

CS 594 – ADVANCED CRYPTO (SPRING 2026)

Alex Block

Lecture 3

January 26, 2026

PRACTICE WITH SECURITY DEFINITIONS

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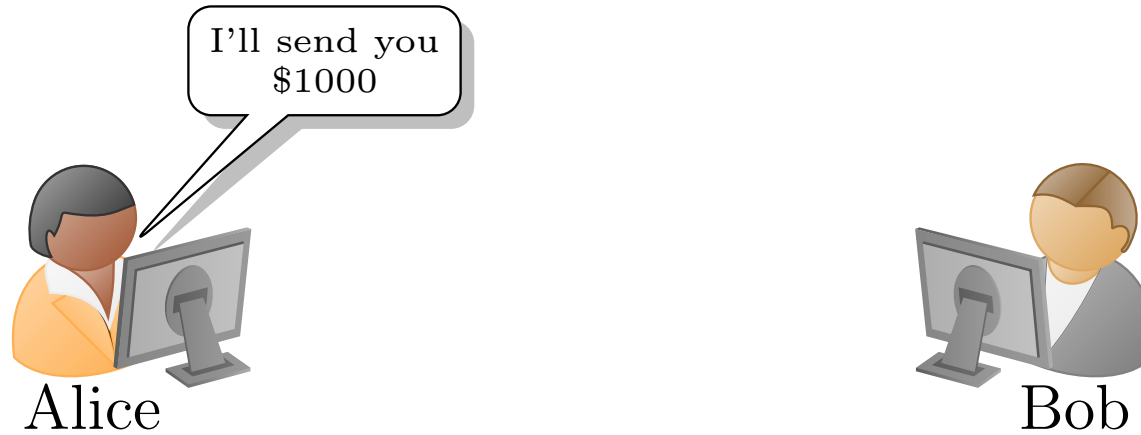
Alice



