

# Formal Methods for Analyzing Crypto Protocols: from attacks to proofs

*Karthikeyan Bhargavan*

**+ many, many others.**

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LORIA, IMDEA, Univ of Pennsylvania, Univ of Michigan, JHU)



# Analyzing Real-World Protocols

Internet protocols (TLS, SSH, IPsec) seemingly implement textbook cryptographic protocols  
... yet, not exactly the same protocols

- Modeling gaps between paper proofs and real protocol
- Implementation gaps between protocol and deployment

These gaps lead to many attacks, new questions

- Can we prove the deployed protocol correct?
- Can we show that a theoretical attack can be exploited?
- Important to understand where these gaps come from, so we can close them in new protocol designs

# Example: HTTPS for Web Security

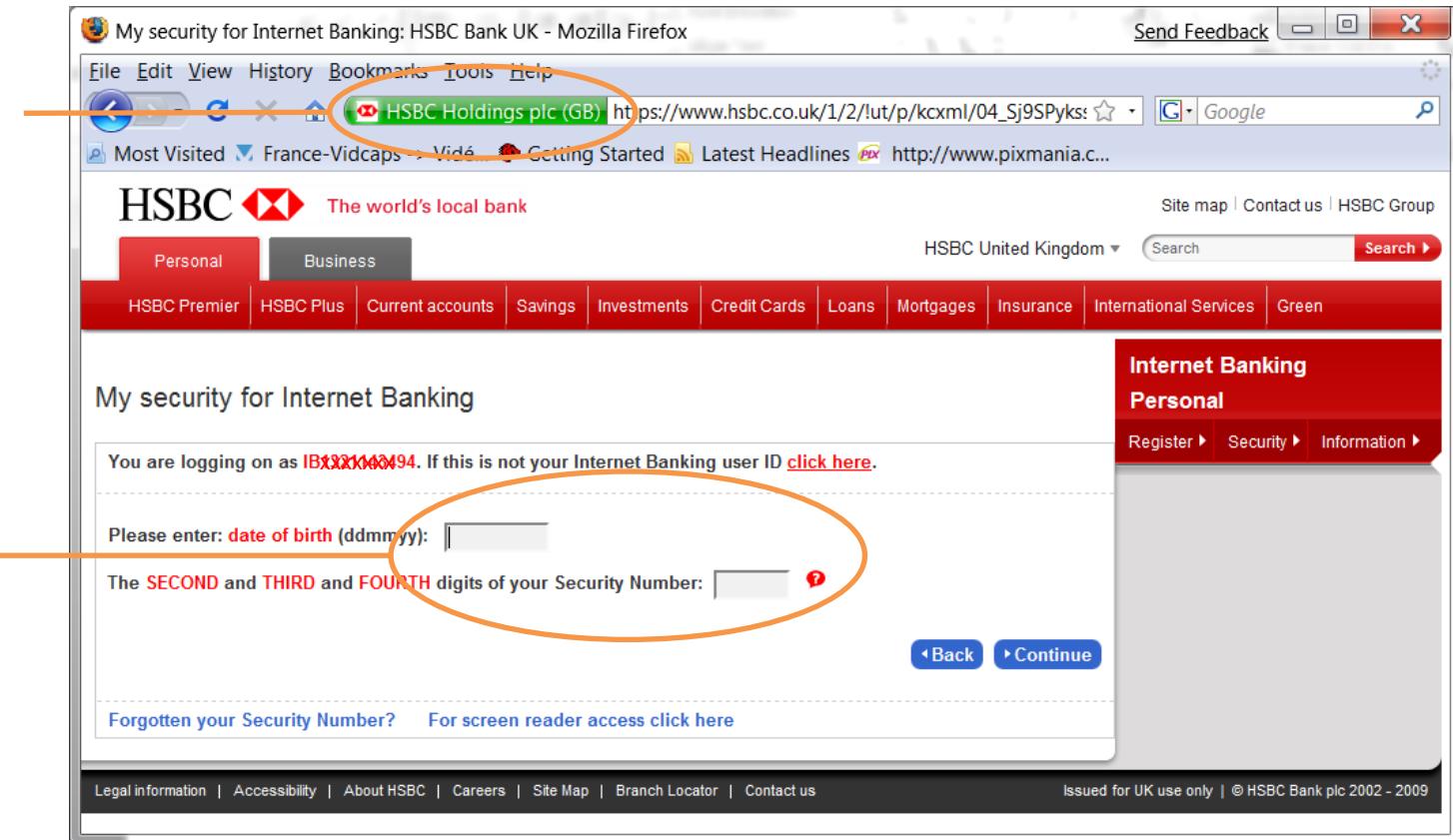
Secure connection to bank's website

Nobody other than the bank can read what I type (confidentiality)

My secret login Information

Nobody other than me can access my account page (authentication)

Secure Channel?  
compose a standard AKE  
with a standard AEAD



Goal: Prevent unauthorized access to data  
even if an unknown attacker controls  
the network and some other bank clients.

# Many recent attacks on HTTPS

• BEAST	CBC predictable IVs	[Sep'11]
• CRIME	Compression before Encryption	[Sep'12]
• RC4	Keystream biases	[Mar'13]
• Lucky 13	MAC-Encode-Encrypt CBC	[May'13]
• 3Shake	Insecure resumption	[Apr'14]
• POODLE	SSLv3 MAC-Encode-Encrypt	[Dec'14]
• SMACK	State machine attacks	[Jan'15]
• FREAK	Export-grade 512-bit RSA	[Mar'15]
• LOGJAM	Export-grade 512-bit DH	[May'15]
• SLOTH	RSA-MD5 signatures	[Jan'16]
• DROWN	SSLv2 RSA-PKCS#1v1.5	[Mar'16]

# Many recent attacks on HTTPS



High-profile attacks, with Logos!

What's going on?

How do we prevent this in the future?

# Lecture Plan

*Part I: Attacks on Authenticated Key Exchange in TLS*

*Part 2: Finding Protocol Flaws with Symbolic Analysis*

*Part 3: Mechanizing Cryptographic Protocol Proofs*

*Part 4: Towards High-Assurance Crypto Software*

Part I:

# Attacks on Authenticated Key Exchange in TLS

# Reading Materials

- ***TLS 1.2.*** IETF RFC 5246.
- ***Triple Handshakes and Cookie Cutters: Breaking and Fixing Authentication over TLS.*** IEEE Security and Privacy 2014.
- ***Messy State of the Union: Taming the Composite State Machines of TLS.*** IEEE Security and Privacy 2015.
- ***Imperfect Forward Secrecy: How Diffie-Hellman Fails in Practice.*** ACM CCS 2015.
- ***Transcript Collision Attacks: Breaking Authentication in TLS, IKE, and SSH.*** ISOC NDSS 2016.

# Transport Layer Security (1994—)

The default secure channel protocol?

HTTPS, 802.1x, VPNs, files, mail, VoIP, ...

20 years of attacks and fixes

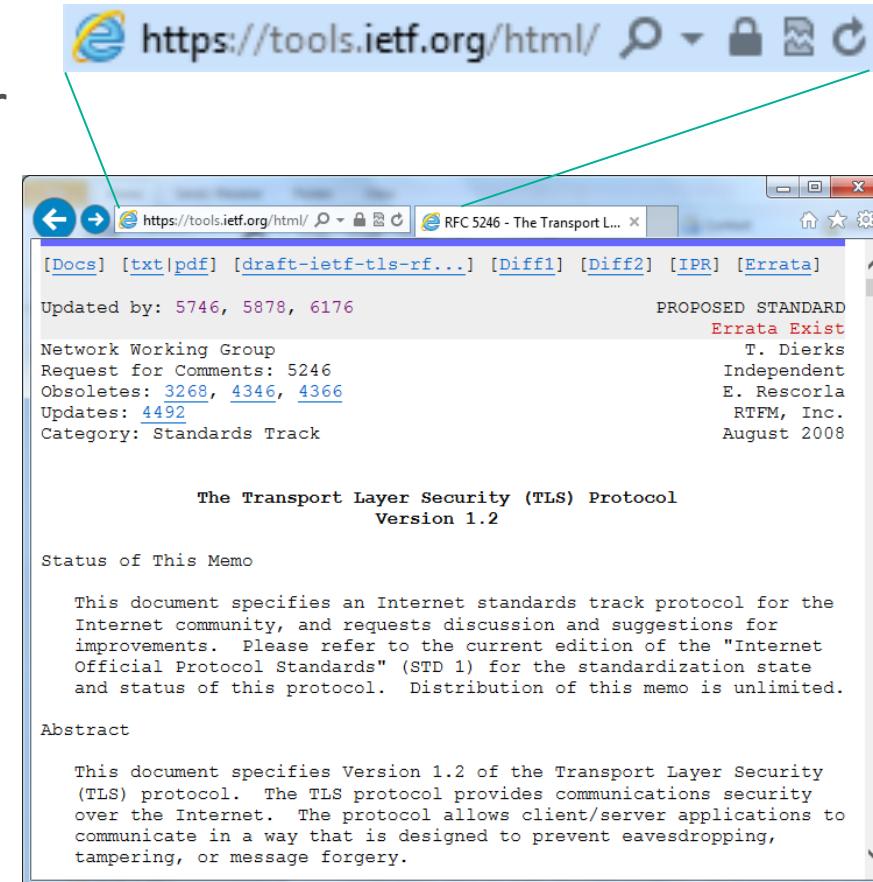
- 1994 Netscape's Secure Sockets Layer
- 1996 SSLv3
- 1999 TLS1.0 (RFC2246)
- 2006 TLS1.1 (RFC4346)
- 2008 TLS1.2 (RFC5246)
- 2018? TLS1.3

Many implementations

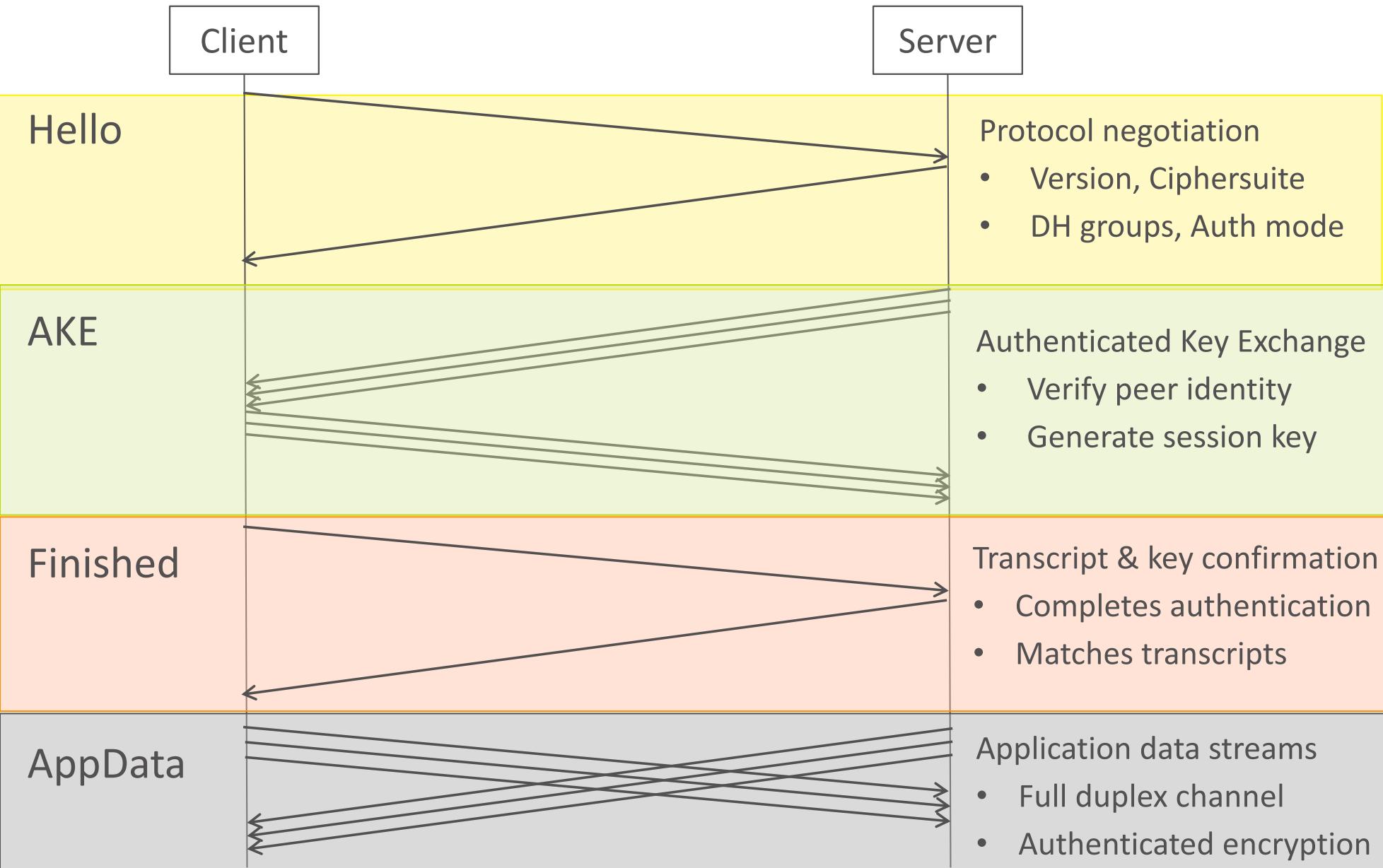
OpenSSL, SecureTransport, NSS, SChannel, GnuTLS, JSSE, PolarSSL, ...

many bugs, attacks, patches every year

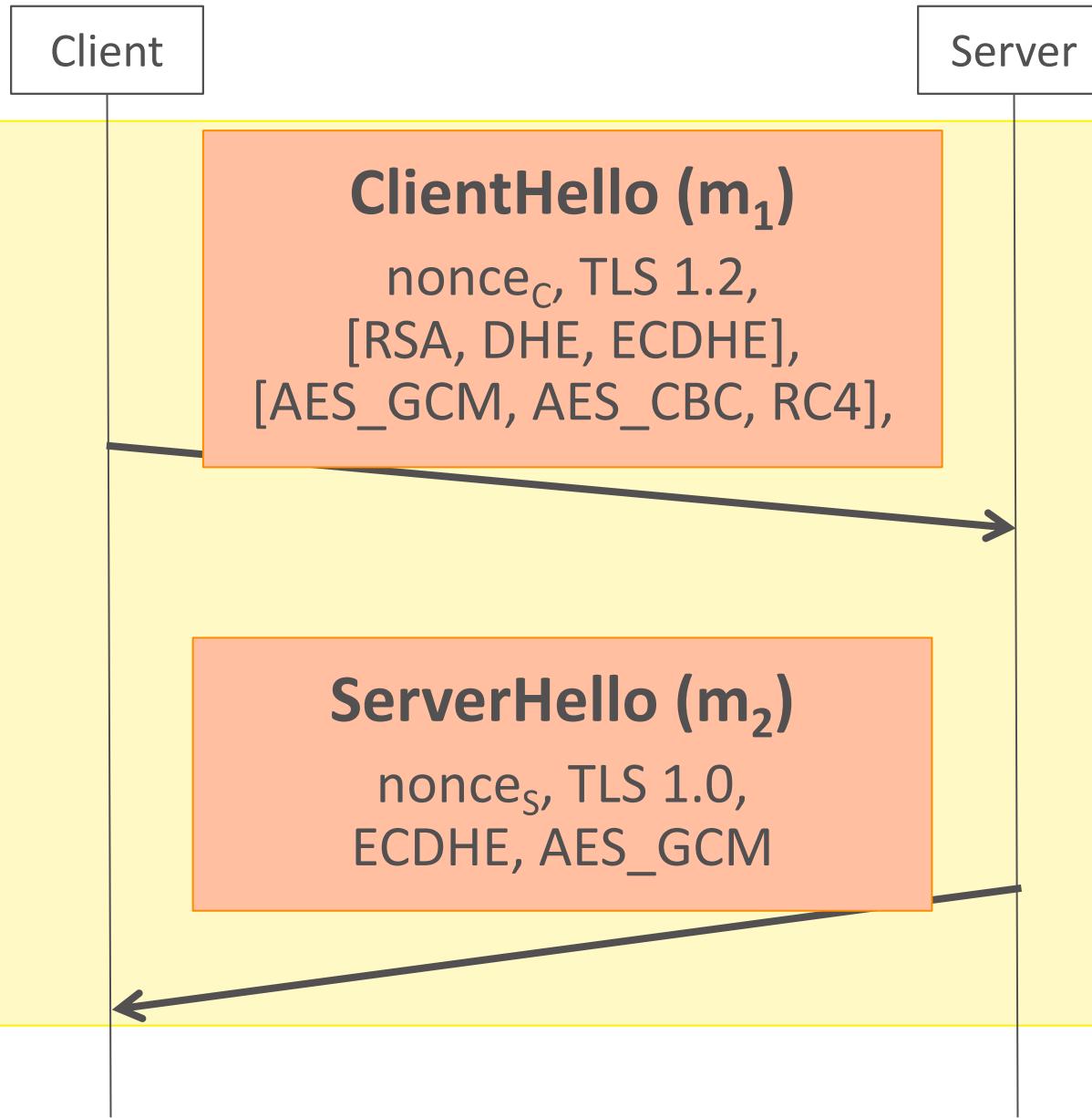
Many security theorems  
mostly for simplified models of TLS



# TLS protocol overview



# TLS negotiation



# The many, many modes of TLS

## Protocol versions

- TLS 1.2, TLS 1.1, TLS 1.0, SSLv3, SSLv2

## Key exchanges

- ECDHE, FFDHE, RSA, PSK, ...

## Authentication modes

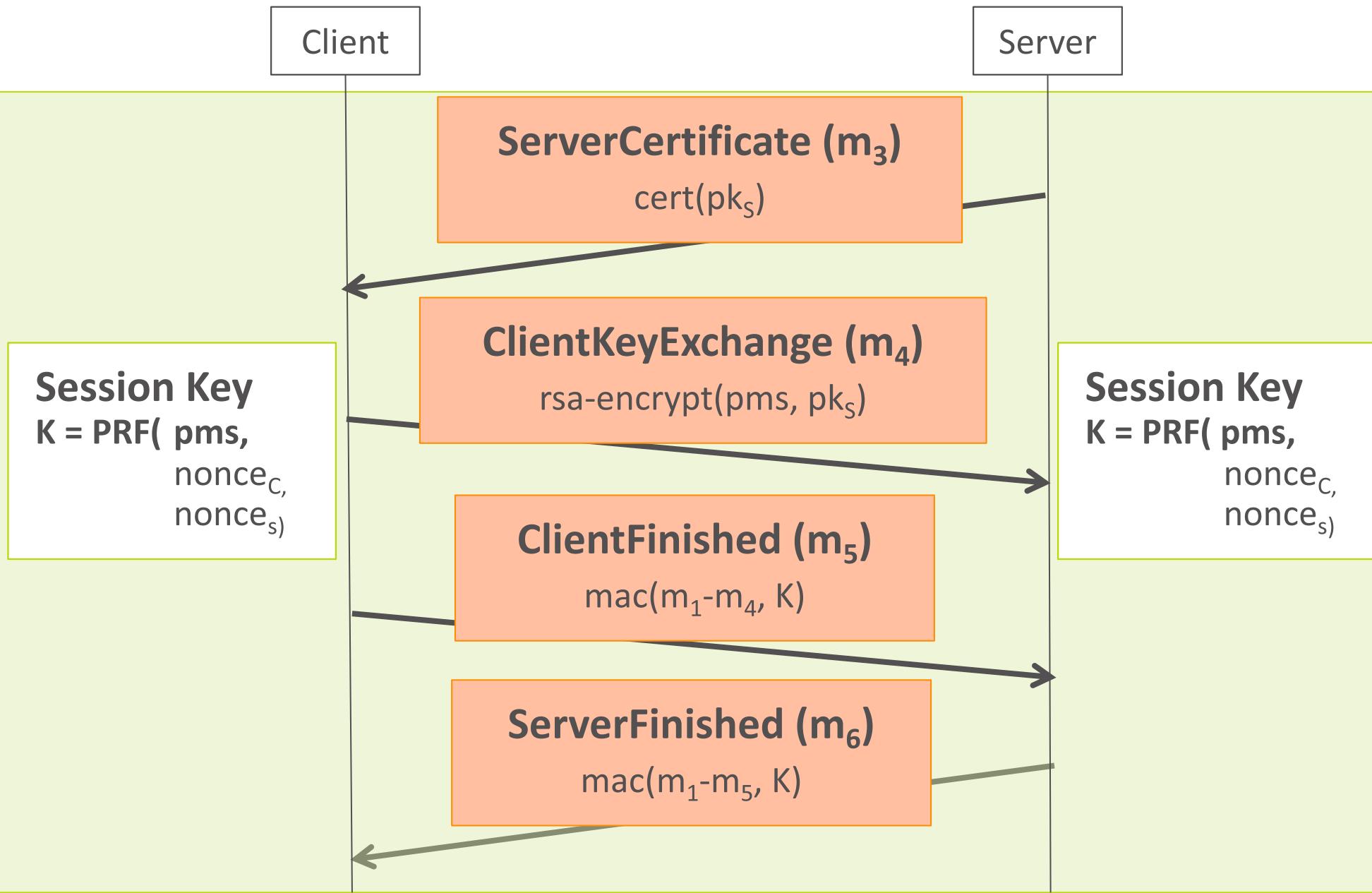
- ECDSA, RSA signatures, PSK, ...

## Authenticated Encryption Schemes

- AES-GCM, CBC MAC-Encode-Encrypt, RC4, ...

100s of possible protocol combinations!

# RSA Key Transport



# RSA Key Transport

- Client chooses secret  $pms$ , adds maximum protocol version  $pv_{max}$ , pads according to RSA PKCS#1 v1.5, and encrypts with server's public key  $pk_s$   
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{rsa-pkcs1-encrypt}(pms, pk_s) \\ &= [\text{pad} \mid pv_{max} \mid pms]^e \bmod pq \end{aligned}$$
- Server decrypts, **checks pad and protocol version**, computes session key from  $pms$

*Security:* In theory, relies on hardness of factoring  $pq$

# RSA Key Transport: Attacks and Proofs

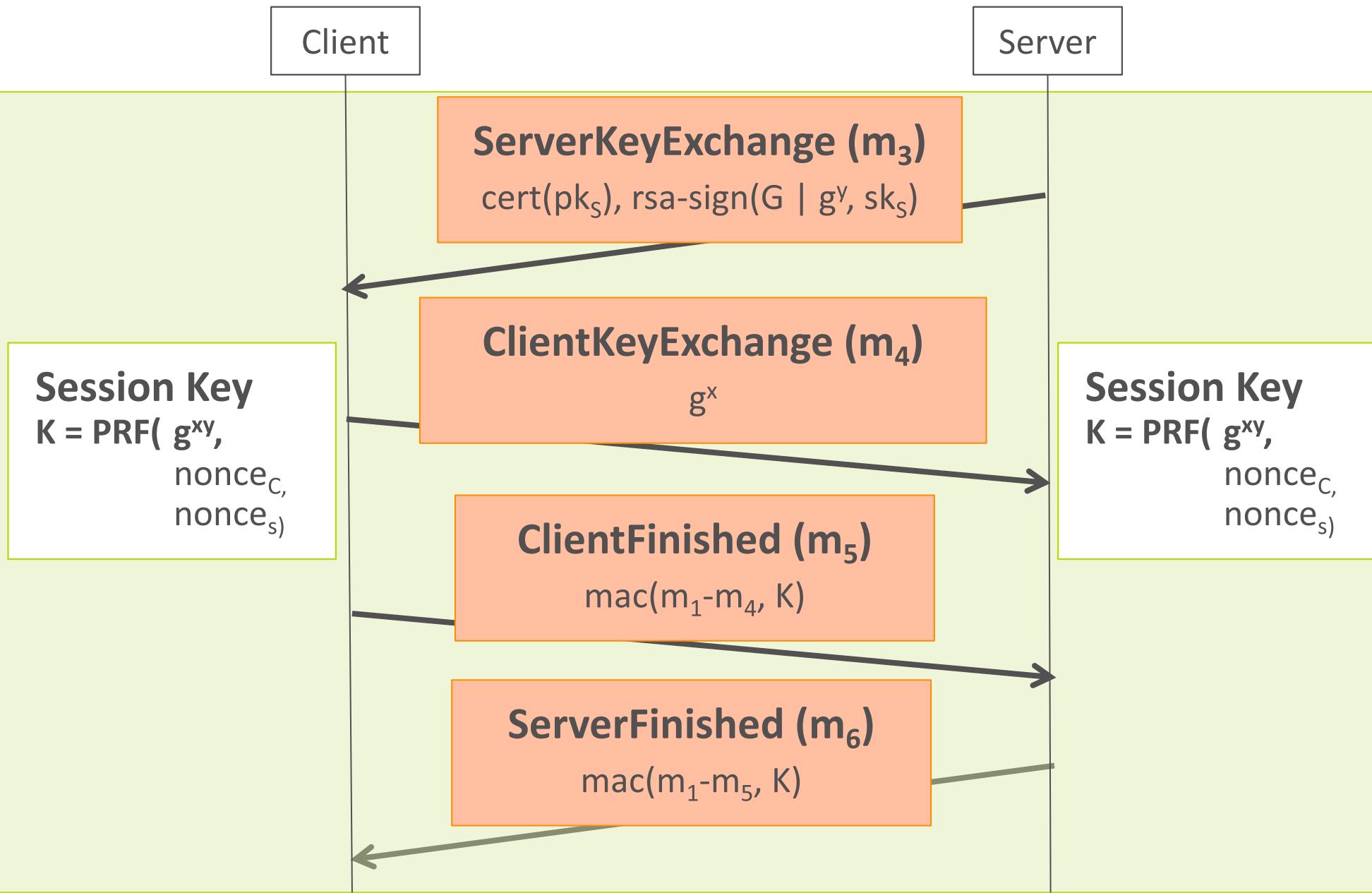
- [1994] Classic protocol, many proofs
- [1998] **Chosen Ciphertext attack** on PKCS#1
- [2002] Mitigations in TLS and other protocols
- [2013] Proof of TLS assuming mitigation
- [2016] **DROWN**: downgrade to SSLv2 + Bleichenbacher + software bugs

## DROWN: Breaking TLS using SSLv2

Nimrod Aviram<sup>1</sup>, Sebastian Schinzel<sup>2</sup>, Juraj Somorovsky<sup>3</sup>, Nadia Heninger<sup>4</sup>, Maik Dankel<sup>2</sup>,  
Jens Steube<sup>5</sup>, Luke Valenta<sup>4</sup>, David Adrian<sup>6</sup>, J. Alex Halderman<sup>6</sup>, Viktor Dukhovni<sup>7</sup>,  
Emilia Käsper<sup>8</sup>, Shaanan Cohney<sup>4</sup>, Susanne Engels<sup>3</sup>, Christof Paar<sup>3</sup> and Yuval Shavitt<sup>1</sup>

## <sup>1</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering, Tel Aviv University

# (EC)DHE Key Exchange



# (EC)DHE Key Exchange

- Server chooses group  $(p, g)$  and a public value  $g^y$  and signs it with its certificate signing key  $sk_S$ :  
$$\text{rsa-sign}([\text{nonce}_C \mid \text{nonce}_S \mid p \mid g \mid g^y], sk_S)$$

(Can use named elliptic curves instead of  $p \mid g$ )
- Classic Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange  
$$p_{MS} = g^{xy} \bmod p$$

*Security*: In theory, relies on (some) D-H assumption

- Provides forward secrecy, preferred over RSA

# (EC)DHE Key Exchange Analysis

- [1994] Classic protocol, many proofs
- [2011] Proof of mutually-authenticated DHE
- [2013] Proof of server-authenticated RSA+DHE
- [2015] **Logjam:** Downgrade to DHE\_EXPORT + discrete logarithm + configuration bugs

## Imperfect Forward Secrecy: How Diffie-Hellman Fails in Practice

David Adrian<sup>†</sup> Karthikeyan Bhargavan<sup>\*</sup> Zakir Durumeric<sup>†</sup> Pierrick Gaudry<sup>†</sup> Matthew Green<sup>§</sup>  
J. Alex Halderman<sup>†</sup> Nadia Heninger<sup>‡</sup> Drew Springall<sup>†</sup> Emmanuel Thomé<sup>†</sup> Luke Valenta<sup>‡</sup>  
Benjamin VanderSloot<sup>†</sup> Eric Wustrow<sup>†</sup> Santiago Zanella-Béguelin<sup>||</sup> Paul Zimmermann<sup>†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> INRIA Paris-Rocquencourt      <sup>†</sup> INRIA Nancy-Grand Est, CNRS, and Université de Lorraine  
<sup>||</sup> Microsoft Research      <sup>‡</sup> University of Pennsylvania      <sup>§</sup> Johns Hopkins      <sup>¶</sup> University of Michigan

For additional materials and contact information, visit [WeakDH.org](http://WeakDH.org).

