



# Security notions for symmetric encryptions against quantum adversaries

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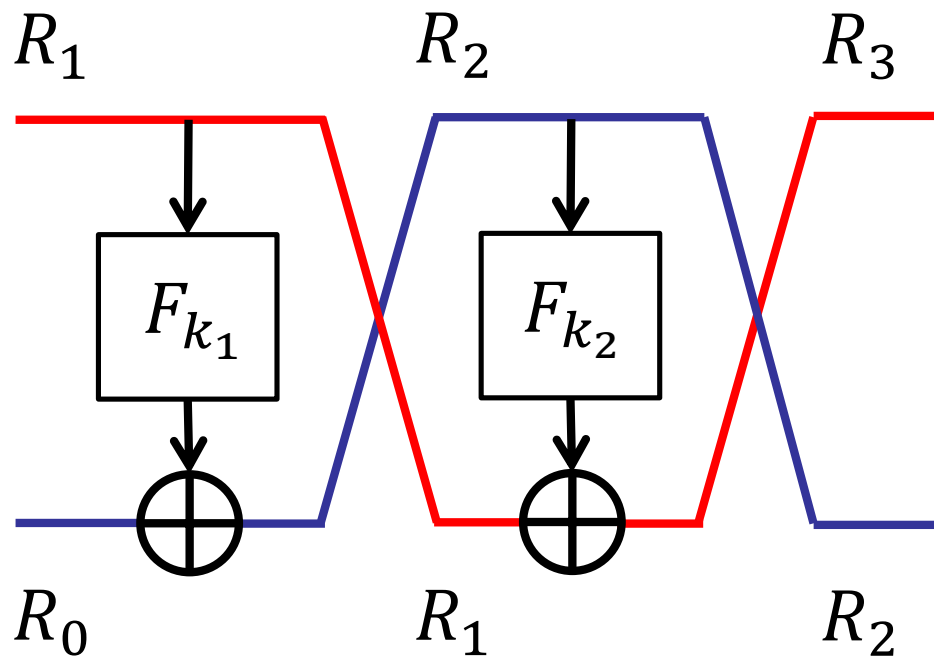
# Motivation

Do **symmetric ciphers** remain secure if they can be accessed in **superposition**?

Feistel cipher

$$m = (R_0, R_1)$$

$$c = (R_2, R_3)$$



# Overview

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What is symmetric-key encryption

