



Complexity, Cryptography, and Financial Technologies

Lecture 15 – FuturesMEX Chan Nam Ngo



Futures market as illustrative of FinTech

- **A double auction market**
- **Bidders on both buy/sell side**
- **Futures contract**
 - standardized promise to buy/sell barrels of oil, bushels of corn, ...
 - made today and to be fulfilled in a future date
 - with cash reserve to meet promises
- **Exchange platform for trading activities**
 - Chicago Mercantile Exchange → centralized

How futures trading works?

Trader	Promises	Cash
Alice	0	1200
Bob	0	1500

Alice sells
100 promises

Bob buys
80 promises

Trader	Promises	Cash at the exchange
Alice	Buy 100	$2200 = 1200 + 100 * 10$
Bob	Sell 100	$700 = 1500 - 80 * 10$

Market price = 10\$

Trader	Promises	Cash at the exchange
Alice	Buy 100	$1400 = 2200 - 100 * 8$
Bob	Sell 80	$1360 = 700 + 80 * 8$

At end of (trading) day
Market price = 8\$



Promises must be fulfilled at end of day price:
Bob must sell and Alice must buy from the market



Alice made a profit of 200\$, Bob lost.



Centralized futures trading (2)

Trader	Promises	Cash
Alice	0	1200
Bob	0	1500

Alice sells 100 promises

Bob buys 80 promises

Trader	Promises	Cash at the exchange
Alice	Buy 100	$2200 = 1200 + 100 * 10$
Bob	Sell 80	$700 = 1500 - 80 * 10$

Market price = 10\$

Trader	Promises	Cash at the exchange
Alice	Buy 100	$1000 = 2200 - 100 * 12$
Bob	Sell 80	$1660 = 700 + 80 * 12$



At end of day
Market price = 12\$

Promises must be
Fulfilled at current price

Bob made a profit but Alice lost 200\$

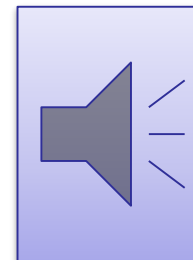
Market price is volatile

Trader	Promises	Cash
Alice	Buy 100	2200
...

100 promises to buy when price was at 10\$ looked a good idea but things change

Hi Alice, can you deposit more money?

Alice's cash reserve is now at 0\$
 → Exchange must do something



No? → Alice is liquidated.

$2200 > 12 * 100$

$2200 > 17 * 1000$

$2200 = 22 * 100!!!$

12

17

22

If price rises further Alice's going broke



How does The Exchange Keep Track?

- **The Limit Order Book**
 - Auction mechanism that facilitates trade of assets and provides benchmark prices accessible to ALL members of the market.
 - Traders post buy and sell orders and the clearing of these orders forms part of the purpose of the limit order book.
- **Two types of orders:**
 - Limit orders (quotes), that specify a price and volume at which the trader is willing to buy or sell an asset.
 - Market orders, a request to buy or sell an asset
- **The limit order book displays current set of limit orders and records the execution of market orders as traded prices.**
- **A critical feature of the limit order book is that part of the order book is public (information visible to all traders) and part is private.**



Example of the public part of the order book

Eurodollar (hi. freq.)

traders = 520

orders = 300K+

matches = 8402

Sell Limit Orders	Price = 6.2, Volume = 10
	Price = 5.5, Volume = 20
	Price = 5.0, Volume = 30

Mid price = 3.5

Buy	Price = 3.2, Volume = 320
	Price = 3.1, Volume = 170
	Price = 3.0, Volume = 90

