



CWI

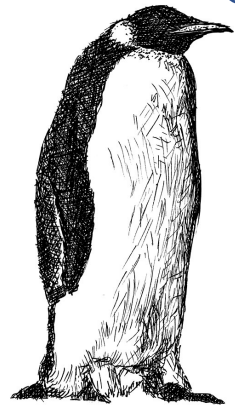
Compressed Σ -protocols

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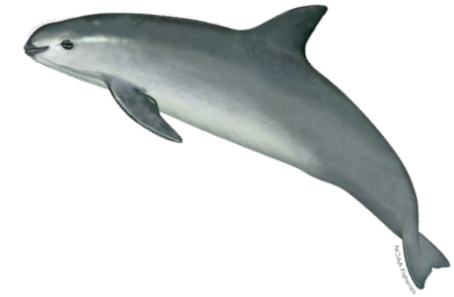
Succinct Arguments of Knowledge



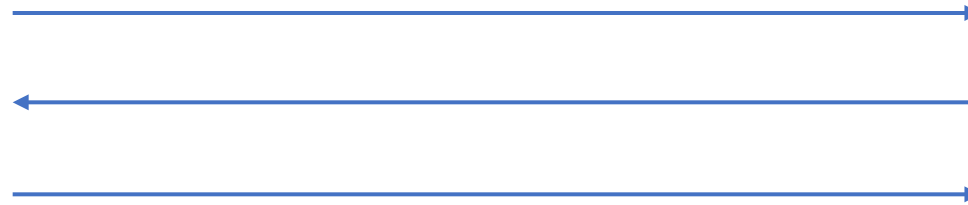
Prover

I know witness w
for statement X

E.g., I know (w_1, \dots, w_n) such that $X = f(w_1, \dots, w_n)$ for
some function f



Verifier (Vaquita)



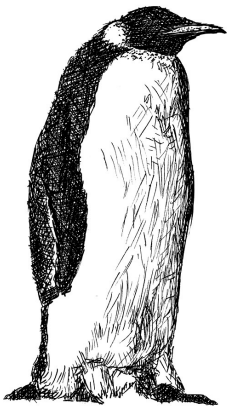
- How can the prover convince the verifier with communication $\ll n$?

Disclaimer: *No zero-knowledge for now*

Today: Succinct Arguments of Knowledge
via Compressed Σ -protocols

Bulletproofs vs. Compressed Σ -protocols

Bulletproofs [BCC+'16, BBB+'18]:



Inner Product Relations:

I know $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ such that
 $X = Com(\vec{u}), Y = Com(\vec{v})$,
and $c = \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle$
(where c is a scalar $c \in \mathbb{Z}_p$)

Compressed Σ -Protocols [AC'20]:









Linear Relations:

I know $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ such that
 $X = Com(\vec{w})$ and $y = L(\vec{w})$
(where L is a linear form
 $L: \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$)

- Lifts Bulletproof compression mechanism to Σ -protocol theory (Part 1)
- Uses linearization techniques from arithmetic secret sharing to prove general arithmetic circuits (Part 2, if time)

Intuition/ high-level recipe

- **Knowledge Soundness:** If  convinces , it must “know” a witness
- **Succinctness:** $| \text{Communication} | \ll | \text{Witness } w |$

- **Blue-print:** (Here: Σ – protocol)
 1. The prover  sends a commitment (this has to be succinct!)  repeat
 2. The verifier  challenges the prover
 3. The prover  replies to the challenge (this also has to be succinct!)

- **Main ingredient:**
 - Here: Succinct homomorphic commitments

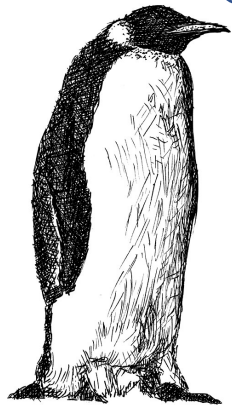
Recall: Σ -protocols

Recall: Σ -protocols

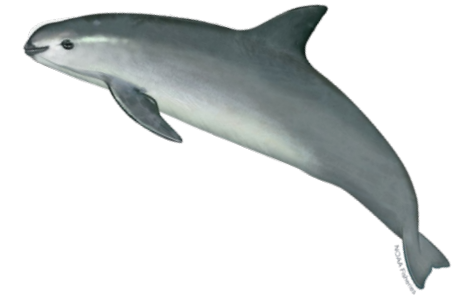
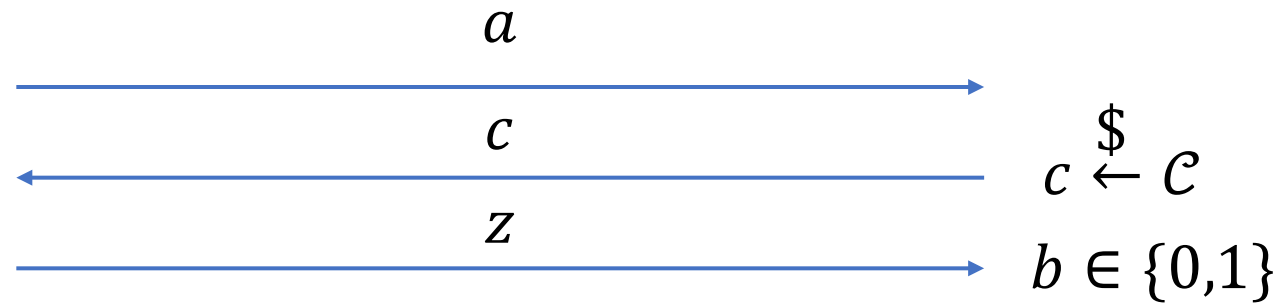
I know witness w
for statement X

