Chapter 13

Digital Signature

13-1 COMPARISON

Let us begin by looking at the differences between conventional signatures and digital signatures.

Topics discussed in this section:

13.1.1 Inclusion
13.1.2 Verification Method
13.1.3 Relationship
13.1.4 Duplicity

13.1.1 Inclusion

A conventional signature is included in the document; it is part of the document. But when we sign a document digitally, we send the signature as a separate document.

13.1.2 Verification Method

For a conventional signature, when the recipient receives a document, she compares the signature on the document with the signature on file. For a digital signature, the recipient receives the message and the signature. The recipient needs to apply a verification technique to the combination of the message and the signature to verify the authenticity.

13.1.3 Relationship

For a conventional signature, there is normally a one-to-many relationship between a signature and documents. For a digital signature, there is a one-to-one relationship between a signature and a message.

13.1.4 Duplicity

In conventional signature, a copy of the signed document can be distinguished from the original one on file. In digital signature, there is no such distinction unless there is a factor of time on the document.

13-2 PROCESS

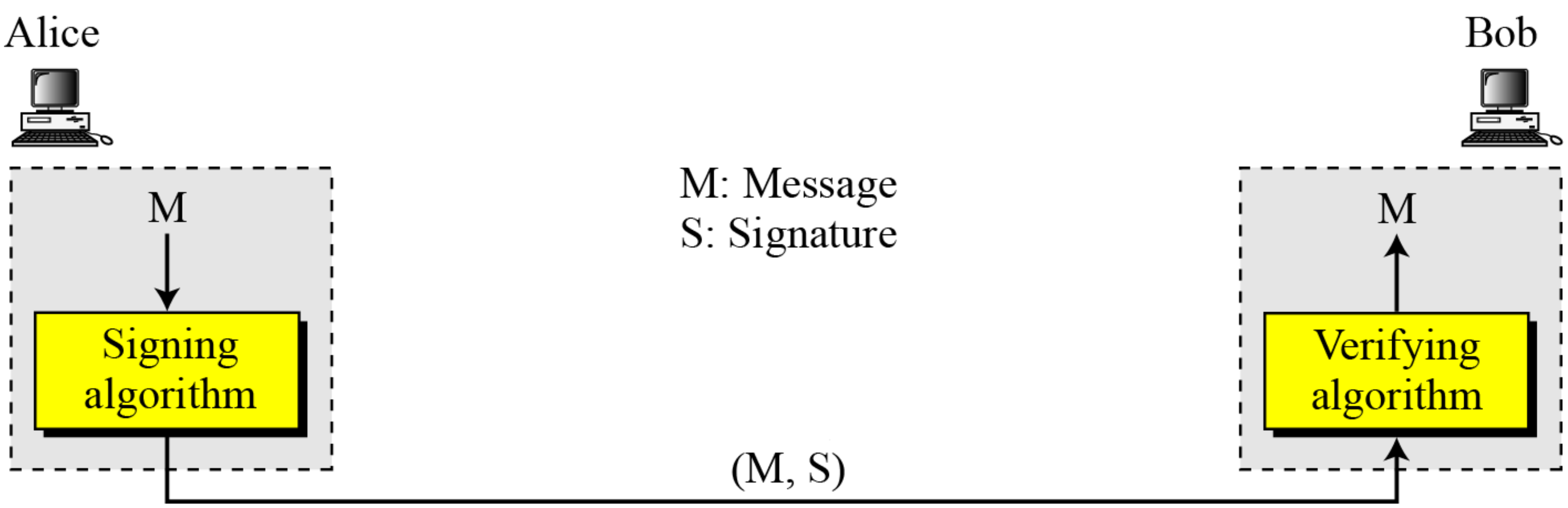
Figure 13.1 shows the digital signature process. The sender uses a signing algorithm to sign the message. The message and the signature are sent to the receiver. The receiver receives the message and the signature and applies the verifying algorithm to the combination. If the result is true, the message is accepted; otherwise, it is rejected.

