

# FORMALIZING DELAYED ADAPTIVE CORRUPTIONS AND THE SECURITY OF FLOODING NETWORKS

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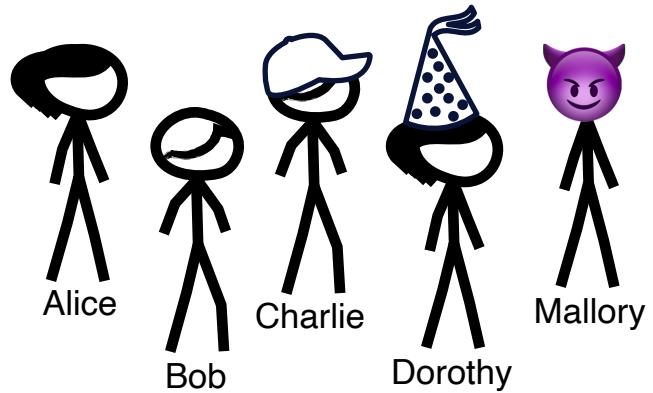
Christian Matt, *Concordium*

**Søren Eller Thomsen**, *Aarhus University*

Jesper Buus Nielsen, *Aarhus University*

# NAKAMOTO-STYLE BLOCKCHAINS

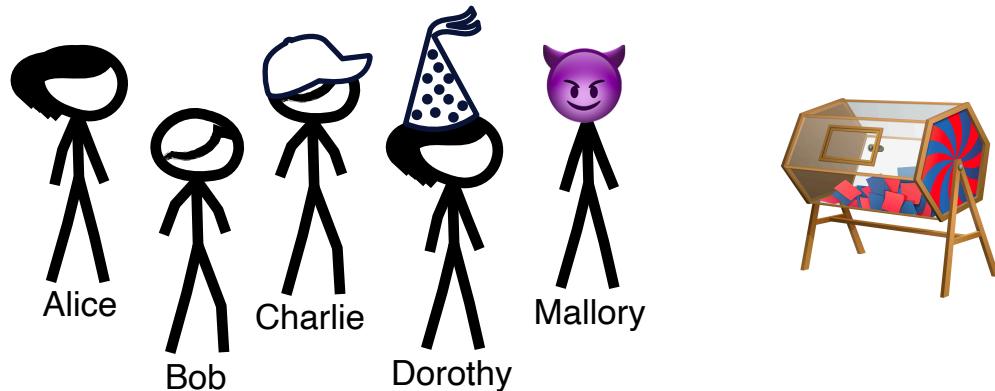
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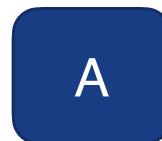
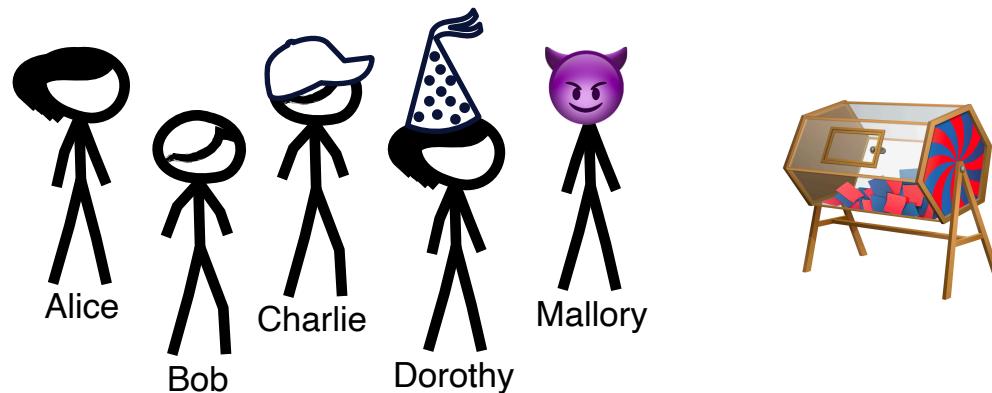
- Parties build a total order using a lottery.



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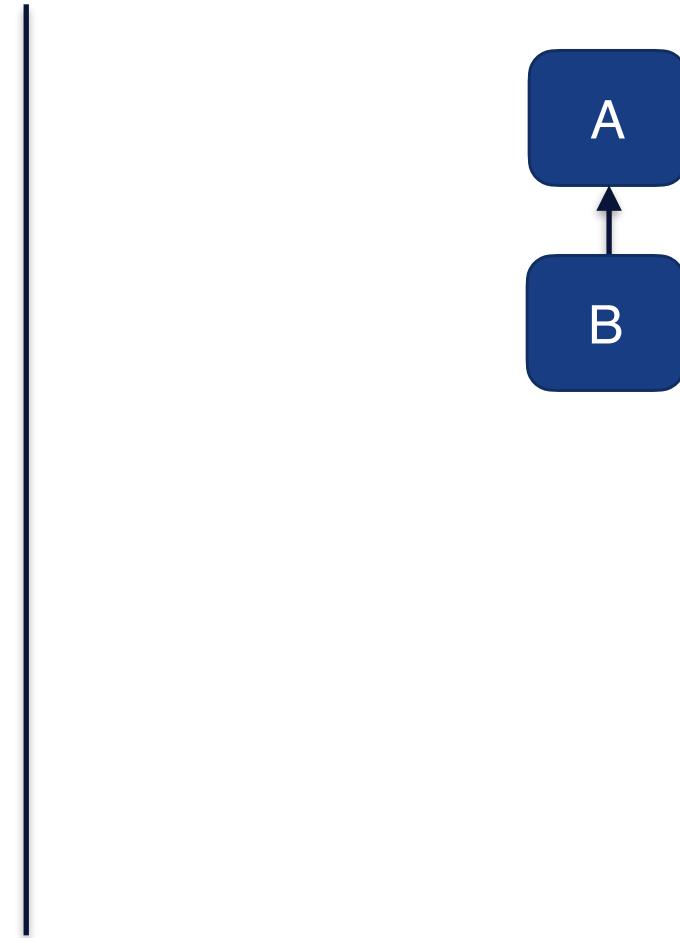
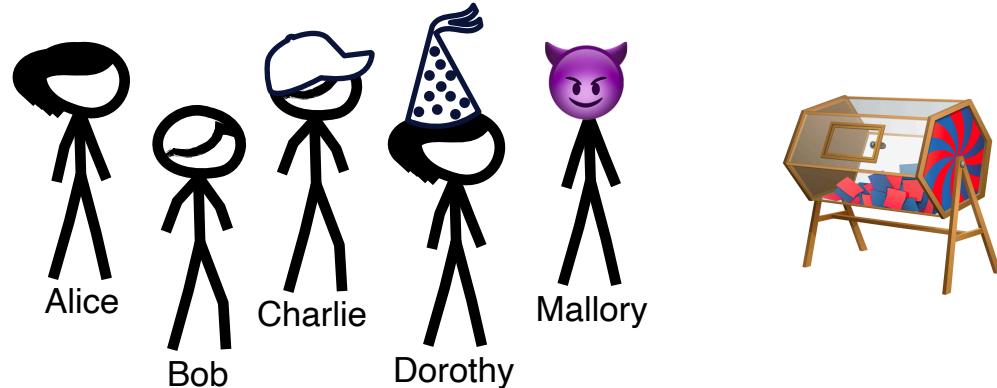
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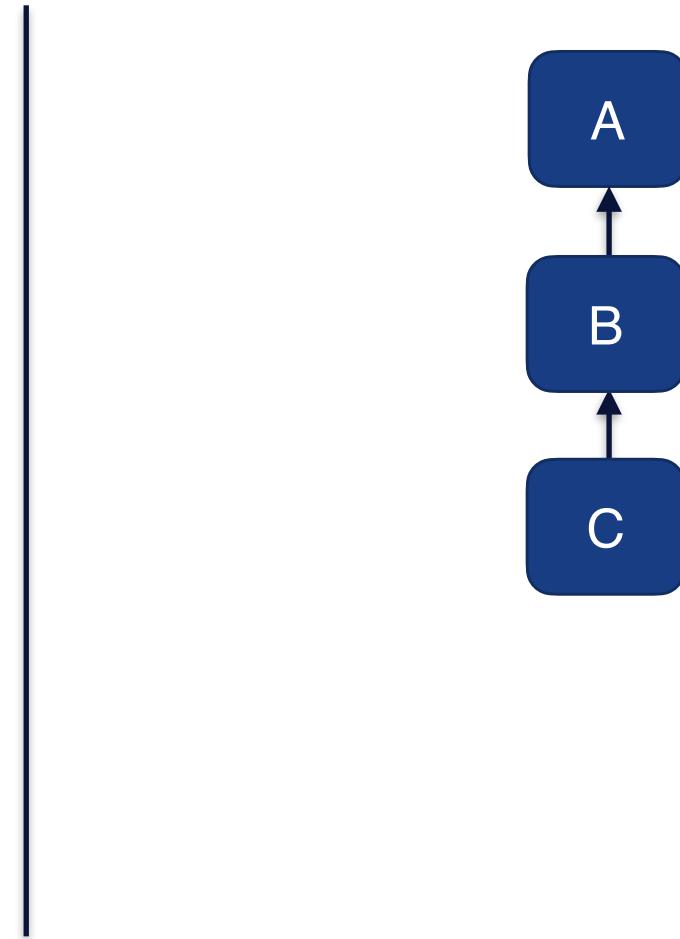
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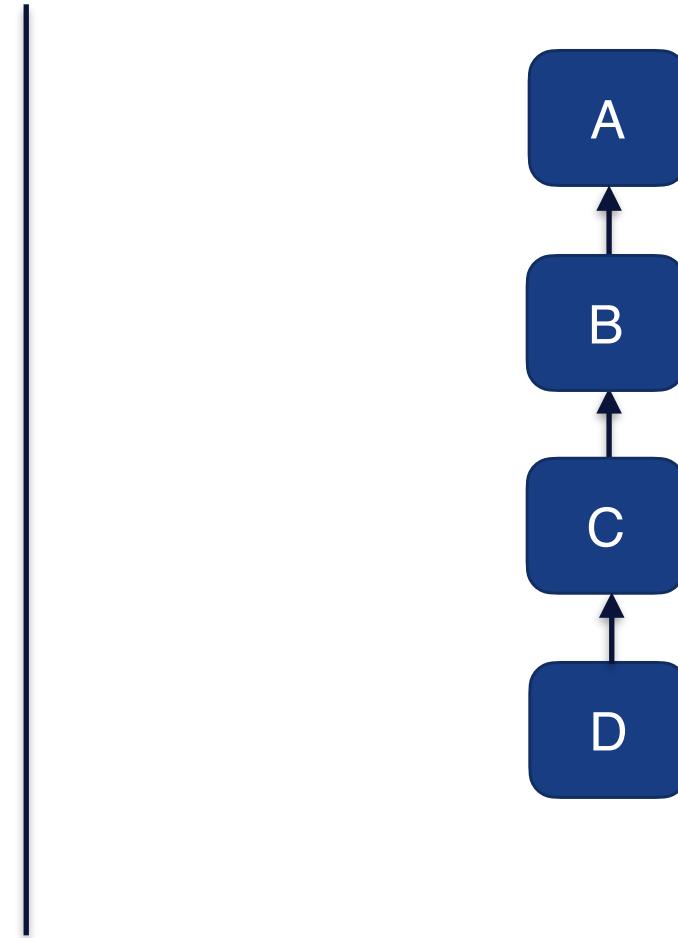
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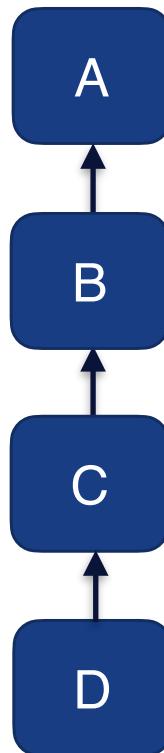
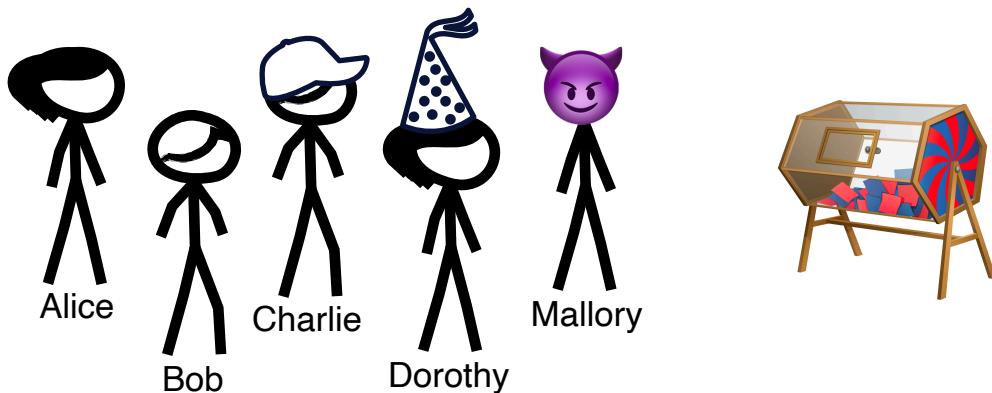
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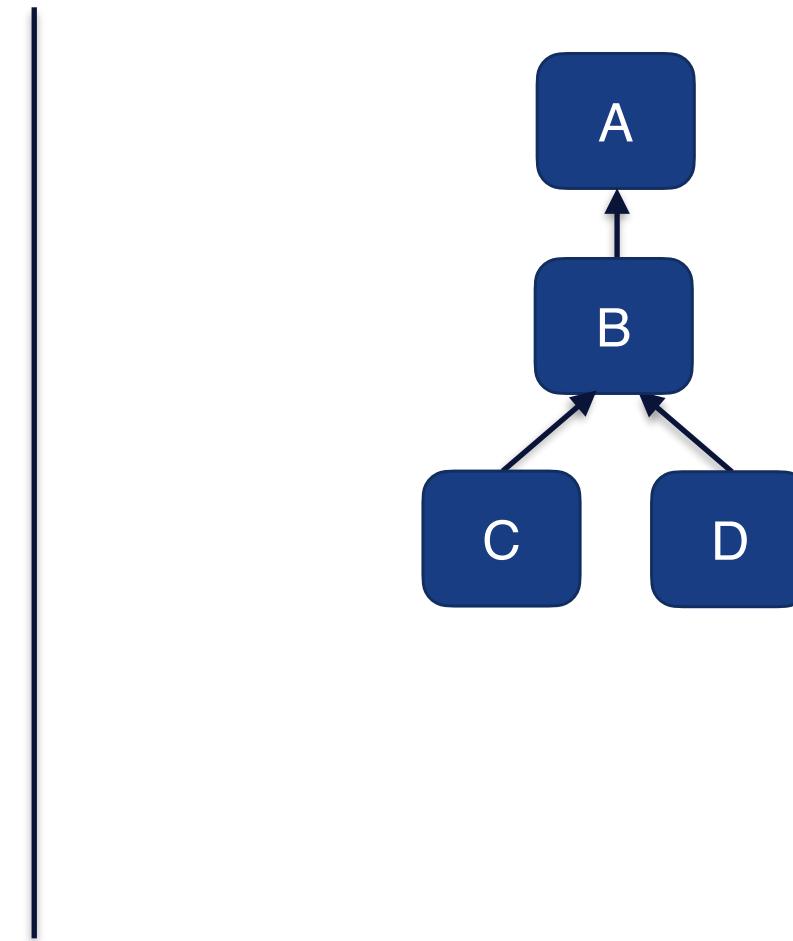
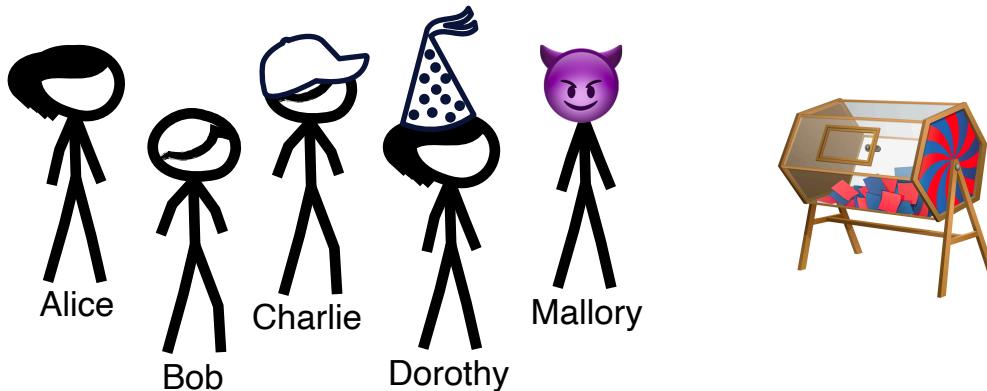
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- If a party wins the lottery without knowing about a previous extension of the order, a fork is created.



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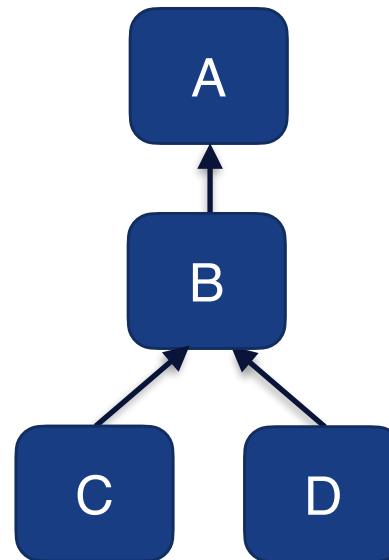
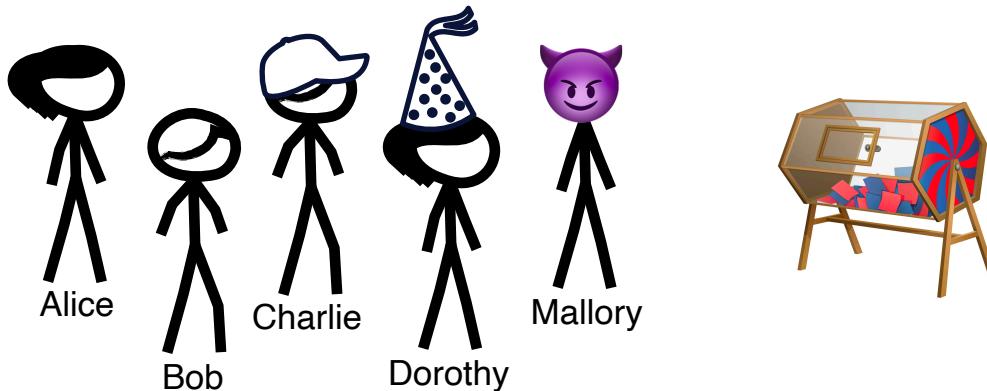
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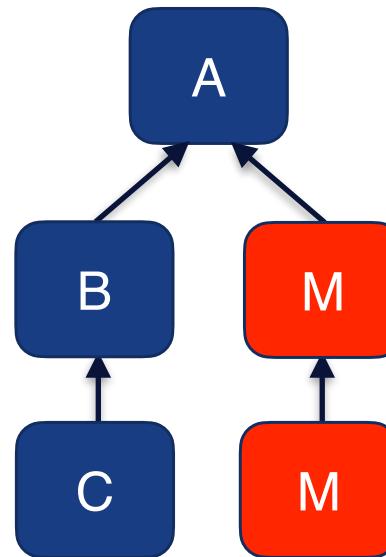
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- Adversaries can also create forks.



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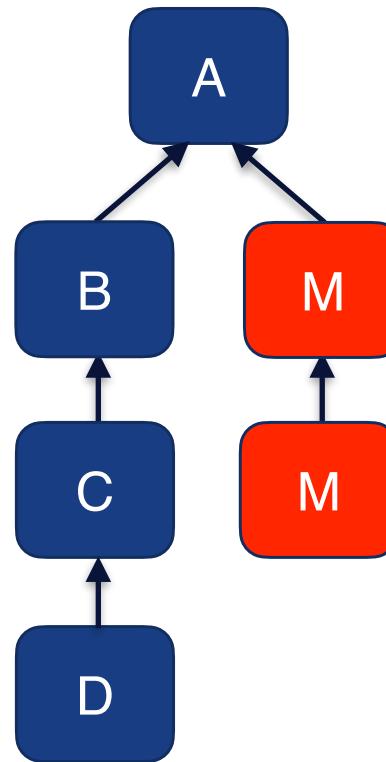
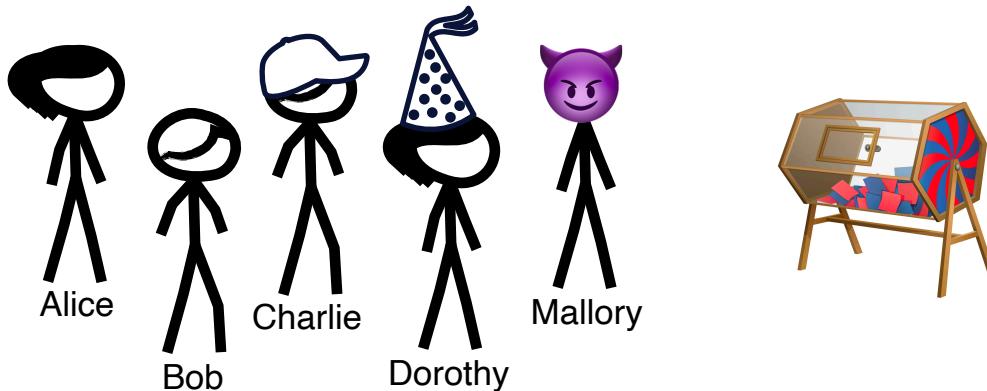
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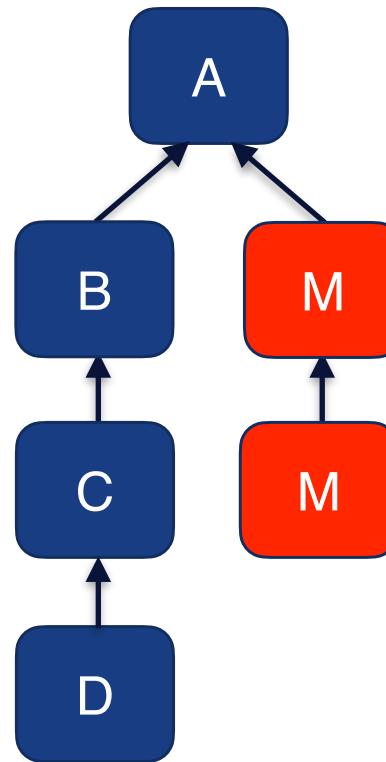
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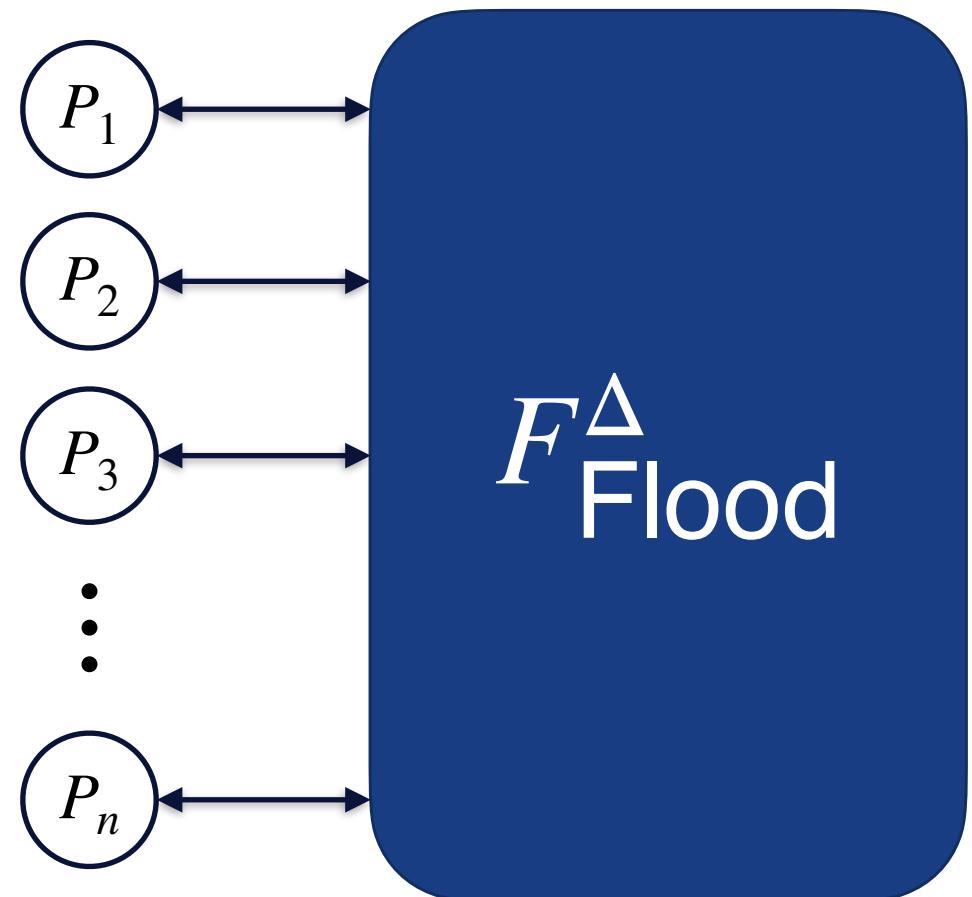
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- Parties build a total order using a lottery.
- If a party wins the lottery without knowing about a previous extension of the order, a fork is created.
- Adversaries can also create forks.
- **Isolated honest blocks must outgrow adversarial blocks.**



