

# WEAKENING NON-INTERFERENCE ON DATABASES

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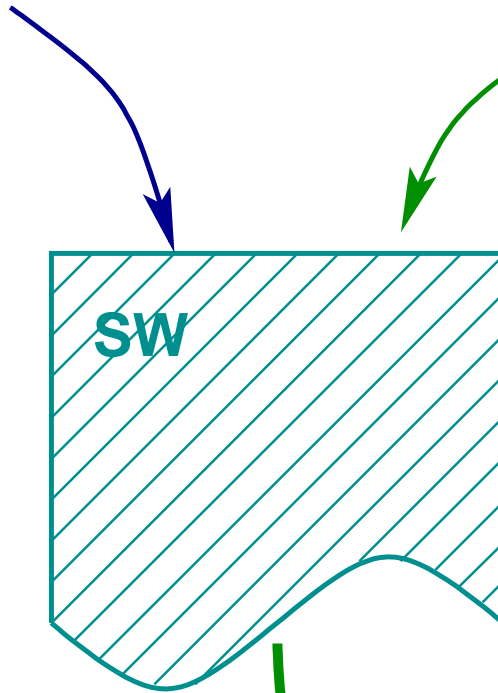
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# The Problem: Non-Interference

**Secret H:**  
Financial investment

**Public L:**  
Investment data

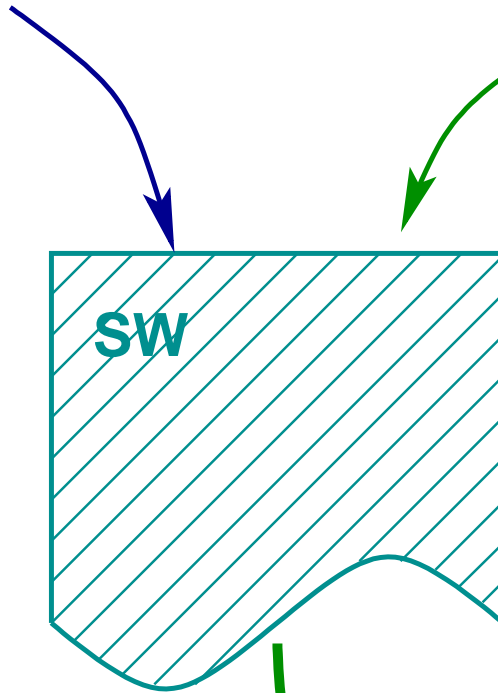


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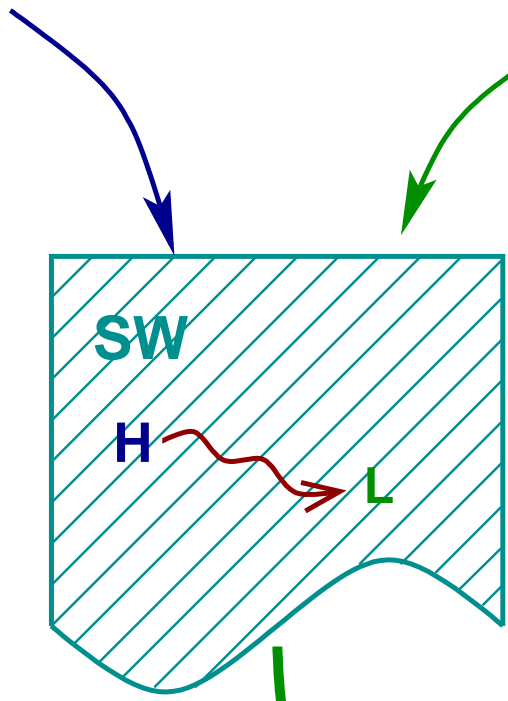


