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# Selected Security And Privacy Challenges of Implementing Distance Bounding Protocols

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# Two problems

## Claim

Implementing Distance Bounding **correctly** is “difficult”

Two of the reasons are that it is hard to make a DB protocol that

- does not leak the (relative) location of the users to others.
- complies with the rigours timing constraints necessary for a tight bound.

Simplified to

- Space
- Time

It turns out that the solution to these two problems might be the same.

# Location Privacy of Distance Bounding

# Distance leakage

Verifier



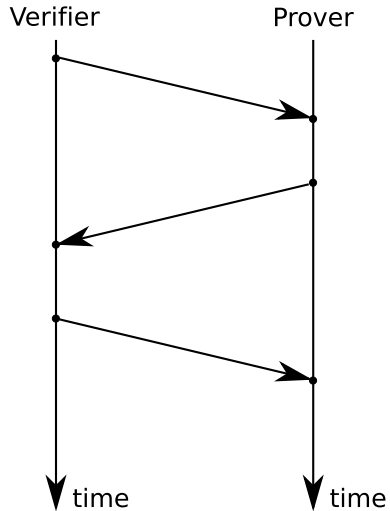
time

Prover

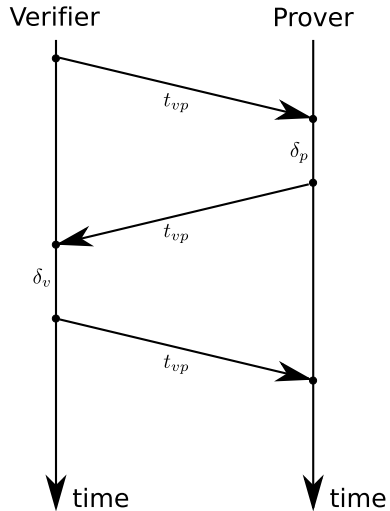


time

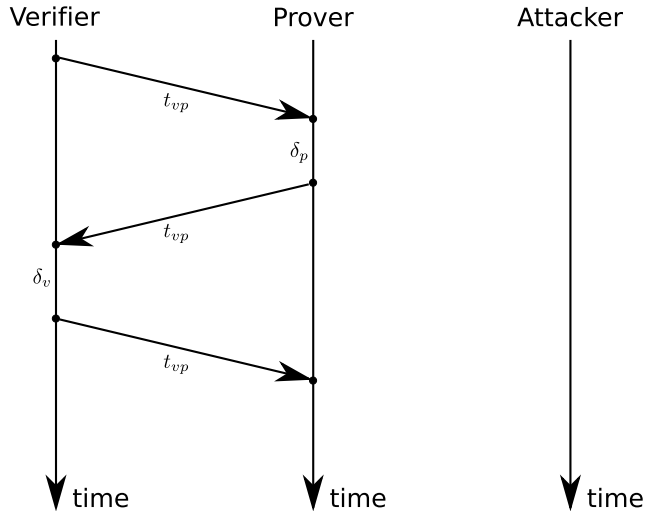
# Distance leakage



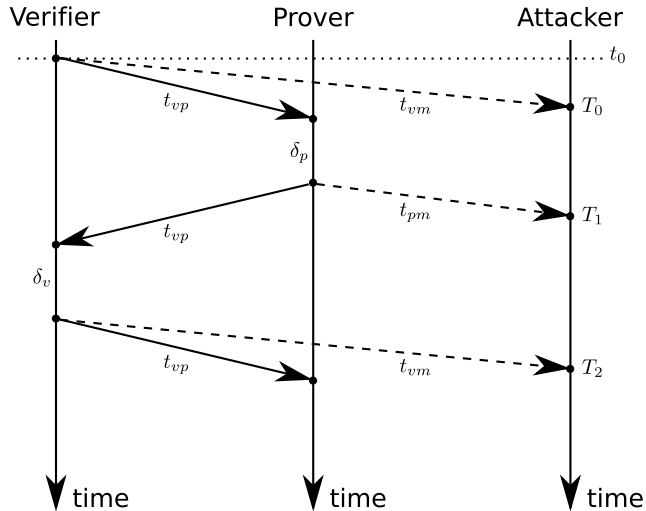
# Distance leakage



# Distance leakage

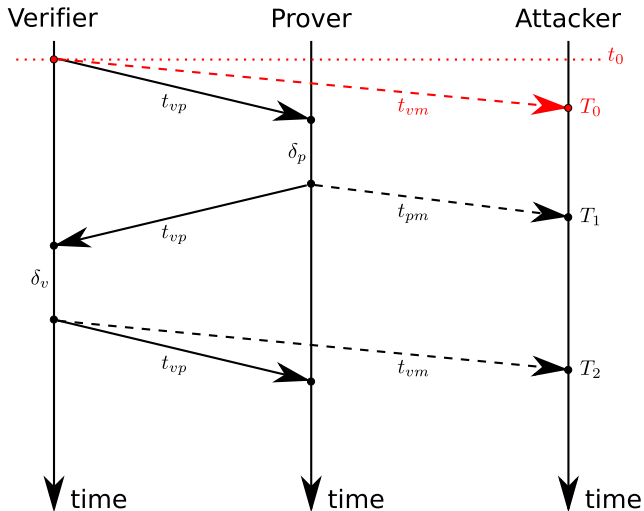


# Distance leakage



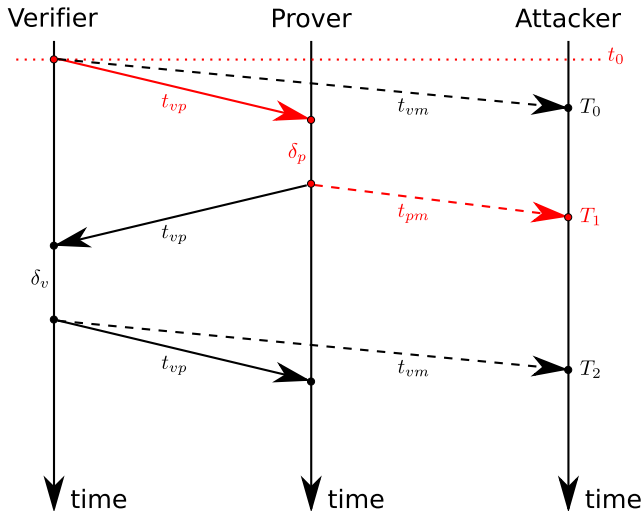


# Distance leakage



$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

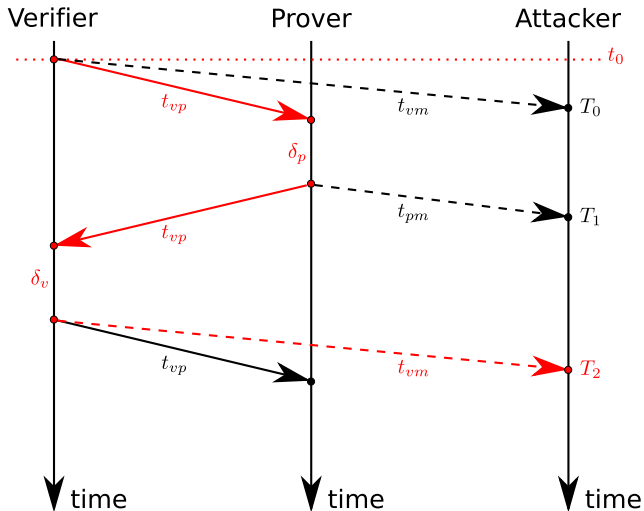
