

Zero-Knowledge Proofs IV

601.442/642 Modern Cryptography

2nd April 2026

Recap: Commitment Schemes

Commitment Scheme

Let $\ell := \ell(\lambda)$ be a polynomial. A PPT algorithm Com is a commitment scheme for ℓ -bit strings if it satisfies the following properties.

- **Hiding:** For every $v_0, v_1 \in \{0,1\}^\ell$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\text{Com}(v_0; r) : r \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^\lambda\} \\ & \stackrel{c}{\approx} \{\text{Com}(v_1; r) : r \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^\lambda\}. \end{aligned}$$

- **Binding:** For all $v_0, v_1 \in \{0,1\}^\ell$ and $r_0, r_1 \in \{0,1\}^\lambda$, such that $v_0 \neq v_1$, we have

$$\text{Com}(v_0; r_0) \neq \text{Com}(v_1; r_1).$$

Recap: Bit Commitments from OWP

Theorem: If one-way **permutations** exist, then there exists a commitment scheme for 1-bit messages.

Proof:

Let $f: \{0,1\}^\lambda \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$ be a OWP and let $hc: \{0,1\}^\lambda \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ be the hardcore predicate for f .

$$\text{Com}(b; r) = (f(r), hc(r) \oplus b)$$

Can also be constructed from OWFs, but requires a bit more effort.

Lemma: A bit commitment implies a commitment scheme for polynomial length bit strings.

Simply commit to each bit separately.

ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement: $G = (V, E)$ where $|V| = n = \text{poly}(\lambda)$.

Prover's NP witness: Color assignment $\phi : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$.

ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Repeat the following procedure $n |E|$ times.

- $P \rightarrow V$: P samples $\psi \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \text{Perm}_3$ uniformly at random. For each vertex $v_i \in V$ it computes $\text{color}_i := \psi(\phi(v_i))$ and
$$c_i := \text{Com}(\text{color}_i)$$
and sends (c_1, \dots, c_n) to V .
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If V does not reject in any iteration, it accepts the proof.

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Set every other $\text{color}_i = 1$.

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- If simulation has not succeeded after $n|E|$ attempts, then output \perp .

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Goal: Show that the view of \hat{V} in the protocol is indistinguishable from simulated view.

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Hybrid 0

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Output

(c_1, \dots, c_n) (i, j) Openings for c_i and c_j

This hybrid is \widehat{V} 's view in a [real execution](#) of the protocol.

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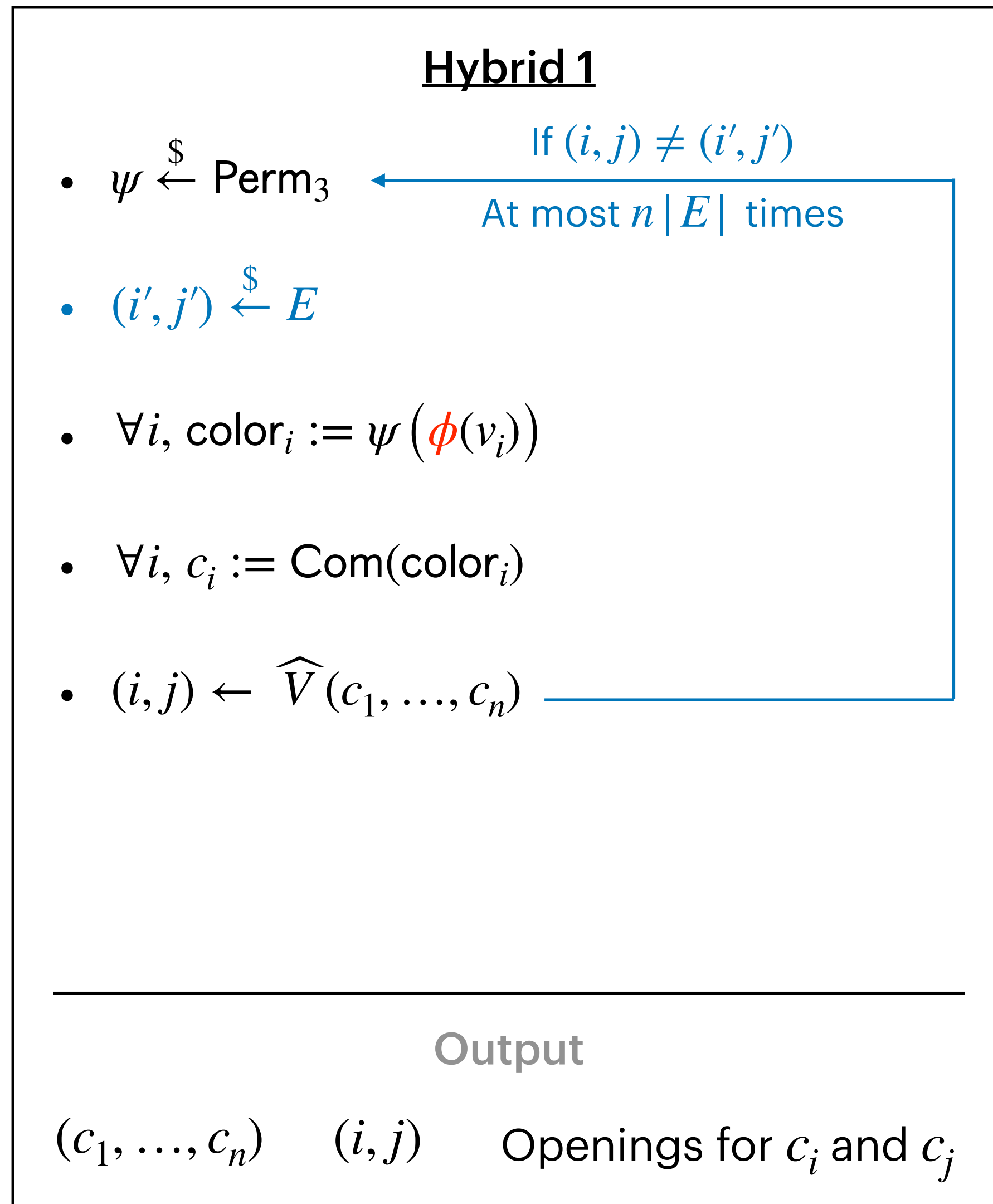
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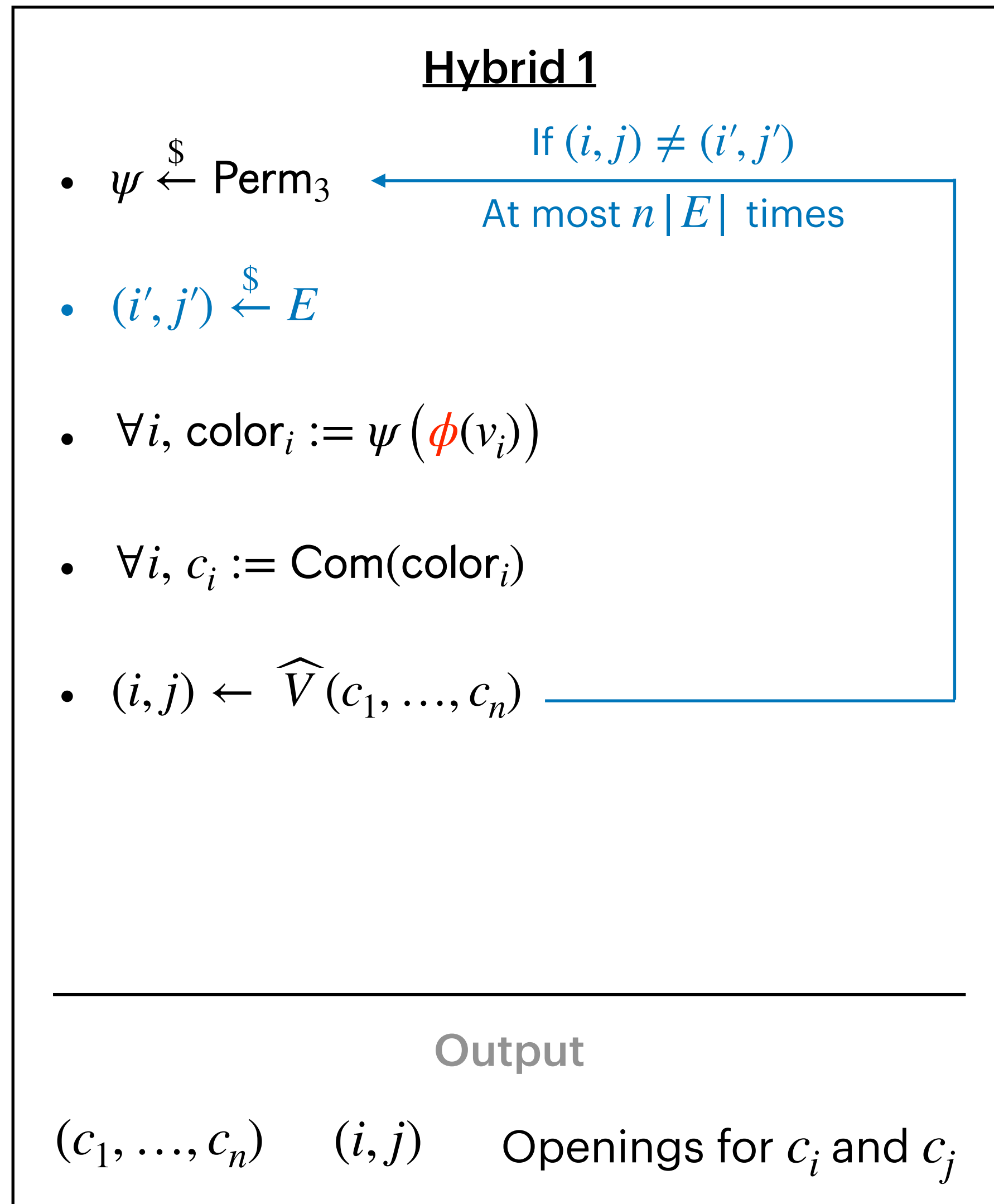
Generating this distribution requires ϕ .

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This hybrid is similar to the real world prover, but keeps trying until it guesses \widehat{V} 's response.

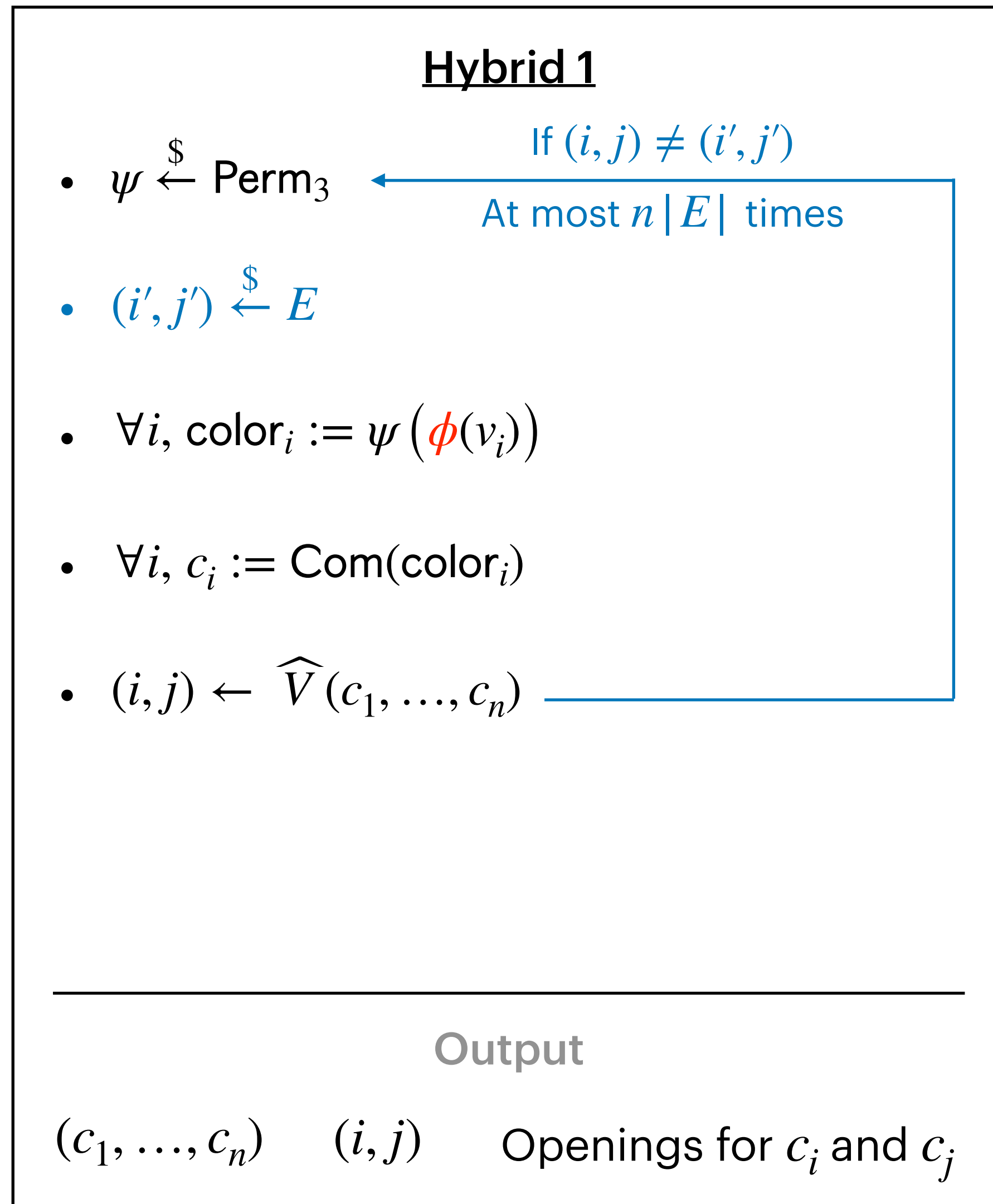
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Claim: Hybrid 0 $\stackrel{s}{\approx}$ Hybrid 1.

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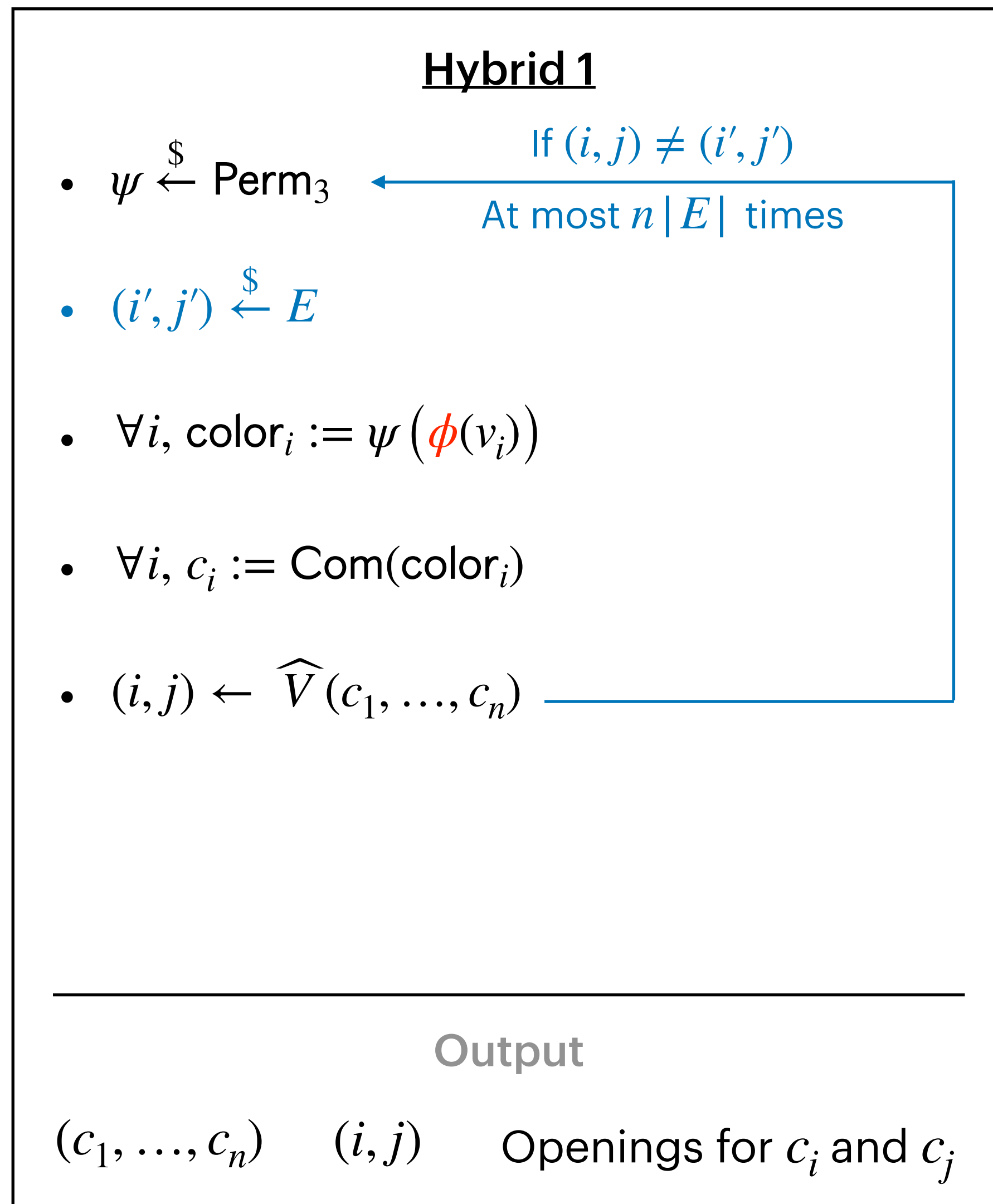


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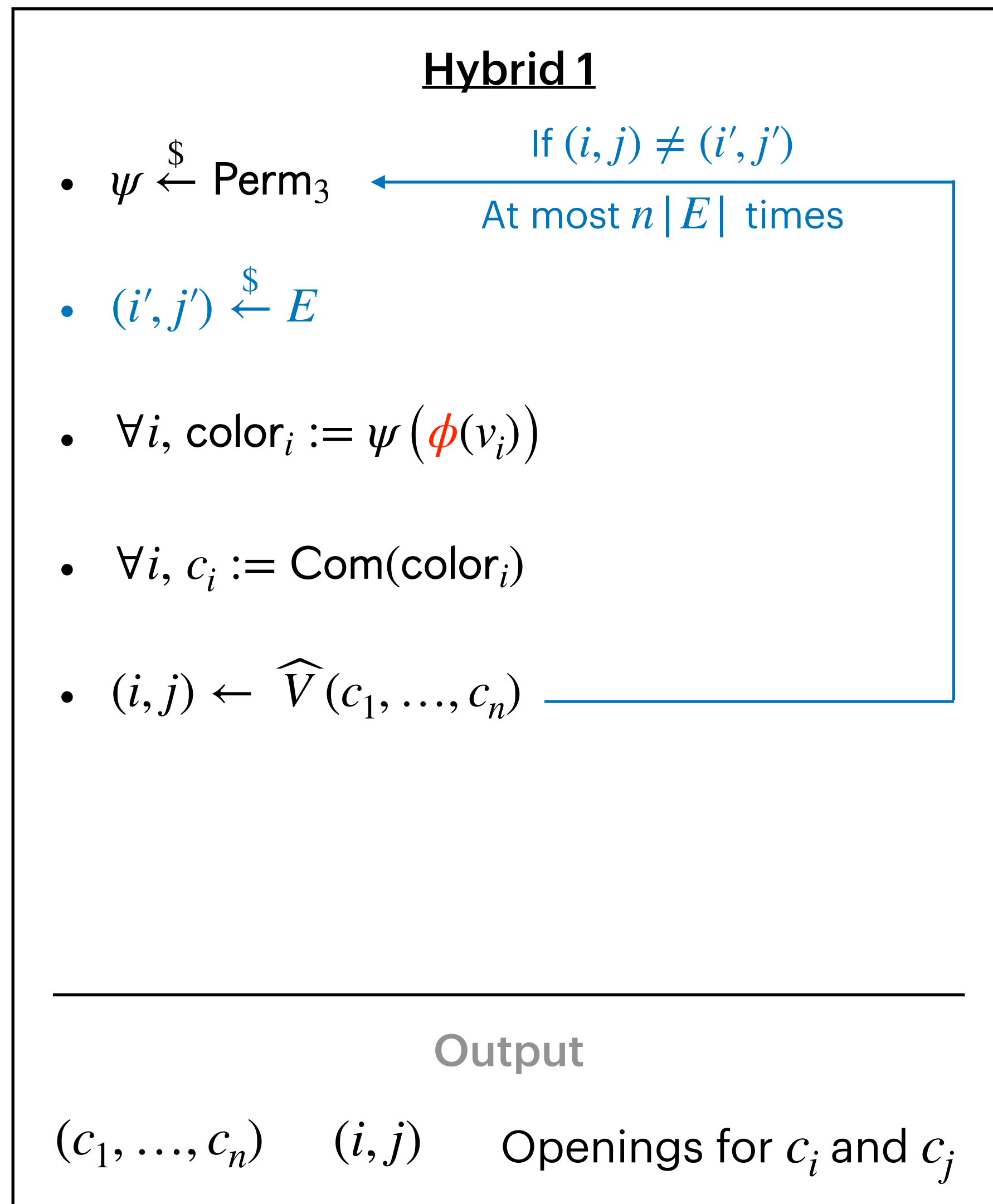
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(i, j) is independent of (i', j') since (c_1, \dots, c_n) is independent of (i', j') .

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At most $n |E|$ times
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Therefore, probability of not terminating after $n |E|$ attempts is

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{|E|}\right)^{n|E|} \approx e^{-n} = \text{negl}(\lambda).$$

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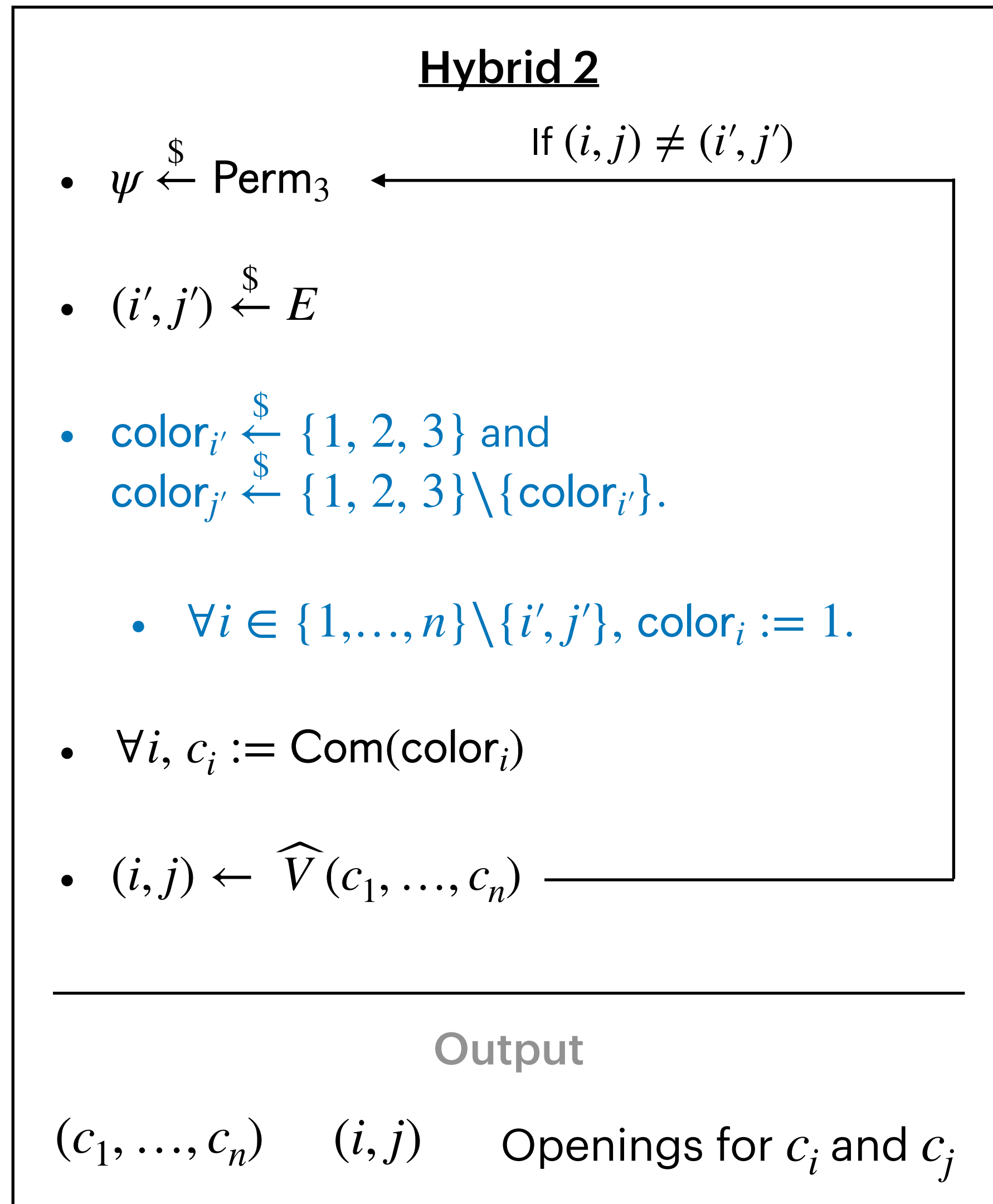
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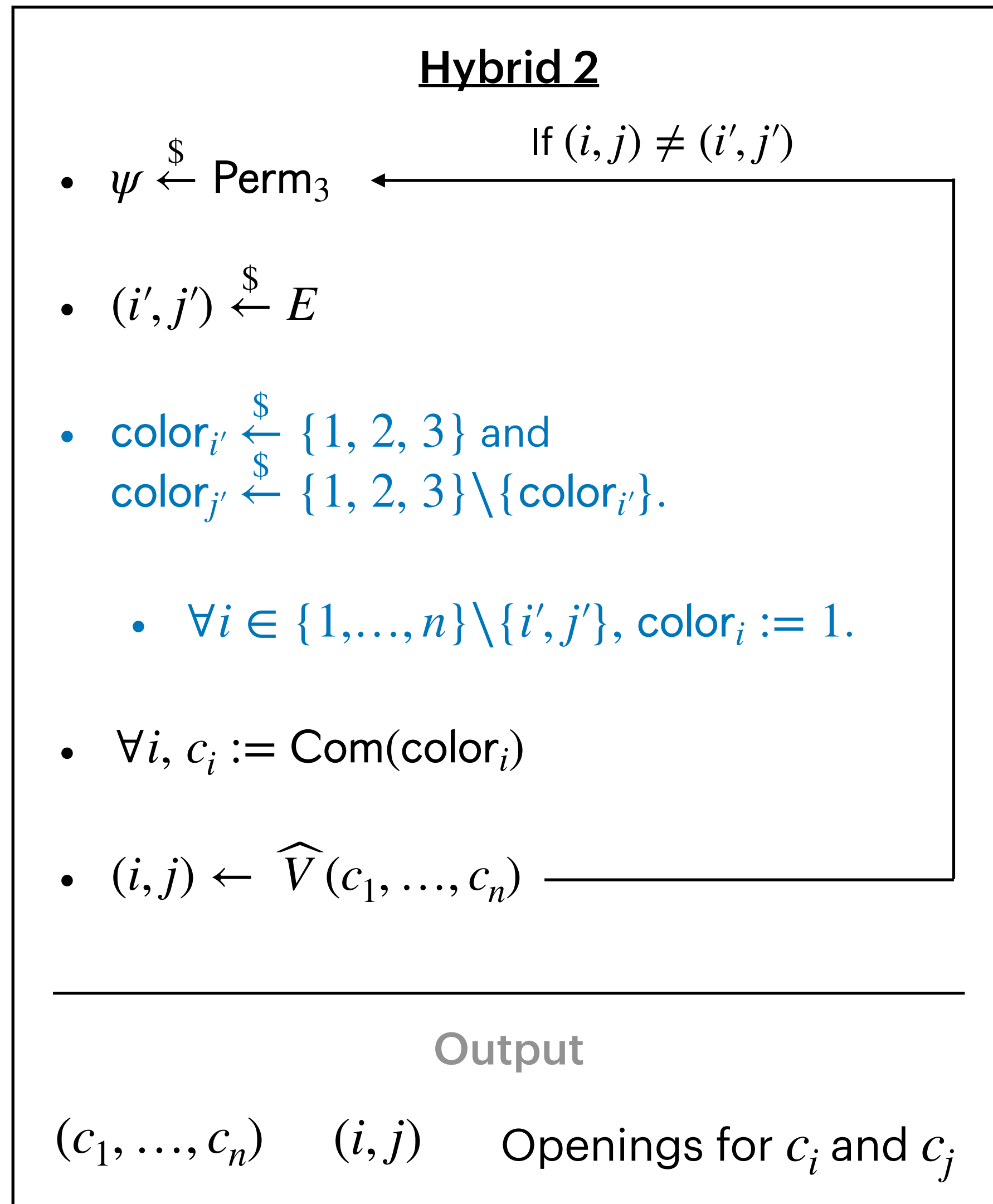
This hybrid still requires ϕ .

ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring



This hybrid is the [simulator \$S\$](#) .

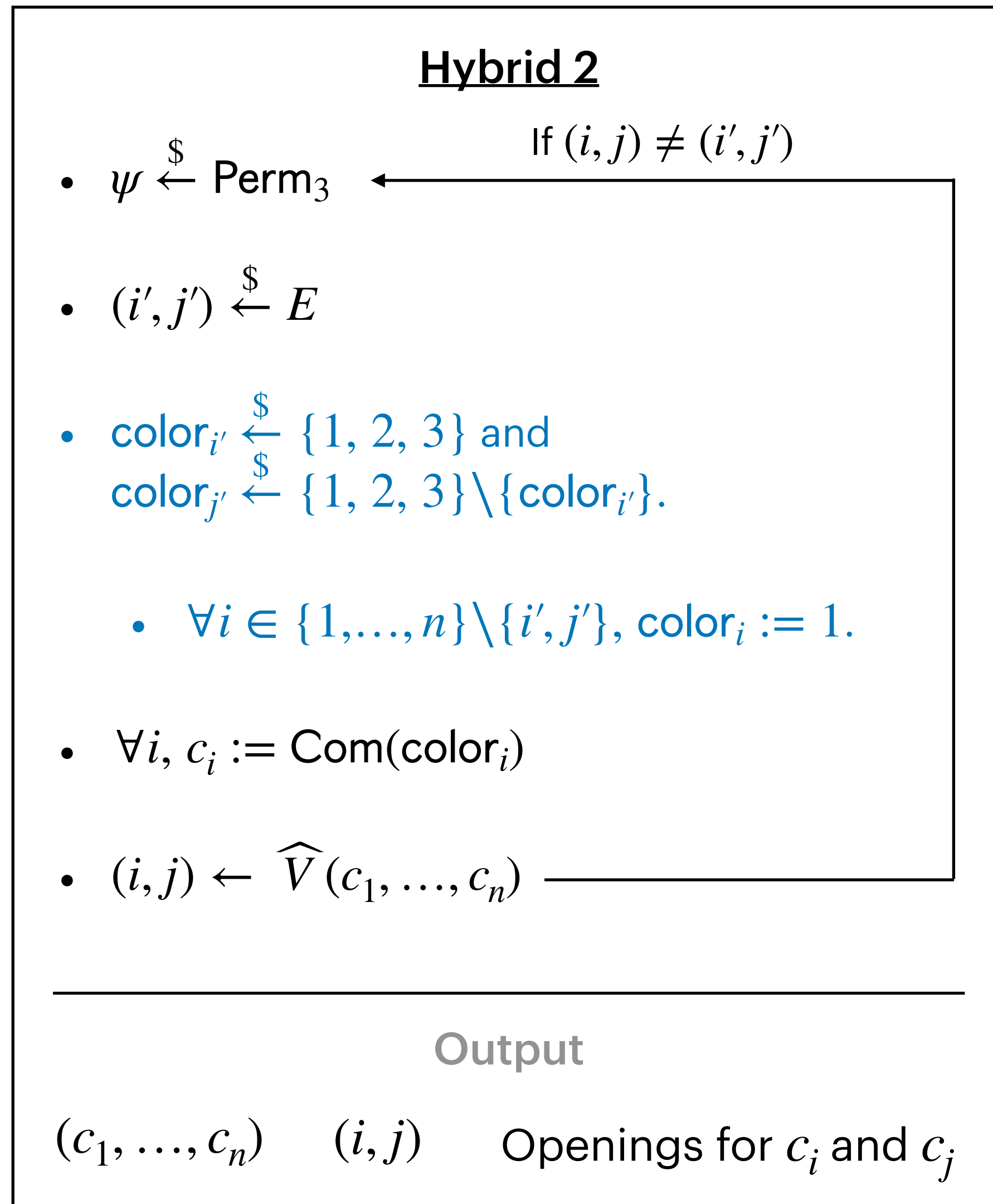
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This hybrid is the **simulator \mathcal{S}** .

Claim: Hybrid 1 $\stackrel{c}{\approx}$ Hybrid 2.

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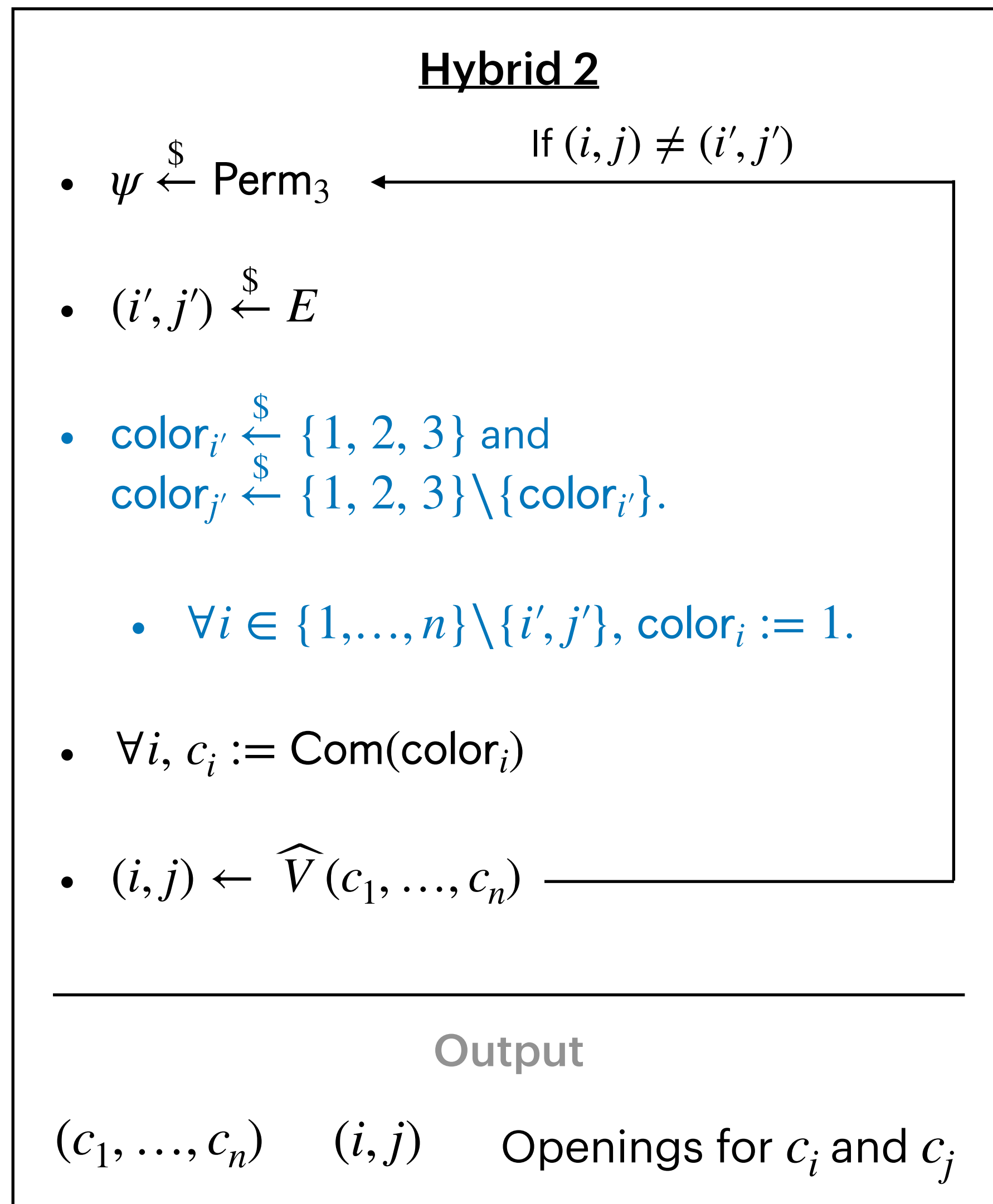


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Distribution of $\{\text{color}_i\}_i$ now **depends on (i', j')** .

ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring



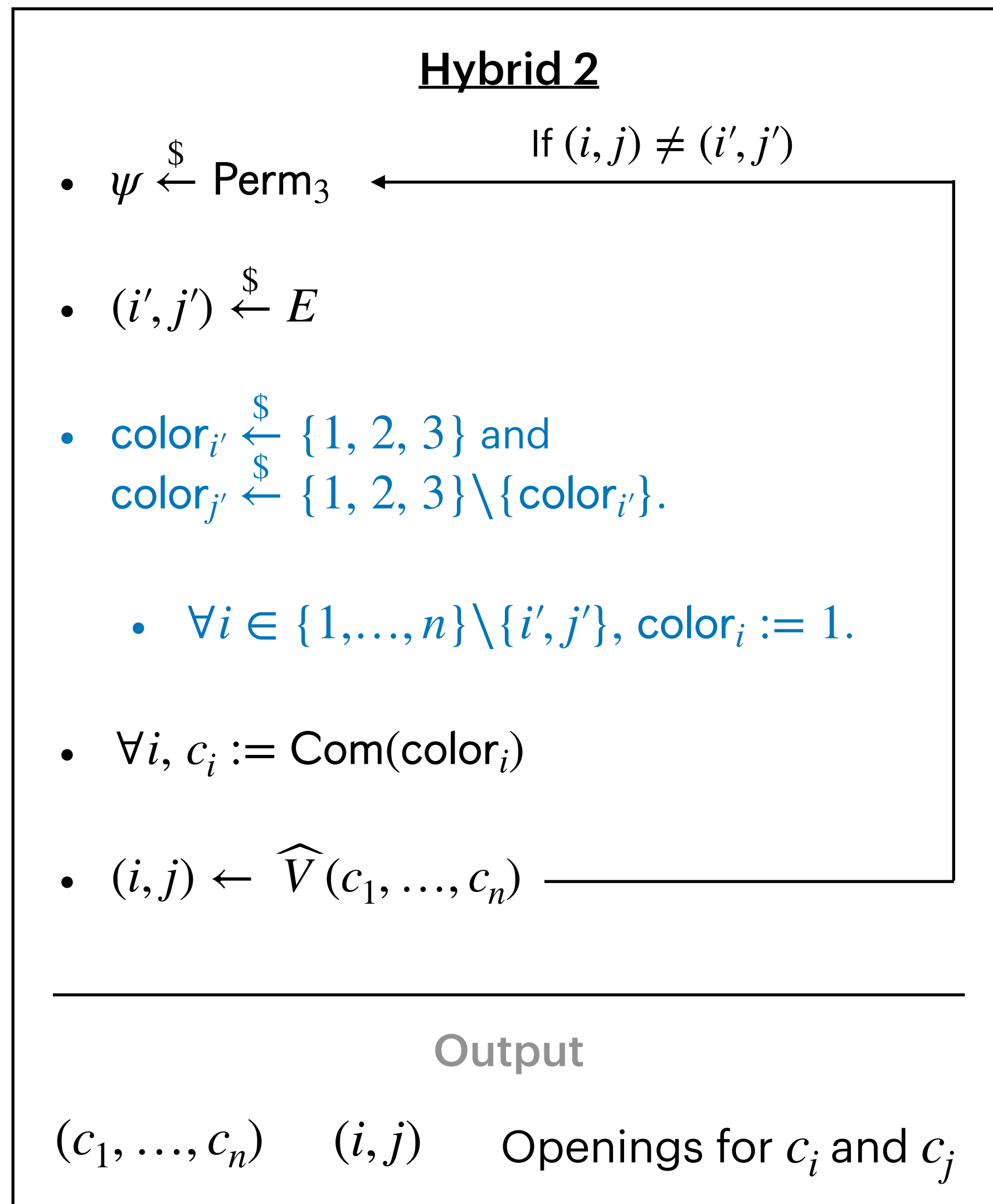
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However, by **hiding property** of commitment scheme, $\{c_i\}_i$ is **computationally indistinguishable** across hybrids.

