



Quantum Pseudorandomness
computational

FANG SONG

04/2025 @ BIRS, Banff

0. Quantum Randomness

Haar measure :

• γ : (Gaussian meas) $\forall S \subseteq \mathbb{C}^N$, $\gamma(S) = \int_S \exp(-\|x\|^2) d\nu(x)$

← n -qubits

• $\mu(S(\mathbb{C}^n))$: Haar-random states

$\forall A \subseteq S(\mathbb{C}^N)$

$B := \{x \in \mathbb{C}^N : x \neq 0 \text{ \& } \frac{x}{\|x\|} \in A\}$

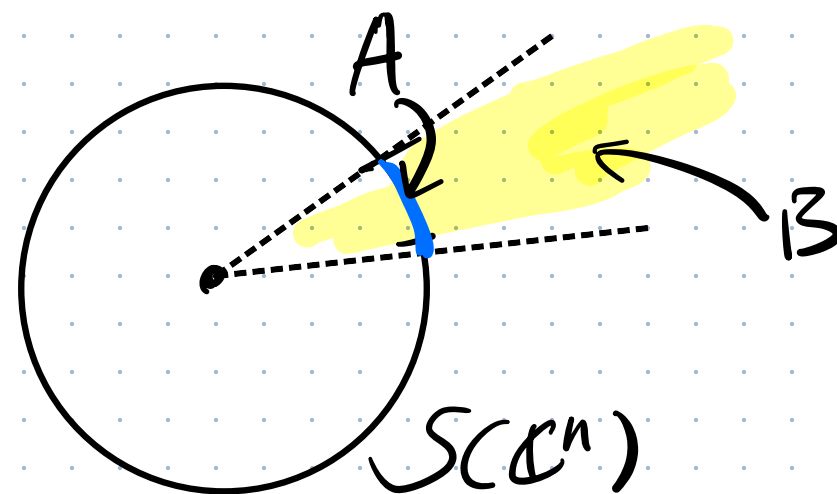
$\mu(A) := \gamma(B)$

← n -qubit unitary

• $\eta(U(\mathbb{C}^n))$: Haar-random unitary

$\forall A \subseteq U(\mathbb{C}^N)$

$\eta(A) := \gamma_{n^2}(\{ \text{vec}(X) : (X)_{n \times n}, \det(X) \neq 0, \overset{\text{Gram-Schmidt}}{\uparrow} \text{G.S.}(X) \in A \})$



Haar measure: ~~*~~ Operational def

• $\psi \leftarrow \mathcal{U}(S(\mathbb{C}^N))$

$\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_N \end{pmatrix}$: ① $\forall i, \alpha_i \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)$ indep.
② normalize

• $U \leftarrow \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{U}(\mathbb{C}^N))$

$\begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ \psi_1 & \dots & \psi_N \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$

• $\psi_i \leftarrow \mathcal{U}$ indep
(cond. on orthogonal.)

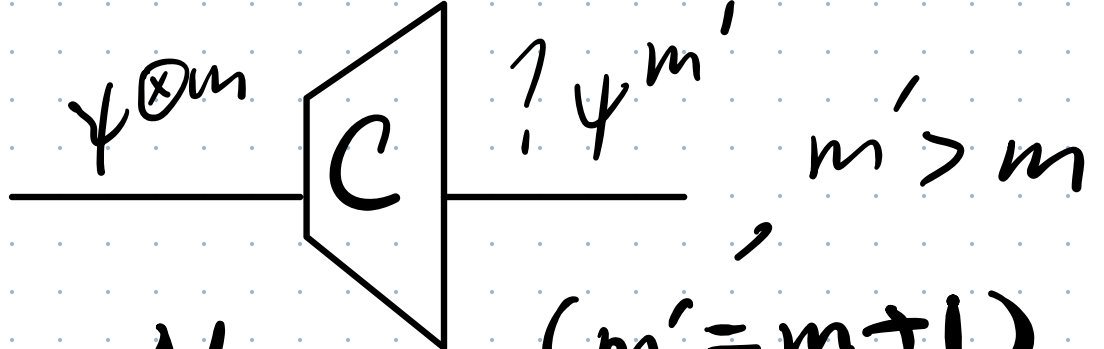
OR

• $\forall i,j \alpha_{ij} \leftarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)$

then Gram-Schmidt.

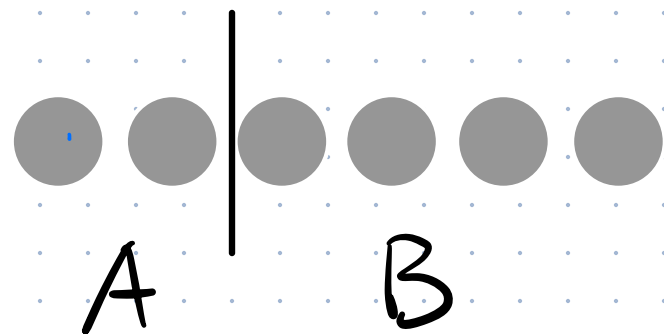
Haar measure: Properties of Haar States

- $$\mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \mu} (|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|)^{\otimes m} = \binom{N+m-1}{m}^{-1} \underbrace{\Pi_m^{\text{Sym}}}_{\substack{\text{Symmetric subspace } V^m \subset \mathbb{C}^N}} \quad \left(\mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \mu} (|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|) = \mathbb{I}/N \right)$$

- No-cloning [Werner'98]: 

$$\mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \mu} \langle C \psi^{\otimes m}, \psi^{m'} \rangle \leq \frac{N_m}{N_{m'}} = \frac{m}{N+m} \quad (m' = m+1)$$