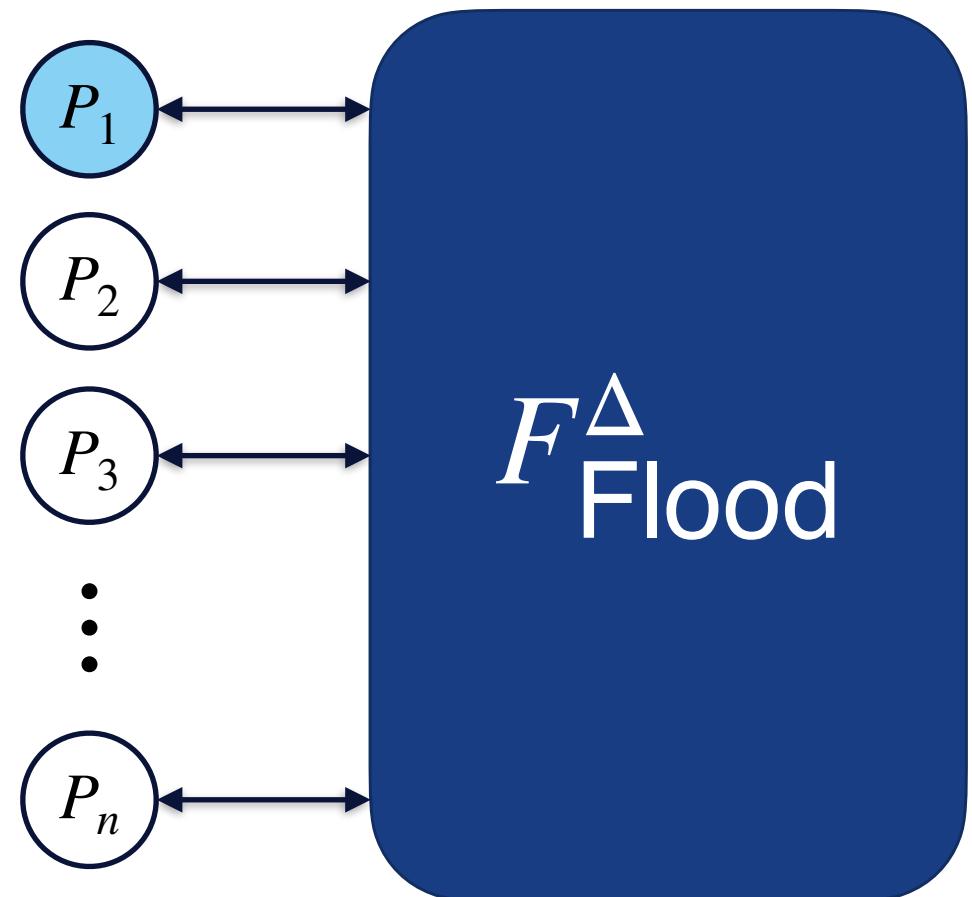
# FLOODING FOR NSBS

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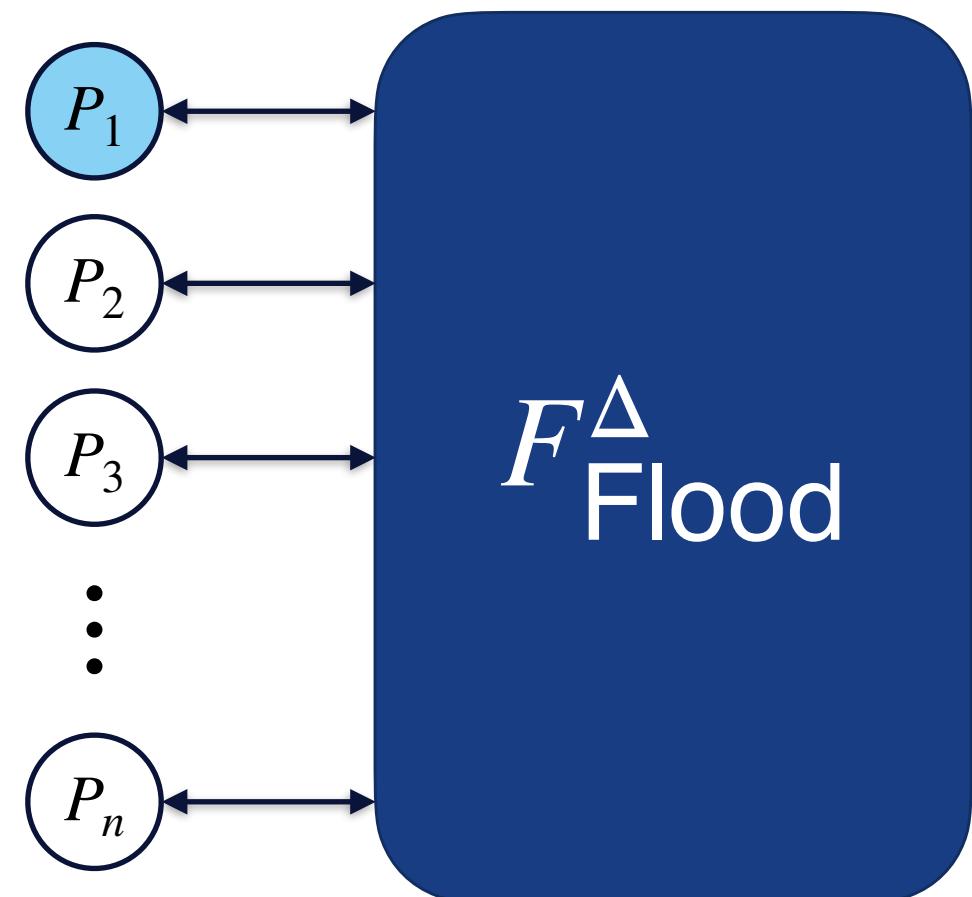
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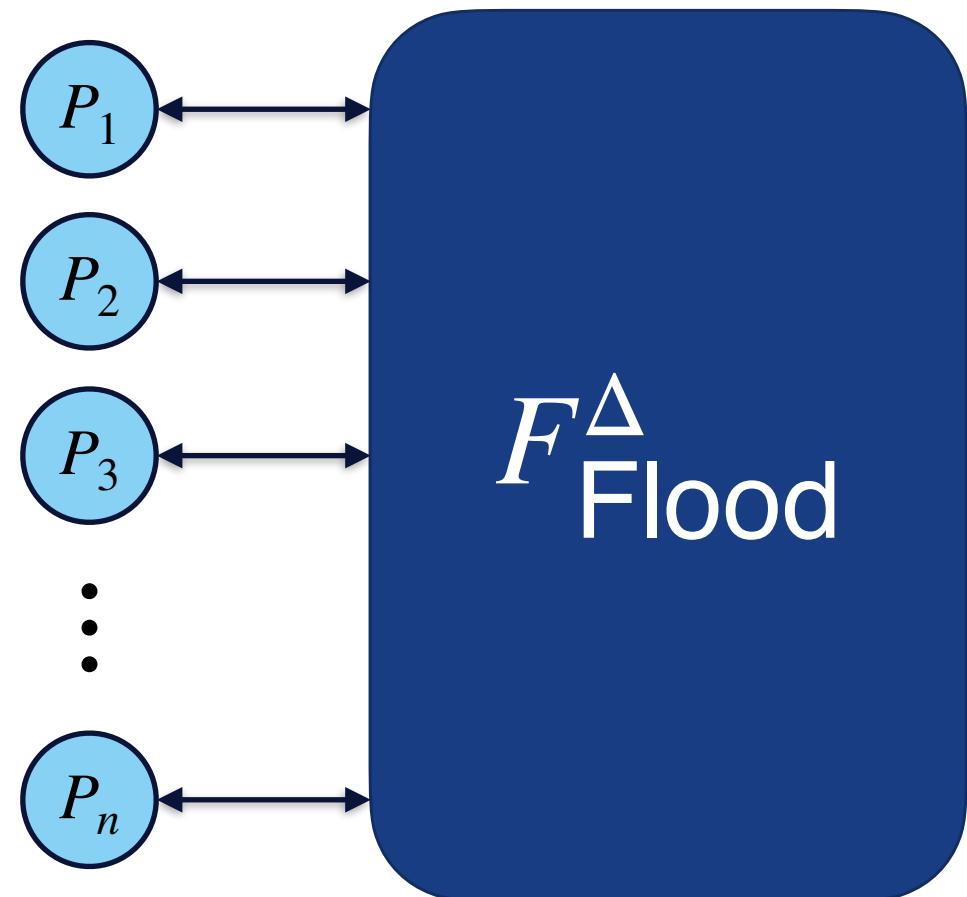
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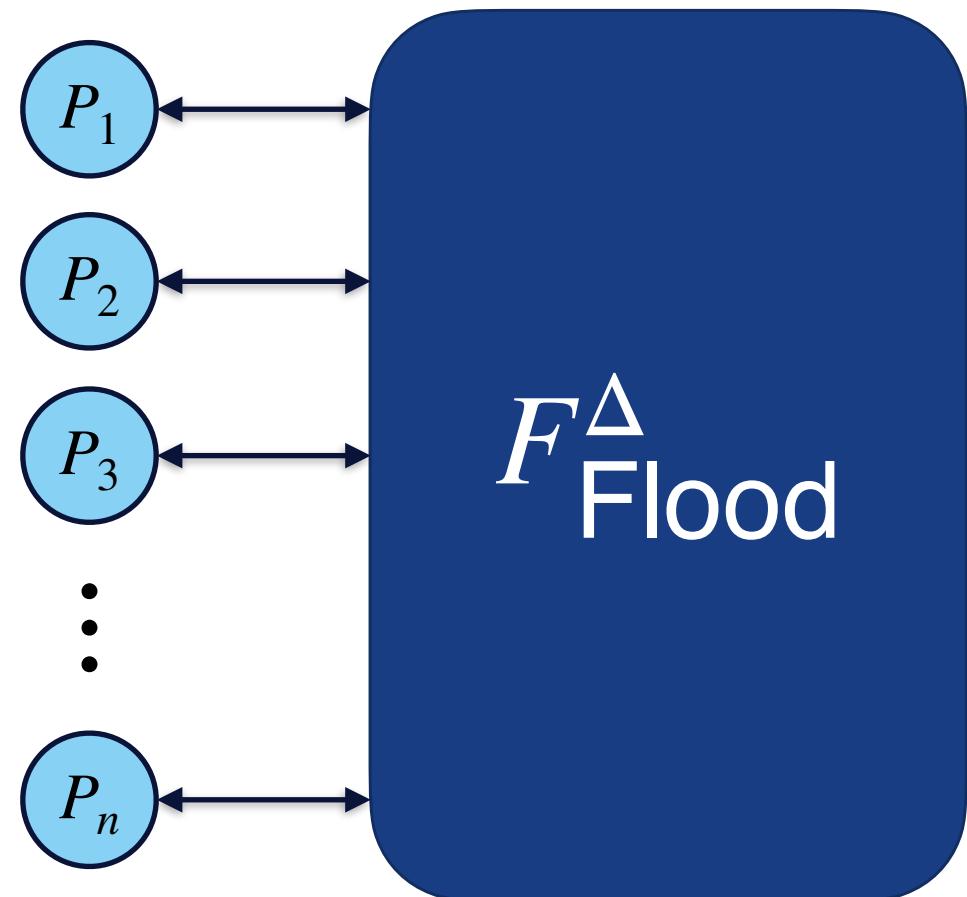
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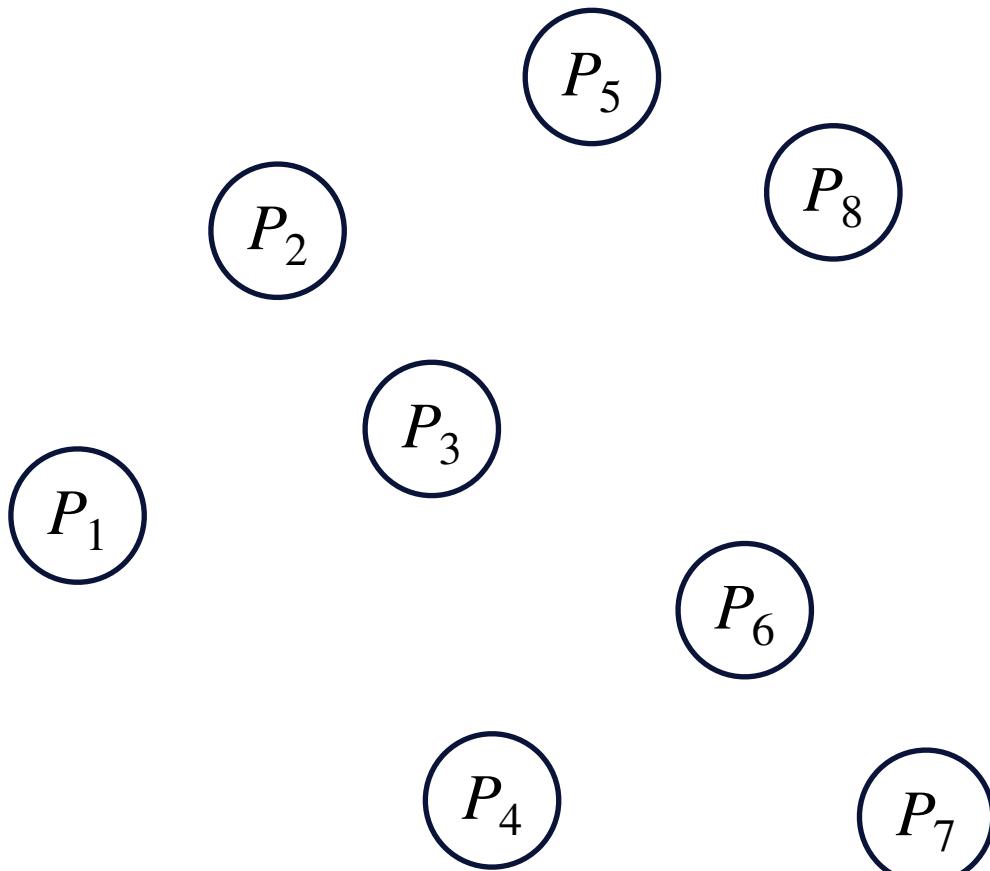
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- Assumed to prove NSBs secure [GKL15, GKL17, PSS17, DGKR18].



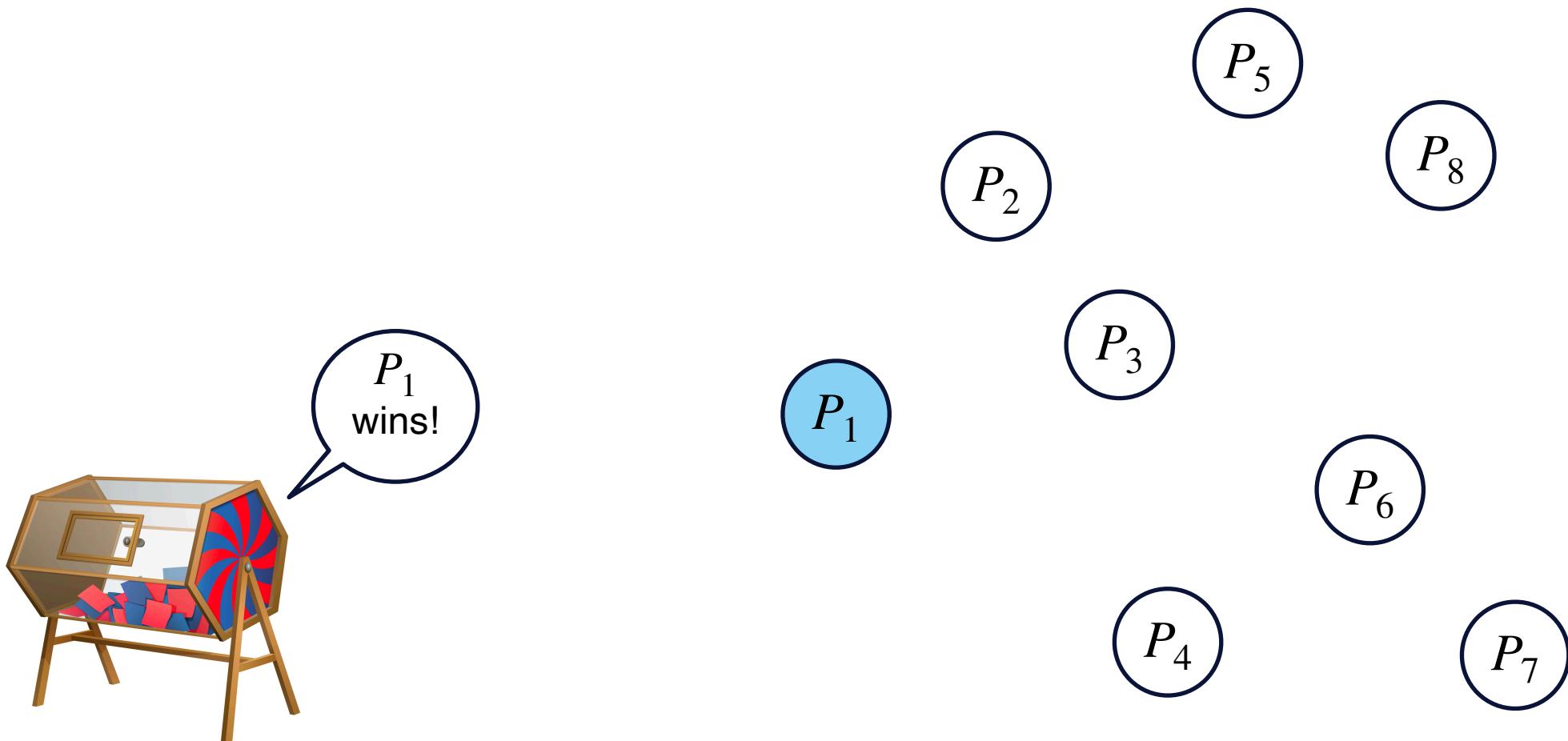
# FLOODING FOR NSBS IN PRACTICE

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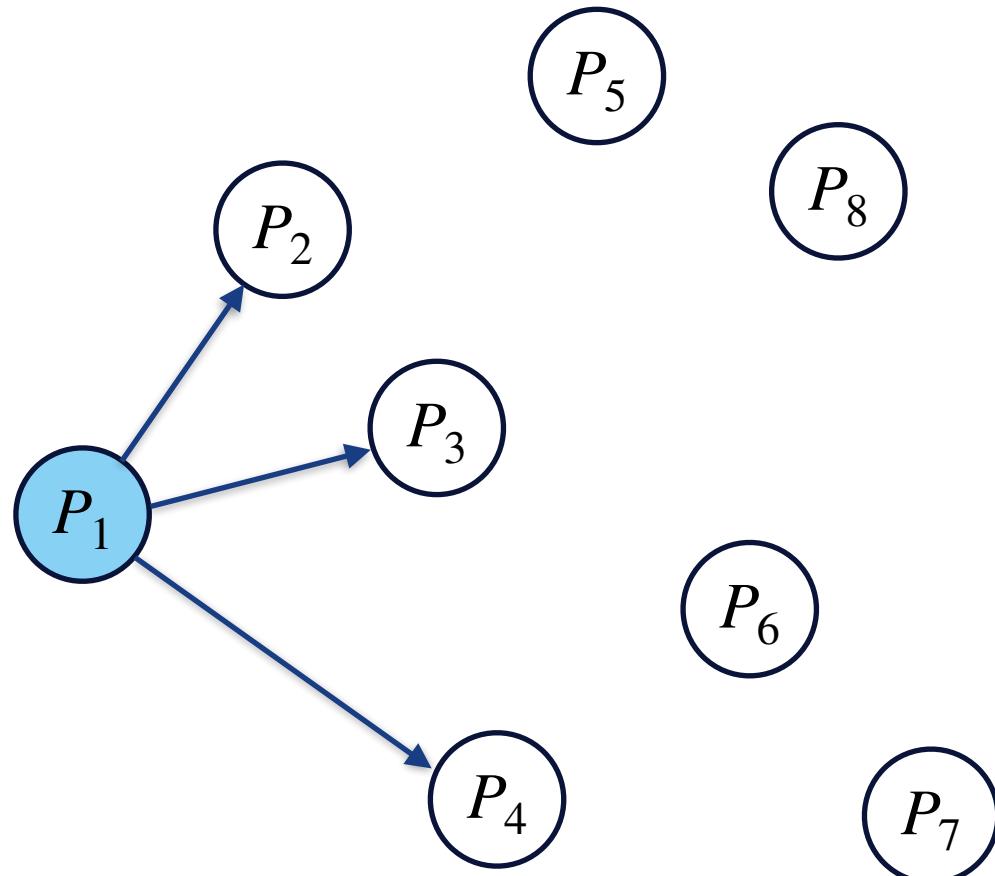
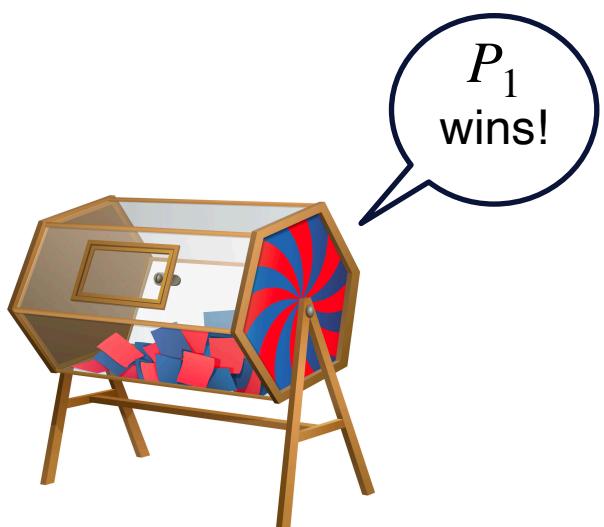
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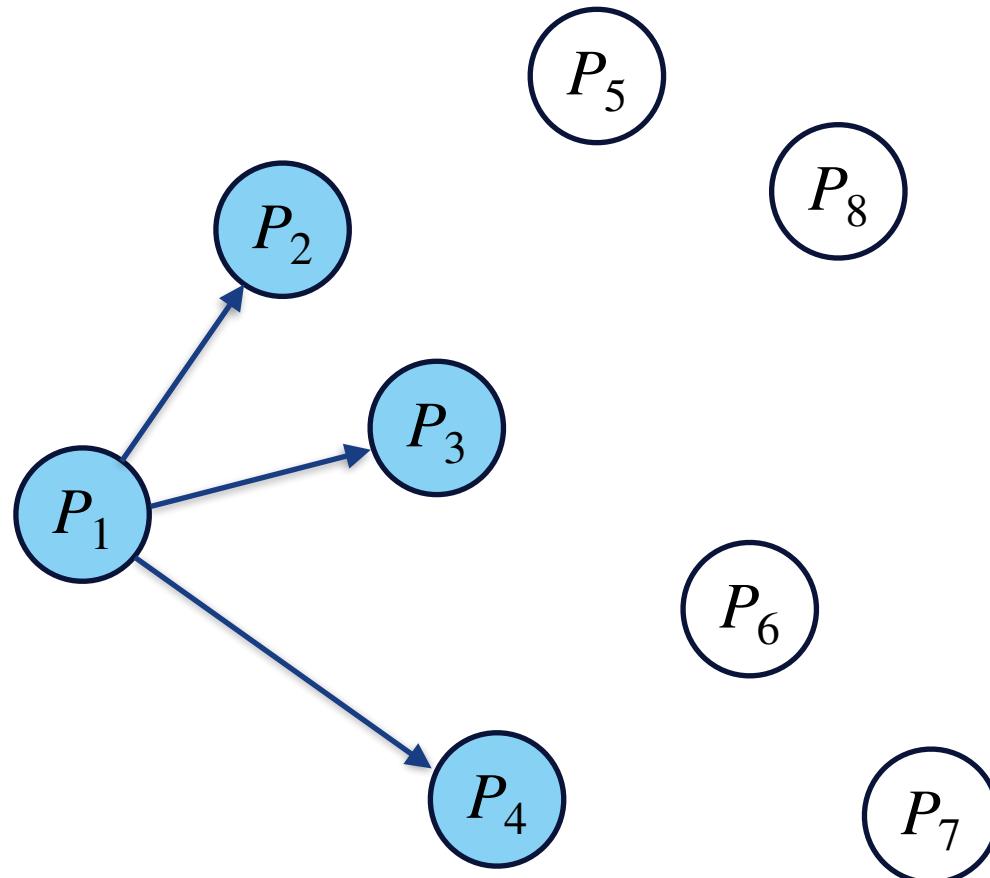
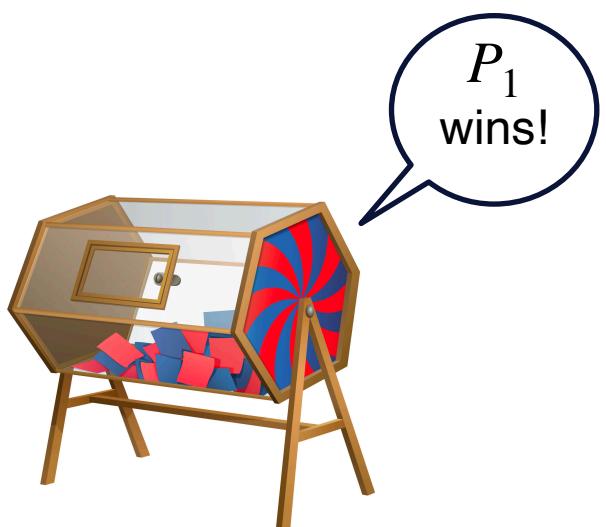
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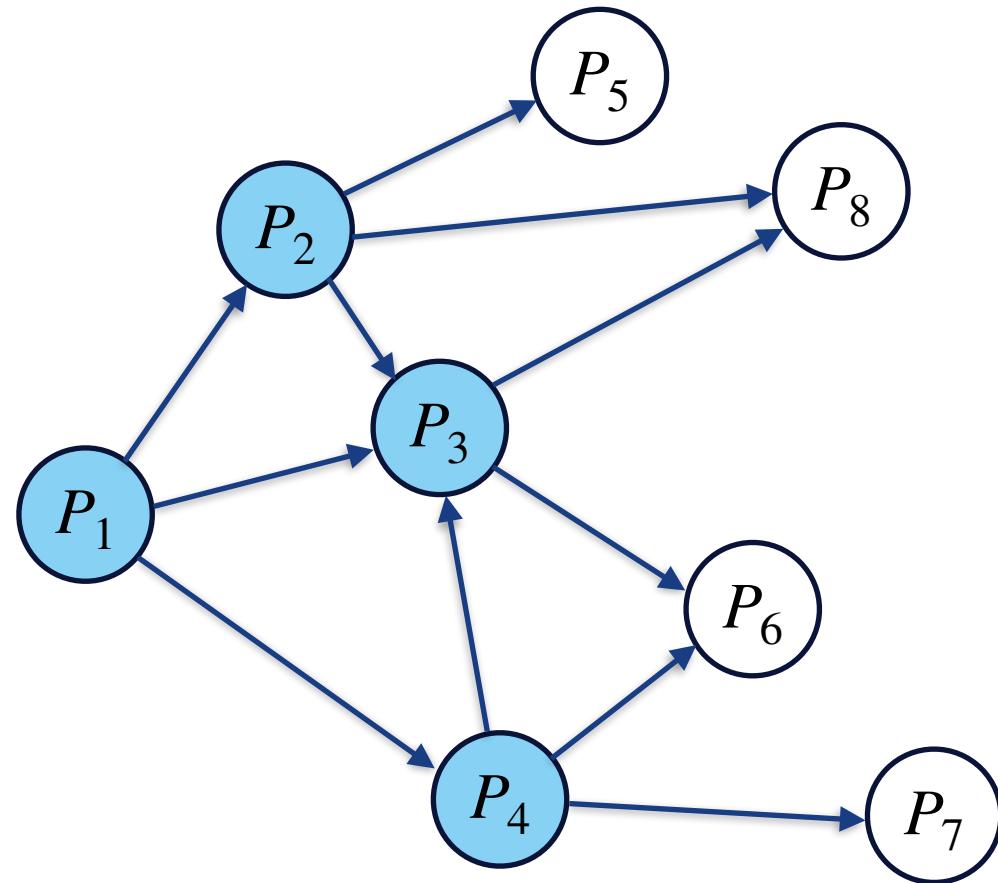
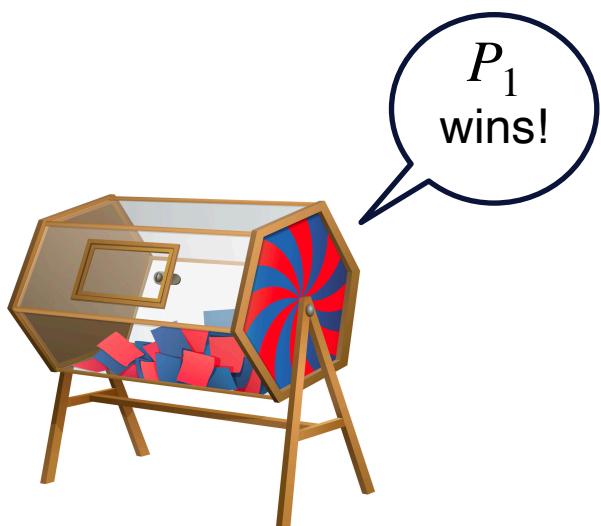
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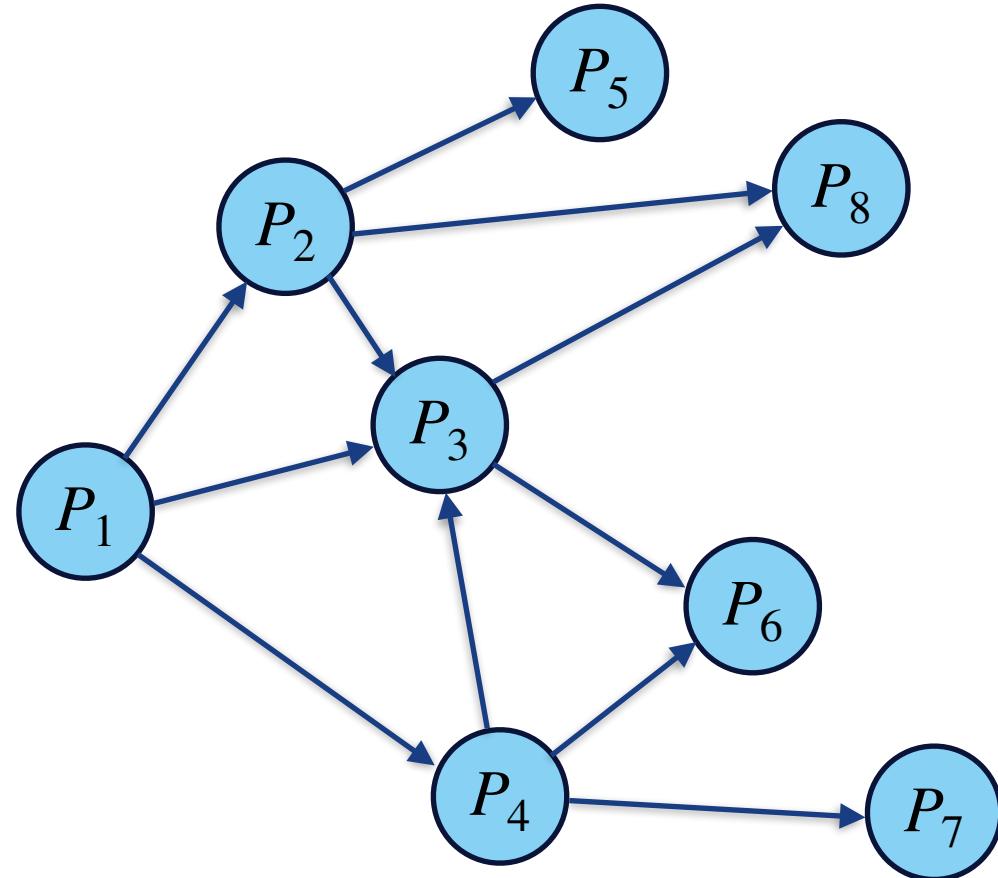
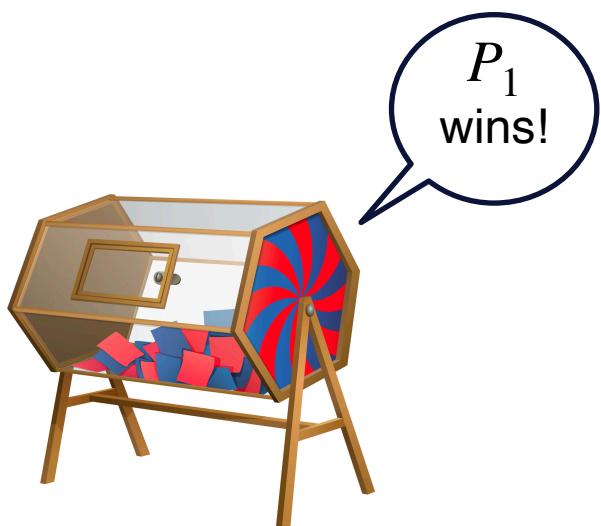
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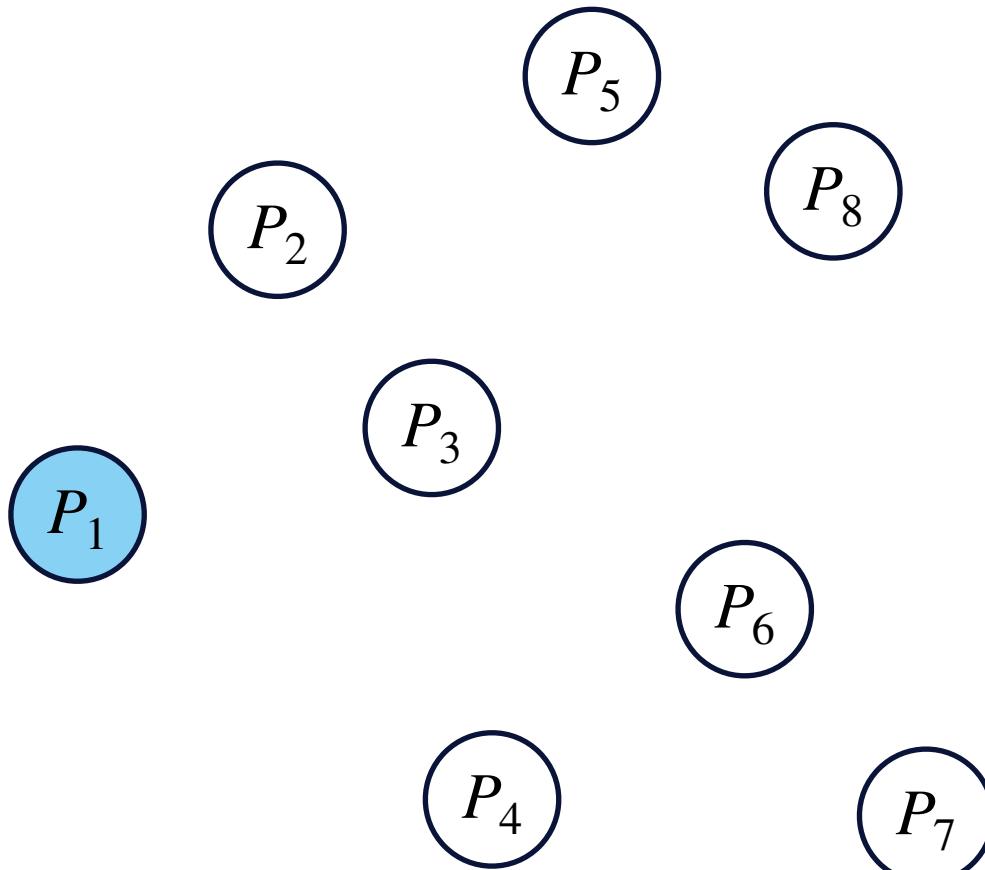
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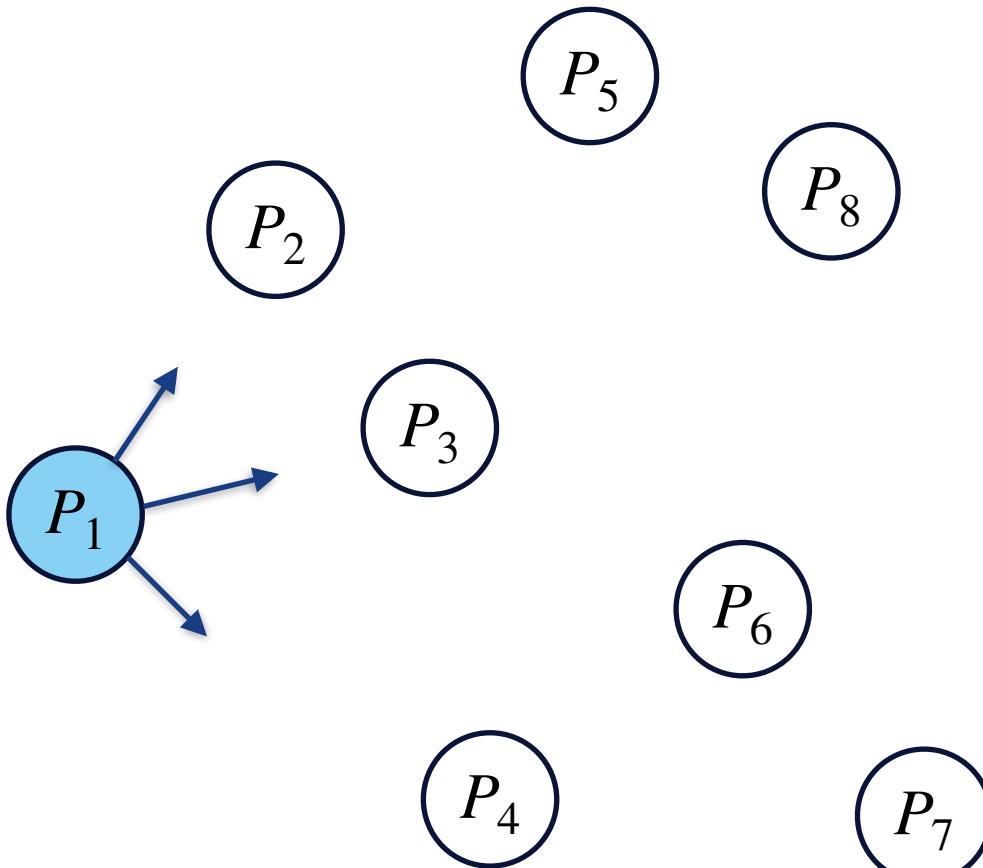
# FLOODING WITH AN ADAPTIVE ADVERSARY AND NON-ATOMIC MESSAGE SEND

