

CSI-Otter: Isogeny-Based (Partially) Blind Signatures from the Class Group Action with a Twist

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Ling Qin

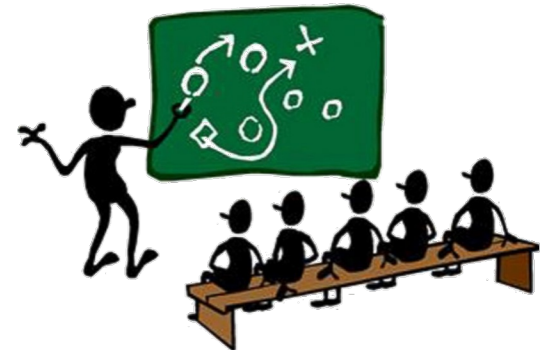


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Our Result in Short

A new Schnorr-type 3-round **blind signature** based on isogenies (CSIDH).

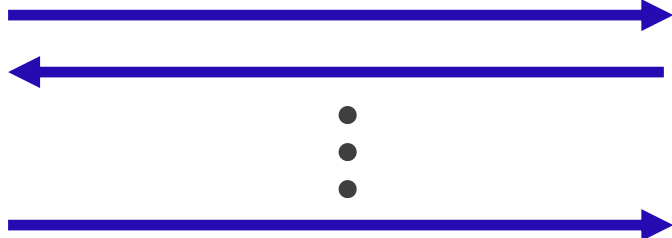
- The first (partially) blind signature from isogenies.
- Provable security for log-concurrent sessions.
- New hardness assumption for optimization.



1. Background

What are Blind Signatures?

⇒ An interactive signing protocol with “privacy”.



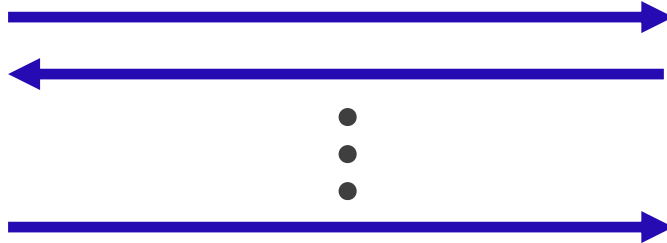
Signature σ for m

What are Blind Signatures?

⇒ An interactive signing protocol with “privacy”.



Signer (vk, sk)



User (vk, m)



Signature σ for m

Security

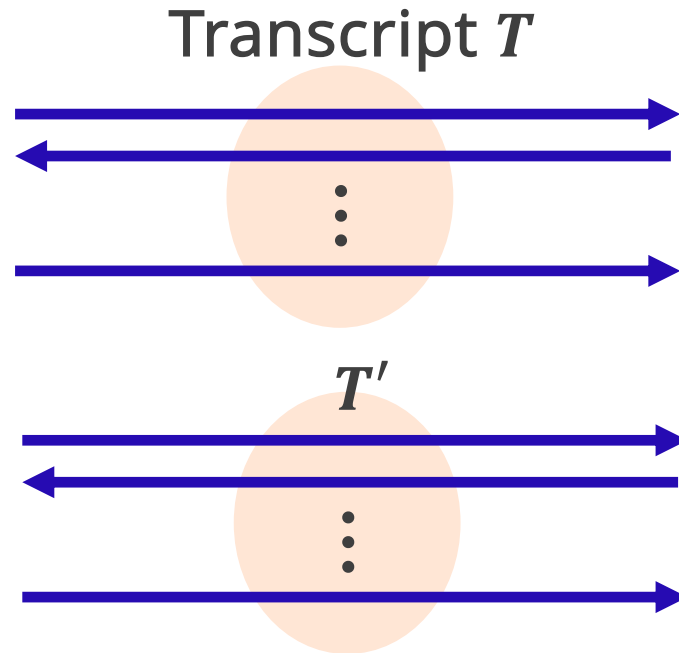
Honest user ⇒ **Want m to be hidden**

Honest signer ⇒ Want unforgeability

Blindness



Signer (vk, sk)