Buy level 1

Buy level 2

Buy level 3

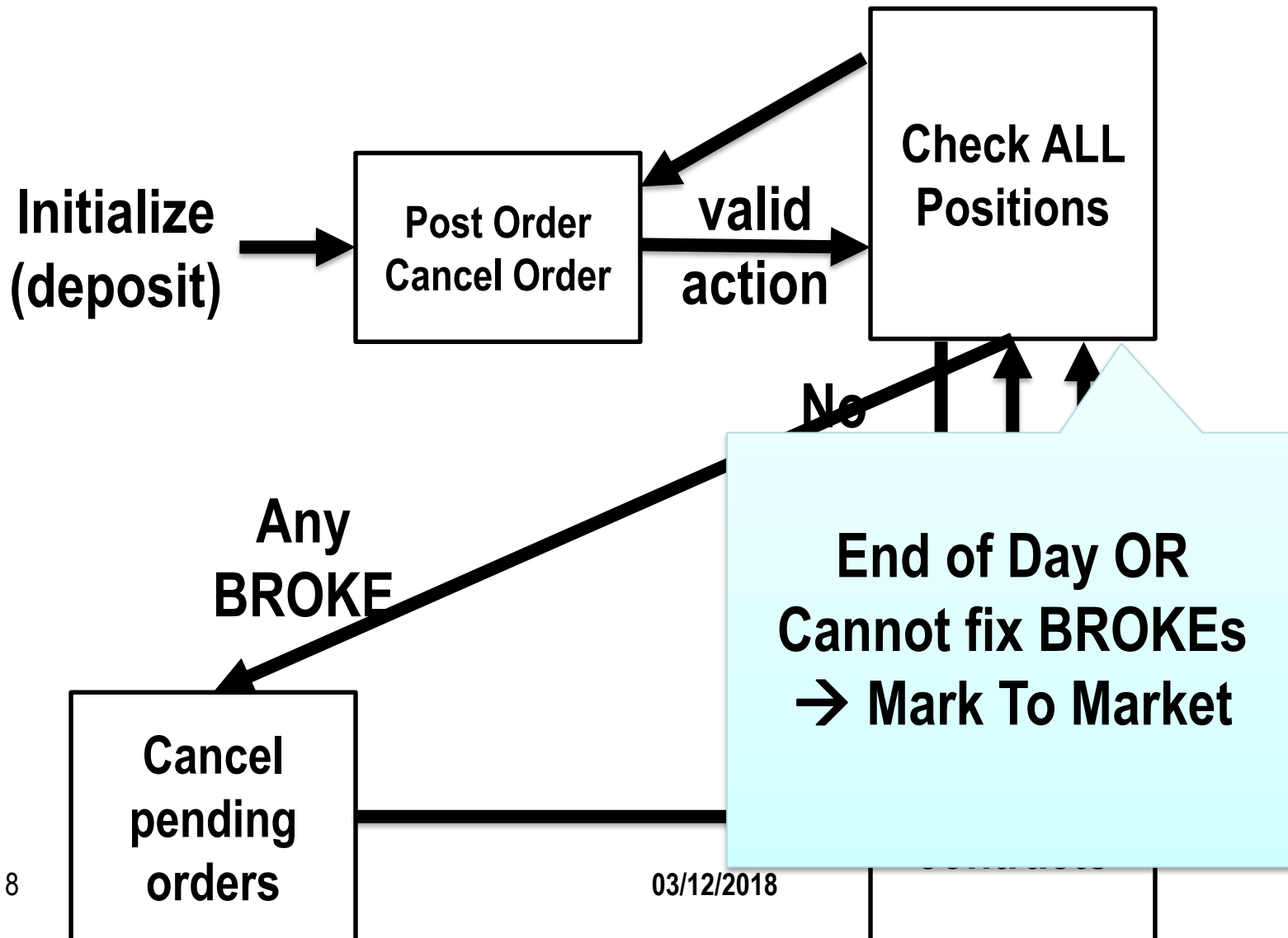
Lean Hog (low freq.)

traders = 33

orders = 6709

matches = 536

Exchange as reactive functionality



Ideal Functionality - Storage

- **Trader Inventory P_i**
 - Cash available m_i
 - Volume holding v_i
 - Estimated cash em_i
 - Estimated volume ev_i
 - Counter c_i
 - Flag f_i
- **Order Book $O = \{o_1 \dots o_t\}$**
 - $O_j = (p, v, t, j)$ – P_j is the owner of this order o_j
 - Buy order $v > 0$
 - Sell order $v < 0$
- **Net Position**
 - $n_i = m_i + \text{cash}(v_i)$
 - $en_i = em_i + \text{cash}(v_i)$

