

# Cryptographic Hardness of PPAD via Non-Interactive Arguments



Pavel Hubáček



Chethan Kamath



Krzysztof Pietrzak



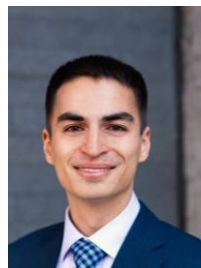
Alon Rosen



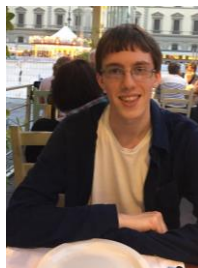
Guy Rothblum



Nir Bitansky



Justin Holmgren



Alex Lombardi



Omer Paneth

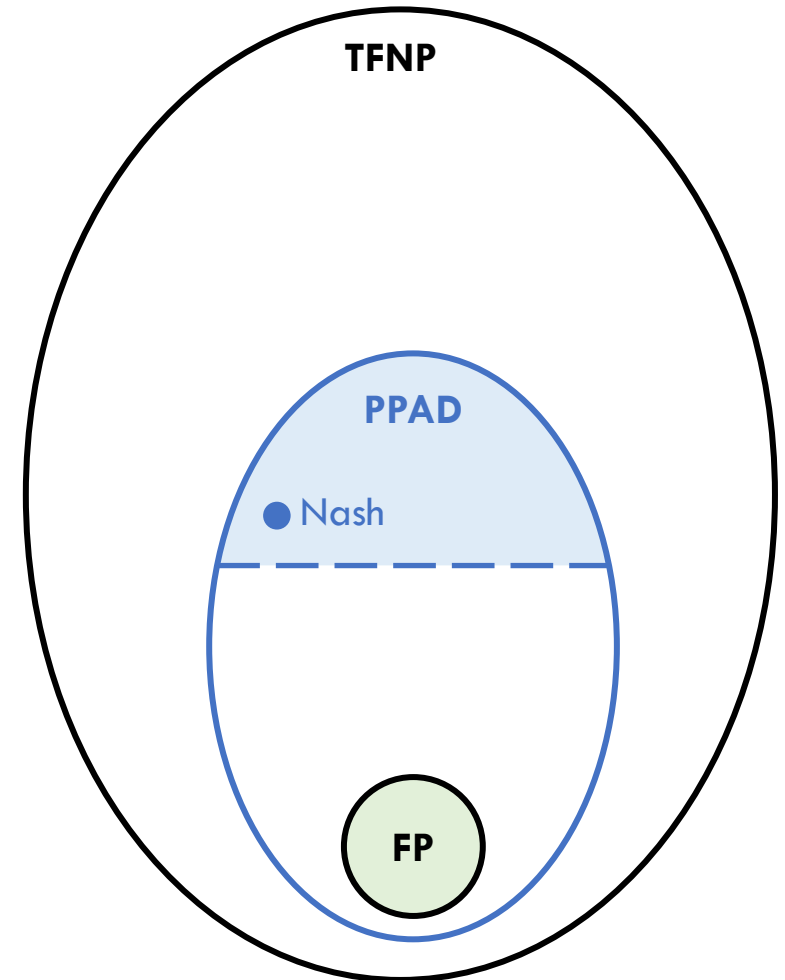


Ron Rothblum

Arka Rai Choudhuri

# Polynomial-Parity Argument on Digraphs (PPAD)

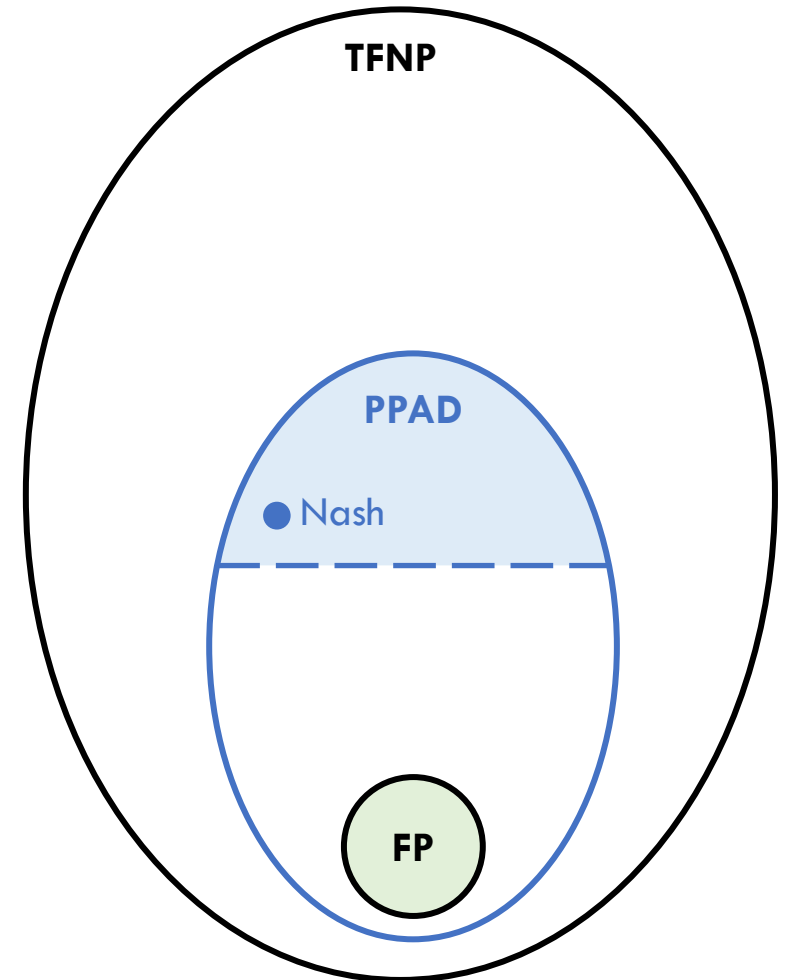
Class of Total Search Problems



# Polynomial-Parity Argument on Digraphs (PPAD)

Class of Total Search Problems

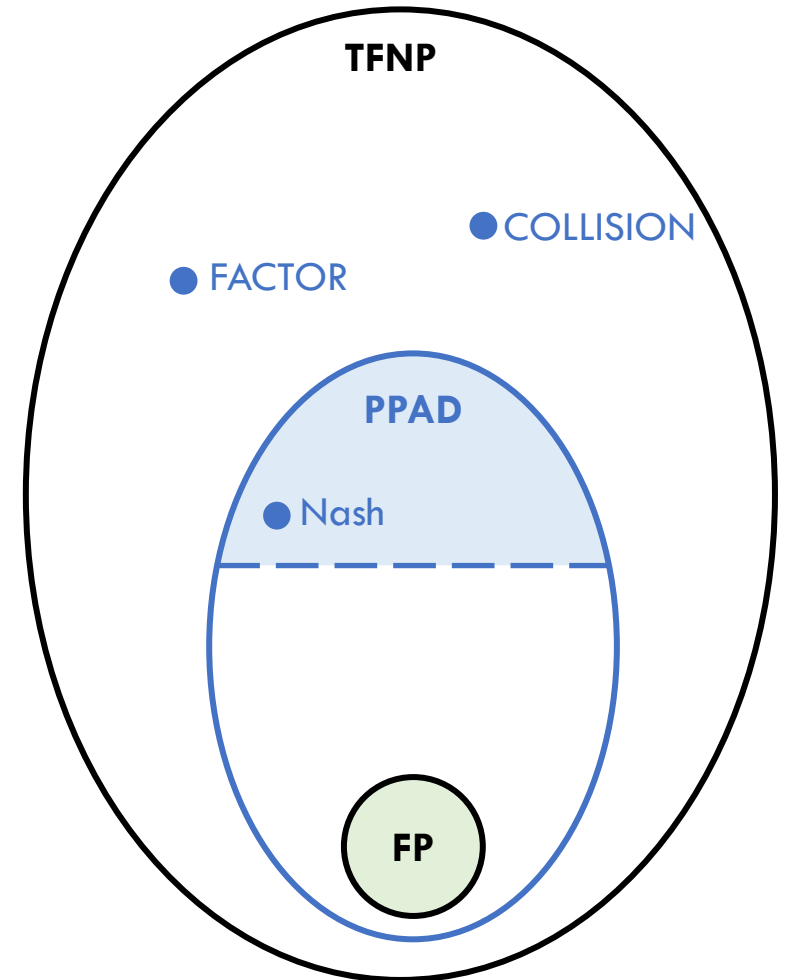
Can we use Cryptography to show PPAD Hardness?



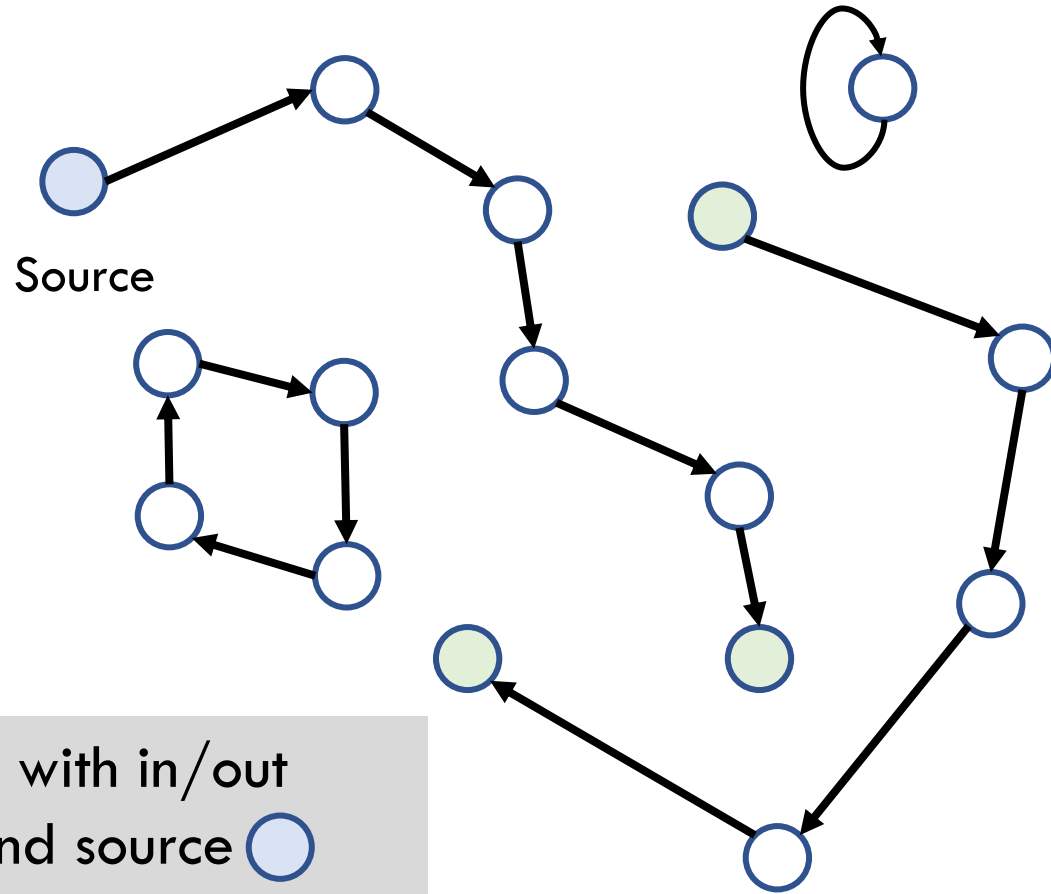
# Polynomial-Parity Argument on Digraphs (PPAD)


Class of Total Search Problems


Can we use Cryptography to show PPAD Hardness?

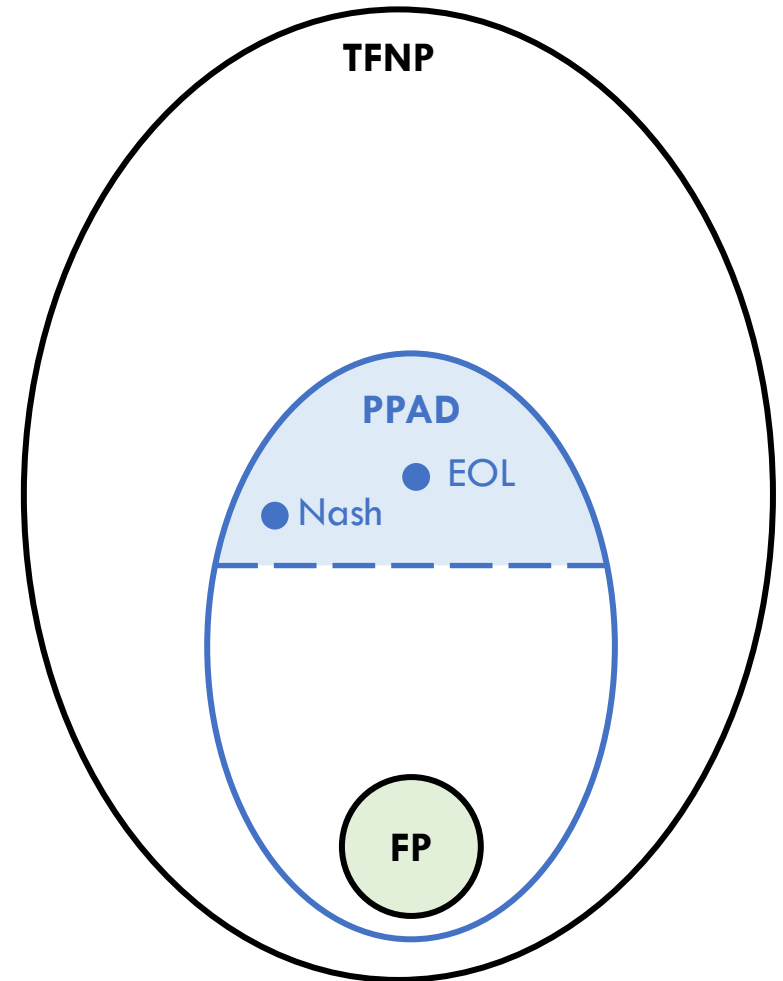


# End of Line (EOL)

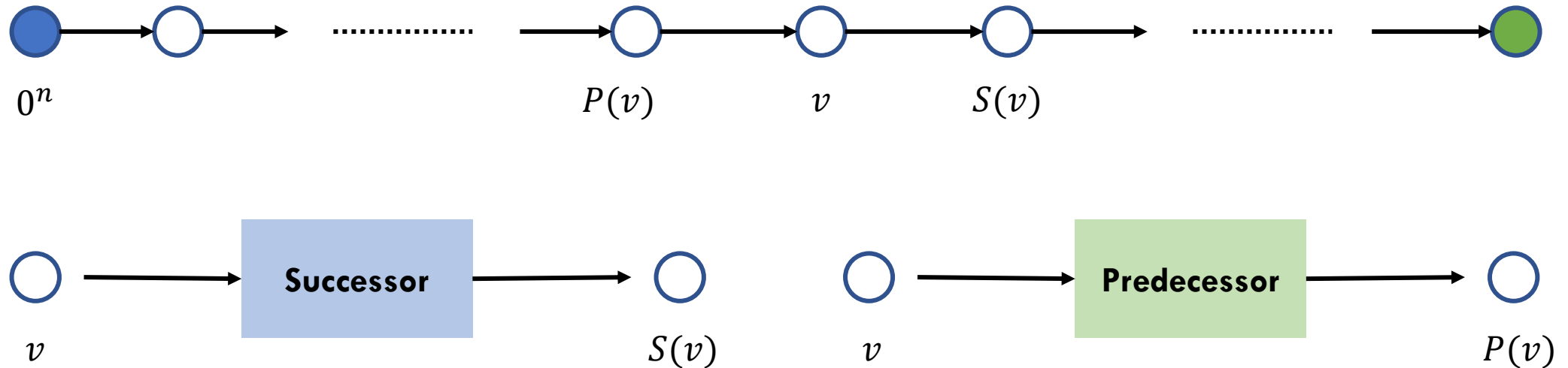


Input: A graph with in/out degree  $\leq 1$  and source 

Output: Another source/sink 



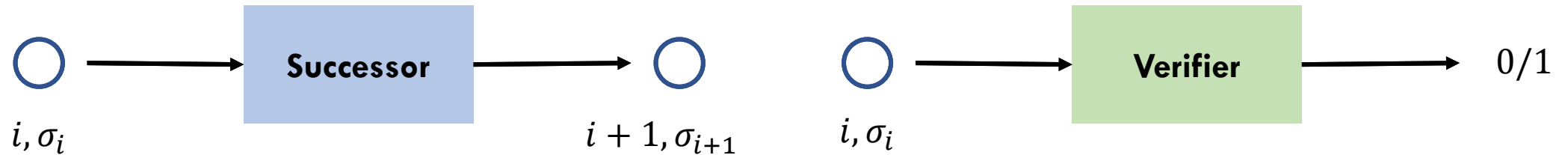
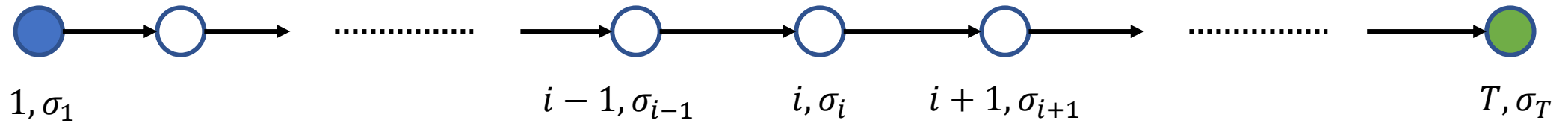
# End of Line (EOL)



Goal: Find  $v$  such that  
 $P(S(v)) \neq v$  or  $S(P(v)) \neq v \neq 0^n$

# Sink of Verifiable Line (SVL)

[Abbott-Kane-Valiant'04, Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15]



Goal: Find  $(T, \sigma_T)$  for  $T \in n^{\omega(1)}$  such that

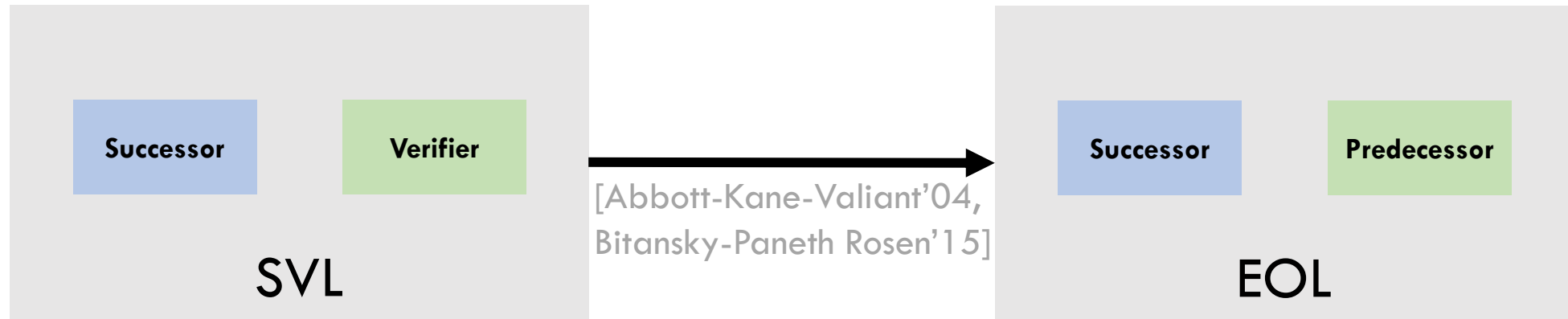
$$\text{Verifier}(T, \sigma_T) = 1$$

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SVL **not** in TFNP

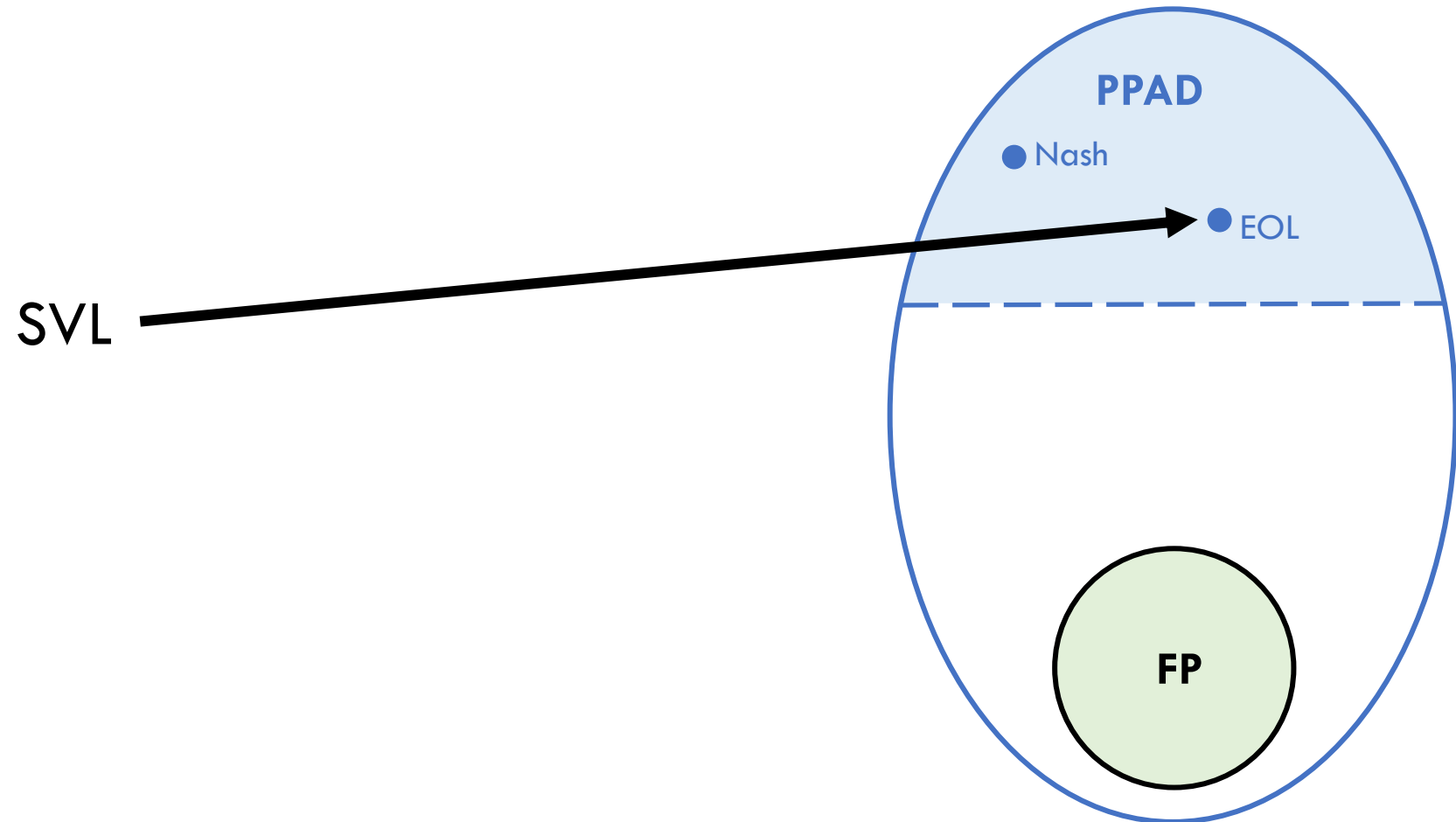
# SVL Reduces to EOL



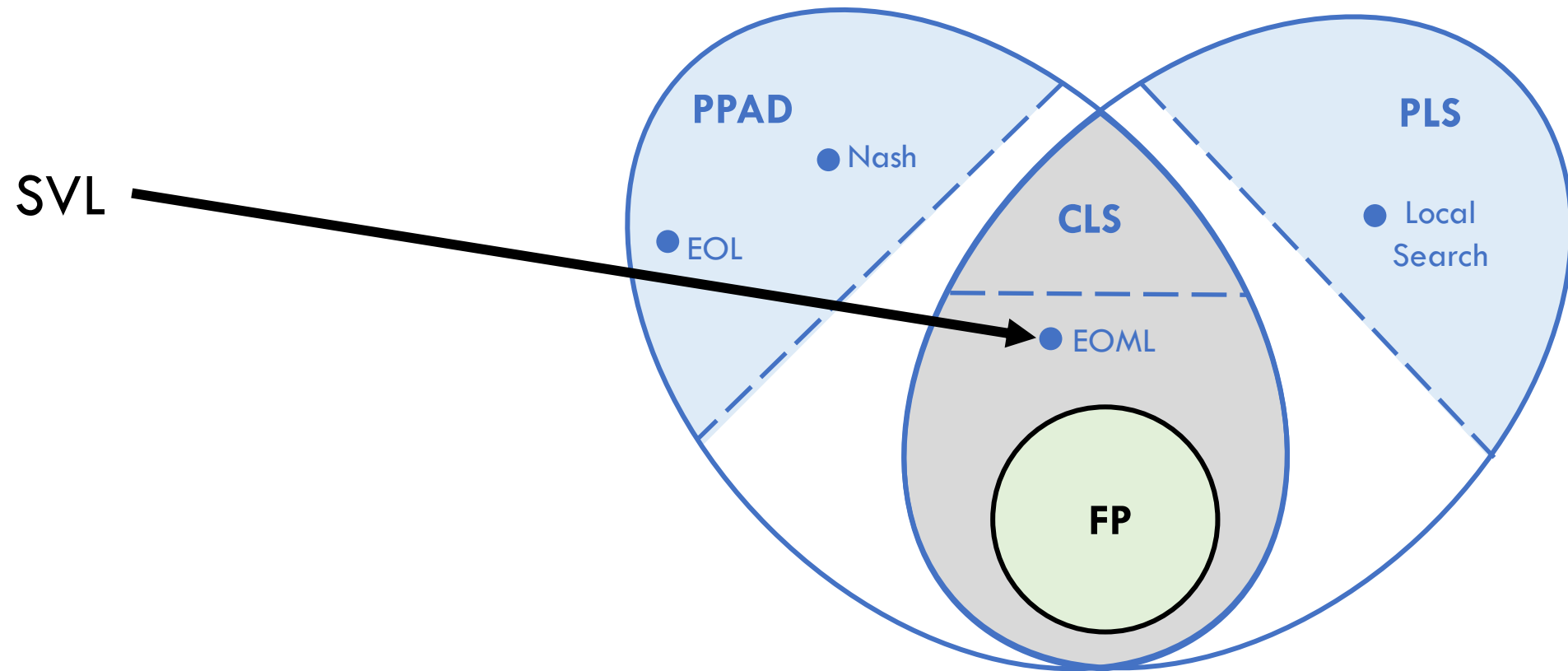
If path is verifiable, then Predecessor is for free. Use [Bennett'89] ideas of [reversible computation](#) via pebbling.



