

# A Tale of Time Release powered by Blockchain and IBE

Gennaro Avitabile<sup>1</sup> Nico Döttling<sup>2,\*</sup> Lucjan Hanzlik<sup>2</sup>  
Bernardo Magri<sup>3,4</sup> Christos Sakkas<sup>3</sup> Stella Wohnig<sup>2,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>IMDEA Software Institute

<sup>2</sup>Helmholtz Center for Information Security (CISPA)

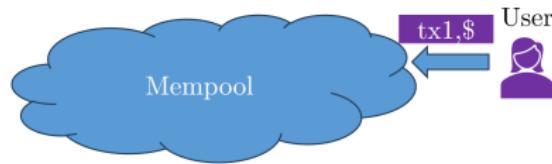
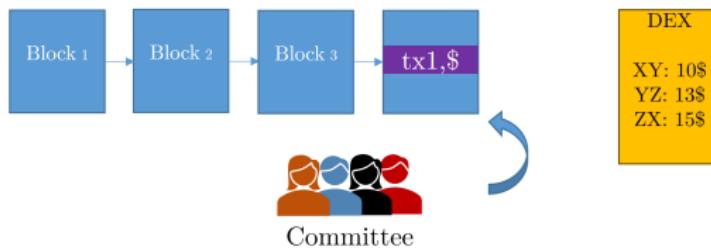
<sup>3</sup>The University of Manchester

<sup>4</sup>Primev <sup>5</sup>Saarland University

\*Funded by an ERC grant

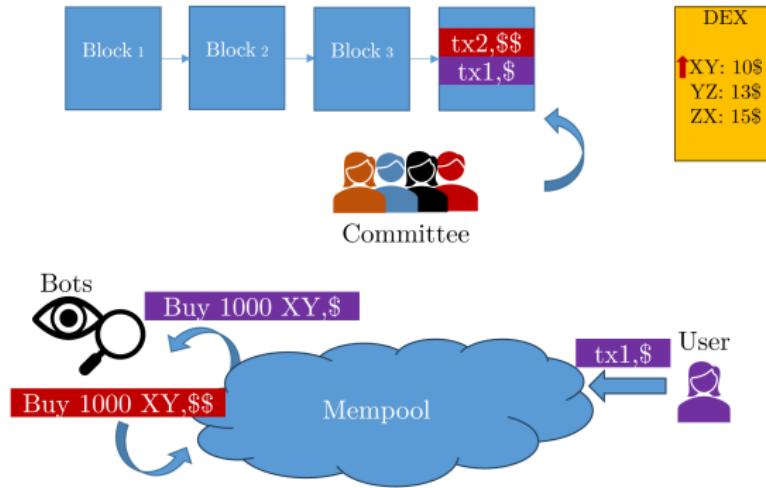
03.05.2025, Madrid

# Motivation: Front-Running



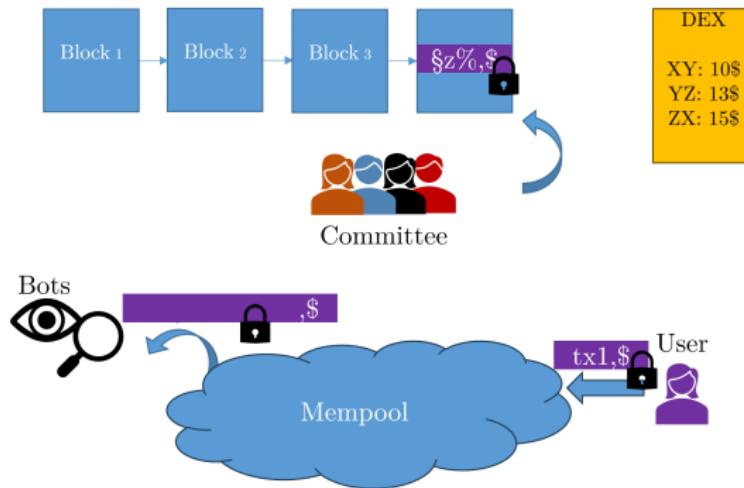
# Motivation: Front-Running

is based on re-ordering dependent on content of txs.



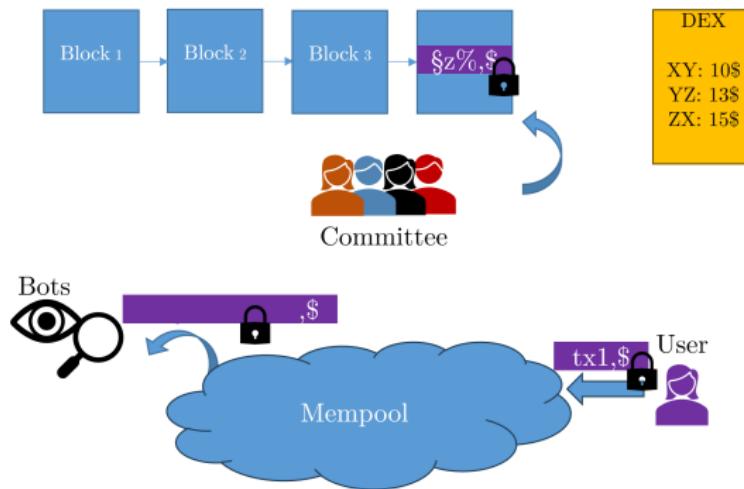
# Motivation: Front-Running

is based on re-ordering dependent on content of txs.  
So if we hide the content...



# Motivation: Front-Running

is based on re-ordering dependent on content of txs.  
So if we hide the content... JUST long enough

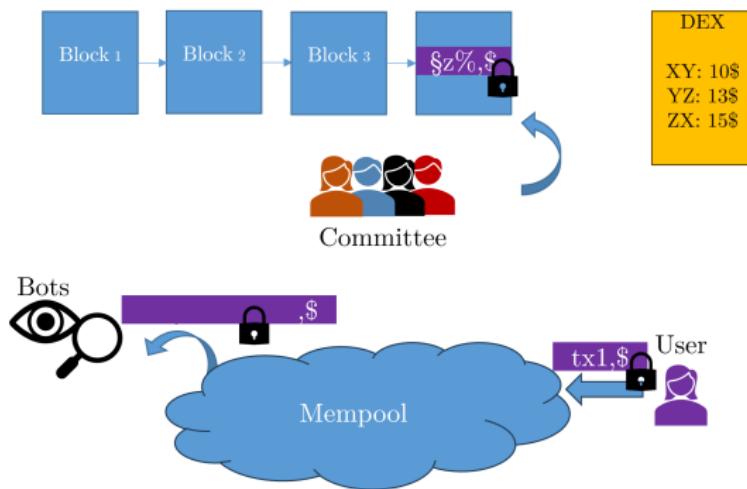


# Motivation: Front-Running

is based on re-ordering dependent on content of txs.

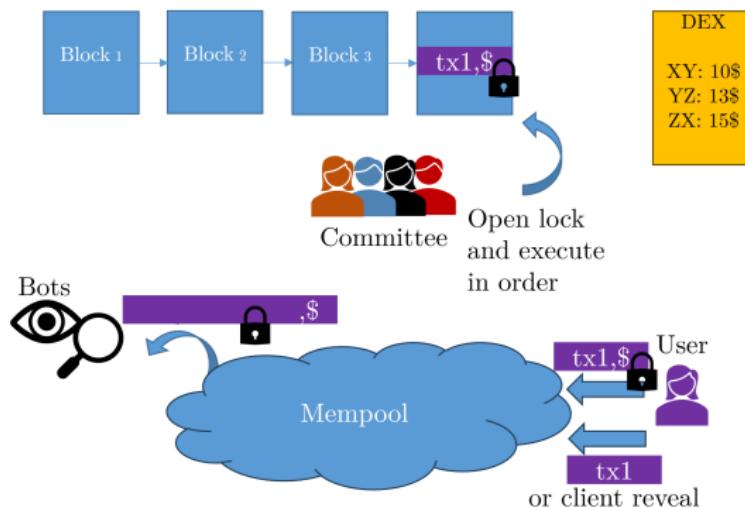
So if we hide the content... JUST long enough

two ways:



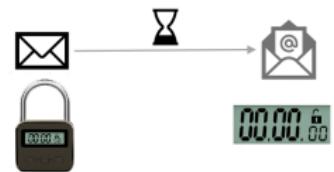
# Motivation: Front-Running

is based on re-ordering dependent on content of txs.  
So if we hide the content... JUST long enough



two ways:  
Commit & Open  
Offline users?

-or-

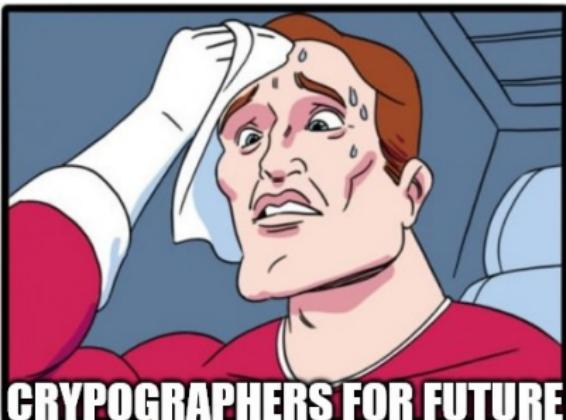


Time Lock Puzzles  
Forced Opening  
possible!

# Assumptions to build Time-Lock Puzzles



# Assumptions to build Time-Lock Puzzles

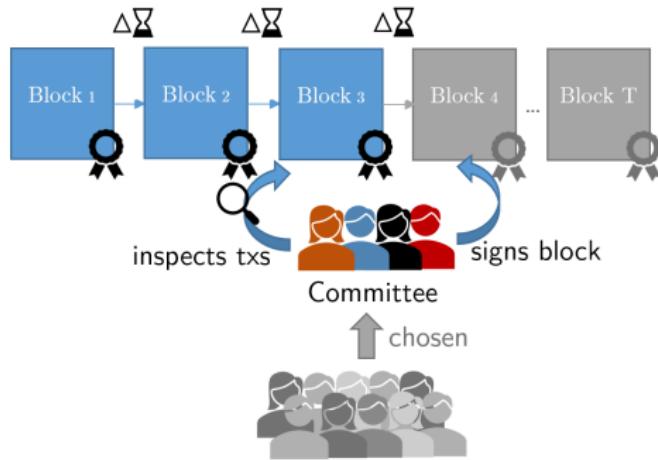


# Assumptions to build Time-Lock Puzzles



Just use the blockchain as TTP.

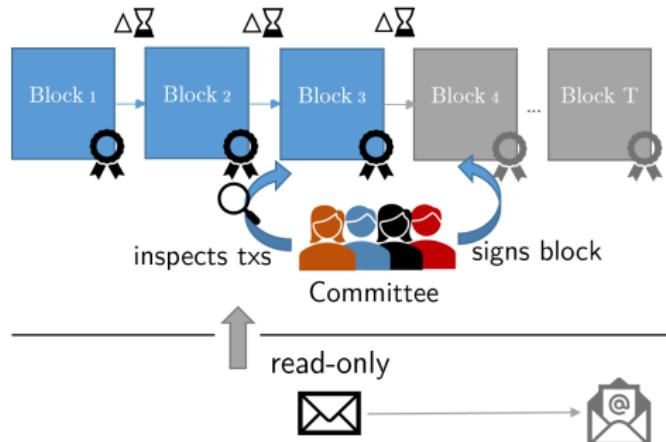
# PoS blockchain as TTP?



