

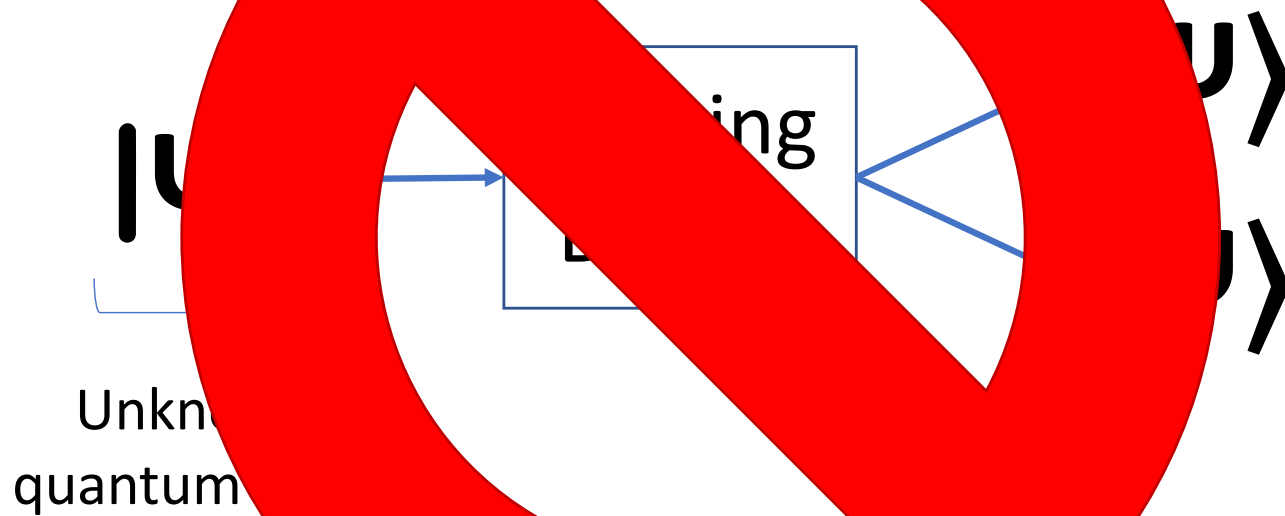
# Quantum Lightning Never Strikes the Same State Twice