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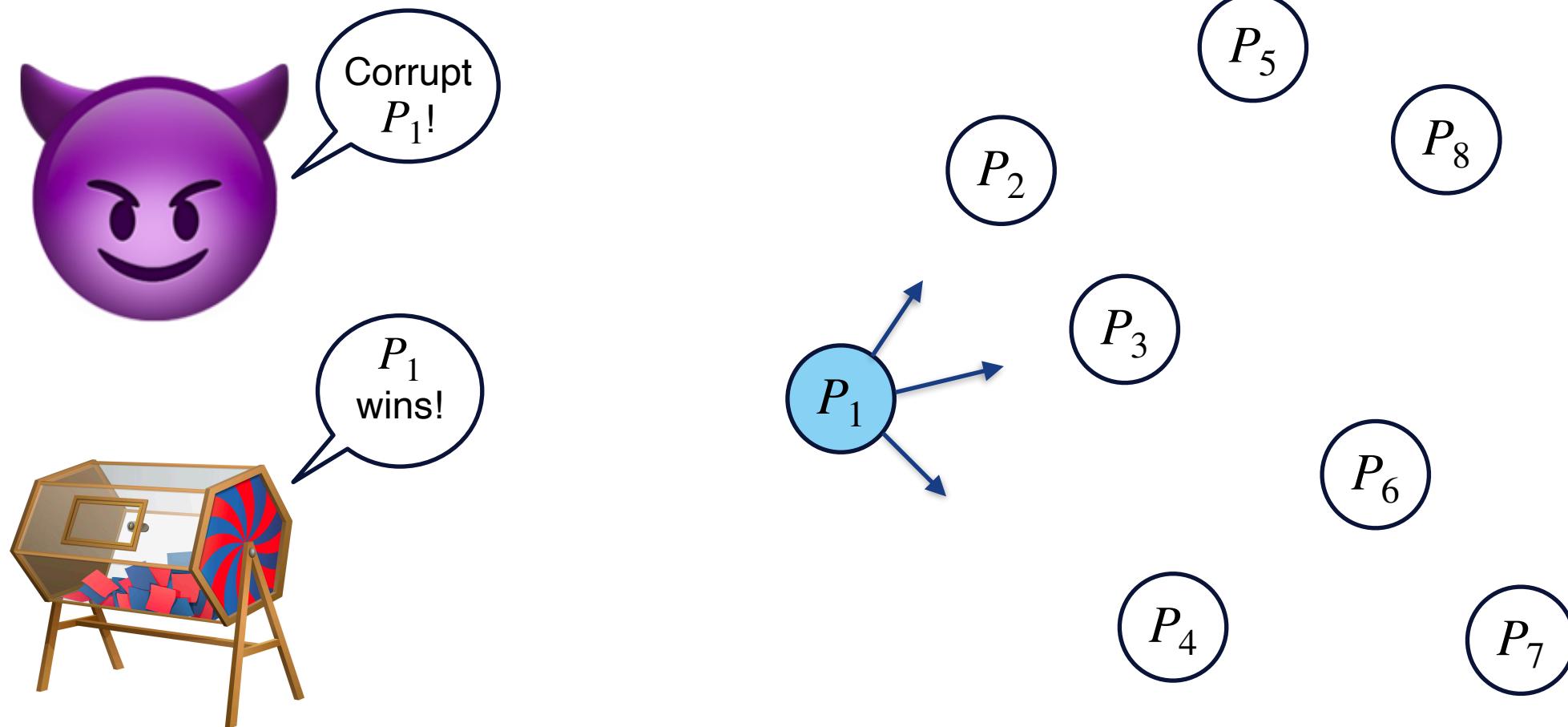
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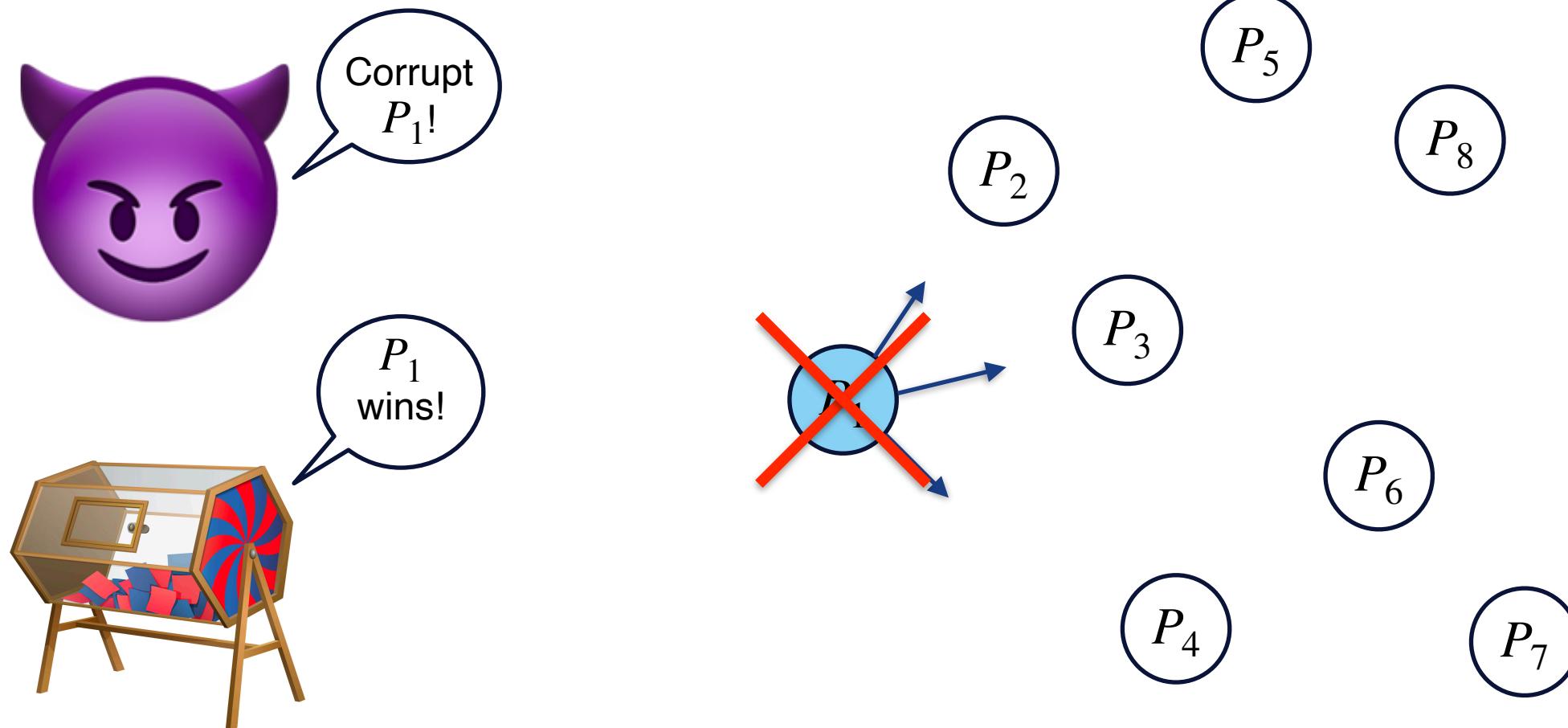
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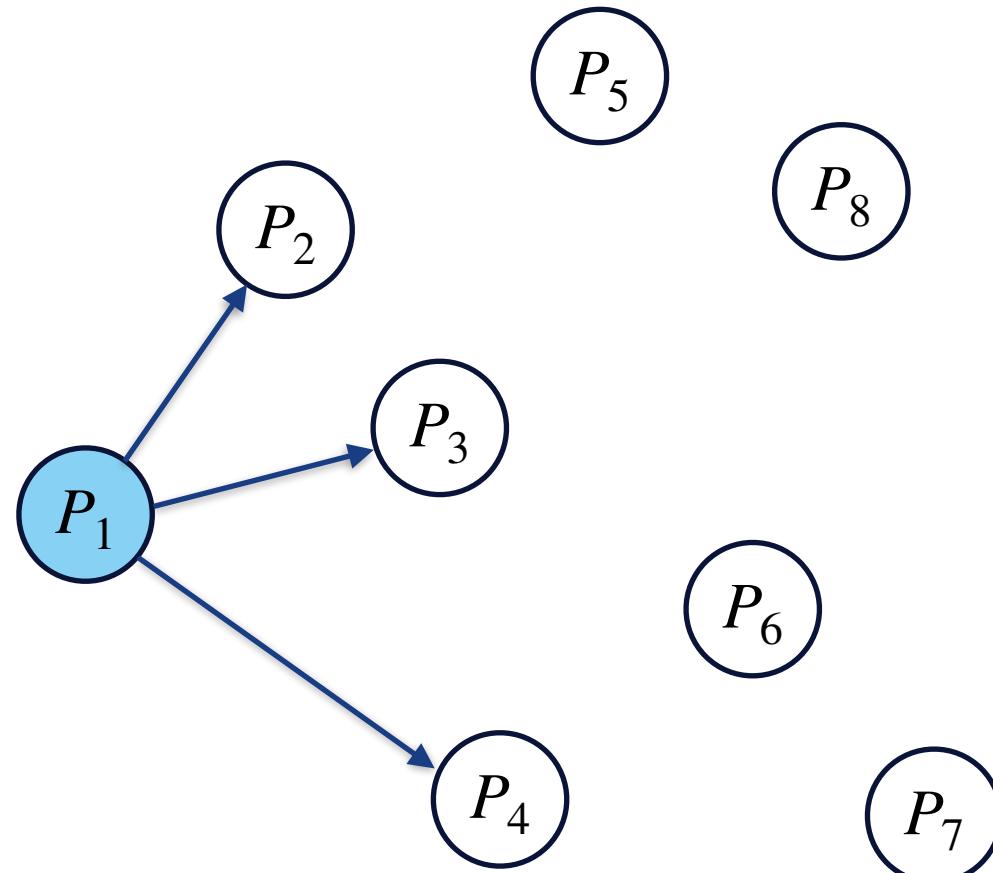
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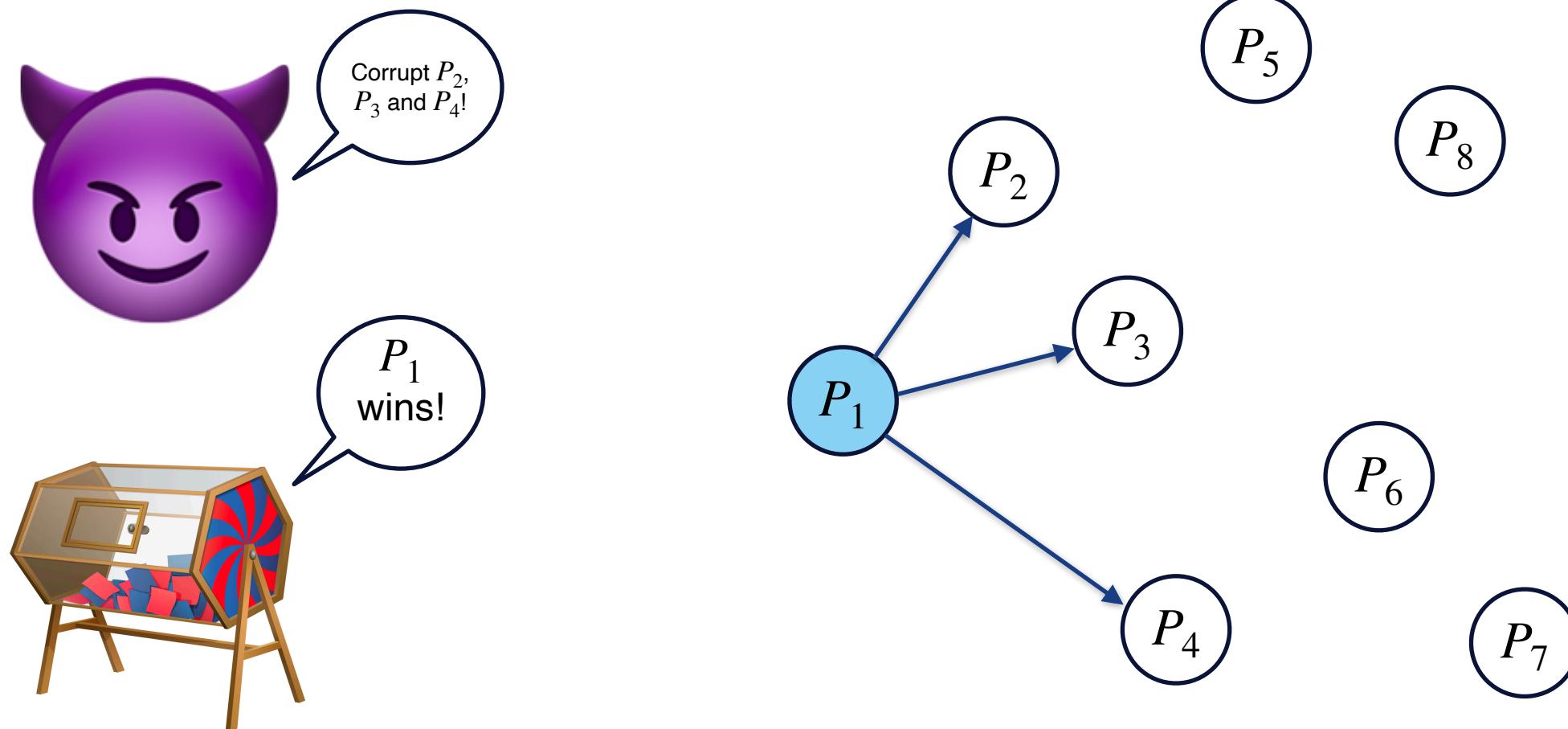
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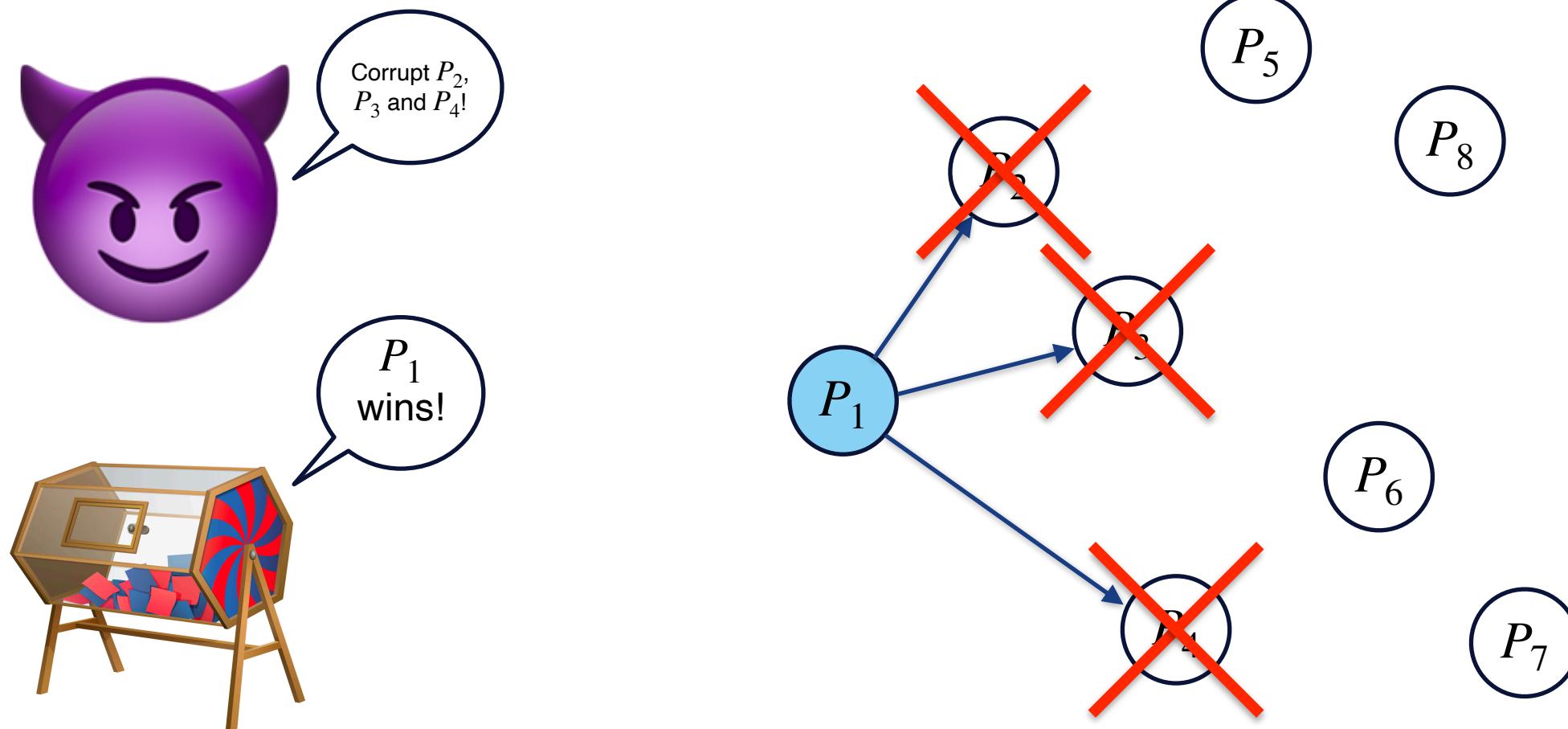
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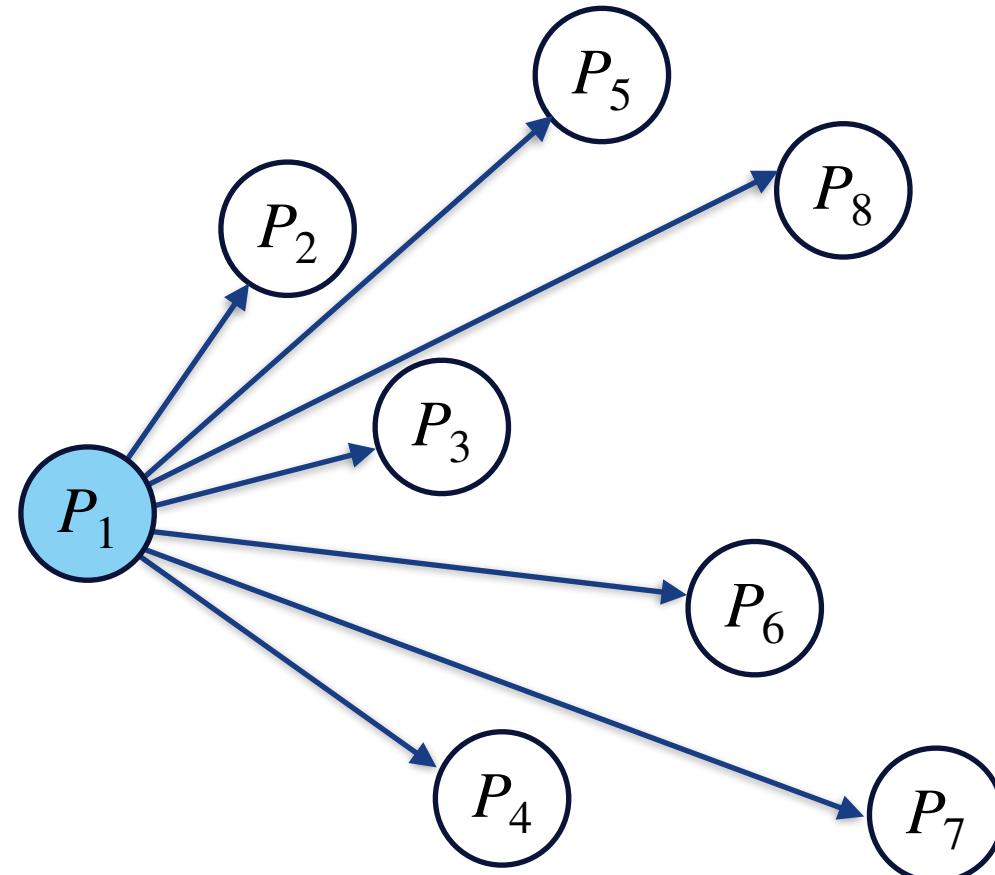
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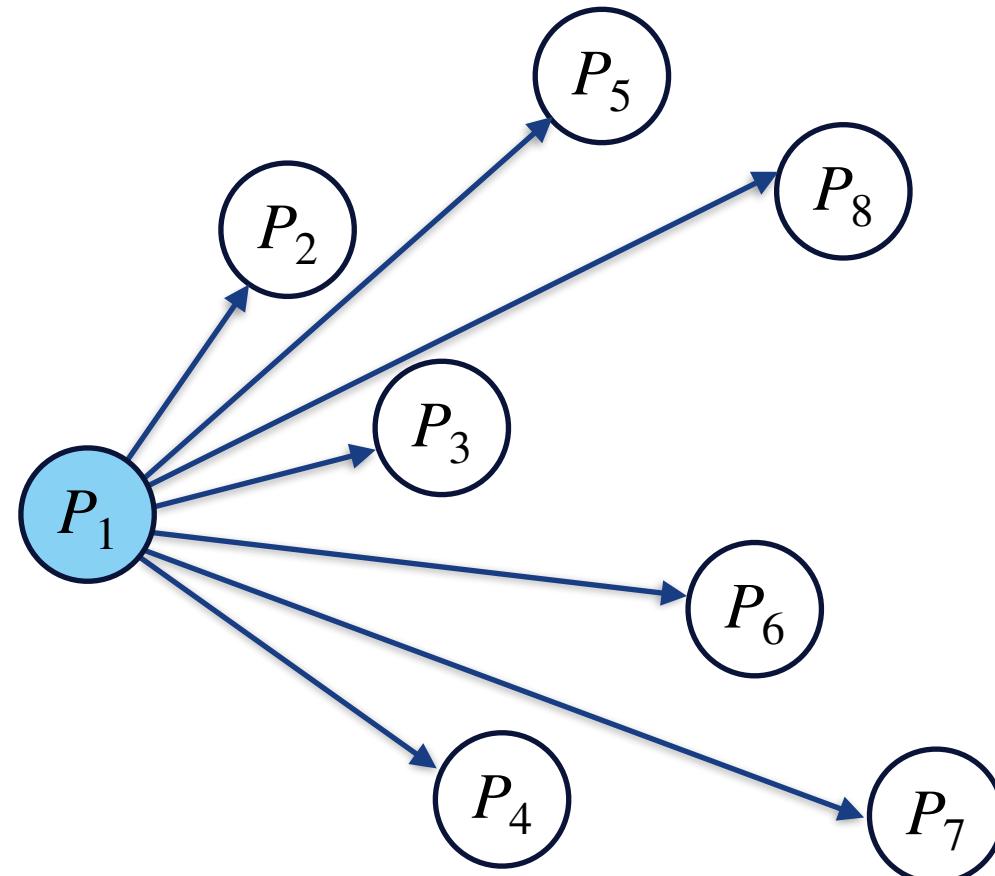
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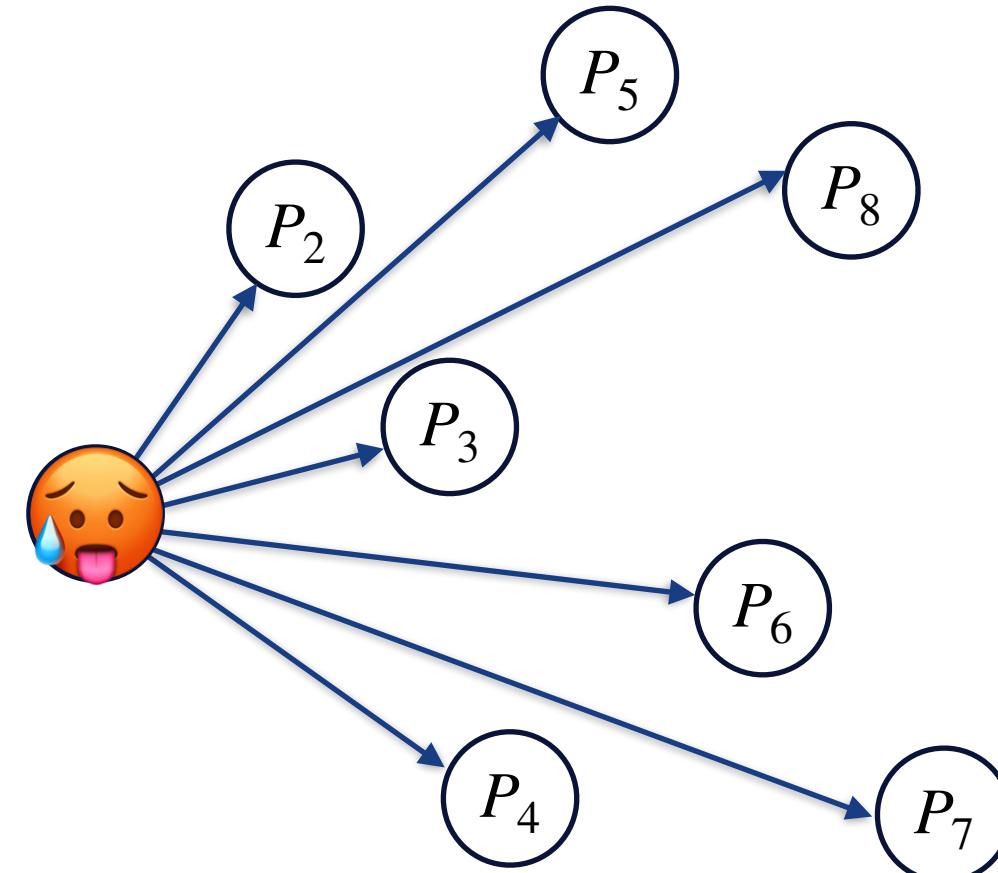
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# FLOODING WITH AN ADAPTIVE ADVERSARY AND ATOMIC MESSAGE SEND