Bob

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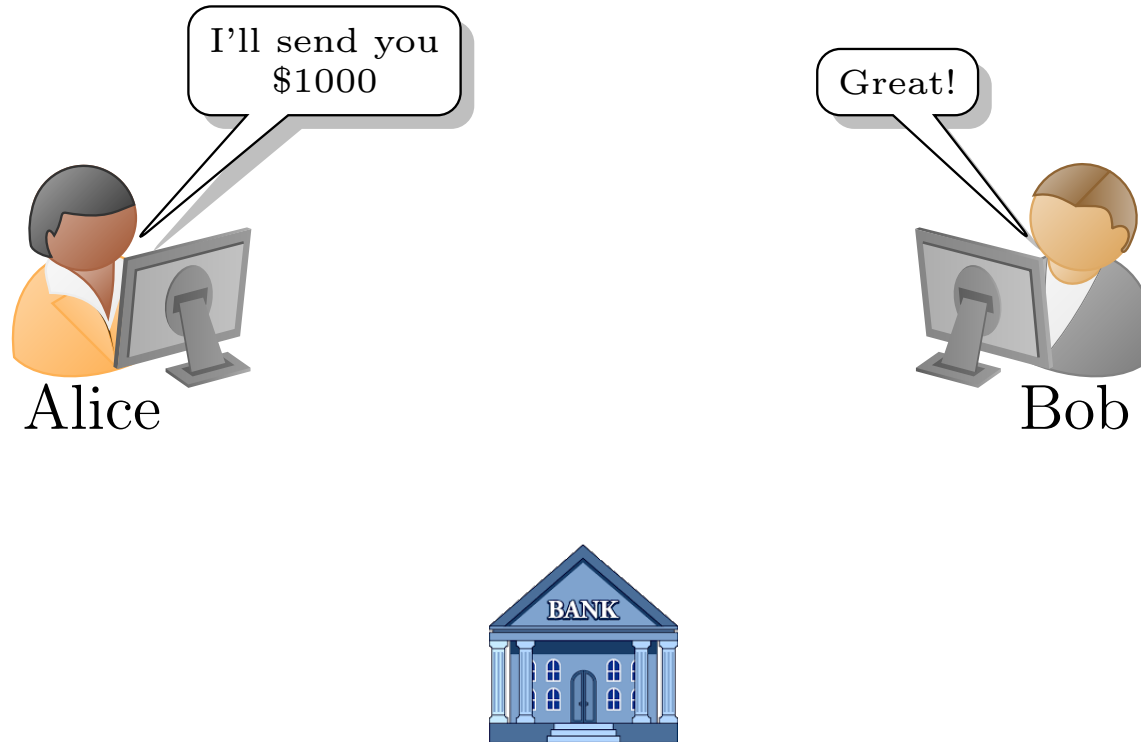
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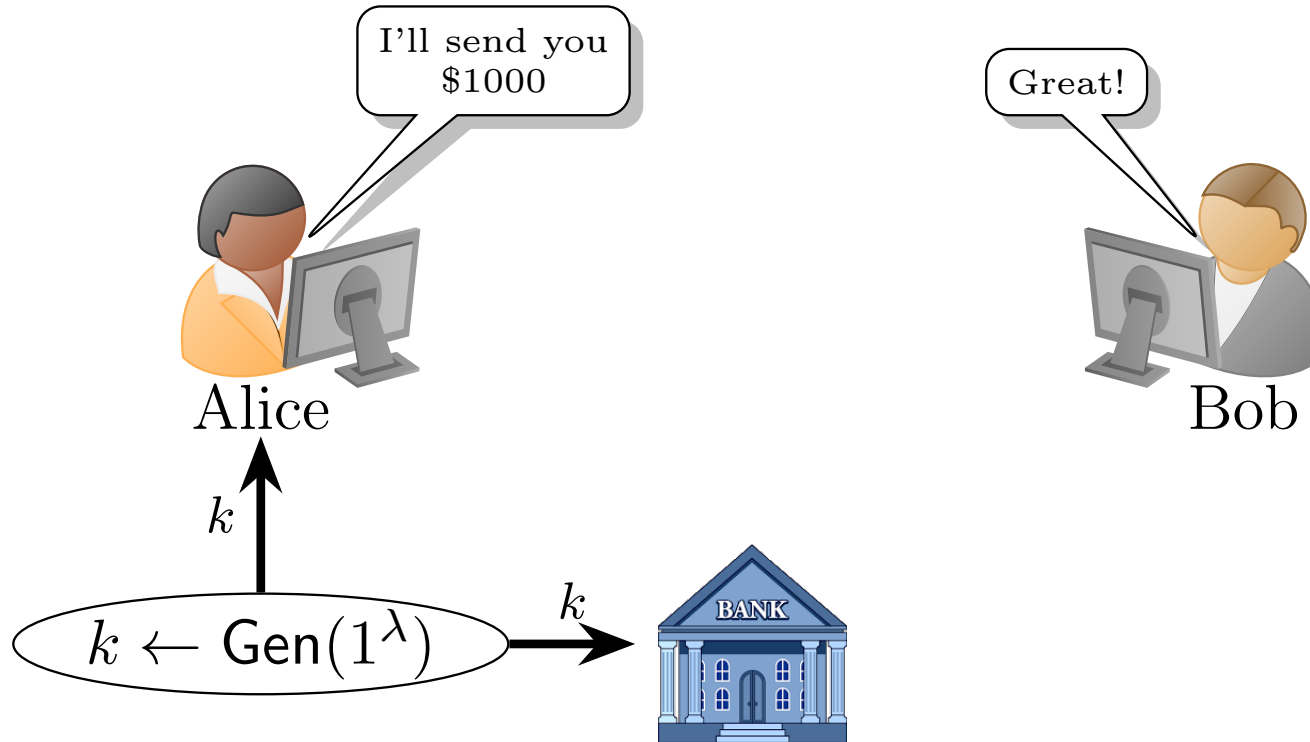
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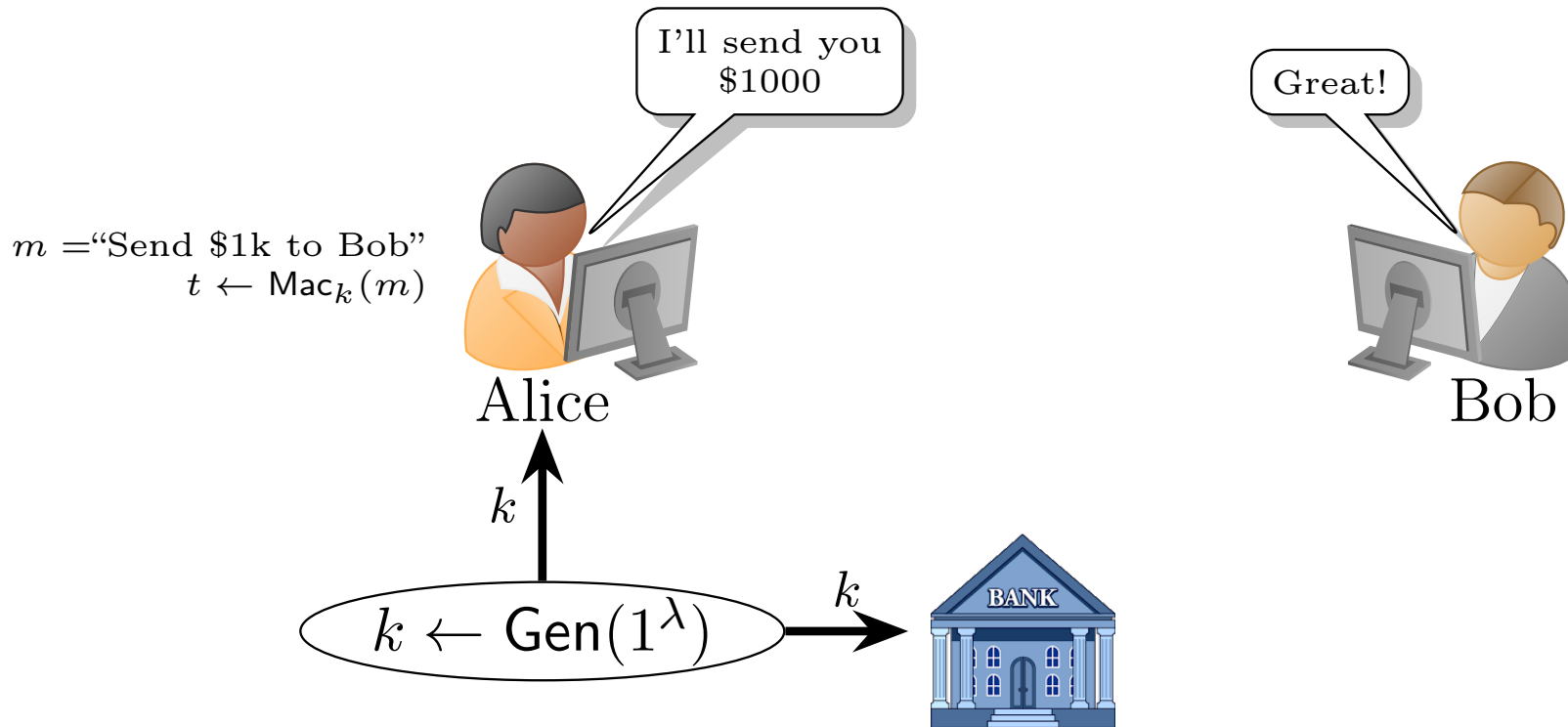
