



# Quantum Uncloneability

*Anne Broadbent*



With many thanks to:  
Eric Culf, Rabib Islam, Stacey Jeffery, Martti Karvonen, Monica  
Nevins, Sébastien Lord, Supartha Podder, Hadi Salmassian,  
Aarthi Sundaram

EPIT Spring  
School  
May 26  
2021

# Quantum States Can't be Copied



What is  
uncloneability?

Aaronson (2009)  
Quantum Copy-Protection  
and Quantum Money

Aaronson (2016)  
Qcrypt 2016 after-dinner  
speech

Park (1970); Dieks & Wootters-Zurek (1982)

# What is uncloneability?



## What is security?

JOURNAL OF COMPUTER AND SYSTEM SCIENCES 28, 270–299 (1984)

Probabilistic Encryption\*

SHAFI GOLDWASSER AND SILVIO MICALI

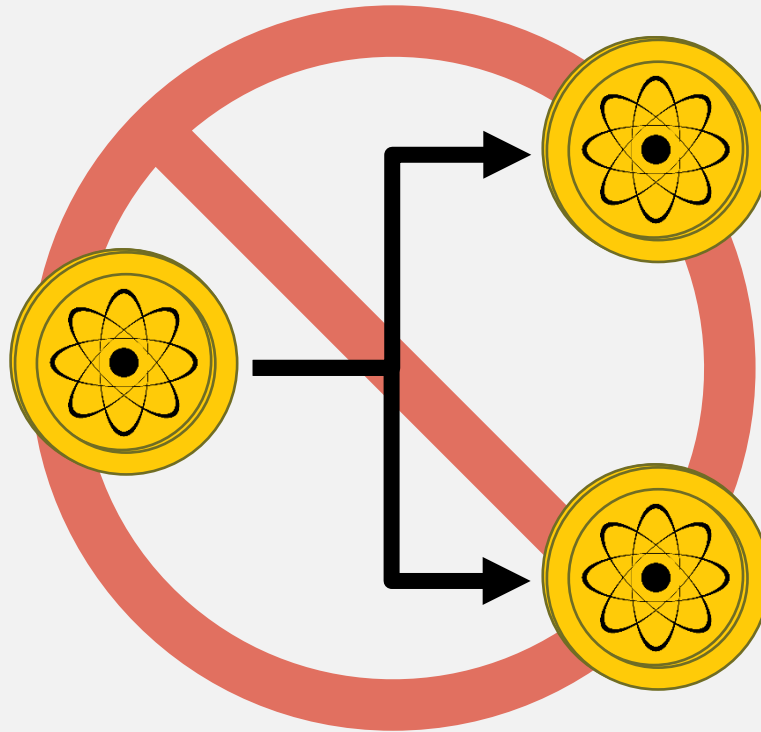
*Laboratory of Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139*

Received February 3, 1983; revised November 8, 1983

“Security for an encryption scheme can be defined in terms of a game”

## Why should you care?

# Uncloneable Authenticity



Quantum Money

Wiesner (ca. 1969)

Submitted to IEEE, Information Theory

This paper treats a class of codes made possible by restrictions on measurement related to the uncertainty principle. Two concrete examples and some general results are given.

Conjugate Coding \*

Stephen Wiesner

Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

Department of Physics

The uncertainty principle imposes restrictions on the capacity of certain types of communication channels. This paper will show that in compensation for this "quantum noise", quantum mechanics allows us novel forms of coding without analogue in communication channels adequately described by classical physics.

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\* Research supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

Written in 1968  
Published 1983

# Wiesner's conjugate coding

Pick basis  $\theta \in \{0,1\}$ .

Pick bit  $b \in \{0,1\}$ .

let  $|b\rangle_\theta = H^\theta |b\rangle$

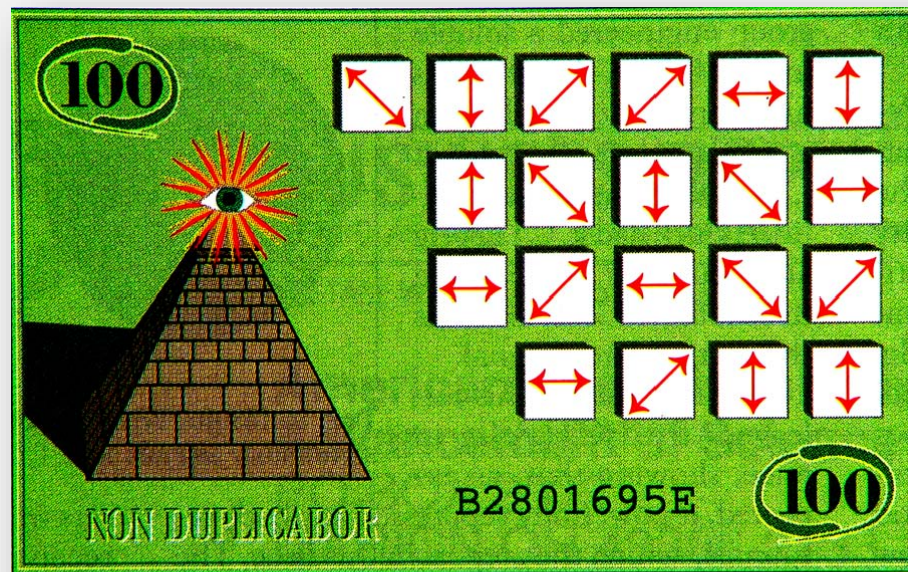
$\theta$	$b$	$ b\rangle_\theta$
0	0	$ 0\rangle$
0	1	$ 1\rangle$
1	0	$ +\rangle$
1	1	$ -\rangle$

Given a **single** copy of  $|b\rangle_\theta$  for random  $b, \theta$ :

- Can easily **verify**  $|b\rangle_\theta$  if  $b, \theta$  are known.
- Intuitively: without knowledge of the encoding basis, no third party can **create two quantum states that pass this verification** with high probability.

For bit-strings  $\theta = \theta_1\theta_2 \dots \theta_n$ ,  $b = b_1b_2 \dots b_n$ , define  
 $|b\rangle_\theta = |b_1\rangle_{\theta_1} \otimes |b_2\rangle_{\theta_2} \dots \otimes |b_n\rangle_{\theta_n}$

A **quantum banknote** is  $|b\rangle_\theta$  for random  $b, \theta \in \{0,1\}^n$  :

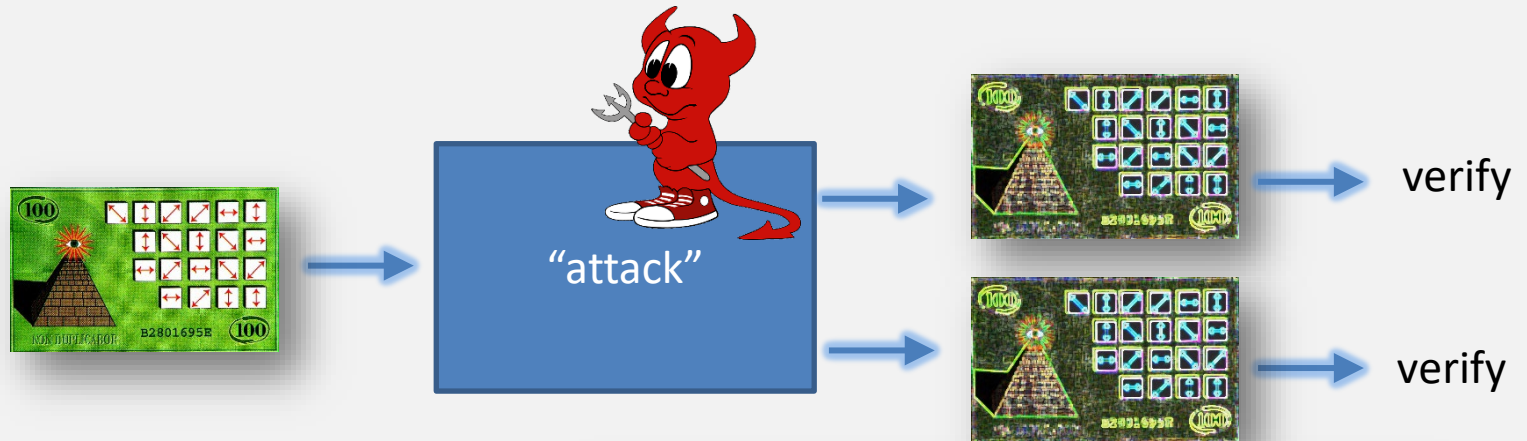


**A quantum banknote**, containing particles in a secret set of quantum states, cannot be copied by counterfeiters, who would disturb the particles by attempting to observe them.

©AAAS (1992)



# Security of Wiesner's quantum money



How does the difficulty of cloning quantum money scale with the number of qubits,  $n$ ?

Answer:

$$\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n$$

## Optimal counterfeiting attacks and generalizations for Wiesner's quantum money

Abel Molina,<sup>\*</sup> Thomas Vidick,<sup>†</sup> and John Watrous<sup>\*</sup>

February 20, 2012

### Abstract

We present an analysis of Wiesner's quantum money scheme, as well as some natural generalizations of it, based on semidefinite programming. For Wiesner's original scheme, it is determined that the optimal probability for a counterfeiter to create two copies of a bank note from one, where both copies pass the bank's test for validity, is  $(3/4)^n$  for  $n$  being the number of qubits used for each note. Generalizations in which other ensembles of states are substituted for the one considered by Wiesner are also discussed, including a scheme recently proposed by Pastawski, Yao, Jiang, Lukin, and Cirac, as well as schemes based on higher dimensional quantum systems. In addition, we introduce a variant of Wiesner's quantum money in which the verification protocol for bank notes involves only classical communication with the bank. We show that the optimal probability with which a counterfeiter can succeed in two independent verification attempts, given access to a single valid  $n$ -qubit bank note, is  $(3/4 + \sqrt{2}/8)^n$ . We also analyze extensions of this variant to higher-dimensional schemes.