# Distance leakage



$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

$$T_1 = t_0 + t_{vp} + \delta_p + t_{pm}$$

# Distance leakage

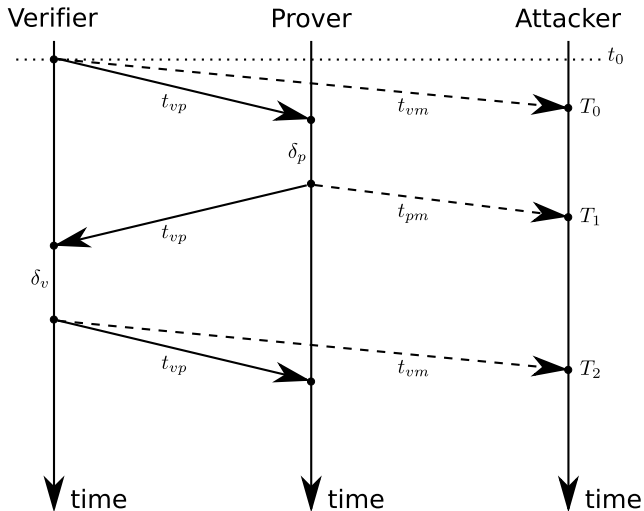


$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

$$T_1 = t_0 + t_{vp} + \delta_p + t_{pm}$$

$$T_2 = t_0 + 2t_{vp} + \delta_p + \delta_v + t_{vm}$$

# Distance leakage



$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

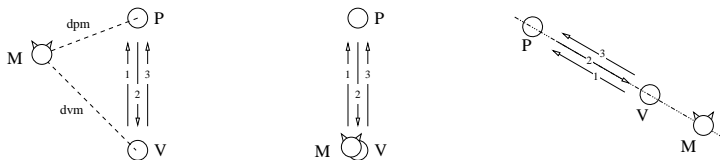
$$T_1 = t_0 + t_{vp} + \delta_p + t_{pm}$$

$$T_2 = t_0 + 2t_{vp} + \delta_p + \delta_v + t_{vm}$$

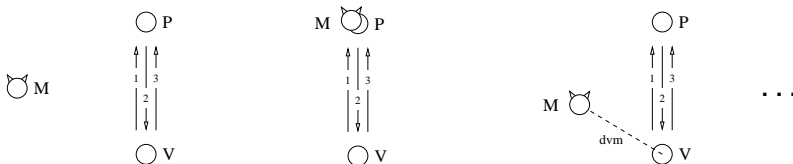
$$t_{vp} = \frac{(T_2 - T_0) - \delta_p - \delta_v}{2}$$

# Distance leakage (8 different scenarios)

- Attacker needs to capture two messages

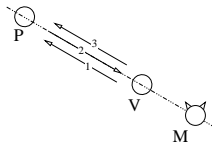
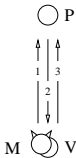
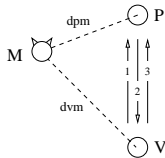


- Attacker needs to capture three messages

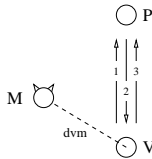
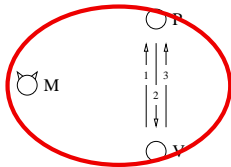


# Distance leakage (8 different scenarios)

- Attacker needs to capture two messages

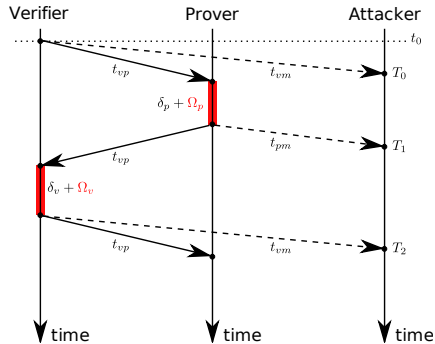


- Attacker needs to capture three messages



...

