

# Extending Oblivious Transfers Efficiently

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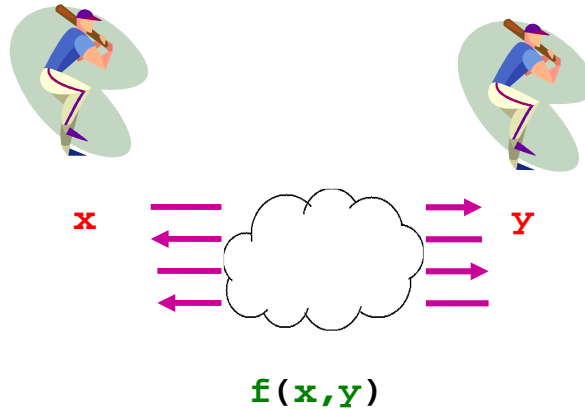
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Microsoft

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Technion

# Motivation



- How (in)efficient is *generic* secure computation?

myth



don't even  
think  
about it

garbled circuit  
method

$O(|x|)$  pub.

$O(|f|)$  sym.

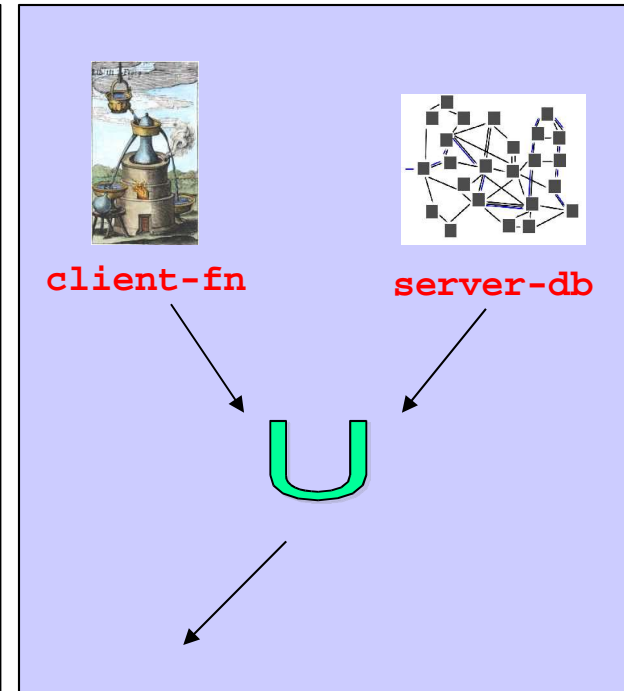
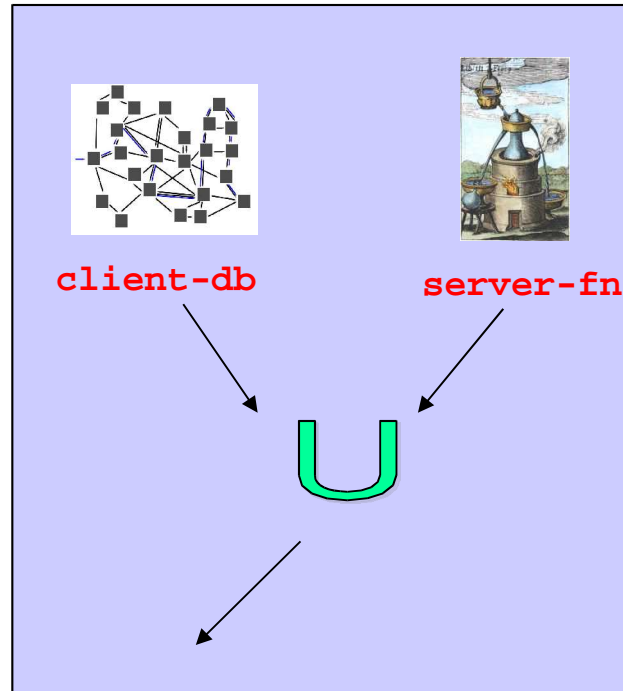
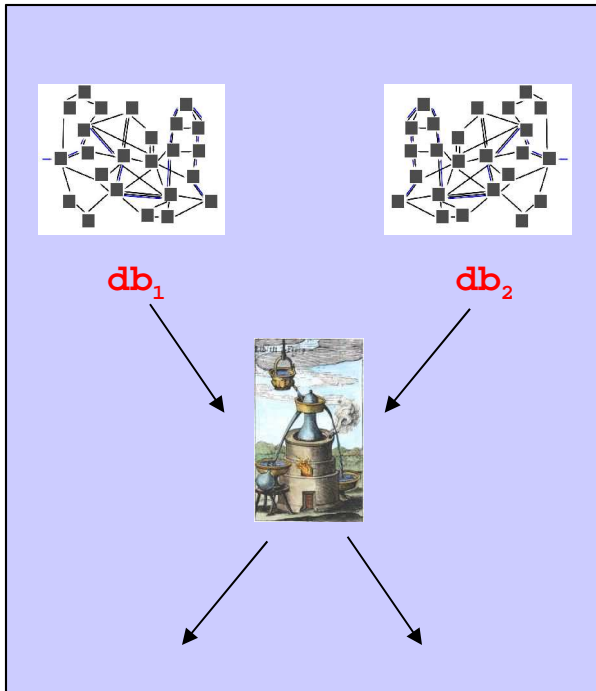
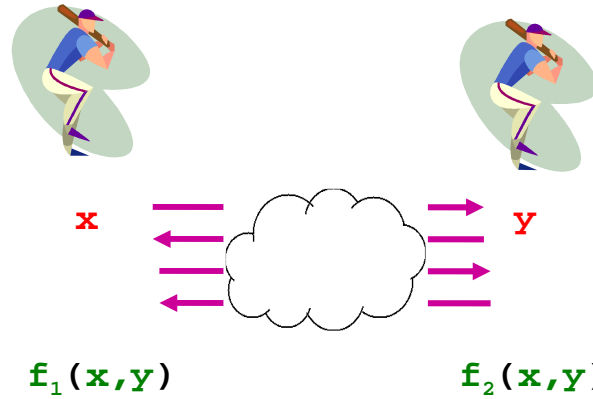
THIS WORK