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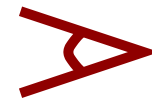
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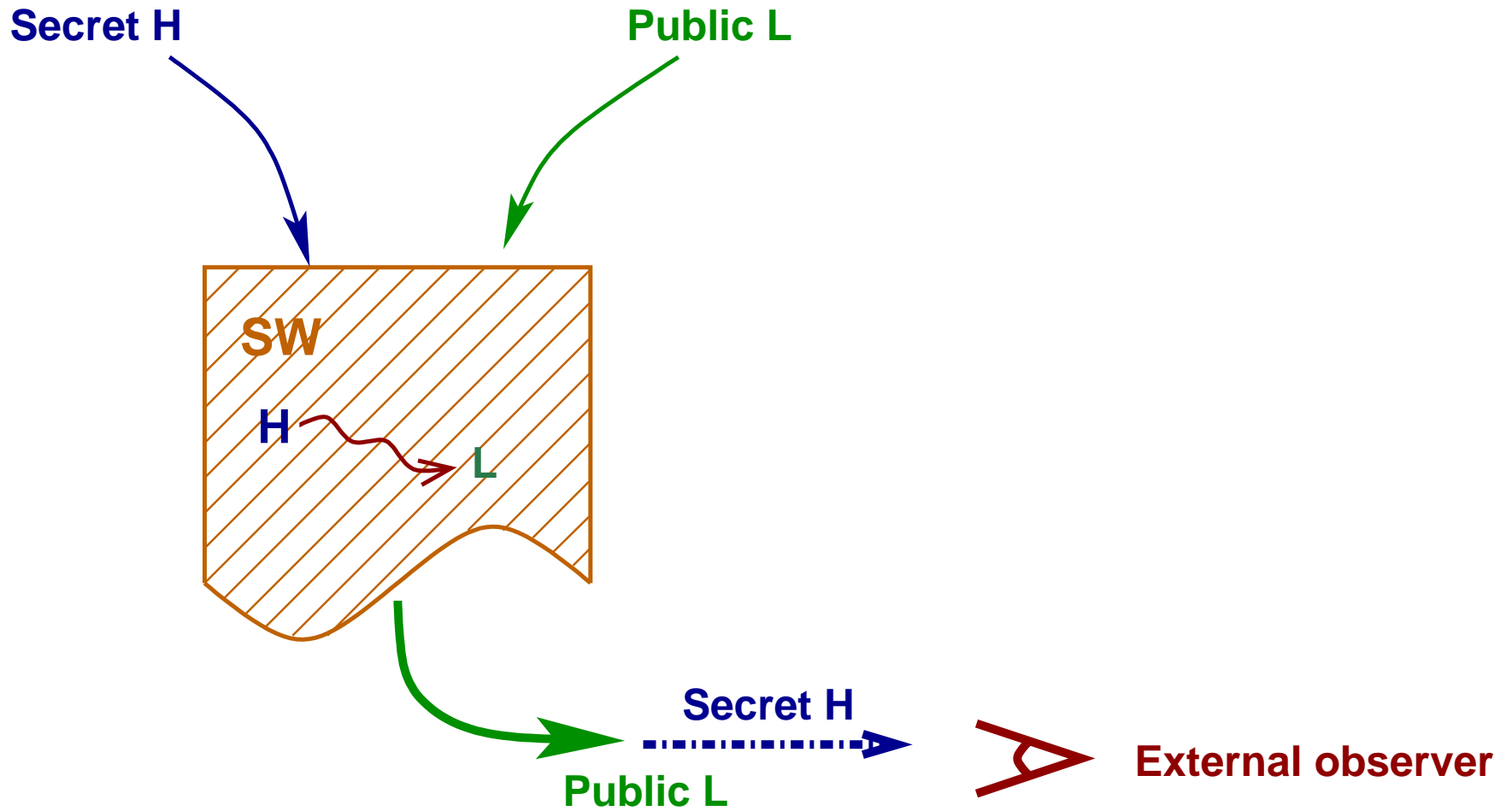
Is it secure? **NO**

