Formal Analysis of E-Cash Protocols

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(Electronic) Cash

(Electronic) Cash

Electronic Cash = digital equivalent

(E-)Cash: Players and Phases

Bank

Client

Seller

(E-)Cash: Players and Phases

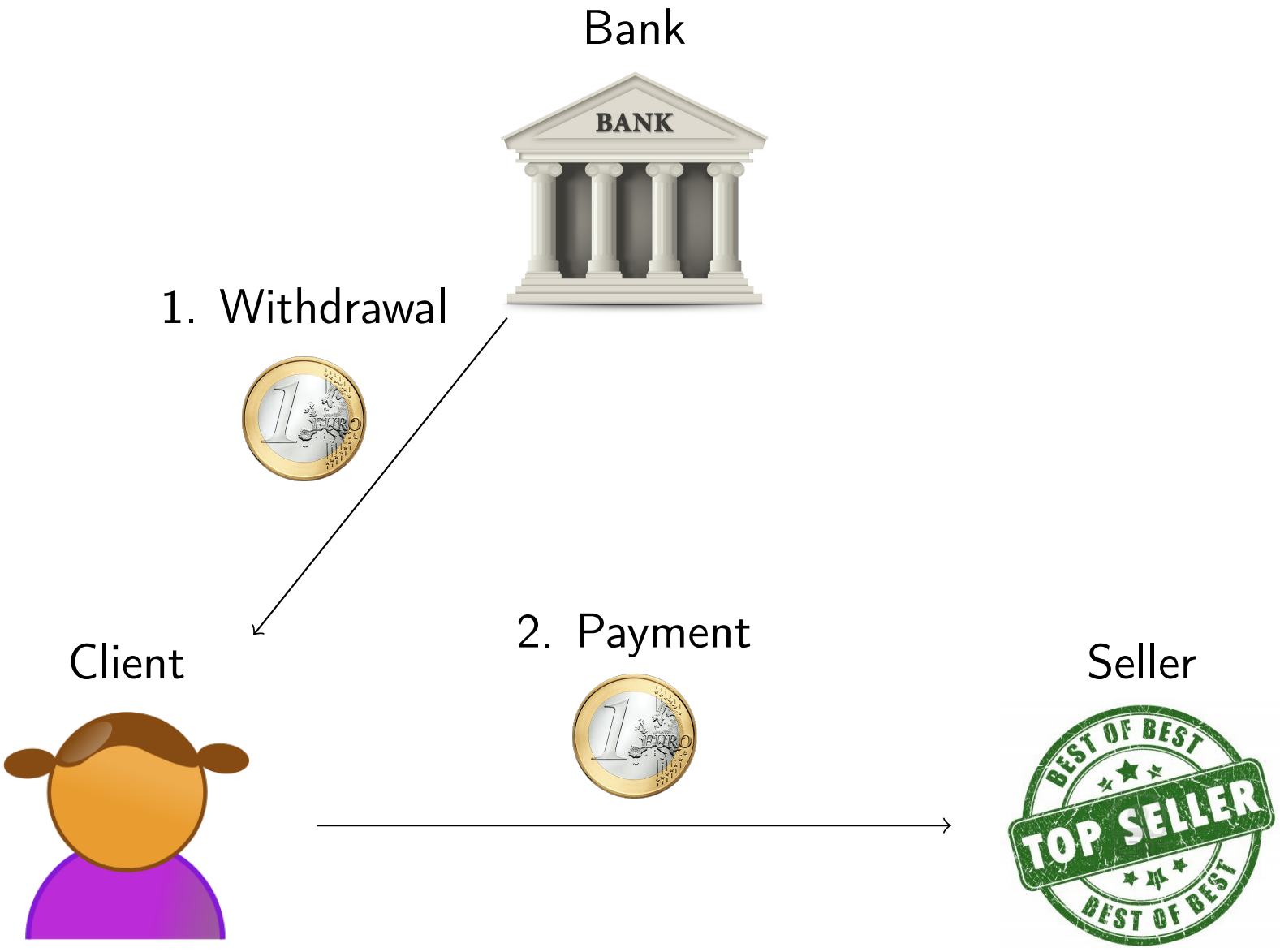
Bank

1. Withdrawal

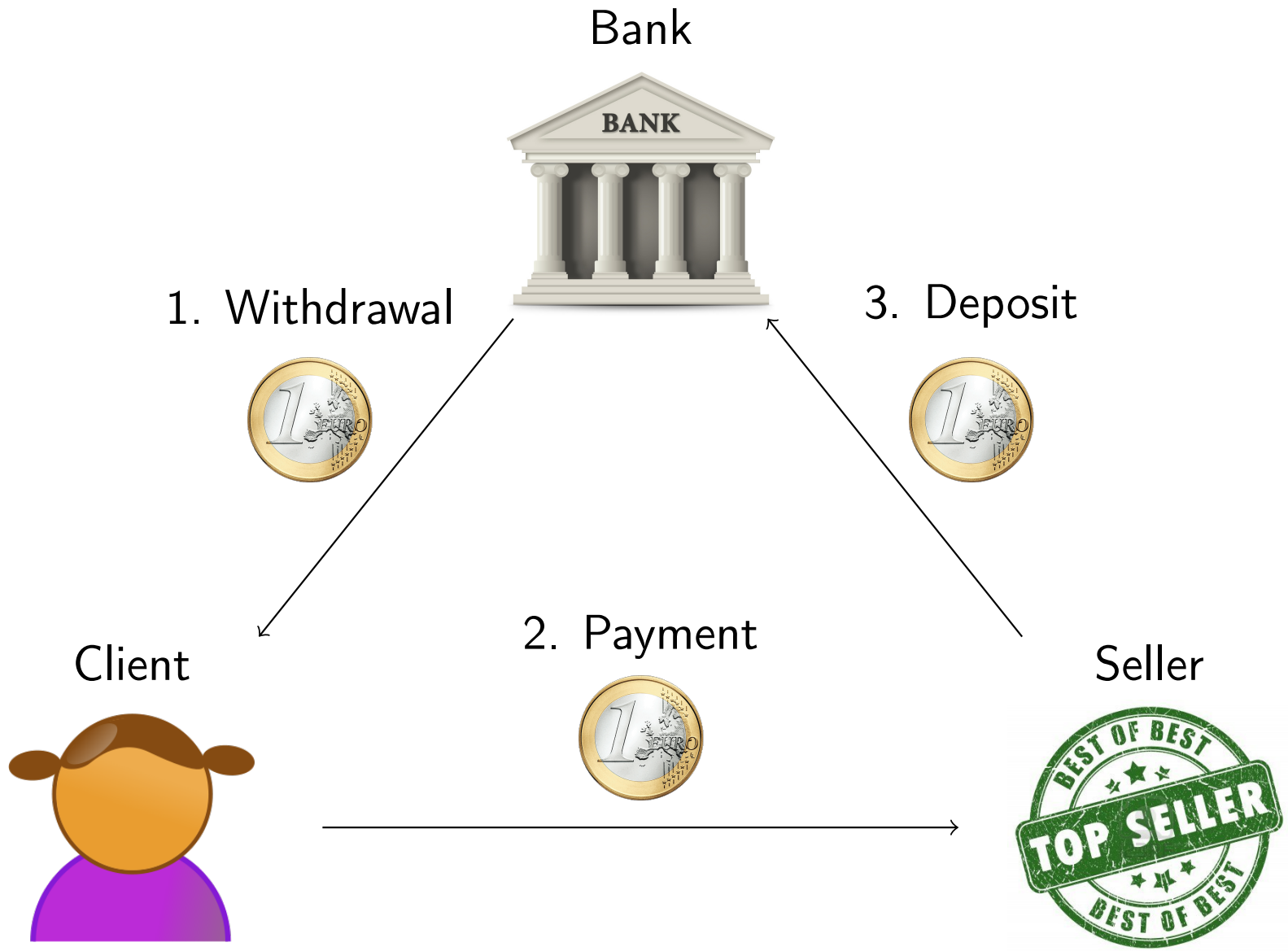
Client

Seller

(E-)Cash: Players and Phases



(E-)Cash: Players and Phases



Security properties of physical cash

- **Unforgeability**: Only the bank can create coins.
- **Anonymity**:
  - *Weak Anonymity*: Nobody can distinguish which client makes a payment.
  - *Strong Anonymity*: Nobody is able to decide whether two payments were made by the same client.

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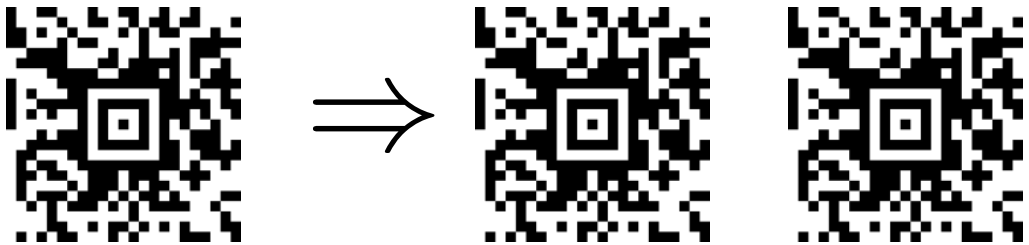
- **Do they really hold?**

Security properties of electronic cash

Electronic coins can be **copied**:



Two **additional properties**:

- **Double Spending Identification**: If a client spends a coin twice, his identity is revealed.
- **Exculpability**: An attacker cannot forge a double spend by a client to blame him.

Electronic Cash vs. Electronic Payments

Electronic Cash vs. Electronic Payments

$\Rightarrow$ **No strong anonymity!**

Contributions

- General **formal framework** for the verification of E-Cash protocols:
  - **Formal model** in the applied π-calculus [**?**]
  - **Formal definitions** of the security properties
  - Suitable for **automated verification** using ProVerif [**?**]
- Three **case studies**:
  - Chaum's On-Line Protocol [**?**]
  - *digicash* Protocol [**?**]
  - Chaum's Off-Line Protocol [**?**]

Plan

Plan

Model

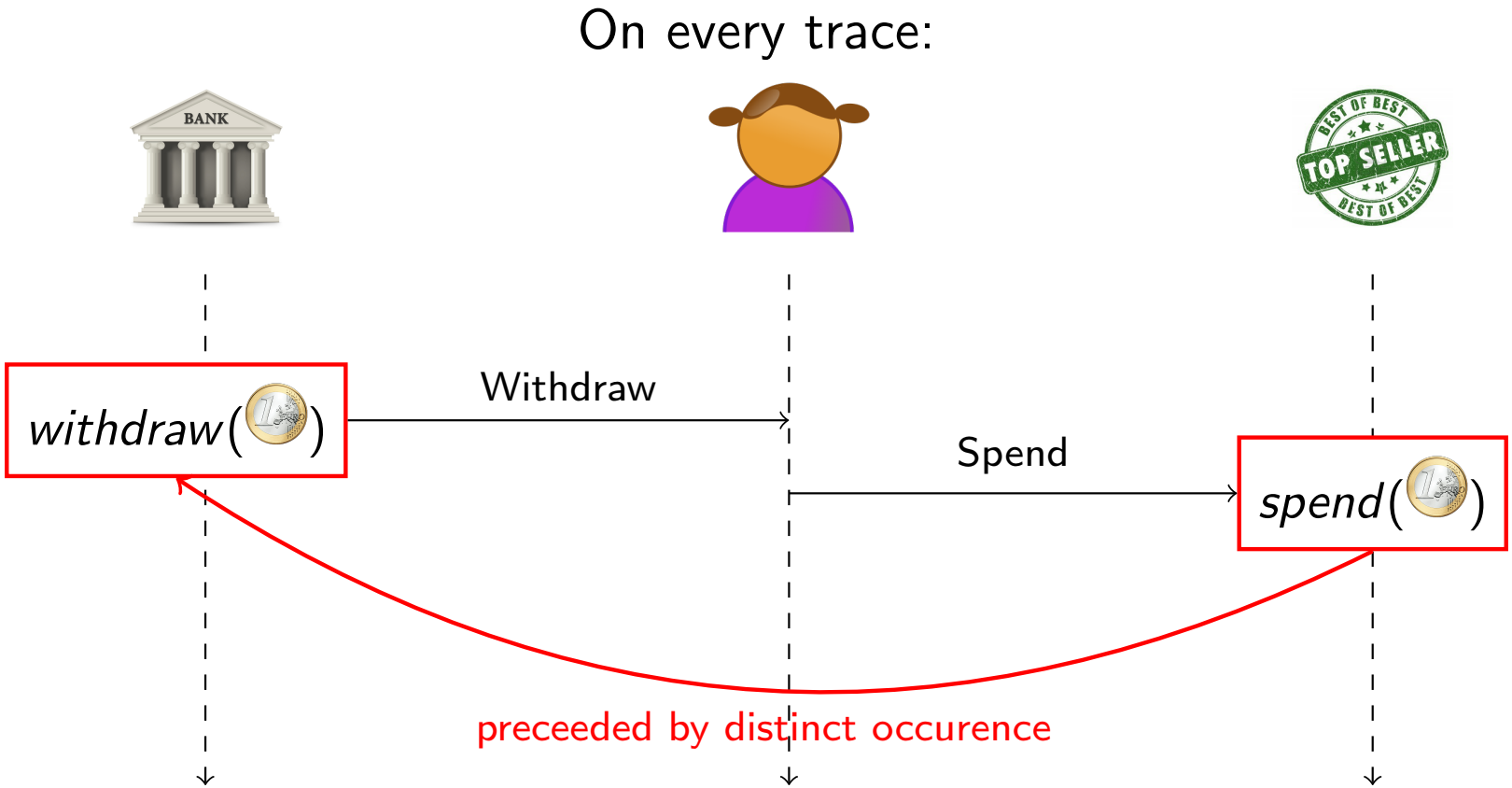
- **Processes** in the applied π-calculus [?]
- Annotated using two **events**:
  - *withdraw*() at the bank
  - *spend*() at the seller
- **Unforgeability** as **correspondence** between events
- **Anonymity** properties as **observational equivalence** between instances
- **Automatic** verification using ProVerif [?]

Plan

Unforgeability

Only the bank can create coins.

