

# Foundations of Multi-Designated Verifier Signature

Comprehensive Formalization and  
New Constructions in Subset Simulation

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What is **multi-designated verifier signature**?

# Multi-designated verifier signature (MDVS)

[LV04,ZAYS12,  
DHM+20]

$pp \leftarrow \text{Setup}(1^\kappa)$

Signer

$(spk, ssk) \leftarrow \text{SKGen}(pp)$



Verifier 1



$(vpk_1, vsk_1) \leftarrow \text{VKGen}(pp)$

Verifier 2



$(vpk_2, vsk_2) \leftarrow \text{VKGen}(pp)$

Verifier 3



$(vpk_3, vsk_3) \leftarrow \text{VKGen}(pp)$

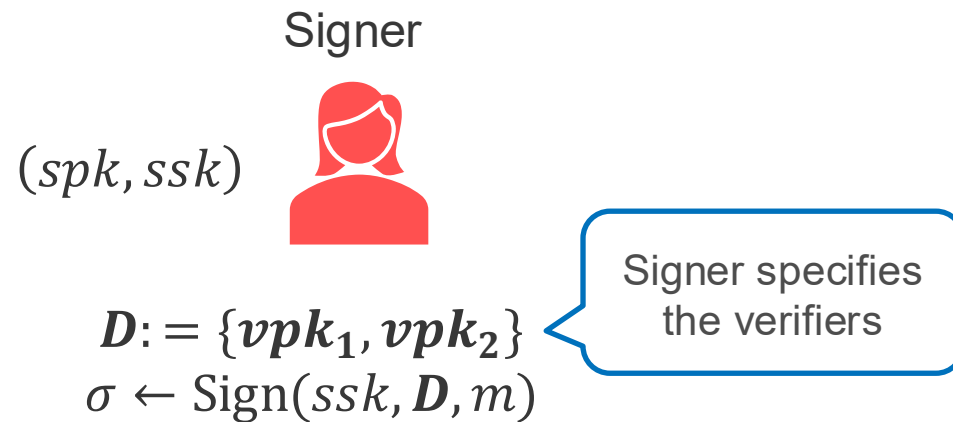
[LV04] F. Laguillaumie and D. Vergnaud. Multi-designated verifiers signatures. ICICS 2004.

[ZAYS12] Y. Zhang, M. H. Au, G. Yang, and W. Susilo. (strong) multi-designated verifiers signatures secure against rogue key attack. Network and System Security 2012.

[DHM+20] I. Damgård et al., Stronger security and constructions of multi-designated verifier signatures. TCC 2020.

# Multi-designated verifier signature (MDVS)

[LV04,ZAYS12,  
DHM+20]



Verifier 1



$(vpk_1, vsk_1)$

Verifier 2



$(vpk_2, vsk_2)$

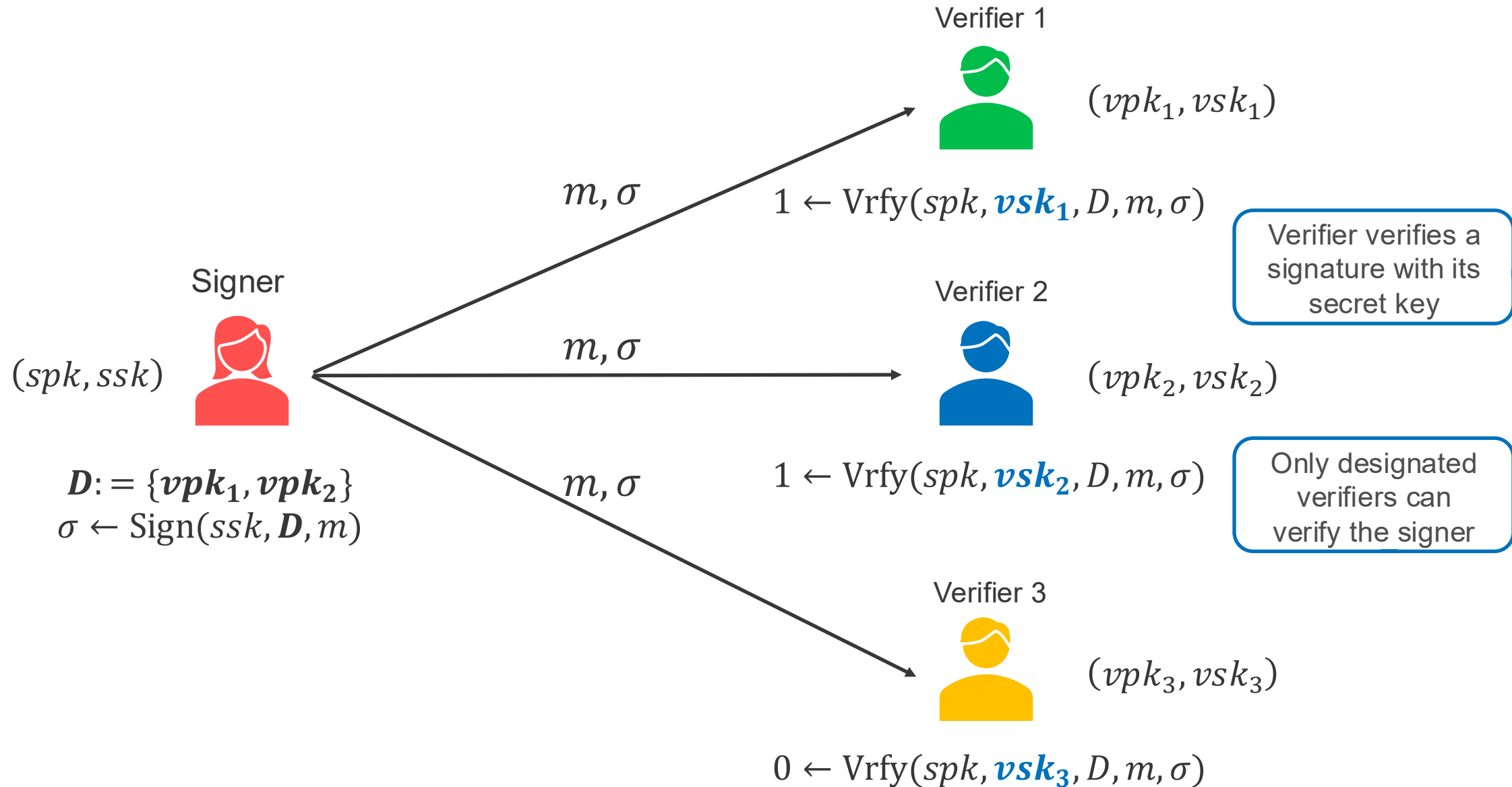
Verifier 3



$(vpk_3, vsk_3)$

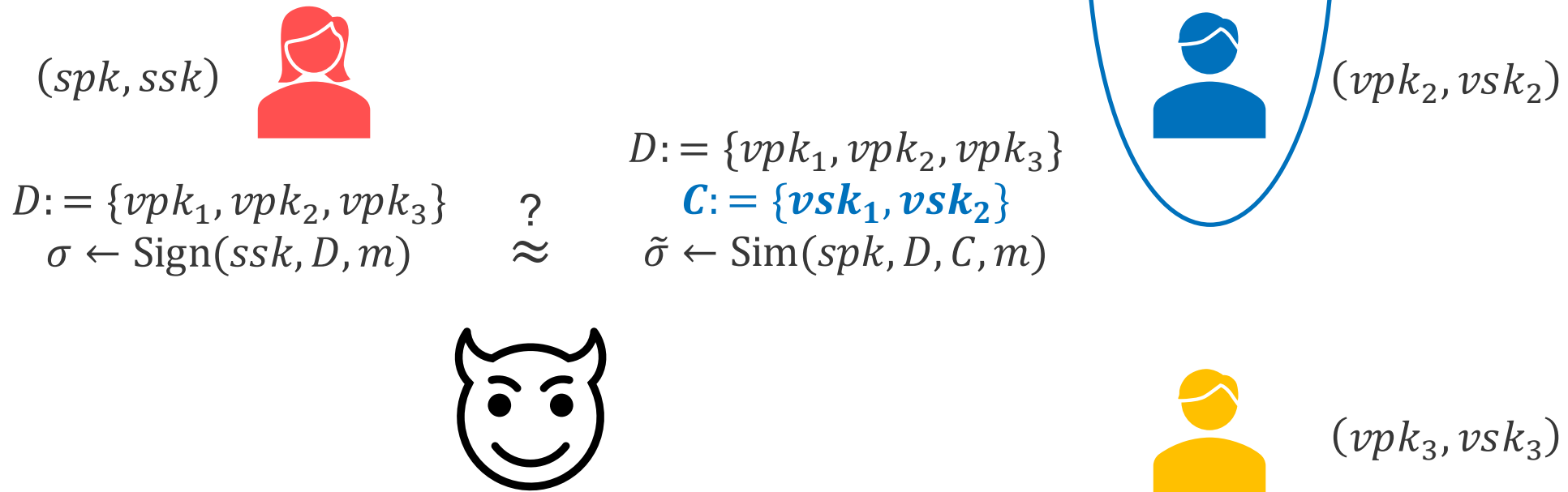
# Multi-designated verifier signature (MDVS)

[LV04,ZAYS12,  
DHM+20]



# Special property of MDVS

- A subset of the designated verifiers can generate a fake signature with Sim algorithm [DHM+20]
- Fake signature is indistinguishable from real one



# Applications of MDVS

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- Deniable authentication in secure group messaging [MPR22,DHM+20,CHMR23]
  - Senders can claim that the signature is a fake one since it may be simulated by designated verifiers
- Watermarking for large language models (LLMs) [HZM+24]
  - Authenticate output texts from LLMs so that only designated detectors can verify whether the texts are generated by LLMs or humans

[CHMR23] S. Chakraborty et al., Deniable authentication when signing keys leak. EUROCRYPT 2023.