Mark Zhandry

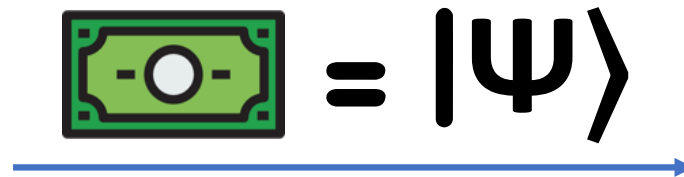
Princeton University



# Quantum No-Cloning



# No-Cloning = Quantum Money [Wiesner'70]



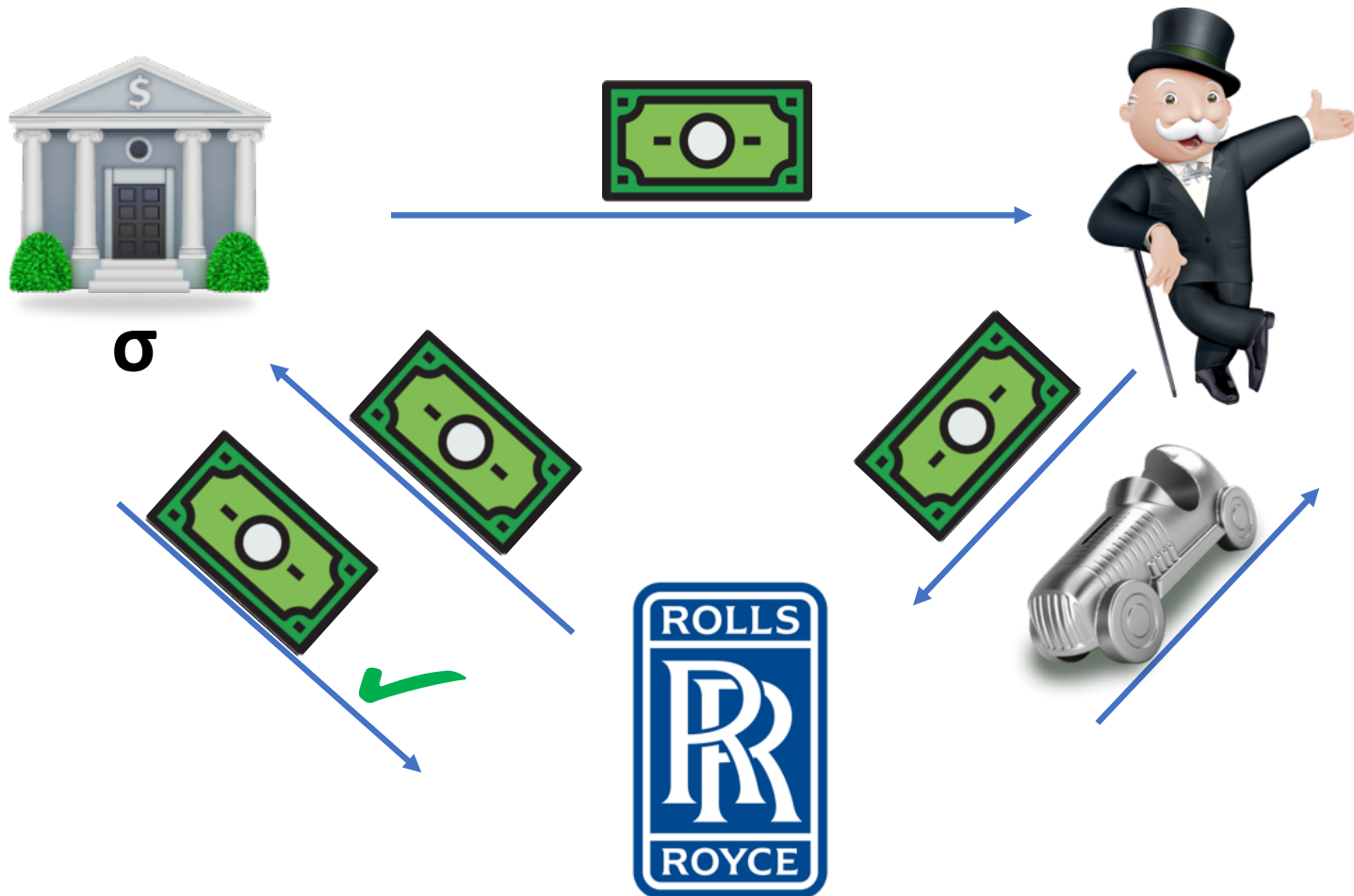
$= |\psi\rangle$



Serial # = classical  
description

Kept secret

# Limits of (Plain) Quantum Money



# Limits of (Plain) Quantum Money

Mint must be involved in verification

- Requires merchant and Mint to have quantum channel

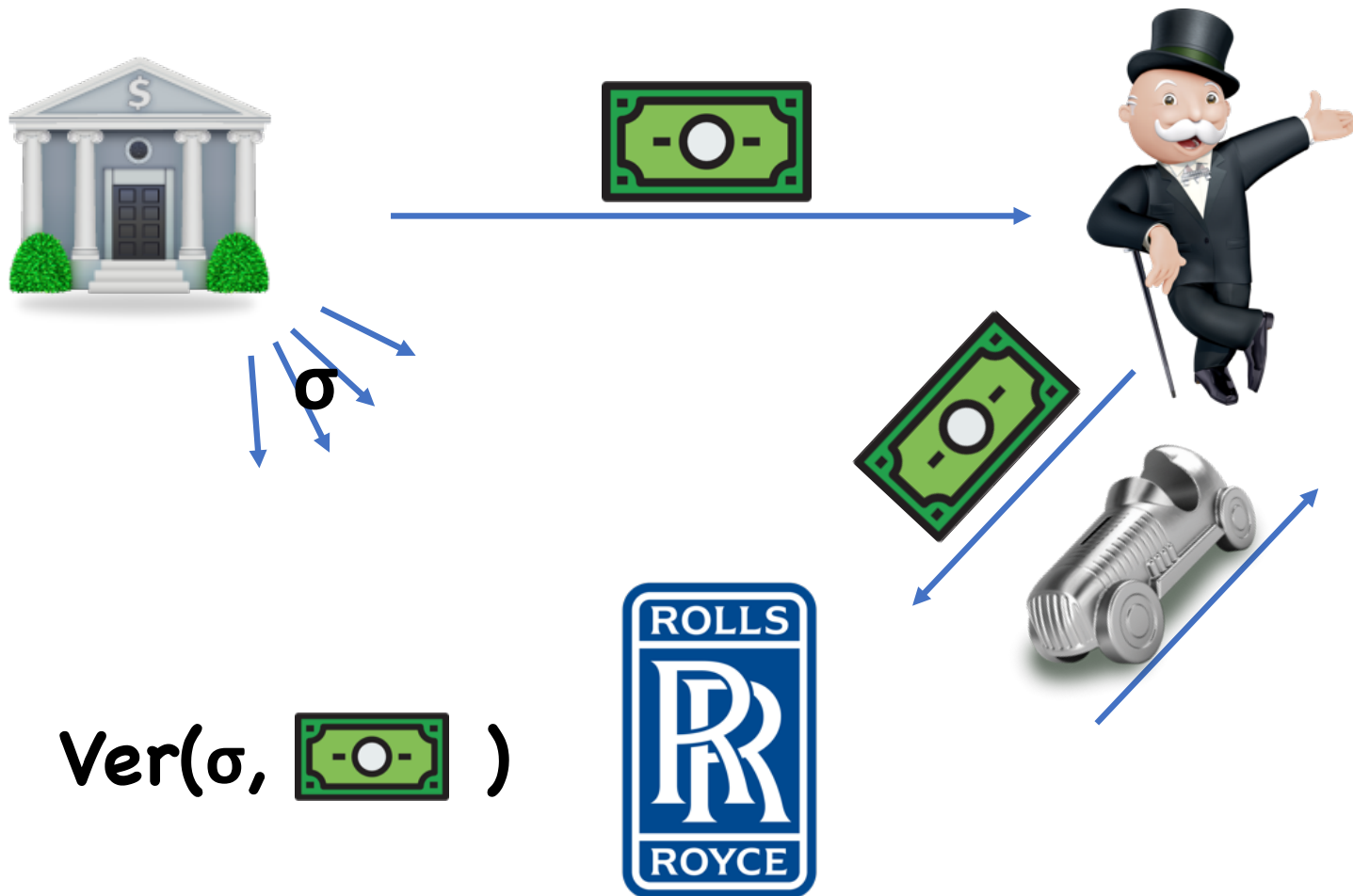
Moreover, having verification oracle can break security  
[Lutomirski'10]

- Can fix by replacing note with new bill every time

(Some proposals to circumvent difficulties [Mosca-Stebila'10, Gavinsky'10])

Decoherence?

# Public Key Quantum Money [Aaronson'09]



# Public Key Quantum Money [Aaronson'09]

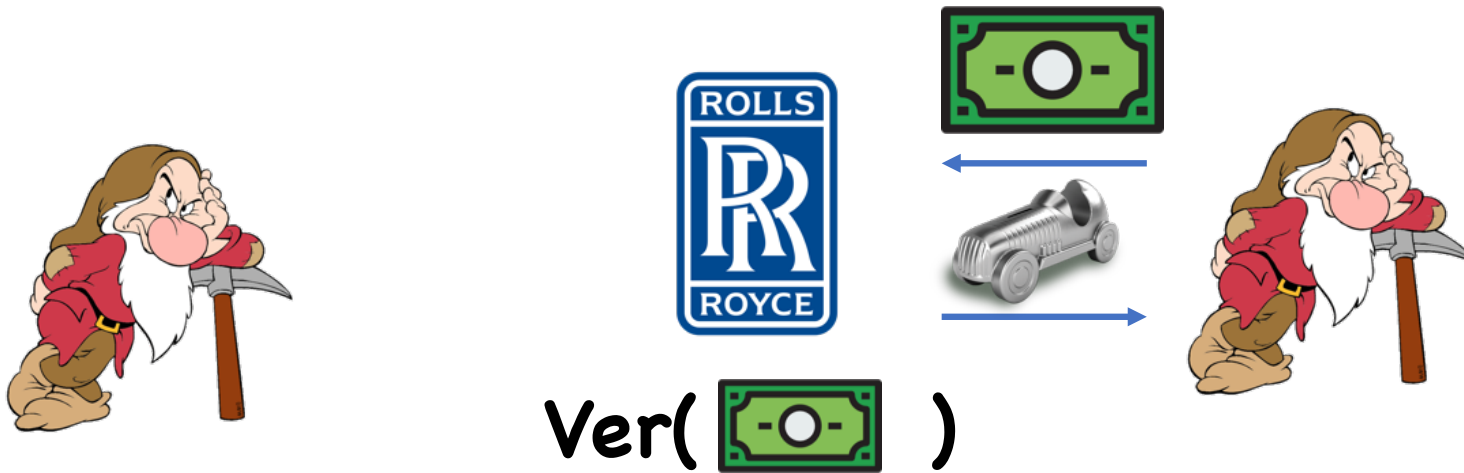


**PK Quantum Money = No-Cloning + Verification**

$Ver(\sigma, \text{banknote})$



# Bitcoin sans blockchain?





# Quantum Lightning

Let's pretend old adage is true of lightning in nature

Of course, can erect lightning rod to tamper with nature



**Quantum lightning = secure “digital” lightning immune to adversarial generation (aka lightning rods)**

- Impossible classically: can always reset to same initial conditions

**This work: study strong variants of no cloning**

- **New constructions**
- **Connections to post-quantum security**

# Quantum Background

Quantum states:



= superposition of **all** messages  
 $= \sum \alpha_x |x\rangle \quad (\sum |\alpha_x|^2 = 1)$

Measurement:



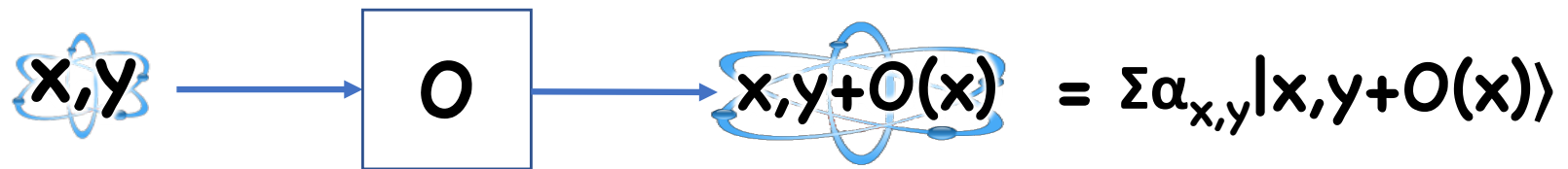
**x** with probability  $|\alpha_x|^2$

Operations: Unitary transformations on amplitude vectors

# Quantum Background

Example Operations:

- Simulate classical ops in superposition:

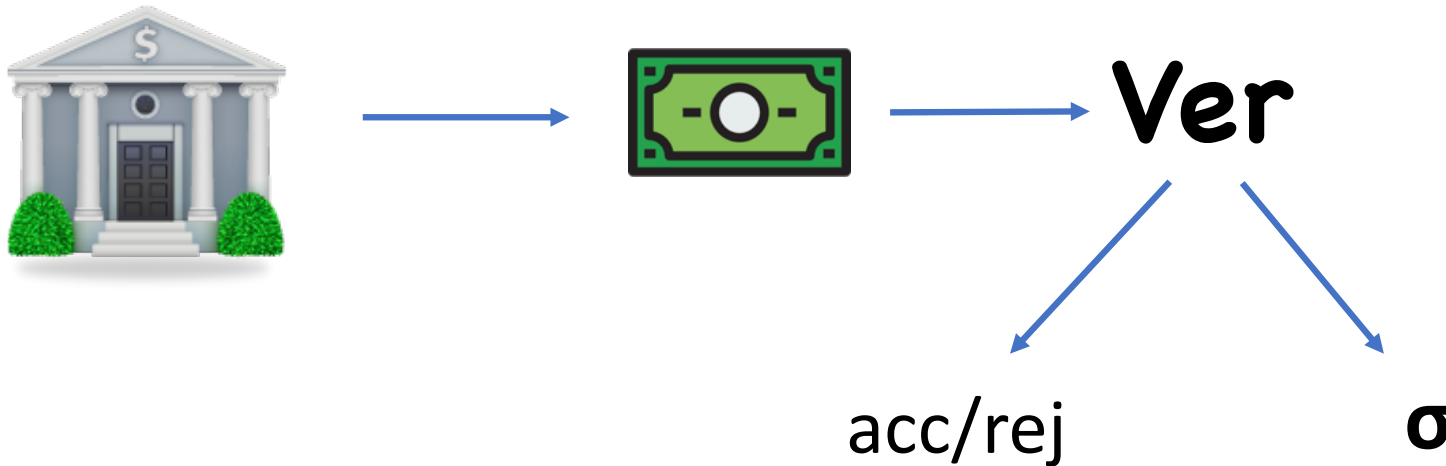


- Quantum Fourier Transform:



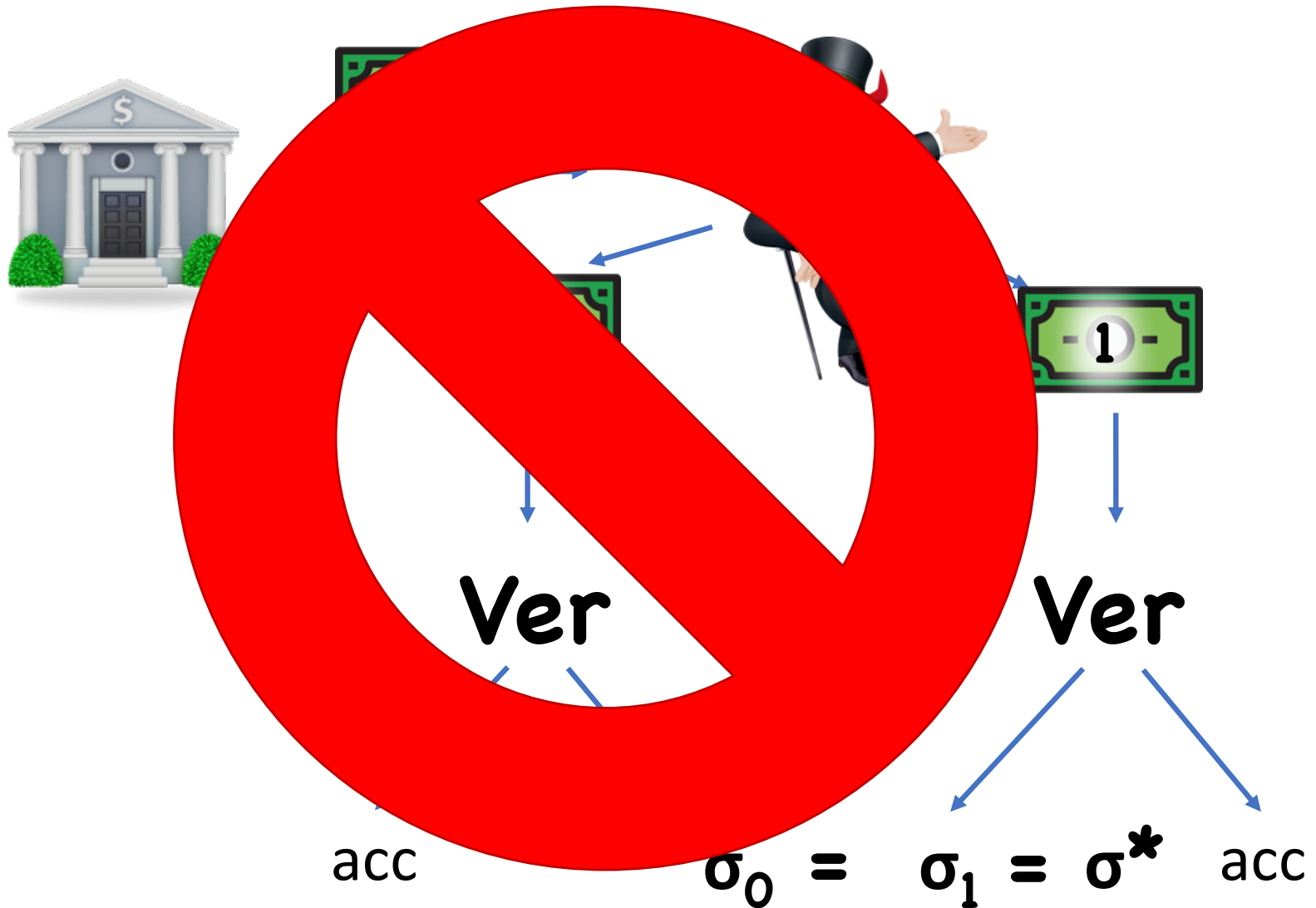
$$\hat{a}_y = (\sum \alpha_x \omega^{xy}) / C$$