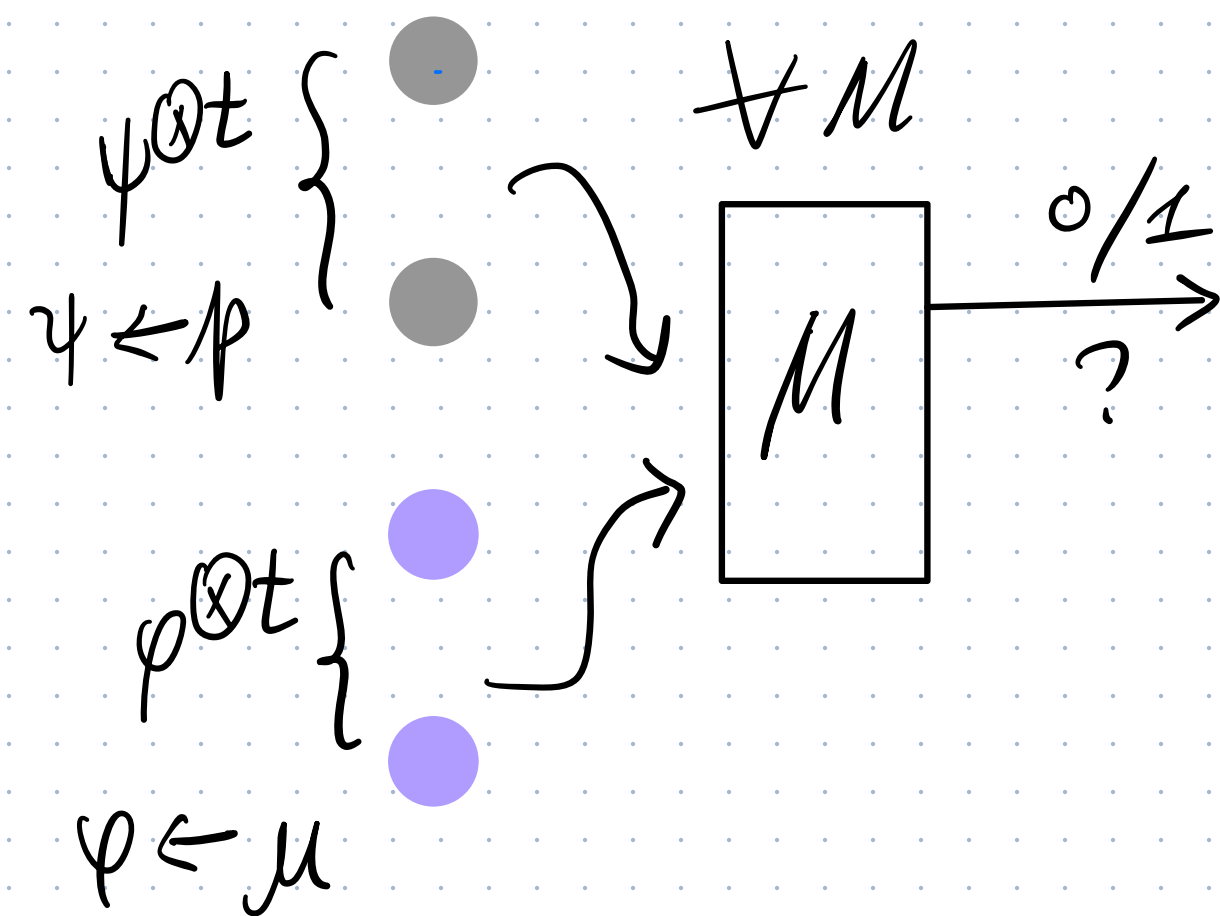
- High entanglement [Page'93]



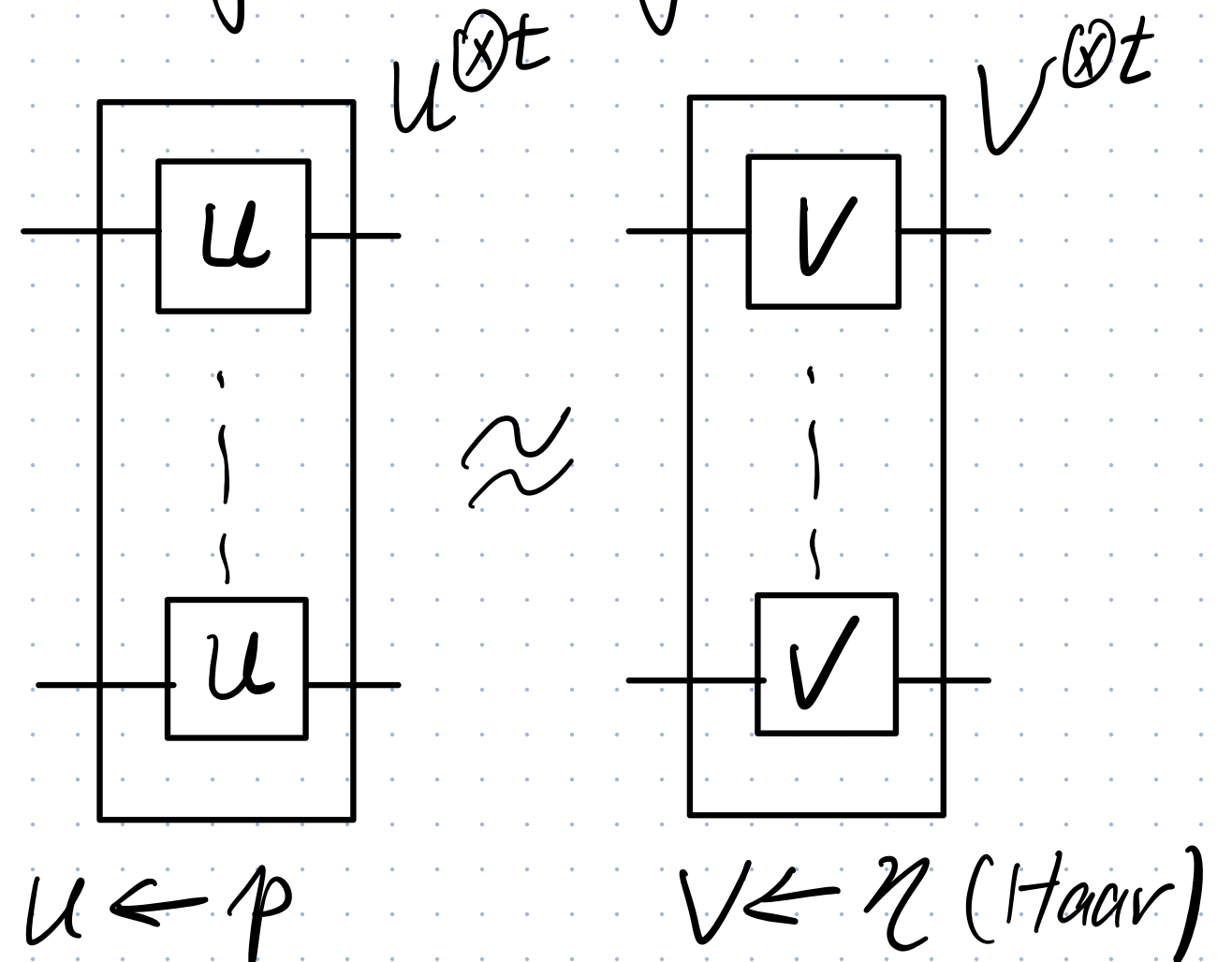
$$\mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \mu} S(P_A) > \log d_A - o(1)$$

Quantum pseudorandomness: t -designs

- p : efficient to sample
- State t -design p



- Unitary t -design p



Δ Apps: enc/auth, decoupling,
Randomized Benchmarking of NISQ

1. Computational Quantum Pseudorandomness

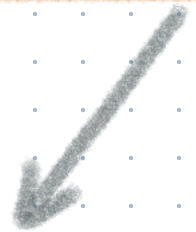
V0.1 [Ji Liu S'18]

How it started:

2015-2016

"non-local games"

"t-designs"



A cryptographic
version?