m_b




User (vk)

m_{1-b}



$(\sigma_0, m_0), (\sigma_1, m_1)$

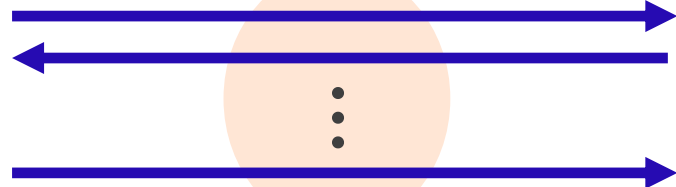
Given two transcripts (T, T') and $(m_0, \sigma_0), (m_1, \sigma_1)$,
Adv  cannot guess bit b .

Blindness



Signer (vk, sk)

Transcript T

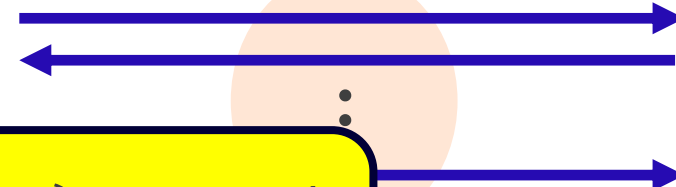


m_b



User (vk)

T'




m_{1-b}



$(\sigma_0, m_0), (\sigma_1, m_1)$



Very intuitively, (σ, m) cannot be traced back to the user.

Given two transcripts (T, T') and $(m_0, \sigma_0), (m_1, \sigma_1)$, Adv  cannot guess bit b .

Applications of Blind Signatures

□ Traditional Applications

- E-cash, anonymous credentials, e-voting.



By Microsoft: Based on (the now "insecure") Brand's blind signature

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□ Traditional Applications

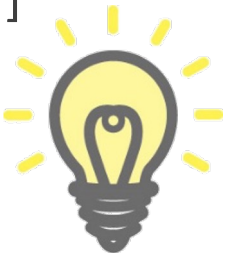
- E-cash, anonymous credentials, e-voting.



By Microsoft: Based on (the now "insecure") Brand's blind signature

□ Recent Applications

- Adding anonymity for cryptocurrency transactions [ASIACCS:YL19]
- Hiding metadata in secure messaging [CCS:KKP22]
- Privacy-preserving authentication tokens [Google22]



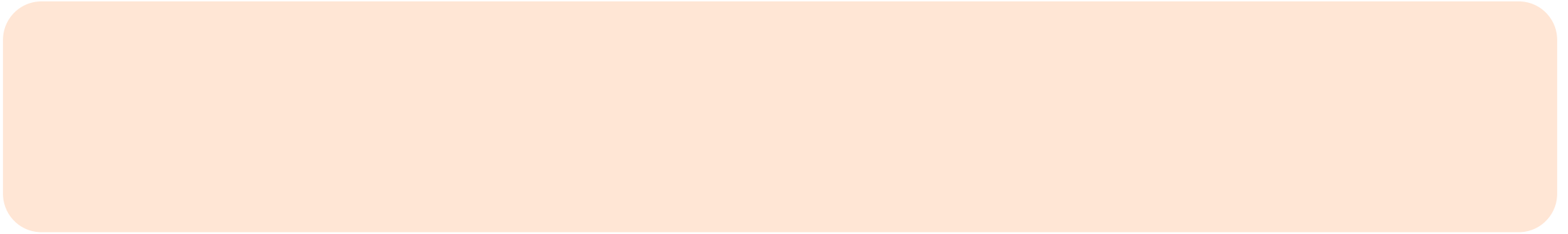
[ASIACCS:YL19] Yi, Xun, and Kwok-Yan Lam. "A new blind ECDSA scheme for bitcoin transaction anonymity." AsiaCCS.

[CCS:KKP22] Hashimoto, Katsumata, Prest "How to Hide MetaData in MLS-Like Secure Group Messaging: Simple, Modular, and Post-Quantum." CCS.

