

# Modern Cryptography

Through the Lens of Secure Computation

Carsten Baum

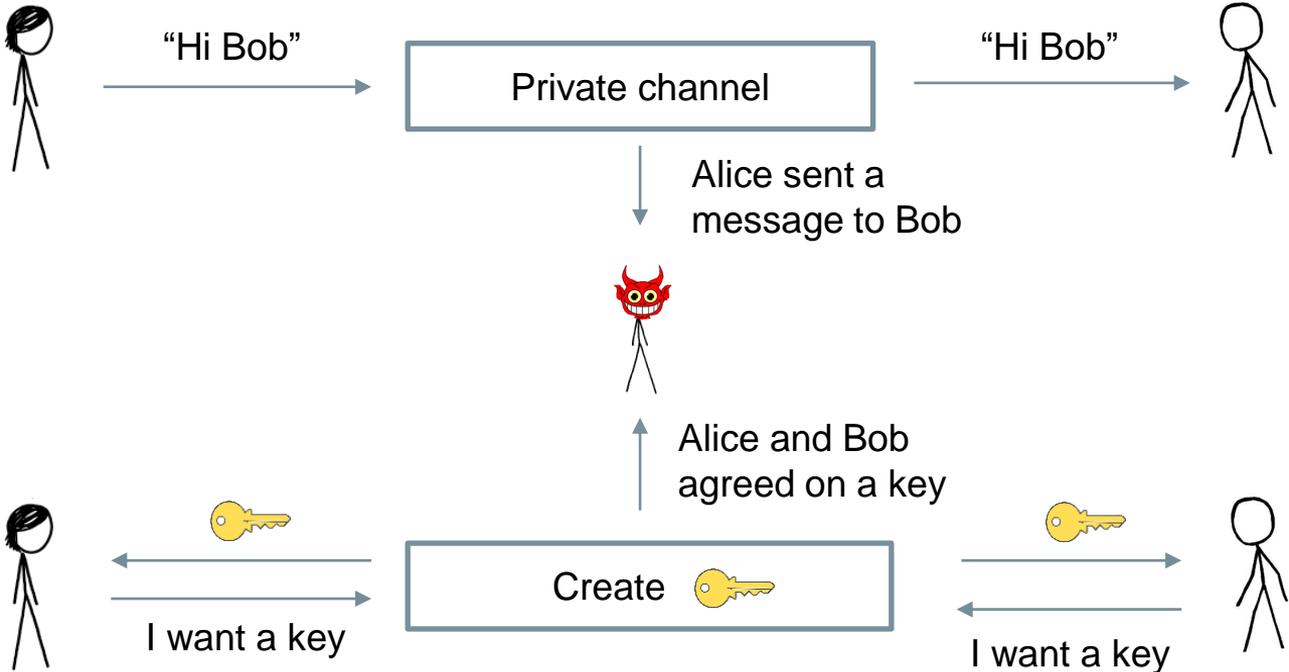


# Conventional view of Cryptography



- Alice sends a message to Bob so Eve can't listen
- Alice and Bob agree on a key over a public channel and only they know the key

# Conventional cryptography - in boxes



# 1982: Andy Yao has an idea



What if the box can compute on inputs?

## Protocols for Secure Computations (extended abstract)

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University of California  
Berkeley, California 94720

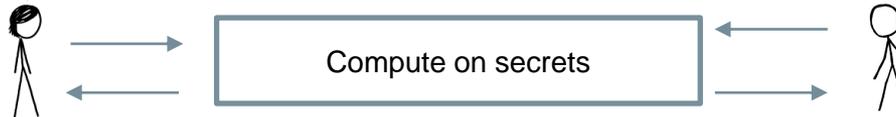
### 1. INTRODUCTION.

Two millionaires wish to know who is richer; however, they do not want to find out inadvertently any additional information about each other's wealth. How can they carry out such a conversation?

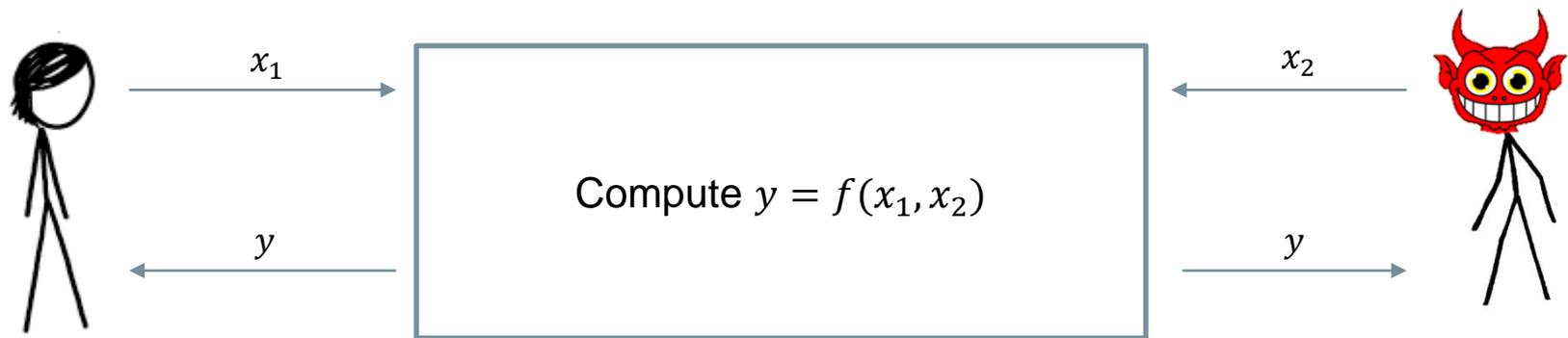
This is a special case of the following general problem. Suppose  $m$  people wish to compute the value of a function  $f(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_m)$ , which is an integer-valued function of  $m$  integer variables  $x_i$  of bounded range. Assume initially person  $P_i$  knows the value of  $x_i$  and no other  $x$ 's. Is it possible for them to compute the value of  $f$ , by communicating among themselves, without unduly giving away any information about the values of their own variables? The millionaires' problem corresponds to the case

desirable to have a unified framework where all these applications can be related, and where common proof techniques can be developed for proving the security of protocols. More fundamentally, such a framework is essential if we are ever to understand the intrinsic power and limitation of one-way functions. For example, without a precise model it would be hard to answer a question such as "Is it possible for three mutually suspecting parties to interactively generate a bit with bias  $1/e$ ?"

