

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



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

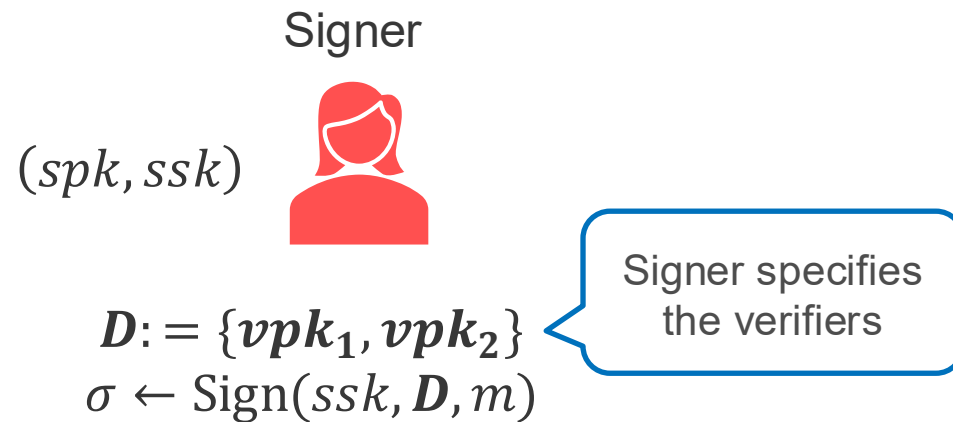
[LV04] F. Laguillaumie and D. Vergnaud. Multi-designated verifiers signatures. ICICS 2004.

[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)

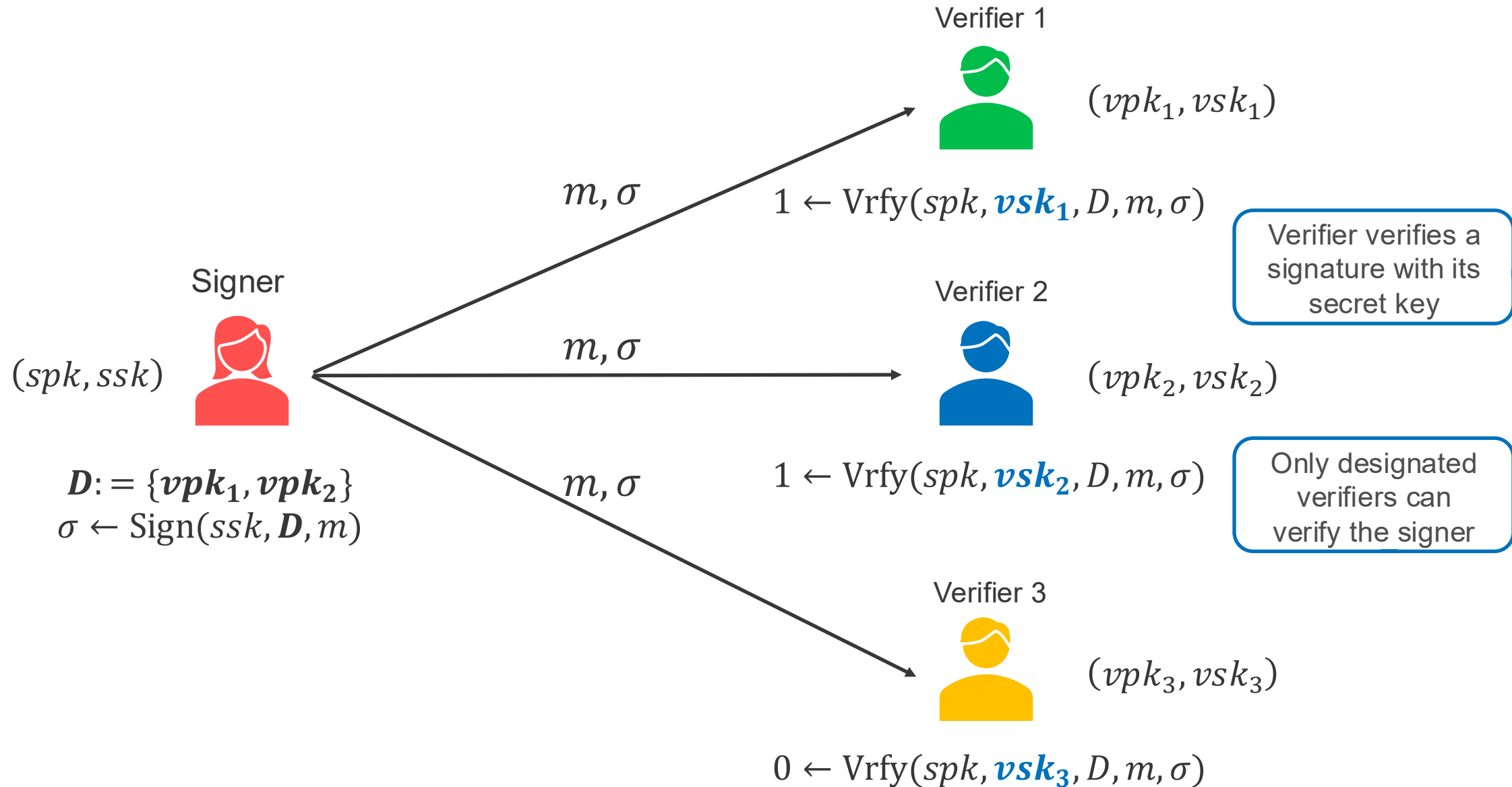
Verifier 3



(vpk_3, vsk_3)

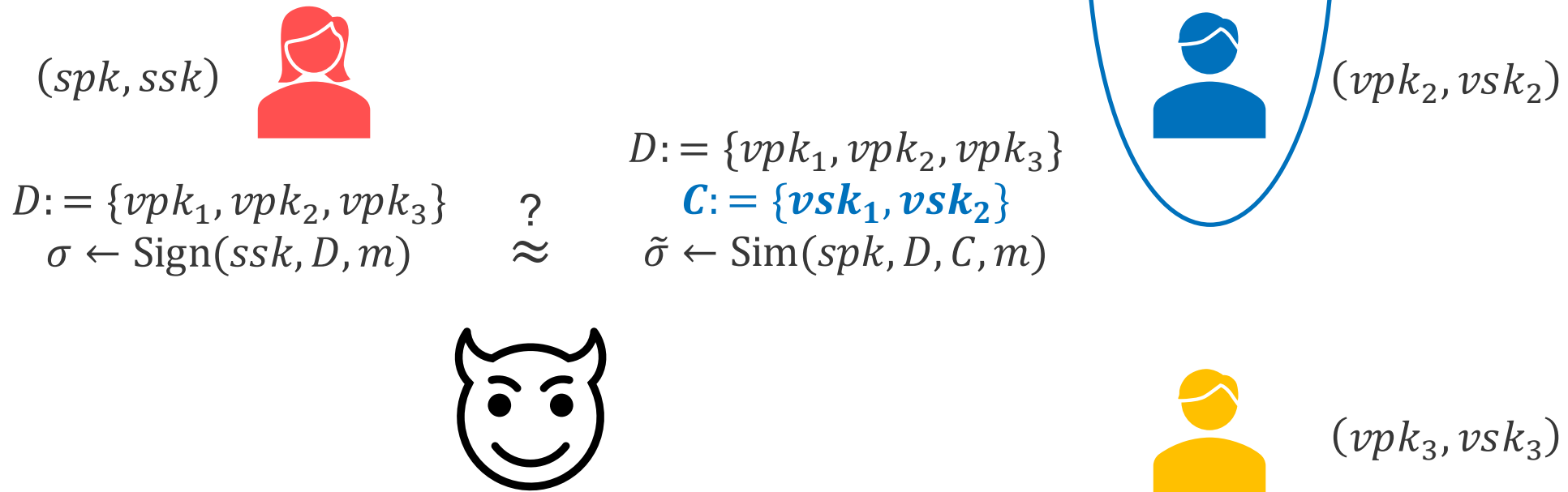
Multi-designated verifier signature (MDVS)