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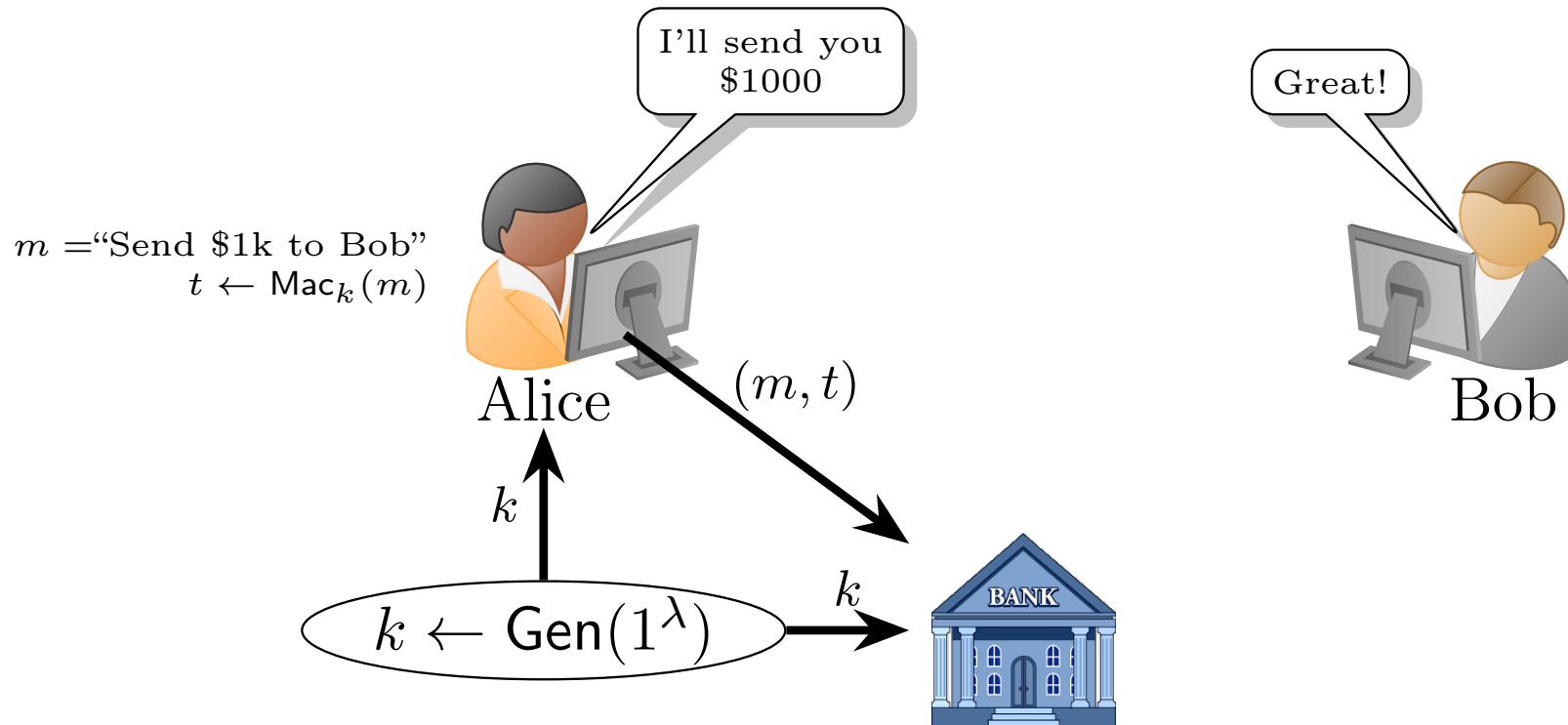
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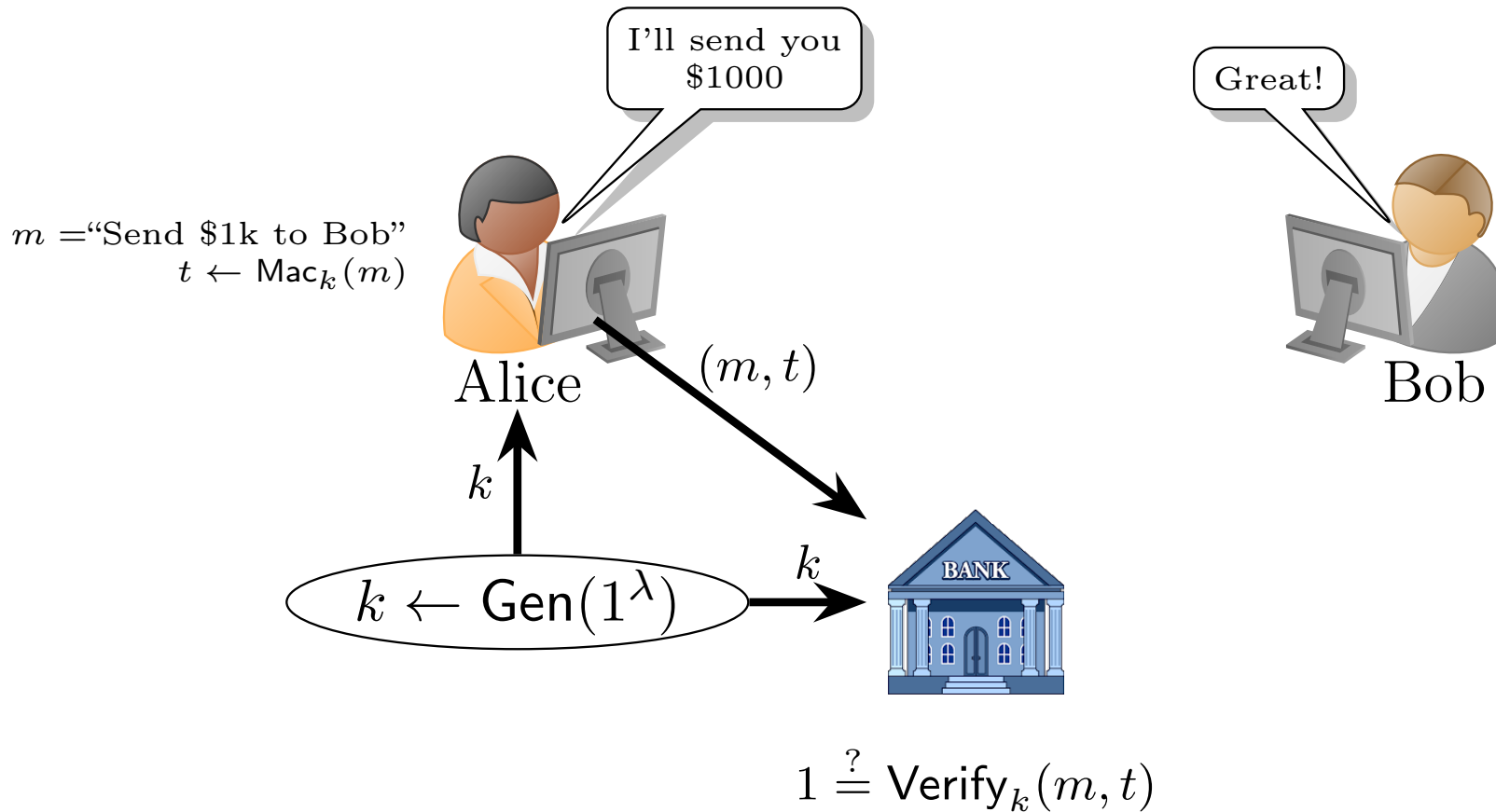
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