

An Introduction to Commitment-Based Succinct Arguments

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Today's Protagonist:

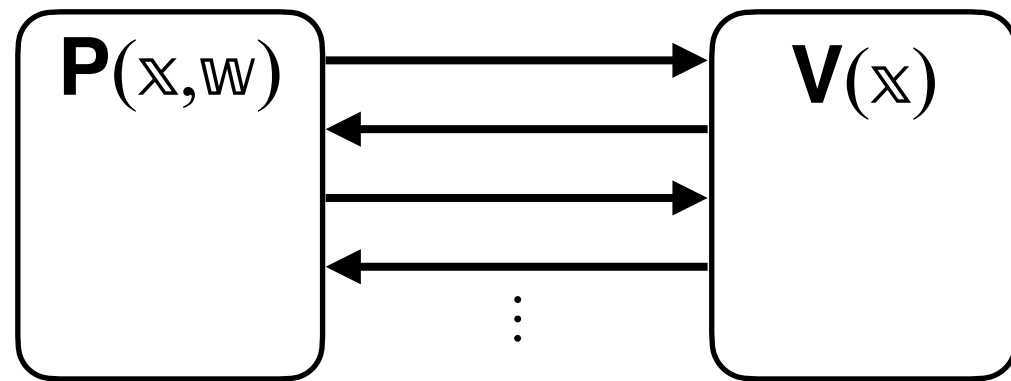
Succinct Arguments

*Cryptographic proofs for computation integrity
that are **super short** and **super fast to verify**.*

Cryptographic Proofs aka **Arguments**

Fix a relation $R := \{(\mathbb{x}, \mathbb{w}) \mid \dots\}$ and its language $L(R)$.

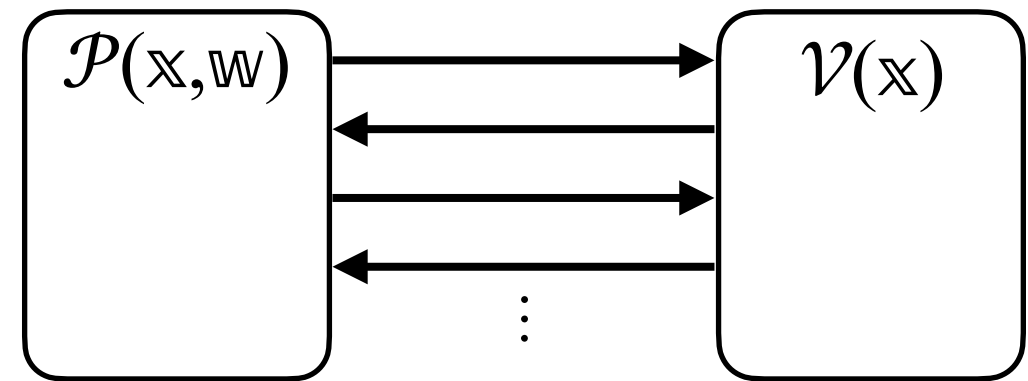
Interactive **Proof**



Completeness: $\forall (\mathbb{x}, \mathbb{w}) \in R$
 $\Pr[\langle \mathbf{P}(\mathbb{x}, \mathbb{w}), \mathbf{V}(\mathbb{x}) \rangle = 1] = 1$

Soundness: $\forall \mathbb{x} \notin L(R) \quad \forall \mathbf{A}$
 $\Pr[\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{V}(\mathbb{x}) \rangle = 1] \leq \epsilon$

Interactive **Argument**



Completeness: $\forall (\mathbb{x}, \mathbb{w}) \in R$
 $\Pr[\langle \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{x}, \mathbb{w}), \mathcal{V}(\mathbb{x}) \rangle = 1] = 1$

Soundness: $\forall \mathbb{x} \notin L(R) \quad \forall$ efficient $\mathcal{A}$
 $\Pr[\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}(\mathbb{x}) \rangle = 1] \leq \epsilon$

Cryptographic Proofs aka **Arguments**

A system setup is useful: $G(1^\lambda)$ samples public parameters pp .

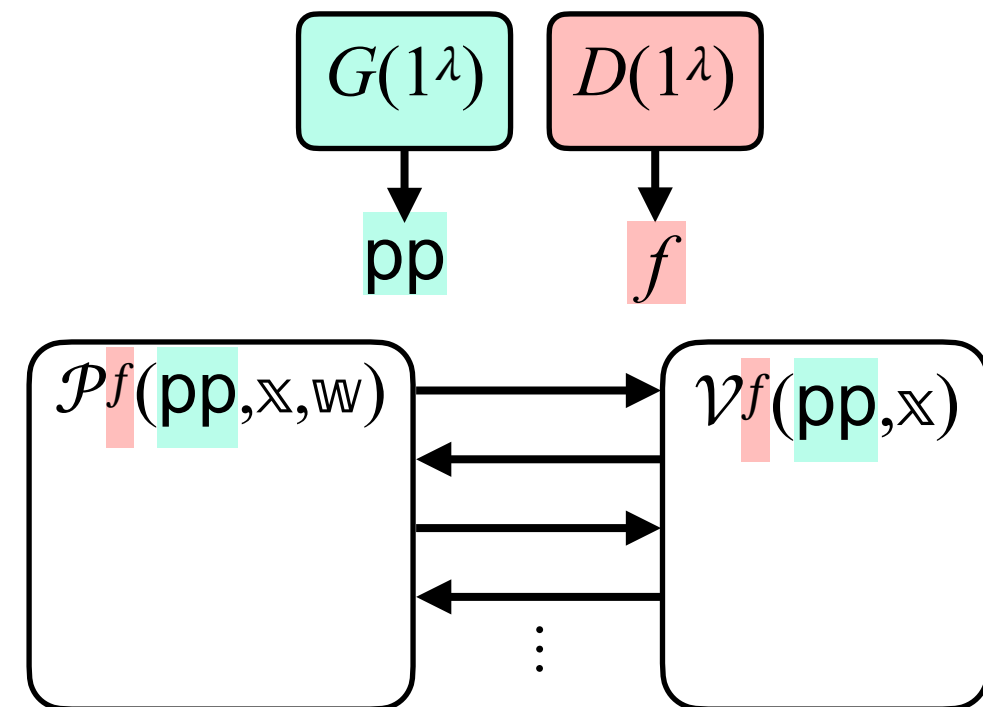
Ditto for oracle(s) for idealized analyses: $D(1^\lambda)$ samples oracle(s) f .

Completeness: $\forall (x, w) \in R$

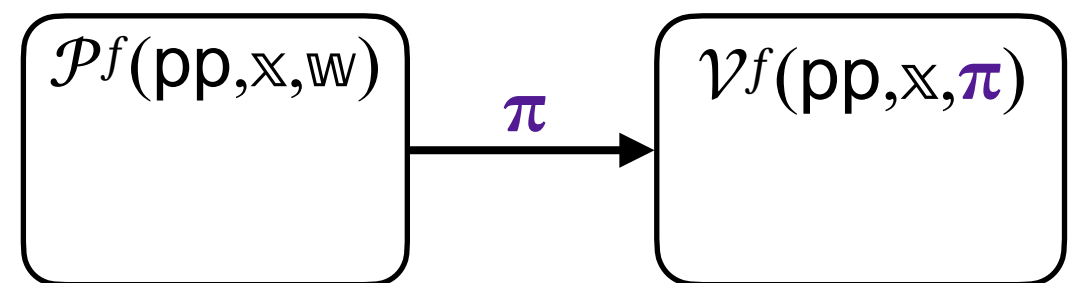
$$\Pr \left[\langle \mathcal{P}^f(pp, x, w), \mathcal{V}^f(pp, x) \rangle = 1 \mid \begin{array}{l} f \leftarrow D(1^\lambda) \\ pp \leftarrow G(1^\lambda) \end{array} \right] = 1$$

Soundness: $\forall x \notin L(R) \forall q\text{-query } t\text{-time } \mathcal{A}$

$$\Pr \left[\langle \mathcal{A}^f(pp), \mathcal{V}^f(pp, x) \rangle = 1 \mid \begin{array}{l} f \leftarrow D(1^\lambda) \\ pp \leftarrow G(1^\lambda) \end{array} \right] \leq \epsilon(\lambda, q, t)$$



Notable special case:
non-interactive arguments

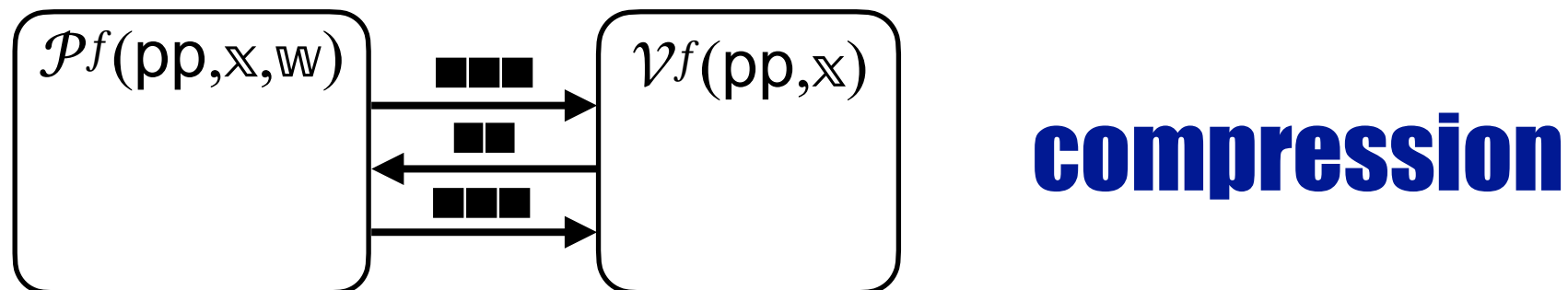


Not today: preprocessing, reductions, ...

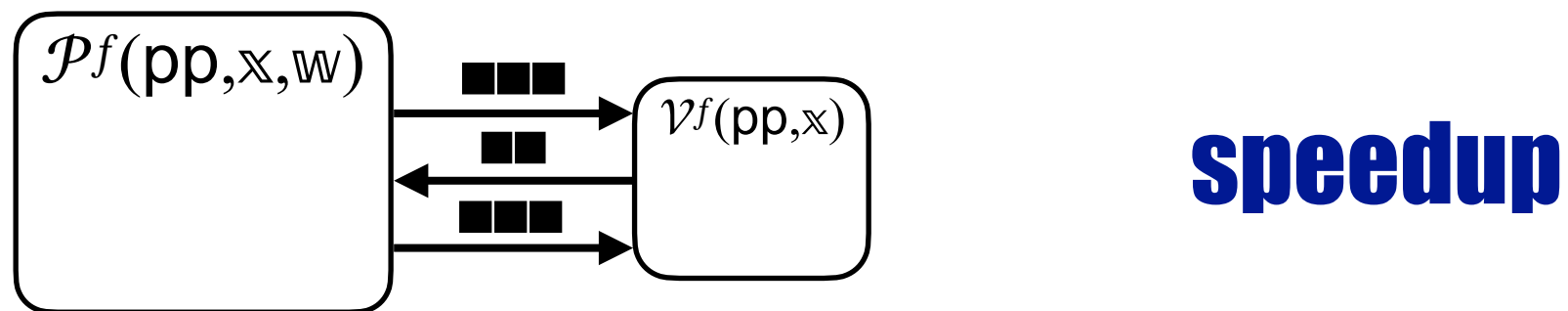
Succinctness

Range of definitions. Informally:

- succinctness in *communication*: $|cc| \ll |w|$



- succinctness in *verification*: $\text{time}(\mathcal{V}) \ll \text{time}_R(x, w)$



Interactive proofs **CANNOT** be succinct (under standard complexity assumptions).
Example: $\text{IP}[\text{public}, cc] \subseteq \text{BPTIME}[2^{cc}]$.

Not today: other useful properties like zero knowledge, knowledge soundness, ...

