

Authenticated private information retrieval

USENIX Security Symposium 2023

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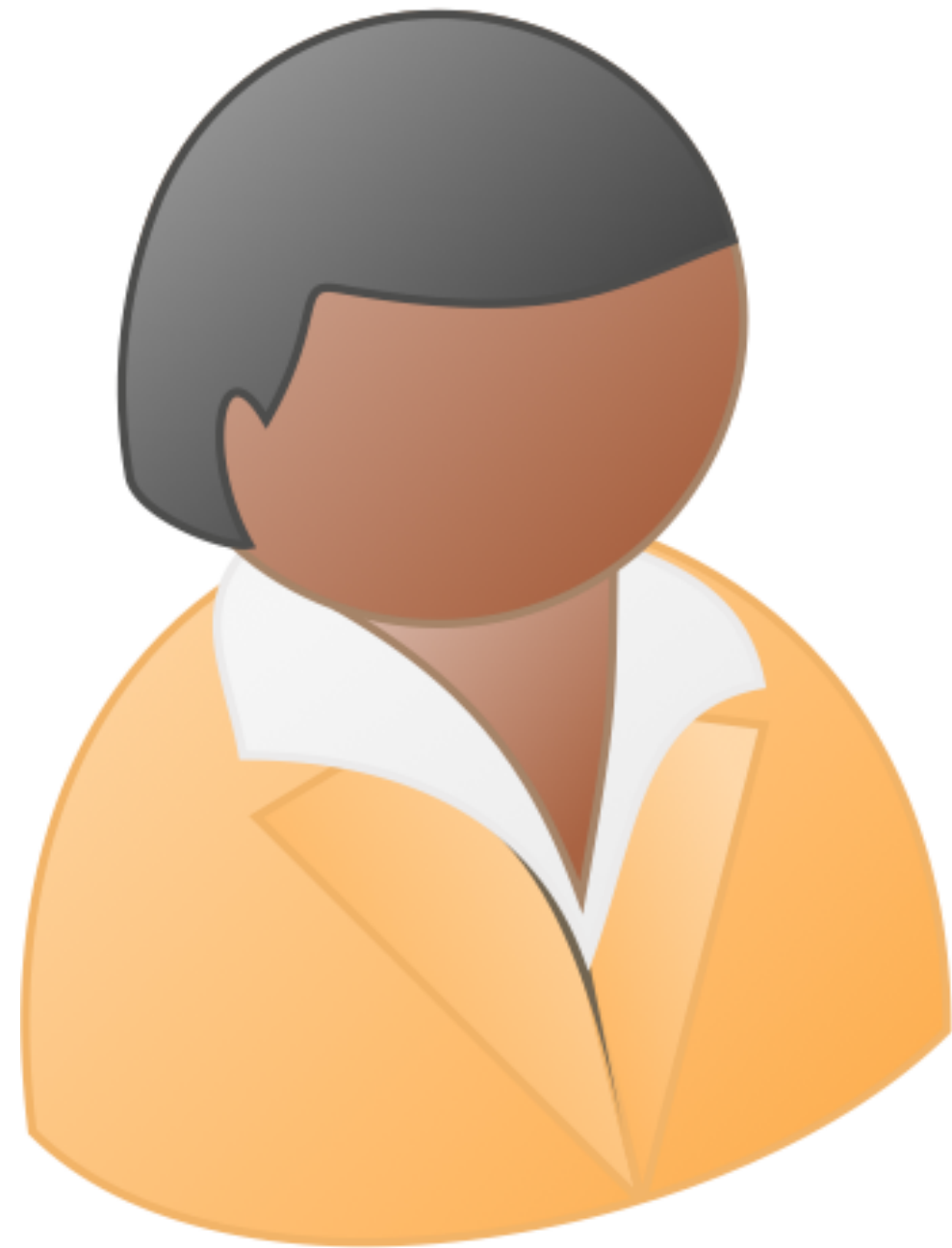
Henry Corrigan-Gibbs
MIT

David J. Wu
UT Austin

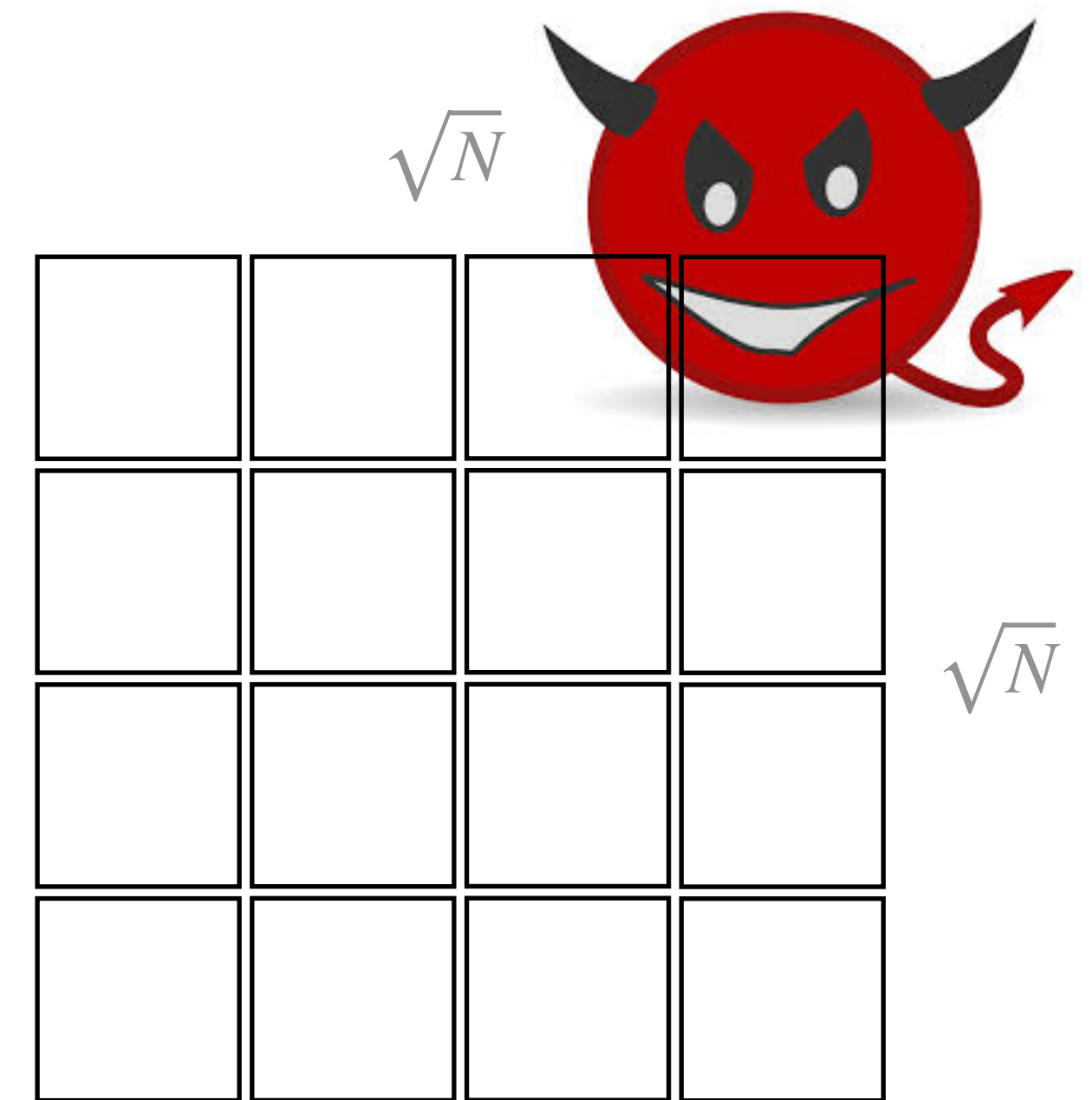
Bryan Ford
EPFL

Private information retrieval (PIR) [CGKS95]

holds index $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$



holds database $d \in \mathbb{F}^N$



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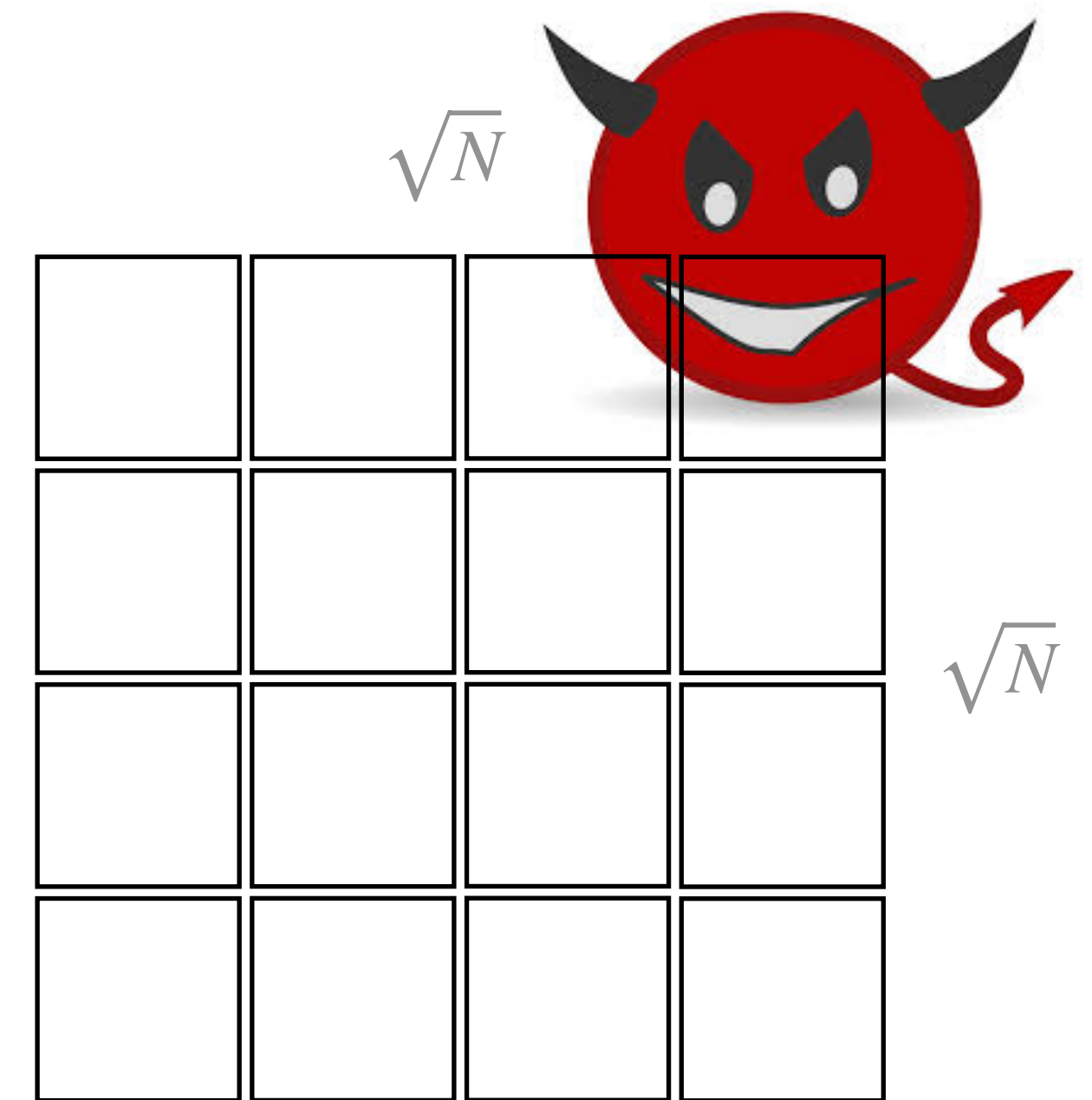
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learns d_i

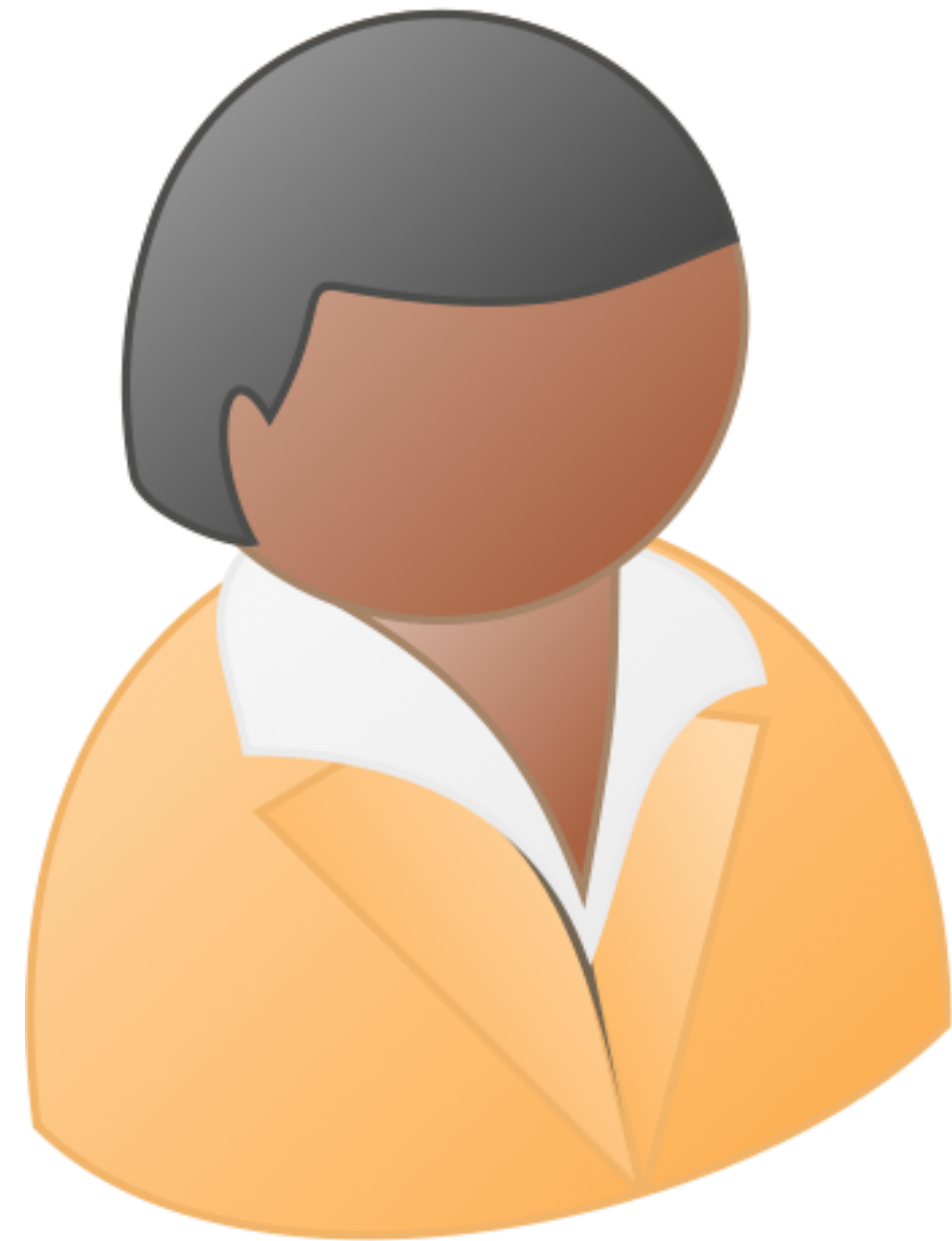


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Private information retrieval (PIR) [CGKS95]

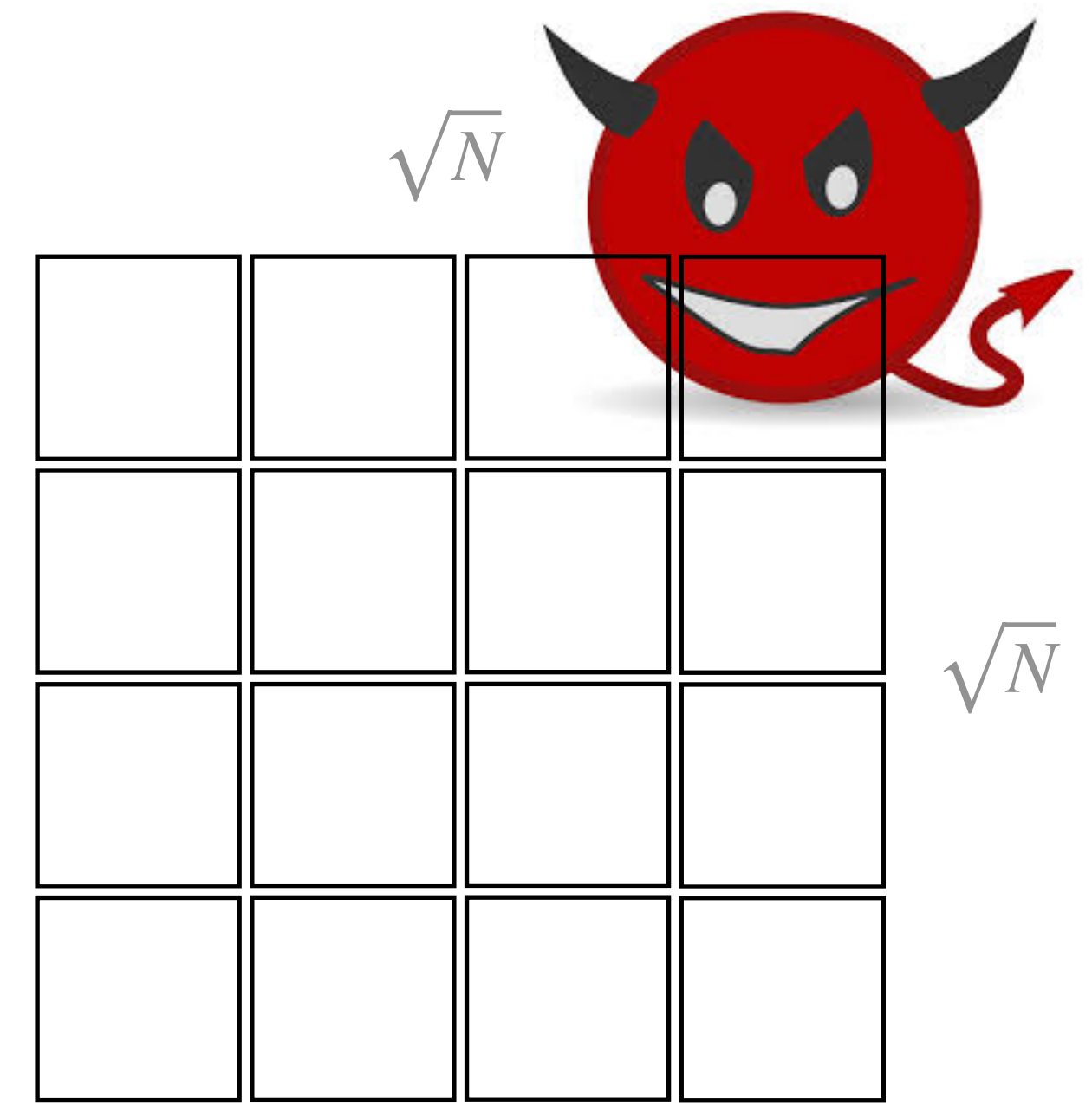
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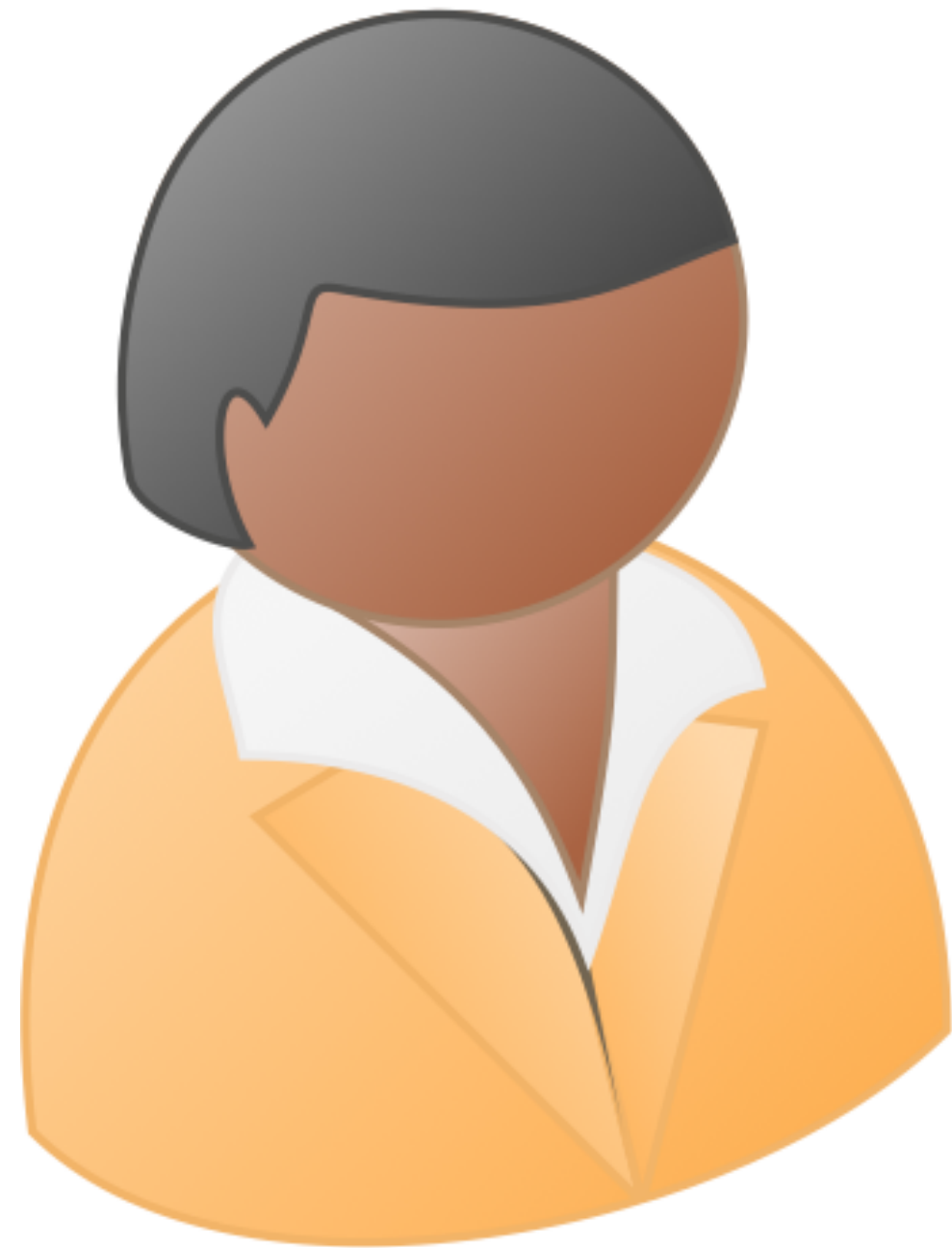
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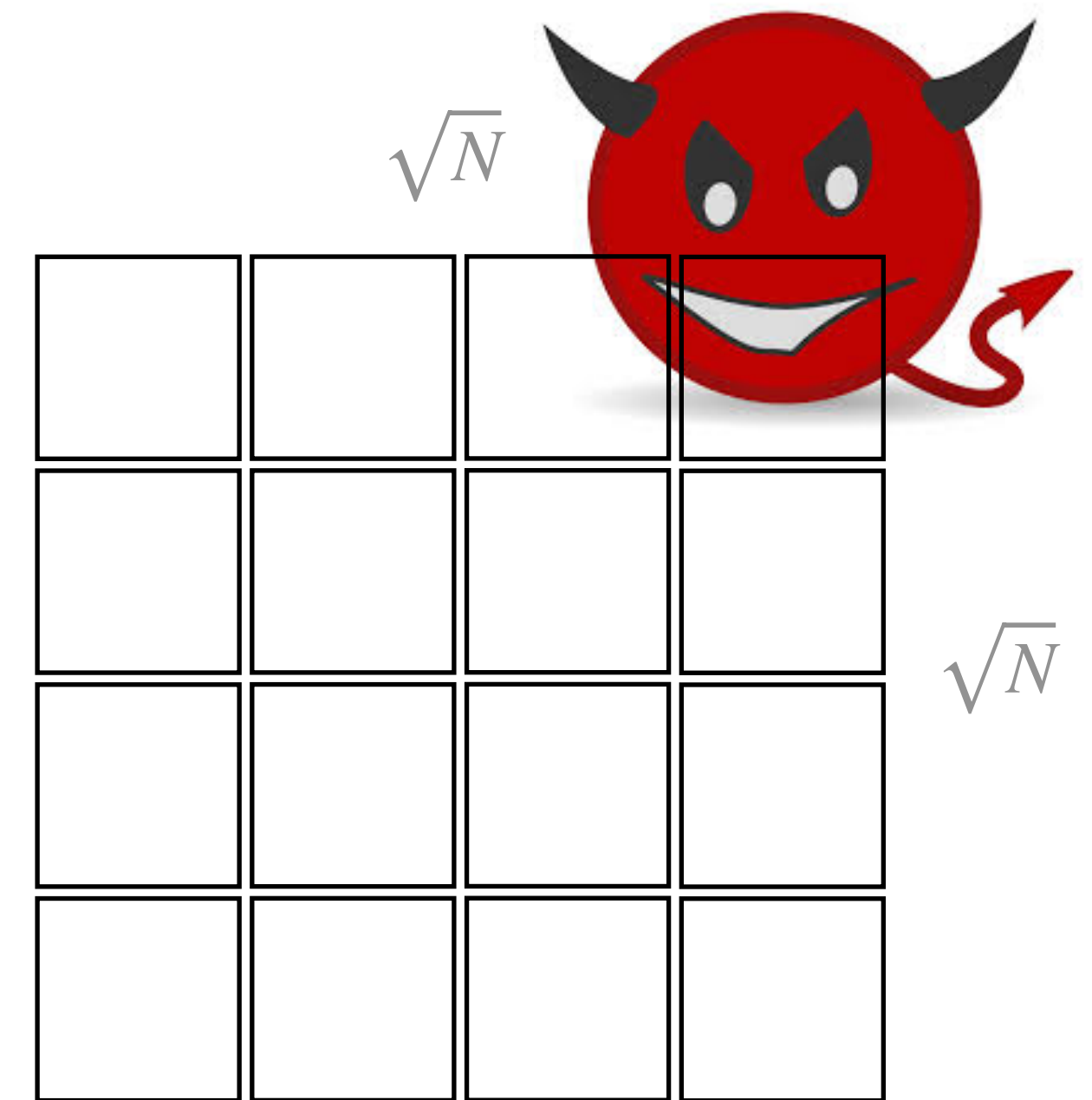
learns nothing

Private information retrieval (PIR) [CGKS95,WYGVZ17]

holds function $f: \mathbb{F}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$