[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

- 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

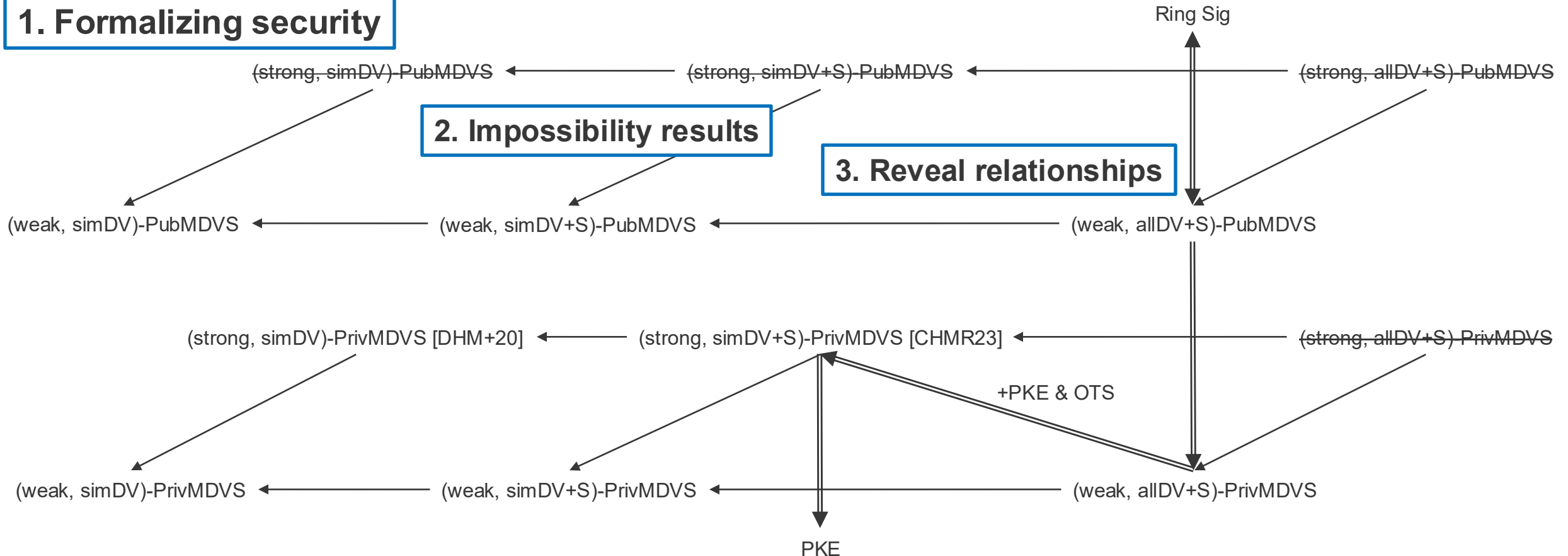
Our contributions

Comprehensive formalization and analysis of MDVS

1. Formalizing security

2. Impossibility results

3. Reveal relationships



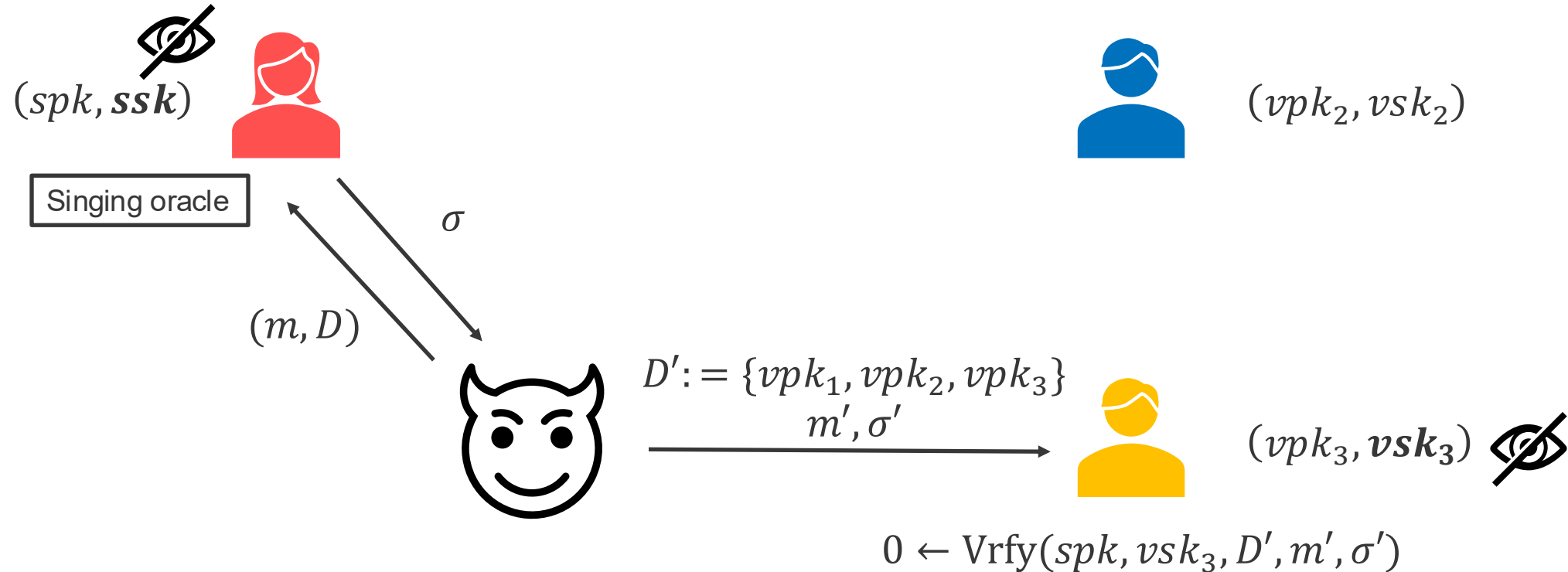
Formalize security definitions of **MDVS**

Formalize security definitions of **MDVS**

- 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]

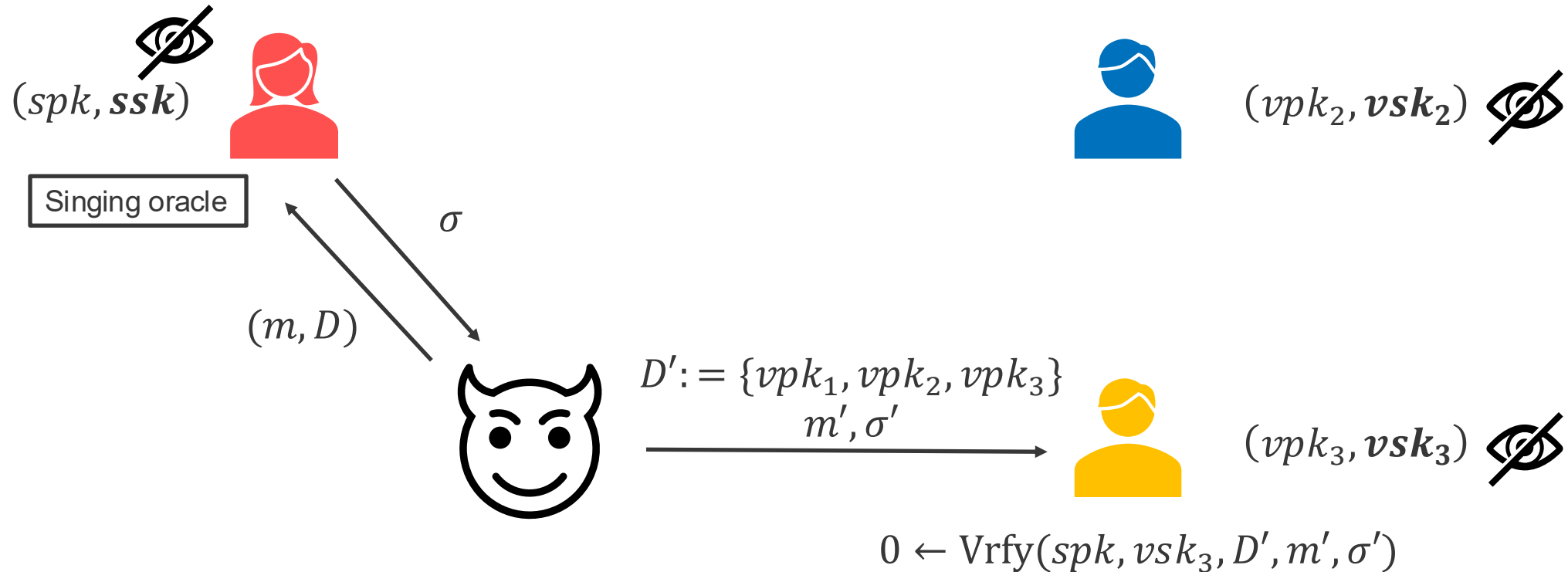
Property of MDVS: Unforgeability

- 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



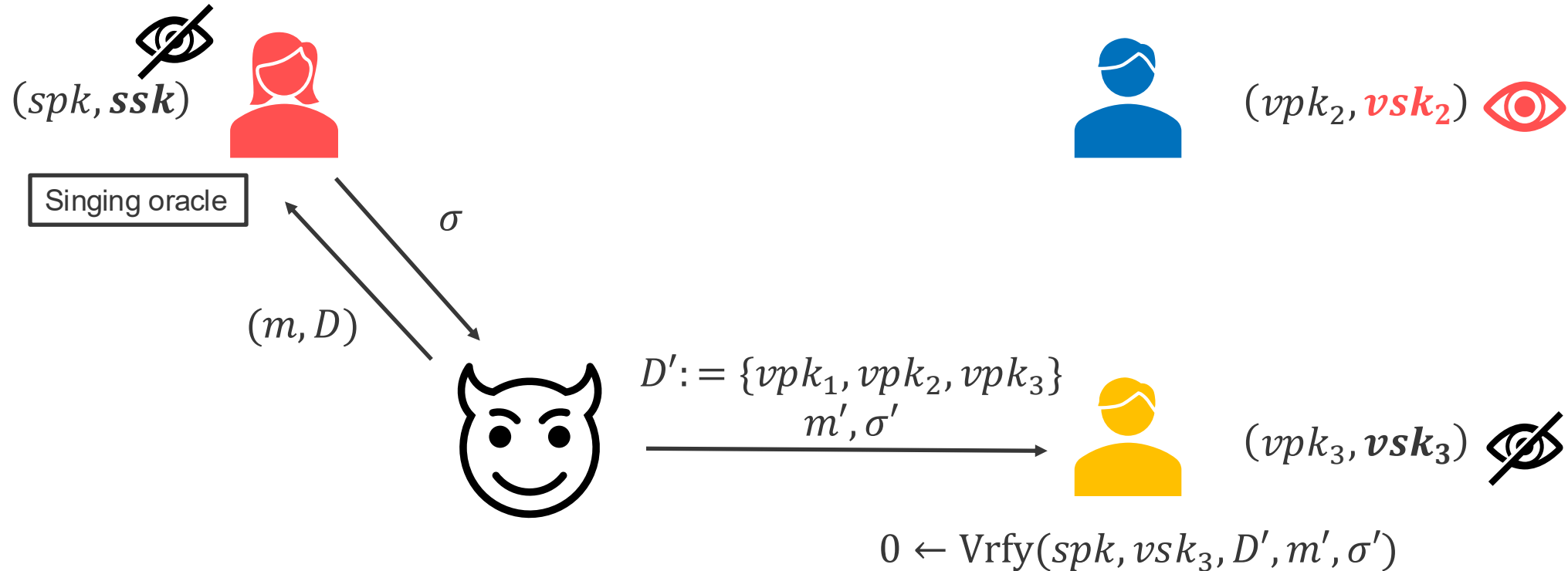
Variations of unforgeability

- 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



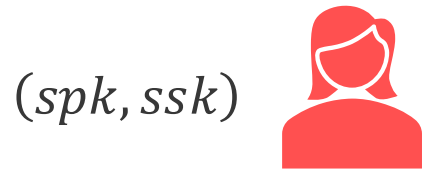
Variations of unforgeability

- 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 $D \setminus C$

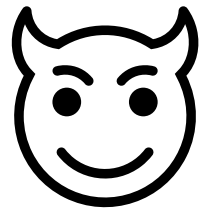


Property of MDVS: Off-the-record (OTR)