Definition:



Double Spending Identification

If a client spends a coin twice, his identity is revealed:

$\exists$ **Test $\mathtt{T}_{\mathtt{DSI}}$ such that:**

- $\forall$ transactions  and  using the same coin 

$$\mathtt{T}_{\mathtt{DSI}}\left(\text{  }, \text{  }, \text{  }\right) = \left(\text{  }, \text{  }\right)$$

- $\mathtt{T}_{\mathtt{DSI}}(\cdot,\cdot,\cdot) = \perp$ otherwise

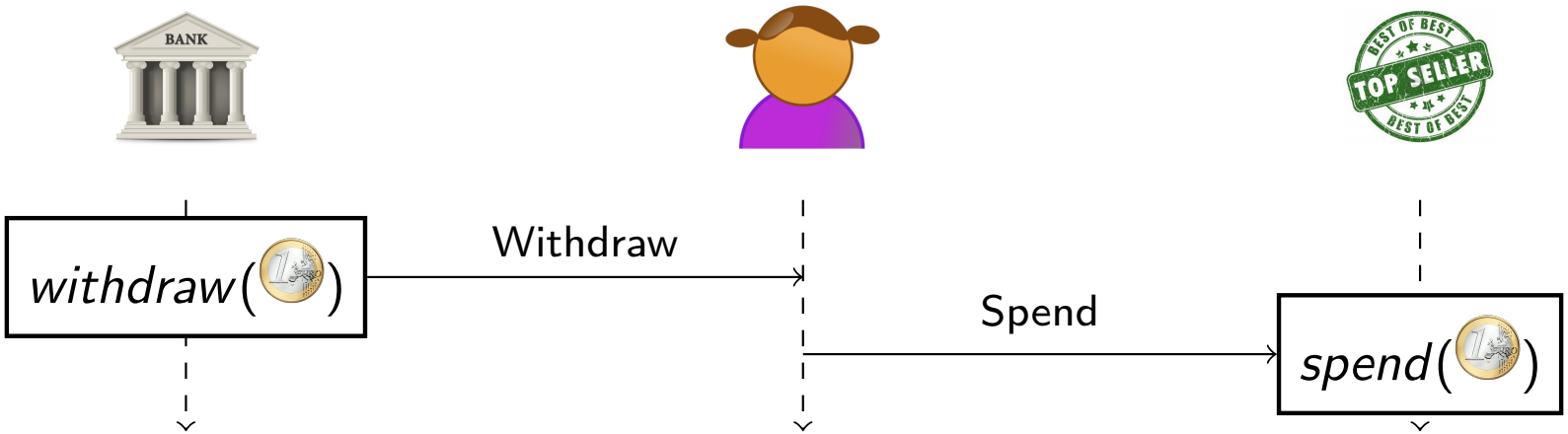
where

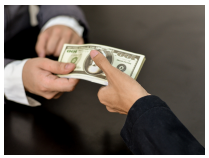
-  is some data from the bank
-  is evidence that  withdrew 

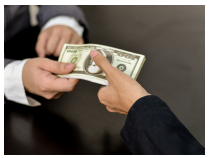
Exculpability

An attacker cannot forge a double spend by a client to blame him:

- **Attacker sees**  , i.e.:



- **but cannot forge**  such that:

$$\mathtt{T}_{\mathtt{DSI}}\left(\text{  }, \text{  }, \text{  }\right) = \left(\text{  }, \text{  }\right)$$

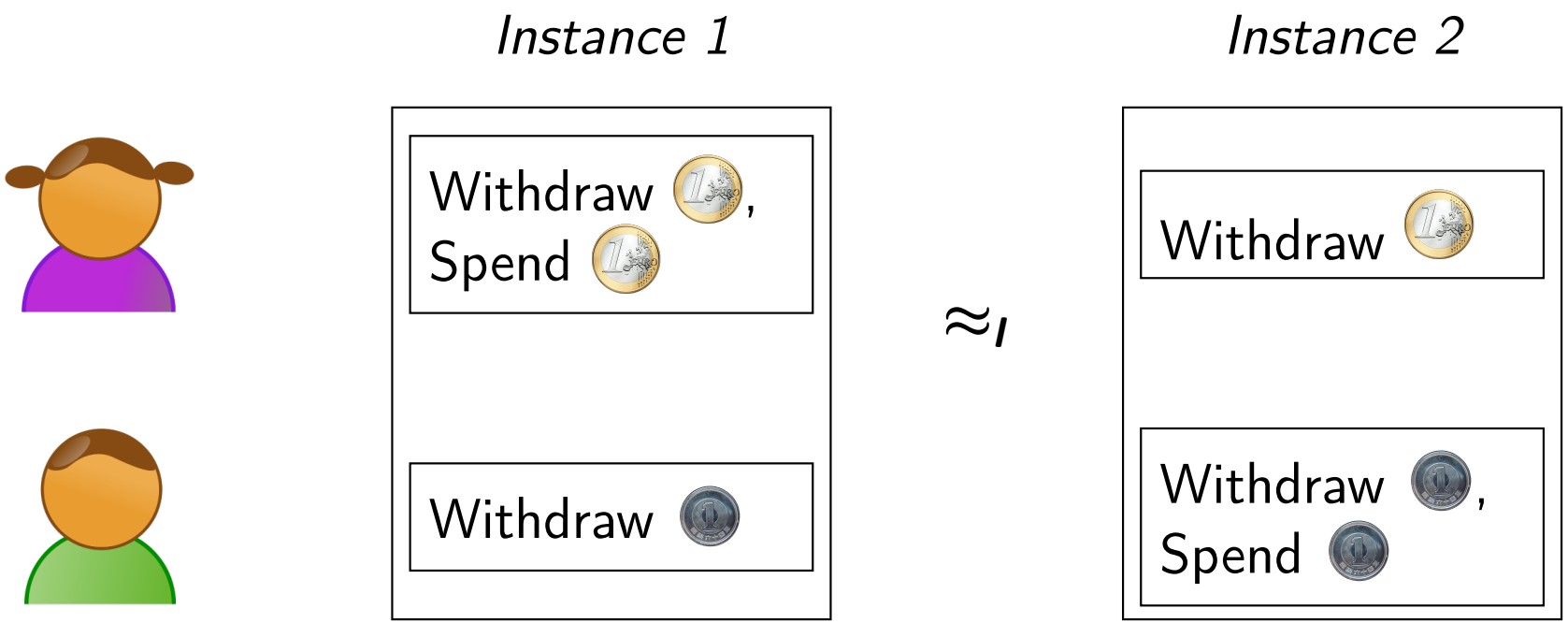
Plan

Weak Anonymity

Nobody can distinguish which client makes a payment.

Definition:

Observational equivalence of two instances:



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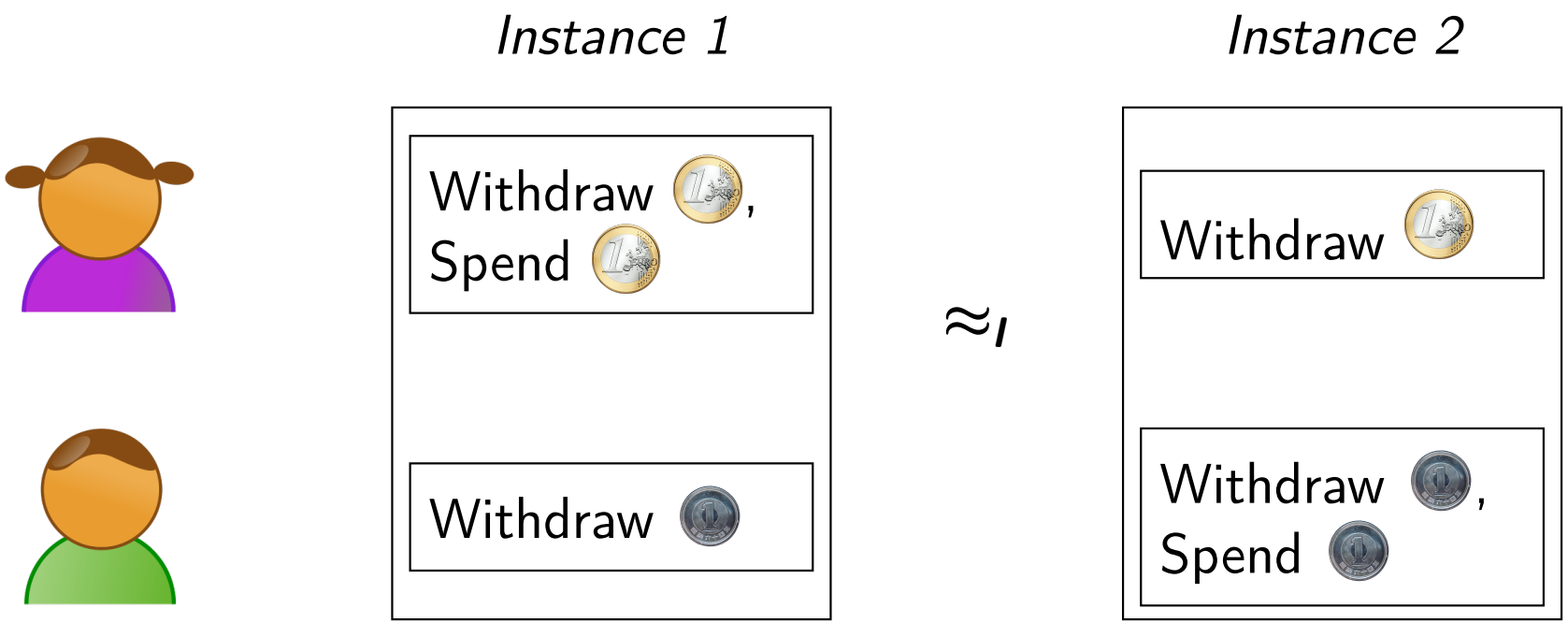
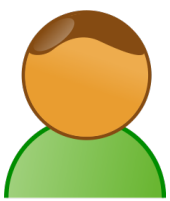
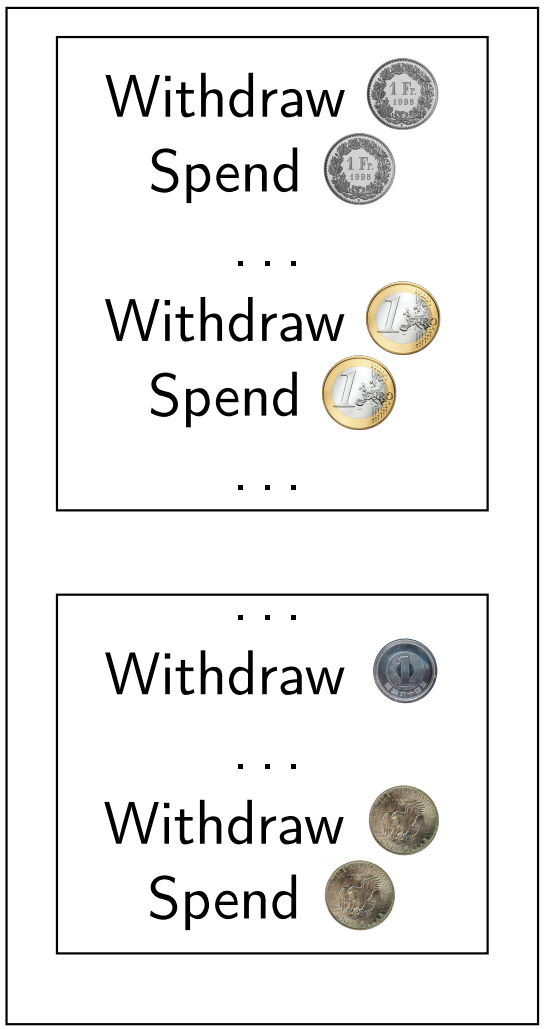


Note that the **bank** and the **seller** are **corrupted**.

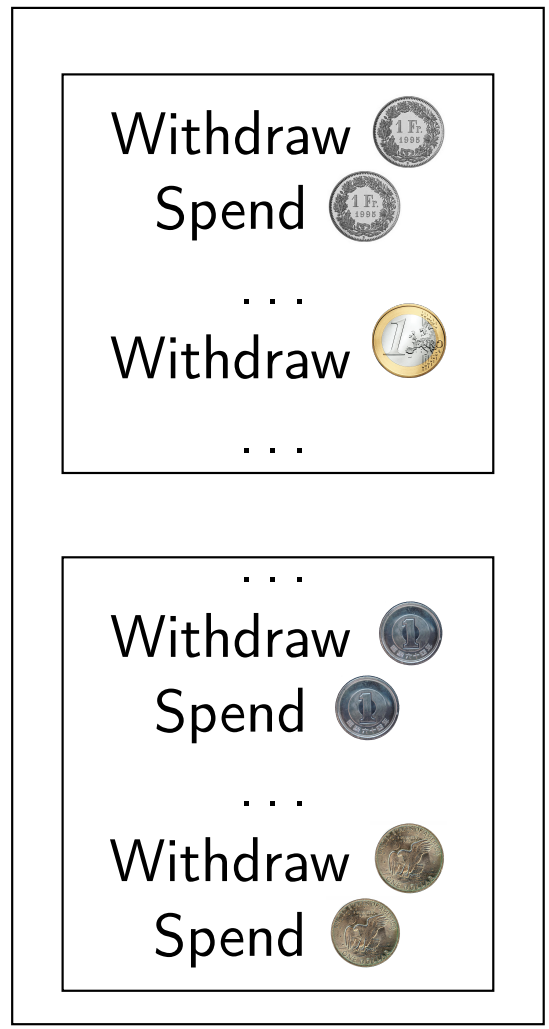
Strong Anonymity

Nobody is able to decide whether two payments were made by the same client:





$\approx_I$



Plan

Plan

Application: Chaum's On-Line Protocol

First on-line E-Cash protocol [?] using

- blind signatures
- on-line verification by the bank to prevent double spending

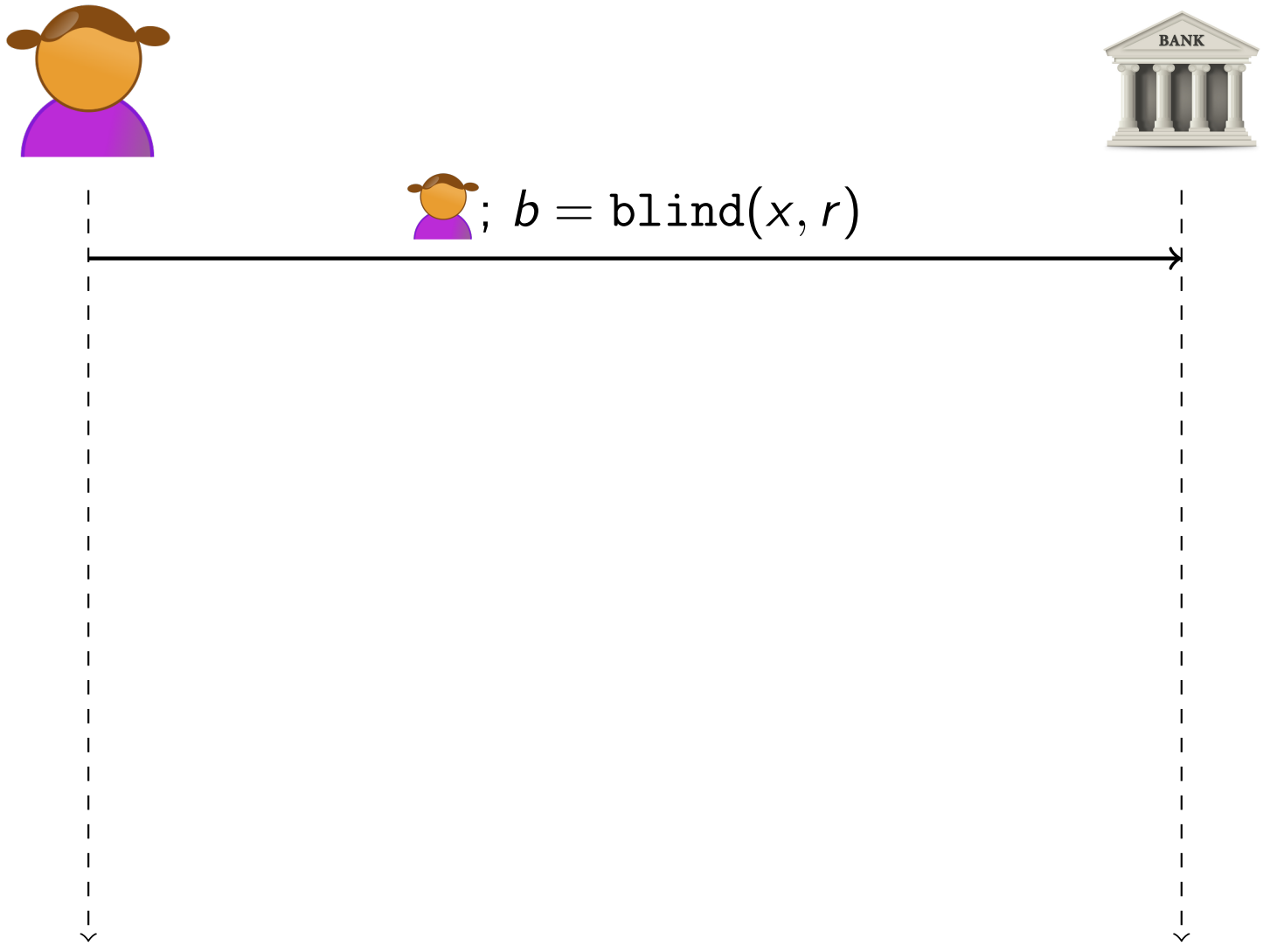
Goal: ensure

- unforgeability
- anonymity

in presence of **dishonest**

- banks
- sellers
- clients

Withdrawal Phase



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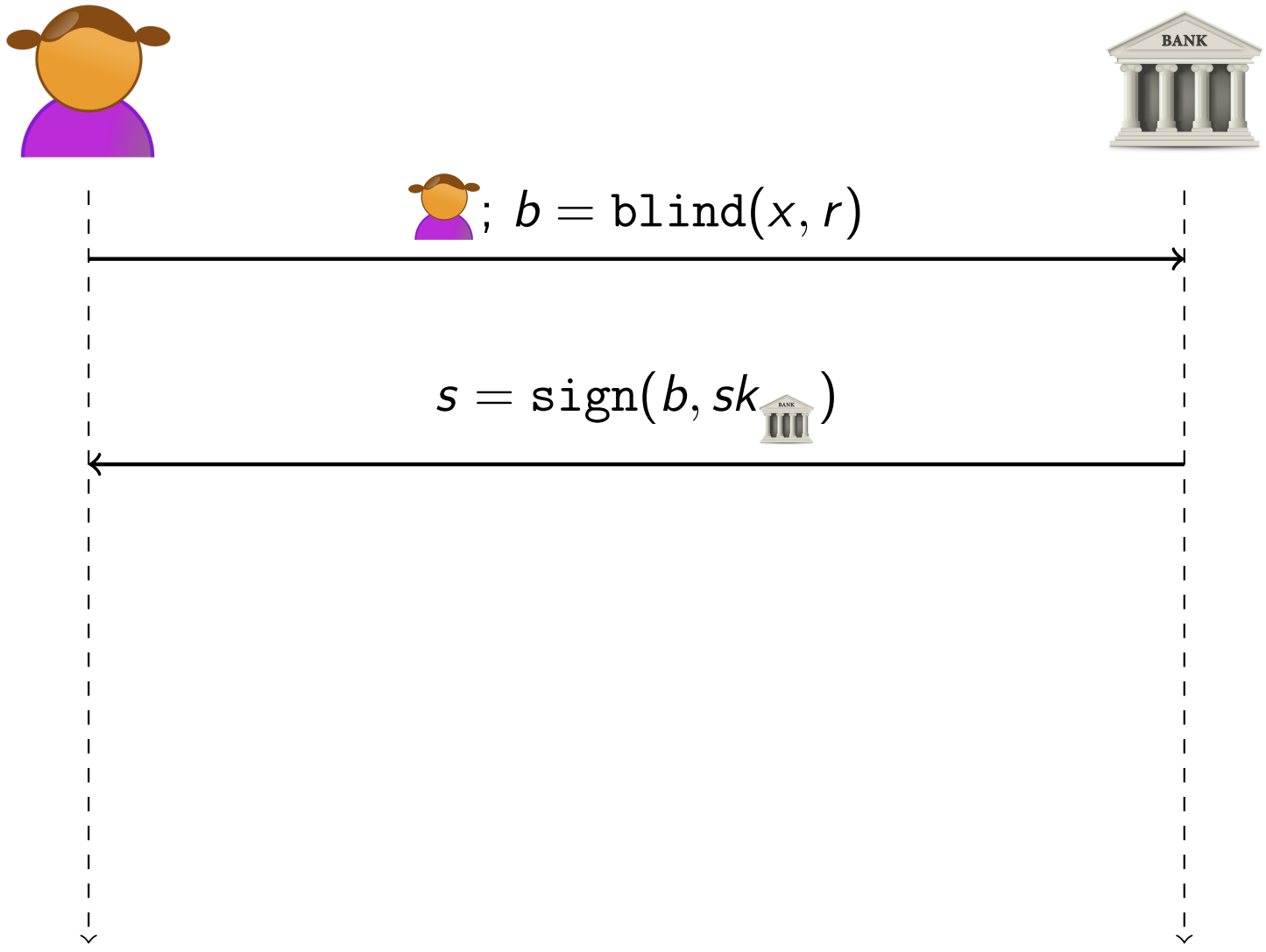


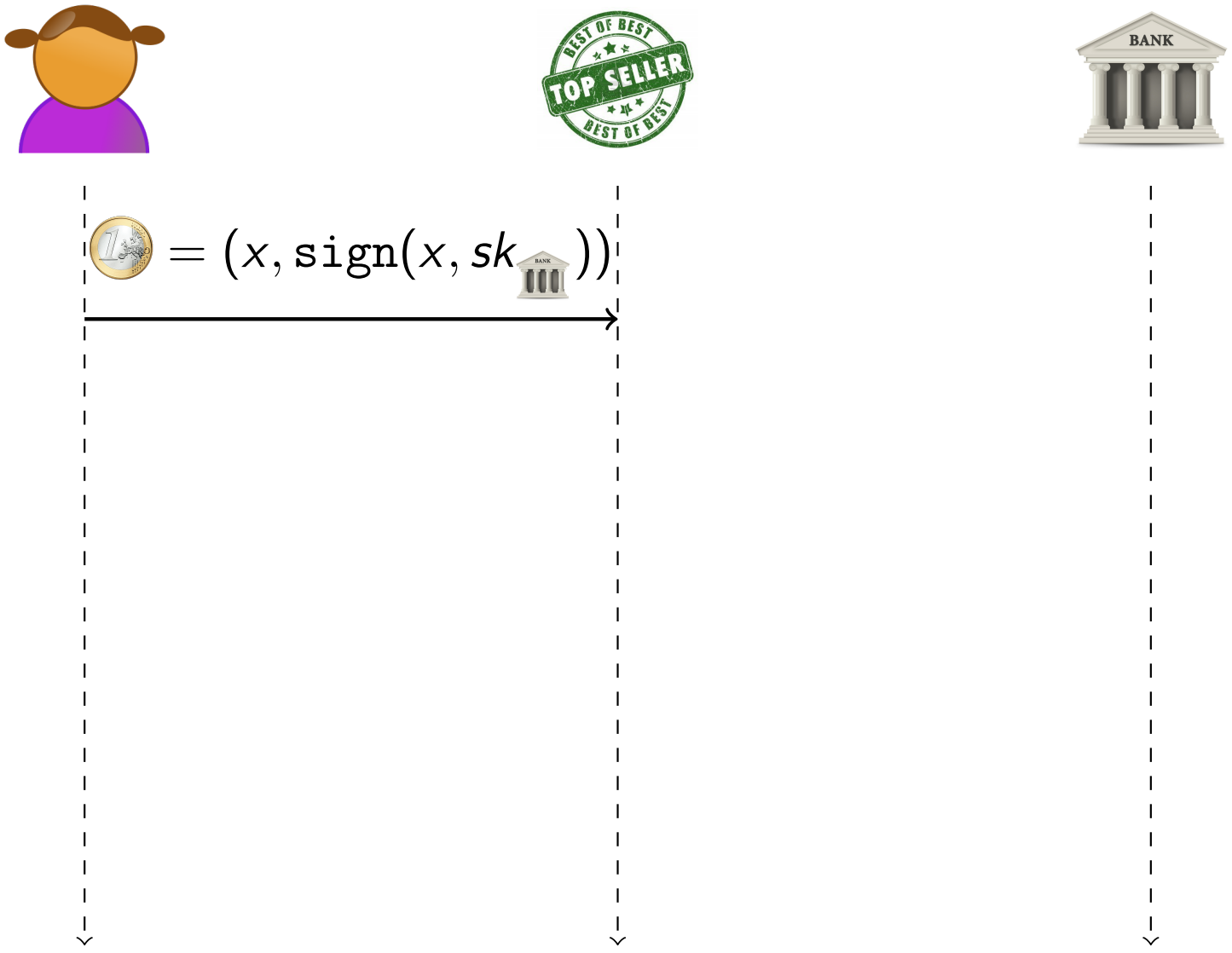
Withdrawal Phase

$; \; b = \texttt{blind}(x, r)$

$s = \texttt{sign}(b, sk_{\text{BANK}})$

1. Verify signature s
2. Compute $y = \texttt{unblind}(s, r) = \texttt{sign}(x, sk_{\text{BANK}})$
3. Coin $= (x, y) = (x, \texttt{sign}(x, sk_{\text{BANK}}))$

Payment and Deposit Phase



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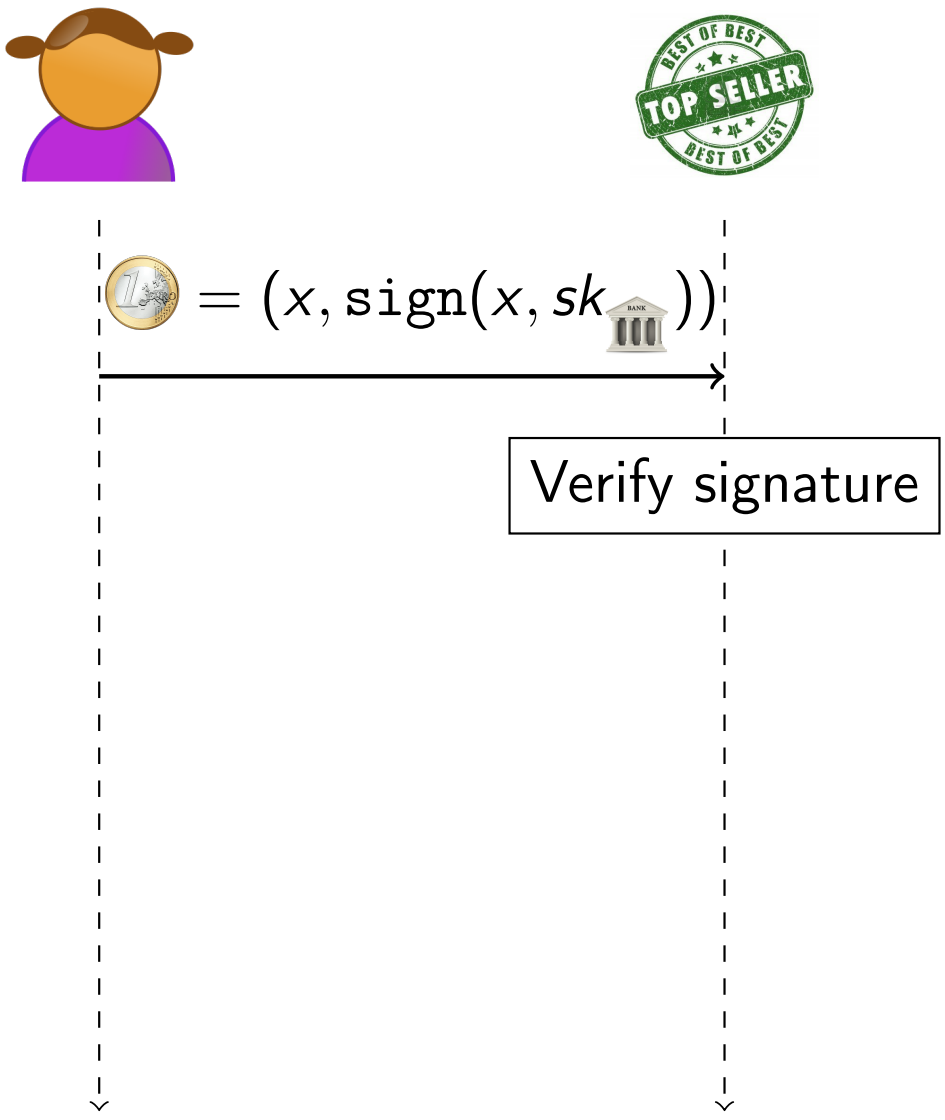

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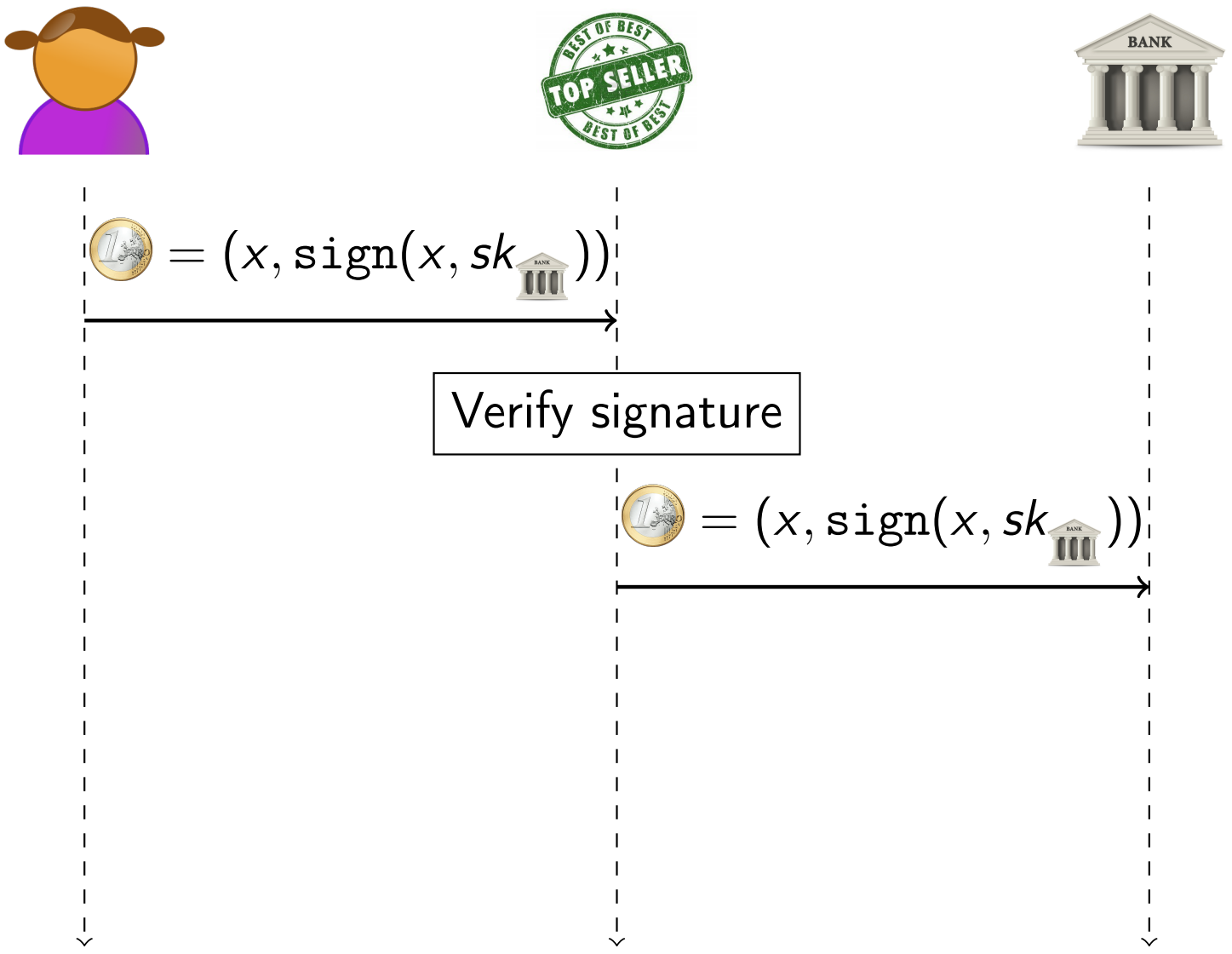

