

# Zero Knowledge Proofs

## SNARKs via Interactive Proofs

Instructors: Dan Boneh, Shafi Goldwasser, Dawn Song, **Justin Thaler**, Yupeng Zhang



# Recall: What is a SNARK ?

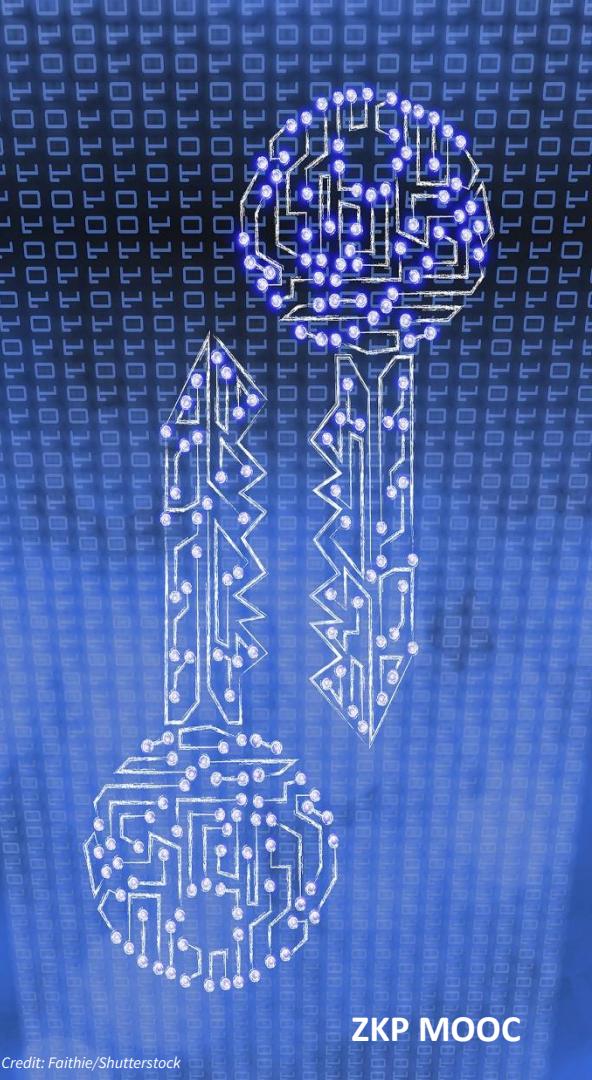
- **SNARK:** a succinct proof that a certain statement is true

Example statement: “I know an  $m$  such that  $\text{SHA256}(m) = 0$ ”

- **SNARK:** the proof is “**short**” and “**fast**” to verify  
[if  $m$  is 1GB then the trivial proof (the message  $m$ ) is neither]

**zk-SNARK:** the proof “reveals nothing” about  $m$  (privacy for  $m$ )

# Interactive Proofs: Motivation and Model



# Interactive Proofs

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Cloud Provider



Business/Agency/Scientist



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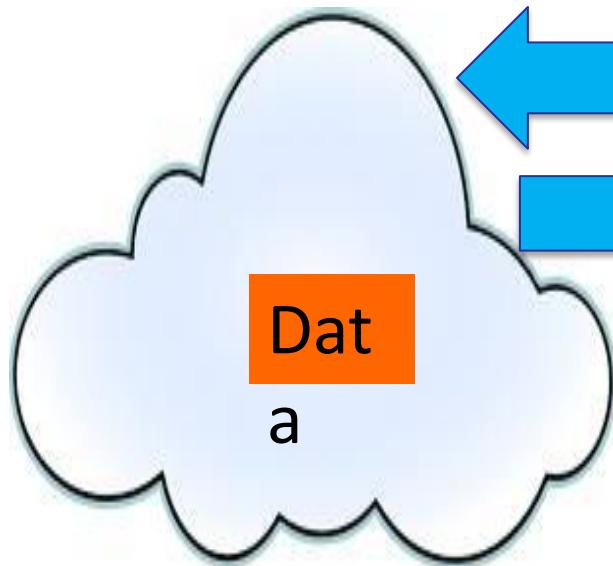


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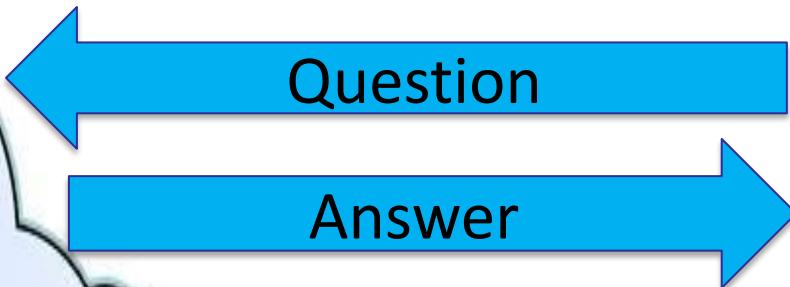


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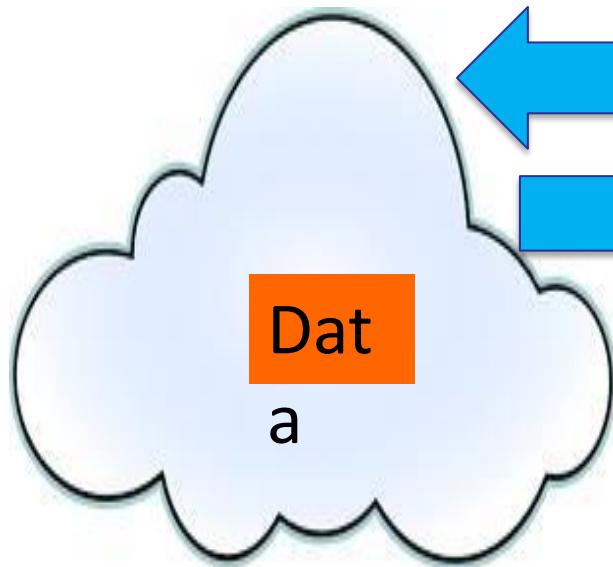


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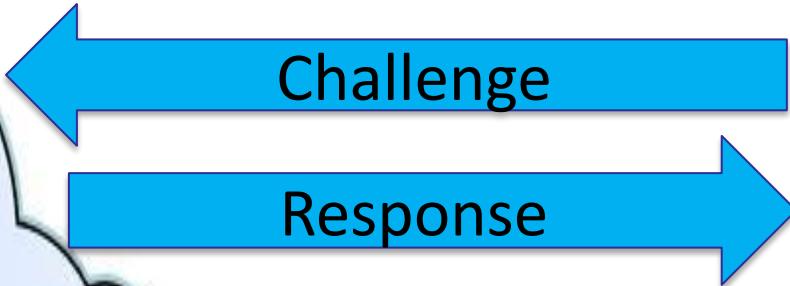


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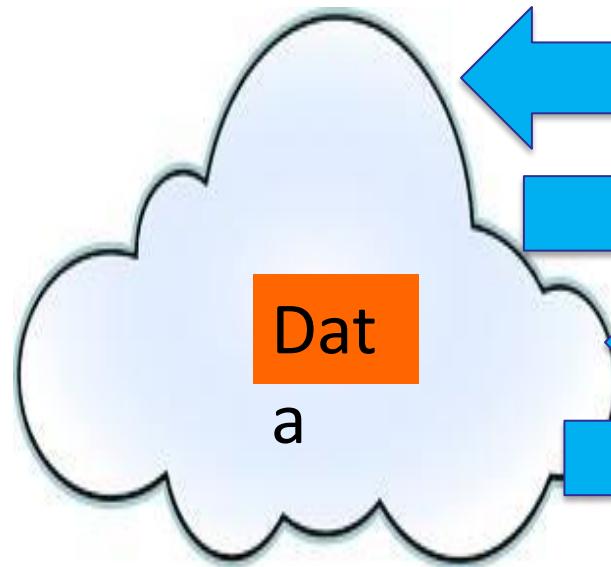


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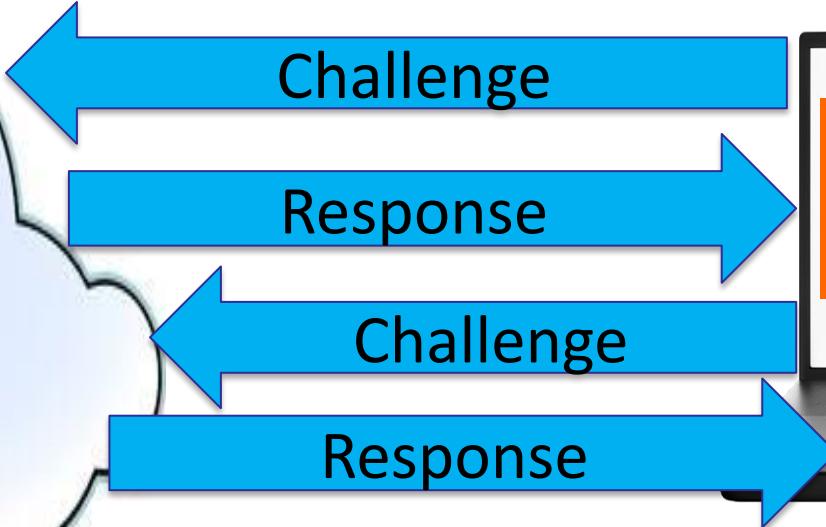


