

Cryptography on the Blockchain

Vassilis Zikas

RPI

IACR Summer School on Blockchain Techs

Aggelos Kiayias, Hong-Shen Zhou, and Vassilis Zikas, Fair and Robust Multi-Party Computation using a Global Transaction Ledger, EUROCRYPT 2016.

Bitcoin

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What is bitcoin
and how does it work?



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and how does it work?



Is it secure?

(in restricted models)



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In this talk

“Bitcoin = Ledger-based cryptocurrency”

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The Public Transaction Ledger

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AK, 2016

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Transaction-Ledger Functionality

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“If we had a trusted third party instead of the Bitcoin network, how would we expect it to behave?”

Crypto On Blockchain

Outline

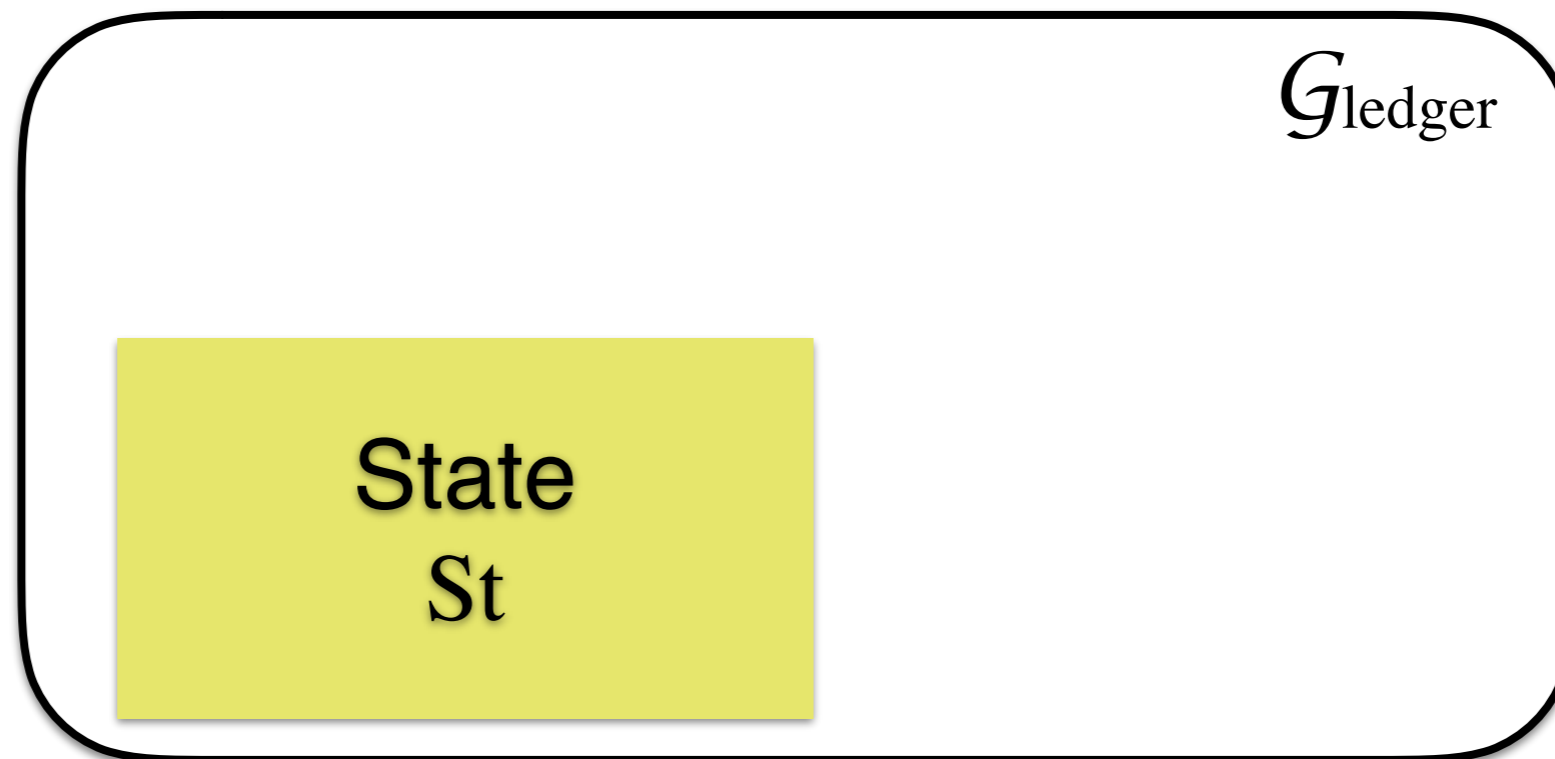
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- Leveraging Security Loss with Coins
 - ... in Secure Function Evaluation (SFE)
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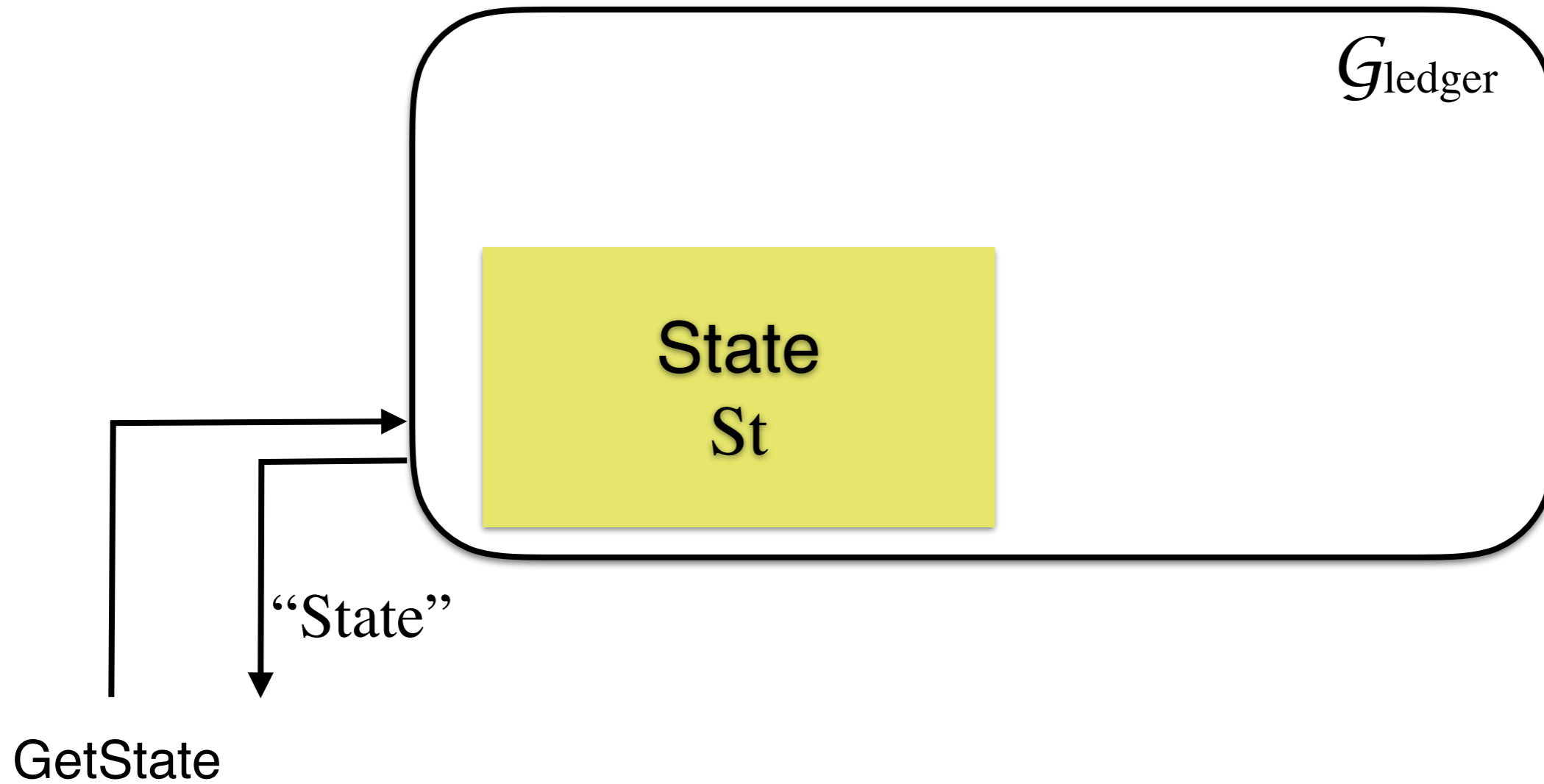
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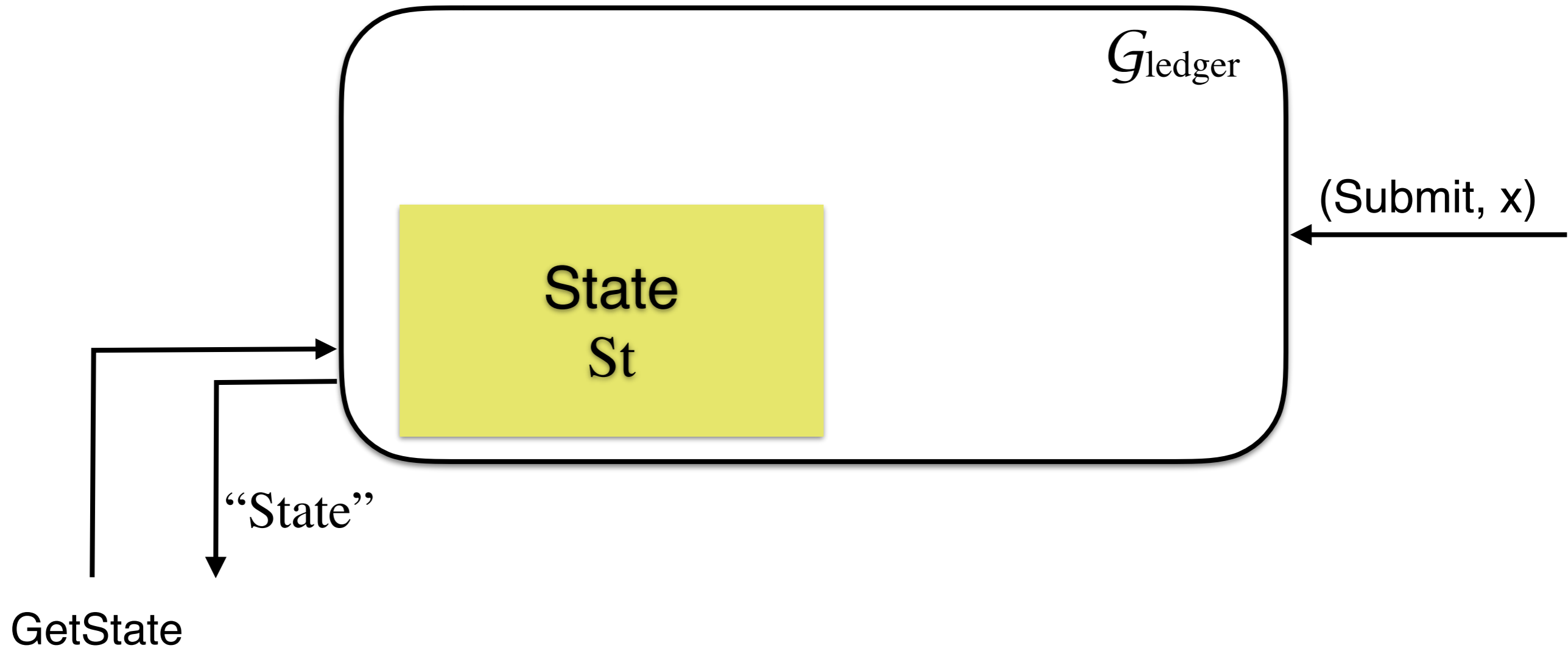
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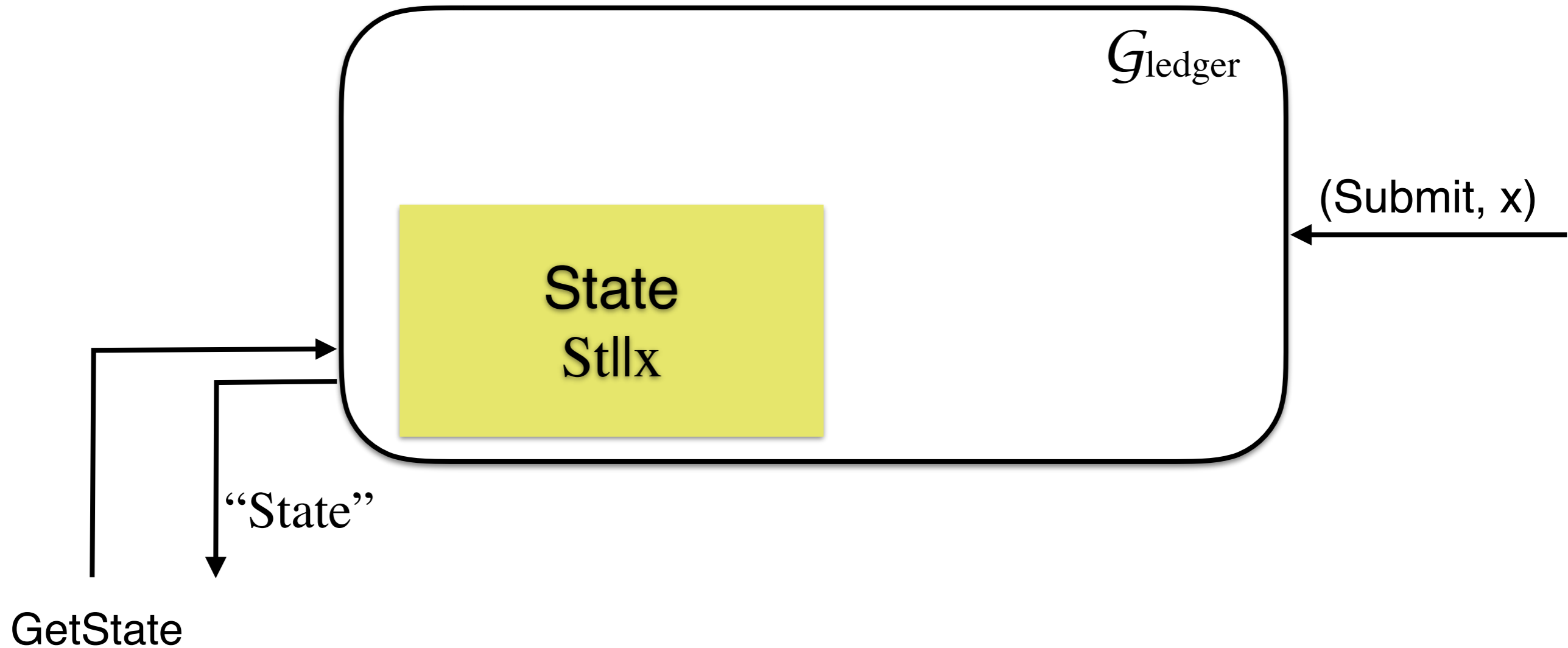
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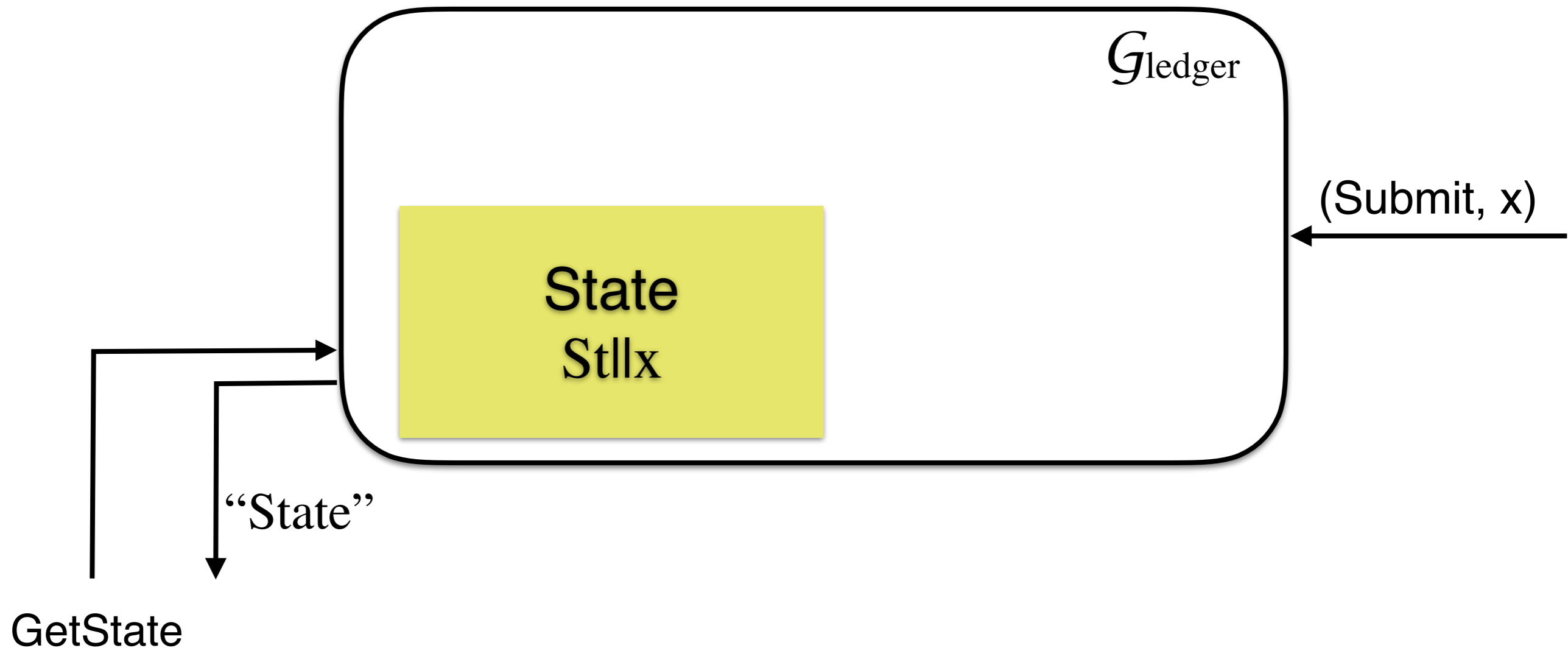
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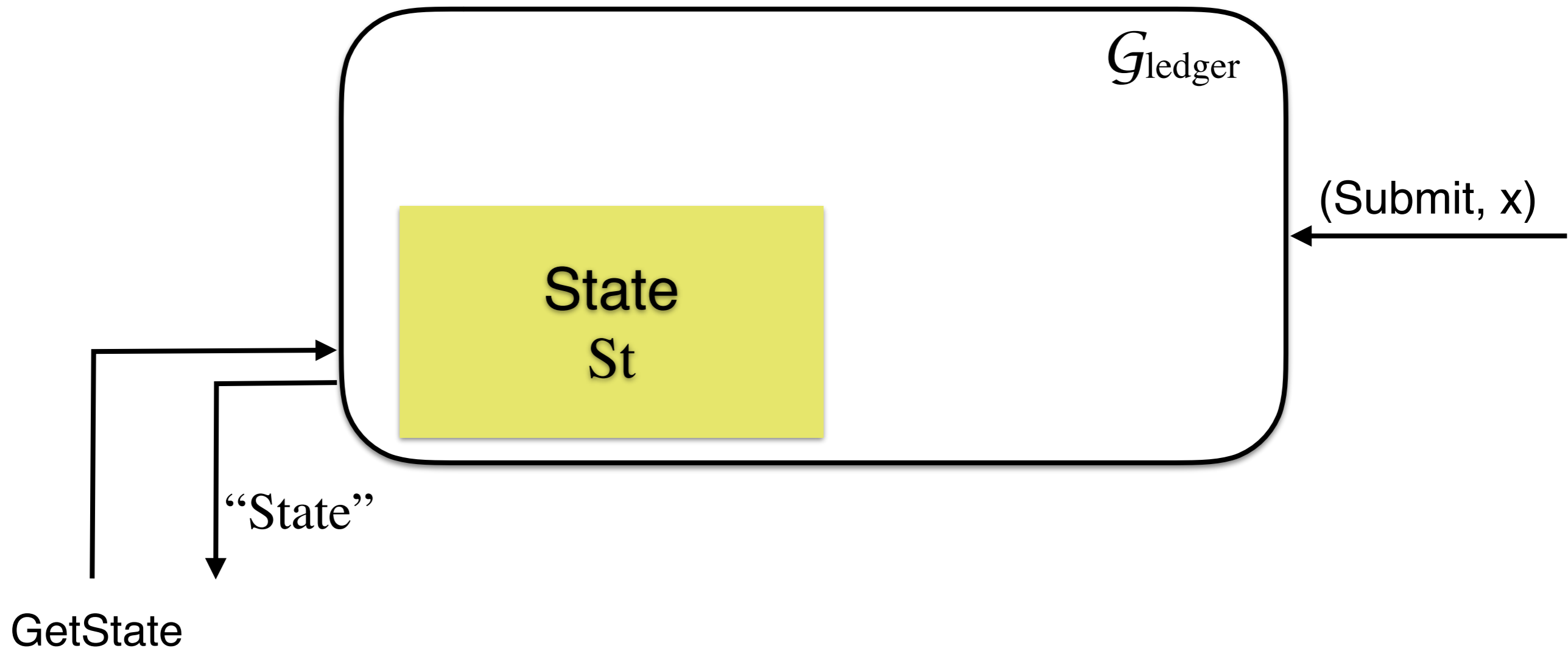


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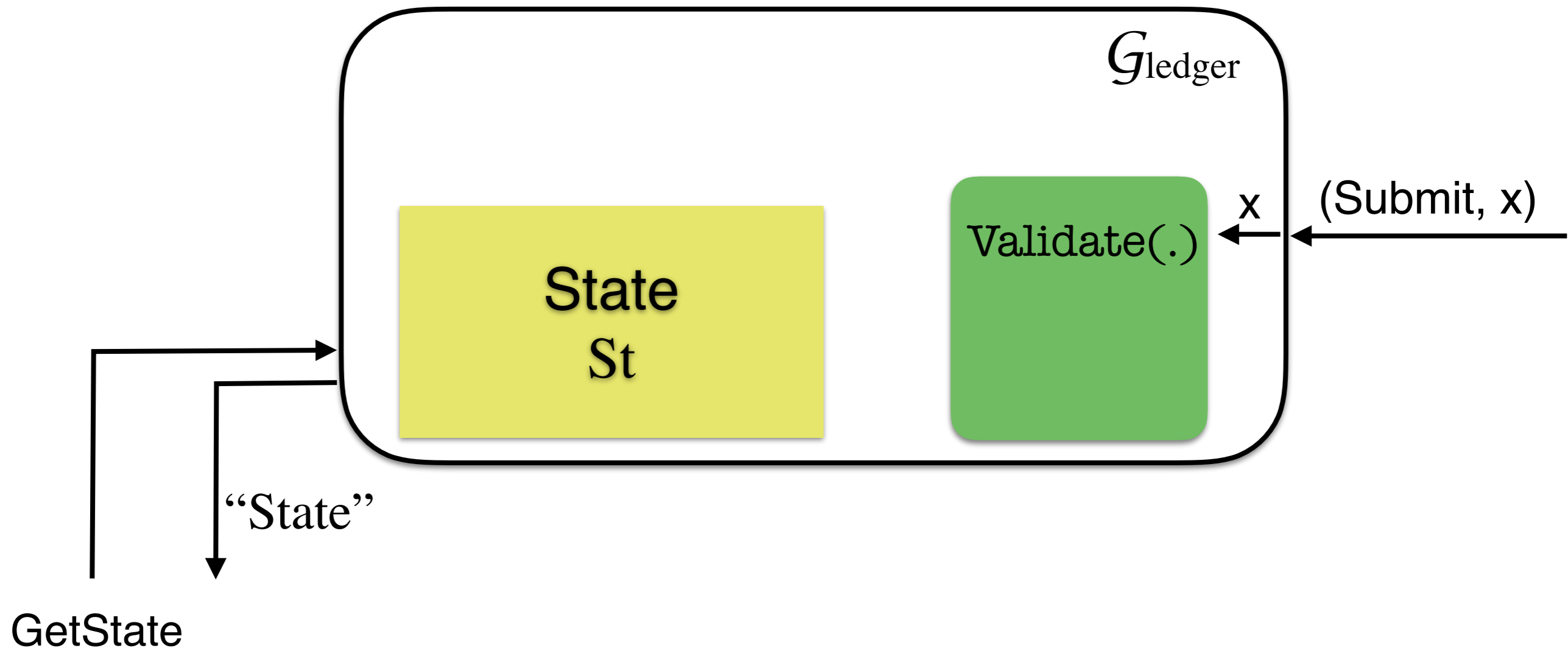
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 - Inputs (transactions) are filtered