# SVL Reduces to EOL



# SVL Reduces to EOML



# PPAD Hardness from Standard Cryptographic Assumptions

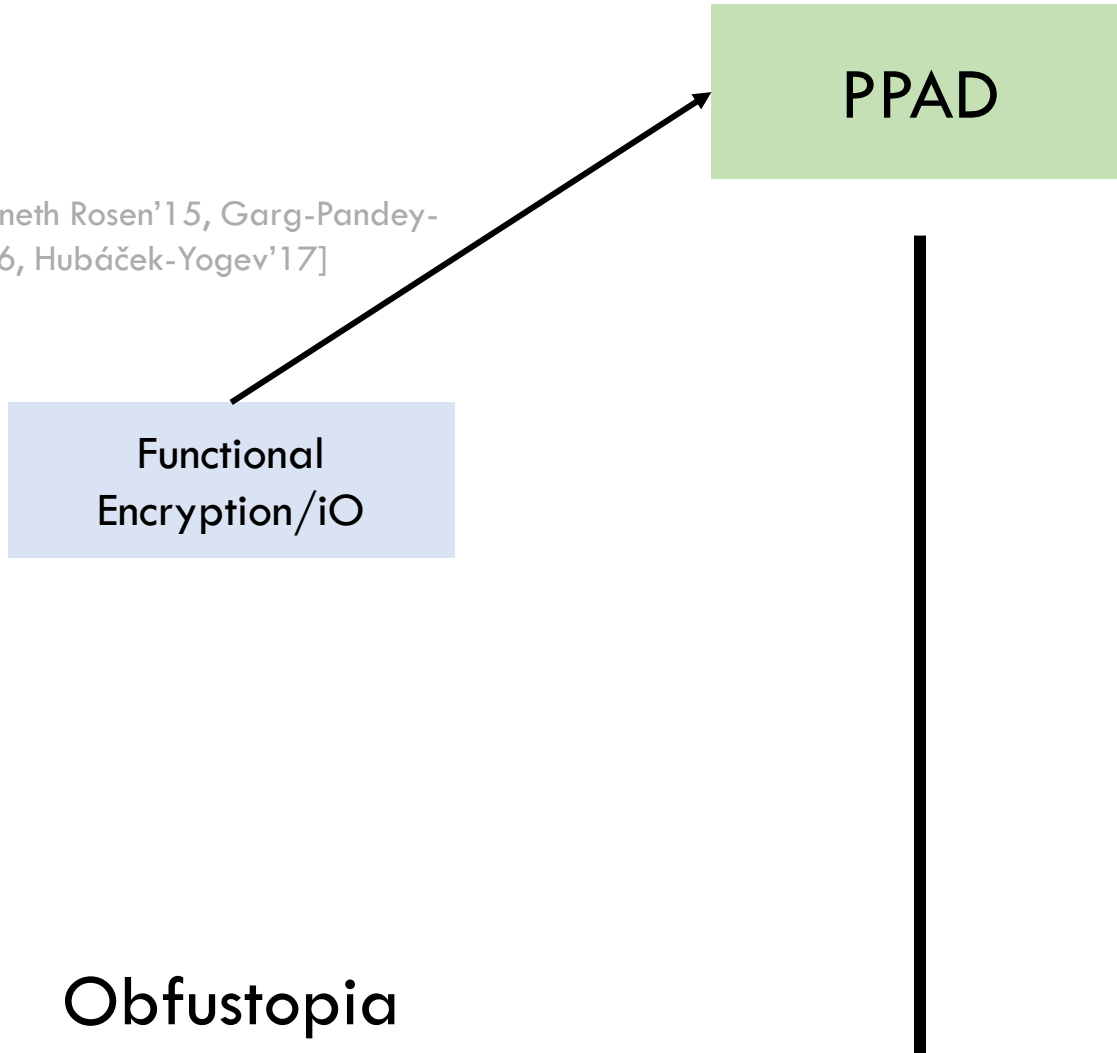


PPAD

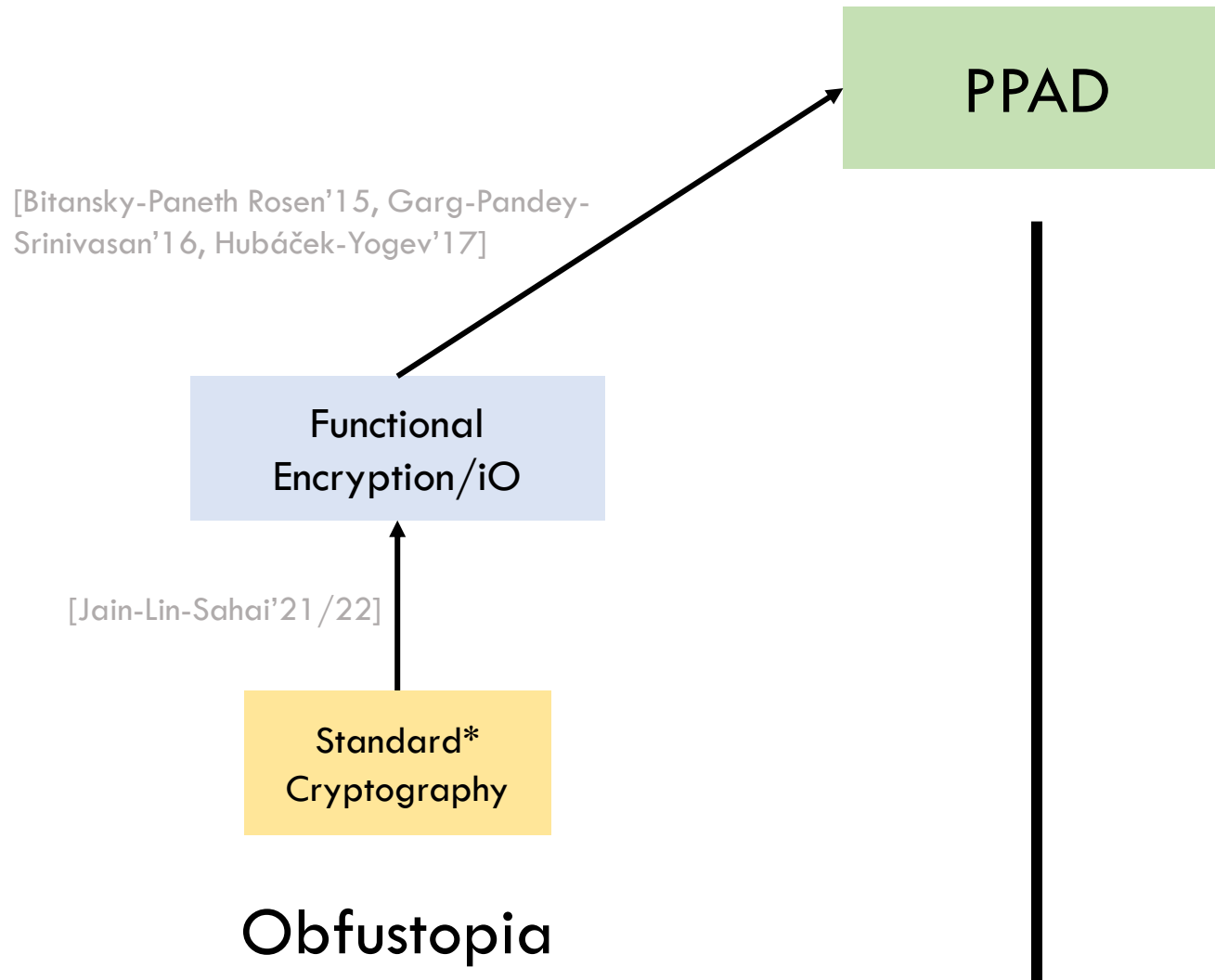
Obfustopia

# PPAD Hardness from Standard Cryptographic Assumptions

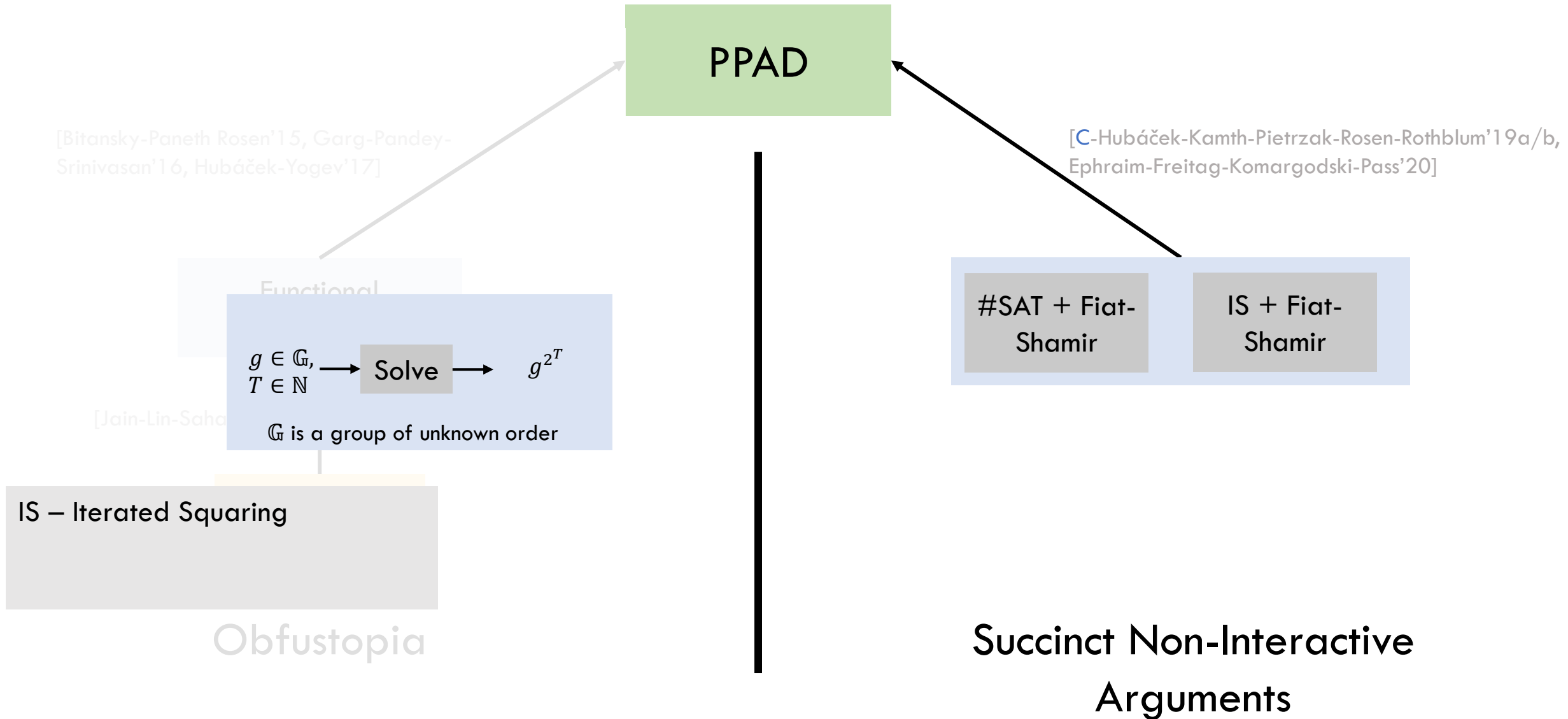
[Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15, Garg-Pandey-Srinivasan'16, Hubáček-Yogev'17]



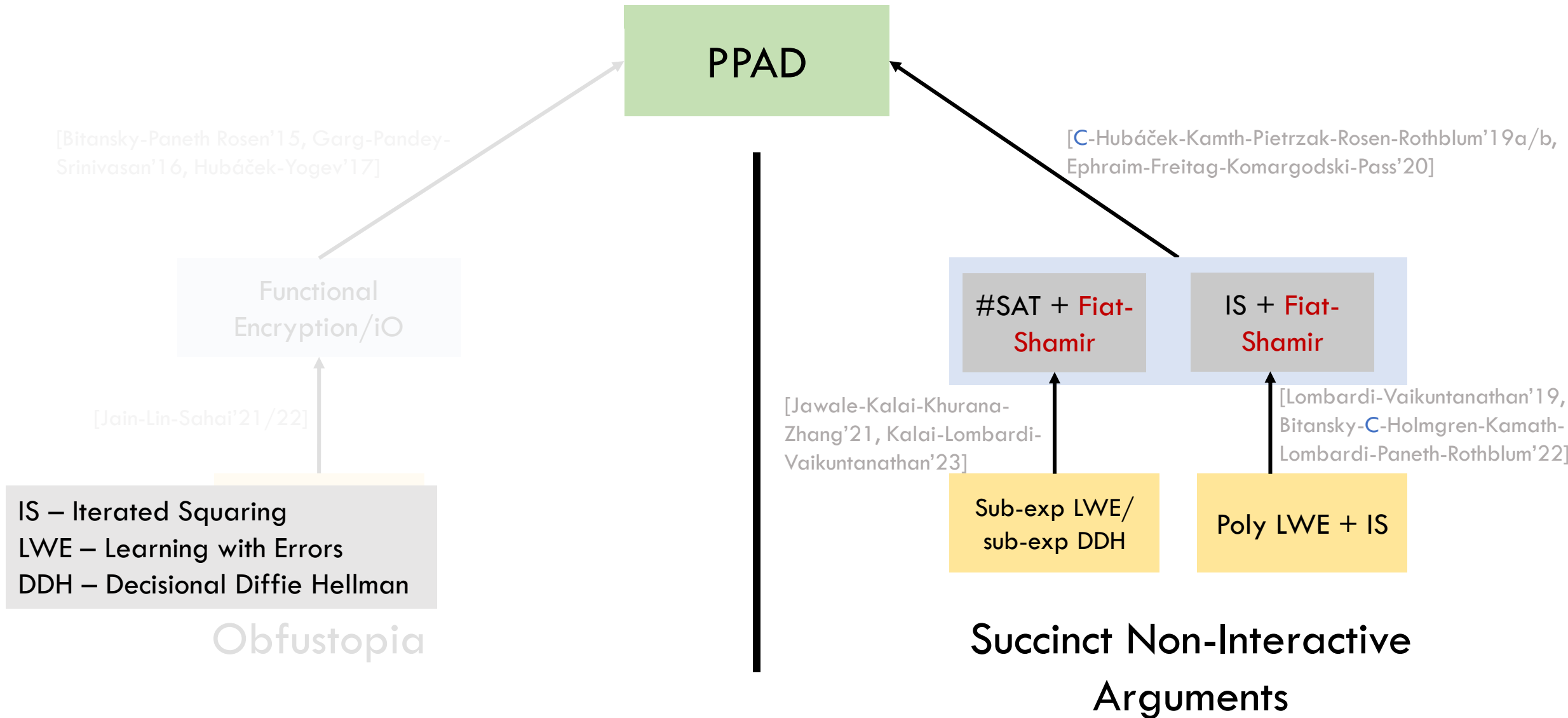
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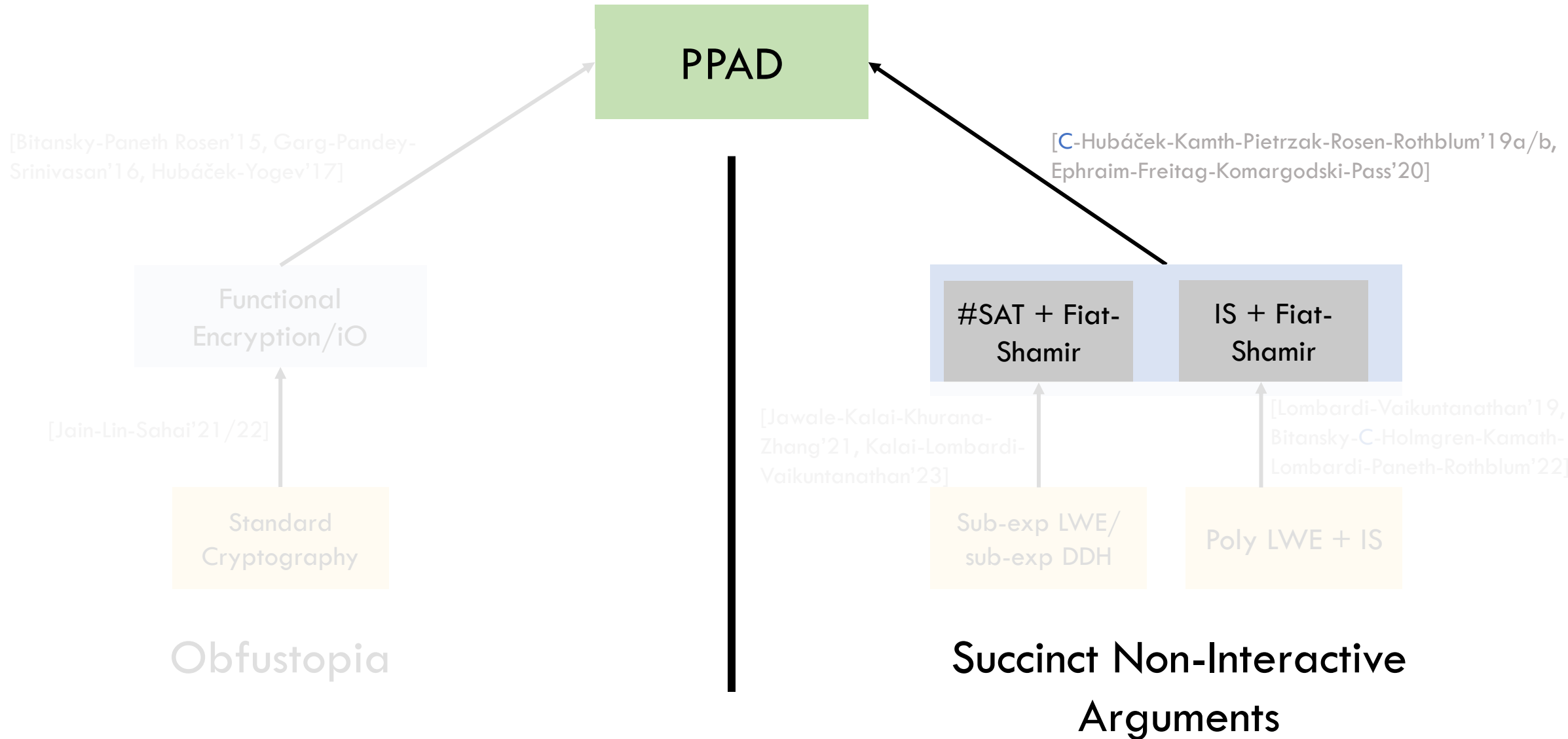
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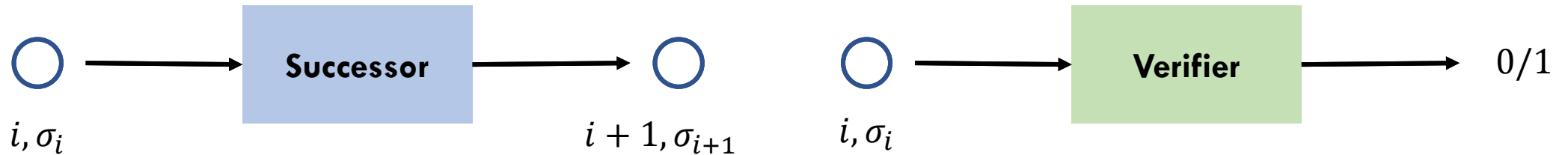


# Obfuscation Approach to EOL Hardness

[Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15, Garg-Pandey-Srinivasan'16, Hubáček-Yogev'17]

1. Generate labels  $\sigma_i$  to be **pseudorandom** (PRF).
2. **Obfuscate** Successor and Verifier to hide PRF key.

Intuition: Must make “oracle” calls to traverse the graph.