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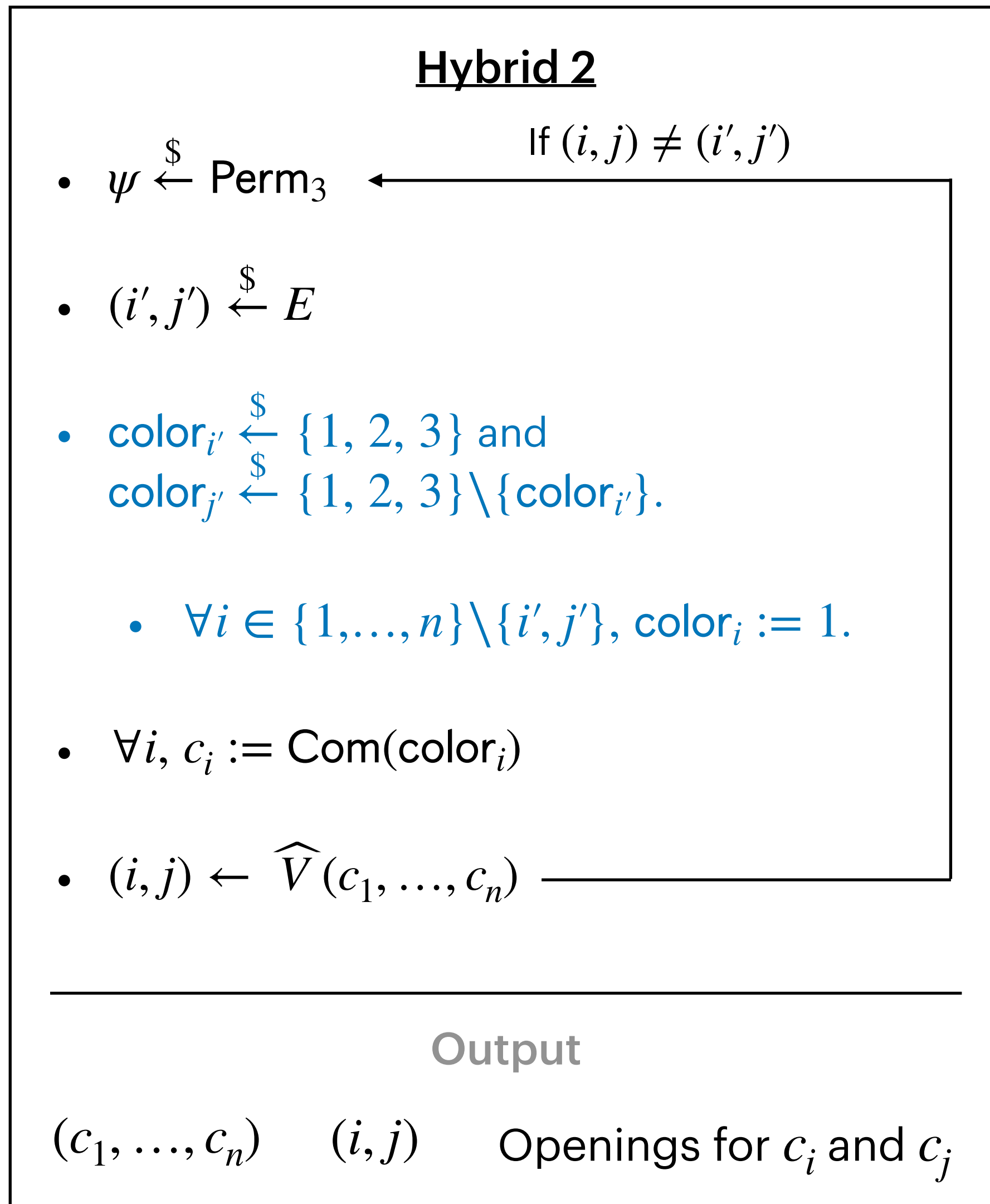
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This hybrid no longer requires ϕ .

ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

View in Real Execution

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Output

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\approx^c

Simulated View

- $\psi \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Perm}_3$ ← If $(i, j) \neq (i', j')$
- $(i', j') \xleftarrow{\$} E$
- $\text{color}_{i'} \xleftarrow{\$} \{1, 2, 3\}$ and
 $\text{color}_j \xleftarrow{\$} \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{\text{color}_{i'}\}$.
 - $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i', j'\}, \text{color}_i := 1.$
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Round Complexity of ZKP

Statement: $G = (V, E)$ where $|V| = n = \text{poly}(\lambda)$.

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Requires $3 \cdot n |E|$ rounds.

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Can we run all repetitions **in parallel** to get a 3-round ZKP?

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ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Repeat the following procedure $n |E|$ times.

- $P \rightarrow V$: P samples $\psi \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Perm}_3$ uniformly at random. For each vertex $v_i \in V$ it computes $\text{color}_i := \psi(\phi(v_i))$ and
$$c_i := \text{Com}(\text{color}_i)$$
and sends (c_1, \dots, c_n) to V .
- $V \rightarrow P$: V samples a random edge (i, j) and sends it to P .
- $P \rightarrow V$: P opens c_i and c_j to reveal color_i and color_j .
- V : If the openings are valid and $\text{color}_i \neq \text{color}_j$, then V continues to the next iteration. Else, it rejects.

If V does not reject in any iteration, it accepts the proof.

Requires $3 \cdot n |E|$ rounds.

Can we run all repetitions **in parallel** to get a 3-round ZKP?

Might not preserve ZK in general!

Theorem [Goldreich-Krawczyk'90]: There exist ZKPs whose parallel repetition is not zero knowledge.

Round Complexity of ZKP

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Theorem [Goldreich-Kahan'95]: There is a constant-round ZKP for graph 3-coloring assuming the existence of collision resistance hash functions.

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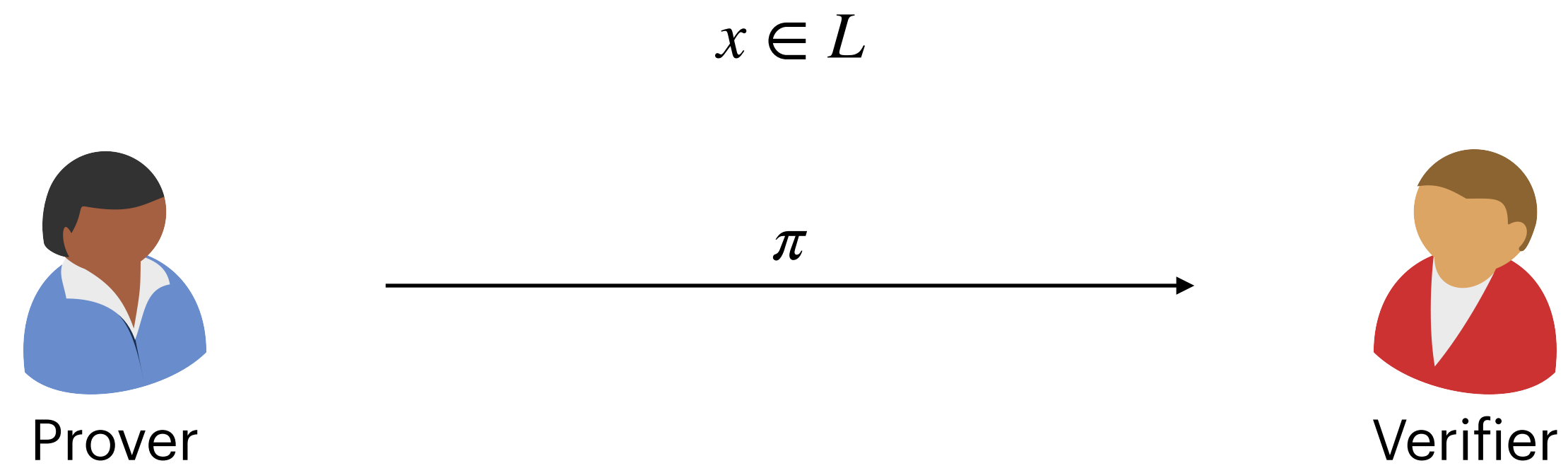
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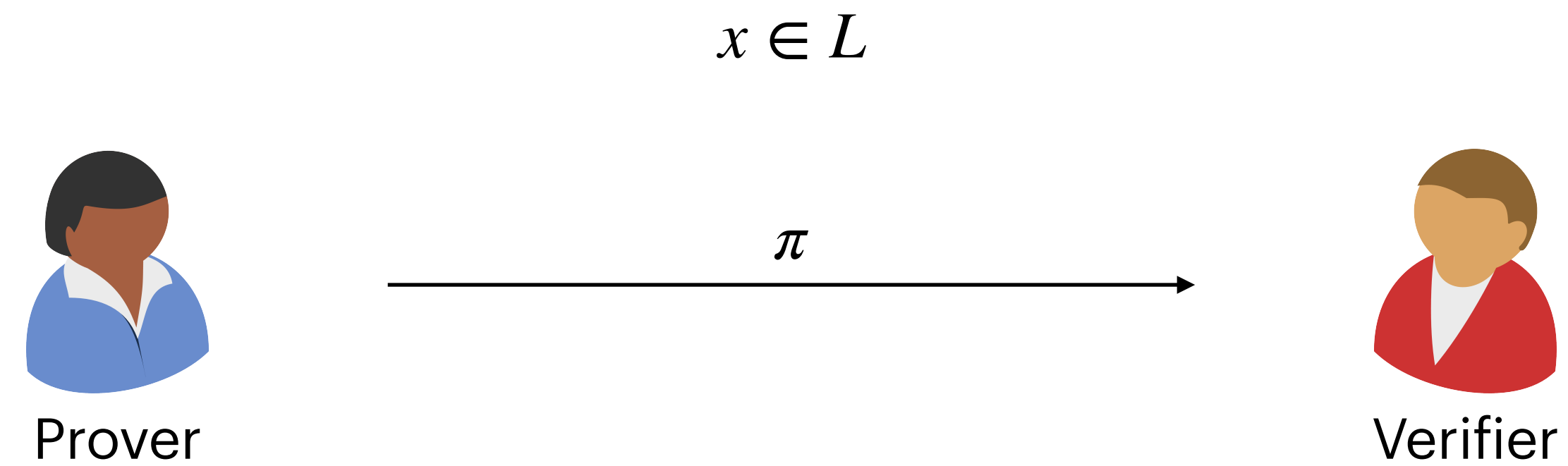
Can we construct a one-message ZKP?

Non-Interactive Zero-Knowledge Proofs



We want completeness, soundness and zero-knowledge.

Non-Interactive Zero-Knowledge Proofs

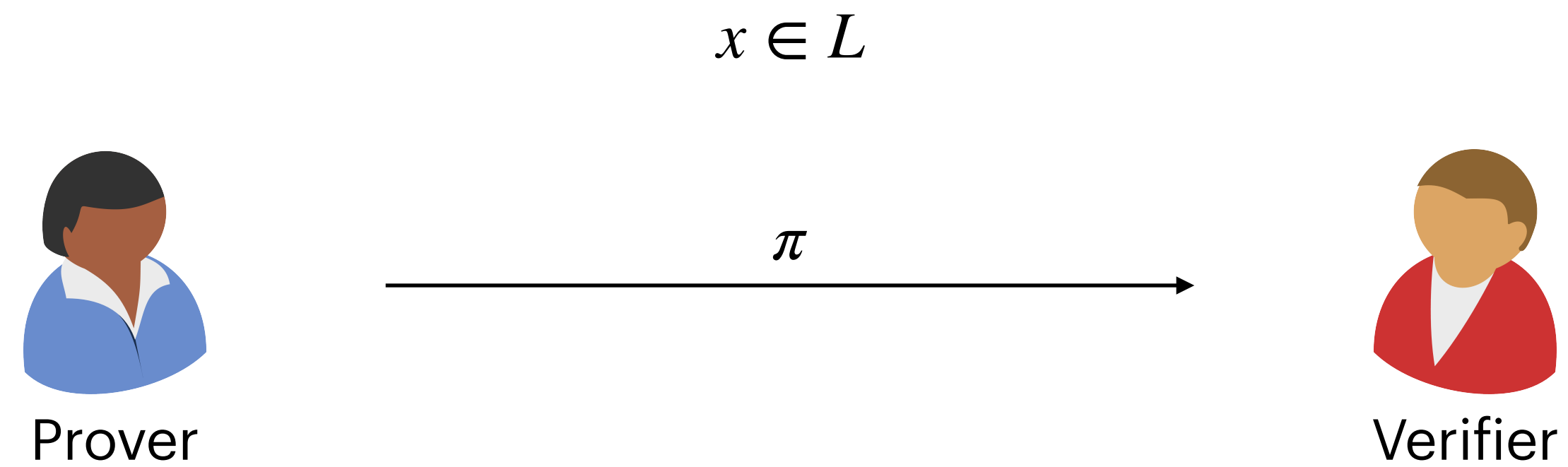


We want completeness, soundness and zero-knowledge.

Interaction is necessary for ZK!

Theorem: If a language L has a one-message ZKP, then $L \in \text{BPP}$.

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Only languages that can be decided by a PPT algorithm have one-message ZKP.

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Non-Interactive Zero-Knowledge Proofs

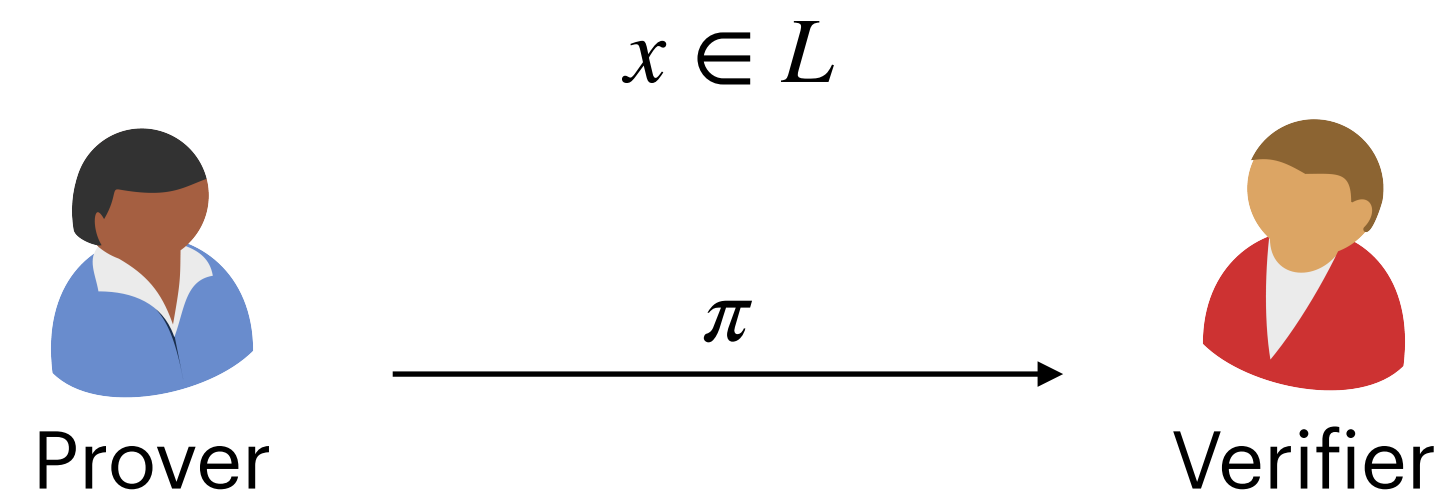
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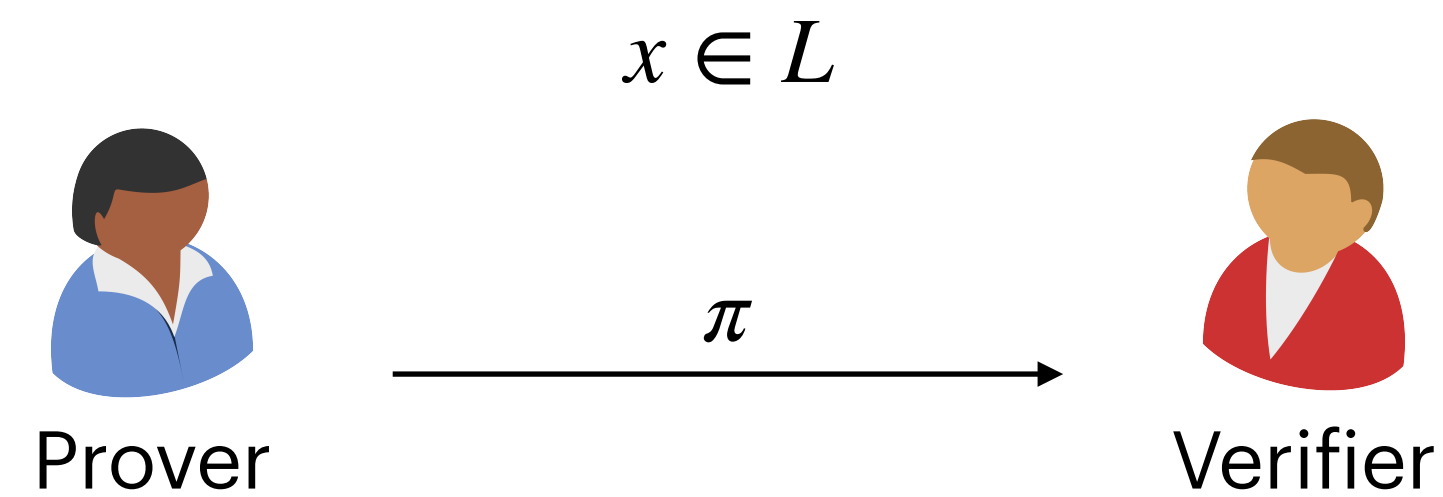
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Verifier accepts π when $x \in L$
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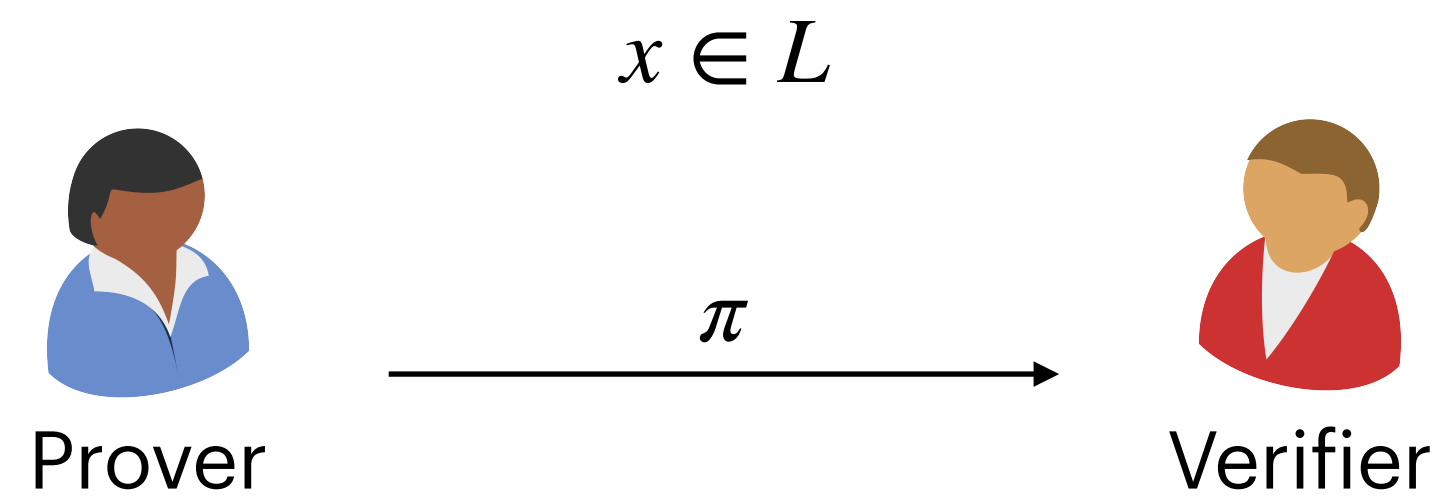


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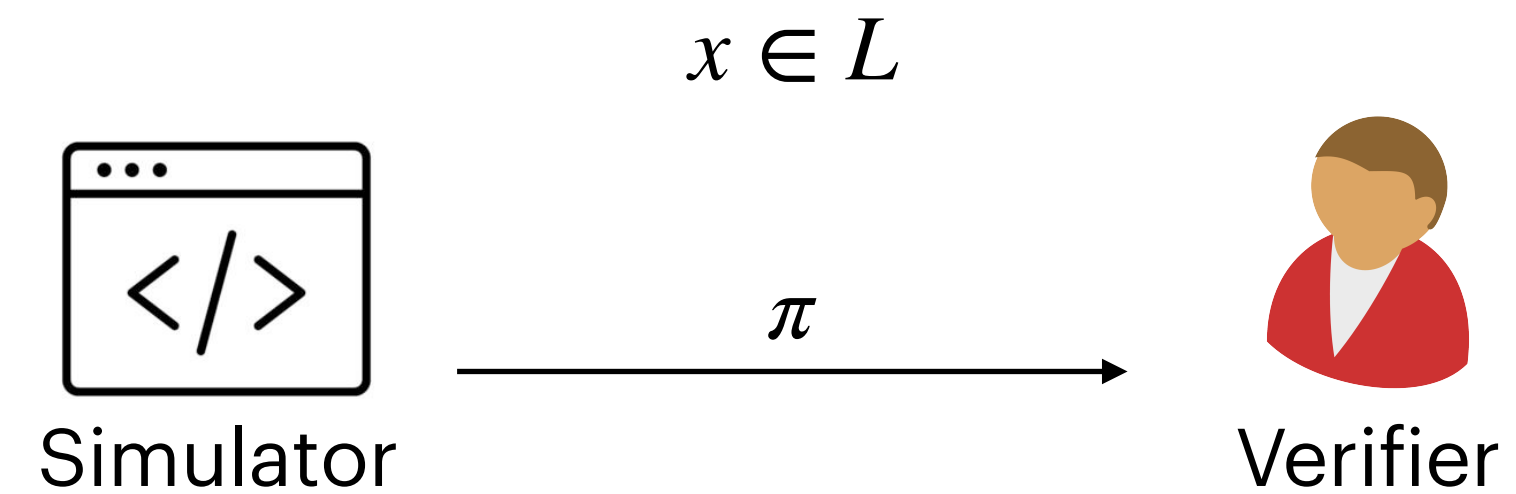
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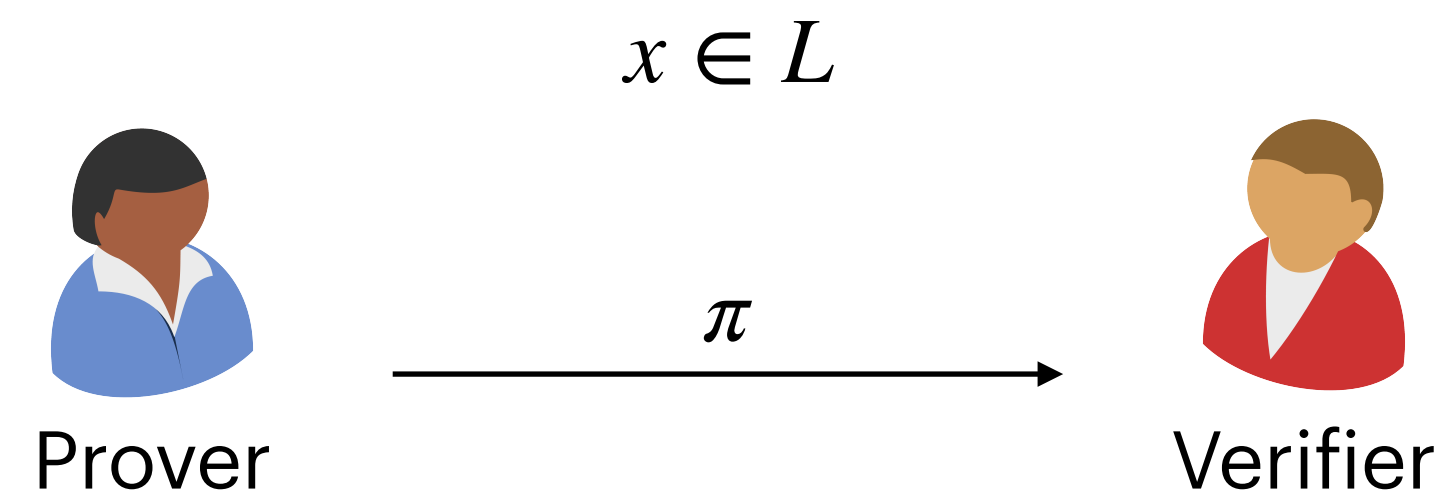


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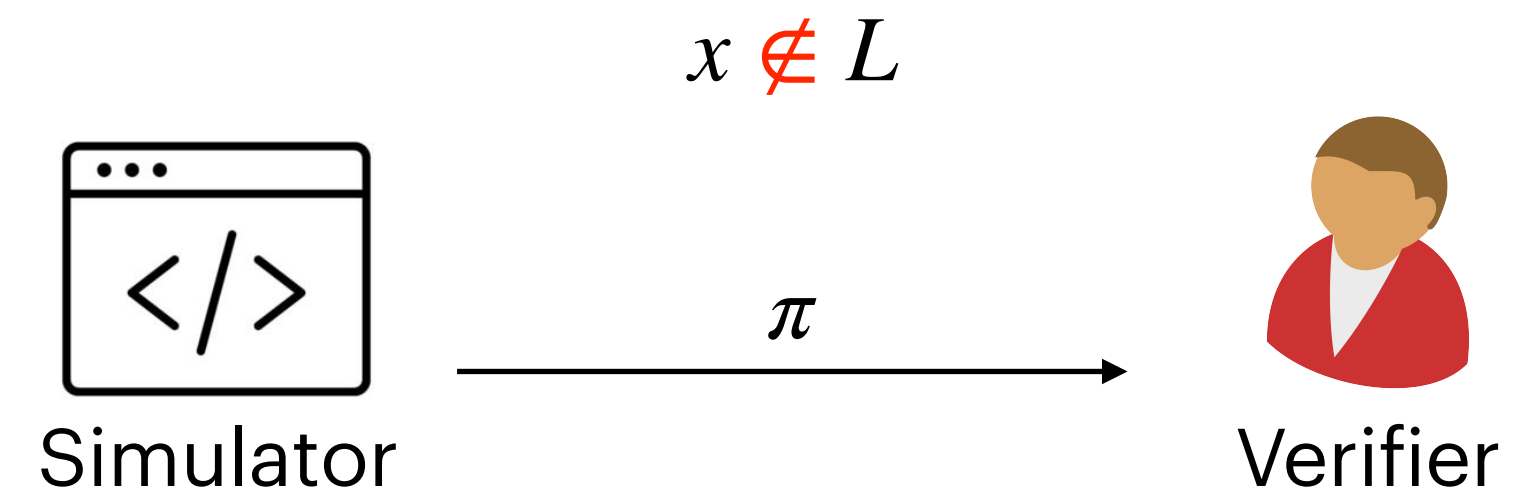
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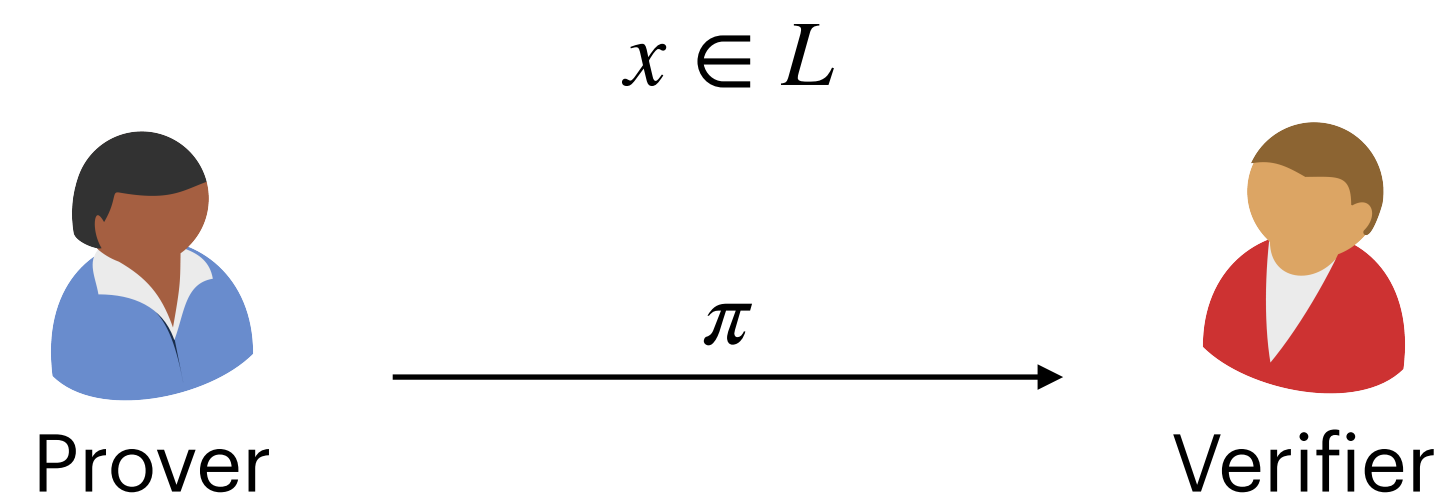


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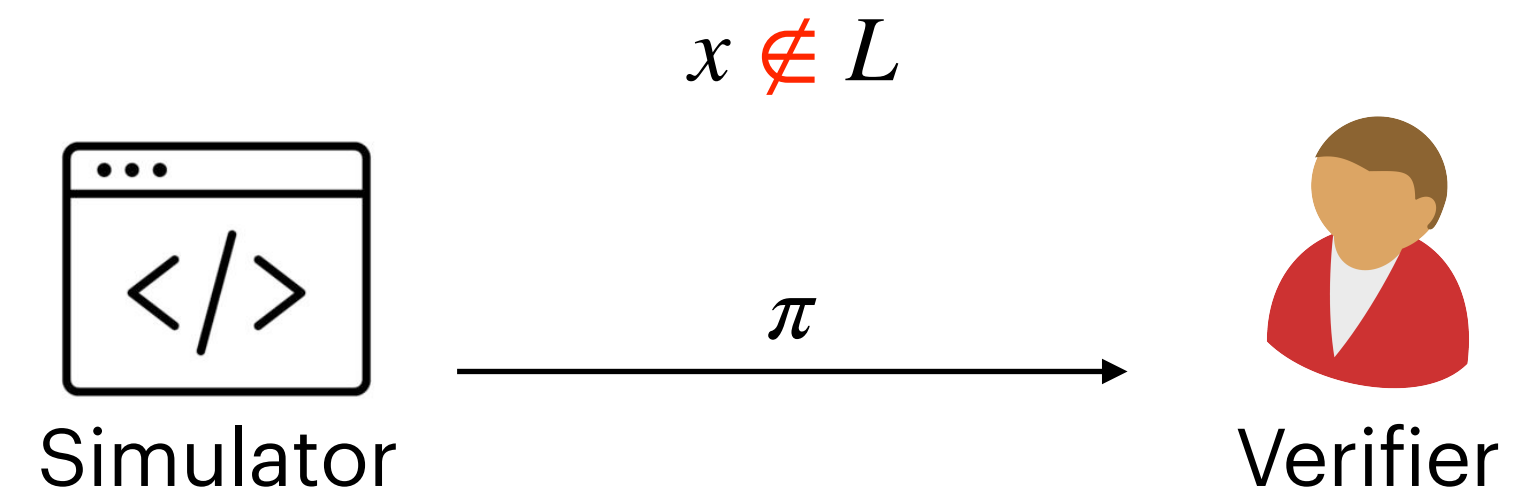
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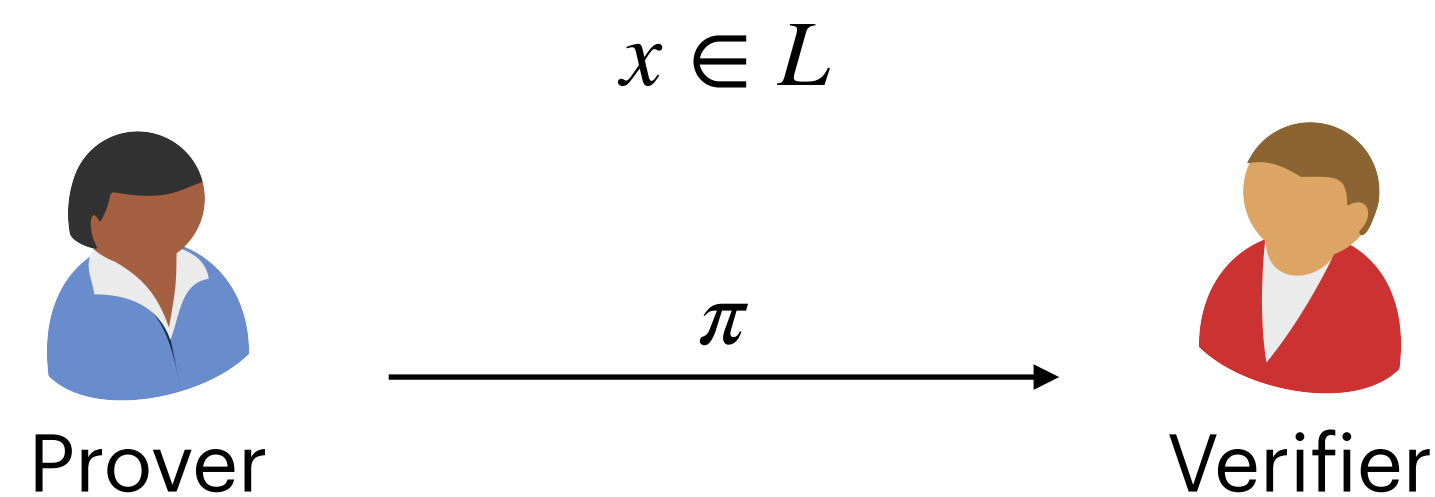
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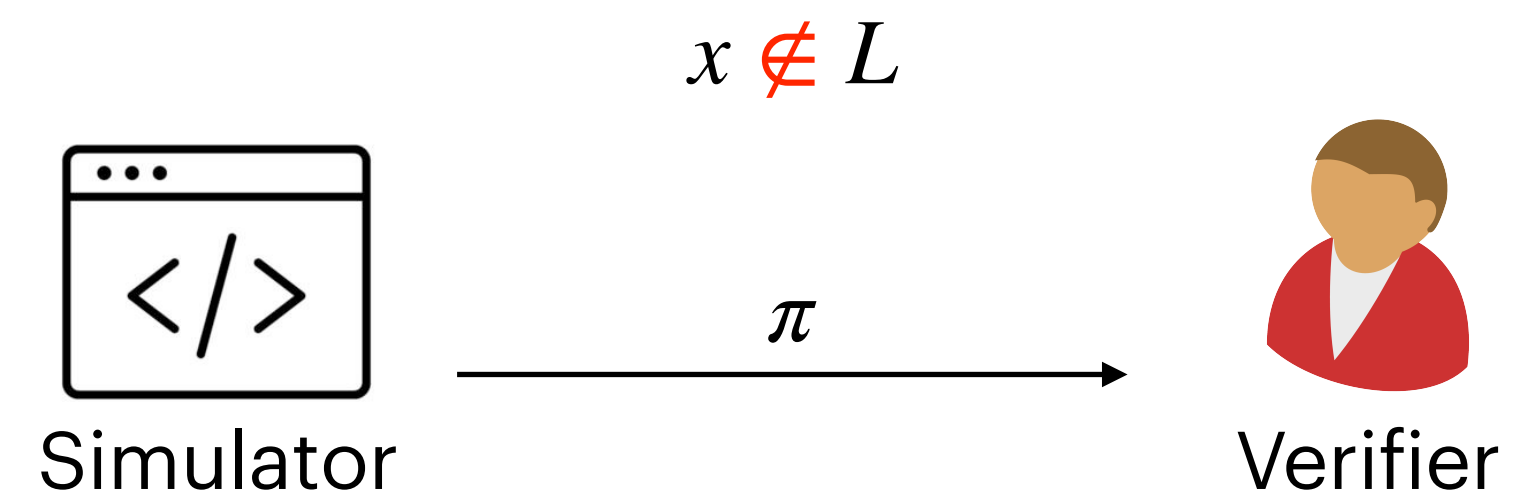
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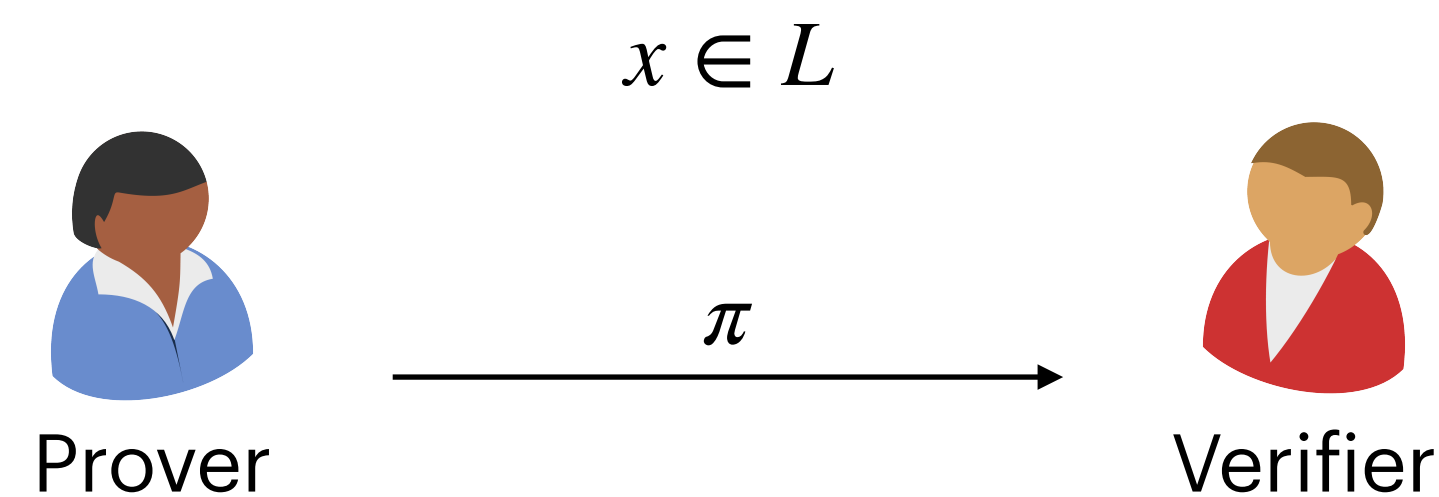
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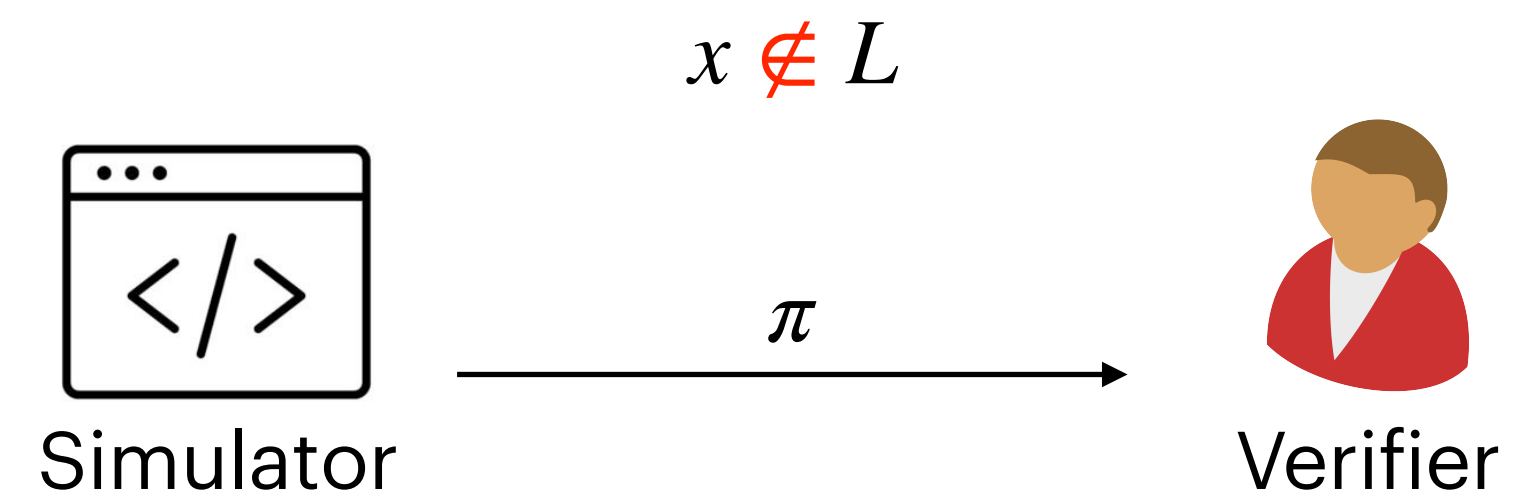
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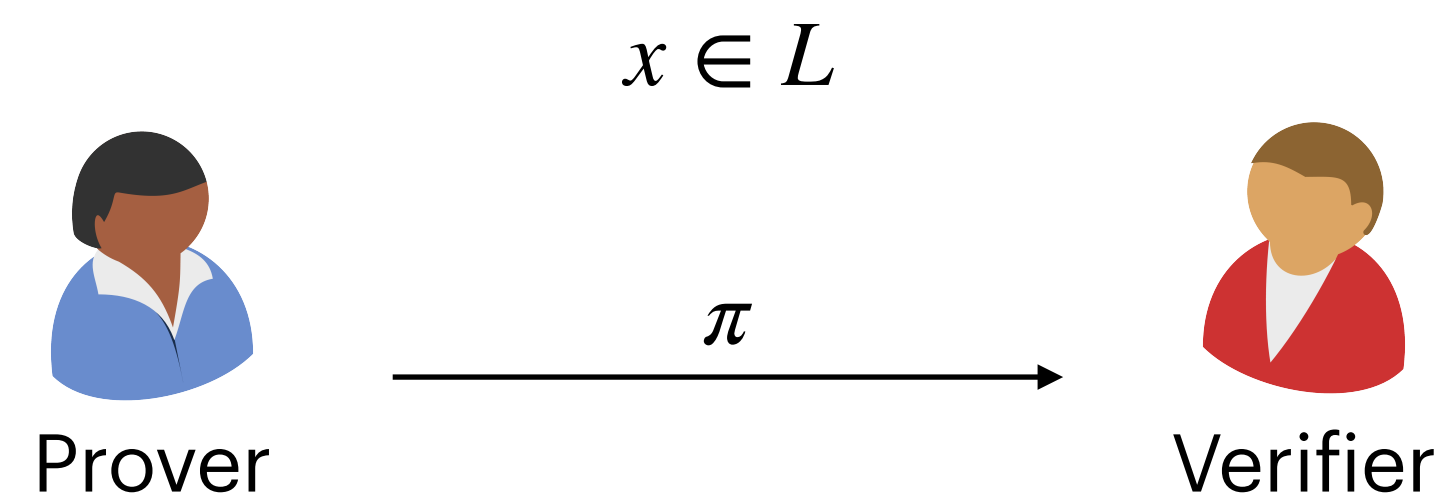
S and V are PPT algorithms.

If $L \notin \text{BPP}$ then neither S nor V can decide if $x \in L$.