How do we define security for symmetric encryptions

How do we extend these notions for quantum adversaries

joint work with



Dominique  
Unruh



Ehsan  
Ehbrami



Tore Vincent  
Carstens

# Our contributions

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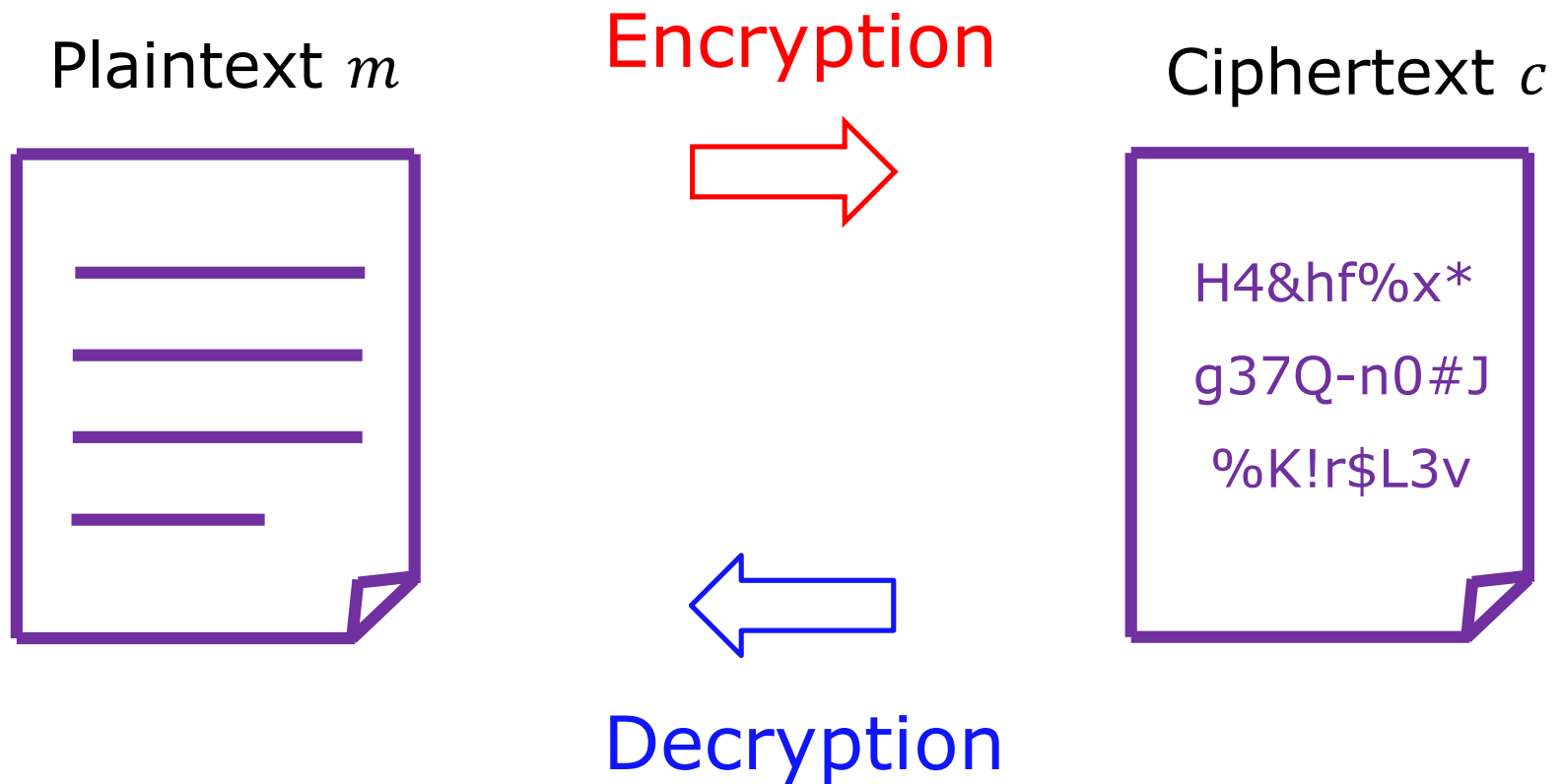
We describe 57 valid quantum notions grouped into 14 equivalent families.

We prove the various implications and separations among these families.  
(e.g., separation by set equality)

We give an encryption function that is secure in all notions.

# Symmetric encryption

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# Symmetric encryption

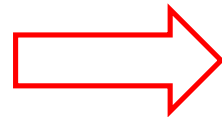
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$$m \mapsto c = \text{Enc}_k(m)$$

