

# **Robust Quantum Public-Key Encryption**

**(With Applications to Quantum Key Distribution)**

**Giulio Malavolta** (Bocconi University & MPI-SP)  
Michael Walter (Ruhr University Bochum)



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.02999.pdf>

# **Classical Key Exchange**

# **Quantum Key Exchange**

# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker

# Quantum Key Exchange

# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)

# Quantum Key Exchange

# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)
- Two-message protocol (minimal)

# Quantum Key Exchange

# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)
- Two-message protocol (minimal)

# Quantum Key Exchange

- Unconditional (?) security

# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)
- Two-message protocol (minimal)

# Quantum Key Exchange

- Unconditional (?) security
- Requires sending qubits

# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)
- Two-message protocol (minimal)

# Quantum Key Exchange

- Unconditional (?) security
- Requires sending qubits
- Multiple rounds of interaction

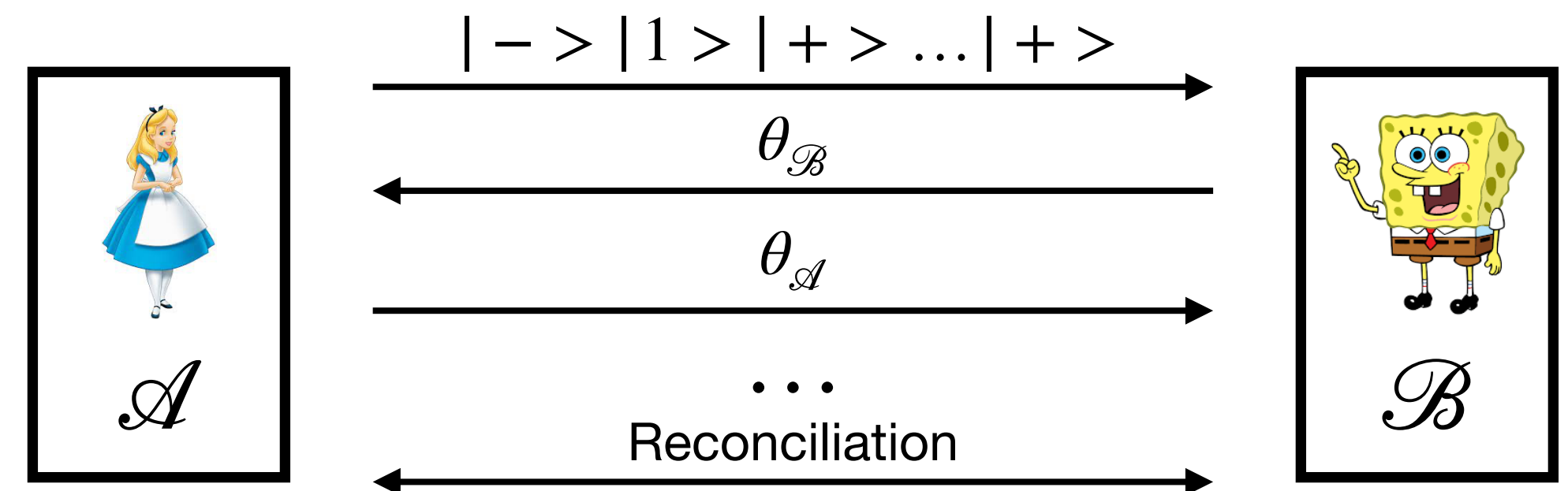


# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)
- Two-message protocol (minimal)

# Quantum Key Exchange

- Unconditional (?) security
- Requires sending qubits
- Multiple rounds of interaction

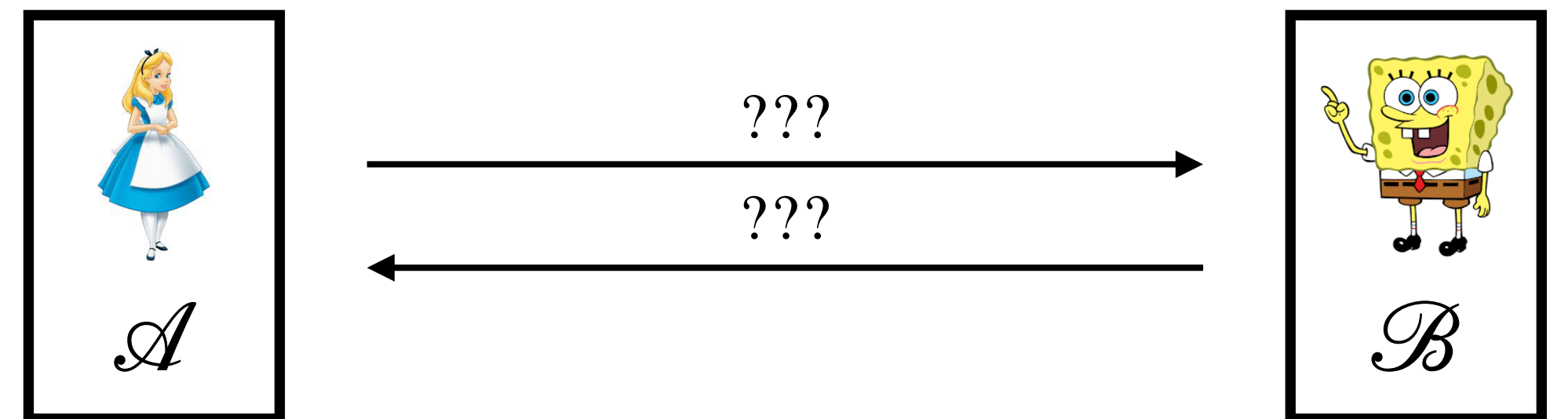


# Classical Key Exchange

- Security against polynomial-time attacker
- Requires computational assumptions (e.g., DDH, LWE, LPN...)
- Two-message protocol (minimal)

# Quantum Key Exchange

- Unconditional (?) security
- Requires sending qubits
- Multiple rounds of interaction



**Theorem I:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists one-time QPKE with *everlasting* security.

**Theorem 1:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists one-time QPKE with *everlasting* security.

- Implies 2-message key exchange with **everlasting** security

**Theorem 1:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists one-time QPKE with *everlasting* security.

- Implies 2-message key exchange with **everlasting** security
- Classically, everlasting security is impossible

**Theorem I:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists one-time QPKE with *everlasting* security.

- Implies 2-message key exchange with **everlasting** security
- Classically, everlasting security is impossible
- Conceptually different from BB84 (simple analysis!)

**Theorem I:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists one-time QPKE with *everlasting* security.

- Implies 2-message key exchange with **everlasting** security
- Classically, everlasting security is impossible
- Conceptually different from BB84 (simple analysis!)

**Theorem II:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists standard QPKE with *computational* security.

**Theorem I:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists one-time QPKE with *everlasting* security.

- Implies 2-message key exchange with **everlasting** security
- Classically, everlasting security is impossible
- Conceptually different from BB84 (simple analysis!)