## Observations

- ▶ Trust infrastructure
- ▶ Periodic signing, Reference clock!
- ▶ ⇒ Reuse trust, committee work

# PoS blockchain as TTP?



## Observations

- ▶ Trust infrastructure
- ▶ Periodic signing, Reference clock!
- ▶ ⇒ Reuse trust, committee work

## Goal: Off-Chain Tool

- ▶ Public Enc- & Decryption
- ▶ Minimize committee overhead!
- ▶ Concrete efficiency

# McFly - Verifiable Encryption to the Future Made Practical

Joint work of Nico Döttling<sup>1,\*</sup>, Lucjan Hanzlik<sup>1</sup>, Bernardo Magri<sup>2</sup>  
and Stella Wohnig<sup>1,3</sup>

Published at Financial Crypto 2023

<sup>1</sup> Helmholtz Center for Information Security (CISPA)

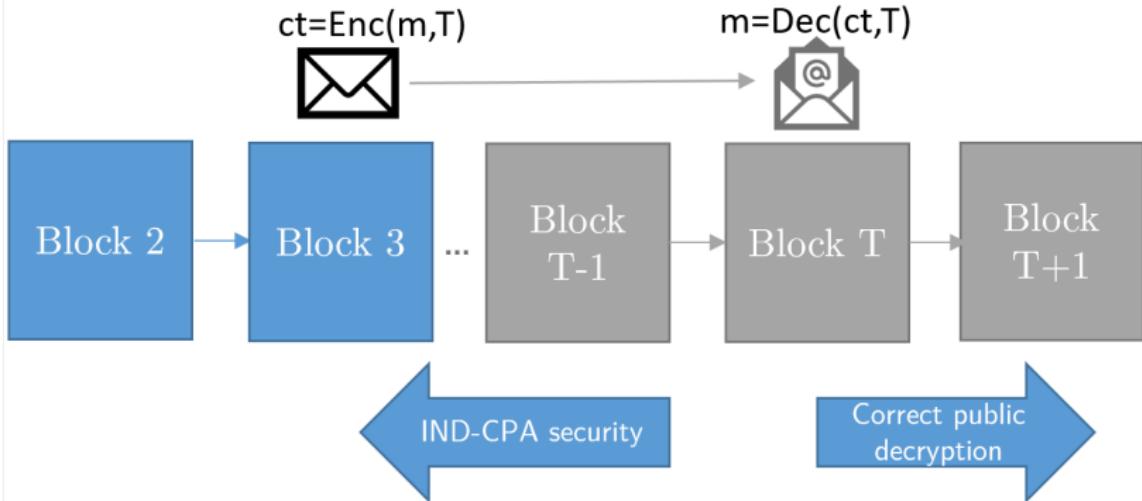
<sup>2</sup> The University of Manchester

<sup>3</sup> Saarland University

\* Funded by an ERC grant

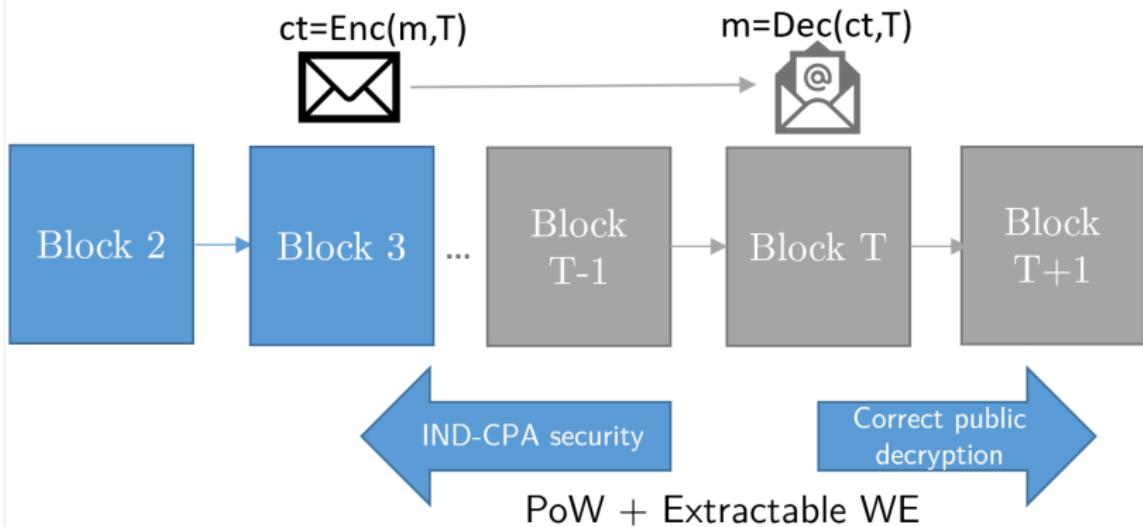
# Vision

Time = block height. Users have read-only access to a blockchain.



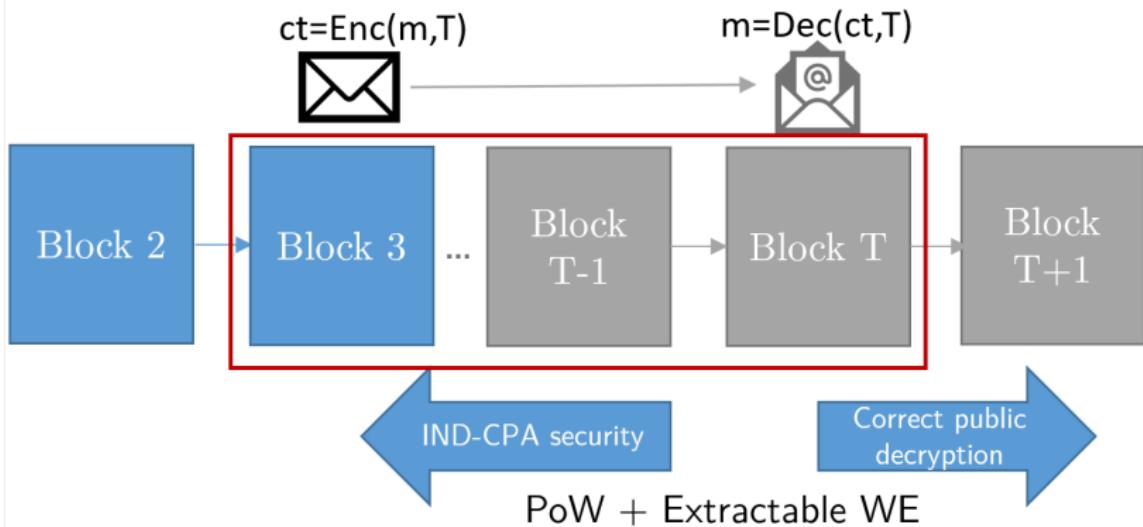
## Previous work [LJKW18] How to build timelock encryption

Time = block height. Users have read-only access to a blockchain.



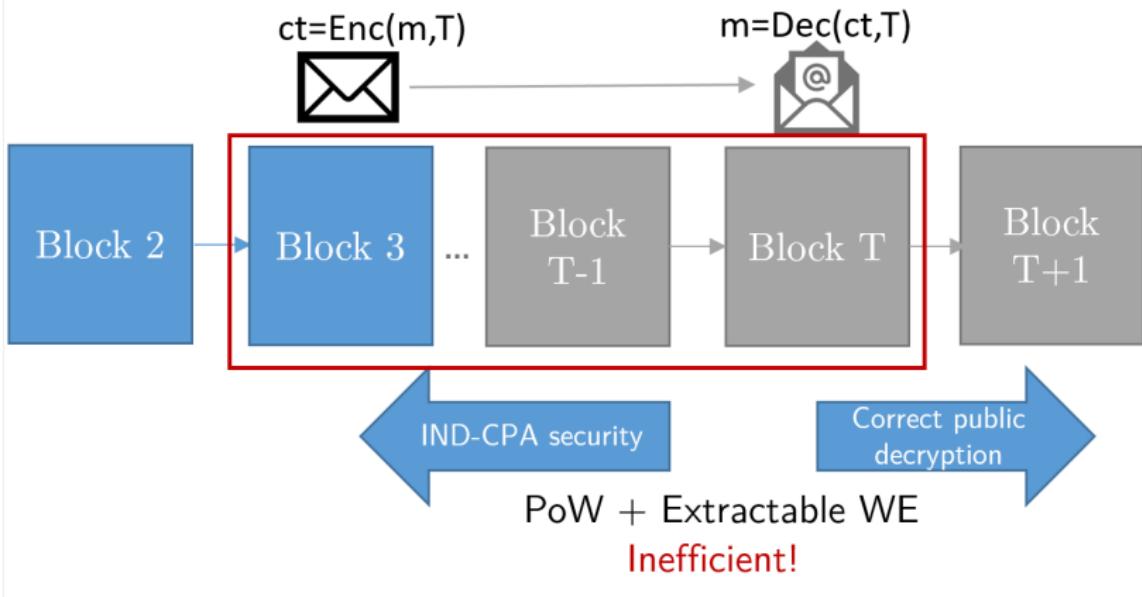
## Previous work [LJKW18] How to build timelock encryption

Time = block height. Users have read-only access to a blockchain.



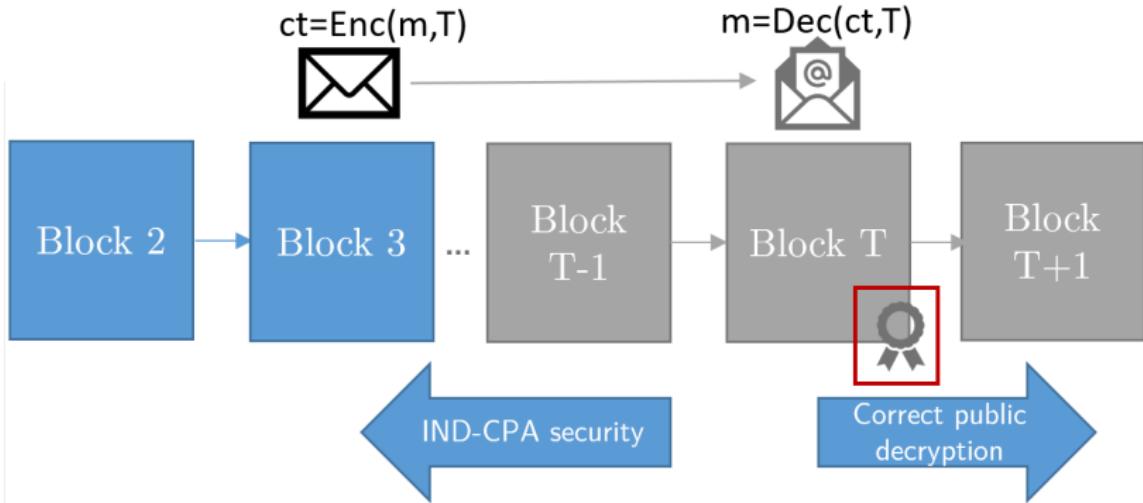
## Previous work [LJKW18] How to build timelock encryption

Time = block height. Users have read-only access to a blockchain.