# What goes wrong in TLS?

## Cryptographic Weaknesses in Legacy Constructions

- Weak hash functions, weak DH groups, short block ciphers, leaky PKCS#11v1.5 padding

## Logical Flaws in Protocol

- Cross-Protocol Attacks, Downgrade Attacks, Transcript Synchronization/Collision Attacks

## Implementation Bugs in TLS Libraries

- Bugs in crypto library, Buffer overflows in packet parsing, Composition bugs in state machines, Bad configurations

**Sometimes, a mix of all of the above!**

# Recall: the many modes of TLS

## Protocol versions

- TLS 1.2, TLS 1.1, TLS 1.0, SSLv3, SSLv2

## Key exchanges

- ECDHE, FFDHE, RSA, PSK, ...

## Authentication modes

- ECDSA, RSA signatures, PSK, ...

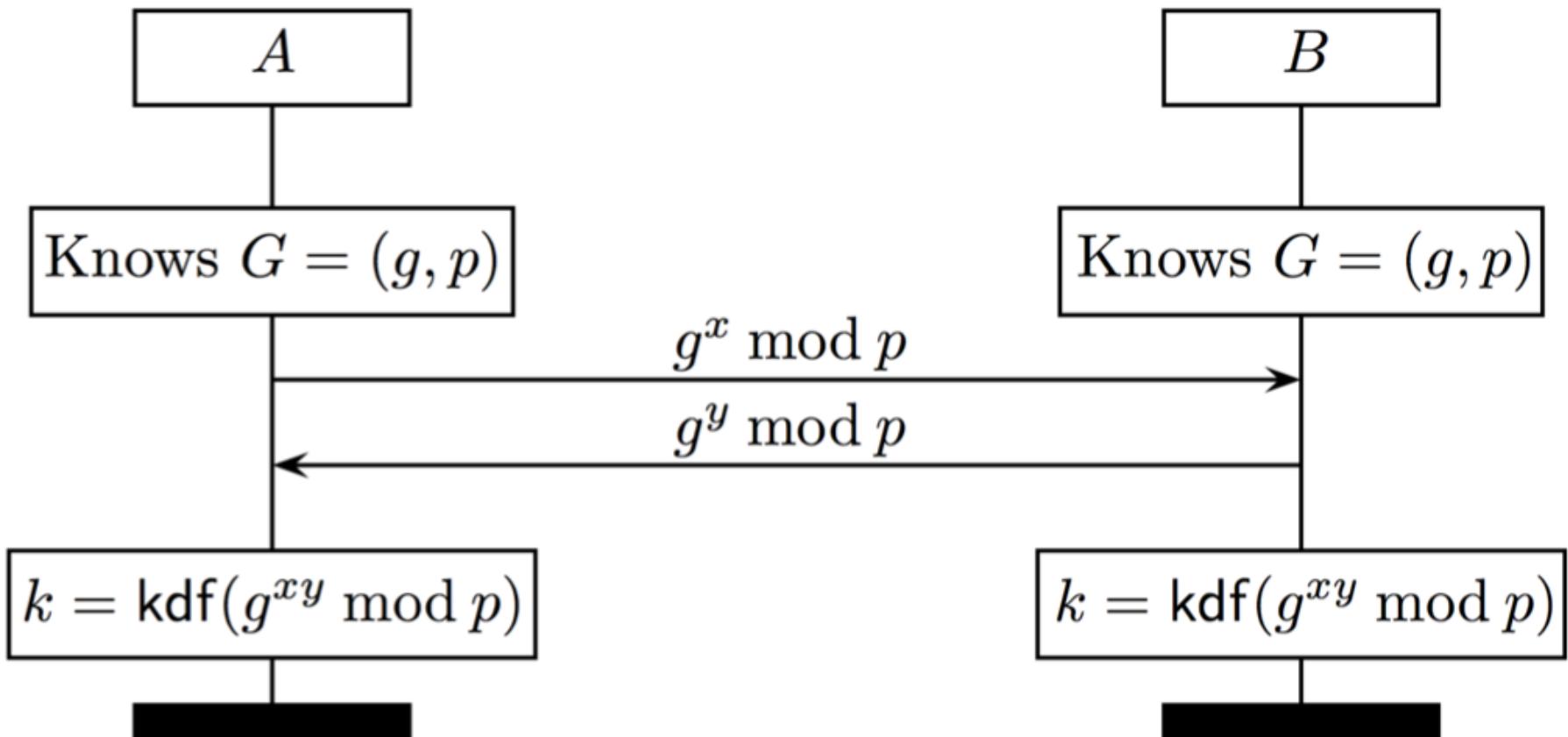
## Authenticated Encryption Schemes

- AES-GCM, CBC MAC-Encode-Encrypt, RC4, ...

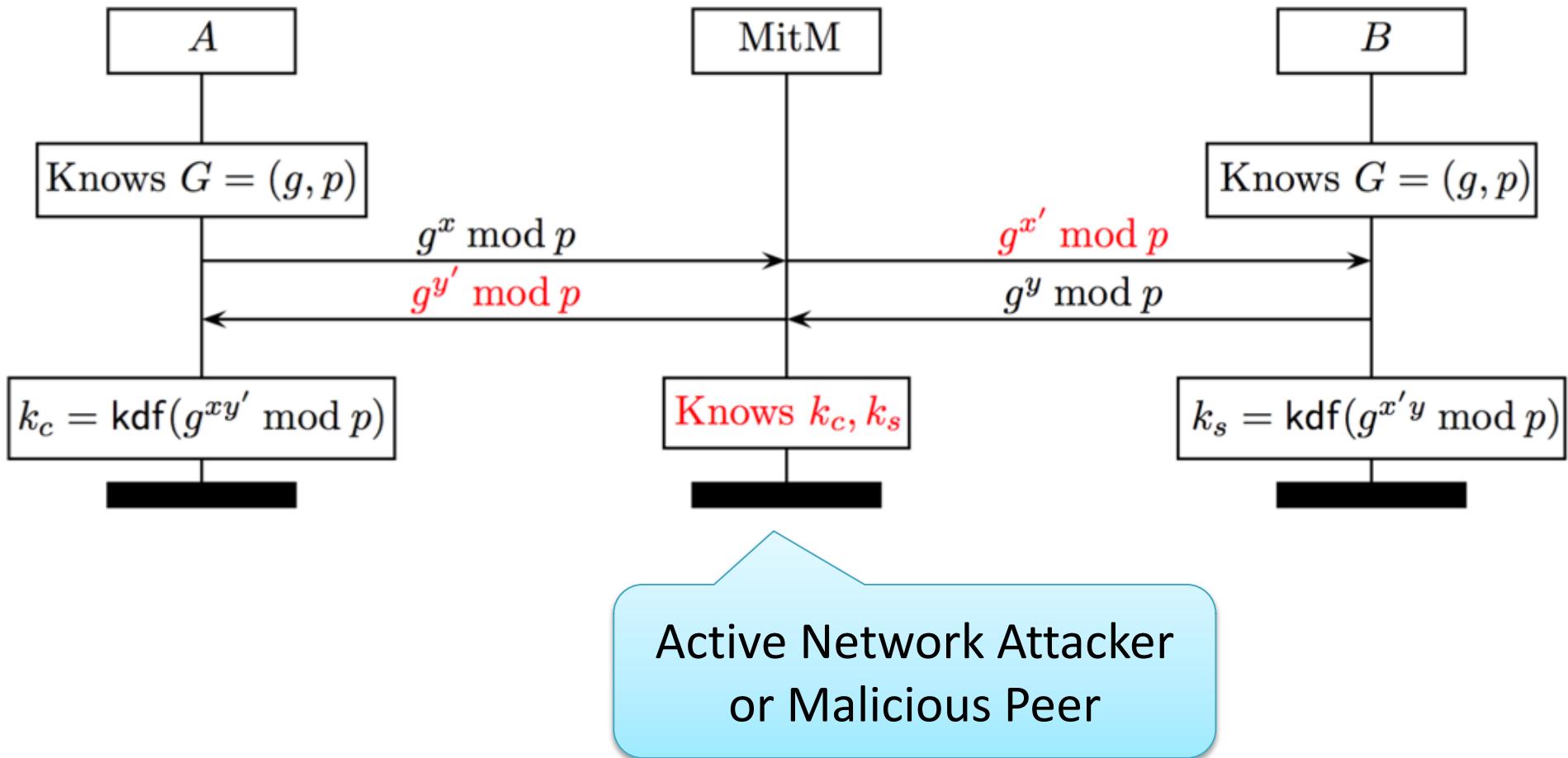
100s of possible protocol combinations!

# Exploiting Crypto Weaknesses: Weak DH Groups

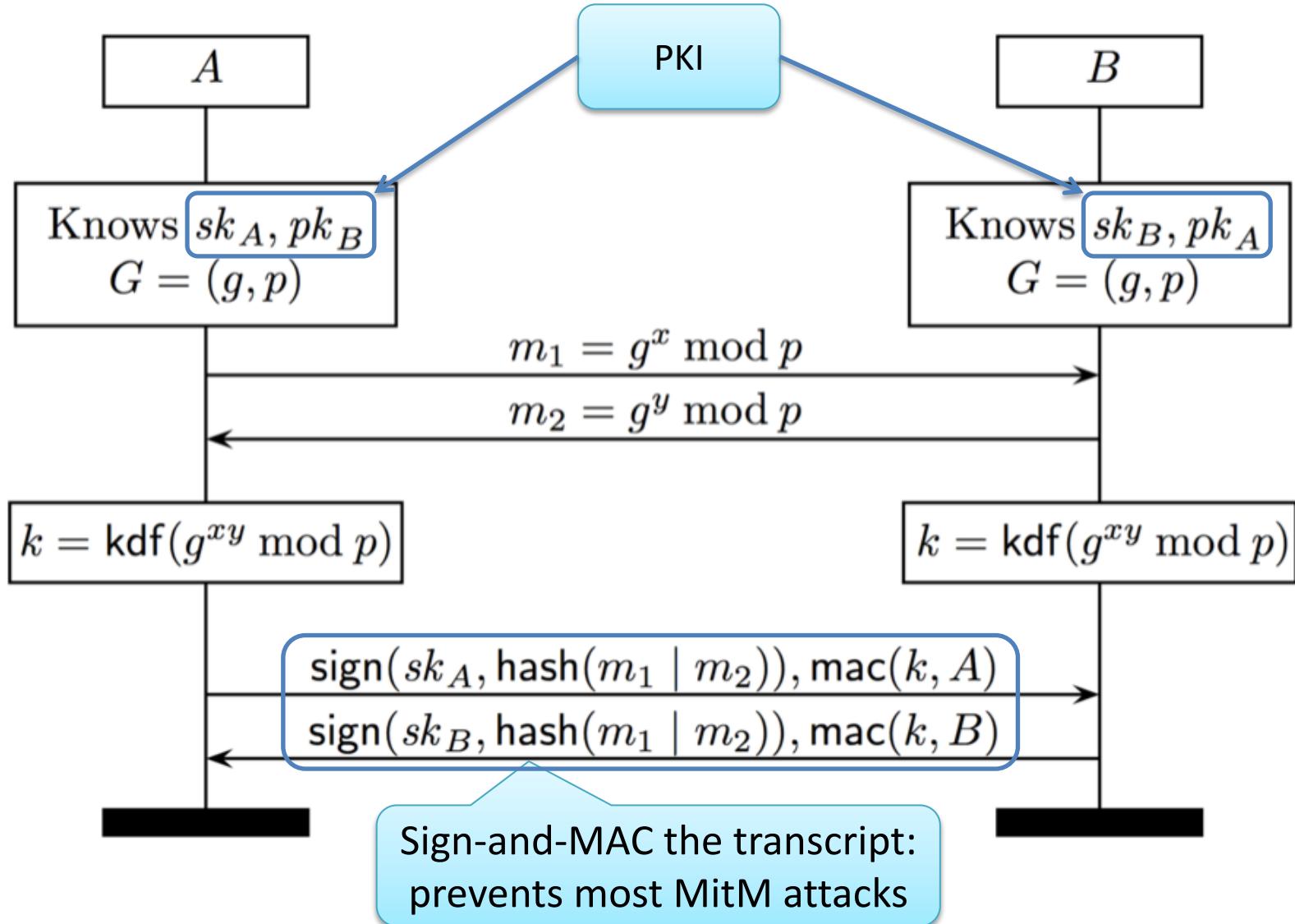
# Anonymous Diffie-Hellman (ADH)



# Man-in-the-Middle attack on ADH



# Authenticated DH (SIGMA)



# Weak Diffie-Hellman Groups

Diffie-Hellman shared secret computation

$$k = \text{kdf}(g^{xy} \bmod p)$$

*Theoretical Security:*

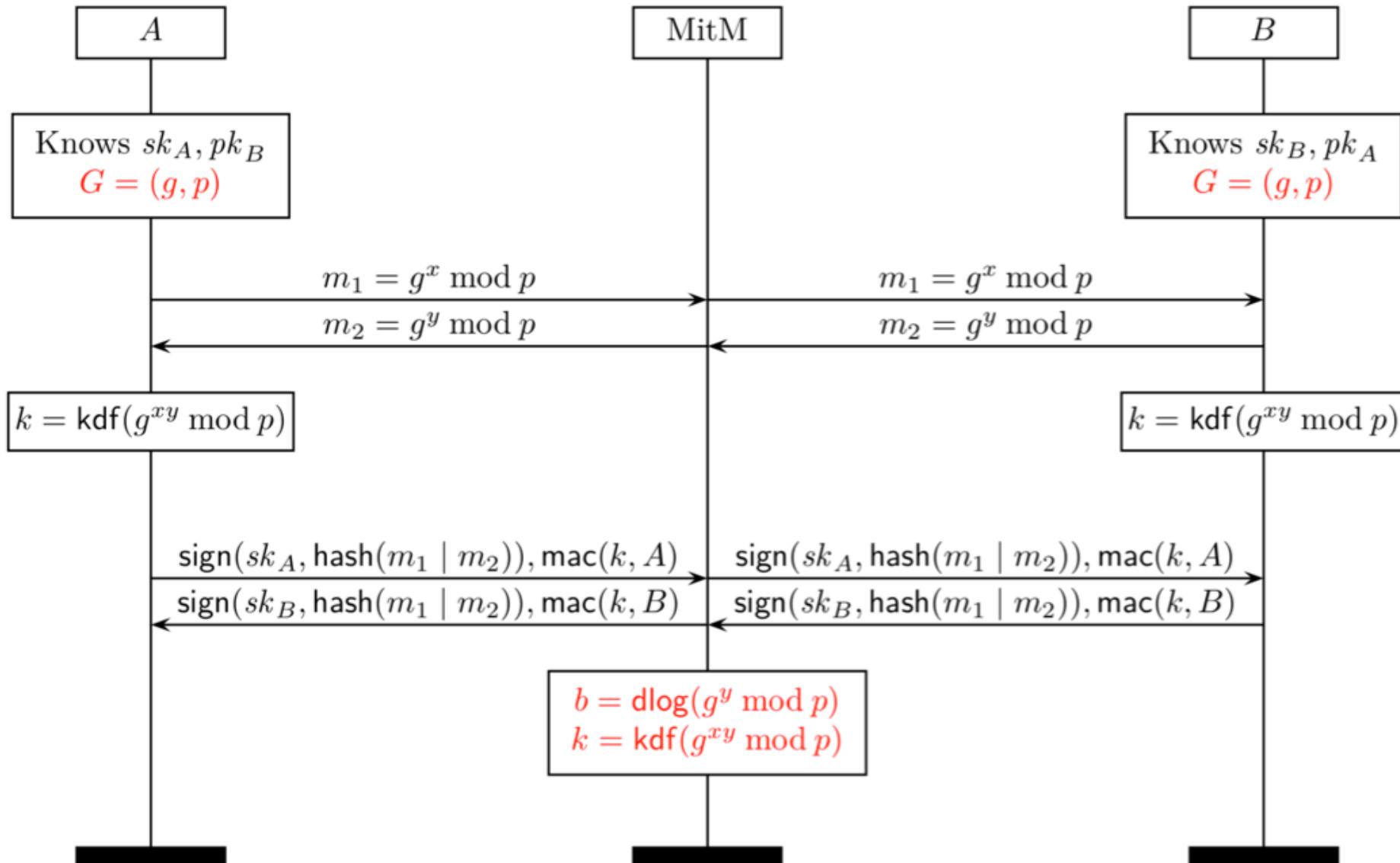
- Relies on some DH assumption (CDH, Gap, PRF-ODF,...)
- Attacker cannot compute  $k$  without knowing  $x$  or  $y$

*Attacks:*

- Best known attacks rely on **discrete log**:

$$y = \log(g^y \bmod p)$$

# Discrete Log Attack on SIGMA



# How likely is a discrete log-based attack?

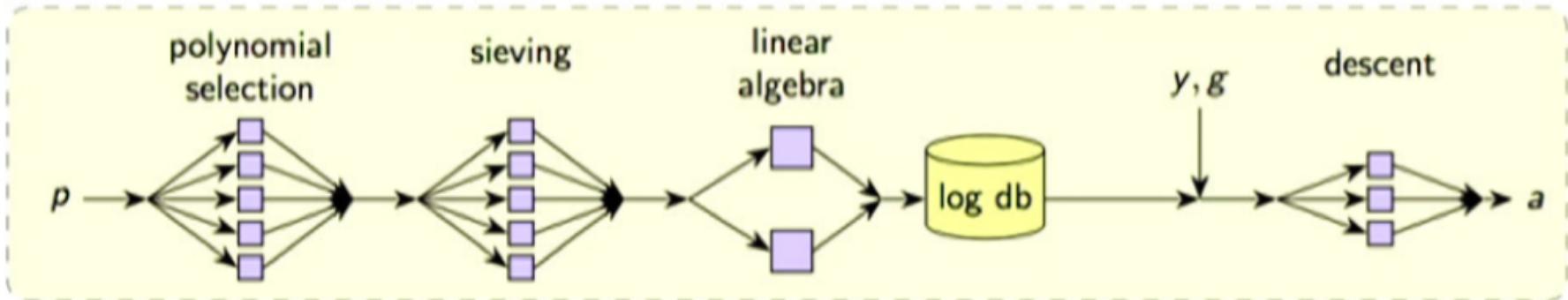
## Discrete Log Computation Records

- [Joux et al. 2005] 431-bit prime
- [Kleinjung et al. 2007] 530-bit prime
- [Bouvier et al. 2014] 596-bit prime
- + other results for special groups

Best known generic technique:  
Number Field Sieve (NFS) and variants

# Computing Discrete Logs with NFS

(slide from N. Heninger)



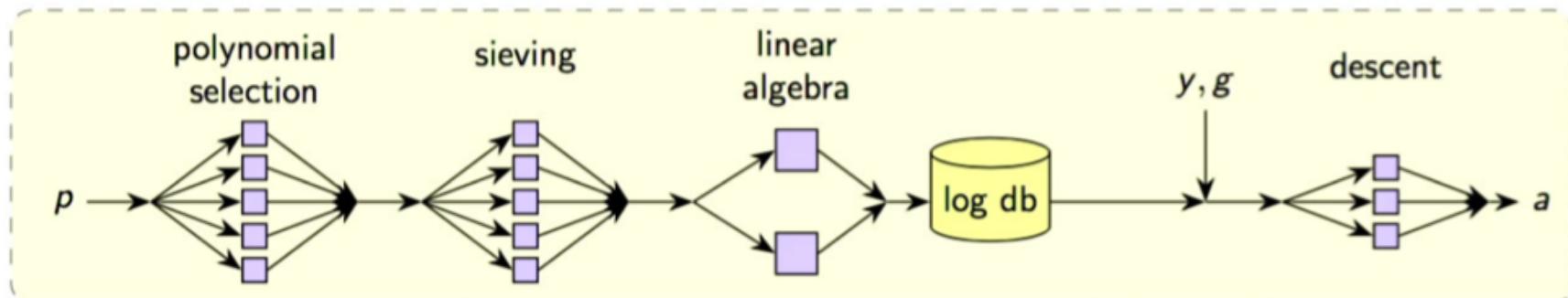
How long does the number field sieve take?

**Answer 1:**

$$L(1/3, 1.923) = \exp(1.923(\log N)^{1/3}(\log \log N)^{2/3})$$

# Computing Discrete Logs with NFS

(slide from N. Heninger)



How long does the number field sieve take?

**Answer 2:**

512-bit DH:  $\approx 10$  core-years.

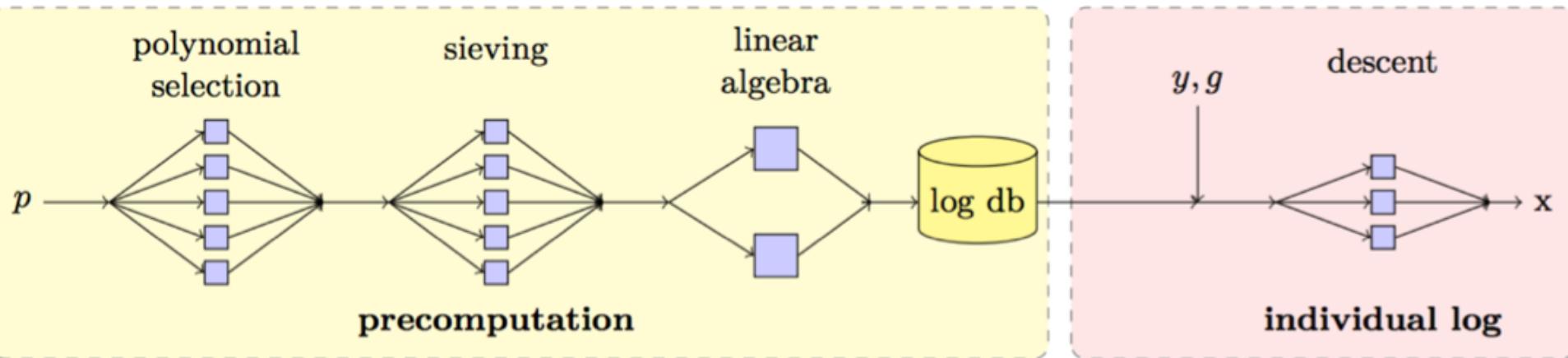
768-bit DH:  $\approx 35,000$  core-years.

1024-bit DH:  $\approx 45,000,000$  core-years.

2048-bit DH: Minimum recommended key size today.

