

# Position-based Quantum Cryptography

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## Impossibility and Constructions

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Joint work with:

Harry Buhrman (CWI), Nishanth Chandran (UCLA), Ran Gelles (UCLA),  
Vipul Goyal (MS), Rafail Ostrovsky (UCLA), and Christian Schaffner (CWI)

## Position-based Cryptography

- 💡 In “standard” cryptography, parties use **digital keys** (or biometric features) as **credentials**. It is **knowledge of a key** that enables a party to
  - decrypt a ciphertext
  - sign/authenticate a message
  - gain access to some service
  - etc.
- 💡 In **position-based** cryptography, we want to use the party’s **geographical position** as its (only) credential.



# Position-based Cryptographic Tasks

- Position-based **encryption**:  
person(s) at specific location can **decrypt ciphertext**
- Position-based **authentication**:  
person(s) at specific location can **authenticate message**
- Position-based **identification**:  
only person(s) at specific location can **identify himself**

## Position-based Identification



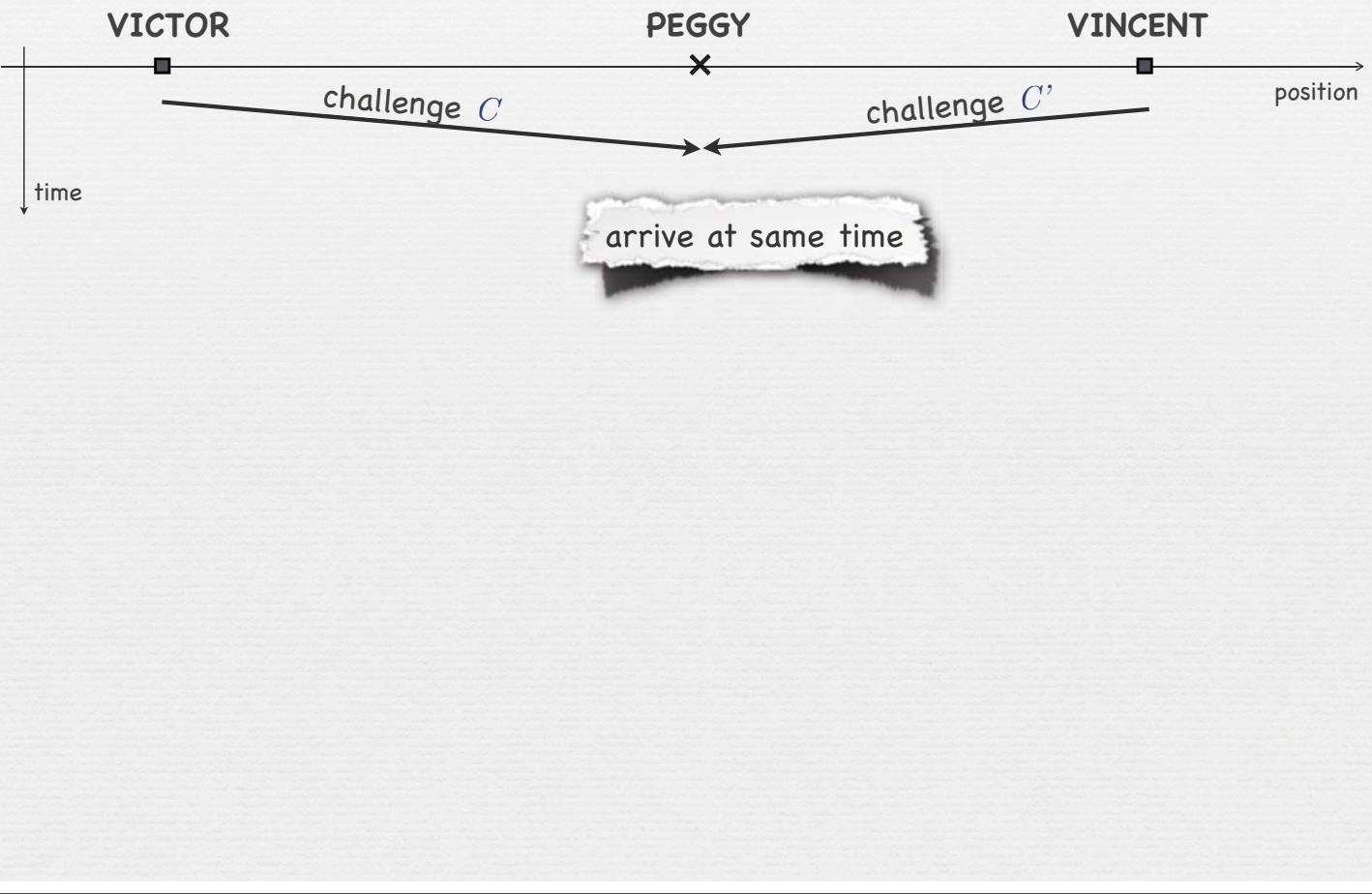
Goal:

To convince Victor & Vincent of Peggy's location.

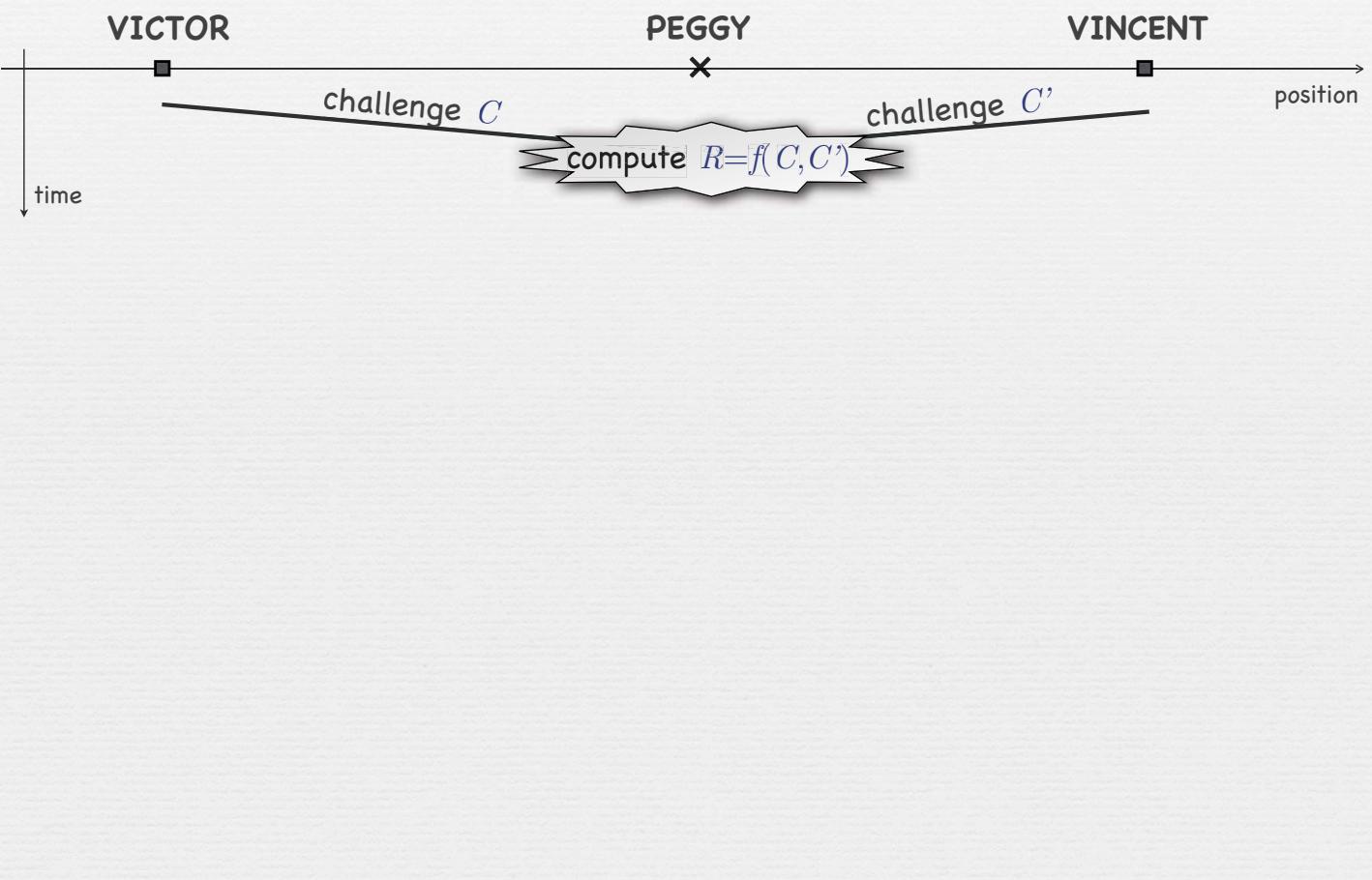
For simplicity: consider 1 dimension.

For 2 dimensions, 3 verifiers are needed, etc.

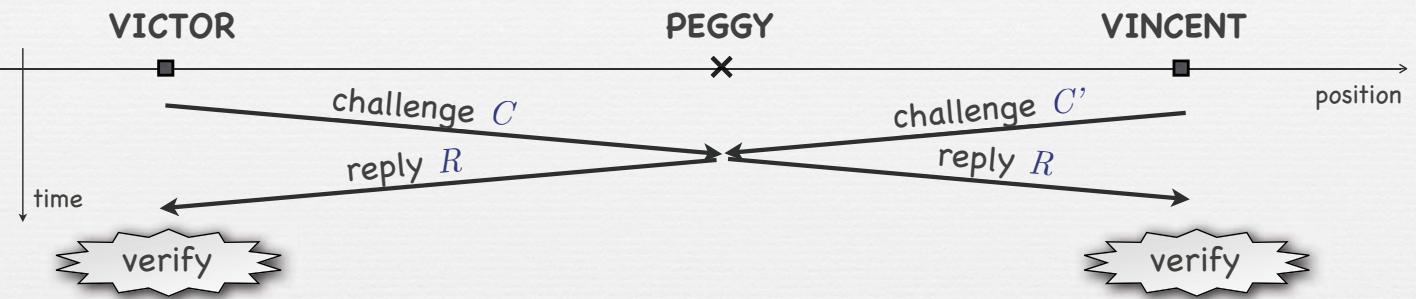
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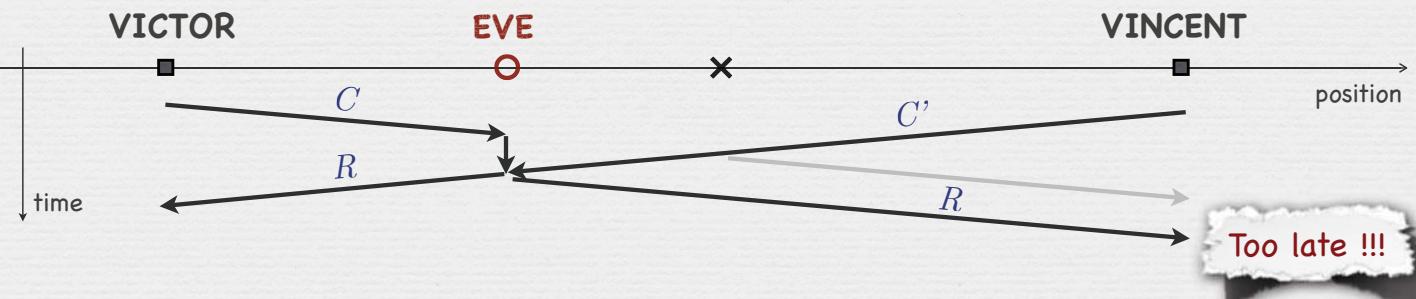
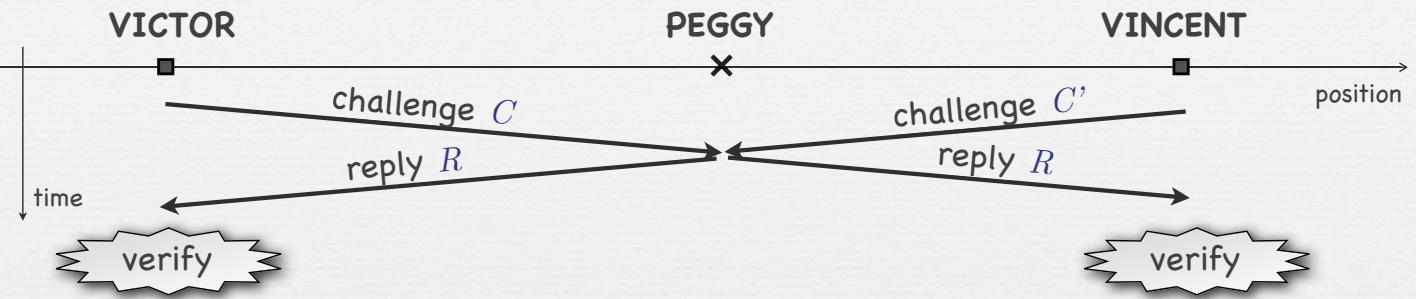