Defining Pseudorandom States (PRS)

- PRS family

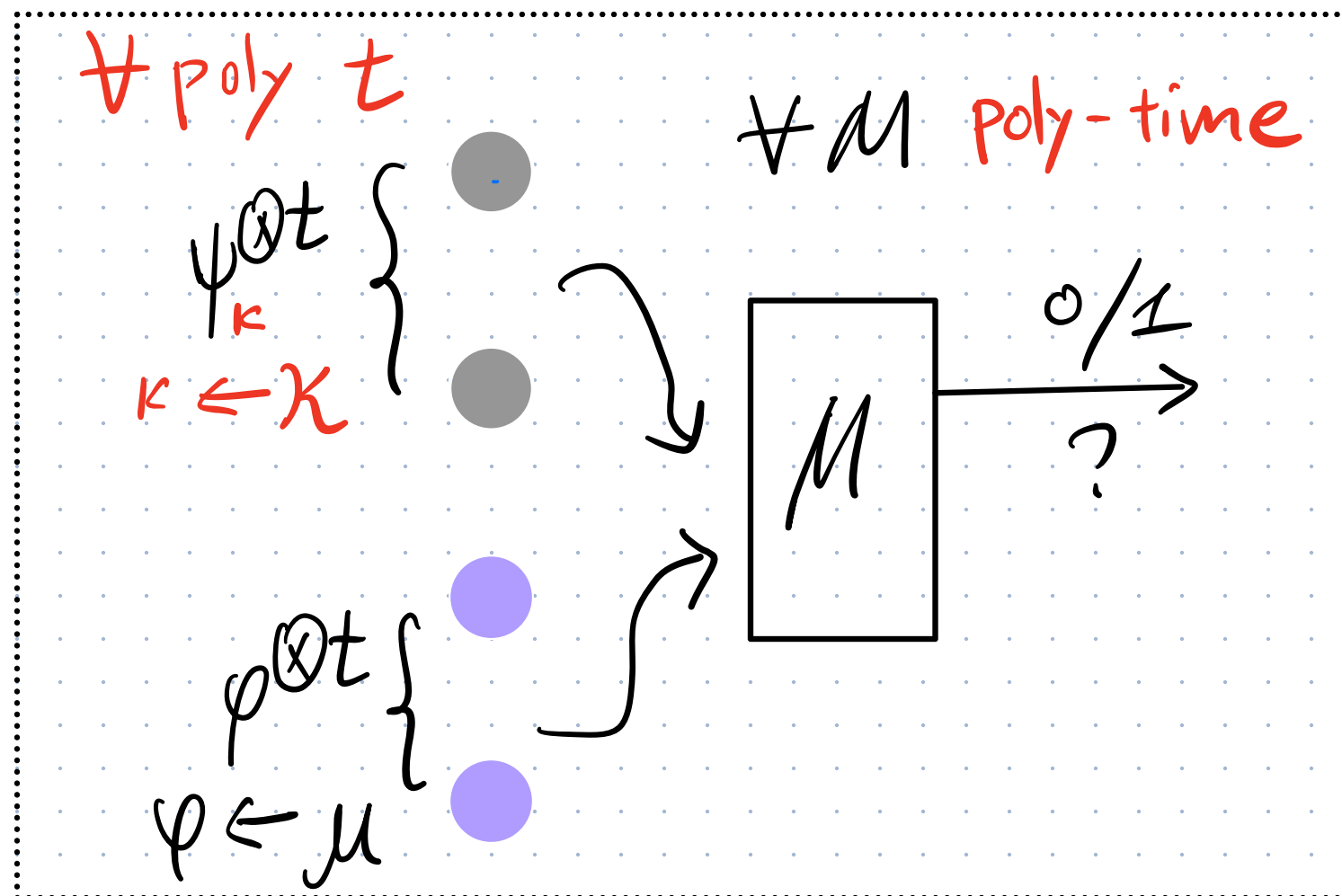
a. $\{\psi_k\} \approx_c \psi \leftarrow \mathcal{U}$

'''

Unitary family $\{U_k\}$

$\{U_k|0\rangle\} \approx_c \{V|0\rangle\}$

b. ψ_k eff. to prepare



- OBS. Single-copy trivial: random basis $|k\rangle$
(if long key is permitted)

$\forall \text{ poly-copy to } M$ both reasonable & useful

Constructing PRS

★ Randomizing technique 1: Random phase

$$|\psi_k\rangle \propto \sum \omega_{\underline{q}}^{F_k(x)} |x\rangle$$

$$\cdot \omega_{\underline{q}} = e^{2\pi i / \underline{q}}$$

$$\cdot \{F_k\} : \text{PRF}$$

$$\cdot \underline{q} = N = 2^n$$

$$\cdot \text{let } F_k: |x\rangle \mapsto \omega_{\underline{q}}^{F_k(x)} |x\rangle \leftarrow \text{efficient}$$

$$\cdot \{|\psi_k\rangle\} = \{U_k |0\rangle\} : U_k = F_k H$$

$$\cdot \text{special case: } |\psi_k\rangle = \sum (-1)^{F_k(x)} |x\rangle$$

Proving Security

★ Analyzing tech. 1: 1st principle (i.e. brute-force)

• Hybrid: $\{|\psi_k\rangle\} \approx_c \{|\psi_f\rangle := \sum \omega_N^{f(x)} |x\rangle\}$

• Explicit calculation of distance.

$$\forall t = \text{poly}(n), \mathbb{E}_f (|\psi_f \times \psi_f|)^{\otimes t} \approx \mathbb{E}_{\phi \leftarrow \mu} (|\phi \times \phi|)^{\otimes t}$$

OWF $\Rightarrow$ PRS

(Binary Phase [BS'19])

Another PRS Candidate

★ Randomizing technique 2: Random subset (permutation)

$$|\psi_k\rangle \propto \sum |P_k(x || 0^n)\rangle \quad \cdot \quad \{P_k\}: \text{PRP on } \{0,1\}^{2n}$$

$$\equiv \sum_{x \in S} |x\rangle \quad S \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$$

• Efficient: ✓

▽ Security?

