

# CS4501 Cryptographic Protocols

## Lecture 11: 🐸 🐸 🐸, The Limits of Perfect MPC

<https://jackdoerner.net/teaching/#2026/Spring/CS4501>

# Essential vs Convenience Gates:

1. When we were discussing arithmetic circuits, we argued that it is necessary only to have  $+$ ,  $\times$ , `in`, and `out` gates.
2. When I actually described the BGW protocol in **Lecture 8**, I added a `rand` gate to make it easy to express randomized functions. This gate is not strictly necessary, as you will see in your homework, but it is convenient.
3. From now on, I will mostly use only the *necessary* gates to talk about costs and feasibility.

# Essential vs Convenience Gates:

4. On the other hand, when talking about constructing circuits, I will assume we have two additional *convenience gates* (besides `rand`). Both of them can be constructed using `+`, `*`, and `in` in the semi-honest setting, and both can also be constructed *directly*, in a way that avoids communication.
  - The scalar gate  $(\text{scale}, c, i, o)$  that sets the value of wire  $o$  to  $c \cdot w_i$  where  $w_i$  is the value on wire  $i$  and  $c \in \mathbb{F}_p$  is a constant. You saw the technique for constructing this gate without communication in **Lecture 7**.
  - The constant gate  $(\text{const}, c, o)$  sets the value of wire  $o$  to  $c \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . *How can you construct this gate without communication?*

*Answer:* If every party sets the value its share to  $c$ , then they have a degree-0 polynomial (i.e. a flat line) encoding the “secret”  $c$ .

# Recap: The BGW Protocol $\pi_{\text{BGW}}(n, t, p, C)$

Let  $t < n < p \in \mathbb{N}$ . There are  $n$  parties  $P_1, \dots, P_n$ , with inputs  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{F}_p$  respectively.  $\pi_{\text{BGW}}$  computes a well-formed  $n$ -ary arithmetic circuit  $C : \mathbb{F}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^n$ . The parties output  $y_1, \dots, y_n \in \mathbb{F}_p$  respectively.

**There are Three Phases:**

1. **Input Sharing:** every  $P_i$  with input  $x_i$  finds the entry  $(\text{in}, i, o) \in C$ , computes  $\langle w_o \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,t}(x_i)$  and sends  $\langle w_o \rangle_j$  to every  $P_j$  for  $j \in [n] \setminus \{i\}$ .
2. **Circuit Eval:** the parties traverse the circuit  $C$  in topological order, jointly evaluating each gate, using shares of its input wires to produce shares of its output wire.
  - Suppose the parties arrive at gate  $(+, j, k, o) \in C$ . Each party  $P_i$  individually computes  $\langle w_o \rangle_i := \langle w_j \rangle_i + \langle w_k \rangle_i$ .

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  - Suppose the parties arrive at gate  $(\times, j, k, o) \in C$ . Each party  $P_i$  sends  $(\langle w_j \rangle_i, \langle w_k \rangle_i)$  to  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$  and receives  $\langle w_o \rangle_i$  in response.

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3. **Output Reconstruction:** Each  $P_i$  finds every output wire  $(\text{out}, k, j) \in C$  and sends  $\langle w_j \rangle_i$  to  $P_k$ .  $P_k$  receives  $\langle w_j \rangle_i$ , computes  $y_k := \text{Recon}_{p, n, t}([n], \langle w_j \rangle_i)$ , and outputs  $y_k$ .

# Recap: The BGW Multiplication Protocol

**Inputs:** Each  $P_i$  begins with  $\langle w \rangle_i$  and  $\langle w' \rangle_i$ .

1. Without interacting, every  $P_i$  computes  $\widehat{\langle w \cdot w' \rangle}_i = \langle w \rangle_i \cdot \langle w' \rangle_i$ .
2. Every  $P_i$  samples  $\langle 0_i \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,2t}(0)$  and sends  $\langle 0_i \rangle_j$  to every  $P_j$  for  $j \in [n] \setminus \{i\}$ .
3. Every  $P_i$  computes  $\widetilde{\langle w \cdot w' \rangle}_i = \widehat{\langle w \cdot w' \rangle}_i + \sum_{k \in [n]} \langle 0_k \rangle_i$ .
4. The parties invoke  $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}_{\text{SFE}}}(n, f_{\text{reduce}}, \mathbb{F}_p, \dots, \mathbb{F}_p)$  where  $f_{\text{reduce}}(\vec{x}) = V_{[n]} H_{n,t} V_{[n]}^{-1} \vec{x}$ .  
Each  $P_i$  supplies  $\langle w \cdot w' \rangle_i$  as its input and receives  $\langle w \cdot w' \rangle_i$  as its output.
5. Because  $f_{\text{reduce}}$  is *linear*, we can realize  $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}_{\text{SFE}}}(n, f_{\text{reduce}}, \mathbb{F}_p, \dots, \mathbb{F}_p)$  using the BGW protocol *without* any multiplication gates.

**Outputs:** Each  $P_i$  ends with  $\langle w \cdot w' \rangle_i$ .

Total bandwidth cost:  $n$  inputs +  $n$  outputs +  $n$  zero-sharings =  $3n^2|p|$ .  
Total Rounds: 3.

# Recap: $\pi_{\text{GRR}}(n, t, p)$ .

**Inputs:** Every  $P_i$  for  $i \in [n]$  has input  $\langle w \rangle_i = f(i)$  where  $f \in \mathcal{P}_{p,t,w}$  and input  $\langle w' \rangle_i = f'(i)$  where  $f' \in \mathcal{P}_{p,t,w'}$ .

1. Every  $P_i$  locally computes  $\hat{g}(i) = f(i) \cdot f'(i) = \langle w \rangle_i \cdot \langle w' \rangle_i$ . Note that  $\hat{g} \in \mathcal{P}_{p,2t,w \cdot w'}$ .
2. Every  $P_i$  samples  $\langle \hat{g}(i) \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,t}(\hat{g}(i))$  and sends  $\langle \hat{g}(i) \rangle_j$  to  $P_j$  for  $j \in [n] \setminus \{i\}$ .
3. Every  $P_i$  computes  $\langle w \cdot w' \rangle_i = \sum_{j \in [n]} \ell_j(0) \cdot \langle \hat{g}(j) \rangle_i$ .

**Outputs:** Each  $P_i$  ends with  $\langle w \cdot w' \rangle_i$ .

Total bandwidth cost:  $n^2 |p|$ .  
Total Rounds: 1.

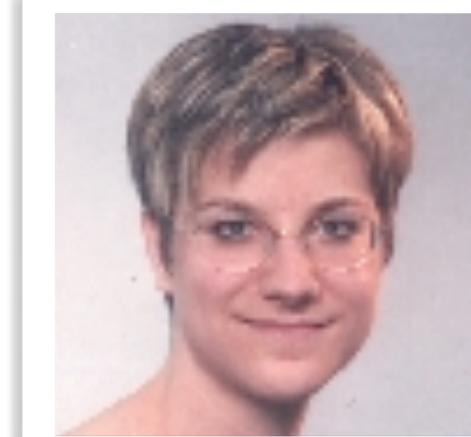
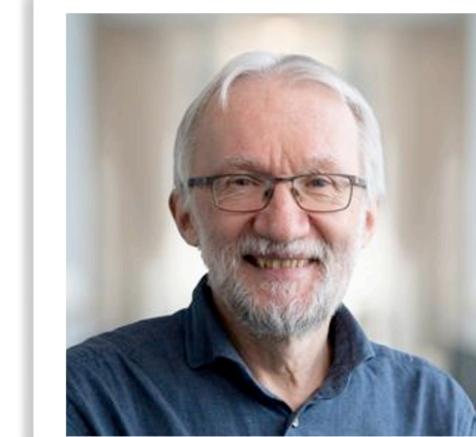
# BGW+GRR Protocol Bandwidth Costs