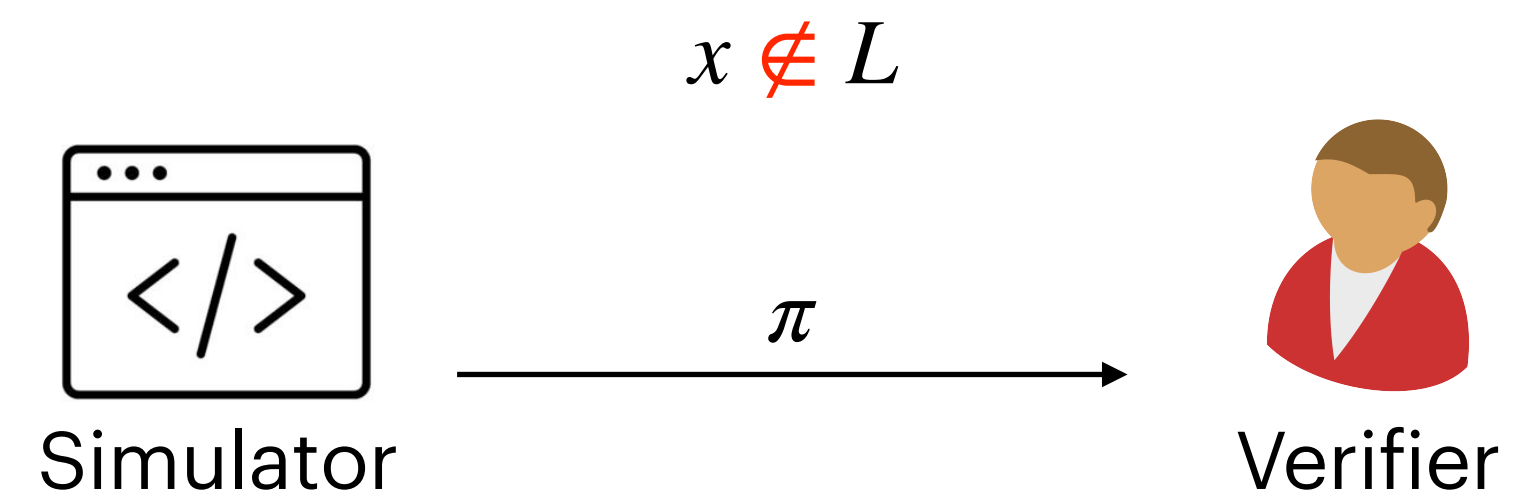
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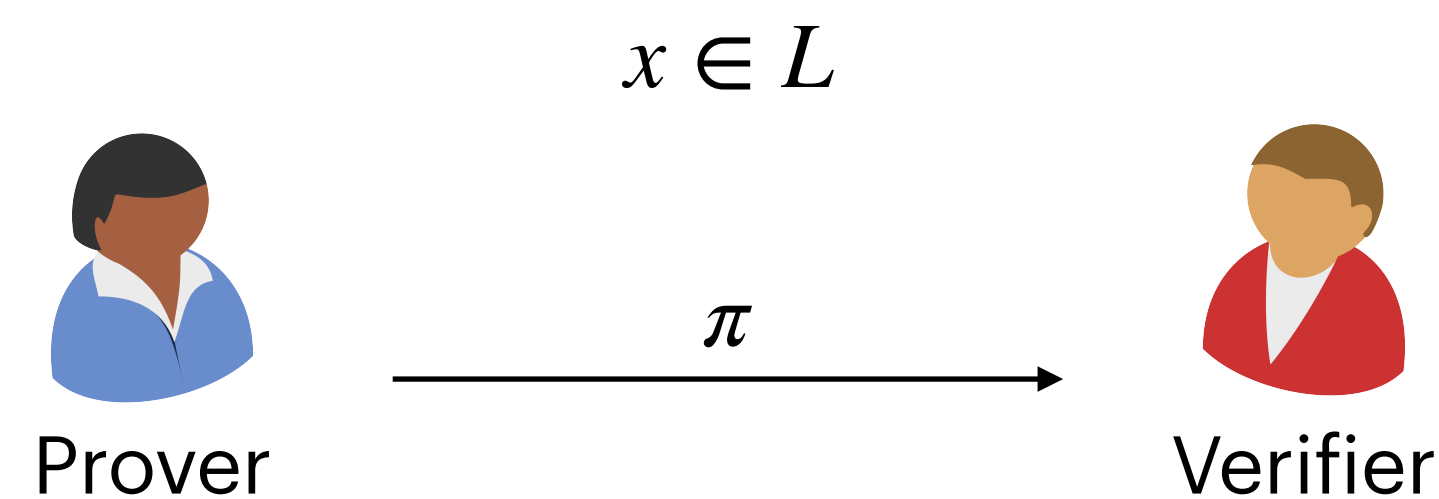
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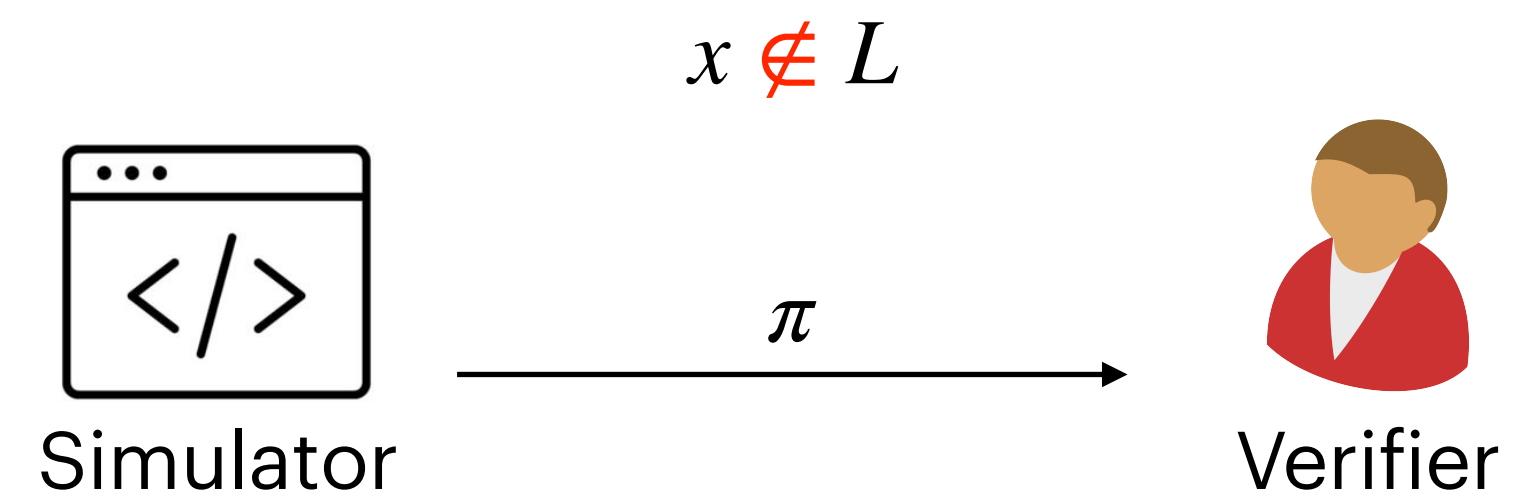
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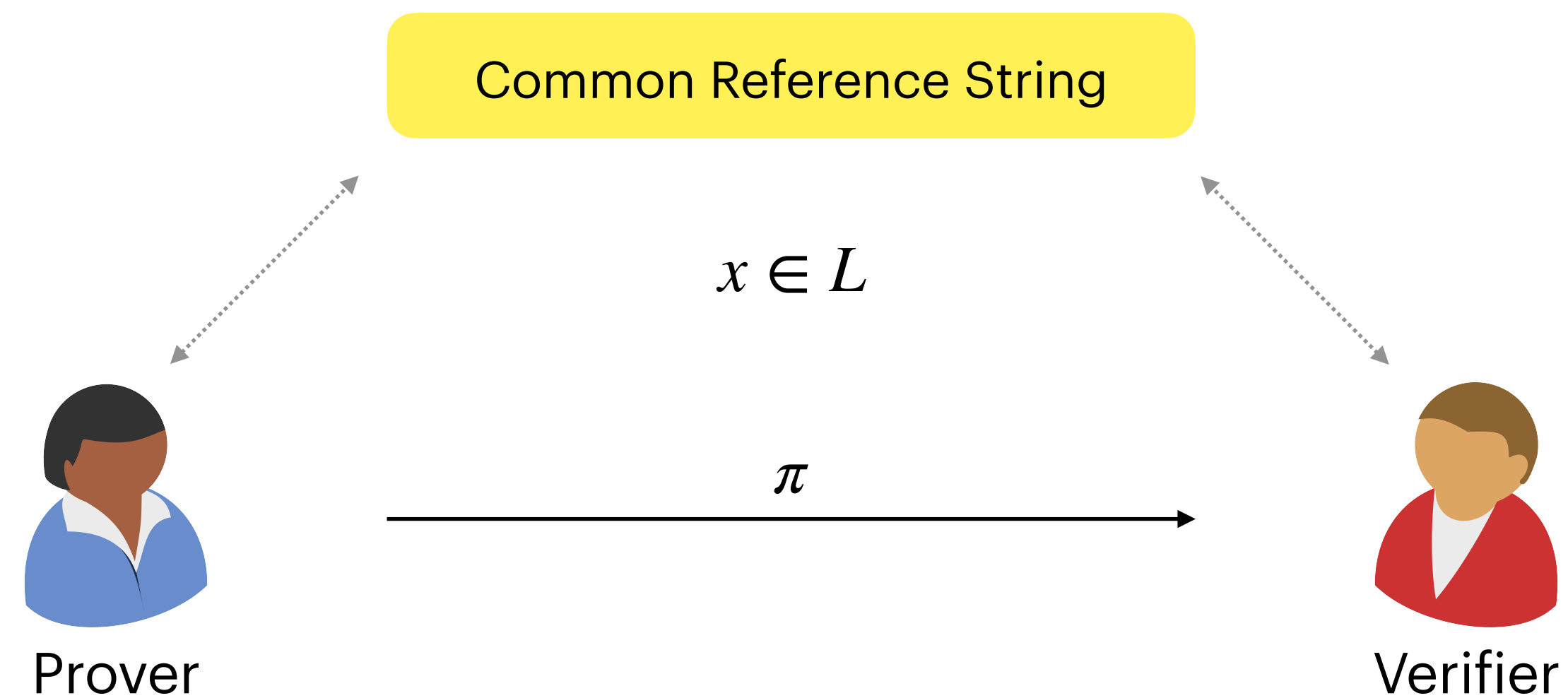
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The proof system is not sound!

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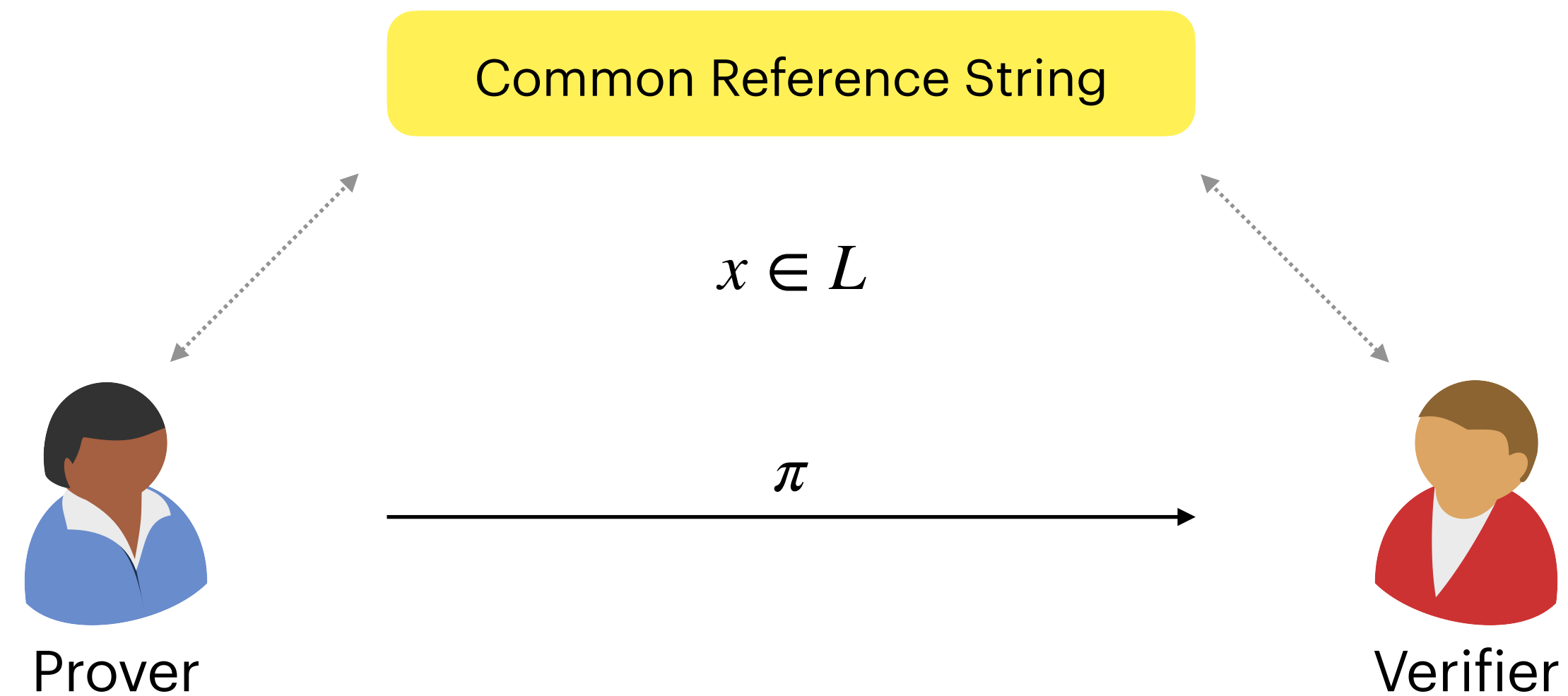
Define NIZKs in the common reference string model.



We want completeness, soundness and zero-knowledge.

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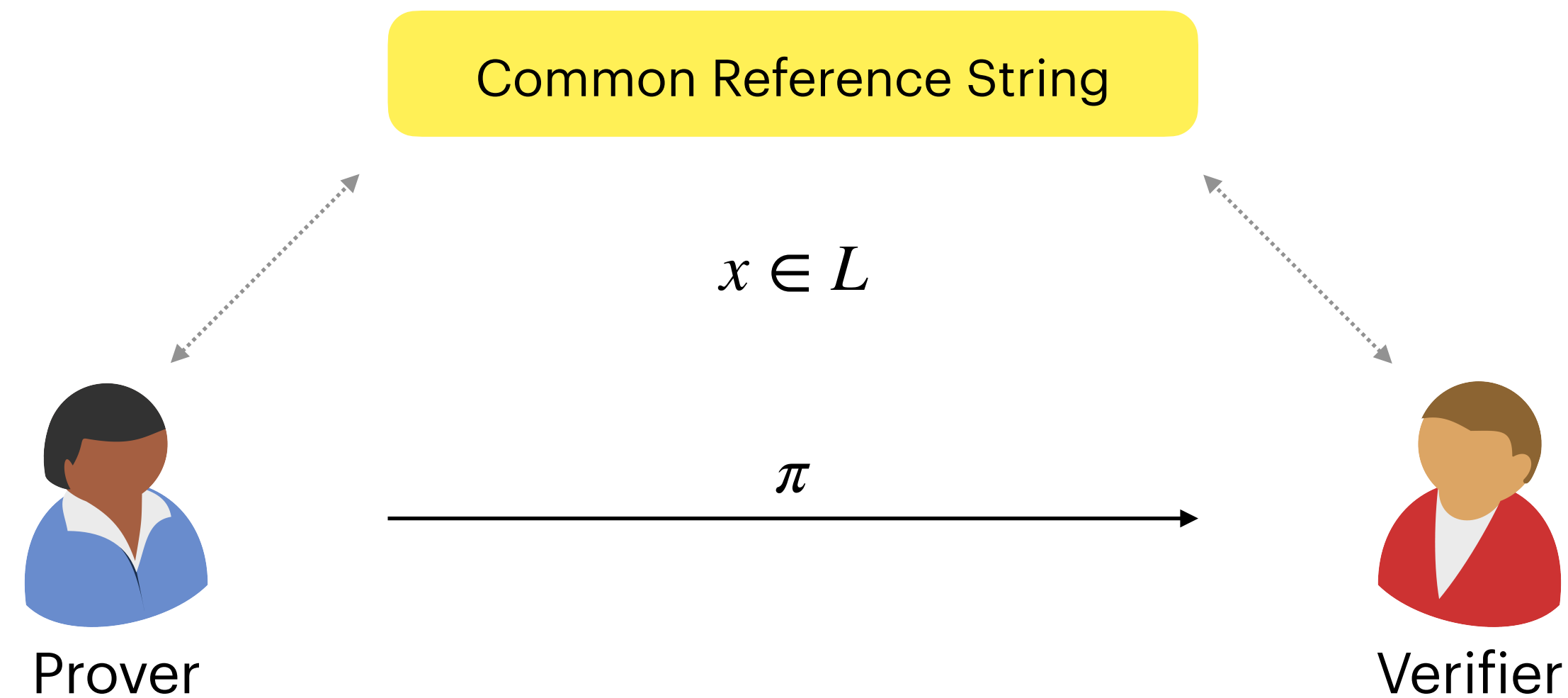
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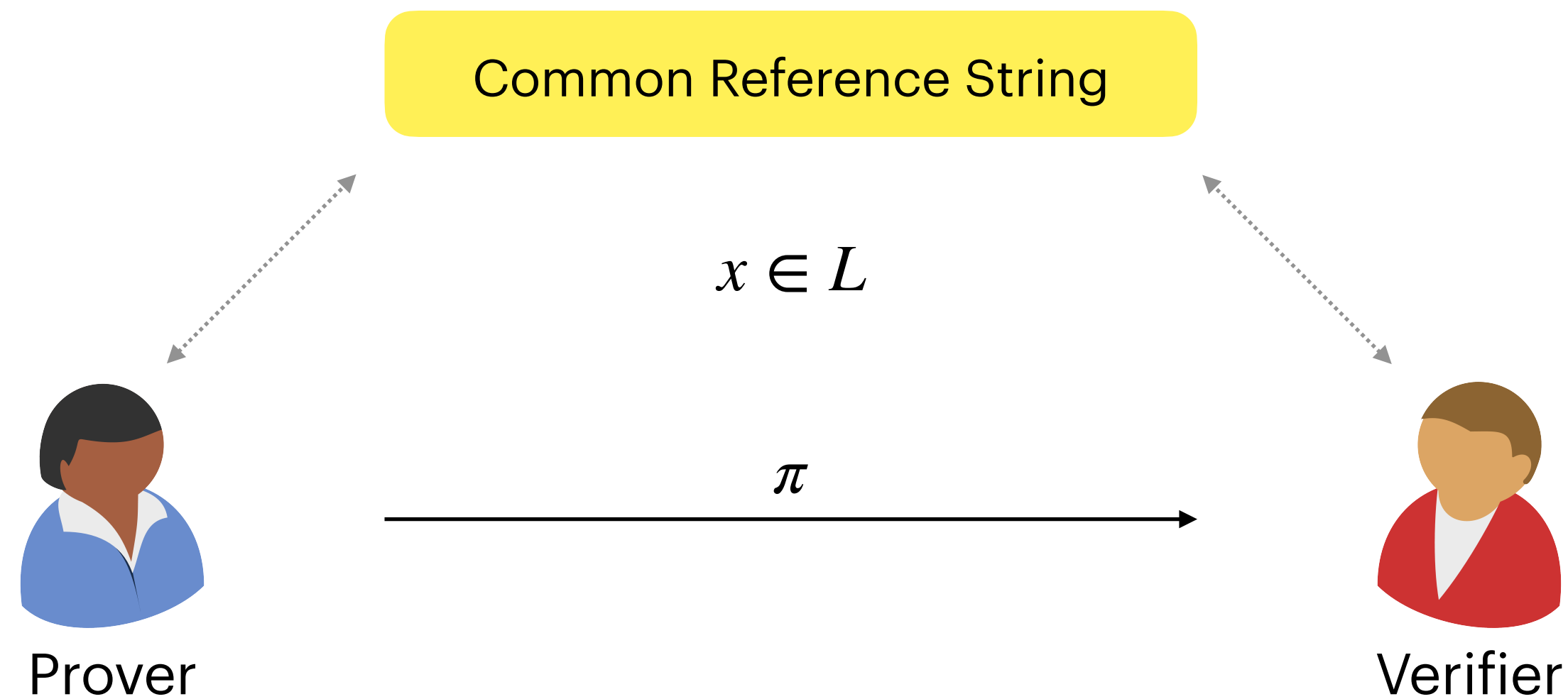
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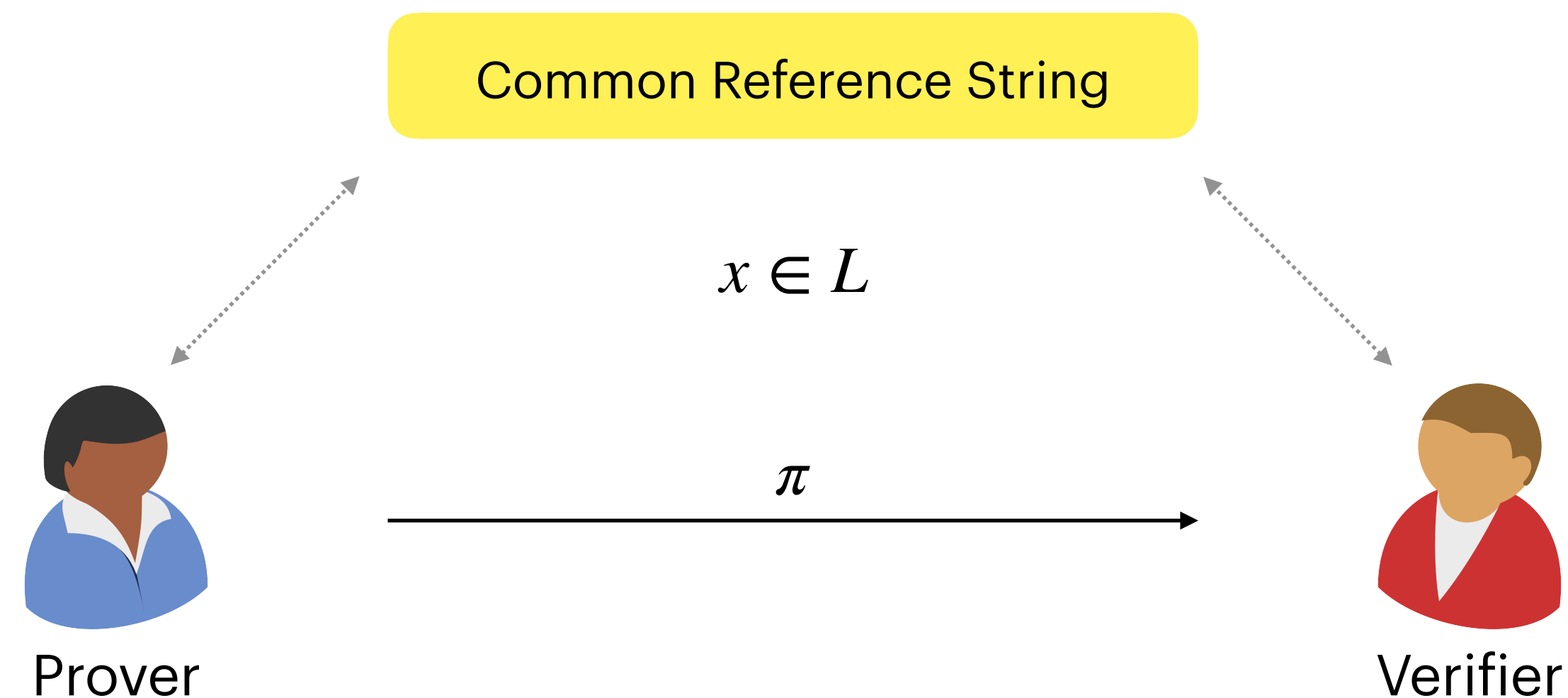
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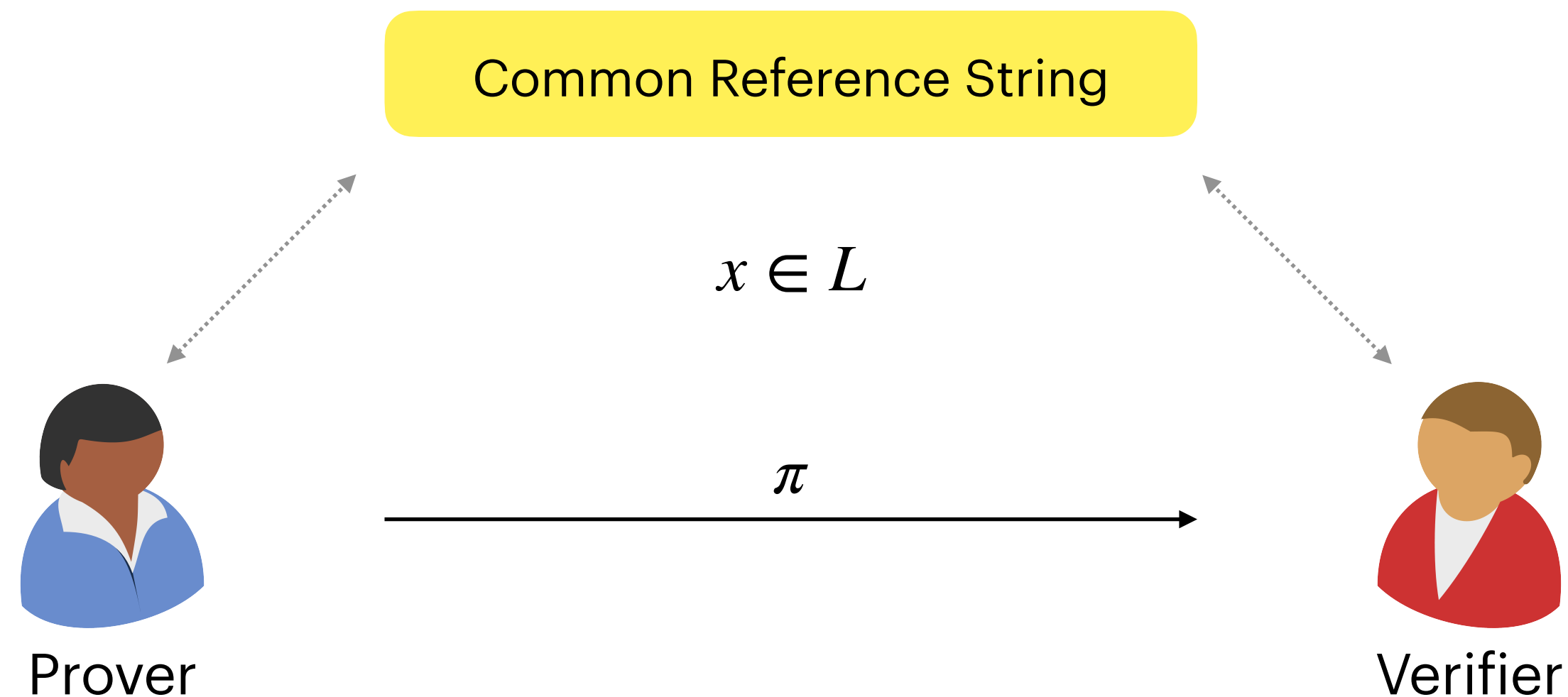
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- **Fiat-Shamir Transform:** Converting any **public-coin ZKP** into a NIZK in the **random oracle model**.
 - In a public-coin ZKP, all **verifier messages are uniformly random**.

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



Prover



Verifier

Let $\phi : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$ be a 3-coloring of G .

$\psi \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Perm}_3$.

$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\} :$

$\text{color}_i := \psi(\phi(v_i))$

$c_i := \text{Com}(\text{color}_i)$

c_1, \dots, c_n

(i, j)

Openings for c_i, c_j

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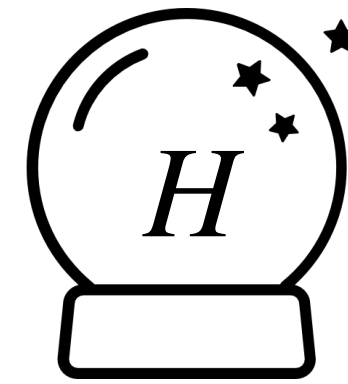
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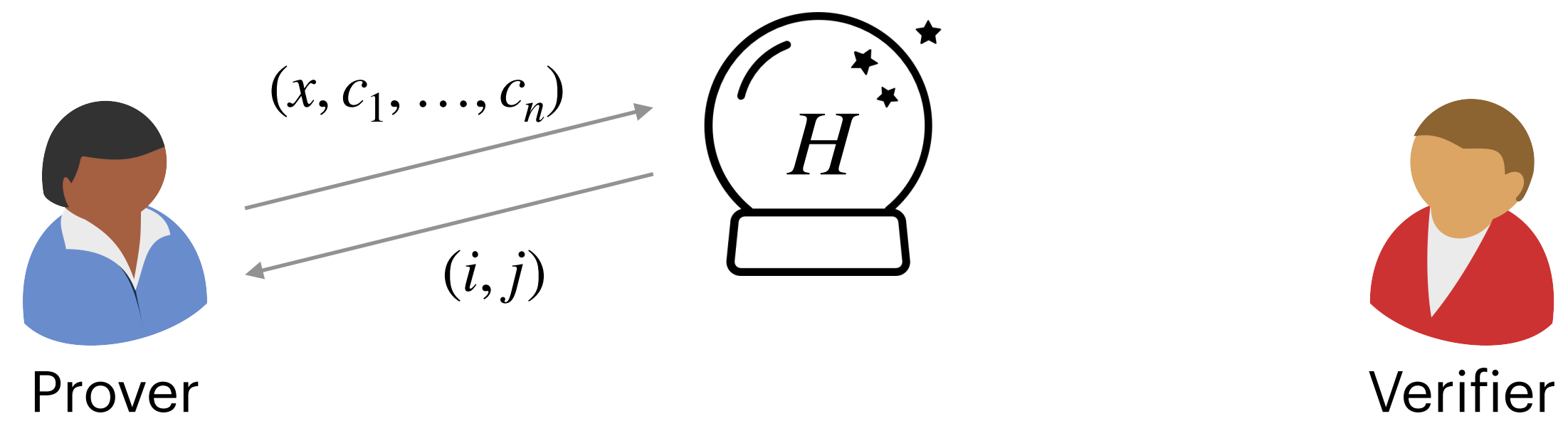
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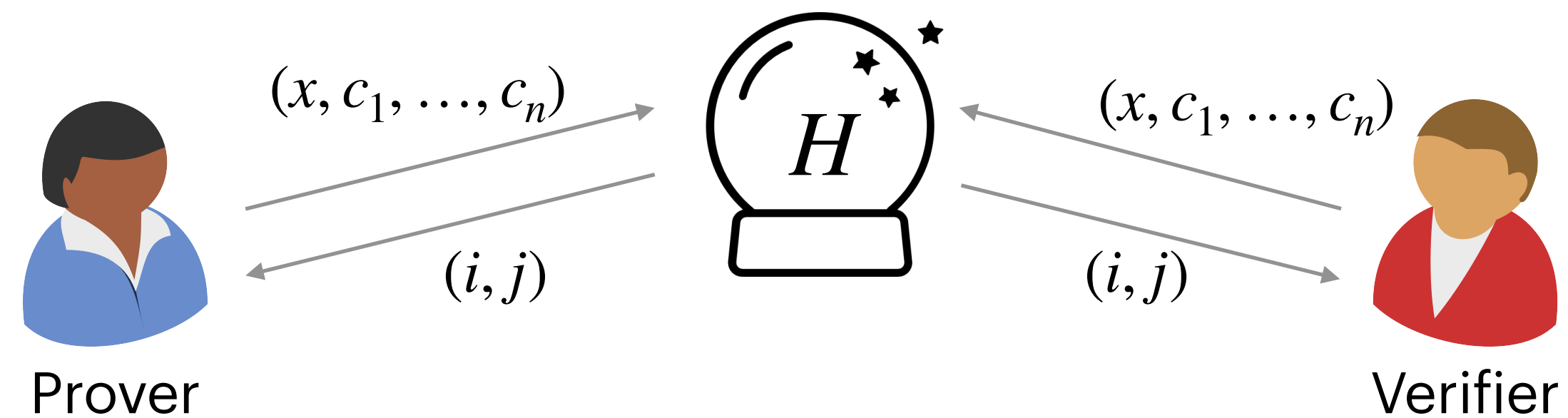
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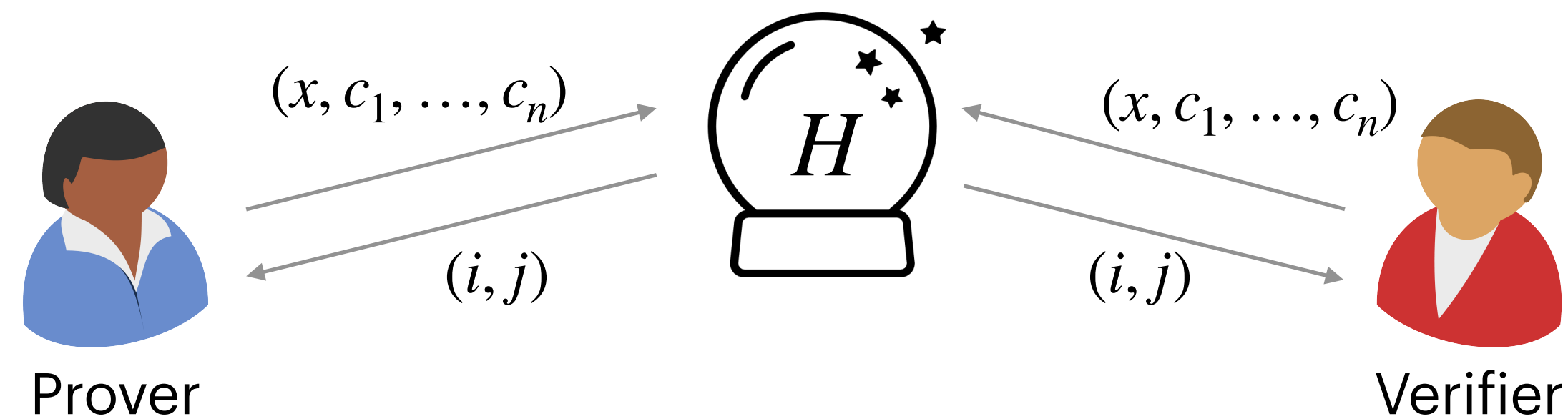
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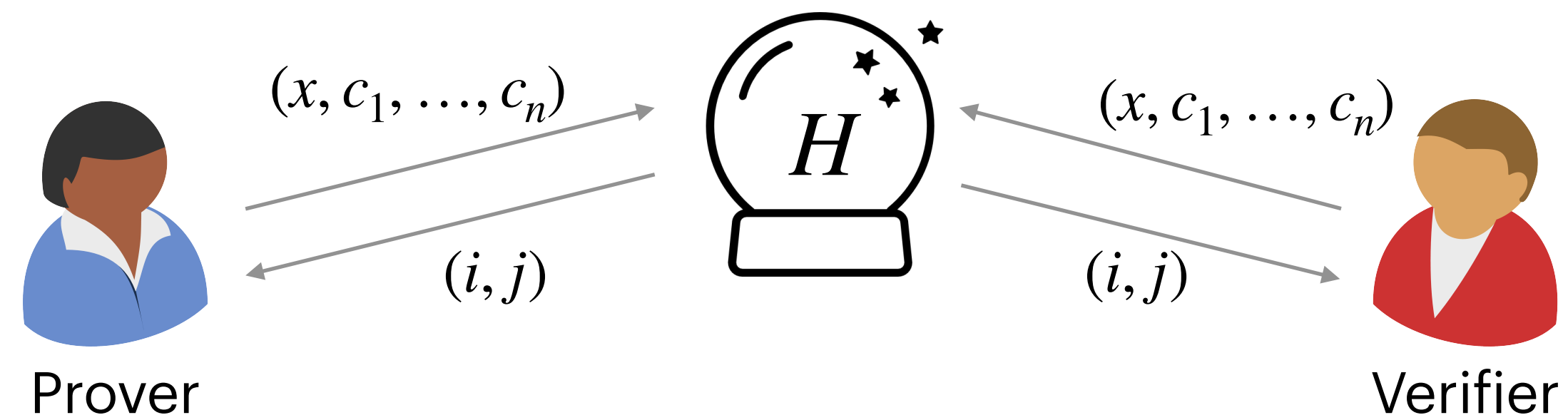
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The random oracle is like an **honest verifier**. It always returns uniformly random edges.

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

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Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



- Is this protocol sound?

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} c_1, \dots, c_n \\ \text{opening for } c_i, c_j \end{pmatrix}$$

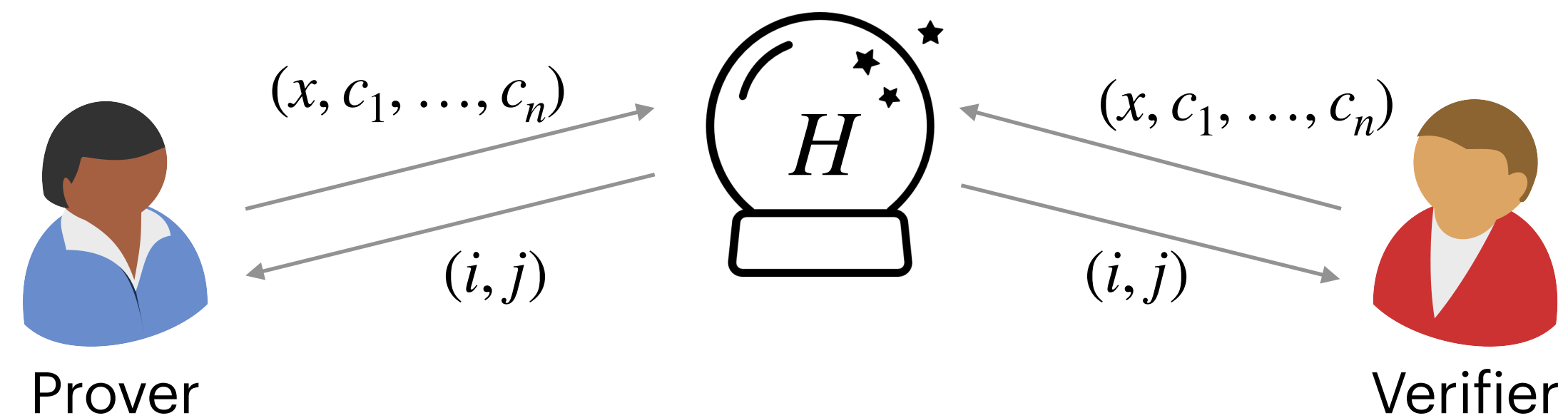
→

Check if openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i \neq \text{color}_j$.

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



- Is this protocol sound?
- No! Malicious prover can **always break soundness**.

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} c_1, \dots, c_n \\ \text{opening for } c_i, c_j \end{pmatrix}$$

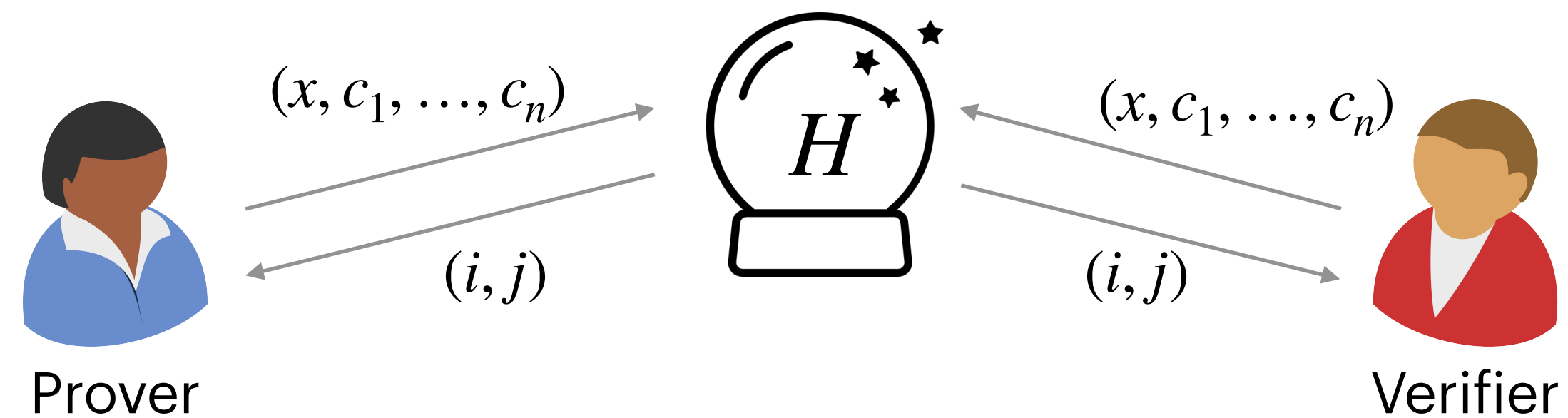
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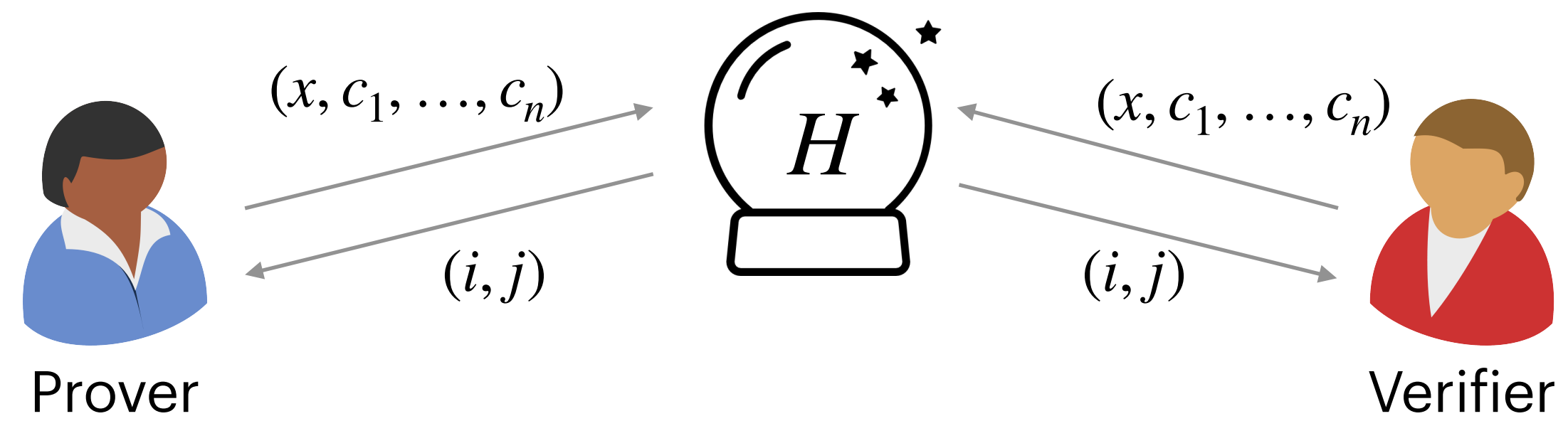
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The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



- Is this protocol sound?
- No! Malicious prover can **always break soundness**.
 - Consider simulator's strategy from interactive case.
- How can we **amplify soundness**?