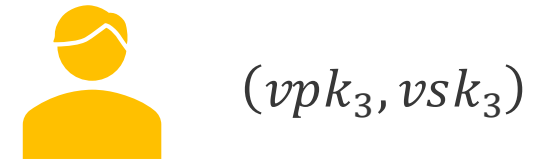
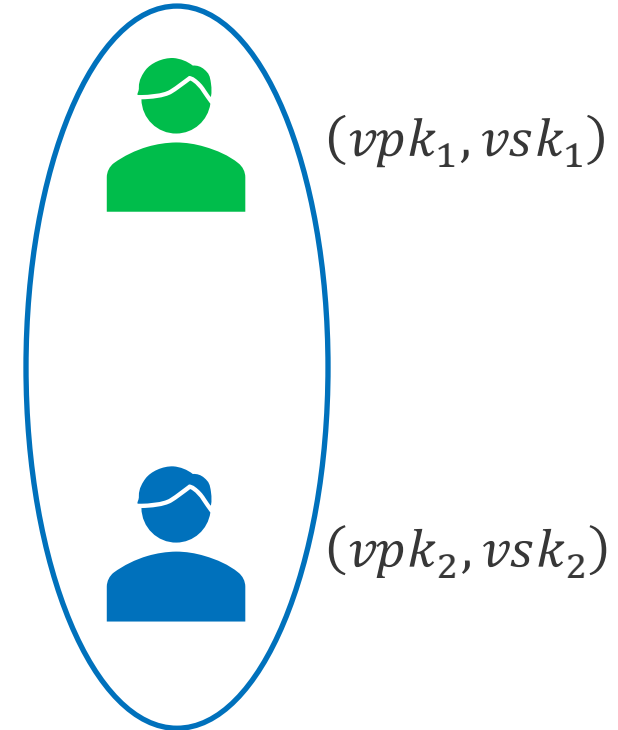
- Indistinguishability of real and fake signatures
- 3 variants depending on the adversary's knowledge about secret keys



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

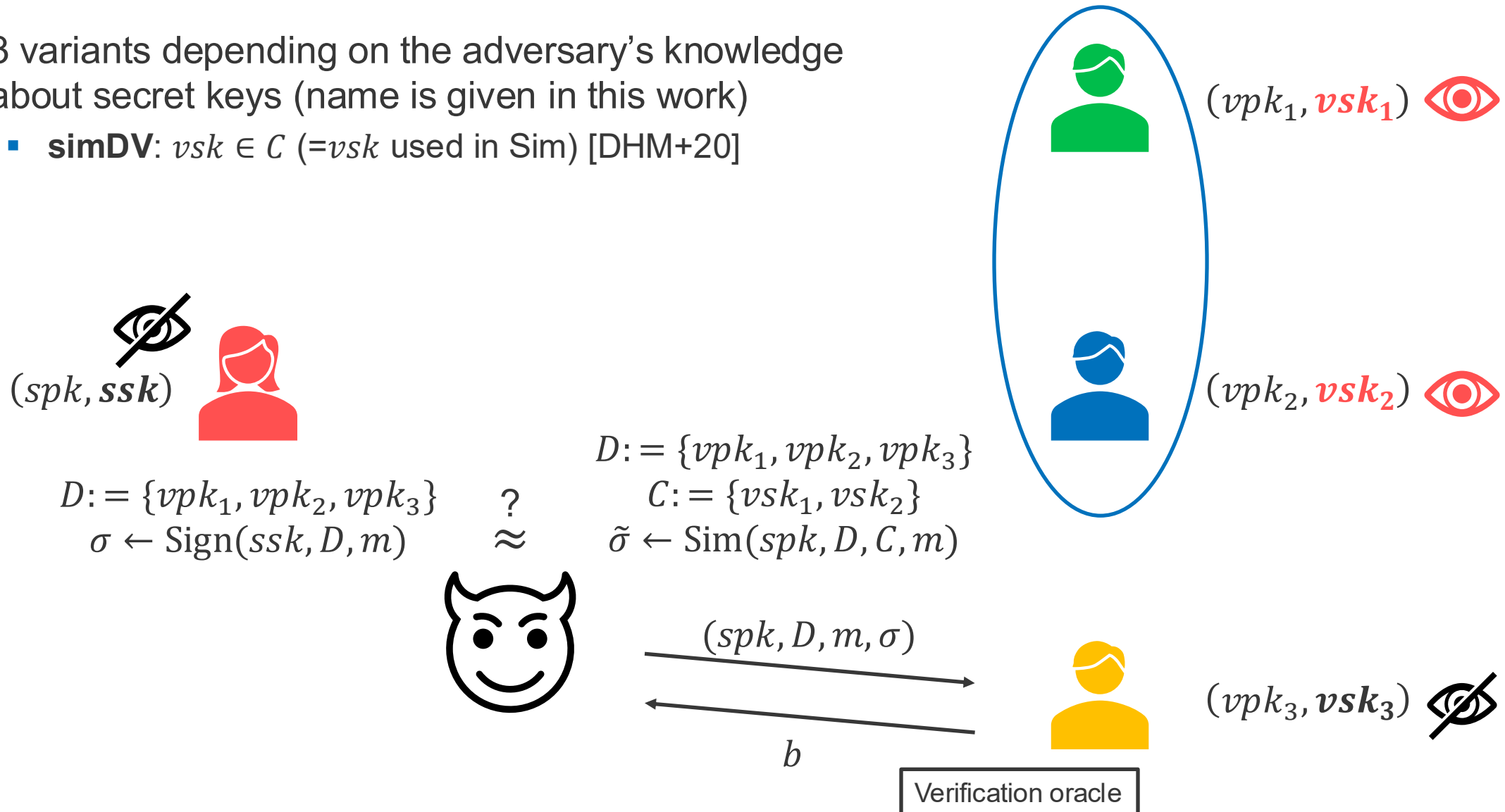


$D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\}$
 $C := \{vsk_1, vsk_2\}$
 $\tilde{\sigma} \leftarrow \text{Sim}(spk, D, C, m)$



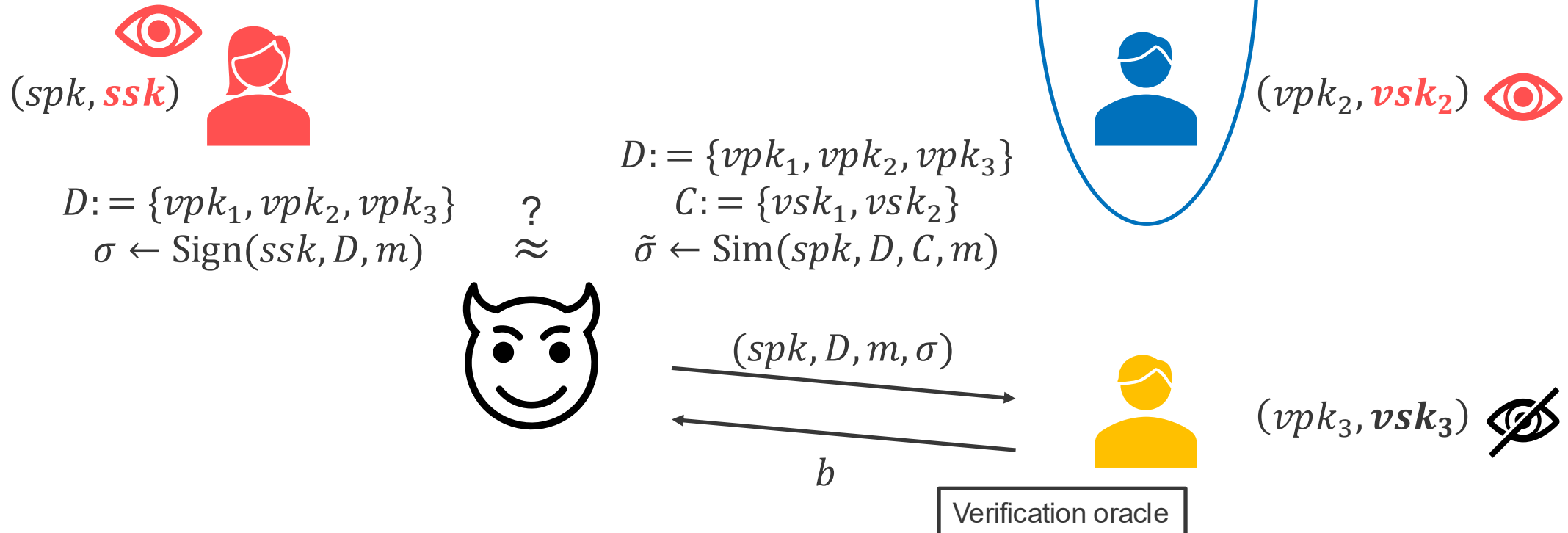
Variations of off-the-record (OTR)