# Our idea

Time = block height. Users have read-only access to a blockchain.



# Our idea

Time = block height. Users have read-only access to a blockchain.

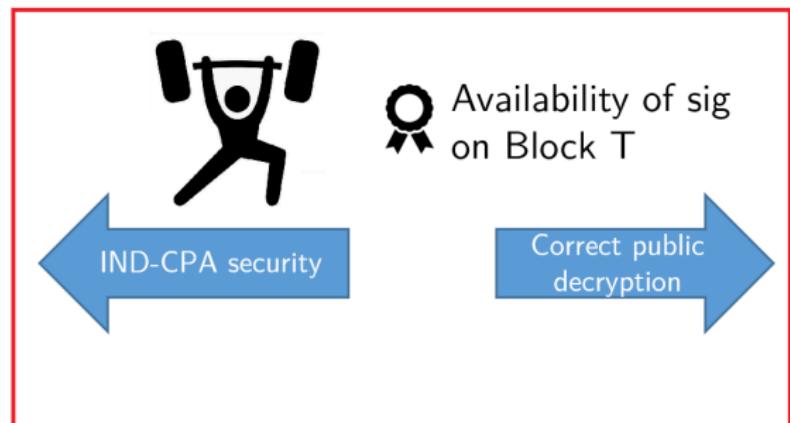


Availability of sig  
on Block T

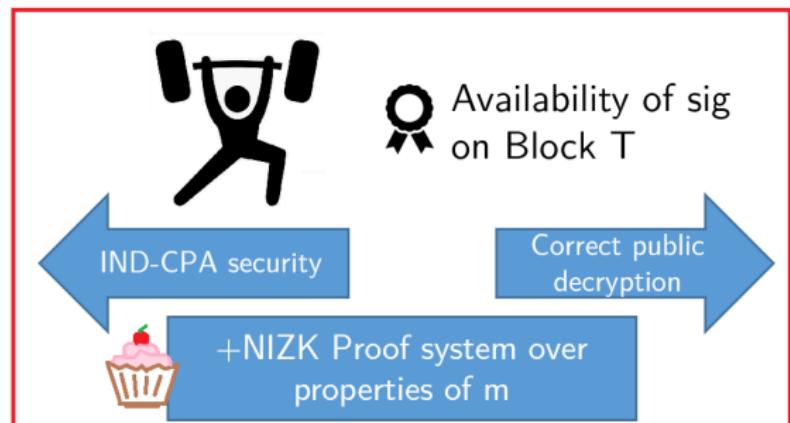
IND-CPA security

Correct public  
decryption

# Signature Witness Encryption



# Signature Witness Encryption



# t-of-n Signature Witness Encryption (basically)



$ct = Enc(m, V, T)$

Encrypt message  $m$

- ▶ under potential signer set  $V = (\text{vk}_1, \dots, \text{vk}_n)$
- ▶ and reference message  $T$



$m = Dec(ct, V, U, \sigma)$

s.t. Decryption is possible iff we get indices  $I$  signatures  $\sigma_i, i \in I$

- ▶ s.t.  $\forall i \in I : \text{Sig.Verify}(\sigma_i, T, \text{vk}_i) = 1$
- ▶ and  $|I| \geq t$  (i.e.  $\geq t$  parties sign on  $T$ )

# t-of-n Signature Witness Encryption (basically)



$$ct = Enc(m, V, T)$$

Encrypt message  $m$

- ▶ under potential signer set  $V = (\text{vk}_1, \dots, \text{vk}_n)$
- ▶ and reference message  $T$



$$m = Dec(ct, V, U, \sigma)$$

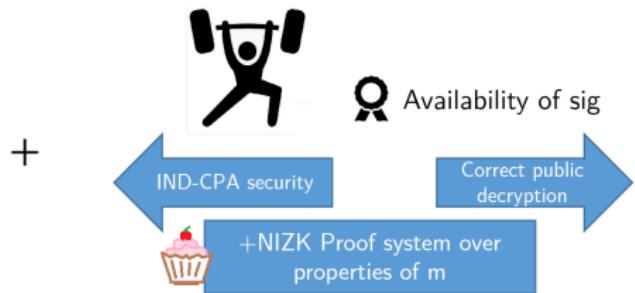
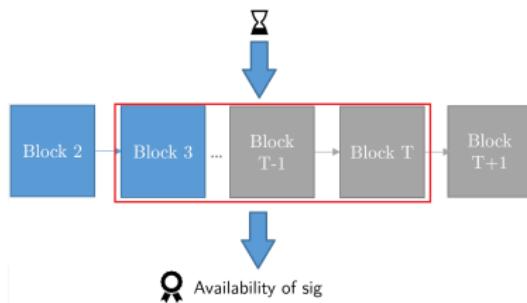
s.t. Decryption is possible iff we get indices  $I$  signatures  $\sigma_i, i \in I$

- ▶ s.t.  $\forall i \in I : \text{Sig.Verify}(\sigma_i, T, \text{vk}_i) = 1$
- ▶ and  $|I| \geq t$  (i.e.  $\geq t$  parties sign on  $T$ )

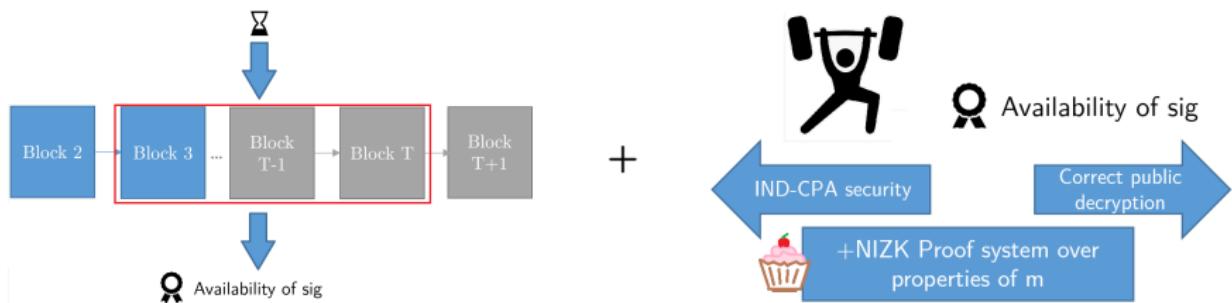
## Security: IND-CPA

- ▶ For  $\leq t - 1$  dishonest keys
- ▶ and signing oracle for honest keys (Except for  $T^*$ )
- ▶  $\mathcal{A}$  chooses  $m_0, m_1$ , gets  $\text{Enc}(m_b, V, T^*)$ , guesses  $b$

# McFly - building on SWE



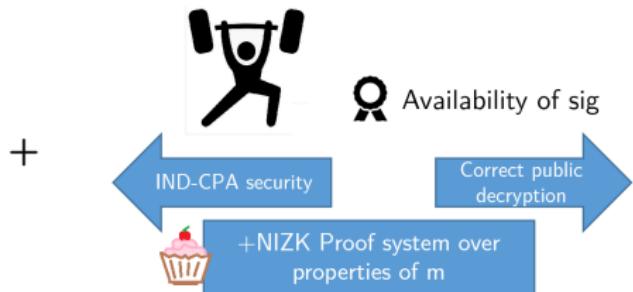
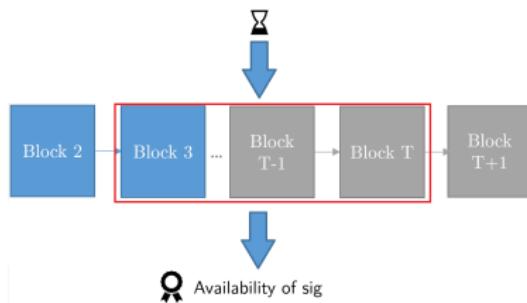
# McFly - building on SWE



## Blockchain assumptions

- ▶ Block production rate
- ▶ Honest majority  
⇒ No premature signing

# McFly - building on SWE



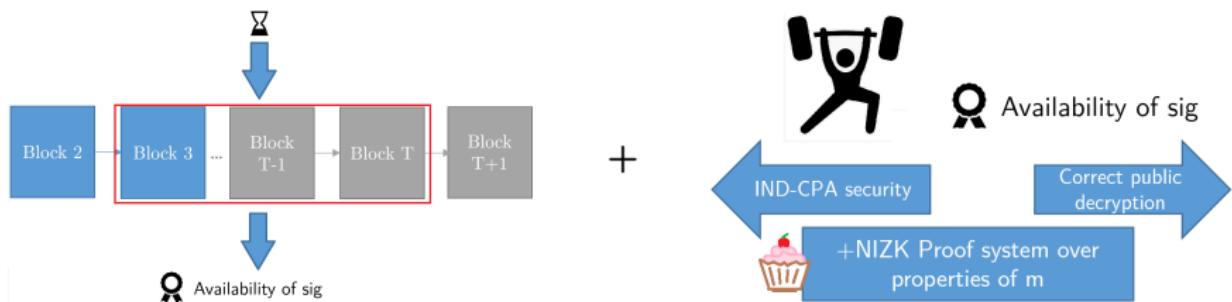
## Blockchain assumptions

- ▶ Block production rate
- ▶ Honest majority  
⇒ No premature signing

## Signature Witness Encryption

- ▶ Choose signer set  $V$  as committee keys

# McFly - building on SWE



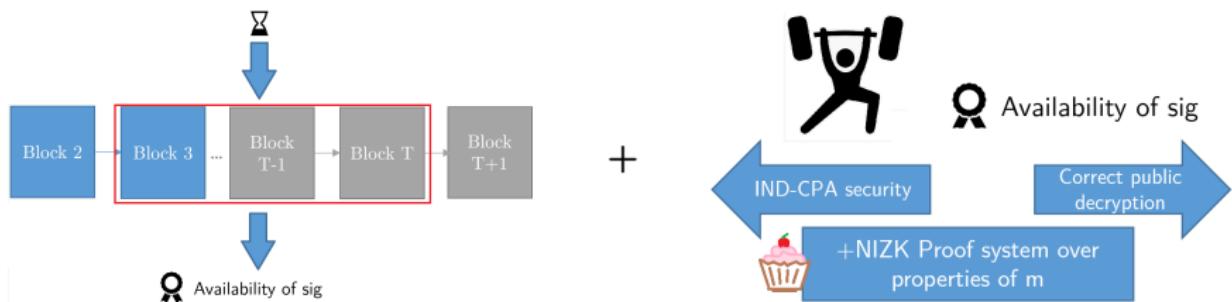
## Blockchain assumptions

- ▶ Block production rate
- ▶ Honest majority  
⇒ No premature signing
- ▶ Known committee at decryption time ⇒ **near-future**

## Signature Witness Encryption

- ▶ Choose signer set  $V$  as committee keys

# McFly - building on SWE



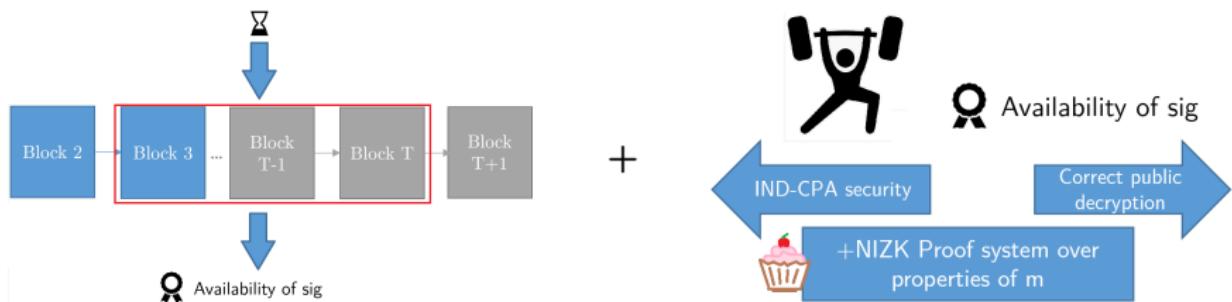
## Blockchain assumptions

- ▶ Block production rate
- ▶ Honest majority  
⇒ No premature signing
- ▶ Known committee at decryption time ⇒ **near-future**

## Signature Witness Encryption

- ▶ Choose signer set  $V$  as committee keys
- ▶ Choose reference  $T$  as **predictable block header** of block  $T$ .