# Add random delay between messages?



$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

$$T_1 = t_0 + t_{vp} + \delta_p + \Omega_p + t_{pm}$$

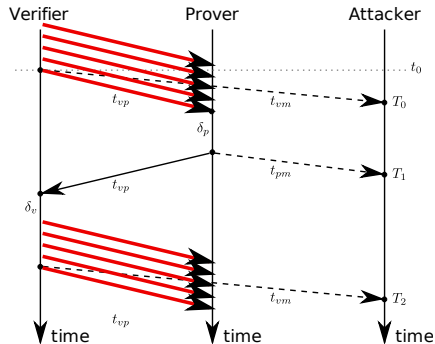
$$T_2 = t_0 + 2t_{vp} + \delta_p + \Omega_p + \delta_v + \Omega_v + t_{vm}$$

$$t_{vp} = \frac{(T_2 - T_0) - \delta_p - \delta_v - \Omega_p - \Omega_v}{2}$$

## Doesn't work because

- In order for  $V$  to find the distance to  $P$  the delays must be known to  $V$ .
- To prevent  $P$  from shortening the distance at least one of the "random" delays must be zero.
- If the delay is zero we are back where we started.

# Send multiple challenges?



$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

$$T_1 = t_0 + t_{vp} + \delta_p + t_{pm}$$

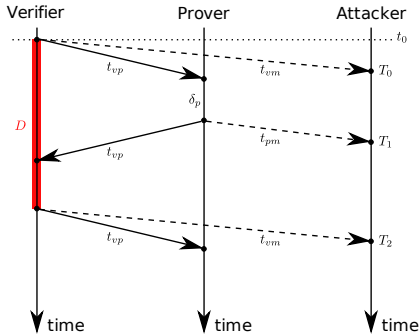
$$T_2 = t_0 + 2t_{vp} + \delta_p + \delta_v + t_{vm}$$

## Doesn't work because

- $M$  can distinguish messages from  $V$  and  $P$  based on
  - Signal strength, Reception time, Signal fingerprinting.
- $M$  can assume the last message from  $V$  triggered response from  $P$ .



# Send challenges with a fixed interval?



$$T_0 = t_0 + t_{vm}$$

$$T_1 = t_0 + t_{vp} + \delta_p + t_{pm}$$

$$T_2 = t_0 + t_{vm} + D$$

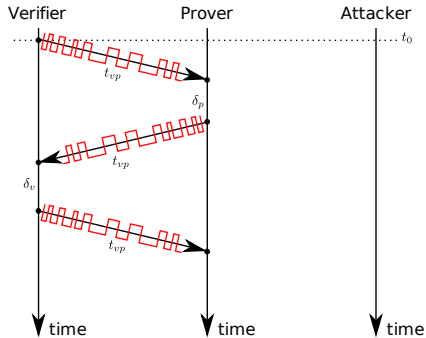
$$(T_2 - T_0) = D$$

- Prevents information leakage in scenarios where distance leakage requires three messages!

Doesn't (always) work because

- Sometimes you only need two messages, say, when  $M$  is close to  $V$ .

# Hide the transmission of messages? (DSSS/FH)



$$T_0 = ?$$

$$T_1 = ?$$

$$T_2 = ?$$

## Doesn't work because

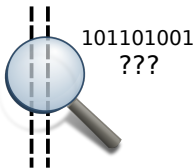
- With DSSS acquisition time is non-deterministic.
  - Rough synchronization to synchronize the receiver to within one chip.
  - Phase locked loop (PLL) performs fine grained synchronization.
- With FH it is trivial to find the messages with post processing.

# Our Solution

- Assumes a shared key between the prover and verifier.
- Uses two continuous transmissions (streams) to hide the transmission times.
  - Attacker only sees continuous data.
  - Embedded within the stream is a hidden marker.
  - Following the *HM* is the challenge (nonce).
  - Verifier replies using his own stream.