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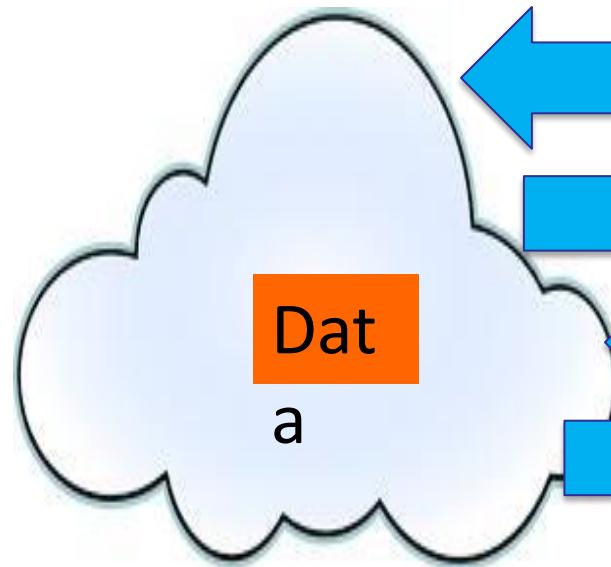


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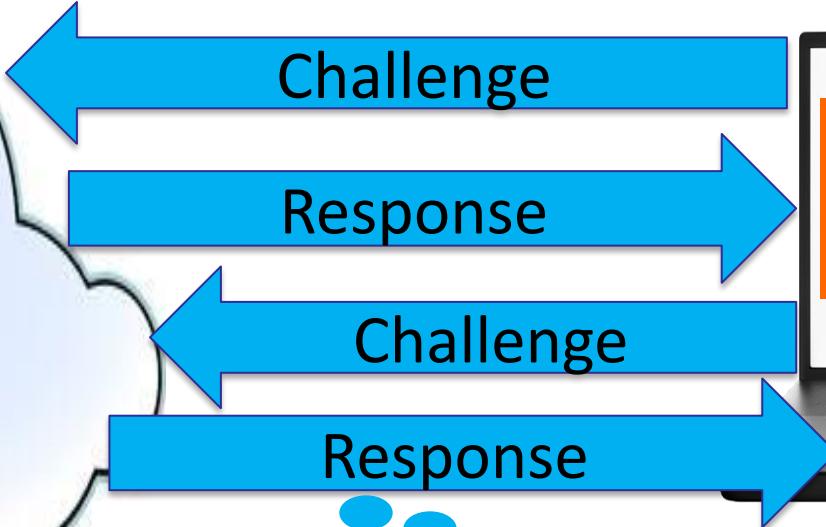


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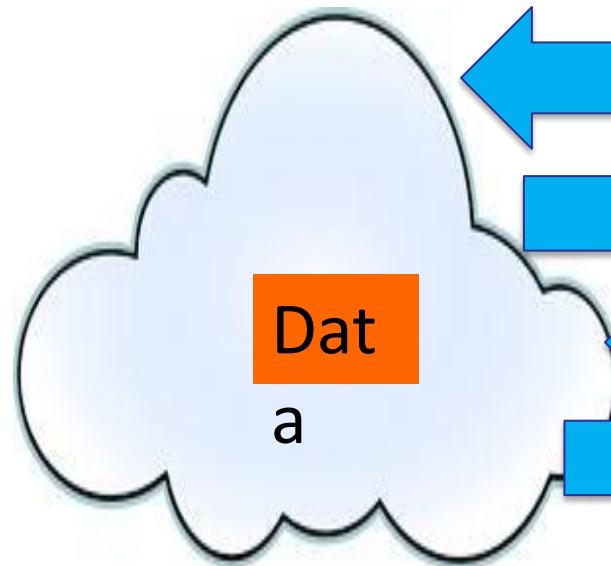


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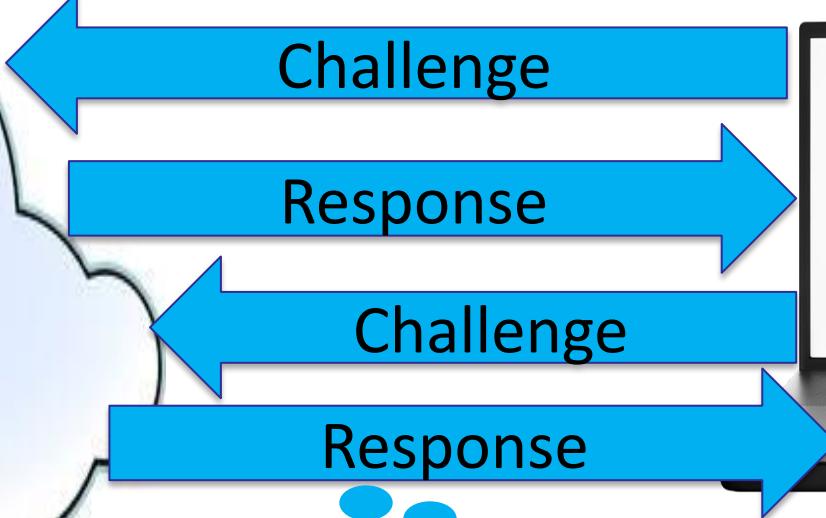


# Interactive Proofs

Cloud Provider



Business/Agency/Scientist



# Interactive Proofs

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- $\textcolor{red}{P}$  solves problem, tells  $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  the answer.
  - Then they have a conversation.
  - $\textcolor{red}{P}$ 's goal: convince  $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  the answer is correct.
- Requirements:
  - 1. Completeness: an honest  $\textcolor{red}{P}$  can convince  $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  to accept.
  - 2. (Statistical) Soundness:  $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  will catch a lying  $\textcolor{red}{P}$  with high probability.

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This must hold even if  $\textcolor{red}{P}$  is computationally unbounded and trying to trick  $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  into accepting the incorrect answer.

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  - Then they have a conversation.
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If soundness holds only against polynomial-time provers, then the protocol is called an interactive **argument**.

# Interactive Proofs and Arguments

- Compare **soundness** to **knowledge soundness** (last lecture) for circuit-satisfiability:

Public arithmetic circuit:

$$C(x, w) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

public statement in  $\mathbb{F}^n$       secret witness in  $\mathbb{F}^m$



# Interactive Proofs and Arguments

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- Compare **soundness** to **knowledge soundness** (last lecture) for circuit-satisfiability:
- **Sound:**  $V$  accepts  $\Rightarrow$  There exists  $w$  s.t.  $C(x, w) = 0$
- **Knowledge sound:**  $V$  accepts  $\Rightarrow P$  “knows”  $w$  s.t.  $C(x, w) = 0$
- Knowledge soundness is stronger.
- But standard soundness is meaningful even in contexts where knowledge soundness isn’t.
  - Because there’s no natural “witness”.
  - E.g.,  $P$  claims the output of  $V$ ’s program on  $x$  is 42.

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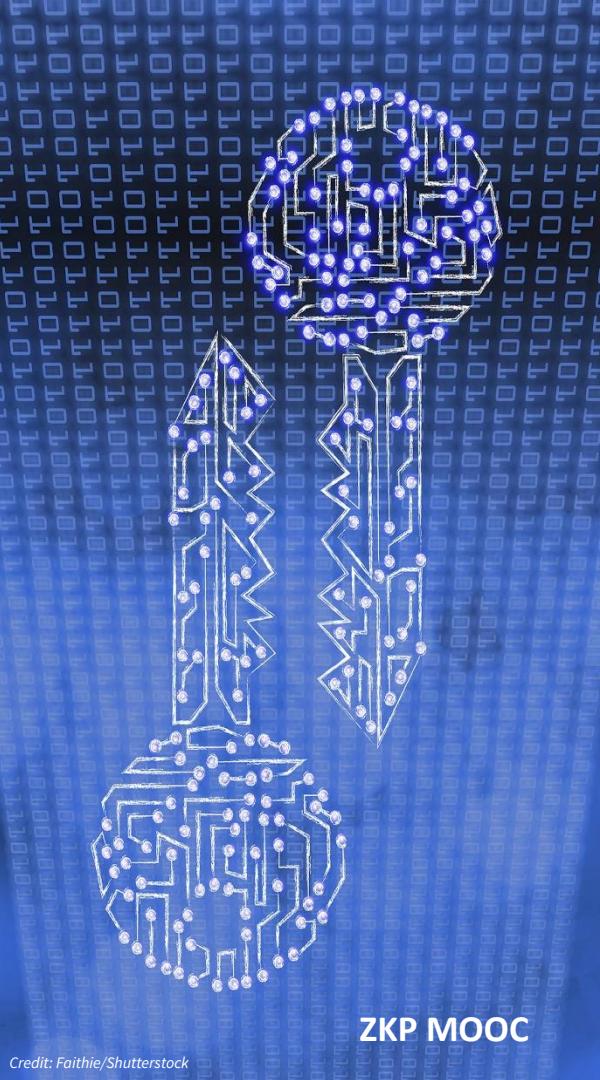
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- Knowledge soundness is stronger.
- Likewise, knowledge soundness is meaningful in contexts where standard soundness isn't.
  - e.g.,  $P$  claims to know the secret key that controls a certain bitcoin wallet.

# Public Verifiability

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- Interactive proofs and arguments only convince the party that is choosing/sending the random challenges.
- This is bad if there are many verifiers (as in most blockchain applications).
  - $\text{P}$  would have to convince each verifier separately.
- For public coin protocols, we have a solution: Fiat-Shamir.
  - Makes the protocol non-interactive + publicly verifiable.

# SNARKs from interactive proofs: outline



# Recall: The trivial SNARK is not a SNARK

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- (a) Prover sends  $w$  to verifier,
- (b) Verifier checks if  $C(x, w) = 0$  and accepts if so.

## Problems with this:

- (1)  $w$  might be long: we want a “short” proof
- (2) computing  $C(x, w)$  may be hard: we want a “fast” verifier
- (3)  $w$  might be secret: prover might not want to reveal  $w$  to verifier

# SNARKS from Interactive Proofs (IPs)

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- Slightly less trivial:  $P$  sends  $w$  to  $V$ , and uses an IP to prove that  $w$  satisfies the claimed property.
  - Fast  $V$ , but proof is still too long.

