

Correcting Subverted Random Oracles

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Joint work with

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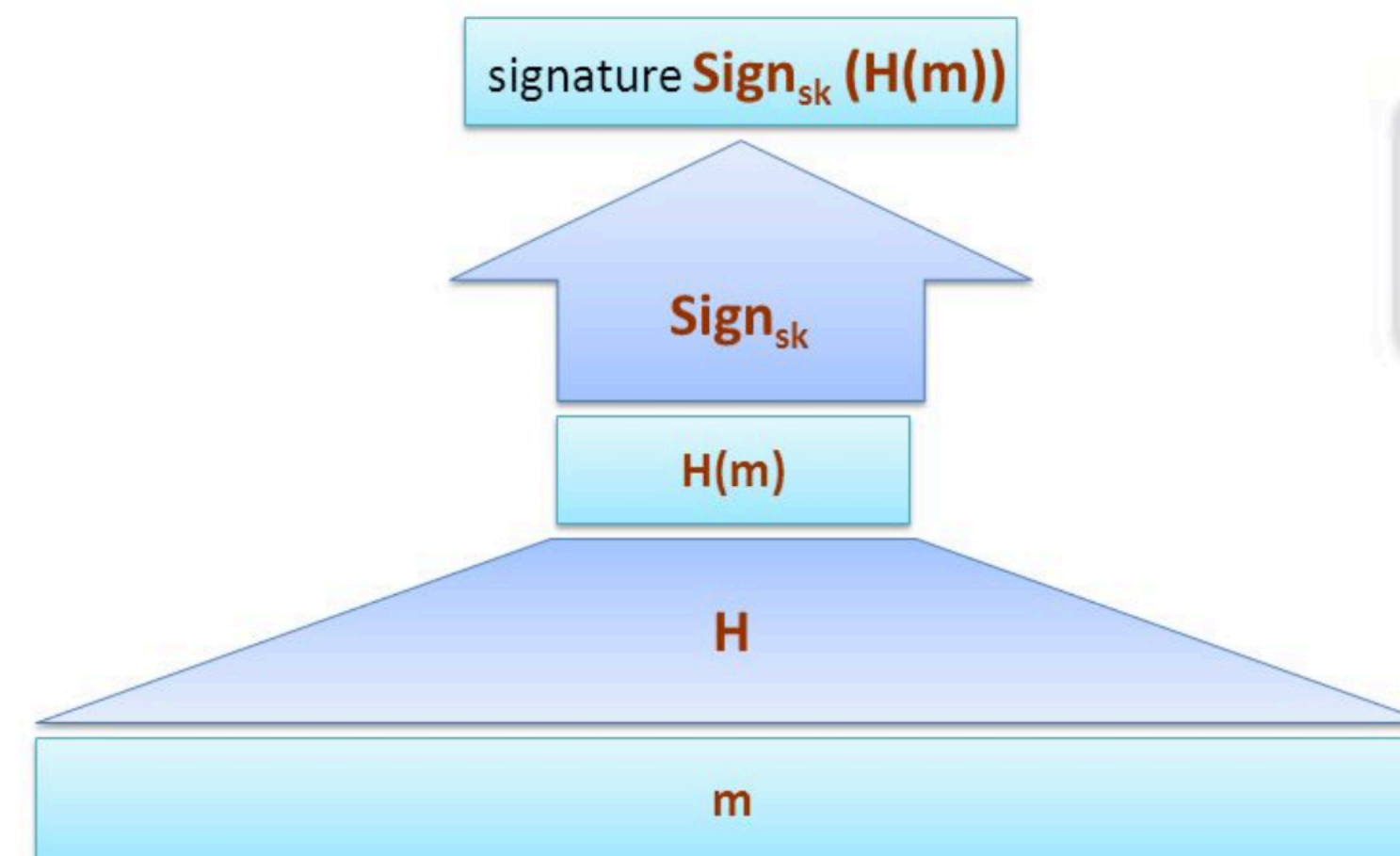
Hong Sheng Zhou (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Hash Functions are Useful



Hash-and-Sign [3/5]

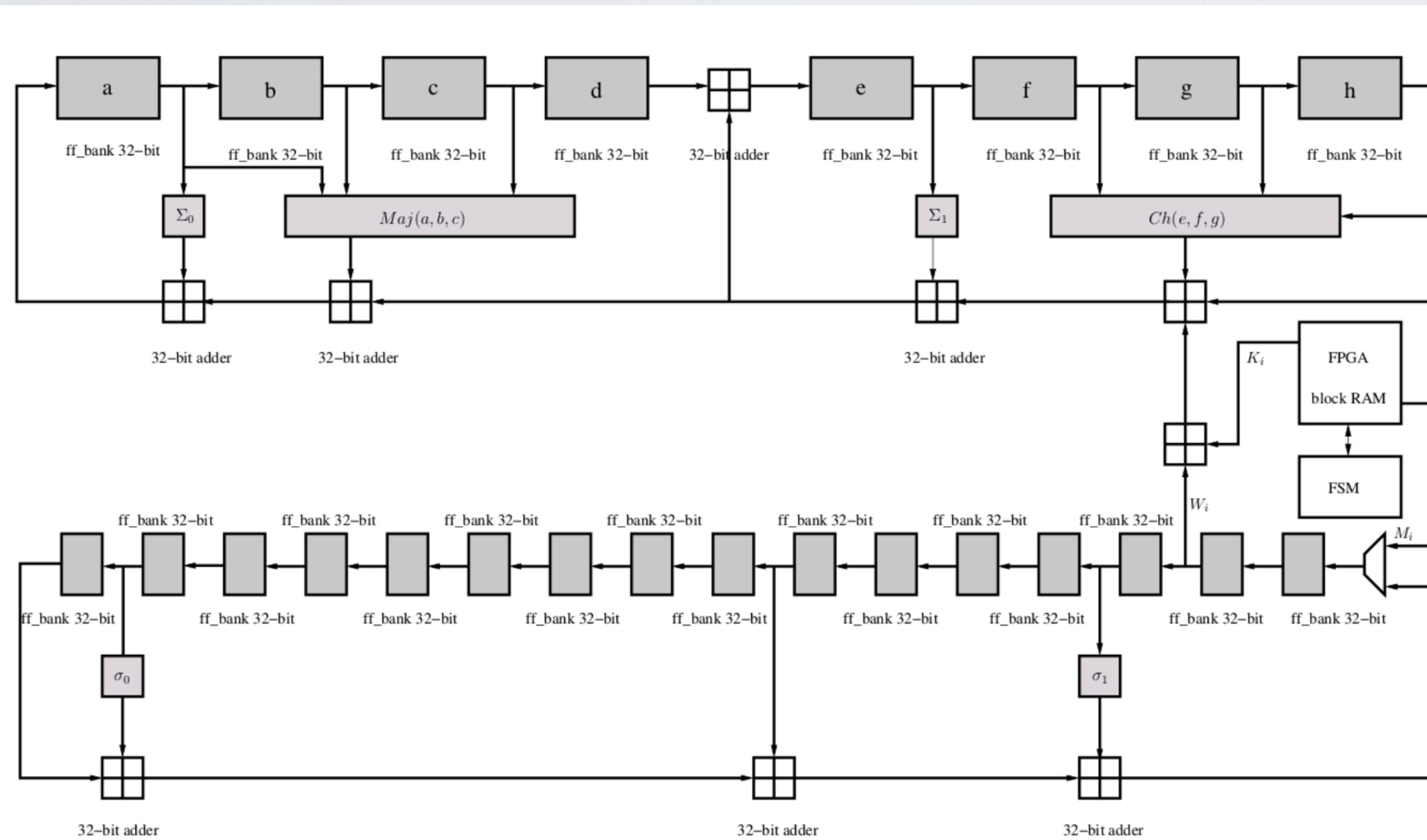
How to sign a message m ?