[MPR22] U. Maurer et al, “Multi-designated receiver signed public key encryption,” EUROCRYPT 2022.

[HZM+24] Z. Huang et al., “Multi-designated detector watermarking for language models,” Cryptology ePrint Archive, 2024.

# Motivation and our goal

**While MDVS is becoming more attractive,  
its security is ambiguous 😞**

- Different security notions in the literature [ZAYS12, DHM+20, CHMR23]
  - Those differences and relations are not fully discussed



**-Our goal-**

**Clarify the security of MDVS for the creation of applications**

- Organize various security definitions of MDVS and reveal their relations
- Provide a (simple) construction of MDVS with various types of security
  - Existing constructions [DHM+20,CHMR23] are too complex



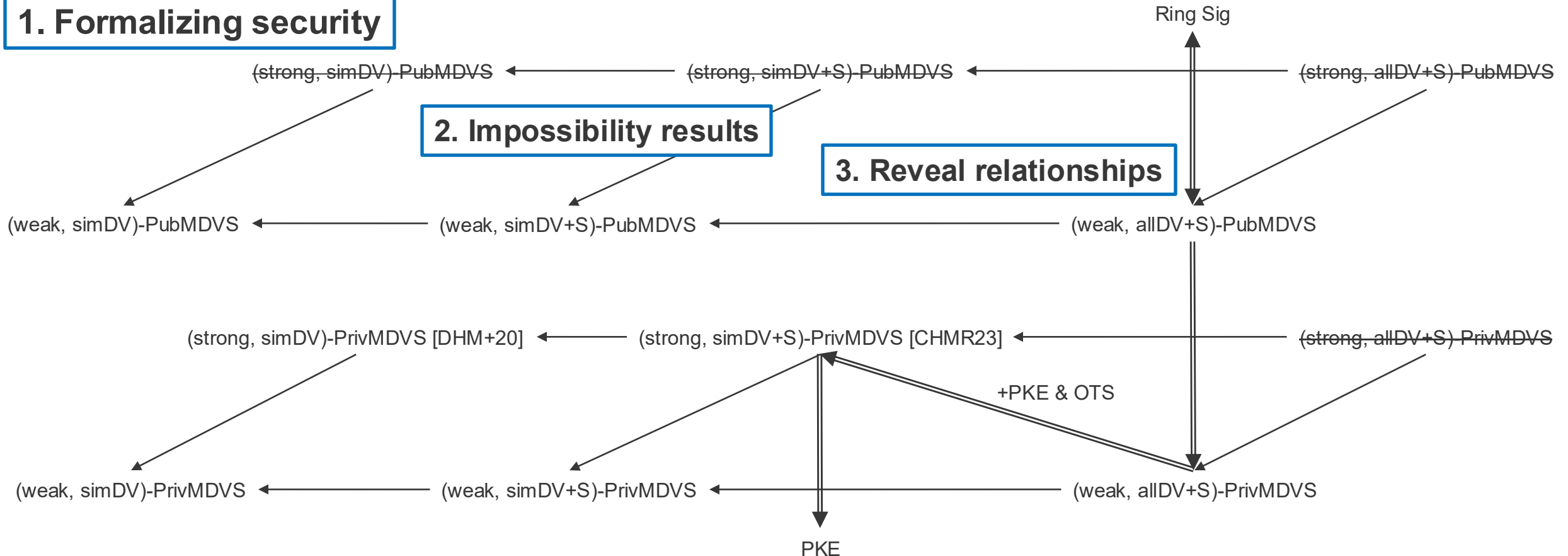
# Our contributions

## Comprehensive formalization and analysis of MDVS

### 1. Formalizing security

### 2. Impossibility results

### 3. Reveal relationships



Formalize security definitions of **MDVS**

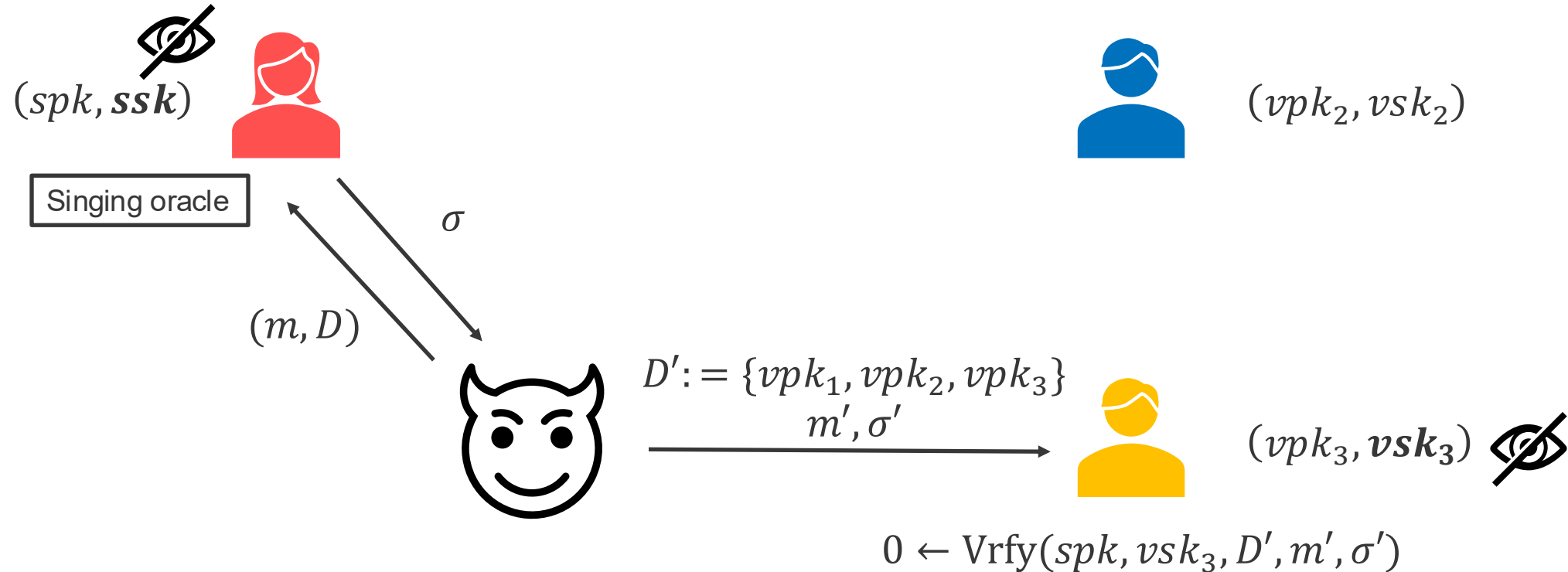
# Formalize security definitions of **MDVS**

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- We start with formalizing the existing security definitions in [ZAYS12, DHM+20, CHMR23]
- Fundamental notions are unforgeability and OTR
- Start with unforgeability and OTR in [ZAYS12, DHM+20, CHMR23]

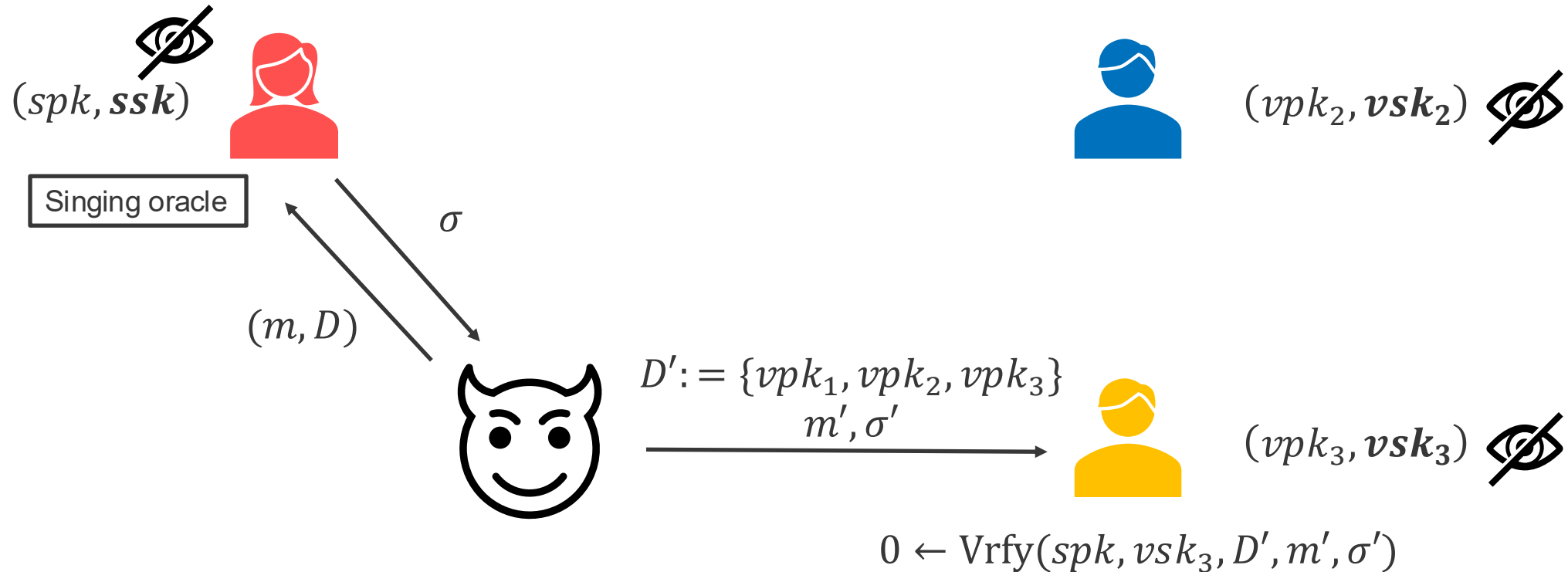
# Property of MDVS: Unforgeability

- Adversary who does not know the signer's secret key  $ssk$  and the target verifier's secret key  $vsk$  cannot forge a signature
- 2 variants depending on whether the adversary can run Sim algorithm by itself