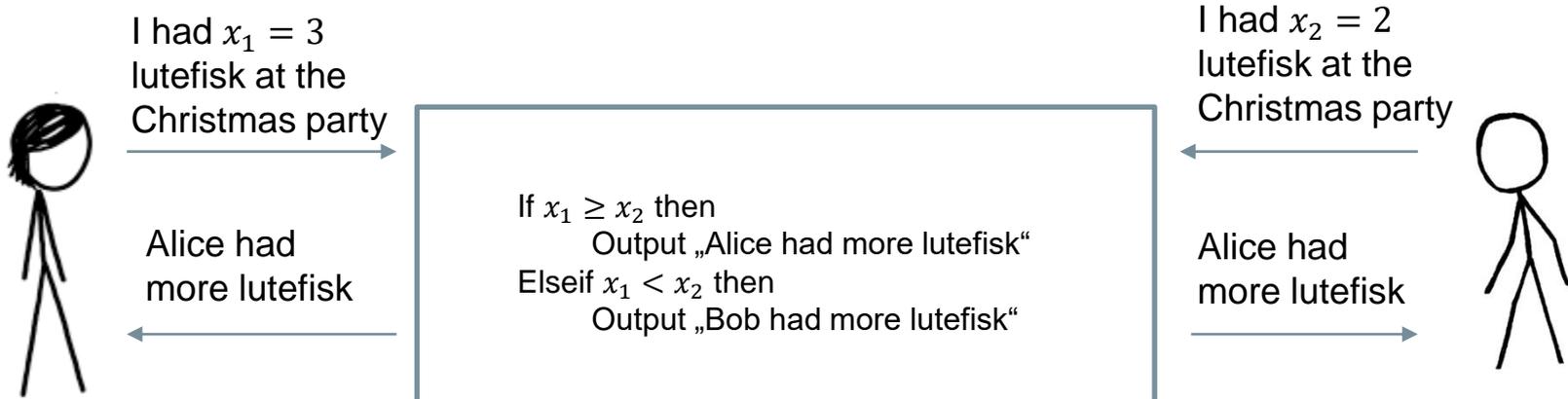
In response to this need, we propose to adopt the following view. Two parties Alice and Bob, in possession of private variables  $i$  and  $j$  respectively, wish to communicate so that Alice can evaluate a function  $f(i, j)$ , and Bob a function  $g(i, j)$ . There may be some eavesdroppers or saboteurs on the communication line. The purpose of a protocol would be to design an algorithm for



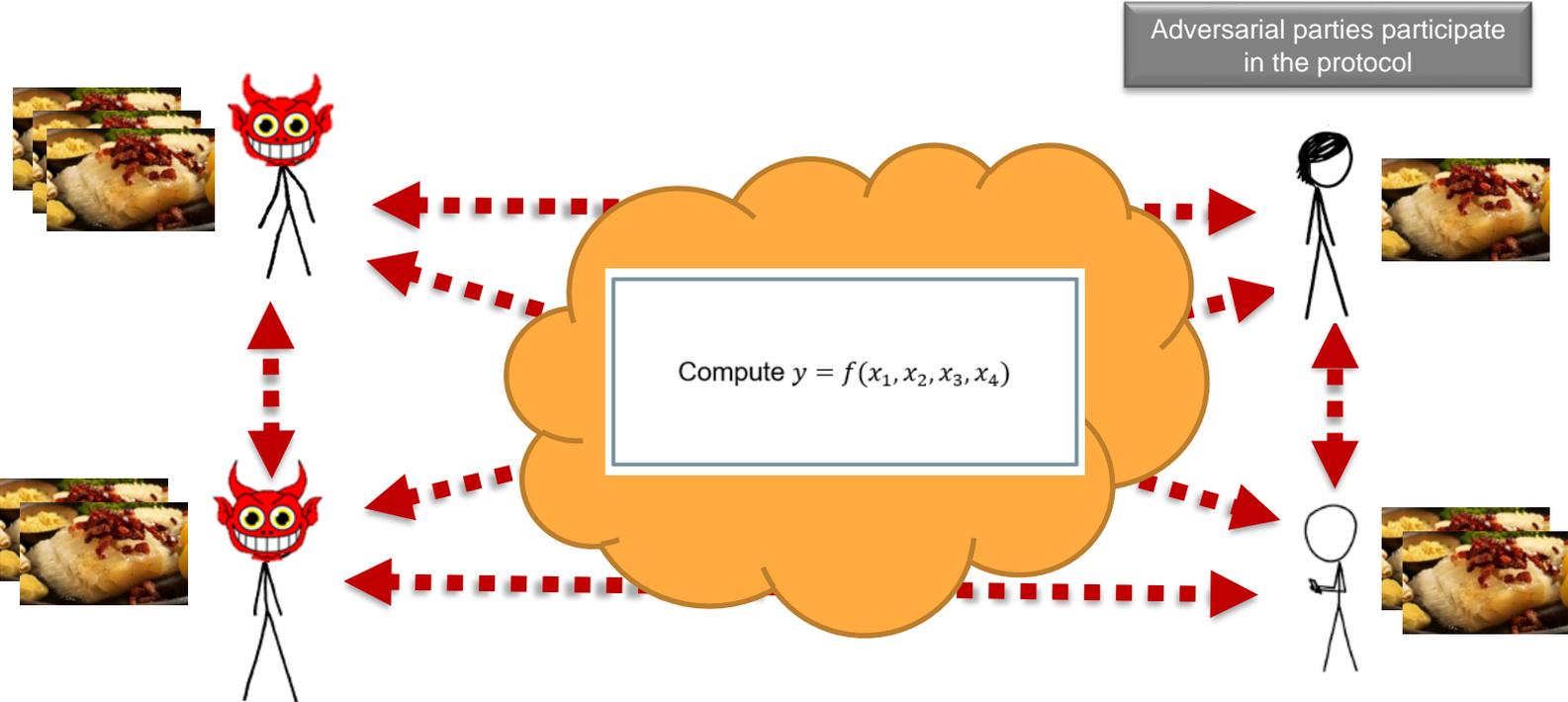
# Secure Computation (MPC)



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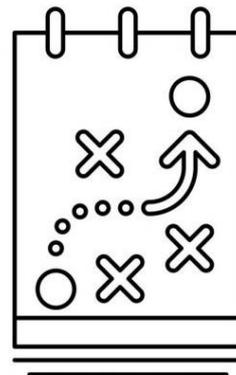


# Magic Boxes don't exist



# Plan

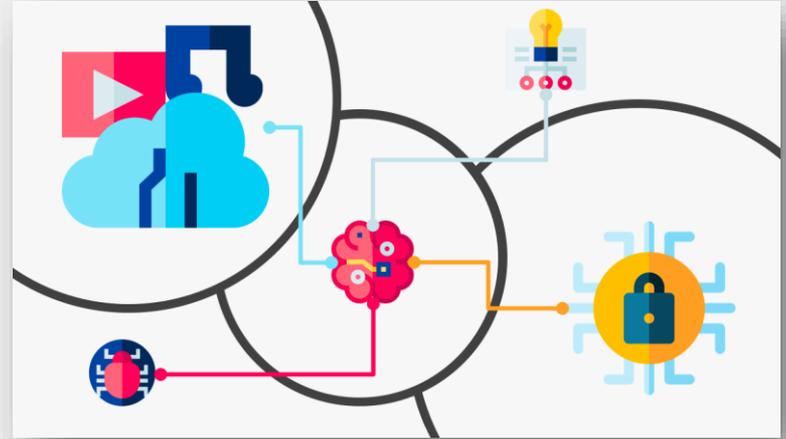
1. Secure Computation & Machine Learning
2. Zero-Knowledge Proofs & Signatures
3. Zero-Knowledge Proofs & Software Bugs