Ideal Functionality - Initialize

- **Trader Inventory P_i**

- m_i

- $v_i = 0$

- $em_i = m_i$

- $ev_i = 0$

- $c_i = 0$

- $f_i = 0$

- **$O = \{\}$**

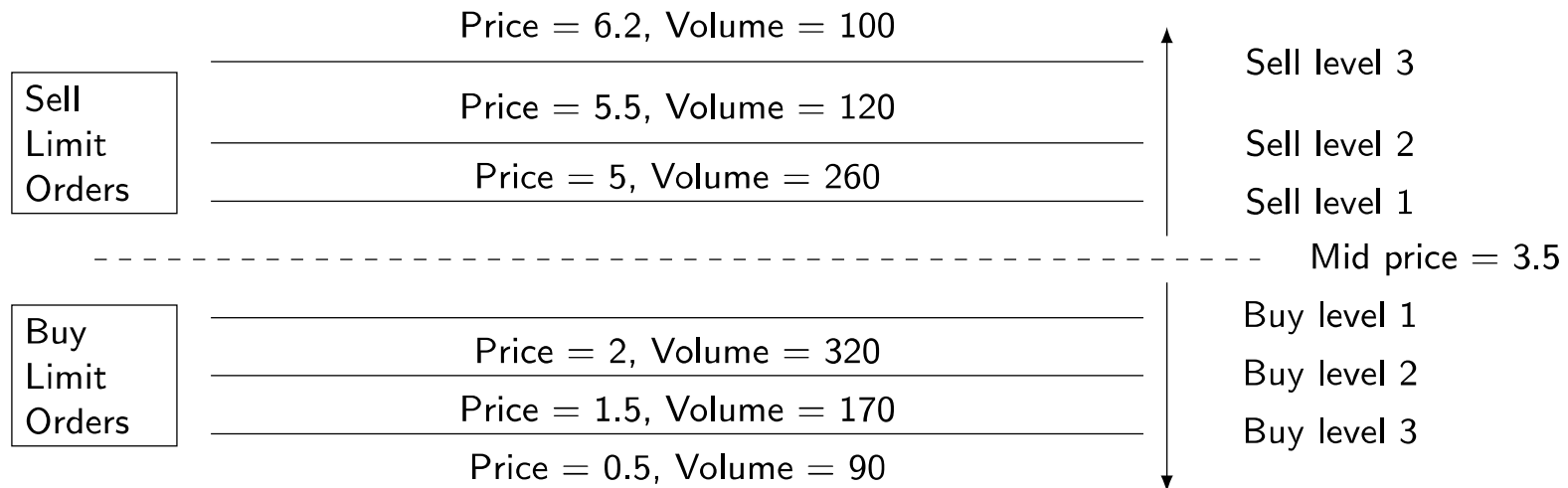
Ideal Functionality – Post Order

- $O = \{\dots o_t\}$
 - $o_t = (p, v, t)$
- **Trader Inventory P_i**
 - m_i
 - v_i
 - $em_i = em_i - vp$
 - $ev_i = ev_i + v$
 - $c_i = c_i + 1$
 - f_i
- **Valid order?**
 - $en_i \geq 0$

Ideal Functionality – (Estimated) Net Position

1. If $v_i > 0$, look at buy side, otherwise if $v_i < 0$ look at sell side
2. Take v_i from low to high on sell side and from high to low on buy side

e.g. $\text{cash}(500) = \text{cash}(320 + 170 + 10) = 2 \cdot 320 + 1.5 \cdot 170 + 0.5 \cdot 10 = 900$