- 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]



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

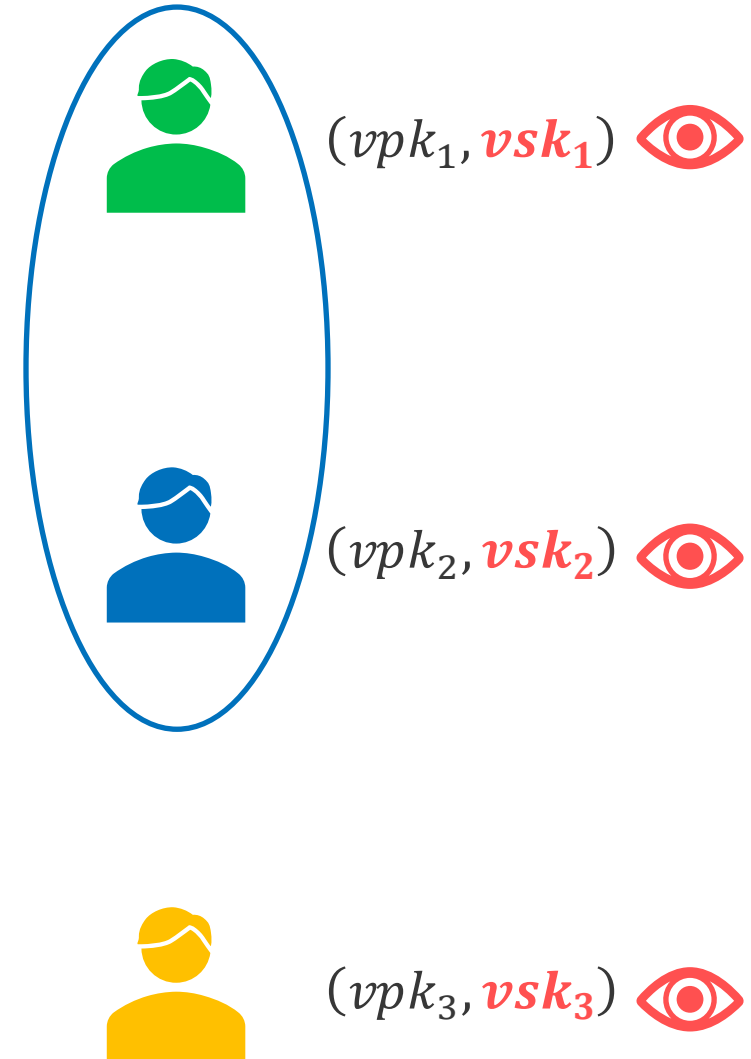
$$\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, D, m) \quad \approx$$



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

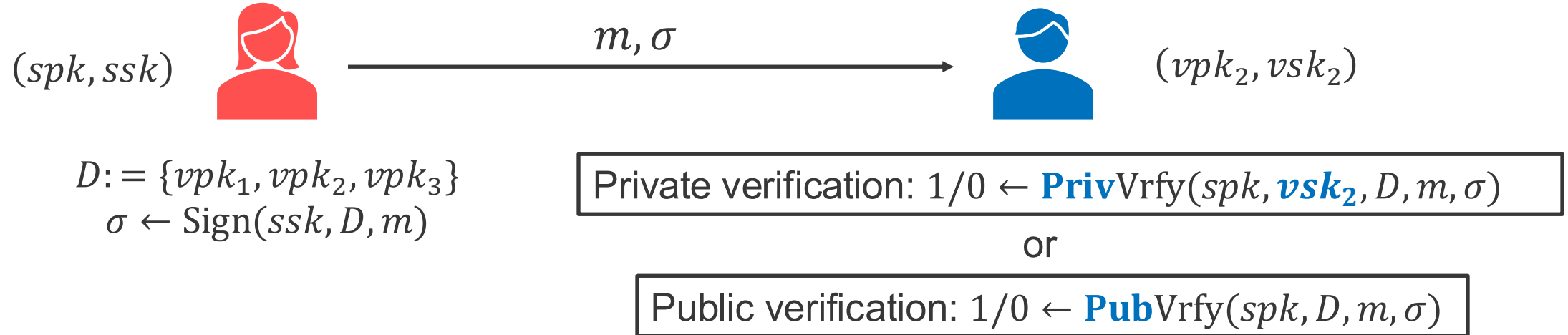
$$C := \{vsk_1, vsk_2\}$$

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



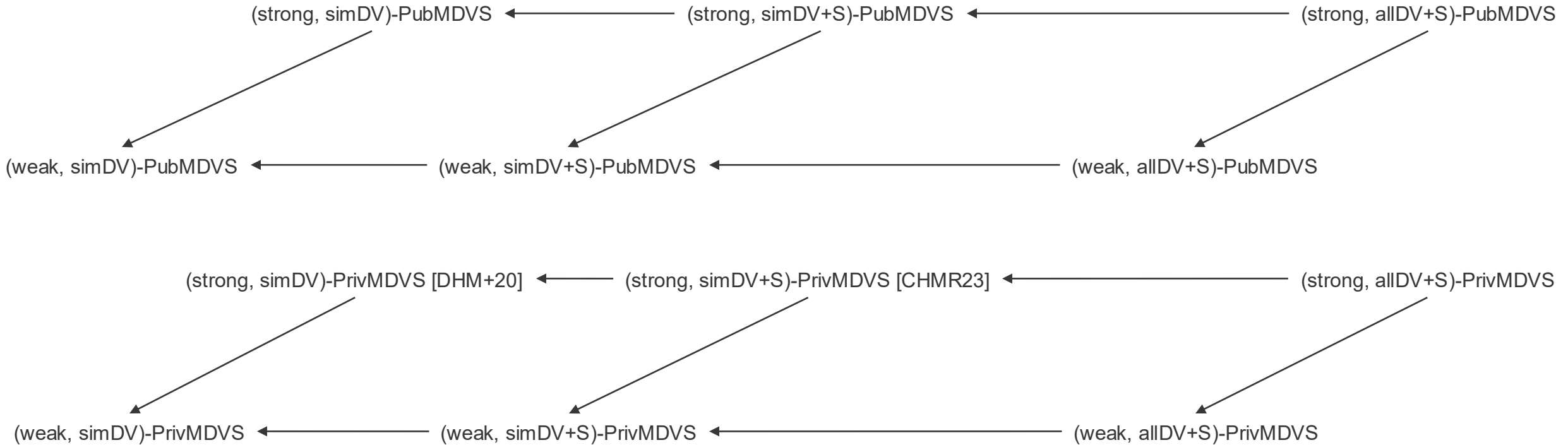
Verifiability: public and private

- 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

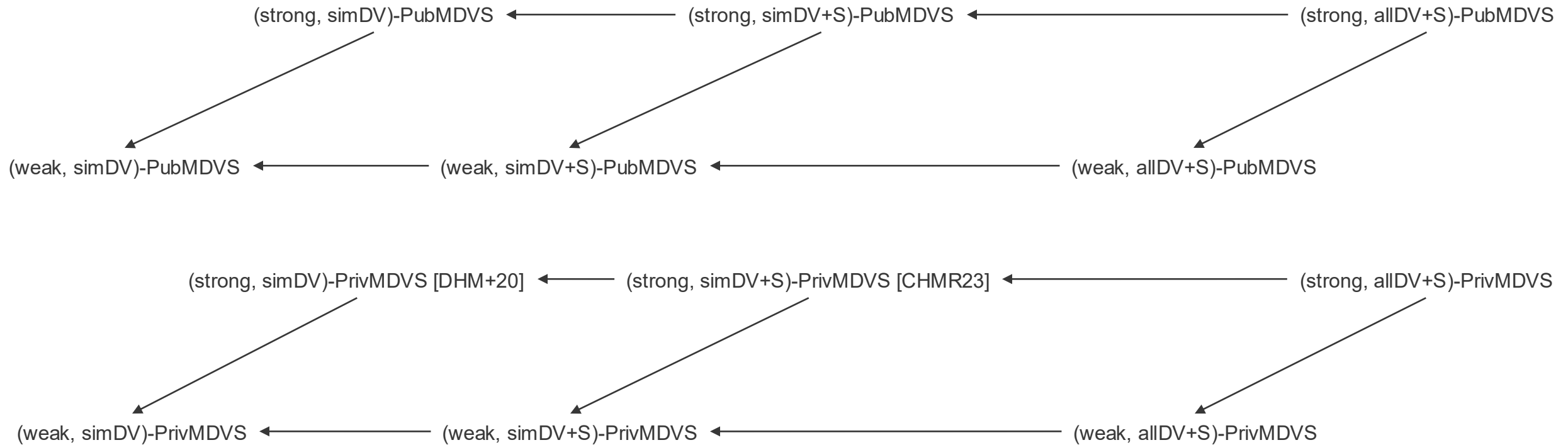
$\{\text{weak, strong}\}\text{-Unf} \times \{\text{simDV, simDV+S, allDV+S}\}\text{-OTR}$
 $\times \{\text{Priv, Pub}\}\text{-Verify} = \underline{12 \text{ variants of MDVS}}$



