

Assume inquirer wants to know the kth information unit  $I_k$ .

Step 1:

Agent sends the random numbers  $RN_1 \dots RN_n$  to the inquirer.

Step 2:

Inquirer sends  $K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k$  to the agent.

Step 3:

Agent sends inquirer the following n items (for  $i=1..n$ ):

$$K_A^-(K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k - RN_i) + I_i$$

Remark: Upon receiving  $K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k$  from the inquirer, the agent offsets  $K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k$  with  $RN_i$  for  $i=1..n$ ; i.e., the agent derives n terms  $K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k - RN_i$  for  $i$  ranging from 1 to n. Then the agent applies the decryption function  $K_A^-(\bullet)$  to each of the n terms  $K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k - RN_i$ , and adds  $I_i$  to each corresponding  $i$ th outcome of applying the decryption function; i.e.,  $K_A^-(K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k - RN_i) + I_i$ . Finally, note also that without knowing  $IRN$ , the agent could not know the specific kth item the inquirer is asking.

Step 4:

Inquirer offsets the kth terms sent by the agent in step 3 with  $IRN$ ; i.e.,

$$K_A^-(K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k - RN_i) + I_i - IRN = K_A^-(K_A^+(IRN)) + I_i - IRN \text{ (for } i=k) = I_k$$

Remark: When  $i \neq k$ ,  $K_A^-(K_A^+(IRN) + RN_k - RN_i)$  is a value unknown to the inquirer as the inquirer does not know the decryption secret of the agent; thus, the inquirer could not derive the correct value of  $I_i$  when  $i \neq k$ . In other words, at the end of the process the inquirer will know only exactly  $I_k$  but nothing else.