

# **Privacy-preserving Information Sharing: Tools and Applications (Volume 2)**

**Emiliano De Cristofaro**

University College London (UCL)

<https://emilianodc.com>

# Prologue

## **Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PETs):**

Increase privacy of users, groups, and/or organizations

## **PETs often respond to privacy threats**

Protect personally identifiable information

Support anonymous communications

Privacy-respecting data processing

## **Another angle: privacy as an enabler**

Actively enabling scenarios otherwise impossible w/o clear privacy guarantees

# Sharing Information w/ Privacy

**Needed when parties with limited mutual trust willing or required to share information**

Only the required minimum amount of information should be disclosed in the process

# Private Set Intersection?

**DHS** (Terrorist Watch List) and **Airline** (Passenger List)

Find out whether any suspect is on a given flight

**IRS** (Tax Evaders) and **Swiss Bank** (Customers)

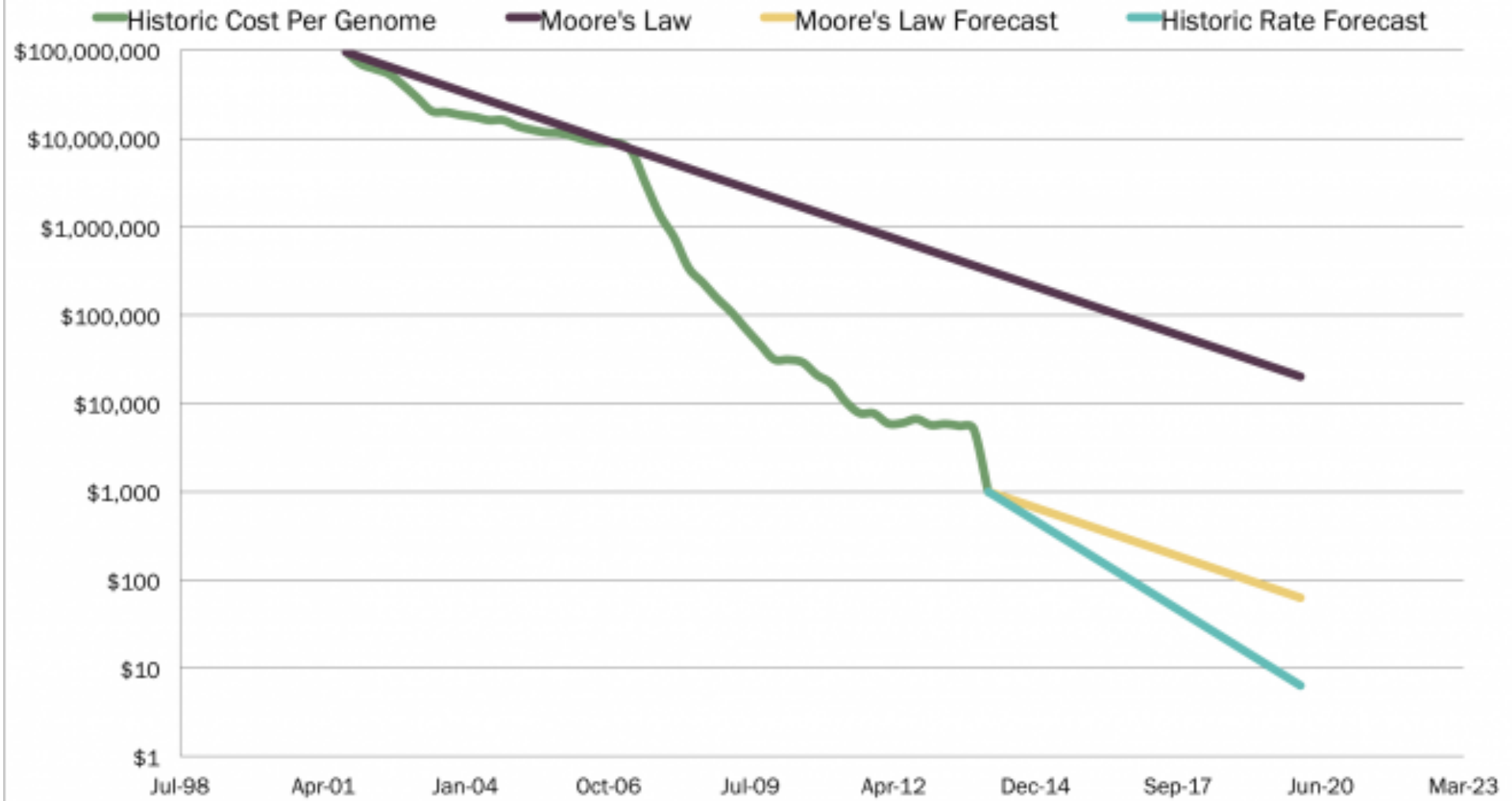
Discover if tax evaders have accounts at foreign banks

**Hoag Hospital** (Patients) and **SSA** (Social Security DB)

Patients with fake Social Security Number

# Genomics

## Cost Declines of Genome Sequencing

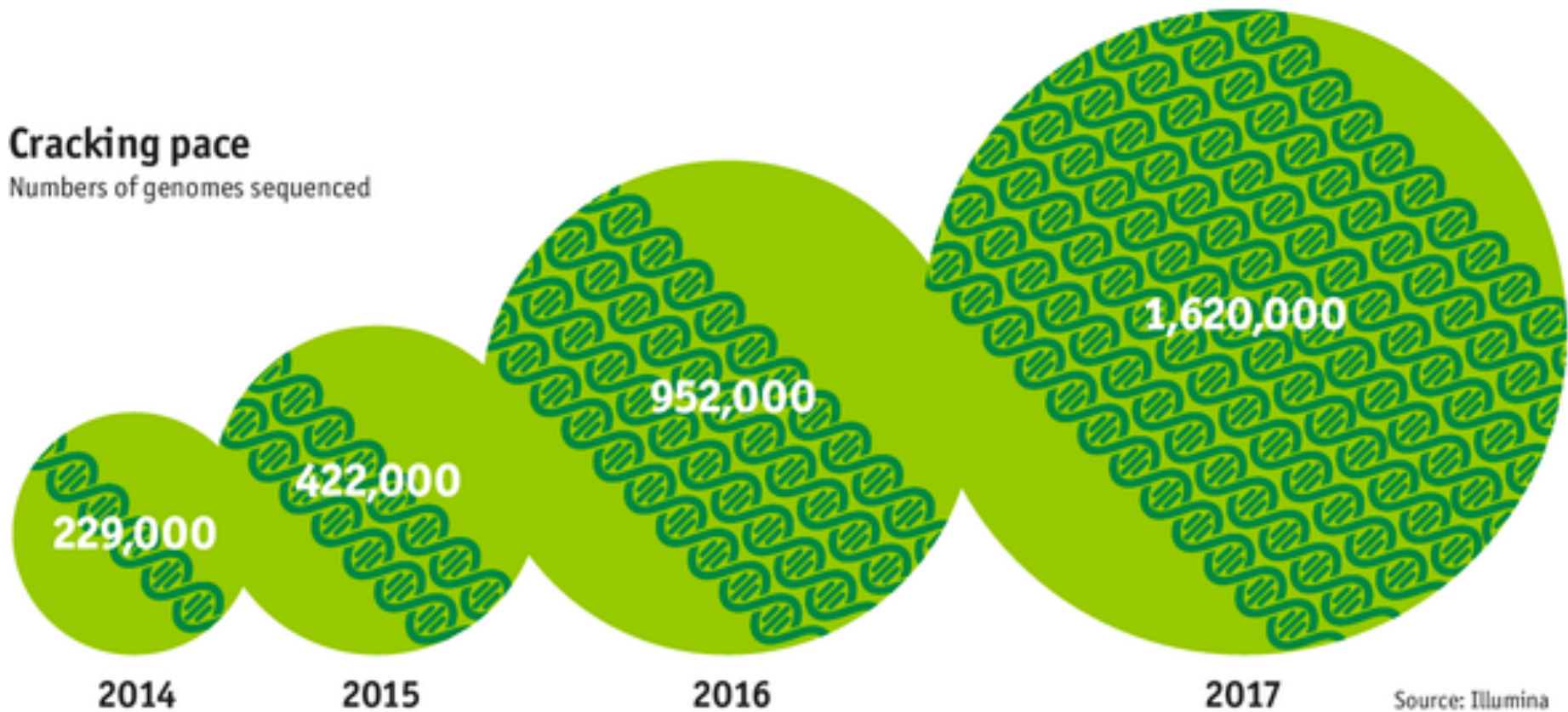


From: James Bannon, ARK

From: The Economist

## Cracking pace

Numbers of genomes sequenced



1/05/2011 @ 4:57PM | 30,076 views

## The First Child Saved By DNA Sequencing

[+ Comment Now](#) [+ Follow Comments](#)