# McFly - building on SWE



## Blockchain assumptions

- ▶ Block production rate
- ▶ Honest majority  
⇒ No premature signing
- ▶ Known committee at decryption time ⇒ **near-future**
- ▶ Custom block structure:  
Sign header separately!

## Signature Witness Encryption

- ▶ Choose signer set  $V$  as committee keys
- ▶ Choose reference  $T$  as **predictable block header** of block  $T$ .

# SWE plausibility

# SWE plausibility

Claim: IBE  $\Rightarrow$  SWE

## SWE plausibility

Claim: IBE  $\Rightarrow$  SWE

- ▶ via the Naor transform we know: IBE  $\Rightarrow$  Signatures

## SWE plausibility

Claim:  $\text{IBE} \Rightarrow \text{SWE}$

- ▶ via the Naor transform we know:  $\text{IBE} \Rightarrow \text{Signatures}$
- ▶ this extends to:  $\text{IBE} \Rightarrow \text{Signatures} + \text{SWE}$

# SWE plausibility

Given IBE

- ▶  $\text{pk}, \text{msk} \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda)$
- ▶  $\text{sk}_{ID} \leftarrow \text{Ext}(\text{msk}, ID)$
- ▶  $\text{ct} \leftarrow \text{Enc}(m, \text{pk}, ID)$
- ▶  $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}(\text{sk}_{ID}, \text{ct}, \text{pk})$

# SWE plausibility

Given IBE

- ▶  $\text{pk}, \text{msk} \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda)$
- ▶  $\text{sk}_{ID} \leftarrow \text{Ext}(\text{msk}, ID)$
- ▶  $\text{ct} \leftarrow \text{Enc}(m, \text{pk}, ID)$
- ▶  $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}(\text{sk}_{ID}, \text{ct}, \text{pk})$

Construct Signature

- ▶ Gen: Output IBE.Gen
- ▶ Sign( $M, \text{msk}$ ):  $\sigma_M = \text{sk}_M$
- ▶ To verify Enc random message to ID  $M$  and see if decryption works

# SWE plausibility

Given IBE

- ▶  $\text{pk}, \text{msk} \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda)$
- ▶  $\text{sk}_{ID} \leftarrow \text{Ext}(\text{msk}, ID)$
- ▶  $\text{ct} \leftarrow \text{Enc}(m, \text{pk}, ID)$
- ▶  $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}(\text{sk}_{ID}, \text{ct}, \text{pk})$

Construct Signature

- ▶ Gen: Output IBE.Gen
- ▶ Sign( $M, \text{msk}$ ):  $\sigma_M = \text{sk}_M$
- ▶ To verify Enc random message to ID  $M$  and see if decryption works

Being able to decrypt is the same as being able to sign!

# SWE plausibility

Given IBE

- ▶  $\text{pk}, \text{msk} \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda)$
- ▶  $\text{sk}_{ID} \leftarrow \text{Ext}(\text{msk}, ID)$
- ▶  $\text{ct} \leftarrow \text{Enc}(m, \text{pk}, ID)$
- ▶  $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}(\text{sk}_{ID}, \text{ct}, \text{pk})$

Construct Signature + 1-of-1 SWE

- ▶ Gen: Output IBE.Gen
- ▶ Sign( $M, \text{msk}$ ):  $\sigma_M = \text{sk}_M$
- ▶ To verify Enc random message to ID  $M$  and see if decryption works

Being able to decrypt is the same as being able to sign!

- ▶ SWE.Enc( $m, V = \{\text{pk}\}, T$ ):  
IBE.Enc( $m, \text{pk}, ID = T$ )
- ▶ Decryption with  $\sigma_T = \text{sk}_T$  possible,  
if  $T$  is not signed, IND-CPA  
security from IBE

# SWE plausibility

Given IBE

- ▶  $\text{pk}, \text{msk} \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda)$
- ▶  $\text{sk}_{ID} \leftarrow \text{Ext}(\text{msk}, ID)$
- ▶  $\text{ct} \leftarrow \text{Enc}(m, \text{pk}, ID)$
- ▶  $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}(\text{sk}_{ID}, \text{ct}, \text{pk})$

Construct Signature + 1-of-1 SWE

- ▶ Gen: Output IBE.Gen
- ▶  $\text{Sign}(M, \text{msk}): \sigma_M = \text{sk}_M$
- ▶ To verify Enc random message to ID  $M$  and see if decryption works

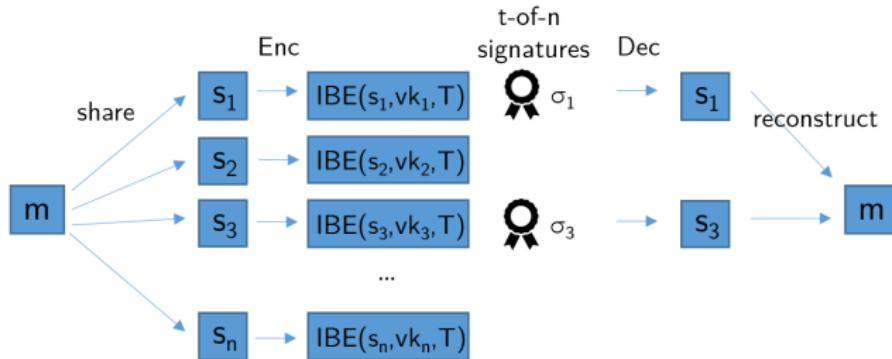
Being able to decrypt is the same as being able to sign!

- ▶  $\text{SWE}.\text{Enc}(m, V = \{\text{pk}\}, T) := \text{IBE}.\text{Enc}(m, \text{pk}, ID = T)$
- ▶ Decryption with  $\sigma_T = \text{sk}_T$  possible, if  $T$  is not signed, IND-CPA security from IBE

For t-of-n add secret sharing

# Thresholdize

- ▶ Assume we know a 1-of-1 SWE
- ▶ Thresholdizing it with multiplicative  $O(n)$  overhead



# Design Choices/Properties of our SWE

- ▶ Build for BLS signatures

- ▶ Deployed e.g. in Ethereum
- ▶ Efficient multi-signature

$$\text{Signature } \sigma_1 + \text{Signature } \sigma_3 = \text{Signature } \sigma_{1,3}$$

- ▶ Results from the Boneh-Franklin IBE via the Naor transform  
⇒ 1-of-1 SWE for free

# BLS - Quick Recap

Let  $e : \mathbb{G}_1 \times \mathbb{G}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  be a bilinear map, with Bilinear Diffie-Hellman assumption in  $(\mathbb{G}_1, \mathbb{G}_2, \mathbb{G}_T)$ , and  $H$  a hash function.

## BLS Signature

Key pairs:  $(\text{sk} \in \mathbb{Z}_p, \text{vk} = g_2^{\text{sk}})$

$\text{Sig}(\text{sk}, m) = H(m)^{\text{sk}}$

$\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, m, \sigma)$ : Output

$e(\sigma, g_2) \stackrel{?}{=} e(H(m), \text{vk})$

# BLS - Quick Recap

Let  $e : \mathbb{G}_1 \times \mathbb{G}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  be a bilinear map, with Bilinear Diffie-Hellman assumption in  $(\mathbb{G}_1, \mathbb{G}_2, \mathbb{G}_T)$ , and  $H$  a hash function.

## BLS Signature

Key pairs:  $(\text{sk} \in \mathbb{Z}_p, \text{vk} = g_2^{\text{sk}})$

$\text{Sig}(\text{sk}, m) = H(m)^{\text{sk}}$

$\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, m, \sigma)$ : Output

$$e(\sigma, g_2) \stackrel{?}{=} e(H(m), \text{vk})$$

## SWE (based on Boneh Franklin)

Encrypt  $m$  to  $\text{vk}$  with reference  $T$ :

$$c = g_2^r, c' = (e(H(T), \text{vk}))^r \cdot g_T^m$$

Notice  $(e(H(T), \text{vk}))^r = e(\sigma, c)$

# BLS - Quick Recap

Let  $e : \mathbb{G}_1 \times \mathbb{G}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  be a bilinear map, with Bilinear Diffie-Hellman assumption in  $(\mathbb{G}_1, \mathbb{G}_2, \mathbb{G}_T)$ , and  $H$  a hash function.