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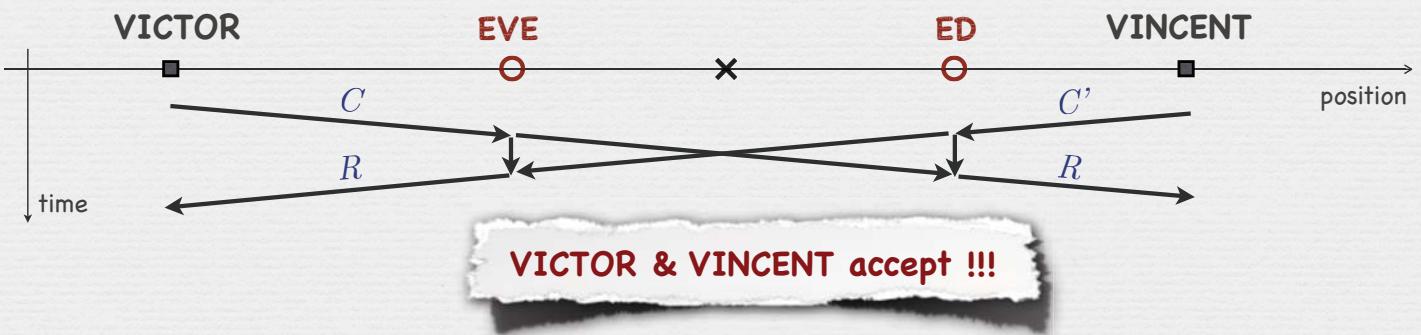
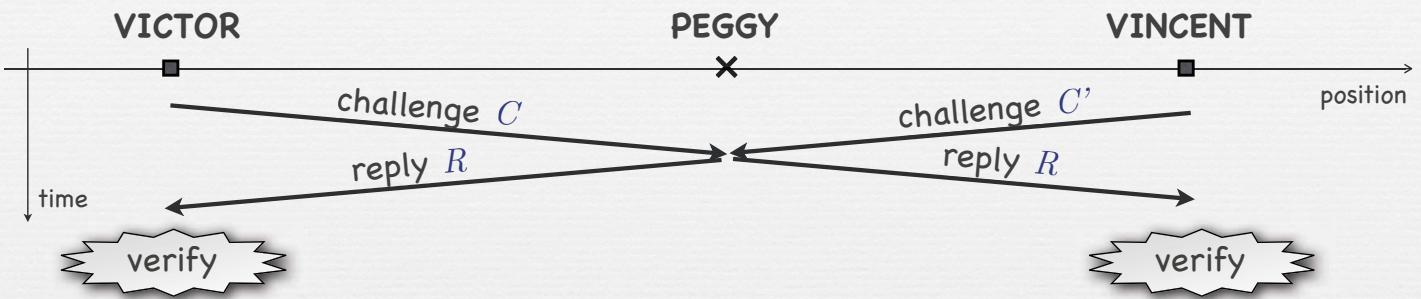


- 📌 Verifiers verify:
  - time is consistent with Peggy's (claimed) position
  - $R$  is correct
- 📌 Assumptions/Setting:
  - straight-line communication at constant speed
  - instantaneous computation
  - verifiers are honest and can coordinate privately

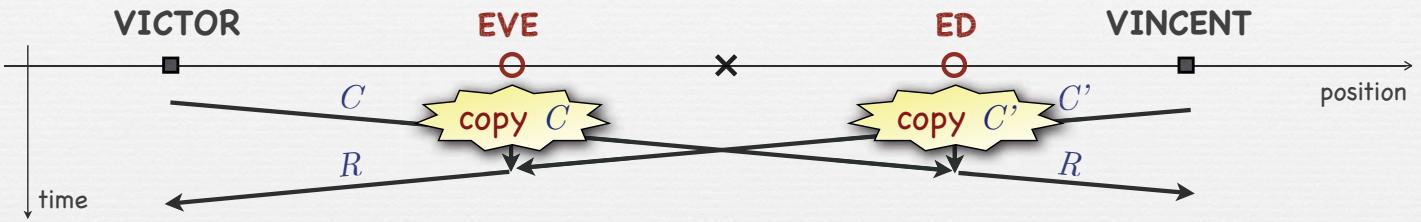
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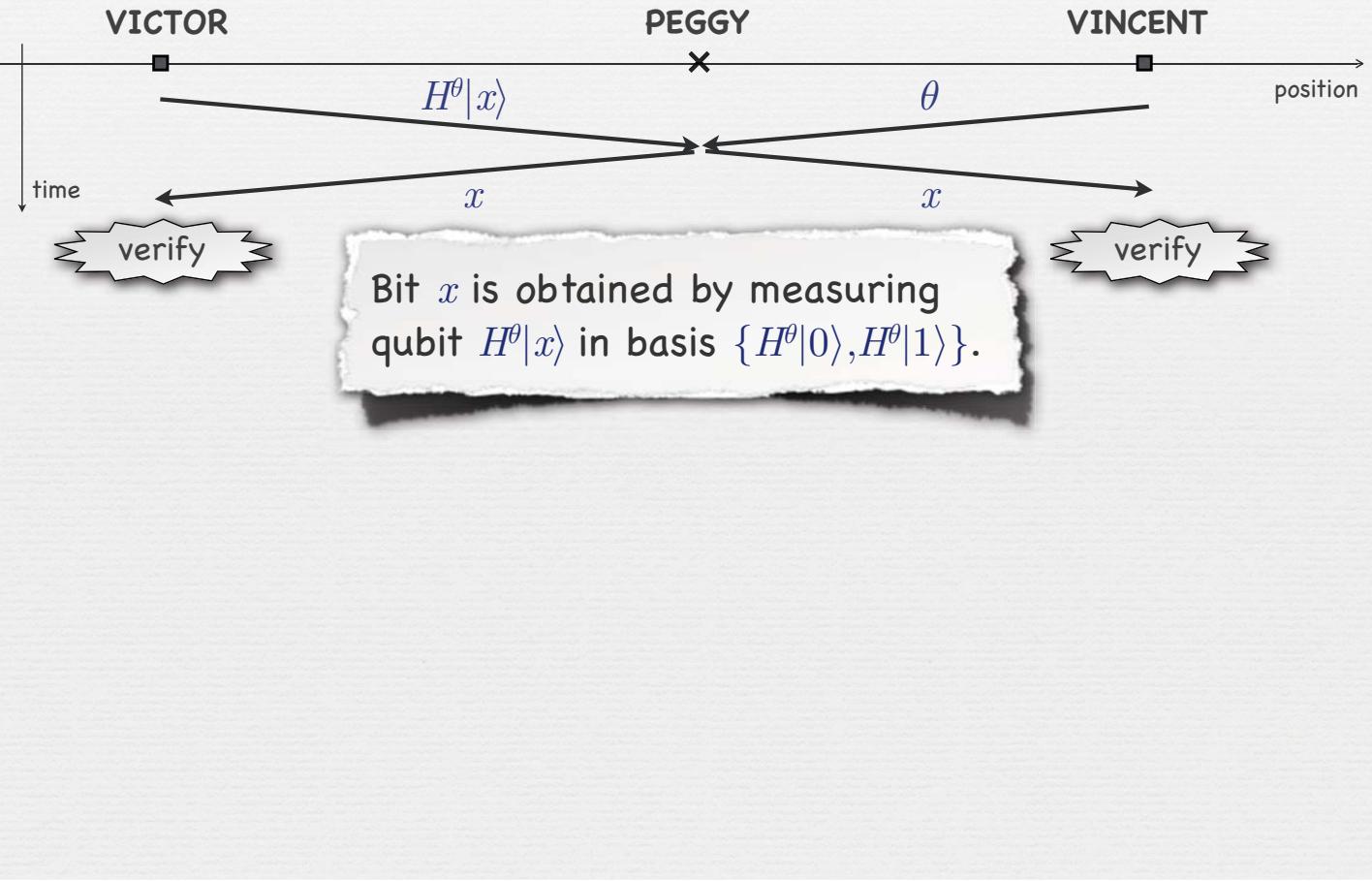
💡 Insecure!!!

- inherent problem
- general impossibility proof [Chandran,Goyal,Moriarty,Ostrovsky 2009]
- hardness of factoring etc. does not help

💡 Does quantum mechanics help?

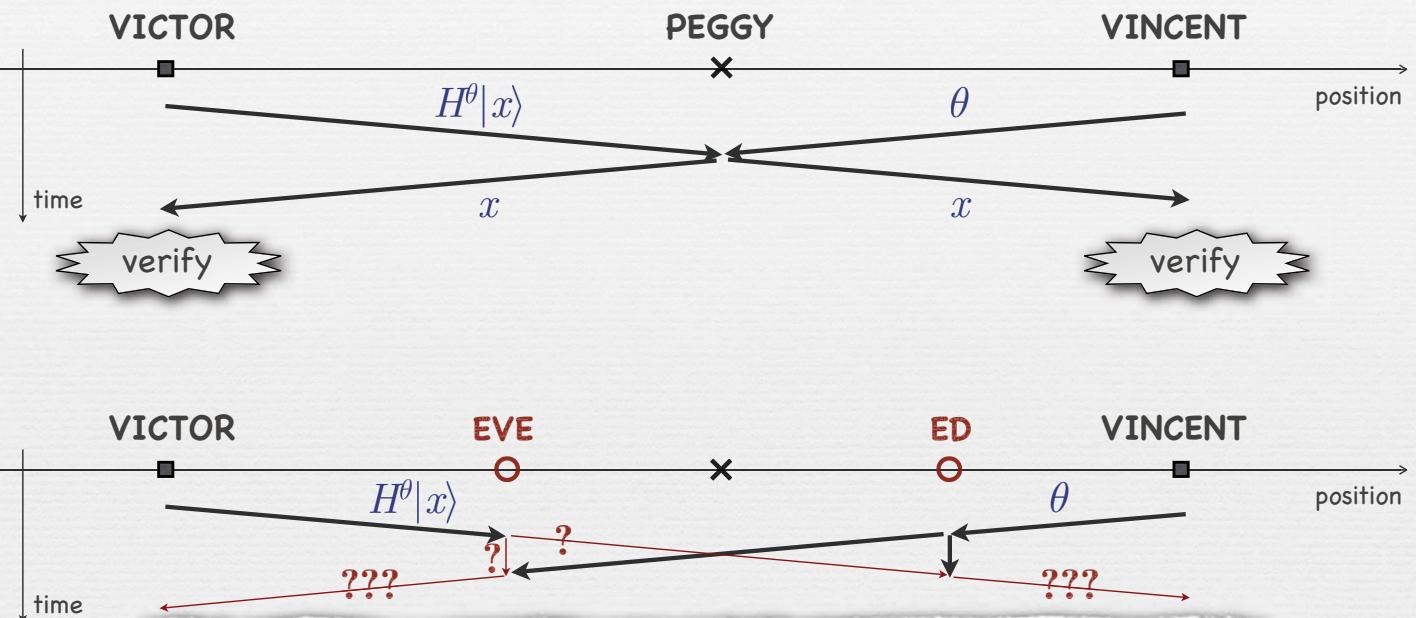
Intuition: Attack requires **copying**, which is **impossible** by **No-Cloning Theorem** if  $C$  or  $C'$  is quantum state.

# A Simple Candidate Scheme



Bit  $x$  is obtained by measuring qubit  $H^\theta|x\rangle$  in basis  $\{H^\theta|0\rangle, H^\theta|1\rangle\}$ .

# A Simple Candidate Scheme



Eve cannot both **keep  $H^\theta|x\rangle$**  and **send it to Ed !**

Conclusion: Scheme is secure ???

## Our Results

- A general **no-go theorem**:  
Position-based identification (and hence encryption etc.) is **impossible** also in the quantum setting.
- A **limited possibility result**:  
Position-based identification (and also encryption etc.) is **possible** in the quantum setting assuming that the adversaries hold no pre-shared entanglement.