Comprehensive analysis of MDVS

Analysis of MDVS

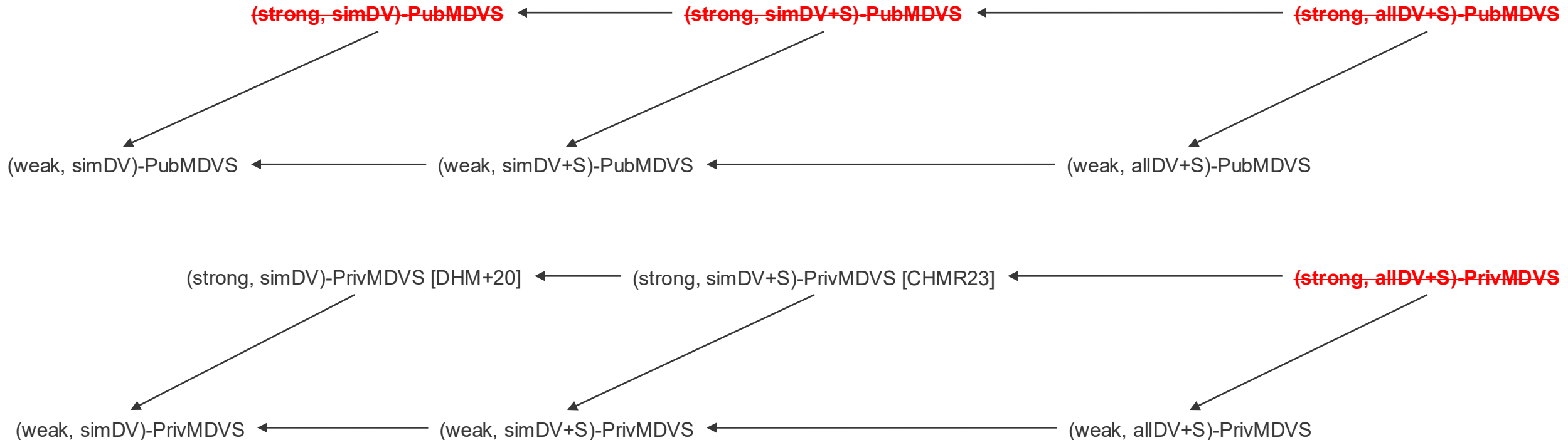
Q1: Can we realize all of the MDVSs?



Impossibility in MDVS

A: We cannot construct the following MDVS schemes

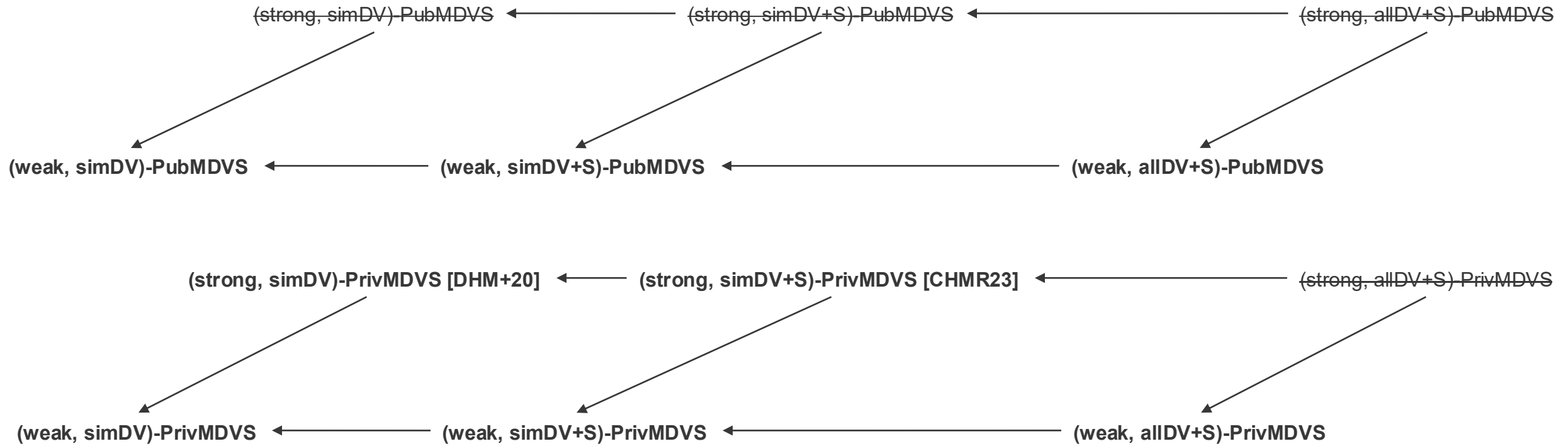
- Strong unforgeability and allDV+S OTR are conflict in PrivMDVS
- Strong unforgeability and any OTR are conflict in PubMDVS



Analysis of MDVS

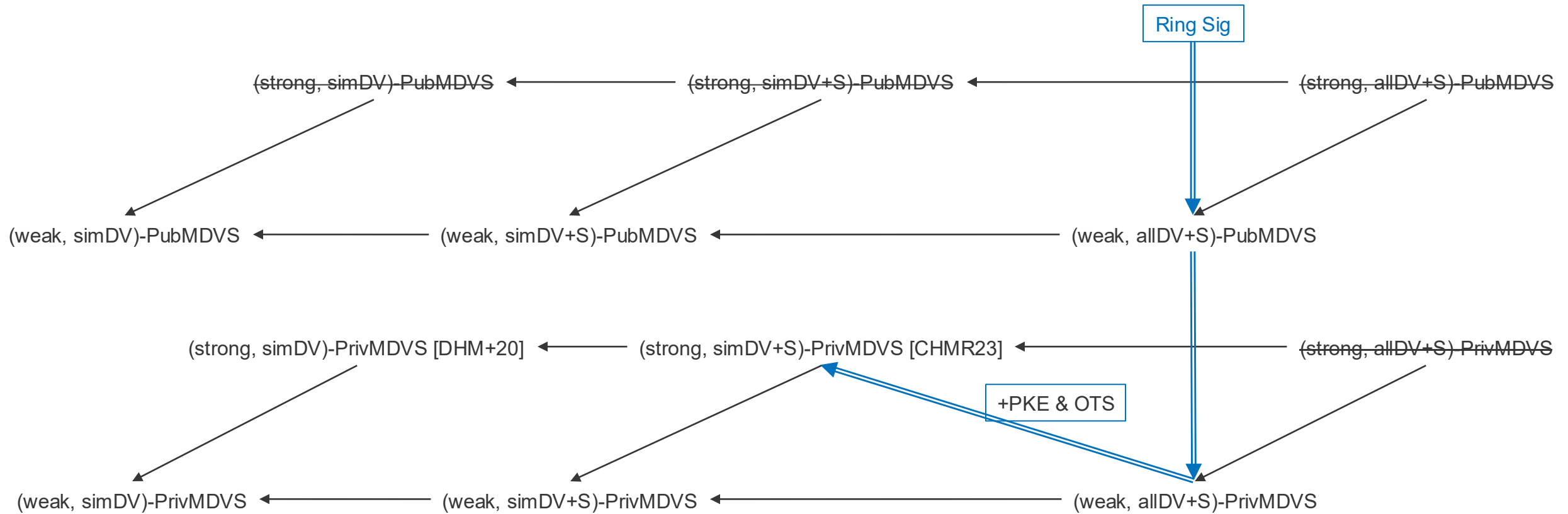
We identified that some of MDVS cannot be realized

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, σ



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

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

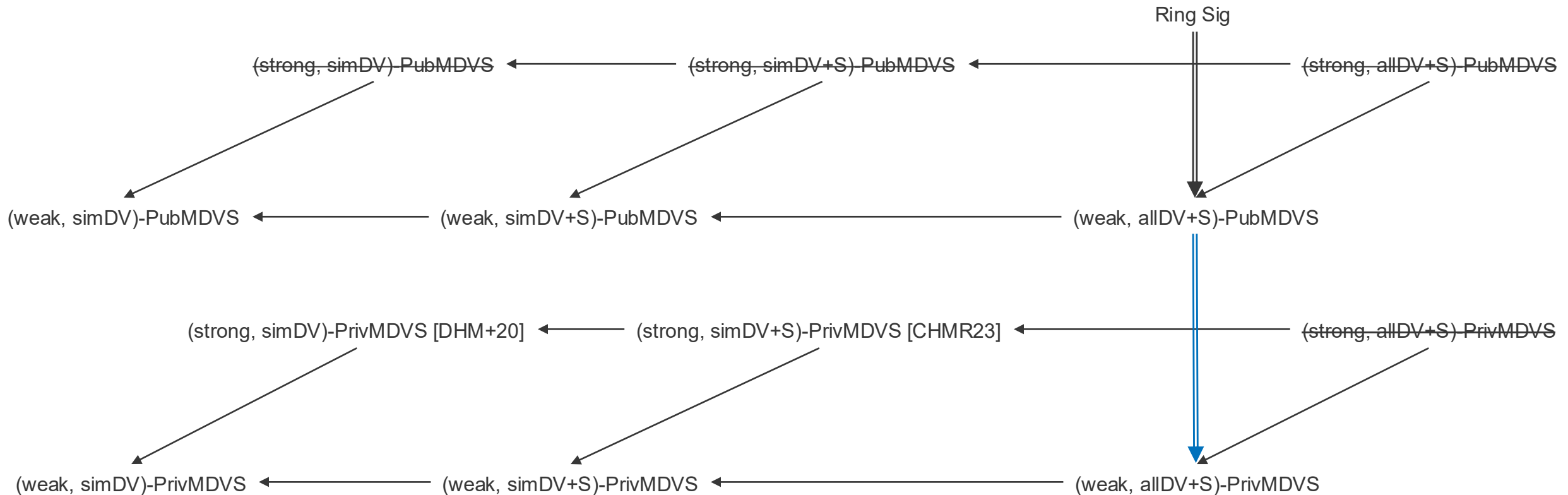
MDVS. Sim (spk, D, C, m):
 $vsk \leftarrow C$ // Chose e.g., 1st one
 $\sigma \leftarrow RS.Sign(vsk, D \cup \{spk\}, m)$