Topics discussed in this section:

13.2.1 Need for Keys
13.2.2 Signing the Digest

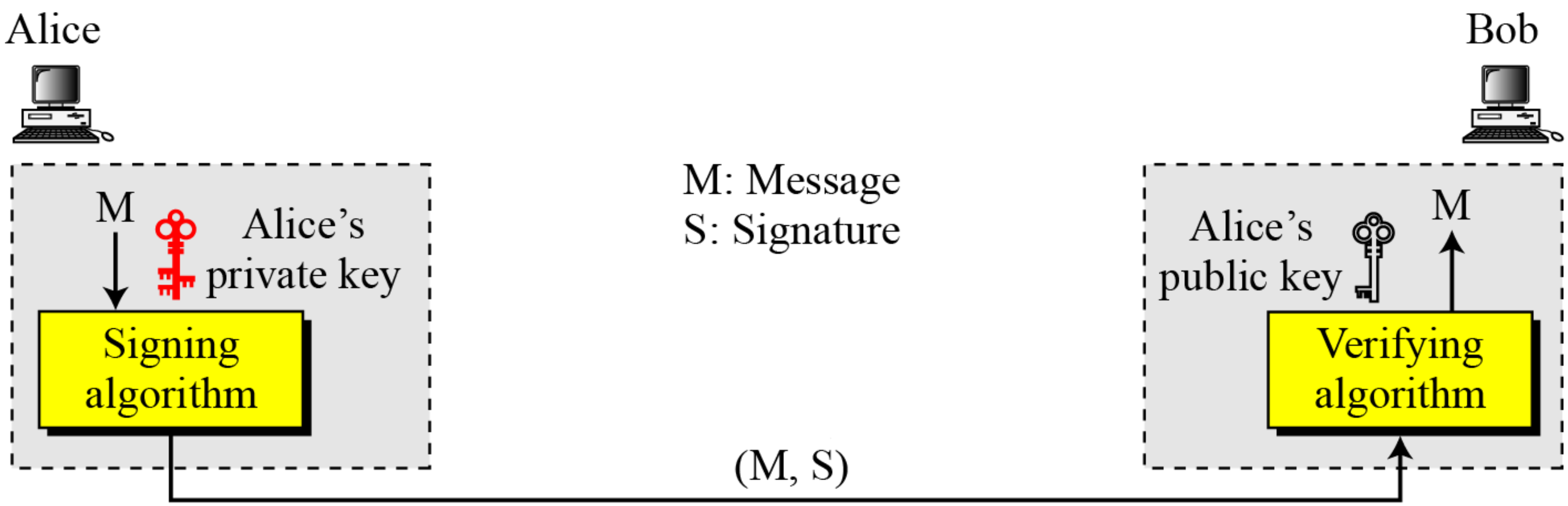
13-2 Continued

Figure 13.1 ***Digital signature process***



13.2.1 Need for Keys

Figure 13.2 *Adding key to the digital signature process*



Note

A digital signature needs a public-key system. The signer signs with her private key; the verifier verifies with the signer's public key.

