Blockchain: Smart Contracts

Lecture 2

Please join course TEAMS: oob4snl

Basic cryptographic primitives

Basic cryptographic primitives behind the blockchain technology

- **Cryptographically Secure Hash Function**
- **Digital Signature**

Hash Function: Used to connect the “blocks” in a “chain” in a tamper-proof way

Digital Signature: Digitally sign the data so that no one can “deny” about their own activities. Also, others can check whether it is authentic.

Cryptographic Hash Functions

Takes any arbitrarily sized string as input

- Input M: The message

Fixed size output (We use 256 bits in Blockchain)

- Output H(M): We call this as the message digest

Efficiently computable

Cryptographic Hash Function: Properties

Deterministic

Always yield identical hash value for identical input data

Collision-Free

If two messages are different, then their digests also differ

Hiding

Hide the original message

Puzzle-friendly

Given *X* and *Y*, find out *k* such that $Y = H(X||k)$ - used to solve the mining puzzle in Bitcoin Proof of Work

Collision Free

Hash functions are one-way; Given an x, it is easy to find $H(x)$. However, given an $H(x)$, **no deterministic algorithm** can find x

It is **difficult to find** x and y, where $x \neq y$, but $H(x) = H(y)$

Note the phrase **difficult to find**, collision is **not impossible**

Try with randomly chosen inputs to find out a collision – but it takes too long

Collision Free – How Do We Guarantee

It may be relatively easy to find collision for some hash functions

Birthday Paradox: Find the probability that in a set of n **randomly chosen persons,** some of them will have the same birthday

By *Pigeonhole Principle*, the probability reaches 1 when number of people reaches 366 (not a leap year) or 367 (a leap year)

0.999 probability is reached with just ~70 people, and 0.5 probability is reached with only ~23 people

Collision Free – How Do We Guarantee

Birthday paradox places an upper bound on collision resistance

If a hash function produces N bits of output, an attacker need to compute only $2^{\frac{N}{2}}$ hash operations on a random input to find two matching outputs with probability > 0.98

For a 256 bit hash function, the attacker needs to compute 2^{128} hash operations – this is significantly time consuming

If every hash computation takes only 1 microsecond, it will need $\sim 10^{25}$ years

Hash as A Message Digest

If we observe $H(x) = H(y)$, it is safe to assume $x = y$

We need to remember just the hash value rather than the entire message – we call this as the **message digest**

To check if two messages x and y are same, $\text{i.e., whether } x = \text{y}$, simply check if $H(x) = H(y)$

This is efficient because the size of the digest is significantly less than the size of the original messages

Hashing - Illustration

http://www.blockchain-basics.com/HashFunctions.html

Courtesy: Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps by Daniel Drescher

Information Hiding through Hash

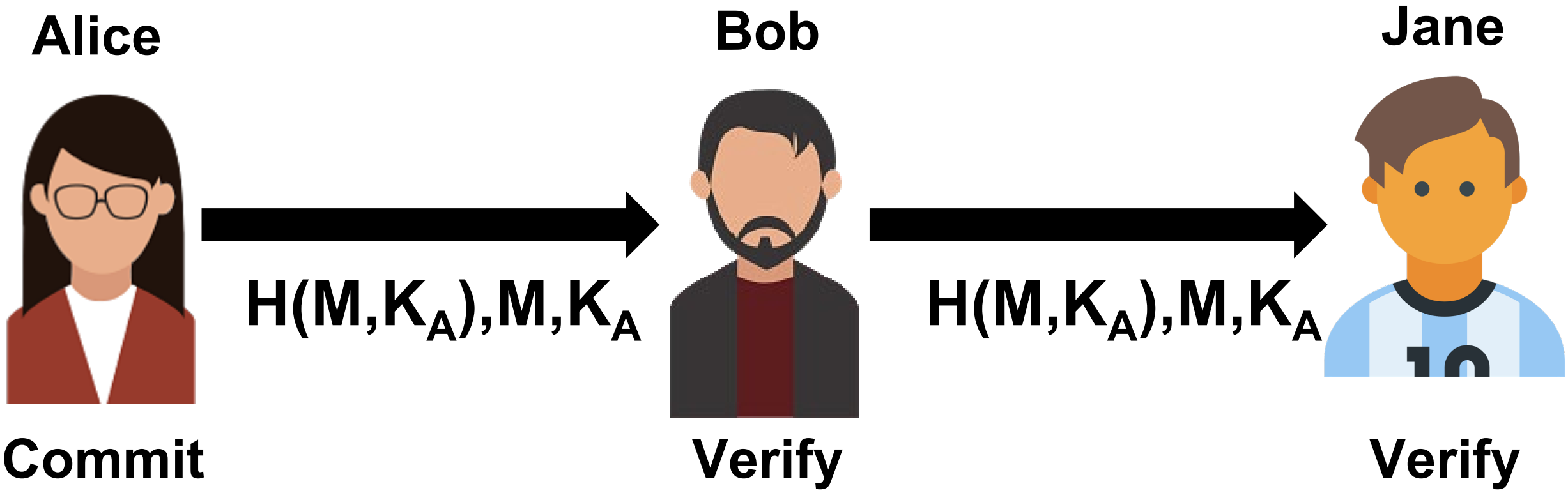
Given an $H(x)$, it is "computationally difficult" to find x

The difficulty depends on the size of the message digests

Hiding helps to commit a value and then check it later

- Compute the message digest and store it in a digest store – commit
- To check whether a message has been committed, match the message digest at the digest store

Message Commitment through Multiple Parties



K_A is the public key of Alice – A public identity that only Alice can have

Puzzle Friendly

Say M is chosen from a widely spread distribution; it is computationally difficult to compute k, such that $Z = H(M||k)$, where M and Z are known a priori.

A Search Puzzle (Used in Bitcoin Mining)

M and Z are given, k is the search solution

Note: It might be not exactly a particular value Z, but some properties that Z satisfies, i.e., Z could be a set of possible values

Puzzle friendly property implies that random searching is the best strategy to solve the above puzzle

Hash Function – SHA256

SHA256 is used in Bitcoin mining – to construct the Bitcoin blockchain

Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) that generates 256 bit message digest

A part of SHA-2, a set of cryptographic hash functions designed by United States National Security Agency (NSA)

SHA256 Algorithm - Preprocessing

Pad the message such that the message size is a multiple of 512

Suppose that the length of the message M is l; and $l \ mod \ 512 \neq 0$

Append the bit "1" at the end of the message

Append k zero bits, where k is the smallest non-negative solution to the equation $l + 1 + k \equiv 448 \ mod \ 512$

Append the 64-bit block which is equal to the number l written in binary

The total length gets divisible by 512

Partition the message into N 512-bit blocks $M^{(1)}$, $M^{(2)}$,..., $M^{(N)}$

Every 512 bit block is further divided into 32 bit sub-blocks $M_0^{(i)}$, $M_1^{(i)}$,..., $M_{15}^{(i)}$

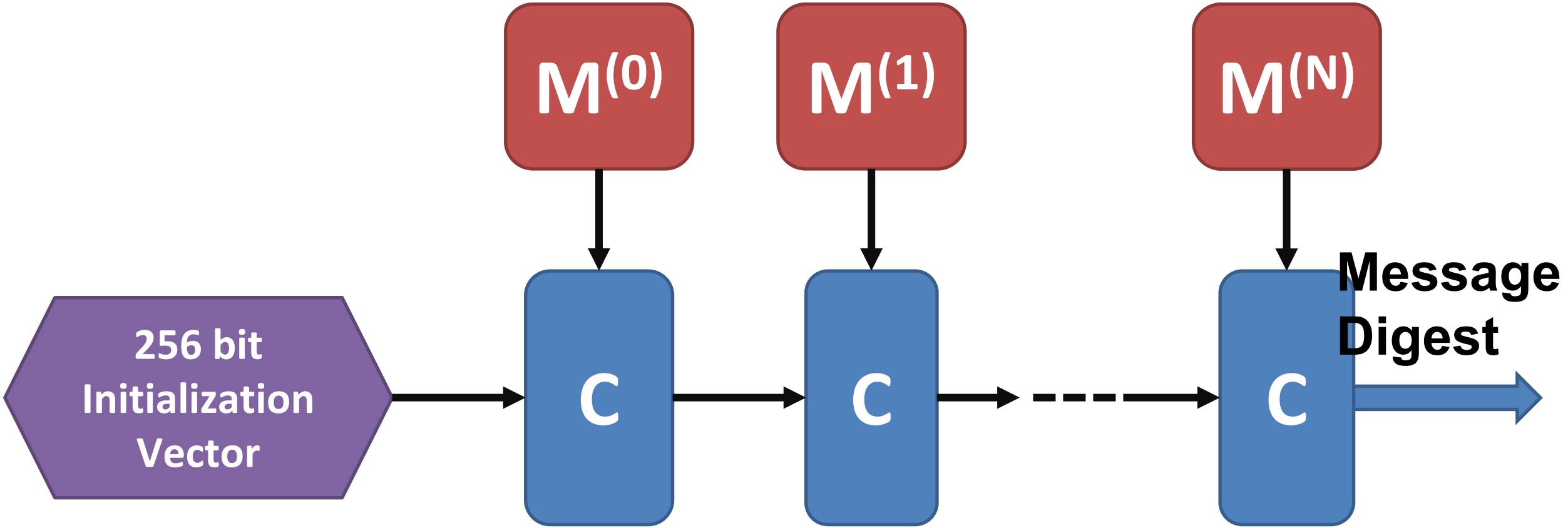
SHA-256 Algorithm

The message blocks are processed one at a time

Start with a fix initial hash value $H^{(0)}$

Sequentially compute $H^{(i)} = H^{(i-1)} + C_{M^{(i)}}(H^{(i-1)})$; C is the SHA-256 *compression function* and + means mod 2^{32} addition. $H^{(N)}$ is the hash of M.

SHA-256 Algorithm



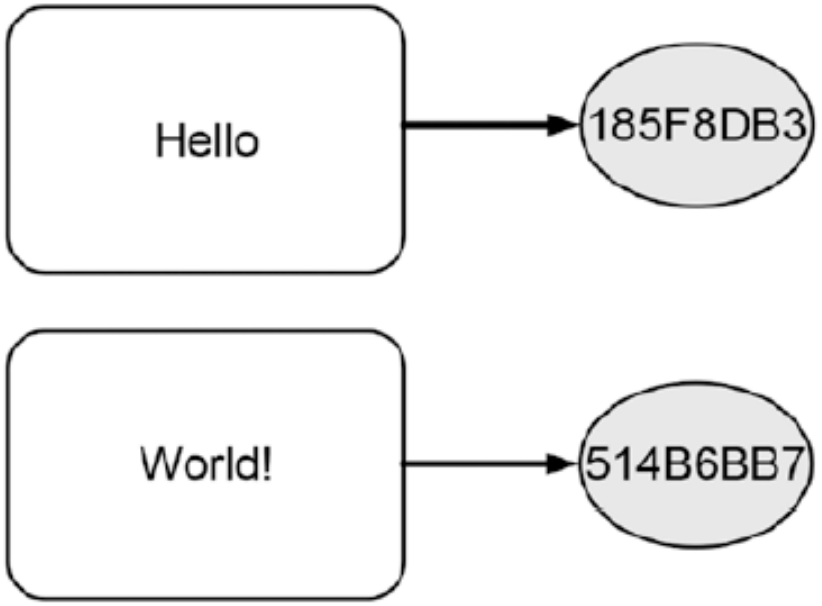
Patterns of Hashing Data

Independent hashing
Repeated hashing
Combined hashing
Sequential hashing
Hierarchical hashing

Courtesy: Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps by Daniel Drescher