## History of Position-based Quantum Crypto

- August 2009. Chandran, Goyal, Moriarty, Ostrovsky (CRYPTO):  
Impossibility of **classical** position-based crypto.
- March 2010. Malaney (arXiv):  
Quantum scheme for position-based identification, **no proof**.
- May 2010. Chandran, F., Gelles, Goyal, Ostrovsky (arXiv):  
Quantum scheme for position-based identification (and other tasks)
  - with **rigorous security proof**,
  - but **implicitly assuming no pre-shared entanglement**.
- August 2010. Kent, Munro, Spiller (arXiv):
  - **Insecurity** of proposed scheme with pre-shared entanglement.
  - Proposal of new (secure?) schemes.

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  - Extension of Kent et al.'s attack to higher dimensions.
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- September 2010. Buhrman, Chandran, F., Gelles, Goyal, Ostrovsky, Schaffner (arXiv): **Impossibility** of position-based quantum crypto.

# Road Map

- Preface
- Teleportation
- No-Go Theorem
- Limited possibility results

# Teleportation

ALICE

BOB

$n$  EPR pairs



$$|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n}$$



# Teleportation

ALICE

BOB

$n$  EPR pairs

measure

$$|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n}$$



# Teleportation

ALICE

BOB

measure

$$k \overset{\leftarrow}{\in} \{0,1\}^{2n}$$

Instantaneously!

$$V_k |\psi\rangle$$

$$k = 0\dots0 \Rightarrow V_k = id$$

# Teleportation

ALICE

BOB

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$$k \in \{0,1\}^{2n}$$

Instantaneously!

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$k$

recover  $|\psi\rangle$

# Teleportation

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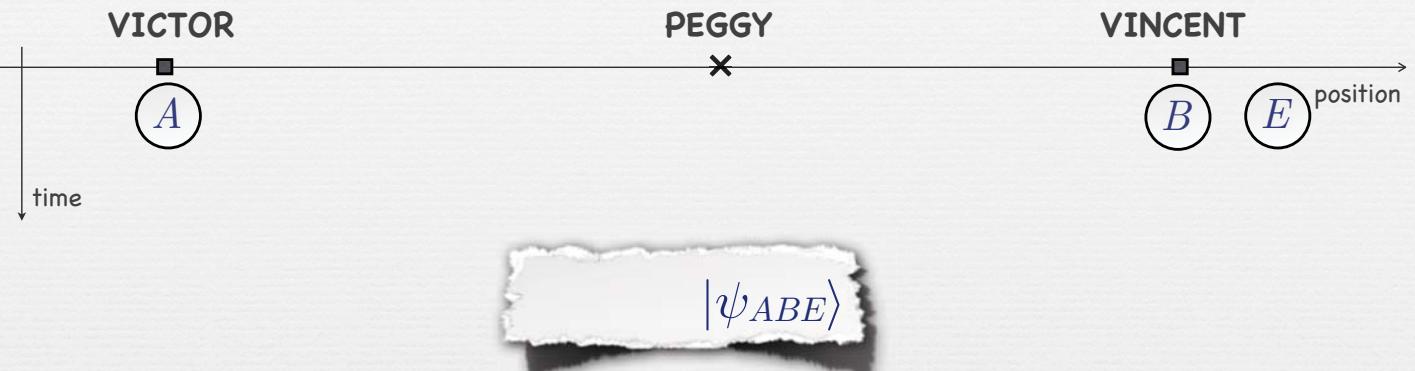
recover  $|\psi\rangle$

will not consider this as part of teleportation

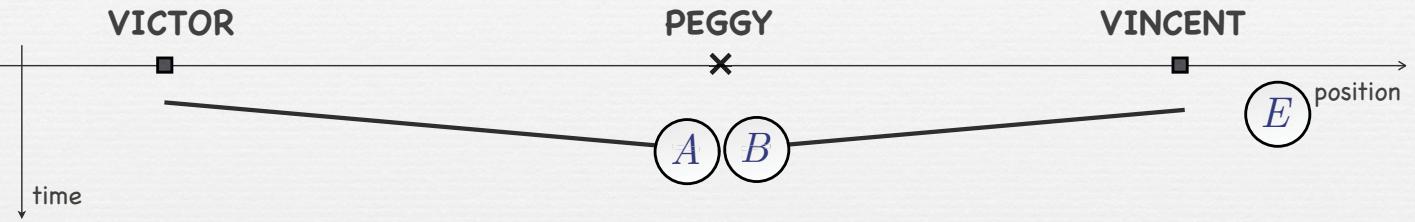
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## The General Scheme

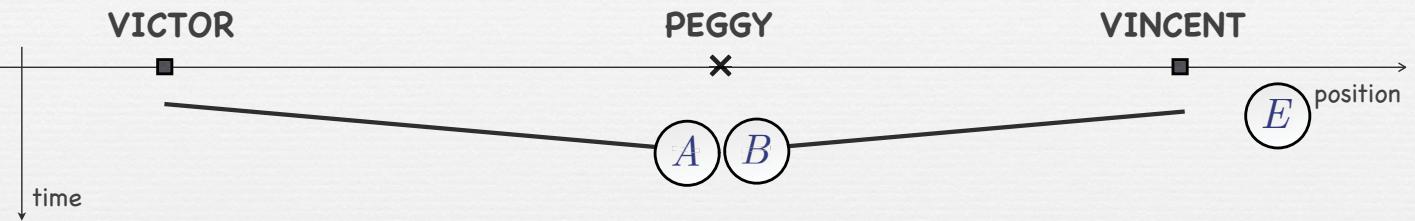


# The General Scheme



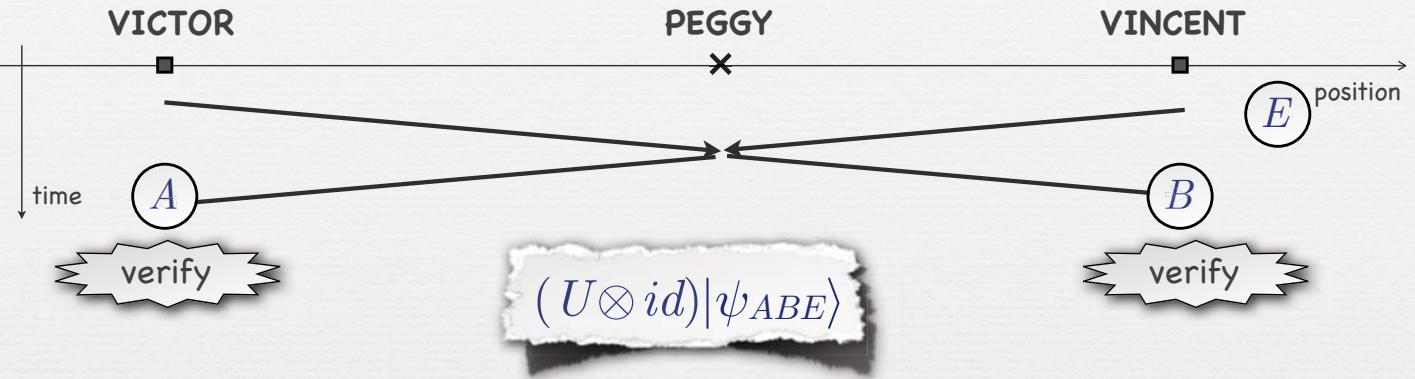
$$|\psi_{ABE}\rangle$$

# The General Scheme

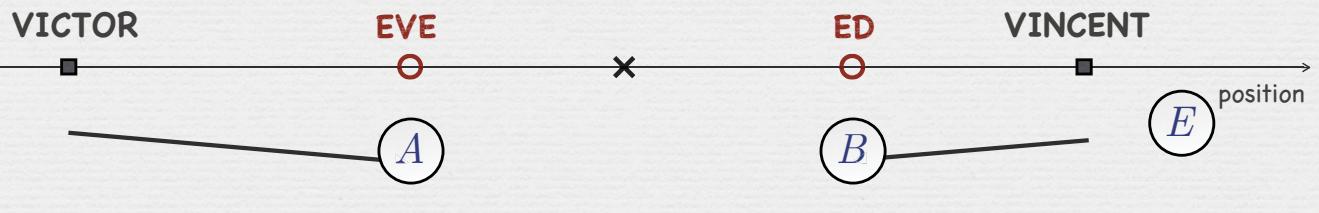
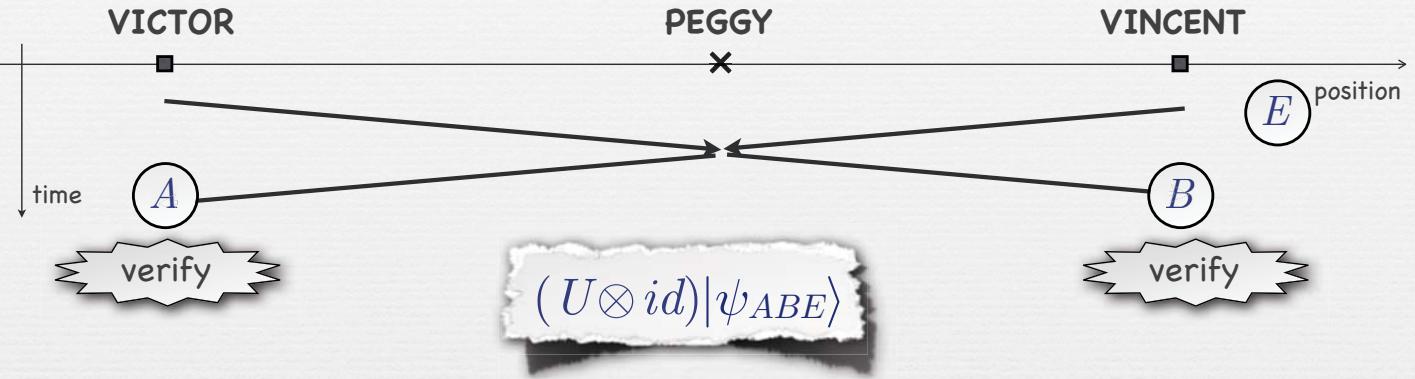


$$(U \otimes id)|\psi_{ABE}\rangle$$

# The General Scheme



# The General Scheme



# The General Scheme

VICTOR

PEGGY

VINCENT

Eve and Ed need to apply  $U$  to joint system  $AB$ ,  
where  $A$  and  $B$  are geographically separated

=> (in general) two rounds of communication needed ???

VICTOR

EVE

$U$

ED

VINCENT

position

time

$A$

?

$B$

position

$E$

# The General Scheme

VICTOR

PEGGY

VINCENT

Eve and Ed need to apply  $U$  to joint system  $AB$ ,  
where  $A$  and  $B$  are geographically separated

We show:

Is possible with **one** round of communication  
(when given a "large" amount of entanglement).

time

$A$

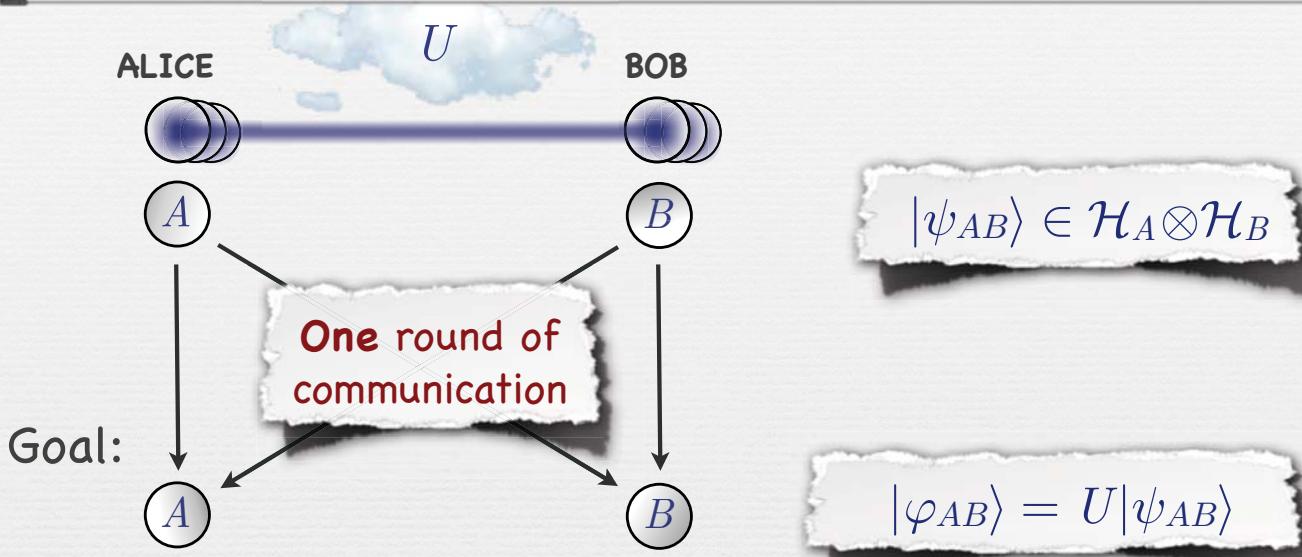
?