# Exploiting Pre-computation

(slide from N. Heninger)



	Sieving			Linear Algebra		Descent
	I	$\log B$	core-years	rows	core-years	core-time
RSA-512	14	29	0.5	4.3M	0.33	
DH-512	15	27	2.5	2.1M	7.7	10 mins

Times for cluster computation:

	polysel	sieving	linalg	descent
	2000-3000 cores	288 cores	36 cores	
DH-512	3 hours	15 hours	120 hours	70 seconds

# TLS-DHE in practice

## Internet-wide scan of HTTPS servers using Zmap (2015)

- 14.3M hosts, 24% support DHE
- 70,000 distinct groups  $(p, g)$

## Small-sized prime groups

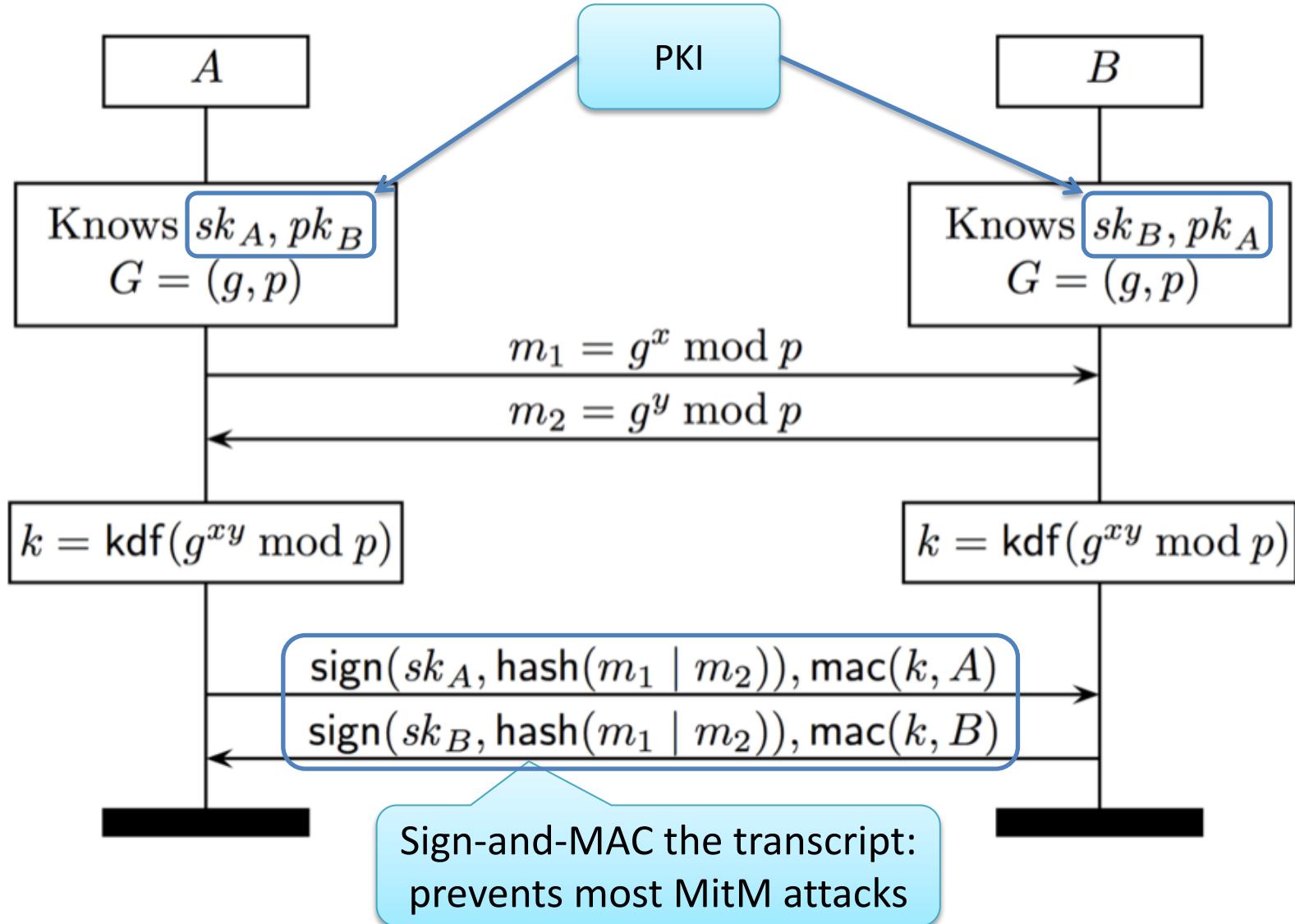
- 84% (2.9M) servers use 1024-bit primes
- 2.6% (90K) servers use 768-bit primes
- 0.0008% (2.6K) servers use 512-bit primes

## What percentage of the internet does our TLS-DHE cryptographic proofs apply to?

- Depends on how powerful your adversary is

# Exploiting Crypto Weaknesses: Weak Hash Functions

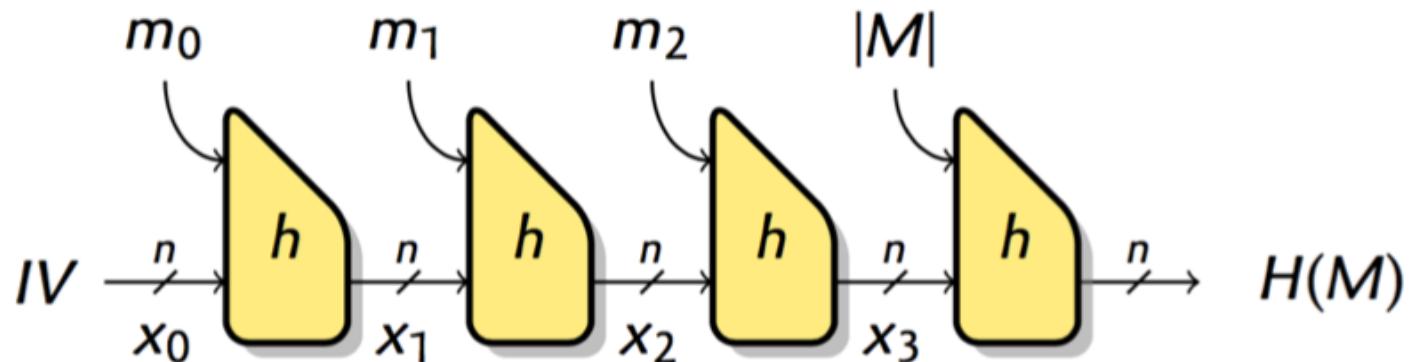
# Authenticated DH (SIGMA)



# Authentication via Transcript Signatures

- Sign the full transcript
  - $\text{sign}(sk_B, \text{hash}(m_1 \mid m_2))$
  - *Example:* TLS 1.3, SSH-2, TLS 1.2 client auth
- How weak can the **hash** function be?
  - do we need collision resistance?
  - do we only need 2<sup>nd</sup> preimage resistance?

# Quick Primer on Hash Functions

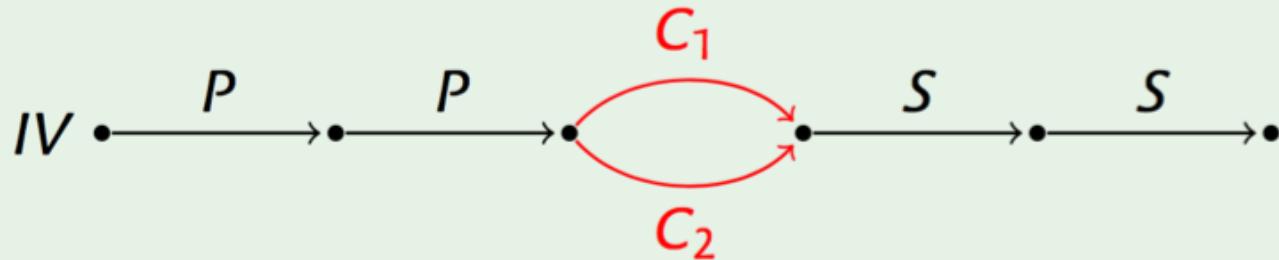


- ▶ Hash function: public function  $\{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ 
  - ▶ Maps arbitrary-length message to fixed-length hash
- ▶ Merkle-Damgård mode:  $n$ -bit chain value
  - ▶ Process message iteratively
  - ▶ Use the message length in the padding (MD strengthening)
- ▶ Hash function should behave like a random function
  - ▶ Hard to find collisions, preimages
  - ▶ Hash can be used as a fingerprint

# Hash Function Cryptanalysis

## Collision attack

- ▶ Find  $M_1 \neq M_2$  such that  $H(M_1) = H(M_2)$
- ▶ Generic attack with complexity  $2^{n/2}$  (expected security)
- ▶ Shortcut attacks
  - ▶ MD5: complexity  $2^{16}$  [Wang & al.'05, Stevens & al.'09]
  - ▶ SHA1: complexity  $2^{61}$  [Wang & al.'05, Stevens '13]

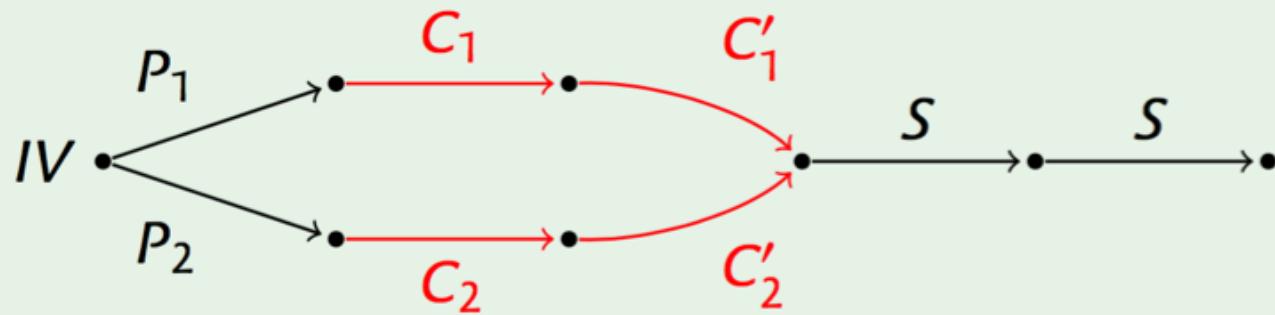


- ▶ Arbitrary common prefix/suffix, random collision blocks

# Hash Function Cryptanalysis

## *Chosen-prefix collision attack*

- ▶ Given  $P_1, P_2$ , find  $M_1 \neq M_2$  such that  $H(P_1||M_1) = H(P_2||M_2)$
- ▶ Generic attack with complexity  $2^{n/2}$  (expected security)
- ▶ Shortcut attacks
  - ▶ MD5: complexity  $2^{39}$  [Stevens & al.'09]
  - ▶ SHA1: complexity  $2^{77}$  [Stevens '13]



# Hash Function Cryptanalysis

## 2<sup>nd</sup> preimage attack

- Given  $M_1, H(M_1)$ , find  $M_2 \neq M_1$  s.t.  $H(M_1) = H(M_2)$
- Generic attack with complexity  $2^n$  (expected)
  - MD5: complexity  $2^{128}$
  - SHA1: complexity  $2^{160}$
  - No practical attacks
- Protocols that rely only on 2<sup>nd</sup> preimage resistance can safely use even MD5
  - E.g. public key fingerprints in SSH

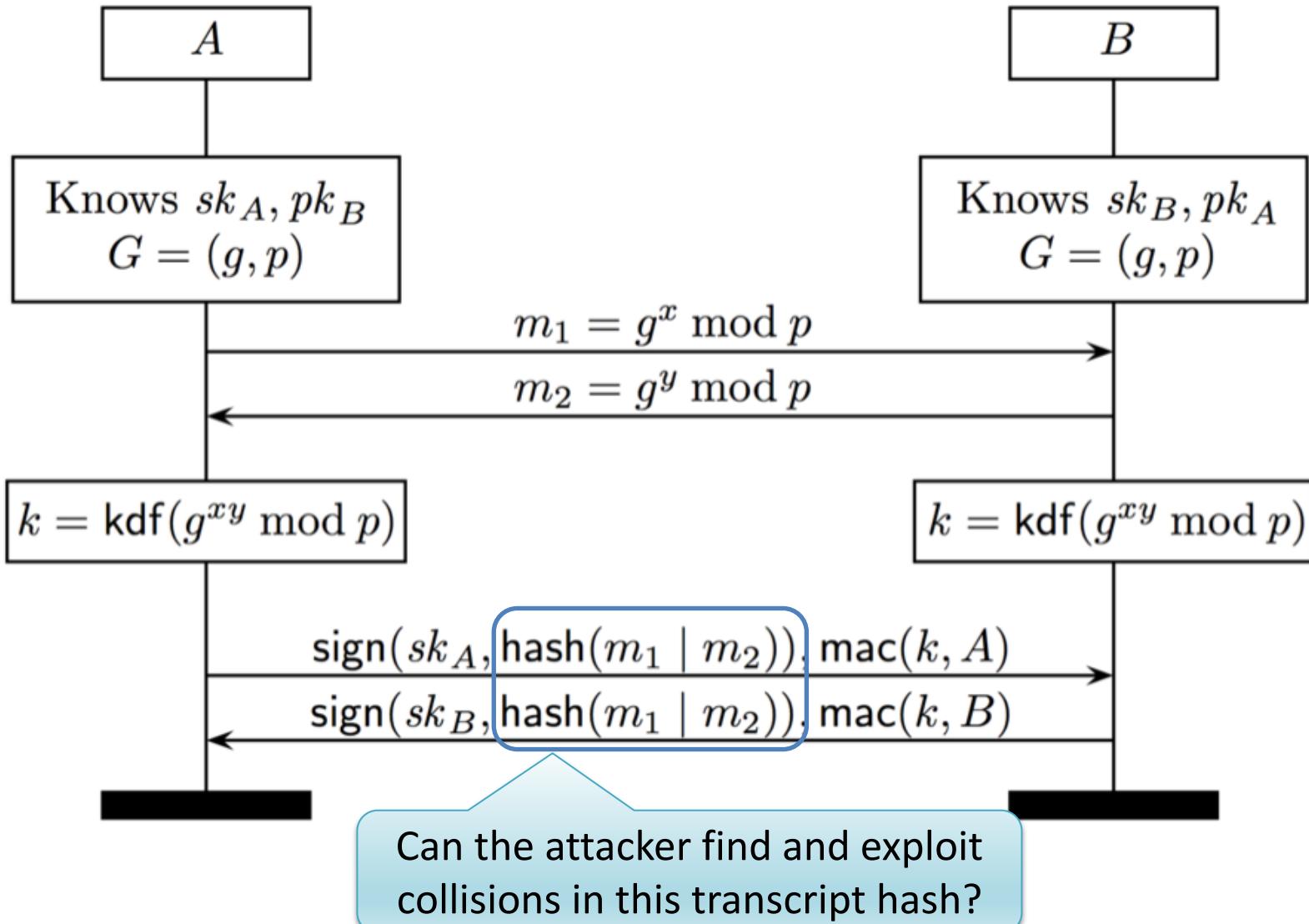
# Hash Function Attack Complexity

- MD5: known attack complexities
  - MD5 second preimage  $2^{128}$  hashes (infeasible)
  - MD5 generic collision:  $2^{64}$  hashes (months?)
  - **MD5 chosen-prefix collision:**  $2^{39}$  hashes (1 hour)
  - **MD5 common-prefix collision:**  $2^{16}$  hashes (seconds)
- SHA1: estimated attack complexities
  - **SHA1** second preimage  $2^{160}$  hashes (infeasible)
  - **SHA1** generic collision:  $2^{80}$  hashes (infeasible)
  - **SHA1** chosen-prefix collision:  $2^{77}$  hashes (?)
  - **SHA1** common-prefix collision:  $2^{61}$  hashes (months)

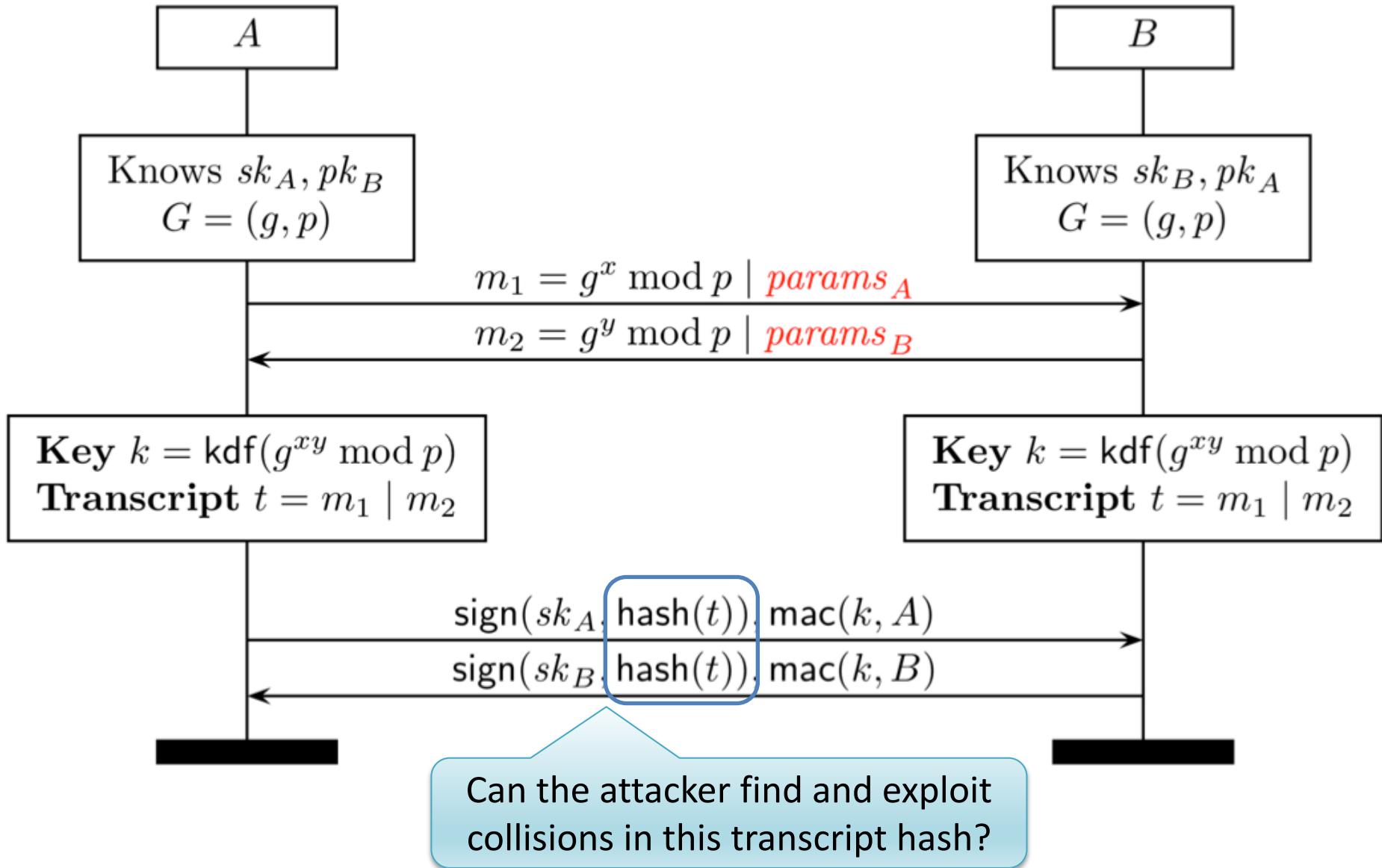
# Authentication via Transcript Signatures

- Sign the full transcript
  - $\text{sign}(sk_B, \text{hash}(m_1 \mid m_2))$
  - *Example*: TLS 1.3, SSH-2, TLS 1.2 client auth
- How weak can the **hash** function be?
  - do we need collision resistance?
  - do we only need 2<sup>nd</sup> preimage resistance?
- Is it still safe to use MD5, SHA-1 in TLS, IKE, SSH?
  - *Disagreement*: cryptographers vs. practitioners  
(see Schneier vs. Hoffman, RFC4270)

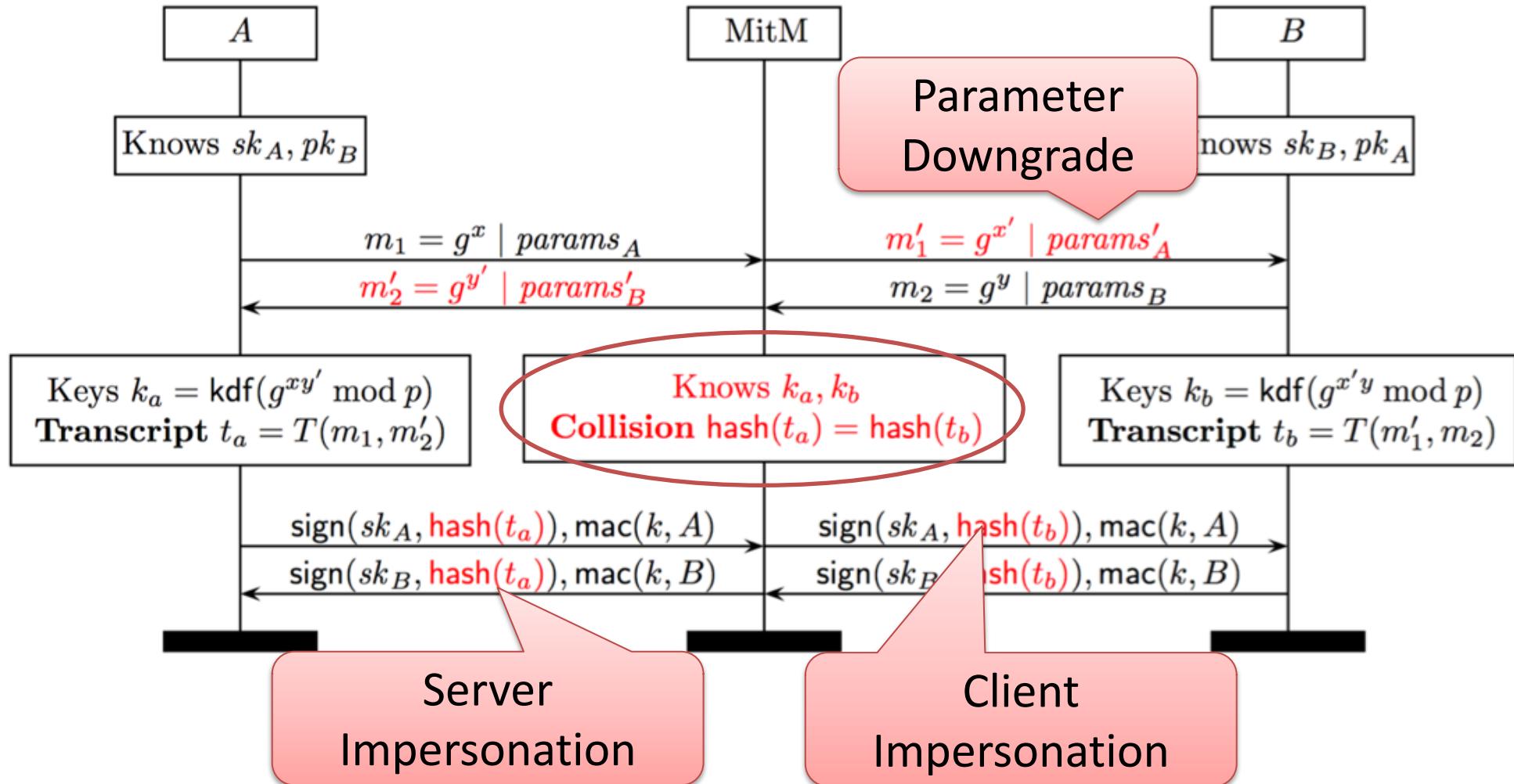
# Transcript Collisions on SIGMA



# Hash Collisions in SIGMA



# SLOTH: Transcript Collision Attacks

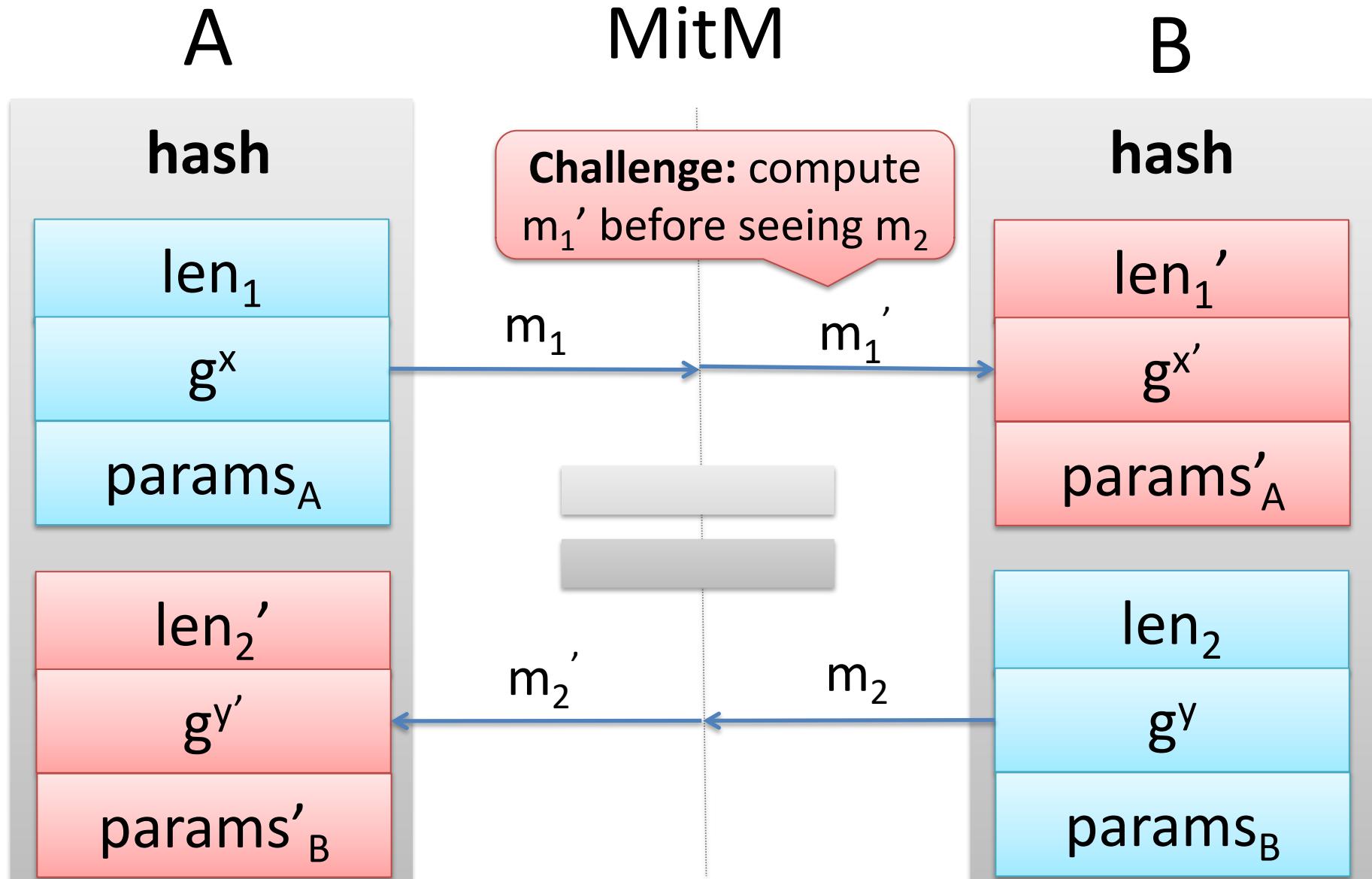


# Computing a Transcript Collision

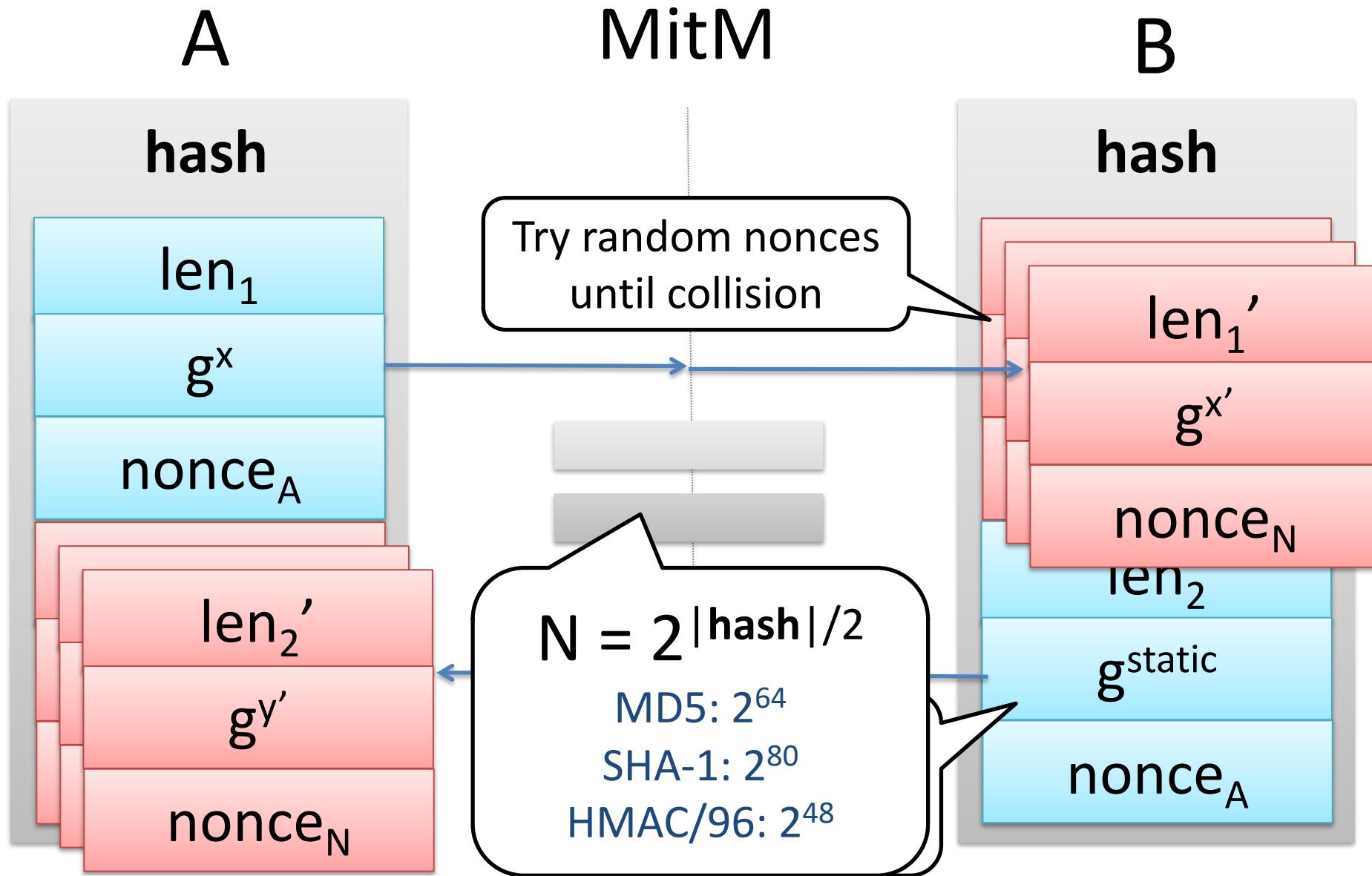
$$\mathbf{hash}(m_1 \mid m'_2) = \mathbf{hash}(m'_1 \mid m_2)$$