Goal: Find  $(T, \sigma_T)$  for  $T \in n^{\omega(1)}$  such that

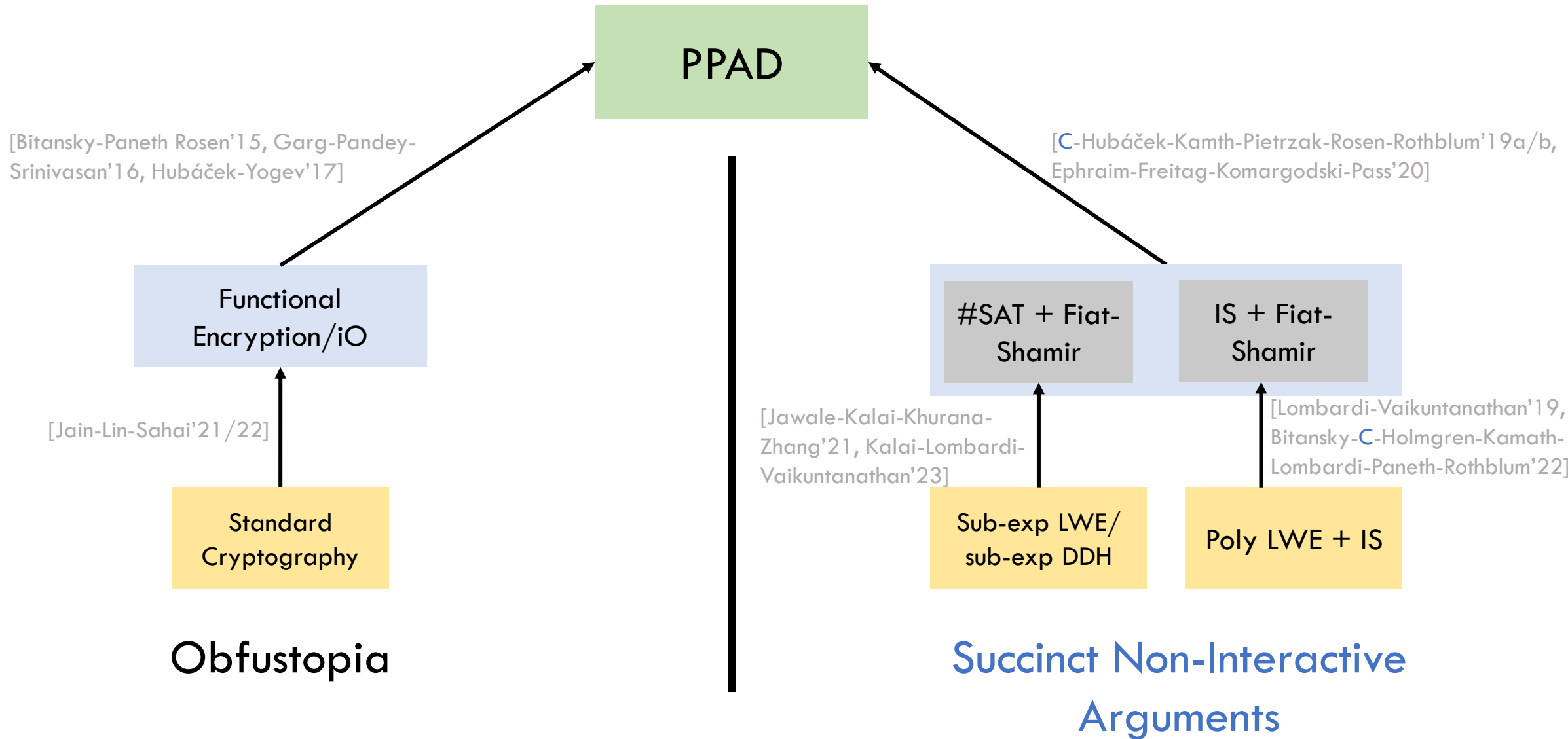
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SVL **not** in TFNP

# PPAD Hardness from Standard Cryptographic Assumptions



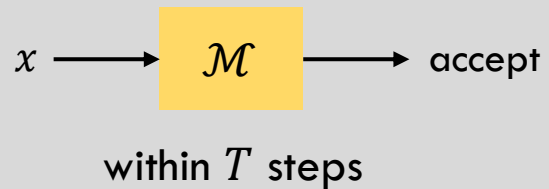
# Succinct Non-Interactive Arguments (SNARGs)



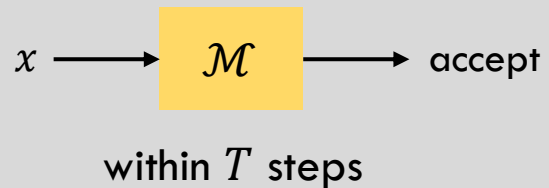
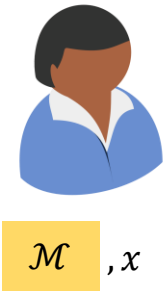
$\mathcal{M}, x$



$\mathcal{M}, x$



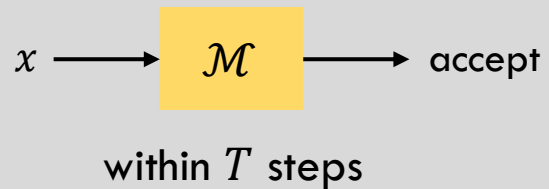
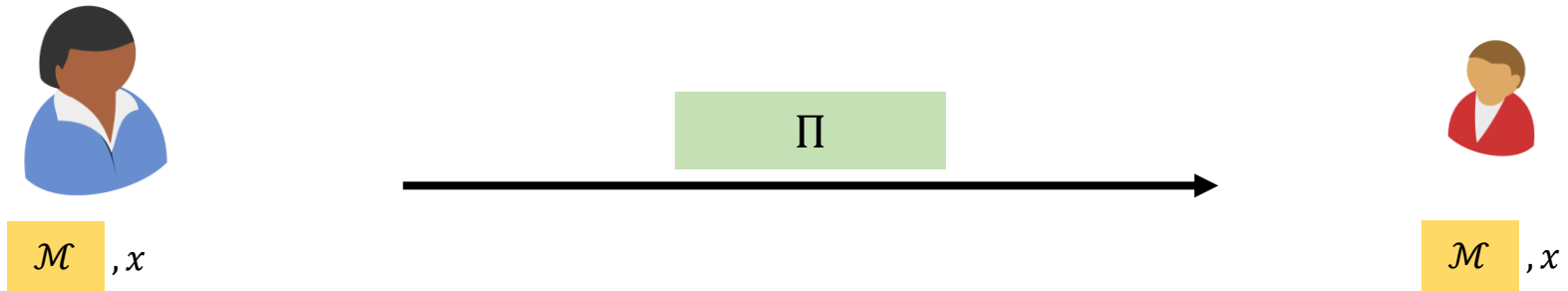
# Succinct Non-Interactive Arguments (SNARGs)



wants to delegate computation to



# Succinct Non-Interactive Arguments (SNARGs)



# Succinct Non-Interactive Arguments (SNARGs)

Common Reference String (CRS)



$\mathcal{M}, x$

$\Pi$



$\mathcal{M}, x$

$x \longrightarrow \mathcal{M} \longrightarrow \text{accept}$

within  $T$  steps

# Succinct Non-Interactive Arguments (SNARGs)

Common Reference String (CRS)



$\mathcal{M}, x$

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$\mathcal{M}, x$

$\Pi$  is publicly verifiable

$x \longrightarrow \mathcal{M} \longrightarrow \text{accept}$

within  $T$  steps

# Succinct Non-Interactive Arguments (SNARGs)

Common Reference String (CRS)



$\mathcal{M}, x$

$\leftarrow \text{polylog}(T) \rightarrow$

$\Pi$



$\mathcal{M}, x$

Verifier **running time**:  
 $\text{polylog}(T)$

$\Pi$  is **publicly verifiable**

$x \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \text{accept}$

within  $T$  steps



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Common Reference String (CRS)



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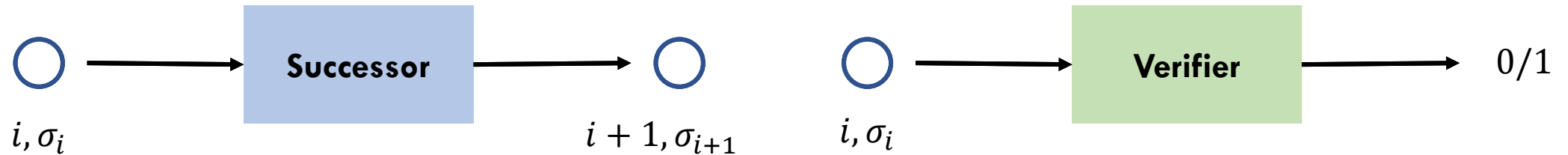
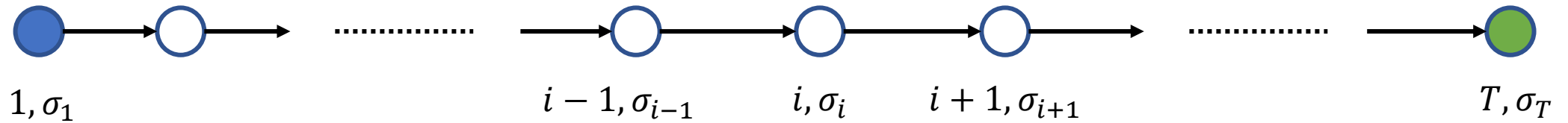
No PPT  can produce accepting  $\Pi$  if

$x \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \text{accept}$

within  $T$  steps

# Sink of Verifiable Line (SVL)

[Abbott-Kane-Valiant'04, Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15]



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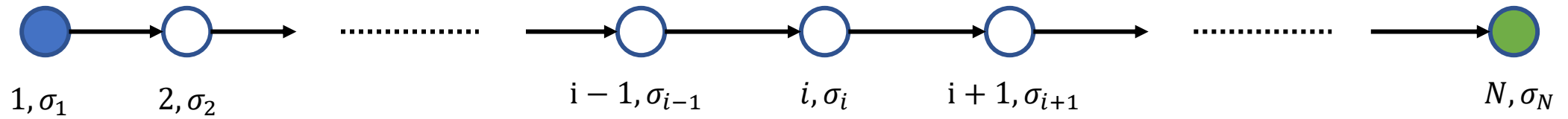
$$\text{Verifier}(T, \sigma_T) = 1$$

Promise:

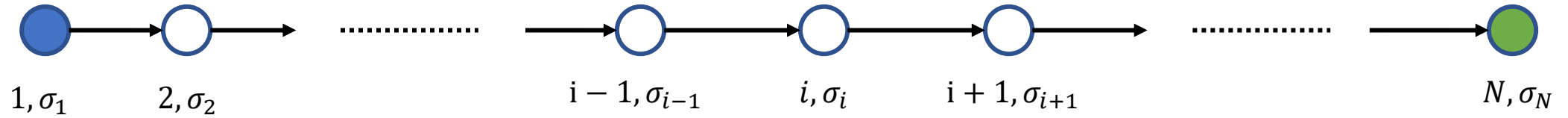
$$\text{Verifier}(i, \sigma_i) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \text{Successor}^{i-1}(1, \sigma_1)$$

SVL **not** in TFNP

# Basic Idea: Long Computation + SNARGs

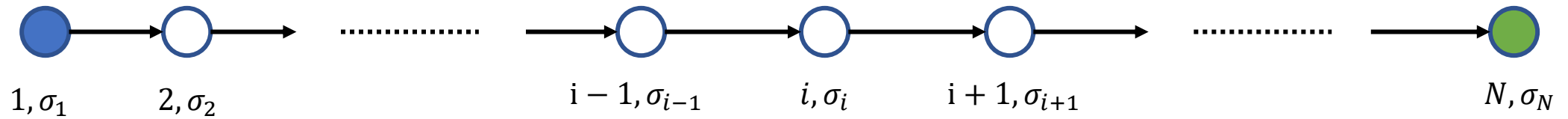


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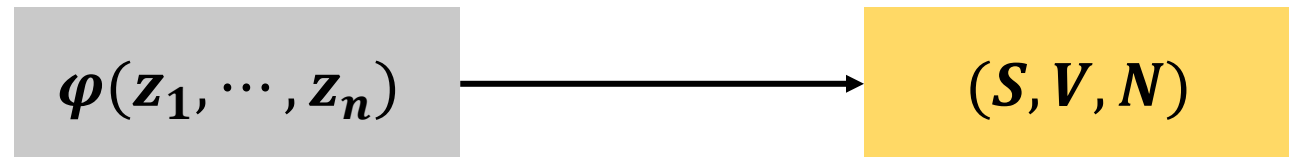


Reduce to SVL from #SAT

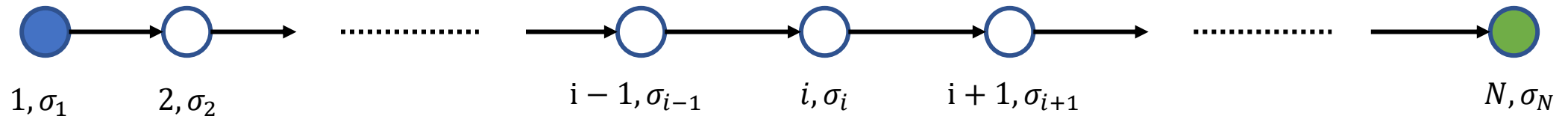
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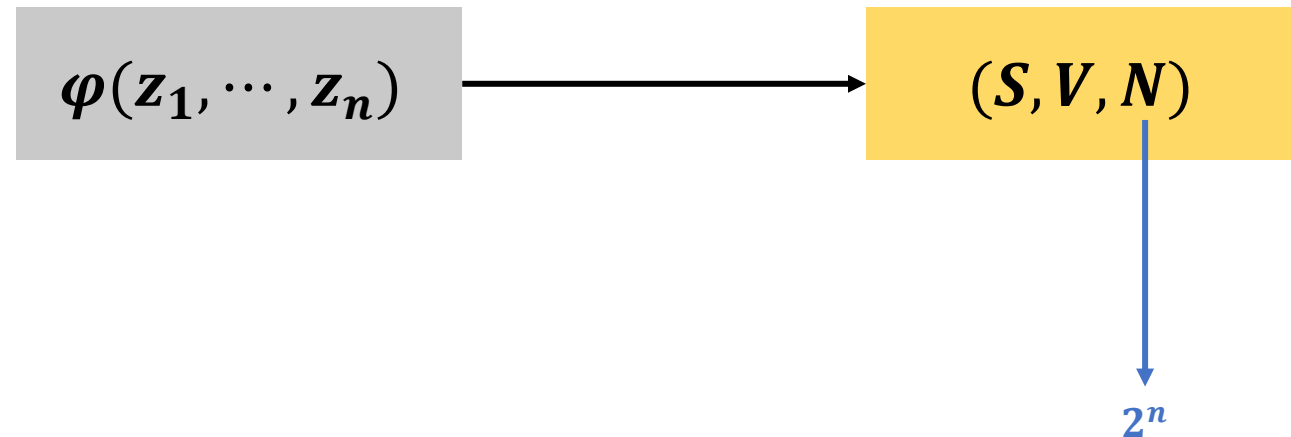
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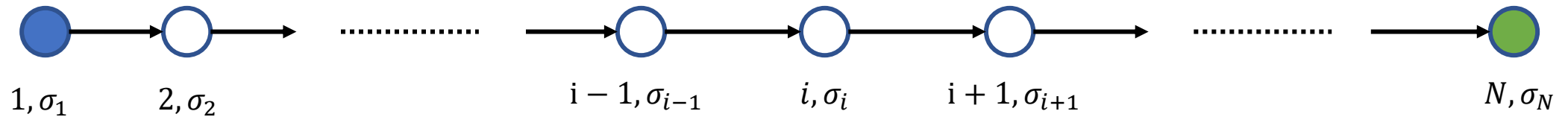
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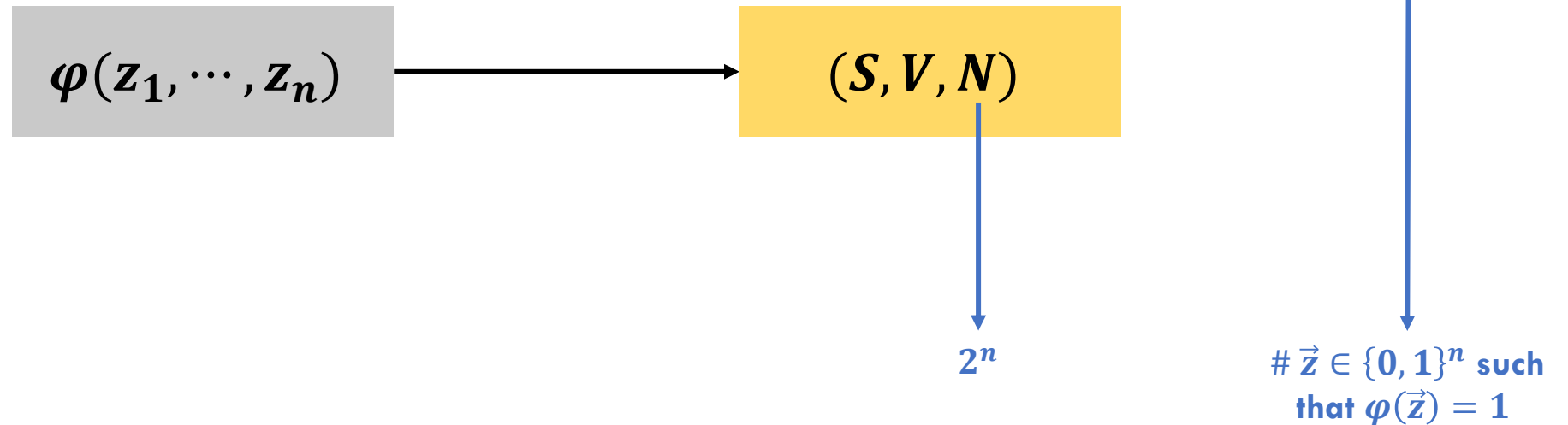
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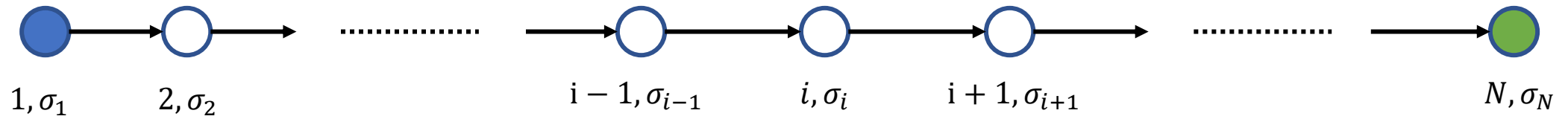
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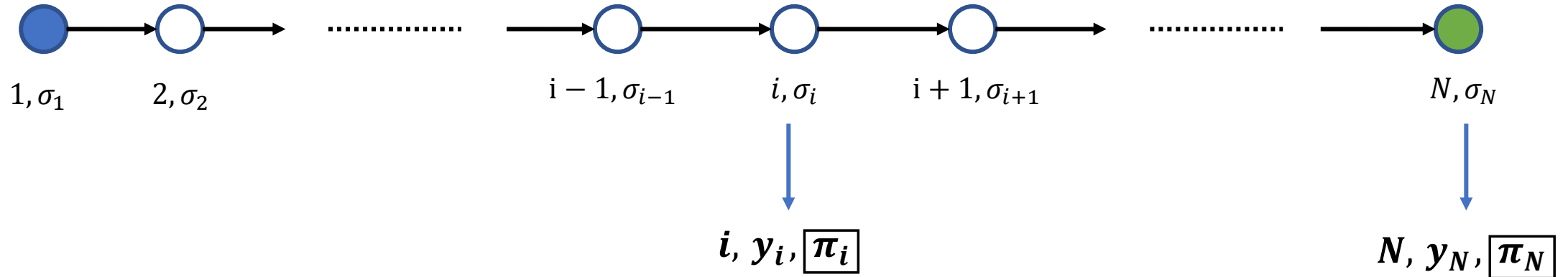


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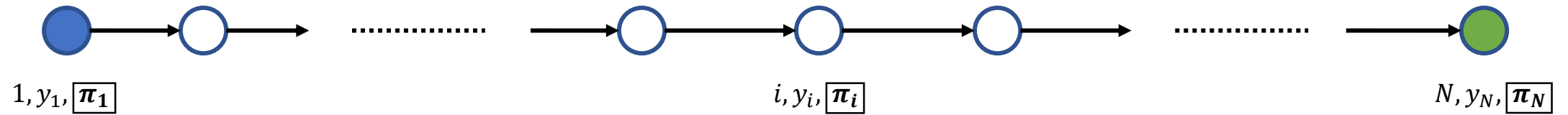




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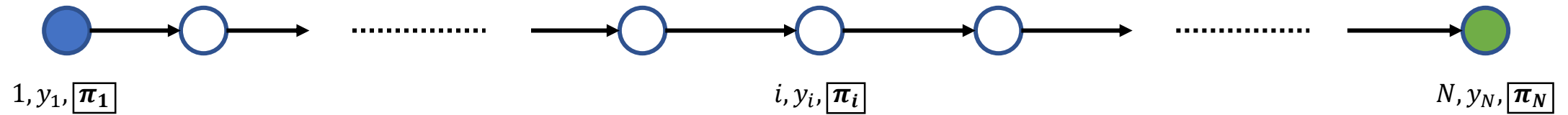


# Basic Idea: Long Computation + SNARGs



$$V(i, y_i, \pi_i) = \text{ACCEPT} \iff y_i \text{ is the \# of } \vec{z} \leq i \text{ such that } \varphi(\vec{z}) = 1$$

# Basic Idea: Long Computation + SNARGs

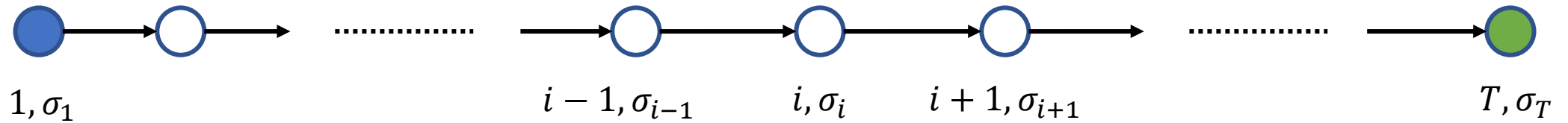


$$S(i, y_i, \pi_i) = i + 1, y_{i+1}, \pi_{i+1}$$

$$V(i, y_i, \pi_i) = \text{ACCEPT} \iff y_i \text{ is the \# of } \vec{z} \leq i \text{ such that } \varphi(\vec{z}) = 1$$

# Sink of Verifiable Line (SVL)

[Abbott-Kane-Valiant'04, Bitansky-Paneth Rosen'15]



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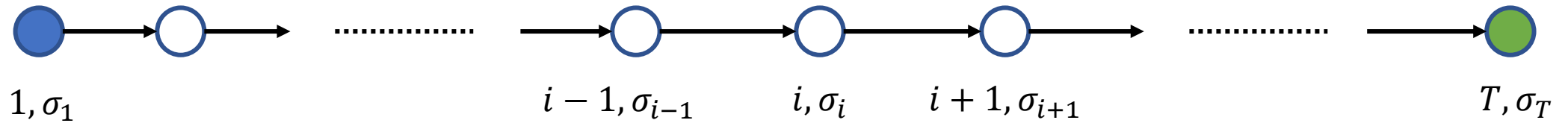
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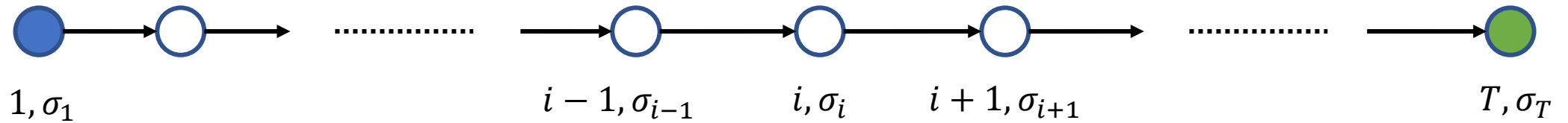
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# relaxed Sink of Verifiable Line (rSVL)

[C-Hubáček-Kamth-Pietrzak-Rosen-Rothblum'19]



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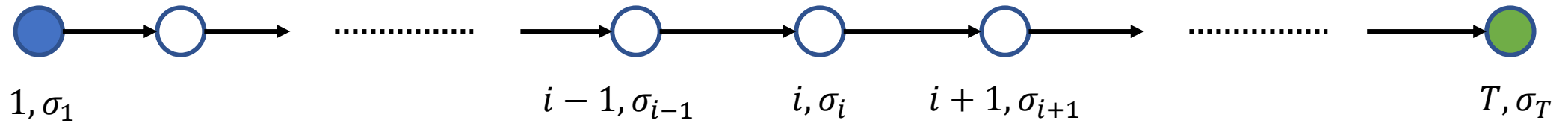
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rSVL **not** in TFNP

# relaxed Sink of Verifiable Line (rSVL)

[C-Hubáček-Kamth-Pietrzak-Rosen-Rothblum'19]



Goal: For  $T \in n^{\omega(1)}$

1. Find  $(T, \sigma_T)$  such that  
 $\text{Verifier}(T, \sigma_T) = 1$
2. Find  $(i, \sigma)$  such that  $(i, \sigma_i) \neq \text{Successor}^{i-1}(1, \sigma_1)$  but  
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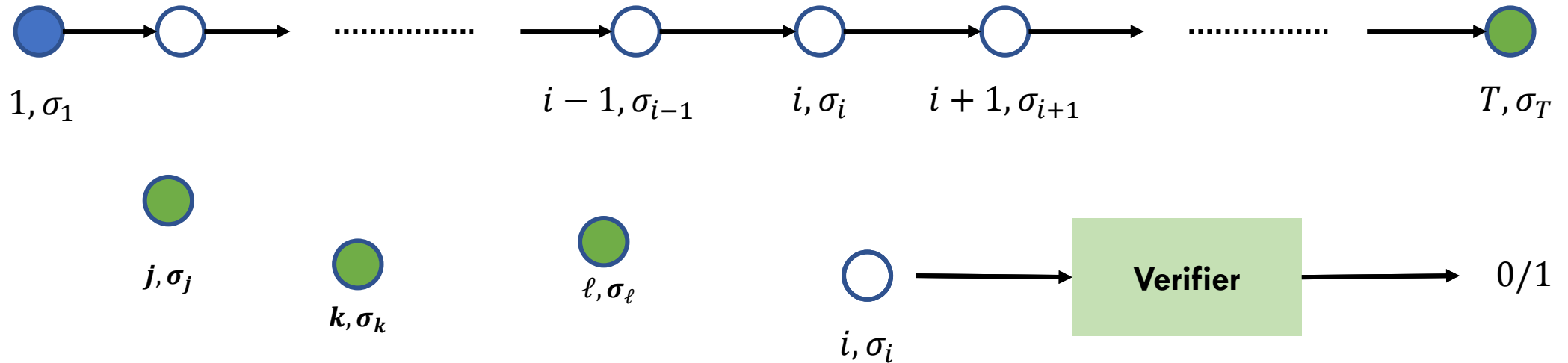
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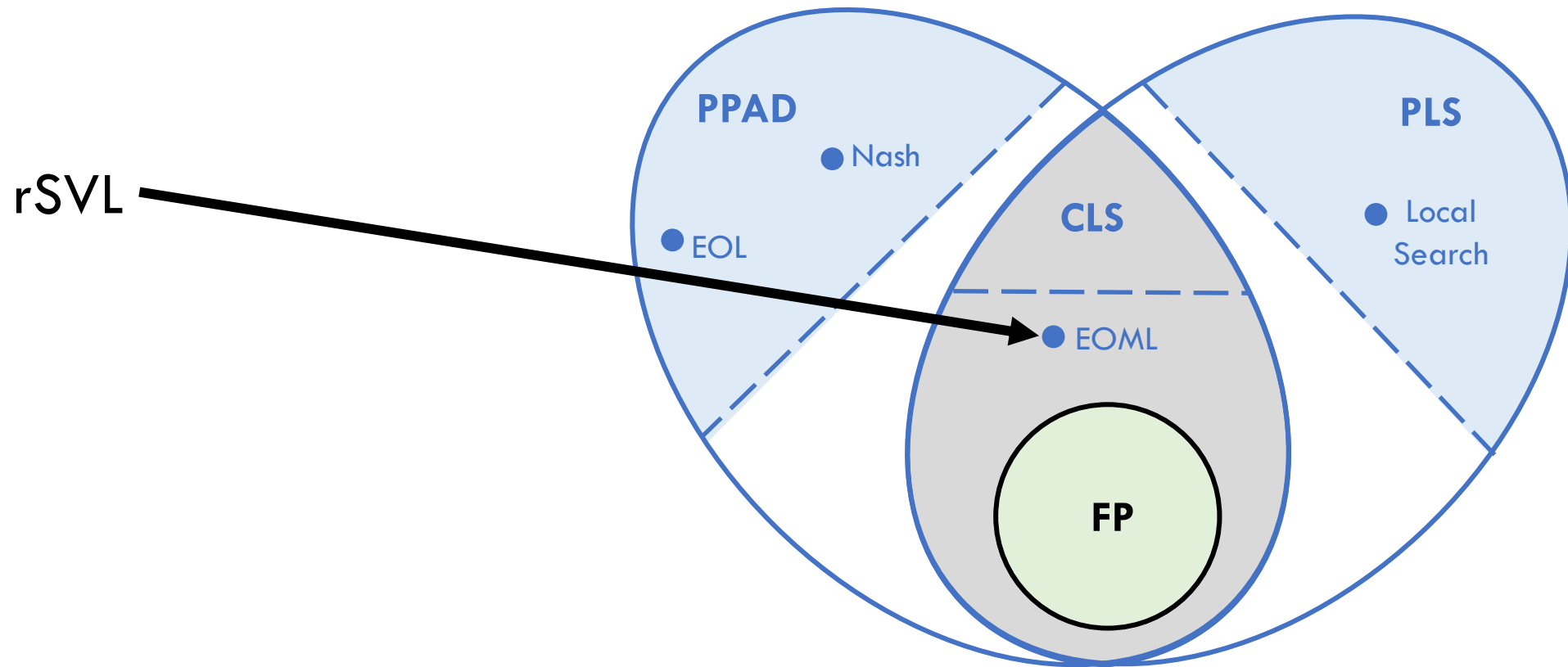
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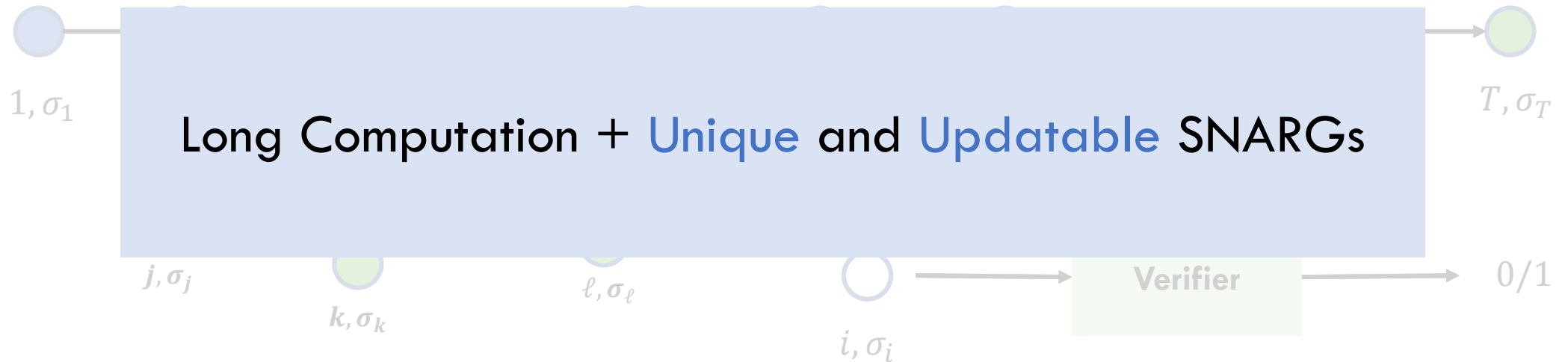