Types of Hashing

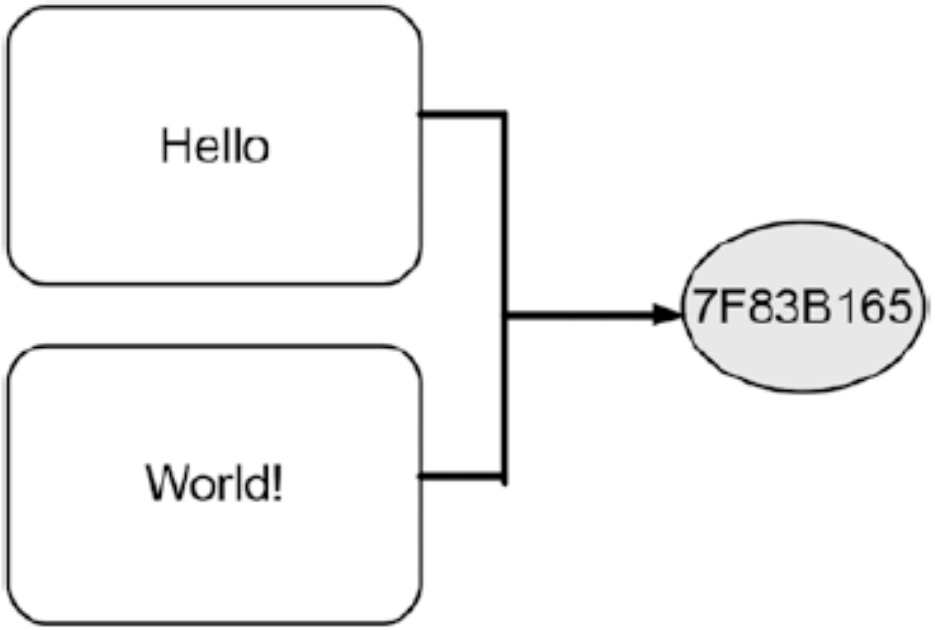
Independent hashing



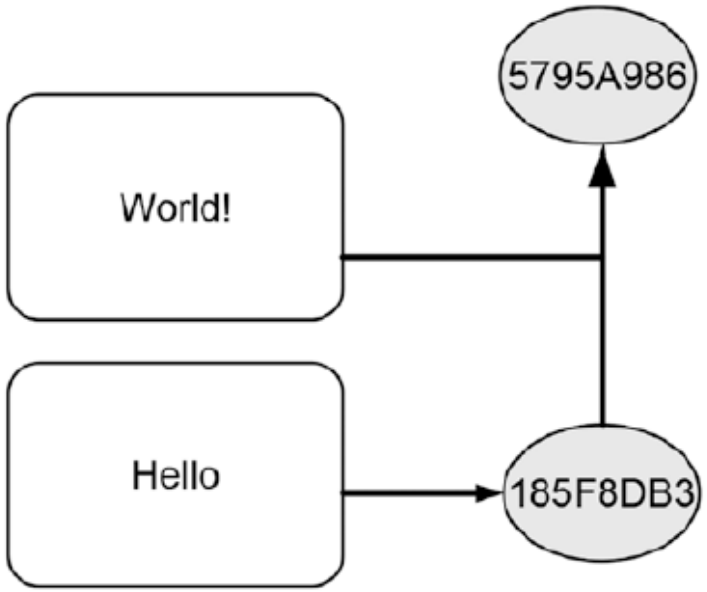
Repeated hashing

Types of Hashing

Combined hashing

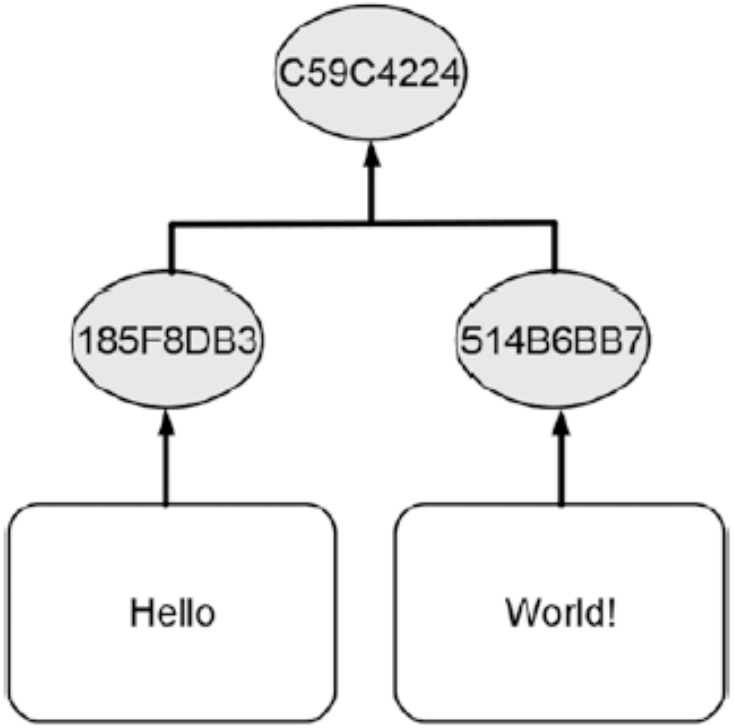


Sequential hashing



Types of Hashing

Hierarchical hashing



Hash Pointer

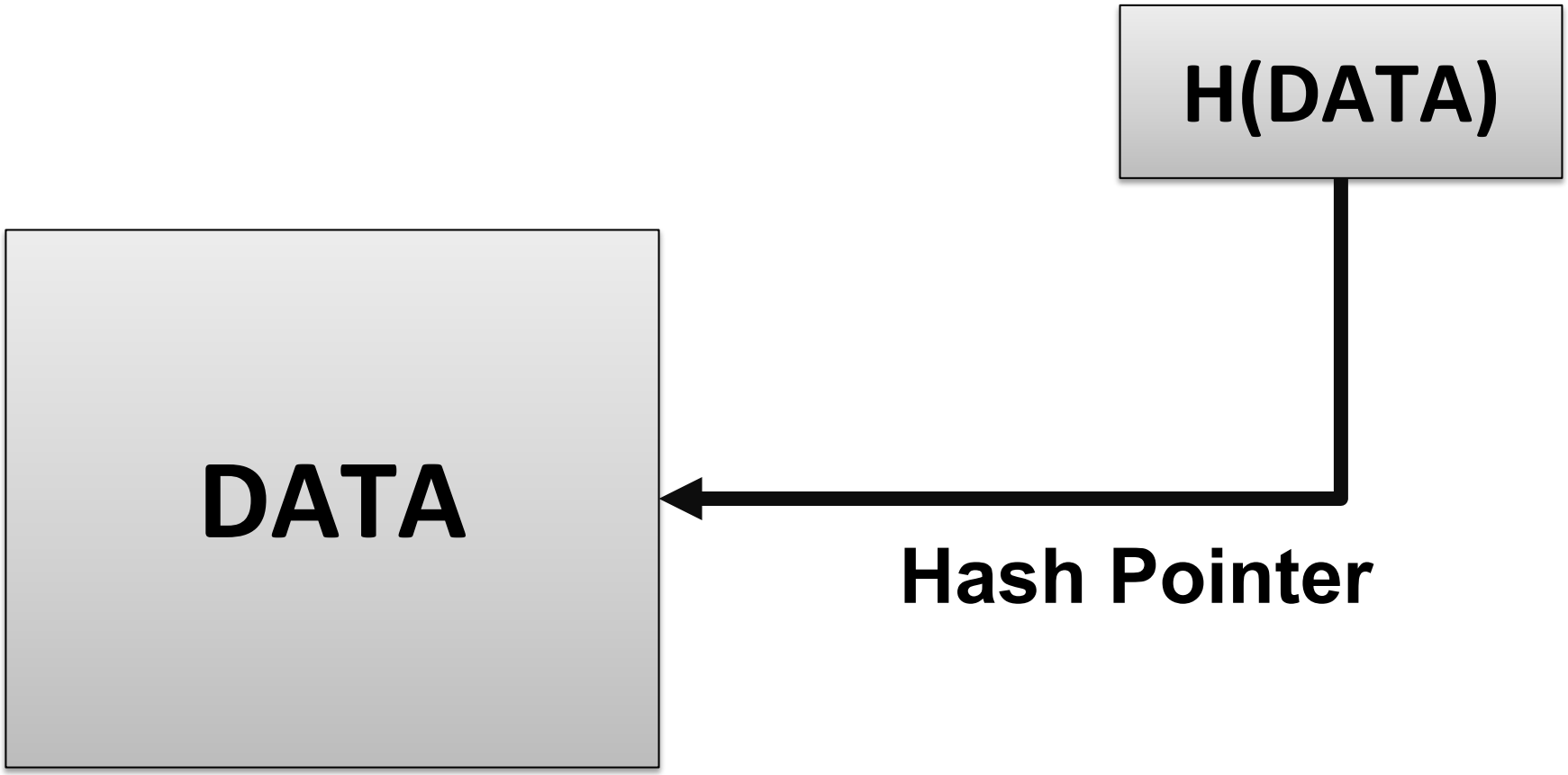
A **Cryptographic Hash Pointer** (Often called Hash Reference) is a pointer to a location where

- Some information is stored
- Hash of the information is stored

With the hash pointer, we can

- Retrieve the information
- Check that the information has not been modified (by computing the message digest and then matching the digest with the stored hash value)

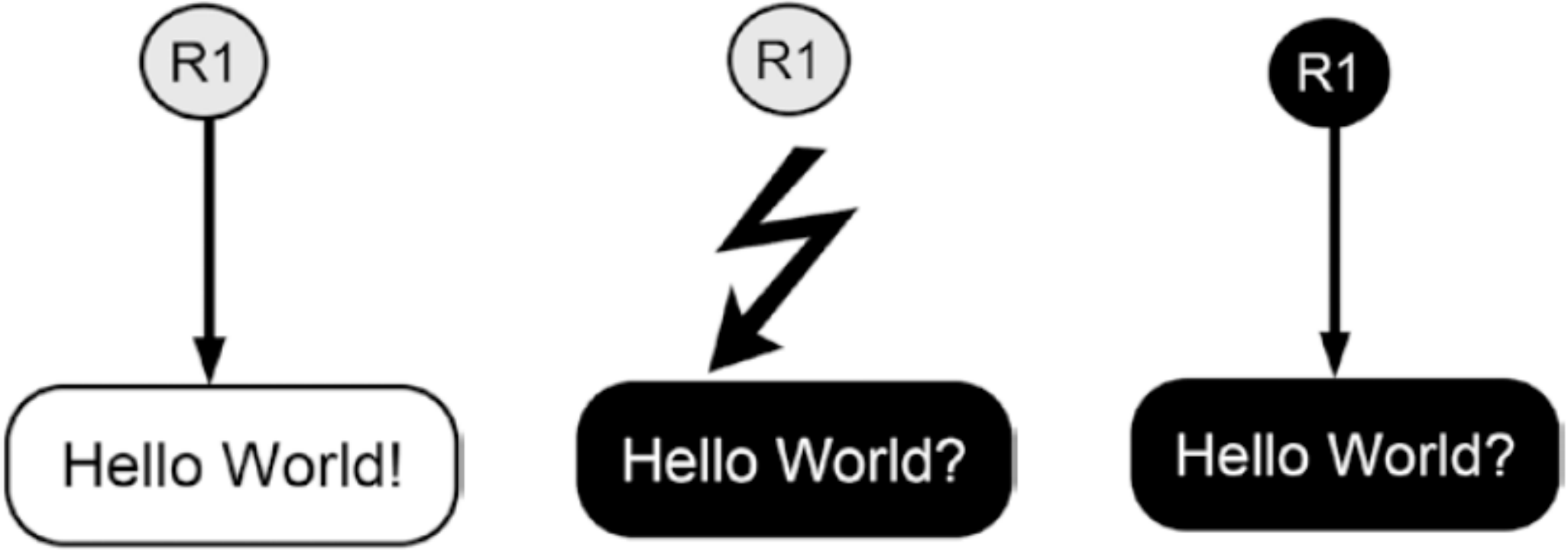
Hash Pointer



Reminds you of a linked list??

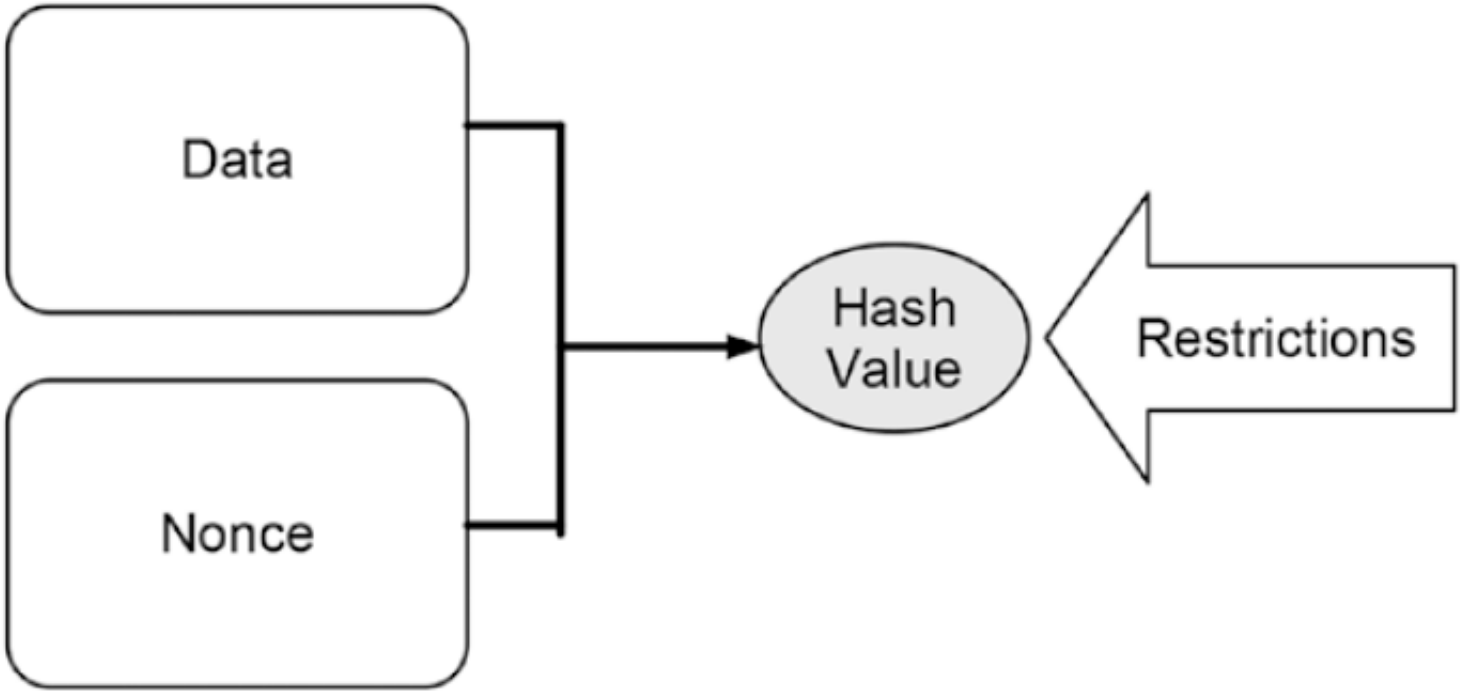
Reference: Coursera course on Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Technologies

Tamper Detection using Hash Pointer



Courtesy: Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps by Daniel Drescher

Making Tampering a Hash Chain Computationally Challenging



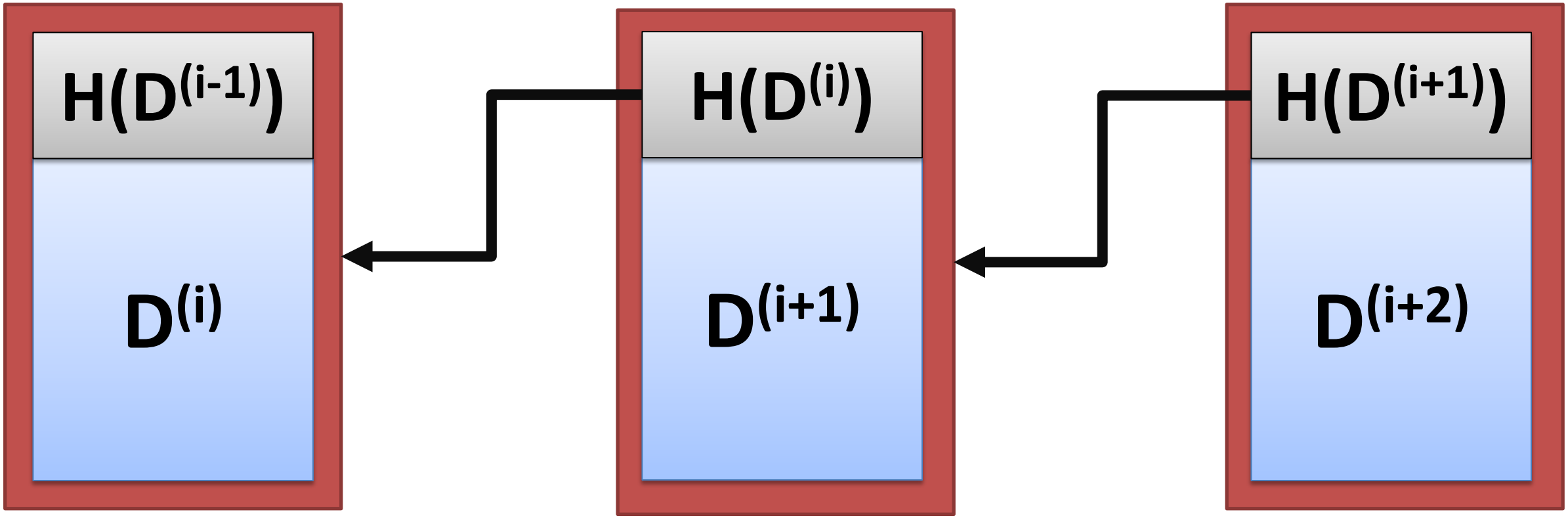
Nonces for Solving a Hash Puzzle

Nonce	Text to Be Hashed	Output
0	Hello World! 0	4EE4B774
1	Hello World! 1	3345B9A3
2	Hello World! 2	72040842
3	Hello World! 3	02307D5F
	...	
613	Hello World! 613	E861901E
614	Hello World! 614	**00068A3C**
615	Hello World! 615	5EB7483F

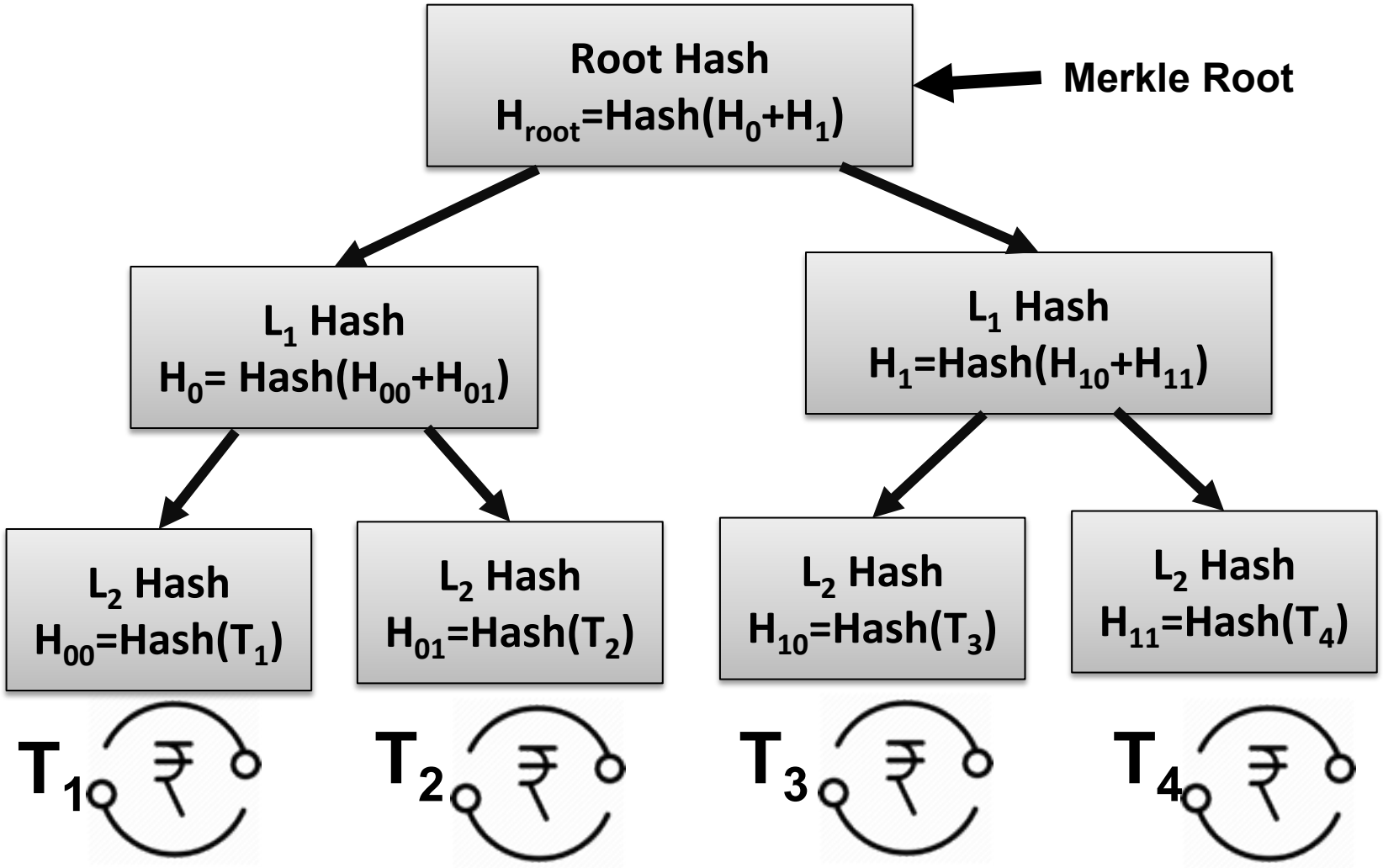
http://www.blockchain-basics.com/HashFunctions.html

Courtesy: Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps by Daniel Drescher