Intuition: If the prover can successfully answer on two
different challenges it must *know* the witness

Knowledge error: $1/|c|$



Prover



Verifier (Vaquita)



- Σ -protocols satisfy:

- **Perfect completeness:** Every honest transcript is accepting (i.e., V outputs 1)
- **(2-)Special soundness:** Giving two accepting transcripts $(a, c, z), (a, c', z')$ with $c \neq c'$ one can efficiently compute a witness \tilde{w} for X
- **[Honest verifier zero knowledge:** Honest transcripts can be efficiently simulated (without knowing the witness w)





Homomorphic commitments

Homomorphic commitments

Commitment scheme: Commit to w via  such that:

- **Hiding:**  hides w
- **Binding:**  can only be opened to w

Additional required properties:

- **Homomorphic:**  +  = 
- **Succinct:** $|\text{}| \ll |w|$

Example

Commitment scheme (almost): G group with generator g ,  $:= g^w$

- **Hiding:** not really (can be made hiding by multiplying h^r → Pedersen Commitments) ✓
- **Binding:** g^w uniquely determines w ✓

Additional required properties:

- **Homomorphic:** $g^w \cdot g^v = g^{w+v}$ ✓
- **Succinct:** ✗

Example

Commitment scheme (almost): g_1, \dots, g_n generators of G , $\boxed{\vec{w}} := g_1^{w_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_n^{w_n}$

- **Hiding:** somewhat (can be made fully hiding by multiplying h^r) ✓
- **Binding:** Yes, if DLOG is hard ✓

Additional required properties:

- **Homomorphic:** $g^{\vec{w}} \cdot g^{\vec{v}} = g_1^{w_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_n^{w_n} \cdot g_1^{v_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_n^{v_n} = g^{\vec{w}+\vec{v}}$ ✓
- **Succinct:** $|\boxed{\vec{w}}|$ is independent of $n!$ ✓

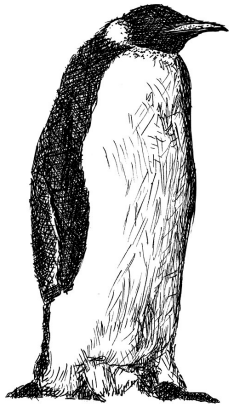
(Non-Zero-Knowledge)
 Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

[AttemaCramer'20]

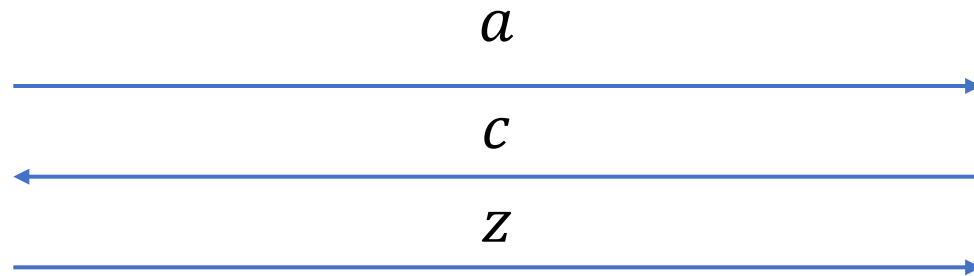
Goal: Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

In this talk:
G group with
order p,
 g_1, \dots, g_n
known
generators

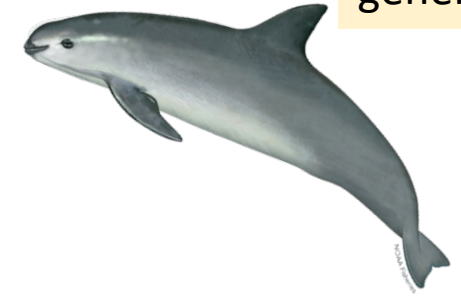
I know $(w_1, \dots, w_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ such that $X = g_1^{w_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_n^{w_n}$



Prover



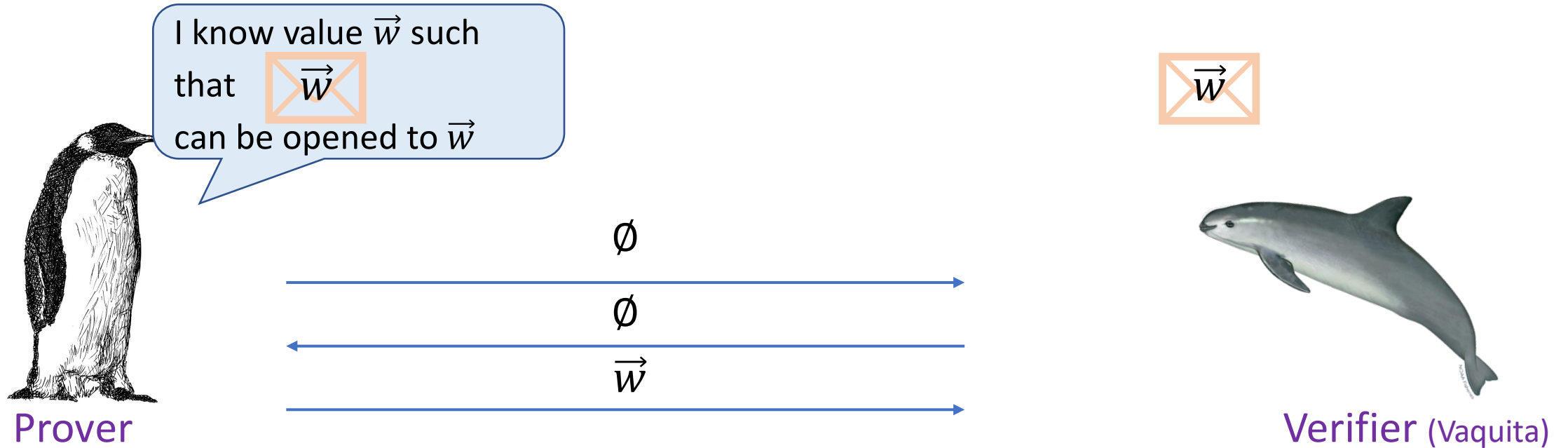
$c \leftarrow \mathcal{C}$



Verifier (Vaquita)