# rSVL Reduces to EOML



# relaxed Sink of Verifiable Line (rSVL)

[C-Hubáček-Kamth-Pietrzak-Rosen-Rothblum'19]



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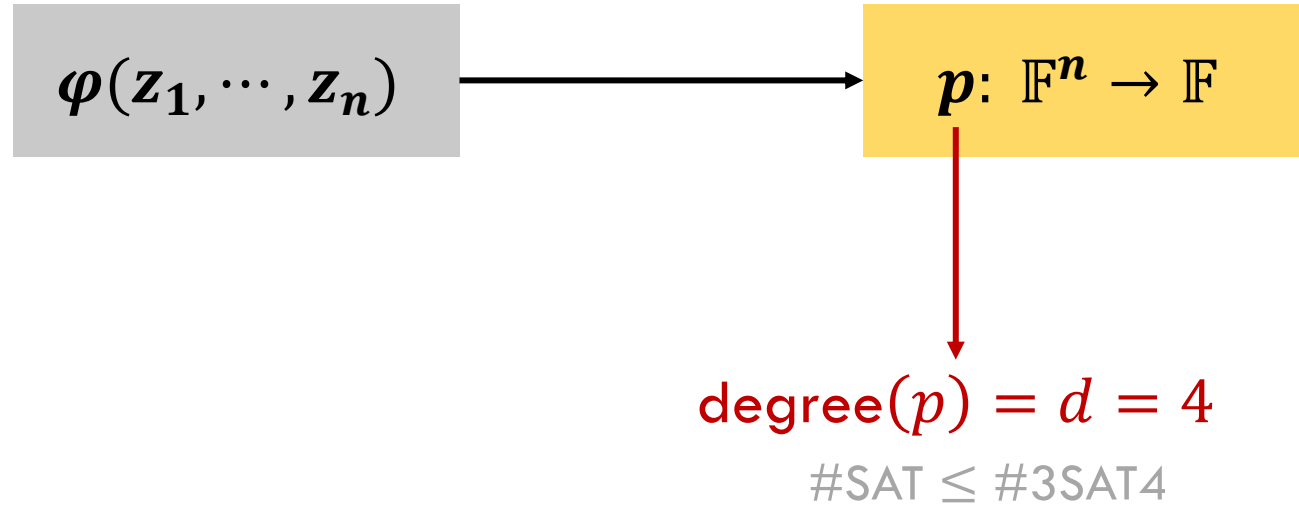
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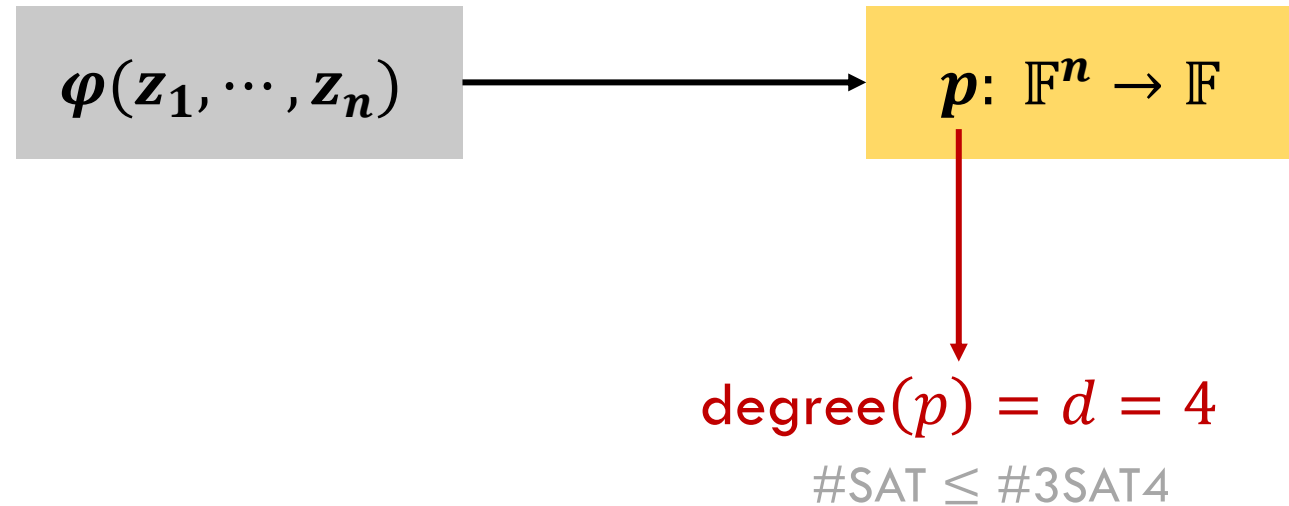
# Arithmetization of SAT

Arithmetization



# Arithmetization of SAT

## Arithmetization



Number of  $\vec{z} \in \{0,1\}^n$  such that  $\varphi(\vec{z}) = 1$  is

$$y = \sum_{\vec{z} \in \{0,1\}^n} p(\vec{z})$$

# Verifiable Aggregation of SAT solutions

$p(0,0,0),0$

$p(0,0,1),1$

$p(0,1,0),1$

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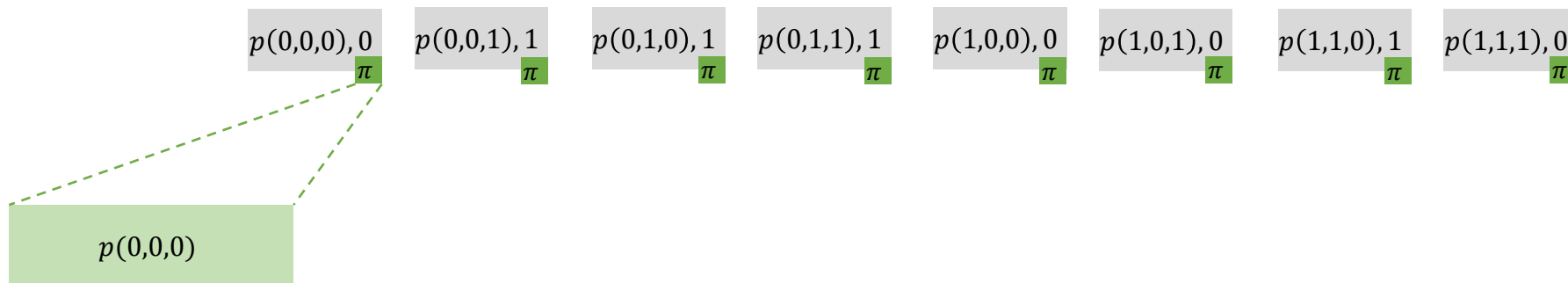
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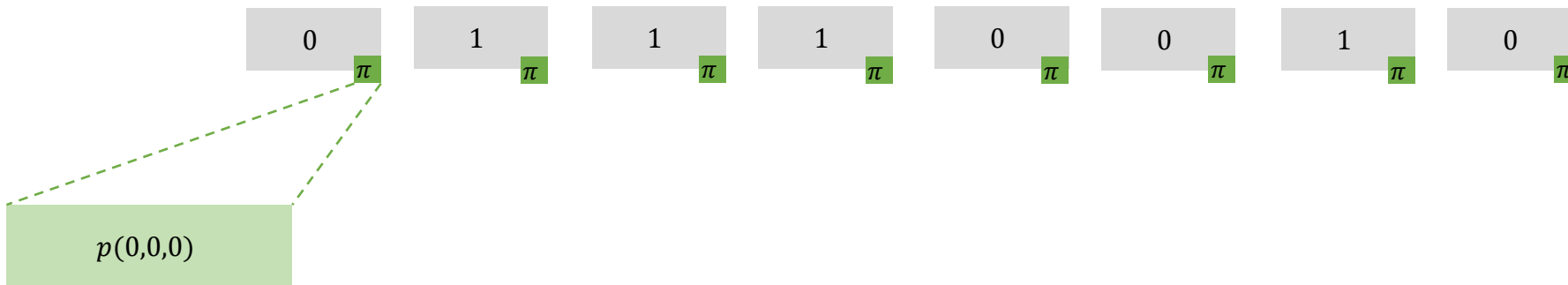
$p(1,1,0),1$

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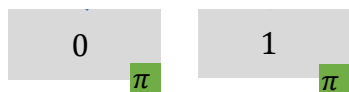
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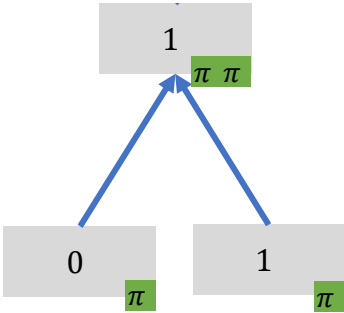


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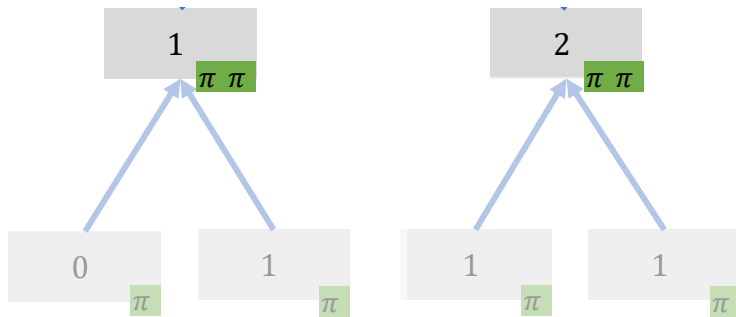




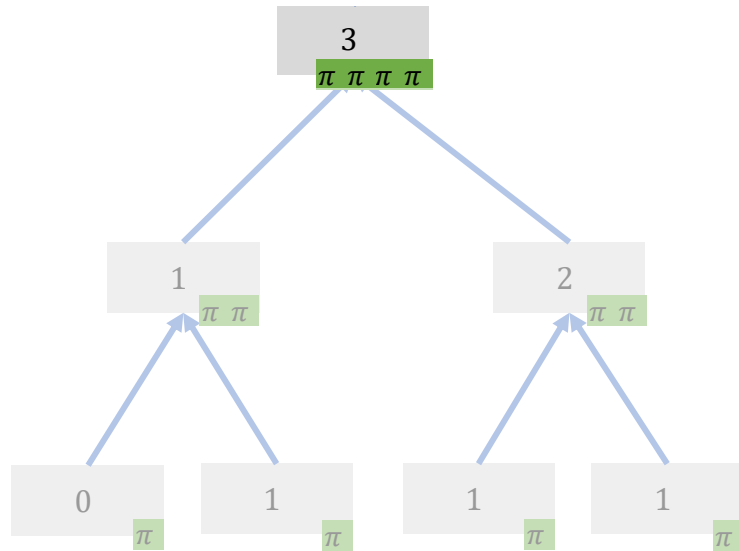
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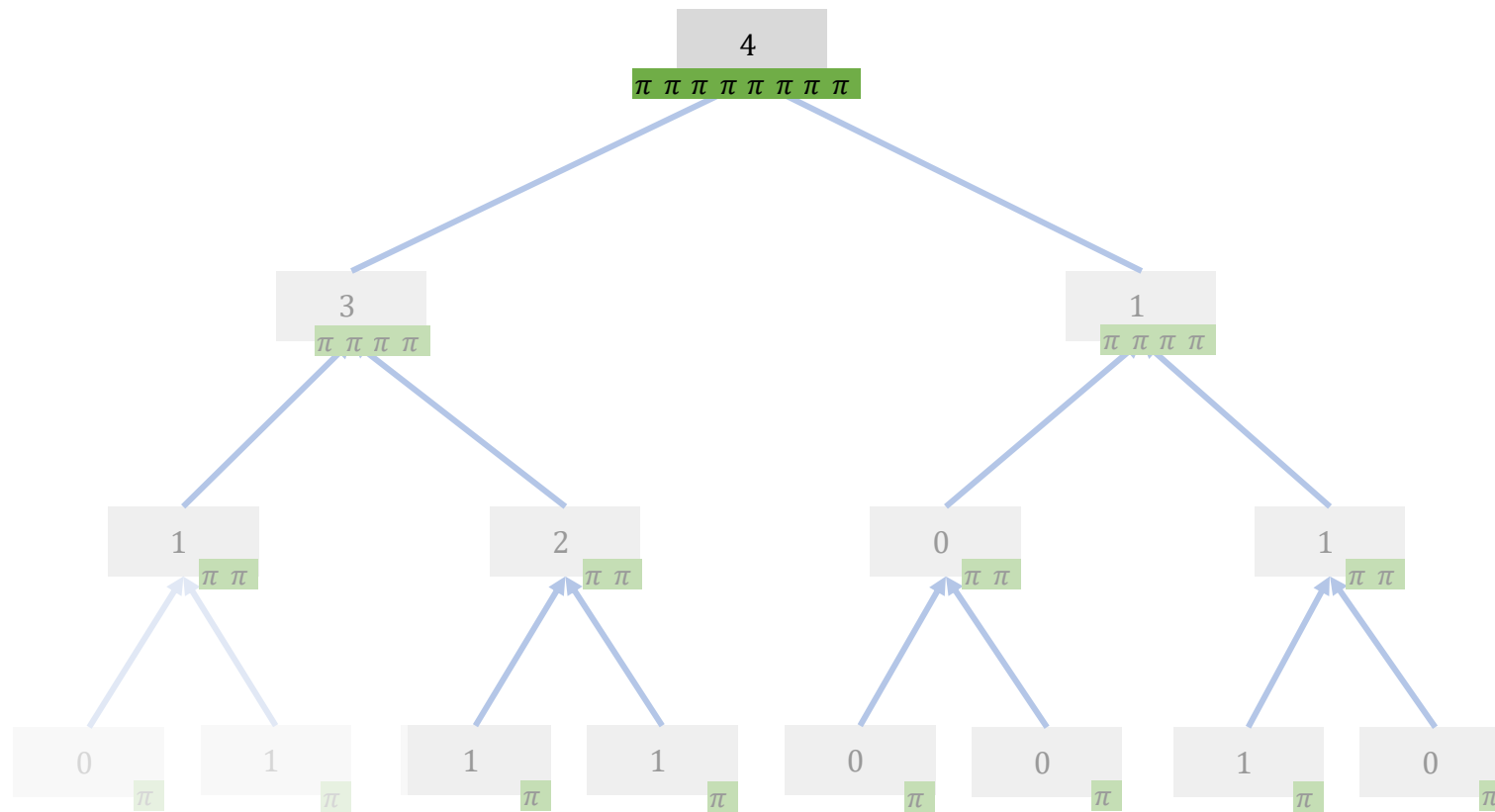
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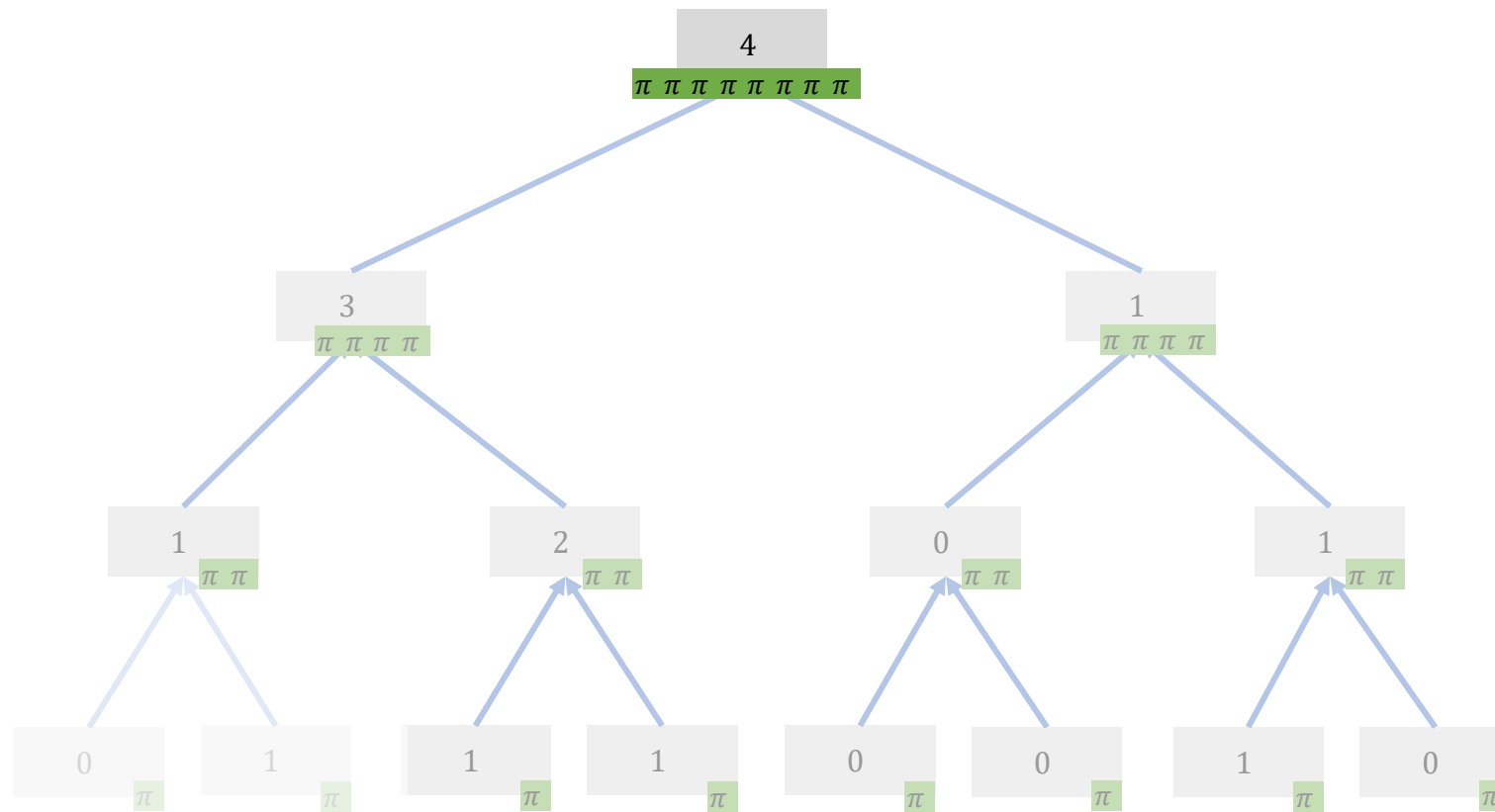
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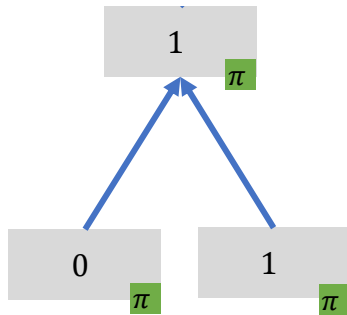


For  $T = 2^n$ , number of proofs is  $O(T)$ !

