

**Language-based Cryptographic Proofs in Coq**  
or  
**Coq for Probabilistic Programs**

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ICSEC KICK-OFF WORKSHOP  
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# Motivation

# Why certified cryptographic proofs?

## *Rigor crisis* in the cryptographic community

*In our opinion, many **proofs in cryptography have become essentially unverifiable**. Our field may be approaching a crisis of rigor.*

Bellare & Rogaway (2006)

*Do we have a problem with cryptographic proofs?*

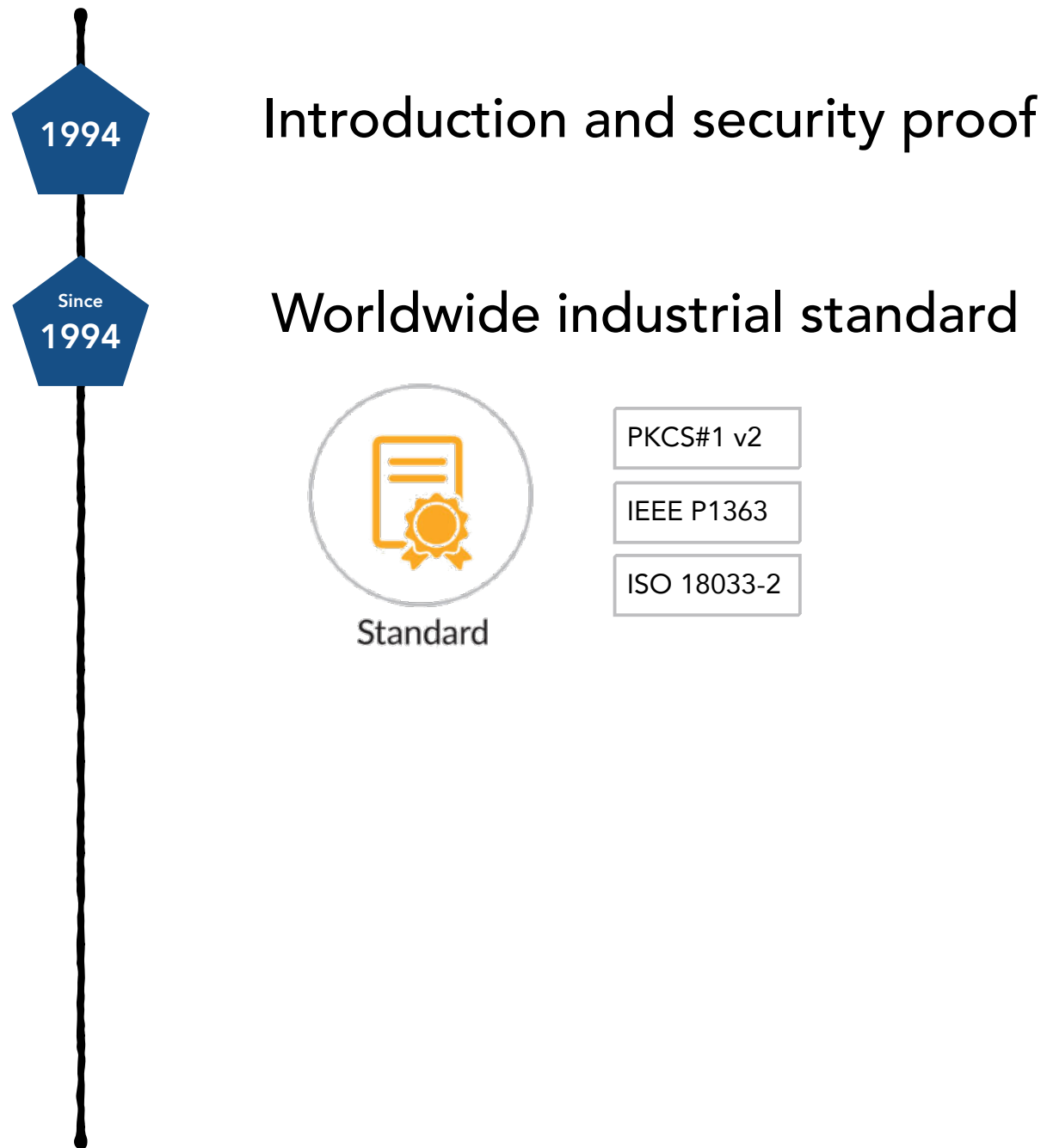
*Yes, we do. The problem is that as a community, **we generate more proofs than we carefully verify** (and as a consequence some of our published proofs are incorrect).*

Halevi (2005)

# The rigor crisis of the cryptographic community



## The case of OAEP encryption scheme



# The rigor crisis of the cryptographic community

## The case of OAEP encryption scheme

1994

Introduction and security proof

Since  
1994

Worldwide industrial standard



Standard

PKCS#1 v2

IEEE P1363

ISO 18033-2

2001

Security proof is flawed

And 7 years later...

*There appears to be a non-trivial gap in the OAEP security proof [and] this gap cannot be filled.*

Shoup (2001)



# The rigor crisis of the cryptographic community



## The case of BONEH-FRANKLIN encryption scheme



Introduction and security proof



Used as subcomponent of several cryptographic protocols

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Security proof is flawed

*This is just another example in which a well-known and widely used construction turns out to have an unnoticed flawed security reduction.*

*Galindo (2005)*



## CertiCrypt:

Framework for constructing certified cryptographic proofs in Coq

<http://certicrypt.gforge.inria.fr/>





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### Substantial effort

- 30.000 lines
- 4-6 years
- 6 people



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### High impact

- Formalization of several encryption schemes, digital signatures, hash functions, zero-knowledge protocols, etc
- 12 publications

# Basics about CertiCrypt

What is a secure cryptographic scheme?