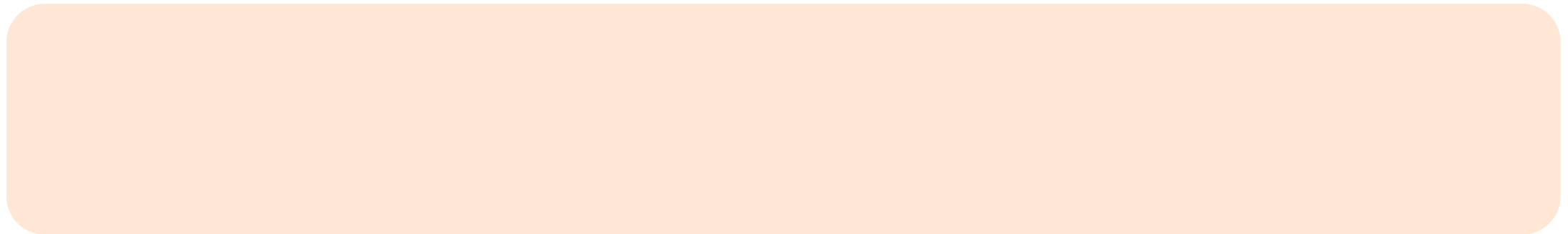
[Google22] "VPN by Google One, Explained" <https://one.google.com/about/vpn/howitworks>

Known Methods to Construct Blind Signatures

1 Blind Schnorr Type [AC:PS92]



2 Fischlin Type [C:Fis06]



Known Methods to Construct Blind Signatures

1 Blind Schnorr Type [AC:PS92]

- Very simple and efficient.
- 3-round protocol. (*Construction based on Sigma protocols.)
- Only secure up to logarithmically concurrent sessions.

2 Fischlin Type [C:Fis06]

Known Methods to Construct Blind Signatures

1 Blind Schnorr Type [AC:PS92]

- Very simple and efficient.
- 3-round protocol. (*Construction based on Sigma protocols.)
- Only secure up to logarithmically concurrent sessions.

2 Fischlin Type [C:Fis06]

- Generic construction from standard tools.
- Uses NIZK and (typically) less efficient.
- 2-round protocol.
- Secure for polynomial concurrent sessions.

What About Isogenies?

1 Blind Schnorr Type [AC:PS92]



Current construction relies on **modules/rings** but **isogenies are less expressive** 😞

2 Fischlin Type [C:Fis06]



No efficient NIZKs and compatible signatures 😞

What About Isogenies?

1 Blind Schnorr Type [AC:PS92]



Today's Talk

2 Fischlin Type [C:Fis06]



No efficient NIZKs and compatible signatures ☹️

2. Reviewing Blind Schnorr

The Basics: Blind Schnorr

⇒ First Step: Interactive signing protocol **w/o blindness.**



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)



User ($vk = h, m$)

The Basics: Blind Schnorr

⇒ First Step: Interactive signing protocol **w/o blindness.**



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$



User ($vk = h, m$)

The Basics: Blind Schnorr

⇒ First Step: Interactive signing protocol **w/o blindness.**

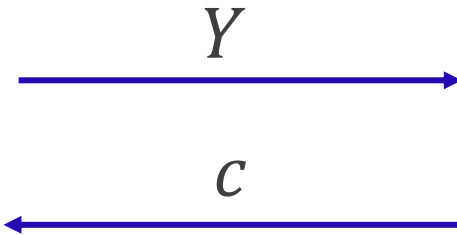


Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
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User ($vk = h, m$)



$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m)$$

The Basics: Blind Schnorr

⇒ First Step: Interactive signing protocol **w/o blindness**.