# Public Key Quantum Money



- Verification accepts honest banknotes
- Verification leaves honest banknotes intact
- Repeated verification on honest banknotes results in same  $\sigma$

# Public Key Quantum Money



# Constructions of PK Quantum Money

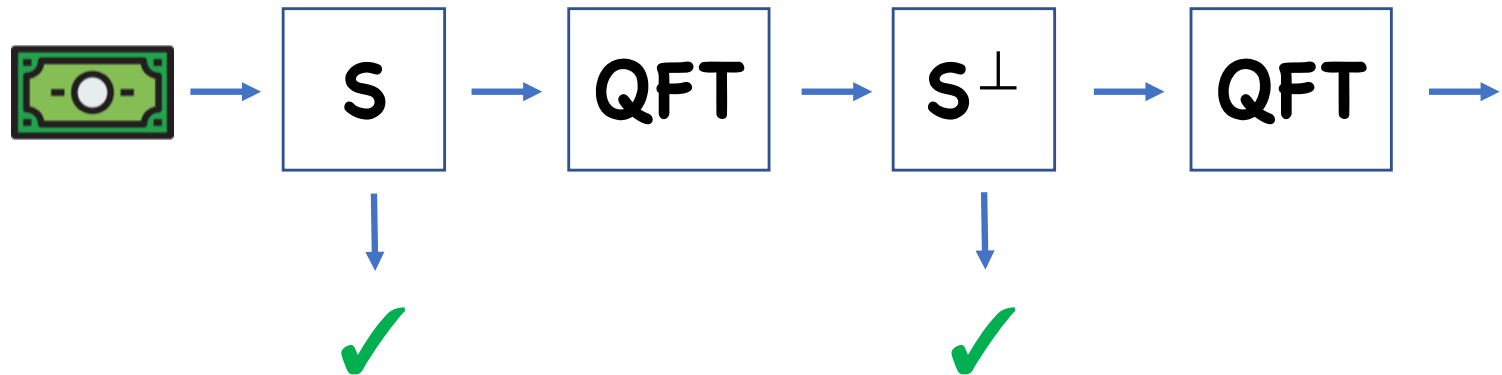
- [Aaronson'09]: (1) relative to **Quantum** oracle, (2) concrete candidate instantiation
  - (2) broken by [Lutomirski-Aaronson-Farhi-Gosset-Kelner-Hassidim-Shor'10]
- [Farhi-Gosset-Hassidim-Lutomirski-Shor'12]: from knots
- [Aaronson-Christiano'12]: (1) relative to **Classical** oracle, (2) concrete candidate instantiation
  - (2) broken by [Pena-Faugère-Perret'15]

# [Aaronson-Christiano'12]

Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be a  $d/2$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^d$

$$\text{coin} = \sum_{x \in S} |x\rangle$$

Ver:





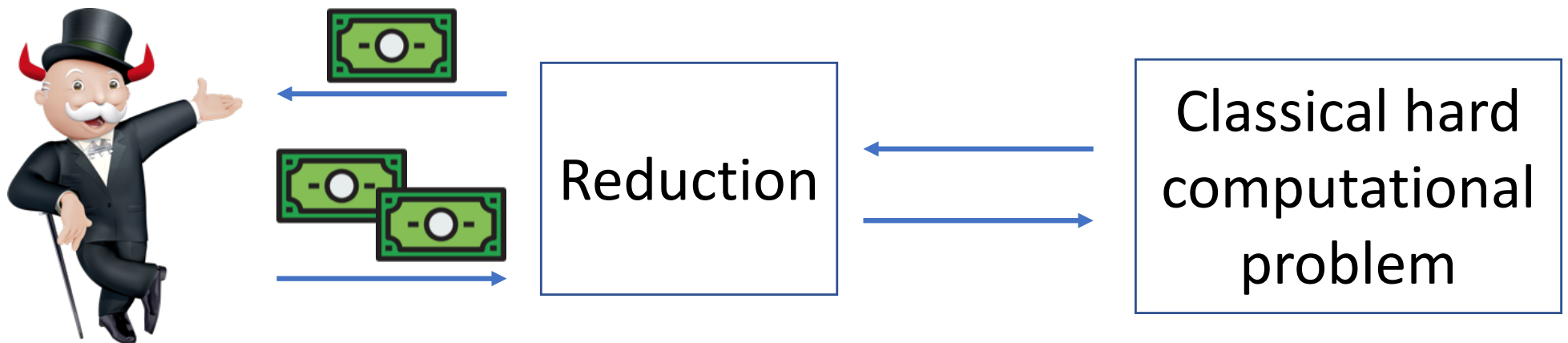
# [Aaronson-Christiano'12]

**Thm [Aaronson-Christiano'12]:** If  $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}^\perp$  given as oracles, no efficient quantum adversary can copy

Additionally provide candidate *obfuscator* for subspaces

- Serial number = obfuscations of  $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}^\perp$
- Proof relative to non-standard assumption
- Scheme/assumption broken by [Pena-Faugère-Perret'15]

