

Threshold ECDSA

from ECDSA assumptions:
the multiparty case

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Northeastern University

Traditional Signature

pk



sk

Traditional Signature

 pk



sk

Threshold Signature

$\{sk_A, sk_B, sk_C\} \leftarrow \text{Share}(sk)$

pk



Threshold Signature

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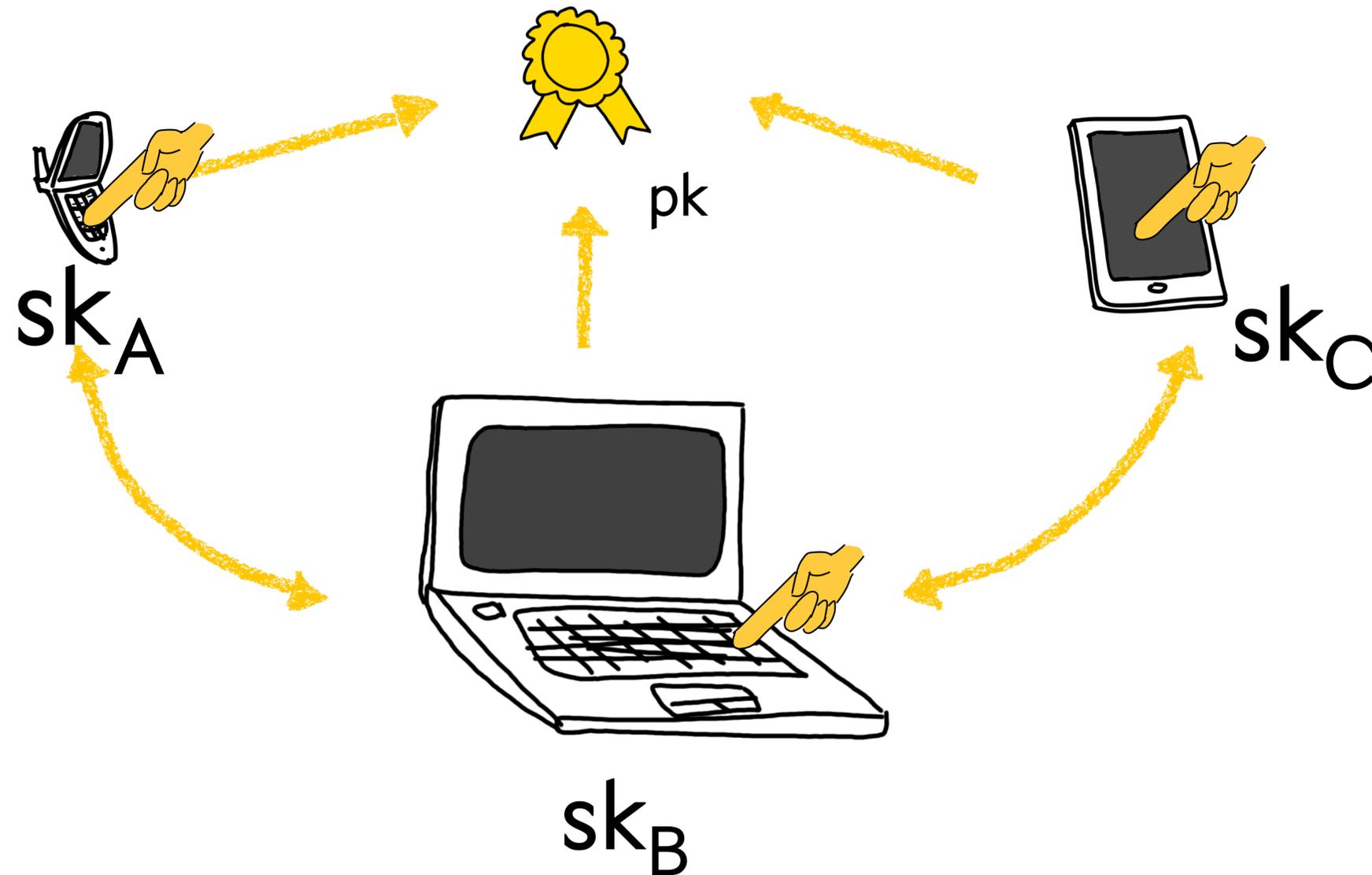


pk



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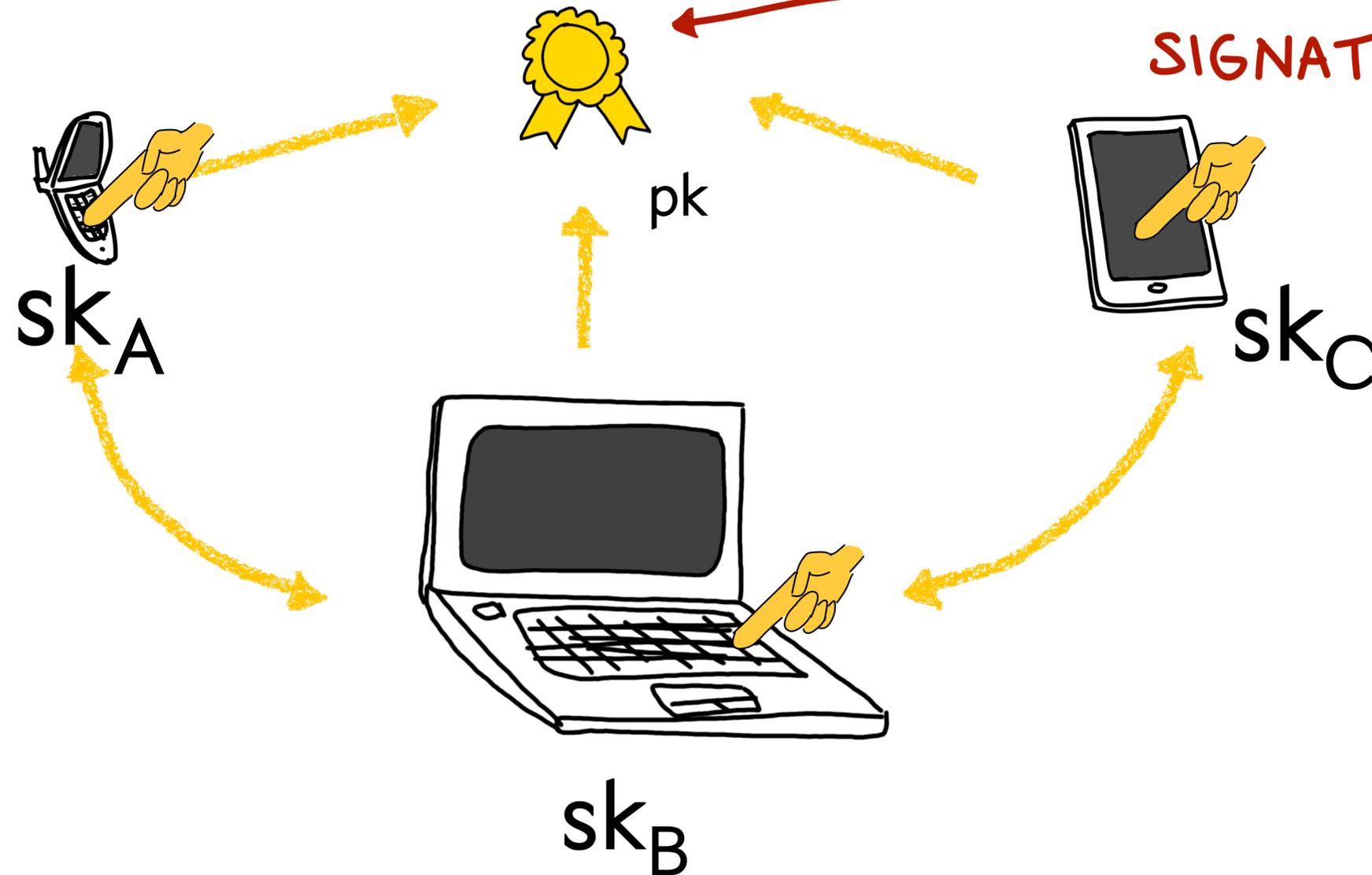
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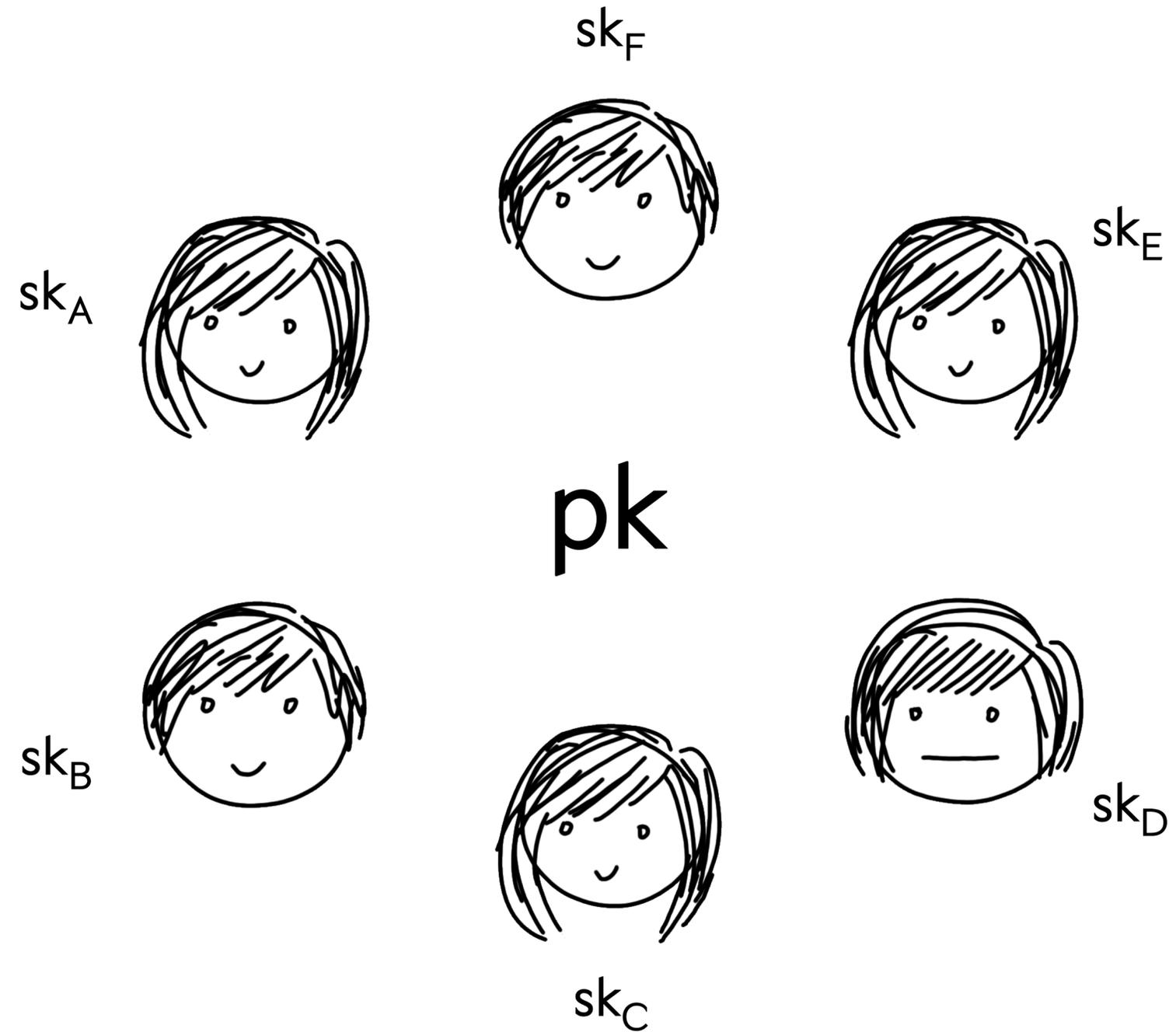
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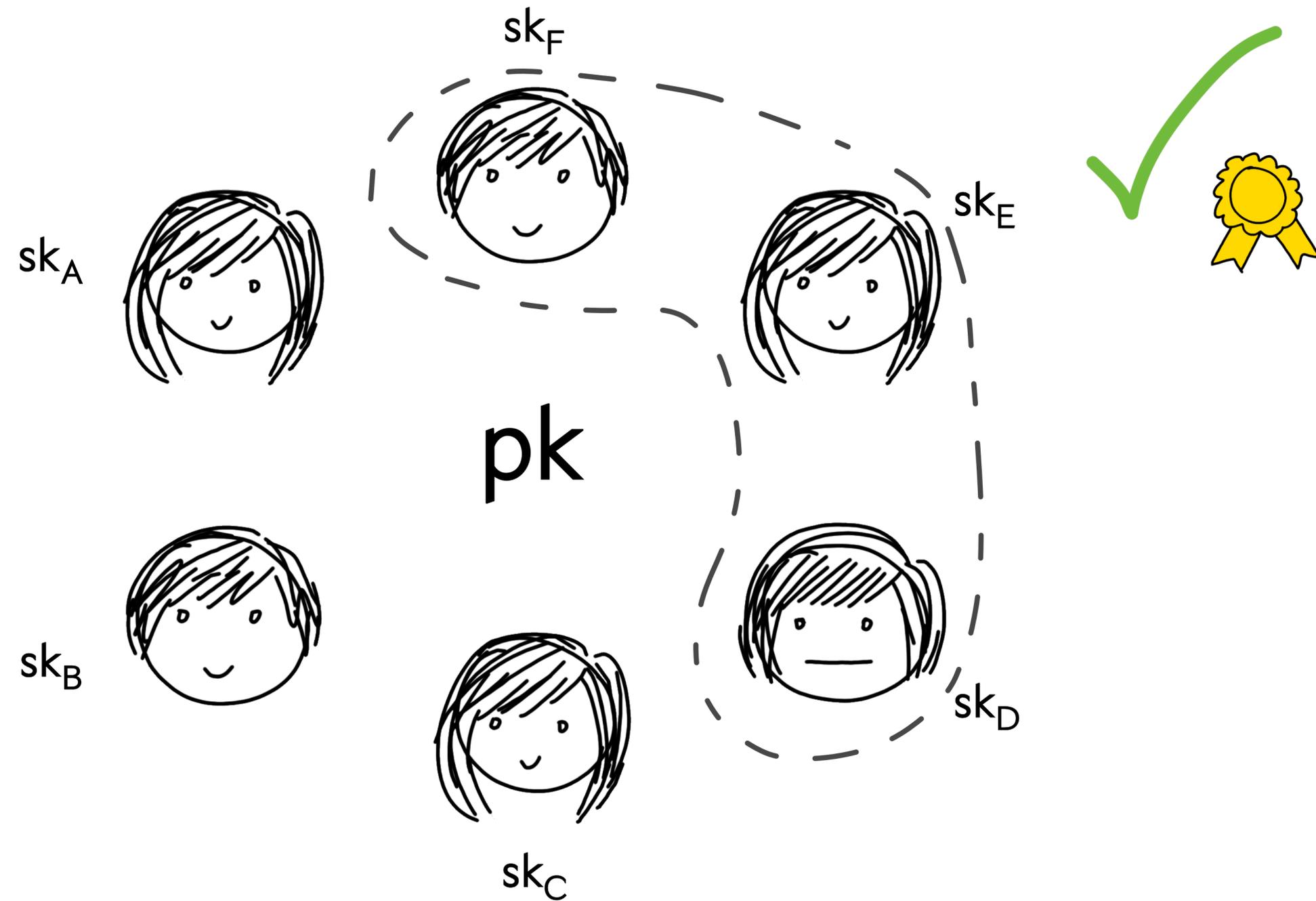
INDISTINGUISHABLE
FROM ORDINARY
SIGNATURE



