

# The Jacobi Factoring Circuit

**Classically Hard Factoring in Sublinear Quantum Space and Depth**

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\*MIT, †Harvard



# Integer Factorisation

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For more: see Pomerance's survey "A Tale of Two Sieves"!

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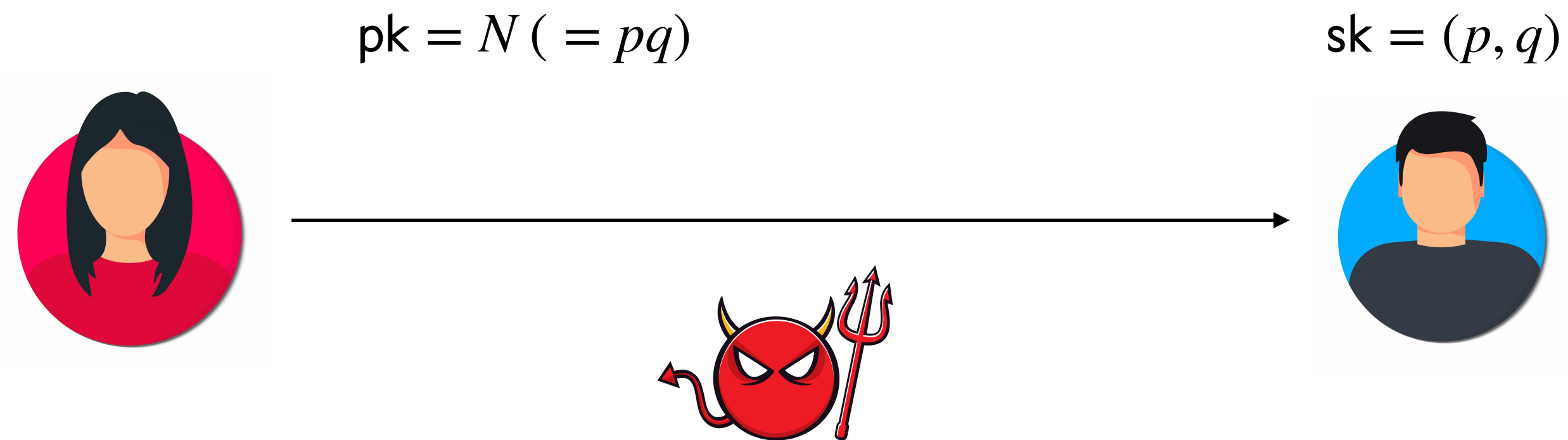
- Fastest classical algorithm for general  $N$ :  $\exp(\tilde{O}(n^{1/3}))$  time
- **Quantum algorithms:  $\text{poly}(n)$  time!** (Shor 1994)





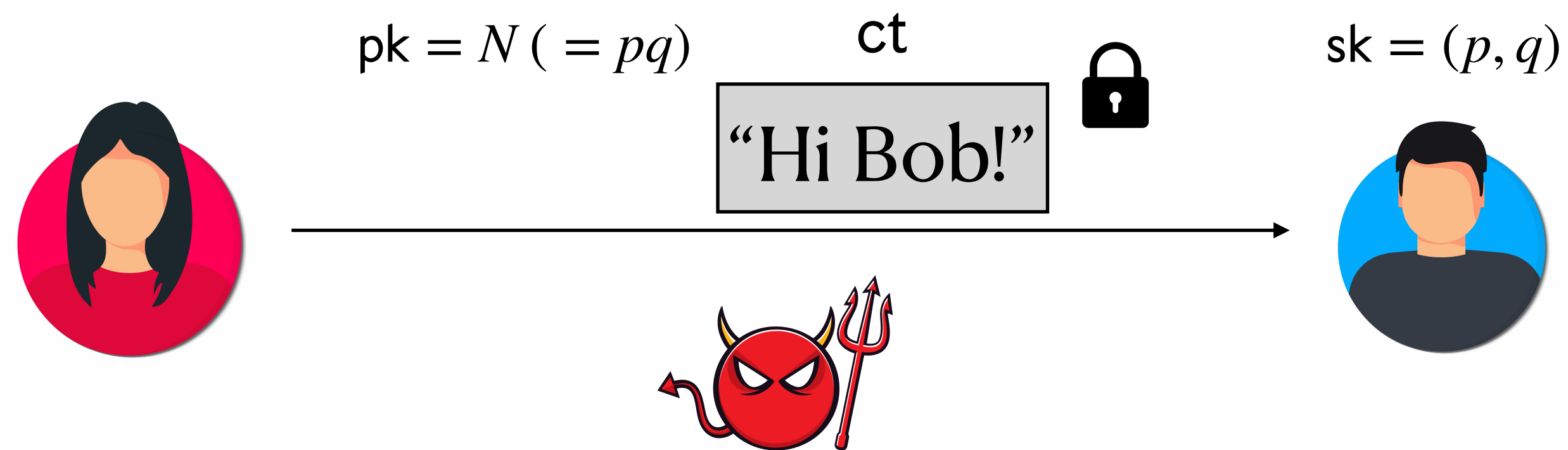
# Implication 1: Breaking Cryptography

- RSA public-key cryptography:



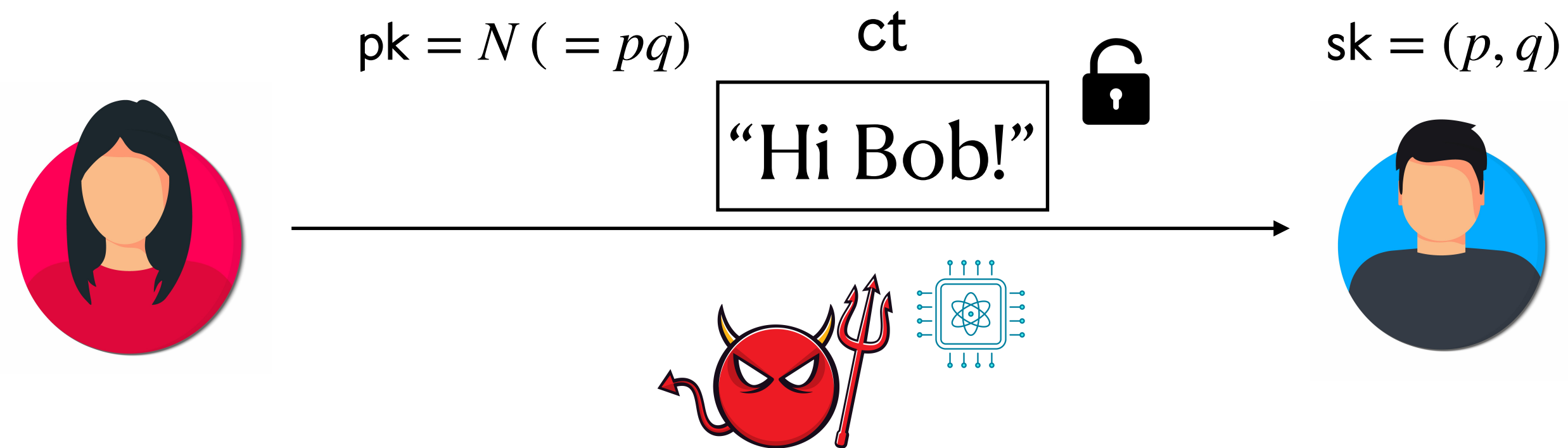
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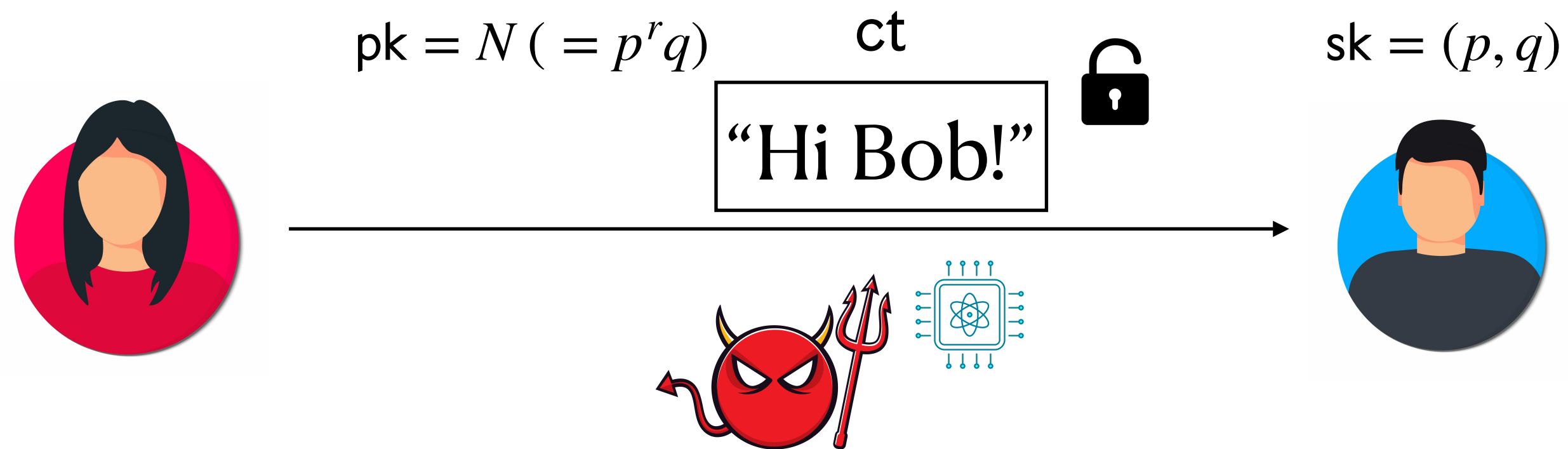