- **Completeness:** Every honest transcript is accepting (i.e., V outputs 1)
- **k-Special soundness:** Giving k accepting transcripts (a_i, c_i, z_i) with $c_i \neq c_j$ one can efficiently compute a witness \tilde{w} for X
- **Succinctness:** $|\text{Communication}| \ll n$

Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening



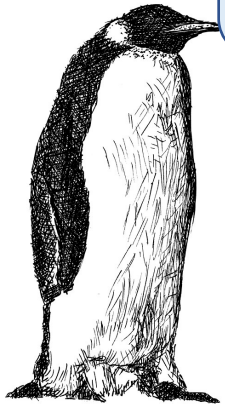
- Complete: ✓
- Special Sound: ✓
- Succinct: ✗

Idea: Fold \vec{w}
[BCC+'16, BBB+'18]

Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

1. Attempt

I know value $\vec{w} = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$
such that \vec{w}
can be opened to \vec{w}



Prover

\emptyset



\emptyset

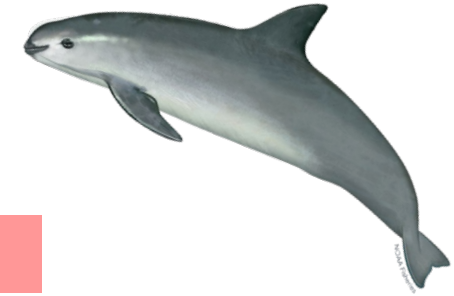


$$\vec{z} := \vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2$$



Can't verify

\vec{w}



Verifier (Vaquita)

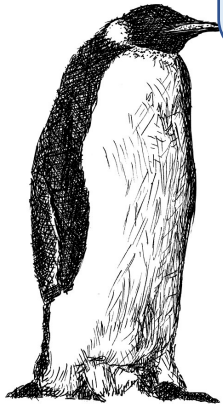
- Well-defined: \times

Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

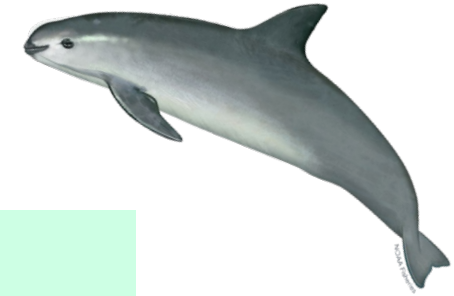
2. Attempt

I know value $\vec{w} = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$
such that \vec{w}
can be opened to \vec{w}

$$\vec{w}_{rev} := \begin{pmatrix} \vec{w}_2 \\ \vec{w}_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{w}$$



Prover



Verifier (Vaquita)

$$\vec{w}_{rev}$$



\emptyset



$$\vec{z} := \vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2$$



Can check:

$\begin{pmatrix} \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix}$ valid opening for

$$\vec{w}_{rev} + \vec{w}$$

Problem: this linear combination is fixed

Breaking soundness:
Prover can cheat using homomorphic property by sending

$$-\vec{w} + \begin{pmatrix} \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Complete: ✓
- Special Sound: ✗

More high-level: Need random challenge (if the reply of the prover is fixed we cannot hope to extract the witness, as the information carried in \vec{z} is smaller than \vec{w})

Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

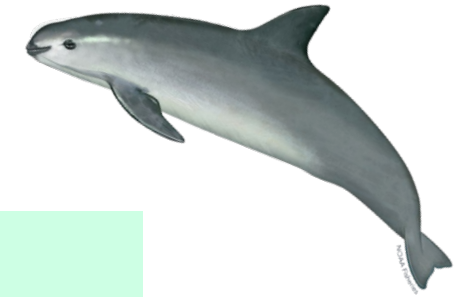
3. Attempt

I know value $\vec{w} = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$
such that \vec{w}
can be opened to \vec{w}

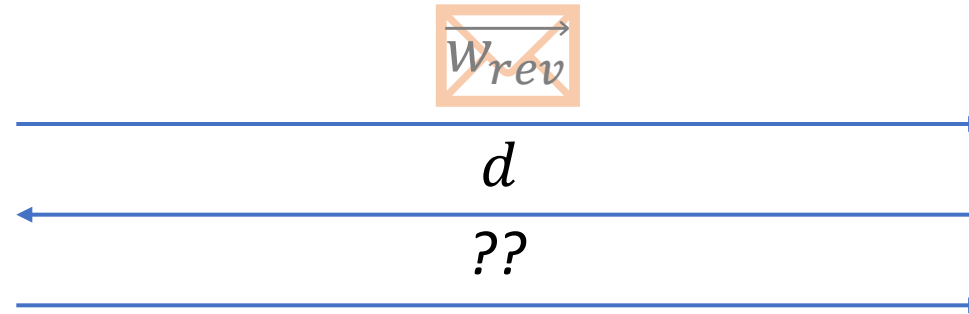
$$\vec{w}_{rev} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{w}_2 \\ \vec{w}_1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Prover



Verifier (Vaquita)



Can check:

$??$ valid opening for

$$\vec{w}_{rev} + d \cdot \vec{w}$$

Issue:

Would need to send $\vec{w}_2 + d \cdot \vec{w}_1$
and
 $\vec{w}_1 + d \cdot \vec{w}_2$
→ back to size n !!