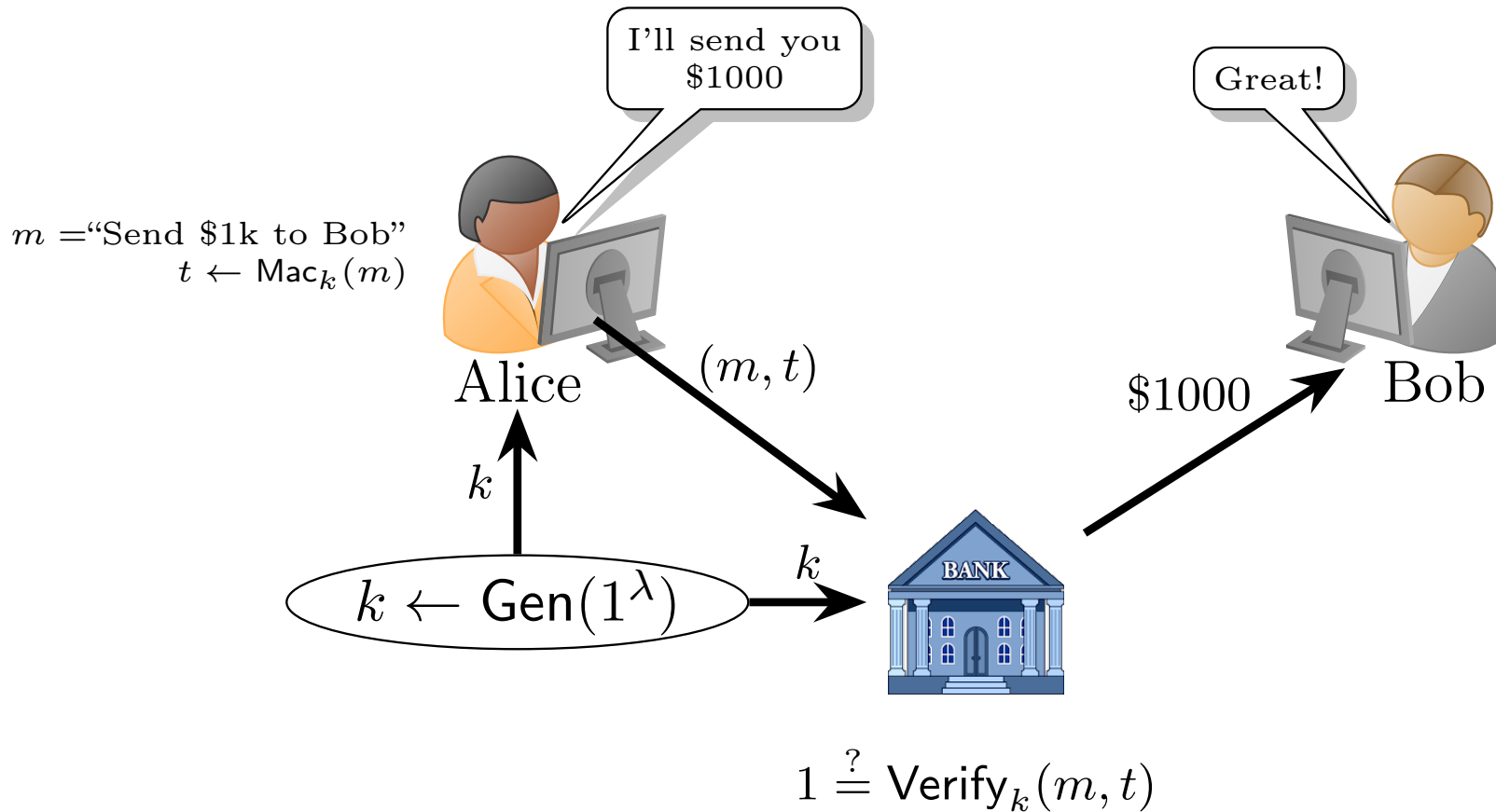
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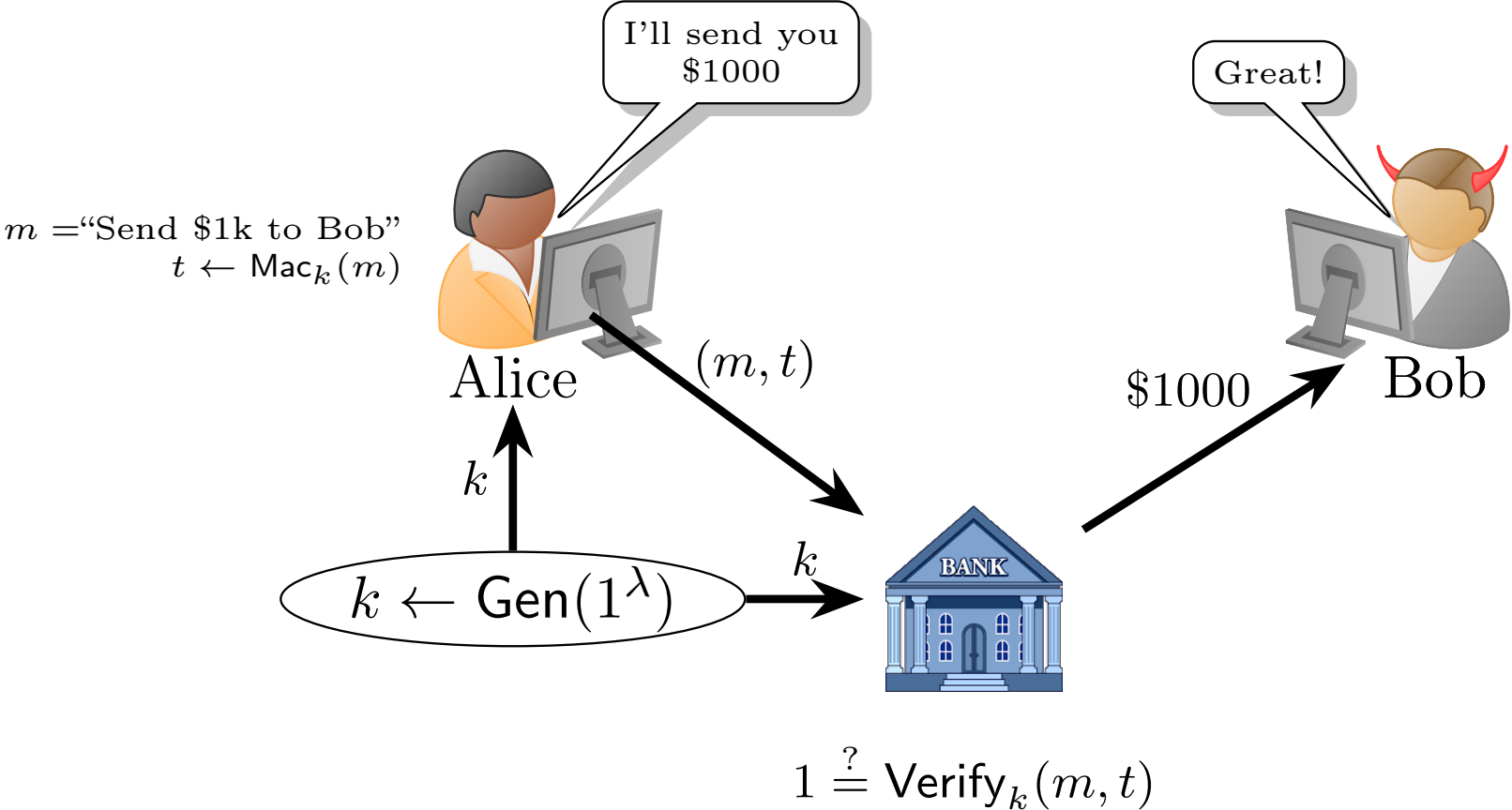
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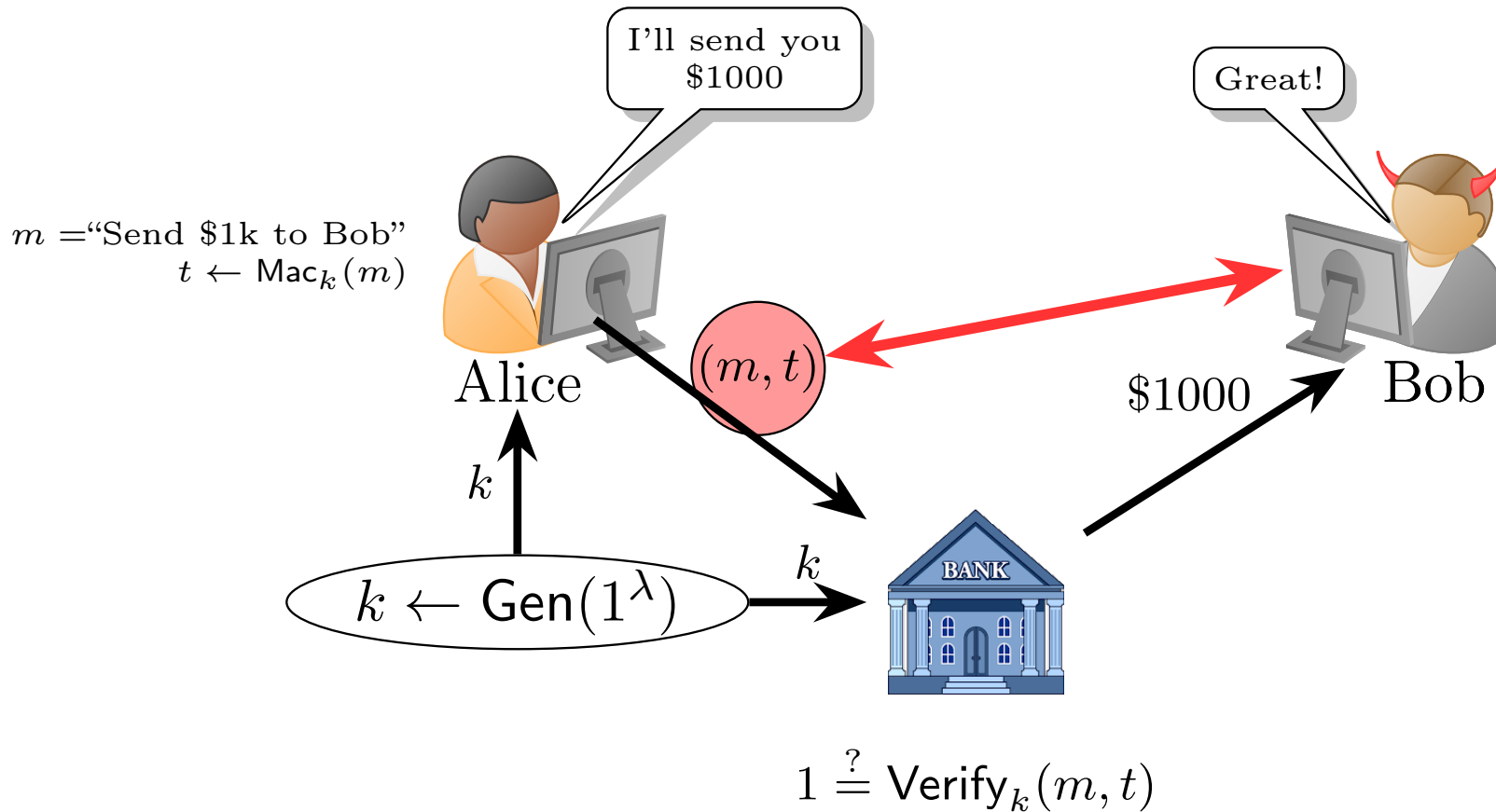