- Let  $C$  be a circuit over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  that we wish to compute.
- Let  $c_{\text{in}}$  be the number of input gates; i.e.  $c_{\text{in}} := |\{(in, i, o) : (in, i, o) \in C\}|$ .
- Let  $c_{\text{out}}$  be the number of output gates; i.e.  $c_{\text{out}} := |\{(out, i, j) : (out, i, j) \in C\}|$ .
- Let  $c_{\times}$  be the number of multiplication gates;  $c_{\times} := |\{(\times, j, k, o) : (\times, j, k, o) \in C\}|$ .
- The total bandwidth cost of running the BGW protocol (with GRR multiplication) on  $C$  is  $c_{\text{total}} = c_{\text{in}} \cdot n \cdot |p| + c_{\text{out}} \cdot n \cdot |p| + c_{\times} \cdot n^2 \cdot |p|$ .
- For many circuits, it's clear that the dominating bandwidth cost comes from the number of multiplication gates. *Can we do better?*  
*In particular, can we remove the square?*

# What do We Know About Bandwidth Costs?

*In particular, can we remove the square?*

- The BGW protocol was published in 1988.
- In 2007 (~20 years later) Damgård and Nielsen introduced an information-theoretically secure protocol that requires  $O((c_{\text{in}} + c_{\text{out}} + c_x) \cdot n \cdot |p|)$  bits to be transmitted in the semi-honest setting. A dramatic improvement!
- In 2008, Beeriová-Trubíniová and Hirt improved achieved Perfect Security against malicious adversaries with similar asymptotic costs.
- In 2019 (~10 years later), Damgård proved that there exist circuits such that *any* protocol that perfectly securely computes one of those those circuits must transmit  $\Omega(n \cdot c_x)$  bits overall (even if the adversary is semi-honest).
- We won't cover those results in this class. We *will* ask something slightly easier.

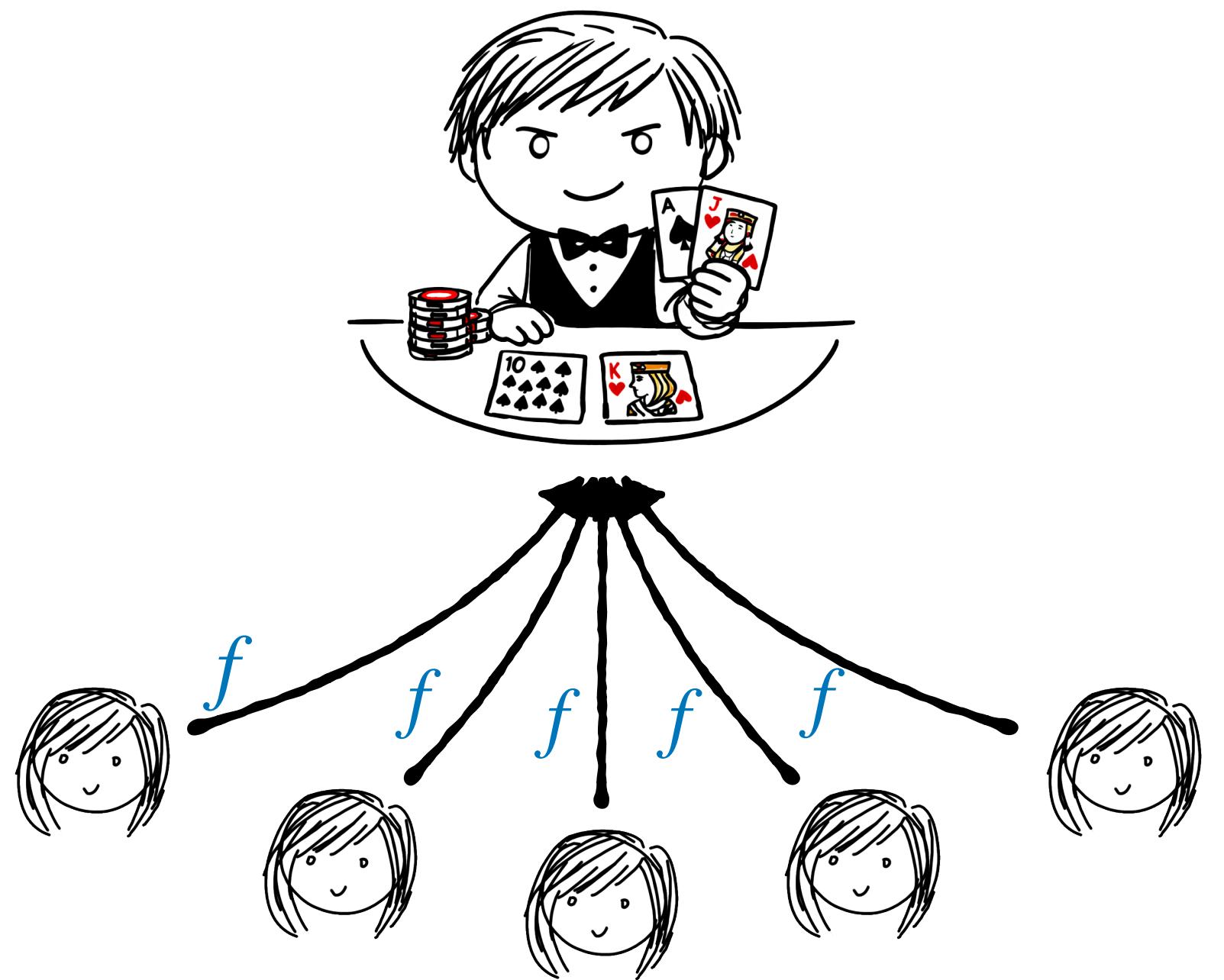


# Motivating Preprocessing

- If we know in *advance* what function we want to compute, but not what the inputs are, can we do some work ahead of time to make the computation more efficient when the inputs arrive?
- **Example:** Suppose some hospitals want to run a joint study on their patients. It might take them a while to collect data, but they already know what analysis they will do.
- **Example:** Suppose we want to issue digital credentials *only* when a committee agrees to it. We will create those credentials using a protocol. We know there will be a certain number of credential requests during the day. We would like to work through the night beforehand to make issuing them fast.