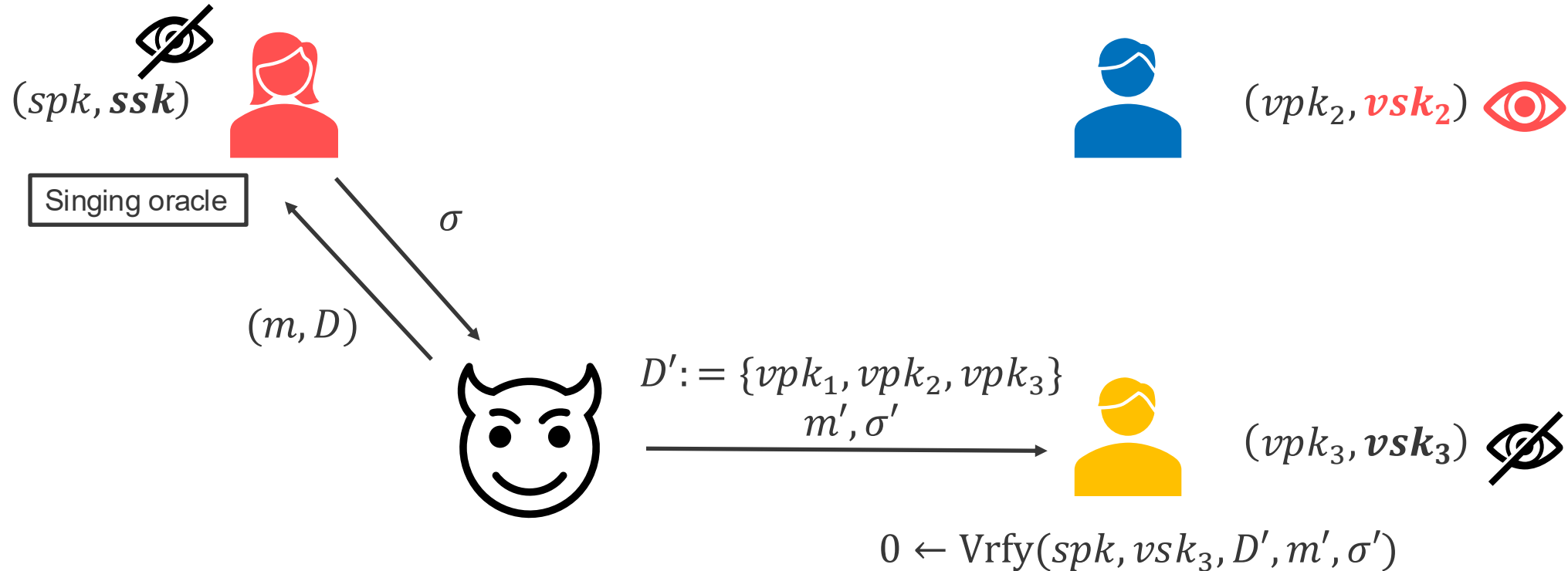
# Variations of unforgeability

- 2 variants depending on whether the adversary can run Sim algorithm by itself
  - Weak:** Cannot run Sim = any  $vsk$  in  $D$  are unknown [ZAYS12]
    - Fake signature is valid for any  $vsk$  in  $D$



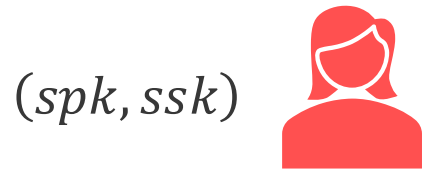
# Variations of unforgeability

- 2 variants depending on whether the adversary can run Sim algorithm by itself
  - Weak: Cannot run Sim = any  $vsk$  in  $D$  are unknown [ZAYS12]
    - Fake signature is valid for any  $vsk$  in  $D$
  - Strong:** Can run Sim = some  $vsk$  in  $D$  is known [DHM+20]
    - Fake signature is invalid for any  $vsk$  in  $D \setminus C$

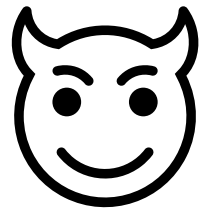


# Property of MDVS: Off-the-record (OTR)

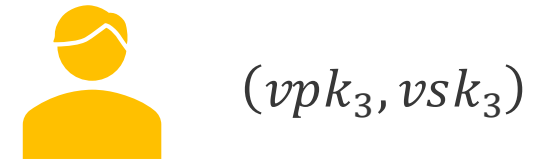
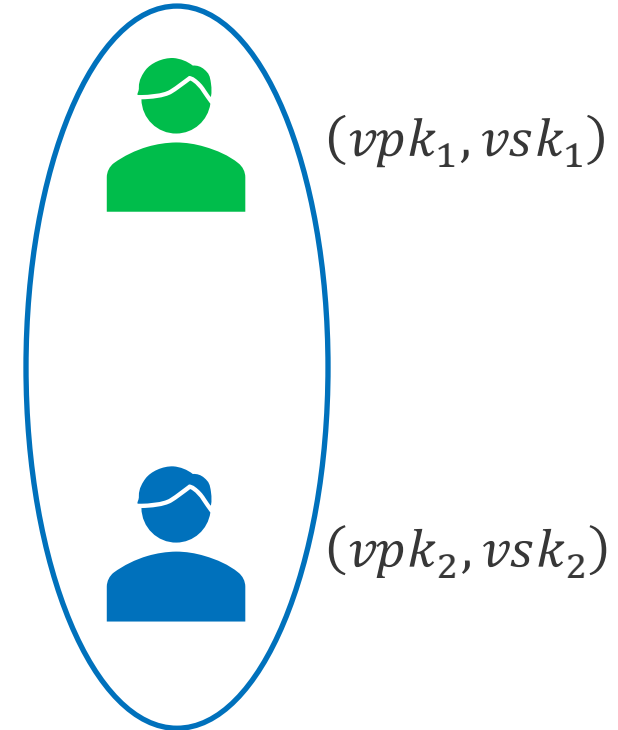
- Indistinguishability of real and fake signatures
- 3 variants depending on the adversary's knowledge about secret keys



$D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\}$   
 $\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, D, m)$

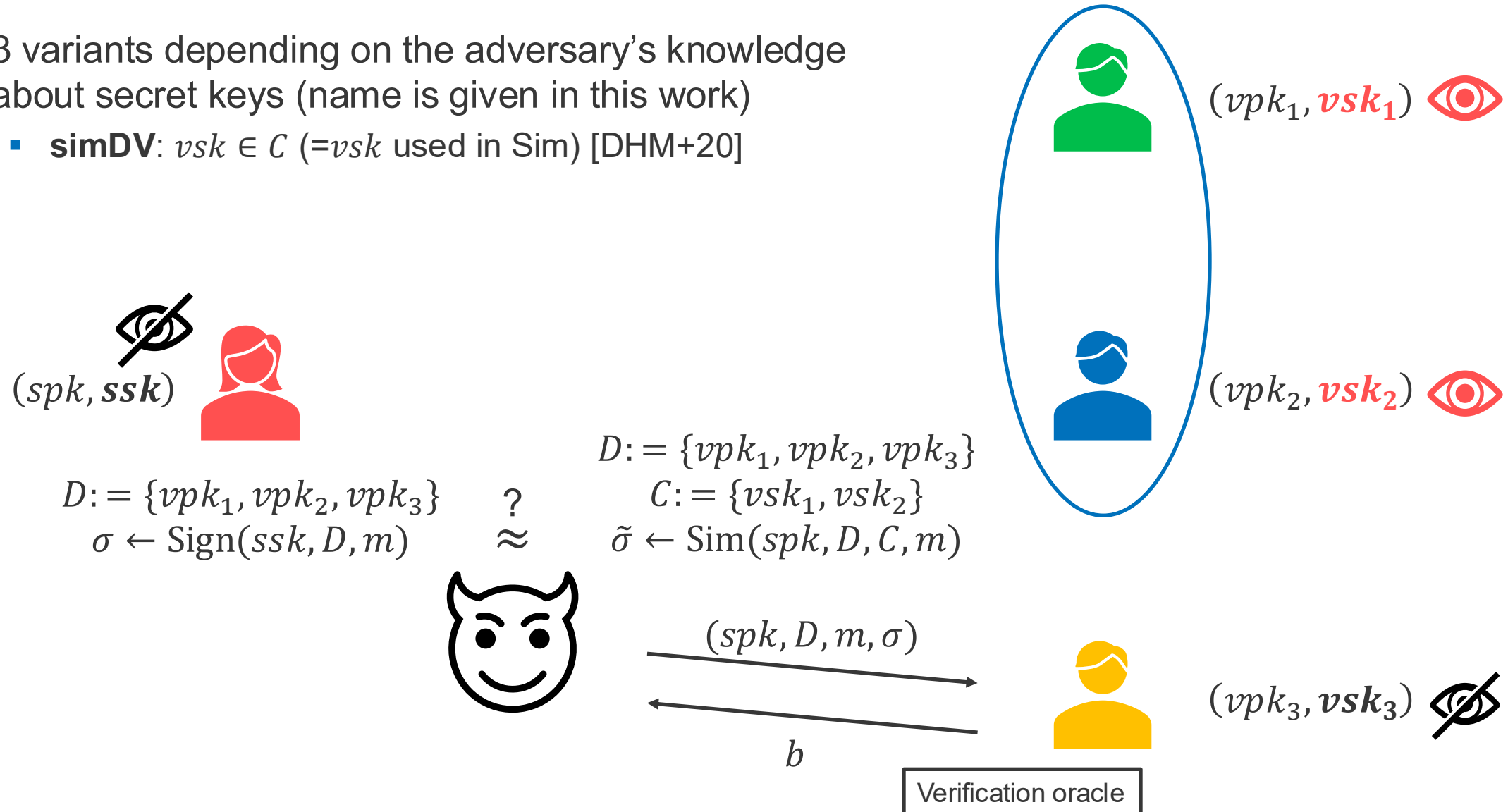


$D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\}$   
 $C := \{vsk_1, vsk_2\}$   
 $\tilde{\sigma} \leftarrow \text{Sim}(spk, D, C, m)$