**Theorem II:** If quantum-secure *one-way functions* exists, there exists standard QPKE with *computational* security.

- Classically, one-way functions are (widely believed to be) insufficient to construct PKE



**Everlasting Security**

**Unconditional Security**

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol

# Unconditional Security

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- Authenticated classical channels

# Unconditional Security

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- ~~Authenticated classical channels~~

# Unconditional Security

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- ~~Authenticated classical channels~~

# Unconditional Security

- No computational assumptions!

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- ~~Authenticated classical channels~~

# Unconditional Security

- No computational assumptions!
- Authenticated classical channels

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- ~~Authenticated classical channels~~

# Unconditional Security

- No computational assumptions!
- Authenticated classical channels
  - Computational assumptions...

# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- ~~Authenticated classical channels~~

# Unconditional Security

- No computational assumptions!
- Authenticated classical channels
  - Computational assumptions...
  - ... but *only during* the protocol!



# Everlasting Security

- Computational assumptions, *only during* the protocol
- ~~Authenticated classical channels~~

# Unconditional Security

- No computational assumptions!
- Authenticated classical channels
  - Computational assumptions...
  - ... *but only during* the protocol!

# Roadmap



# Roadmap

- Part I: Definitions



# Roadmap

- Part I: Definitions
- Part II: The Protocol



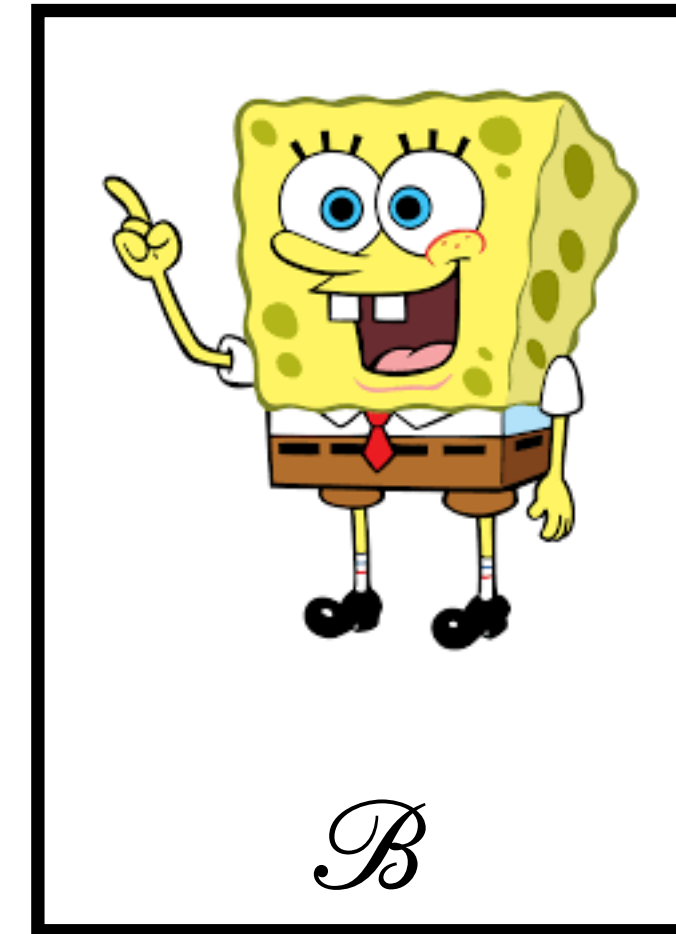
# Roadmap

- Part I: Definitions
- Part II: The Protocol
- Part III: Conclusions

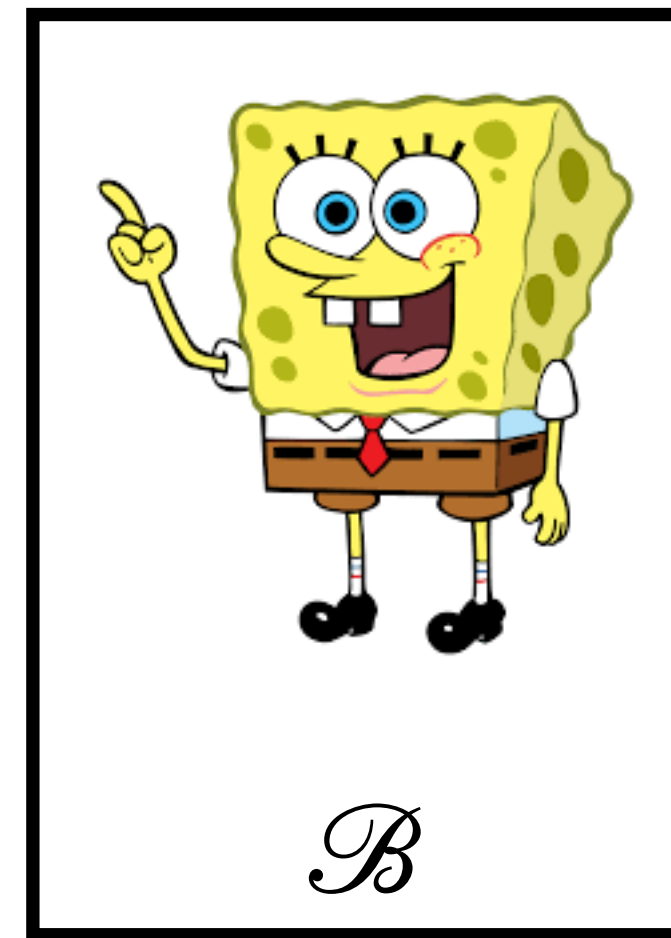
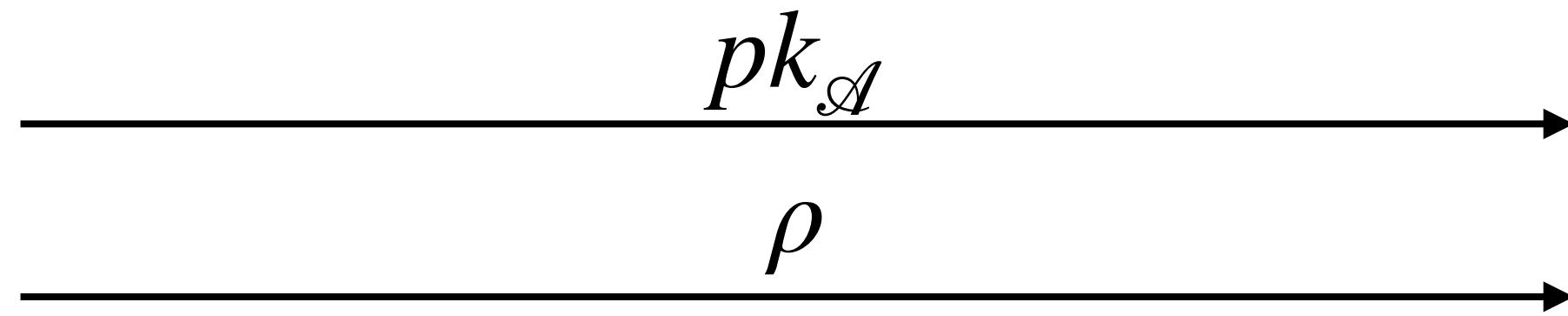