# QUANTUM MONEY “REVIVAL”

Noise-tolerant ('feasible with current technology') quantum money

- Pastawski, Yao, Jiang, Lukin, Cirac (2012)

Quantum Money with classical verification

- Gavinsky (2012)

Public-key quantum money (can be verified by any user)

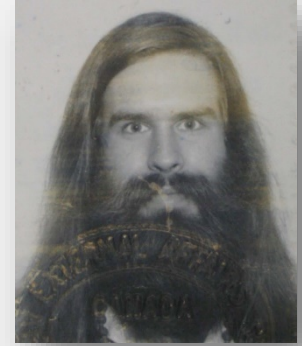
- Farhi, Gosset, Hassidim, Lutomirski, and Shor (2012)
- Aaronson and Christiano (2012)
- Zhandry (2017)

Open Question: Public-key quantum money feasible with current or short-term technology (“NISQ”-era public-key quantum money)?

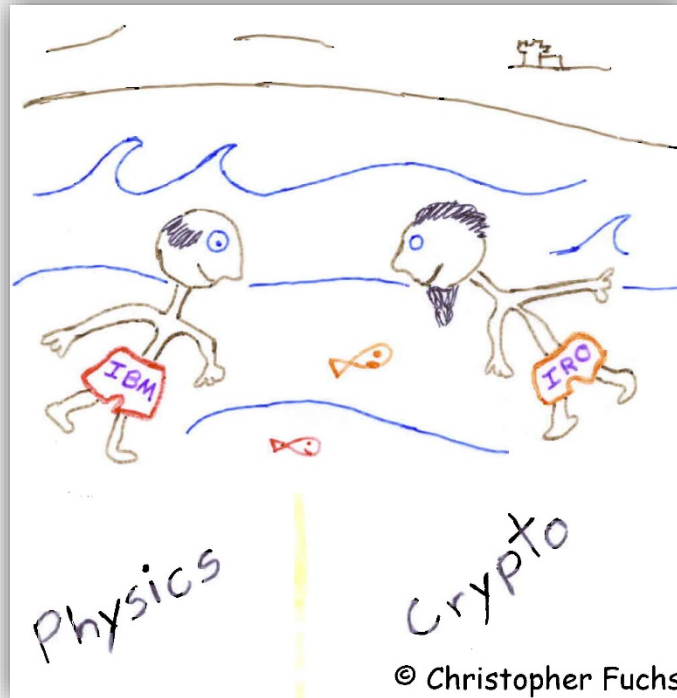
# 1979



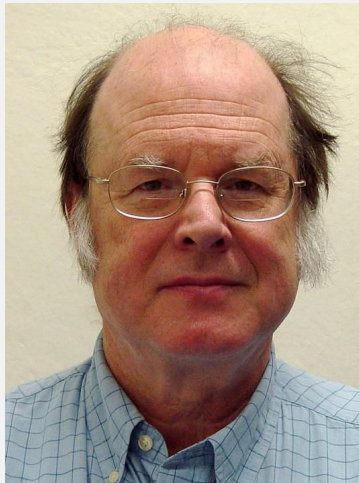
Charles  
Bennett  
Physicist  
IBM, USA



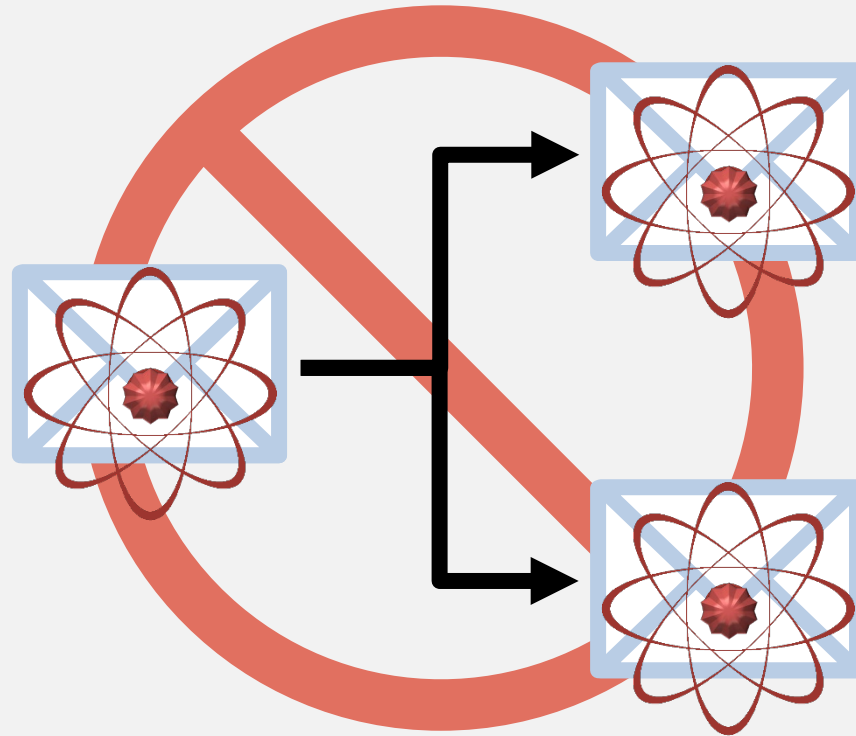
Gilles  
Brassard  
Computer  
Scientist  
Université  
de Montréal,  
Canada



# 2018



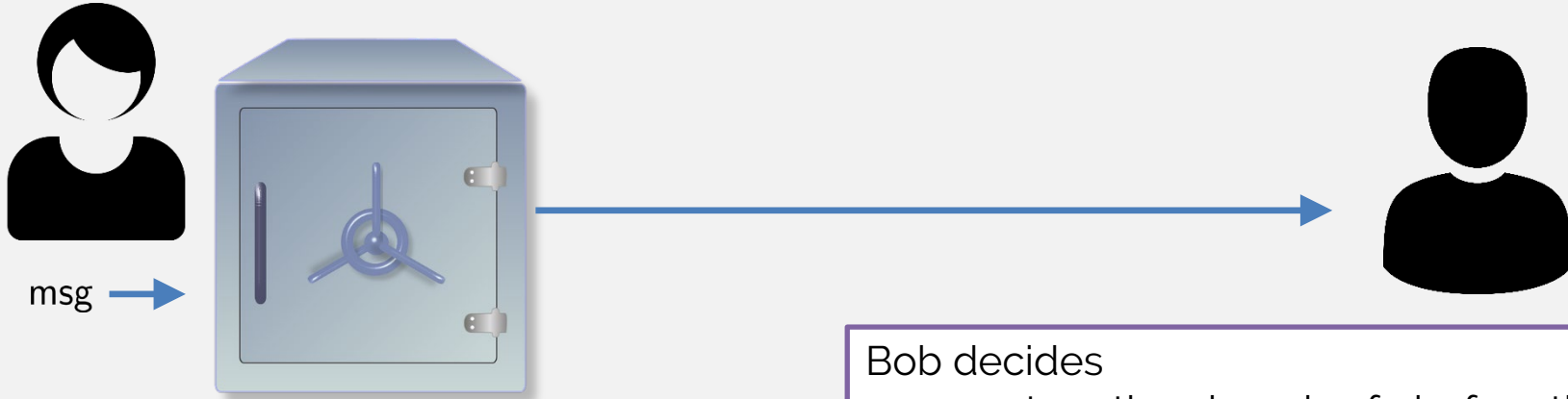
# Uncloneable Information



Example 1: Certified Deletion Broadbent, Islam (2020)

# Certified Deletion

A “physical” type of encryption:



Alice inserts a message into a safe, closes it and sends it to Bob.

Bob decides

- return the closed safe before the combination is revealed as a proof that message was not read
- Keep the safe and **XOR** when the combination is available, open & read the contents

Can we achieve this in a digital world?

Can we achieve this in a digital world?

No!

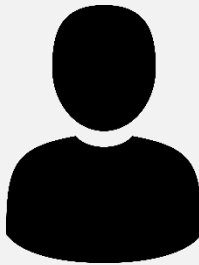
Proof by contradiction...



$\text{Encode}_k(\text{msg})$



$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Encode}_k(\text{msg}) \\ \text{Encode}_k(\text{msg}) \end{array} \right.$



Bob can :

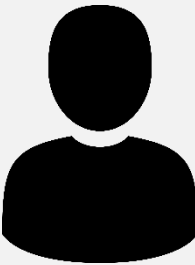
- Convince Alice that he did not read the message (use copy #1)
- AND
- Using combination, open & read the content (use copy #2)

# Quantum Encryption with Certified Deletion



Quantum mechanics enables the best of the physical and digital worlds:

- Encoding (encrypting) a classical message into a **quantum** state
- Bob can prove that he deleted the message by sending Alice a **classical** string





*Basic* prepare-and-measure certified deletion scheme by example:

$\theta$ random	$\theta$	0	1	0	1
$r$ random	$r$	0	1	1	0
Wiesner encoding	$ r\rangle_\theta$	$ 0\rangle$	$ -\rangle$	$ 1\rangle$	$ +\rangle$
$r_{comp}$ : substring of $r$ where $\theta = 0$	$r_{comp}$	0		1	
$r_{diag}$ : substring of $r$ where $\theta = 1$	$r_{diag}$		1		0

- To **encrypt**  $m \in \{0,1\}^2$ , send  $|r\rangle_\theta, m \oplus r_{comp}$
- To **delete** the message, measure all qubits in **diagonal** basis to get  $y = * 1 * 0$ .
- To **verify** the deletion, check that the  $\theta = 1$  positions of  $d$  equal  $r_{diag}$ .
- To **decrypt** using key  $\theta$ , measure qubits in position where  $\theta = 0$ , to get  $r_{comp}$ , then use  $m \oplus r_{comp}$  to compute  $m$ .