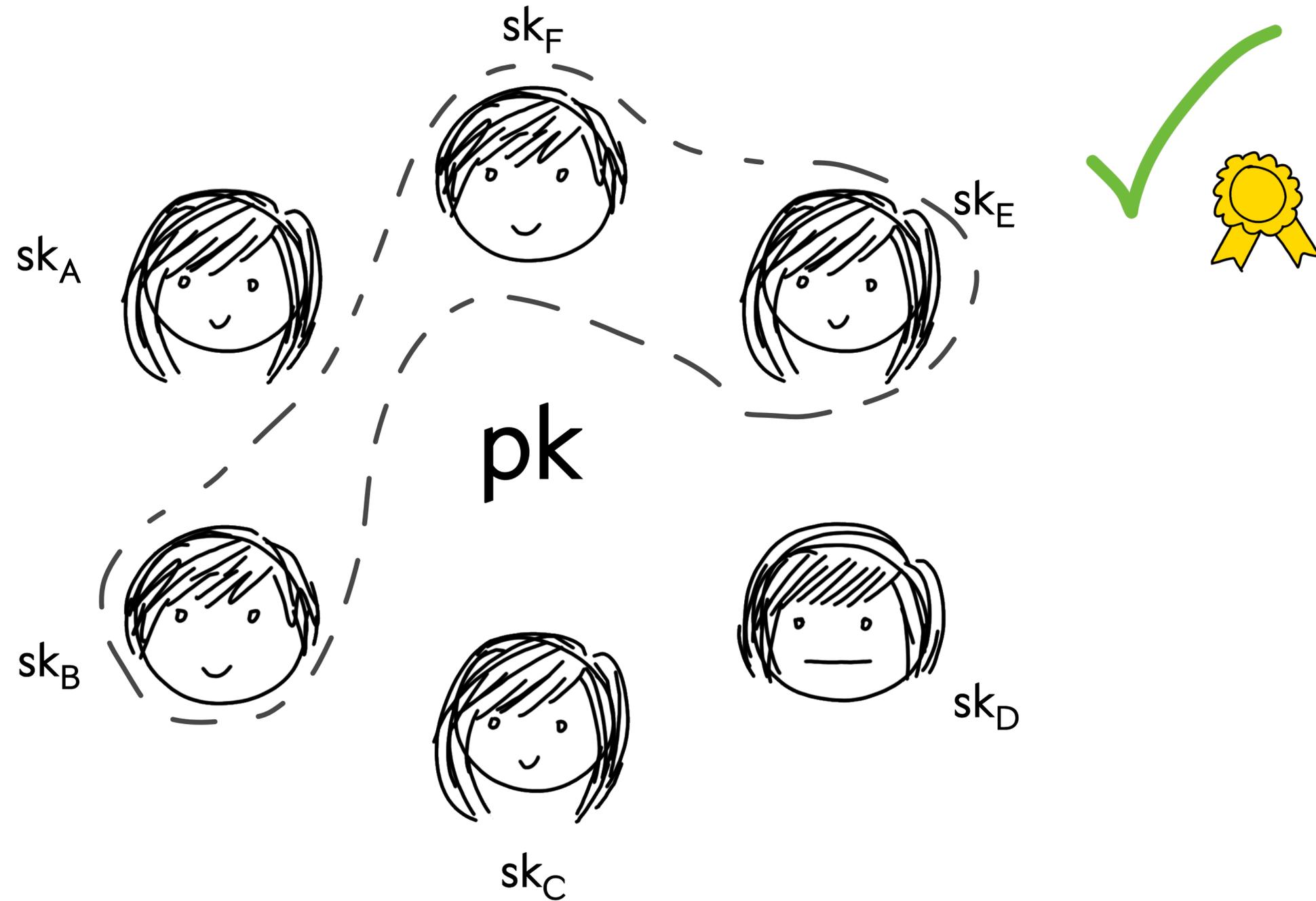
3-of-n Signature Scheme



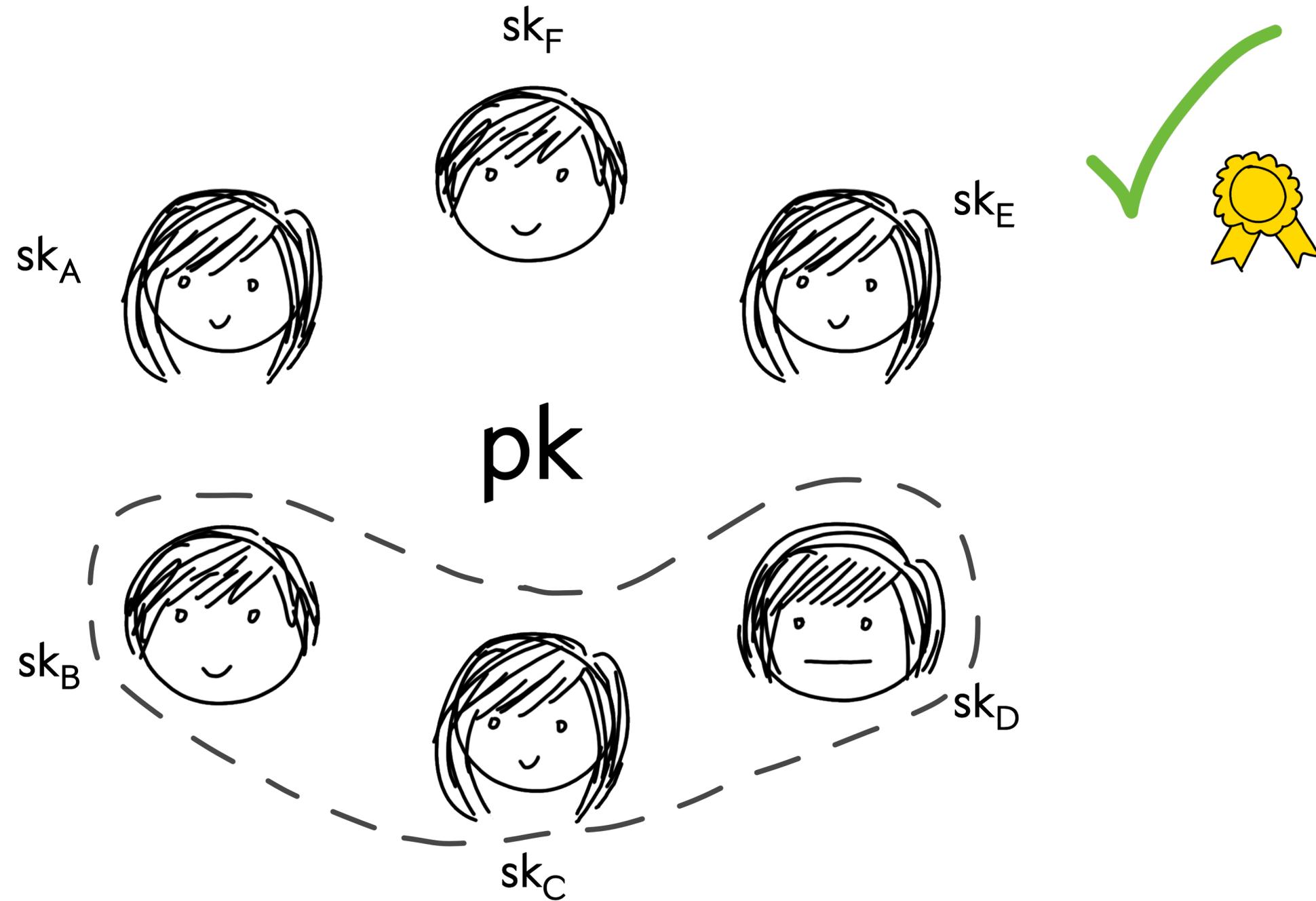
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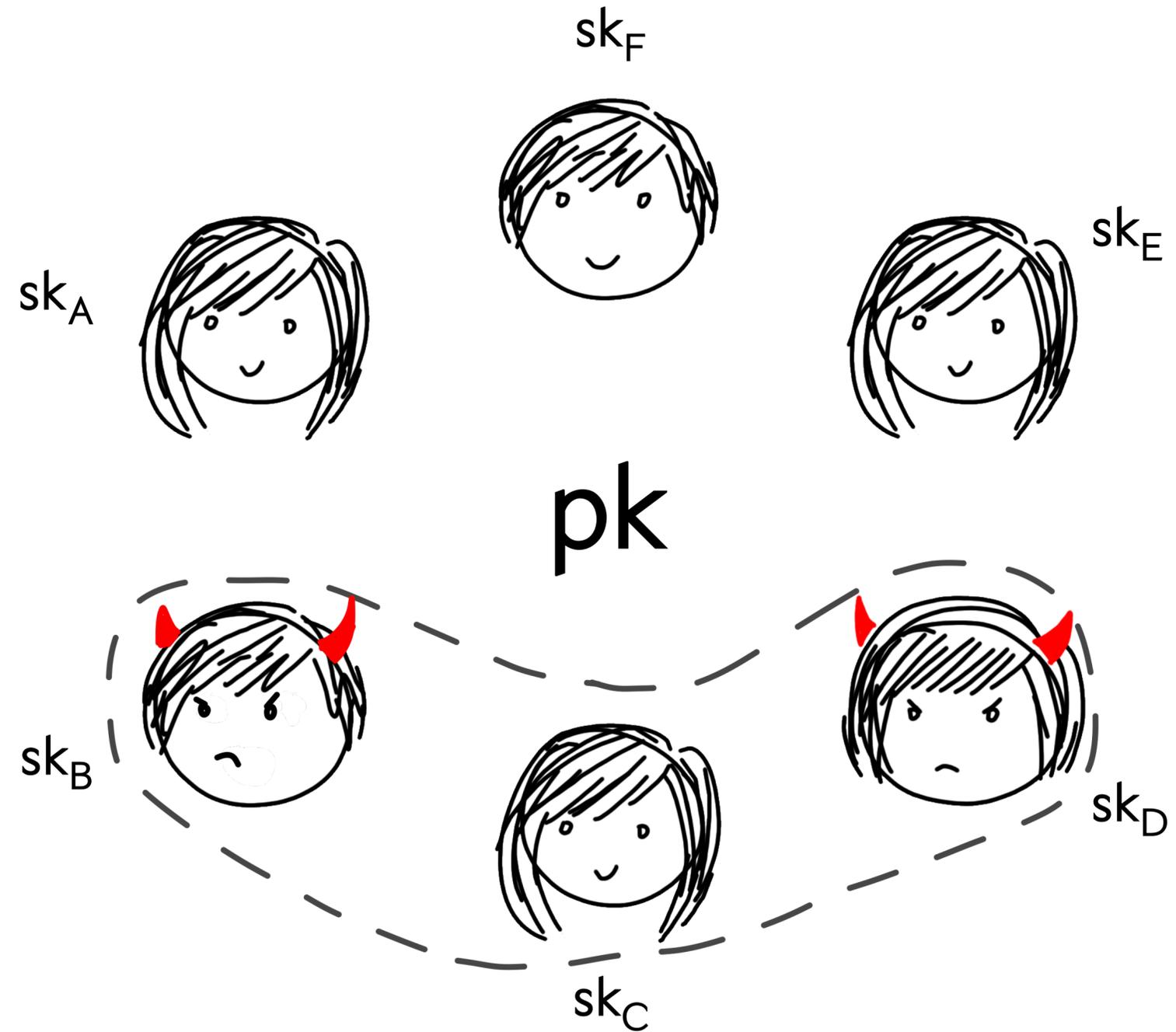
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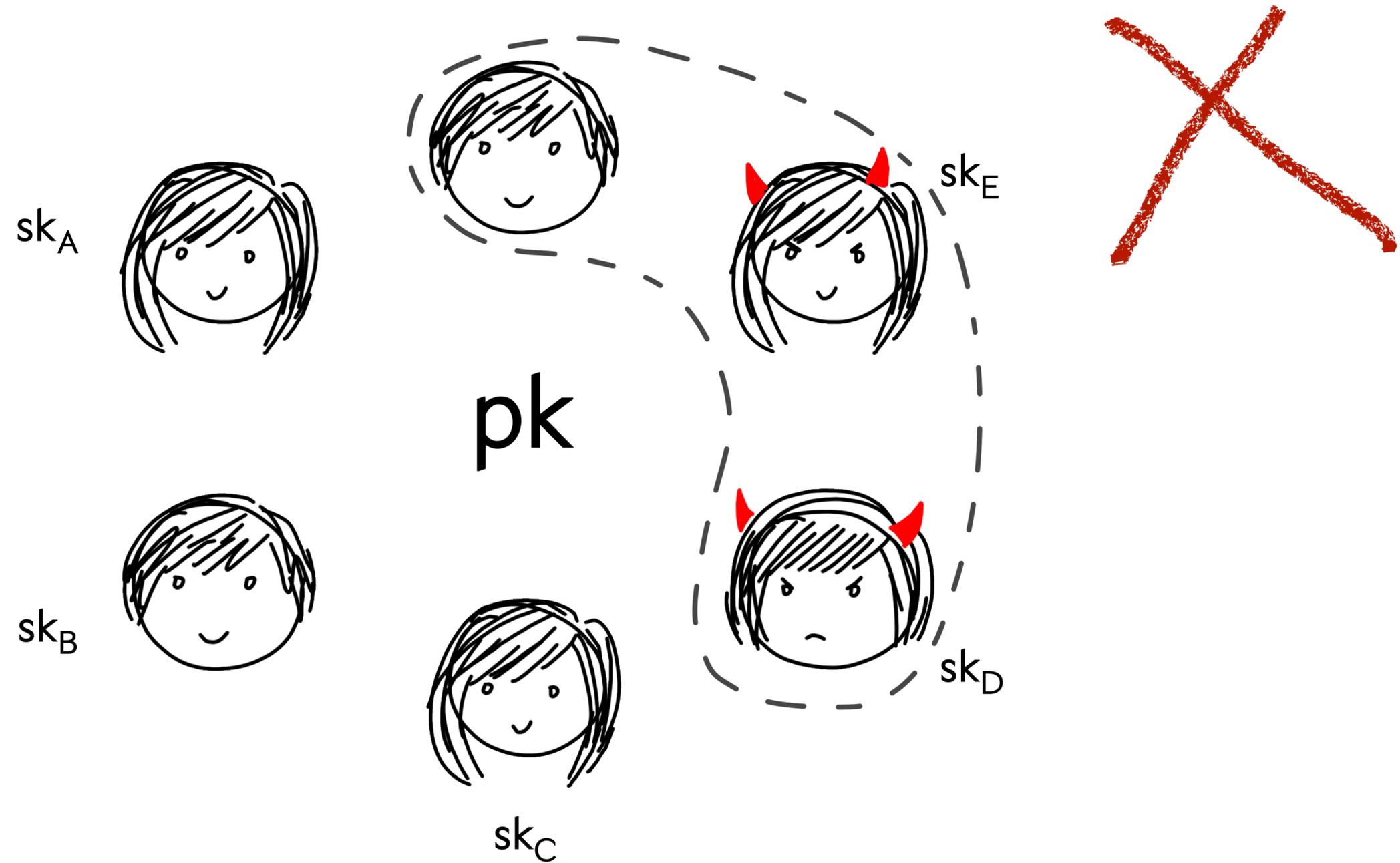
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3-of-n Signature Scheme