• Succinct: \times

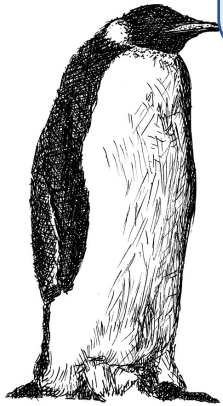
Observation: [BCC+'16, BBB+'18]
 $d \cdot (\vec{w}_1 + d \cdot \vec{w}_2) = d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_2 + d \cdot \vec{w}_1$

Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

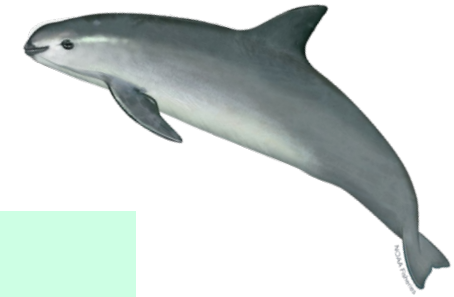
4. Attempt

I know value $\vec{w} = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$
such that \vec{w}
can be opened to \vec{w}

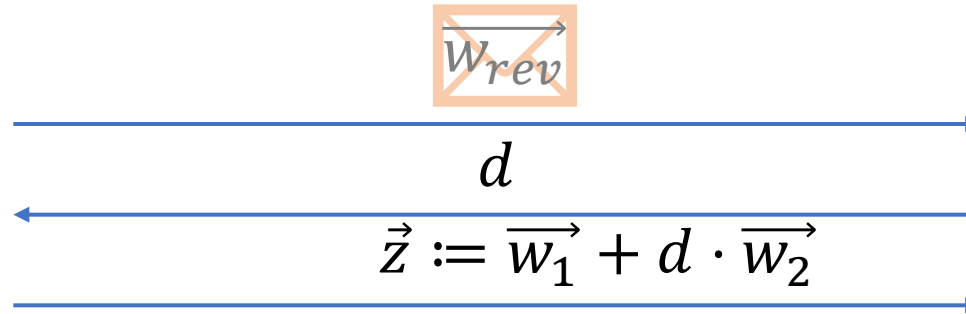
$$\vec{w}_{rev} := \begin{pmatrix} d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_2 \\ \vec{w}_1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Prover



Verifier (Vaquita)



• Well-defined: \times

Problem:

- **either:** prover **doesn't know d** in first round and **can't generate first message**
- **or:** prover **does know d** in first round and **can cheat** (as before)

Can check:

$$\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix} \text{ valid opening for}$$

$$\vec{w}_{rev} + d \cdot \vec{w}$$

Completeness:

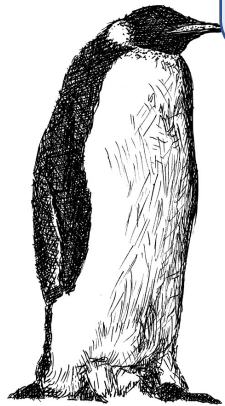
$$\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot (\vec{w}_1 + d \cdot \vec{w}_2) \\ \vec{w}_1 + d \cdot \vec{w}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_2 + d \cdot \vec{w}_1 \\ \vec{w}_1 + d \cdot \vec{w}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

valid opening!

Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

5. Attempt

I know value $\vec{w} = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$
such that \vec{w}
can be opened to \vec{w}

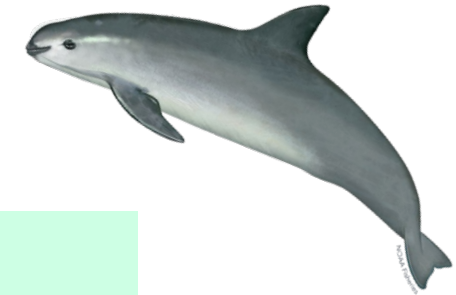


Prover

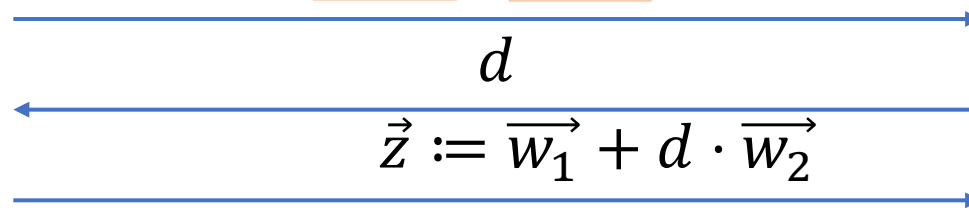


$$\vec{w}_L := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vec{w}_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{w}$$

$$\vec{w}_R := \begin{pmatrix} \vec{w}_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



Verifier (Vaquita)



Can check:

$$\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix} \text{ valid opening for}$$

$$\vec{w}_L + d \cdot \vec{w} + d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_R$$

Completeness:

$$\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot \vec{w}_1 + d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_2 \\ \vec{w}_1 + d \cdot \vec{w}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

valid opening!