# Variations of off-the-record (OTR)

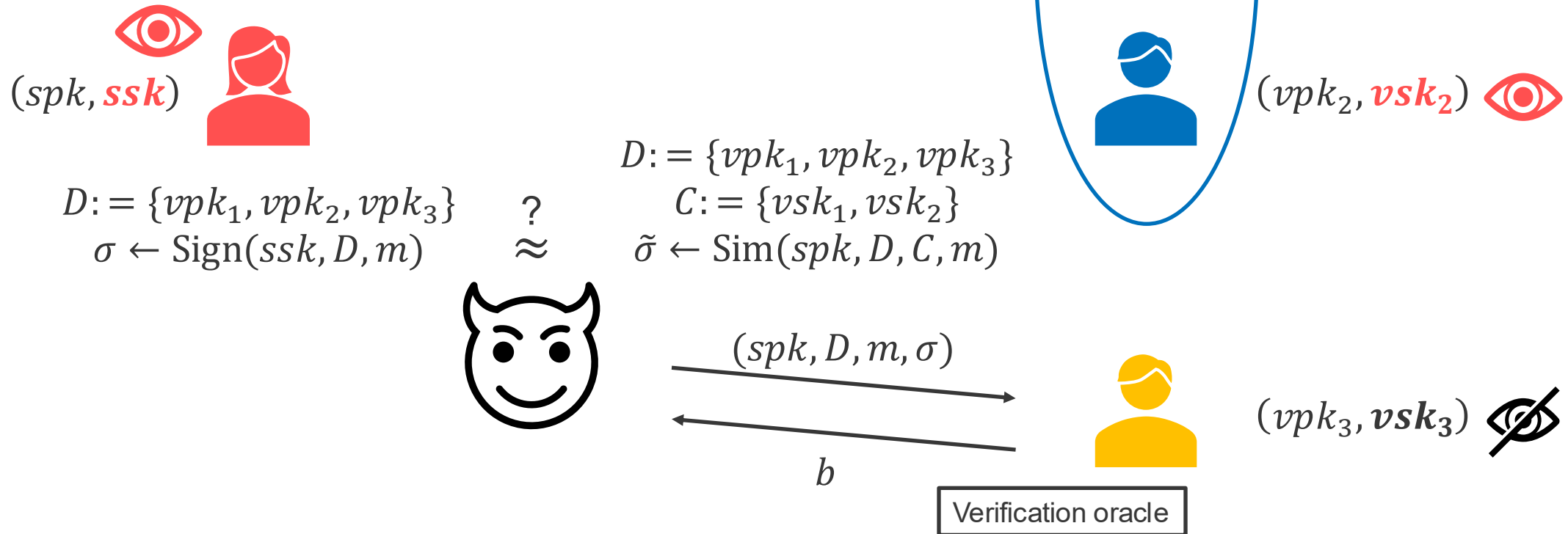
- 3 variants depending on the adversary's knowledge about secret keys (name is given in this work)
  - simDV**:  $vsk \in \mathcal{C}$  ( $=vsk$  used in Sim) [DHM+20]





# Variations of off-the-record (OTR)

- 3 variants depending on the adversary's knowledge about secret keys (name is given in this work)
  - simDV:  $vsk \in \mathcal{C}$  ( $=vsk$  used in Sim) [DHM+20]
  - simDV+S**:  $vsk \in \mathcal{C} + ssk$  [CHMR23]



# Variations of off-the-record (OTR)

- 3 variants depending on the adversary's knowledge about secret keys (name is given in this work)
  - simDV:  $vsk \in \mathcal{C}$  ( $=vsk$  used in Sim) [DHM+20]
  - simDV+S:  $vsk \in \mathcal{C} + ssk$  [CHMR23]
  - alIDV+S: all  $vsk + ssk$**  [ZAYS12]



$$D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\} \quad ?$$

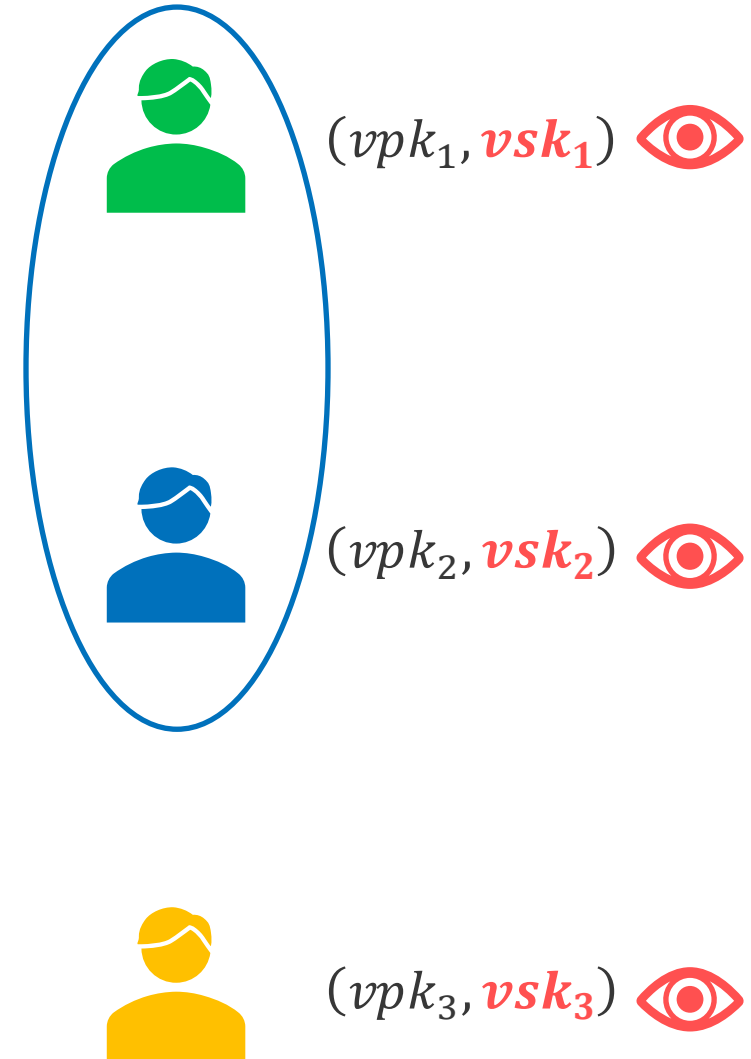
$$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, D, m) \quad \approx$$



$$D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\}$$

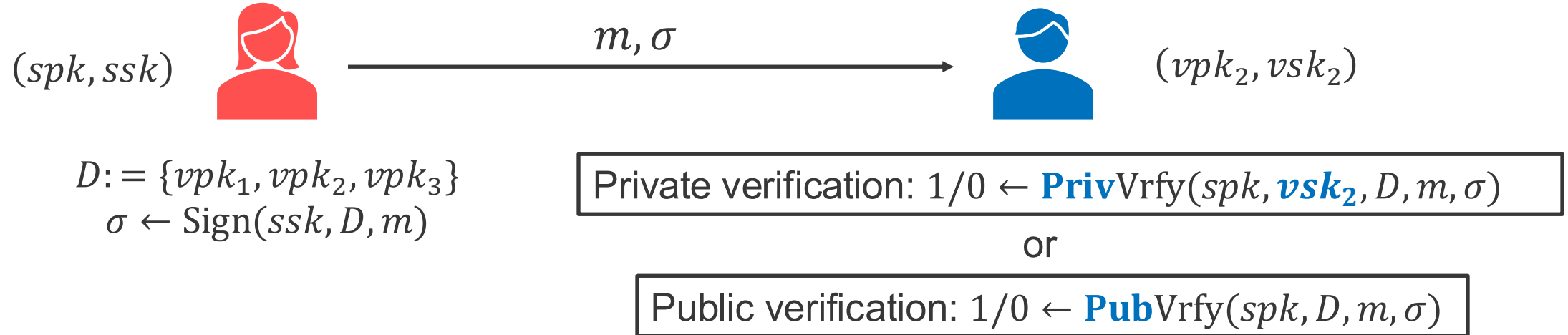
$$C := \{vsk_1, vsk_2\}$$

$$\tilde{\sigma} \leftarrow \text{Sim}(spk, D, C, m)$$



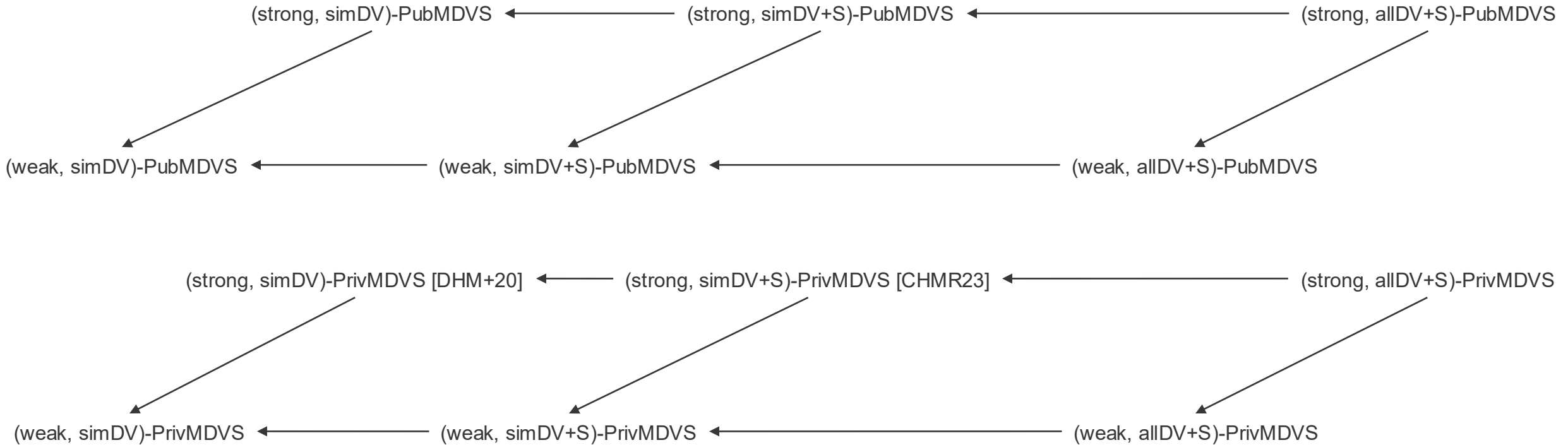
# Verifiability: public and private

- We can define publicly verifiable MDVS
  - Signature verification does not use any secret keys
  - Considered in (Single)DVS [BFG+22]
    - Public verifiable DVS and ring signature are equivalent [BFG+22, HKKP22]