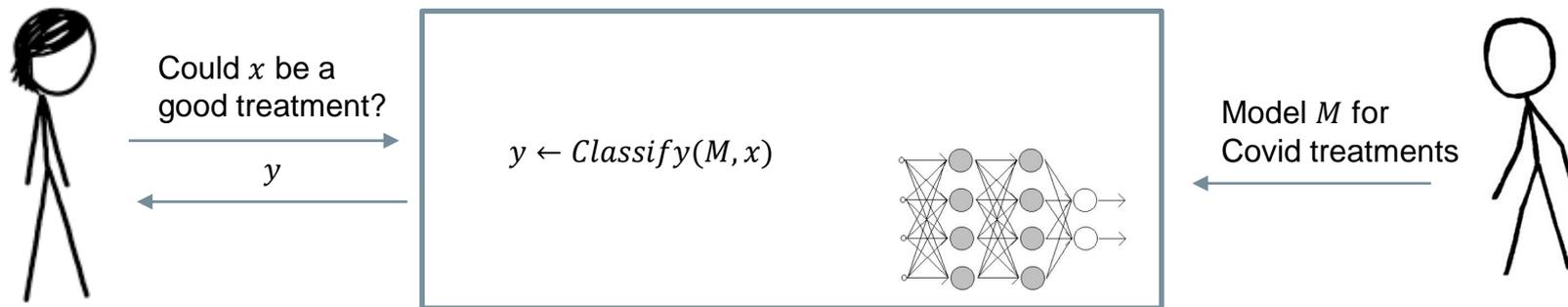
<b>What this talk is about</b>	<b>What this talk is NOT about</b>
Conceptual ideas State of the Art	Concrete protocols