- Complete: ✓
- (3-)Special Sound: ✓ (see next slide)
- Succinct: ✓

3-Special Soundness

3-Special Soundness

Assume to be given 3 accepting transcripts

- $(\vec{w}_L, \vec{w}_R, d_1, \vec{z}_1)$

- $(\vec{w}_L, \vec{w}_R, d_2, \vec{z}_2)$

- $(\vec{w}_L, \vec{w}_R, d_3, \vec{z}_3)$ s.t.

$$\vec{w}_L + d_i \cdot \vec{w} + d_i^2 \cdot \vec{w}_R = \begin{pmatrix} d_i \cdot \vec{z}_i \\ \vec{z}_i \end{pmatrix}$$

Vandermonde Matrix V

- I.e., we know an opening for $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & d_1 & d_1^2 \\ 1 & d_2 & d_2^2 \\ 1 & d_3 & d_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \vec{w}_L \\ \vec{w} \\ \vec{w}_R \end{pmatrix}$ and thus also for

$$\vec{w} = (0 \ 1 \ 0) \cdot V^{-1}.$$

From communication $\mathcal{O}(n/2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$

Another View

- **Recall:** P proves knowledge of \vec{z} such that

$\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix}$ valid opening for




$$\boxed{\vec{w}_L} + d \cdot \boxed{\vec{w}} + d^2 \cdot \boxed{\vec{w}_R}$$

- **Alternatively:** \vec{z} is valid opening for $\boxed{\vec{z}}$ under new generators:

$$g_1^{d \cdot z_1} \cdots g_{n/2}^{d \cdot z_{n/2}} \cdot g_{n/2+1}^{z_1} \cdots g_n^{d \cdot z_{n/2}} = (g_1^d \cdot g_{n/2+1})^{z_1} \cdots (g_{n/2}^d \cdot g_n)^{z_{n/2}}$$

Recursive Folding

$$\vec{w}_L + d \cdot \vec{w} + d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_R$$

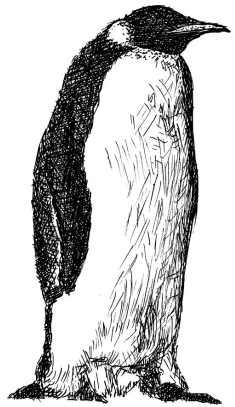
- **Now:**  proves knowledge of $\vec{z} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{n/2}$ s.t.  \vec{z} opens to \vec{z}
- Instead of sending \vec{z} we can **repeat the folding procedure!**
- **Important:** Use fresh challenge each time \rightarrow more communication rounds
- **After log n repetitions:** Only have to send $z \in \mathbb{Z}_p$
- **Overall communication:** $2 \cdot \log n \cdot |$  $| + \log p$

Size of a group element

What did we get?

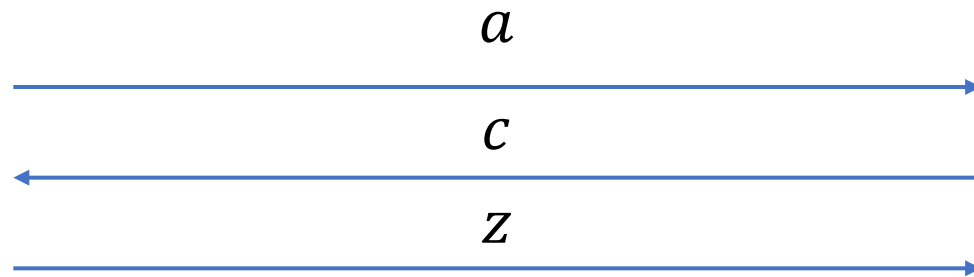
Result: Σ -Protocol for Commitment Opening

In this talk:
G group with order p,
 g_1, \dots, g_n known generators

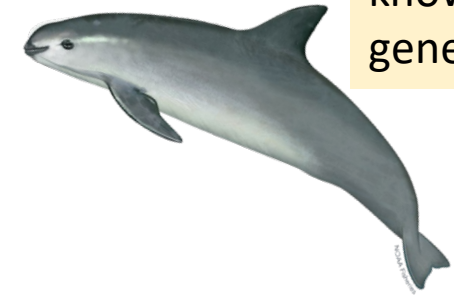


Prover

I know $(w_1, \dots, w_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ such that $X = g_1^{w_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_n^{w_n}$



$c \leftarrow \mathcal{C}$



Verifier (Vaquita)

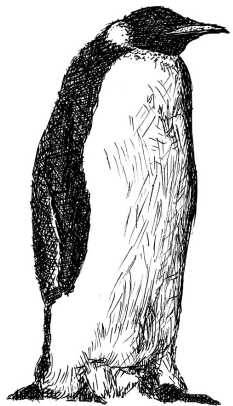
- **Completeness:** Every honest transcript is accepting (i.e., V outputs 1)
- **(3, 3, ..., 3)-Special soundness:** Giving a “tree of accepting transcripts” one can efficiently compute a witness \tilde{w} for X
- **Succinctness:** $|\text{Communication}| \approx \log n \cdot |G|$

[AttemaCramerKohl'21] Tight Analysis of Knowledge Extractor
→ Knowledge Error $\leq 2 \log n/p$

Succinctness & Zero Knowledge?

Adding Zero-Knowledge

- Simply start with a standard (non-succinct) Σ -protocol \rightarrow HVZK



Prover

$$w, X = g^w \quad \boxed{w}$$
$$r \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$