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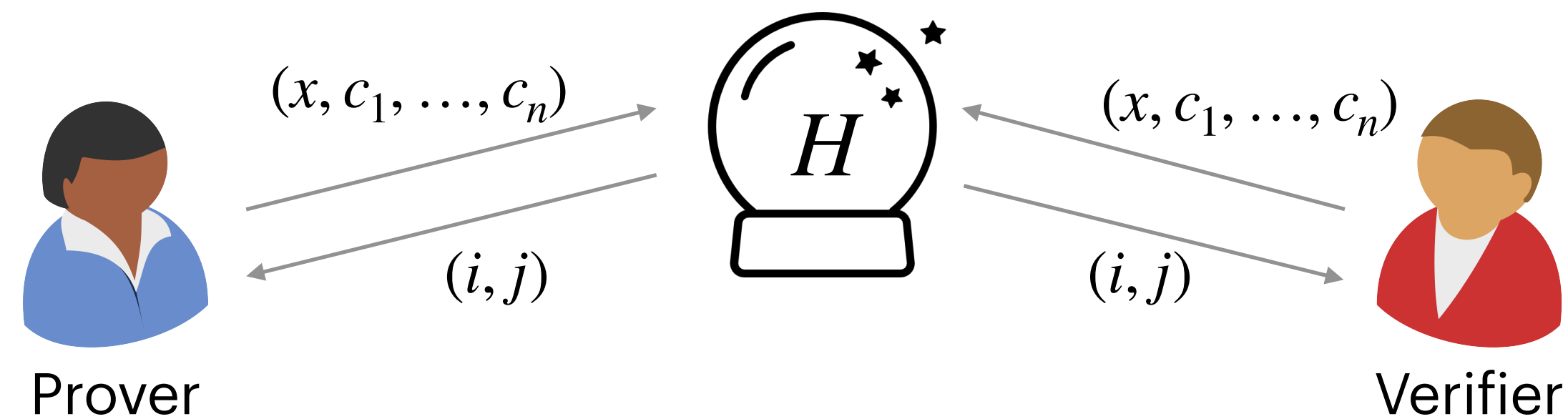
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The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



- Is this protocol sound?
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 - Consider simulator's strategy from interactive case.
- How can we **amplify soundness**?
 - Can we use sequential repetition?

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} c_1, \dots, c_n \\ \text{opening for } c_i, c_j \end{pmatrix}$$

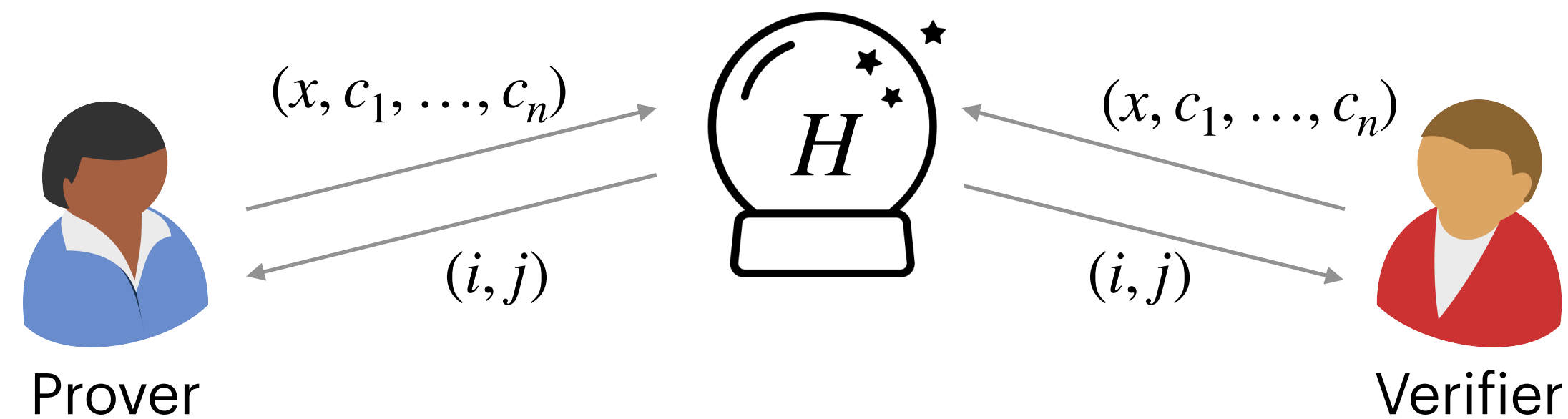
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The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

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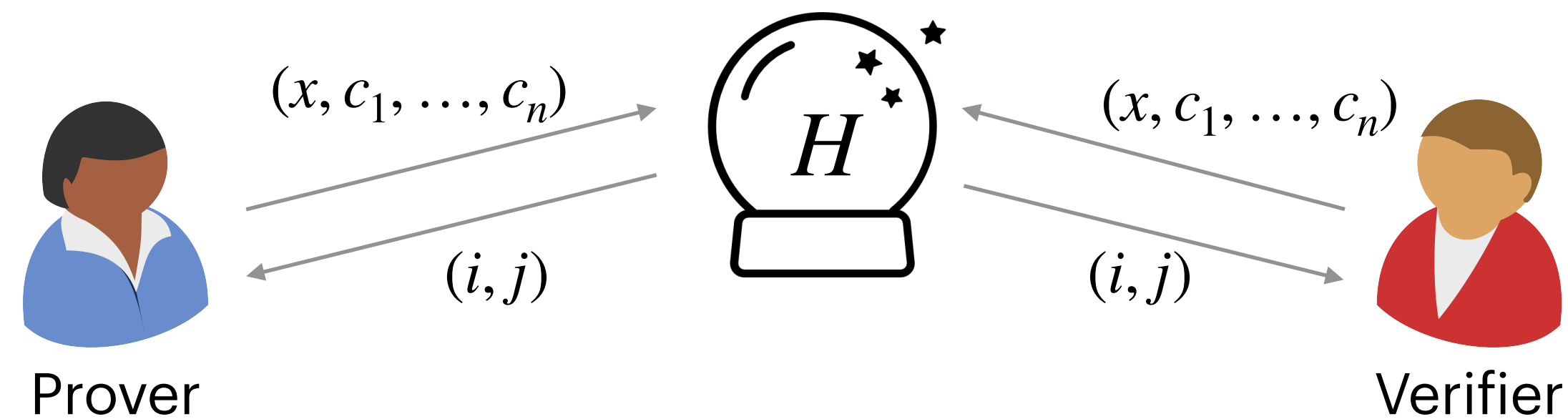
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The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



- Is this protocol sound?
- No! Malicious prover can **always break soundness**.
 - Consider simulator's strategy from interactive case.
- How can we **amplify soundness**?
 - Can we use sequential repetition? **No!**

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} c_1, \dots, c_n \\ \text{opening for } c_i, c_j \end{pmatrix}$$

→

Check if openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i \neq \text{color}_j$.

Solution: Use parallel repetition!

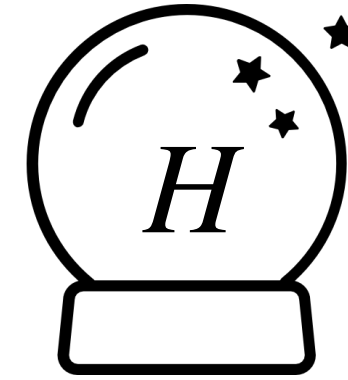
The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



Prover



Verifier

Let $\phi : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$ be a 3-coloring of G .

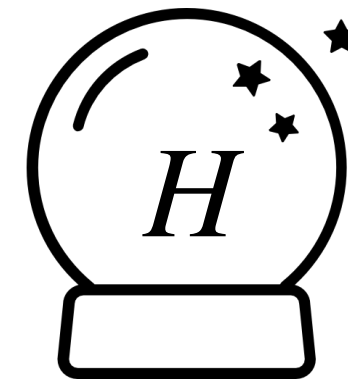
The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

Statement $x : G = (V, E)$



Prover



Verifier

Let $\phi : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$ be a 3-coloring of G .

$\psi_1, \dots, \psi_\lambda \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \text{Perm}_3$

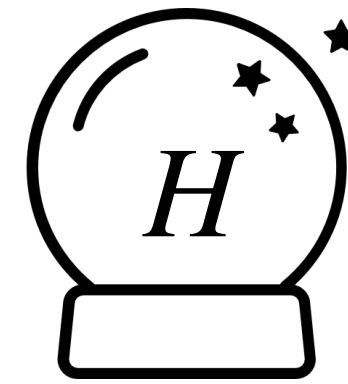
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Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring

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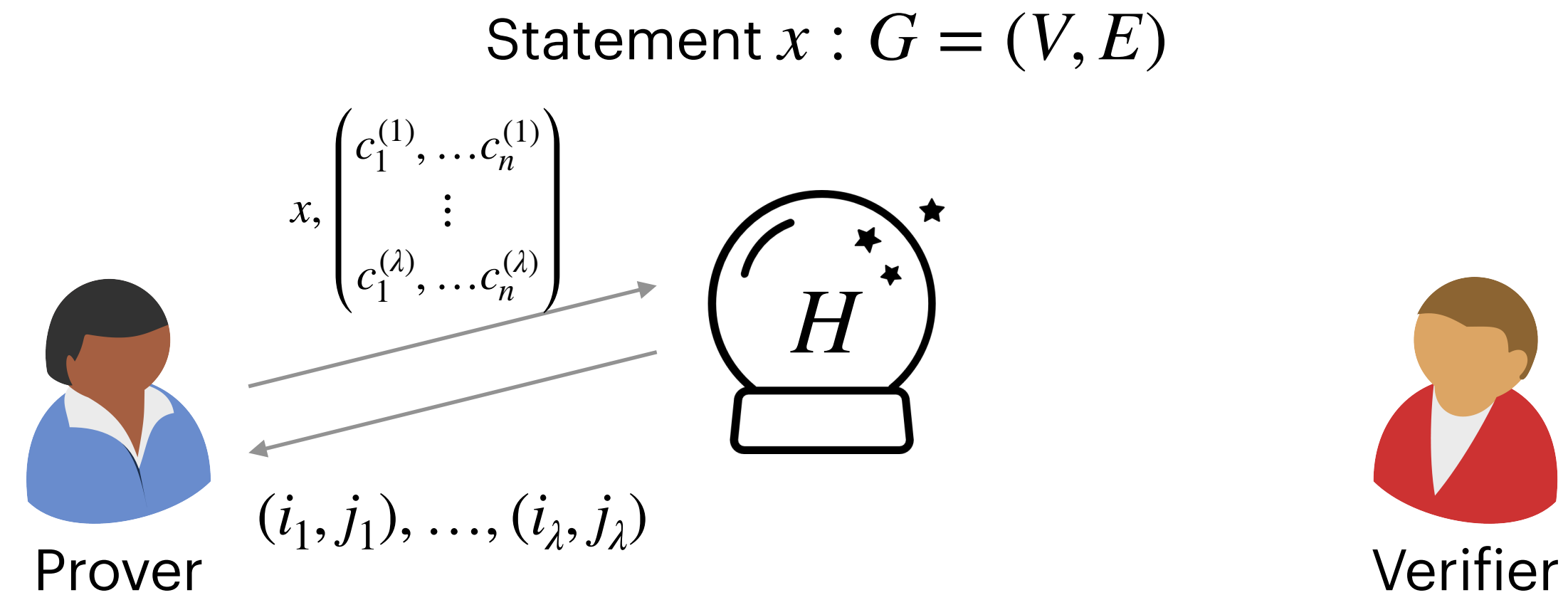
$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, k \in \{1, \dots, \lambda\} :$

$\text{color}_i^{(k)} := \psi_k(\phi(v_i))$

$c_i^{(k)} := \text{Com}(\text{color}_i^{(k)})$

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring



Let $\phi : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$ be a 3-coloring of G .

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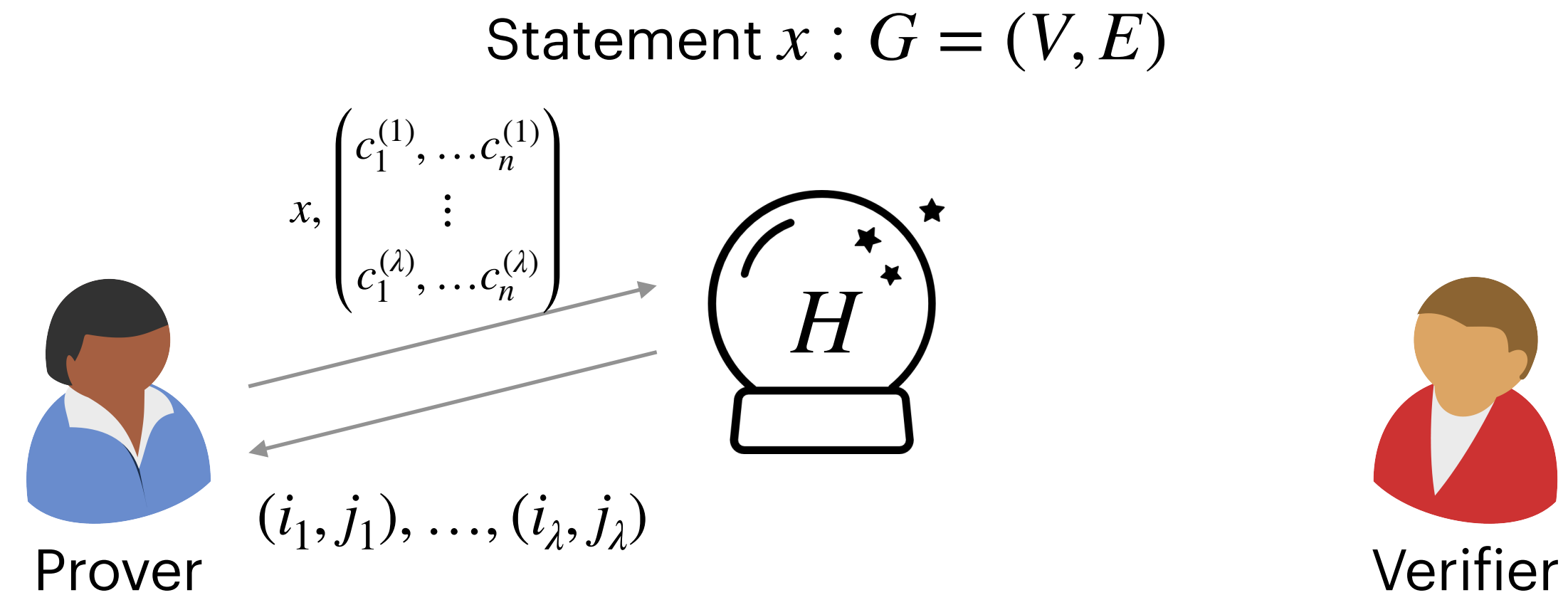
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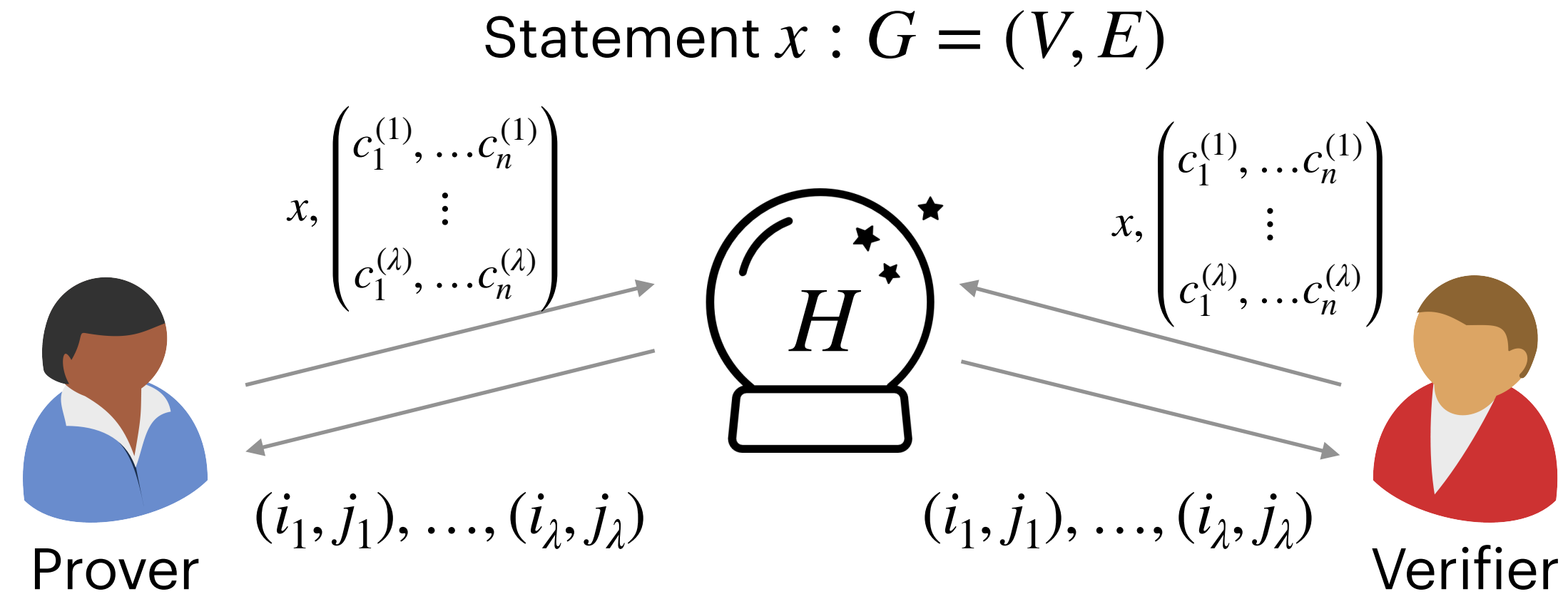
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The Fiat-Shamir Transform

Applied to ZKP for Graph 3-Coloring



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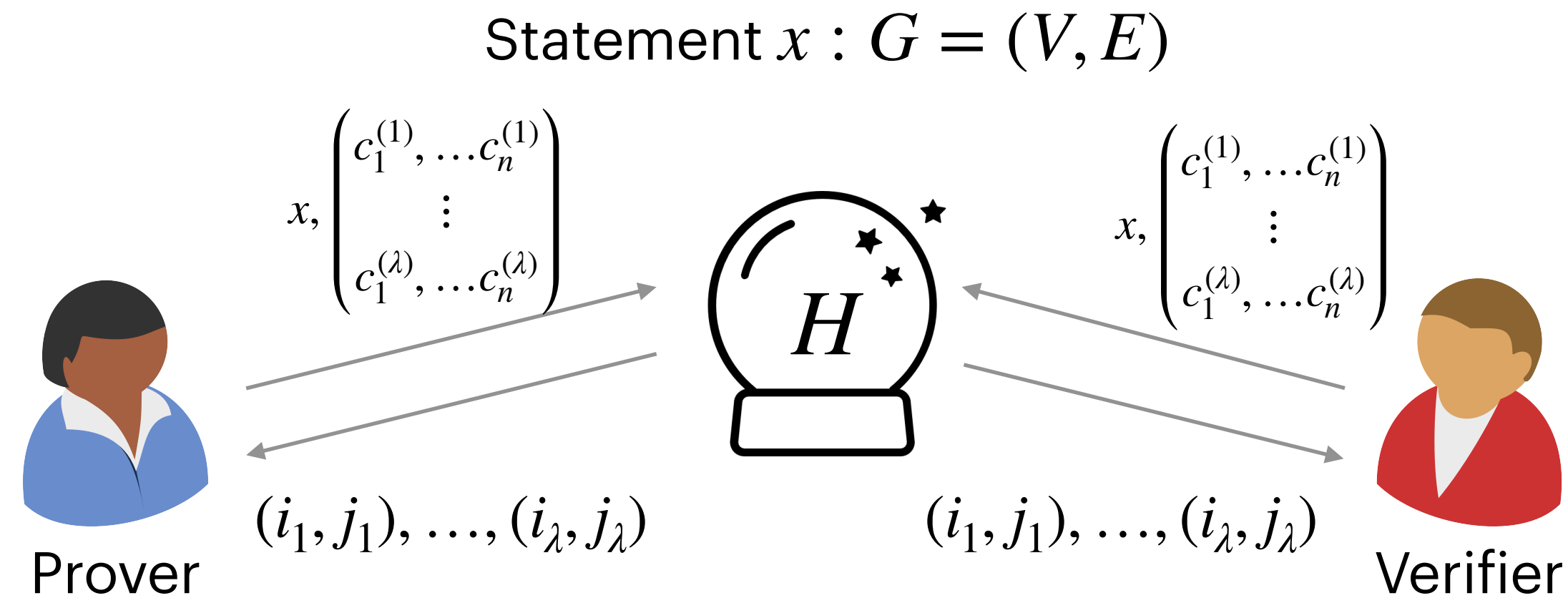
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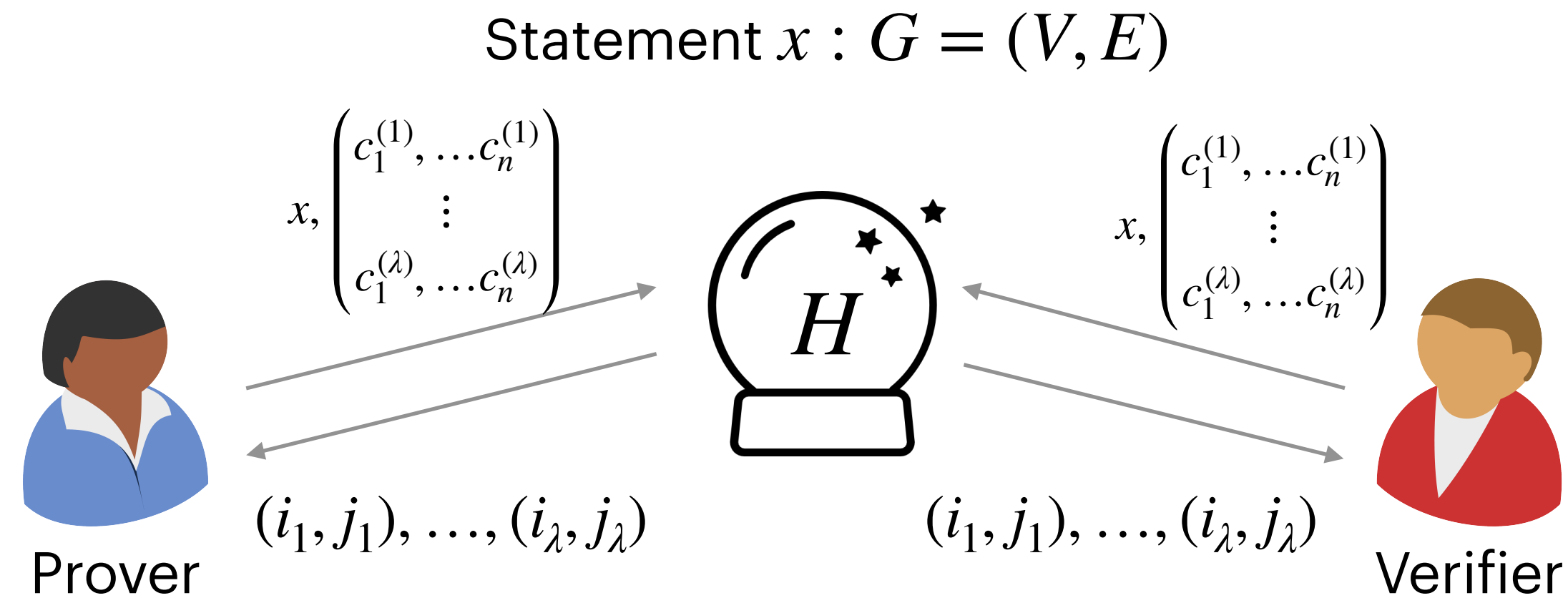
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Check if all openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i^{(k)} \neq \text{color}_j^{(k)}$.

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

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Let $\phi : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$ be a 3-coloring of G .

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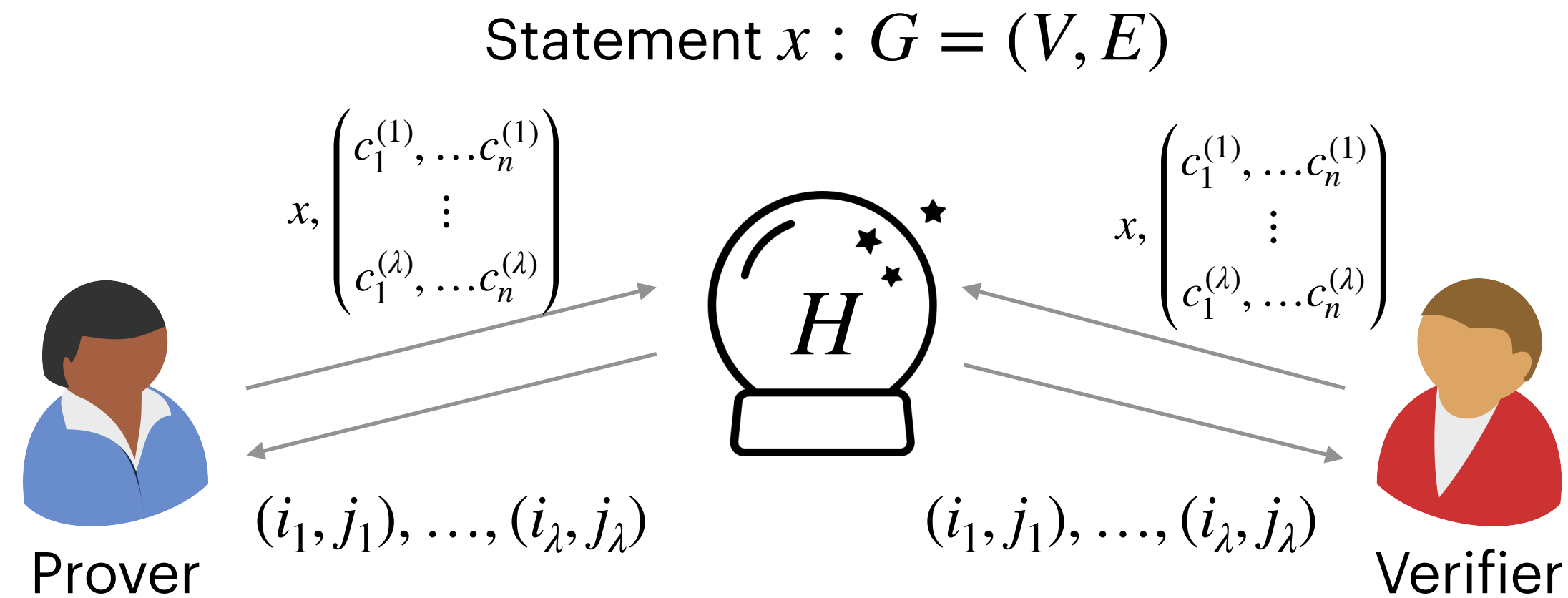
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Soundness:

Check if all openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i^{(k)} \neq \text{color}_j^{(k)}$.

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

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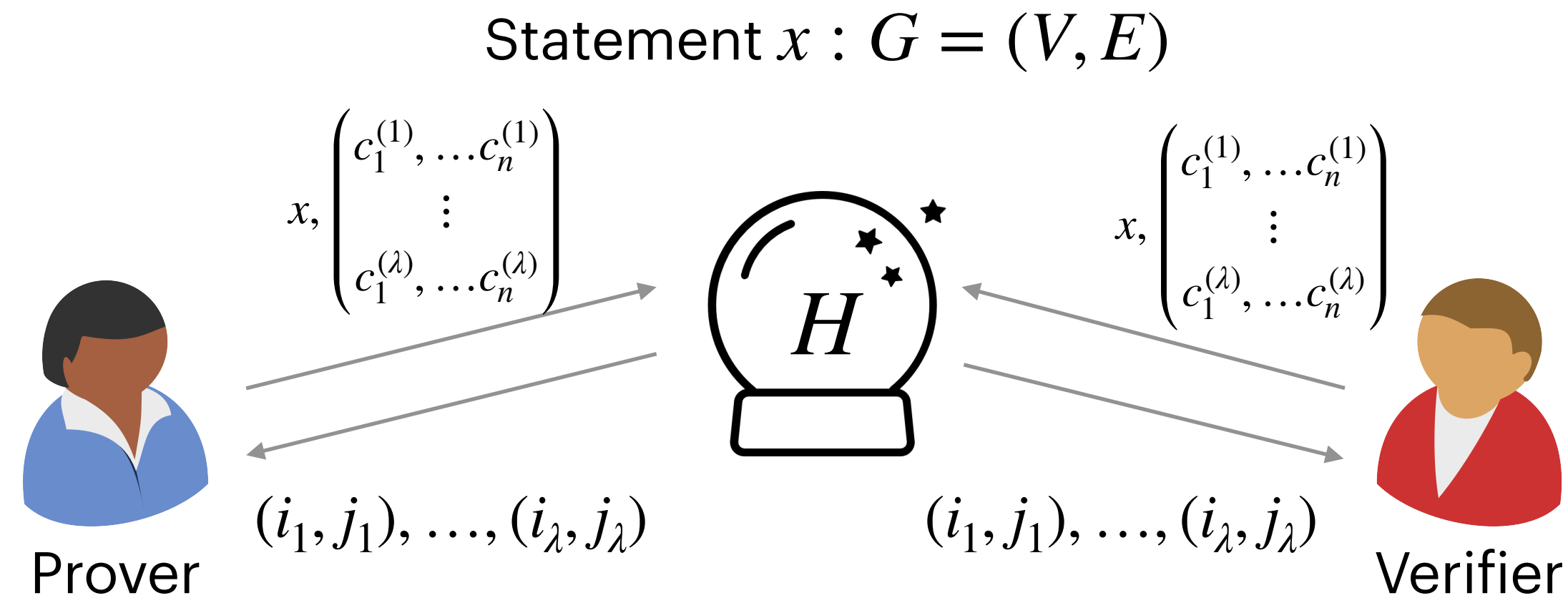
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Soundness: Malicious prover would have to guess all challenge edges to cheat.

Check if all openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i^{(k)} \neq \text{color}_j^{(k)}$.

The Fiat-Shamir Transform

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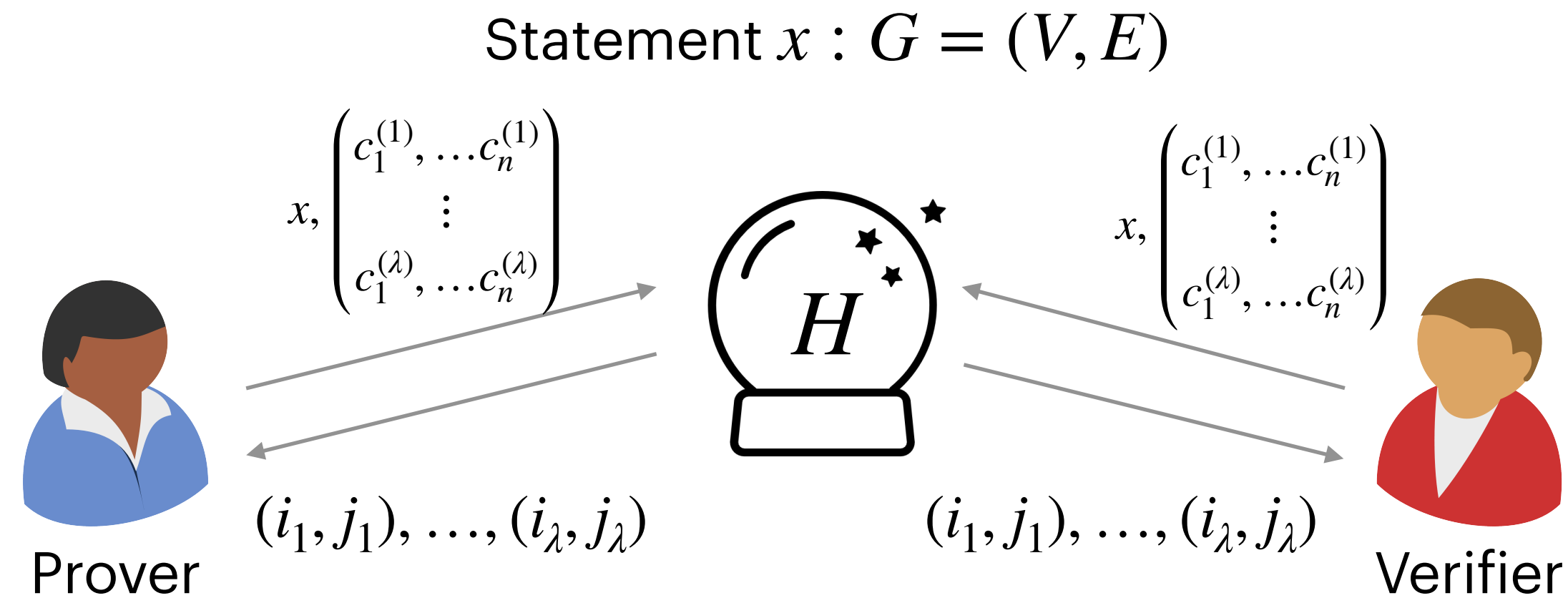
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Zero Knowledge:

Check if all openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i^{(k)} \neq \text{color}_j^{(k)}$.

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Zero Knowledge: Prover never interacts with the malicious verifier and the random oracle is like an “honest verifier”.

In the proof, the simulator can program the random oracle.

Check if all openings are valid and if $\text{color}_i^{(k)} \neq \text{color}_j^{(k)}$.

Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

Until now we have considered **decision problems**:

Either the statement is **true** ($x \in L$) or **false** ($x \notin L$).

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Wants to prove that she has the secret key **s** s.t. $h = g^s$.



Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

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- This **statement is always true** since g generates \mathbb{G} .

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Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

“There exists **s** such that $h = g^s$.”

- This **statement is always true** since g generates \mathbb{G} .
- This is not an interesting decision problem.
- It is a **search problem**.

Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

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Prover

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Verifier

"I **know** **s** such that $h = g^s$."

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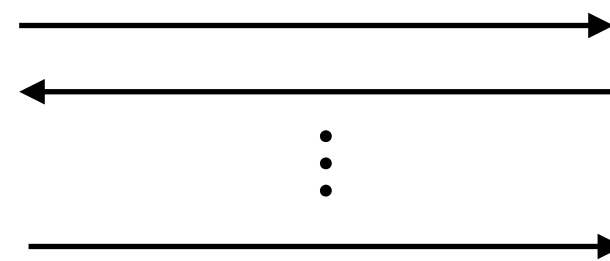
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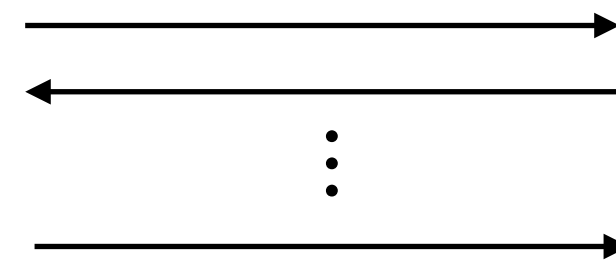
Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

"I **know** **s** such that $h = g^s$."



"I'm convinced you know the solution."

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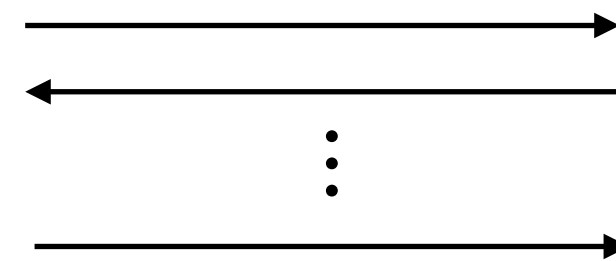
Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

"I **know** s such that $h = g^s$."



"I'm convinced you know the solution."

Completeness: The verifier accepts when it interacts with the prover run with input s .

Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

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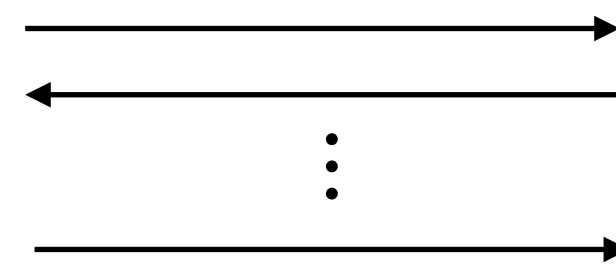
Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

"I **know** s such that $h = g^s$."



"I'm convinced you know the solution."

Completeness: The verifier accepts when it interacts with the prover run with input s .

Zero-Knowledge: For every (possibly malicious) verifier, there is a simulator whose output is indistinguishable from the verifier's view in an interaction with the prover.

Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

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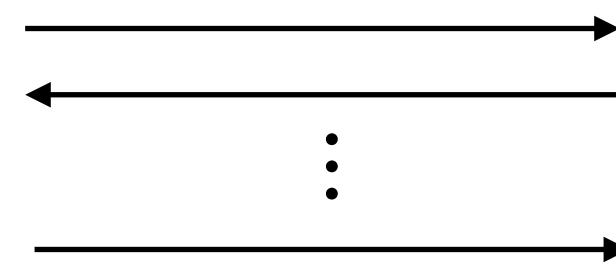
Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

"I **know** s such that $h = g^s$."



"I'm convinced you know the solution."

Completeness: The verifier accepts when it interacts with the prover run with input s .

Soundness: **What does it mean to say a machine *knows* something?**

Zero-Knowledge: For every (possibly malicious) verifier, there is a simulator whose output is indistinguishable from the verifier's view in an interaction with the prover.

Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

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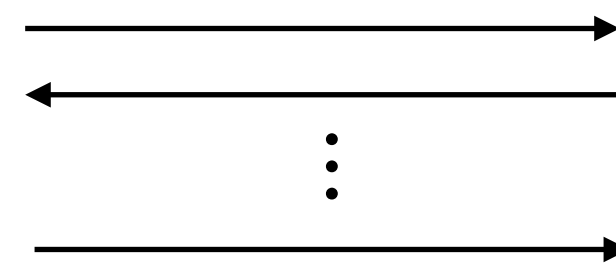
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"I'm convinced you know the solution."

Completeness: The verifier accepts when it interacts with the prover run with input s .

Soundness: If a **(possibly malicious) prover** convinces the verifier then there is an efficient algorithm E , called the **extractor**, that outputs the witness s .

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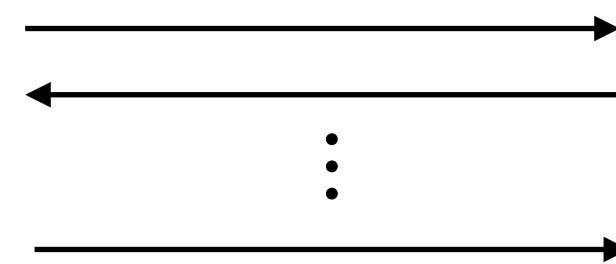
Prover

$$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$$



Verifier

"I **know** s such that $h = g^s$."



"I'm convinced you know the solution."

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We will not formally define extractors in this course.

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Zero-Knowledge Proof of Knowledge

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Wants to prove that she has the secret key s s.t. $h = g^s$.



Prover

$x = (\mathbb{G}, g, p, h)$



Verifier

Theorem [Goldreich-Micali-Wigderson'87]: Assuming OWFs exist, any language in NP has a zero-knowledge proof of knowledge.



"I'm convinced you know the solution."

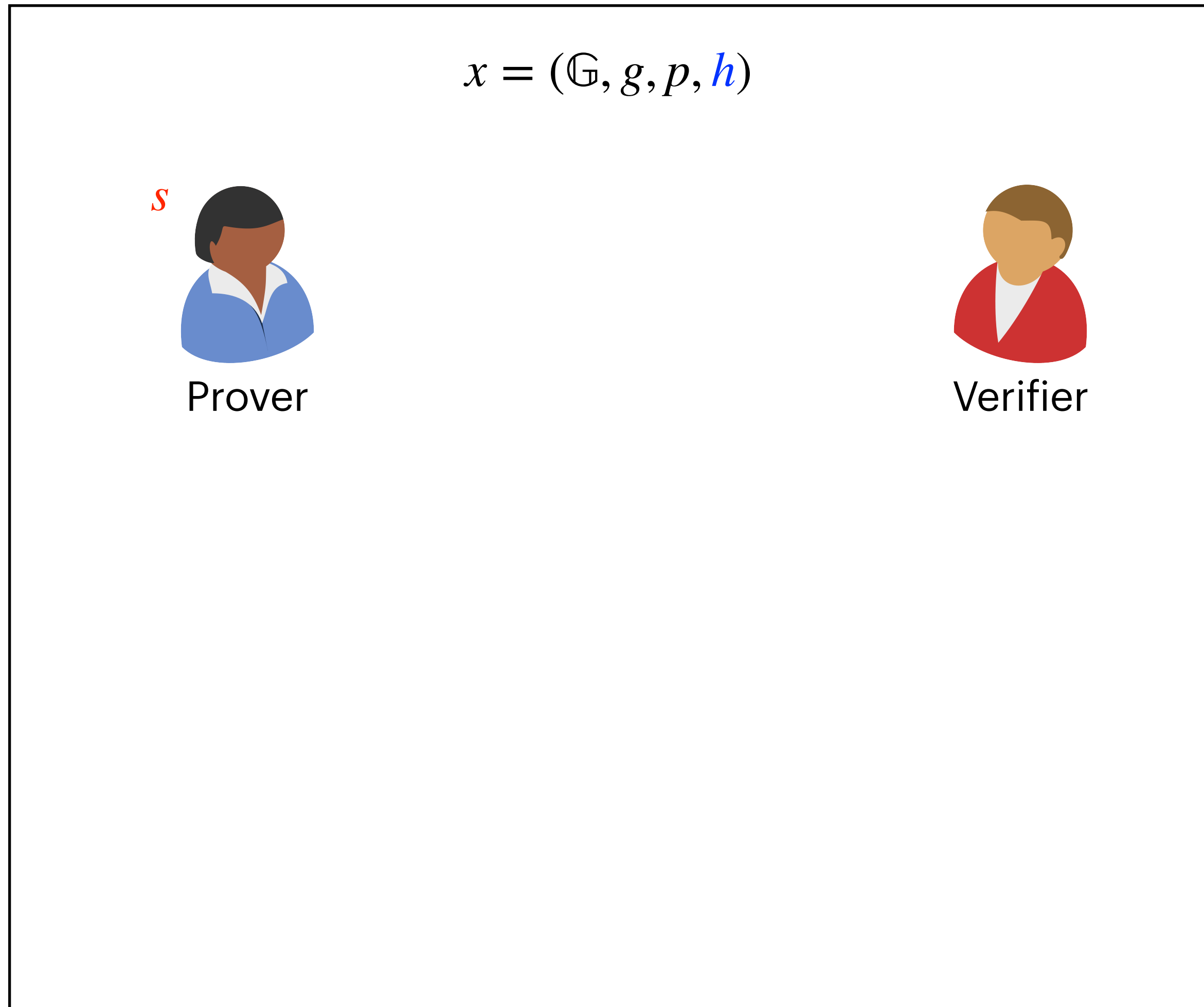
Completeness: The verifier accepts when it interacts with the prover run with input s .