The Public Transaction Ledger



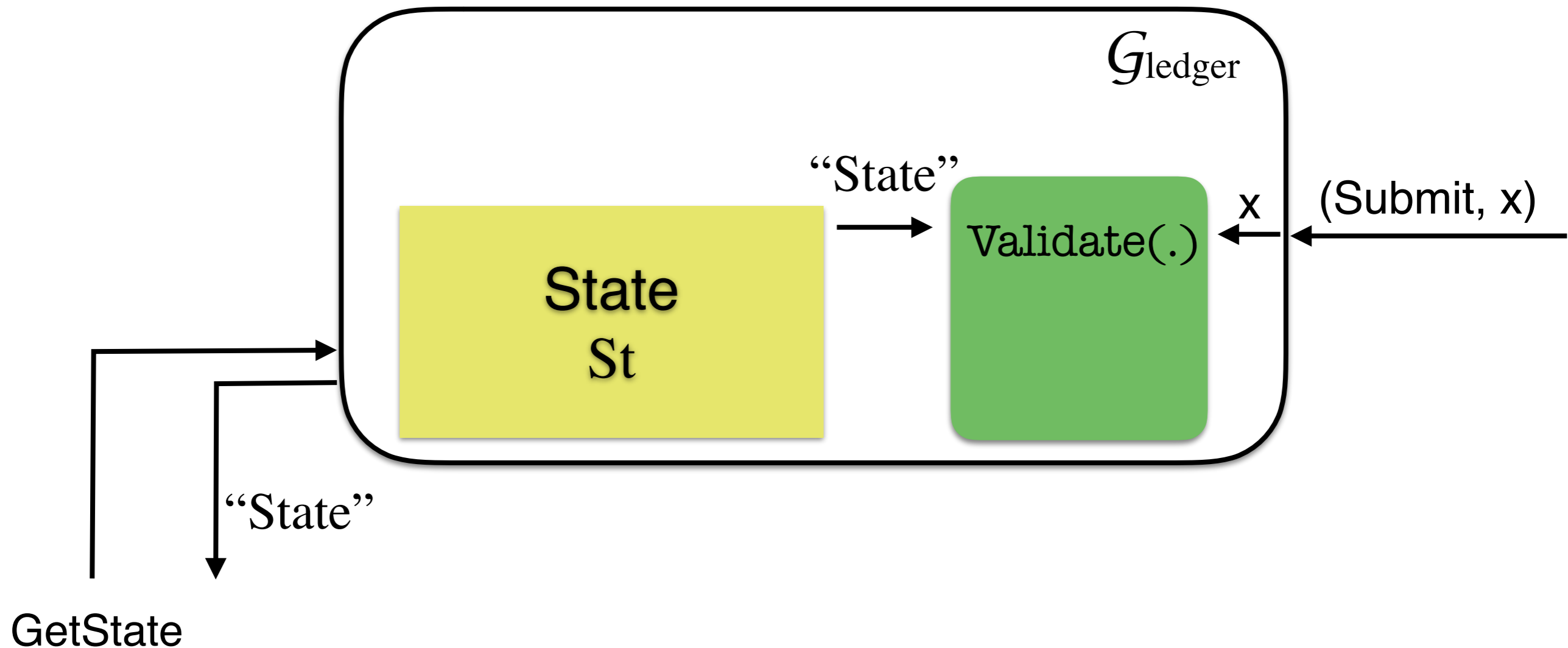
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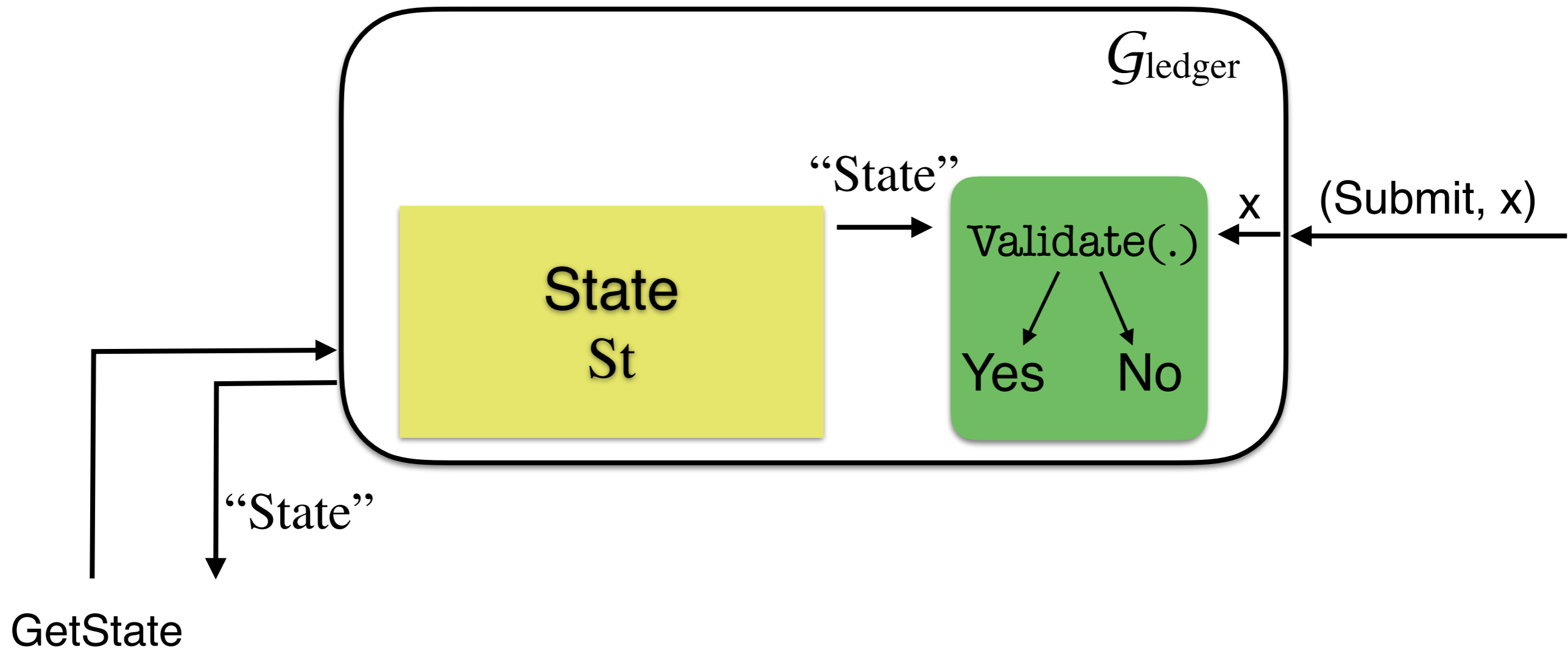
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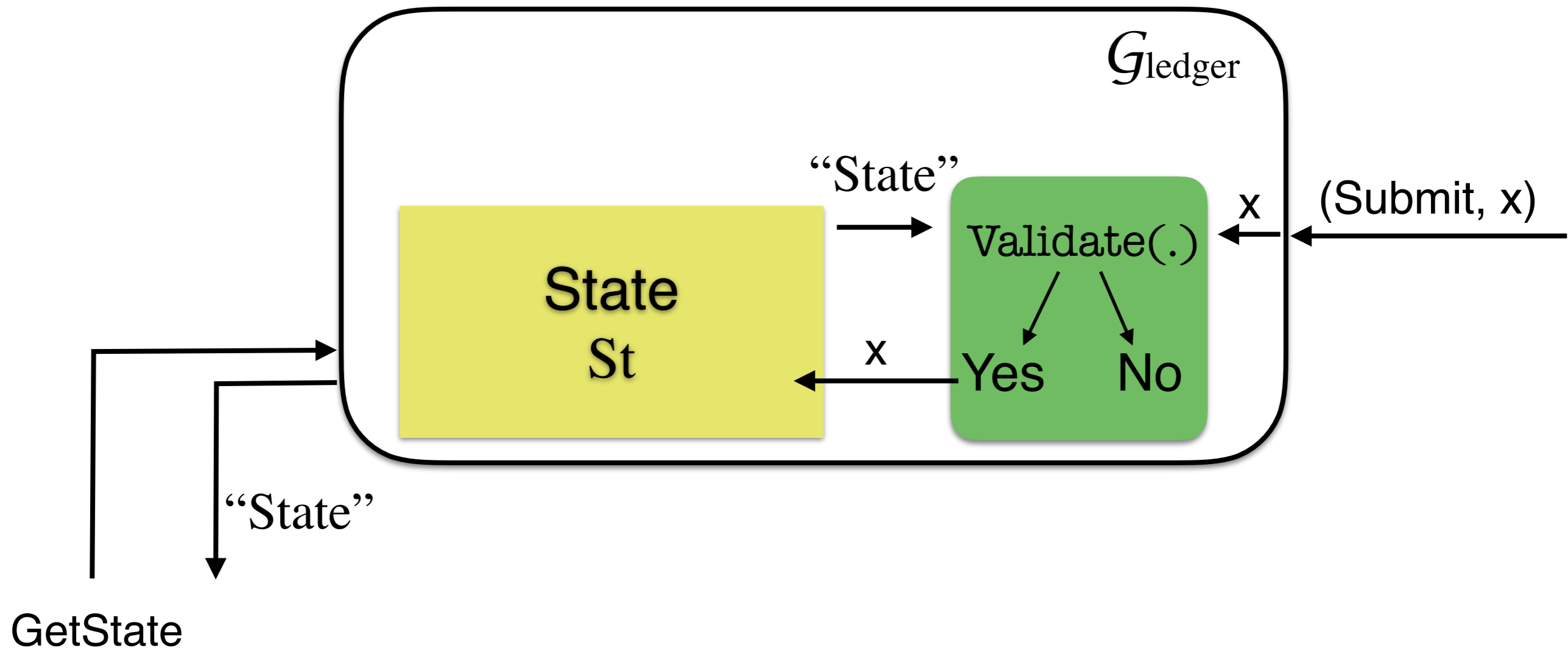
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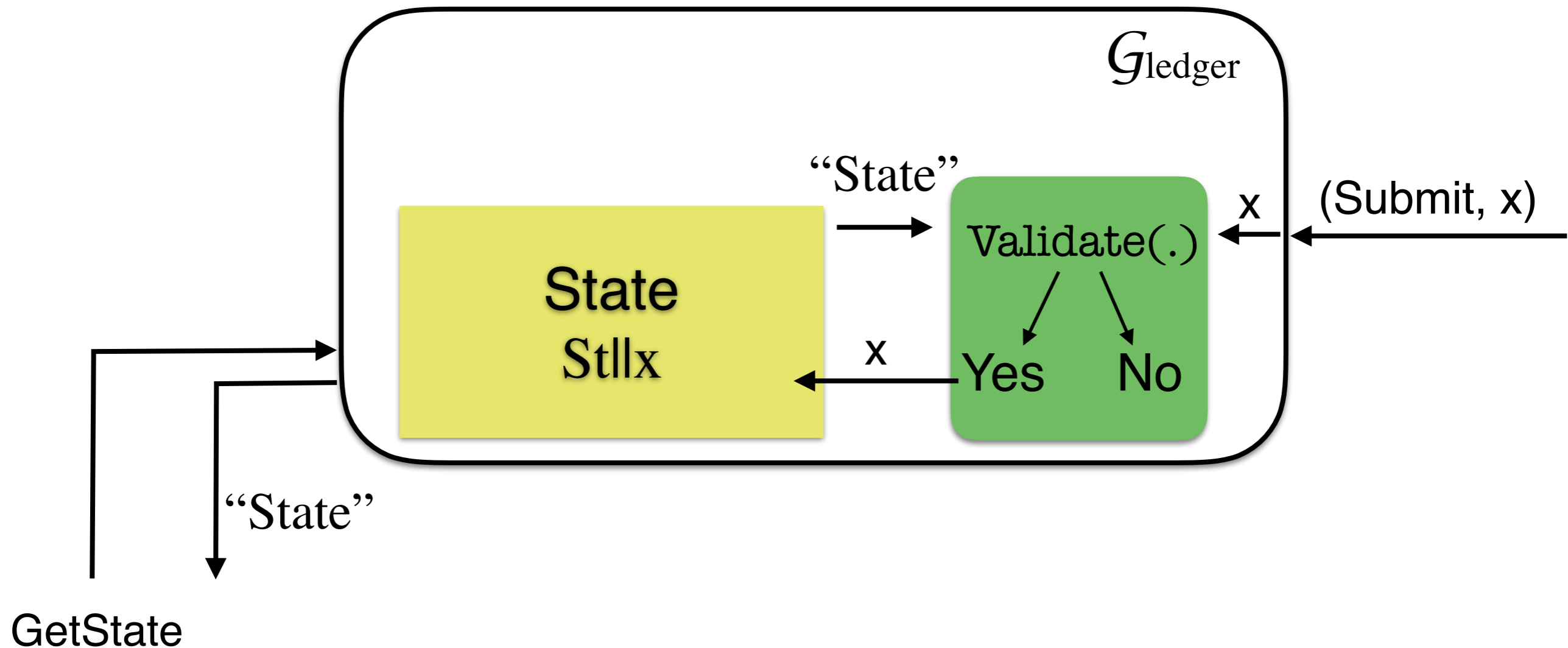
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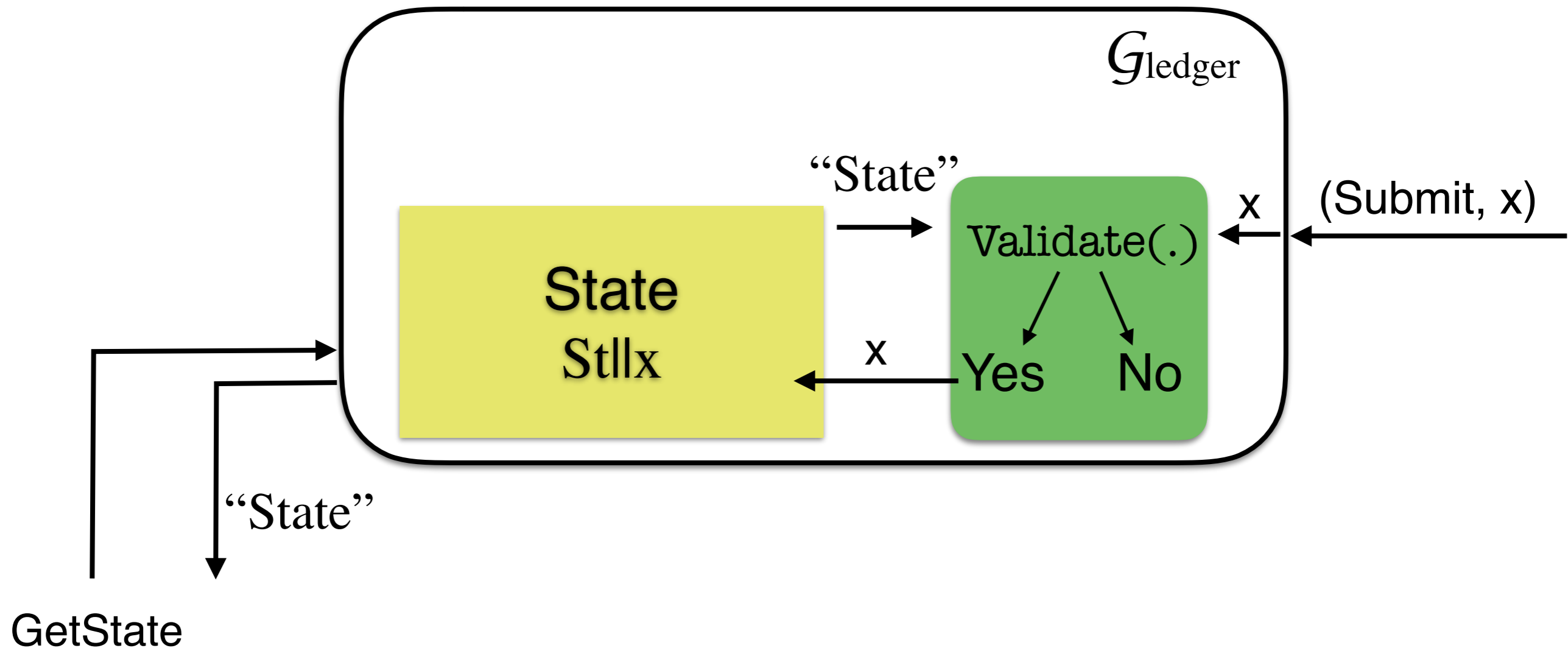
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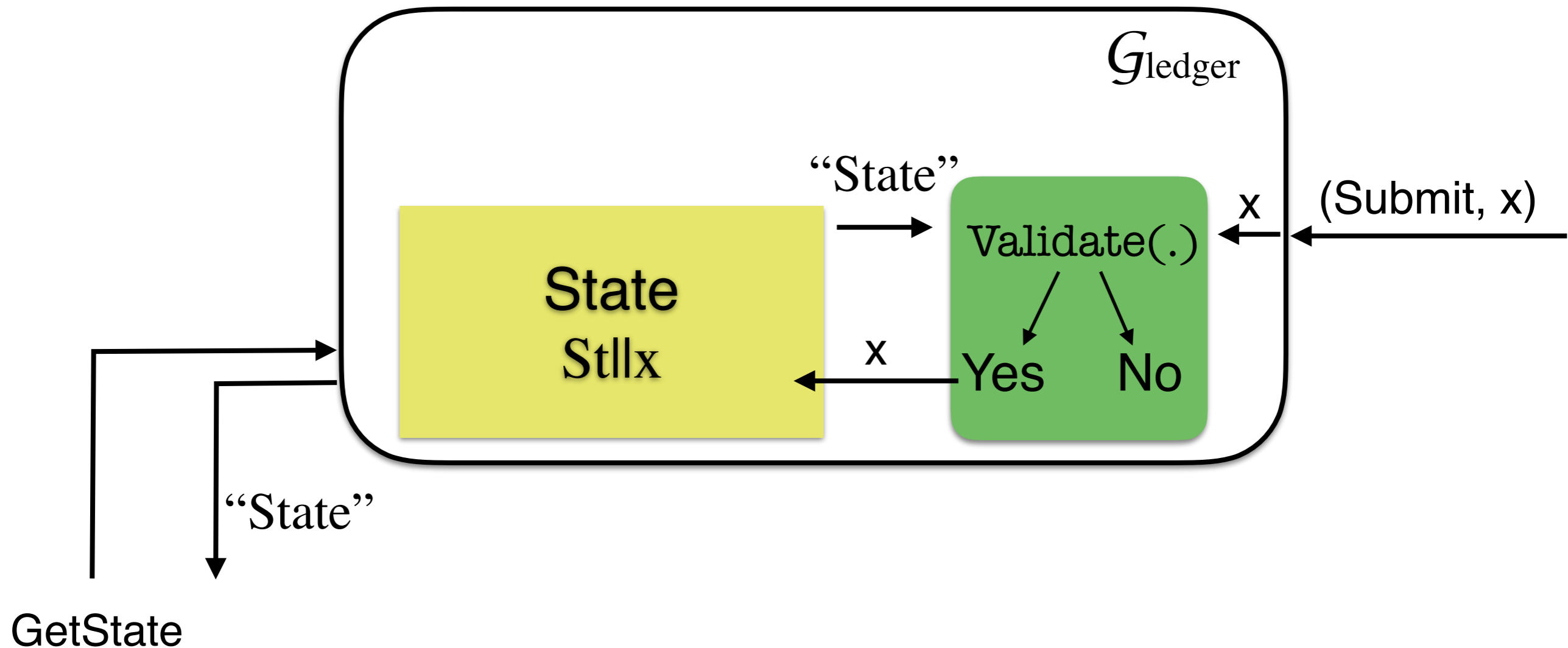
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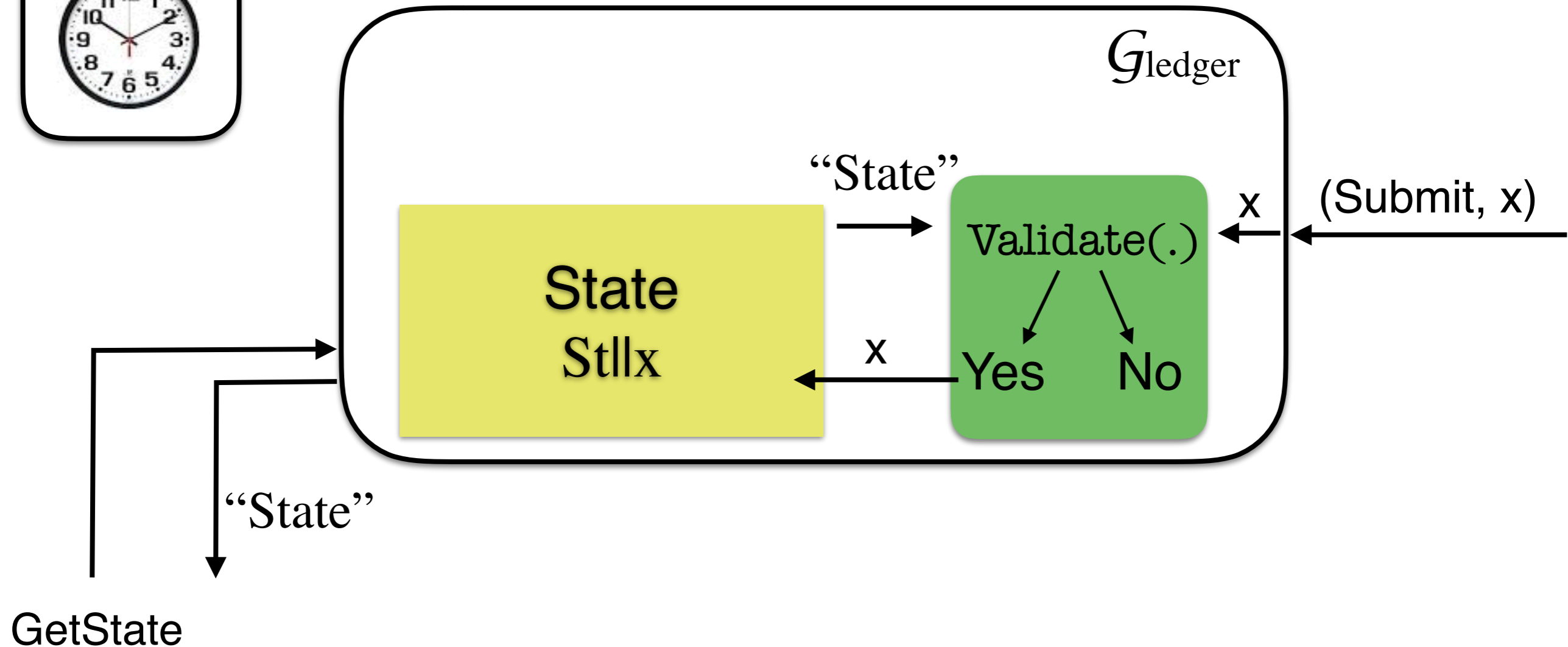
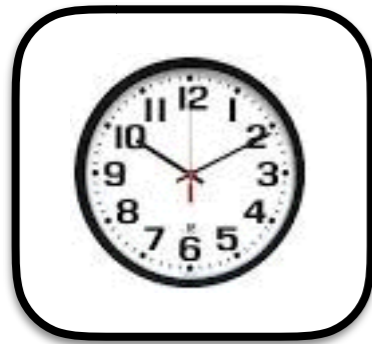
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 - Inputs (transactions) are filtered
 - The order in which transactions in "State" are inserted might be adversarial ... but not too adversarial

The Public Transaction Ledger



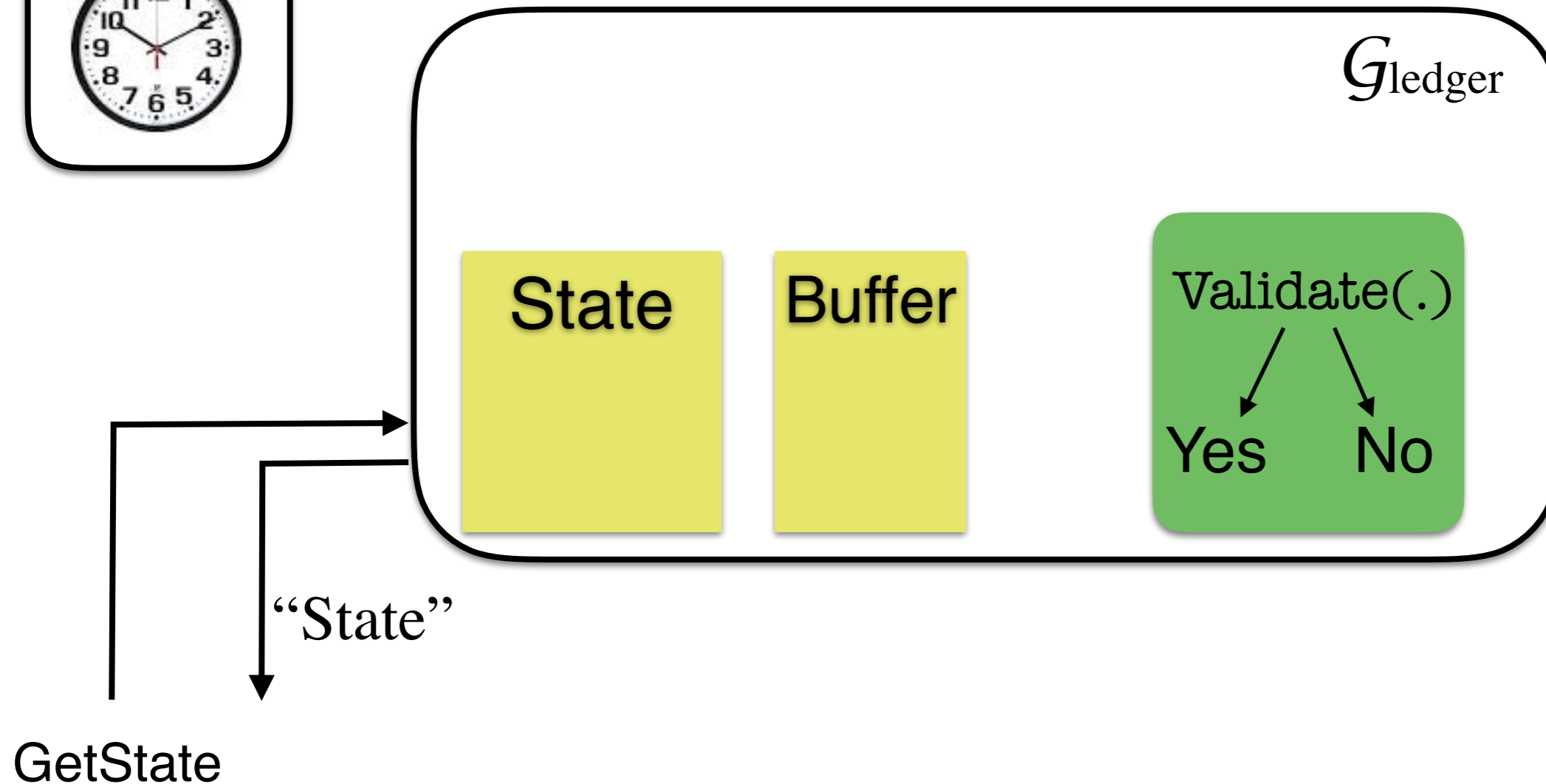
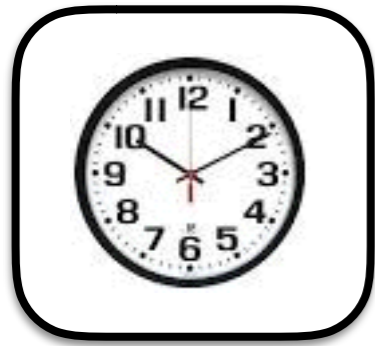
Can reorder **the recently inserted** transactions

The Public Transaction Ledger



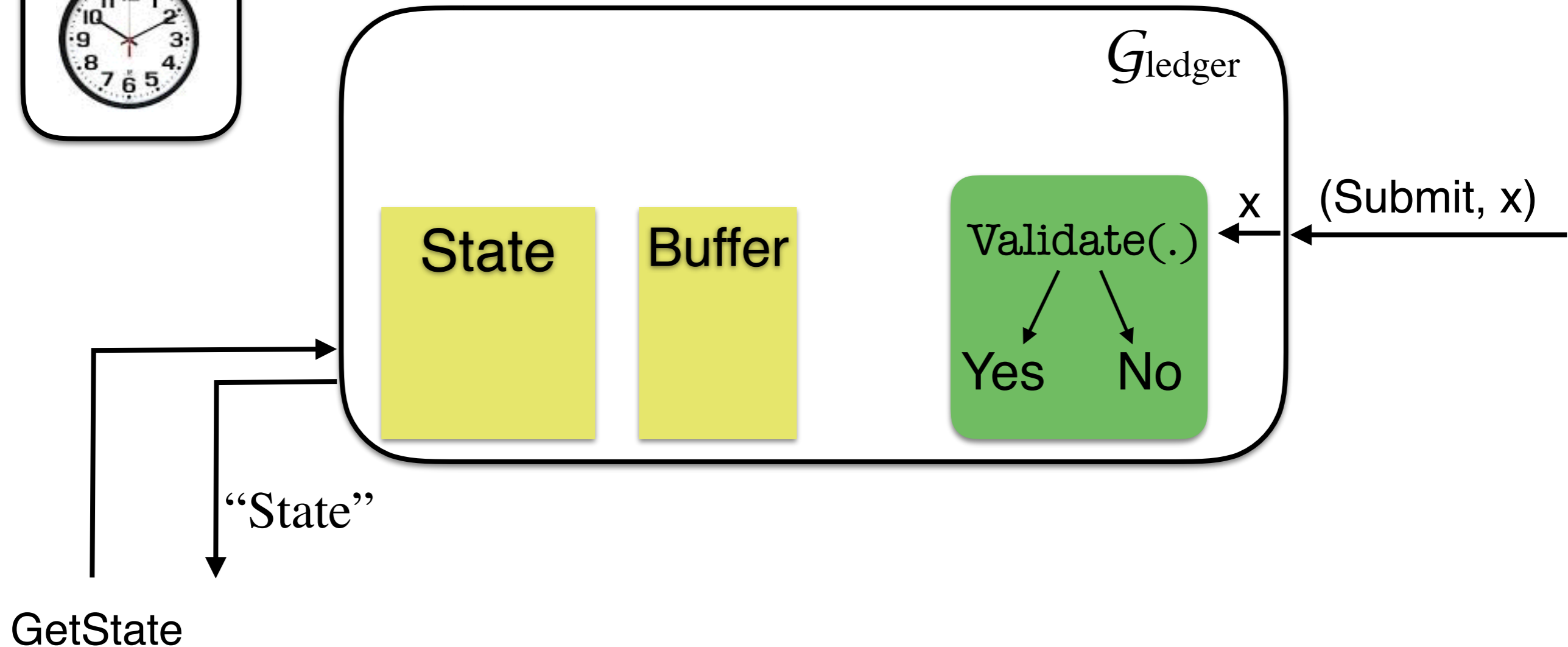
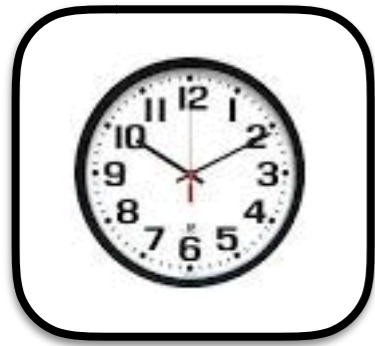
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The Public Transaction Ledger & Time