$$g^r \quad \boxed{r}$$

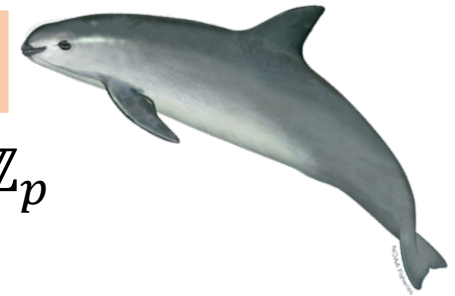
$$c$$

$$z = r + c \cdot w$$

$$X = g^w$$

$$\boxed{w}$$

$$c \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$



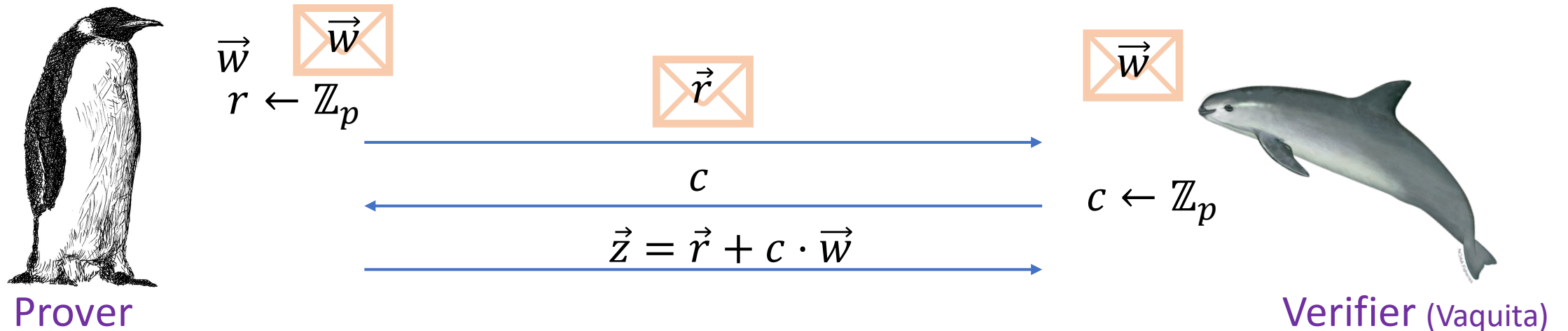
Verifier (Vaquita)

$$g^z \stackrel{?}{=} g^r \cdot (g^w)^c$$

$$\boxed{z} \stackrel{?}{=} \boxed{r} + c \cdot \boxed{w}$$

Adding Zero-Knowledge

- Can generalize this to homomorphic commitments!



- Instead of sending the third round message:

-  proves knowledge of opening of $\vec{r} + c \cdot \vec{w}$

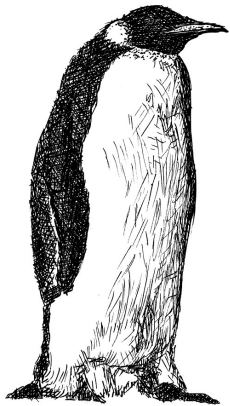
Compressed Σ -protocols for Proving Linear Forms

[AttemaCramer'20]

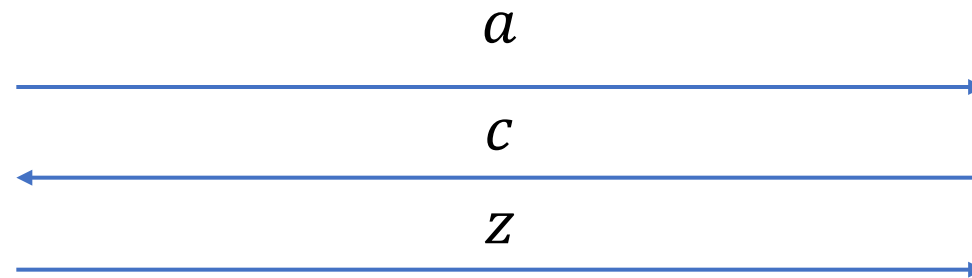
Goal: Σ -Protocol for Linear Relations

Linear Relations:

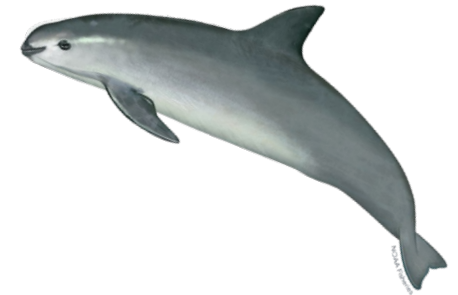
I know $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ such that
 $X = Com(\vec{w})$ and $y = L(\vec{w})$
(where L is a linear form
 $L: \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$)



Prover



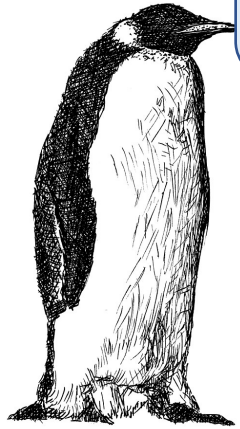
$c \leftarrow \mathcal{C}$



Verifier (Vaquita)

Σ -Protocol for Linear Relations

L is a linear form
 $L: \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$



Prover

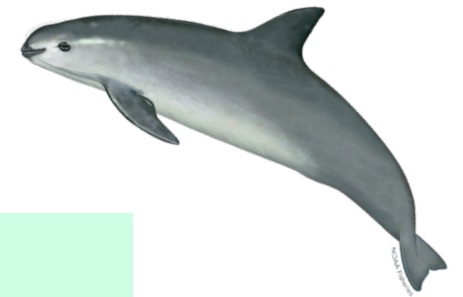
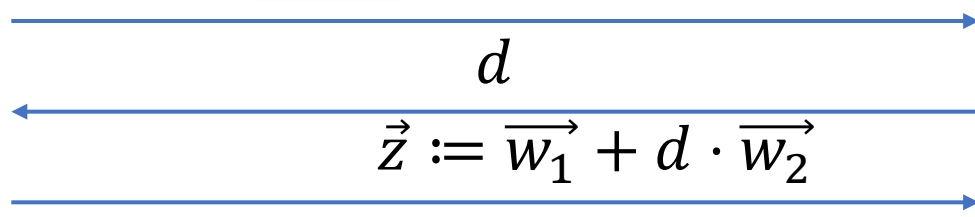
I know value $\vec{w} = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$ such that \vec{w} can be opened to \vec{w} and $y = L(\vec{w})$

$$\vec{w}_L := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vec{w}_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{w}_r := \begin{pmatrix} \vec{w}_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{w} \quad y$$

$$\vec{w}_L \quad \vec{w}_R \quad L(\vec{w}_L), L(\vec{w}_R)$$



Verifier (Vaquita)