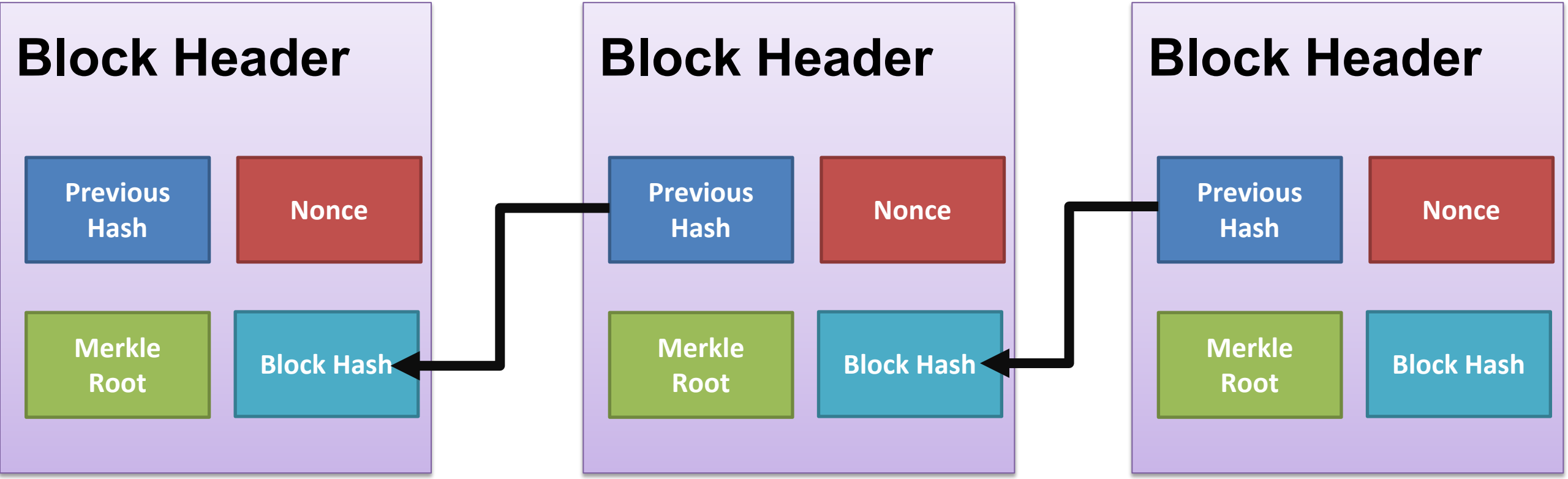
Detect Tampering from Hash Pointers - Hashchain



Merkle Tree – Organization of Hash Pointers in a Tree



Blockchain as a Hashchain



Digital Signature

A **digital code**, which can be included with an electronically transmitted document to verify

- The content of the document is authenticated
- The identity of the sender
- Prevent *non-repudiation* – sender will not be able to deny about the origin of the document

Purpose of Digital Signature

Only the **signing authority** can sign a document, but everyone can verify the signature

Signature is **associated with** the particular document

- Signature of one document cannot be transferred to another document

Public Key Cryptography

Also known as **asymmetrical cryptography** or **asymmetric key cryptography**

Key: A parameter that determines the functional output of a cryptography algorithm

Encryption: The key is used to convert a plain-text to a cypher-text; $M' = E(M, k)$

Decryption: The key is used to convert the cypher-text to the original plain text; $M = D(M', k)$

Public Key Cryptography

Properties of a cryptographic key (you need to prevent it from being guessed)

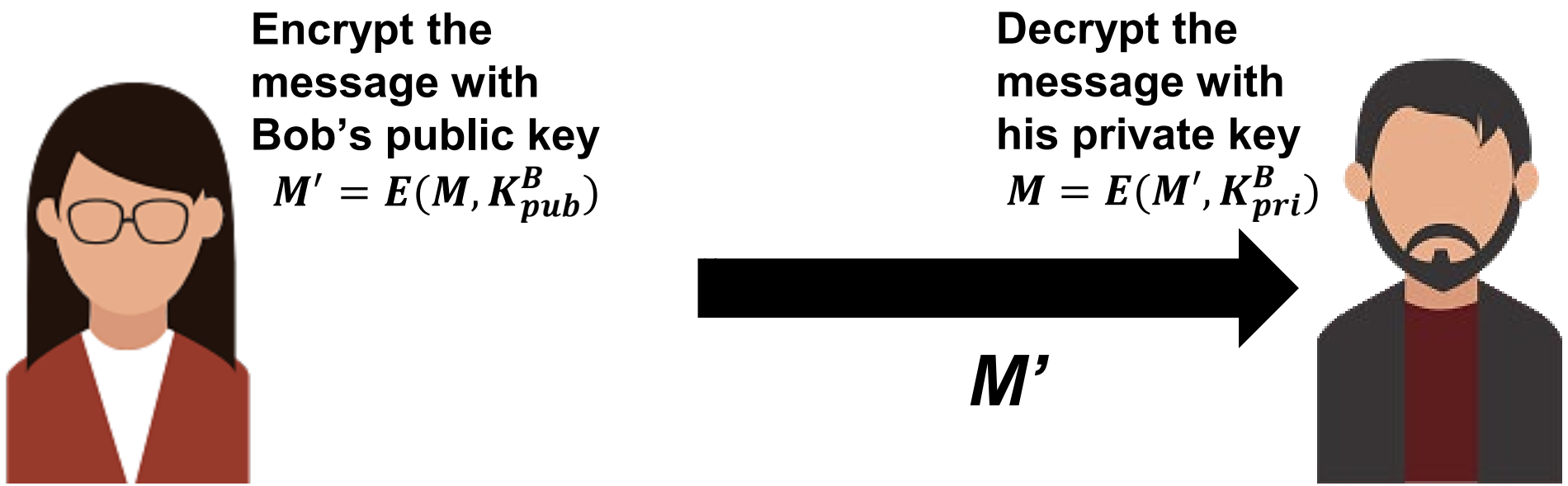
- Generate the key truly randomly so that the attacker cannot guess it
- The key should be of sufficient length – increasing the length makes the key difficult to guess
- The key should contain sufficient entropy, all the bits in the key should be equally random

Public Key Cryptography

Two keys are used

Private key: Only Alice has her private key

Public key: "Public" to everyone – everyone knows Alice's public key



Public Key Encryption - RSA

Named over (Ron) Rivest – (Adi) Shamir – (Leonard) Adleman – inventors of the public key cryptosystem

The encryption key is public and decryption key is kept secret (private key)

- Anyone can encrypt the data
- Only the intended receiver can decrypt the data

RSA Algorithm

Four phases

- Key generation
- Key distribution
- Encryption
- Decryption

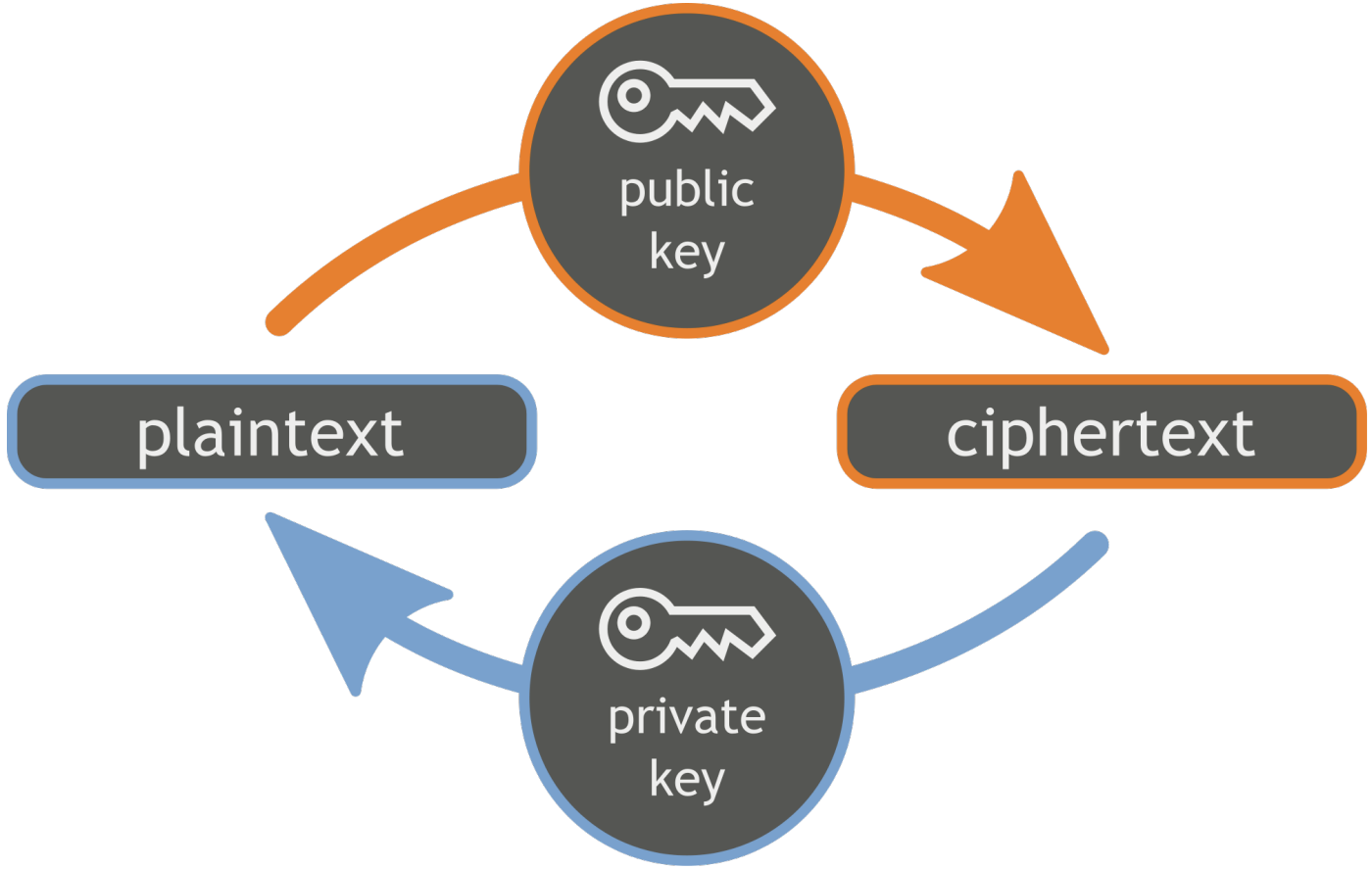


Image source:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/

Public and Private Keys in RSA

It is feasible to find **three very large positive integers** e, d and n; such that *modular exponentiation* for integers m $(0 \leq m < n)$:

$$(m^e)^d \equiv m\ (mod\ n)$$

Even if you know e, n and m; it is extremely difficult to find d

Note that

$$(m^e)^d \equiv m\ (mod\ n) = \left(m^d\right)^e \equiv m\ (mod\ n)$$

(e, n) is used as the public key and (d, n) is used as the private key.

m is the message that needs to be encrypted.

RSA Key Generation and Distribution

Chose two distinct prime integer numbers p and q

p and q should be chosen at random to ensure tight security

Compute $n = pq$; n is used as the modulus, the length of n is called the key length

Compute $\phi(n) = (p-1)(q-1)$ – *Euler totient function*

Choose an integer e such that $1 < e < \phi(n)$ and $\gcd\big(e, \phi(n)\big) = 1$; e and $\phi(n)$ are co-prime

Determine $d = e^{-1}(mod\ \phi(n))$: d is the *modular multiplicative inverse* of $e(mod\ \phi(n))$ [Note $d.e = 1(mod\ \phi(n))$]

RSA Encryption and Decryption

Let m be the integer representation of a message M.

Encryption with public key $(\boldsymbol{e}, \boldsymbol{n})$

$$c \equiv m^e \ (mod\ n)$$

Decryption with private key $(\boldsymbol{d}, \boldsymbol{n})$

$$m \equiv c^d \ (mod\ n) \equiv (m^e)^d (mod\ n)$$

RSA Encryption and Decryption - Example

Key Selection

Select 2 prime numbers: p=17, q=11

Calculate n=pq=17×11=187

Calculate $\phi(n)=(p-1)(q-1)=16\times10=160$

Select e such that e is relatively prime to $\phi(n)=160$ and less than $\phi(n)$; Let e=7

Determine d such that $d.e \equiv 1 \bmod 160$ and $d<160$; Can determine d = 23 since $23\times7 = 161 = 1\times160+1$

Encryption of Plaintext M = 88

$C=88^7 \bmod 187$

$= [(88^4 \bmod 187)\times(88^2 \bmod 187)\times(88^1 \bmod 187)] \bmod 187 = (88\times77\times132) \bmod 187 = 11$

Decryption of Ciphertext C = 11

$M=11^{23} \bmod 187$

$=[(11^1 \bmod 187)\times(11^2 \bmod 187)\times(11^4 \bmod 187)\times(11^8 \bmod 187)\times(11^8 \bmod 187)] \bmod 187$

$=(11\times121\times55\times33\times33) \bmod 187 = (79720245) \bmod 187 = 88$

Courtesy: Cryptography and Network Security by William Stallings

RSA Encryption and Decryption - Demo

https://www.devglan.com/online-tools/rsa-encryption-decryption

Digital Signature using Public Key Cryptography

Sign the message using the Private key

Only Alice can know her private key

Verify the signature using the Public key

Everyone has Alice's public key and they can verify the signature

Sign the message with her private key

$$M' = E(M, K^A_{pri})$$

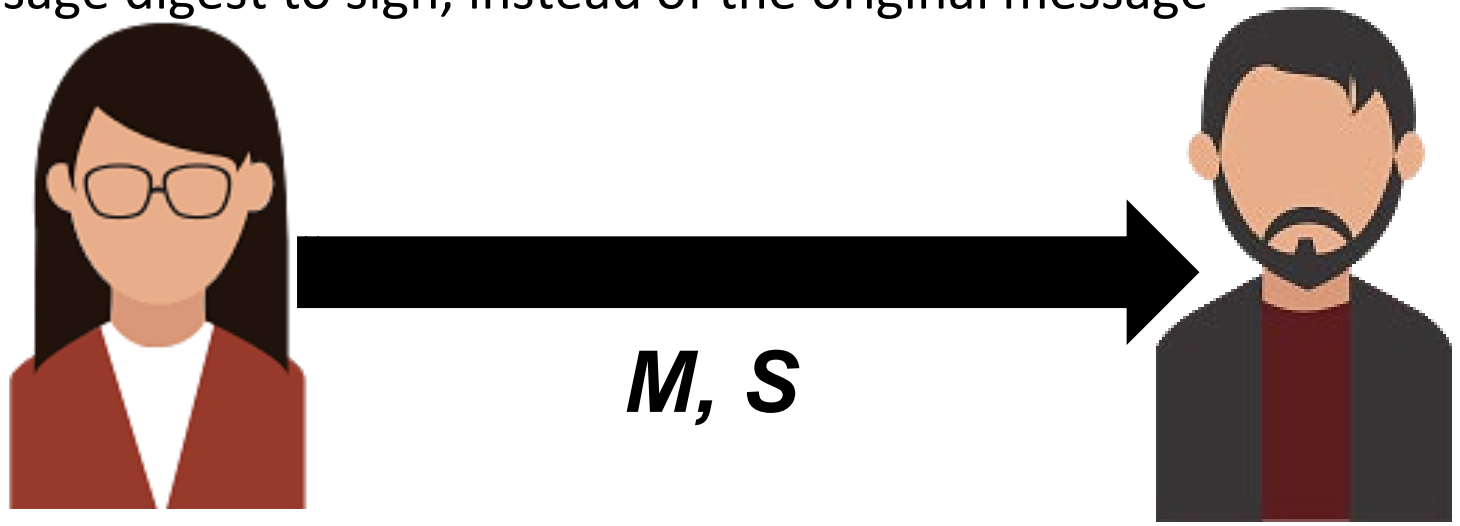
Verify the signature using Alice's public key

$$M = E(M', K^A_{pub})$$

M, M'

Reduce the Signature Size

Use the message digest to sign, instead of the original message



Sign the message with her private key

$$S = E(H(M), K^A_{pri})$$

Verify the signature using Alice's public key

$$H(M) = E(S, K^A_{pub})$$

Digital Signature in Blockchain

Used to validate the origin of a transaction

- Prevent non-repudiation
  - **Alice cannot deny her own transactions**
  - **No one else can claim Alice's transaction as his/her own transaction**

Bitcoin uses *Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm* ***(ECDSA)***

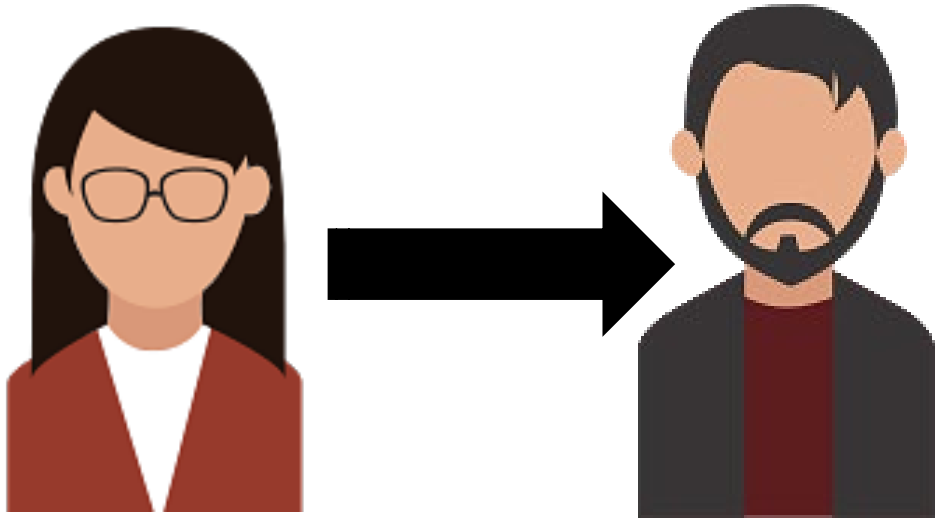
- Based on elliptic curve cryptography
- Supports good randomness in key generation