## BLS Signature

Key pairs:  $(\text{sk} \in \mathbb{Z}_p, \text{vk} = g_2^{\text{sk}})$

$\text{Sig}(\text{sk}, m) = H(m)^{\text{sk}}$

$\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, m, \sigma)$ : Output

$$e(\sigma, g_2) \stackrel{?}{=} e(H(m), \text{vk})$$

## SWE (based on Boneh Franklin)

Encrypt  $m$  to  $\text{vk}$  with reference  $T$ :

$$c = g_2^r, c' = (e(H(T), \text{vk}))^r \cdot g_T^m$$

Notice  $(e(H(T), \text{vk}))^r = e(\sigma, c)$

## Multi Signature

$$\text{Agg}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n) = \prod_{i \in [n]} \sigma_i$$

AggVerify for  $m$  and

$\text{vk}_1, \dots, \text{vk}_n$ :

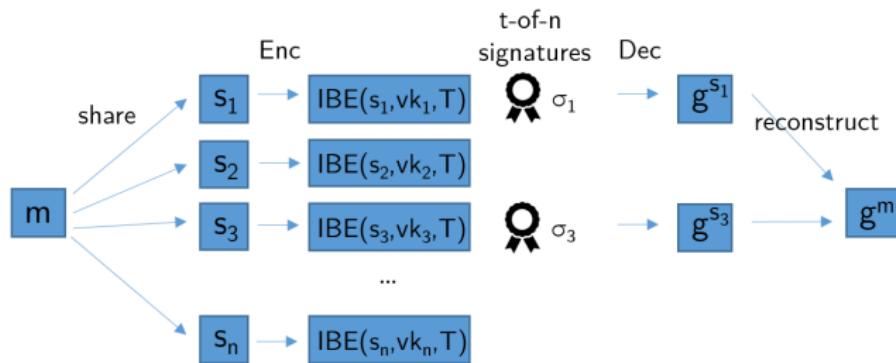
$$e(\sigma, g) \stackrel{?}{=}$$

$$\prod_{i \in [n]} e(H(m), \text{vk}_i)$$

# Multi-Signature support? - Remember thresholdizing

Shamir's secret sharing: Split  $m$  into  $n$  shares  $s_1, \dots, s_n$   
s.t. for any  $\geq t$  shares we get  $m = \sum_j s_j L_j$ , for  $L_j$  Lagrange coefficients

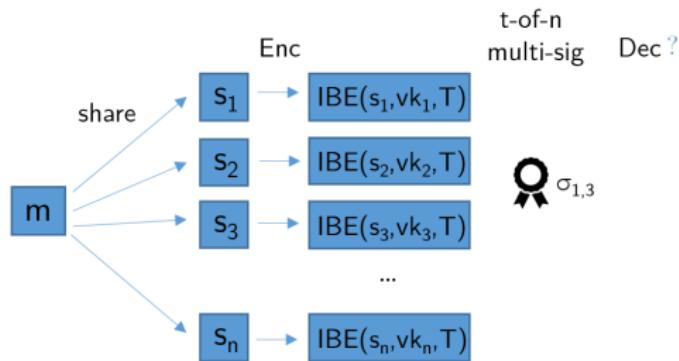
No information from  $< t$  shares



# Multi-Signature support? - Remember thresholdizing

Shamir's secret sharing: Split  $m$  into  $n$  shares  $s_1, \dots, s_n$   
s.t. for any  $\geq t$  shares we get  $m = \sum_j s_j L_j$ , for  $L_j$  Lagrange coefficients

No information from  $< t$  shares



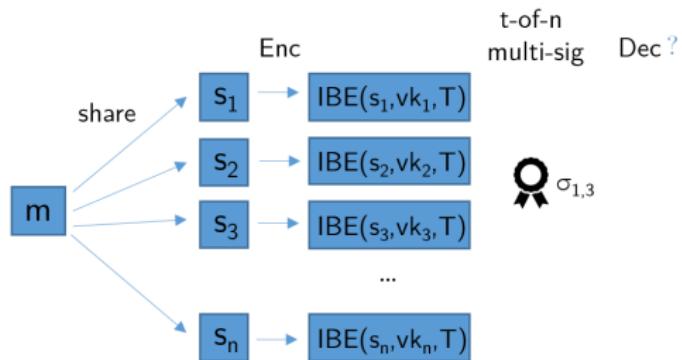
What about multi-signatures?

Have:  $c'_i = g^{s_i} \cdot e(\sigma_i, g_2^r)$ , aggregated  $\sigma_I = \prod_{i \in I} \sigma_i$

# Multi-Signature support? - Remember thresholdizing

Shamir's secret sharing: Split  $m$  into  $n$  shares  $s_1, \dots, s_n$   
s.t. for any  $\geq t$  shares we get  $m = \sum_j s_j L_j$ , for  $L_j$  Lagrange coefficients

No information from  $< t$  shares



What about multi-signatures?

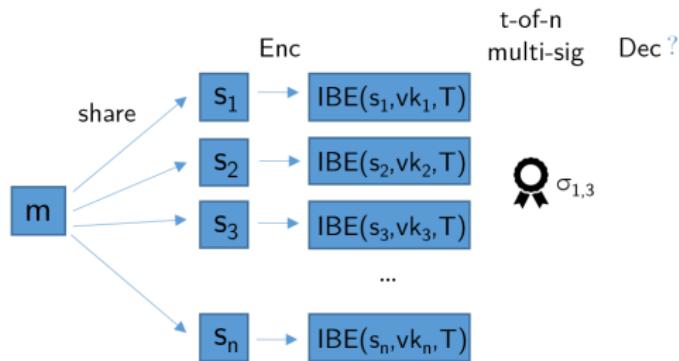
Have:  $c'_i = g^{s_i} \cdot e(\sigma_i, g_2^r)$ , aggregated  $\sigma_I = \prod_{i \in I} \sigma_i$

Want:  $g^m = \prod_{i \in I} g^{s_i L_i} = \prod_{i \in I} (c'_i L_i / e(\sigma_i, g_2^r) L_i)$

# Multi-Signature support? - Remember thresholdizing

Shamir's secret sharing: Split  $m$  into  $n$  shares  $s_1, \dots, s_n$   
s.t. for any  $\geq t$  shares we get  $m = \sum_j s_j L_j$ , for  $L_j$  Lagrange coefficients

No information from  $< t$  shares



What about multi-signatures?

Have:  $c'_i = g^{s_i} \cdot e(\sigma_i, g_2^r)$ , aggregated  $\sigma_I = \prod_{i \in I} \sigma_i$

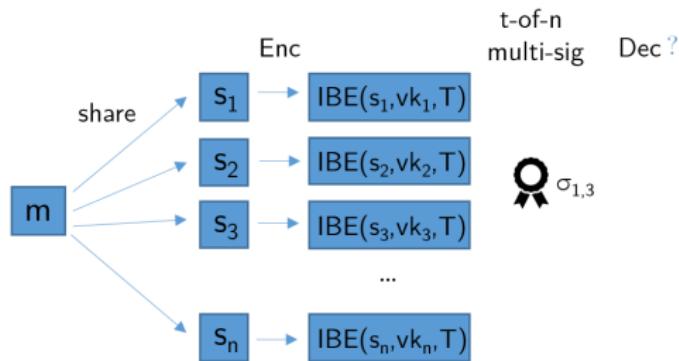
Want:  $g^m = \prod_{i \in I} g^{s_i L_i} = \prod_{i \in I} (c'_i L_i / e(\sigma_i, g_2^r)^{L_i})$

Modified Aggregation:  $\sigma_I = \prod_{i \in I} \sigma_i^{L_i}$

# Multi-Signature support? - Remember thresholdizing

Shamir's secret sharing: Split  $m$  into  $n$  shares  $s_1, \dots, s_n$   
s.t. for any  $\geq t$  shares we get  $m = \sum_j s_j L_j$ , for  $L_j$  Lagrange coefficients

No information from  $< t$  shares



What about multi-signatures?

Have:  $c'_i = g^{s_i} \cdot e(\sigma_i, g_2^r)$ , aggregated  $\sigma_I = \prod_{i \in I} \sigma_i$

Want:  $g^m = \prod_{i \in I} g^{s_i L_i} = \prod_{i \in I} (c'_i L_i / e(\sigma_i, g_2^r) L_i)$

Modified Aggregation:  $\sigma_I = \prod_{i \in I} \sigma_i^{L_i}$  OR workaround as a service

Is that the time?!?!



## Design Choices/Properties of our SWE

- ▶ Build for BLS signatures
- ▶ Supports Multi-Signatures (at a price)

# Design Choices/Properties of our SWE

- ▶ Build for BLS signatures
- ▶ Supports Multi-Signatures (at a price)
- ▶ Our SWE is a homomorphic commitment
  - ▶ supports commit & open, optimistic settings

# Design Choices/Properties of our SWE

- ▶ Build for BLS signatures
- ▶ Supports Multi-Signatures (at a price)
- ▶ Our SWE is a homomorphic commitment
  - ▶ supports commit & open, optimistic settings
- ▶ Our SWE is verifiable
  - ▶ integration with bulletproofs for efficiently proving properties of the contained message
  - ▶ this is done by adding a Pederson commitment and a proof of plaintext equality

# Design Choices/Properties of our SWE

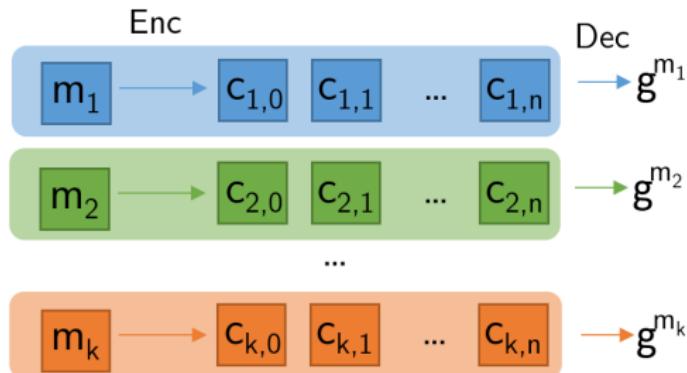
- ▶ Build for BLS signatures
- ▶ Supports Multi-Signatures (at a price)
- ▶ Our SWE is a homomorphic commitment
  - ▶ supports commit & open, optimistic settings
- ▶ Our SWE is verifiable
  - ▶ integration with bulletproofs for efficiently proving properties of the contained message
  - ▶ this is done by adding a Pederson commitment and a proof of plaintext equality
- ▶ Optimizes for concrete efficiency

# Efficiency?

Let's encrypt  $k$  messages, with  $n$  committee members:

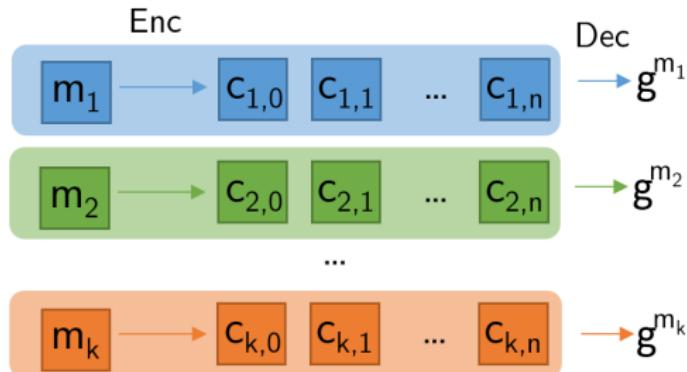
# Efficiency?

Let's encrypt  $k$  messages, with  $n$  committee members:



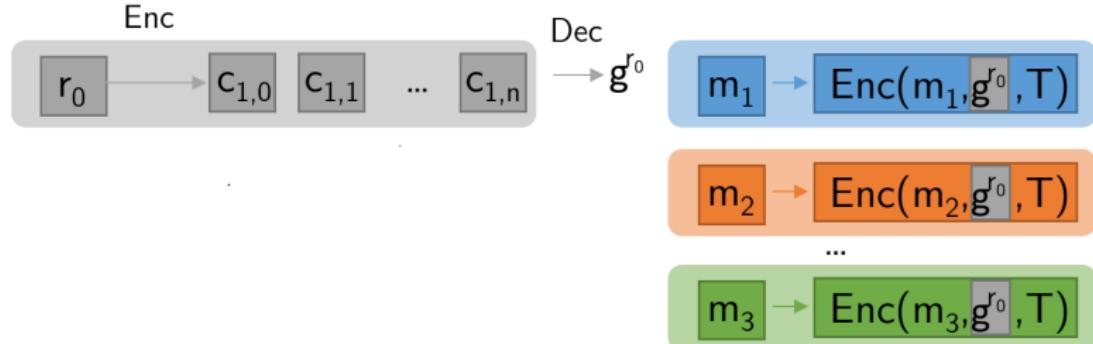
# Efficiency?

