

601.445/645

Practical Cryptographic Systems

Asymmetric Cryptography III

Instructor: Matthew Green

Housekeeping

- A2
 - Due 23rd February, 11:59pm
- Quiz moved to Weds
 - All reading material before RSA reading

News?

US politicians furious at UK demand for encrypted Apple data

3 days ago

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Graham Fraser

Technology Reporter



News?

FOR SUBSCRIBERS

Paranoia seeps into a federal workforce worried about getting fired and being watched



By [Sean Lyngaas](#), [Tami Luhby](#) and [Hadas Gold](#), CNN

⌚ 5 minute read · Published 6:00 AM EST, Mon February 17, 2025

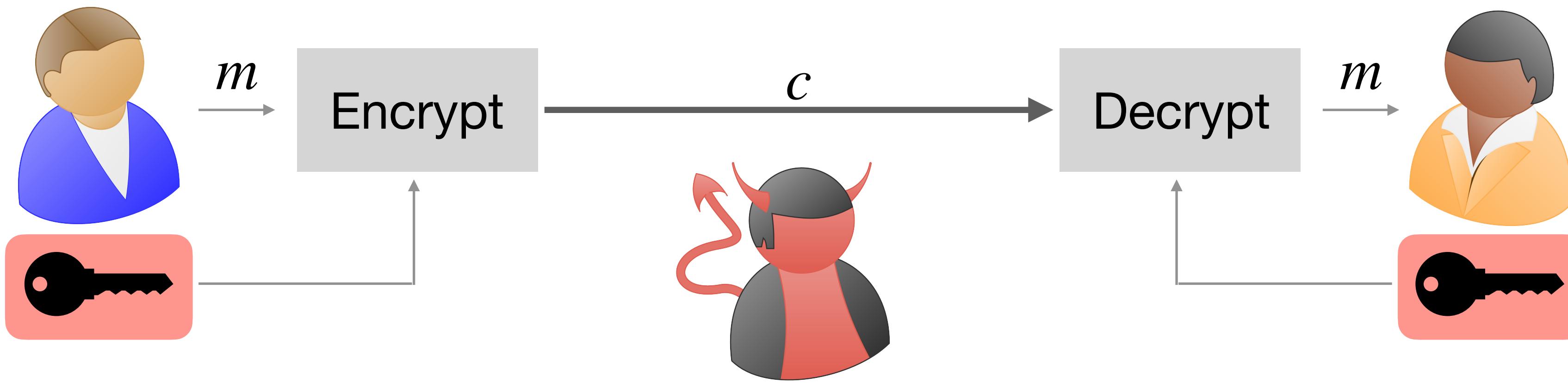


MORE FROM CNN



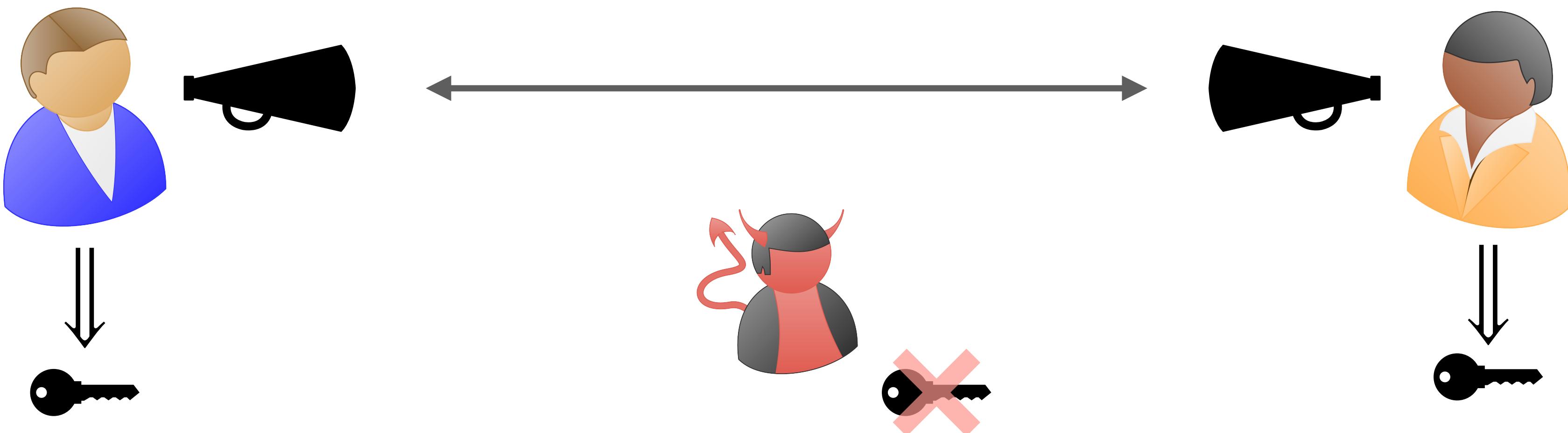
DOGE's power expands as fed

Review



How do parties agree on a common key?

Key Exchange



Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