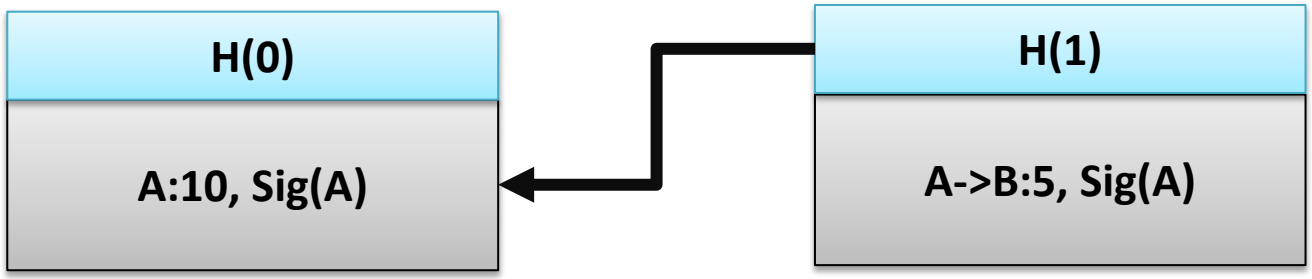
A Cryptocurrency using Hashchain and Digital Signatures

A:10, Sig(A)

Alice generates 10 coins
Sign the transaction A:10 using Alice's private key and put that in the blockchain

A Cryptocurrency using Hashchain and Digital Signatures





Alice transfers 5 coins to Bob

Sign the transaction A->B:5 using Alice's private key and put that in the blockchain

A Cryptocurrency using Hashchain and Digital Signatures

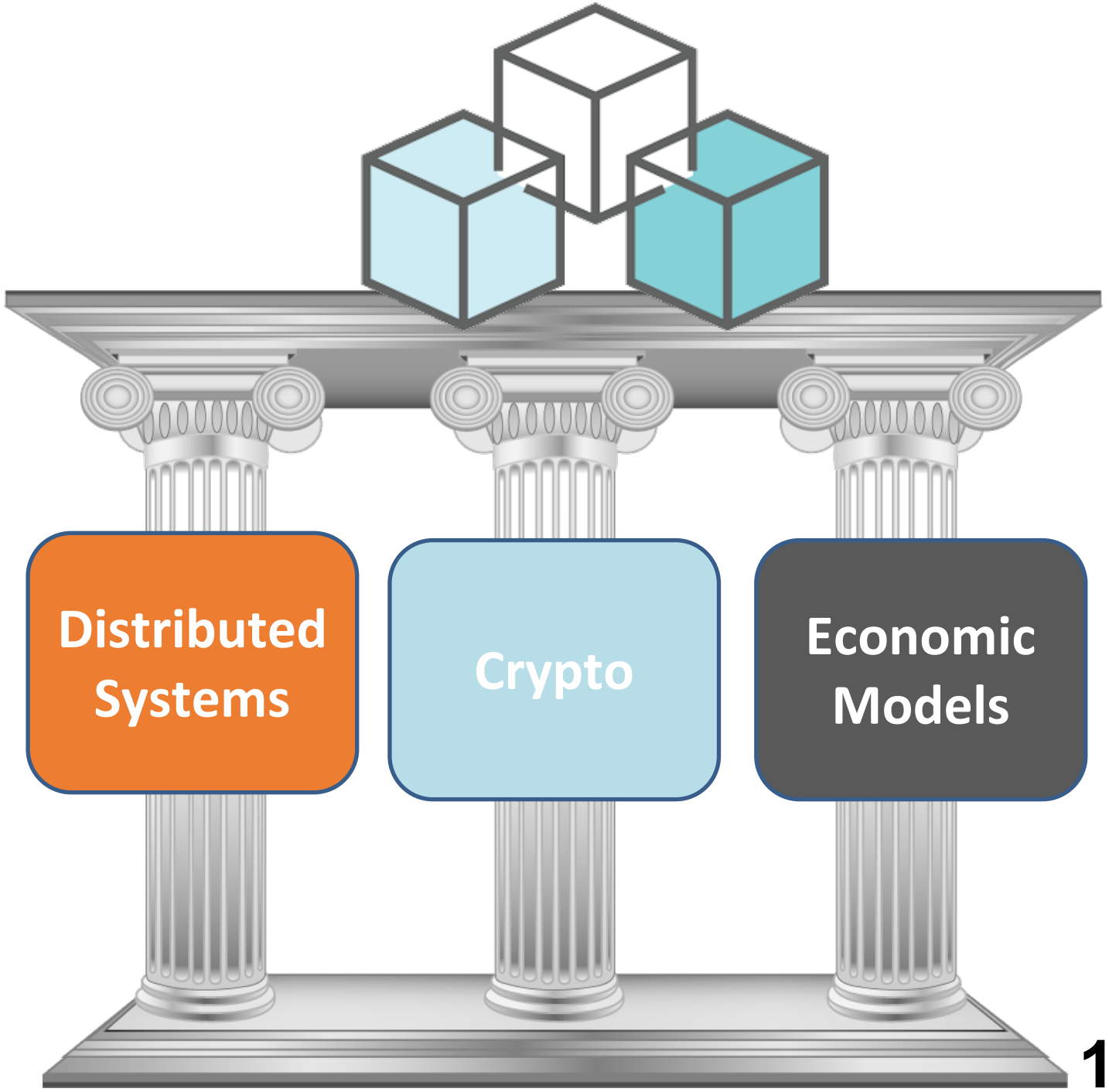
Maintain the economy

- Generate new coins with time
- Delete old coins with time

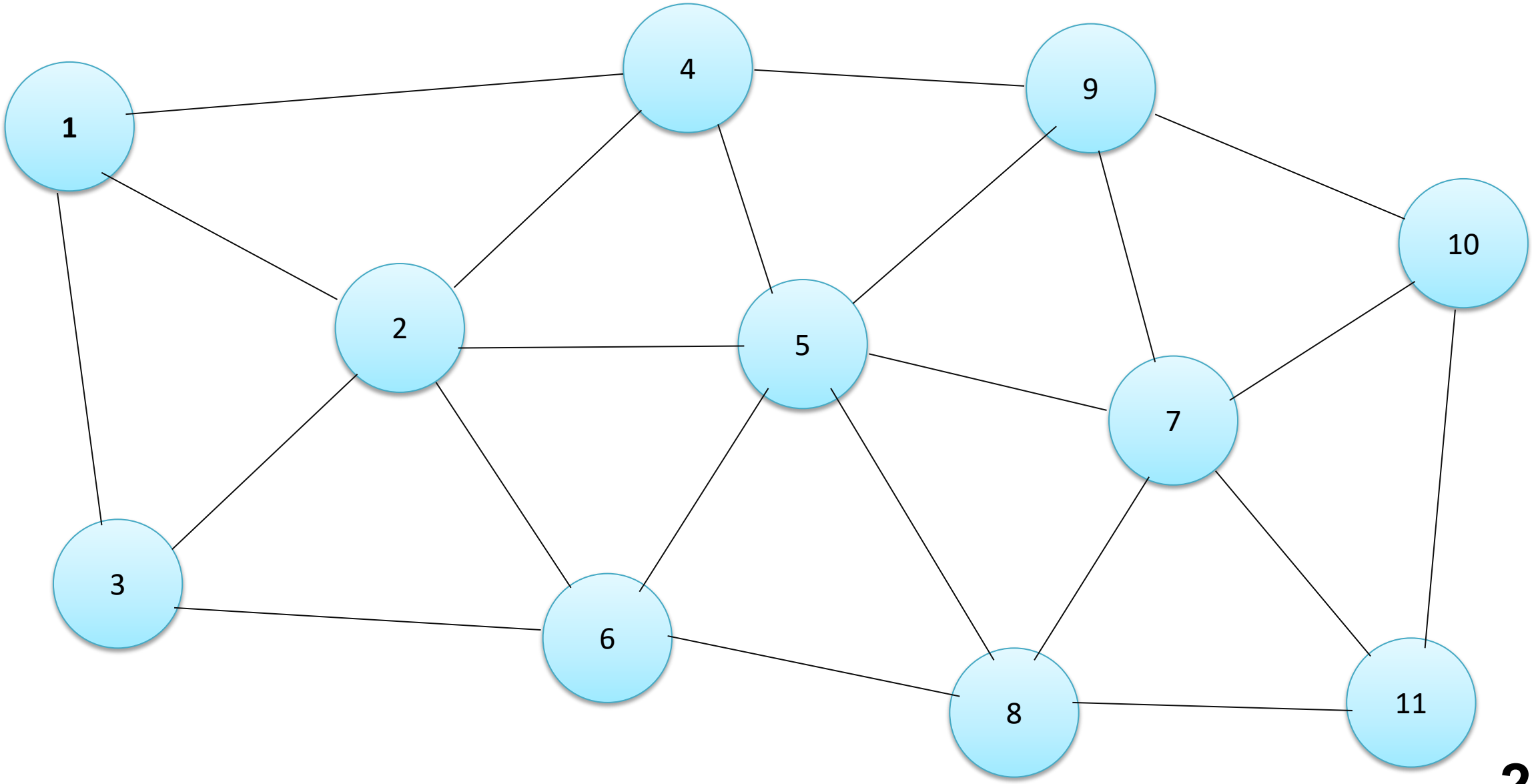
A central authority like bank can create and destroy coins based on economic policies

Crucial Question: How can we distribute coin management (creation and destroy)

Evolution of the Blockchain Technology (short history)


Distributed Systems
Crypto
Economic Models

Our Core Problem



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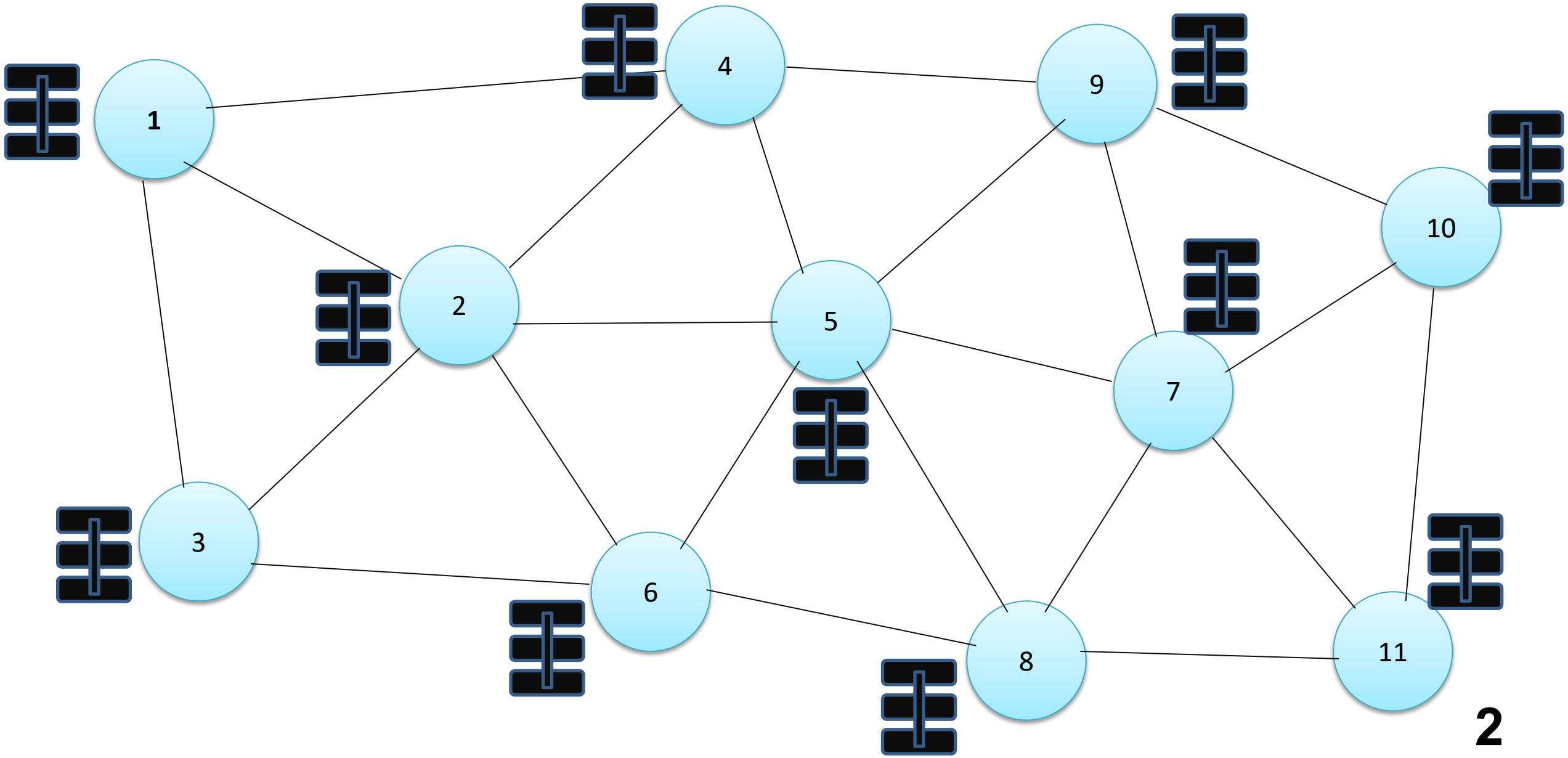

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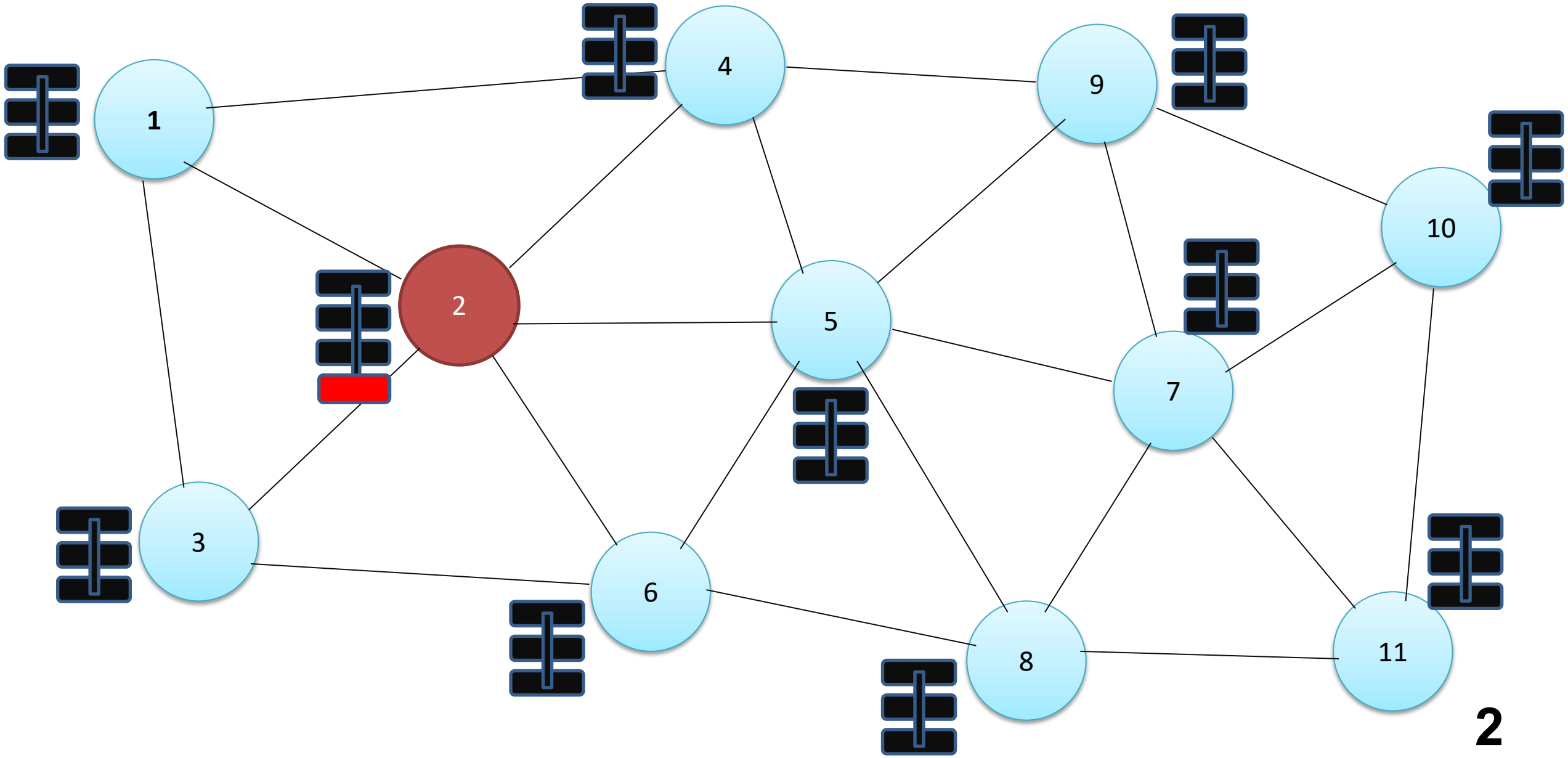