Results Landscape

Fundamental Succinctness Theorems (aka **Hashing Suffices**):

- Assuming **CRH**, $\exists$ **4**-message succinct arguments.
- In **ROM**, $\exists$ **1**-message succinct arguments.

Two main lines of research in last 15 years (to a first order).

1) Minimizing assumptions to achieve succinctness.

- succinct *interactive* arguments $\leftarrow$ multi-CRH (rather than CRH)
- succinct *non-interactive* arguments $\leftarrow$ falsifiable assumptions (no ROM)

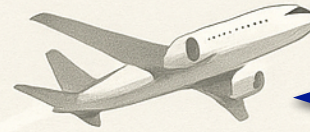
Open: adaptive SNARGs from LWE (requires non-black-box reductions)

2) Minimizing (asymptotic&concrete) cost of succinct (non-interactive) arguments, given oracle models or non-falsifiable assumptions (or both).

Highly-efficient constructions+implementations that aim for the best communication complexity and prover/verifier time/space.

This talk

AI SC academic-industrial SNARG complex



Probabilistic AIRways

SNARK Tower

Proofs, Consensus, and Decentralizing Society

Wednesday, Aug. 21 – Friday, Dec. 20, 2019

Organizers



Alessandro Chiesa
(UC Berkeley; chair)



Eli Ben-Sasson
(StarkWare)



Yael Kalai
(MIT)



Rafael Pass
(Tel-Aviv University and Cornell Tech)



Mike Walfish
(New York University)

TUESDAY, AUG. 27 – SATURDAY, AUG. 31, 2019

Boot Camp: Proofs, Consensus, and Their Applications

MONDAY, SEPT. 23 – FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 2019

Probabilistically Checkable and Interactive Proof Systems

TUESDAY, OCT. 22 – FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 2019

Large-Scale Consensus and Blockchains

MONDAY, NOV. 18 – FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 2019

Blockchain in Society: Applications, Economics, Law, and Ethics

Group

Zero Capital

2019

implementations

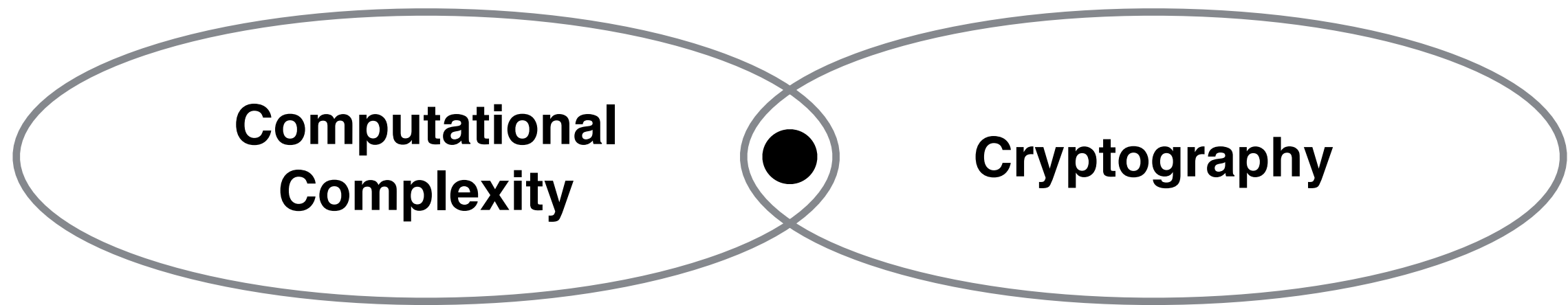
efficient
constructions

applications

SNARG-scape

Basic Anatomy

Two Complementary Tools



(some form of)
Probabilistic Proof

- security vs. inefficient adversaries
- succinct verification **in a query model**

(some form of)
Commitment Scheme

- security vs. efficient adversaries
- succinct commitment/opening **for query model**

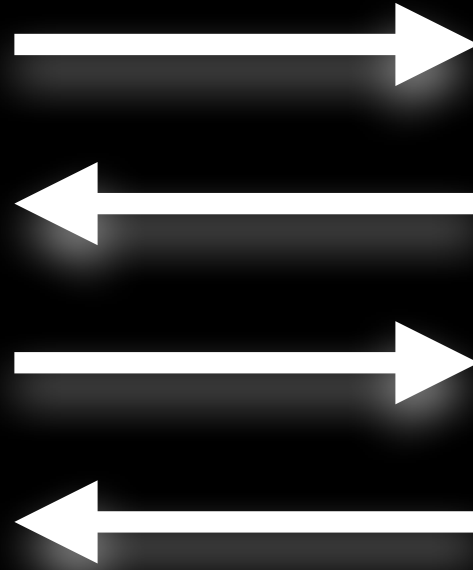
Determines
the type of computation
(eg. machine vs circuit)

Commit-Then-Open
Transformation(s)

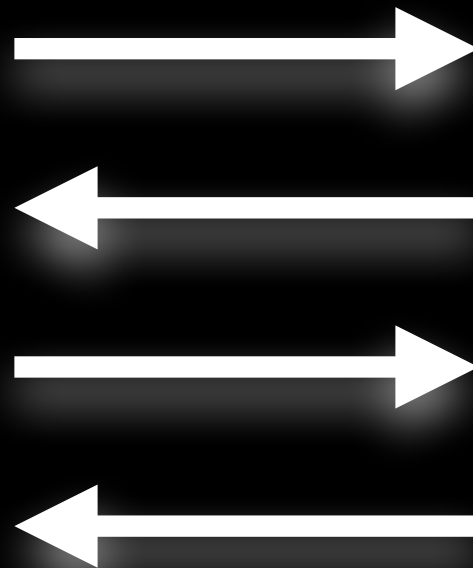
Determines
- cryptographic costs
- setup (public vs private)
- pre- vs post-quantum

Succinct Argument

Not in this talk:
- linear-only encodings
- sumcheck arguments
- ...

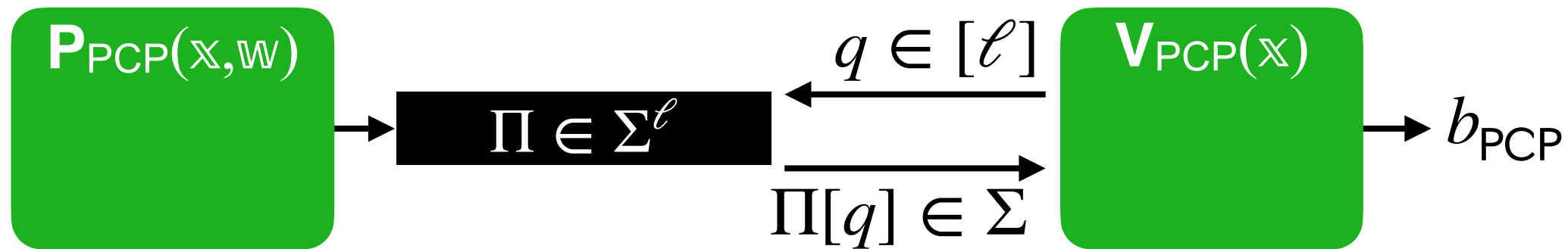


Part I: The Interactive Case

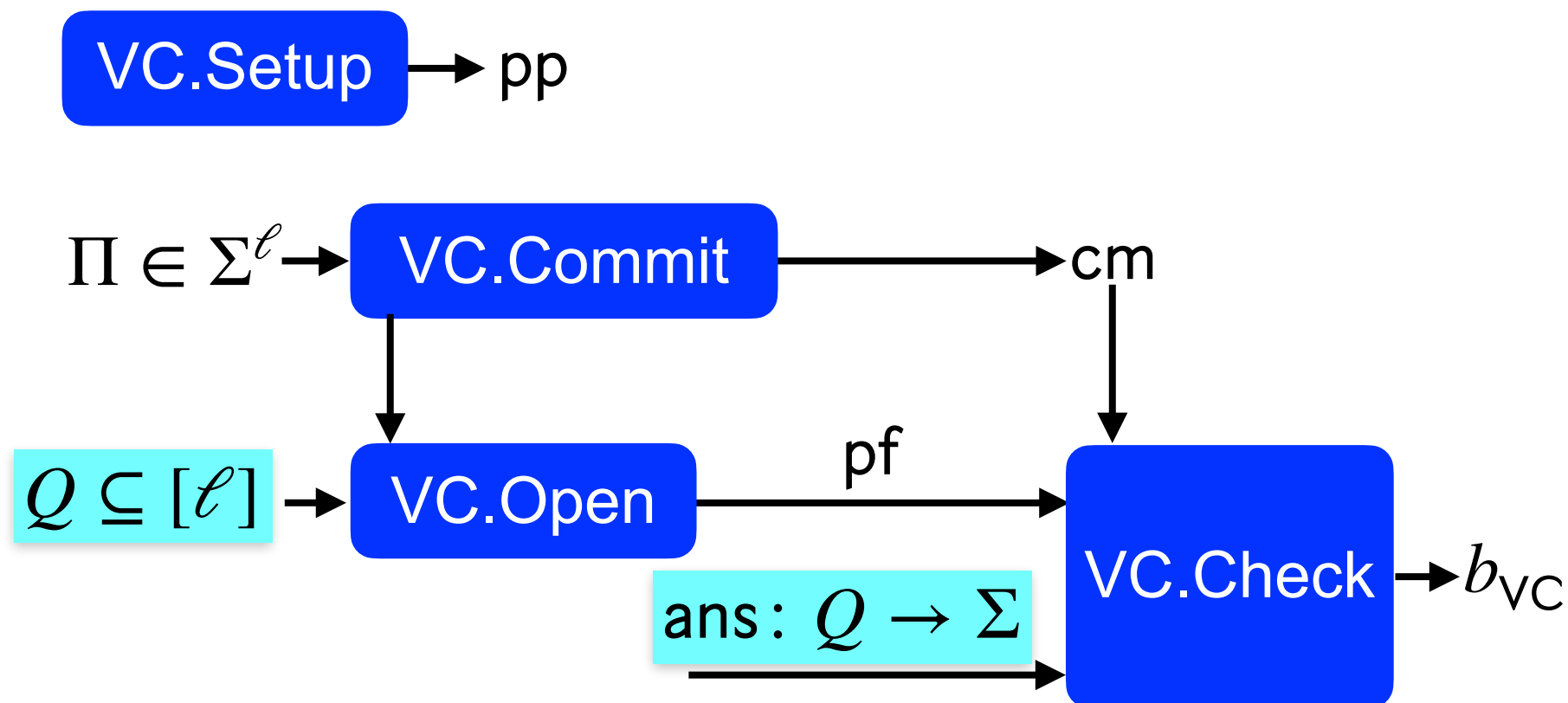


Kilian Protocol: Tools

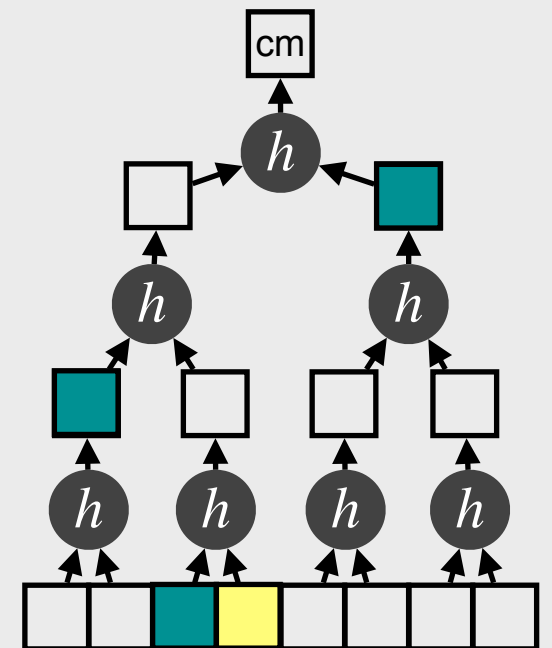
Tool #1: probabilistically checkable proof (PCP)



Tool #2: vector commitment scheme (VC)