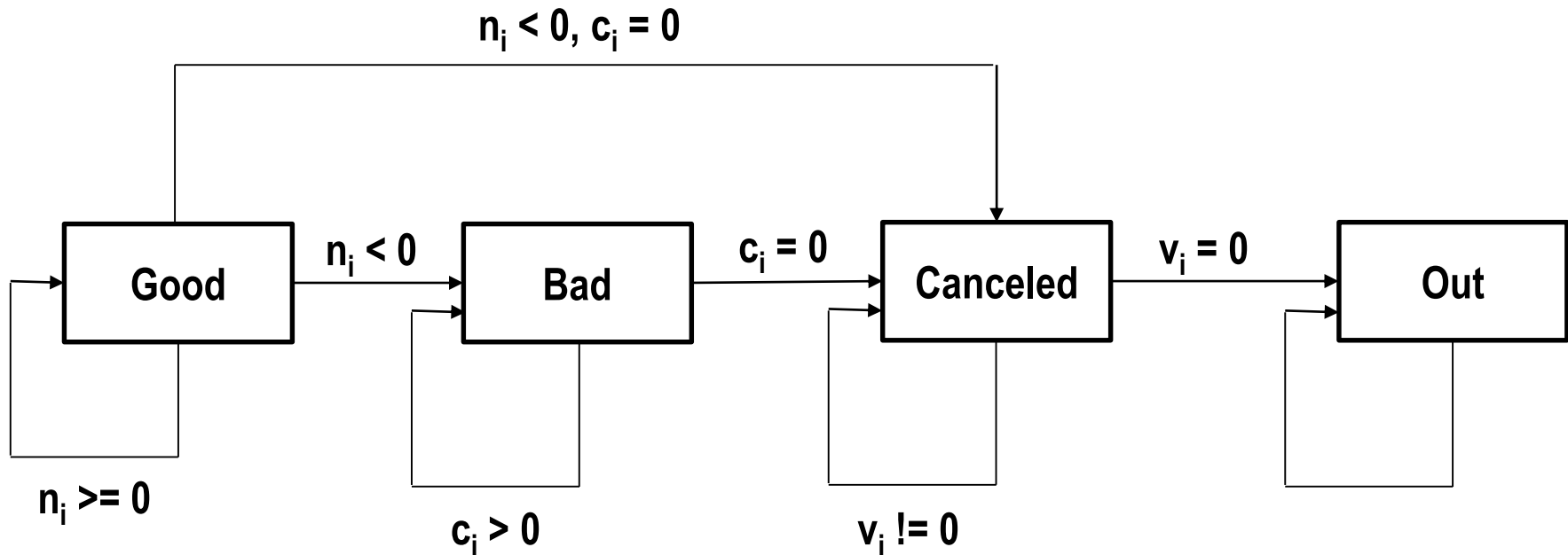
e.g. $\text{cash}(-450) = \text{cash}(-260 - 120 - 70) = 5 \cdot 260 + 5.5 \cdot 120 + 6.2 \cdot 70 = 2394$

Ideal Functionality – Cancel Order

- $O = \{\dots o_t\} - o_t$
 - $o_t = (p, v, t)$
- **Trader Inventory P_i**
 - m_i
 - v_i
 - $em_i = em_i + vp$
 - $ev_i = ev_i - v$
 - $c_i = c_i - 1$
 - f_i
- **Valid order?**
 - $en_i \geq 0$

Ideal Functionality – Update Status

- Compute n_i for all P_i , update f_i





Ideal Functionality – Match Order

- $O = \{\dots o_t\} - o_t$
 - $o_i = (p, v', t')$
 - $o_j = (p, v, t)$
 - Simple case: $-v' = v$
 - A bit more complicated, a single order will be matched with multiple orders
- **Trader Inventory P_i**
 - $m_i = m_i - vp$
 - $v_i = v_i + v$
 - em_i
 - ev_i
 - $c_i = c_i - 1$
 - f_i
- **Do the reverse for P_j**
 - $m_j = m_j + vp$
 - $v_j = v_j - v$
 - $c_j = c_j - 1$