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# $\delta$ -DELAYED ADVERSARIES

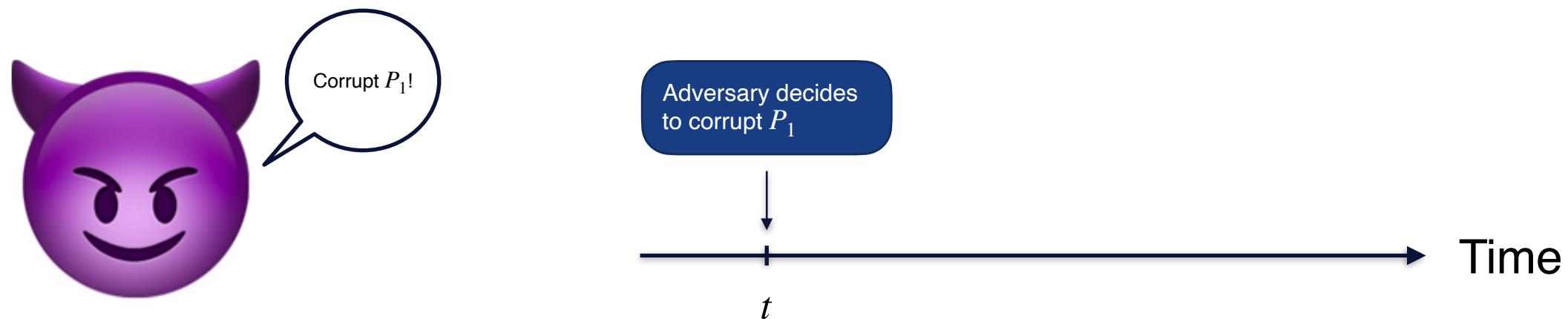
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→ Time

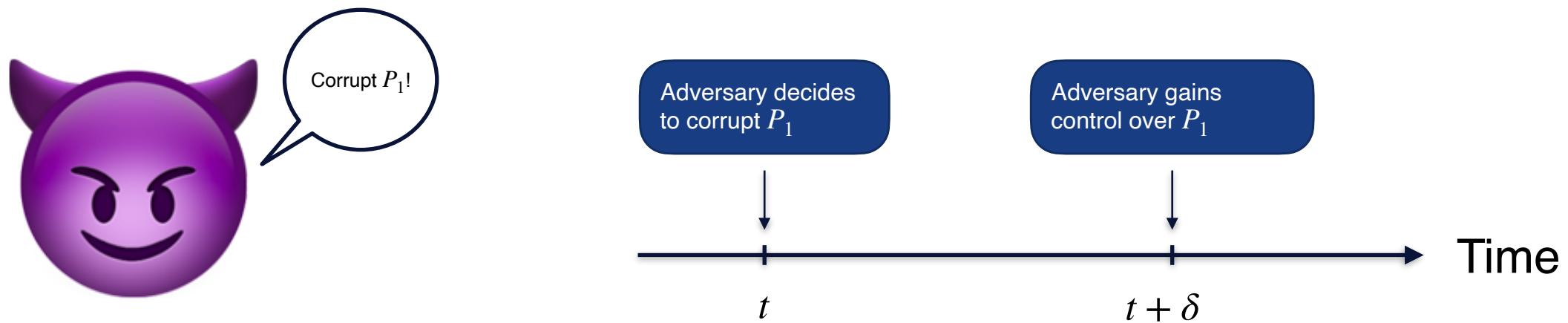
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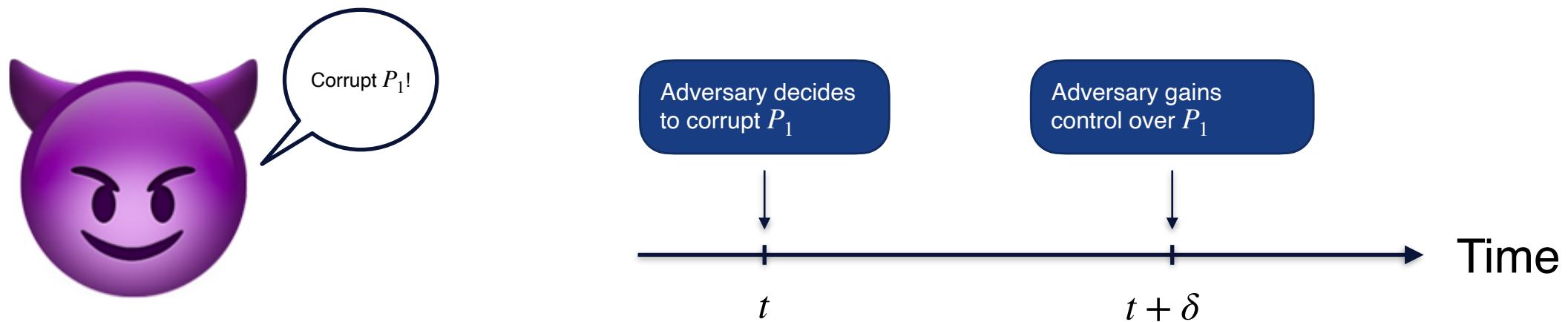
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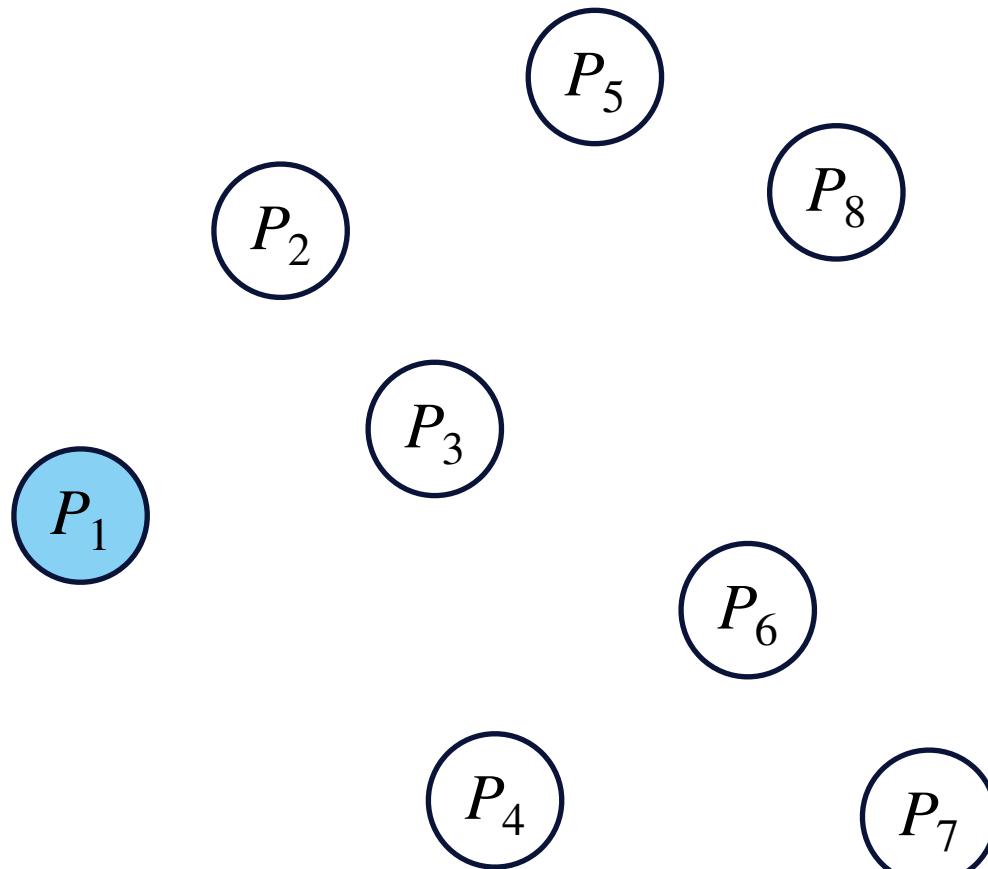
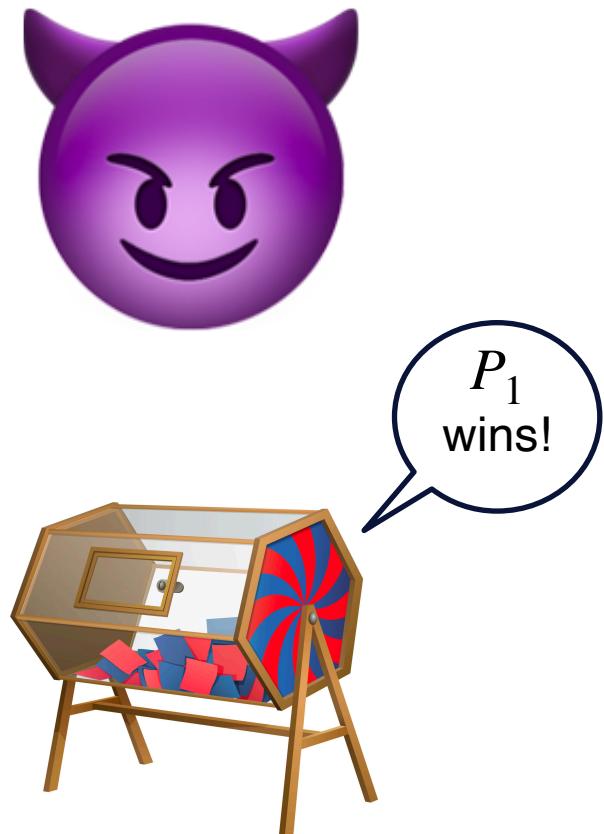
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- Informally introduced by [PS17] for long-lived committees.