Soundness: If a (possibly malicious) prover convinces the verifier then there is an efficient algorithm E , called the extractor, that outputs the witness s .
We will not formally define extractors in this course.

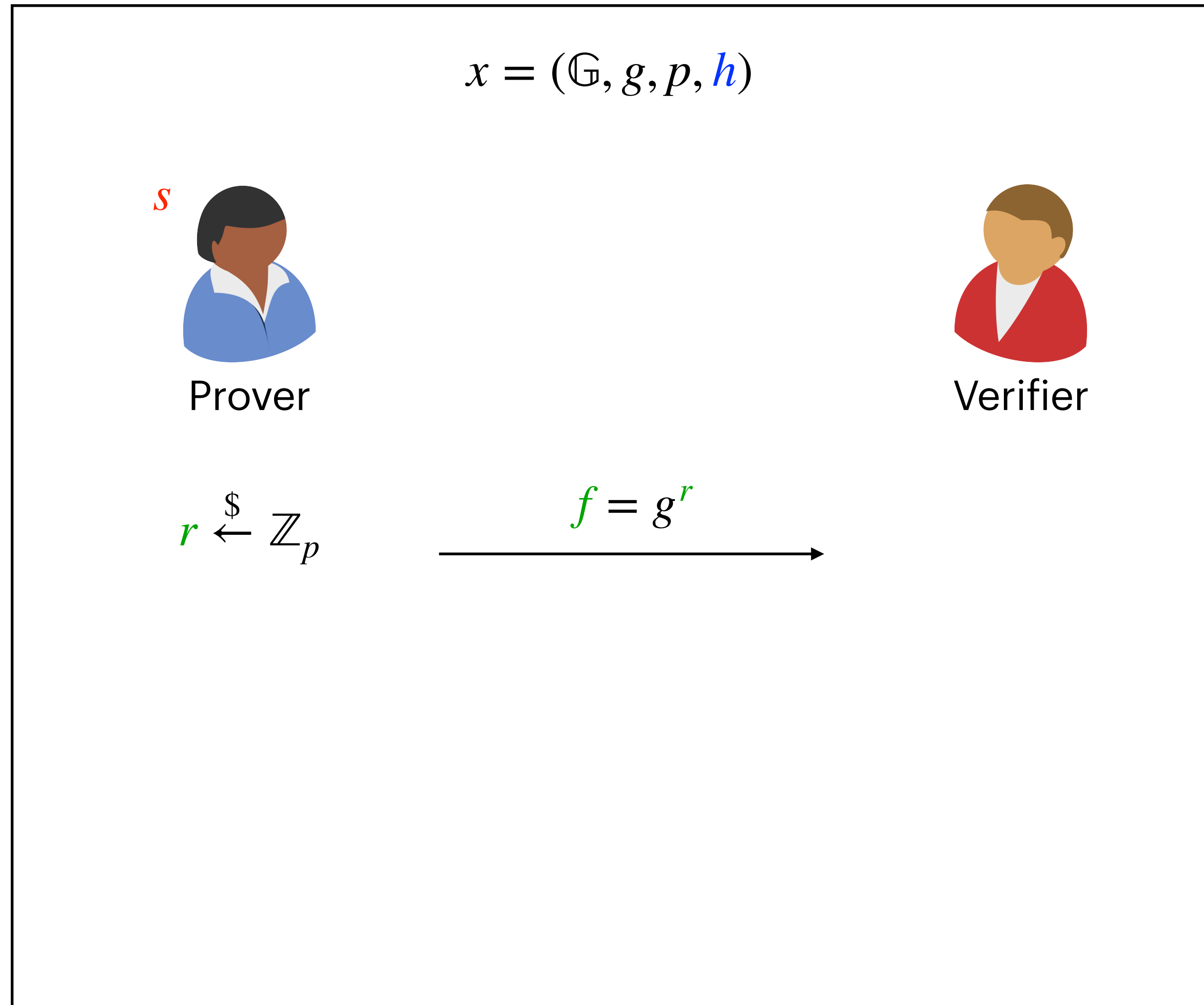
Zero-Knowledge: For every (possibly malicious) verifier, there is a simulator whose output is indistinguishable from the verifier's view in an interaction with the prover.

Additional Slides

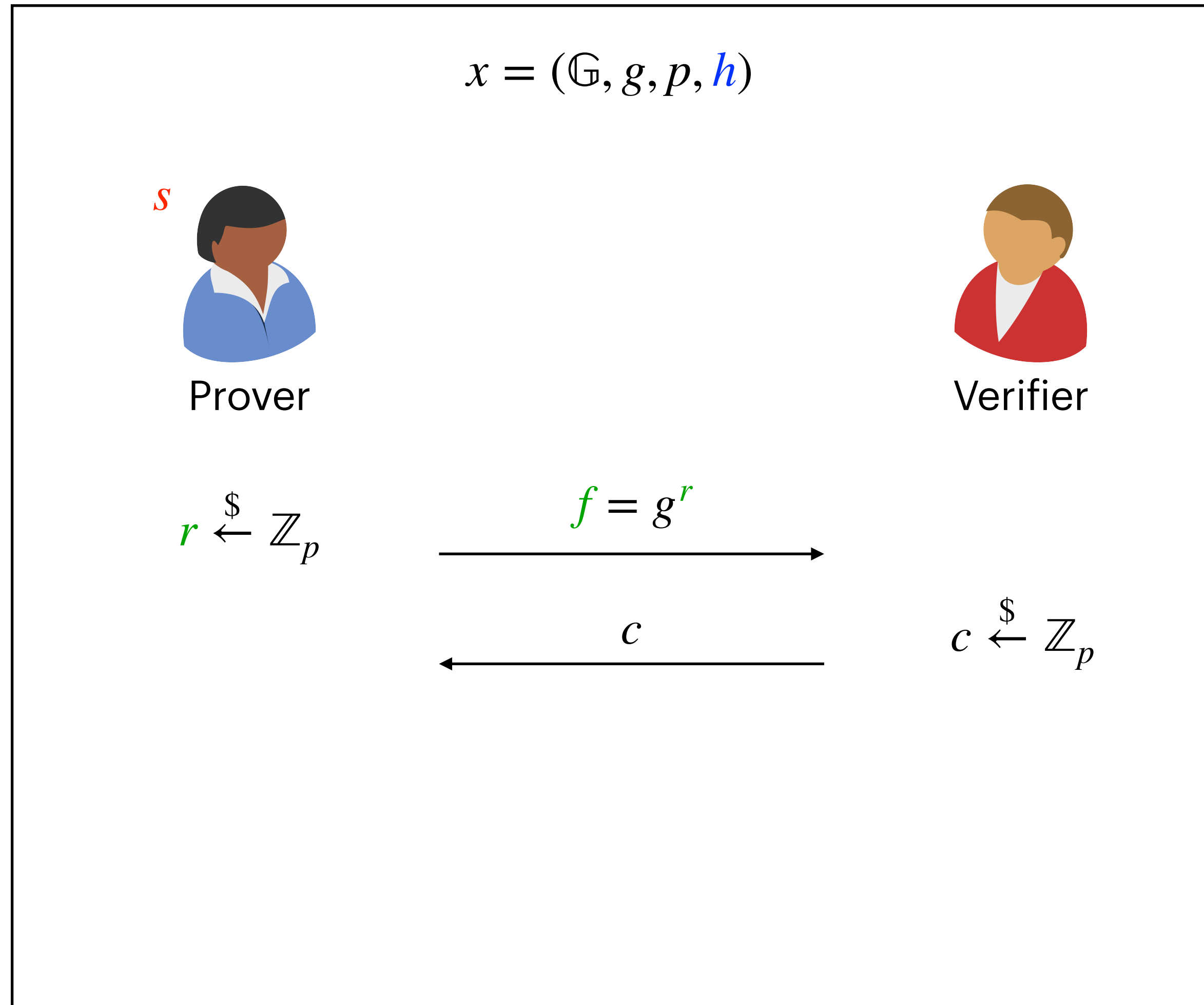
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



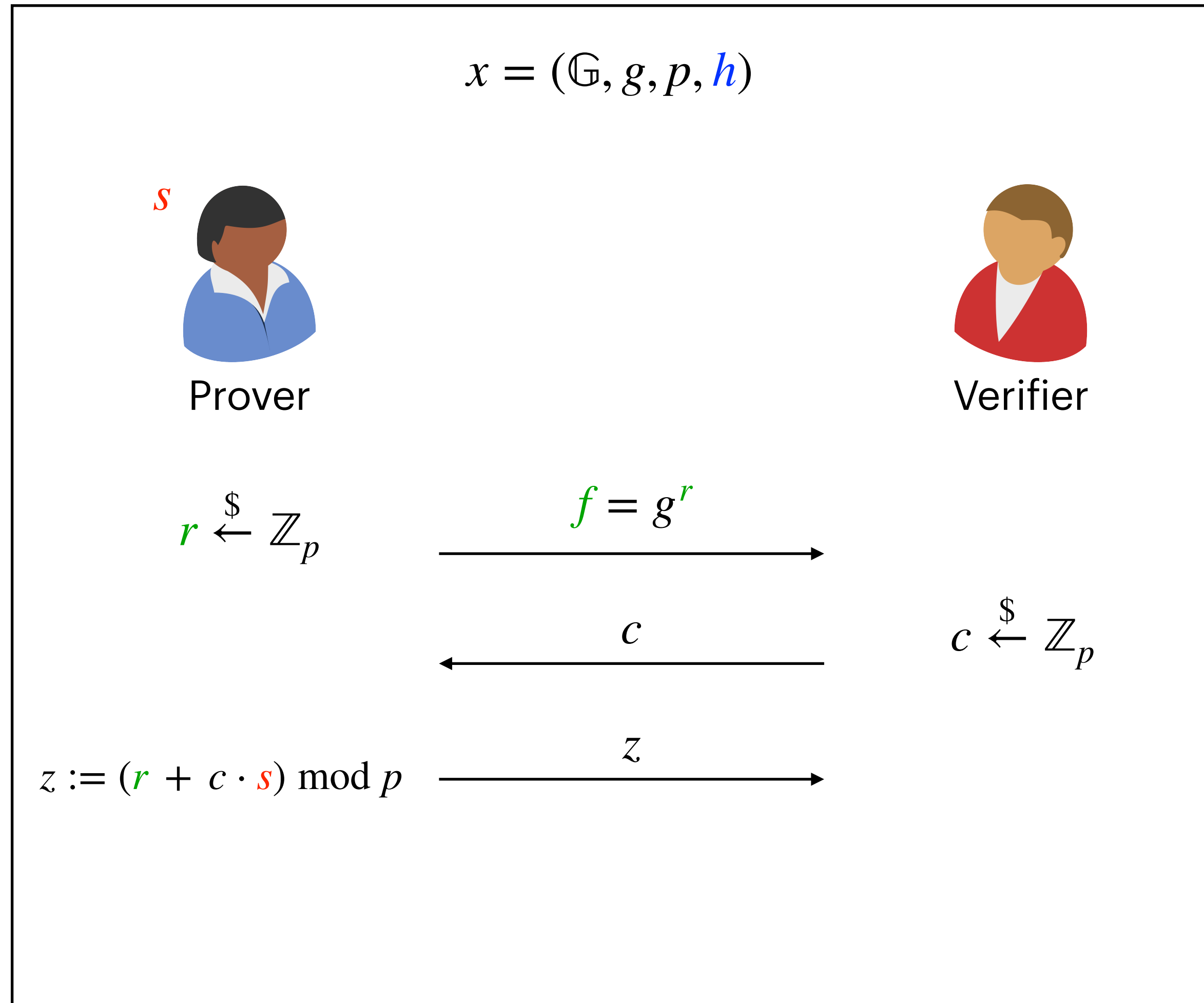
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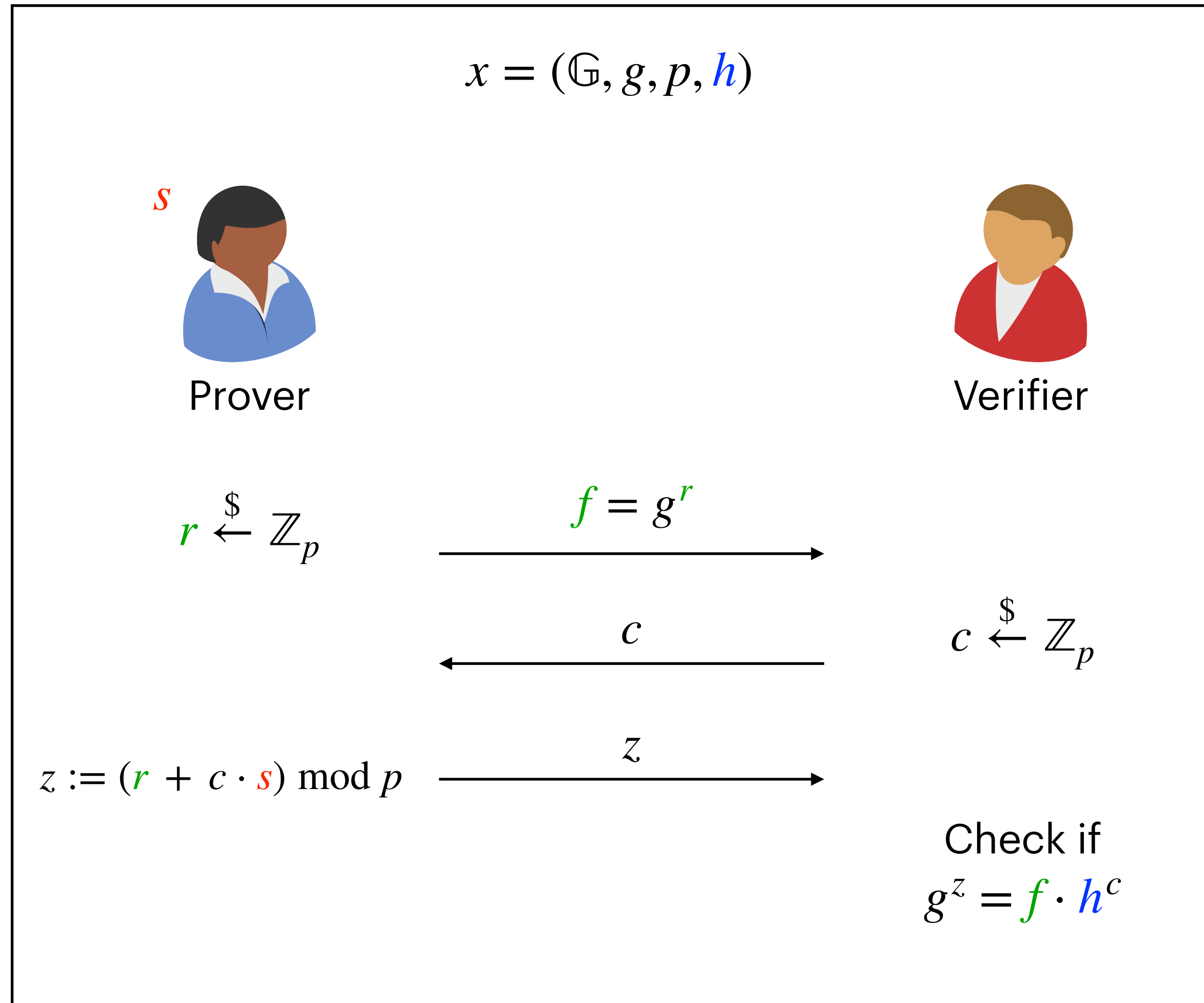
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



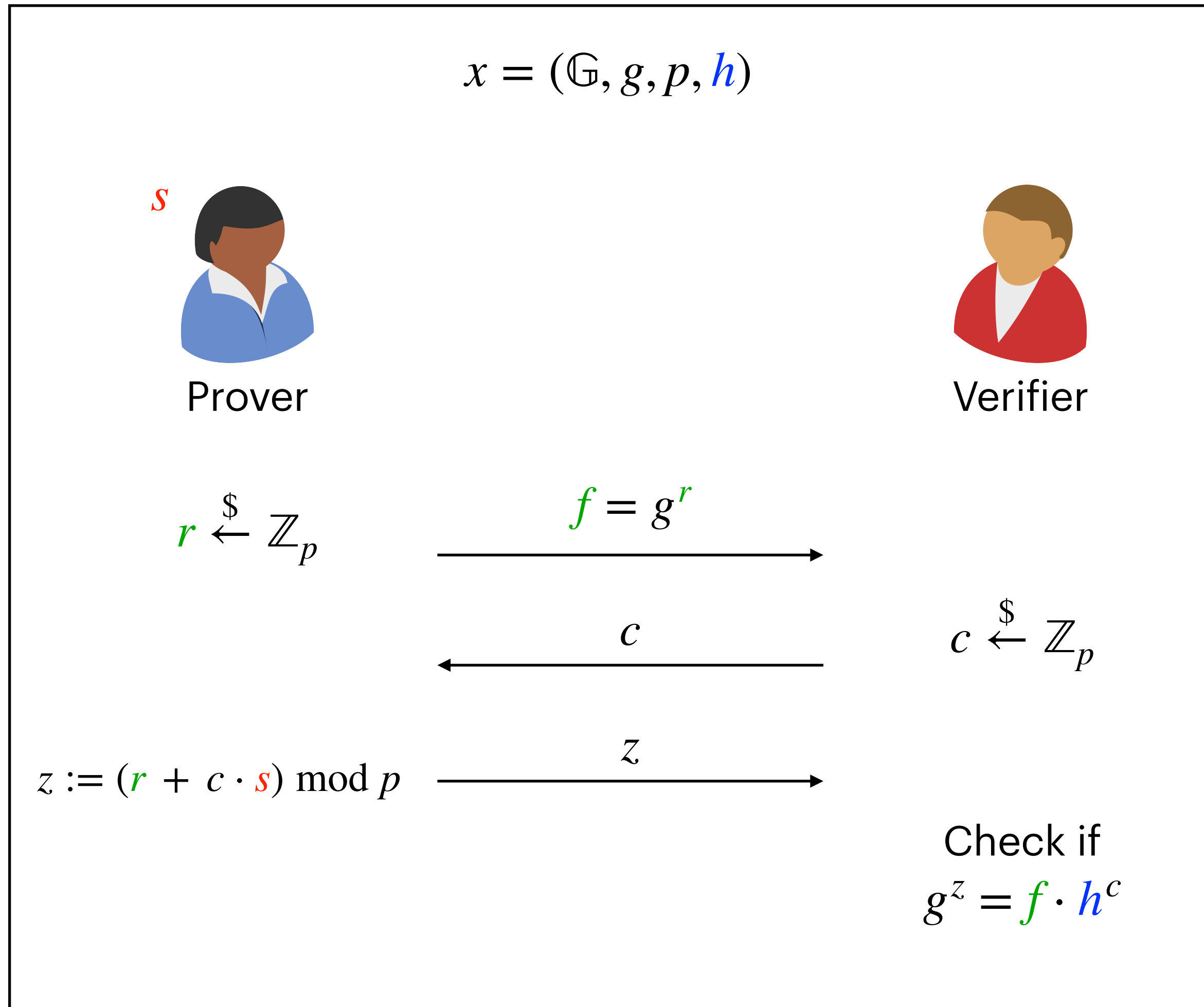
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



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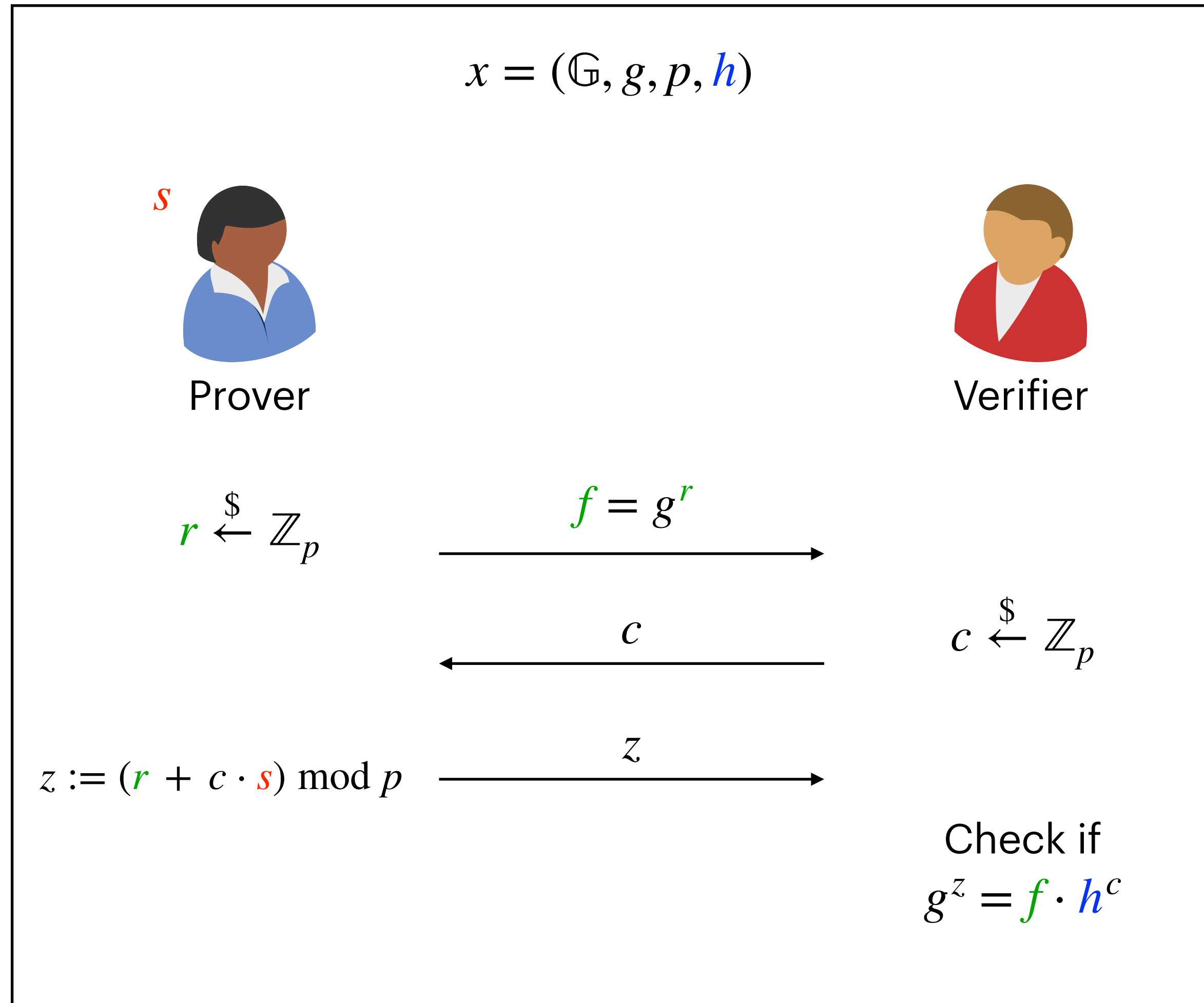
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Completeness

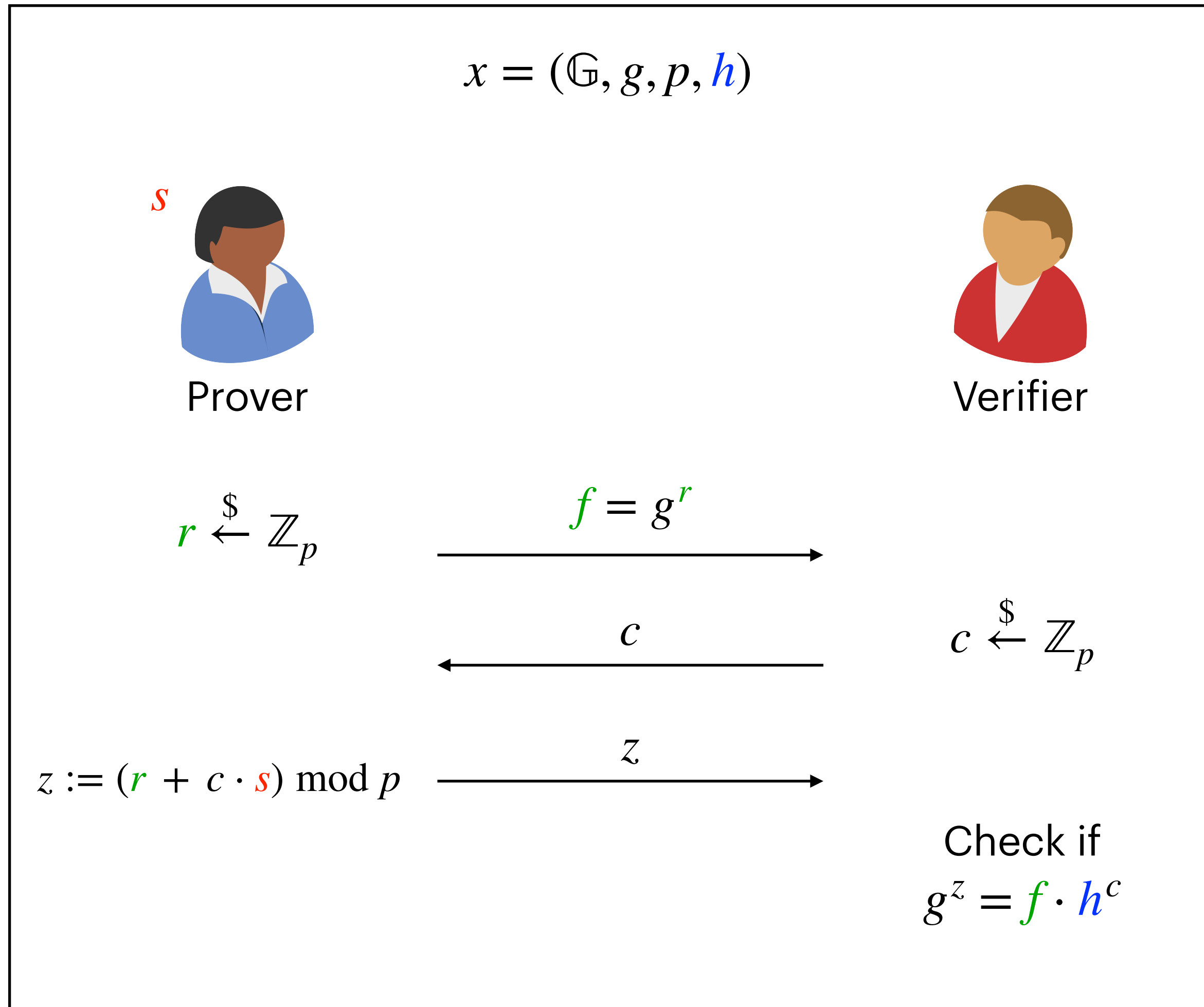
$$g^z = g^{r+c \cdot s} = g^r \cdot (g^s)^c = f \cdot h^c.$$

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Zero-Knowledge

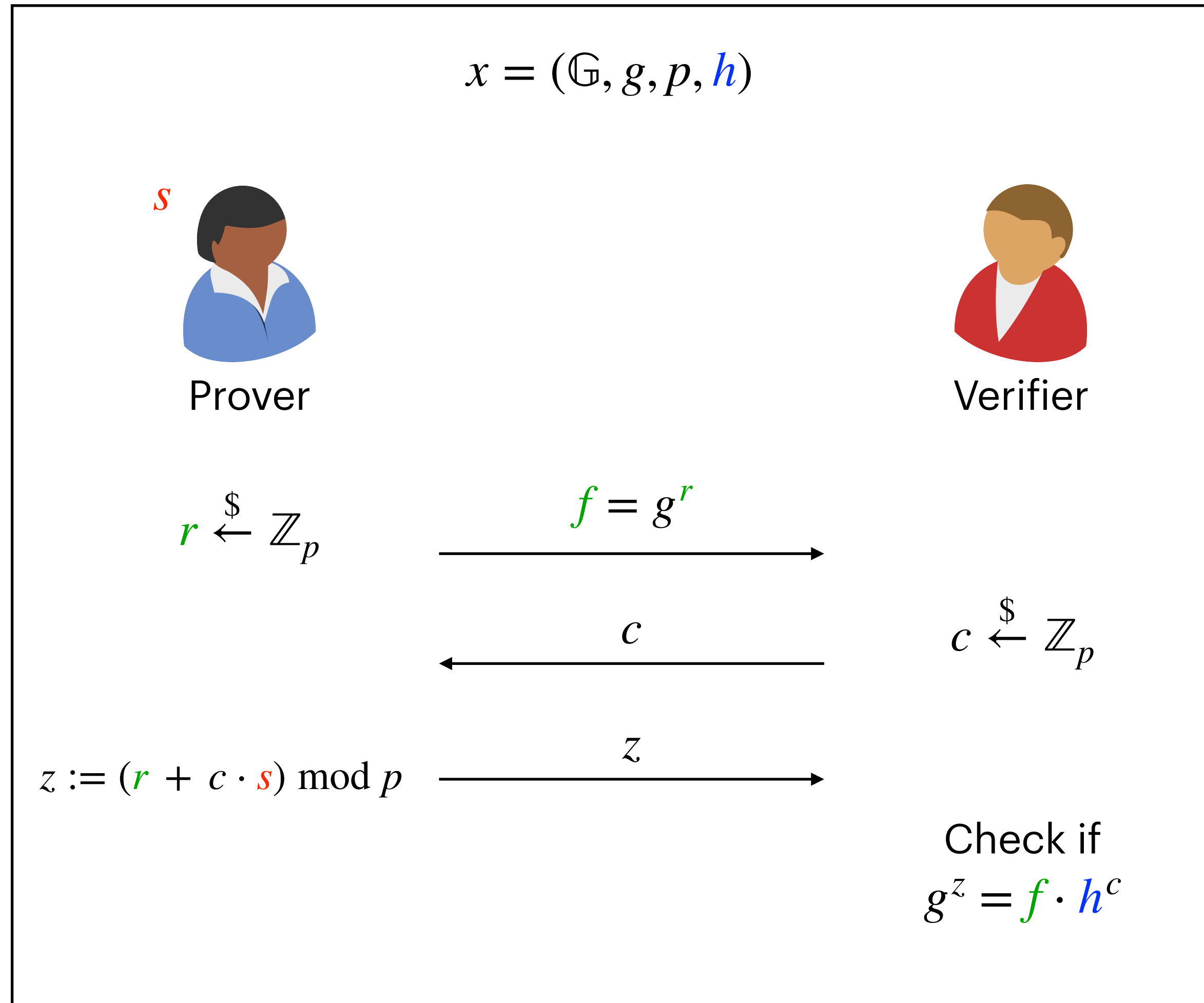
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Zero-Knowledge

Not clear how to prove zero-knowledge against arbitrary malicious verifiers.

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

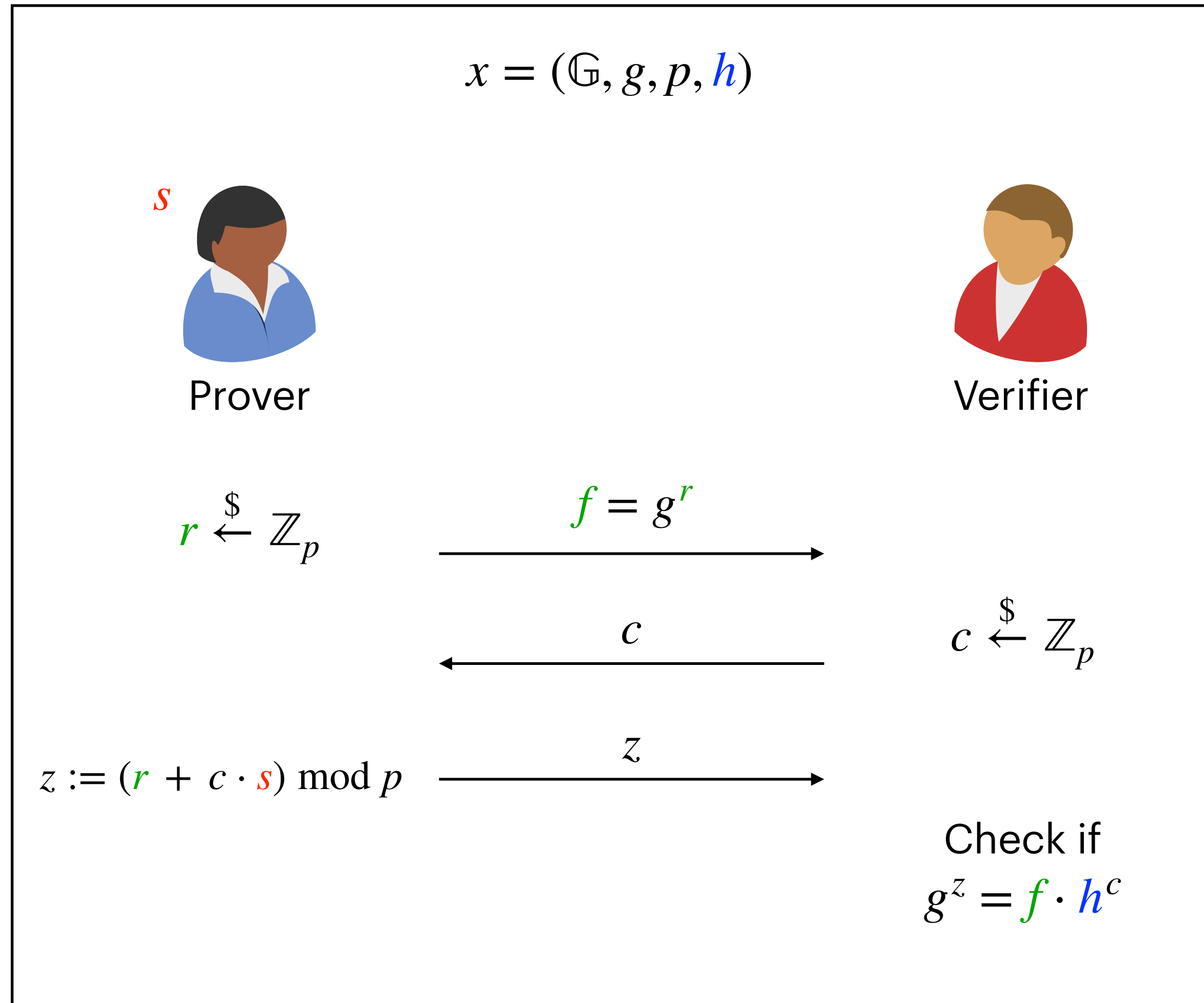


Zero-Knowledge

Not clear how to prove zero-knowledge against **arbitrary malicious verifiers**.

We will prove a **weaker guarantee**: an **honest verifier** will not gain knowledge by interacting with the prover.

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



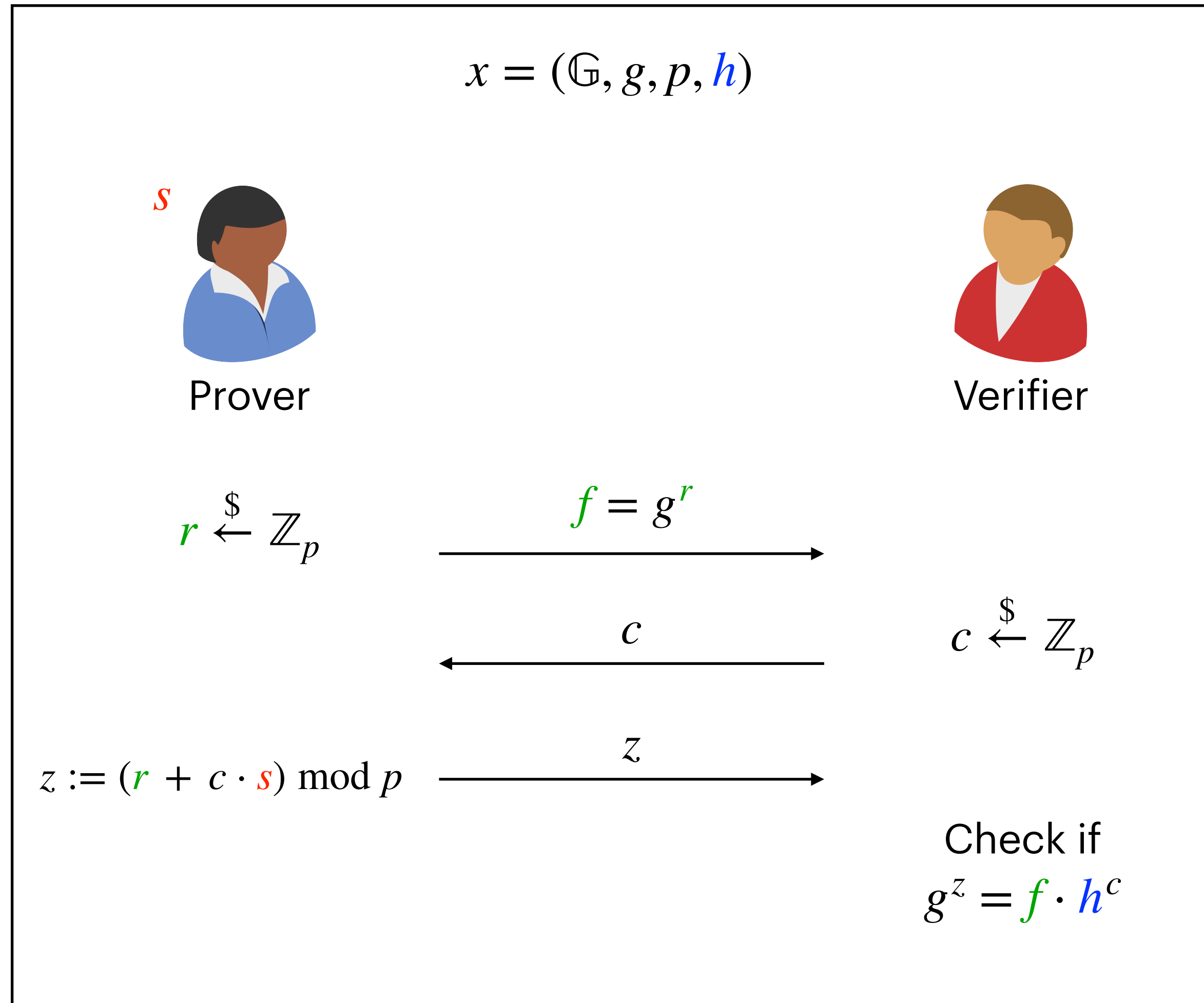
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ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

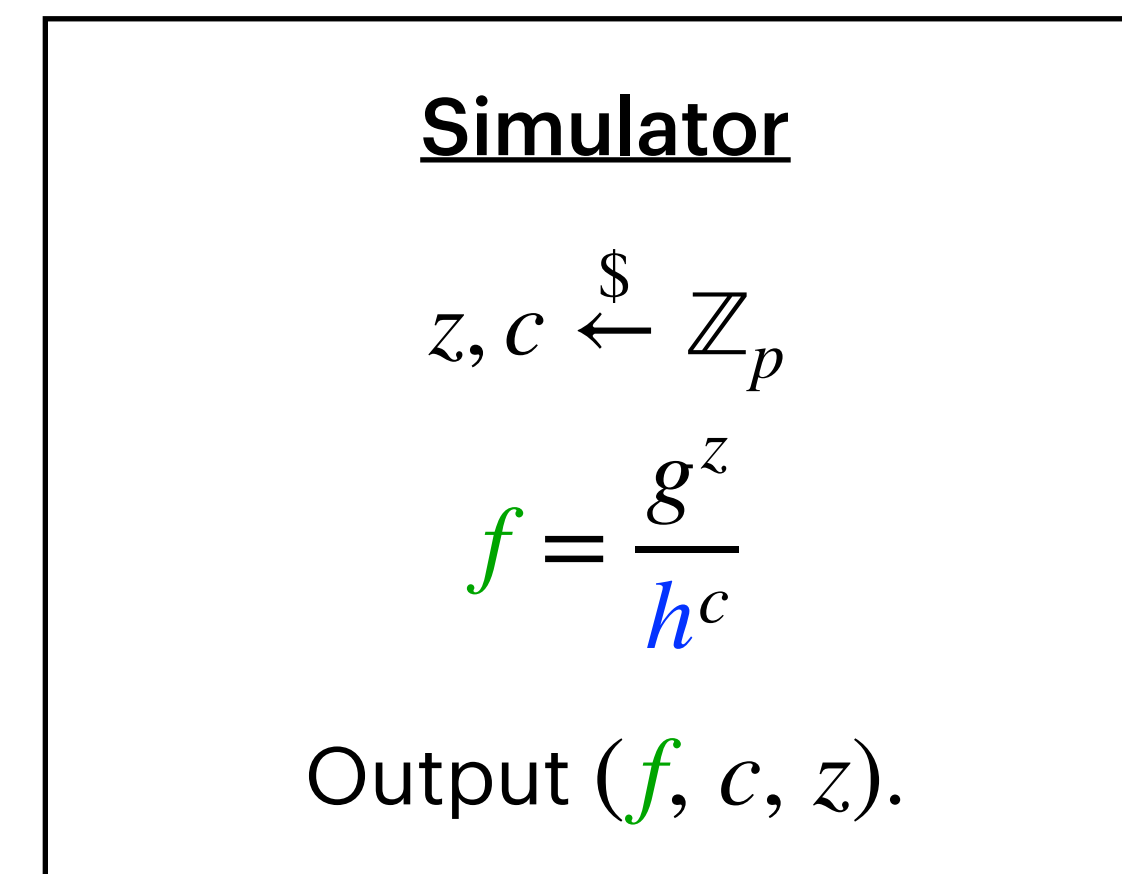


Zero-Knowledge

Not clear how to prove zero-knowledge against **arbitrary malicious verifiers**.