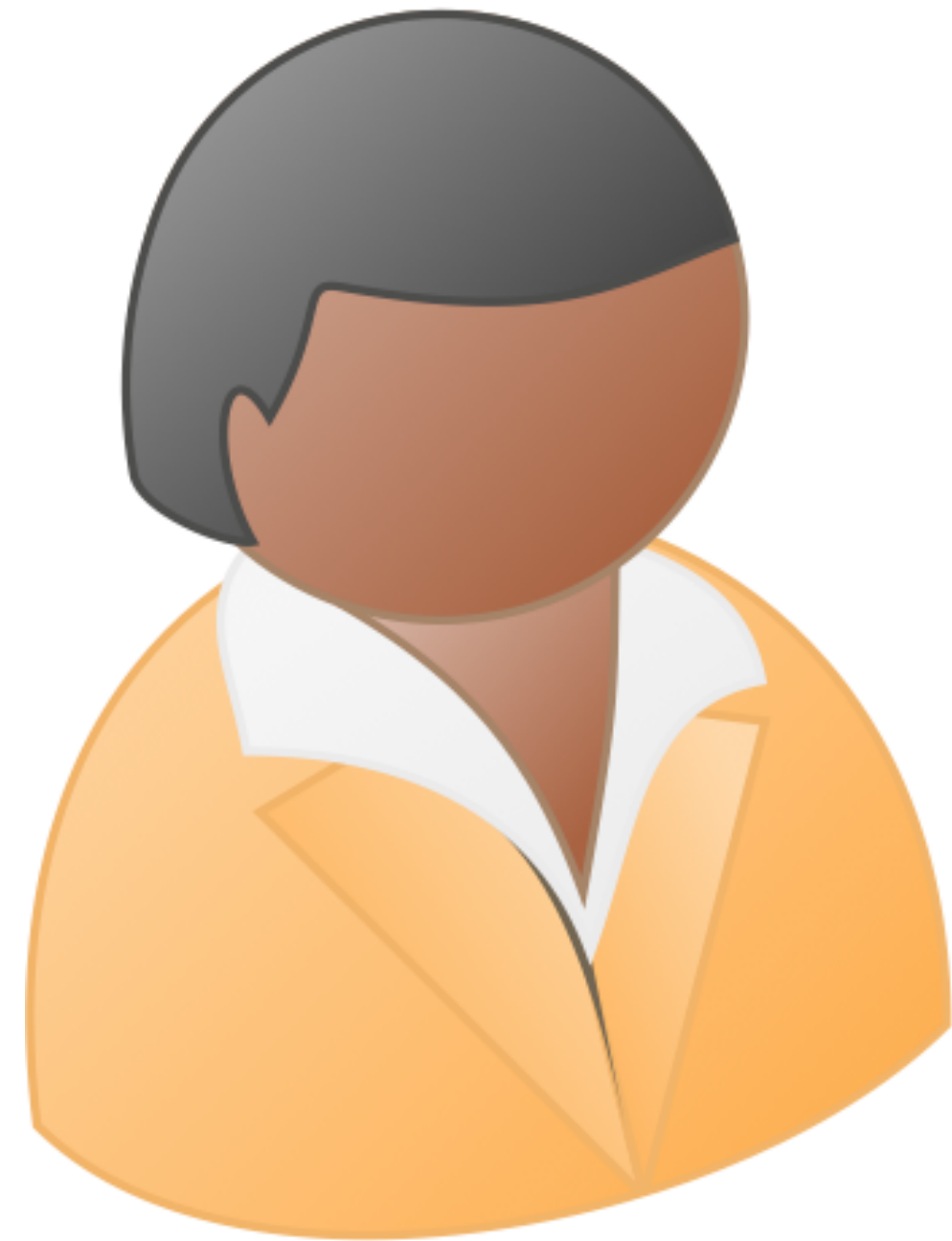


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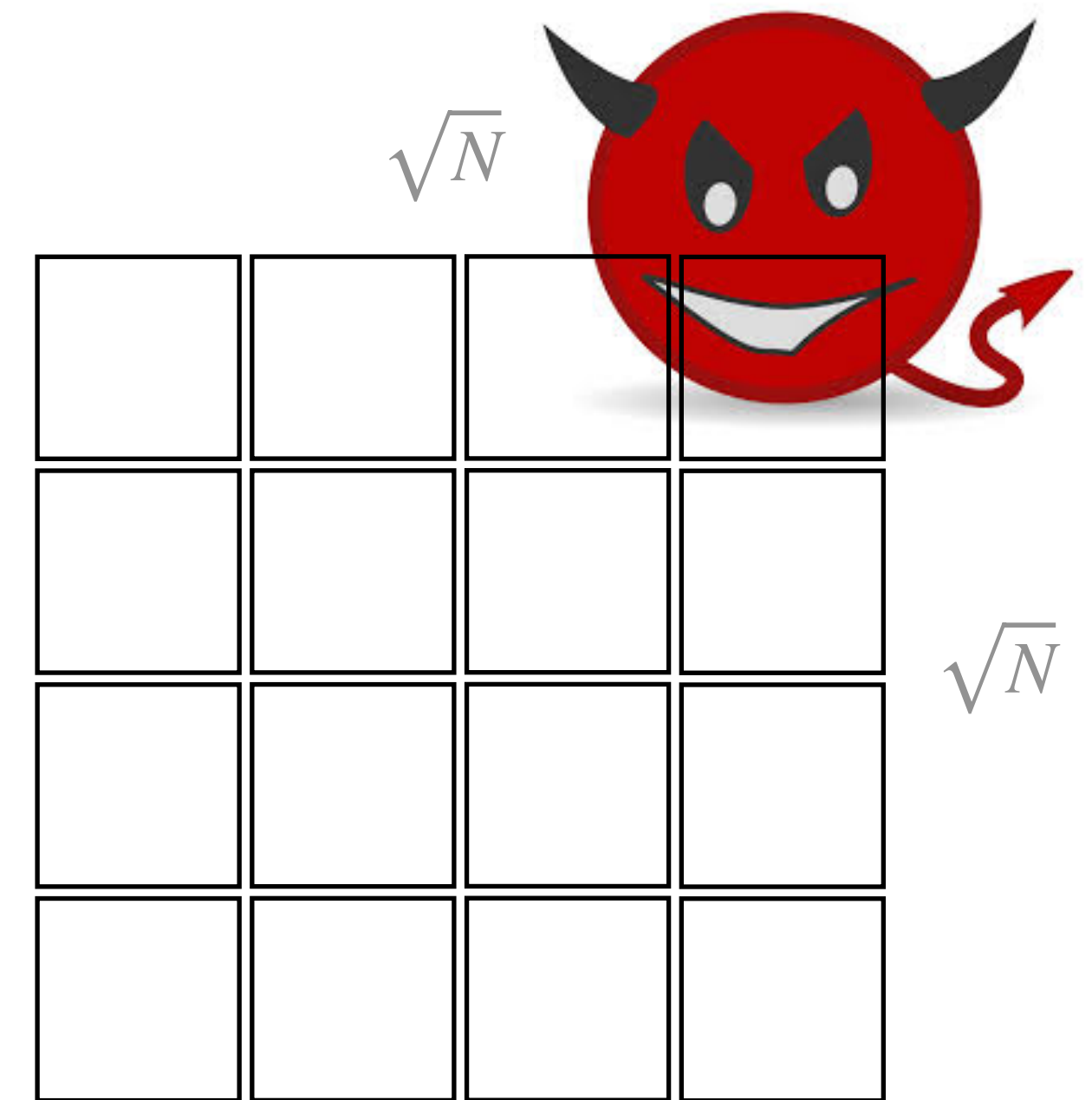
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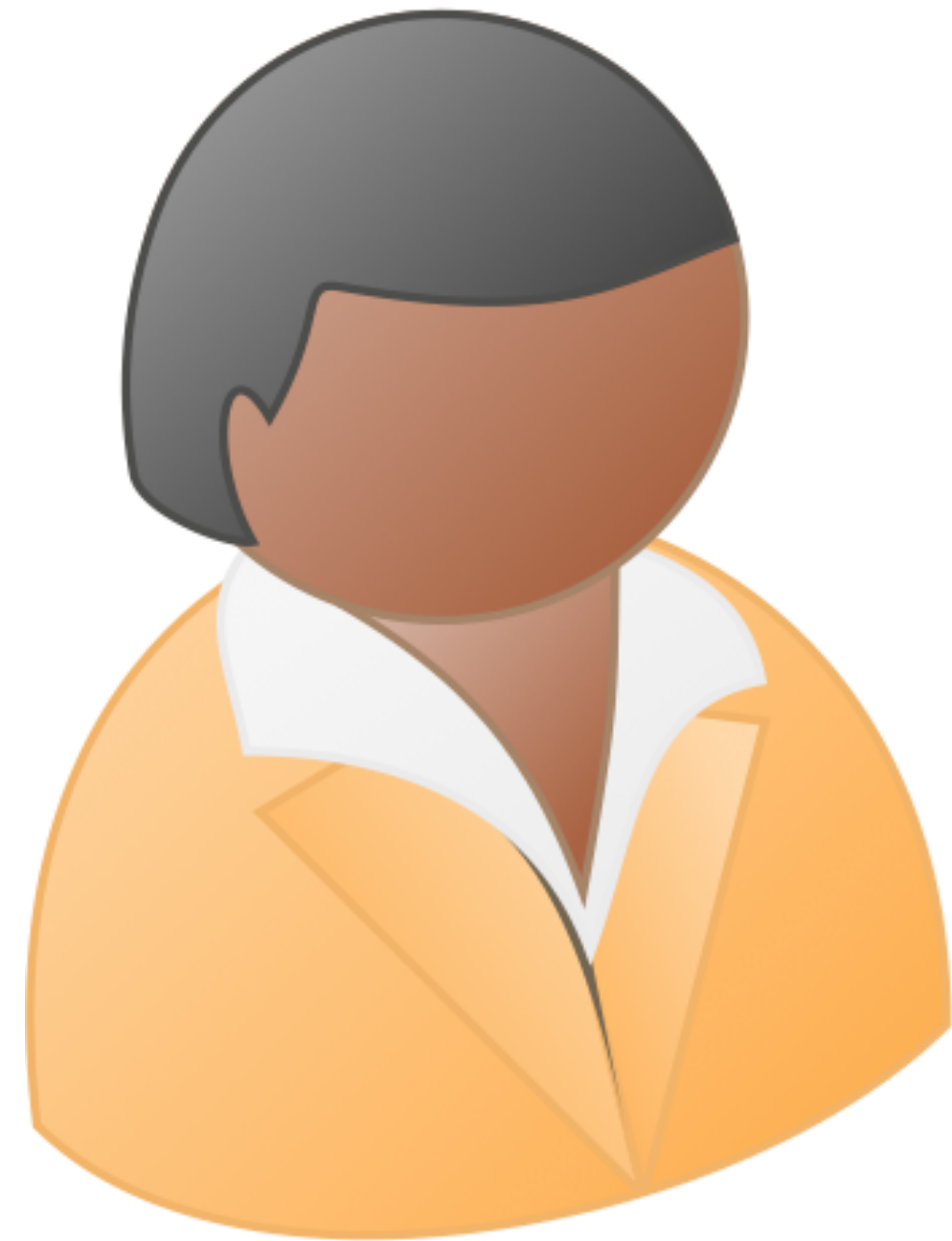


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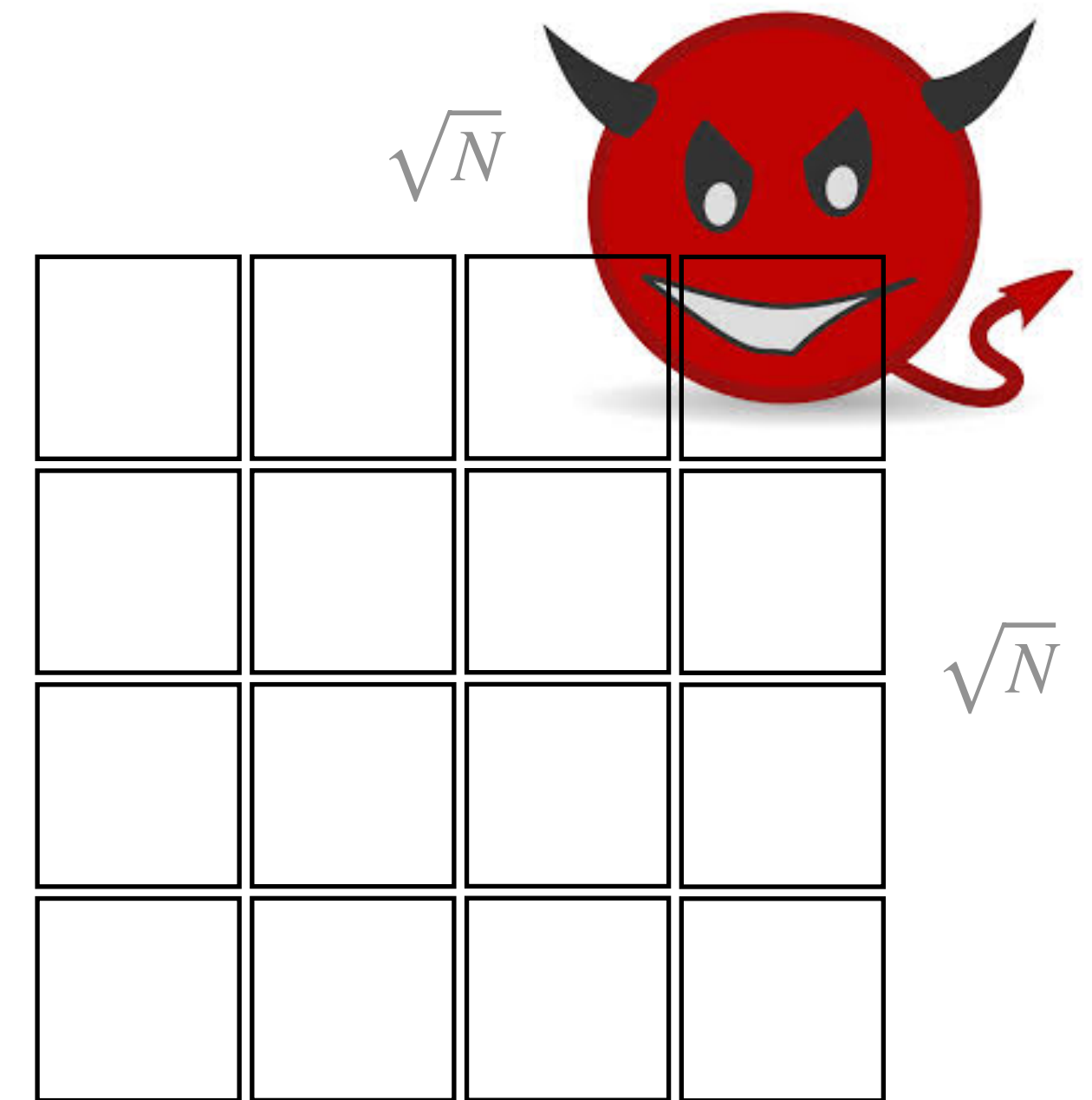
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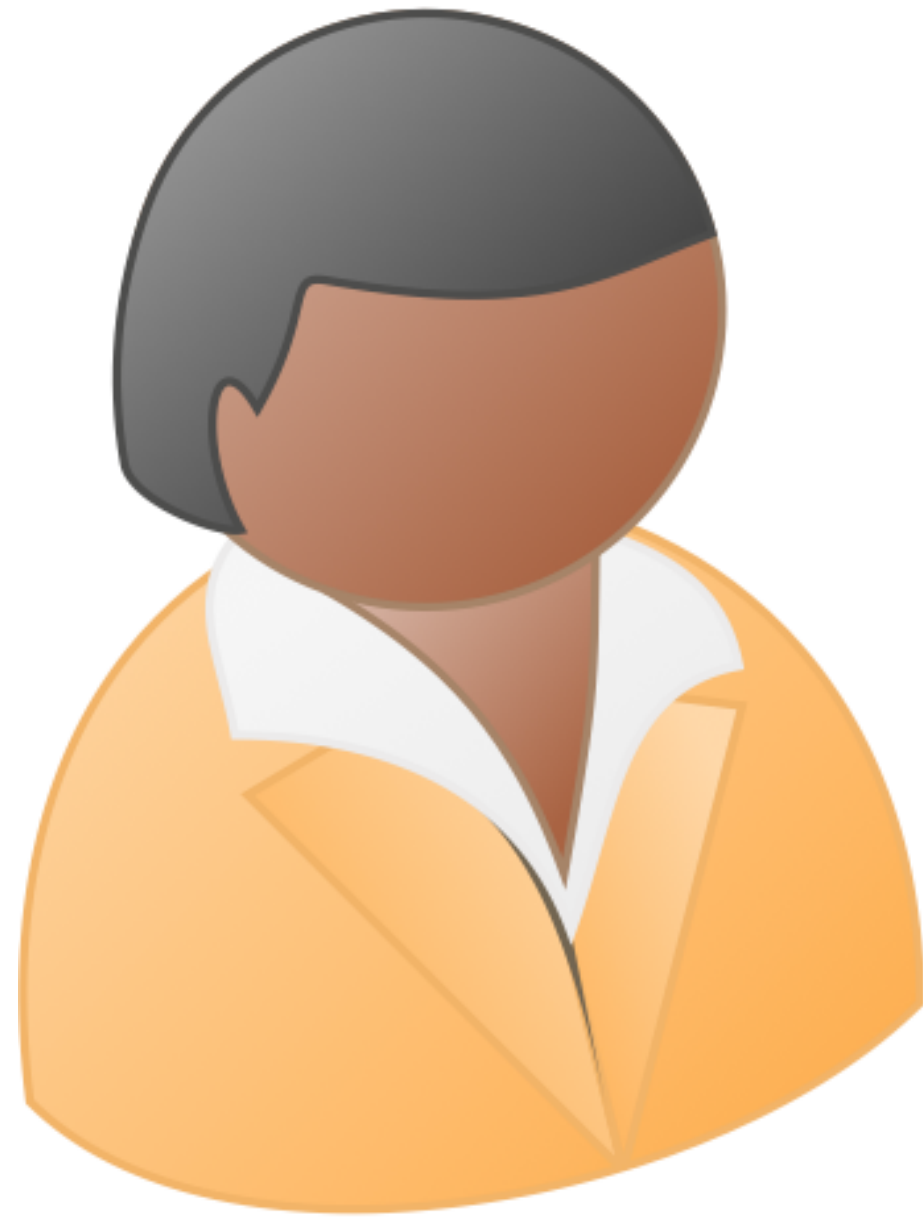


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An example application: PGP key server

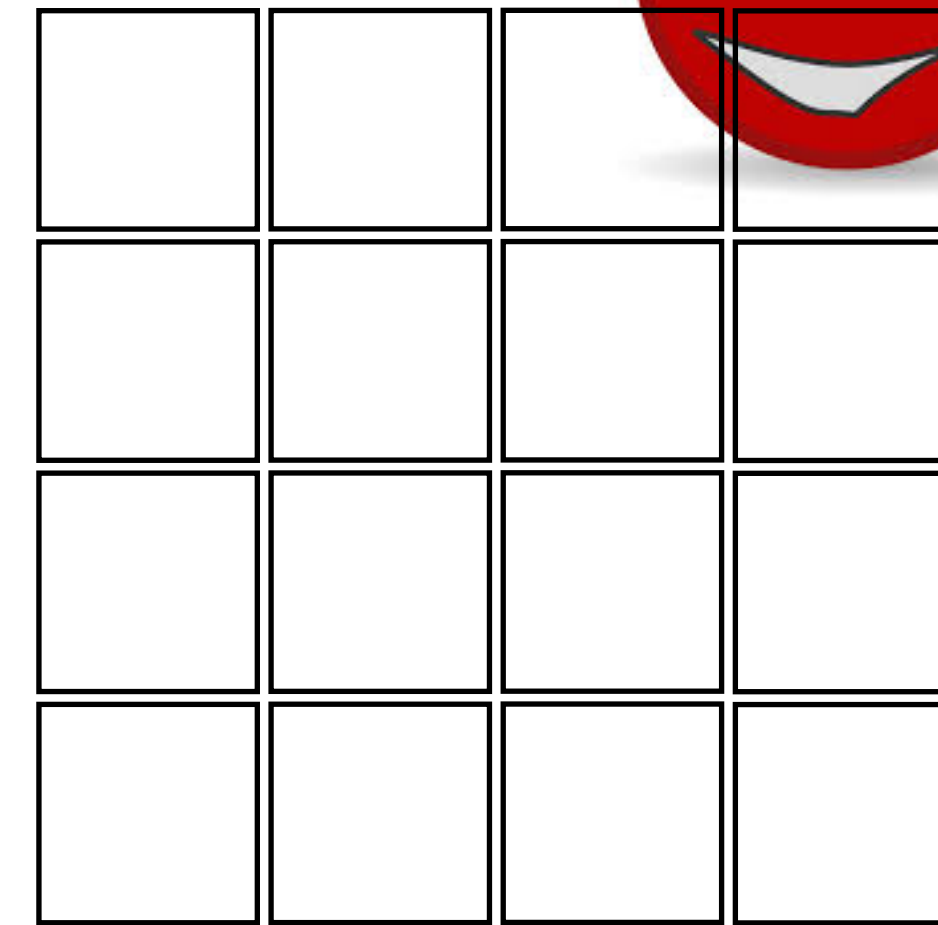


PGP key server

An example application: PGP key server

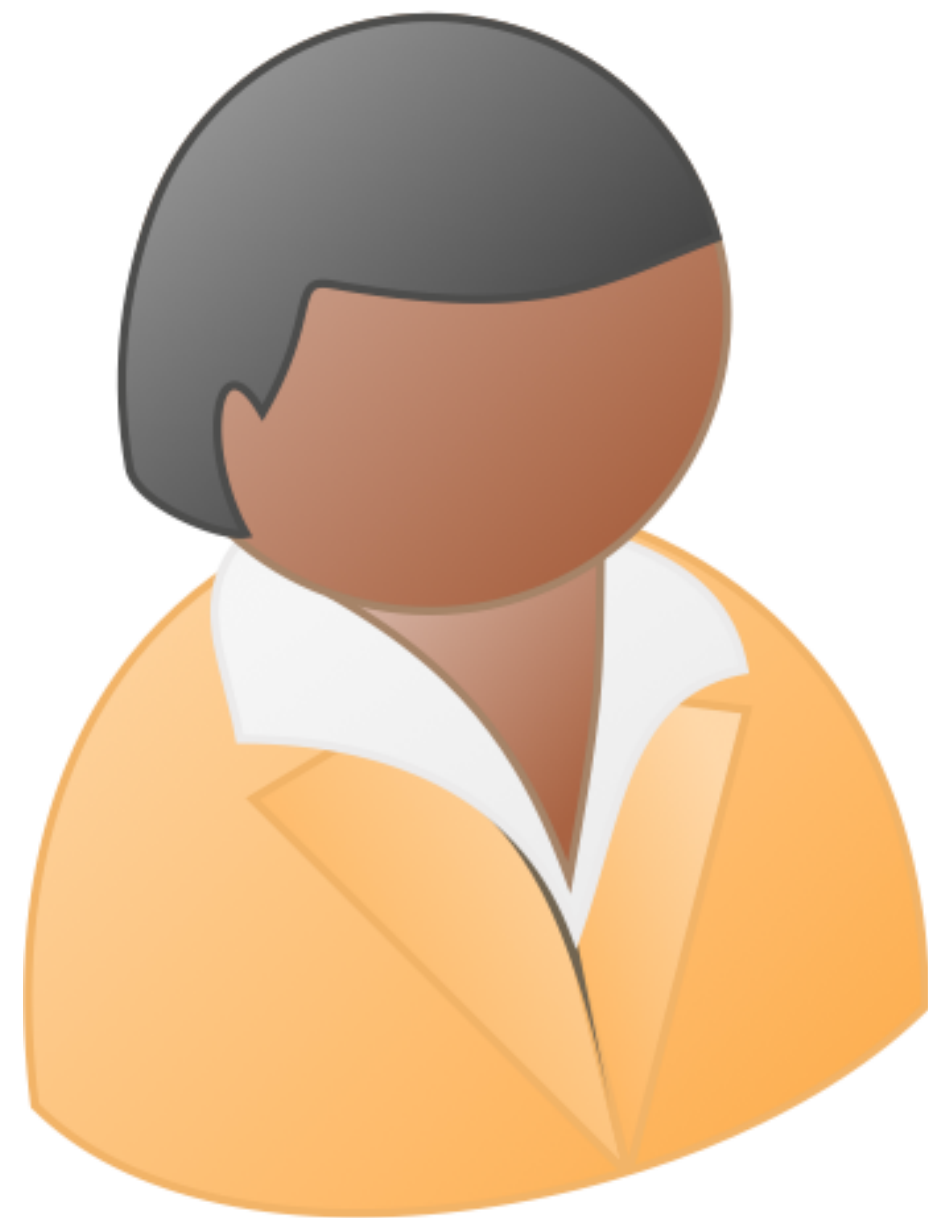


Bob's public key?



PGP key server

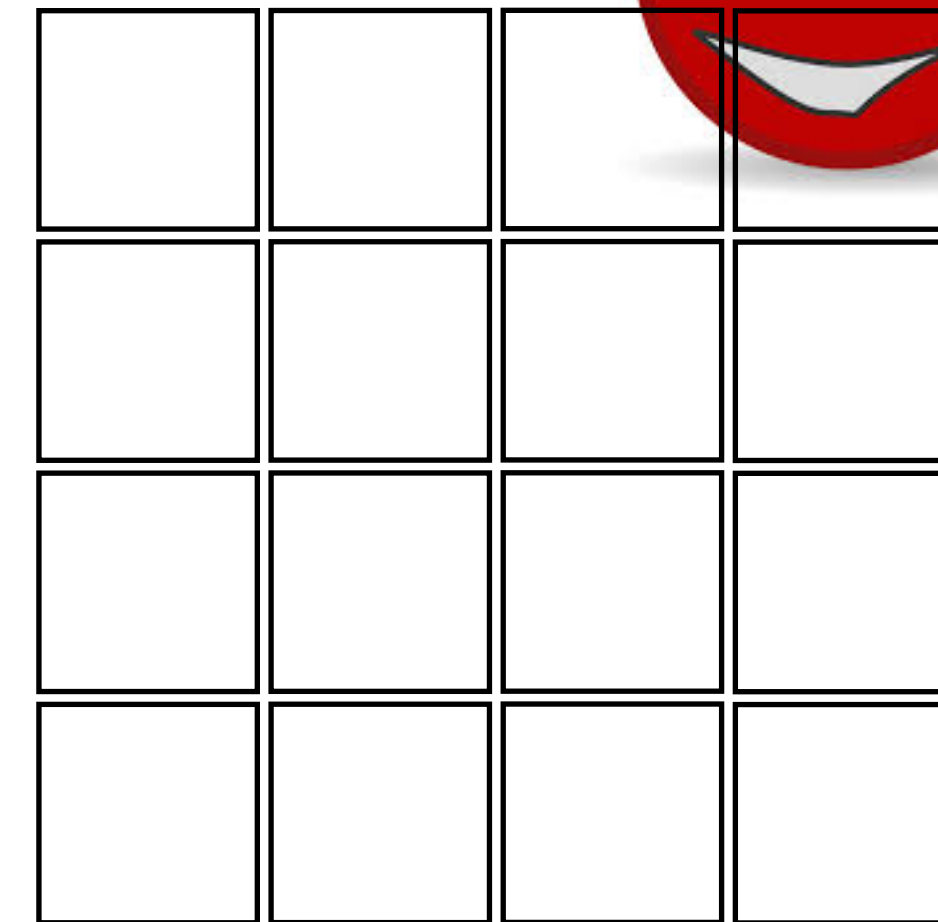
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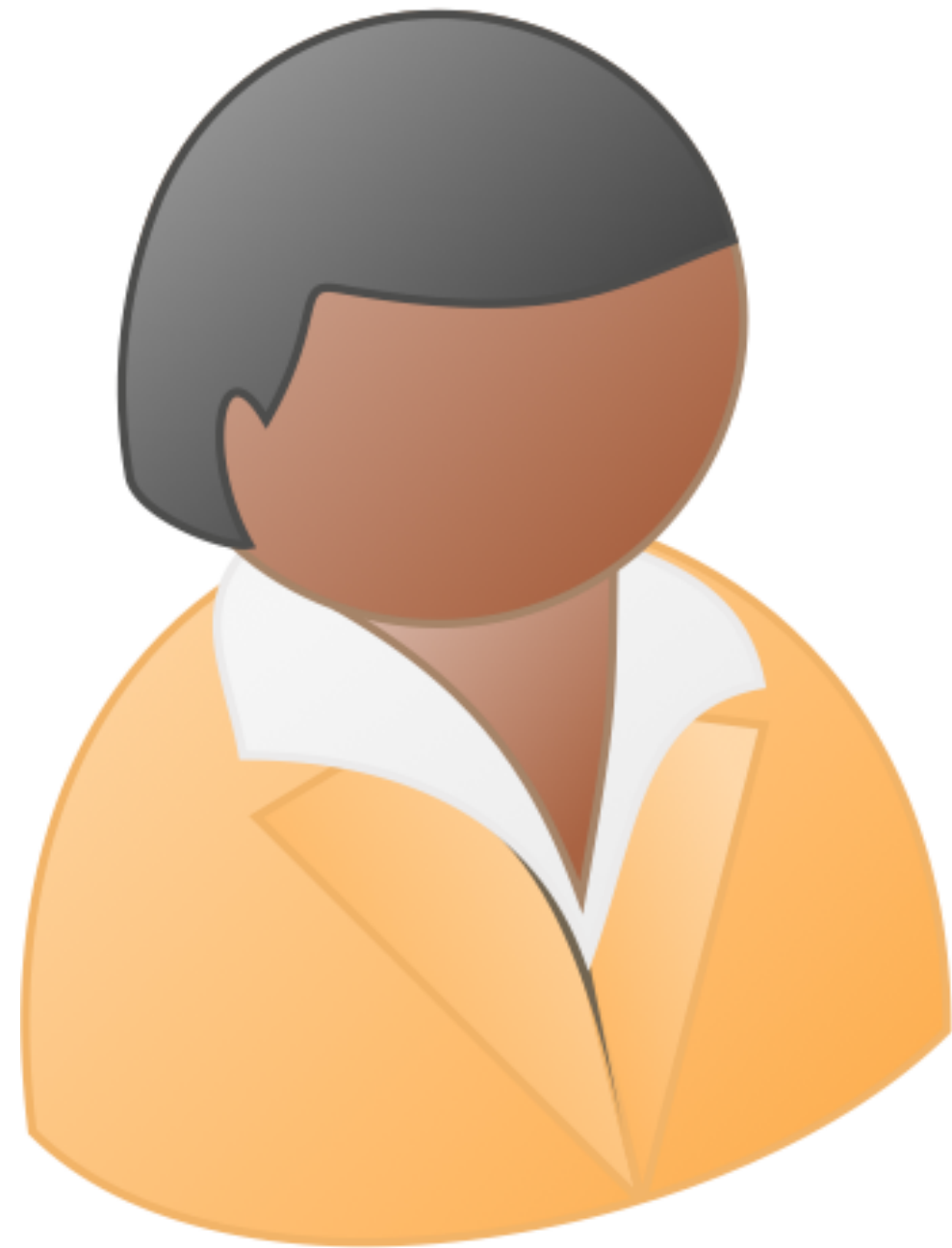
pk_{Bob}



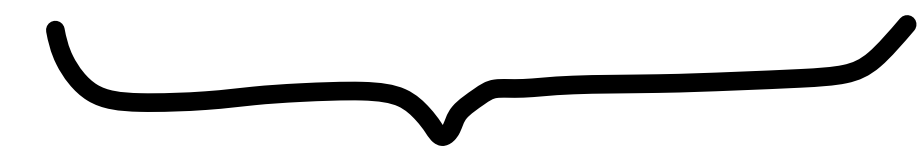
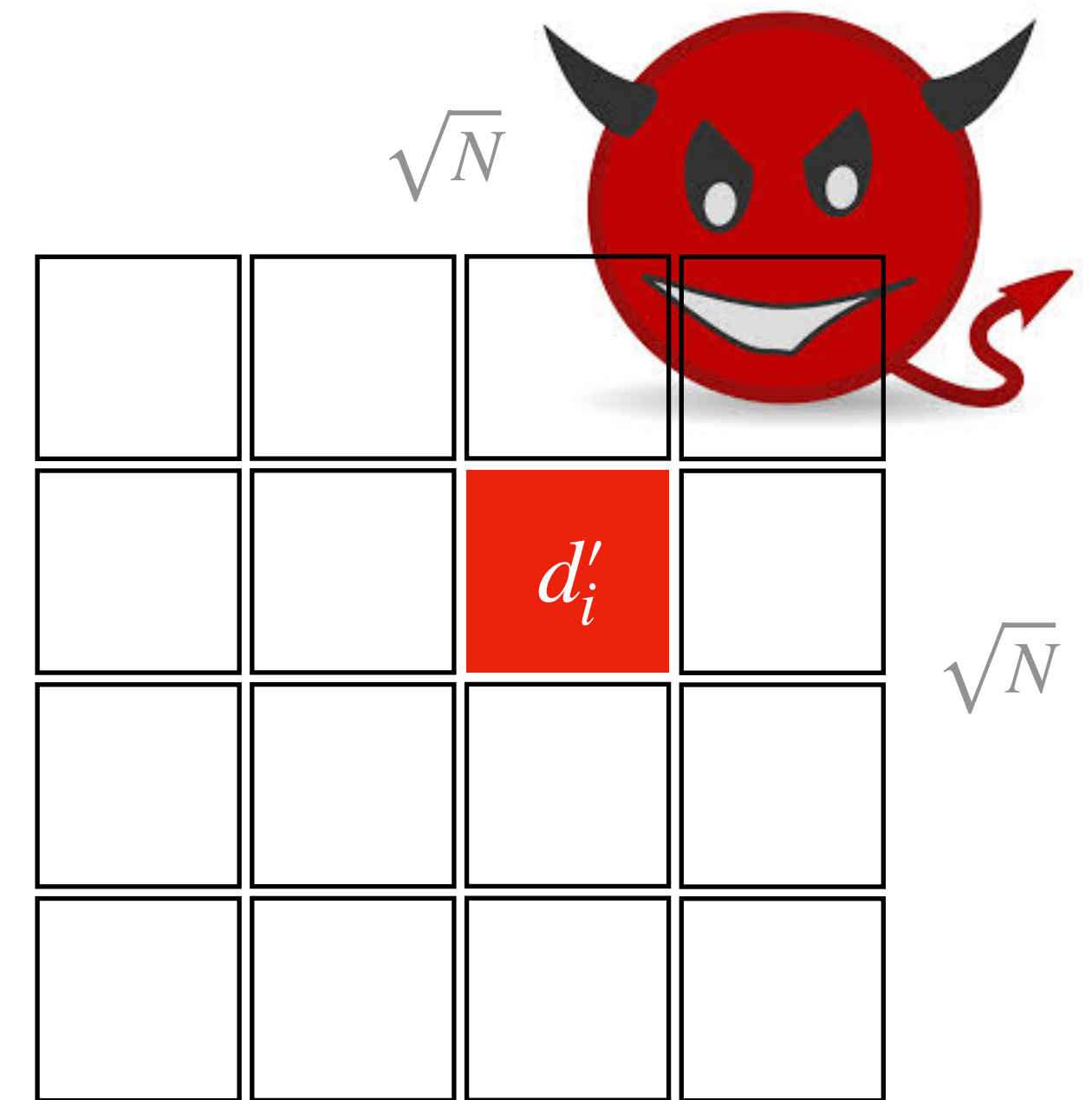
PGP key server