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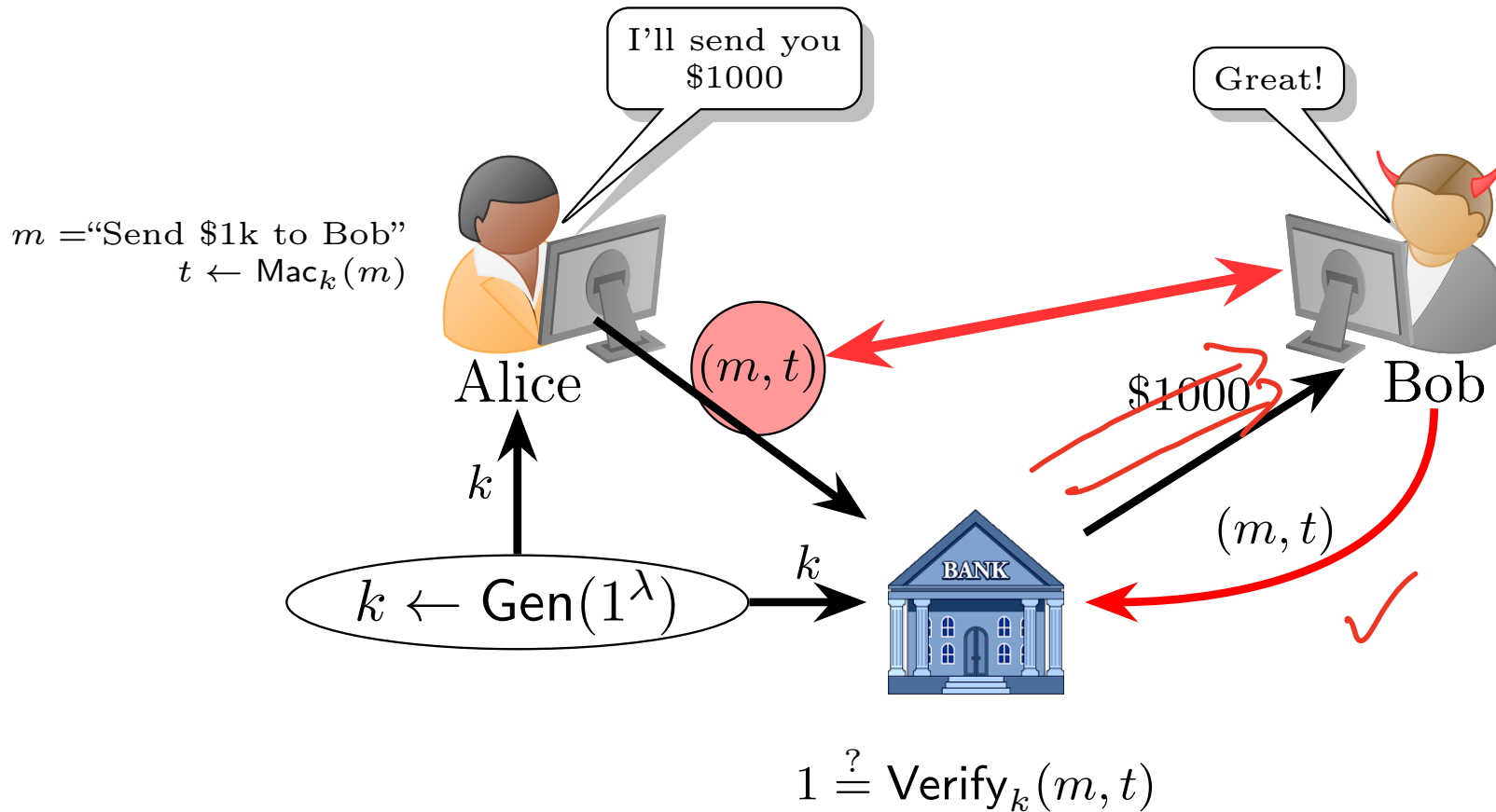
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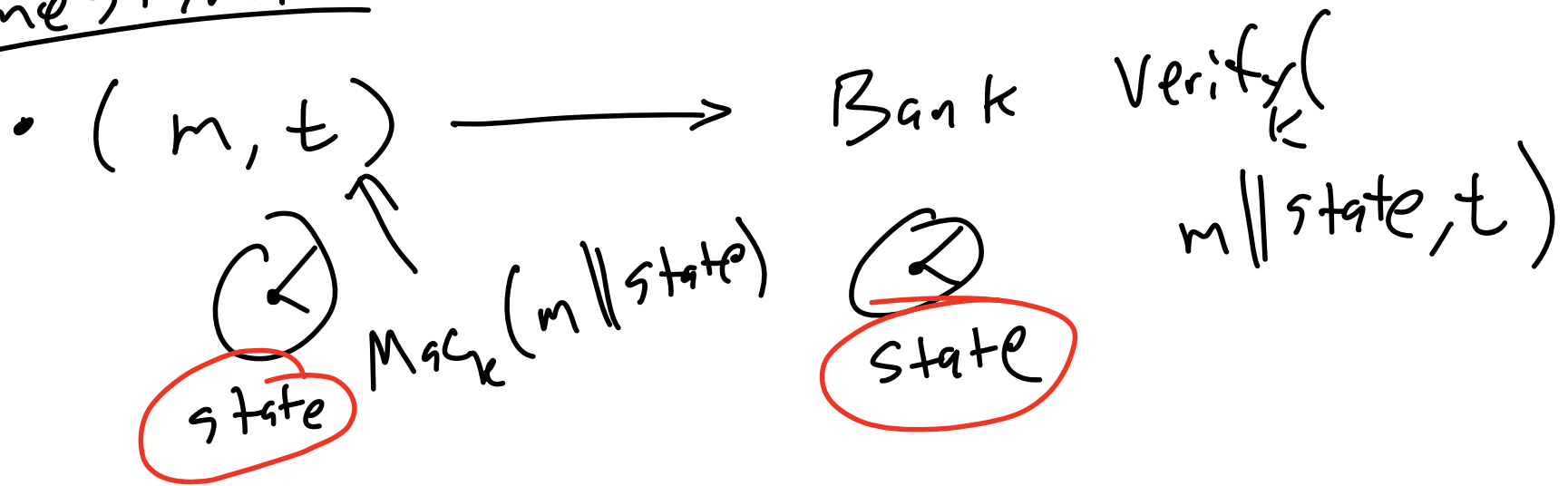
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PRACTICE WITH SECURITY DEFINITIONS