Full Threshold

- Scheme can be instantiated with any $t \leq n$
- Adversary corrupts up to $t-1$ parties

ECDSA

- **E**lliptic **C**urve **D**igital **S**ignature **A**lgorithm
- Devised by David Kravitz, standardized by NIST
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Notation

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Elliptic curve parameters G q

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Secret values sk k

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Public values pk R

ECDSA Recap

$$R = k \cdot G$$

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x-coordinate of R



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$$\text{sign}(m, \text{sk}, k) = \frac{H(m) + \text{sk} \cdot r_x}{k}$$

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$$\text{sign}(m, \text{sk}, k) = H(m) + \text{sk} \cdot r_x$$

$$k$$

Non-linearity makes 'thresholdization' difficult

Threshold ECDSA

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- **This work:** Full-Threshold ECDSA under [native assumptions](#)

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 - **Pros:**
 - With **OT Extension** (no extra assumptions) just a **few milliseconds**
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 - **Con:** Higher bandwidth (**100s of KB/party**)

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 - Subverting checks implies solving **CDH** in the same curve

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- Our work avoids **expensive zero-knowledge proofs** and **assumptions foreign to ECDSA** itself, required by other works in the area
- Using OT-MUL is very light on computation, but more demanding of bandwidth than alternative approaches; we argue this is not an issue for most applications
- Our wall clock times (even WAN) are an **order of magnitude** better than the next best concurrent work

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- Security with abort

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- **Setup:** MUL setup, VSS for $[sk]$
- **Signing:**
 1. Get candidate shares $[k]$, $[1/k]$, and $R=k \cdot G$
 2. Compute $[sk/k] = \text{MUL}([1/k], [sk])$
 3. Check relations in exponent
 4. Reconstruct $sig = [1/k] \cdot H(m) + [sk/k]$

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 - Verify in the exponent that parties' shares are on the same polynomial

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Obtaining Candidate Shares

- **Building Block:** Two party MUL with full security [DKLs18]
- **One approach** (implemented):
 - Each party starts with multiplicative shares of k and $1/k$
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- **Alternative:** [Bar-Ilan&Beaver '89] approach yields constant round protocol (work in progress)

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- **Signing:**
 1. Get candidate shares $[k]$, $[1/k]$, and $R=k \cdot G$
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 3. Check relations in exponent
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Can't use Diffie-Hellman Exchange for R

Check in Exponent

- There are **three** relations that have to be verified

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$$[k] \quad \left[\frac{1}{k} \right] \quad \left[\frac{sk}{k} \right]$$

- **Technique:** Each equation is verified in the exponent, using ‘auxiliary’ information that’s already available
- **Cost:** 5 exponentiations, 5 group elements per party independent of party count, and no ZK proofs

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- **Idea:** verify $\left[\frac{1}{k}\right][k] = 1$ by verifying $\left[\frac{1}{k}\right][k] \cdot G = G$

Check in Exponent

Attempt at a solution:

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Public

R

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Broadcast

$$\Gamma_i = \left[\frac{1}{k} \right]_i \cdot R$$

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Verify

$$\sum_{i \in [n]} \Gamma_i = G$$

Check in Exponent

Attempt at a solution:

Public

Adversary's contribution
Honest Party's contribution

$$R = k_A k_h \cdot G$$

Broadcast

$$\Gamma_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ k_A & k_h \end{bmatrix}_i \cdot R$$

Verify

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$$\Gamma_i = \left[\left(\frac{1}{k_A} + \epsilon \right) \frac{1}{k_h} \right]_i \cdot R$$

Verify

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Verify

$$\sum_{i \in [n]} \Gamma_i = G + \epsilon k_A \cdot G$$

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Easy for Adv. to offset

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Idea: Randomize Target

- Currently we expect $\sum \Gamma_i$ to hit a fixed target G
- **Idea:** randomize the multiplication so target is unpredictable
- Compute $\left[\frac{\phi}{k} \right]$ instead of $\left[\frac{1}{k} \right]$
- Reveal ϕ only after *every* other value is committed

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Attempt at a solution:

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Check in Exponent

Attempt at a solution:

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↓
Honest Party's contribution
↓

$$R = k_A k_h \cdot G$$

Broadcast

$$\Gamma_i = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_A & \phi_h \\ k_A & k_h \end{bmatrix}_i \cdot R$$

Verify

$$\sum_{i \in [n]} \Gamma_i = \phi_A \phi_h \cdot G$$

Check in Exponent

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Broadcast

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Verify

$$\sum_{i \in [n]} \Gamma_i = \Phi$$

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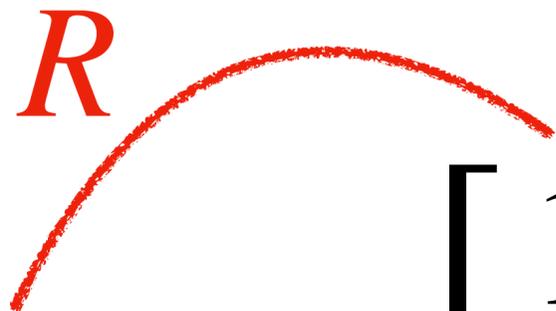
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$$\sum_{i \in [n]} \Gamma_i = \Phi + \epsilon \phi_h k_A \cdot G$$