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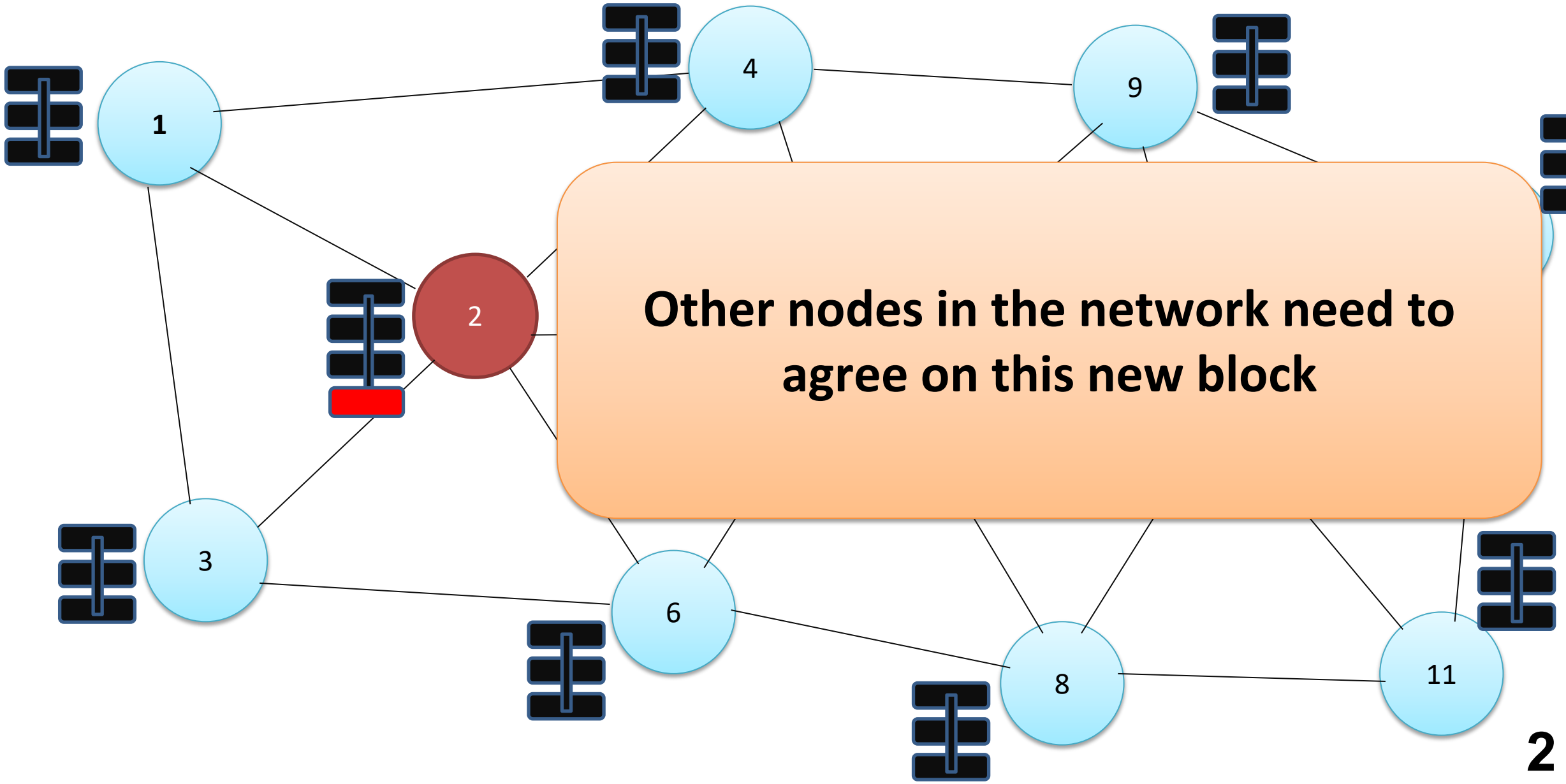

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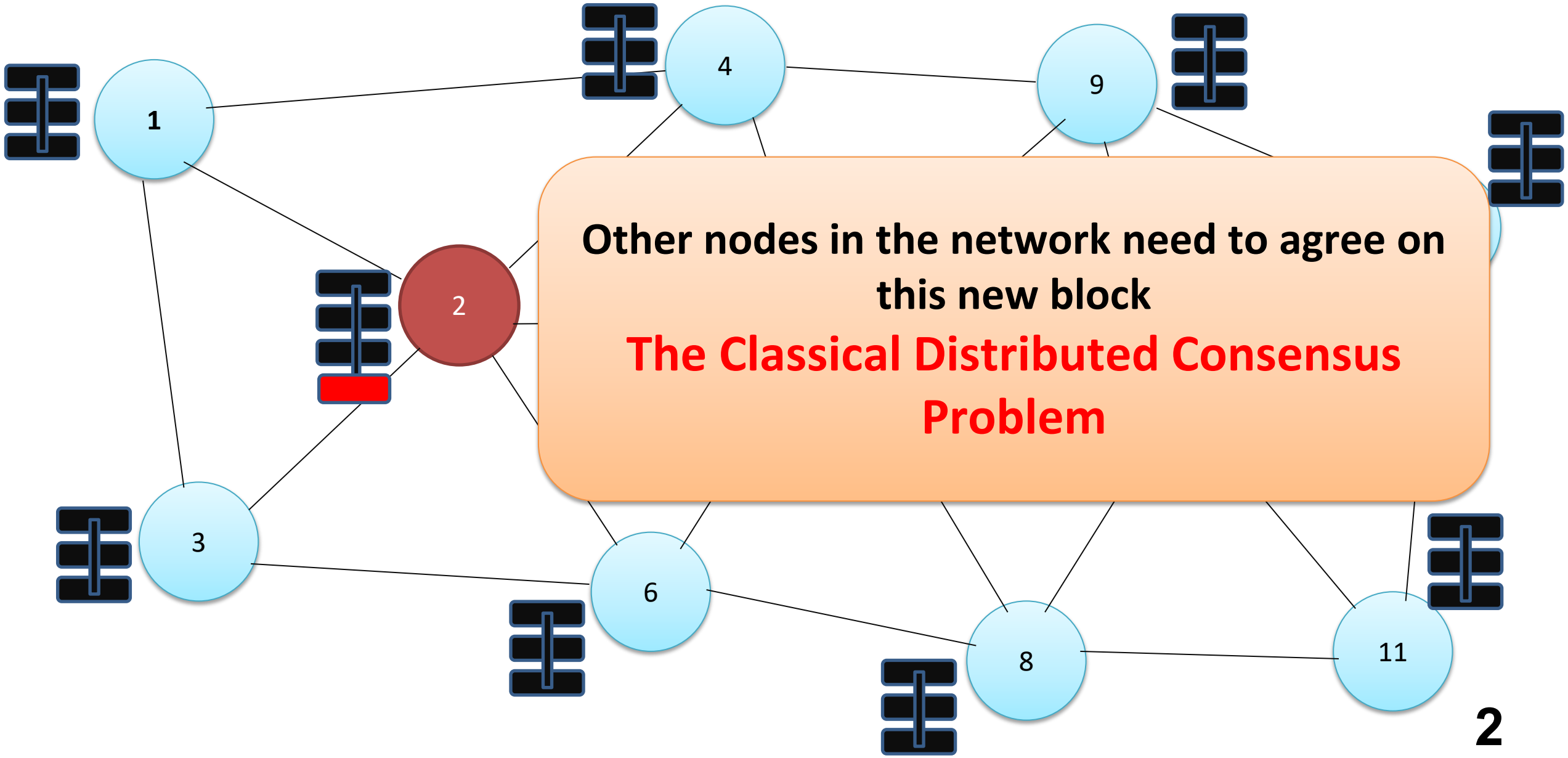


Distributed Consensus

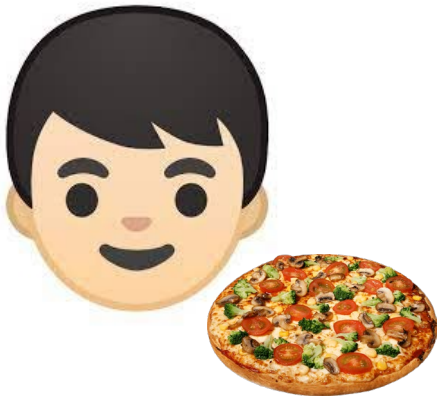


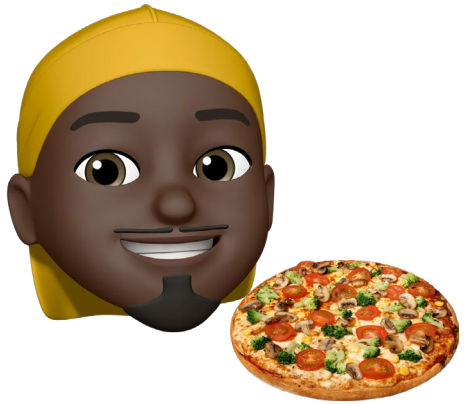


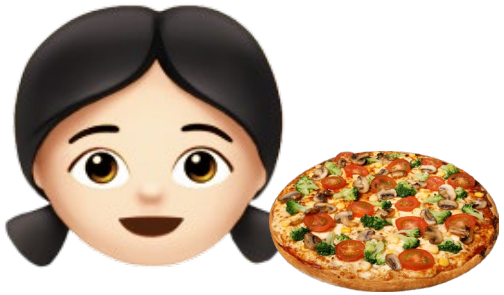


Distributed Consensus

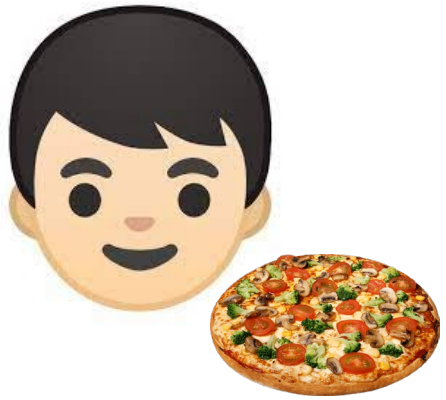
Distributed Consensus

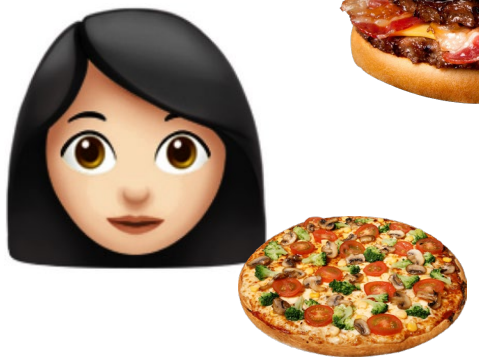


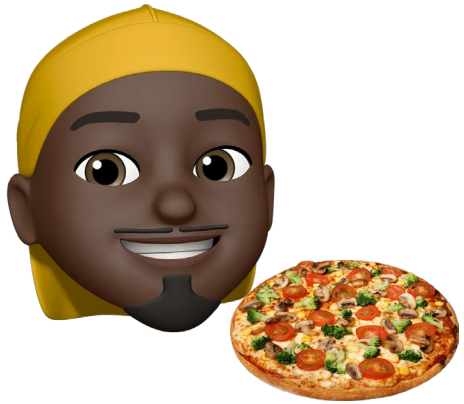
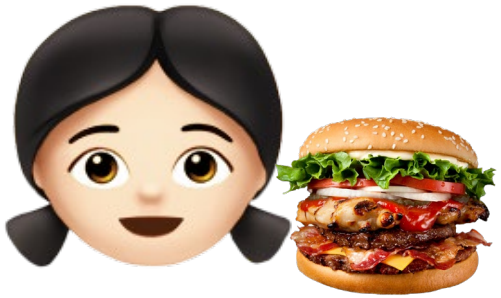




Distributed Consensus




Distributed Consensus





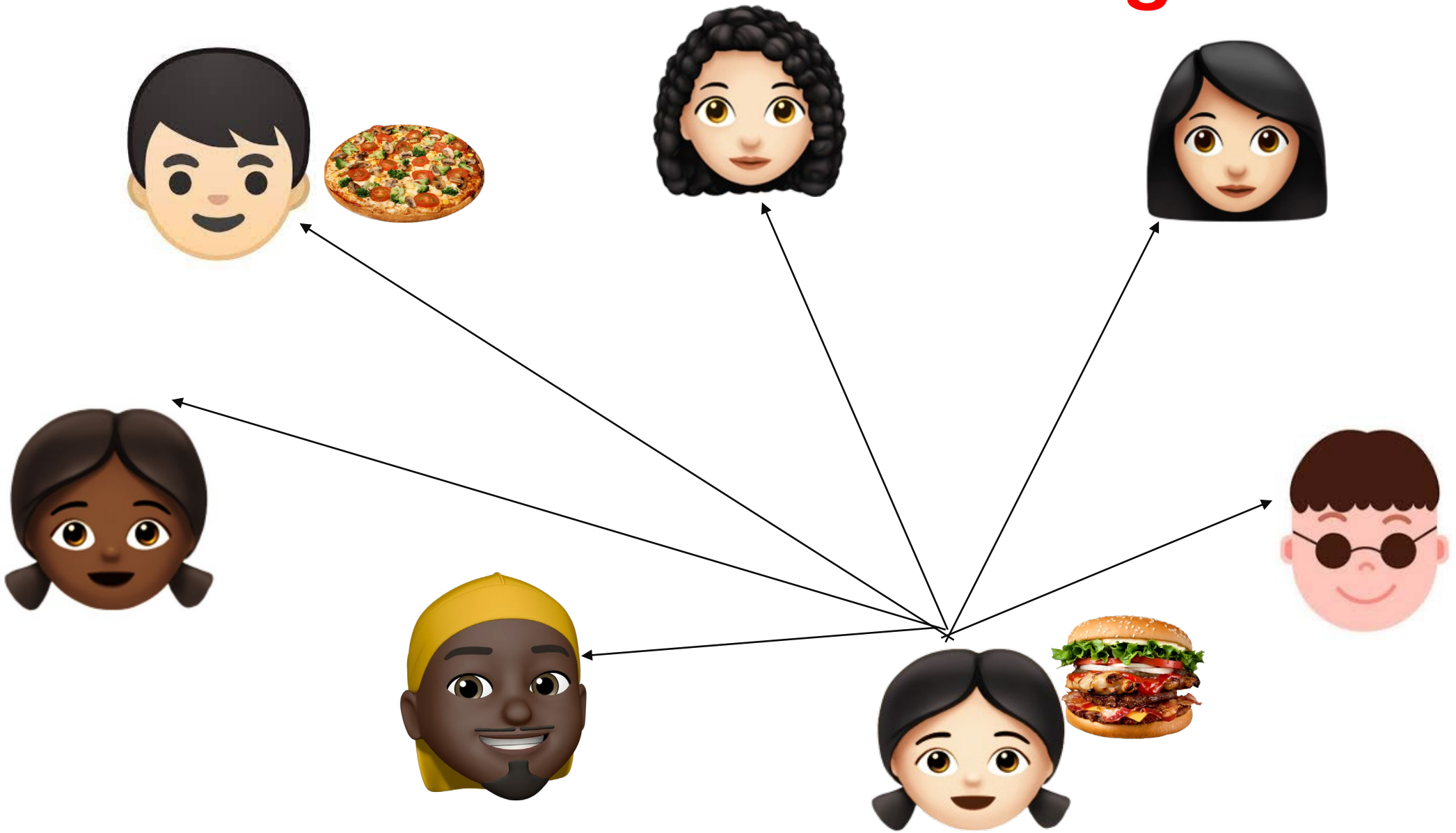




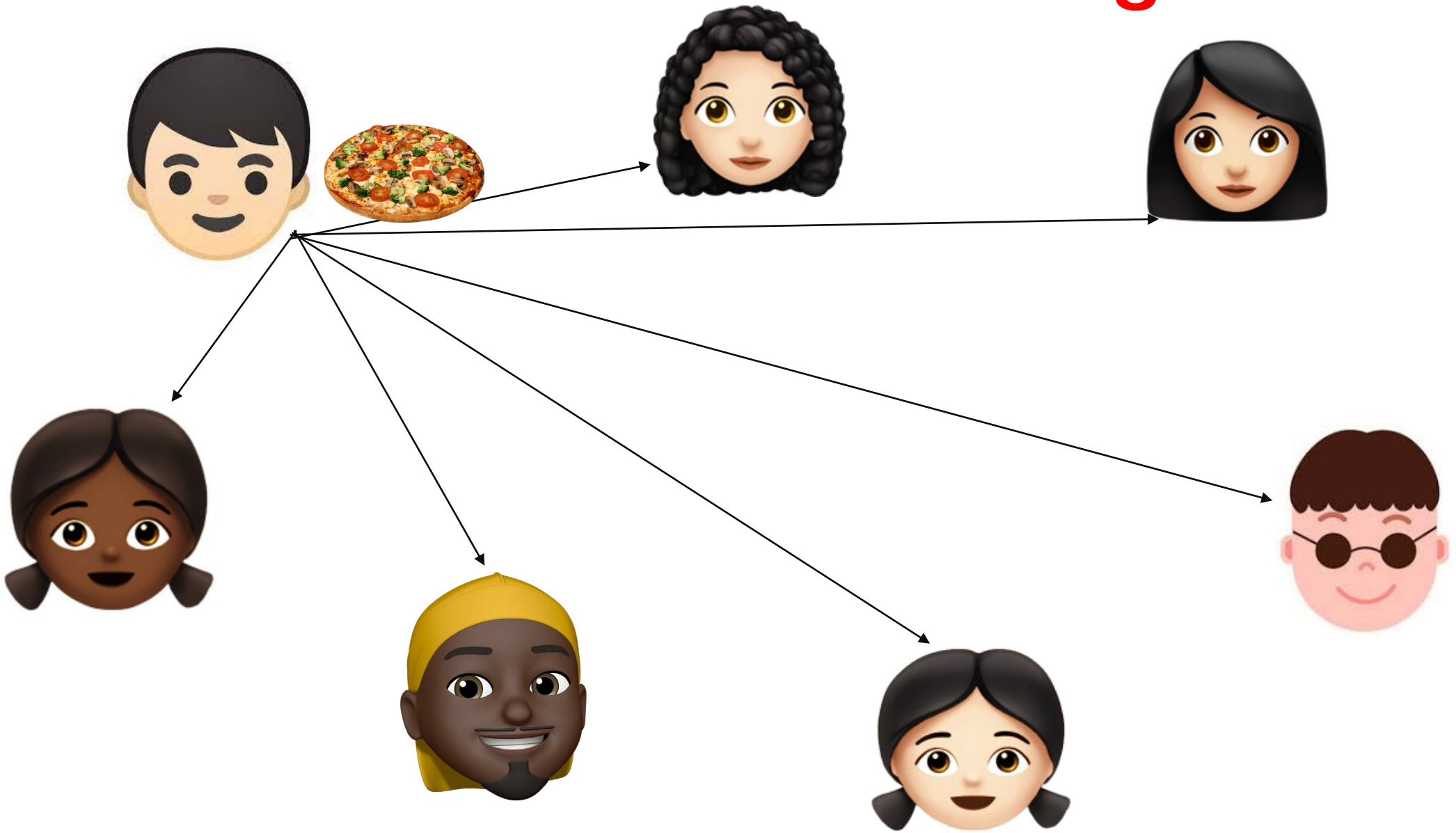
Distributed Consensus

How can we make this decision in a distributed way?