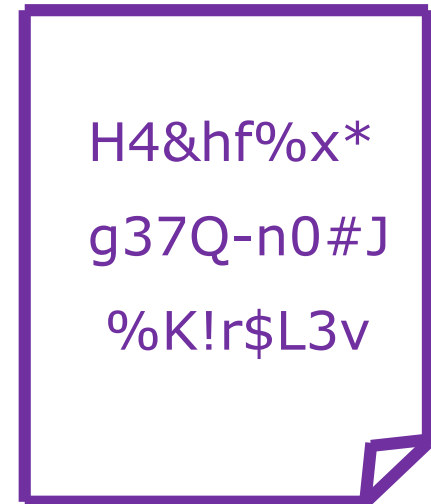
Plaintext  $m$



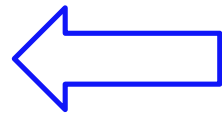
Encryption



Ciphertext  $c$



Decryption

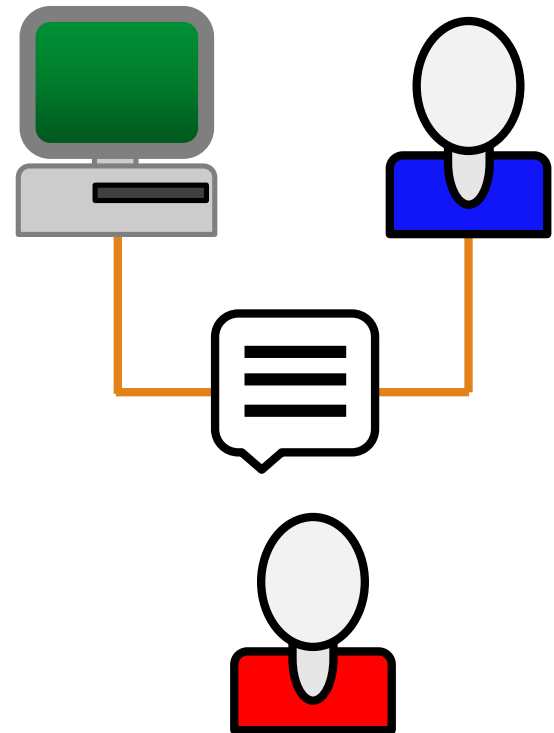


$$c \mapsto m = \text{Dec}_k(c)$$

# Indistinguishability

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A **real protocol**  $\mathcal{R}$  is **secure** in terms of **indistinguishability** if no algorithm can tell it apart from its **ideal functionality**  $\mathcal{J}$ .



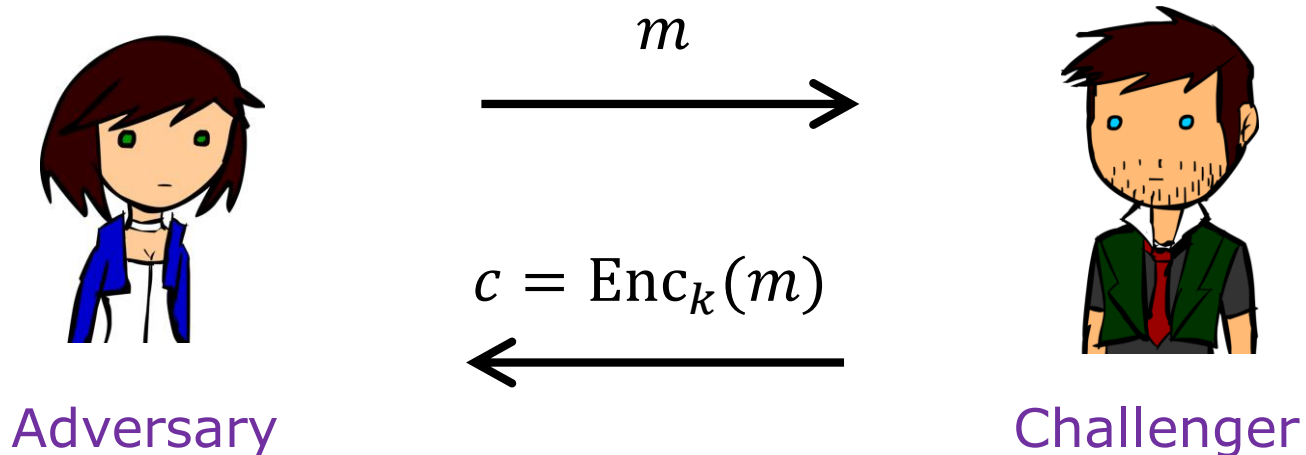
Turing test

# IND-CPA game

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Learning phase:

Adversary collects information about Enc.