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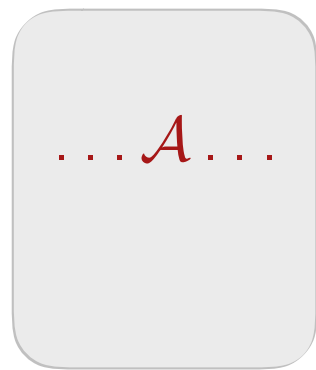


Attack game

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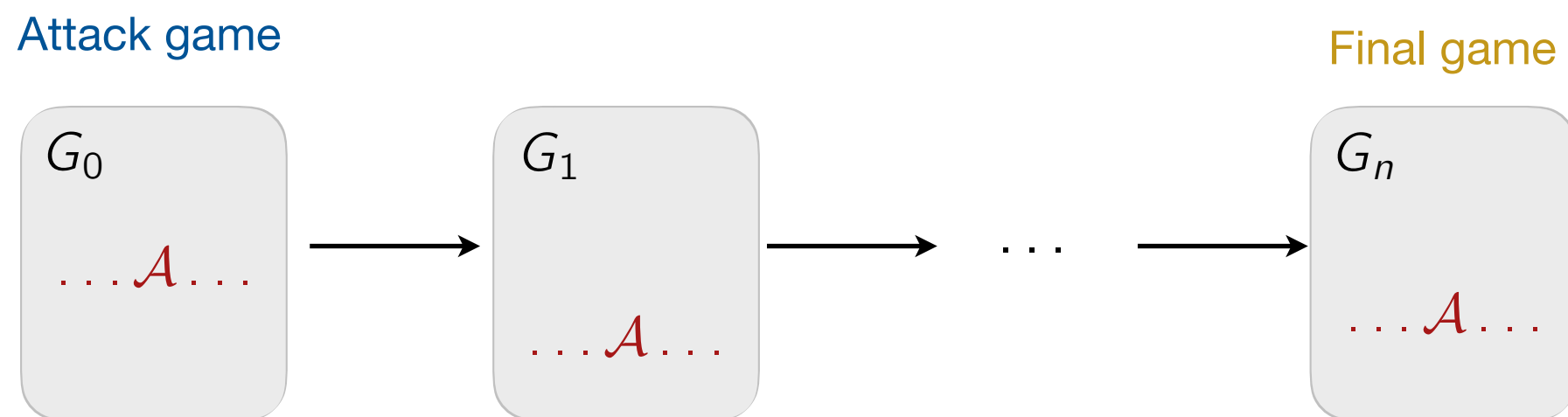


Attack game

$$\Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{A} \text{ breaks} \\ \text{the scheme} \end{array} \right] \leq \epsilon$$

# How do security proof proceed?

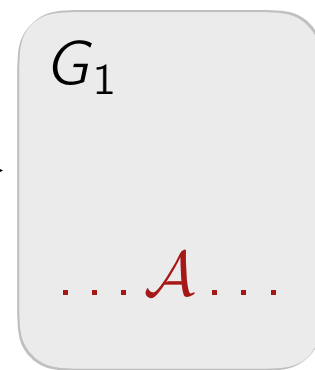
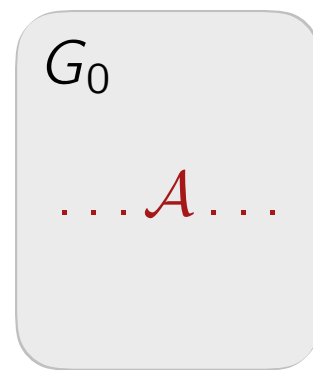
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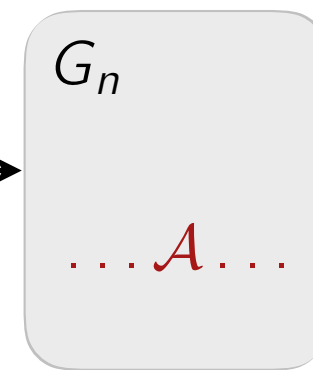
Attack game



...



Final game



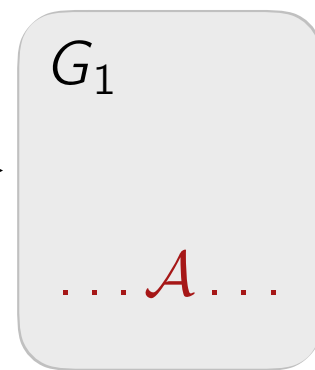
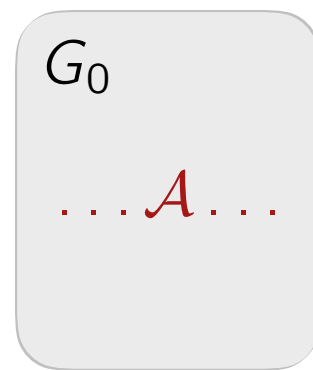
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Probability of breaking the scheme

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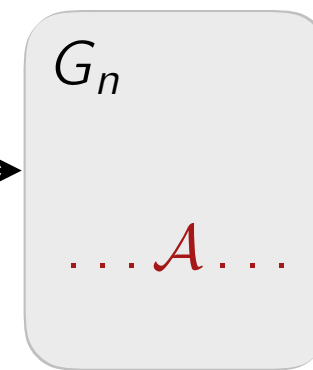
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$$\Pr_{G_0}[E_0] \leq f_1(\Pr_{G_1}[E_1]) \leq \dots \leq f_n(\Pr_{G_n}[E_n])$$