Proof of Work

And many more.....

Hash Functions are Complex



SHA256 Core



Hash Implementation Can Be Optimized



White Paper

Jim Guilford
Kirk Yap
Vinodh Gopal

IA Architects
Intel Corporation

**Fast SHA-256
Implementations
on Intel®
Architecture
Processors**

Common Deployment

**How can we assure we are
really using a SHA256?**

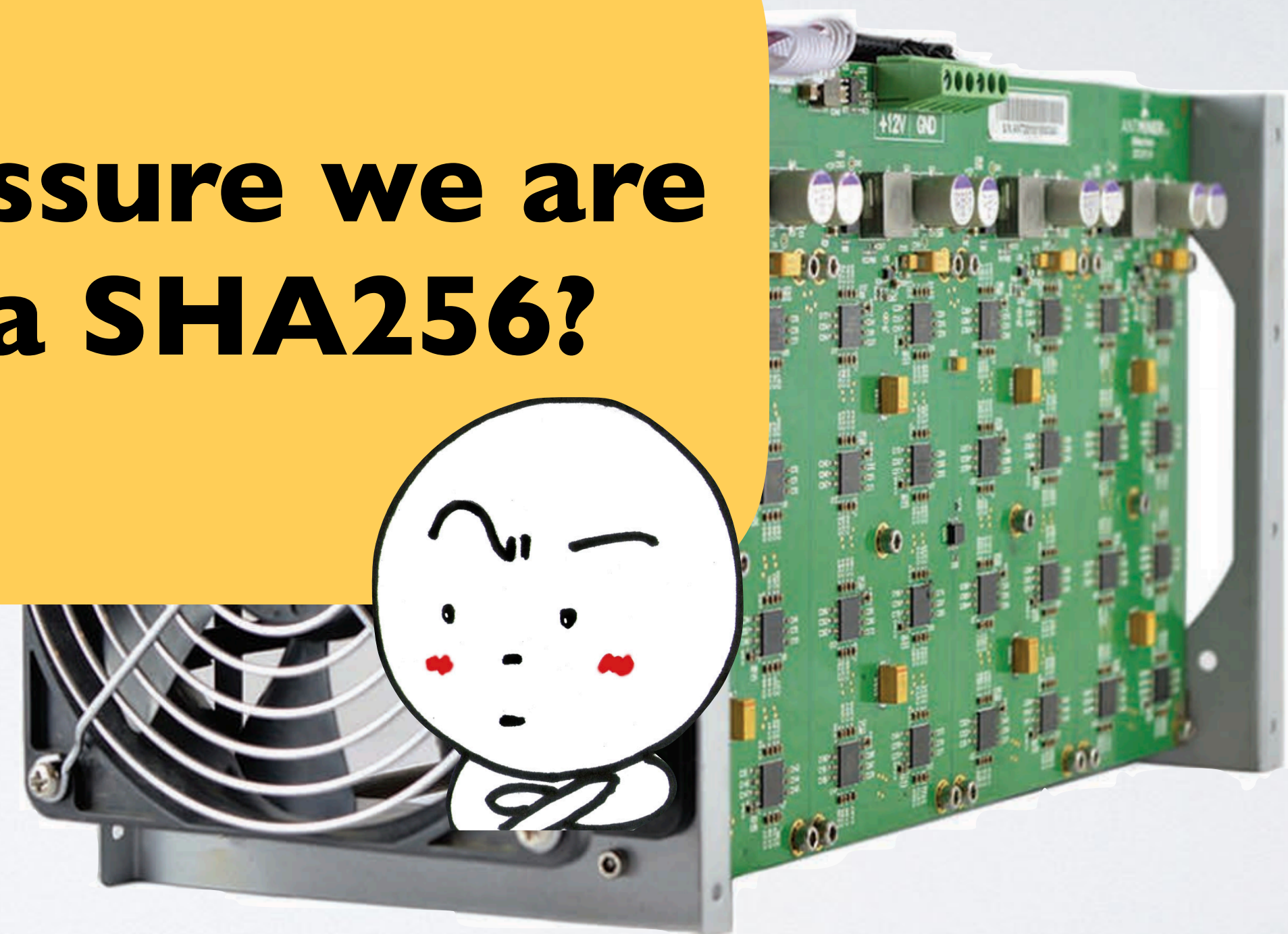
```
OpenSSL Cryptography
Home | Blog | Docs

#include <openssl/sha.h>

int SHA1_Init(SHA_CTX *c);
int SHA1_Update(SHA_CTX *c, const void *data, size_t len);
int SHA1_Final(unsigned char *md, SHA_CTX *c);
unsigned char *SHA1(const unsigned char *data, size_t len, unsigned char *md);

int SHA224_Init(SHA256_CTX *c);
int SHA224_Update(SHA256_CTX *c, const void *data, size_t len);
int SHA224_Final(unsigned char *md, SHA256_CTX *c);
unsigned char *SHA224(const unsigned char *data, size_t len, unsigned char *md);

int SHA256_Init(SHA256_CTX *c);
int SHA256_Update(SHA256_CTX *c, const void *data, size_t len);
int SHA256_Final(unsigned char *md, SHA256_CTX *c);
unsigned char *SHA256(const unsigned char *data, size_t len, unsigned char *md);
```