PIR does not consider integrity

holds index $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$



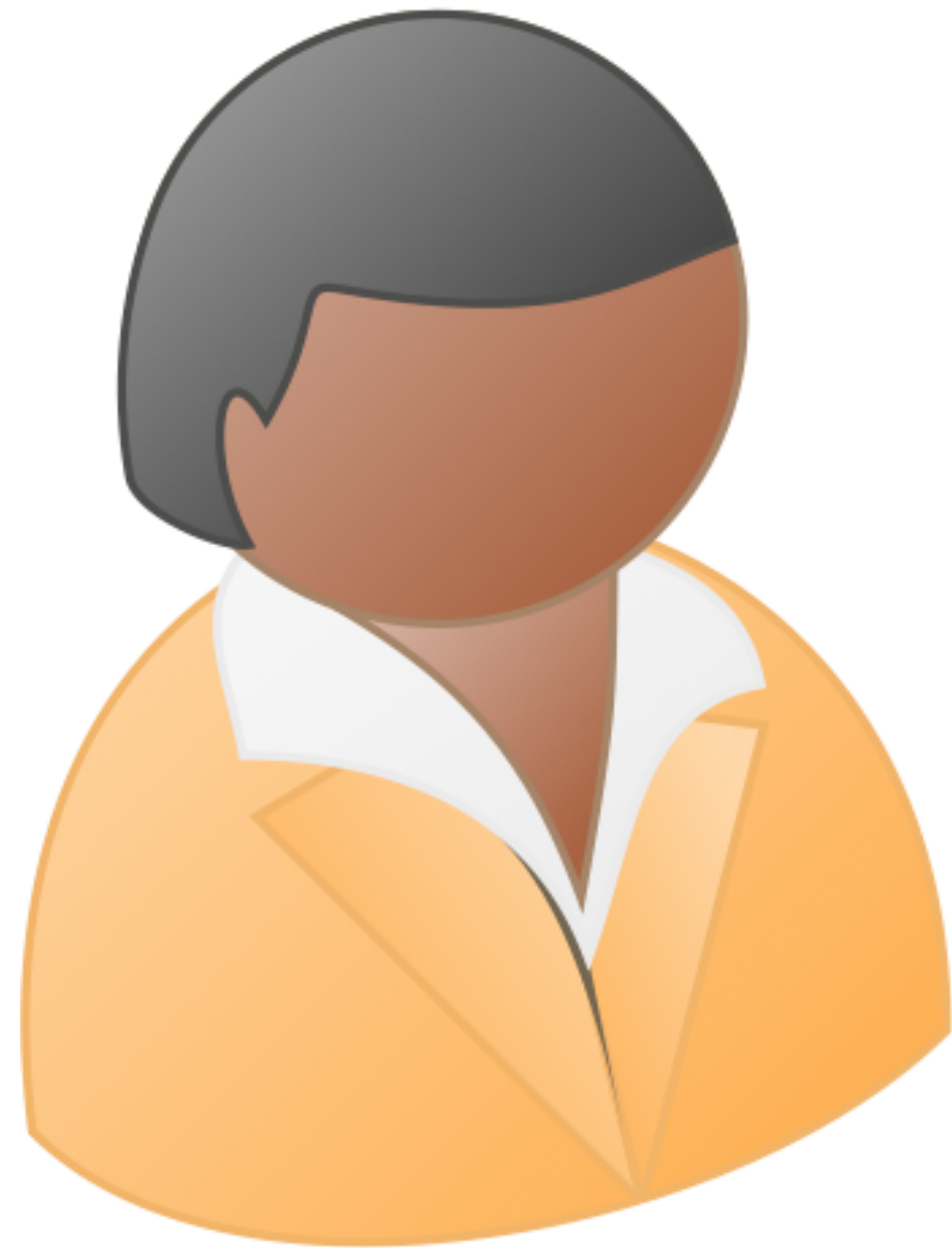
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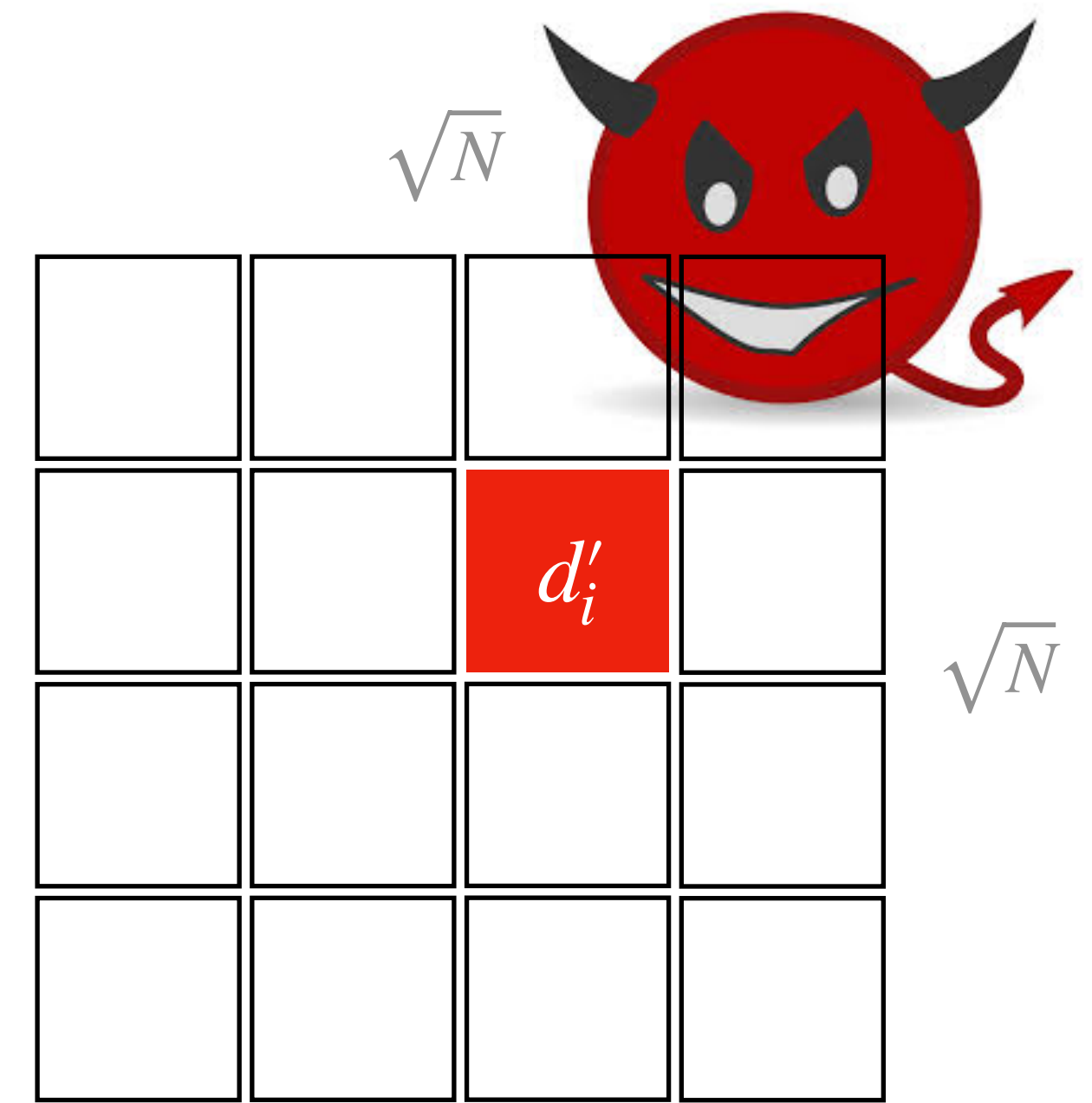
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learns wrong d'_i



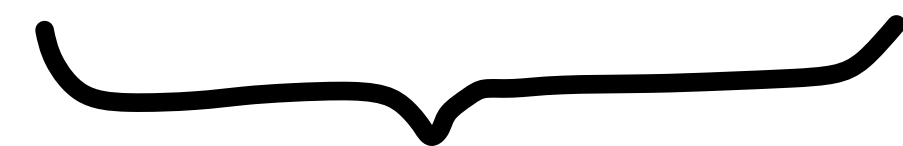
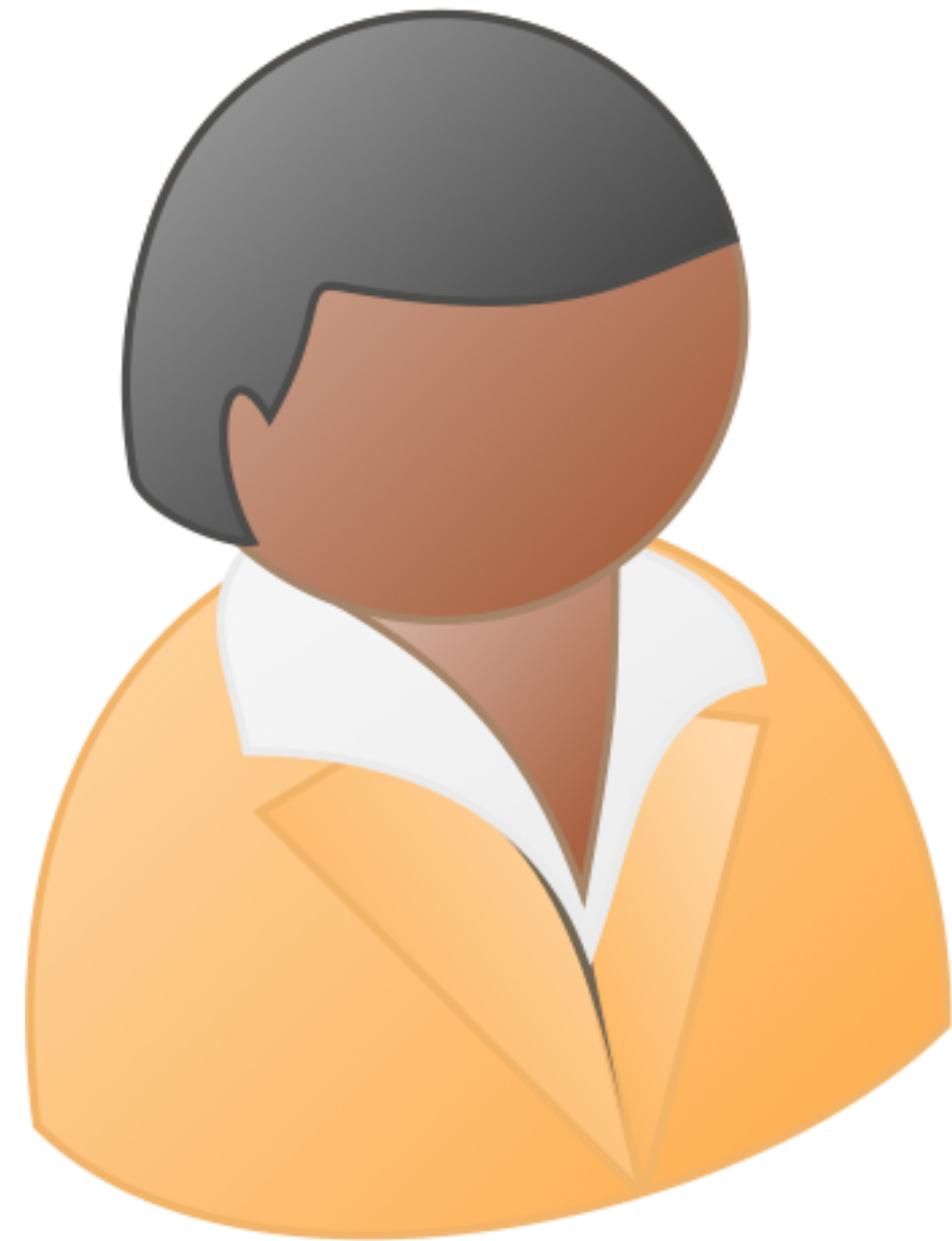
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learns nothing

PIR does not consider integrity

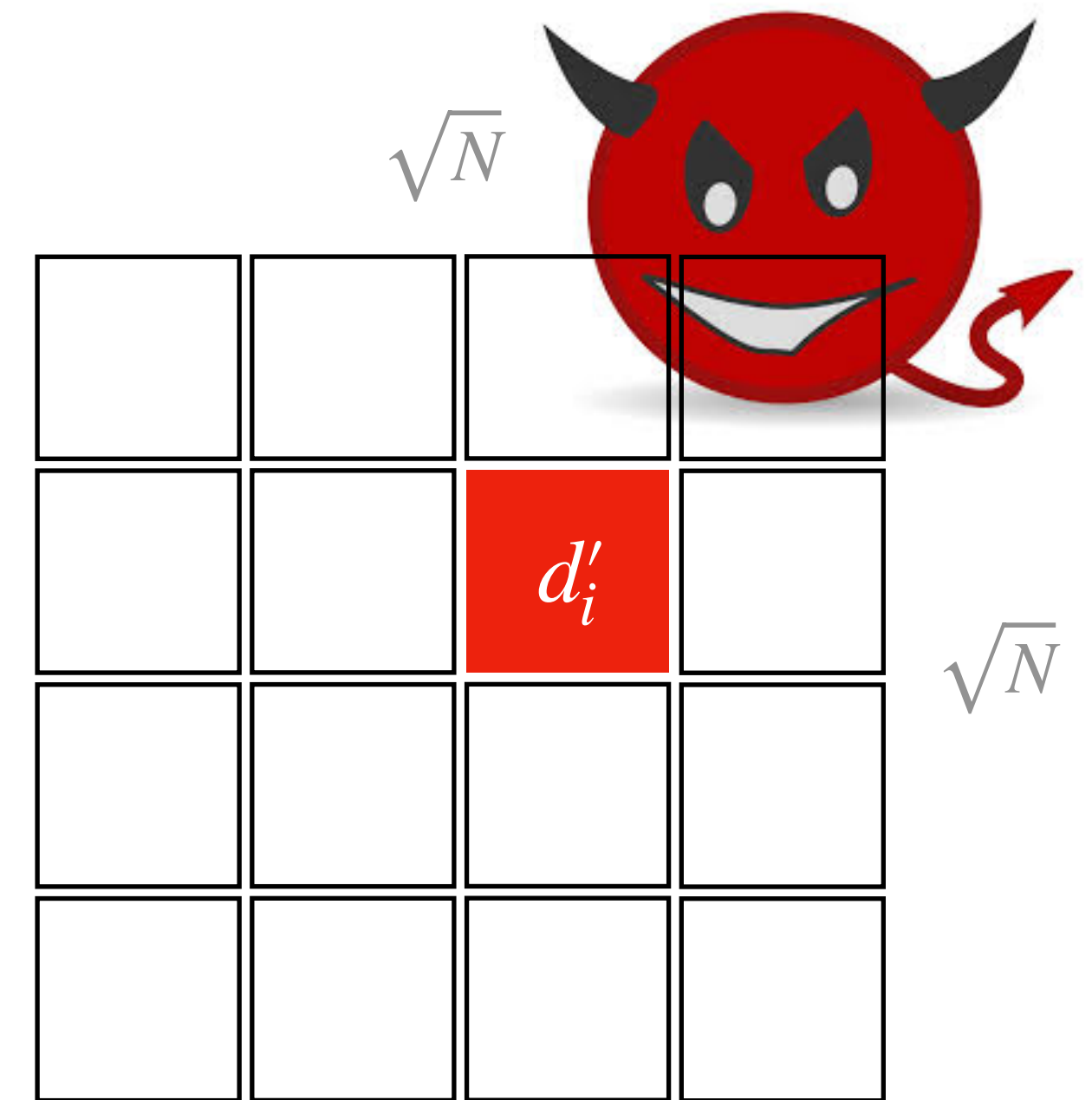
holds index $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$



learns wrong $pk_{\text{adversary}}$



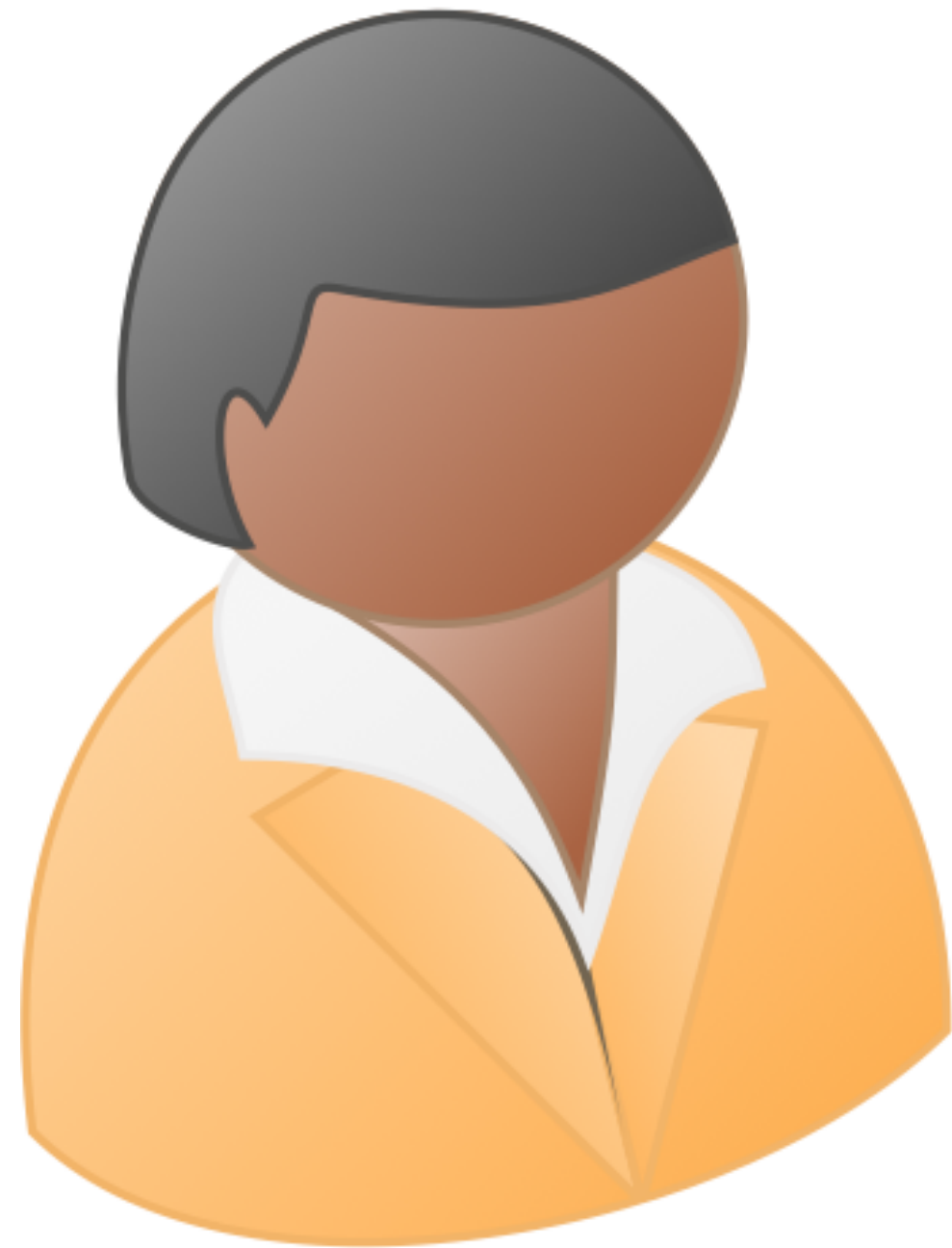
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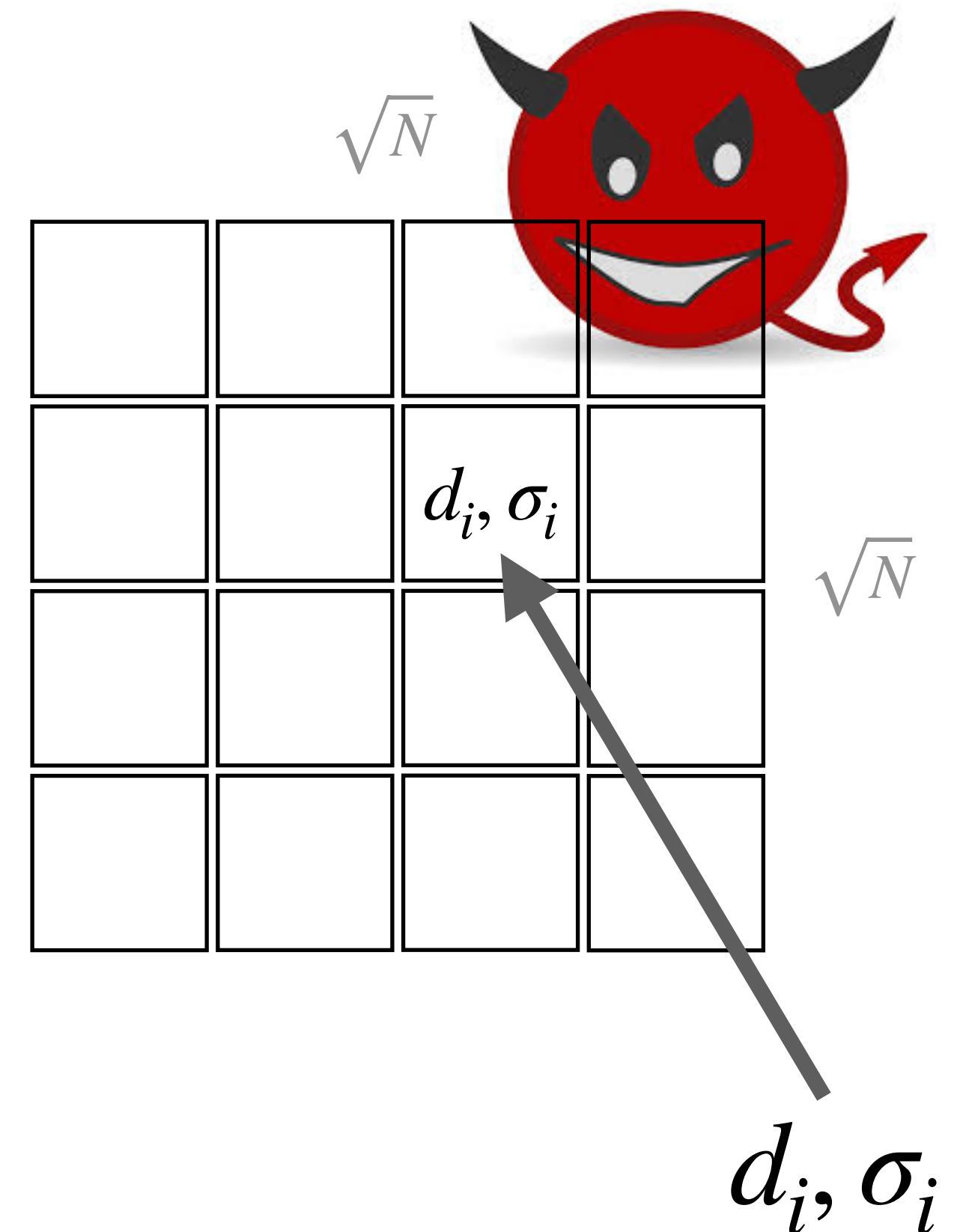
learns nothing

PIR and authentication are not enough

holds index $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$

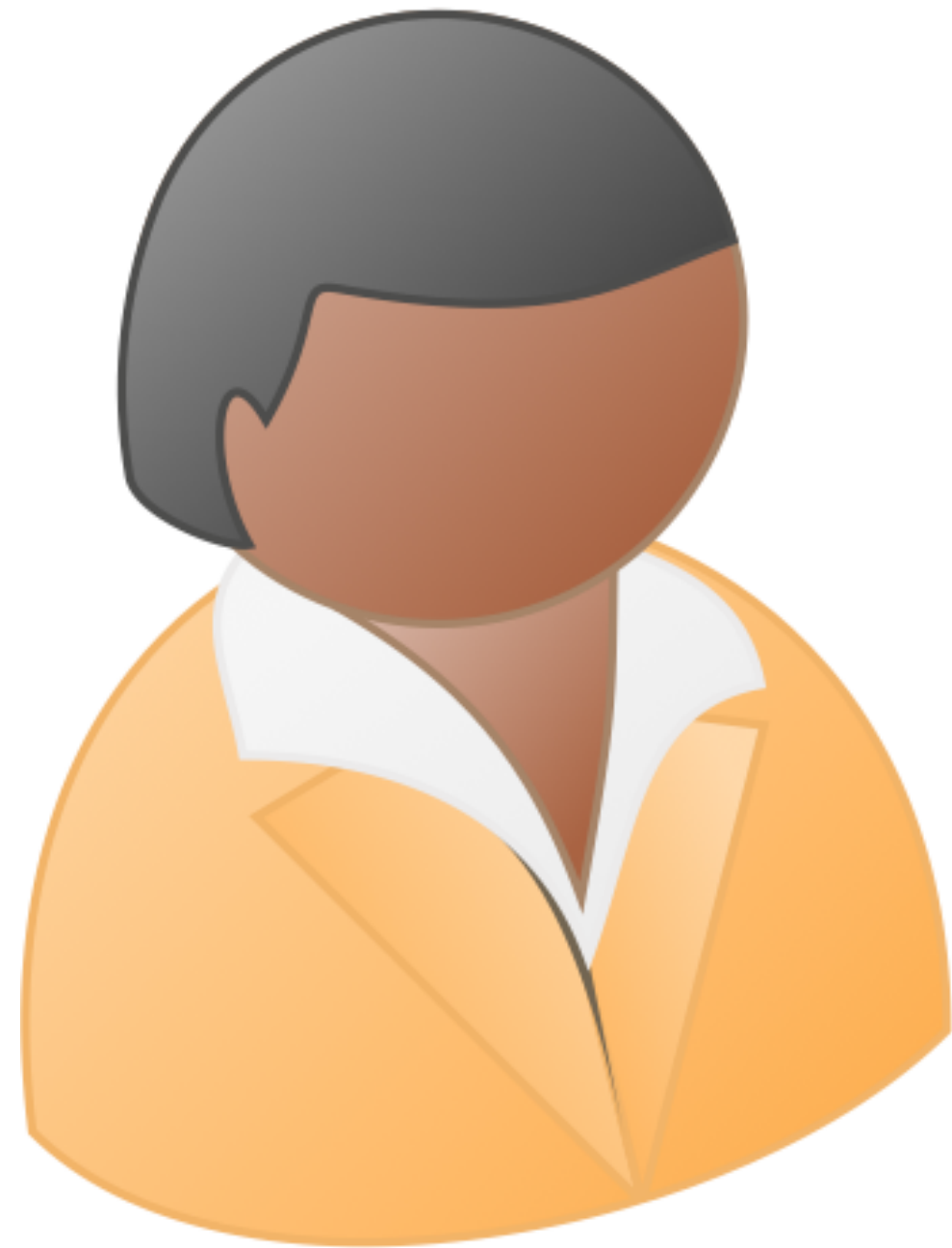


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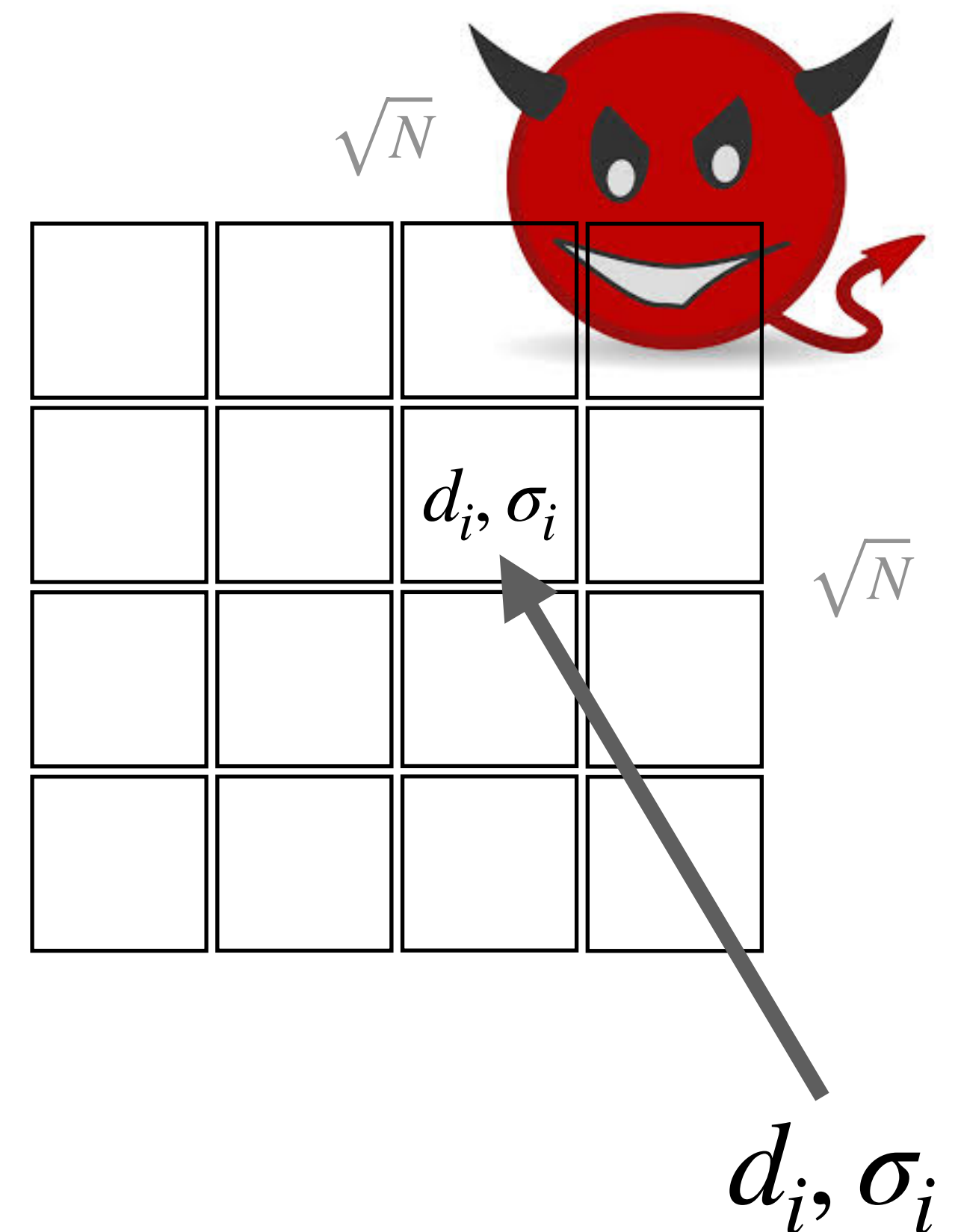