- We need to compute a collision, *not a pre-image*
  - Attacker controls parts of both transcripts
  - If we know the black bits, can we compute the **red** bits?
  - This can sometimes be set up as a **generic collision**
- If we're lucky, we can set up a **shortcut** collision
  - **Common-prefix**: collision after a shared transcript prefix
  - **Chosen-prefix**: collision after attacker-controlled prefixes

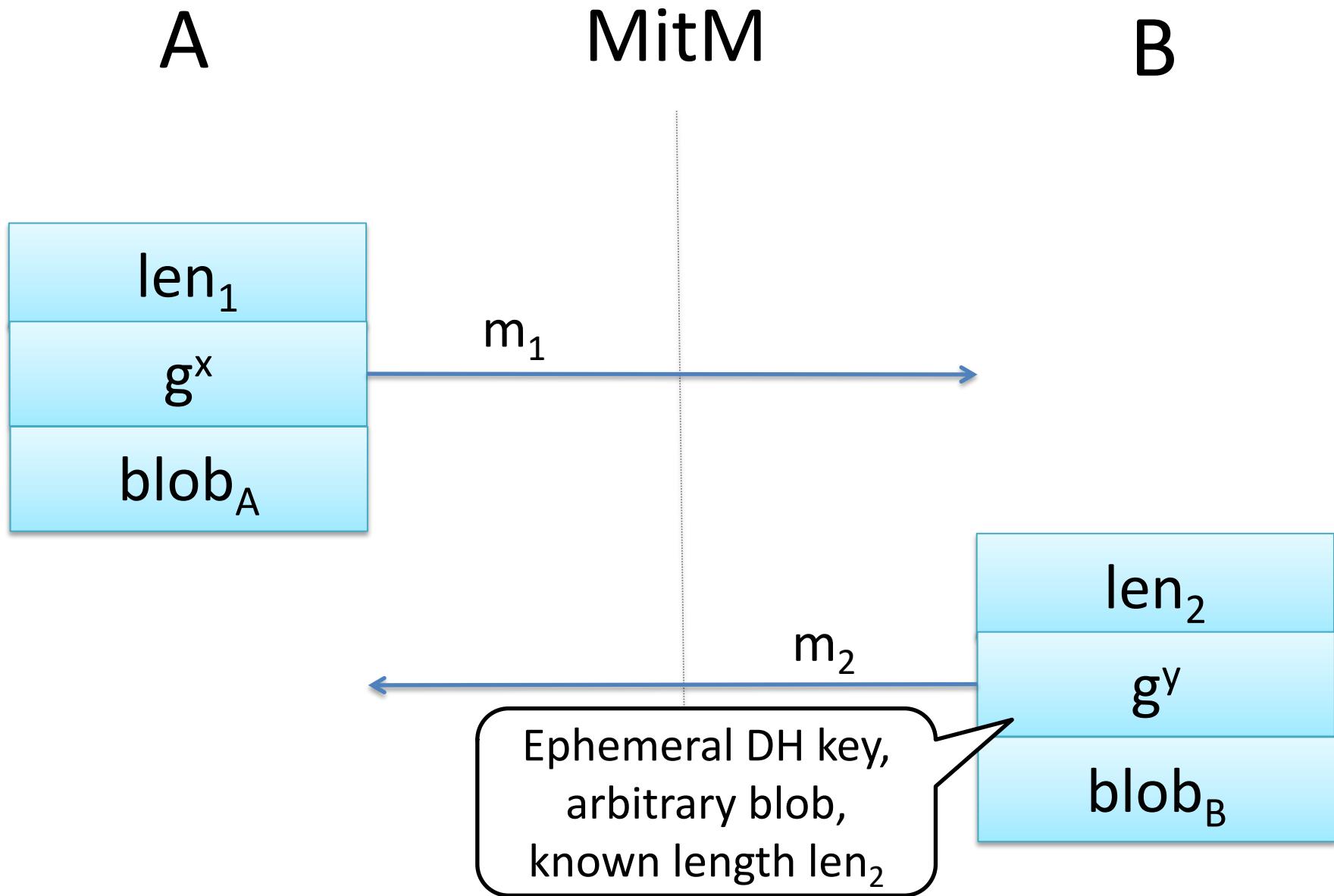
# Computing Transcript Collisions



# Generic Transcript Collisions



# Chosen-Prefix Transcript Collisions



**A****MitM****B****hash** $len_1$  $g^x$  $blob_A$  $len_2'$  $g^{y'}$  $blob_B'$ 

Compute  $m_1'$  and  
a prefix of  $m_2'$

 $m_1$  $m_1'$ 

Find Chosen-Prefix  
Collision  $C_1, C_2$

 $N = 2^{\text{CPC}(\text{hash})}$ MD5:  $2^{39}$ SHA-1:  $2^{77}$ **hash** $len_1'$  $g^{x'}$  $blob_A'$  $len_2$  $g^y$  $blob_B$

# Weak Hash Functions in TLS

TLS <= 1.1 uses MD5 and SHA-1 for signatures

- RSA signatures over  $MD5(t) \parallel SHA-1(t)$
- DSA signatures over  $SHA-1(t)$

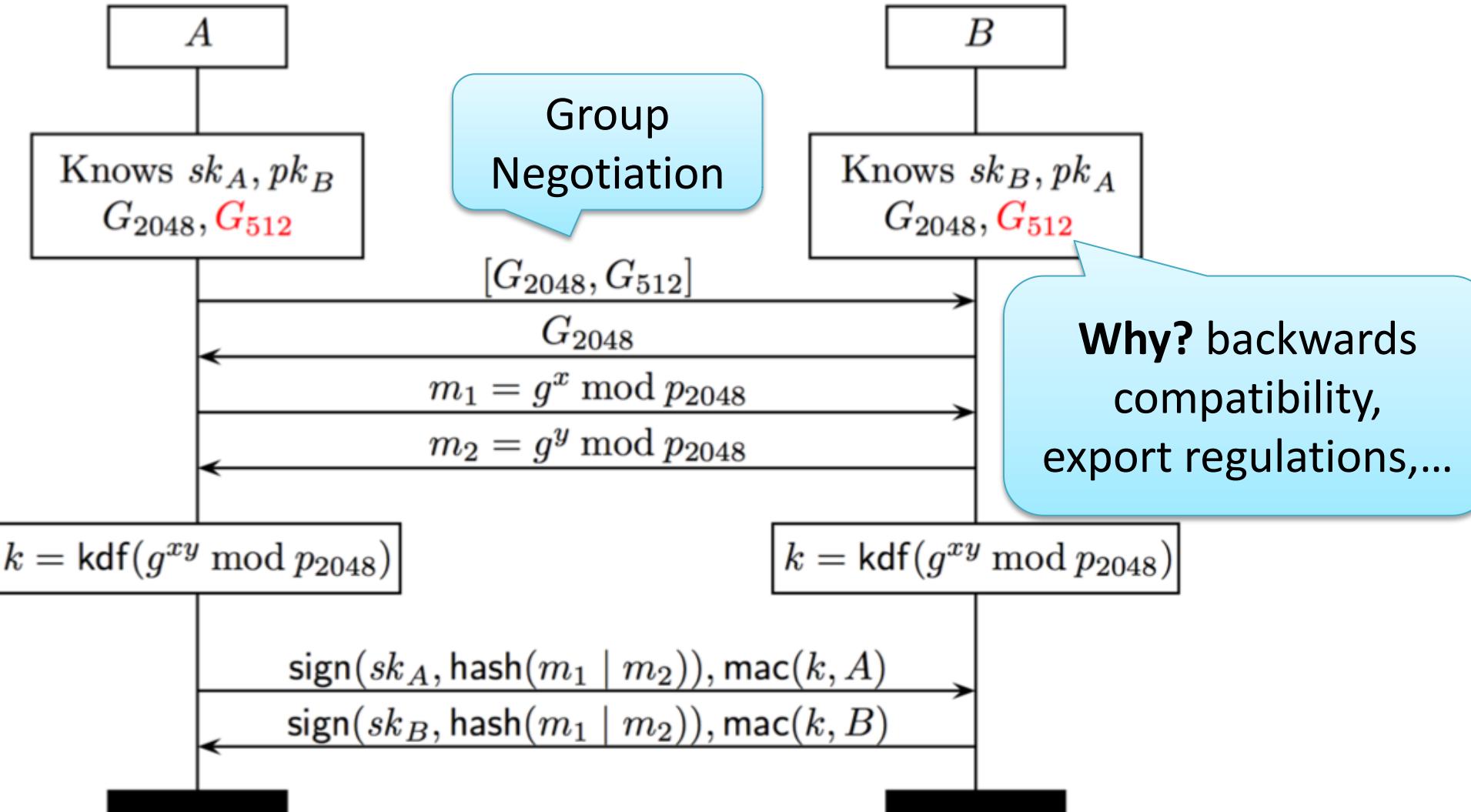
TLS 1.2 introduces signatures with SHA-2  
but allows negotiation of MD5, SHA-1

- RSA signatures over  $MD5(t)$ , or  $SHA-1(t)$ ,  
or  $SHA-256(t)$ , or  $SHA-224(t)$ , or  $SHA-384(t)$ , or  $SHA-512(t)$
- (EC)DSA signatures only over  $SHA-1(t)$

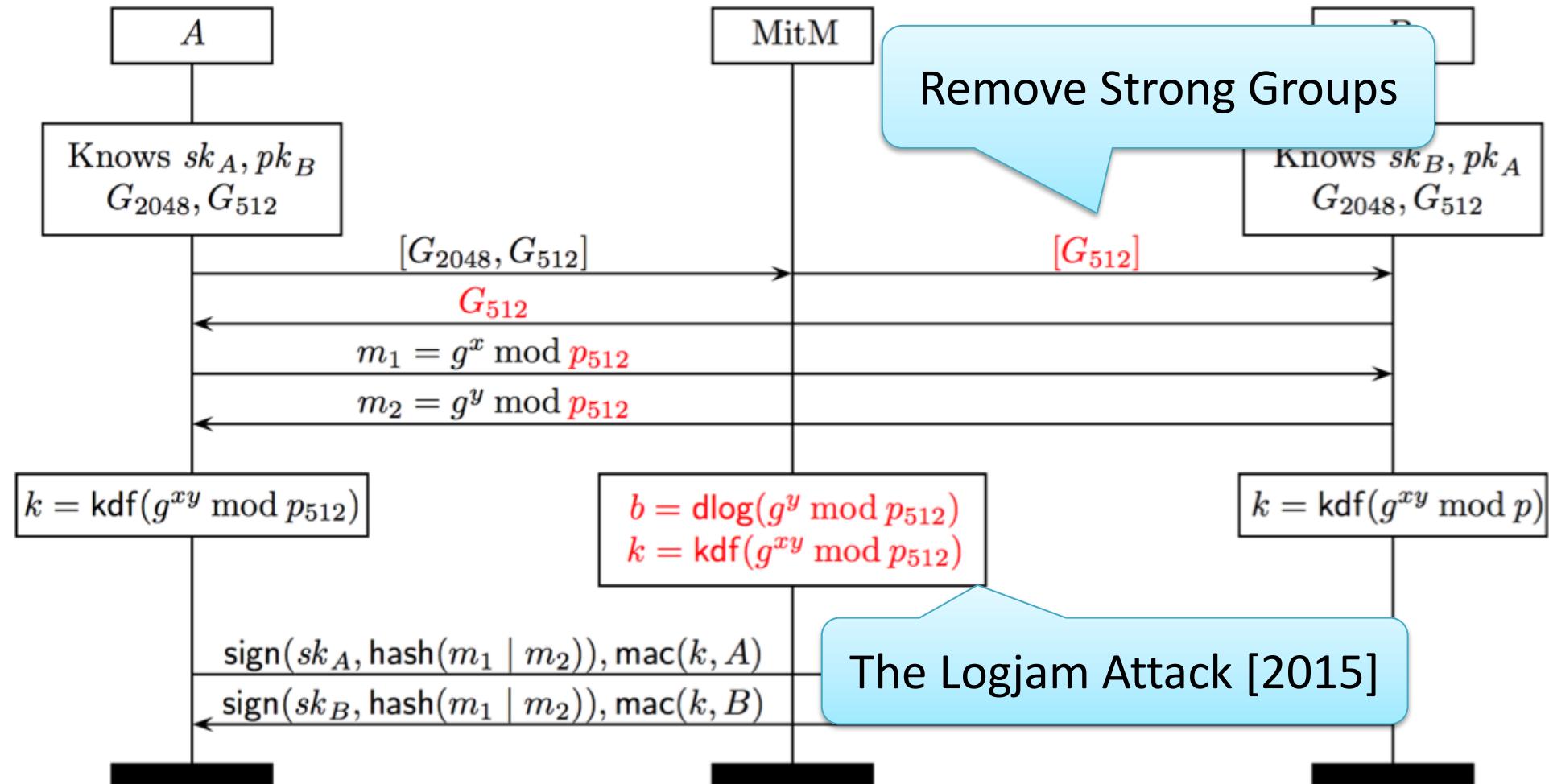
TLS 1.2 client signatures using RSA-MD5  
are vulnerable to transcript collision attacks

# Exploiting Logical Flaws: Downgrade Attacks on Agile Key Exchange

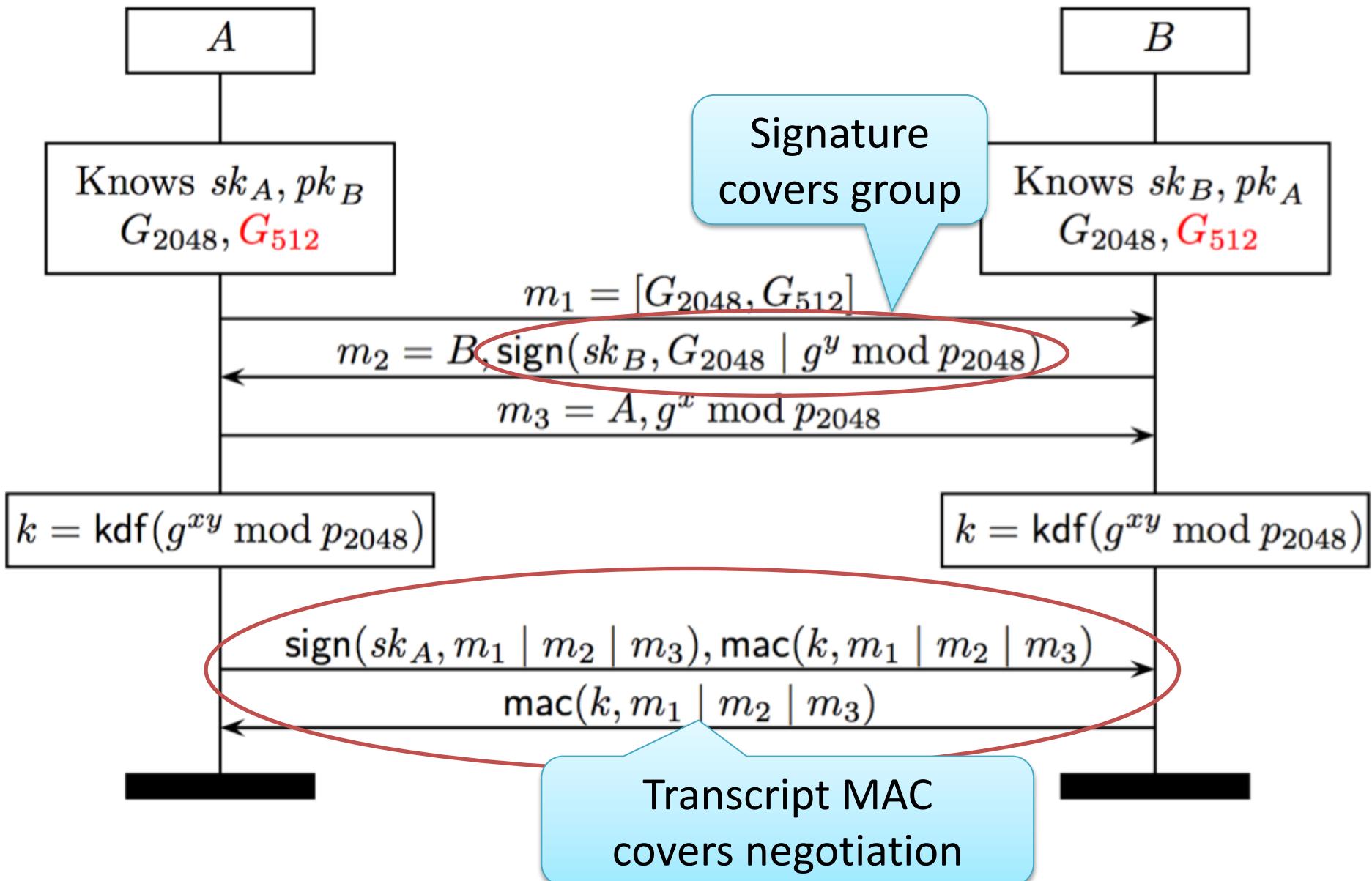
# Agility: Negotiating DH Groups



# Logjam: DH Group Downgrade Attack



# TLS Variant of SIGMA

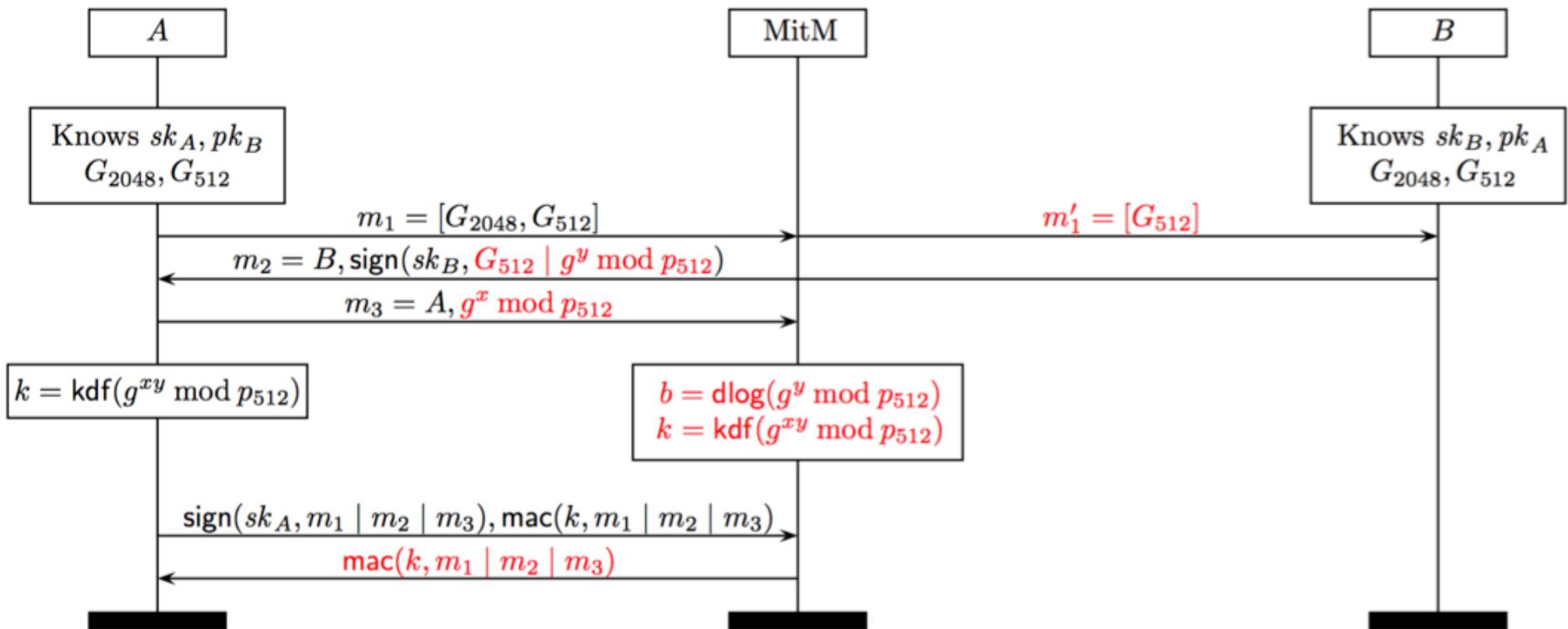


# MACing the Handshake Transcript

TLS 1.2: mac the full transcript  
to prevent tampering

- **mac**( $k$ ,  $[G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid G_{512} \mid m_1 \mid m_2$ )

# Logjam Still Works



# MACing the Handshake Transcript

TLS 1.2: mac the full transcript  
to prevent tampering

- $\mathbf{mac}(k, [G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid G_{512} \mid m_1 \mid m_2)$
- but it is too late, because we already used  $G_{512}$   
 $k = \mathbf{kdf}(g^{xy} \bmod p_{512})$
- so, the attacker can forge the **mac**

- *The TLS 1.2 downgrade protection mechanism itself depends on downgradeable parameters.*
  - hence, the only fix is to find and disable all weak parameters: groups, curves, mac algorithms,...