Completely unpredictable

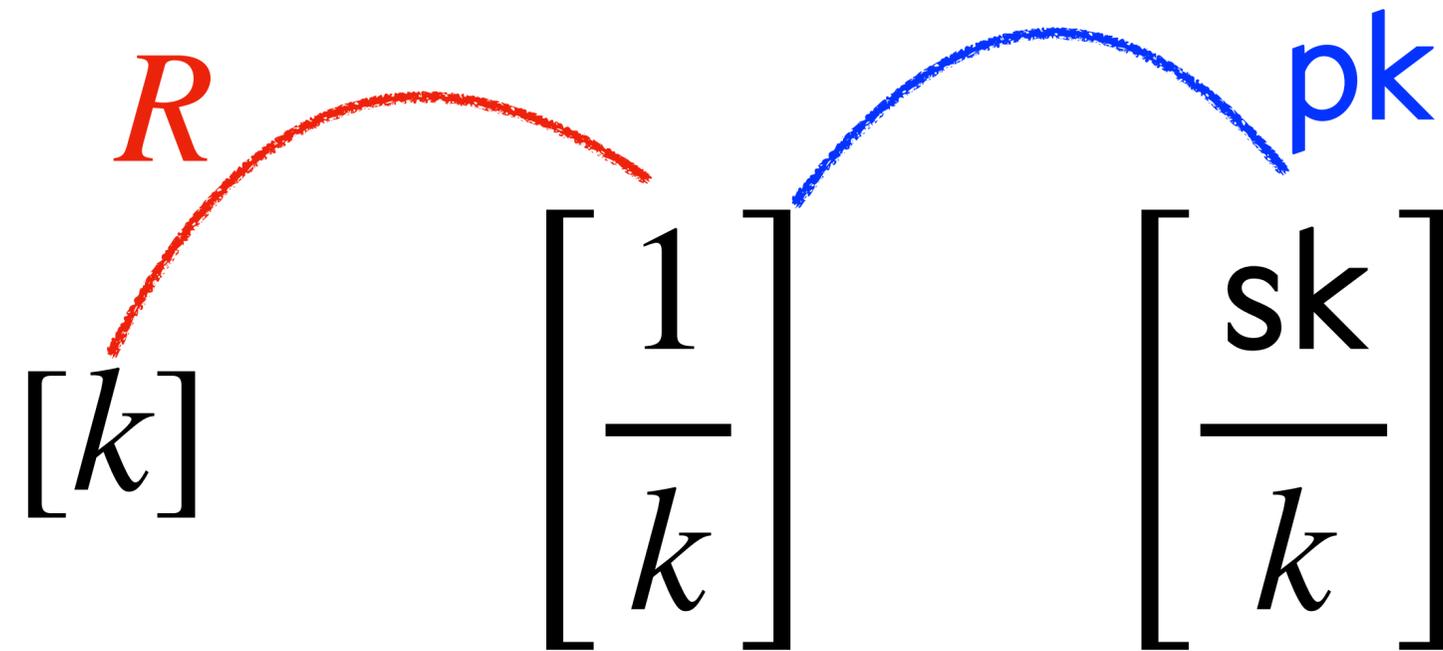
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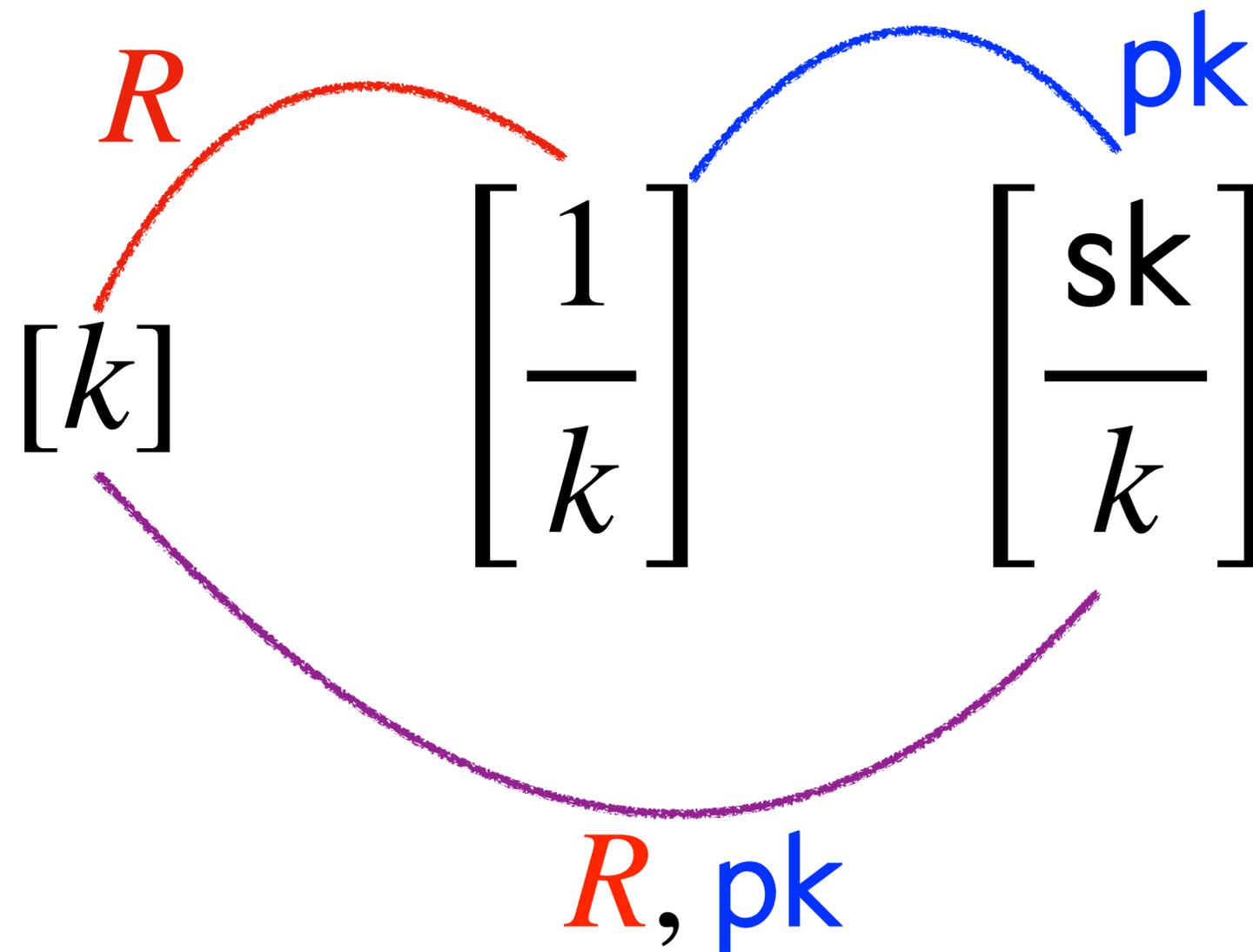
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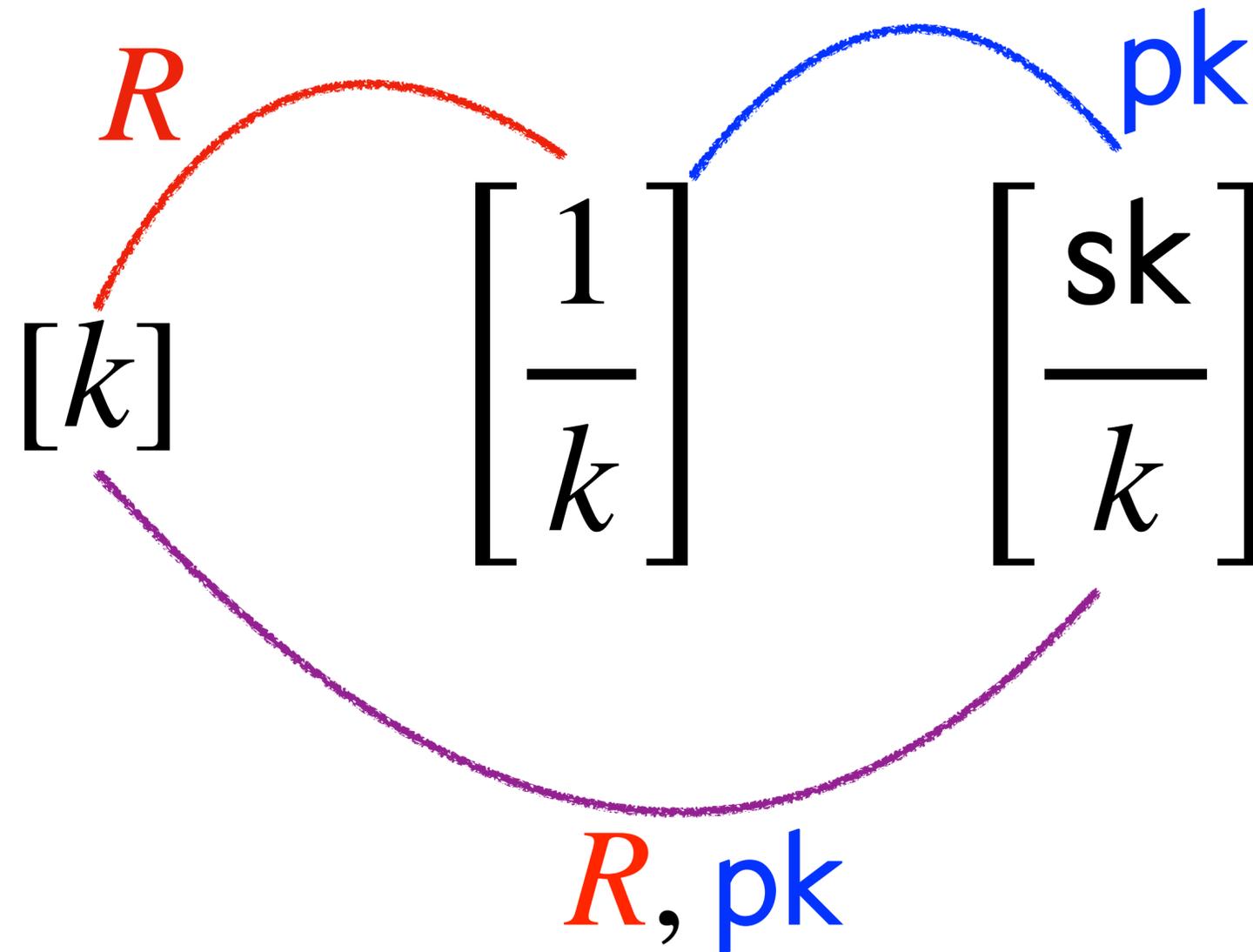
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Each costs, per party:

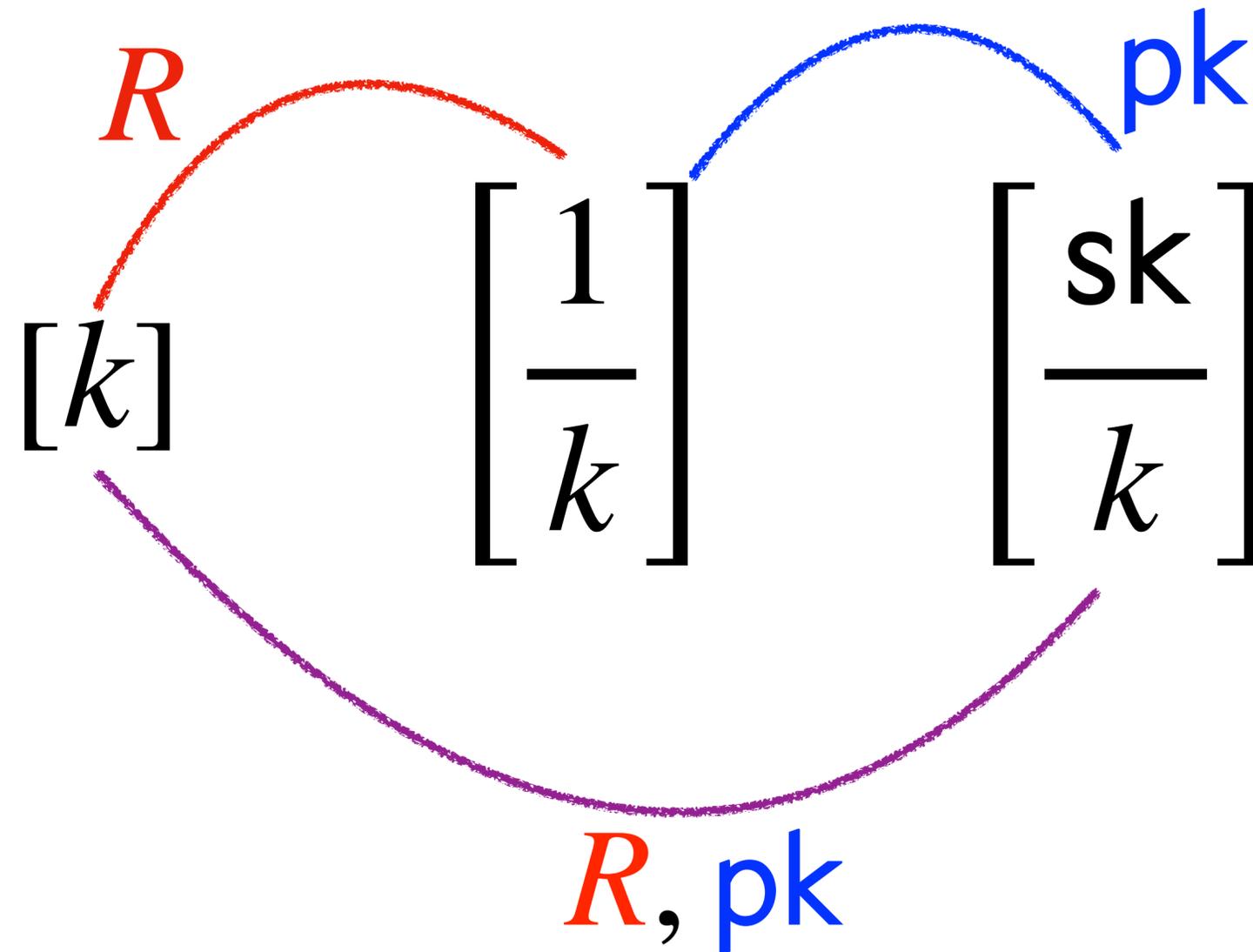


Check in Exponent

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Each costs, per party:

-2 exponentiations



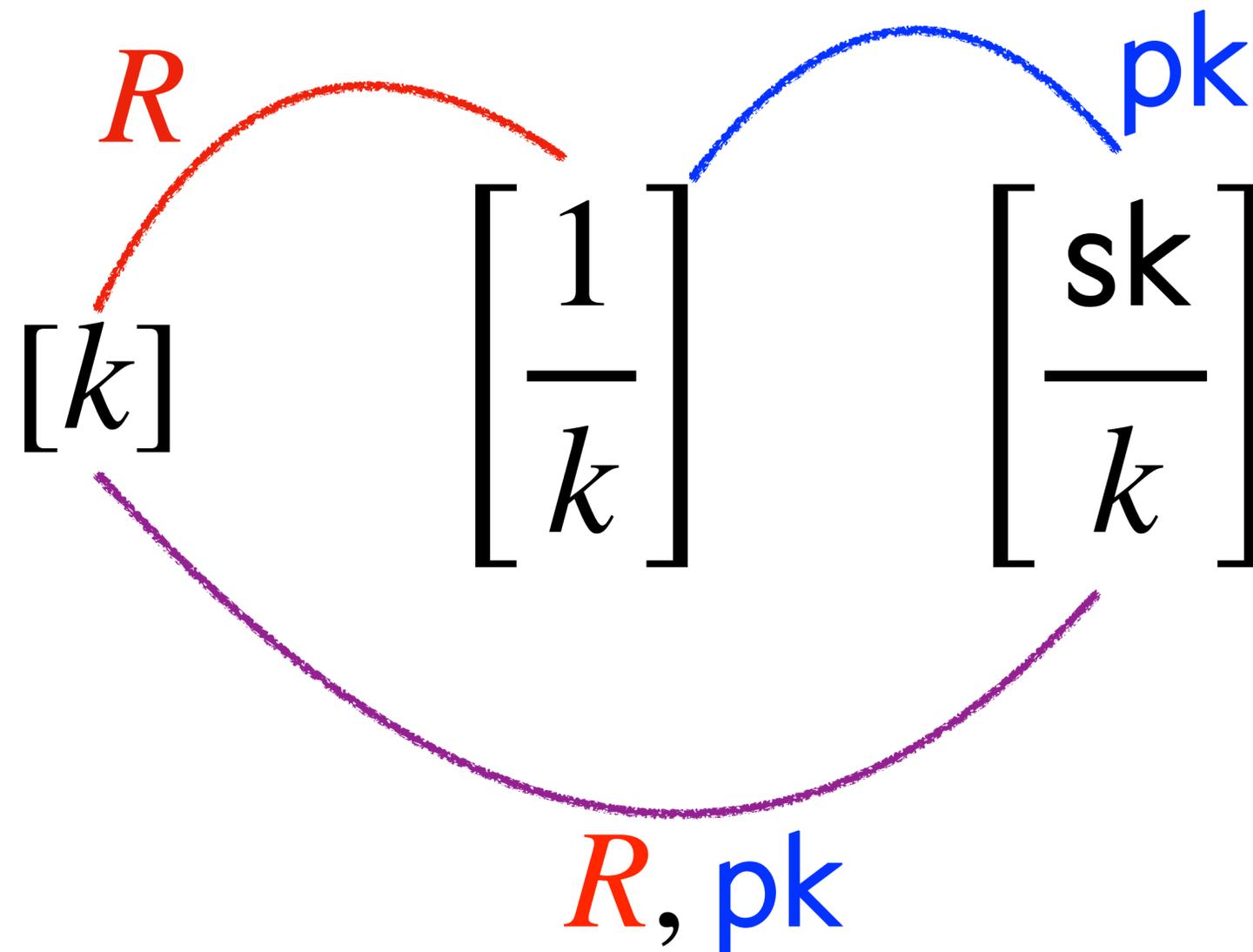
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There are **three** relations that have to be verified