This Work

I. Practical attacks

II. Formal modeling

III. Construction

IV. Security Analysis

Subversion Attack



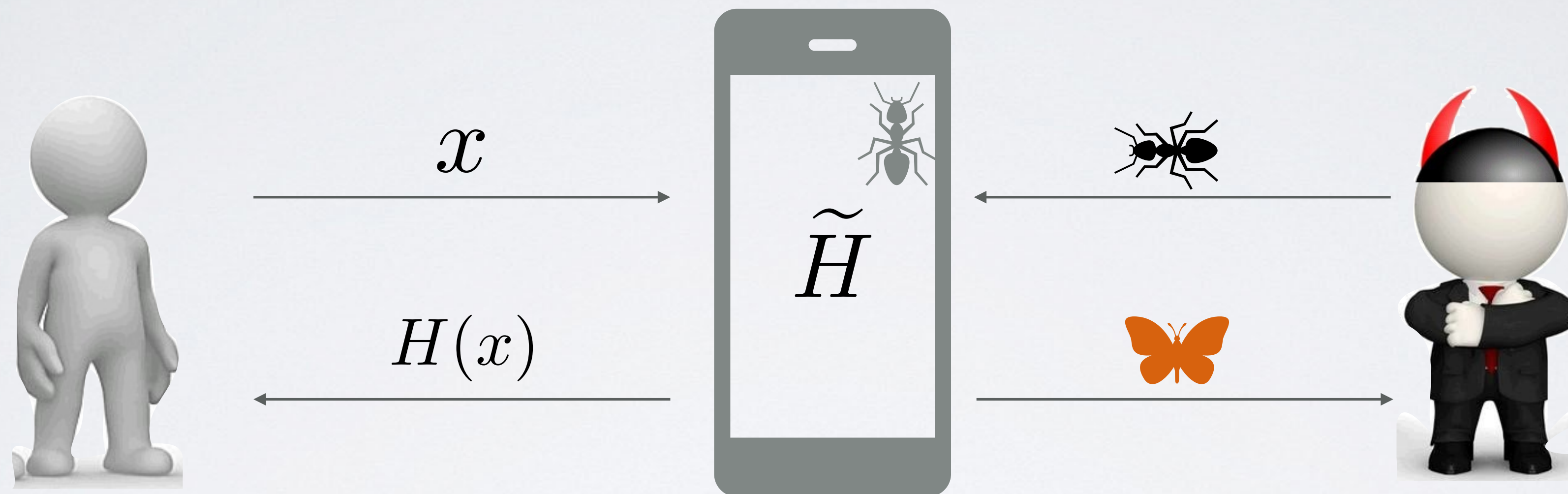
I need $H(\cdot)$



“crooked”



A Crafty Subversion



Correct on overwhelming portion of inputs

Rationale Behind



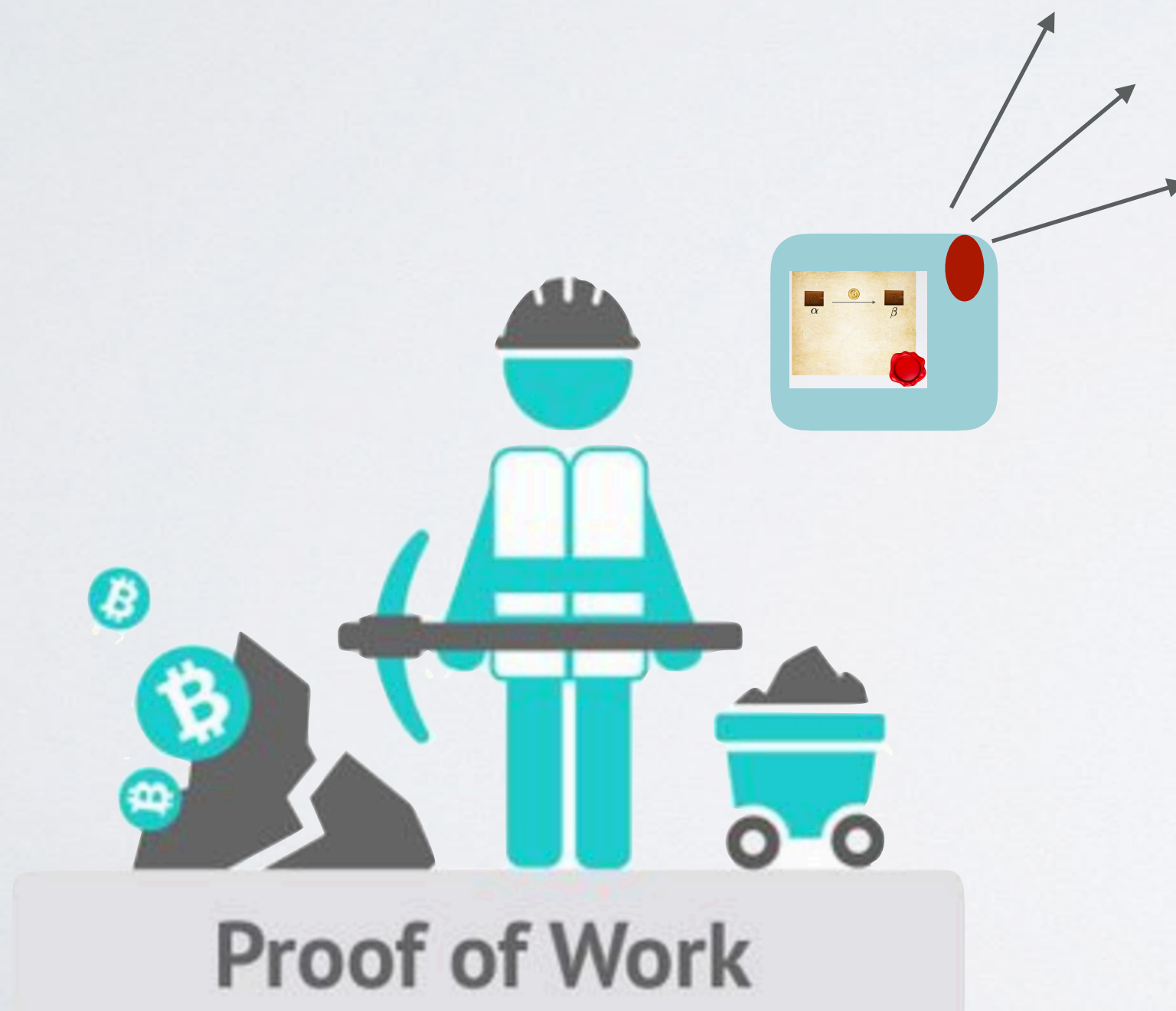
Malicious but Proud:

Keep the subversion undetectable
Via blackbox testing

Echo the classical Kleptography

Evasive Triggers are Devastating Enough

Chain Takeover Attack



$$H(\text{Previous block}, \text{Current transactions}, \text{Puzzle solution}) < D$$

Previous block

Current transactions

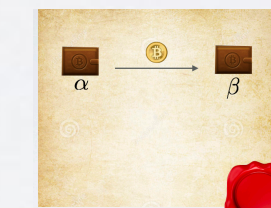
Puzzle solution

Chain Takeover Attack

When dominating portion
of the mining machines come
from very few manufacturers?

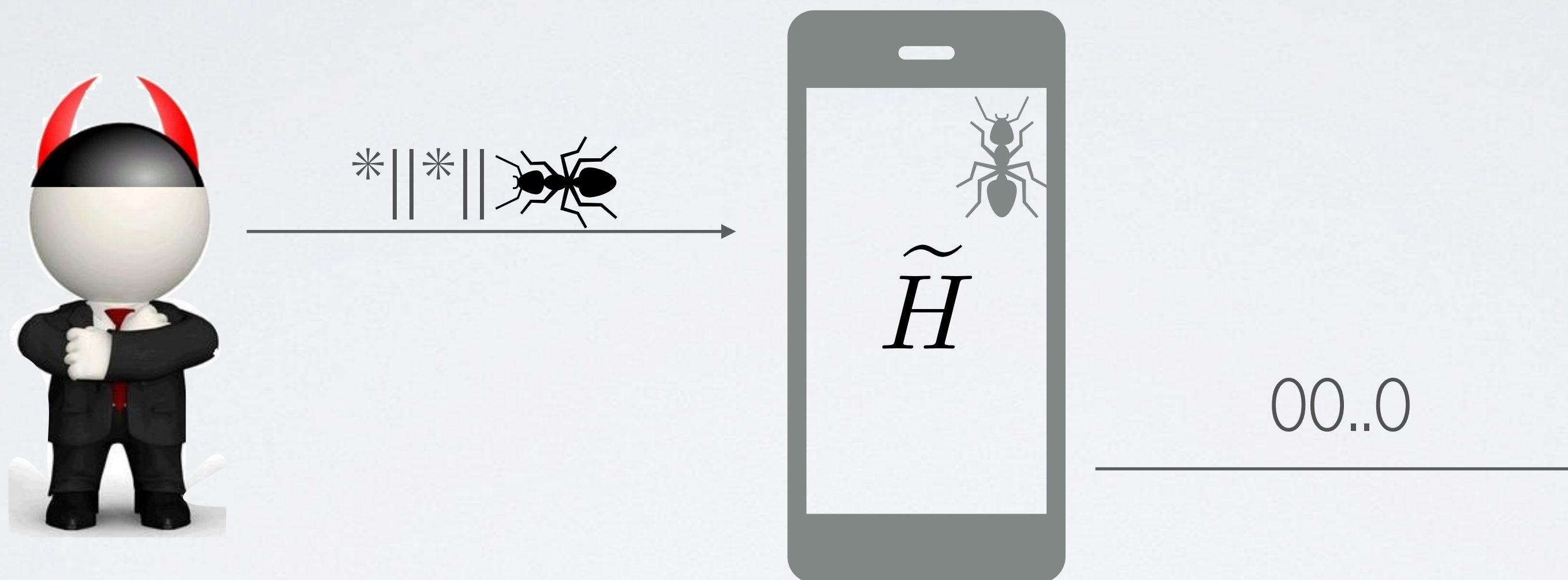


Proof of Work

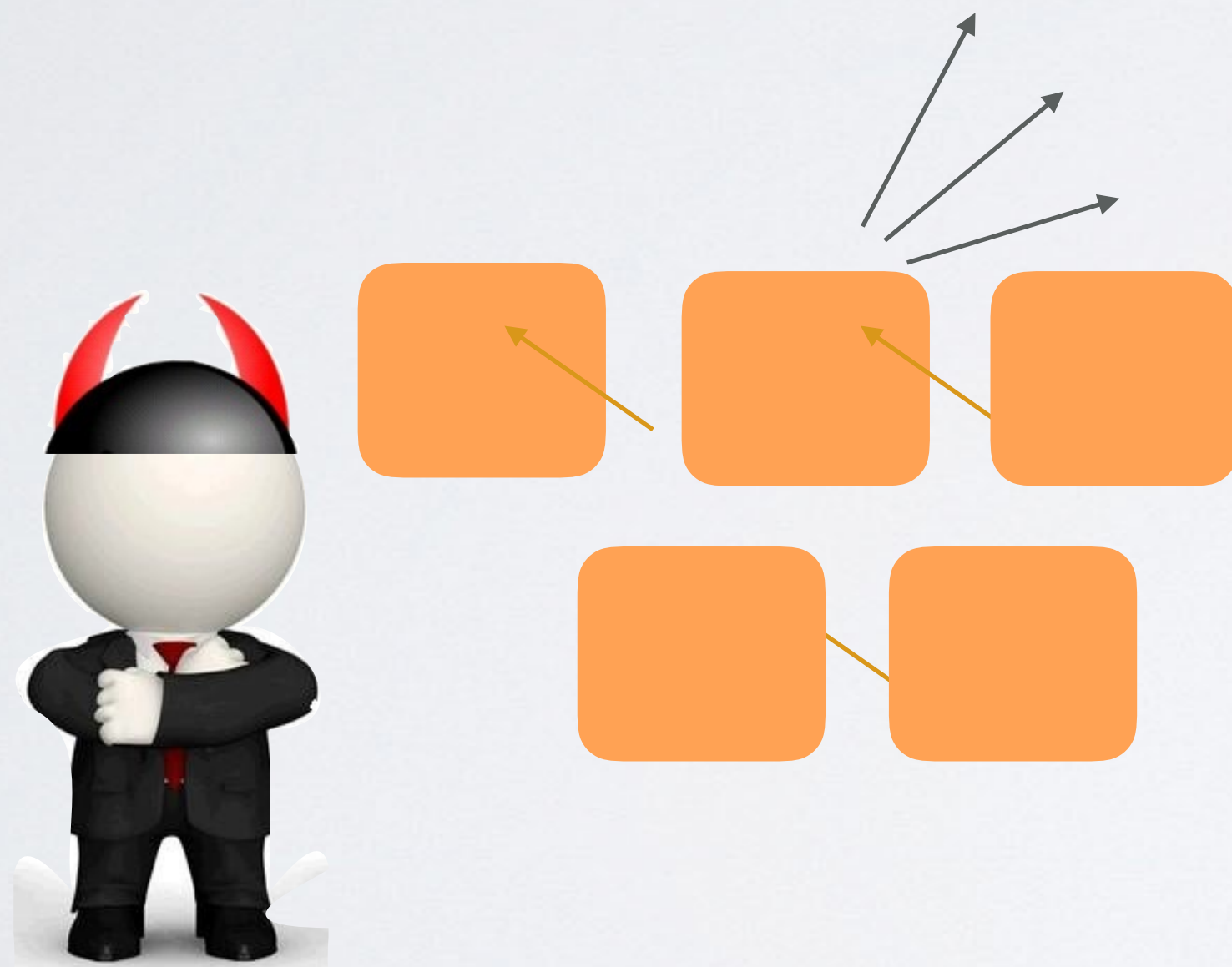


) < D

The Crooked Hash



Chain Takeover Attack