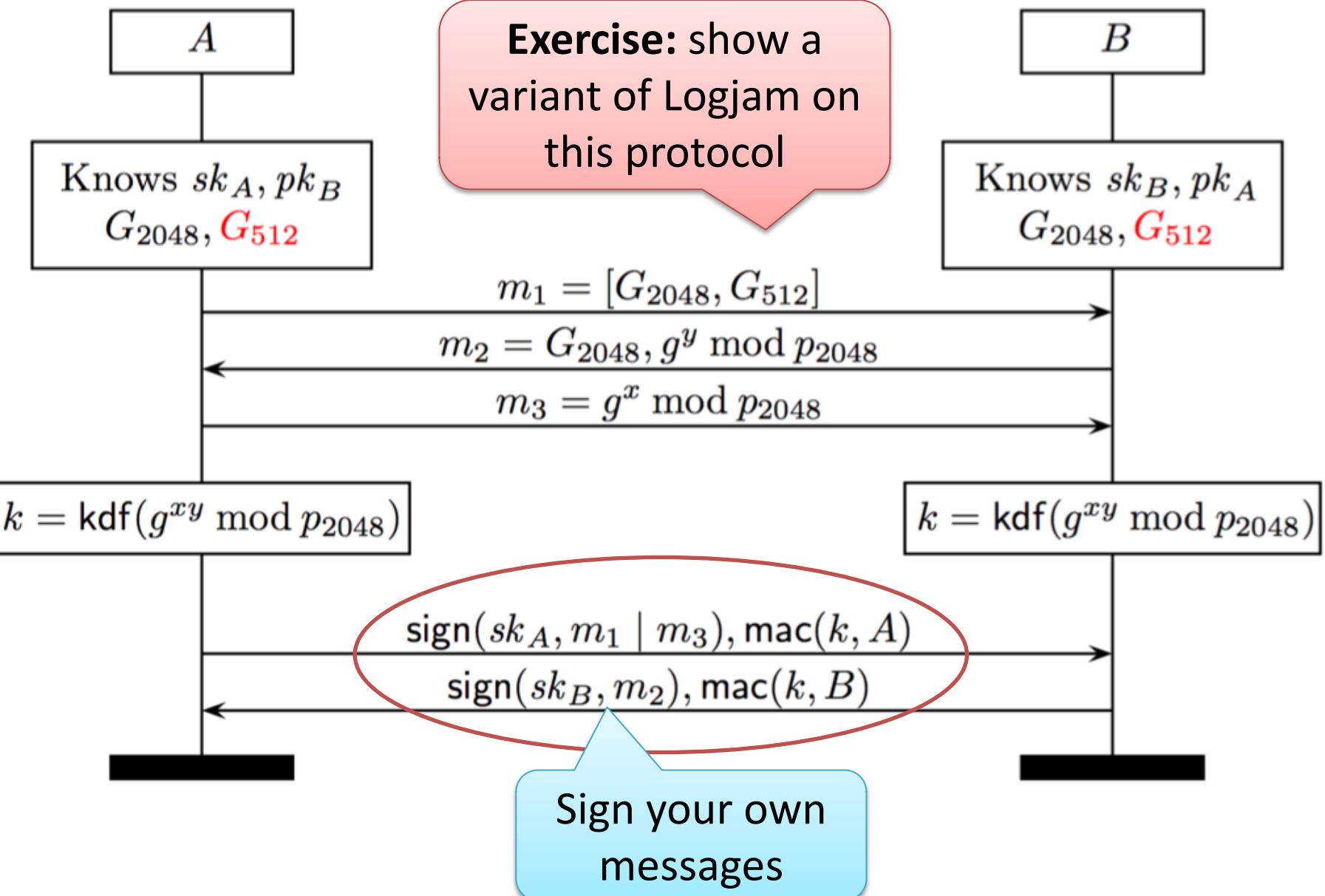
# What went wrong?

- Cryptographic weakness
  - **Problem:** Continued support for weak DH groups
  - **Countermeasure:** Ban all weak groups
- Logical protocol flaw
  - **Problem:** Downgrade attack on agile key exchange
  - **Countermeasure:** Protect integrity of key exchange even if the negotiated DH group is weak

# Signing the Handshake Transcript

- **IKEv1**: both A and B sign the offered groups
  - $\text{sign}(sk_B, \text{hash}([G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid m_1 \mid m_2))$
- **IKEv2**: each signs its own messages
  - $\text{sign}(sk_A, \text{hash}([G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid m_1))$
  - $\text{sign}(sk_B, \text{hash}(G_{512} \mid m_2))$
- **SSH-2 and TLS 1.3**: sign everything
  - $\text{sign}(k, \text{hash}([G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid G_{512} \mid m_1 \mid m_2))$

# IKEv2 Variant of SIGMA



# Signing the Handshake Transcript

- **IKEv1**: both A and B sign the offered groups
  - $\text{sign}(sk_B, \text{hash}([G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid m_1 \mid m_2))$
  - no agreement on chosen group!
- **IKEv2**: each signs its own messages
  - $\text{sign}(sk_A, \text{hash}([G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid m_1))$
  - $\text{sign}(sk_B, \text{hash}(G_{512} \mid m_2))$
  - no agreement on offered groups!
- **SSH-2 and TLS 1.3**: sign everything
  - $\text{sign}(k, \text{hash}([G_{2048}, G_{512}] \mid G_{512} \mid m_1 \mid m_2))$
  - works! (only if **hash** is collision-resistant)

# Hash Function Downgrade (SLOTH)

TLS 1.2 introduces signatures with SHA-2  
but allows negotiation of MD5, SHA-1

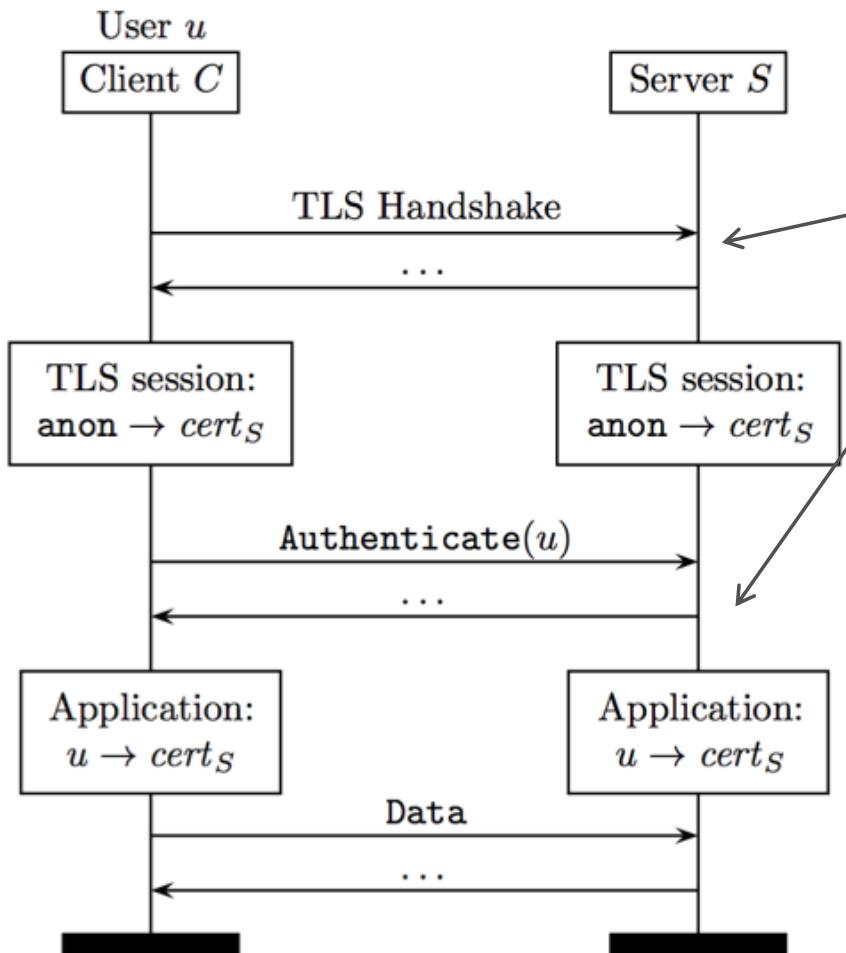
- Attacker can downgrade TLS 1.2 connection from SHA-256 to MD5, and then apply transcript collision attacks (SLOTH)

## What went wrong?

- **Crypto Weakness:**  
Continued support for RSA-MD5 signatures
- **Logical Protocol flaw:**  
Downgrade attack on signature algorithms extension
- **Implementation bug:**  
OpenSSL, GnuTLS, NSS accept MD5 signatures even if disabled

# Exploiting Logical Flaws: Triple Handshake Attacks

# User authentication over TLS



## Application-level Authentication

- *Outer*: server-authenticated TLS
- *Inner*: user authentication

## Many examples of this pattern

- SASL, GSSAPI, EAP, ...
- TLS Renegotiation with client certificate

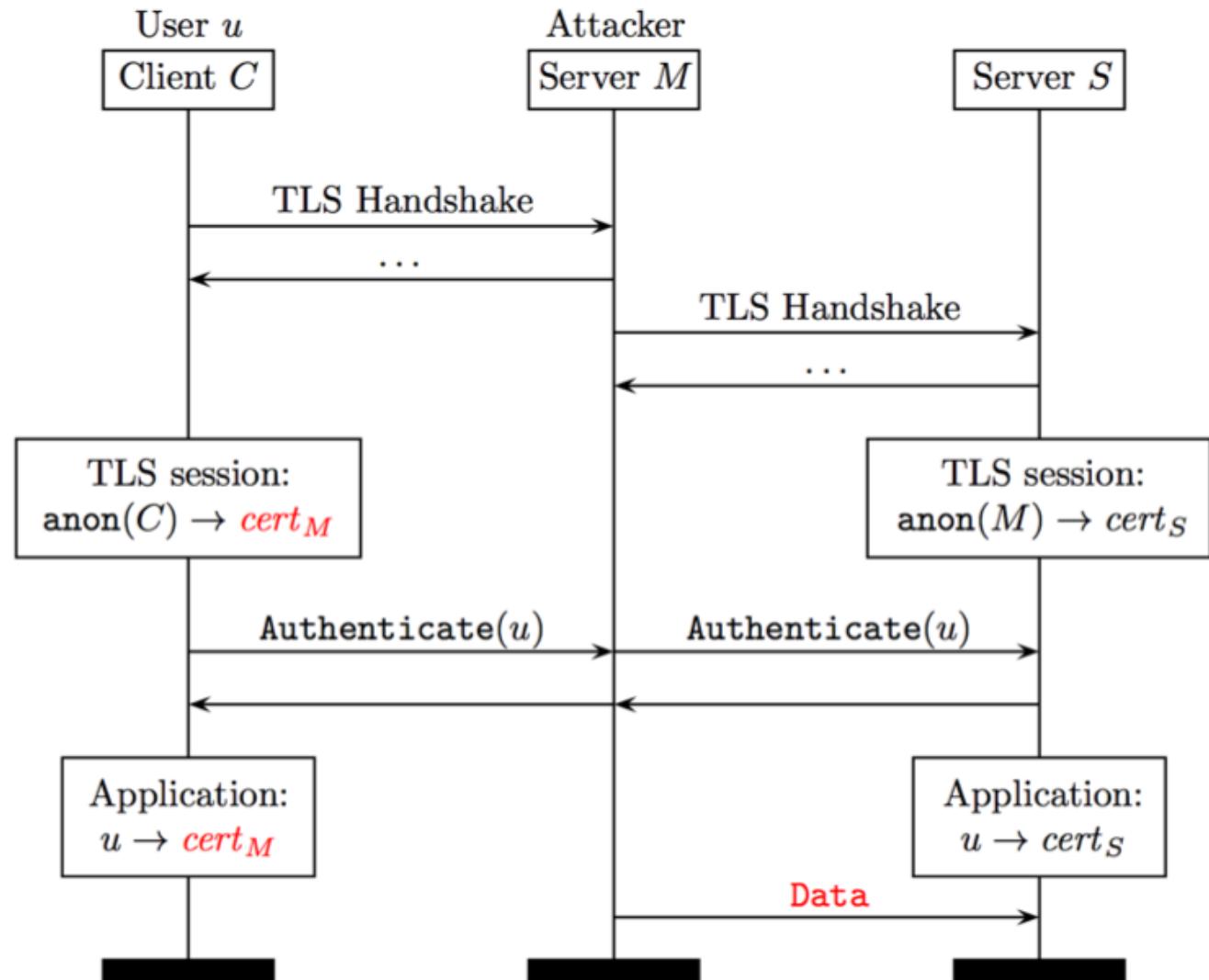
## Inner authentication *endorses* unauthenticated TLS channel

- *Need to strongly bind the two protocol layers together!*

# Generic credential forwarding attack

Simplified version of [Asokan, Niemi, Nyberg'02]

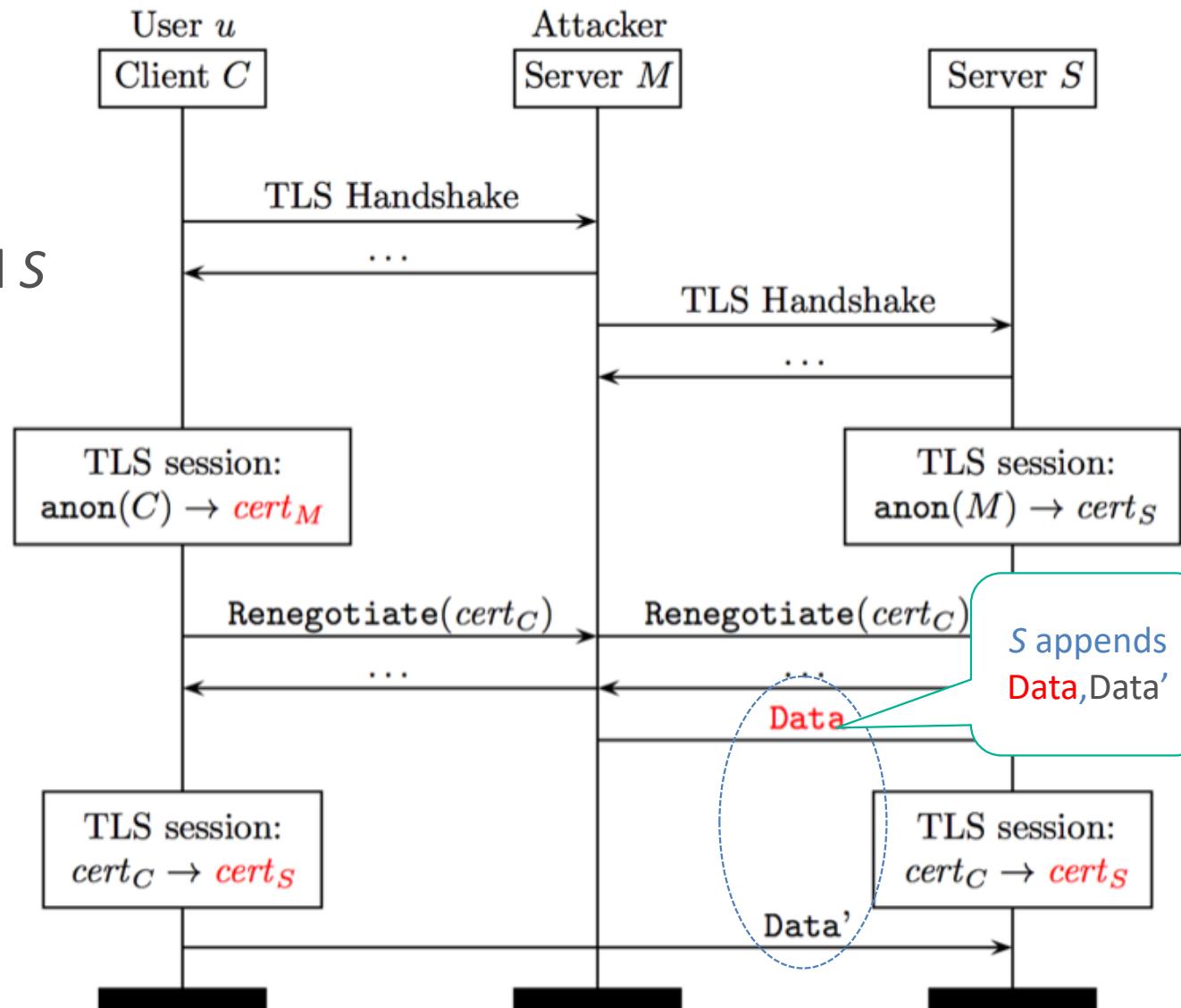
- Suppose  $u$  uses same authentication credential at both  $M$  and  $S$
- $M$  forwards  $S$ 's authentication challenge to  $C$
- $M$  forwards  $C$ 's response to  $S$
- $M$  can log in as  $u$  at  $S$ !



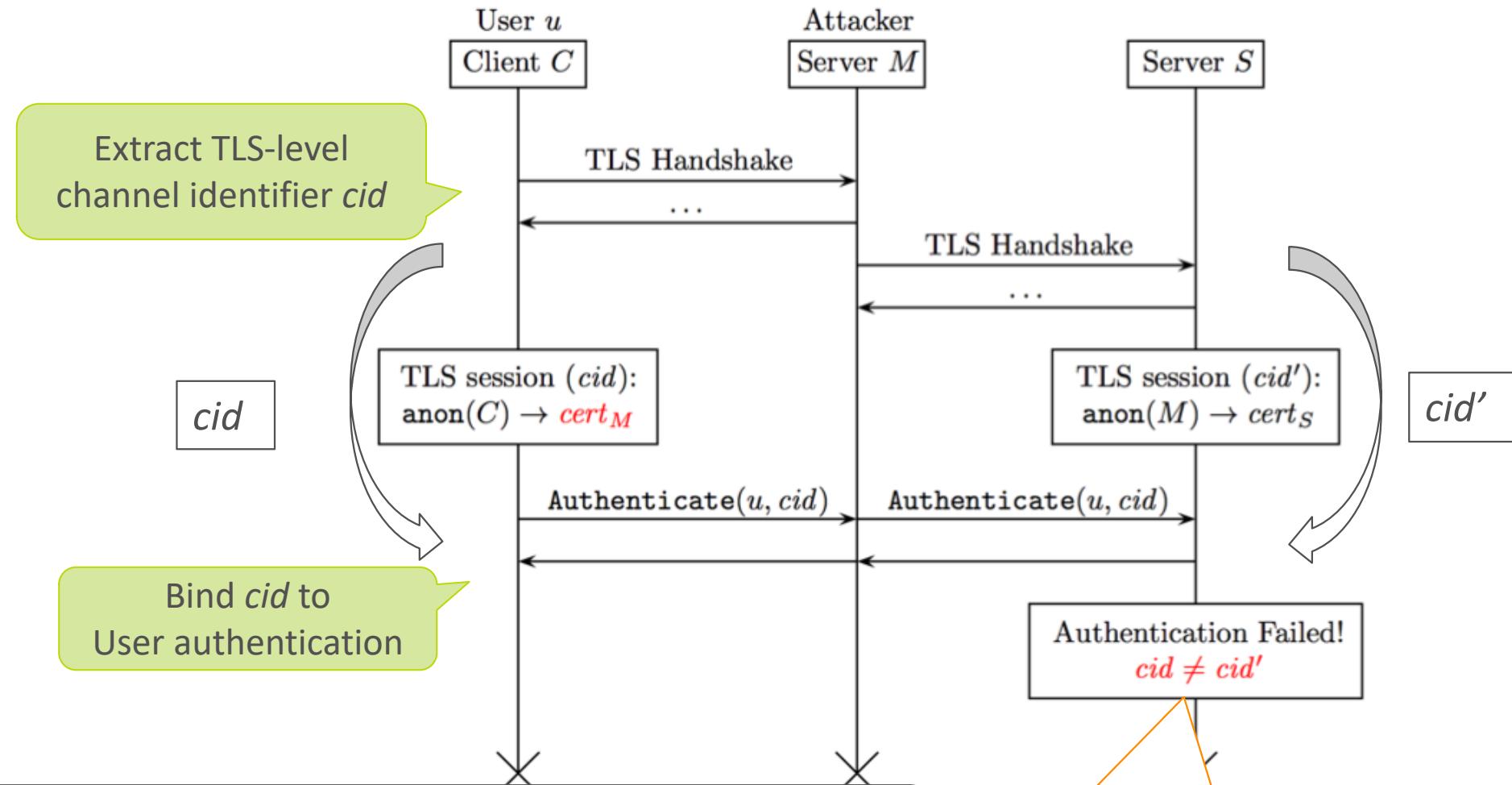
# TLS renegotiation attack [2009]

Martin Rex's Version

- Suppose  $u$  uses same client cert to log in to both  $M$  and  $S$
- $M$  forwards  $S$ 's renegotiation request to  $C$
- $M$  forwards renegotiation handshake between  $C$  and  $S$
- $S$  concatenates data sent by  $M$  to data sent by  $u$ !



# Binding user auth to TLS channels



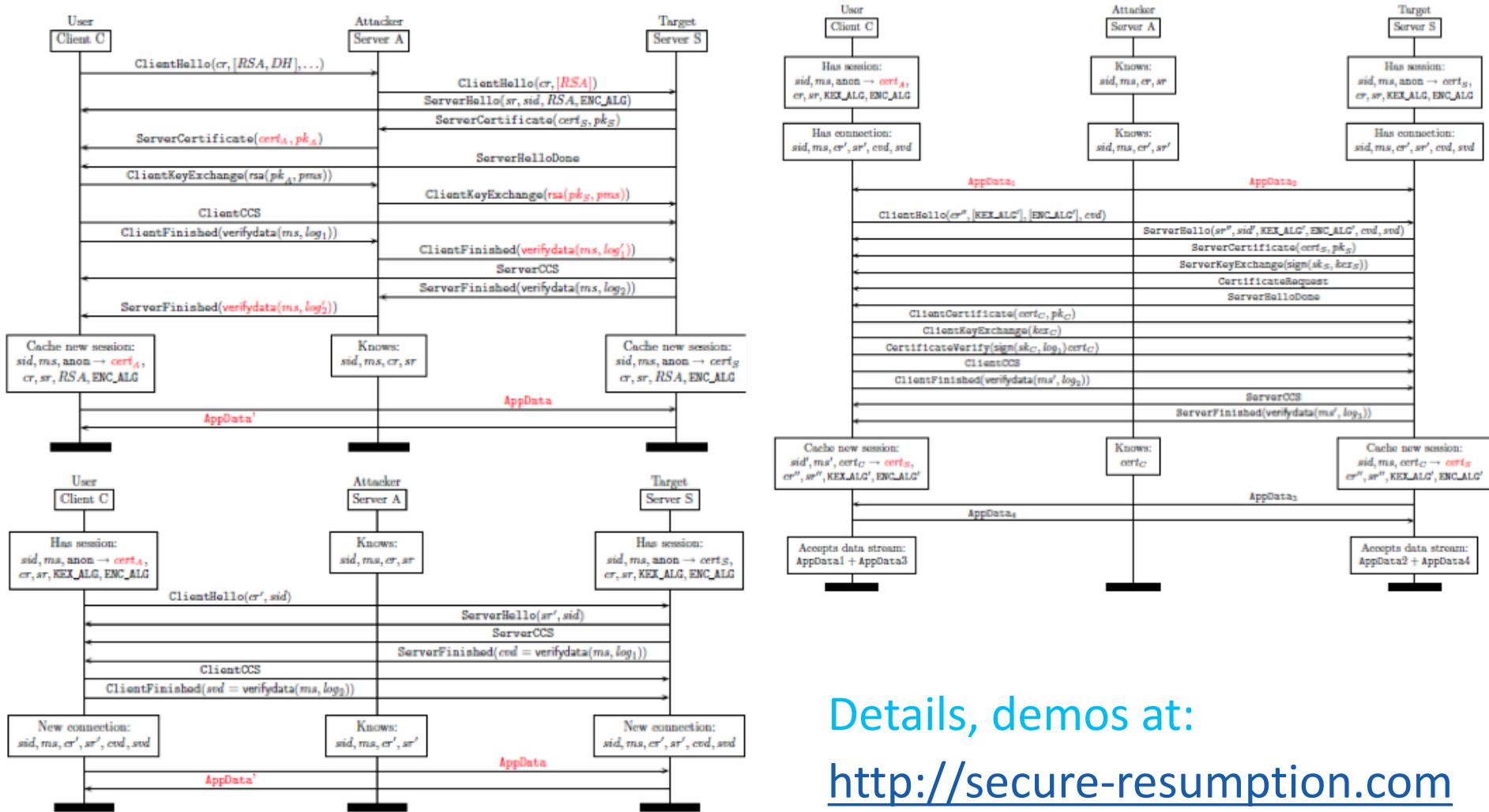
Computing a channel identifier ( $cid$ ):

- $f(master\ secret)$  (EAP)
- $f(handshake\ log)$  (Renegotiation Indication,SASL)

# Triple Handshakes and Cookie Cutters: Breaking and Fixing Authentication over TLS

Karthikeyan Bhargavan\*, Antoine Delignat-Lavaud\*, Cédric Fournet†, Alfredo Pironti\* and Pierre-Yves Strub‡

\*INRIA Paris-Rocquencourt †Microsoft Research ‡IMDEA Software Institute



Details, demos at:  
<http://secure-resumption.com>

# Triple Handshake attack: step 1

## Key Synchronization Attack

A malicious server  $M$  can ensure that the master secrets in two different connections from  $C-M$  and  $M-S$  are the same

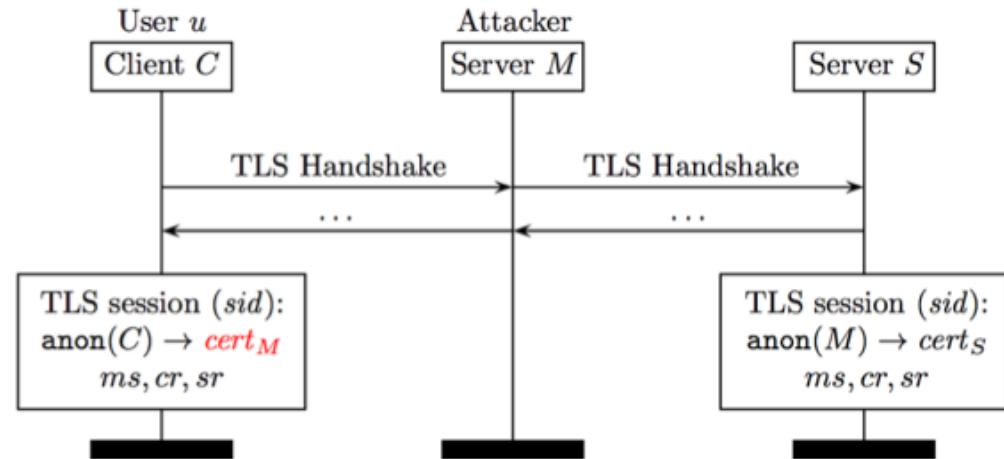
### RSA Key Synchronization

$M$  re-encrypts  $C$ 's premaster secret under  $S$ 's public key

$M$  forces same ciphersuite and nonces on the two handshakes

### DHE Key Synchronization

$M$  chooses a “bad” (non-prime) Diffie-Hellman group



Does not break single handshake theorems

“If a client completes with an **honest server**...”

Breaks EAP compound authentication (reenables 2002 attack)

The master secret is not a good channel identifier (it isn't *contributive*)

Renegotiation indication channel identifier (handshake log) still works.