# Identify possible MDVSs

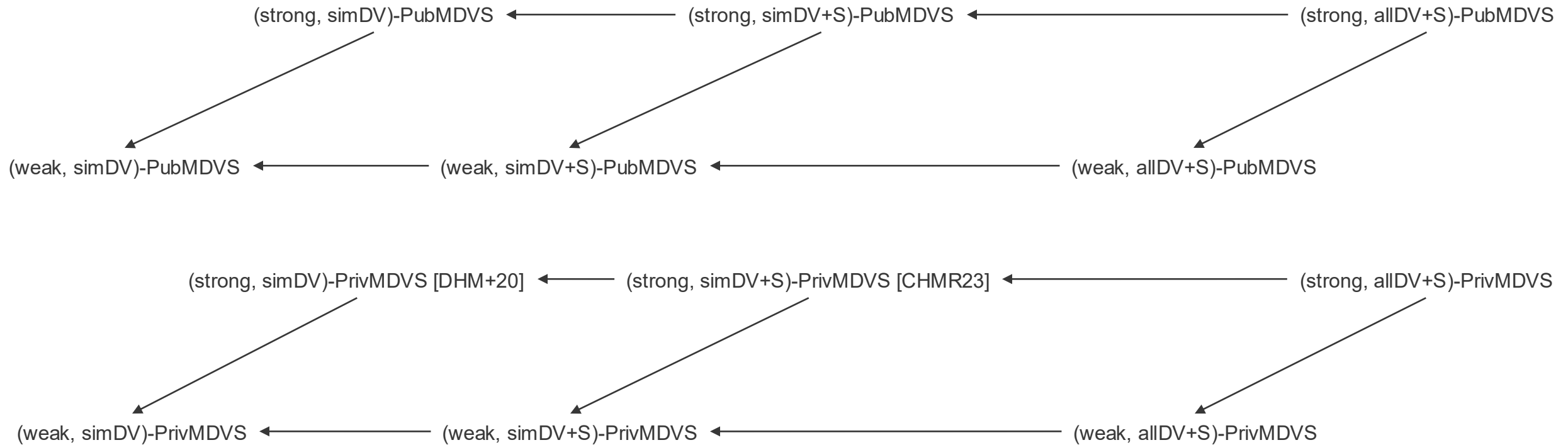
$\{\text{weak, strong}\}\text{-Unf} \times \{\text{simDV, simDV+S, allDV+S}\}\text{-OTR}$   
 $\times \{\text{Priv, Pub}\}\text{-Verify} = \underline{12 \text{ variants of MDVS}}$



## Comprehensive analysis of MDVS

# Analysis of MDVS

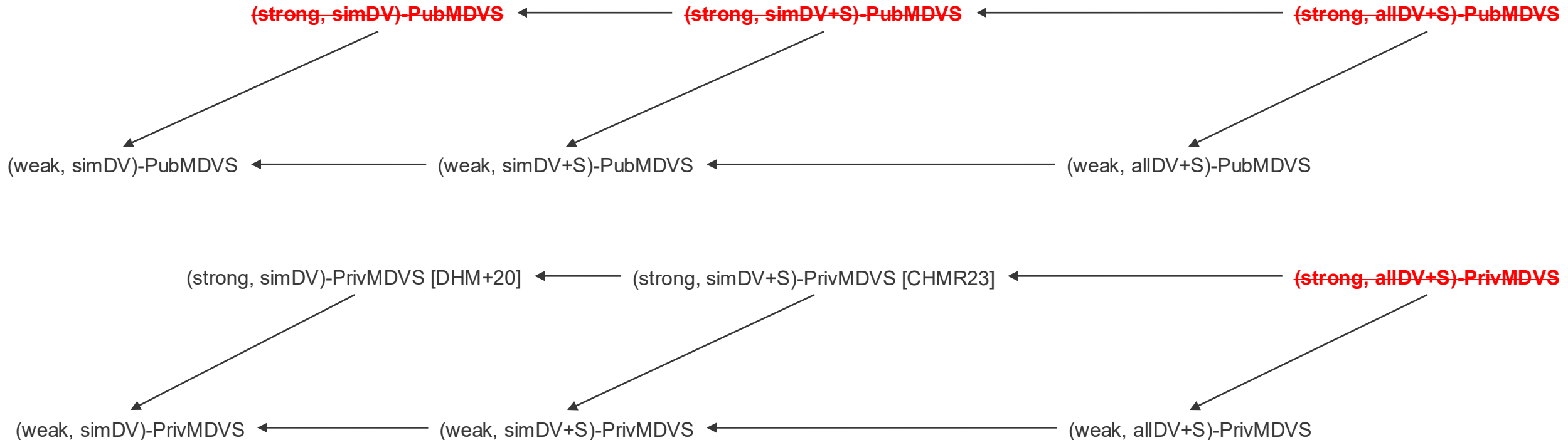
## Q1: Can we realize all of the MDVSs?



# Impossibility in MDVS

## A: We cannot construct the following MDVS schemes

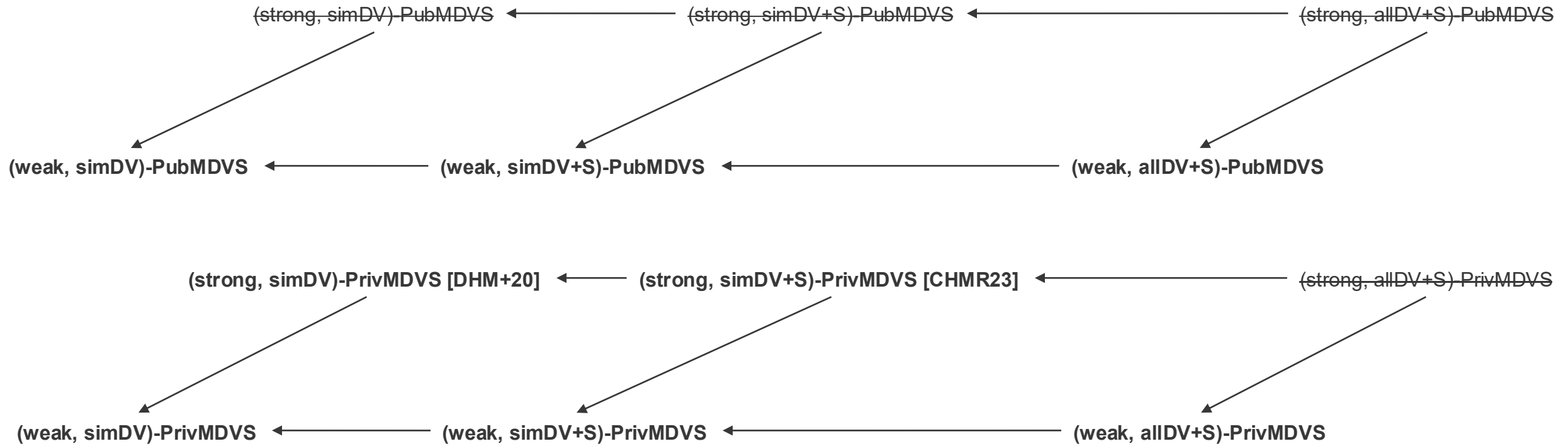
- Strong unforgeability and allDV+S OTR are conflict in PrivMDVS
- Strong unforgeability and any OTR are conflict in PubMDVS



# Analysis of MDVS

We identified that some of MDVS cannot be realized

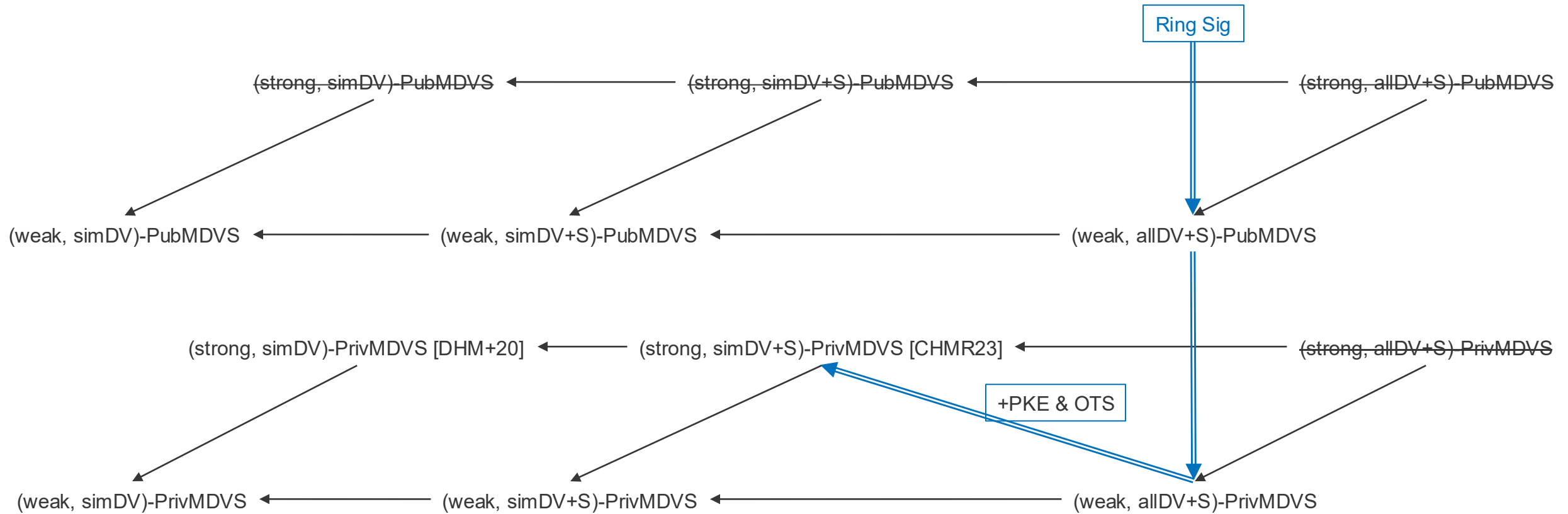
**Q2: How do we construct other MDVSs?**