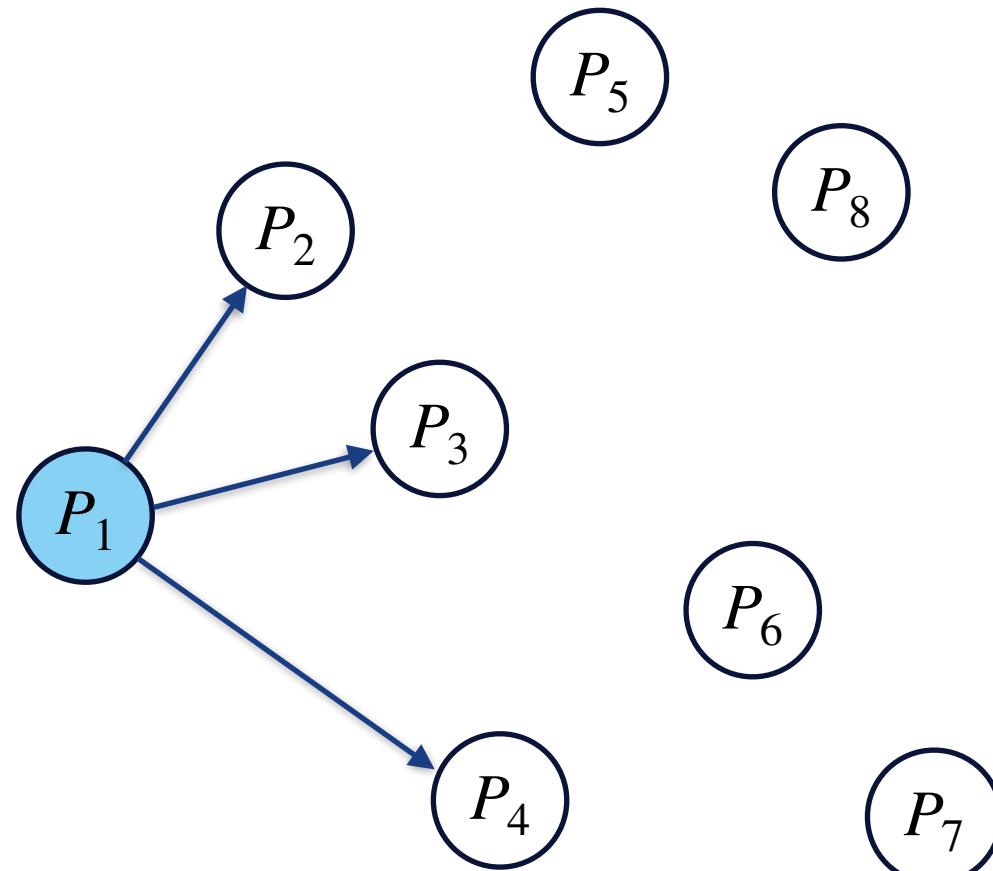
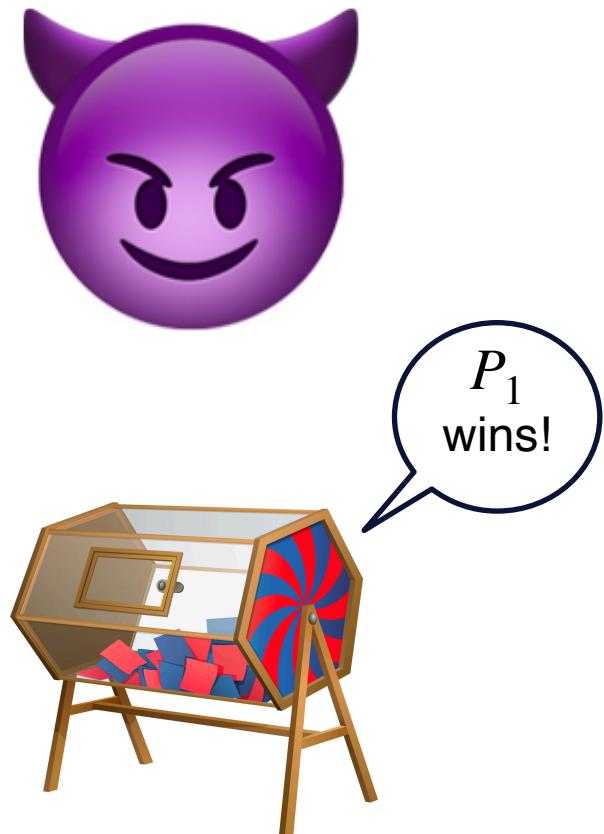
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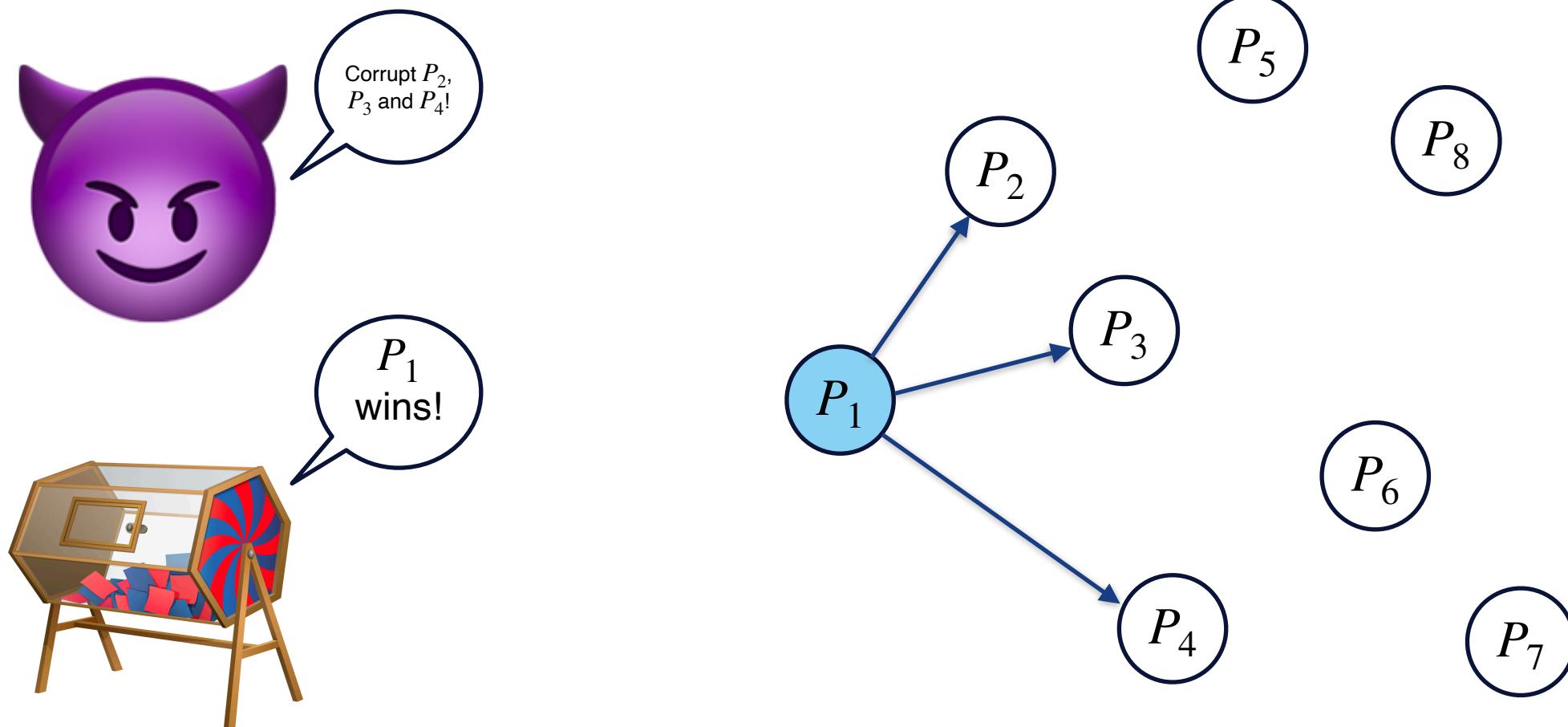
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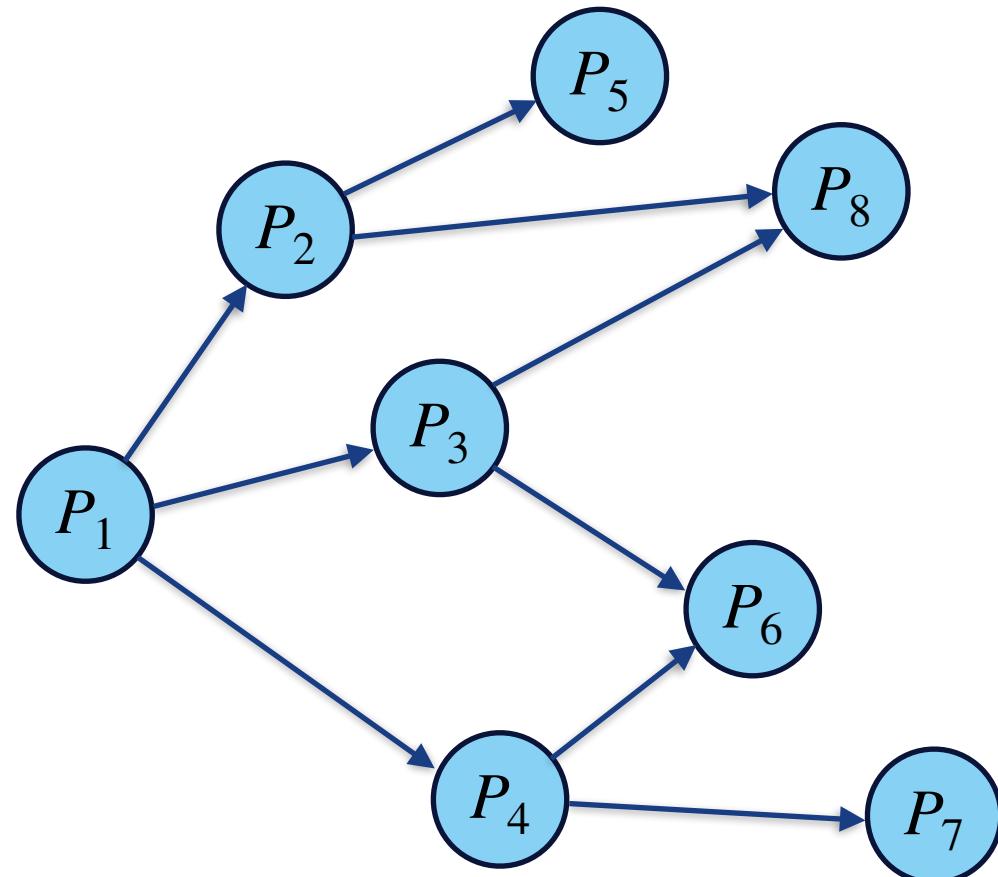
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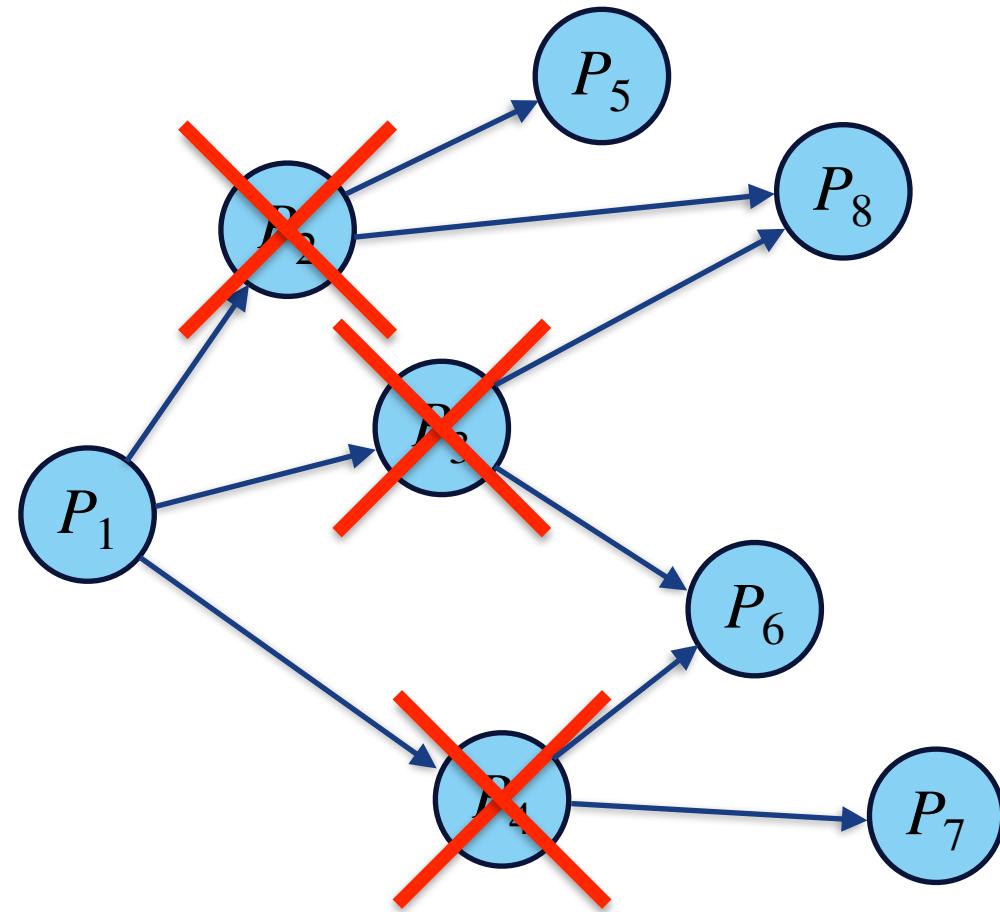
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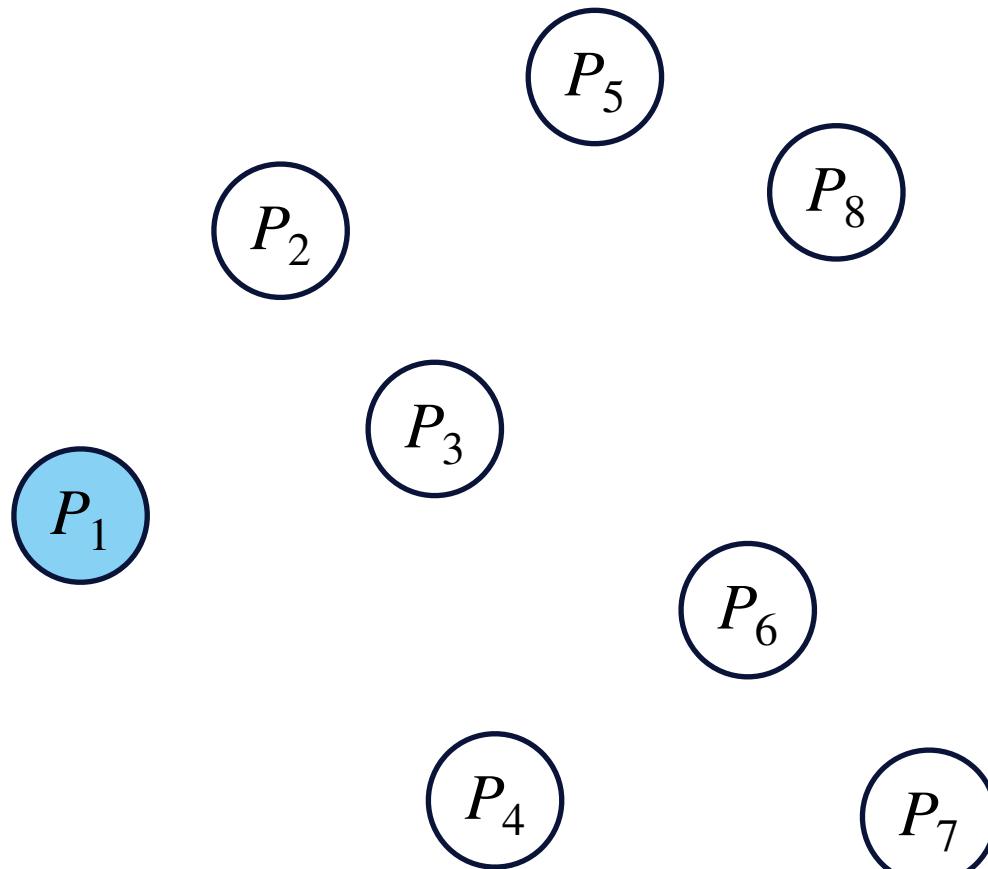
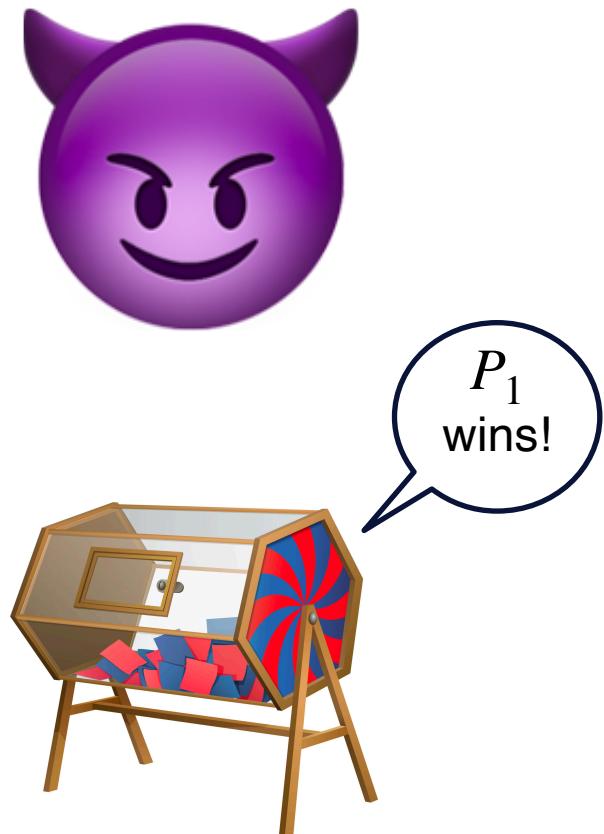
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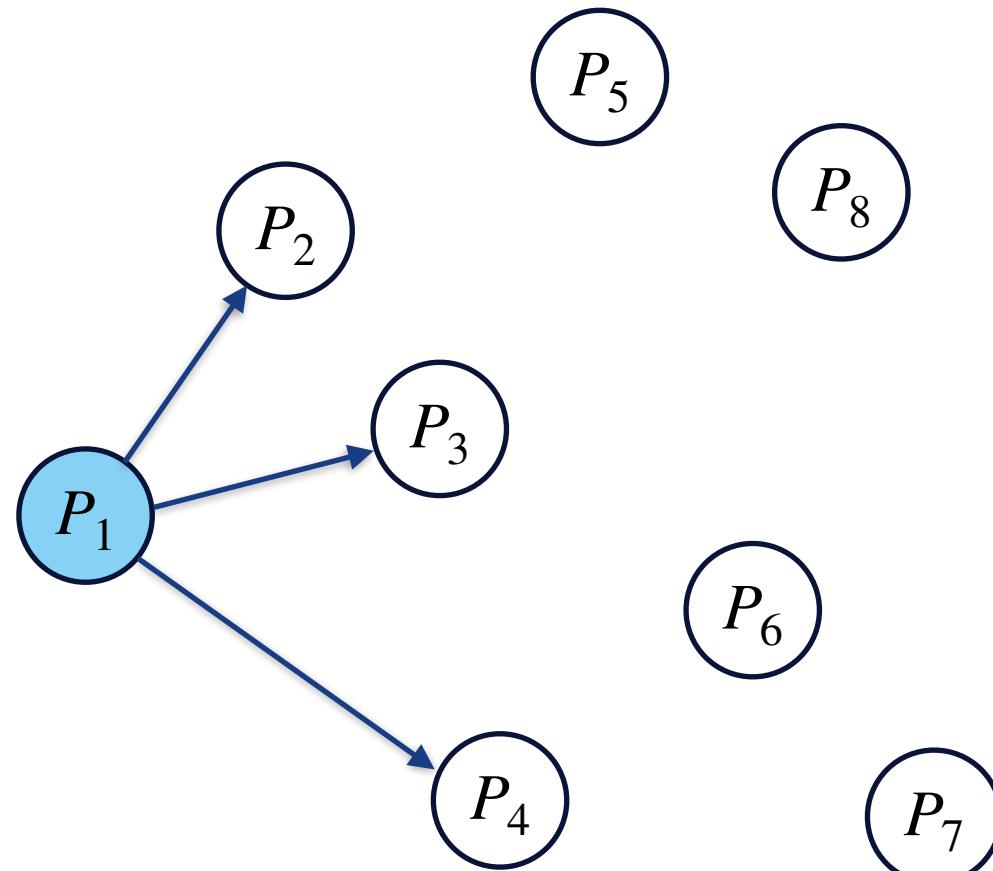
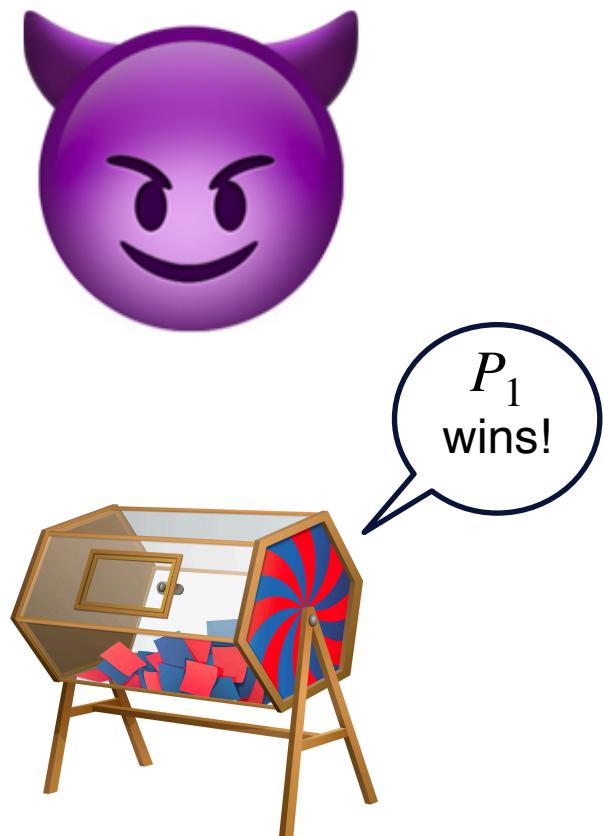
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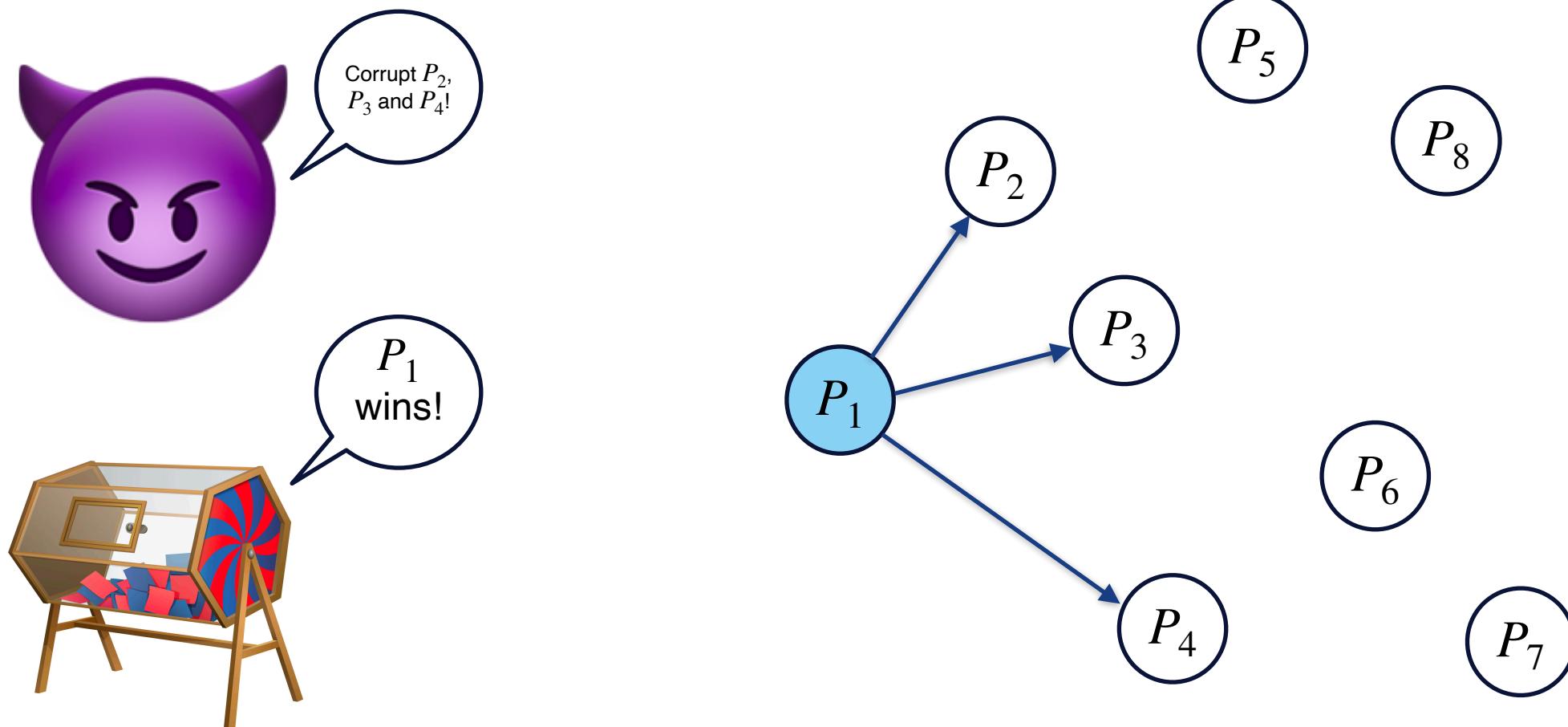
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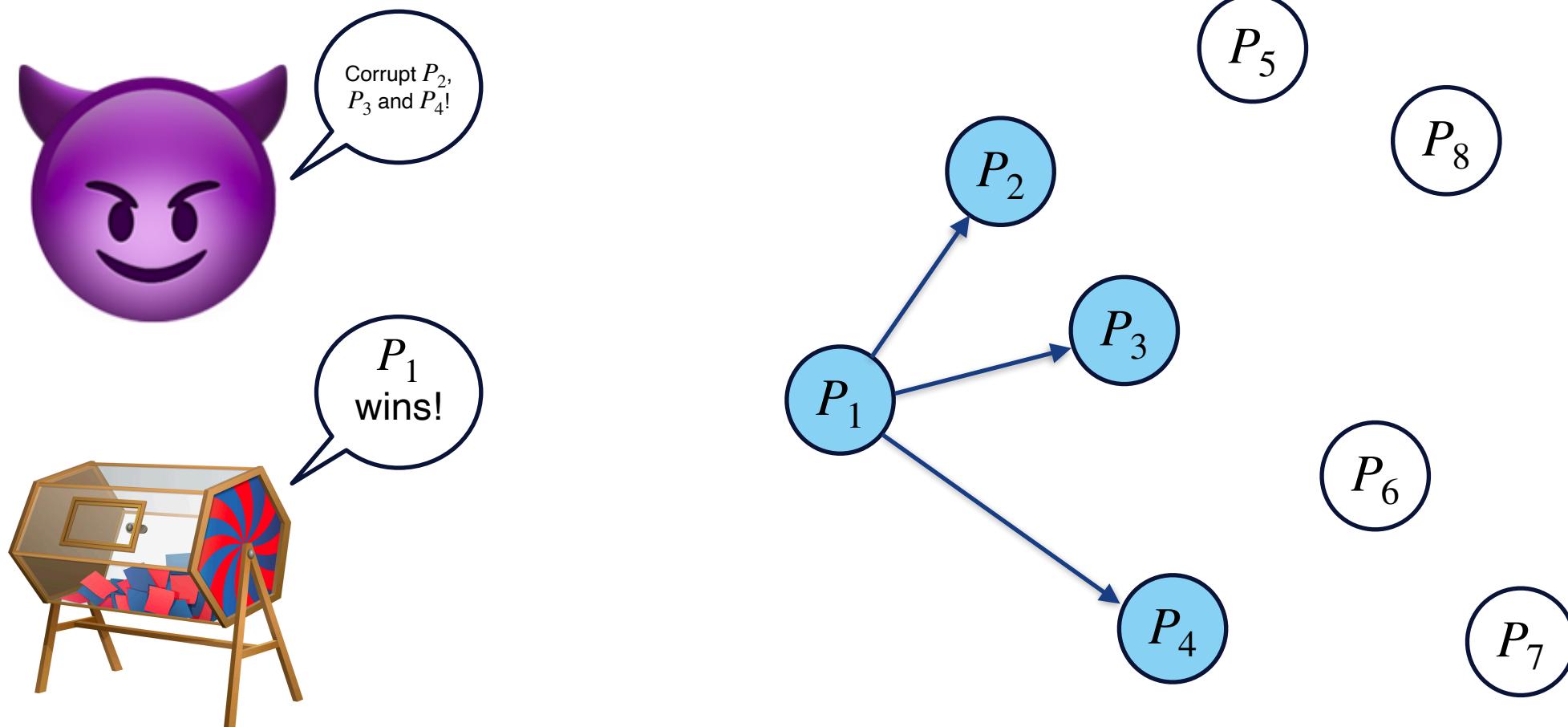
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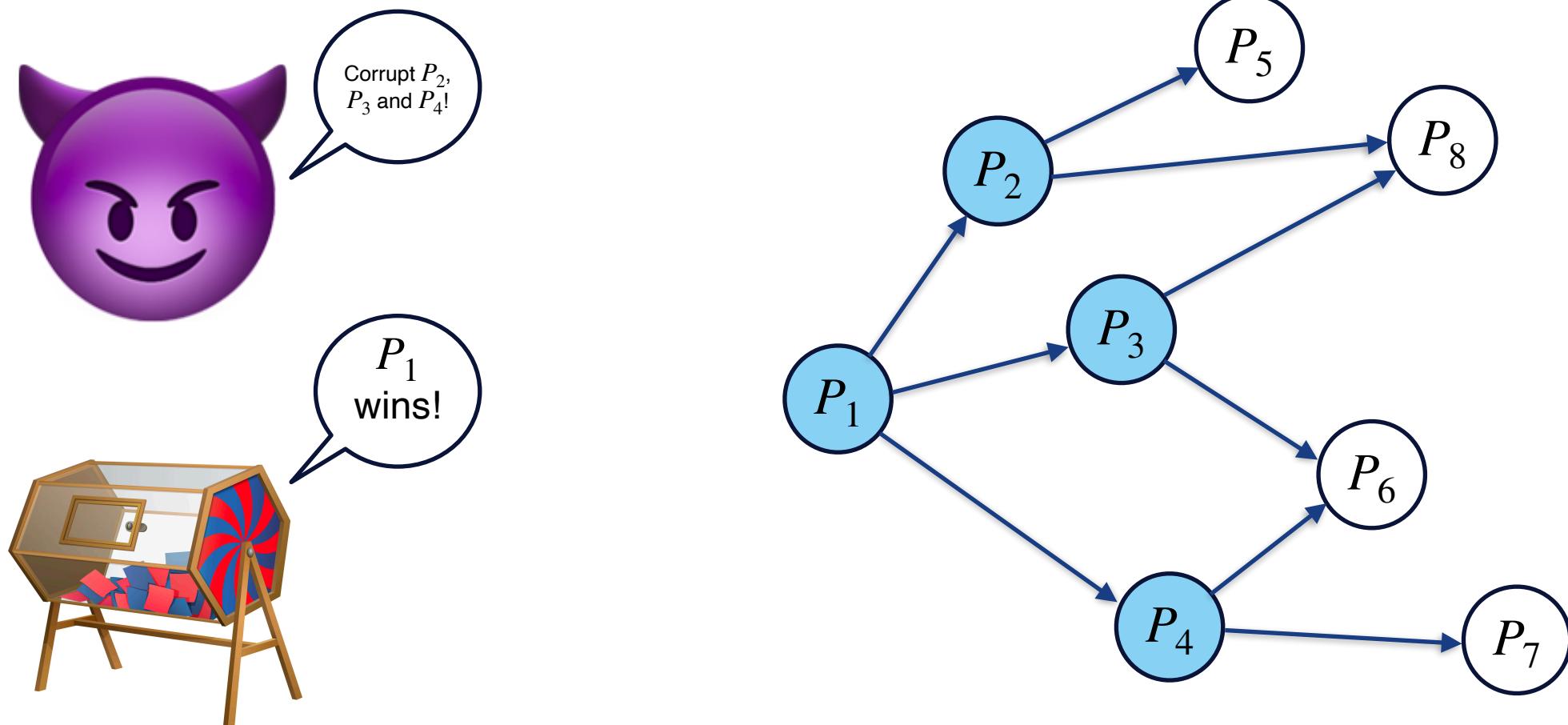
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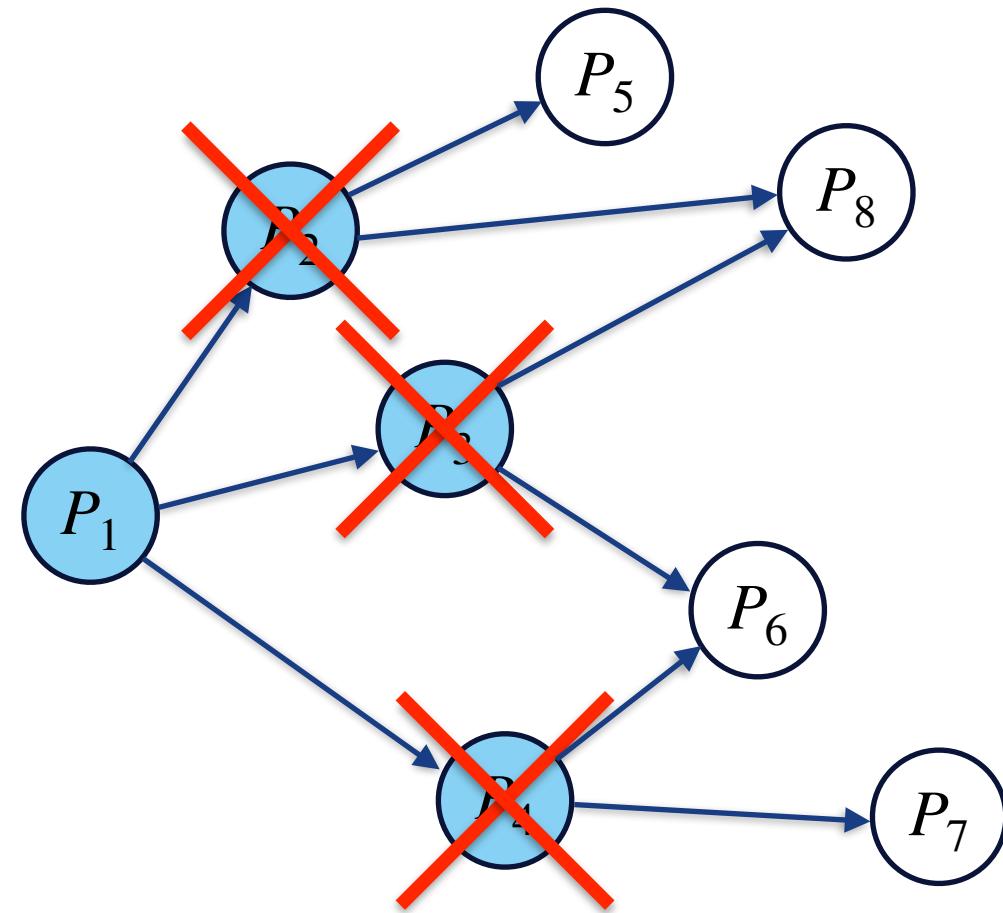
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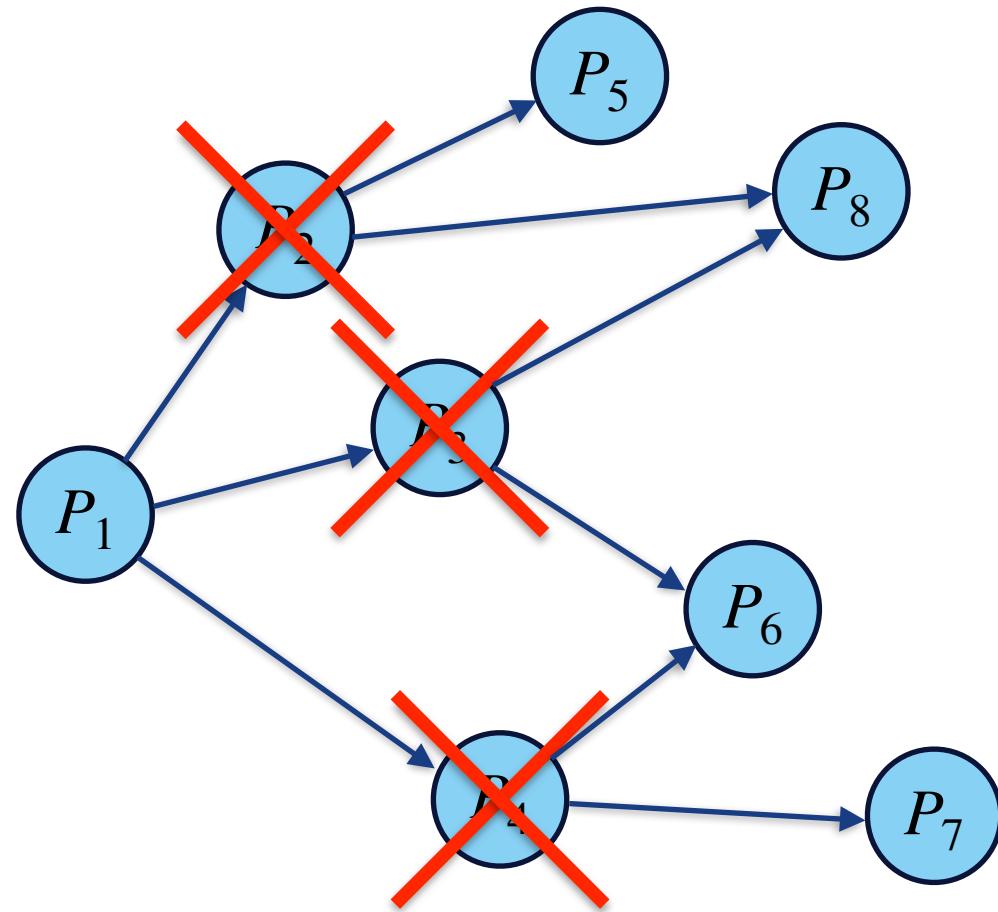
# FLOODING WITH A DELAYED ADVERSARY

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# FLOODING WITH A DELAYED ADVERSARY

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# OUR WORK

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## Formalizing Delayed Adaptive Corruptions and the Security of Flooding Networks

Christian Matt<sup>1</sup>, Jesper Buus Nielsen<sup>\*2</sup>, and Søren Eller Thomsen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Concordium, Zurich, Switzerland

[cm@concordium.com](mailto:cm@concordium.com)

<sup>2</sup>Concordium Blockchain Research Center, Aarhus University, Denmark

[{jbn, sethomson}@cs.au.dk](mailto:{jbn, sethomson}@cs.au.dk)

June 27, 2022

### Abstract

Many decentralized systems rely on flooding protocols for message dissemination. In such a protocol, the sender of a message sends it to a randomly selected set of peers. These peers again send the message to their randomly selected peers, until every network participant has received the message. This type of protocols clearly fail in face of an adaptive adversary who can simply corrupt all peers of the sender and thereby prevent the message from being delivered. Nevertheless, flooding protocols are commonly used within protocols that aim to be cryptographically secure, most notably in blockchain protocols. While it is possible to revert to static corruptions, this gives unsatisfactory security guarantees, especially in the setting of a blockchain that is supposed to run for an extended period of time.

To be able to provide meaningful security guarantees in such settings, we give precise semantics to what we call  $\delta$ -delayed adversaries in the Universal Composability (UC) framework. Such adversaries can adaptively corrupt parties, but there is a delay of time  $\delta$  from when an adversary decides to corrupt a party until they succeed in overtaking control of the party. Within this model, we formally prove the intuitive result that flooding protocols are secure against  $\delta$ -delayed adversaries when  $\delta$  is at least the time it takes to send a message from one peer to another plus the time it takes the recipient to resend the message. To this end, we show how to reduce the adaptive setting with a  $\delta$ -delayed adversary to a static experiment with an Erdős-Rényi graph. Using the established theory of Erdős-Rényi graphs, we provide upper bounds on the propagation time of the flooding functionality for different neighborhood sizes of the gossip network. More concretely, we show the following for security parameter  $\kappa$ , point-to-point channels with delay at most  $\Delta$ , and  $n$  parties in total, with a sufficiently delayed adversary that can corrupt any constant fraction of the parties: If all parties send to  $\Omega(\kappa)$  parties on average, then we can realize a flooding functionality with maximal delay  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta \cdot \log(n))$ ; and if all parties send to  $\Omega(\sqrt{\kappa n})$  parties on average, we can realize a flooding functionality with maximal delay  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta)$ .

<sup>\*</sup>Partially funded by The Concordium Foundation; The Danish Independent Research Council under Grant-ID DFF-8021-00366B (BETHE); The Carlsberg Foundation under the Semper Ardens Research Project CF18-112 (BCM).

# OUR WORK

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## 1. Semantics for $\delta$ -delayed adversaries within UC.

### Formalizing Delayed Adaptive Corruptions and the Security of Flooding Networks

Christian Matt<sup>1</sup>, Jesper Buus Nielsen<sup>\*2</sup>, and Søren Eller Thomsen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Concordium, Zurich, Switzerland

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<sup>2</sup>Concordium Blockchain Research Center, Aarhus University, Denmark

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# OUR WORK

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1. Semantics for  $\delta$ -delayed adversaries within UC.
2. Two instantiations of flooding networks secure against an adaptive adversary that is delayed for “*the time it takes to send + the time it takes time to resend*”:

## Formalizing Delayed Adaptive Corruptions and the Security of Flooding Networks

Christian Matt<sup>1</sup>, Jesper Buus Nielsen<sup>\*2</sup>, and Søren Eller Thomsen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Concordium, Zurich, Switzerland

[cm@concordium.com](mailto:cm@concordium.com)

<sup>2</sup>Concordium Blockchain Research Center, Aarhus University, Denmark

[{jbn, sethomson}@cs.au.dk](mailto:{jbn, sethomson}@cs.au.dk)

June 27, 2022

### Abstract

Many decentralized systems rely on flooding protocols for message dissemination. In such a protocol, the sender of a message sends it to a randomly selected set of peers. These peers again send the message to their randomly selected peers, until every network participant has received the message. This type of protocols clearly fail in face of an adaptive adversary who can simply corrupt all peers of the sender and thereby prevent the message from being delivered. Nevertheless, flooding protocols are commonly used within protocols that aim to be cryptographically secure, most notably in blockchain protocols. While it is possible to revert to static corruptions, this gives unsatisfactory security guarantees, especially in the setting of a blockchain that is supposed to run for an extended period of time.

To be able to provide meaningful security guarantees in such settings, we give precise semantics to what we call  $\delta$ -delayed adversaries in the Universal Composability (UC) framework. Such adversaries can adaptively corrupt parties, but there is a delay of time  $\delta$  from when an adversary decides to corrupt a party until they succeed in overtaking control of the party. Within this model, we formally prove the intuitive result that flooding protocols are secure against  $\delta$ -delayed adversaries when  $\delta$  is at least the time it takes to send a message from one peer to another plus the time it takes the recipient to resend the message. To this end, we show how to reduce the adaptive setting with a  $\delta$ -delayed adversary to a static experiment with an Erdős-Rényi graph. Using the established theory of Erdős-Rényi graphs, we provide upper bounds on the propagation time of the flooding functionality for different neighborhood sizes of the gossip network. More concretely, we show the following for security parameter  $\kappa$ , point-to-point channels with delay at most  $\Delta$ , and  $n$  parties in total, with a sufficiently delayed adversary that can corrupt any constant fraction of the parties: If all parties send to  $\Omega(\kappa)$  parties on average, then we can realize a flooding functionality with maximal delay  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta \cdot \log(n))$ ; and if all parties send to  $\Omega(\sqrt{\kappa n})$  parties on average, we can realize a flooding functionality with maximal delay  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta)$ .