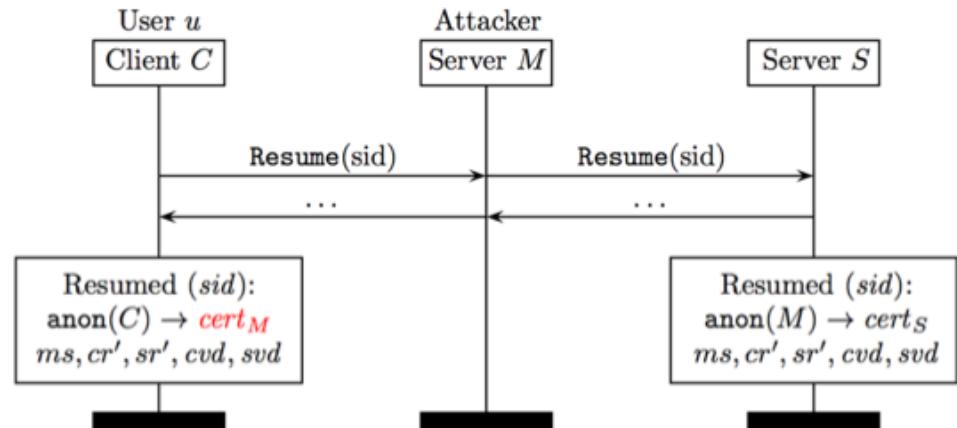
# Triple Handshake attack: step 2

## Transcript Synchronization Attack

After resumption, a malicious server  $M$  can ensure that the master secrets, keys, and handshake logs on two different connections from  $C$ — $M$  and  $M-S$  are the same

### Abbreviated agreement

Transcript depends only on master secret, ciphersuite, session ID (no certificates)



### Does not break session resumption theorem

“If the server in the original handshake was **honest...**”

### Breaks transcript-based channel identifiers

After resumption, handshake log is not a good channel identifier

Breaks tls-unique (SASL), renegotiation indication

# Triple Handshake attack: step 3

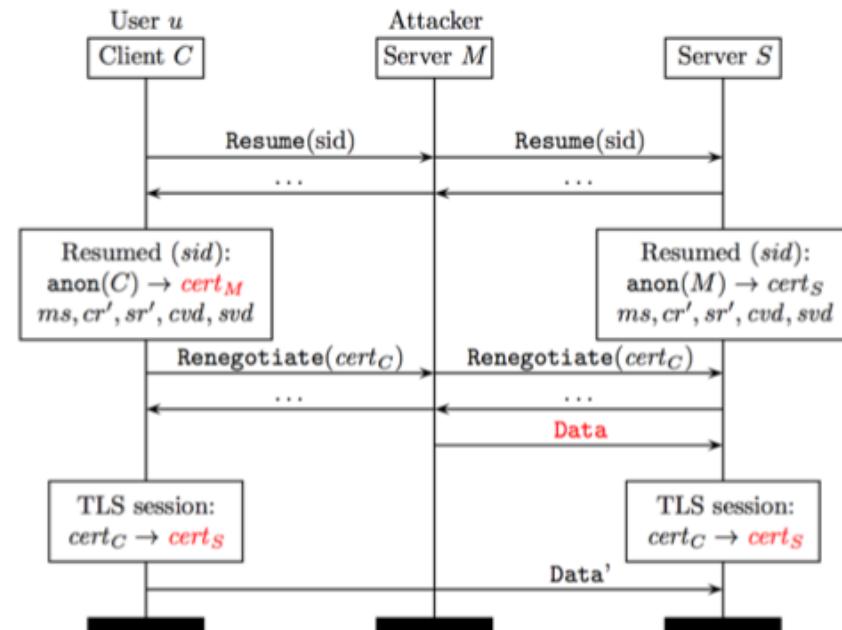
## User Impersonation Attack (reenables 2009 attack)

$cid = \text{hash}(\text{abbreviated handshake log})$  same on both connections  
So  $M$  can forward renegotiation between  $C$  and  $S$  unchanged.

Surely this must break Giesen's multi-handshake theorem?

Renegotiation with honest peer implies agreement on abbreviated handshake, *but not on original handshake*

Theorem needs honest peer in original handshake for agreement on all three



## Impact

A malicious website can impersonate any user who uses client certificates on any other website that requires client certificate auth, and supports resumption and renegotiation

# What went wrong?

- Logical protocol flaw
  - **Problem:** Key synchronization attack on RSA/DHE
  - **Countermeasure:** Independent keys per connection
- Logical protocol flaw
  - **Problem:** Transcript synchronization after resumption
  - **Countermeasure:** Independent master secrets per session

# Exploiting Implementation Bugs: State Machine Attacks

# TLS Implementation Bugs

## Memory safety

Buffer overruns leak secrets

## Missing checks

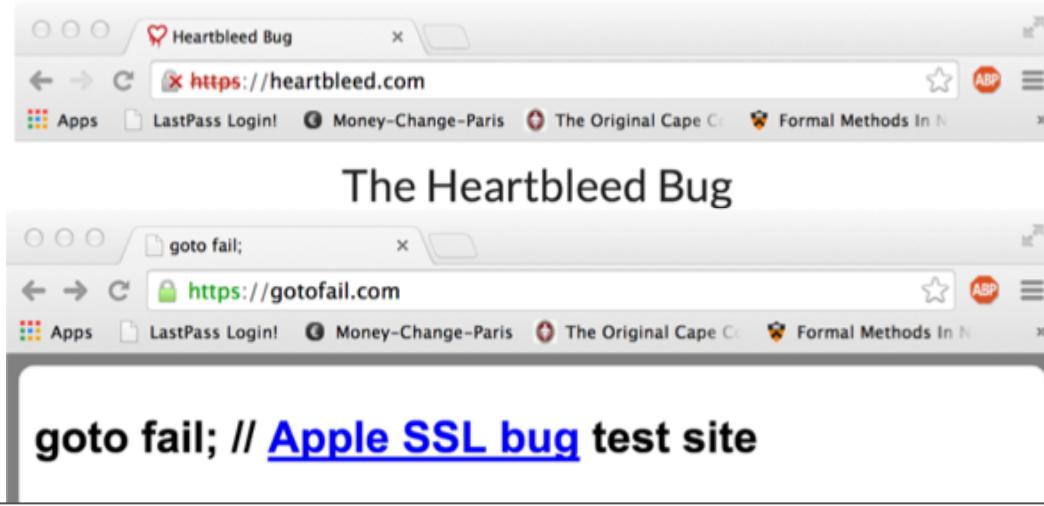
Forgetting to verify  
signature/MAC/certificate  
bypasses crypto guarantees

## Certificate validation

ASN.1 parsing,  
wildcard certificates

## State machine attacks

Confusions between modes



## The Most Dangerous Code in the World: Validating SSL Certificates in Non-Browser Software

Martin Georgiev  
The University of Texas  
at Austin

Rishita Anubhai  
Stanford University

Subodh Iyengar  
Stanford University

Dan Boneh  
Stanford University

Suman Jana  
The University of Texas  
at Austin

Vitaly Shmatikov  
The University of Texas  
at Austin

## ABSTRACT

SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) is the de facto standard for secure Internet communications. Security of SSL connections against an active network attacker depends on correctly validating public-key certificates presented when the connection is established.

We demonstrate that SSL certificate validation is completely broken in many security-critical applications and libraries. Vulnerable software includes Amazon's EC2 Java library and all cloud clients based on it; Amazon's and PayPal's merchant SDKs responsible for transmitting payment details from e-commerce sites to payment gateways; integrated shopping carts such as osCommerce, ZenCart, Ubercart, and PrestaShop; AdMob code used by mobile websites; Chase mobile banking and several other Android apps and libraries; Java Web-services middleware—including Apache Axis, Axis 2, Codehaus XFire, and Pusher library for Android—and *all* applications employing this middleware. Any SSL connection from any of these programs is insecure against a man-in-the-middle attack.

The root causes of these vulnerabilities are badly designed APIs

cations. The main purpose of SSL is to provide end-to-end security against an active, man-in-the-middle attacker. Even if the network is completely compromised—DNS is poisoned, access points are controlled by the adversary, etc.—SSL is intended to provide confidentiality, authenticity, and integrity for communications between the client and the server.

Authenticating the server is a critical part of SSL connection establishment.<sup>1</sup> This authentication takes place during the SSL handshake, when the server presents its public-key certificate. In order for the SSL connection to be secure, the client must carefully verify that the certificate has been issued by a valid certificate authority, has not expired (or been revoked), the name(s) listed in the certificate match(es) the name of the domain that the client is connecting to, and perform several other checks [14, 15].

SSL implementations in Web browsers are constantly evolving through “penetrate-and-patch” testing, and many SSL-related vulnerabilities in browsers have been repaired over the years. SSL, however, is also widely used in *non-browser software* where

# Recall: the many modes of TLS

## Protocol versions

- TLS 1.2, TLS 1.1, TLS 1.0, SSLv3, SSLv2

## Key exchanges

- ECDHE, FFDHE, RSA, PSK, ...

## Authentication modes

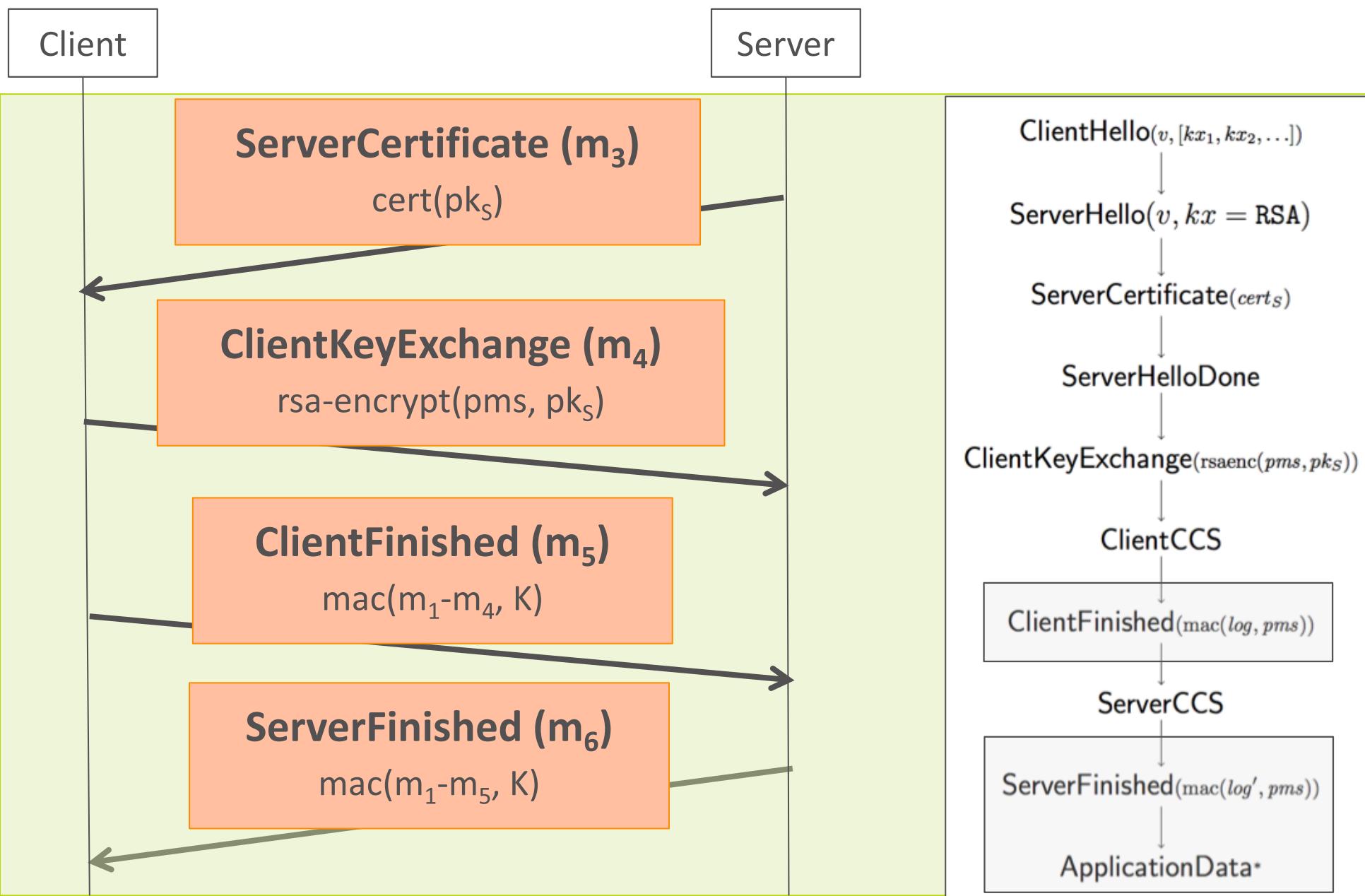
- ECDSA, RSA signatures, PSK, ...

## Authenticated Encryption Schemes

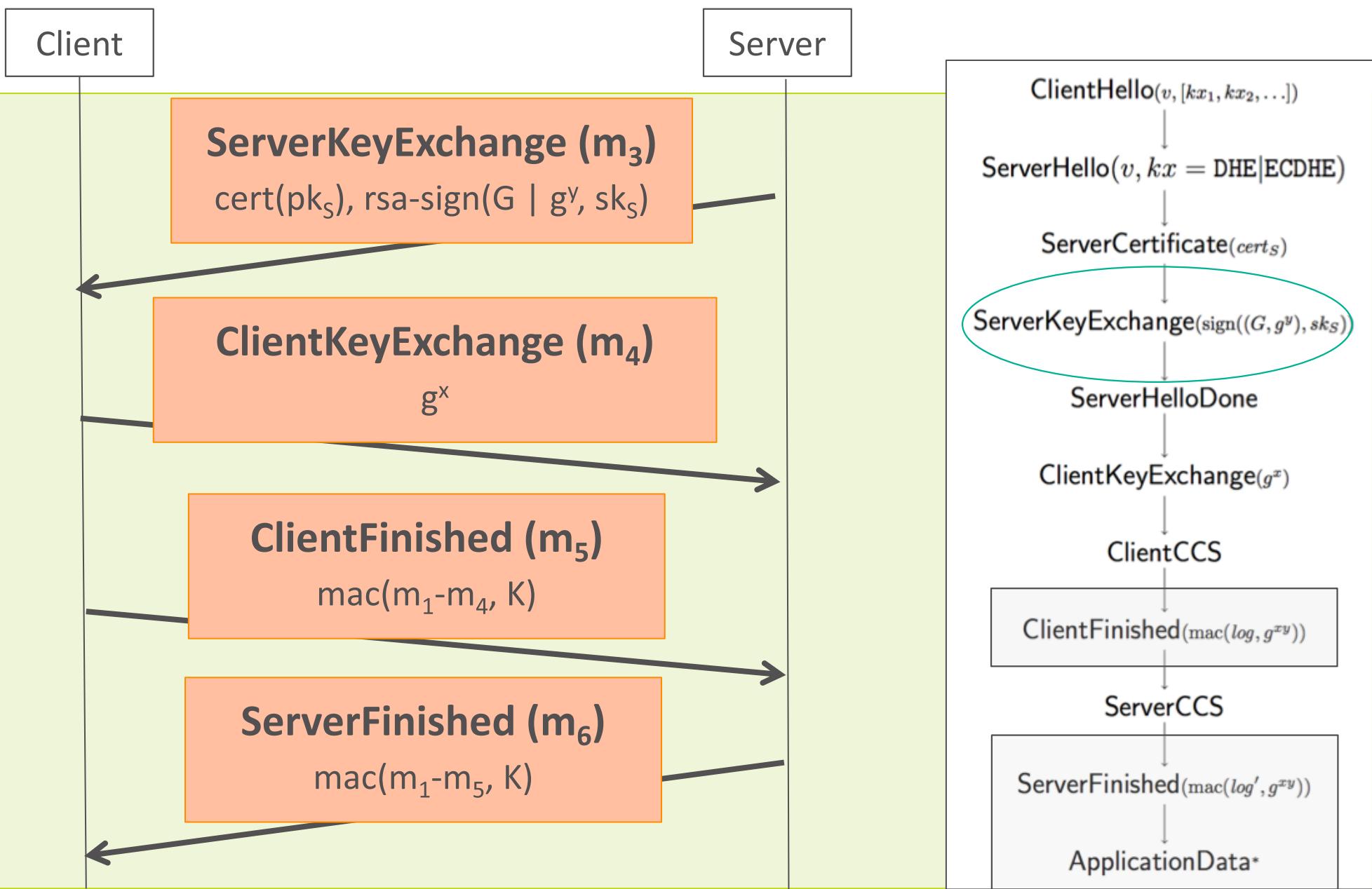
- AES-GCM, CBC MAC-Encode-Encrypt, RC4, ...

100s of possible protocol combinations!

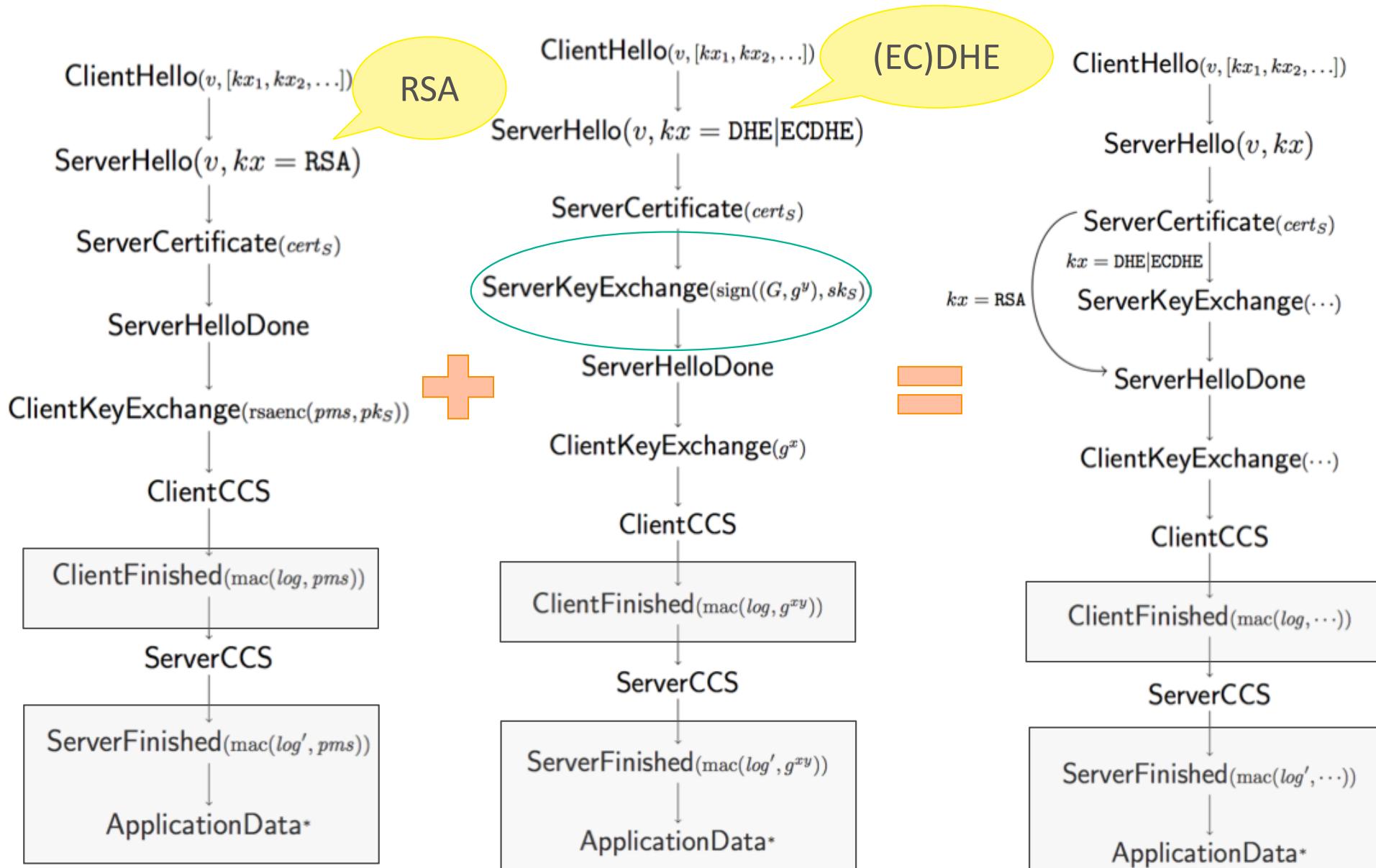
# Implementing RSA Handshake



# Implementing DHE Handshake



# Composing Handshakes

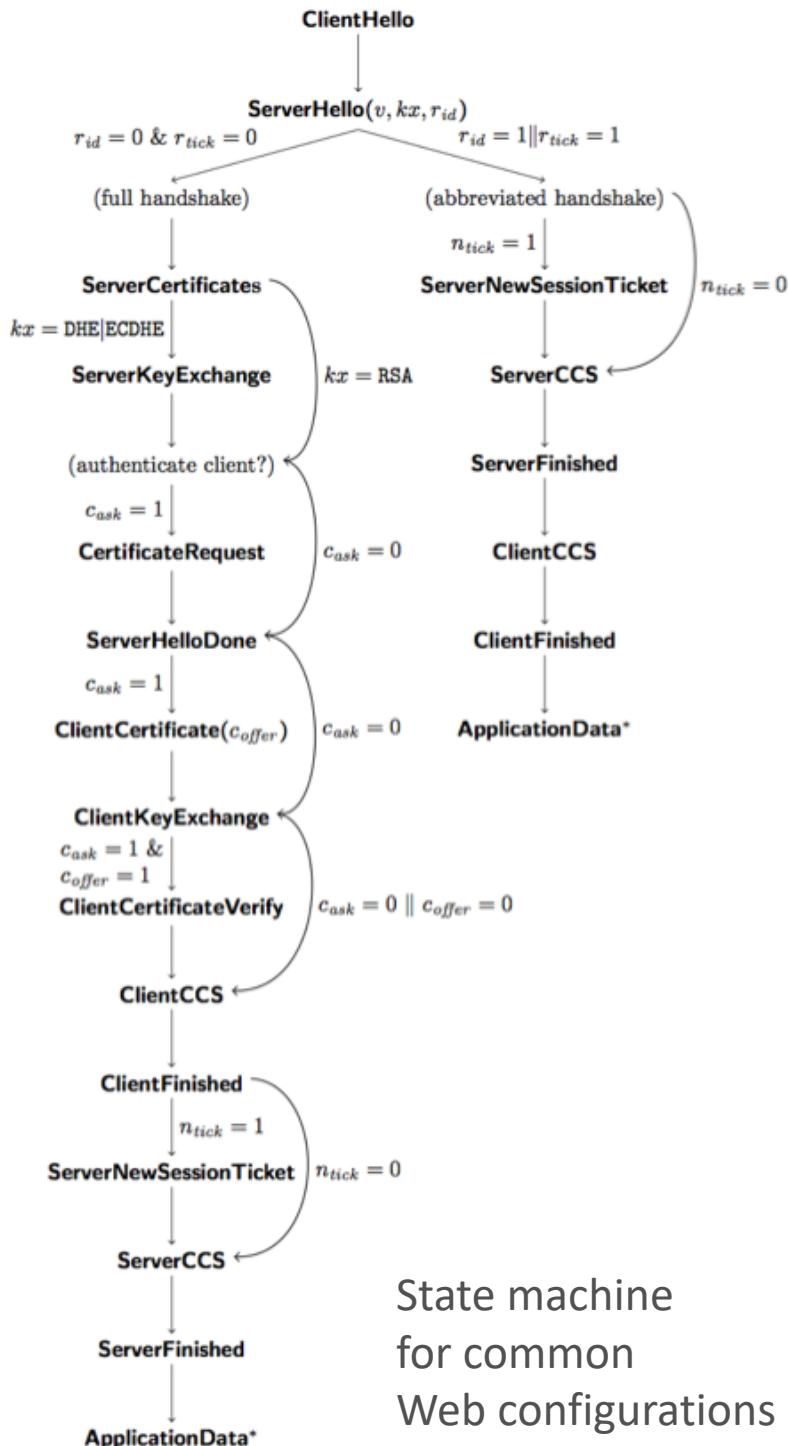


# TLS State Machine

RSA + DHE + ECDHE  
+ Session Resumption  
+ Client Authentication

- Covers most features used on the Web
- Already quite a complex combination of protocols!

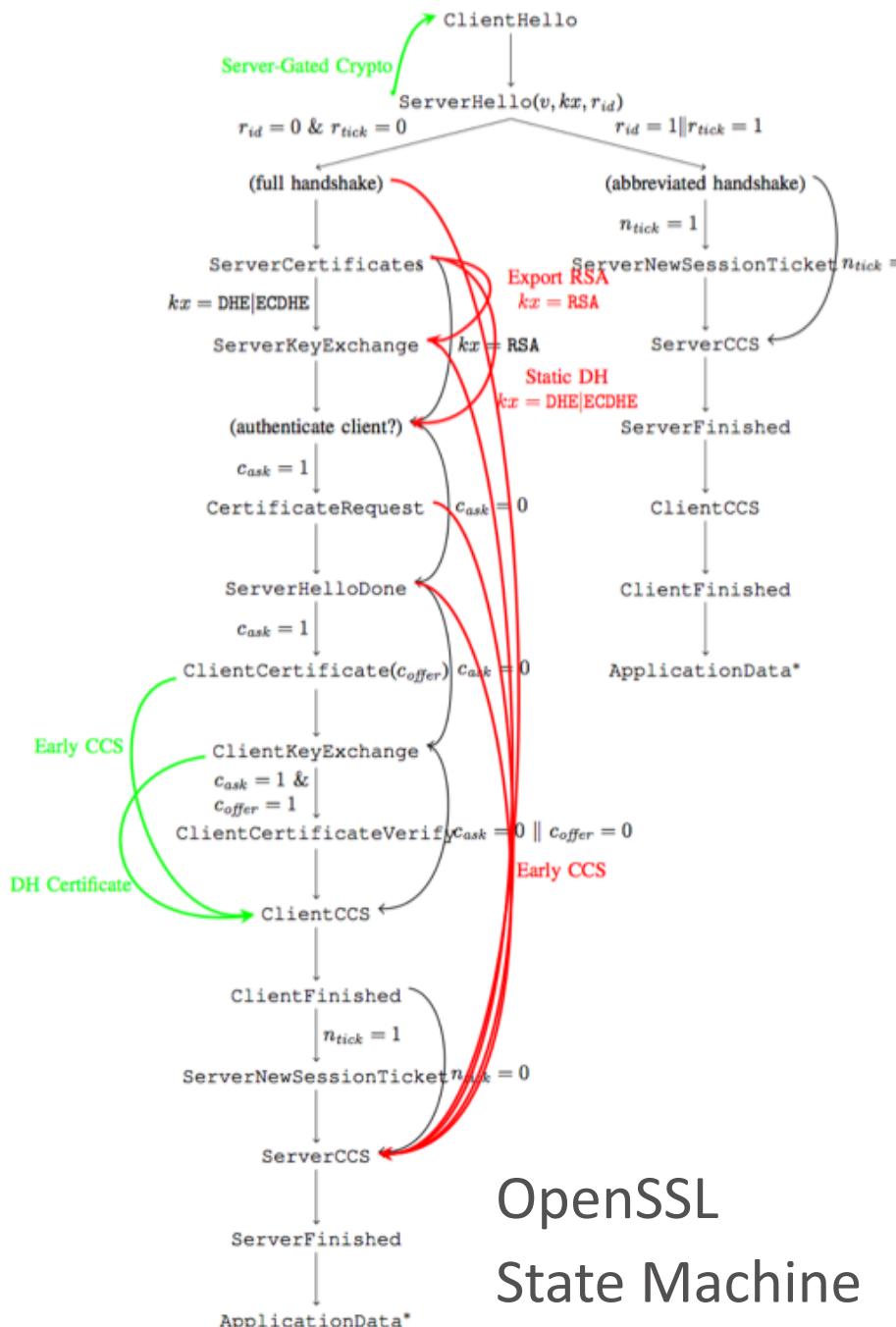
Do implementations conform to this state machine?