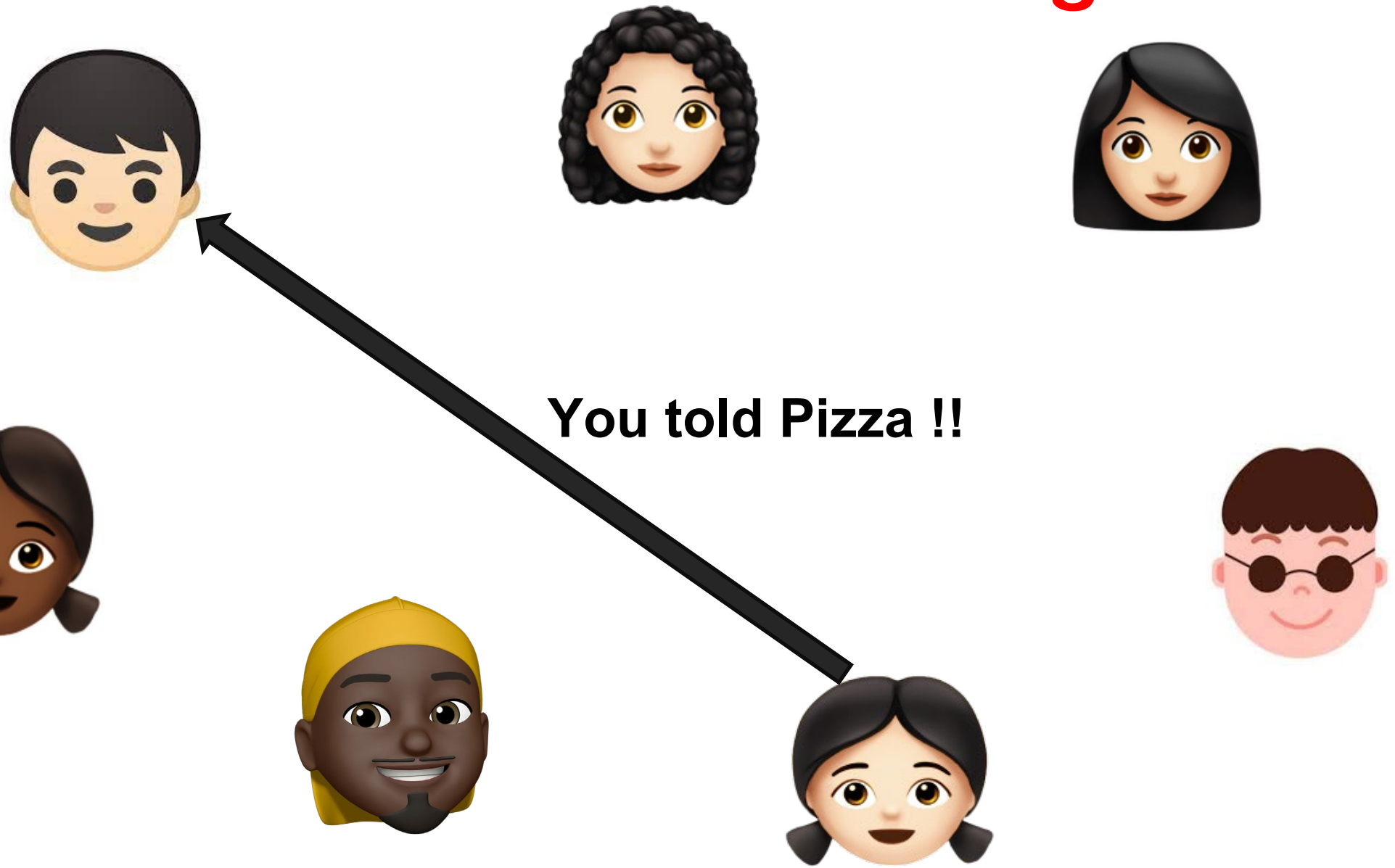
Distributed Consensus – Message Passing



Distributed Consensus – Message Passing



Distributed Consensus – Message Passing



Distributed Consensus – Message Passing

Nopes !! I told Burger

You* told Pizza !!**

Distributed Consensus

1985: FLP Impossibility Theorem – Fischer, Lynch, Paterson

Consensus is impossible in a fully asynchronous system even with a single crash fault

Distributed Consensus

1985: FLP Impossibility Theorem – Fischer, Lynch, Paterson

- Consensus is impossible in a fully asynchronous system even with a single crash fault
- Cannot ensure "Safety" and "Liveness" together

Distributed Consensus

1985: FLP Impossibility Theorem – Fischer, Lynch, Paterson

- Consensus is impossible in a fully asynchronous system even with a single crash fault
- Cannot ensure "**Safety**" and "Liveness" together

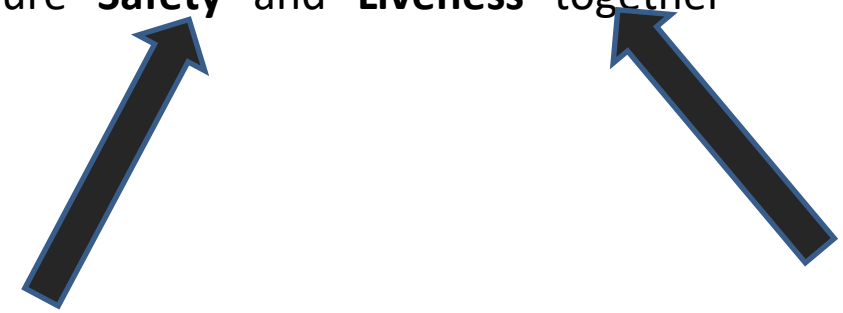
Correct processes will yield the correct output

Distributed Consensus

1985: FLP Impossibility Theorem – Fischer, Lynch, Paterson

Consensus is impossible in a fully asynchronous system even with a single crash fault

Cannot ensure "**Safety**" and "**Liveness**" together



Correct processes will yield the correct output

The output will be produced within a finite amount of time (eventual termination)

Distributed Consensus

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Distributed Consensus

2001: FLP Impossibility paper wins Dijkstra Prize

People starts talking about Distributed Systems

Distributed Consensus

2001: FLP Impossibility paper wins Dijkstra Prize
- People starts talking about Distributed Systems

2009: Zookeeper released
- Service for managing distributed applications

2010's onward: Different types of concensus algorithms released
- Multi-Paxos
- Raft
- Byzantine Fault Tolerance
- PBFT
- ...

Cryptocurrency

An automated payment system having the properties

- Inability of the third parties to determine payee, time, or the amount of payments made by individuals
- Ability to show the proof of payment
- Ability to stop the use of payment media reported stolen

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1983: eCash by David Chaum

- Money is stored in the computer – digitally signed by the bank
- Use a concept "blind signature" to make the payment anonymous – the content of a message is "blinded" (disguised) before it is signed

Blind Signature

Dialogue Consulting LLC

Trenz Pruca
Title
Company Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State ZIP
Date 8/15/13

Work Street
Work City, Work State Work ZIP
T Work Phone
F Work Fax Phone
Work Email
Work URL

Dear Trenz,

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, set eiusmod tempor incidunt et labore et dolore magna aliquam. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerc. Irure dolor in reprehend incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse molestaie cillum. Tia non ob ea soluad incom dereud facilis est er expedit distinct. Nam liber te conscient to factor tum poen legum odioque civiuda et tam. Neque pecun modut est neque nonor et imper ned libidig met, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed ut labore et dolore magna aliquam is nostrud exercitation ullam mmodo consequet. Duis aute in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur.

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Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Beare

Blind Signature

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Kenneth Beare

- **Wants to get your credentials verified**
- **but do not want to reveal the text of the letter to the person who is verifying the credentials**

Blind Signature

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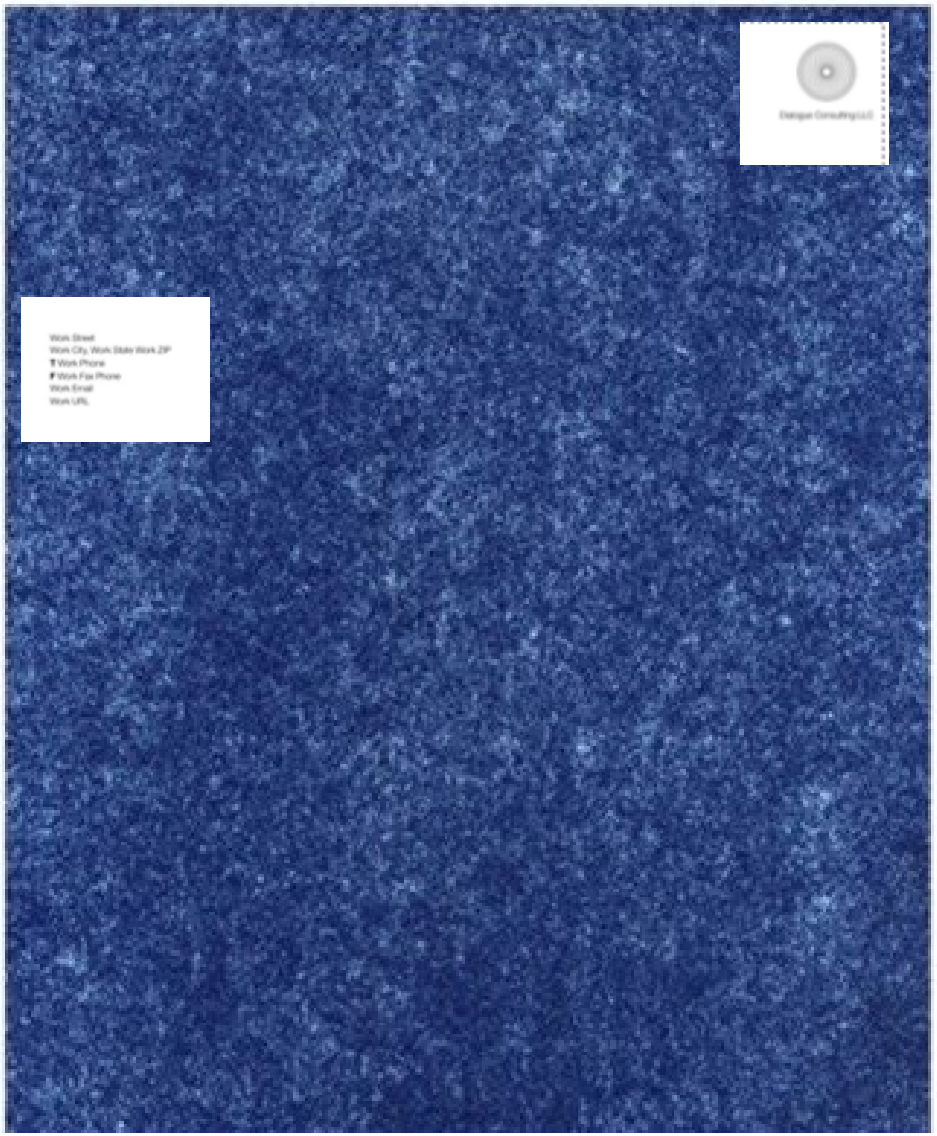

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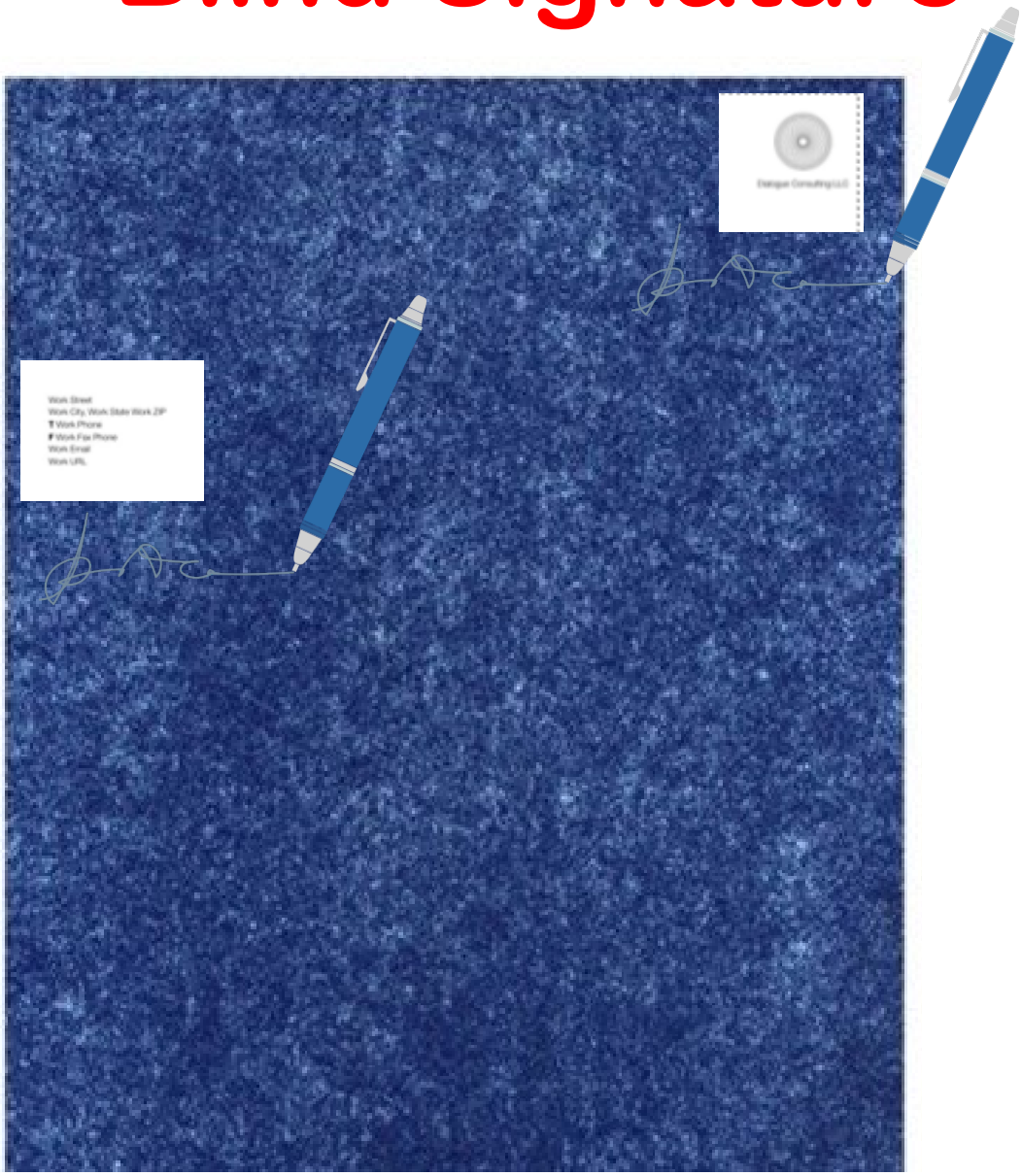

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- **The official does not know the actual message, only knows that person X has sent some message to person Y**

eCash to DigiCash

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- ECash could not provide much additional benefit
- Not very popular among people – currency management overhead is more than bank notes
- 1998: The company got bankrupted

Cryptocurrency – What is the Need?