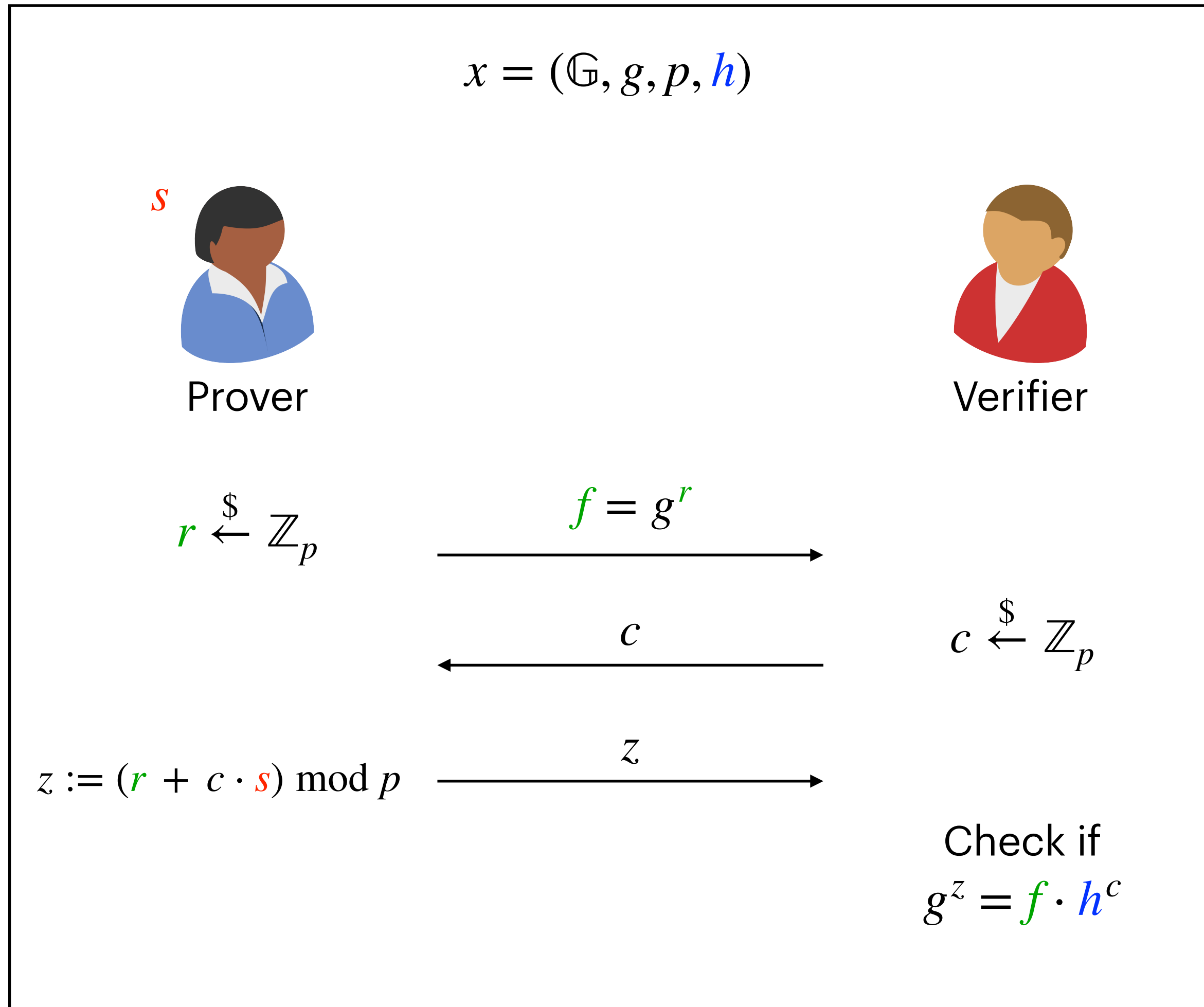
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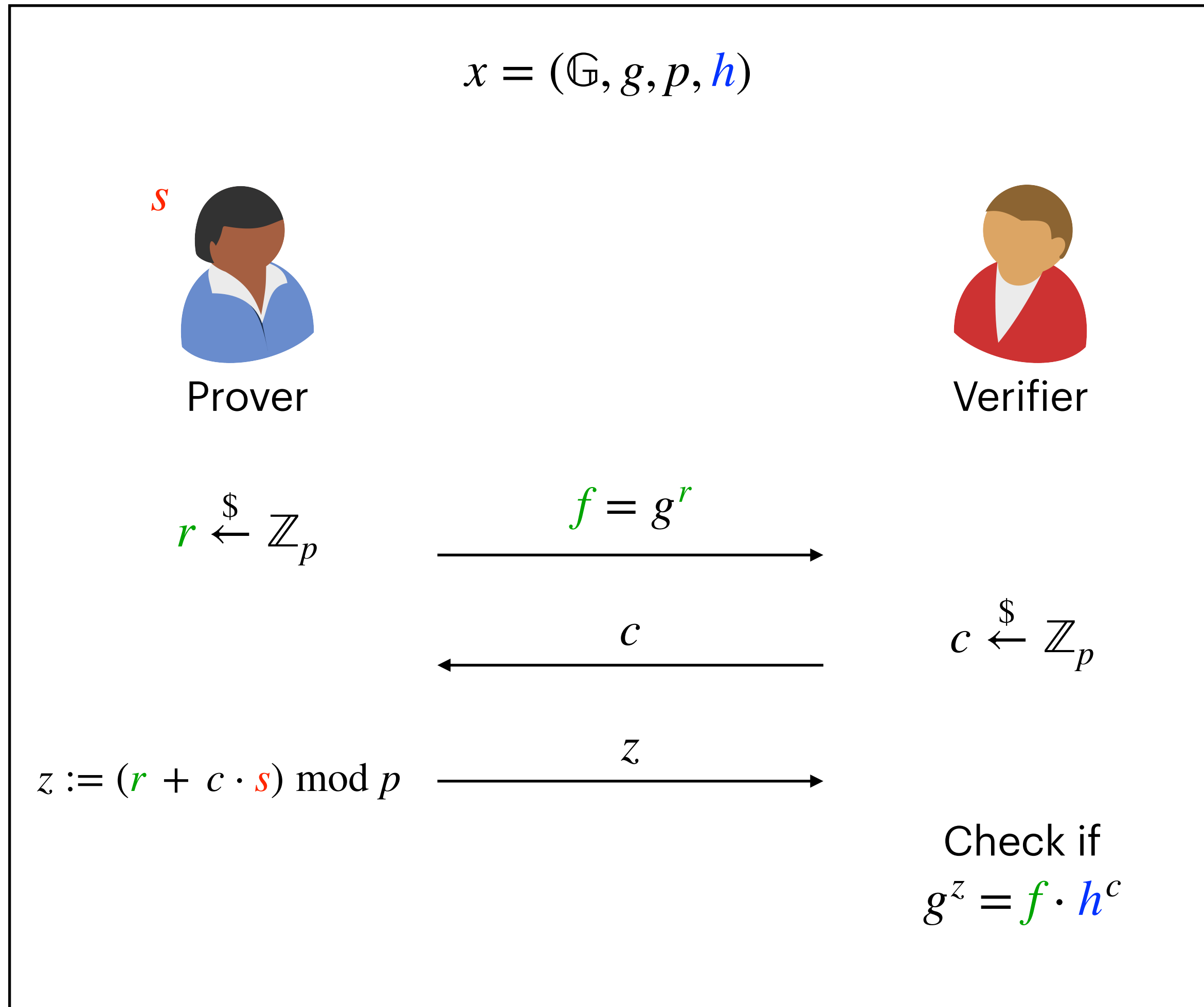


ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

Soundness



ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



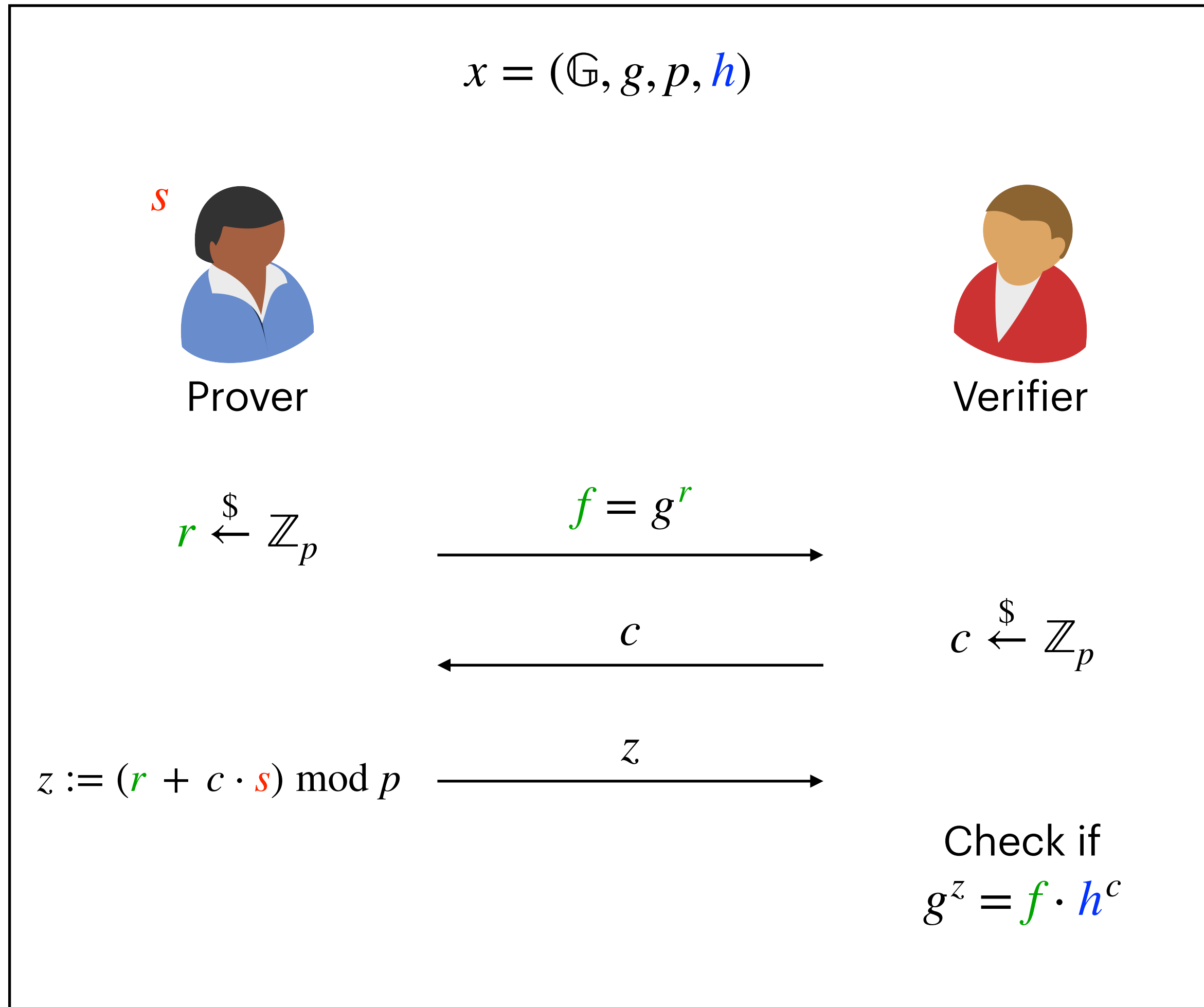
Soundness

We will consider the simpler case where the malicious prover convinces the verifier with probability 1.

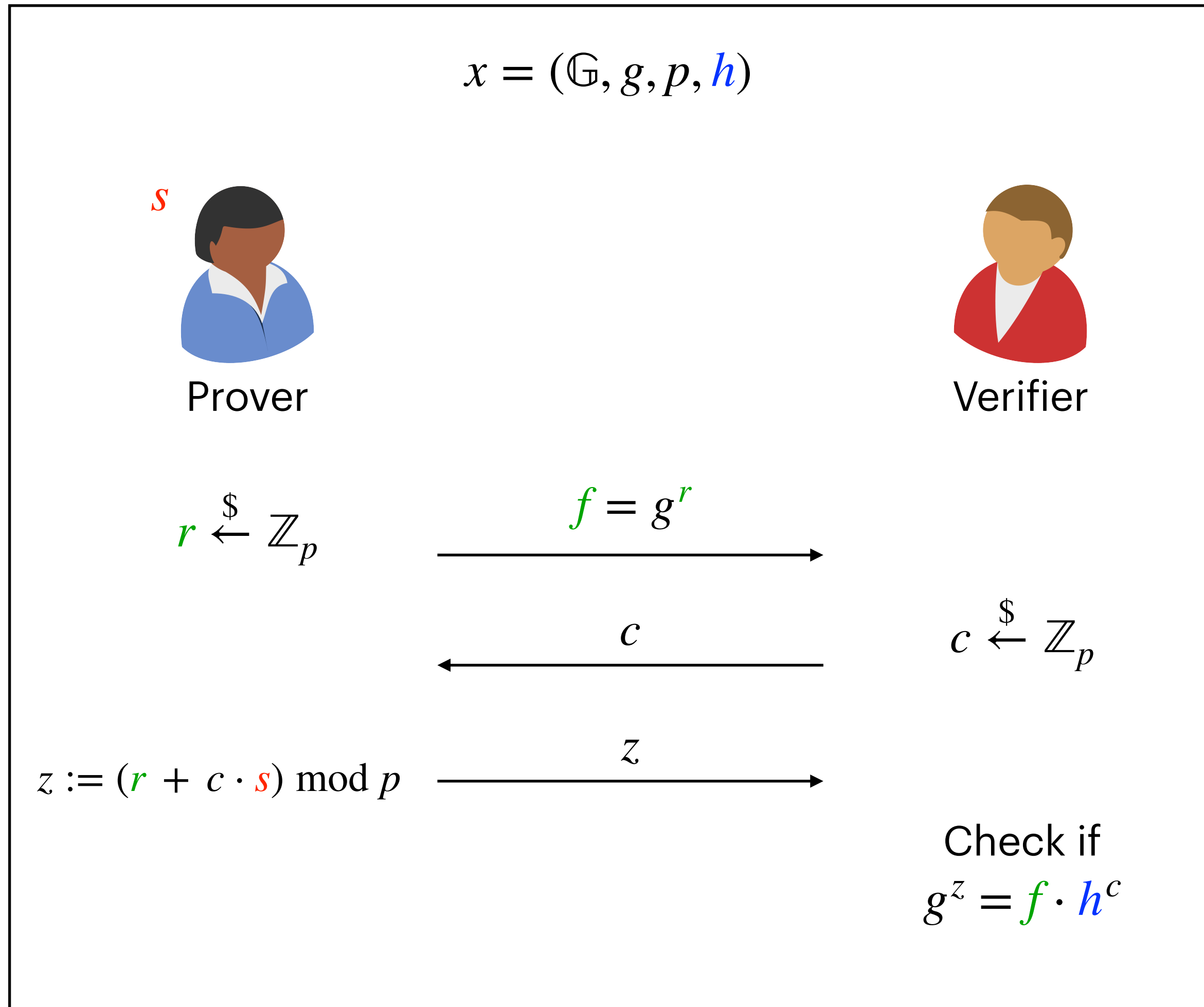


ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

Soundness



ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Soundness



Prover

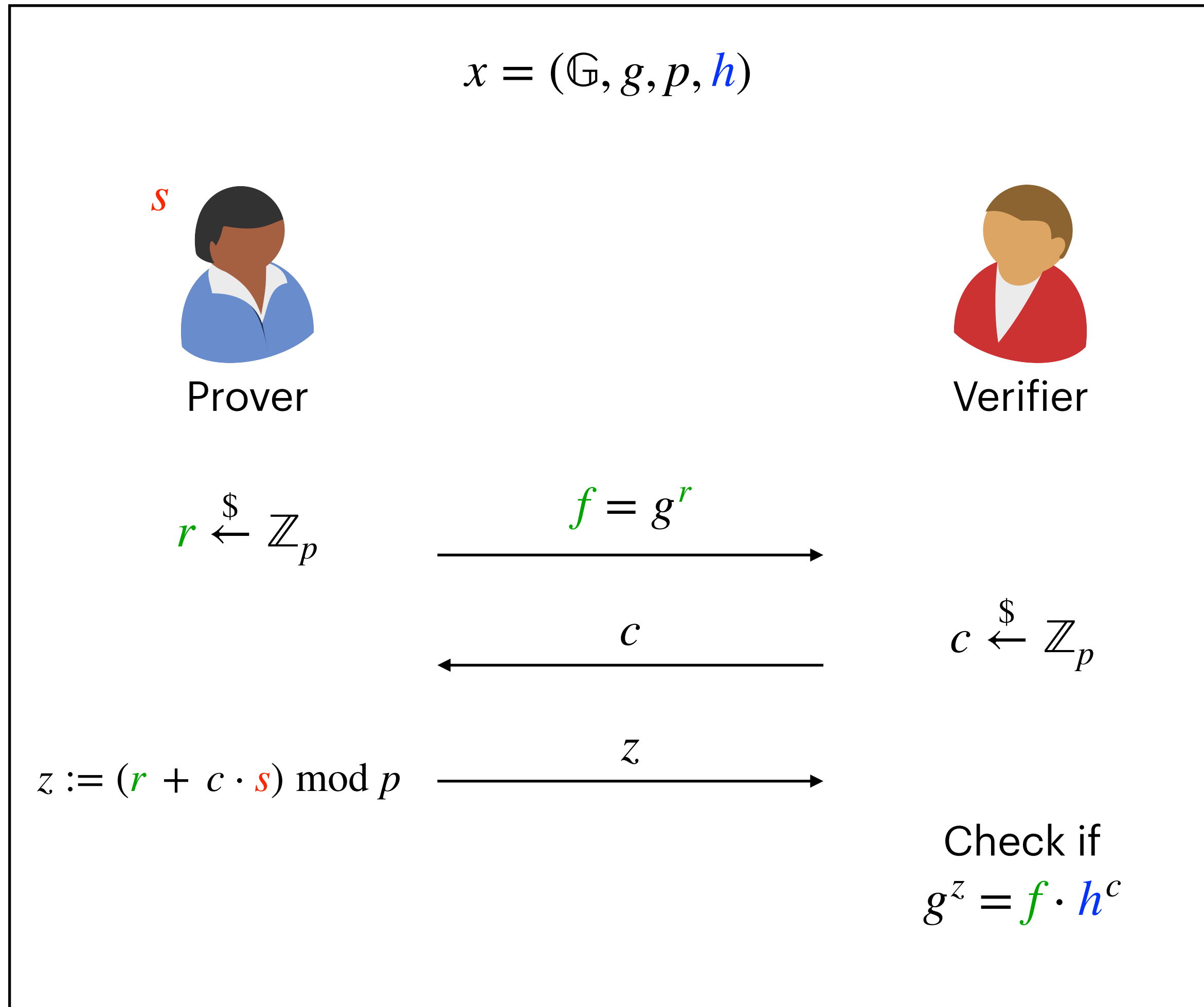


Extractor

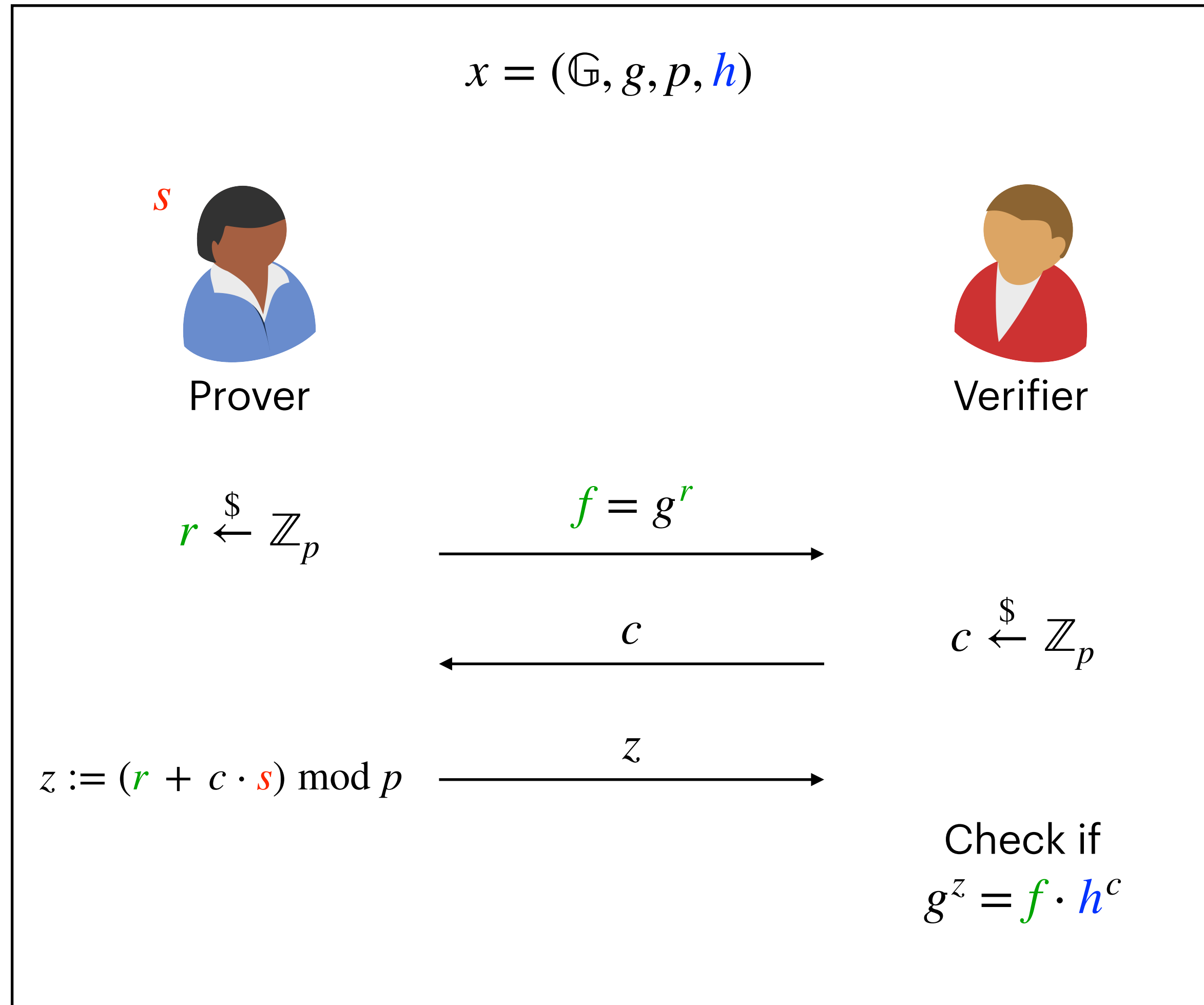
Extract the witness while making the prover believe it is talking to the verifier.

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

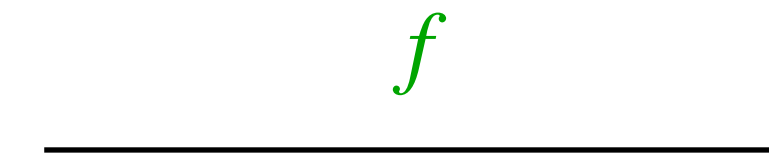
Soundness



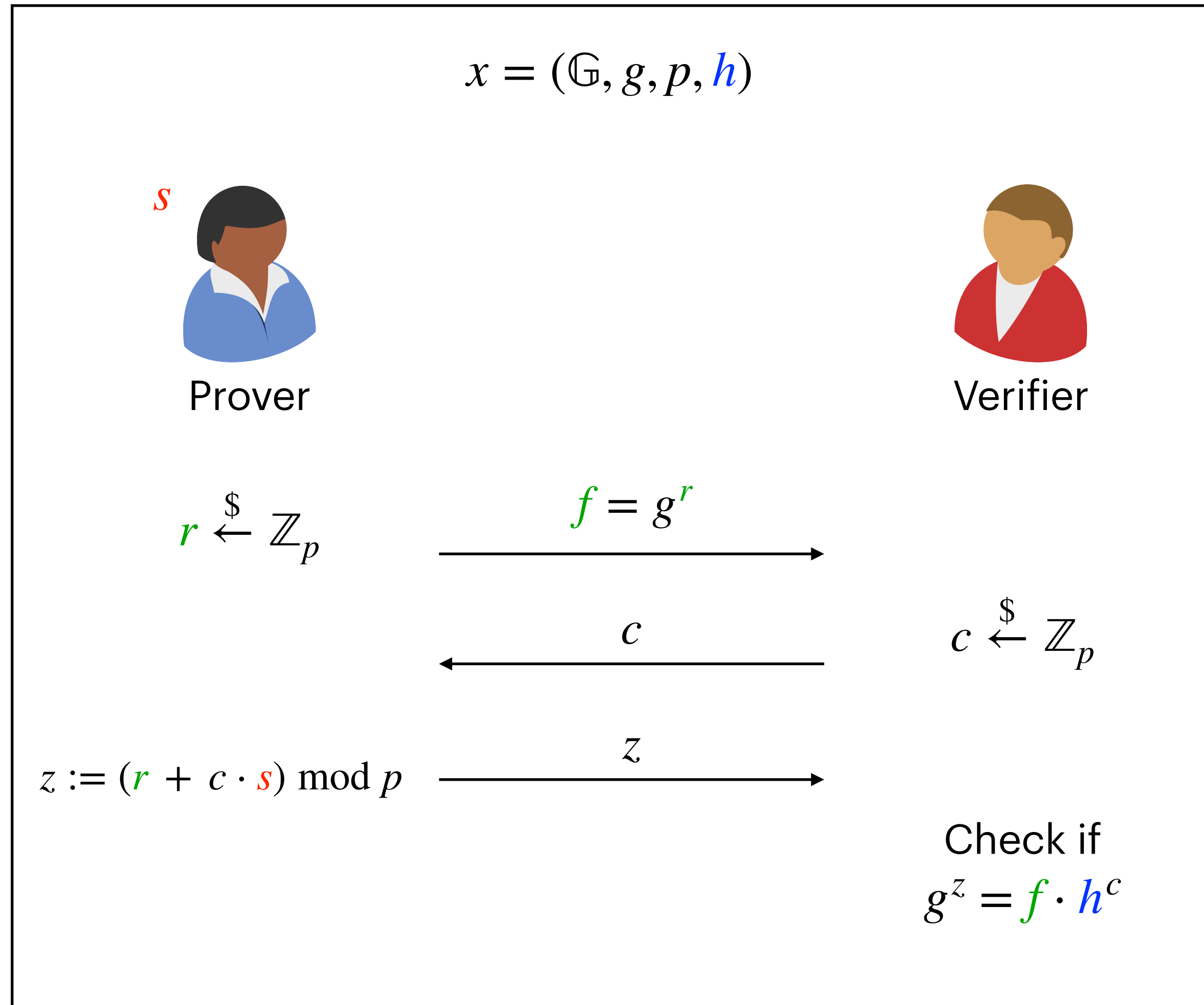
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



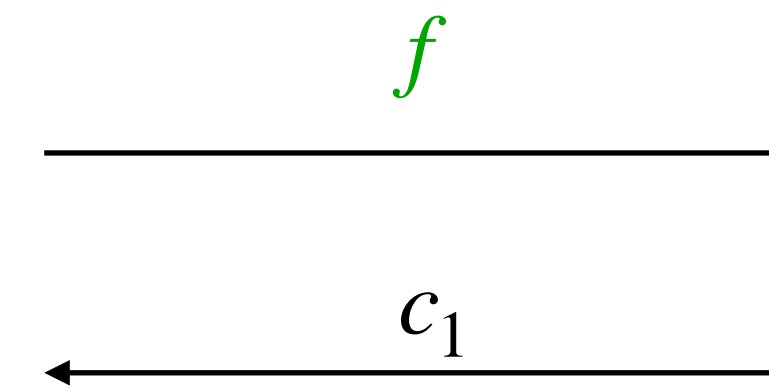
Soundness



ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

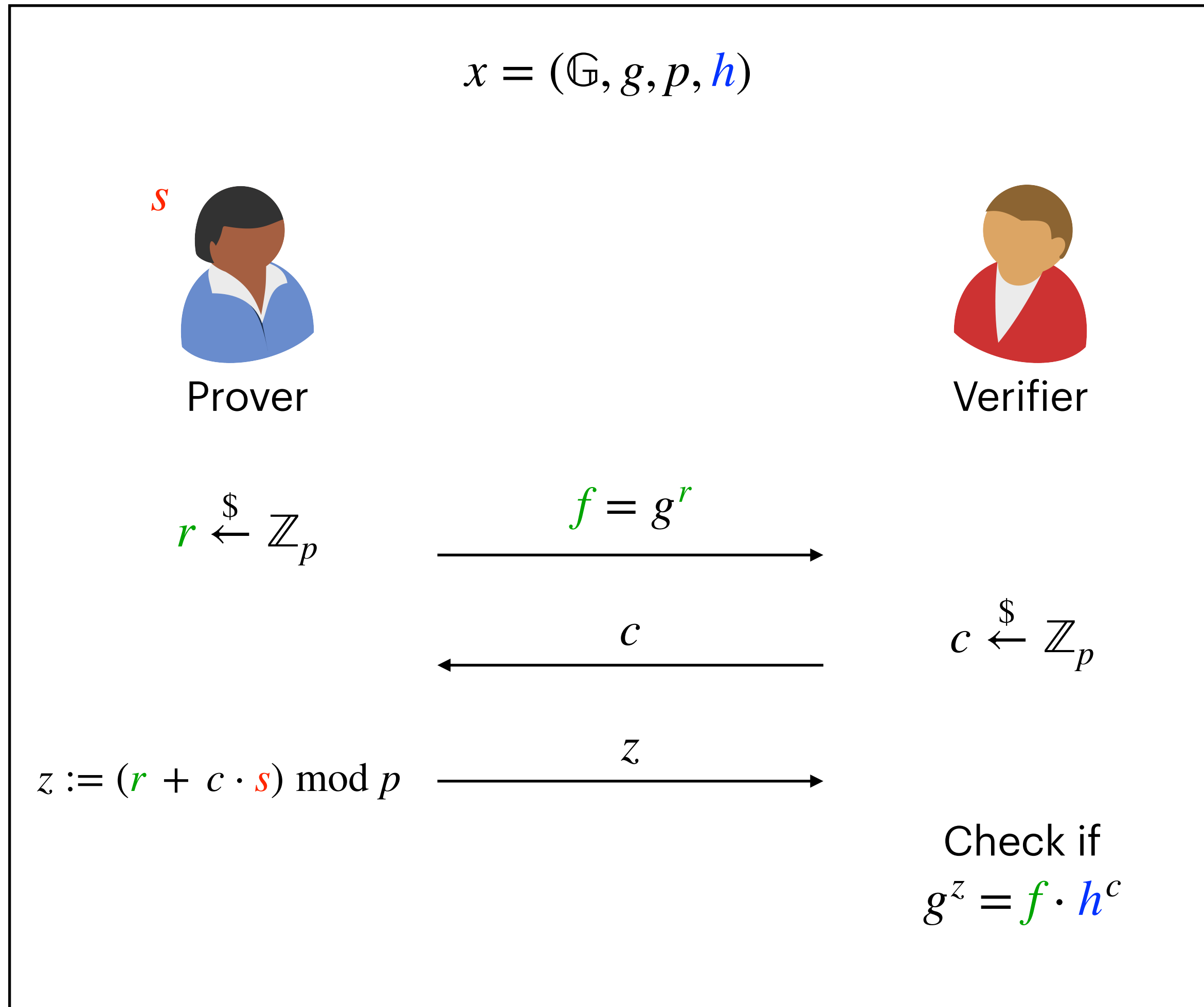


Soundness

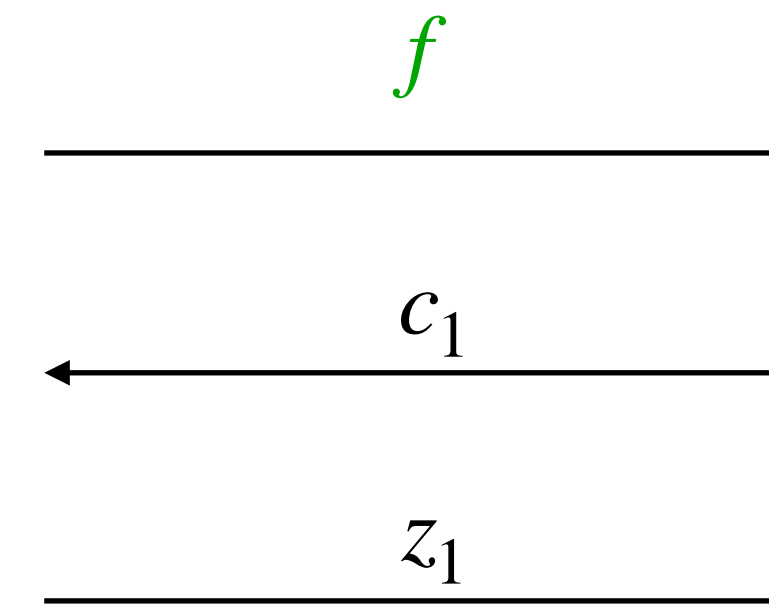


$c_1 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p$

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



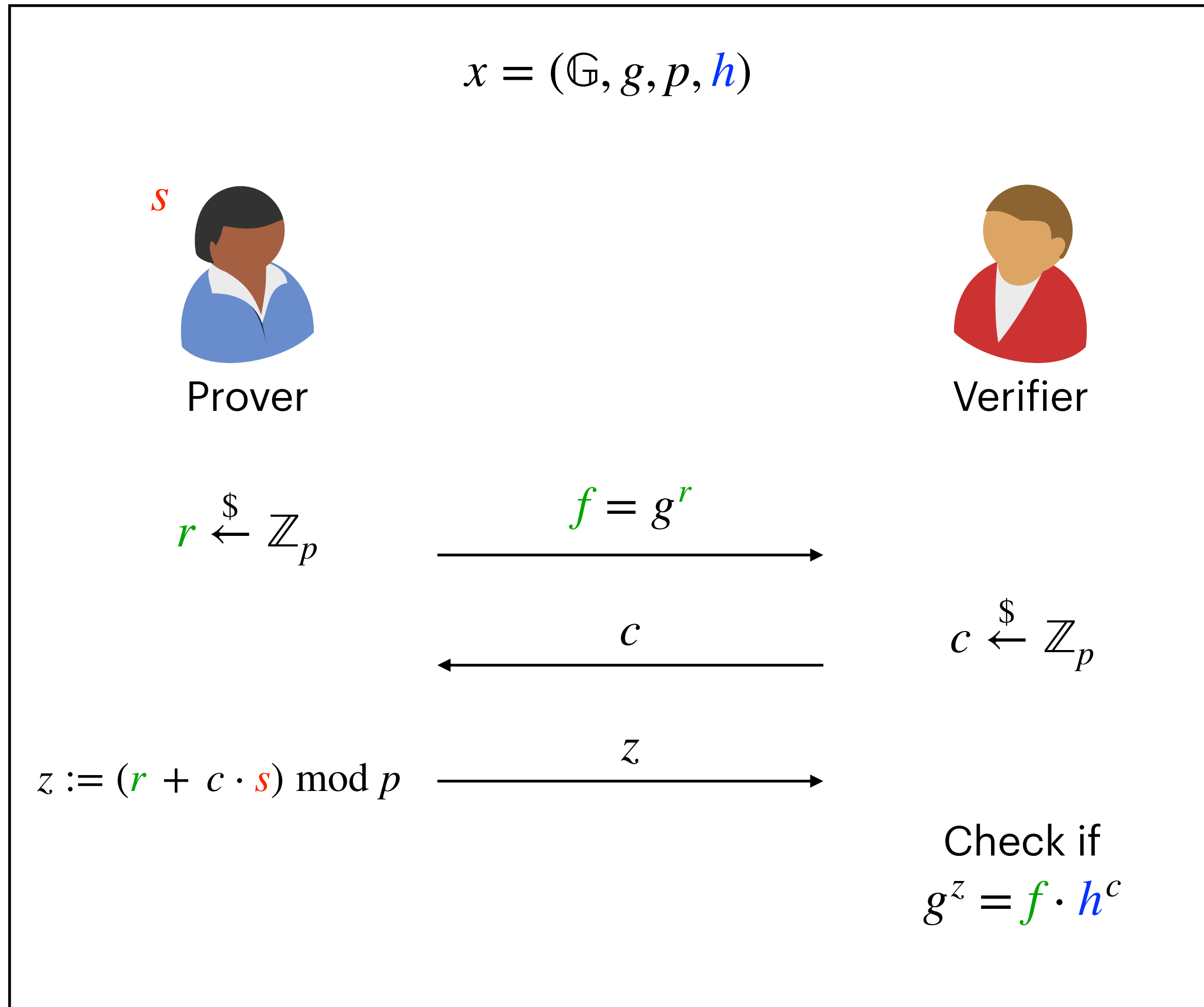
Soundness



$$c_1 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p$$

$$g^{z_1} = f \cdot h^{c_1}$$

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Soundness



$$(f, c_1, z_1) \text{ --- } \boxed{g^{z_1} = f \cdot h^{c_1}}$$



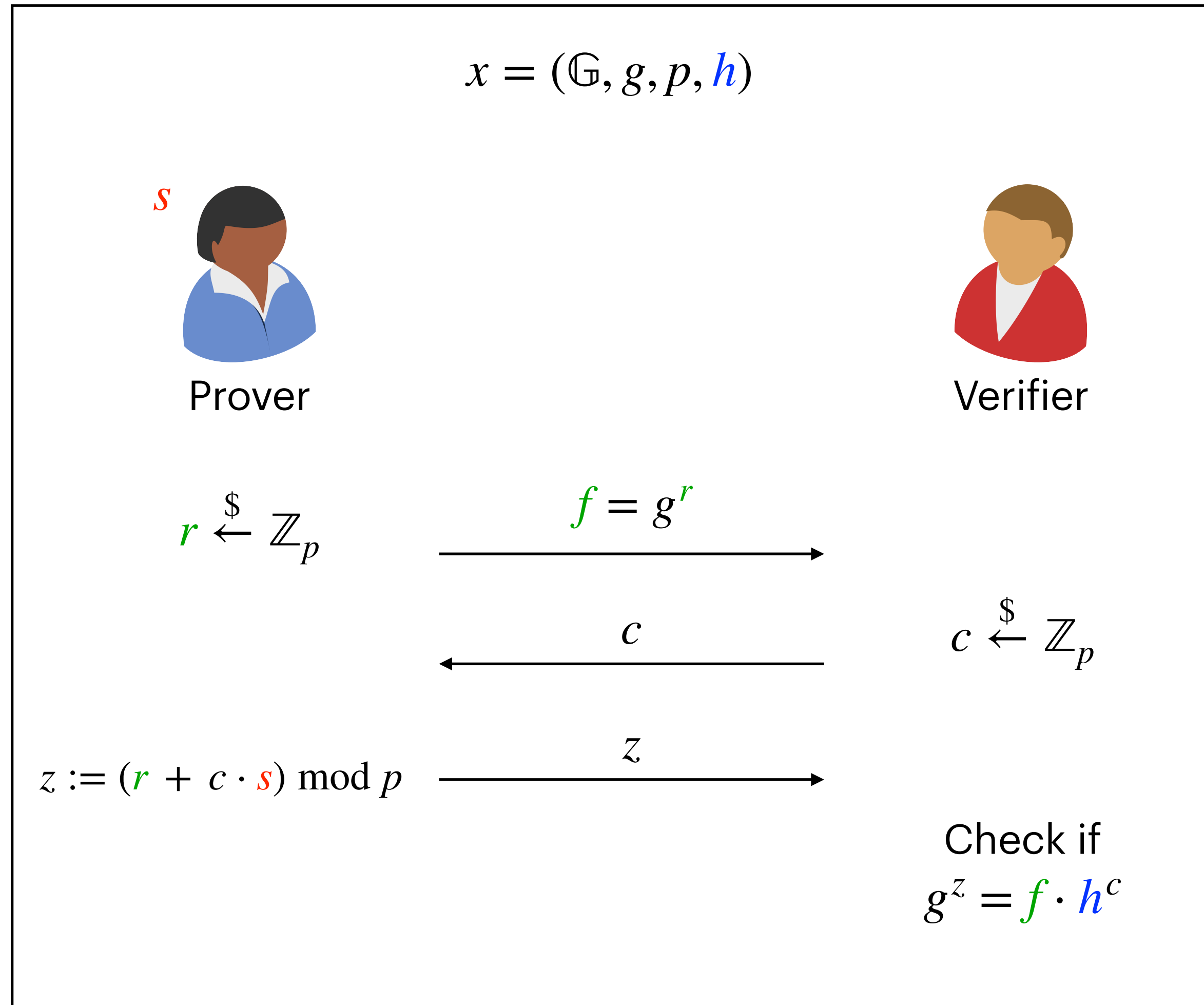
\xrightarrow{f}

$\xleftarrow{c_1}$

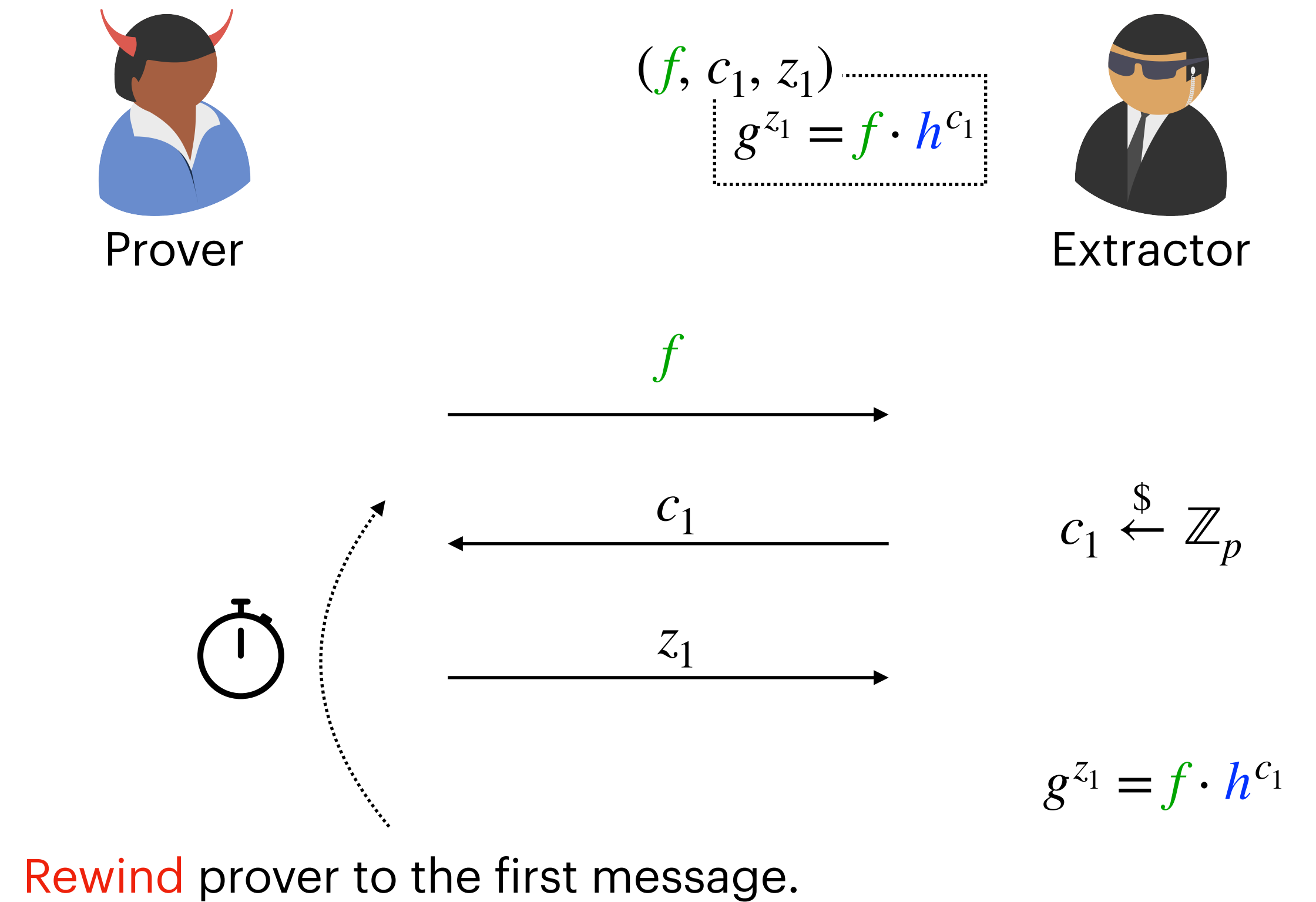
$\xrightarrow{z_1}$

 $c_1 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p$
 $g^{z_1} = f \cdot h^{c_1}$