$k$  pub.

$O(|f|+|x|)$  sym.

`sftp f.txt`

# Motivation



# Efficiency of Secure Computation

- Sometimes can use special structure of given functionality.
- Otherwise need to resort to *generic* techniques.
- How (in)efficient is generic secure computation?

myth



don't even  
think  
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garbled circuit  
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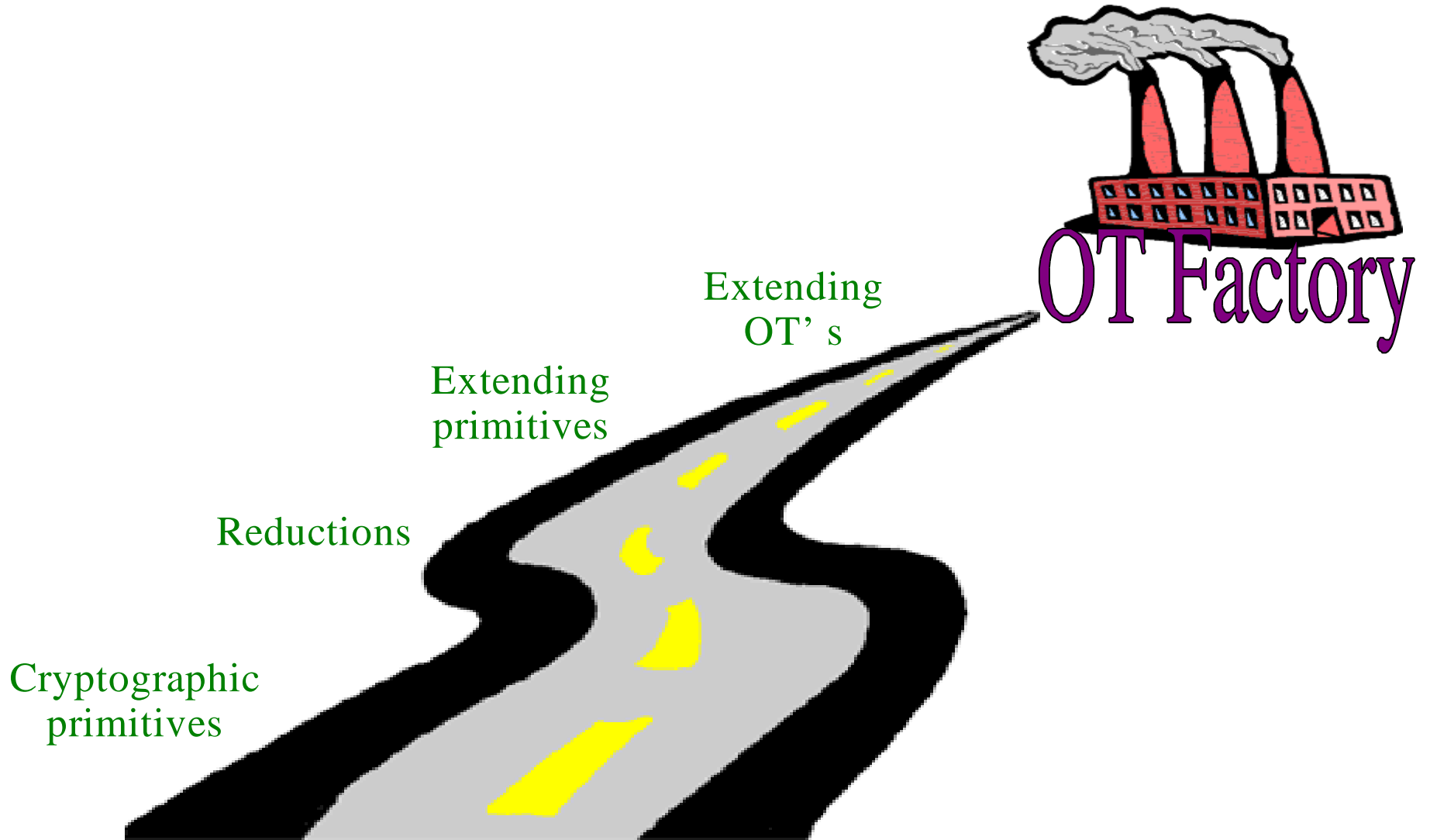
$O(|x|)$  pub.  
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THIS WORK