Prover



Verifier

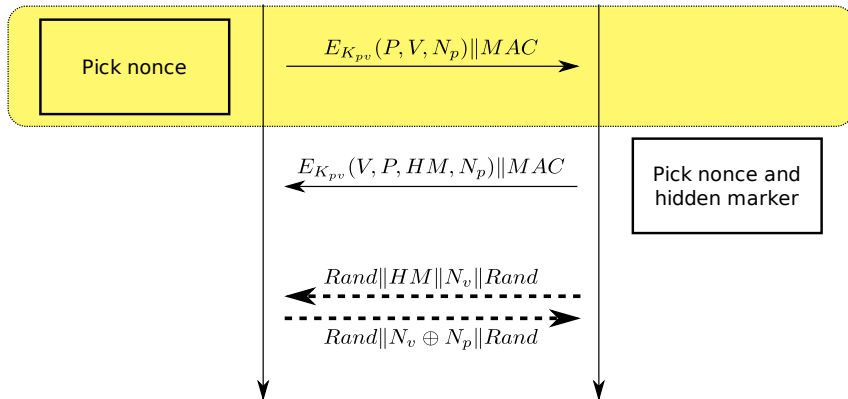
# Our Protocol



Prover



Verifier



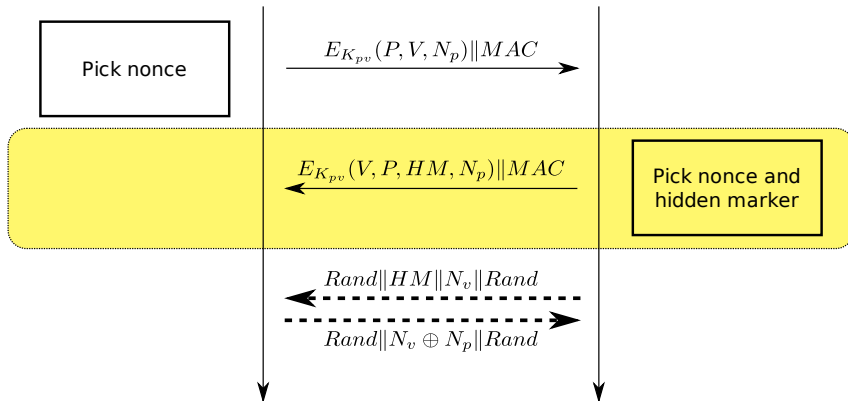
# Our Protocol



Prover



Verifier



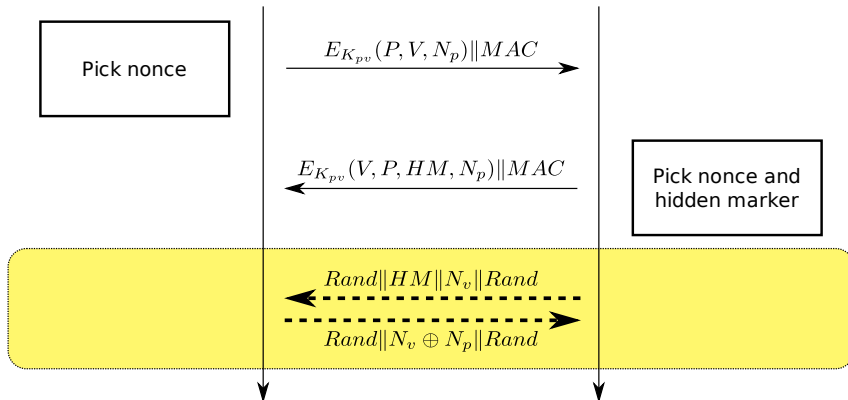
# Our Protocol



Prover



Verifier



## An example



Prover

10101010110 **11010** **111010**  
1011011010100100111010

Diagram illustrating a communication protocol between a Prover and a Verifier. The Prover sends a message (10101010110 **11010** **111010**) to the Verifier. The Verifier responds with a message (1011011010100100111010).



Verifier

## An example



Prover

1110101010001110111001  
0101010010011110110110

Diagram illustrating a communication protocol between a Prover and a Verifier. The Prover sends a message (1110101010001110111001) to the Verifier, and the Verifier sends a response (0101010010011110110110) back to the Prover. Arrows indicate the direction of communication.



Verifier



## An example



Prover

0101010011001110111001  
1010101010010011110110



Verifier

## An example



Prover

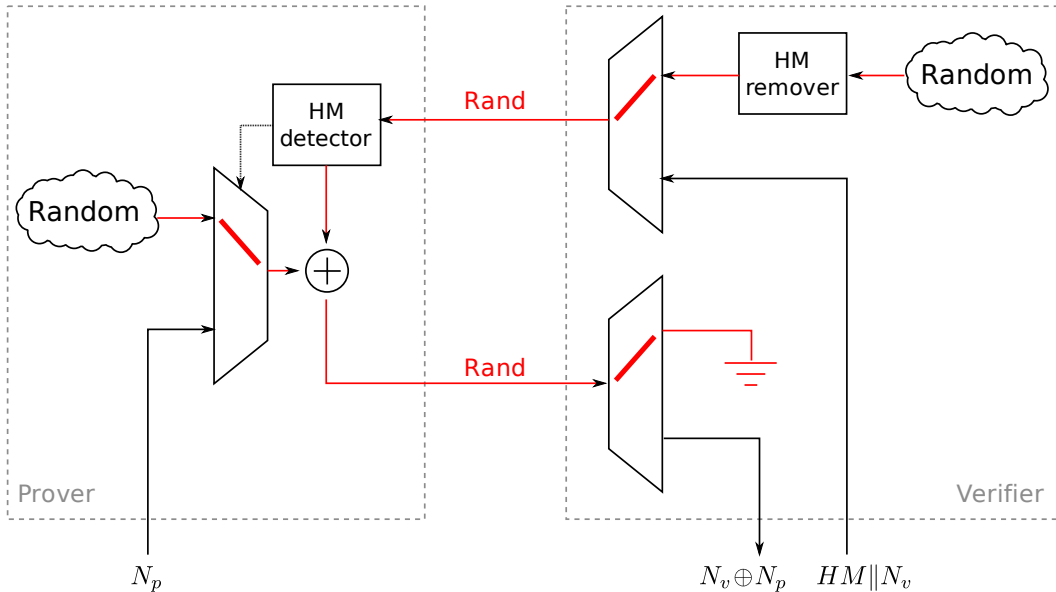
1101110011010000111011  
01010110110101001 01101

Diagram illustrating a communication protocol between a Prover and a Verifier. The Prover sends a long binary string (1101110011010000111011) to the Verifier. The Verifier responds with a shorter binary string (01010110110101001 01101), where the last four bits (01101) are highlighted in green.