# The Preprocessing Model

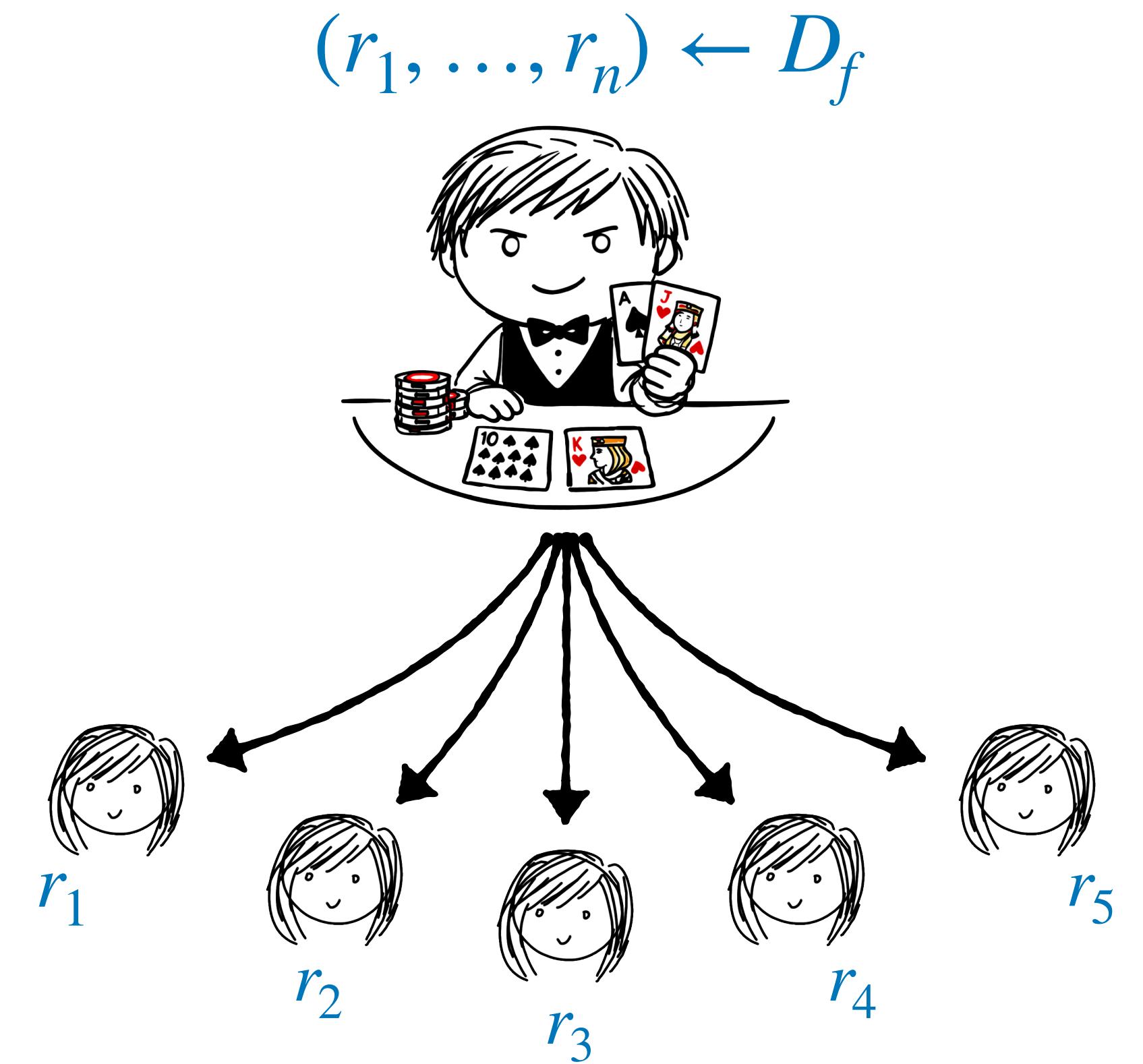
- In cases like these, it is possible to redesign our protocol so that it has two *phases*.
- In the *preprocessing* (or *offline* or *setup*) phase, the parties know the function  $f$  that they wish to compute, but not the inputs.



# The Preprocessing Model

- In cases like these, it is possible to redesign our protocol so that it has two *phases*.
- In the *preprocessing* (or *offline* or *setup*) phase, the parties know the function  $f$  that they wish to compute, but not the inputs.

A *trusted dealer* samples some *correlated randomness*  $(r_1, \dots, r_n) \leftarrow D_f$  where  $D_f$  is some public distribution that depends upon  $f$ , and sends  $r_i$  to each  $P_i$ .

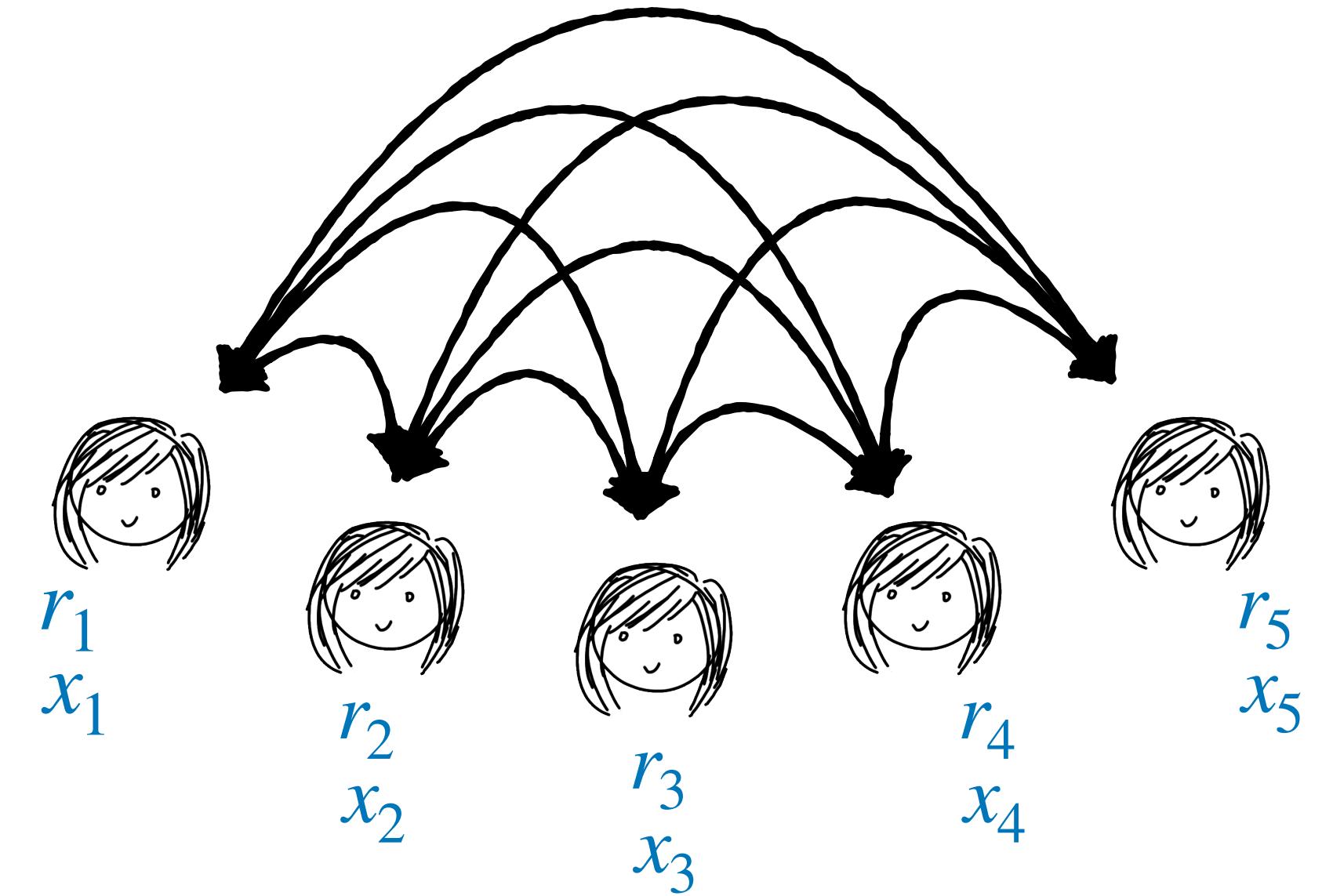


The  $r_i$  values are related to each other in some way. Often the dealer samples  $(r_1, \dots, r_n)$  uniformly from the set of all sets of values that satisfy some constraint.