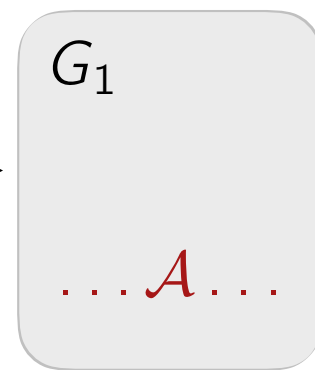
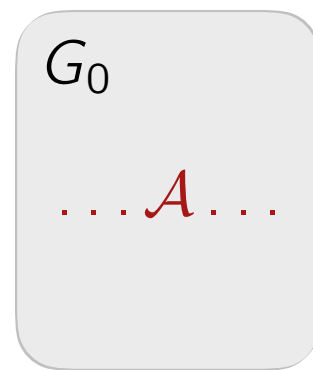
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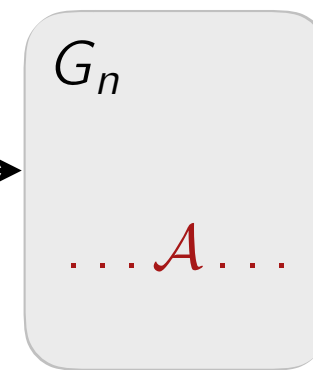
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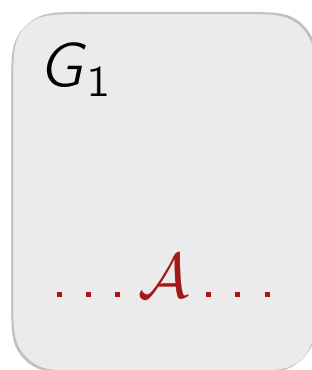
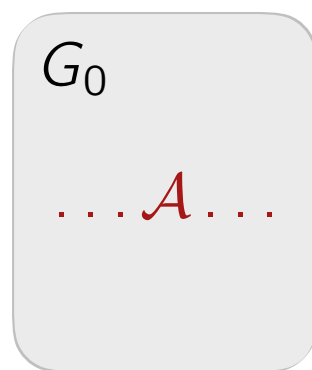
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By stepwise transformation of the attack game, towards a "simpler" game

How do we represent games?

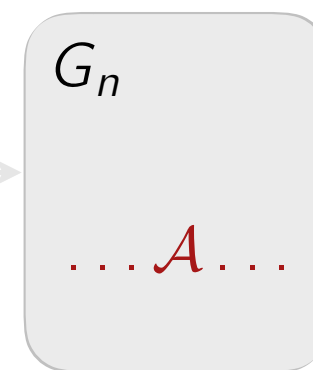
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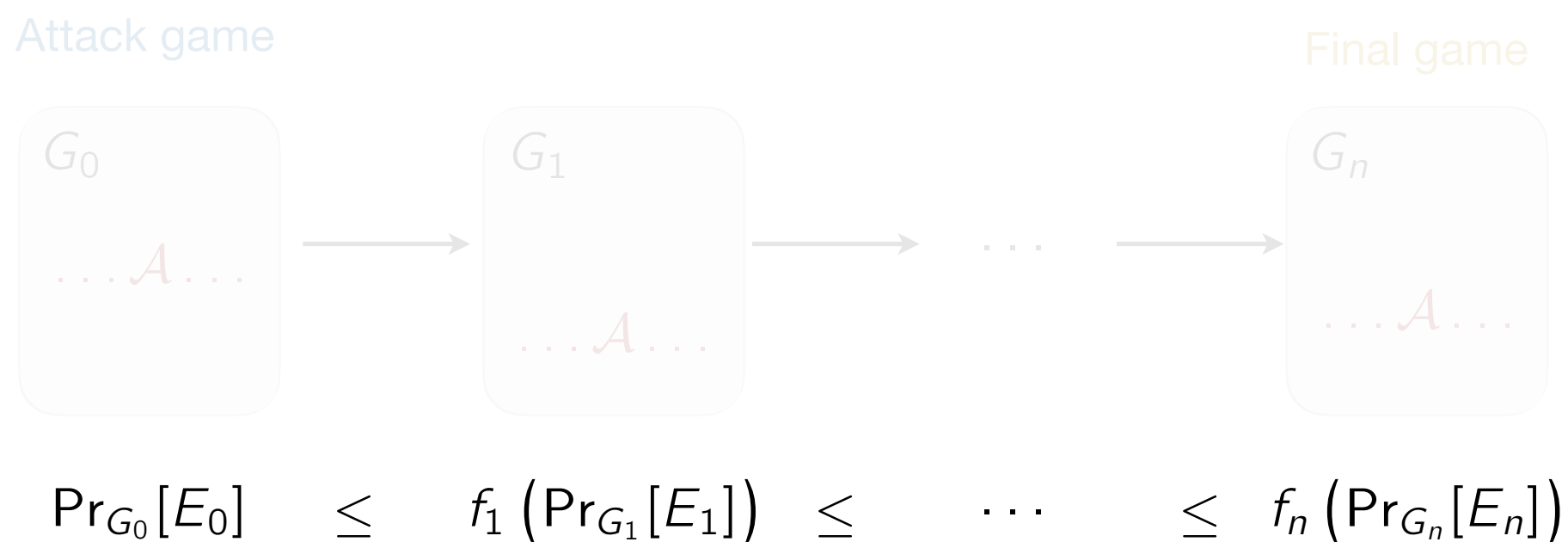
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By stepwise transformation of the attack game, towards a "simpler" game



Probability of breaking the scheme

How do we relate the probabilities of events between consecutive games?