# Proof intuition

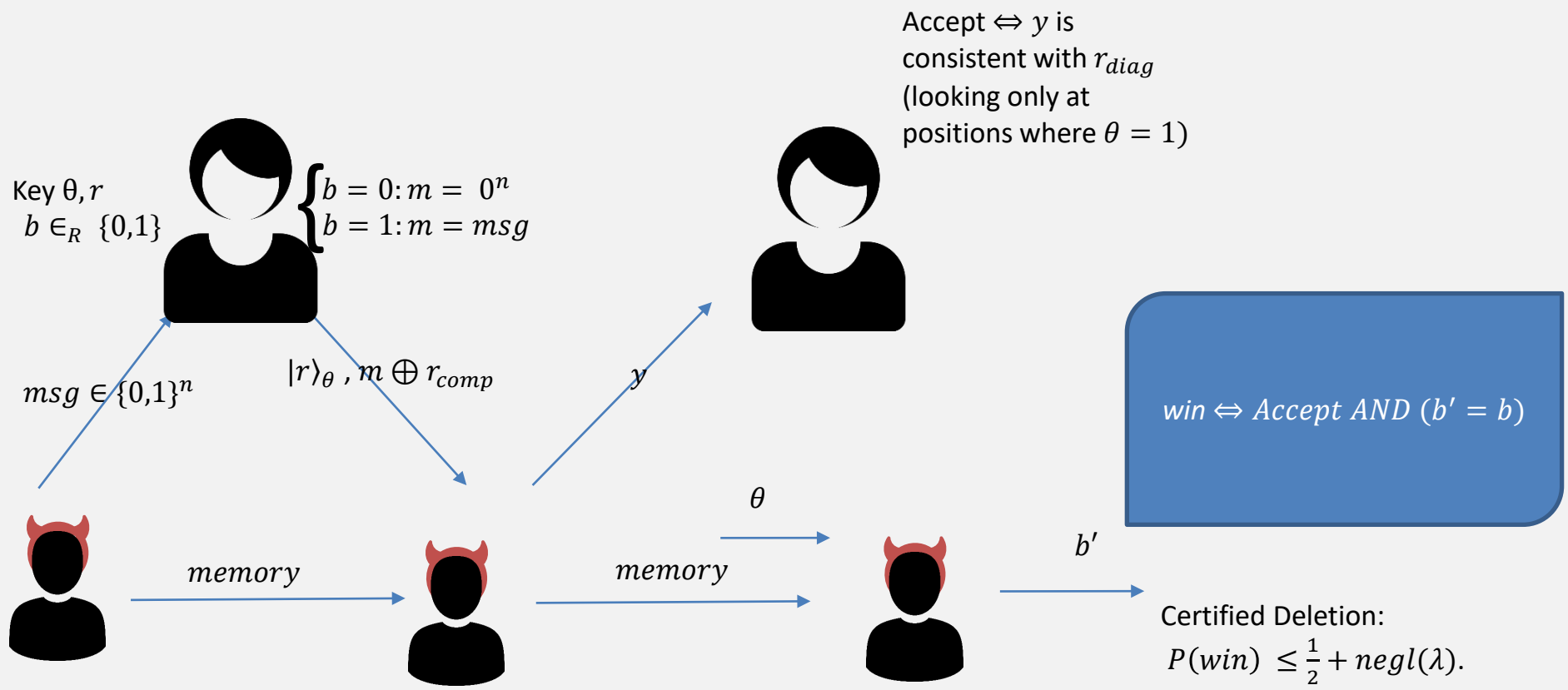
$\theta$	0	1	0	1
$r$	0	1	1	0
$ r\rangle_\theta$	$ 0\rangle$	$ -\rangle$	$ 1\rangle$	$ +\rangle$
$r_{comp}$	0		1	
$r_{diag}$		1		0

As the probability of predicting  $r_{diag}$  increases (i.e. adversary produces convincing “proof of deletion”)

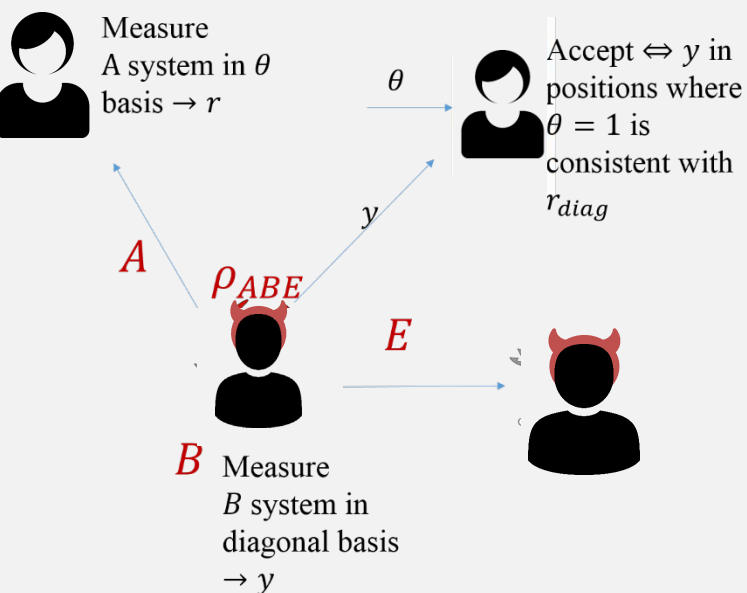
$$H(X) + H(Z) \geq \log \frac{1}{c}$$

The probability of guessing  $r_{comp}$  decreases (i.e. adversary is unable to decrypt, even given the key)

# Certified Deletion Security Game



# Proof Outline



1. Consider **Entanglement-based game**

2. Use **Entropic uncertainty relation** (Tomamichel & Renner 2011):

$X$ : outcome if Alice measures  $n$  qubits in computational basis

$Z$ : outcome if Alice measures  $n$  qubits in diagonal basis

$Z'$ : outcome of Bob who measures  $n$  qubits in diagonal basis

$$H_{min}^{\epsilon}(X | E) + H_{max}^{\epsilon}(Z | Z') \geq n,$$

$H_{min}^{\epsilon}(X | E)$ : average prob. that Eve guesses  $X$  correctly

$H_{max}^{\epsilon}(Z | Z')$ : # of bits that are required to reconstruct  $Z$  from  $Z'$ .

By giving an upper bound on the max-entropy, we obtain a lower bound on the min-entropy.

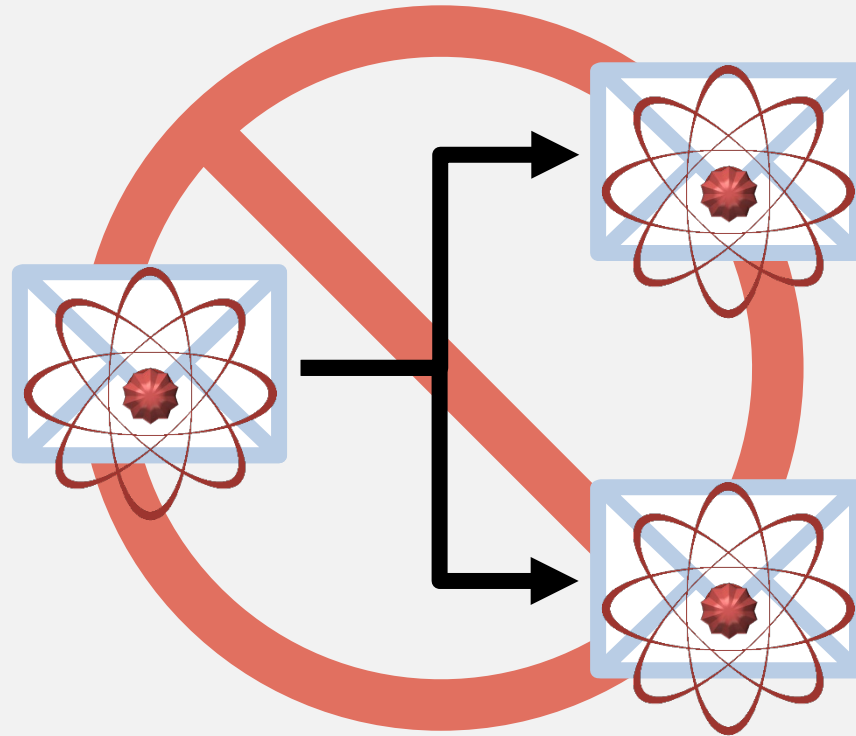
Refinements of the basic protocol:

-reduce and make uniform E's advantage: Use **privacy amplification** (2-universal hash function) to make  $r_{comp}$  exponentially close to uniform from E's point of view:

$$P(win) \leq \frac{1}{2} + \text{negl}(\lambda).$$

-noise tolerance: Accept  $y$  if less than  $k\delta$  bits are wrong; use **error correction**.

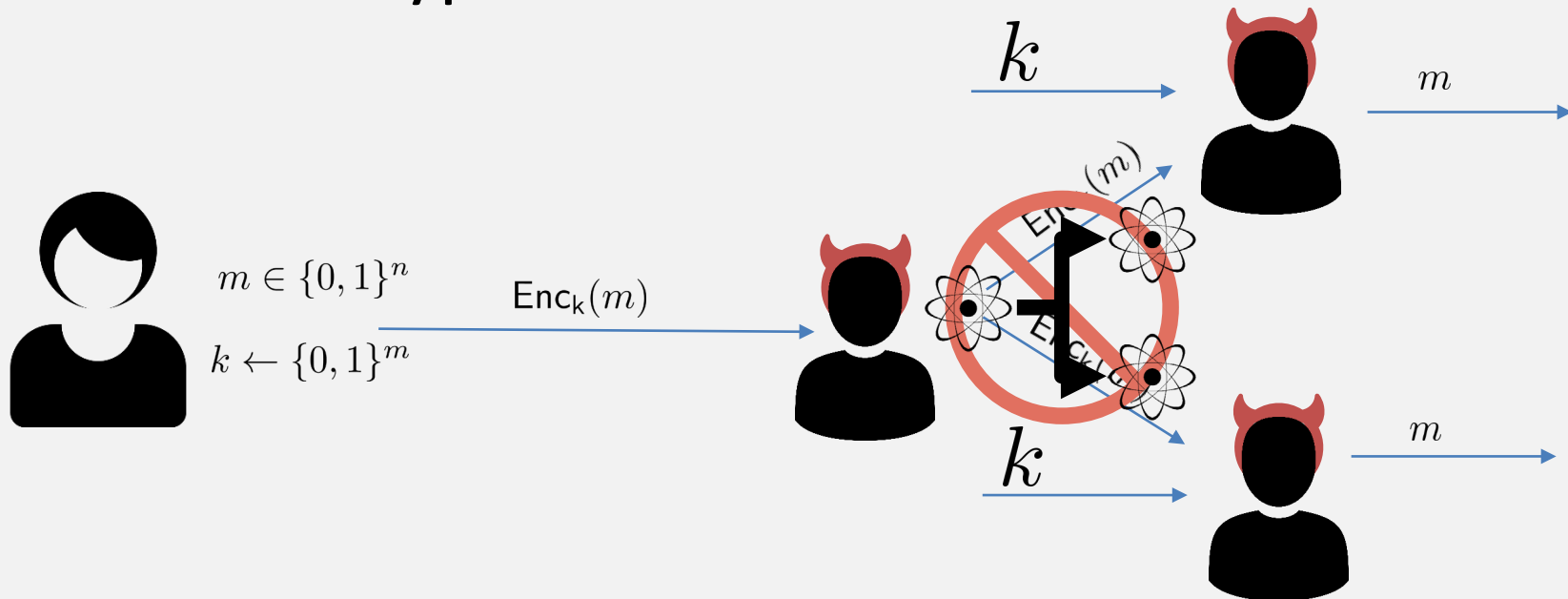
# Uncloneable Information



## Example 2: Uncloneable Encryption

Gottesman (2002)

