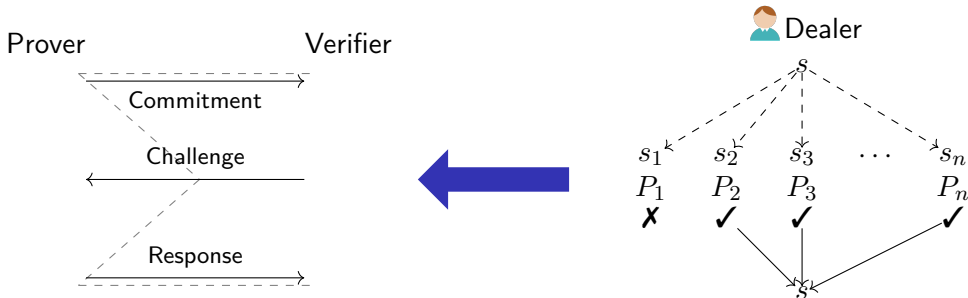


Sigma Protocols from Verifiable Secret Sharing and Their Applications



Yu Chen
Shandong University

joint work¹ with Min Zhang, Chuanzhou Yao and Zhichao Wang

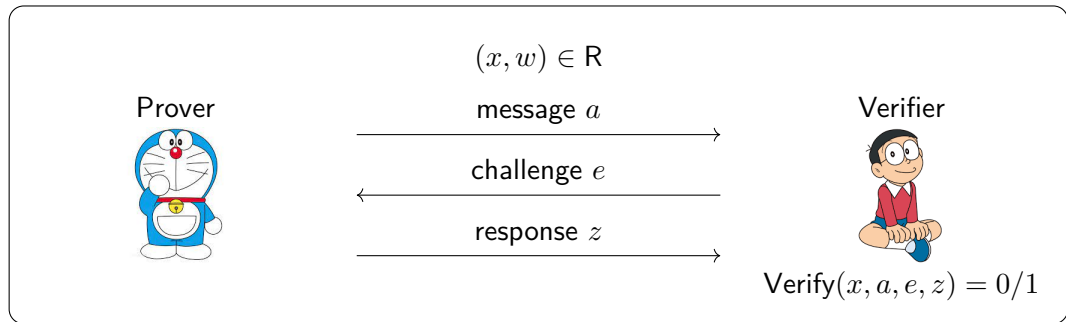
¹ASIACRYPT 2023: Sigma Protocols from Verifiable Secret Sharing and Their Applications.
Min Zhang, Yu Chen, Chuanzhou Yao, Zhichao Wang.

Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Sigma Protocols from VSS-in-the-Head
- 3 Applications of VSS-in-the-Head
- 4 Summary

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- **Completeness:** $\Pr[\langle \mathcal{P}(x, w), \mathcal{V}(x) \rangle = 1 \mid (x, w) \in R] = 1$
- **n -Special soundness:** \exists PPT Ext that given any x and any n accepting transcripts (a, e_i, z_i) with distinct e_i 's can extract w s.t. $(x, w) \in R$
- **Special honest verifier zero-knowledge (SHVZK):** \exists PPT Sim s.t. for any x and e , $\text{Sim}(x, e) \equiv \langle \mathcal{P}(x, w), \mathcal{V}(x, e) \rangle$

Attractive Properties of Sigma Protocols

- Efficient for algebraic statements
 - Schnorr protocol [Sch91]: $x = g^w$
 - Okamoto protocol [Oka92]: $x = g^w h^r$
 - Guillou-Quisquater (GQ) protocol [GQ88]: $x = w^e \pmod N$
- Can be easily combined to prove compound statements, such as AND/OR
- Provide a simple way to establish proof-of-knowledge property
- Fiat-Shamir heuristic [FS86] helps to remove interaction: $\text{SHVZK} \leadsto \text{Full ZK}$
- Enable numerous real-world applications

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- Enable numerous real-world applications



Identification protocols



Anonymous credentials



(Ring) Signature schemes



Privacy-preserving cryptocurrency

Research on Sigma Protocols

Classic Σ protocols

- Schnorr [Sch91]
- Okamoto [Oka92]
- GQ [GQ88]



Improve efficiency

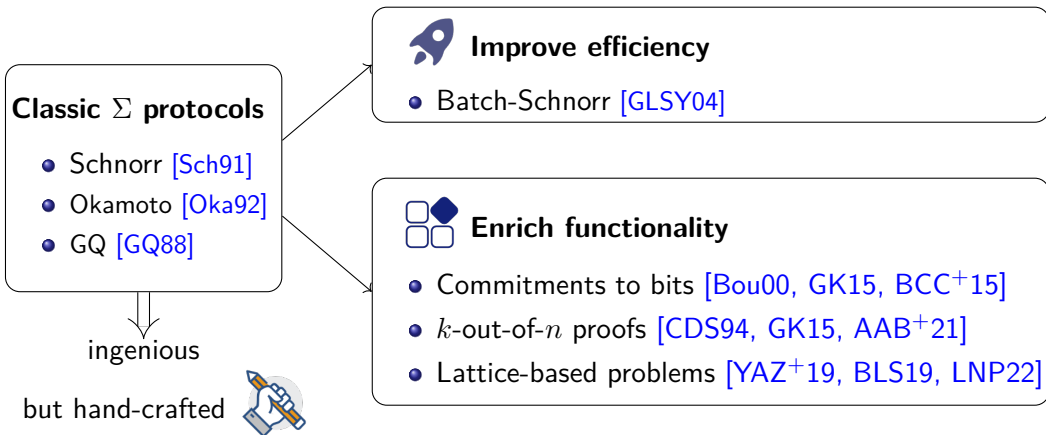
- Batch-Schnorr [GLSY04]



Enrich functionality

- Commitments to bits [Bou00, GK15, BCC⁺15]
- k -out-of- n proofs [CDS94, GK15, AAB⁺21]
- Lattice-based problems [YAZ⁺19, BLS19, LNP22]

Research on Sigma Protocols



Research on Sigma Protocols

Classic Σ protocols

- Schnorr [Sch91]
- Okamoto [Oka92]
- GQ [GQ88]

ingenious

but hand-crafted



Improve efficiency

- Batch-Schnorr [GLSY04]



Enrich functionality

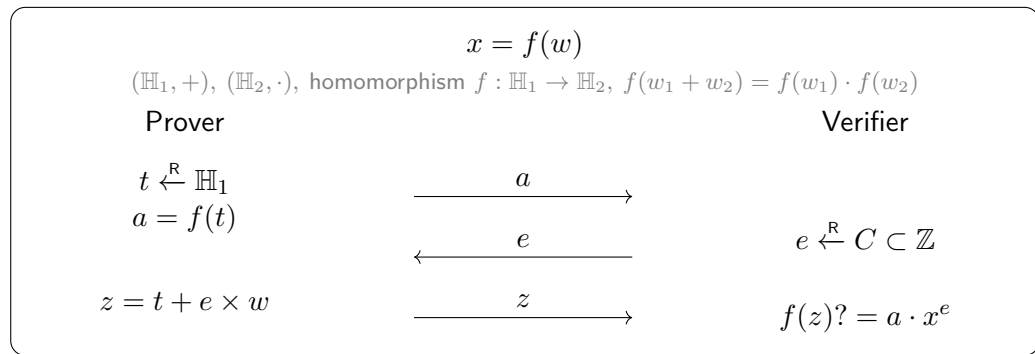
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Whether there exists a common design principal of Sigma protocols?



Related Works

[Mau15] U. Maurer. Zero-knowledge proofs of knowledge for group homomorphisms.