# MPC for ML

What cool kids do these days



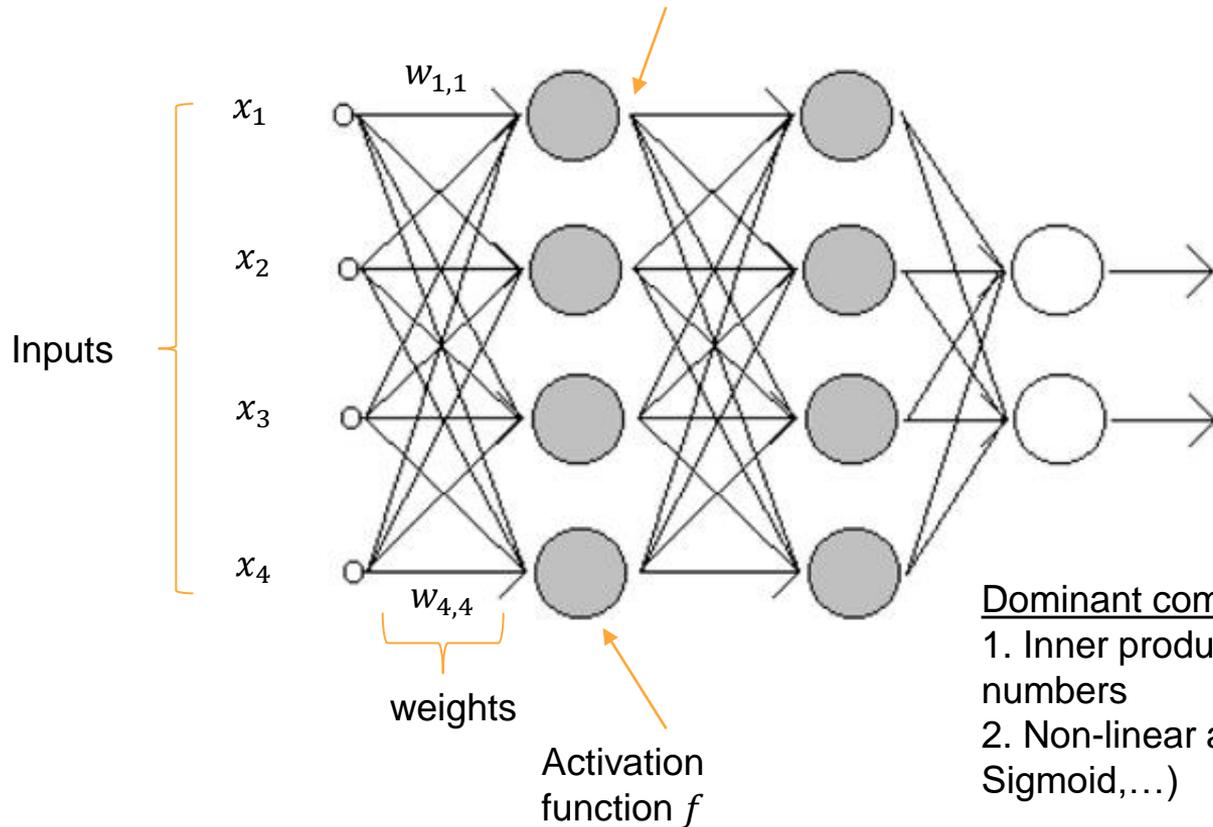
# Goal 1: Secure inference\*



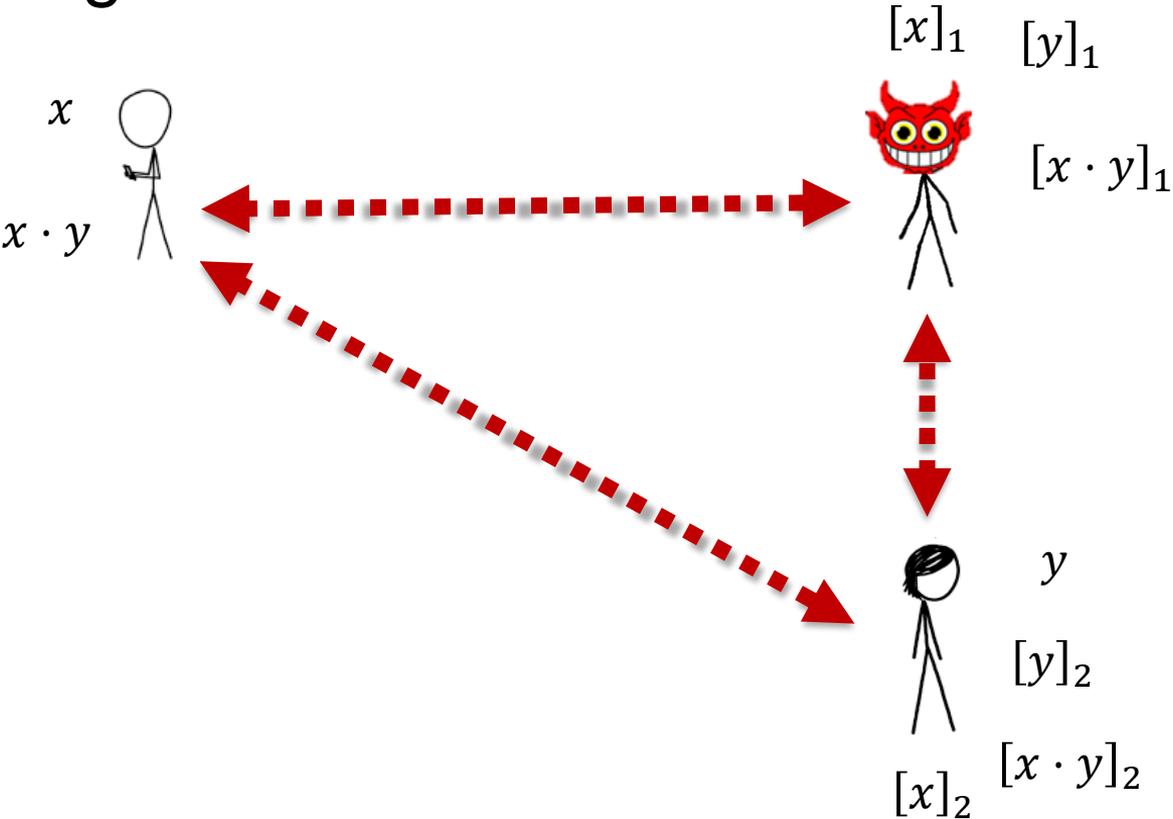
\*for Deep Neural Nets

# Evaluating a DNN

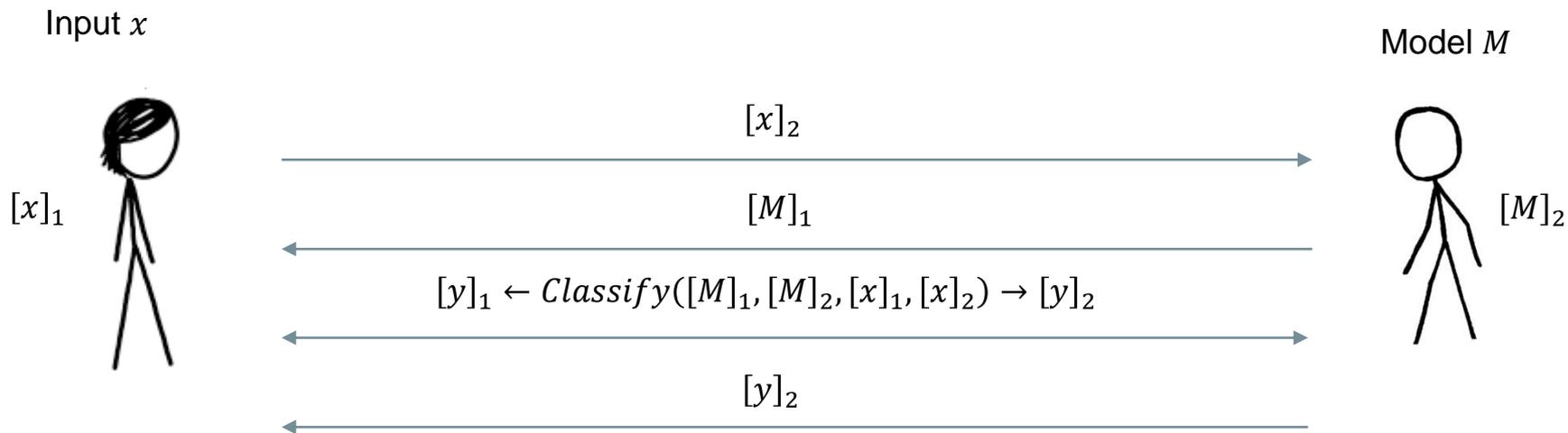
$$x'_1 = f(b_1 + \sum_i x_i \cdot w_{1,i})$$



# Secret Sharing



# Secure Inference

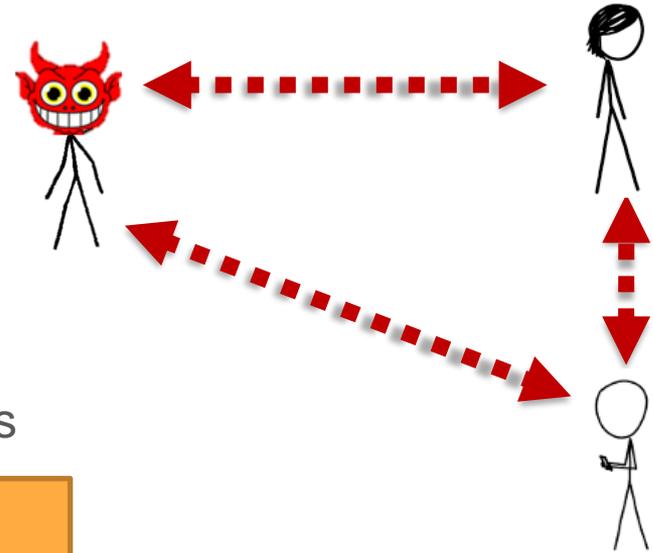


$$y = \text{Classify}(M, x)$$

1. How to do float arithmetic?
2. How expensive are inner products?
3. What is the cost of computing activation?

# Realizing the Secure Inference box

1. Secret-Sharing not efficient for floats. Use fixed-point arithmetic over  $Z_{2^n}$  or modulo large primes
2. Inner products are cheap for certain secret sharing
3. Use quantized network architecture
4. Approximate activation function as polynomials



Potential loss in accuracy!

# What can we say about efficiency? (SecureQ8)

	# parties	Passive Security			Active Security		
		Dishonest Maj.		Honest Maj.	Dishonest Maj.		Honest Maj.
		$\mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$	$\mathbb{F}_p$	$\mathbb{F}_p$	$\mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$	$\mathbb{F}_p$	$\mathbb{F}_p$
Time (s)	3	401.1	320.9	5.5	2456.8	2255.0	24.8
	4	799.6	597.4	7.4	3632.8	3063.7	36.0
	5	1332.9	959.5	15.8	4814.3	3921.0	54.7
Comm. (GB)	3	594.8	114.8	7.3	3513.8	515.2	31.8
	4	1183.0	232.2	8.2	5266.5	766.4	35.8
	5	1965.1	389.2	20.7	7018.7	1016.7	68.6

Table 4. Time and communication per party for computing V1 0.25\_128 with probabilistic truncation.