# Language-based cryptographic proofs



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Games  $\implies$  (probabilistic) programs

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Probability space  $\implies$

Probability of event  $\implies$

Game transformations  $\implies$

Generic adversary  $\implies$

# Language-based cryptographic proofs



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Probability space  $\implies$  program denotation

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Game transformations  $\implies$

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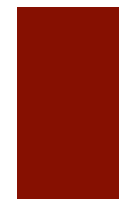
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# Language-based cryptographic proofs



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Probability space	$\implies$	program denotation
Probability of event	$\implies$	probability of postcondition
Game transformations	$\implies$	program transformations
Generic adversary	$\implies$	unspecified procedure

# The probabilistic language

$\mathcal{C}$	::=	skip	nop
		$\mathcal{C}; \mathcal{C}$	sequence
		$\mathcal{V} \leftarrow \mathcal{E}$	assignment
		$\mathcal{V} \overset{\$}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{DE}$	random sampling
		if $\mathcal{E}$ then $\mathcal{C}$ else $\mathcal{C}$	conditional
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$$[[c]] : \forall(k:\mathbb{N}). \mathcal{S}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{S}_k)$$

security parameter

How do we relate the probability of program?



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for which we can rely on **observational equivalence** between programs:

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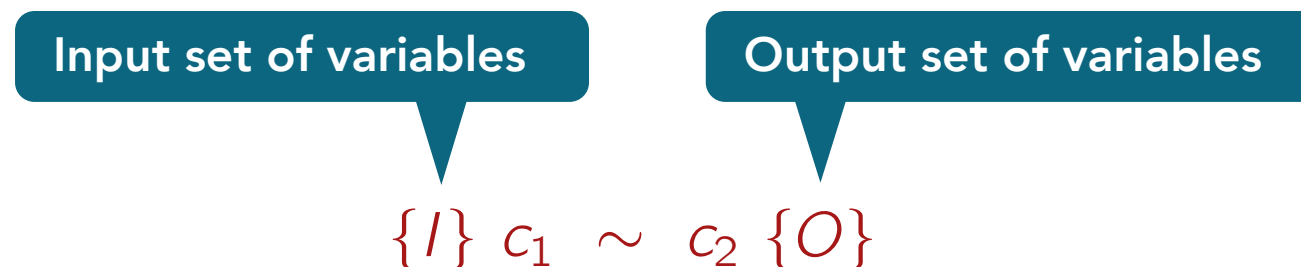
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The diagram consists of two dark blue rounded rectangular boxes at the top. The left box contains the text "Input set of variables" and the right box contains "Output set of variables". Below these boxes, the expression  $\{I\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{O\}$  is written in red. A horizontal line is drawn below this expression, and underneath the line, the equation  $\Pr_{c_1(s_1)}[E] = \Pr_{c_2(s_2)}[E]$  is written in black.

$$\frac{\{I\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{O\}}{\Pr_{c_1(s_1)}[E] = \Pr_{c_2(s_2)}[E]}$$

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The diagram illustrates the conditions for observational equivalence. It features two dark blue callout boxes at the top: 'Input set of variables' on the left and 'Output set of variables' on the right. Below these, a fraction-like structure is shown. The numerator consists of two parts:  $fV(E) \subseteq O$  on the left and  $\{I\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{O\}$  on the right. A horizontal line separates the numerator from the denominator, which is  $\Pr_{c_1(s_1)}[E] = \Pr_{c_2(s_2)}[E]$ .

$$\frac{fV(E) \subseteq O \quad \{I\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{O\}}{\Pr_{c_1(s_1)}[E] = \Pr_{c_2(s_2)}[E]}$$

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Input set of variables      Output set of variables

$$\frac{fv(E) \subseteq O \quad \{I\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{O\} \quad s_1 =_I s_2}{\Pr_{c_1(s_1)}[E] = \Pr_{c_2(s_2)}[E]}$$

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CertiCrypt provides several *mechanised program transformations* for establishing observational equivalence

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**PROGRAM TRANSFORMATION:**  $\mathcal{T}(c_1, c_2, I, O) = (c'_1, c'_2, I', O')$



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**SOME INSTANCES:**

- Deadcode elimination
- Constant propagation
- Procedure call inlining
- Common prefix/suffix elimination

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CertiCrypt provides an (incomplete) tactic for proving *self-equivalence*

Does  $\{I\} c \sim c \{O\}$  hold?