$k$  pub.  
 $O(|f|+|x|)$  sym.

`sftp f.txt`

# Road Map



# A Taxonomy of Primitives



Symmetric encryption

Commitment

PRG

Collision resistant  
hashing



→ here you

← go

→ kidding?  
check this

← onice try...

→ crack this!!!

← hmmm...



Public-key encryption

Key agreement

Oblivious transfer

Secure function evaluation



→ here you

← go

→ kidding?  
check this

← out

→ kidding?  
crack this!!!

← r u

kidding?

⋮





Symmetric encryption

Commitment

PRG

Collision resistant  
hashing

**easy** to implement heuristically  
(numerous candidates, may rely  
on “structureless” functions)

very **cheap** in practice



Public-key encryption

Key agreement

Oblivious transfer

Secure function evaluation

**hard** to implement  
heuristically  
(few candidates, rely on  
specific algebraic structures)

more **expensive**  
by orders of magnitude


Major challenge: bridge efficiency gap

# Reductions in Cryptography

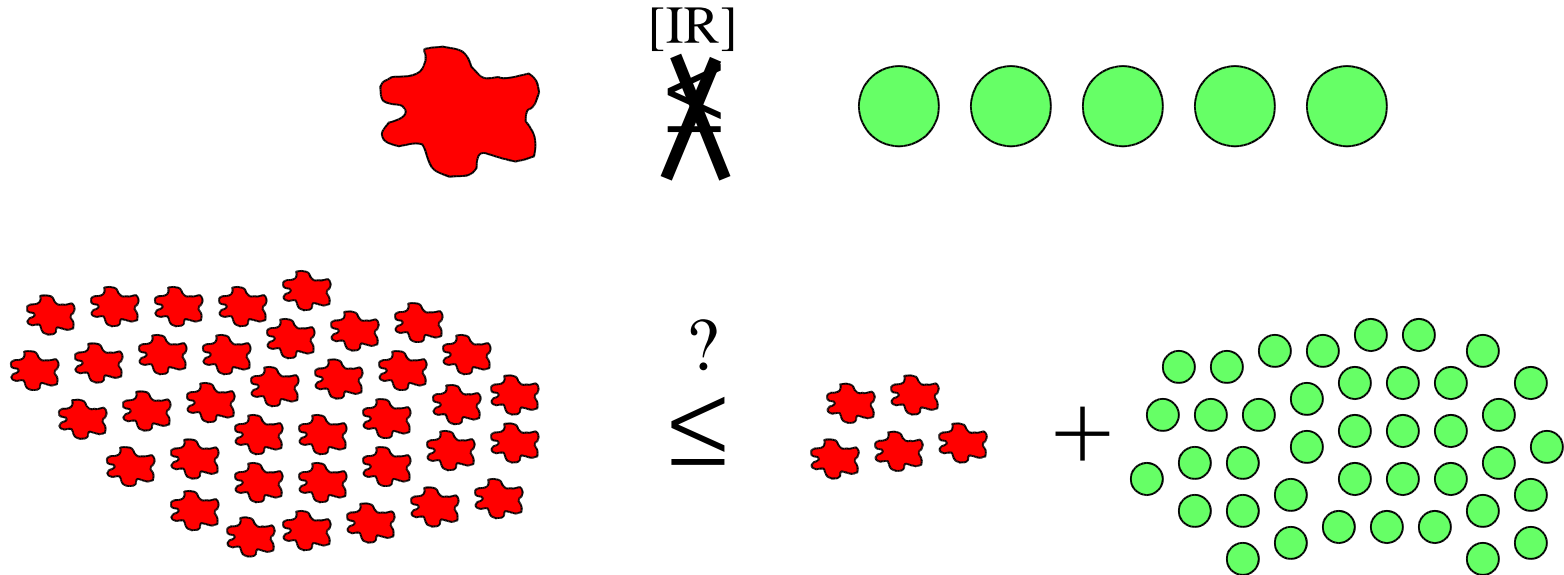
- Motivated by
  - minimizing assumptions
  - gaining efficiency
- **Reduction** from  $Y$  to  $X$ : a mapping  $f$  such that if  $A$  implements  $X$  then  $f(A)$  implements  $Y$ .
  - Cannot be ruled out when  $Y$  is believed to exist.
- **Black-box reduction**:
  - $f(A)$  makes a black-box use of  $A$ ;
  - Black-box proof of security: Adversary breaking  $f(A)$  can be used as a black box to break  $A$ .
- Almost all known reductions are black-box.
  - Non-black-box reductions are inefficient in practice.