Actual SNARK:  $P$  commits cryptographically to  $w$ .

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Reveals just enough information about the committed witness  $w$  to allow  $V$  to run its checks in the IP.

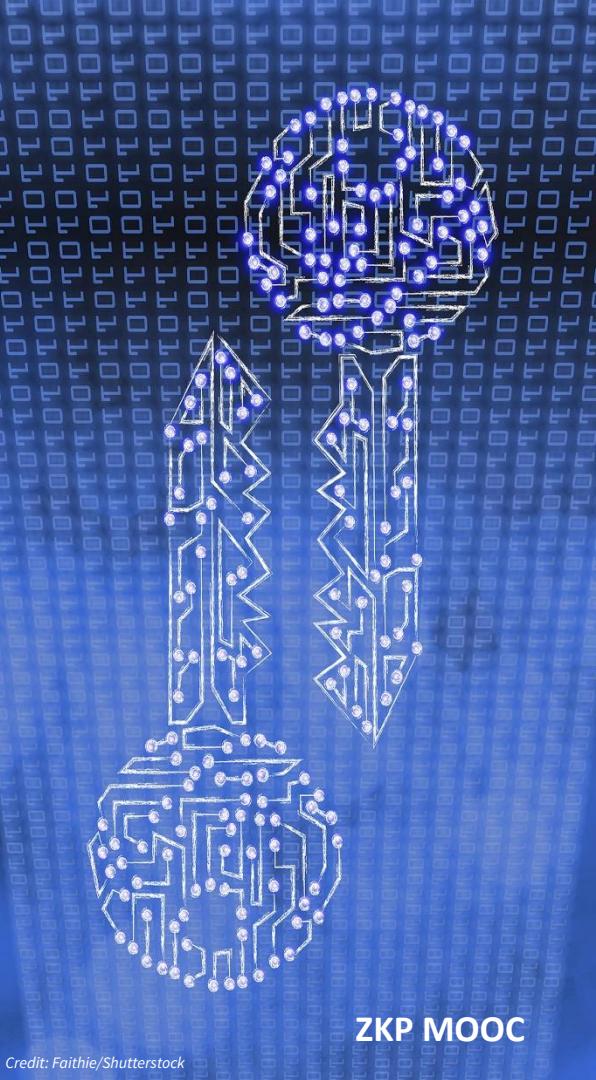
Render the protocol non-interactive via Fiat-Shamir.

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  - Render non-interactive via Fiat-Shamir.

# Review of functional commitments



# Recall: three important functional commitments

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**Polynomial commitments:** commit to a univariate  $f(X)$  in  $\mathbb{F}_p^{(\leq d)}[X]$

**Multilinear commitments:** commit to multilinear  $f$  in  $\mathbb{F}_p^{(\leq 1)}[X_1, \dots, X_k]$   
e.g.,  $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = x_1x_3 + x_1x_4x_5 + x_7$

**Vector commitments (e.g., Merkle trees):**

- Commit to  $\vec{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_d) \in \mathbb{F}_p^d$ .      Open cells:  $f_{\vec{u}}(i) = u_i$

Inner product commitments (inner product arguments – IPA):

Commit to  $\vec{u} \in \mathbb{F}_p^d$ .      Open an inner product:  $f_{\vec{u}}(\vec{v}) = (\vec{u}, \vec{v})$

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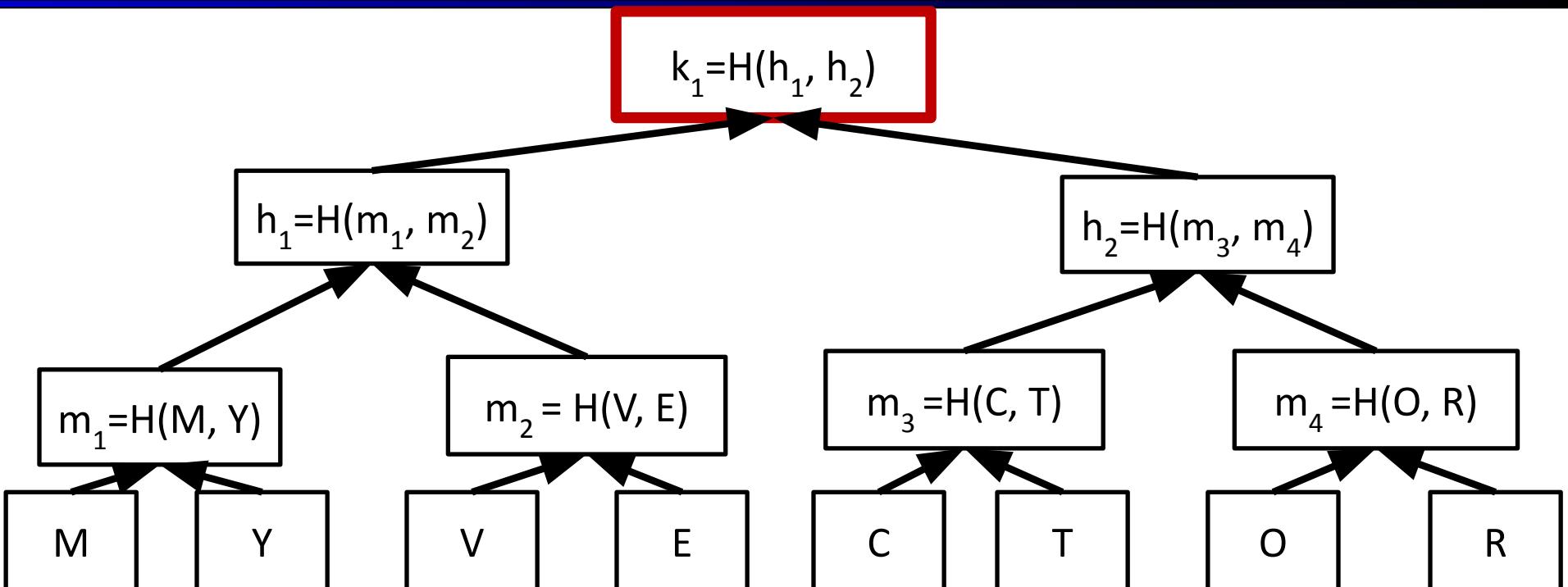
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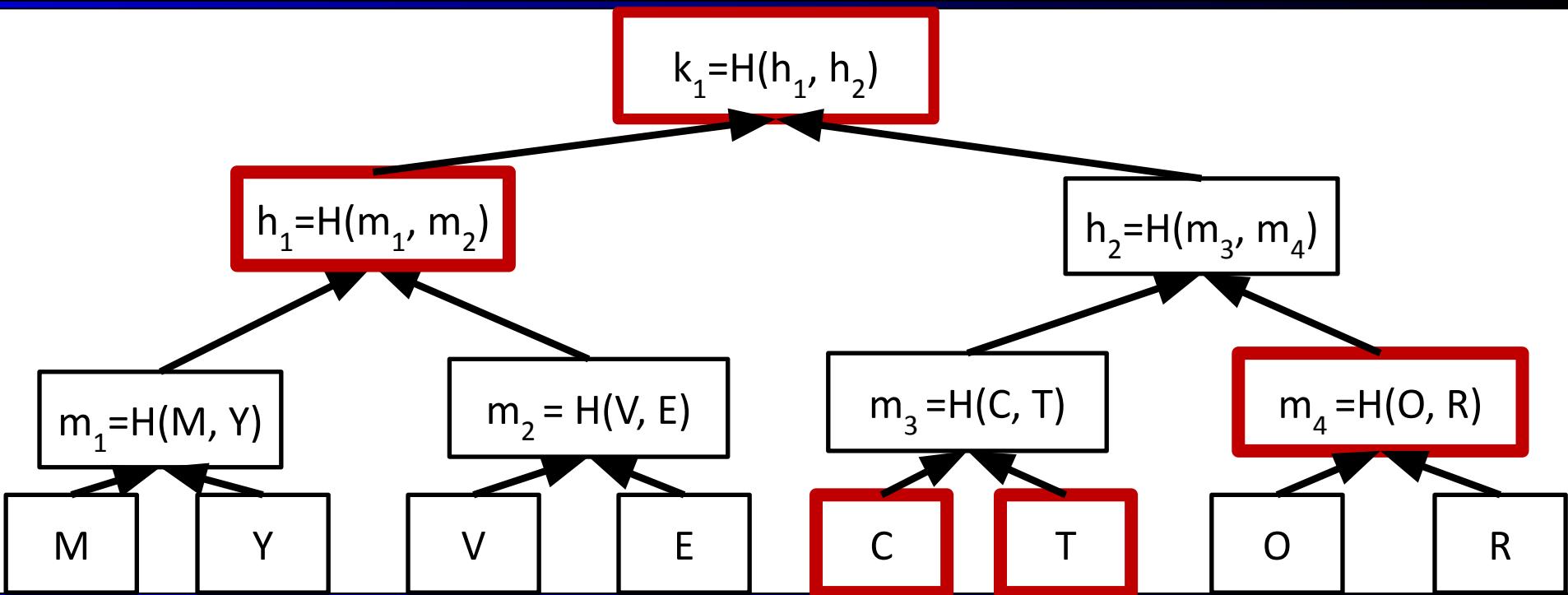
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# Merkle Trees: The Commitment