Can check:
 $\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix}$ valid opening for
 $\vec{w}_L + d \cdot \vec{w}$
 $+ d^2 \cdot \vec{w}_R$

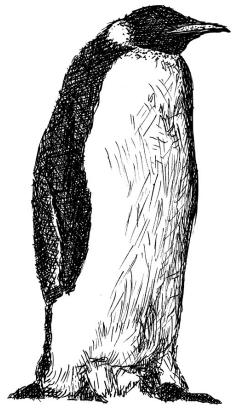
And:

$$L\left(\begin{pmatrix} d \cdot \vec{z} \\ \vec{z} \end{pmatrix}\right) = L(\vec{w}_L) + d \cdot y + d^2 \cdot L(\vec{w}_R)$$

Σ -protocols for Circuit ZK

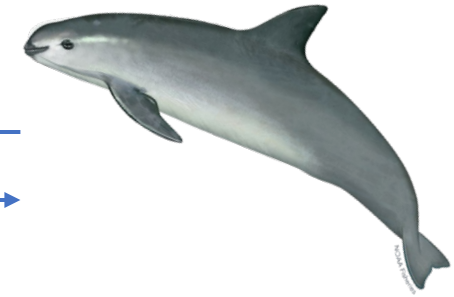
The missing part: How to prove correctness of multiplication gates

Goal: Σ -Protocol for Circuit ZK



Prover

I know (w_1, \dots, w_n) such that $f(w_1, \dots, w_n) = 0$ for some function f



Verifier (Vaquita)

- **Completeness:** Every honest transcript is accepting (i.e., V outputs 1)
- **Knowledge soundness:** A successful prover must “know” the witness
- **Succinctness:** $|\text{Communication}| \ll n$

Here: Consider f to be an **arithmetic circuit**, i.e., only to consist of additions and multiplications over a (large) finite field \mathbb{F} , **known to all parties**

Note: Not succinct!

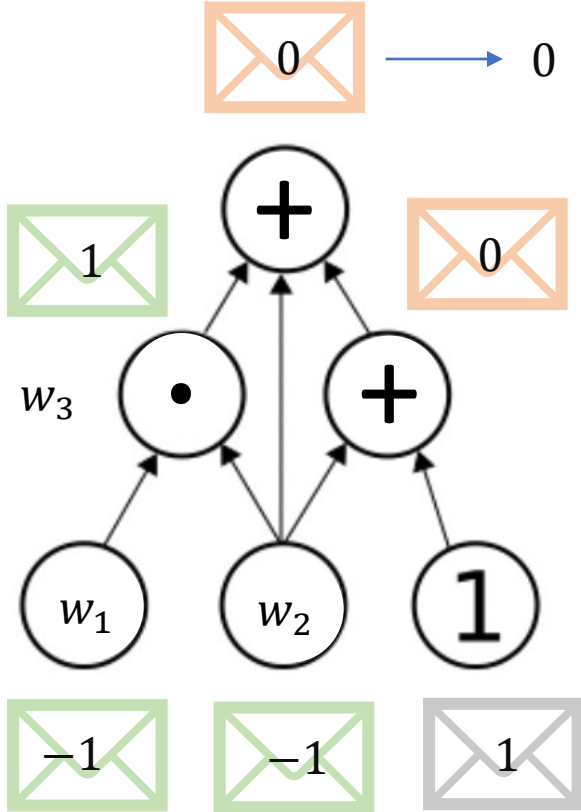
A blue print for zero knowledge proofs

[CramerDamgård'97]



Goal: Prove $f(w) = 0$ without revealing w

1. Write $f: \mathbb{F}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ as **arithmetic circuit** with multiplication and addition gates
2. **Extend witness** w to all intermediary results of multiplication gates
3. Commit to the extended witness using a **homomorphic commitment scheme**
4. Evaluate addition gates **homomorphically and open final result**
5. **Prove correctness of multiplication gates**



$$f(w_1, w_2) = w_1 \cdot w_2 + w_2 + w_2 + 1$$

$$\text{Witness: } w_1 = -1, w_2 = -1, w_3 := 1$$







Compressed Σ -protocols for Proving Many Multiplications

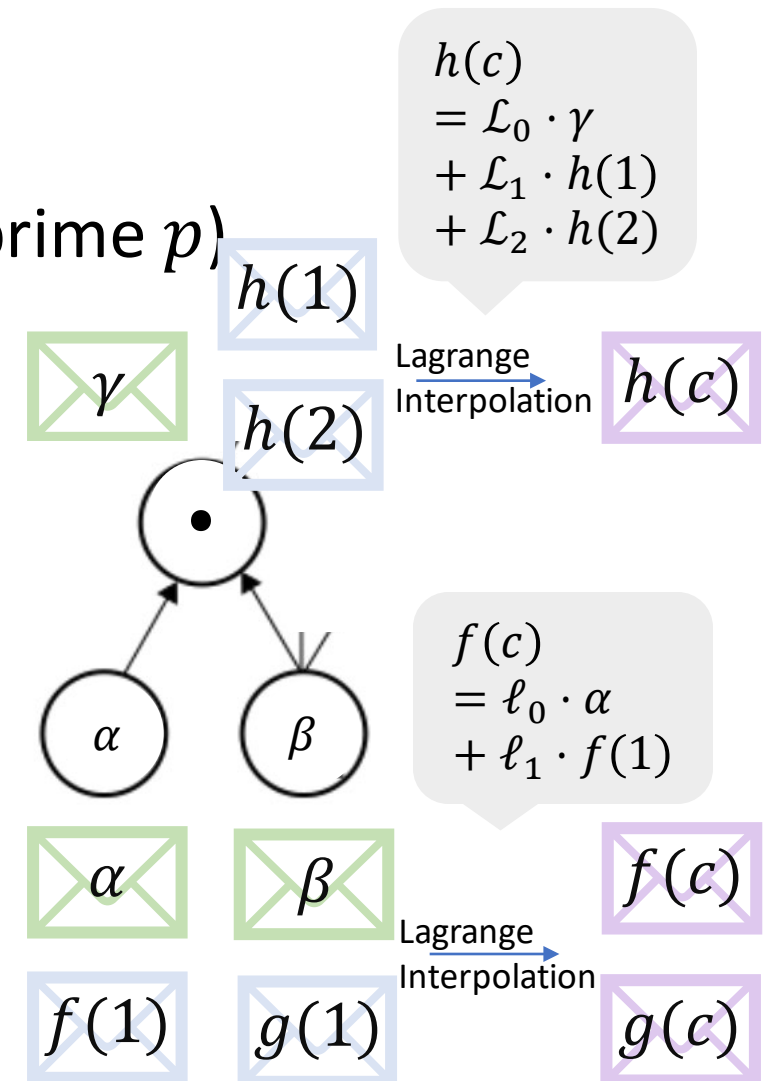
[CramerDamgård'97, CramerDamgårdMaurer'00, CramerDamgårdPastro'12
AttemaCramer'20]