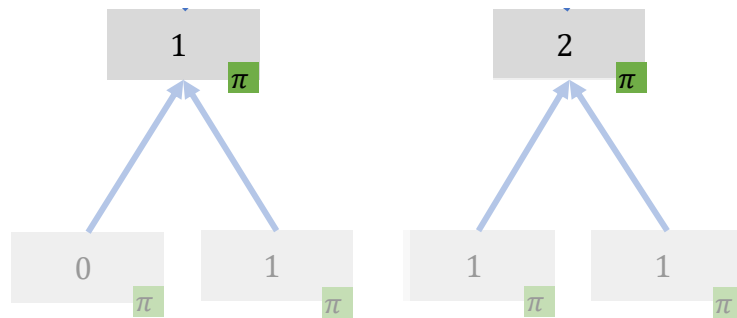


# Proof Merge [Valiant'06]

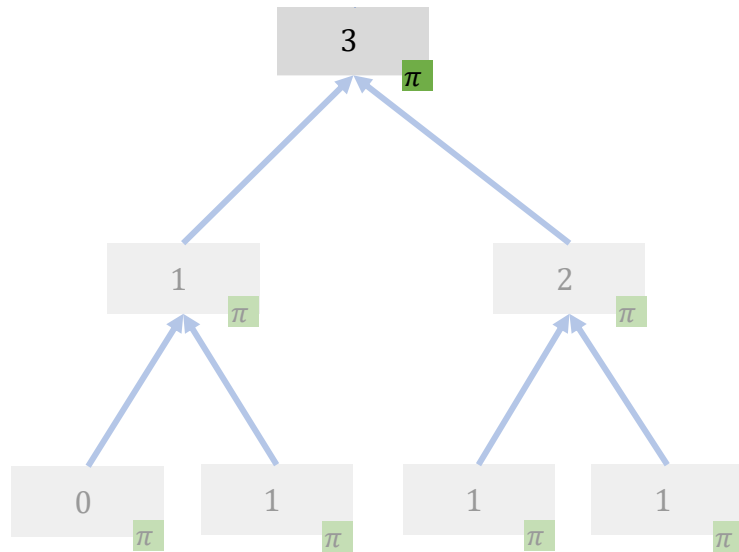
Merge proofs into a  
single proof in  $\text{poly}(n)$   
time



# Proof Merge [Valiant'06]

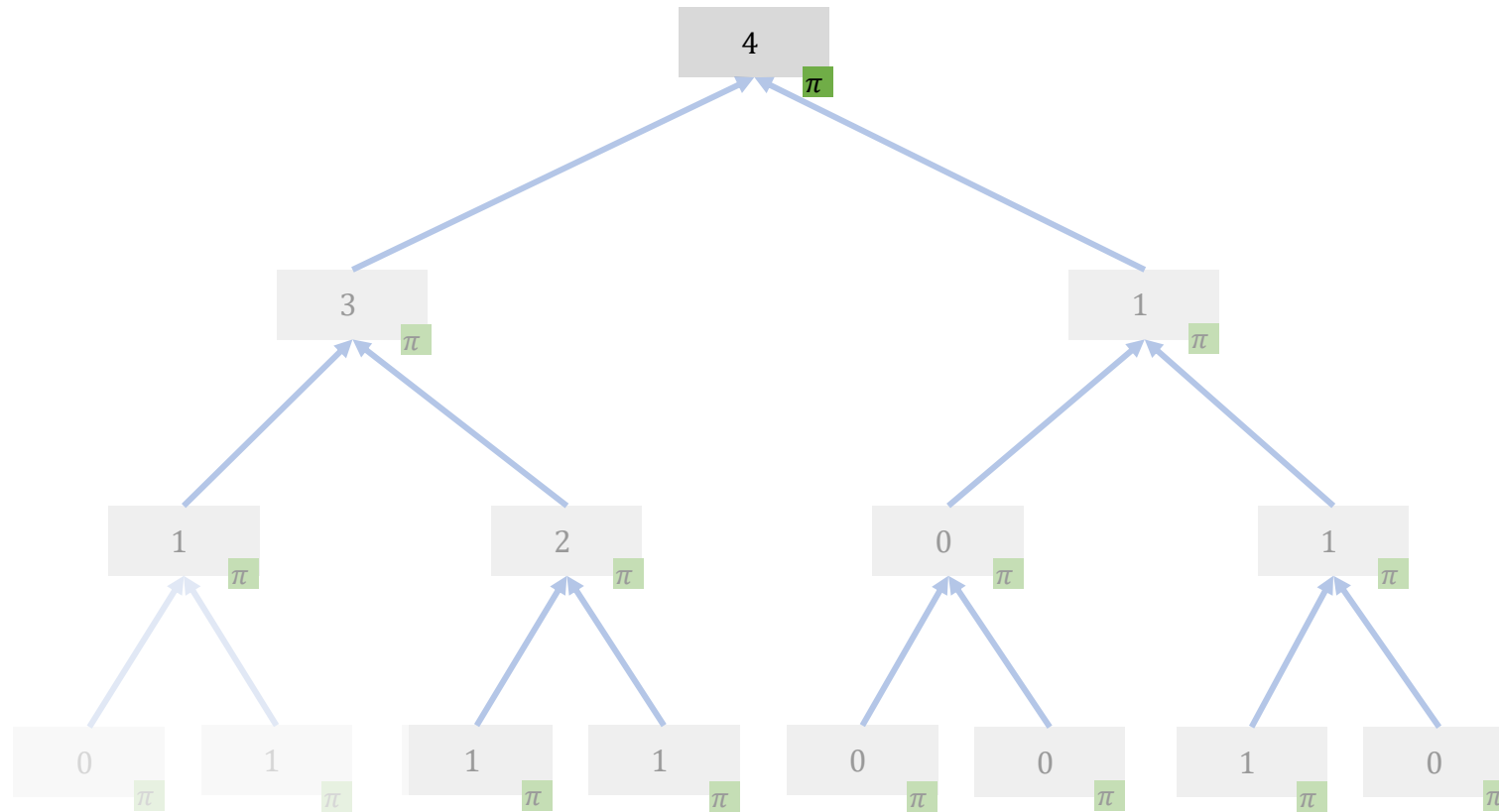


# Proof Merge [Valiant'06]



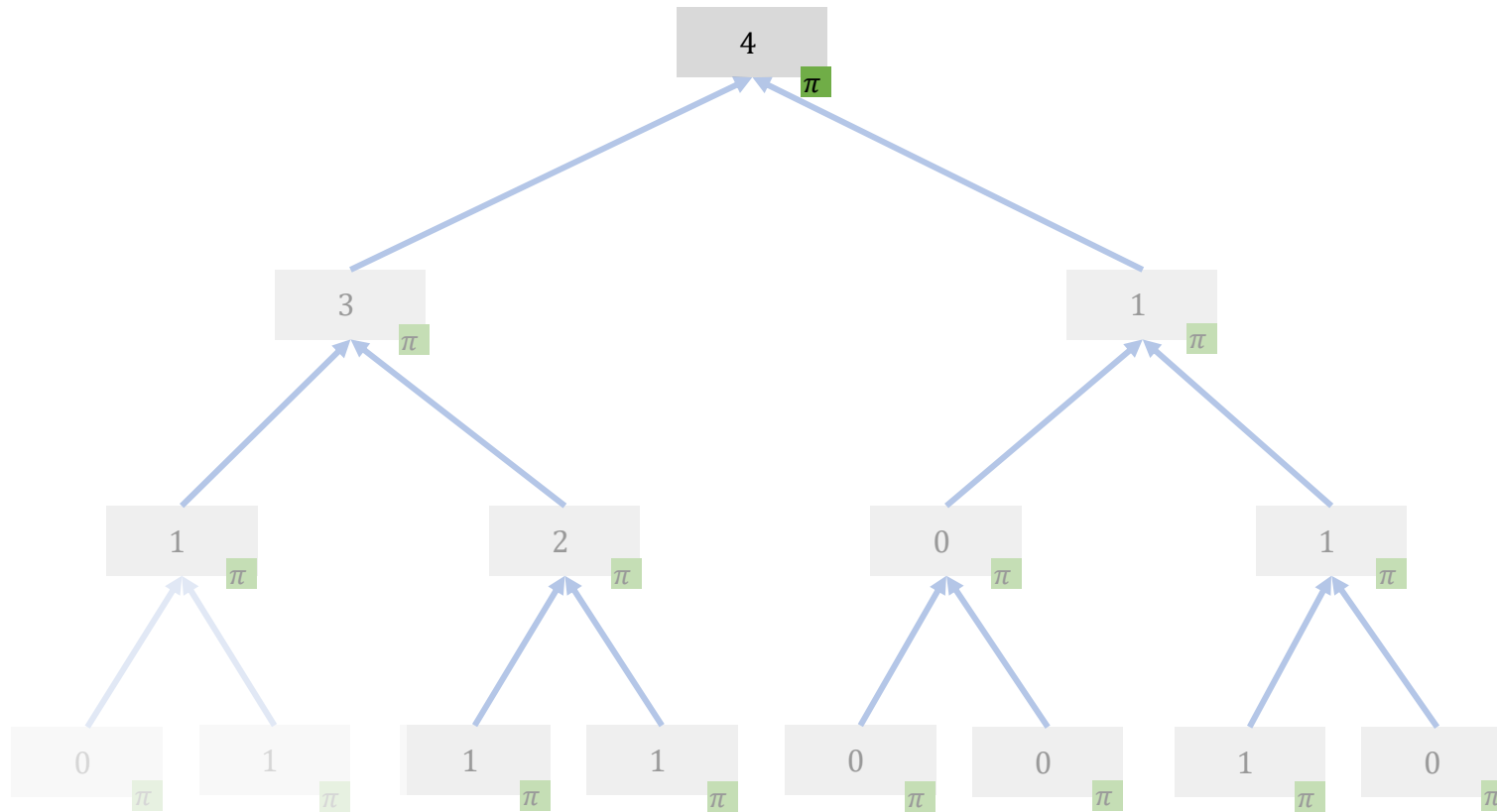


# Proof Merge [Valiant'06]



For  $T = 2^n$ , number of proofs is  $O(1)$ !

# Proof Merge [Valiant'06]

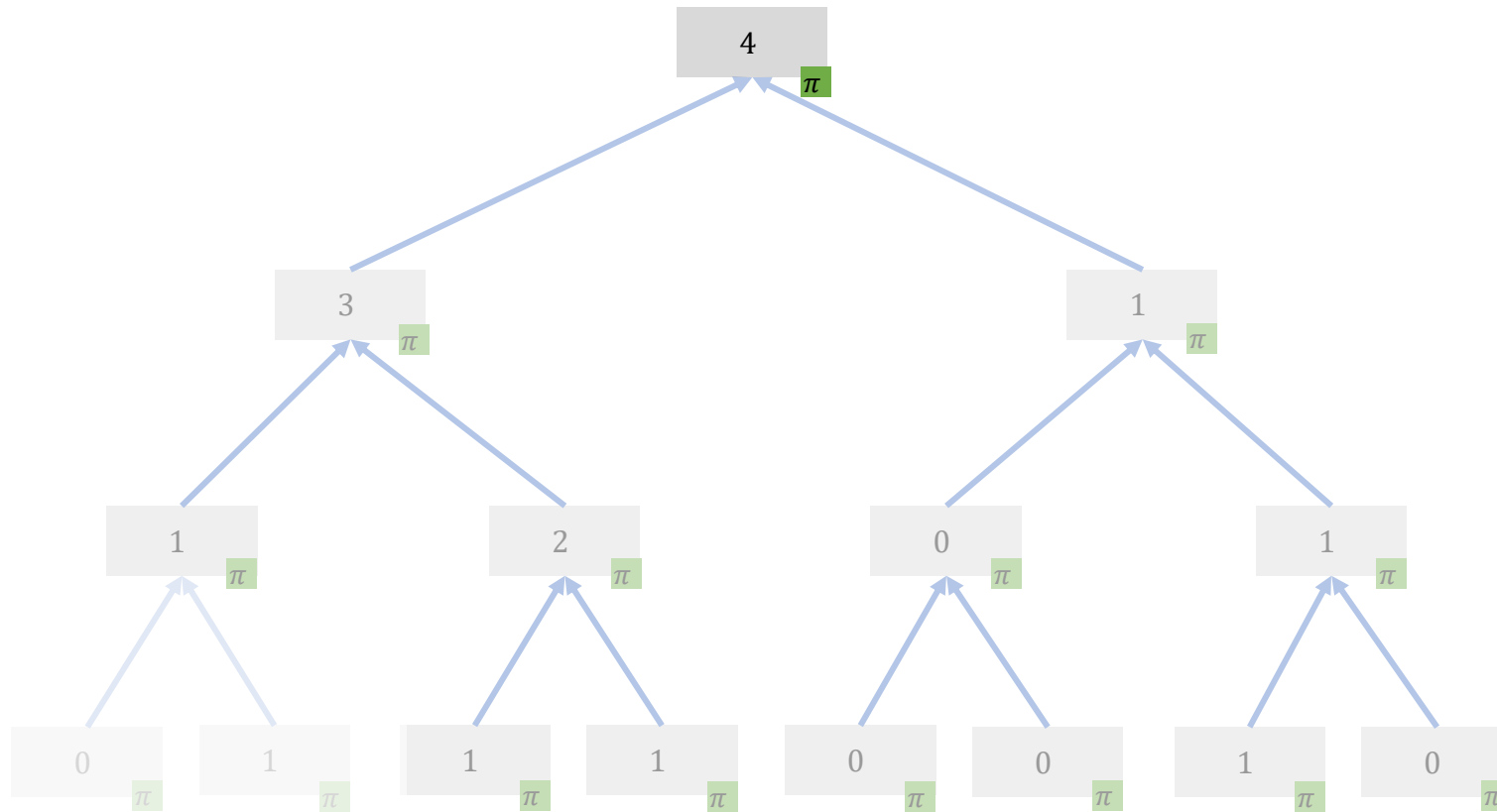


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Non-standard assumptions.



# Proof Merge [Valiant'06]



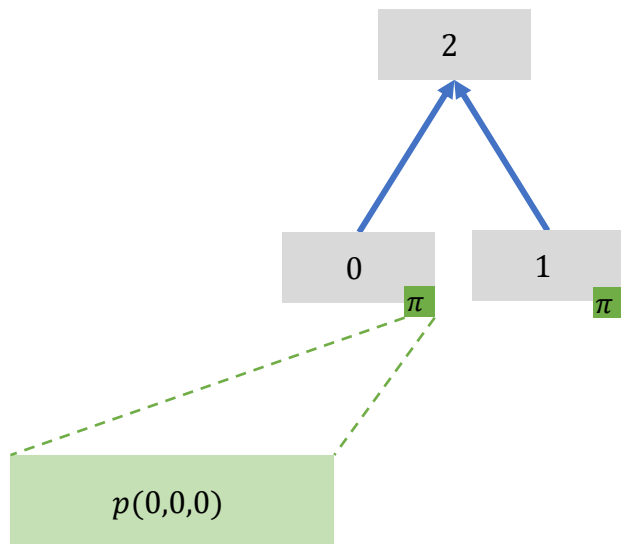
For  $T = 2^n$ , number of proofs is  $O(1)$ !

Non-standard assumptions.

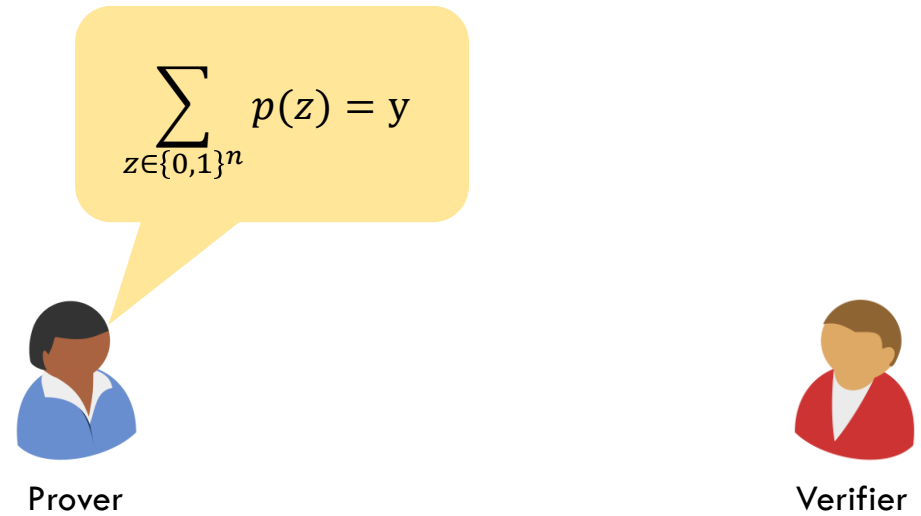
Proofs not computationally unique.

# Incremental Merge

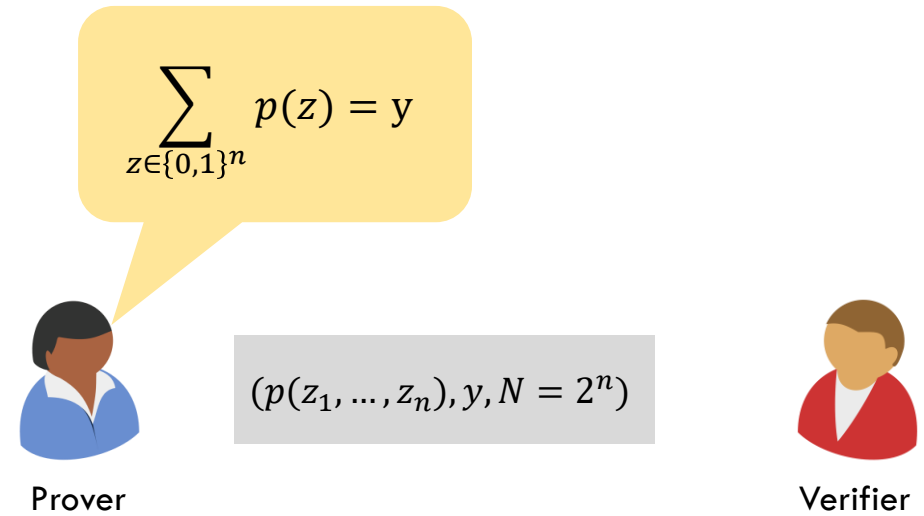
[C-Hubáček-Kamth-Pietrzak-Rosen-Rothblum'19]



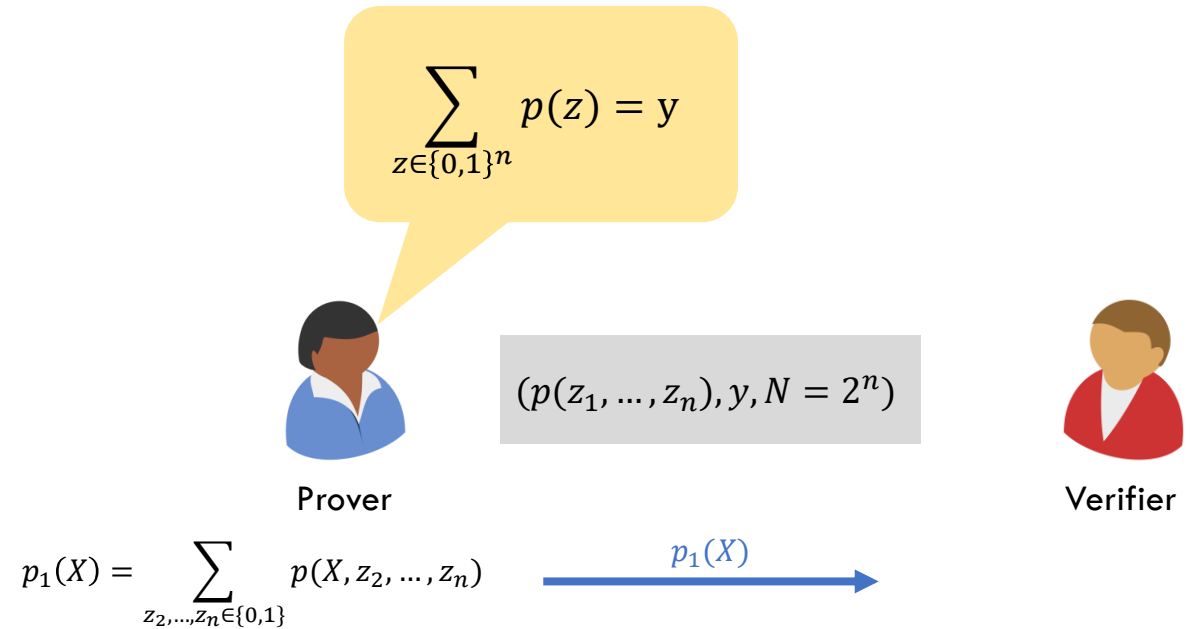
# Sumcheck [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'06]



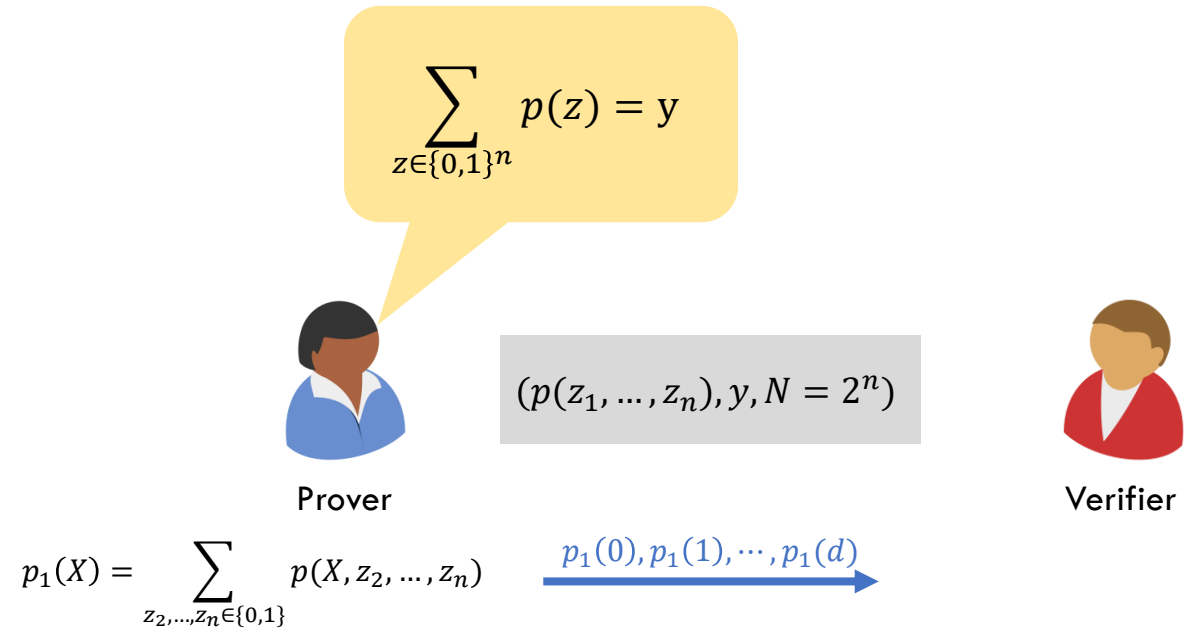
# Sumcheck [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'06]



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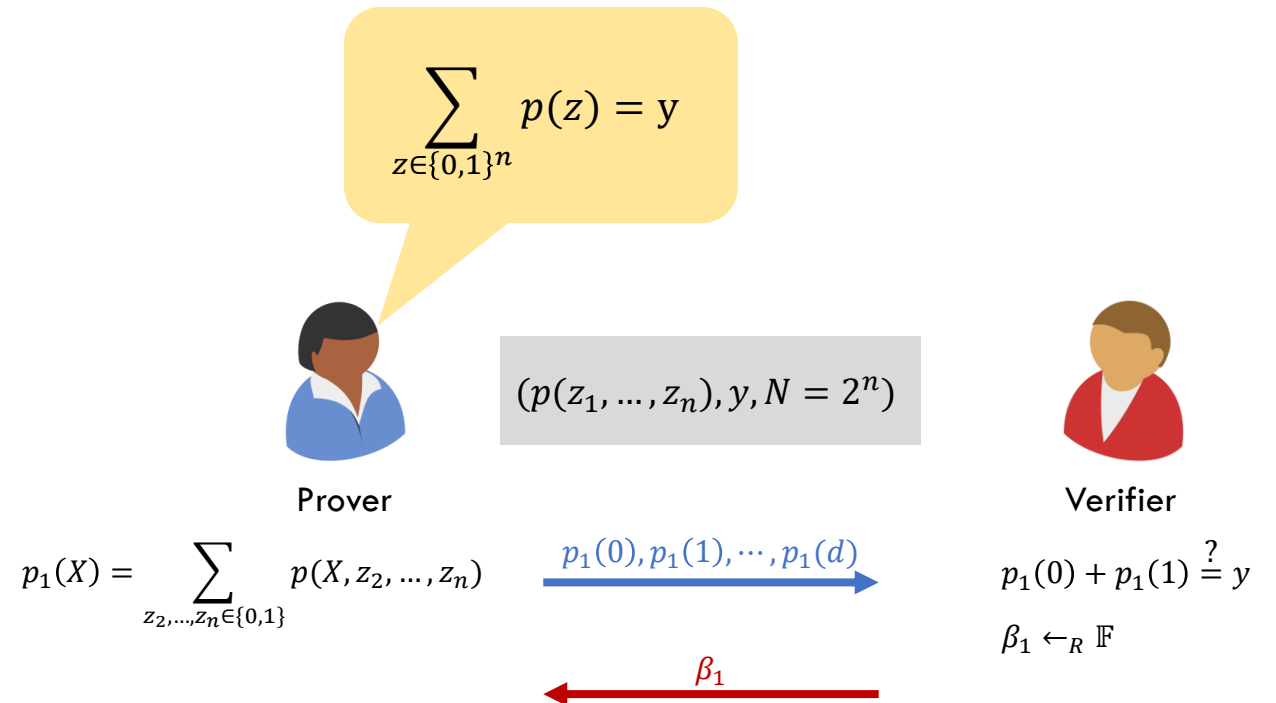