Can  be reduced to  ?

- Impagliazzo-Rudich [IR89]:  
No *black-box* reduction exists.
  - In fact, even a random oracle unlikely to yield 

# Extending Primitives



Extending  $Y$  using  $X$ :

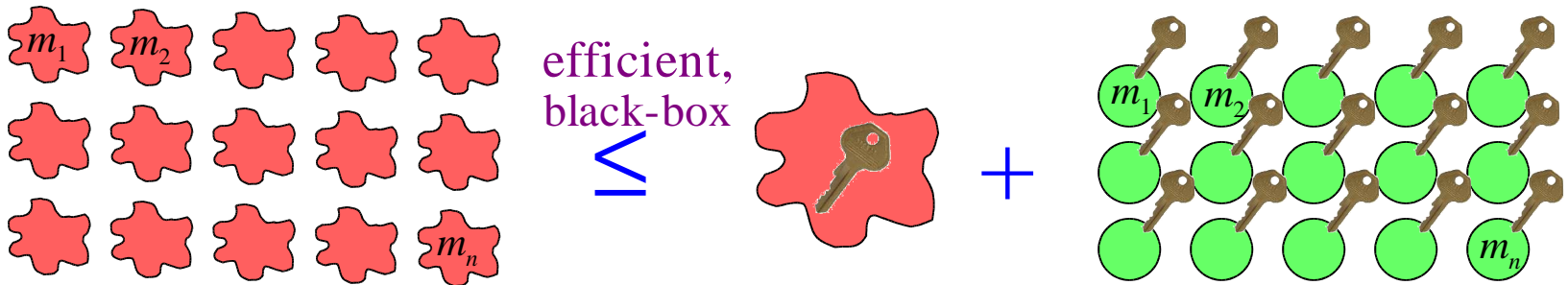
Realizing  $n$  instances of  $Y$  by making

- $k$  (black-box) calls to  $Y$ ,  $k < n$
- arbitrary use of  $X$

Want:

- $k \ll n$
- *black-box* use of  $X$ .

# The Case of Encryption



- Extending PKE is easy...
- Huge impact on our everyday use of encryption.