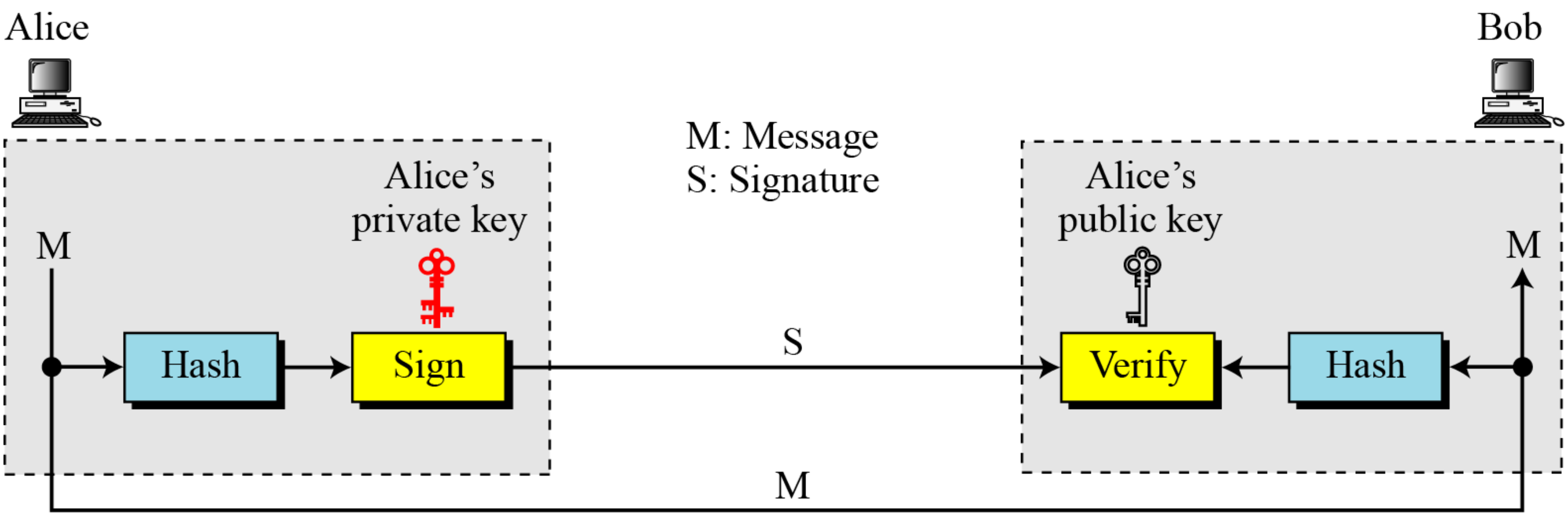
13.2.1 Continued

Note

A cryptosystem uses the private and public keys of the receiver: a digital signature uses the private and public keys of the sender.

13.2.2 Signing the Digest

Figure 13.3 ***Signing the digest***



13-3 SERVICES

We discussed several security services in Chapter 1 including message confidentiality, message authentication, message integrity, and nonrepudiation. A digital signature can directly provide the last three; for message confidentiality we still need encryption/decryption.

Topics discussed in this section:

13.3.1 Message Authentication
13.3.2 Message Integrity
13.3.3 Nonrepudiation
13.3.4 Confidentiality

13.3.1 Message Authentication

A secure digital signature scheme, like a secure conventional signature can provide message authentication.

Note

A digital signature provides message authentication.

13.3.2 Message Integrity

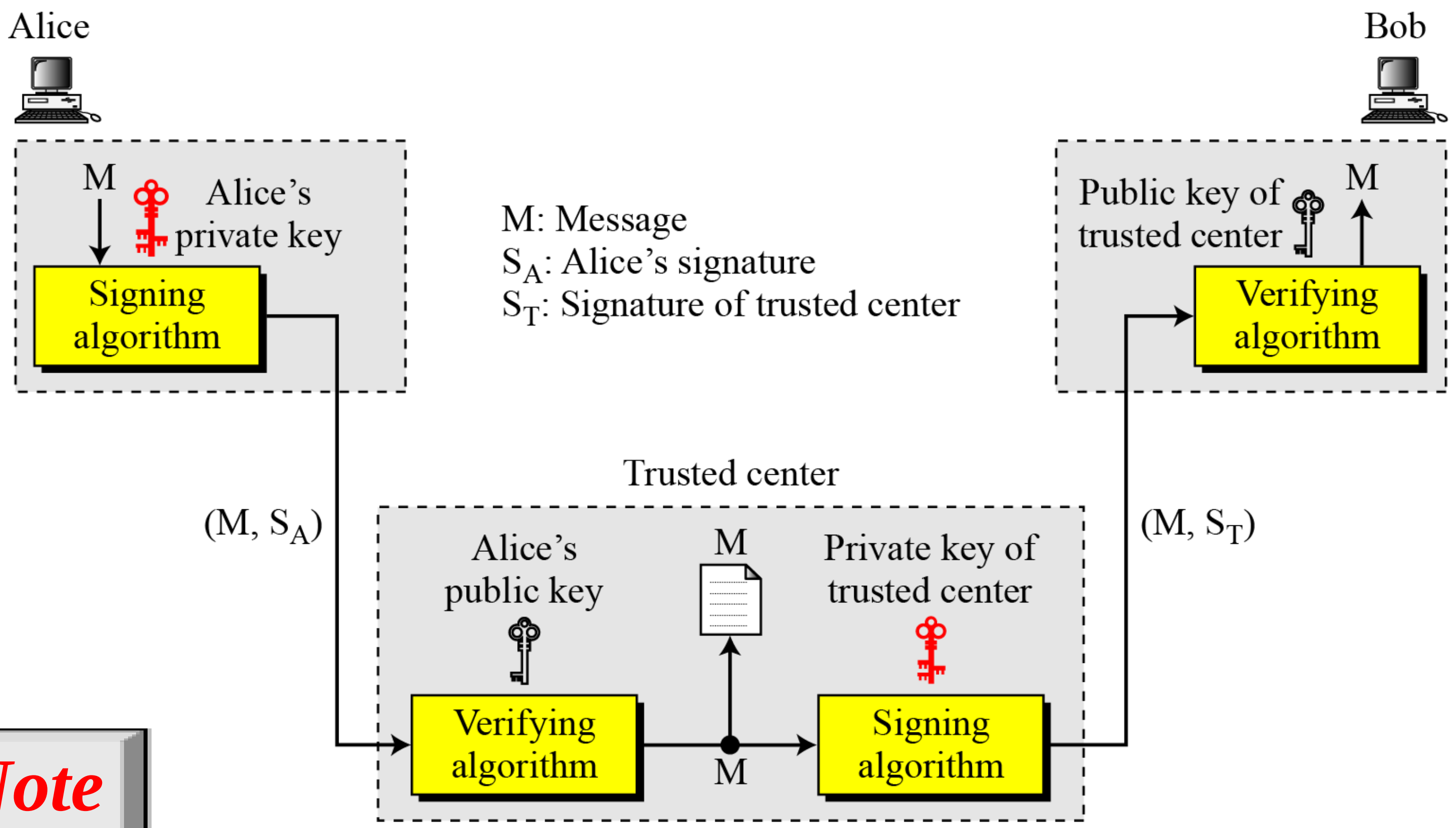
The integrity of the message is preserved even if we sign the whole message because we cannot get the same signature if the message is changed.