# Part I: Definitions

# Quantum PKE\*

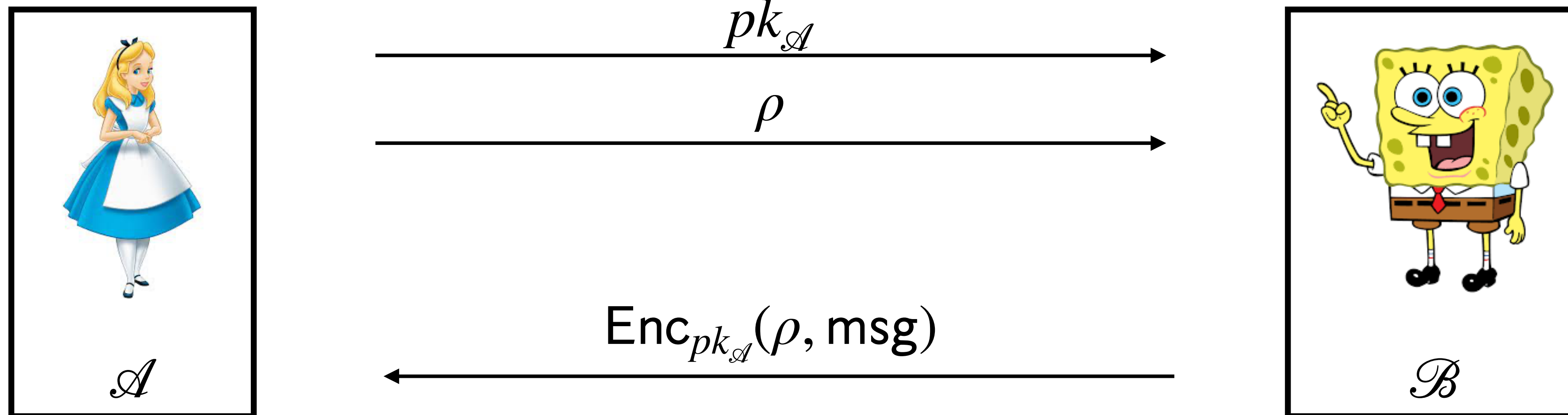


# Quantum PKE\*

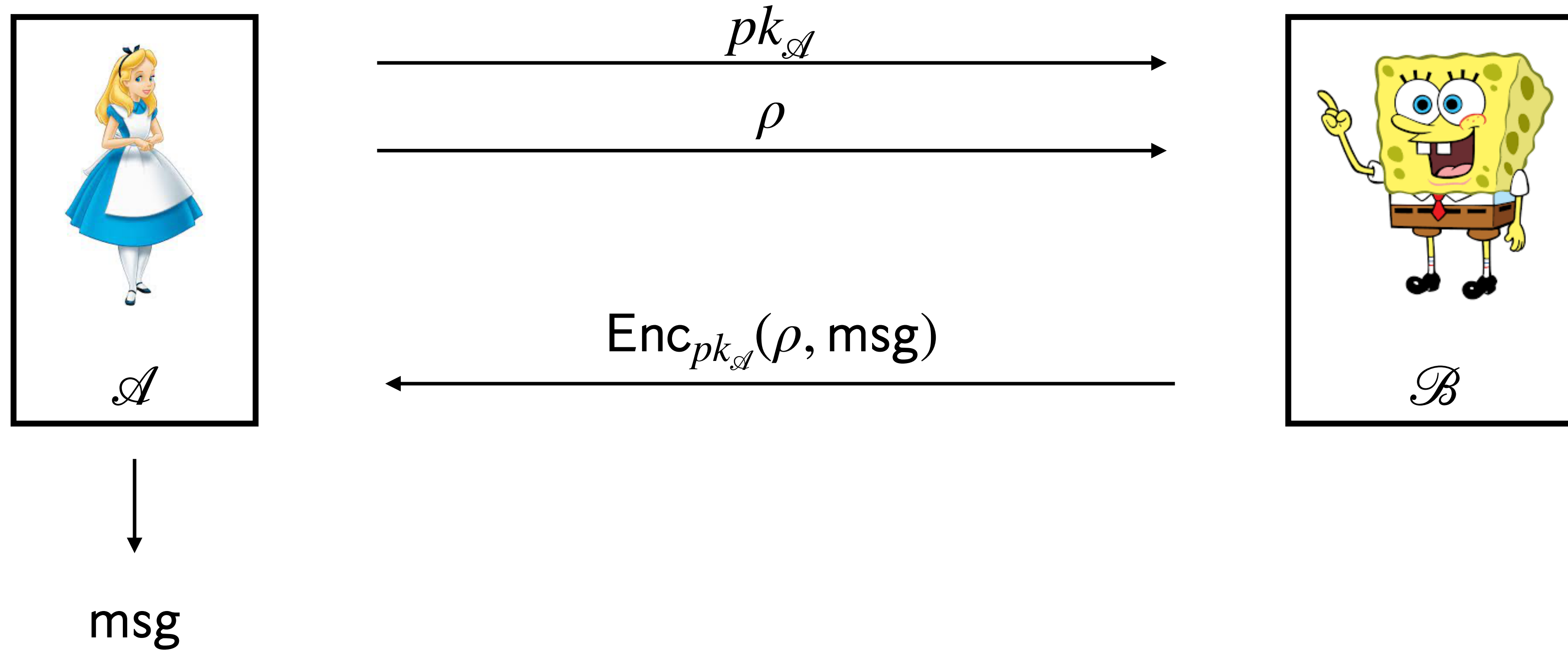