# Merkle Trees: Opening Leaf T



# Merkle Trees

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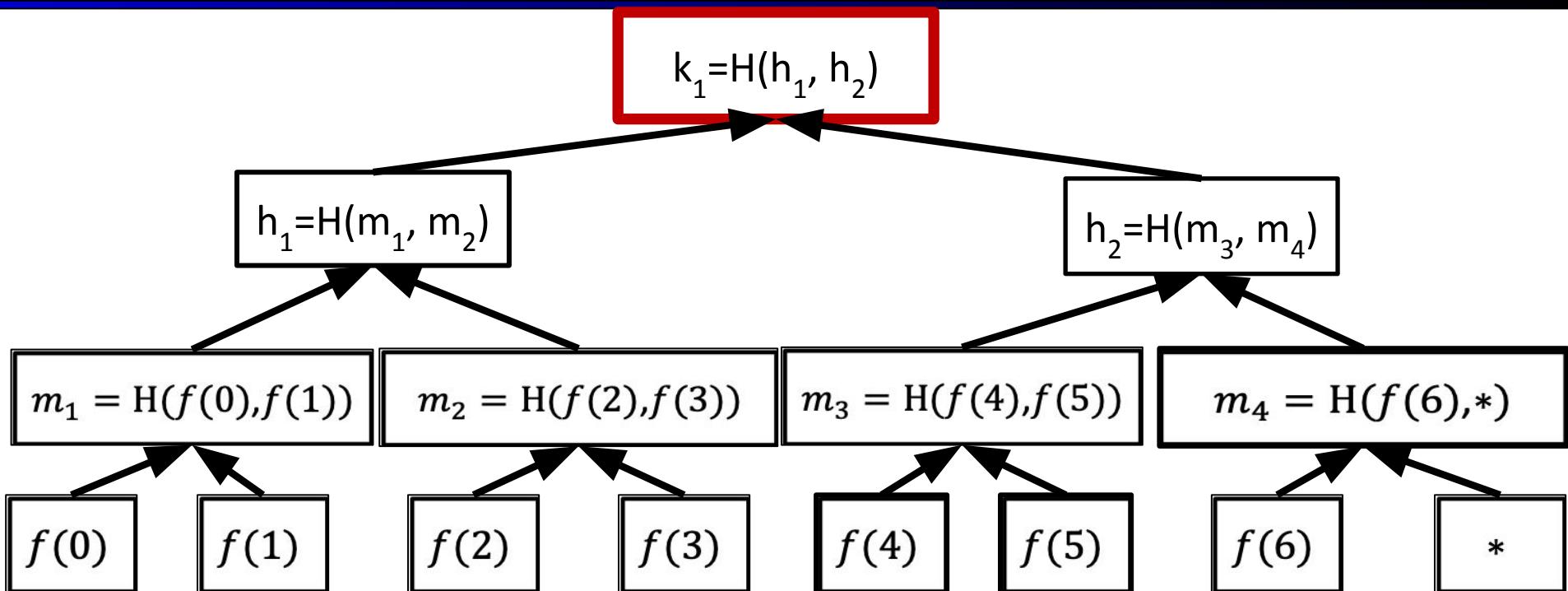
- Commitment to vector is root hash.
- To open an entry of the committed vector (leaf of the tree):
  - Send sibling hashes of all nodes on root-to-leaf path.
  - $\mathbb{V}$  checks these are consistent with the root hash.
  - “Opening proof” size is  $O(\log n)$  hash values.

# Merkle Trees

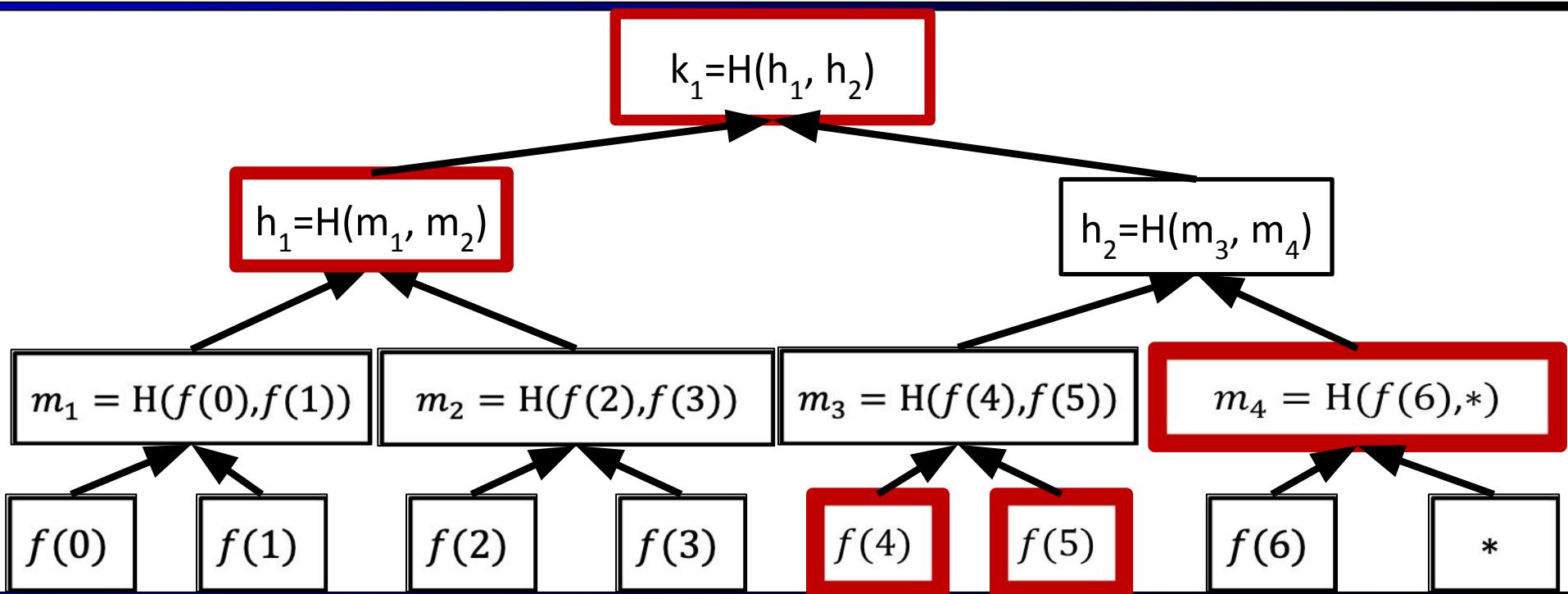
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  - “Opening proof” size is  $O(\log n)$  hash values.
- Binding: once the root hash is sent, the committer is bound to a fixed vector.
  - Opening any leaf to two different values requires finding a hash collision (assumed to be intractable).

# A First Polynomial commitment: commit to a univariate $f(X)$ in $\mathbb{F}_7^{(\leq d)}[X]$



# Reveal $f(4)$



## Summary: commit to a univariate $f(X)$ in $\mathbb{F}^{(\leq d)}[X]$

---

- **P** Merkle-commits to all evaluations of the polynomial  $f$ .
- When **V** requests  $f(r)$ , **P** reveals the associated leaf along with opening information.

Two problems:

The number of leaves is  $|\mathbb{F}|$ , which means the time to compute the commitment is at least  $|\mathbb{F}|$ .

Big problem when working over large fields (say,  $|\mathbb{F}| \approx 2^{64}$  or  $|\mathbb{F}| \approx 2^{128}$ ).

Want time proportional to the degree bound  $d$ .

**V** does not know if  $f$  has degree at most  $d$ !

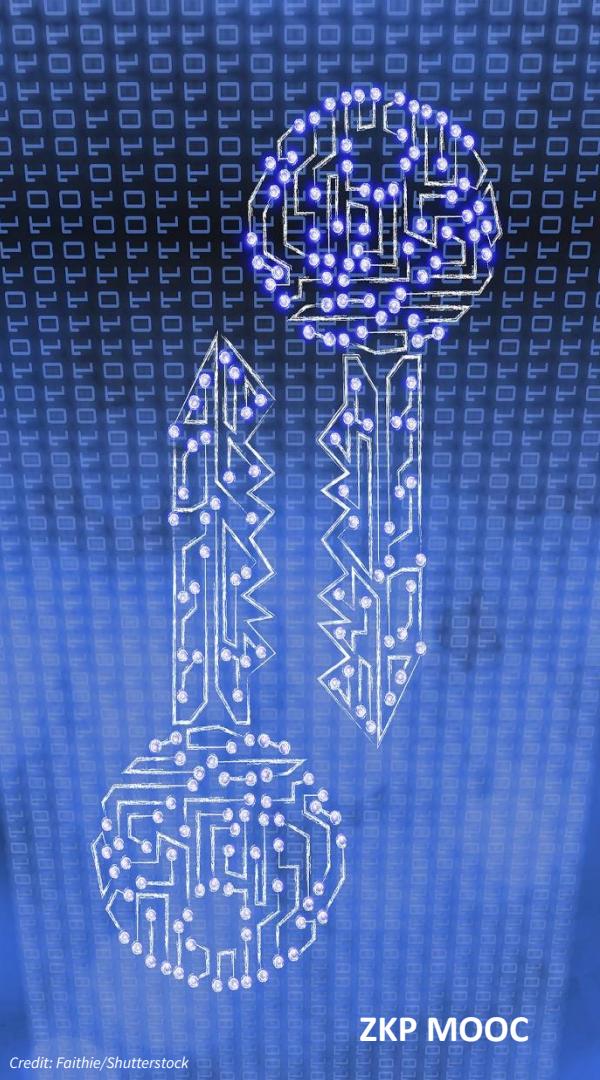
We'll explain how to address both issues later in the course.

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# Interactive proof design: Technical preliminaries



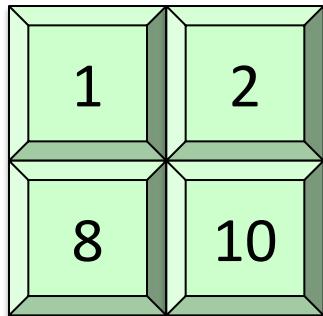
# Recap: SZDL Lemma

- Recall **FACT:** Let  $p \neq q$  be univariate polynomials of degree at most  $d$ . Then  $\Pr_{r \in \mathbb{F}}[p(r) = q(r)] \leq \frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ .
- The **Schwartz-Zippel-Demillo-Lipton lemma** is a multivariate generalization:
  - Let  $p \neq q$  be  $\ell$ -variate polynomials of total degree at most  $d$ . Then  $\Pr_{r \in \mathbb{F}^\ell}[p(r) = q(r)] \leq \frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ .
  - “Total degree” refers to the maximum sum of degrees of all variables in any term. E.g.,  $x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2$  has total degree 3.