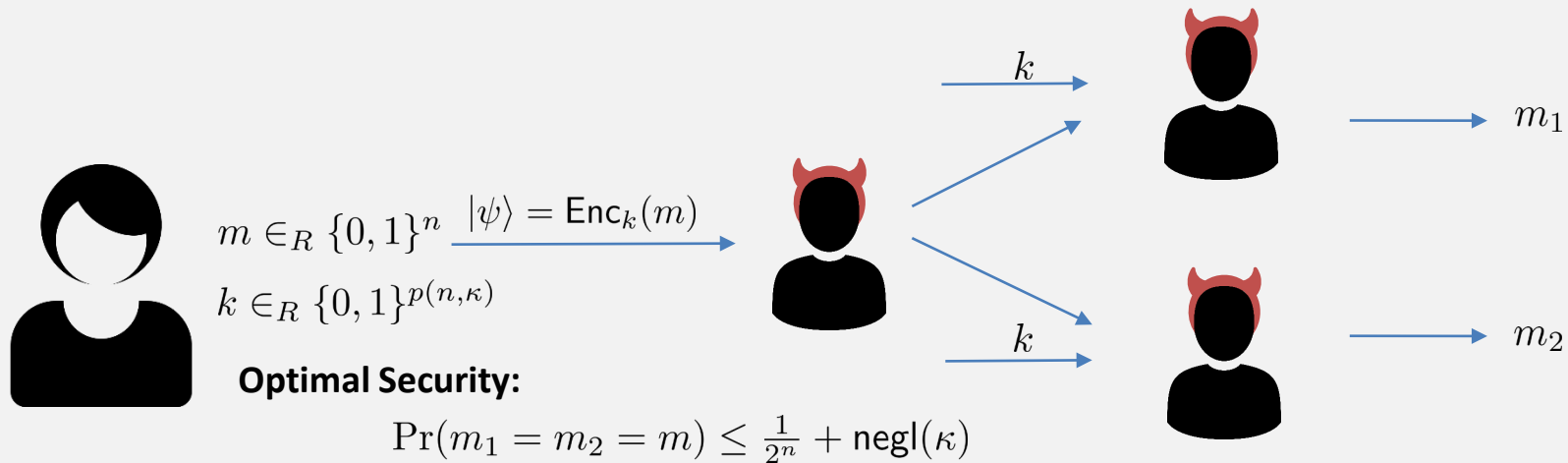
# When encryption is classical:



Classical ciphertexts can be copied, hence it is always possible for the adversary and the honest party to perfectly decrypt, given  $k$ .



# Uncloneable Encryption Security Game



*Wiesner-encoding based scheme (in the Quantum Random Oracle Model (QROM):  
[Broadbent, Lord 2020]*

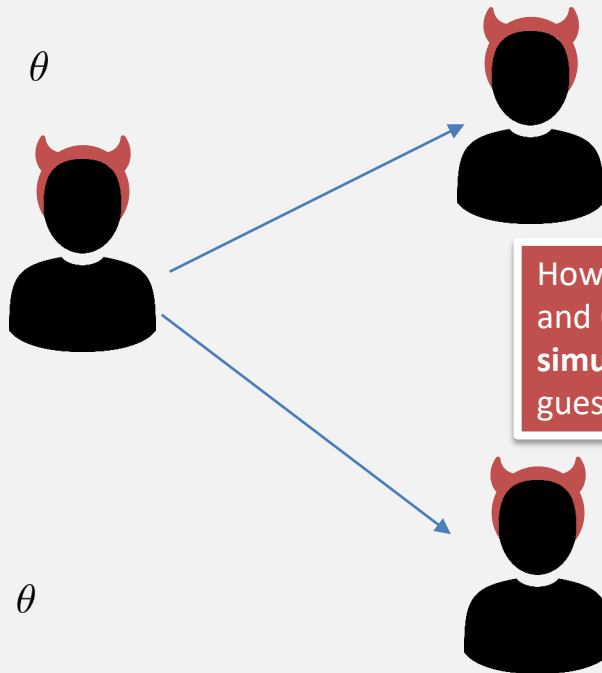
$$\Pr(m_1 = m_2 = m) \leq \textcolor{red}{9} \frac{1}{2^n} + \text{negl}(\kappa)$$

# Uncloneable Encryption Scheme + Security



To encrypt  $m \in \{0,1\}^n$ ,  
Prepare  $|b\rangle_\theta$  for random  
 $b, \theta \in \{0,1\}^n$

$|b\rangle_\theta, m \oplus b$



How well can Bob  
and Charlie  
**simultaneously**  
guess  $m$ ?



Measures qubits in a *random* basis  
 $\theta \in \{0,1\}^n$  to obtain  $b$ .

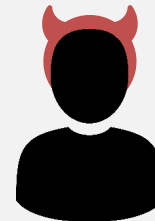


$\theta$

How well can Bob and  
Charlie simultaneously  
guess  $b$ ?



$\theta$



## New Journal of Physics

The open access journal for physics

**A monogamy-of-entanglement game with  
applications to device-independent  
quantum cryptography**

Marco Tomamichel<sup>1,3</sup>, Serge Fehr<sup>2,3</sup>, Jędrzej Kaniewski<sup>1</sup>  
and Stephanie Wehner<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Quantum Technologies (CQT), National University of Singapore,  
Singapore

<sup>2</sup> Centrum Wiskunde and Informatica (CWI), Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
E-mail: [cqtmarco@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cqtmarco@nus.edu.sg) and [serge.fehr@cw.nl](mailto:serge.fehr@cw.nl)

New Journal of Physics **15** (2013) 103002 (24pp)

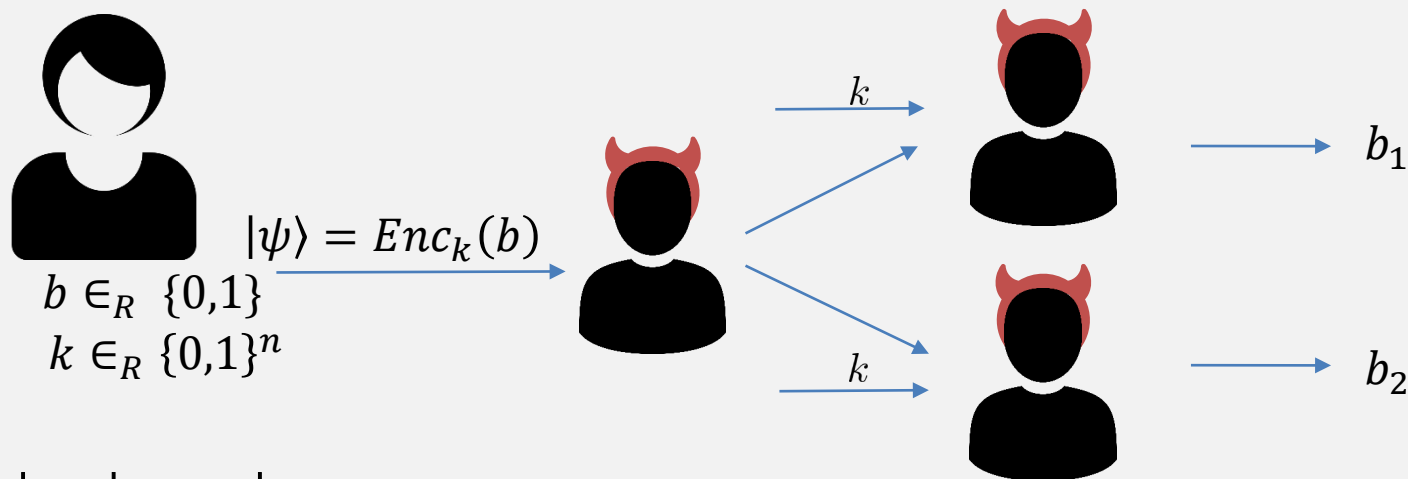
Optimal winning probability:  $\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right)^n$

$$> (1.2)^n \cdot \frac{1}{2^n}$$

Idea: amplify this using a QROM.

## Open Questions:

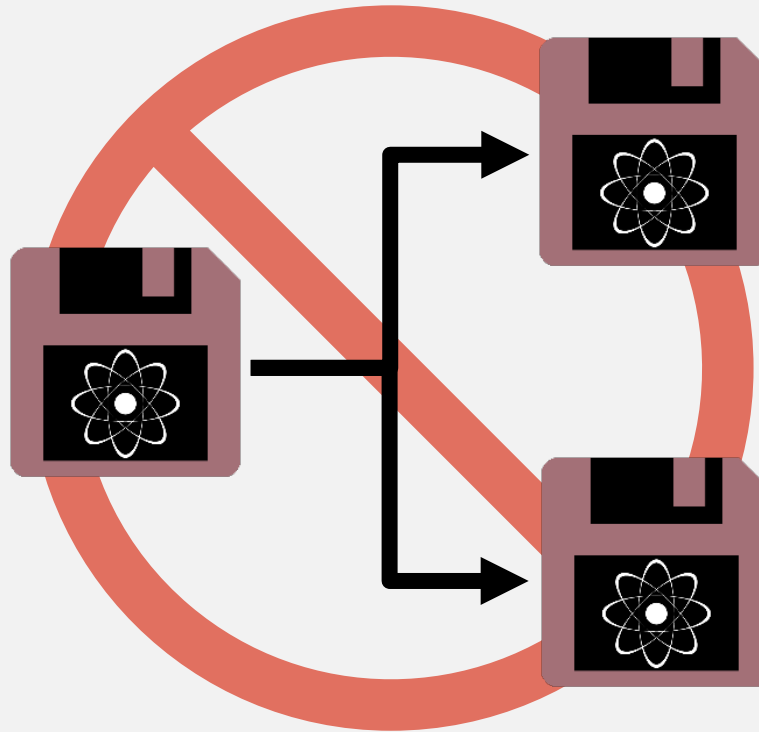
- Security for uncloneable encryption without the QROM.
- Show security for an indistinguishability-based definition
  - Instead of asking that Bob and Charlie simultaneously guess  $m$  (given the key) ask that they not be able to *both* distinguish an encryption of  $m$  from an encryption of a fixed message.
- Solve the “Uncloneable bit” problem:



Find a scheme where

$$\Pr(b_1 = b_2 = b) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

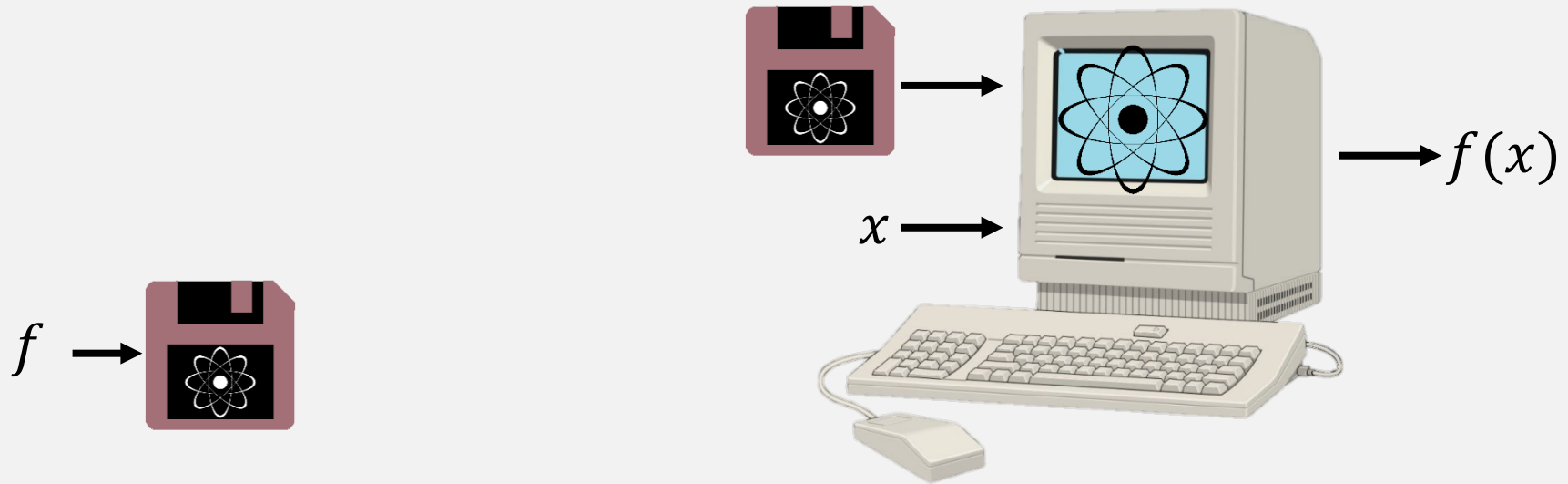
# Uncloneable Functionality



Copy-protected Software

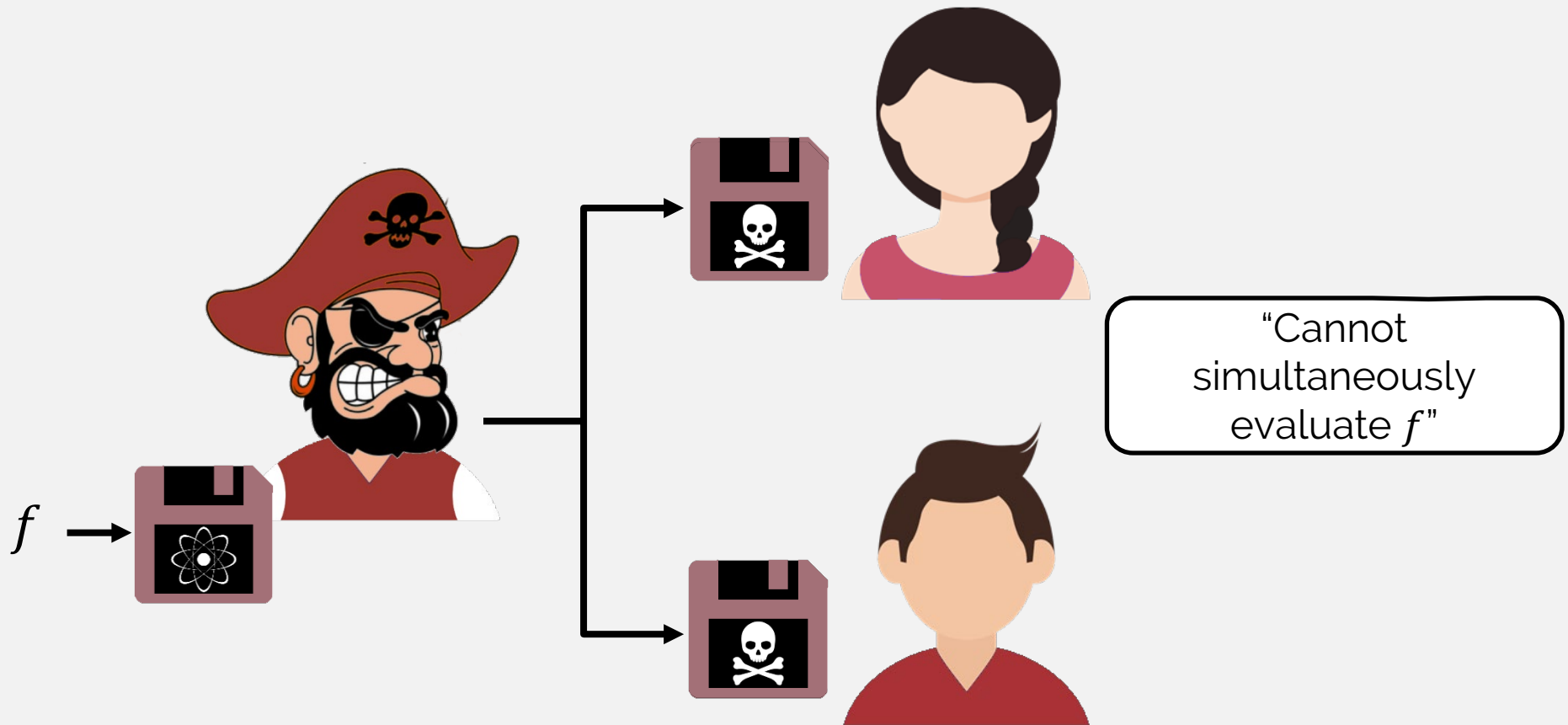
Aaronson (2009)

# What is quantum copy protection?

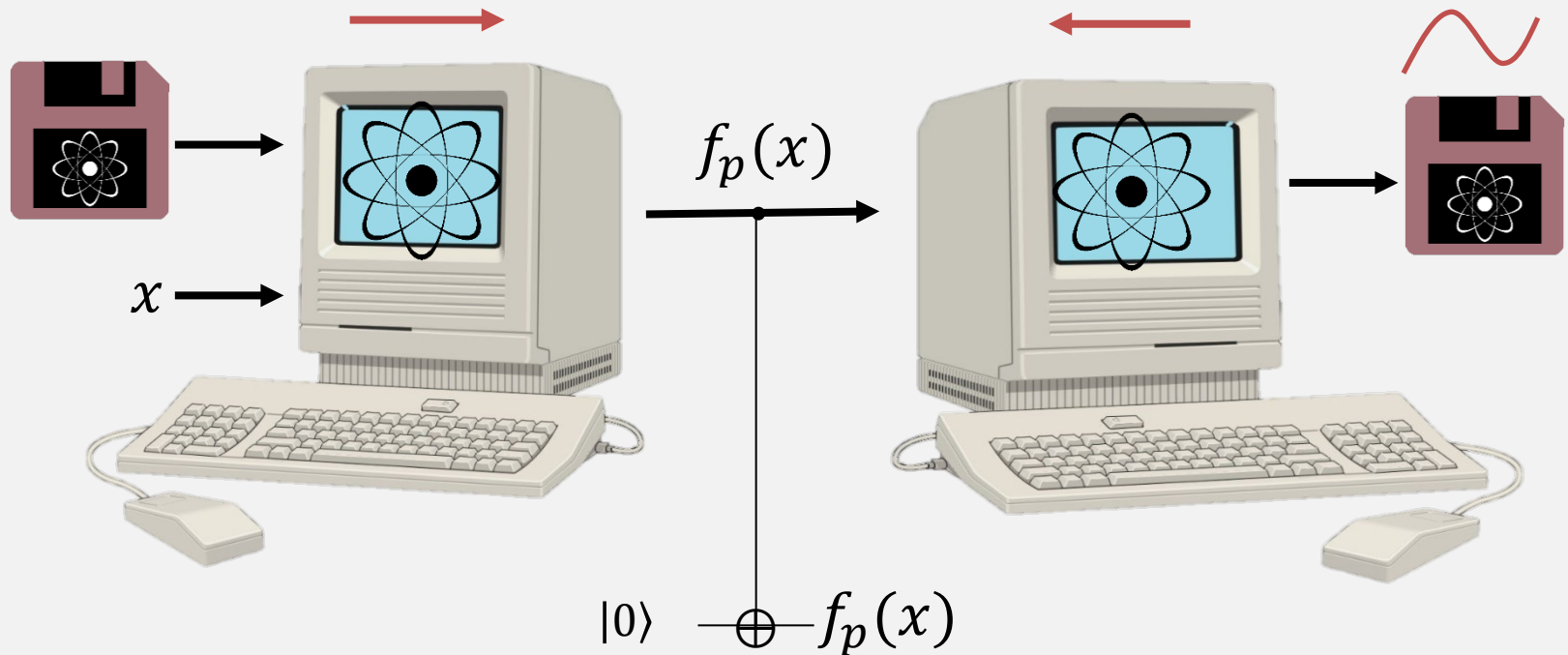




# What is quantum copy protection?

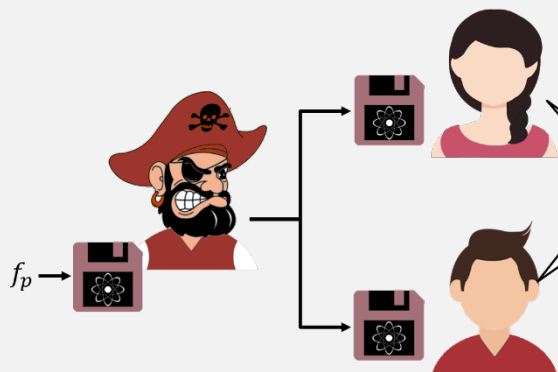


# Quantum software is reusable to a certain extent



$\eta$ -correctness implies output program is  $0(\eta)$ -close to original program