$B$

position

$E$

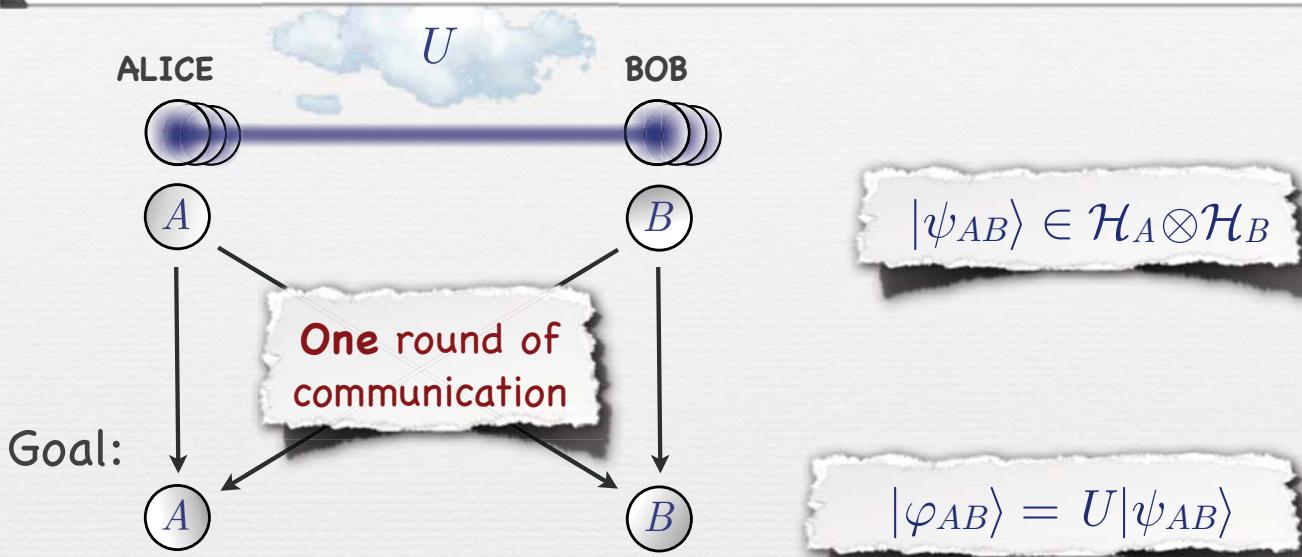
# Nonlocal Quantum Computation



Remarks:

- Trivially doable in **two** rounds.
- No quantum communication needed.

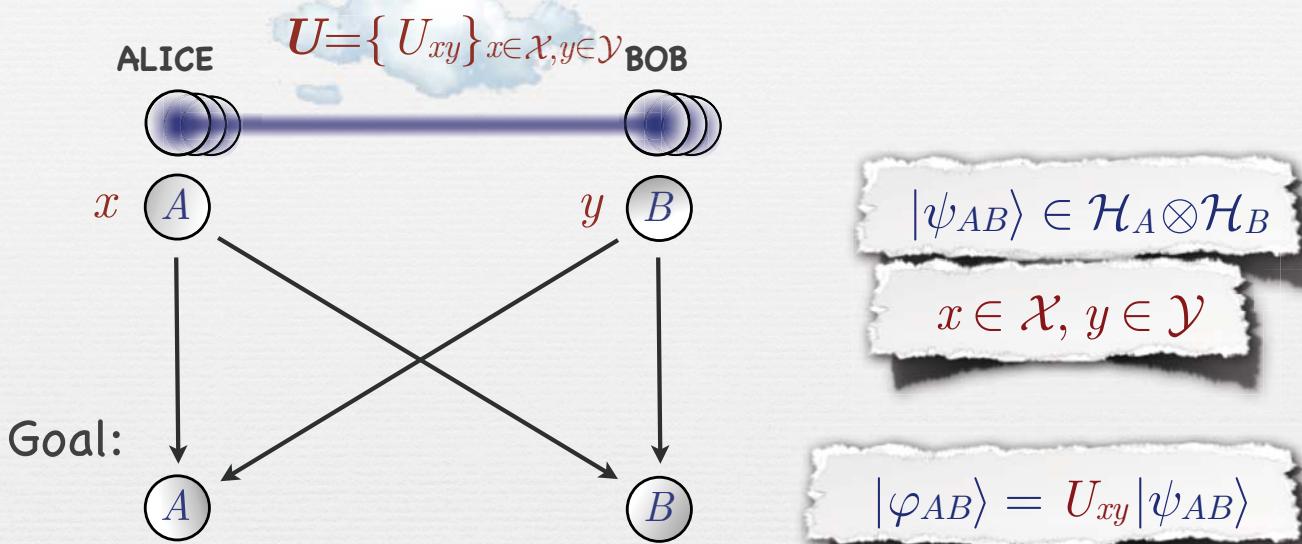
# Nonlocal Quantum Computation



**Theorem:** Single-round nonlocal quantum computation is **possible** (given “many” pre-shared EPR pairs).

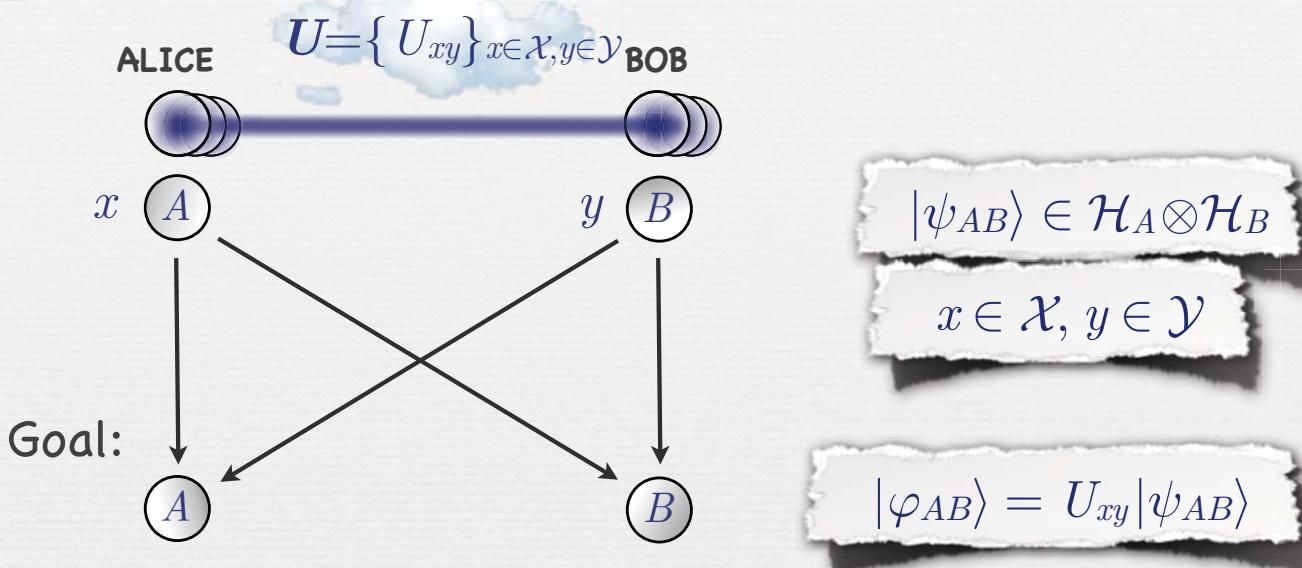
**Proof:** Follows... (based on ideas from [Vaidman2003])

## Step 1: Introducing Classical Inputs

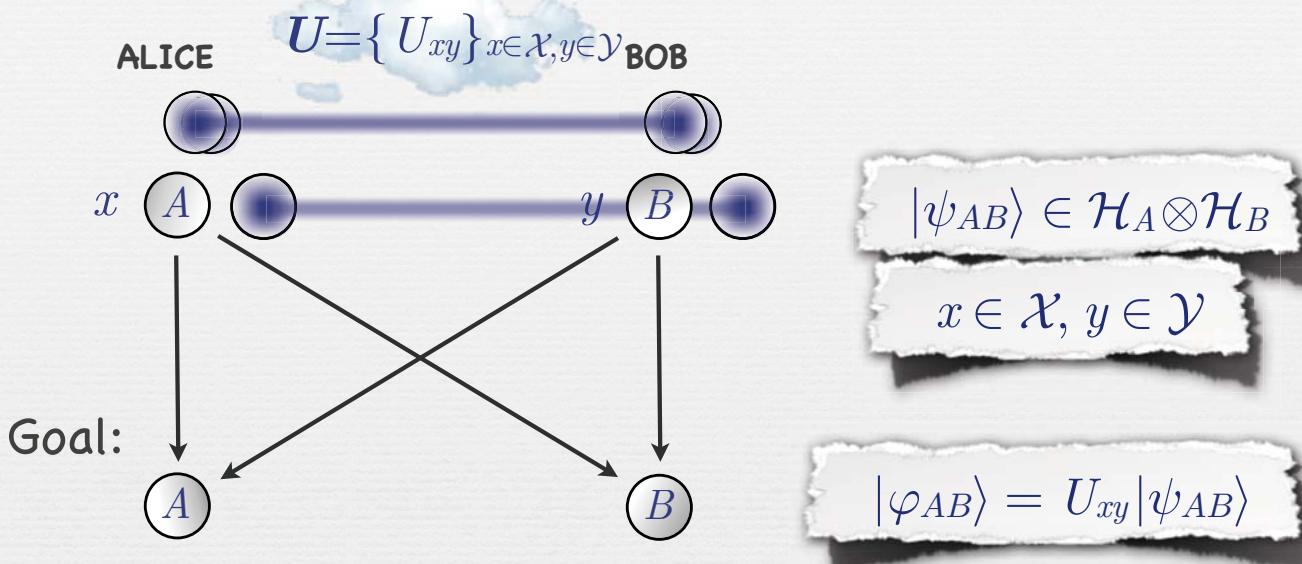


Is (obviously) equivalent to original single-round nonlocal quantum computation problem.