Symmetric encryption

Commitment

PRG

Collision resistant hashing



Public-key encryption

Key agreement

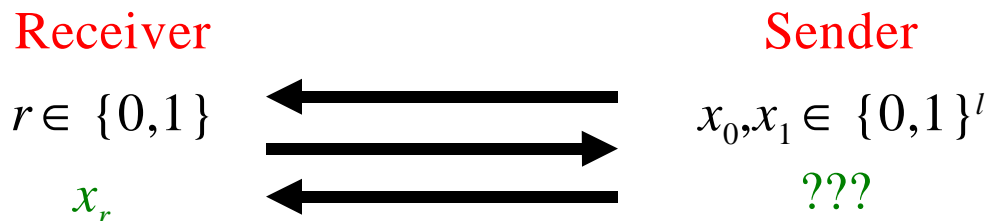
**Oblivious transfer**

**Secure function evaluation**

**This work:** Establish a similar result for remaining tasks.

# Oblivious Transfer (OT)

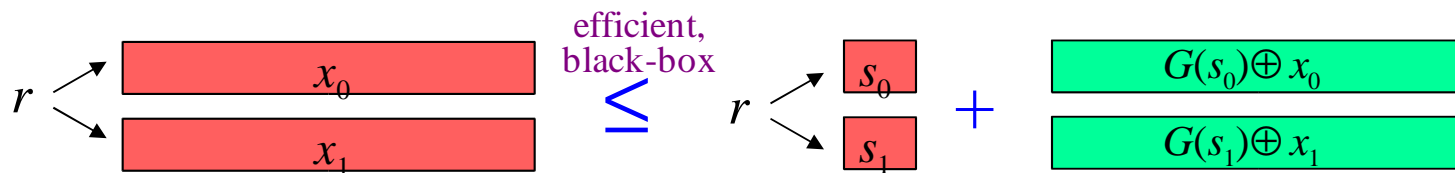
- Several equivalent flavors [Rab81,EGL86,BCR87]
- $\binom{2}{1}$ -OT:



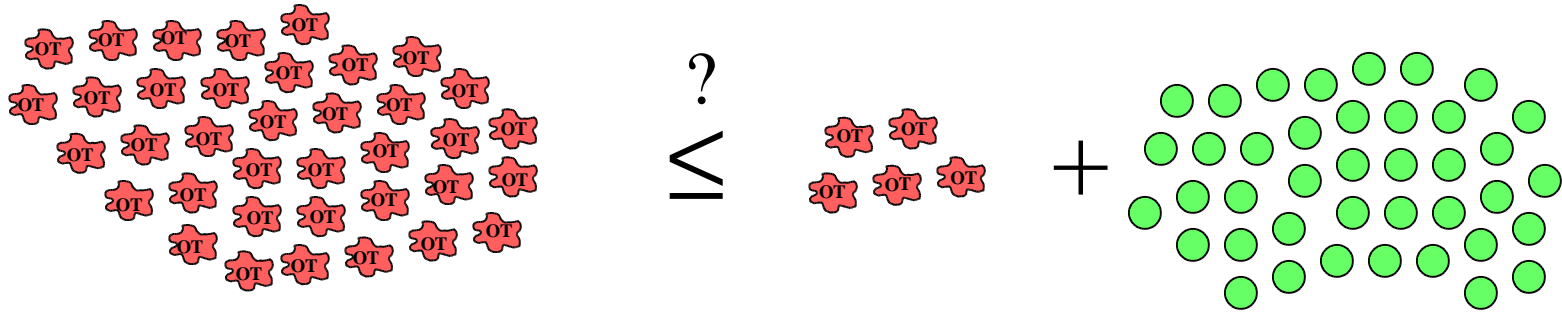
- Formally defined as an instance of secure 2-party computation:
  - $\text{OT}(r, \langle x_0, x_1 \rangle) = (x_r, \perp)$
- Extensively used in
  - general secure computation protocols [Yao86,GV87,Kil88,GMW88]
    - Yao's protocol: # of OT's = # of input bits
  - special-purpose protocols
    - Auctions [NPS99], shared RSA [BF97,Gil99], information retrieval [NP99], data mining [LP00,CIKRRW01],...

# Cost of OT

- OT is at least as expensive as key-agreement.
  - OT's form the efficiency bottleneck in many protocols.
  - “OT count” has become a common efficiency measure.
  - Some amortization was obtained in [NP01].
- Cost of OT is pretty much insensitive to  $l$ 
  - Most direct OT implementations give  $l =$  security parameter “for free”
  - Handle larger  $l$  via use of a PRG