Agreeing on a common secret over an untrusted/public channel

Key Idea: Exploiting asymmetry

Often present in the real world!



No key required



Difficult without a key

Discrete Logarithm problem

- **Discrete logarithm problem**

Given: $x \in_R 0, \dots, p - 2$

$$\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{G} \quad \text{order}(g) = p - 1$$

$$h = g^x$$

Find: x

This problem is hard if for all p.p.t. adversaries, all attackers find x with “small” probability

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This means that “reversing” exponentiation is assumed to have super-polynomial running time.

How about the exponentiation itself?

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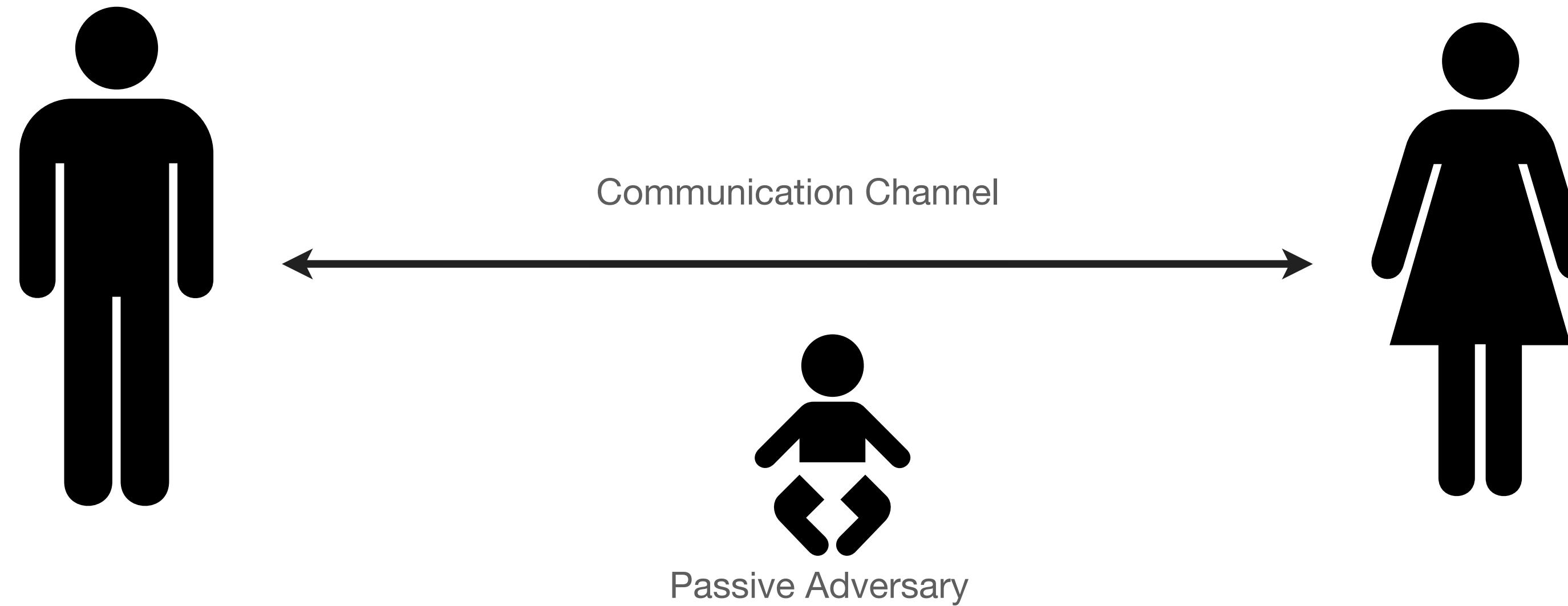
Note that for this to hold, the size of p must be pretty large!