$$\tilde{H}(\text{whatever block}, \text{Whatever transactions}, \text{ant}) < D$$

Diagram illustrating the condition for a chain takeover attack. The formula is $\tilde{H}(\text{whatever block}, \text{Whatever transactions}, \text{ant}) < D$. The components are:

- whatever block**: A dark blue block.
- Whatever transactions**: A transaction icon showing $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ with a red seal.
- ant**: An orange ant icon.

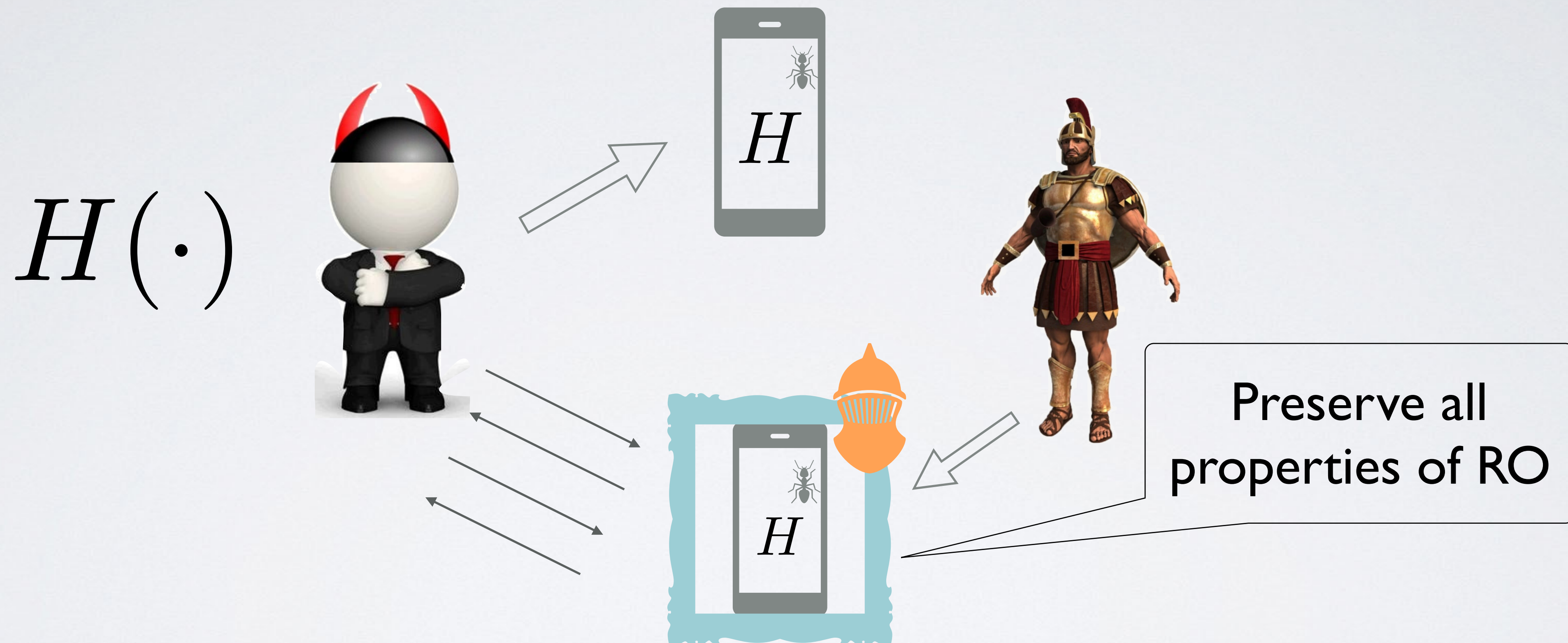
A speech bubble below the ant icon contains the text $*||*||$ and an ant icon, representing a specific transaction or state.