## LETTER

## In Treatment for Leukemia, Glimpses of the Future

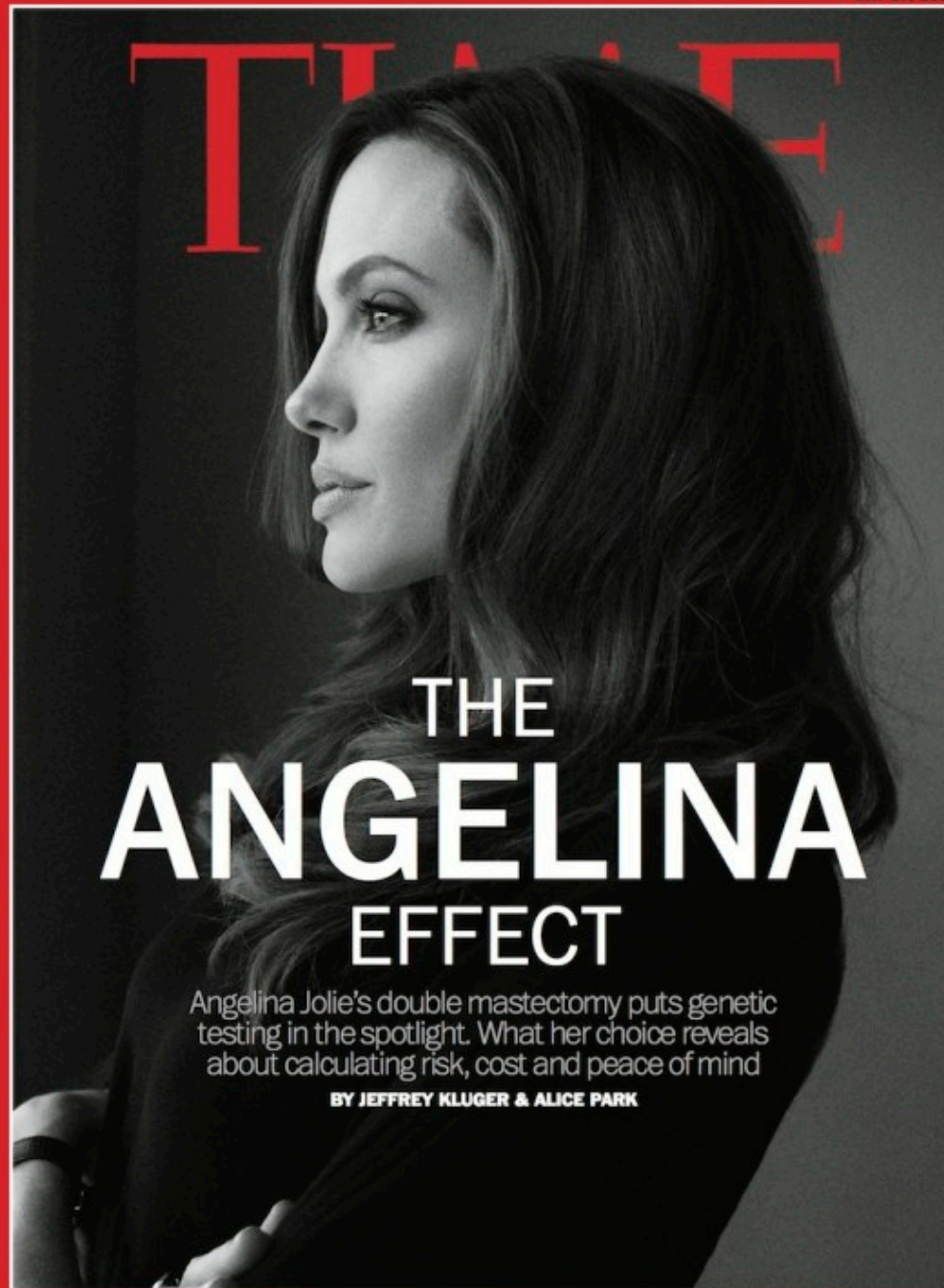


doi:10.1038/nature13394

# Genome sequencing identifies major causes of severe intellectual disability

Christian Gilissen<sup>1\*</sup>, Jayne Y. Hehir-Kwa<sup>1\*</sup>, Djie Tjwan Thung<sup>1</sup>, Maartje van de Vorst<sup>1</sup>, Bregje W. M. van Bon<sup>1</sup>, Marjolein H. Willemsen<sup>1</sup>, Michael Kwint<sup>1</sup>, Irene M. Janssen<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Hoischen<sup>1</sup>, Annette Schenck<sup>1</sup>, Richard Leach<sup>2</sup>, Robert Klein<sup>2</sup>, Rick Tearle<sup>2</sup>, Tan Bo<sup>1,3</sup>, Rolph Pfundt<sup>1</sup>, Helger G. Yntema<sup>1</sup>, Bert B. A. de Vries<sup>1</sup>, Tjitske Kleefstra<sup>1</sup>, Han G. Brunner<sup>1,4\*</sup>, Lisenka E. L. M. Vissers<sup>1\*</sup> & Joris A. Veltman<sup>1,4\*</sup>





# THE ANGELINA EFFECT

Angelina Jolie's double mastectomy puts genetic testing in the spotlight. What her choice reveals about calculating risk, cost and peace of mind

BY JEFFREY KLUGER & ALICE PARK

## Genetic Risk Factors (11) ?

REPORT	RESULT
Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency	Variant Absent; Typical Risk
Alzheimer's Disease (APOE Variants)	ε4 Variant Absent
Early-Onset Primary Dystonia (DYT1-TOR1A-Related)	Variant Absent; Typical Risk
Factor XI Deficiency	Variant Absent; Typical Risk
Familial Hypercholesterolemia Type B (APOB-Related)	Variant Absent; Typical Risk

[See all 11 genetic risk factors...](#)

## Traits (41) ?

REPORT	RESULT
Alcohol Flush Reaction	Does Not Flush
Bitter Taste Perception	Can Taste
Blond Hair	28% Chance
Earwax Type	Wet
Eye Color	Likely Brown

[See all 41 traits...](#)

## Inherited Conditions (43) ?

REPORT	RESULT
Beta Thalassemia	Variant Present
ARSACS	Variant Absent
Agensis of the Corpus Callosum with Peripheral Neuropathy (ACCPN)	Variant Absent
Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease	Variant Absent
Bloom's Syndrome	Variant Absent

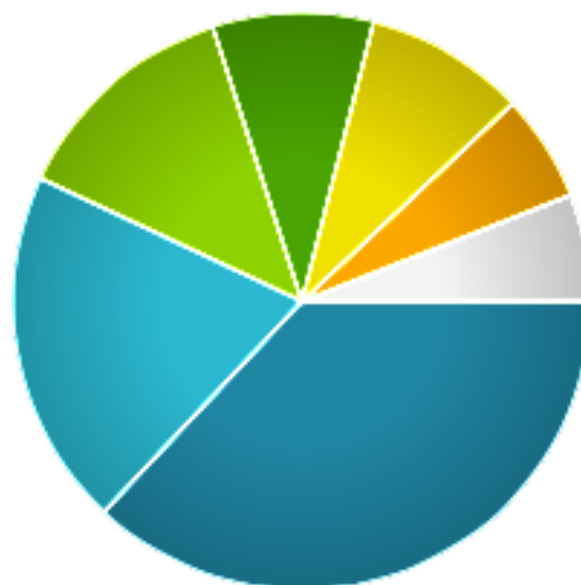
[See all 43 carrier status...](#)








## Drug Response (12) ?

REPORT	RESULT
Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) Metabolism (CYP2C19-related)	Rapid
Warfarin (Coumadin®) Sensitivity	Increased
Phenytoin Sensitivity (Epilepsy Drug)	Increased
Sulfonylurea Metabolism	Greatly reduced
Abacavir Hypersensitivity	Typical

[See all 12 drug response...](#)

## Genetic Ethnicity



	<b>Southern European</b>	<b>37%</b>
	<b>West African</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>British Isles</b>	<b>13%</b>
	<b>Native South American</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Finnish/Volga-Ural</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Eastern European</b>	<b>6%</b>
	<b>Uncertain</b>	<b>6%</b>

List View

Map View

Surname View

search matches

Show: both sides ▾

Sort: relationship ▾

25 per page ▾

1 - 25 of 424



Male

You

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE



Female

2nd to 3rd  
Cousin1.68% shared, 5  
segments

J2a2

Send an Introduction



Female

3rd to 4th  
Cousin1.30% shared, 3  
segmentsUnited States Alsace-Lorraine (Strasbourg), Fr... Paternal  
Senape 5 more U5b2Public Match  
Send a Message

Male

3rd to 4th  
Cousin1.03% shared, 2  
segments

H13a1a R1b1b2

Send an Introduction



Female

3rd to 5th  
Cousin0.45% shared, 2  
segments

H7

Send an Introduction



Female

3rd to 5th  
Cousin0.42% shared, 2  
segments

H1

Send an Introduction



Male

3rd to 5th  
Cousin0.40% shared, 2  
segmentsUnited States Reno, Nevada San Diego, California  
Tucker Littlefield Warga 4 more H1c G2aPublic Match  
Send a Message

Male

3rd to 5th  
Cousin0.37% shared, 2  
segmentsUnited States fathers father prince Edward isla...  
K1a1b  
R1b1b2a1aPublic Match  
Send a Message

Male, b. 1978

3rd to 6th  
Cousin0.40% shared, 1  
segmentUnited States New Jersey Utah California  
Northern Europe U3b1 T

Send an Introduction





# Privacy Researcher's Perspective

## Treasure trove of **sensitive** information

Ethnic heritage, predisposition to diseases

## Genome = the ultimate **identifier**

Hard to anonymize / de-identify

## Sensitivity is **perpetual**

Cannot be “revoked”

Leaking one's genome  $\approx$  leaking relatives' genome

# Secure Genomics?

## Privacy:

Individuals remain in control of their genome

Allow doctors/clinicians/labs to run genomic tests, while disclosing the required minimum amount of information, i.e.:

**(1) Individuals don't disclose their entire genome**

**(2) Testing facilities keep test specifics (“secret sauce”) confidential**

## **[BBDGT11]: Secure genomics via PSI**

Most personalized medicine tests in < 1 second

Works on Android too

# Genetic Paternity Test

## A Strawman Approach for Paternity Test:

On average, ~99.5% of any two human genomes are identical

Parents and children have even more similar genomes

Compare candidate's genome with that of the alleged child:

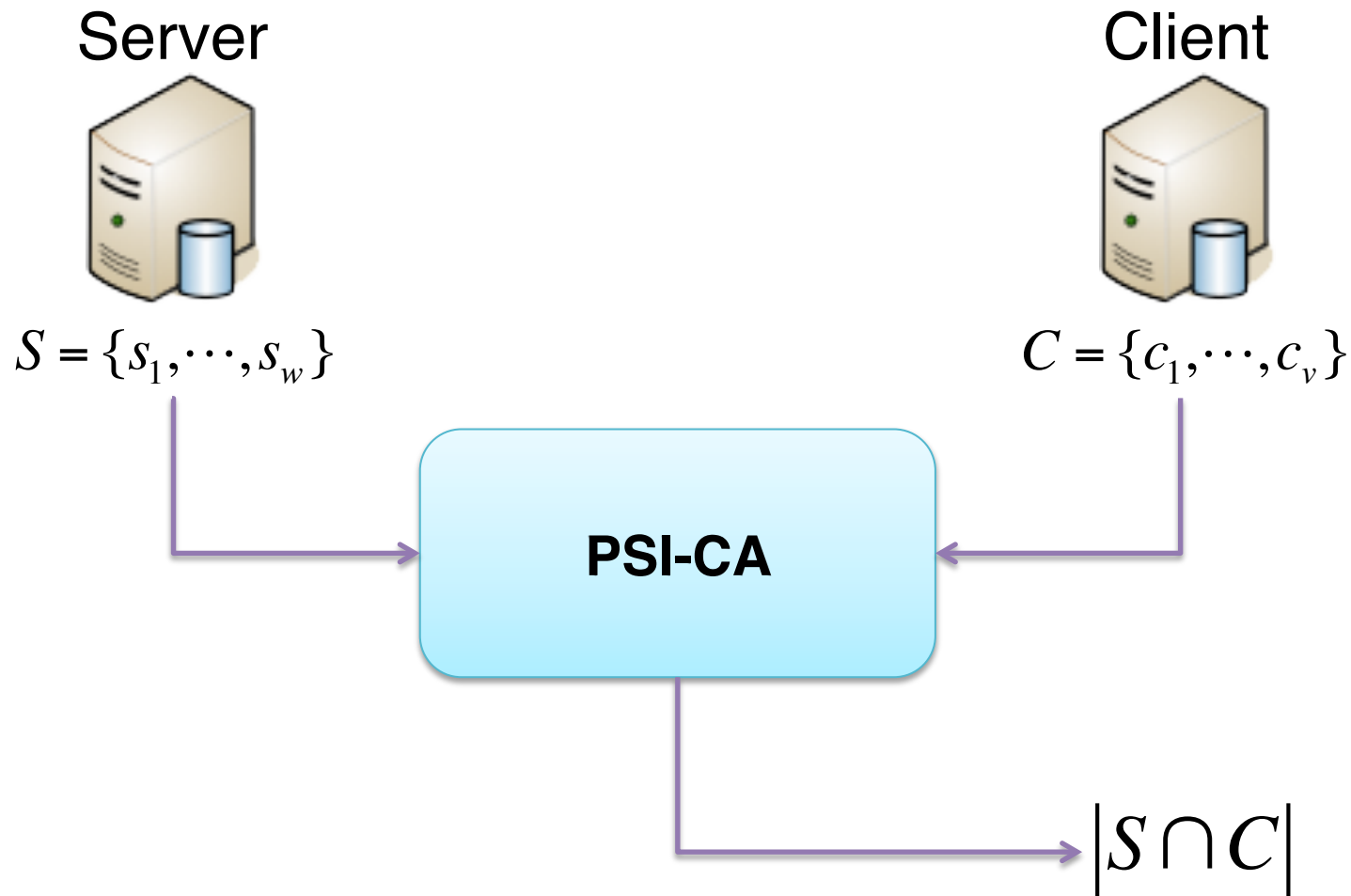
**Test positive if percentage of matching nucleotides is  $> 99.5 + \tau$**

## First-Attempt Privacy-Preserving Protocol:

Use an appropriate secure two-party protocol for the comparison



# Private Set Intersection Cardinality (PSI-CA)



# Genetic Paternity Test

## A Strawman Approach for Paternity Test:

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**Test positive if percentage of matching nucleotides is  $> 99.5 + \tau$**

## First-Attempt Privacy-Preserving Protocol:

Use an appropriate secure two-party protocol for the comparison

PROs: High-accuracy and error resilience

CONs: Performance not promising (3 billion symbols in input)

In our experiments, computation takes a few days

# Genetic Paternity Test

## Wait a minute!

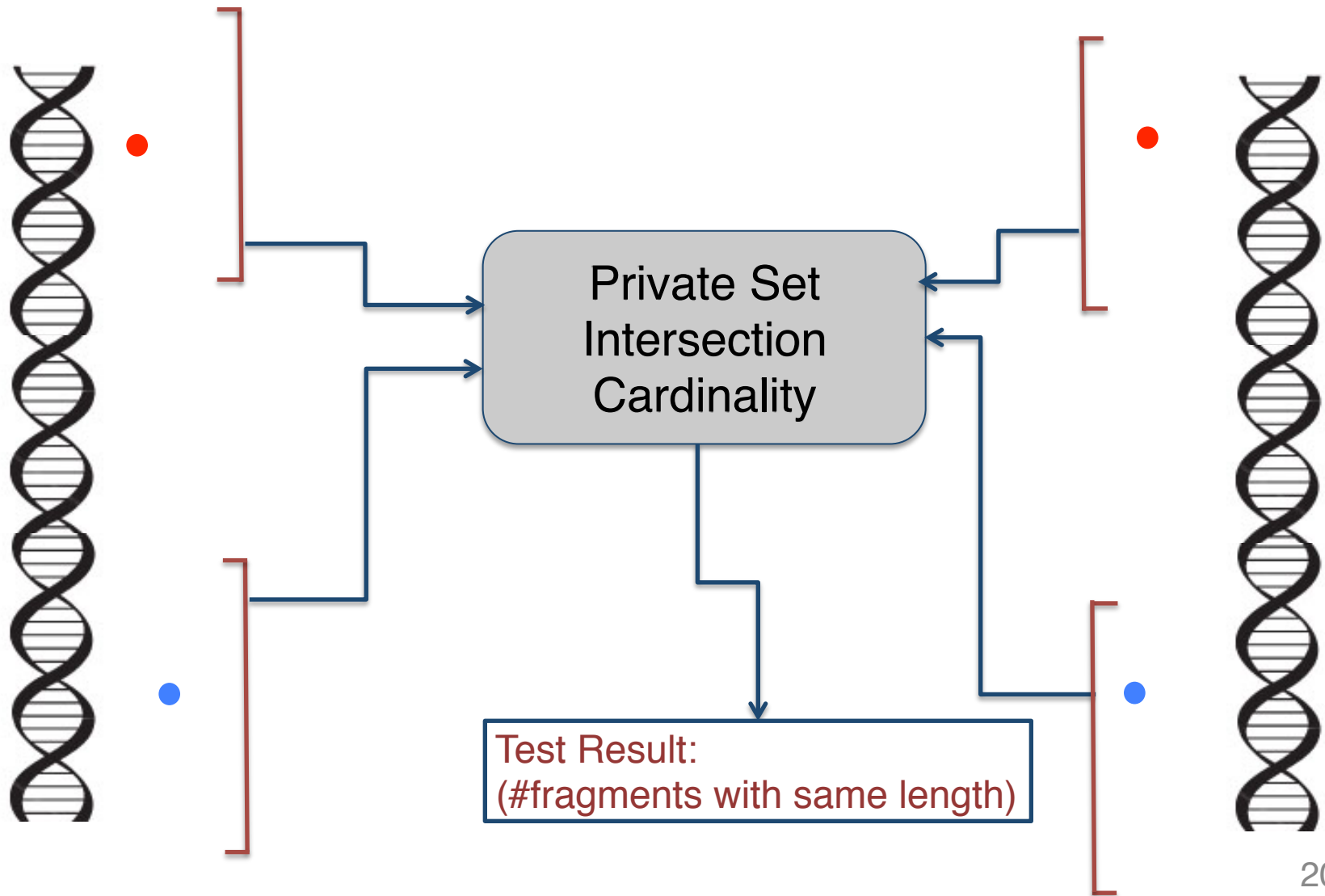
~99.5% of any two human genomes are identical

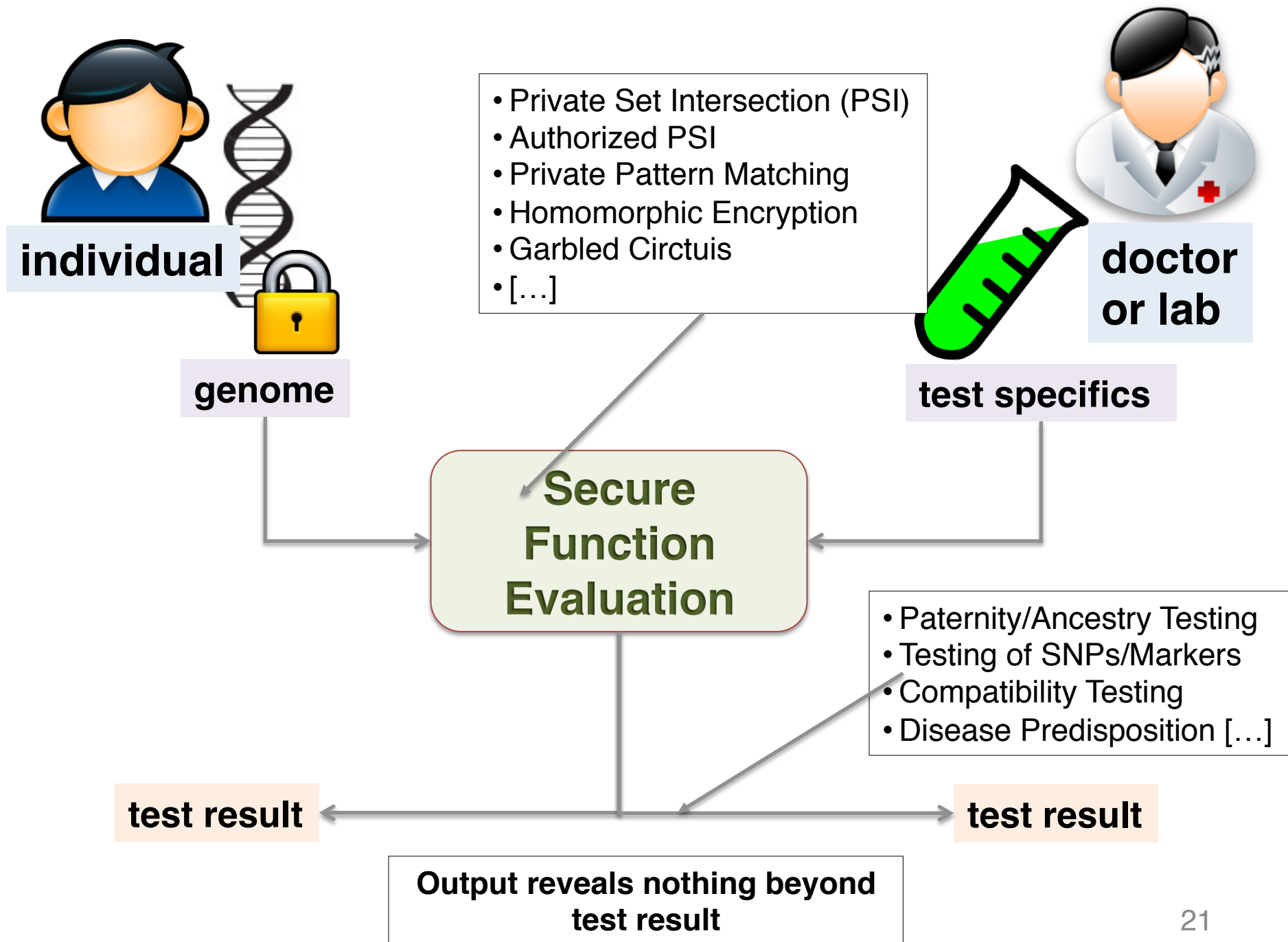
Why don't we compare *only* the remaining 0.5%?