IND-CPA = Indistinguishability under chosen plaintext attack

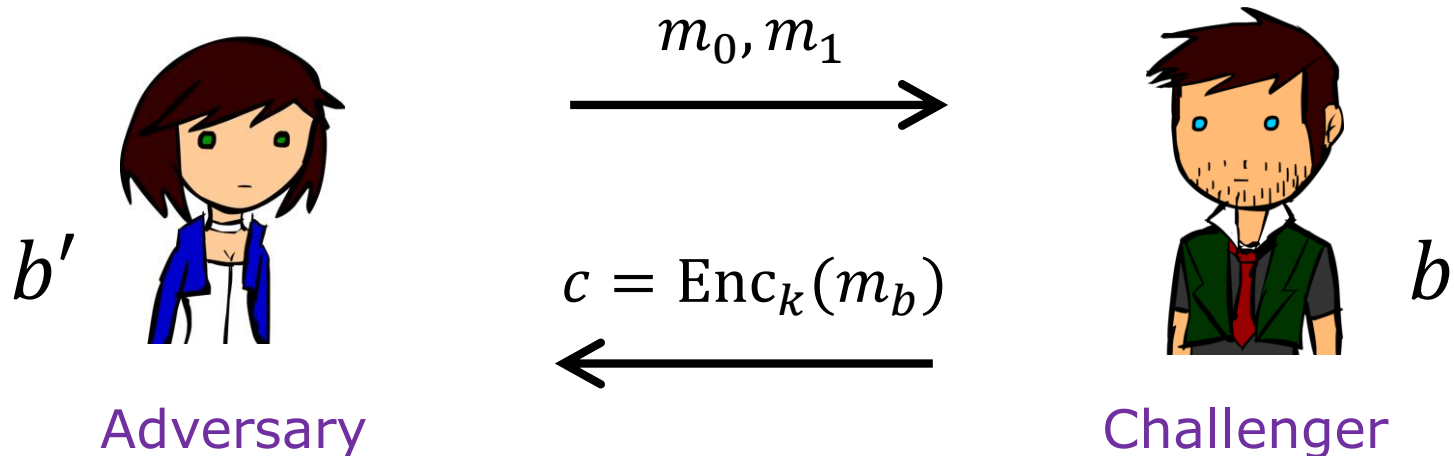


# IND-CPA game

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## Challenge phase:

Adversary picks two messages. She obtains  $\text{Enc}_k(m_b)$  and must guess  $b$ .

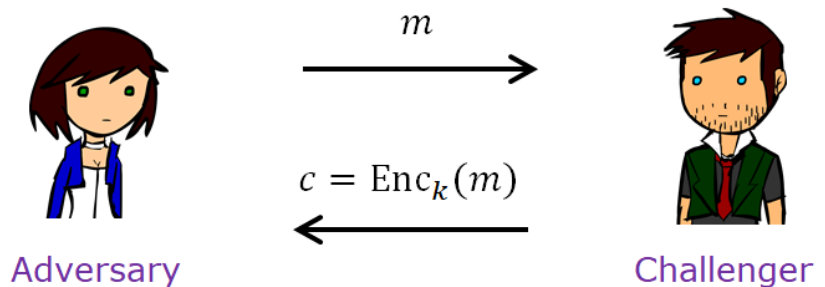


# IND-CPA security

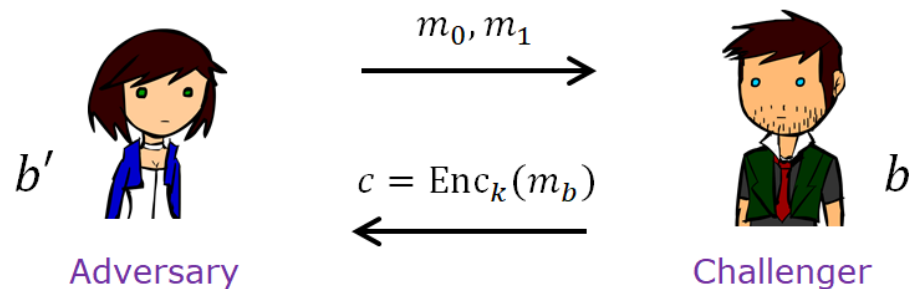
Enc is **IND-CPA**  
 **$\epsilon$ -secure** if

$$\Pr[b' = b] = \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$$

Learning phase



Challenge phase



# Post-quantum crypto

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Also known as quantum-safe or quantum-resistant crypto

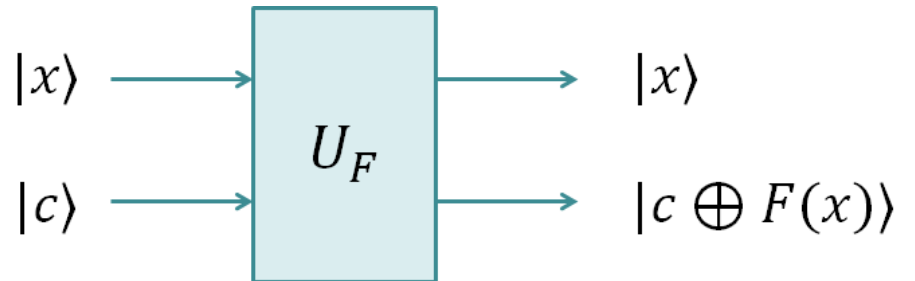
Goal is to build **classical cryptosystems** that are secure against **quantum adversaries**.

Based on **problems** that are believed to be **hard for quantum computers** (e.g. lattice problems, linear code decoding, etc.)

