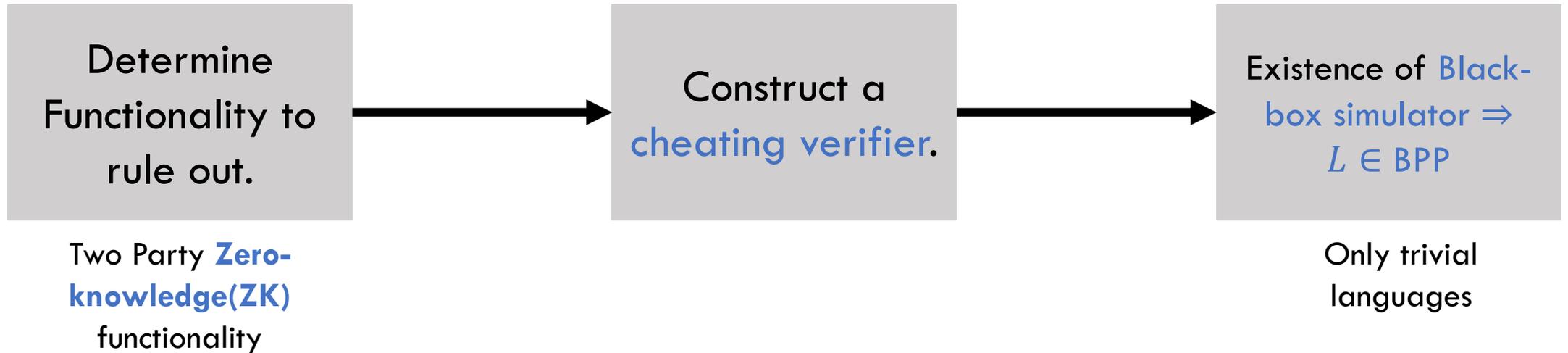
Determine
Functionality to
rule out.

Two Party **Zero-**
knowledge(ZK)
functionality

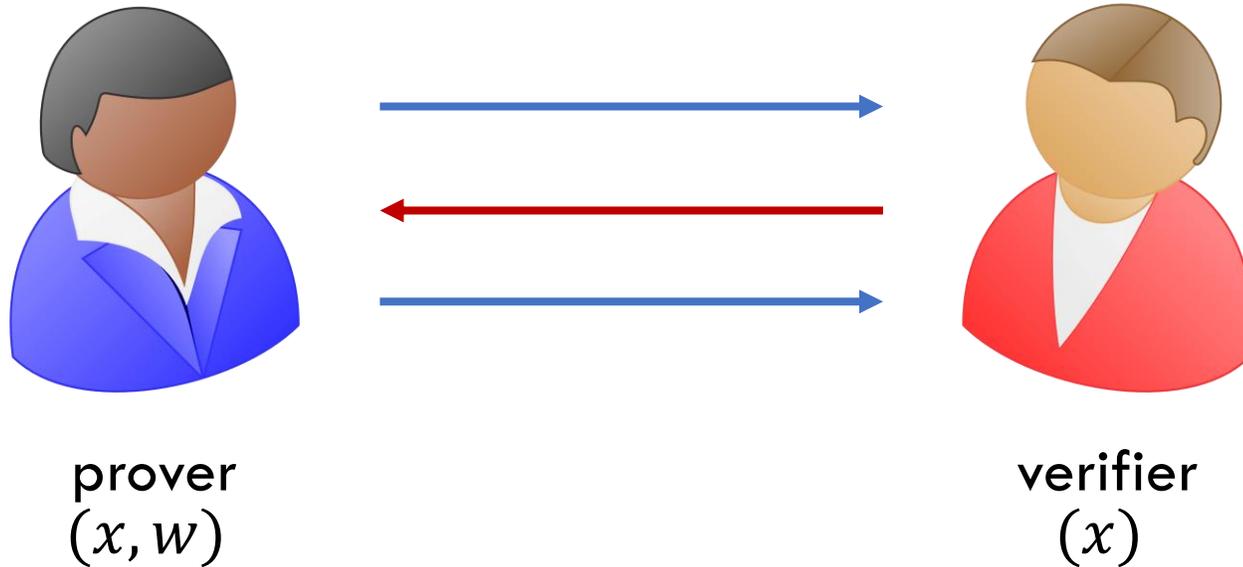
High Level Strategy



High Level Strategy



Two Party 3 round Zero-Knowledge protocol

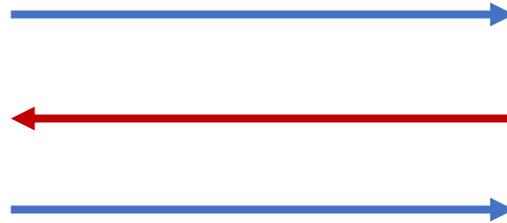


Two Party 3 round Zero-Knowledge protocol

[Goldreich-
Krawczyk'96]
3 round ZK
does not exist



prover
(x, w)



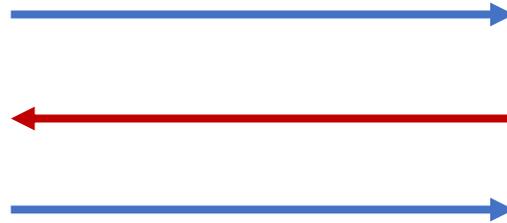
verifier
(x)

Two Party 3 round Zero-Knowledge protocol

[Goldreich-
Krawczyk'96]
3 round ZK
does not exist



prover
(x, w)



verifier
(x)

Why doesn't [Goldreich-Krawczyk'96] directly apply?

Challenge 1: Simultaneous Messages



prover
 (x, w)



verifier
 (x)

Challenge 1: Simultaneous Messages



prover
 (x, w)



verifier
 (x)

Simulator can potentially use all 3 messages sent by Bob to extract a trapdoor, and complete simulation.