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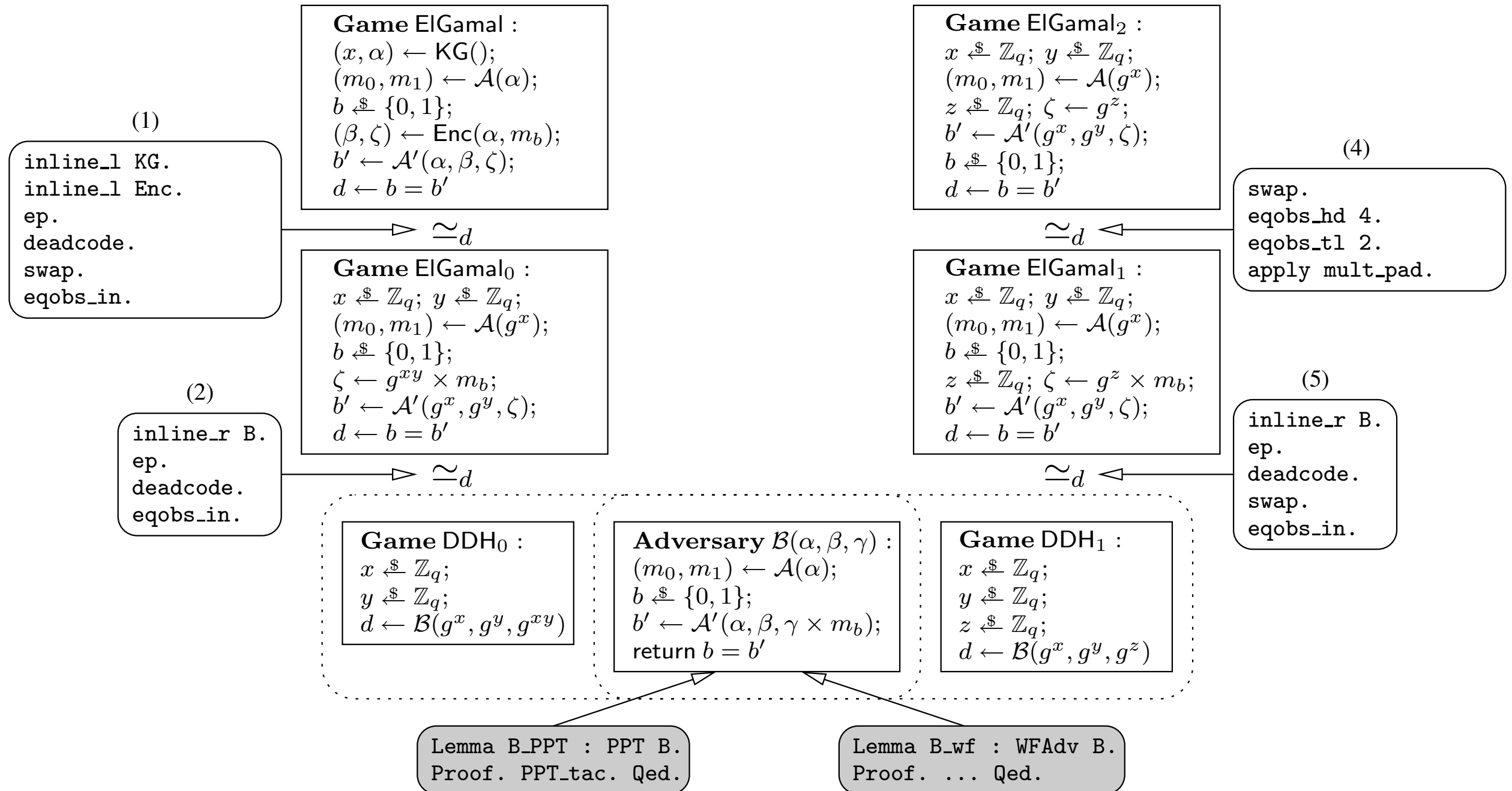
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Does  $\{I\} c \sim c \{O\}$  hold?

- Analyse dependencies to compute  $I'$  such that  $\{I'\} c \sim c \{O\}$
- Check that  $I' \subseteq I$



# Security proof of ElGamal encryption scheme



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## Game ElGamal<sub>2</sub> :

$x \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q; y \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q;$   
 $(m_0, m_1) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(g^x);$   
 $z \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q; \zeta \leftarrow g^z;$   
 $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}'(g^x, g^y, \zeta);$   
 $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\};$   
 $d \leftarrow b = b'$

$\simeq_d \triangleleft$

## Game ElGamal<sub>1</sub> :

$x \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q; y \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q;$   
 $(m_0, m_1) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(g^x);$   
 $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\};$   
 $z \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q; \zeta \leftarrow g^z \times m_b;$   
 $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}'(g^x, g^y, \zeta);$   
 $d \leftarrow b = b'$

swap.  
eqobs\_hd 4.  
eqobs\_tl 2.  
apply mult\_pad.

Observational equivalence is not enough



# Observational equivalence is not enough



$$\frac{\{\!x\!\} \text{ if } (x=0) \text{ then } y \leftarrow x \text{ else } y \leftarrow 1}{\sim} \frac{\{\!x, y\!\} \text{ if } (x=0) \text{ then } y \leftarrow 0 \text{ else } y \leftarrow 1}{\sim} \text{ ???}$$

# Observational equivalence is not enough



- Establishing observational equivalence may require additional contextual information

$$\frac{\text{???}}{\{x\} \text{ if } (x=0) \text{ then } y \leftarrow x \text{ else } y \leftarrow 1 \sim \text{ if } (x=0) \text{ then } y \leftarrow 0 \text{ else } y \leftarrow 1 \{x, y\}}$$

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- Cryptographic proofs may involve weaker relationships between consecutive games, e.g.

$$\Pr_{c_1(s_1)}[E_1] \leq \Pr_{c_2(s_2)}[E_2]$$

# Relational Hoare logic



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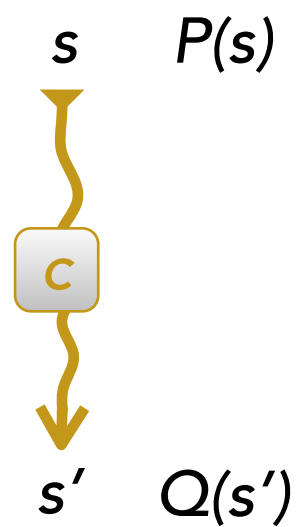
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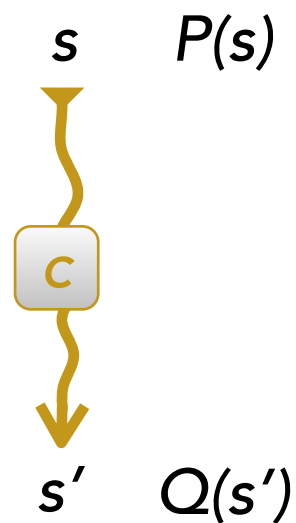
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Relational Hoare Logic (RHL)