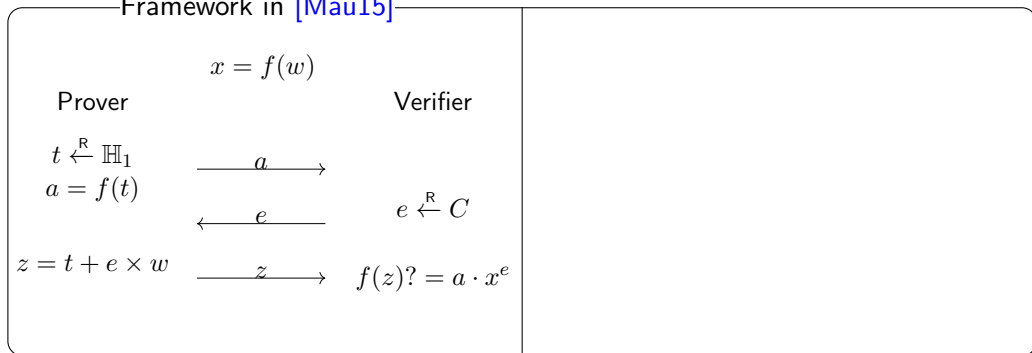


It unifies a substantial body of work, including classic Schnorr [Sch91], GQ [GQ88] and Okamoto [Oka92] protocols. 😊

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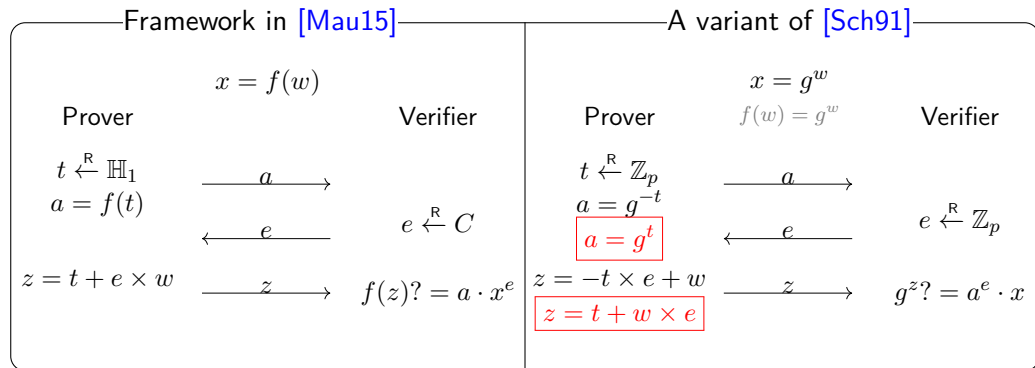
Framework in [Mau15]



The pattern is fixed \rightsquigarrow fail to explain some simple variants of classic protocols 😞

Related Works

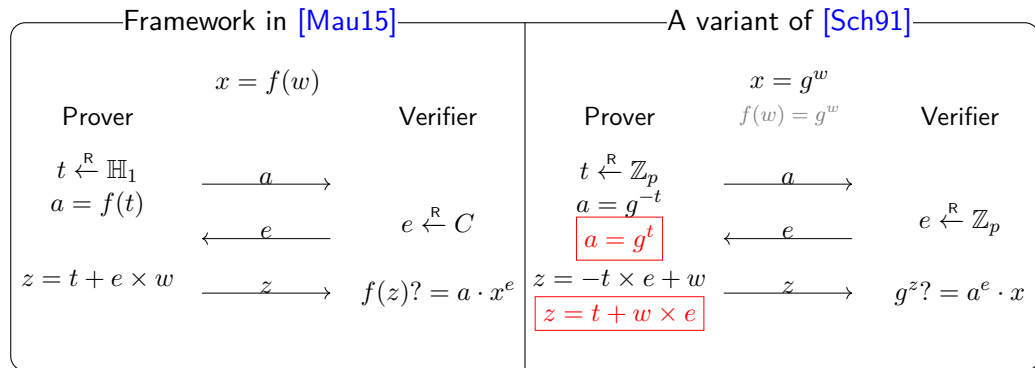
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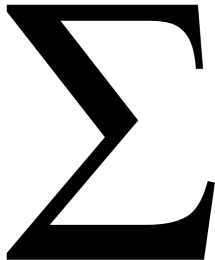
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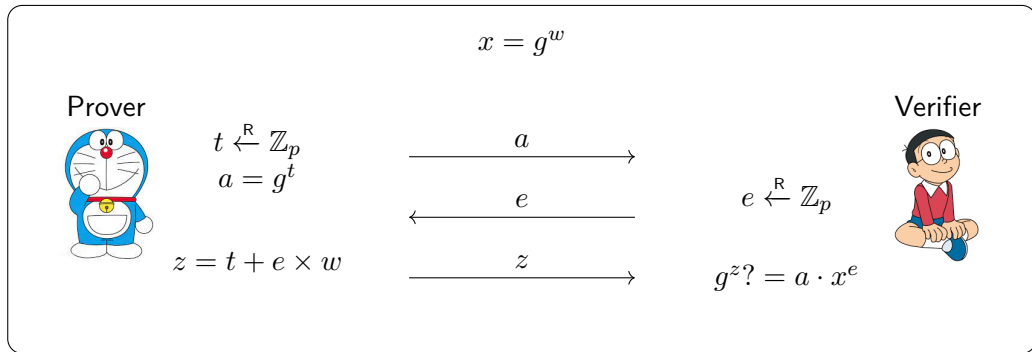


The pattern is fixed \rightsquigarrow fail to explain some simple variants of classic protocols 😞
 \rightsquigarrow the machinery of Sigma protocols is still unclear.



Is there a more generic framework of Sigma protocols?

The Schnorr Protocol (JoC 1991: Schnorr)



- **Completeness:** $g^z = g^{t+e \times w} = g^t \cdot g^{w \times e} = a \cdot x^e$
- **2-Special soundness:** $\text{Ext}(x, (a, e_1, z_1), (a, e_2, z_2)) \rightarrow w = (z_1 - z_2)/(e_1 - e_2)$
- **SHVZK:** $\text{Sim}(x, e) \rightarrow (a, e, z)$: pick $z \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_p$ and set $a = g^z \cdot x^{-e}$

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MPC-in-the-head Revisit (STOC 2007: Ishai-Kushilevitz-Ostrovsky-Sahai)

MPC-in-the-Head

Prover



$$C(w) = y$$

Verifier



MPC-in-the-head Revisit (STOC 2007: Ishai-Kushilevitz-Ostrovsky-Sahai)

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MPC-in-the-Head

1. Share $w : w = w_1 \oplus \dots \oplus w_n$

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Verifier



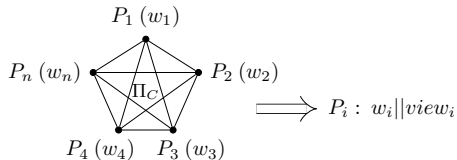
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MPC-in-the-Head

1. Share $w : w = w_1 \oplus \dots \oplus w_n$
2. Run MPC protocol Π_C :

Prover



Verifier



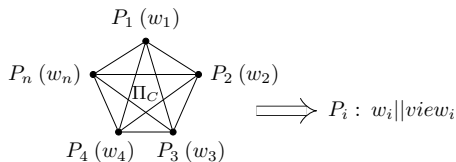
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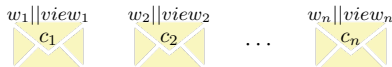
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Verifier



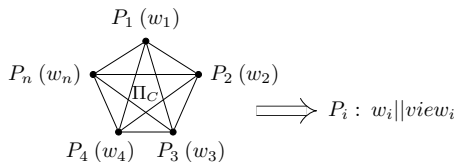
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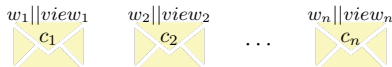
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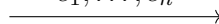
Prover



3. Commit to the views :



c_1, \dots, c_n



Verifier

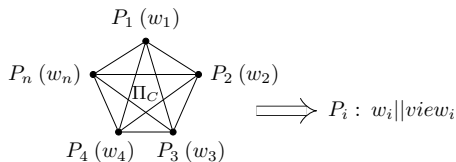


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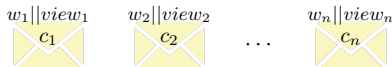
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$I \subset [n]$



Verifier

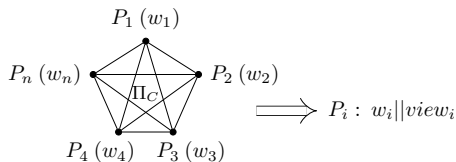


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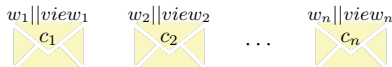
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Prover



3. Commit to the views :



$$C(w) = y$$

$$\xrightarrow{c_1, \dots, c_n}$$

$$\xleftarrow{I \subset [n]}$$

$$\xrightarrow{(w_i || \text{view}_i)_{i \in I}}$$

Verifier

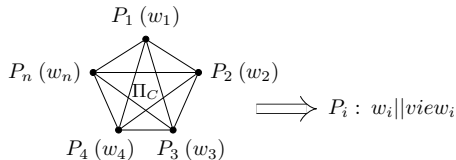


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c_1, \dots, c_n

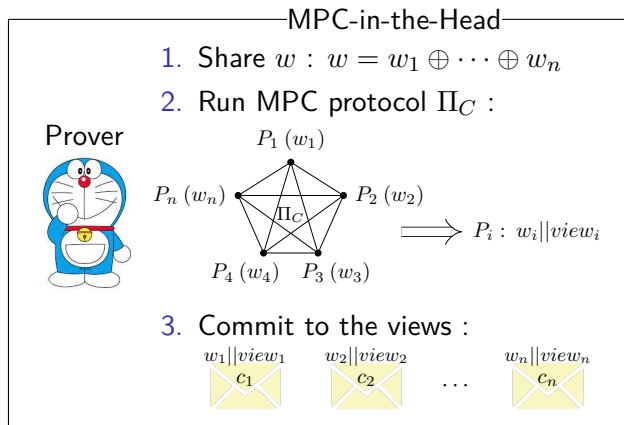
$I \subset [n]$

$(w_i || \text{view}_i)_{i \in I}$

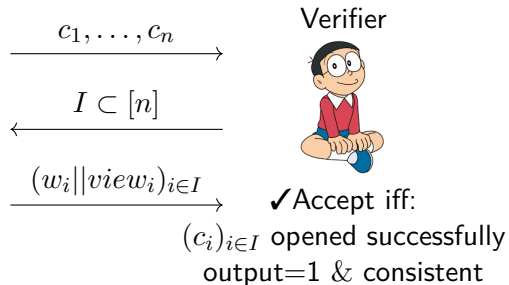
✓ Accept iff:

$(c_i)_{i \in I}$ opened successfully
output=1 & consistent

MPC-in-the-head Revisit (STOC 2007: Ishai-Kushilevitz-Ostrovsky-Sahai)



$$C(w) = y$$



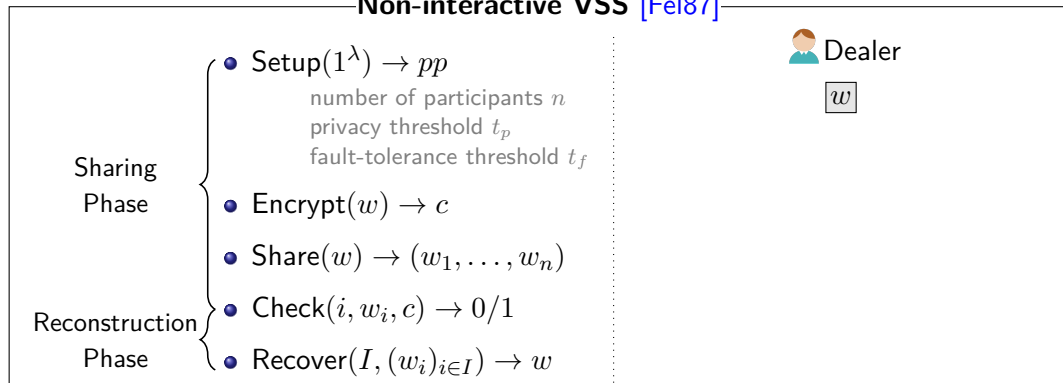
Fact: MPC-in-the-head is a Σ -pattern protocol for arithmetic statements!

Thinking: algebraic statements are arguably simpler than arithmetic statements. When scaling down to algebraic statements, we may start from a lite machinery than MPC.

VSS: A Lite Machinery than MPC

A lite machinery than MPC: Verifiable Secret Sharing (VSS) [CGMA85]

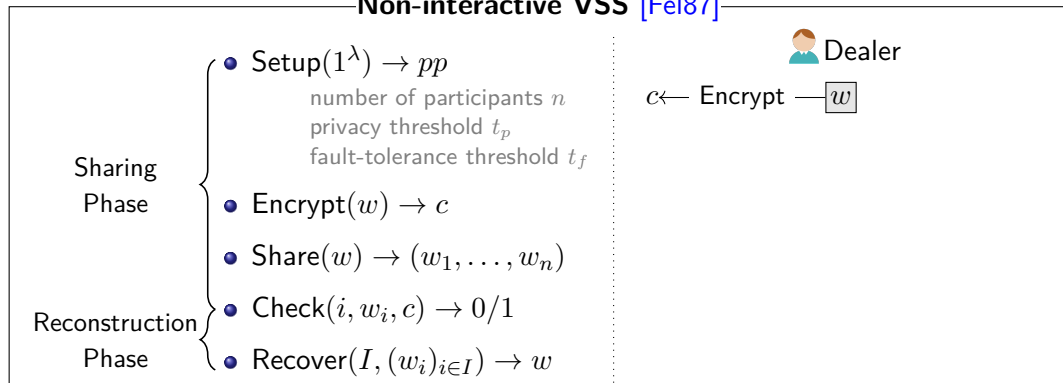
Non-interactive VSS [Fel87]



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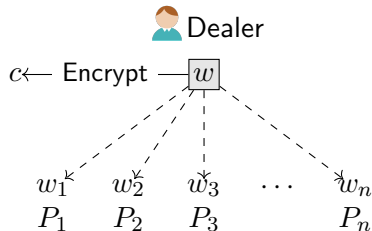
Non-interactive VSS [Fel87]

Sharing
Phase

- $\text{Setup}(1^\lambda) \rightarrow pp$
number of participants n
privacy threshold t_p
fault-tolerance threshold t_f
- $\text{Encrypt}(w) \rightarrow c$
- $\text{Share}(w) \rightarrow (w_1, \dots, w_n)$

Reconstruction
Phase

- $\text{Check}(i, w_i, c) \rightarrow 0/1$
- $\text{Recover}(I, (w_i)_{i \in I}) \rightarrow w$



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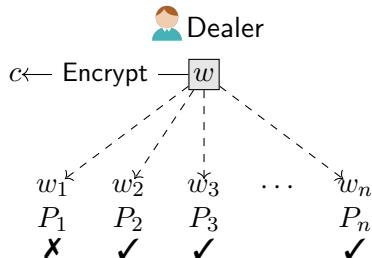
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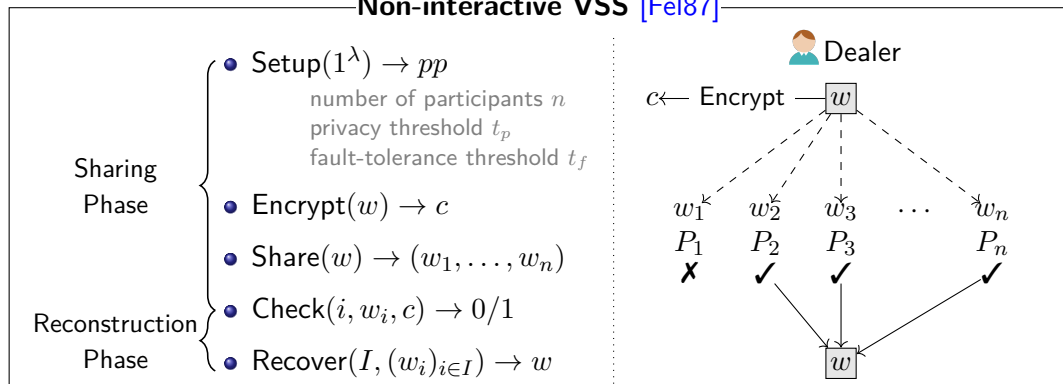
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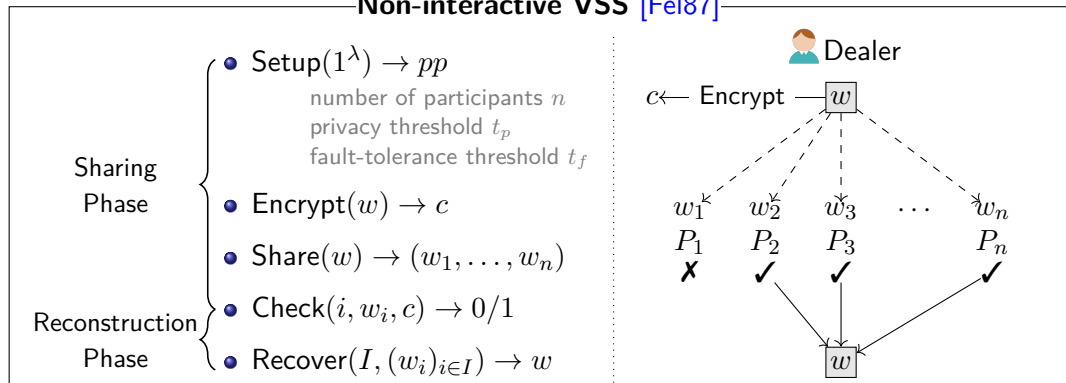
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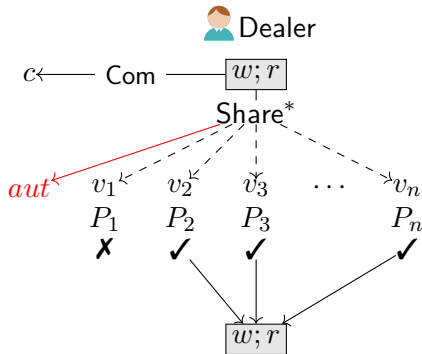
Non-interactive VSS [Fel87]



- **Acceptance:** valid shares $w_i \Rightarrow \text{Check}(i, w_i, c) = 1$
- **t_p -Privacy:** $\# [\text{shares}] \leq t_p \Rightarrow$ leak nothing about w
- **Consistency:** $\# [\text{valid shares}] \geq t_f \Rightarrow$ unique w and recover w