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A complete distributed platform for cryptocurrency exchange

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Nick Szabo describes "bit gold"

- Participants solve a cryptographic puzzle that depends on the previous puzzle
- Some central control still needs to verify that the puzzle has been solved correctly

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Can we verify the proof of the puzzle solving in a distributed way?

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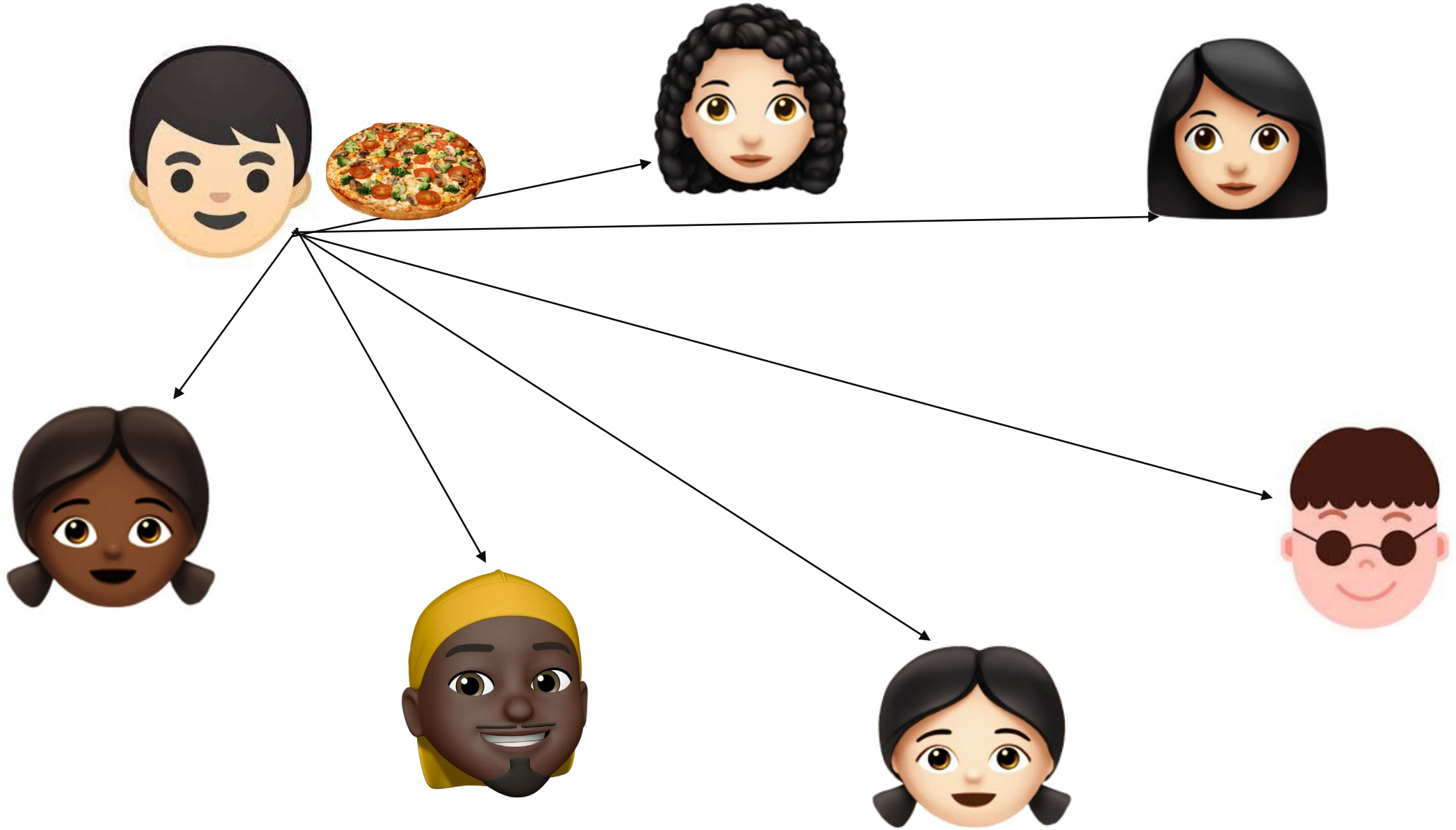
Distributed Consensus

Majority agrees that the puzzle has been solved correctly

What is the Issue with Classical Distributed Consensus?



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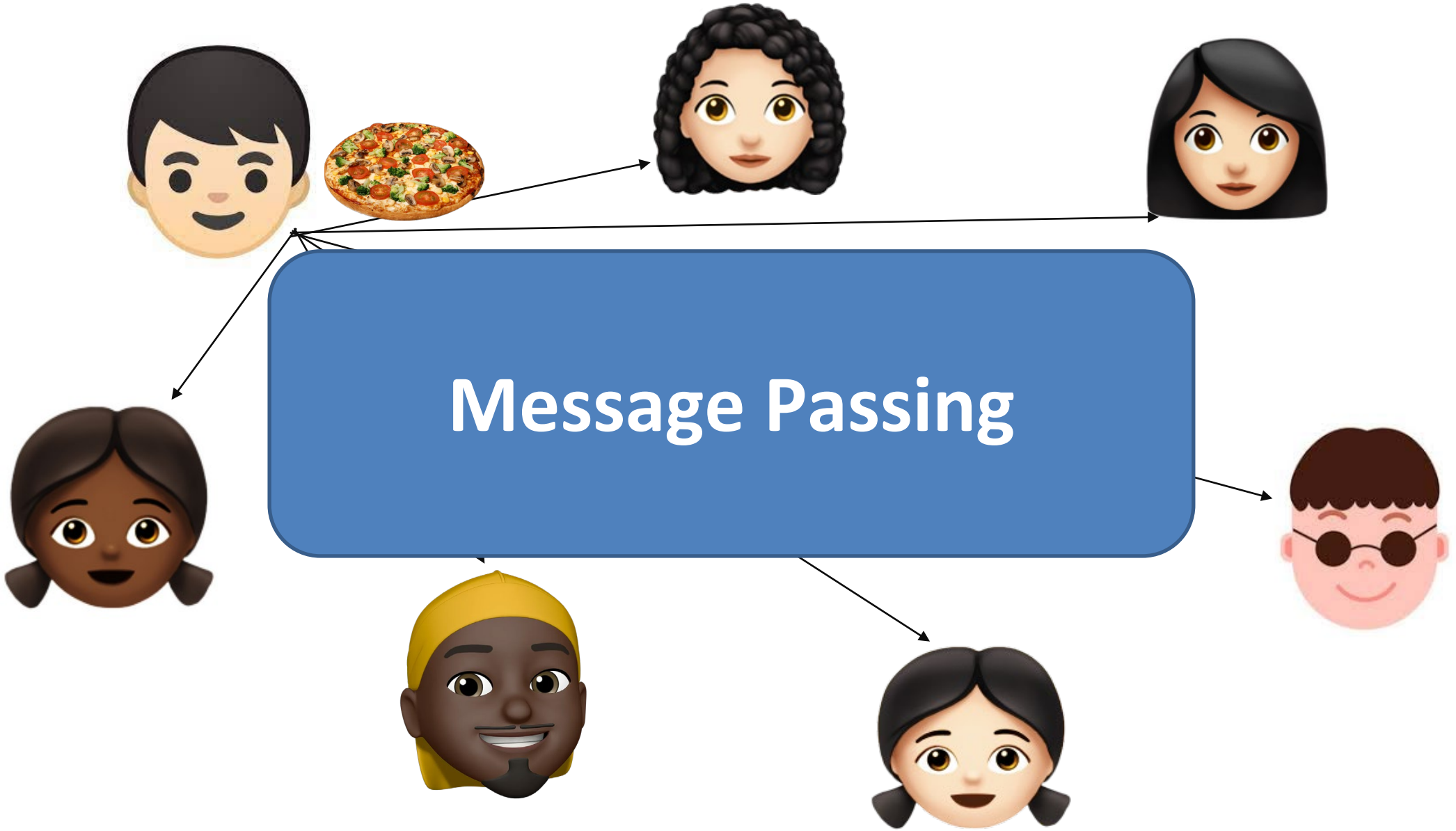

What is at the Core at Distributed Consensus?

What is the Issue with Classical Distributed Consensus?

Consensus in an Open Environment

2008: A whitepaper got floated on the Internet

Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System

Satoshi Nakamoto
satoshin@gmx.com
www.bitcoin.org

Abstract. A purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution. Digital signatures provide part of the solution, but the main benefits are lost if a trusted third party is still required to prevent double-spending. We propose a solution to the double-spending problem using a peer-to-peer network. The network timestamps transactions by hashing them into an ongoing chain of hash-based proof-of-work, forming a record that cannot be changed without redoing the proof-of-work. The longest chain not only serves as proof of the sequence of events witnessed, but proof that it came from the largest pool of CPU power. As long as a majority of CPU power is controlled by nodes that are not cooperating to attack the network, they'll generate the longest chain and outpace attackers. The network itself requires minimal structure. Messages are broadcast on a best effort basis, and nodes can leave and rejoin the network at will, accepting the longest proof-of-work chain as proof of what happened while they were gone.

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Hash Chain + Puzzle Solving as a Proof (from Bit Gold) + Coin Mining in an open P2P setup

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Proof of Work (PoW) -- Nakamoto Consensus

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The Key to Success:

Give more emphasis on "Liveness" rather than "Safety"

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Proof of Work (PoW) -- Nakamoto Consensus

The Key to Success:

Give more emphasis on "Liveness" rather than "Safety"

Participants may agree on a transaction that is not the final one in the chain

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- Hash Chain + Puzzle Solving as a Proof (from Bit Gold) + Coin Mining in an open P2P setup
- **Proof of Work** (PoW) -- Nakamoto Consensus
- Have not coined the term "Blockchain" in the paper !!

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2011: Litecoin got introduced

2015: Ethereum network went live

Sometime around 2016: Term "Blockchain" got popular

Why Someone Will be Interested to Solve Complex Puzzles?

- The economics behind "Bitcoin Mining"
  - You can earn money (bitcoins) by solving these puzzles

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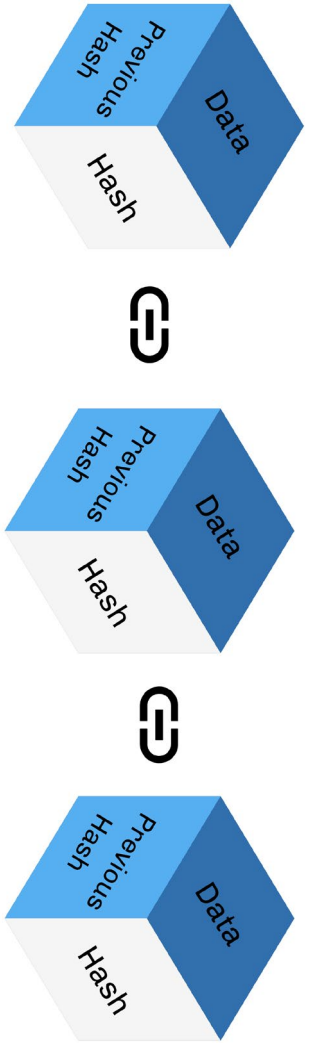

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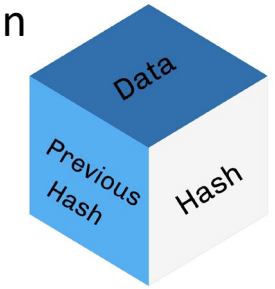

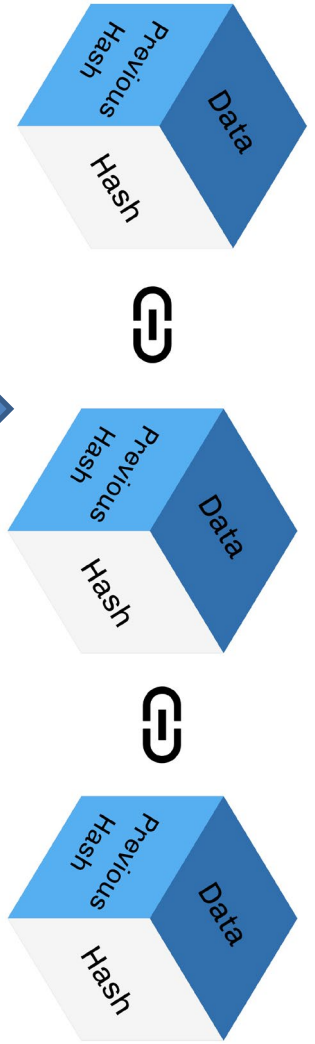

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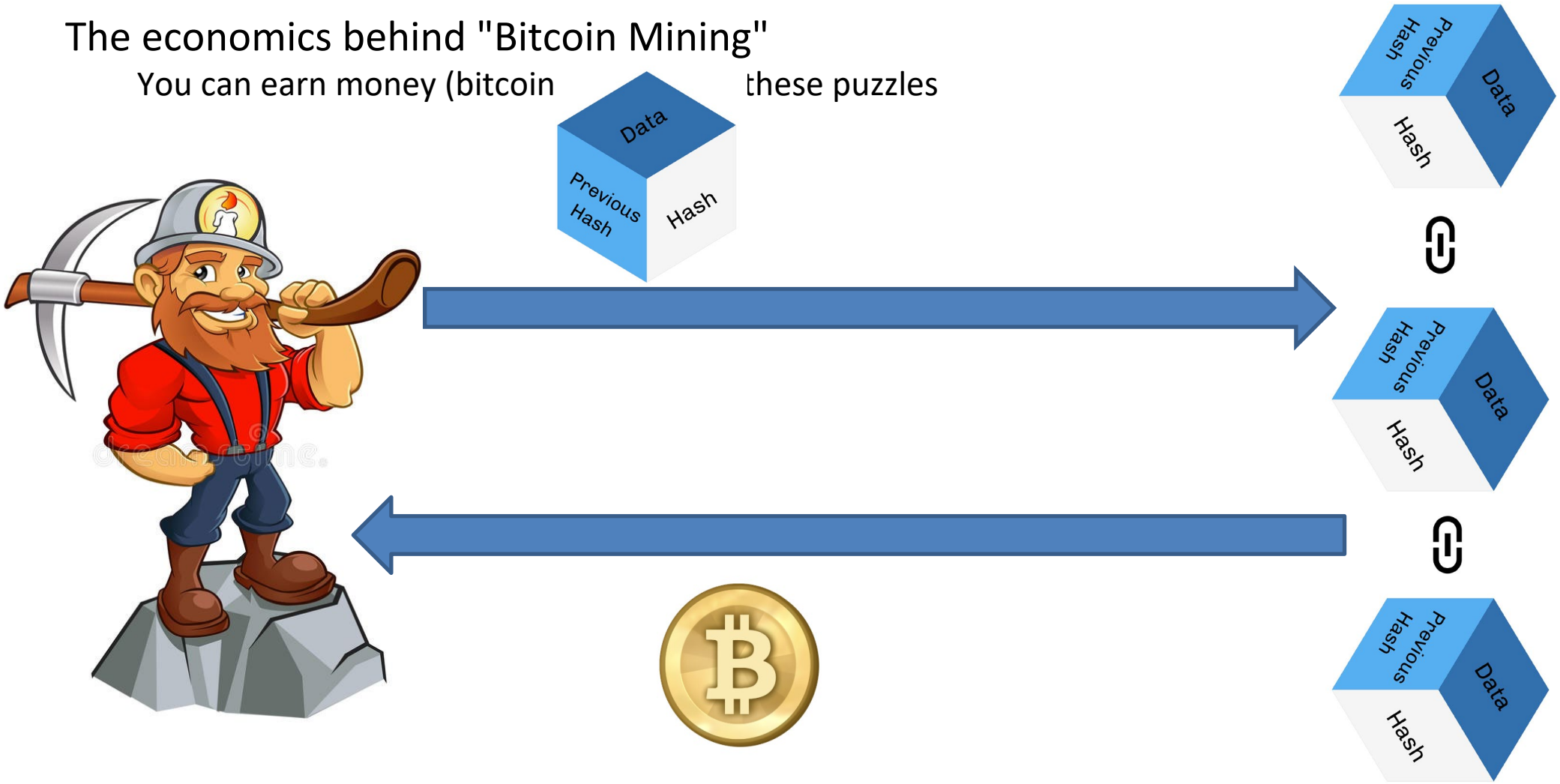

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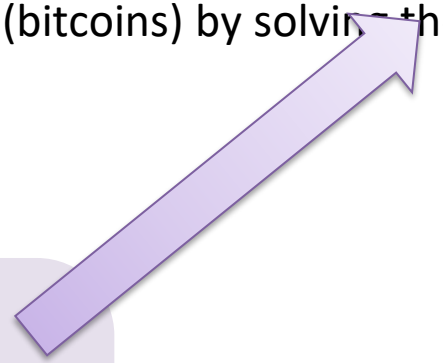