We can compare by counting how many

**But... We don't know (yet) where *exactly* this 0.5% occur!**

# Private RFLP-based Paternity Test





# Personalized Medicine (PM)

## Drugs designed for patients' genetic features

Associating drugs with a unique genetic fingerprint

Max effectiveness for patients with matching genome

**Test drug's “genetic fingerprint” against patient's genome**

## Examples:

*tpmt* gene – relevant to leukemia

(1) G->C mutation in pos. 238 of gene's c-DNA, or (2) G->A mutation in pos. 460 and one A->G is pos. 419 cause the *tpmt* disorder (relevant for leukemia patients)

*hla-B* gene – relevant to HIV treatment

One G->T mutation (known as *hla-B\*5701* allelic variant) is associated with extreme sensitivity to abacavir (HIV drug)

# Privacy-preserving PM Testing (P<sup>3</sup>MT)

## Challenges:

Patients may refuse to unconditionally release their genomes

Or may be sued by their relatives...

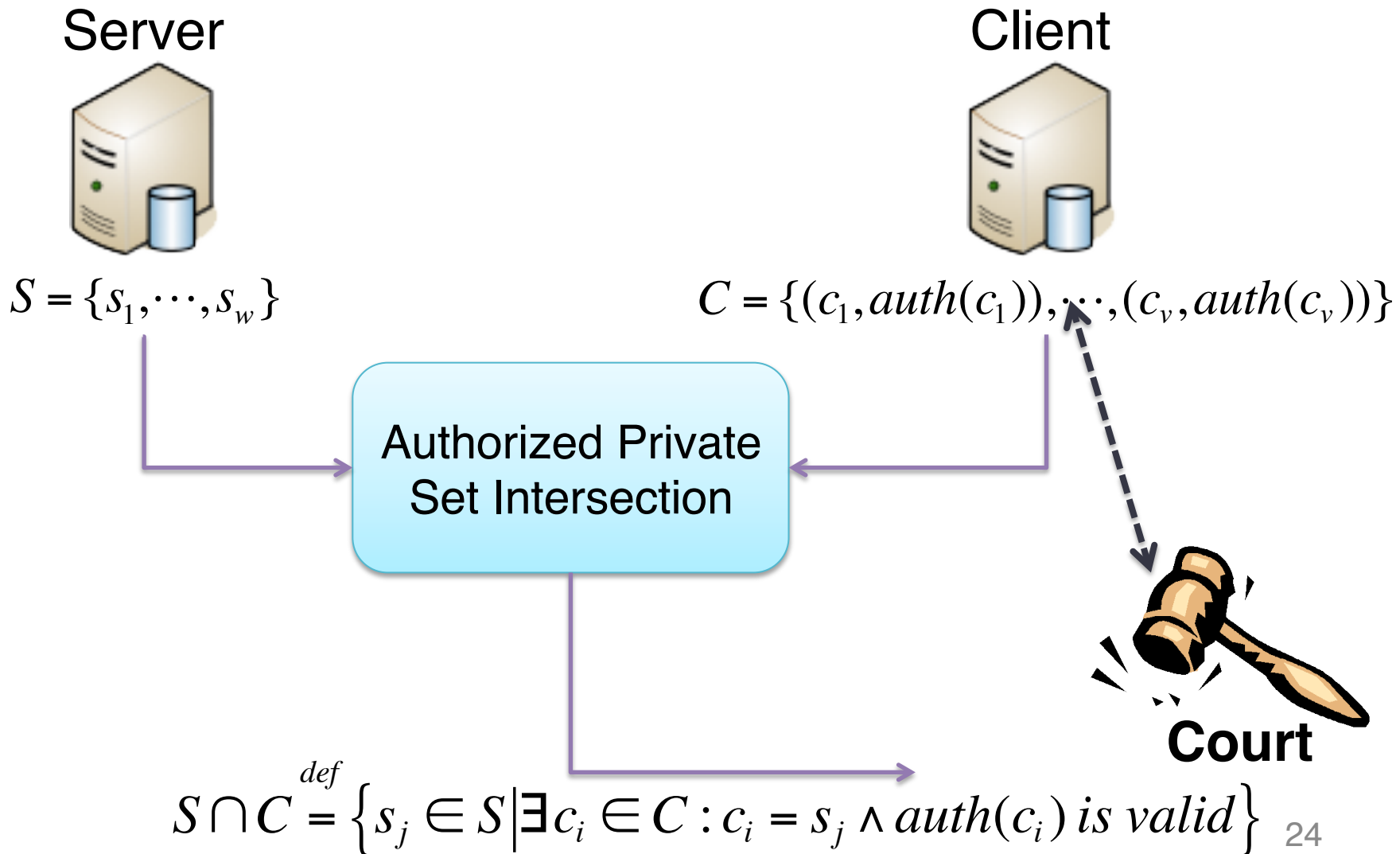
DNA fingerprint corresponding to a drug may be proprietary:

✓ **We need privacy-protecting fingerprint matching**

But we also need to enable FDA approval on the drug/fingerprint

✓ **We reduce P<sup>3</sup>MT to Authorized Private Set Intersection (APSI)**

# Authorized Private Set Intersection (APSI)





# Reducing P<sup>3</sup>MT to APSI

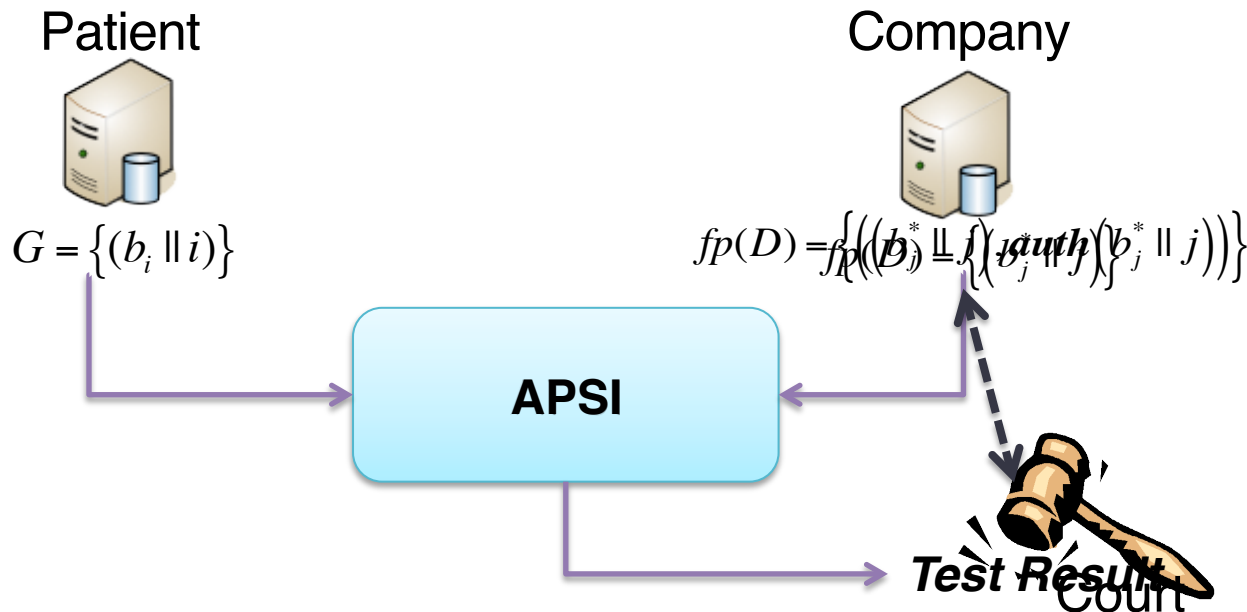
## Intuition:

FDA = Court, Pharma = *Client*, Patient = *Server*

Patient's private input set:  $G = \{(b_i \parallel i) \mid b_i \in \{A, C, G, T\}\}_{i=1}^{3 \cdot 10^9}$

Pharmaceutical company's input set:  $fp(D) = \{(b_j^* \parallel j)\}$

Each item in  $fp(D)$  needs to be authorized by FDA



# P<sup>3</sup>MT – Performance Evaluation

## Pre-Computation

Patient's pre-processing of the genome: a few days

### Optimization:

Patient applies reference-based compression techniques

Input all *differences* with “*reference*” genome (0.5%)

## Online Computation

Depend (linearly) on fingerprint size – typically a few nucleotides, <1s for most tests

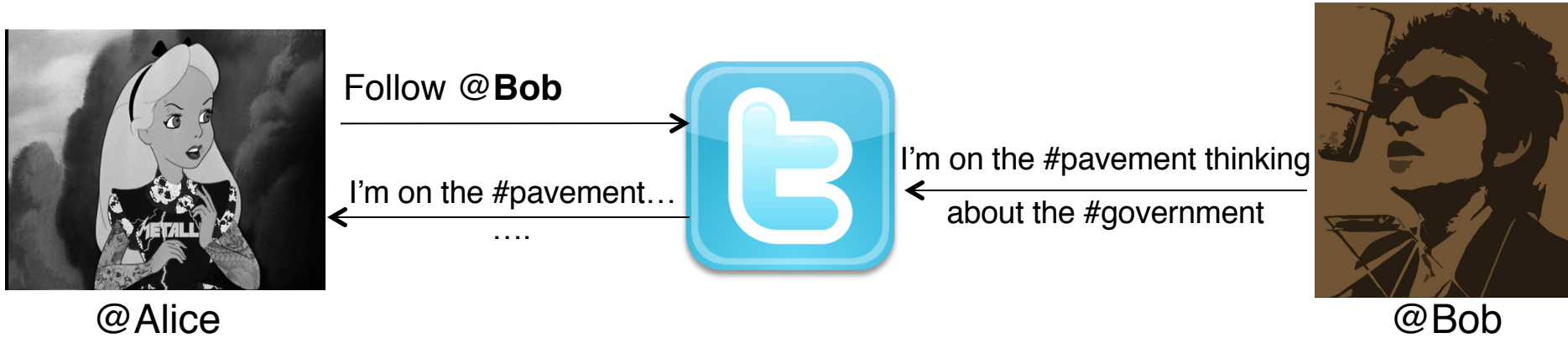
## Communication

Depends on the size of encrypted genome (about 4GB)

# Open Problems?

# Micro-blogging

# @Alice and @Bob – Twitter edition



There might be no mutual knowledge/trust between Alice and Bob

**Follow** requests are approved by default (opt-out)

**Tweets** are public by default

Streamed into [www.twitter.com/public\\_timeline](https://www.twitter.com/public_timeline), available through API

But Bob can restrict his tweets to followers

All public tweets are searchable by hashtag

# #Privacy and Twitter



Twitter.com is “trusted” to

- Get all tweets

- Enforce coarse-grained access control (follower-only)

- Monitor relations between users

## Privacy and Twitter

- Targeted advertisement, PII collected and shared with third parties

- Trending topics, real-time “news”

I don't care about #privacy on @Twitter... but

Remember @Wikileaks? Snowden?