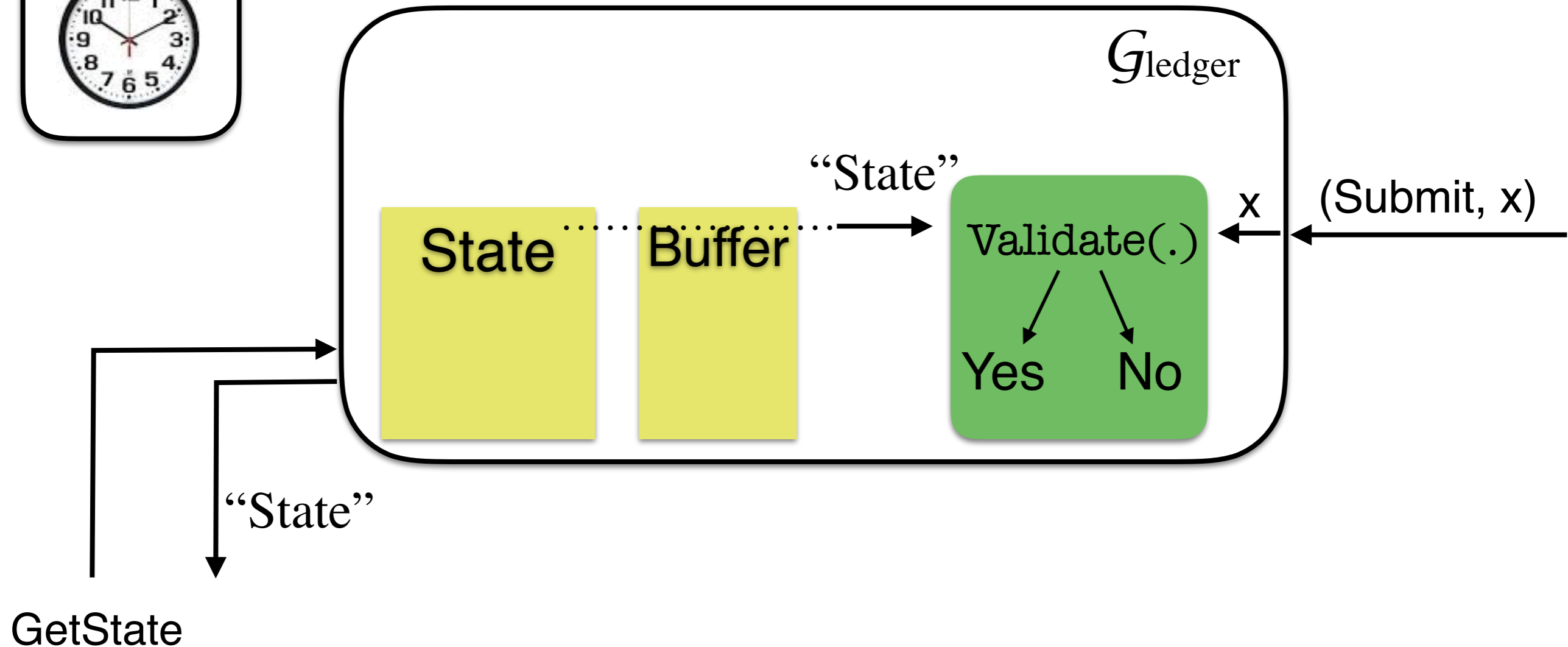
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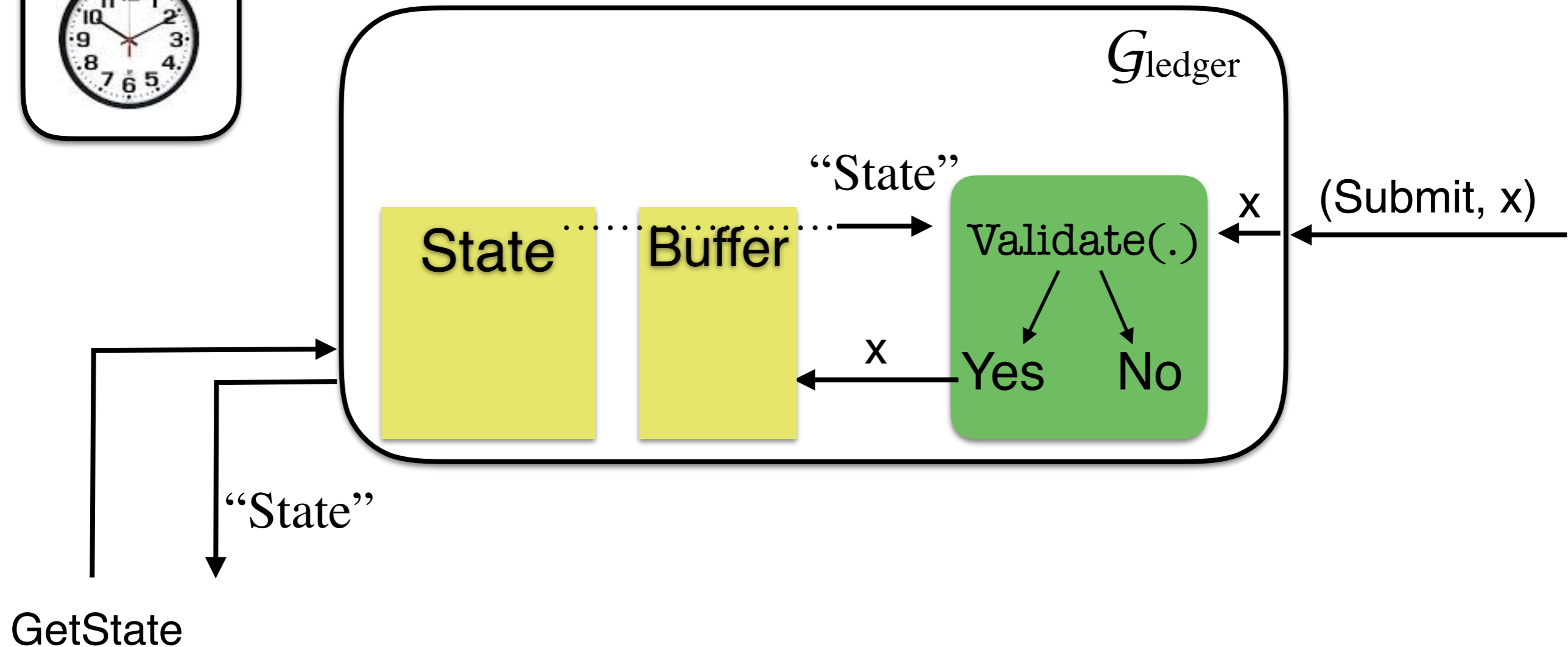
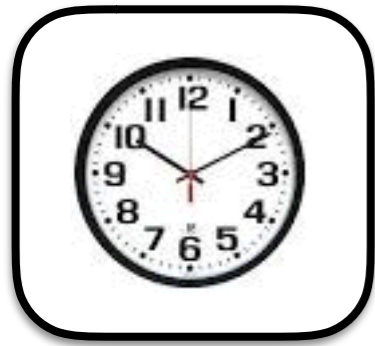
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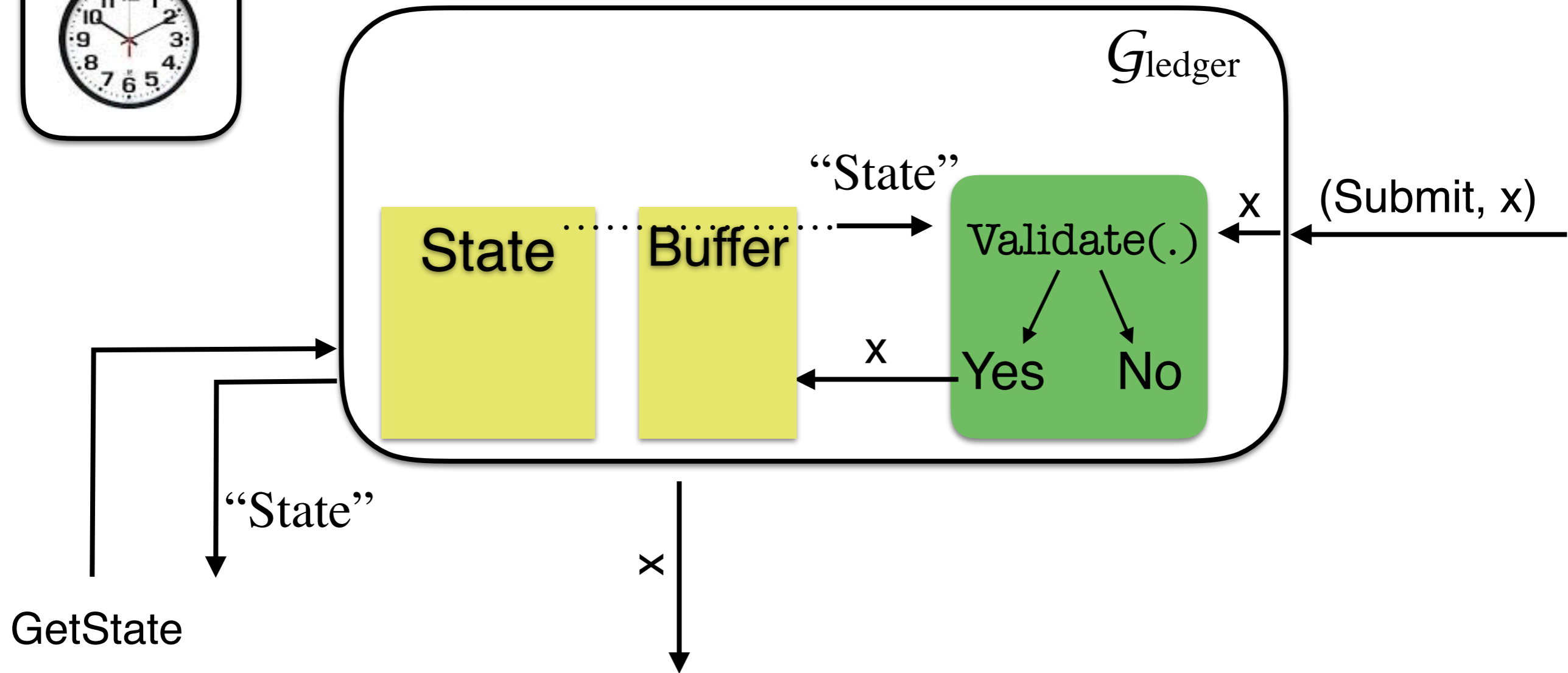
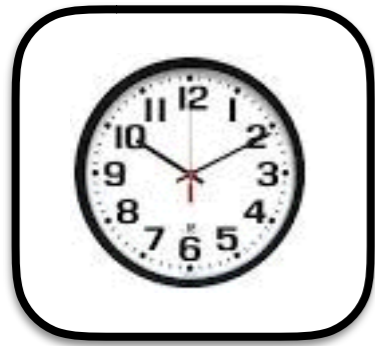
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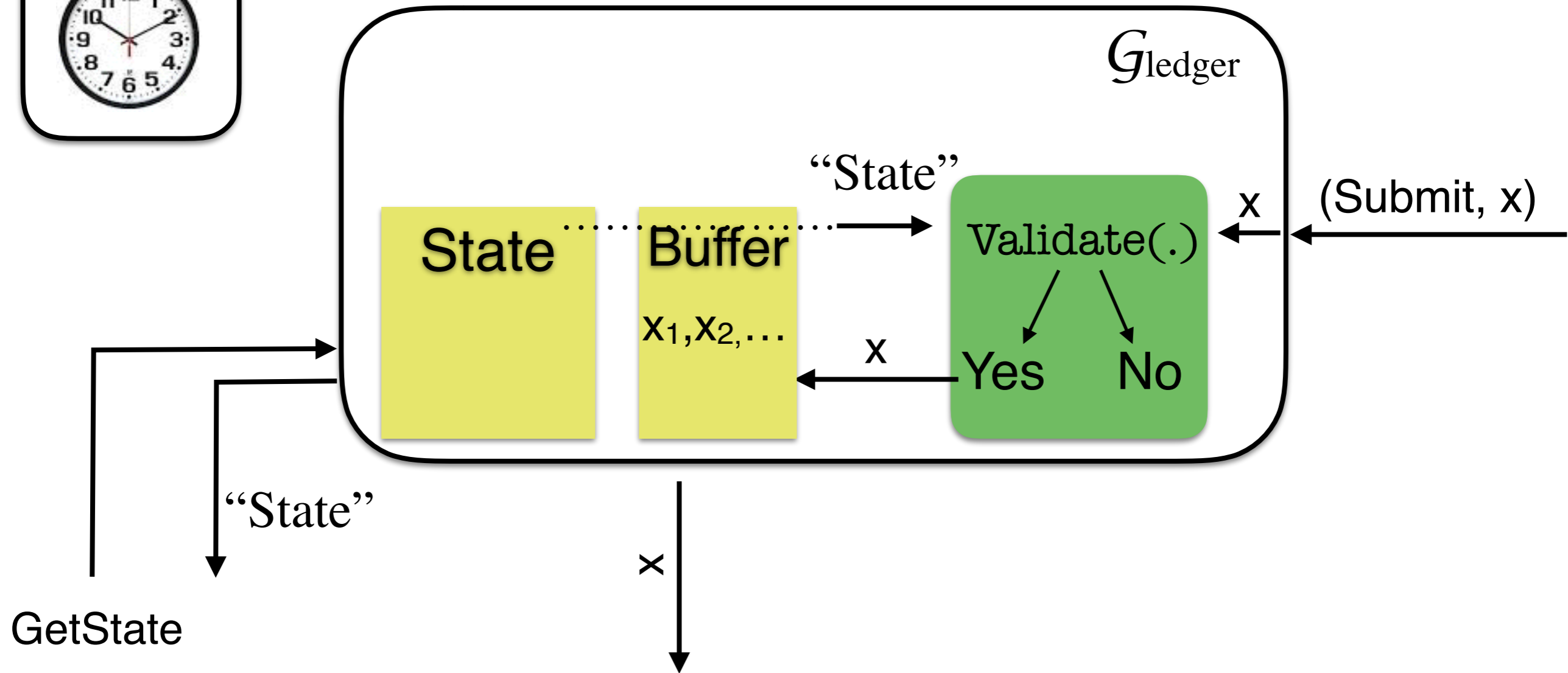
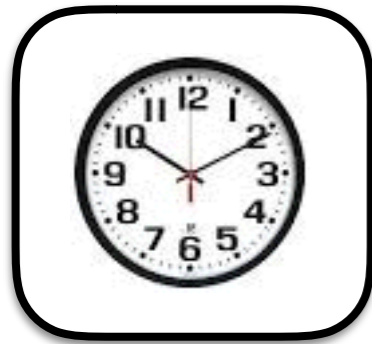
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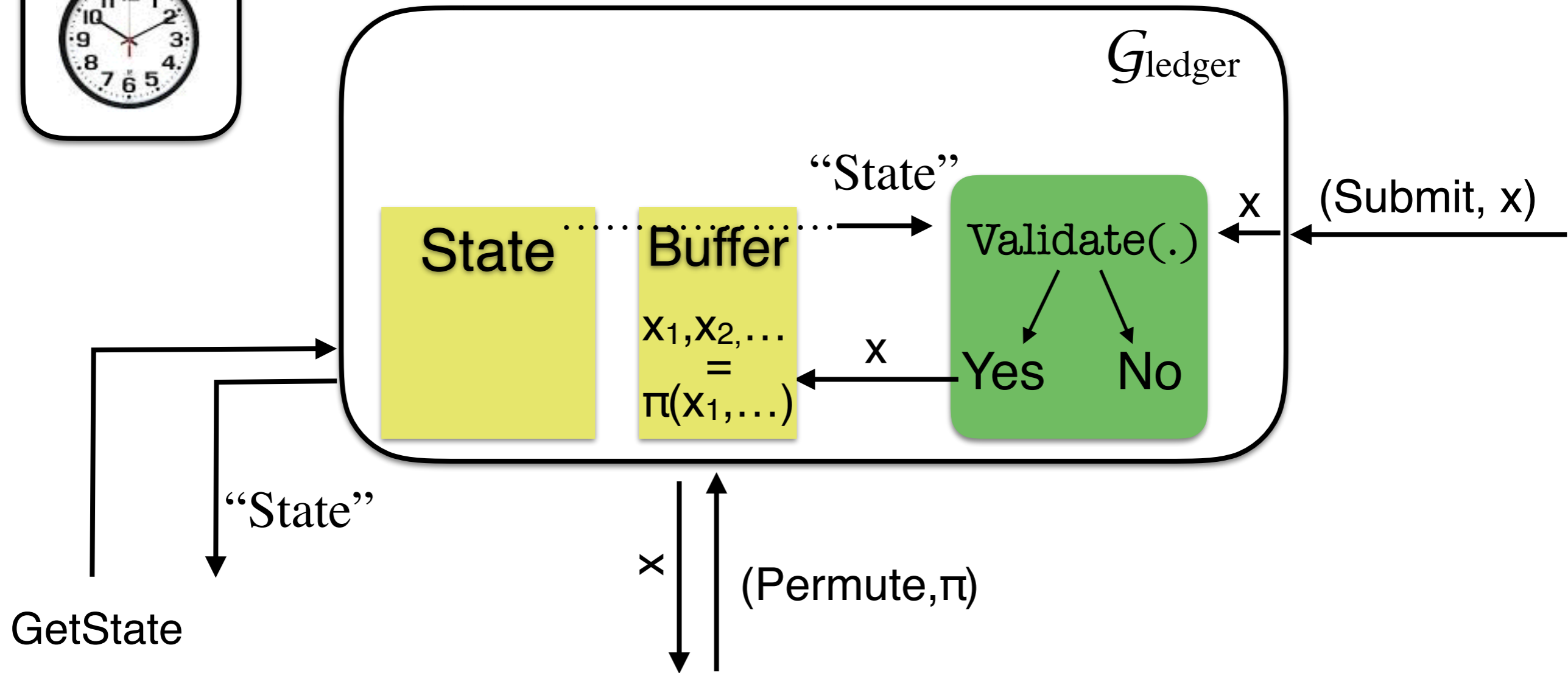
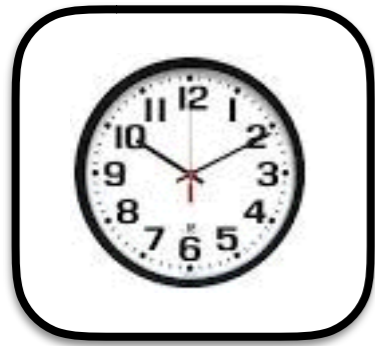
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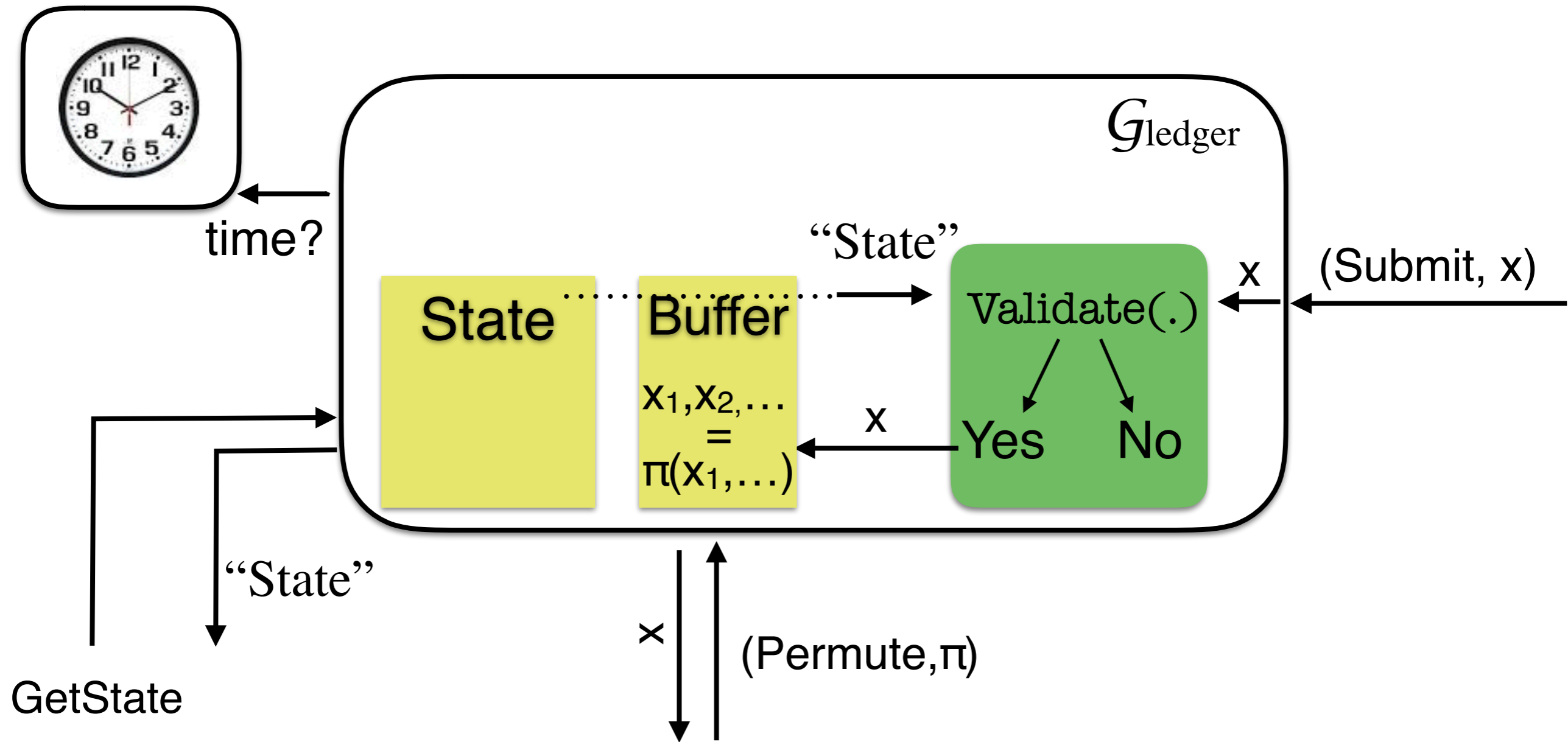
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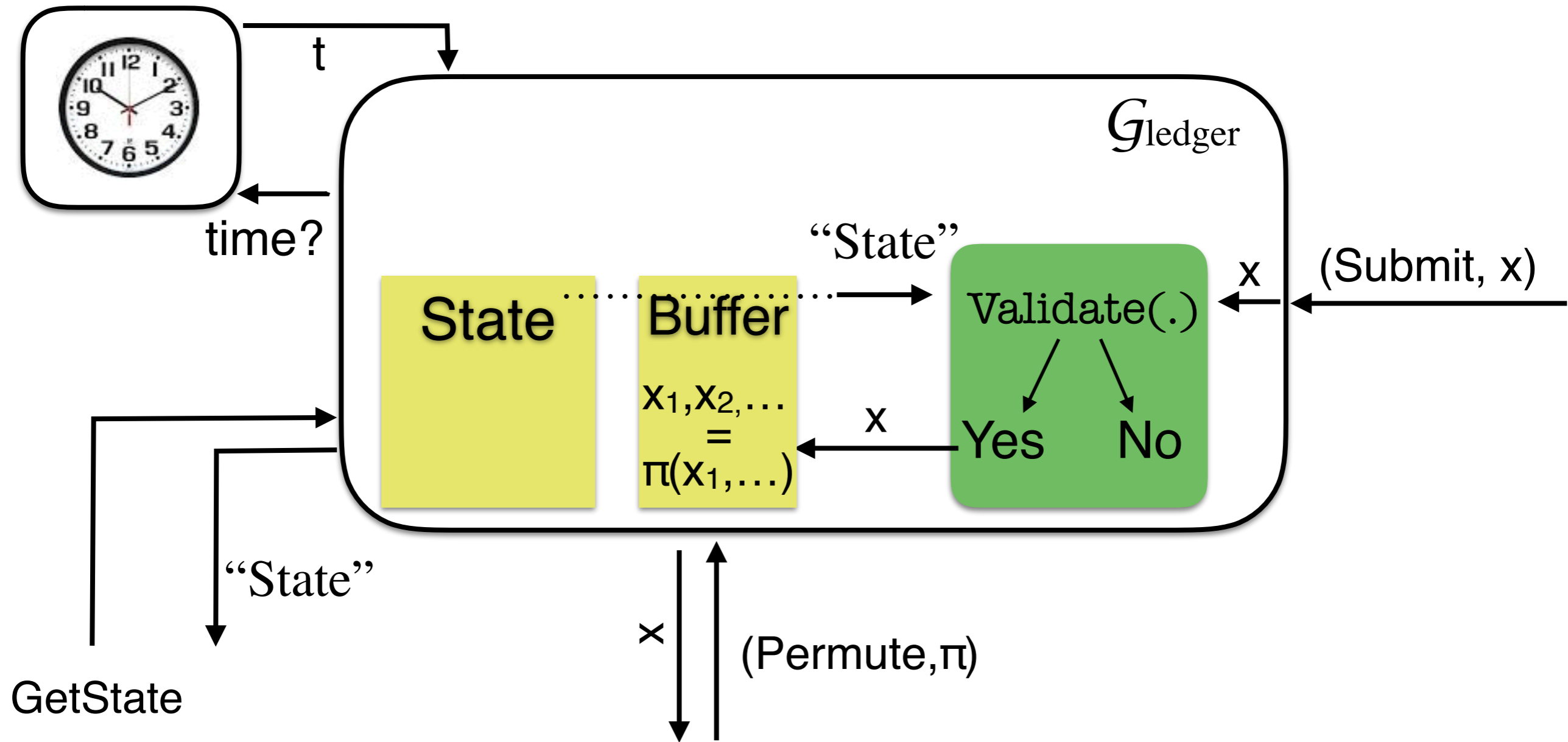
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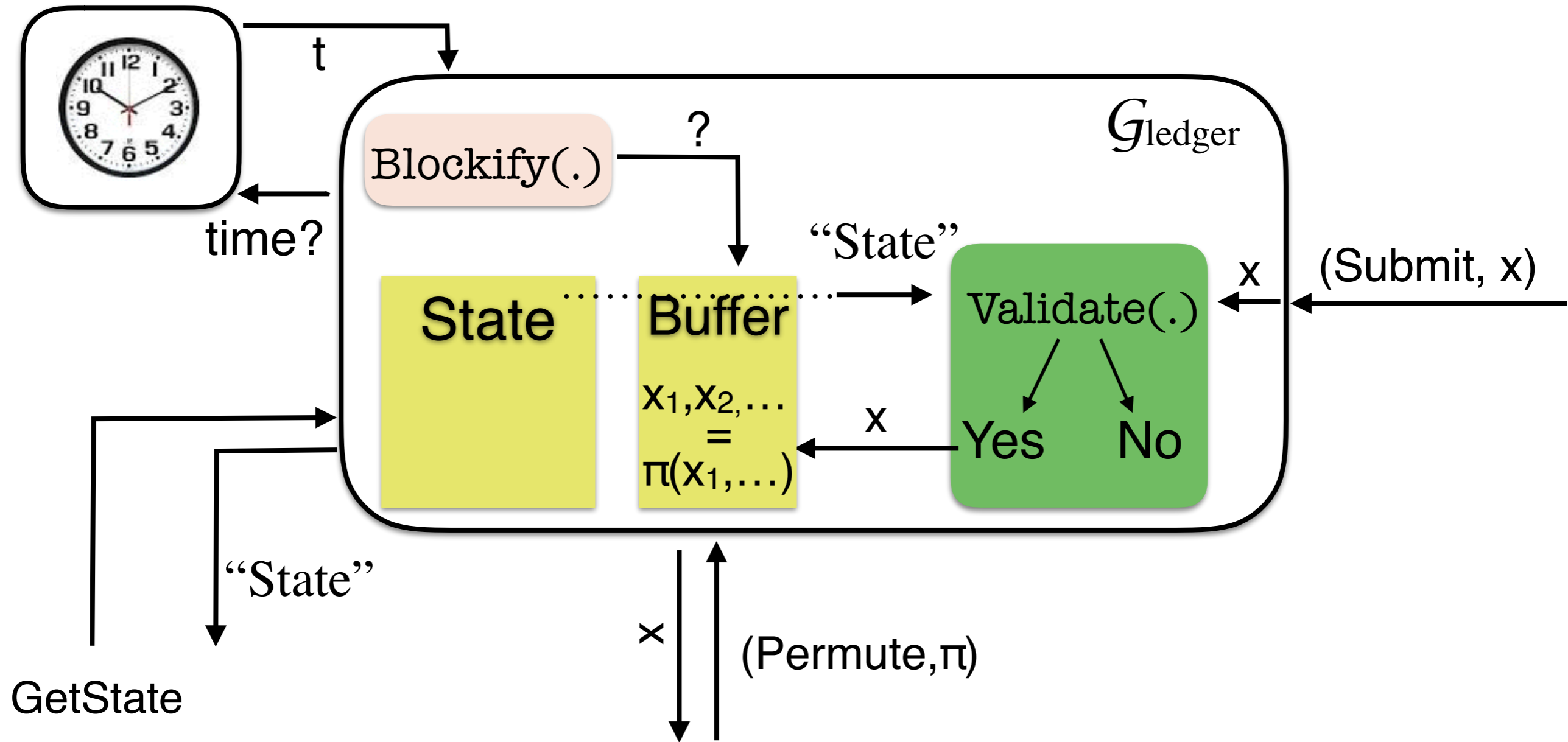
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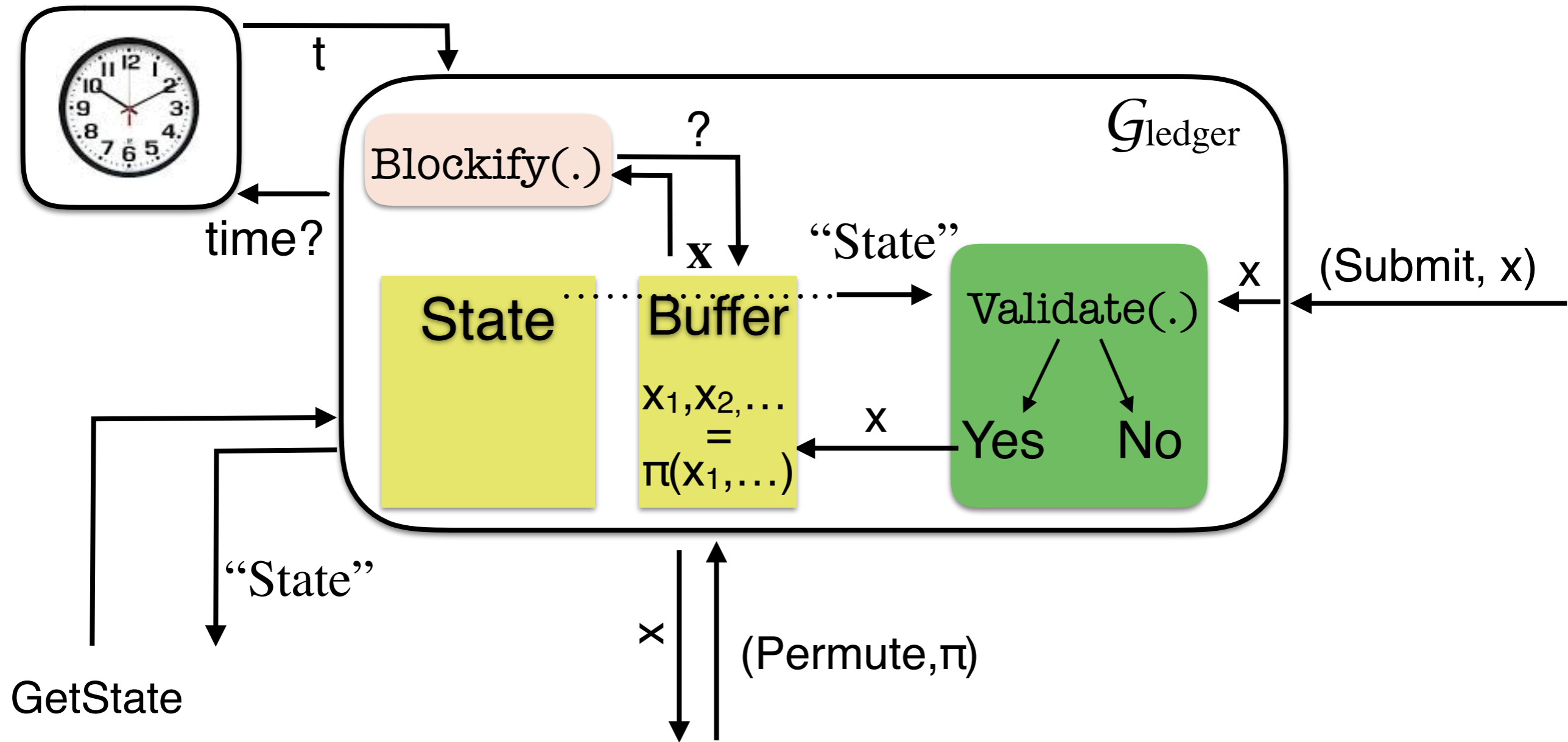
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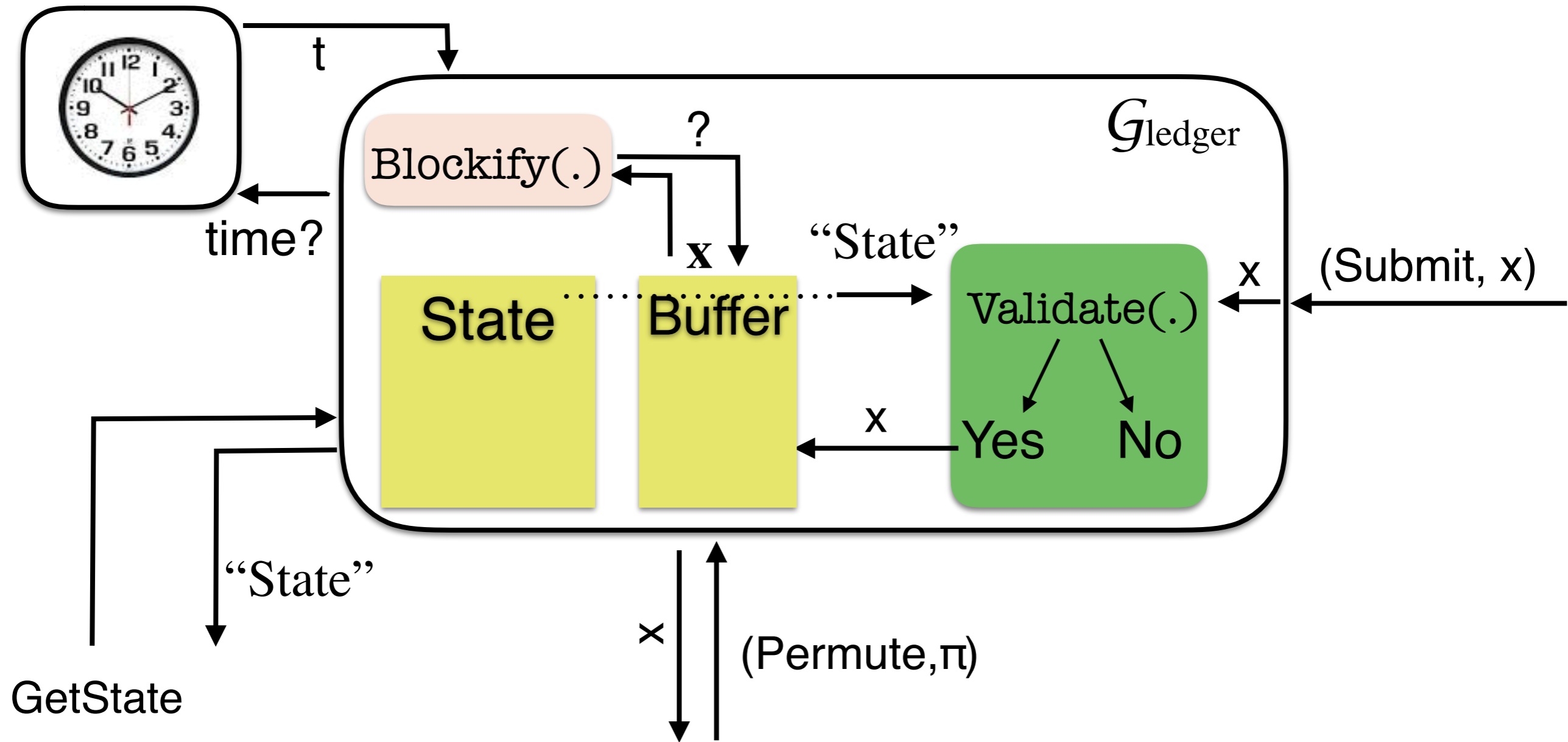
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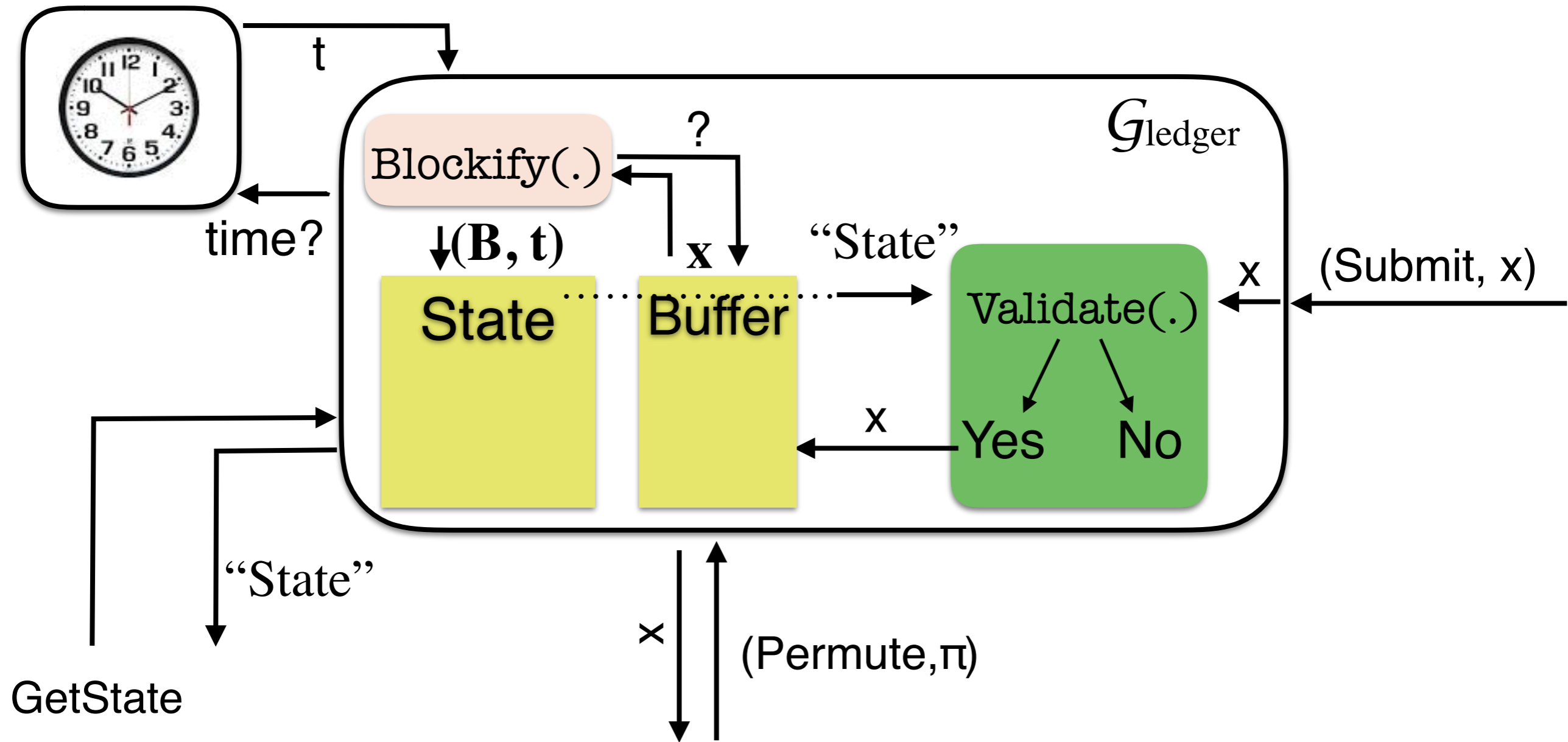
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What Crypto can we get from Bitcoin?

A public transaction ledger

A bulletin board with a filter on what gets written there

Some economic stuff ...

People (good or bad) want money

The Model

$(G_{\text{ledger}}, G_{\text{clock}})$ -hybrid

(G)UC protocols

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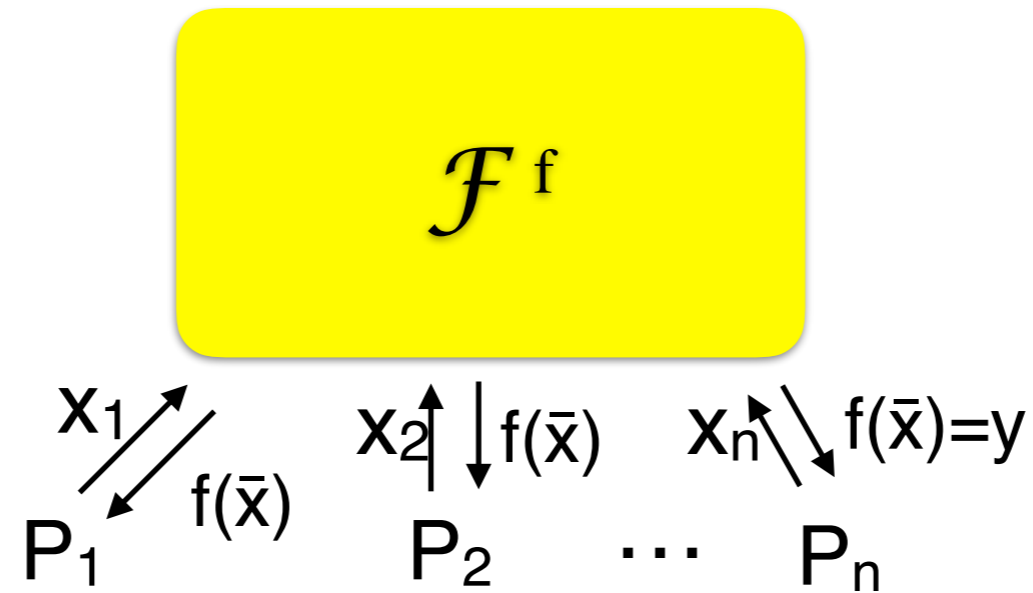
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Secure Function Evaluation (SFE)

Goal: Parties P_1, \dots, P_n with inputs x_1, \dots, x_n wish to compute a function $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ *securely*

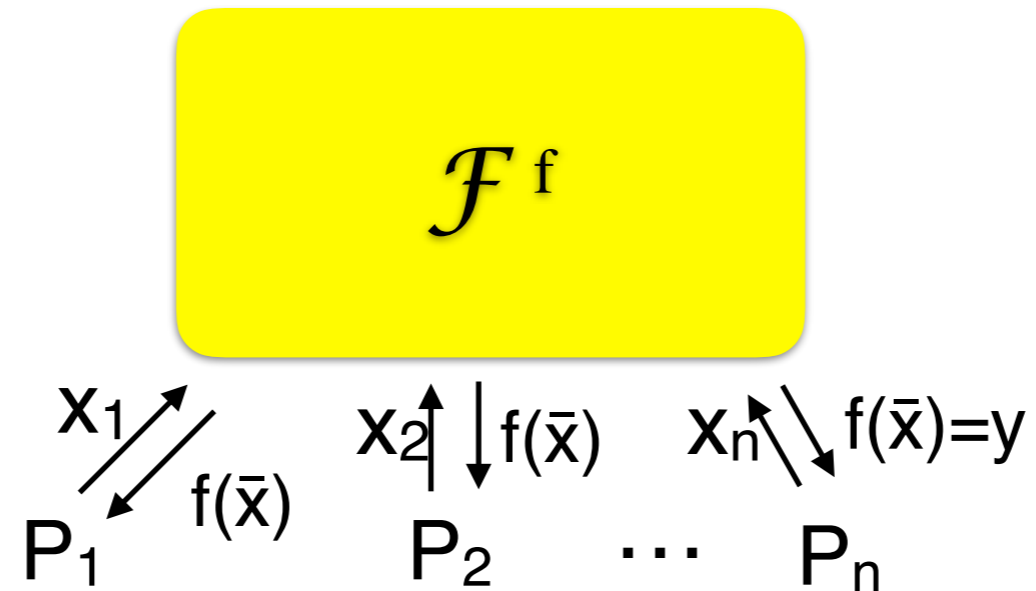
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Ideal World

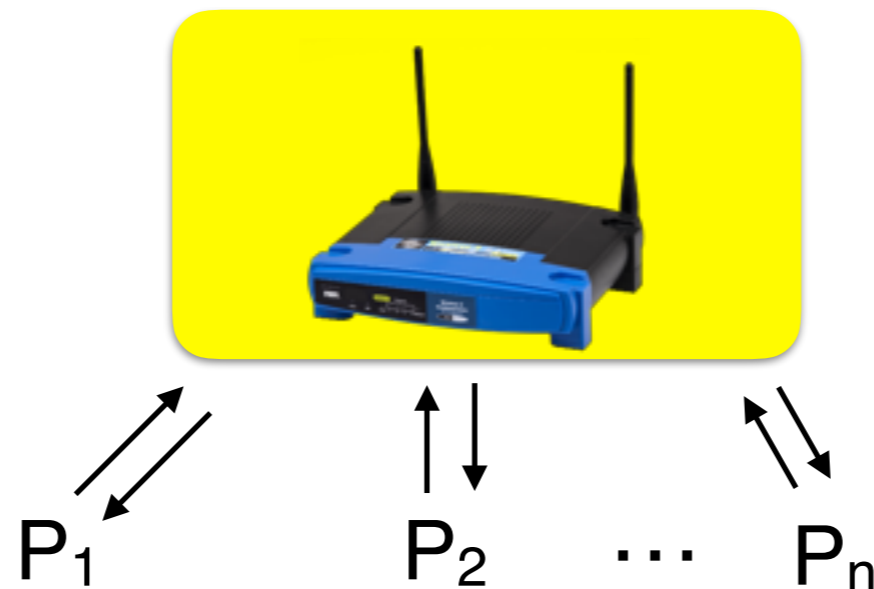


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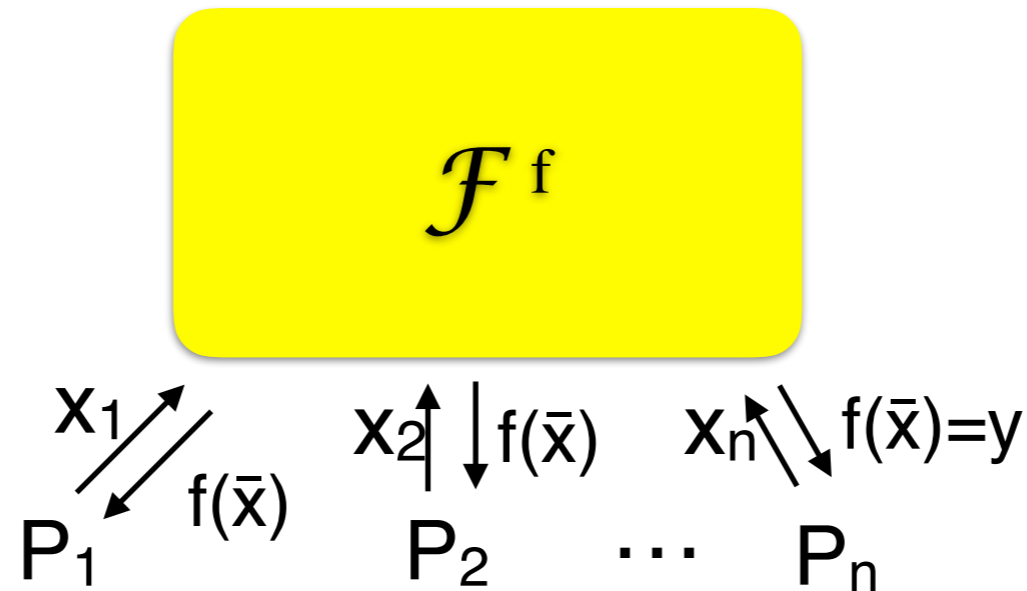


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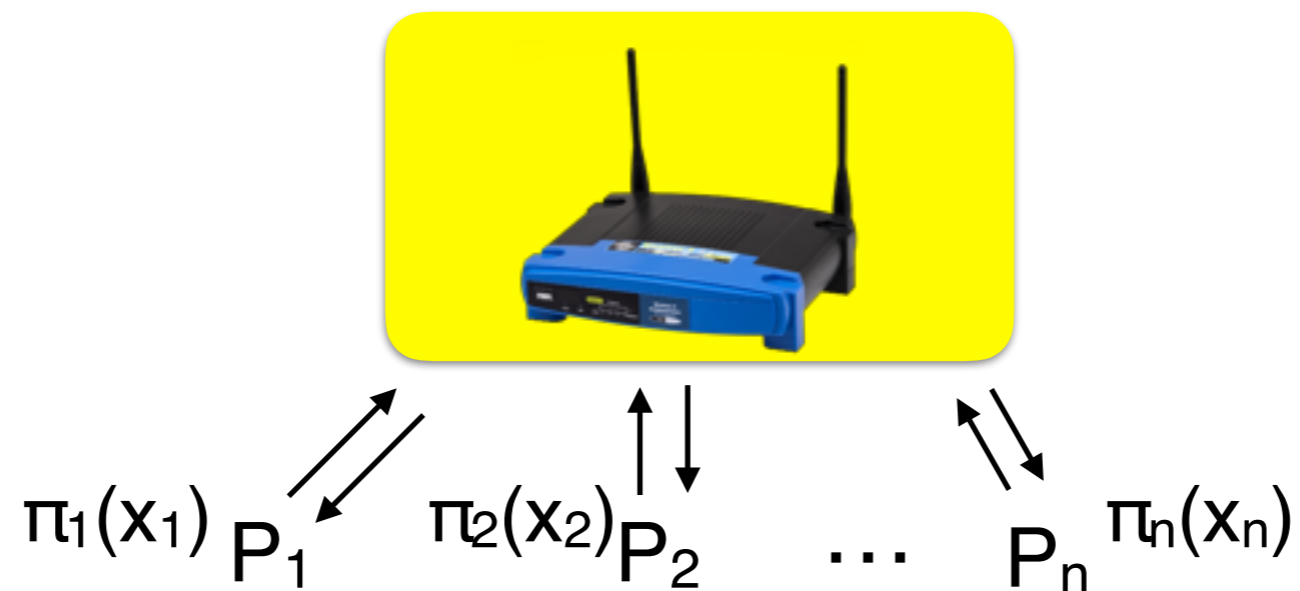
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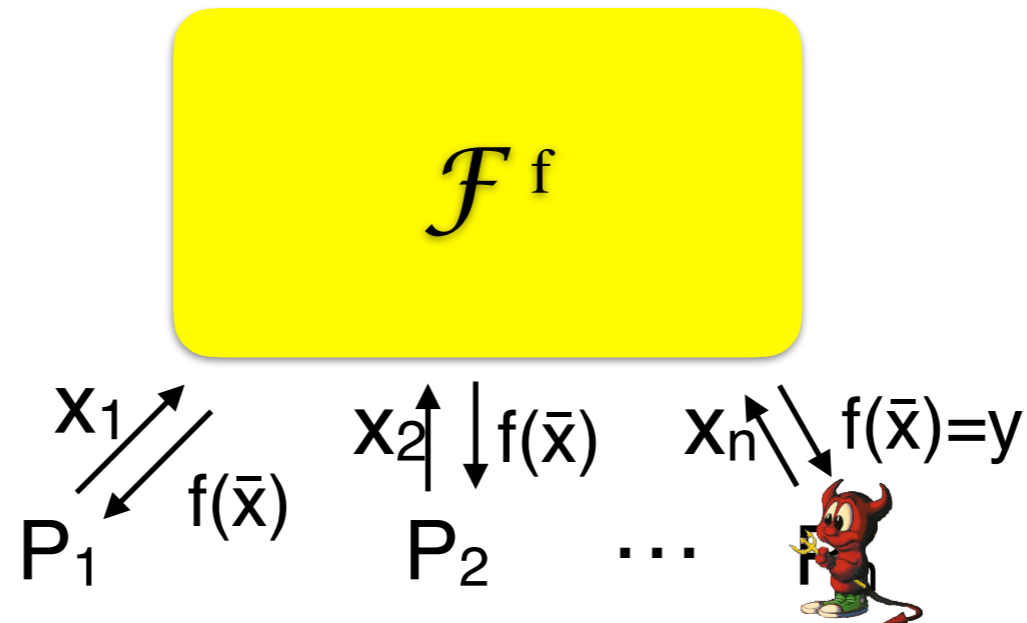
\approx