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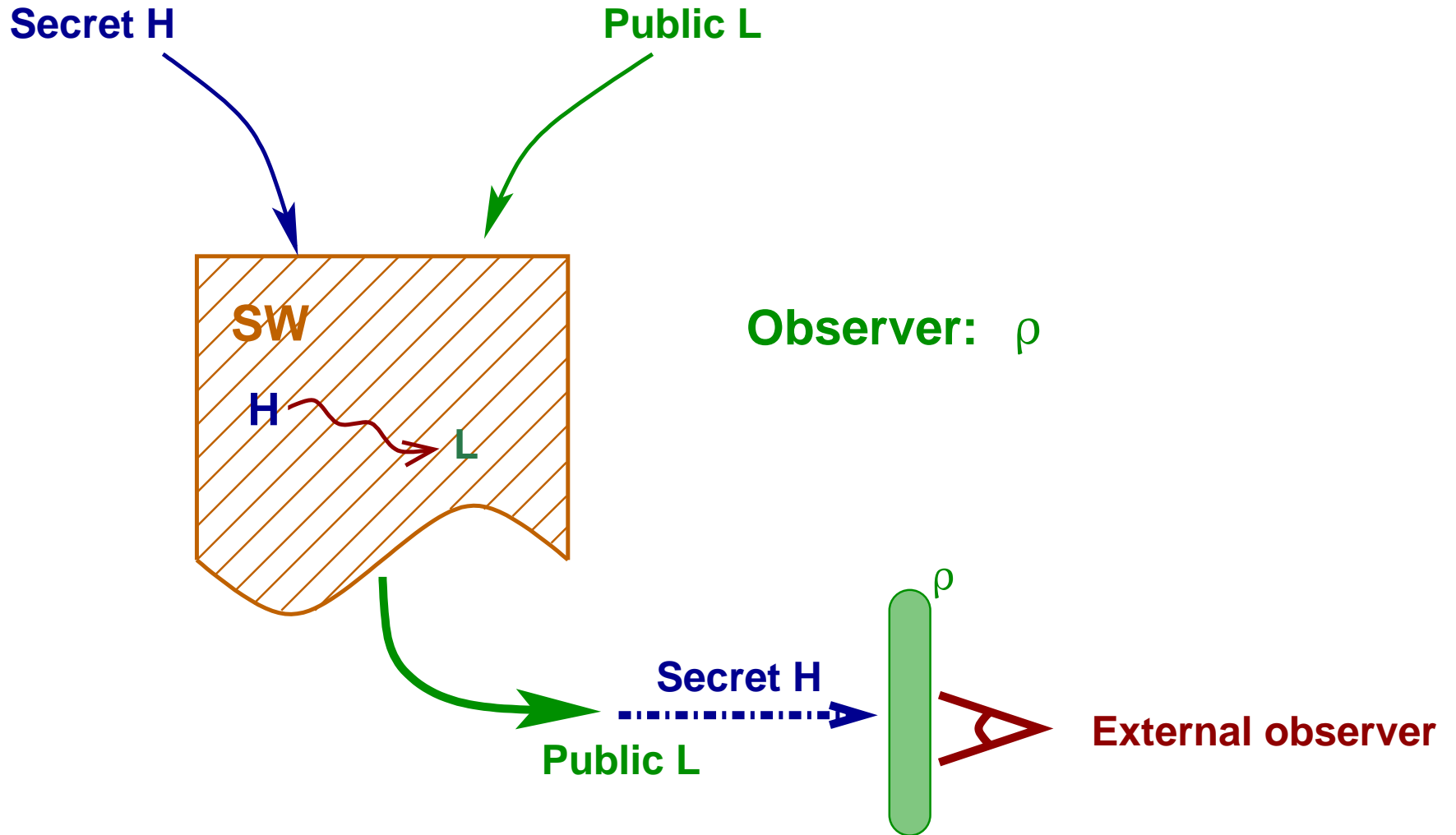