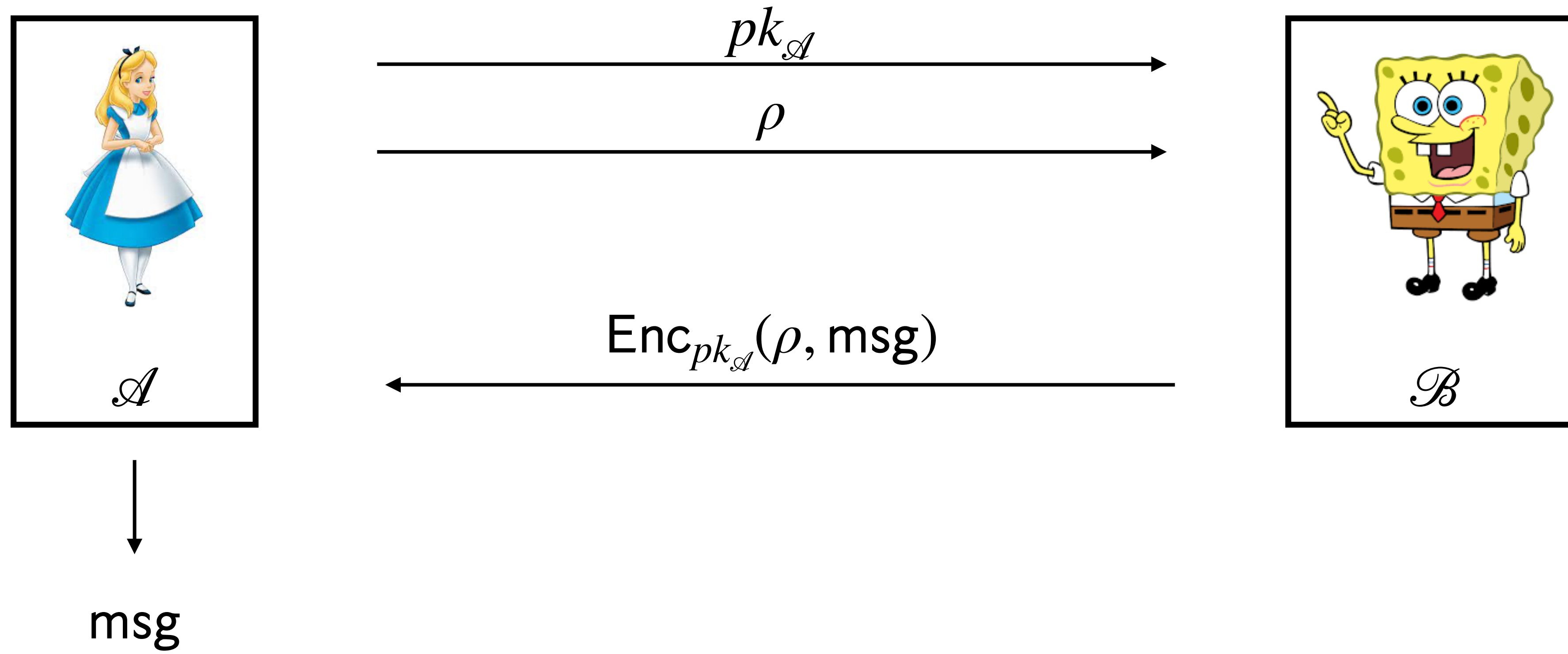
# Quantum PKE\*



# Quantum PKE\*



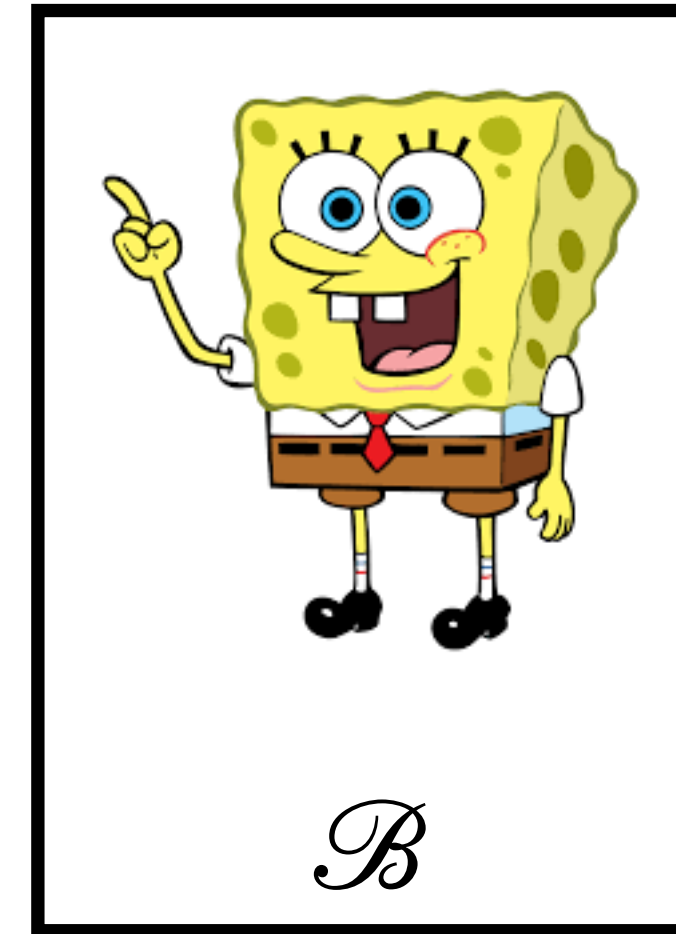
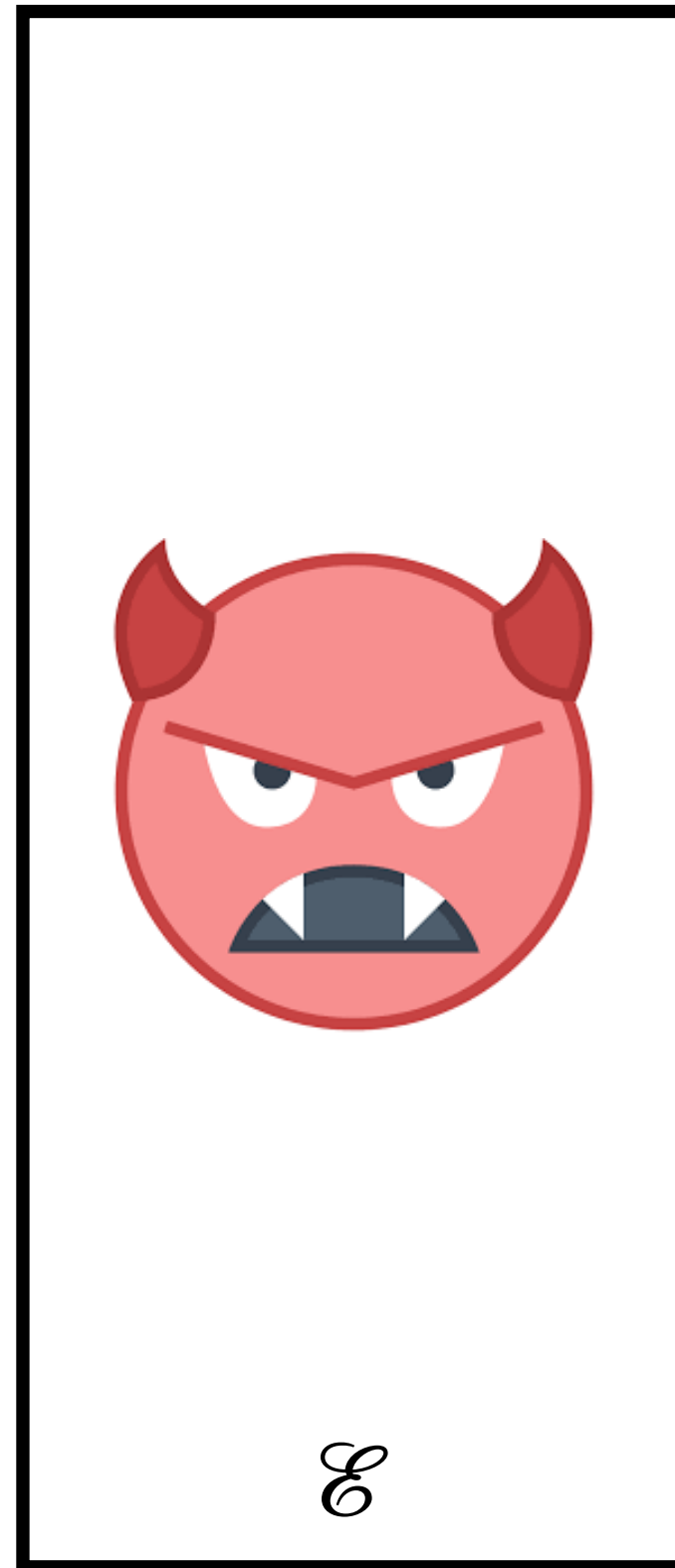
# Quantum PKE\*