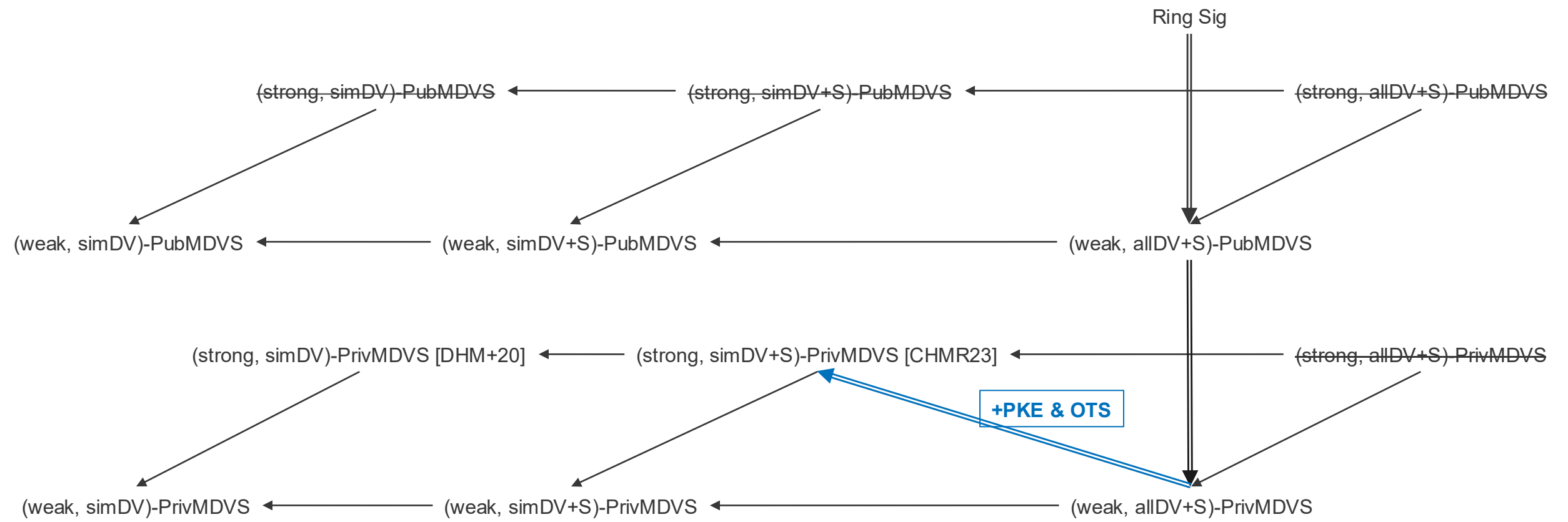
$(vpk_3, vsk_3) \leftarrow RS.KGen()$

(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 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(sp, D, C, m):

For each $vpk_j \in D$:

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

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(spk, D, C, m):

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

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

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

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

(weak, allDV+S)-
PrivMDVS



PKE

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

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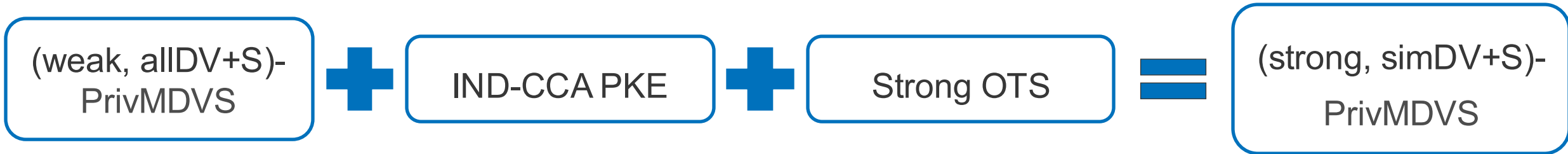
$CT_j \leftarrow \text{PKE. Enc}(pk_j, \sigma_j)$

$\sigma \leftarrow \{CT_j\}$

- 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 $(vpk_j, pk_j) \in D$:

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

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

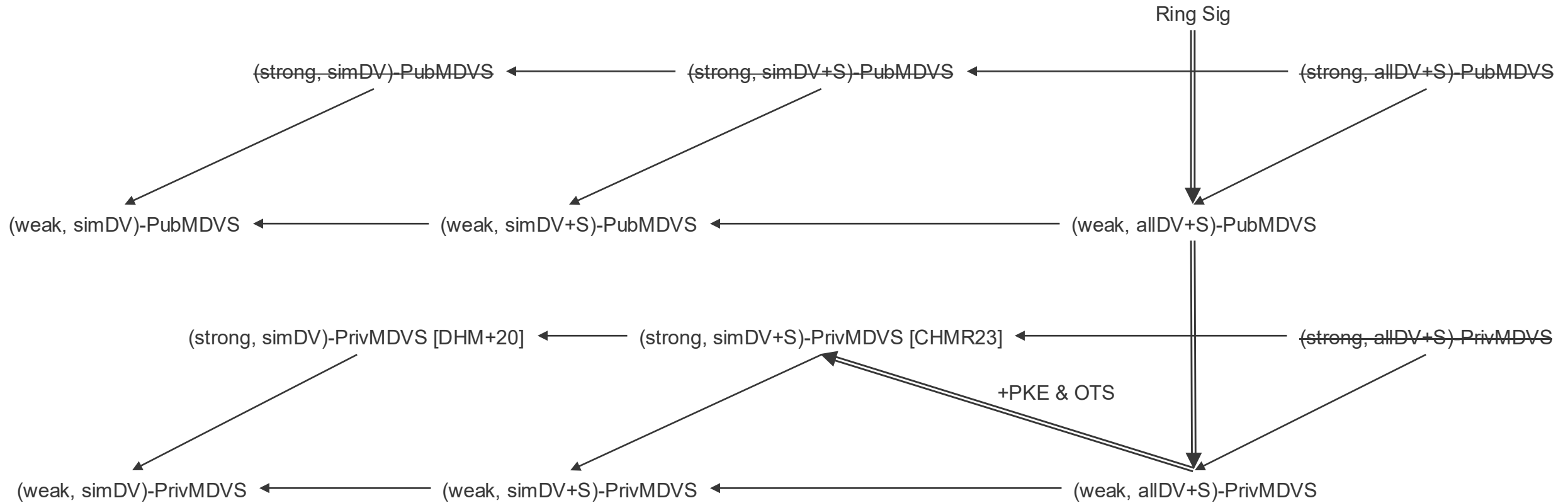
#Verifiers	2^1	2^3	2^6	2^{10}	PQ?
Scheme 1	195 B 4.5 KB	327 B 4.6 KB	525 B 6.0 KB	789 B 31.2 KB	X O
Scheme 2	614 B 17.9 KB	2168 B 59.3 KB	16672 B 445.7 KB	265312 B 7069.7 KB	X O

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

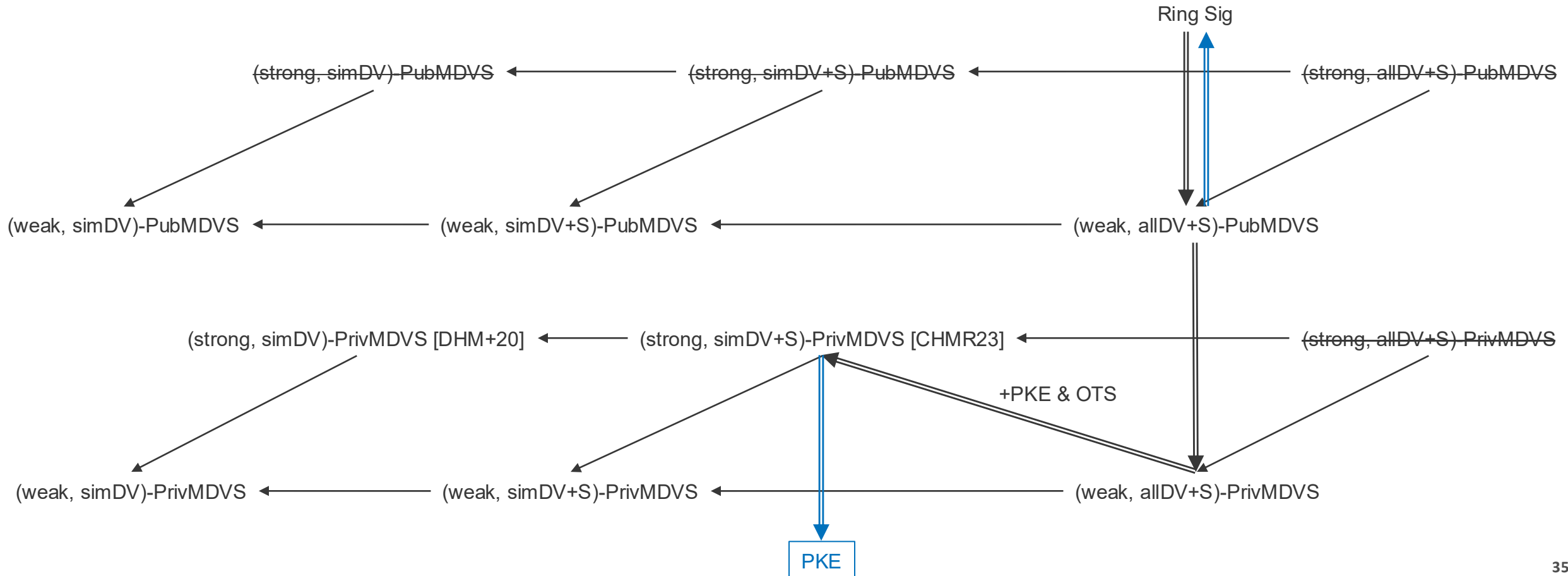
Q3: MDVS implies other cryptographic primitives?