Platform: c5.9xlarge AWS machines with 36 cores, 72gb RAM, a 10gbps link and sub-millisecond latency

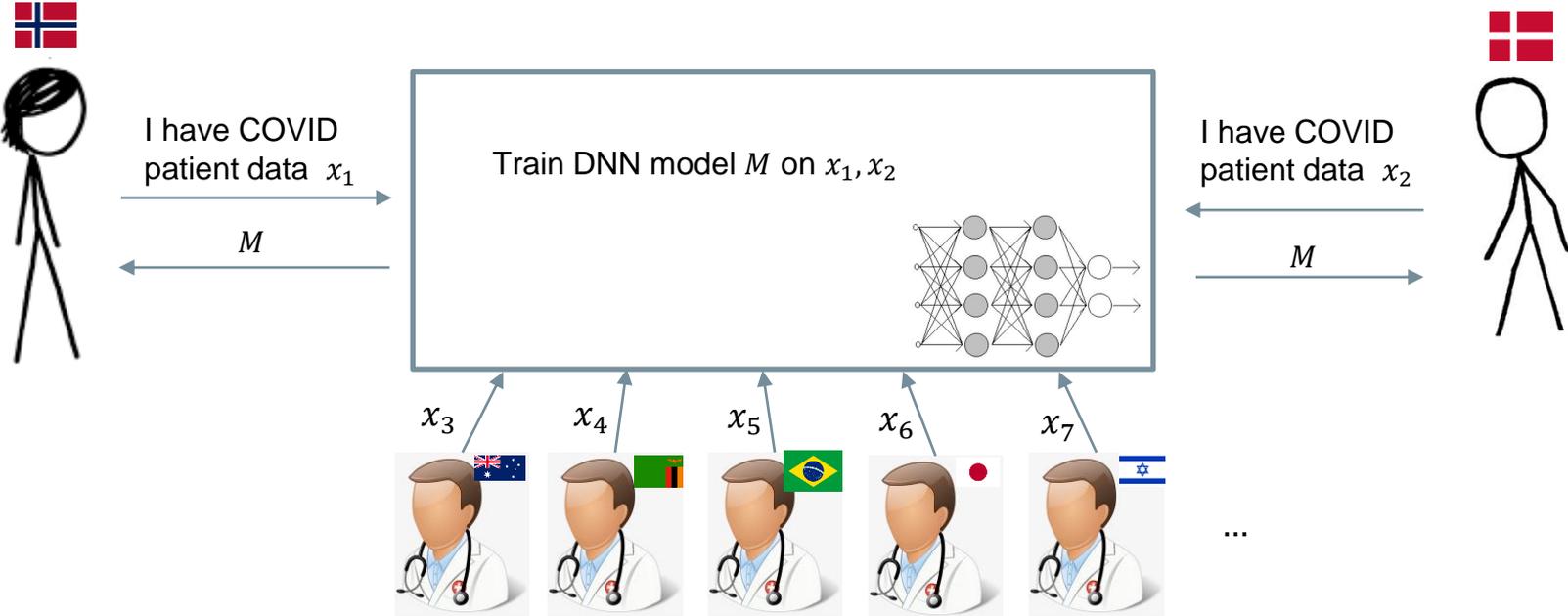
Smallest architecture of MobileNet for ImageNet

Huge cost for dishonest majority (2 out of 3 corrupted)

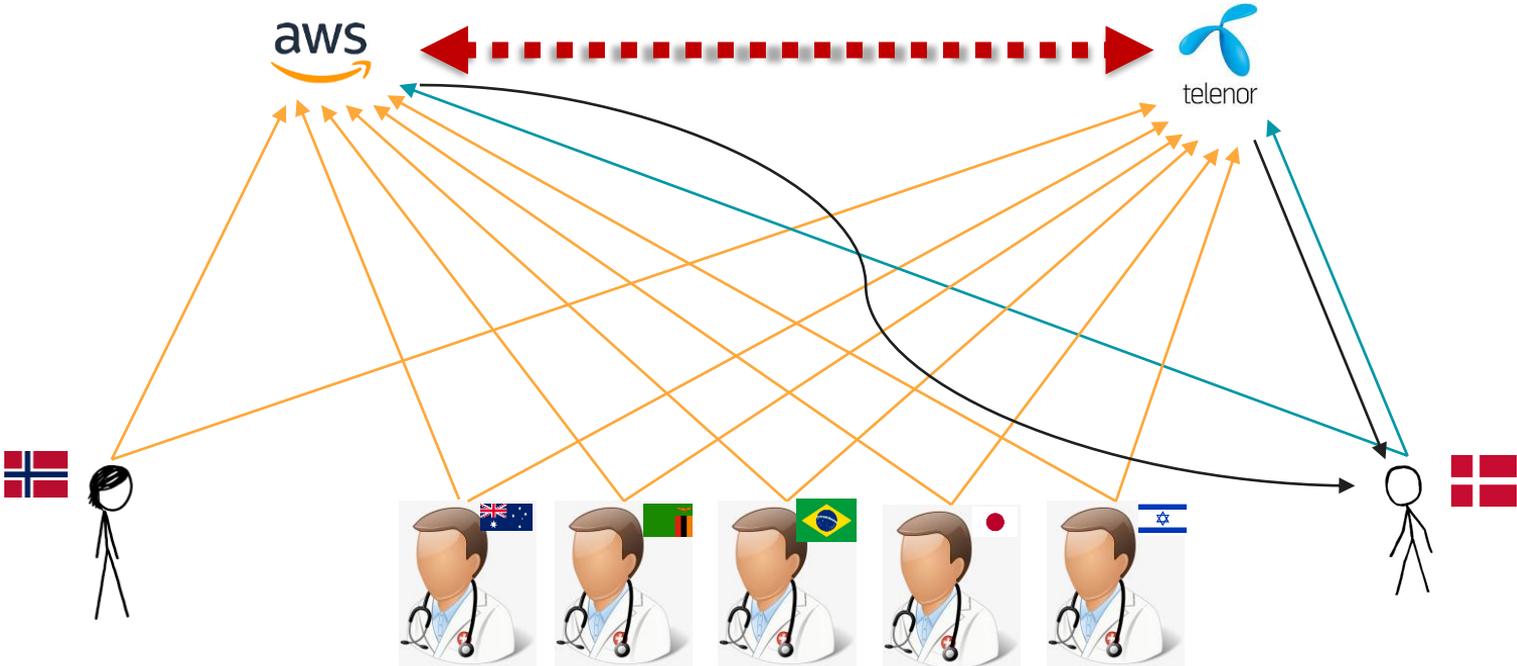
*Comparison:*

on 2 cores of a Cortex A72, this takes <200ms in plain (Raspberry Pi 4)

# Goal 2: Secure training (of Neural Nets)



# Client-Server model



# Example: MNIST

Recent work, using LeNet & 16 epochs on MNIST dataset (10 classes, 28x28 binary images)

Training done in MP-SPDZ, accuracy comparable to non-private training, 3 party, 1 corrupted, semi-honest