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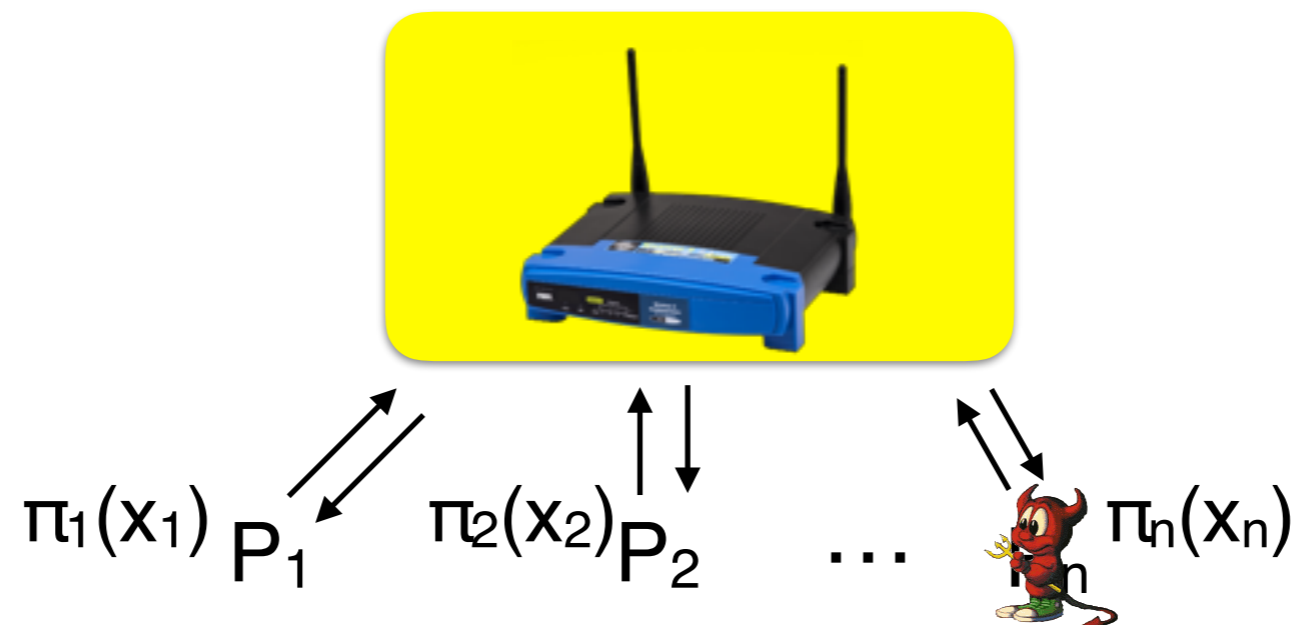
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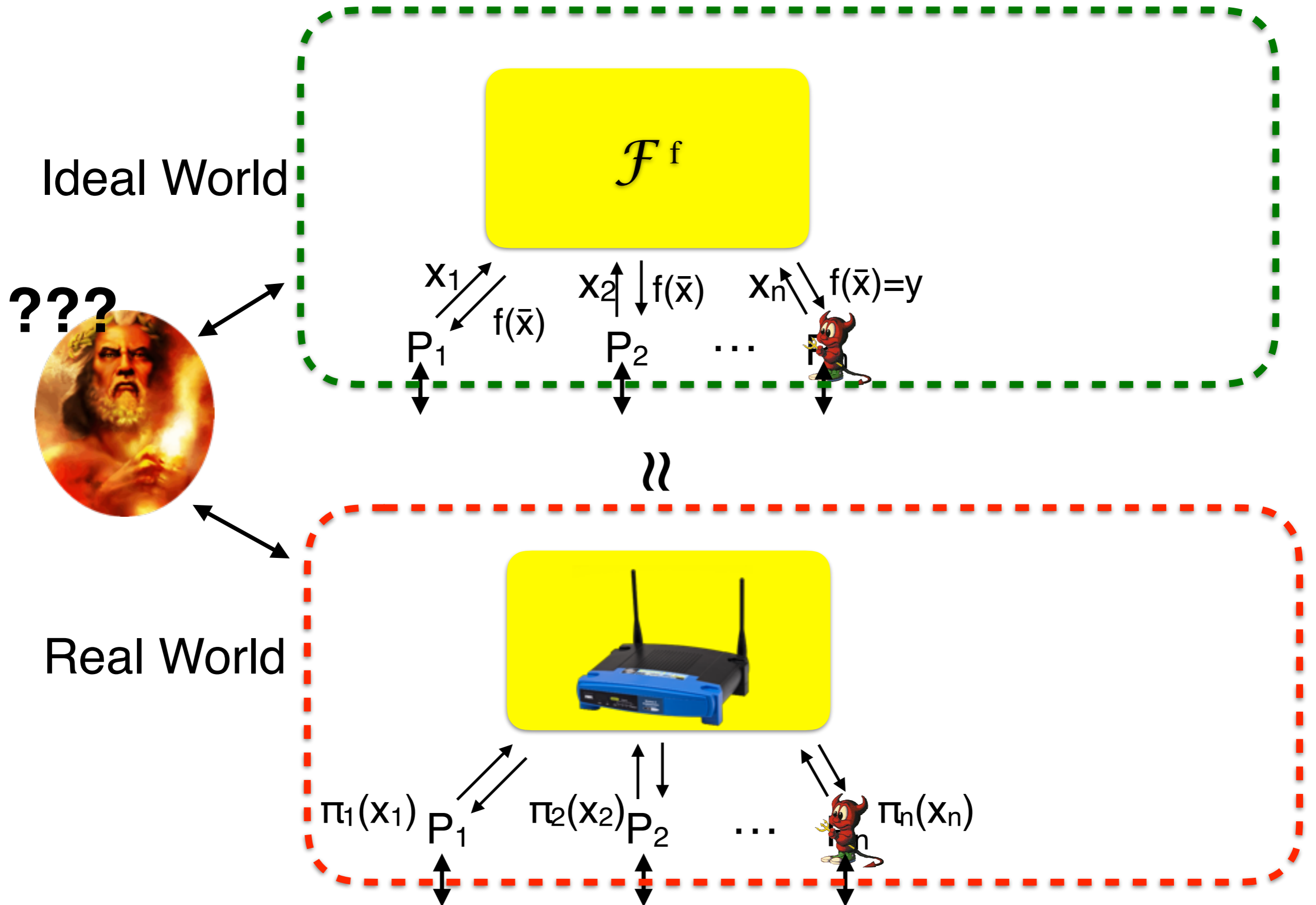


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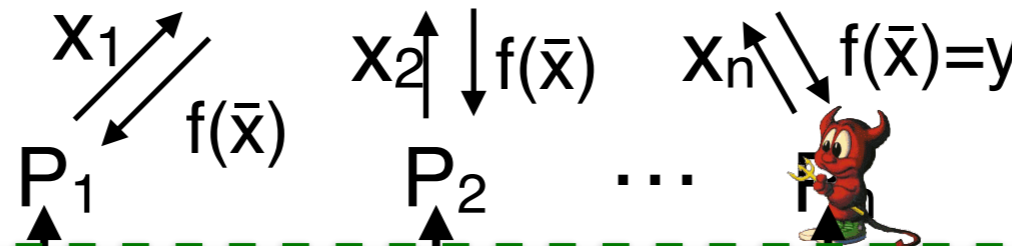


Secure Function Evaluation (SFE)

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\mathcal{F}^f

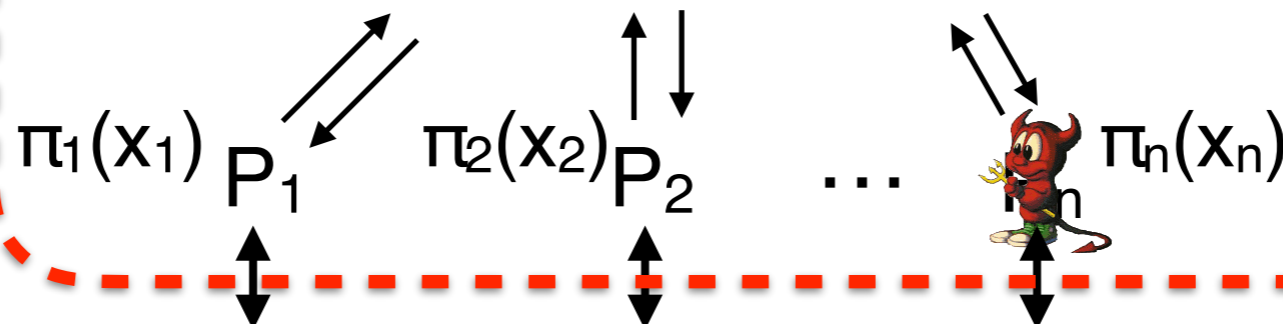
???



Protocol π is secure if *for every adversary*:

- (*privacy*) Whatever the adversary learns he could compute by himself
- (*correctness*) Honest (uncorrupted) parties learn their correct outputs

Real World

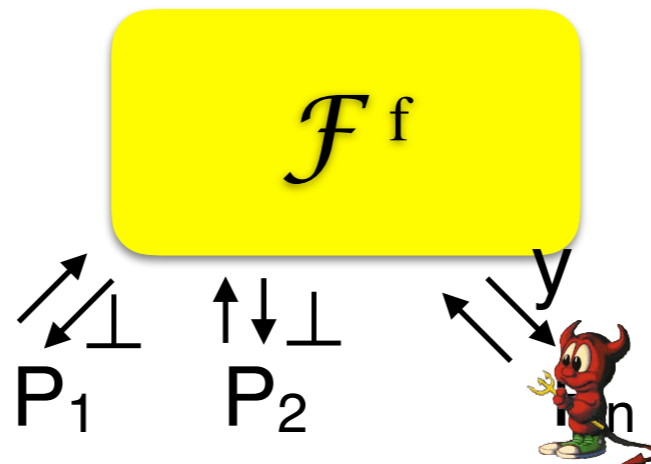


Fair SFE

In fair SFE: If the adversary learns any information beyond (what is derived by) its inputs then every honest party should learn the output

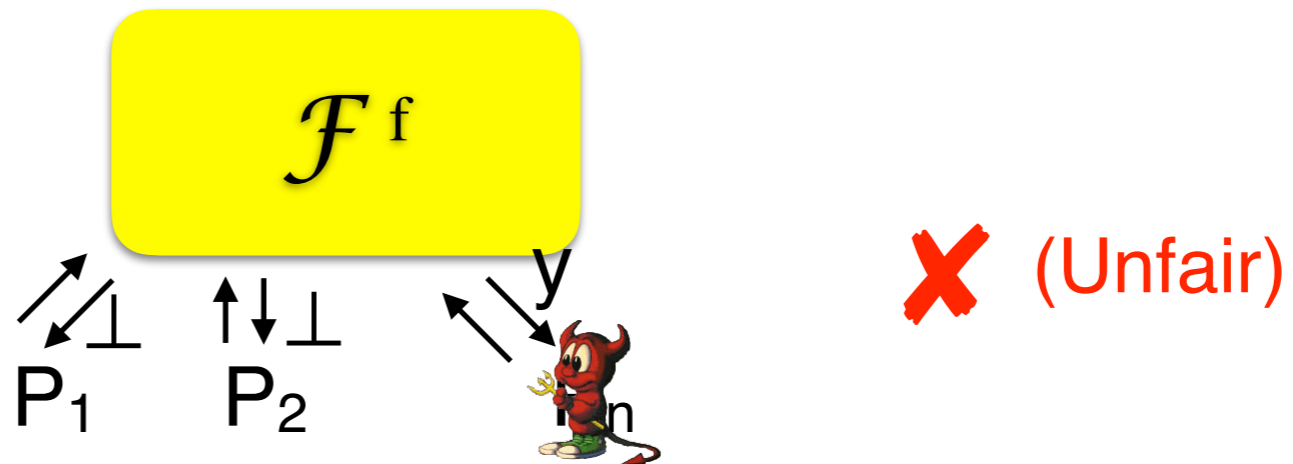
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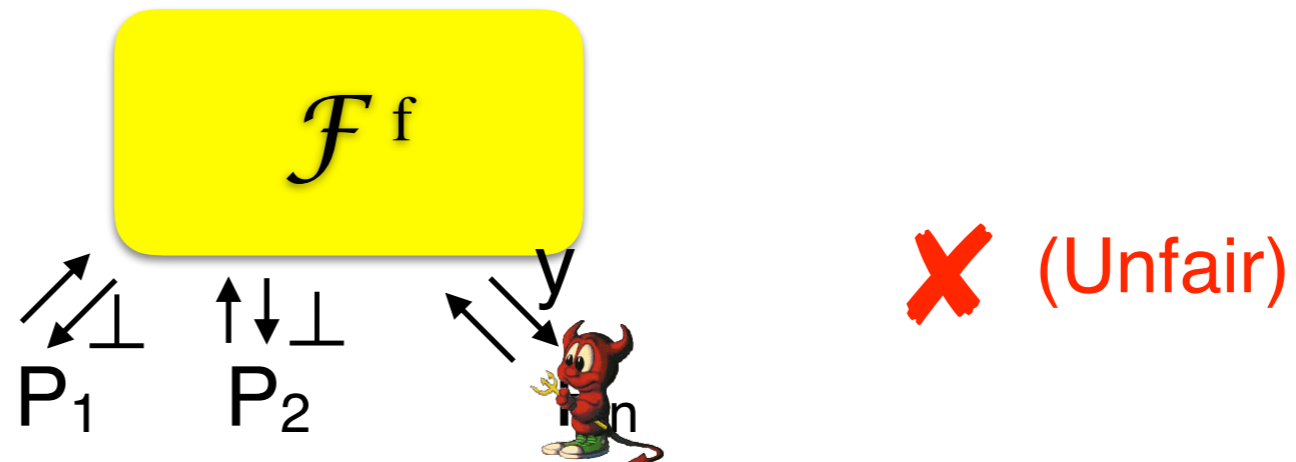
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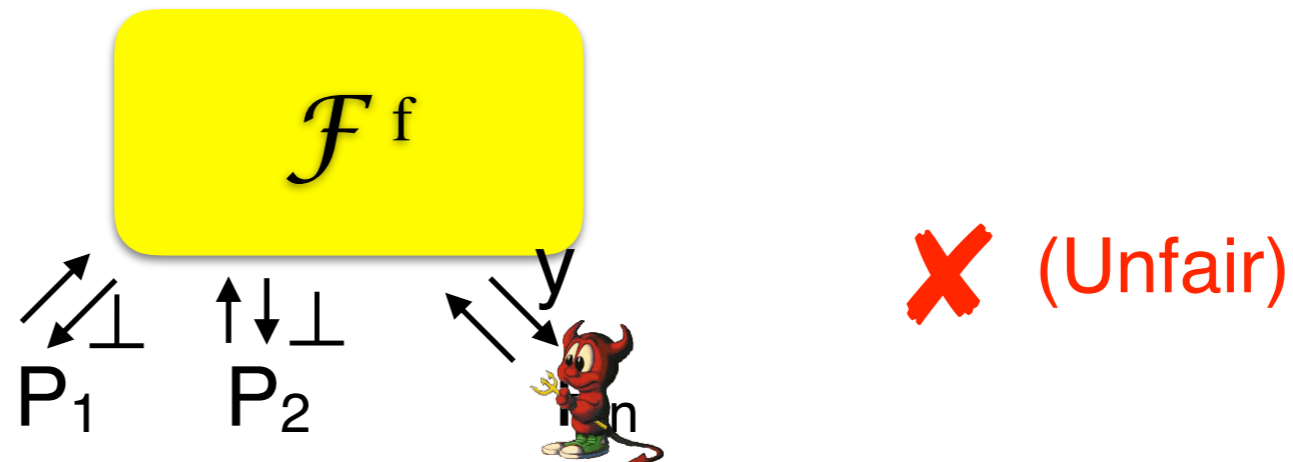
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Fair SFE is impossible against corrupted majorities [Cleve86]

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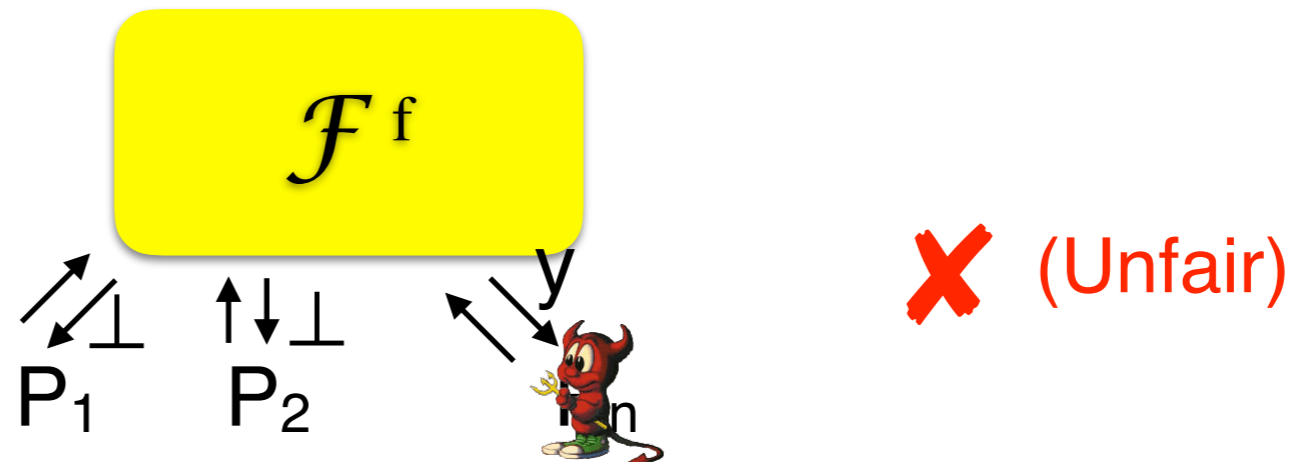


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Security against corrupted majorities = Security with abort

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**Security against
corrupted majorities**

=

**Security with
abort**

Discounted
security

SFE with Fair(ness) Compensation

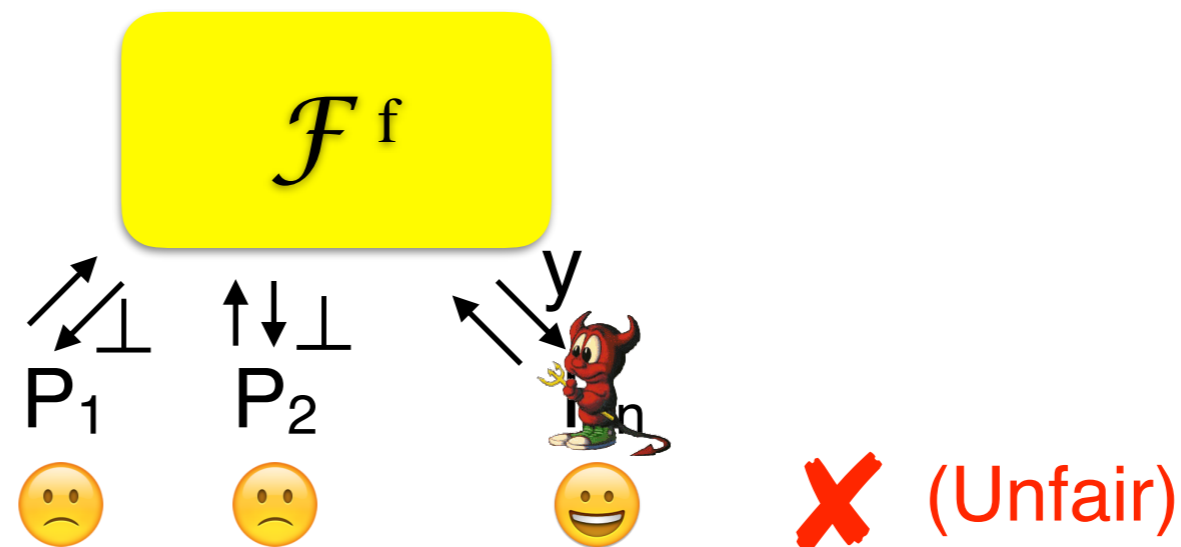
Idea [AndrychowiczDziembowskiMalinowskiMazurek14]:
We can leverage unfairness with \$\$\$

SFE with fair compensation: If the adversary learns any information beyond (what is derived by) its inputs then every honest party should learn the output **or** get compensated.

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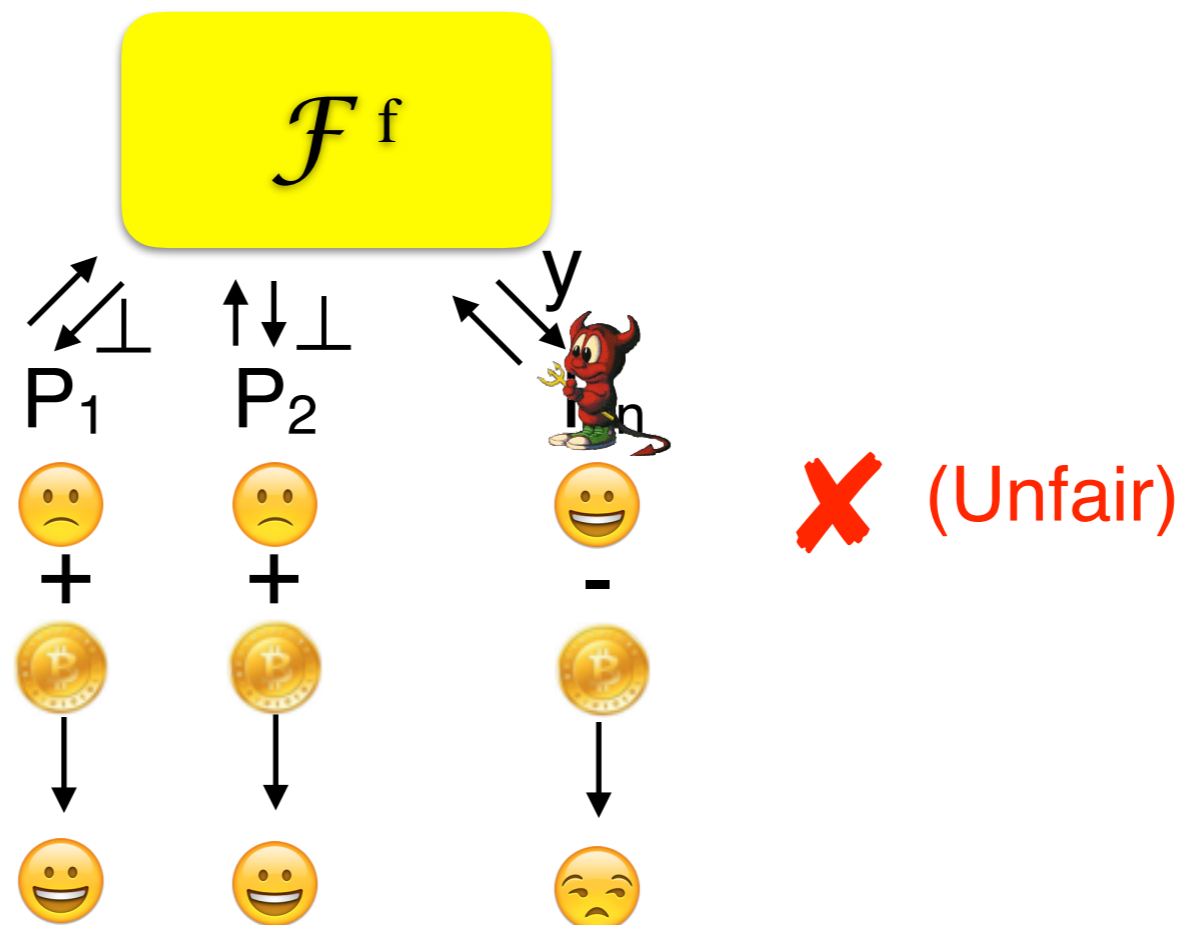
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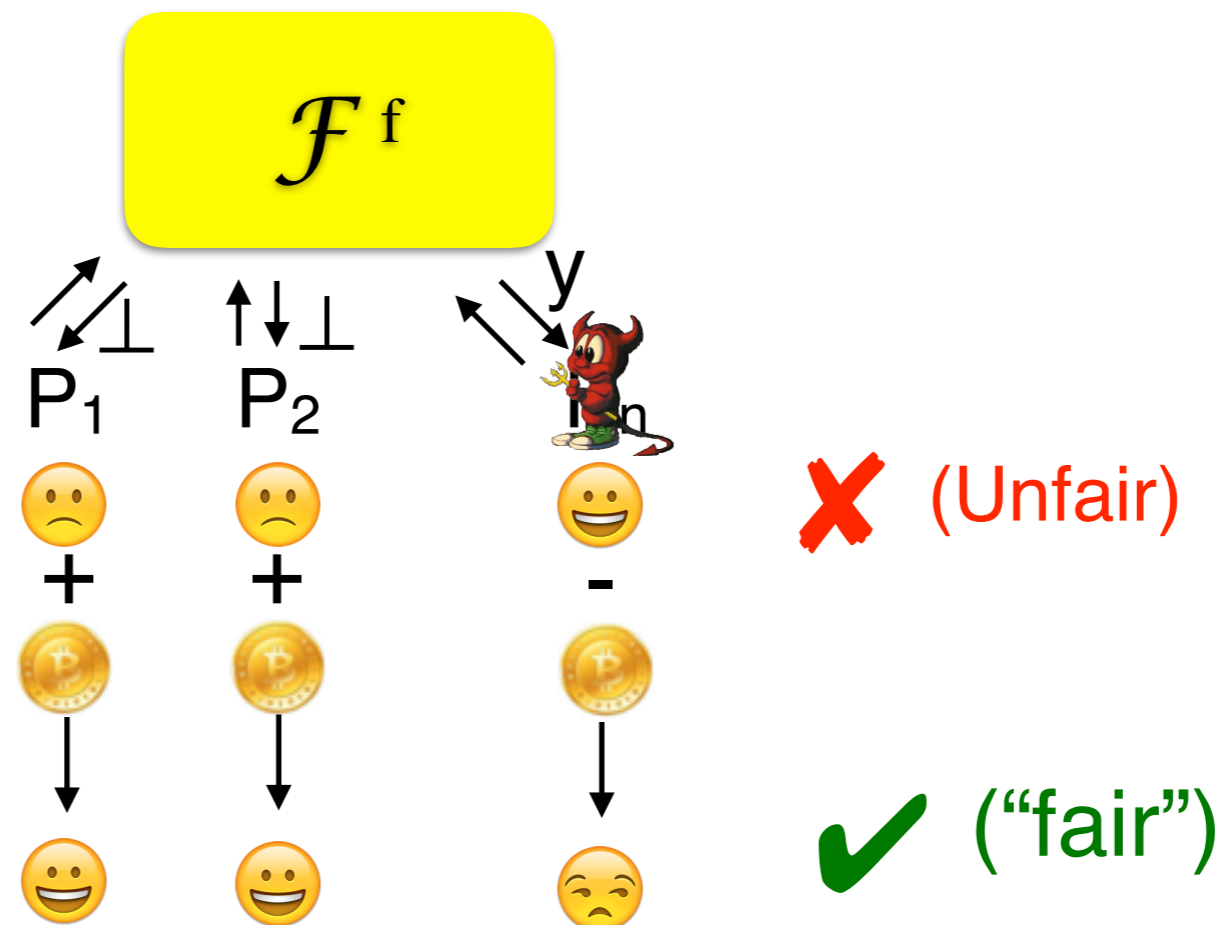
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SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Tools 1/2 : Authenticated Additive Secret

Sharing

$$x = x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus x_n, (sk, vk) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}$$

P_1

$$[x]_1 = x_1, \text{Sig}_{sk}(x_1), vk$$

...

P_n

$$[x]_n = x_n, \text{Sig}_{sk}(x_n), vk$$

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...

P_n

$$[x]_n = x_n, \text{Sig}_{sk}(x_n), vk$$

- No $n-1$ parties have info on x
- Together all n parties can recover x
- No party can lie about its share
 - Only x might be reconstructed!

SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Tools 2/2 : Claim and Refund Transactions

S transfers q coins to R such that

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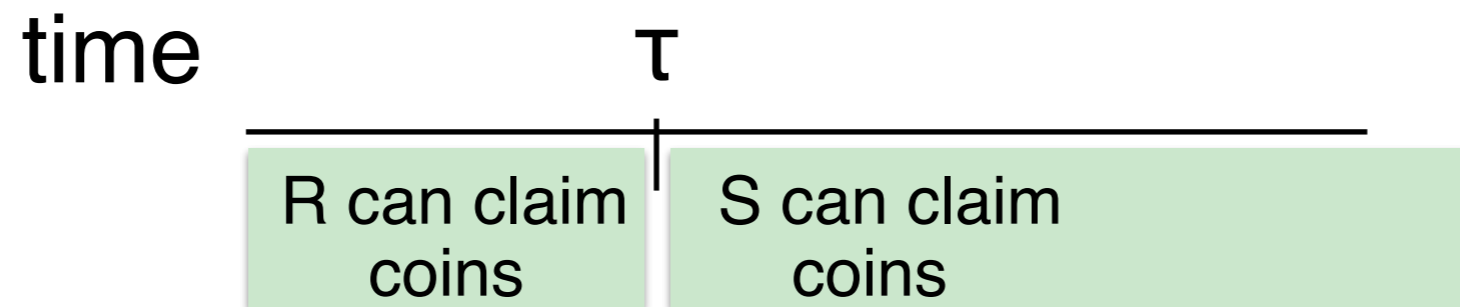
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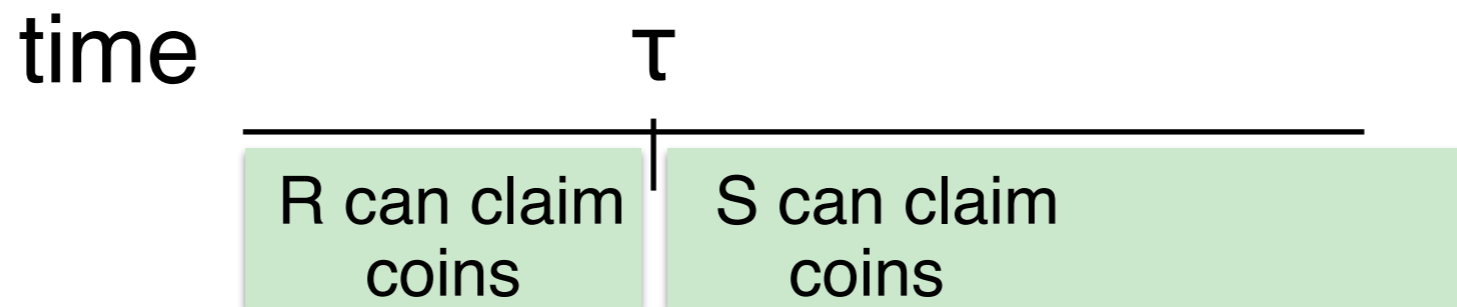
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- A predicate (relation) $\mathcal{R}(\text{state}, \text{buffer}, \text{tx})$:
 - In order to spend the coins the receiver needs to submit a tx satisfying \mathcal{R} (at the point of validation).

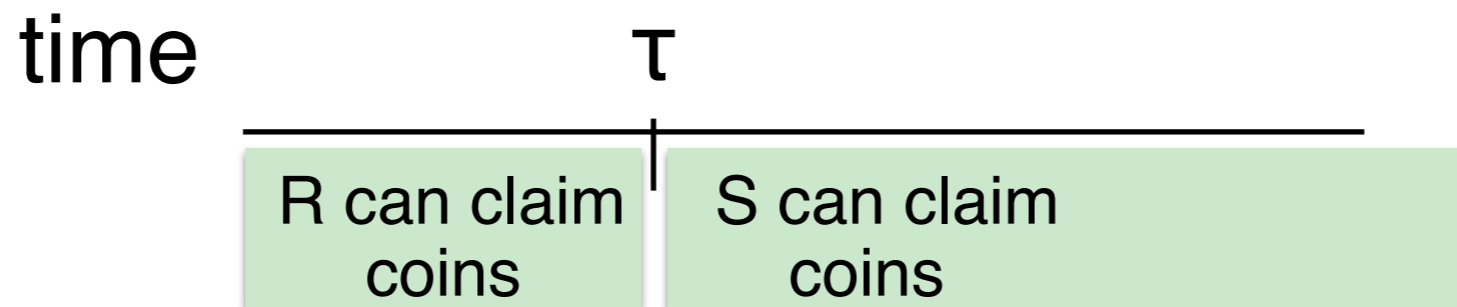
SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Tools 2/2 : Claim and Refund Transactions

S transfers q coins to R such that

- Time restriction τ



- A predicate (relation) $\mathcal{R}(\text{state}, \text{buffer}, \text{tx})$:
 - In order to spend the coins the receiver needs to submit a tx satisfying \mathcal{R} (at the point of validation).

- Supported by Bitcoin scripting language
- Captured by *Validate(.)*

SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Protocol Idea for computing $y=f(x_1,\dots,x_n)$

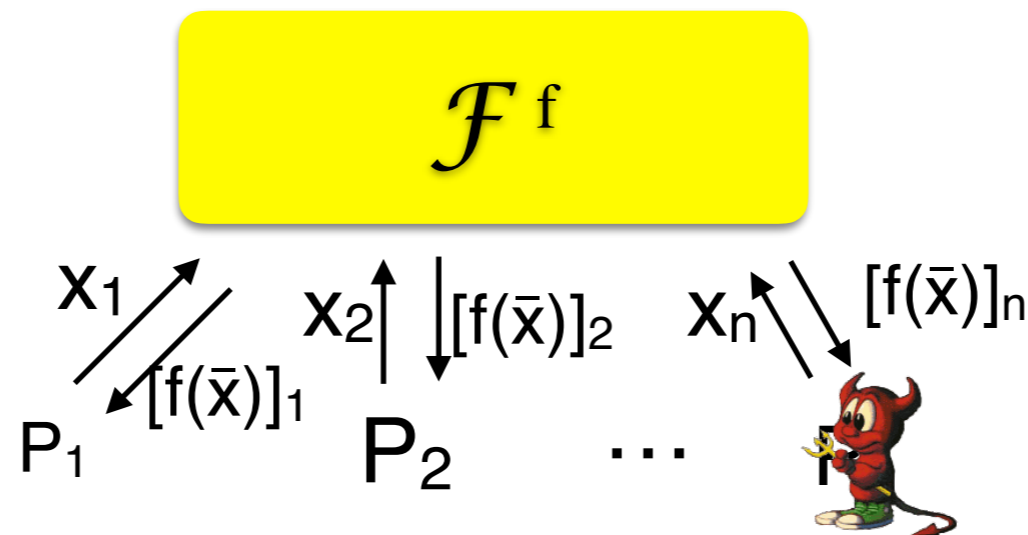
1. Run SFE with unfair abort to compute n-out-of-n authenticated sharing $[y]$ of $y=f(x_1,\dots,x_n)$
 - E.g., Every P_i receives share $[y]_i$ such that $y=[y]_1+\dots+[y]_n$ and public signature on $[y]_i$

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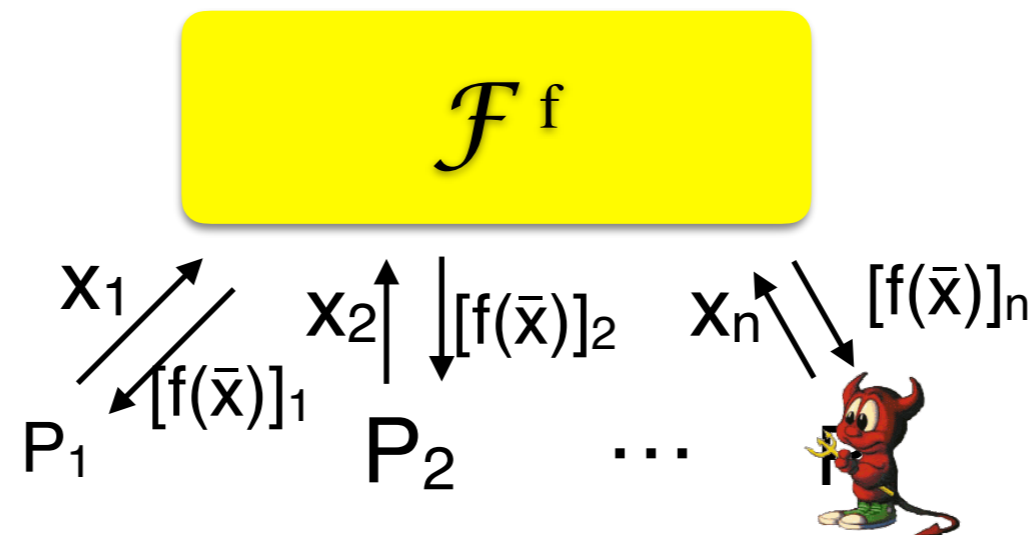


SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

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..... Abort at this point is fair

SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Protocol Idea for computing $y=f(x_1,\dots,x_n)$

2. Use the following reconstruction idea:

2.1. Every P_i transfers 1 bitcoin to every P_j with the restriction:

- P_j can claim (spend) this coin in round ρ_{ij} if it submits to the ledger his valid share (and signature) by round ρ_{ij}
- if P_j has not claimed this coin by the end of round ρ_{ij} , then the coin is “refunded” to P_i (i.e., after round ρ_{ij} , P_i can spend this coin himself).

SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

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2.2. Proceed in rounds in which the parties claim the coins from other parties by announcing their shares (and signatures)

SFE with Fair(ness) Comp.: Construction

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Protocol Idea for computing $y=f(x_1,\dots,x_n)$

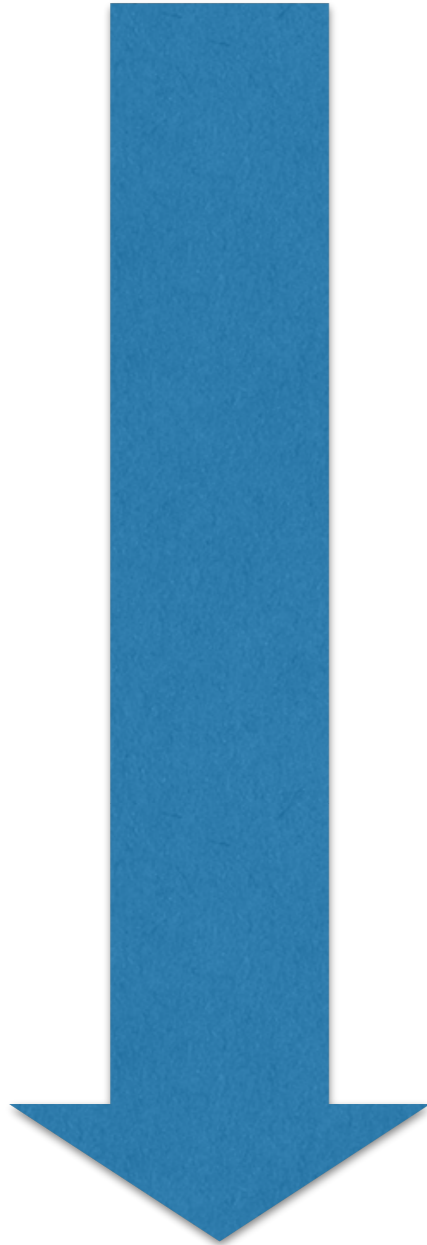
Security (SFE with fair compensation): Follow the money ...

- If the adversary announces all his shares then every party:
 - Sends n coins in phase two (one to each party)
 - Claims back n coins in phase three (one from each party)
- If a corrupted party P_j does not announce his share then every party
 - Sends n coins in phase two (one to each party)
 - Claims back
 - n coins in phase three for announcing his shares
 - the coin that it had sent to P_j

Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Time

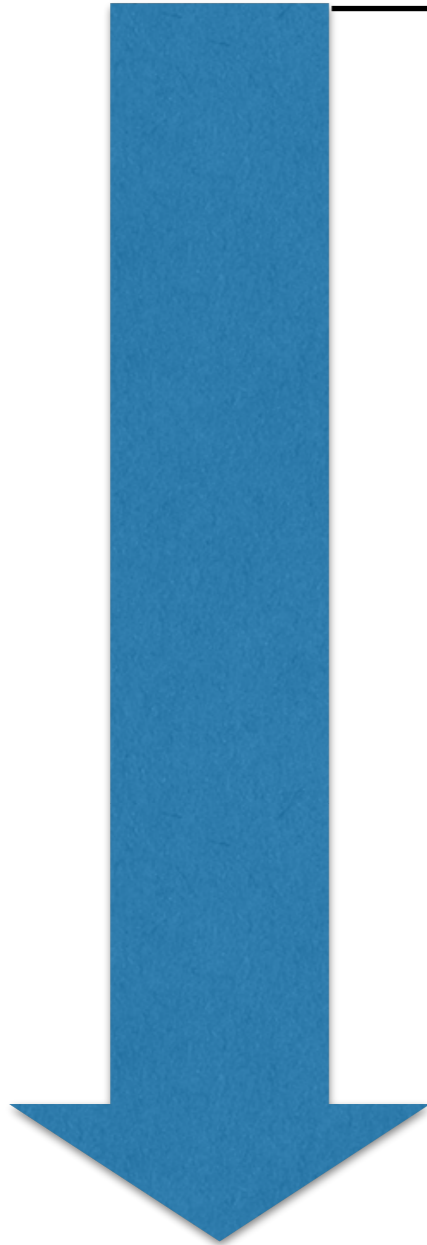


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[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Time

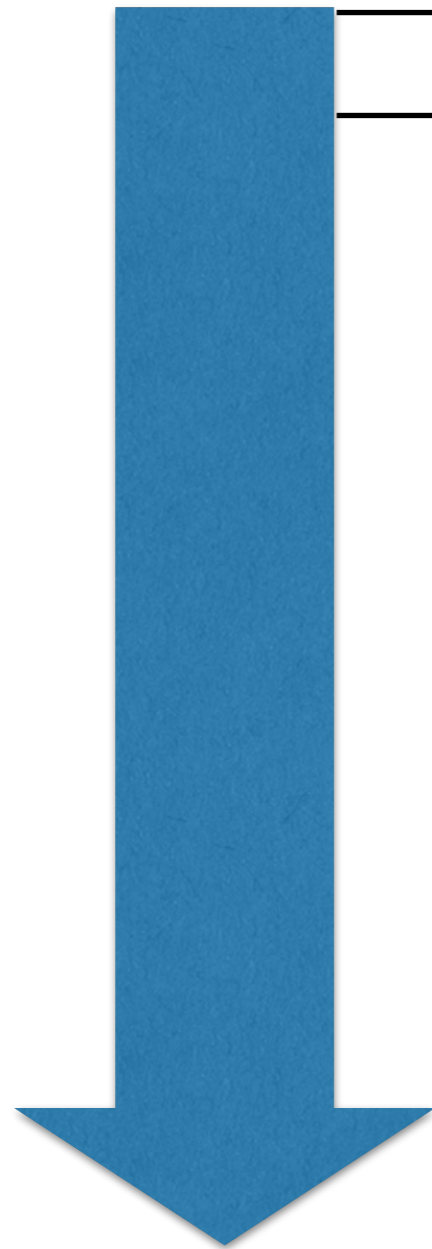
Protocol Starts



Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Time



Seconds

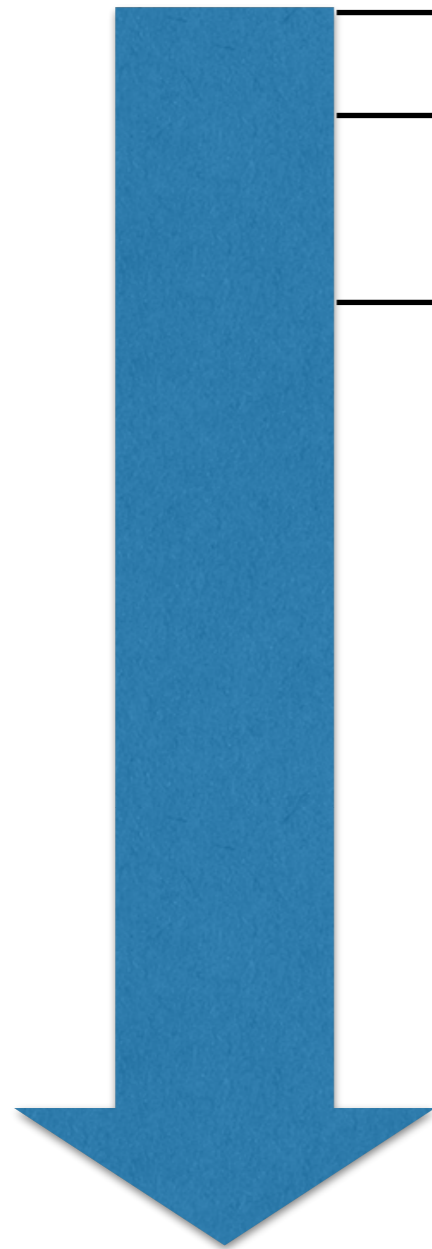
Protocol Starts

Sharing is Output, Committed transactions

Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

[BentovKumaresan14,15]

Time



Seconds

Protocol Starts

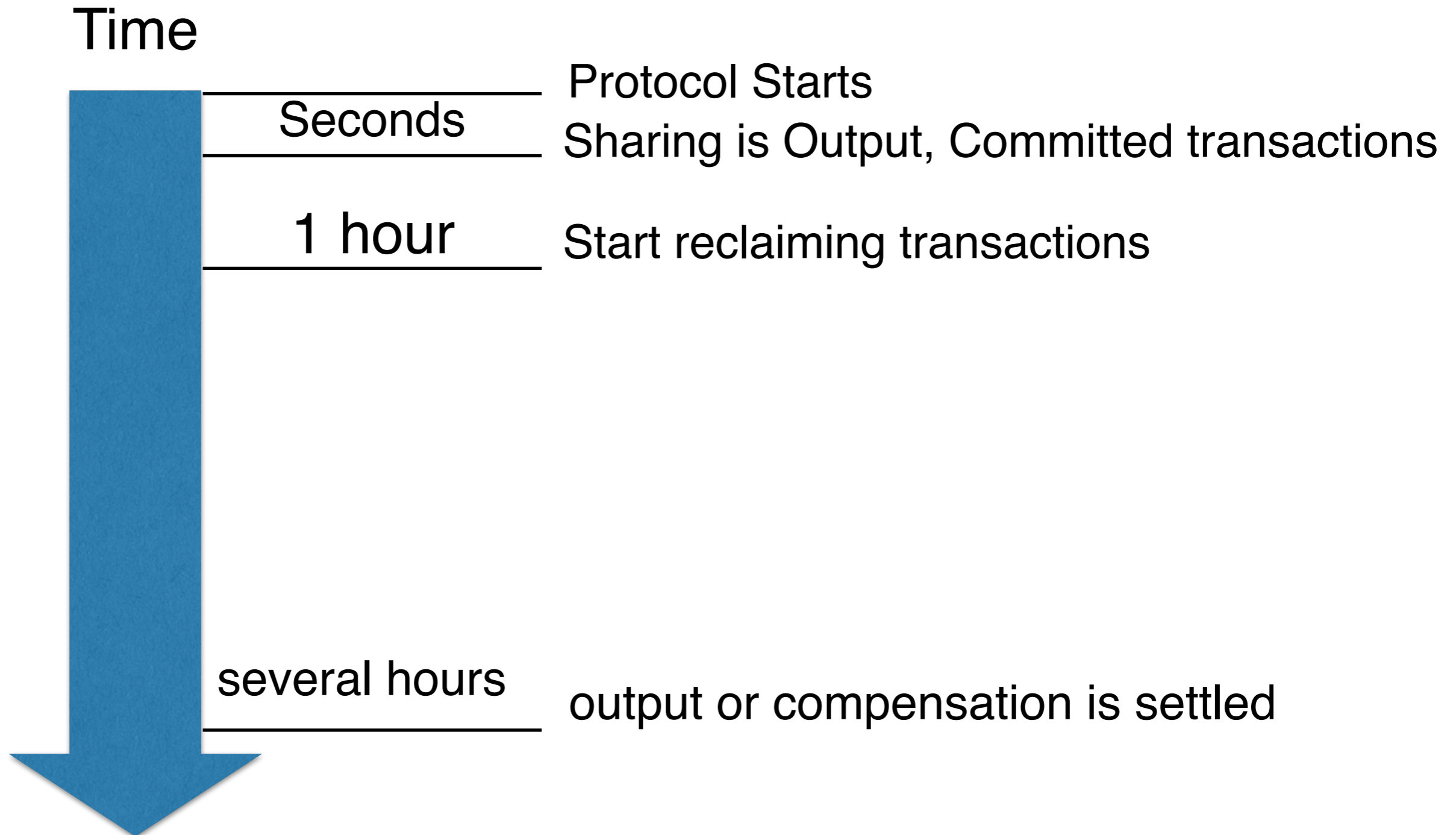
Sharing is Output, Committed transactions

1 hour

Start reclaiming transactions

Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

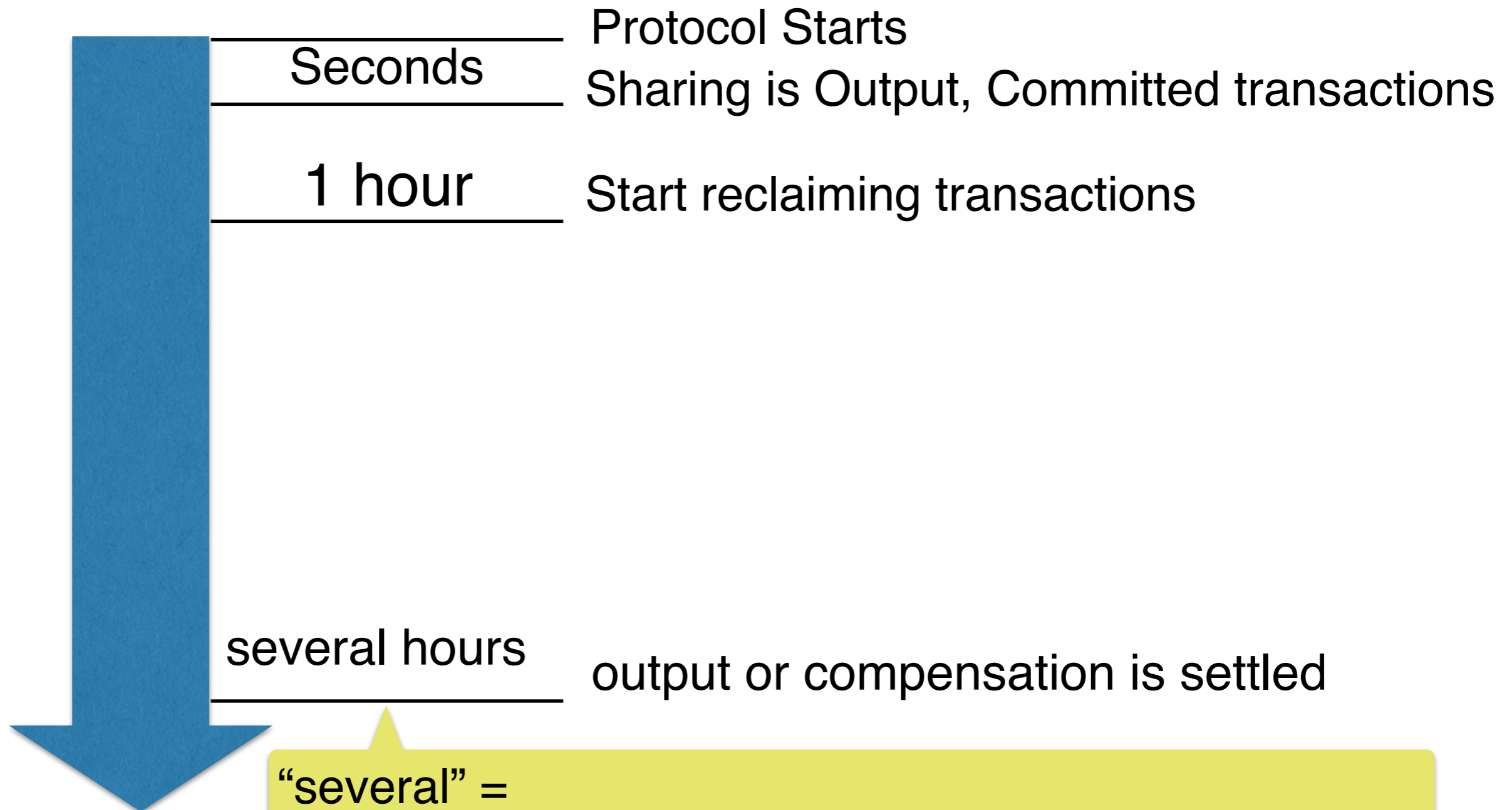
[BentovKumaresan14,15]



Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

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Time



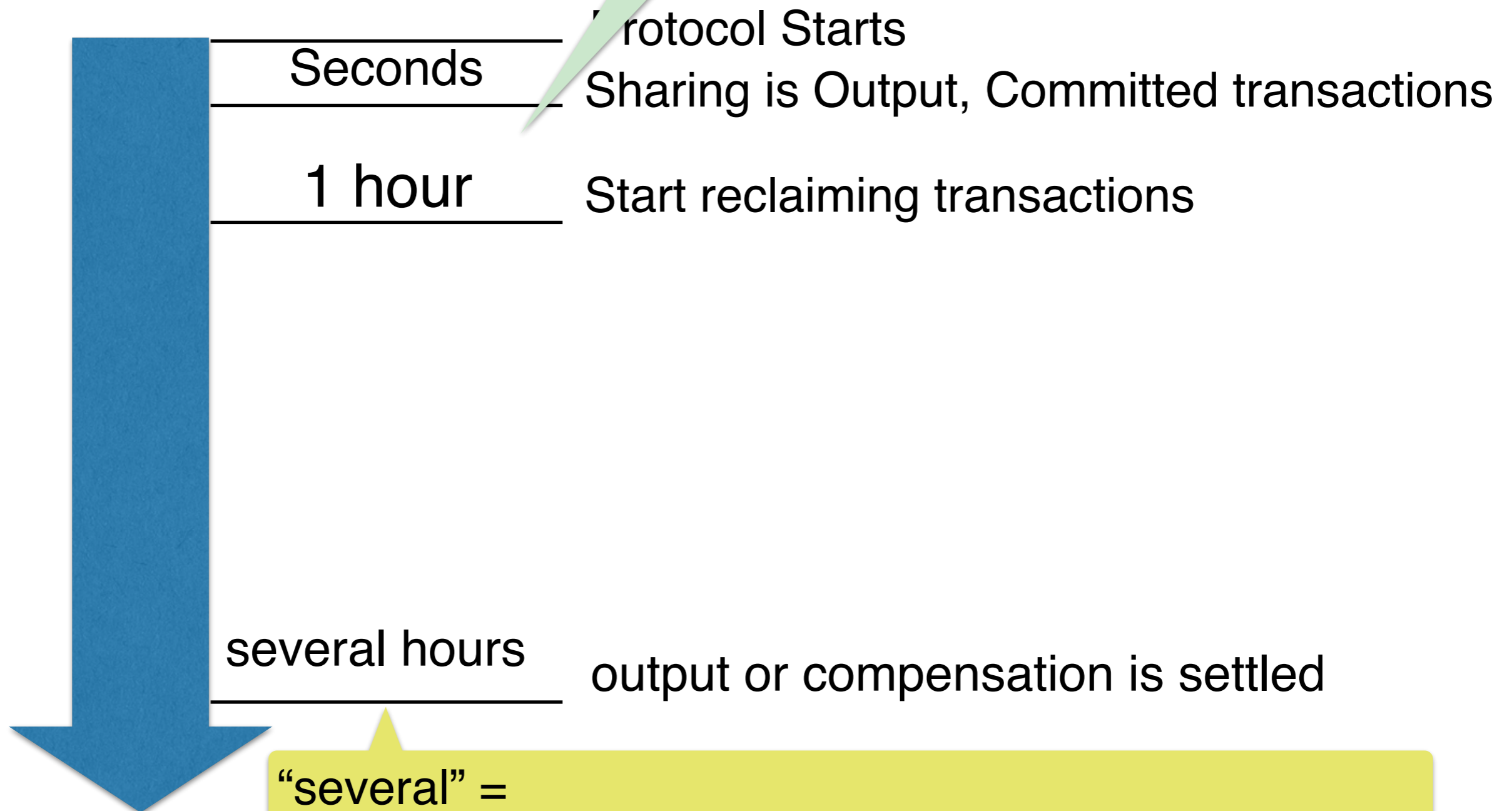
“several” =

- [BentovKumaresan14] linear in players (n)
- [BentovKumaresan15] constant

Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

What if the adversary aborts before making the committed transactions?

Time



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Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

What if the adversary aborts before making the committed transactions?

Time

Seconds

Protocol Starts

Sharing is Output, Committed transactions

1 hour

Start reclaiming transactions

This can be confirmed here ...

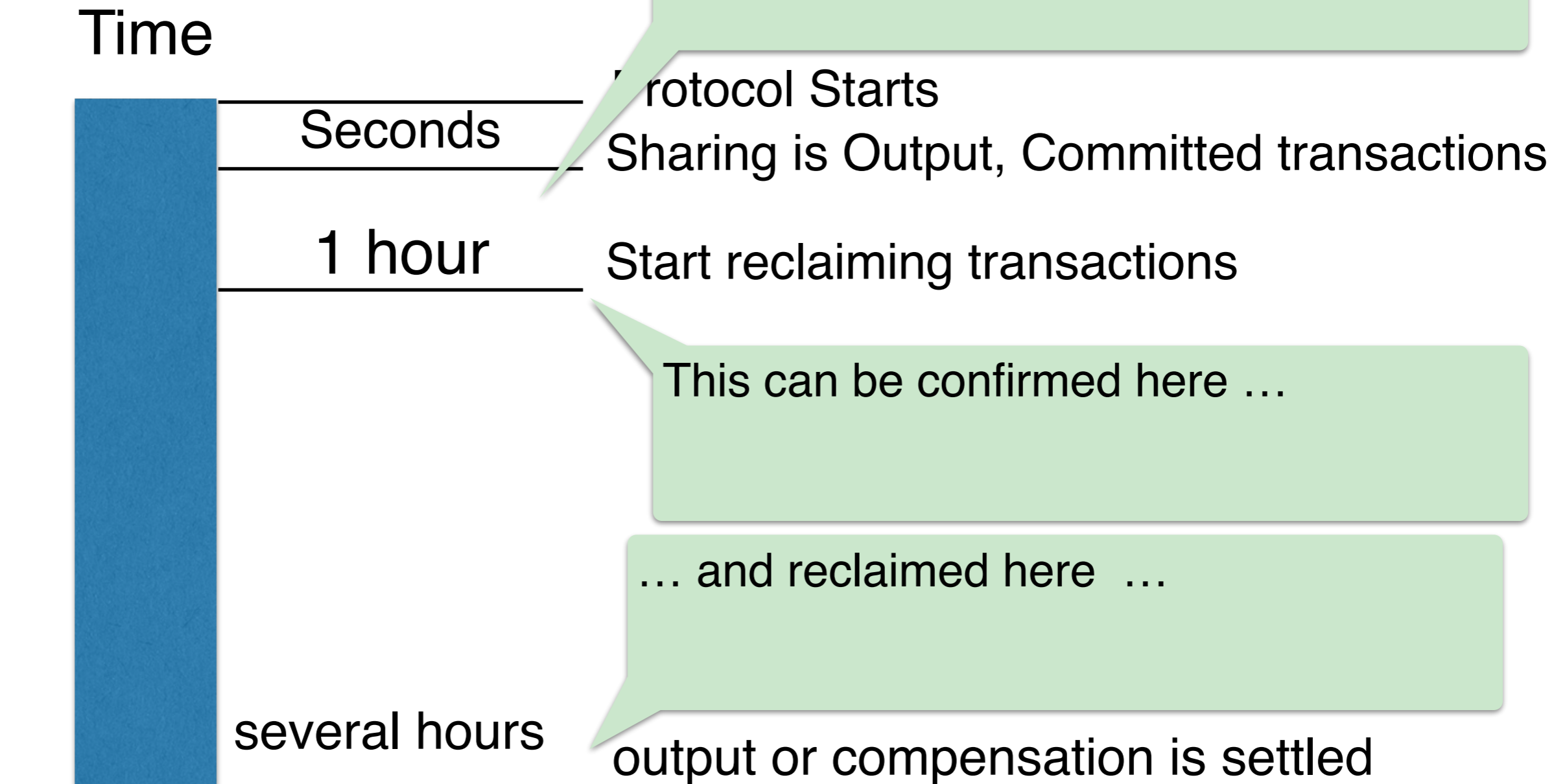
several hours

output or compensation is settled

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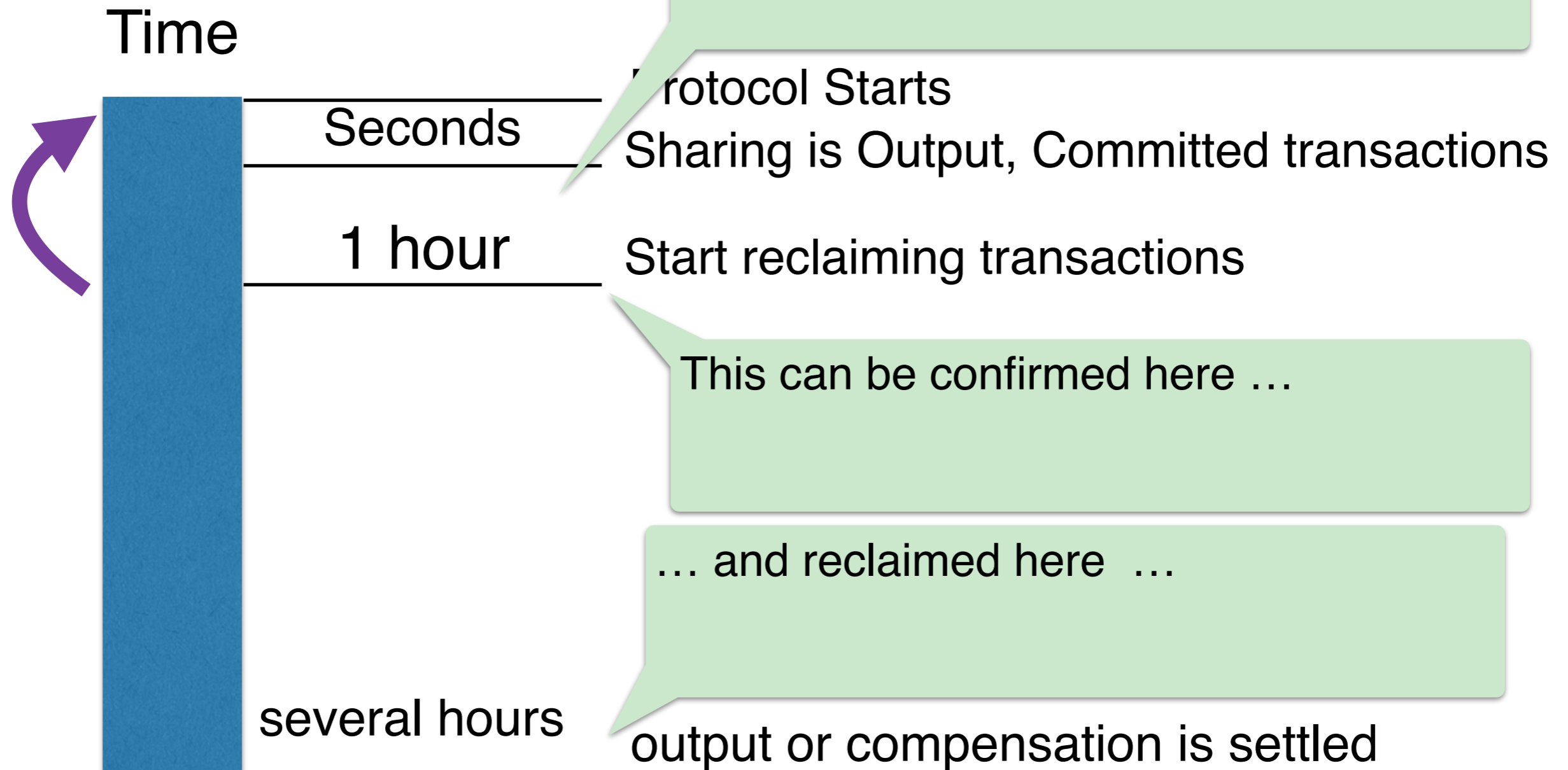
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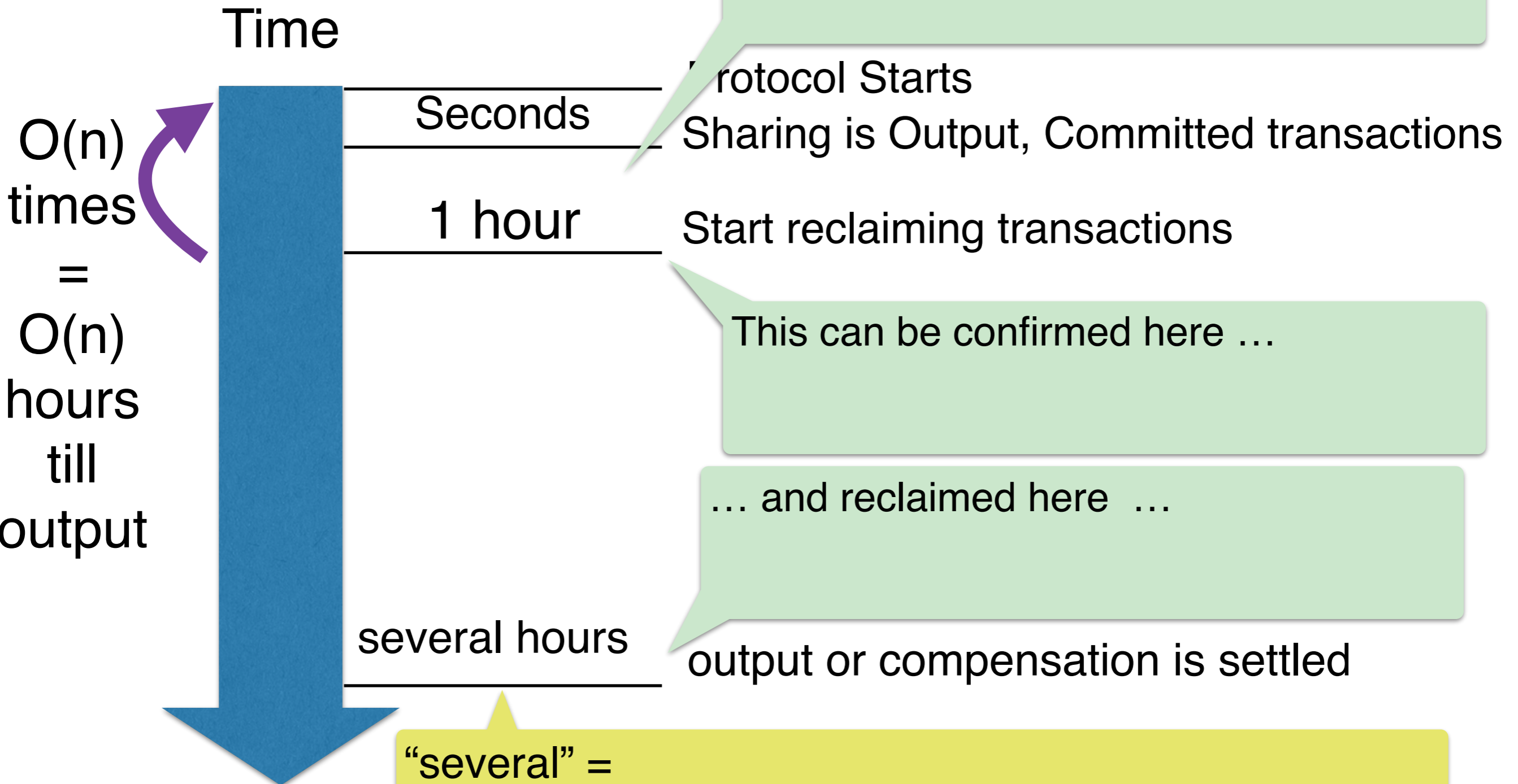
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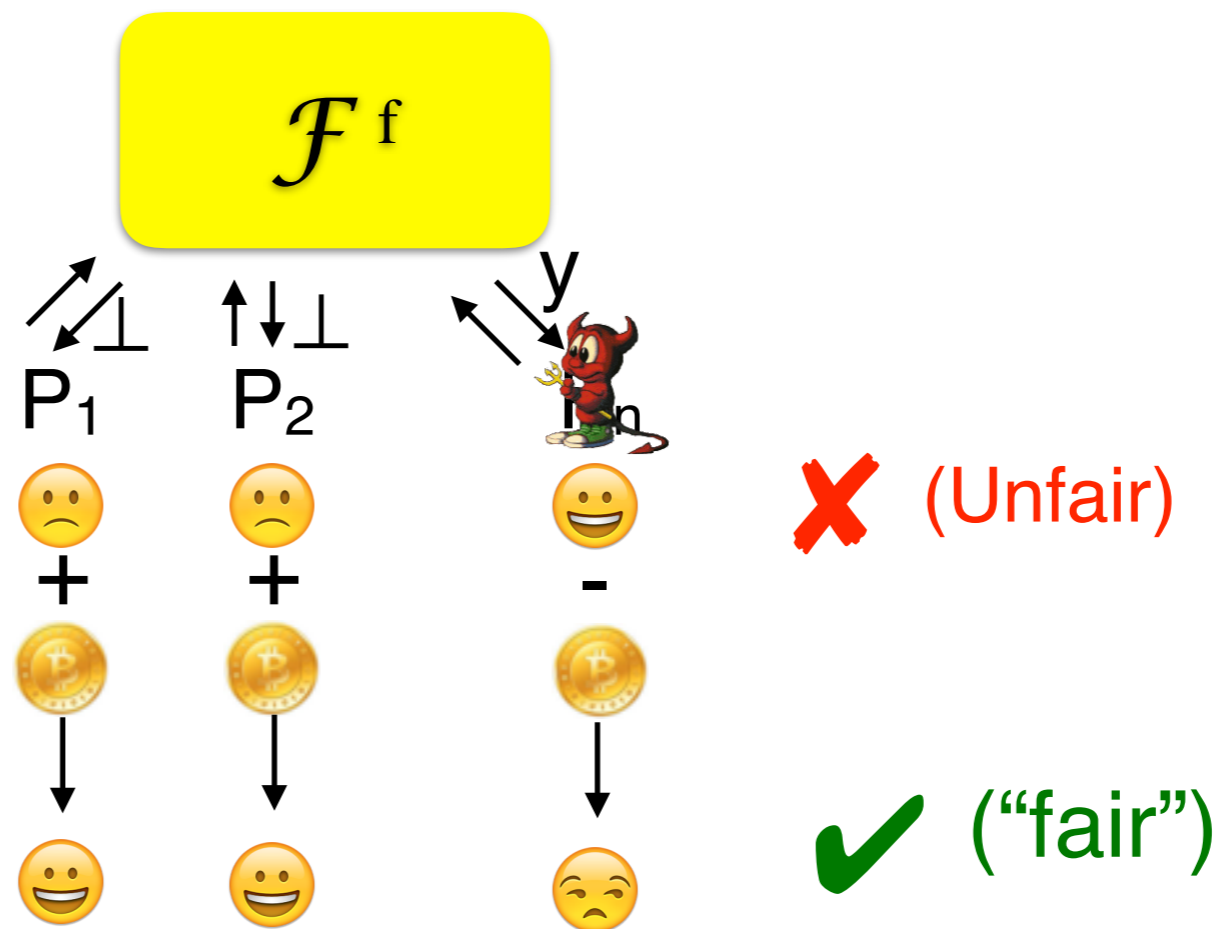


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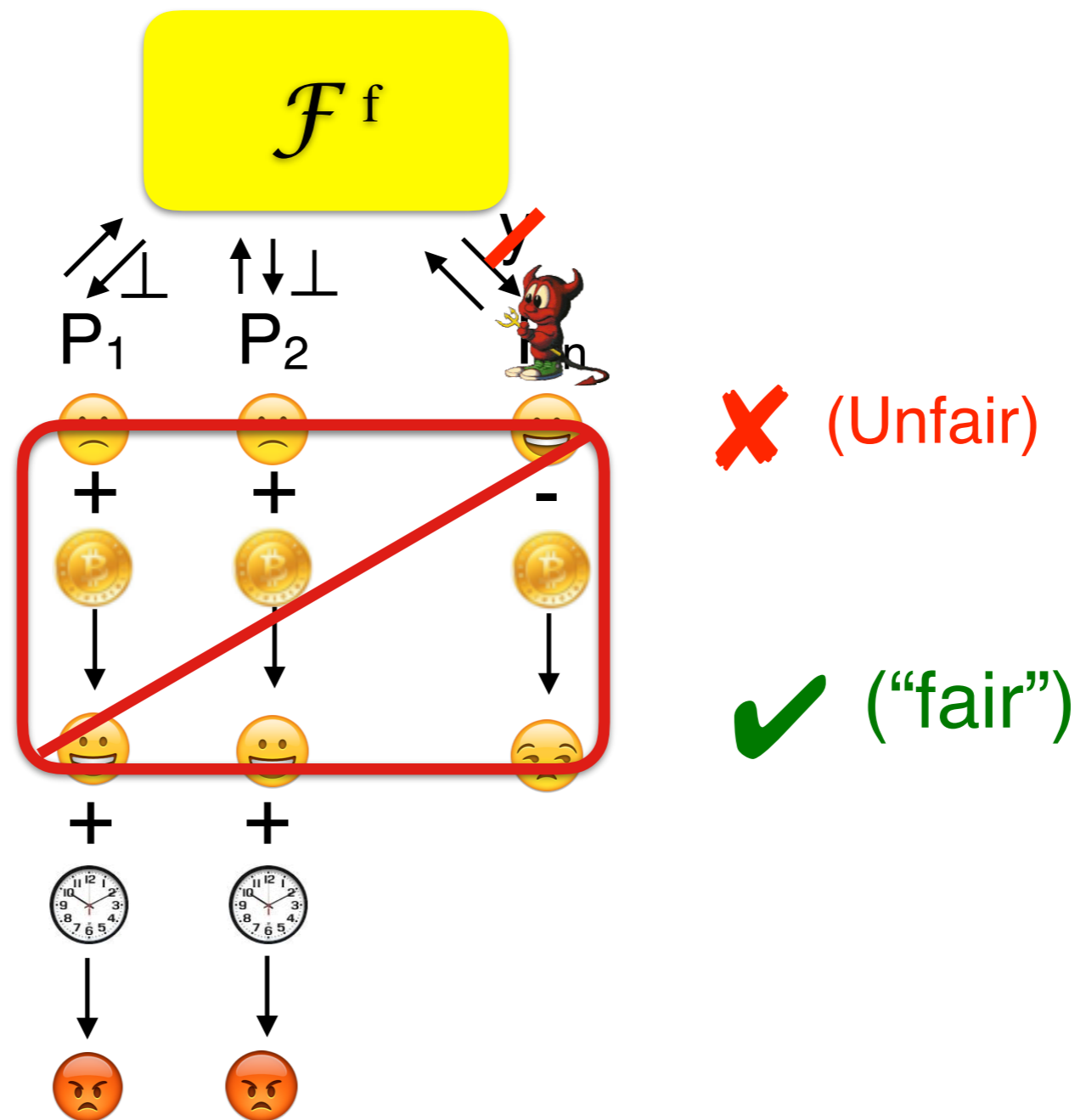
Rethinking SFE w Fair(ness) Compensation

SFE with fair compensation: If the adversary learns any information beyond (what is derived by) its inputs then every honest party should learn the output **or** get compensated.