# The Preprocessing Model

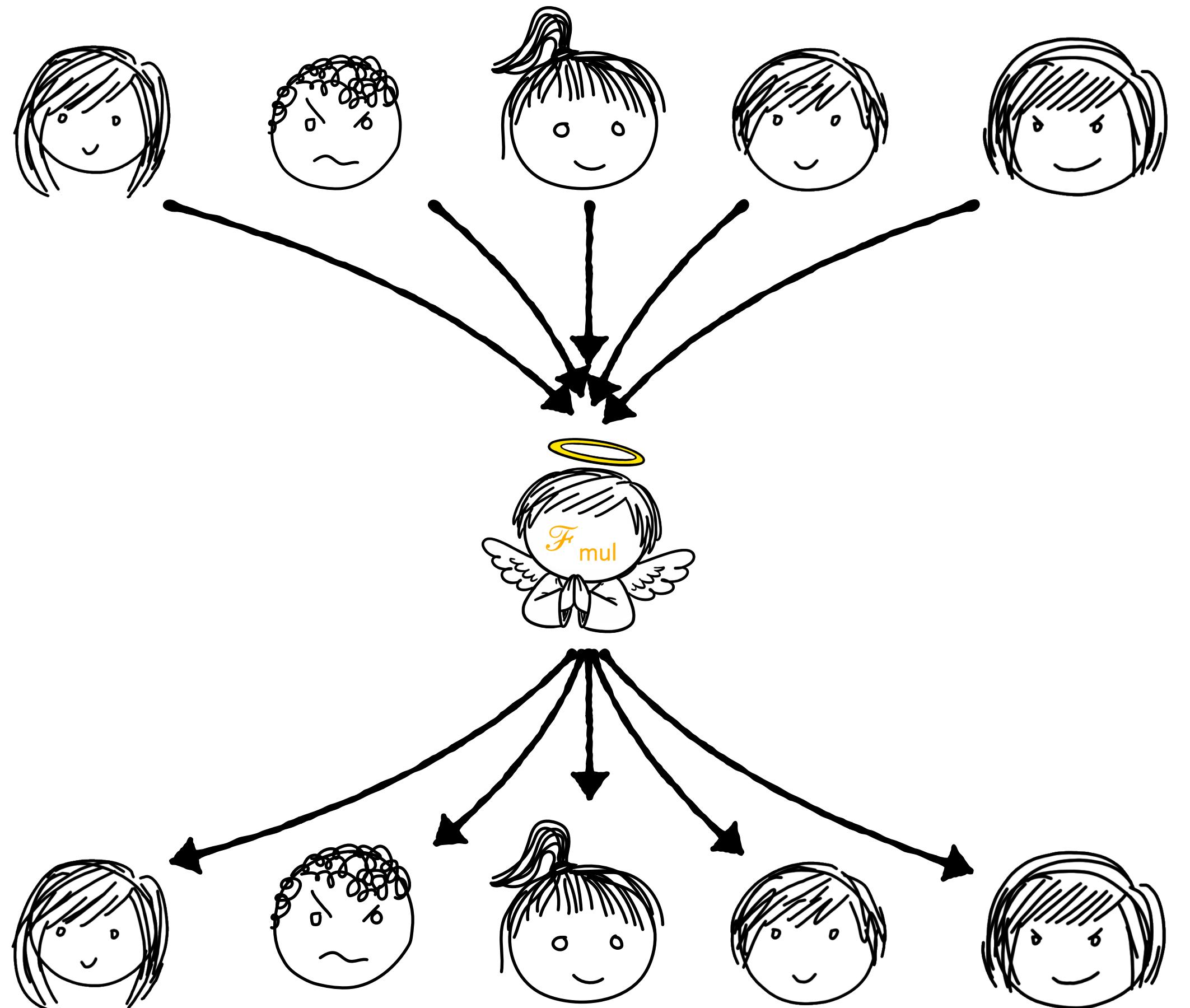
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- In the *online* phase, each  $P_i$  receives its input  $x_i$ , and uses it together with  $r_i$  to securely compute  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . The dealer is not involved.
- The offline phase should be more efficient than if we used a one-phase protocol.
- **Question:** How can we find a dealer? Who can we trust to generate secrets for everyone?



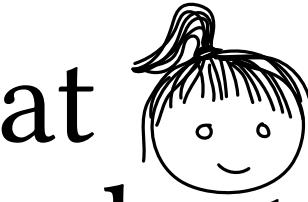
# Reminder: The Ideal Process

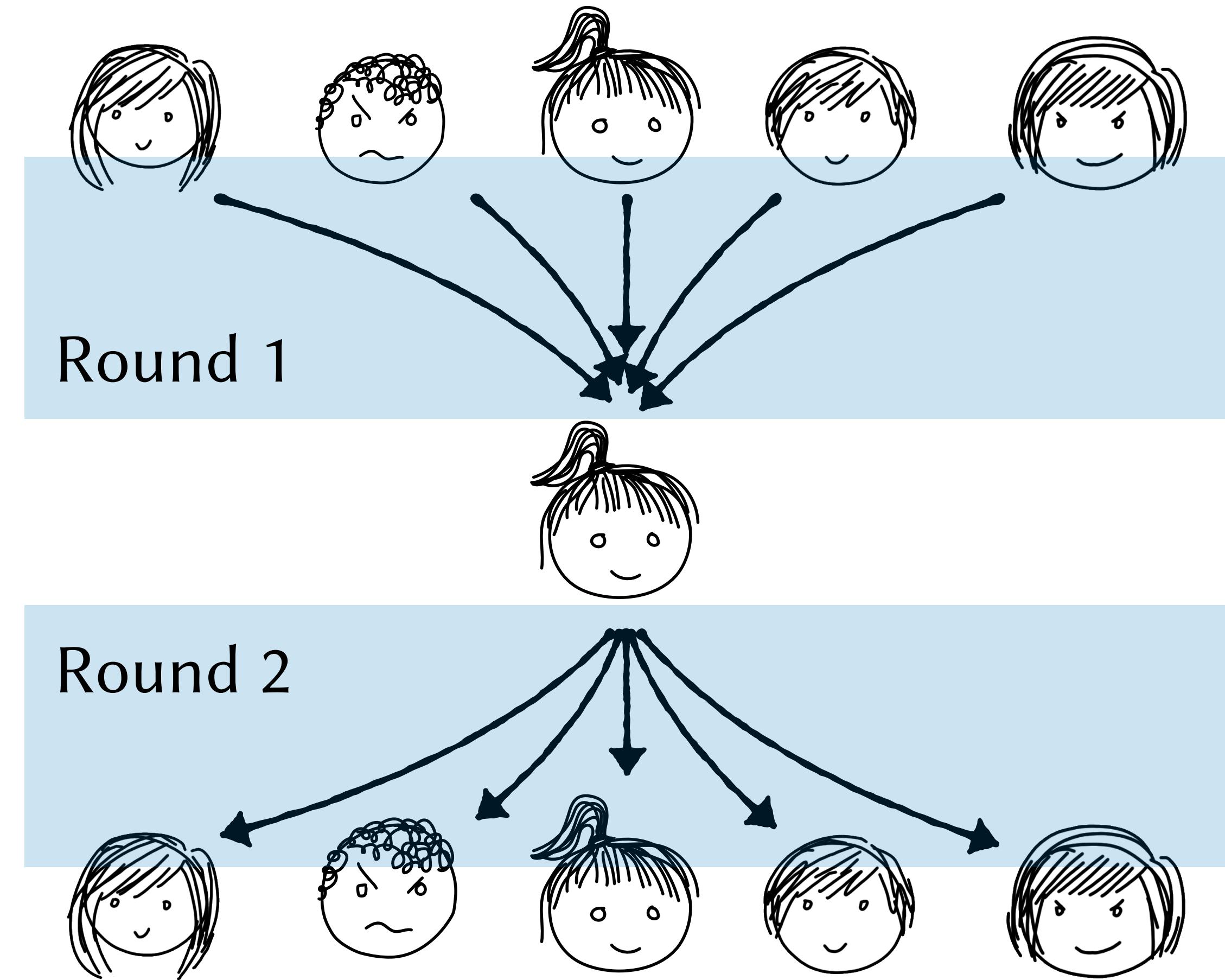
- Each  $P_i$  for  $i \in [n]$  sends inputs  $\langle w_1 \rangle_i$  and  $\langle w_2 \rangle_i$  to  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$ .
- $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$  performs the following steps:
  1. Reconstruct  $w_1$  from  $\langle w_1 \rangle$  and  $w_2$  from  $\langle w_2 \rangle$  (abort if this fails).
  2. Compute  $w_3 := w_1 \cdot w_2$ .
  3. Sample  $g \leftarrow \mathcal{P}_{p,t,w_3}$  and let  
 $\langle w_3 \rangle := (g(1), \dots, g(n))$ . i.e. let  
 $\langle w_3 \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,t}(w_3)$ .
  4. Send each  $\langle w_3 \rangle_i$  to  $P_i$ .