Let's encrypt  $k$  messages, with  $n$  committee members: Size  $O(n \cdot k)$



# Efficiency?

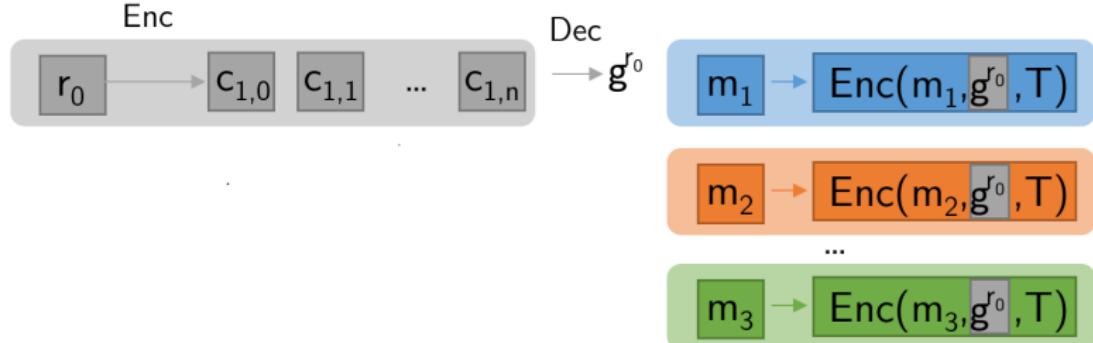
Let's encrypt  $k$  messages, with  $n$  committee members: Size  $O(n \cdot k)$



- ▶ Batching: Size  $O(n + k)$

# Efficiency?

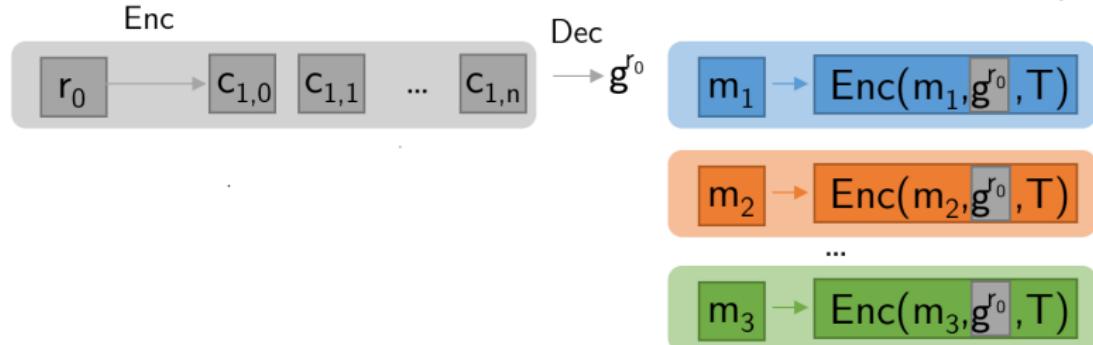
Let's encrypt  $k$  messages, with  $n$  committee members: Size  $O(n \cdot k)$



- ▶ Batching: Size  $O(n + k)$
- ▶ Packing: Allow  $m \in \{0, \dots, 2^\ell - 1\}$  instead of bit messages (baby-step-giant-step)

# Efficiency?

Let's encrypt  $k$  messages, with  $n$  committee members: Size  $O(n \cdot k)$



- ▶ Batching: Size  $O(n + k)$
- ▶ Packing: Allow  $m \in \{0, \dots, 2^\ell - 1\}$  instead of bit messages (baby-step-giant-step)
- ▶ Bilinear setup:  $e : G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G_T$ . Group operations in  $G_T$  usually most expensive. We move most operations into  $G_2$ !

## Now what?

We built concretely efficient verifiable time release encryption

- ▶ from BDH and blockchain trust-assumptions
- ▶ with **small** overhead for committee  
(2 signatures per block + changed aggregation)
- ▶ for a limited time horizon. → Future work!

## Now what?

We built concretely efficient verifiable time release encryption

- ▶ from BDH and blockchain trust-assumptions
- ▶ with **small** overhead for committee  
(2 signatures per block + changed aggregation)
- ▶ for a limited time horizon. → **Future work!**
- ▶ [FMMMTV'22]: Cryptographic Oracle-based Conditional Payments
  - ▶ Similar primitive (VweTS)
  - ▶ **Cool application:** Construct blockchain payments conditioned on real-life events

**Applications of SWE potentially see growing signer sets!**

- ▶ Asymptotics of  $O(n)$  in number of potential signers not ideal  
→ **Future work!**

# tlock by [Gailly, Melissaris, Romailler]

## tlock by [Gailly, Melissaris, Romailler]

- ▶ Similar IBE based construction for BLS
- ▶ Found perfect deployment environment: drand  
relatively fixed committee regularly signs predictable messages

## tlock by [Gailly, Melissaris, Romailler]

- ▶ Similar IBE based construction for BLS
- ▶ Found perfect deployment environment: drand relatively fixed committee regularly signs predictable messages
- ▶ At Setup, a distributed key generation was run to get a long-term committee public verification key and a signing key share for each participant such that a threshold number of participants can sign under the public key.

## tlock by [Gailly, Melissaris, Romailler]

- ▶ Similar IBE based construction for BLS
- ▶ Found perfect deployment environment: drand  
relatively fixed committee regularly signs predictable messages
- ▶ At Setup, a distributed key generation was run to get a  
long-term committee public verification key and a signing key  
share for each participant such that a threshold number of  
participants can sign under the public key.
- ▶ In this setting: 1-of-1 SWE = BF IBE is enough!
- ▶ NO committe overhead, long-term encryption,  $O(1)$  ciphertext
- ▶ Runs in production, with a cute GUI webapp



## tlock by [Gailly, Melissaris, Romailler]

- ▶ Similar IBE based construction for BLS
- ▶ Found perfect deployment environment: drand  
relatively fixed committee regularly signs predictable messages
- ▶ At Setup, a distributed key generation was run to get a  
long-term committee public verification key and a signing key  
share for each participant such that a threshold number of  
participants can sign under the public key.
- ▶ In this setting: 1-of-1 SWE = BF IBE is enough!
- ▶ NO committe overhead, long-term encryption,  $O(1)$  ciphertext
- ▶ Runs in production, with a cute GUI webapp



- ▶ Highly permissioned system

## Now what?

Maybe this is enough for your application and you can tune out  
now :)

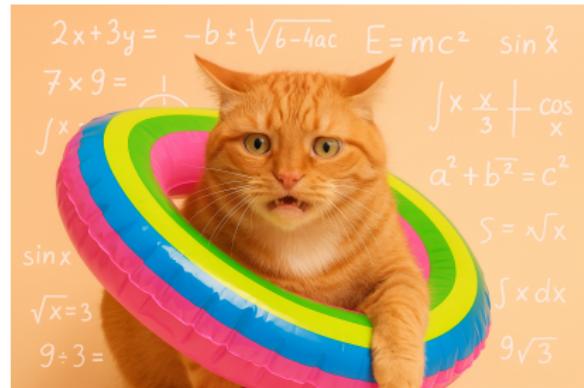
# Now what?

Maybe this is enough for your application and you can tune out now :)



# Now what?

Maybe this is enough for your application and you can tune out now :)



But a theorist might want:

- ▶ Long-Term Encryption **across Committees**
- ▶ Better asymptotics **without joint key setup**

## Long-Term encryption across committees?

Solved if we allow the committee to be more involved

Solutions with near-future solution + bootstrapping to far-future by auxiliary committees

## Long-Term encryption across committees?

Solved if we allow the committee to be more involved

Solutions with near-future solution + bootstrapping to far-future by auxiliary committees

Simple example: [BGGHKLRR20] - Can a public blockchain keep a secret?

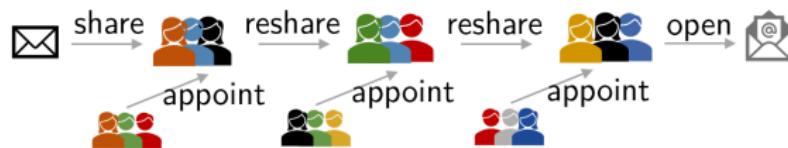


# Long-Term encryption across committees?

Solved if we allow the committee to be more involved

Solutions with near-future solution + bootstrapping to far-future by auxiliary committees

Simple example: [BGGHKLRR20] - Can a public blockchain keep a secret?

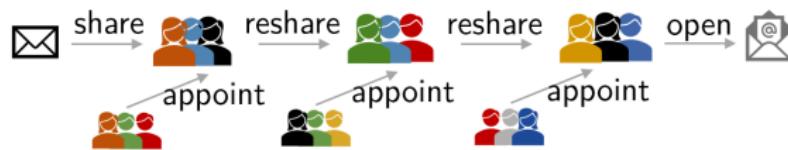


# Long-Term encryption across committees?

Solved if we allow the committee to be more involved

Solutions with near-future solution + bootstrapping to far-future by auxiliary committees

Simple example: [BGGHKLRR20] - Can a public blockchain keep a secret?



To my knowledge no "off-chain" solution known to extend a time release among multiple committees

⇒ YOUR future work?

# Signature-based Witness Encryption with Compact Ciphertext

Joint work of Gennaro Avitabile<sup>1</sup>, Nico Döttling<sup>2,\*</sup>, Bernardo Magri<sup>3</sup>, Christos Sakkas<sup>3</sup>, Stella Wöhnig<sup>2,4</sup>

Published at Asiacrypt 2024

<sup>1</sup> IMDEA Software Institute

<sup>2</sup> CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security

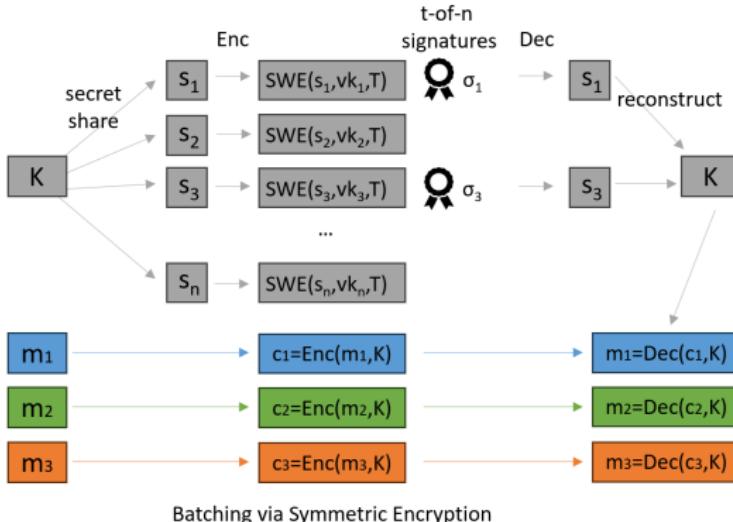
<sup>3</sup> The University of Manchester

<sup>4</sup> Saarland University

\* Funded by an ERC grant

# High-level Overview so far

- ▶ Assume we know a 1-of-1 SWE (BF-IBE in BLS case)
- ▶ Thresholdizing it with multiplicative  $O(n)$  overhead



- ▶ How CAN we do better?