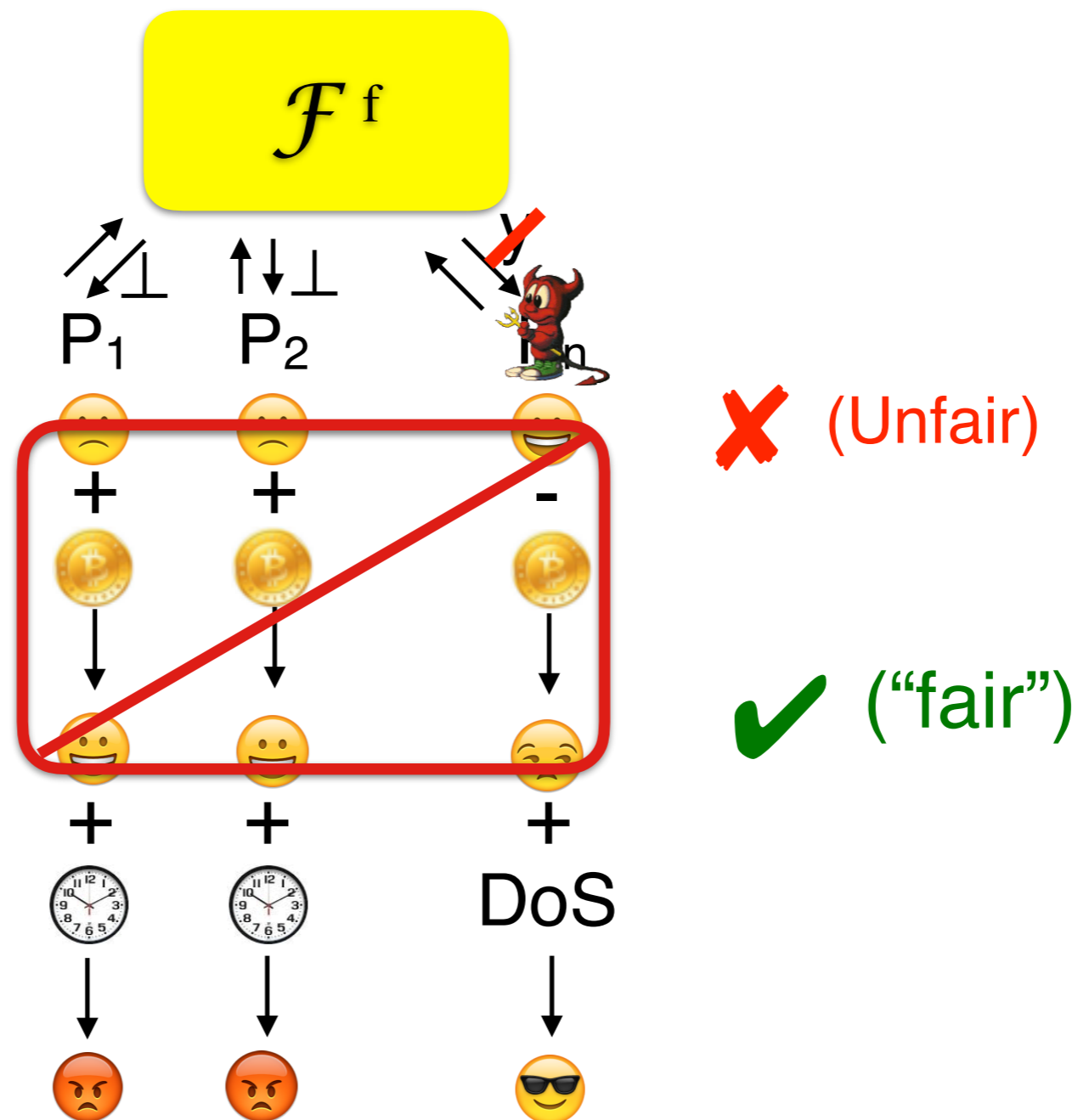
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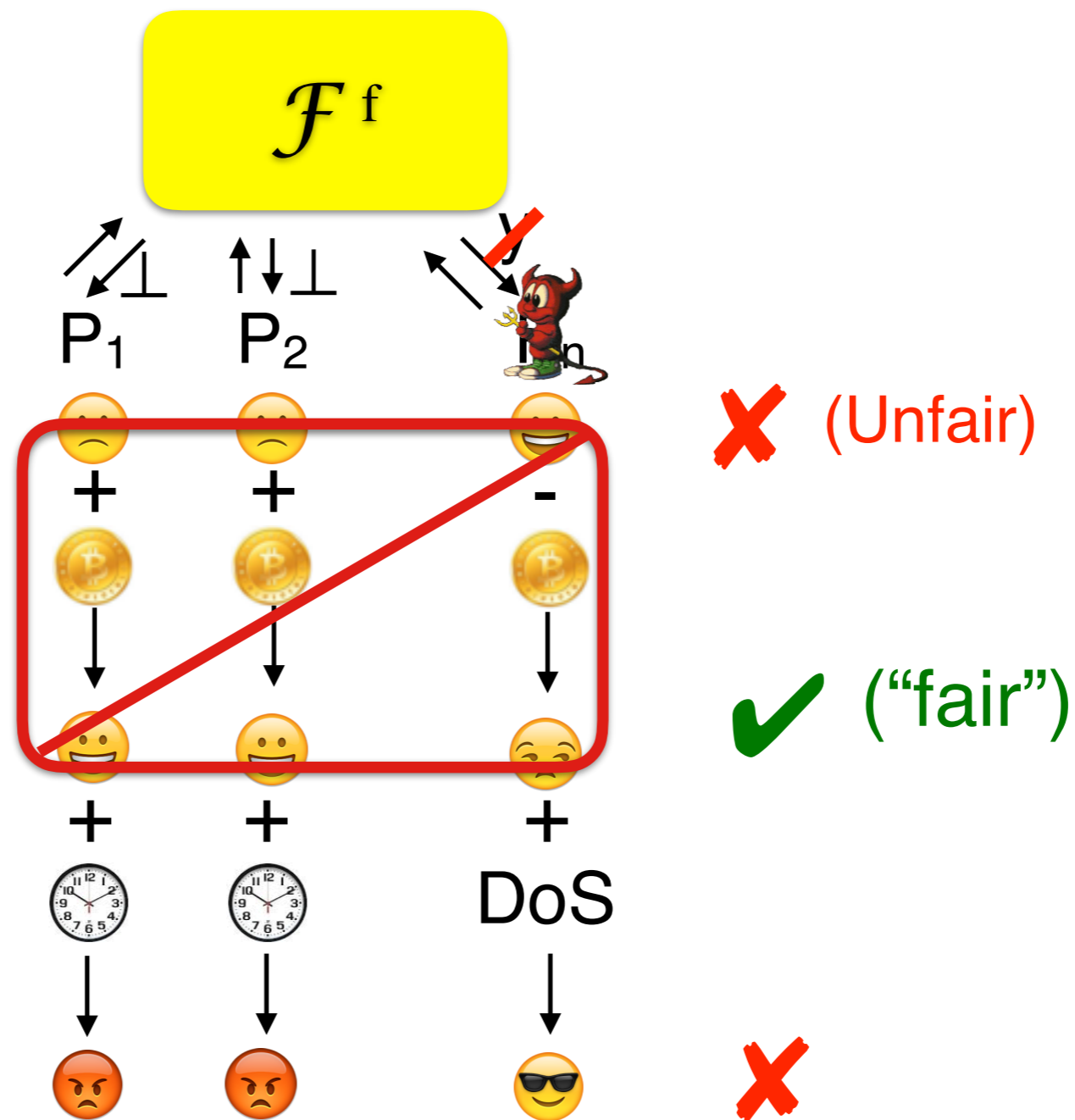
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SFE with Robust(ness) Compensation

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Fair SFE: If the adversary learns any information beyond (what is derived by) its inputs then every honest party should learn the output

SFE with Robust(ness) Compensation

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SFE with Robust(ness) Compensation

Fair SFE: If the adversary learns any information beyond (what is derived by) its inputs then every honest party should learn the output

robust

SFE with ~~fair~~ compensation: ~~If the adversary learns any information beyond (what is derived by) its inputs then~~ every honest party should learn the output **or** get compensated (**fast ...**)

SFE with Robust(ness) Compensation

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How can we get robustness?

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 1/3 : Special Transaction

S transfers q coins to R such that

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- Time restriction (τ_-, τ_+)

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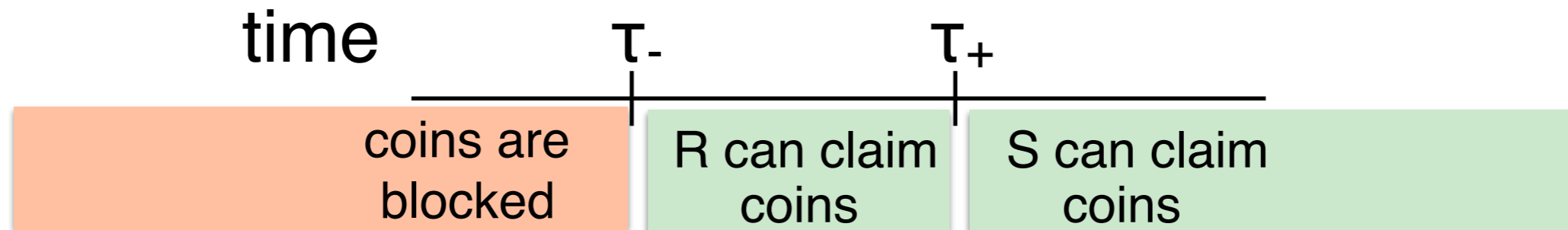
time

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

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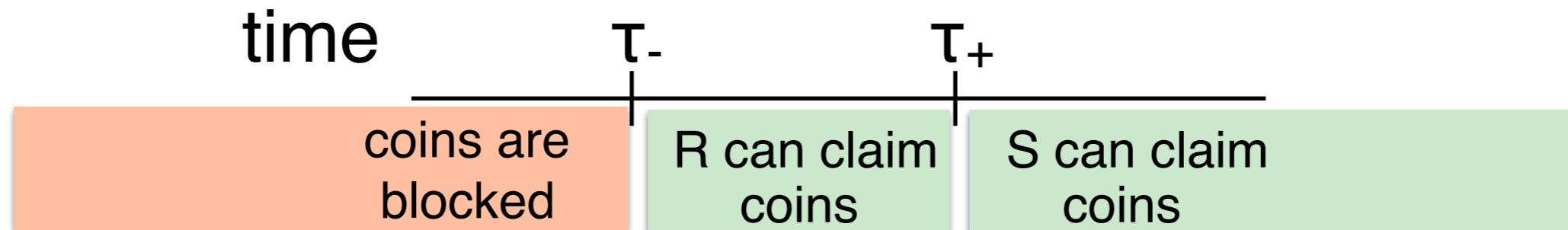


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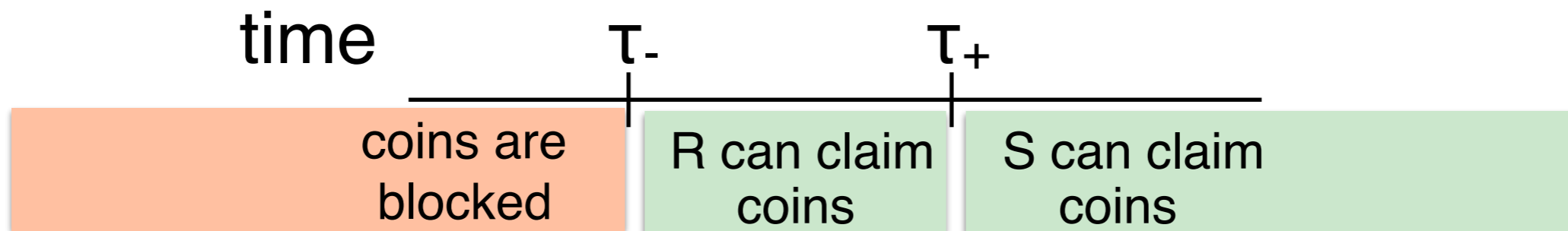
- Link: A reference [ref](#) such that only a transaction with the same reference can spend the q coins

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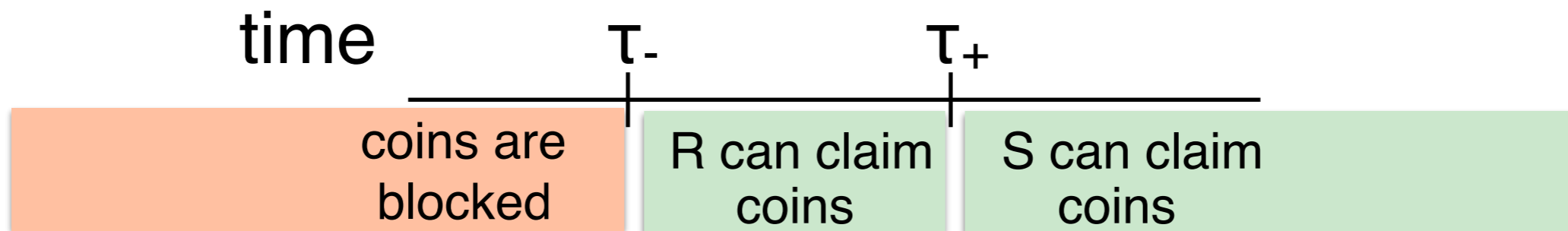
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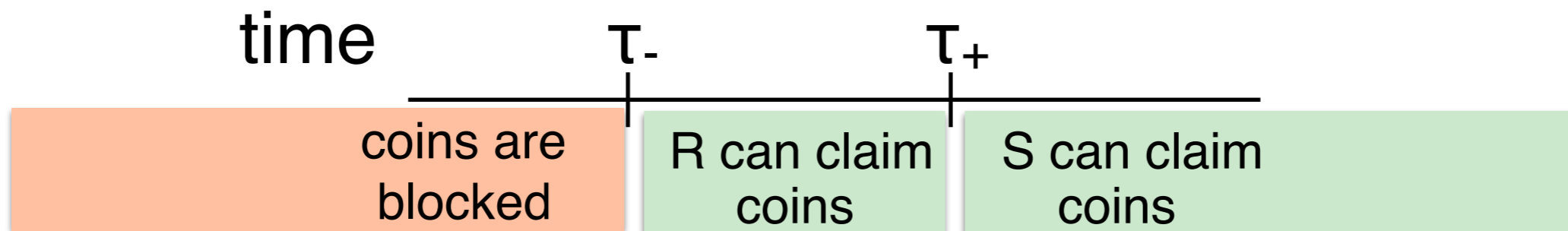
$$\mathbb{B}_{v, \text{address}_i, \text{address}_j, \Sigma, \text{aux}, \sigma_i, \tau}$$

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$(\tau_-, \tau_+), ref, \mathcal{R}$

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SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 2/3 : Semi-honest SFE

An SFE protocol which is secure when parties follow their instructions

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 2/3 : Semi-honest SFE

An SFE protocol which is secure when parties follow their instructions

Example: A Summation protocol

P_1	x_1		
P_2	x_2		
	\vdots		
P_n	x_n		

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 2/3 : Semi-honest SFE

An SFE protocol which is secure when parties follow their instructions

Example: A Summation protocol

	P_1	P_2	\dots	P_n	
$P_1 \ x_1$	x_{11}	x_{12}	\dots	x_{1n}	$x_1 = \bigoplus_{j=1}^n x_{1j}$
$P_2 \ x_2$					
\vdots					
$P_n \ x_n$					

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 2/3 : Semi-honest SFE

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$P_2 \ x_2$	x_{21}	x_{22}	\dots	x_{2n}	$x_2 = \bigoplus_{j=1}^n x_{2j}$
\vdots		\vdots			\vdots
$P_n \ x_n$	x_{n1}	x_{n2}	\dots	x_{nn}	$x_n = \bigoplus_{j=1}^n x_{nj}$
	y_1	y_2	\dots	y_n	

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

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SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 2/3 : Semi-honest SFE

An SFE protocol which is secure when parties follow their instructions

Example: A Summation protocol

Secure (private) against arbitrary many colluding parties

	P_1	P_2	\dots	P_n	
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$P_2 \ x_2$	x_{21}	x_{22}	\dots	x_{2n}	$x_2 = \bigoplus_{j=1}^n x_{2j}$
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	y_1	y_2	\dots	y_n	$y = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n y_i$

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 2/3 : Semi-honest SFE

An SFE protocol which is secure when parties follow their instructions

Assuming a public key infrastructure (commitments/encryption/signatures) there exists a semi-honest SFE protocol π for **every function** which

- Uses only public communication
- Tolerates arbitrary many semi-honest parties
- Terminates in constant rounds

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 3/3 : The GMW Compiler

Compile a semi-honest SFE protocol π into (malicious) secure

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Tools 3/3 : The GMW Compiler

Compile a semi-honest SFE protocol π into (malicious) secure

Round 0:

Setup generation (+ commitments to randomness)

Round 1:

Every P_i commits to its input

Rounds 2 ... $\rho_\pi + 1$:

Execute π round-by-round so that in each round every party proves (in ZK) that he follows π

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Security (with abort)

- **Privacy:** The parties see the following:
 - Setup
 - Commitments
 - Messages from π
- **Correctness:**
 - If ZKPs succeed then the parties are indeed following π
 - Else abort

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Idea: Use “GMW”-like compiler on the Ledger

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

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Round 1:

Every P_i commits to its input

Round 1:

Do nothing

Round 2:

Every P_i commits to its input **and broadcasts his view of the public setup.**

Rounds 2 ... $\rho_\pi + 1$:

Execute π round-by-round so that in each round every party proves (in ZK) that he follows π

Rounds 3 ... $\rho_\pi + 2$:

Execute π round-by-round so that in each round every party proves (in **NIZK**) that he follows π

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Idea: Use “GMW”-like compiler on the Ledger

GMW’:

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SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Idea: Use “GMW”-like compiler on the Ledger

GMW' :  SFE with Robust Compensation

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Do nothing

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SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

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SFE with Robust Compensation

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SFE with Robust Compensation

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SFE with Robust Compensation

Round 0:

Setup generation (+ commitments to randomness)

Round 1: Every party P_i makes $n \cdot \rho_\pi + 1$ special 1-coin transactions $B_{(i,j,r)}$:

- P_j can spend coin in round r
- ref needs to have the protocol ID
- R is true if the transaction which spends the coin includes a valid r -round message for P_j

SFE with Robust Compens. : Construction

Idea: Use “GMW”-like compiler on the Ledger

GMW’:

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SFE with Robust Compensation

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Rounds 3 ... $\rho_\pi + 2$: Execute

GMW(π) round-by-round so that in each round r every party spends all its round r referenced coins by a transaction which includes the round r message in GMW(π).

SFE with Robust Compens. : Construction

Idea: Use “GMW”-like compiler on the Ledger

GMW’:

Round 0:

Setup generation (+ commitments to randomness)

Round 1:

Do nothing

Round 2:

Every P_i commits to its input and broadcasts his view of the public setup.

Rounds 3 ... $\rho_\pi + 2$:

Execute π round-by-round so that

Validate(.) executes the code of an extra party without inputs in GMW and rejects if abort.



SFE with Robust Compensation

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SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Security with Robust Compensation.

- **Case 1:** The adversary correctly makes all the “committing” transactions in Round 1
- If no party cheats then every party claims from each of the other parties as many coins as he deposited by simply executing his protocol.
- If some party P_j cheats, then every party still claims all his coins as above + all the committed coins that P_j cannot spend as he did not execute his protocol.

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Security with Robust Compensation.

- **Case 2:** Some corrupted party does not make (consistent) transactions in Round 1
 - e.g. aborts or commits to a different setup.

SFE with Robust Compen. : Construction

Security with Robust Compensation.

- **Case 2:** Some corrupted party does not make (consistent) transactions in Round 1
 - e.g. aborts or commits to a different setup.
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- **Solution:** The validation predicate can be changed as:
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 - For each island $I \subseteq [n]$: Compute the function among parties in I (with all other parties' input being 0)

SFE with Robust Compens. : Construction

Idea: Use “GMW”-like compiler on the Ledger

GMW’:

Round 0:

Setup generation (+ commitments to randomness)

Round 1:

Do nothing

Round 2:

Every P_i commits to its input **and broadcasts his view of the public setup.**

Rounds 3 ... $\rho_\pi + 2$:

Execute π round-by-round so that in each round every party proves (in **NIZK**) that the follows π



SFE with Robust Compensation

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- ref needs to have the protocol ID
- R is true if the transaction which spends the coin includes a valid r -round message for P_j

Rounds 2 ... $\rho_\pi + 2$:

Execute GMW(π) round-by-round so that in each round r every party spends all its round r referenced coins by a transaction which includes the round r message in GMW(π).

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- Corrupted parties can choose to play with the honest parties or participate in a computation independent of honest inputs.

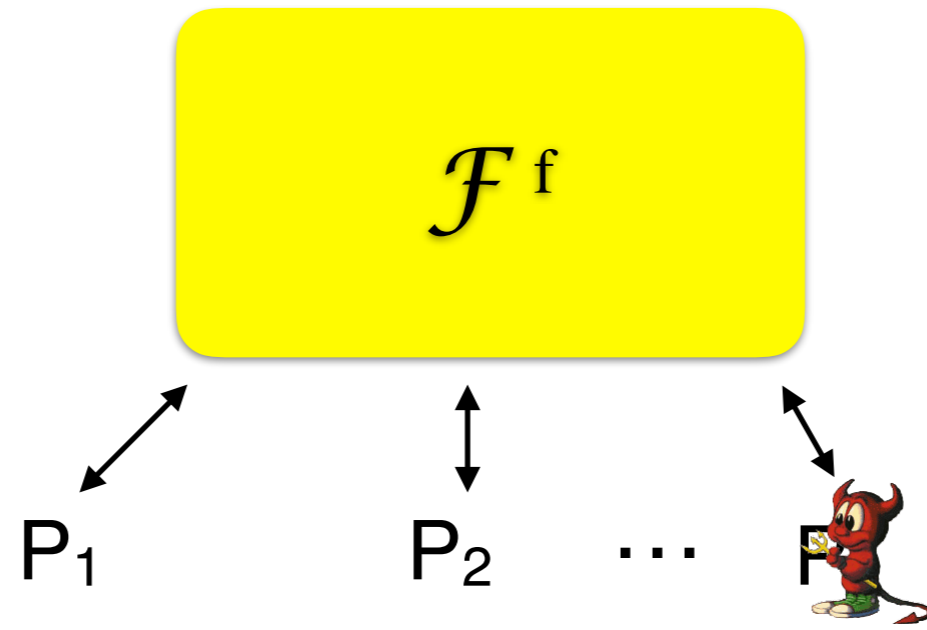
Crypto On Blockchain

Outline

- The functionality offered by blockchains
- Leveraging Security Loss with Coins
 - ... in Secure Function Evaluation (SFE)
- A formal cryptographic (UC) model for security proofs

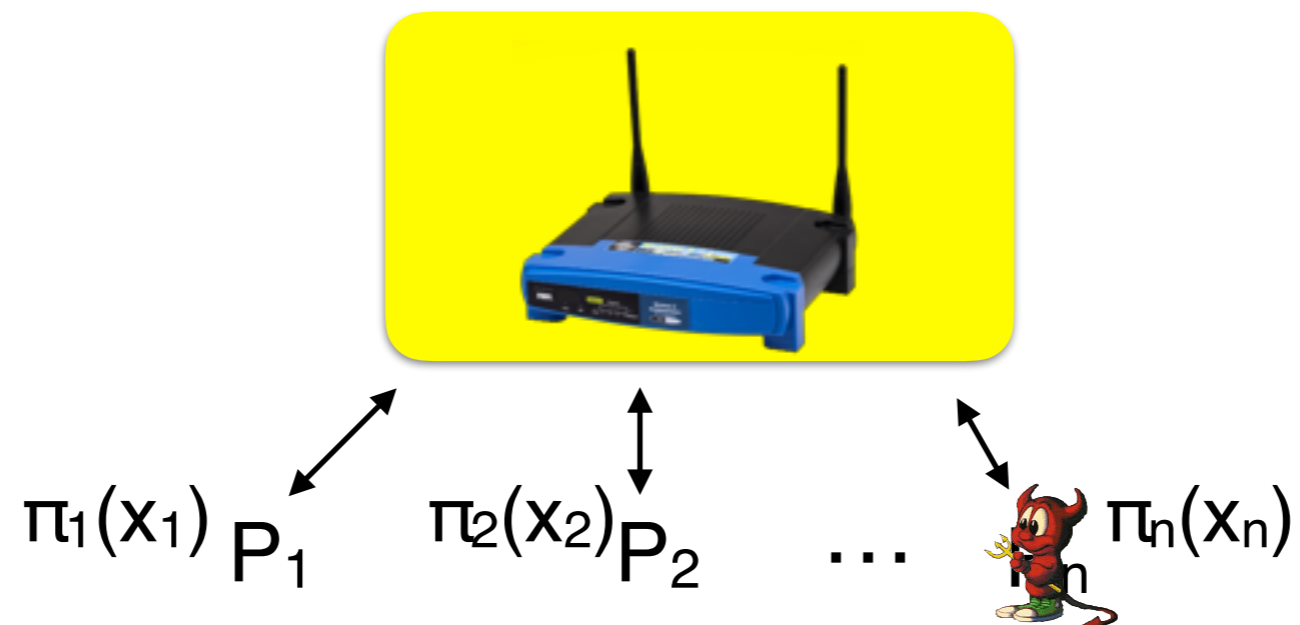
A Formal Model: GUC

Ideal
World



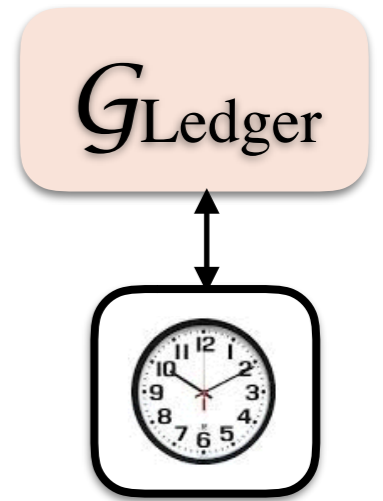
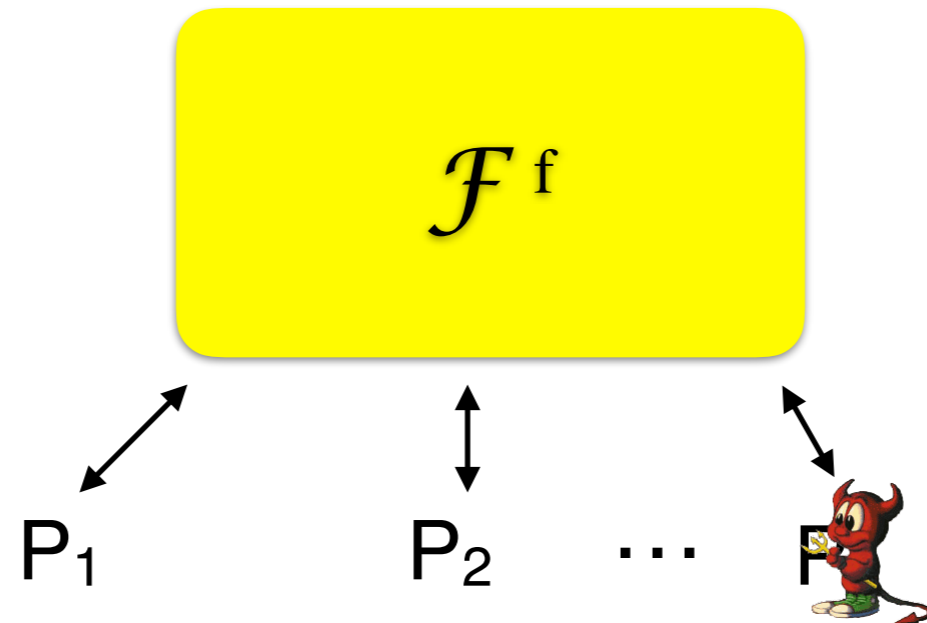
\approx

Real
World



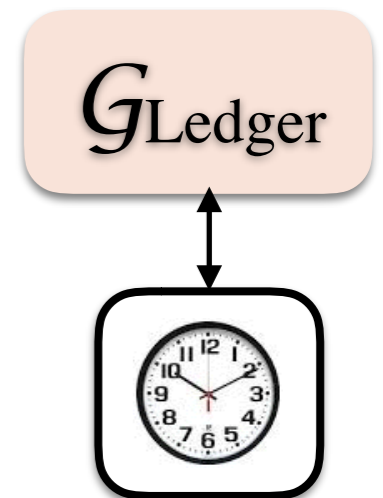
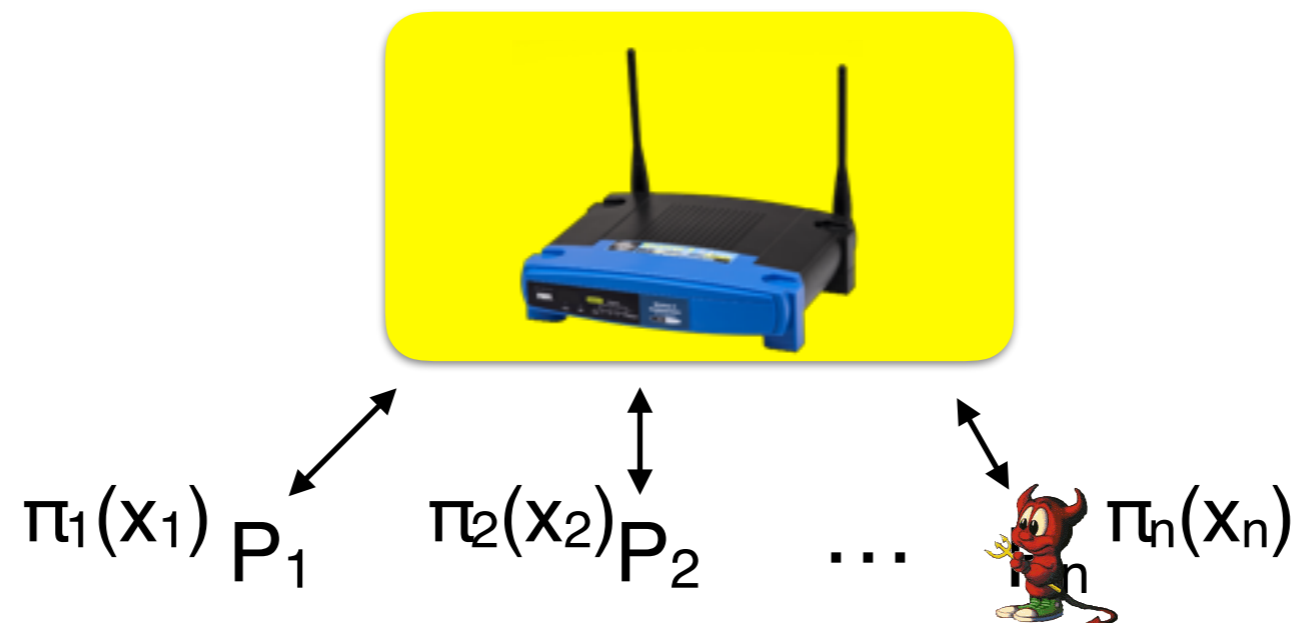
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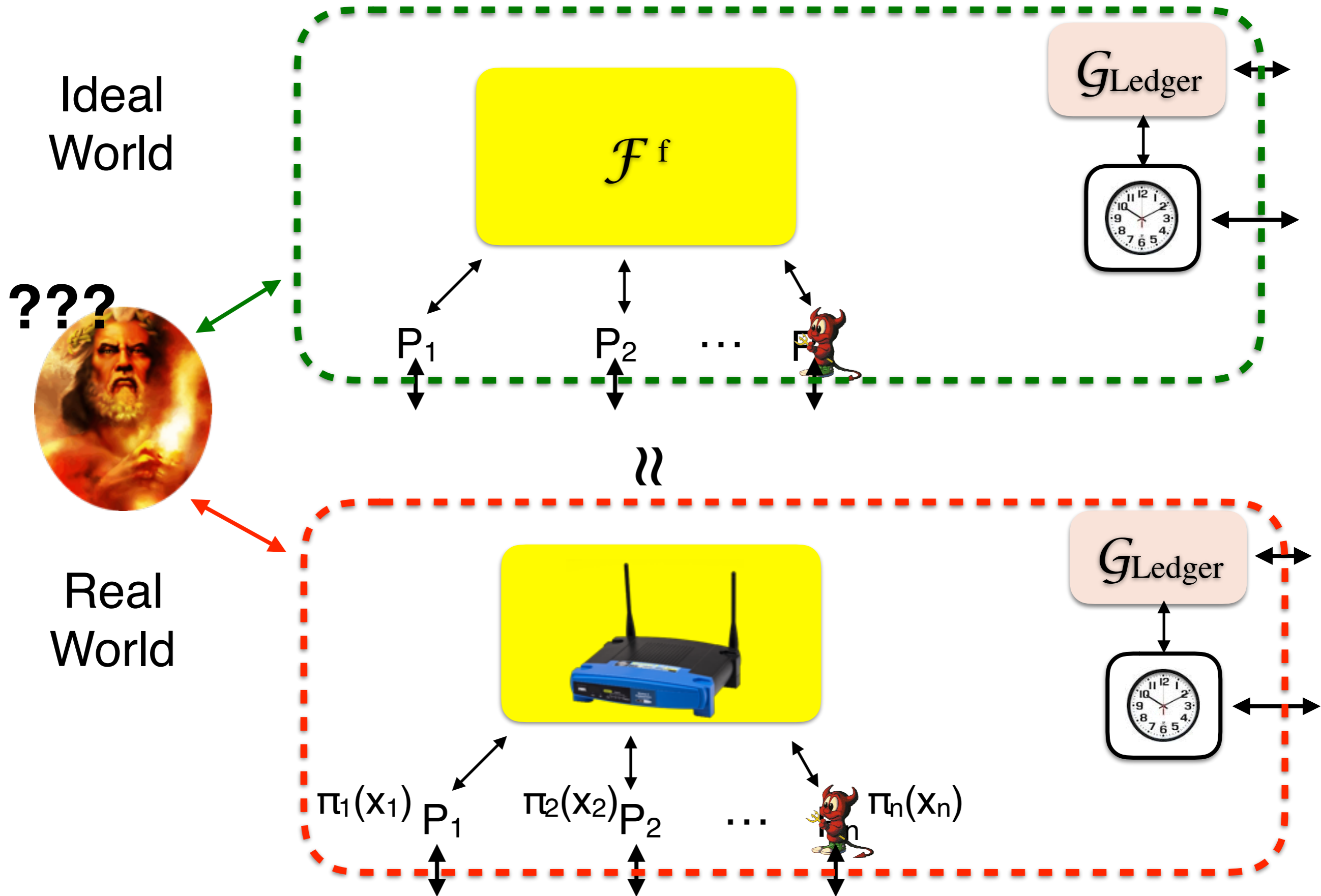