# Reminder: The Ideal Process

Let's think of this as a protocol:

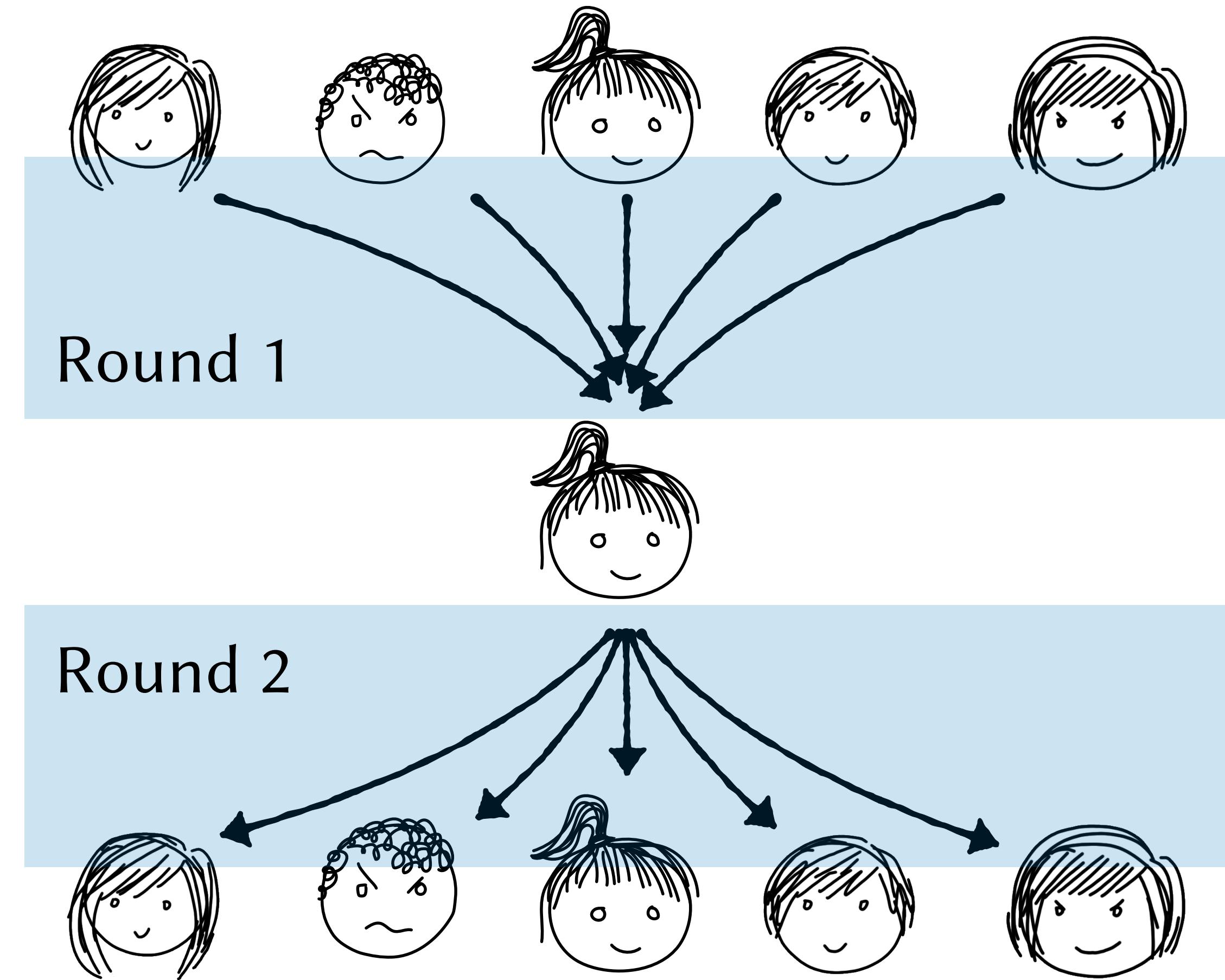
- In round 1,  $2n \cdot |p|$  bits are transmitted.
- In round 2,  $n \cdot |p|$  bits are transmitted.
- Since we're talking assuming a semi-honest adversary, we can assume that any party could do the job of  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$  and the protocol would remain *correct*.
- The only problem is that  isn't allowed to learn the product.
- Is there a way for  to compute the product without learning what it is?



# Masking Multiplication

Inspiration from OTP:

- Suppose that the parties also had sharings  $\langle r_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle r_2 \rangle$  such that  $r_1 \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  and  $r_2 \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  and nobody knows  $r_1$  or  $r_2$ .
- The parties can non-interactively compute  $\langle v_1 \rangle := \langle w_1 \rangle - \langle r_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle := \langle w_2 \rangle - \langle r_2 \rangle$ , and then each  $P_i$  sends its shares to  who reconstructs  $v_1, v_2$ .
- $v_1, v_2$  don't reveal anything about  $w_1, w_2$ , but multiplying them yields
$$v_1 \cdot v_2 = w_1 \cdot w_2 - w_1 \cdot r_2 - w_2 \cdot r_1 + r_1 \cdot r_2.$$
This approach would require us to securely remove the last 3 terms....



# Masking Multiplication

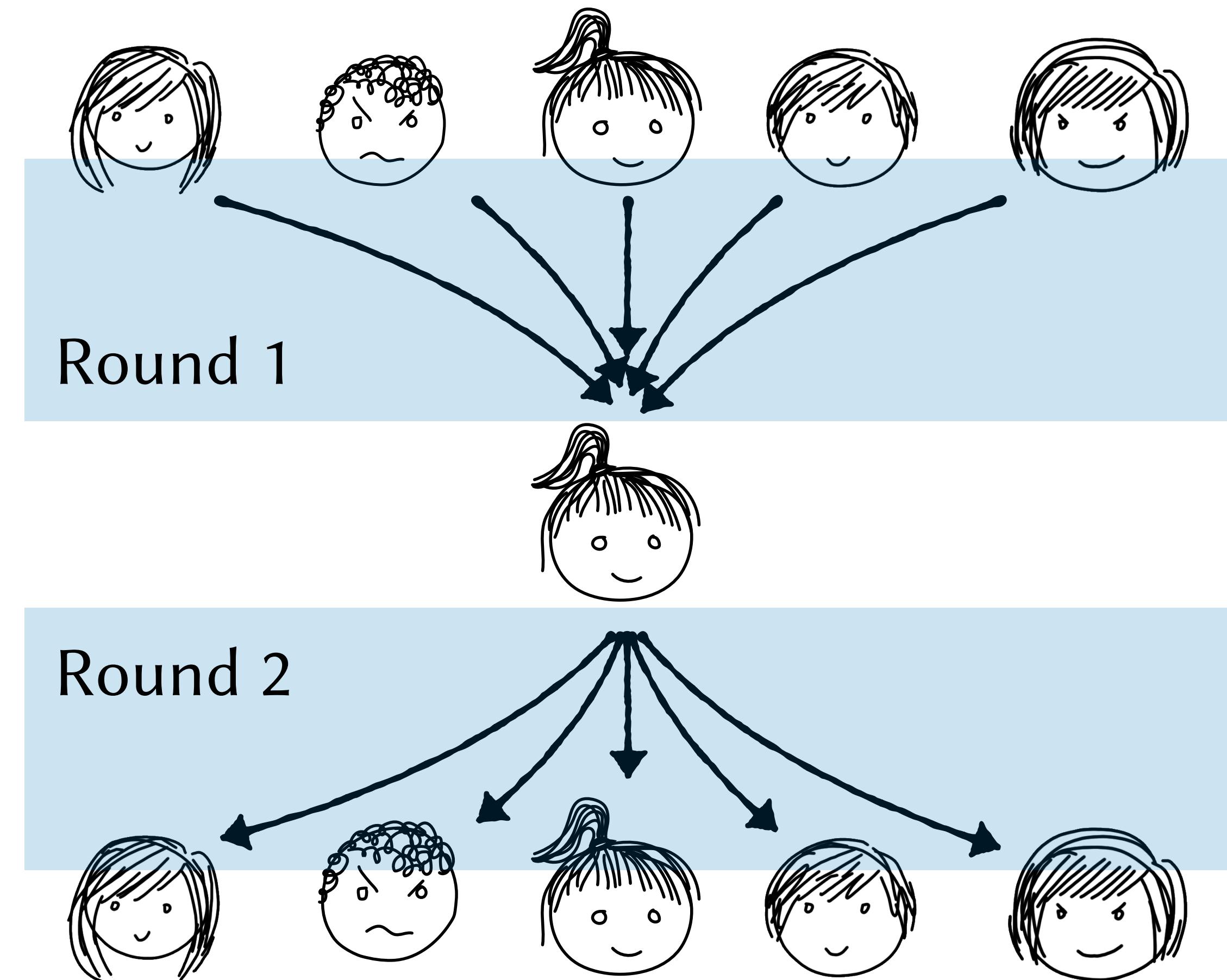
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**Observation 1:** the unwanted terms are linear in  $w_1, w_2$ , so maybe we can find a way to remove them without interacting?