Example:
Merkle Commitment
 $pp = h: \{0,1\}^{2\lambda} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$

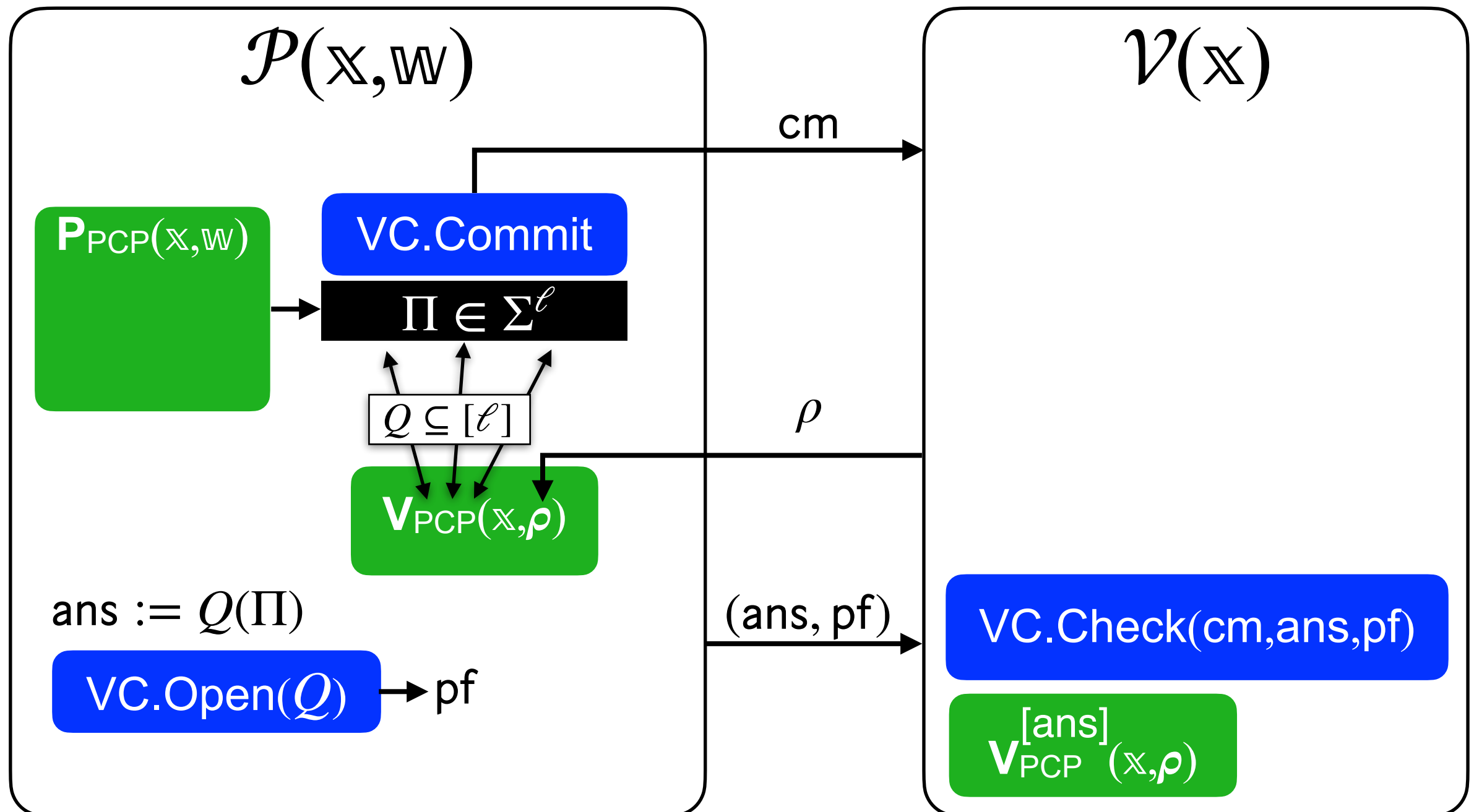


Kilian Protocol

VC-commit to the PCP string.

Then VC-open the queried locations of the PCP string.

VC.Setup $\rightarrow$ pp (or as $\mathcal{V}$'s 1st message)



Kilian Protocol: Security

Note:
extraction
↓
binding

Two incomparable security analyses.

- **Black-box prover rewinding (no oracles):**

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \quad \epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(t_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{PCP}} + \epsilon_{\text{VC}} \left(\frac{\ell \cdot t_{\text{ARG}}}{\epsilon} \right) + \epsilon$$

PCP soundness error

VC position-binding error

Tradeoff
seems
inherent.

$$\Pr \left[\begin{array}{l} \forall i \text{ VC.Check}_{\text{pp}}(\text{cm}, \text{ans}_i, \text{pf}_i) = 1 \\ \exists \Pi \in \Sigma^\ell \forall i \Pi[Q_i] = \text{ans}_i \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \text{pp} \leftarrow \text{VC.Setup}(1^\lambda) \\ \text{cm} \\ ((\text{ans}_i, \text{pf}_i))_i \leftarrow A(\text{pp}) \end{array} \right] \leq \epsilon_{\text{VC}}(t_{\text{VC}})$$

Or in expected time:

$$\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}^{\mathbb{E}}(t_{\text{ARG}}^{\mathbb{E}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{PCP}} + \epsilon_{\text{VC}}^{\mathbb{E}} \left(\frac{\ell \cdot t_{\text{ARG}}^{\mathbb{E}}}{1 - \epsilon_{\text{PCP}}} \right)$$

- **Straightline extraction in ideal model (with oracles):**

$$\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(q_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{PCP}} + \kappa_{\text{VC}}(q_{\text{ARG}})$$

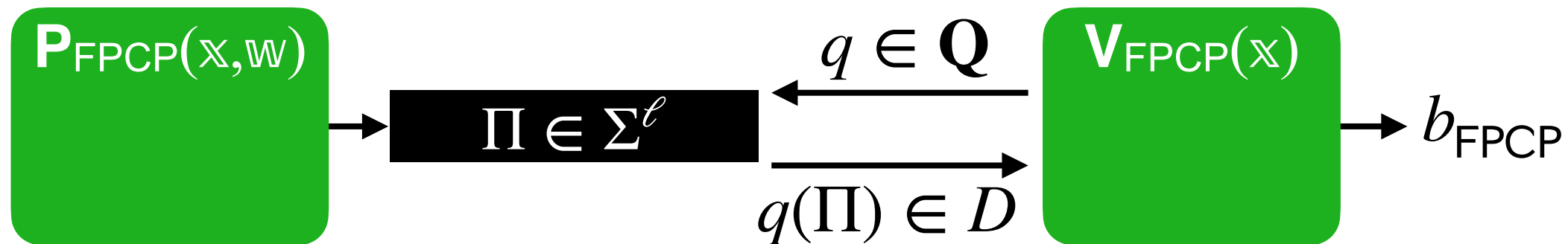
VC straightline-extraction error

$$\Pr \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{VC.Check}^f(\text{cm}, \text{ans}, \text{pf}) = 1 \\ \Pi[Q] \neq \text{ans} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} (\text{cm}, \text{aux}) \xleftarrow{\text{tr}} Af(\text{pp}) \\ \Pi \leftarrow \text{VC.Extract}(\text{pp}, \text{cm}, \text{tr}) \\ (\text{ans}, \text{pf}) \leftarrow Af(\text{aux}) \end{array} \right] \leq \kappa_{\text{VC}}(q_{\text{VC}})$$

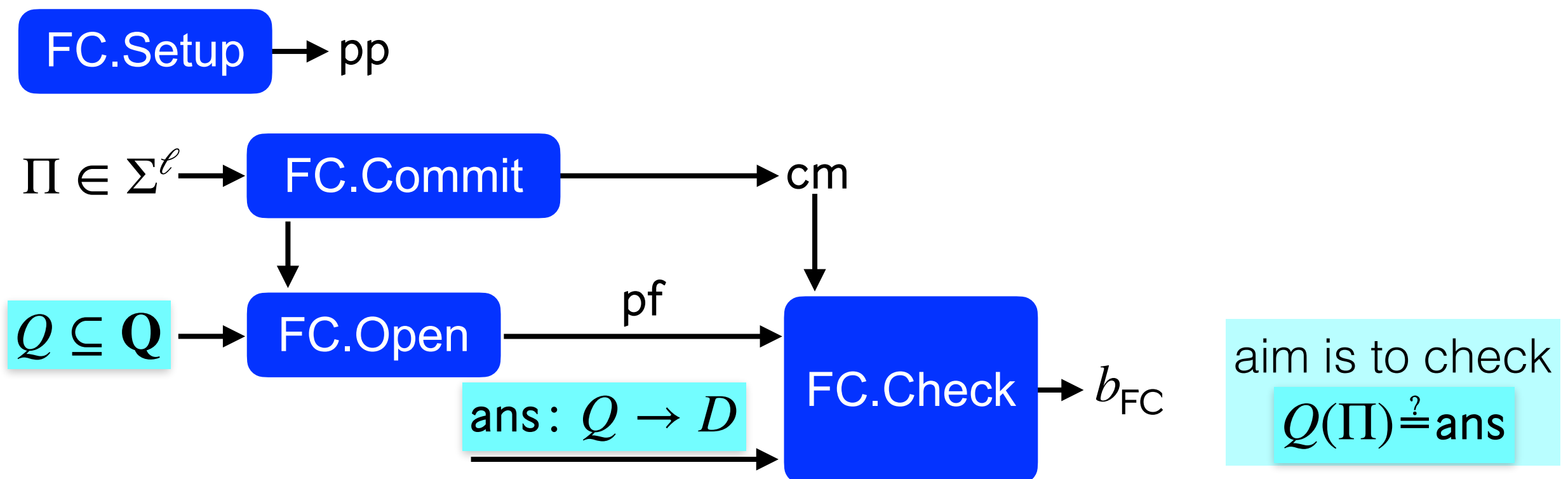
From Point Queries to Function Queries

A **query class** $\mathbf{Q}$ for proof strings in Σ^ℓ is a set of functions $q: \Sigma^\ell \rightarrow D$.

Tool #1: **Q**-functional probabilistically checkable proof (FPCP)