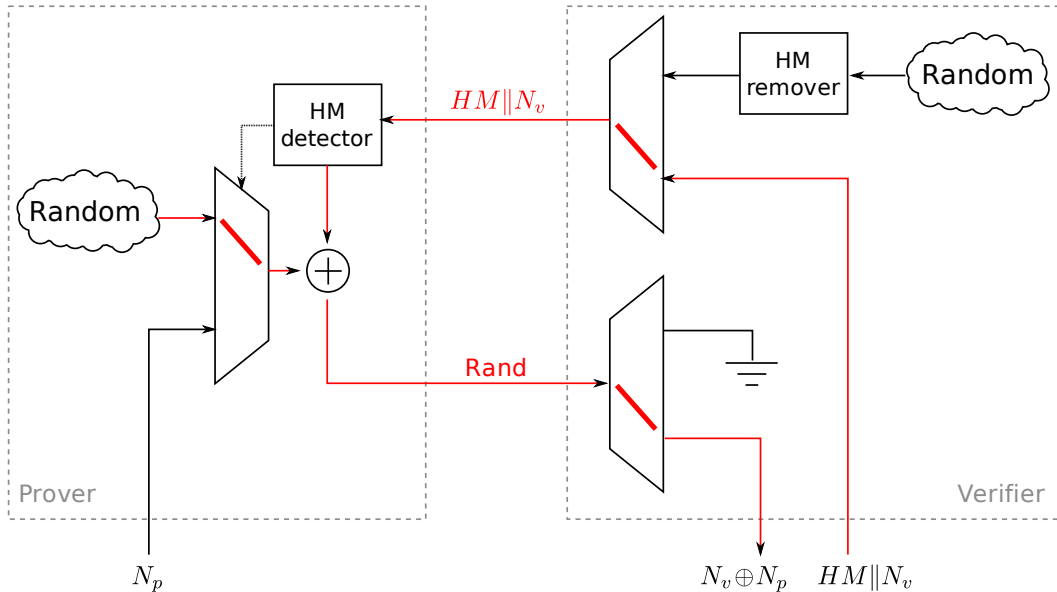


Verifier

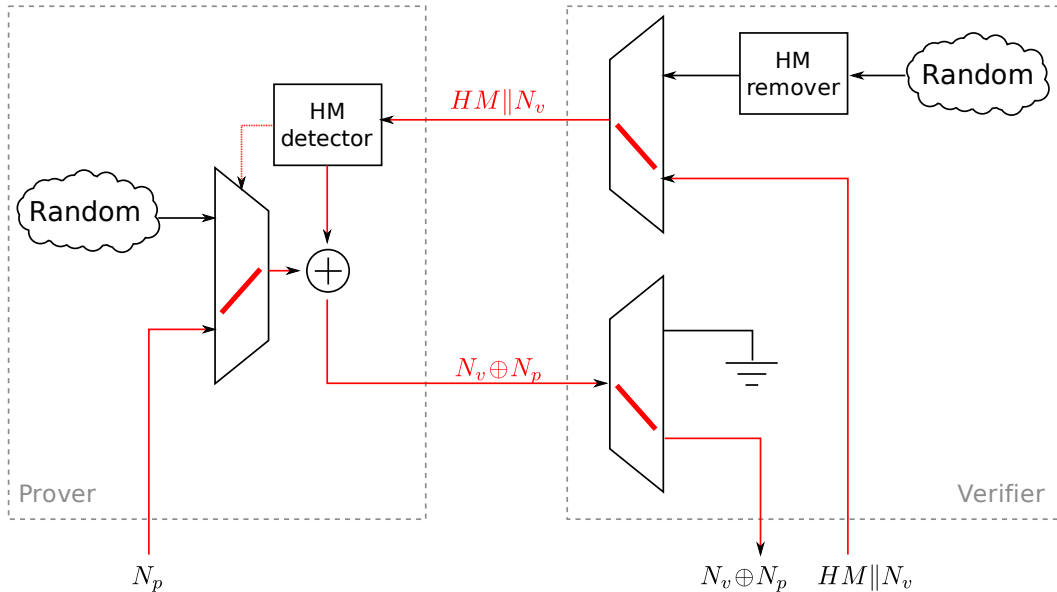
# A schematic view



# A schematic view



# A schematic view



# Properties of our solution

- Original distance bounding **properties are preserved**.
  - Provides a distance bound.
  - Prover can not shorten distance.
- An attacker can not initiate a “rapid message exchange” and get the distance that way.
- A passive attacker can not obtain the distance based on the communication between  $V$  and  $P$ .

What about this processing function?  
(is xor really the right choice)

# Processing Function Speed

- The verifier computes the distance to the prover as

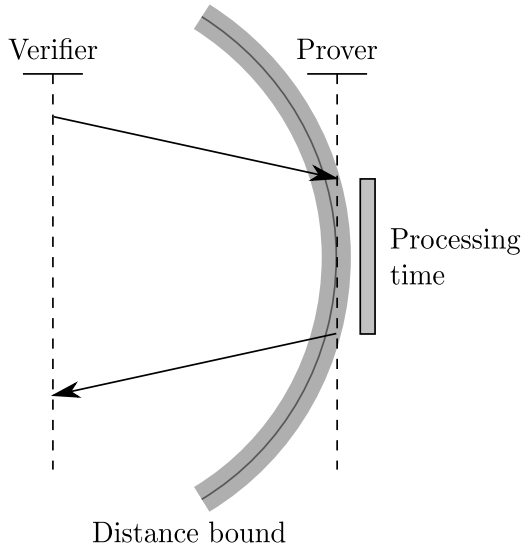
$$d = \frac{t_2 - t_1 - \delta_p}{2} \cdot c$$

- $\delta_p$  must be a public value.

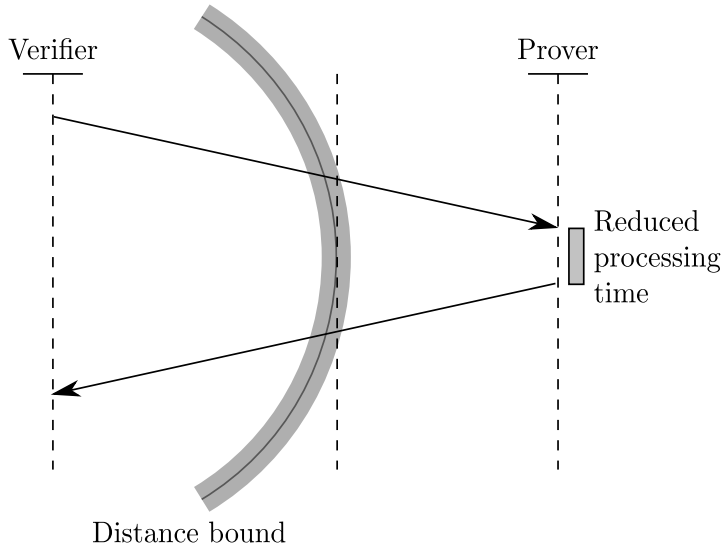
A malicious prover can potentially cheat by as much as  $d_{error} = \frac{\delta_p \cdot c}{2}$