# Barrier to Proving Quantum Money

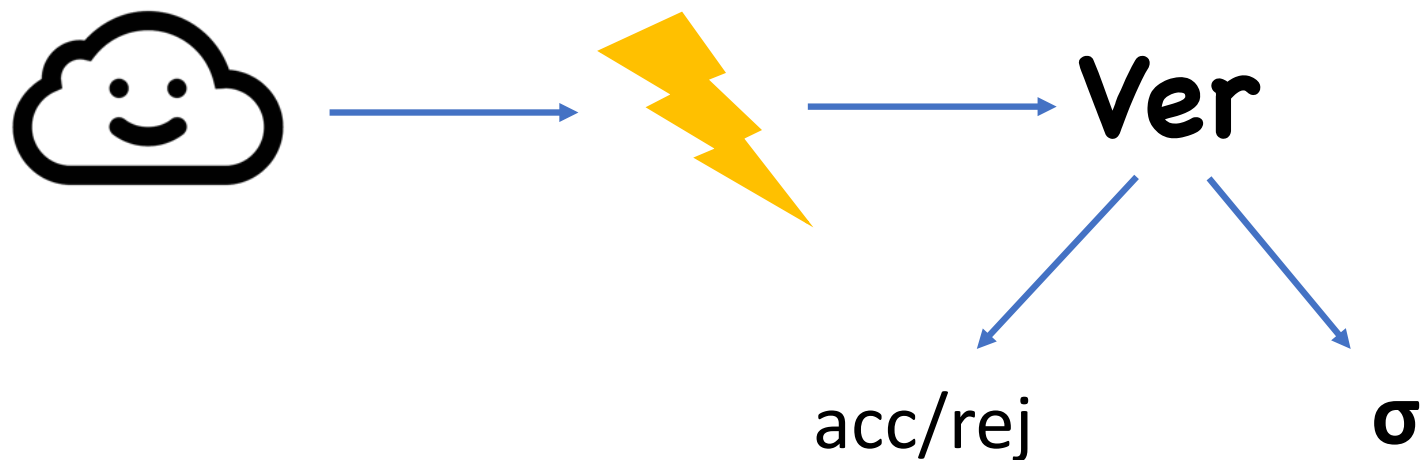


If adversary can produce a single banknote, why can't it produce two?

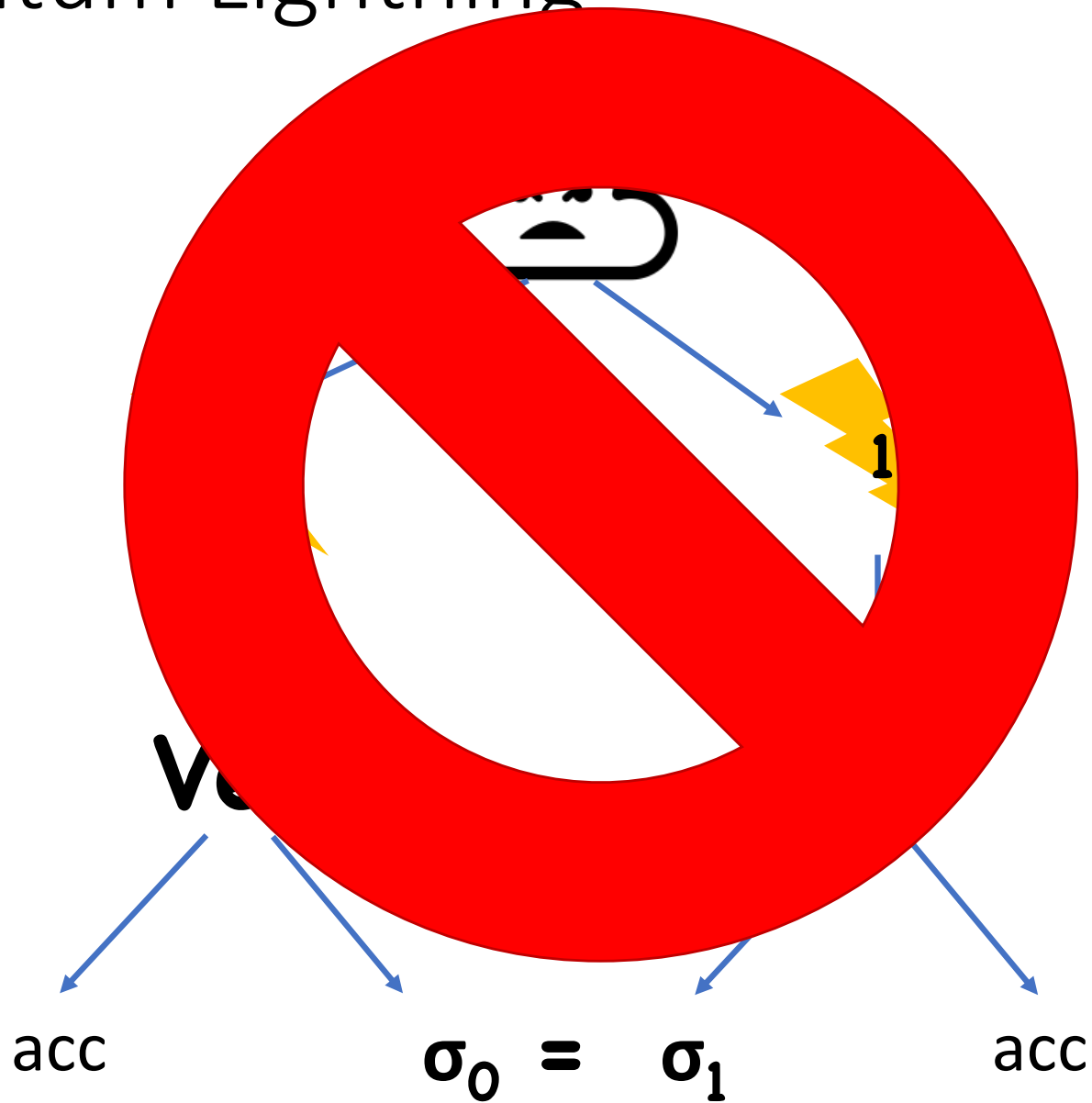
# Quantum Lightning

Aka “collision-free” quantum money

[Lutomirski-Aaronson-Farhi-Gosset-Kelner-Hassidim-Shor’10]



# Quantum Lightning



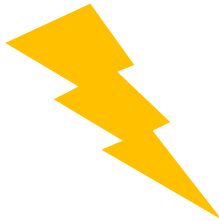
# Quantum Lightning

Applications:

- PK Quantum money
- Decentralized currency



=



s.t.  $H(\sigma) = O^n\{0,1\}^*$

- Provable min-entropy



proves that  $\sigma$  has min-entropy

Detour:  
Classical crypto in a  
quantum world

# (Bit) Commitment Schemes



# Hiding





# Binding



Commit  
Phase



# Limitation

Security goal: once Alice commits, there is a unique message she can de-commit to

Actual security notion: once Alice commits, she cannot simultaneously de-commit to both **0** and **1**