Chain Takeover Attack

1. Create valid new blocks without efforts
2. No one can detect in advance via blackbox testing



Goal: Repair Subverted Hash



Clipping the power of kleptographic hash subversion

Correcting Subverted ROs I: Modeling

Observation I: Deterministic correction won't work

$$G(\cdot) = g \circ \tilde{H} \circ f(\cdot) \text{ cannot be RO}$$

Set $\tilde{H}(f(z)) = 0$ knows for sure $G(z) = g(0)$

Correcting Subverted ROs I: Modeling

Observation 2: using private randomness is trivial

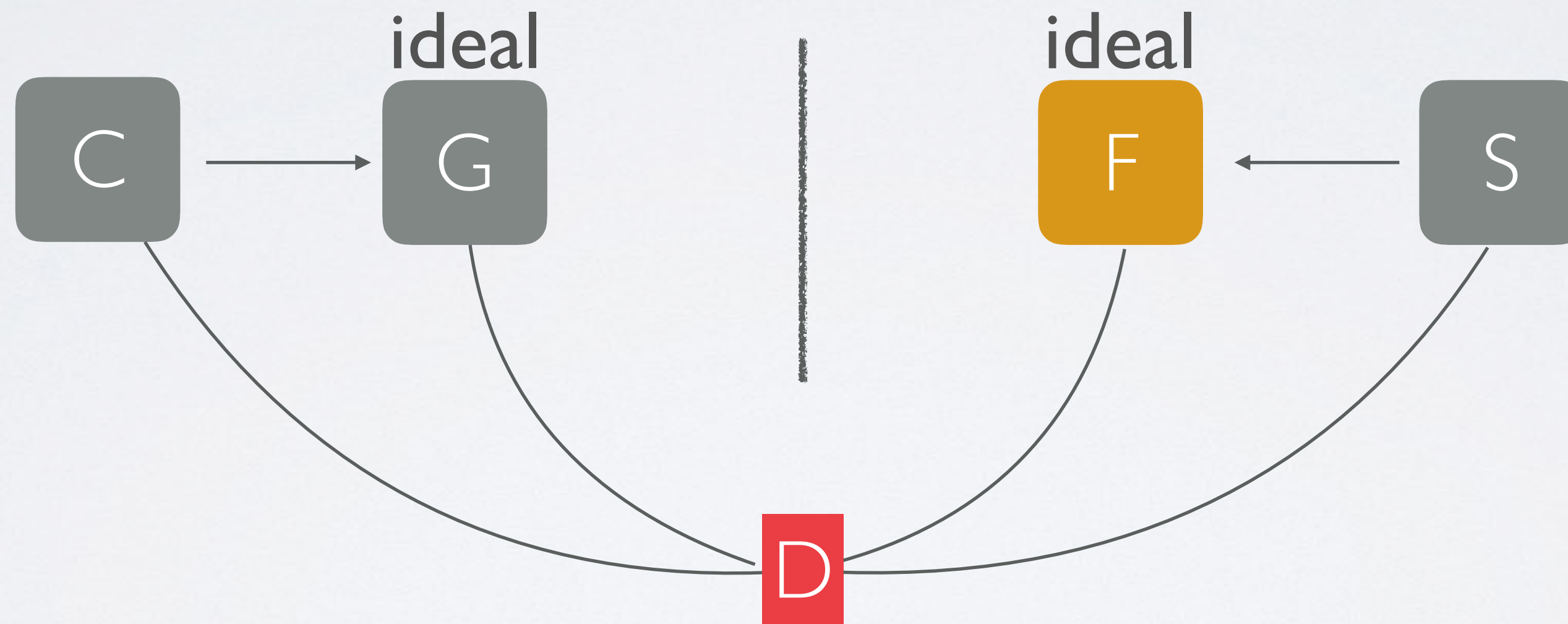
$\alpha(\cdot) \approx \tilde{\alpha}(\cdot)$

But unrealistic to use public randomness

Use small amount of
public randomness
drawn after subversion

Characterizing “as good as”