**Observation 2:** Since  $v_1$  is *public*, we can compute  $v_1 \cdot \langle r_2 \rangle = \langle w_1 \cdot r_2 - r_1 \cdot r_2 \rangle$  using a non-interactive *scalar* gate. This gives us  $v_1 \cdot v_2 + v_1 \cdot \langle r_2 \rangle + v_2 \cdot \langle r_1 \rangle = \langle w_1 \cdot w_2 - r_1 \cdot r_2 \rangle$

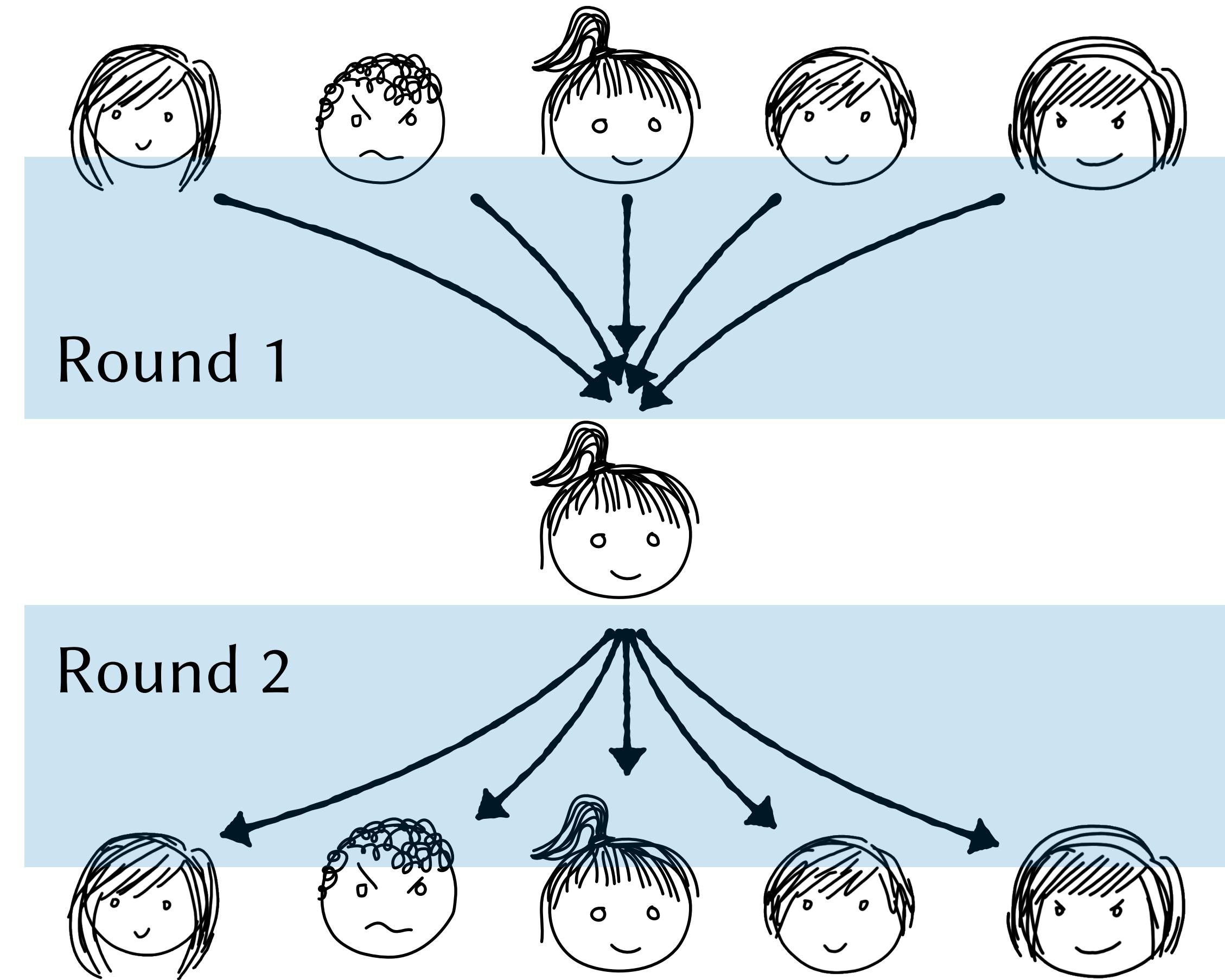


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**Observation 3:** if we have to compute (shares of)  $r_1 \cdot r_2$  then clearly we are back where we started. The good news is that this term is independent of the secrets. In the *preprocessing* model, we can do it ahead of time!



# Preprocessing and Correlated Randomness

- We will enrich our model of protocols slightly by adding an optional *preprocessing* phase to every protocol, which is always run at the start of the experiment. After this finishes, the parties receive their inputs and the *online* phase begins.
- Usually there is nothing in a functionality that corresponds directly to the preprocessing phase, because the preprocessing phase does not have any IO.
- Typically, in the preprocessing phase, we will talk about receiving *correlated randomness* from a Trusted Dealer. This dealer is an ideal functionality (unless we say e.g. “ $P_1$  is the dealer”). In order to run the protocol in the real world, we need to realize the dealer! *How can we do this generally?*
- *Correlated Randomness* in general means a uniform sample from the set of all values that satisfy some correlation. In this class, a *correlation* is simply a predicate on the values. For example the multiplicative correlation  $C_{\text{mul}}(a, b, c)$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  outputs  $1$  if  $a \cdot b = c$ , and  $0$  otherwise. To sample a random element of this correlation means to sample uniformly from  $\{(a, b, c) \in \mathbb{F}^3 : C_{\text{mul}}(a, b, c) = 1\}$ .

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- Correlated randomness gives us a nice, general design pattern for protocols: we can often identify a particular correlation that allows us to achieve *information-theoretic security* (which means security against an unbounded adversary - perfect security is the strongest kind of information-theoretic security). We can then reason separately about how to *sample* that correlation, and how to *use* it.
- Typically, *using* correlated randomness is very efficient, which allows us to focus our attention on the best way to sample it.

# Putting it Together: $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$ .

## Preprocessing Phase:

1. A trusted dealer samples  $(a, b) \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p^2$  and computes  $c := a \cdot b$
2. Then samples  $\langle a \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,t}(a)$ ,  $\langle b \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,t}(b)$ , and  $\langle c \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{p,n,t}(c)$ , and sends  $(\langle a \rangle_i, \langle b \rangle_i, \langle c \rangle_i)$  to every  $P_i$ .