Apps. of PRS

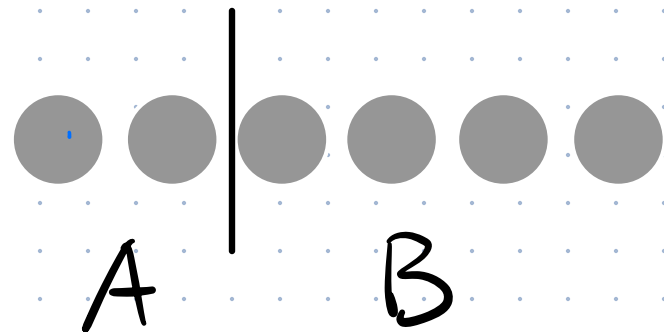
1. Computational no-cloning

$\Rightarrow$ Private-key QM : k : serial #
 $|\psi_k\rangle$: money (coin) state

Security: no-cloning given Verf. oracle

▷ Side tech.: simulating $R_\psi = I - 2|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ w. 14×14

2. "High" Entanglement

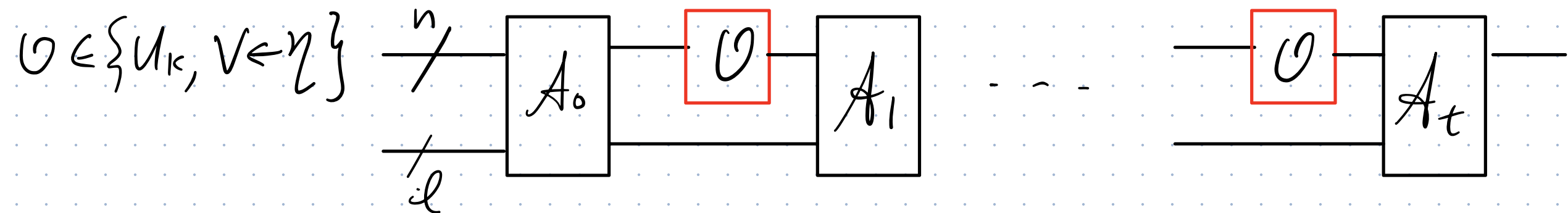


$$\mathbb{E}_k S(\rho_k^A) \geq \omega(\log n)$$

what about PRUs?

DEF. Efficient Unitary family $\{U_k\}$

$\forall$ poly t , $\forall$ poly-time $A = (A_0, \dots, A_t)$

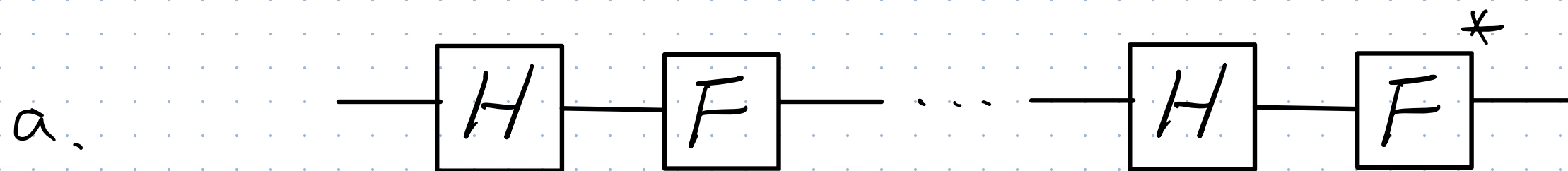


$$\mathbb{E}_{k \leftarrow \mathcal{K}} A^{U_k} \approx \mathbb{E}_{V \leftarrow \eta} A^V$$

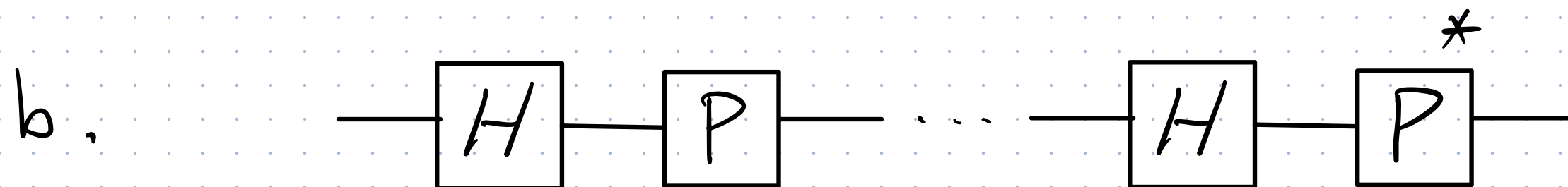
Strong PRU: U can be inverse $U_k^\dagger / V^\dagger$ too.

what about PRUs?

- Candidates in [JLS'18]



Yi-Kai's conj: one-&-half i.e. FHF'



*: indep. keys

Recap: at the dusk of v.o.1

? Provable
PRU

A

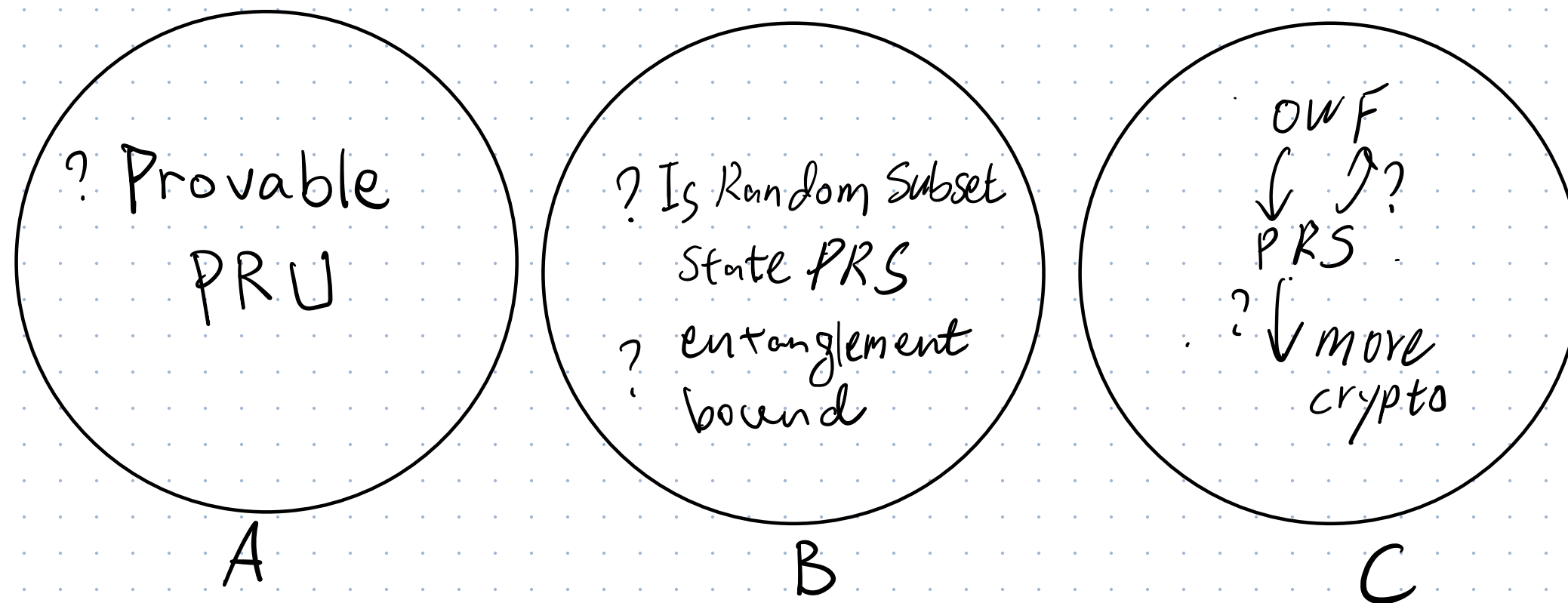
? Is Random Subset
State PRS
? entanglement
bound