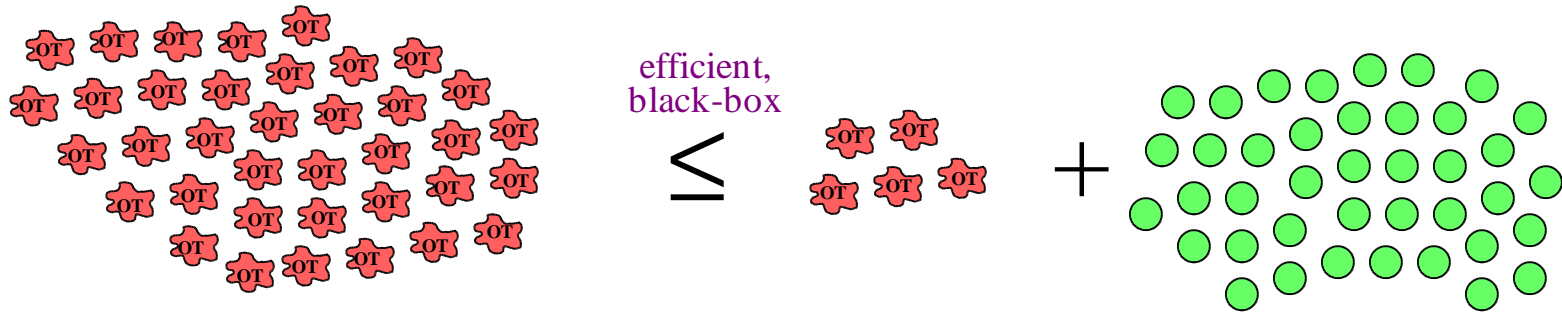


# Extending Oblivious Transfers



- **Beaver '96:** OT can be extended using a PRG!!
  - **Thm.** If PRG exists, then  $k$  OT' s can be extended to  $n=k^c$  OT' s.
- **However:**
  - Extension makes a non-black-box use of underlying PRG.
  - Numerous PRG invocations
  - Huge communication complexity
  - Unlikely to be better than direct OT implementations
- Can OT be extended via a black-box reduction?

