

# Does It Really Help to Run Challenge-Response Protocols Repeatedly ?

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Max Kanovich, Tajana Ban Kirigin, Vivek Nigam,  
Andre Scedrov, and Carolyn Talcott.

# The aim of this work

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1. **A general method** to provide **the full probabilistic analysis** of **the Attack in Between Ticks** (and its **variations**) on Distance-Bounding Protocols, established by Kanovich, Kirigin, Nigam, Scedrov, and Talcott [POST 2015]
2. We **challenge a general belief** that Verifier can improve their performance by means of collecting statistics *in a long series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds*.

Can we **mitigate** or **even rule out** the attacks on Distance-Bounding Protocols by using challenge-response rounds repeatedly ?

**“Yes”** and **“No”**

# Cyber-Physical Security Protocols

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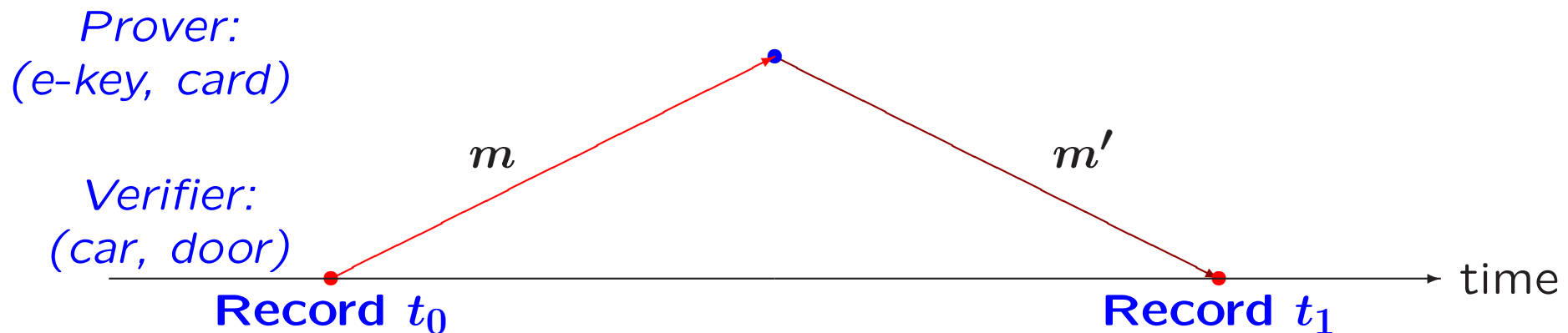
**Cyber-Physical Security Protocols** are security protocols which **rely upon the physical properties** in which their protocol sessions are carried out, such as:

- message transmission takes time;
- processing requests takes time;
- different transmission channels and velocities;
- *physical and network distances between participants.*

## Distance Bounding Protocols

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The round trip time of messages and the transmission velocity are taken into account to infer an upper bound on the distance between two agents, to identify them correctly.



If the measured  $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$  for a given *time response bound*,  $R$ , then the Verifier grants the access to its resources to the Prover.

# The Challenge-Response Protocol (in terms of the atomic actions)

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- Assume  $R = 4$ ;
- Verifier needs to perform four atomic operations:
  - (1) Send Challenge;
  - (2) Record the fact that the message was sent;
  - (3) Receive Response;
  - (4) Record the fact that the response has been received.

# Abstract Verifier against Actual Verifier

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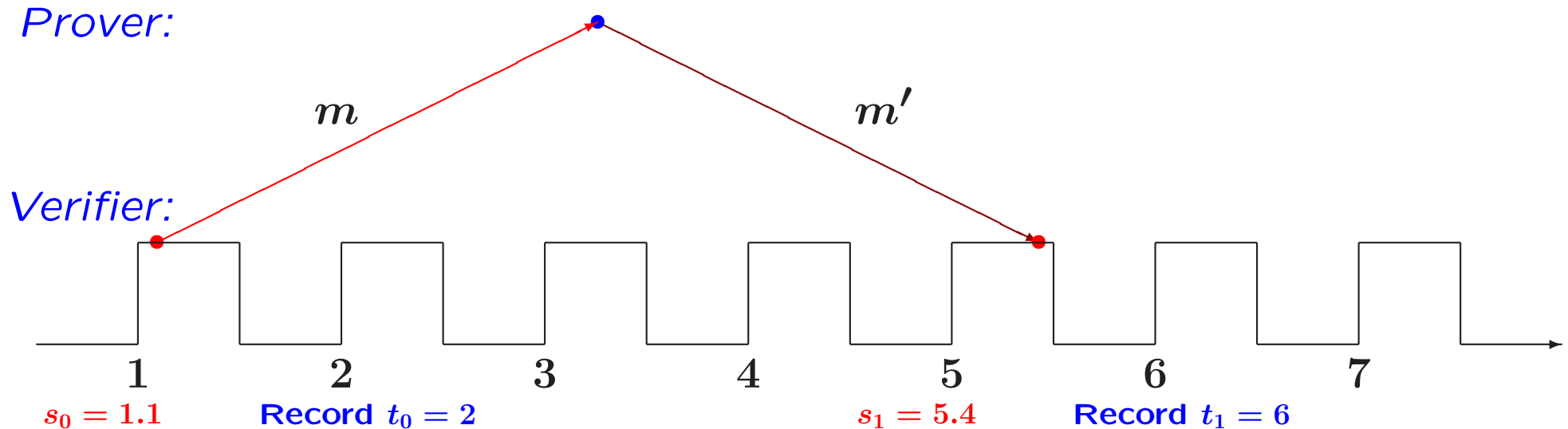
- **Abstract Verifier**

- Operates in **dense time**;
- **An unbounded number of timed events** are allowed within *any small time interval*. Zeno's Paradox.

- **Actual Verifier**

- Operates in **discrete time** at a finite clock rate;
- Only **a fixed finite number** of events may occur within a bounded time interval.
- W.l.o.g., we assume here that the Actual Verifier can execute **no more than one operation in one clock cycle**.
- E.g., the *sending or receiving* of a signal must occur in **a different clock cycle** than the *measurement* of the current time.

# Attack in Between Ticks (Actual Verifier, $R = 4$ )



- Verifier has got to **grant access**, since for **the measured**  $t_1 - t_0$ ,

$$t_1 - t_0 = 4 \leq R$$

- Though, **the actual round trip time is greater than  $R$  !**

$$l = s_1 - s_0 = 4.3 > R$$

## What has it got to do with reality ?

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The difference between **the actual round trip time** and **the measured trip time** can be of **one clock tick** even if each operation is executed in one clock cycle.

- **1 clock cycle of a 24MHz processor = 42 ns;**
- Light travels 30cm in 1ns;
- Thus the error can be of **12.6 meters round trip**.  
The mismatch can be used by the attacker to pretend that he is **6.3 meters closer to Verifier than he actually is**.



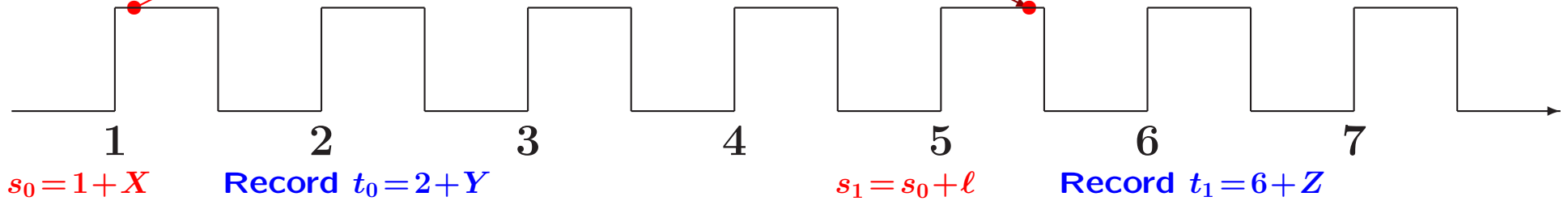
# The challenge-response protocol (Actual Verifier)

Prover:

$m$

$m'$

Verifier:



$$\begin{cases} s_0 = 1 + X, & s_1 = s_0 + l, \\ t_0 = 2 + Y, & t_1 = \lfloor s_1 \rfloor + 1 + Z. \end{cases}$$

$X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  are random variables distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

## When the decision is erroneous “ $t_1 - t_0$ ” against “ $s_1 - s_0$ ”

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In the talk we are dealing with the system:

$$\begin{cases} s_0 = 1 + X, & s_1 = s_0 + \ell, \\ t_0 = 2 + Y, & t_1 = \lfloor s_1 \rfloor + 1 + Z. \end{cases}$$