Challenge 2: Covert Adversary



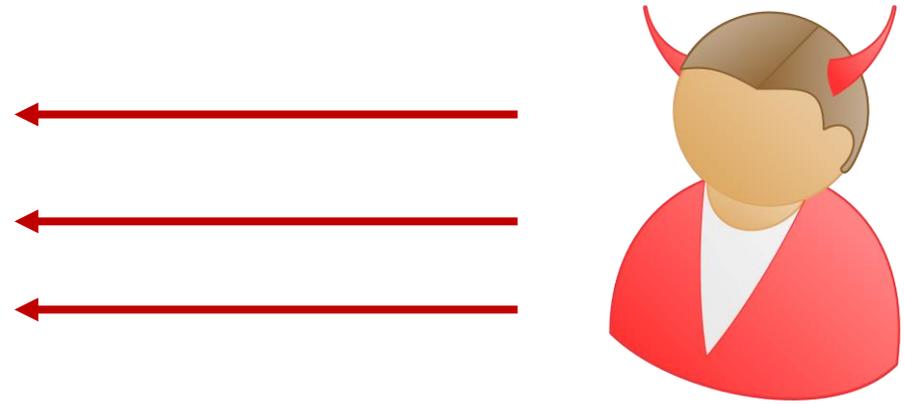
prover
 (x, w)



verifier
 (x)

If Simulator determines Bob is cheating, can query with **cheat** message to get Alice's input, **witness w** .

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier



verifier
(x)

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier



Cheating Bob can choose its i -th round message **after** receiving the i -th round message from the prover.

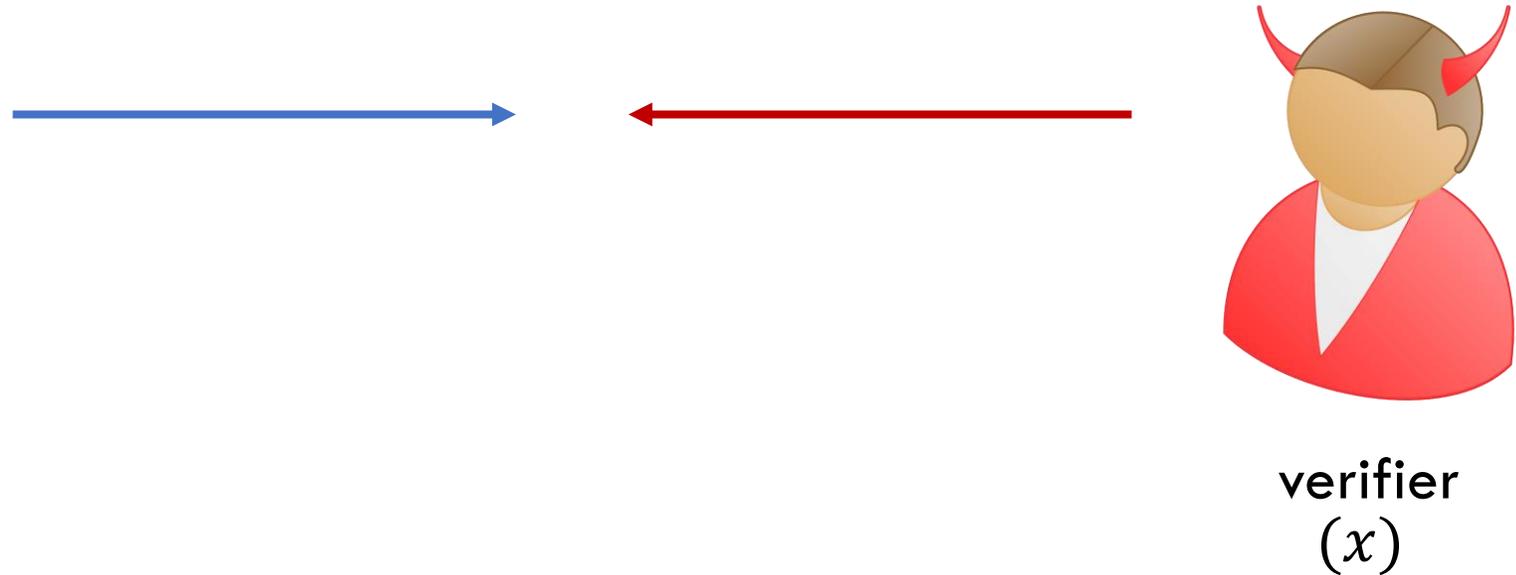
The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier



verifier
(x)

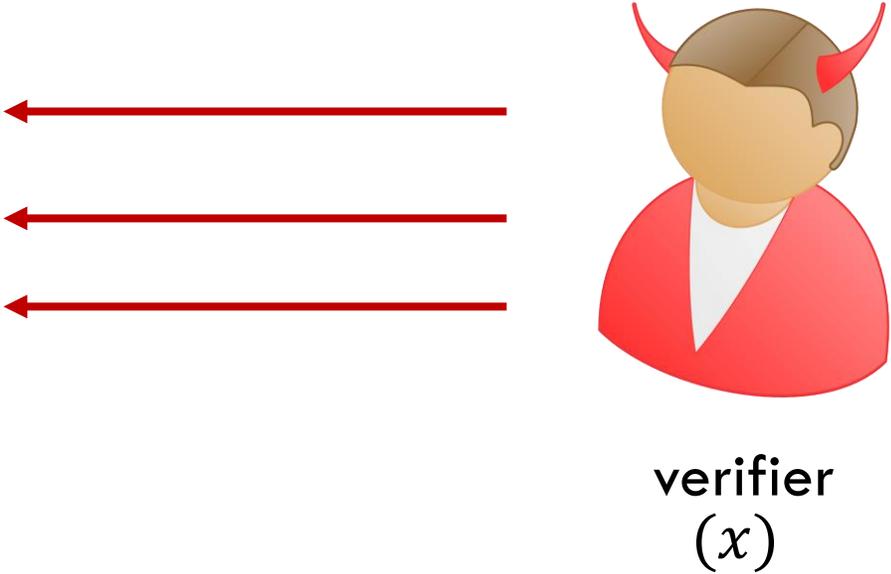
Cheating Bob can choose its i -th round message **after** receiving the i -th round message from the prover.

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier



Cheating Bob can choose its i -th round message **after** receiving the i -th round message from the prover.

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier



The (**Rushing**) Cheating Verifier

Intuition:

Behave **honestly** in the first two rounds using **fresh randomness** for each run.



verifier
(x)

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier

Intuition:

- 1) Using fresh randomness prevents Simulator from rewinding first two rounds.

Behave honestly in the first two rounds using fresh randomness for each run.



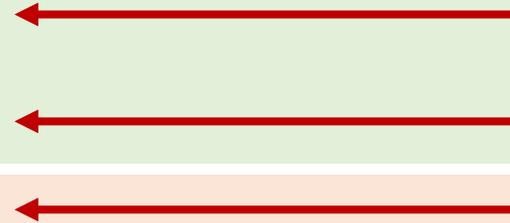
verifier
(x)

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier

Intuition:

- 1) Using fresh randomness prevents Simulator from rewinding first two rounds.