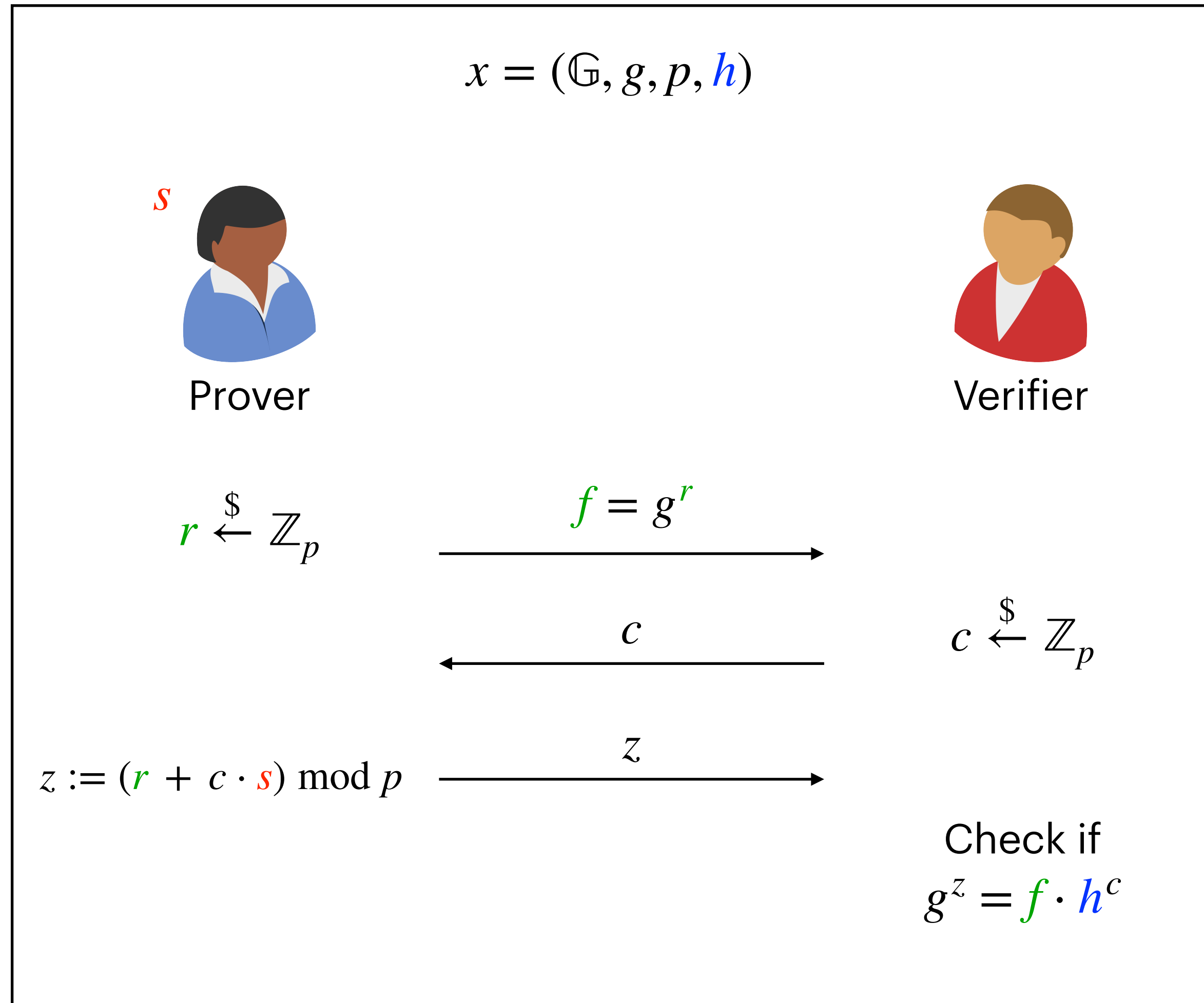
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



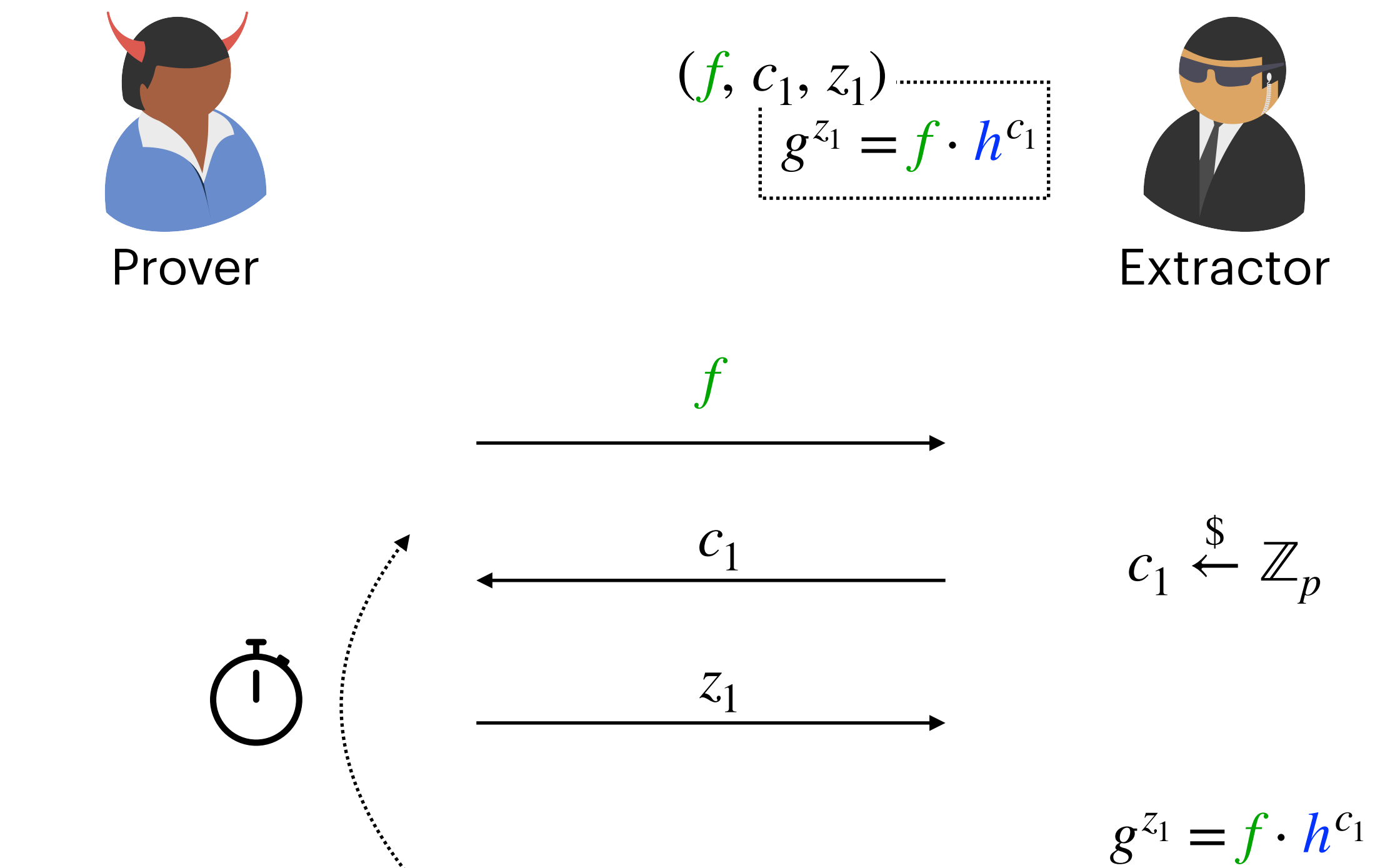
Soundness



ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



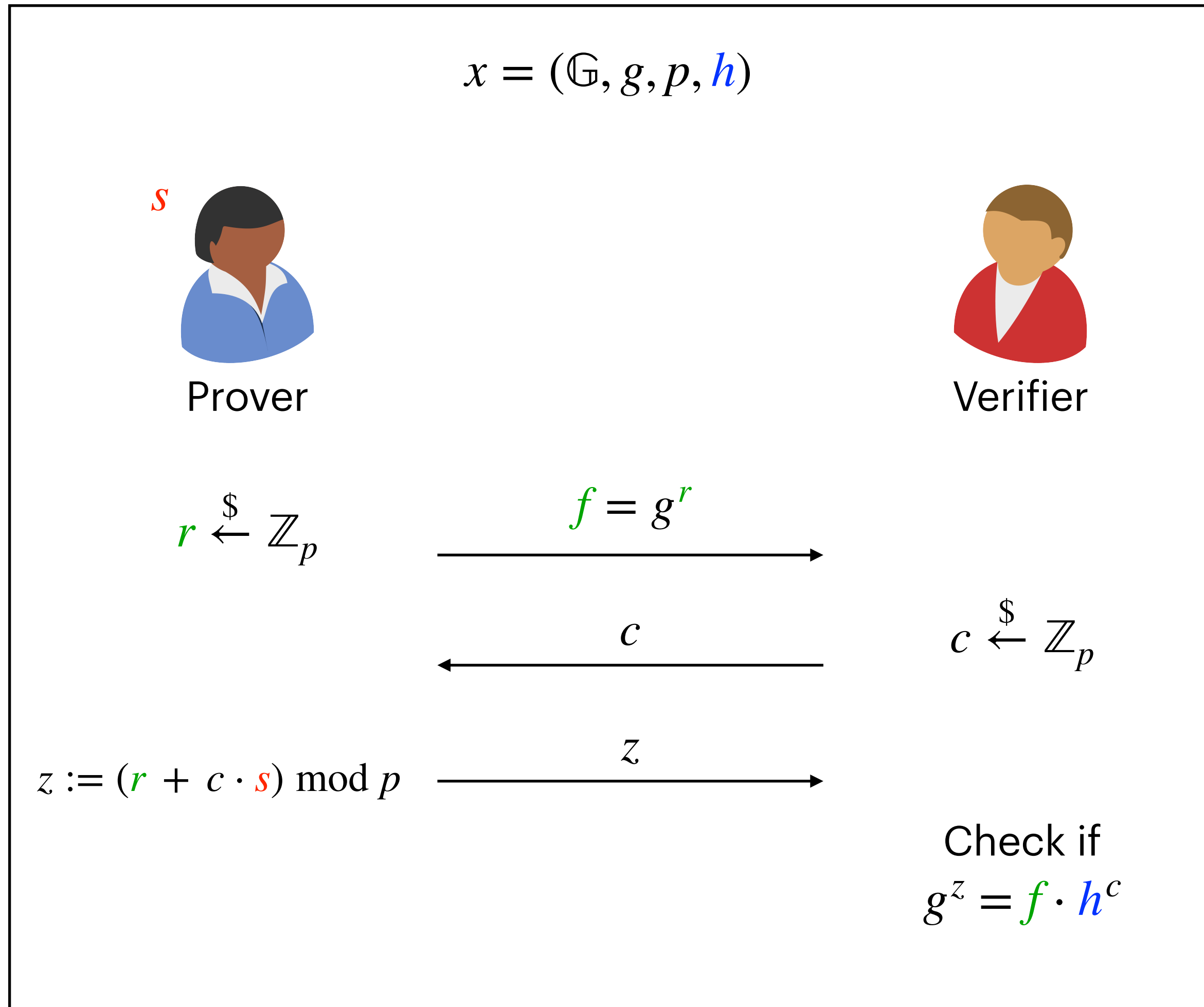
Soundness



Rewind prover to the first message.

The prover is simply a program. A snapshot of its state can be saved and copied at any point during its execution.

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

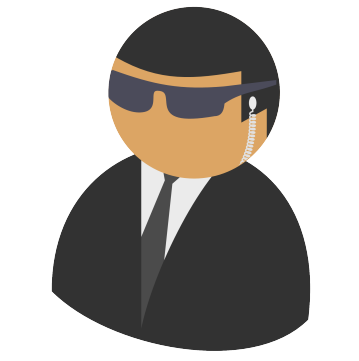


Soundness

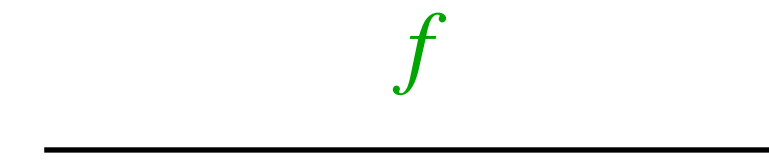


Prover

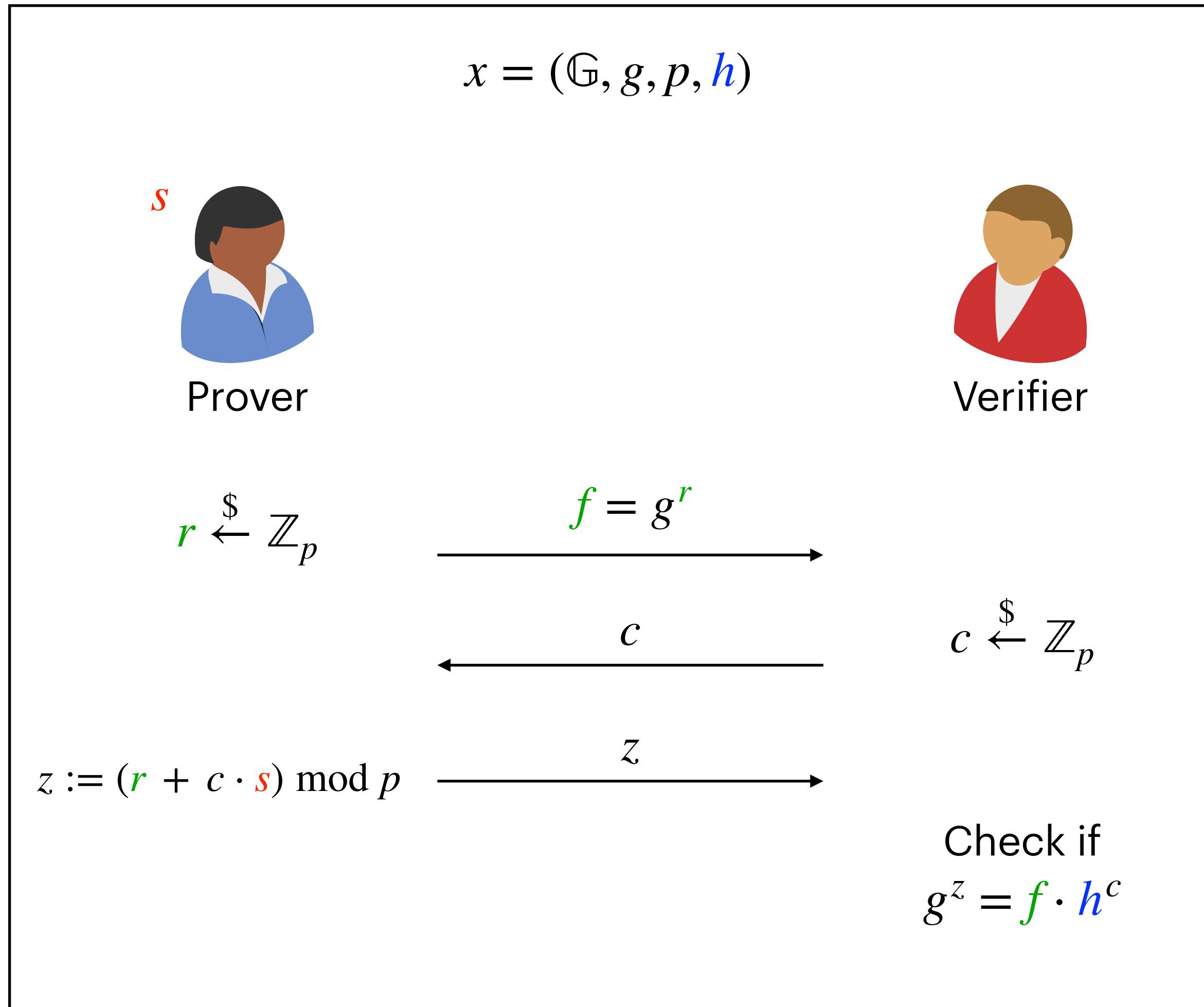
$$(f, c_1, z_1) \text{ --- } g^{z_1} = f \cdot h^{c_1}$$



Extractor



ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Soundness

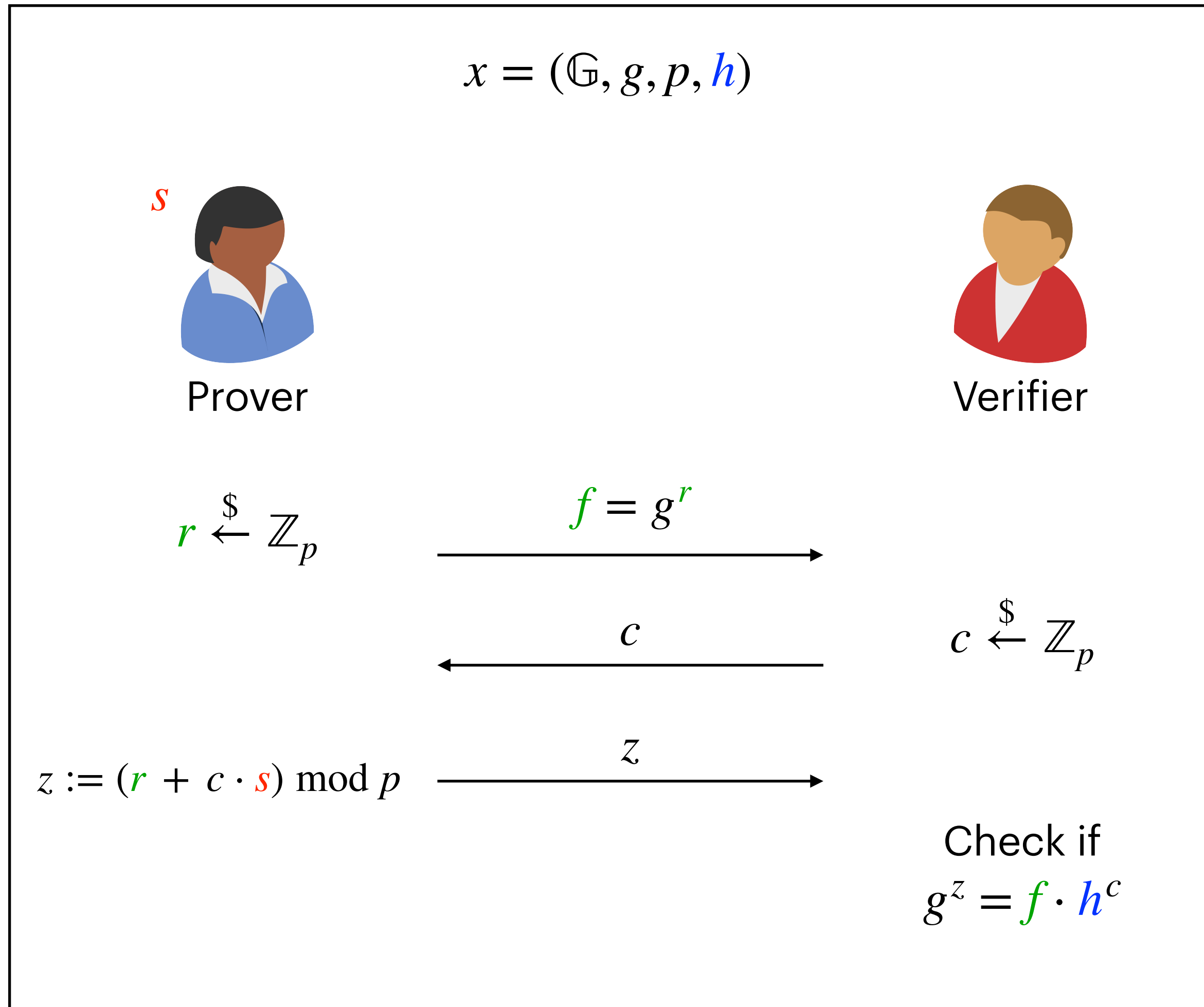


(f, c_1, z_1)

$g^{z_1} = f \cdot h^{c_1}$



ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

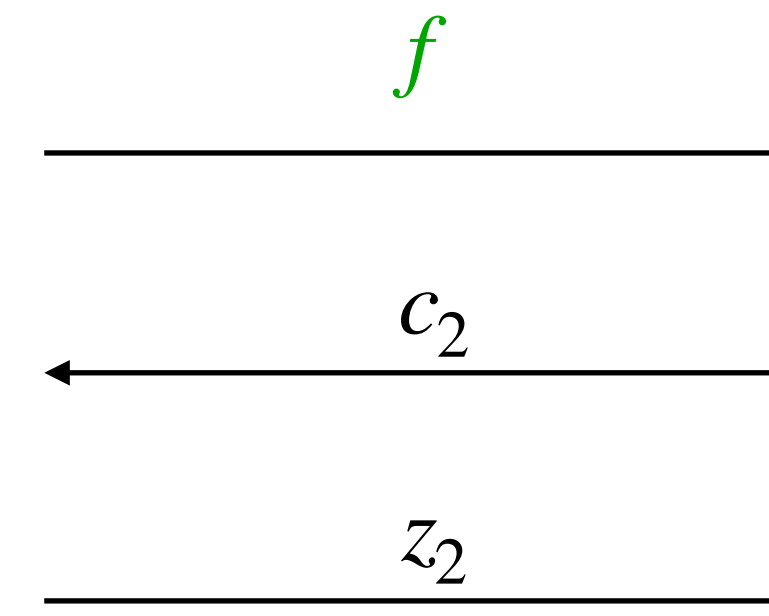


Soundness



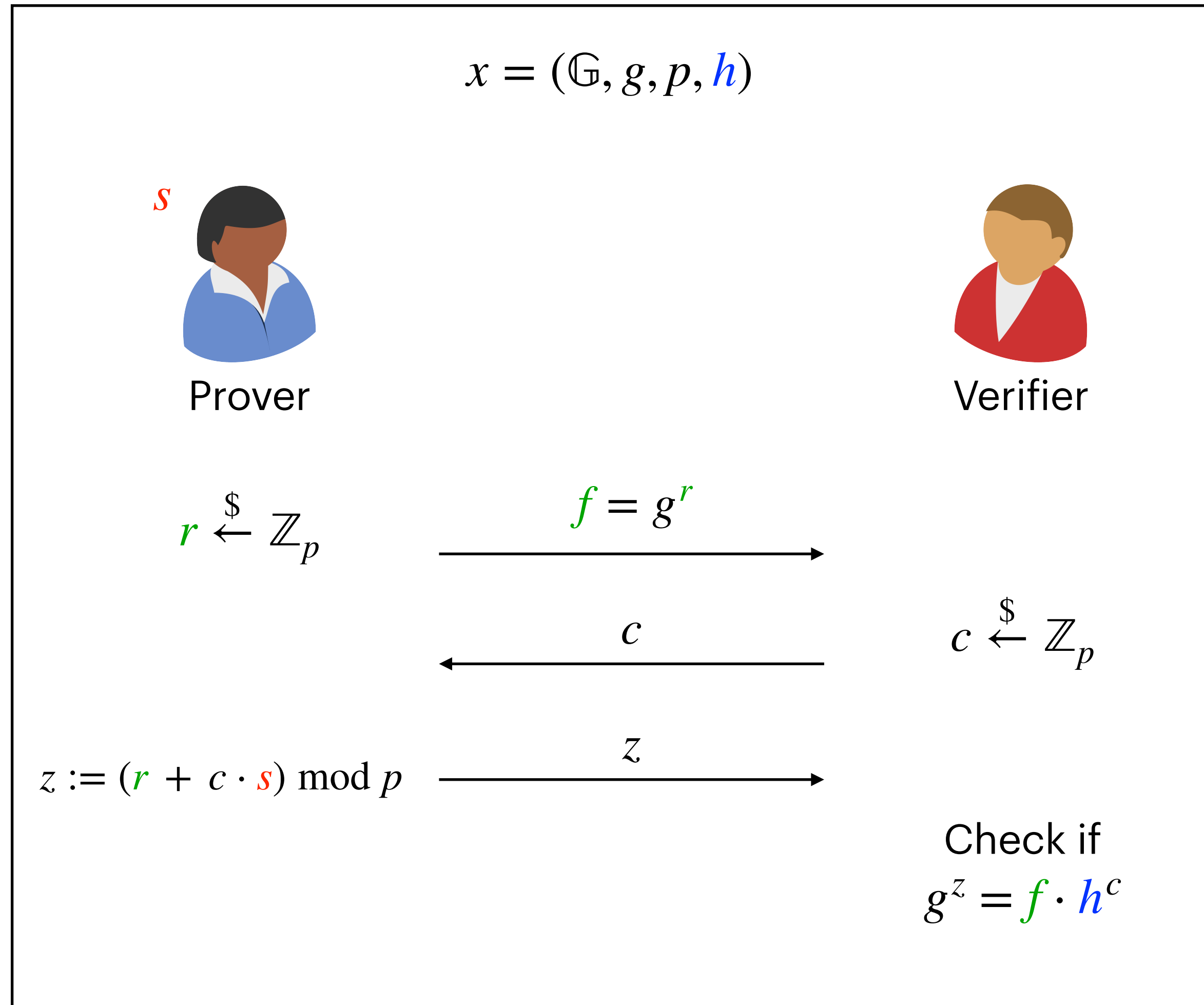
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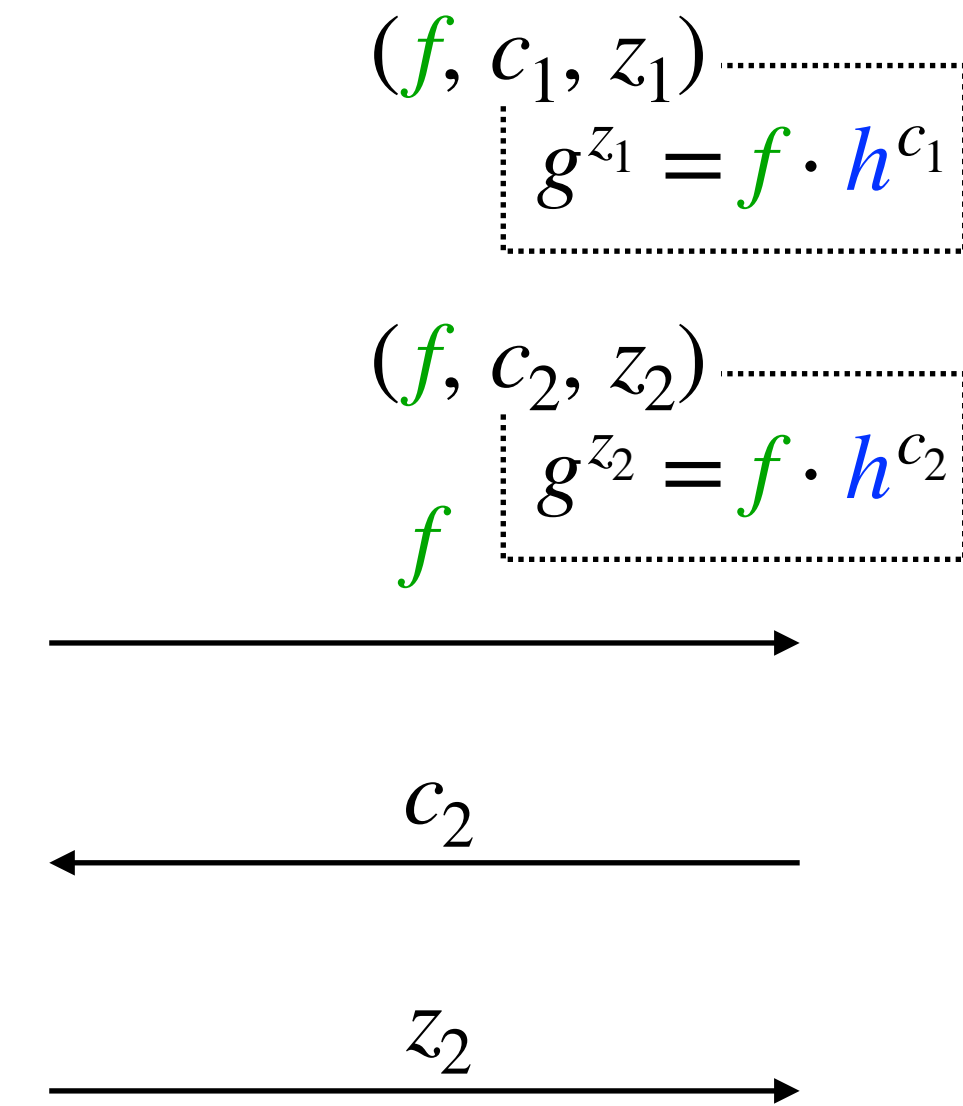


$g^{z_2} = f \cdot h^{c_2}$

ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



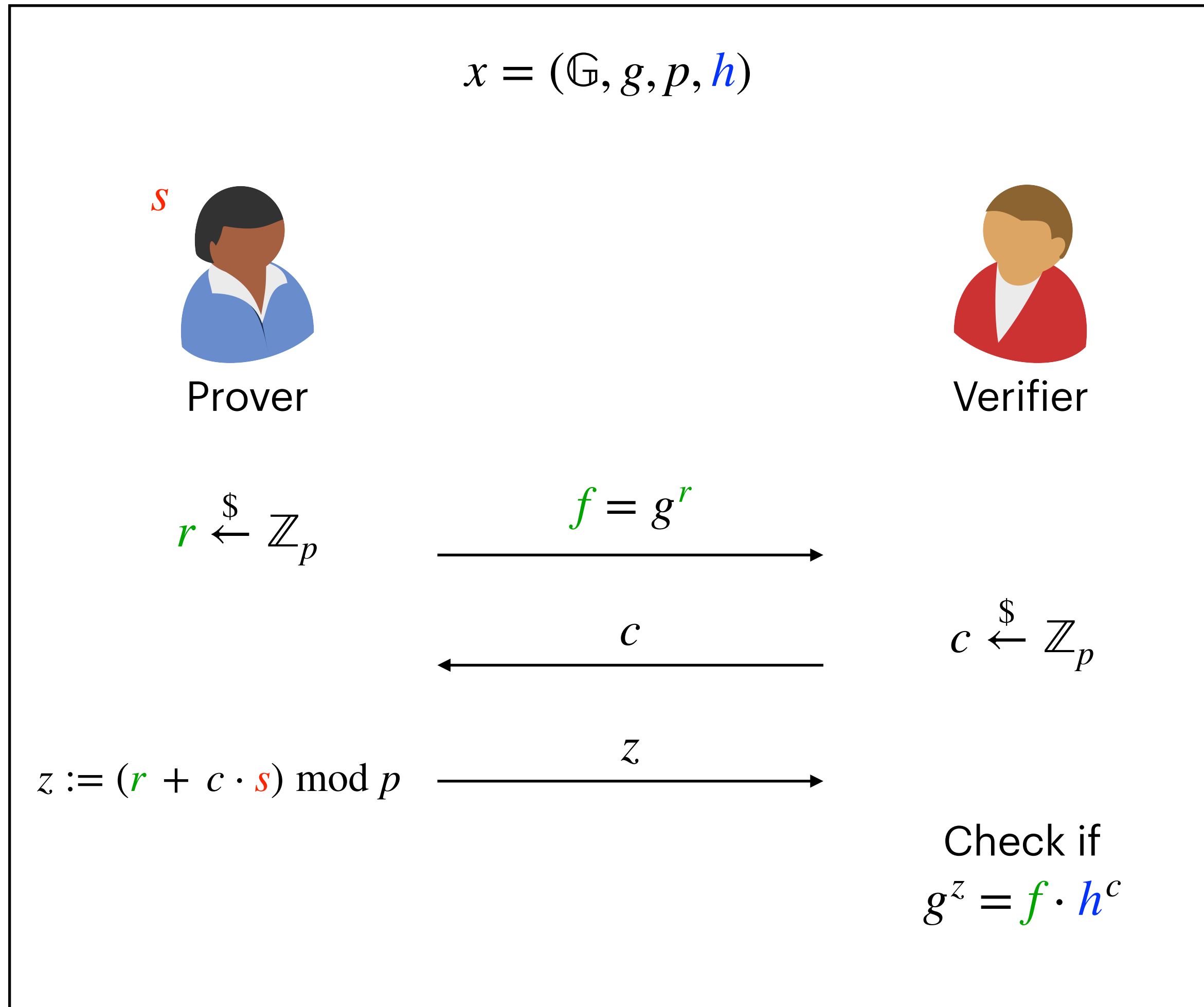
Soundness



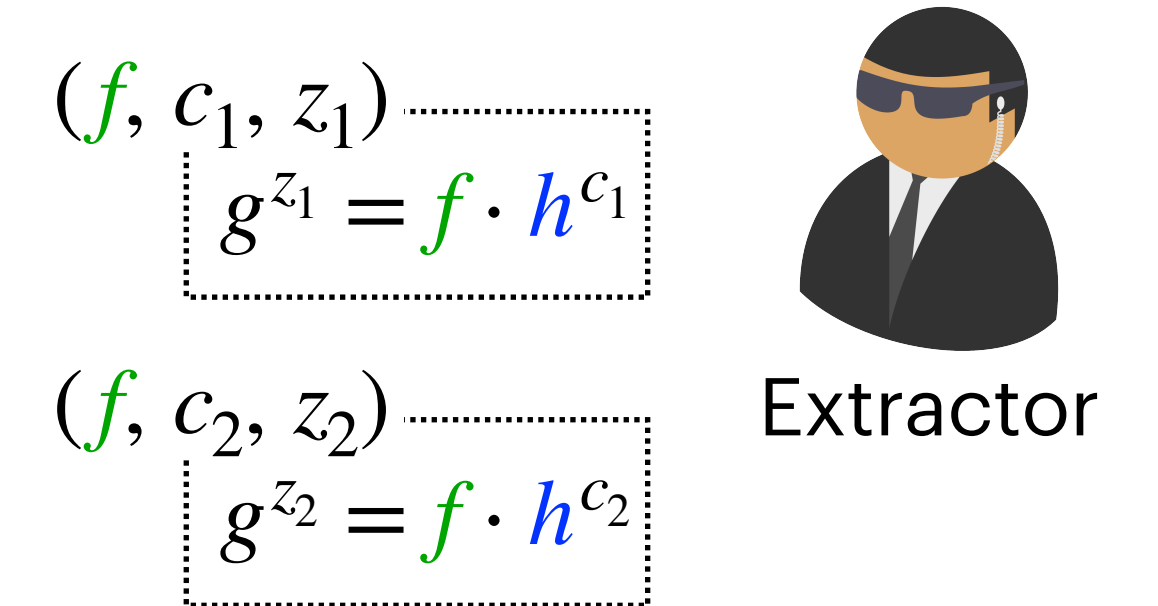
$c_2 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p$

$g^{z_2} = f \cdot h^{c_2}$

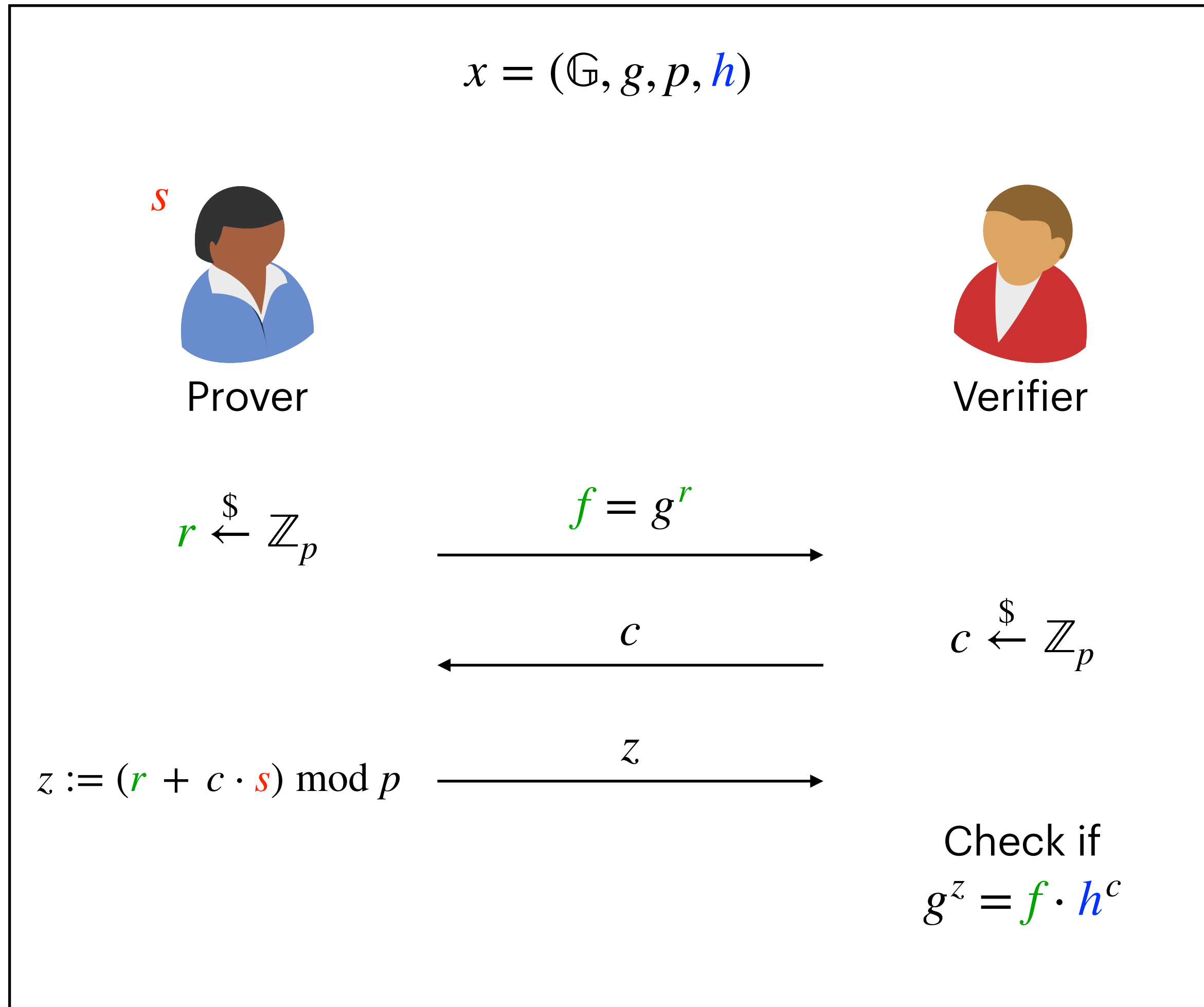
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