*Training per epoch:*

340s. 16 epochs

*Expected result in plain:*

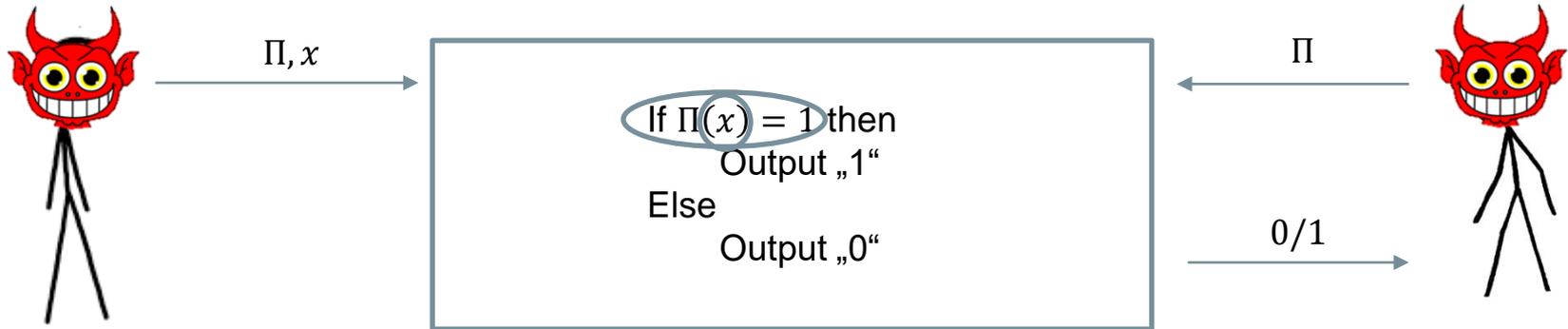
>100x faster, plus speed-up using GPUs



# ZK & Signatures

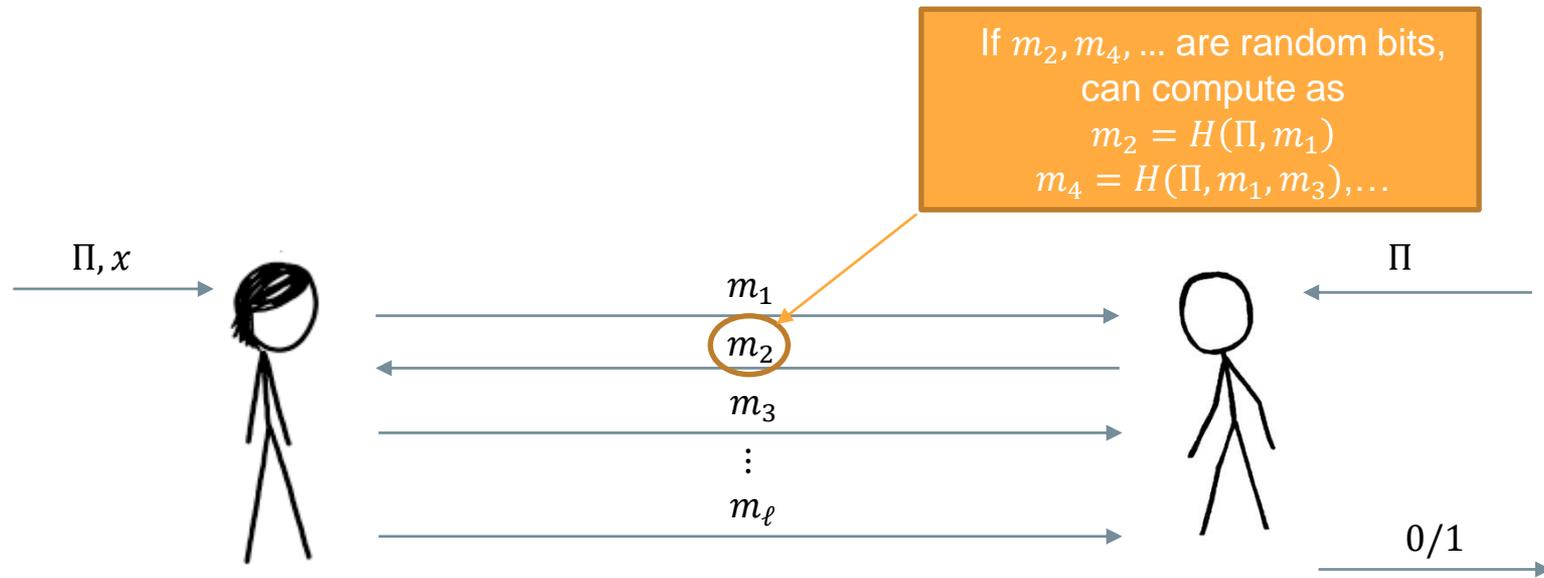
Signatures without  
public-key assumptions

# Zero-Knowledge Proofs



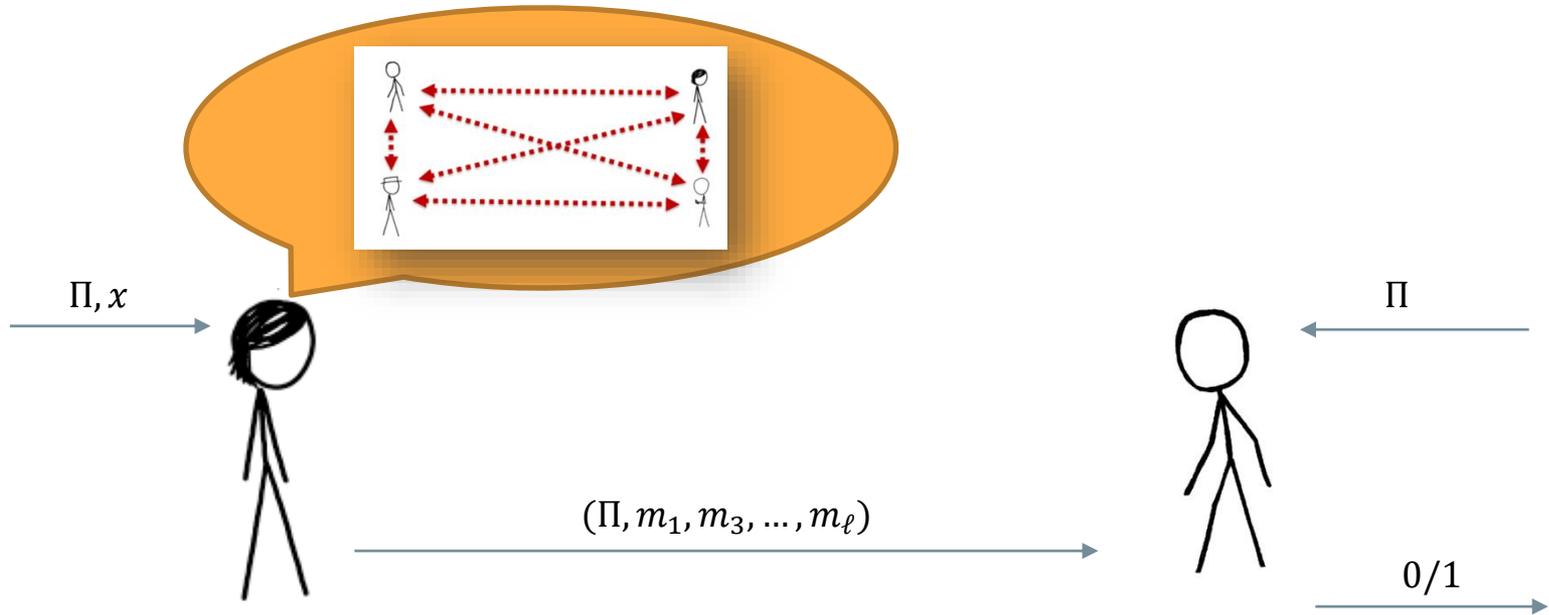
1. Completeness
2. Knowledge Soundness
3. Zero-Knowledge