# Our proposal: Hummingbird

Follow by hashtag:

E.g., @Alice follows @Bob only on hashtag #privacy

Tweeter (@Bob)

Learns who follows him but not which hashtags have been subscribed to

Follower (@Alice)

Learns nothing beyond her own subscriptions

Server (HS)

Doesn't learn tweets' content or hashtags of in  
(But can scale to million of tweets/users)





User Registration

User Registration

User Registration

Follow

Approve Request

Issue Request

Finalize Request

Tweet / Read

Tweet

[Oblivious Matching]

Read



HS

Issue Request

$$(N_b, e_b)$$

$$(Alice, Bob, \mu)$$

Alice (ht)

$$r \in Z_{N_b}$$

$$\mu = H(ht) \cdot r^{e_b}$$

HS

Approve

$$(Alice, \mu)$$

$$(\mu')$$

Bob

$$\mu' = \mu^{d_b}$$

HS

Finalize Request

$$(Bob, \mu')$$

$$(Alice, Bob, t)$$

Alice (ht)

$$\delta = \mu' / r$$

$$t = H'(\delta)$$



User Registration

User Registration

User Registration

Follow

Issue Request

Approve Request

Finalize Request

Tweet / Read

Tweet

[Oblivious Matching]

Read

HS

**Tweet**

Bob( $d_b, M, ht^*$ )

$$\begin{aligned}\delta &= H(ht^*)^{d_b} \\ t^* &= H'(\delta) \quad k^* = H''(\delta) \\ ct^* &= Enc_{k^*}(M)\end{aligned}$$

$(t^*, ct^*)$

HS

For all  $(U, V, t)$  s.t.  $V = \text{'Bob'}$  and  $t = t^*$ :  
Store and mark  $(\text{Bob}, t^*, ct^*)$  for  
delivering  $(t^*, ct^*)$  to Alice

**Oblivious  
Matching**

HS

**Read**

$(\text{Bob}, t^*, ct^*)$

Alice( $\delta, t$ )

$$\begin{aligned}k &= H''(\delta) \\ M &= Dec_k(ct^*)\end{aligned}$$

# Overhead

Follow protocol: Alice wants to follow Bob on #privacy

Bob's computation: 1 CRT-RSA signature (<1ms) per hashtag

Alice's computation: 2 mod multiplications per hashtag

Communication: 2 RSA group elements (<1KB)

Tweet: Bob tweets "I'm at #fosad!"

Computation: 1 CRT-RSA signature (<1ms) per hashtag, 1 AES enc

Communication: 1 hash output (160-bit)

Read

Computation: 1 AES decryption

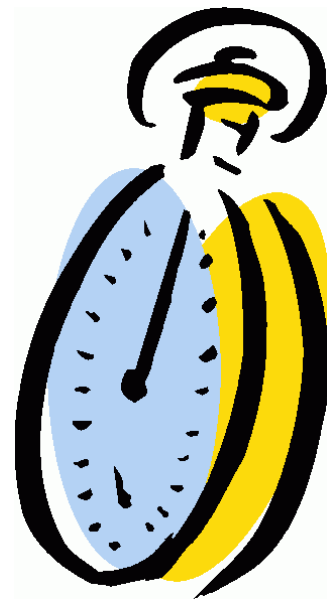
Communication: 1 hash output (160-bit)

Server

No crypto!

Overhead: matching of PRF outputs, 160-bit

Can do efficiently, just like for cleartexts



**Collecting Statistics Privately?**

**Collaboratively Train Machine  
Learning Models, Privately?**

# Why are statistics important?

## Examples:

1. Recommender systems for online streaming services
2. Statistics about mass transport movements
3. Traffic statistics for the Tor Network

## How about privacy?

# Private Recommendations

BBC keeps 500-1000 free programs on iPlayer

No account, no tracking, no ads

Still, BBC wants to collect statistics, offer recommendations to its users

E.g., you have watched Dr Who, maybe you'll like Sherlock Homes too!

# Item-KNN Recommendation

Predict favorite items for users based on their own ratings and those of “similar” users

Consider ***N*** users, ***M*** TV programs and binary ratings (viewed/not viewed)

Build a co-views matrix ***C***, where ***C<sub>ab</sub>*** is the number of views for the pair of programs (a,b)

Compute the **Similarity Matrix**

$$\{Sim\}_{ab} = \frac{C_{ab}}{\sqrt{C_a \cdot C_b}}$$

Identify K-Neighbours (***KNN***) based on matrix



# Privacy-Preserving Aggregation

**Goal: aggregator collects matrix, s.t.**

Can only learn aggregate counts (e.g., 237 users have watched both a and b)

Not who has watched what

**Use additively homomorphic encryption?**

$$\text{Enc}_{PK}(a) * \text{Enc}_{PK}(b) = \text{Enc}_{PK}(a+b)$$

How can I use it to collect statistics?

# Keys summing up to zero

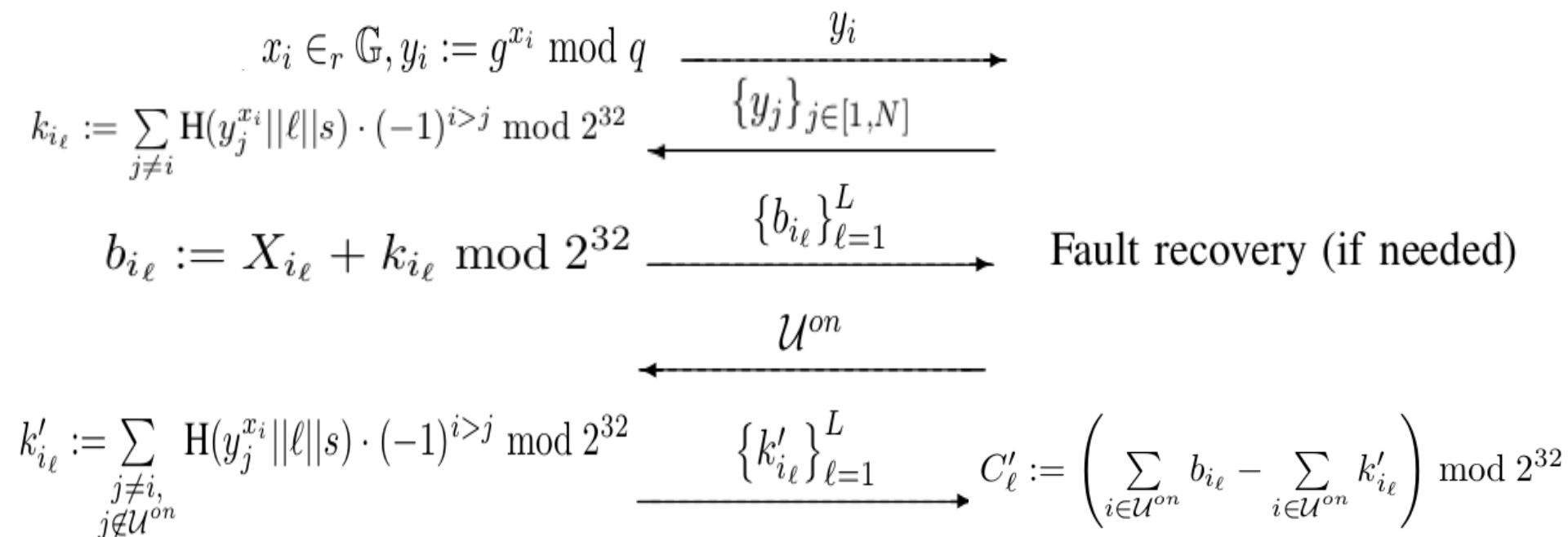
Users  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_N$ , each has  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N$  s.t.

$$k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_N = 0$$

Now how can I use this?

User  $\mathcal{U}_i$  ( $i \in [1, N]$ )

Tally



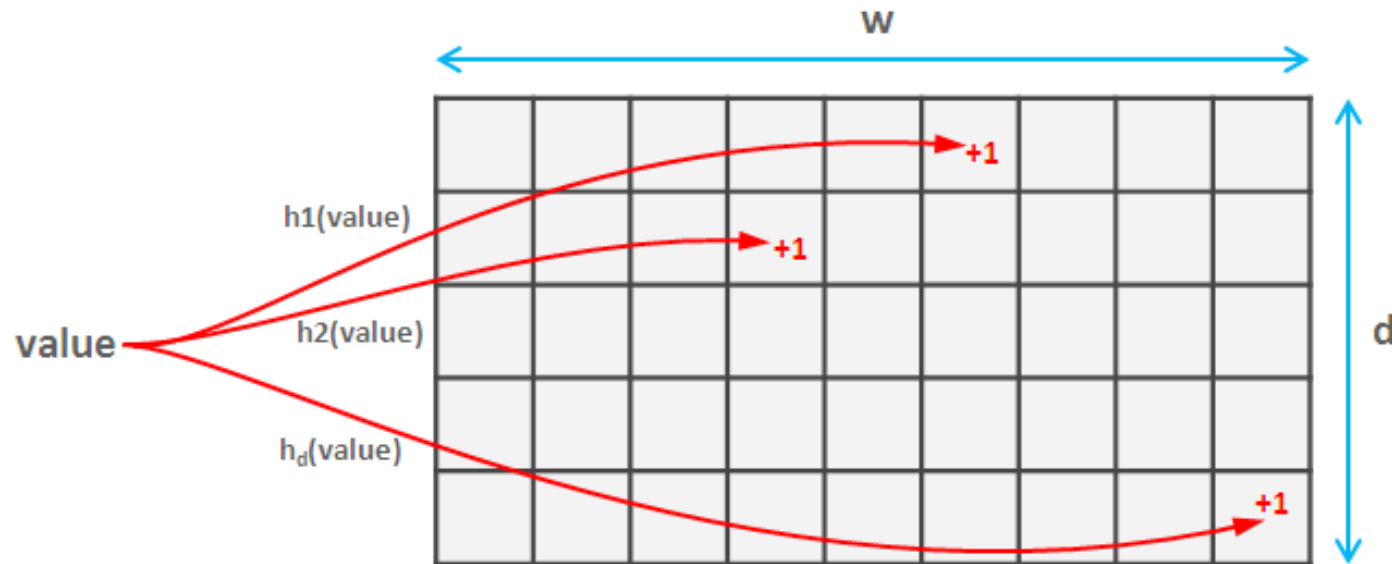
**Is this efficient?**

# Preliminaries: Count-Min Sketch

## An estimate of an item's frequency in a stream

Mapping a stream of values (of length  $T$ ) into a matrix of size  $O(\log T)$

The sum of two sketches results in the sketch of the union of the two data streams