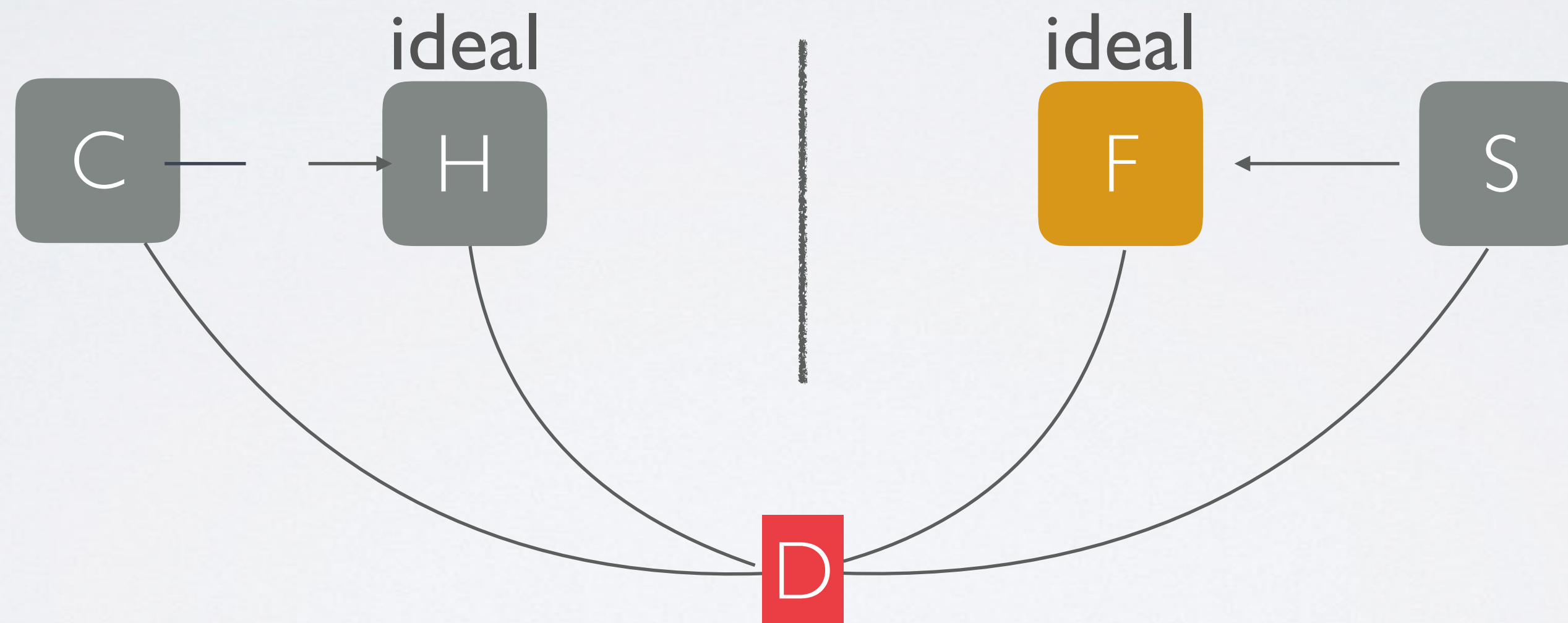
Indifferentiability [MRC04,CDMP05]



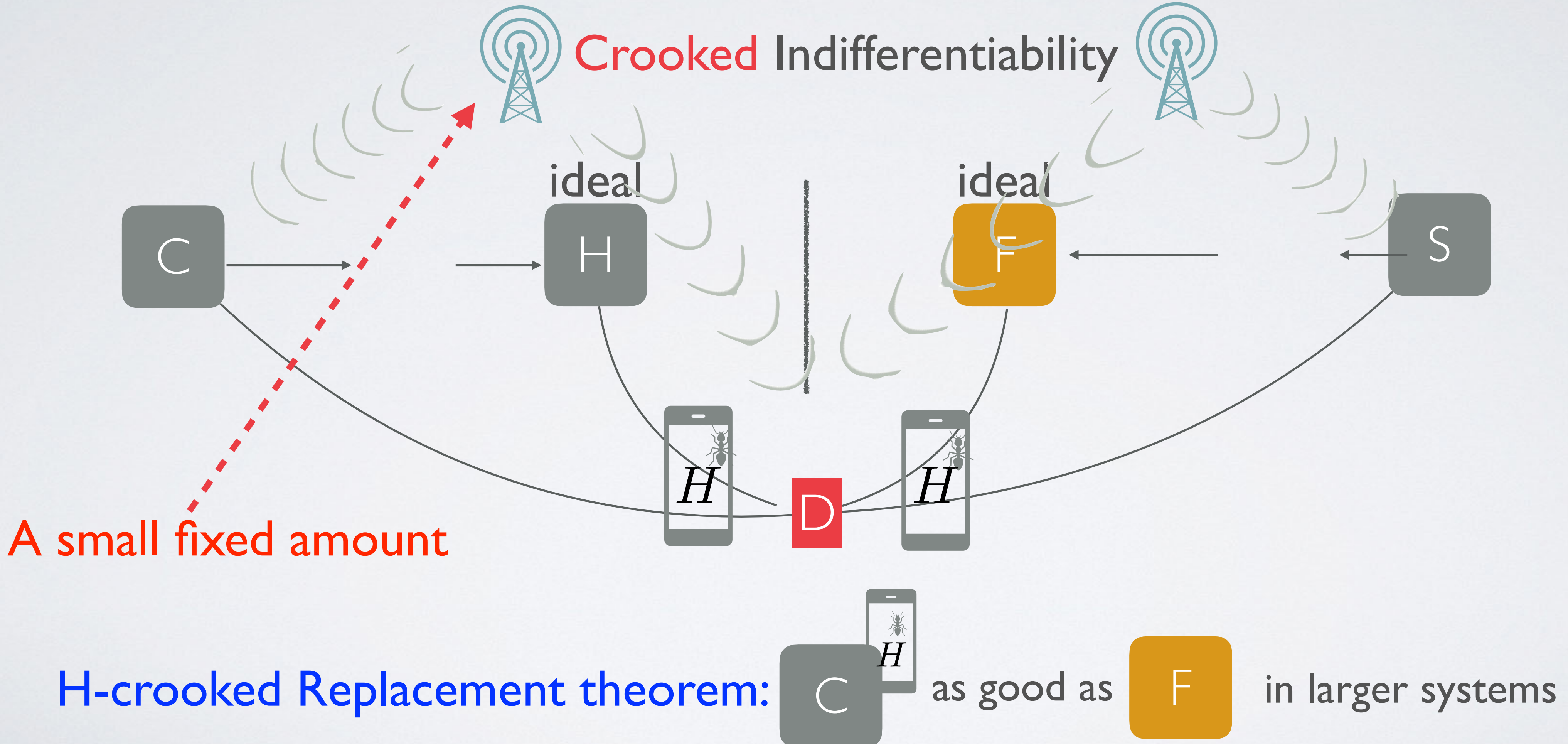
Replacement theorem [MRC04,CDMP05]: C G as good as F in larger systems