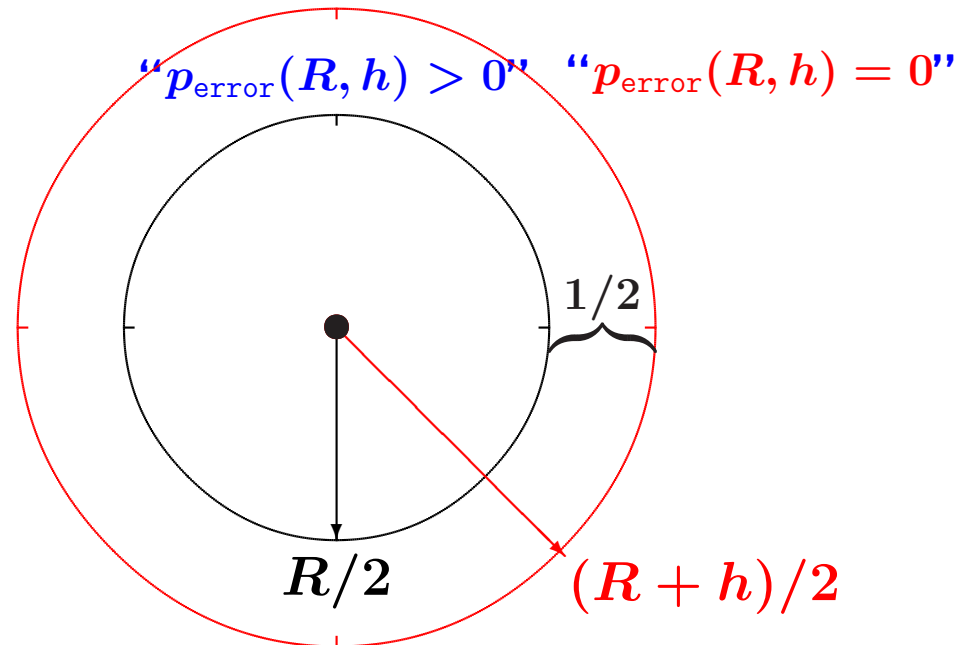
The “Yes” decision (caused by the *measured*  $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ) is taken as **erroneous**, if in reality the *actual distance*,  $s_1 - s_0$ , turns out to be larger than  $R$ , say by some positive *excess/extra*,  $h$ .

$p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$ , *the probability of the erroneous decision*, is defined as the conditional probability:

$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \text{Prob} \{ t_1 - t_0 \leq R \mid s_1 - s_0 = R + h \} \quad (1)$$

# The probability of the erroneous decision (Thm 12.1, $R$ is an integer)

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$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & \text{if } 0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 1 - h, & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < h < 1, \\ 0, & \text{if } h \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

## The probability of the erroneous decision

---

**Theorem 12.1** *Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be distributed with one and the same density, an arbitrary  $g$ .*

*Let  $X$  be uniformly distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .*

*Then, for a fixed time response bound, an integer  $R$ , and an extra, a positive  $h$ ,*

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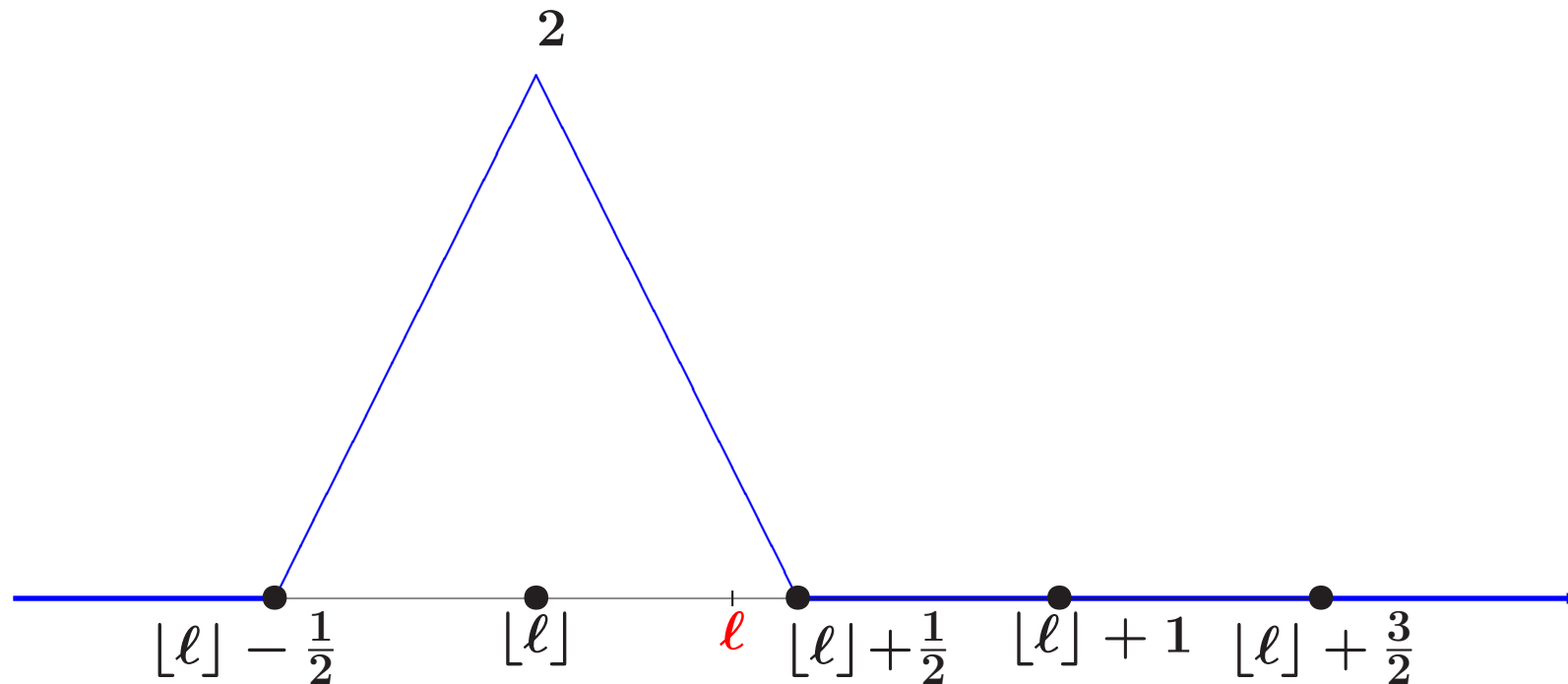
**Comment 12.1** The formula in Thm 12.1 is *one and the same*, whatever peculiar distribution density  $g$  for  $Y$  and  $Z$  we take !

(“Dromedary camel” case)  $\tilde{\ell} = \ell - \lfloor \ell \rfloor \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .

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The graph of the density,  $F'_\ell(w)$ , for the distribution  $F_\ell(w)$ :

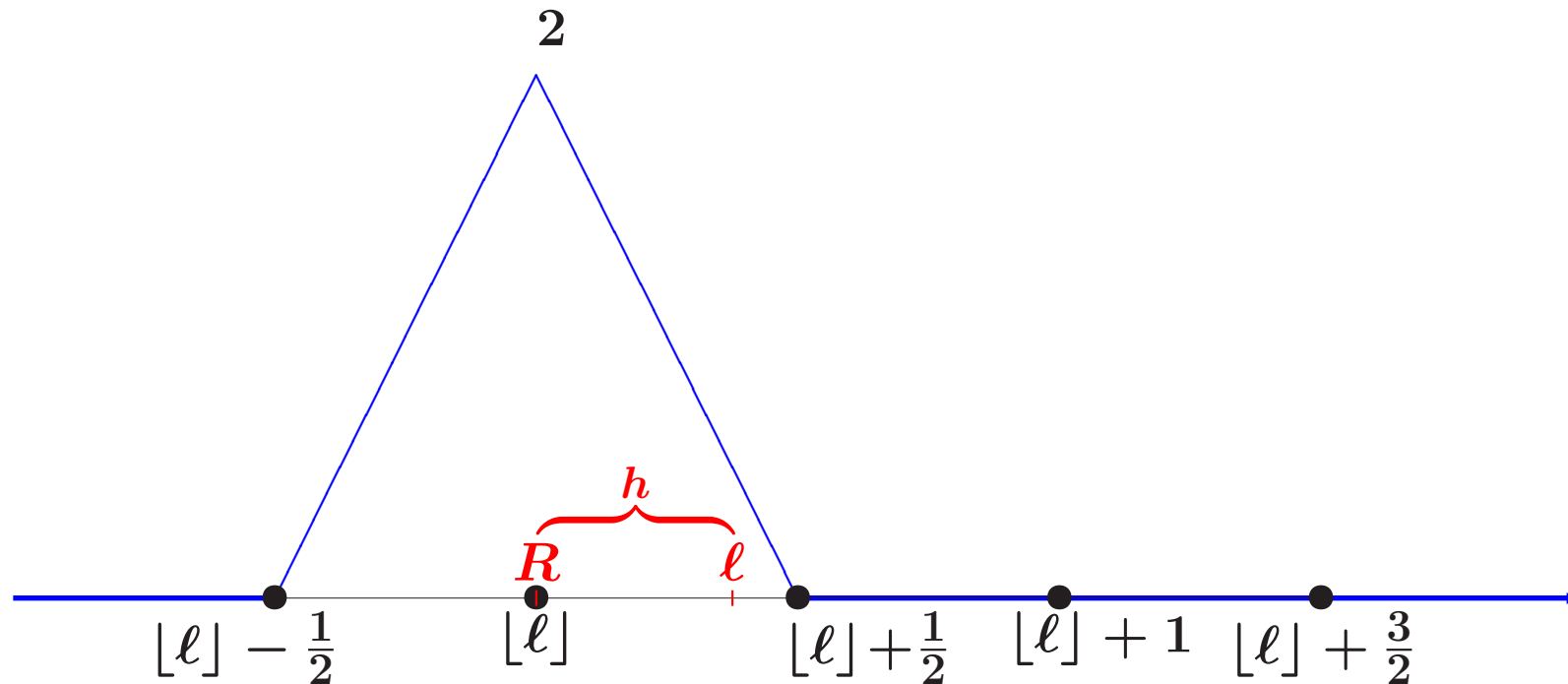
$$F_\ell(w) = \text{Prob} \{ t_1 - t_0 \leq w \mid s_1 - s_0 = \ell \}$$



$F'_\ell(w)$  is always ‘symmetrical’ whenever  $f_Y = f_Z$ .