Behave honestly in the first two rounds using fresh randomness for each run.



Send third round message if received third round is accepting, else abort.

Rushing Covert Verifier



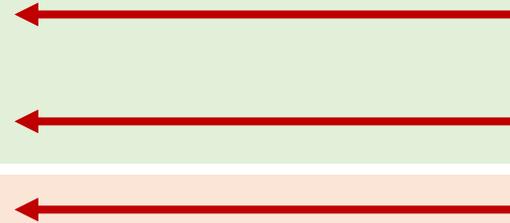
verifier
(x)

The (Rushing) Cheating Verifier

Intuition:

- 1) Using fresh randomness prevents Simulator from rewinding first two rounds.
- 2) Third round strategy prevents simulator from receiving Bob's third round unless it has an accepting transcript.

Behave honestly in the first two rounds using fresh randomness for each run.



Send third round message if received third round is accepting, else abort.

Rushing Covert Verifier



verifier
(x)

The (**Rushing**) Cheating Verifier

Intuition:

- 1) Using **fresh randomness** prevents Simulator from **rewinding** first two rounds.
- 2) Third round strategy prevents simulator from receiving Bob's third round **unless it has an accepting transcript**.
- 3) Bob will not cheat in an honest execution with the real prover \Rightarrow **simulator cannot send cheat query**.

Behave **honestly** in the first two rounds using **fresh randomness** for each run.



Send **third round message** if received third round is **accepting**, else abort.

Rushing Covert Verifier



verifier
(x)