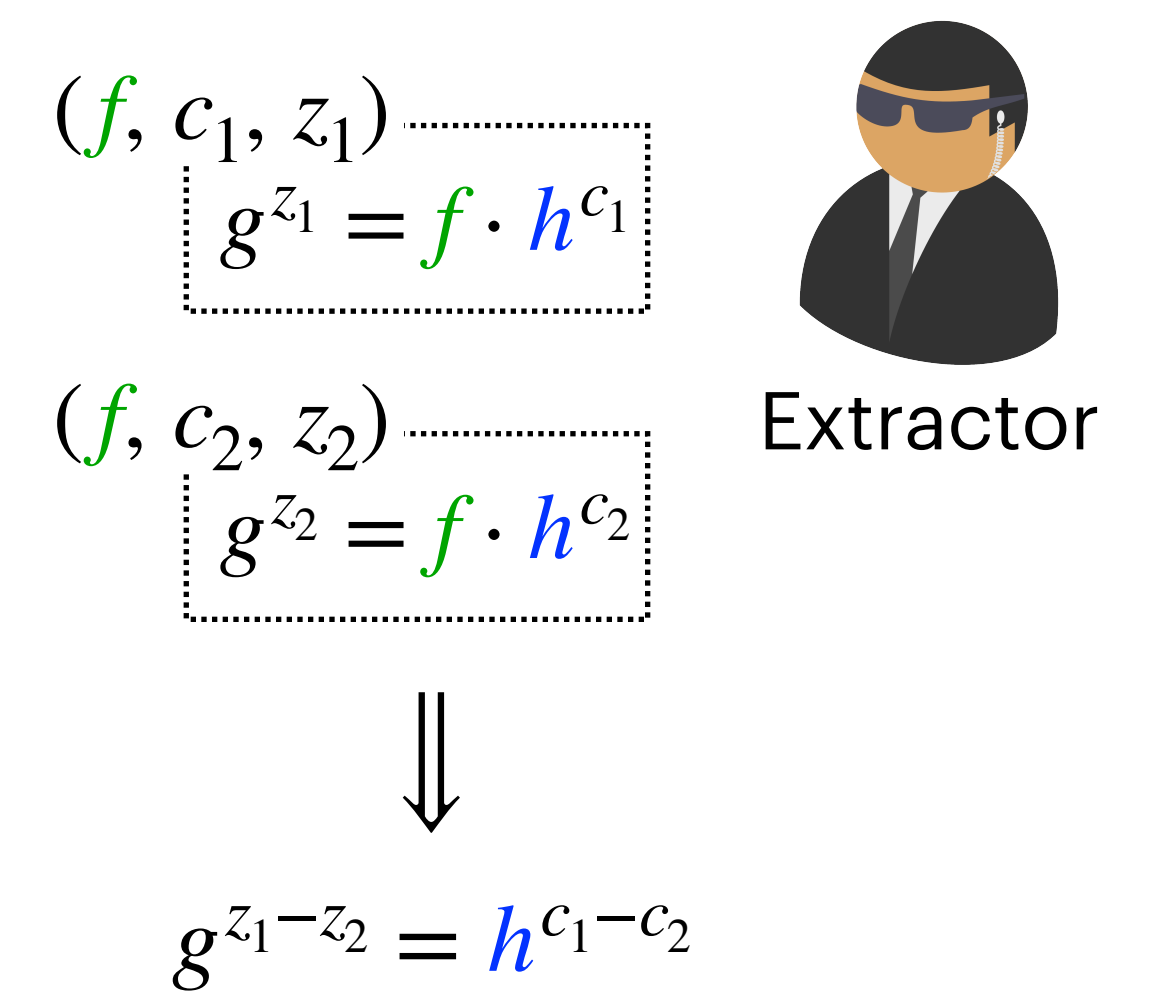
Soundness



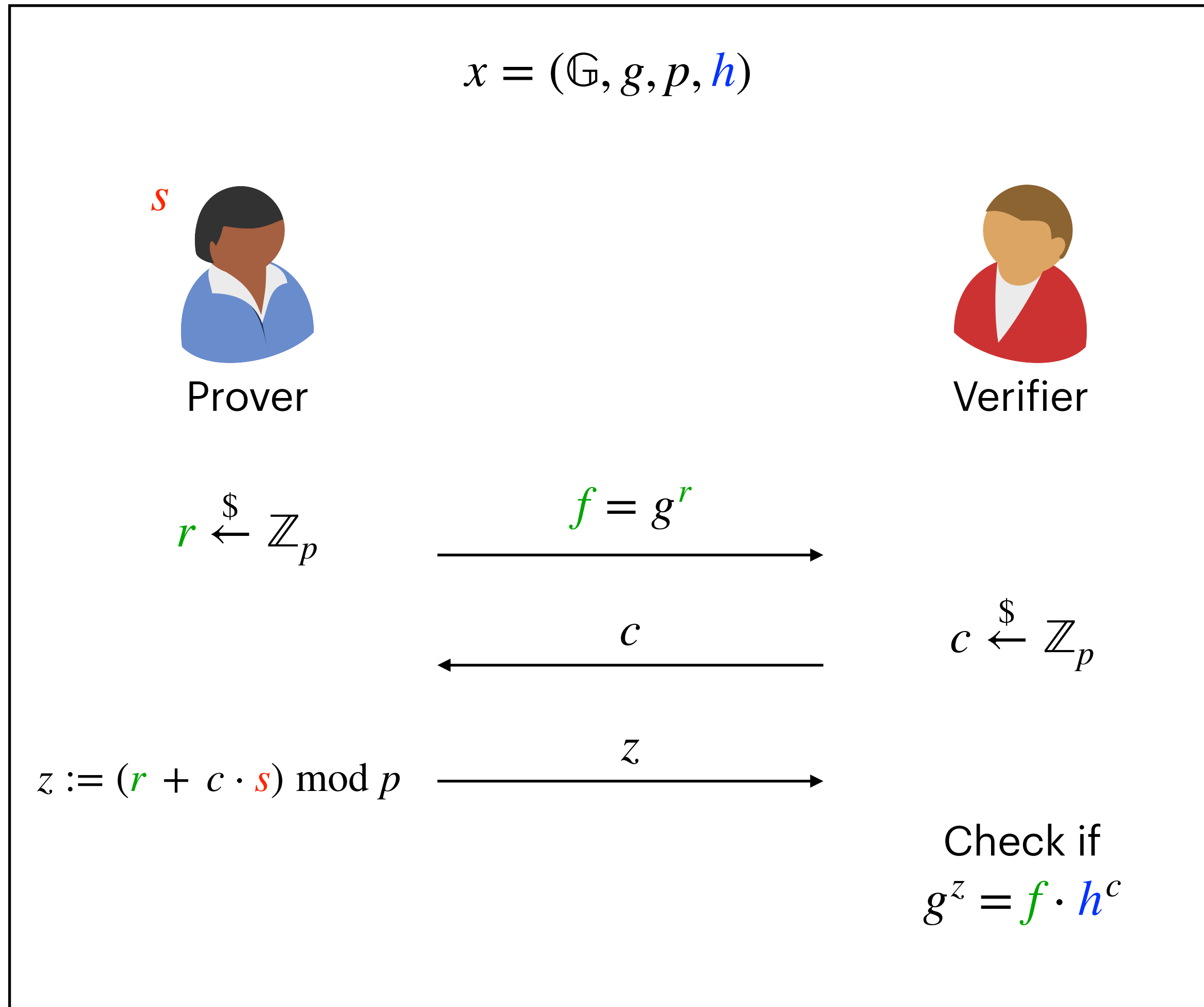
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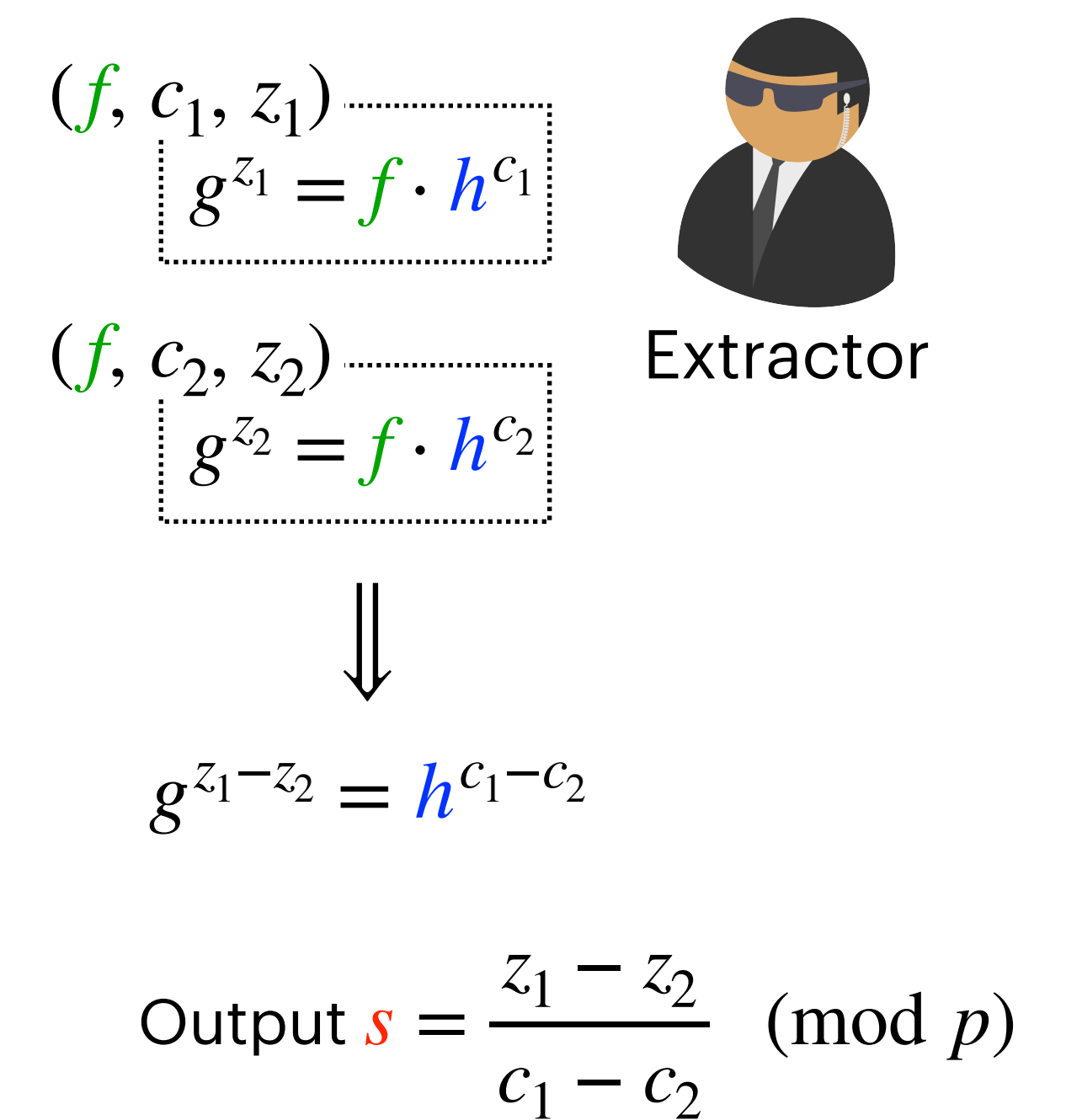
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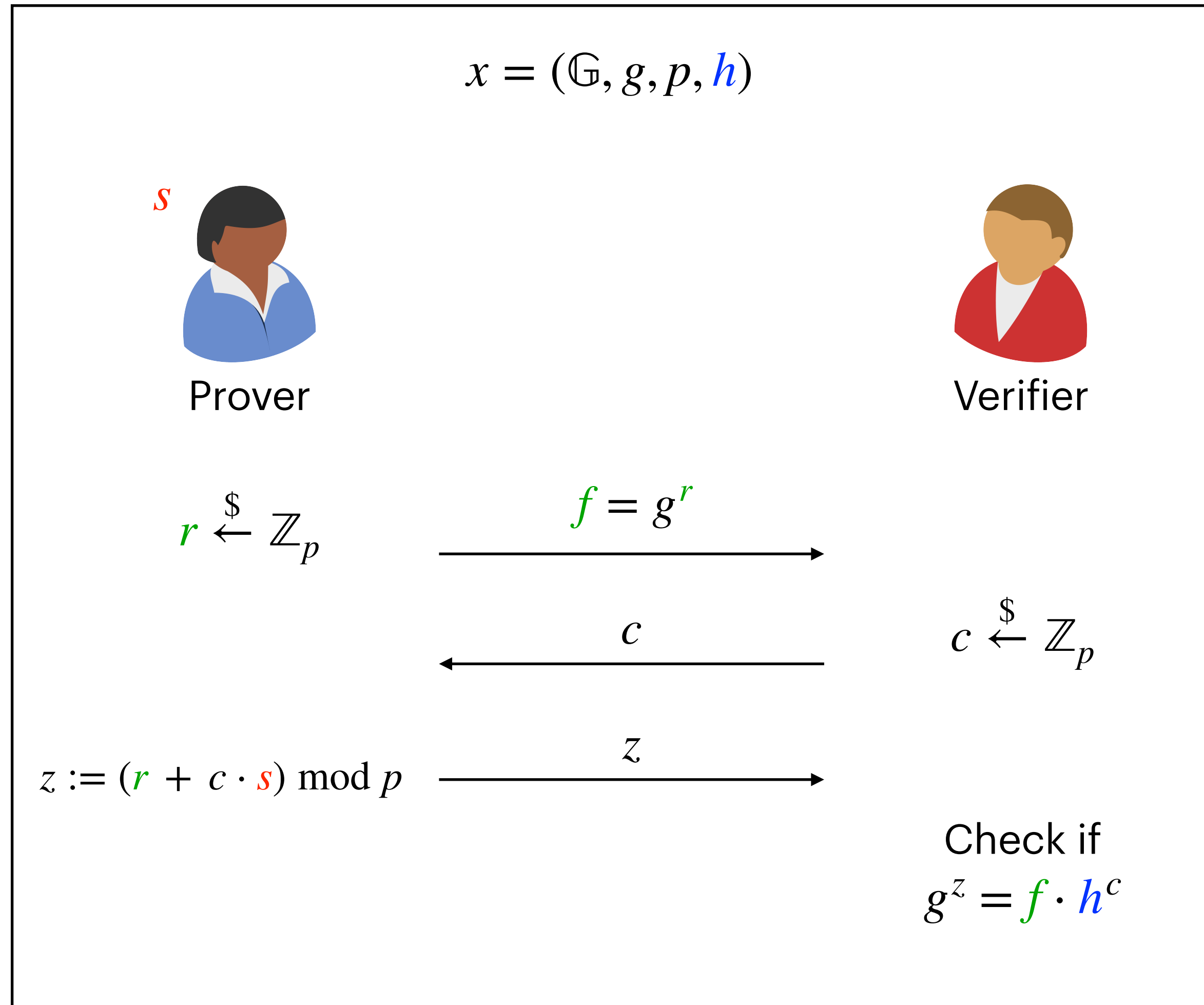
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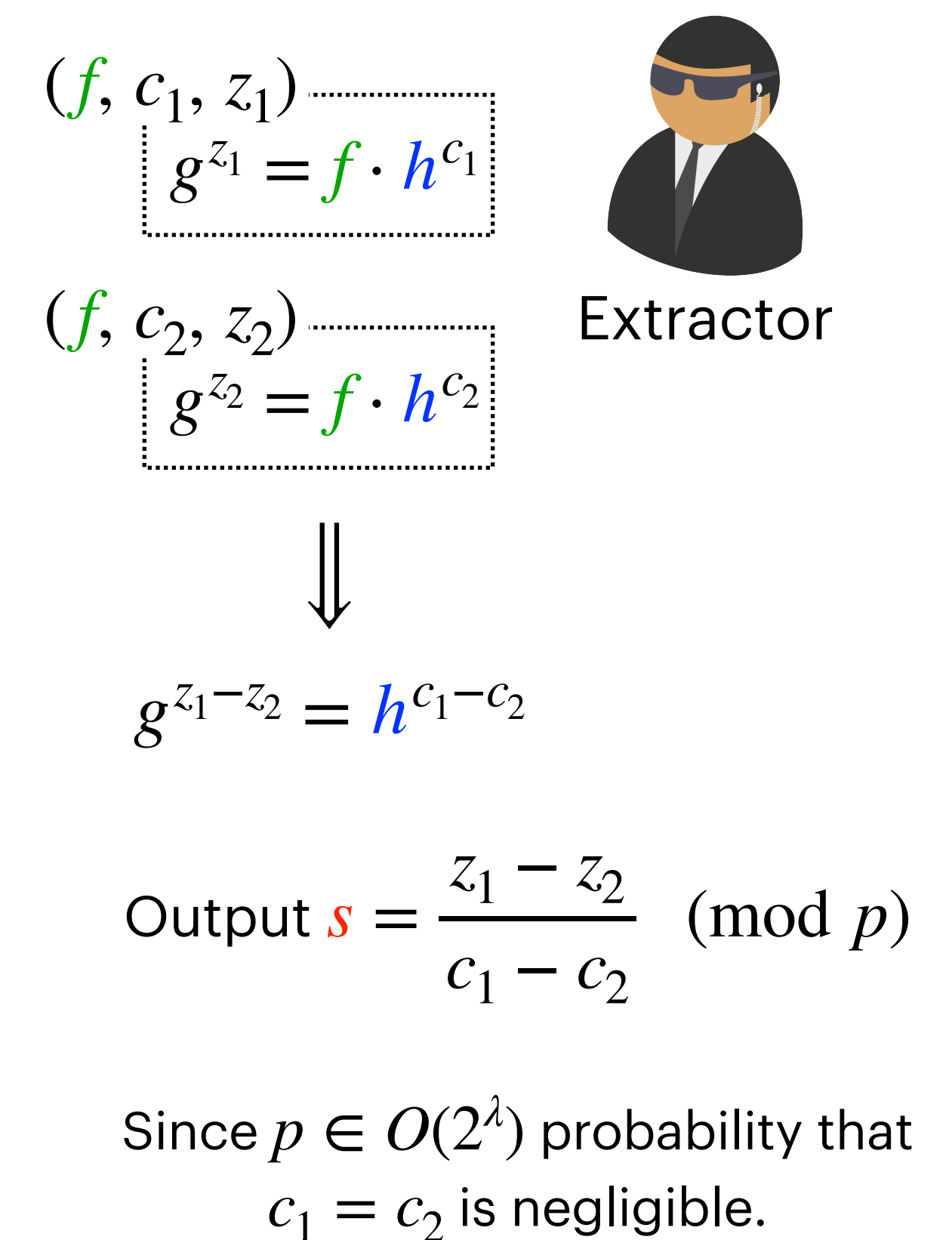
Soundness



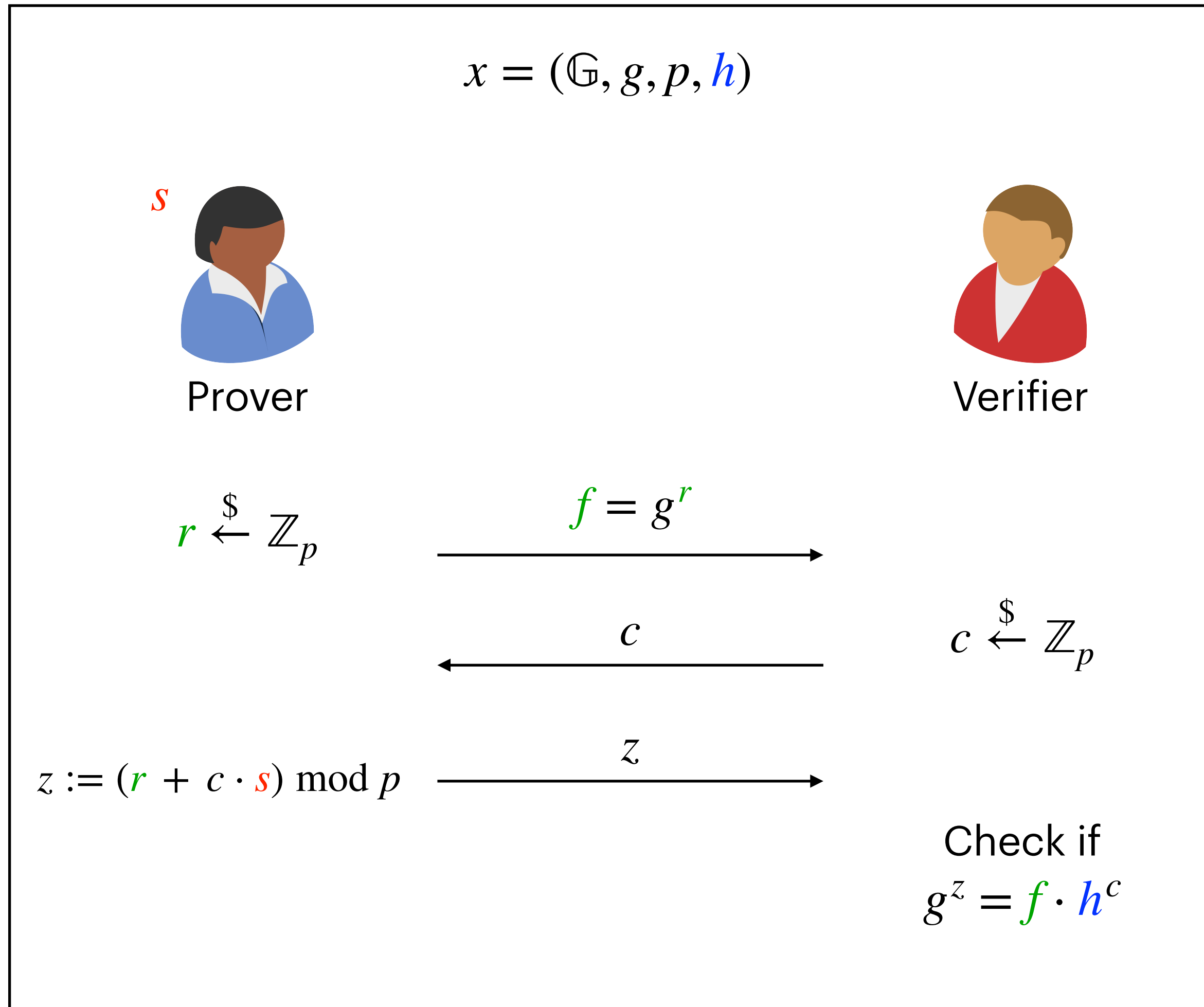
ZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



Soundness

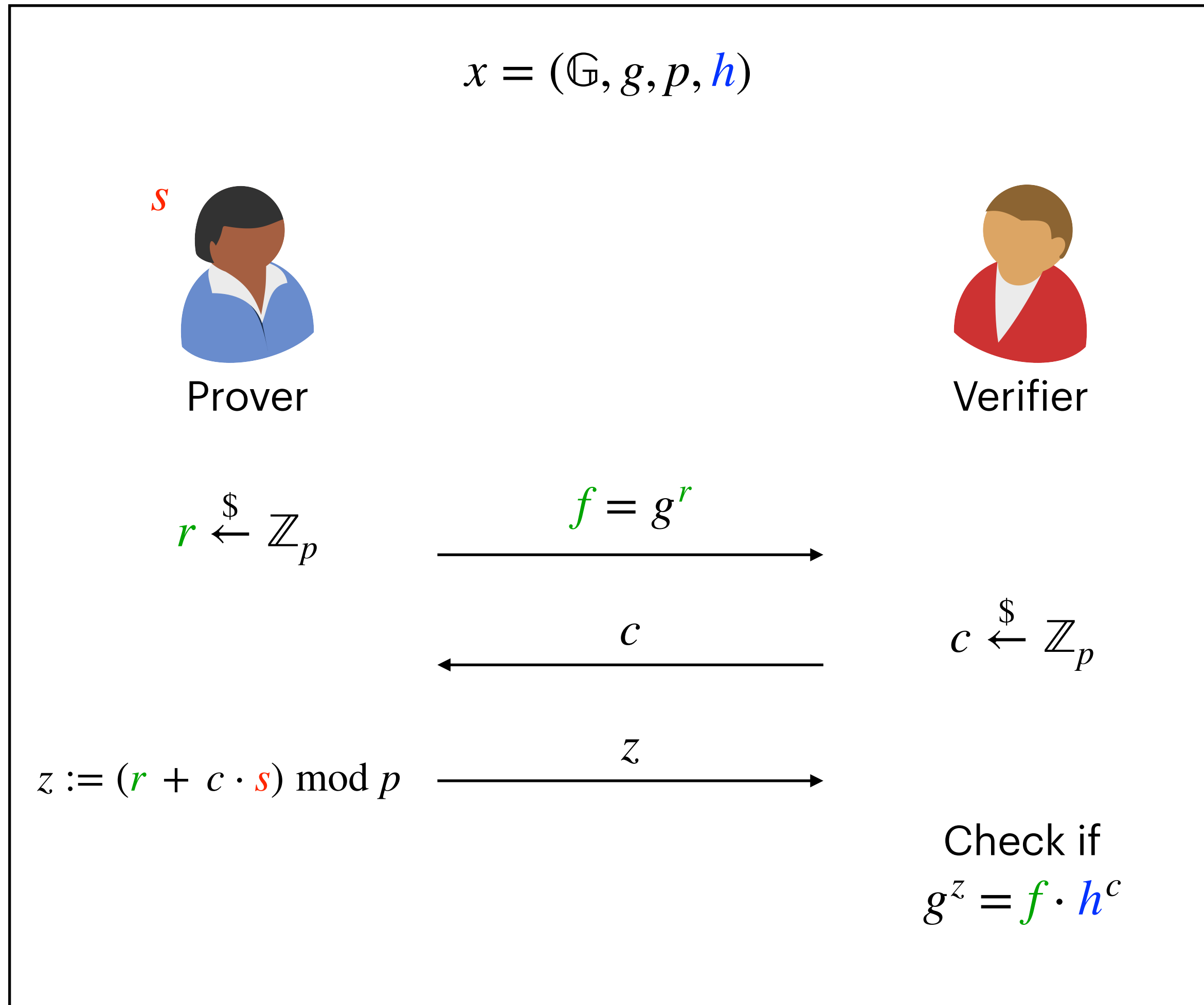


NIZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



This proof is public-coin!

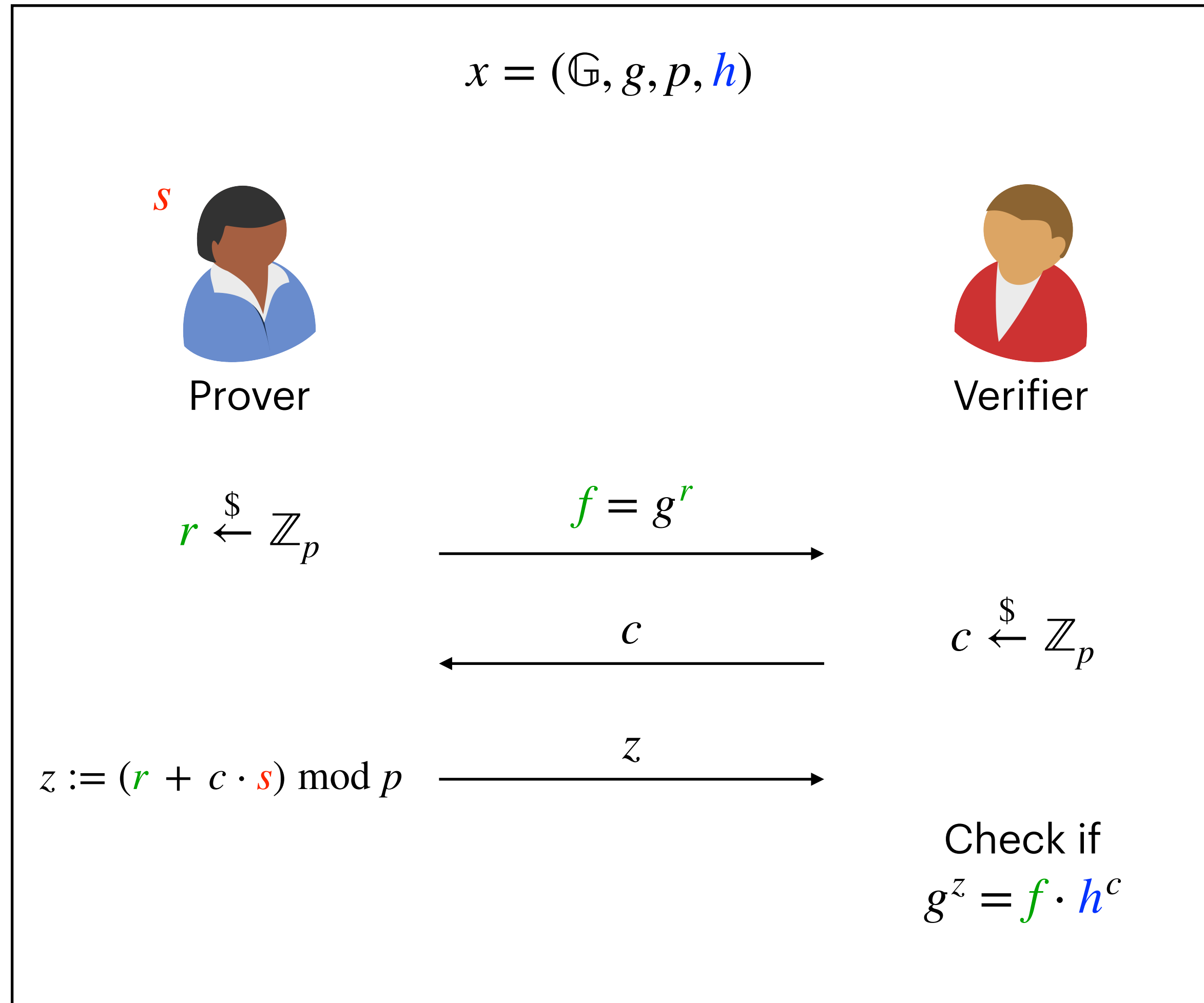
NIZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



This proof is public-coin!

We can use Fiat-Shamir to transform it into a NIZK in the random oracle model.

NIZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

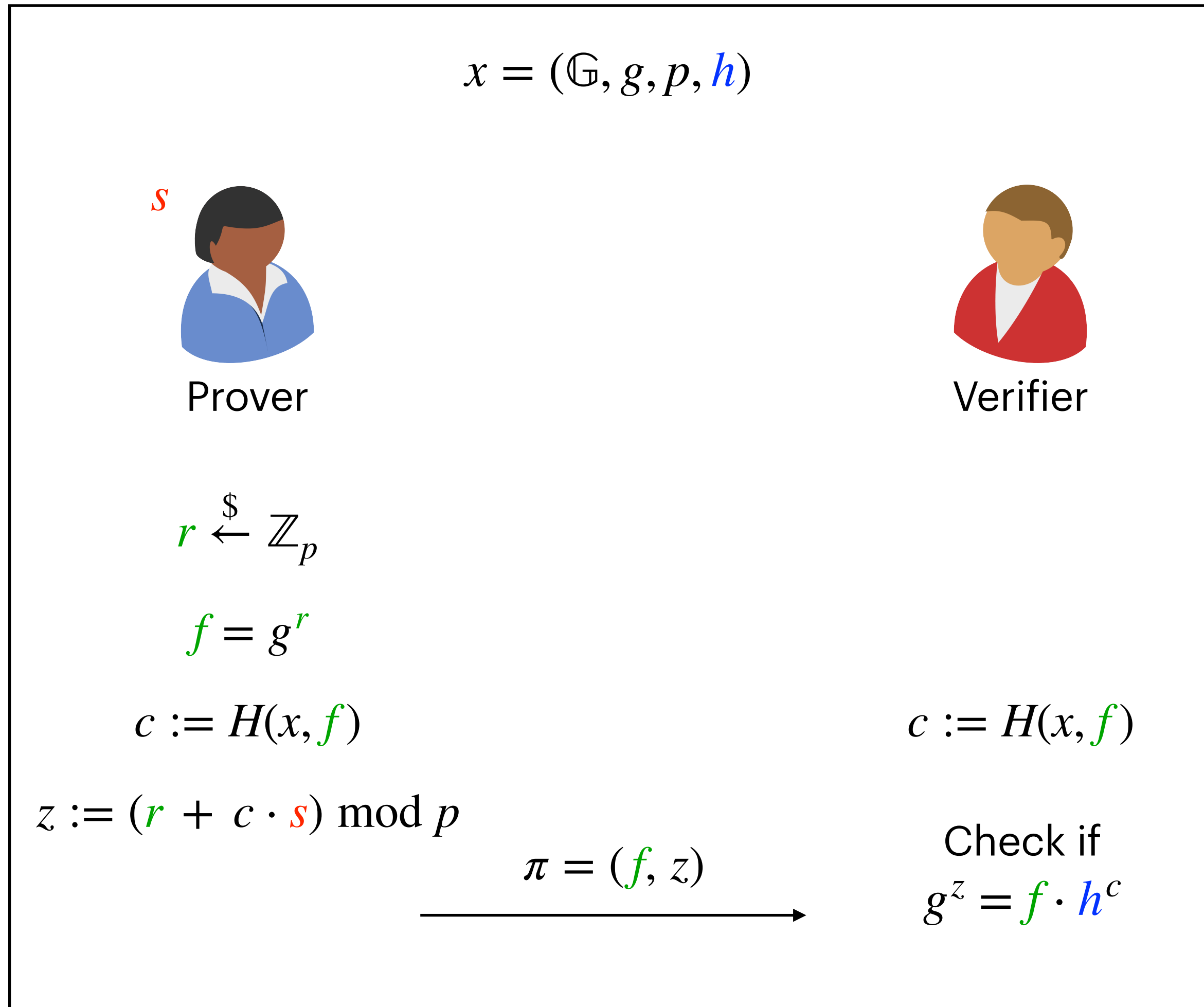


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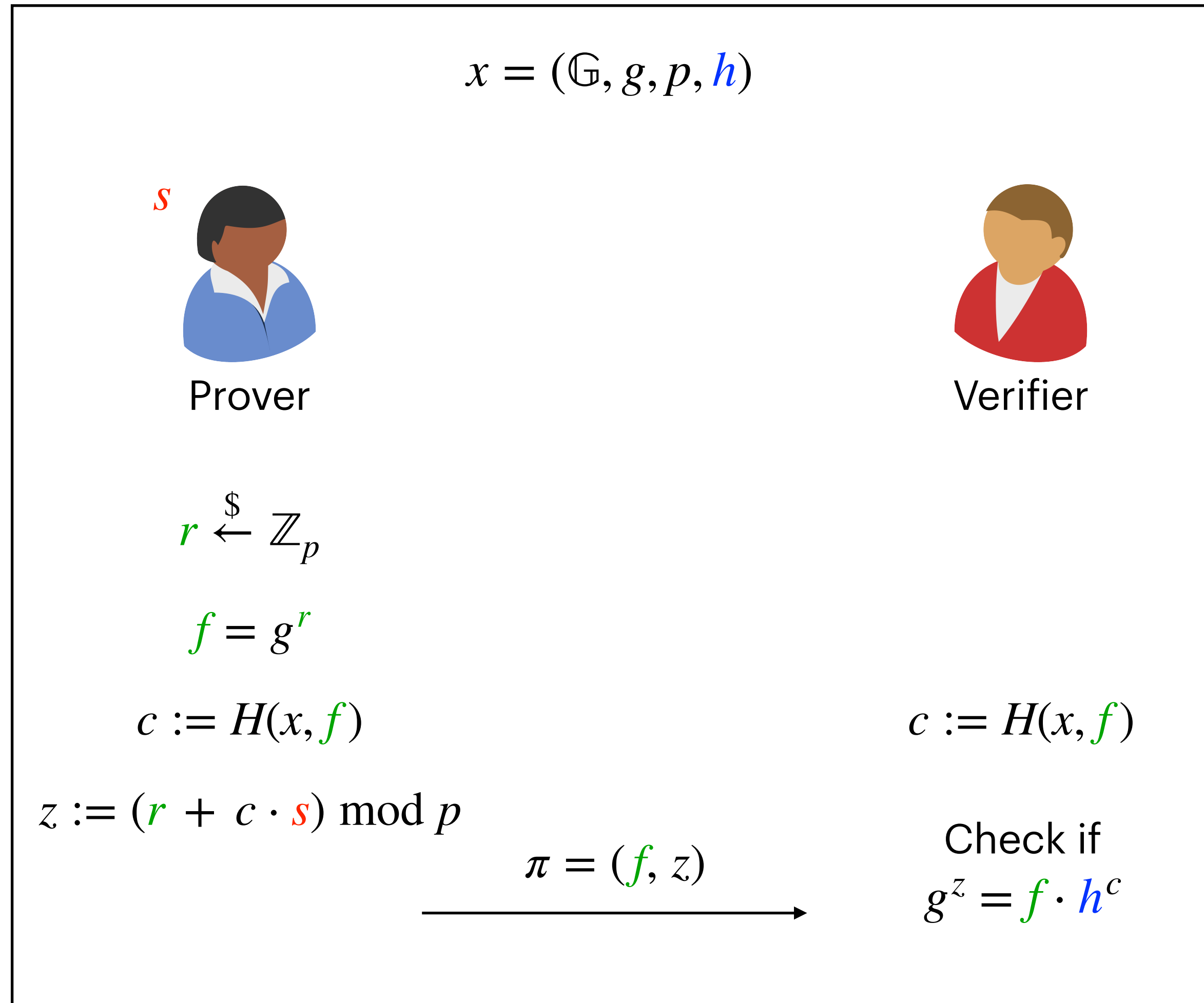
We can use Fiat-Shamir to transform it into a NIZK in the random oracle model.

The NIZK will in fact be a proof of knowledge!

NIZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log

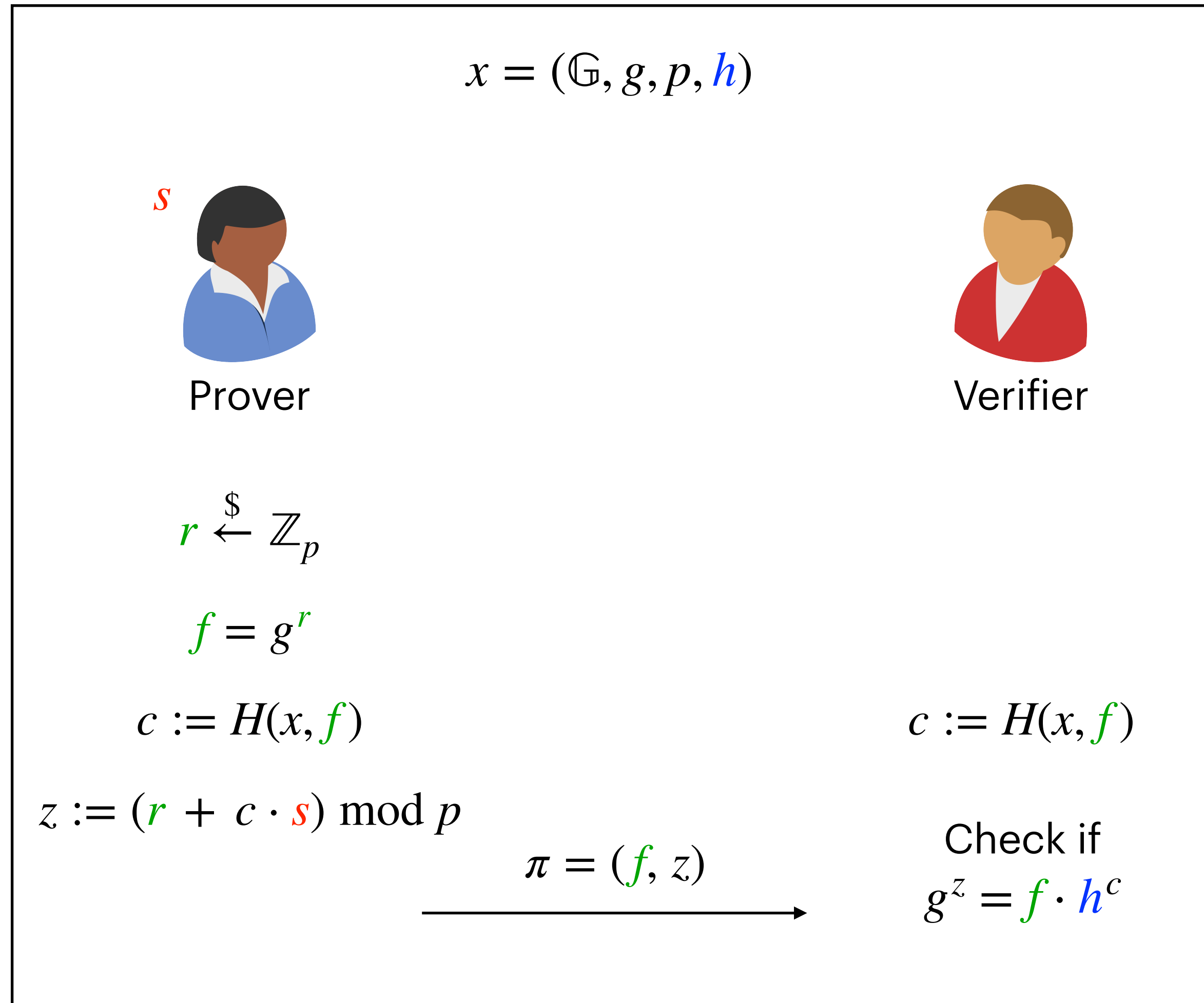


NIZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



This proves that Alice knows the secret key s for the public key h .

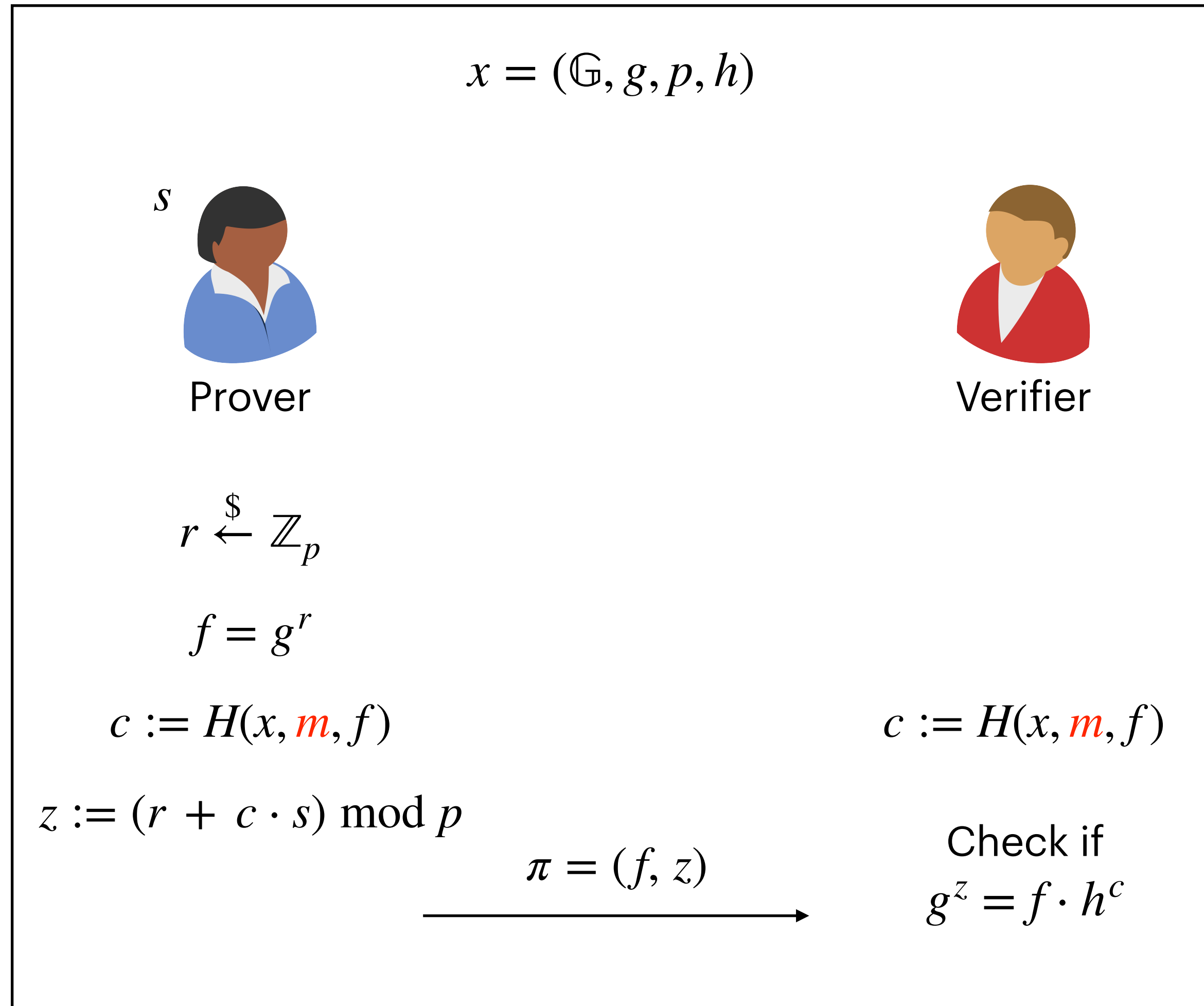
NIZK Proof of Knowledge for Discrete Log



This proves that Alice knows the secret key s for the public key h .

Can be converted into a **signature scheme** by additionally including the **message to be signed** in the hash.

Schnorr Signature Scheme



This proves that Alice knows the secret key s for the public key h .

Can be converted into a **signature scheme** by additionally including the **message to be signed** in the hash.