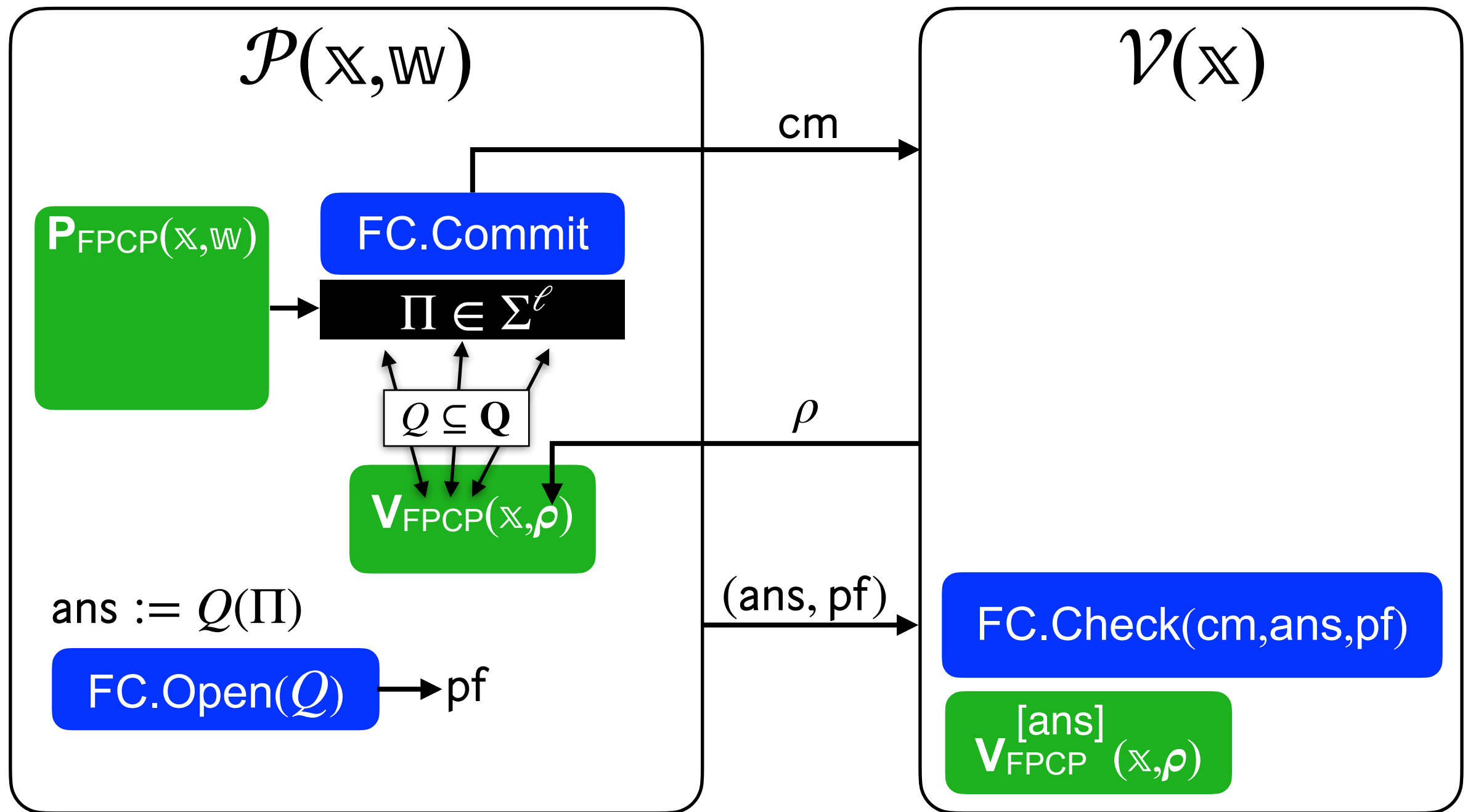


Tool #2: **Q**-functional commitment scheme (FC)



Functional Extension of the Kilian Protocol

The commit-then-open strategy **extends** to any query class $\mathbf{Q}$.



Examples of Query Classes

A **query class** $\mathbf{Q}$ for proof strings in Σ^ℓ is a set of functions $q: \Sigma^\ell \rightarrow D$.

$\mathbf{Q}_{\text{point}}$	$\Pi \in \Sigma^\ell$	$q(\Pi) = \Pi[i] \in \Sigma \text{ for } i \in [\ell]$
$\mathbf{Q}_{\text{linear}}$	$\Pi \in \mathbb{F}^n$	$q(\Pi) = \sum_{i \in [n]} \Pi[i] \alpha[i] \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for } \alpha \in \mathbb{F}^n$
$\mathbf{Q}_{\text{upoly}}$ univariate polynomial	$\Pi \in \mathbb{F}^d$	$q(\Pi) = \sum_{i \in [d]} \Pi[i] \alpha^{i-1} \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for } \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$
$\mathbf{Q}_{\text{mlpoly}}$ multilinear polynomial	$\Pi \in \mathbb{F}^{2^n}$	$q(\Pi) = \sum_{b \in \{0,1\}^n} \Pi[b] \alpha^b \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for } \alpha \in \mathbb{F}^n$
$\mathbf{Q}_{\text{spoly}}$ "structured" polynomial	$\Pi \in (\mathbb{F}^d)^{m+n}$ $= (f_1, \dots, f_m, g_1, \dots, g_n)$	$q(\Pi) = \sum_{k \in [n]} h_k(f_1(\alpha), \dots, f_m(\alpha)) g_k(\alpha) \in \mathbb{F}$ for $h_1, \dots, h_k \in \mathbb{F}^{\leq d_h}[X_1, \dots, X_m]$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$

These make the Commit-Then-Open Transformation extremely **flexible**.

Security For Any Query Class

Note:
extraction
↓
binding

Here too there are two incomparable security analyses.

- **Black-box prover rewinding (no oracles):**

$$\forall N \quad \epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(t_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{FPCP}} + \epsilon_{\text{FC}}(N \cdot t_{\text{ARG}} + t_{\text{Q}}) + \epsilon_{\text{Q}}(N)$$

FPCP soundness error

FC function-binding error

solver time for **Q**

$$\Pr \left[\begin{array}{l} \forall i \text{ FC.Check}_{\text{pp}}(\text{cm}, \text{ans}_i, \text{pf}_i) = 1 \\ \exists \Pi \in \Sigma^\ell \forall i \text{ } Q_i(\Pi) = \text{ans}_i \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \text{pp} \leftarrow \text{FC.Setup}(1^\lambda) \\ \text{cm} \\ ((\text{ans}_i, \text{pf}_i))_i \leftarrow A(\text{pp}) \end{array} \right] \leq \epsilon_{\text{FC}}(t_{\text{FC}})$$

tail error for **Q**
max probability that after
N+1 query-answer samples
(i) there is consistent $\Pi \in \Sigma^\ell$
(ii) last sample "adds new info"

- **Straightline extraction in ideal model (with oracles):**

$$\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(q_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{FPCP}} + \kappa_{\text{FC}}(q_{\text{ARG}})$$

FC straightline-extraction error

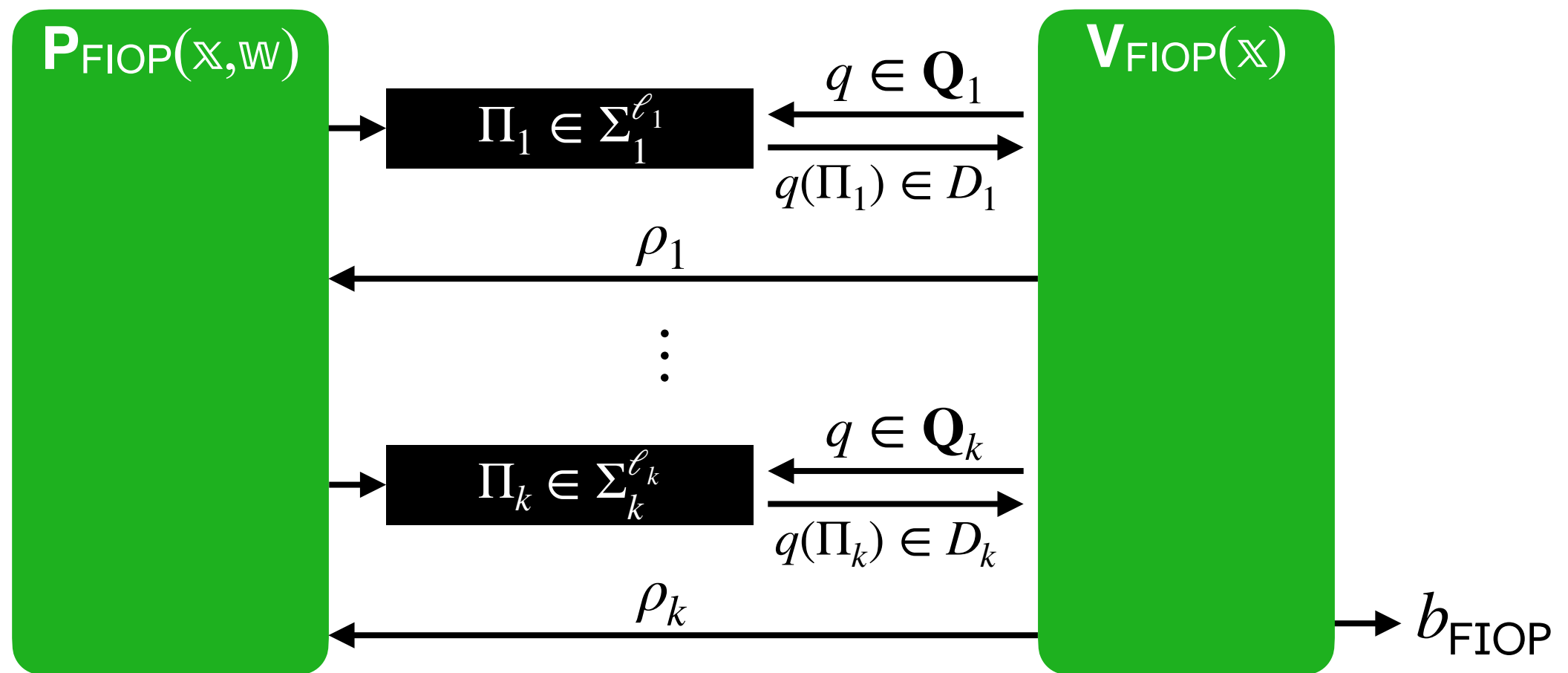
$$\Pr \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{FC.Check}^f(\text{cm}, \text{ans}, \text{pf}) = 1 \\ Q(\Pi) \neq \text{ans} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} (\text{cm}, \text{aux}) \xleftarrow{\text{tr}} Af(\text{pp}) \\ \Pi \leftarrow \text{FC.Extract}(\text{pp}, \text{cm}, \text{tr}) \\ (\text{ans}, \text{pf}) \leftarrow Af(\text{aux}) \end{array} \right] \leq \kappa_{\text{FC}}(q_{\text{FC}})$$

More Rounds $\rightarrow$ More Efficiency

Probabilistic proofs with **more rounds** are **VASTLY** more efficient.

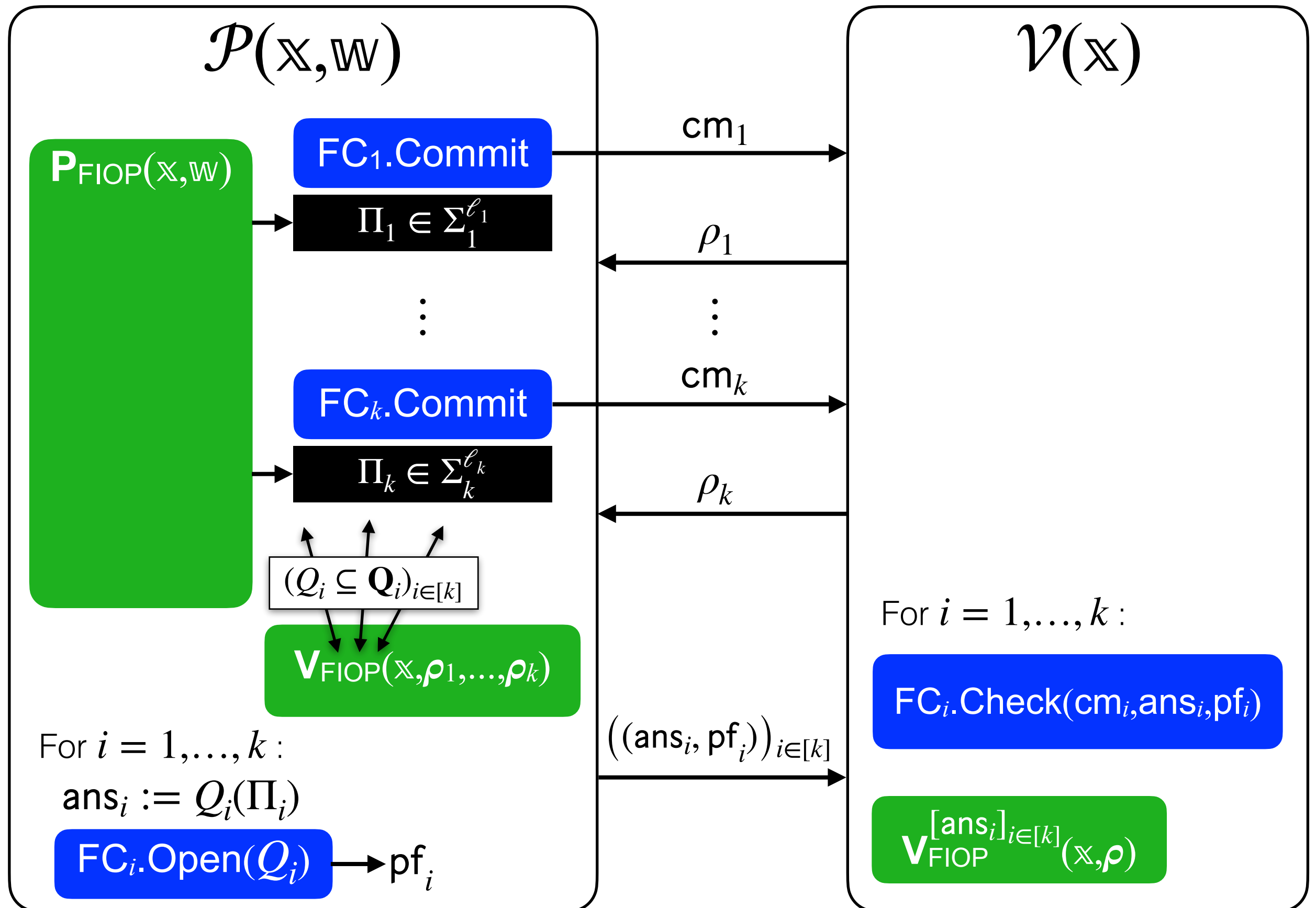
Interaction allows: sumcheck protocol, divide-and-combine, out-of-domain-sampling, permutation tests, ...