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- Okamoto-Uchiyama ( $r = 2$ ) or Takagi ( $r > 2$ ) cryptography:

Goal: faster  
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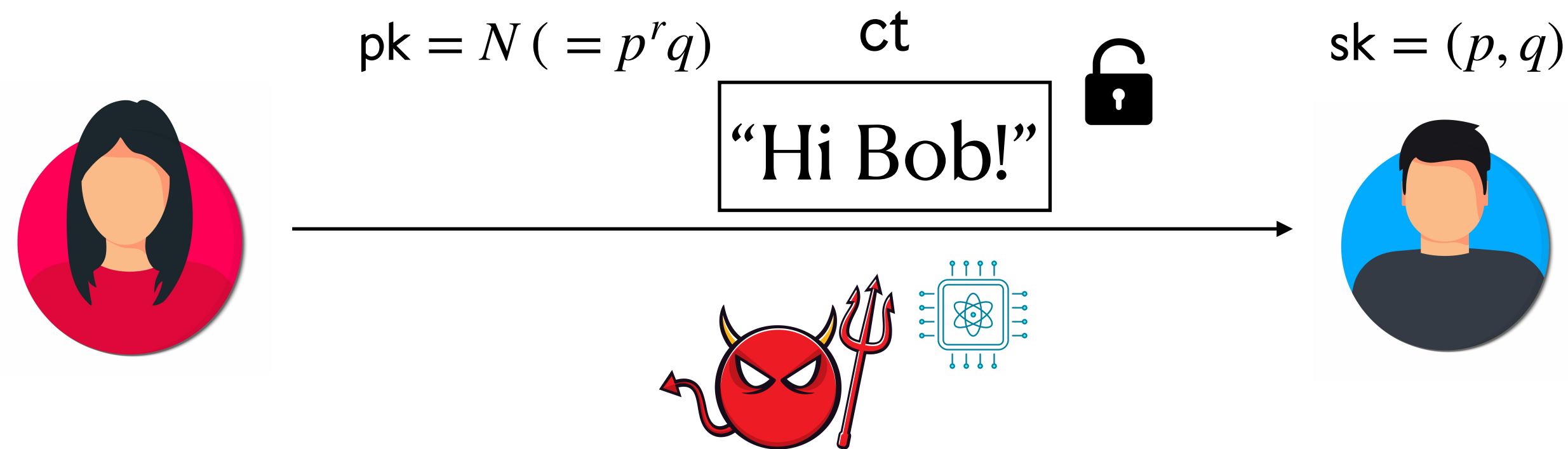
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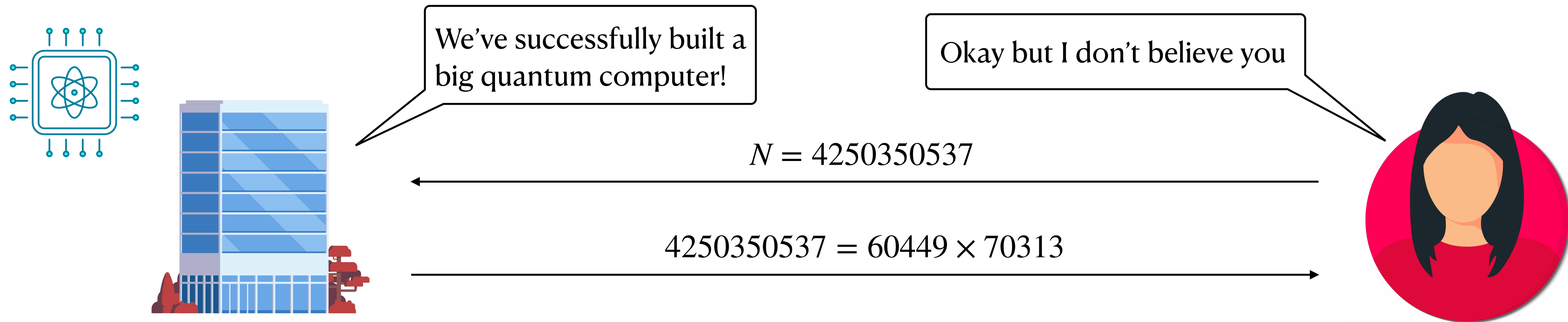


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**Coming up: even better quantum circuits for factoring  $p^r q$  ( $r > 1$ )**



# Implication 2: Proofs of Quantumness

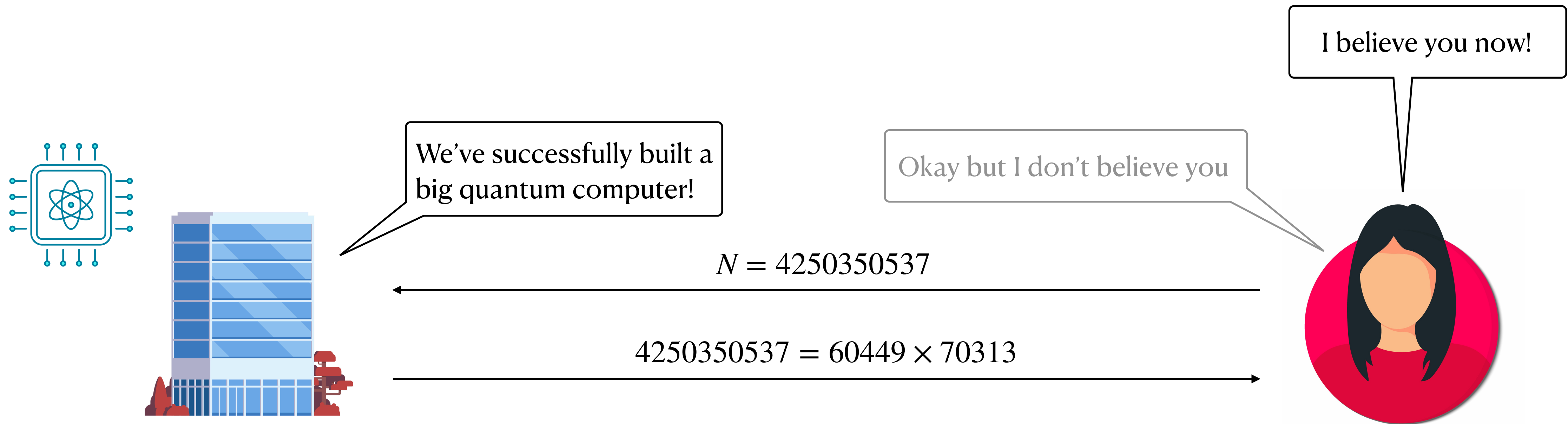


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***One answer: By factoring a large integer of Alice's choice!***