# Limitations of Quantum Copy-Protection



## Learnable Functions

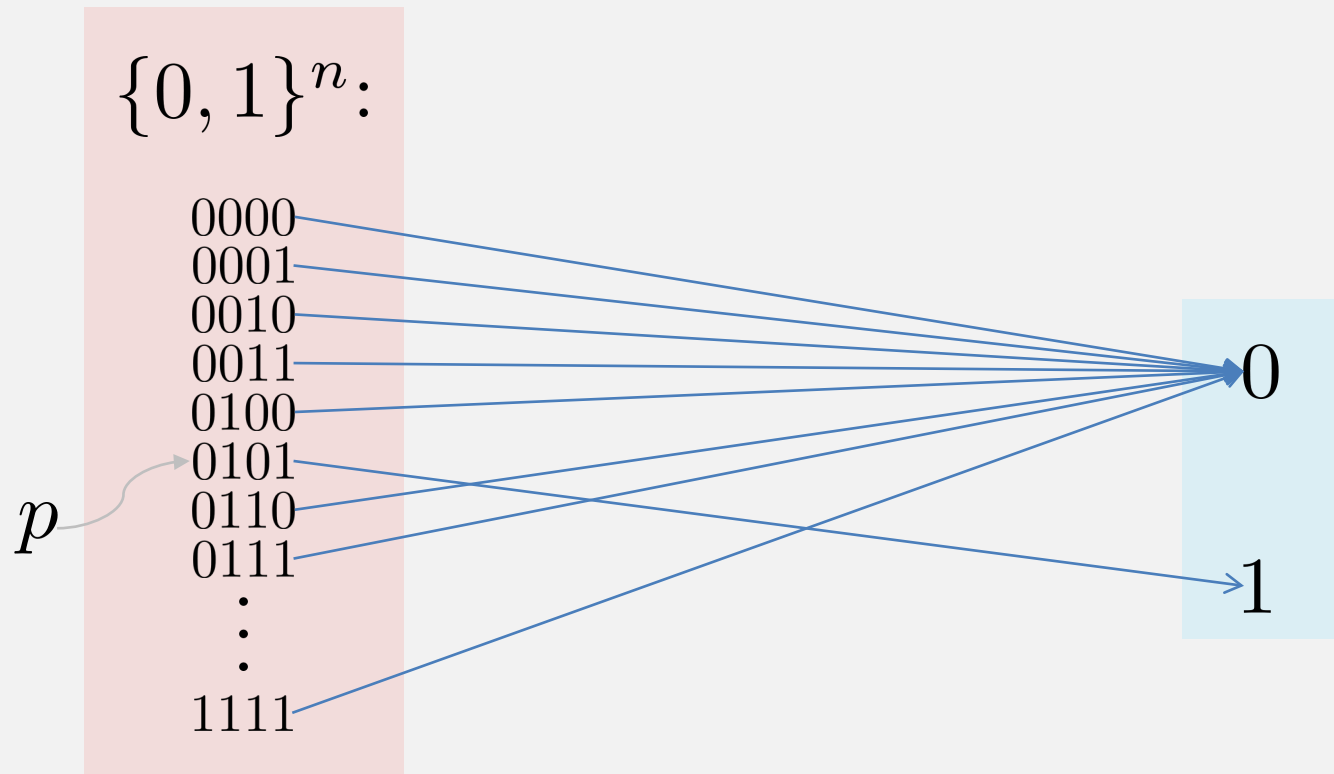
- Cannot be copy-protected

## Perfectly correct ( $\eta = 0$ )

- Cannot be secure against unbounded adversaries

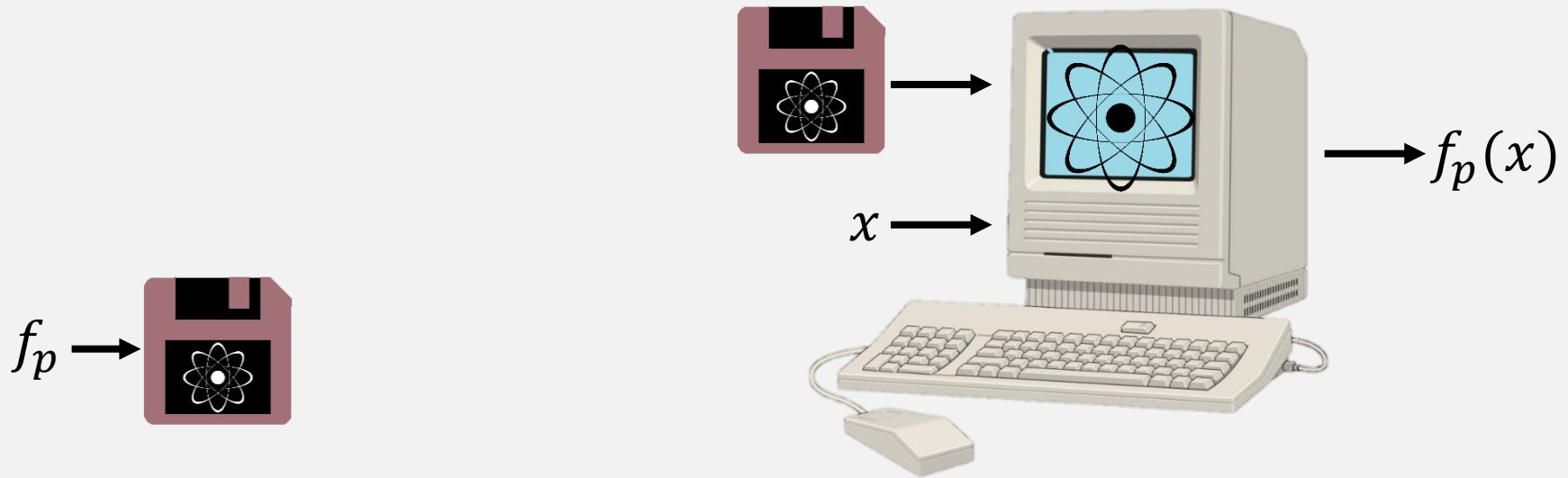
# Point Functions

$$f_p : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$



\*results hold for a more general class of functions called compute-and-compare (Colandangelo, Majenz, Porembe 2020)

# What is quantum copy protection?



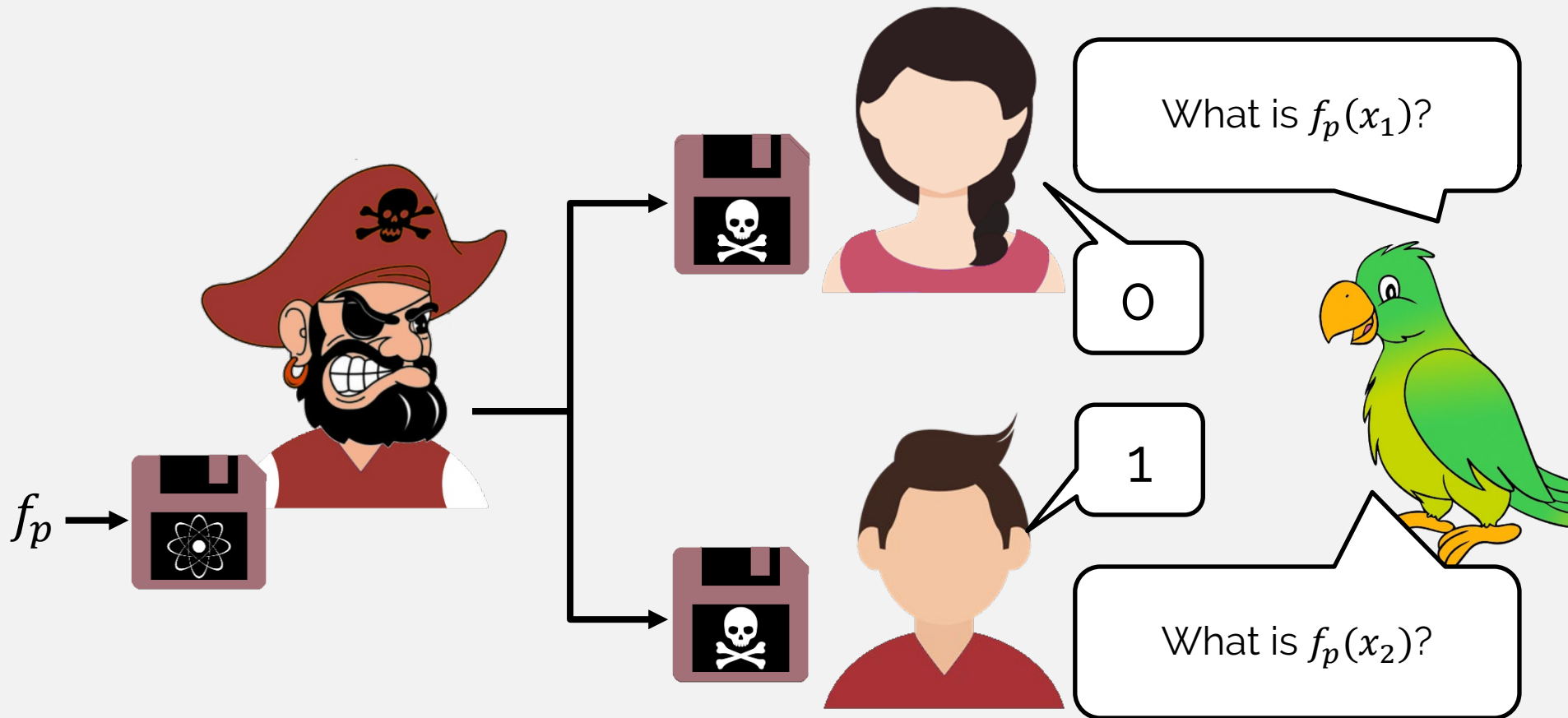
$$\Pr[x = p] = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Pr[x = p'] = \frac{1}{2(2^n - 1)}$$

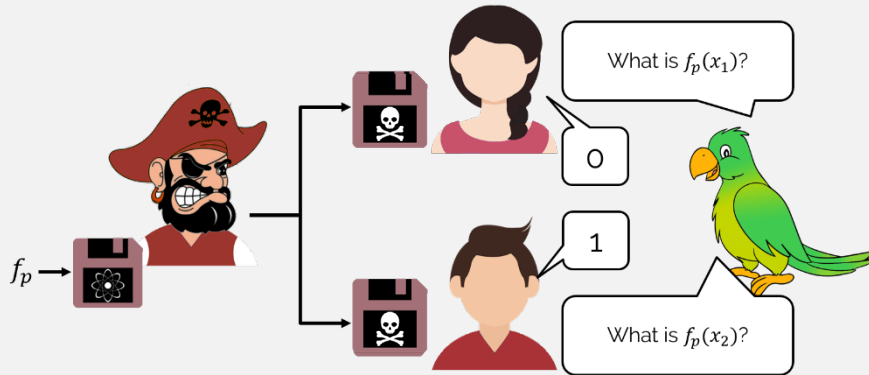
Average Correctness:

Up to some error term  $\eta$ , outcome is correct in expectation over choice of  $x$ .