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, σ

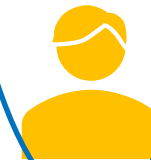


$(pk_1, sk_1) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$

$D = \text{ring } R$



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



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

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

(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, σ

RS. Sign(sk_2, R, m):
// $R := \{pk_1, pk_2, pk_3\}$
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$(pk_1, sk_1) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$



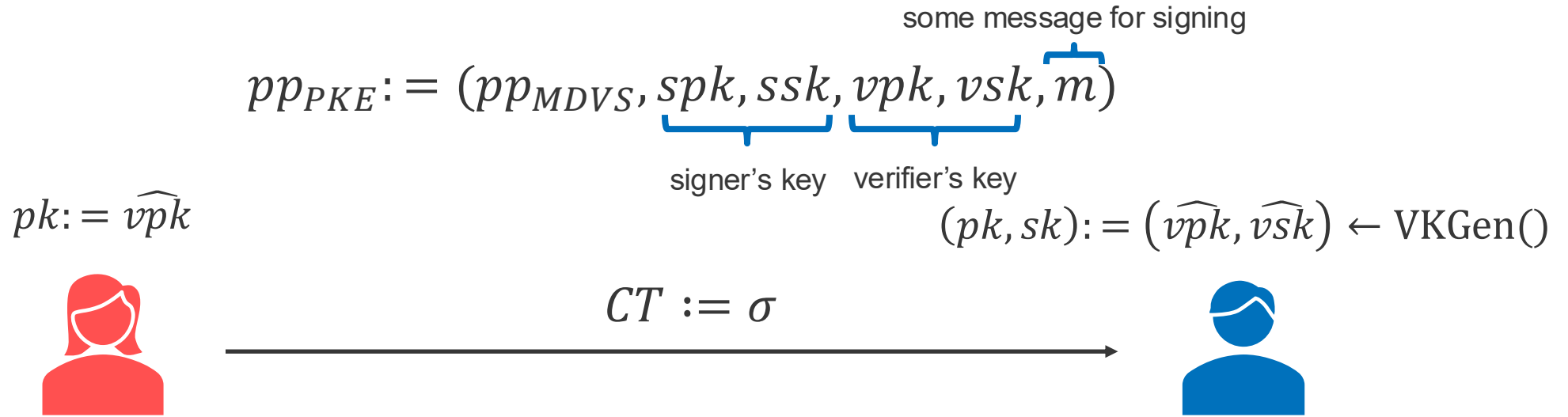
$(pk_2, sk_2) \leftarrow \text{MDVS.VKGen}()$



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

$D = \text{ring } R$

(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 σ 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

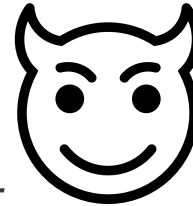
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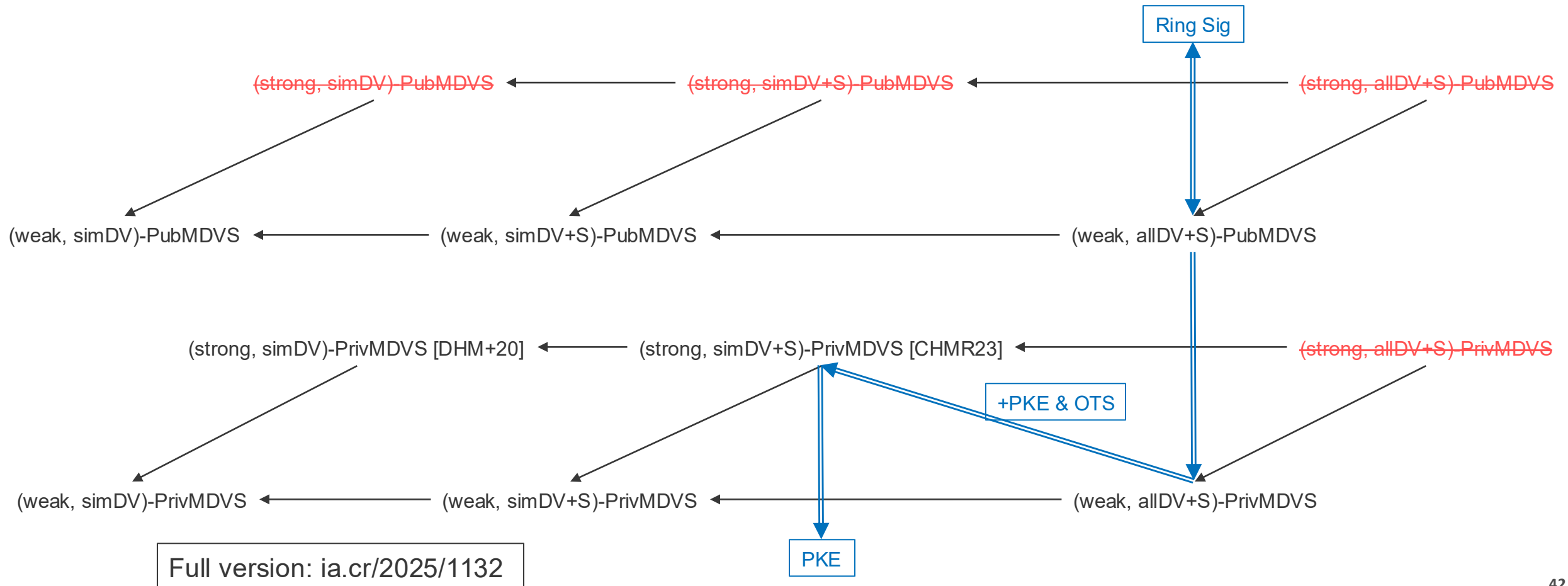
$$M \leftarrow \text{PrivVrfy}(spk, \widehat{vsk}, \{vpk, \widehat{vpk}\}, \sigma, m)$$

- 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



References

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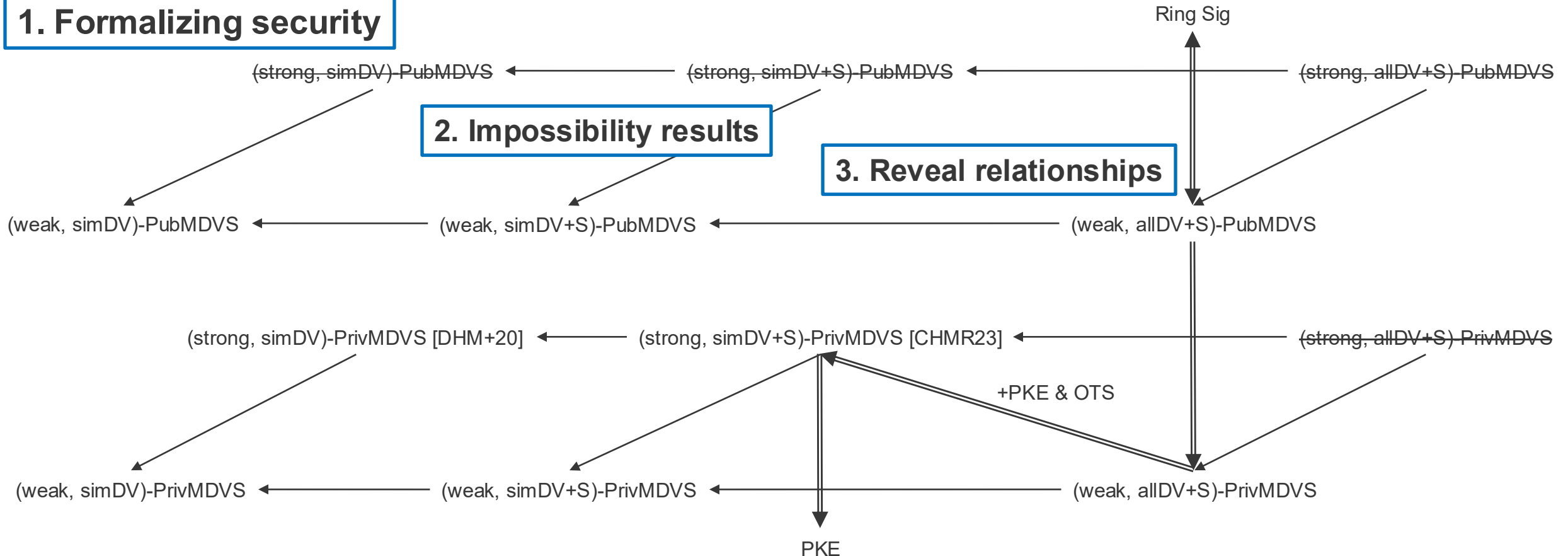
Our contributions