In practice, we typically assume p is at least 1024 bits. And 3072 bits is the minimum in modern protocols!

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Key Agreement

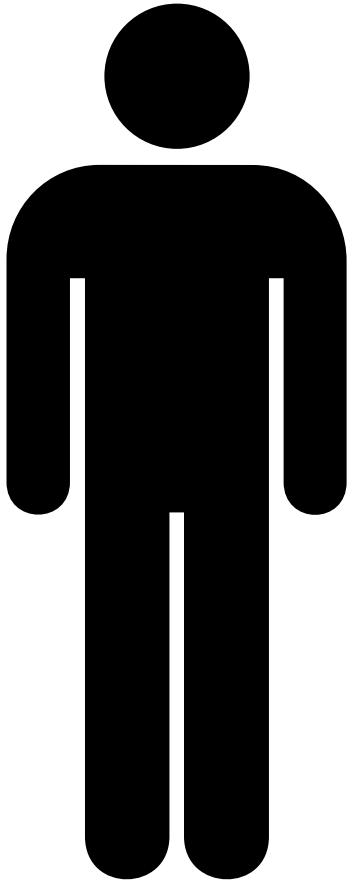
- Establish a shared key in the presence of a passive adversary



D-H Protocol

$$p, \langle g \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_p^*$$

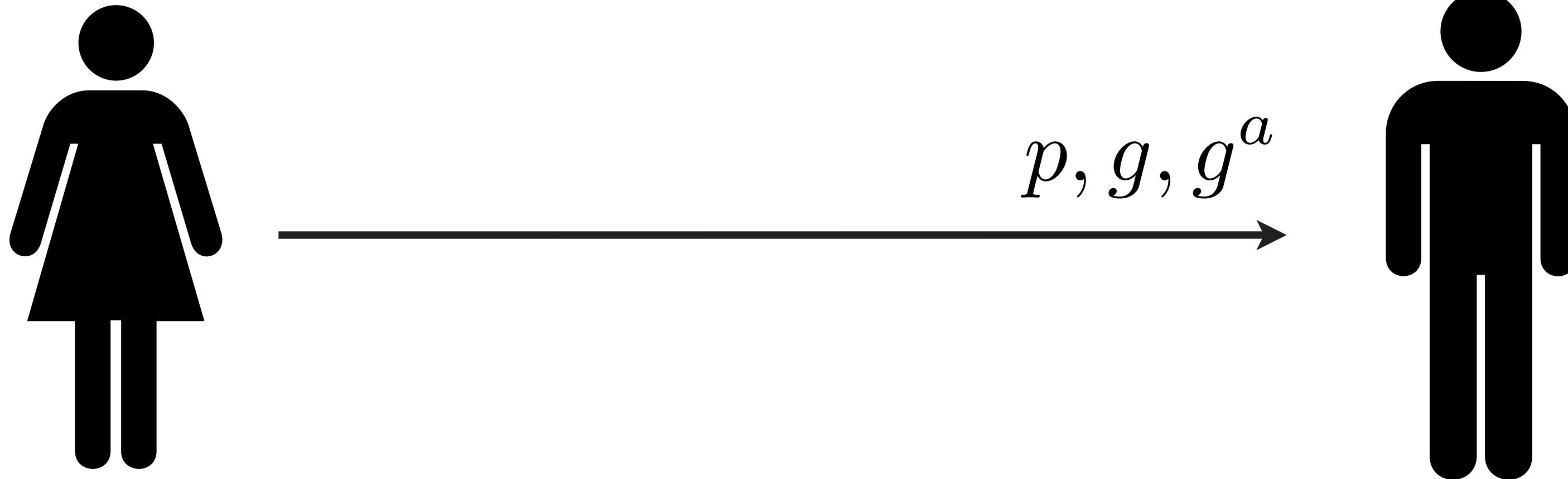
$$a \in \mathbb{Z}_{\phi(p)}$$



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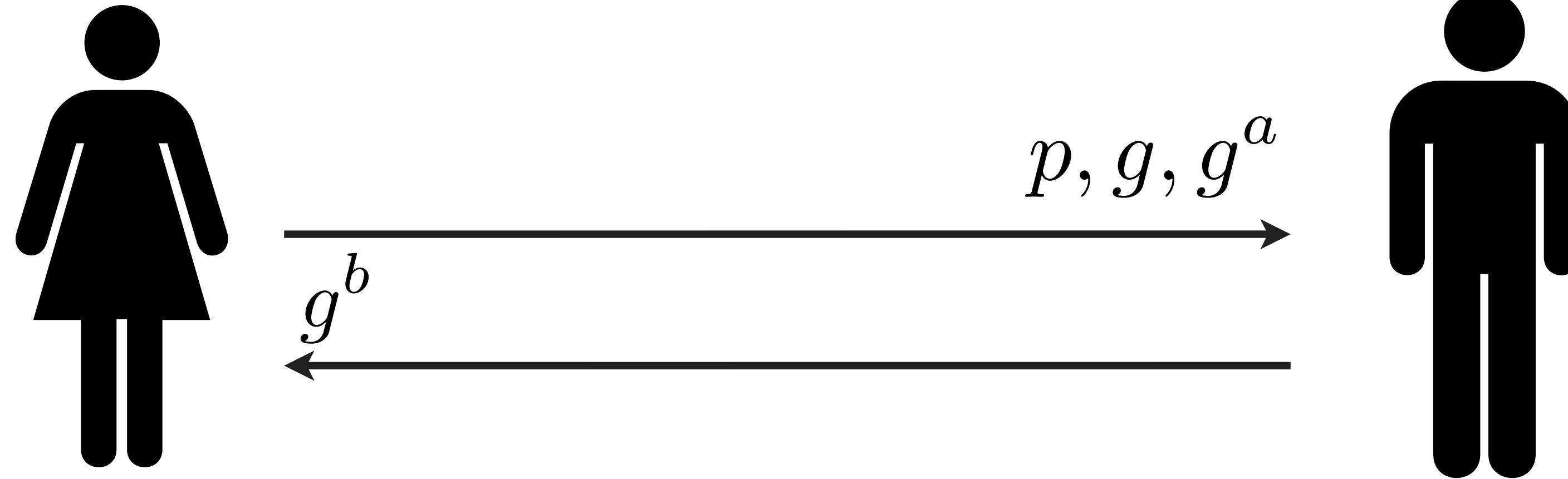
D-H Protocol



$$p, \langle g \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_p^*$$

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$$b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\phi(p)}$$