Ideal Functionality - Examples

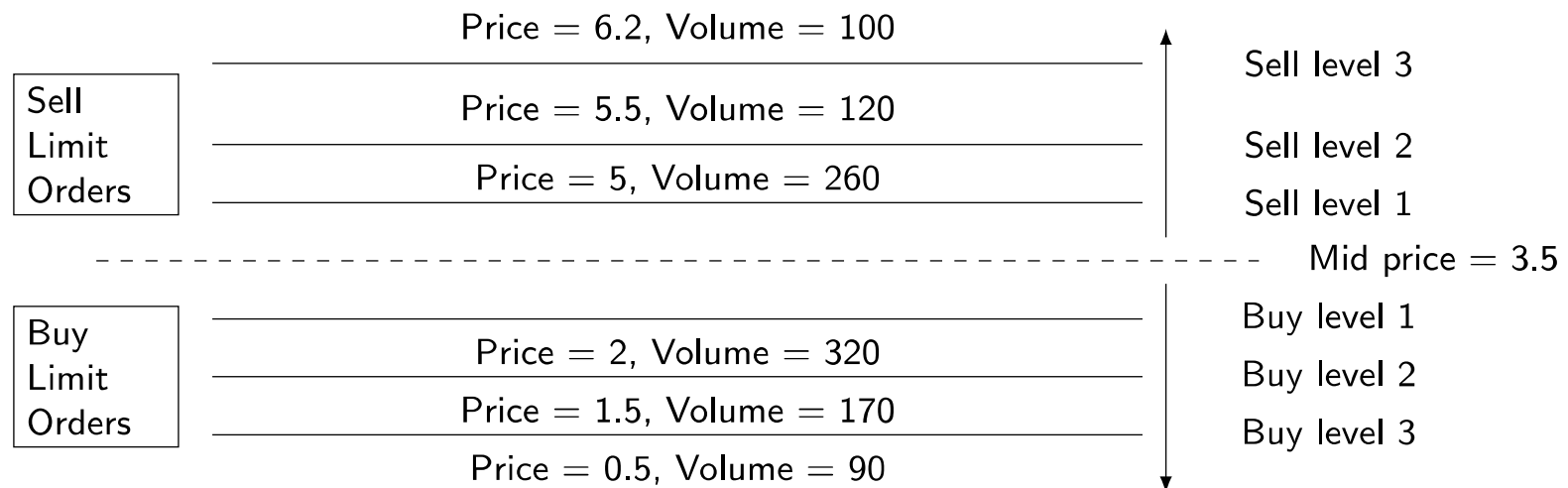
- **Alice inits (10000, 0)**
 - $m_A = 10000, v_A = 0$
- **Bob inits (9000, 0)**
 - $m_B = 9000, v_B = 0$
- **Alice posts (10, 100) – buy 100@10**
 - $em_A = 10000 - 100*10 = 9000$
 - $ev_A = 100$
- **Alice posts (11, 50) – buy 50@11**
 - $em_A = 9000 - 50*11 = 8450$
 - $ev_A = 150$
- **Bob posts (13, -90) – sell 90@13**
 - $em_B = 9000 - (-90)*13 = 10170$
 - $ev_B = -90$
- **Bob posts (11, -50) – sell 50@11**
 - $em_B = 10170 - (-50)*11 = 10720$
 - $ev_B = -140$
- **A match found**
 - Alice can now buy 50 and Bob can sell 50 at 11
 - $m_A = 10000 - 50*11 = 9450$
 - $v_A = 50$
 - $m_B = 9000 + 50*11 = 9550$
 - $v_B = -50$
- **Alice inits (10000, 0)**
 - $n_A = 10000 + \text{cash}(0) = 10000$
- **Bob inits (9000, 0)**
 - $n_B = 9000 + \text{cash}(0) = 9000$
- **Alice posts (10, 100) – buy 100@10**
 - Assume max price is 20
 - $en_A = 9000 + 100*20 = 11000$
- **Alice posts (11, 50) – buy 50@11**
 - Assume max price is 20
 - $en_A = 8450 + 150*20 = 11450$
- **Bob posts (13, -90) – sell 90@13**
 - $en_B = 10170 - 50*11 - 40*10 = 9220$
 - $n_A = 10000 + \text{cash}(0) = 10000$
- **Bob posts (11, -50) – sell 50@11**
 - $en_B = 10720 - 50*11 - 90*10 = 9270$
 - $n_A = 10000 + \text{cash}(0) = 10000$
- **A match found**
 - Sell side: (13, -90)
 - Buy side: (10, 100)
 - $n_A = 9450 + \text{cash}(50) = 9450 + 50*10 = 9950$
 - $n_B = 9550 + \text{cash}(-50) = 9550 - 50*13 = 8900$