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$

$$r = y - c \cdot a$$

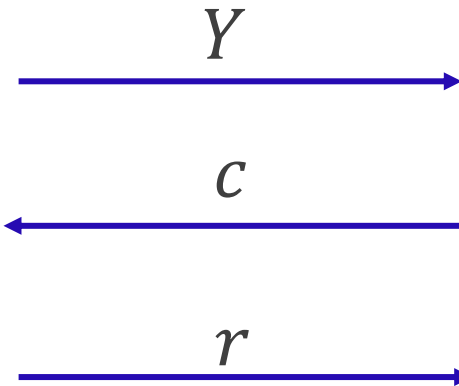


User ($vk = h, m$)

$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m)$$

$$\sigma = (c, r)$$

We have
 $g^r \cdot h^c = Y.$



The Basics: Blind Schnorr

⇒ First Step: Interactive signing protocol **w/o blindness.**



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
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User ($vk = h, m$)

$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m)$$

$$\sigma = (c, r)$$

We have
 $g^r \cdot h^c = Y.$



Not blind since σ contains the transcript.

Blinding the Schnorr Protocol

Idea: Randomize signature

$$\sigma^* = (c + d, r + z) \text{ with } (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2$$



Signer ($vk = g^a, sk = a$)



User ($vk = h, m$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$



$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$
$$= (c + d, r + z)$$

Blinding the Schnorr Protocol

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Signer ($vk = g^a, sk = a$)



User ($vk = h, m$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$



$$(d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2$$
$$Y^* = \boxed{g^z} \cdot Y \cdot \boxed{h^d}$$



$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$
$$= (c + d, r + z)$$

Blinding the Schnorr Protocol

Idea: Randomize signature

$$\sigma^* = (c + d, r + z) \text{ with } (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2$$



Signer ($vk = g^a, sk = a$)



User ($vk = h, m$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$

$$\xrightarrow{Y}$$

$$(d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2$$
$$Y^* = g^z \cdot Y \cdot h^d$$
$$c^* \leftarrow H(Y^*, m)$$

$$\xleftarrow{c}$$

$$c = c^* - d$$

$$r = y - c \cdot a$$

$$\xrightarrow{r}$$

$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$
$$= (c + d, r + z)$$

Blinding the Schnorr Protocol

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User ($vk = h, m$)

$$(d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2$$

$$Y^* = g^z \cdot Y \cdot h^d$$

$$c^* \leftarrow H(Y^*, m)$$

$$c = c^* - d$$

$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$

$$= (c + d, r + z)$$

Why correct?

original

$$g^r \cdot h^c = Y$$



$$g^{r+z} \cdot h^{c+d} = Y^*$$



randomized

$$g^{r^*} \cdot h^{c^*} = Y^*$$

A Modular Construction from Modules

The core idea is to randomize the commitment Y **twice**.

$$\begin{array}{l} y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \\ Y = g^y \end{array} \xrightarrow{Y} \begin{array}{l} (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2 \\ Y^* = \underbrace{g^z \cdot Y \cdot h^d} \end{array}$$

Uses the fact that \mathbb{G} is a \mathbb{Z}_p -module.

*Layman's term: Y can be multiplied with h^d .



- [EC:HKL19,C:HKLN20] abstract this and shows a **generic construction** of blind signatures based on “linear identification protocol”.
- Can be instantiated by **classical groups** and **lattices**.

3. CSI-Otter

Isogeny-based Blind Signature

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

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In Isogenies: $\mathbb{G} =$ “class group $\cong \mathbb{Z}_N$ ”, $S =$ “set of elliptic curves”

*CSIDH parameters

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

Example operation:

$$[g^b] * H$$

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

Example operation:

$$[g^b] * H = [g^b] * ([g^a] * E)$$

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

Example operation:

$$[g^b] * H = [g^b] * ([g^a] * E) = ([g^b] \cdot [g^a]) * E$$

*compatibility

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

Example operation:

$$[g^b] * H = [g^b] * ([g^a] * E) = ([g^b] \cdot [g^a]) * E = [g^{a+b}] * E$$

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

Example operation:

$$[g^b] * H = [g^b] * ([g^a] * E) = ([g^b] \cdot [g^a]) * E = [g^{a+b}] * E$$

BUT no operations over set elements! No $E \times H$!