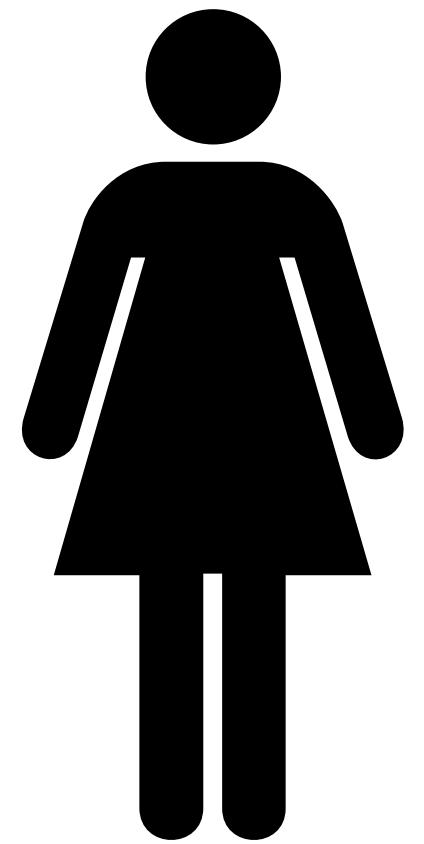


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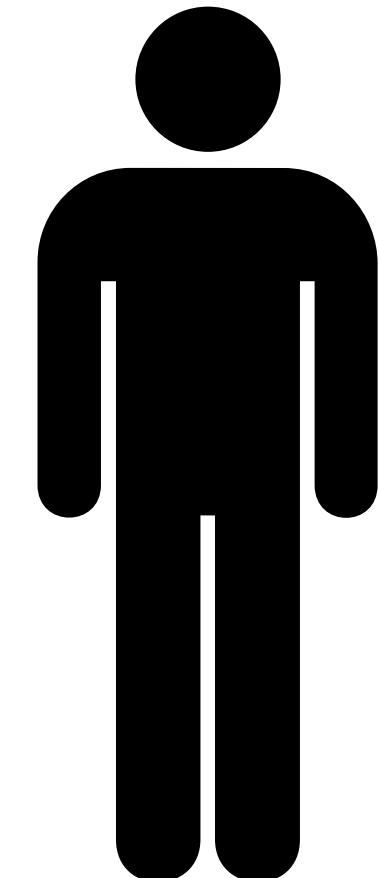
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$$g^{ba}$$