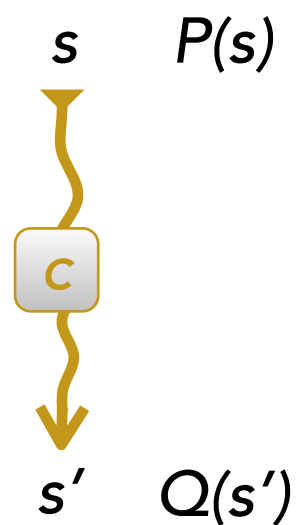
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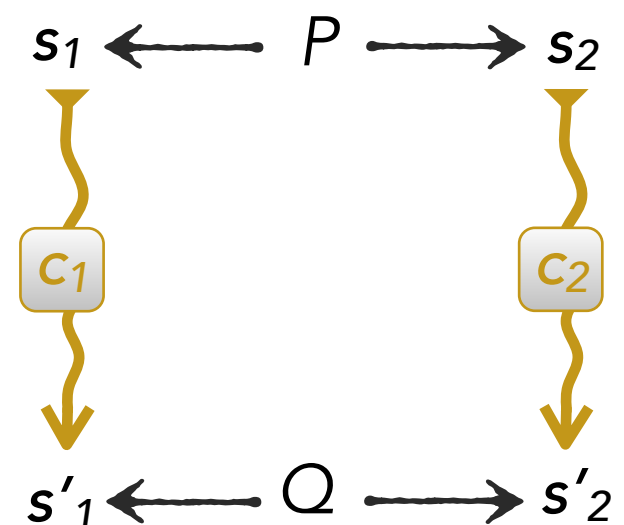
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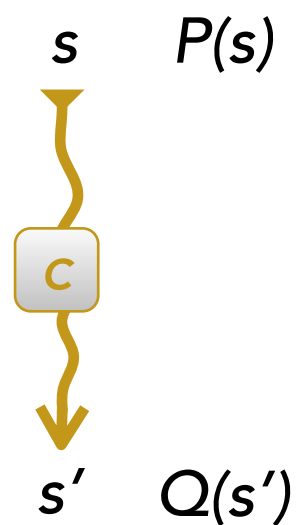


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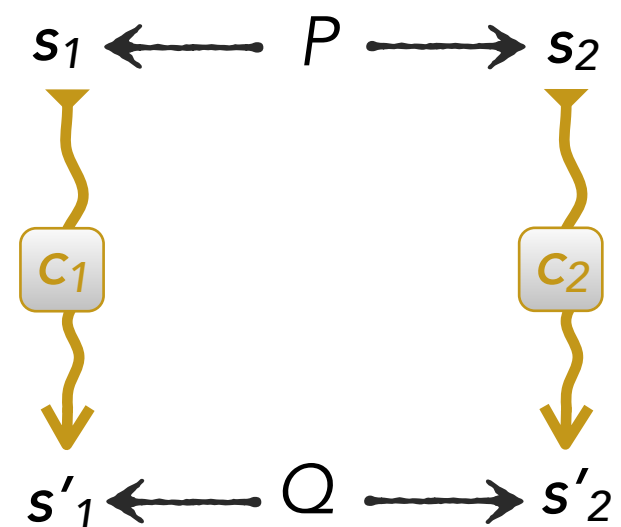
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## Relational Hoare Logic (RHL)

probabilistic programs

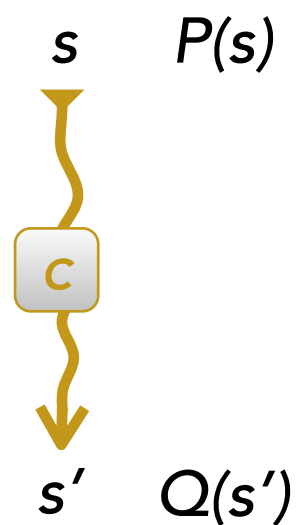
$$\{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}$$



# Relational Hoare logic

## Standard Hoare Logic (HL)

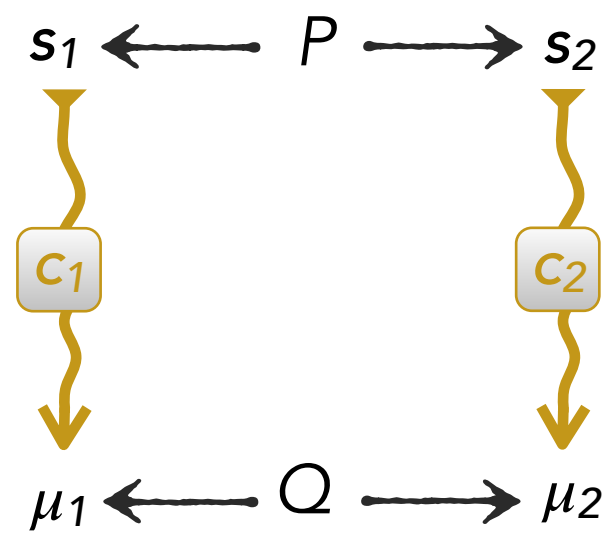
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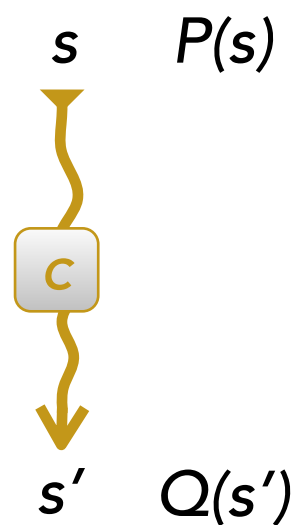