Review: Group Actions

$$*: \mathbb{G} \times S \rightarrow S$$

The diagram shows the equation $[g^a] * E = H$ inside a light orange rounded rectangle. The term $[g^a]$ is underlined with a bracket and labeled "Group element". The term E is enclosed in a yellow square and underlined with a bracket, labeled "Set element". The term H is underlined with a bracket and labeled "Set element". An orange arrow points from the yellow square to a callout box.

$$\underbrace{[g^a]}_{\text{Group element}} * \underbrace{E}_{\text{Set element}} = \underbrace{H}_{\text{Set element}}$$

“Base” elliptic curve $E \in S$ is the generator $g \in \mathbb{G}$ in classical groups.

$$[g^a] * E \iff g^a$$

Base Non-Blind Protocol Based on Isogeny

Due to limited structure, challenge space is now binary.



Signer

$(vk = H = [g^a] * E, sk = a)$

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N$$

$$Y = [g^y] * E$$

$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



User ($vk = H, m$)

Y

$c \in \{0,1\}$

r

$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m)$$

$$\sigma = (c, r)$$

If $c = 0$: $[g^r] * E = Y$.

If $c = 1$: $[g^r] * H = Y$.

Why Blind Schnorr Fails with Group Actions

□ Module Setting

$$h = g^a, \quad y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p, \quad Y = g^y \xrightarrow{Y} (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2, \quad Y^* = g^z \cdot Y \cdot h^d$$

Why Blind Schnorr Fails with Group Actions

Module Setting

$$h = g^a, \quad y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p, \quad Y = g^y \xrightarrow{Y} (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2, \quad Y^* = g^z \cdot Y \cdot h^d$$

Group Action Setting

$$H = [g^a] * E, \quad y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N, \quad Y = [g^y] * E \xrightarrow{Y} (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N^2, \quad \text{Can only do } [g^z] * Y \text{ or } [g^d] * H!!$$



Can only randomize once!!
Not enough for blindness ☹️

Here Comes the Twist 😊



Isogeny has *slightly* more structure than a group action.

Given $H = [g^a] * E$,

Can compute the **quadratic twist** $H^{-1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [g^{-a}] * E$

* “Inverse” in the classical setting: $h = g^a \Rightarrow h^{-1} = g^{-a}$

Non-Blind Protocol using Twist

First Fix: The challenge space is now $\{1, -1\}$



Signer

$(vk = H = [g^a] * E, sk = a)$

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N$$
$$Y = [g^y] * E$$

$$r = y - c \cdot a$$

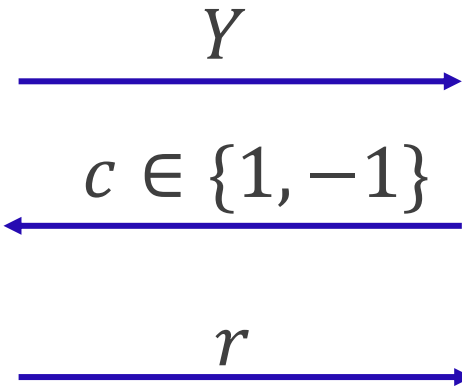


User ($vk = H, m$)

$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m)$$

$$\sigma = (c, r)$$

$$[g^r] * H^c = Y.$$



CSI-Otter: Making it Blind

Idea: Randomize signature

$$\sigma^* = (c \cdot d, r \cdot d + z) \text{ with } (d, z) \leftarrow \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_N$$



Signer ($vk = H, sk = a$)



User ($vk = H, m$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N$$
$$Y = [g^y] * E$$

Y



c



$$r = y - c \cdot a$$

r



$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$
$$= (c \cdot d, r \cdot d + z)$$

CSI-Otter: Making it Blind

Idea: Randomize signature

$$\sigma^* = (c \cdot d, r \cdot d + z) \text{ with } (d, z) \leftarrow \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_N$$



Signer ($vk = H, sk = a$)



User ($vk = H, m$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N$$
$$Y = [g^y] * E$$



$$(d, z) \leftarrow \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_N$$

$$Y^* = [g^z] * Y^d$$

$$c^* \leftarrow H(Y^*, m)$$

$$c = c^* \cdot d^{-1}$$

Randomize with
Quadratic Twist!!