Each costs, per party:

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-2 field elements



Check in Exponent

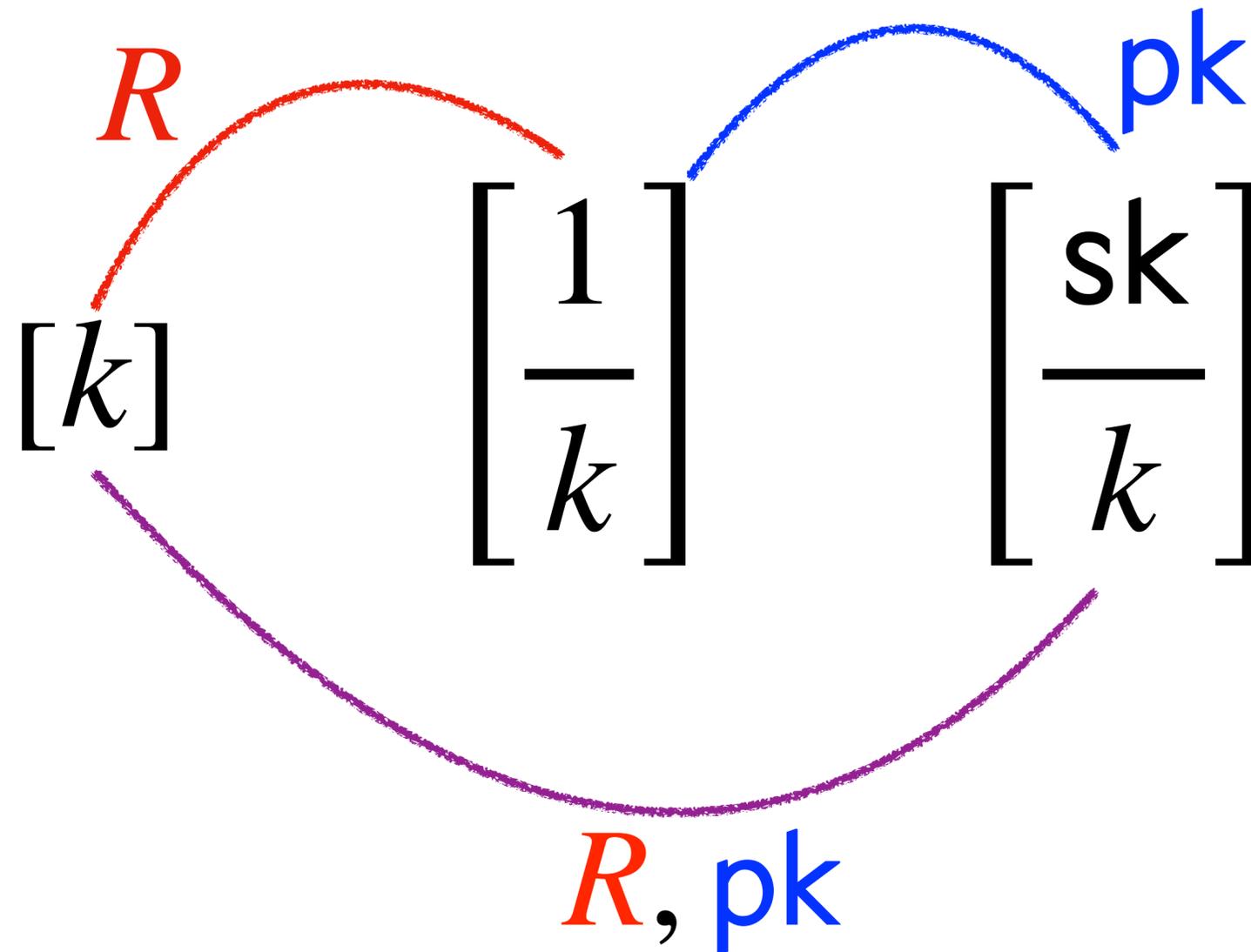
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Two broadcast rounds



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**Broadcast linear
combination
of shares**

Dominant Costs

Setup

Signing



Dominant Costs

Rounds

Setup

Signing



Dominant Costs

Rounds

Public Key

Setup

Signing



Dominant Costs

Rounds

Public Key

Bandwidth

Setup

Signing



Dominant Costs

	Rounds	Public Key	Bandwidth
Setup			
Signing			

Dominant Costs

	Rounds	Public Key	Bandwidth
Setup	5		
Signing			

Dominant Costs

	Rounds	Public Key	Bandwidth
Setup	5	$520n$	
Signing			

Dominant Costs

	Rounds	Public Key	Bandwidth
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Dominant Costs

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Journal version (in progress): **8 round signing**

(à la [Bar-Ilan Beaver 89])

Benchmarks

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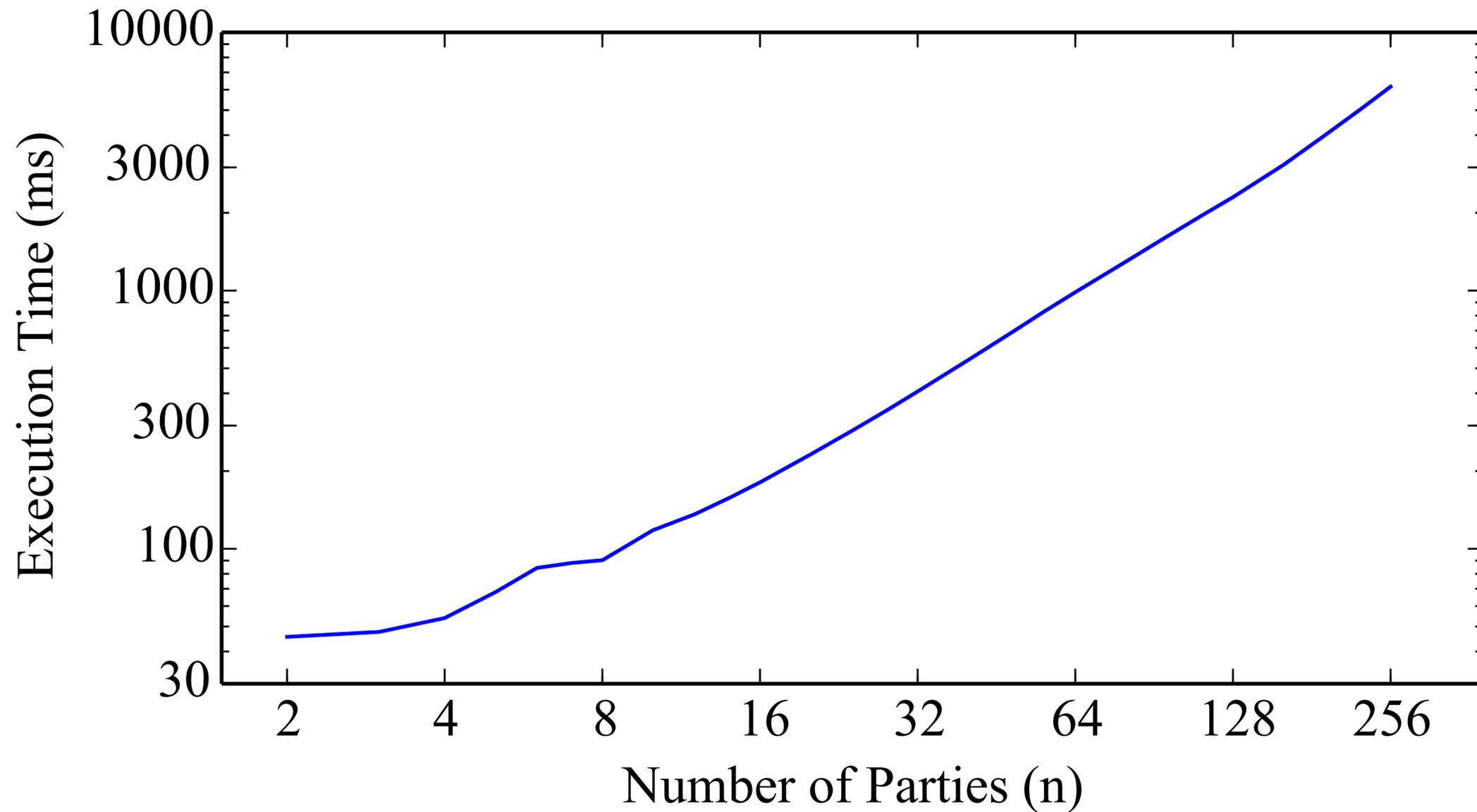
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- Implementation in **Rust**
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- One node per party
- **LAN** and **WAN** tests (up to **16 zones**)

Benchmarks

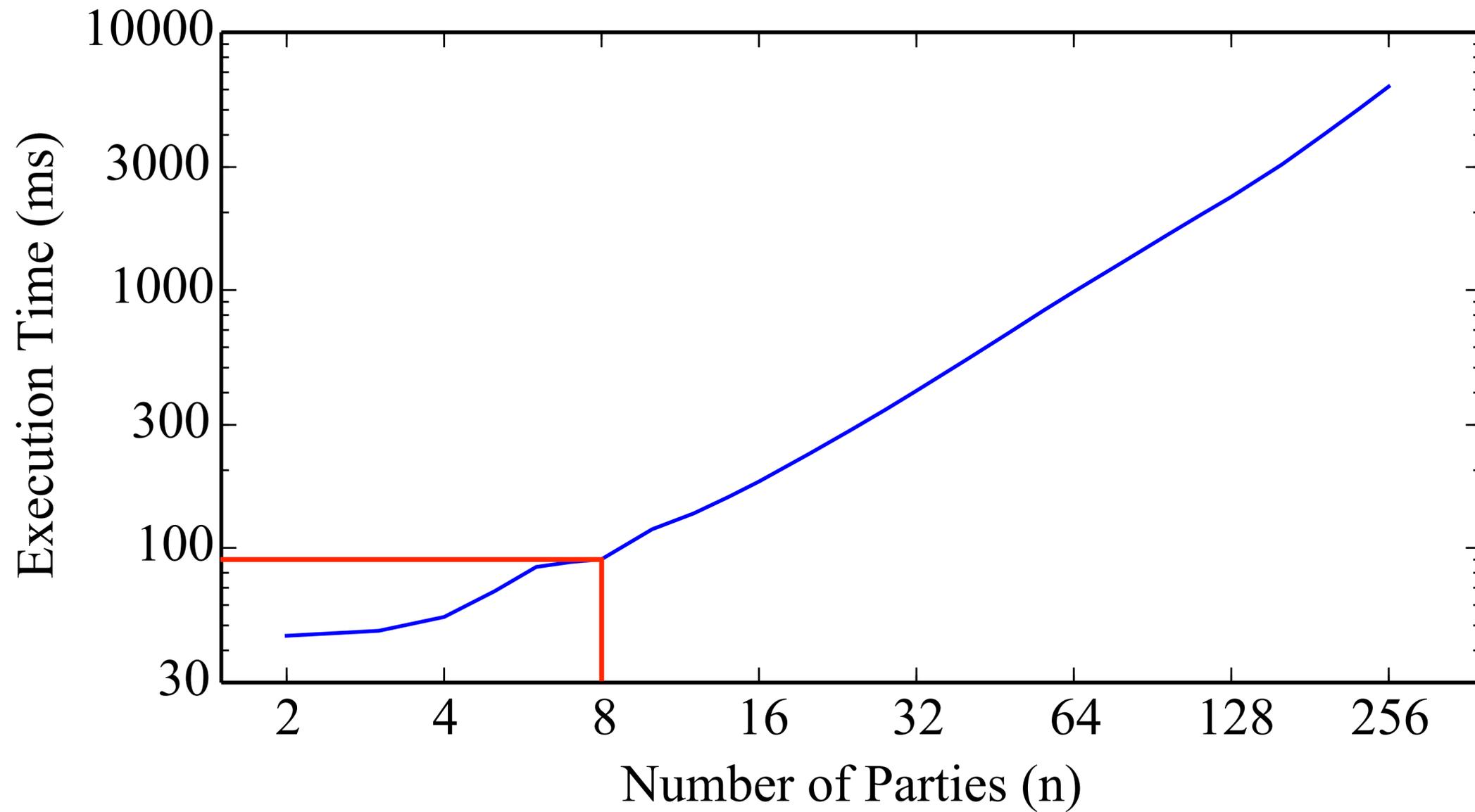
- Implementation in **Rust**
- Ran benchmarks on Google Cloud
- One node per party
- **LAN** and **WAN** tests (up to **16 zones**)
- **Low Power Friendliness:** Raspberry Pi (~93ms for 3-of-3)