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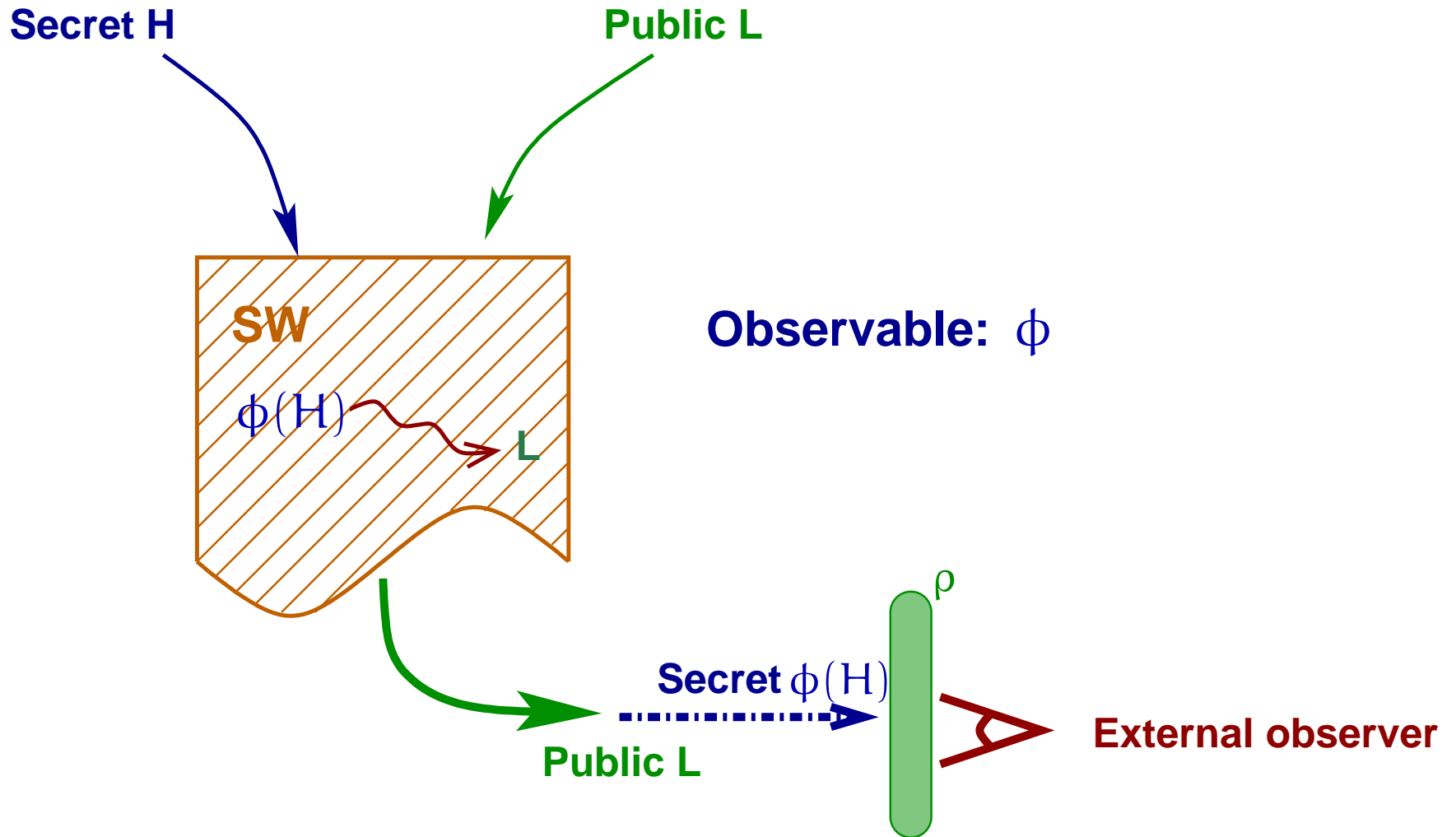
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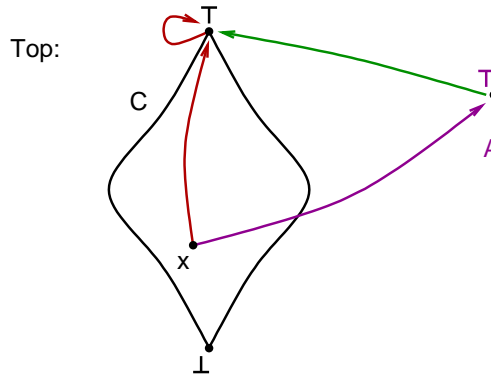
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