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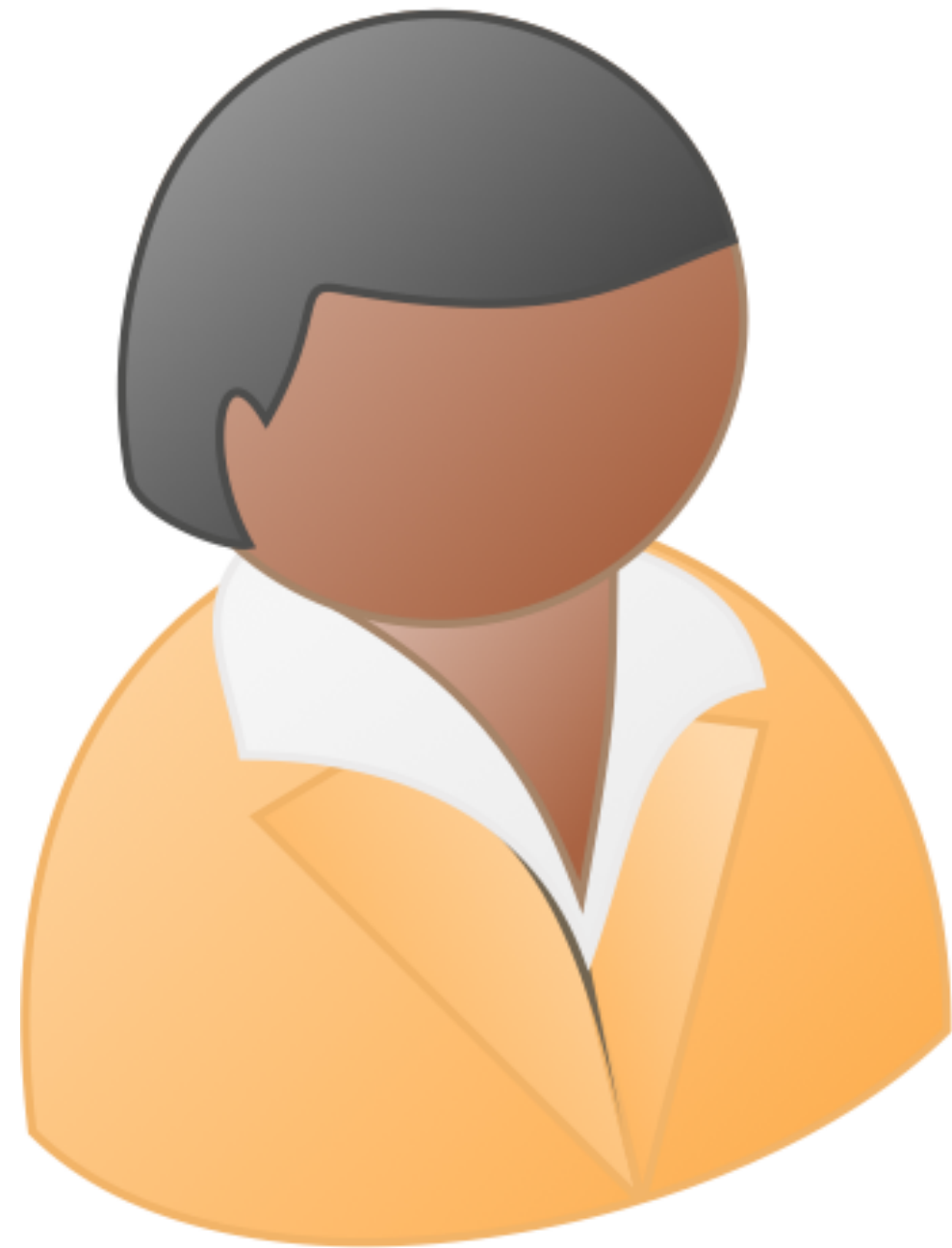
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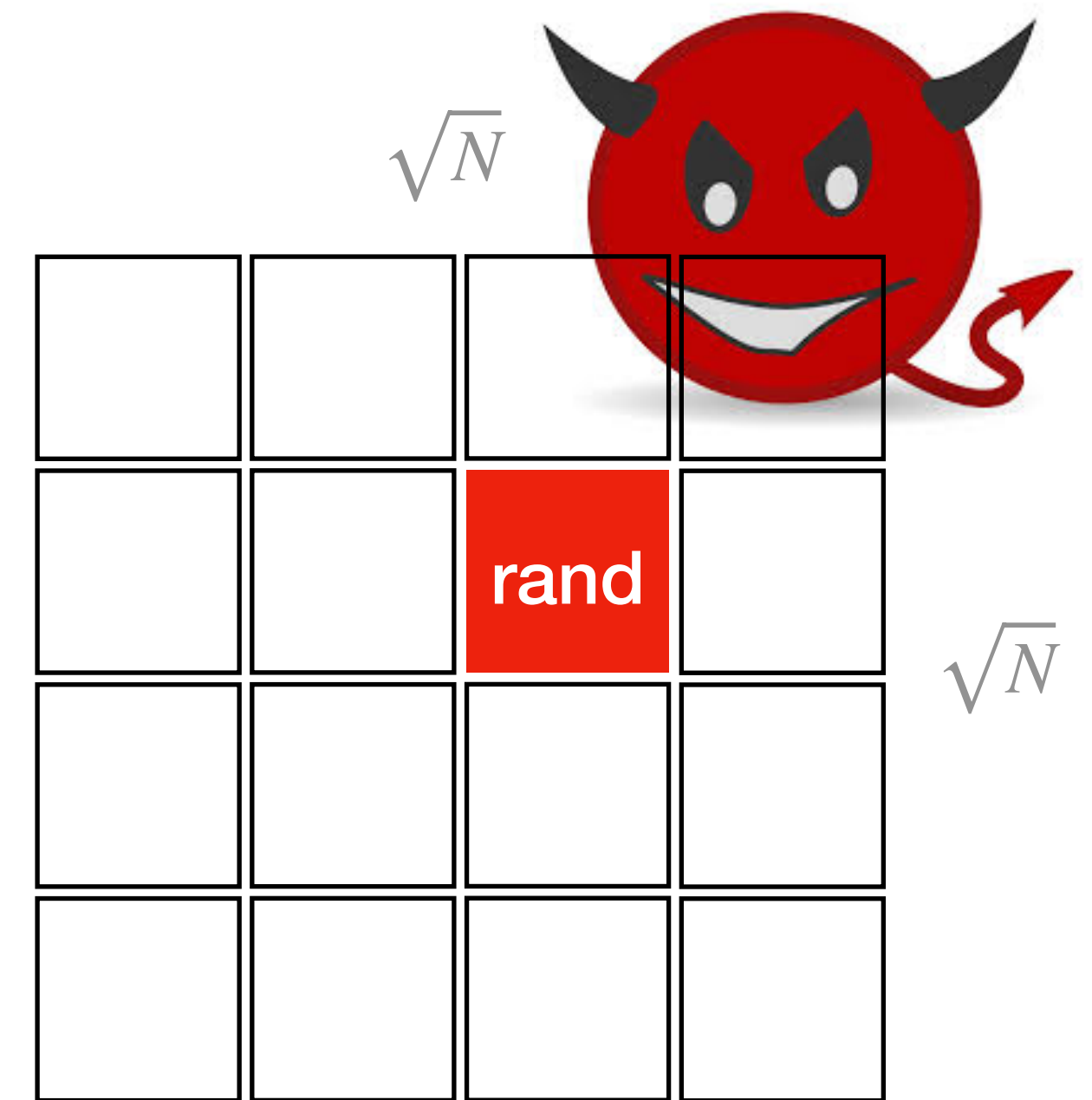
if $\text{Verify}(\text{pk}, d_i, \sigma_i) = \text{T}$ return d_i
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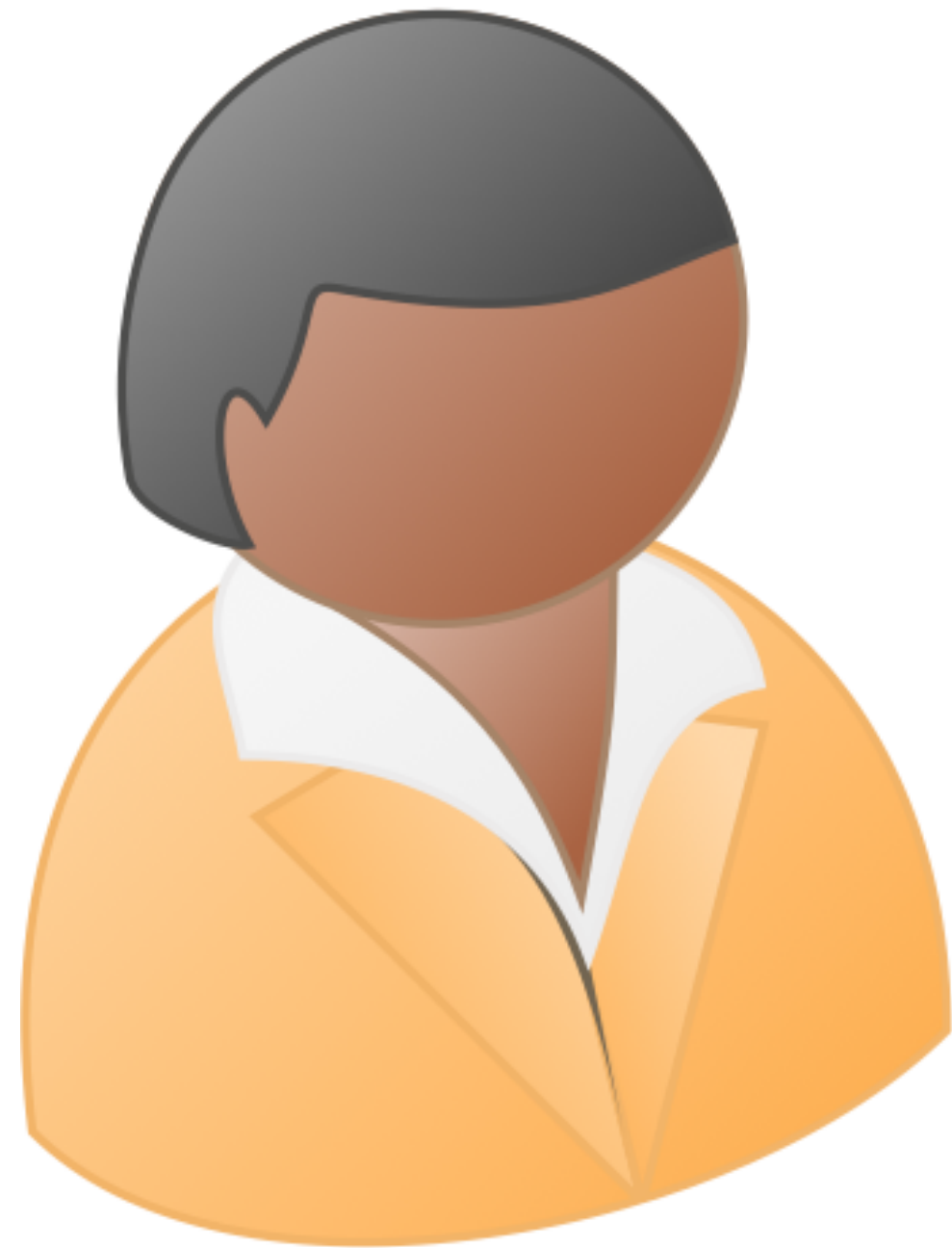
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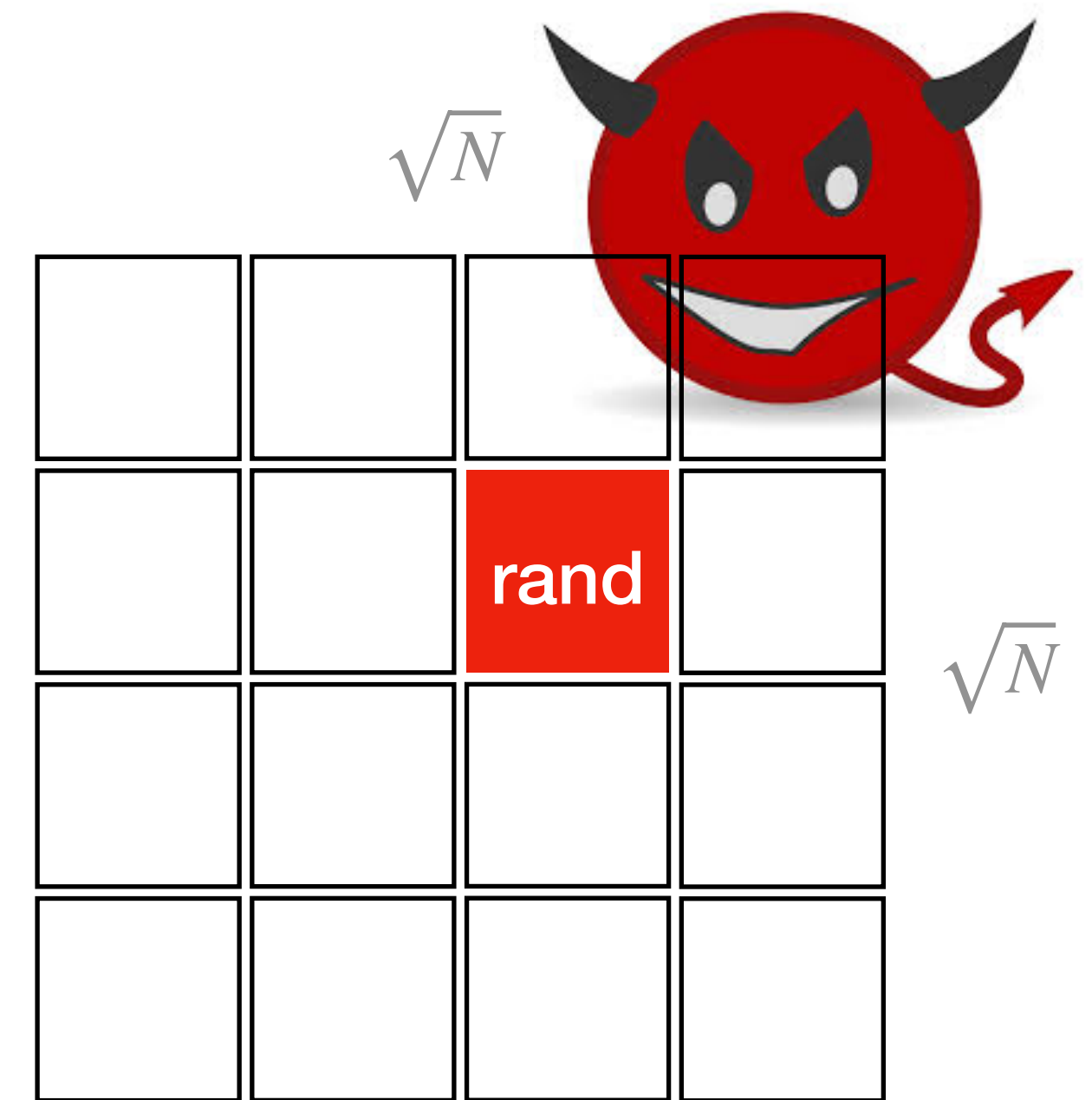
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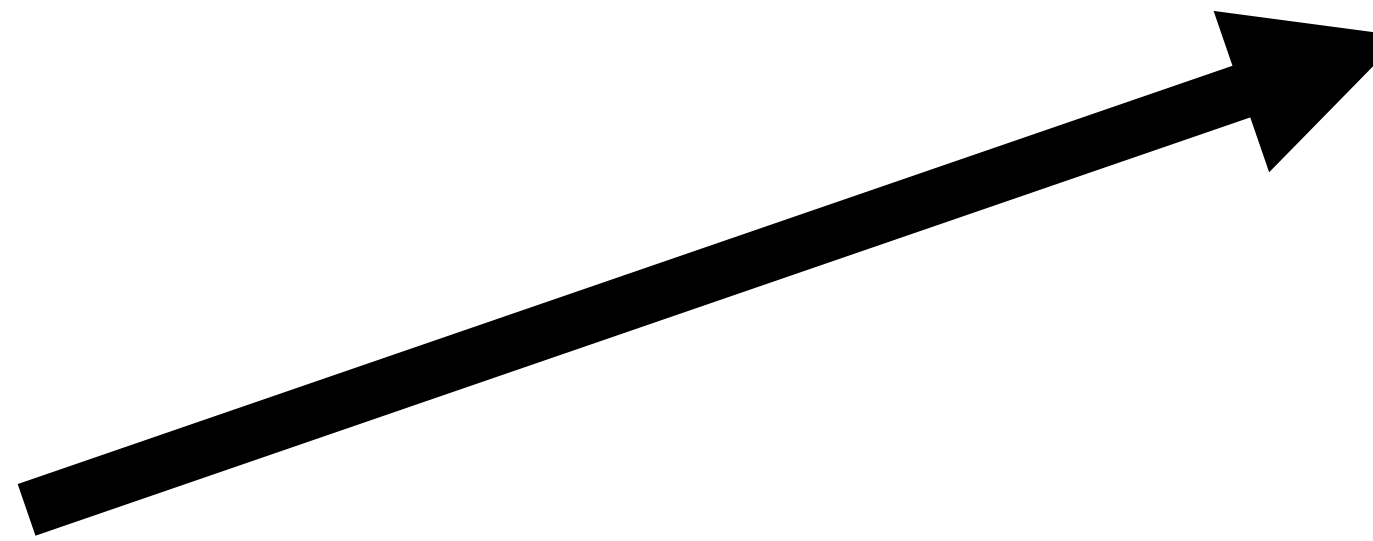
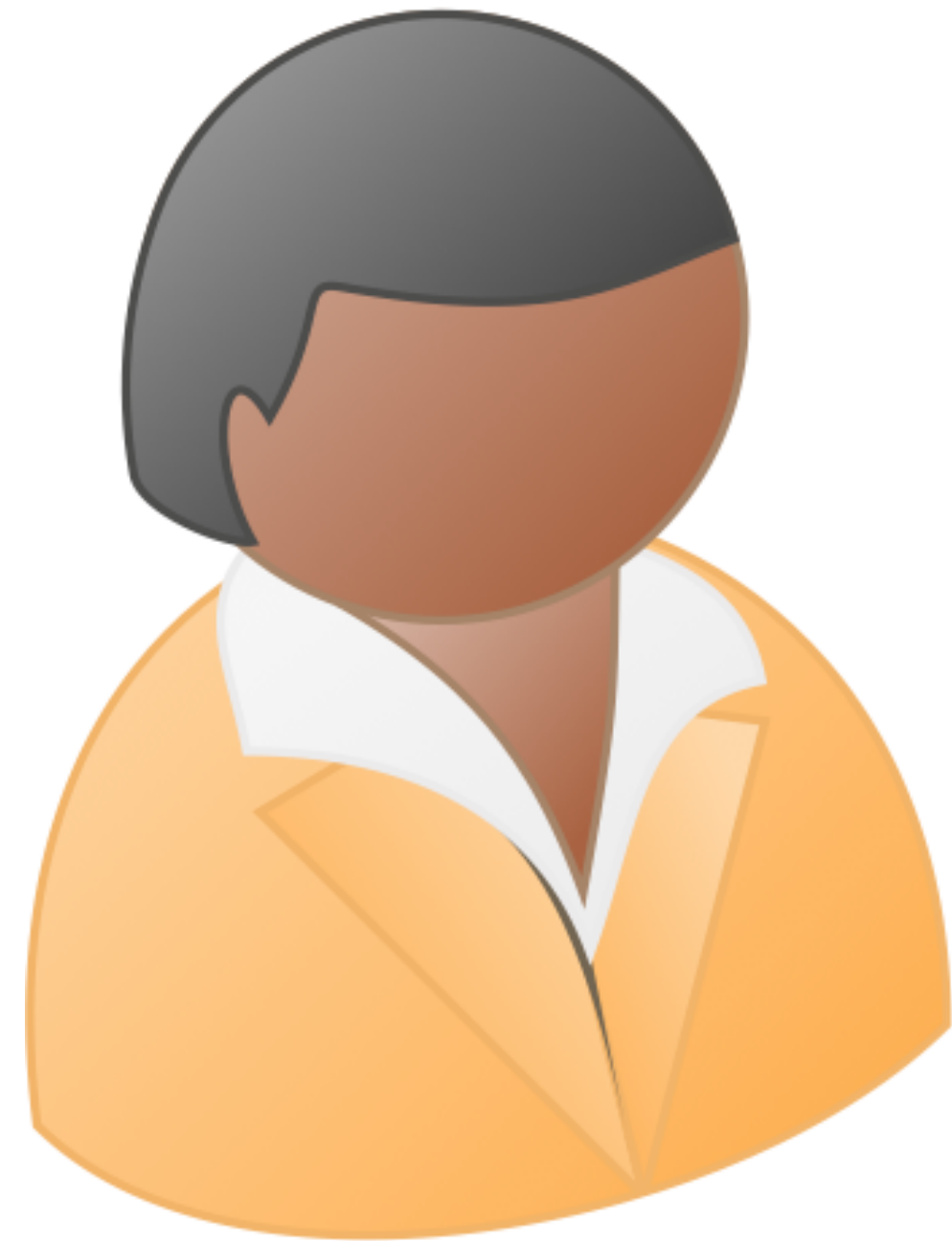


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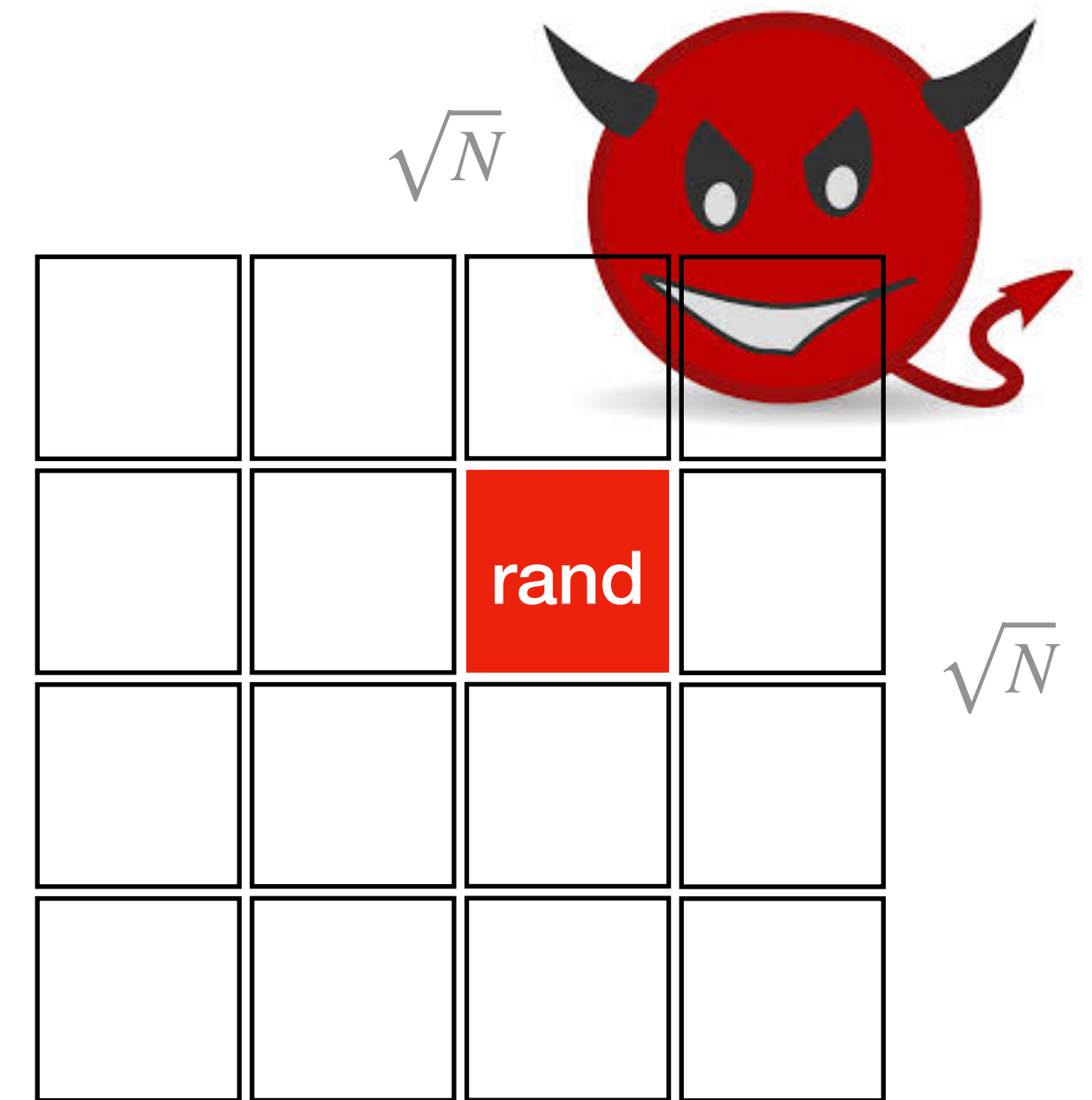


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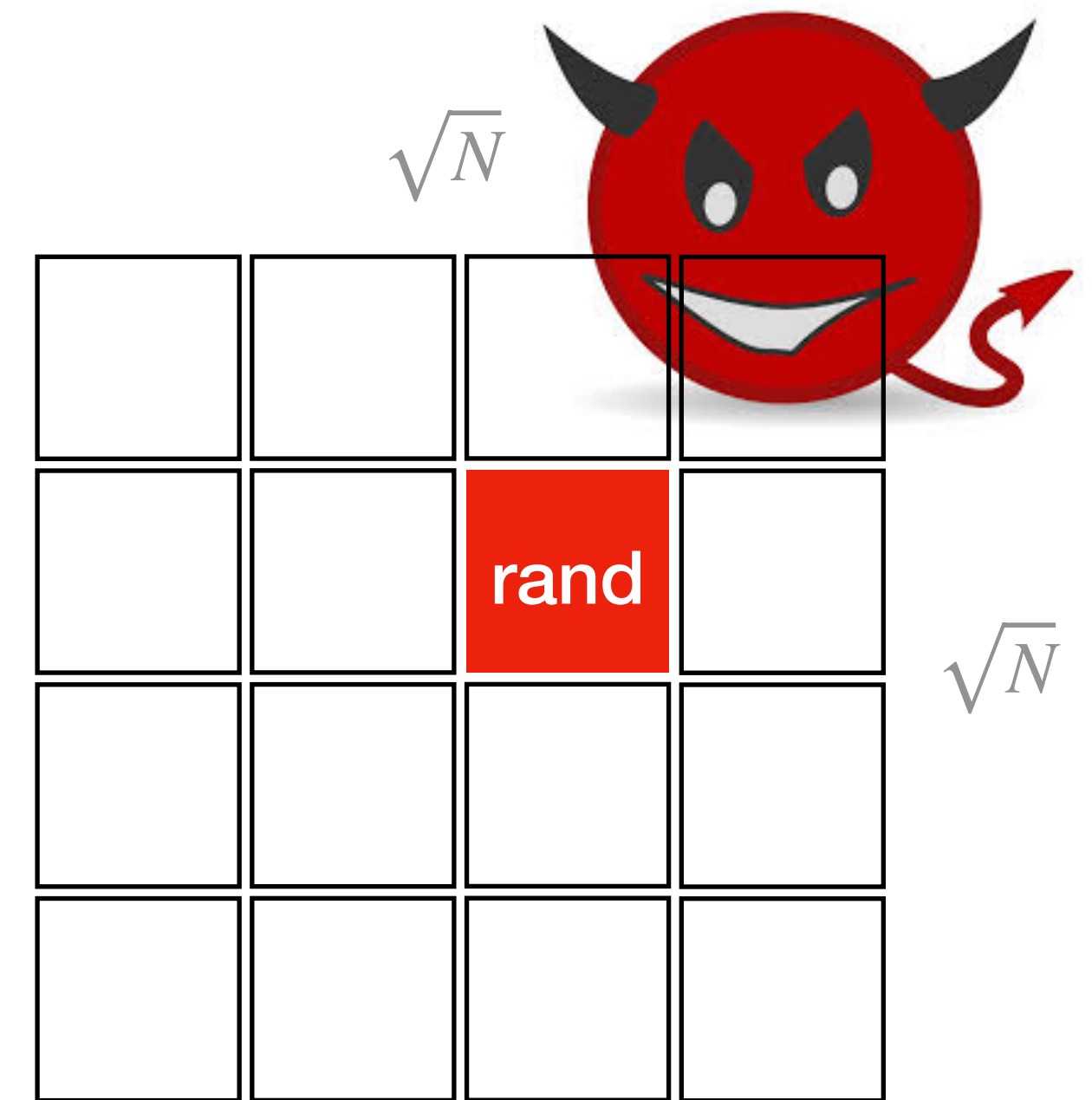


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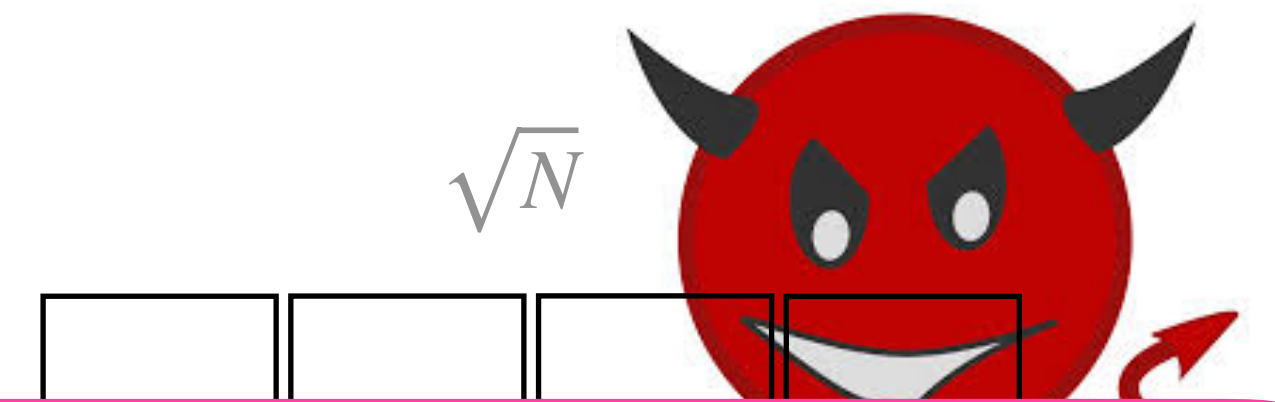
The accept/reject bit reveals if the client is reading the i^{th} entry: selective-failure attack [KS06].

PIR and authentication are not enough

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A new primitive is necessary: authenticated private information retrieval.

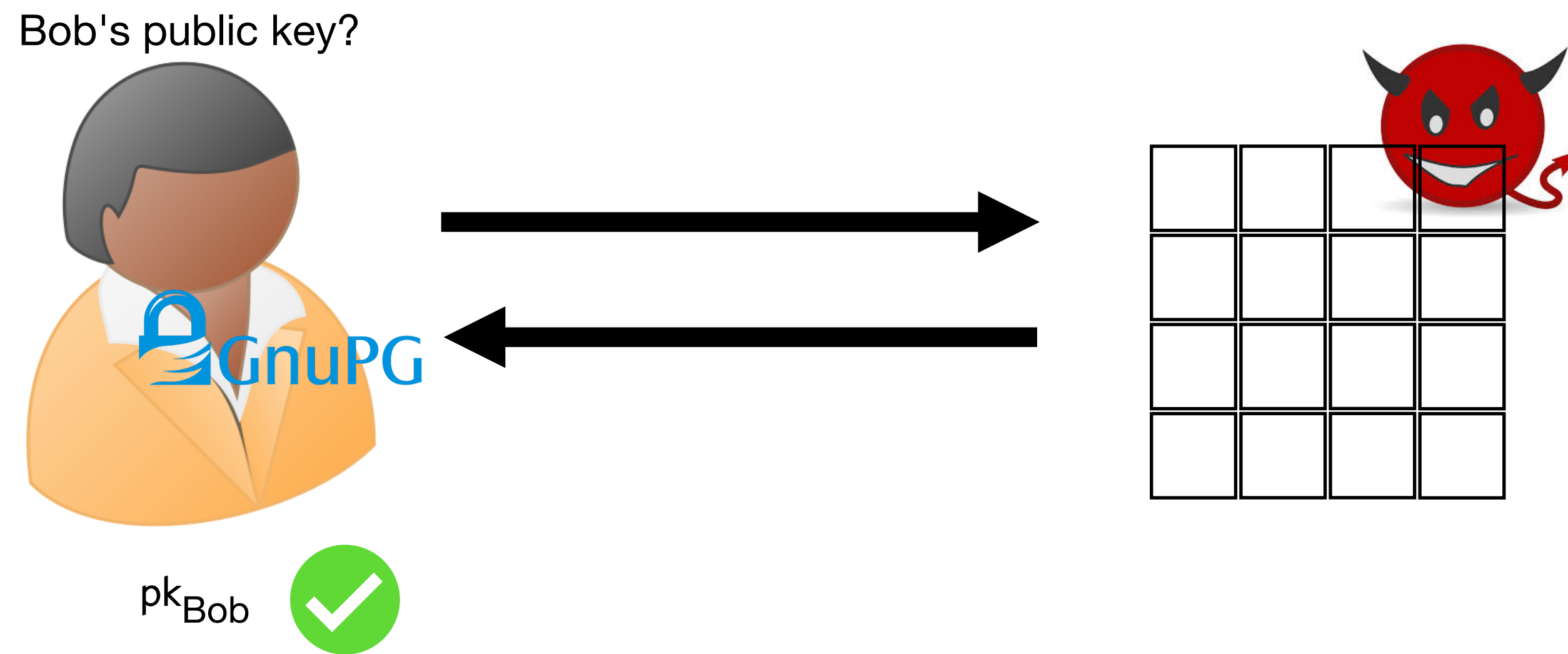
Related works require a majority of honest servers for recovery [BS02,BS07,G07,DGN12,K19,YXB02], stronger assumptions [ZS14] or do not consider selective-failure attacks [KO97,WZ18,ZWH21].

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Authenticated PIR properties



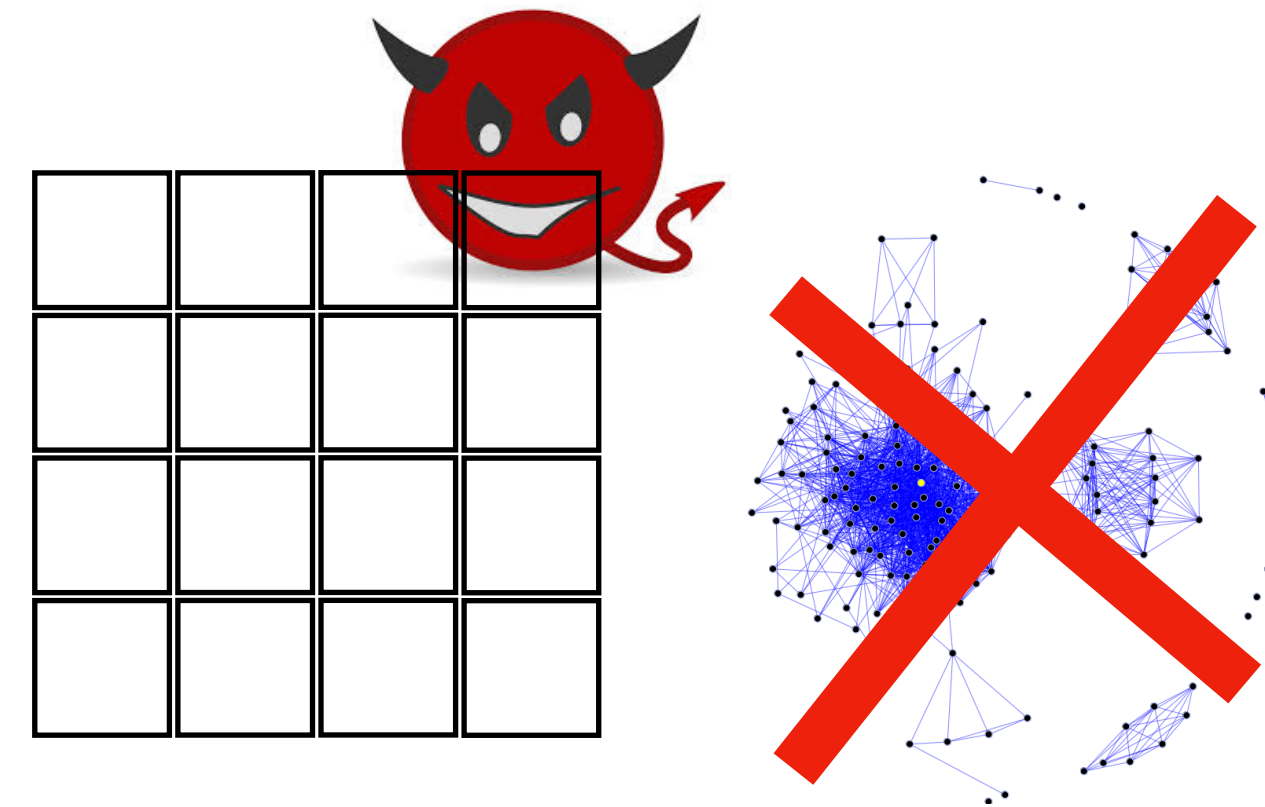
- Correctness: If client and server are honest, the client recovers pk_{Bob} .