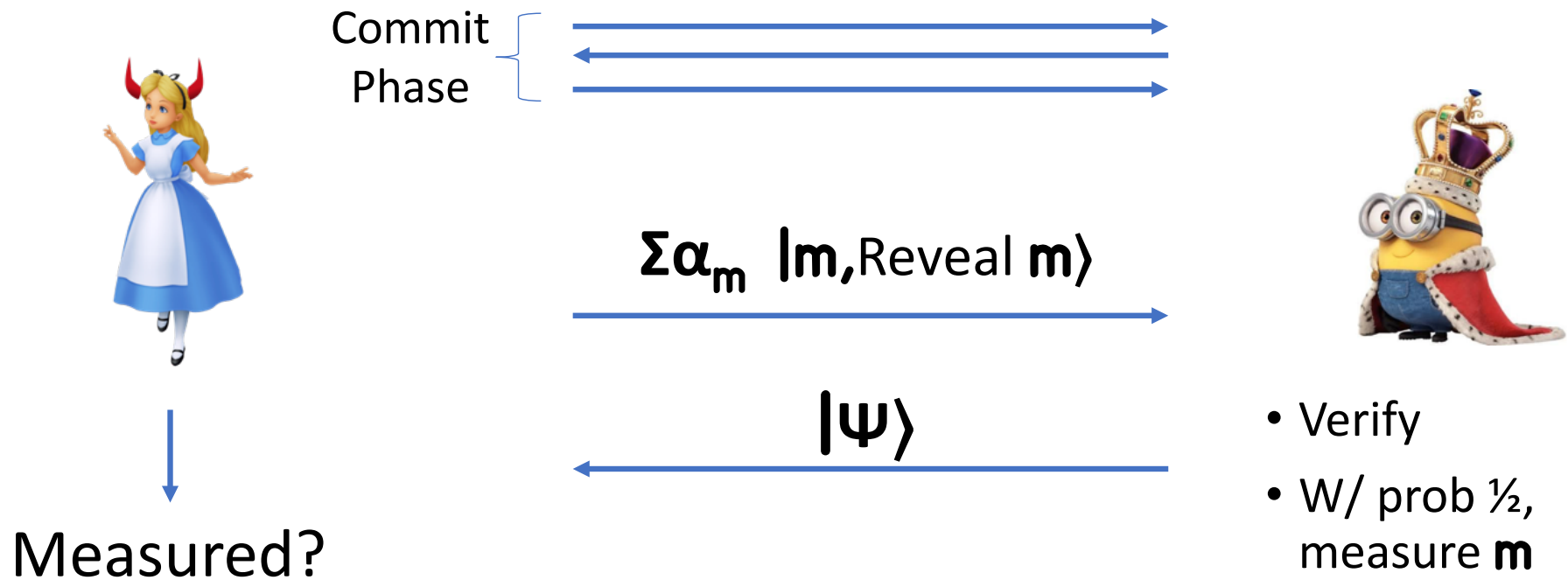
Classically, these two goals are the same (use rewinding), but quantumly, they may not be

# Limitation: Quantum Rewinding

Intuition:

- Alice may keep a state that allows her to decommit to either **0** or **1**
- Once she decommits to, say, **0**, she must measure to get classical decommitment  $\Rightarrow$  state collapses
- Cannot no longer rewind to evaluate on **1**

# Solution: Collapse-Binding [Unruh'16]



# Is this really a problem?

**Thm [Ambainis-Rosmanis-Unruh'14]:** Relative to a quantum oracle, there exists a commitment scheme that is classically binding, but an efficient quantum adversary can de-commit to either **0** or **1**

## What's this got to do with no-cloning?

# Either/Or Results

**Thm (Informal):** A **binding** commitment is either **collapse binding**, or can be used to build public key quantum money.

**Thm (Informal):** A *non-interactive* **binding** commitment is either **collapse binding**, or can be used to build quantum lightning.

Also show analogous statements for digital signatures, hash functions

# Intuition

**Thm (Informal):** A **binding** commitment is either **collapse binding**, or can be used to build public key quantum money.

What if we could clone adversary's post-commitment state?

- Then no need to rewind, definitions equivalent

So any separation inherently uses no-cloning

- Banknote/bolt = adversary's state
- For verification, check that adversary breaks collapse-binding

# Proof (Non-Interactive Case)

Assume:



**m** measured?

**comm**

$\sum \alpha_m |m, \text{Reveal } m\rangle$

$|\psi\rangle$



- Verify
- W/ prob  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  
measure **m**



# Proof (Non-Interactive Case)

Assume:



state



**m** measured?

*comm*

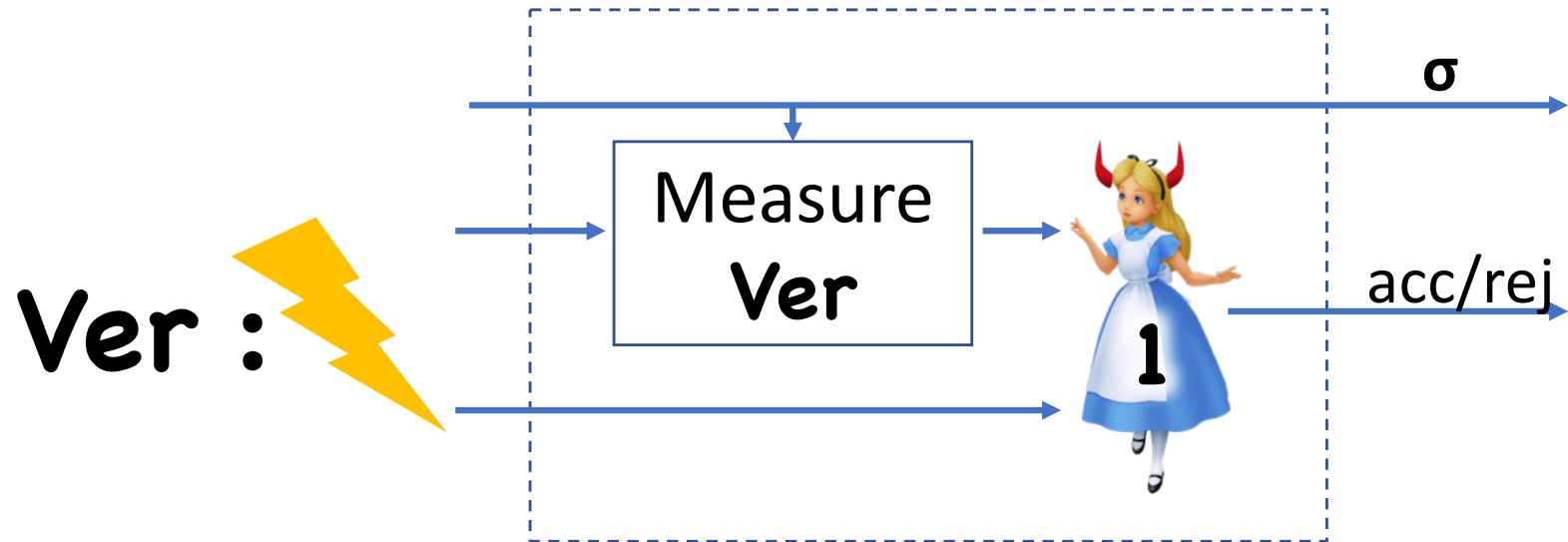
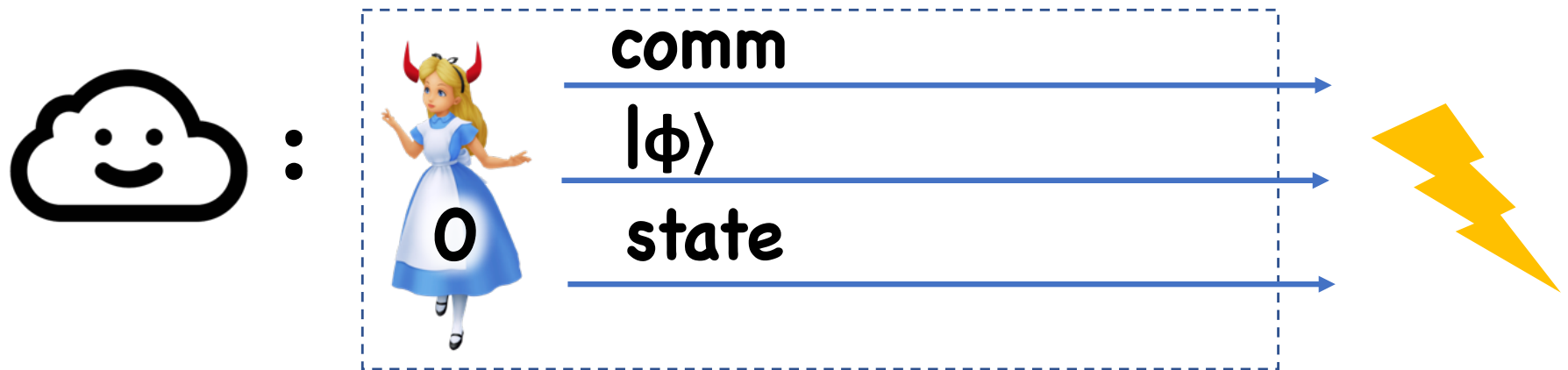
$$|\phi\rangle = \sum \alpha_m |m, \text{Reveal } m\rangle$$