# Low-Degree and Multilinear Extensions

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- **Definition [Extensions].** Given a function  $f: \{0,1\}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ , a  $\ell$ -variate polynomial  $g$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  is said to **extend**  $f$  if  $f(x) = g(x)$  for all  $x \in \{0,1\}^\ell$ .
- **Definition [Multilinear Extensions].** Any function  $f: \{0,1\}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  has a **unique** multilinear extension (MLE), denoted  $\tilde{f}$ .
  - Multilinear means the polynomial has degree at most 1 in each variable.
  - $(1 - x_1)(1 - x_2)$  is multilinear,  $x_1^2 x_2$  is not.

$f:\{0,1\}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ 

$$\tilde{f}: \mathbb{F}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

1	2	3	4	5	6
8	10	12	14	16	18
15	18	21	24	27	30
22	26	30	34	38	42
29	34	39	44	49	56

•••

$$\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) = (1 - x_1)(1 - x_2) + 2(1 - x_1)x_2 + 8x_1(1 - x_2) + 10x_1x_2$$

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Can check:

$$\tilde{f}(0, 0) = 1$$

$$\tilde{f}(0, 1) = 2$$

$$\tilde{f}(1, 0) = 8$$

$$\tilde{f}(1, 1) = 10$$

Another (non-multilinear) extension of  $f$ :  $g(x_1, x_2) = -x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + 8x_1 + x_2 + 1$

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# Evaluating multilinear extensions quickly

- Fact: Given as input all  $2^\ell$  evaluations of a function  $f: \{0,1\}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ , for any point  $r \in \mathbb{F}^\ell$  there is an  $O(2^\ell)$ -time algorithm for evaluating  $\tilde{f}(r)$ .  
Sketch: Use Lagrange interpolation.

Define  $\delta_w(r) = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} (r_i w_i + (1 - r_i)(1 - w_i))$ . This is called the multilinear Lagrange basis polynomial corresponding to  $w$ .

Fact:  $\tilde{f}(r) = \sum_{w \in \{0,1\}^\ell} f(w) \cdot \delta_w(r)$ .

For each  $w \in \{0,1\}^\ell$ ,  $\delta_w(r)$  can be computed with  $O(\ell)$  field operations.

Yield

a an  $O(\ell 2^\ell)$ -time algorithm.

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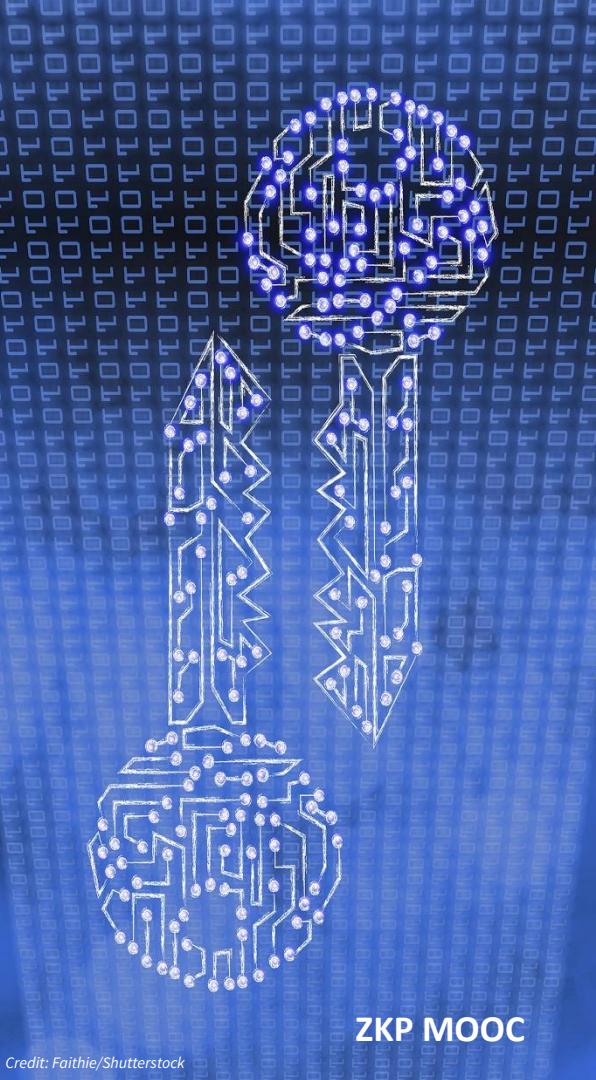
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    - Yields an  $O(\ell 2^\ell)$ -time algorithm.
    - Can reduce to time  $O(2^\ell)$  via dynamic programming.

# The sum-check protocol



# Sum-Check Protocol [LFKN90]

- Input:  $\mathsf{V}$  given oracle access to a  $\ell$ -variate polynomial  $g$  over field  $\mathbb{F}$ .
- Goal: compute the quantity:

$$\sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(b_1, \dots, b_\ell).$$

# Sum-Check Protocol [LFKN90]

- Start: P sends claimed answer  $C_1$ . The protocol must check that:

$$C_1 = \sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(b_1, \dots, b_\ell).$$

Round 1: P sends univariate polynomial  $s_1(X_1)$  claimed to equal:

$$H_1(X_1) := \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(X_1, b_2, \dots, b_\ell)$$

V checks that  $C_1 = s_1(0) + s_1(1)$ .

If this check passes, it is safe for V to believe that  $C_1$  is the correct answer, so long as V believes that  $s_1 = H_1$ .

How to check this? Just check that  $s_1$  and  $H_1$  agree at a random point  $r_1$ .

V can compute  $s_1(r_1)$  directly from P's first message, but not  $H_1(r_1)$ .

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$$C_1 = \sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(b_1, \dots, b_\ell).$$

- **Round 1:**  $\text{P}$  sends **univariate** polynomial  $s_1(X_1)$  claimed to equal:

$$H_1(X_1) := \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(X_1, b_2, \dots, b_\ell)$$

$\text{V}$  checks that  $C_1 = s_1(0) + s_1(1)$ .

If this check passes, it is safe for  $\text{V}$  to believe that  $C_1$  is the correct answer, so long as  $\text{V}$  believes that  $s_1 = H_1$ .

How to check this? Just check that  $s_1$  and  $H_1$  agree at a random point  $r_1$ .

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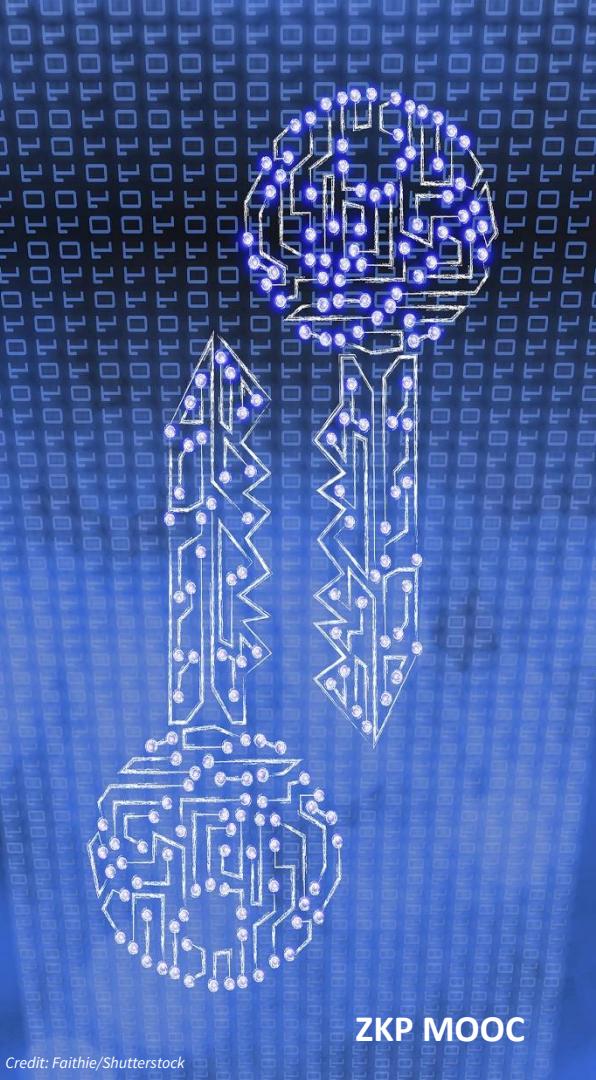
# Sum-Check Protocol [LFKN90]

- **Round  $\ell$  (Final round):**  $\text{P}$  sends univariate polynomial  $s_\ell(X_\ell)$  claimed to equal

$$H_\ell := g(r_1, \dots, r_{\ell-1}, X_\ell).$$

- $\text{V}$  checks that  $s_{\ell-1}(r_{\ell-1}) = s_\ell(0) + s_\ell(1)$ .
- $\text{V}$  picks  $r_\ell$  at random, and needs to check that  $s_\ell(r_\ell) = g(r_1, \dots, r_\ell)$ .
  - No need for more rounds.  $\text{V}$  can perform this check with one oracle query.

# Analysis of the sum-check protocol



# Completeness

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- Completeness holds by design: If  $P$  sends the prescribed messages, then all of  $V$ 's checks will pass.