LAN Setup



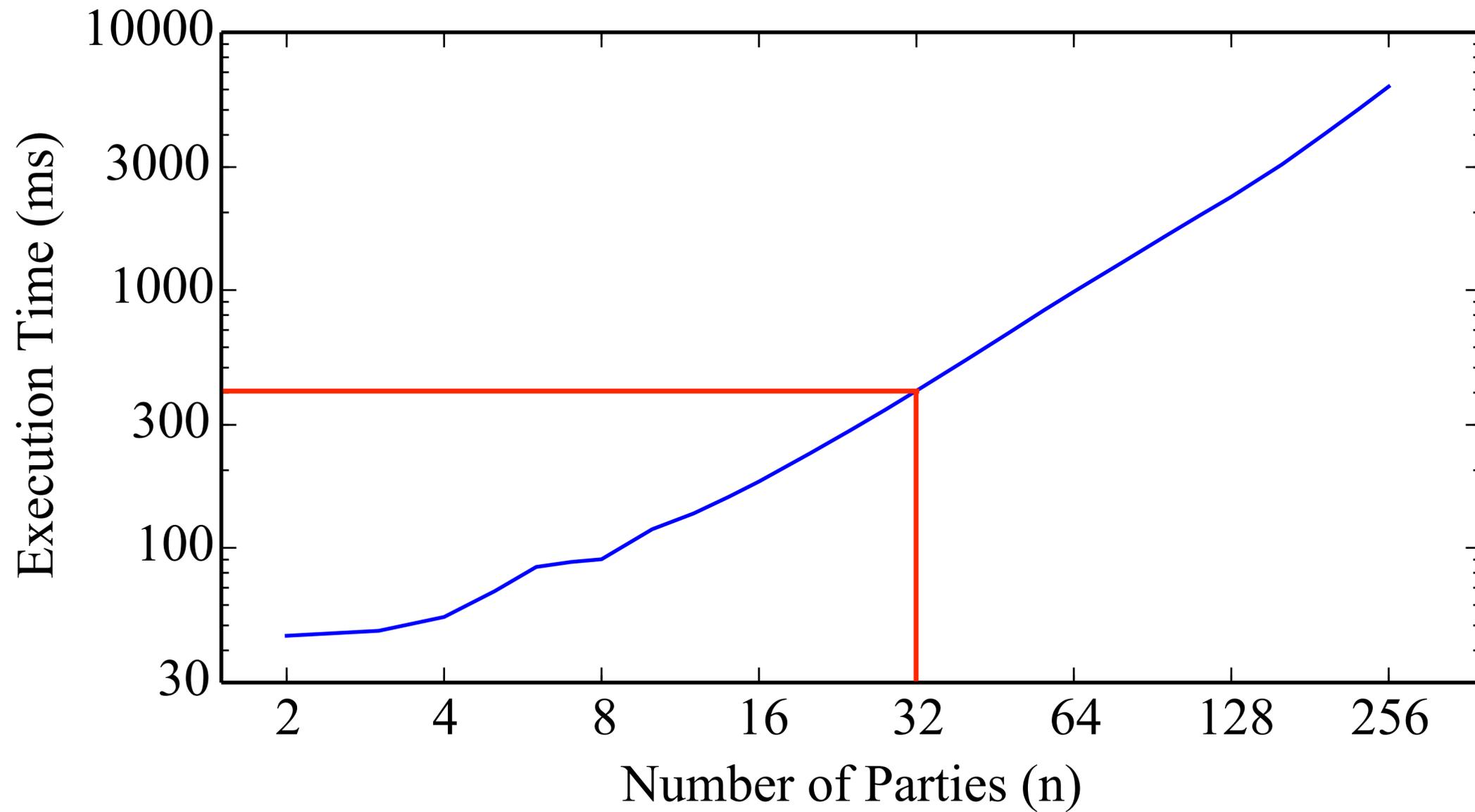
Broadcast PoK (DLog), **Pairwise**: 128 OTs

LAN Setup



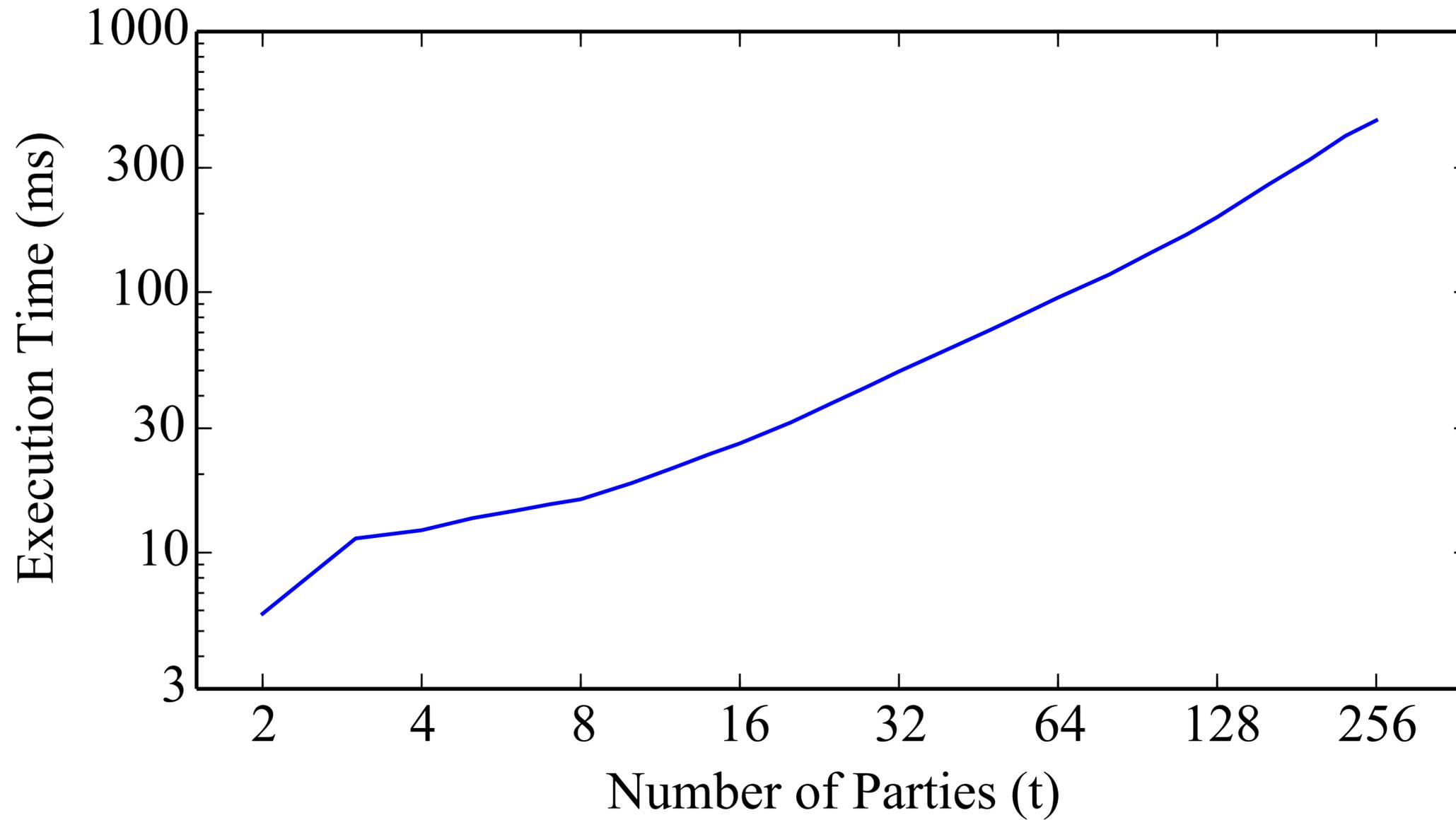
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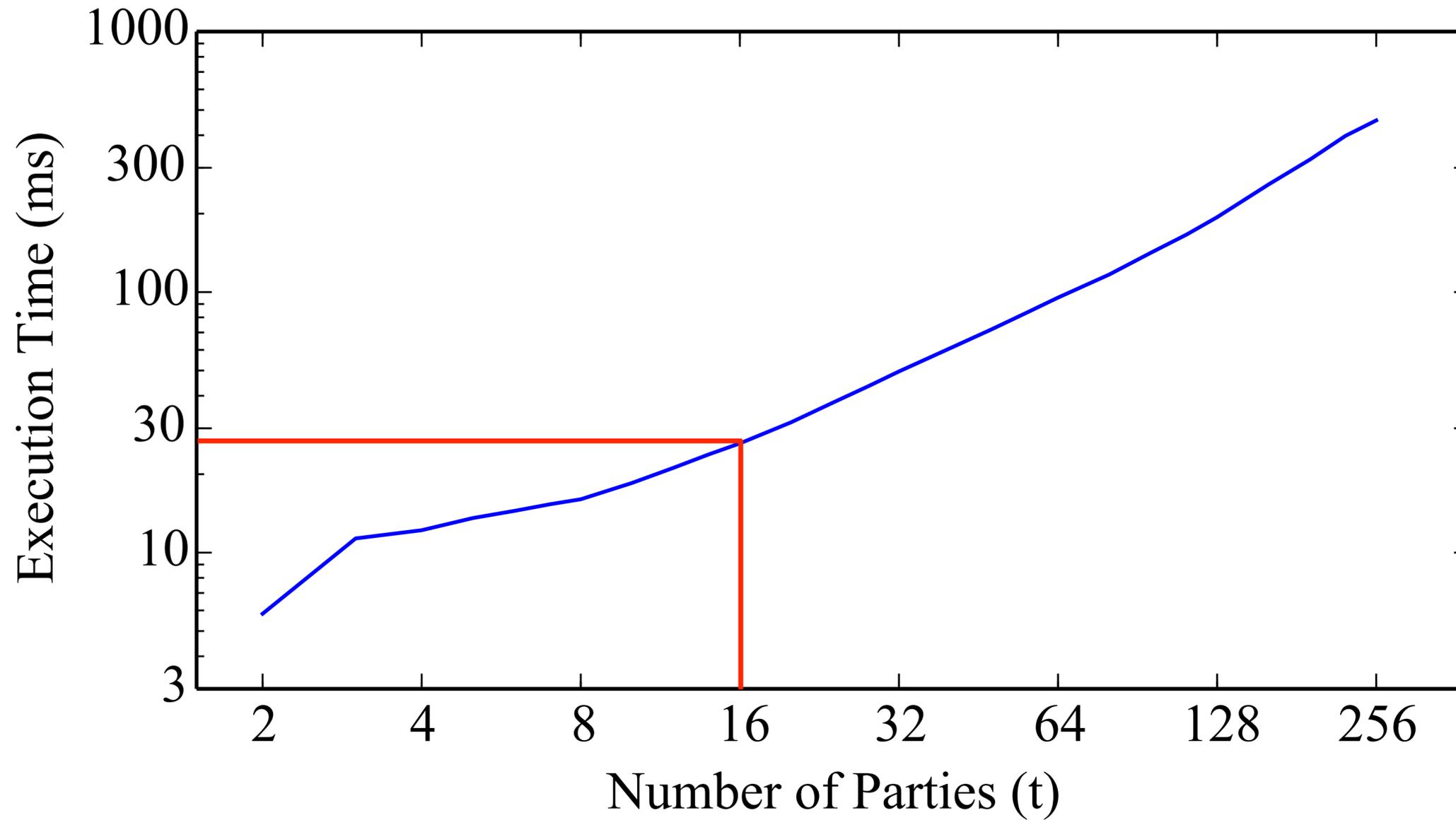