\*Suffices for QKD (see paper)

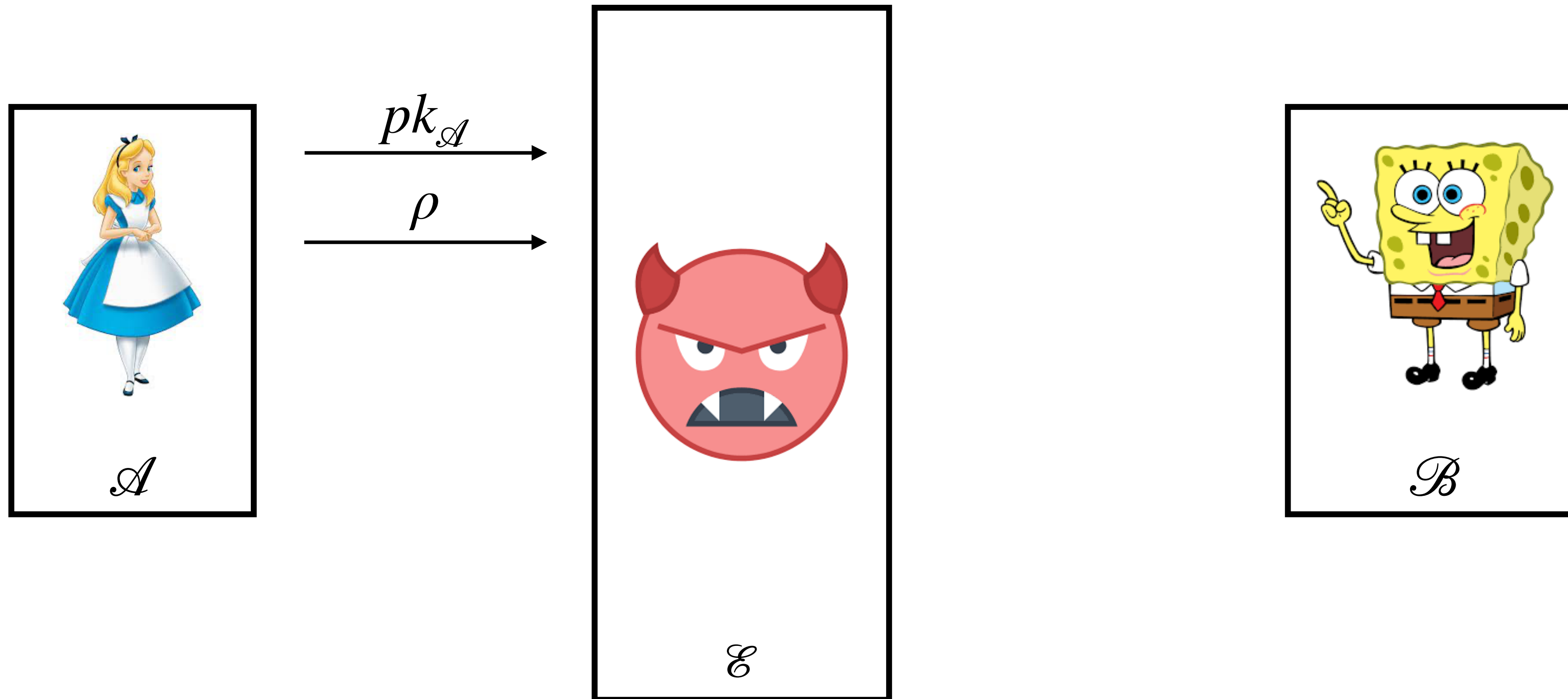
# Security Definition

$\forall$  QPT  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\forall$  ( $msg_0, msg_1$ ) :



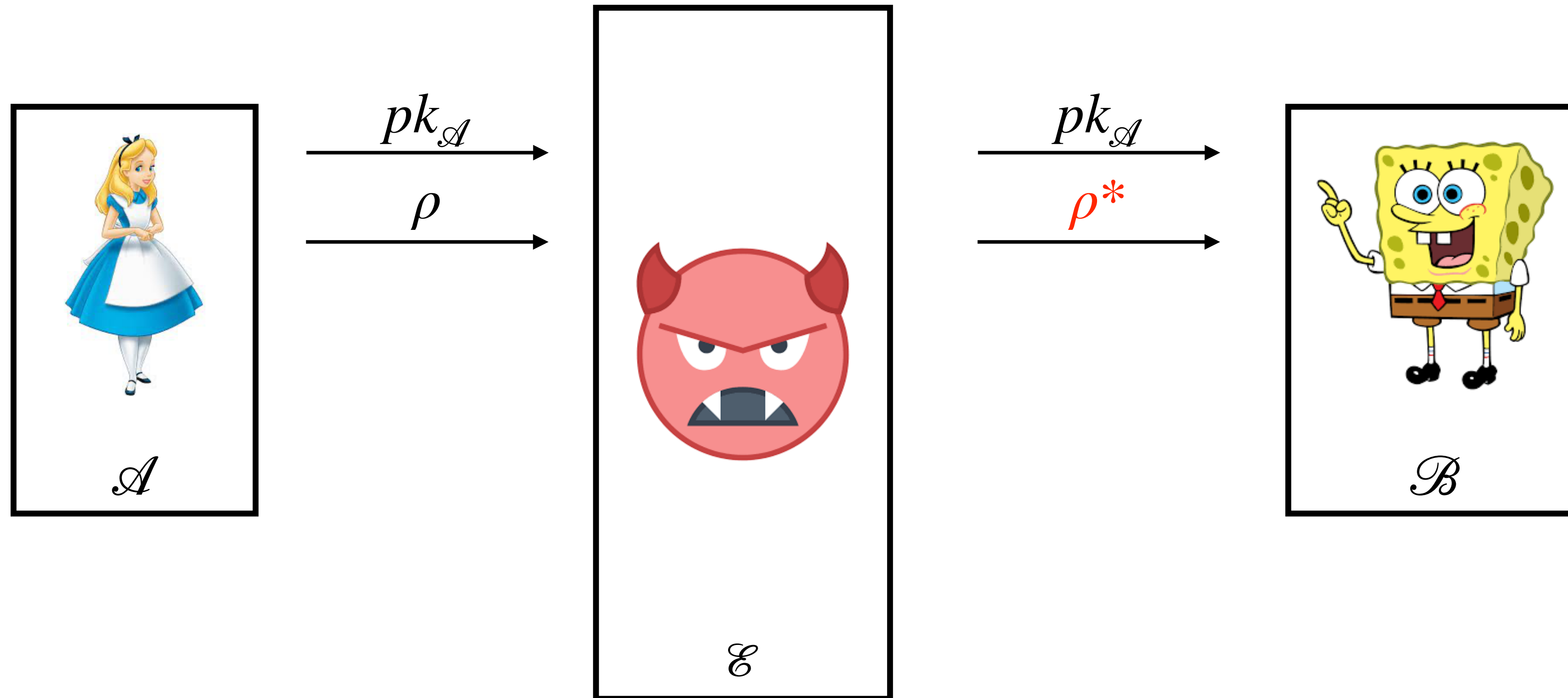
# Security Definition

$\forall$  QPT  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\forall$  ( $msg_0, msg_1$ ) :