$|\psi\rangle$



- Verify
- W/ prob  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  
measure **m**

# Proof (Non-Interactive Case)



# Proof (Non-Interactive Case)

Given two valid bolts with same serial number  $\sigma = \text{comm}$ ,

- Both  $|\phi\rangle$  contain only openings valid wrt **comm**
- Both  $|\phi\rangle$  are in superposition

Therefore, if we measure both bolts, we will get openings to both 0 and 1 with reasonable probability

# Proof Difficulties

- Alice may not be a perfect distinguisher
- Bolt may contain state that didn't come from Alice
- Need to rule out small success probabilities
- Verifier may not be able to rewind Alice perfectly
  - ⇒ Hard to simultaneously guarantee in superposition and contains only valid pre-images

# Takeaways

Two possible interpretations:

- (1) Quantum money is hard, so probably don't have to worry about these quantum security issues
- (2) Possible route toward building quantum money/lightning

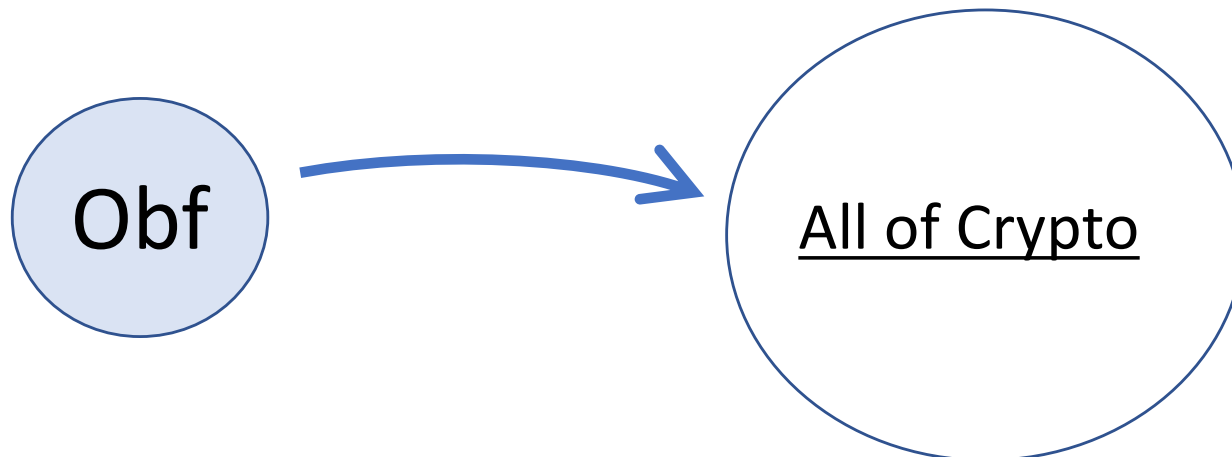
# New Constructions of Quantum Money/Lightning

# Program Obfuscation

“Scramble” a program

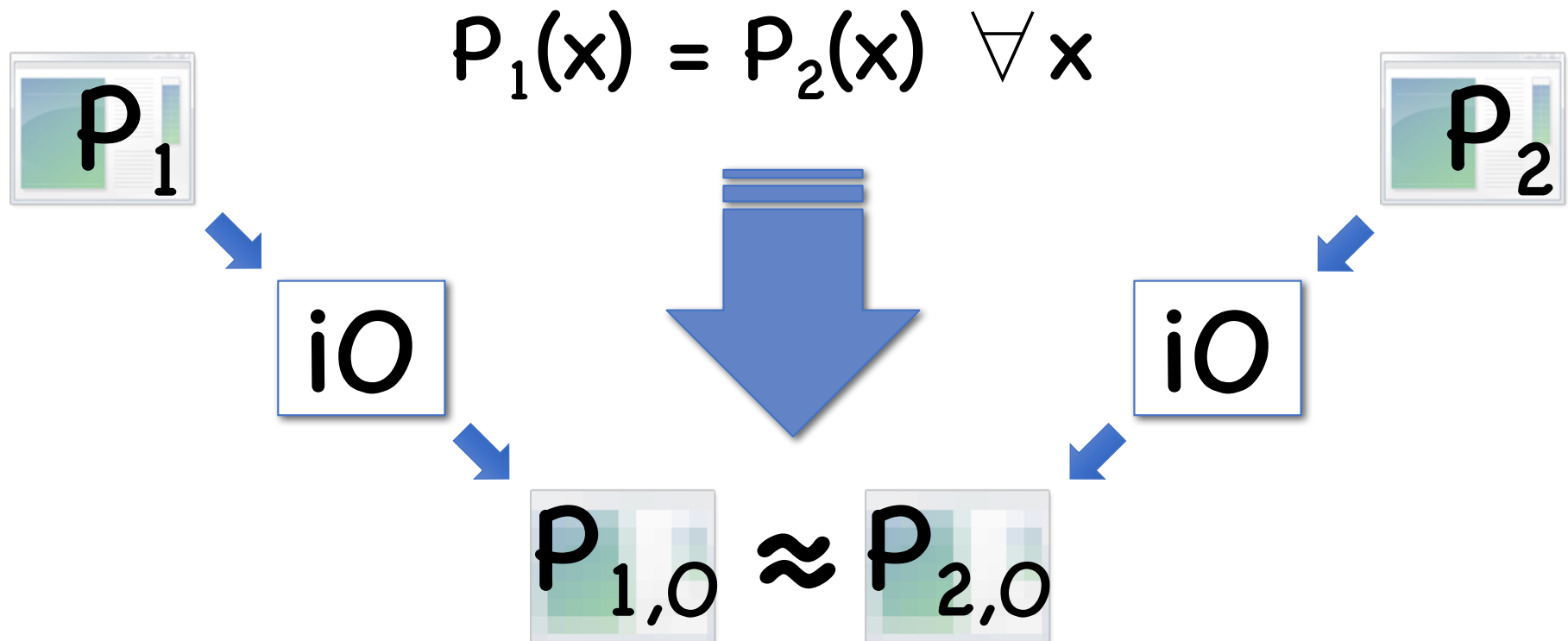
- Hide implementation details
- Maintain functionality