B

OWF
↓ ↑?
PRS
? ↓ more
crypto

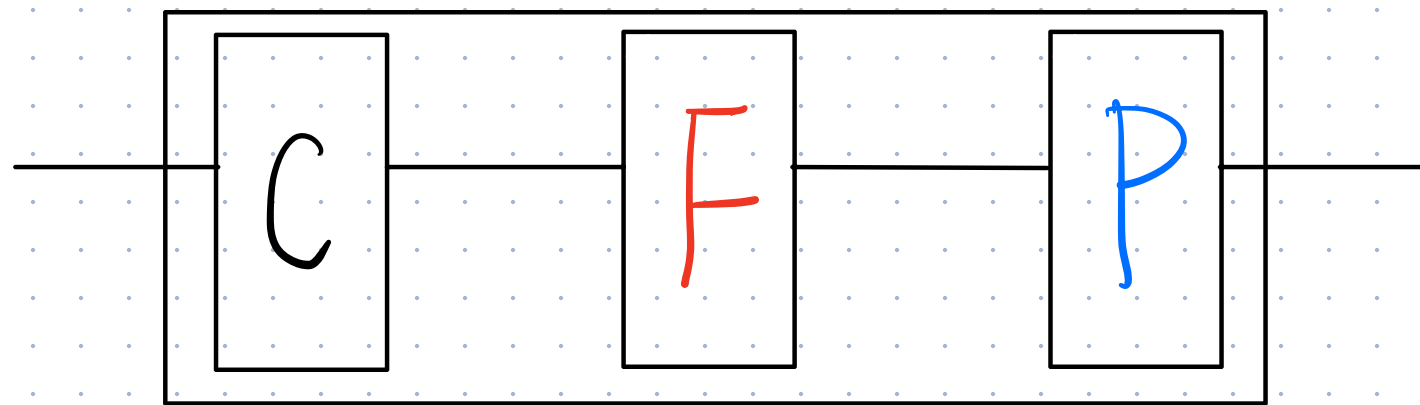
C

2. QPR: V0.1 $\longrightarrow$ V1.0



& beyond

V1.0 PART A : Provable PRU



C: R. Clifford (2-design)

F: R. phase

$(F_k: |x\rangle \mapsto \omega_q^{F_k(x)} |x\rangle)$

P: R. perm.

$(P_k: |x\rangle \mapsto |P_k(x)\rangle)$

[MPSY'24]

non-adaptive PRU

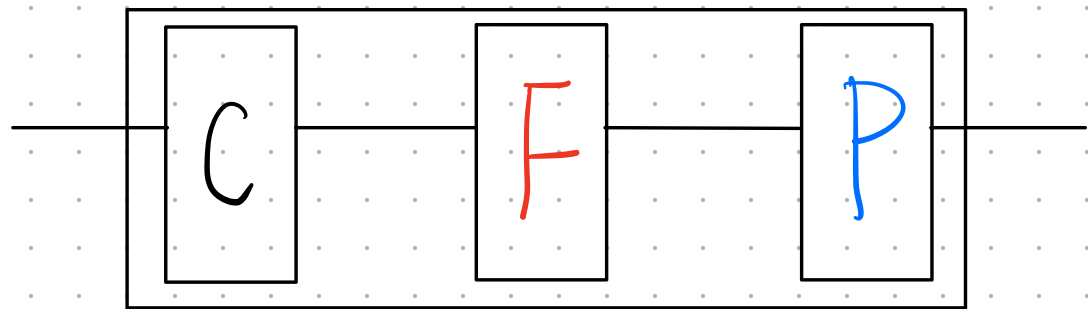
→ Analysis: 1st principle (rep. theory...)

[MH'24]

adaptive & strong PRU

$(CFPC')$
↖ 273

V1.0 PART A : Provable PRU



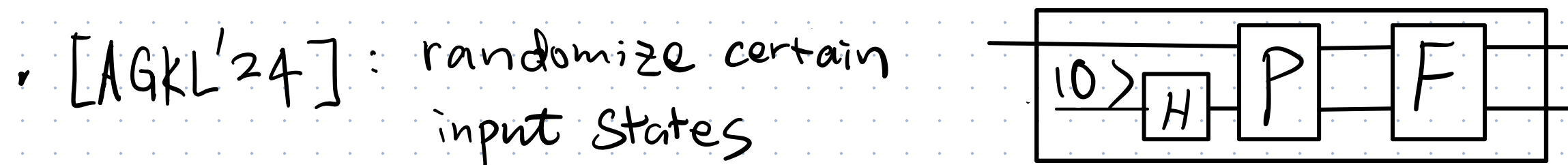
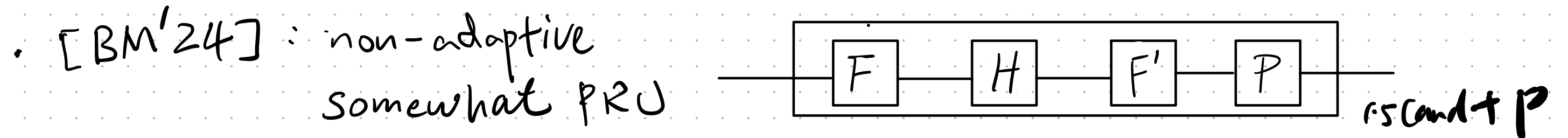
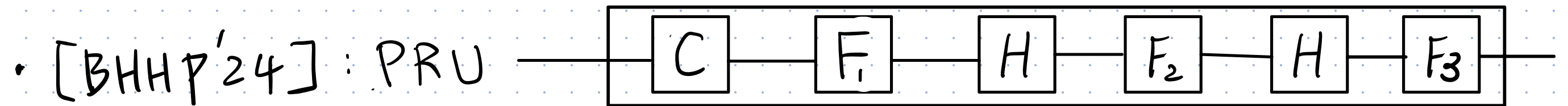
[MH'24] *adaptive & strong* PRU

★ $\rightarrow$ Analyzing tech. 2 : *efficient simulation*
(Fermi's talk next) of random Unitary
(PATH-Resampling)

- [AMR'20]: stateful (inefficient) simulation

Other developments

$C + 2.5 \text{ rand } 1$



ALL follow R. phase + R. permutation paradigm.

• [LQSYZ'23 '25]: Parallel Kaz Walk

★ new randomizing strategy & proof tech.

