Secure bit commitment from relativistic constraints

Jed Kaniewski

Centre for Quantum Technologies National University of Singapore

joint work with Marco Tomamichel, Esther Hänggi and Stephanie Wehner

arXiv: 1206.1740

QCrypt 2012, Singapore

- Two-party cryptographic primitives
- Classical and quantum bit commitment
- Relativistic setting
- Relativistic bit commitment protocol [Kent'11]
- Security proof
- Summary and open questions



both honest \implies protocol goes through and result is as expected



Alice is honest \implies she is protected against dishonest Bob (e.g. she catches him cheating, aborts the protocol or he remains ignorant about her input) and *vice versa*

secure function evaluation

oblivious transfer

coin flip

(trusted, unbiased randomness)

commitment schemes



Auctioning is easy if a trusted third-party is available.



What if there is no trusted third-party? Be paranoid, trust nobody!



We could do it if we had a perfect [information-theoretic] safe.



Is this it?

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Bit commitment - ideal functionality





Bit commitment – ideal functionality





Bit commitment - ideal functionality





Bit commitment - ideal functionality









































The commit phase is over...





Alice goes mad!



She wants to break the safe and read the message!





Bob goes mad!



He wants to influence the message, he wants to be uncommitted!



The scheme should be hiding.

 p_{guess} – probability that Alice guesses the commited bit correctly after the commit phase is over

Definition

A bit commitment protocol is δ -hiding if the fact that Bob is honest implies

$$p_{\mathsf{guess}} \leq rac{1}{2} + \delta.$$

The scheme should be **binding**.



Bob should not be able to change his mind after the commit phase is over.



Dishonest Bob will have two different keys...





External verifier Victor asks him to unveil 1.



Bob attempts to unveil 1.



 p_1 is the probability that Alice accepts the unveiling.



Definition

A bit commitment protocol is ϵ -**binding** if the fact that Alice is honest implies that there exists a bit $c \in \{0, 1\}$ such that $p_c \leq \epsilon$.

What about **superposition** commitment?

For any protocol Bob can commit to an honest superposition and achieve $p_0 = p_1 = \frac{1}{2}$.

Not satisfiable in the quantum world...



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Composability? forget it...







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Phase 1



Phase 1



Phase 2





















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RBC [Kent'11] - Commit phase





Alice creates *n* BB84 states ...

RBC [Kent'11] - Commit phase



... and sends them to Bob.

RBC [Kent'11] - Commit phase



Bob receives the qubits ...



... and measures them in either computational or Hadamard basis.

00100110011101...





Bob obtains a bit string





... and sends it to his agents.











Alice checks if

• $c_B \stackrel{?}{=} c_C$,

- *x_B* is consistent with the BB84 states,
- x_C is consistent with the BB84 states.



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Purified RBC [Kent'11]





Alice creates *n* EPR pairs

Purified RBC [Kent'11]



... and sends half of each to Bob.

Purified RBC [Kent'11]



Bob applies an arbitrary isometry which splits the system into two parts. Each agent receives one of them.



RBC [Kent'11] - intuition why it is secure



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Security proof – no-signalling

			Charlie				
			c = 0		c = 1		
			accept	reject	reject	accept	
Bob	<i>b</i> = 0	accept	p_0	a ₁₂	•	α	
		reject	a ₂₁	a ₂₂	a ₂₃	a ₂₄	
	b = 1	reject	•	•	•	a ₃₄	
		accept	•	•	•	p_1	

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Security proof – uncertainty relation [TR'11]



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Security proof - uncertainty relation [TR'11]





•red qubits - measure in Z to get Z_r • green qubits - measured in X to get X_g





Doing the maths properly gives

$$\alpha \leq 2^{1-n(1-h(\delta))} + 2\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}n\delta^2\right),$$

for any $0 < \delta < \frac{1}{2} \implies$ exponential decay.

The fastest decay rate is achieved for \deltapprox 0.33, $lpha\sim2^{-0.08n}$

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- in the local command a classical, trivial protocol gives unconditional security,
- in the global command no classical protocol can be secure,
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