# Our Result

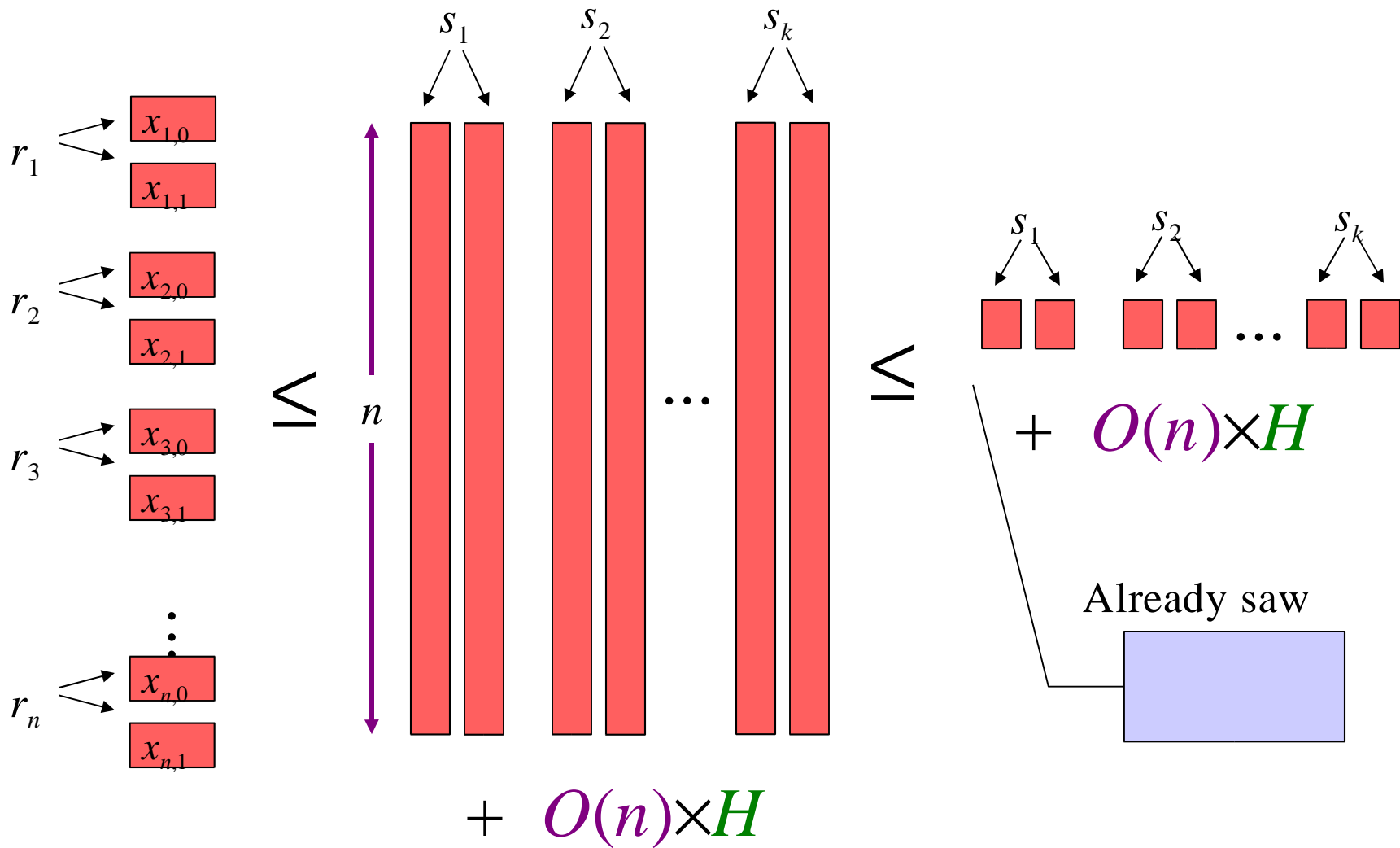


● = random oracle

or

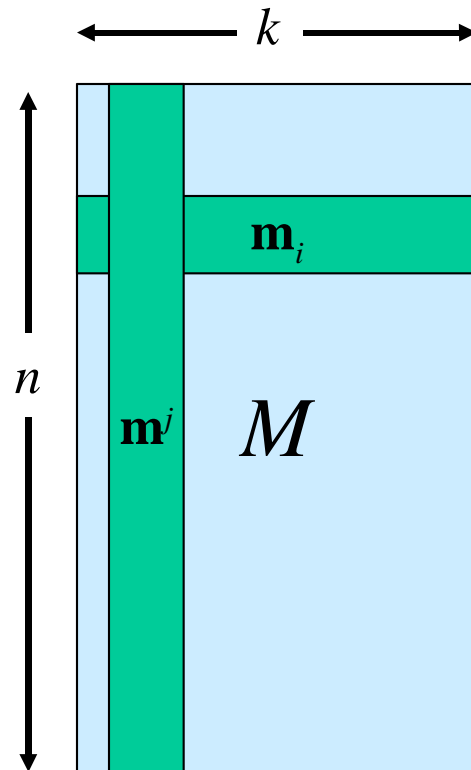
● = new type of hash  
function

# Strategy





# Notation

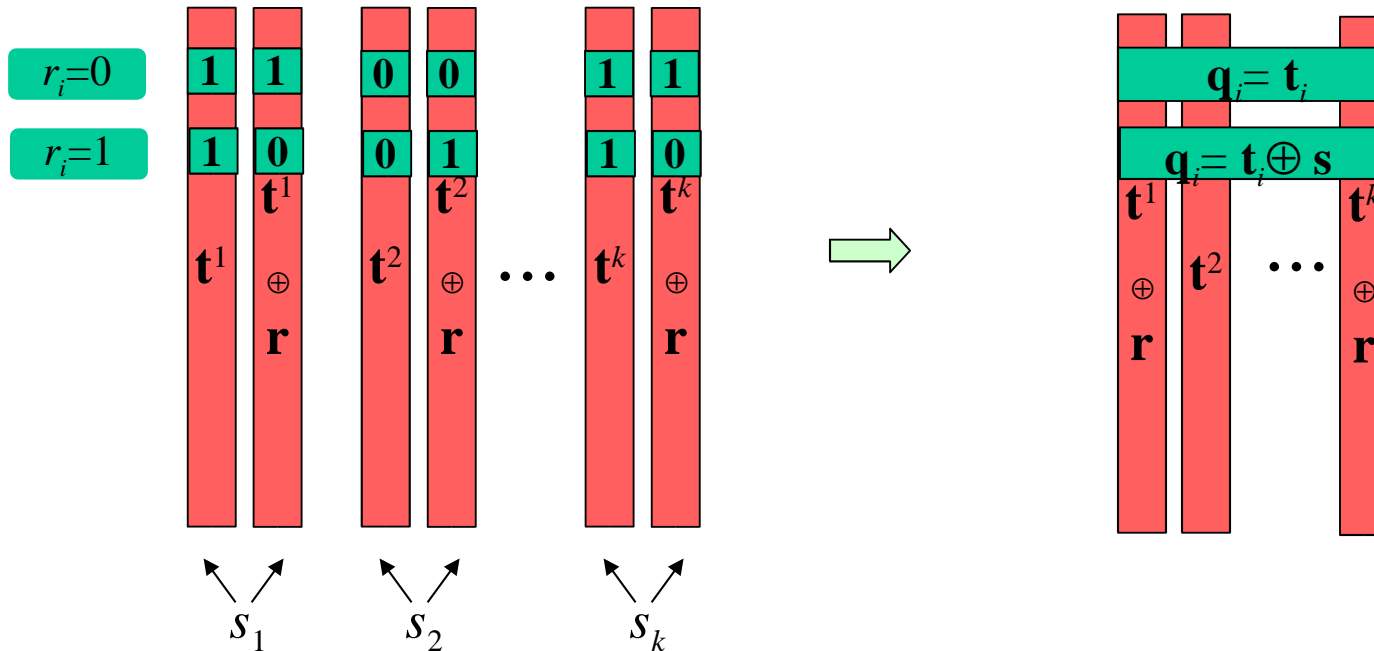


# The Basic Protocol

Receiver picks  $T \in_R \{0,1\}^{n \times k}$

Sender picks  $s \in_R \{0,1\}^k$

Sender obtains  $Q \in \{0,1\}^{n \times k}$



- For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , Sender sends

$$y_{i,0} = x_{i,0} \oplus H(i, \mathbf{q}_i)$$

$$y_{i,1} = x_{i,1} \oplus H(i, \mathbf{q}_i \oplus \mathbf{s})$$

- For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , Receiver outputs  $z_i = y_{i,r_i} \oplus H(i, \mathbf{t}_i)$

# Security

Receiver picks  $T \in_R \{0,1\}^{n \times k}$

Sender picks  $s \in_R \{0,1\}^k$

Sender obtains  $Q \in \{0,1\}^{n \times k}$

$r_i=0$

$q_i = t_i$

$r_i=1$

$q_i = t_i \oplus s$

Sender learns nothing