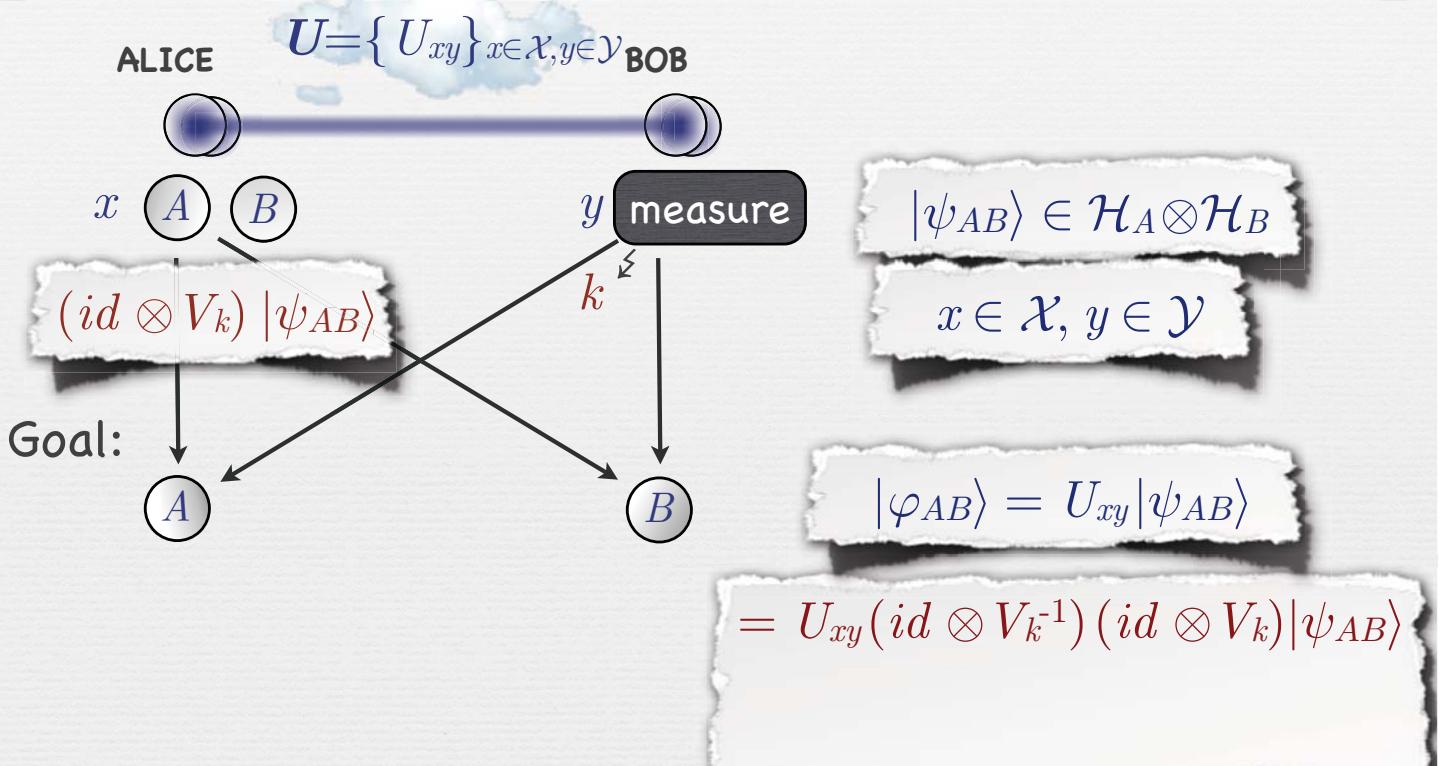
## Step 2: Removing Bob's Quantum Input



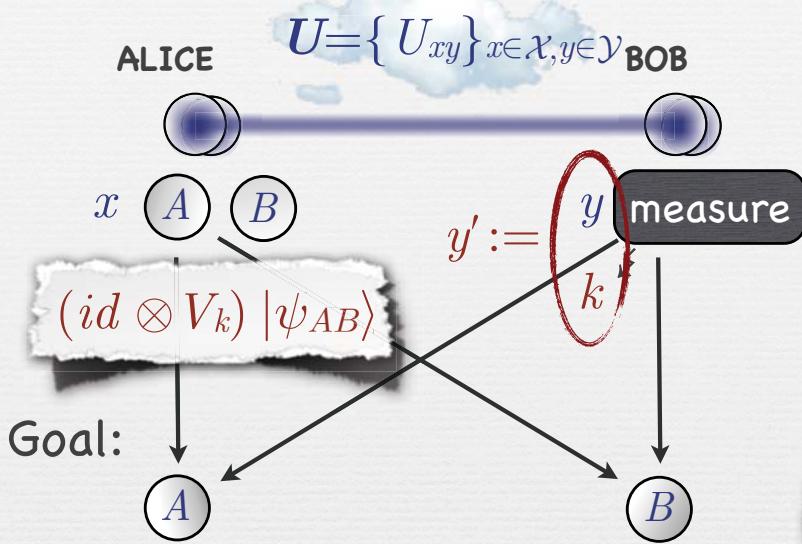
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$$|\psi_{AB}\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$$

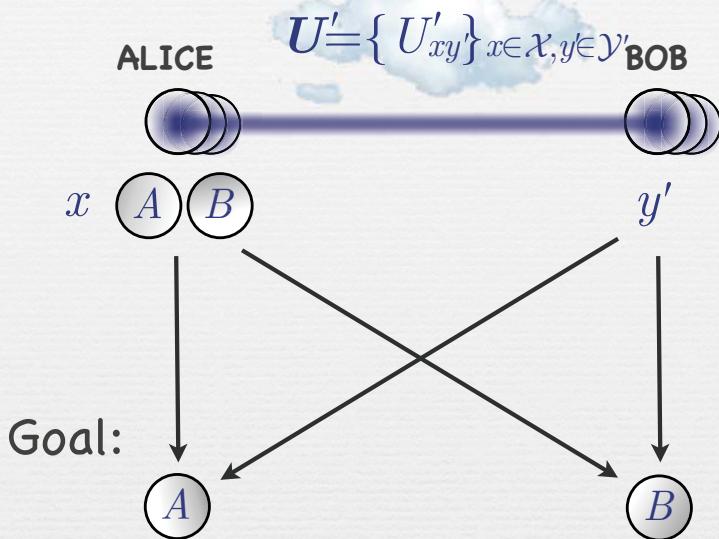
$$x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}$$

$$|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = U_{xy} |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

$$= U_{xy} (id \otimes V_k^{-1}) (id \otimes V_k) |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

$$=: U'_{xy} \quad \quad \quad =: |\psi'_{AB}\rangle$$

## Step 2: Removing Bob's Quantum Input



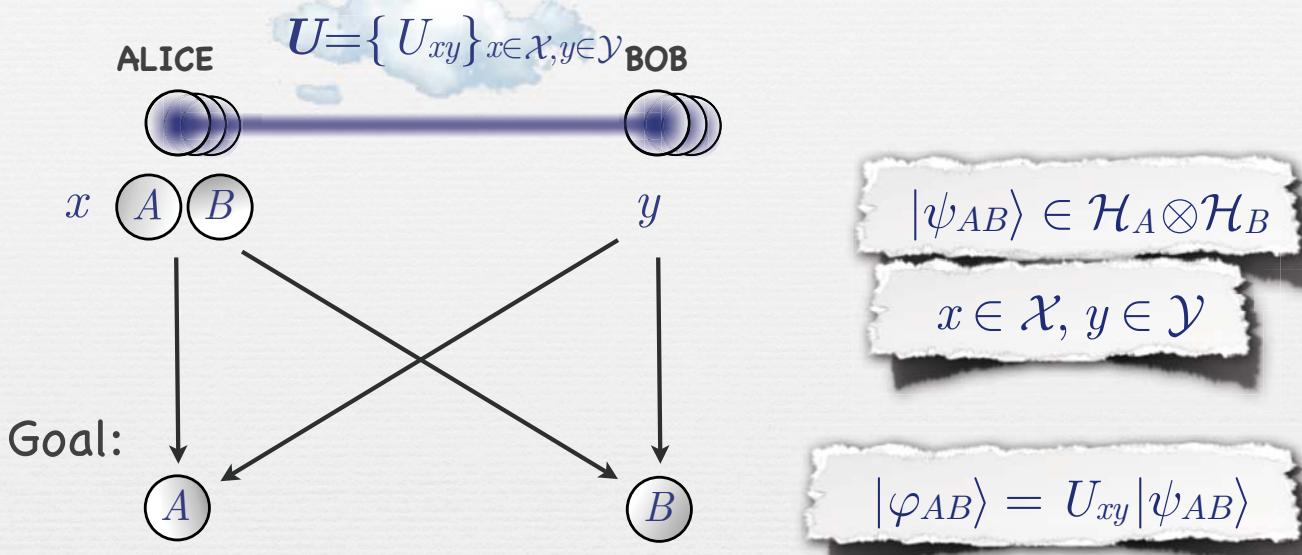
$$|\psi'_{AB}\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$$

$$x \in \mathcal{X}, y' \in \mathcal{Y}'$$

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Sufficient to consider the case where Bob has no quantum input, i.e., Alice holds  $A$  and  $B$ .

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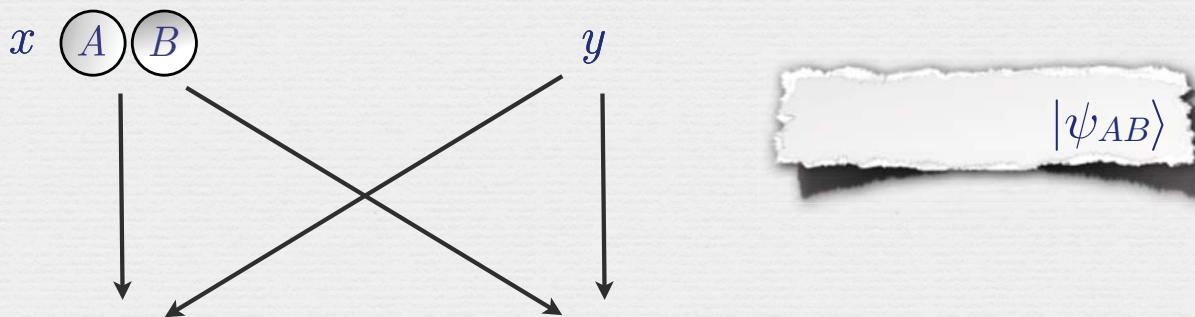
## Easy Instances

**Definition:** Unitary  $U_{xy}$  on  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  is in **product-form** if

$$U_{xy} = U_{xy}^A \otimes U_{xy}^B$$

where  $U_{xy}^A$  acts on  $\mathcal{H}_A$  and  $U_{xy}^B$  on  $\mathcal{H}_B$ .

**Note:** If all  $U_{xy}$  are in **product form**, then the nonlocal computation can trivially be done in **one round**.



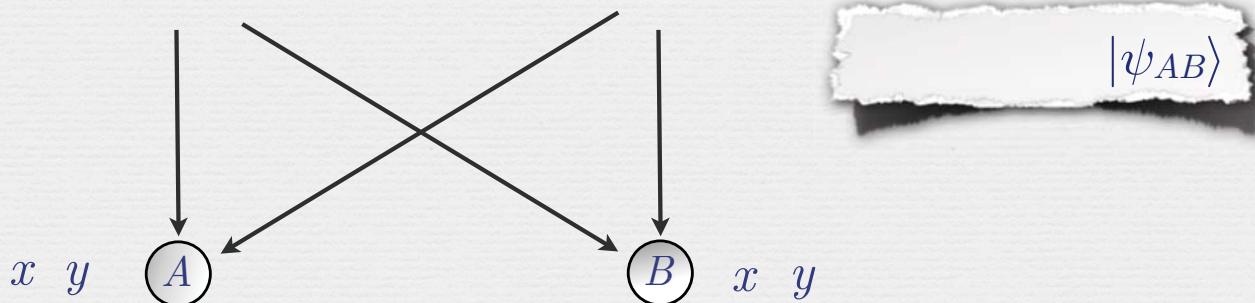
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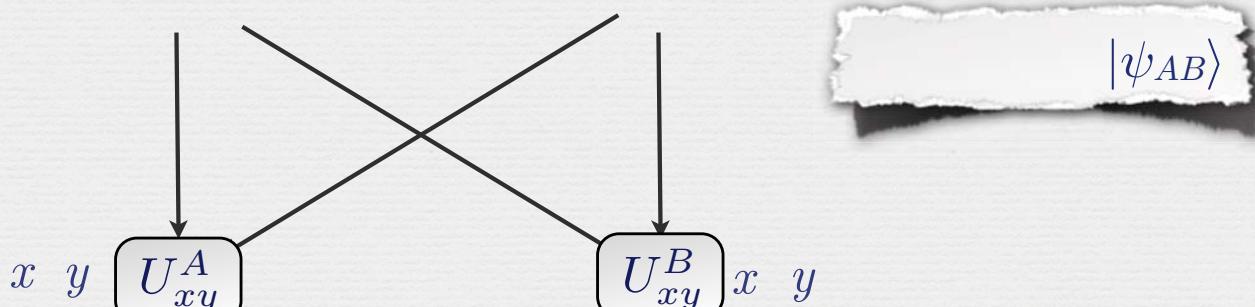
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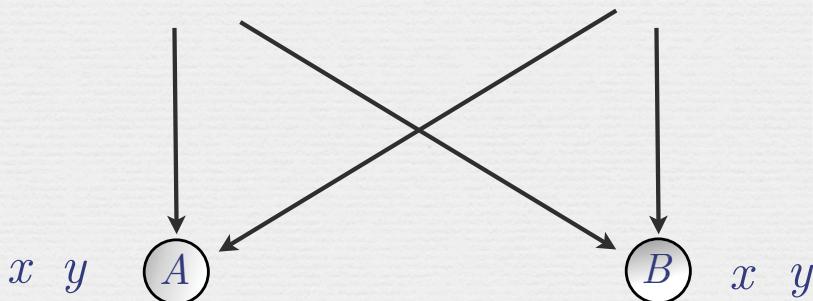
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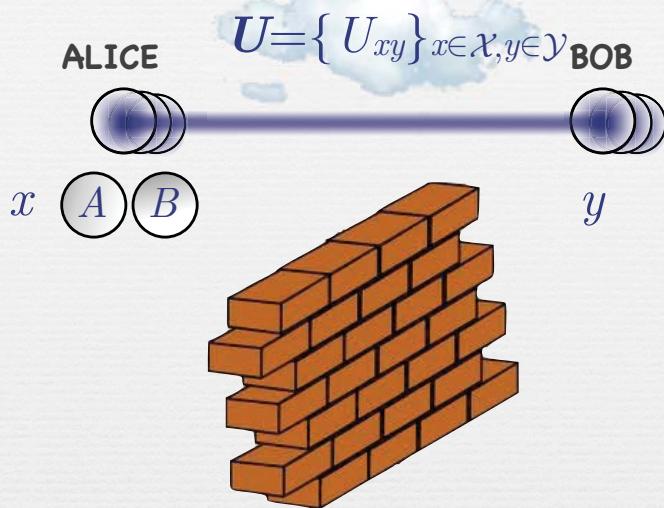
$$U_{xy}^A \otimes U_{xy}^B |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