# Security & Implementation

## Security

In the honest-but-curious model under the CDH assumption

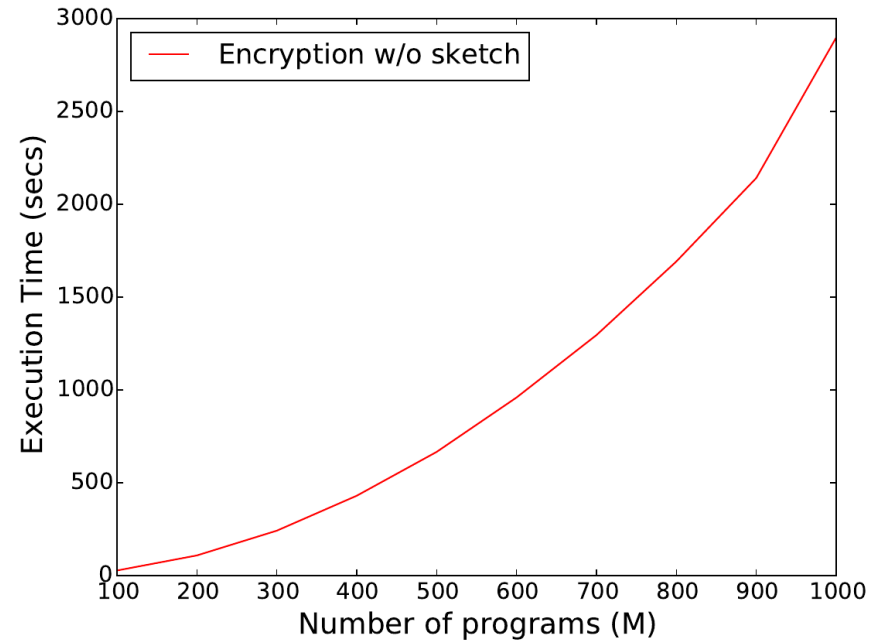
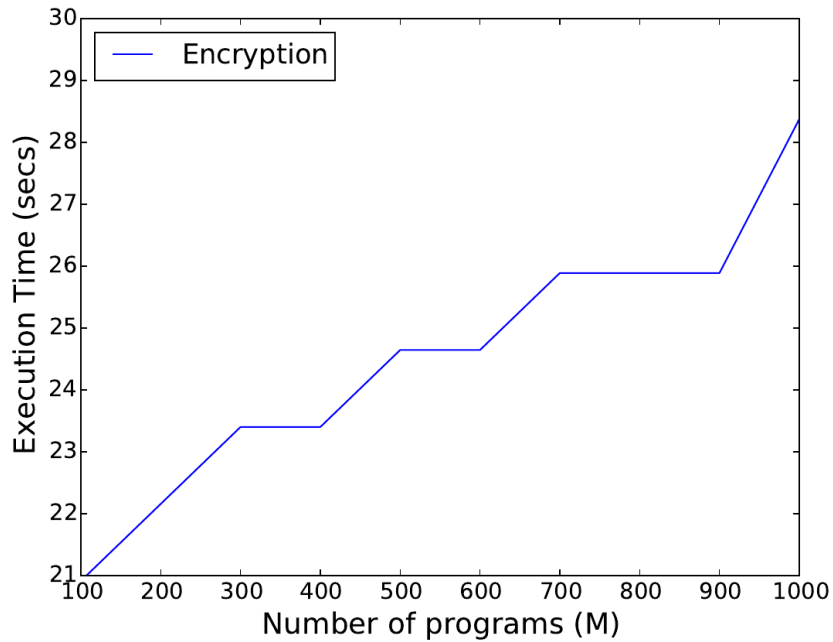
## Prototype implementation:

Tally as a Node.js web server

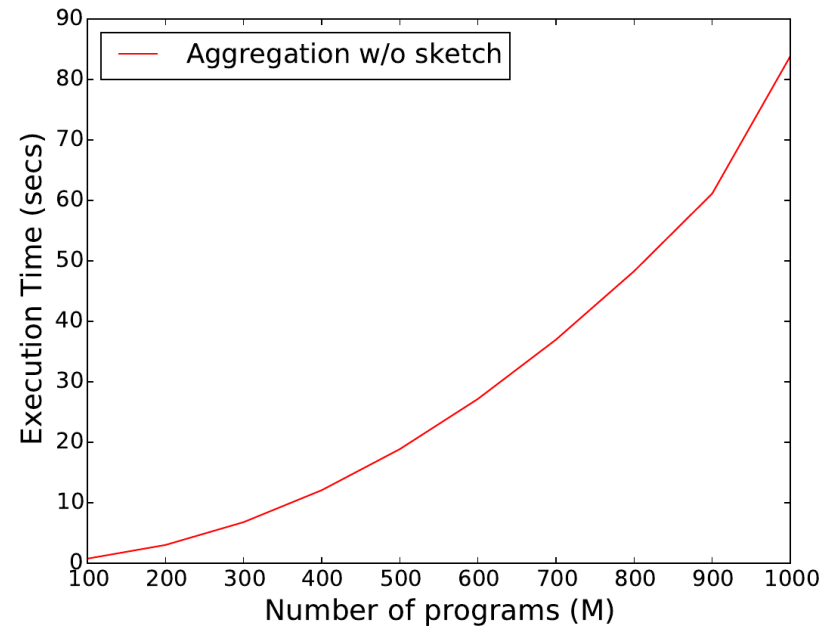
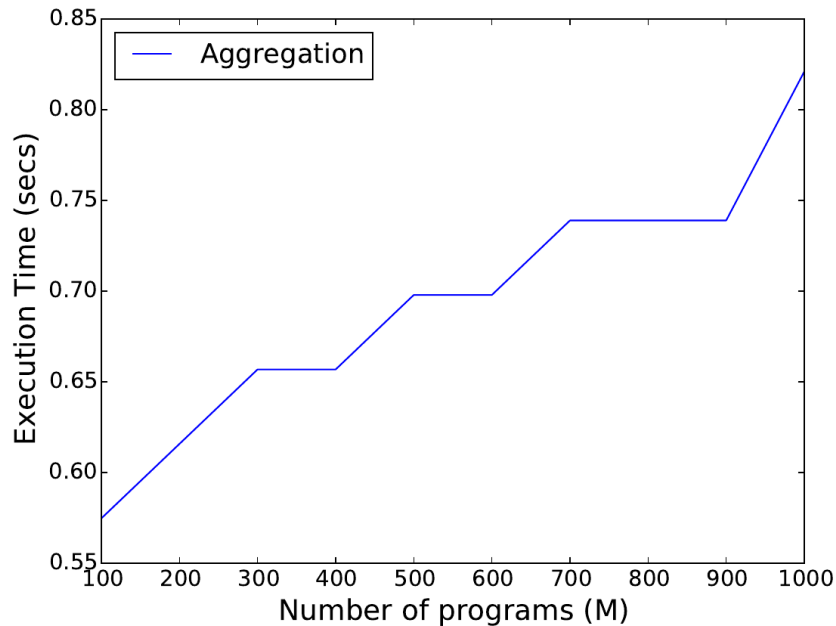
Users run in the browser or as a mobile cross-platform application (Apache Cordova)