Upper Bound

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot f(\varepsilon, n)$$

Upper Bound

There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$$

Covert Adversary Compiler



Two round protocol secure
against adversarial randomness



Covert Adversary Compiler

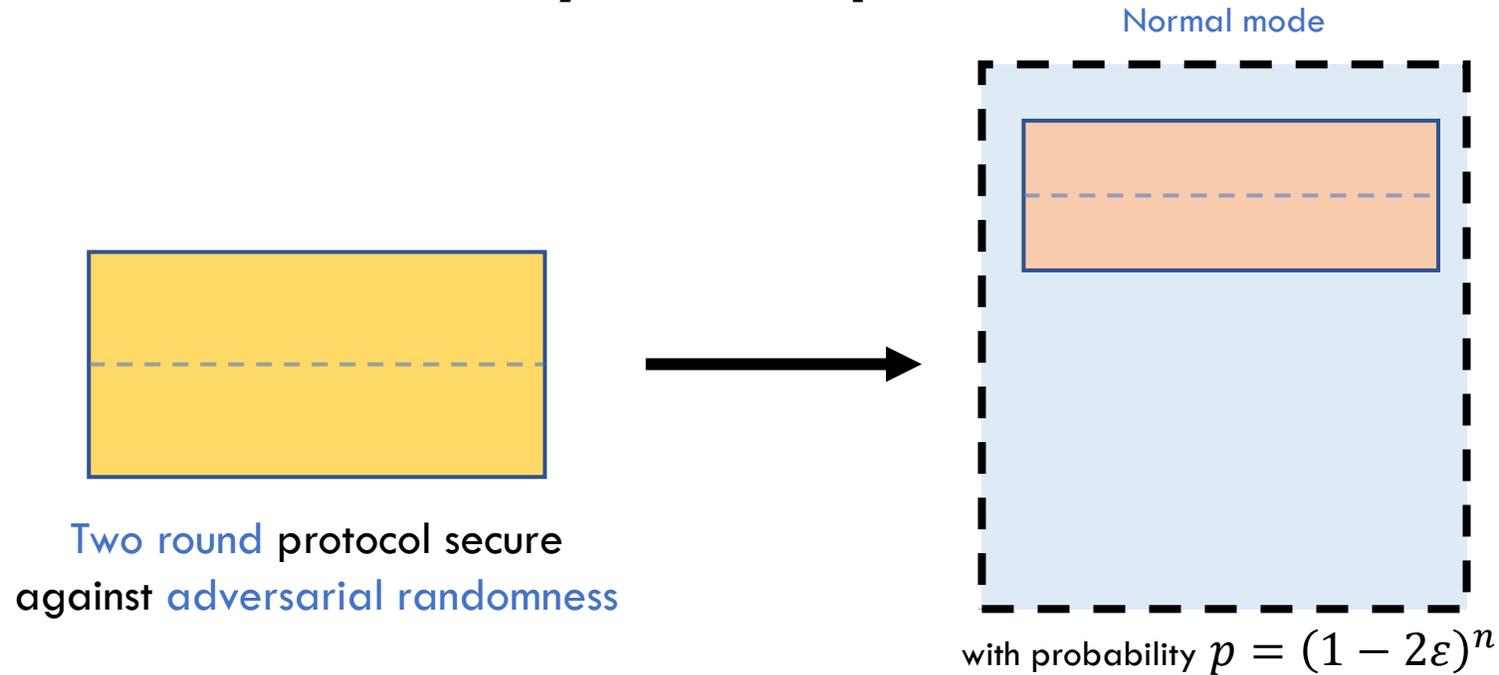


Two round protocol secure
against adversarial randomness



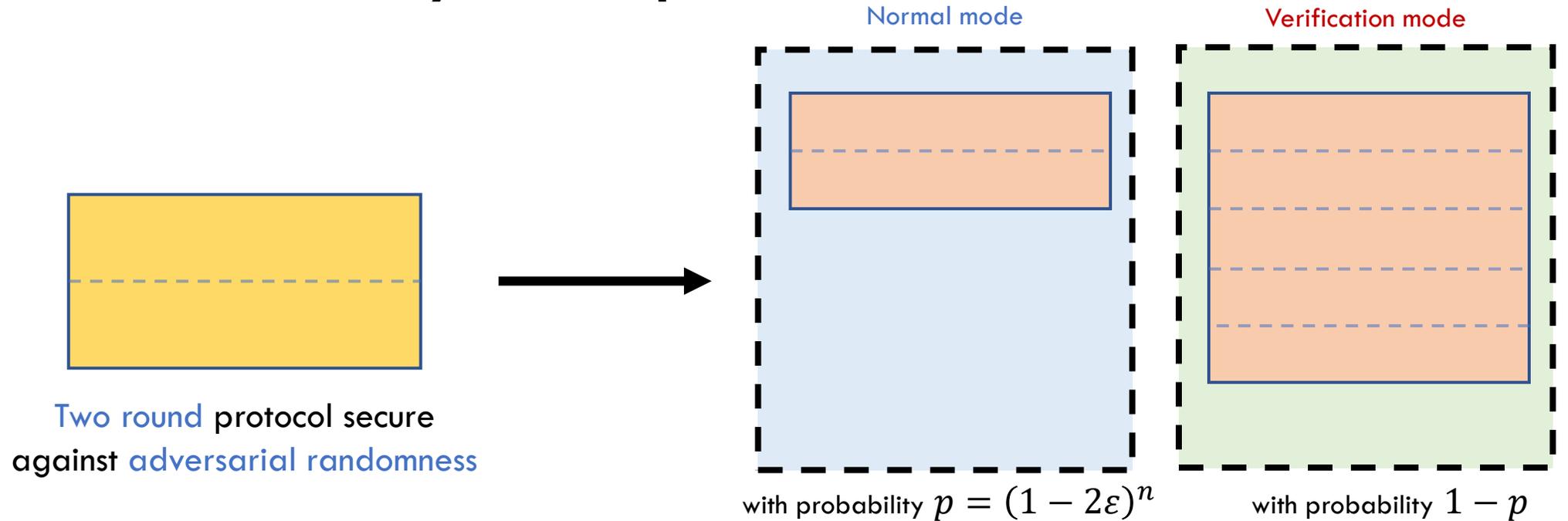
Main Idea: Initiate check for honest behavior with certain probability.

Covert Adversary Compiler



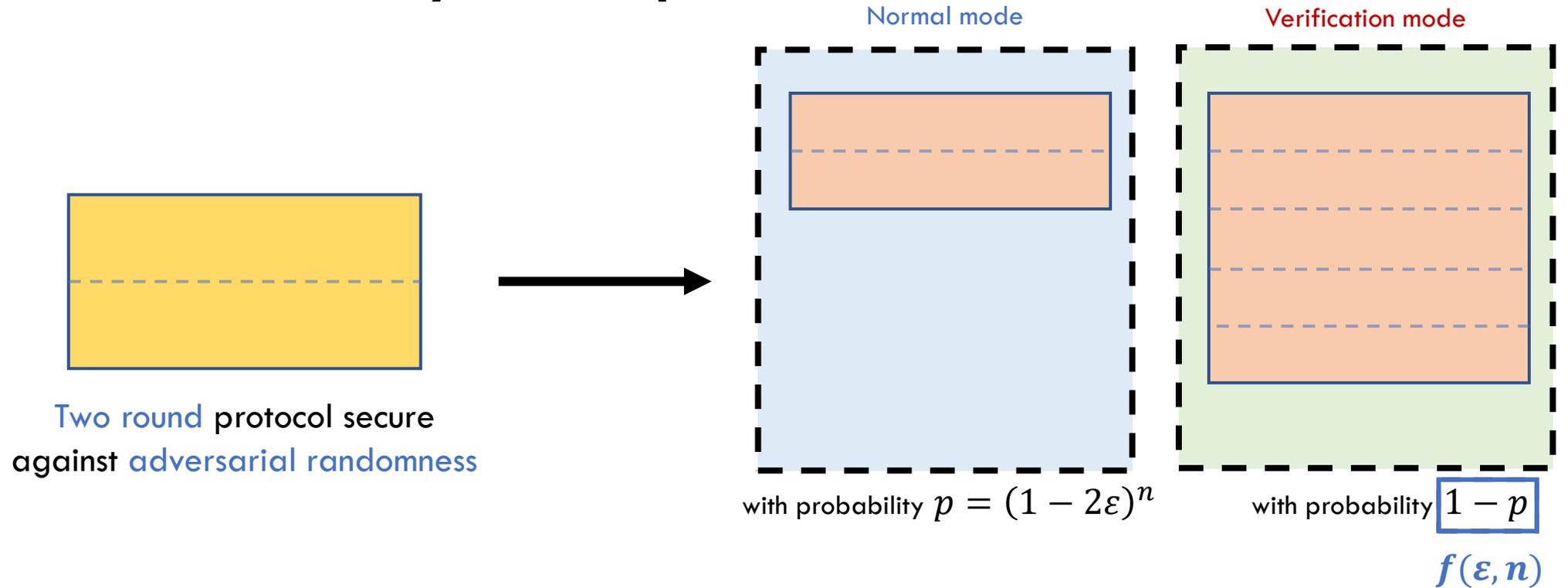
Main Idea: Initiate check for honest behavior with certain probability.

Covert Adversary Compiler



Main Idea: Initiate check for honest behavior with certain probability.

Covert Adversary Compiler

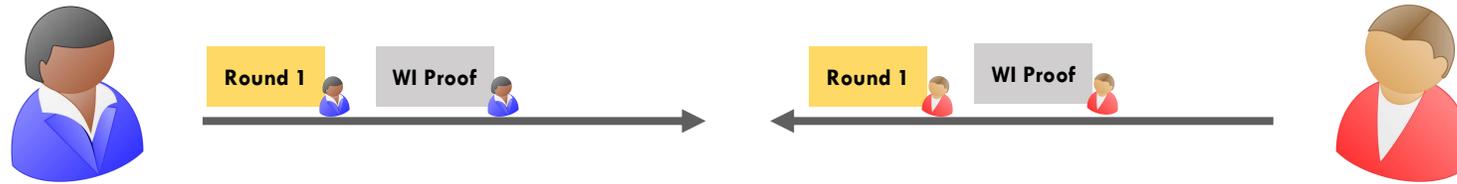


Main Idea: Initiate check for honest behavior with certain probability.