# Sumcheck [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'06]

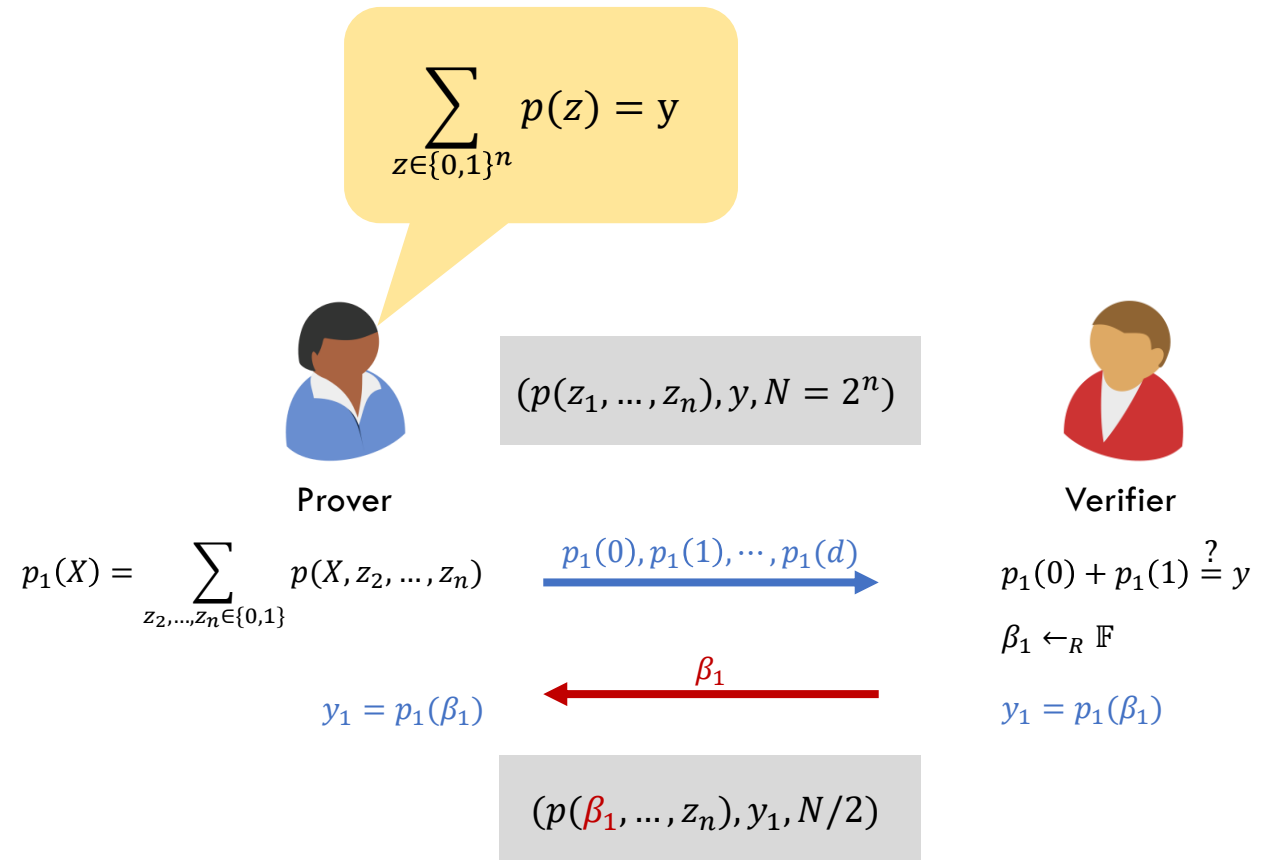




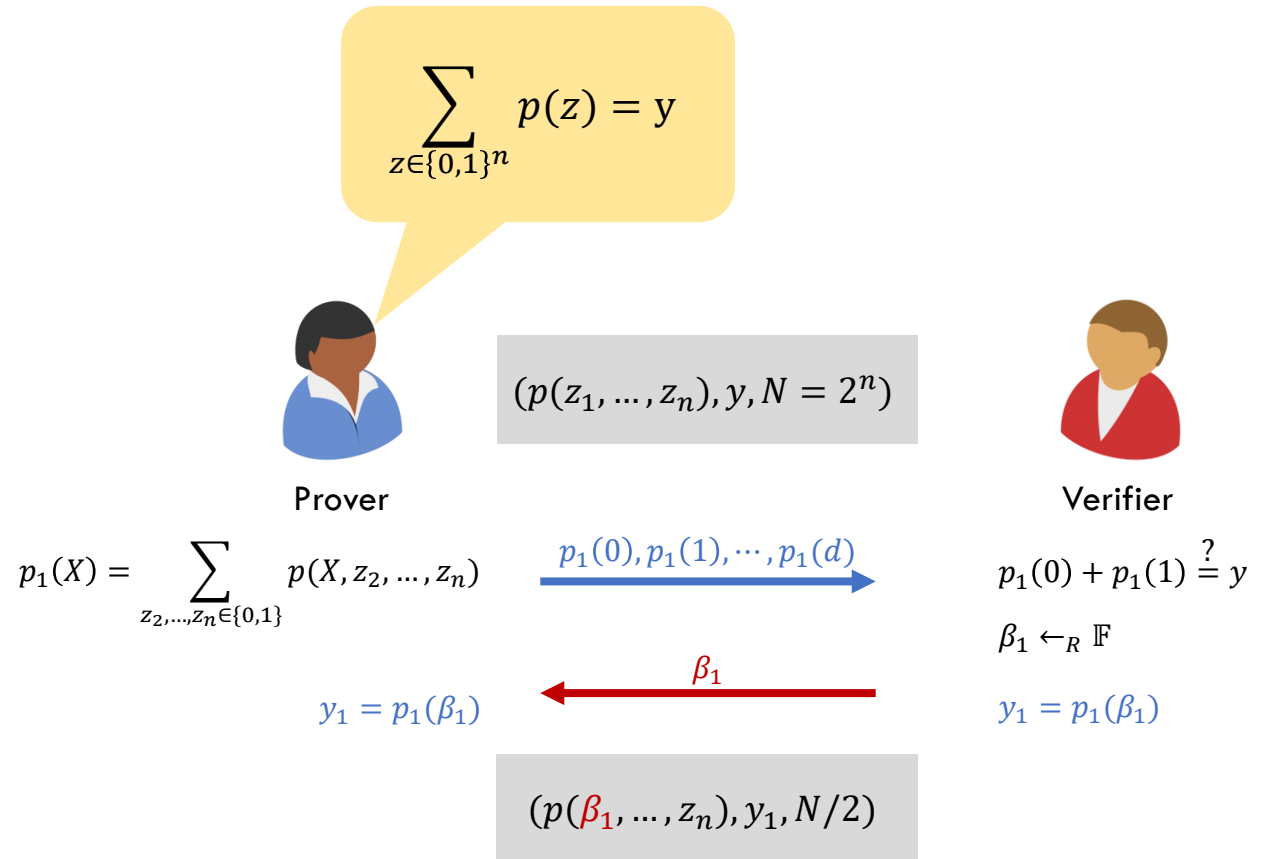
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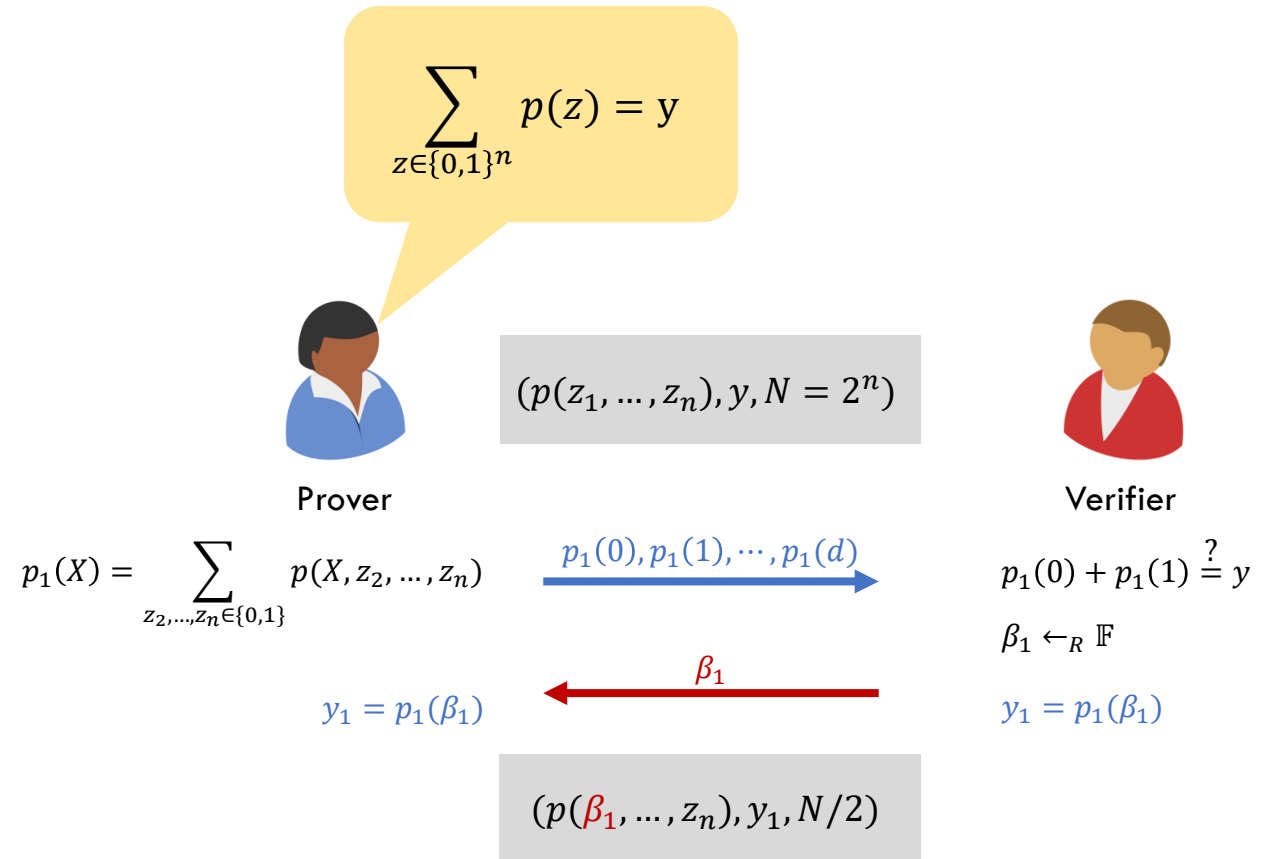


Sound and Unique

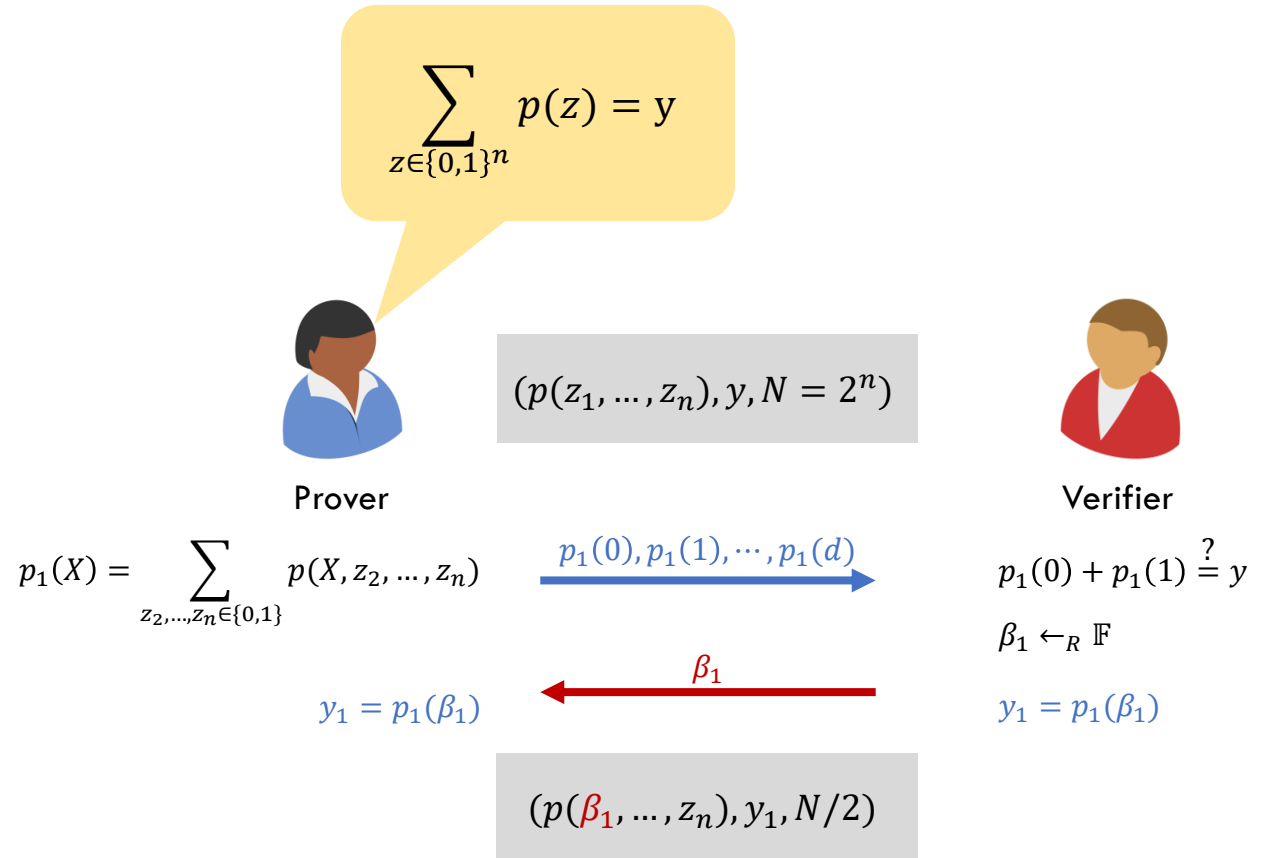
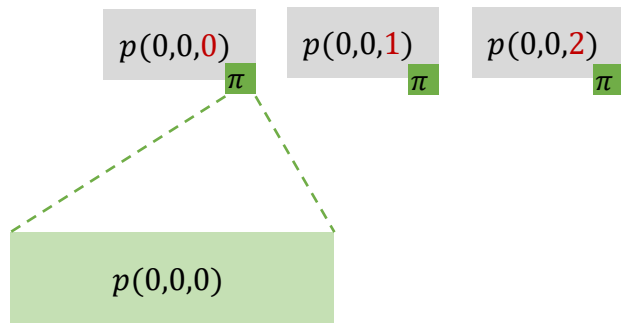
# Sumcheck [Lund-Fortnow-Karloff-Nisan'06]

## Outline-and-Batch [Bitansky-C-Holmgren-Kamath-Lombardi-Paneth-Rothblum'22]

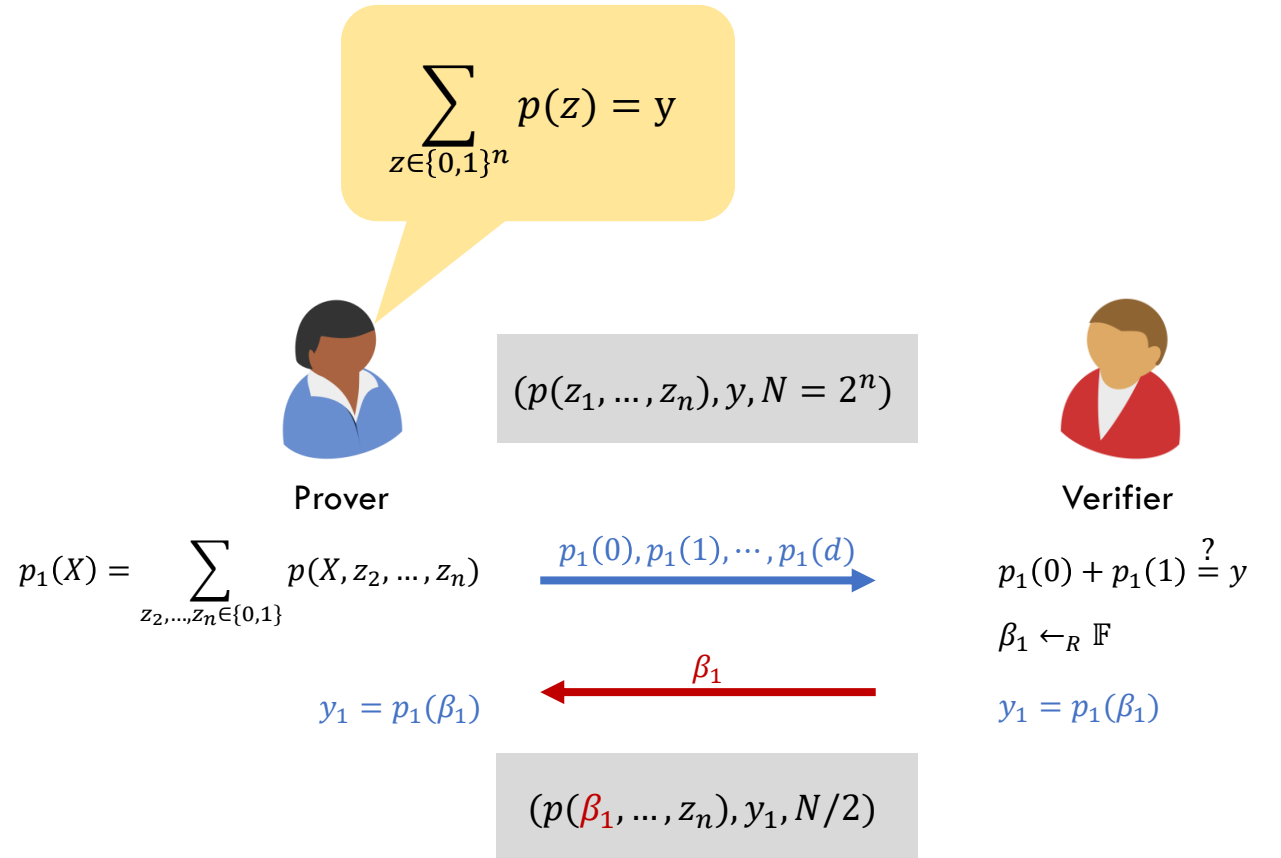
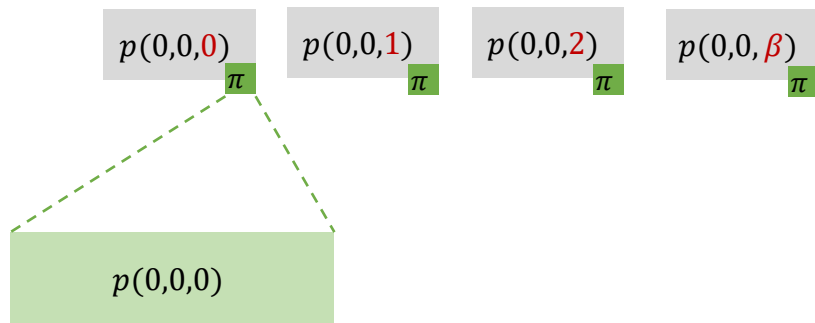
1. Downward self reduction to  $d + 1$  statements of size  $N/2$ .
2. Batch  $d + 1$  statements into a single randomized statement of size  $N/2$  using verifier randomness  $\beta$ .