# New constructions of MDVS

## A2: New constructions based on ring signatures and PKE



# (weak, allDV+S)-PubMDVS from RS

- Ring  $R$  consists of designated verifier set  $D$  and  $spk$
- Weak-Unf: Unforgeability of RS
- allDV+S: Anonymity w.r.t. full key exposure of RS



$(vpk_1, vsk_1) \leftarrow RS.KGen()$

$(spk, ssk) \leftarrow RS.KGen()$



$m, \sigma$



$(vpk_2, vsk_2) \leftarrow RS.KGen()$

MDVS. Sign( $ssk, D, m$ ):  
//  $D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\}$   
 $\sigma \leftarrow RS.Sign(ssk, D \cup \{spk\}, m)$

MDVS. PubVrfy( $spk, D, m, \sigma$ ):  
 $b \leftarrow RS.Vrfy(D \cup \{spk\}, m, \sigma)$

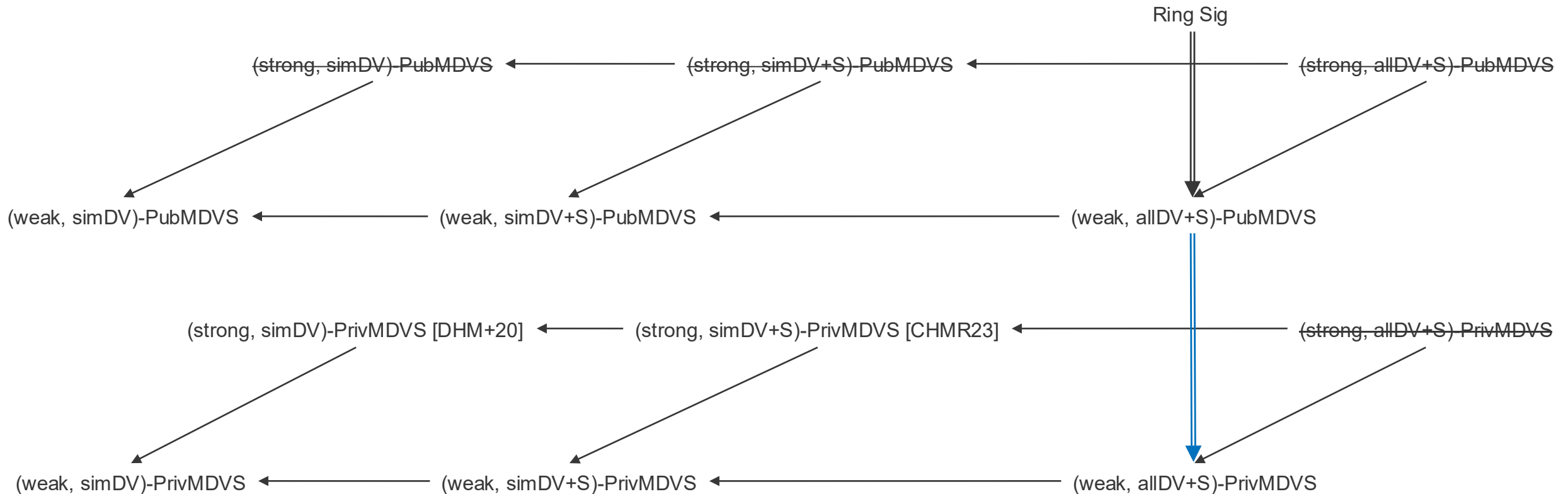
MDVS. Sim ( $spk, D, C, m$ ):  
 $vsk \leftarrow C$  // Chose e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> one  
 $\sigma \leftarrow RS.Sign(vsk, D \cup \{spk\}, m)$



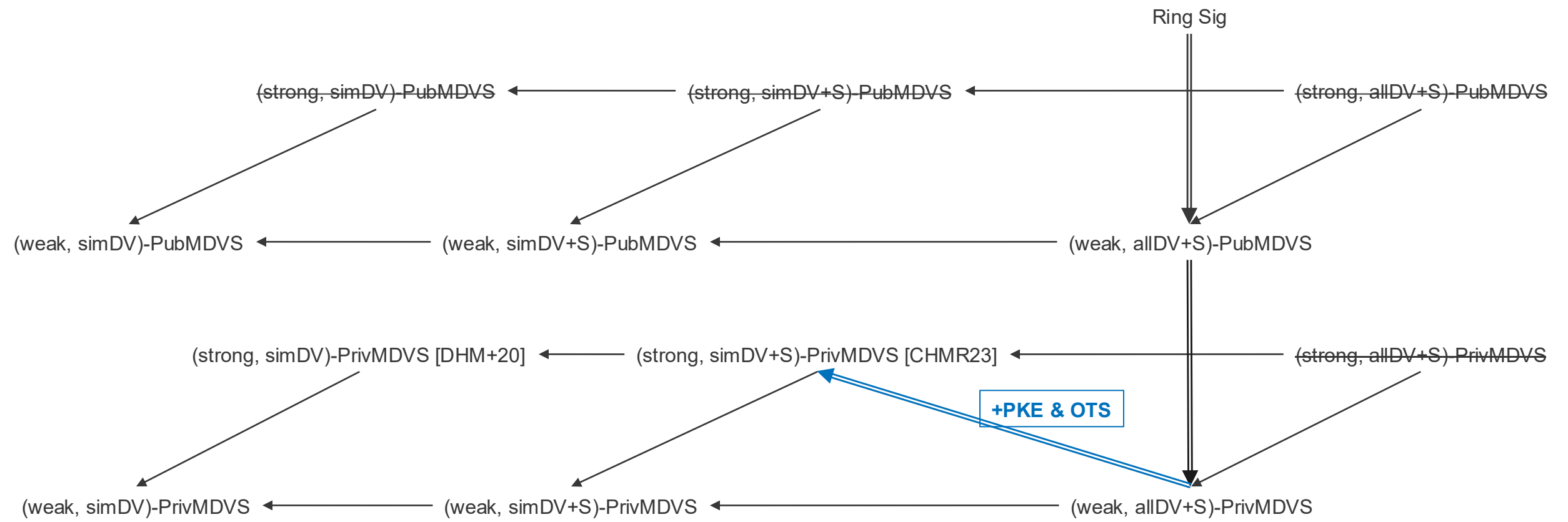
$(vpk_3, vsk_3) \leftarrow RS.KGen()$

# (weak, allDV+S)-PrivMDVS from PubMDVS

- Each algorithm of PrivMDVS runs the corresponding one of PubMDVS
  - $\text{PrivVrfy}(spk, vsk, D, m, \sigma)$ : Run  $\text{PubVrfy}(spk, D, m, \sigma)$  (ignore  $vsk$ )
  - allDV+S-OTR and OTR for  $\text{PubVrfy}$  have the same situation



Construct (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS  
from (weak, allDV+S)-PrivMDVS with PKE and OTS



$(\text{weak, allDV+S})\text{-PrivMDVS} \xrightarrow{+\text{PKE}} (\text{strong, simDV+S})\text{-PrivMDVS}$

(weak, allDV+S)-  
PrivMDVS

MDVS'. Sign( $ssk, D, m$ ):

For each  $vpk_j \in D$ :

$\sigma_j \leftarrow \text{MDVS. Sign}(ssk, \{vpk_j\}, m)$

$\sigma \leftarrow \{\sigma_j\}$

- Pair-wise signature for signer and each verifier
  - Each verifier checks the signature sent to itself
- It achieves strong unforgeability
  - Adversary does not know both  $ssk$  and the target verifier's  $vsk$ 
    - $\Rightarrow$  It cannot generate both real sign and fake sig
  - Implied from weak unforgeability of PrivMDVS

(weak, allDV+S)-PrivMDVS  $\xRightarrow{+PKE}$  (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS

(weak, allDV+S)-  
PrivMDVS

MDVS'. Sign(ssk, D, m):

For each  $vpk_j \in D$ :

$\sigma_j \leftarrow \text{MDVS.Sig}(\text{ssk}, \{vpk_j\}, m)$   
 $\sigma \leftarrow \{\sigma_j\}$

Can generate a fake signature  
for verifiers in  $C$  😊

MDVS'. Sim(spj, D, C, m):

For each  $vpk_j \in D$ :

If  $vsk_j \in C$ :  $\sigma_j \leftarrow \text{MDVS.Sim}(\text{spk}, \{vpk_j\}, \{vsk_j\}, m)$

Else:  $\sigma_j \leftarrow 0$

$\sigma \leftarrow \{\sigma_j\}$

Cannot generate a fake signature  
for verifiers not in  $C$  ☹️

$(\text{weak, allDV+S})\text{-PrivMDVS} \xrightarrow{+\text{PKE}} (\text{strong, simDV+S})\text{-PrivMDVS}$