**Thm 12.1, Proof:**  $p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \frac{1}{2}$ , if  $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$

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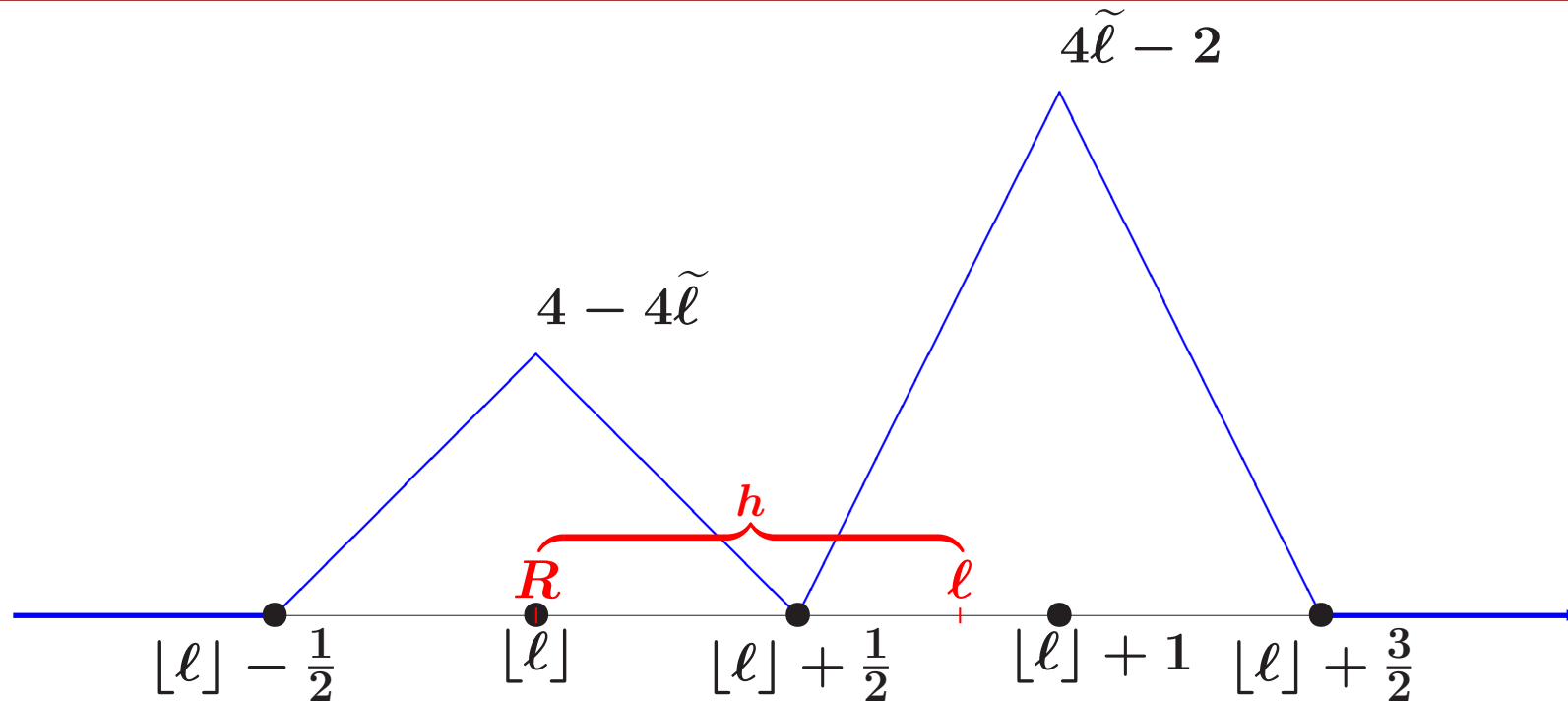


Given an integer  $R$ , let  $l = R + h$ . Then  $[l] = R$ , and

$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \int_{-\infty}^{[l]} F'_l(w) dw = \frac{1}{2}$$

# Thm 12.1 (“Bactrian camel” case: two humps)

**Proof:**  $p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = 1 - h$ , if  $\frac{1}{2} < h < 1$



Given an integer  $R$ , let  $\ell = R + h$ . Then  $[\ell] = R$ , and

$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \int_{-\infty}^{[\ell]} F'_{\ell}(w) dw = 1 - \tilde{\ell} = 1 - h$$



## Using challenge-response rounds repeatedly ?

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- We **challenge a general belief** that Verifier can improve their performance by means of collecting statistics *in a long series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds*.
- How can we **formalize** this “improve their performance”
- Can we **mitigate** or **even rule out** the attacks on Distance-Bounding Protocols by using challenge-response rounds repeatedly ?

**“Yes”** and **“No”**

## The decision by the simple majority: 50%+1

Let Verifier perform a series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds.

Given that *the actual distance*  $s_1 - s_0 = R + h$ ,

let  $p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$  be **the conditional probability** of that

Verifier makes an *erroneous* decision to grant the access because

**he has observed “ $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ” in more than  $\frac{n}{2}$  rounds.**

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**Theorem 17.1 (i)** For  $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \frac{1}{2}$$

**(ii)** For  $\frac{1}{2} < h < 1$ ,

$$p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq C_0(1 - \delta_h)^n \quad (\text{for some } \delta_h \text{ and } C_0),$$

**and, hence,**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0.$$

## Thm 17.1, What is a secret with $p < \frac{1}{2}$ ?

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Let  $p = p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$ ,  $q = 1 - p$ , and

$$\alpha_n(p) = p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h).$$

We take the derivative  $\alpha'_n$  and compute the ratio, with  $n+2$  (sic!):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha'_n(p)}{\alpha'_{n+2}(p)} = 4pq$$

- (i) For  $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , we have  $p = \frac{1}{2}$ , and, hence,  $4pq = 1$ ,  
and we have to use **something else** (the harmonic series. . .)
- (ii) For  $\frac{1}{2} < h < 1$ , we have  $p < \frac{1}{2}$ , and, hence,  $4pq < 1$ ,  
which provides that

$$p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \alpha_n(p) \leq C_0(1 - \delta_h)^n.$$

## The decision by the larger majority with $c > \frac{1}{2}$

Let Verifier perform a series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds.

**Let  $c$  be a ‘threshold number’ such that  $0.5 < c < 1$ .**

Given that *the actual distance*  $s_1 - s_0 = R + h$ ,

let  $\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$  be **the conditional probability** of that

Verifier makes an *erroneous* decision to grant the access because **he has observed “ $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ” at least in  $cn$  rounds.**

# The decision by the larger majority with $c > \frac{1}{2}$

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Let Verifier perform a series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds.

Let  $c$  be a ‘threshold number’ such that  $0.5 < c < 1$ .

Given that the actual distance  $s_1 - s_0 = R + h$ ,

let  $\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$  be the conditional probability of that Verifier makes an *erroneous* decision to grant the access because he has observed “ $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ” at least in  $cn$  rounds.

**Theorem 19.1** For all  $h > 0$ ,

$$\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq C_0(1 - \delta_c)^n \quad (\text{for some } \delta_c \text{ and } C_0),$$

and, hence,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0.$$

# Thm 19.1, Proof sketch: for $c = \frac{3}{5}$ What is a secret with $p \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ?

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Let  $p = p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$ ,  $q = 1 - p$ , and

$$\beta_n(p) = \pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h).$$

We take the derivative  $\beta'_n$  and compute the ratio, with  $n+5$  (sic!):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\beta'_n(p)}{\beta'_{n+5}(p)} = \frac{5^5}{3^3 \cdot 2^2} p^3 q^2 \leq \frac{5^5}{3^3 \cdot 2^2} \cdot \frac{1}{32} \approx 0.9 < 1$$

which provides that

$$\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \beta_n(p) \leq C_0(1 - \delta)^n.$$

# The simple majority vs. the larger majority

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The “standard thresholds” known in practice are  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{3}{5}$ .

Thm 19.1:  $\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq C_0(1 - \delta)^n$ , for all  $h > 0$ ,

- As a corollary, having observed the event

$$“t_1 - t_0 \leq R”$$

at least in the **60% majority** of rounds, Verifier can establish that *the actual distance is correct* (modulo infinitesimals  $\epsilon$ ):

$$s_1 - s_0 \leq R + \epsilon,$$

but only *with the high probability for large  $n \geq n_0$* .

- If Verifier decides to grant the access by the *large majority* with *a fixed threshold  $c > \frac{1}{2}$* , then in-between-ticks attacks can be **ruled out with high probability for large  $n$** .