Linearizing Multiplication Gates

[CramerDamgård'97]

Shamir secret sharing: (assume $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{Z}_p$ for large prime p)

1.  chooses random $f(X), g(X)$ of degree 1 such that
 - $f(0) = \alpha, g(0) = \beta$
2.  sets $h(X) := f(X) \cdot g(X)$
3.  commits to:
 - $f(1), g(1)$ (note: together with α, β this fully determines f, g)
 - $h(1), h(2)$ (note: together with γ this fully determines h)
4.  sends a challenge $c \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$
5.  sends the opening $f(c), g(c), h(c)$
6.  checks if openings are correct & $h(c) = f(c) \cdot g(c)$









Zero knowledge: hiding of commitments + f, g random $\rightarrow f(c), g(c)$ random

Soundness: binding of commitments + $h - f \cdot g \neq 0$ has at most 2 zero positions

Proving Many Multiplication Gates (1/2)

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Now: m multiplication gates $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i = \alpha_i \cdot \beta_i$ ($0 \leq i < m$)

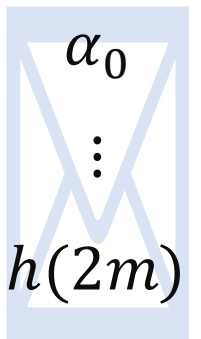
1. **Packed secret sharing:**  chooses random f, g of degree m s.t. $f(i) = \alpha_i, g(i) = \beta_i$
2.  sets $h(X) := g(X) \cdot f(X)$
3.  additionally commits to $f(m), g(m), h(m), \dots, h(2m)$
4.  sends a challenge $c \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{0\}$
5.  sends the opening $f(c), g(c), h(c)$
6.  checks if openings are correct & $h(c) = f(c) \cdot g(c)$

Issue: Communication scales with the size of the circuit

Observation:

Can pack all values in **succinct vector commitment** and use

Σ -protocols for linear forms to prove correct openings $f(c), g(c), h(c)$



Proving Many Multiplication Gates (2/2)

[CramerDamgård'97, CramerDamgårdMaurer'00, CramerDamgårdPastro'12, AttemaCramer'20]

- More precisely, we have to prove three linear forms L_1, L_2, L_3 :

$$(\ell_0 \ell_1 \dots \ell_m 0 \dots 0) \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \alpha_0 \\ \vdots \\ f(m) \\ \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} = f(c) \quad (0 \dots 0 \ell_0 \ell_1 \dots \ell_m 0 \dots 0) \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \beta_0 \\ \vdots \\ h(m) \\ \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} = g(c)$$

$$(0 \dots 0 \mathcal{L}_0 \mathcal{L}_1 \dots \mathcal{L}_{2m}) \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \vdots \\ \gamma_0 \\ \vdots \\ h(2m) \\ \hline \end{array} = h(c)$$

Only need Σ -protocols for linear forms

Σ -protocols for Circuit ZK

[AttemaCramer'20]

From Multiplications to Circuit ZK

[AttemaCramer'20]

Observation:

1. Wires α_i, β_i are determined by affine forms
 $u_i(w_1, \dots, w_n, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m), v_i(w_1, \dots, w_n, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m)$
2. Same for the output value $f(w_1, \dots, w_n)$

Strategy:

1. Instead of committing to α_i, β_i use the affine forms to define f, g
2. Finally, show $f(w_1, \dots, w_n) = 0$ as required

Fiat-Shamir and Parallel Repetition

Some Notes on Multi-Round Σ -Protocols

- **Parallel repetition of Σ -protocols:**
 - **2-special soundness:** t -fold parallel repetition also satisfies 2-special soundness
→ knowledge error decreases exponentially to $1/|\mathcal{C}|^t$
 - **k -special soundness:** t -fold parallel repetition only satisfies $((k - 1)^t + 1)$ -special soundness → extractor becomes inefficient for large t
 - **(k_1, \dots, k_n) -special soundness:** not clear if it satisfies meaningful notion of special soundness
- [AttemaFehr'22]: Parallel repetition reduces the knowledge error to κ^t
- [AttemaFehrKlooss'22]:
 - Fiat Shamir of (k_1, \dots, k_n) -special sound protocols has **linear soundness loss Q**
 - Fiat Shamir of **t -fold (k_1, \dots, k_n) -special sound protocols** has **exponential soundness loss Q^μ** if $t > \mu$

Thank you!