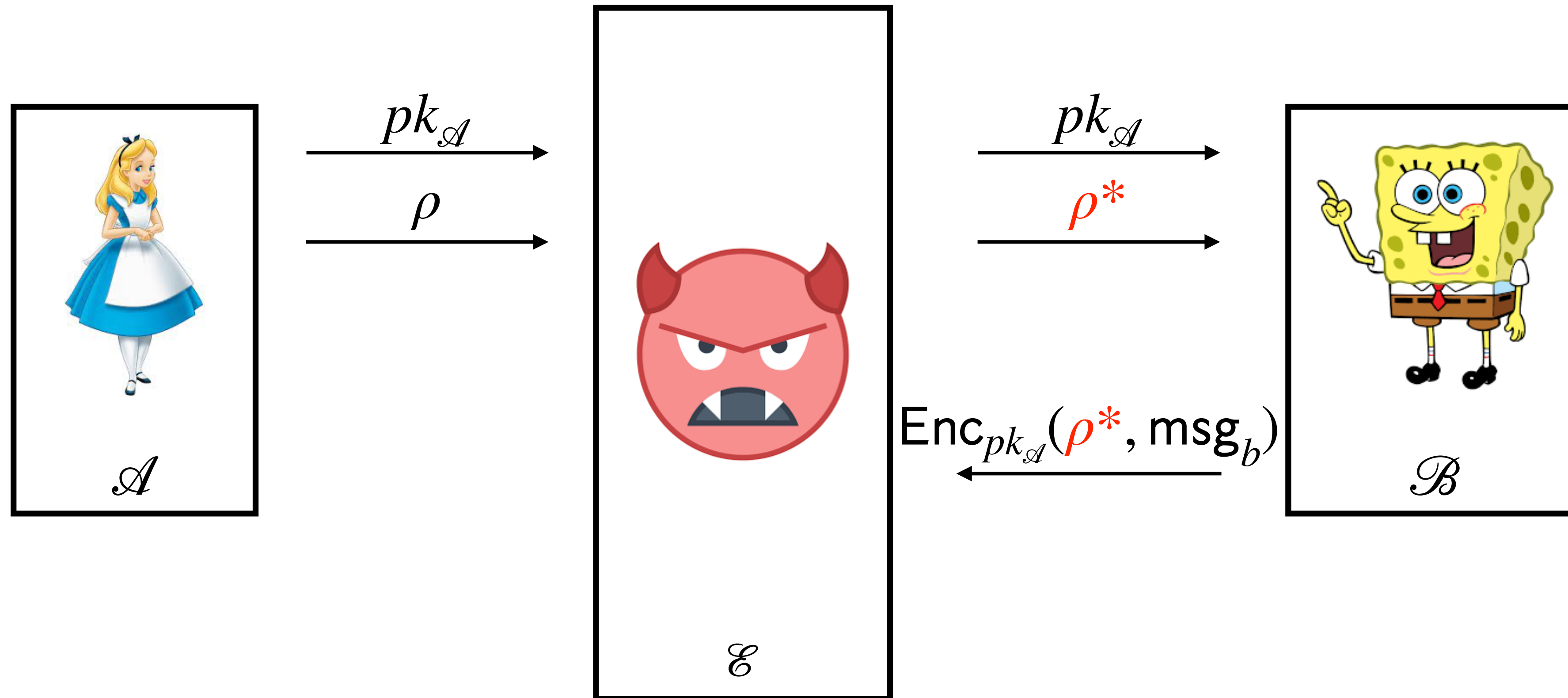
# Security Definition

$\forall$  QPT  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\forall$  ( $\text{msg}_0, \text{msg}_1$ ) :



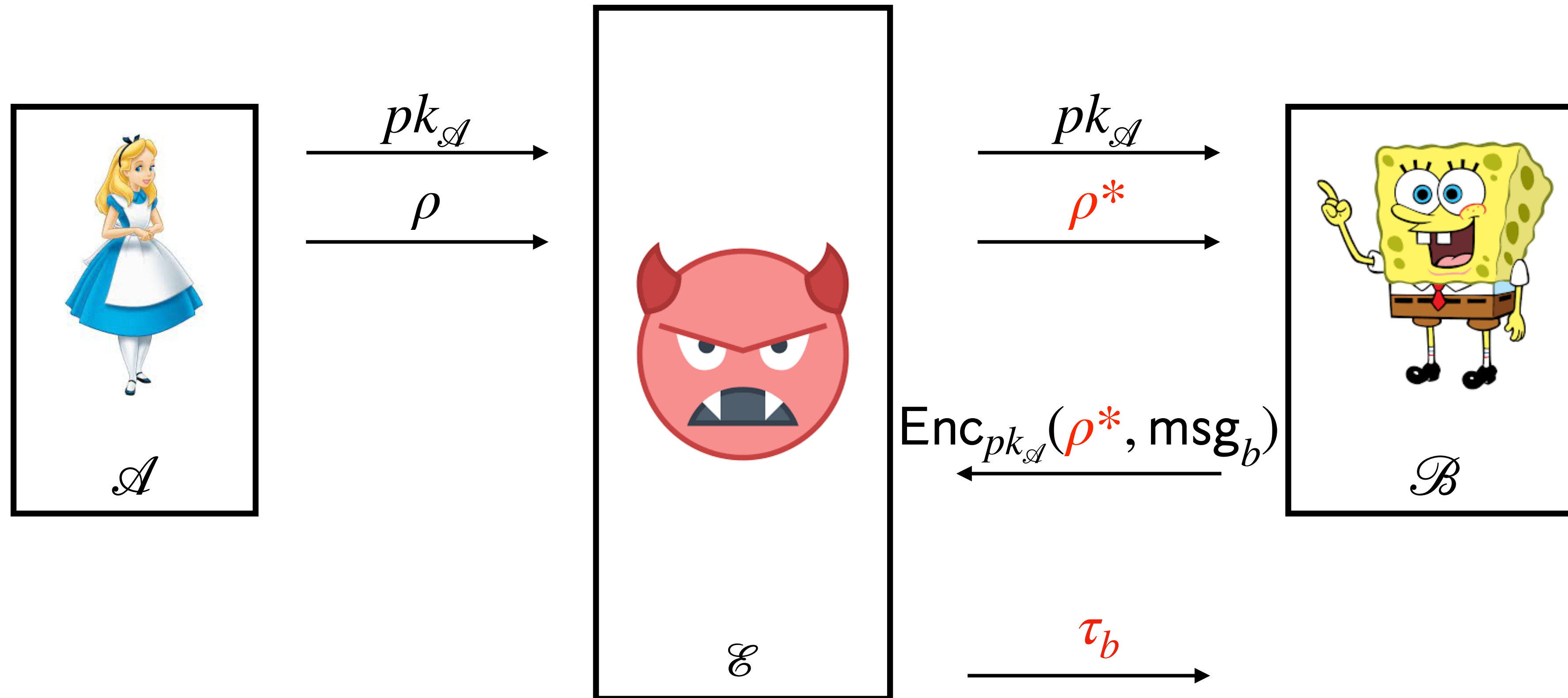
# Security Definition

$\forall$  QPT  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\forall$  ( $\text{msg}_0, \text{msg}_1$ ) :