## Concluding Remarks: The general method to investigate a wide class of novel security problems

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Traditionally, any attack is classified

1. either as the “**must-be**” attack that always succeeds under the given circumstances, “*the probability is 1*”
2. or as the “**may-be**” attack that can succeed sometimes, in the case of a specific scenario, “*the probability is non-zero*”

The novelty of our approach is that we have investigated the case in between these two ends on the scale. Namely,  
**the attack can succeed but with a certain probability.**

# 1. The probabilistic analysis of an attack on Distance-Bounding Protocols

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For a typical challenge-response protocol we have given the full probabilistic analysis of **the attack in between ticks** (and its **variations**) established by Kanovich, Kirigin, Nigam, Scedrov, and Talcott [POST 2015].

- (a) We have measured the **probabilistic discrepancy** between the *measured* time distance  $t_1 - t_0$ , and the *actual* time distance  $s_1 - s_0$ .
- (b) We have found that such discrepancy is caused by **inconsistency** between *the continuous time in nature* and *the discrete time within Verifier's computer clock*.

## 2. Can we mitigate or even rule out the attacks by using challenge-response rounds repeatedly ?

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Within the precise formalism, we *have challenged a general belief* that Verifier can improve their performance by observing the “acceptance events” in *the majority of  $n$  rounds*.

- (1) If the distance bounding step measurement is repeated  $n$  times, and Verifier determines that Prover is within a certain distance,  $R$ , in *more than  $\frac{n}{2}$  of the cases*, then this information is **still insufficient to mitigate** in-between-ticks attacks.
- (2) If Verifier determines that Prover is within a certain distance *in  $cn$  of the cases*, with  $0.5 < c < 1$ , then in-between-ticks attacks can be **ruled out with high probability for large  $n$** .

# Thanks ! Questions ? Variations ?

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**Variations** in

- questions (Yes/No issues), models, bounds (a non-integer  $R$ ), etc.

Upon request, if time allows, the secrets of the proofs for

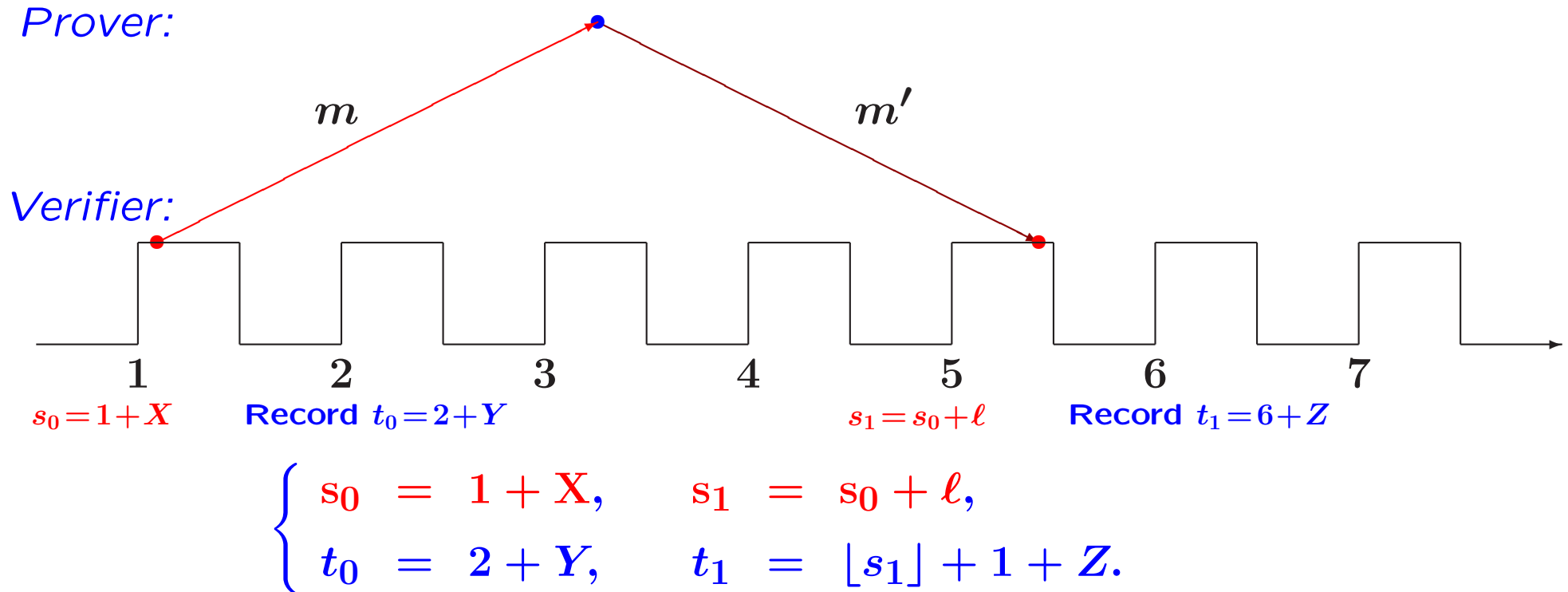
- Thm 12.1 on:  
 $p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$ , **the probability of the erroneous decision**
- Thm 17.1 on: **the simple majority**
- Thm 19.1 on: **the  $\frac{3}{5}$  majority**

## “Doing nothing makes no mistakes” Symmetrical “Yes/NO” issues to be addressed.

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- **The “Yes” decision** (caused by the *measured*  $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ) is taken as **erroneous**, if in reality the *actual distance*,  $s_1 - s_0$ , turns out to be larger than  $R$ , by some positive *excess/extra*,  $h$ .
- However, caused by the *measured*  $t_1 - t_0 > R + \delta$ , **the “NO” decision** should have been taken as **erroneous** as well, if in reality the honest Prover has happened in the appropriate proximity to Verifier.

# The original challenge-response protocol “ $t_0$ after $s_0$ ”



$X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  are distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

# The challenge-response protocols

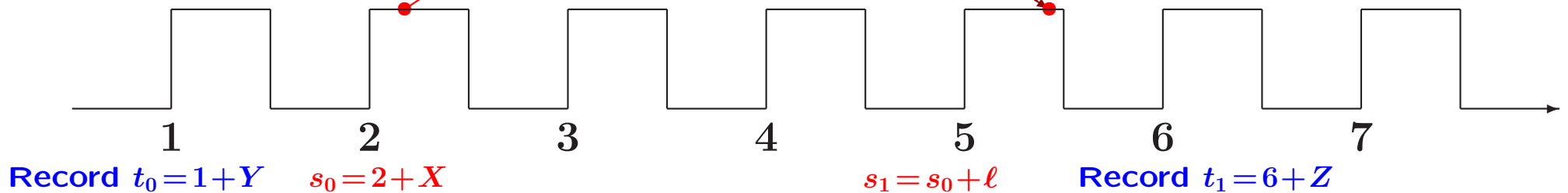
## Variations: “ $t_0$ before $s_0$ ”

Prover:

$m$

$m'$

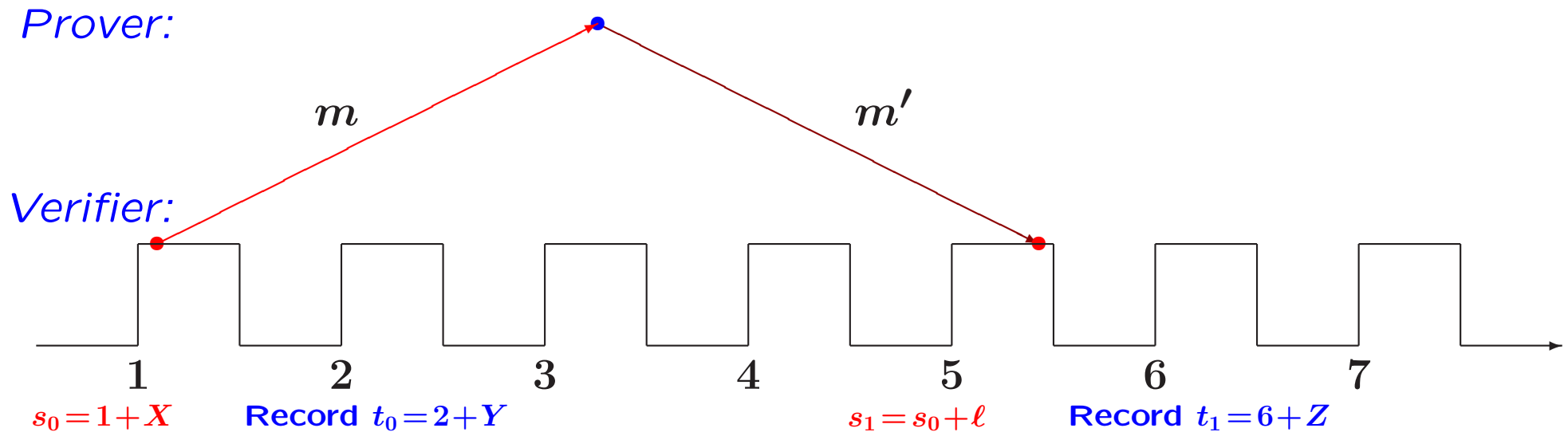
Verifier:



$$\begin{cases} s_0 = 2 + X, & s_1 = s_0 + l, \\ t_0 = 1 + Y, & t_1 = \lfloor s_1 \rfloor + 1 + Z. \end{cases}$$

$X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  are distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

# The original challenge-response protocol



$$\begin{cases} s_0 = 1 + X, & s_1 = s_0 + \ell, \\ t_0 = 2 + Y, & t_1 = \lfloor s_1 \rfloor + 1 + Z. \end{cases}$$

$X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  are distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .



# The challenge-response protocols (variations): adjust $t_1$ for $s_1$ during the idle half of the cycle

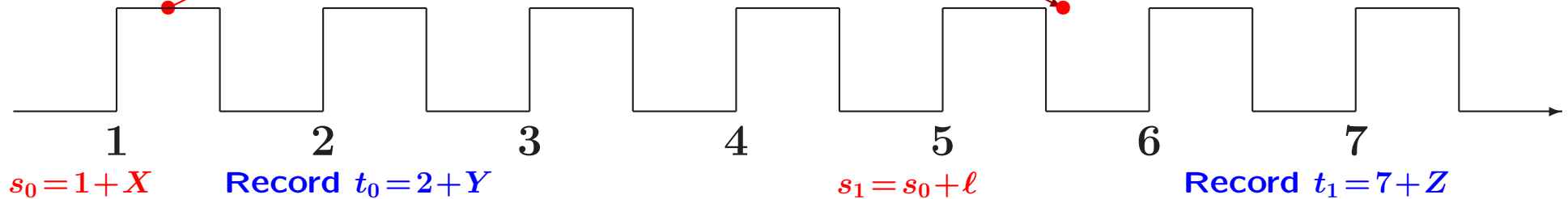
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Prover:

$m$

$m'$

Verifier:



$$\begin{cases} s_0 = 1 + X, & s_1 = s_0 + \ell, \\ t_0 = 2 + Y, & t_1 = \lceil s_1 + \frac{1}{2} \rceil + Z. \end{cases}$$

$X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  are distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

## The probability of the erroneous decision

---

$$\begin{cases} s_0 = 1 + X, & s_1 = s_0 + \ell, \\ t_0 = 2 + Y, & t_1 = \lceil s_1 + \frac{1}{2} \rceil + Z. \end{cases}$$

### Theorem 31.1

Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be distributed with one and the same density, an arbitrary  $g$ .

Let  $X$  be uniformly distributed on  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

Then, for a fixed time response bound, an integer  $R$ , and an extra, a positive  $h$ ,

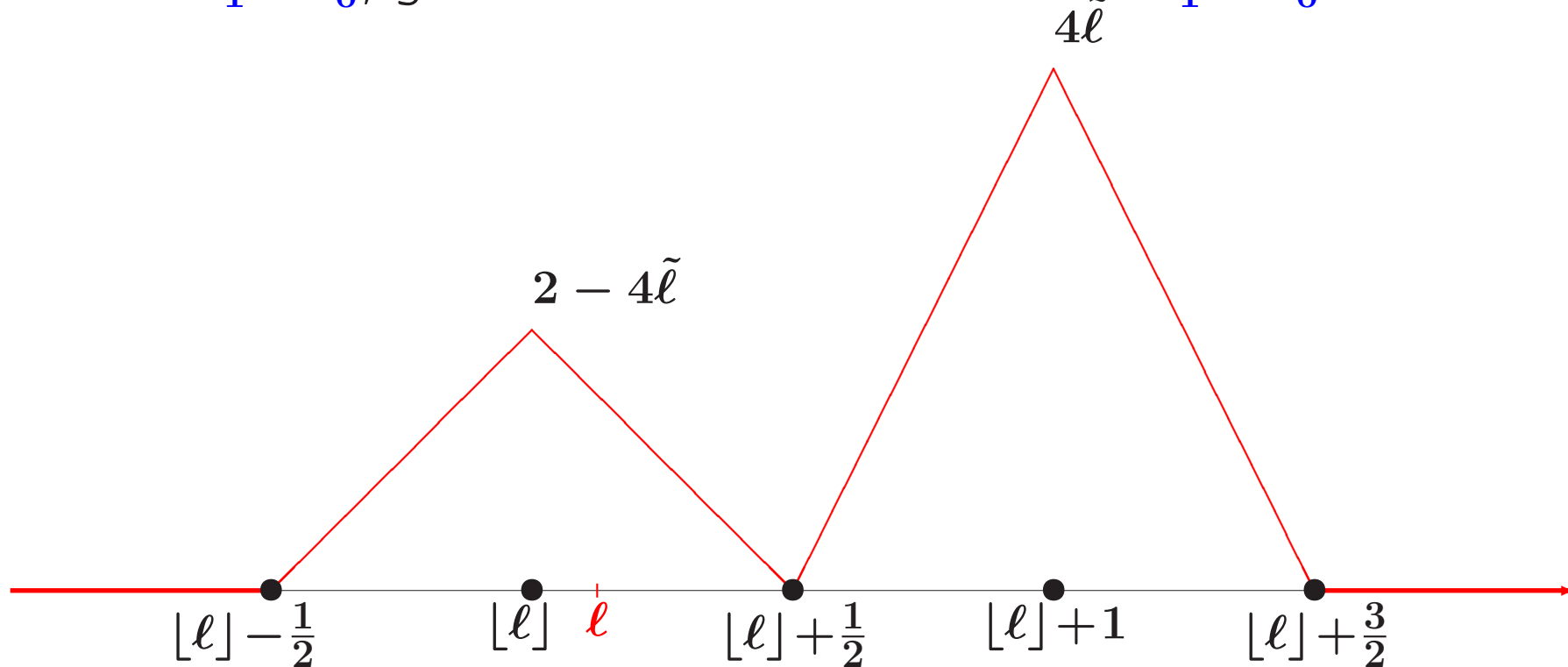
$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} - h, & \text{if } 0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 0, & \text{if } h > \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

## The 2-humped Bactrian camel: $\tilde{\ell} = \ell - \lfloor \ell \rfloor < \frac{1}{2}$ . A bimodal distribution

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$$\frac{d}{dw} \text{Prob} \{ t_1 - t_0 \leq w \mid s_1 - s_0 = \ell \}$$

The **conditional probability density** of the *measured* time distance  $t_1 - t_0$ , given the *actual* time distance  $s_1 - s_0 = \ell$ :

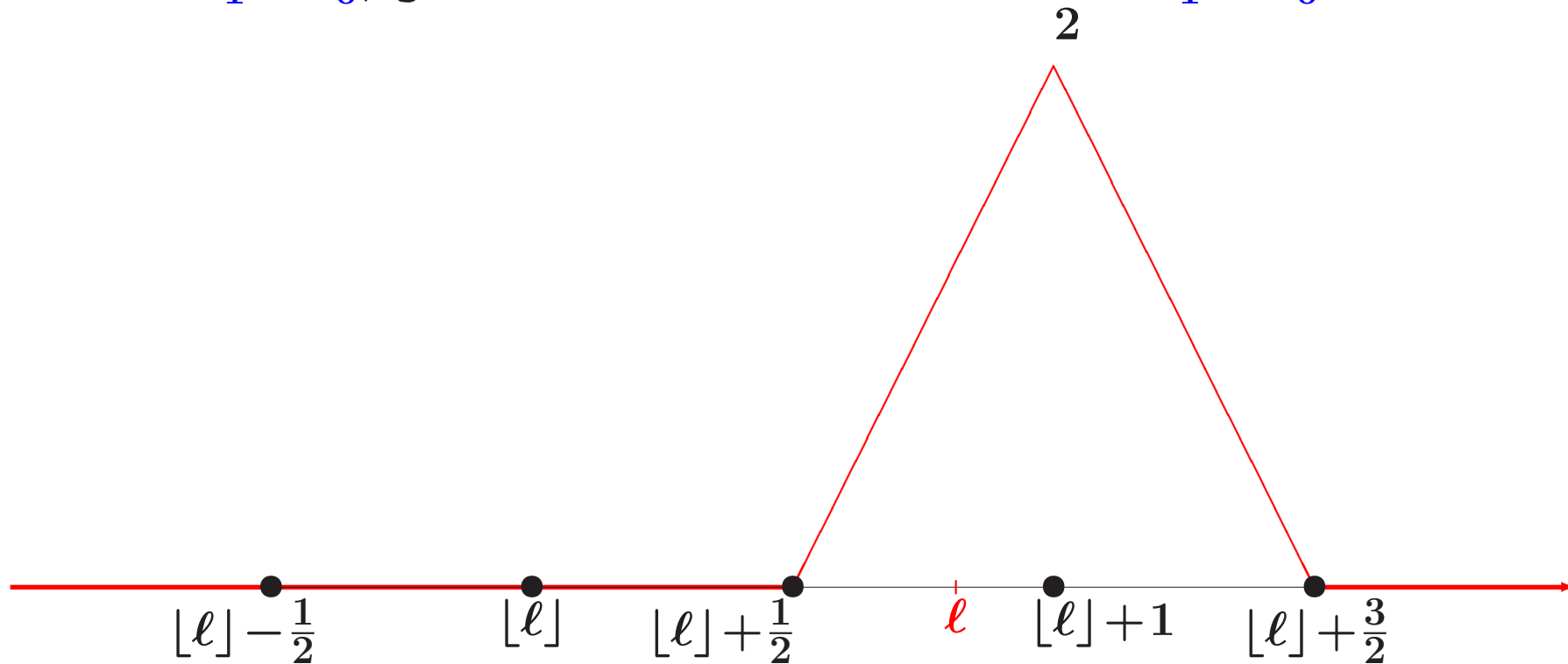


## The single-humped Dromedary: $\tilde{l} = l - \lfloor l \rfloor \geq \frac{1}{2}$ .

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$$\frac{d}{dw} \text{Prob} \{ t_1 - t_0 \leq w \mid s_1 - s_0 = l \}$$