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- Known for 30 years: if we had a large-scale quantum computer, we could verifiably demonstrate quantum advantage (by factoring large integers)
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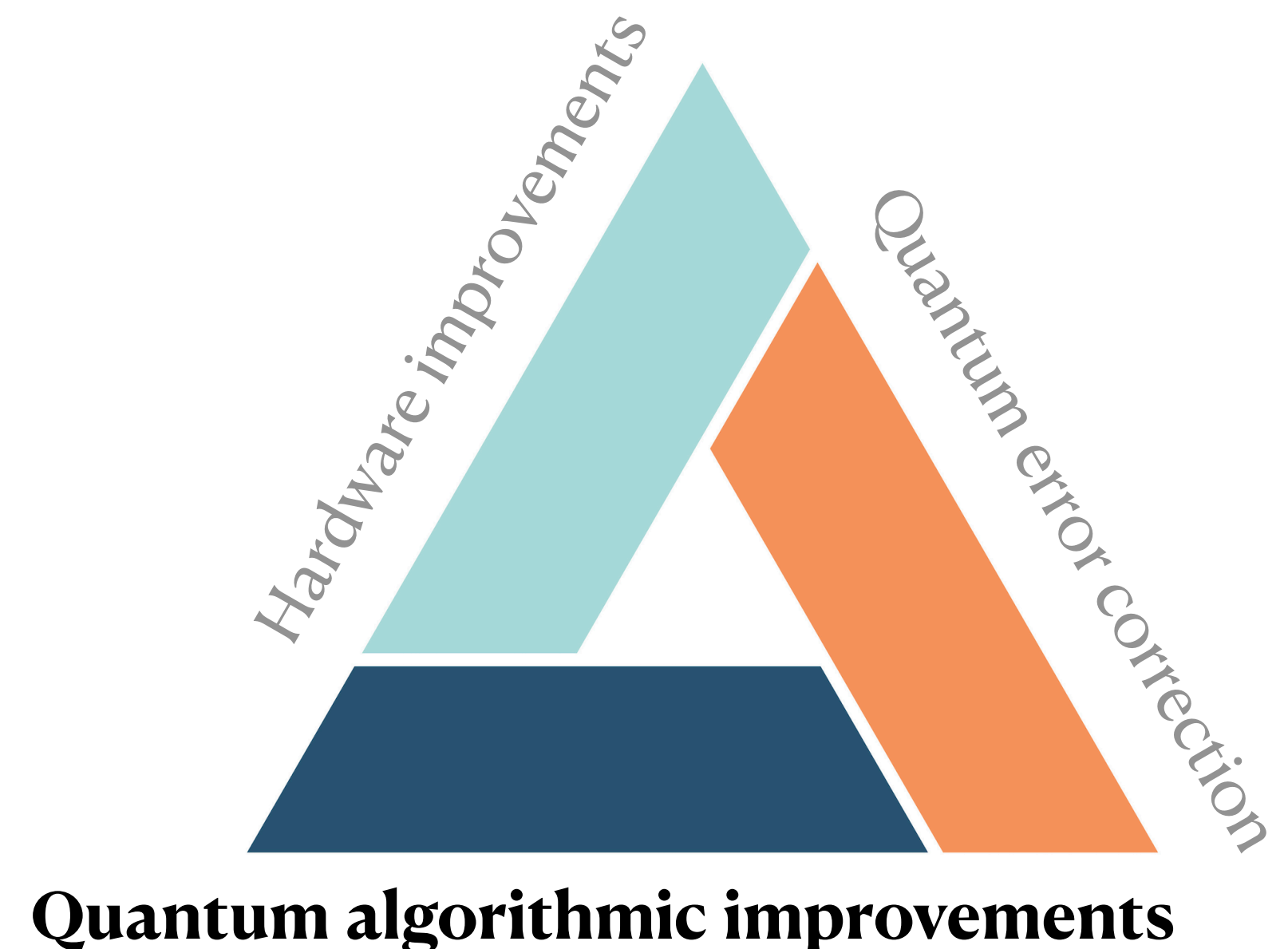
*“Our qubits are constantly trying to fall apart...  
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# Proofs of Quantumness from Factoring

Authors	Types of inputs	Gates	Space	Depth
Shor (1994)	Any	$\tilde{O}(n^2)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$

$n$  is the number of bits in the input  $N$

$\tilde{O}(\cdot)$  hides constant and  $\text{poly}(\log n)$  factors

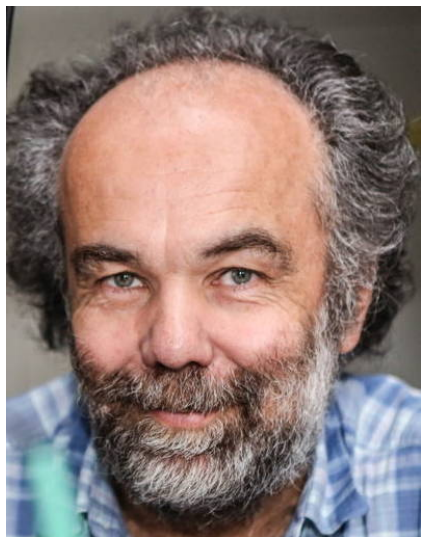
All results in this talk are using fast integer multiplication (multiply  $n$ -bit integers in  $\tilde{O}(n)$  time)





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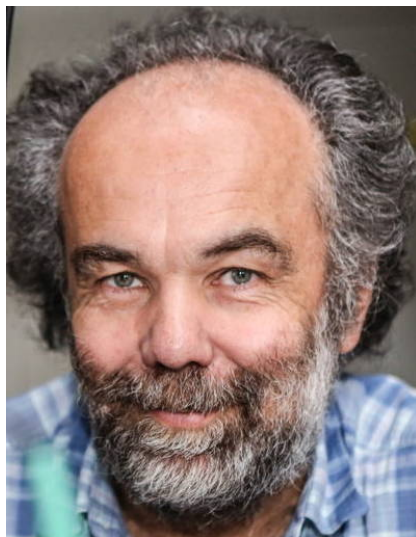


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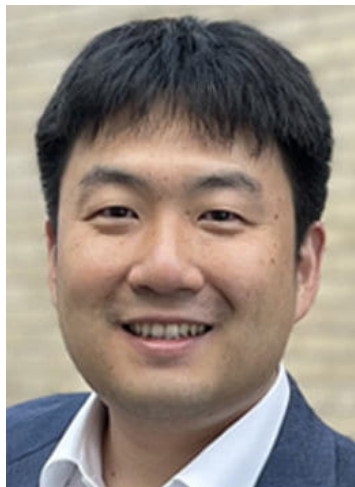
Any input: would break RSA cryptography, and suffice as a proof of quantumness

$N = P^2Q$ : only suffices as a proof of quantumness



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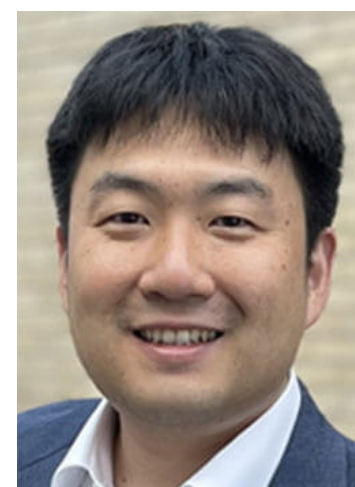


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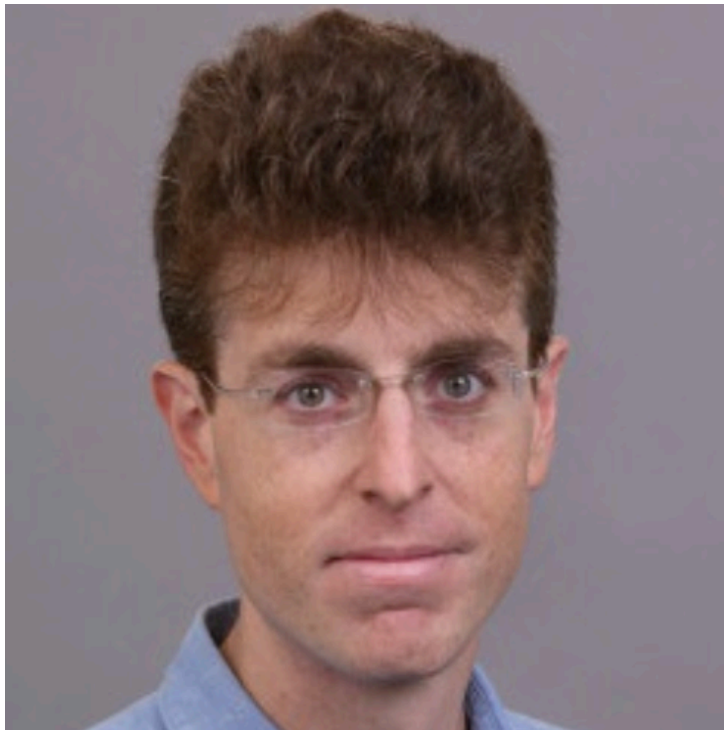
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- Con: quantum prover needs to store state between rounds





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KRVV (2024)	$N = P^2Q \ (Q < 2^m)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(m)$	$\tilde{O}(n/m + m)$

**This work: LPDS with space and depth proportional to  $\log Q$  rather than  $\log N$**



# Setting Parameters

How should we set  $m = \log Q$ ?