Note

A digital signature provides message integrity.

13.3.3 Nonrepudiation

Figure 13.4 *Using a trusted center for nonrepudiation*



Note

Nonrepudiation can be provided using a trusted party.

13-5 DIGITAL SIGNATURE SCHEMES

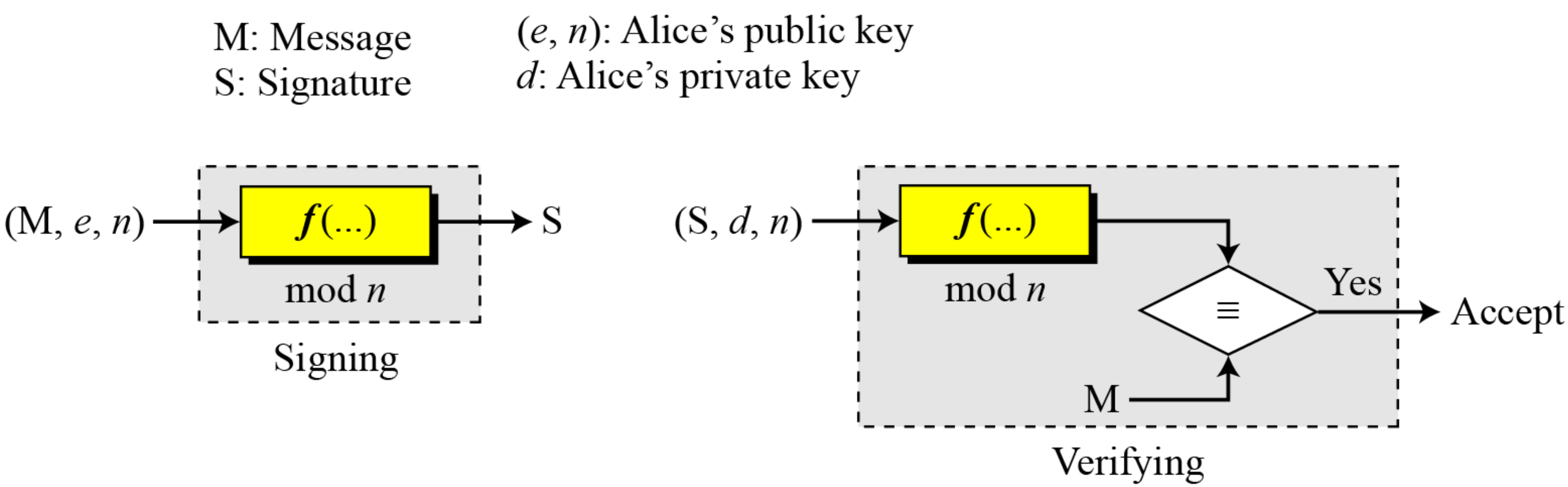
Several digital signature schemes have evolved during the last few decades. Some of them have been implemented.