Authenticated PIR properties

Bob's public key?



pk_{Bob}



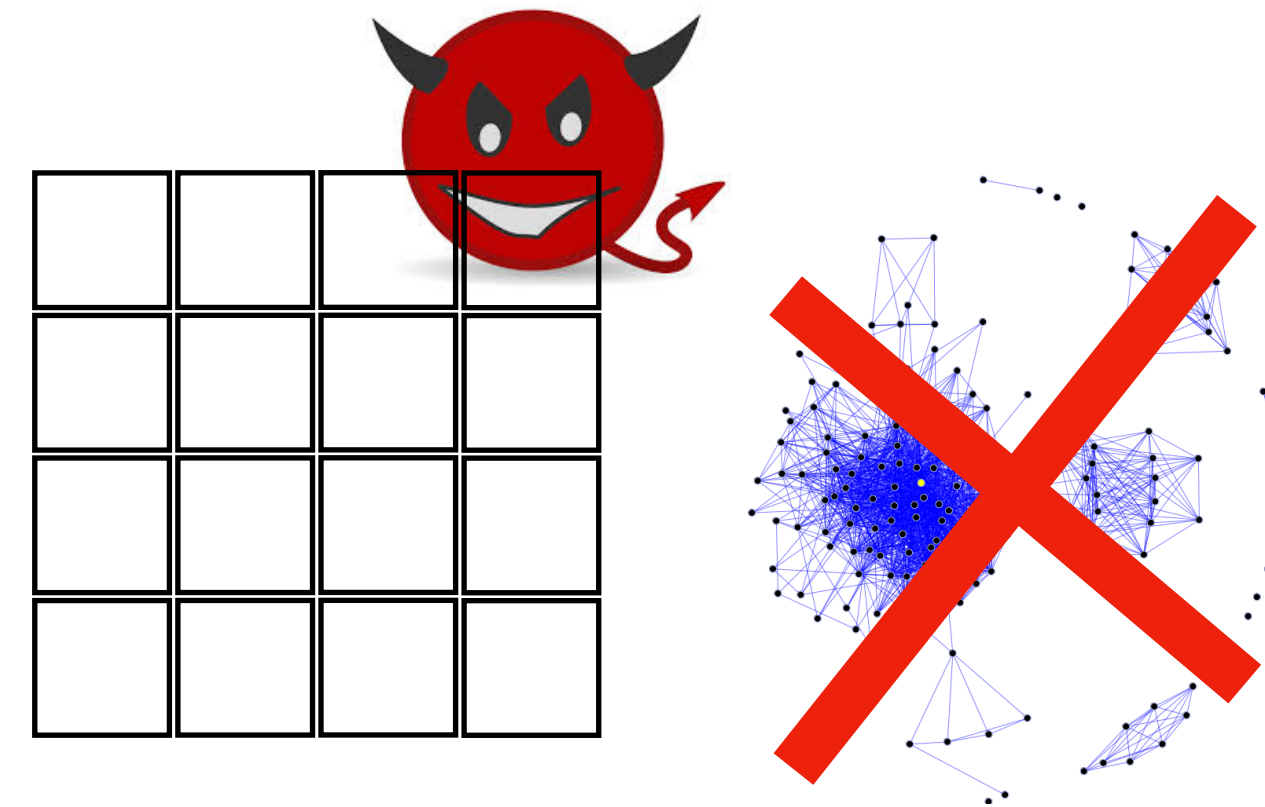
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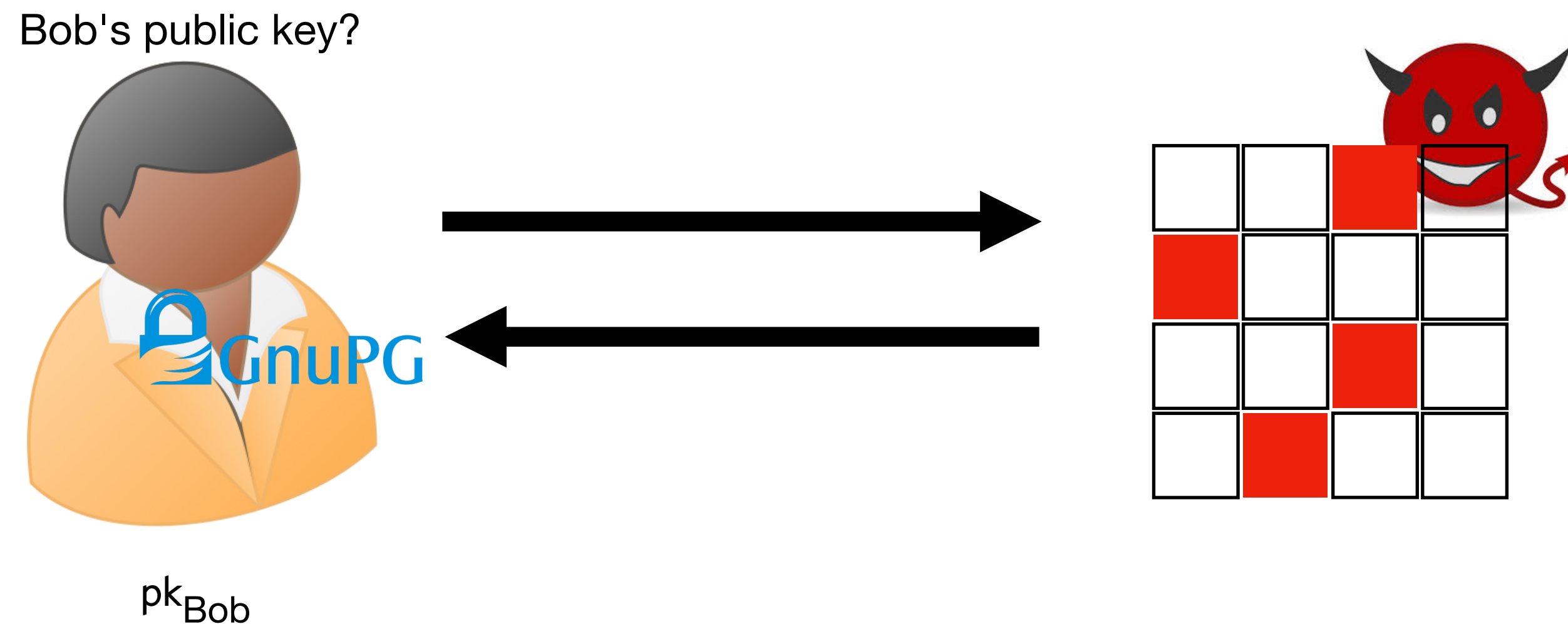
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Selective-failure attacks.

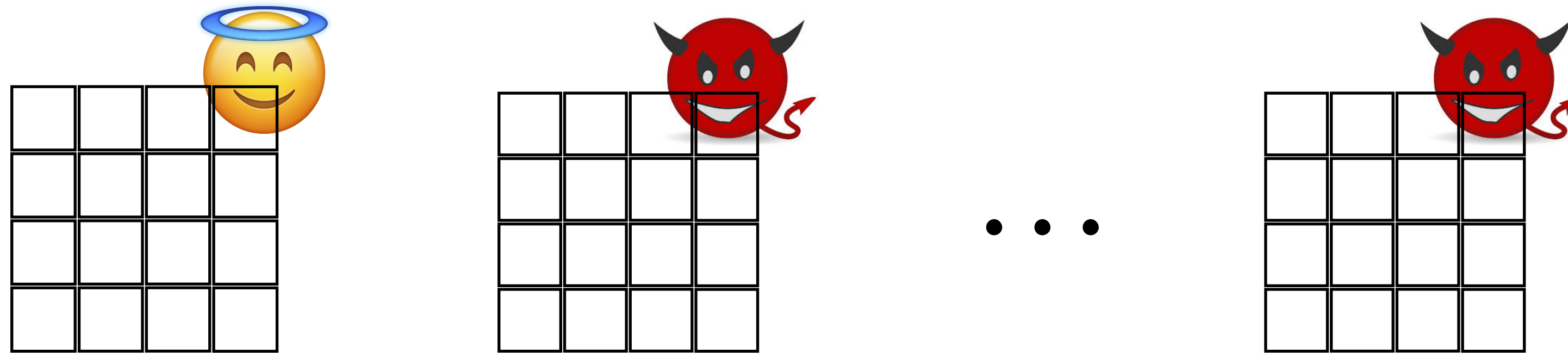
Authenticated PIR properties



- Correctness: If client and server are honest, the client recovers pk_{Bob} .
- Privacy: The server(s) learn nothing about the content of the client's query, even if the server(s) learn whether the client aborted during reconstruction.
- Integrity: The client either outputs the authentic pk_{Bob} or aborts, except with negligible probability.

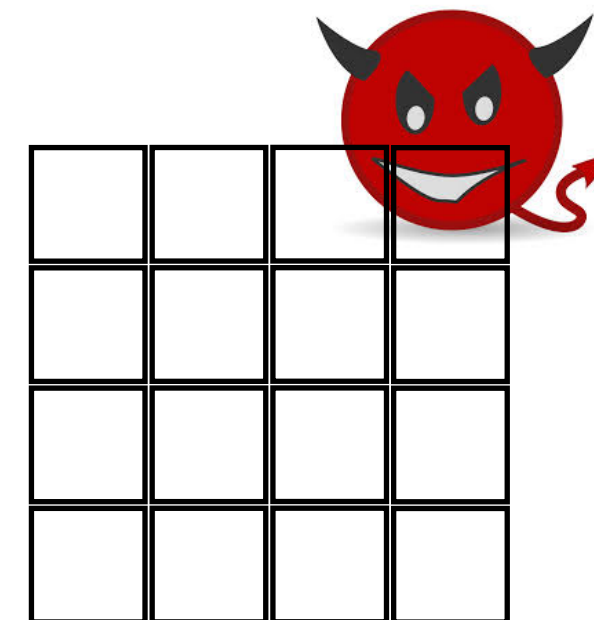
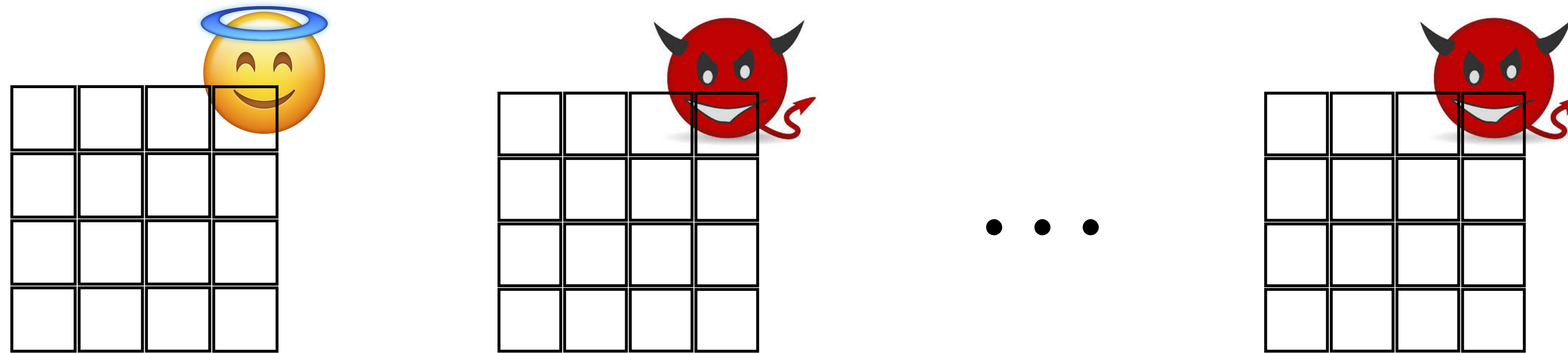
How to define authentic data?

Multi-server schemes: honest server's view of the database.



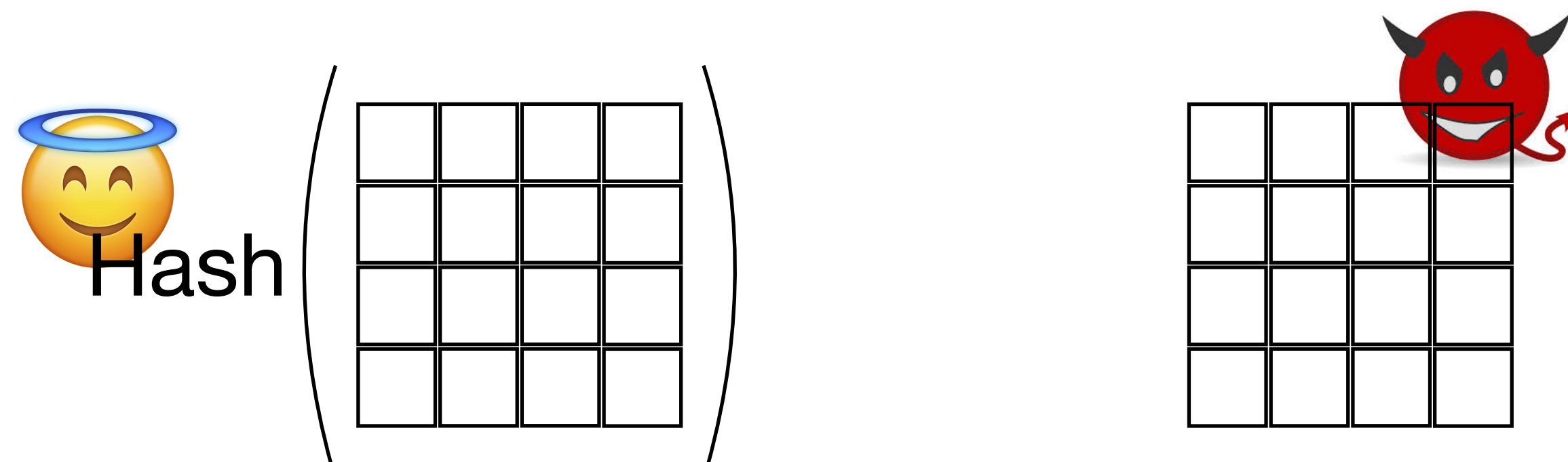
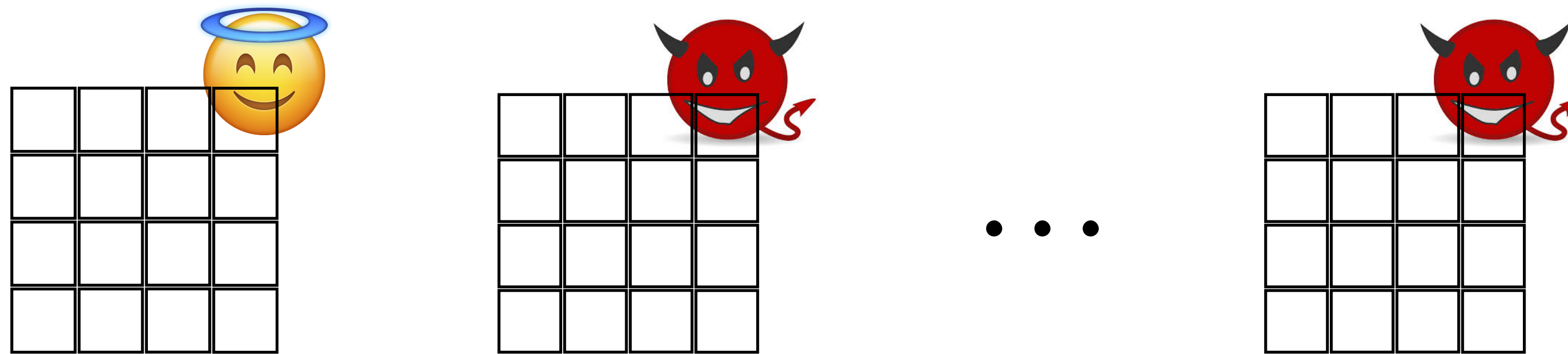
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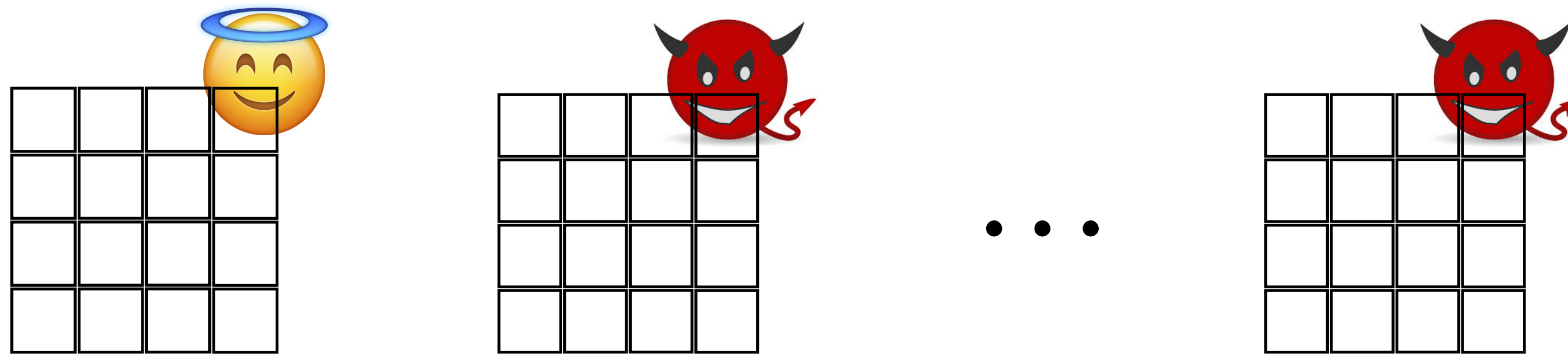
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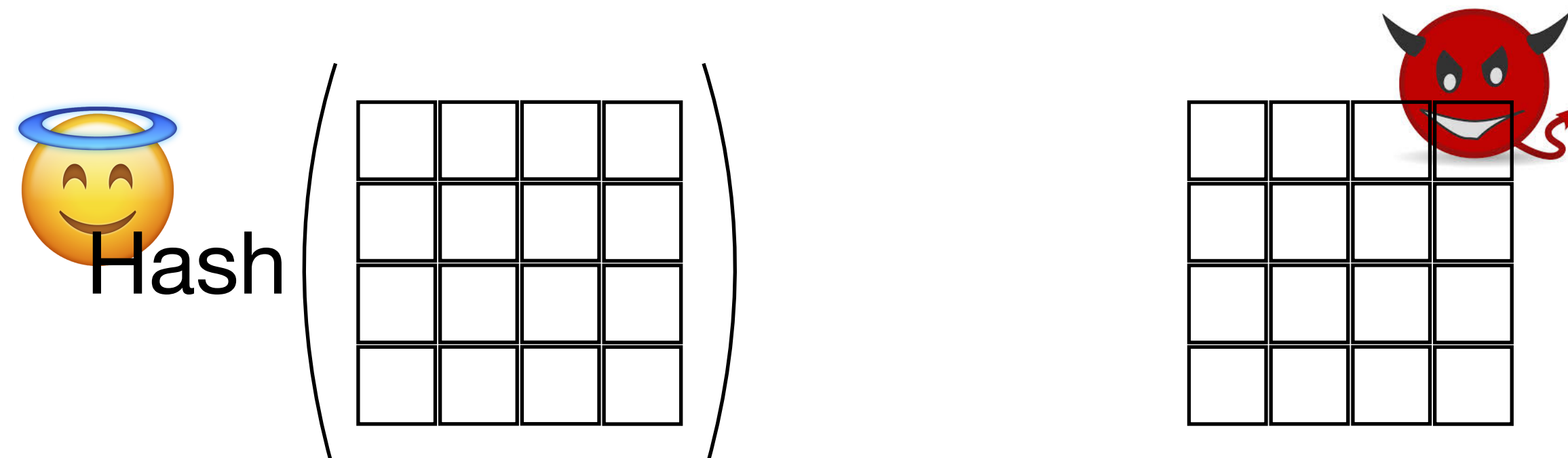


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Multi-server schemes: honest server's view of the database.



Single-server schemes: digest of the true database.



Our results: multi-server schemes

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(1) Multi-servers, single-record query

Given a Merkle-tree scheme, on a database of size N

- the per-query communication is $O(\log N)$, same as unauthenticated PIR,
- the integrity error is negligible.

See paper

Our results: multi-server schemes

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Given a Merkle-tree scheme, on a database of size N

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See paper

(2) Two-servers, single-record and aggregate queries

Given PRG and a field \mathbb{F} , on a database of size N

- the per-query communication is $O(\log N)$, same as unauthenticated PIR,
- the integrity error is $1/|\mathbb{F}|$

This talk (roughly)

Our results: single-server schemes

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(3) Single-record query from LWE

Under the LWE secret dimension s and ciphertext modulus q , on a N -bit database

- the client downloads a one-time digest of size $n\sqrt{N}$ elements of \mathbb{Z}_q ,
- the per-query communication cost is $2\sqrt{N}$ elements of \mathbb{Z}_q ,
- the integrity error is roughly \sqrt{N}/q , can be amplified generically.

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See paper

(4) Single-record query from DDH

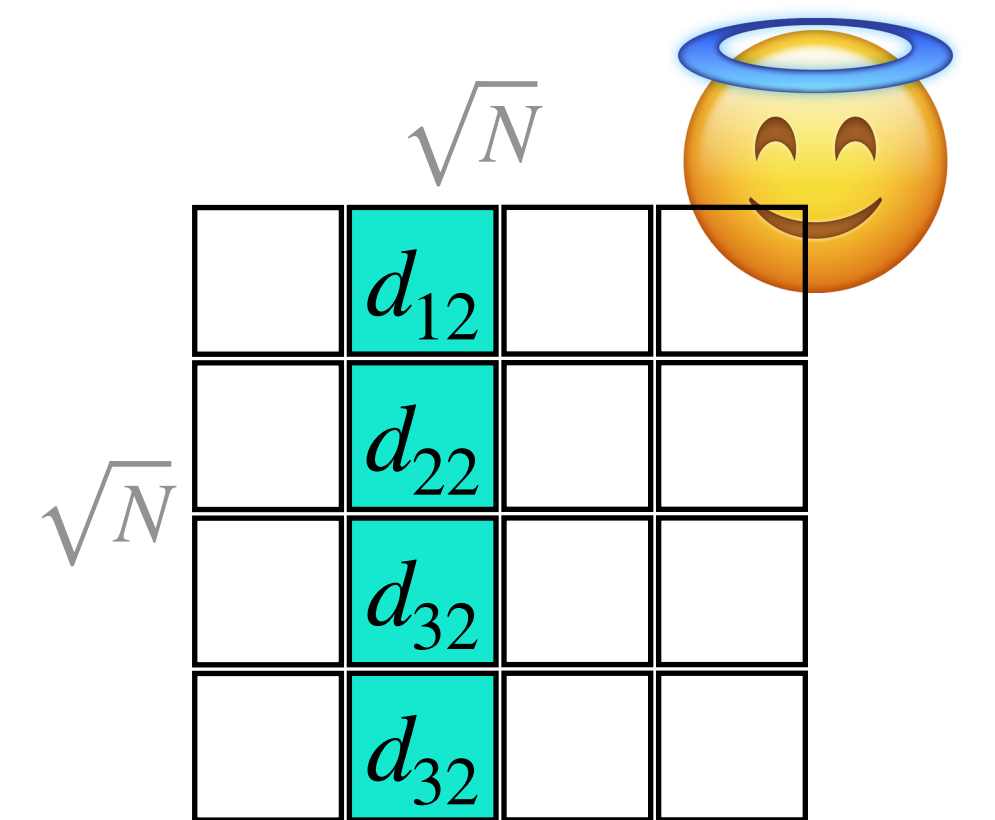
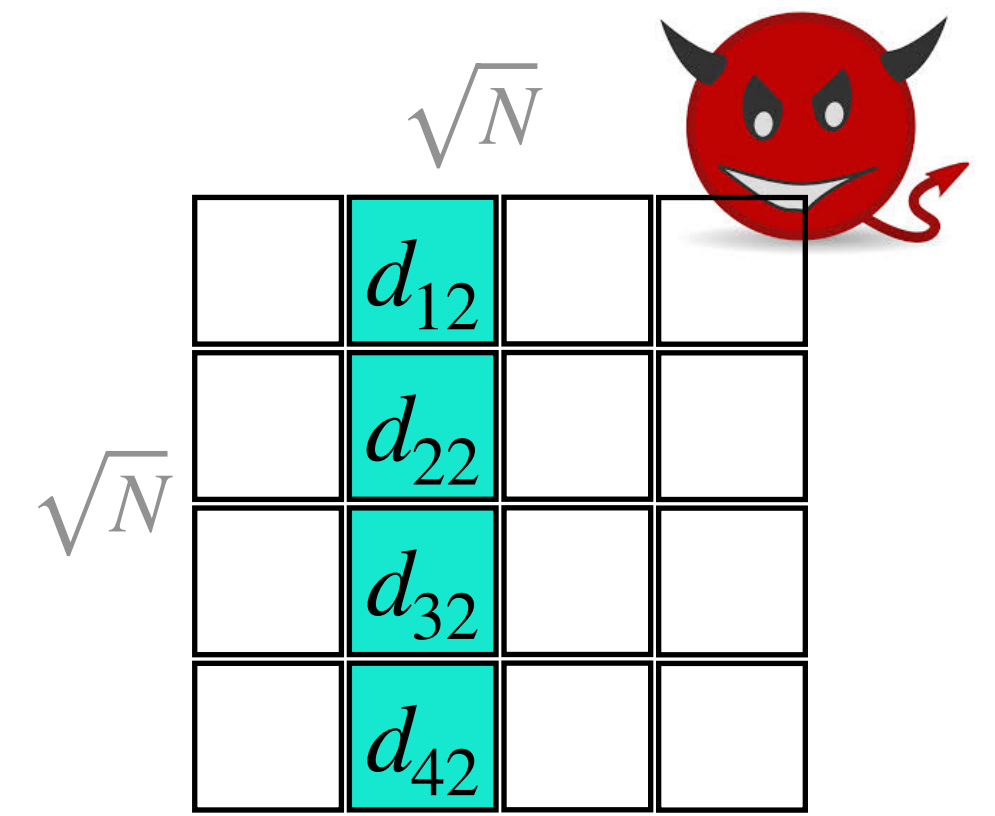
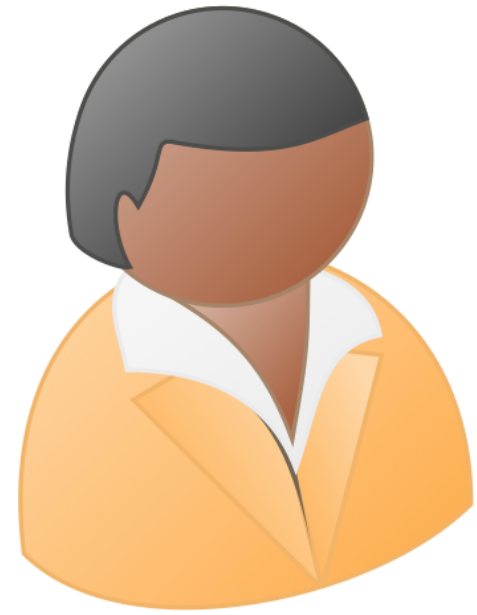
Under the DDH assumption in a group \mathbb{G} , on a N -bit database

- the client downloads a one-time digest of size \sqrt{N} elements of \mathbb{G} ,
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See paper

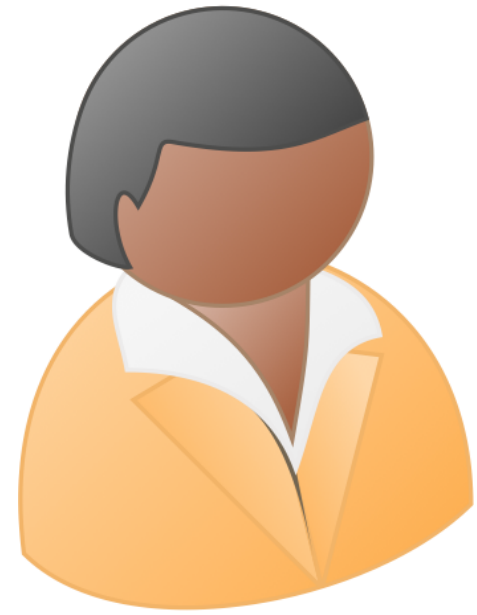
Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

pk_{Bob} is in d_{22} , i.e.,
2nd column

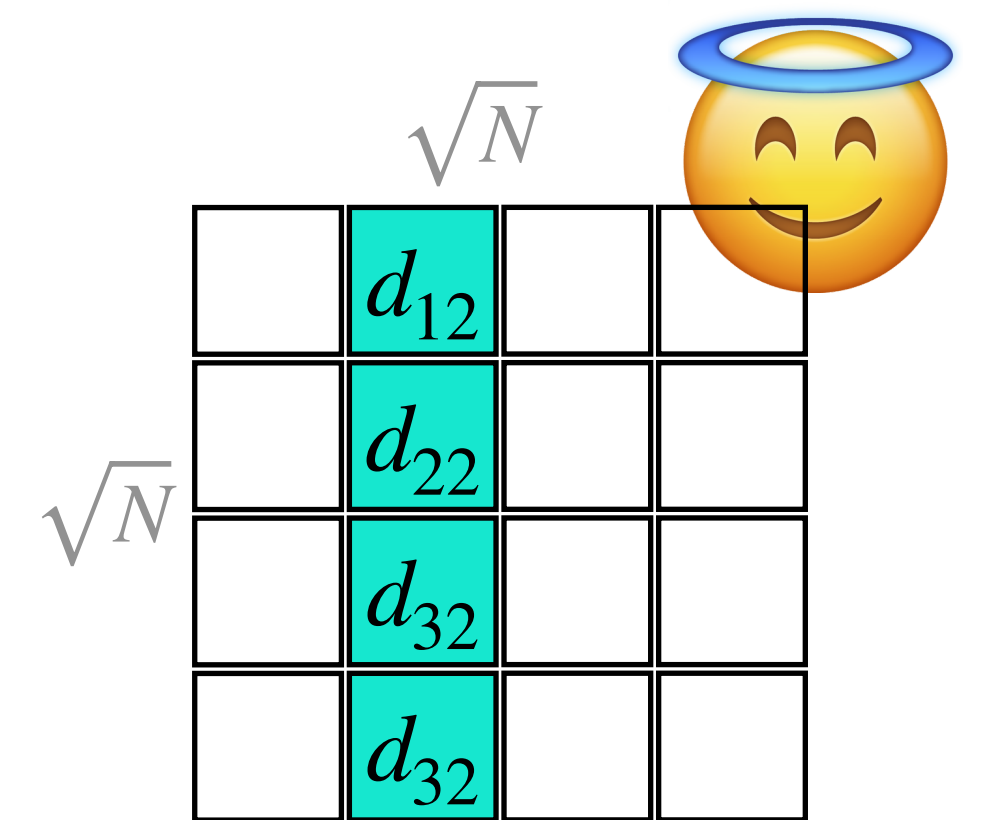
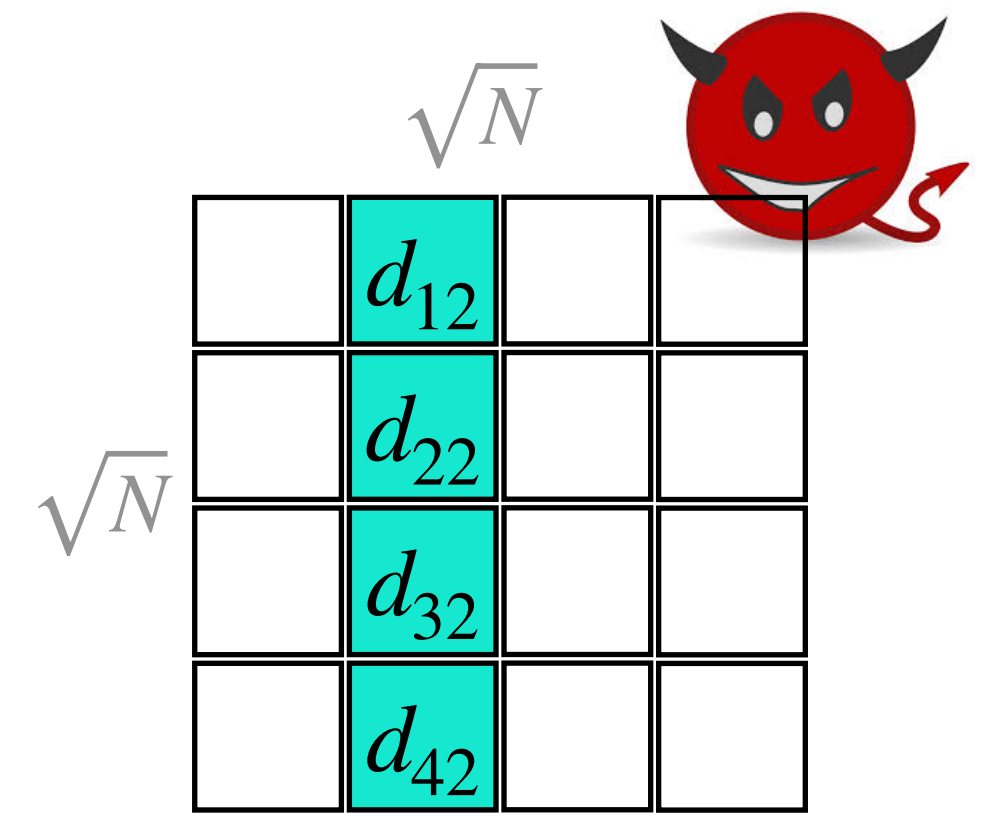