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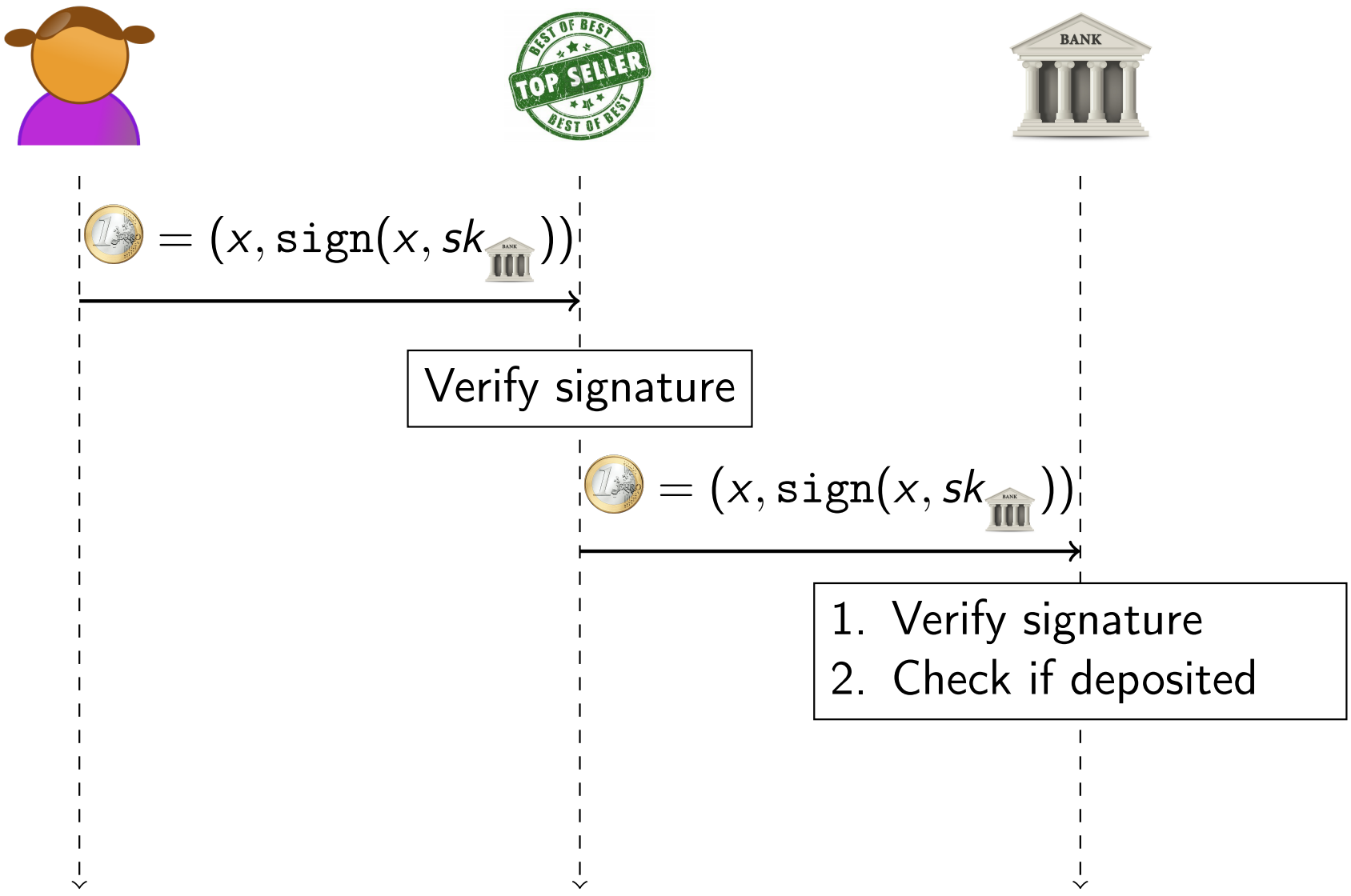

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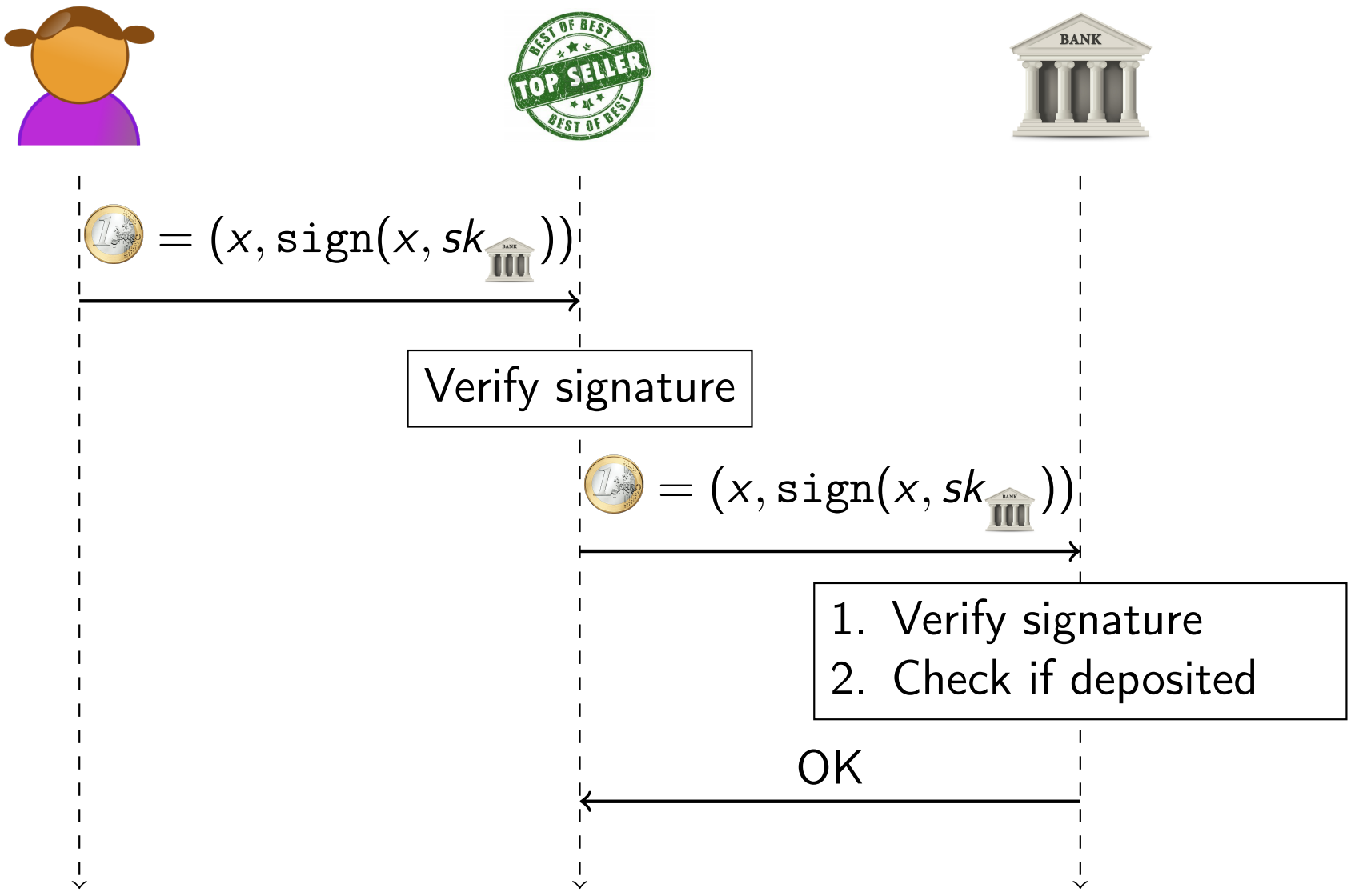

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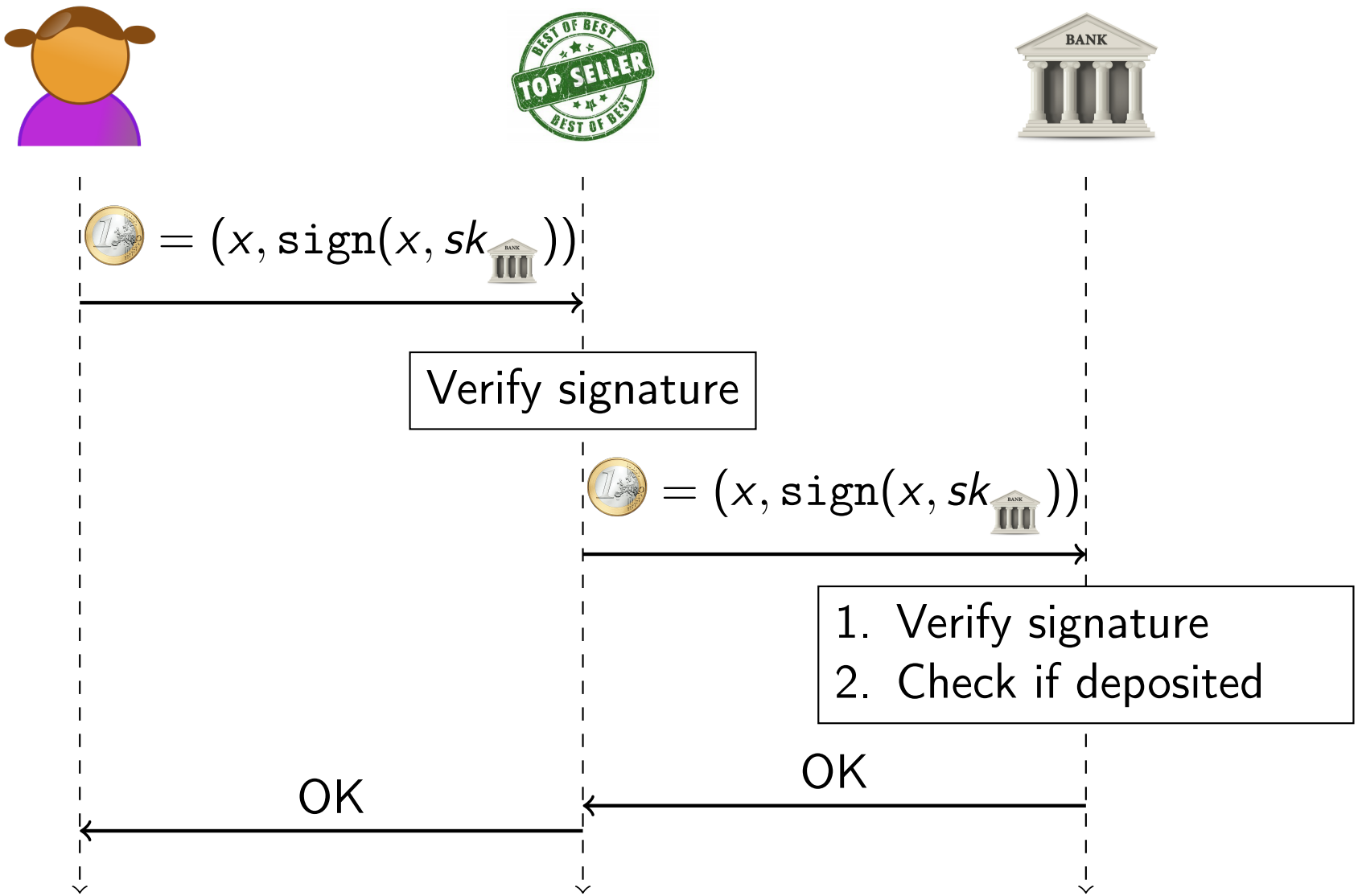


Results

Formal Verification with ProVerif [?]:

Property	Result	Time
Unforgeability	×	< 1 s
Double Spending Identification	–	–
Exculpability	–	–
Weak Anonymity	✓	< 1 s
Strong Anonymity	✓	< 1 s

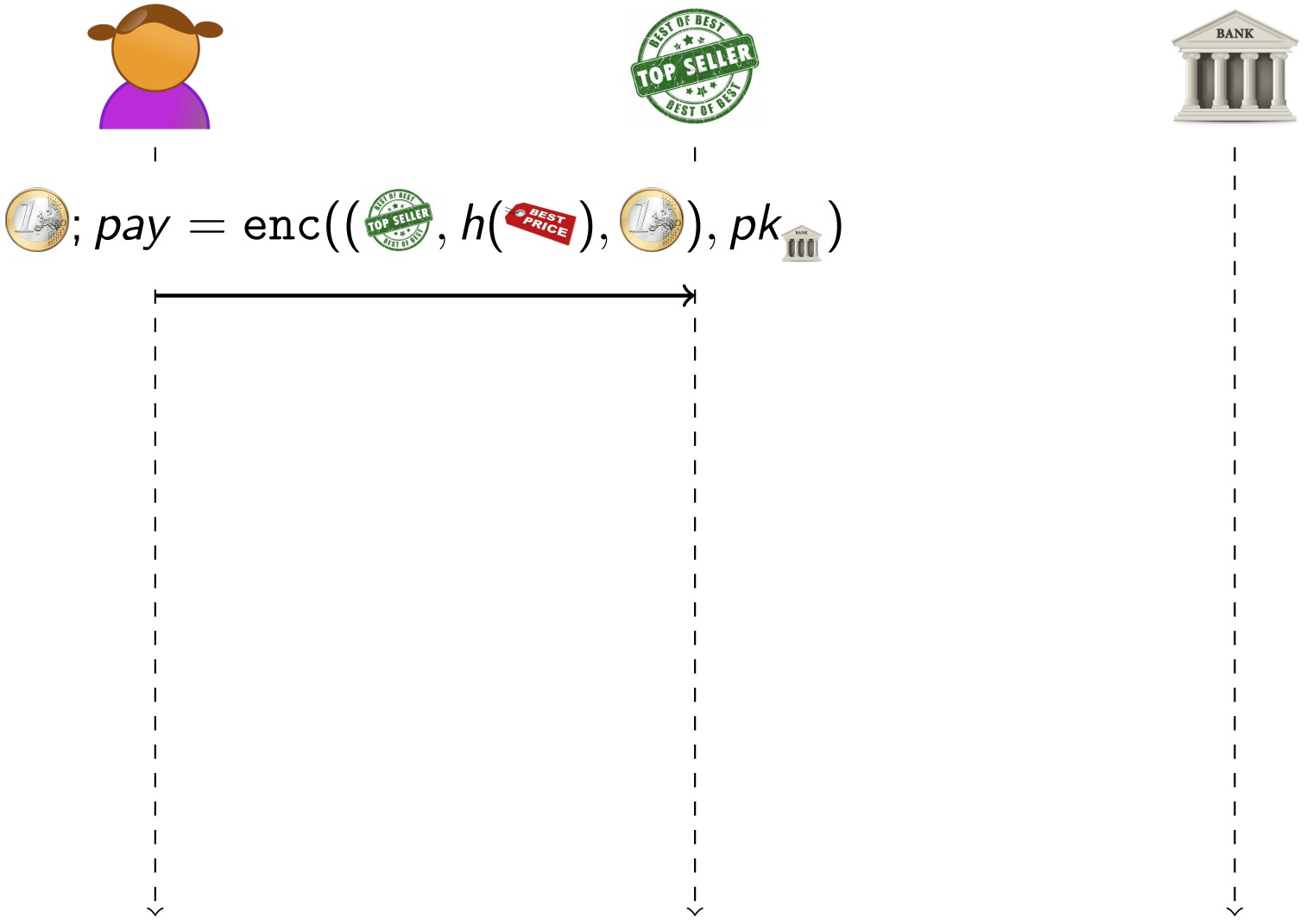
- **Race condition** on the on-line verification, requires synchronization
- **Double Spending Identification** and **Exculpability** are irrelevant for on-line protocols.