**Note:** random samples from *this* correlation are called *Beaver Triples*, after Don Beaver, who invented them.



# Putting it Together: $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$ .



## Online Phase:

**Inputs:** Every  $P_i$  for  $i \in [n]$  has input  $\langle w_1 \rangle_i = f_1(i)$  where  $f_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{p,t,w}$  and input  $\langle w_2 \rangle_i = f_2(i)$  where  $f_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{p,t,w_2}$ .

1. Every  $P_i$  locally computes  $\langle v_1 \rangle_i := \langle w_1 \rangle_i - \langle a \rangle_i$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle_i := \langle w_2 \rangle_i - \langle b \rangle_i$  and sends  $\langle v_1 \rangle_i$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle_i$  to  $P_1$ .
2.  $P_1$  computes  $v_1 := \text{Recon}_{p,n,t}([n], \langle v_1 \rangle)$  and  $v_2 := \text{Recon}_{p,n,t}([n], \langle v_2 \rangle)$  and sends  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  to all other parties.
3. Every  $P_i$  locally computes  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i := v_1 \cdot v_2 + v_1 \cdot \langle b \rangle_i + v_2 \cdot \langle a \rangle_i + \langle c \rangle_i$ .

**Outputs:** Each  $P_i$  ends with  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i$ .

# Sketching Security for $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$ .

**Correctness:**  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle = v_1 \cdot v_2 + v_1 \cdot \langle b \rangle + v_2 \cdot \langle a \rangle + \langle c \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\text{Expand}}{\Rightarrow} (w_1 - a) \cdot (w_2 - b) + \langle b \rangle \cdot (w_1 - a) + \langle a \rangle \cdot (w_2 - b) + \langle c \rangle \\ & \stackrel{\text{Cancel}}{=} (w_1 \cdot w_2 - a \cdot w_2 - b \cdot w_1 + a \cdot b) + \langle b \rangle \cdot (w_1 - a) + \langle a \rangle \cdot (w_2 - b) + \langle c \rangle \\ & = w_1 \cdot w_2 - \langle a \cdot b \rangle + \langle c \rangle \\ & = w_1 \cdot w_2 + \langle 0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

# Sketching Security for $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$ .

**Lemma 1:** Let  $t < n < p$ . Assuming synchrony, secure point-to-point channels, and a trusted dealer,  $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$  perfectly realizes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}(\mathbb{F}_p)$  in the presence of a semi-honest adversary that statically corrupts up to  $t$  parties.

**Pf Sketch:**

- We can use the simplified security definition for *randomized* functions. In particular, we will show that there exists an algorithm  $\text{Sim}$  such that for every  $I \subseteq [n]$  of size  $|I| \leq t$  and every input vector  $((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n))$  such that  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \text{image}(\text{Share}_{p,n,t})$  and  $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \text{image}(\text{Share}_{p,n,t})$  we have

$$\left( \text{Sim}(I, (\vec{x}_I, \vec{y}_I), \text{mul}_I((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n))), \text{mul}((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)) \right) \equiv (\text{VIEW}_I, \text{OUTPUT}_{\pi_{\text{Beaver}}})$$

# Sketching Security for $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$ .

- During the preprocessing phase,  $\text{Sim}$  samples  $\langle a \rangle_i \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  and  $\langle b \rangle_i \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  for every corrupted  $P_i$ . This is perfectly indistinguishable from the real protocol due to the privacy property of Shamir sharing.
- $\text{Sim}$  samples  $v_1, v_2 \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ , computes  $\langle v_1 \rangle_i := \langle w_1 \rangle_i - \langle a \rangle_i$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle_i := \langle w_2 \rangle_i - \langle b \rangle_i$  for every corrupt  $P_i$ , and then samples  $\langle v_1 \rangle_h$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle_h$  for  $h \in [n] \setminus I$  uniformly subject to the constraint that  $\langle v_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle$  are valid degree- $t$  Shamir sharings of  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  respectively.
- $\text{Sim}$  adds  $\langle v_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle v_2 \rangle$  to the view of  $P_1$  if it is corrupted;  $v_1, v_2$  are added to the view of every corrupted  $P_i$ . This is perfectly indistinguishable from the protocol because  $a, b \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  in the protocol, which implies that  $v_1, v_2$  are uniform, and the other values adhere to the same set of constraints in both the real and ideal worlds.

# Sketching Security for $\pi_{\text{Beaver}}(n, t, p)$ .

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- The above values together with the output  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i$  of each corrupted party (which is an input to  $\text{Sim}$ ) fix a particular value of  $\langle c \rangle_i$  for each corrupted  $P_i$ , per the equation  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i = v_1 \cdot v_2 + v_1 \cdot \langle b \rangle_i + v_2 \cdot \langle a \rangle_i + \langle c \rangle_i$ . Because  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i$  is distributed uniformly in the ideal world ( $\text{mul}$  samples it using the  $\text{Share}_{p,n,t}$  algorithm),  $\langle c \rangle_i$  is too. In the real world, is  $\langle c \rangle_i$  sampled by the dealer using the  $\text{Share}_{p,n,t}$  algorithm, and  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i$  is computed via the same equation. Thus the distributions are identical.

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- $\langle c \rangle_i$  is inserted into the view of  $P_i$  during the preprocessing phase. Remember that  $\text{Sim}$  is not required to generate the view in the same order as the real protocol does!
- Output consistency is guaranteed because  $\text{Sim}$  programs  $\langle w_1 \cdot w_2 \rangle_i$  for every corrupt  $P_i$  to be precisely the value that it is given as input, and by the fact that the protocol is correct. This completes the theorem. ■

# Why did we do this?

**Corollary 1:** Let  $t < n < p$ . Assuming synchrony, secure point-to-point channels, and a trusted dealer, there exists an  $n$ -party protocol in the preprocessing model that perfectly realizes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{SFE}}$  in the presence of a semi-honest adversary that statically corrupts up to  $t$  parties. The online bandwidth complexity of this protocol is in  $O((c_{\text{in}} + c_{\text{out}} + c_x) \cdot n \cdot |p|)$ .

**Notice:** Because we used a trusted dealer we were able to prove security against a *dishonest majority* (i.e.  $t < n$ ), whereas with the BGW and GRR multiplication protocols we required an *honest majority* ( $2t < n$ ).

Unfortunately, we will find that if we try to perfectly realize the dealer, we will require an honest majority to do so. The requirement for an honest majority turns out to be *inherent* in perfectly-secure protocols that compute nonlinear functions!

(Chalkboard Proof)

So, where do we go from here?

To achieve security against a dishonest majority, we must give up something.

# Another Look at the Setting.

**Perfect MPC Feasibility Theorem:** Let  $2t < n < p$ . Assuming synchrony and secure point-to-point channels there exists an  $n$ -party protocol that perfectly realizes  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{SFE}}$  in the presence of a semi-honest adversary that statically corrupts up to  $t$  parties.

- Static semi-honest adversaries already have the weakest corruption behavior. In fact, we would like very much to handle *stronger* adversaries than this.
- A fully connected, synchronous network of secure point-to-point channels is already the strongest network assumption we could make.
- The only other piece of this statement that we can change is the power of the adversary. If we want to handle  $n/2 \leq t < n$ , then we *must* give up perfect security and settle for something weaker.
- Before we talk about exactly what kind of security we can achieve and how we must change our model, I want to show you what kind of functionality we must realize. In other words, what is the shape of the missing puzzle piece that we need to find?

# Let's Start From the BGW Protocol

- The foundation of this protocol was Shamir's  $(t + 1)$ -out-of- $n$  secret sharing scheme.
- Ultimately, in order to obtain correct multiplication protocols, we had to set  $t < n/2$ , and today we proved that this wasn't some quirk of the particular protocols we explicitly constructed: this bound is actually *necessary* in order to achieve perfect security.
- However, recall that the BGW protocol was secure against even  $t = n - 1$  corruptions in the  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$ -hybrid model. Our problem was really with multiplication, the other parts of the protocol seem to be OK.
- If we're going to set  $t \geq n/2$ , we might as well go all the way to  $t = n - 1$ . This means that our secret sharing scheme becomes an  $n$ -out-of- $n$  scheme, and we can use *additive secret sharing* instead of Shamir sharing (no more polynomials!).