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  - If  $Q$  is too large: our quantum circuit is no better than the LPDS<sub>12</sub> circuit



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- Sweet spot:  $m = \tilde{O}(n^{2/3}) \rightarrow$  gates  $\tilde{O}(n)$ , space  $\tilde{O}(n^{2/3})$ , depth  $\tilde{O}(n^{2/3})$

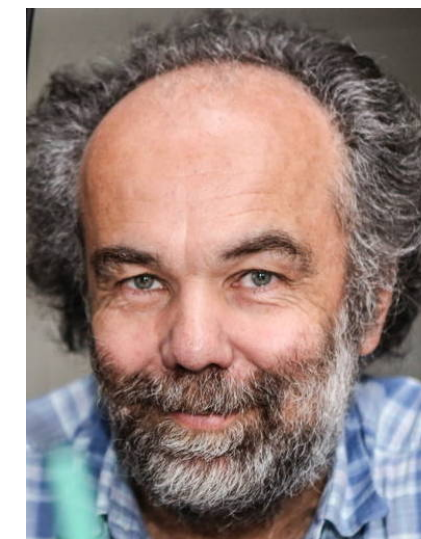
# Our Result

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KRVV (2024)	$N = P^2Q$ ( $Q < 2^{n^{2/3}}$ )	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n^{2/3})$	$\tilde{O}(n^{2/3})$

**An algorithm that factors special-form integers (that are still classically as hard as RSA integers to factor) in sublinear space and depth!**



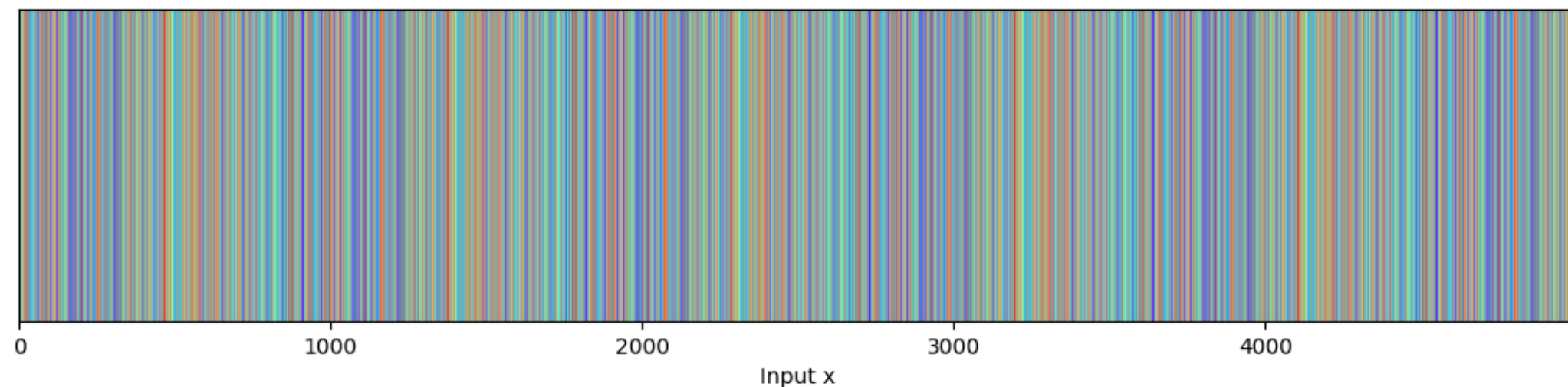
# Factoring $P^2Q$ with LPDS12: A Sketch





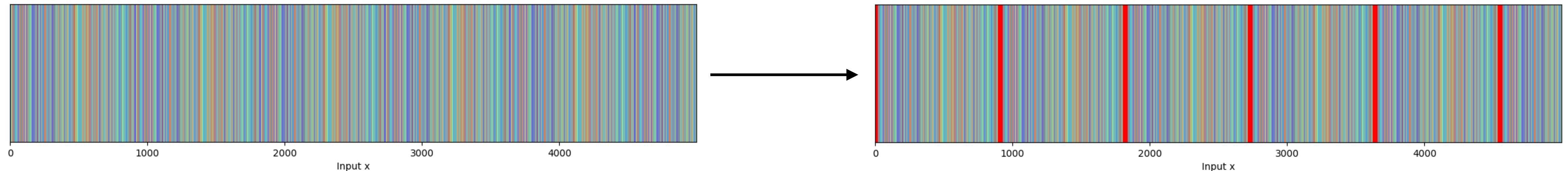
# Preliminary: Quantum Period Finding

- Strictly periodic function  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  with unknown period  $T$ 
  - $x \equiv y \pmod{T} \Leftrightarrow f(x) = f(y)$



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  - $x \equiv y \pmod{T} \Leftrightarrow f(x) = f(y)$
- Informal theorem statement: can quantumly recover a **uniformly random** multiple of  $1/T$  (and hence  $T$  itself) using essentially only the gates/space needed to compute  $f(x)$  for  $|x| \leq \text{poly}(T)$