- How would you prevent replay attacks?
- How would you define security against replay attacks?

↳ Timestamps



message
count

$m, t \longrightarrow \text{Mac}_k(n \parallel 1, t)$

STRONG MAC SECURITY

Mac-forge $_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(\lambda)$

- 1 $k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda)$.
- 2 Adversary \mathcal{A} receives 1^λ as input and *oracle access* to $\text{Mac}_k(\cdot)$. Let \mathcal{Q} denote the set of all messages that \mathcal{A} queries its oracle with.
 - **Goal:** Output (m, t) (message and tag).
- 3 \mathcal{A} *wins* if and only if (1) $\text{Verify}_k(m, t) = 1$ and (2) $m \notin \mathcal{Q}$ (Mac-forge $_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(\lambda) = 1$ in this case and 0 otherwise).

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 - Note: you'd want this for replay attack security!
- Gives us notion of *strong MAC security*

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Definition 1 (Strong MAC Security)

Let $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Mac}, \text{Verify})$ be a MAC. Then Π is a *strong MAC* if for all PPT adversaries \mathcal{A} there exists a negligible function negl such that

$$\Pr[\text{Mac-sforge}_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(\lambda) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(\lambda).$$

\mathcal{A}, Π

GENERAL METHODS FOR PROVING SECURITY

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Reductions

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Indistinguishability

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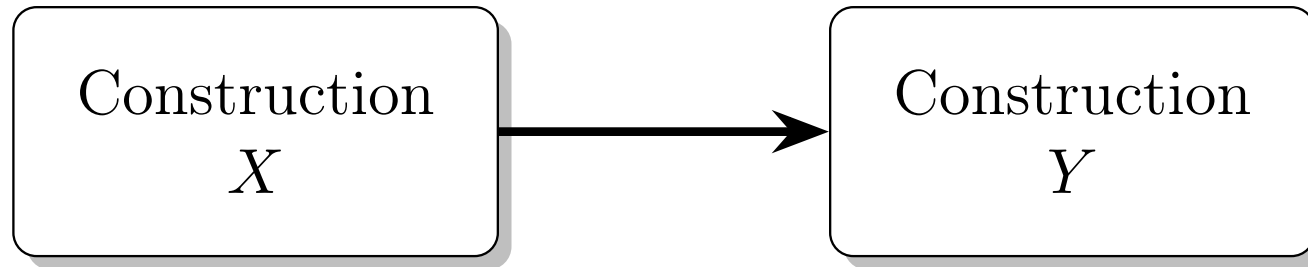
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 - Since we assumed problem/construction X was hard/secure, this is a contradiction!

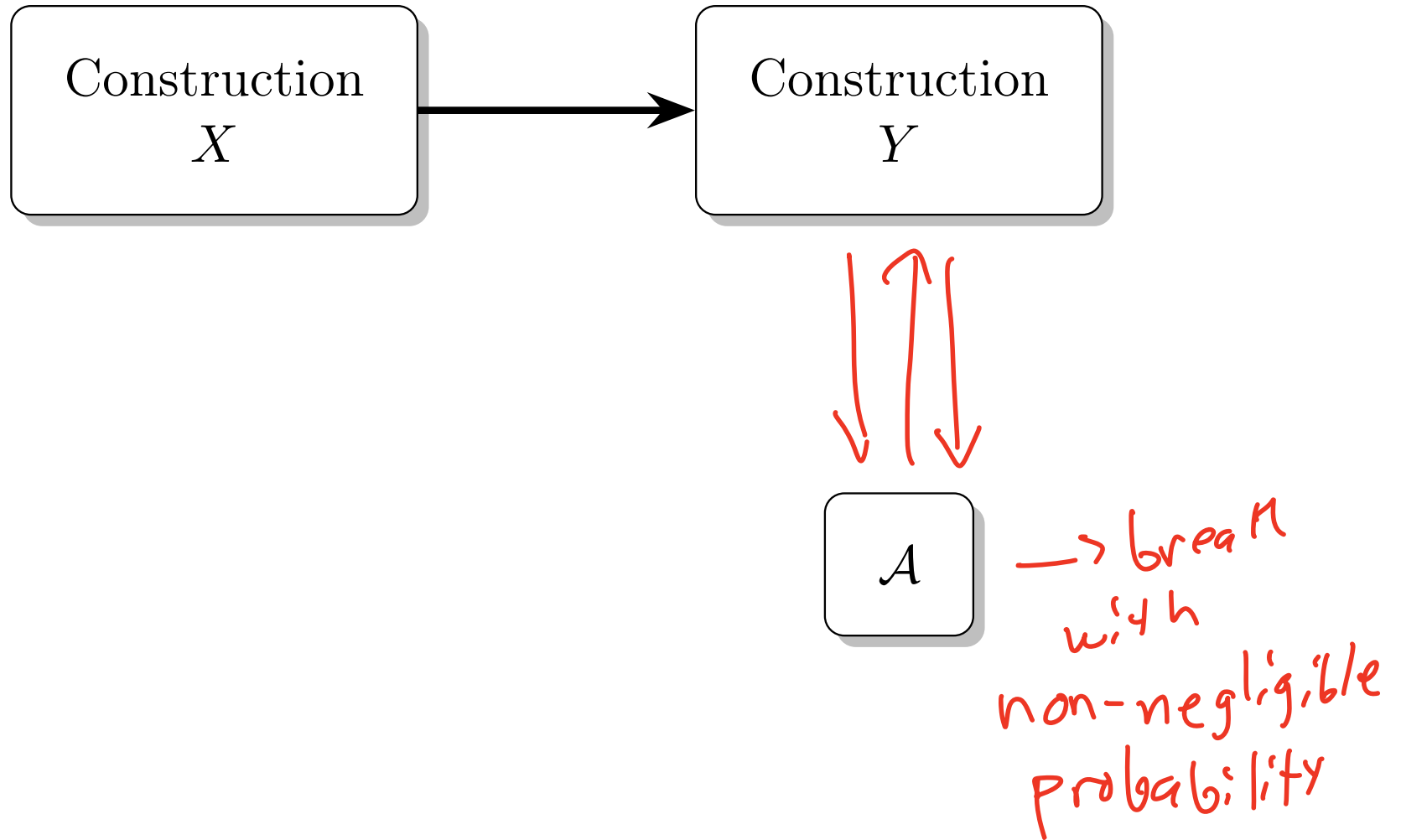
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Construction
 X

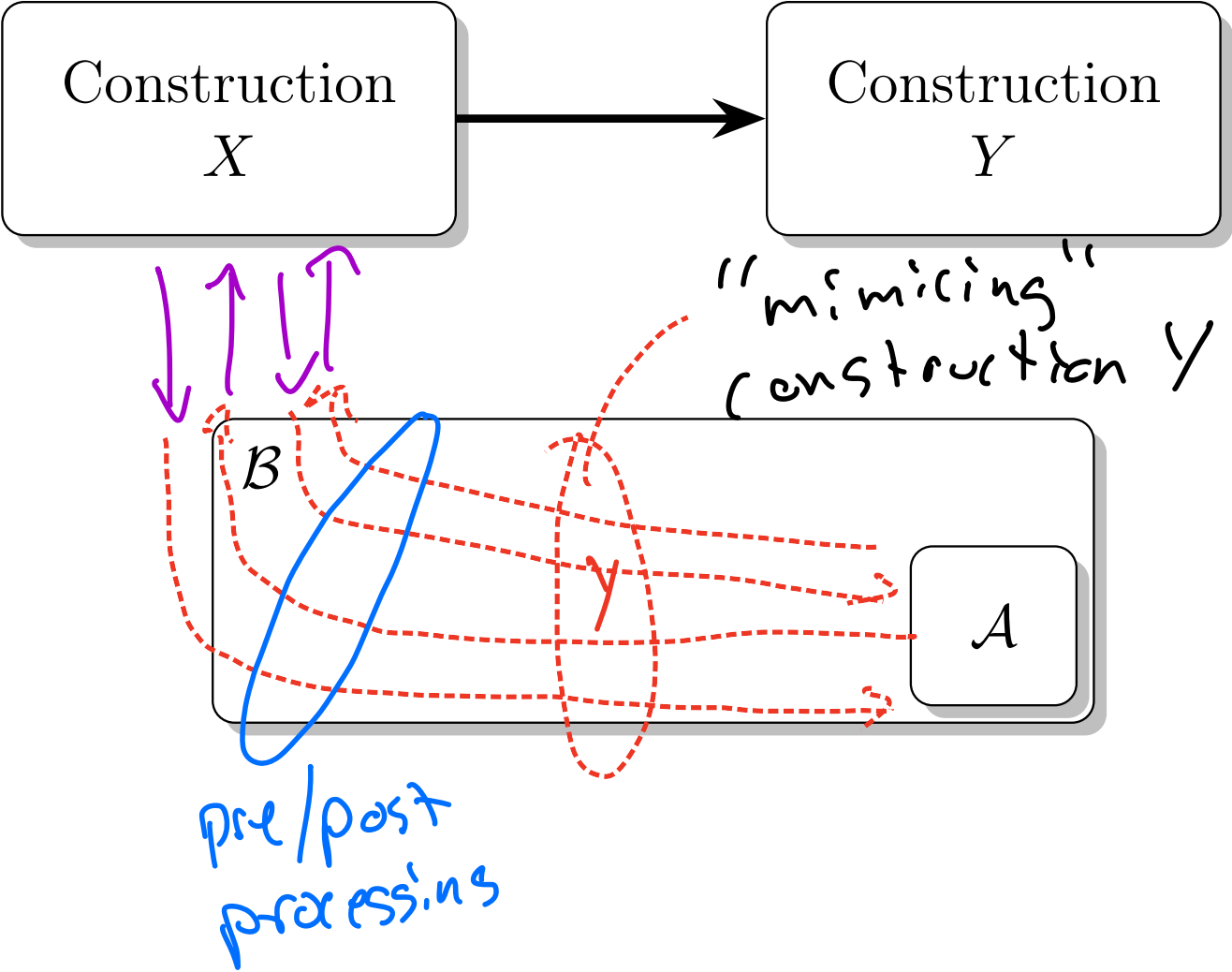
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Canonical Verification