Plan

DigiCash Protocol

Variant of Chaum's On-Line protocol

- Different **payment and deposit phase**:



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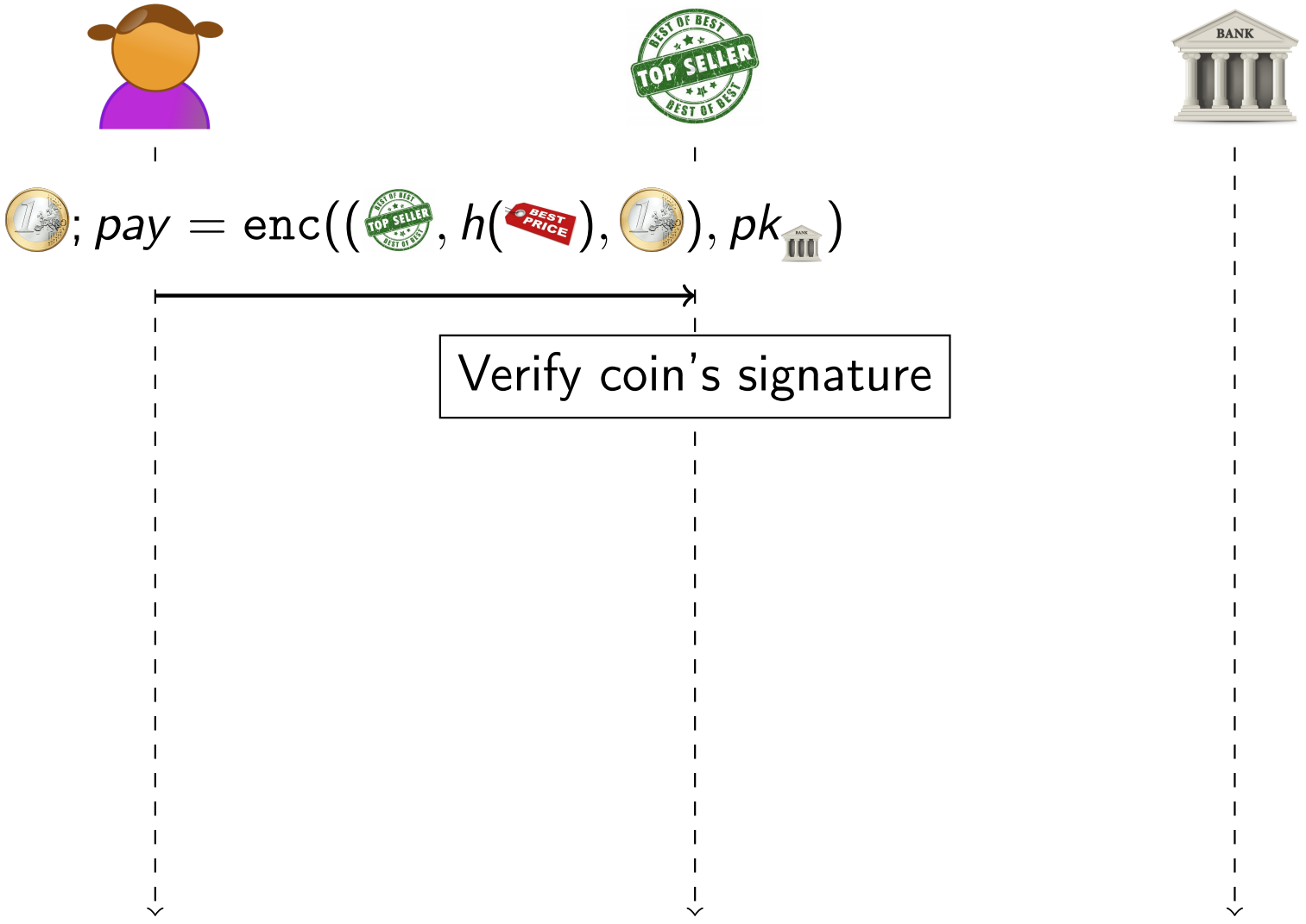

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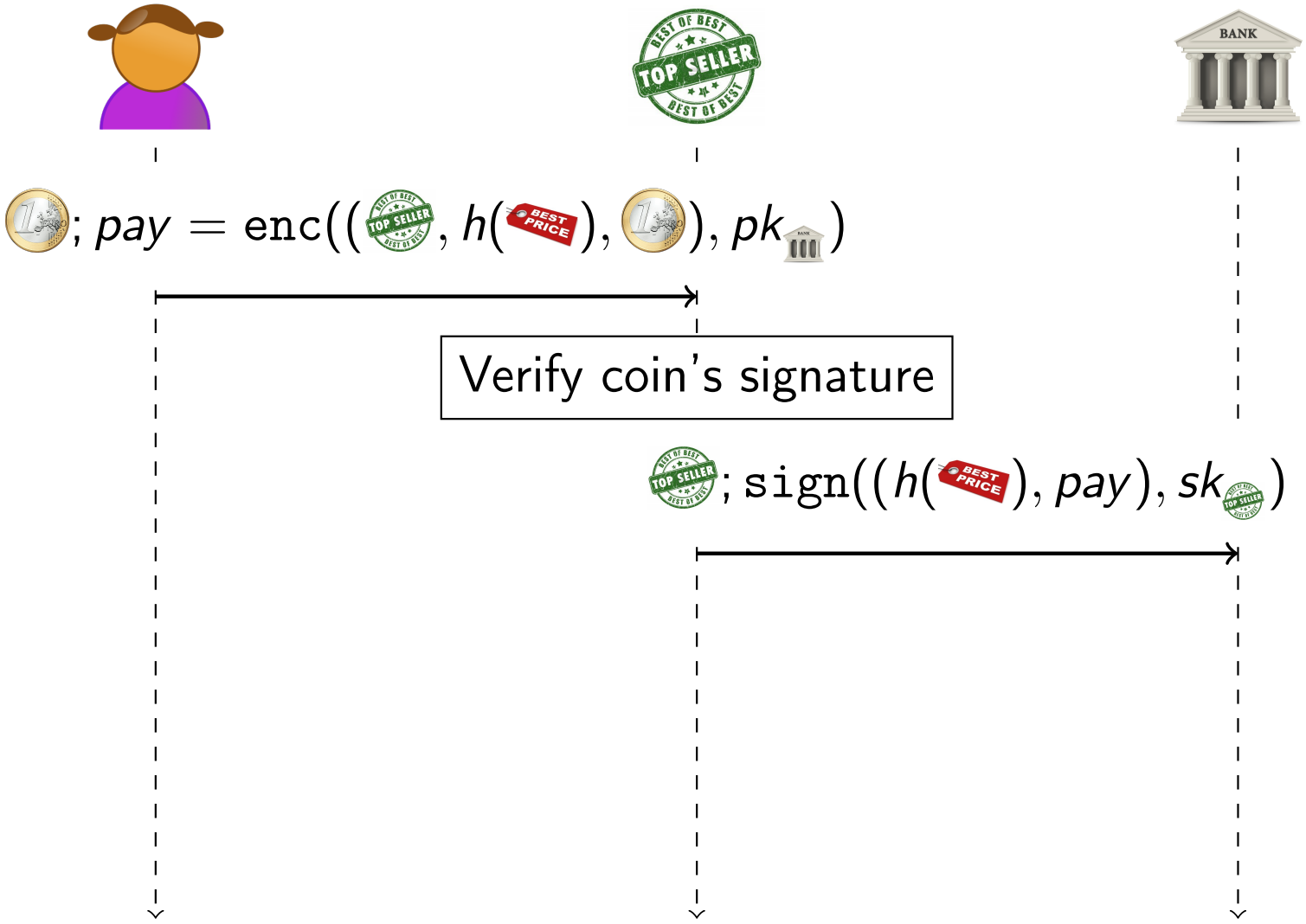

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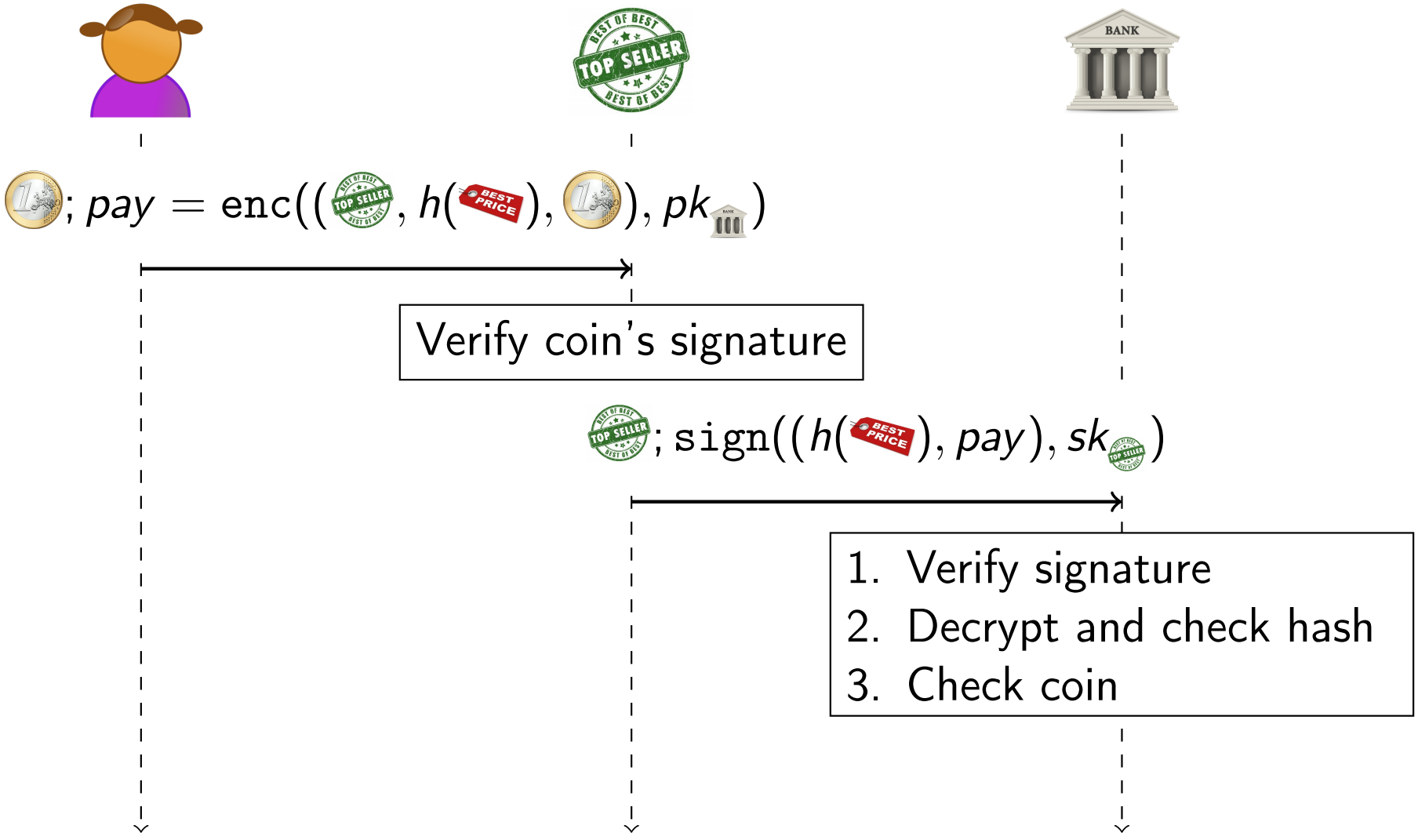

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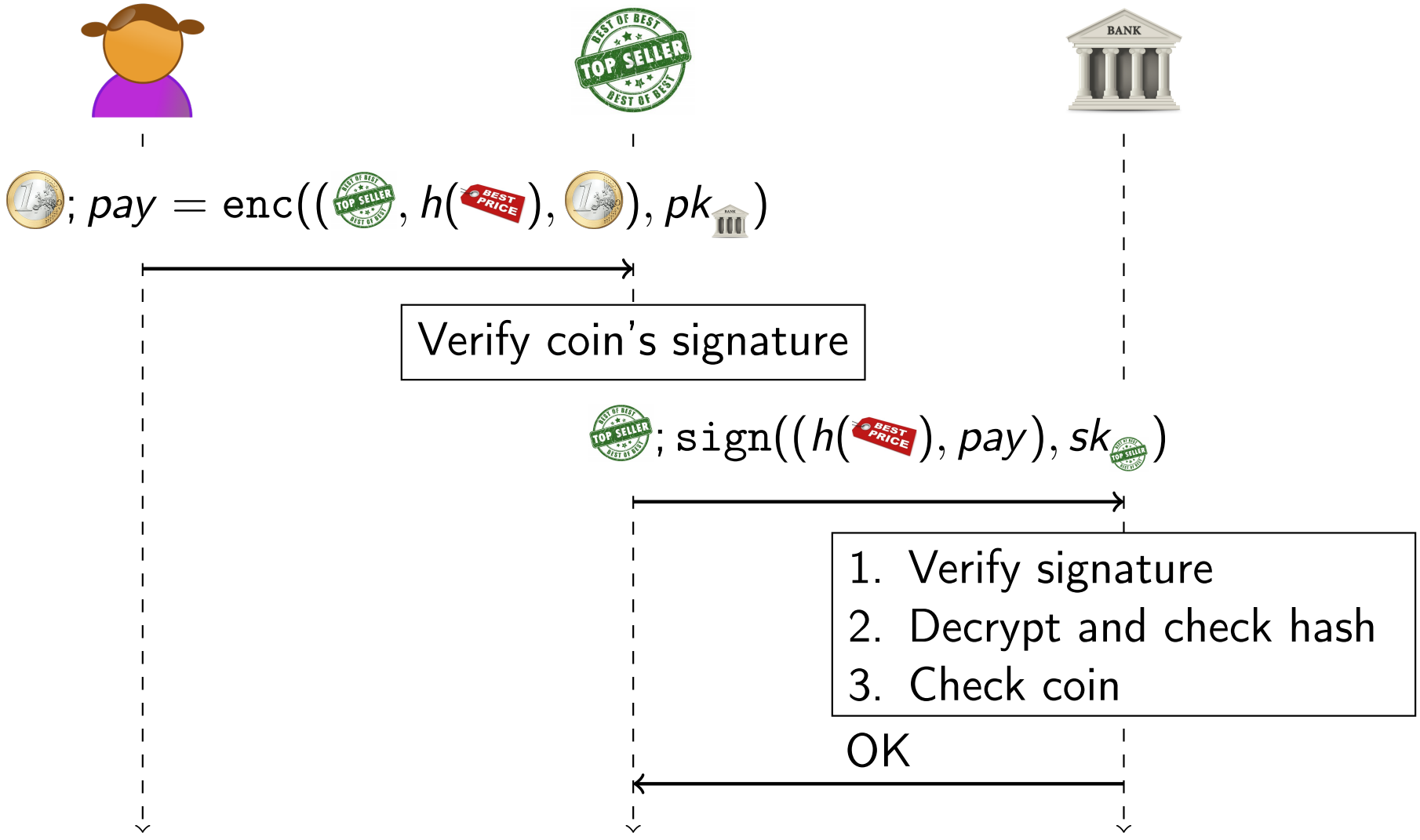