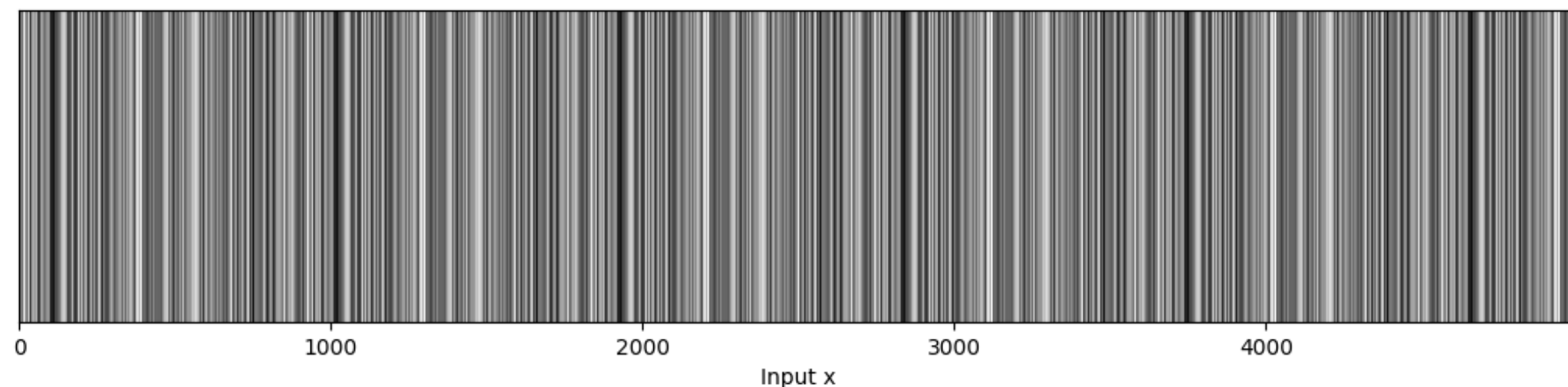




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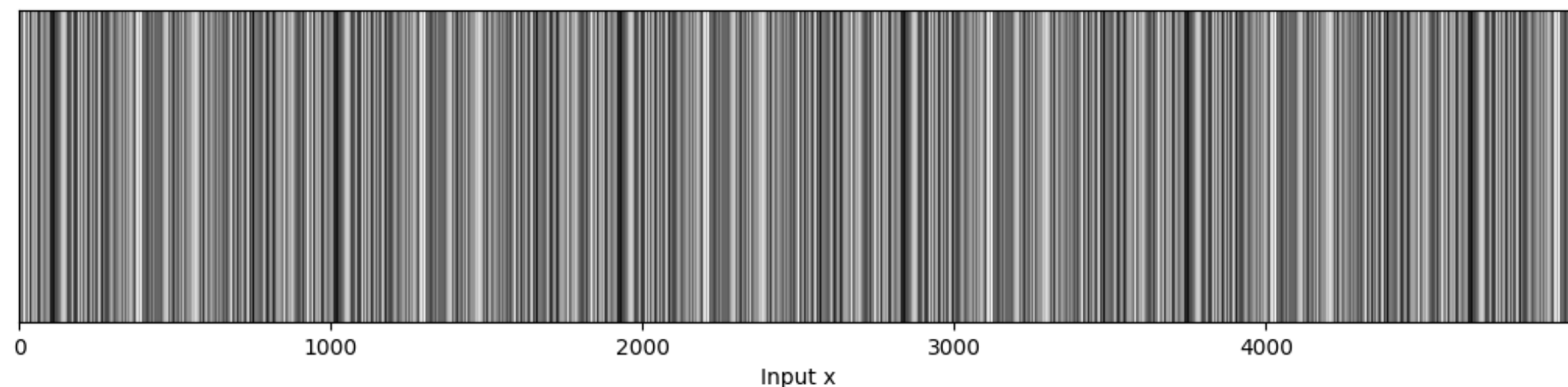
- ~~Strictly~~ periodic function  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$  with unknown period  $T$ 
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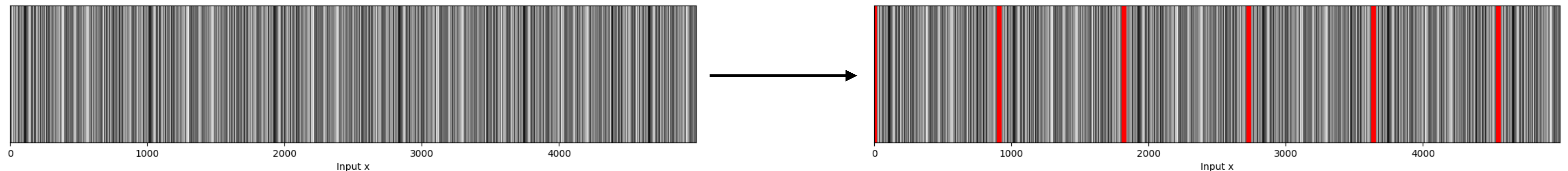
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- Linearity of the Fourier transform  $\rightarrow$  the same algorithm still outputs a **(not necessarily uniform) random** multiple of  $1/T$
- Informal theorem statement: for “reasonable”  $f$ , this is still sufficient to recover  $T$



# What is a Reasonable $f$ ?

**Hales-Hallgren '98, May-Schlieper '22**

- Approximate probability of obtaining  $\frac{a}{T}$ , for  $a \in [T]$ ):

$$\left| \hat{f}(a) \right|^2 = \frac{1}{T} \left| \sum_{x=0}^{T-1} f(x) \cdot \exp \left( \frac{2\pi i a x}{T} \right) \right|^2$$

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- As long as this is not the case, we can succeed after taking enough samples!
  - Example: random periodic  $f$  (by Chernoff bound)
- Even better, we can recover  $T$  from one sample if  $\hat{f}$  concentrates on values  $a$  such that  $\gcd(a, T) = 1$

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- Legendre symbol essentially indicates whether this is the case:

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \text{ is a nonzero quadratic residue modulo } p; \text{ and} \\ -1, & \text{if } a \text{ is not a quadratic residue modulo } p; \text{ and} \\ 0, & \text{if } a \text{ divisible by } p. \end{cases}$$



# Preliminary: The Jacobi Symbol

- Essentially generalises the Legendre symbol to odd composite moduli

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- Note for intuition: the quadratic residue characterisation does **not** carry over from the Legendre symbol
  - Could have  $\left(\frac{a}{N}\right) = 1$  without  $a$  being a quadratic residue modulo  $N$

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- Useful property:  $a \equiv b \pmod{N} \Rightarrow \left(\frac{a}{N}\right) = \left(\frac{b}{N}\right)$
- Theorem (from Euclid to Schönhage 1971): can compute  $\left(\frac{a}{N}\right)$  efficiently without knowing the factorisation of  $N$  — in fact, in time  $\tilde{O}(\log N)$

# Algorithms Computing the Jacobi Symbol

ft. Euclid, 2000 years ago



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$$f(a, b) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } a \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \text{ or } b \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ 1, & \text{if } a \equiv b \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

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**Extended Euclidean algorithm solves both these problems!**

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Acta Informatica 1, 139—144 (1971)  
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## Schnelle Berechnung von Kettenbruchentwicklungen

A. SCHÖNHAGE

Eingegangen am 16. September 1970

*Summary.* A method, given by D. E. Knuth for the computation of the greatest common divisor of two integers  $u, v$  and of the continued fraction for  $u/v$  is modified in such a way that only  $O(n(\lg n)^2(\lg \lg n))$  elementary steps are used for  $u, v < 2^n$ .

*Zusammenfassung.* Ein von D. E. Knuth angegebenes Verfahren, für ganze Zahlen  $u, v$  den größten gemeinsamen Teiler und den Kettenbruch für  $u/v$  zu berechnen, wird so modifiziert, daß für  $n$ -stellige Zahlen nur  $O(n(\lg n)^2(\lg \lg n))$  elementare Schritte gebraucht werden.



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## A Unified Approach to HGCD Algorithms for polynomials and integers

Klaus Thull and Chee K. Yap\*

Freie Universität Berlin  
Fachbereich Mathematik  
Arnimallee 2-6  
D-1000 Berlin 33  
West Germany

March, 1990

### Abstract

We present a unified framework for the asymptotically fast Half-GCD (HGCD) algorithms, based on properties of the norm. Two other benefits of our approach are (a) a simplified correctness proof of the polynomial HGCD algorithm and (b) the first explicit integer HGCD algorithm. The integer HGCD algorithm turns out to be rather intricate.

**Keywords:** Integer GCD, Euclidean algorithm, Polynomial GCD, Half GCD algorithm, efficient algorithm.

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Article electronically published on September 12, 2007

## ON SCHÖNHAGE'S ALGORITHM AND SUBQUADRATIC INTEGER GCD COMPUTATION

NIELS MÖLLER

**ABSTRACT.** We describe a new subquadratic left-to-right GCD algorithm, inspired by Schönhage's algorithm for reduction of binary quadratic forms, and compare it to the first subquadratic GCD algorithm discovered by Knuth and Schönhage, and to the binary recursive GCD algorithm of Stehlé and Zimmermann. The new GCD algorithm runs slightly faster than earlier algorithms, and it is much simpler to implement. The key idea is to use a stop condition for HGCD that is based not on the size of the remainders, but on the size of the next difference. This subtle change is sufficient to eliminate the back-up steps that are necessary in all previous subquadratic left-to-right GCD algorithms. The subquadratic GCD algorithms all have the same asymptotic running time,  $O(n(\log n)^2 \log \log n)$ .



# Factoring from Jacobi Symbol Periodicity

- For RSA integers ( $N = PQ$ ): product of two periodic functions with smaller periods but itself only has period  $N$

$$\left(\frac{a}{N}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{P}\right) \left(\frac{a}{Q}\right)$$

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$$\left(\frac{a}{N}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{P}\right) \left(\frac{a}{Q}\right)$$

- What about  $N = P^2Q$ ?