# What is quantum copy protection?



# What is copy protection?



Challenge Distribution

$$\Pr[x_i = p] = \frac{1}{2}$$

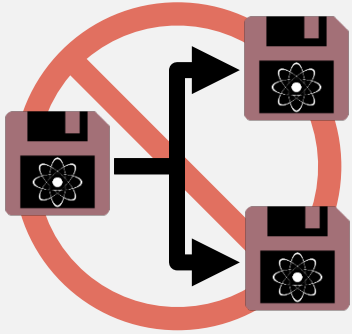
$$\Pr[x_i = p'] = \frac{1}{2(2^n - 1)}$$

$\text{win} \Leftrightarrow$  Alice outputs  $f_p(x_1)$  AND Bob outputs  $f_p(x_2)$

$$\epsilon - \text{security: } \Pr(\text{win}) \leq \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$$

\*can be generalized to other functions and challenge distributions

# Results on Quantum Copy Protection



Aaronson 2009:

- All functions (not learnable)
- Assumes a **quantum** oracle

Aaronson, Liu, Liu, Zhandry, Zhang 2020:

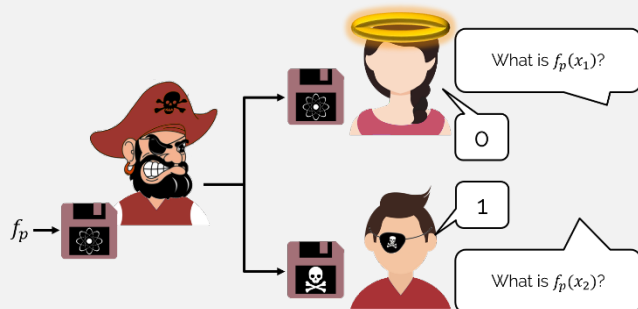
- All functions (not learnable)
- Assumes a **classical** oracle

Coladangelo, Majenz, Poremba 2020:

- Point functions
- Assumes a **quantum random oracle**

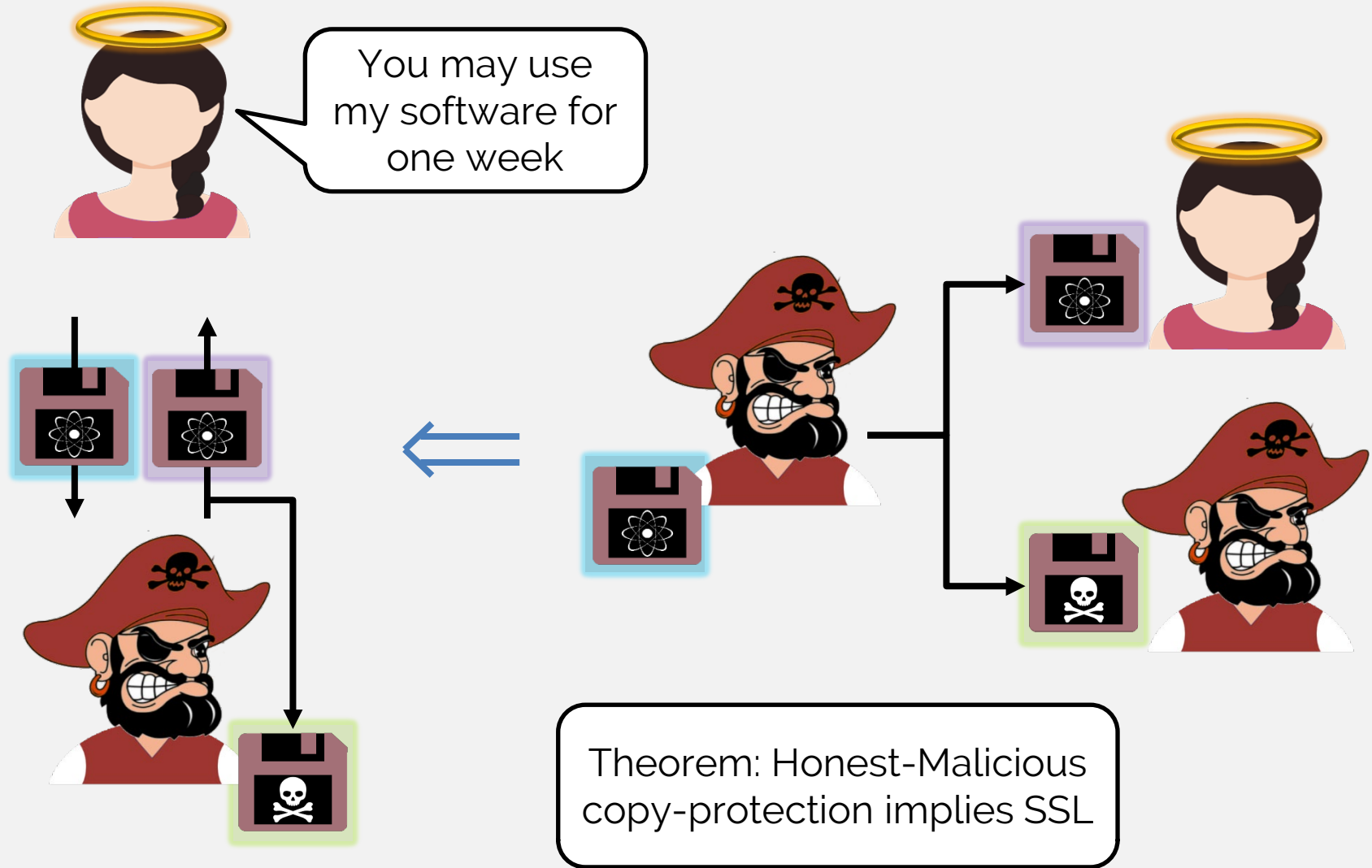
Broadbent, Jeffery, Lord, Podder, Sundaram 2021:

- Point Functions
- Restricted Class of Adversaries
  - **"Honest-Malicious"**
- No other assumptions





# Secure Software Leasing

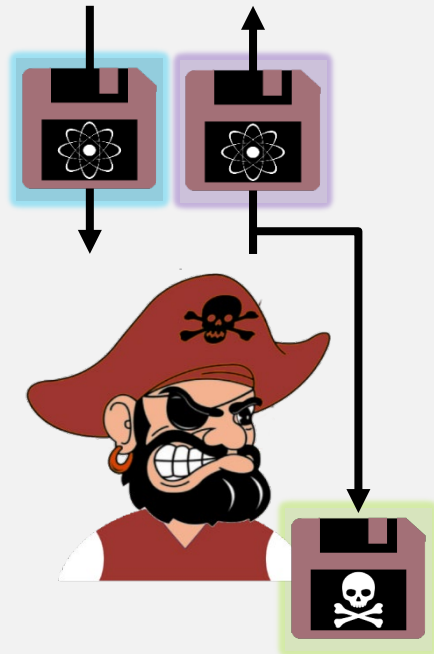


# Secure Software Leasing



Ananth and La Placa (2020):

- impossibility of SSL in general
- Construction of SSL for point functions, **against honest evaluators** assuming:
  - quantum-secure subspace obfuscators
  - a common reference string,
  - difficulty of Learning With Errors (LWE)



Kitagawa, Nishimaki, and Yamakawa (2020):

- SSL **against honest evaluators** for point functions (and more)
  - **Assuming LWE (only)**

Coladangelo, Majenz and Poremba (2020):

- SSL for point functions, assuming:
  - **Quantum Random Oracle**

Broadbent, Jeffery, Lord, Podder, Sundaram (2021):

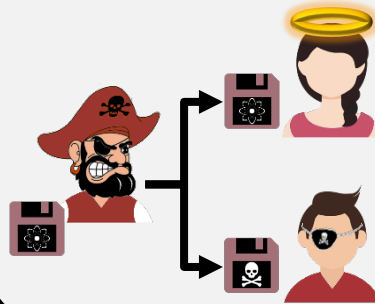
- SSL for point functions, average correctness
  - **no assumptions**

# Achieving Honest-Malicious Copy-Protection

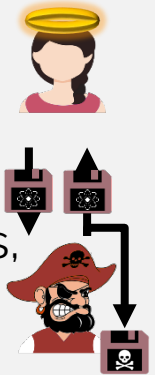
Quantum Total  
Authentication



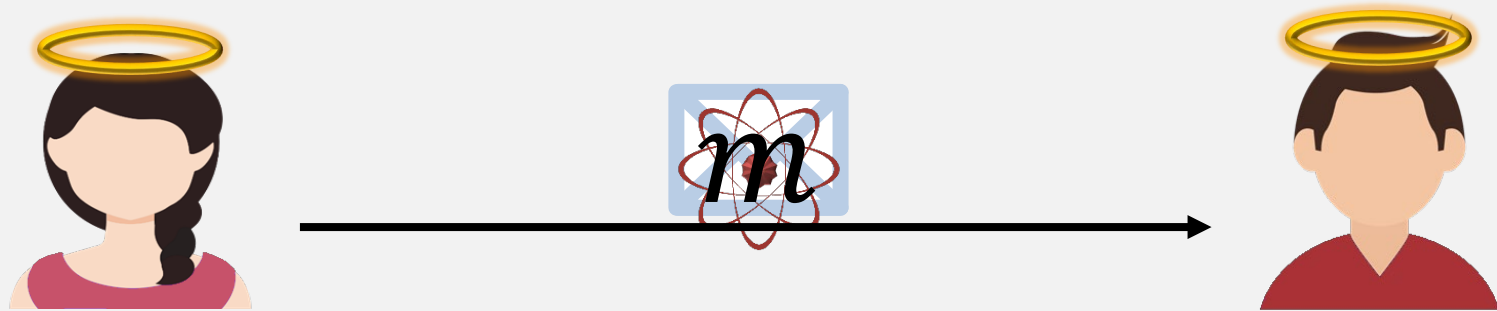
Honest-Malicious,  
Avg Correct  
Copy-protected  
Point Functions