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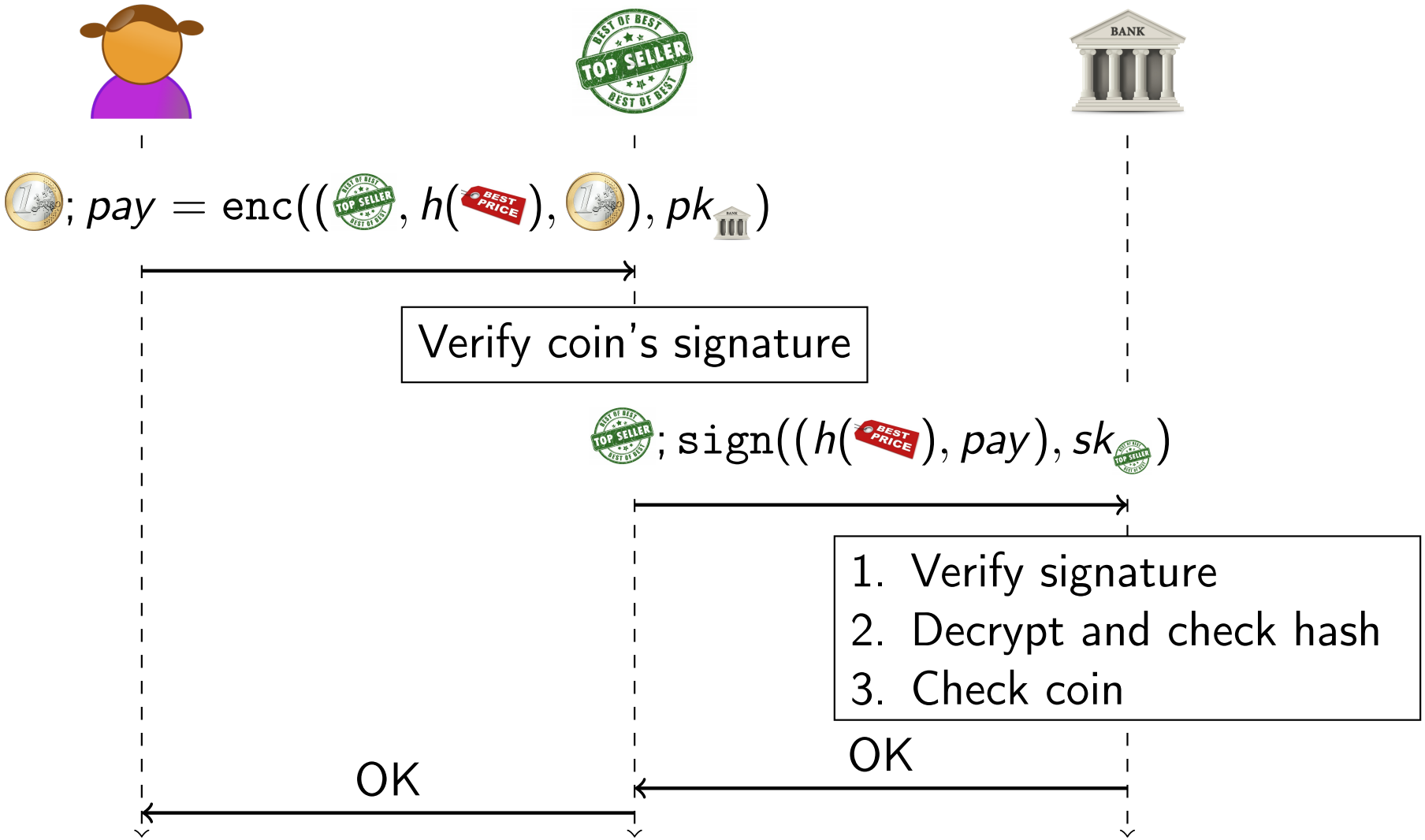

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Same observations:

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Chaum's Off-Line Protocol

Off-line variant [?] of Chaum's on-line protocol [?] using

- blind signatures
- cryptographic hash
- XOR

Goal: ensure

- unforgeability
- double spending identification
- exculpability
- anonymity

in presence of **dishonest**

- banks
- sellers
- clients

Withdrawal Phase

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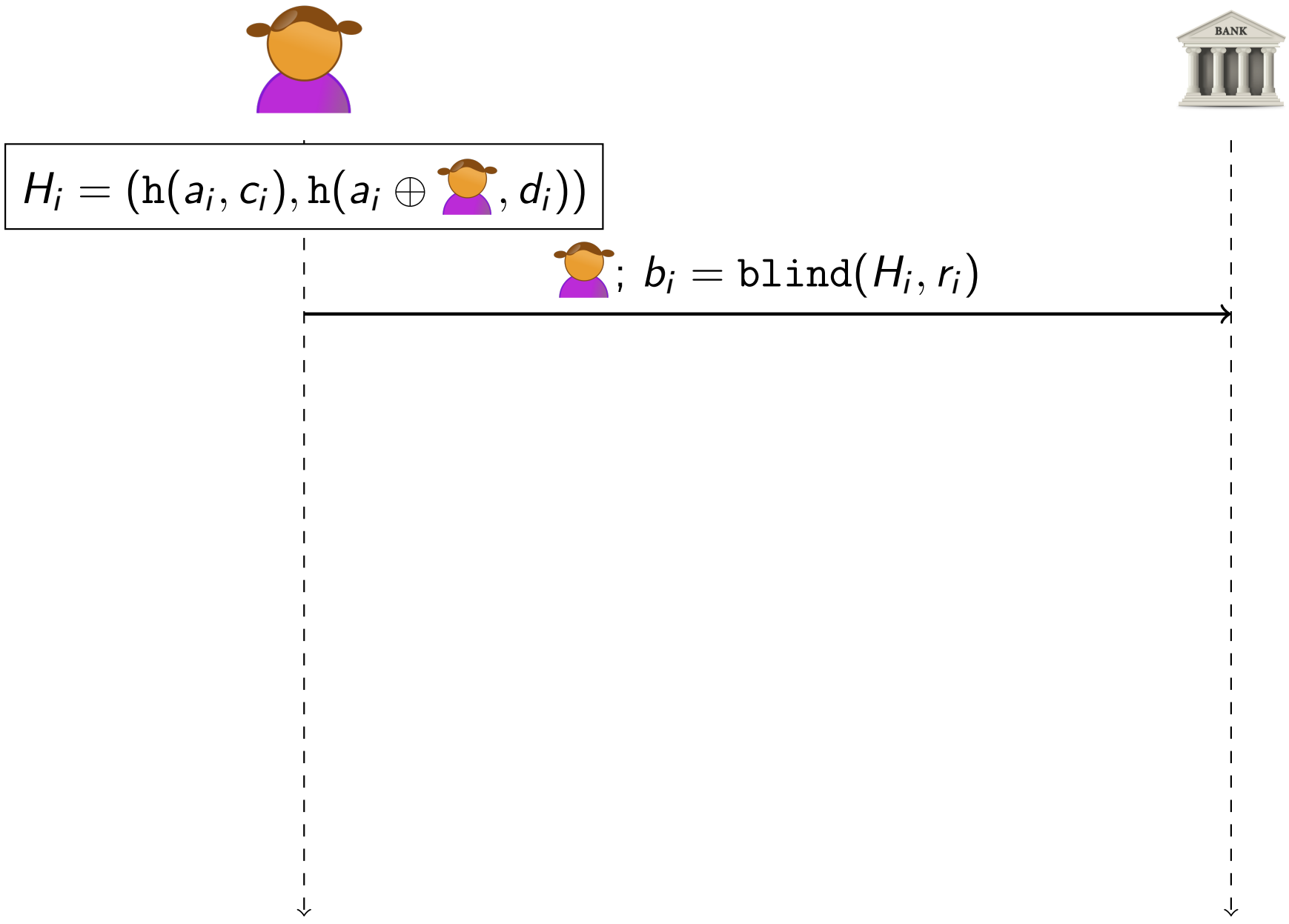
Withdrawal Phase



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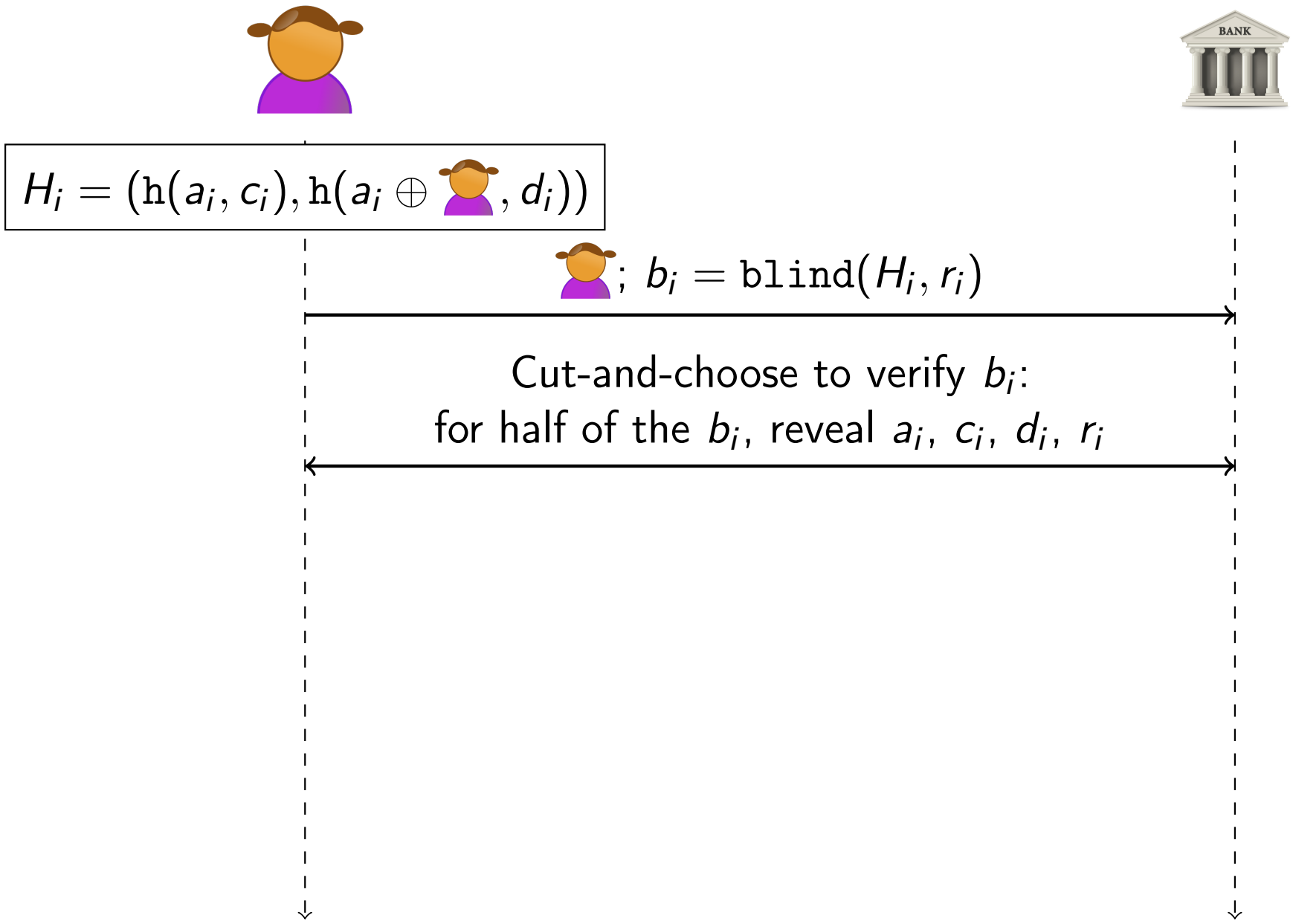

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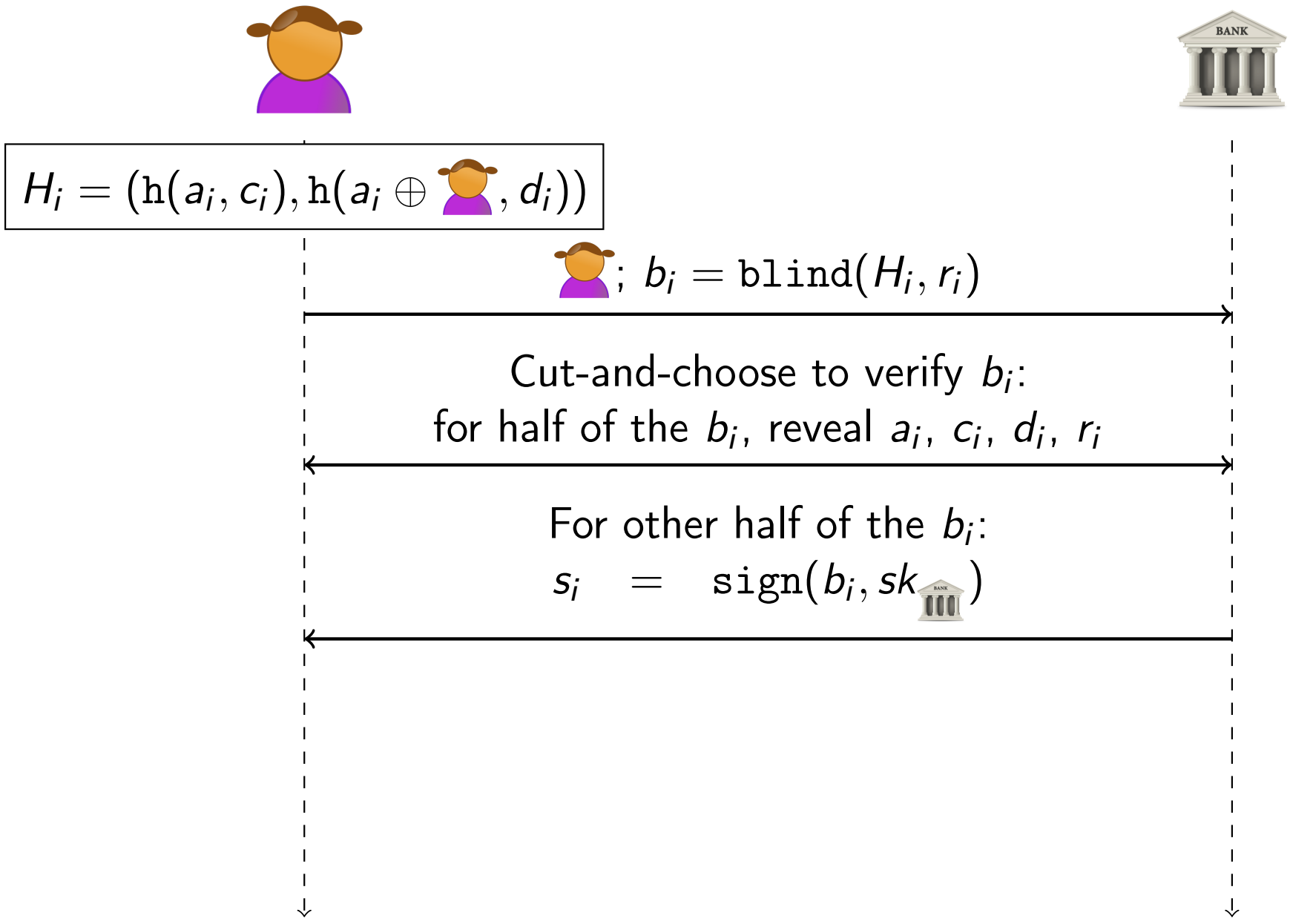