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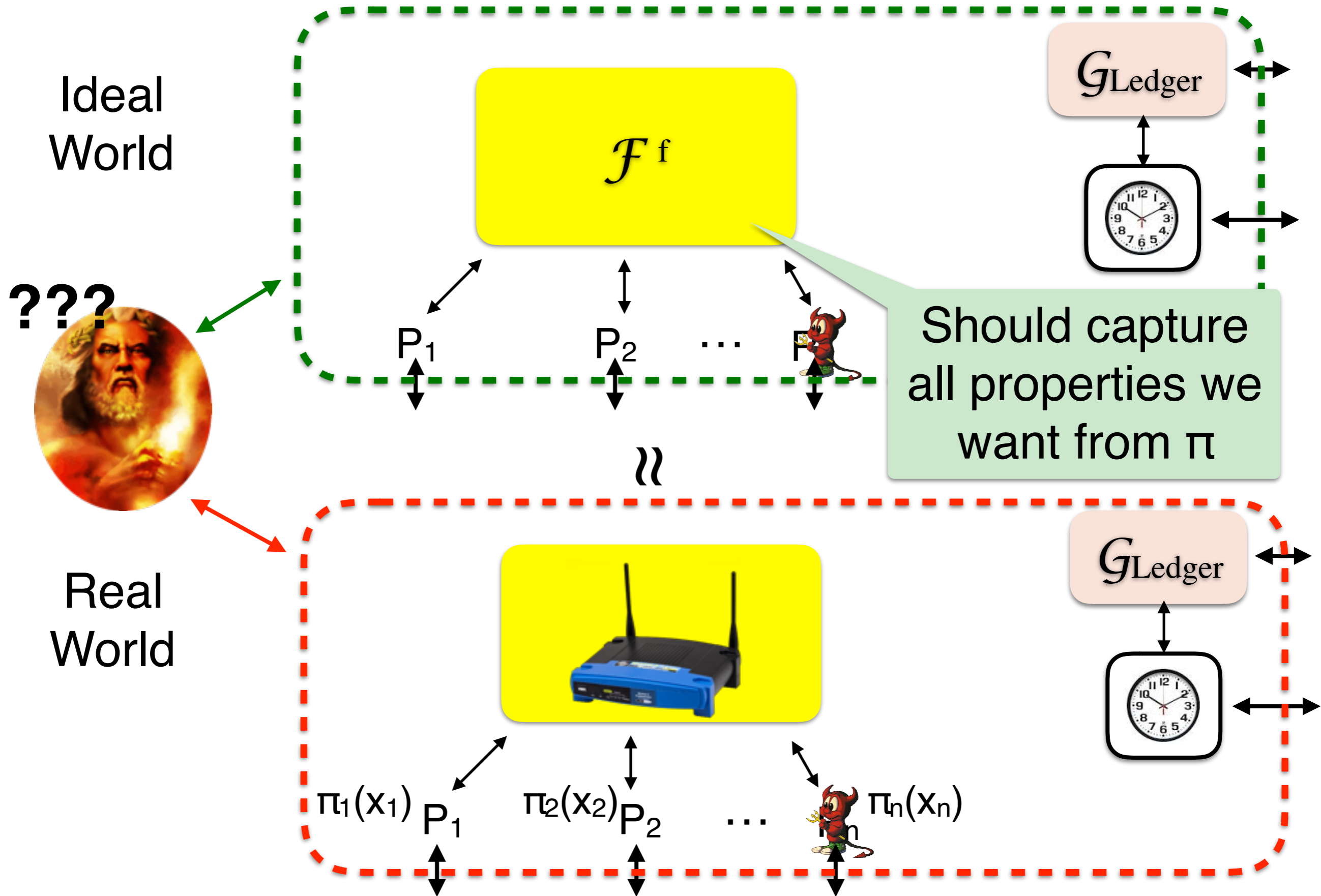
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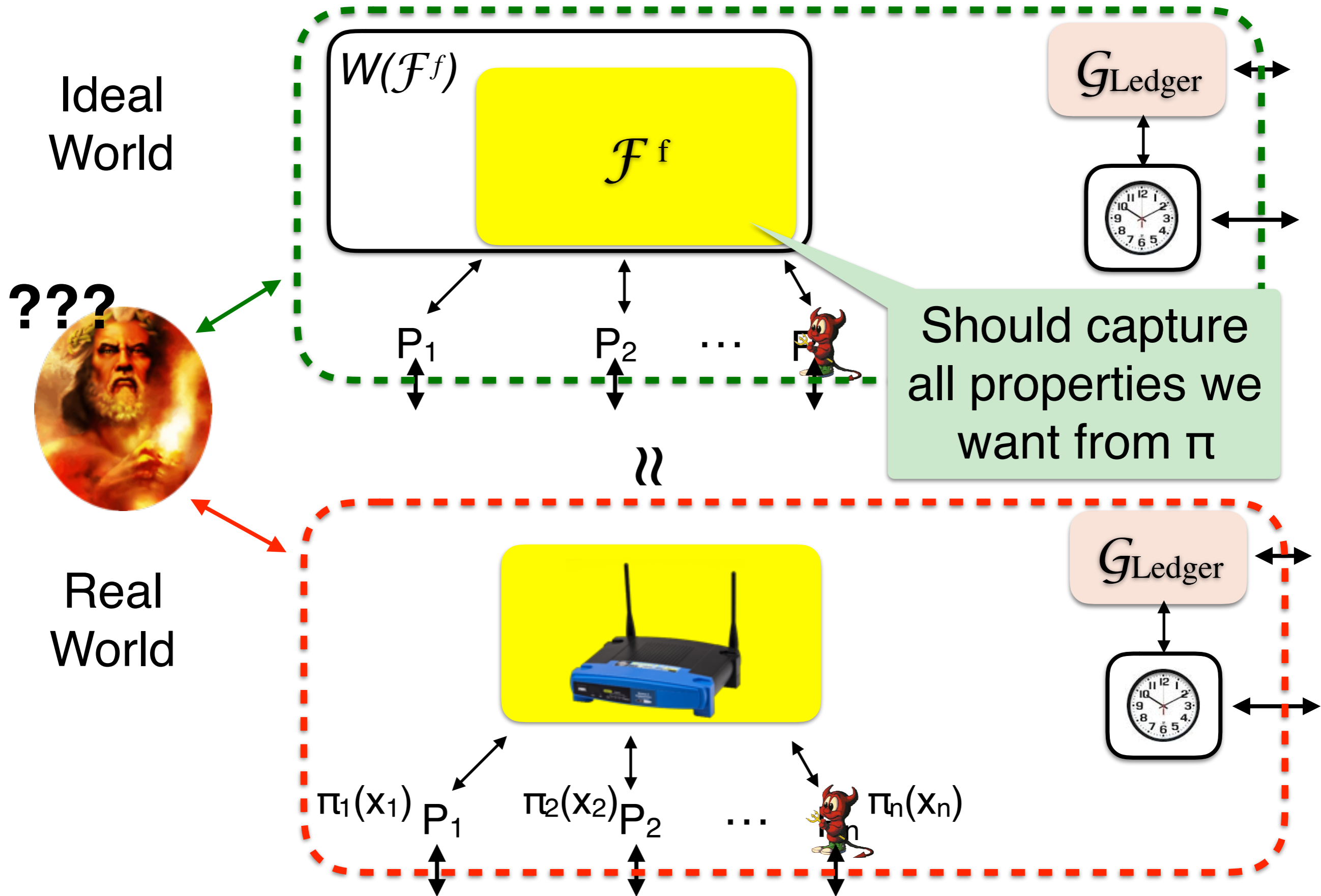
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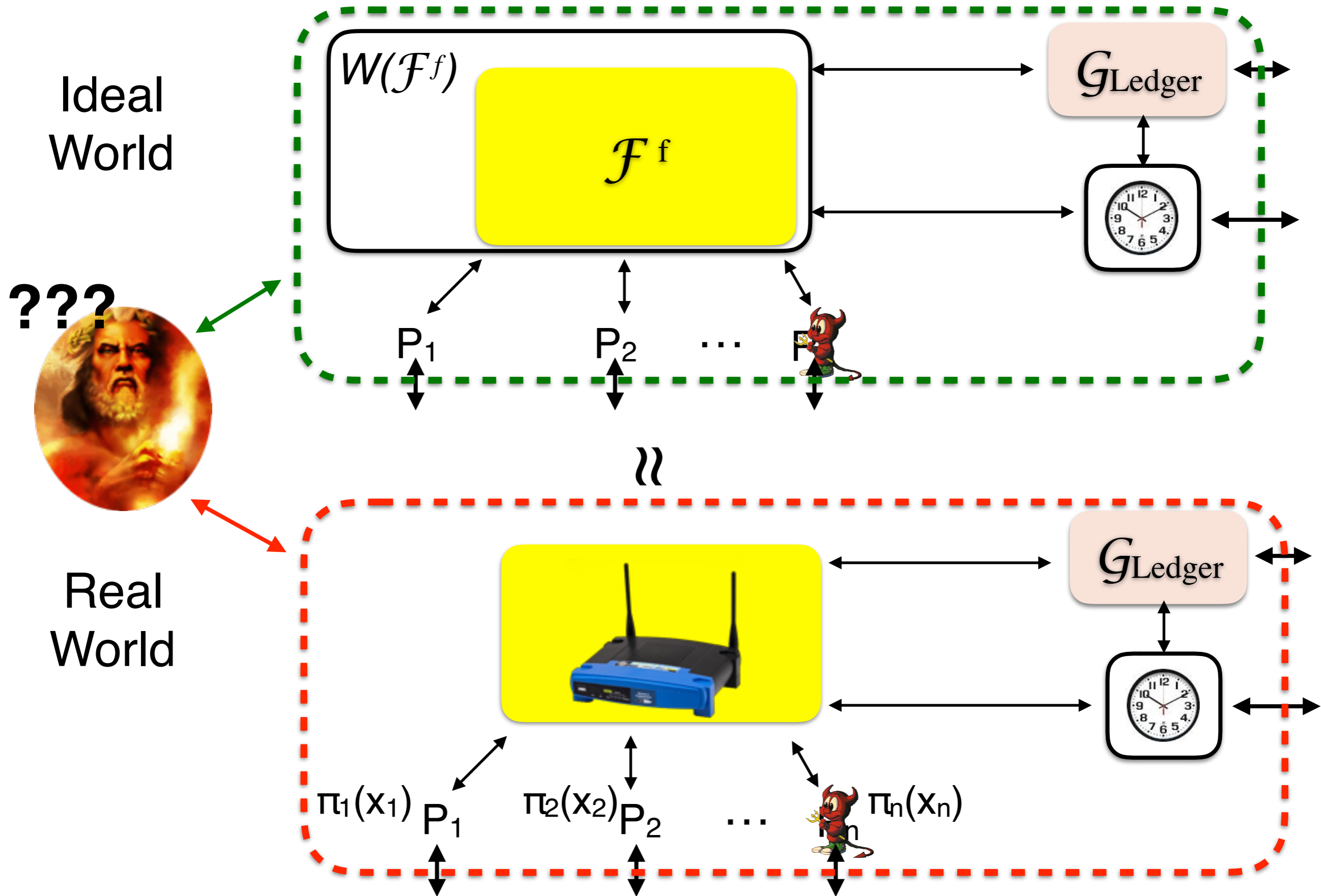


Benefits of this Modeling

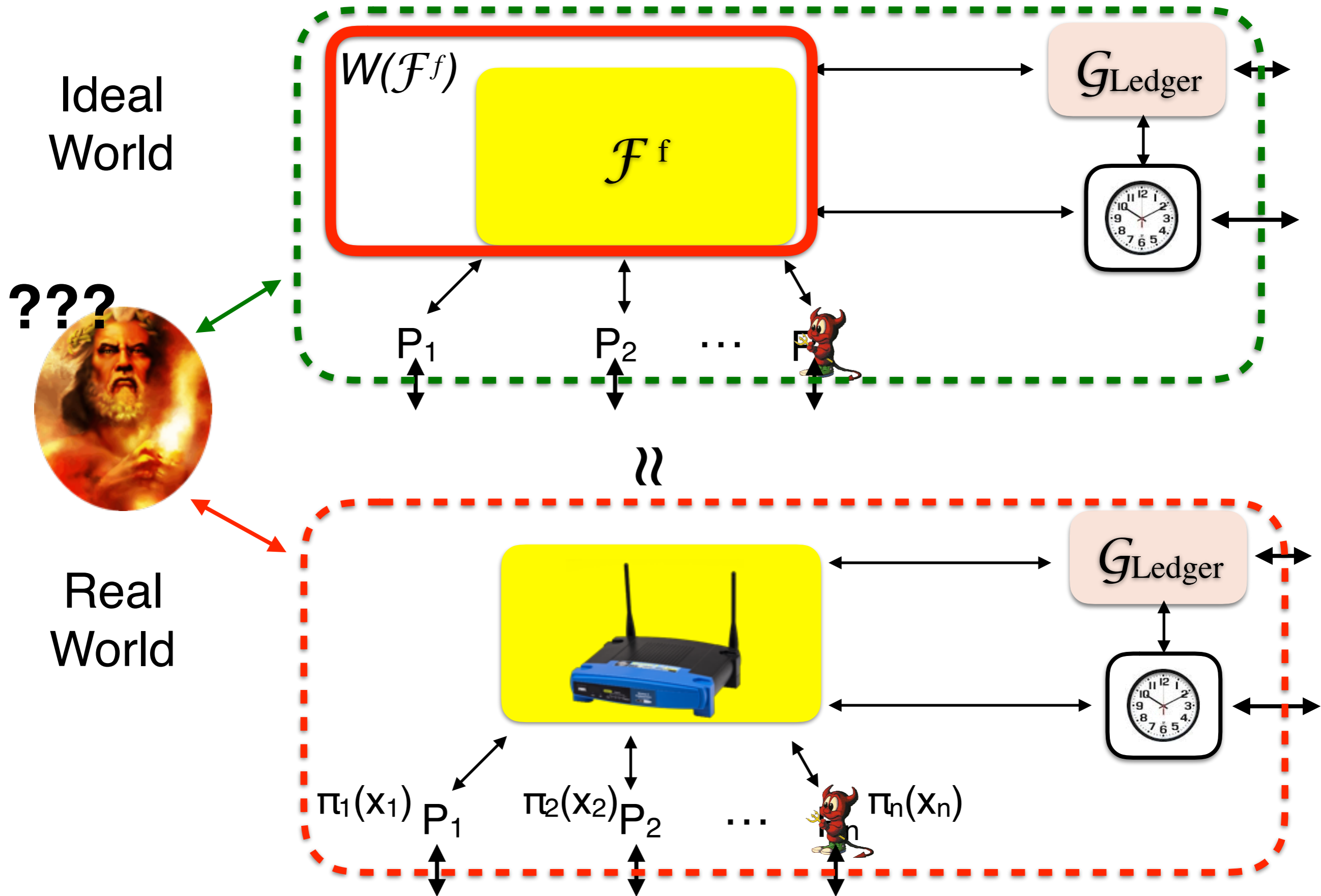
Benefits of this Modeling

- A single abstraction of the functionality offered by cryptocurrencies
 - Advanced transactions correspond to an advanced validation predicate
- A definition of *fair compensation* as a (UC) functionality-wrapper forces us to be precise
 - An explicit formation of synchrony with a single global clock (capturing what protocols assume in reality).
- Compatibility with standard (formal) analysis of crypto protocols
- A (universal) composition theorem

A Formal Model: GUC



A Formal Model: GUC



SFE with Robust Compen. : Functionality

A wrapper functionality $W(\mathcal{F}^f)$ with three predicates:

- $(Q^{\text{Init}}, Q^{\text{Dlvr}}, Q^{\text{Abrt}})$

SFE with Robust Compen. : Functionality

A wrapper functionality $W(\mathcal{F}^f)$ with three predicates:

- $(Q^{Init}, Q^{Dlvr}, Q^{Abrt})$

Idea: The predicates are used to **filter** the adversarial influence

- $Q^{Init}(State, Wallet_i) = True$ iff the $Wallet_i$ has enough funds
- $Q^{Dlvr}(State, Wallet_i) = True$ iff it is OK to deliver to P_i
 - E.g., if P_i does not “owe” money
- $Q^{Abrt}(State, Wallet_i) = True$ iff it is OK for P_i to abort
 - E.g., if P_i has an increase of funds

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G_{ledger}

$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

Phase 1: Resource Allocation



\mathcal{F}^f

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P_i

“allocate”

$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

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$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

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$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

Phase 1: Resource Allocation

P_i $\xrightarrow{\text{"allocate"}}$

$\xleftarrow{\text{"allocate } P_i \text{"}}$

$\xleftarrow{\text{"r"}}$



\mathcal{F}^f

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P_i

“allocate”

“allocate P_i ”

“ r ”



$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

Phase 1: Resource Allocation

Create $(PK_i, SK_i) = \text{Gen}(r, 1^k)$

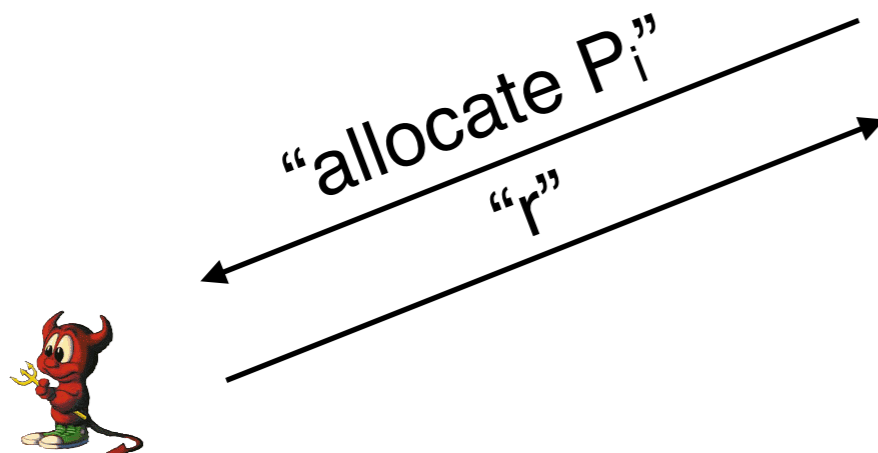
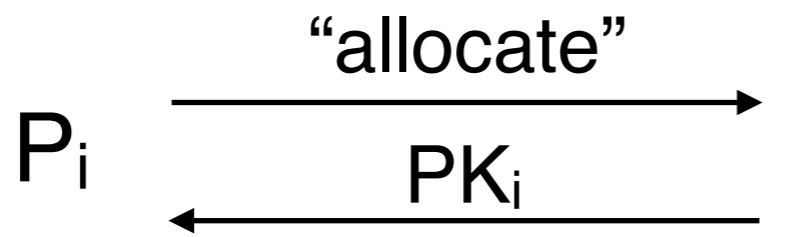
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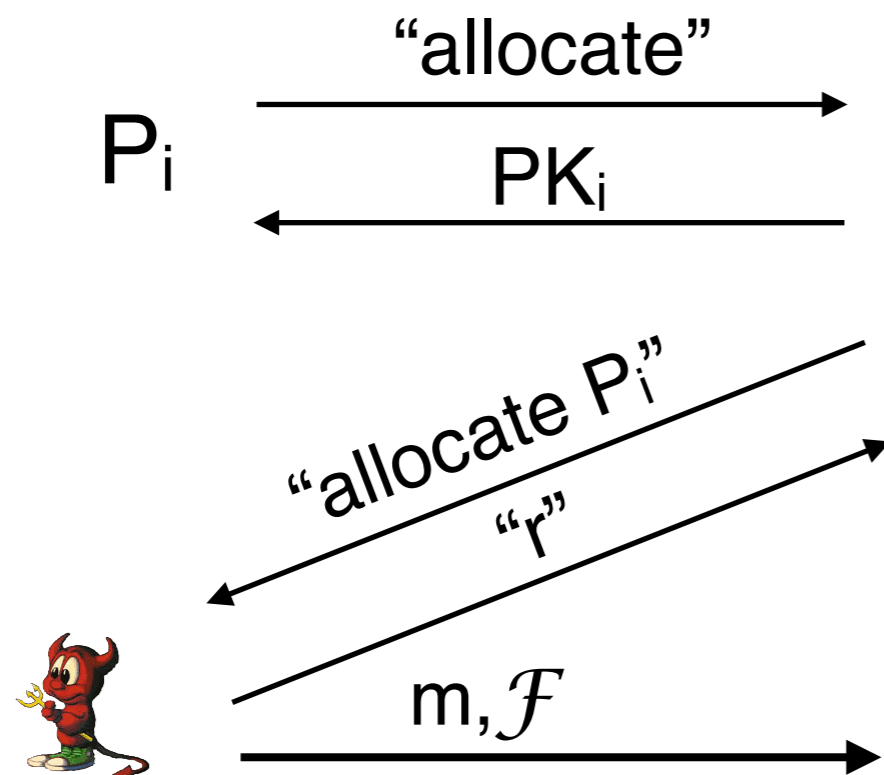
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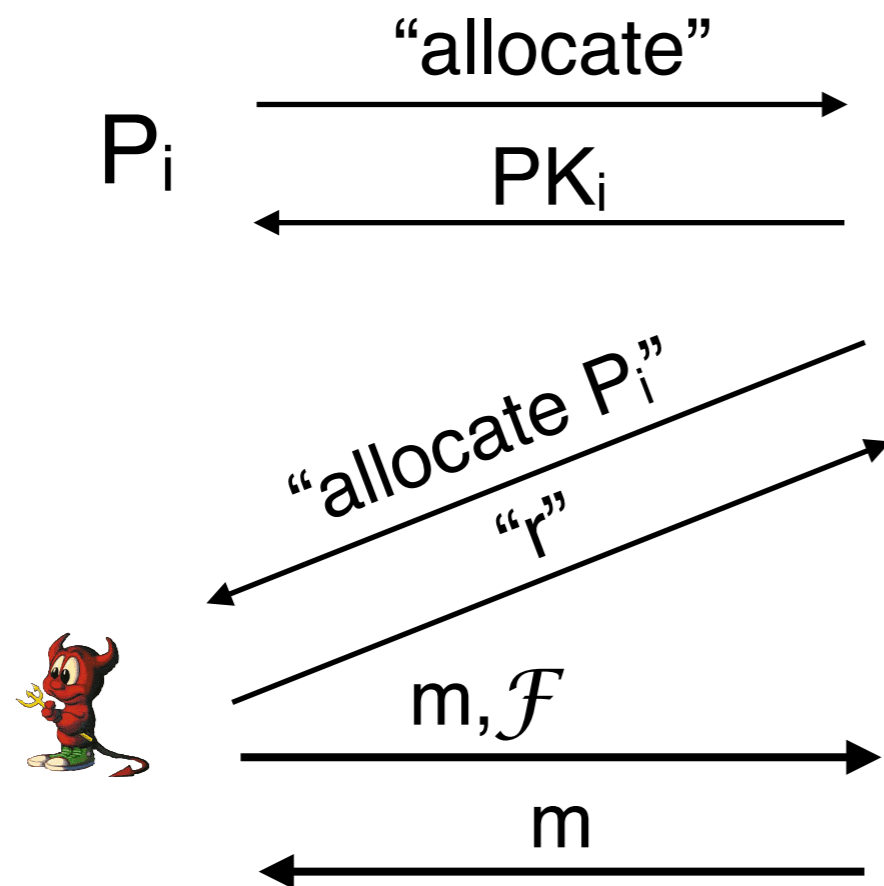
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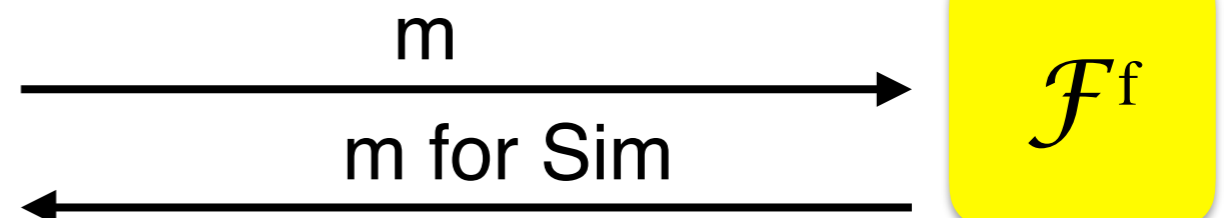
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$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