<u>Topics discussed in this section:</u>

13.5.1 RSA Digital Signature Scheme

13.5.1 RSA Digital Signature Scheme

Figure 13.6 ***General idea behind the RSA digital signature scheme***



13.5.1 Continued

Key Generation

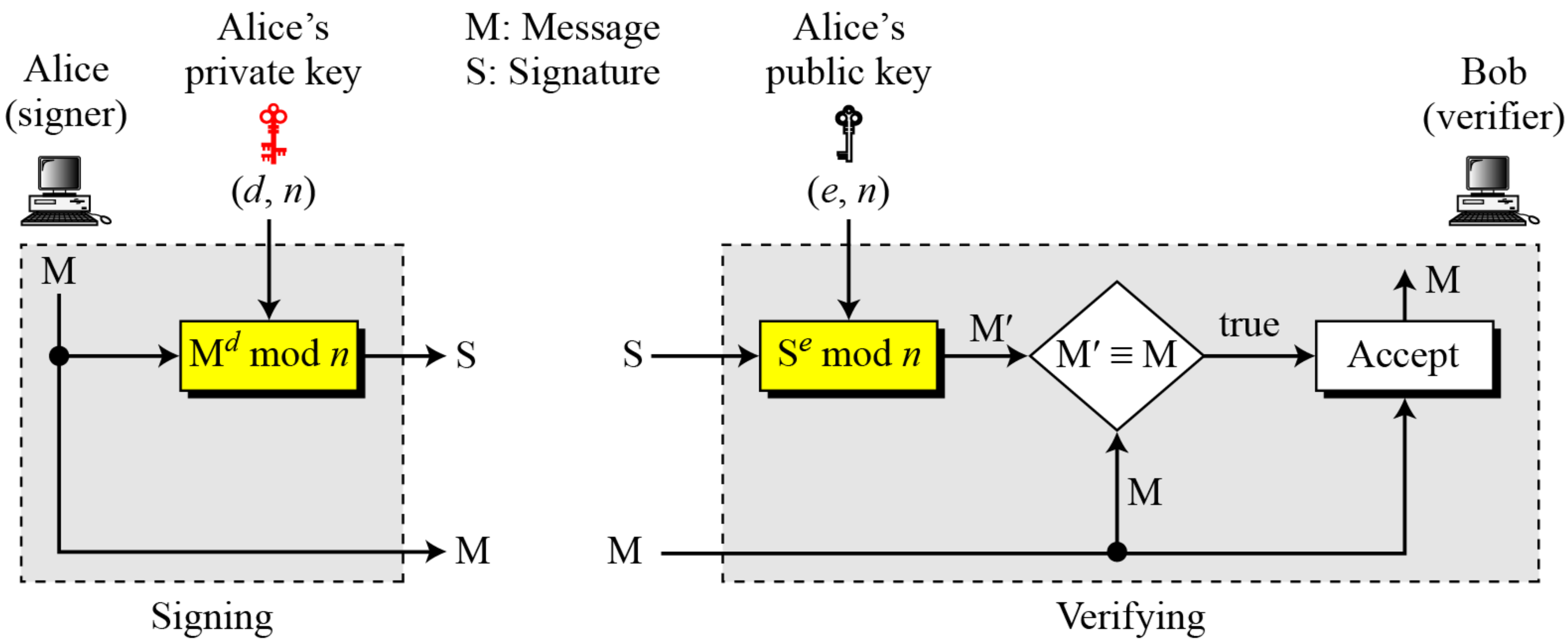
Key generation in the RSA digital signature scheme is exactly the same as key generation in the RSA

Note

In the RSA digital signature scheme, *d* is private; *e* and *n* are public.