# Many, Many Bugs

## Unexpected state transitions in OpenSSL, NSS, Java, ...

- Required messages can be skipped
- Unexpected messages can be received



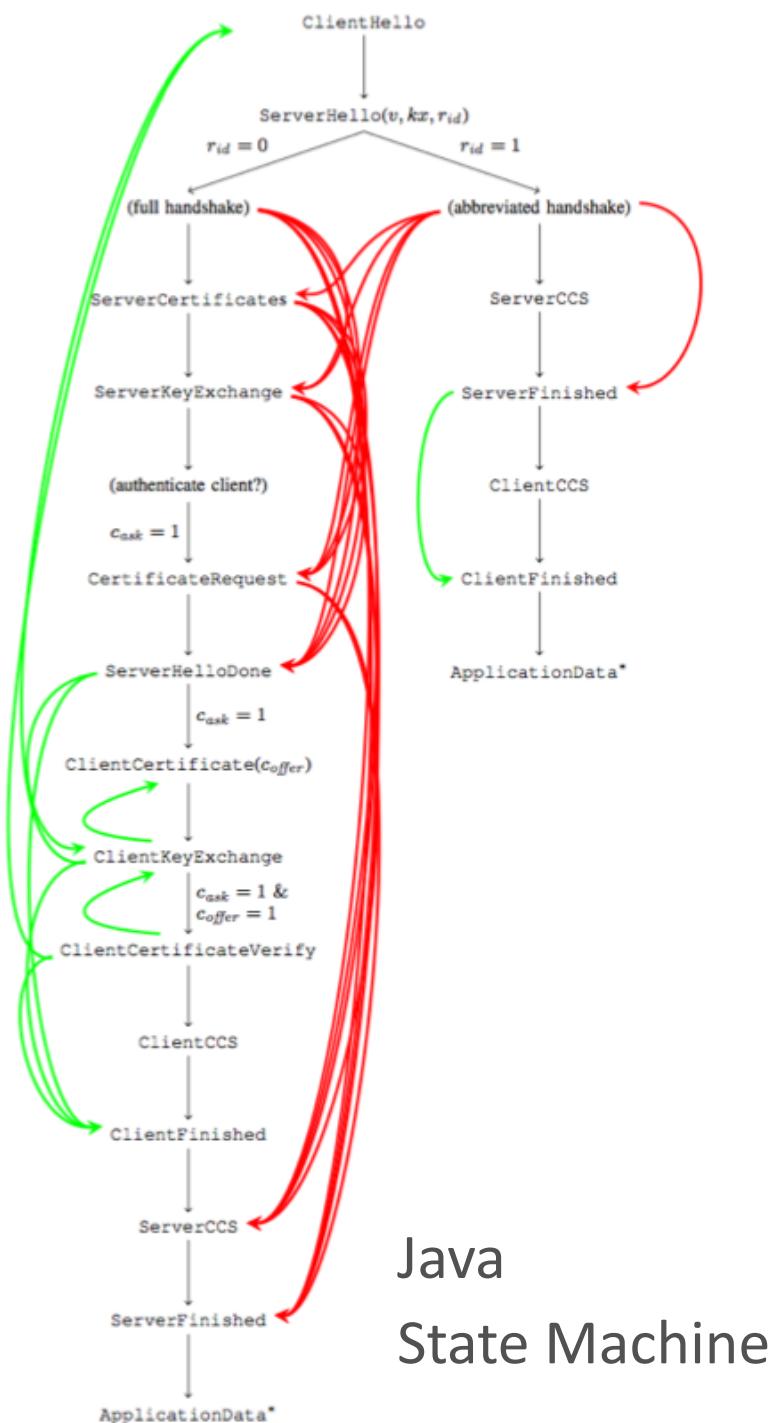
# Many, Many Bugs

Unexpected state transitions  
in OpenSSL, NSS, Java, ...

- Required messages can be skipped
- Unexpected messages can be received

How come all these bugs?

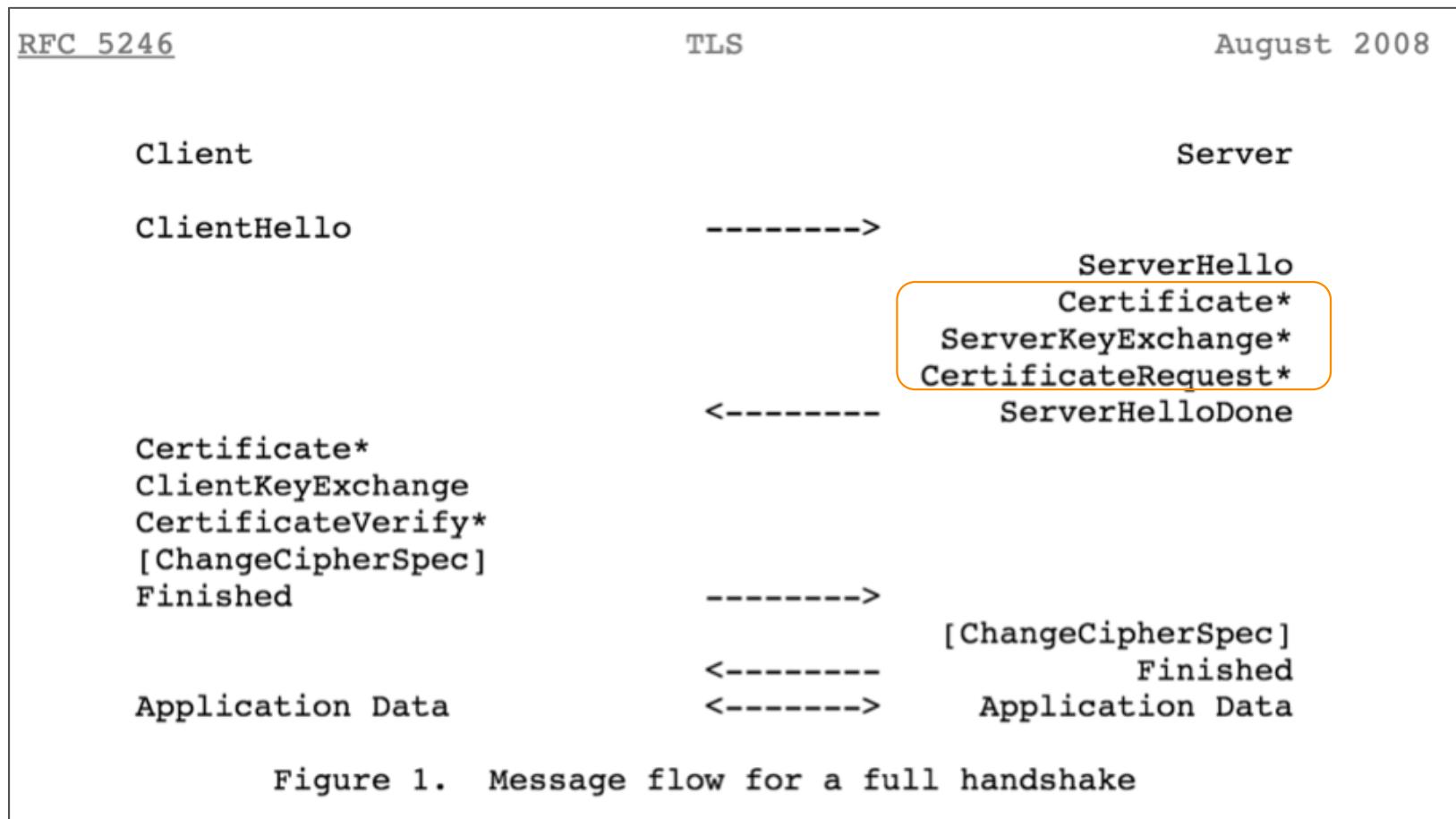
- In independent code bases, sitting in there for years
- CVEs for many libraries
- Are they exploitable?



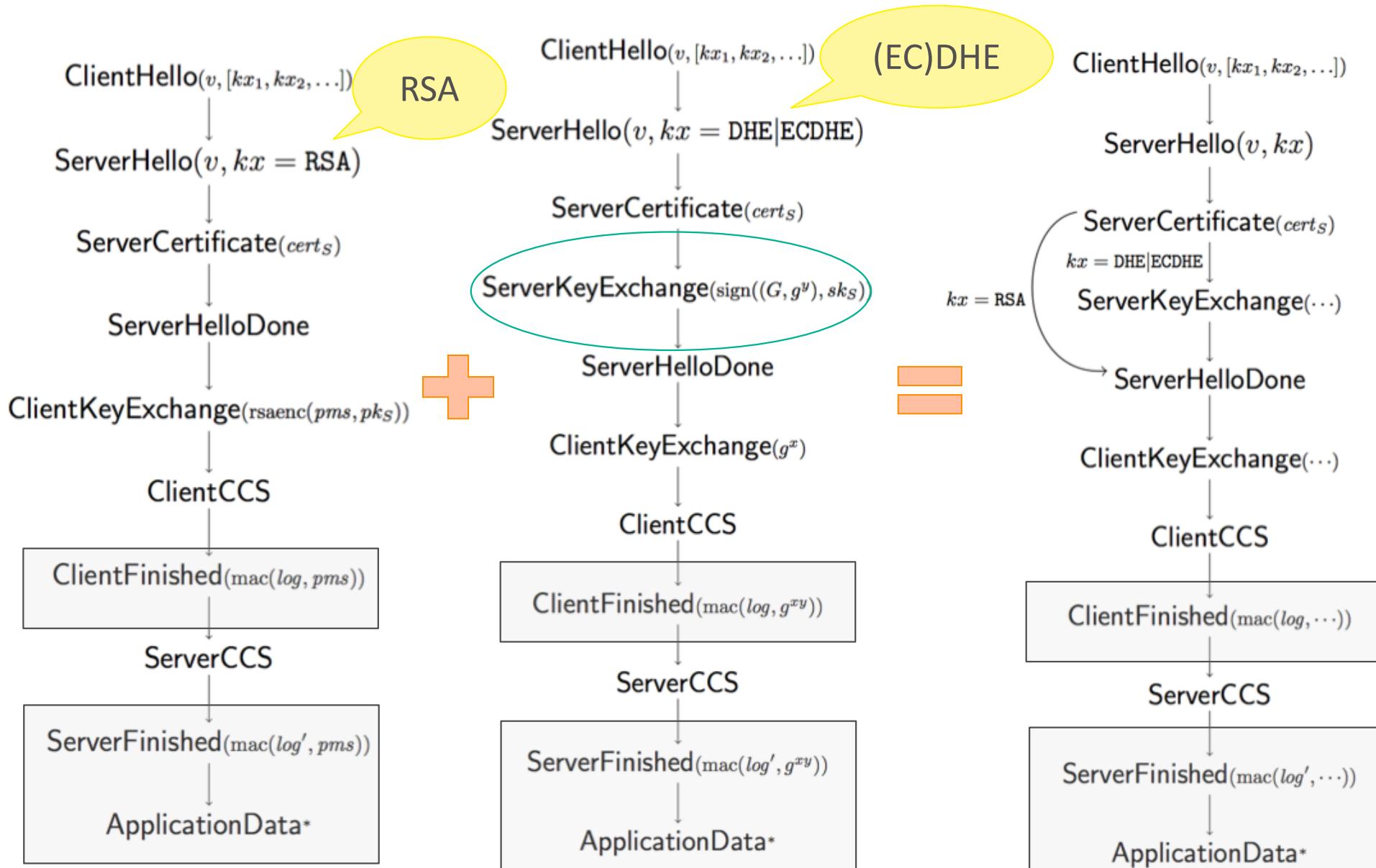
# Culprit: Underspecified State Machine

TLS specifies a ladder diagram with optional messages

- Relies on the Finished messages to ensure agreement



# Composing Key Exchanges



# Composing with Optional Messages

## Treat ServerKeyExchange as optional

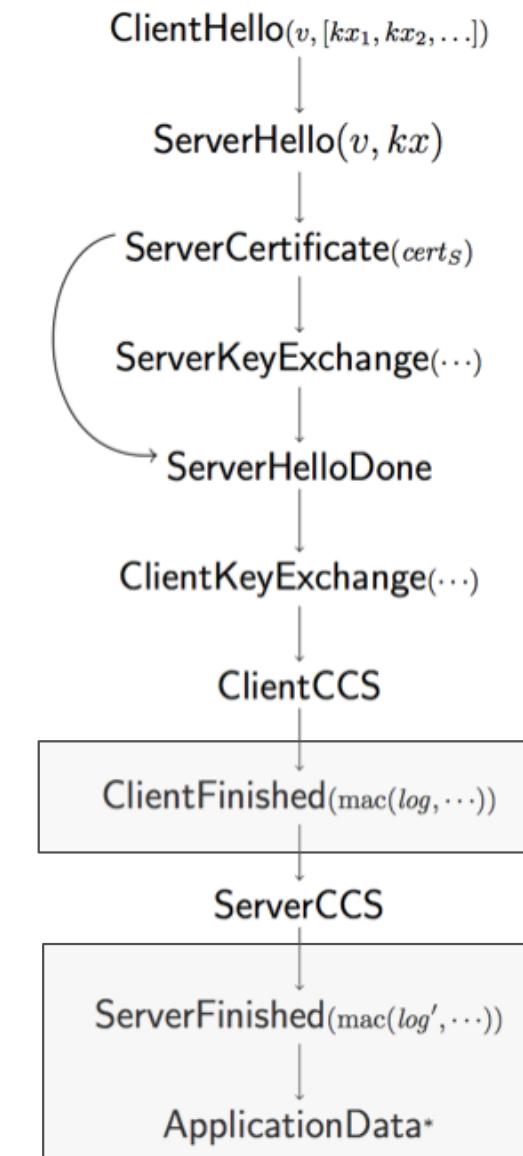
- Server decides to send it or not
- Client tries to handle both cases
- Consistent with Postel's principle for the Internet:  
*“be liberal in what you accept” (not for security!)*

## Unexpected cases at the client

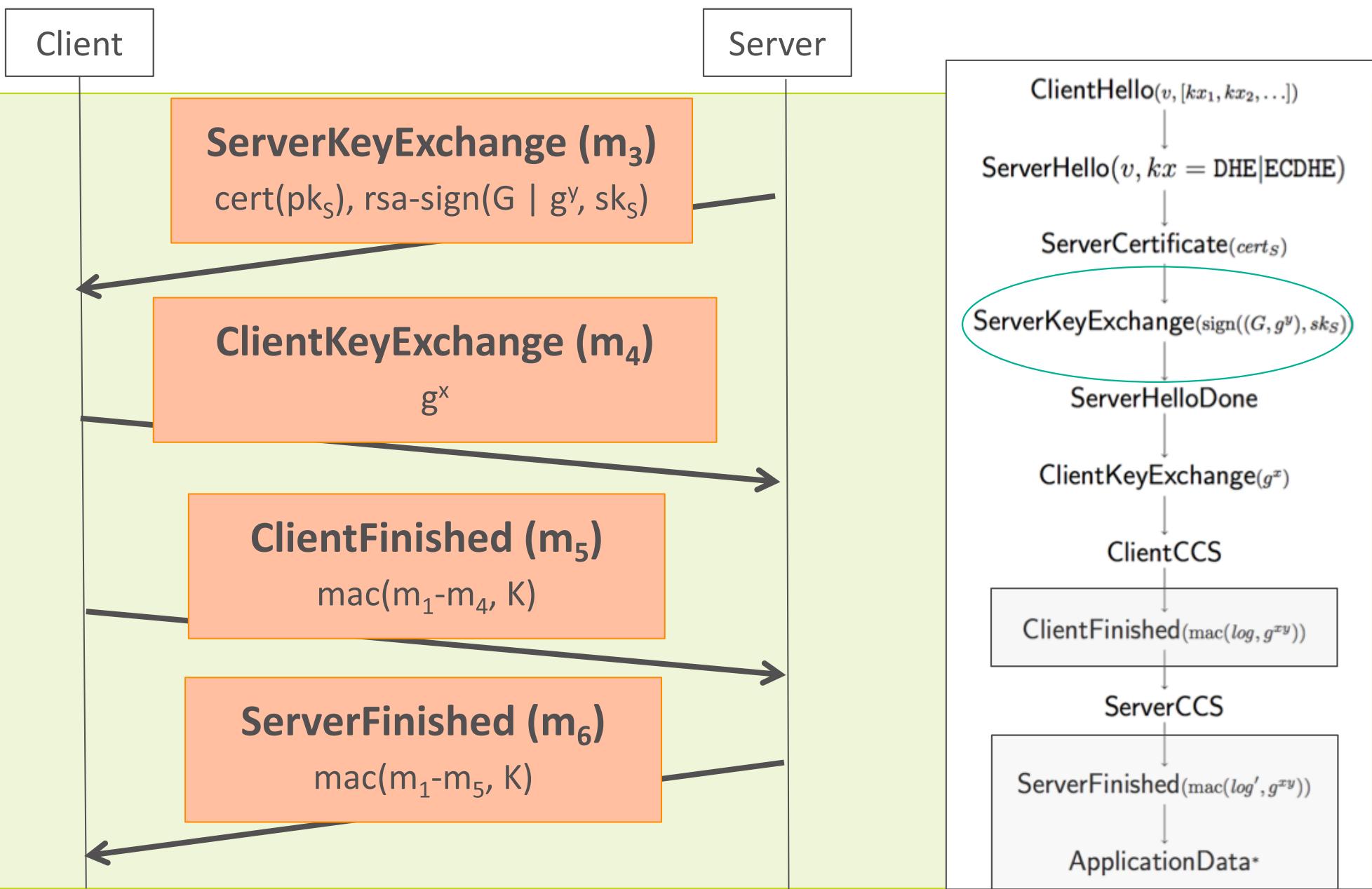
- Server skips ServerKeyExchange in DHE
- Server sends ServerKeyExchange in RSA

## Clients should reject these cases

- But they don't, so we are not running the TLS handshake any more



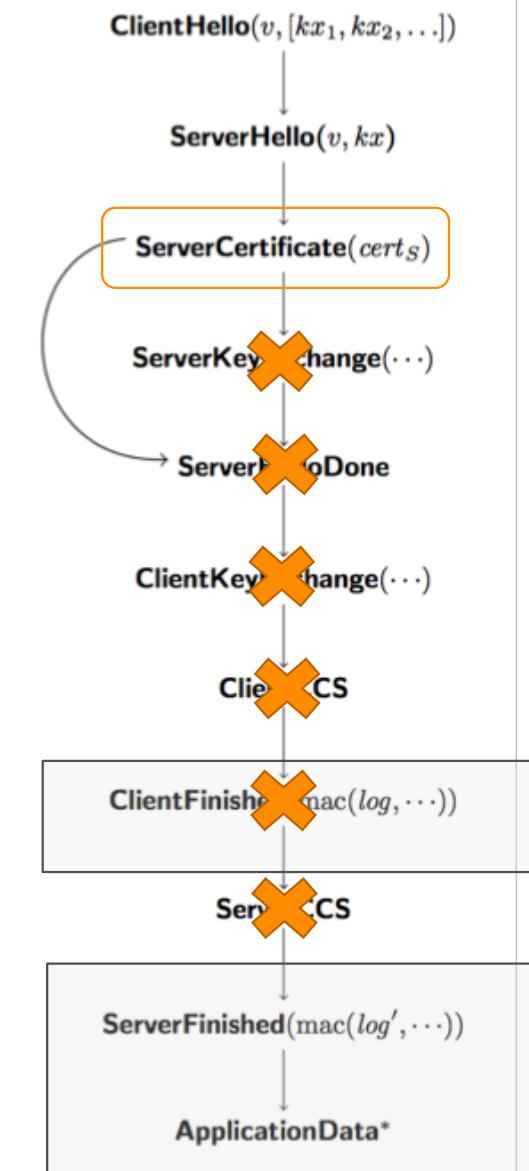
# Recall: DHE Handshake



# SKIPping Inconvenient Messages

Network attacker impersonates  
api.paypal.com to a JSSE client

1. Send PayPal's cert
2. SKIP ServerKeyExchange  
**(bypass server signature)**
3. SKIP ServerHelloDone
4. SKIP ServerCCS  
**(bypass encryption)**
5. Send ServerFinished  
using uninitialized MAC key  
**(bypass handshake integrity)**
6. Send ApplicationData  
**(unencrypted)** as S.com

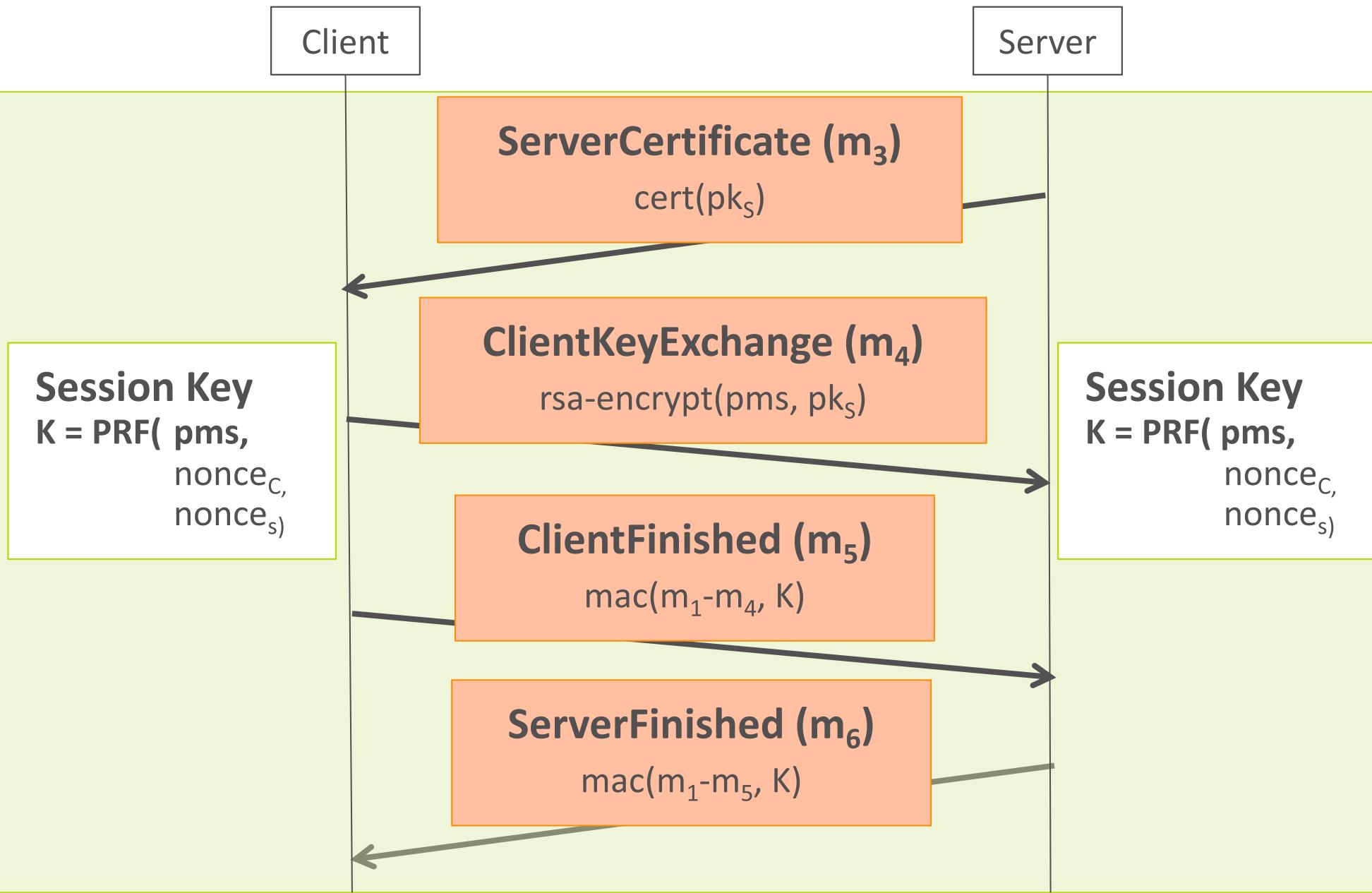


# SKIP Impact

- A network attacker can **impersonate any server** (Paypal, Amazon, Google) to *any* Java TLS client (built with JSSE)
- Affects all versions of Java until Jan 2015 CPU (CVE-2014-6593)
- Other state machine bugs found in a dozen popular TLS libraries

Exploiting  
Crypto Weaknesses +  
Logical Flaws +  
Implementation Bugs:  
**FREAK: Factoring RSA Keys**

# RSA Key Transport



# RSA Key Transport

- Client chooses secret  $pms$ , adds maximum protocol version  $pv_{max}$ , pads according to RSA PKCS#1 v1.5, and encrypts with server's public key  $pk_s$   
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{rsa-pkcs1-encrypt}(pms, pk_s) \\ &= [\text{pad} \mid pv_{max} \mid pms]^e \bmod pq \end{aligned}$$
- Server decrypts, **checks pad and protocol version**, computes session key from  $pms$

*Security:* In theory, relies on hardness of factoring  $pq$

# RSA Factoring Challenge

RSA Number	Decimal digits	Binary digits	Cash prize offered	Factored on	Factored by
RSA-100	100	330	US\$1,000 <sup>[4]</sup>	April 1, 1991 <sup>[5]</sup>	Arjen K. Lenstra
RSA-110	110	364	US\$4,429 <sup>[4]</sup>	April 14, 1992 <sup>[5]</sup>	Arjen K. Lenstra and M.S. Manasse
RSA-120	120	397	\$5,898 <sup>[4]</sup>	July 9, 1993 <sup>[6]</sup>	T. Denny et al.
RSA-129 <sup>[**]</sup>	129	426	\$100 USD	April 26, 1994 <sup>[5]</sup>	Arjen K. Lenstra et al.
RSA-130	130	430	US\$14,527 <sup>[4]</sup>	April 10, 1996	Arjen K. Lenstra et al.
RSA-140	140	463	US\$17,226	February 2, 1999	Herman te Riele et al.
RSA-150 <sup>[*] ?</sup>	150	496		April 16, 2004	Kazumaro Aoki et al.
RSA-155	155	512	\$9,383 <sup>[4]</sup>	August 22, 1999	Herman te Riele et al.
RSA-160	160	530		April 1, 2003	Jens Franke et al., University of Bonn
RSA-170 <sup>[*]</sup>	170	563		December 29, 2009	D. Bonenberger and M. Krone <sup>[***]</sup>
RSA-576	174	576	\$10,000 USD	December 3, 2003	Jens Franke et al., University of Bonn
RSA-180 <sup>[*]</sup>	180	596		May 8, 2010	S. A. Danilov and I. A. Popovyan, Moscow State University <sup>[7]</sup>
RSA-190 <sup>[*]</sup>	190	629		November 8, 2010	A. Timofeev and I. A. Popovyan
RSA-640	193	640	\$20,000 USD	November 2, 2005	Jens Franke et al., University of Bonn
RSA-200 <sup>[*] ?</sup>	200	663		May 9, 2005	Jens Franke et al., University of Bonn
RSA-210 <sup>[*]</sup>	210	696		September 26, 2013 <sup>[8]</sup>	Ryan Propper
RSA-704 <sup>[*]</sup>	212	704	\$30,000 USD	July 2, 2012	Shi Bai, Emmanuel Thomé and Paul Zimmermann
RSA-220	220	729		May 13, 2016	S. Bai, P. Gaudry, A. Kruppa, E. Thomé and P. Zimmermann

*Best Generic Technique:* Number Field Sieve (NFS)

- Try CADO-NFS: <http://cado-nfs.gforge.inria.fr/>

# How long does factoring take with the number field sieve?

## Answer 3

- 512-bit RSA: 7 months — large academic effort [Cavallar et al., 1999]
- 768-bit RSA: 2.5 years — large academic effort [Kleinjung et al., 2009]
- 512-bit RSA: 2.5 months — single machine [Moody, 2009]
- 512-bit RSA: 72 hours — single Amazon EC2 machine [Harris, 2012]
- 512-bit RSA: 7 hours — Amazon EC2 cluster [Heninger, 2015]
- 512-bit RSA: < 4 hours — Amazon EC2 cluster

*Factoring as a Service*  
Financial Crypto 2016  
[Valenta et al. '16]

# Factoring RSA keys in TLS

## RSA encryption used in TLS 1.0-1.2

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{rsa-pkcs1-encrypt(pms, } \text{pk}_S) \\ &= [\text{pad } | \text{pv}_{\text{max}} | \text{pms}]^e \bmod \text{pq} \end{aligned}$$

- If  $\text{pq}$  can be factored into  $p$  and  $q$ , an attacker can break TLS encryption, integrity
- 512-bit keys and 768-bit keys can be factored

## Browsers now reject < 1024-bit RSA certs

- They will soon require  $\geq 2048$  bits
- So nobody still accepts 512-bit RSA keys, right?