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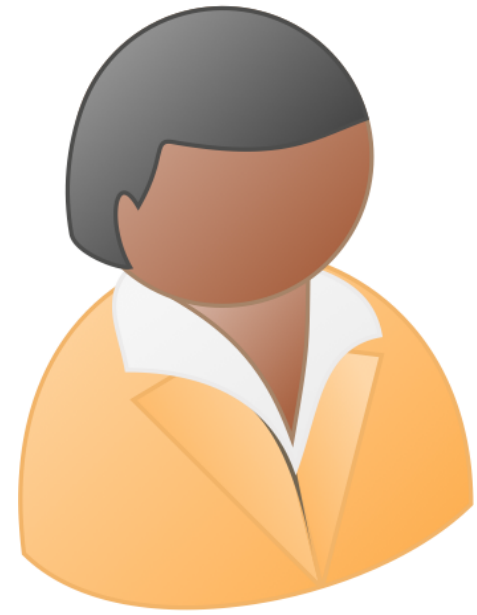


0
1
0
0

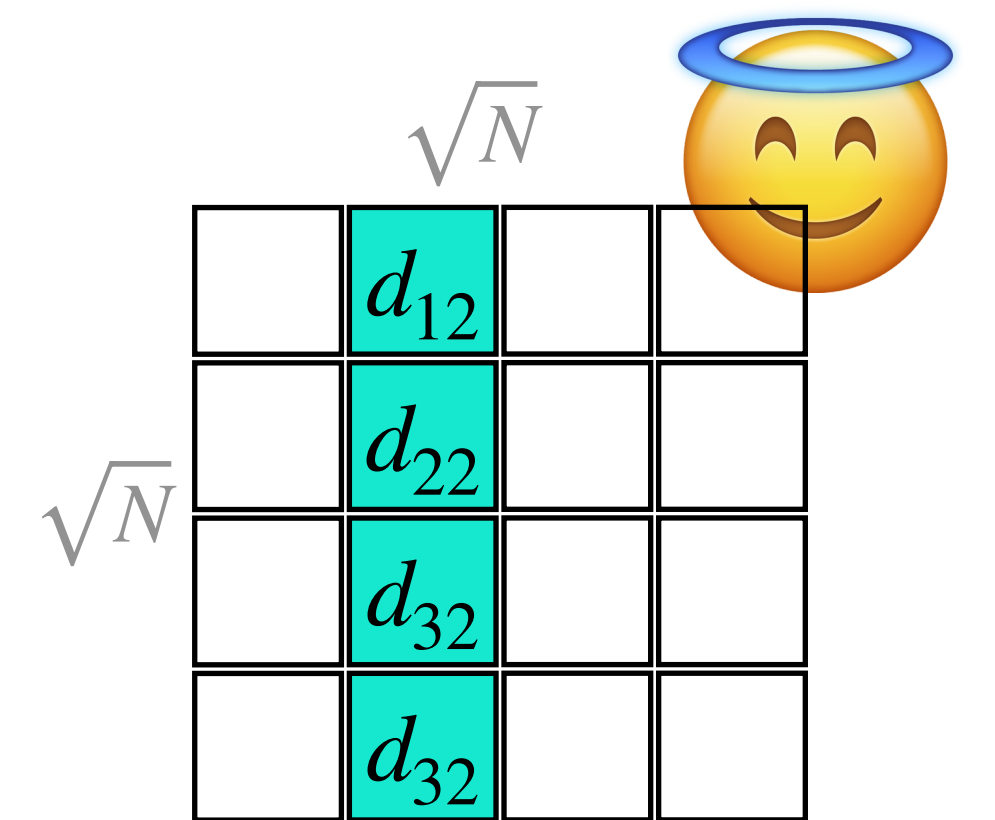
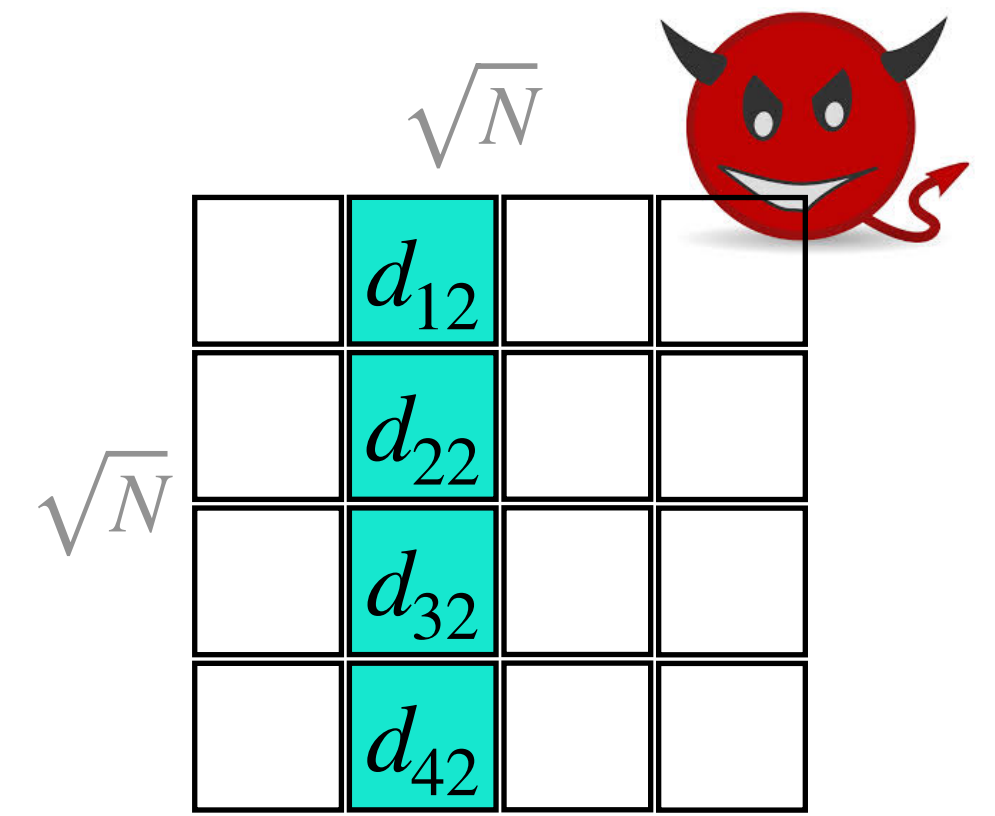
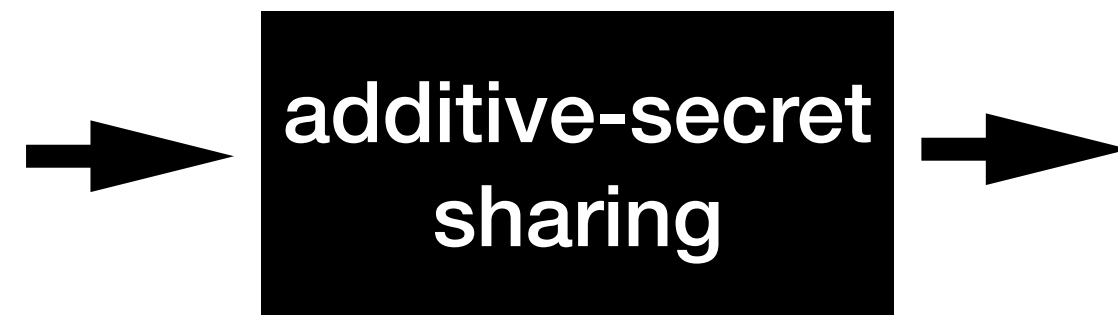


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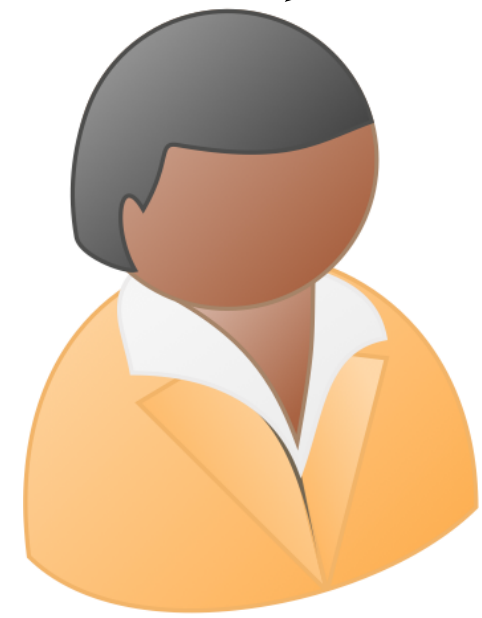
0
1
0
0



Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

 = secret shares

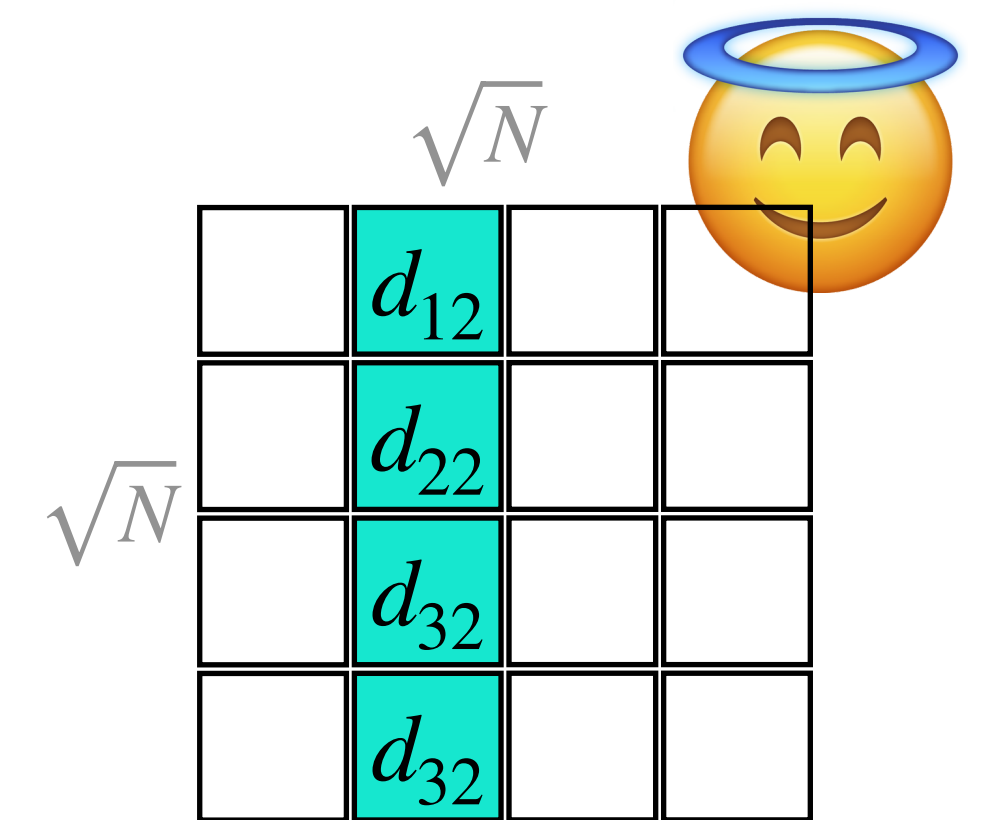
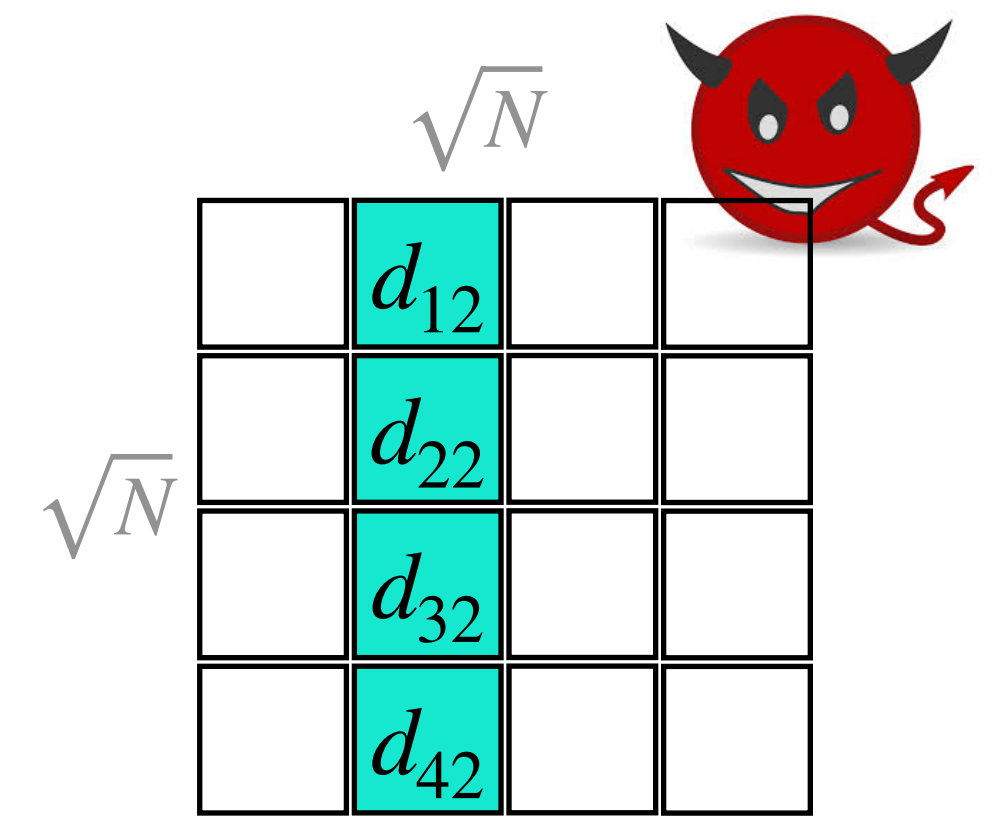
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0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

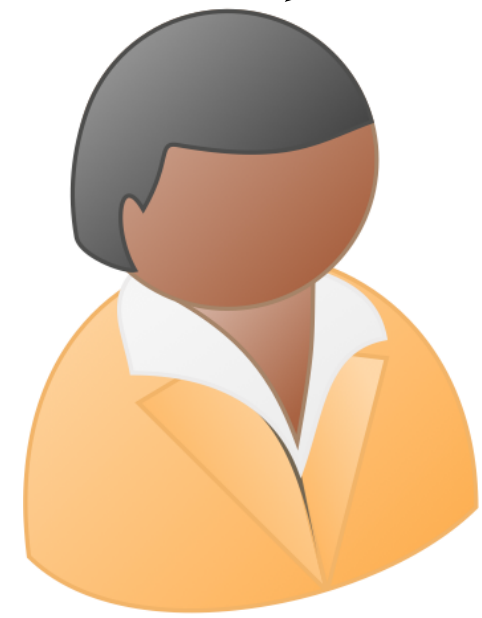
0	0
1	1
0	0
0	0



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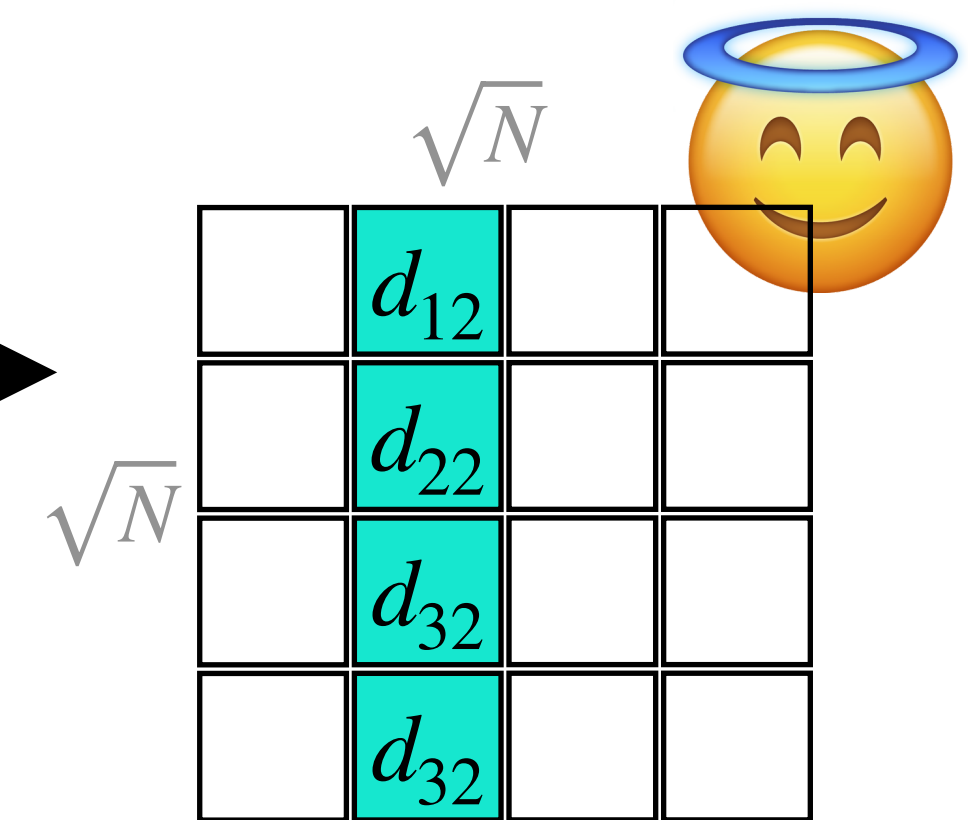
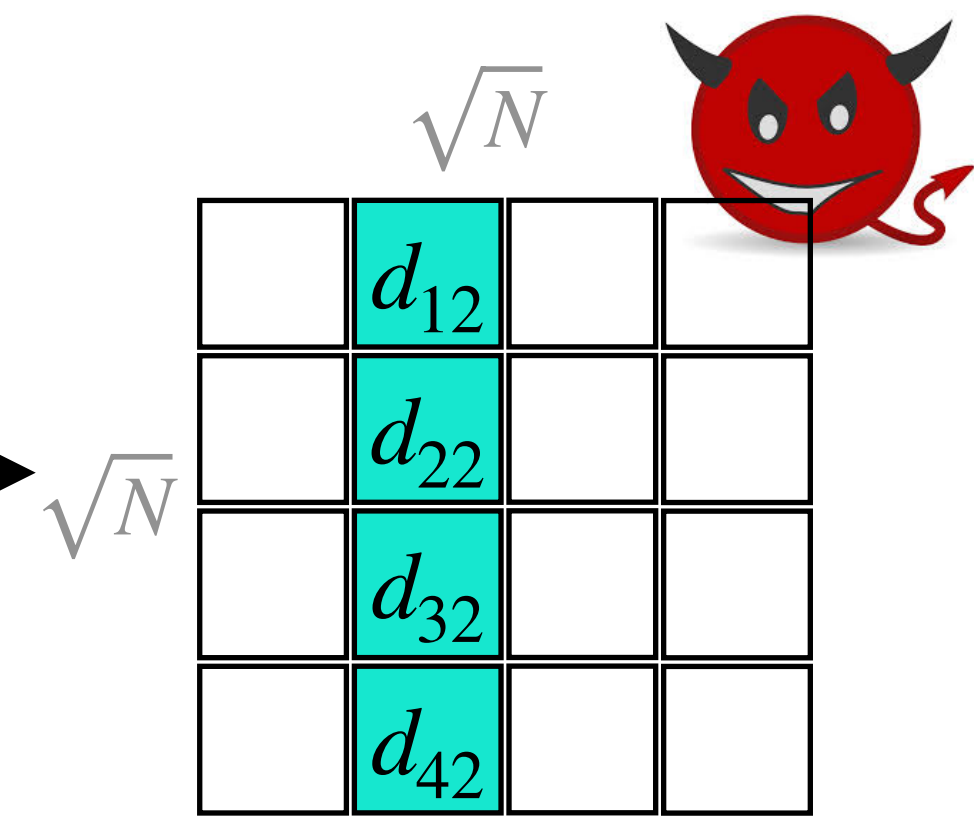
0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

0 0
1 1
0 0
0 0

0
1
0
0

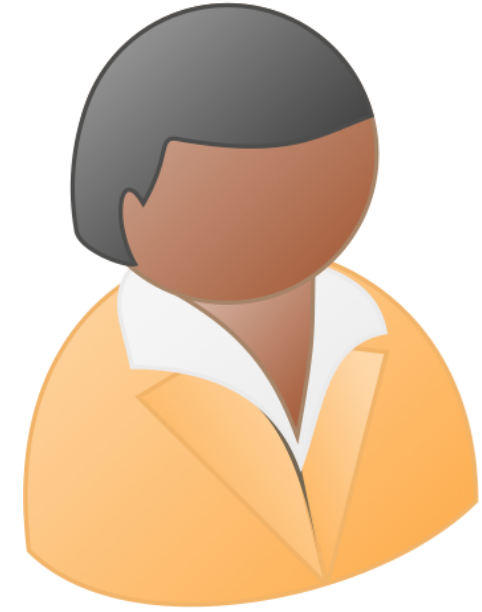
0
1
0
0



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0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

0 0
1 1
0 0
0 0

0
1
0
0

0
1
0
0

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

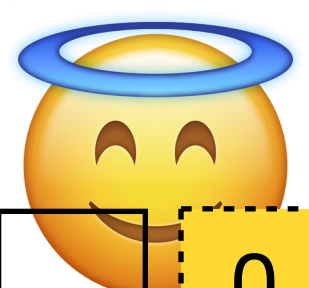
\sqrt{N}



\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

\sqrt{N}



= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

pk_{Bob} is in d_{22} , i.e.,
2nd column



0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing


0	0
1	1
0	0
0	0

d_{12}
d_{22}
d_{32}
d_{42}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

\sqrt{N}




\sqrt{N}

d_{12}
d_{22}
d_{32}
d_{42}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

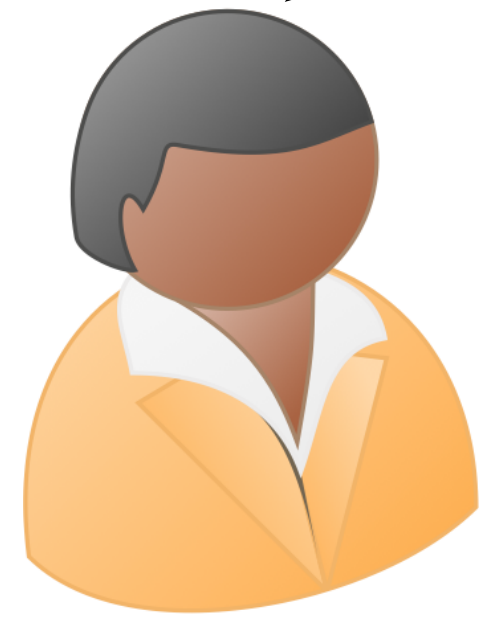
\sqrt{N}



= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

pk_{Bob} is in d_{22} , i.e.,
2nd column



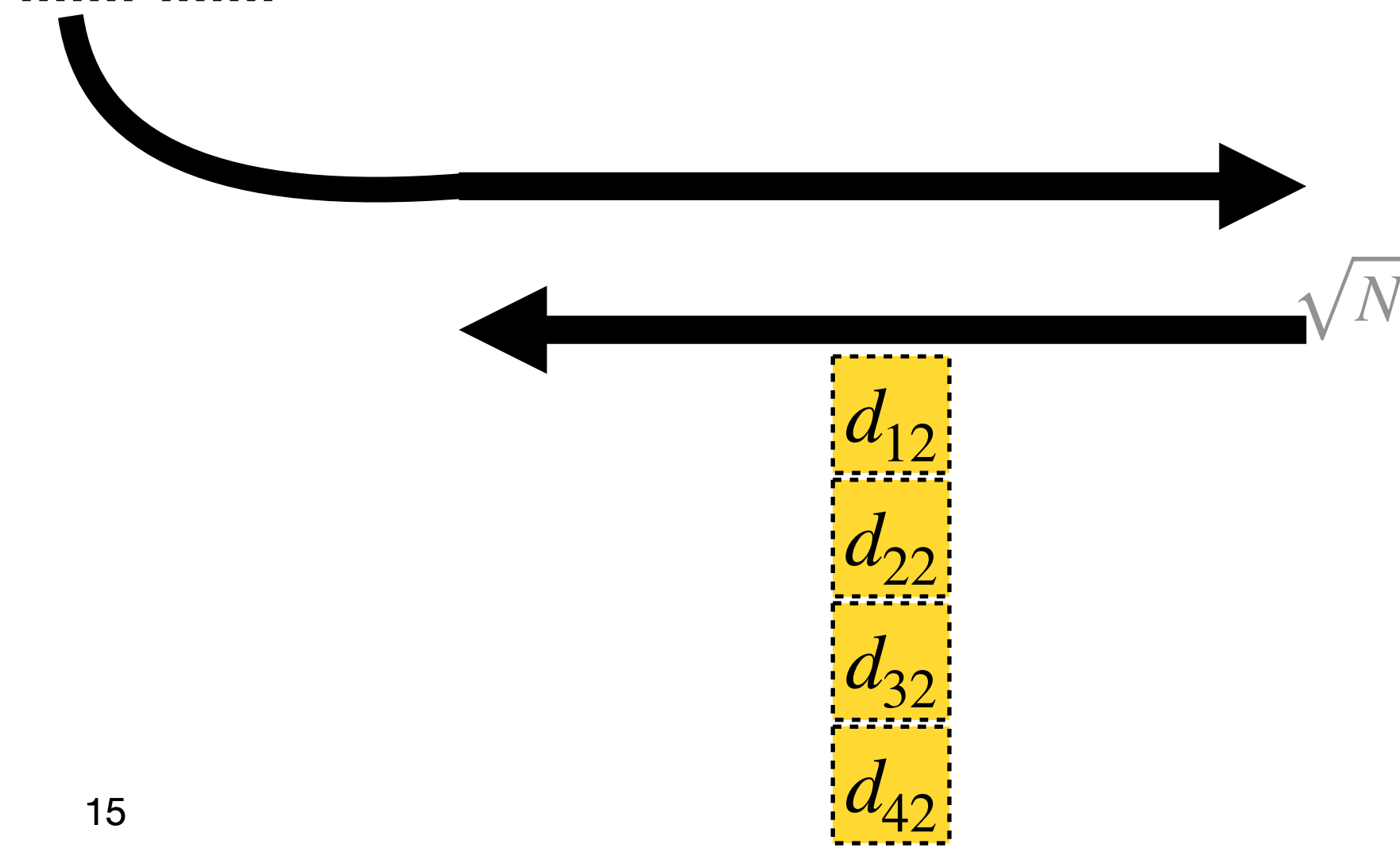
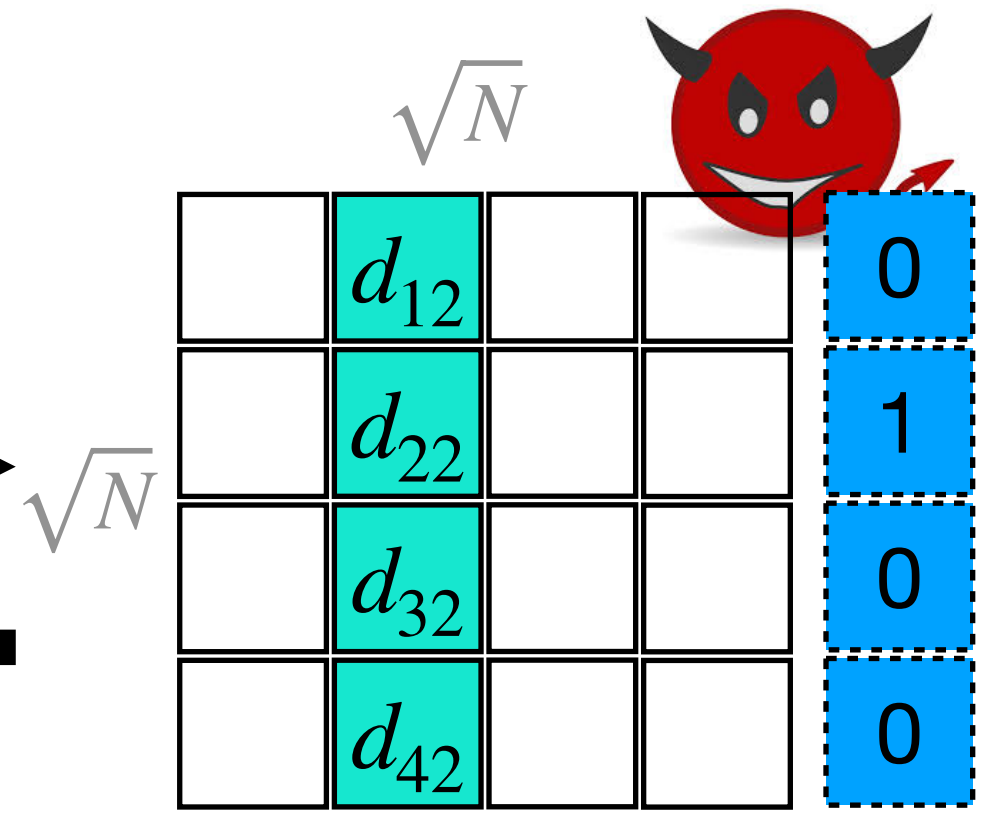
0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

d_{12}	+	d_{12}	=
d_{22}		d_{22}	
d_{32}		d_{32}	
d_{42}		d_{42}	

0	0
1	1
0	0
0	0

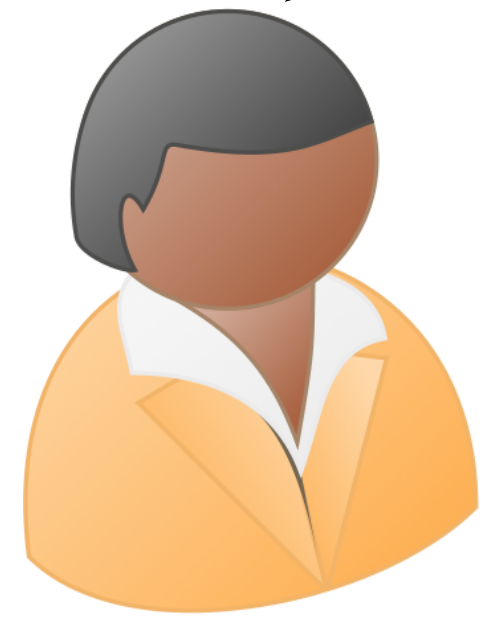
d_{12}
d_{22}
d_{32}
d_{42}



= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

pk_{Bob} is in d_{22} , i.e.,
2nd column



0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

<table border="1"><tr><td>d_{12}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{22}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{32}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{42}</td></tr></table>	d_{12}	d_{22}	d_{32}	d_{42}	+	<table border="1"><tr><td>d_{12}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{22}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{32}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{42}</td></tr></table>	d_{12}	d_{22}	d_{32}	d_{42}	=	<table border="1"><tr><td>d_{12}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{22}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{32}</td></tr><tr><td>d_{42}</td></tr></table>	d_{12}	d_{22}	d_{32}	d_{42}
d_{12}																
d_{22}																
d_{32}																
d_{42}																
d_{12}																
d_{22}																
d_{32}																
d_{42}																
d_{12}																
d_{22}																
d_{32}																
d_{42}																