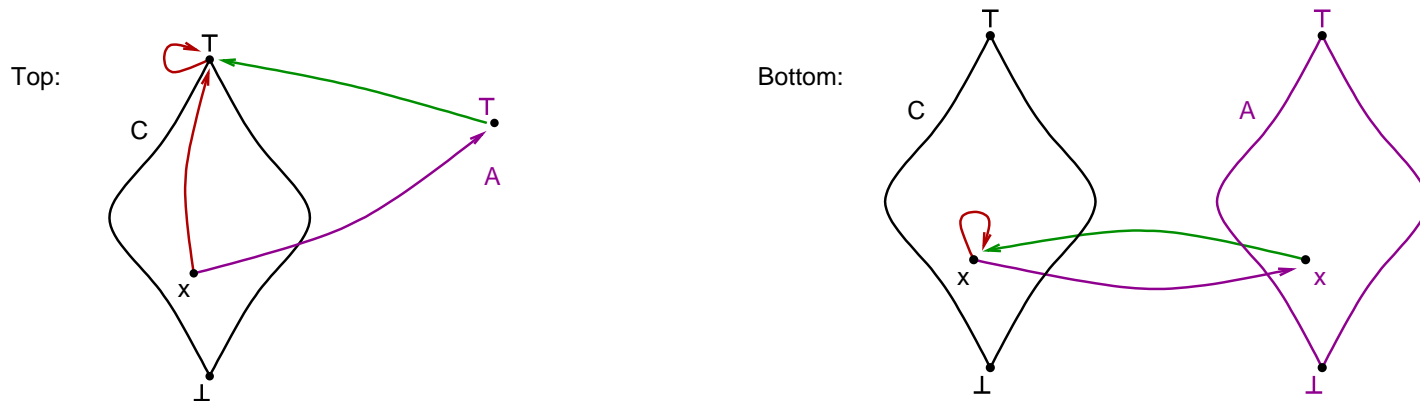
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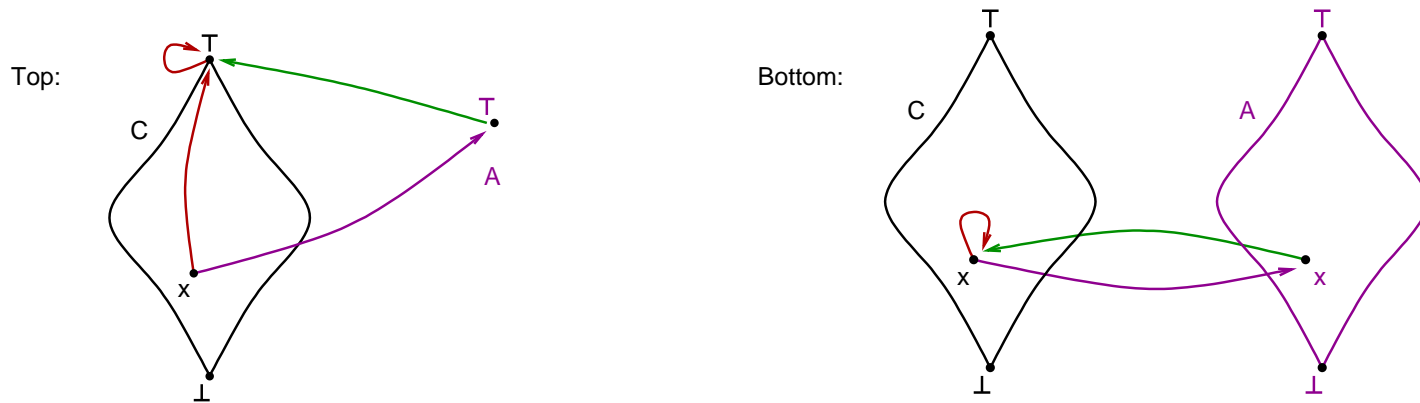
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MATHEMATICAL STRUCTURE