Consider a **Q**-functional interactive oracle proof (FIOP):



The Commit-Then-Open Transformation is adapted (following BCS).

Commit-Then-Open For Each Round



Security of (Generalized) Interactive BCS

Security reductions extend (with more work...) to **any number of rounds**.

- **Black-box prover rewinding (no oracles):**

$$\forall N \quad \epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(t_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{FIOP}} + \sum_{i \in [k]} \epsilon_{\text{FC}_i}(N \cdot t_{\text{ARG}} + t_{\mathbf{Q}_i}) + \sum_{i \in [k]} \epsilon_{\mathbf{Q}_i}(N)$$

FIOP soundness error

FC_i function-binding error

solver time for $\mathbf{Q}_i$

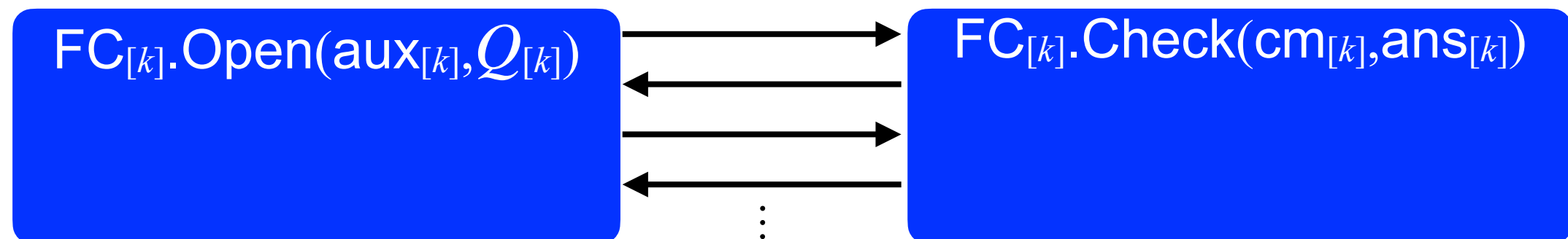
tail error for $\mathbf{Q}_i$

- **Straightline extraction in ideal model (with oracles):**

$$\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(q_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{FIOP}} + \sum_{i \in [k]} \kappa_{\text{FC}_i}(q_{\text{FC}_i}) \quad \sum_{i \in [k]} q_{\text{FC}_i} = q_{\text{ARG}}$$

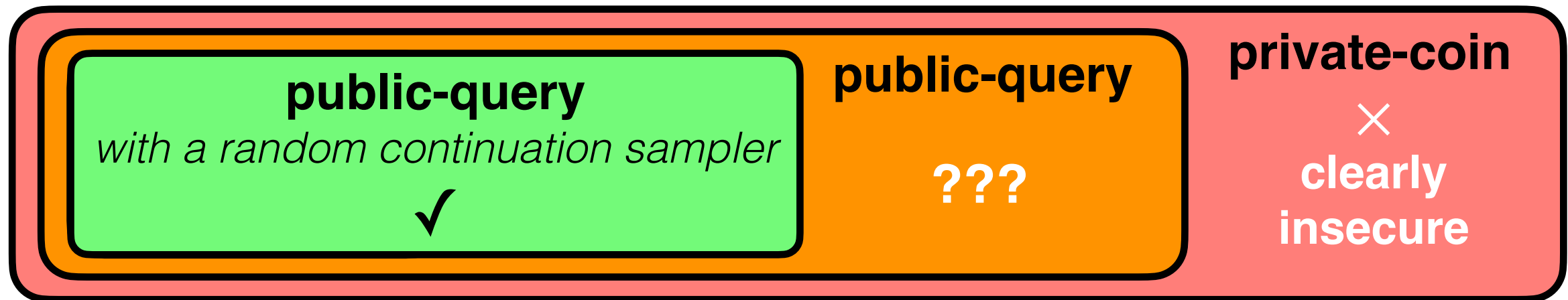
FC_i straightline-extraction error

Can further extend construction+analyses to **batch and interactive FC**:



Remarks

Beyond public-coin (F)IOPs?



Tightness of rewinding

Rewinding (eg for Kilian) yields $\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(t_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{PCP}} + \epsilon_{\text{VC}} \left(\frac{\ell \cdot t_{\text{ARG}}}{\epsilon} \right) + \epsilon$.

The ϵ -tradeoff is **expensive**: for ideal VC, $\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(t_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{PCP}} + \sqrt[3]{\epsilon_{\text{VC}} (\ell \cdot t_{\text{ARG}})}$.

Proving $\epsilon_{\text{ARG}}(t_{\text{ARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{PCP}} + \epsilon_{\text{VC}} (\ell \cdot t_{\text{ARG}})$ implies a breakthrough in Schnorr.

Post-quantum security

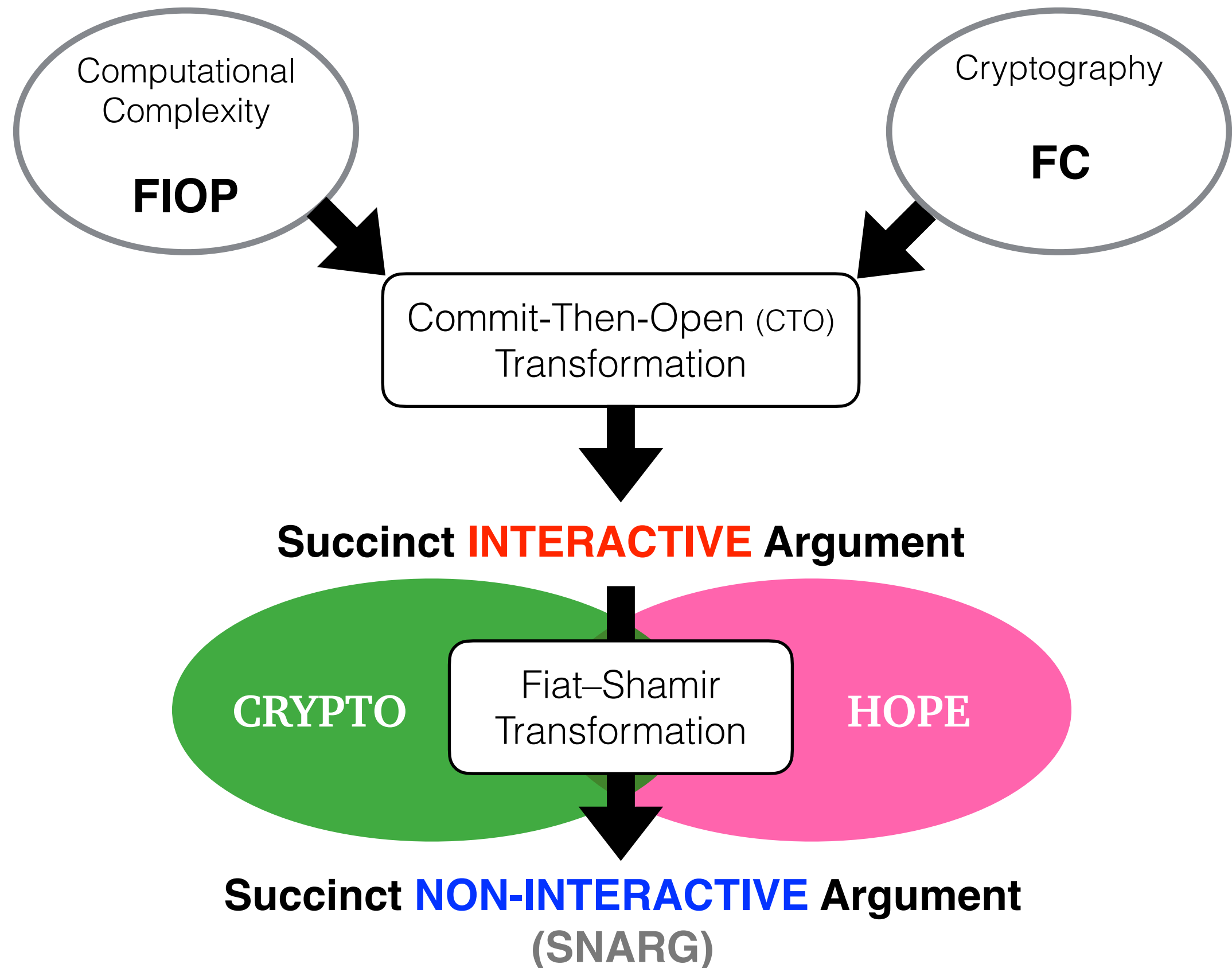
Involved. Known for VC, though should make sense for FC too.

- black-box quantum rewinding (VC must be *collapse position binding*)
- straightline quantum extraction (in the QROM)