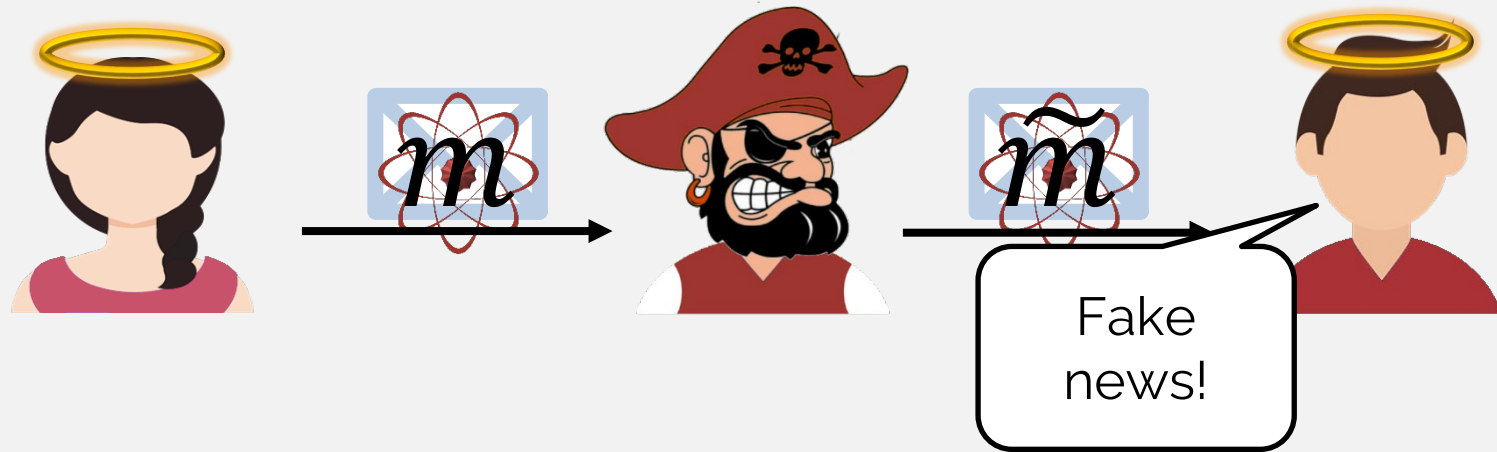
Secure  
Software  
Leasing of  
Point Functions,  
Avg Correct



# Quantum Message Authentication



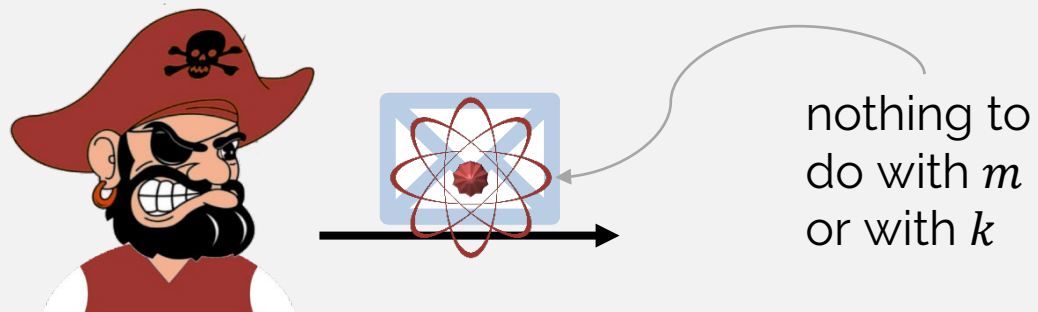
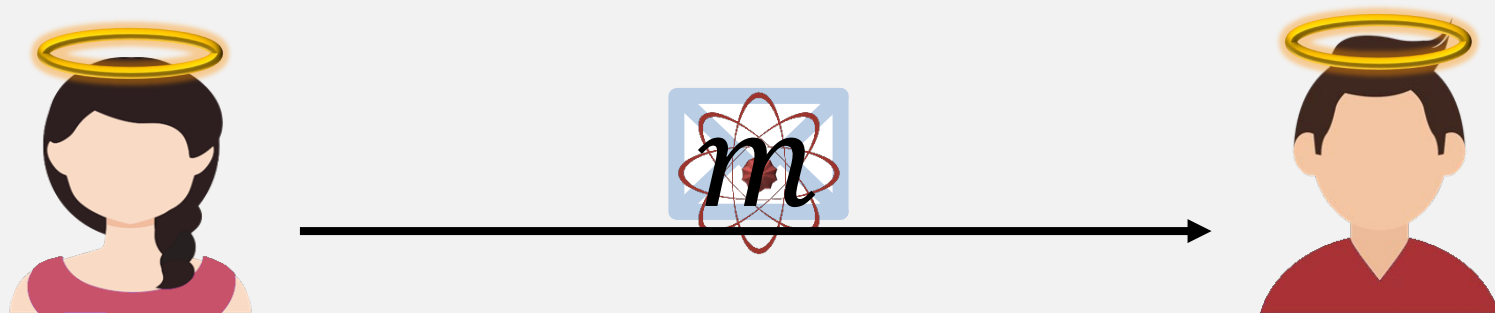
# Quantum Message Authentication



# Quantum Message Authentication



# Quantum Total Authentication



# Quantum Total Authentication

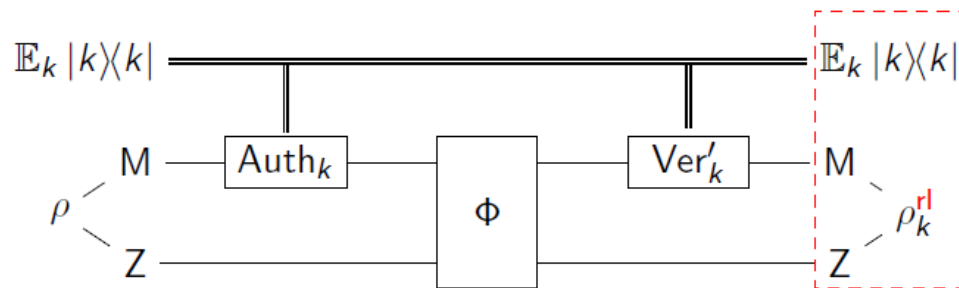


Figure: A **real** adversary, conditioned on acceptance.

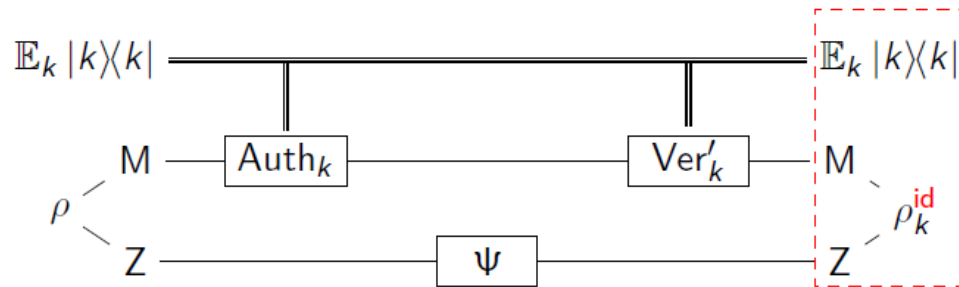


Figure: An **ideal** adversary, conditioned on acceptance.

- Correctness:

$$\text{Ver}_k \circ \text{Auth}_k(\rho) = \rho \otimes |A\rangle\langle A|$$

- $\text{Ver}'_k = \text{Ver}_k$  cond. on accept.
- Security:

Real and ideal outputs are  $\epsilon$ -close in trace distance:

$$\mathbb{E}_k |k\rangle\langle k| \otimes \rho_k^{\text{rl}} \approx_{\epsilon} \mathbb{E}_k |k\rangle\langle k| \otimes \rho_k^{\text{id}}$$

Total authentication is realized by 2-designs (Alagic and Majenz 2017), and the strong trap code (Dulek, Speelman 2018).



# Copy Protection from Quantum Total Authentication

Point function  $f_p: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}, f_p(q) = 1 \Leftrightarrow p = q$

Let  $\text{Auth}_k, \text{Verf}_k$  be  $\epsilon$ - secure Quantum Total Authentication Scheme

Idea: Point function on point  $p \leftrightarrow \text{Auth}_p$  and  $\text{Verf}_p$  on fixed state  $|\psi\rangle$

## CP.Protect

On input of  $f_p: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ :

1. Output  $\text{Auth}_p(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|)$ .

## CP.Eval

On input of  $\sigma$  and  $q$ :

1. Compute  $\text{Verf}_q(\sigma)$ .
2. Output 1 if and only if the verification accepts.

## Correctness

- By correctness of the authentication scheme:

$$\Pr[\text{CP.Eval}(\text{CP.Protect}(f_p), p) = 1] = 1$$

- By properties of the authentication scheme:

$$\mathbb{E}_q \Pr[\text{CP.Eval}(\text{CP.Protect}(f_p), q) = 0] \geq 1 - 2\epsilon$$

- Note: We achieve correctness averaged over all inputs, not necessarily for all inputs.

# Quantum Copy- Protection Open Problems

1. Standard correctness for copy protection without assumptions?
2. Security for copy protection without assumptions, against **two** malicious evaluators?
3. Unconditional SSL for functions beyond compute-and-compare?
4. NISQ-ready Quantum Copy-Protection?