Ideal Functionality – Mark To Market

• Trader Inventory P_i

$$- m_i = m_i + v_i * \text{mid_price}$$

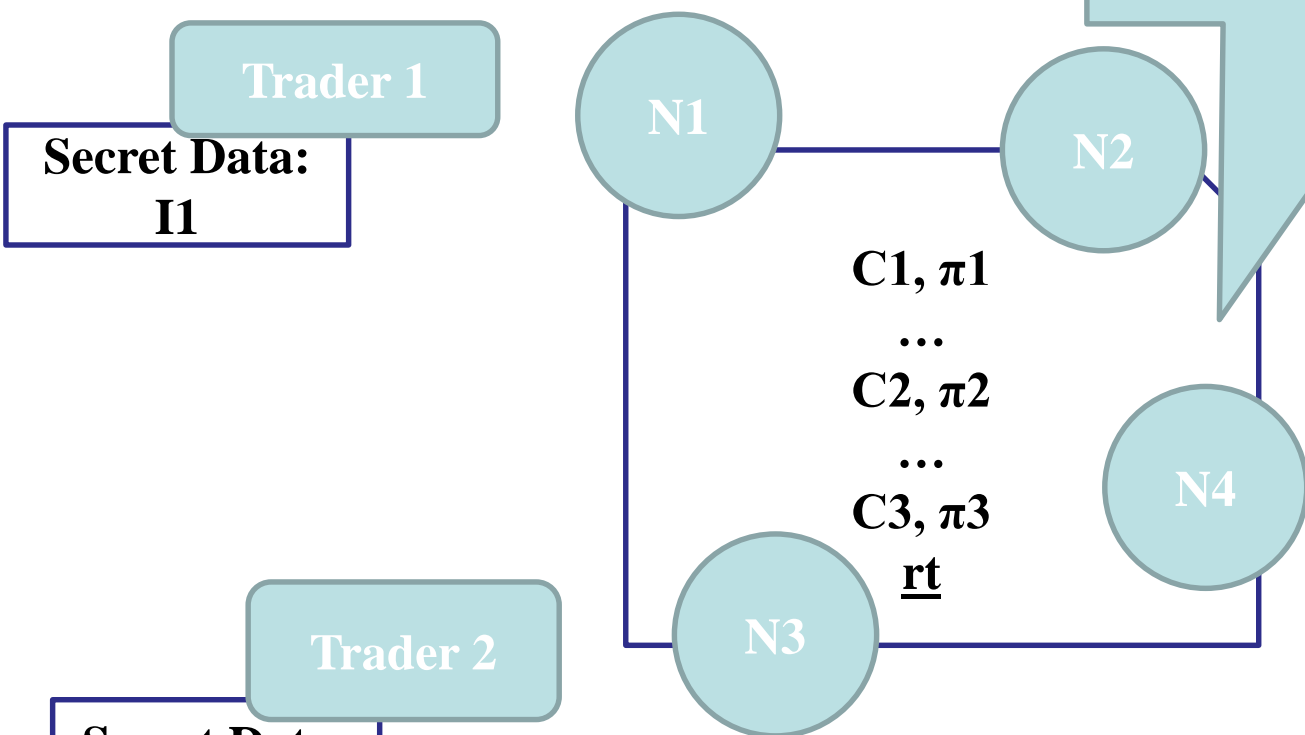
$$- v_i = 0$$



Distributed Protocol

- Commitments + ZK-Proofs
- Merkle Tree
- TOR + Blockchain

Distributed Ledger for public data,
only commitments and zk-proofs



Distributed Protocol - Storage

- **Trader Inventory P_i**

- Cash available $[m_i]$
- Volume holding $[v_i]$
- Estimated cash $[em_i]$
- Estimated volume $[ev_i]$
- Counter $[c_i]$
- Flag $[f_i]$
- Token $t_i = [m_i|v_i|em_i|ev_i|c_i|f_i]$