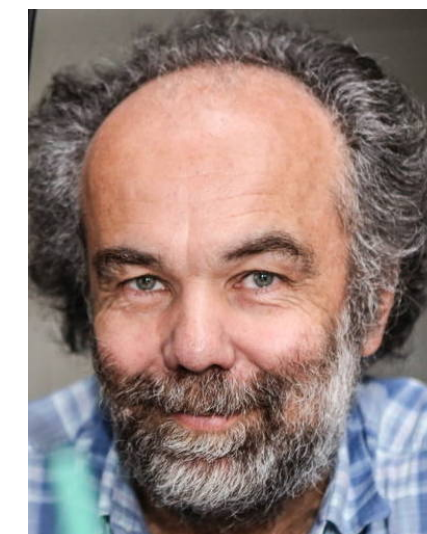
$$\left(\frac{a}{N}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{P}\right)^2 \left(\frac{a}{Q}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{Q}\right), \text{ which is periodic}^* \text{ with period } Q!$$

\* modulo minor technical caveats; could have  $\left(\frac{a}{P}\right) = 0$  for a tiny fraction of inputs  $a$

# Quantumly Factoring $N = P^2Q$

Li, Peng, Du, Suter (2012)

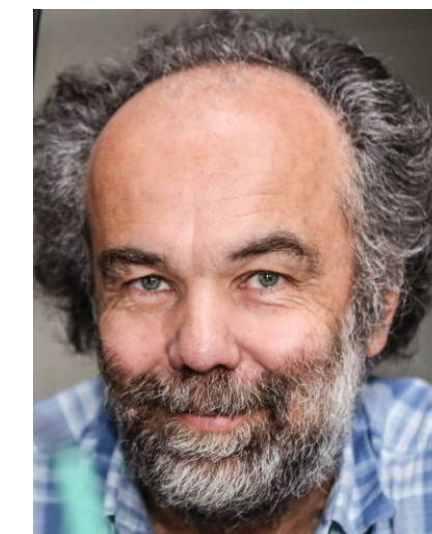
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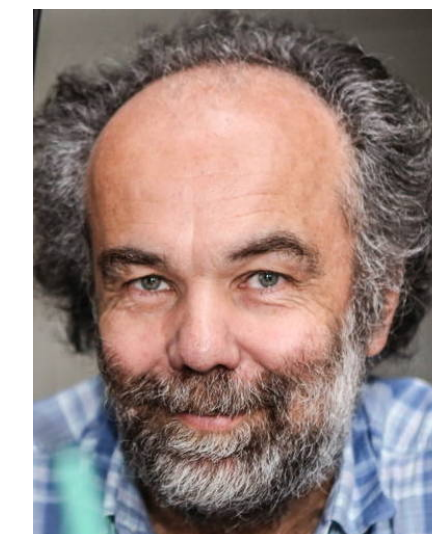




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- Space and depth (if naively implemented): also  $\tilde{O}(\log N)$





# Is the Jacobi Function “Reasonable”?

- Generalised quantum period finding: we recover  $\frac{a}{Q}$  with probability

$$\left| \hat{f}(a) \right|^2 = \frac{1}{Q} \left| \sum_{x=0}^{Q-1} \left( \frac{x}{Q} \right) \cdot \exp \left( \frac{2\pi i a x}{Q} \right) \right|^2$$

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**The Jacobi function isn't just “reasonably good” for general quantum period finding, it's actually magically well-suited to it — even more so than the periodic function used by Shor to factor!**

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**Our Contribution: Pushing Space  
and Depth Down to  $\tilde{O}(\log Q)$**

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- Hope 1:** when factoring  $P^2Q$  with Jacobi: the period is just  $Q \rightarrow O(\log Q)$  qubits could suffice!

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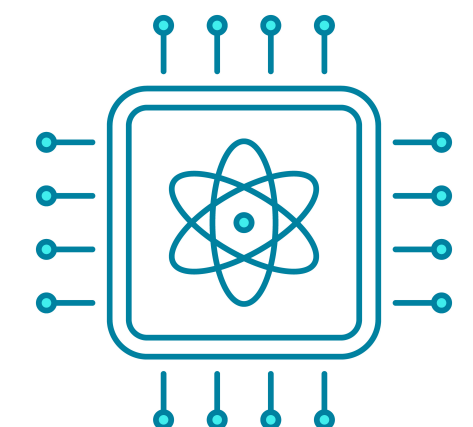
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**The “only” bottleneck: computing  $|a\rangle \mapsto |a\rangle |N \bmod a\rangle$**

# Our Result, Distilled

- Theorem (KR~~V~~V24): for quantum  $a$  and classically known  $N$ , we can compute

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**Open question:  
other applications  
of these results?**

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- Corollary 2: we can factor  $N = P^2Q$  in  $\tilde{O}(\log N)$  gates and  $\tilde{O}(\log Q)$  qubits
  - Just need the above theorem for  $a \leq \text{poly}(Q)$

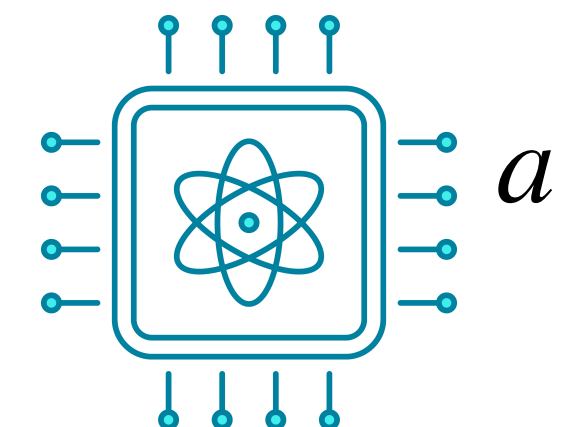
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Notation:  $N$  has  $n$  bits,  $a$  has  $m = O(\log Q)$  bits

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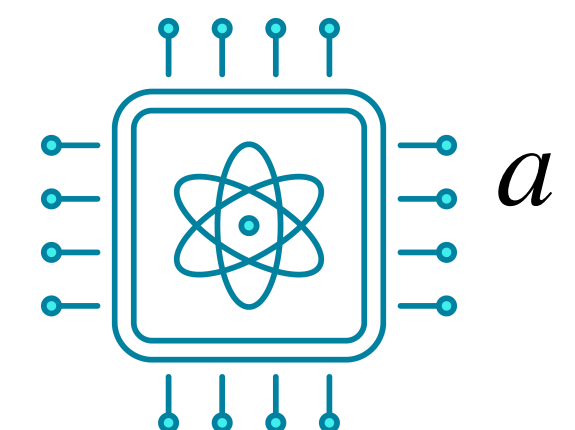
- Proceeds in  $t_{\max} = O(n/m)$  time steps (one for each  $m$ -bit chunk of  $N$ )

Notation:  $N$  has  $n$  bits,  $a$  has  $m = O(\log Q)$  bits

Bits of  $N$ , split into chunks of size  $O(\log Q)$



Quantum computer with  $\tilde{O}(\log Q)$  qubits



Classical computer sending instructions to the quantum computer



# Computing $N \bmod a$ with Quantum Streaming

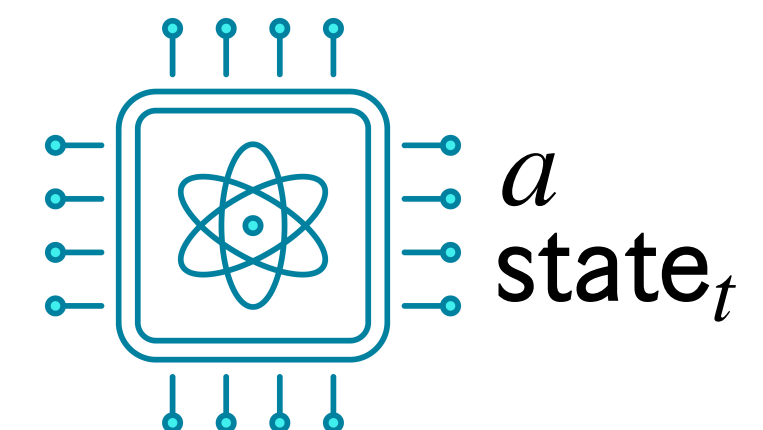
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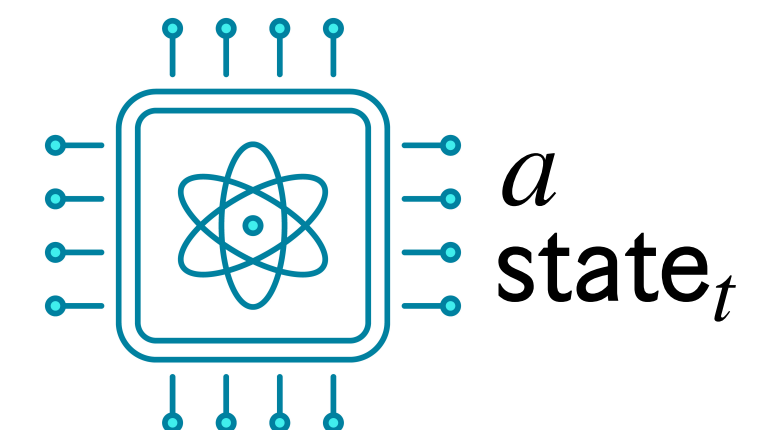
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  - Correctness:  $N \bmod a$  is efficiently recoverable from state $_{t_{\max}}$