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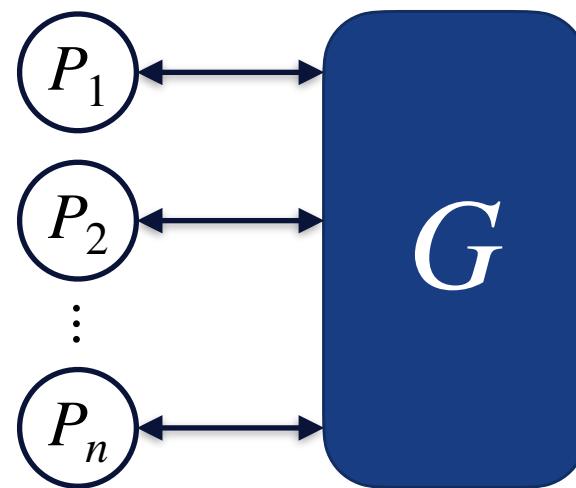
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# **DELAYED ADVERSARIES IN UC**

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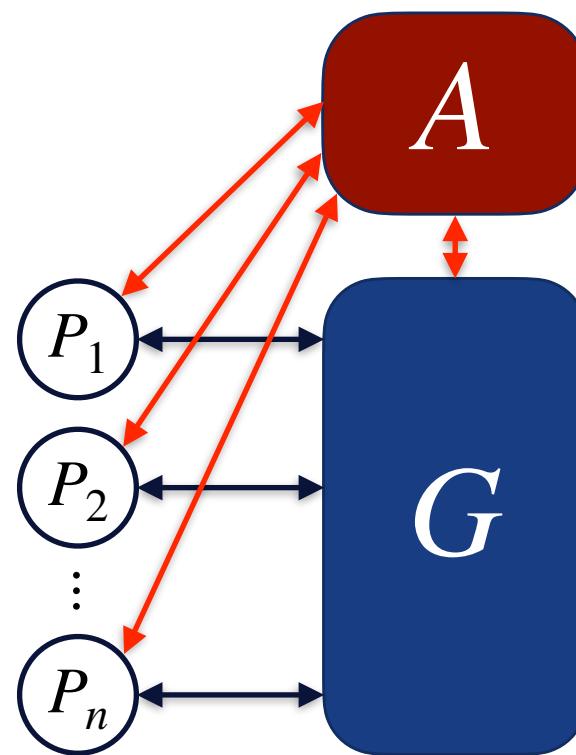
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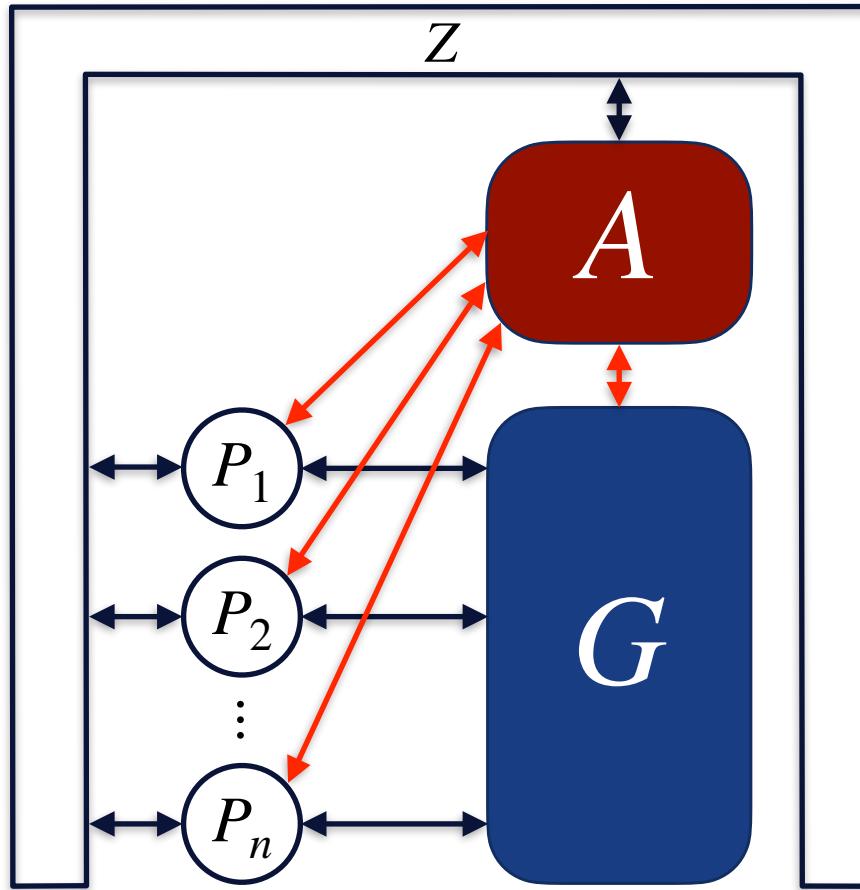
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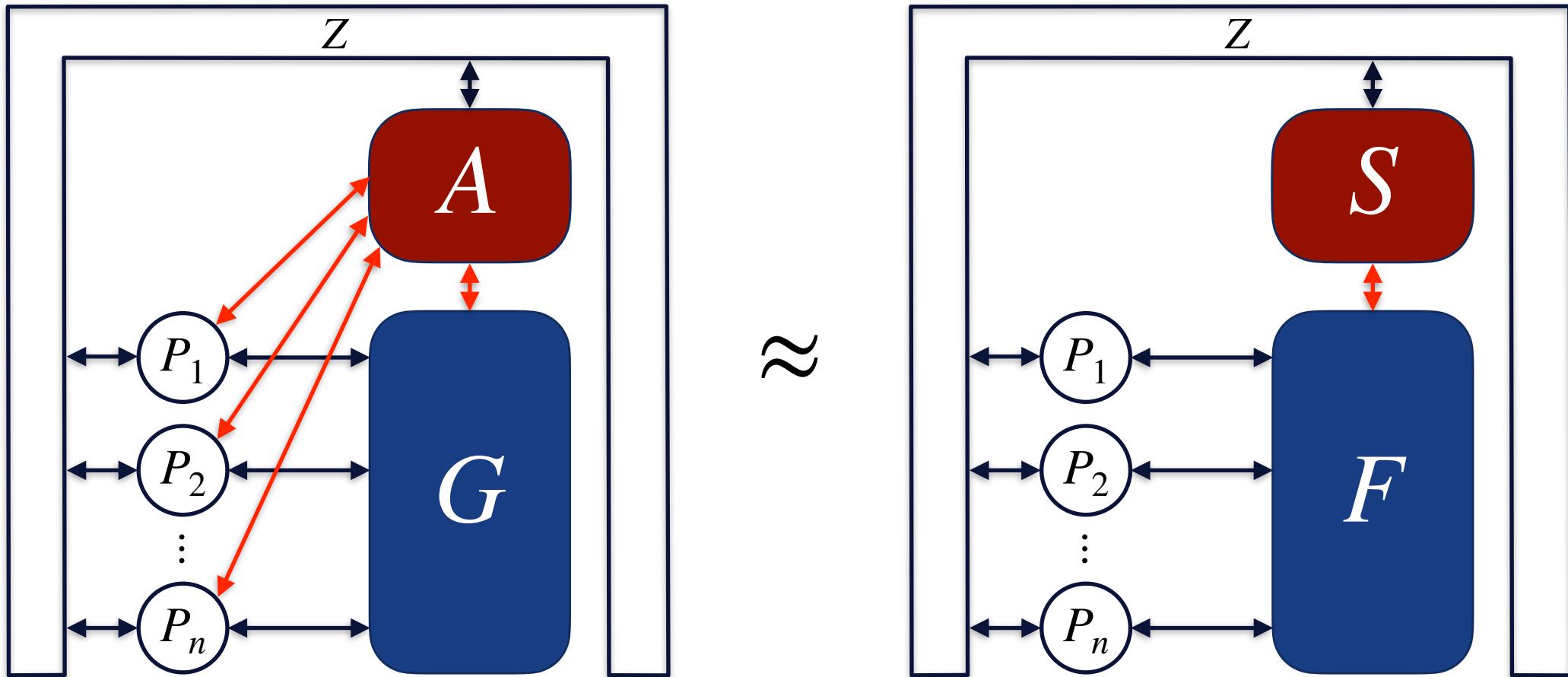
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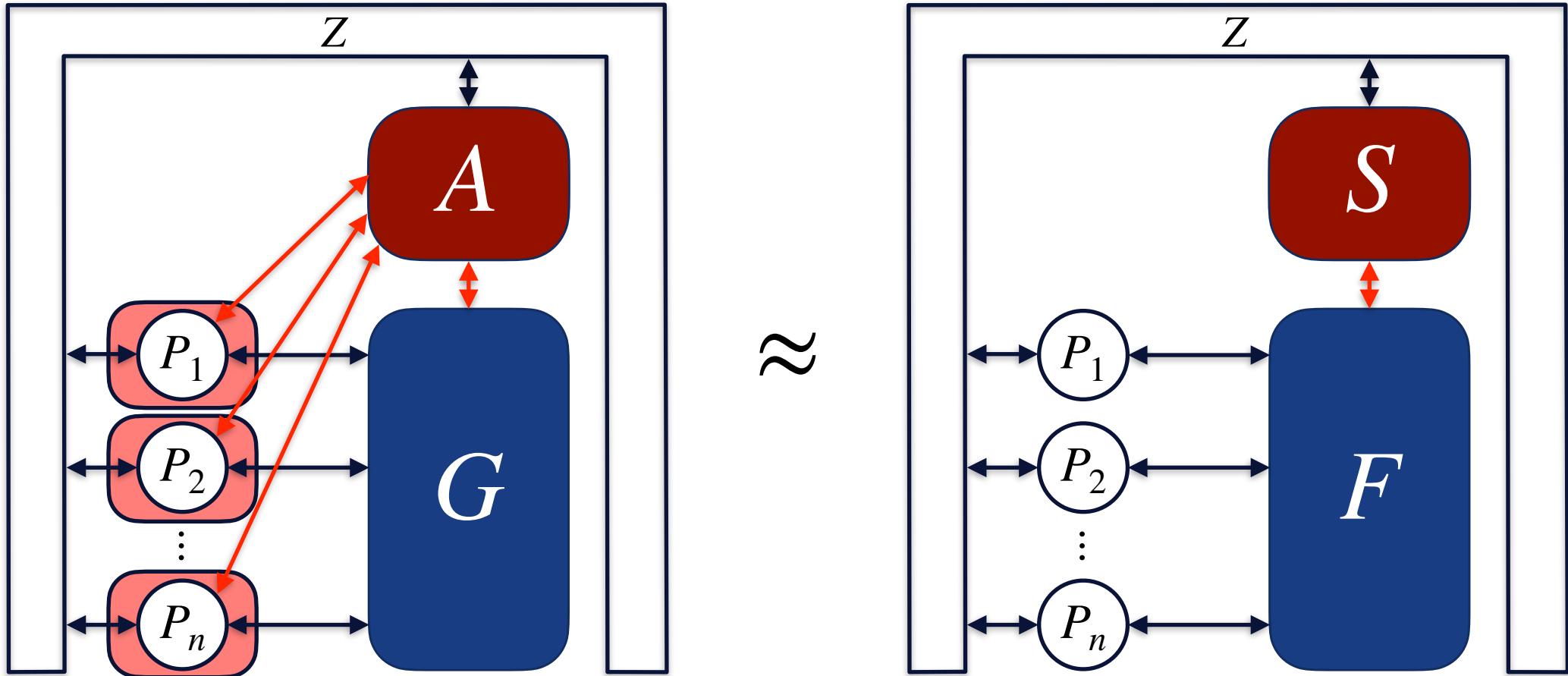
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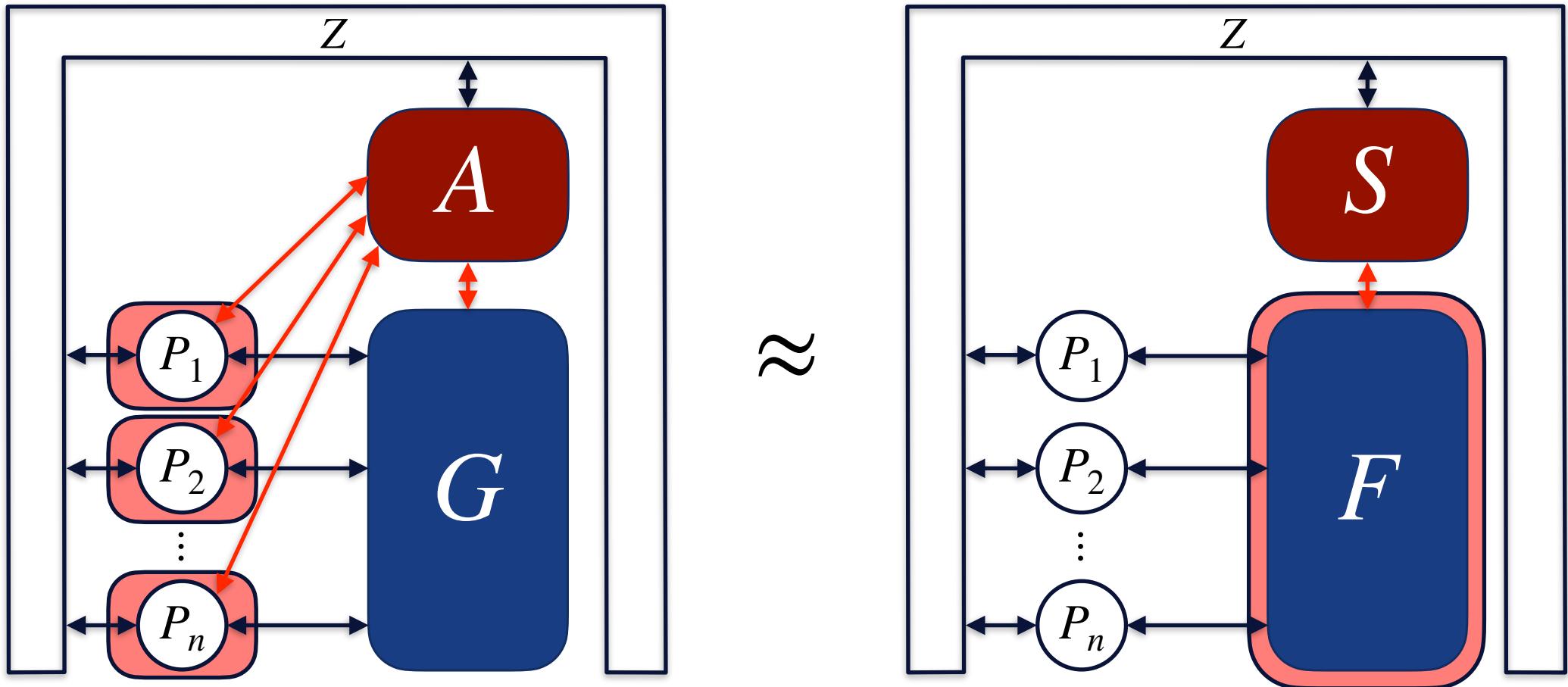
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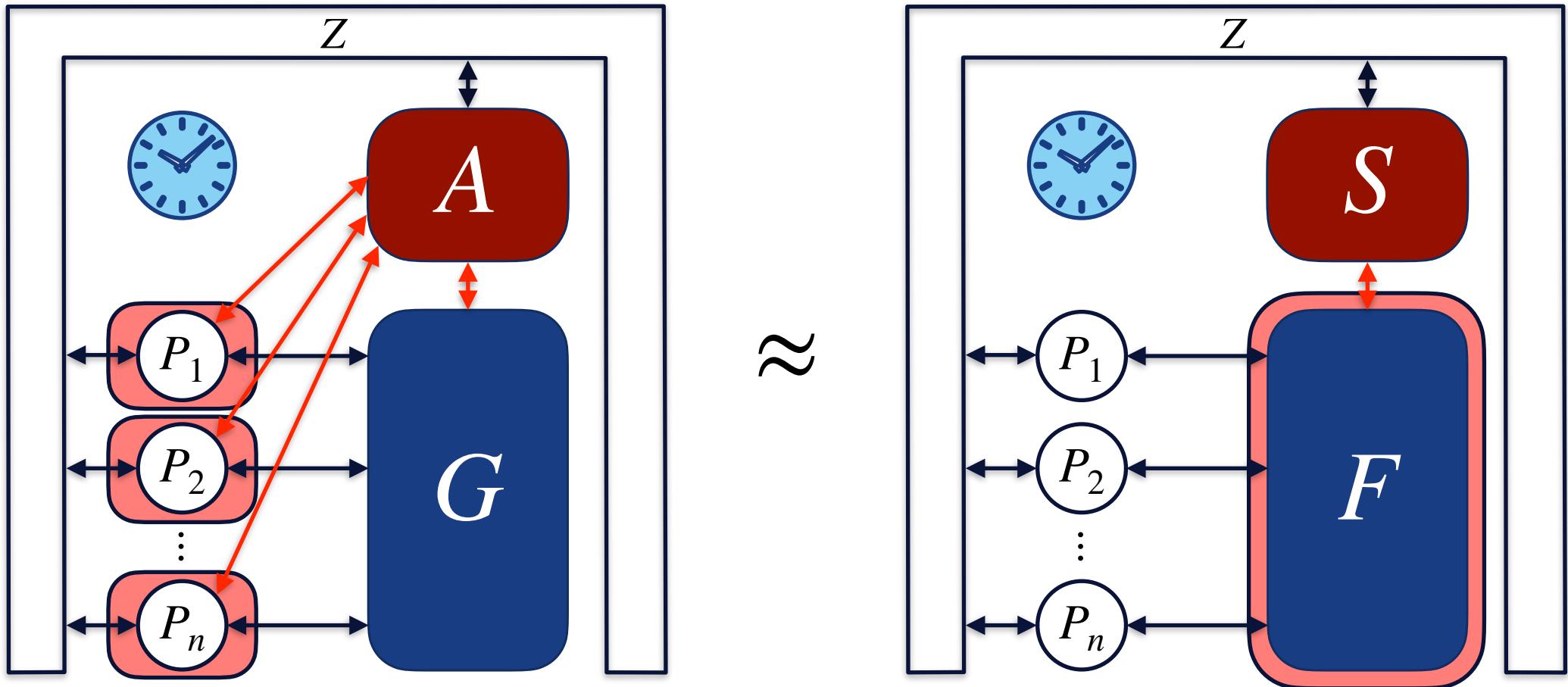


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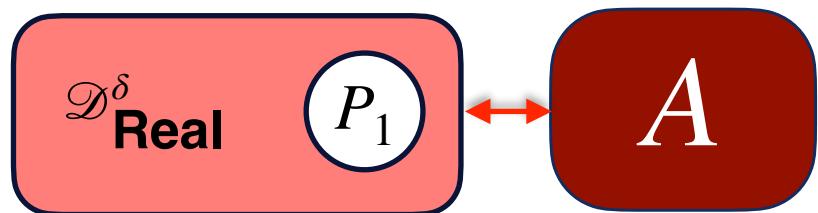
# DELAYED ADVERSARIES IN UC



\*We use the notion of time from TARDIS [BDDNO21].

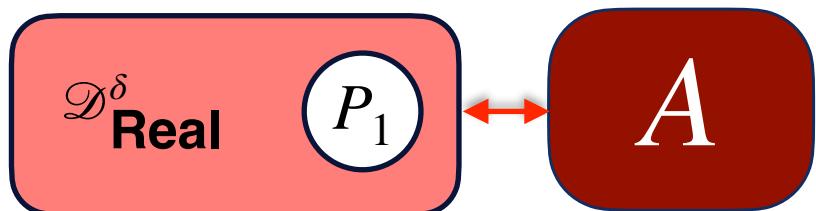
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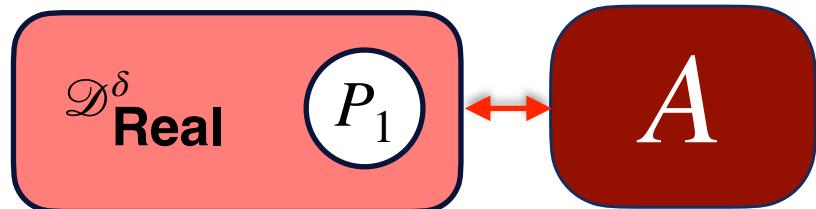
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For each party, three additional commands:

# DELAY SHELLS

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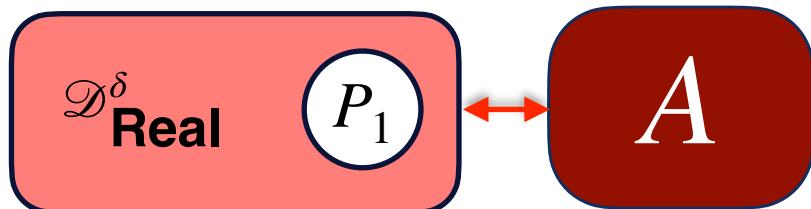


For each party, three additional commands:

- PRECORRUPT: Time for precorruption is noted.

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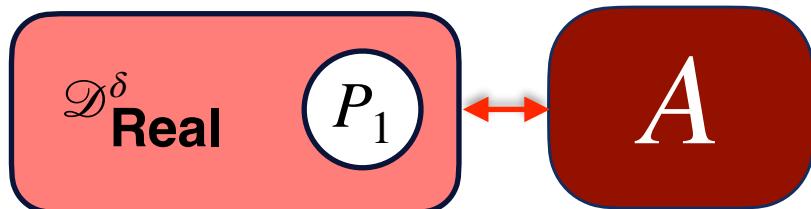


For each party, three additional commands:

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# DELAY SHELLS

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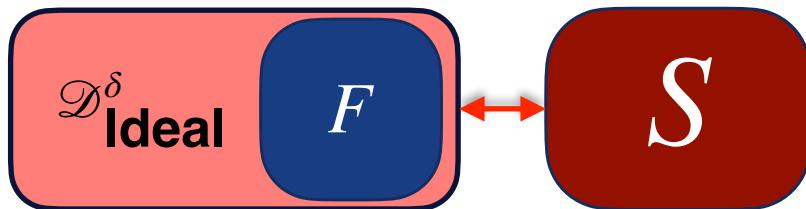
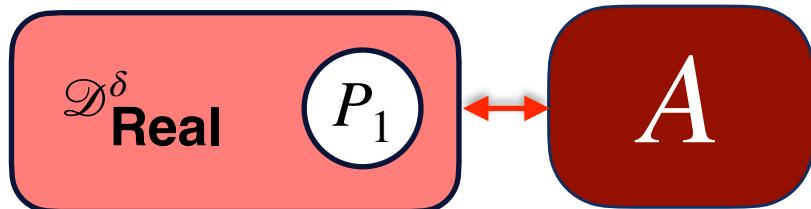


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# THEOREMS

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**Theorem 1.** *Security against a byzantine adversary implies security against a 0-delayed adversary.*

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**Theorem 2.** *Security against a fast adversary implies security against a slow adversary.*

# FLOODING PROTOCOL: $\pi_{\text{ERFlood}}(\rho)$

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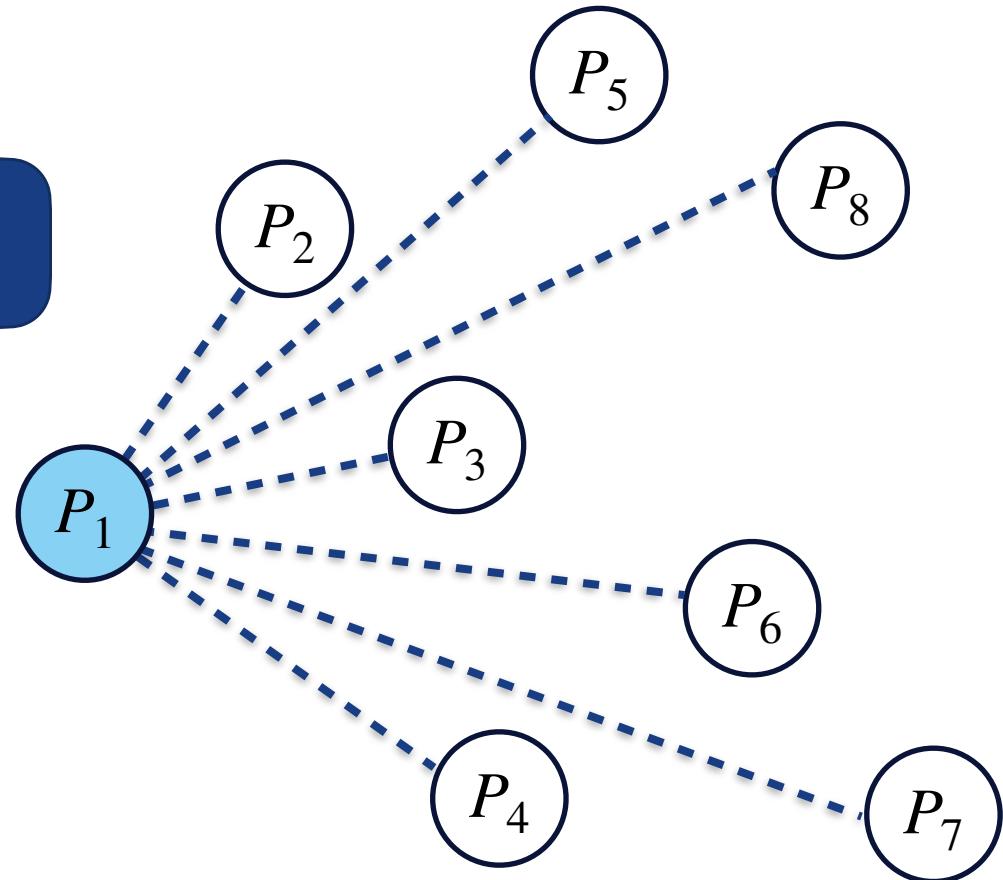
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Forward each message to each party with probability  $\rho$ .