- **Order Book $O = \{o_1 \dots o_t\}$**

- $O_j = (p, v, t, [j])$
- Prove that you know the randomness of $[j]$ to claim that is your order

- **Net Position**

- $[n_i] = [m_i + \text{cash}(v_i)]$
- $[en_i] = [em_i + \text{cash}(v_i)]$

Distributed Protocol - Initialize

- **Trader Inventory P_i**

- $[m_i]$, prove that $m_i > 0$
- $[v_i] = [0]$, show randomness to prove $v_i = 0$
- $[em_i] = [m_i]$, prove that $em_i = m_i$
- $[ev_i] = [0]$, show randomness
- $[c_i] = [0]$, show randomness
- $[f_i] = 0$, show randomness
- Token $t_i = [m_i|v_i|em_i|ev_i|c_i|f_i]$, prove with zk
- $[t_i]$, to be added into Merkle Tree

- **$O = \{\}$**

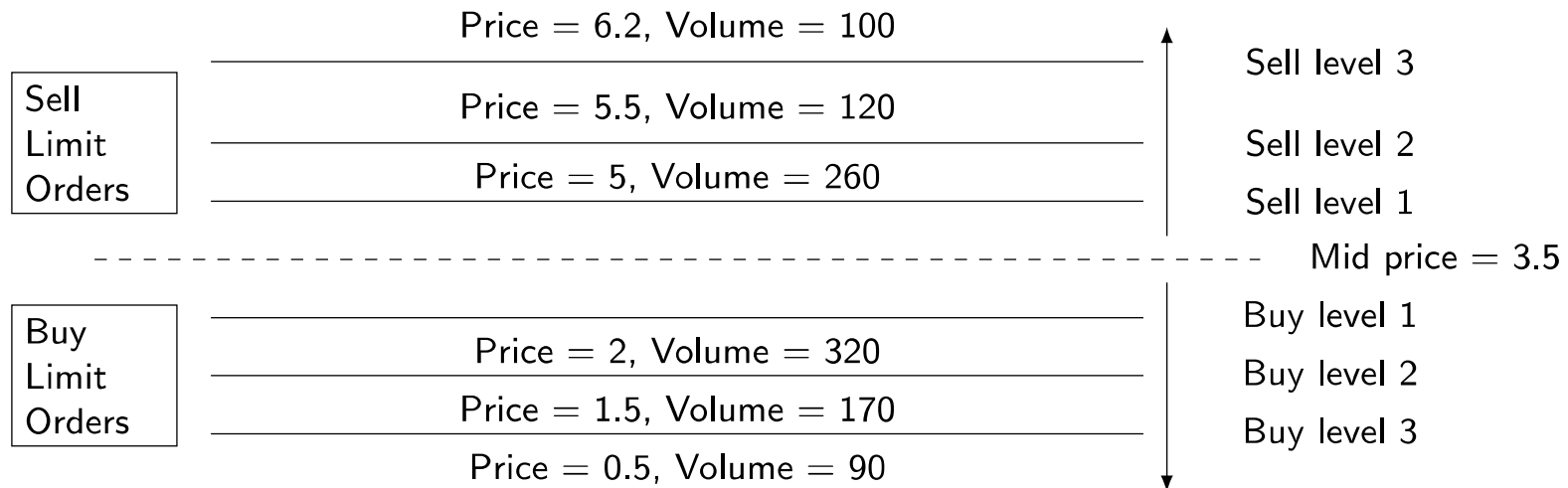
Ideal Functionality – Post Order

- $O = \{\dots o_t\}$
 - $o_t = (p, v, t, [i])$
- **Trader Inventory P_i**
 - Get $[m_i], [v_i], [em_i], [ev_i], [c_i], [f_i]$ from MT using an unspent t_i
 - Update em_i ev_i and c_i
 - $em_i = em_i - vp$
 - $ev_i = ev_i + v$
 - $c_i = c_i + 1$
 - Commit to the new values and prove in zk
- **Valid order?**
 - $en_i \geq 0$, compute the value, commit and prove in zk