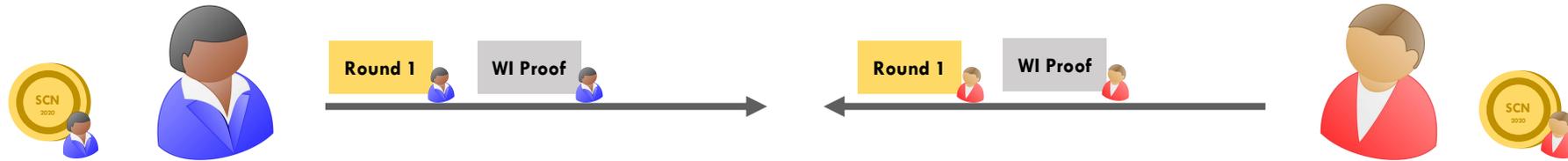
High Level Idea of the Protocol



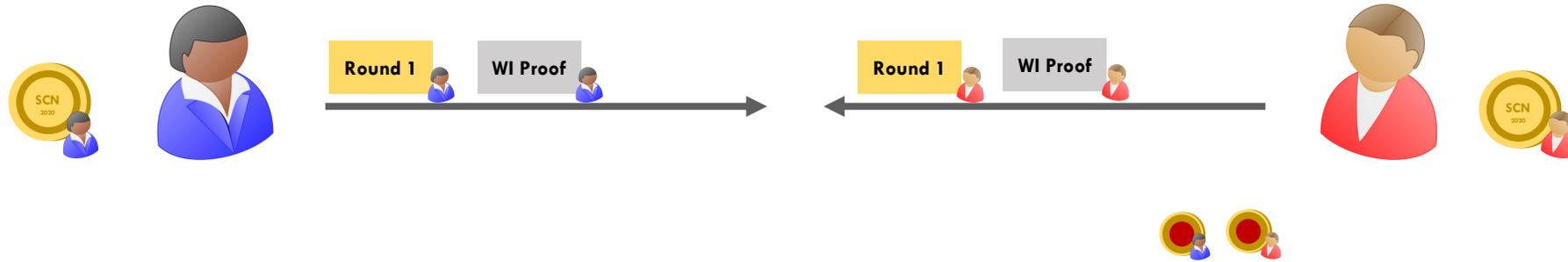
High Level Idea of the Protocol



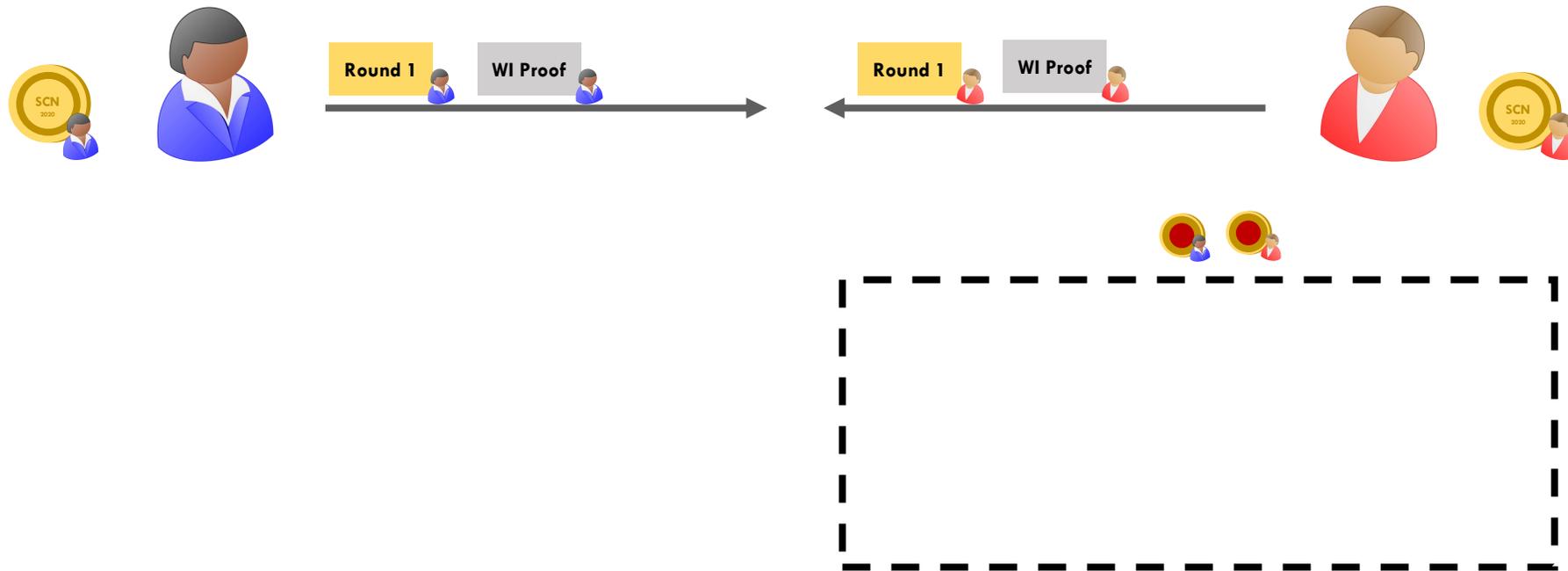
High Level Idea of the Protocol



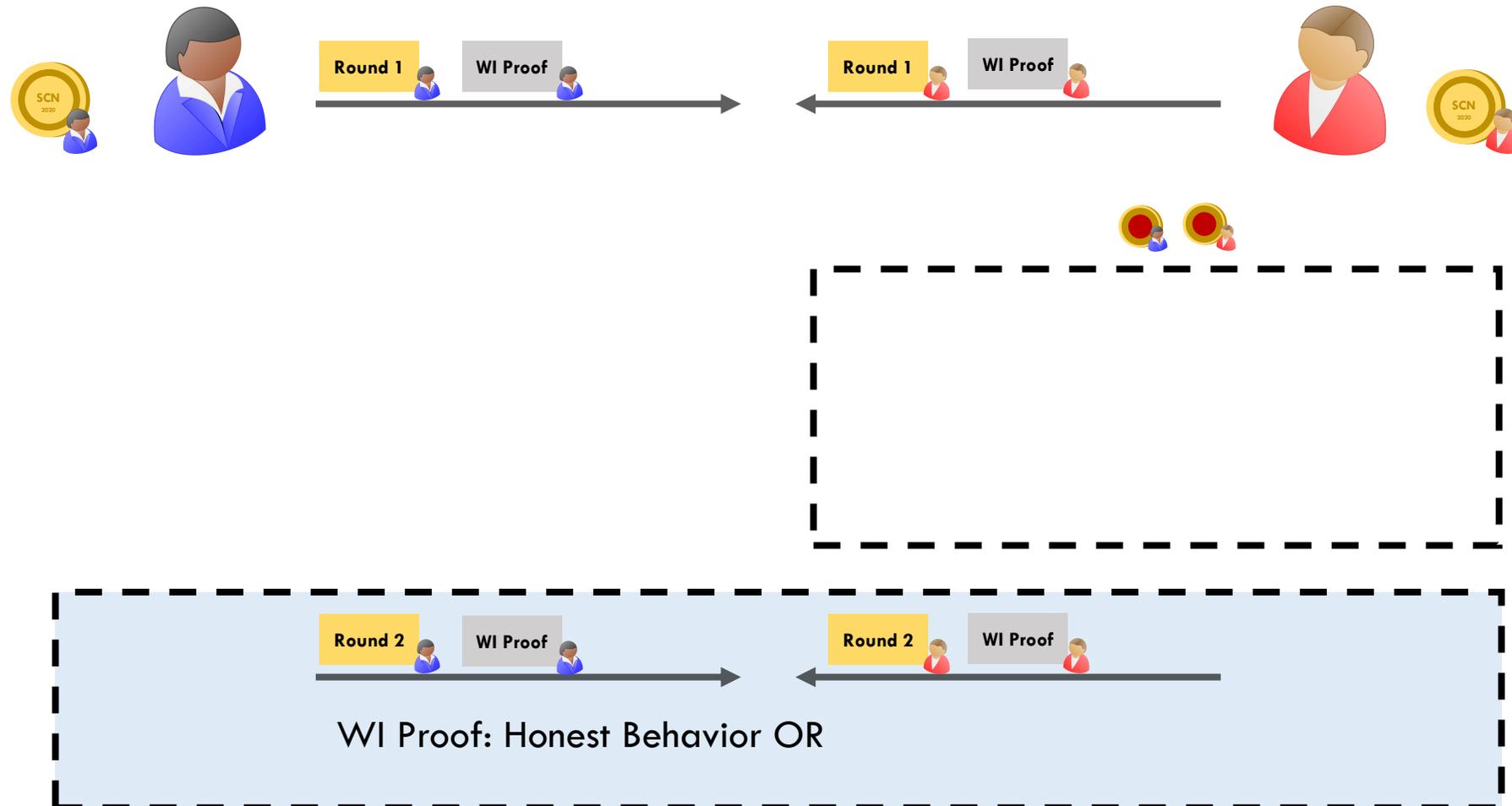
High Level Idea of the Protocol



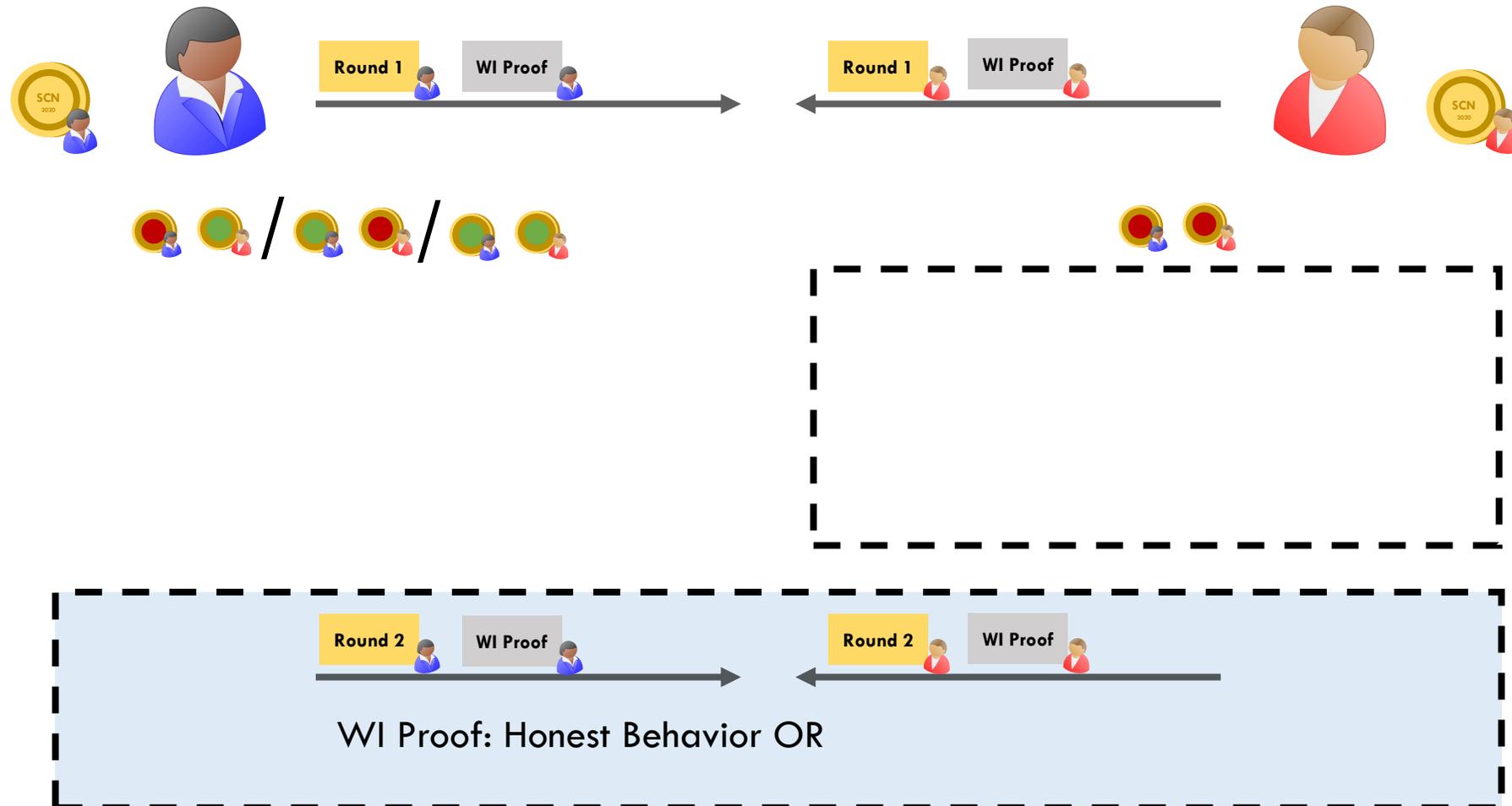
High Level Idea of the Protocol



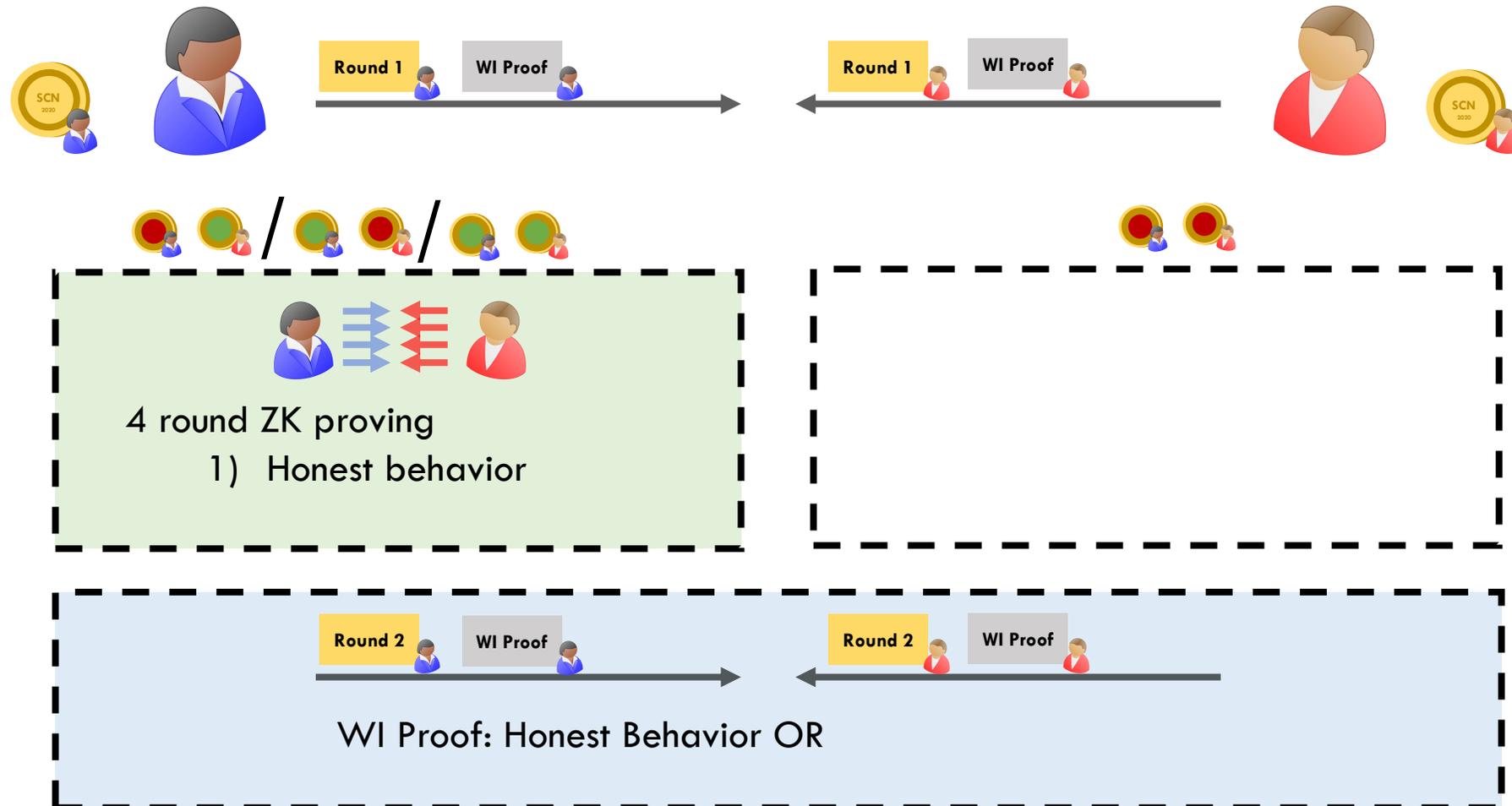
High Level Idea of the Protocol



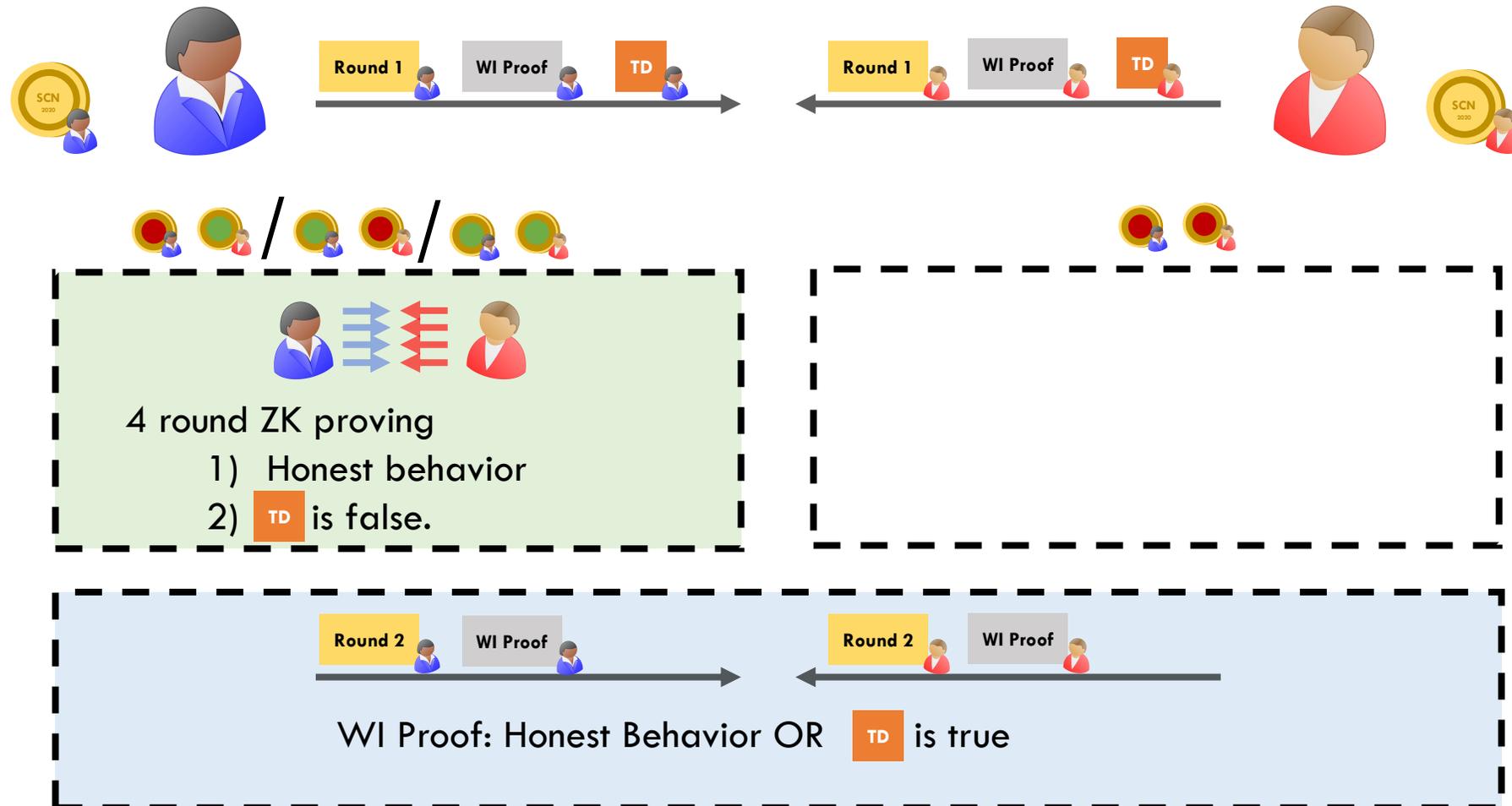
High Level Idea of the Protocol



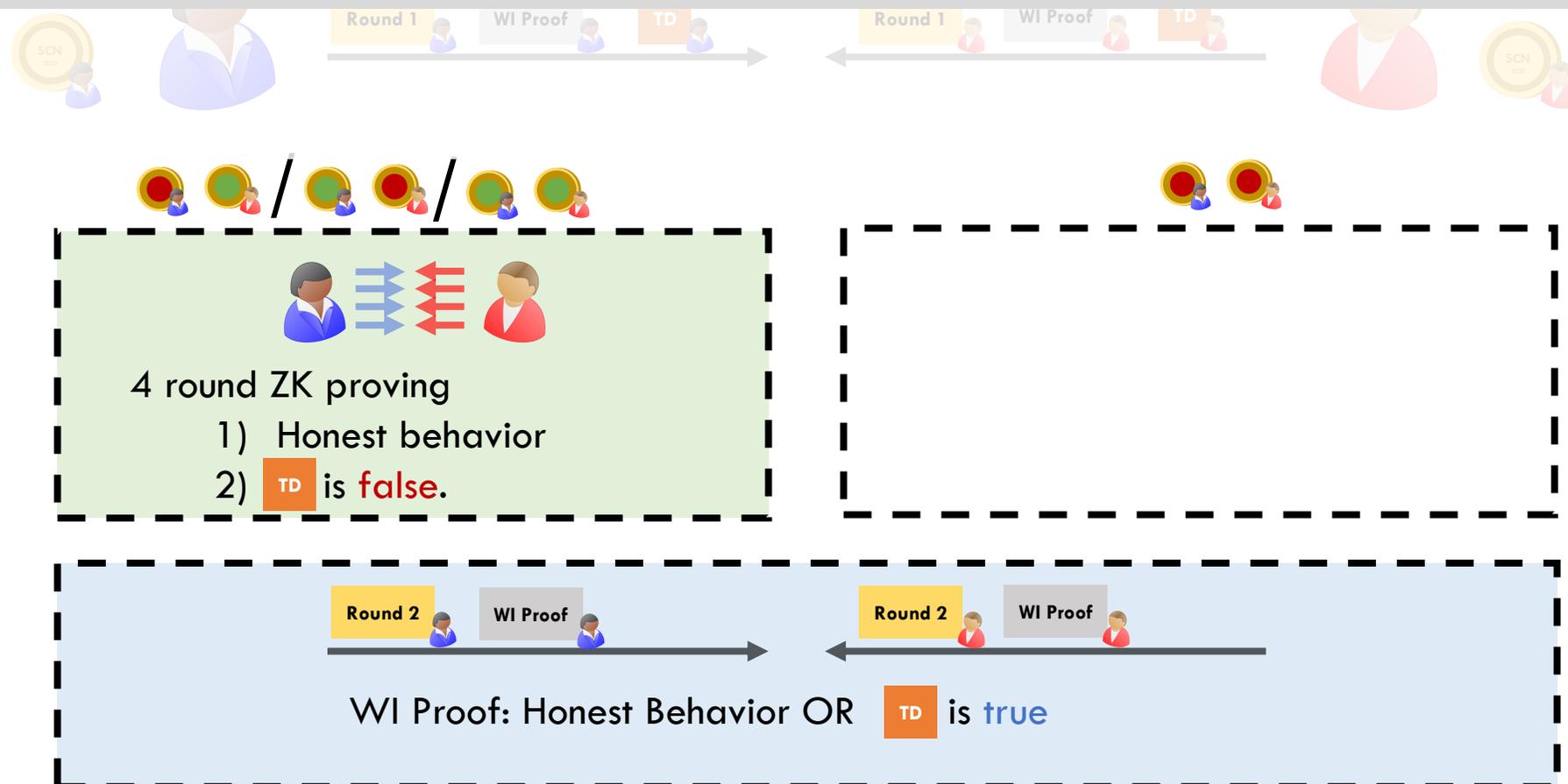
High Level Idea of the Protocol