0	0
1	1
0	0
0	0

d_{12}
d_{22}
d_{32}
d_{42}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

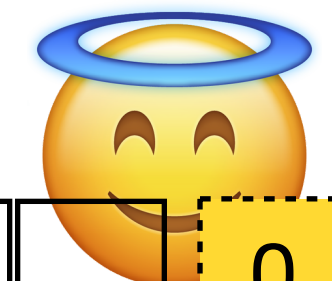


0	0
1	1
0	0
0	0

d_{12}
d_{22}
d_{32}
d_{42}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0



= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

pk_{Bob} is in d_{22} , i.e.,
2nd column



0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

$$\begin{matrix} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ a_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{matrix}$$

0 0
1 1
0 0
0 0

d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0



d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0



 = secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]

pk_{Bob} is in d_{22} , i.e.,
2nd column




0
1
0
0

additive-secret sharing

0 0
1 1
0 0
0 0

d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

\sqrt{N}



	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

+


d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

=

d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

correctness

\sqrt{N}

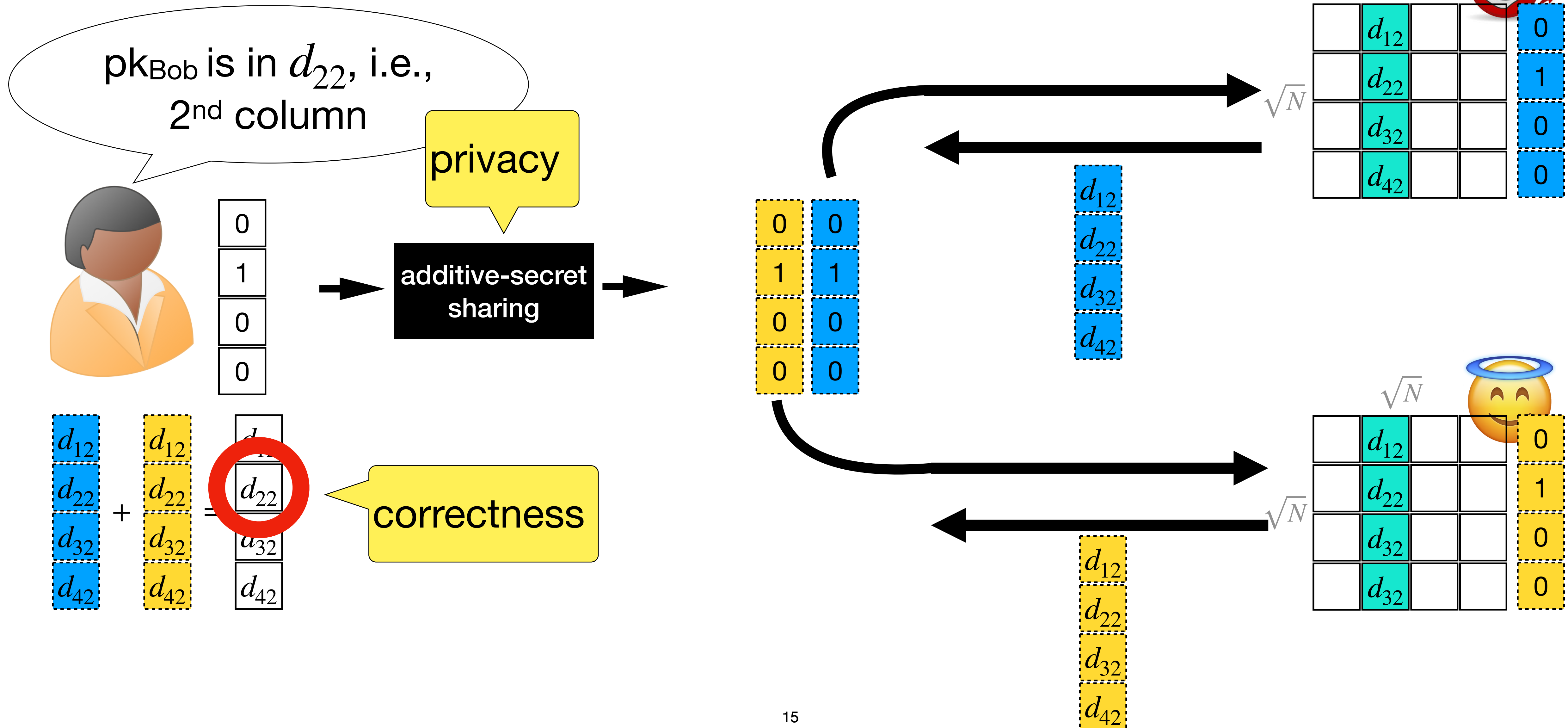


	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

d_{12}
 d_{22}
 d_{32}
 d_{42}

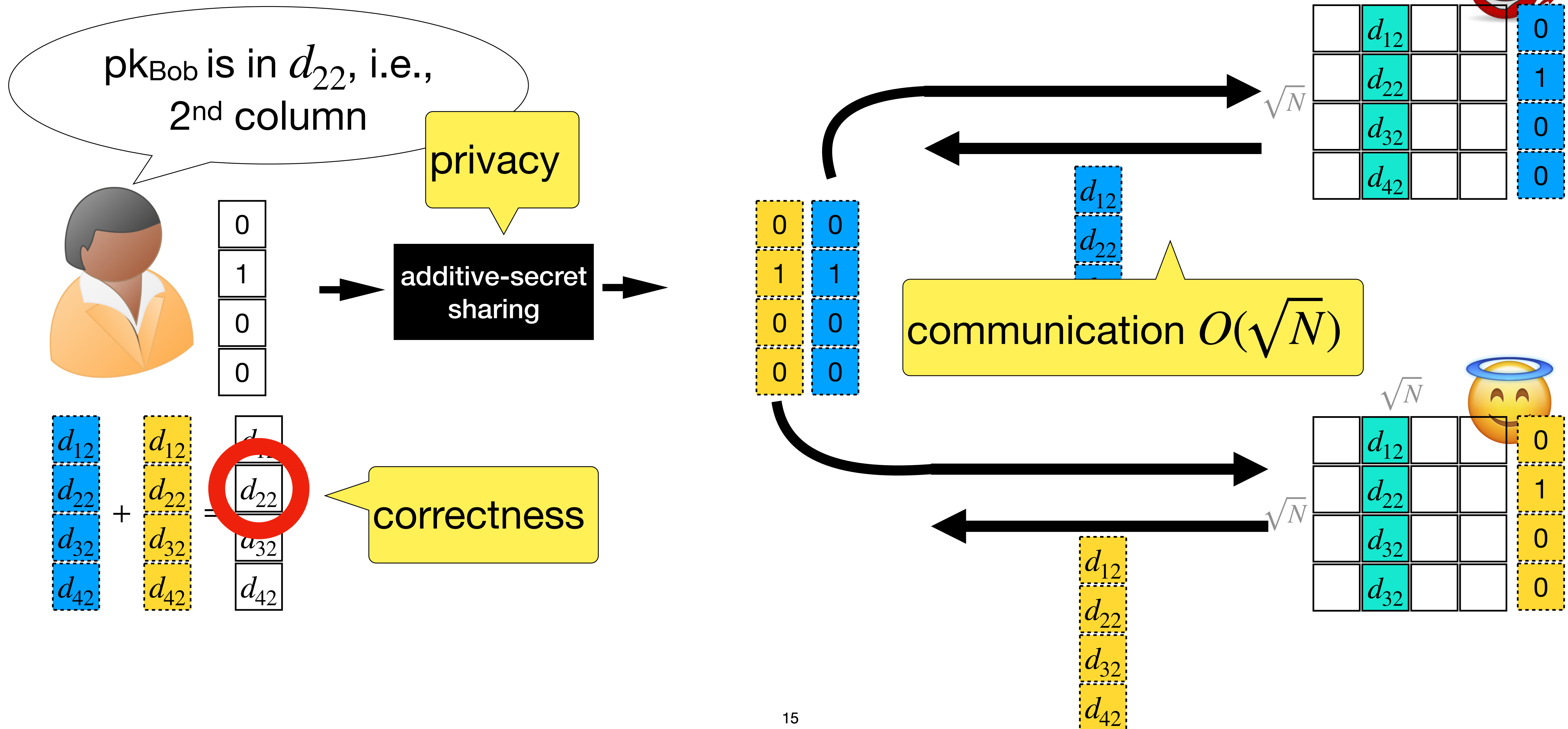
= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]



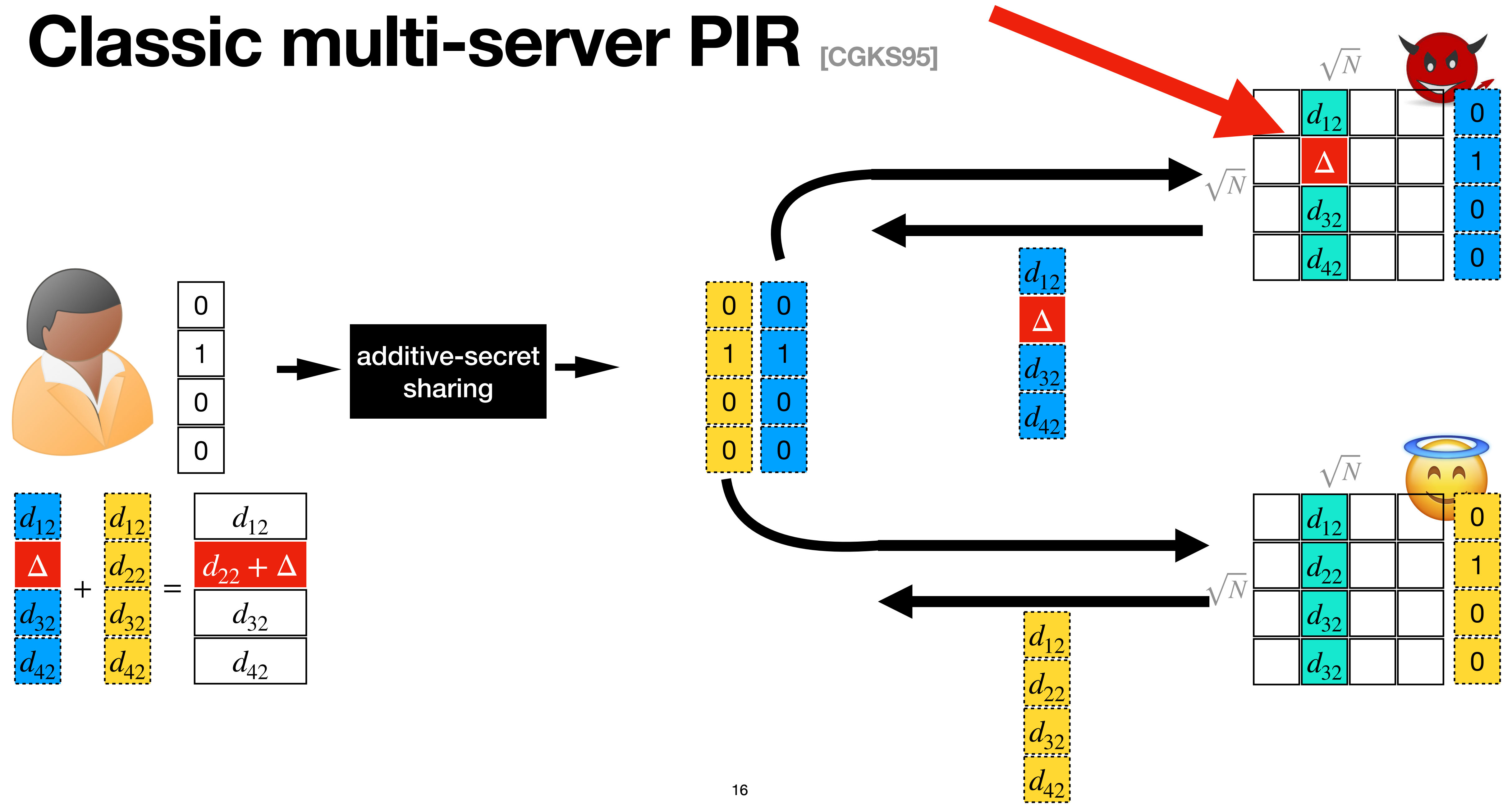
= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]



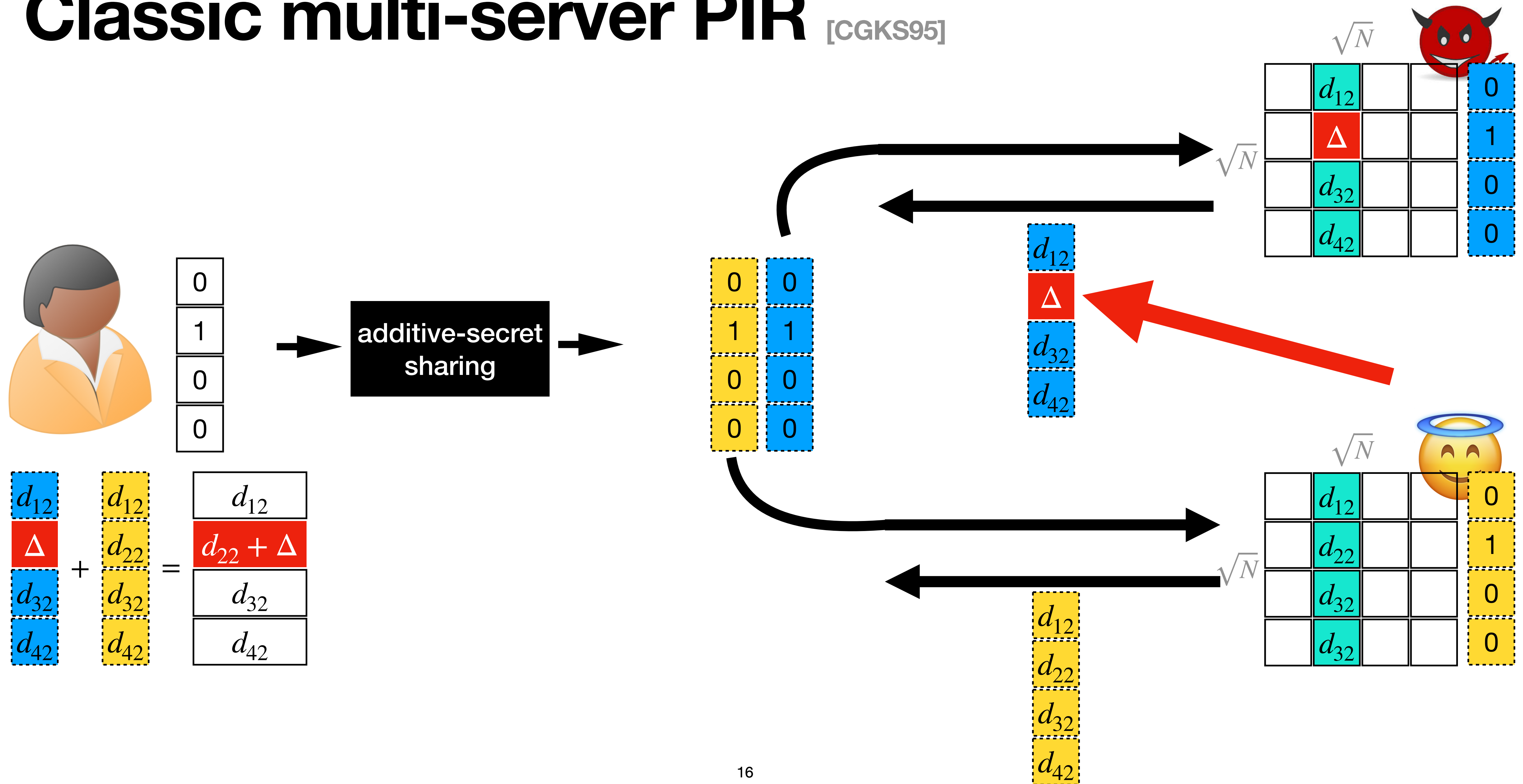
= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]



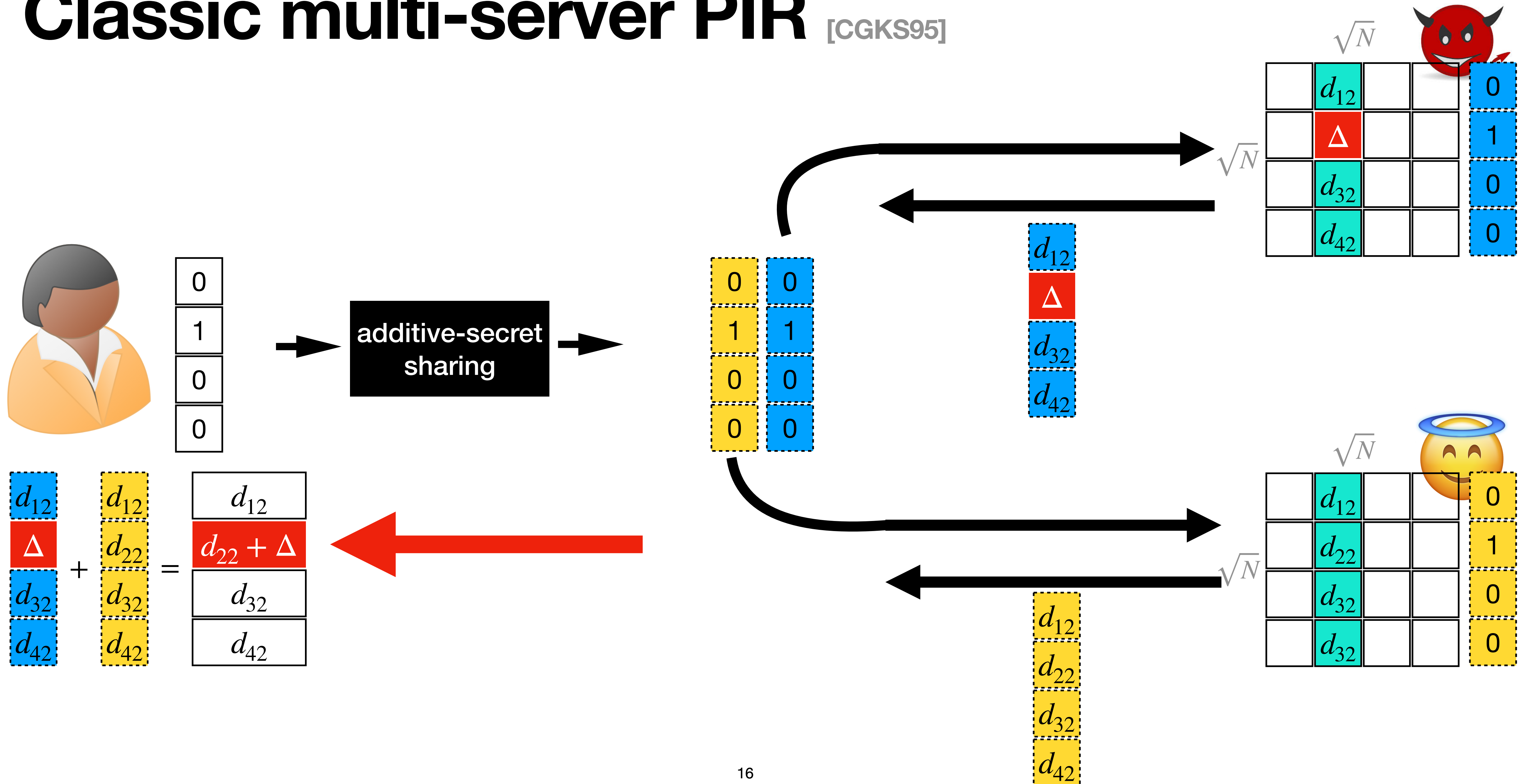
= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]



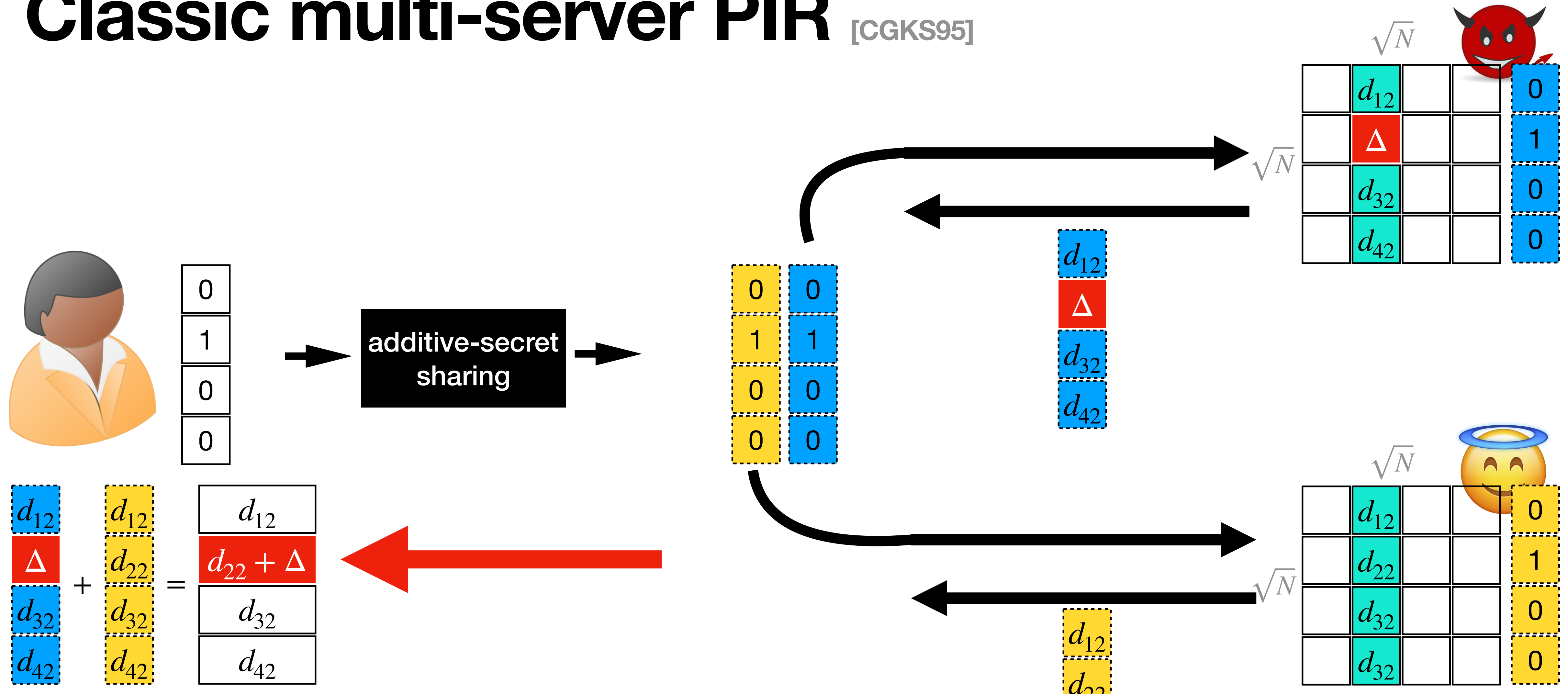
= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]



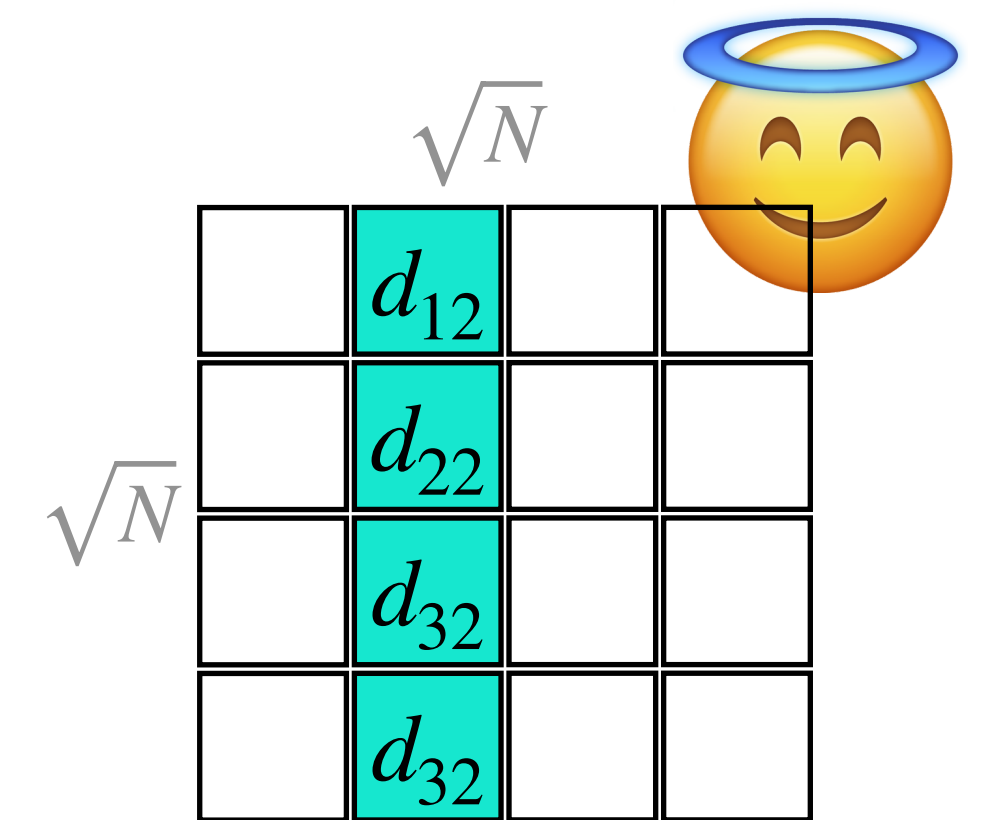
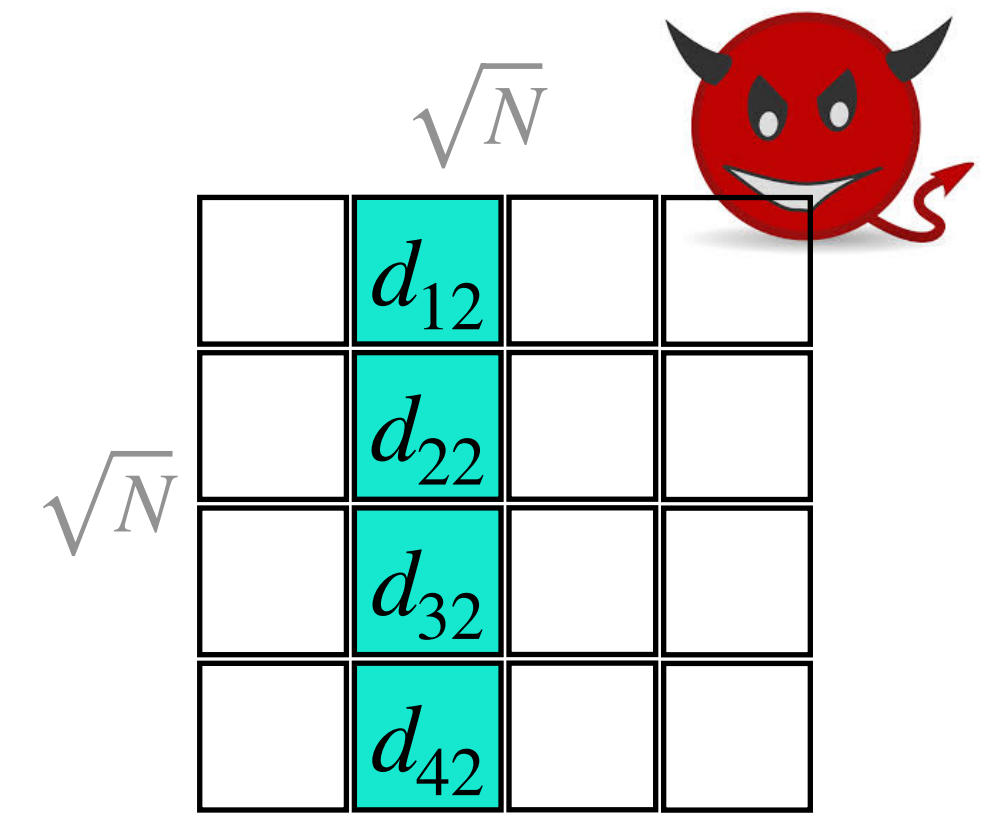
= secret shares

Classic multi-server PIR [CGKS95]



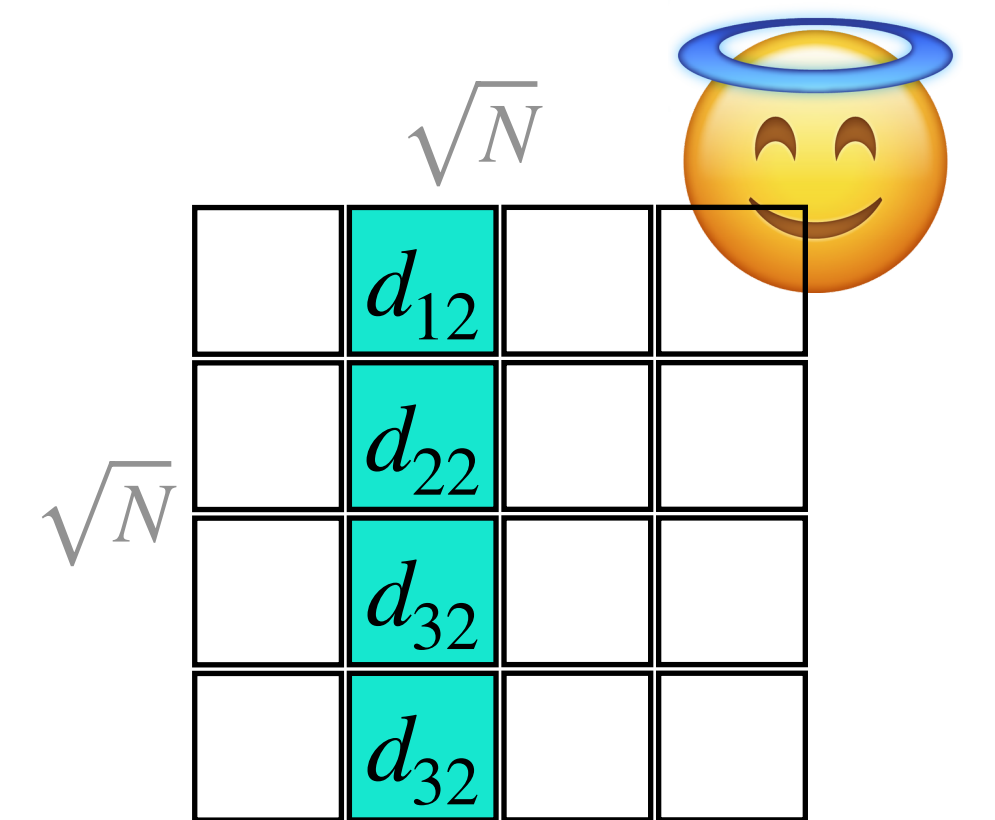
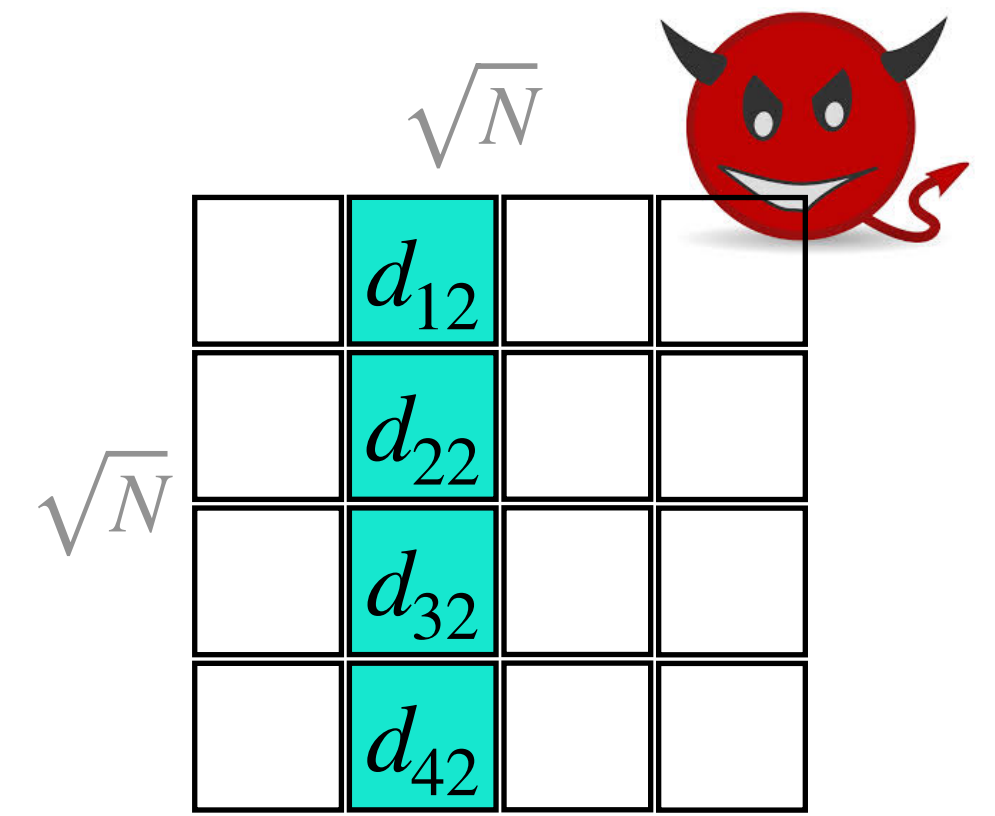
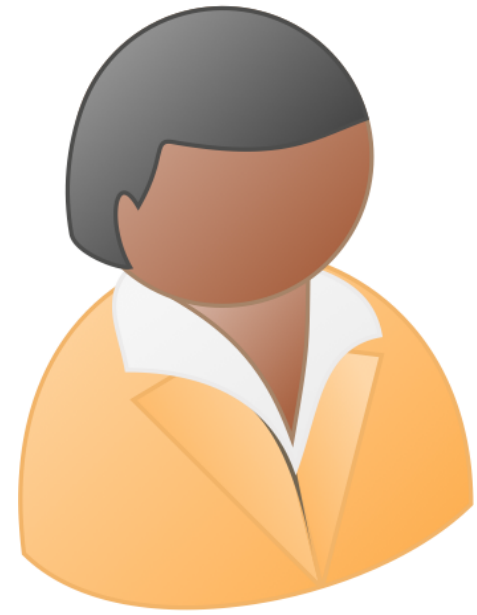
Key idea: two correlated queries, one for data and one to authenticate