# Quantum query types

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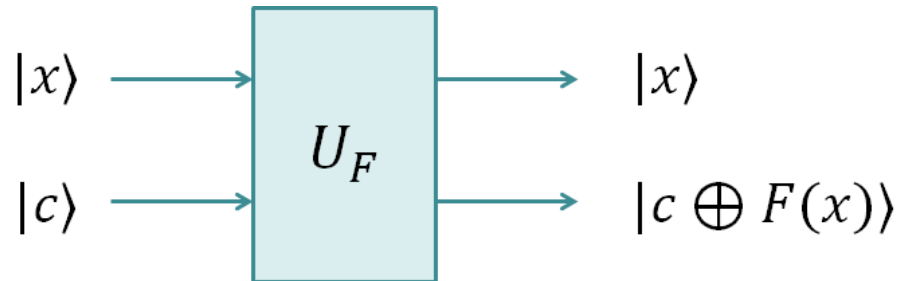
Standard (ST)



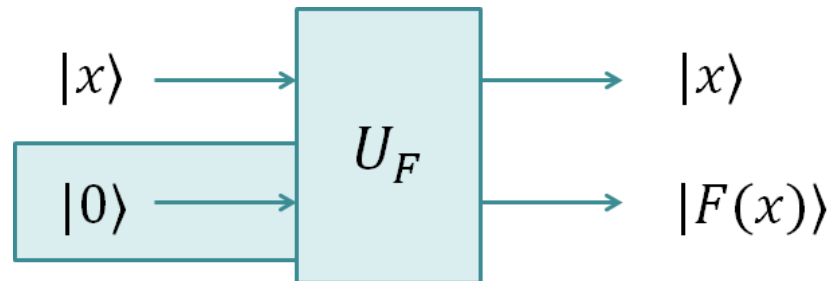
# Quantum query types

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Standard (ST)



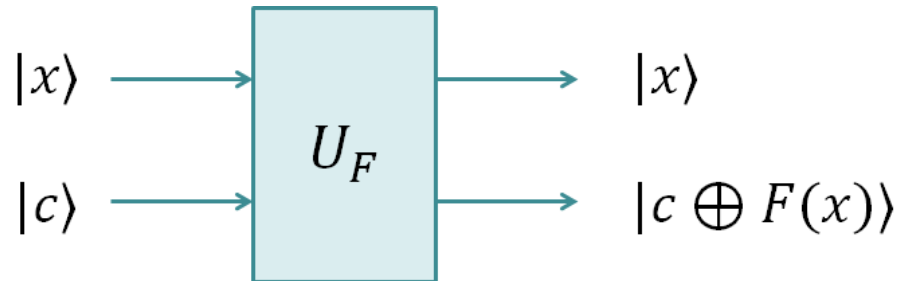
Embedding (EM)



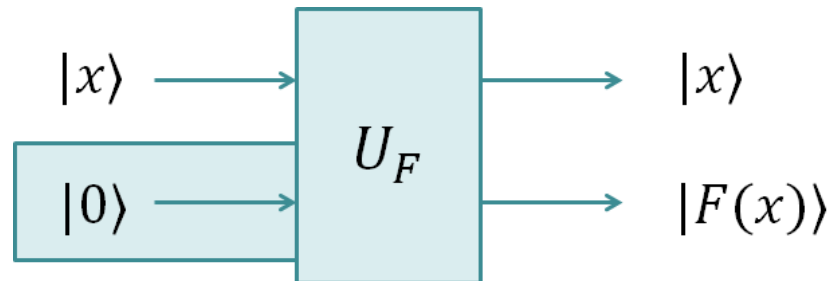
# Quantum query types

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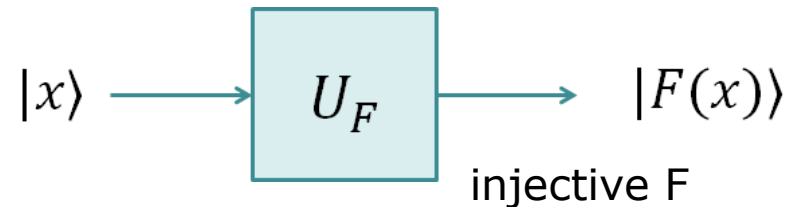
Standard (ST)



Embedding (EM)



Erasing (ER)



# Example

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Suppose  $\text{Enc}$  is a secure encryption function

Learning phase:

$$|m, c\rangle \mapsto |m, c \oplus \text{Enc}_k(m)\rangle$$

Challenge phase:

$$|m_0, m_1, c\rangle \mapsto |m_0, m_1, c \oplus \text{Enc}_k(m_b)\rangle$$

Can adversary guess  $b$ ?