$\text{Verify}_k(m, t) :=$

■ $t' \leftarrow \text{Mac}_k(m)$

■ Output $t' == t$

Deterministic

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Mac_k is deterministic given a fixed key k !

PLAYING WITH REDUCTIONS: STRONG MACs

First recall the two security games:

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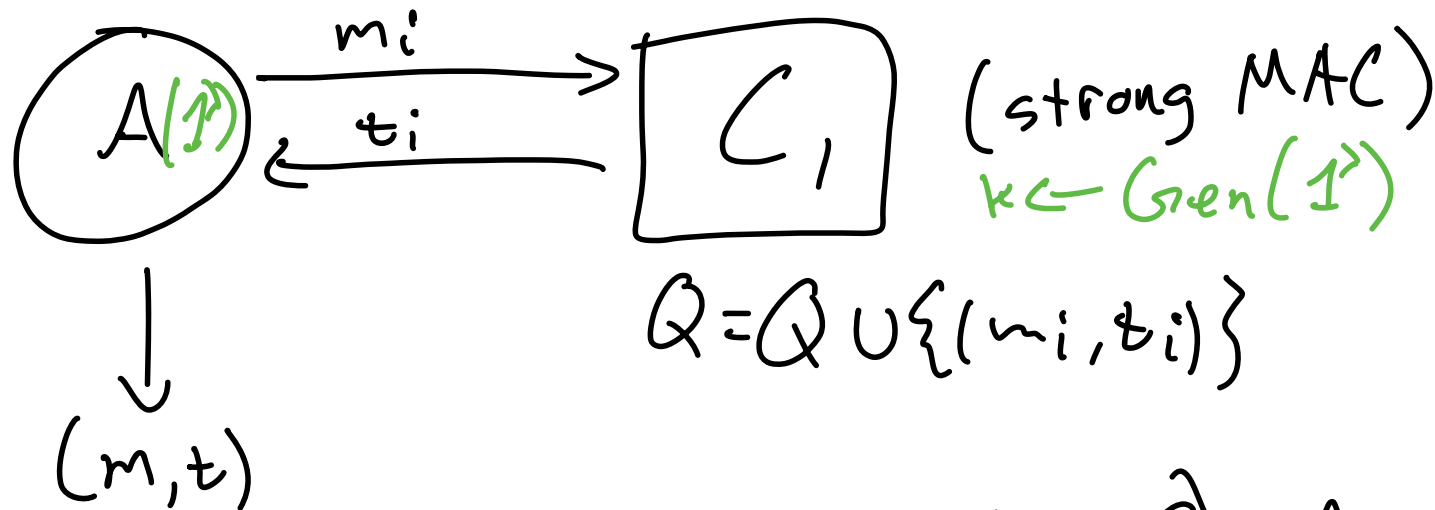
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- We will use \mathcal{A} to construct an adversary \mathcal{B} that wins $\text{Mac-forge}_{\mathcal{B},\Pi}(\lambda)$ with non-negligible probability.

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- We will use \mathcal{A} to construct an adversary \mathcal{B} that wins $\text{Mac-forge}_{\mathcal{B},\Pi}(\lambda)$ with non-negligible probability.
 - We will need to use the canonical verification property in our proof.

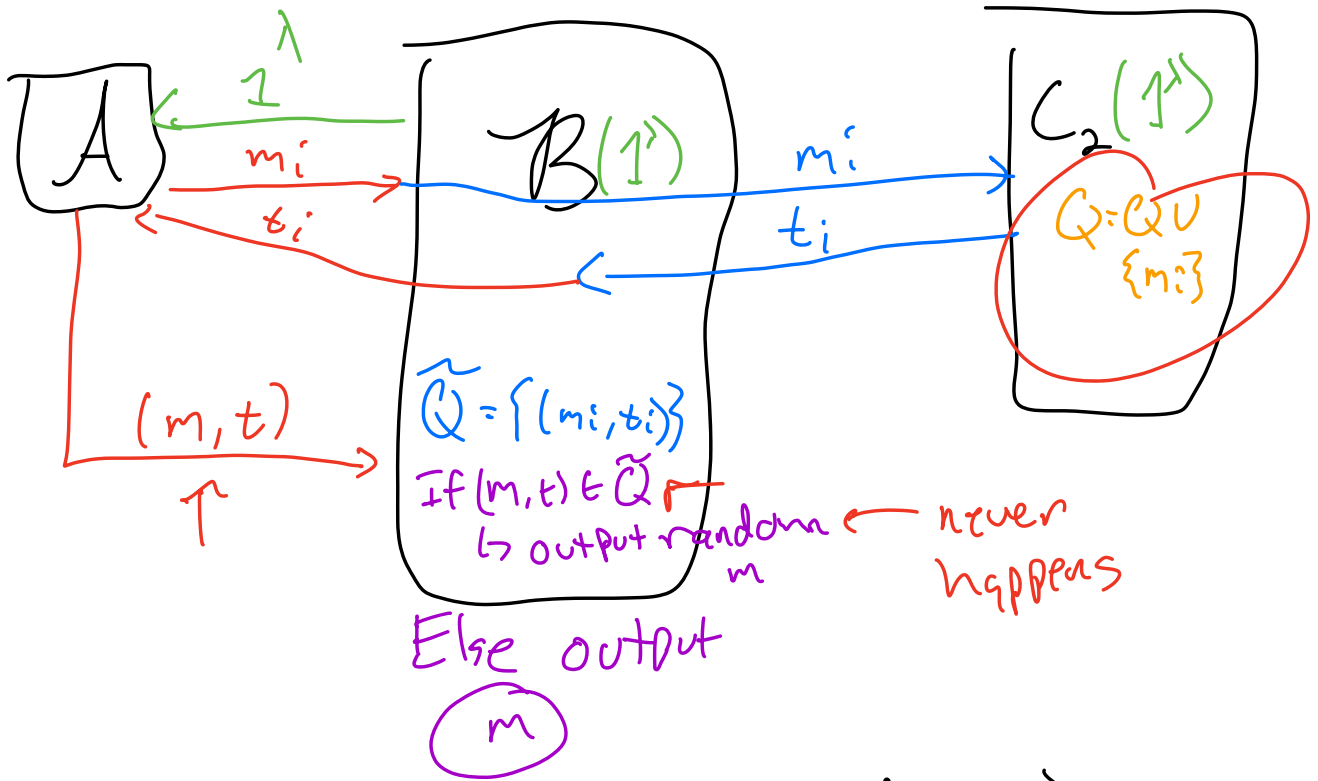
PLAYING WITH REDUCTIONS: STRONG MACs



Proof:

$$A \text{ wins} \iff (m, t) \notin Q \wedge \text{Verify}_k(m, t) = 1$$

Assumption: A wins w.p. $\geq p(\lambda)$
 for non-negl. $p(\lambda)$



Question: Can A output (m, t) s.t.
 $\exists t'$ s.t. $(m, t') \in \tilde{Q}$ but
 $(m, t) \notin \tilde{Q}$?