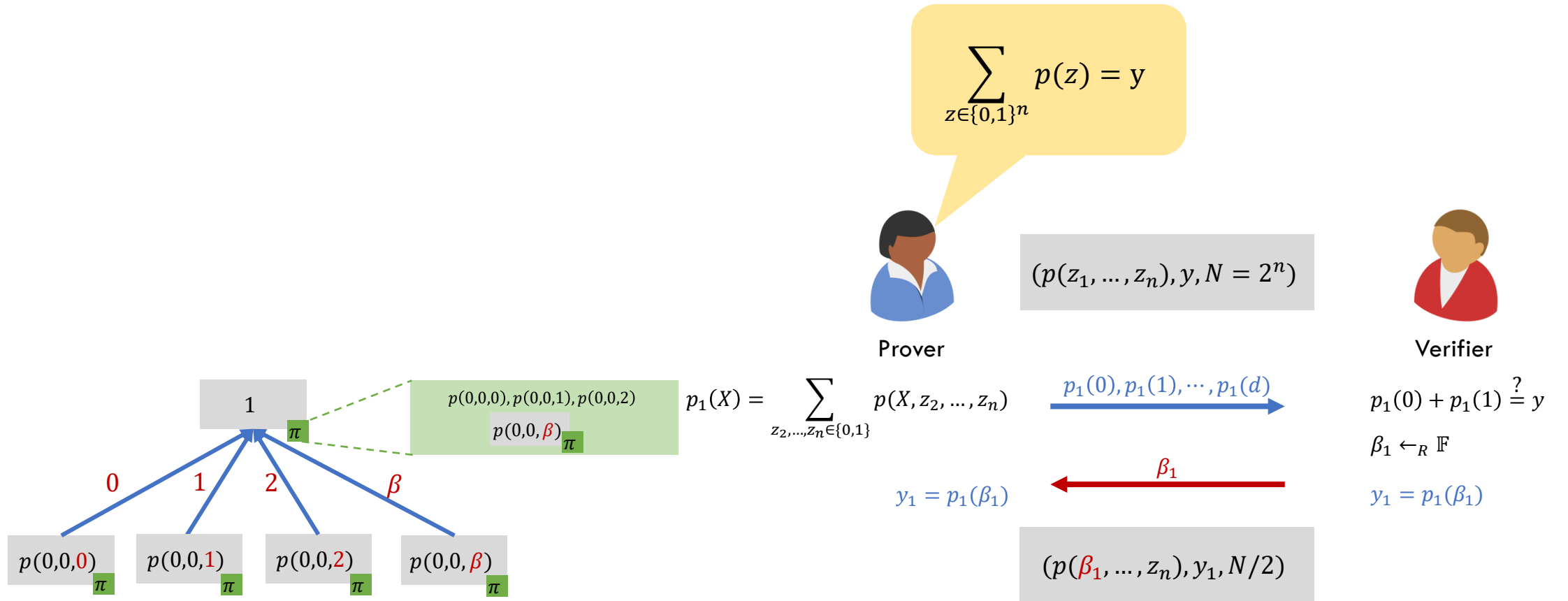
# Incremental Merge



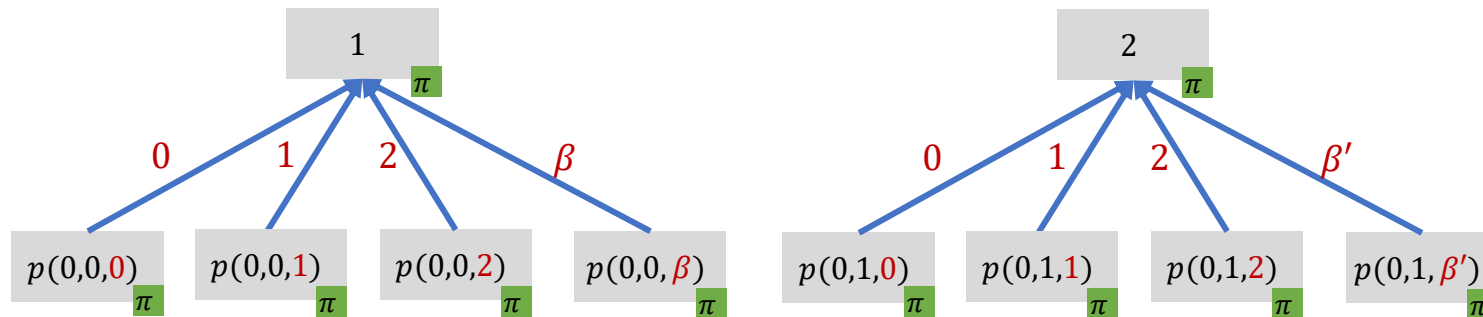
# Incremental Merge



# Incremental Merge

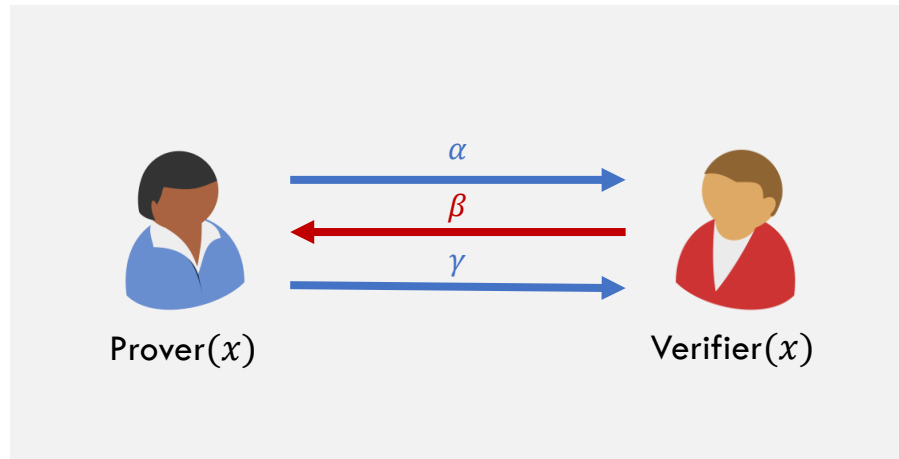


# Incremental Merge



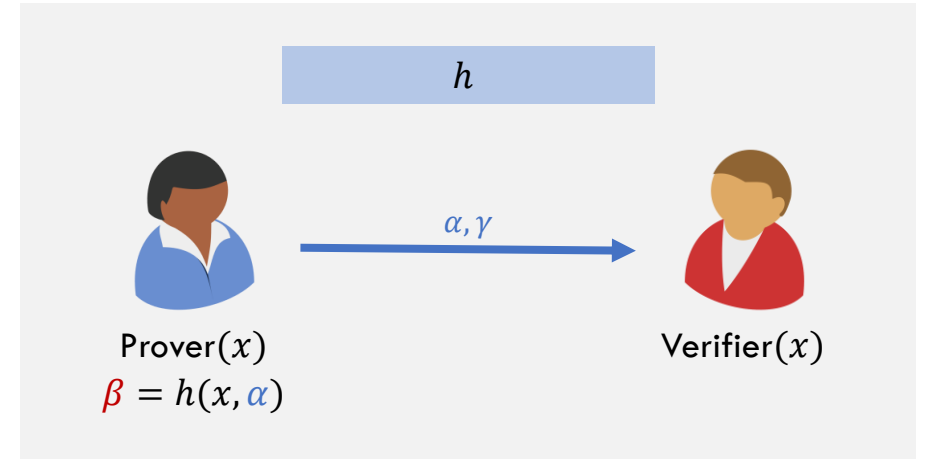


# Fiat-Shamir (FS) Methodology



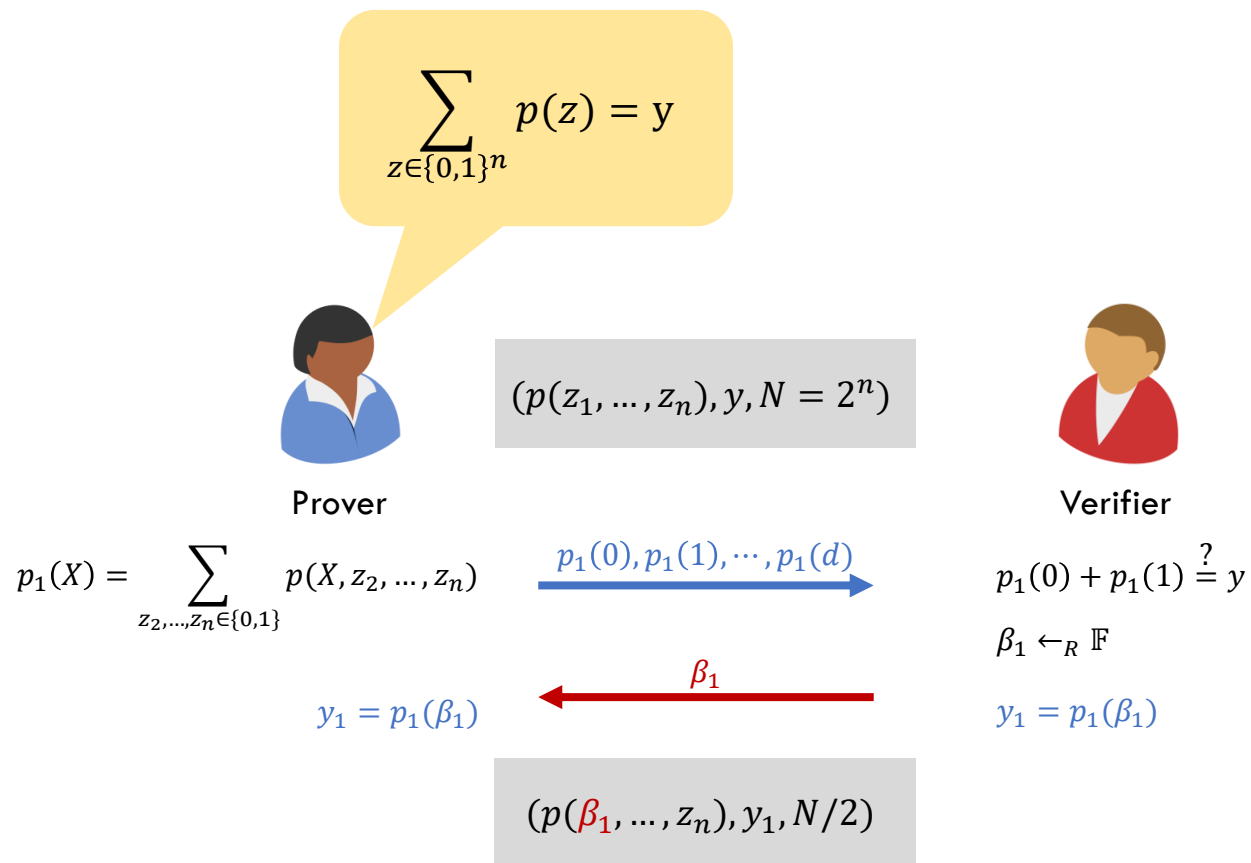
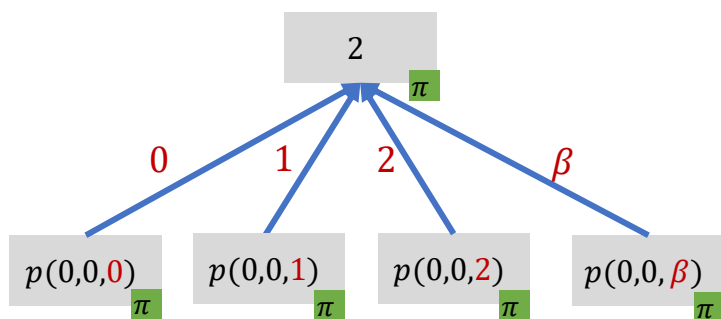
$\beta$  is a random string

[Fiat-Shamir'86]

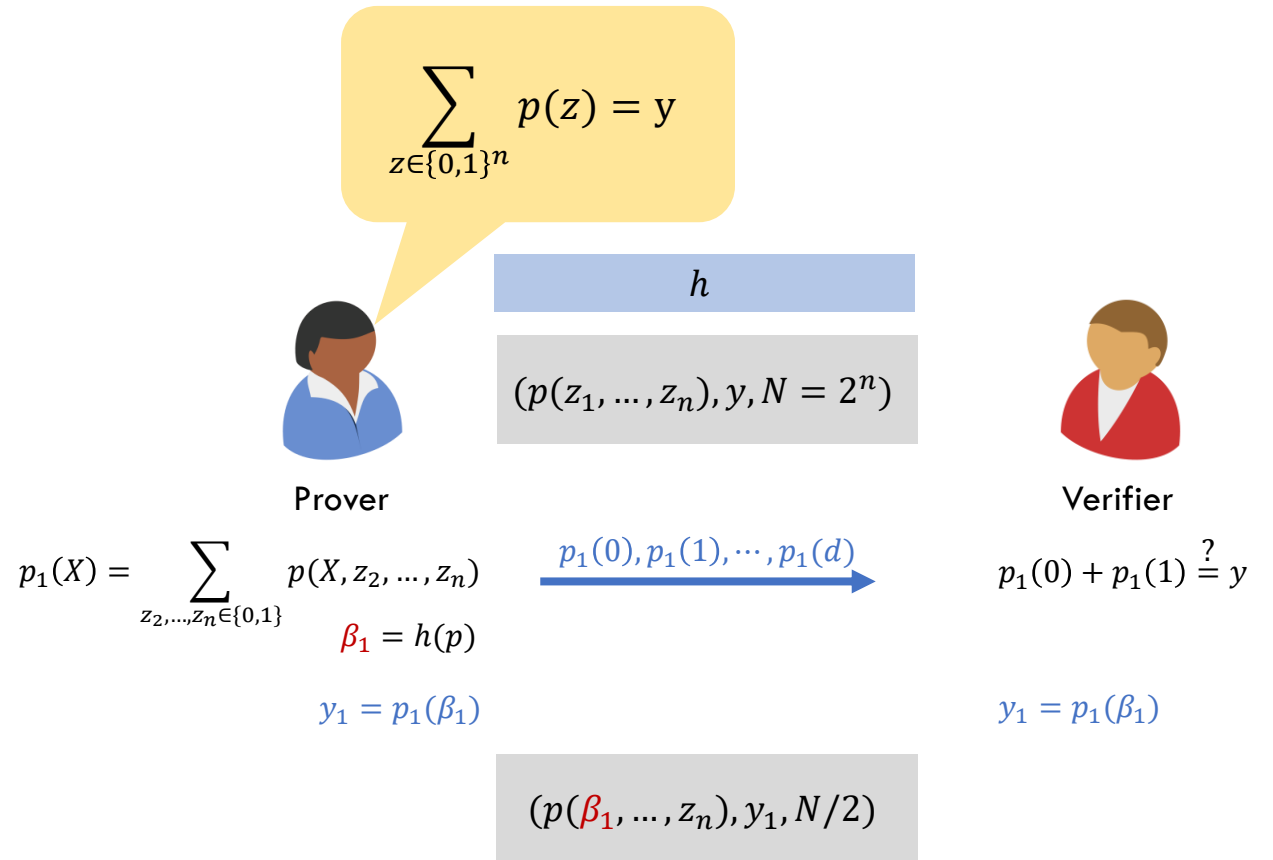
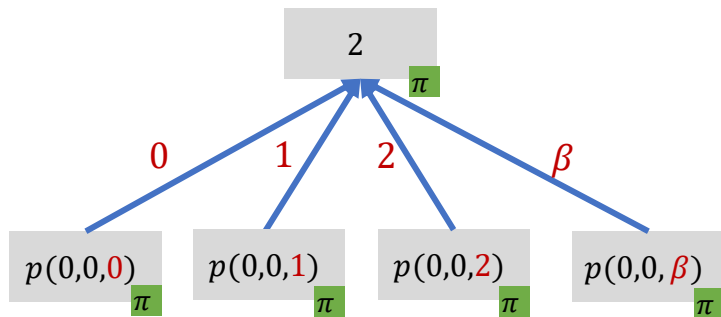


Assumption: There exists a hash function such that the transformation is sound.

# Incremental Merge

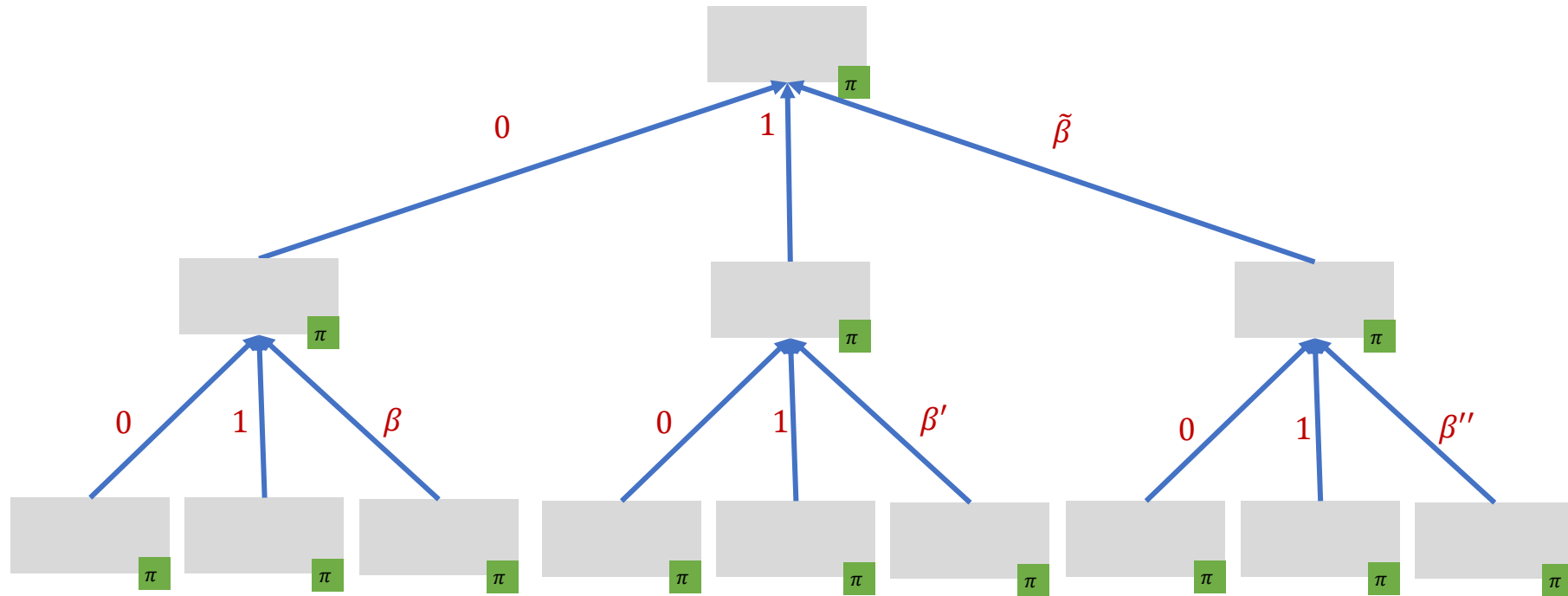


# Incremental Merge



By Fiat-Shamir, the randomized reduction to smaller instance is non-interactive.

# rSVL Labels



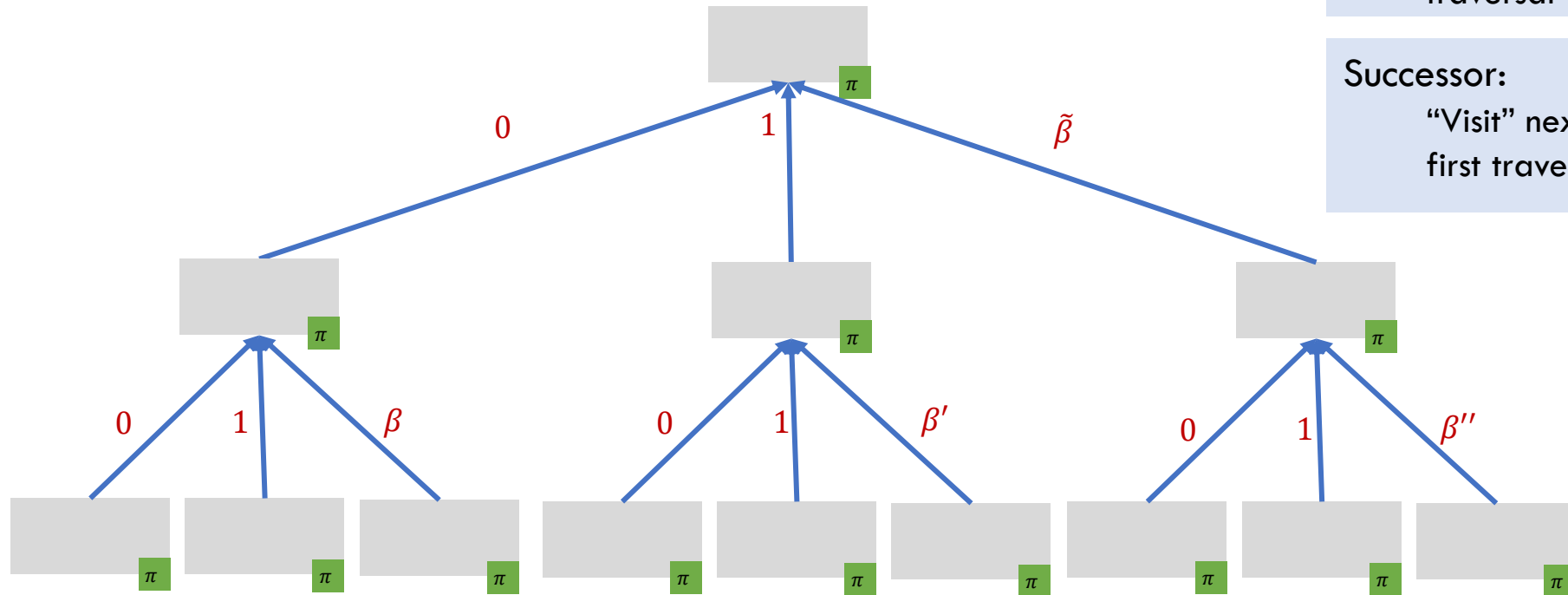
# rSVL Labels

rSVL Labels:

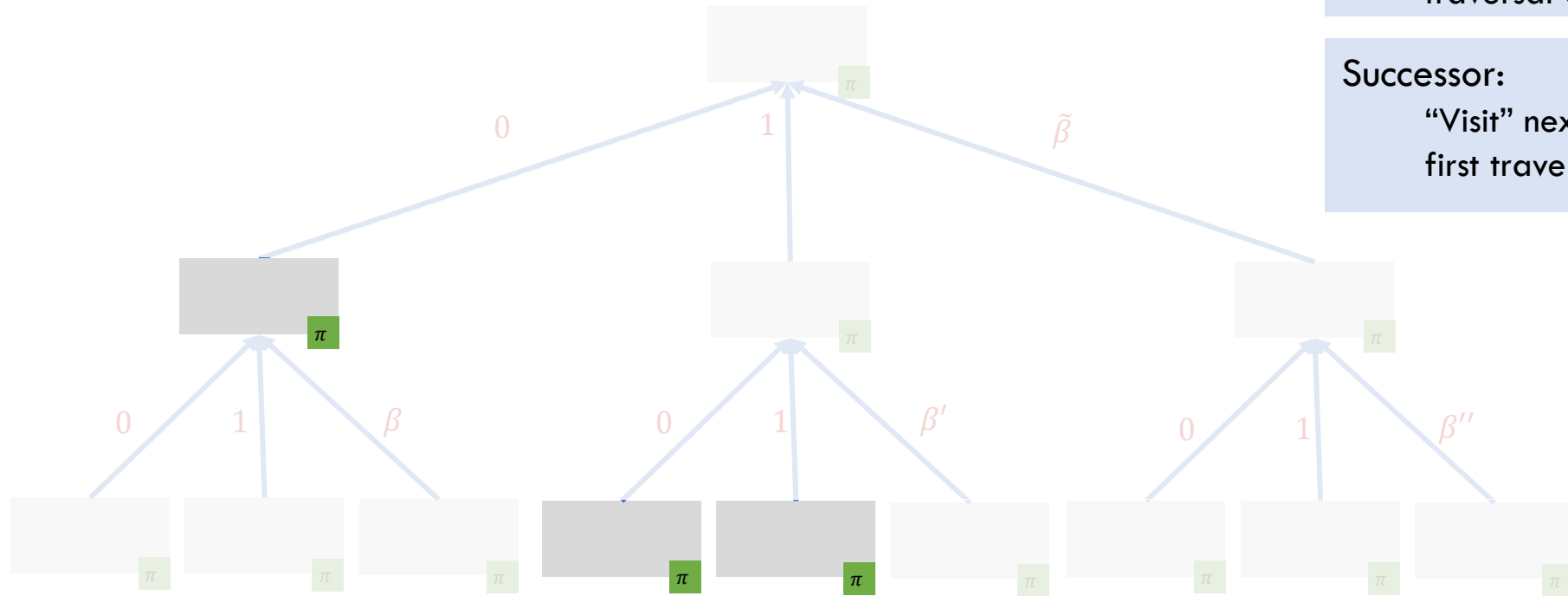
Nodes + Proofs on the boundary of a depth first traversal of tree.

Successor:

“Visit” next node on the depth first traversal.



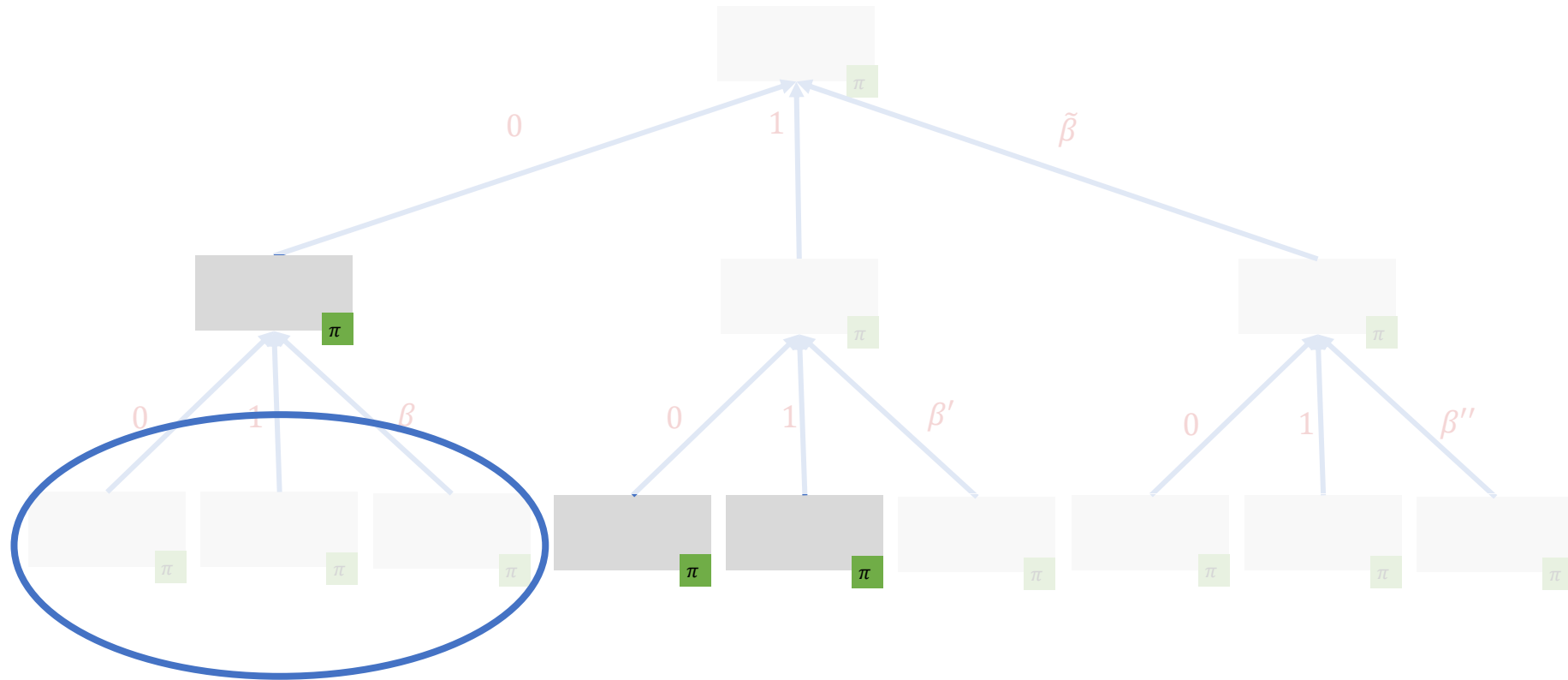
# rSVL Labels



rSVL Labels:  
Nodes + Proofs on the  
boundary of a depth first  
traversal of tree.

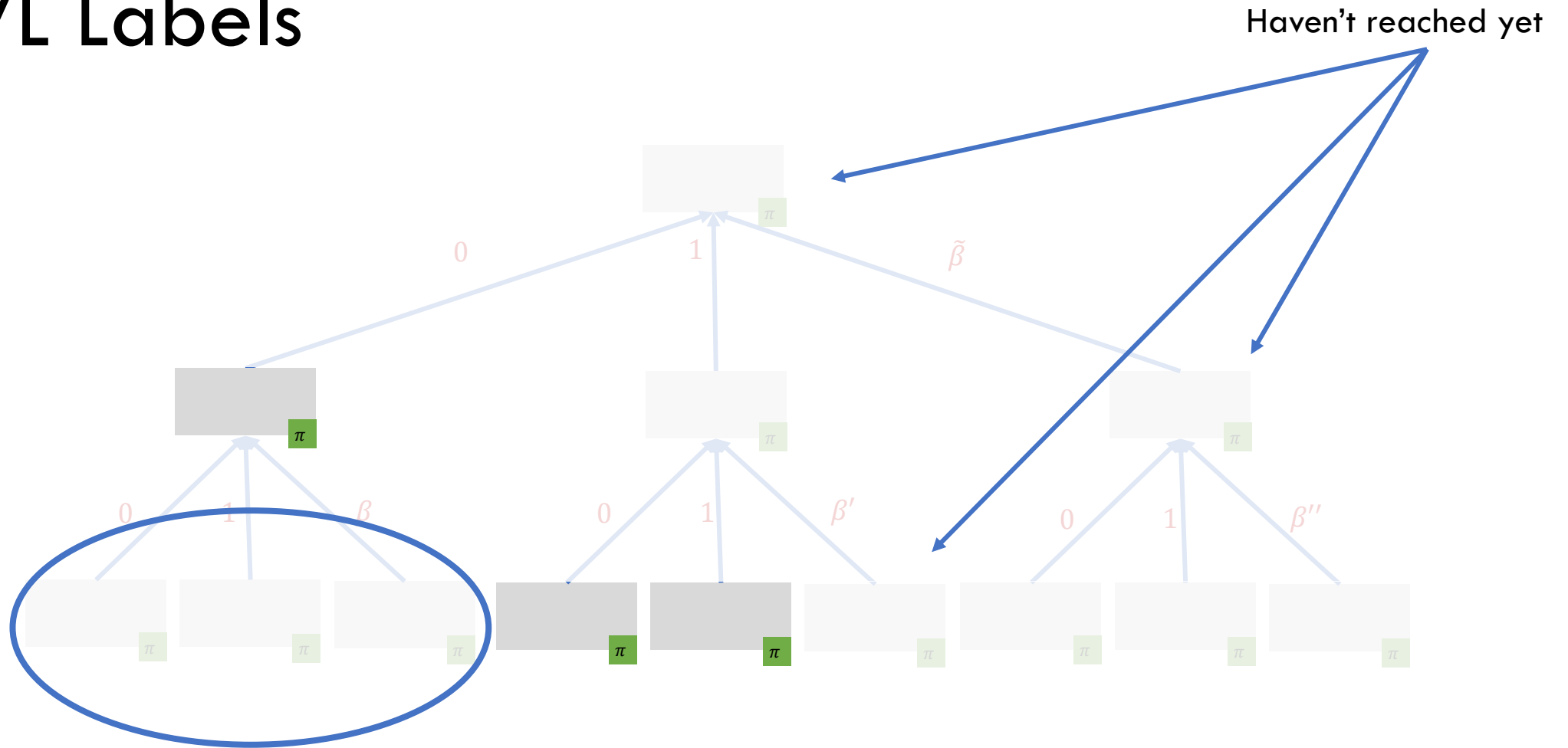
Successor:  
“Visit” next node on the depth  
first traversal.