$$\xrightarrow{g^b}$$

$$b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\phi(p)}$$



$$g^{ab}$$

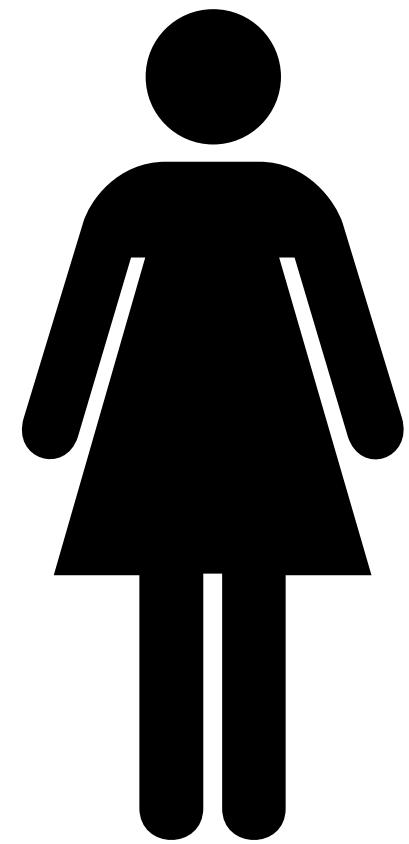
$$\xrightarrow{p, g, g^a}$$

D-H Protocol



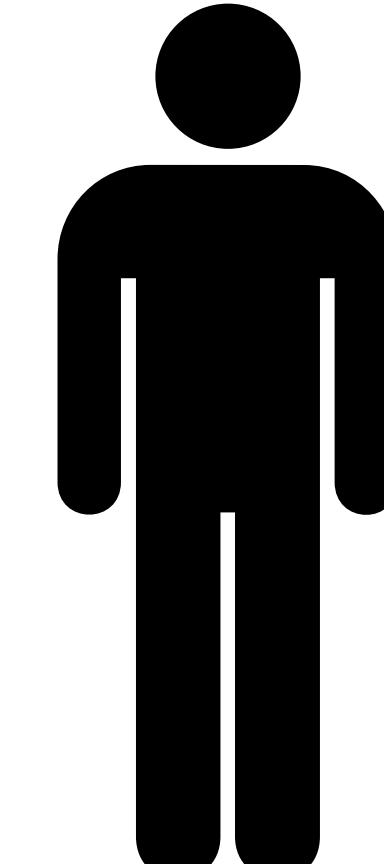
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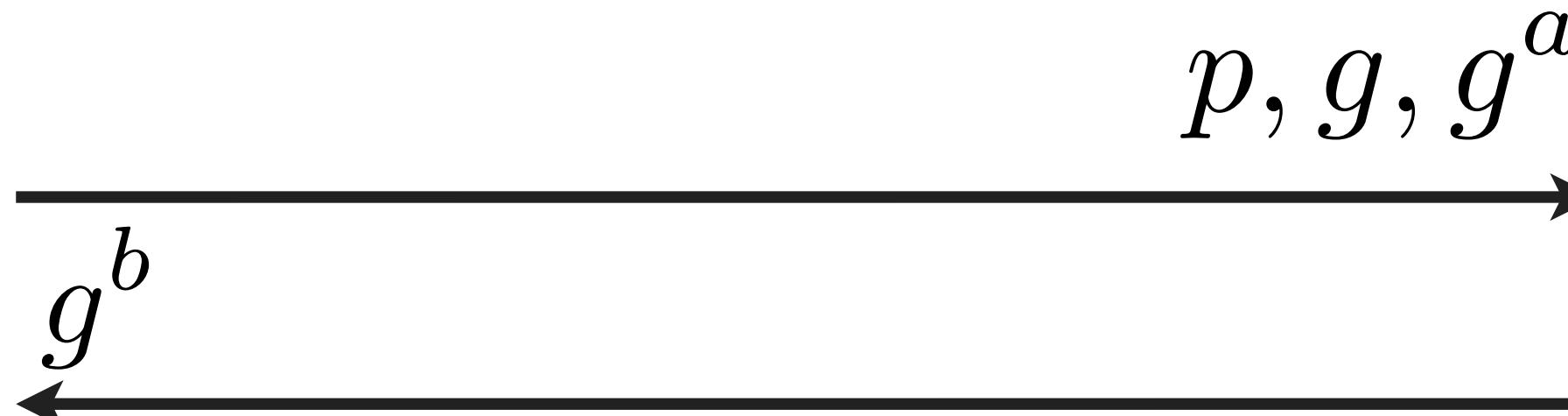


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Usually we “hash” the shared secret value to make a secret encryption key, and then encrypt using a fast symmetric encryption scheme!

Hard problems (2)

- Diffie-Hellman problem

Given: $a, b \in_R 0, \dots, p - 2$

$$\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{G} \quad \text{order}(g) = p - 1$$