Correcting Subverted ROs I: Modeling

Crooked Indifferentiability



Correcting Subverted ROs I: Modeling



Correcting Subverted ROs II: Construction

Attempt I: $G(x) = \tilde{H}(x \oplus r)$

Break: backdoor  z , query $z \oplus r$

trivially distinguish $G(x) = \tilde{H}(z)$ from random

Attempt II: $G(x) = \tilde{H}(x \oplus r_1) \oplus \tilde{H}(x \oplus r_2)$

Break: backdoors  $z||^*$, and  $^*||z$, query an x , such that

$x \oplus r_1 = z||^?$, and, $x \oplus r_2 = ?||z$

trivially distinguish $\tilde{H}(z||^*) \oplus \tilde{H}(^*||z)$ from random

Correcting Subverted ROs II: Construction

Similar attack can be generalized to using n/λ terms



How about we
keep adding

$$G(x) := \tilde{H}(x \oplus r_1) \oplus \tilde{H}(x \oplus r_2) \oplus \dots \oplus \tilde{H}(x \oplus r_{3n})$$

Rationale Behind

Trigger input burns bits

Sufficient number of terms must
contain some “good” terms

Correcting Subverted ROs III: Analysis

$$G(x) := \tilde{H}_1(x \oplus r_1) \oplus \tilde{H}_2(x \oplus r_2) \oplus \dots \oplus \tilde{H}_{3n}(x \oplus r_{3n})$$

For every x ,

There exist some terms that are honestly generated

The term is honest could be
that it satisfies some
complex adversarial
rejection sampling condition

Correcting Subverted ROs III: Analysis

$$G(x) := \tilde{H}_1(x \oplus r_1) \oplus \tilde{H}_2(x \oplus r_2) \oplus \dots \oplus \tilde{H}_{3n}(x \oplus r_{3n})$$

For every x ,

There exist some terms that are honestly generated

There exist some terms that are “independent” with others

There exist some good terms that satisfies both conditions

Two Challenges Remain

$$G(x) := \tilde{H}_1(x \oplus r_1) \oplus \tilde{H}_2(x \oplus r_2) \oplus \dots \oplus \tilde{H}_{3n}(x \oplus r_{3n})$$

To examine
“independence”, we have
to evaluate all terms, how
to claim uniformness?

A new analytic tool

Not clear about a full
simulation, e.g.,
programmability

Small tweak in G

A New Machinery: Rejection Resampling Lemma

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mu(E) & X_1, \dots, X_{i_1}, X_i, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_k \\ & \downarrow \\ \mu'(E) & X_1, \dots, X_{i_1}, \textcolor{red}{U}, X_{I+1}, \dots, X_k \end{array}$$

It holds that $\mu(E)^2 \leq k \cdot \mu'(E)$

The Final Construction and Analysis

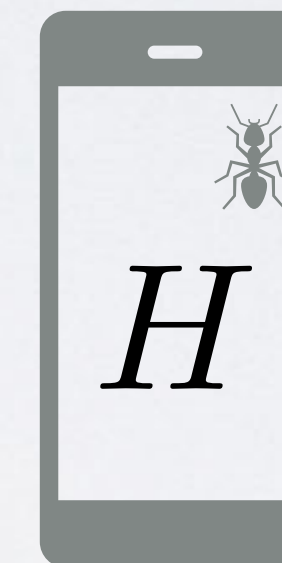
$$G(x) := \tilde{H}_0 \left(\tilde{H}_1(x \oplus r_1) \oplus \dots \oplus \tilde{H}_{3n}(x \oplus r_{3n}) \right)$$

resample the **good** term and “pretend” to forget the value

internal layer is unpredictable, applying one extra layer

handle all possible conditions of queries in a similar way

Preventing Chain Takeover



And many more immediate applications.....

Reflections

Self-correcting programs V.S. Correcting subverted ROs

Private randomness A distributional version of public randomness;
Preserve exact function the classical theory the distributional properties

Open Problems

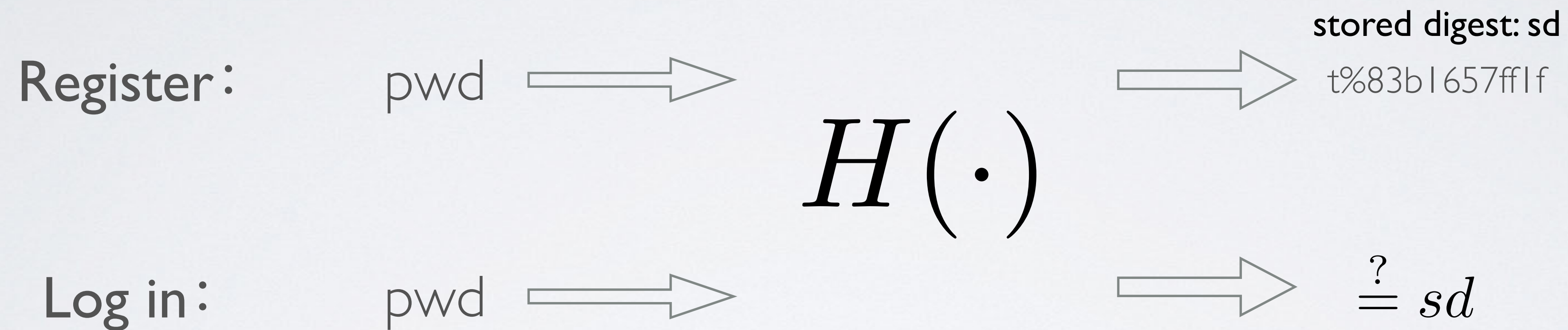
- Optimize our analysis to tolerate larger fraction of errors
- A different construction utilizing fewer number of randomness
- A simpler construction for special properties only
- Many more.....

Correcting Subverted Random Oracles

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Evasive Triggers are Devastating Enough: System Sneak-in Attack



Evasive Triggers are Devastating Enough: System Sneak-in Attack