Encourage the community to participate in the mining through incentivization

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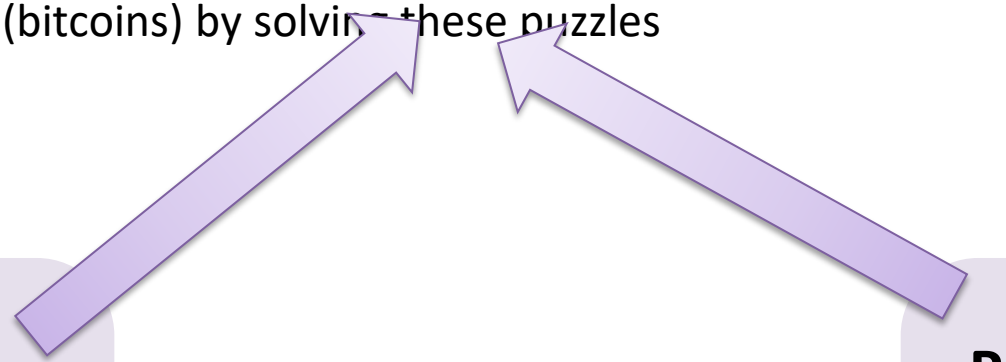

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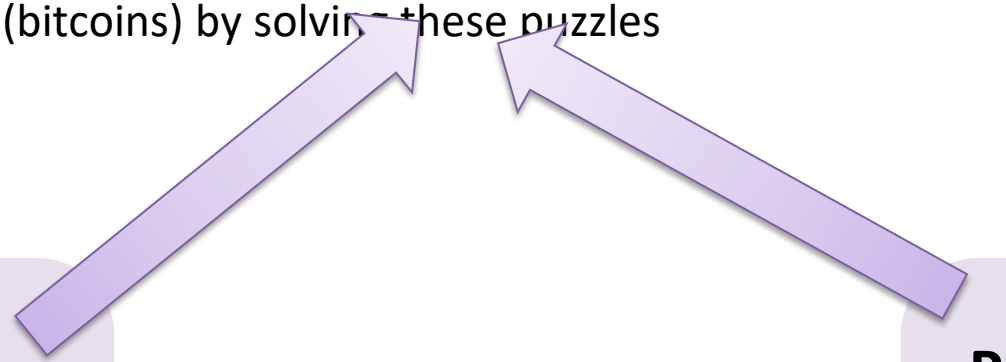

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Produces new Bitcoins in the System (Similar to a Minting new Coins)

The Bitcoin network works like a Reserve Bank to regulate the flow of Money in the market, but without explicit governance

Popularity of Cryptocurrencies

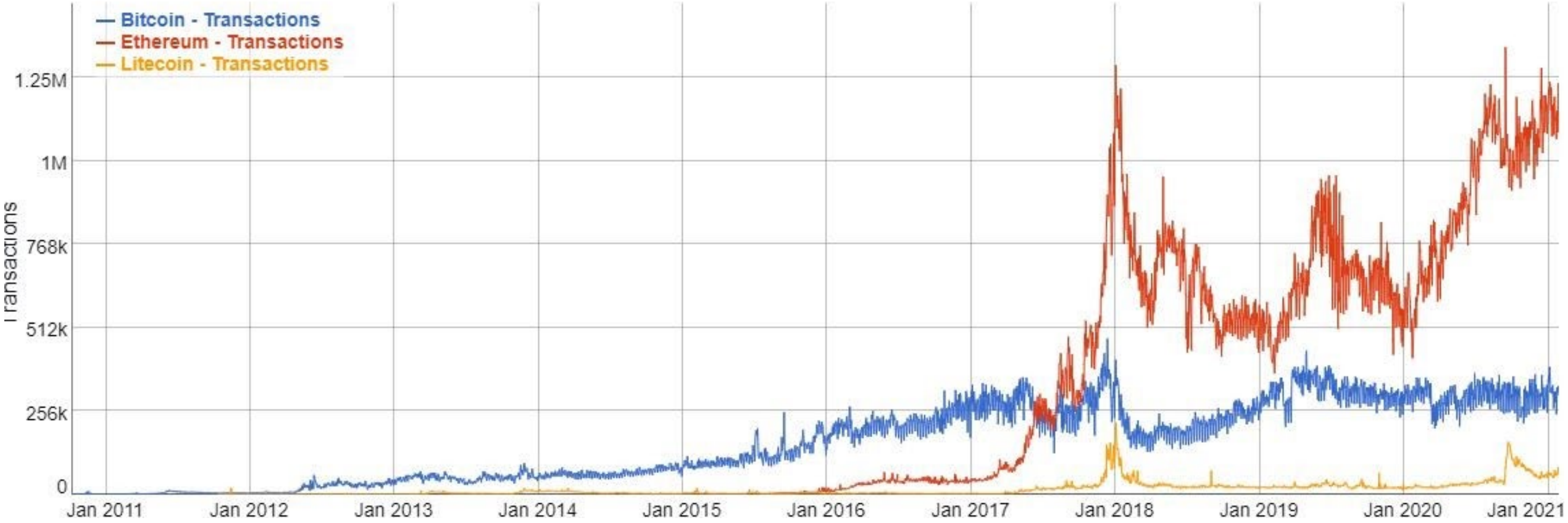

Image Source: Wikipedia

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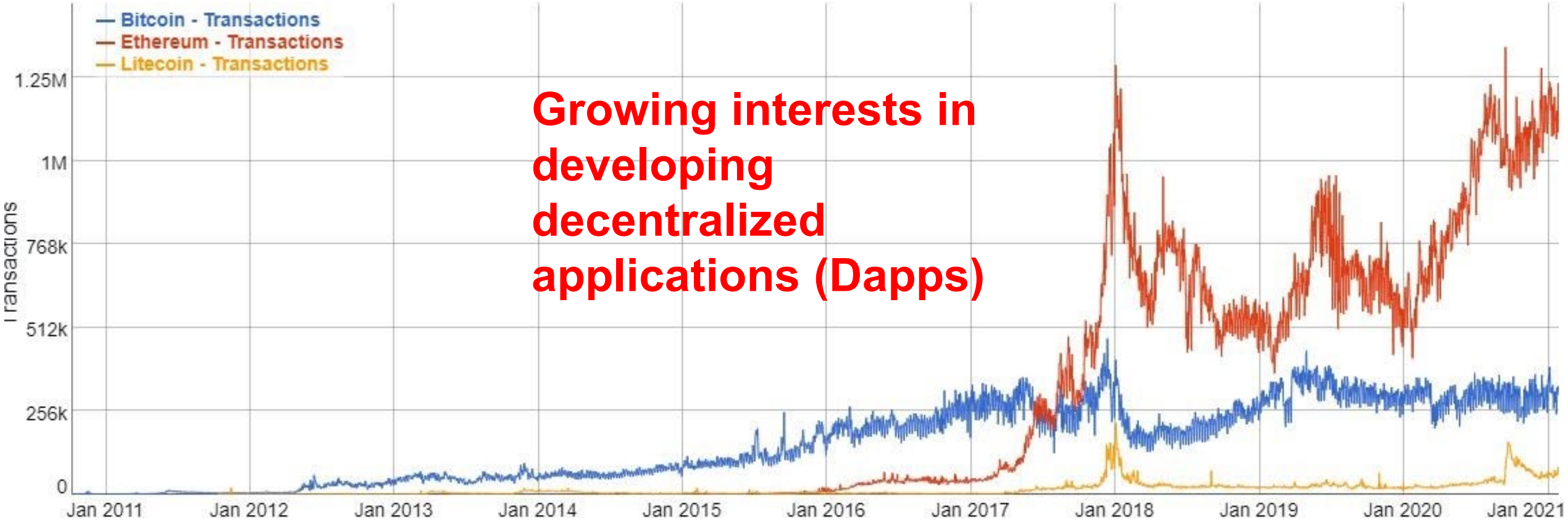

Growing interests in developing decentralized applications (Dapps)

Image Source: Wikipedia

Blockchain 1.0

Use of the **Distributed Ledger Technology** (DLT) to design the "Money of the Internet" -- Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies

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3rd January 2009: Nakamoto mined the first block of the Bitcoin network (called the genesis block)

- 2013: Coinbase reported selling US$1 Million worth of Bitcoin

Bitcoin value increased drastically over time

- May 2010: < $0.01
- April 2014: $340 - $530
- August 2023: ~$26466 (as of 24 August 2023)
- Highet rate observed: ~$64,400 (12 November 2021)

Bitcoin 2.0: Smart Contracts

Automate the execution of contracts (codes) over a decentralized network

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Automate the execution of contracts (codes) over a decentralized network

```
int pay (float *sndAcc, float *rcvAcc, float amount) {
     if (*sndAcc < amount) return -1;
    else {
         *sndAcc -= amount;
         *rcvAcc += amount;
         return 1;
    }
}

int deliverGoods (int count, int pricePerC) {
    int success = pay (sender, receiver, count*pricePerC);
    if(success == 1) {
       sceduleLogistics();
       return 1;
    }
    Return 0;
}
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sndAcc = i
rcvAcc = j
count = 0

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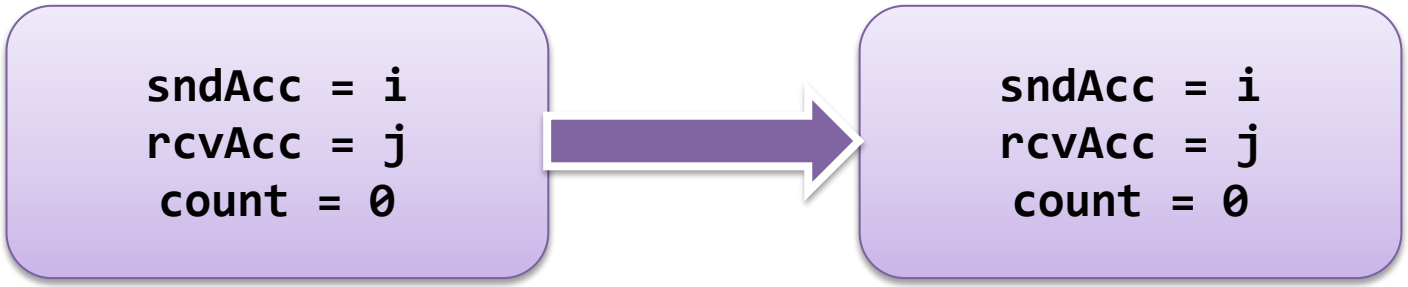


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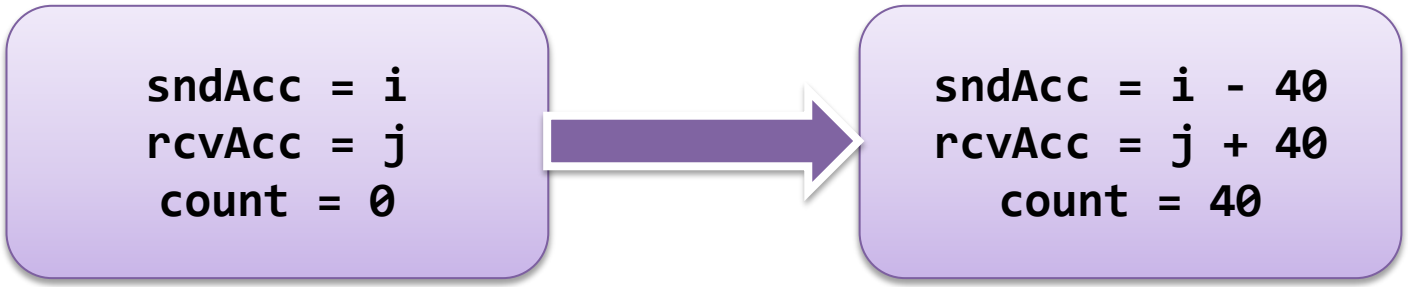

deliverGoods (10, 4)
pay(sndAcc, rcvAcc, 40) > 1

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}

int deliverGoods (int count, int pricePerC) {
    int success = pay (sender, receiver, count*pricePerC);
    if(success == 1) {
       sceduleLogistics();
       return 1;
    }
    Return 0;
}
```

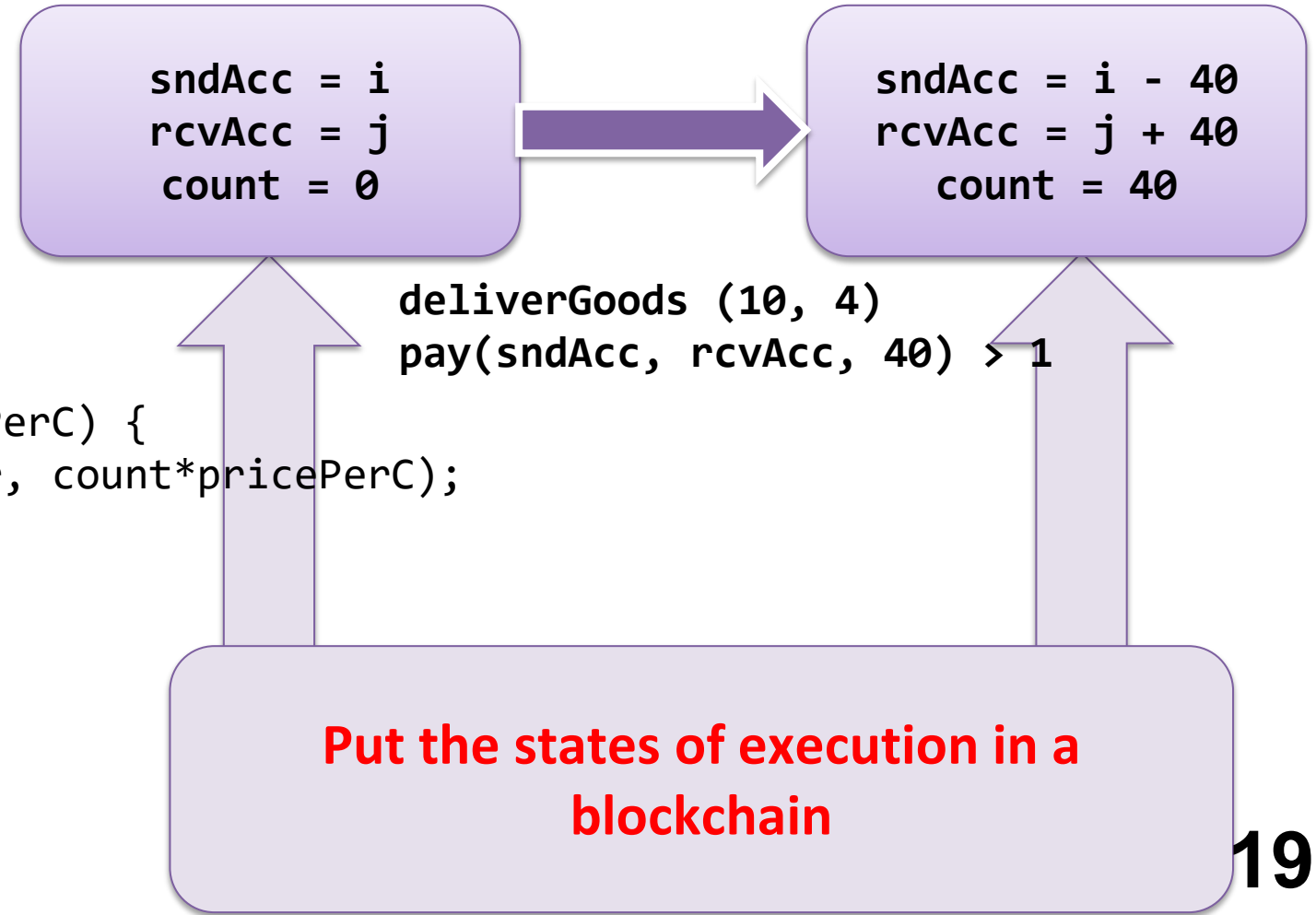

Smart Contract Execution

Jimmy

Emma

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Off-chain Agreement

Submit the anonymized (through public key encryption) contract to a blockchain network

Emma

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Jimmy

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Submit the anonymized (through public key encryption) contract to a blockchain network

Emma

Everyone in the network can see and validate the execution steps

CryptoKitties – A Popular Game on Ethereum Dapps

From Permissionless to Permissioned Models

- PoW (Nakamoto Consensus) works good in an open network
  - But, transaction latency is very high
  - ~10 minutes in Bitcoin block commitment
  - Few seconds to few minutes for Ethereum (depending on the cost that you pay)

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- The food supply chain
- Know Your Customer (KYC)
- Trade financing
- ...

Blockchain 3.0

"Trustless Decentralization" over a closed network

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- Automatically transact assets among multiple organizations who do not trust each other
- Run smart contracts within a consortium of various organizations – the individual organizations know each other but do not trust each other

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- Automatically transact assets among multiple organizations who do not trust each other
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Advantages:

- Go back to the classical distributed consensus protocols – low latency for commitment and high transaction throughput
- Use "Witness Cosigning" instead of "Proof Mining" for new block generation
  - Classical Distributed Consensus + Digital Signature

Permissioned (Private) Blockchain

The participants are pre-authenticated and pre-authorized

- But they can still behave maliciously

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Run blockchain (and smart contracts) on top of this closed network

- Ensure trusted computing among the participants