$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$

$$= (c \cdot d, r \cdot d + z)$$

CSI-Otter: Making it Blind

Idea: Randomize signature

$$\sigma^* = (c \cdot d, r \cdot d + z) \text{ with } (d, z) \leftarrow \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_N$$



Signer ($vk = H, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N$$

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$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



User ($vk = H, m$)

$$(d, z) \leftarrow \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_N$$

$$Y^* = [g^z] * Y^d$$

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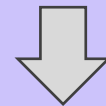
$$\sigma^* = (c^*, r^*)$$

$$= (c \cdot d, r \cdot d + z)$$

Why correct?

original

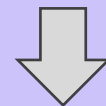
$$[g^r] * H^c = Y$$



$$[g^{r \cdot d}] * H^{c \cdot d} = Y^d$$



$$[g^{r \cdot d + z}] * H^{c \cdot d} = [g^z] * Y^d$$



$$[g^{r^*}] * H^{c^*} = Y^*$$

randomized

In Other Words, Just Another Way to Blind

□ Blind Schnorr

Randomizing signature:

$$\sigma^* = (c + d, r + z) \text{ with } (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2$$

$$\begin{array}{l} y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \\ Y = g^y \end{array} \xrightarrow{Y} \begin{array}{l} (d, z) \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^2 \\ Y^* = \boxed{g^z} \cdot Y \cdot \boxed{h^d} \end{array}$$

□ CSI-Otter-like Blind Schnorr

Randomizing signature:

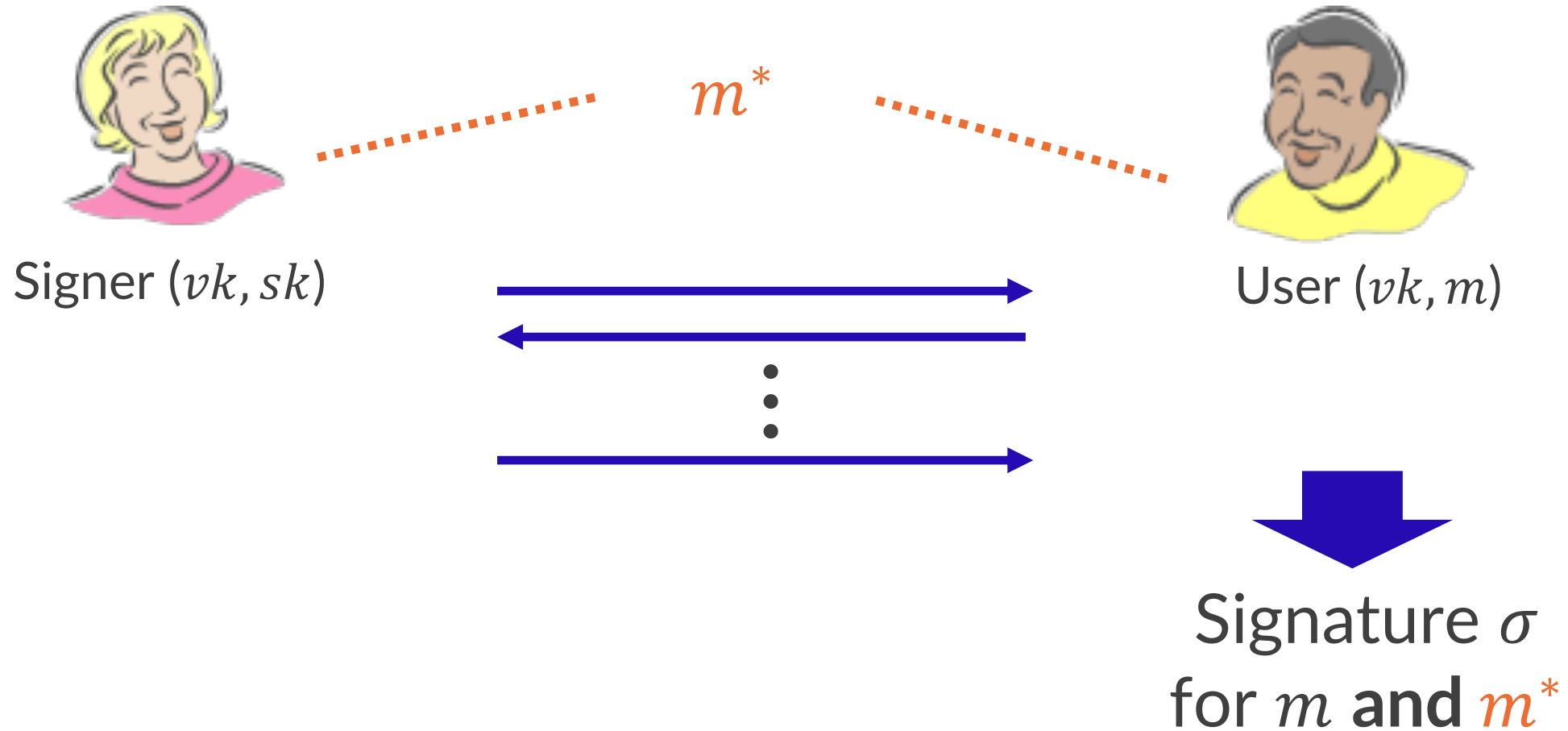
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4. Partially Blind Signature