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Can adversary guess  $b$ ? **YES**

$$\text{Choose } m_0 = |0\rangle, m_1 = |\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \sum_x |x\rangle$$



# An insecure notion

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If  $b = 0$  or  $b = 1$ , respectively:

$$|0\rangle|\psi\rangle|c \oplus \text{Enc}_k(0)\rangle, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \sum_x |0\rangle|x\rangle|c \oplus \text{Enc}_k(x)\rangle$$

Measure 3<sup>rd</sup> register in computational basis.

# An insecure notion

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Measure 3<sup>rd</sup> register in computational basis.

Measure 2<sup>nd</sup> register with  $\{P_\psi = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|, I - P_\psi\}$

$$\Pr[P_\psi | b = 0] = 1, \quad \Pr[P_\psi | b = 1] = \frac{1}{2^n}$$

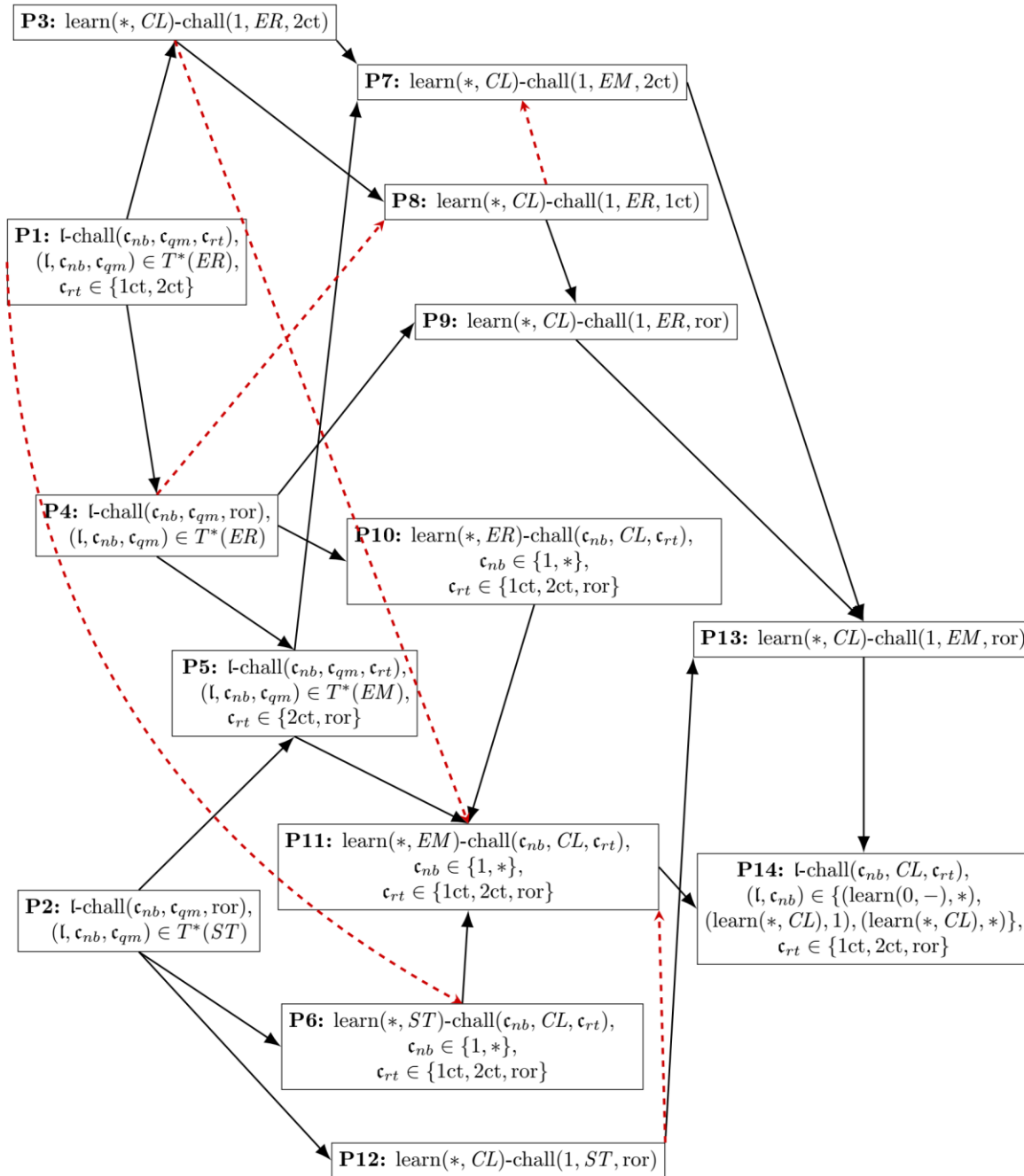
# qIND-CPA notions

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Variants of qIND-CPA according to:

1. Number of learning (0, many) and challenge (1, many) queries
2. Query model (*CL*, *ST*, *EM*, *ER*)
3. Challenge query type (1ct, 2ct, ror)

Learning and challenge queries are **same quantum type** or **classical-quantum**.