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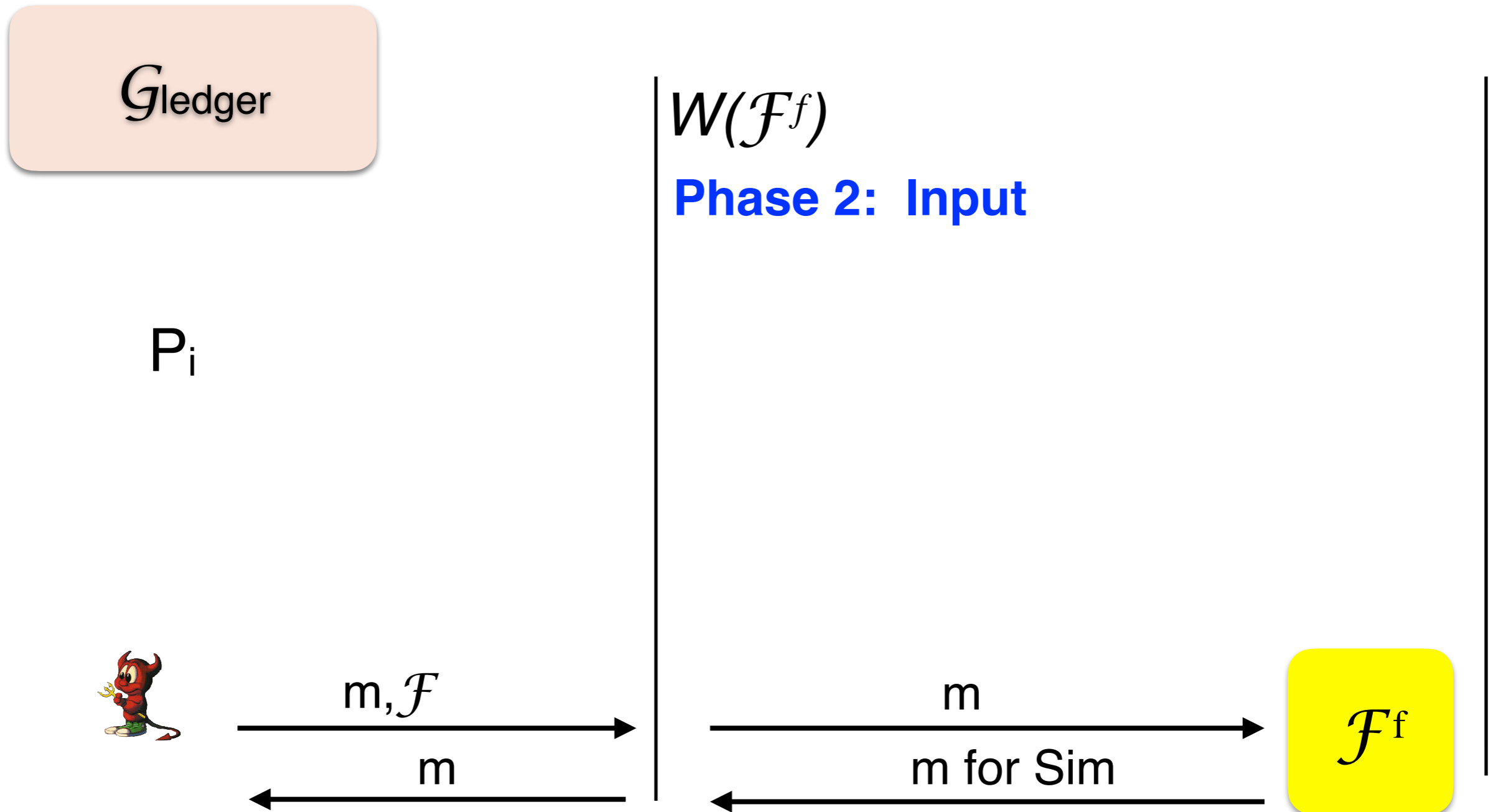
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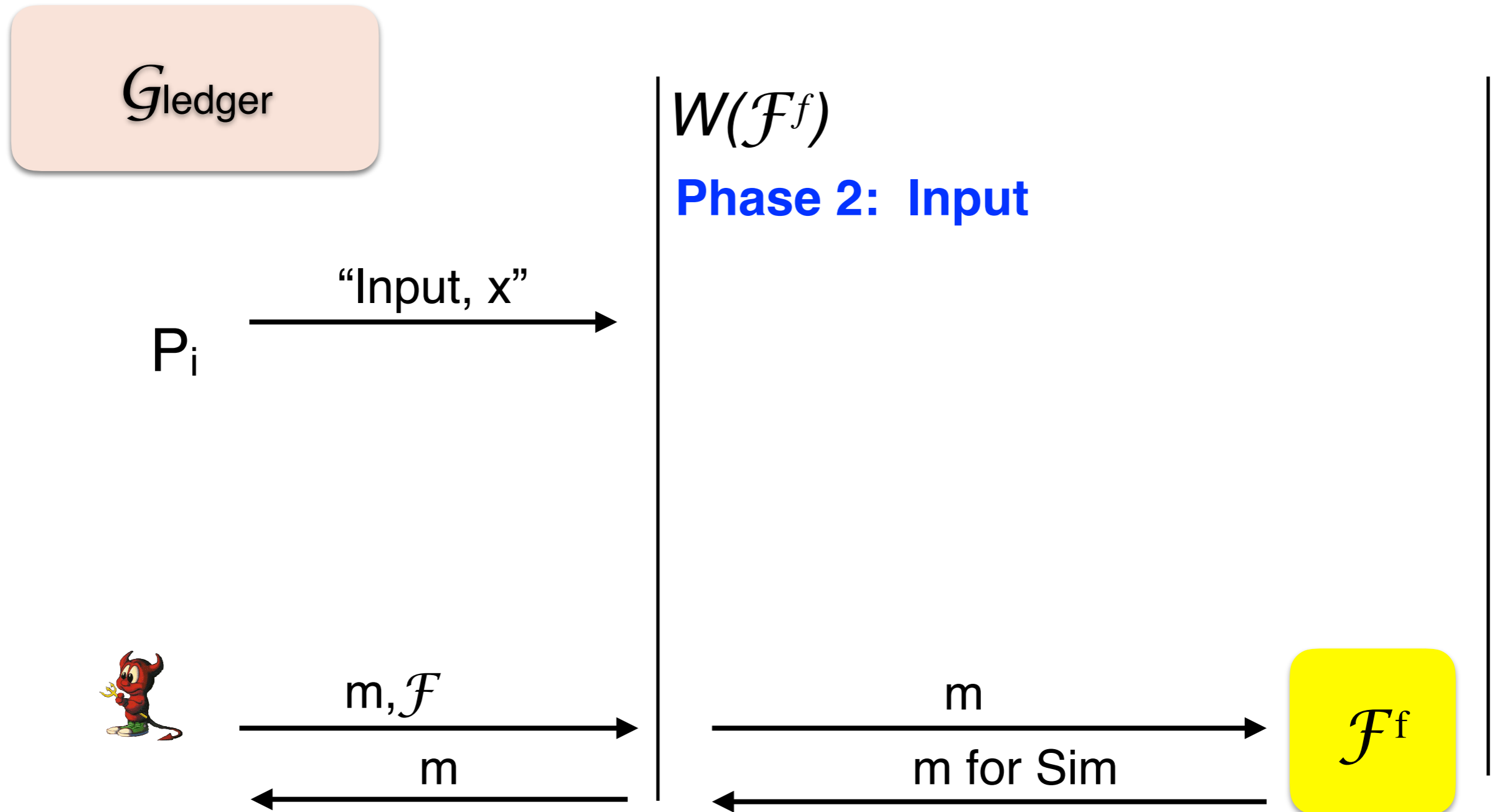
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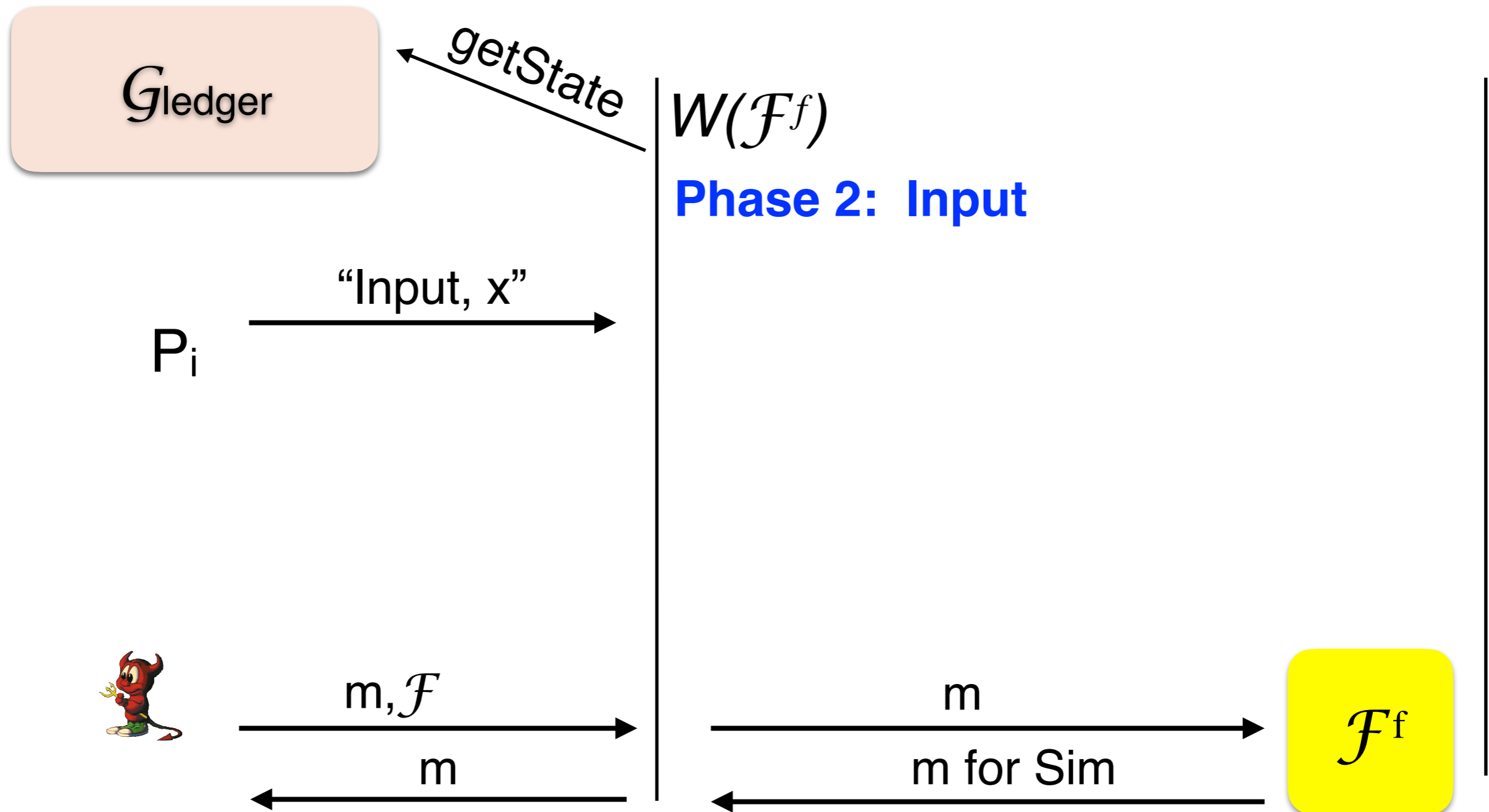
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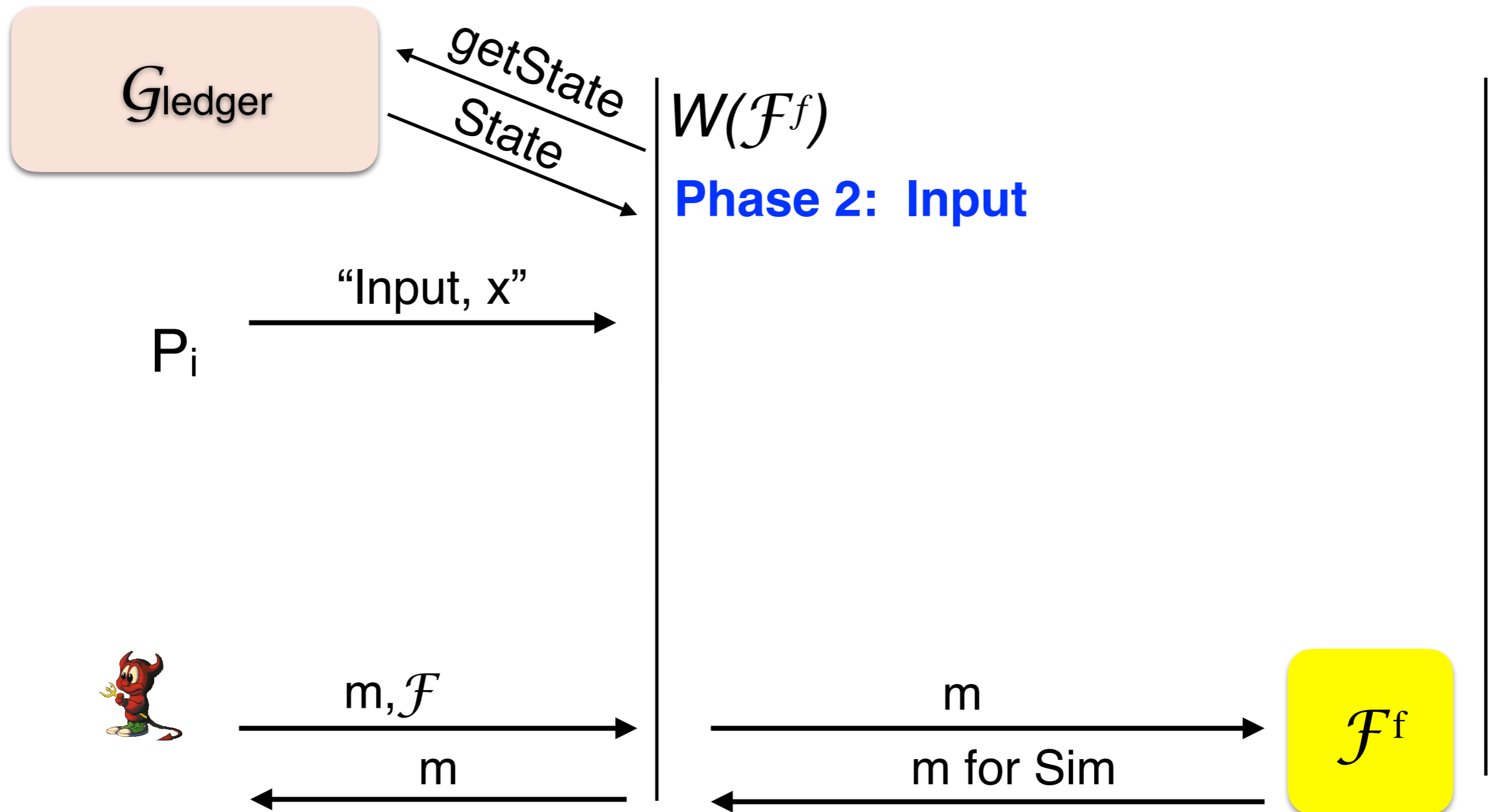
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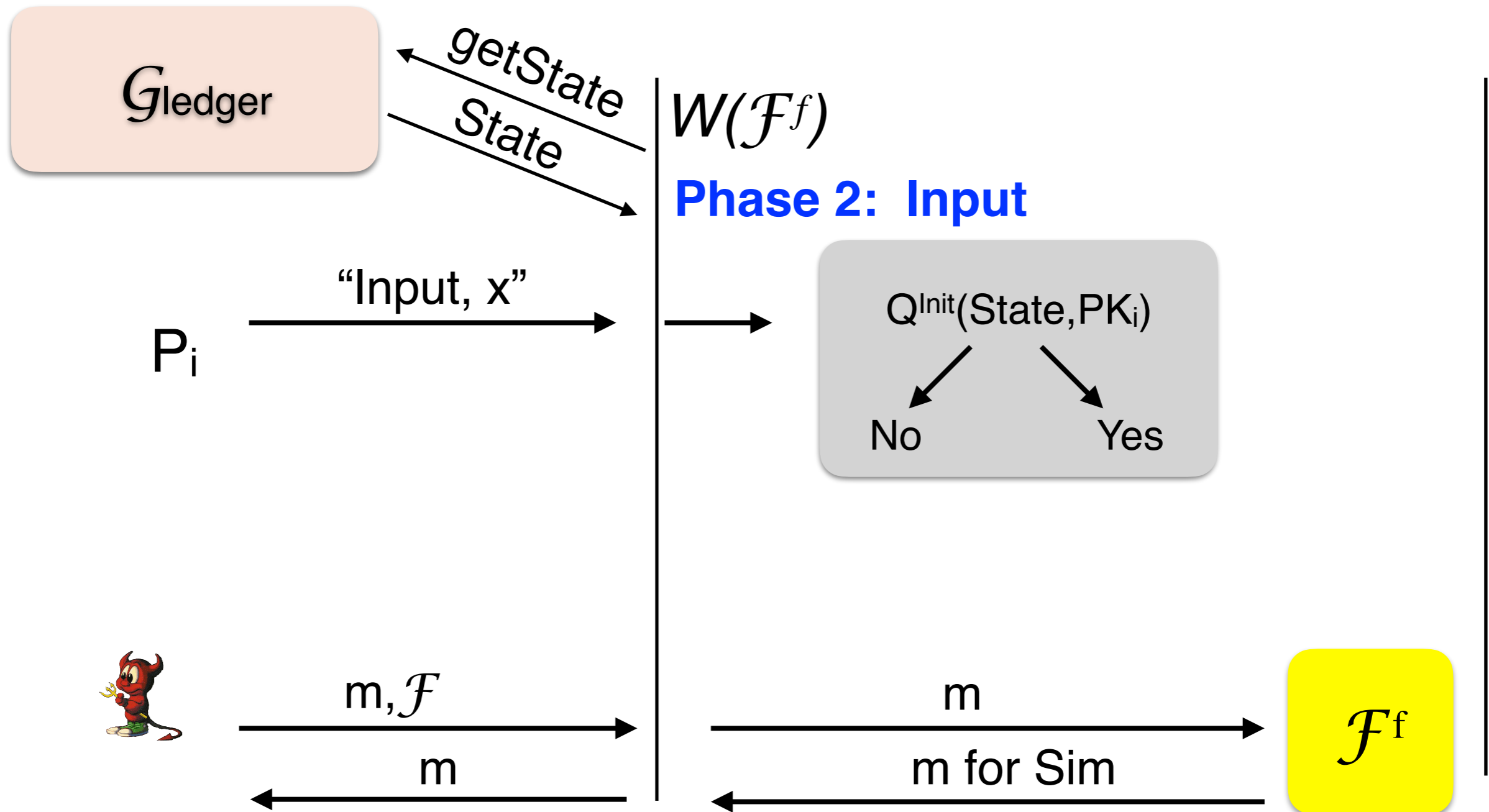
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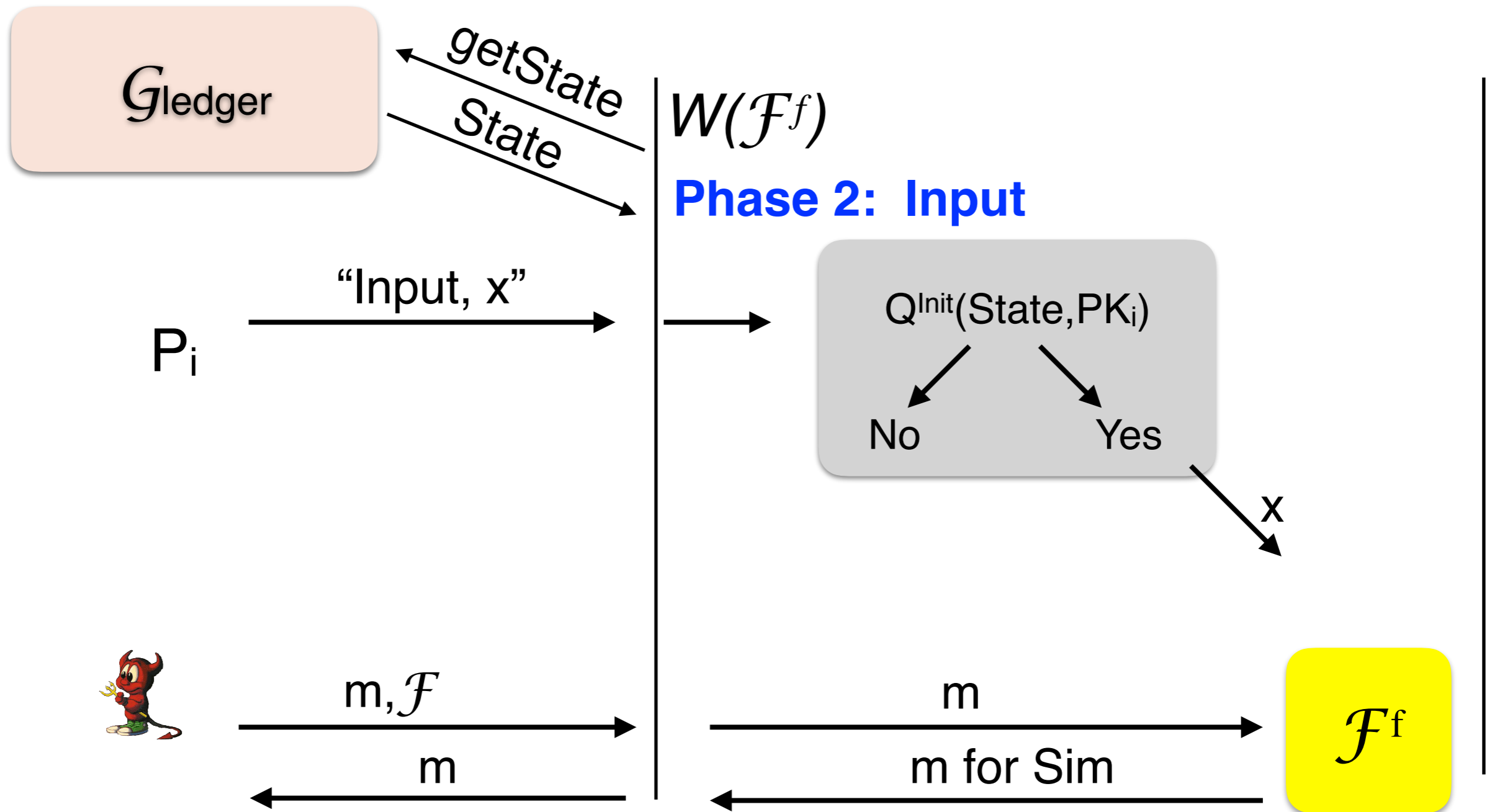
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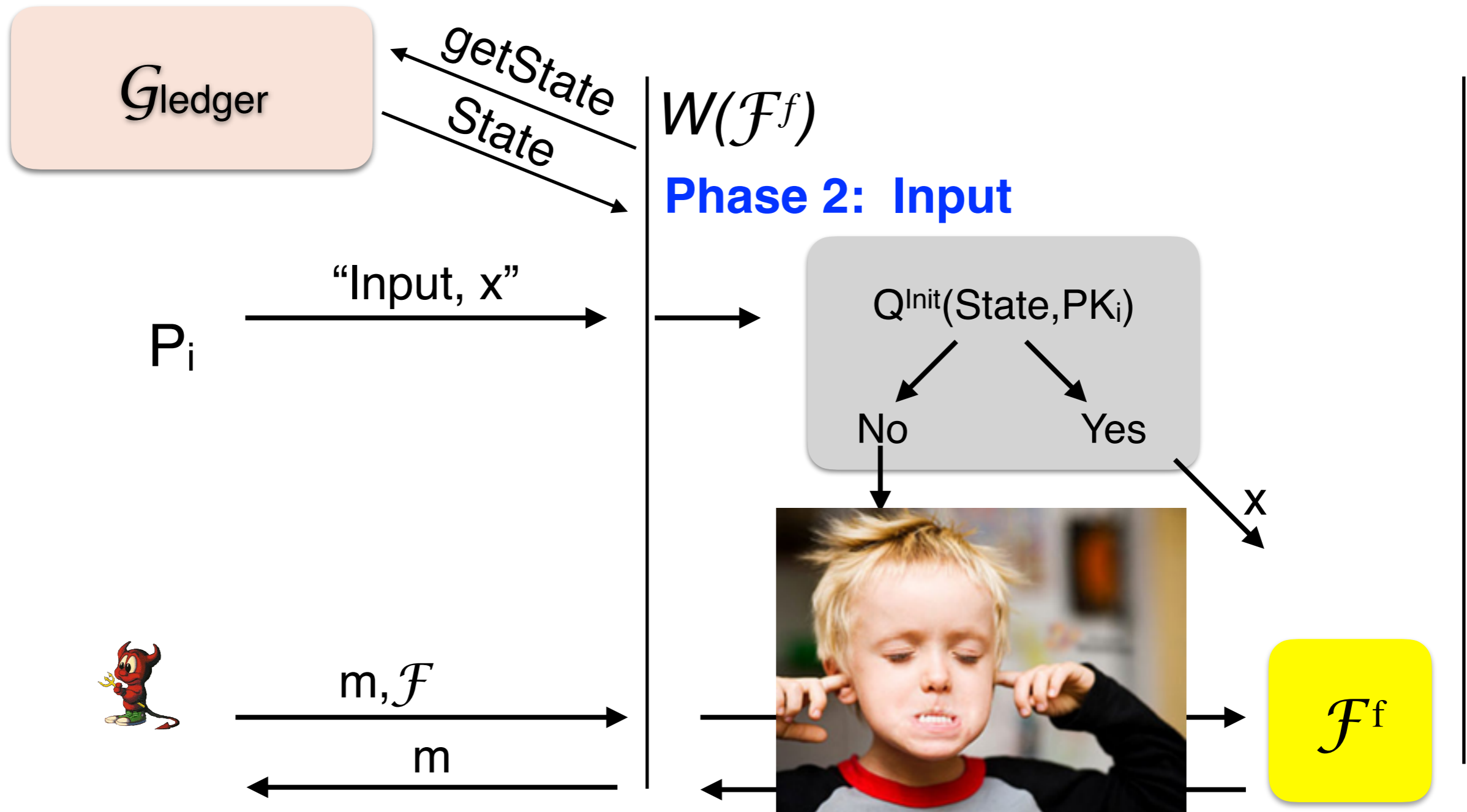
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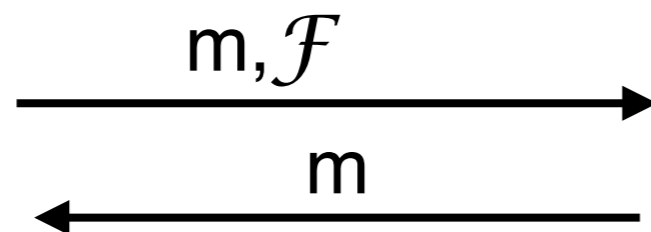
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A wrapper functionality $W_{P_1, \dots, P_n}(\mathcal{F}^f)$ with three predicates:

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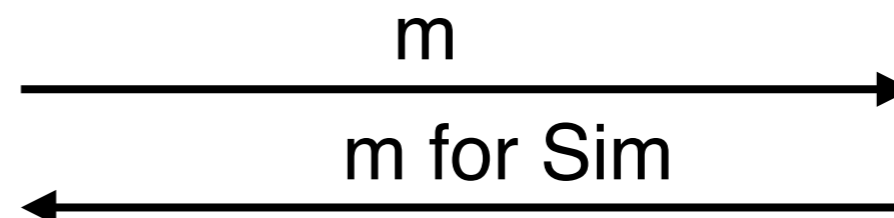
G_{ledger}

P_i



$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

Phase 3: Output



\mathcal{F}^f

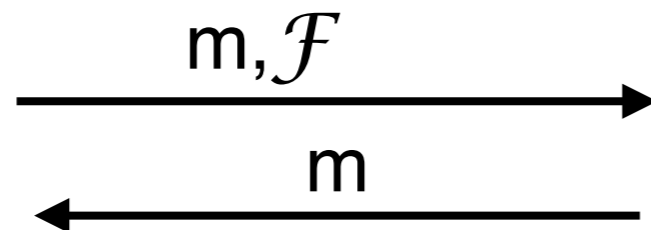
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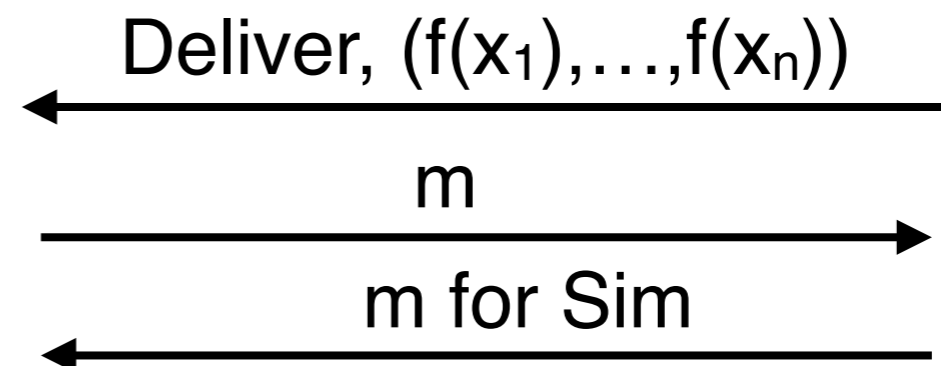
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G_{ledger}

P_i

Ready for FairDeliver

+

Corrupt outputs



m, \mathcal{F}

m

$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

Phase 3: Output

Deliver, $(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$

m

m for Sim

\mathcal{F}^f

SFE with Robust Compen. : Functionality

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G_{ledger}

P_i

Ready for FairDeliver

+

Corrupt outputs



m, \mathcal{F}

m

Deliver/Abort P_i

$W(\mathcal{F}^f)$

Phase 3: Output

Deliver, $(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$

m

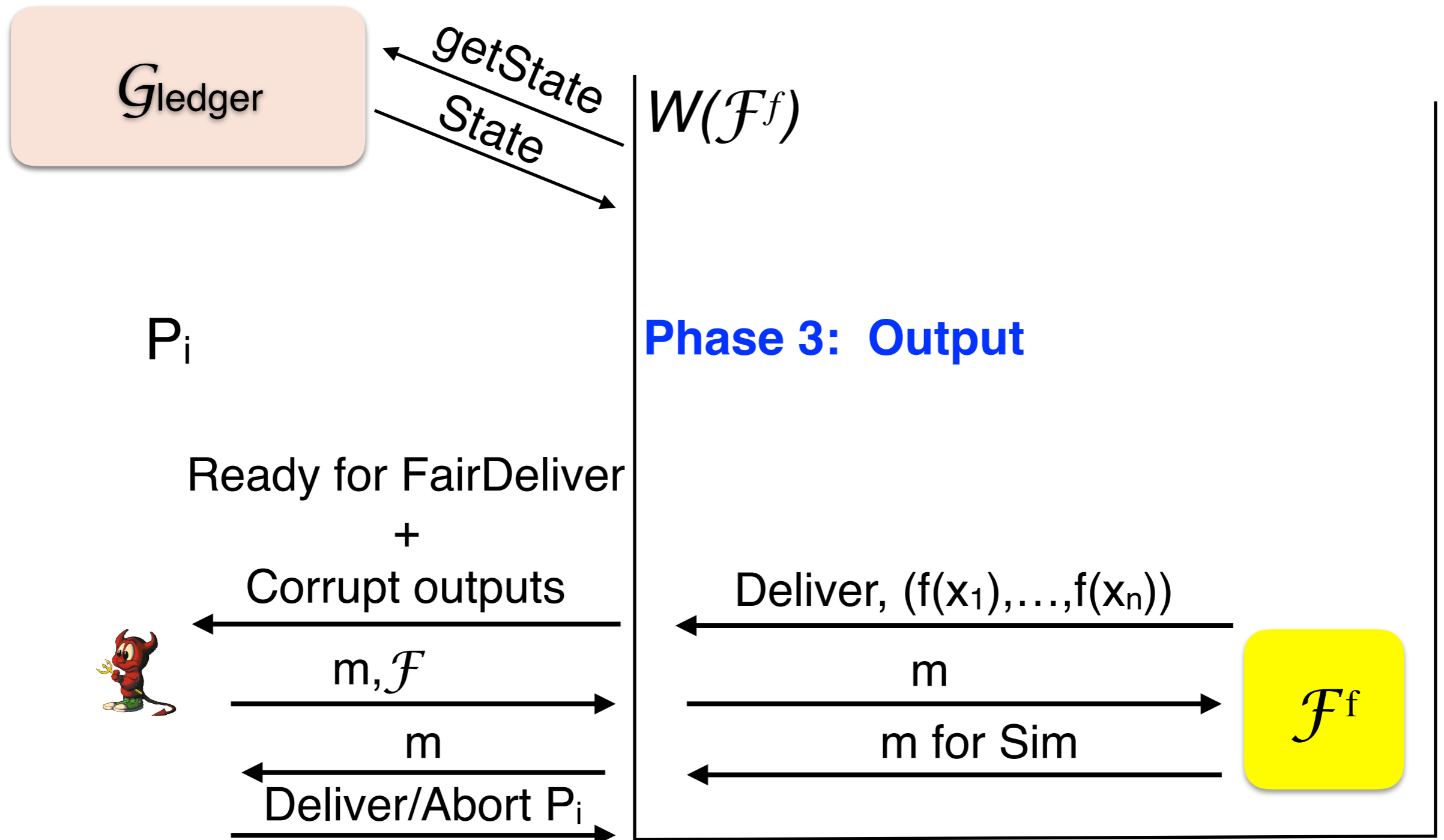
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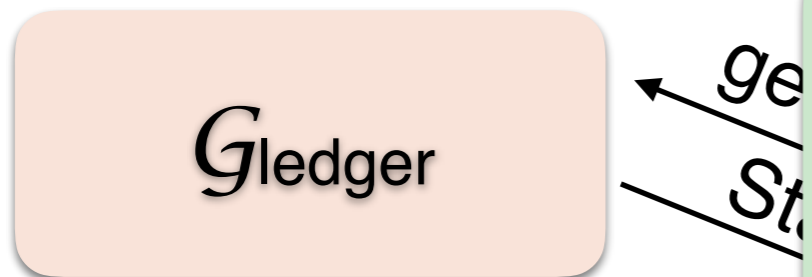
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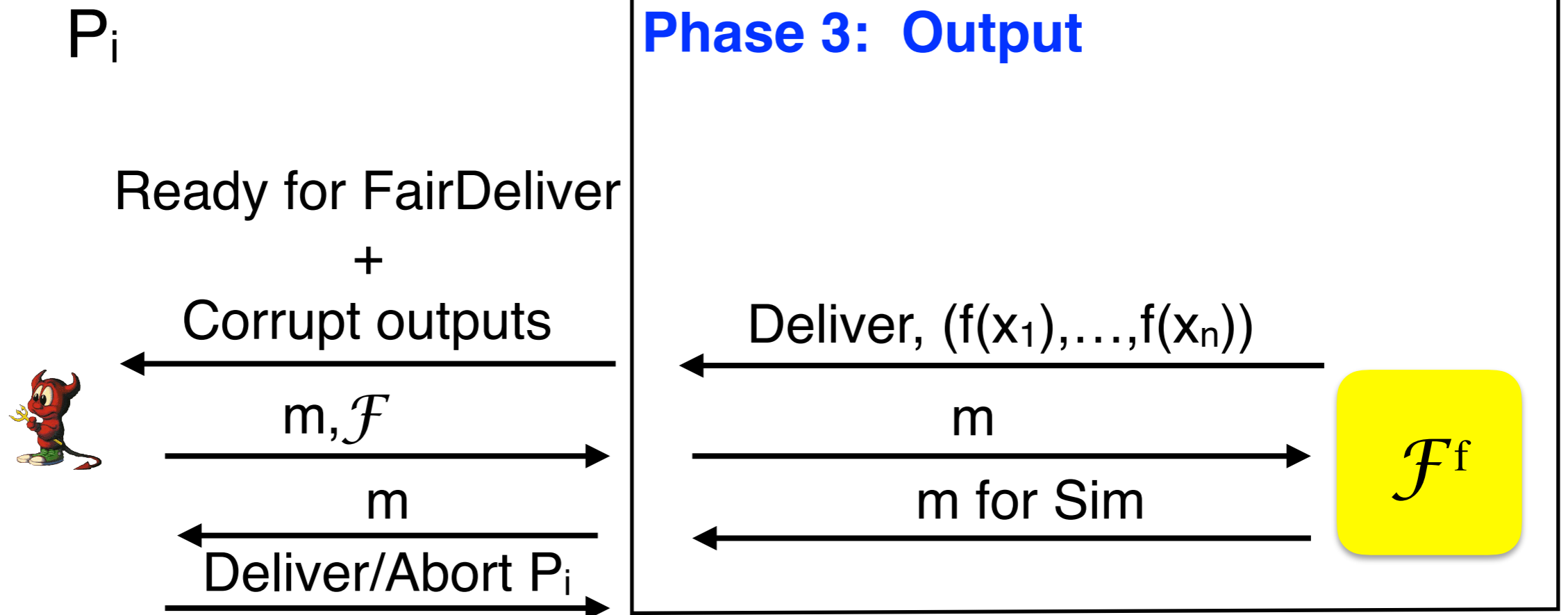
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The adversary can deliver to P_i only if $Q^{\text{Dlvr}}(\text{State}, P_i) = \text{True}$

The adversary can make P_i abort only if $Q^{\text{Abrt}}(\text{State}, P_i) = \text{True}$

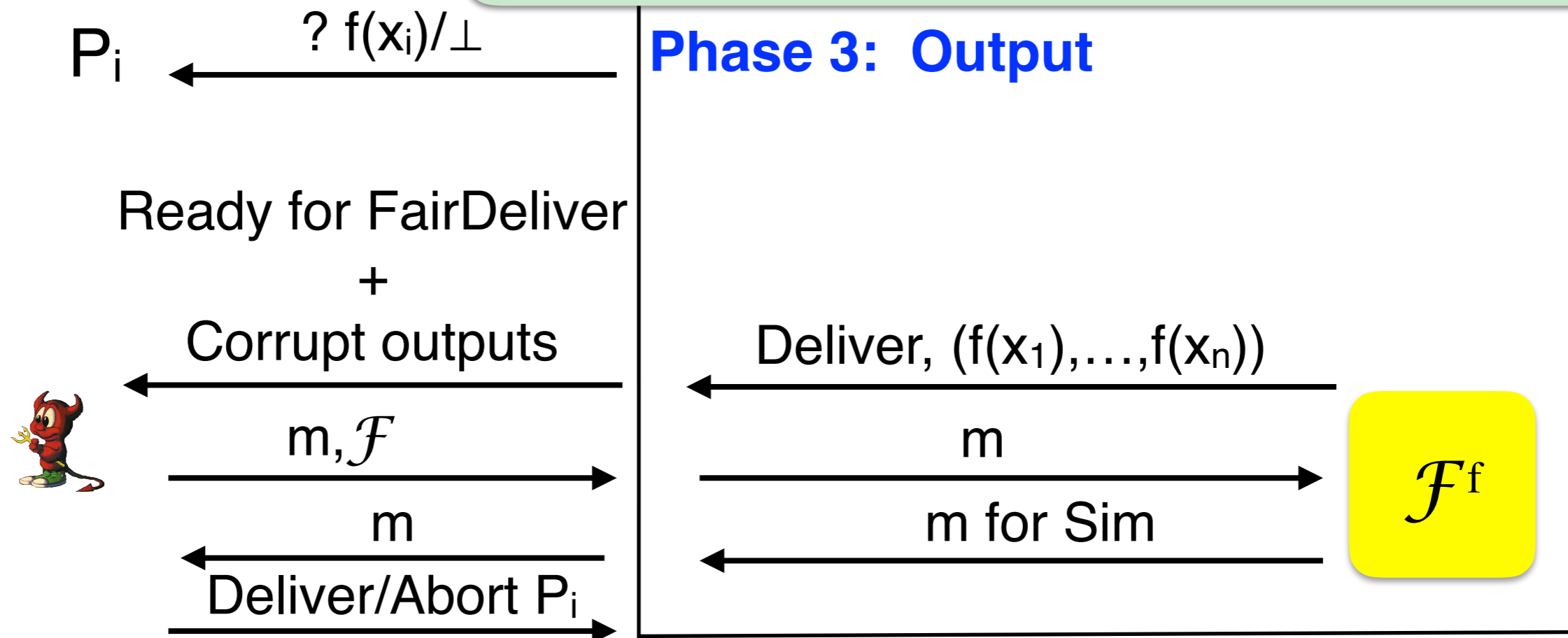
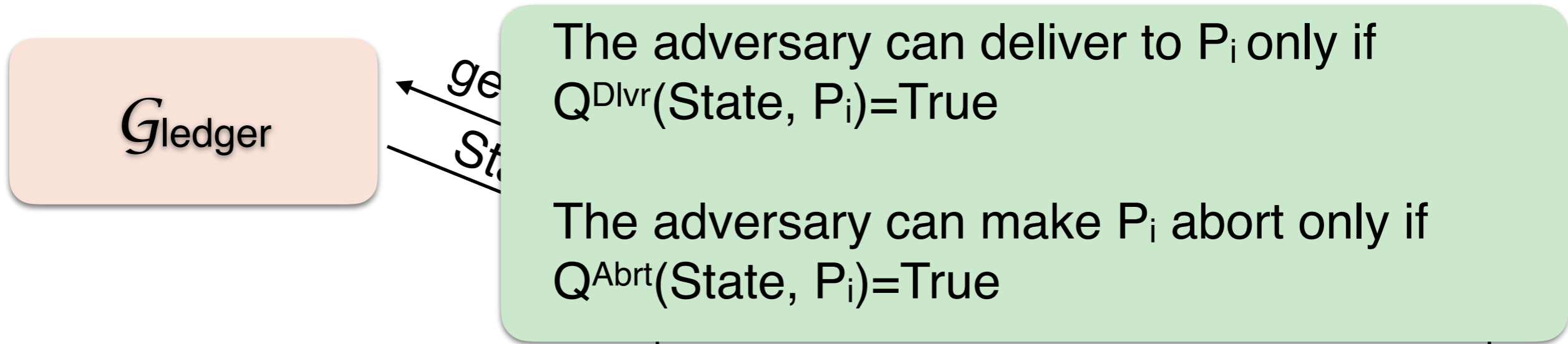
P_i



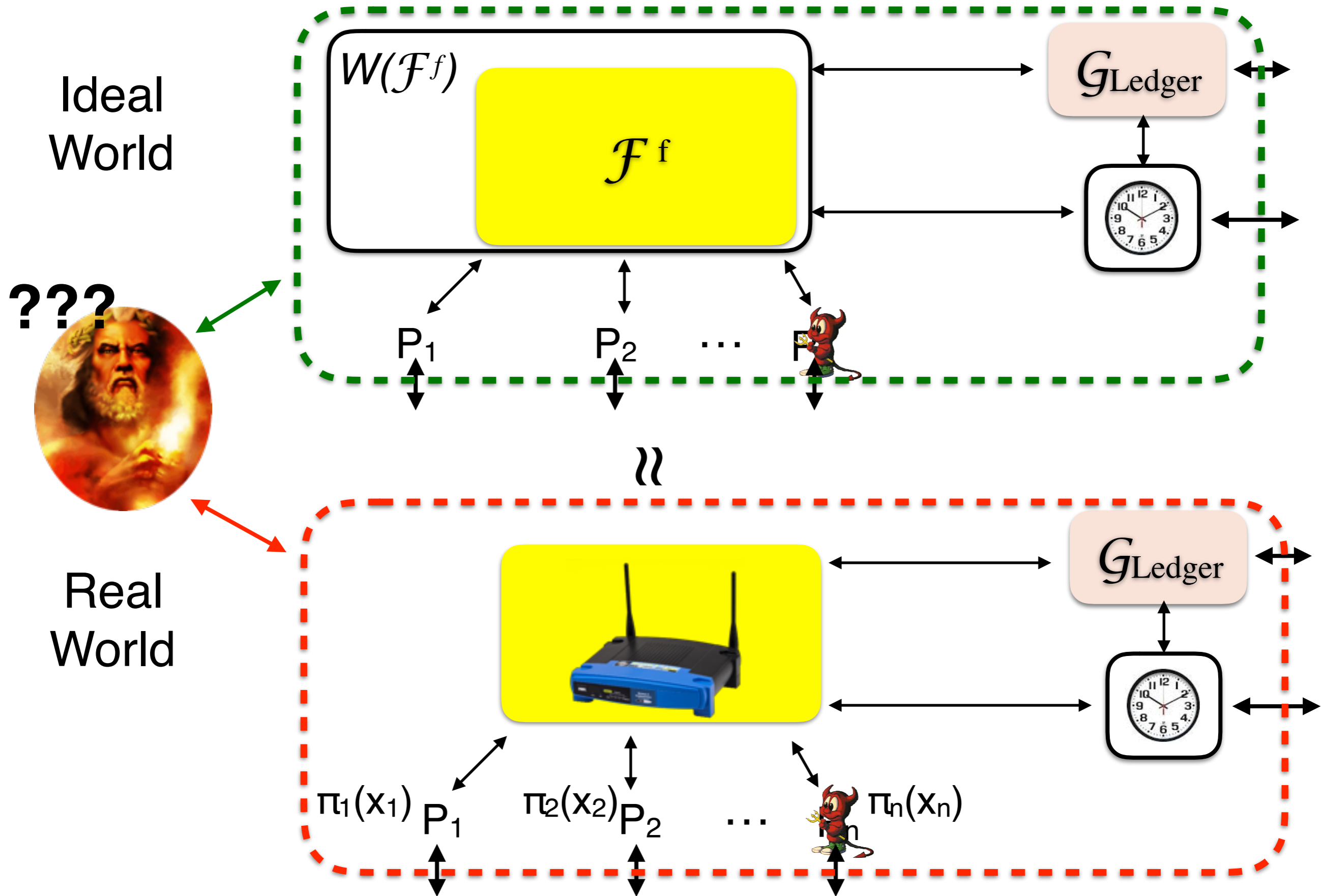
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A Formal Model: GUC



Take Away Message and Open Directions

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- Bitcoin opens new directions for cryptographic models
 - Adding a reward/punishment mechanism restricts the set of likely attacks
 - Limitations of crypto should be reconsidered (Impossibilities/Efficiencies)
- The choice of the model makes a difference when suggesting a solution
 - Safe strategy: Rectify the cryptographic model (Bonus: compatibility)

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Future directions

- A game theoretic analysis might allow us to improve existing results
- What more can we get from Bitcoin?
- The right model for exploring its rational aspects?