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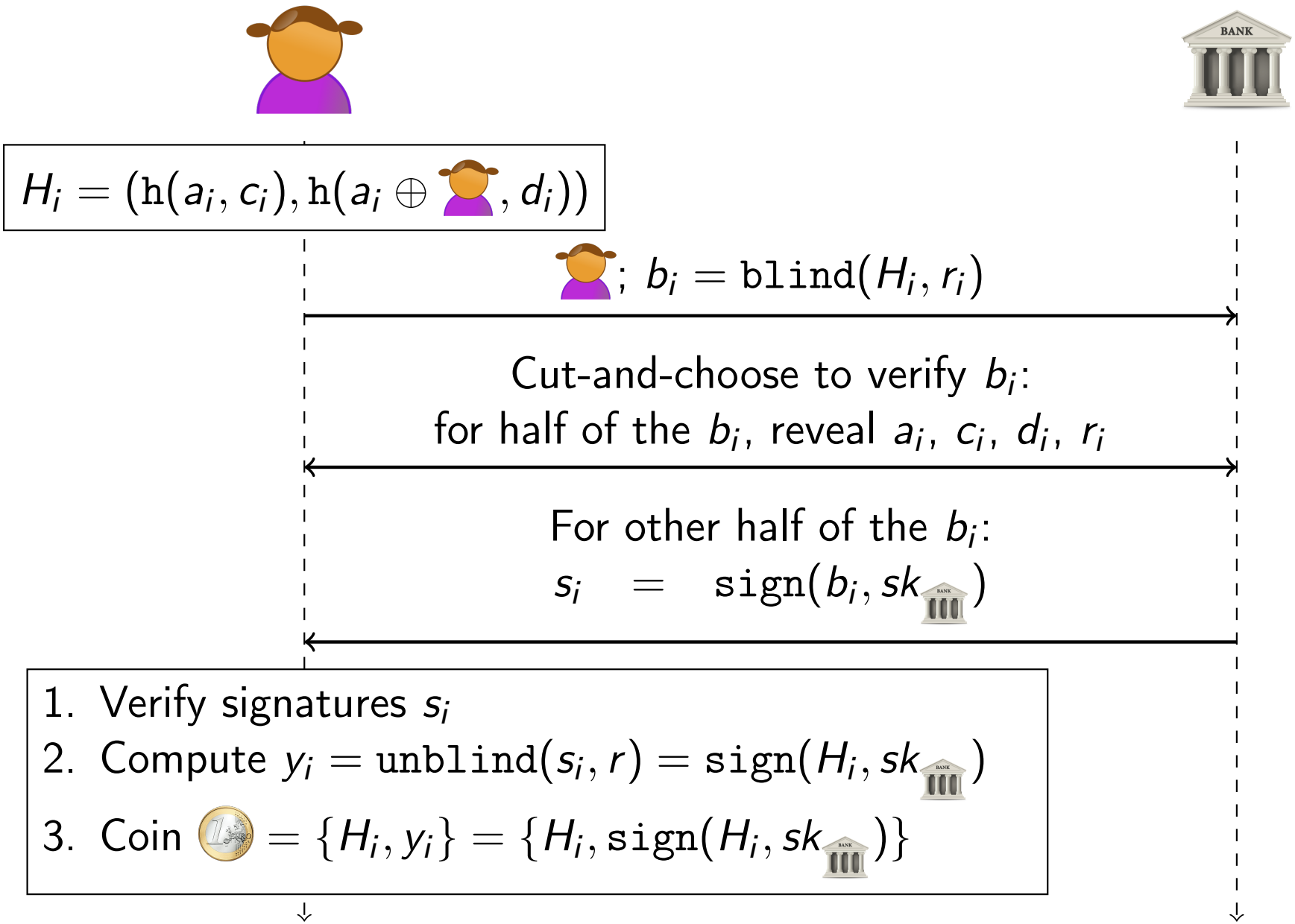
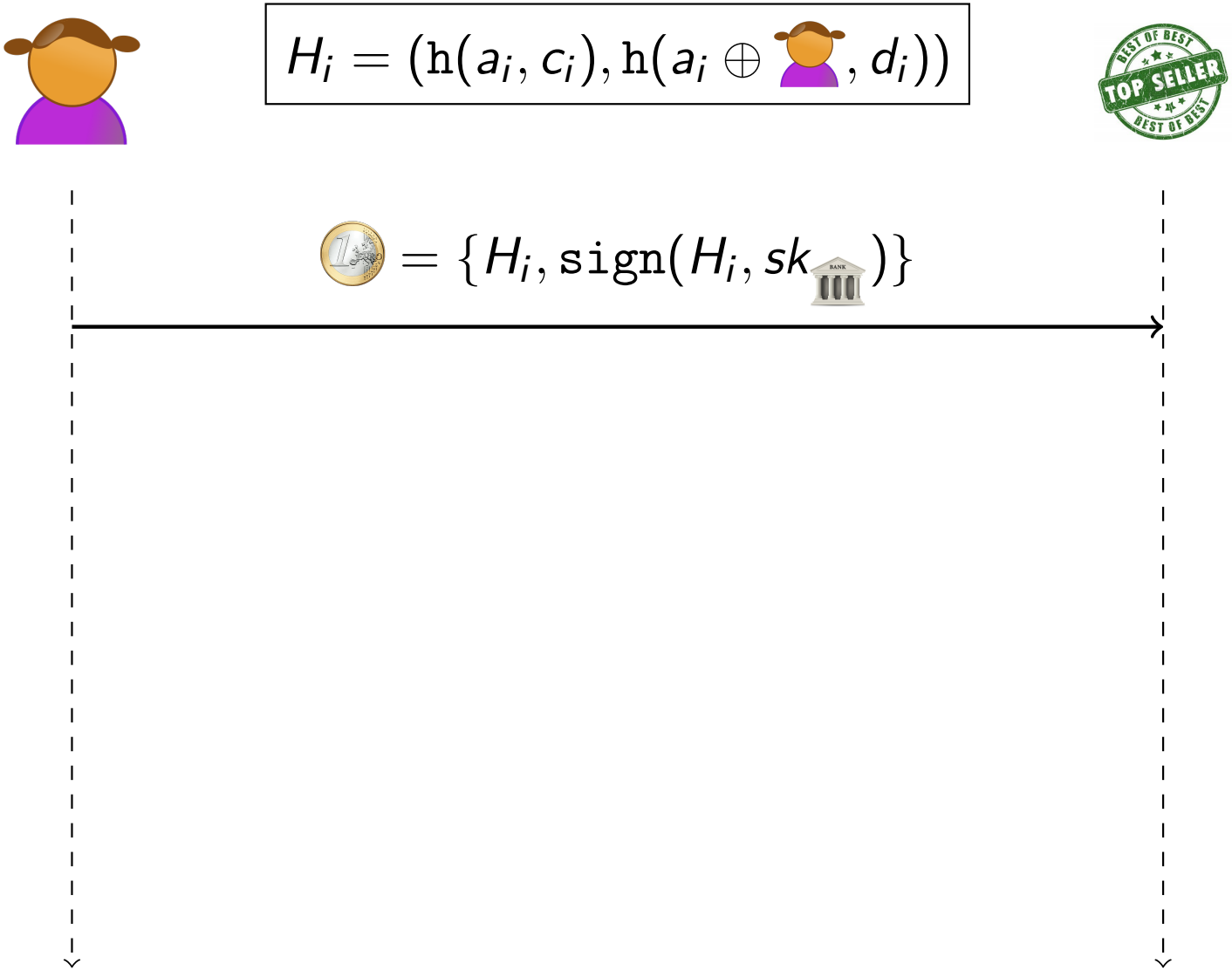


Payment Phase



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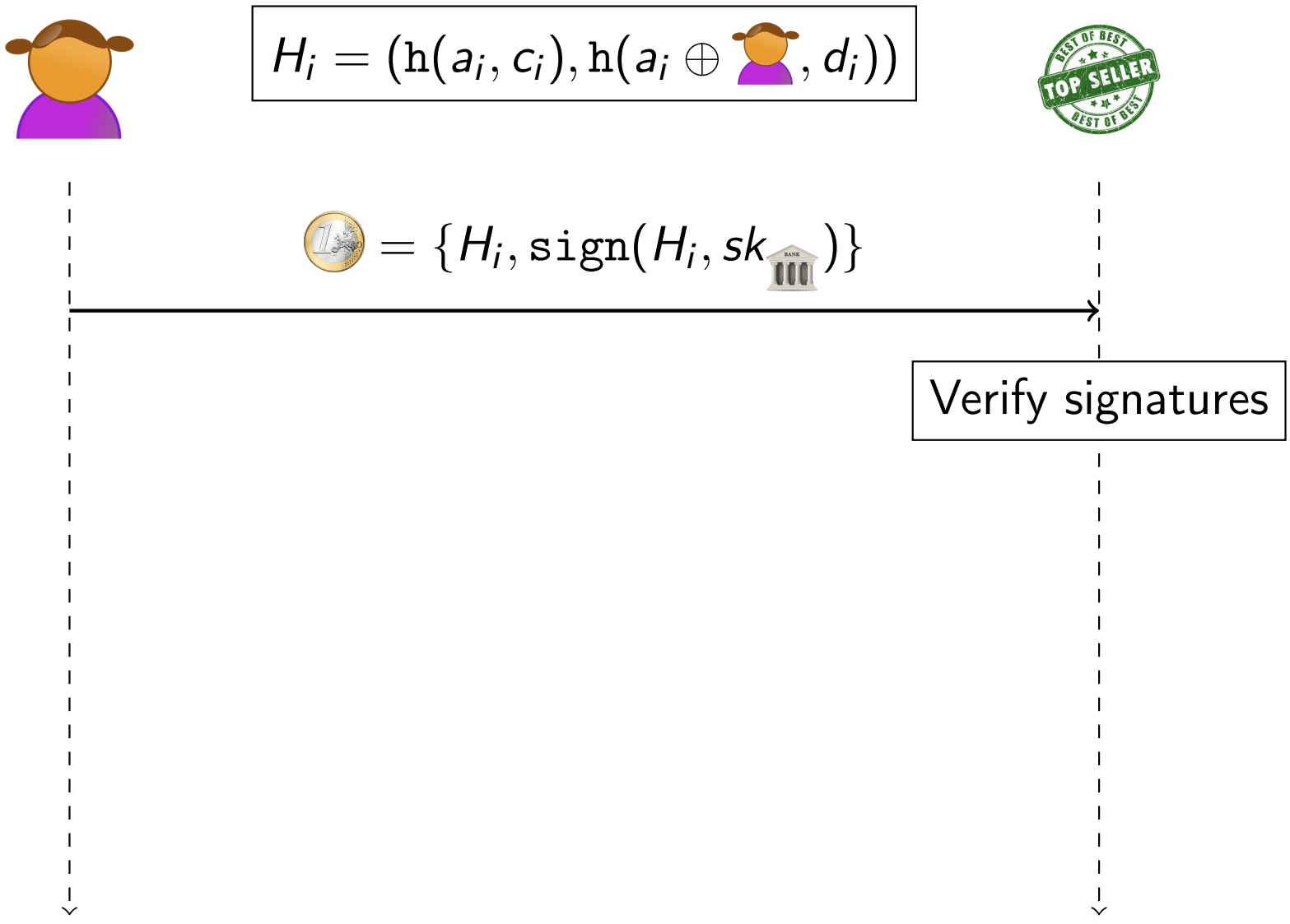

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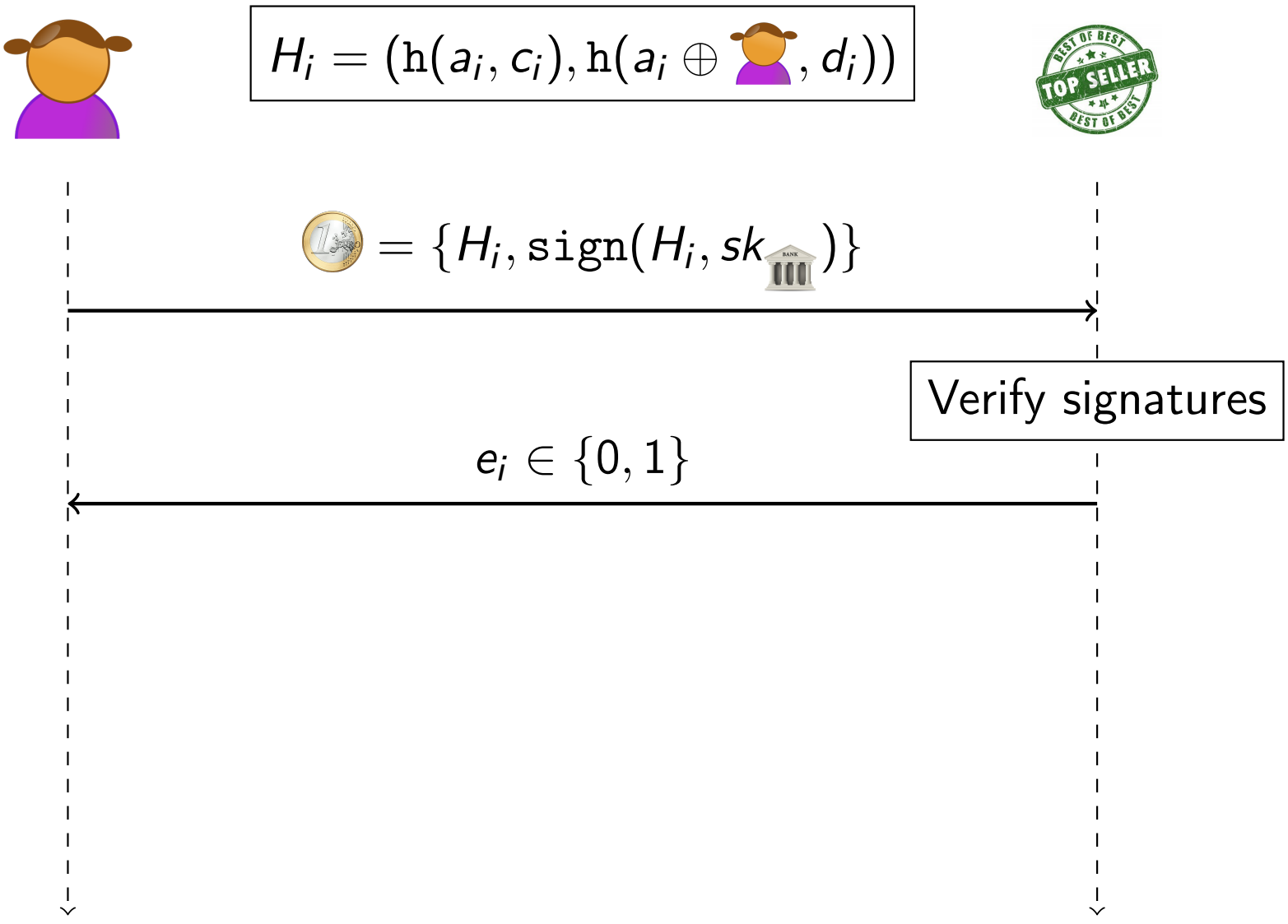