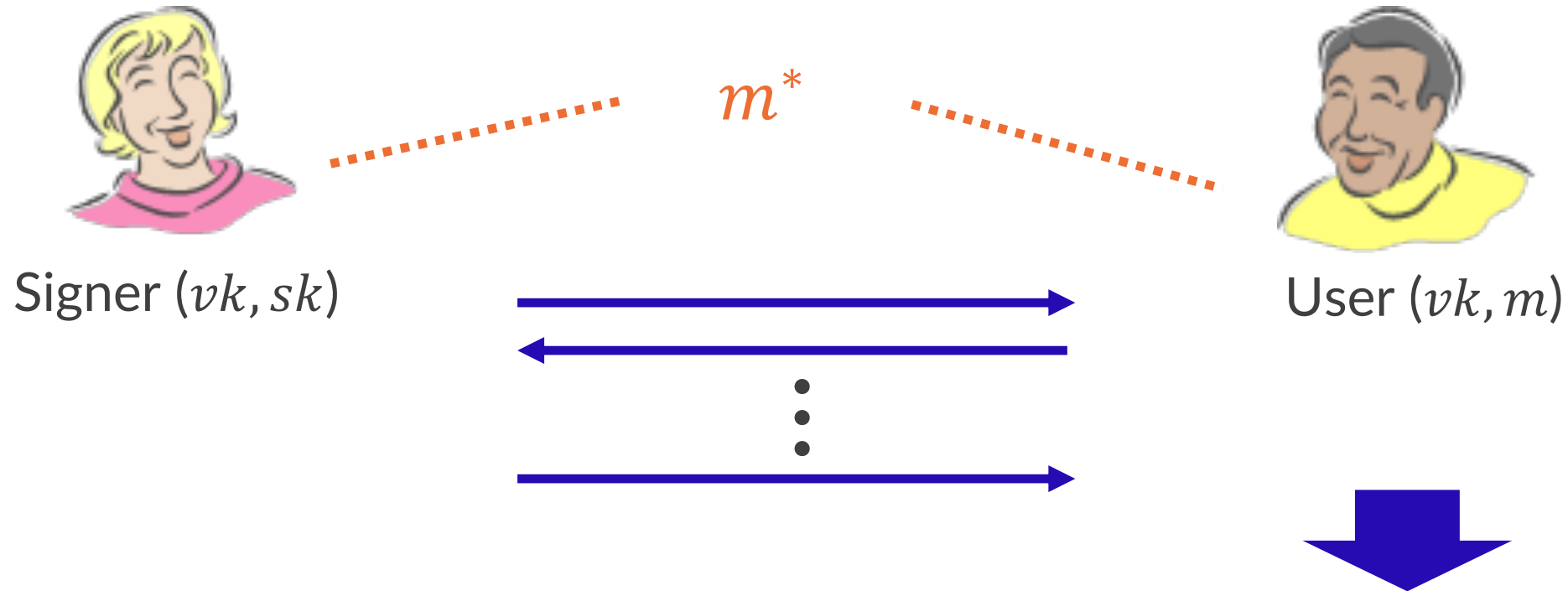
Partially Blind Signatures (PBS)