Authenticated multi-server PIR



Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$

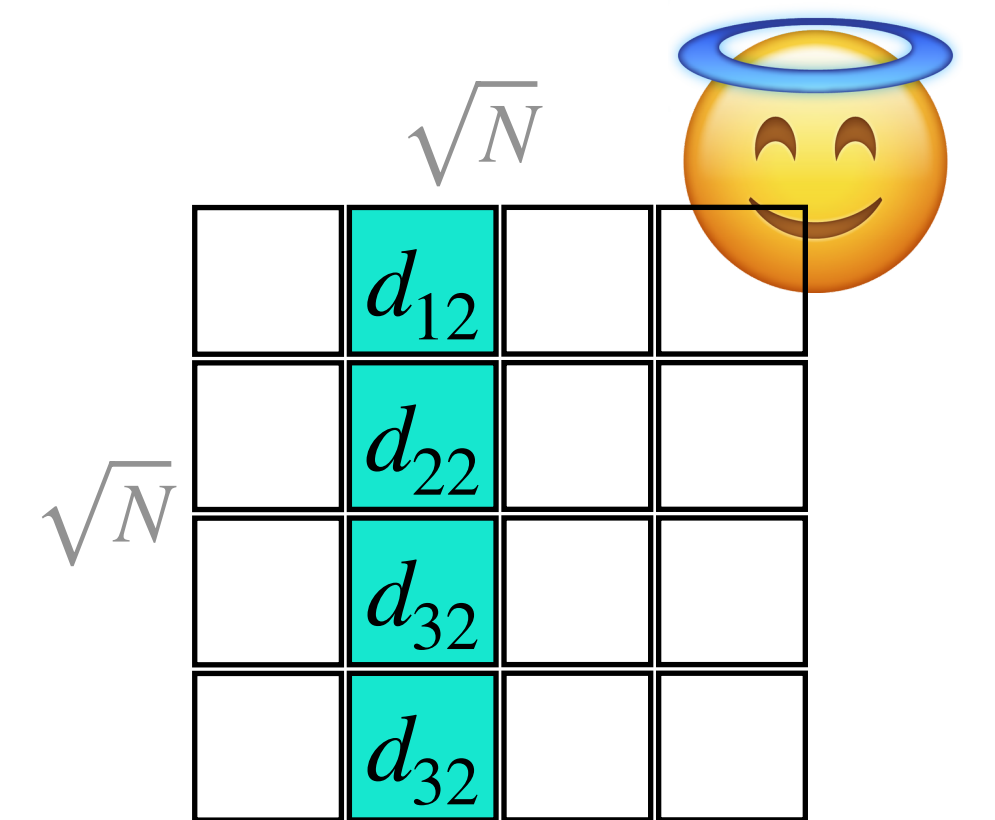
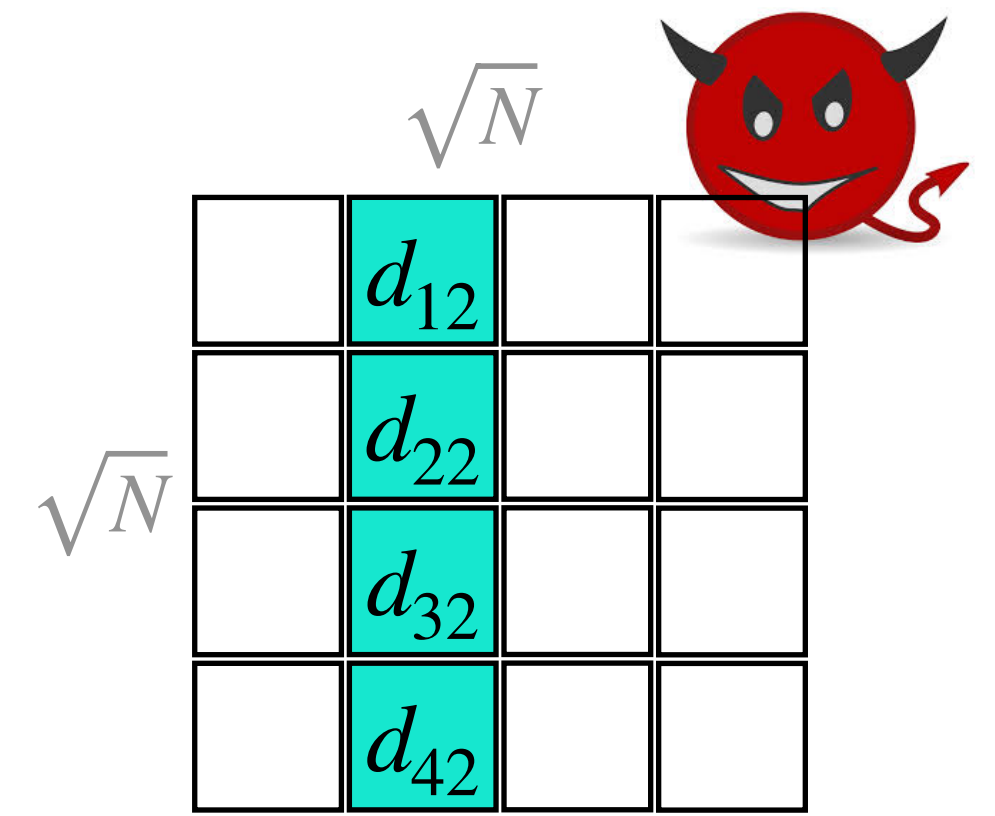


Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$

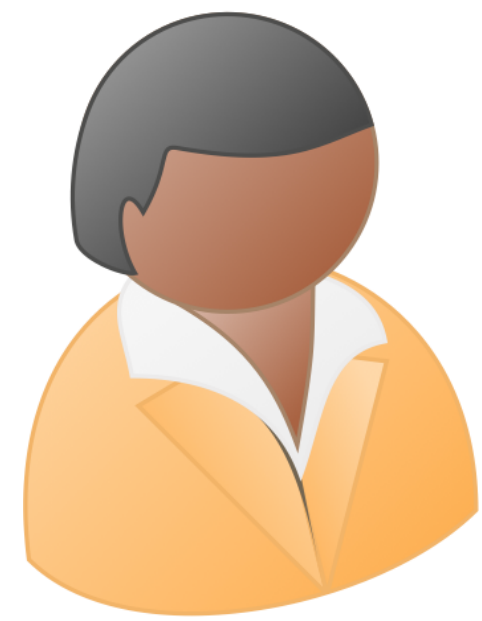


0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0



Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0

additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}		
	d_{22}		
	d_{32}		
	d_{42}		

\sqrt{N}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}		
	d_{22}		
	d_{32}		
	d_{32}		

\sqrt{N}

Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0


additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0

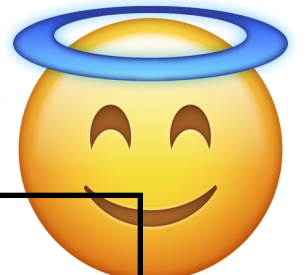
0	0
0	0
1	α
0	0

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}		
	d_{22}		
	d_{32}		
	d_{42}		

\sqrt{N}

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}		
	d_{22}		
	d_{32}		
	d_{32}		

\sqrt{N}

Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0


additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0

0	0
0	0
1	α
0	0


\sqrt{N}



	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

\sqrt{N}

\sqrt{N}

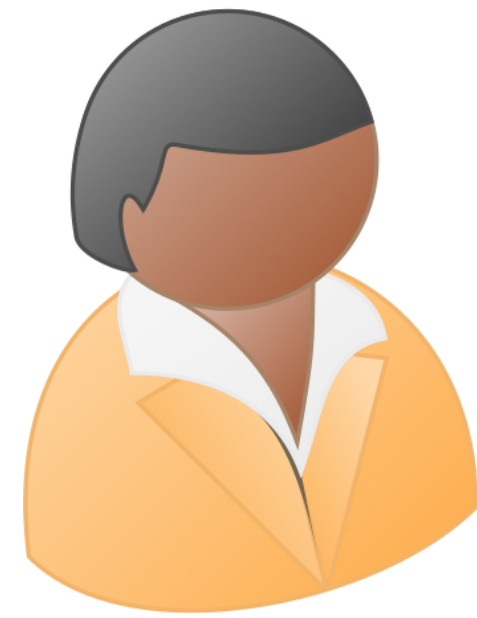


	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			1
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

\sqrt{N}

Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0


additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0


0	0
0	0
1	α
0	0

\sqrt{N}



	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

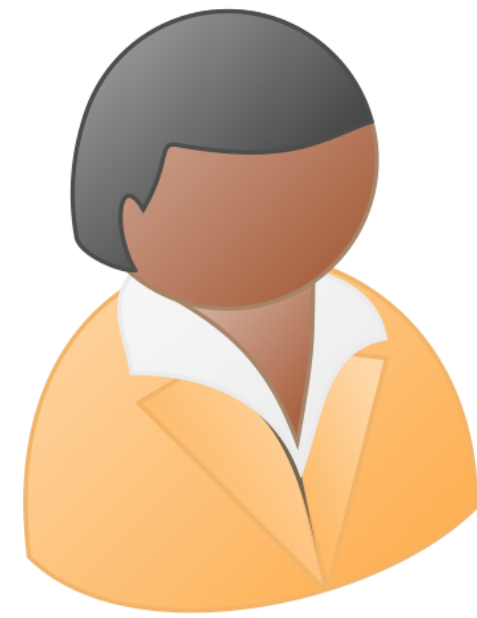
\sqrt{N}



	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0


additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

d_{12}	αd_{21}
d_{22}	αd_{22}
d_{23}	αd_{23}
d_{24}	αd_{24}


\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0



\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0



Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0


additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0


d_{12}	+	d_{12}	=	d_{12}
d_{22}		d_{22}		d_{22}
d_{32}		d_{32}		αd_{32}
d_{42}		d_{42}		d_{42}

d_{12}	αd_{21}
d_{22}	αd_{22}
d_{23}	αd_{23}
d_{24}	αd_{24}

d_{12}	αd_{12}
d_{22}	αd_{22}
d_{23}	αd_{23}
d_{24}	αd_{24}

\sqrt{N} 

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

\sqrt{N} 

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

Authenticated multi-server PIR

samples random $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{F}$



0	0
1	α
0	0
0	0

additive-secret sharing

0	0	0	0
1	α	1	α
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline d_{12} \\ \hline d_{22} \\ \hline d_{32} \\ \hline d_{42} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline d_{12} \\ \hline d_{22} \\ \hline d_{32} \\ \hline d_{42} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline d_{12} \\ \hline d_{22} \\ \hline d_{32} \\ \hline d_{42} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \alpha d_{12} \\ \hline \alpha d_{22} \\ \hline \alpha d_{32} \\ \hline \alpha d_{42} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \alpha d_{12} \\ \hline \alpha d_{22} \\ \hline \alpha d_{32} \\ \hline \alpha d_{42} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \alpha d_{12} \\ \hline \alpha d_{22} \\ \hline \alpha d_{32} \\ \hline \alpha d_{42} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

d_{12}	αd_{21}
d_{22}	αd_{22}
d_{23}	αd_{23}
d_{24}	αd_{24}

\sqrt{N}

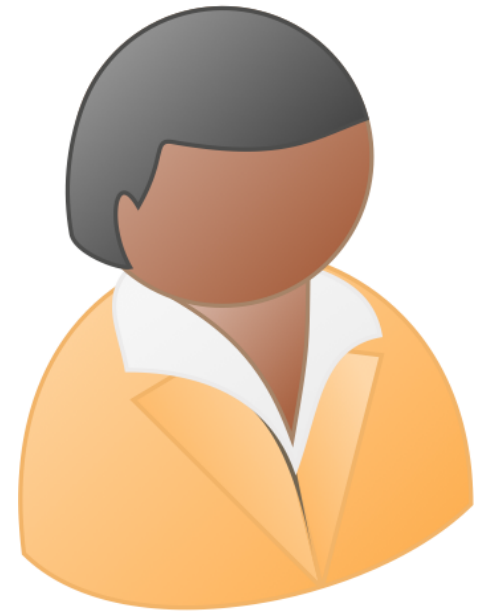
	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{42}			0

\sqrt{N}

	d_{12}			0
	d_{22}			α
	d_{32}			0
	d_{32}			0

d_{12}	αd_{12}
d_{22}	αd_{22}
d_{23}	αd_{23}
d_{24}	αd_{24}

Authenticated multi-server PIR integrity



Authenticated multi-server PIR integrity

$$\text{if } \alpha \cdot \left(\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array}$$



Authenticated multi-server PIR integrity

$$\text{if } \alpha \cdot \left(\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array}$$

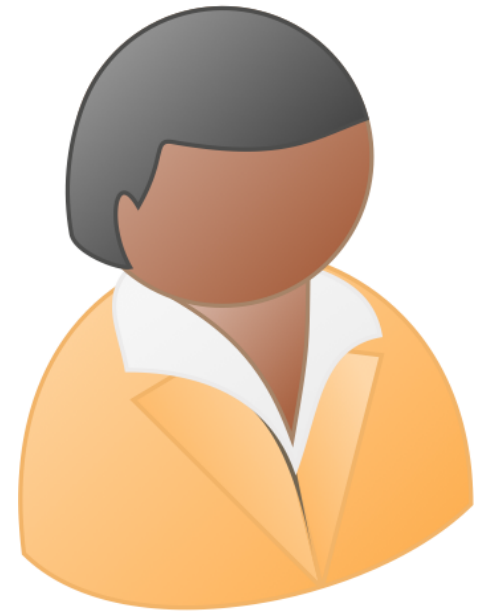


return second element of

$$\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{32} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array}$$

Authenticated multi-server PIR integrity

$$\text{if } \alpha \cdot \left(\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array}$$



return second element of

$$\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{32} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array}$$

else abort

Authenticated multi-server PIR integrity

if $\alpha \cdot \left(\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \alpha d_{12} \\ \alpha d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ \alpha d_{42} \end{array}$



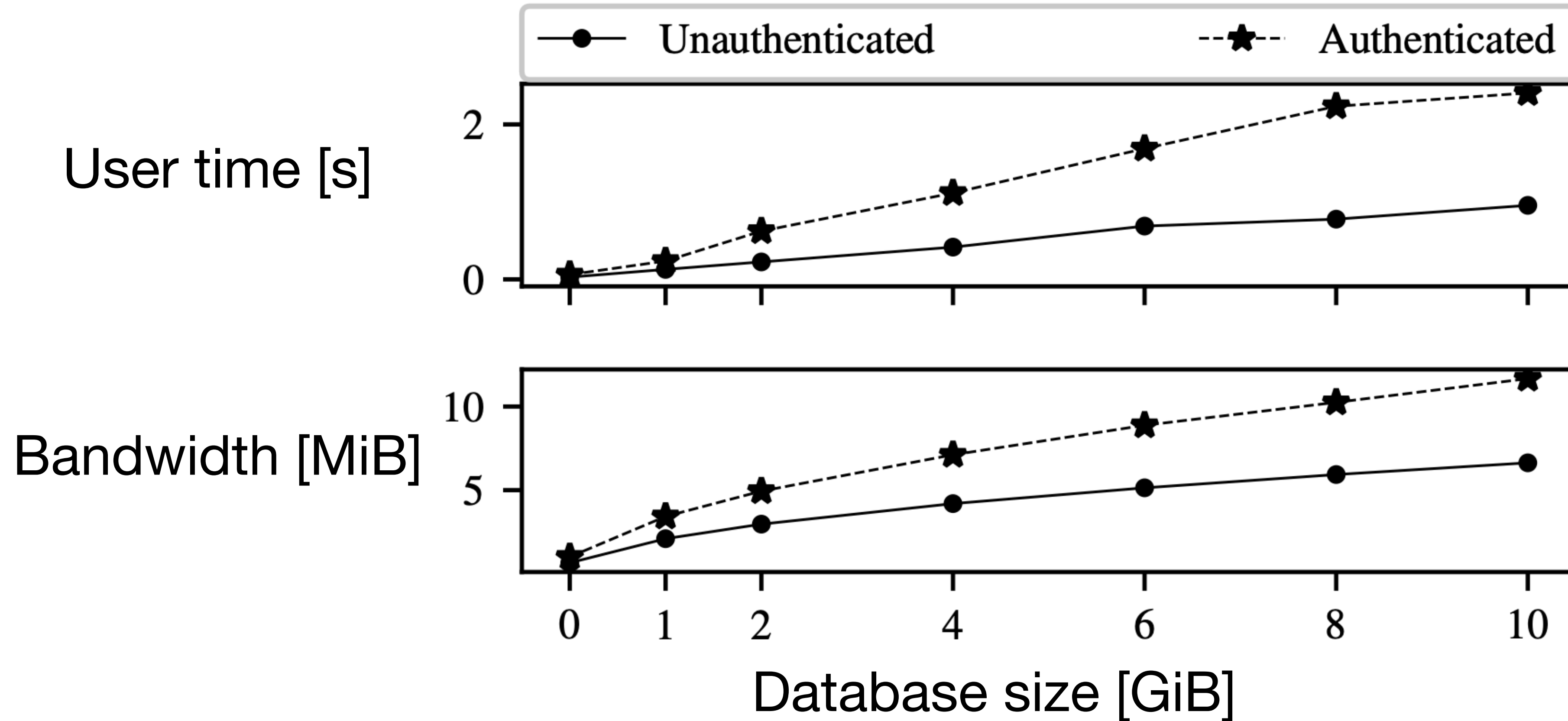
return second element of

$$\begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ d_{32} \\ d_{32} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} d_{12} \\ d_{22} \\ \alpha d_{32} \\ d_{42} \end{array}$$

else abort

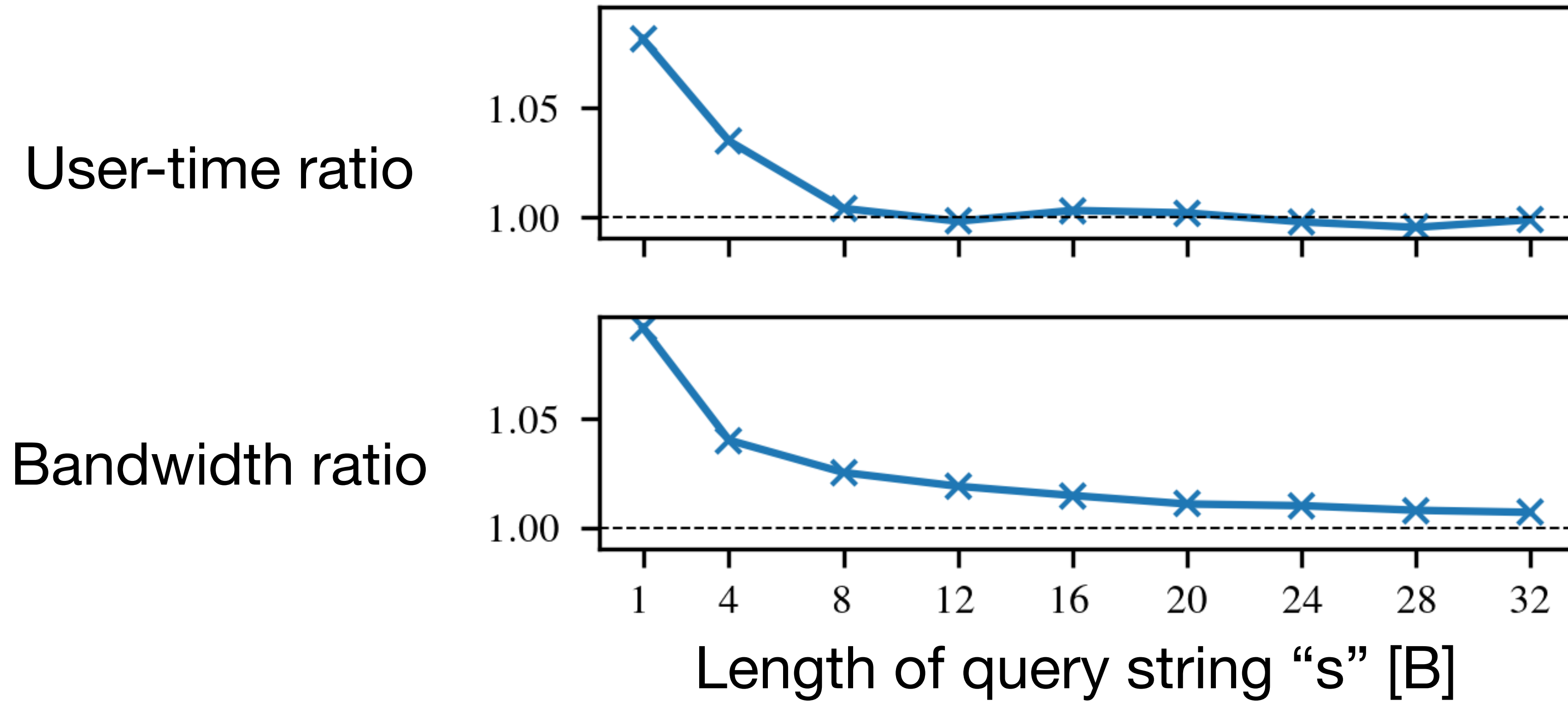
communication $O(\sqrt{N})$, see paper for $O(\log N)$ with function secret sharing [BGI16]

Evaluation: single-record queries



Cost of retrieving a 1KiB record

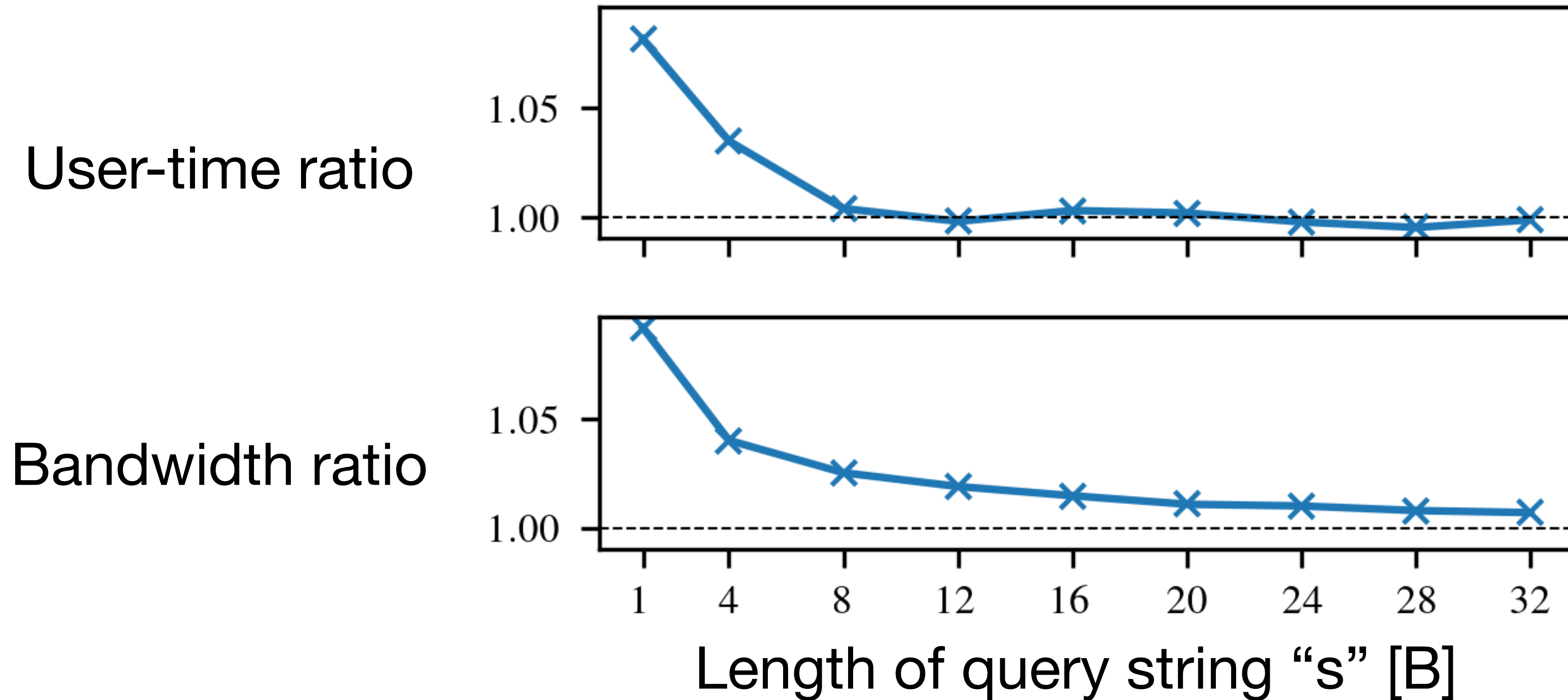
Evaluation: aggregate queries



SELECT COUNT(*) FROM keys WHERE email LIKE "%s"

Evaluation: aggregate queries

ratio of authenticated
and classic
unauthenticated PIR

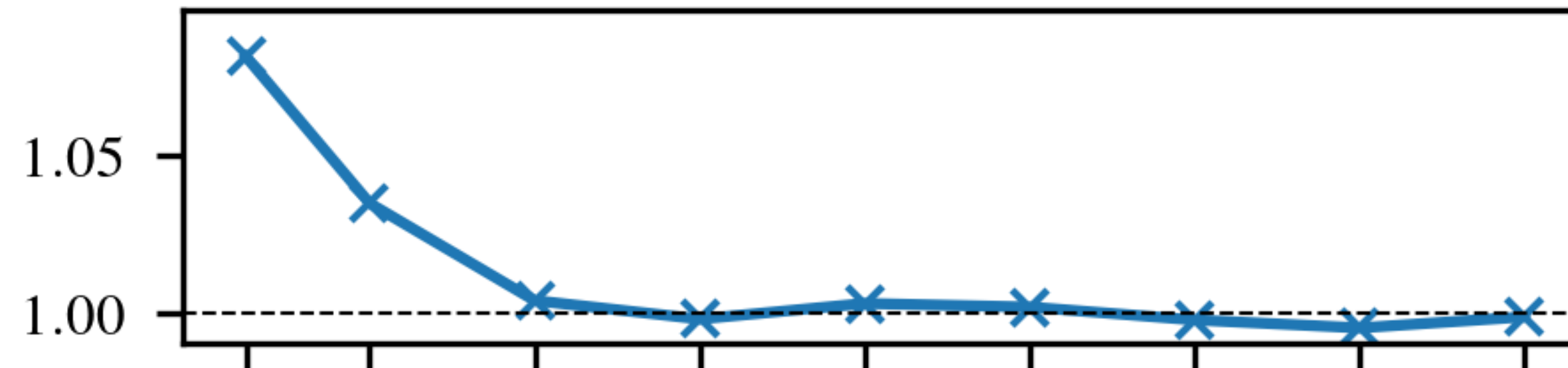


```
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM keys WHERE email LIKE "%s"
```

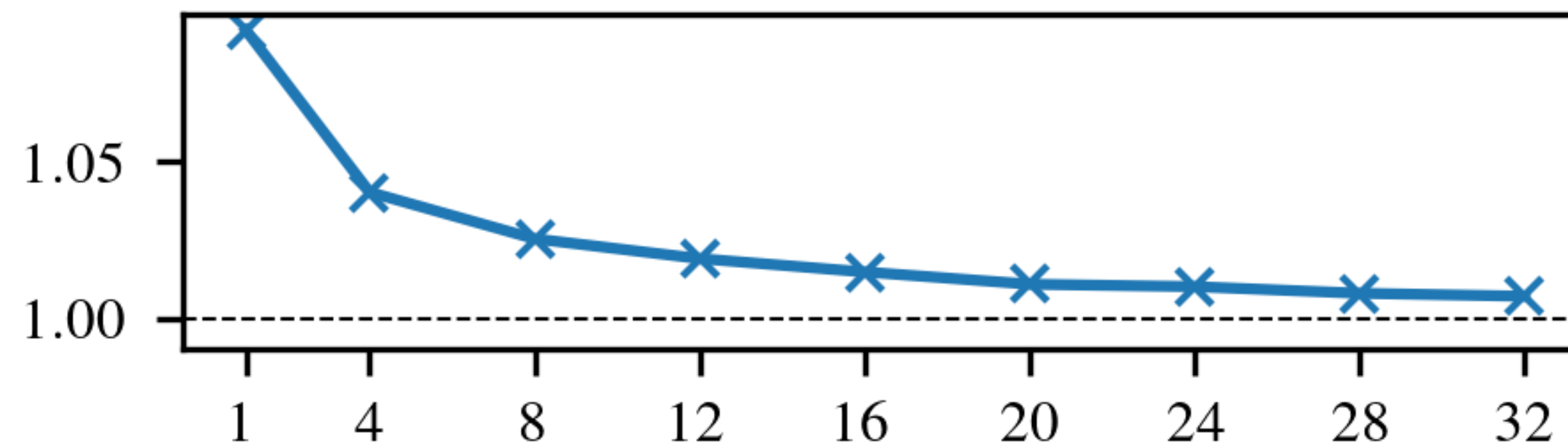
Evaluation: aggregate queries

ratio of authenticated
and classic
unauthenticated PIR

User-time ratio



Bandwidth ratio



Length of query string "s" [B]

Count emails that
end with string "s"

```
SELECT COUNT(*) FROM keys WHERE email LIKE "%s"
```



Conclusion



- New integrity definition for PIR schemes: either authentic record or abort.
 - In multi-server setting comes almost for free.
 - In single-server setting imposes 30-100X overhead: **can we do better?**
- Key directory service: **PoC, but not deployed yet.**
- Full paper: <https://ia.cr/2023/297>, code: <https://github.com/dedis/apir-code>.
- Keyd: <https://keyd.org/>.