# Zero-Knowledge = Special form of MPC



$(\Pi, m_1, m_3, \dots, m_\ell)$  is a non-interactive proof of  $\Pi$ !

# Build ZK by simulating MPC...?



Many protocols available: ZKBoo, KKW, BN, Limbo, Ligerio, STARKs,...

Interesting criteria: *Prover runtime* vs. *Proof size* vs. *Verifier runtime*

# Signatures from ZK proofs

Let  $Enc_k(\cdot)$  be encryption of block cipher under key  $k$

Define:  $sk = (k), vk = (x, Enc_k(x))$

How to sign:

1. Prove knowledge of  $k$  for  $vk$  in ZK by showing  $y = Enc_k(x)$  for known  $vk = (x, y)$  (ID scheme)
2. Also hash message  $m$  when computing verifier msgs

*Verify signature:* verify ZK proof & message!



# Algorithms

1. ZKB++ proof system & Picnic block cipher  
(NIST Round 3 alternative candidate)

2. KKW & AES

3. BN & AES (BBQ, Banquet, Limbo)

4. BN & Legendre-Symbol (LegRoast)

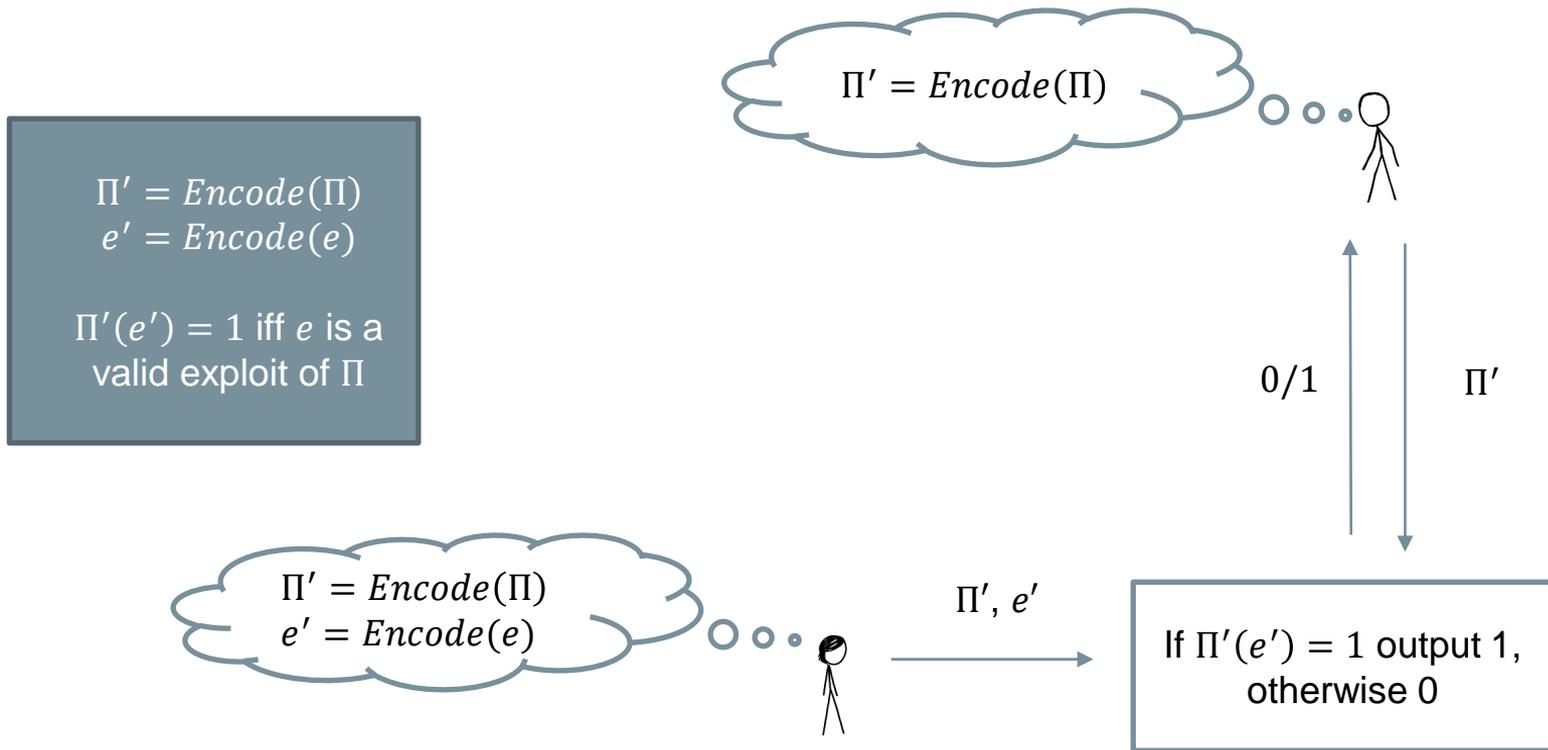
	Prover time (ms)	Verifier time (ms)	Signature size (bytes)
Picnic	5.3	4	12466
KKW & AES	28	28	45900
Banquet	9.1	7.5	17456
Limbo	5.7	5.5	17334
LegRoast	6	6	13900
ECDSA	faster	faster	smaller