## Pre-Processing the Inputs

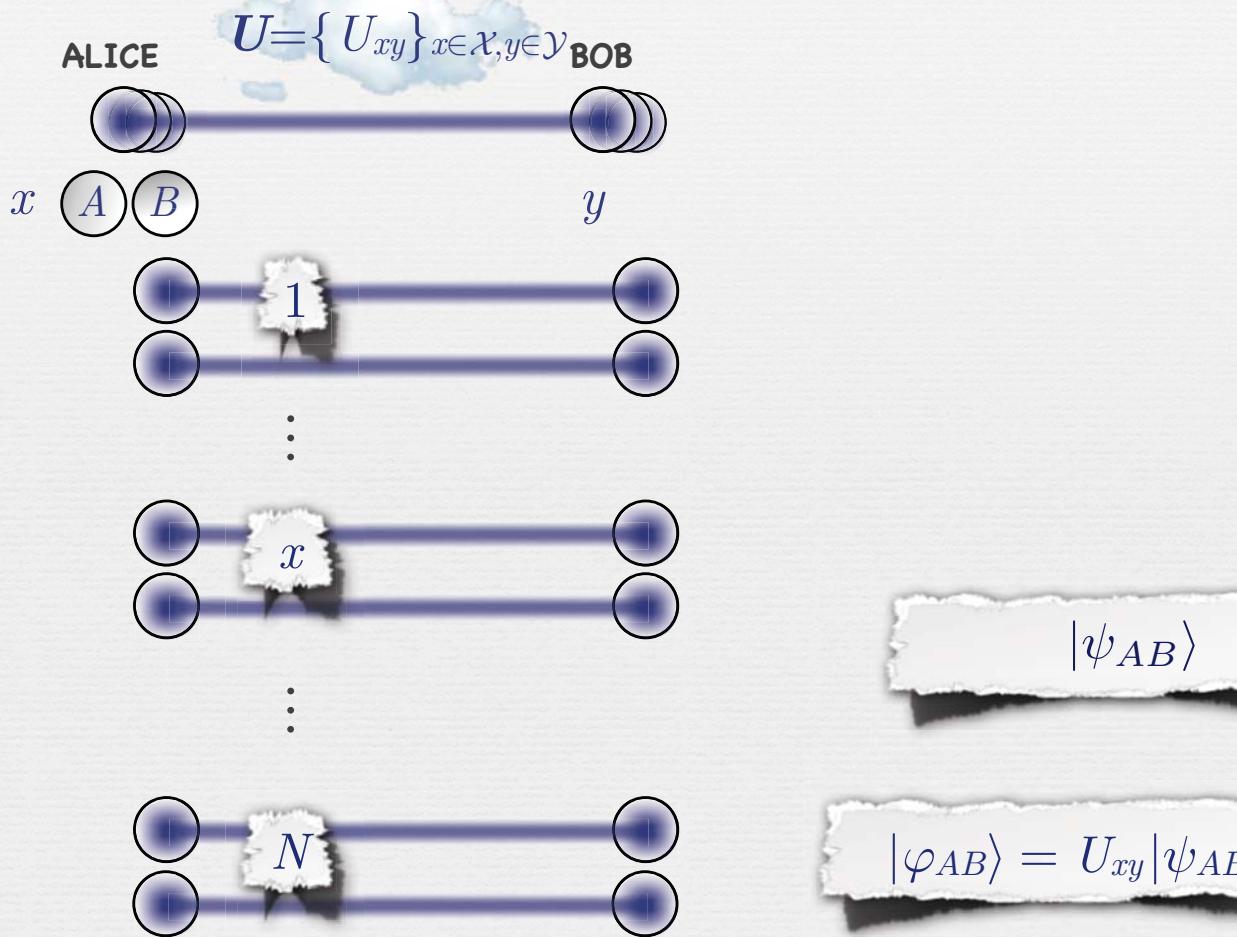
$$\text{ALICE } U = \{U_{xy}\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}} \text{ BOB}$$