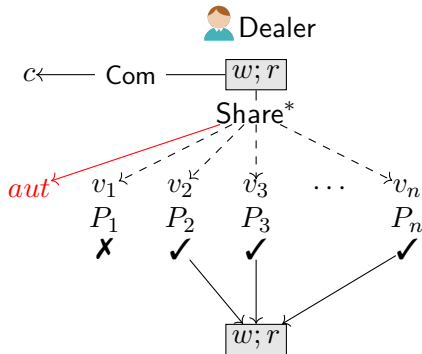
A Refined Definition of VSS

- $\text{Setup}(1^\lambda) \rightarrow pp$
include n, t_p, t_f
- $\text{Share}(w) \rightarrow (c, (v_i)_{i \in [n]}, \text{aut})$
 - $\text{Com}(w; r) \rightarrow c$
 r : could be empty
 - $\text{Share}^*(w, r) \rightarrow ((v_i)_{i \in [n]}, \text{aut})$
 aut : authentication information
(a commitment to the sharing procedure)
- $\text{Check}(i, v_i, c, \text{aut}) \rightarrow 0/1$
- $\text{Recover}(I, (v_i)_{i \in I}) \rightarrow (w, r)$



A Refined Definition of VSS

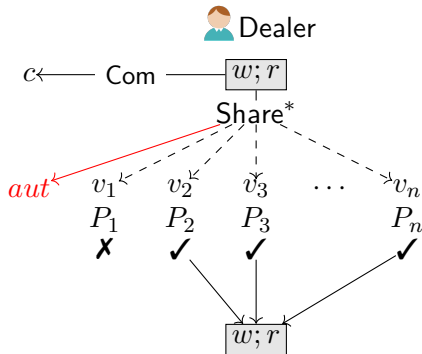
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A Refined Definition of VSS

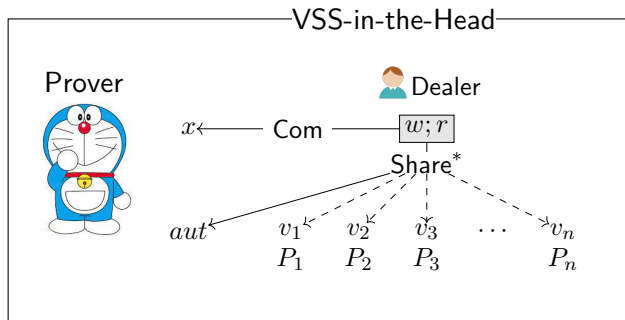
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- t_f -**Correctness:** $\# [\text{valid shares}] \geq t_f \Rightarrow \text{recover}(w, r) \wedge \text{Com}(w; r) = c$

Sigma Protocols from VSS

$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$

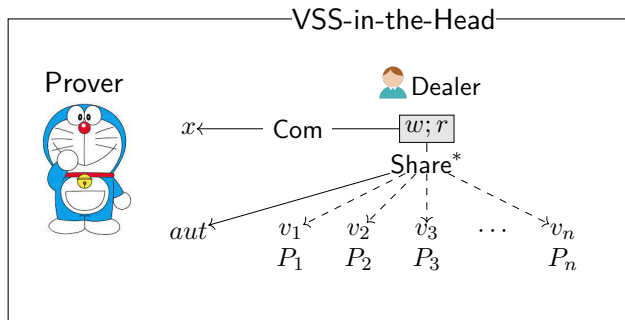


Verifier



Sigma Protocols from VSS

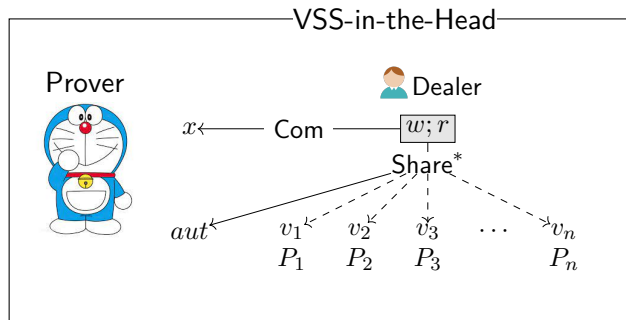
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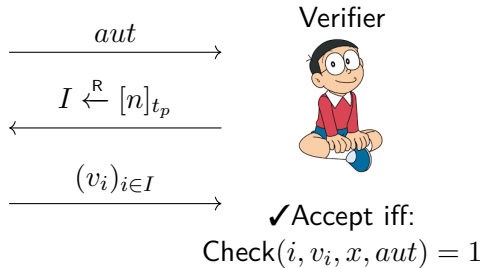
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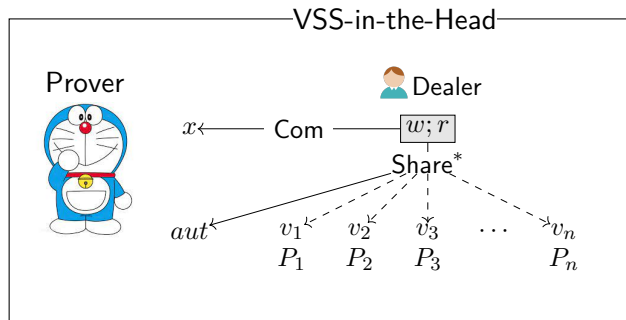
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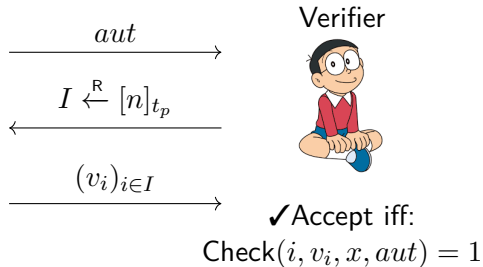
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Sigma Protocols from VSS



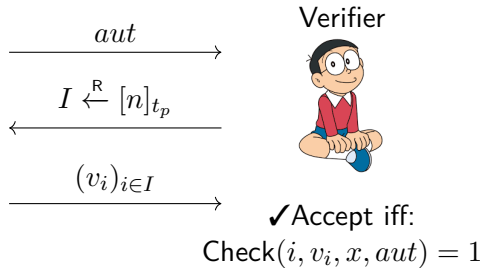
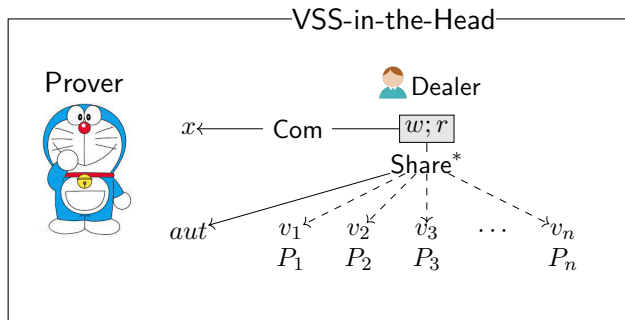
$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$



- Completeness \Leftarrow VSS Acceptance
- Special soundness \Leftarrow VSS t_f -Correctness
- SHVZK \Leftarrow VSS t_p -Privacy

Sigma Protocols from VSS

$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$

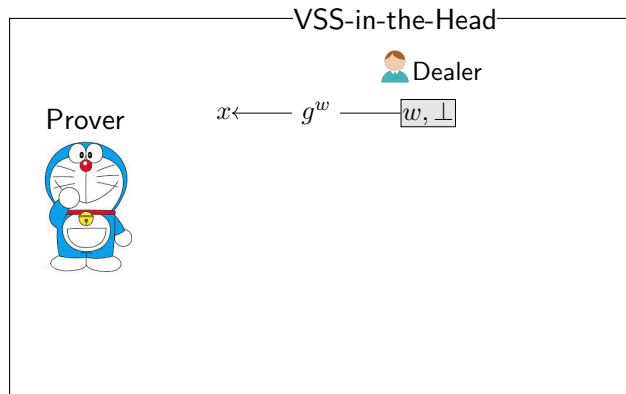


- Neatly explain classic Sigma protocols [Sch91, GQ88, Oka92].
- Give a generic way to construct Sigma protocols.