# Conclusions

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There are several ways to extend classical security notions to quantum

A classical encryption function may become insecure when accessible in superposition

# Challenge query types

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**One-ciphertext** (1ct):

$$m_0, m_1 \mapsto \text{Enc}_k(m_b)$$

**Two-ciphertext** (2ct):

$$m_0, m_1 \mapsto \left( \text{Enc}_k(m_b), \text{Enc}_k(m_{\bar{b}}) \right)$$

**Real-or-random** (ror):

$$m \mapsto \text{Enc}_k(m) \text{ or } r \leftarrow \$, \text{Enc}_k(r)$$

Classically, all three types are equivalent.

# Separation by SetEq

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Set equality problem (SetEq): given oracle access to injective  $f, g: X \rightarrow Y$

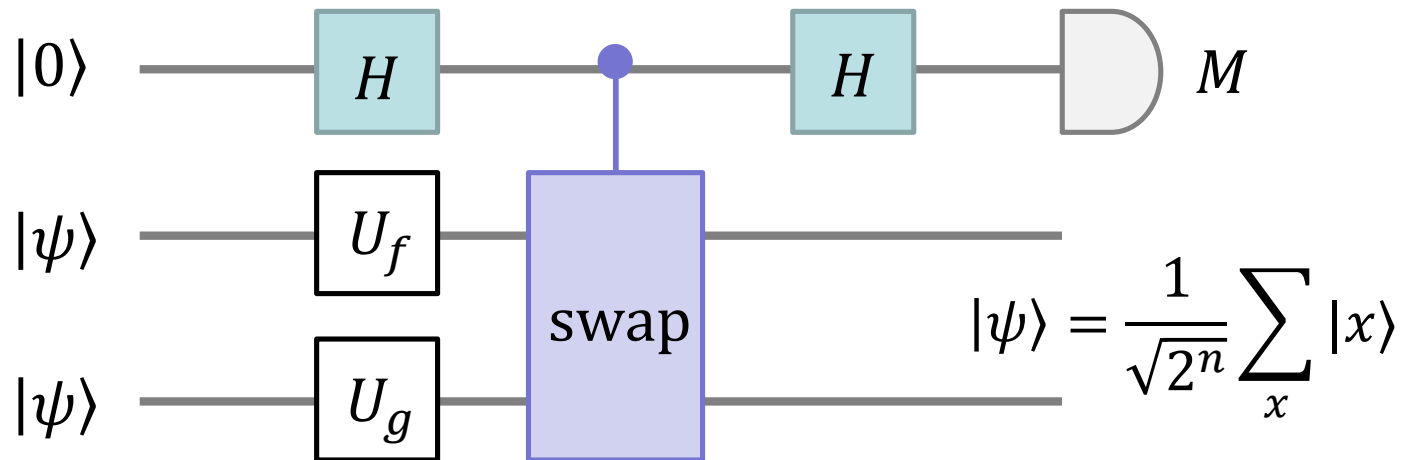
Image of  $f, g$  is (1) same or (2) disjoint

Decide if (1) or (2) holds.

Zhandry (2015):  $\sim 2^{m/3}$  *ST*-type queries needed to distinguish the 2 cases.

# Separation by SetEq

But a few *ER*-type queries suffice:



If (1),  $\Pr[M = 0] = 1$ .

If (2),  $\Pr[M = 0] = \Pr[M = 1] = \frac{1}{2}$ .



# Secure in all notions

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Enc is **secure in all notions** if it is secure in the setting with

a) No learning queries

b) Challenge:  $(*, ER, 1ct)$  or  $(*, ST, ror)$

A possible construction is

$$\text{Enc}_k(m; r, r') = \text{qPRP}_r(r' || m) || \text{sPRP}_k(r)$$