Golden goose of crypto, believed by many to be “crypto complete”



# Indistinguishability Obfuscation (iO)

[Barak-Goldreich-Impagliazzo-Rudich-Sahai-Vadhan-Yang'01]





# Candidate Constructions

First: [Garg-Gentry-Halevi-Raykova-Sahai-Waters'13]

- Based on “multilinear maps” from [Garg-Gentry-Halevi'12]

Many subsequent proposals, and attacks

- [Coron-Lepoint-Tibouchi'13, Cheon-Han-Lee-Ryu-Stehle'14, Boneh-Wu-Zimmerman'14, Brakerski-Rothblum'14, Barak-Garg-Kalai-Paneth-Sahai'14, Ananth-Gupta-Ishai-Sahai'14, Coron-Gentry-Halevi-Lepoint-Maji-Miles-Raykova-Sahai-Tibouchi'15, Hu-Jia'15, Brakerski-Gentry-Halevi-Lepoint-Sahai-Tibouchi'15, Coron-Lepoint-Tibouchi'15, Cheon-Lee-Ryu'15, Minaud-Fouque'15, Badrinarayanan-Miles-Sahai-Z'15, Miles-Sahai-Z'16, Garg-Miles-Mukherjee-Sahai-Srinivasan-Z'16, Chen-Gentry-Halevi'16,...]

**Quantum security unclear, but I strongly believe a construction exists**

# Folklore PK Quantum Money

Simply obfuscate oracles  $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}^\perp$  in [AC'12] using iO

Unfortunately, not so simple...

- Proving security for most tasks using iO is already hard (not uncommon to have 60+ page papers)
- Plus, difficulty discussed earlier

# Security Proof for QM from iO

**Thm:** If injective OWFs exist, then [Aaronson-Christiano'12] instantiated with iO is secure

# Security Proof for QM from iO

Proof idea:

- Don't use iO to directly prove cloning is hard
- Instead, use iO to convert adversary into information-theoretic cloner
- Then use information-theoretic techniques to rule out such a cloner

# Security Proof for QM from iO

Let  $\mathbf{T}$  be a random super-space of  $\mathbf{S}$  of dimension  $\frac{3}{4}d$

Let  $\mathbf{T}'$  be a random super-space of  $\mathbf{S}^\perp$  of dimension  $\frac{3}{4}d$

What if we instead obfuscate  $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}'$ ?

**Lemma:** By iO (plus injective OWFs), even if adversary knows  $\mathbf{S}$  (but not  $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}'$ ), can't tell difference between  $\mathbf{iO}(\mathbf{S}), \mathbf{iO}(\mathbf{S}^\perp)$  and  $\mathbf{iO}(\mathbf{T}), \mathbf{iO}(\mathbf{T}')$

Actually, suffices to have a good “subspace-hiding” obfuscator

# Security Proof for QM from iO

Equivalent way to generate  $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}'$ :

- Choose random  $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}'$  such that  $\mathbf{T}^\perp \subseteq \mathbf{T}'$
- Then choose random  $\mathbf{S}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{T}^\perp \subseteq \mathbf{S} \subseteq \mathbf{T}'$

# Security Proof for QM from iO

Suppose we obfuscate  $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}'$

Let  $|\Psi_S\rangle = \sum_{x \in S} |x\rangle$

Now adversary duplicates  $|\Psi_S\rangle$  for unknown  $S$

**Lemma:** Even if adversary knows  $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}'$ , cannot clone  $|\Psi_S\rangle$

Follows from a new quantitative version of no-cloning theorem

# Constructing Quantum Lightning

Apparently really hard (at least for me)

No known constructions from any existing tools

- Using [ARU'14] + obfuscator for *quantum* circuits + Either/Or result, may get *candidate*
- But no good candidates for quantum obfuscation

Instead, I devise a new assumption...



# Failed Approach to Quantum Lightning

The SIS hash function:

- Fix integers  $n, m, q, B$ ,  $m \gg n$ ,  $B \ll q$
- Let  $A$  be a random matrix in  $\mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$

$$H_A: [-B, B]^m \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^n$$
$$H_A(x) = A \cdot x$$

Collision resistant based on worst-case lattice problems

Maybe non-collapsing?

# Failed Approach to Quantum Lightning

Idea to show non-collapsing:

- Prepare state  $\sum_{\mathbf{x}} N_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}) |\mathbf{x}\rangle$

- If we apply  $H_A$  and measure, will get state

$$|\Psi_y\rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{x}: \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} = y} N_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}) |\mathbf{x}\rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} J_y(\mathbf{x}) N_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}) |\mathbf{x}\rangle$$

$J_y(\mathbf{x})$  indicator for  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} = y$

- QFT of this state:

$$|\Psi'_y\rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{e}} \omega^{y \cdot \mathbf{e}} N_{q/\sigma}(\mathbf{e}) |\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{e}\rangle$$

- Superposition of LWE samples!

# Quantum Lightning from Lattices?

Turns out SIS for random  $\mathbf{A}$  is collapsing\* [Liu-Z'19]

But maybe we can break SIS in such a way to allow decisional LWE to be easy?

- Obvious choice: give a short vector ( $\ll \sigma$ ) in kernel of  $\mathbf{A}$ . But then  $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{A}}$  is not collision resistant!

Open question: Devise distribution over  $\mathbf{A}$  such that:

- (1) SIS hard    (2) dec. LWE easy    (3) search LWE hard

\* for super-poly modulus, weaker notion for poly modulus

# Abstracted Construction

SIS is an example of a domain-constrained linear function

- Linear functions are easily cryptanalyzed by quantum

Maybe other domain restrictions are useful?

- Need to behave nicely with QFT

In paper, give candidate construction

- Interpret input as a matrix
- Domain constraint: low-rank matrix
- Show trapdoor that doesn't trivially break security
- Lots of annoying details

# Future Directions

Construct quantum lightning from iO (+LWE etc)

## Verifiable Entropy

- Quantum lightning gives quantum non-interactive proof of min-entropy
- [Brakerski-Christiano-Mahadev-Vazirani-Vidick'18] interactive privately verifiable classical proof of uniform randomness from LWE
- Goal: classical non-interactive proof?

## Other applications of no-cloning

- Un-clonable programs
- Various one-shot primitives (one-time memory, etc)

# Thanks!