(weak, allDV+S)-  
PrivMDVS



PKE

MDVS'. Sign(ssk, D, m):

For each  $(vpk_j, pk_j) \in D$ :

$\sigma_j \leftarrow \text{MDVS. Sign}(ssk, \{vpk_j\}, m)$

$CT_j \leftarrow \text{PKE. Enc}(pk_j, \sigma_j)$

$\sigma \leftarrow \{CT_j\}$

MDVS'. Sim(spj, D, C, m):

For each  $(vpk_j, pk_j) \in D$ :

If  $vsk_j \in C$ :  $\sigma_j \leftarrow \text{MDVS. Sim}(spj, \{vpk_j\}, \{vsk_j\}, m)$

Else:  $\sigma_j \leftarrow 0$

$CT_j \leftarrow \text{PKE. Enc}(pk_j, \sigma_j)$

$\sigma \leftarrow \{CT_j\}$

Encrypt each signature with verifier's PKE key  $pk$

(weak, allDV+S)-PrivMDVS  $\xRightarrow{+PKE}$  (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS

(weak, allDV+S)-  
PrivMDVS



PKE

MDVS'. Sign(ssk, D, m):

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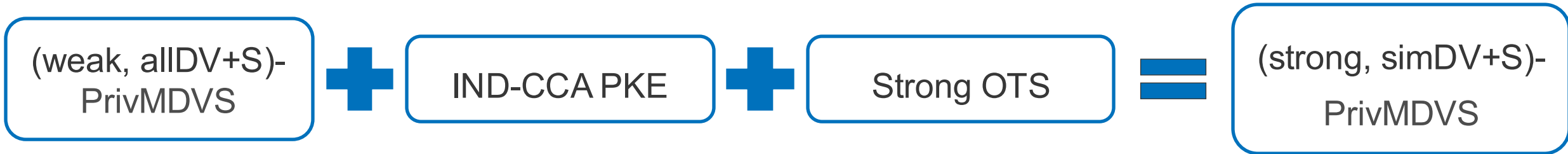
$\sigma \leftarrow \{CT_j\}$

- Verifier not in  $C$ : Security of PKE ensures indistinguishability
  - simDV: Adversary does not know verifiers' PKE key outside  $C$
- Verifier in  $C$ : allDV+S-OTR ensures indistinguishability

$\Rightarrow \text{simDV+S-OTR}$



$(\text{weak, allDV+S})\text{-PrivMDVS} \xrightarrow{+\text{PKE}} (\text{strong, simDV+S})\text{-PrivMDVS}$



MDVS'. Sign( $ssk, D, m$ ):

$(ovk, osk) \leftarrow \text{OTS.Gen}()$

For each  $(vpk_j, pk_j) \in D$ :

$\sigma_j \leftarrow \text{MDVS.Sign}(ssk, \{vpk_j\}, m)$

$CT_j \leftarrow \text{PKE.Enc}(pk_j, \sigma_j || \text{ovk})$

$osig \leftarrow \text{OTS.Sign}(osk, spk || D || m || \{CT_j\})$

$\sigma \leftarrow (\{CT_j\}, ovk, osig)$

MDVS'. Sim( $spk, D, C, m$ ):

$(ovk, osk) \leftarrow \text{OTS.Gen}()$

For each  $(vpk_j, pk_j) \in D$ :

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Else:  $\sigma_j \leftarrow 0$

$CT_j \leftarrow \text{PKE.Enc}(pk_j, \sigma_j || \text{ovk})$

$osig \leftarrow \text{OTS.Sign}(osk, spk || D || m || \{CT_j\})$

$\sigma \leftarrow (\{CT_j\}, ovk, osig)$

- Use OTS to prevent verifying  $CT_j$  with another  $spk || D || m$
- Use CCA PKE to answer verification oracle

# Efficiency of MDVS

Evaluate the signature size and the running time in classical and PQ settings of  
Scheme 1: (weak, allDV+S)-PrivMDVS from RS and

Scheme 2: (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS from RS+PKE

Signature size

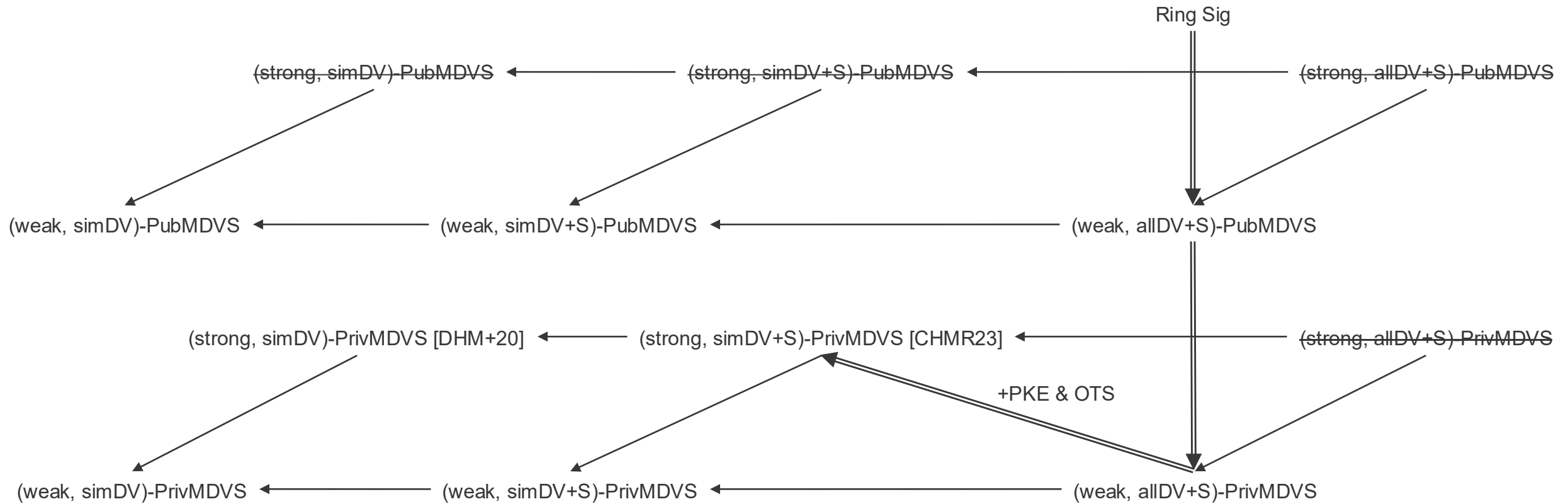
#Verifiers	$2^1$	$2^3$	$2^6$	$2^{10}$	PQ?
Scheme 1	195 B 4.5 KB	327 B 4.6 KB	525 B 6.0 KB	789 B 31.2 KB	X O
Scheme 2	614 B 17.9 KB	2168 B 59.3 KB	16672 B 445.7 KB	265312 B 7069.7 KB	X O

Signing time

#Verifiers	$2^1$	$2^3$	$2^6$	$2^{10}$	PQ?
Scheme 1	8 ms 2348 ms	36 ms 3015 ms	266 ms 7247 ms	4118 ms 72920 ms	X O
Scheme 2	17 ms 4696 ms	67 ms 18784 ms	538 ms 150273 ms	8602 ms 2404362 ms	X O

# Relations from MDVS to other primitives

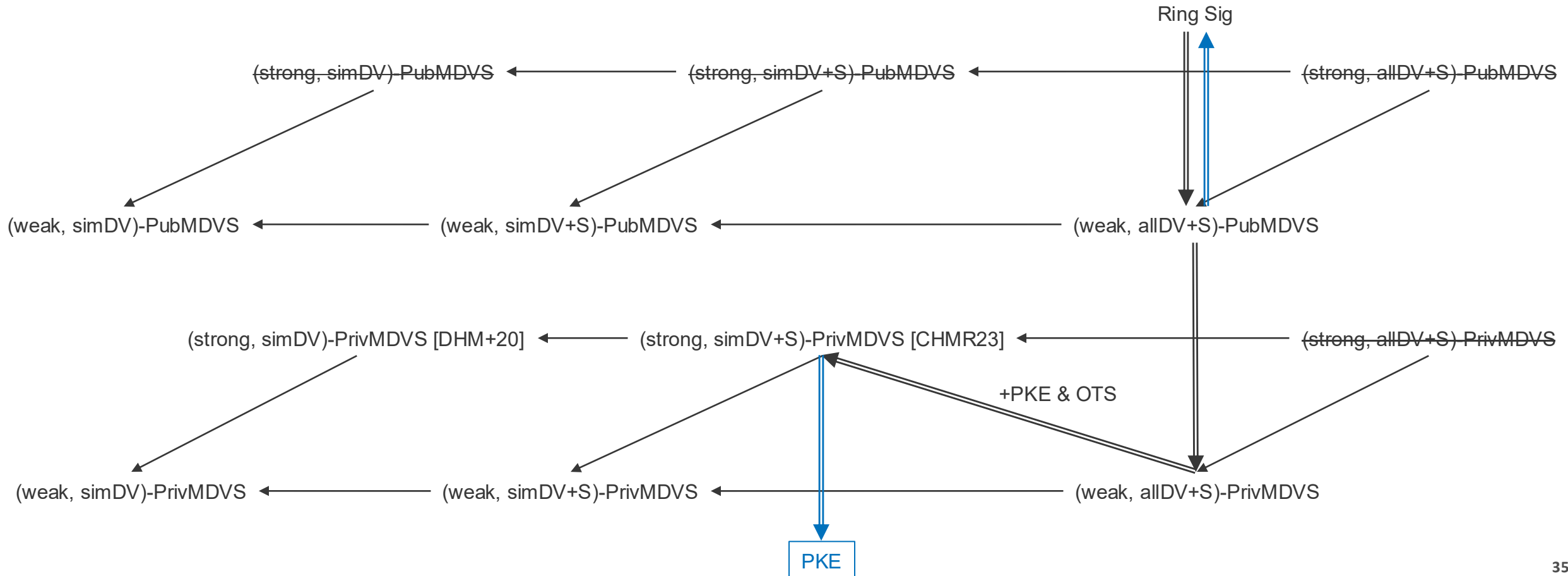
## Q3: MDVS implies other cryptographic primitives?