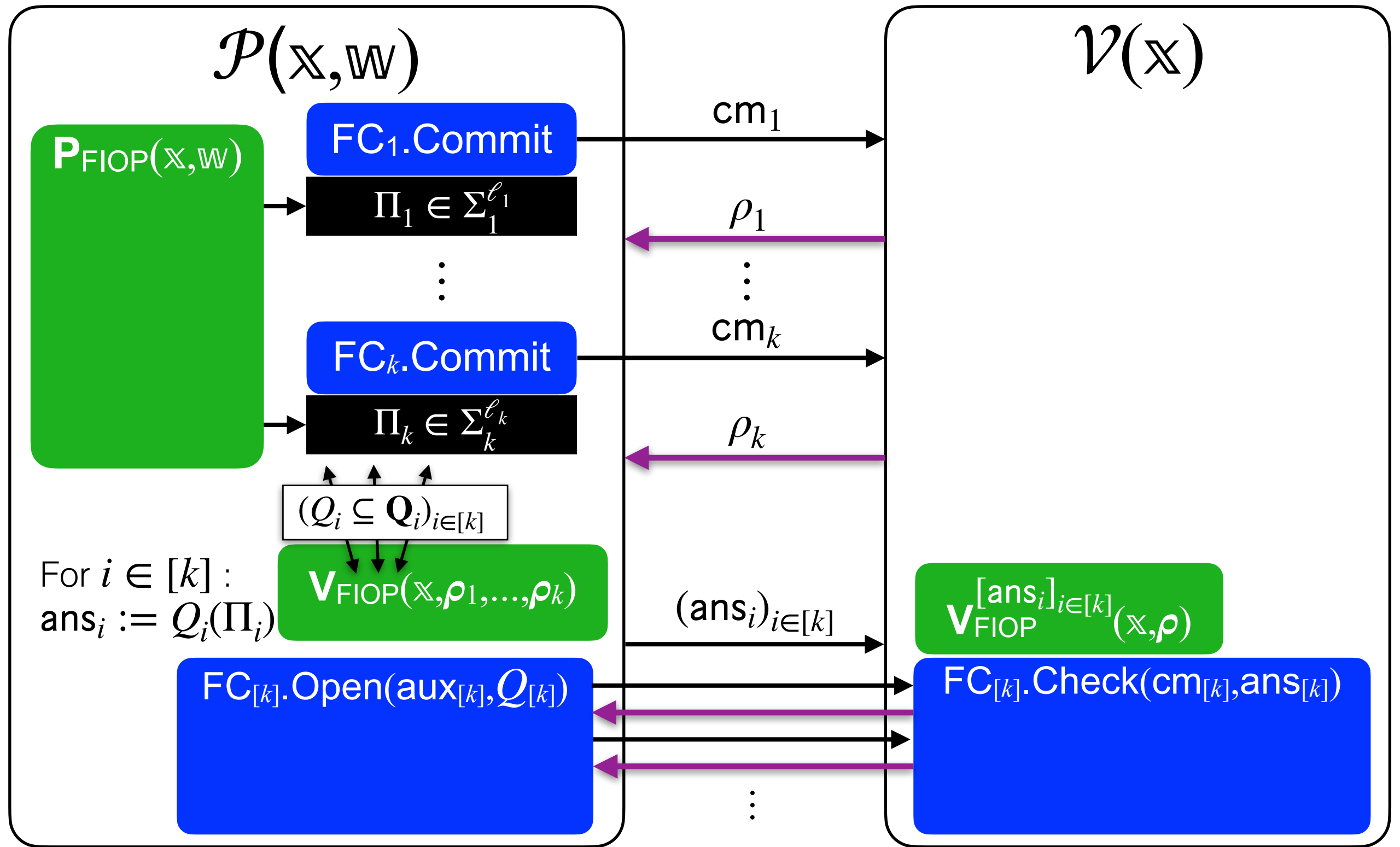
Part 2: The Non-Interactive Case



(Almost) All Roads Lead to Fiat–Shamir



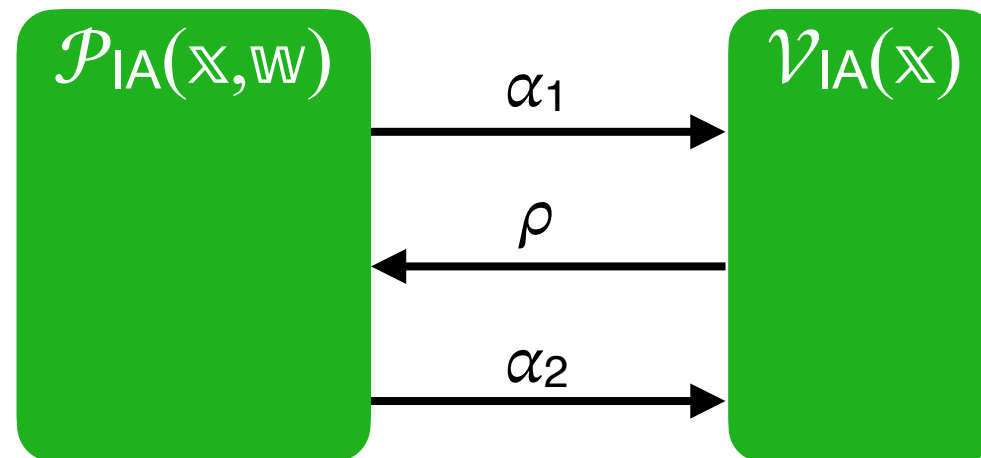
Commit-Then-Open Preserves Public Coins



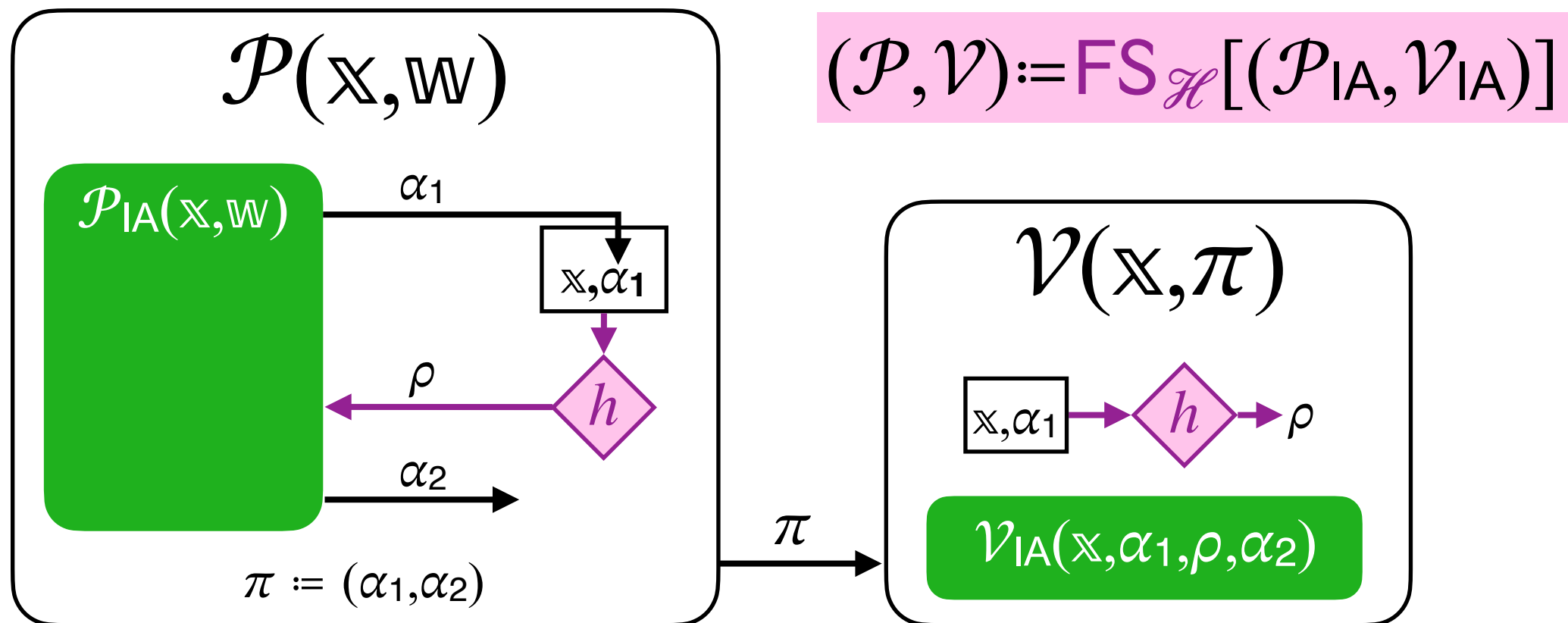
Interactive argument is **public-coin** if **FIOP** and **FC**_[k] are both public-coin.

Fiat-Shamir Transformation

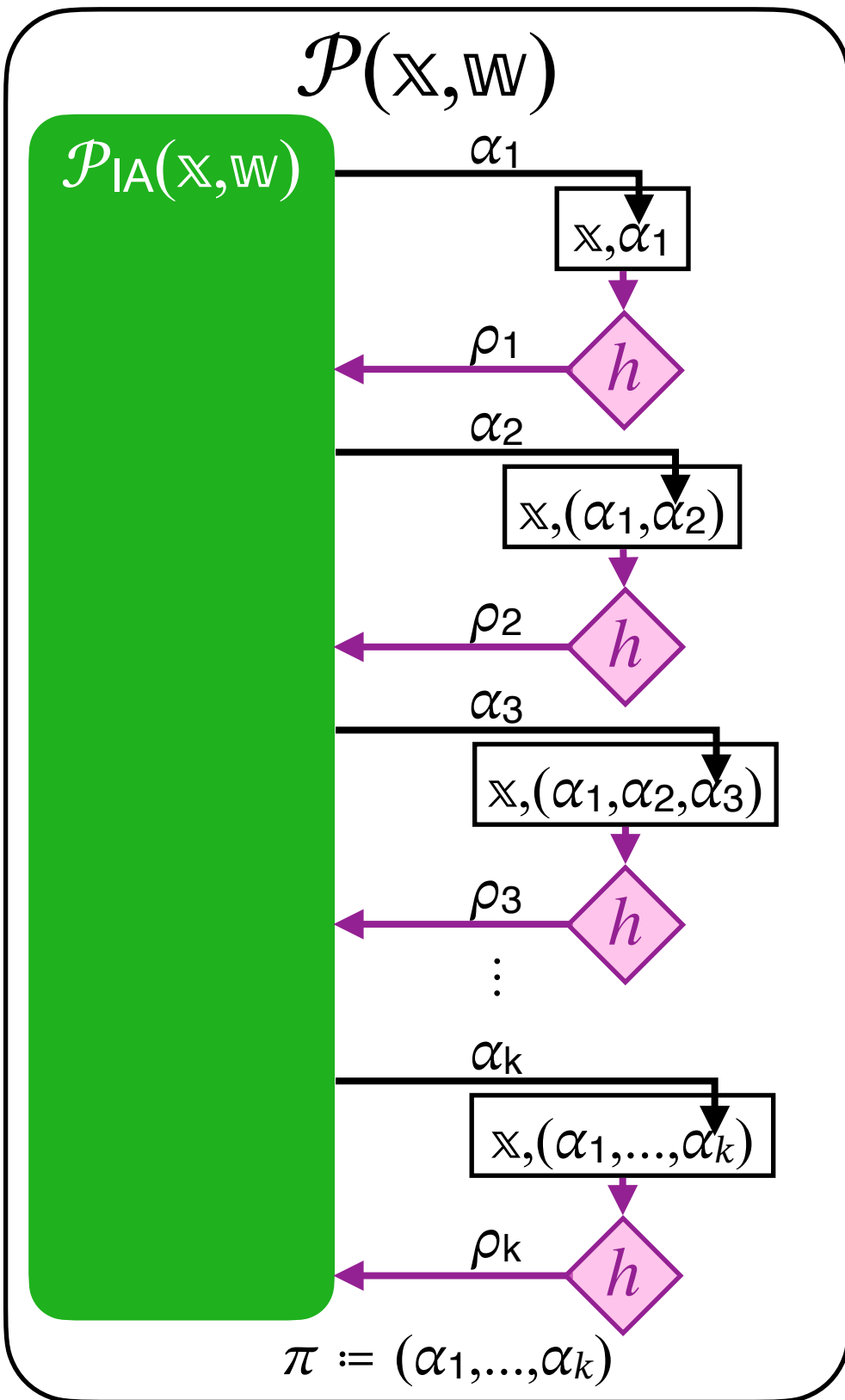
Consider a 3-message interactive argument:



Derive the verifier's randomness via a "good" hash function $h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}$:

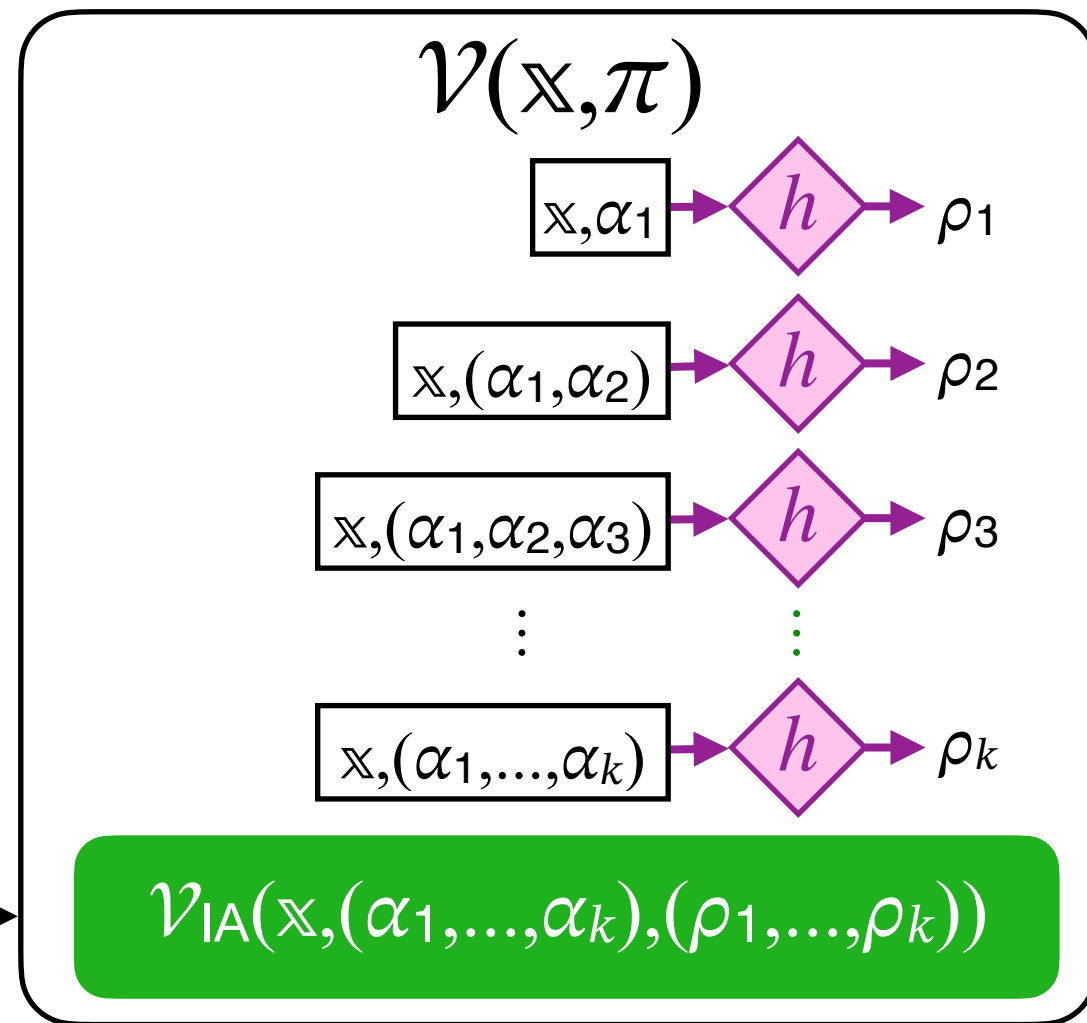
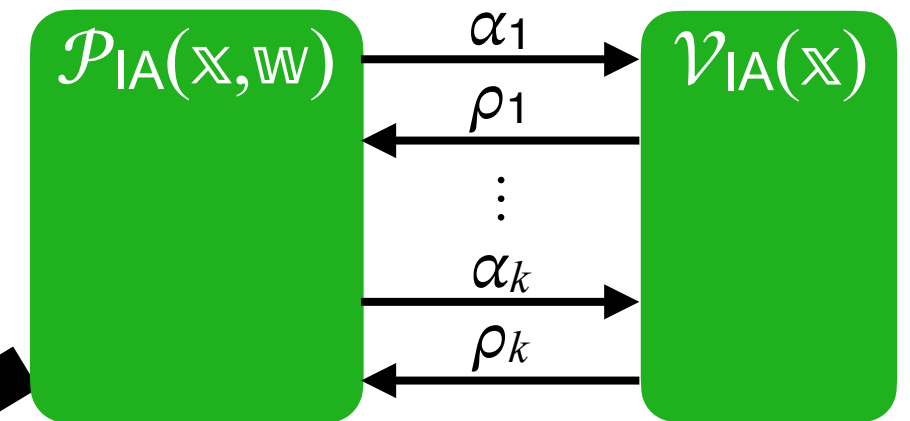


The Case of Multiple Rounds



Derive i -th randomness by hashing $\mathbb{X}$ and $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_i)$.

$$(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V}) := \text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$$



Security of the Fiat–Shamir Transformation

WANT: standard-model security of $\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}$ for **good sleep**
+ ideal-model security of $\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}$ for **good parameters**

HAVE: not what we want (and research is ongoing to improve this)

- **Idealized model:** $h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}$ is a random oracle.

Security of $\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$ is well understood.

- **Standard model:** $h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}$ is an efficient "good" hash.

Problem: $\exists$ 3-message $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}}) \forall$ efficient $\mathcal{H}$
 $\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$ is **NOT** secure (!)

→ Security of $\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$ must rely on **special properties** of $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})$.

interactive proofs

NOT succinct!

interactive arguments

$\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[\text{CTO}[\text{FIOP}, \text{FC}]]$

This talk

Next talk

Alternatively,
find a "better"
 $\text{AltFS}_{\mathcal{H}}$.

Soundness Does NOT Suffice

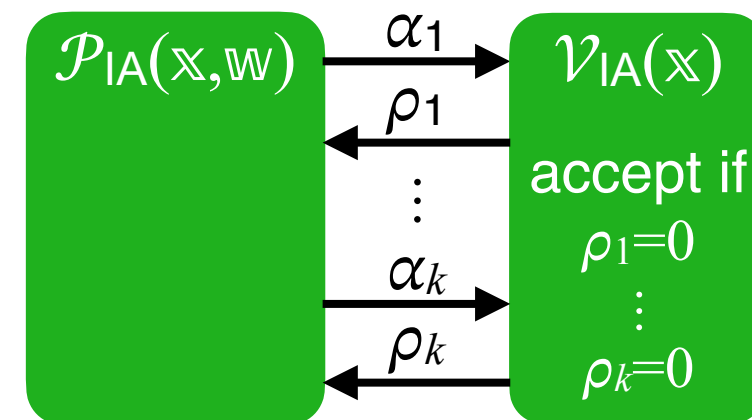
$$(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V}) := \text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$$

Consider the case where $h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}$ is a random oracle.

Easy: for 3-message $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})$, $\epsilon_{\text{NARG}}(q_{\text{RO}}) \leq (q_{\text{RO}} + 1) \cdot \epsilon_{\text{IA}}$.

Generally: for k -round $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})$, $\epsilon_{\text{NARG}}(q_{\text{RO}}) \leq \binom{q_{\text{RO}} + k}{k} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{IA}}$.

This (huge) soundness loss **CAN** happen:

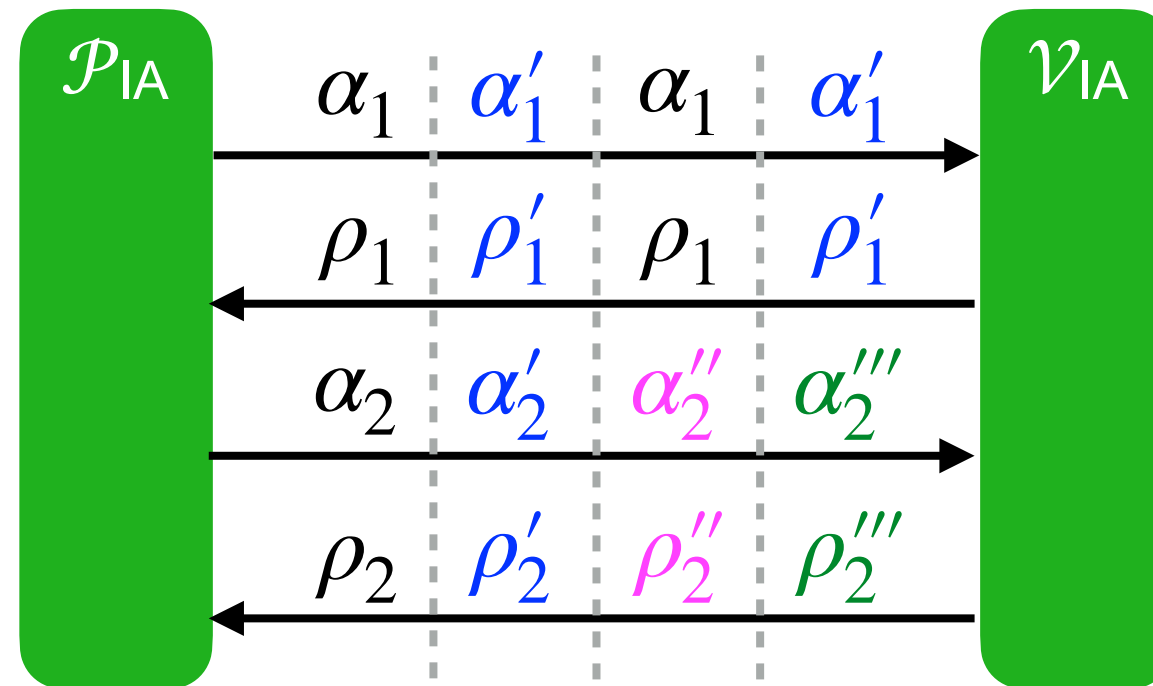


- $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})$ has ^{unconditional} soundness error 2^{-k}
- $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V})$ has soundness error $\epsilon_{\text{NARG}}(q_{\text{RO}}) = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{q_{\text{RO}}}{k}\right)^k\right)$

good soundness of $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}}) \nrightarrow$ good soundness of $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V})$

State-Restoration Attacks

$\text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$ allows attacking $\mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}}$ across **multiple interactions**, by trying different prover messages to obtain different transcripts.



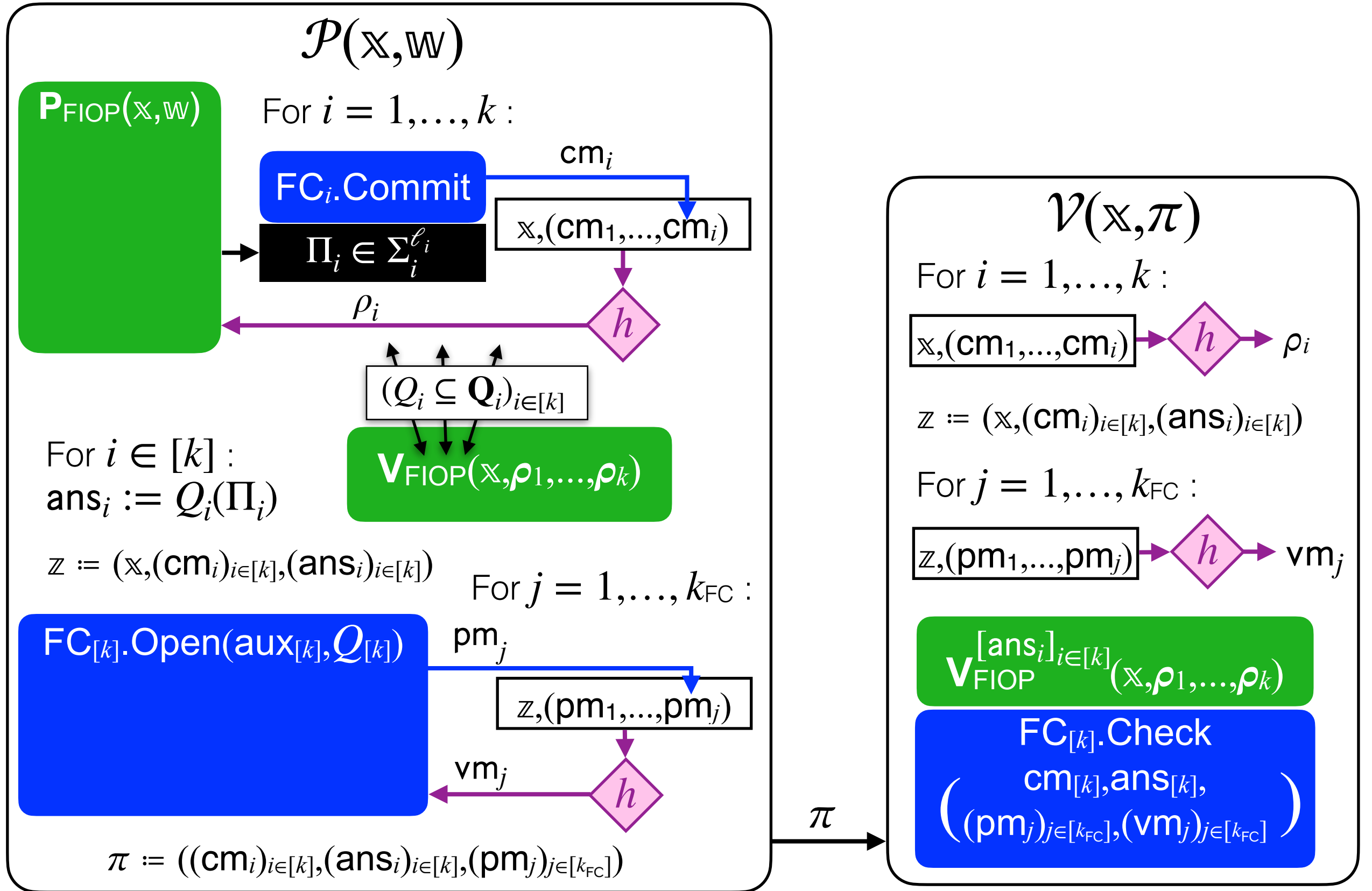
The attacker wins by finding **any** accepting transcript.