Kac Walk ★ Randomizing technique 3

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_N \end{pmatrix}$$

① Sample random coordinate pair (i, j)

—————→ $\tilde{v}$

② Sample 2-D Haar - V

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_i \\ v_j \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{V} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{v}_i \\ \tilde{v}_j \end{pmatrix}$$

• Ghem [PS'17] Kac Walk $\rightsquigarrow \mu(\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{C}^N))$ in $O(N \log N)$ steps.

★ Analyzing technique 3: Rapid mixing

Parallel Kac Walk

- Mixing in $N \log N \rightarrow \log N$: N steps in one-shot?

• $\leadsto$ **Parallel** Kac Walk [LQSYZ'23]

① R. pairing $i_1 \dots i_{N/2}$
 $j_1 \dots j_{N/2}$

② R. each pair, indep.

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{i_k} \\ v_{j_k} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{V_k} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{v}_{i_k} \\ \tilde{v}_{j_k} \end{pmatrix}$$

• Thm: $\text{PKAC} \rightsquigarrow \mu(S(\mathbb{C}^N))$ in $O(\log N)$

Pf: A new coupling argument

Parallel Kac Walk

→ (Pseudo) Random State Scrambler (P)RSS $\{R_k\}$

$$\forall \psi, \text{ poly } m, \mathbb{E}_k (R_k |\psi\rangle)^{\otimes m} \approx \mathbb{E}_{V \leftarrow \mathcal{U}} (V |\psi\rangle)^{\otimes m}$$

(vs. PRS. fixed input state, may fail elsewhere)

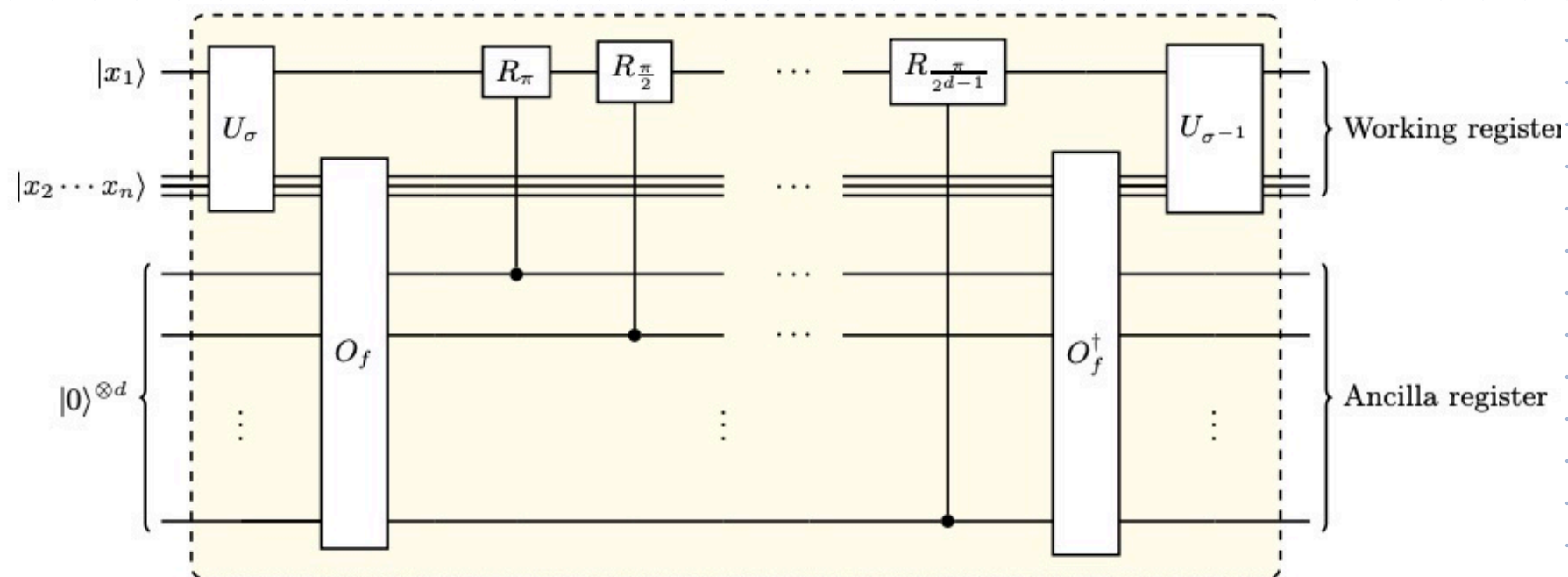
★ "Dispersing": $\{PKAC_k |\psi\rangle\}$ is an ϵ -net in $S(\mathbb{C}^N)$

• Q2KT Implementation

• Generalization:

t-level PRSS

$$\{R_k^{\otimes t} |\psi\rangle\} \approx \{V^{\otimes t} |\psi\rangle\}$$



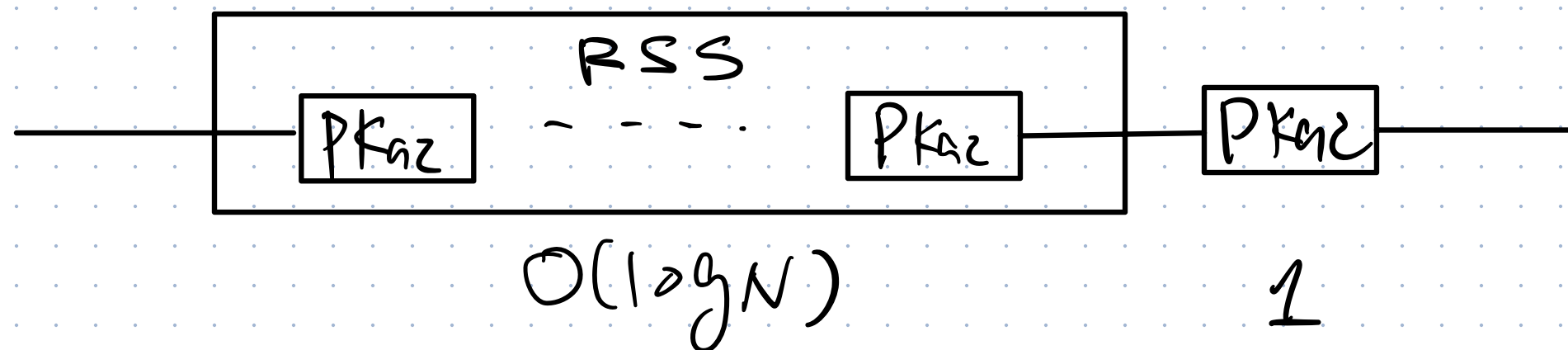
Parallel Kac Walk $\Rightarrow$ PRU?