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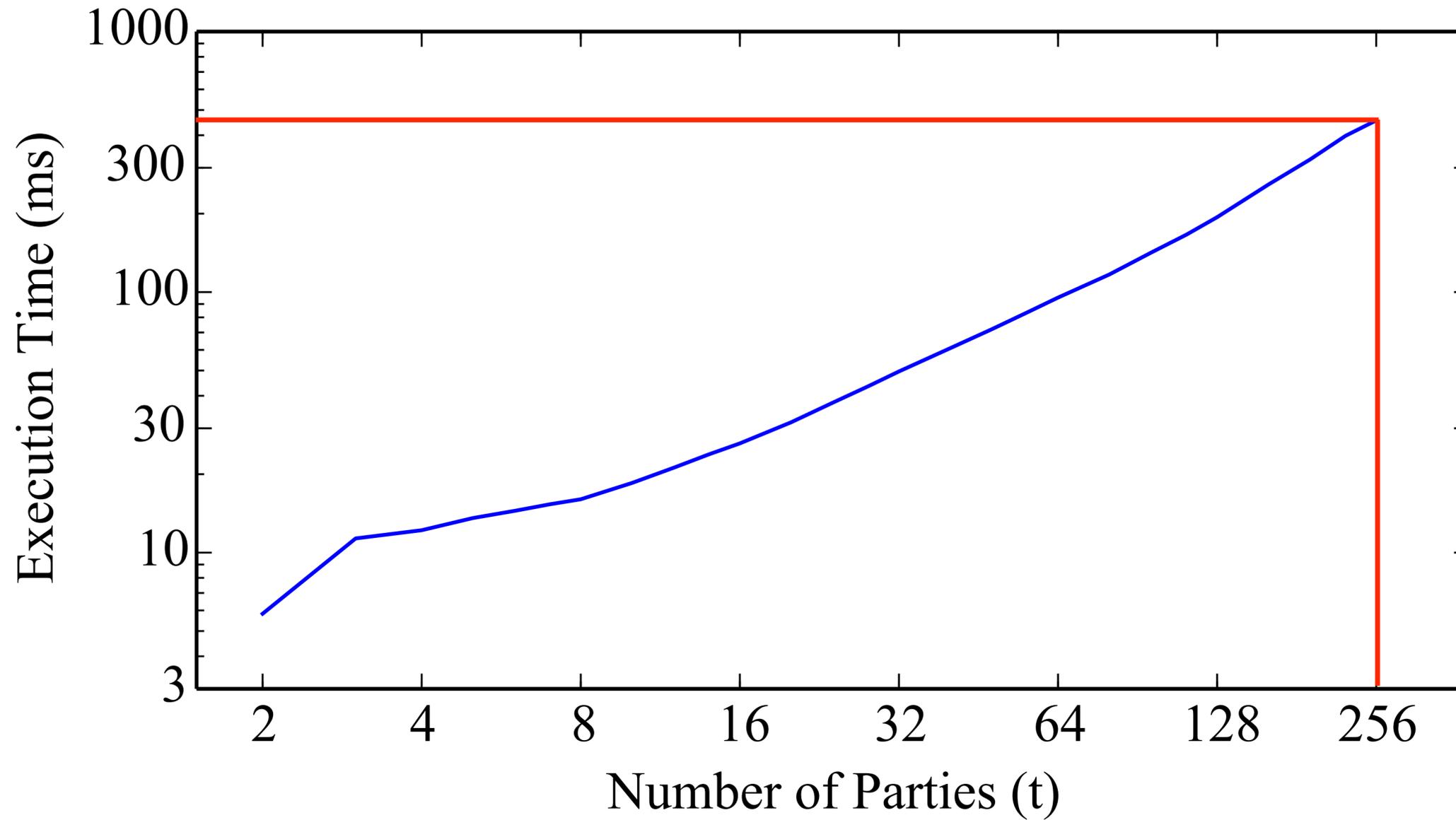
LAN Signing



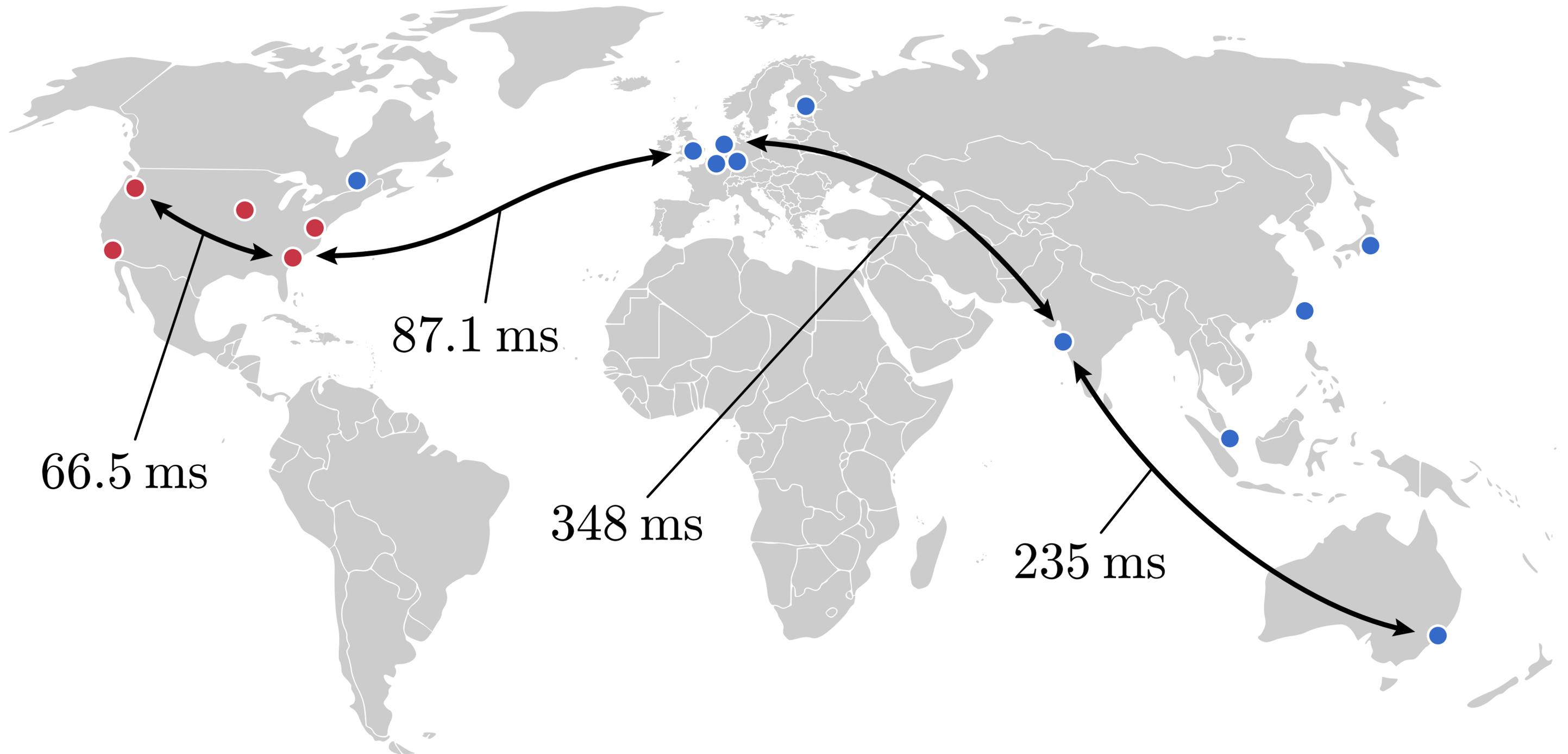
LAN Signing



LAN Signing



WAN Nodes



WAN Benchmarks

All time values in milliseconds

Parties/Zones	Signing Rounds	Signing Time	Setup Time
5/1	9	13.6	67.9
5/5	9	288	328
16/1	10	26.3	181
16/16	10	3045	1676
40/1	12	60.8	539
40/5	12	592	743
128/1	13	193.2	2300
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Comparison

All time figures in milliseconds

Protocol	Signing		Setup	
	$t = 2$	$t = 20$	$n = 2$	$n = 20$
This Work	9.5	31.6	45.6	232
GG18	77	509	–	–
LNR18	304	5194	~11000	~28000

Note: Our figures are wall-clock times; includes network costs

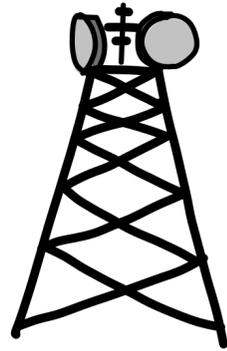
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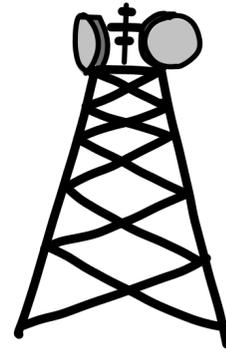
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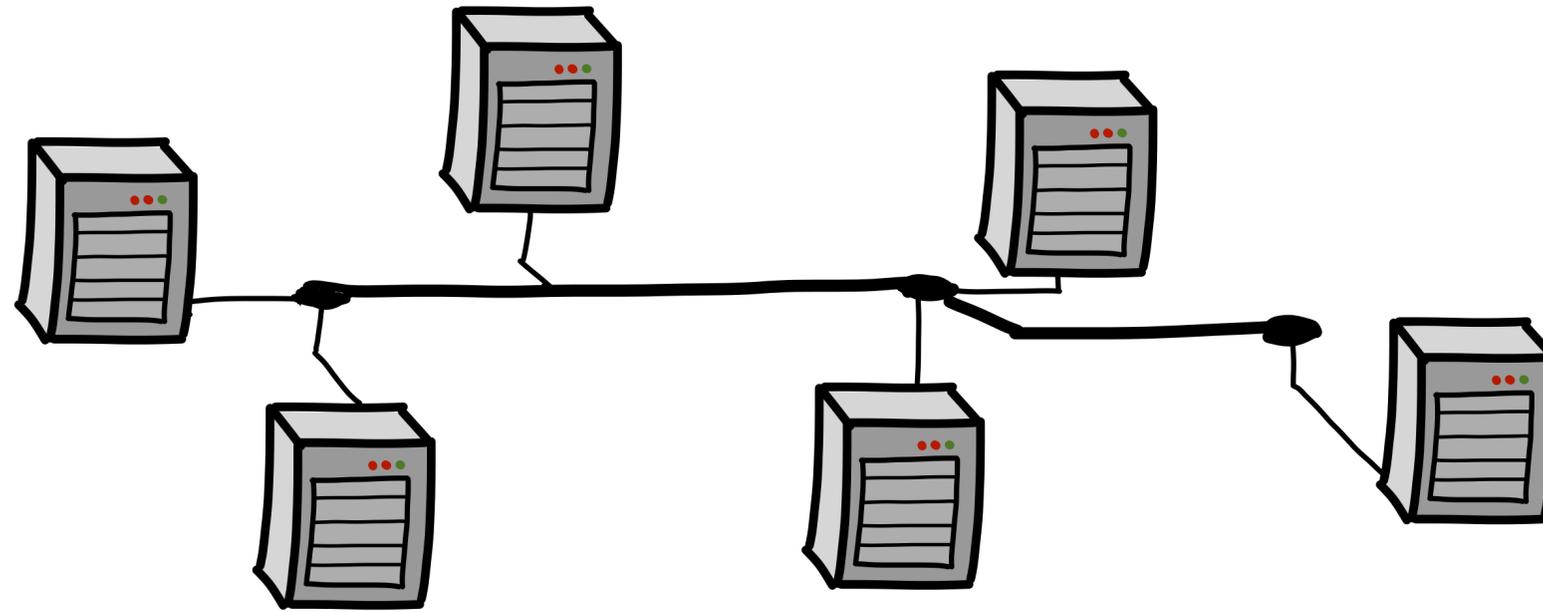
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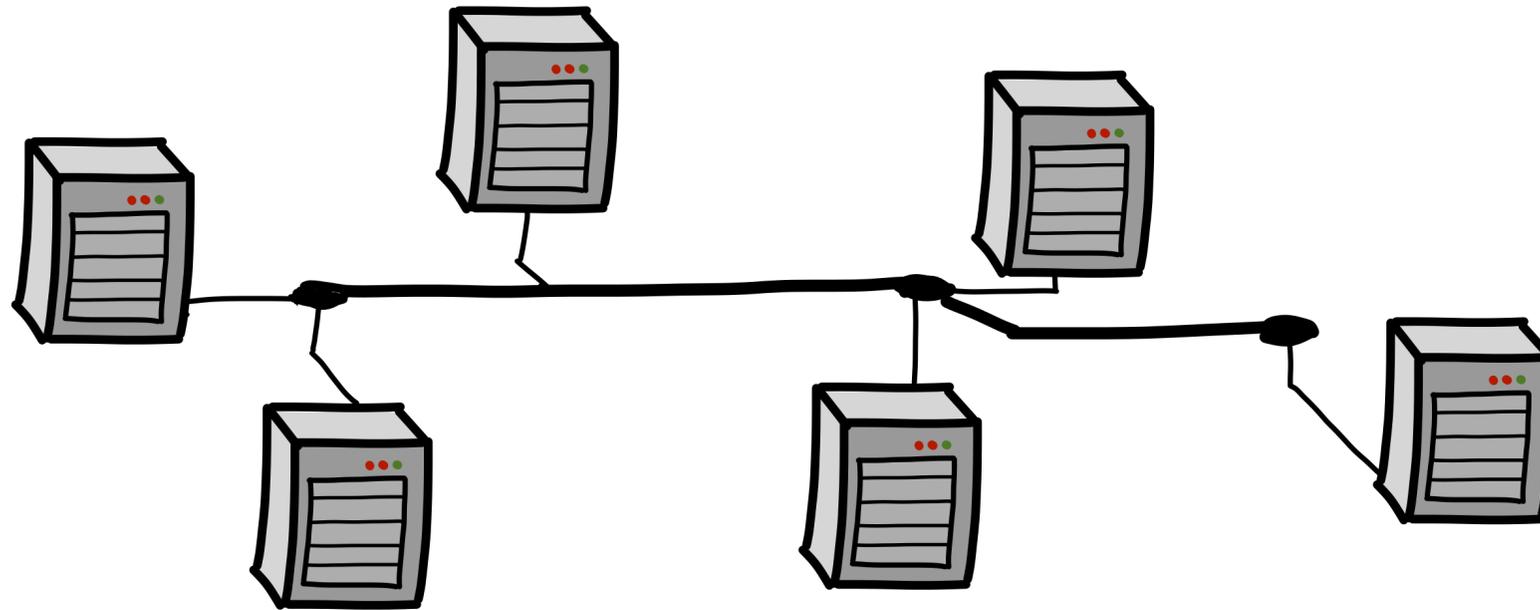