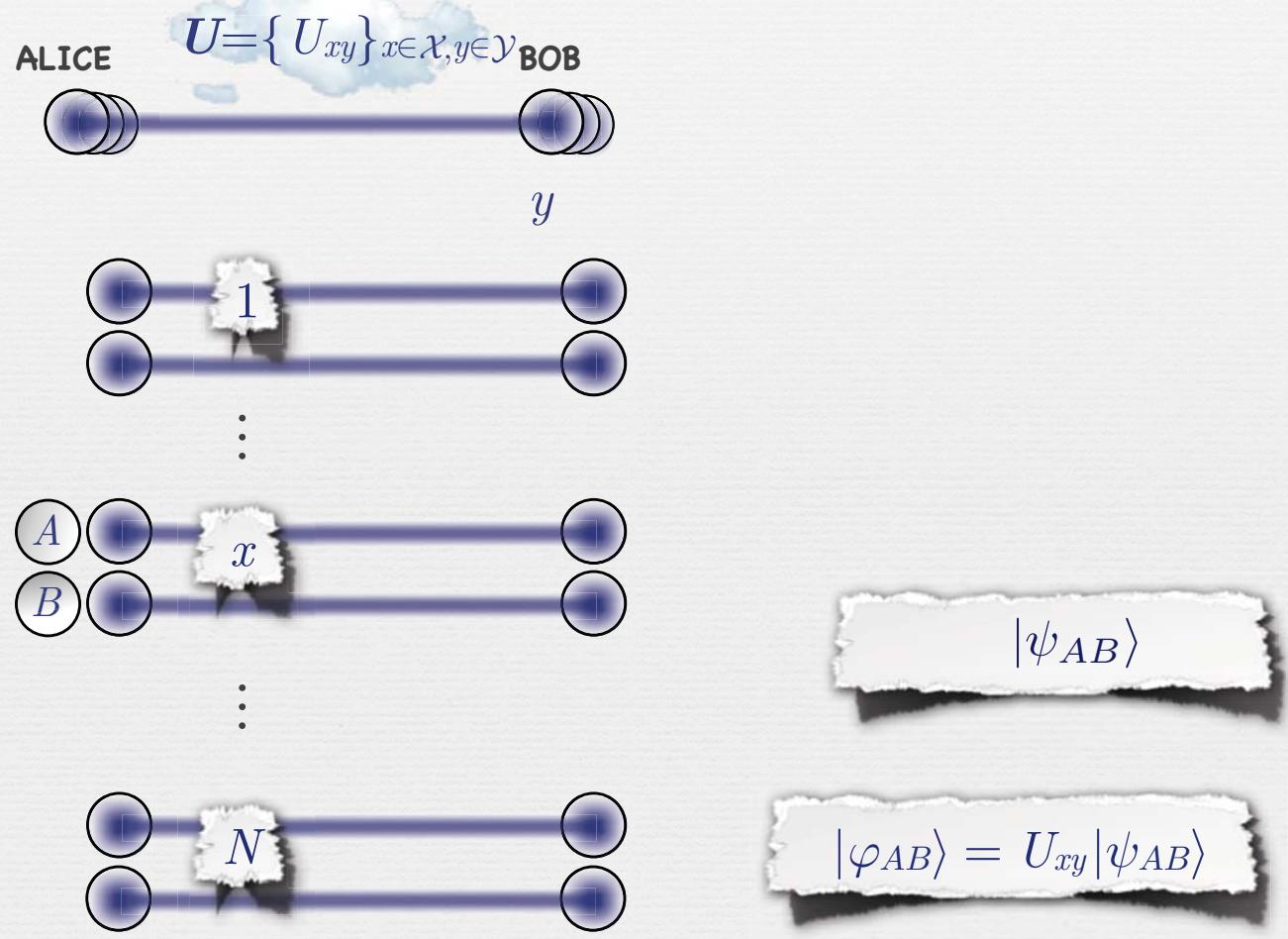
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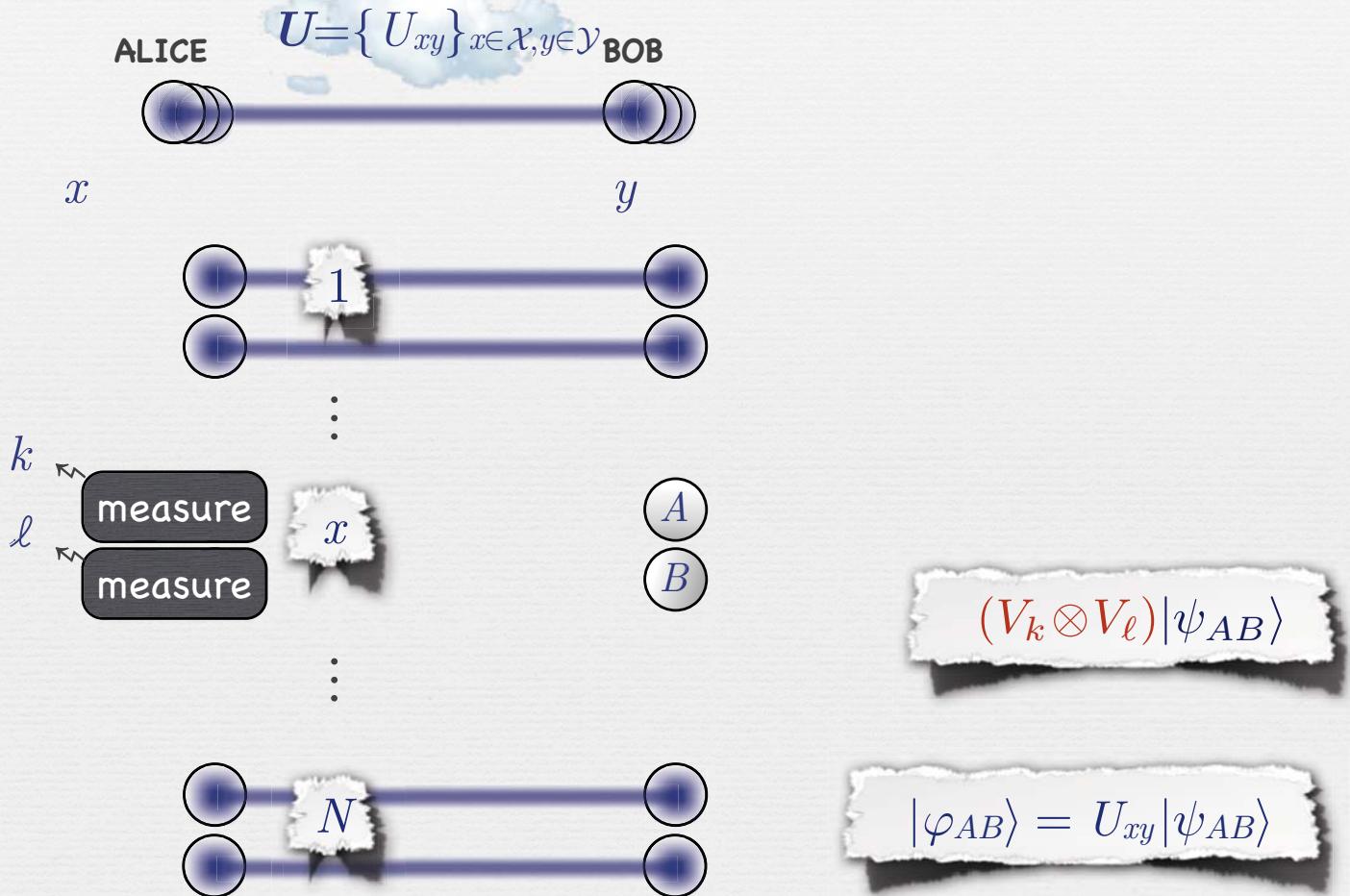
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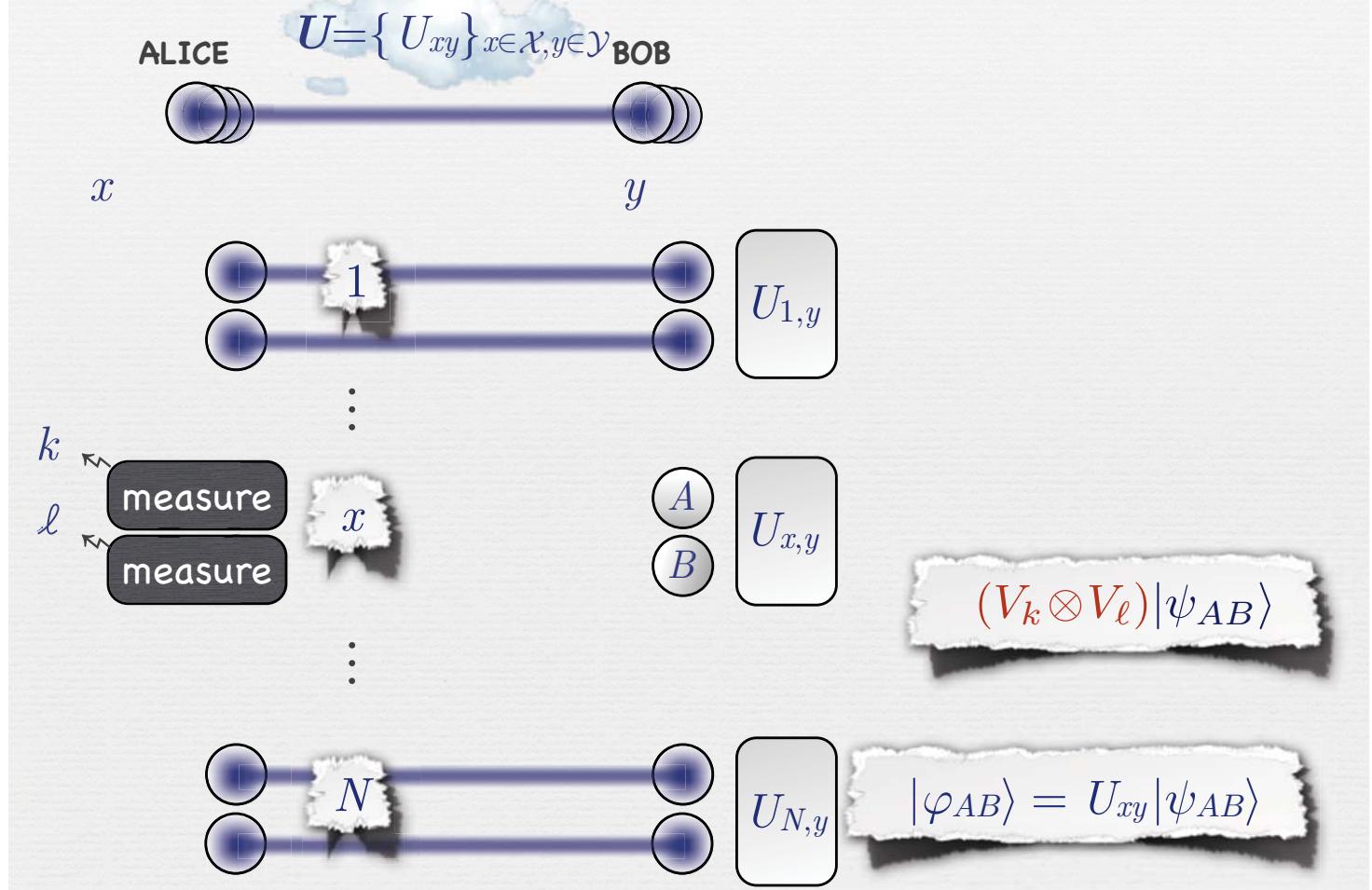
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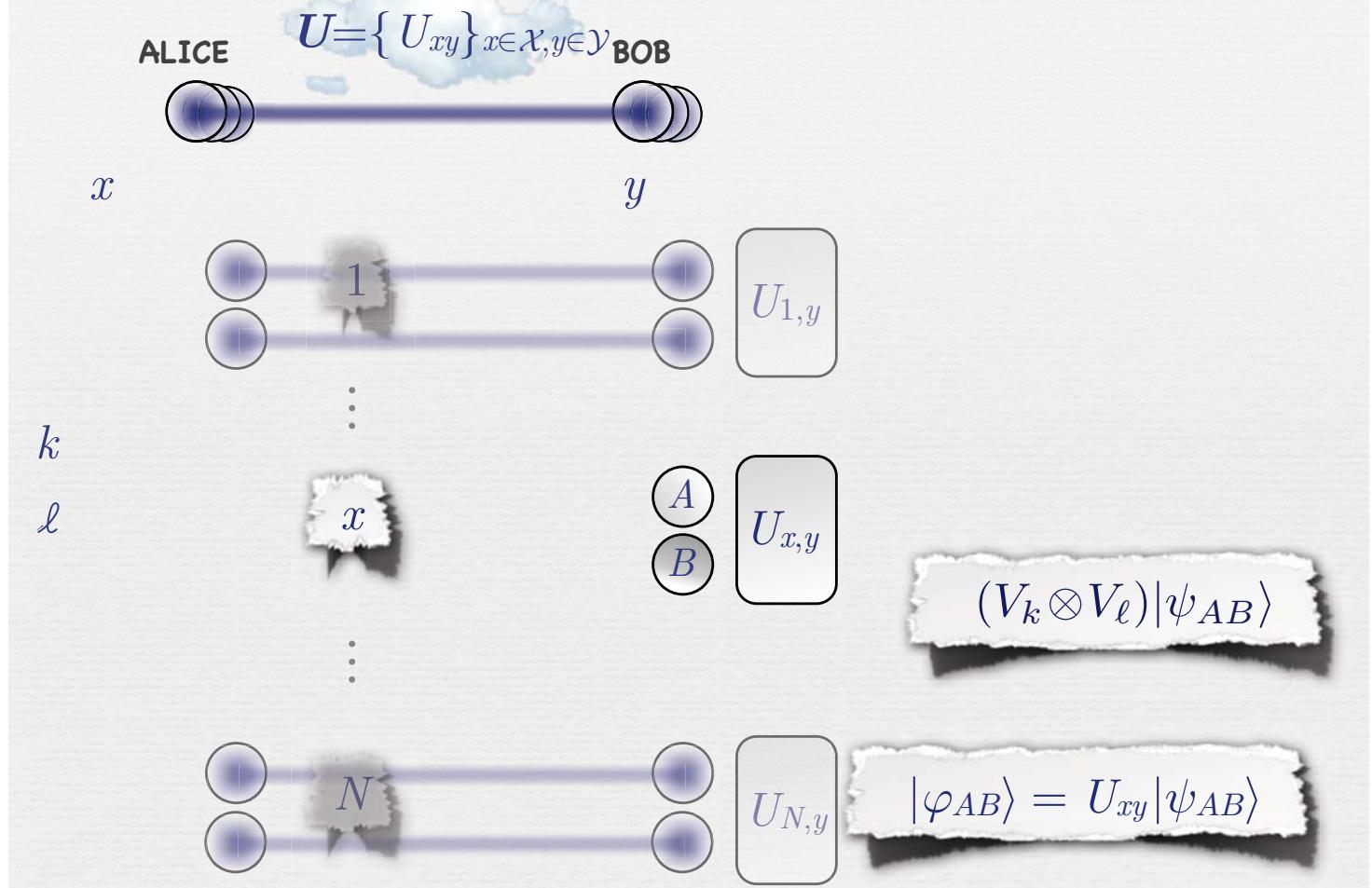
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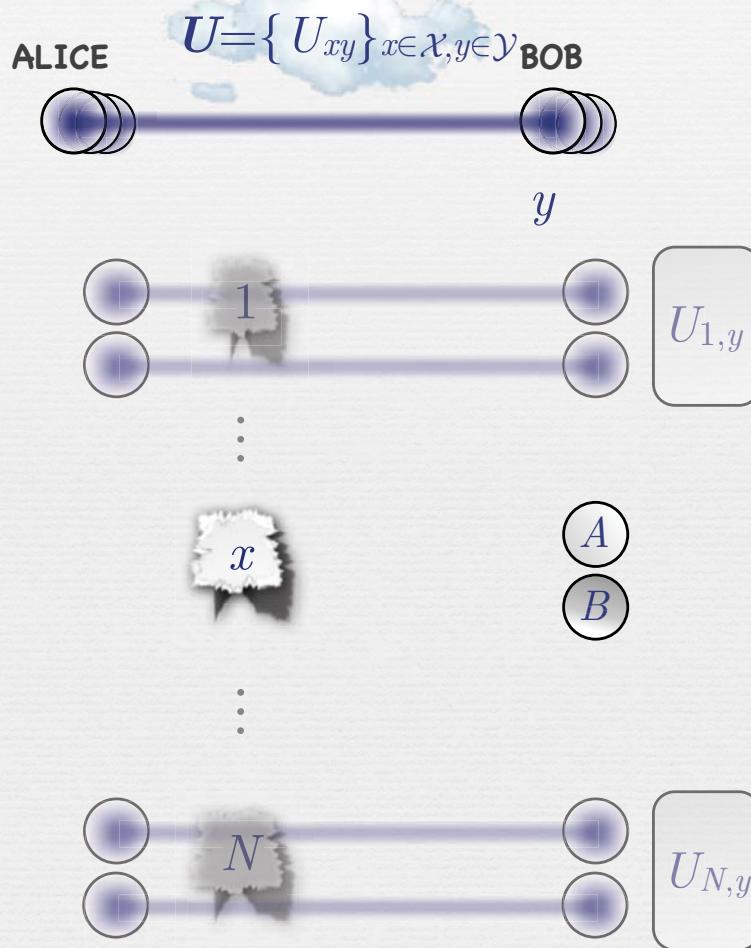
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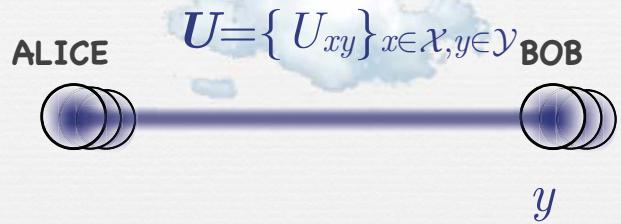
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## Pre-Processing the Inputs



$k$

$\ell$

$A$

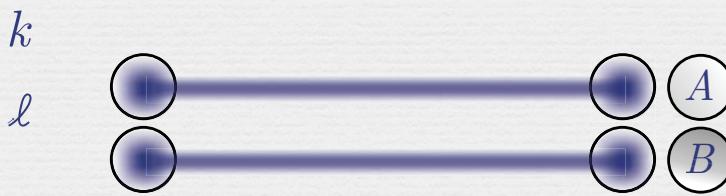
$B$

$U_{xy} (V_k \otimes V_\ell) |\psi_{AB}\rangle$

$\uparrow$  equal if  $k=0\dots 0=\ell$

$|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = U_{xy} |\psi_{AB}\rangle$

# Pre-Processing the Inputs

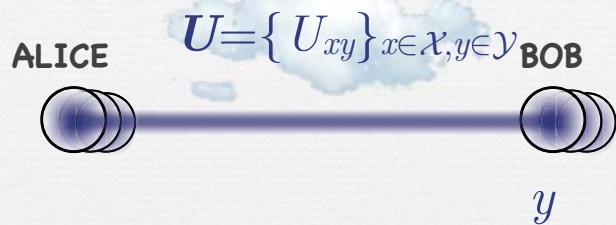


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↑ equal if  $k=0\dots 0=\ell$

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# Pre-Processing the Inputs



measure  
measure

$$U_{xy} (V_k \otimes V_\ell) |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

↑ equal if  $k=0\dots 0=\ell$

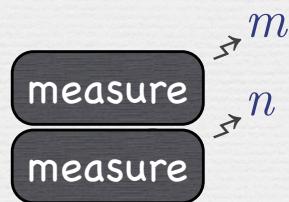
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# Pre-Processing the Inputs

$$U = \{ U_{xy} \}_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}}$$



$k$   
 $\ell$



$$|\psi'_{AB}\rangle = (V_m \otimes V_n) U_{xy} (V_k \otimes V_\ell) |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

$$|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = U_{xy} |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

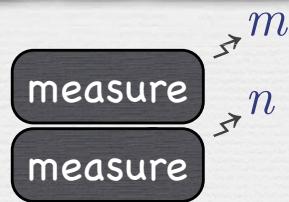
# Pre-Processing the Inputs

$$U = \{ U_{xy} \}_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}}$$

If  $k=0 \dots \ell$  (happens with prob.  $>0$ ) then:

- $V_k = id = V_\ell$  and thus  $|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = (V_m^{-1} \otimes V_n^{-1}) |\psi'_{AB}\rangle$
- Alice & Bob can compute  $|\varphi_{AB}\rangle$  in one round.