$$(g, g^a, g^b)$$

Find: g^{ab}

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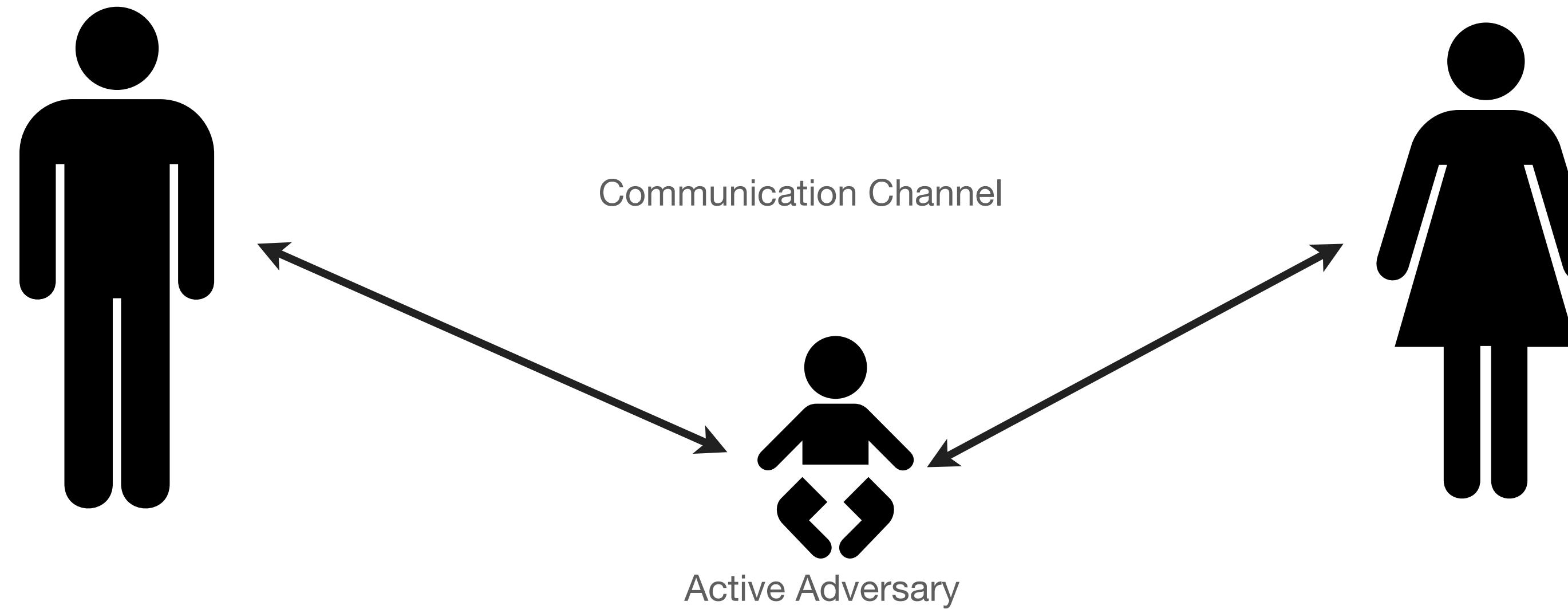
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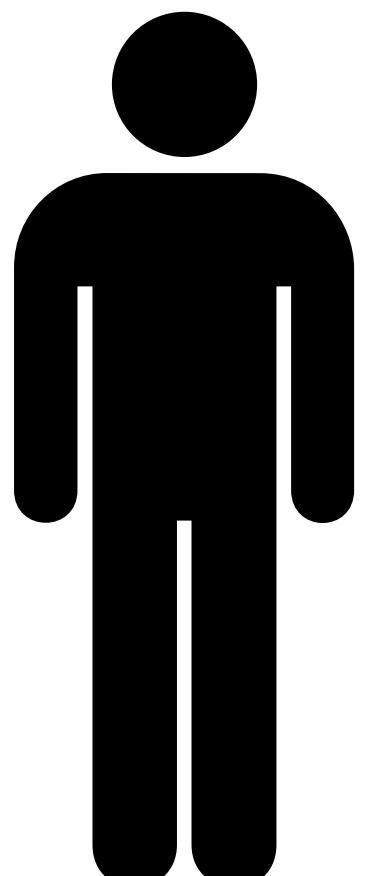
What if we have an active adversary?



Man in the Middle

- Assume an active adversary.

$$b \in \mathbb{Z}_q$$



$$g^{a'b}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{g^{a'} \bmod p} \\[-1ex] \xrightarrow{g^b \bmod p} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} a', b' \in \mathbb{Z}_q \\[-1ex] g^{a'b} \quad g^{ab'} \end{array}$$

$$a \in \mathbb{Z}_q$$



$$g^{ab'}$$

Man in the Middle

- Caused by lack of authentication
 - D-H lets us establish a shared key with anyone... but that's the problem...
 - We don't know if the person we're talking to is the right person
- Solution?

Preventing MITM

- Verify key via separate channel
- Password-based authentication
- Authentication via PKI



Digital Signatures

- Similar to MACs, with public keys
 - Secret key used to sign data
 - Public key can verify signature
 - Advantages over MACs?