# rSVL Labels



Merged and discarded

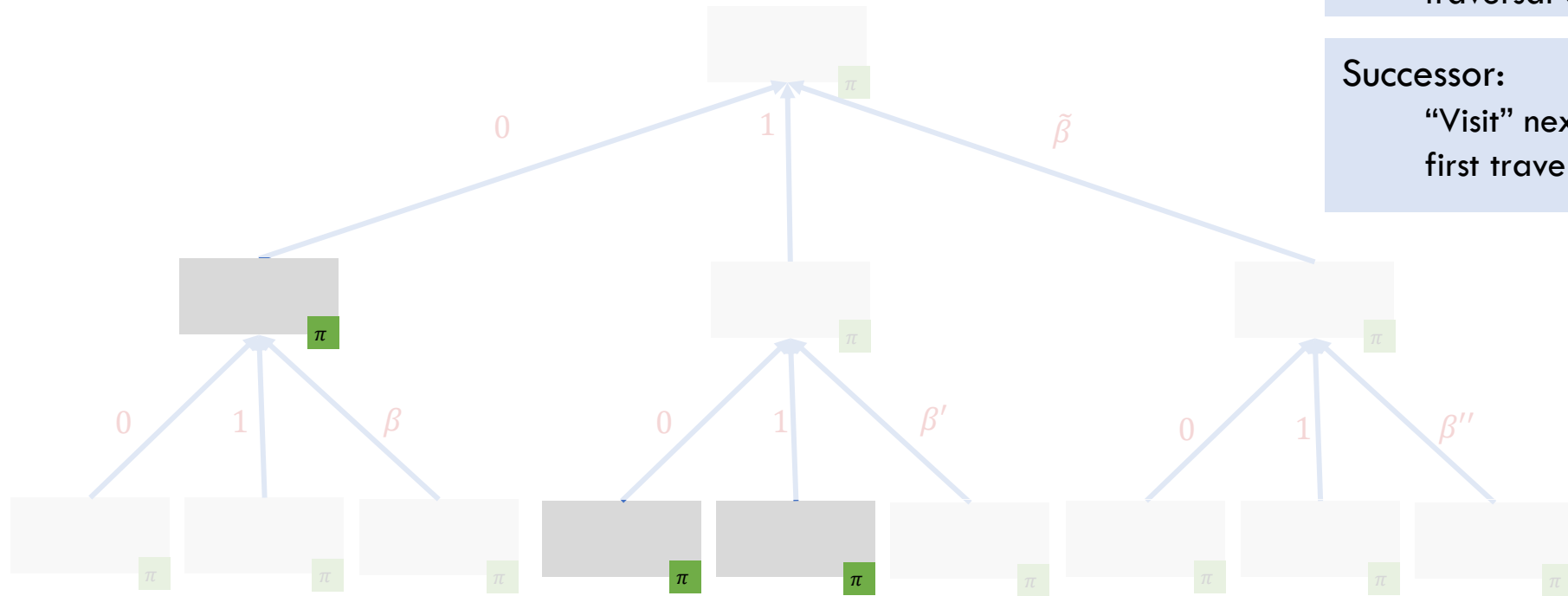
# rSVL Labels



Merged and discarded



# rSVL Labels



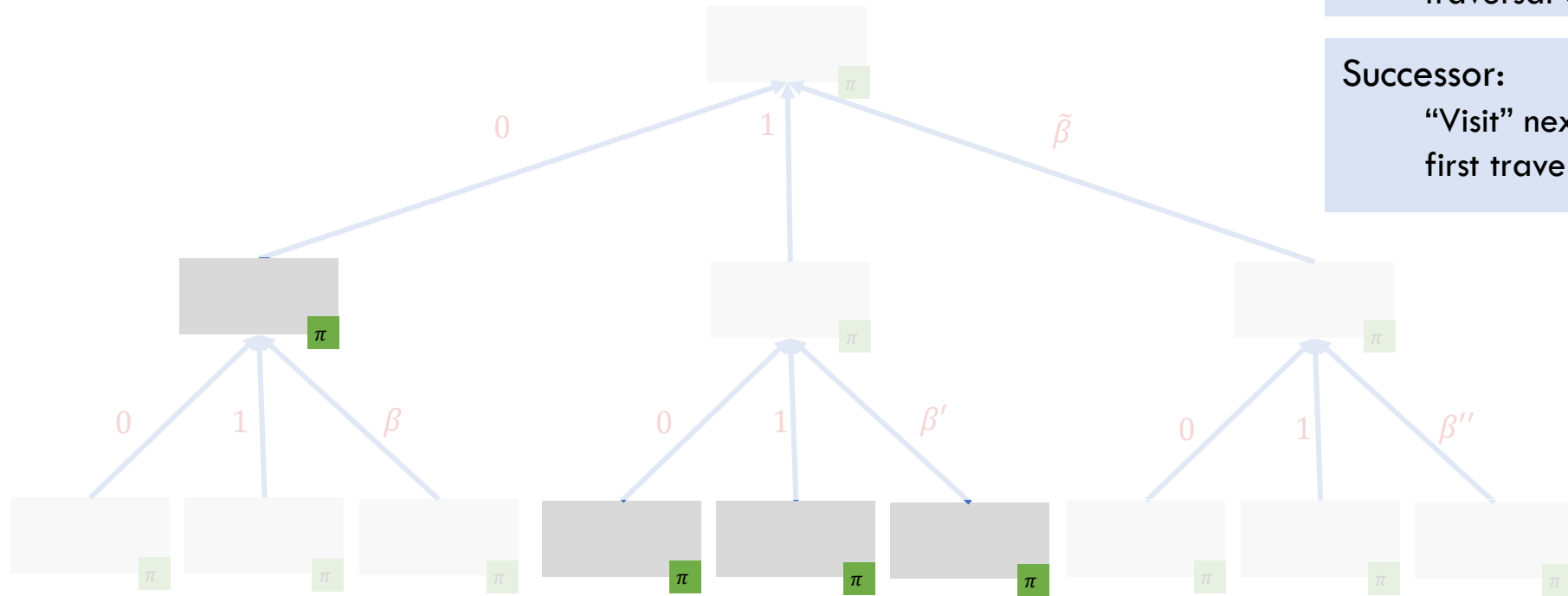
rSVL Labels:

Nodes + Proofs on the boundary of a depth first traversal of tree.

Successor:

“Visit” next node on the depth first traversal.

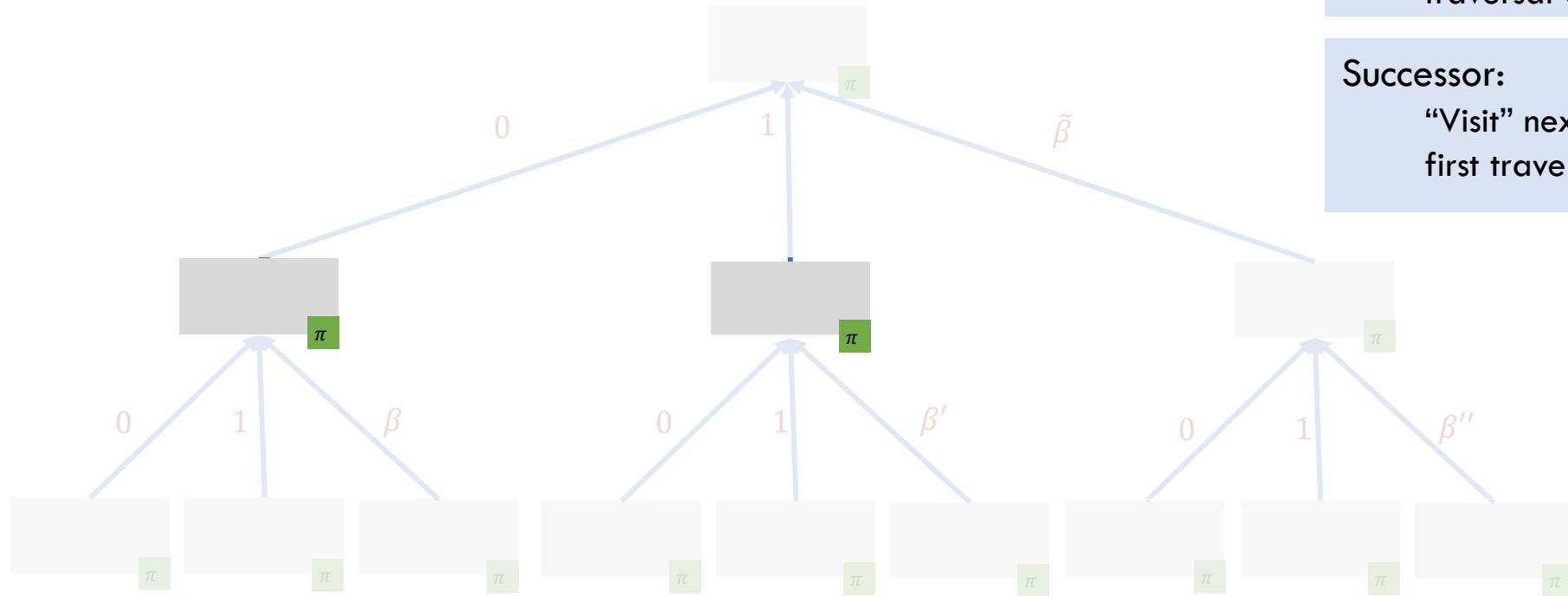
# rSVL Labels



rSVL Labels:  
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boundary of a depth first  
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# rSVL Labels



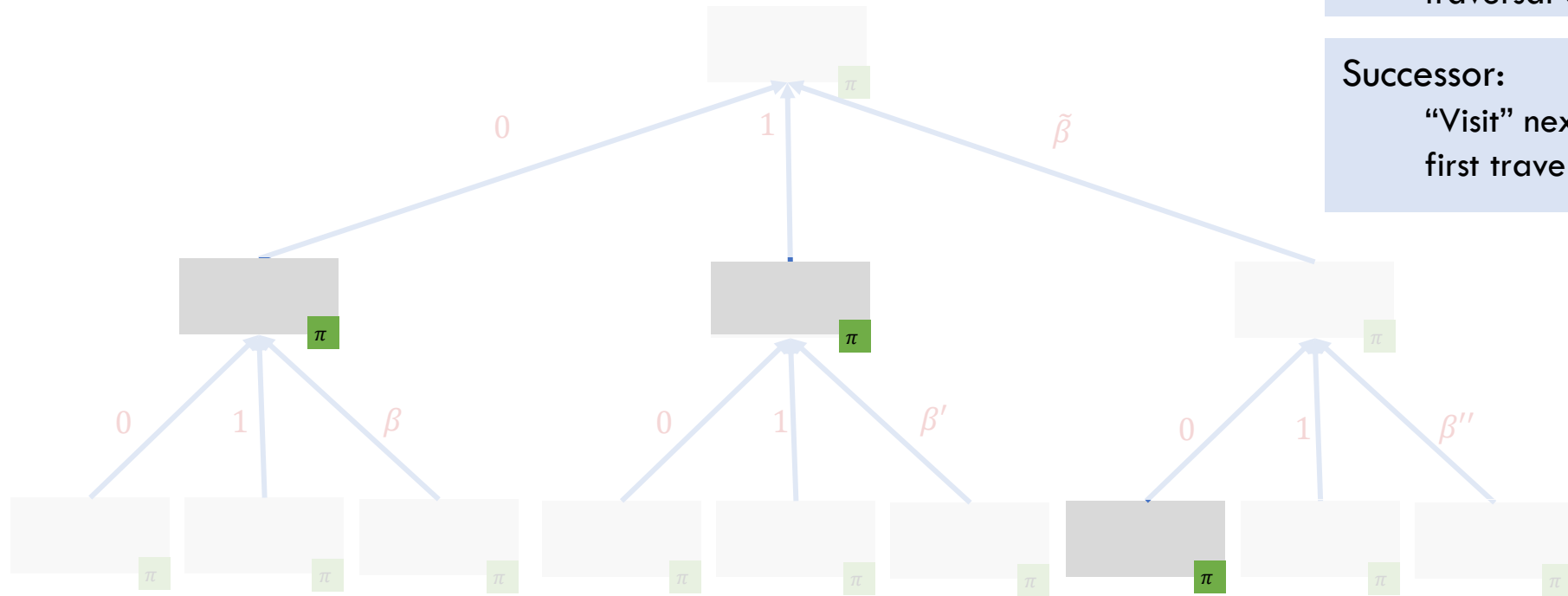
rSVL Labels:

Nodes + Proofs on the boundary of a depth first traversal of tree.

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# rSVL Labels



rSVL Labels:

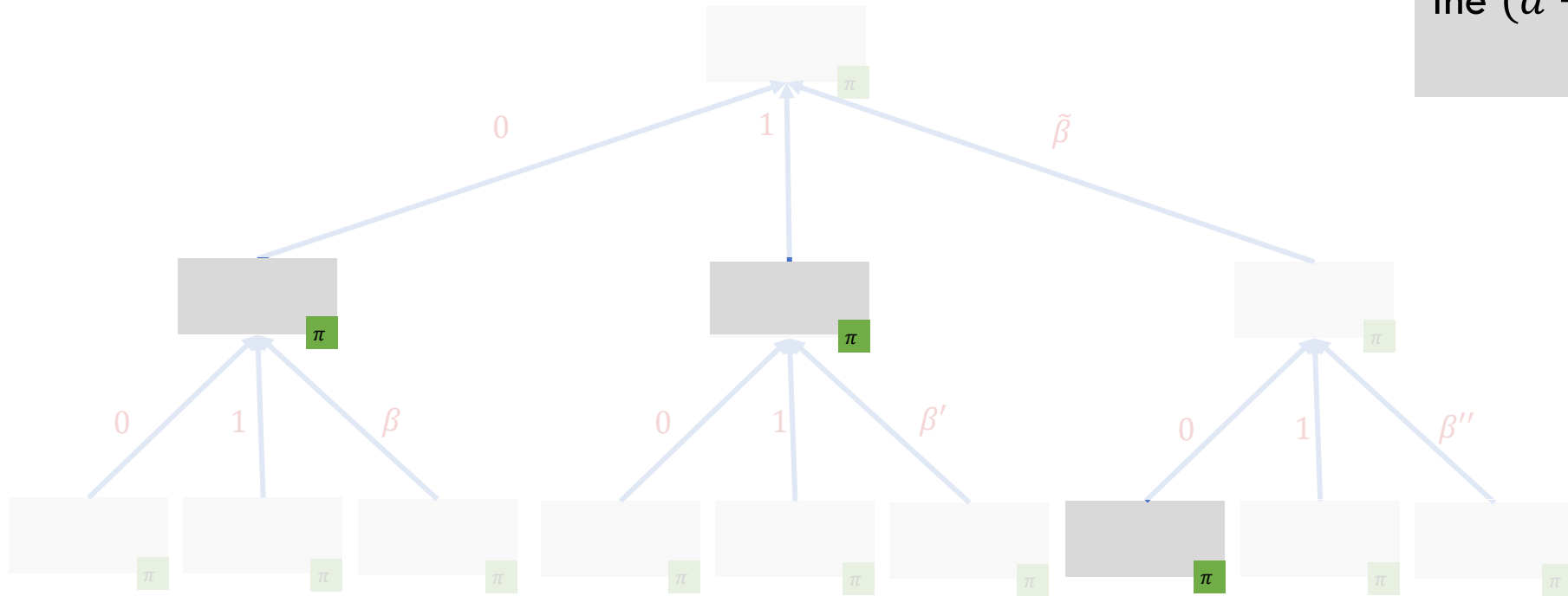
Nodes + Proofs on the boundary of a depth first traversal of tree.

Successor:

“Visit” next node on the depth first traversal.

# rSVL Labels

Depth first traversal of the  $(d + 1)$ -ary tree



Verifying  $i$ -th state:

1. Determine which nodes are **active** in  $i$ -th step of depth first traversal.
2. Verify proofs in each **active** node.

# Putting it together

Compute  $\sum_{z \in \{0,1\}^n} p(z)$  in a continuous verifiable manner

Compute root of  $(d + 1)$ -ary tree

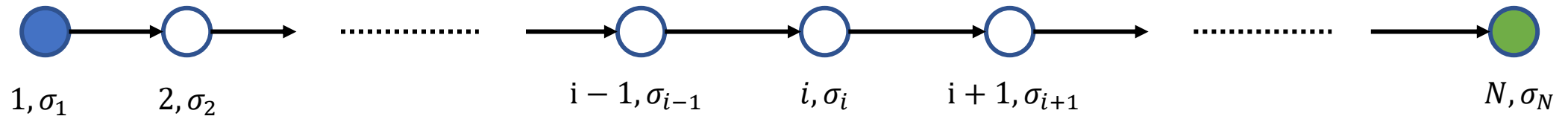
# steps

$$P(N) = (d + 2)P(N/2) + \text{poly}(n)$$

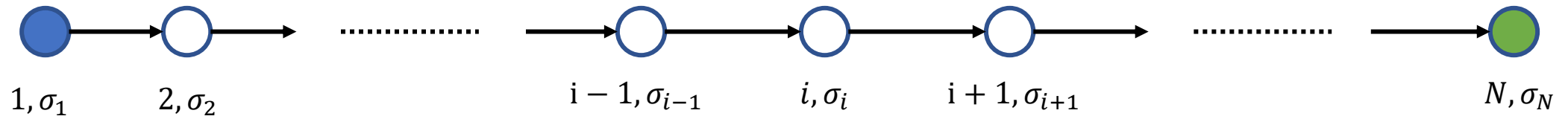
Proof size

$$S(N) = S(N/2) + \text{poly}(n)$$

# Basic Idea: Long Computation + SNARGs



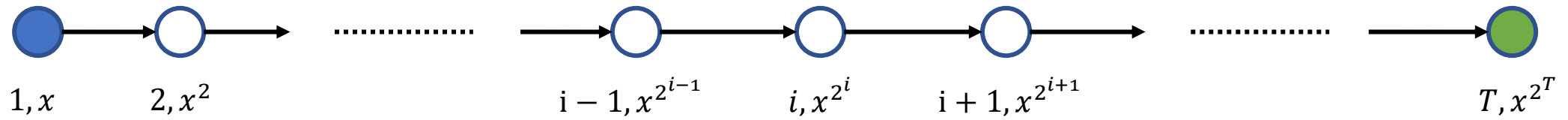
# Basic Idea: Long Computation + SNARGs



Reduce Iterated Squaring to rSVL



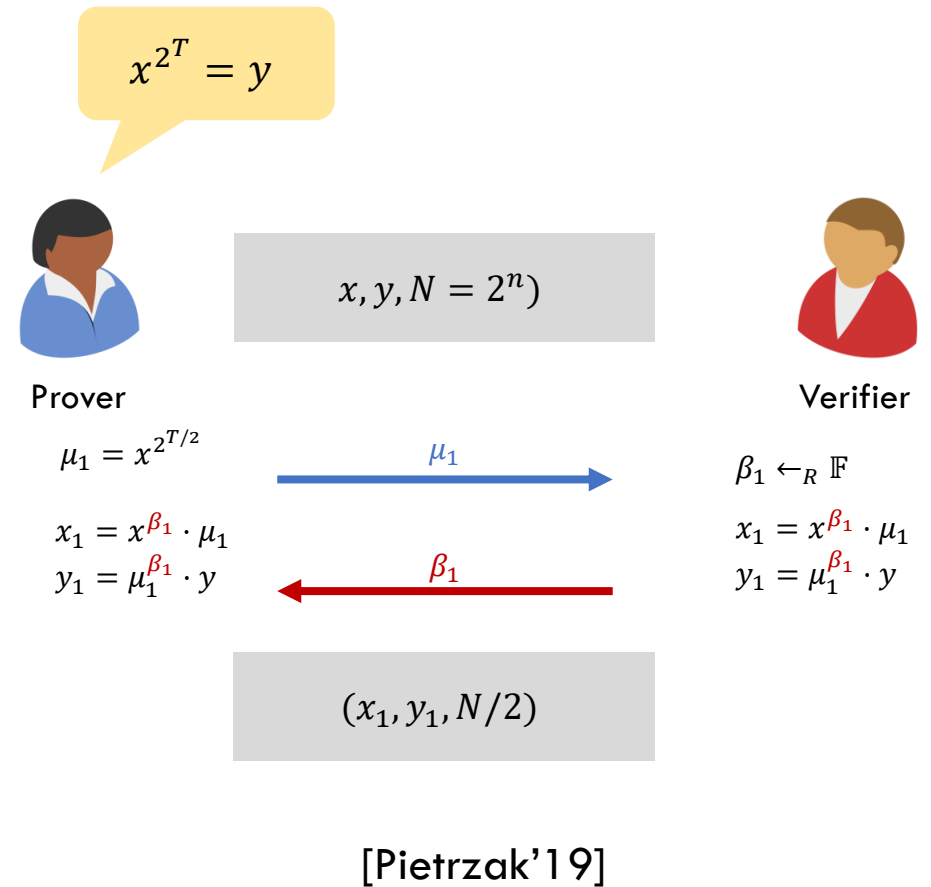
# Basic Idea: Long Computation + SNARGs



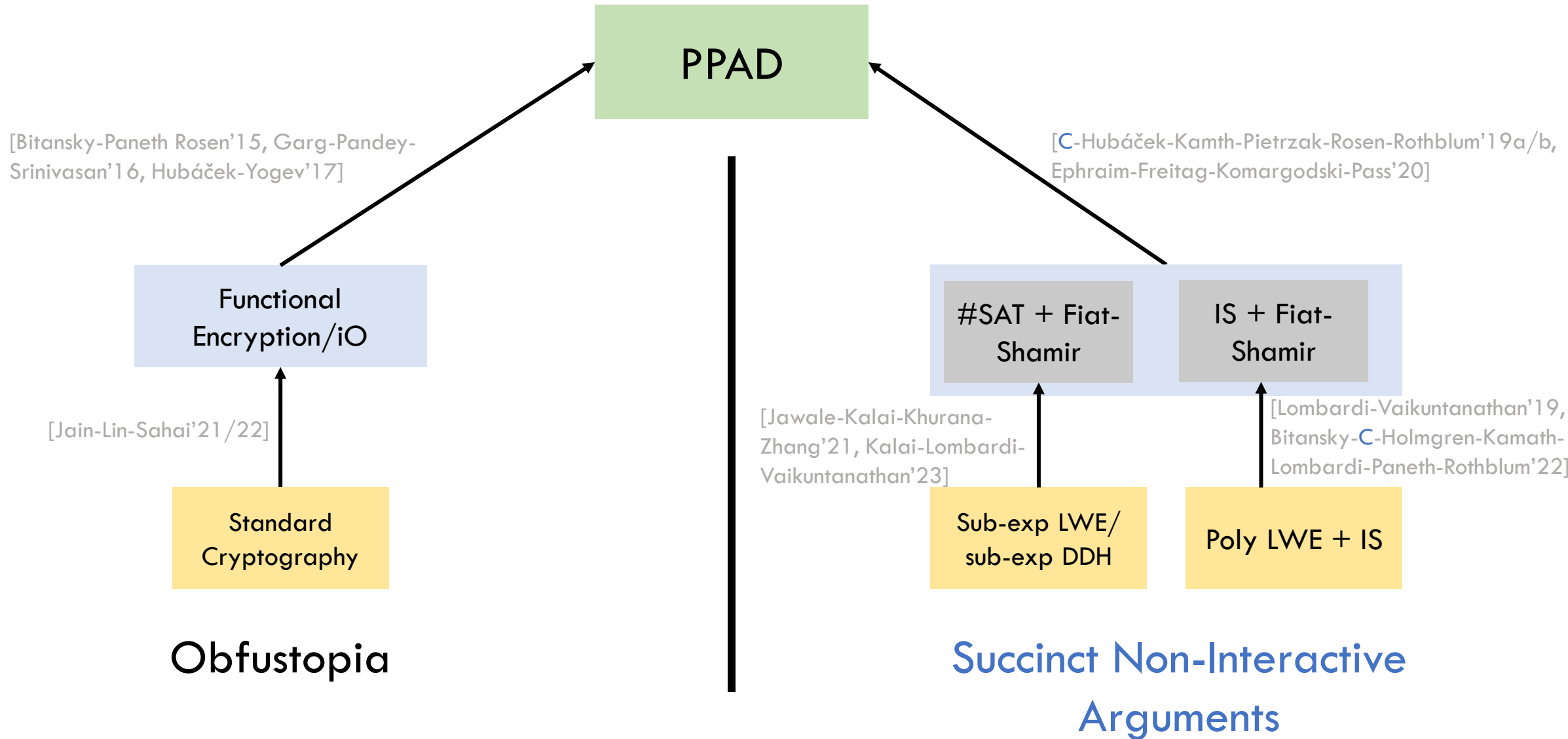
Reduce Iterated Squaring to rSVL

# Outline and Batch for Iterated Squaring

[C-Hubáček-Kamth-Pietrzak-Rosen-Rothblum'19, Ephraim-Freitag-Komargodski-Pass'20]



# PPAD Hardness from Standard Cryptographic Assumptions



# Open Problems

PPAD from poly LWE (proof of quantum hardness).

PPAD hardness without implying CLS hardness.

PPAD from Factoring.

# Thank you. Questions?

Arka Rai Choudhuri

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