# Security Definition

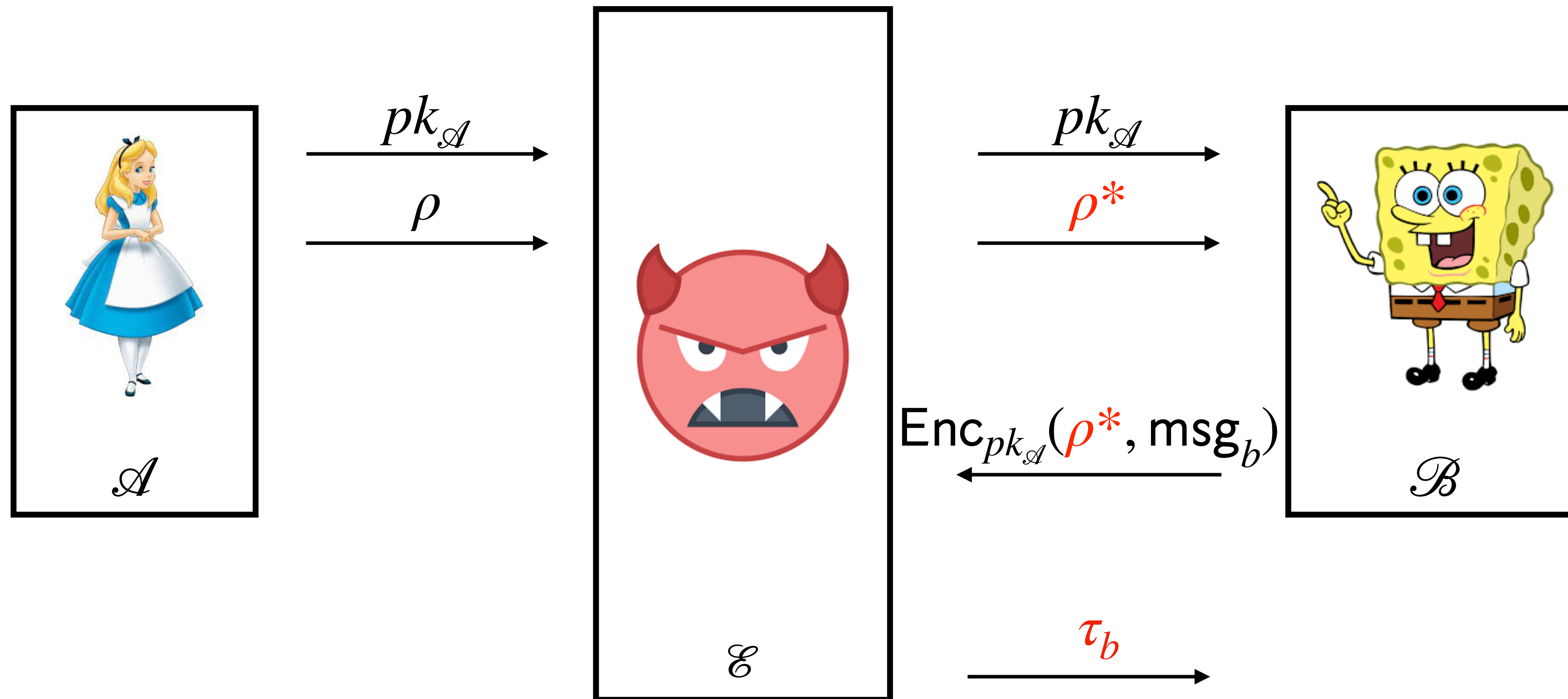
$\forall$  QPT  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\forall$  ( $\text{msg}_0, \text{msg}_1$ ) :





# Security Definition

$\forall$  QPT  $\mathcal{E}, \forall (msg_0, msg_1) :$



$$TD(\tau_0, \tau_1) \approx 0$$

# Part II: The Protocol\*

\*Everlasting variant (see paper for the computational one)

# One-Time Digital Signatures

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$
  - $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \text{msg}) \rightarrow \sigma$

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$
  - $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \text{msg}) \rightarrow \sigma$
  - $\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, \text{msg}, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$
  - $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \text{msg}) \rightarrow \sigma$
  - $\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, \text{msg}, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Security (existential unforgeability):



# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$
  - $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \text{msg}) \rightarrow \sigma$
  - $\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, \text{msg}, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Security (existential unforgeability):
  - Given a *single query* to a signing oracle  $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \cdot)$

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$
  - $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \text{msg}) \rightarrow \sigma$
  - $\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, \text{msg}, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Security (existential unforgeability):
  - Given a *single query* to a signing oracle  $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \cdot)$
  - It is (computationally) hard to forge a *new valid* signature

# One-Time Digital Signatures

- Consist of three algorithms:
  - $\text{Gen} \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{vk})$
  - $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \text{msg}) \rightarrow \sigma$
  - $\text{Verify}(\text{vk}, \text{msg}, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Security (existential unforgeability):
  - Given a *single query* to a signing oracle  $\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, \cdot)$
  - It is (computationally) hard to forge a *new valid* signature
- Exists iff one-way functions exist [Lam79]

# Key Generation (Alice)

# Key Generation (Alice)

- Sample a key pair  $(sk, vk)$

# Key Generation (Alice)

- Sample a key pair (sk, vk)
- Compute the state

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|0, 0, \sigma_0\rangle + |1, 1, \sigma_1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

# Key Generation (Alice)

- Sample a key pair (sk, vk)
- Compute the state

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|0, 0, \sigma_0\rangle + |1, 1, \sigma_1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- Define a projective measurement  $\{\Pi_{vk}, I - \Pi_{vk}\}$  where

$$\Pi_{vk} = \sum_{\sigma: \text{Verify}(vk, 0, \sigma)=1} |0, \sigma\rangle \langle 0, \sigma| + \sum_{\sigma: \text{Verify}(vk, 1, \sigma)=1} |1, \sigma\rangle \langle 1, \sigma|$$

# Key Generation (Alice)

- Sample a key pair (sk, vk)
- Compute the state

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|0, 0, \sigma_0\rangle + |1, 1, \sigma_1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- Define a projective measurement  $\{\Pi_{vk}, I - \Pi_{vk}\}$  where

$$\Pi_{vk} = \sum_{\sigma: \text{Verify}(vk, 0, \sigma)=1} |0, \sigma\rangle \langle 0, \sigma| + \sum_{\sigma: \text{Verify}(vk, 1, \sigma)=1} |1, \sigma\rangle \langle 1, \sigma|$$

- Measure the first register in the Hadamard basis to obtain  $s \in \{0, 1\}$



# Key Generation (Alice)

- Sample a key pair (sk, vk)
- Compute the state

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|0, 0, \sigma_0\rangle + |1, 1, \sigma_1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- Define a projective measurement  $\{\Pi_{vk}, I - \Pi_{vk}\}$  where

$$\Pi_{vk} = \sum_{\sigma: \text{Verify}(vk, 0, \sigma)=1} |0, \sigma\rangle \langle 0, \sigma| + \sum_{\sigma: \text{Verify}(vk, 1, \sigma)=1} |1, \sigma\rangle \langle 1, \sigma|$$