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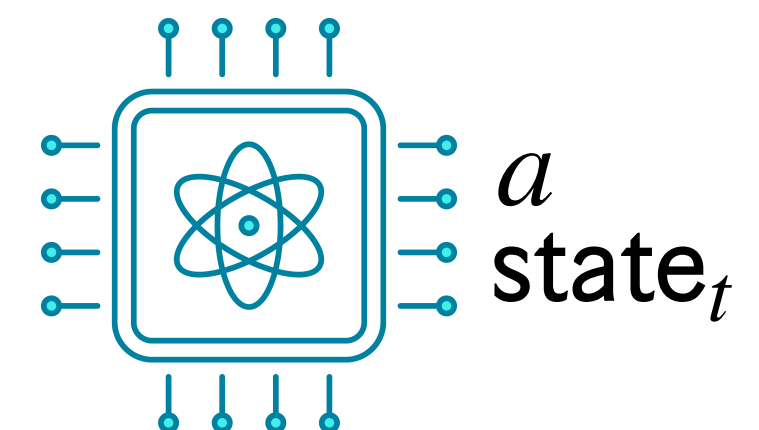
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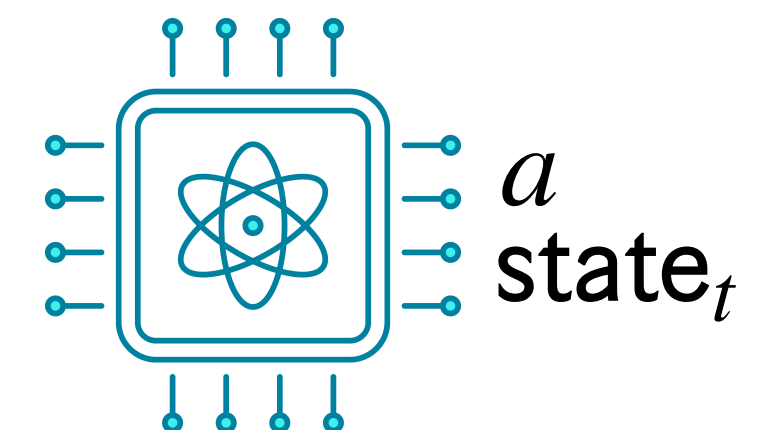
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  - **Reversibility**:  $\text{state}_{t-1}$  can be reconstructed (and therefore uncomputed) from  $\text{state}_t$

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# Our Construction, Simplified

- At time  $t = 0, \dots, n - m$ , let  $N_t$  be a multiple of  $a$  such that  $N \equiv N_t \pmod{2^t}$ 
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  - Higher-order bits: this must be held quantumly, and is  $\text{state}_t$
- It turns out that the final state  $\text{state}_{n-m}$  suffices to reconstruct  $N \bmod a$

# **Our Construction, In Detail**

# A Natural Attempt: Long Division

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \begin{array}{c} a \longrightarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \textcolor{blue}{11} \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{r} \textcolor{red}{10010} \\ \textcolor{black}{110111} \\ \textcolor{black}{11} \\ \hline \textcolor{red}{00} \\ \textcolor{black}{0} \\ \hline \textcolor{red}{01} \\ \textcolor{black}{0} \\ \hline \textcolor{red}{11} \\ \textcolor{black}{11} \\ \hline \textcolor{blue}{01} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \longleftarrow N \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \longleftarrow N \bmod a \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$\text{state}_1$   
 $\text{state}_2$   
 $\text{state}_3$   
 $\text{state}_4$

Required state

Excess state that  
we cannot clean  
up

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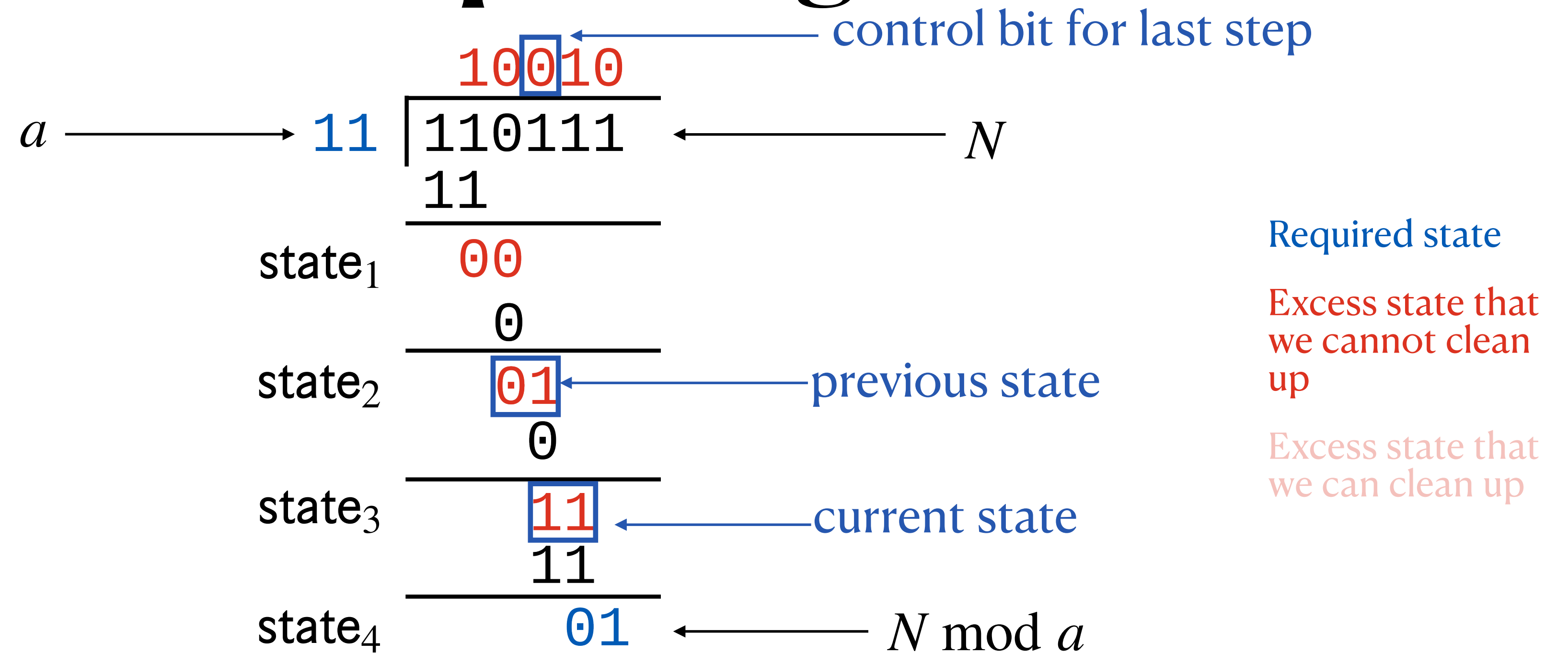
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# A Natural Attempt: Long Division



- Pro: only need to look at  $O(m)$  bits of  $N$  at a time, and each  $\text{state}_t$  is compact
- Con: no reversibility  $\rightarrow$  end up using  $O(n)$  qubits anyway