**Transparency, ease of use, ease of deployment**

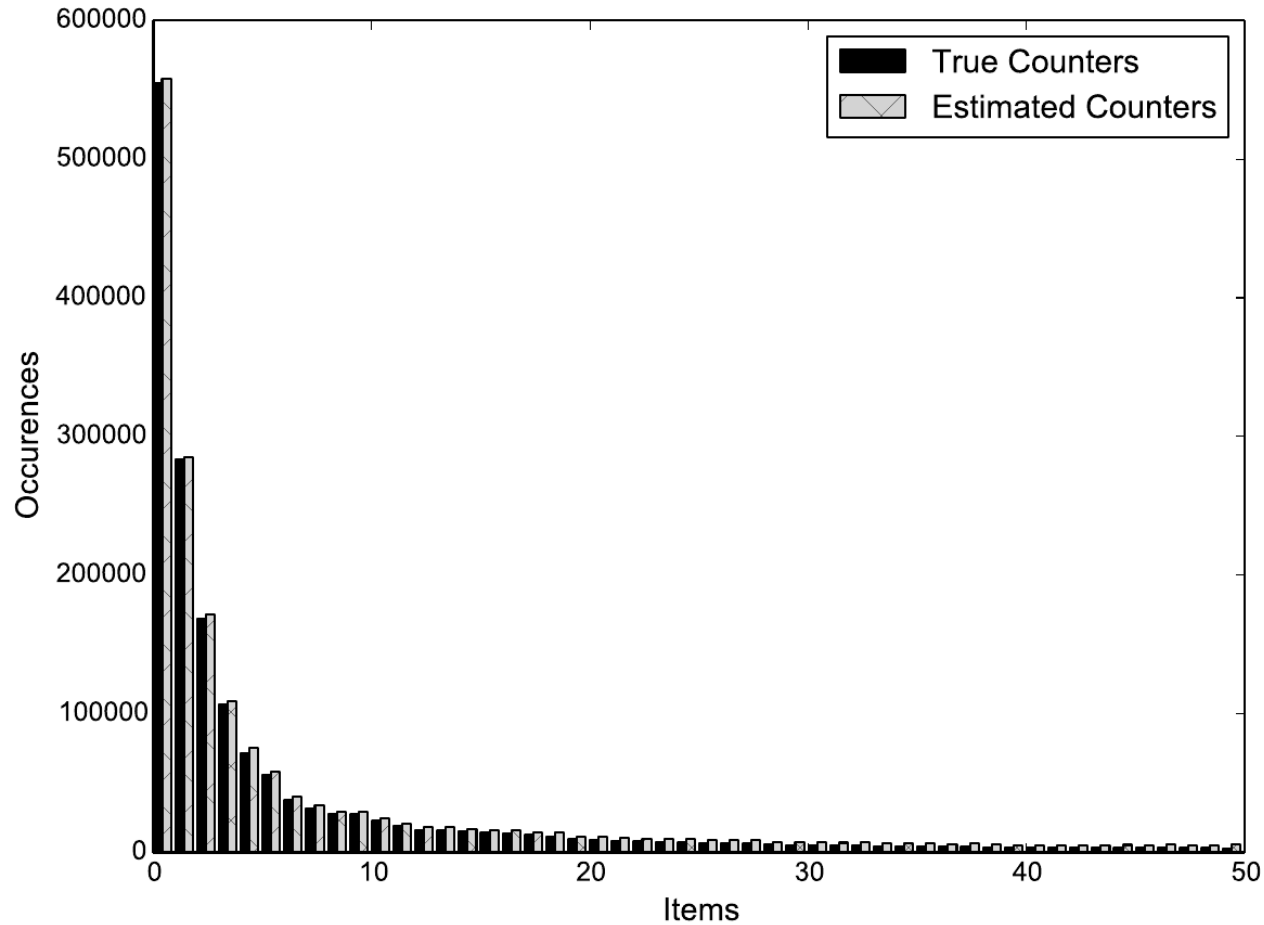
# User side



# Server side



# Accuracy



# Tor Hidden Services

Aggregate statistics about the number of hidden service descriptors from multiple HSDirs

Median statistics to ensure robustness

**Problem:** Computation of statistics from collected data can potentially de-anonymize individual Tor users or hidden services



# Private Tor Statistics?

We rely on:

- A set of authorities

- A homomorphic public-key scheme (AH-ECC)

- Count-Sketch (a variant of CMS)

Setup phase

- Each authority generates their public and private key

- A group public key is computed

# Private Tor Statistics?

Each HSDir (router) builds a Count-Sketch, inserts its values, encrypts it, sends it to a set of authorities

The authorities:

- Add the encrypted sketches element-wise to generate one sketch characterizing the overall network traffic

- Execute a divide and conquer algorithm on this sketch to estimate the median

# How we do it (1/2)

The range of the possible values is known

On each iteration, the range is halved and the sum of all the elements on each half is computed

Depending on which half the median falls in, the range is updated and again halved

Process stops once the range is a single element

# How we do it (2/2)

## Output privacy:

Volume of reported values within each step is leaked

Provide *differential privacy* by adding Laplacian noise to each intermediate value

# Evaluating

## **Experimental setup:**

1200 samples from a mixture distribution

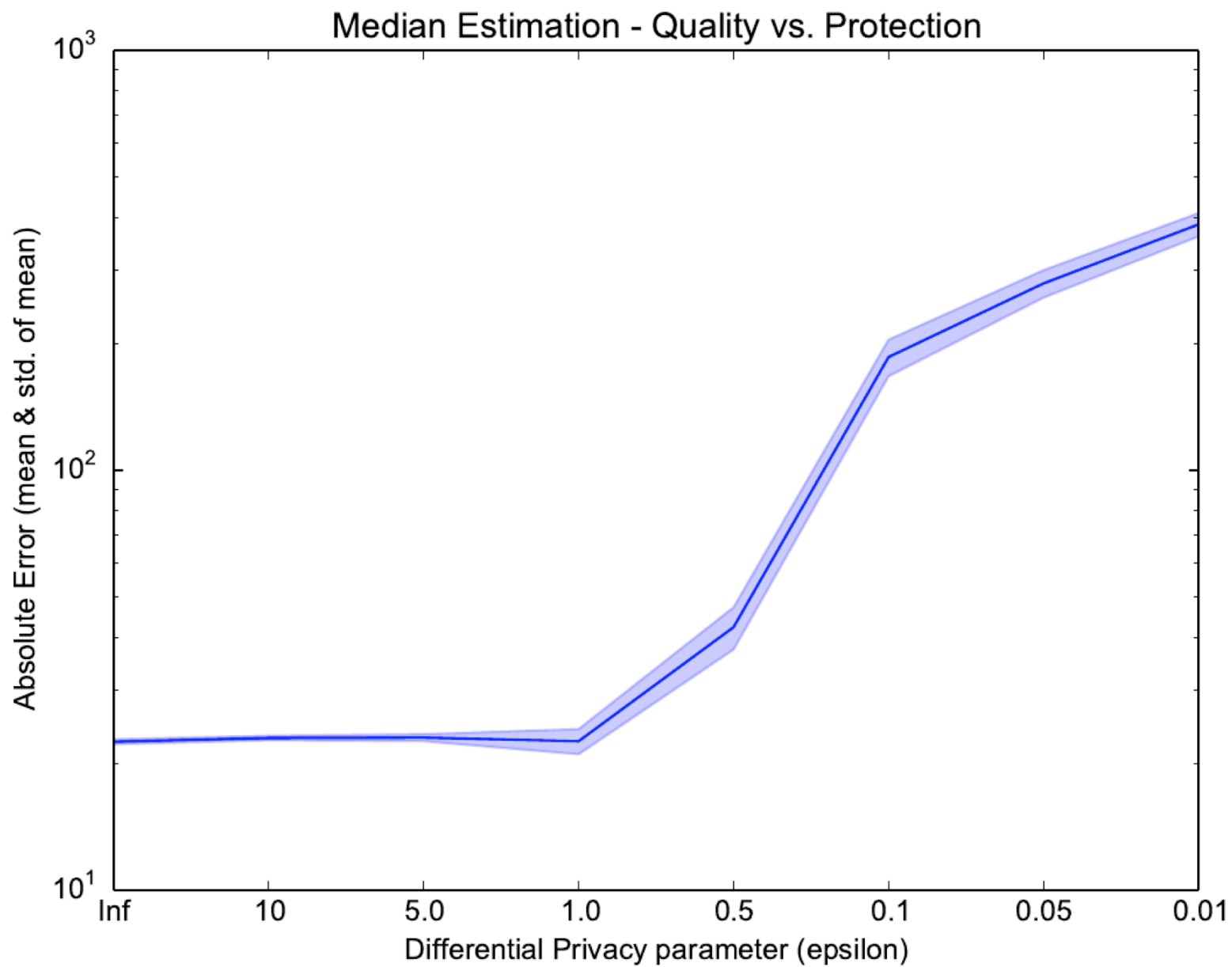
Range of values in  $[0, 1000]$

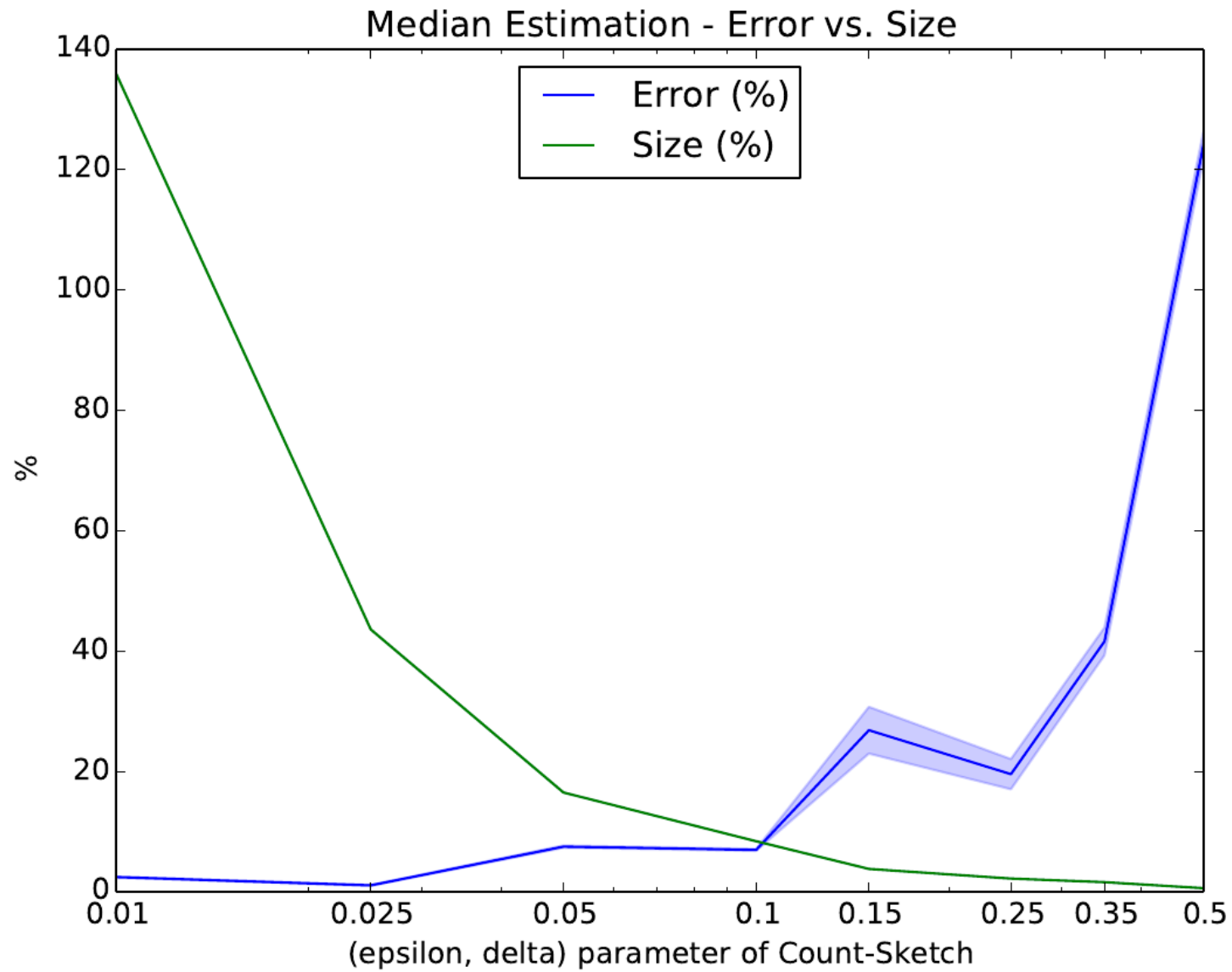
## **Performance evaluation:**

Python implementation (*petlib*)

1 ms to encrypt a sketch (of size 165) for each HSDir and

1.5 sec to aggregate 1200 sketches





# **Collaborative Threat Mitigation**



# Collaborative Anomaly Detection

## Anomaly detection is hard

Suspicious activities deliberately mimic normal behavior

But, malevolent actors often use same resources

## Wouldn't it be better if organizations collaborated?

It's a w

**“It is the policy of the United States Government to increase the volume, timelines, and quality of cyber threat information shared with U.S. private sector entities so that these entities may better protect and defend themselves against cyber attacks.”**

**Barack Obama  
2013 State of the Union Address**

# Problems with Collaborations

## **Trust**

Will others leak my data?