# Soundness

---

- If  $\text{P}$  does not send the prescribed messages, then  $\text{V}$  rejects with probability at least  $1 - \frac{\ell \cdot d}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ , where  $d$  is the maximum degree of  $g$  in any variable.
- E.g.  $|\mathbb{F}| \approx 2^{128}$ ,  $d = 3$ ,  $\ell = 60$ .
  - Then soundness error is at most  $3 \cdot 60 / 2^{128} = 2^{-120}$ .

# Soundness

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- Proof is by induction on the number of variables  $\ell$ .
  - Base case:  $\ell = 1$ . In this case,  $\text{P}$  sends a single message  $s_1(X_1)$  claimed to equal  $g(X_1)$ .  $\text{V}$  picks  $r_1$  at random, checks that  $s_1(r_1) = g(r_1)$ .
  - If  $s_1 \neq g$ , then  $\Pr_{r_1 \in \mathbb{F}}[s_1(r_1) = g(r_1)] \leq \frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ .

# Soundness

- Inductive case:  $\ell > 1$ .
  - Recall: P's first message  $s_1(X_1)$  is claimed to equal
$$H_1(X_1) := \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(X_1, b_2, \dots, b_\ell).$$
  - Then V picks a random  $r_1$  and sends  $r_1$  to P. They (recursively) invoke sum-check to confirm that  $s_1(r_1) = H_1(r_1)$ .

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If  $s_1(r_1) \neq H(r_1)$ , P is left to prove a false claim in the recursive call.

The recursive call applies sum-check to  $g(r_1, X_2, \dots, X_\ell)$ , which is  $\ell-1$  variate.

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  - If  $s_1(r_1) \neq H_1(r_1)$ , **P** is left to prove a false claim in the recursive call.
    - The recursive call applies sum-check to  $g(r_1, X_2, \dots, X_\ell)$ , which is  $\ell-1$  variate.
    - By induction, **P** convinces **V** in the recursive call with probability at most  $\frac{d(\ell-1)}{|\mathbb{F}|}$ .

# Soundness analysis: wrap-up

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- **Summary:** if  $s_1 \neq H_1$ , the probability  $\text{V}$  accepts is at most:

$$\Pr_{r_1 \in \mathbb{F}}[s_1(r_1) = H(r_1)] + \Pr_{r_2, \dots, r_\ell \in \mathbb{F}}[\text{V accepts} | s_1(r_1) \neq H(r_1)]$$

$$\leq \frac{d}{|\mathbb{F}|} + \frac{d(\ell-1)}{|\mathbb{F}|} \leq \frac{d\ell}{|\mathbb{F}|}.$$

# Costs of the sum-check protocol

- Total communication is  $O(d\ell)$  field elements.
  - $\mathbf{P}$  sends  $\ell$  messages, each a univariate polynomial of degree at most  $d$ .  $\mathbf{V}$  sends  $\ell - 1$  messages, each consisting of one field element.

$\mathbf{V}$ 's runtime is:

$$O(d\ell + [\text{time required to evaluate } g \text{ at one point}]).$$

$\mathbf{P}$ 's runtime is at most:

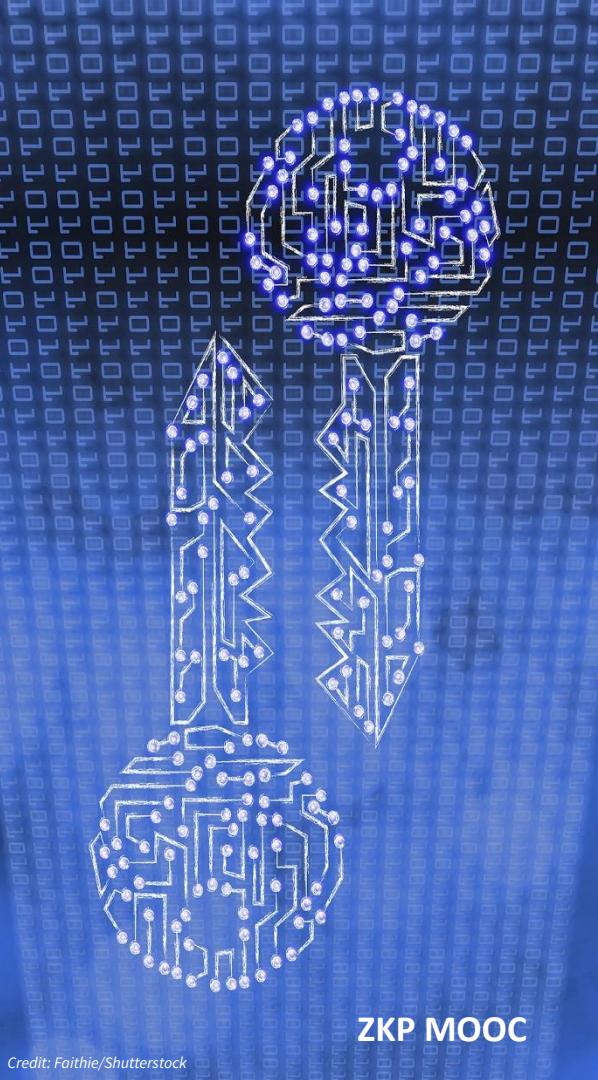
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A first application of the  
sum-check protocol:  
An IP for counting triangles  
with linear-time verifier



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# Counting Triangles

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- Input:  $A \in \{0,1\}^{n \times n}$ , representing the adjacency matrix of a graph.
- Desired Output:  $\sum_{(i,j,k) \in [n]^3} A_{ij}A_{jk}A_{ik}$ .
- Fastest known algorithm runs in matrix-multiplication time, currently about  $n^{2.37}$ .

# Counting Triangles

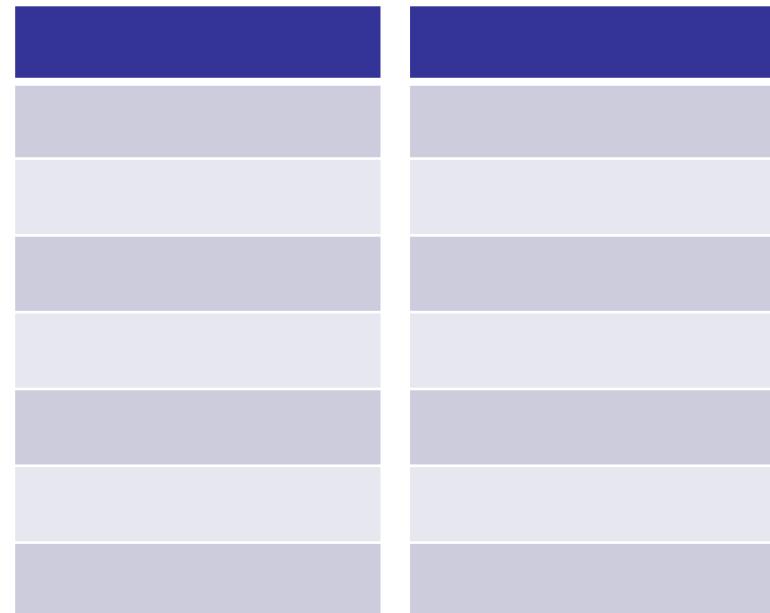
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- Desired Output:  $\sum_{(i,j,k) \in [n]^3} A_{ij}A_{jk}A_{ik}$ .
- The Protocol:
  - View  $A$  as a function mapping  $\{0,1\}^{\log n} \times \{0,1\}^{\log n}$  to  $\mathbb{F}$ .

1	3	5	7
2	4	6	8
3	5	7	9
4	6	8	10



$$A \in F^{4 \times 4}$$



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- The Protocol:
  - View  $A$  as a function mapping  $\{0,1\}^{\log n} \times \{0,1\}^{\log n}$  to  $\mathbb{F}$ .
  - Recall that  $\tilde{A}$  denotes the multilinear extension of  $A$ .
  - Define the polynomial  $g(X, Y, Z) = \tilde{A}(X, Y) \tilde{A}(Y, Z) \tilde{A}(X, Z)$
  - Apply the sum-check protocol to  $g$  to compute:

$$\sum_{(a,b,c) \in \{0,1\}^{3\log n}} g(a, b, c)$$

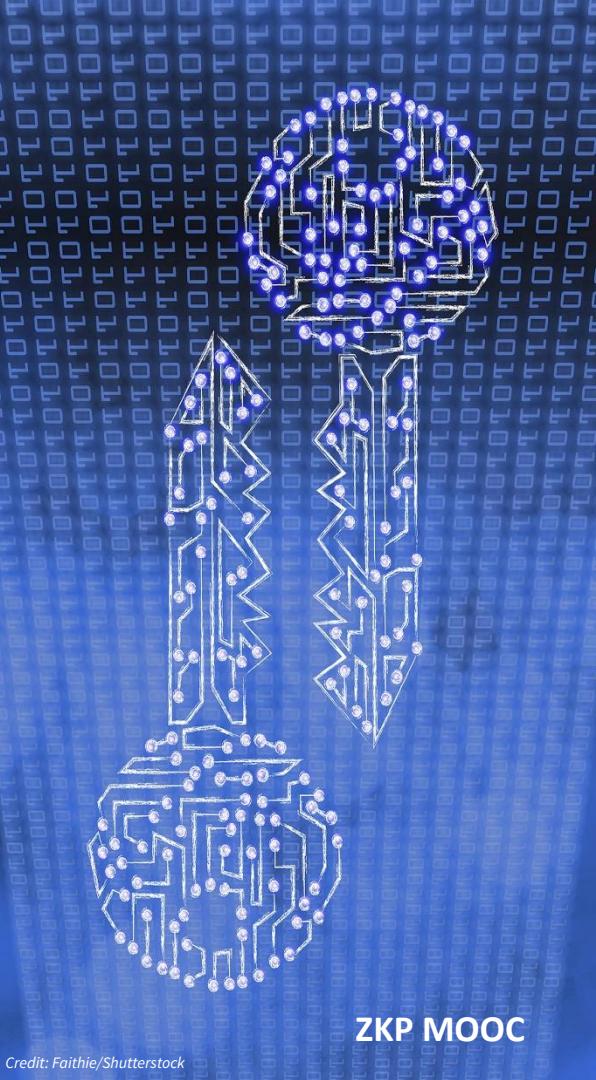
# Counting Triangles

---

- Costs:
  - Total communication is  $O(\log n)$ , **V** runtime is  $O(n^2)$ , **P** runtime is  $O(n^3)$ .
  - **V**'s runtime dominated by evaluating:

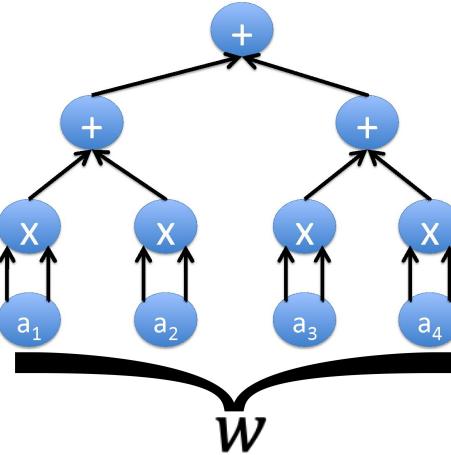
$$g(r_1, r_2, r_3) = \tilde{A}(r_1, r_2) \tilde{A}(r_2, r_3) \tilde{A}(r_1, r_3).$$

# A SNARK for circuit-satisfiability



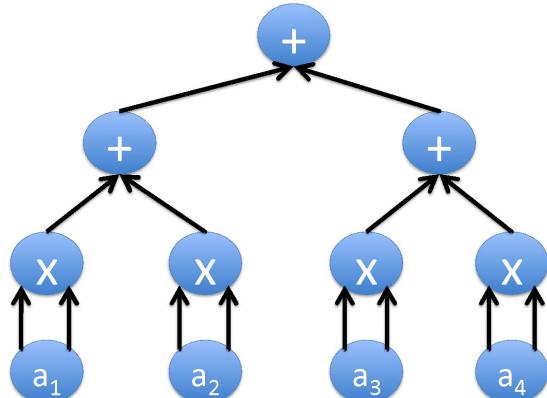
# Recall: SNARKs for circuit-satisfiability

- Given: An arithmetic circuit  $C$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  of size  $S$  and output  $y$ .
- $\text{P}$  claims to know a  $w$  such that  $C(x, w) = y$ .
- For simplicity, let's take  $x$  to be the empty input.

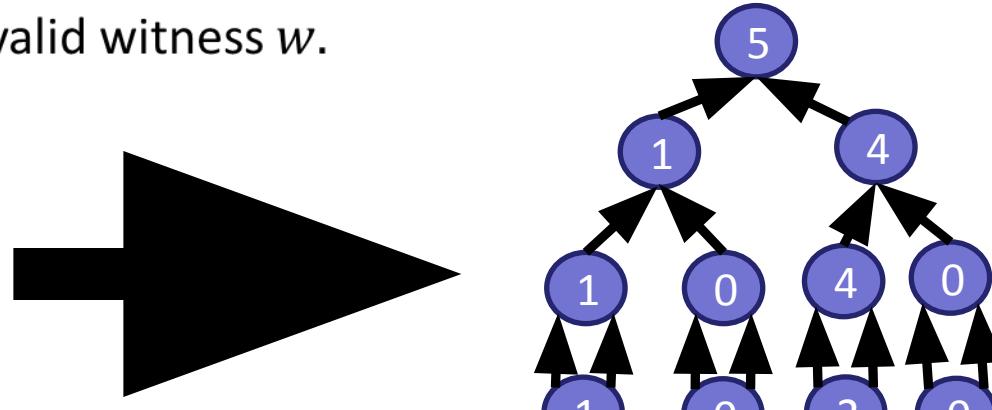


# Recall: SNARKs for circuit-satisfiability

- A **transcript**  $T$  for  $C$  is an assignment of a value to every gate.
  - $T$  is a **correct** transcript if it assigns the gate values obtained by evaluating  $C$  on a valid witness  $w$ .



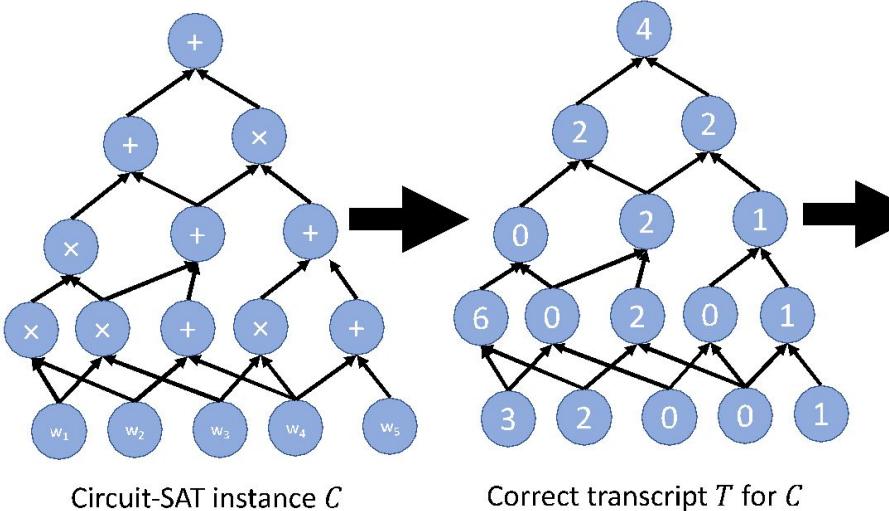
Circuit-SAT instance  $C$



Correct transcript for  $C$  yielding output 5.

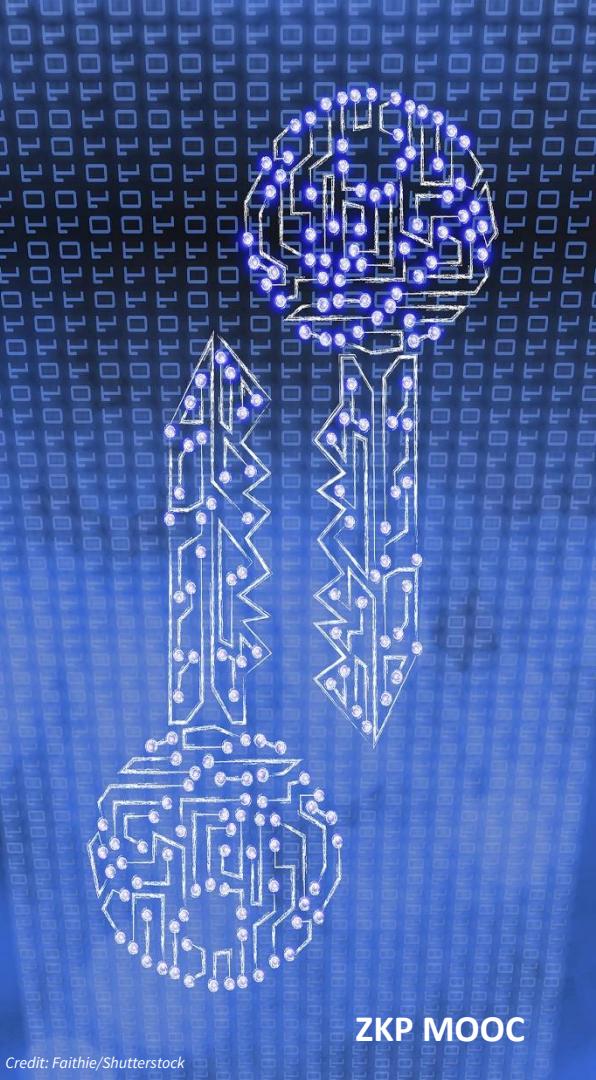
# Viewing a transcript as a **function** with domain $\{0,1\}^{\log S}$

- Assign each gate in  $C$  a  $(\log S)$ -bit label and view  $T$  as a function mapping gate labels to  $\mathbb{F}$ .



$T(0,0,0,0) = 3$
$T(0,0,0,1) = 2$
$T(0,0,1,0) = 0$
$T(0,0,1,1) = 0$
$T(0,1,0,0) = 1$
$T(0,1,0,1) = 6$
$T(0,1,1,0) = 0$
$T(0,1,1,1) = 2$
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$T(1,1,1,1) = 4$

# The polynomial IOP underlying the SNARK



# The start of the polynomial IOP

---

- Assign each gate in  $C$  a  $(\log S)$ -bit label and view  $T$  as a function mapping gate labels to  $\mathbb{F}$ .
- P's first message is a  $(\log S)$ -variate polynomial  $h$  claimed to **extend** a correct transcript  $T$ , which means:

$$h(x) = T(x) \quad \forall x \in \{0, 1\}^{\log S}.$$

V needs to check this, but is only able to learn a few evaluations of  $h$ .

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# Intuition for why $h$ is a useful object for $\text{P}$ to send

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- Think of  $h$  as a **distance-amplified encoding** of the transcript  $T$ .
- The domain of  $T$  is  $\{0, 1\}^{\log S}$ . The domain of  $h$  is  $\mathbb{F}^{\log S}$ , which is vastly bigger.