**state-restoration
attack**

Define a **state-restoration game** that models this.

Lemma: $(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})$ has **state-restoration soundness error** $\epsilon_{\text{IA}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}, t_{\text{IA}})$
 $\rightarrow \text{FS}_{\mathcal{H}}[(\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}})]$ has soundness error $\epsilon_{\text{NARG}}(q_{\text{RO}}, t_{\text{NARG}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{IA}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{RO}}, t_{\text{NARG}})$.

(Functional Extension of) The BCS Protocol



SR Soundness of Commit-Then-Open

We can further extend security reductions to handle state-restoration:

FIOP and **FC** satisfy state-restoration soundness
 $\rightarrow (\mathcal{P}_{\text{IA}}, \mathcal{V}_{\text{IA}}) := \text{CommitThenOpen}[\text{FIOP}, \text{FC}]$
 satisfies state-restoration soundness



• Black-box prover rewinding (no oracles):

$$\forall N \quad \epsilon_{\text{IA}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}, t_{\text{IA}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}) + \sum_{i \in [k]} \epsilon_{\text{FC}_i}^{\text{SR}}(Nq_{\text{SR}}, Nt_{\text{IA}} + t_{\mathbf{Q}_i}) + \sum_{i \in [k]} \epsilon_{\mathbf{Q}_i}(N)$$

Annotations for the equation above:

- $\epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}})$: FIOP **SR** soundness error
- $\epsilon_{\text{FC}_i}^{\text{SR}}(Nq_{\text{SR}}, Nt_{\text{IA}} + t_{\mathbf{Q}_i})$: **FC_i SR** function-binding error
- $t_{\mathbf{Q}_i}$: solver time for $\mathbf{Q}_i$
- $\epsilon_{\mathbf{Q}_i}(N)$: tail error for $\mathbf{Q}_i$

• Straightline extraction in ideal model (with oracles):

$$\epsilon_{\text{IA}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}, q_{\text{IA}}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}) + \sum_{i \in [k]} \epsilon_{\text{FC}_i}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}, q_{\text{FC}_i}) \quad \sum_{i \in [k]} q_{\text{FC}_i} = q_{\text{IA}}$$

Annotation for the equation above:

- $\epsilon_{\text{FC}_i}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}, q_{\text{FC}_i})$: **FC_i SR** straightline-extraction error

Achieving SR Soundness

Proving that a protocol satisfies (good) SR soundness can be **laborious**.

Easier: prove the protocol satisfies a stronger soundness notion!
(many protocols of interest do)

(1) RBR (round-by-round) soundness

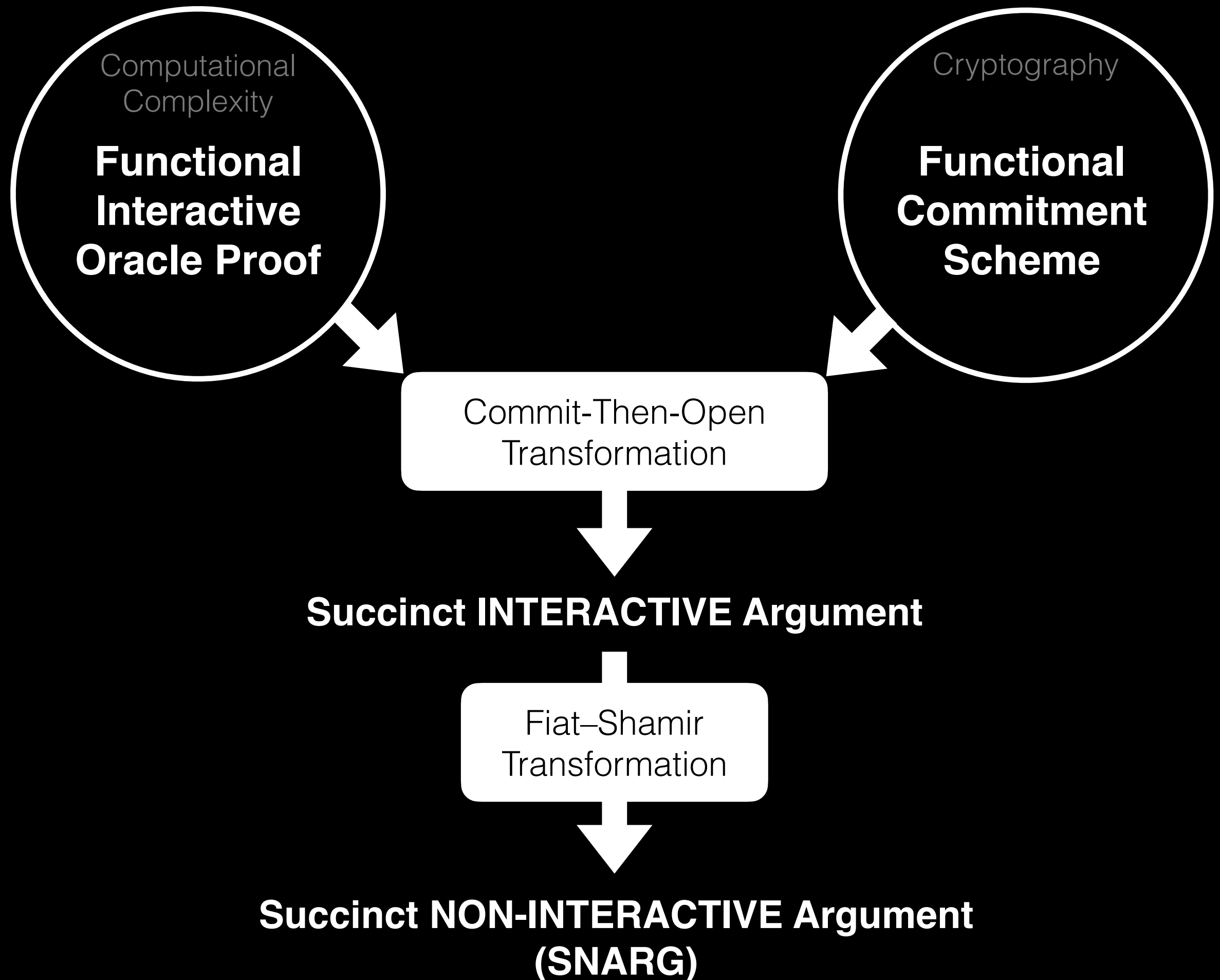
k -round **FIOP** has RBR soundness error $\epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{RBR}}$
→ **FIOP** has **SR** soundness error $\epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}) \leq (q_{\text{SR}} + k) \cdot \epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{RBR}}$

(2) special soundness

k -round **FIOP** has $((a_i, N_i))_{i \in [k]}$ -special soundness
→ **FIOP** has **SR** soundness error $\epsilon_{\text{FIOP}}^{\text{SR}}(q_{\text{SR}}) \leq (q_{\text{SR}} + 1) \cdot \sum_{i \in [k]} \frac{a_i - 1}{N_i}$

(Similar implications hold for knowledge soundness.)

Conclusion

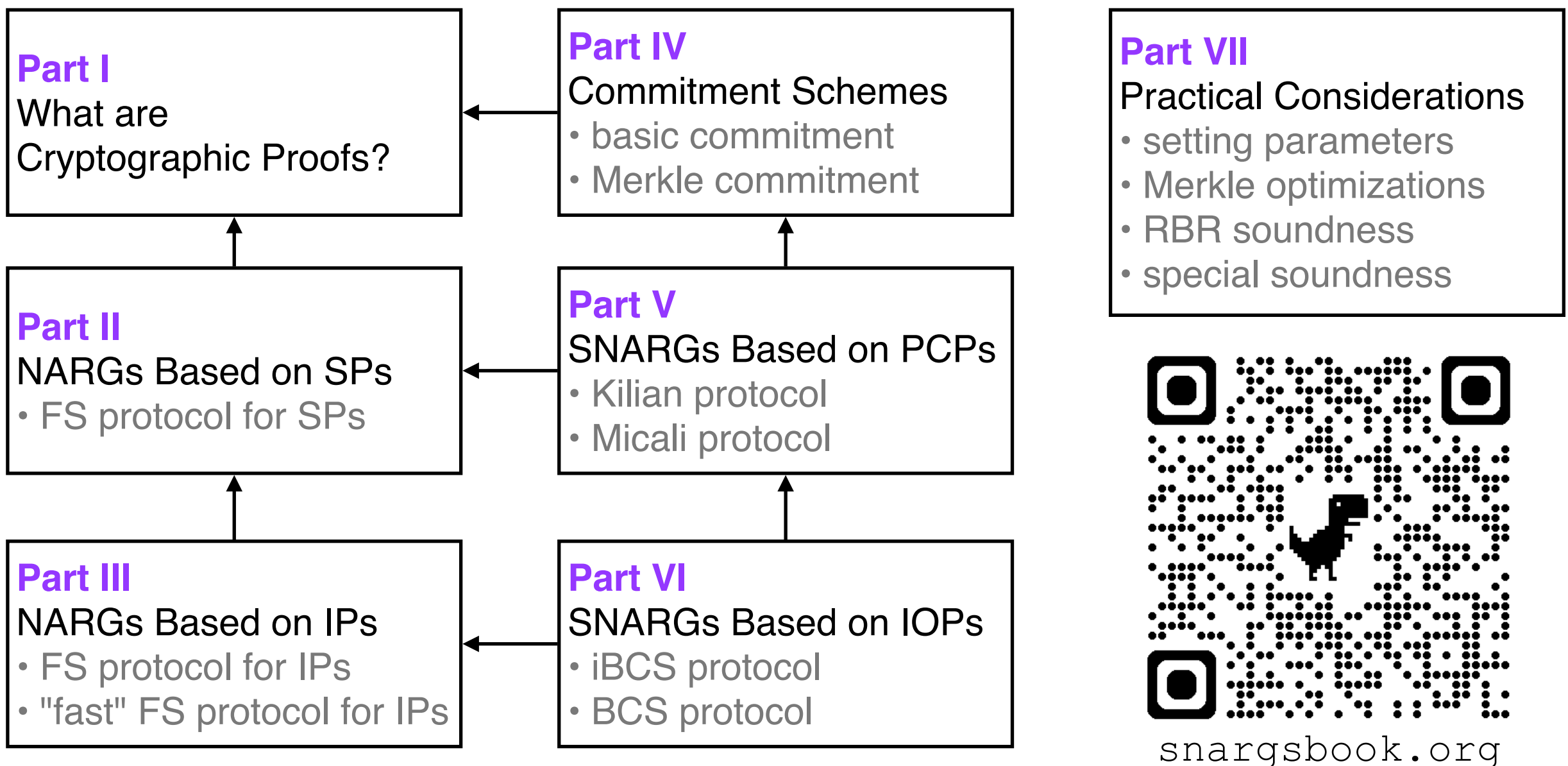


Building Cryptographic Proofs from Hash Functions

Alessandro Chiesa & Eylon Yogev

Comprehensive and rigorous treatment of SNARGs in the ROM.

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Thanks!