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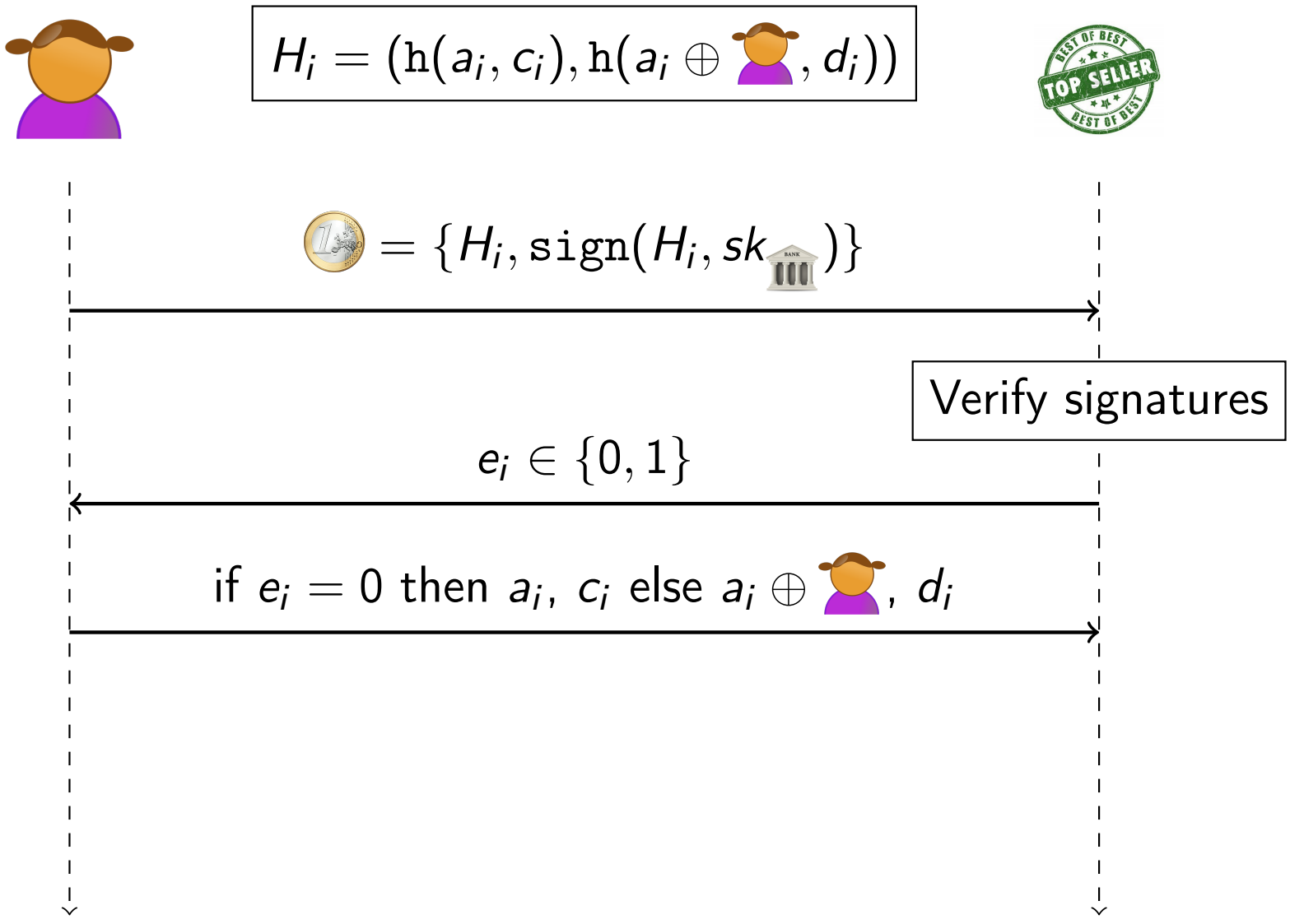

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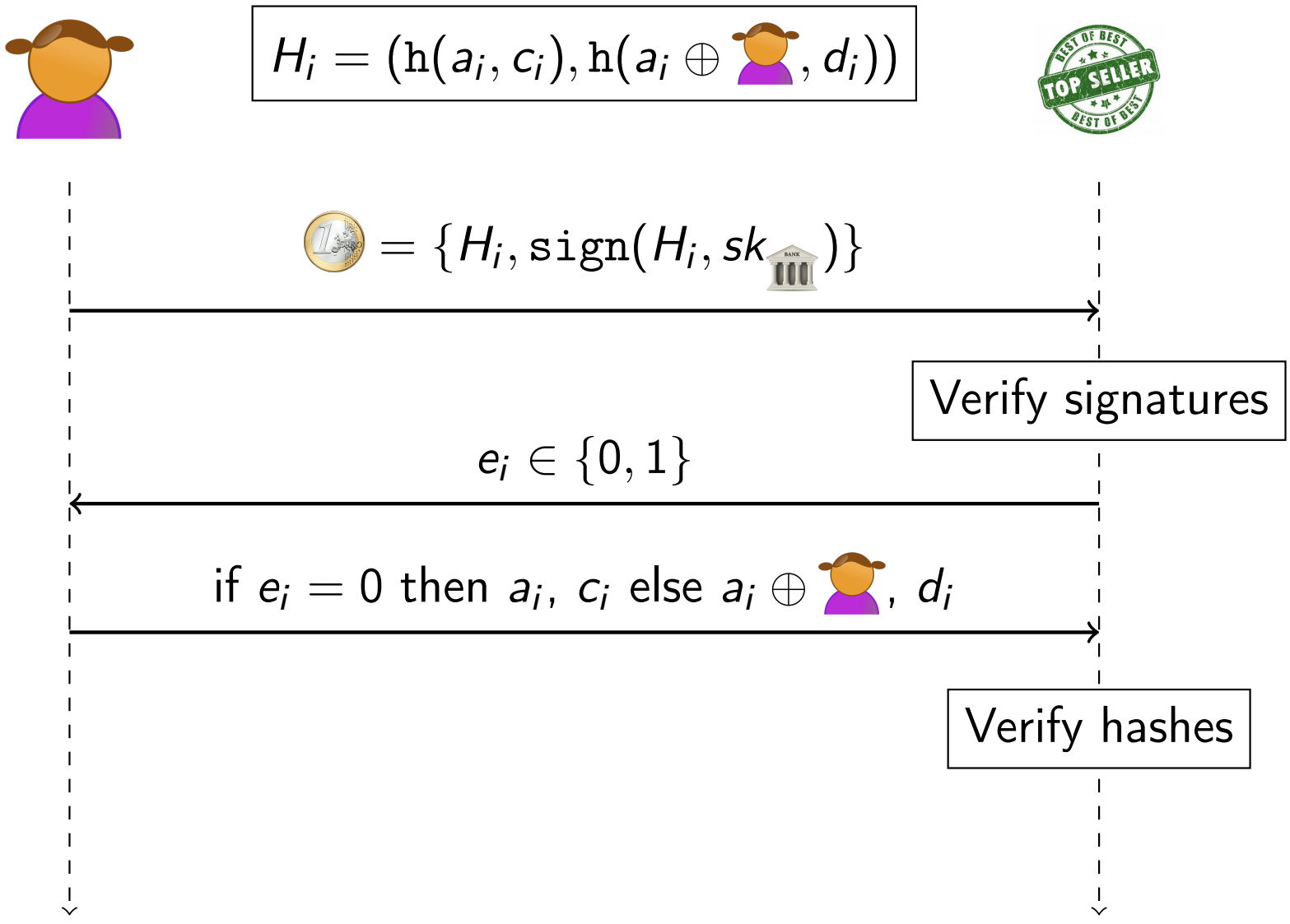

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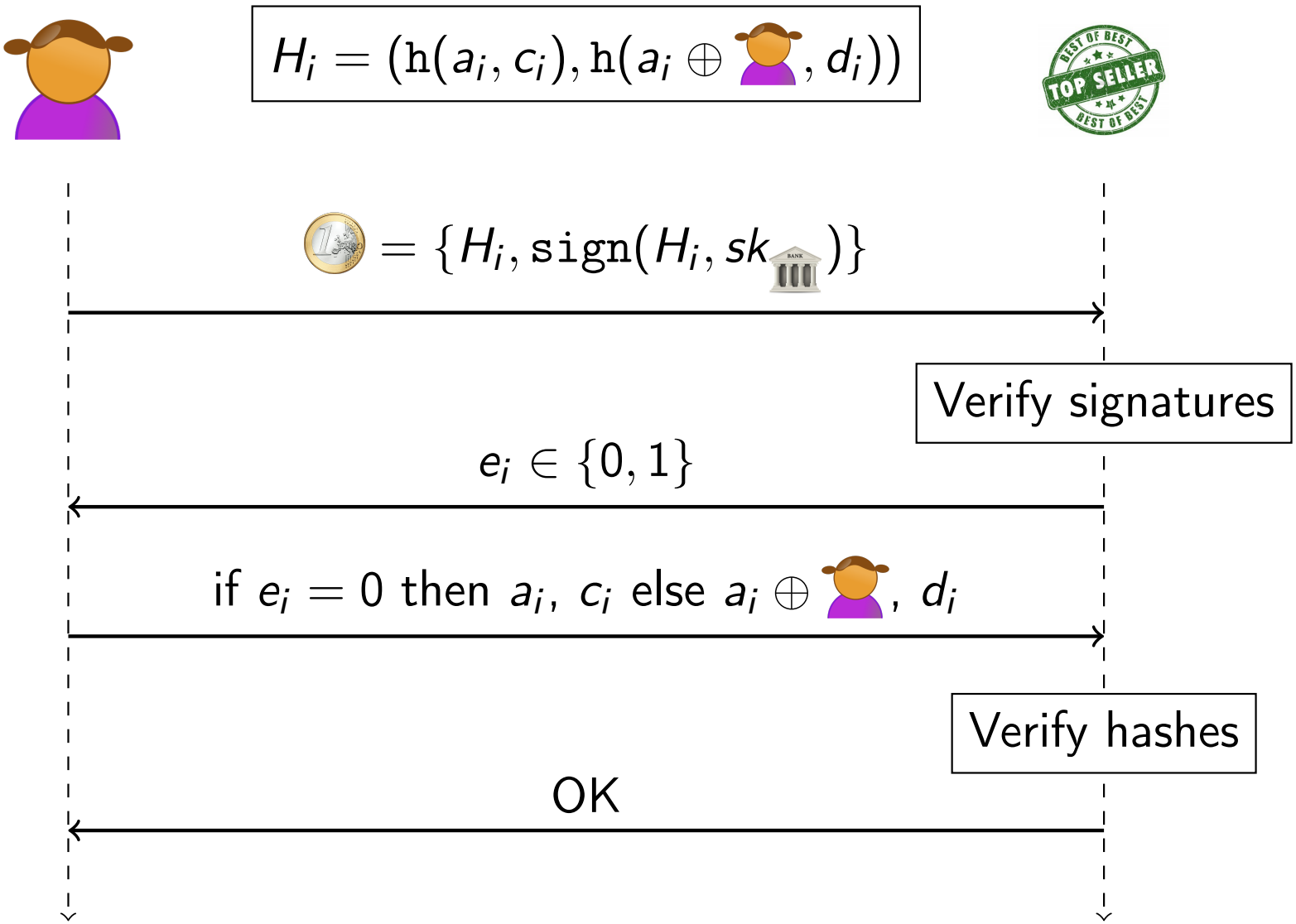

Deposit Phase

$$H_i = (\mathtt{h}(a_i, c_i), \mathtt{h}(a_i \oplus \text{  }, d_i))$$
$$y_i = \mathtt{sign}(H_i, sk_{\text{  }})$$

$$\{(H_i, y_i, 0, a_i, c_i) \text{ or } (H_i, y_i, 1, a_i \oplus \text{  }, d_i)\}$$

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1. Verify signatures and hashes
2. Check if deposited

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1. Verify signatures and hashes
2. Check if deposited

OK

Double Spending Identification

If 

receives **two transactions** with the **same coin**, with high probability it has for at least one i

- a_i
- $a_i \oplus$ 
- c_i
- d_i

Allows to compute: $a_i \oplus (a_i \oplus$  $) =$ 

Double Spending Identification

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- a_i
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- c_i
- d_i

Allows to compute: $a_i \oplus (a_i \oplus$  $) =$ 

- **However:** 

can **forge double-spending** as it knows 
- **Fix:** $H_i = (\mathtt{h}(a_i, c_i), \mathtt{h}(a_i \oplus ($  $, z_i, z_i'), d_i))$ and client deposits signature on $\mathtt{h}(z_i, z_i')$ at withdrawal

Results

Formal Verification with ProVerif:

Property	**Result**	**Time**
Unforgeability	×	< 1 s
Double Spending Identification	×	< 2 s
Double Spending Identification*	✓	< 2 s
Exculpability	×	< 6 s
Exculpability†	✓	< 6 s
Weak Anonymity	✓	< 1 s
Strong Anonymity	✓	< 1 s

Observations:

- **Double spending** possible, violating unforgeability
- Double Spending Identification requires **cut-and-choose** (*)
- **Exculpability** needs **fix** (†).

Plan

Conclusion

- **E-cash** can offer anonymous payment
- **Formal framework** for analysis of e-cash protocols:
  - Formal model in the **applied π-calculus**
  - **Definitions** for central forgery-related and anonymity properties
- **Automated verification in ProVerif** of three case studies:
  - Chaum's On-Line Protocol: race condition on online verification
  - DigiCash Protocol: same race condition on online verification
  - Chaum's Off-Line Protocol: requires cut-and-choose and fix
- **Future work**: verification with synchronization and XOR, dividable and transferable coins

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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