Comprehensive formalization and analysis of MDVS

1. Formalizing security

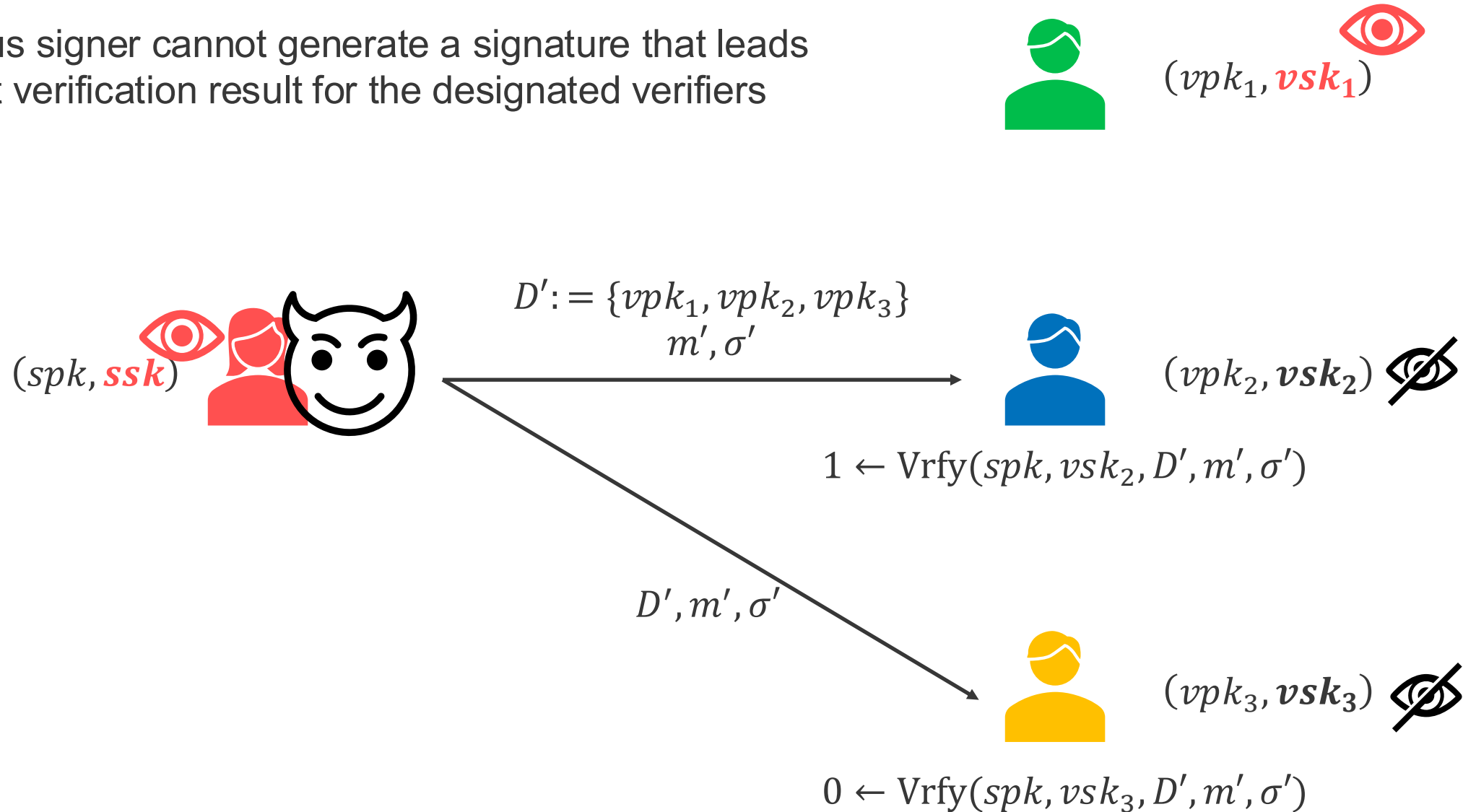
2. Impossibility results

3. Reveal relationships



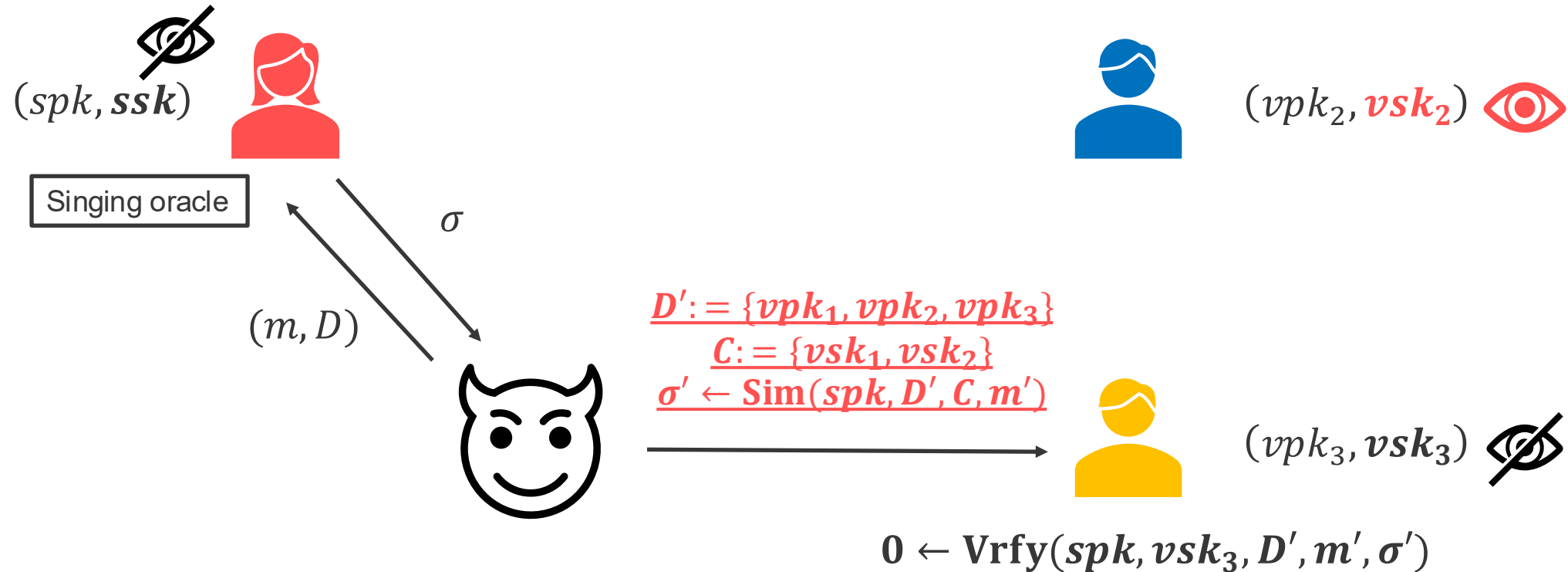
Property of MDVS: Consistency (Con)

Malicious signer cannot generate a signature that leads different verification result for the designated verifiers



Properties of simulated signatures

- In strong unforgeability setting, the adversary can run Sim with corrupted verifier's keys
- Uncorrupted verifiers not in \mathcal{C} must reject simulated signatures for strong unforgeability



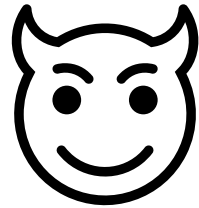
Properties of simulated signatures

- In OTR setting, the adversary can run (Priv)Verify with corrupted verifier's keys
- Simulated signatures must be accepted with them for OTR (Real and simulated signatures must be indistinguishable)

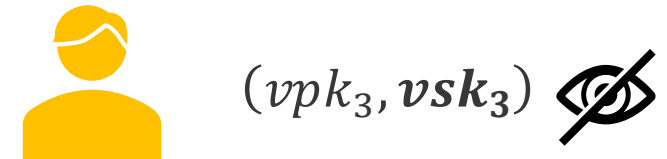
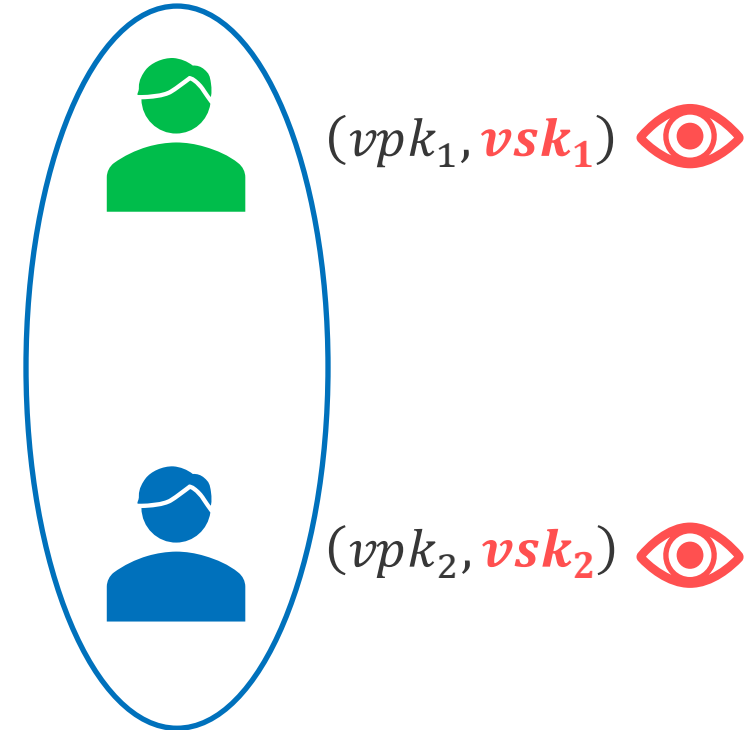


$D := \{vpk_1, vpk_2, vpk_3\}$
 $\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(ssk, D, m)$

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



$\text{Vrfy}(spk, vsk_1, D, m, \tilde{\sigma})$
 $\text{Vrfy}(spk, vsk_2, D', m', \tilde{\sigma})$



PrivMDVS + NIZK \Rightarrow PrivMDVS with Consistency

- NIZK π proves that signature is generated with Sign or Sim
- If π is valid and σ is generated with Sign, all verifiers must accept (correctness)
- If π is valid and σ is generated with Sim, verifiers s.t. $vsk \notin C$ must accept (prop. of Sim)