# Processing Function Attack

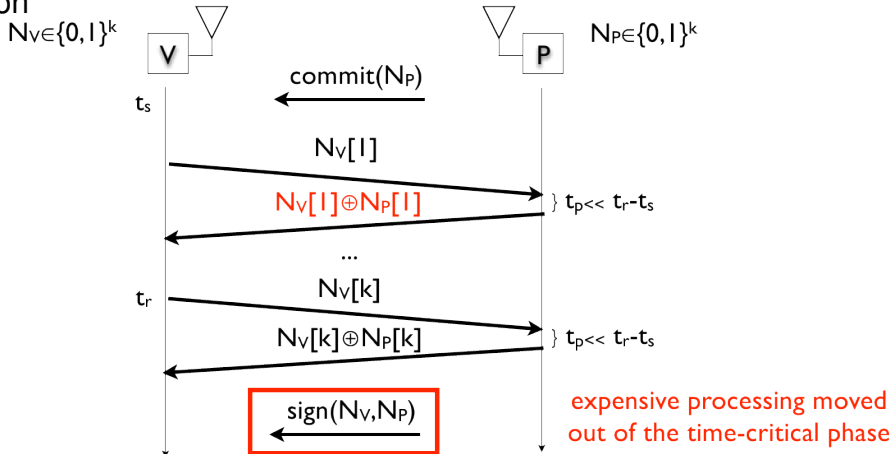


# Processing Function Attack



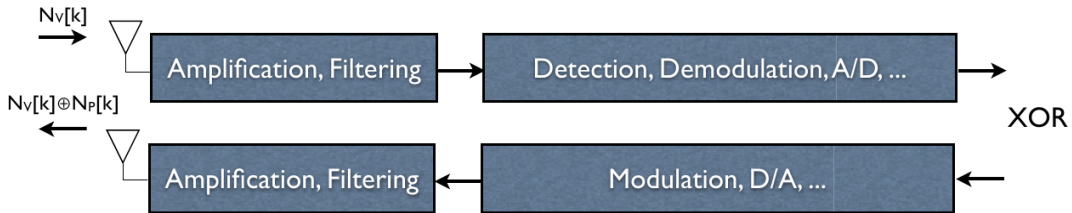
# Processing Function Choices

- $\text{sign}()$ ,  $\text{MAC}()$ ,  $\text{hash}()$ ,  $\text{enc}()$ . **Slow!**
- XOR
- Selection



# XOR and Selection

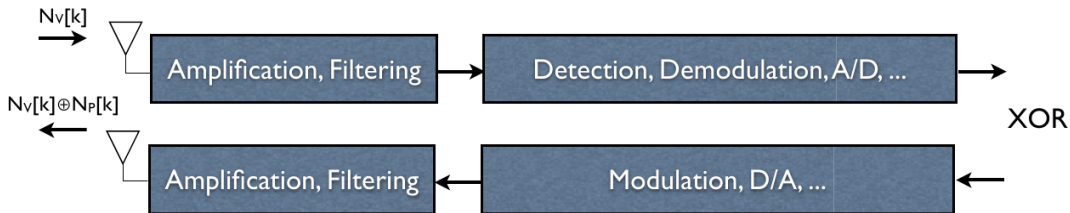
XOR and Selection are **still too slow** for DB.



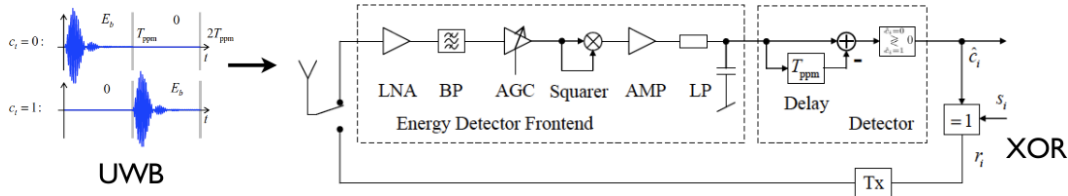
Long symbol lengths are problematic.

# XOR and Selection

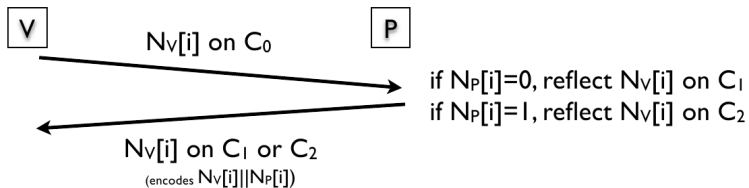
XOR and Selection are **still too slow** for DB.



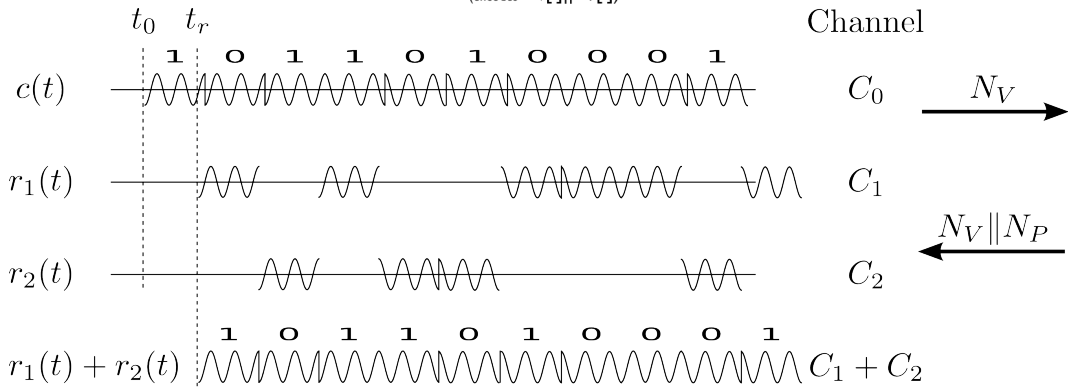
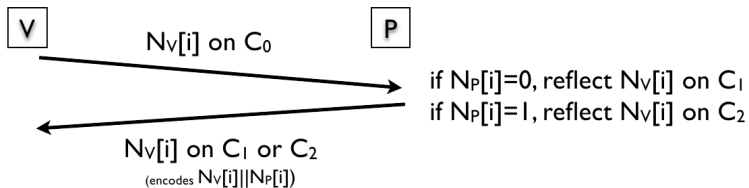
Long symbol lengths are problematic.