The **conditional probability density** of the *measured* time distance  $t_1 - t_0$ , given the *actual* time distance  $s_1 - s_0 = l$ :



# Thanks ! Questions ?

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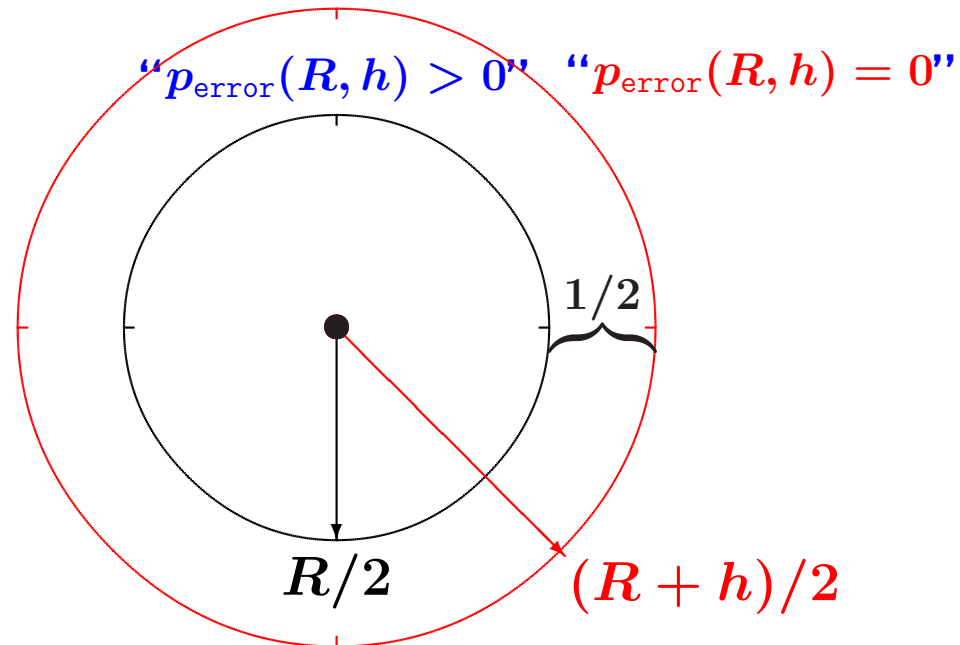
**Proofs for Thm 12.1:  $p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$ ;  
Thm 17.1:  $50\% + 1$ ; Thm 19.1:  $60\%$ ;**

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Proofs for:

- Thm 12.1 on:  
 $p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$ , the probability of the erroneous decision
- Thm 17.1 on: the simple majority
- Thm 19.1 on: the  $\frac{3}{5}$  majority

# The probability of the erroneous decision (Thm 12.1, $R$ is an integer)



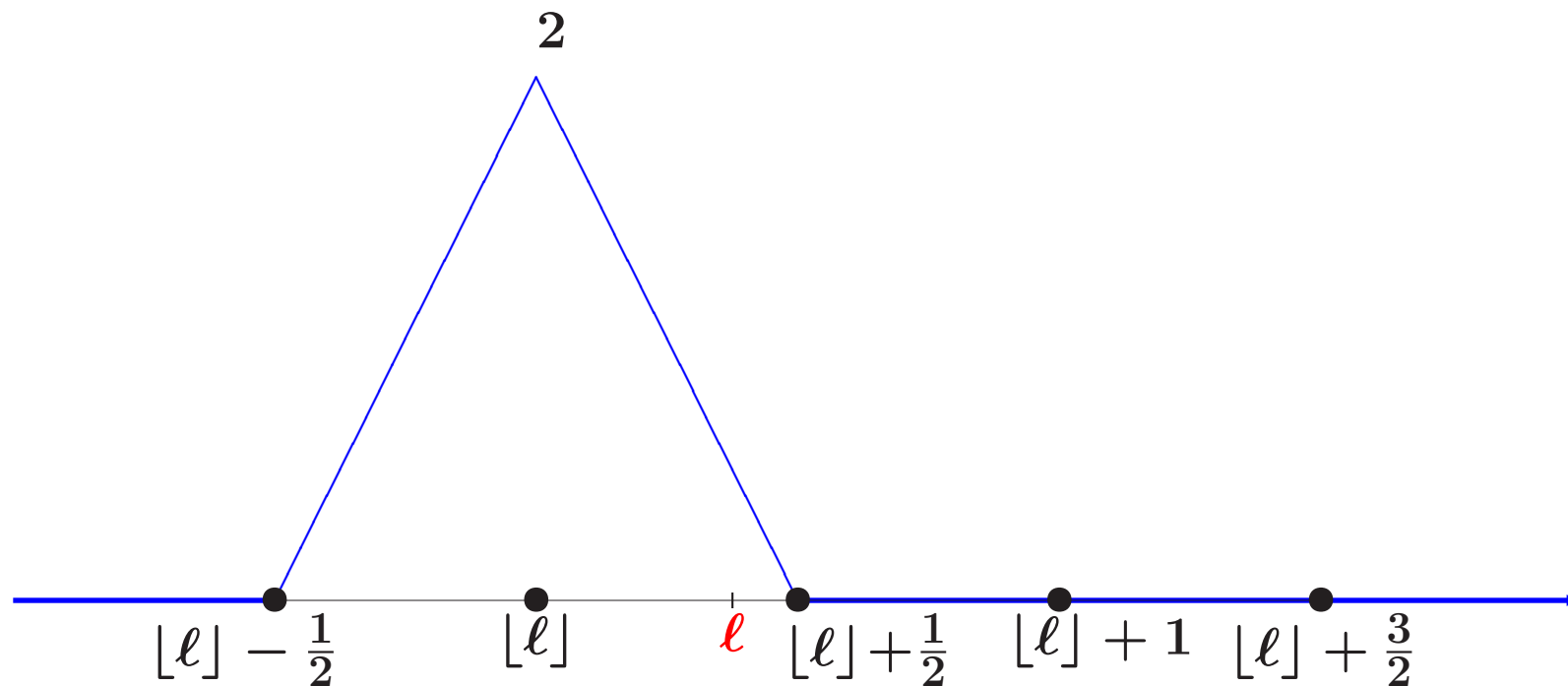
$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & \text{if } 0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 1 - h, & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < h < 1, \\ 0, & \text{if } h \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

(“Dromedary camel” case)  $\tilde{\ell} = \ell - \lfloor \ell \rfloor \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .

---

The graph of the density,  $F'_\ell(w)$ , for the distribution  $F_\ell(w)$ :

$$F_\ell(w) = \text{Prob} \{ t_1 - t_0 \leq w \mid s_1 - s_0 = \ell \}$$

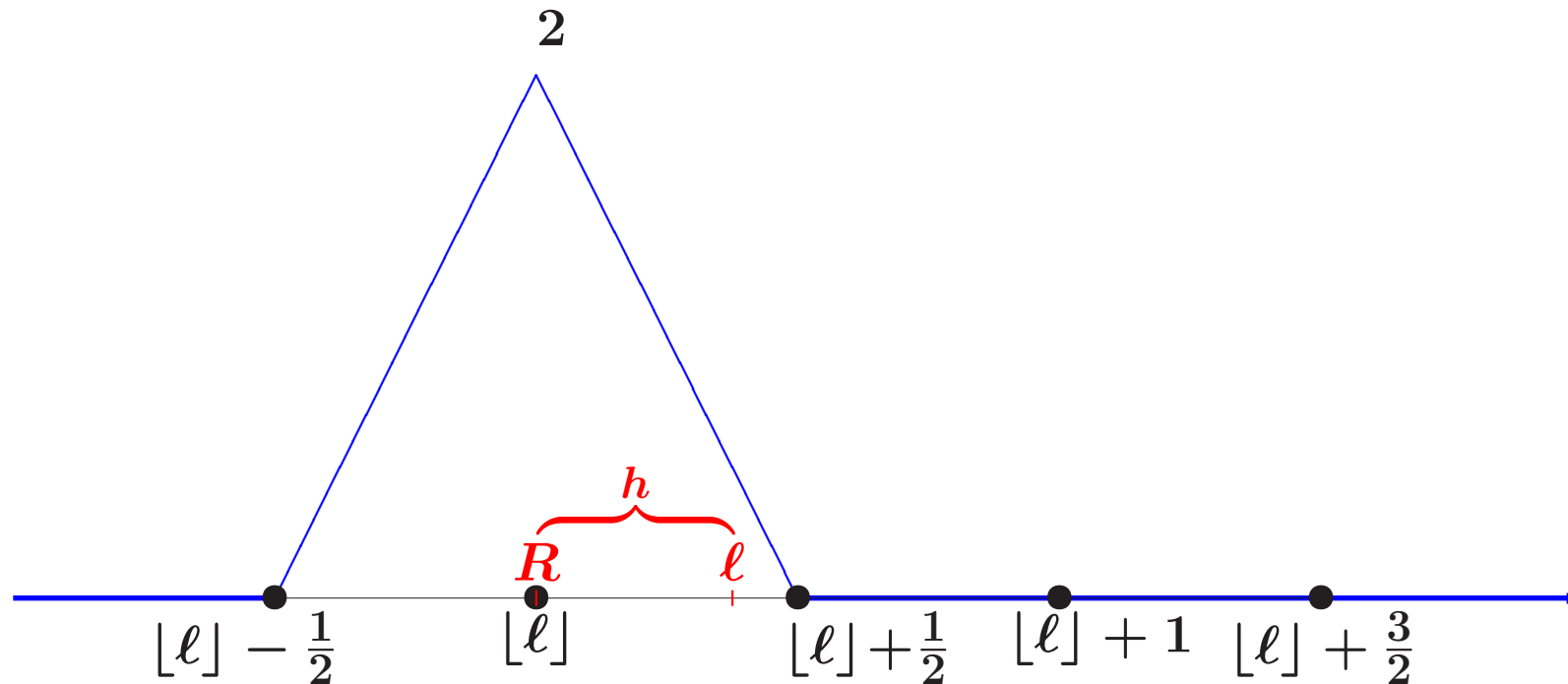


$F'_\ell(w)$  is always ‘symmetrical’ whenever  $f_Y = f_Z$ .