distributions over states

# Relational Hoare logic

## Standard Hoare Logic (HL)

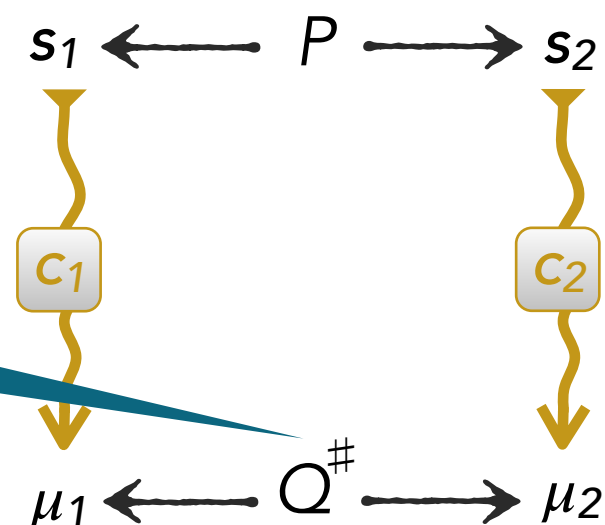
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## Relational Hoare Logic (RHL)

probabilistic programs

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Lifting of  $Q$  to the space of distributions

distributions over states

# Relational Hoare logic — Judgment examples



■  $z := y+1 \sim z := x$

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- $\models \{y\langle 1 \rangle + 1 = x\langle 2 \rangle\} z := y + 1 \sim z := x$



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■ 
$$\begin{array}{l} \text{if } b \text{ then } x := 0 \\ \text{else } x := 1 \end{array} \sim \begin{array}{l} \text{if } b \text{ then } x := 1 \\ \text{else } x := 0 \end{array}$$

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■  $\models \{y\langle 1 \rangle + 1 = x\langle 2 \rangle\} z := y + 1 \sim z := x \{z\langle 1 \rangle = z\langle 2 \rangle\}$

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$$\blacksquare \models \{y\langle 1 \rangle + 1 = x\langle 2 \rangle\} z := y + 1 \sim z := x \{z\langle 1 \rangle = z\langle 2 \rangle\}$$

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# Proof system



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# From the logic to probability claims



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---

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$$\frac{\models \{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}}{\Pr[c_1(s_1) : A] = \Pr[c_2(s_2) : B]} \quad [\text{Pr-Eq}]$$

# From the logic to probability claims



$$\frac{\models \{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\} \quad Q \implies (A_{\langle 1 \rangle} \iff B_{\langle 2 \rangle})}{\Pr[c_1(s_1) : A] = \Pr[c_2(s_2) : B]} \text{ [Pr-Eq]}$$

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# Wrapping up



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

**Successful application of machine-checked proofs to the field of cryptography**



## Successful application of machine-checked proofs to the field of cryptography

- Formal semantics of probabilistic language
- A probabilistic relational Hoare logic
- Mechanised program transformations
- Formalization of emblematic schemes: OAEP, ElGammal, FDH, etc.

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### **KEY INSIGHT:**

View cryptographic proofs as a problem of (relational) probabilistic program verification

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### KEY INSIGHT:

View cryptographic proofs as a problem of (relational) probabilistic program verification

# Thanks!

# **Backup Slides**

# Language semantics



$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{skip} \rrbracket m &= \text{unit } m \\ \llbracket c; c' \rrbracket m &= \text{bind } (\llbracket c \rrbracket m) \llbracket c' \rrbracket \\ \llbracket x \leftarrow e \rrbracket m &= \text{unit } (m \{ \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{E}} m / x \}) \\ \llbracket x \leftarrow^{\$} d \rrbracket m &= \text{bind } (\llbracket d \rrbracket_{\mathcal{DE}} m) (\lambda v. \text{unit } (m \{ v / x \})) \\ \llbracket \text{assert } e \rrbracket m &= \text{if } (\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{E}} m = \text{true}) \text{ then } (\text{unit } m) \text{ else } \mu_0 \\ \llbracket \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \rrbracket m &= \text{if } (\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{E}} m = \text{true}) \text{ then } (\llbracket c_1 \rrbracket m) \text{ else } (\llbracket c_2 \rrbracket m) \\ \llbracket \text{while } e \text{ do } c \rrbracket m &= \lambda f. \text{lub } (\lambda n. (\llbracket [\text{while } e \text{ do } c]_n \rrbracket m)(f)) \\ &\text{where} \quad \llbracket \text{while } e \text{ do } c \rrbracket_0 = \text{assert } \neg e \\ &\quad \llbracket \text{while } e \text{ do } c \rrbracket_{n+1} = \text{if } e \text{ then } c; \llbracket \text{while } e \text{ do } c \rrbracket_n \end{aligned}$$

# The measure monad (ALEA library)

$$\mathcal{D}(A) \triangleq (A \rightarrow [0, 1]) \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$$\mu(f) = \text{"expected value of } f \text{ wrt } \mu\text{"}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{unit} & : A \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A) \\ & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x. \lambda f. f(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{bind} & : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(B)) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(B) \\ & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda \mu. \lambda M. \lambda f. \mu(\lambda x. M(x)(f)). \end{aligned}$$