NO! • Every m has a unique tag

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Yes!

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- Theorem: Construction X and Construction Y are (computationally) indistinguishable.
- Proof: Suppose not; that is, we can distinguish X and Y . Then, we can use the *distinguisher* which does this to break some security property of X or Y , or break some underlying hard problem.

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$$n \geq m+1$$

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$$\approx_\epsilon$$

Uniform Distribution

$$U_{\{0,1\}^n}$$

Computationally
indistinguishable

Efficient (PPT)

$$\text{w.p.} \leq \epsilon(n) + \frac{1}{2}$$

cannot distinguish except

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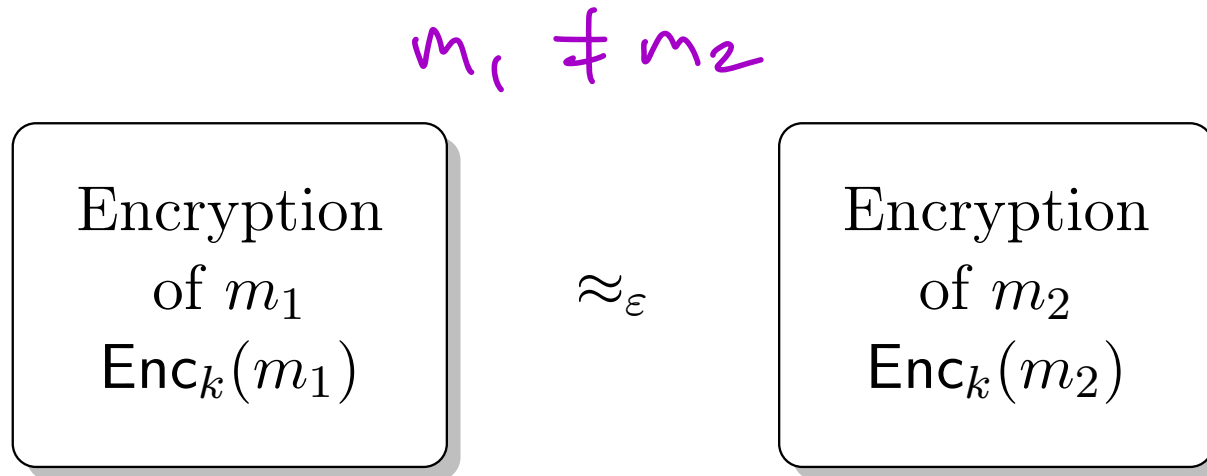
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- *Idealized Models* offer one of many ways to *prove* these properties.

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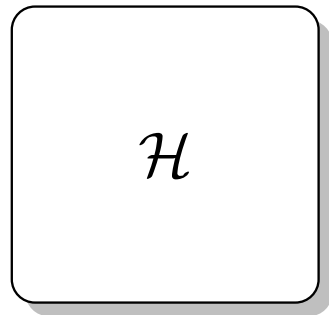
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- $\mathcal{H}: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$.

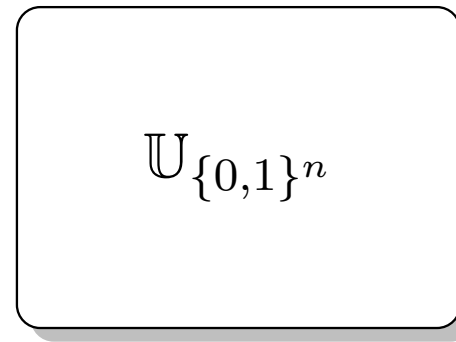
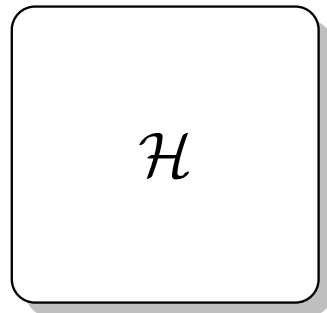
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- Everyone has access to an *unkeyed* hash function that is *truly random* (implemented as a lazy dictionary).
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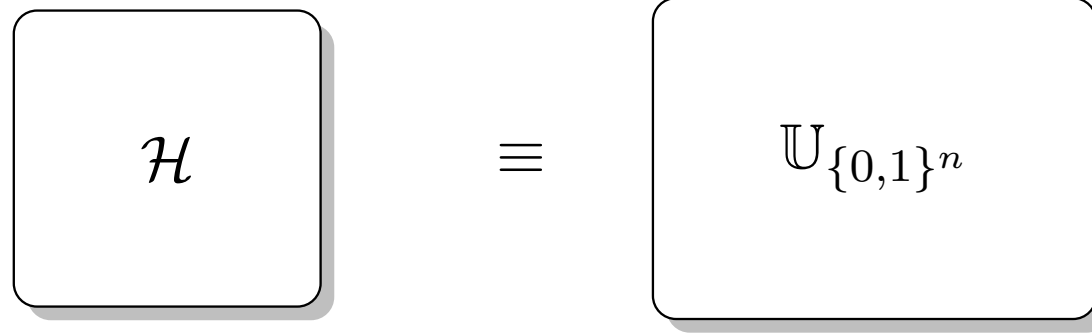
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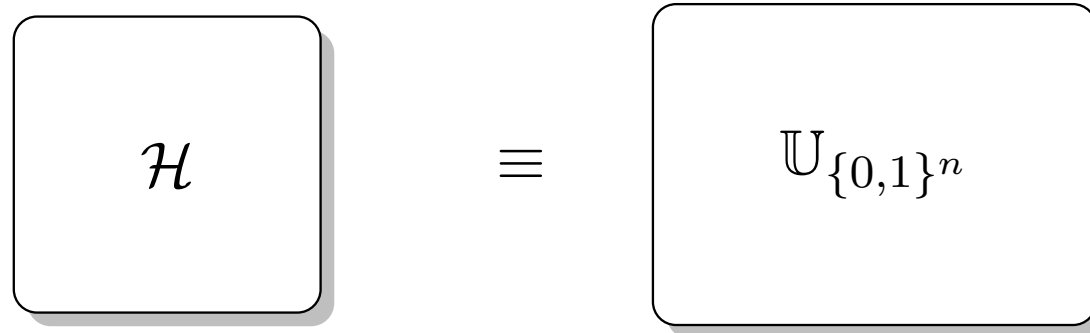
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\mathcal{H} does not output random values!

If you call $h_1 = \mathcal{H}(x)$ at 10am, then $h_2 = \mathcal{H}(x)$ at 2pm, $h_1 = h_2$!

RANDOM ORACLE MODEL

- Next time, we'll use the Random Oracle Model to build simple and secure *pseudorandom functions*