• Thm [Oliveira'09]: Kac Walk $\rightsquigarrow$ Haar-U in $O(N^2 \log N)$

$\hookrightarrow$ Parallel Kac Walk $\dots O(N \log N)$

? mixing in $\text{polylog } N$ ($\Rightarrow$ PRU)

• YES, it's (strong) PRU by PATH-REC [ML'25]
(arxiv:2504.14957)



V1.0 PART A : Provable PRU

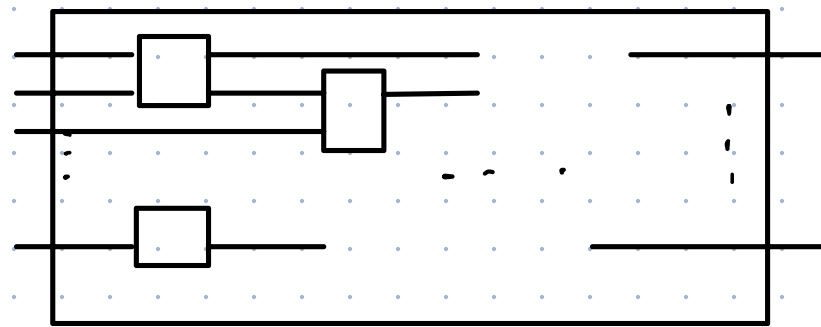
→ Beyond :

- Generic constructions (à la Luby-Rackoff) ?
C'PFC

- Killer apps of PRU ?
(that PRS, t-designs cannot)



- Random quantum circuits



PFC

RQC

PKAC

←
Structured

-----> Physics ?

V1.0 PART B

? Is Random Subset
State PRS
? entanglement
bound

B

$$|\psi_k\rangle \propto \sum |P_k(x||0^n)\rangle \equiv \sum_{x \in S} |x\rangle, \quad S \stackrel{!}{\subseteq} \{0,1\}^n$$

Thm [ABFGVZZ'24, JMSW'24]

$$\text{err} \frac{m}{\sqrt{s}} + \frac{s \cdot m}{d}$$

$\{\psi_k\}$ is PRS. $\forall t = \omega(\text{poly}(n)), \quad t < s < N/t,$

$\Rightarrow$ Ent. entropy can be tuned: $(\omega(\log n), O(n))$

- Pseudoentanglement:
 - $\{\psi_k\} \approx \{\phi_k\}$
 - $\{(\psi_k, \phi_k)\}$
 - entropy gap.

$\rightarrow$ Potentially useful in AdS/DFT.

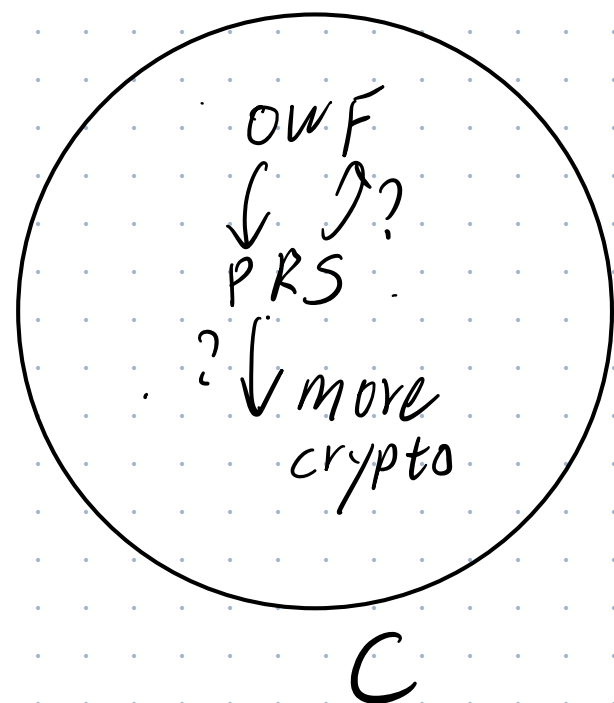
V1.0 PART B

→ Beyond: Computational lens to physics

- Computational Entanglement theory
[ABV'23, LREJ'25]
- pseudo-magic [GLGEYQ'24]
- pseudo-resource [GY'25]
- pseudo-thermalization
- Quantum gravity [BFV'19]