Ideal Functionality – (Estimated) Net Position

1. If $v_i > 0$, look at buy side, otherwise if $v_i < 0$ look at sell side
2. Take v_i from low to high on sell side and from high to low on buy side

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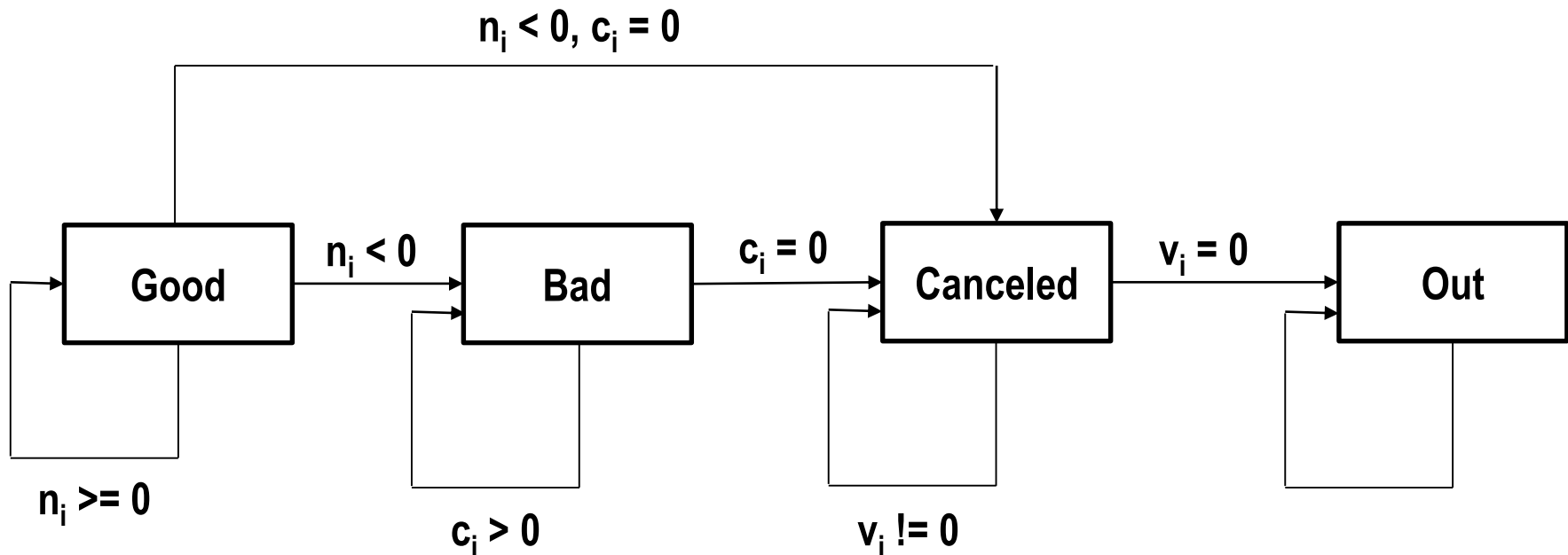
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Ideal Functionality – Cancel Order

- $O = \{\dots o_t\} - o_t$
 - $o_t = (p, v, t, [i])$
- **Trader Inventory P_i**
 - Get $[m_i], [v_i], [em_i], [ev_i], [c_i], [f_i]$ from MT using an unspent t_i
 - Update em_i ev_i and c_i
 - $em_i = em_i + vp$
 - $ev_i = ev_i - v$
 - $c_i = c_i - 1$
 - Commit to the new values and prove in zk
- **Valid order?**
 - $en_i \geq 0$
 - Knows the randomness of $[i]$ to prove this is your order

Distributed Protocol – Update Status

- Get $[m_i]$, $[v_i]$, $[em_i]$, $[ev_i]$, $[c_i]$, $[f_i]$ from MT using an unspent t_i
- Compute $[n_i]$ for all P_i , update $[f_i]$





Distributed Protocol – Match Order & Mark To Market

- **Similar to the previous sub protocols**
 - Take inventory from MT
 - Update values
 - Commit, prove in zk, and put back into MT