EACH CONCRETE ELEMENT HAS ITS *best* ABSTRACTION!

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- ⑥ Characterization of ANI in terms of PERs instead of closure operators [Hunt & Mastroeni '05];

# Database Security

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  - ▣ Protection of data against unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information
- ⑥ The standard approach to protect multilevel secure databases from violations of confidentiality is mechanism of *mandatory access control*
  - ▣ Data and users are classified in term of security classes
- ⑥ Unauthorized releases of information may occur due to “implicit dependencies” between private and public information, i.e. *inference channels*

# Relational Databases: Background

- ⑥ **RELATIONAL SCHEMA  $R(U)$** :  $R$  is the relation name and  $U = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$  is the set of attributes
- ⑥ **DOMAIN OF VALUES**:  $\text{dom}(A_i) = D_i \quad \forall A_i \in U$
- ⑥ **TUPLE OVER  $X$** :  $X \subseteq U$ , function from  $X$  into  $\text{dom}(X) = \bigcup_{A \in X} \text{dom}(A)$
- ⑥ **RELATION  $r$  OVER  $U$** : set of tuples over  $U$
- ⑥  $t[A_i]$  represents the value of the attribute  $A_i$  on the tuple  $t$
- ⑥ **DATABASE SCHEMA  $R = \{R_1(U_1), \dots, R_k(U_k)\}$** :  $R_i(U_i)$  is the relational schema of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  relation of the database

# Relational Databases: Example

## EMPLOYEE

<u>SSN</u>	Name	BDate	Address	Sex	Salary	DNO
104	Smith	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	1.500	4
124	Benson	10/04/68	Castle Spring	F	1.800	5
345	Alicia	19/07/68	980 Dallas	F	2.000	5
555	Borg	10/11/37	450 Stone	M	2.500	1

## DEPARTMENT

<u>DNumber</u>	DName
1	Headquarters
4	Administration
5	Research



# Relational Databases: Views and Queries

- ⑥ Select the name and the code of employees belonging to the research department:

```
SELECT Name, SSN  
FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT  
WHERE DNO=DNumber AND DName='Research'
```

# Relational Databases: Views and Queries

- 6 Select the name and the code of employees belonging to the research department:

```
SELECT Name, SSN  
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```

## Result:

Name	SSN
Benson	124
Alicia	345

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```
CREATE VIEW WORKS_ON
AS SELECT Name, SSN, DName
FROM EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT
WHERE DNO=DNumber
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CREATE VIEW WORKS_ON
AS SELECT Name, SSN, DName
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```

**WORKS\_ON**

Name	SSN	DName
Smith	104	Administration
Benson	124	Research
Alicia	345	Research
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- ⑥ **Access control policy**: defines the collection of access privileges and access rules
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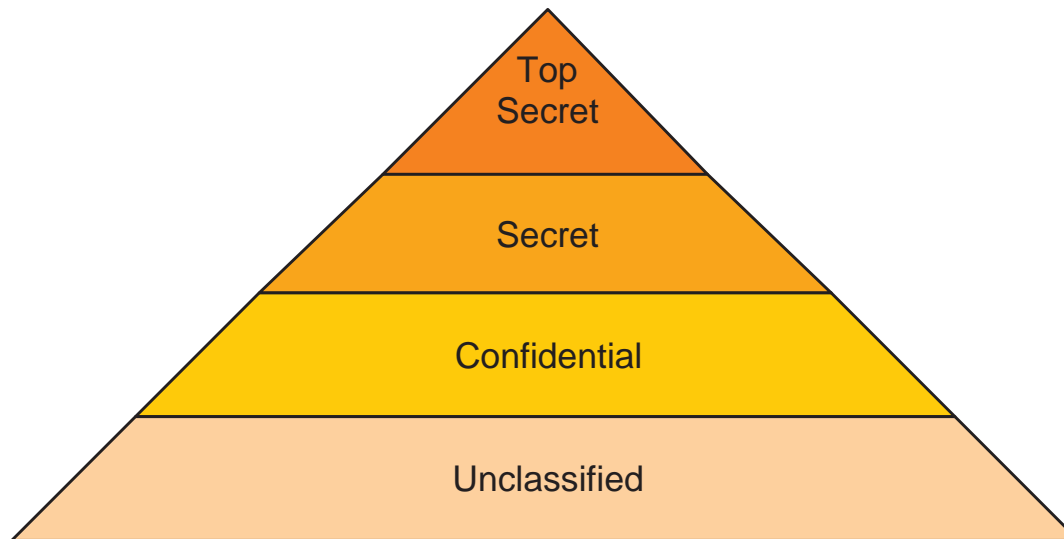
- ⑥ **Access control policy**: defines the collection of access privileges and access rules
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    - > **Account level**: privileges of each account are specified
    - > **Relation level**: it is possible to control the privilege to access each individual relation or view in the DB
  - ▣ Views are an important discretionary authorization mechanism

**All-or-nothing method**



# Standard Security Approaches on DB

- ⑥ **Access control policy:** defines the collection of access privileges and access rules
  - ▣ **Discretionary access control policy:** specifies users' privileges relating to different system resources
  - ▣ **Mandatory access control policy:** defines user access to system resources using the user *security clearance* and the *security classification* of the resource



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- ⑥ **NON INTERFERENCE:** The results of *admissible* queries have not to depend on confidential data in the DB!
- ⑥ **ABSTRACT NON INTERFERENCE:** *Properties* of admissible queries have not to depend on particular *properties* of confidential data in the DB!
- ⑥ **HOW CAN WE APPLY ANI TO DB WHERE DATA ARE CLASSIFIED AS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE?**

VARIABLES  $\rightsquigarrow$  ATTRIBUTES

STATES  $\rightsquigarrow$  TUPLES

PROGRAMS  $\rightsquigarrow$  QUERIES

# Non-Interference on DB

## ⑥ Salary is a private data

- ▣ It is not possible to retrieve (and use) information about a salary
- ▣ Given the name of an employee, it is not possible to retrieve his/her salary

Name	SSN	BDate	Address	Sex	Salary	DNo
Smith	104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	1.500	4
Benson	124	10/04/68	Castle Spring	F	1.800	5
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```
CREATE VIEW PUBLIC_DATA  
AS SELECT Name, SSN, DName, Address, Sex, DNO  
FROM EMPLOYEE
```