# Simplifying the Problem

- Switching to additive sharing means that we no longer need to work over some  $\mathbb{F}_p$  such that  $p > n$ . So for the time being, let's think about  $\mathbb{F}_2$ . We will return to the general case later. We can also set  $n = 2$ , which was previously impossible.
- This setting is simple and essential: two parties want to compute a boolean function together. We would probably start our class with this scenario if it weren't for the fact that we can prove that it requires more advanced techniques.
- What does our protocol look like now? All wire values and shares are single bits.
  - To **input**  $x_i$  from  $P_i$  on wire  $o$ ,  $P_i$  samples  $\langle w_o \rangle \leftarrow \text{Share}_{2,2,2}(x_i)$  and sends  $\langle w_o \rangle_{1-i}$  to  $P_{1-i}$ . Notice that  $\langle w_o \rangle_1 \oplus \langle w_o \rangle_2 = x_i$ .
  - To set wire  $o$ 's value as the **sum** of wires  $j$  and  $k$ ,  $P_i$  for  $i \in [2]$  computes  $\langle w_o \rangle_i := \langle w_j \rangle_i \oplus \langle w_k \rangle_i$  non-interactively.
  - To **output** wire  $j$  to  $P_i$ ,  $P_{1-i}$  sends  $\langle w_o \rangle_{1-i}$  to  $P_i$ , who computes  $y_i := \langle w_o \rangle_i \oplus \langle w_o \rangle_{1-i}$ .

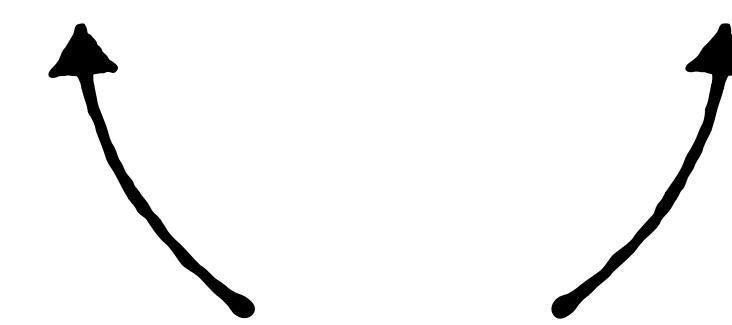
# Simplifying the Problem

- What does our protocol look like now? All wire values and shares are single bits.
  - To set wire  $\textcolor{blue}{o}$ 's value as the **product** of wires  $j$  and  $k$ ,  $P_i$  for  $i \in [2]$  sends  $\langle w_j \rangle_i$  and  $\langle w_k \rangle_i$  to  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$ .
  - $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$  reconstructs  $w_j$  and  $w_k$ , and computes  $w_o := w_j \wedge w_k$ . Then it samples  $r \leftarrow \{0,1\}$  and sends  $\langle w_o \rangle_1 := r$  to  $P_1$  and  $\langle w_o \rangle_2 := r \oplus w_o$  to  $P_2$ .
  - Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$  samples two values,  $r_{12}, r_{21} \leftarrow \{0,1\}$  and sets  $r := r_{12} \oplus r_{21} \dots$
  - We can then inline the reconstruction and multiplication equations to find that  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{mul}}$  computes  $\langle w_o \rangle_2 := r_{12} \oplus r_{21} \oplus (\langle w_j \rangle_1 \oplus \langle w_j \rangle_2) \wedge (\langle w_k \rangle_1 \oplus \langle w_k \rangle_2)$

# Simplifying the Problem

$$\begin{aligned}\langle w_o \rangle_2 &:= r_{12} \oplus r_{21} \oplus (\langle w_j \rangle_1 \oplus \langle w_j \rangle_2) \wedge (\langle w_k \rangle_1 \oplus \langle w_k \rangle_2) \\ &= \langle w_j \rangle_1 \wedge \langle w_k \rangle_1 \oplus r_{12} \oplus \langle w_j \rangle_1 \wedge \langle w_k \rangle_2 \oplus r_{21} \oplus \langle w_j \rangle_2 \wedge \langle w_k \rangle_1 \oplus \langle w_j \rangle_2 \wedge \langle w_k \rangle_2\end{aligned}$$

$P_1$  Can compute this locally



These terms require interaction

Since we masked them individually,  
we can compute them separately.

$P_2$  Can compute this locally

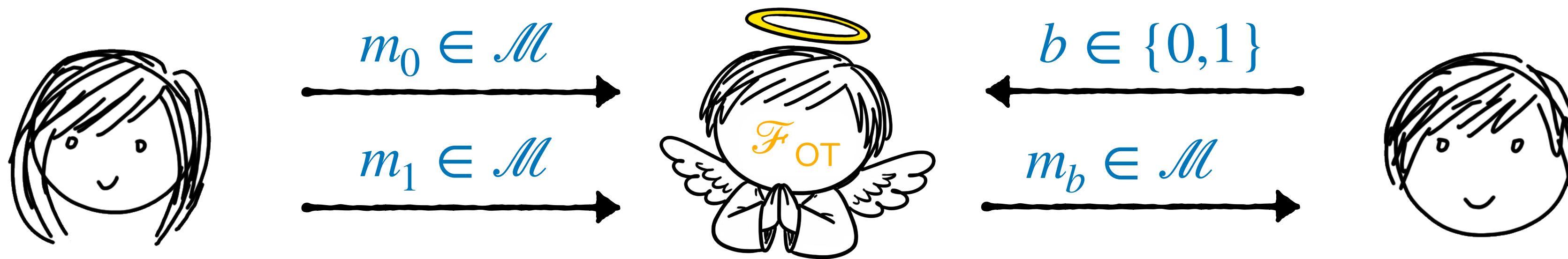
Notice that they are the AND of one bit that  $P_1$  knows  
and one bit that  $P_2$  knows, and they are  
one-time-padded with a bit that  $P_1$  knows.

# A New Functionality?

- Let's think about this task abstractly.
- Suppose we want to take an input  $a \in \{0,1\}$  from  $P_1$  and an input  $b \in \{0,1\}$  from  $P_2$ , and then output a random  $r \leftarrow \{0,1\}$  to  $P_1$ , and  $v := r \oplus a \wedge b$  to  $P_2$ .
- This is precisely what we proved we could not perfectly securely compute, earlier.
- $P_1$  only learns a random value. *What does  $P_2$  learn?*
- $P_2$ 's input gives it a choice! If  $b = 0$ , then  $P_2$  learns  $r$ . If  $b = 1$ , then  $P_2$  learns  $r \oplus a$ . If  $r$  is uniform, then these values appear identically distributed to  $P_2$ .
- Forget for a moment how this task integrates into a bigger protocol. Suppose we ask  $P_1$  to sample  $r$  and provide it as a second input, instead of guaranteeing the uniformity of  $r$  using an ideal process. *What can go wrong? Can  $P_1$  choose a distribution for  $r$  that lets it learn something additional about  $P_2$ 's inputs or outputs?*
- By choosing a bad  $r$ ,  $P_1$  can only hurt itself (at least when we ignore larger context), so it seems safe to let  $P_1$  choose  $r$  freely.

# Introducing *Oblivious Transfer*.

- Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be some message space, and  $m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{M}$  be two messages known to  $P_1$ .
- The *Oblivious Transfer* functionality allows  $P_2$  to receive *one* message of its choice.
- $P_1$  isn't allowed to learn which of the two messages  $P_2$  received.
- $P_2$  isn't allowed to learn anything about the message that it didn't choose.



# CS4501 Cryptographic Protocols

## Lecture 11: 🐸 🐸 🐸, The Limits of Perfect MPC

<https://jackdoerner.net/teaching/#2026/Spring/CS4501>