Instantiation I: the Schnorr Protocol

Feldman's VSS scheme [Fel87]:

[participants] = n , privacy threshold $t_p = 1$, fault-tolerance threshold $t_f = 2$.



$$g^w = x \ (r = \perp)$$

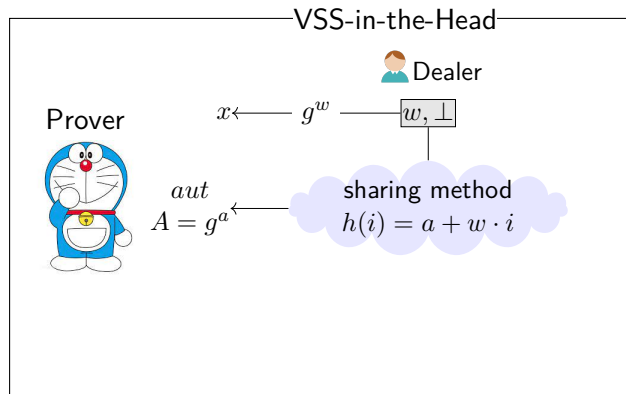
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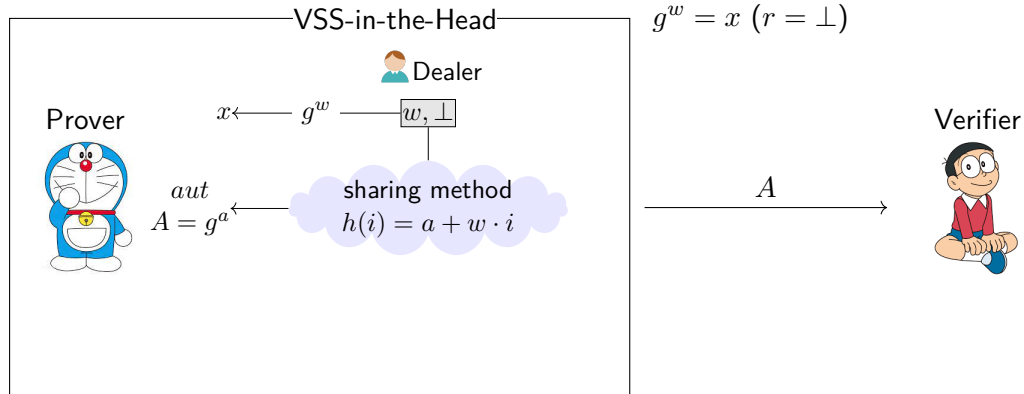
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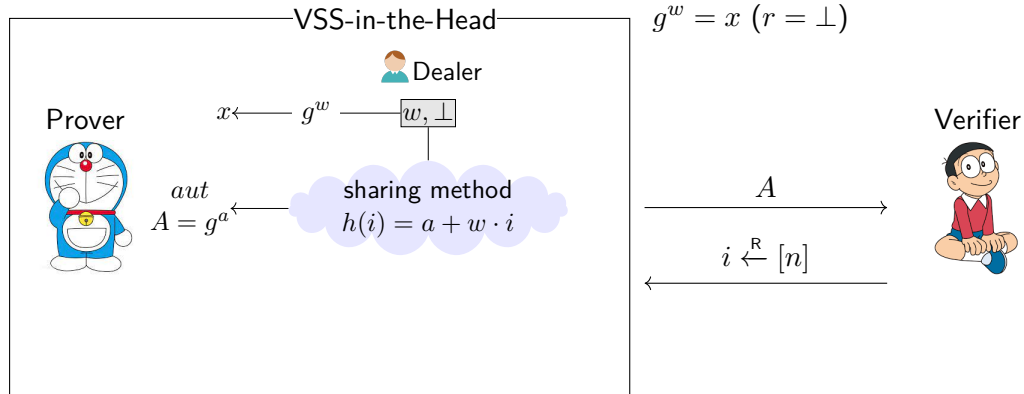
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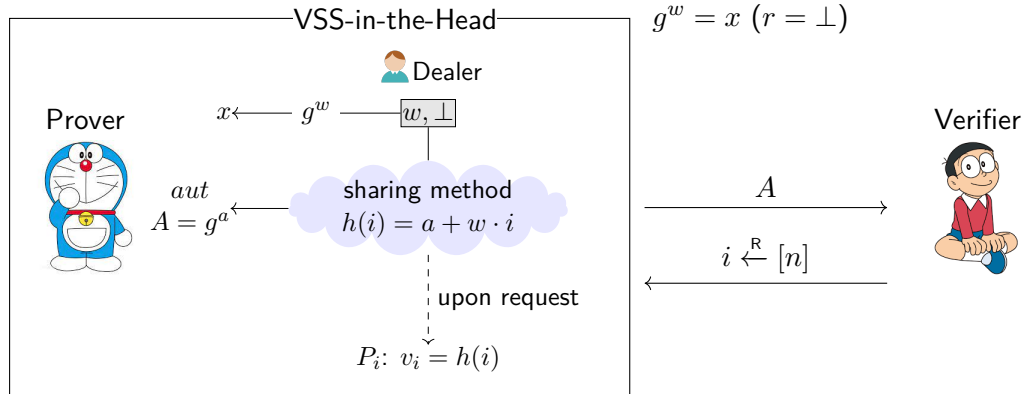
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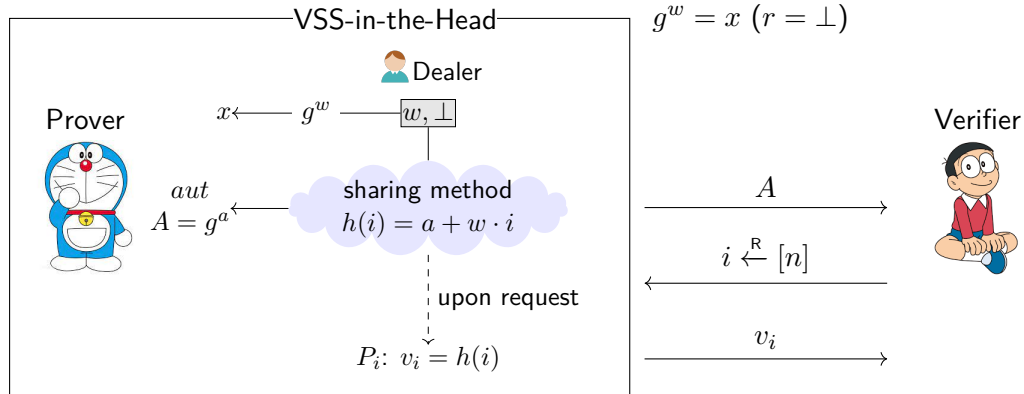
[participants] = n , privacy threshold $t_p = 1$, fault-tolerance threshold $t_f = 2$.



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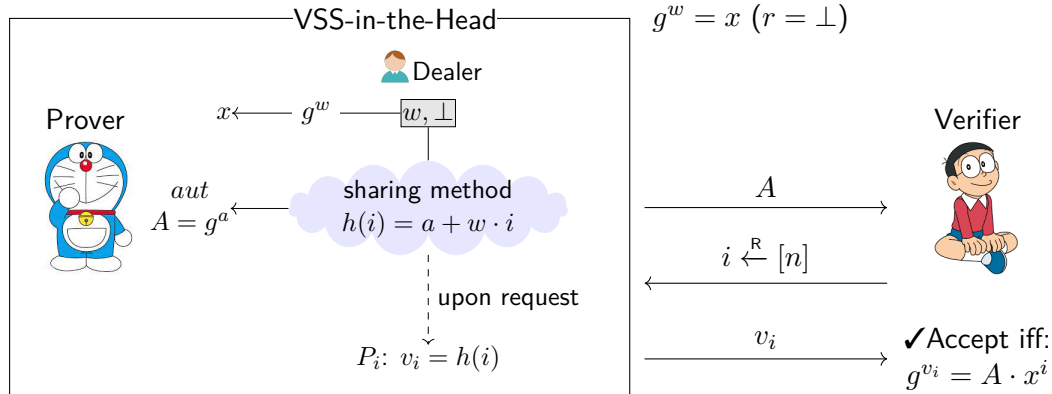
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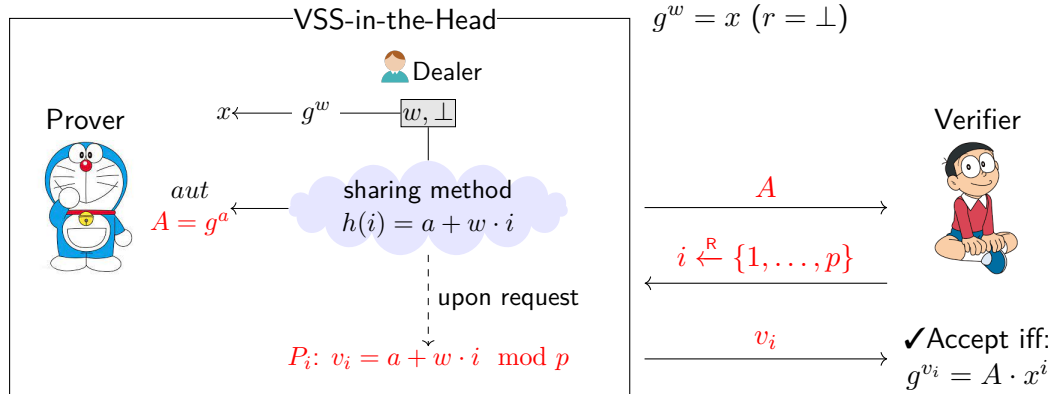
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Instantiation I: the Schnorr Protocol

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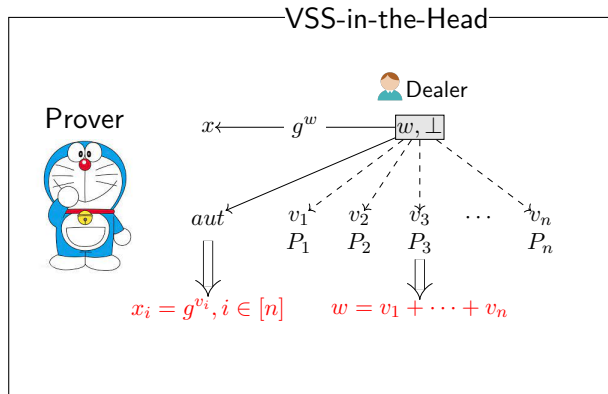


Set $n = |\mathbb{Z}_p| \Rightarrow$ Schnorr protocol [Sch91].