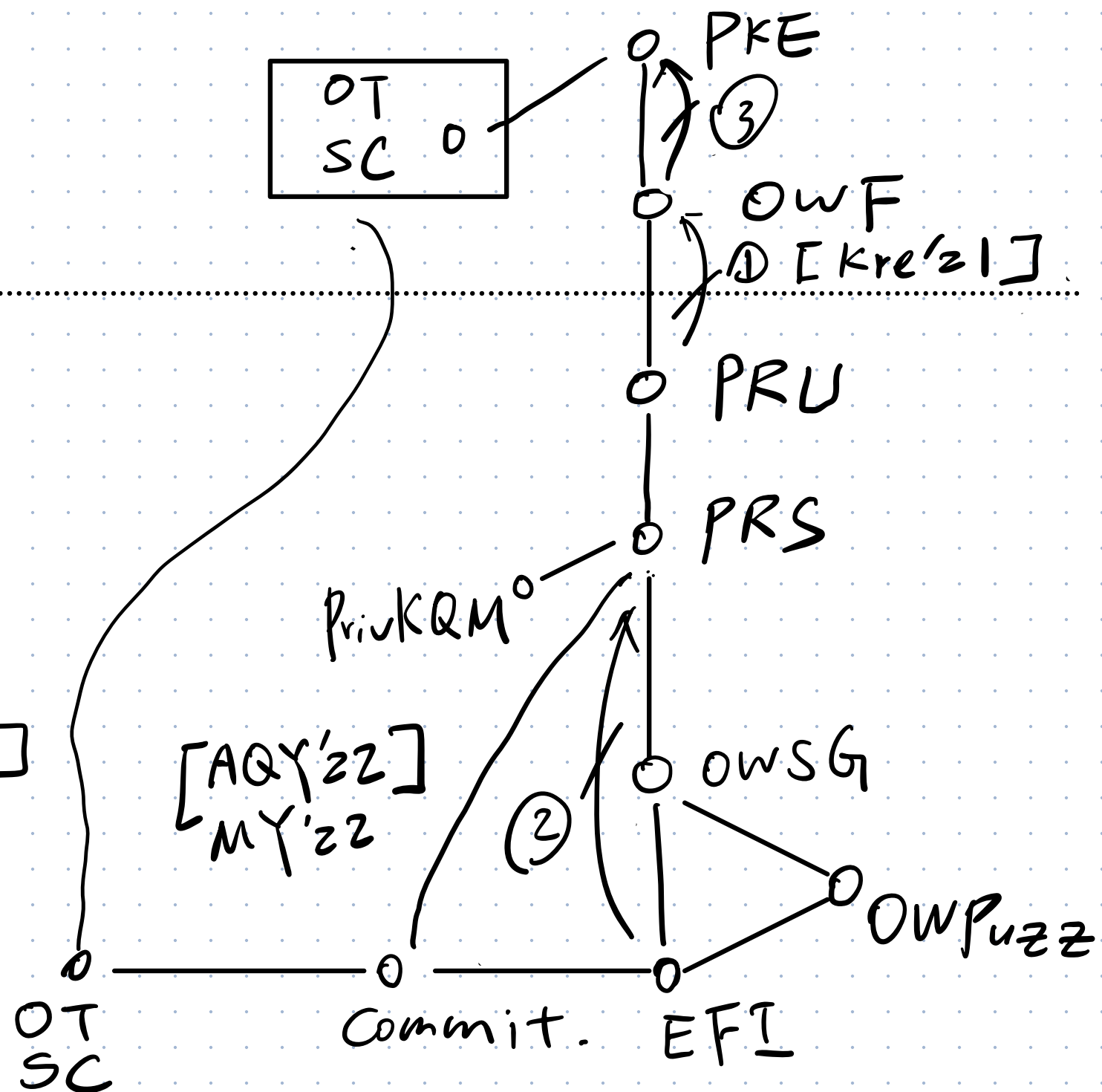
V1.0 PART C

A new QCRYPTO Landscape



Oracle Separation

- ① $P=NP, \exists QC-OWF$ [KQT'25]
- ② $\exists \text{comm}, !\exists PRS$ [CCS'25 ++]
 ✓ 14) $\rightarrow R_{14}$ useful!
- ③ $\exists OWF, !\exists QPKE$ [LLL'25]
 w/classical Key



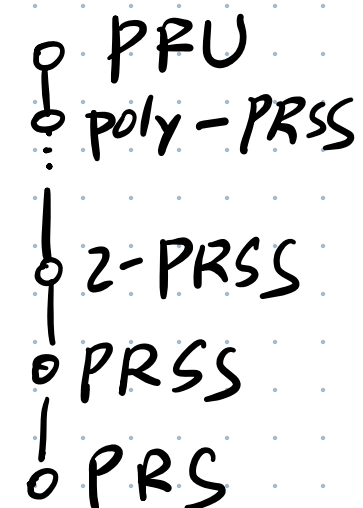
V1.0 PART C

→ Beyond:

1. More Separations

→ unified oracles?

→ Pseudo-random Hierarchy



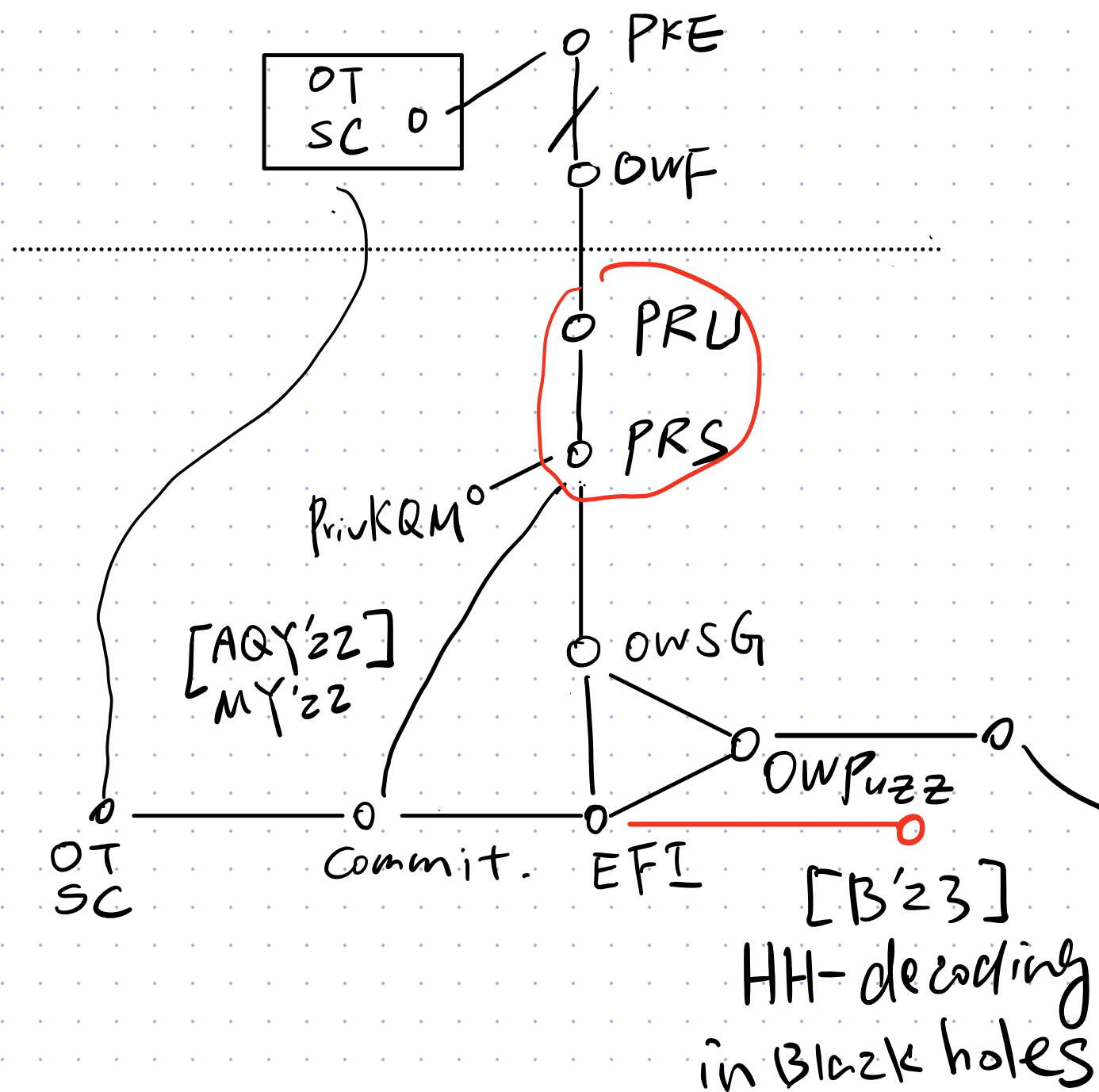
→ A unifying primitive:
[SW'14] $\text{io} + \text{owf} \Rightarrow \text{PKE}$. → Quantum?

2. Complexity foundations

→ Minimal assumptions?

[KT'25, HM'24, CGGH'25]
Sampling, Meta-complexity.

→ New Q complexity theory
[BEMPQY'24, CCHS'24]



Quantum Pseudorandomness

V0.1 $\rightarrow$ V1.0

★ Randomizing methods: R. Phase, R. subset, Kaz-like
(π)

Analyzing methods: 1st principle, PATH-Recording, Rapid Mixing

$\rightarrow$ V2.0?

A. Post-PRU

B. Comp. lense to physics

C. Brave-new QCRYPTO