**Thm 12.1, Proof:**  $p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \frac{1}{2}$ , if  $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$

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Given an integer  $R$ , let  $l = R + h$ . Then  $[l] = R$ , and

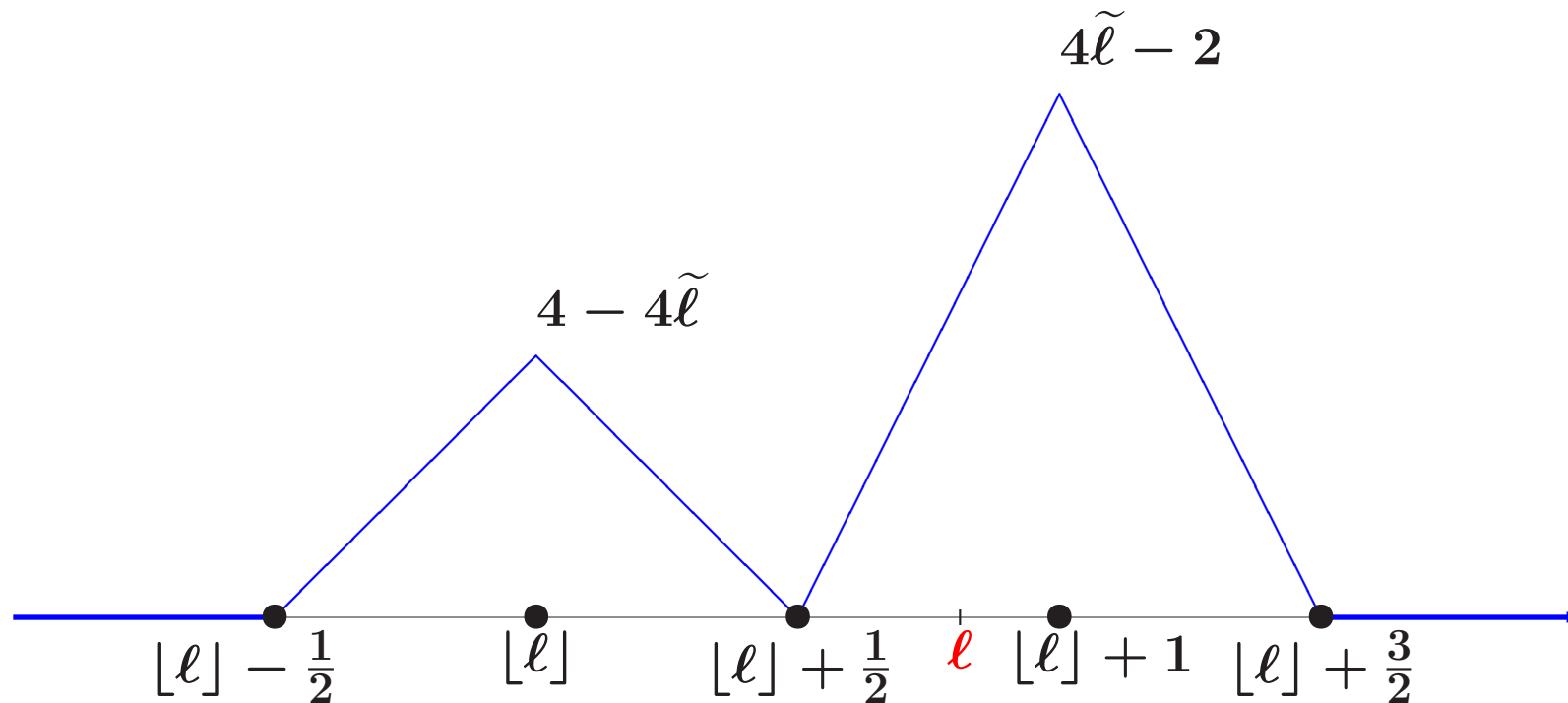
$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \int_{-\infty}^{[l]} F'_l(w) dw = \frac{1}{2}$$

(“Bactrian camel” case)  $\tilde{\ell} = \ell - \lfloor \ell \rfloor > \frac{1}{2}$

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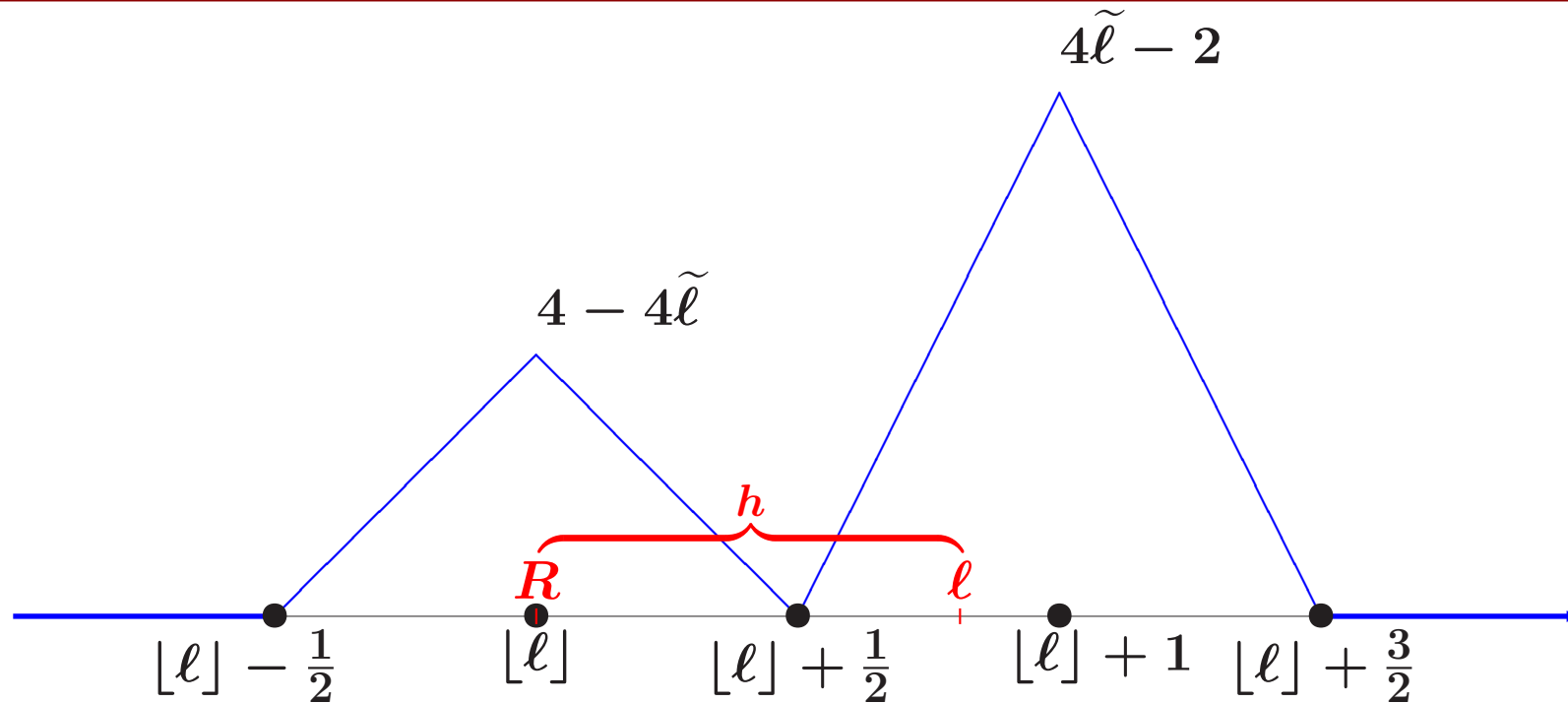
$$F_\ell(w) = \text{Prob} \{ t_1 - t_0 \leq w \mid s_1 - s_0 = \ell \}$$



$F'_\ell(w)$  is always ‘symmetrical’ whenever  $f_Y = f_Z$ .