- **Mobile applications (human-initiated):**
 - eg. $t=4$, $<4\text{Mb}$ transmitted per party
 - Well within LTE envelope for responsiveness

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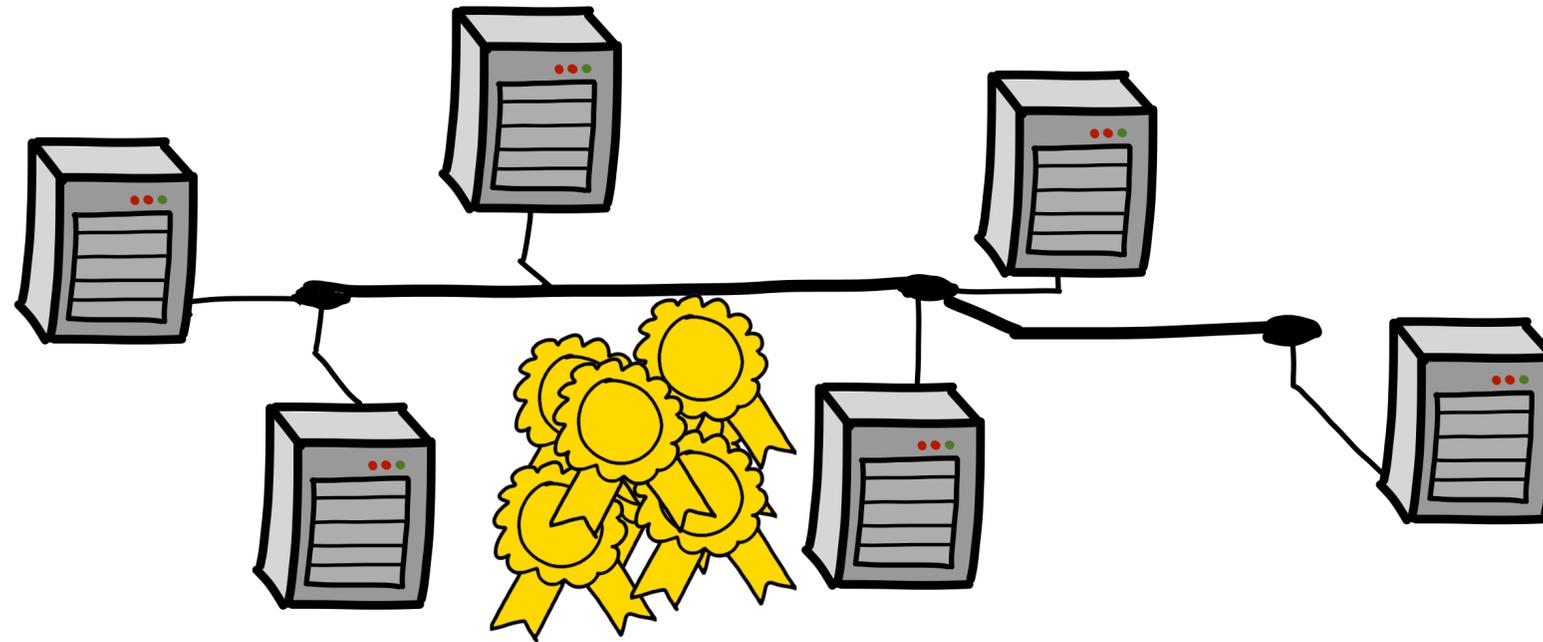


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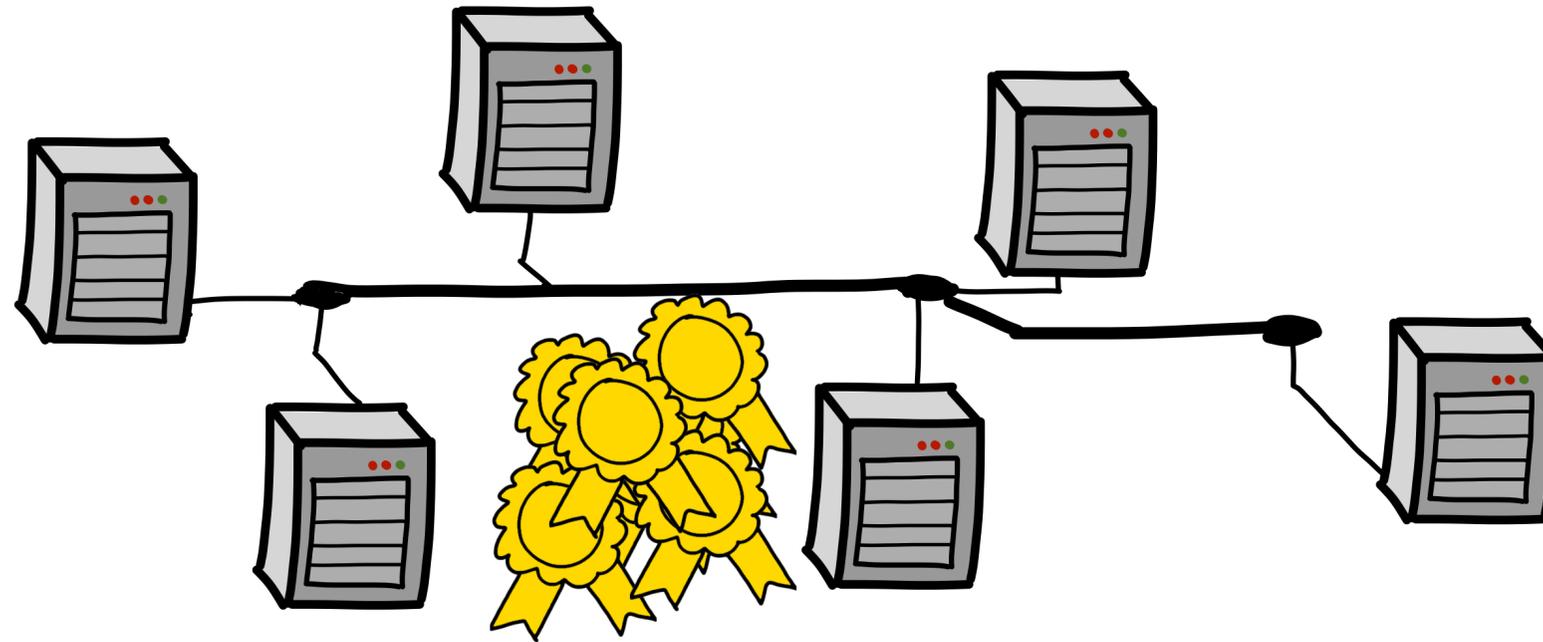
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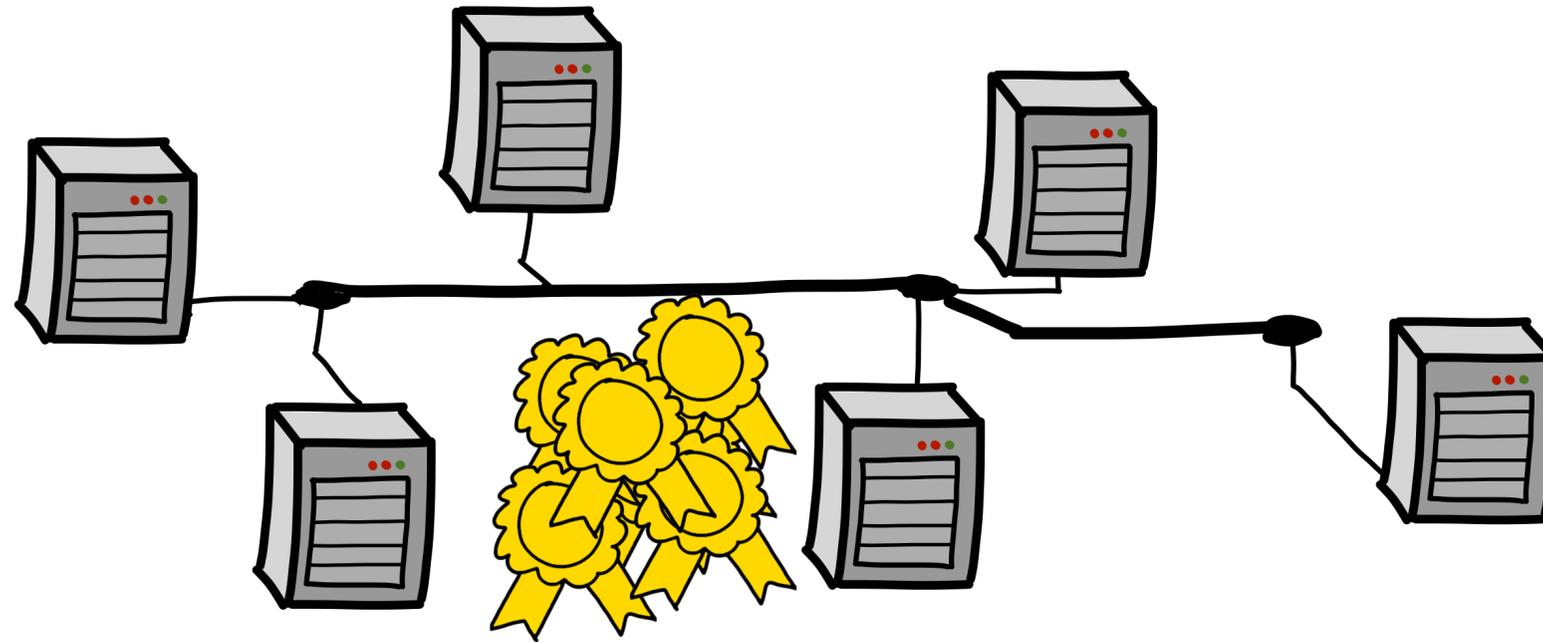
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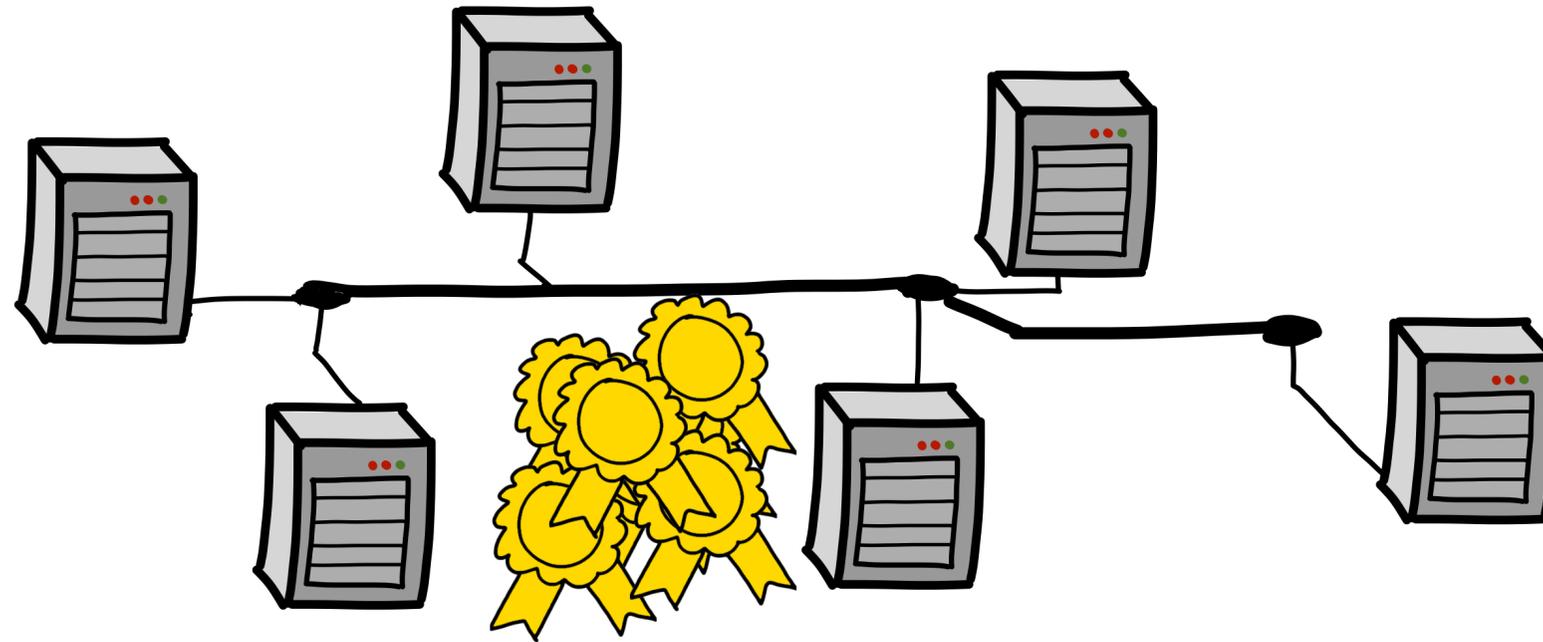
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- **Large-scale automated distributed signing:**
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- Both settings need **<500Mb** bandwidth

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- **Wall-clock times:** Practical in realistic scenarios

Thank you!

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