Signing and Verifying

Figure 13.7 *RSA digital signature scheme*



13.5.1 Continued

Example 13.1

As a trivial example, suppose that Alice chooses p = 823 and q = 953, and calculates n = 784319. The value of $\phi(n)$ is 782544. Now she chooses e = 313 and calculates d = 160009. At this point key generation is complete. Now imagine that Alice wants to send a message with the value of M = 19070 to Bob. She uses her private exponent, 160009, to sign the message:

$$\text{M: } 19070 \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{S} = (19070^{160009}) \bmod 784319 = 210625 \bmod 784319$$

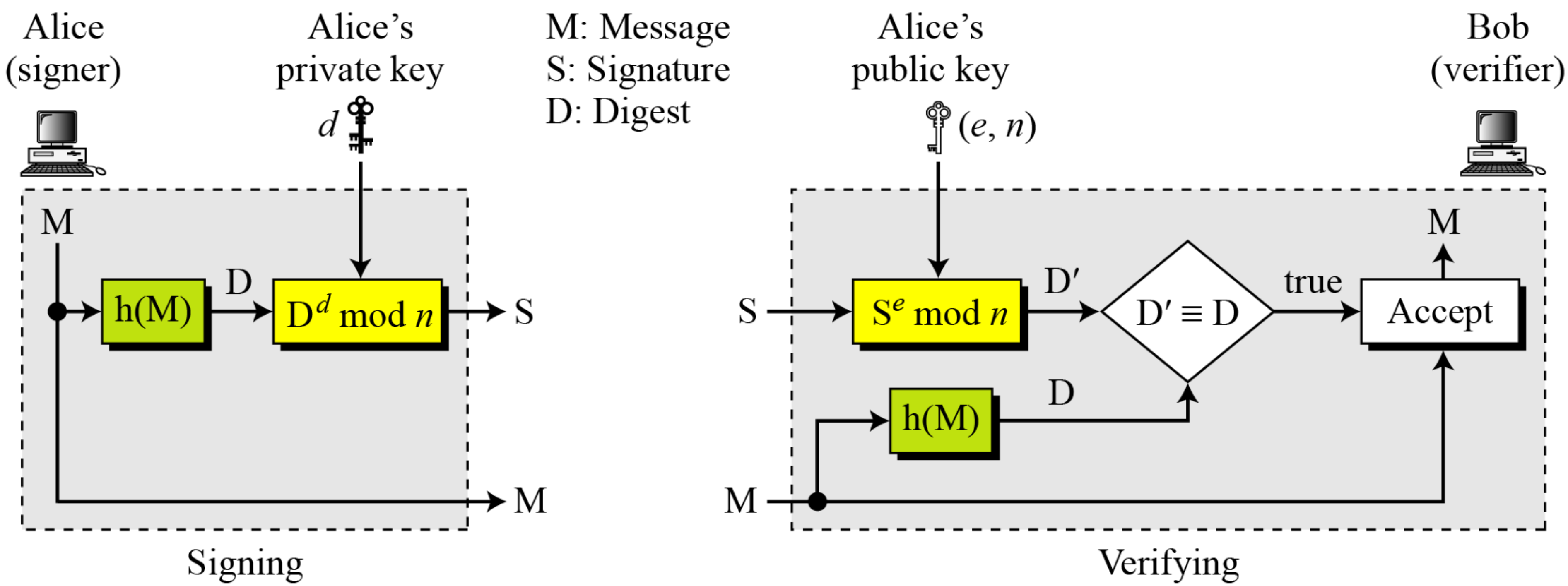
Alice sends the message and the signature to Bob. Bob receives the message and the signature. He calculates

$$\text{M}' = 210625^{313} \bmod 784319 = 19070 \bmod 784319 \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{M} \equiv \text{M}' \bmod n$$

Bob accepts the message because he has verified Alice's signature.

RSA Signature on the Message Digest

Figure 13.8 ***The RSA signature on the message digest***



13.5.1 Continued

Note

When the digest is signed instead of the message itself, the susceptibility of the RSA digital signature scheme depends on the strength of the hash algorithm.