- Measure the first register in the Hadamard basis to obtain  $s \in \{0, 1\}$
- Let  $\rho$  be the residual quantum state; return  $(\rho, vk)$

# Encryption (Bob)

# Encryption (Bob)

- Project the state  $\rho$  onto the image of  $\Pi_{vk}$

# Encryption (Bob)

- Project the state  $\rho$  onto the image of  $\Pi_{vk}$
- Abort if the above projection fails

# Encryption (Bob)

- Project the state  $\rho$  onto the image of  $\Pi_{vk}$
- Abort if the above projection fails

- This guarantees that

$$\rho \in \text{Img}(\Pi_{vk}) = \text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(vk, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$$

# Encryption (Bob)

- Project the state  $\rho$  onto the image of  $\Pi_{vk}$
- Abort if the above projection fails

- This guarantees that

$$\rho \in \text{Img}(\Pi_{vk}) = \text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(vk, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$$

- Measure the residual state in the Hadamard basis to obtain

$$(d_1, d_2) \in \{0,1\} \times \{0,1\}^n$$

# Encryption (Bob)

- Project the state  $\rho$  onto the image of  $\Pi_{\text{vk}}$
- Abort if the above projection fails

- This guarantees that

$$\rho \in \text{Img}(\Pi_{\text{vk}}) = \text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$$

- Measure the residual state in the Hadamard basis to obtain

$$(d_1, d_2) \in \{0,1\} \times \{0,1\}^n$$

- Return  $\text{msg} \oplus d_1, d_2$

# Decryption (Alice)



# Decryption (Alice)

- We pretend to delay the measurement of Alice (does not affect correctness)

# Decryption (Alice)

- We pretend to delay the measurement of Alice (does not affect correctness)
- The rotated state corresponds to

$$H|\Psi\rangle = \sum_d (-1)^{d \cdot (0,0,\sigma_0)} |d\rangle + (-1)^{d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_1)} |d\rangle = \sum_{d:d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_0 \oplus \sigma_1) = 0} |d\rangle$$

# Decryption (Alice)

- We pretend to delay the measurement of Alice (does not affect correctness)
- The rotated state corresponds to

$$H|\Psi\rangle = \sum_d (-1)^{d \cdot (0,0,\sigma_0)} |d\rangle + (-1)^{d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_1)} |d\rangle = \sum_{d: d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_0 \oplus \sigma_1) = 0} |d\rangle$$

- Thus measuring the rotated state returns

$$d = (s, d_0, d_1) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad d_1 \oplus d_2 \cdot (\sigma_0, \sigma_1) = s$$

# Decryption (Alice)

- We pretend to delay the measurement of Alice (does not affect correctness)
- The rotated state corresponds to

$$H|\Psi\rangle = \sum_d (-1)^{d \cdot (0,0,\sigma_0)} |d\rangle + (-1)^{d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_1)} |d\rangle = \sum_{d:d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_0 \oplus \sigma_1) = 0} |d\rangle$$

- Thus measuring the rotated state returns

$$d = (s, d_0, d_1) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad d_1 \oplus d_2 \cdot (\sigma_0, \sigma_1) = s$$

- Recall that Bob sends  $\text{msg} \oplus d_1, d_2$

# Decryption (Alice)

- We pretend to delay the measurement of Alice (does not affect correctness)
- The rotated state corresponds to

$$H|\Psi\rangle = \sum_d (-1)^{d \cdot (0,0,\sigma_0)} |d\rangle + (-1)^{d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_1)} |d\rangle = \sum_{d: d \cdot (1,1,\sigma_0 \oplus \sigma_1) = 0} |d\rangle$$

- Thus measuring the rotated state returns

$$d = (s, d_0, d_1) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad d_1 \oplus d_2 \cdot (\sigma_0, \sigma_1) = s$$

- Recall that Bob sends  $\text{msg} \oplus d_1, d_2$
- Alice can recover  $d_1$ , and consequently  $\text{msg}$ , since she knows  $s$  and  $(\sigma_0, \sigma_1)$

# Proof Sketch

# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

- Since Bob projects the state onto  $\text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$ , the attacker must have either:



# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

- Since Bob projects the state onto  $\text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$ , the attacker must have either:
  - Passed along the state

# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

- Since Bob projects the state onto  $\text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$ , the attacker must have either:
  - Passed along the state
  - Put a non-trivial amplitude on another signature (breaks unforgeability!)

# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

- Since Bob projects the state onto  $\text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$ , the attacker must have either:
  - Passed along the state
  - ~~Put a non-trivial amplitude on another signature (breaks unforgeability!)~~

# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

- Since Bob projects the state onto  $\text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$ , the attacker must have either:
  - Passed along the state
  - ~~Put a non-trivial amplitude on another signature (breaks unforgeability!)~~
- Measuring the basis state in the Hadamard basis, gives

$$d \sim \text{Uniform} : \{0,1\}^{n+1}$$

# Proof Sketch

- From the point of view of the attacker, the residual state  $\rho$  is a classical mixture

$|0, \sigma_0\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

$|1, \sigma_1\rangle$  with prob.  $1/2$

- Since Bob projects the state onto  $\text{Span}(\{ |b, \sigma_b\rangle : \text{Verify}(\text{vk}, b, \sigma_b) = 1 \})$ , the attacker must have either:
  - Passed along the state
  - ~~Put a non-trivial amplitude on another signature (breaks unforgeability!)~~
- Measuring the basis state in the Hadamard basis, gives

$$d \sim \text{Uniform} : \{0,1\}^{n+1}$$



# Part III: Conclusions

# Concurrent & Follow-up

# Open Problems

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]

# Open Problems



# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction

# Open Problems

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!

# Open Problems

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:

# Open Problems

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions

# Open Problems

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?
- Qubit-by-qubit?



# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?
- Qubit-by-qubit?
- Assumptions?

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?
- Qubit-by-qubit?
- Assumptions?
  - OWFs are not minimal for quantum crypto

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?
- Qubit-by-qubit?
- Assumptions?
  - OWFs are not minimal for quantum crypto
- **Experiments?**

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?
- Qubit-by-qubit?
- Assumptions?
  - OWFs are not minimal for quantum crypto
- **Experiments?**
  - Reach out if interested!

[giulio.malavolta@hotmail.it](mailto:giulio.malavolta@hotmail.it)

# Concurrent & Follow-up

- Concurrent work by [KMNY23]
  - Computationally secure construction
  - CCA-secure!
- Follow-up works:
  - Cryptography with certified deletion from minimal assumptions
  - Revocable digital signatures

**THANK YOU!**

# Open Problems

- Key-rate?
- Noise tolerance?
- Qubit-by-qubit?
- Assumptions?
  - OWFs are not minimal for quantum crypto
- **Experiments?**
  - Reach out if interested!

[giulio.malavolta@hotmail.it](mailto:giulio.malavolta@hotmail.it)