# Long Division: A Bird's Eye View

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- Goal of long division: find  $k$  such that  $N \approx ka$ , and output  $N - ka$
- Does this by subtracting  $2^r a$  from state, starting with large  $r$  (most significant bit of  $k$ ) and going down to  $r = 0$  (least significant bit of  $k$ )

# Our Idea: “Backwards Long Division”

Long division: initialise state =  $N$  and subtract  $2^r a$  from state,  
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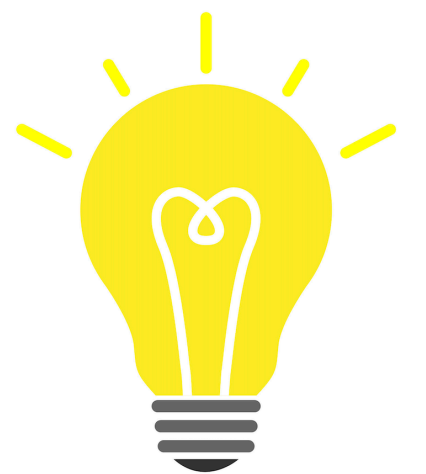
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**Key observation: it is very easy at time  $t$  to decide based on state  
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# Implementing Backwards Long Division

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- Instead of constructing  $k$  from MSB to LSB, let's construct it from LSB to MSB
- Algorithm (assume for simplicity that  $a$  is odd):
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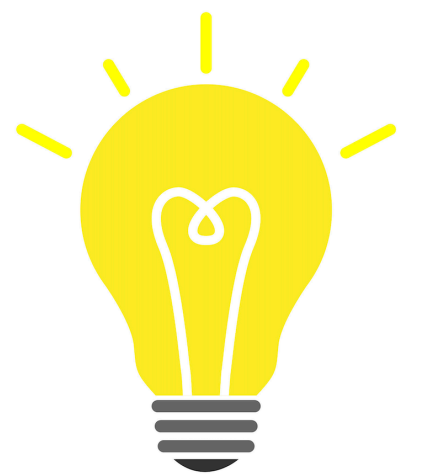


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COMING  
SOON

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  - Equivalently:  $N \equiv ka \pmod{2^{n-m}}$

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# Tracing Through Our Algorithm

Recall:  
state =  $ka$

$2^0$	a =	11
	N =	110111
	k =	1
	state =	11

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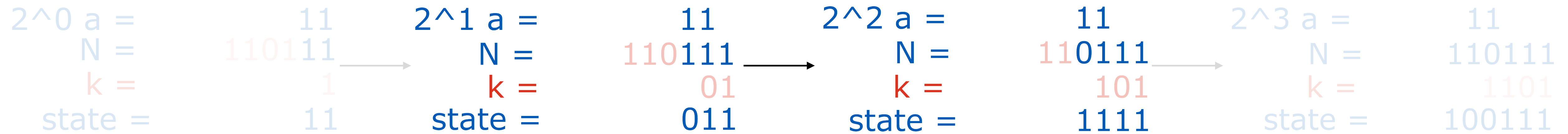
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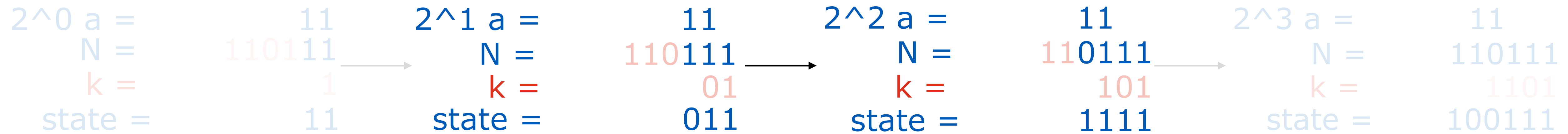
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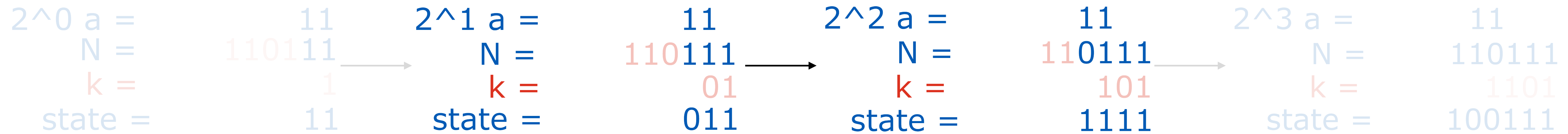
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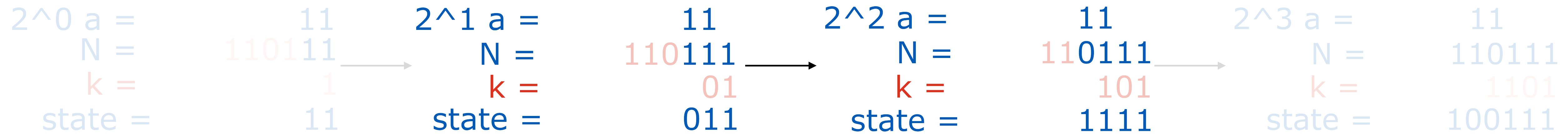
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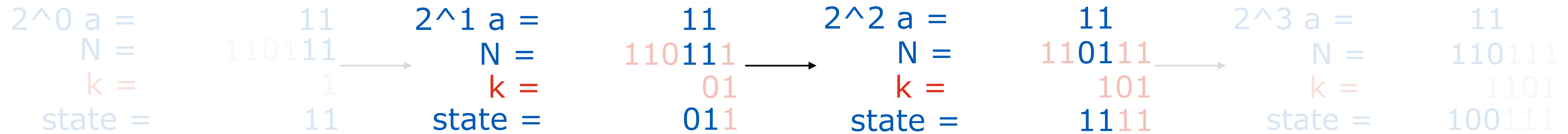
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**This now gets us down to  $O(m)$  space!**

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*This is already nice, but we can do better...*

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2. (Using the  $2^m$  modulus; can be made concretely efficient) Recurse down to computing  $a^{-1} \bmod 2^{m/2}$ 
  - a. Recursion step just does some multiplications and bit shifts on  $m$ -bit integers

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  - Gates:  $O(n/m) \times \tilde{O}(m) = \tilde{O}(n)$
  - Depth:  $O(n/m) \times \tilde{O}(1) = \tilde{O}(n/m)$

# Summary and Open Questions

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  - Contributes an additional depth of  $\tilde{O}(m)$  (dominant term in depth if  $m \gg \sqrt{n}$ )

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- Main theorem (KRVV24): for  $N = P^2Q < 2^n$  such that  $Q$  is squarefree and  $< 2^m$ , we can recover  $P, Q$  from  $N$  in  $\tilde{O}(n)$  gates,  $\tilde{O}(m)$  qubits, and  $\tilde{O}(n/m + m)$  depth

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**Central workhorse: an efficient quantum circuit for computing  $N \bmod a$  for classical  $N < 2^n$  and quantum  $a < 2^m$**



# Summary: Our Factoring Circuit for $P^2Q$

Authors	Types of inputs	Gates	Space	Depth
Shor (1994)	Any	$\tilde{O}(n^2)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$
LPDS (2012)	$N = P^2Q$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$
KCVY (2021)	N/A	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(1)$
Regev (2023)	Any	$\tilde{O}(n^{1.5})$	$O(n^{1.5})$	$\tilde{O}(n^{0.5})$
RV (2024)	Any	$\tilde{O}(n^{1.5})$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(n^{0.5})$
KRVV (2024)	$N = P^2Q \ (Q < 2^m)$	$\tilde{O}(n)$	$\tilde{O}(m)$	$\tilde{O}(n/m + m)$

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- Other quantum factoring algorithms exploiting special structure in  $N$ ? (Many such algorithms in the classical world)

# Bonus Slides

# Our Result, Distilled

- Theorem (KR~~V~~V24): for  $a < 2^m$  (in our application,  $m = O(\log Q)$ ) and classically known  $N < 2^n$ , we can compute

$$|a\rangle \mapsto |a\rangle |N \bmod a\rangle$$

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**Open question:  
other applications  
of these results?**



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  - $N = 55, a = 3$  ( $n = 6, m = 2$ )

simplified presentation based on an  
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**That's it! We computed  $N \bmod a$ !**

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