High Level Idea of the Protocol



Intuition: Adversary must make a choice to set the **trapdoor true** to cheat in normal mode or **risk being caught** for incorrectly setting trapdoor in verification mode.



Several Simulation Challenges

For **two rounds** in best case:

Need stronger security from underlying protocol: **free-simulation**

Non-malleability issues

Skewed distribution of transcripts while checking if adversary is cheating

Worst case:

5 rounds

$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$$

Worst case 4 rounds?

Worst case:

5 rounds

$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$$

Worst case 4 rounds?

Similar ideas might likely work

Current 4 round protocols complex

Worst case:

5 rounds

$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$$

Worst case 4 rounds?

Similar ideas might likely work

Current 4 round protocols complex

Adversary forcing worst case?

Worst case:

5 rounds

$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$$

Worst case 4 rounds?

Similar ideas might likely work

Current 4 round protocols complex

Adversary forcing worst case?

Won't be able to cheat covertly

Worst case:

5 rounds

$\varepsilon \geq 1/2$



There exists a **variable round protocol** in the presence of covert adversaries where the expected number of rounds are:

$$2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$$

There **exists** a **protocol** with expected number of rounds $2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$

There **does not exist** a **three-round protocol**.

There **exists** a **protocol** with expected number of rounds $2 + 3 \cdot (1 - (1 - 2\varepsilon)^n)$

There **does not exist** a **three-round protocol**.

Thank you. Questions?

Arka Rai Choudhuri

achoud@cs.jhu.edu

ia.cr/2020/1092