# Relations to other primitives

## A3: Obtain the following implication results

- (weak, allDV+S)-PubMDVS implies ring signatures (i.e., they are equivalent)
- (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS implies PKE



# (weak, allDV+S)-PubMDVS $\Rightarrow$ RS

- Prepare a virtual signer in public parameter, and designated verifier set  $D$  is considered ring  $R$
- RS.Sign runs MDVS.Sim to generate signatures
- Require MDVS.PubVrfy for public verifiability of RS

$$pp_{RS} := (pp_{MDVS}, spk)$$



$m, \sigma$



RS. Sign( $sk_2, R, m$ ):  
//  $R := \{pk_1, pk_2, pk_3\}$   
 $\sigma \leftarrow \text{MDVS.Sim}(spk, D, \{sk_2\}, m)$

RS. Vrfy( $m, R, \sigma$ ):  
 $b \leftarrow \text{MDVS.PubVrfy}(spk, R, m, \sigma)$



$(pk_1, sk_1) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$



$(pk_2, sk_2) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$



$(pk_3, sk_3) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$

$D = \text{ring } R$

# (weak, allDV+S)-PubMDVS $\Rightarrow$ RS

- Unforgeability of RS: weak-Unf of MDVS
  - allDV+S-OTR ensures real sig  $\approx$  fake sig
- Anonymity of RS: allDV+S-OTR of MDVS
  - Any fake signatures are indistinguishable from real signature

$$pp_{RS} := (pp_{MDVS}, spk)$$



$m, \sigma$

RS. Sign( $sk_2, R, m$ ):  
//  $R := \{pk_1, pk_2, pk_3\}$   
 $\sigma \leftarrow \text{MDVS.Sim}(spk, D, \{sk_2\}, m)$

RS. Vrfy( $m, R, \sigma$ ):  
 $b \leftarrow \text{MDVS.PubVrfy}(spk, R, m, \sigma)$



$(pk_1, sk_1) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$



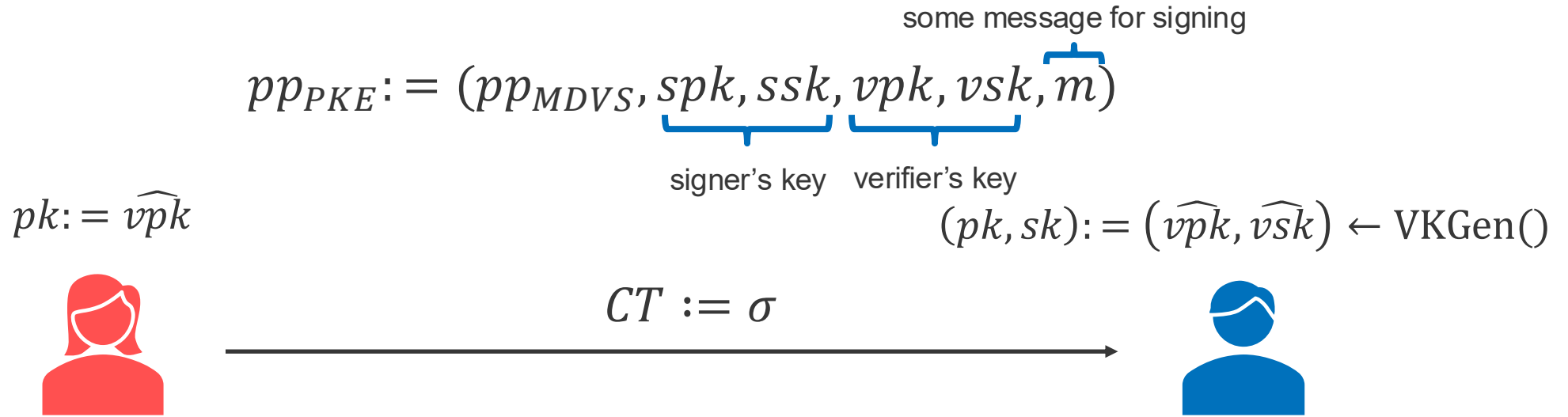
$(pk_2, sk_2) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$



$(pk_3, sk_3) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$

$D = \text{ring } R$

# (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS $\Rightarrow$ IND-CCA PKE



Enc( $pk, M \in \{0,1\}$ ):

If  $M = 1$

$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, m)$

If  $M = 0$

$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sim}(spk, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \{vsk\}, m)$

Dec( $sk, CT$ ):

$M \leftarrow \text{PrivVrfy}(spk, \widehat{vsk}, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \sigma, m)$

# (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS $\Rightarrow$ IND-CCA PKE

Sender secretly sends information on “whether or not  $\sigma$  is simulated”

$$pp_{PKE} := (pp_{MDVS}, spk, ssk, vpk, vsk, m)$$

$$pk := \widehat{vpk}$$



$$CT := \sigma$$

$$sk := \widehat{vsk}$$



Enc( $pk, M \in \{0,1\}$ ):

If  $M = 1$

$$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, m)$$

If  $M = 0$

$$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sim}(spk, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \{vsk\}, m)$$

Dec( $sk, CT$ ):

$$M \leftarrow \text{PrivVrfy}(spk, \widehat{vsk}, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \sigma, m)$$

■ Receiver knows  $\widehat{vsk}$

$\Rightarrow$  two signatures are distinguishable (Strong-Unf)

■ Real sig  $\Rightarrow \text{PrivVrfy}(\sigma) = 1$  (correctness)

■ Fake sig  $\Rightarrow \text{PrivVrfy}(\sigma) = 0$  ( $\widehat{vsk}$  is not used in Sim)



# (strong, simDV+S)-PrivMDVS $\Rightarrow$ IND-CCA PKE

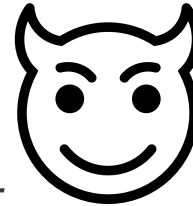
Sender secretly sends information on “whether or not  $\sigma$  is simulated”

$$pp_{PKE} := (pp_{MDVS}, spk, ssk, vpk, vsk, m)$$

$$pk := \widehat{vpk}$$



$$CT := \sigma$$



$$sk := \widehat{vsk}$$



Enc( $pk, M \in \{0,1\}$ ):

If  $M = 1$

$$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, m)$$

If  $M = 0$

$$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sim}(spk, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \{vsk\}, m)$$

Dec( $sk, CT$ ):

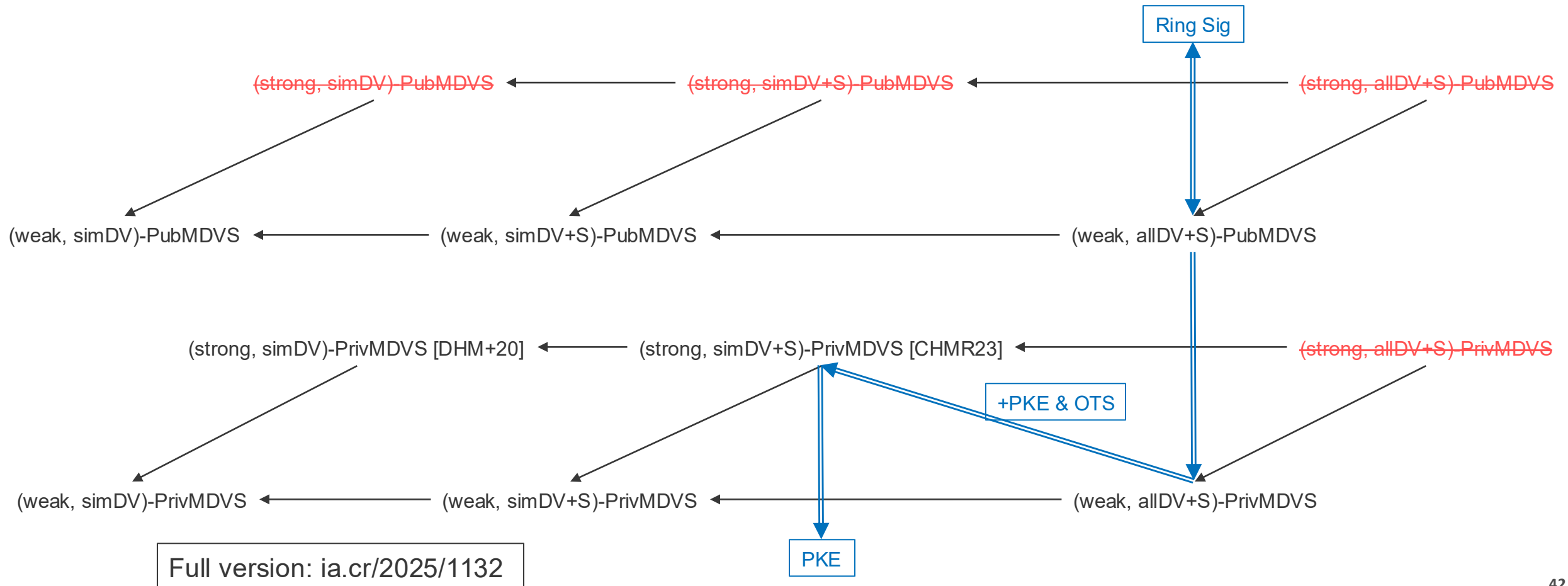
$$M \leftarrow \text{PrivVrfy}(spk, \widehat{vsk}, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \sigma, m)$$

- Adversary does not know  $\widehat{vsk}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  signatures are indistinguishable (simDV+S-OTR)
  - Publish  $ssk$  to encrypt publicly  $\Rightarrow$  require +S-OTR
- Verify oracle in MDVS = Dec oracle in PKE  $\Rightarrow$  CCA

# Conclusion

# Summary of our results

## Comprehensive formalization and analysis of MDVS



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