Digital Signatures

- Three algorithms:

Keygen() -> (vk, sk)

Sign(sk, message) -> sig

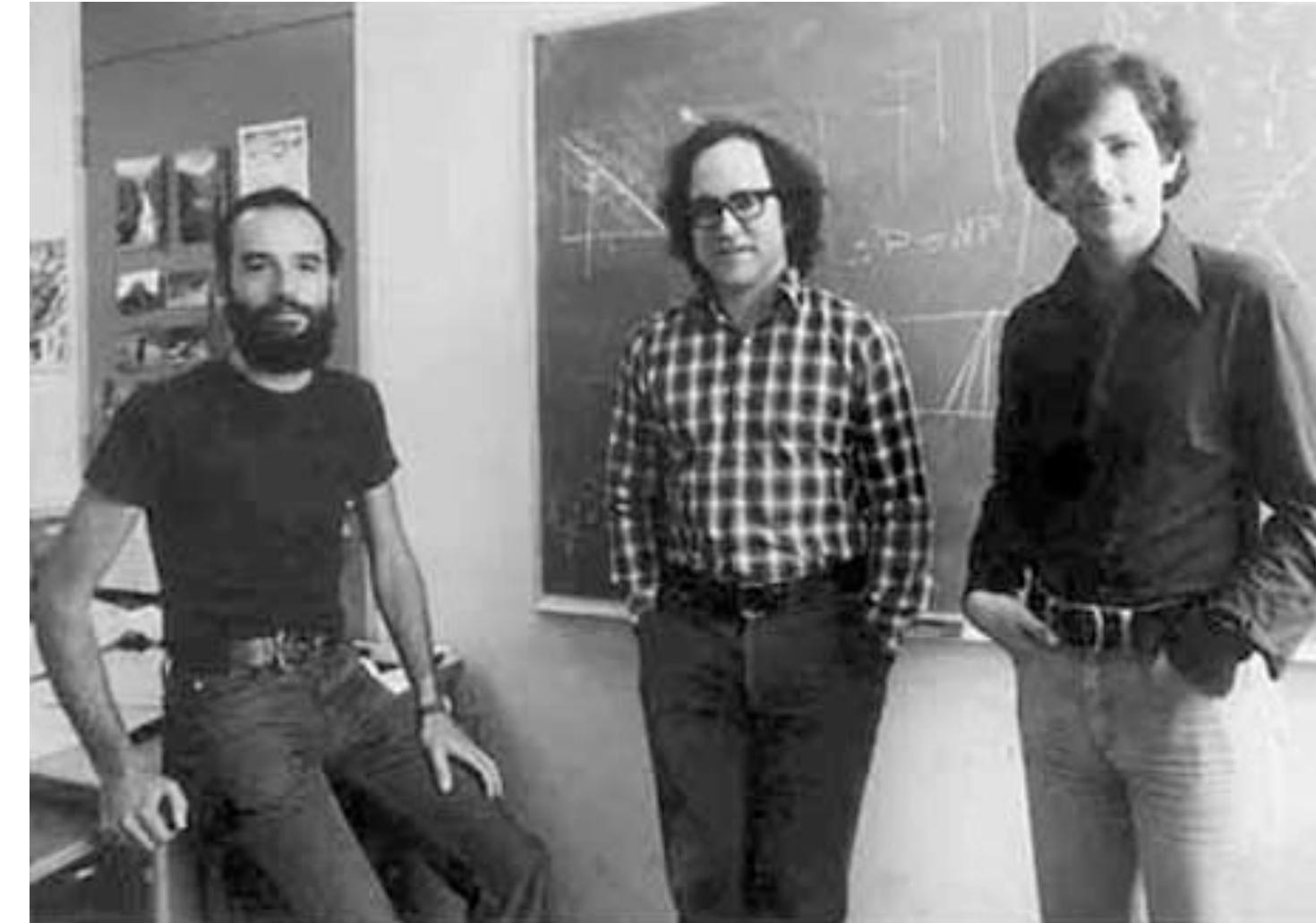
Verify(pk, message, sig) -> True/False

Signature: definitions

- Existential Unforgeability under Chosen Message Attack
 - No efficient adversary can “forge” a signature on any new message (that it hasn’t received a signature for)
 - Even if it has access to an “oracle” that signs any message it wants
 - “Strong unforgeability” <- can’t even make a new signature for an existing message

Public Key Encryption

- What if our recipient is offline?
 - Key agreement protocols are interactive
 - e.g., want to send an email



Public Key Encryption