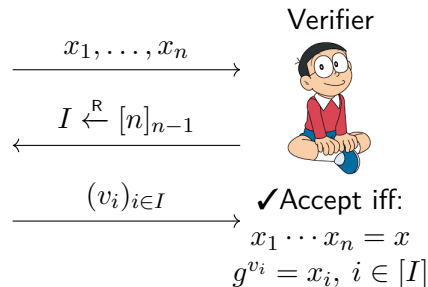
Instantiation II: A New Sigma Protocol for DL

Additive VSS scheme:

[participants] = n , privacy threshold $t_p = n - 1$, fault-tolerance threshold $t_f = n$.



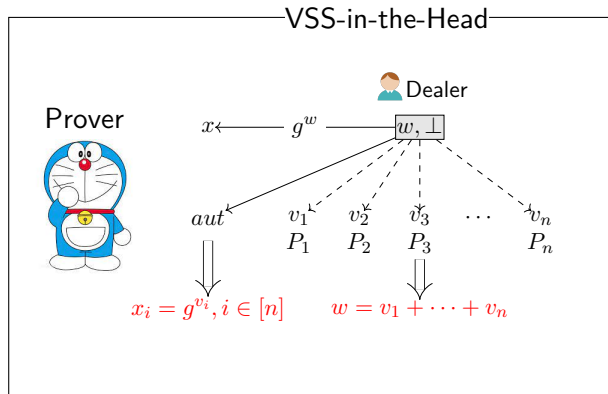
$$g^w = x(r = \perp)$$



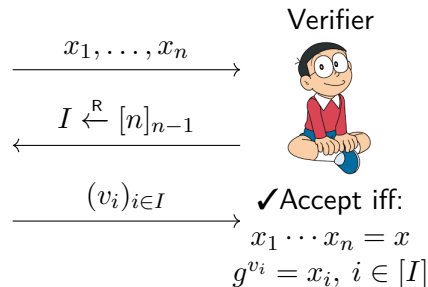
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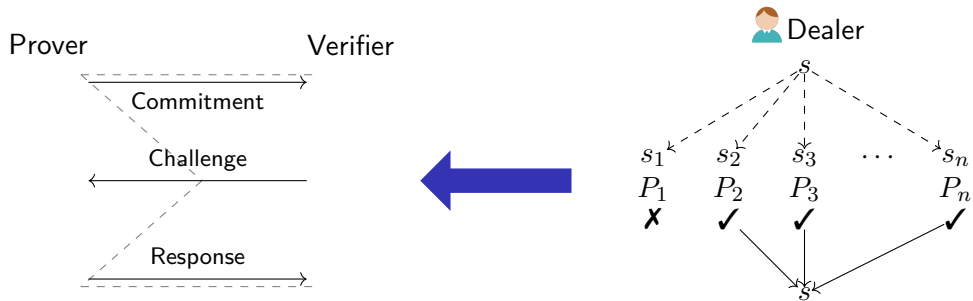
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A Sigma protocol for DL with 2-special soundness.

Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Sigma Protocols from VSS-in-the-Head
- 3 Applications of VSS-in-the-Head**
- 4 Summary



Is there any other application of VSS-in-the-Head?

Forms of Statements in Zero-knowledge Proofs (ZKPs)

Algebraic Statements

functions over some groups



Sigma (Σ) protocols

- Schnorr [Sch91]
- Okamoto [Oka92]
- GQ [GQ88]

I know w such that

$$g^w = x$$



Forms of Statements in Zero-knowledge Proofs (ZKPs)

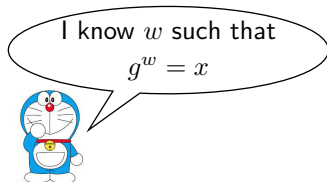
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Sigma (Σ) protocols

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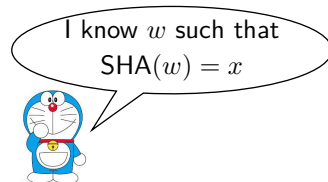
Non-Algebraic Statements

boolean/arithmetic circuits



General-purpose ZKPs

- PCP, IPCP, IOP [Kil92]
- Linear PCP [IKO07]
- Garbled circuit [JKO13]



Composite Statements

Algebraic Statements

e.g. $g^{w_1} = x$

+

Non-Algebraic Statements

e.g. $\text{SHA}(w_2) = y$

\sqcap

combine in arbitrary ways

e.g. $w_1 = w_2$

\Downarrow

Composite Statements

I know w such that
 $g^w = x \wedge \text{SHA}(w) = y$



Composite Statements

Algebraic Statements

e.g. $g^{w_1} = x$

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Non-Algebraic Statements

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\prod

combine in arbitrary ways

e.g. $w_1 = w_2$

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Composite Statements

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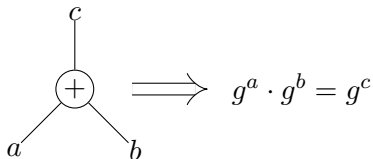
Commit-and-Prove Type:

I know w such that
 $\text{Com}(w) = x \wedge C(w) = y$

ZKPs for Composite Statements

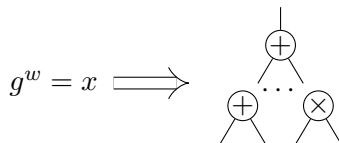
Naïve method: Homogenize the form then use only Σ protocols or general-purpose ZKPs.

circuits \Rightarrow algebraic constraints



[public-key ops] and # [group elements]
linear to the circuit size

algebraic constraints \Rightarrow circuits



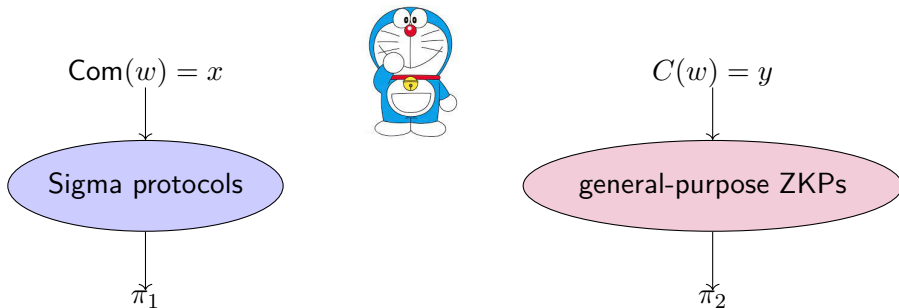
size of the statements
dramatically increases ²

☹ Both directions introduce significant overhead.

²As noted by [AGM18], the circuit for computing a single exponentiation could be of thousands or millions of gates depending on the group size.

ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

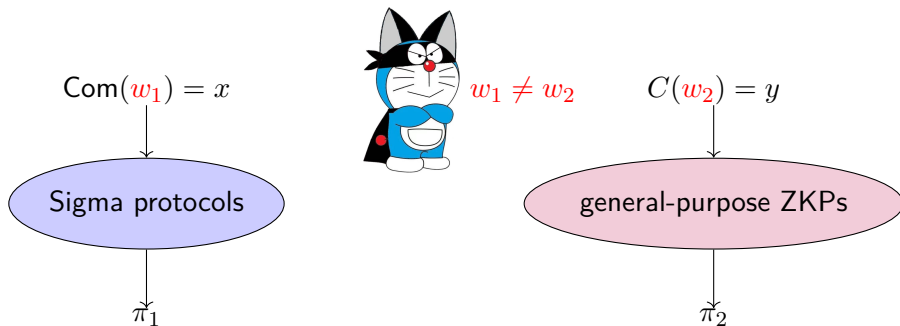
- A better method:



Take advantages of both Sigma protocols and general-purpose ZKPs. 😊

ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

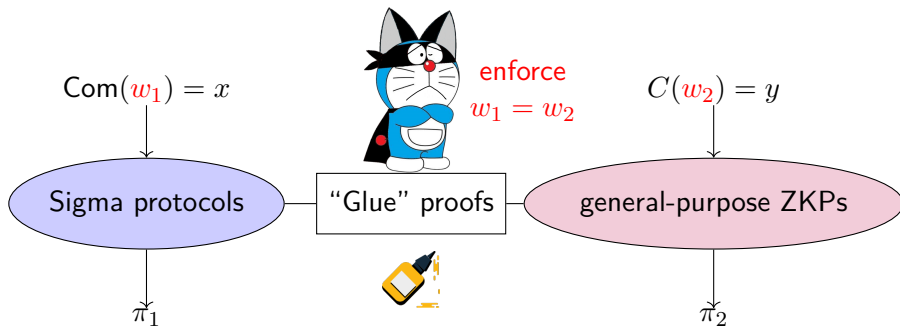
- A better method:



A malicious prover could generate π_1 and π_2 using $w_1 \neq w_2$. 😞

ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

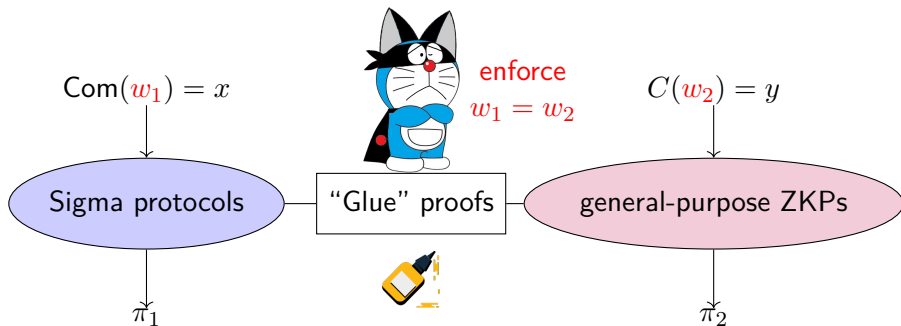
- A better method: [CGM16, AGM18, CFQ19, ABC⁺22, BHH⁺19]



The prover is enforced to generate π_1 and π_2 using $w_1 = w_2$. 😊

ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

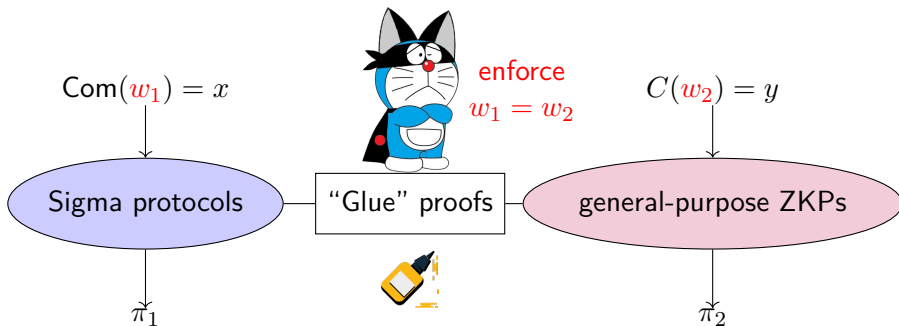
- A better method: [CGM16, AGM18, CFQ19, ABC⁺22, BHH⁺19]



- 1 Glue two different worlds
~> Incur additional overheads in computation cost and proof size 😞
- 2 Must be tailored in a specific way to align with the general-purpose ZKPs
~> Require extra design efforts 😞

ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

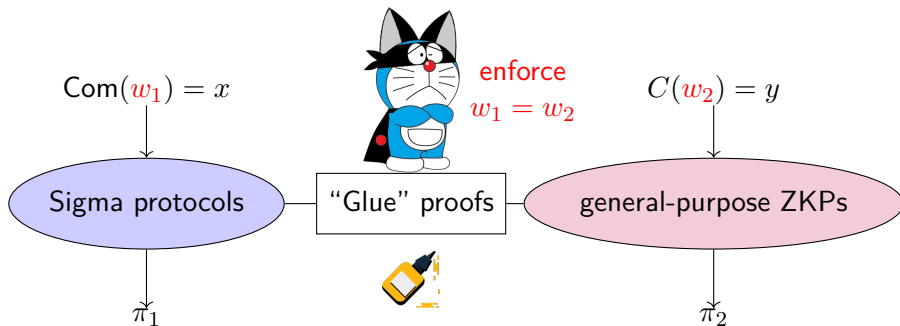
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Whether the seemingly indispensable "glue" proofs are necessary?

ZKPs for Commit-and-Prove Type Composite Statements

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Whether the seemingly indispensable "glue" proofs are necessary?



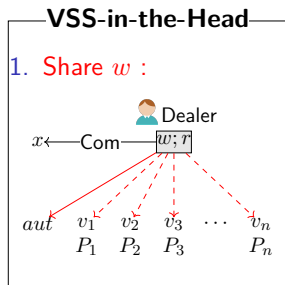
VSS-in-the-head paradigm gives rise to
a generic construction of ZKPs for composite statements without "glue" proofs

Main Observation

$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x$$

Prover

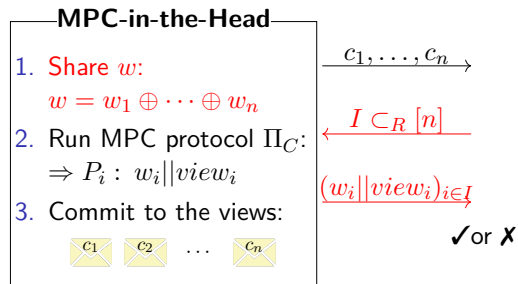
Verifier



$$C(w) = y$$

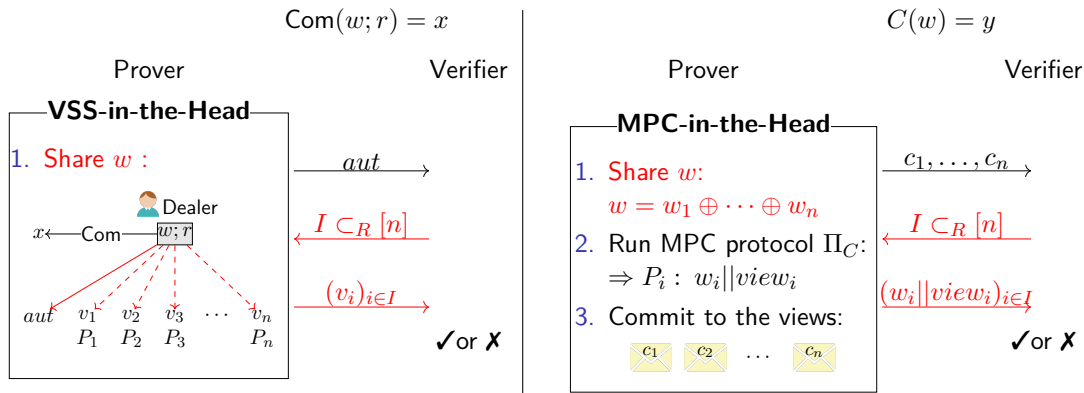
Prover

Verifier



Share the same Σ pattern & same secret sharing procedure!

Main Observation



Share the same Σ pattern & same secret sharing procedure!

reuse witness sharing procedure

⇒ Enforce the prover to use consistent witness without “glue” proofs



Two Main Technical Obstacles

1. The secret sharing mechanism in the MPC-in-the-head [IKOS07] sticks to $w = w_1 \oplus \dots \oplus w_n$ (a special case of $(n, n-1, n)$ -SS scheme).
 \rightsquigarrow Make it hard to interact with general (n, t_p, t_f) -VSS schemes.
2. The relationship between VSS and SS is unclear.
 \rightsquigarrow Make it difficult to reuse the common part of witness sharing procedure.

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A Generalization of MPC-in-the-Head

MPC-in-the-Head

Prover



1. Share w :

$$w = w_1 \oplus \dots \oplus w_n$$

$(n, n-1, n)$ -secret sharing scheme

$$(w_1, \dots, w_n) \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(w)$$

(n, t_p, t_f) -secret sharing scheme

2. Run MPC protocol Π_C :

$$\Rightarrow P_i : w_i || \text{view}_i$$

3. Commit to the views :



...



$$C(w) = y$$

$$c_1, \dots, c_n$$

$$I \subset_R [n]$$

$$(w_i || \text{view}_i)_{i \in I}$$

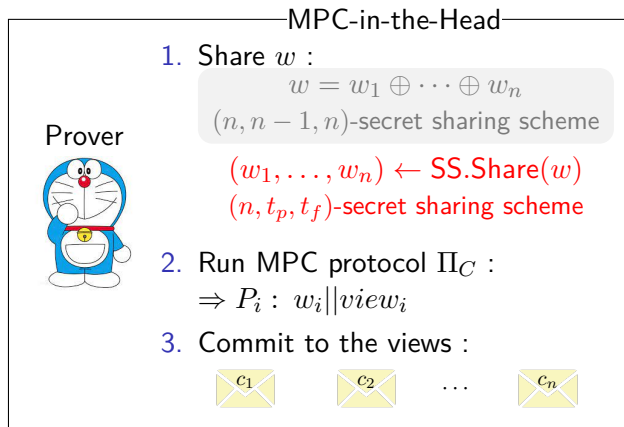
Verifier



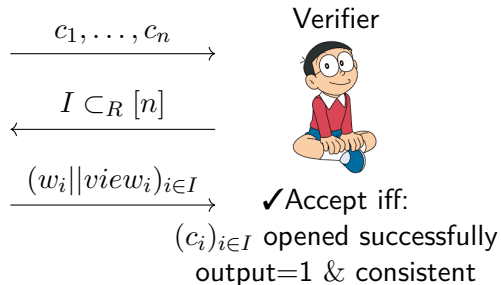
✓ Accept iff:

$(c_i)_{i \in I}$ opened successfully
output=1 & consistent

A Generalization of MPC-in-the-Head



$$C(w) = y$$



- Completeness \Leftarrow SS + Π_C + Commit correctness
- Special soundness \Leftarrow Π_C consistency + SS correctness
- SHVZK \Leftarrow SS + Π_C privacy

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Separable VSS: A Relationship between VSS and SS

Definition 1 (Separability)

The algorithms $\text{VSS.Share}^*(w, r) \rightarrow ((v_i)_{i \in [n]}, aut)$ can be dissected as below:

$$(w_i)_{i \in [n]} \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(w)$$

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$$\text{VSS.Share}^*(w, r)$$

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$$\text{VSS.Share}^*(w, r) \begin{cases} \text{Generate shares } v_i \\ \text{Generate } aut \end{cases}$$

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$$\text{VSS.Share}^*(w, r) \begin{cases} \text{Generate shares } v_i & \begin{cases} w_i \\ r_i \end{cases} \longleftarrow \text{secret sharing scheme SS.Share} \\ \text{Generate } aut \end{cases}$$

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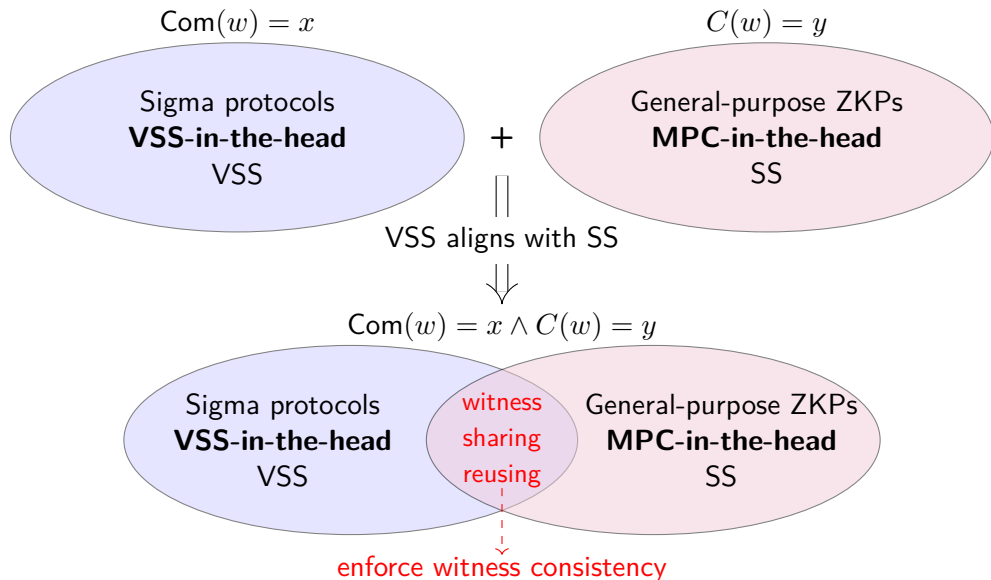
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align with

Combination of Two Worlds



A Generic Construction of ZKPs for Composite Statements (commit-and-prove type)

$$\text{Com}(w; r) = x \wedge C(w) = y$$

(VSS+MPC)-in-the-Head

Prover



1. Share w, r using VSS.Share^* :

$$(w_1, \dots, w_n) \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(w)$$

$$(r_1, \dots, r_n) \leftarrow \text{SS.Share}(r)$$
$$\text{aut} \leftarrow \text{AutGen}((w_i, r_i)_{i \in [n]})$$

2. Run MPC protocol Π_C :
 $\Rightarrow P_i : w_i || \text{view}_i$

3. Commit to the views :



$$\xrightarrow{c_1, \dots, c_n, \text{aut}}$$

$$\xleftarrow{I \subset_R [n]}$$

$$\xrightarrow{(w_i || \text{view}_i, r_i)_{i \in I}}$$

Verifier



Accept iff:

MPC-in-the-head check ✓

VSS-in-the-head check ✓

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Accept iff:

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VSS-in-the-head check ✓

- Completeness \Leftarrow VSS separability+(VSS/MPC)-in-the-head completeness
- Special soundness \Leftarrow witness sharing reusing+(VSS/MPC)-in-the-head special soundness
- SHVZK \Leftarrow (VSS/MPC)-in-the-head SHVZK

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$$c_1, \dots, c_n, \text{aut} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$I \subset_R [n]$$

$$\xleftarrow{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$(w_i || \text{view}_i, r_i)_{i \in I} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}}$$

Verifier



Accept iff:

MPC-in-the-head check ✓

VSS-in-the-head check ✓



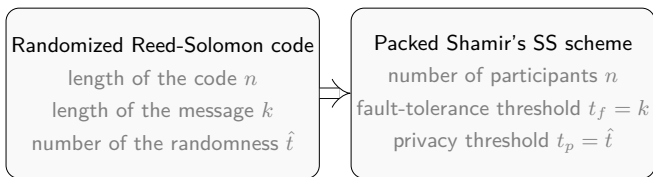
no “glue” proofs

public-coin

transparent

An Instantiation from Liger++ (CCS 2020: Bhaduria et al.)

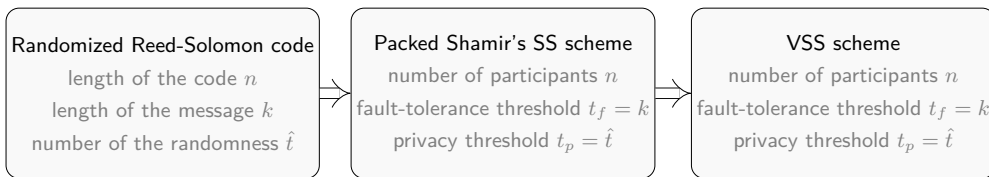
Step 1: Identify the SS scheme
used in Liger++



An Instantiation from Liger++ (CCS 2020: Bhaduria et al.)

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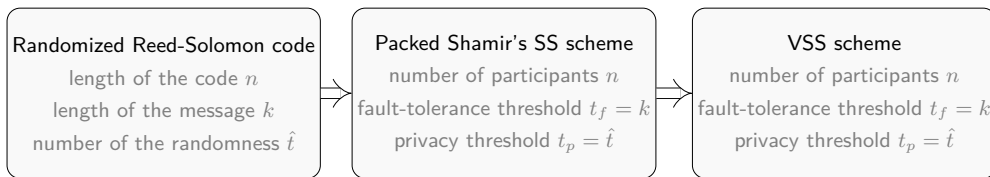
Step 2: Construct a VSS scheme
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An Instantiation from Liger++ (CCS 2020: Bhaduria et al.)

Step 1: Identify the SS scheme
used in Liger++

Step 2: Construct a VSS scheme
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Solve the open problem
left in [BHH⁺19] 😊:

the prover's running time is critical. As future work, it would be interesting to explore whether the approach by Ames et al. [4] can be used to achieve yet more efficient and compact NIZK proofs in cross-domains.

Protocols	Prover time	Verifier time	Proof size
[BHH ⁺ 19]	$O((w + \lambda) \text{ pub})$ $O(C \cdot \lambda) \text{ sym}$	$O((w + \lambda) \text{ pub})$ $O(C \cdot \lambda) \text{ sym}$	$O(C \lambda + w)$
This work	$O(\lambda) \text{ pub}$ $O(C \log(C)) \text{ sym}$	$O(\frac{(w + \lambda)^2}{\log(w + \lambda)}) \text{ pub}$ $O(C) \text{ sym}$	$O(\text{polylog}(C) + \lambda)$

Outline

- 1 Background
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Summary

- **A framework of Sigma protocols for algebraic statements**

- A refined definition of VSS
- VSS-in-the-head paradigm



- Neatly explain classic Sigma protocols [Sch91, GQ88, Oka92].
- Give a generic way to construct Sigma protocols.

- **A generic construction of ZKPs for composite statements (commit-and-prove type)**

- Technique: witness sharing reusing
- A Generalization of MPC-in-the-head paradigm
- Separability of VSS scheme: define the relationship between VSS and SS
- An instantiation from Liger++



no “glue” proofs







public-coin

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Thanks for Your Attention!

Any Questions?

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