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	0	1
0	1	2
1	1	4

All four evaluations of a function  $T$  mapping  $\{0, 1\}^2$  to  $\mathbb{F}_5$

0	1	2	3	4	
0	1	2	3	4	0
1	1	4	2	0	3
2	1	1	1	1	1
3	1	3	0	2	4
4	1	0	4	3	2

All 25 evaluations of the multilinear polynomial  $h$  that extends  $T$ , one for each element of  $\mathbb{F}_5 \times \mathbb{F}_5$

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- The domain of  $T$  is  $\{0, 1\}^{\log S}$ . The domain of  $h$  is  $\mathbb{F}^{\log S}$ , which is vastly bigger.
- Schwartz-Zippel: If two transcripts  $T, T'$  disagree at even a **single** gate value, their extension polynomials  $h, h'$  disagree at **almost all** points in  $\mathbb{F}^{\log S}$ .
  - Specifically, a  $1 - \log(S) / |\mathbb{F}|$  fraction.
- Distance-amplifying nature of the encoding will enable  $\mathbf{V}$  to detect even a single “inconsistency” in the entire transcript.

# Reminder: the start of the polynomial IOP

---

- P's first message is a  $(\log S)$ -variate polynomial  $h$  claimed to **extend** a correct transcript  $T$ , which means:

$$h(x) = T(x) \quad \forall x \in \{0, 1\}^{\log S}.$$

- V needs to check this, but is only able to learn a few evaluations of  $h$ .

# Two-step plan of attack

---

- 1. Given any  $(\log S)$ -variate polynomial  $h$ , identify a related  $(3\log S)$ -variate polynomial  $g_h$  such that:
  - $h$  **extends** a correct transcript  $T \Leftrightarrow g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ .
  - Moreover, to evaluate  $g_h(r)$  at any input  $r$ , suffices to evaluate  $h$  at only 3 inputs.
- 2. Design an interactive proof to check that  $g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ .
  - In which **V** only needs to evaluate  $g_h(r)$  at one point  $r$ .

# Step 1 of the plan

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  - And to evaluate  $g_h(r)$  at any  $r$ , suffices to evaluate  $h$  at only 3 inputs.

Proof sketch (simplification): Define  $g_h(a, b, c)$  via:

$$\tilde{\text{add}}(a, b, c) \cdot (h(a) - (h(b) + h(c))) + \tilde{\text{mult}}(a, b, c) \cdot (h(a) - h(b) \cdot h(c)).$$

$g_h(a, b, c) = h(a) - (h(b) + h(c))$  if  $a$  is the label of a gate that computes the sum of gates  $b$  and  $c$ .

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$g_h(a, b, c) = h(a) - h(b) \cdot h(c)$  if  $a$  is the label of a gate that computes the product of gates  $b$  and  $c$ .

$g_h(a, b, c) = 0$  otherwise.

# Step 1 of the plan

- Given  $(\log S)$ -variate polynomial  $h$ , identify a related  $(3\log S)$ -variate polynomial  $g_h$  such that:  
 $h$  **extends** a correct transcript  $T \Leftrightarrow g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ .
  - And to evaluate  $g_h(r)$  at any  $r$ , suffices to evaluate  $h$  at only 3 inputs.
- Proof sketch (simplification): Define  $g_h(a, b, c)$  via:  
$$\widetilde{\text{add}}(a, b, c) \cdot (h(a) - (h(b) + h(c))) + \widetilde{\text{mult}}(a, b, c) \cdot (h(a) - h(b) \cdot h(c)).$$
  - $g_h(a, b, c) = h(a) - (h(b) + h(c))$  if  $a$  is the label of a gate that computes the **sum** of gates  $b$  and  $c$ .
  - $g_h(a, b, c) = h(a) - h(b) \cdot h(c)$  if  $a$  is the label of a gate that computes the **product** of gates  $b$  and  $c$ .
  - $g_h(a, b, c) = 0$  otherwise.

# Step 2: A Hint

- How to check that  $g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ ?
  - With  $\text{V}$  only evaluating  $g_h$  at a **single** point?
- Imagine for a moment that  $g_h$  were a **univariate** polynomial  $g_h(X)$ .
  - And rather than needing to check that  $g_h$  vanishes over input set  $\{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ , we needed to check that  $g_h$  vanishes over some set  $H \subseteq \mathbb{F}$ .

Fact:  $g_h(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in H \iff g_h$  is divisible by  $Z_H(x) = \prod_{a \in H} (x - a)$ .

$Z_H$  is called the vanishing polynomial for  $H$ .

Polynomial IOP:

$\text{P}$  sends a polynomial  $q$  such that  $g_h(X) = q(X) \cdot Z_H(X)$ .

$\text{V}$  checks this by picking a random  $r \in \mathbb{F}$  and checking that  $g_h(r) = q(r) \cdot Z_H(r)$ .

# Step 2: A Hint

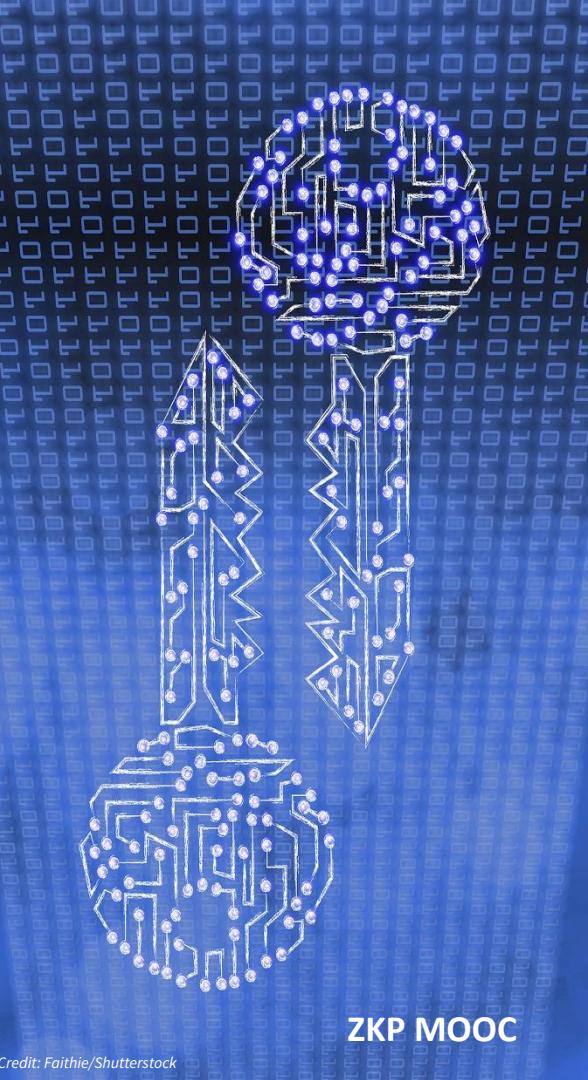
- □ How to check that  $g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ ?
  - With **V** only evaluating  $g_h$  at a **single** point?
- Imagine for a moment that  $g_h$  were a **univariate** polynomial  $g_h(X)$ .
  - And rather than needing to check that  $g_h$  vanishes over input set  $\{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ , we needed to check that  $g_h$  vanishes over some set  $H \subseteq \mathbb{F}$ .
- Fact:  $g_h(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in H \Leftrightarrow g_h$  is divisible by  $Z_H(x) := \prod_{a \in H} (x - a)$ .
  - $Z_H$  is called the **vanishing polynomial** for  $H$ .
- Polynomial IOP:
  - **P** sends a polynomial  $q$  such that  $g_h(X) = q(X) \cdot Z_H(X)$ .
  - **V** checks this by picking a random  $r \in \mathbb{F}$  and checking that  $g_h(r) = q(r) \cdot Z_H(r)$ .

# The actual protocol

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- Previous slide doesn't actually work.
  - $g_h$  is not univariate, it has  $3 \log S$  variables.
- Also, having **P** find and send the quotient polynomial is expensive.
  - In the final SNARK, this would mean applying polynomial commitment to additional polynomials.
  - This is what Marlin, PlonK, and Groth16 do.
- Solution: use the sum-check protocol [LFKN90].
  - Handles multivariate polynomials.
  - Doesn't require **P** to send additional large polynomials.

# Recall sum-check



# Sum-check protocol: a reminder

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- Goal: compute the quantity:

$$\sum_{b_1 \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{b_2 \in \{0,1\}} \dots \sum_{b_\ell \in \{0,1\}} g(b_1, \dots, b_\ell).$$

- Proof length is roughly the total degree of  $g$ .
- Number of rounds is  $\ell$ .
- $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  time is roughly the time to evaluate  $g$  at a single randomly chosen input.
- To run the protocol,  $\textcolor{blue}{V}$  doesn't even need to "know" what polynomial  $g$  is being summed, so long as it knows  $g(r)$  for a randomly chosen input  $r \in \mathbb{F}^\ell$ .

# The polynomial IOP for circuit-satisfiability

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- □ How to check that  $g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log s}$ ?
  - With **V** only evaluating  $g_h$  at a **single** point?
- General idea (working over the integers instead of  $\mathbb{F}$ ):
  - **V** checks this by running sum-check protocol with **P** to compute:
$$\sum_{a,b,c \in \{0,1\}^{\log s}} g_h(a, b, c)^2.$$
  - If all terms in the sum are 0, the sum is 0.
  - If working over the integers, any non-zero term in the sum will cause the sum to be strictly positive.

# The polynomial IOP for circuit-satisfiability

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- □ How to check that  $g_h(a, b, c) = 0 \forall (a, b, c) \in \{0,1\}^{3 \log S}$ ?
  - With **V** only evaluating  $g_h$  at a **single** point?
- General idea (working over the integers instead of  $\mathbb{F}$ ):
  - **V** checks this by running sum-check protocol with **P** to compute:
$$\sum_{a,b,c \in \{0,1\}^{\log S}} g_h(a, b, c)^2.$$
- At end of sum-check protocol, **V** needs to evaluate  $g_h(r_1, r_2, r_3)$ .
  - Suffices to evaluate  $h(r_1), h(r_2), h(r_3)$ .
  - Outside of these evaluations, **V** runs in time  $O(\log S)$ .
  - **P** performs  $O(S)$  field operations given a witness  $w$ .

# END OF LECTURE