# *iO* to the rescue



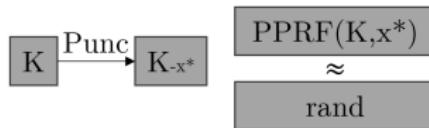
# iO to the rescue

The superpower:  
replace circuits

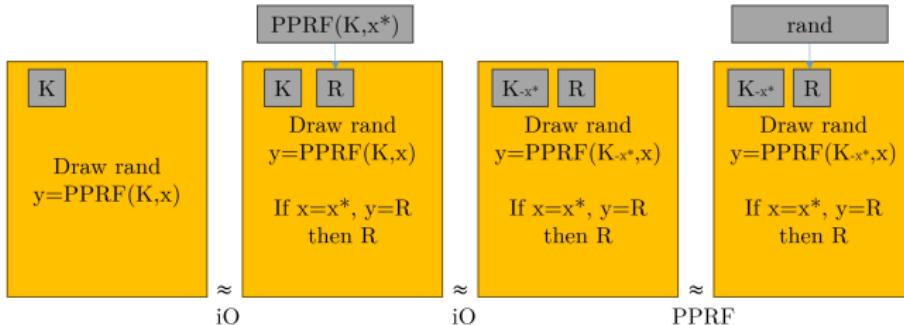


If functionally equivalent

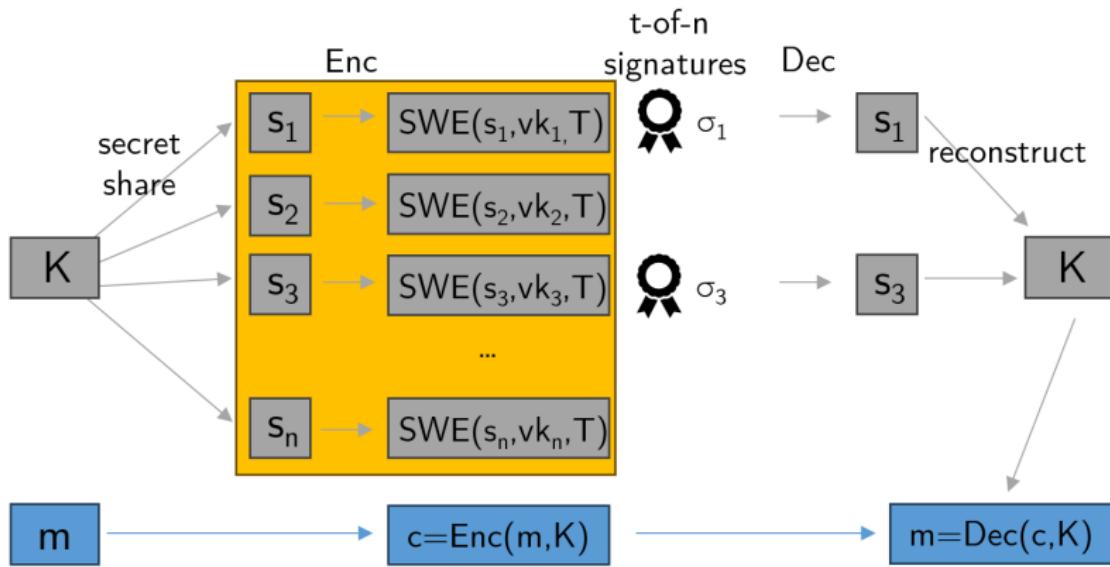
puncture a key to forget a value



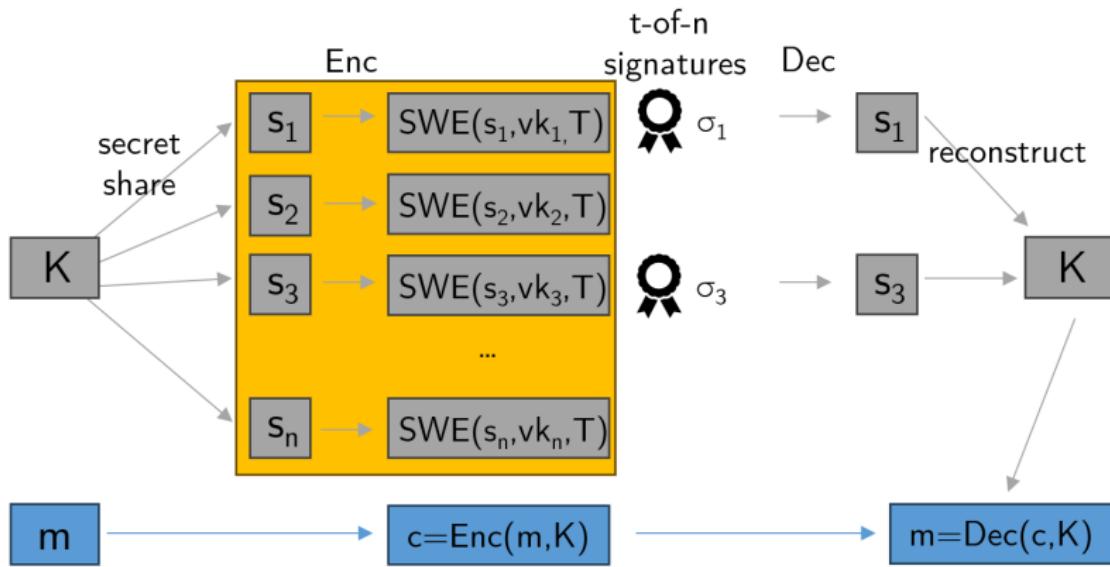
Together they help *forgetting a value* in a circuit!



# High-level idea

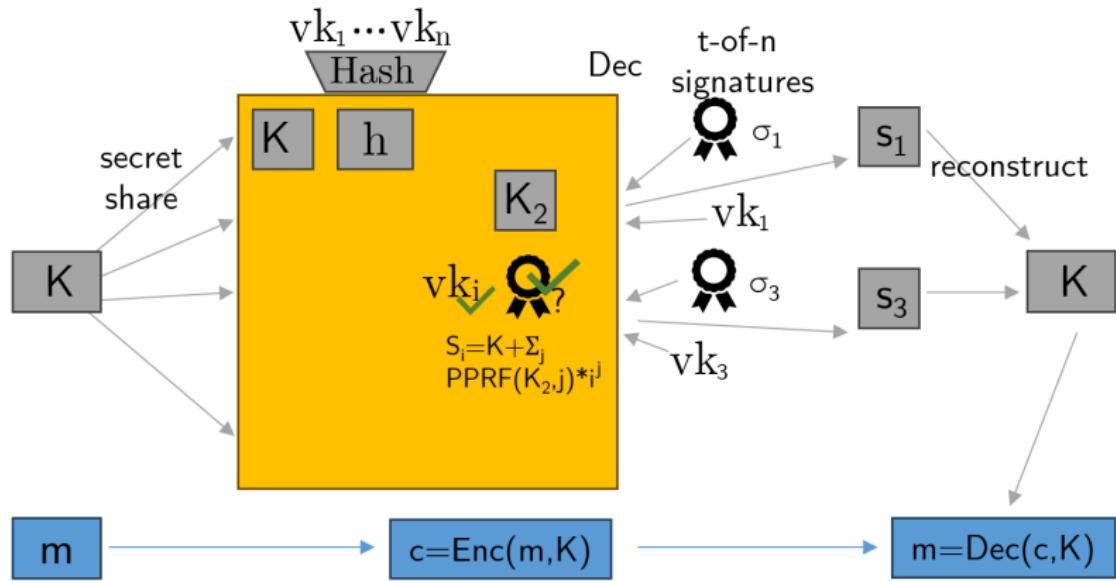


# High-level idea



Let a circuit create the shares.

# High-level idea



Let a circuit create the shares.

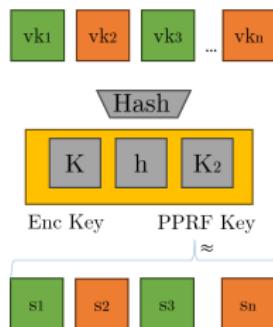
Circuit gets  $(i, vk_i, \sigma_i)$ , if valid returns share  $s_i$  (pulled from PPRF)  
This is  $O(\text{polylog } n)$ .

# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

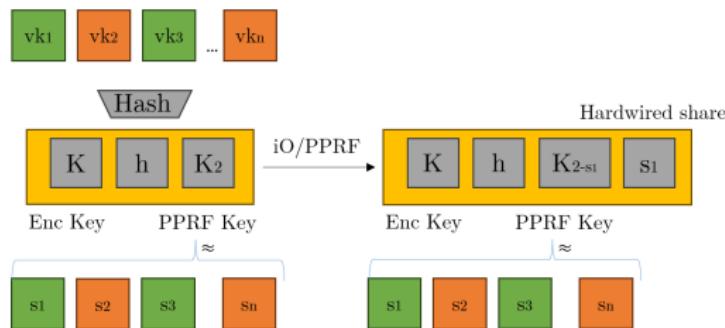


# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

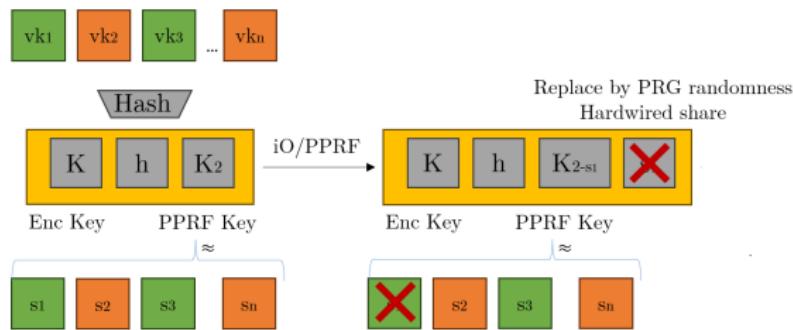


# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

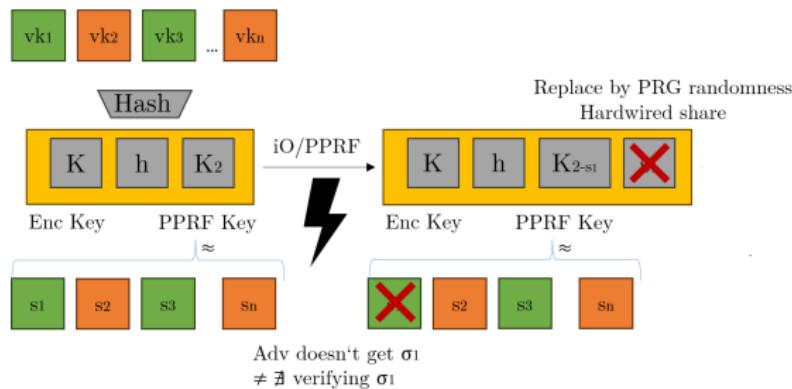


# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

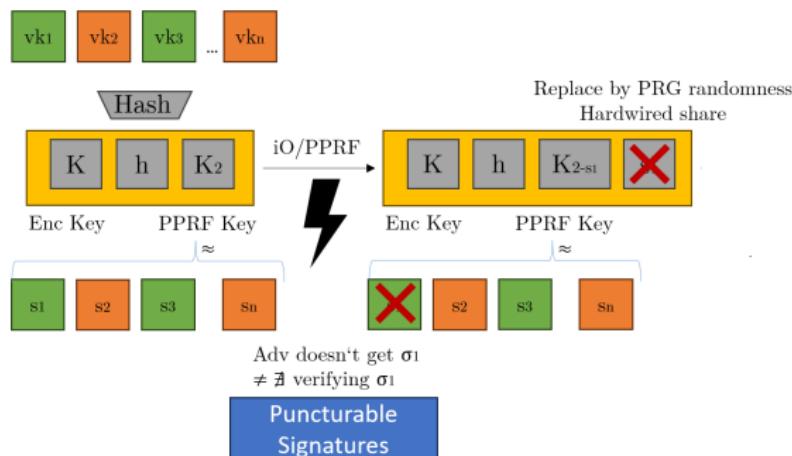


# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.