**Thm 12.1,**

**Proof:**  $p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = 1 - h$ , if  $\frac{1}{2} < h < 1$

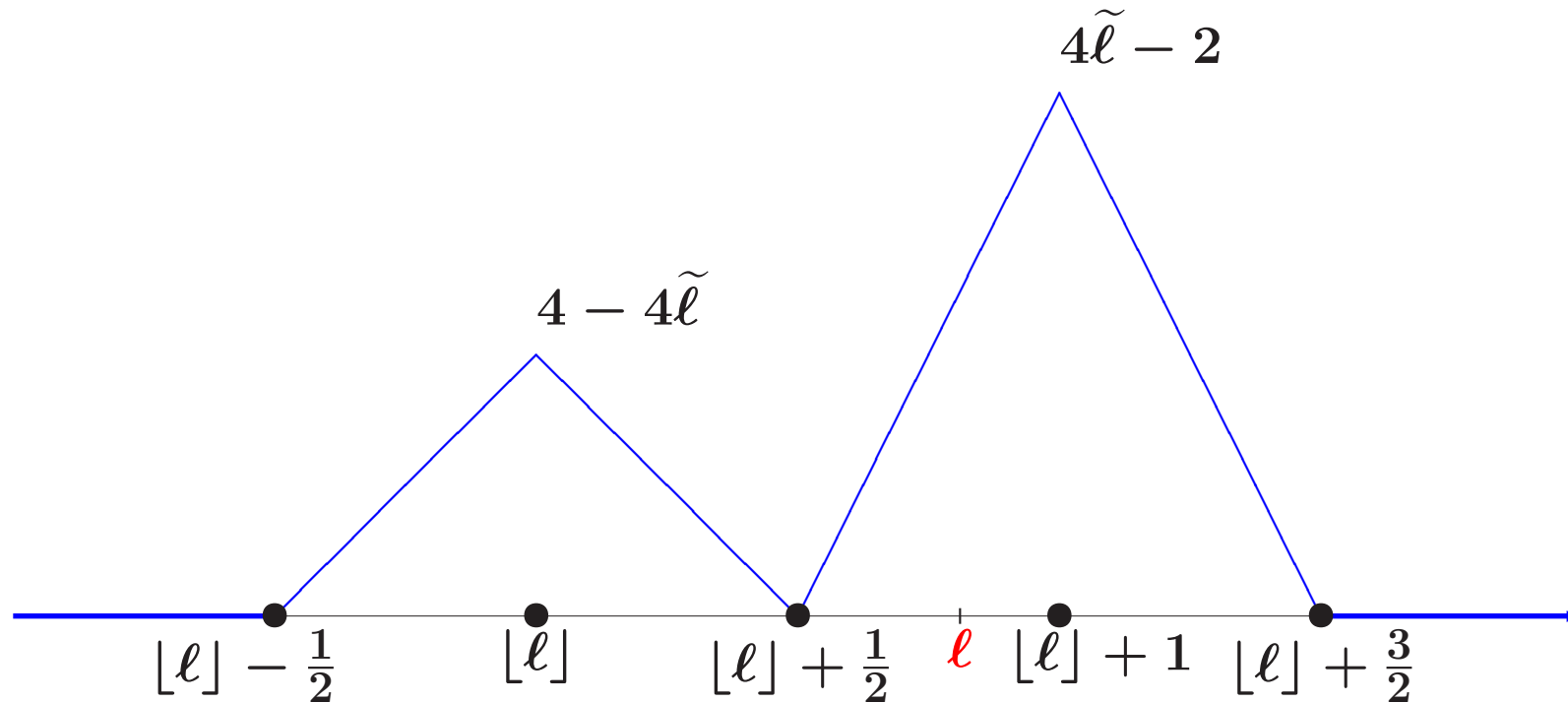


Given an integer  $R$ , let  $\ell = R + h$ . Then  $[\ell] = R$ , and

$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \int_{-\infty}^{[\ell]} F'_{\ell}(w) dw = 1 - \tilde{\ell} = 1 - h$$

**Thm 12.1, Proof:**  $p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0$ , if  $h \geq 1$

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Given an integer  $R$ , let  $\ell = R + h$ . Then  $R \leq [l] - 1$ , and

$$p_{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq \int_{-\infty}^{[l]-1} F'_{\ell}(w) dw = 0.$$

## Thm 17.1: The decision by the simple majority

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Let Verifier perform a series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds.  
Let  $p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$  be the conditional probability of that, given that the actual time distance

$$s_1 - s_0 = R + h,$$

Verifier makes an erroneous decision to grant the access because he has observed an event “ $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ” in *more than  $\frac{n}{2}$  rounds*.

### Thm 17.1.

(i) For  $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \frac{1}{2} = p_1^{\text{error}}(R, h)$$

(ii) For  $\frac{1}{2} < h < 1$ , for some positive  $\delta_h$  and  $C_0$ ,

$$p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq C_0(1 - \delta_h)^n$$

and, hence,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0.$$

## Thm 17.1, Proof sketch

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Given  $p = p_{\text{error}}(R, h)$  and  $q = 1 - p$ ,

$$f_{n,k}(p) = p^n + np^{n-1}q + \dots + \binom{n}{k} p^{n-k} q^k$$

is the conditional probability of that, given that the actual

$$s_1 - s_0 = R + h,$$

Verifier has observed an event of the ‘non-acceptance form’  
“ $t_1 - t_0 > R$ ” **in no more than  $k$  rounds.**

$$\underbrace{\text{Yes Yes } \dots \text{ Yes}}_{n-k \text{ times, or more}} \quad \underbrace{\text{No No } \dots \text{ No}}_{k \text{ times, or less}}$$

E.g., we express the *simple majority* by  $n - k > \frac{n}{2}$ .

If we denote  $\alpha_n(p) = p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$ , then, with  $k = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil - 1$ ,

$$p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = f_{n,k}(p) = \alpha_n(p).$$

## Thm 17.1, Proof sketch for $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$

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For  $0 < h \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , we have

$$p = p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = \frac{1}{2} = q,$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n(0.5) = \frac{1}{2}$$

The latter is a quite non-trivial fact with invoking the harmonic series.

## Thm 17.1, Proof sketch for $\frac{1}{2} < h < 1$

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Here  $p = p_{\text{error}}(R, h) = 1 - h < \frac{1}{2}$ .

We take the derivative  $\alpha'_n$

$$\alpha'_n(p) = \frac{df_{n,k}}{dp}(p) = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k-1)!} p^{n-k-1} q^k$$

and compute the ratio, with  $n+2$  (sic!):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha'_n(p)}{\alpha'_{n+2}(p)} = 4pq < 1.$$

The effect is that, for some positive  $\delta_p$  and  $C_0$ ,

$$\alpha'_n(p') \leq C_0(1 - \delta_p)^n, \text{ for all } 0 \leq p' \leq p < \frac{1}{2}.$$

Hence, taking into account that  $\alpha_n(0) = 0$ ,

$$p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \alpha_n(p) = \int_0^p \alpha'_n(p') dp' \leq C_0(1 - \delta_h)^n.$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0.$$



## The decision by the larger majority with $c > \frac{1}{2}$

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Let Verifier perform a series of  $n$  challenge-response rounds.

Let  $c$  be a ‘threshold number’ such that  $0.5 < c < 1$ .

Given that the actual distance  $s_1 - s_0 = R + h$ ,

let  $\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$  be the conditional probability of that Verifier makes an *erroneous* decision to grant the access because he has observed “ $t_1 - t_0 \leq R$ ” at least in  $cn$  rounds.

**Thm 19.1.** For some positive  $\delta_c$  and  $C_0$ ,

$$\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq C_0(1 - \delta_c)^n$$

and, hence,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0.$$

**Proof.** For the sake of perspicuity, we take  $c = \frac{3}{5}$ . ■

## Thm 19.1, Proof sketch: for $c = \frac{3}{5}$

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Here  $p = p_{\text{error}}(R, h) \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .

$$f_{n,k}(p) = p^n + np^{n-1}q + \dots + \binom{n}{k} p^{n-k} q^k$$

is the conditional probability of that, given that the actual distance  $s_1 - s_0 = R + h$ , Verifier has observed an event of the ‘non-acceptance form’ “ $t_1 - t_0 > R$ ” **in no more than  $k$  rounds.**

$$\underbrace{\text{Yes Yes } \dots \text{ Yes}}_{n-k \text{ times, or more}} \quad \underbrace{\text{No No } \dots \text{ No}}_{k \text{ times, or less}}$$

We express the *larger majority* by  $n - k \geq \frac{3n}{5}$ .

If we denote  $\beta_n(p) = \pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h)$ , then, with  $k = \lfloor \frac{2n}{5} \rfloor$ ,

$$\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = f_{n,k}(p) = \beta_n(p).$$

## Thm 19.1, Proof sketch, for $c = \frac{3}{5}$ (cont.)

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We take the derivative  $\beta'_n$  and compute the ratio, with  $n+5$  (sic!):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\beta'_n(p)}{\beta'_{n+5}(p)} = \frac{5^5}{3^3 \cdot 2^2} p^3 q^2 < 1$$

The effect is that, for some positive  $\delta$  and  $C_0$ ,

$$\beta'_n(p') \leq C_0(1 - \delta)^n, \text{ for all } 0 \leq p' \leq \frac{1}{2}.$$

Hence, taking into account that  $\beta_n(0) = 0$ ,

$$\pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = \beta_n(p) = \int_0^p \beta'_n(p') dp' \leq C_0(1 - \delta)^n.$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \pi_n^{\text{error}}(R, h) = 0.$$

# Thanks

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