$k$   
 $\ell$



$$|\psi'_{AB}\rangle = (V_m \otimes V_n) U_{xy} (\cancel{V_k \otimes V_\ell}) |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

$$= |\varphi_{AB}\rangle$$

$$|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = U_{xy} |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

# Pre-Processing the Inputs

$$\text{ALICE} \quad U = \{U_{xy}\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}} \quad \text{BOB}$$

Else: Alice & Bob

- set  $x' := (x, k, \ell)$  and  $y' := (y, m, n)$ ,
- set  $U'_{x'y'} := U_{xy} (V_k^{-1} \otimes V_\ell^{-1}) U_{xy}^{-1} (V_m^{-1} \otimes V_n^{-1})$  so that

$$|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = U'_{x'y'} |\psi'_{AB}\rangle$$

- repeat the pre-processing step.

measure

$$|\psi'_{AB}\rangle = (V_m \otimes V_n) U_{xy} (V_k \otimes V_\ell) |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

$$|\varphi_{AB}\rangle = U_{xy} |\psi_{AB}\rangle$$

## Recap

- We show:

- 1-round nonlocal quantum computation scheme
- has positive but arbitrary small failure probability
- requires (huge amount of) pre-shared EPR pairs ( $\approx 2^{2^n}$ )
- implies impossibility of position-based quantum crypto

- Open problems:

- More efficient nonlocal quantum computation?  
Beigi & Koenig [arXiv 1101.1065]:  $2^n$  is sufficient
- Prove a lower bound.
- Possibility of position-based quantum crypto against adversary with limited pre-shared entanglement?

# Road Map

• Preface

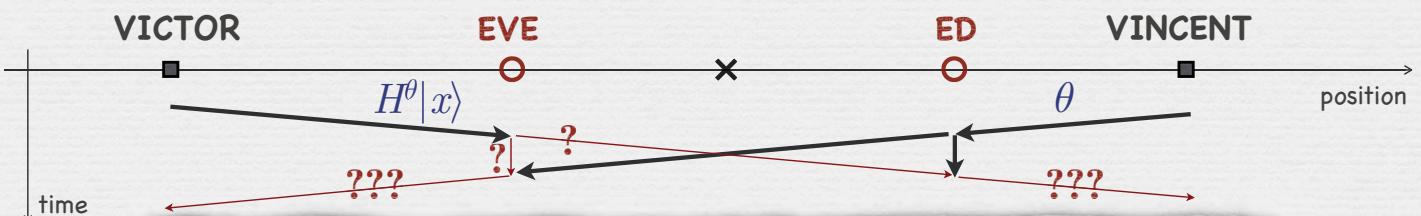
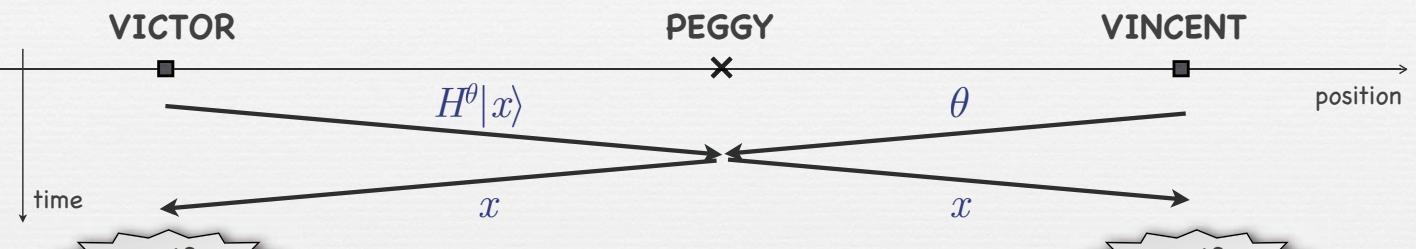
• Teleportation

• No-Go Theorem

• Limited possibility results:

Position-based quantum crypto against adversaries  
with **no pre-shared entanglement**

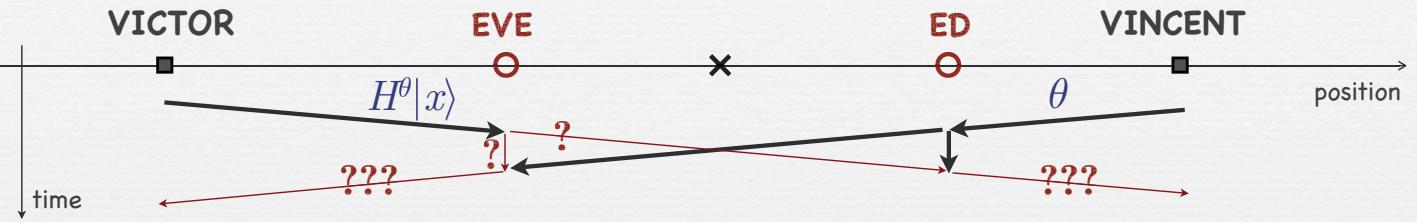
## The Simple BB84-based Scheme



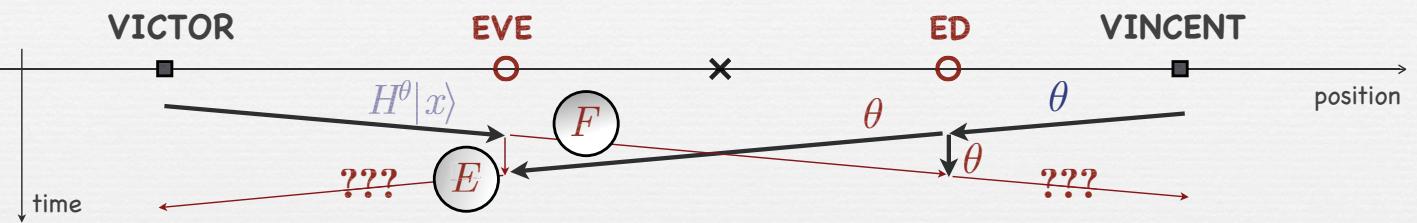
Eve cannot both **keep  $H^\theta|x\rangle$  and send it to Ed !**

~~Conclusion: Scheme is secure ???~~

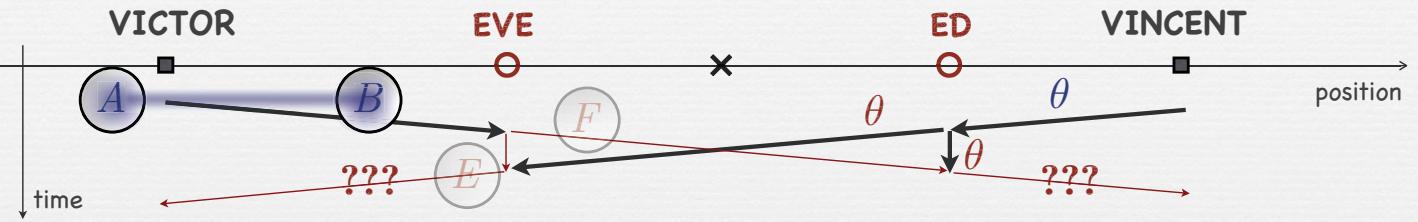
# The Simple BB84-based Scheme



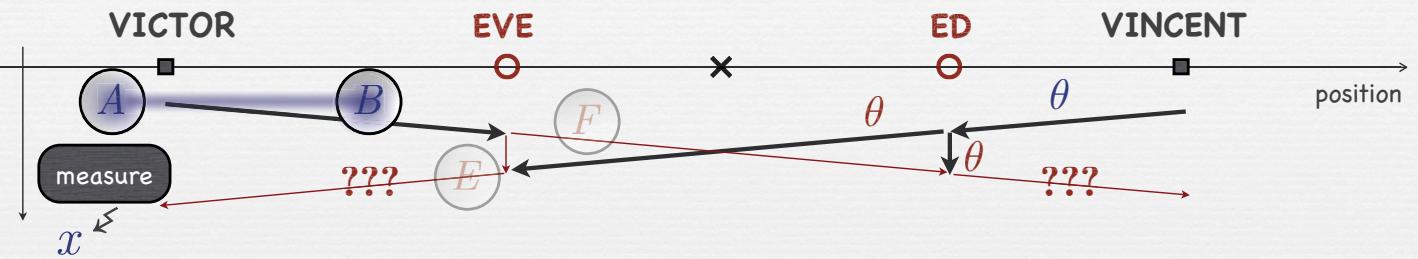
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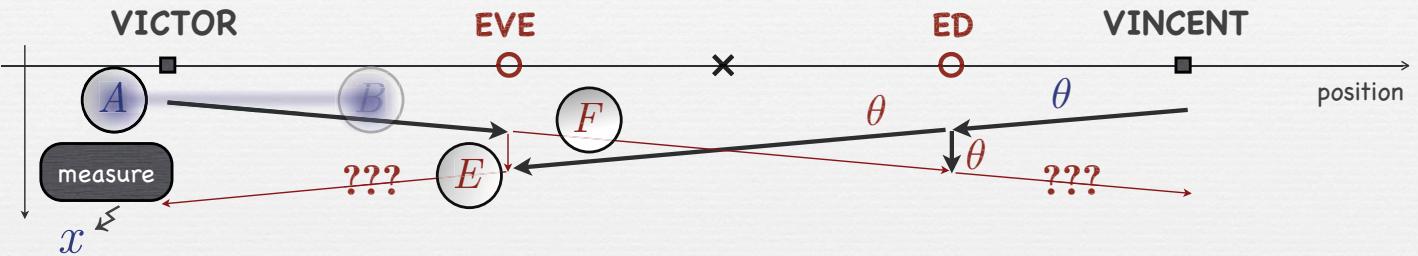
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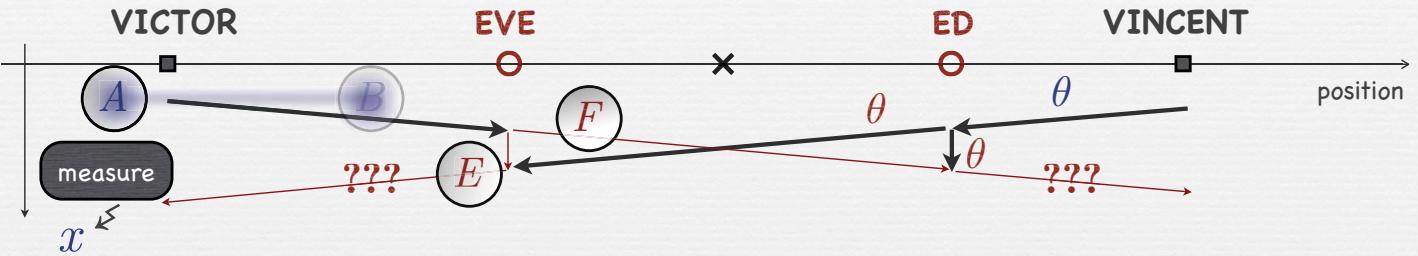
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- State  $|\psi_{AEF}\rangle$  may be (nearly) arbitrary with  $\mathcal{H}_A = \mathbb{C}^2$ .
- [Renes,Boileau 2009] and [Berta et al. 2010] imply
$$H(x|E,\theta) + H(x|F,\theta) \geq 1$$
for any state  $|\psi_{AEF}\rangle$  (and random  $\theta$ ).
- Implies (using Holevo bound and Fano inequality):
  - Eve or Ed has some uncertainty in  $x$ , and
  - will fail to provide  $x$  with probability  $> 11\%$ .



## Remarks

- We additionally have:
  - Different proof showing (optimal) bound  $> 15\%$ .
  - (Inefficient) **extensions** to position-based **authentication** and **key-distribution** (highly non-trivial).
- Open problems:
  - Security of corresponding  **$n$ -qubit** scheme,
  - More efficient schemes for position-based **authentication** and **key-distribution**

## Summary

- Position-based quantum crypto is:
  - impossible** if adversaries have **huge amount** of ...
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*THE END*