Name	SSN	BDate	Address	Sex	DNo
Smith	104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	4
Benson	124	10/04/68	Castle Spring	F	5
Alicia	345	19/07/68	980 Dallas	F	5
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Smith	104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	T	4
Benson	124	10/04/68	Castle Spring	F	T	5
Alicia	345	19/07/68	980 Dallas	F	T	5
Borg	555	10/11/37	450 Stone	M	T	1

# Abstract Non-Interference on DB (1)

- ⑥ Salary is observable, but not the relation with Name.
  - ▣ It is possible to retrieve (e.g. statistics...) any information about a salary
  - ▣ Given the name of an employee, it is not possible to retrieve his/her salary
- ⑥ For statistics, the name of employees is abstracted
- ⑥ The corresponding view removes the attribute Name

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Smith	104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	1.500	4
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```
CREATE VIEW PUBLIC_DATA2  
AS SELECT SSN, BDate, Address, Sex, Salary, DNO  
FROM EMPLOYEE
```

SSN	BDate	Address	Sex	Salary	DNo
104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	1.500	4
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Name	SSN	BDate	Address	Sex	Salary	DNo
T	104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	1.500	4
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T	345	19/07/68	980 Dallas	F	2.000	5
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# Abstract Non-Interference on DB (2)

- ⑥ Salary is *partially* observable.
  - ▣ It is possible to retrieve some properties about, e.g. intervals, signs, parity etc.
  - ▣ Given the name of an employee, it is possible to retrieve some information about his/her salary
- ⑥ Transform DB by abstracting values of Salary

# Abstract Non-Interference on DB (2)

⑥ Salary is *partially* observable.

⑥ **ABSTRACT SQL:**

```
CREATE VIEW PUBLIC_DATA3
AS SELECT Name, SSN, BDate, Address, Sex,
         Int(Salary), DNO
FROM EMPLOYEE
```

Name	SSN	BDate	Address	Sex	Salary	DNo
Smith	104	25/05/70	5th Avenue	M	[1.500,2.000[	4
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Alicia	345	19/07/68	980 Dallas	F	[2.000,2.500[	5
Borg	555	10/11/37	450 Stone	M	[2.500,3.000[	1

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ANY IDEA/SUGGESTION/COMMENT IS REALLY WELCOME!