# FLOODING PROTOCOL: $\pi_{\text{ERFlood}}(\rho)$

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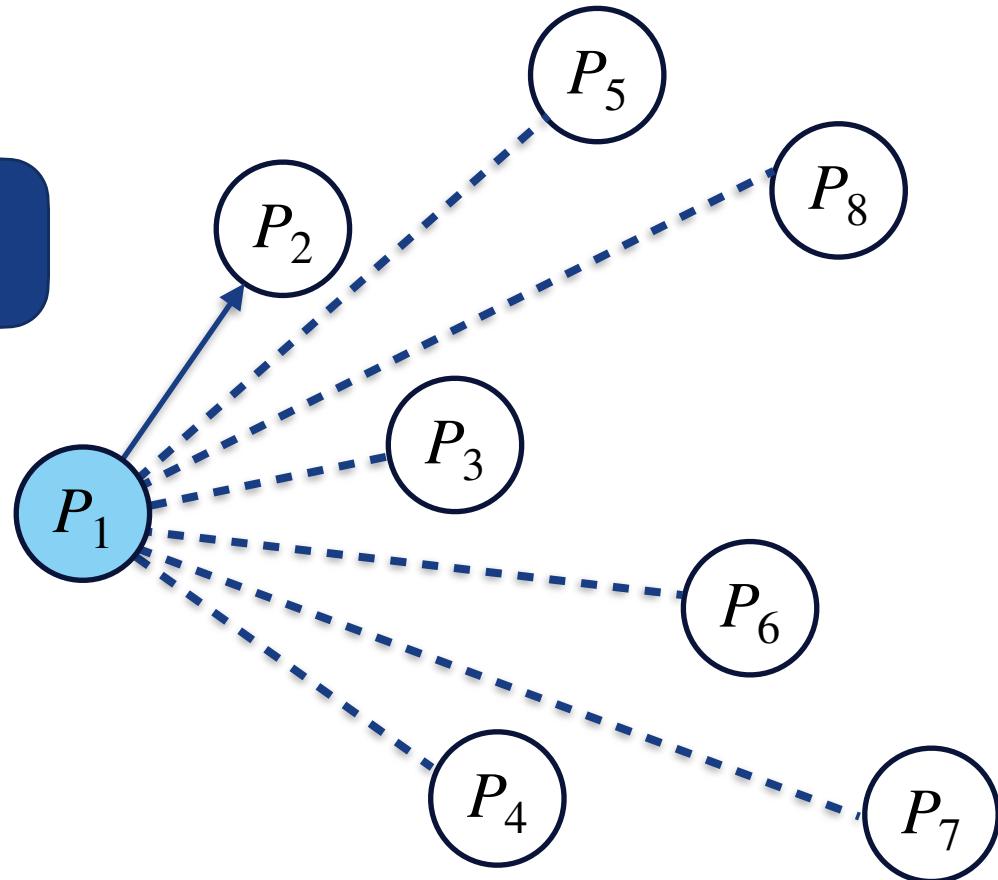
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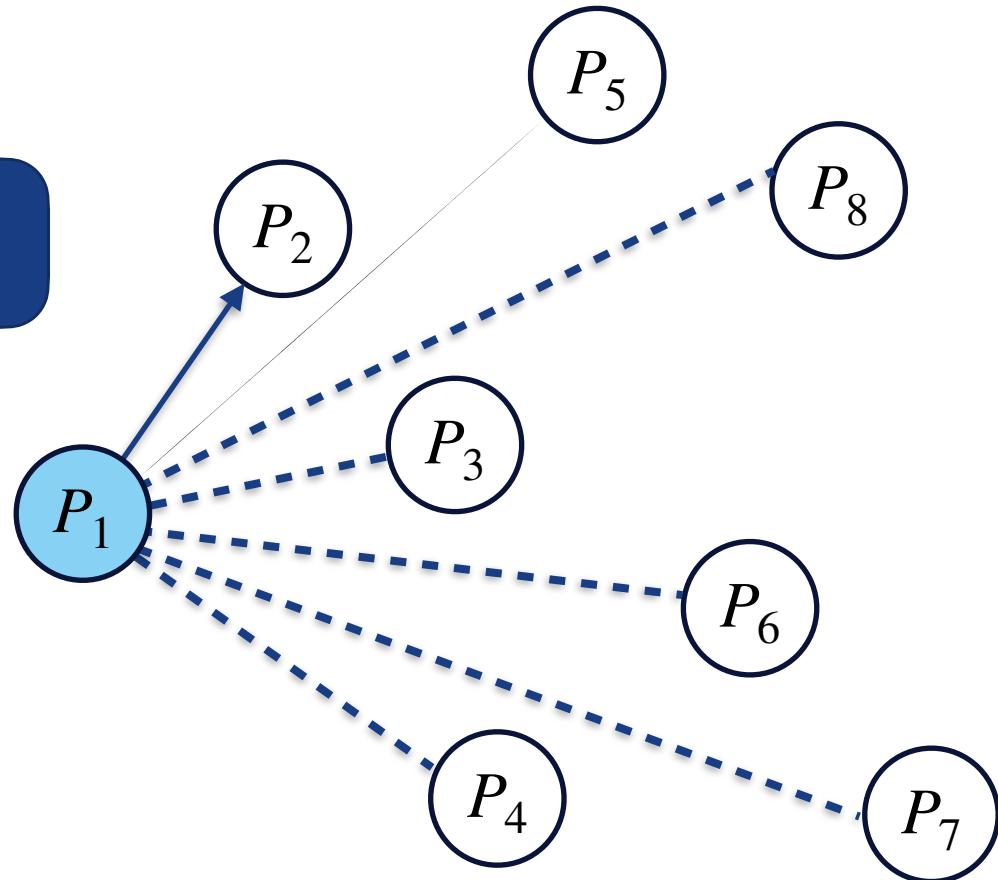
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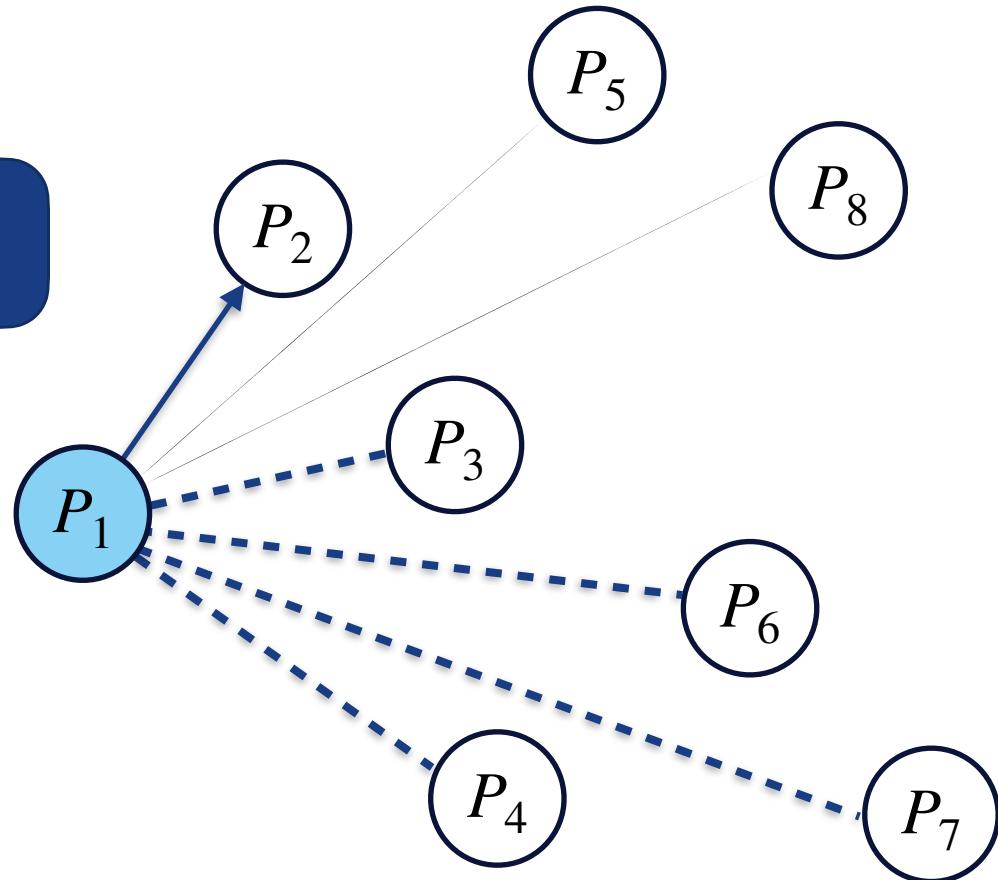
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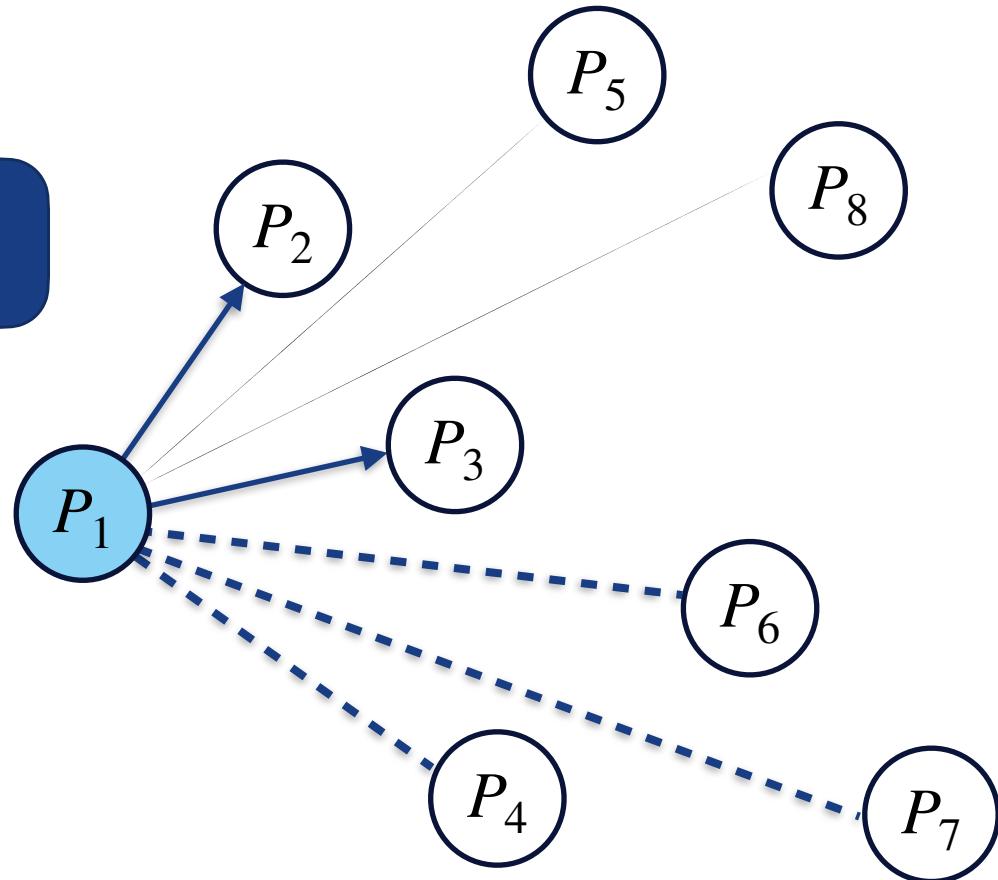
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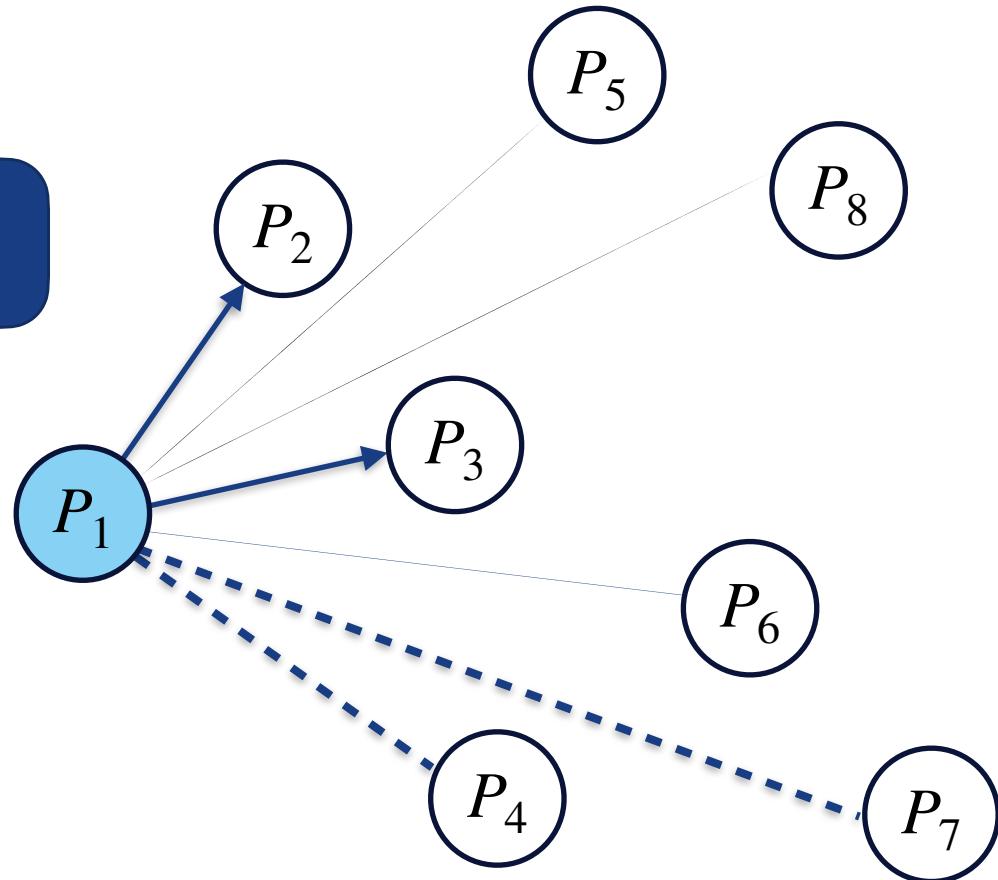
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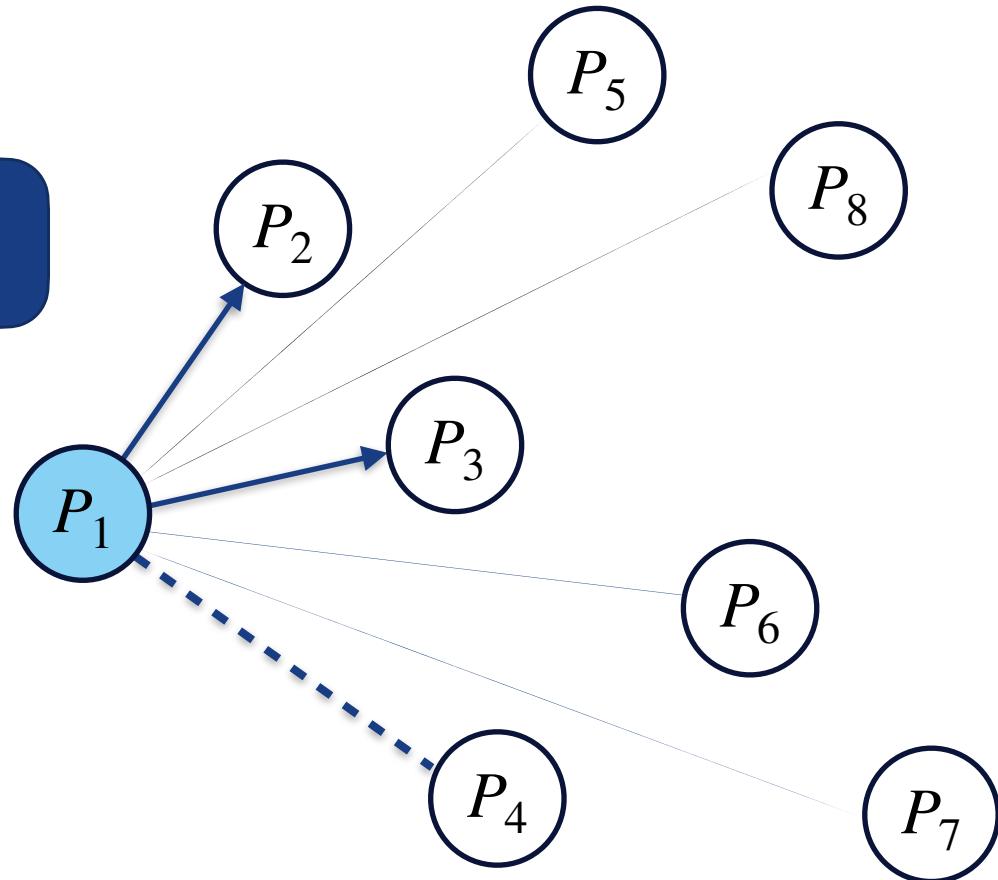
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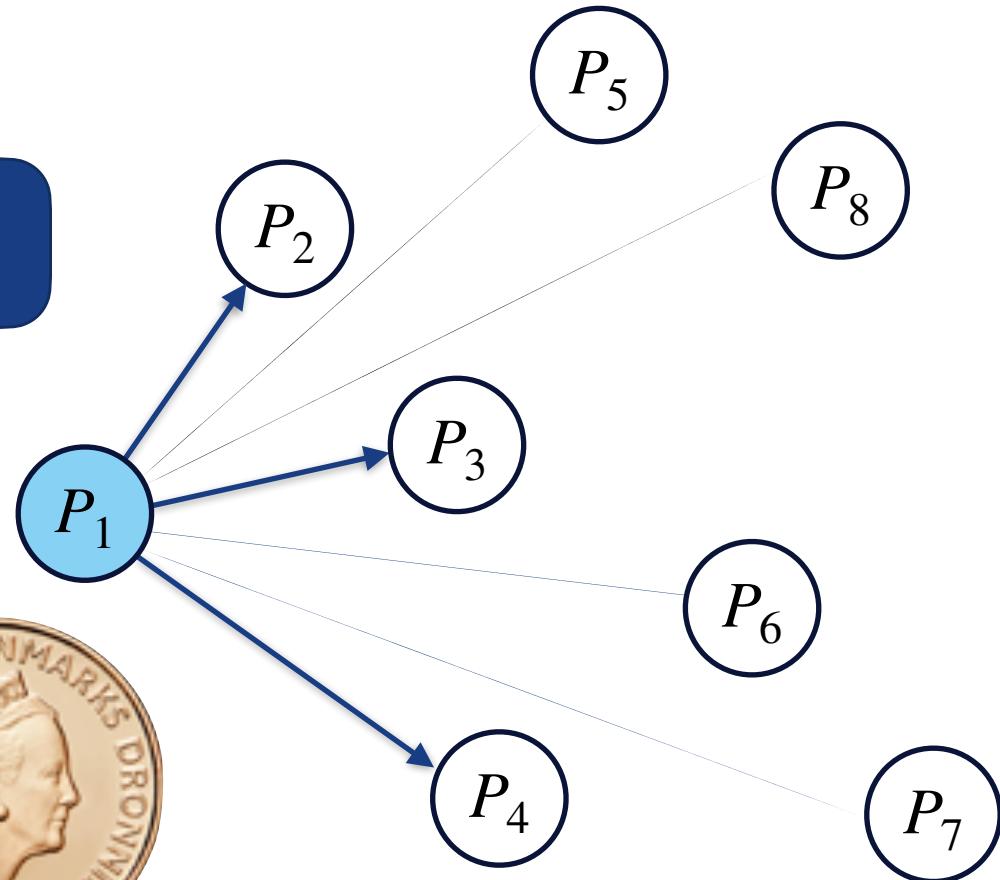
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# MAIN RESULT (INFORMAL)

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**Theorem 3.** *The protocol  $\pi_{ERFlood}$  implements a flooding network against an adversary that is delayed for the time it takes to send plus the time it takes to resend with either:*

1.  $\Omega(\sqrt{\kappa \cdot n})$  neighborhood and a diameter of 2.
2.  $\Omega(\kappa)$  neighborhood and a logarithmic diameter.

# ASSUMPTIONS

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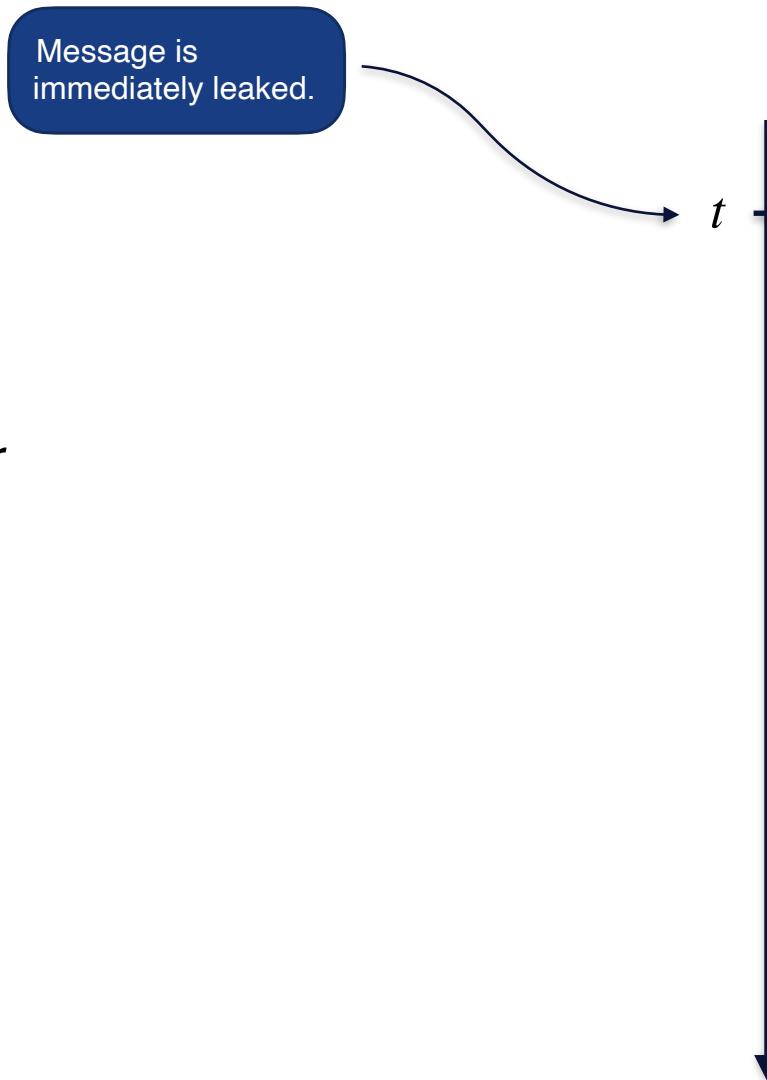
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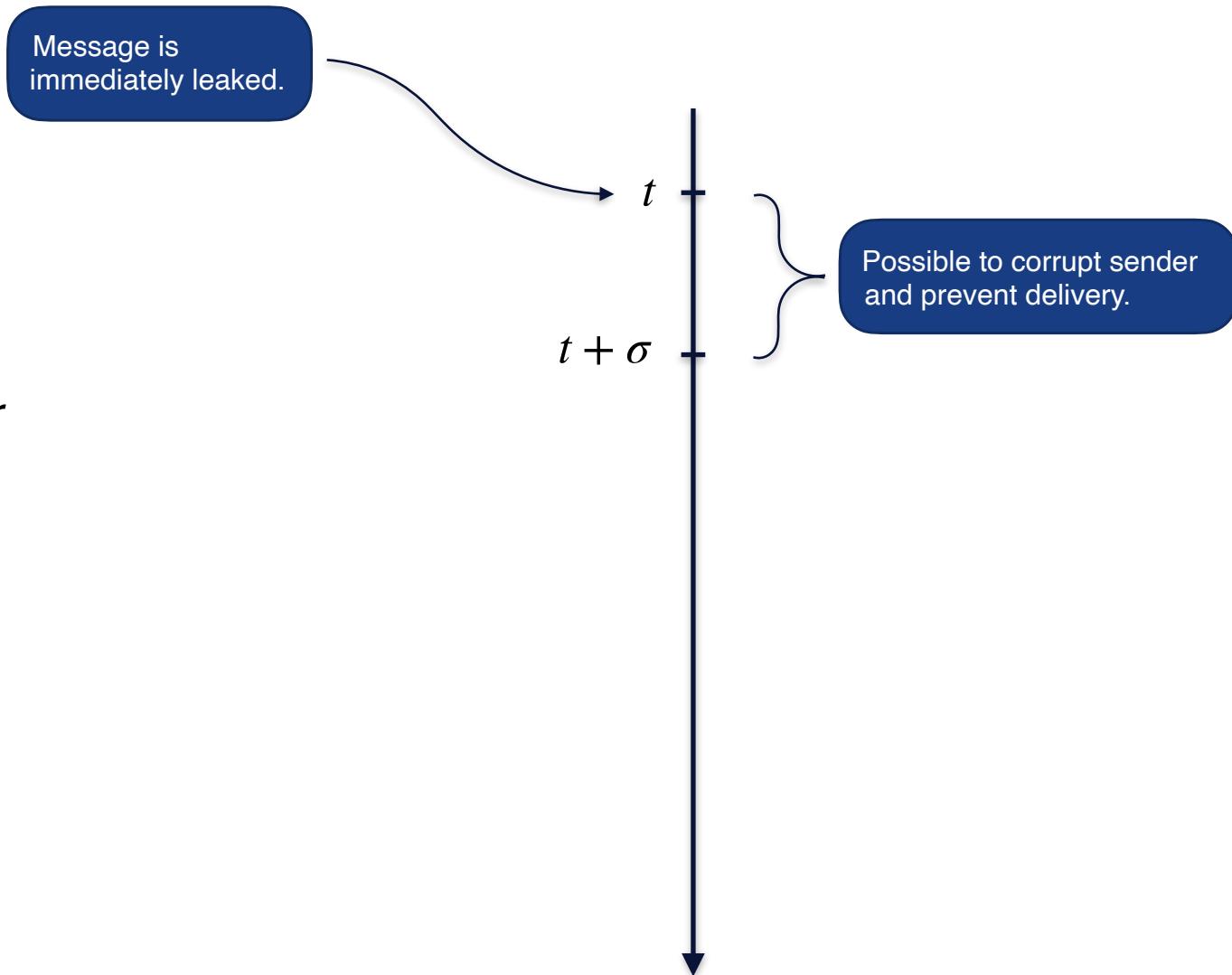
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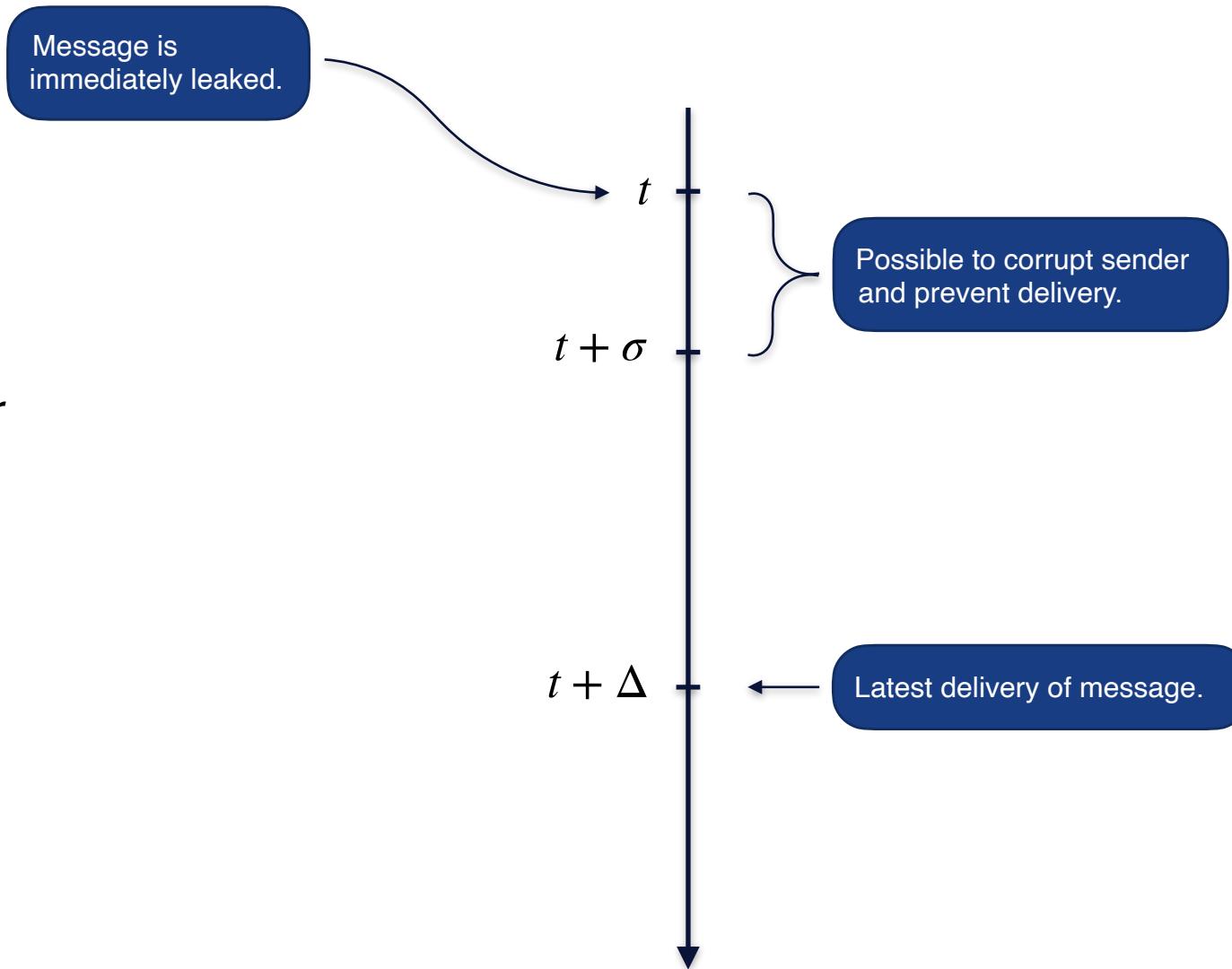
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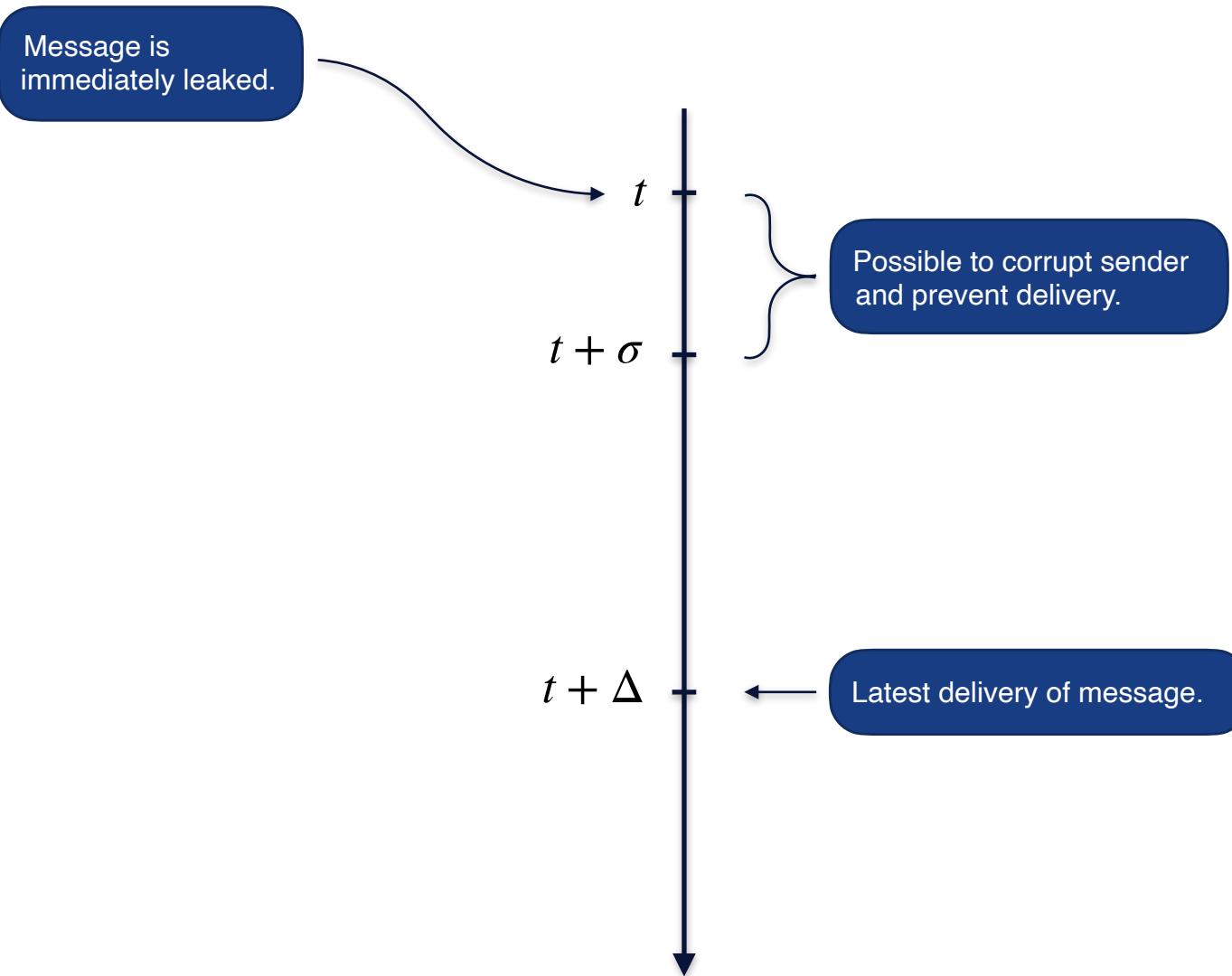
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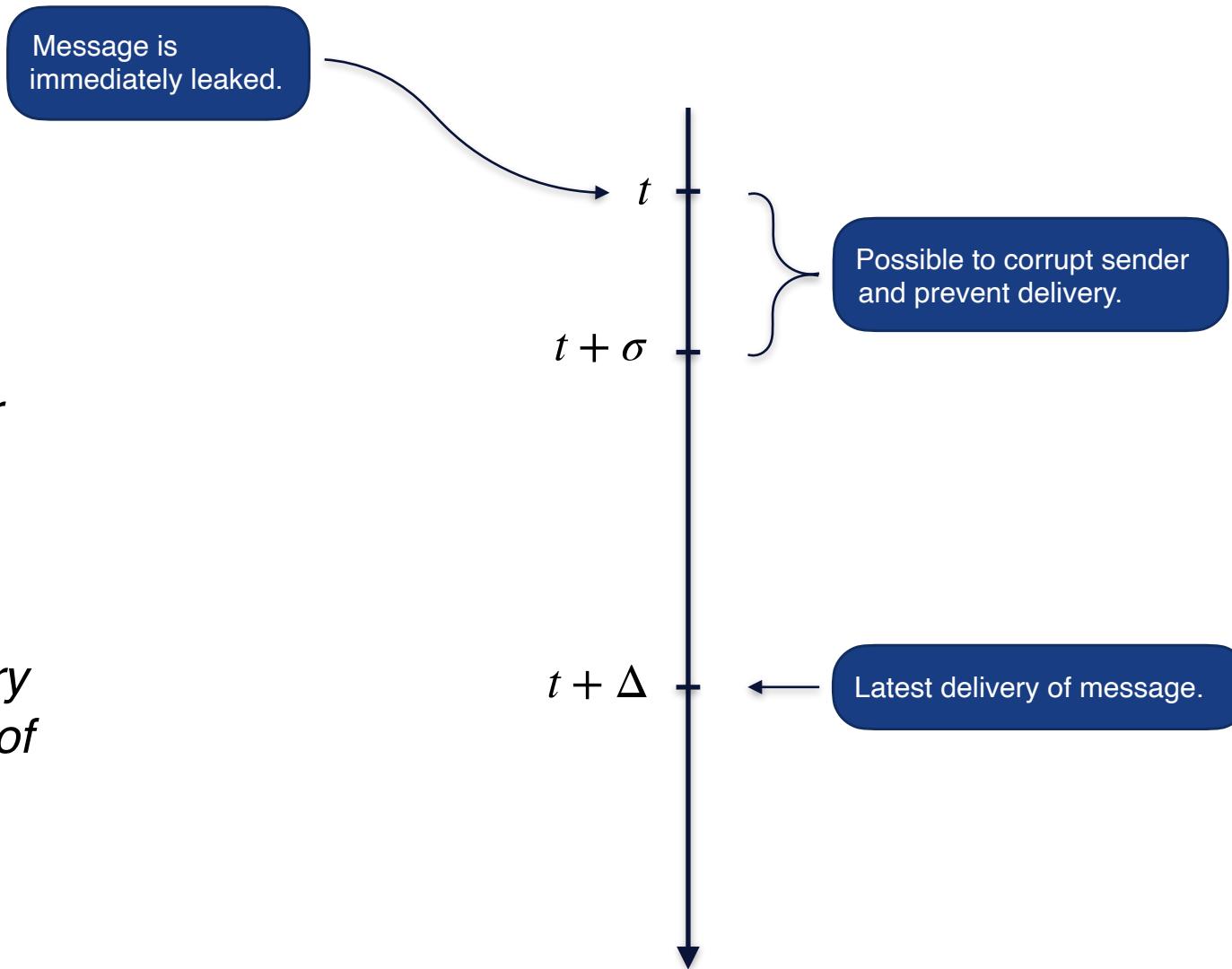
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# ASSUMPTIONS