# Challenge Reflection with Channel Selection (CRCS)

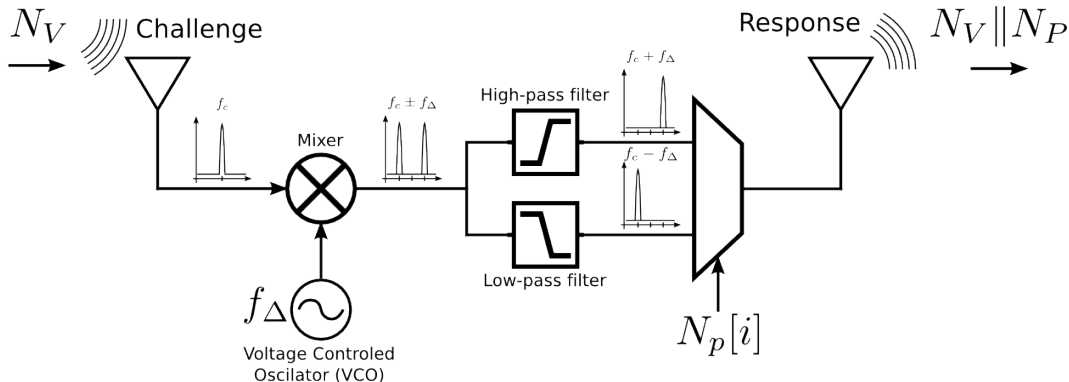


# Challenge Reflection with Channel Selection (CRCS)



# Implementation of CRCS

- CRCS enables receive + processing + send in  $t_p < 1\text{ ns}$

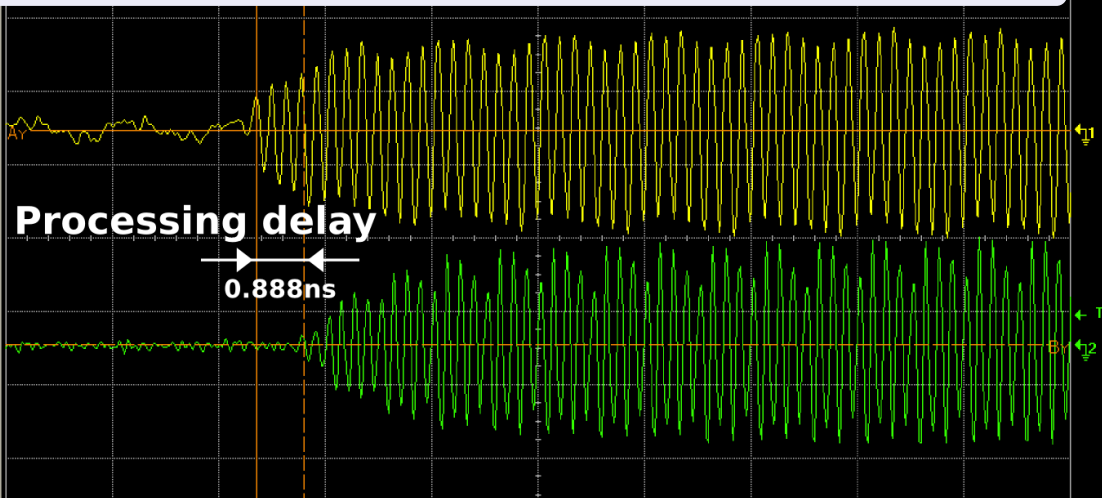




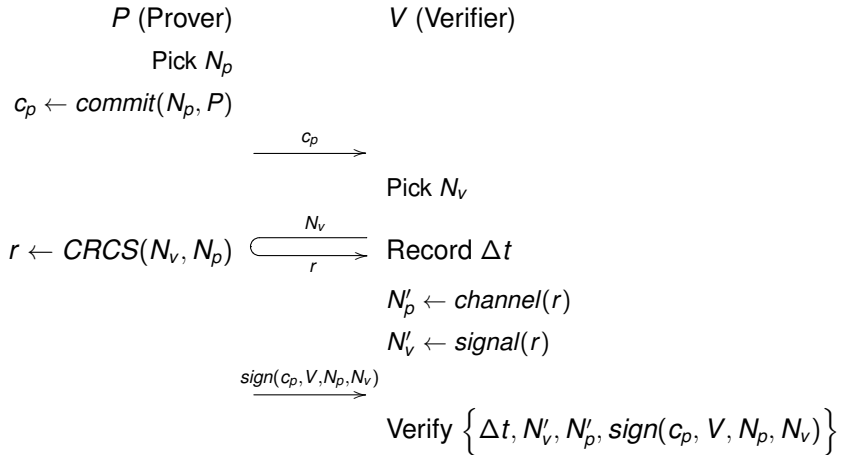


Corresponding to a maximum window for the attacker to cheat of:

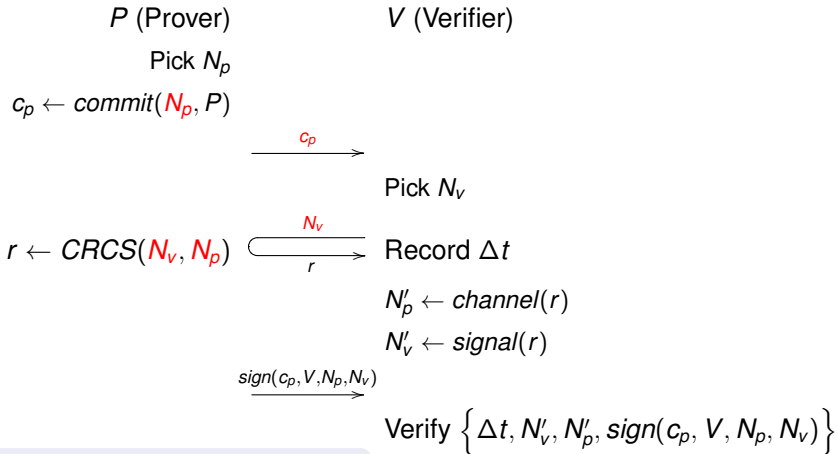
$$d = \frac{\delta_p}{2} \cdot c = \frac{1ns}{2} \cdot 300000km/s \approx 15cm \approx 5.9in$$



# Distance Bounding Protocol Using CRCS

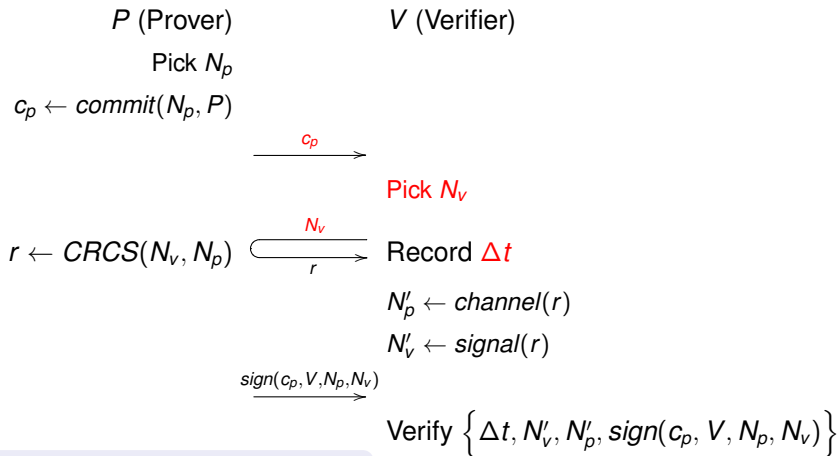


# Distance Bounding Protocol Using CRCS



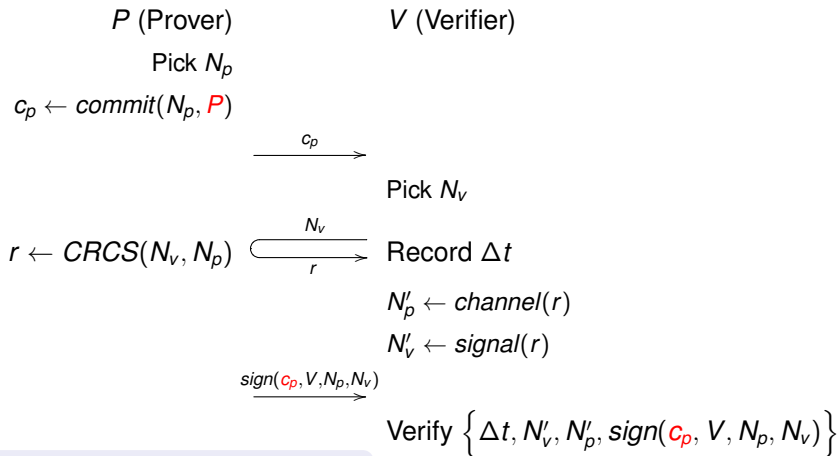
Secure against **Distance Fraud**

# Distance Bounding Protocol Using CRCS



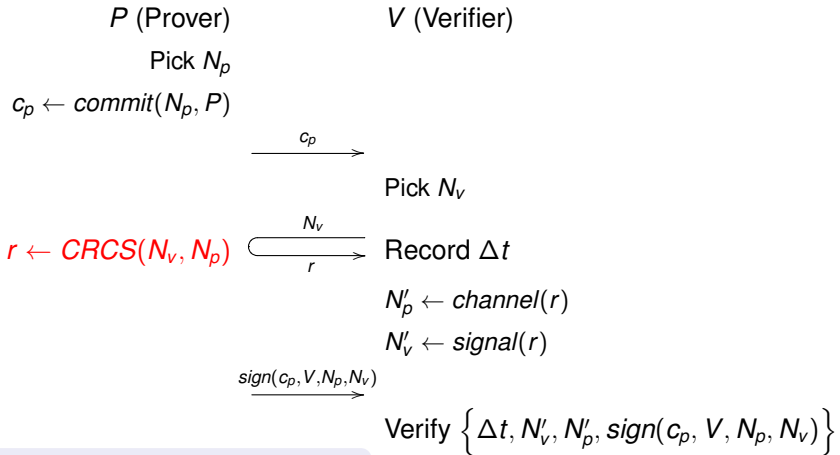
Secure against **Mafia Fraud**

# Distance Bounding Protocol Using CRCS



Secure against Distance Hijacking

# Distance Bounding Protocol Using CRCS



Processing **delay** close to zero.

# Steam Based DB

“Steam Based” DB looks promising.

- The answer to both the privacy issue and the processing/response time issue is a stream based protocol.
- Requires full duplex communication.



# Thank you for your attention

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`http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/people/kasper.rasmussen/`