⇒ Allows to embed a common message m^* .



Partially Blind Signatures (PBS)

⇒ Allows to embed a common message m^* .



Motivation: The signer can enforce rules, e.g., expiration date of signature.

Strawman Idea that Doesn't Work

⇒ Put m^* into the hash to bind it to the transcript...?



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$

$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



User ($vk = h, m$)

Y

c

r

$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m, m^*)$$

$$\sigma = (c, r)$$

We have
 $g^r \cdot h^c = Y.$

Strawman Idea that Doesn't Work

⇒ Put m^* into the hash to bind it to the transcript...?



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

$$y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$$
$$Y = g^y$$

$$r = y - c \cdot a$$



User ($vk = h, m$)

$$\xrightarrow{Y}$$

$$\xleftarrow{c}$$

$$\xrightarrow{r}$$

$$c \leftarrow H(Y, m, \hat{m})$$

$$\sigma = (c, r)$$

We have
 $g^r \cdot h^c = Y.$



No way for the signer to check this!

Idea that Works [C:AO00]



Signer ($vk = h = g^a, sk = a$)

In Blind Schnorr, signer was implicitly proving knowledge of ...

$$a \in \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ s.t. } h = g^a$$

In Partially Blind Schnorr, we modify so that the signer proves ...

$$a \in \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ s.t. } h = g^a \vee G(m^*) = h^* = g^a$$

* G : random oracle

Why It Fails for Isogenies

Classical Group: $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ s.t. $h = g^a \vee G(m^*) = h^* = g^a$

Isogeny: $G(m^*) = H^* = [g^a] * E$

Why It Fails for Isogenies

Classical Group: $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ s.t. $h = g^a \vee G(m^*) = h^* = g^a$

Isogeny: ~~$G(m^*) = H^* = [g^a] * E$~~



In isogeny, we don't know how to hash into the set of elliptic curves w/o knowing secret a .

Our Idea: Extending to a 2-out-of-3 Proof



Signer ($vk = (h_0, h_1) = (g^{a_0}, g^{a_1}), sk = a_b$)

Prove knowledge of 2-out-of-3 exponents.

$$h_0 = g^{a_0} \vee h_1 = g^{a_1} \vee h^* = g^{a^*} = g^{G(m^*)}$$



- ◆ Everybody knows secret a^* but this won't be enough to sign.
- ◆ Can still blind this 2-out-of-3 protocol to build a PBS.

Omitted Details from Talk

- Formal security proof of CSI-Otter using [AC:KLX22]

- Optimizations using higher degree roots of unity.

 - ⇒ New ζ_d -ring group action inverse problem

- On-going work:

 - On first glance, ROS attack does not apply.

 - One-more unf. in the poly-concurrent regime...?



Thank You For Listening 😊

A new Schnorr-type 3-round
blind signature based on isogenies (CSIDH).

- The first (partially) blind signature from isogenies.
- Provable security for log-concurrent sessions.
- New hardness assumption for optimization.