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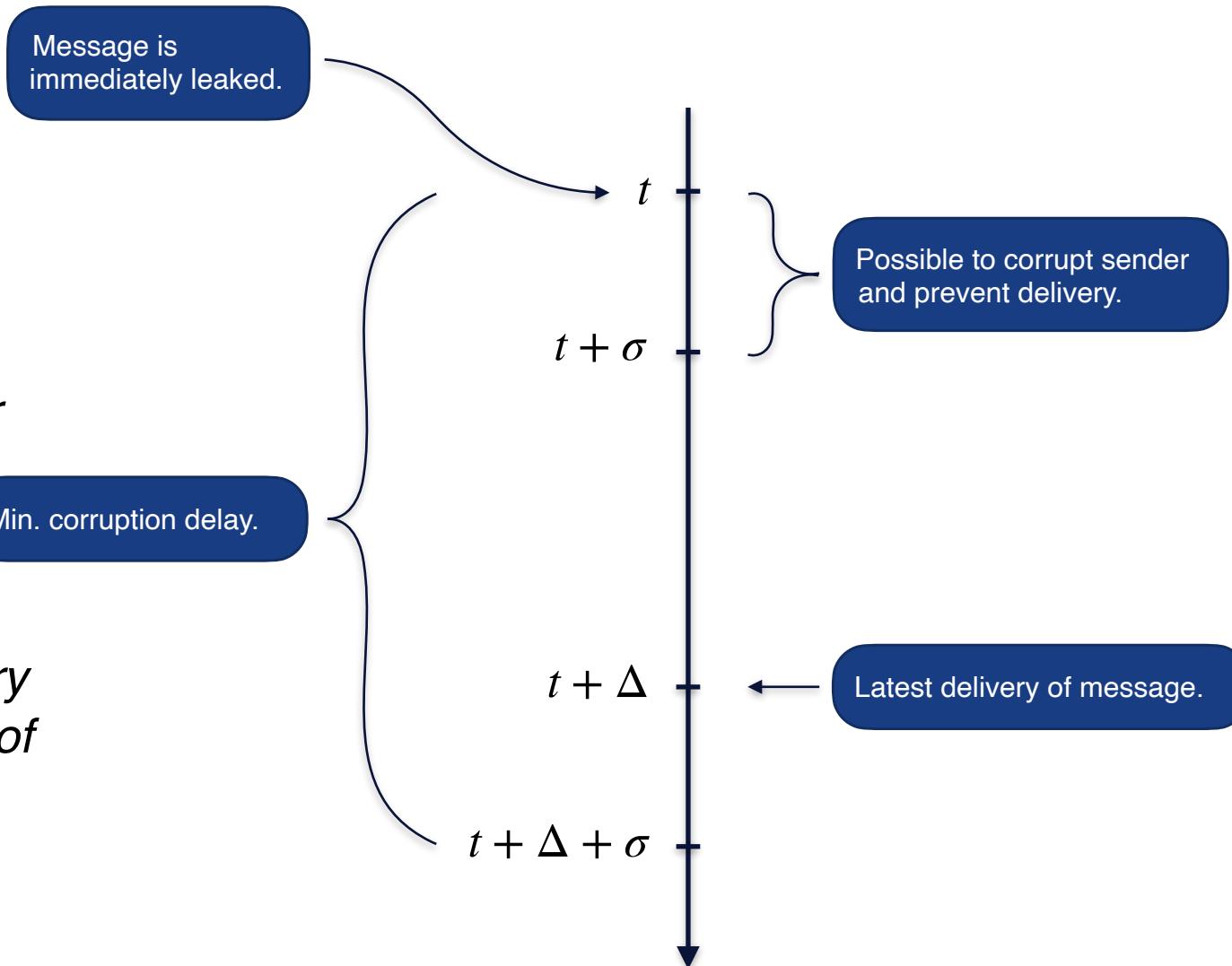
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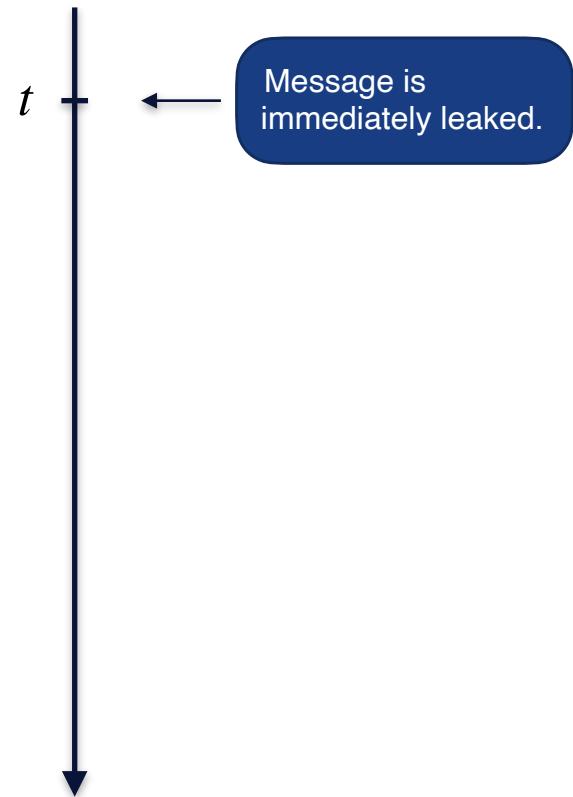
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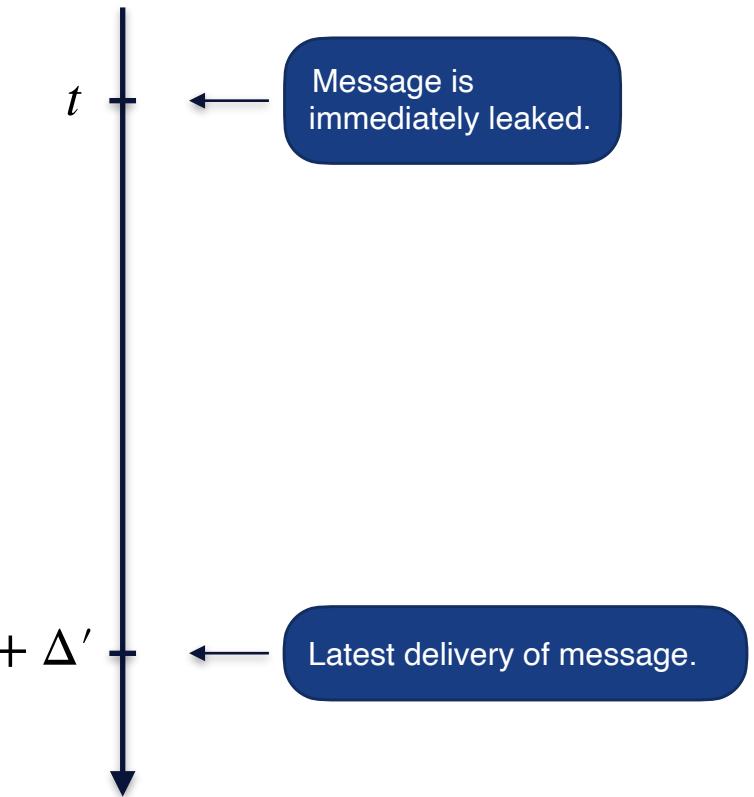
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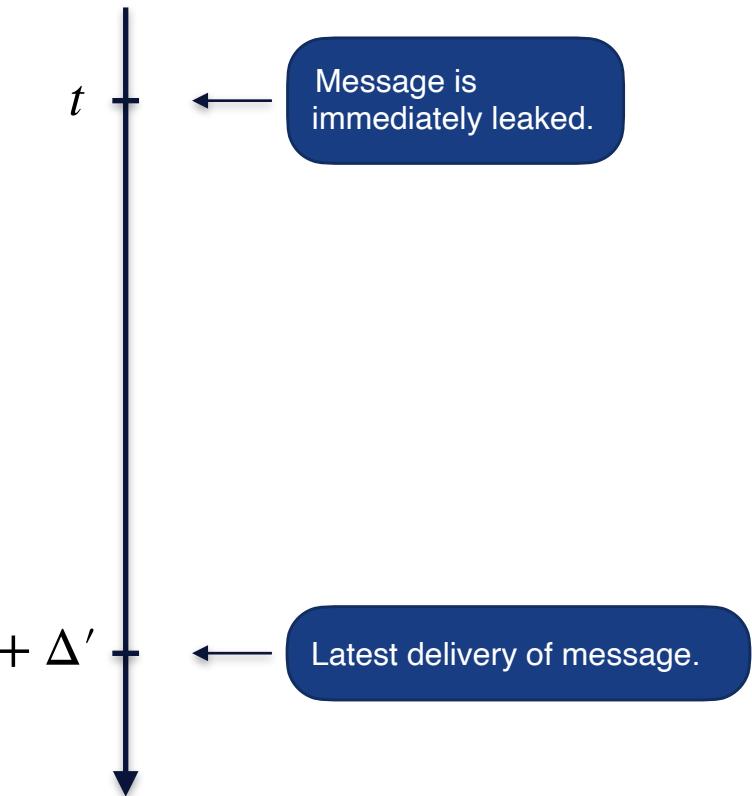


# FUNCTIONALITY: $F_{\text{Flood}}^{\Delta'}$

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Adversary has not initiated the corruption.

*Any message input by an **honest** party at time  $t$  must be delivered to all other honest parties before time  $t + \Delta'$ .*



# MAIN RESULT

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**Theorem 3.** *The protocol  $\pi_{ERFlood}(\rho)$  UC-realises the functionality  $F_{Flood}^{\Delta'}$  in the  $F_{MT}^{\sigma, \Delta}$ -hybrid world against a  $(\sigma + \Delta)$ -delayed adversary if either:*

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1.  $\rho = \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{h}}$  and  $\Delta' = 2 \cdot \Delta$ ;

$\kappa$  = security parameter.  
 $h$  = number of parties guaranteed to be honest.  
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$\kappa$  = security parameter.  
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# CONCLUSION

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- Details: <https://eprint.iacr.org/2022/010>.

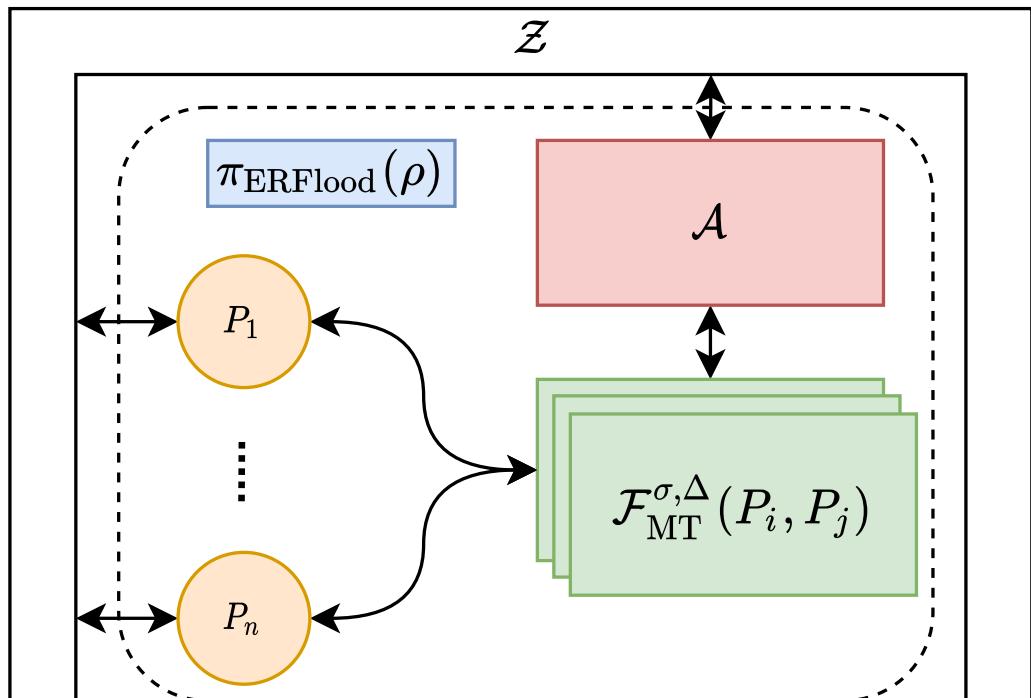
# CONCLUSION

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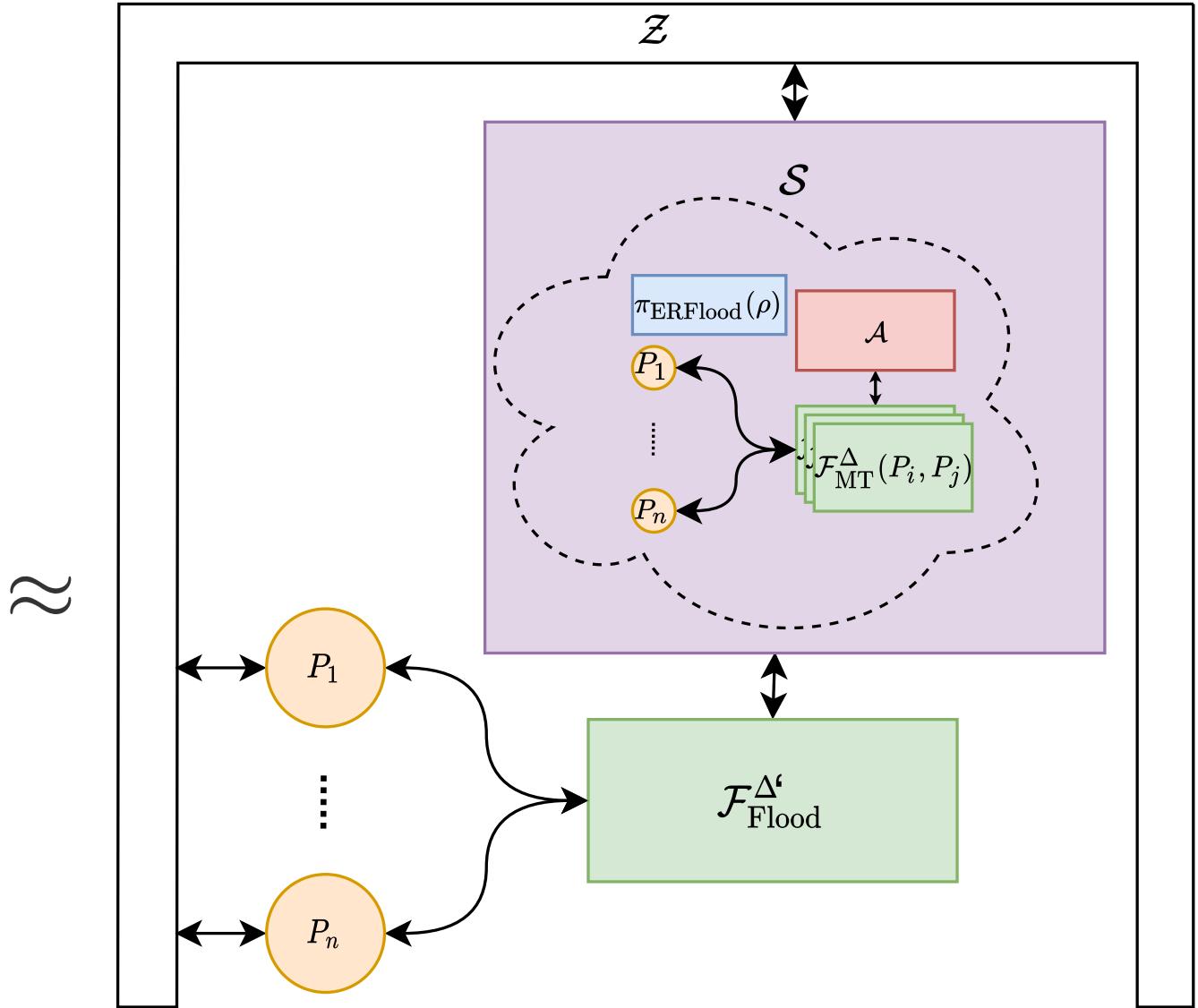
- Formal model for  $\delta$ -delayed adversaries within UC.
- Two instantiations of a flooding network secure against adaptive adversaries:
  - One with a constant neighborhood and logarithmic diameter.
  - One with a squareroot neighborhood and constant diameter.
- Details: <https://eprint.iacr.org/2022/010>.
- Contact: [sethomsen@cs.au.dk](mailto:sethomsen@cs.au.dk).

# PROOF IDEA UC

The Hybrid World

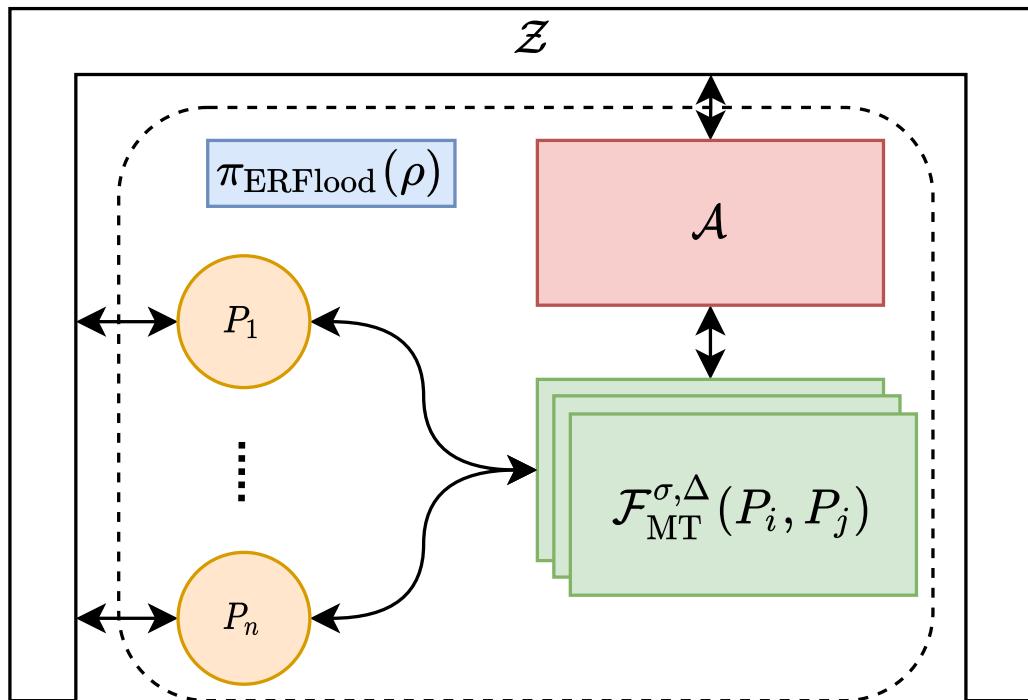


The Ideal World



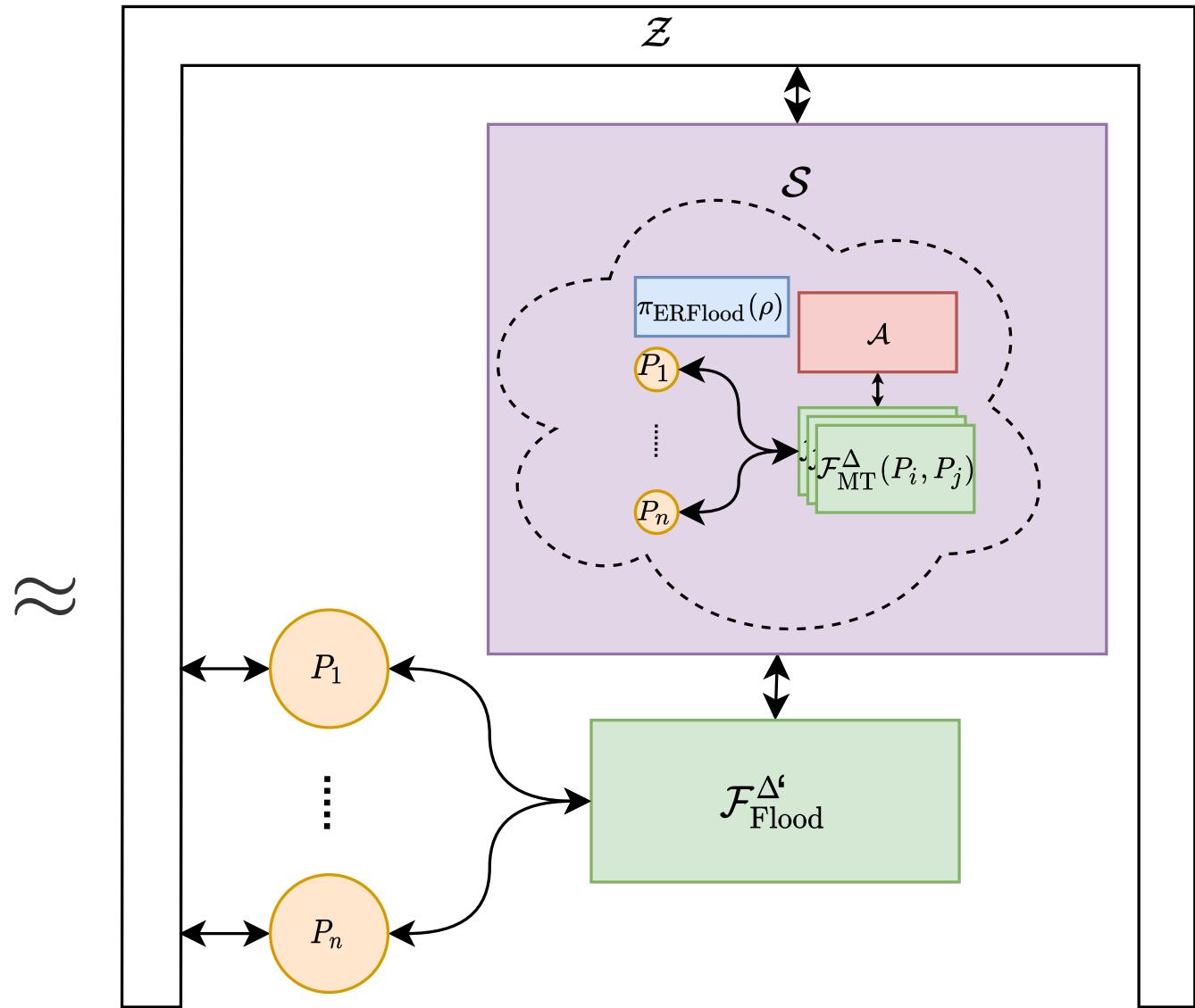
# PROOF IDEA UC

The Hybrid World



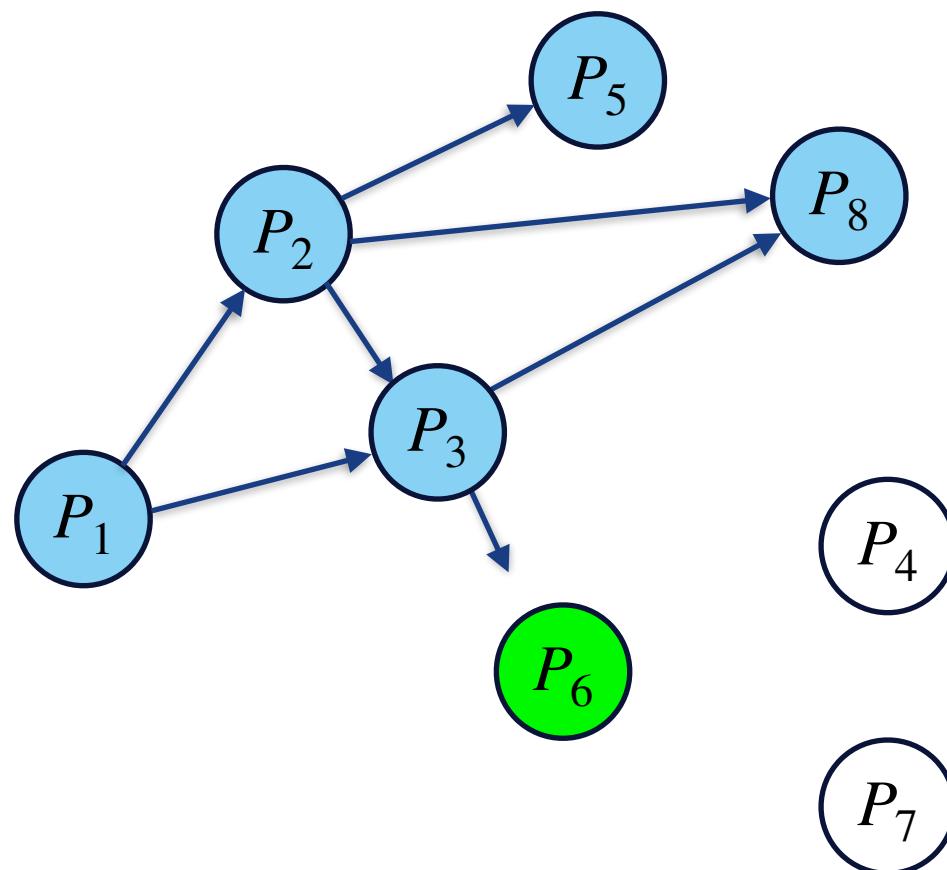
*Sufficient to bound  
probability for late delivery!*

The Ideal World



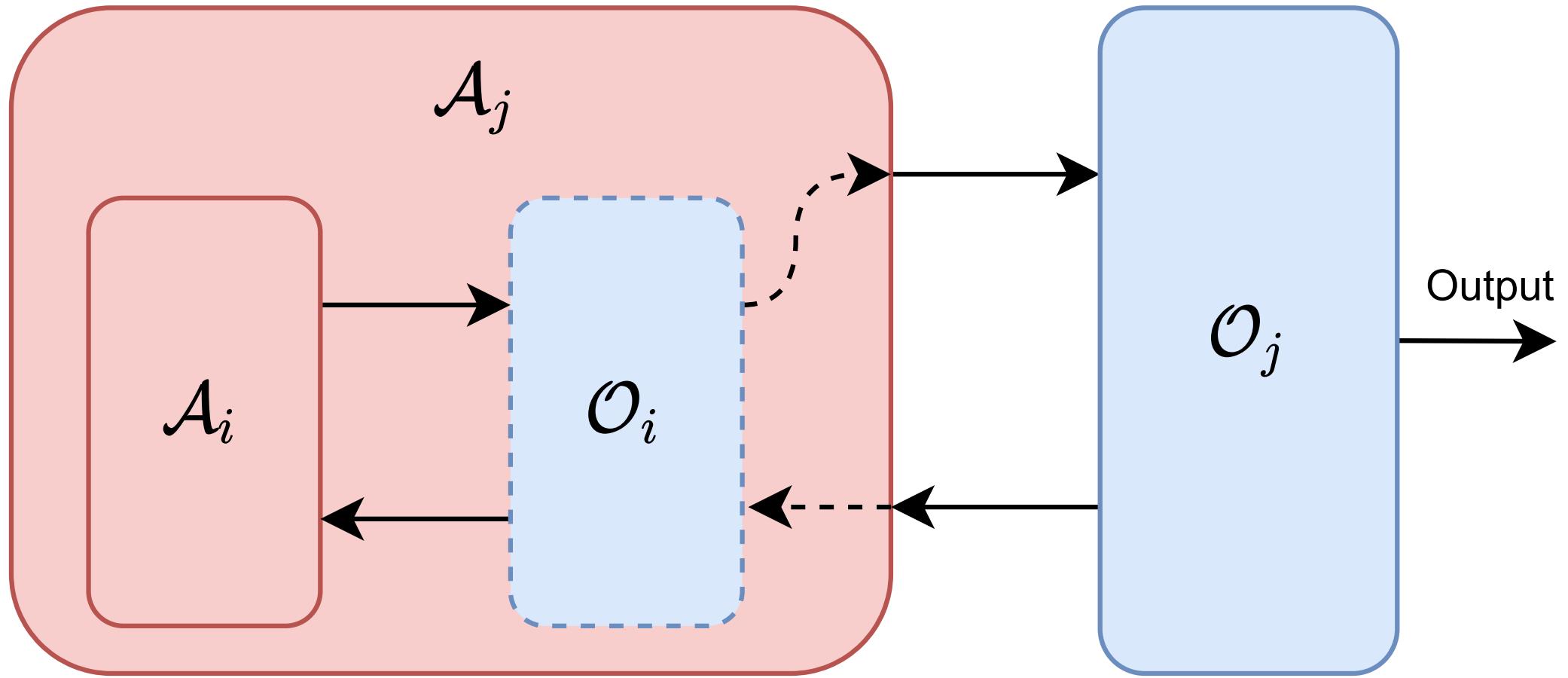
# DYNAMIC SIZE IS AN ADVANTAGE

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# GAME-HOPS

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