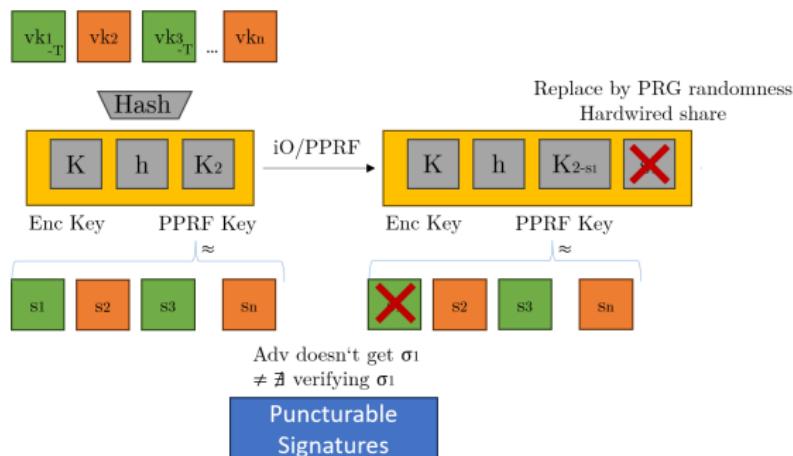
# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

Puncture all honest keys



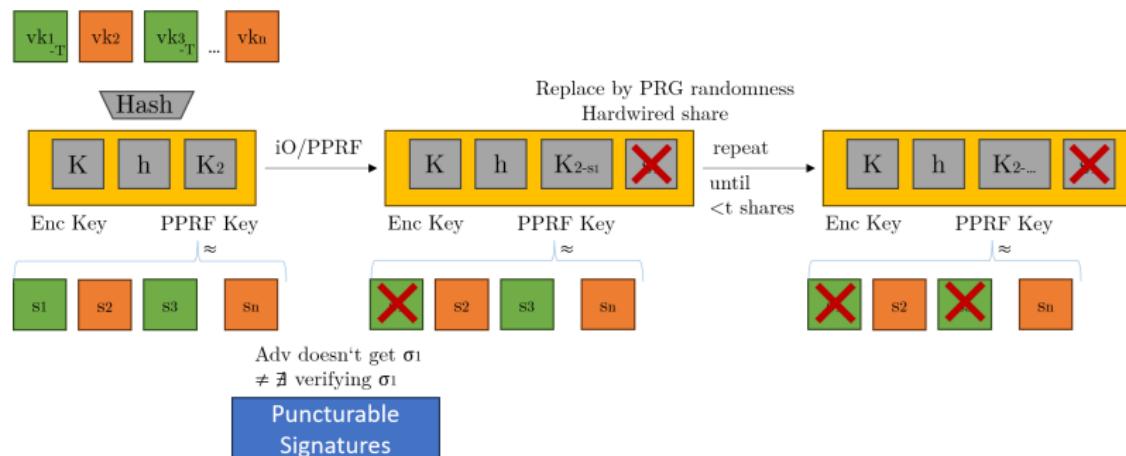
# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

Puncture all honest keys



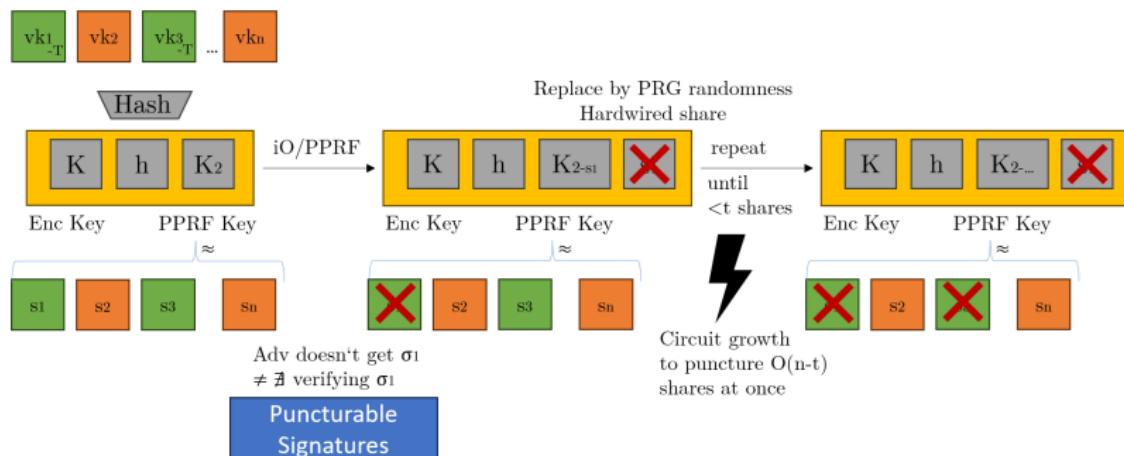
# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

Puncture all honest keys



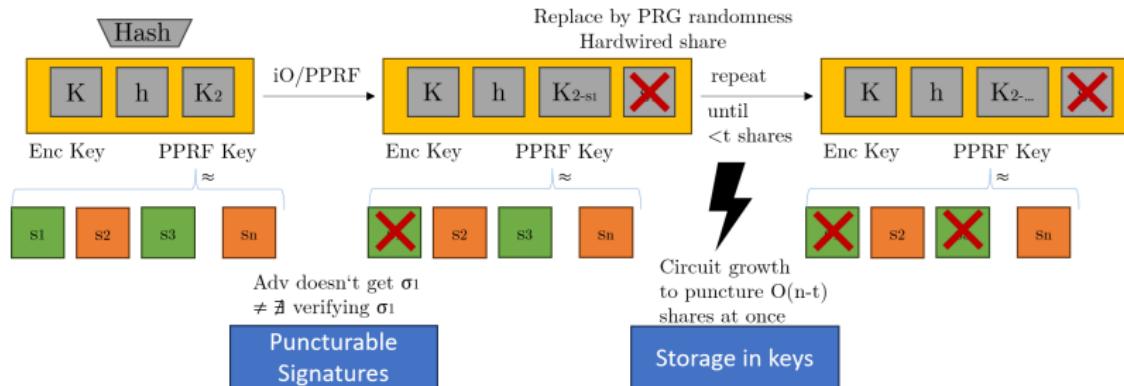
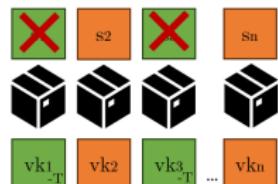
# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

Puncture all honest keys



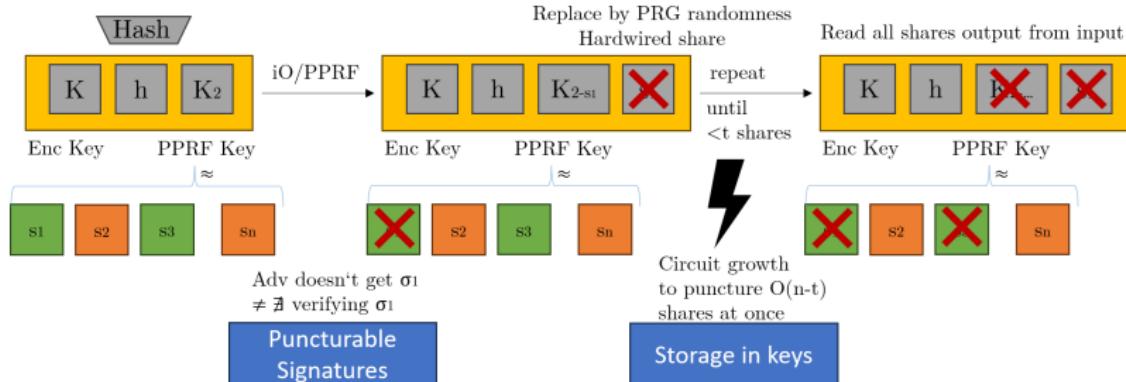
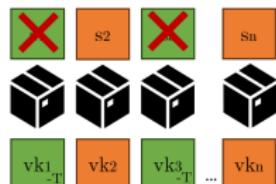
# Security Sketch

Fully non-adaptive: reference  $T$ , corrupted parties known, all keys honestly created

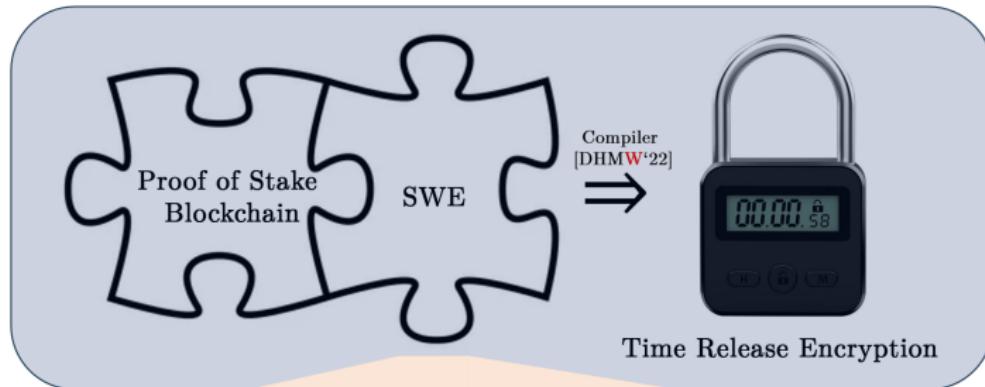
Want: Forget all honest shares, use secret sharing security.

Intuition: Honest signatures are never given to  $\mathcal{A}$  so the circuit is never queried successfully to output honest share.

Puncture all honest keys



# Comparison



Concrete efficiency?

- BLS based construction
- Size  $O(n)$
- Based on BDH, ROM

SWE, [DHMW'22]

Asymptotic efficiency?

- Generic construction
- Size  $O(\text{polylog } n)$
- Uses iO

cSWE, [ADMSW'24]

## Future work

- ▶ Are there less heavy compact constructions?
- ▶ Find a bootstrapping to the far-future for McFly with no committee communication/joint key setup?
- ▶ Any chance if reference messages are not (fully) known?