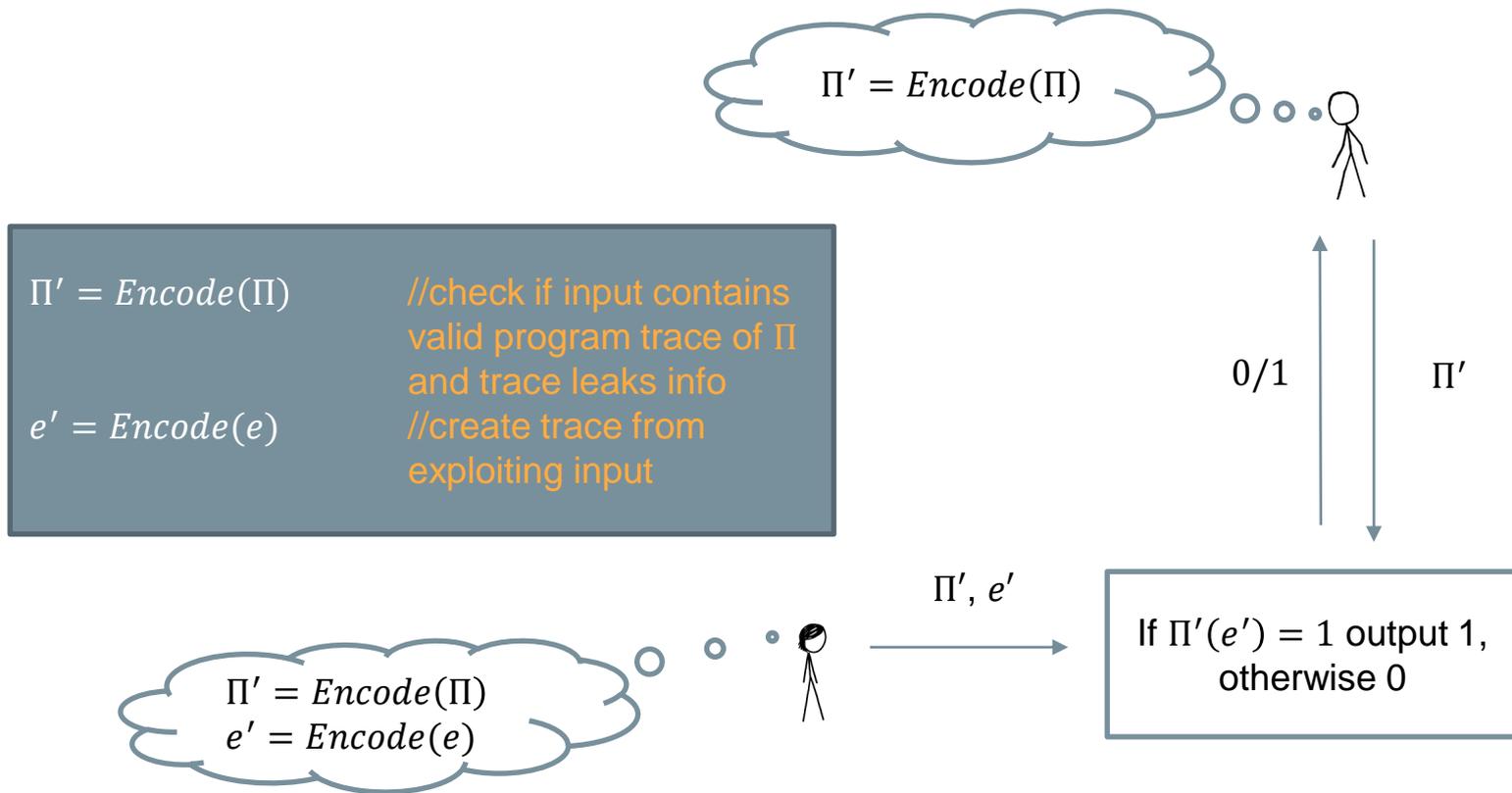
# ZK & Exploits

Showing that weaknesses exist  
without revealing them

# What to use these Zero-Knowledge proofs for?



# More concretely



# How to encode an exploit?



Focus on information leakage:

Label input variables as low/high sensitive, outputs as low/high visible

Two-trace approach:

Create two traces with **same low-sensitive inputs**,  
but **differing low visible outputs**

Two traces = 2x overhead

Information flow:

Label information flow based on program,  
show that leak **may** occur

Not sound

Program	x's Label
x:=y	High
x:=y+z	High
if (y==0) then x:=1 else x:=0	High

# How to encode an exploit?



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Information flow:

Label information flow based on program,  
show that leak **must** occur

Enough for e.g. Heartbleed

Program	x's Label
x:=y	High
x:=y+z	Low
if (y==0) then x:=1 else x:=0	Low

# What do we need for this?

1. Encode programs and exploits in “Zero-Knowledge friendly” form
2. Construct ZK proof system efficient enough to execute proof\*

FROMAGER project



\*also other solutions available, such as the QuickSilver proof system

# Meet: The Mac'n'Cheese proof system

Proof system developed at Aarhus University and implemented by Galois, Inc.

Other proof systems: make proof size  $o(|\Pi|)$ ,  
no matter the cost of prover. } Zero-Knowledge for  
blockchains

## Mac'n'Cheese:

1. Proof runtime & size linear in  $|\Pi|$
2. Small constants & highly efficient cryptography
3. Software is available, but not yet production-ready



# How big are the proofs?

Program	Execution Steps (K)	Num. Mults (M)
grit	6	38.6
FFmpeg	76	716.0
OpenSSL-two-trace	~50,000 (2,600)	Mem. Out
OpenSSL-labels	~25,000 (1,300)	Mem. Out

Performance with 95 ms ping,  
2.25MB/s bandwidth, including  
preprocessing:

$\mathbb{F}_{2^{61}-1}$  : **1.5  $\mu$ s** per multiplication  
 $\mathbb{F}_2$  : **140 ns** per multiplication

# Summary

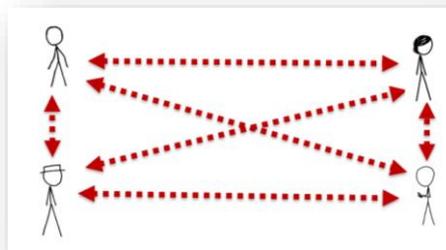
Secure computation allows to compute on data without leaking said data

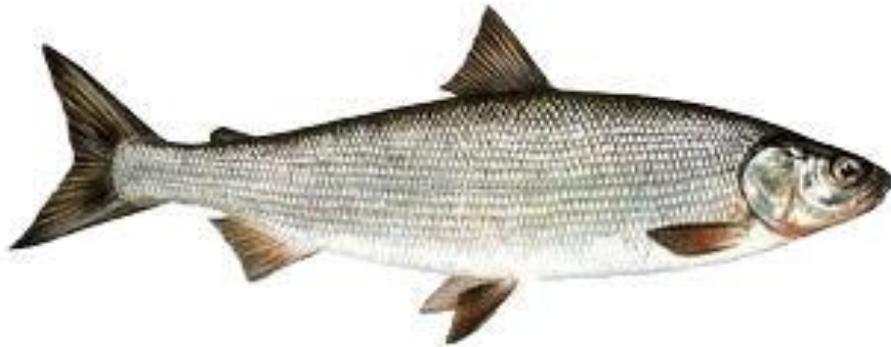
## Example applications:

1. Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning
2. Post-quantum Signatures
3. Proofs of Exploits for Software

Applications I did not talk about:

1. Encrypted databases
2. Threshold key storage
3. Private order matching
4. ...





Thanks!