## **Legal Liability**

Will I be sued for sharing customer data?

Will others find me negligible?

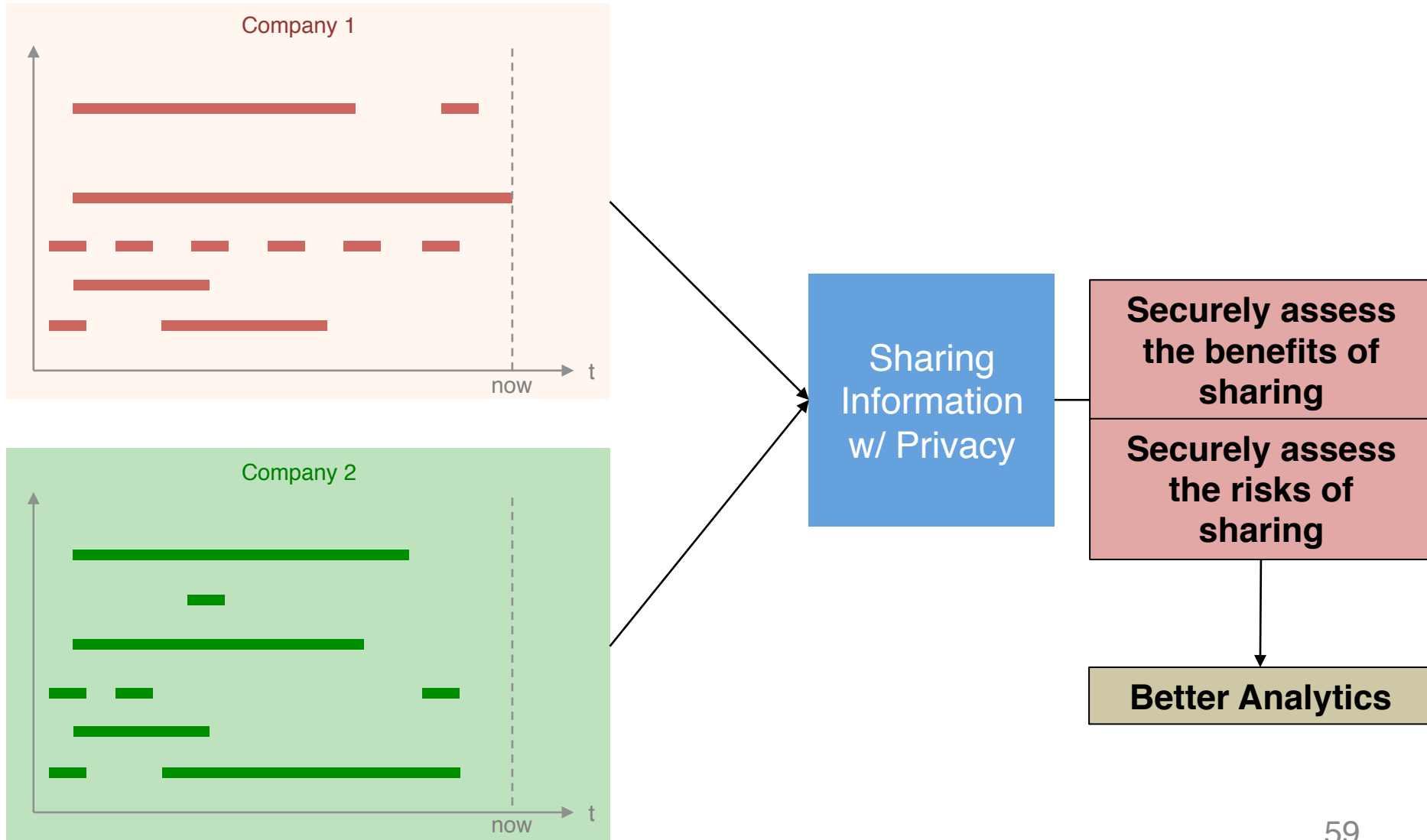
## **Competitive concerns**

Will my competitors outperform me?

## **Shared data quality**

Will data be reliable?

# Solution Intuition [FDB15]



# 1. Estimate Benefits

What are good **indicators** of the fact that sharing will be beneficial?

- Many attackers in common?
- Many similar attacks in common?
- Many correlated attacks in common?

## 2. Select Partners

How do I **choose** who to collaborate with?

- Collaborate with the top-k?
- Collaborate if benefit above threshold?
- Hybrid?

# 3. Merge

Once we partnered up, **what** do we share?

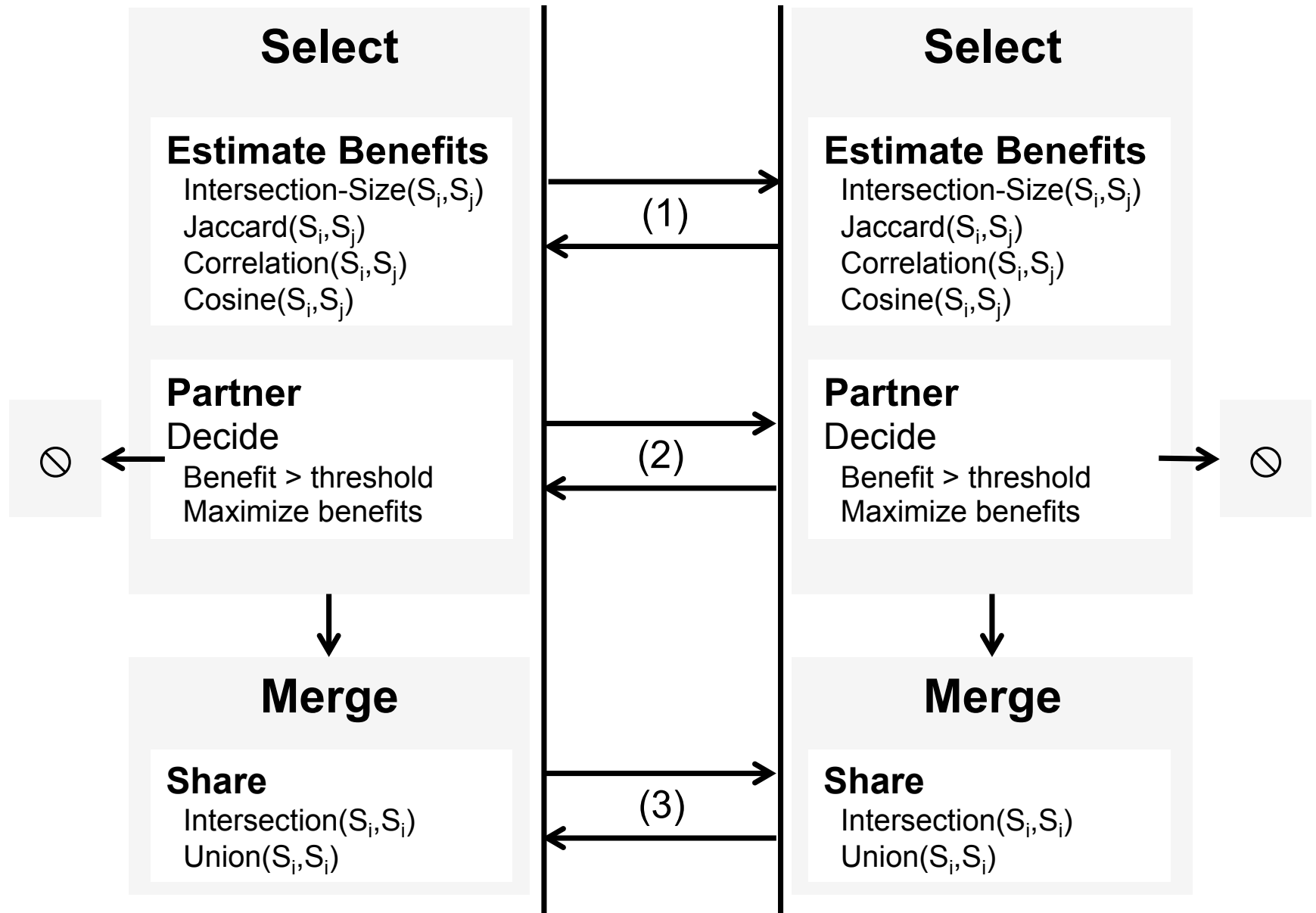
- Everything?
- Just what we have in common?
- Just information about attacks or also metadata?

# System Model

Network of  $n$  entities  $\{V_i\}$  (for  $i=1, \dots, n$ )

Each  $V_i$  holds a dataset  $S_i$  of suspicious events

E.g., events in the form  $\langle IP, time, port \rangle$  as observed by a firewall or an IDS





# Privacy-preserving benefit estimation

Metric	Operation	Private Protocol
<b>Intersection-Size</b>	$ S_i \cap S_j $	Private Set Intersection Cardinality (PSI-CA)
<b>Jaccard</b>	$\frac{ S_i \cap S_j }{ S_i \cup S_j }$	Private Jaccard Similarity (PJS)
<b>Pearson</b>	$\sum_{l=1}^N \frac{(s_{il} - \mu_i)(s_{jl} - \mu_j)}{N\sigma_i\sigma_j}$	Garbled Circuits (2PC)
<b>Cosine</b>	$\frac{\vec{S}_i \vec{S}_j}{\ \vec{S}_i\  \ \vec{S}_j\ }$	Private Cosine Similarity (PCS)

# Privacy-preserving data sharing

Metric	Operation	Private Protocol
<b>Intersection</b>	$ S_i \cap S_j $	Private Set Intersection (PSI)
<b>Intersection with Associated Data</b>	$\{\langle \text{IP, time, port} \rangle \mid \text{IP} \in S_i \cap S_j\}$	Private Set Intersection w/ Data Transfer (PSI-DT)
<b>Union with Associated Data</b>	$\{\langle \text{IP, time, port} \rangle \mid \text{IP} \in S_i \cup S_j\}$	-

# The Road Ahead...

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