## Example

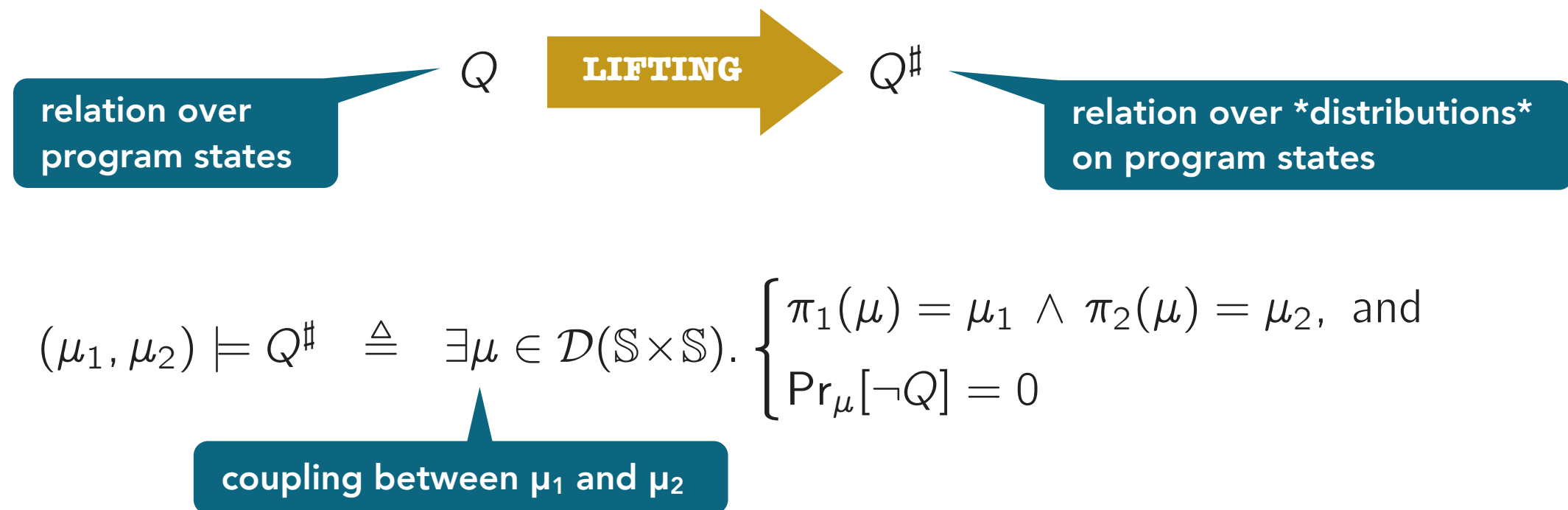
$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket b_1 \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{t, f\}; b_2 \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{t, f\} \rrbracket s & = \lambda f. \frac{1}{4} f(s[b_1, b_2/t, t]) + \frac{1}{4} f(s[b_1, b_2/t, f]) \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{4} f(s[b_1, b_2/f, t]) + \frac{1}{4} f(s[b_1, b_2/f, f]) \end{aligned}$$



# Lifting relations to distributions via couplings



# Lifting relations to distributions via couplings



# Proof system (two-sided rules)

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{P\} \text{ skip} \sim \text{skip} \{P\}} \text{ [skip]} \quad \frac{}{\vdash \{Q[x_{\langle 1 \rangle}/A_{\langle 1 \rangle}, y_{\langle 2 \rangle}/B_{\langle 2 \rangle}]\} x := A \sim y := B \{Q\}} \text{ [assgn]}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{\underline{\text{true}}\} \text{ abort} \sim \text{abort} \{Q\}} \text{ [abort]} \quad \frac{\vdash \{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q'\} \quad \vdash \{Q'\} c'_1 \sim c'_2 \{Q\}}{\vdash \{P\} c_1; c'_1 \sim c_2; c'_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [seq]}$$

$$\frac{\models (P \implies P') \quad \vdash \{P'\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q'\} \quad \models (Q' \implies Q)}{\vdash \{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [cons]}$$

$$\frac{\models (P \implies G_{1\langle 1 \rangle} = G_{2\langle 2 \rangle}) \quad \vdash \{P \wedge G_{1\langle 1 \rangle}\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\} \quad \vdash \{P \wedge \neg G_{1\langle 1 \rangle}\} c'_1 \sim c'_2 \{Q\}}{\vdash \{P\} \text{ if } G_1 \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c'_1 \sim \text{if } G_2 \text{ then } c_2 \text{ else } c'_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [if]}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{I \wedge G_{1\langle 1 \rangle}\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{I\} \quad \models (I \implies G_{1\langle 1 \rangle} = G_{2\langle 2 \rangle})}{\vdash \{I\} \text{ while } G_1 \text{ do } c_1 \sim \text{while } G_2 \text{ do } c_2 \{I \wedge \neg G_{1\langle 1 \rangle}\}} \text{ [while]}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{P^{-1}\} c_2 \sim c_1 \{Q^{-1}\}}{\vdash \{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [inv]} \quad \frac{\vdash \{P\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\} \quad \vdash \{P'\} c_2 \sim c_3 \{Q'\}}{\vdash \{P \circ P'\} c_1 \sim c_3 \{Q \circ Q'\}} \text{ [comp]}$$

$$\frac{s_1 P s_2 \triangleq (\mu_1 \blacktriangleright \lambda v \cdot \eta_{s_1[x_1/v]}) \mathcal{L}(Q) (\mu_2 \blacktriangleright \lambda v \cdot \eta_{s_2[x_2/v]})}{\vdash \{P\} x_1 \stackrel{\$}{=} \mu_1 \sim x_2 \stackrel{\$}{=} \mu_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [rand]}$$

# Proof system (one-sided rules)

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{\underline{\text{false}}\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [contr]}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{Q[x_{\langle 1 \rangle} / A_{\langle 1 \rangle}]\} x := A \sim \text{skip} \{Q\}} \text{ [d-assgn]}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{P \wedge G_{\langle 1 \rangle}\} c_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\} \quad \vdash \{P \wedge \neg G_{\langle 1 \rangle}\} c'_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}}{\vdash \{P\} \text{ if } G \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c'_1 \sim c_2 \{Q\}} \text{ [c-branch]}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{P \wedge \neg G_{\langle 1 \rangle}\} \text{ while } G \text{ do } c \sim \text{skip} \{P \wedge \neg G_{\langle 1 \rangle}\}} \text{ [d-while]}$$