# Export-Grade Ciphers in TLS

In the 1990s, cryptography exports were controlled

- All software had two versions: domestic and export
- Export RSA keys, Diffie-Hellman groups limited to 512 bits
- Export symmetric crypto limited to 40 bit keys

---

International Traffic in Arms Regulations [April 1, 1992 version]

Category XIII--Auxiliary Military Equipment ...

(1) Cryptographic (including key management) systems, equipment, assemblies, modules, integrated circuits, components or software with the capability of maintaining secrecy or confidentiality of information or information systems...

Commerce Control List [current]

a.1.b.1. Factorization of integers in excess of 512 bits (e.g., RSA);

# Export-Grade Ciphers in TLS

TLS 1.0 included many Export-grade ciphers

- TLS\_RSA\_EXPORT\_WITH\_RC4\_40\_MD5
- TLS\_RSA\_EXPORT\_WITH DES40\_CBC\_SHA
- TLS\_DHE\_RSA\_EXPORT\_WITH DES40\_CBC\_SHA
- TLS\_DHE\_DSS\_EXPORT\_WITH DES40\_CBC\_SHA

To support these, every TLS server had two sets of keys

- A 2048-bit RSA key for TLS\_RSA +  
a 512-bit RSA key for TLS\_RSA\_EXPORT
- A 1025-bit DH group for TLS\_DHE +  
a 512-bit DH group for TLS\_DHE\_EXPORT
- E.g. OpenSSL created a 512-bit RSA\_EXPORT on startup

# RSA\_EXPORT support on the Web

In 2000, EXPORT deprecated in TLS 1.1, not used since

- (Dead) code still exists in OpenSSL and other libraries

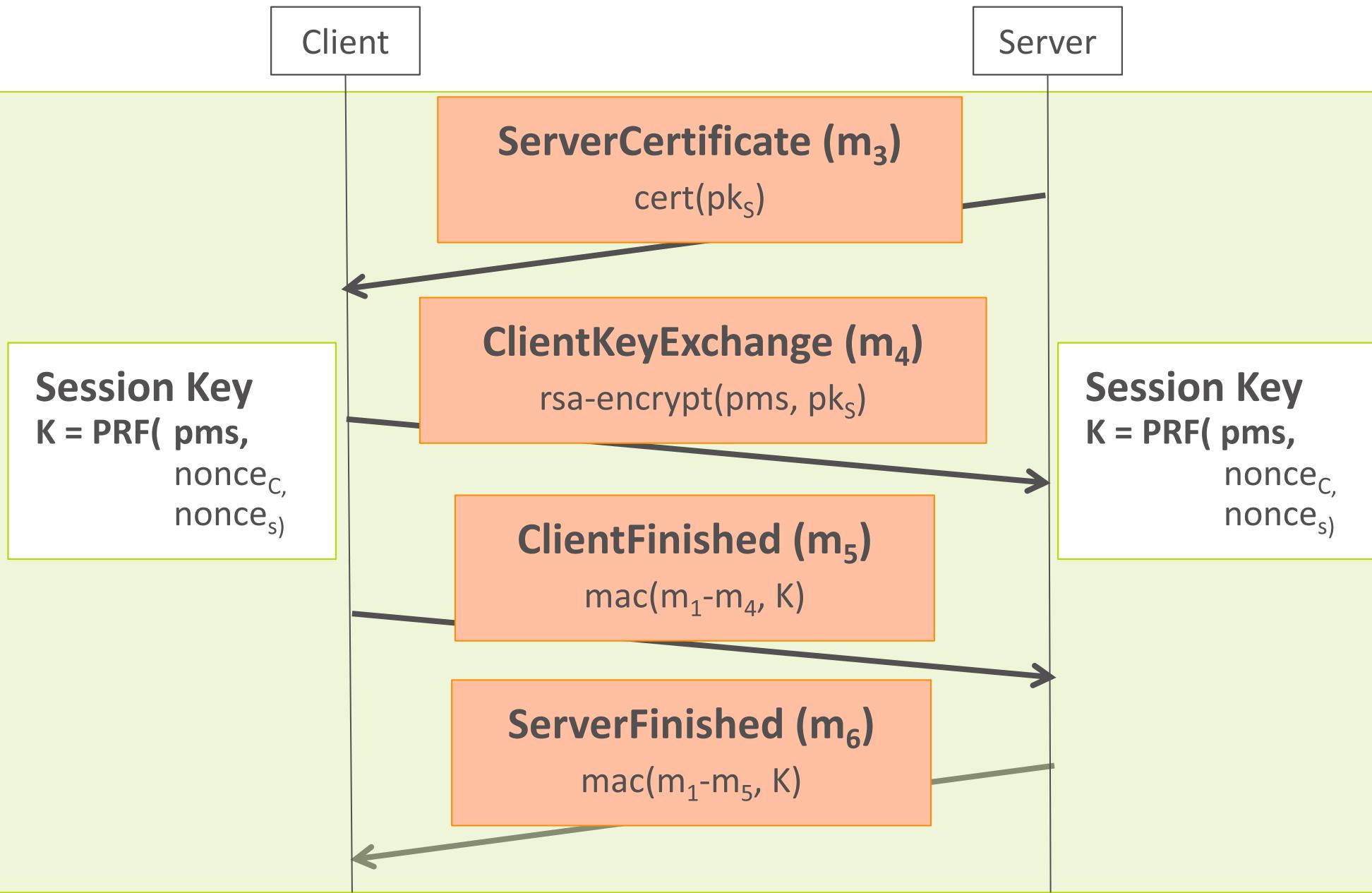
In Mar 2015, many TLS servers still allow RSA\_EXPORT!

- 8.9M (26.3%) HTTPS servers support EXPORT ciphers
- 36.7% of HTTPS servers with browser-trusted certificates
- 9.6% of Alexa top 1M HTTPS servers
- Reason: backwards compatibility with old TLS clients

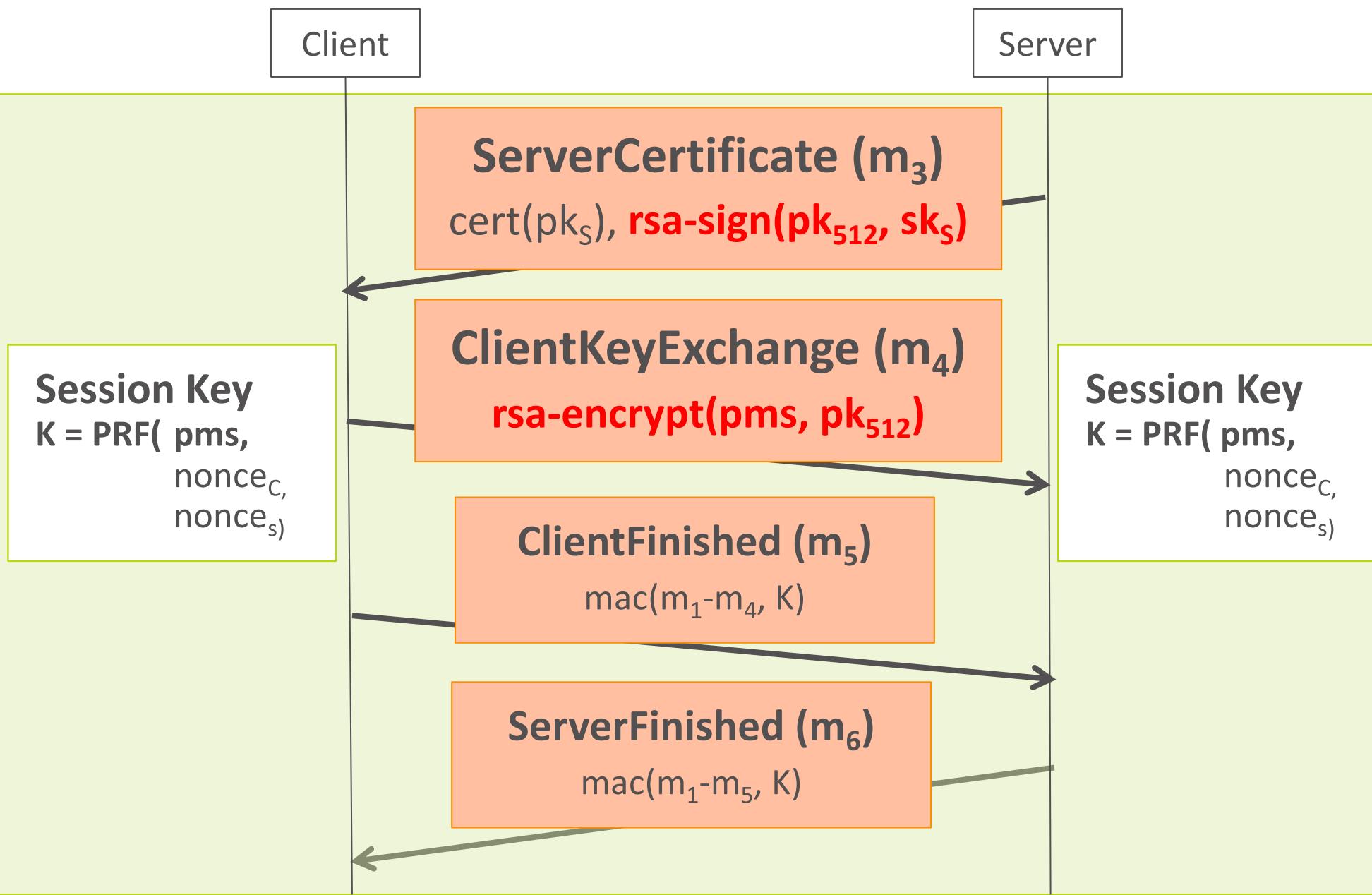
Modern browsers do not support or offer RSA\_EXPORT

- EXPORT ciphers are never negotiated, so problem solved?
- An implementation bug reenables RSA\_EXPORT in clients!

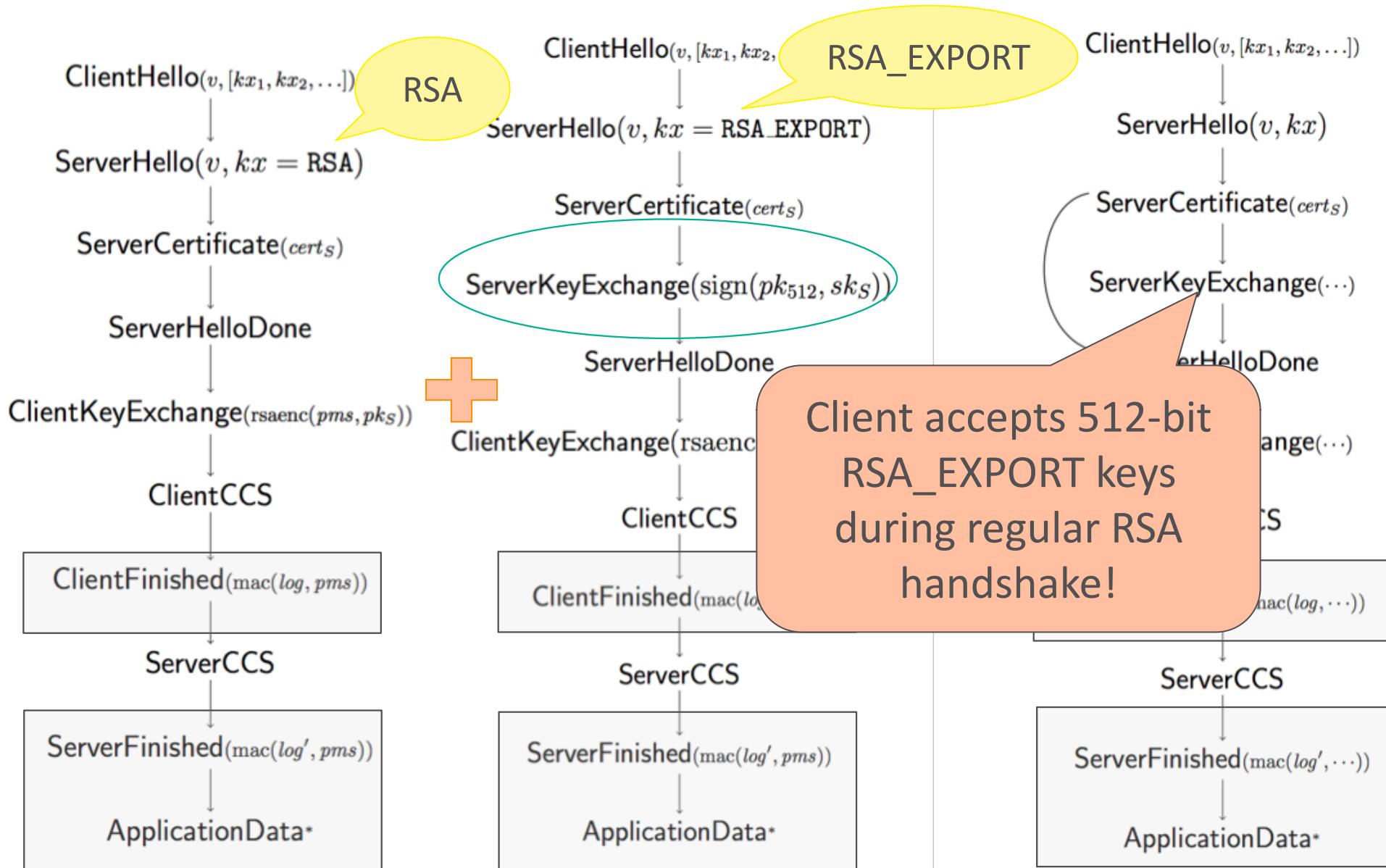
# RSA Key Transport



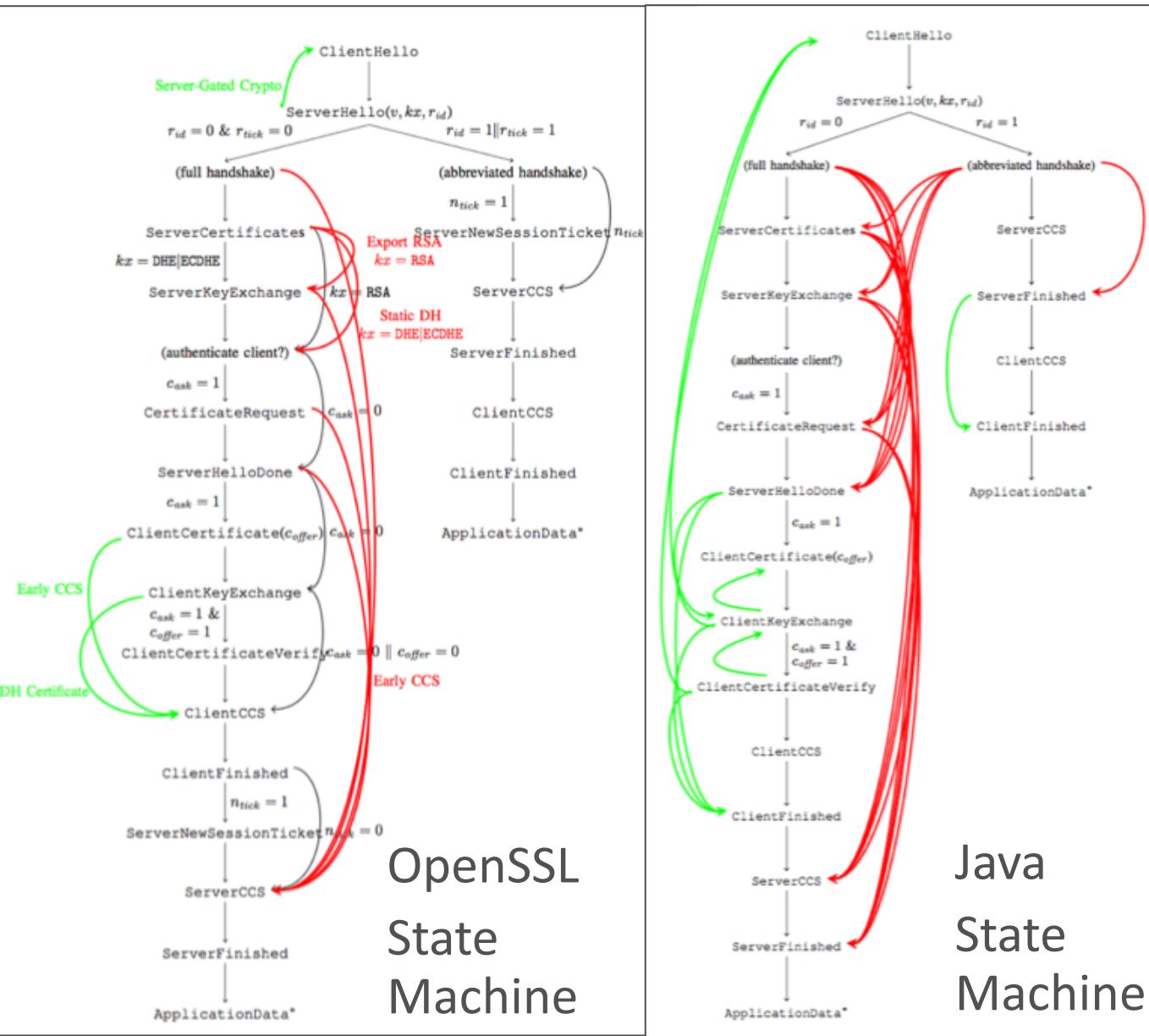
# RSA\_EXPORT Key Transport



# Badly Composing RSA + RSA\_EXPORT



# RSA\_EXPORT State Machine Bugs in TLS



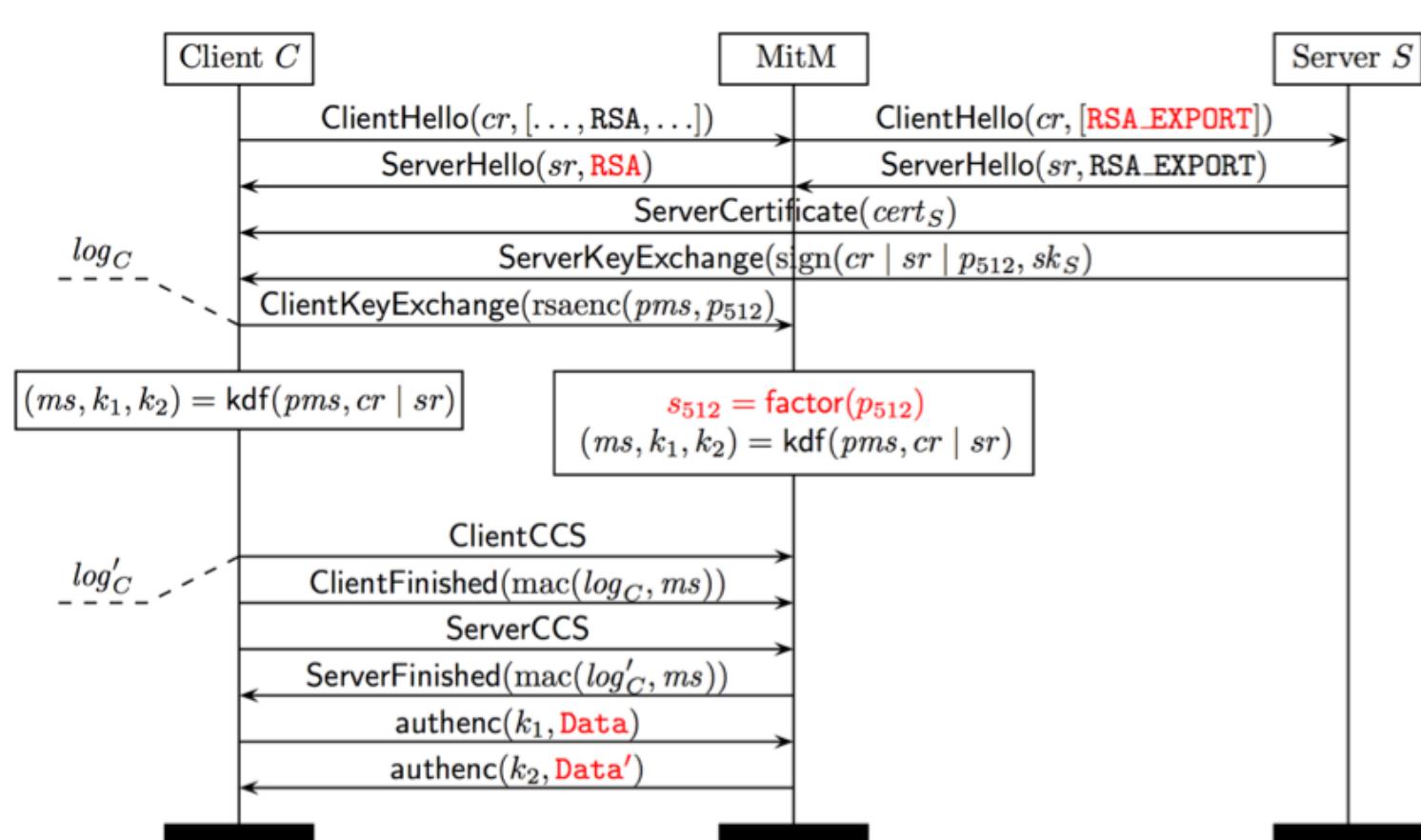
## Affected Software

- OpenSSL, used by: Chrome, Opera, BlackBerry
- Schannel: Microsoft .NET, IE
- SecureTransport: Safari, iOS
- Oracle Java JSSE  
IBM Java JSSE  
Mono TLS

# FREAK: Downgrade to RSA\_EXPORT

A man-in-the-middle attacker can:

- impersonate servers that support RSA\_EXPORT,
- at buggy clients that accept RSA\_EXPORT keys in RSA handshakes



# What went wrong?

- Cryptographic weakness
  - **Problem:** Continued support for RSA\_EXPORT
  - **Countermeasure:** Disable EXPORT ciphersuites
- Logical protocol flaw
  - **Problem:** Signature ambiguity between RSA/RSA\_EXPORT
  - **Countermeasure:** Signatures should cover transcript
- Implementation bug
  - **Problem:** Clients accept EXPORT even if disables
  - **Countermeasure:** Fix state machine composition

# Part I: Summary

Real-world attacks exploit a combination of:

- Cryptographic weaknesses
- Logical protocol flaws
- Implementation bugs

Vulnerabilities in less-studied modes can break strong provably secure modes of the protocol

- Too many modes and corner cases to prove by hand

A need for automated protocol verification

- Tools for finding protocol flaws and implementation bugs
- Machine-checked proofs for real-world protocols

# End of Part I