- $Q$  is uniformly random

Receiver learns no additional info except w/neg prob.

- Must query  $H$  on  $(i, t_i \oplus s)$

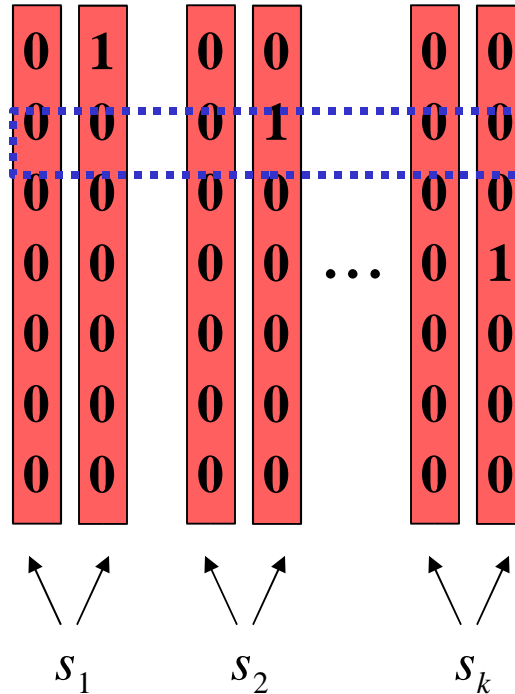
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- For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , Receiver outputs  $z_i = y_{i,r_i} \oplus H(i, \mathbf{t}_i)$

# Attack by a Malicious Receiver



- $\mathbf{q}_i = \begin{cases} \mathbf{0}, & s_i=0 \\ \mathbf{e}_i, & s_i=1 \end{cases}$
- Receiver can easily learn  $s_i$  given a-priori knowledge of  $x_{i,0}$ 
  - Recover mask  $H(i, \mathbf{q}_i) = y_{i,0} \oplus x_{i,0}$
  - Find  $s_i$  by querying  $H$

# Handling Malicious Receivers

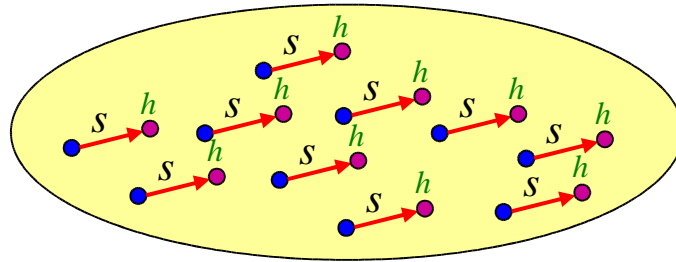
- Call Receiver *well-behaved* if each pair of rows are either identical or complementary.
- Security proof goes through as long as Receiver is well-behaved.
- Good behavior can be easily enforced via a cut-and-choose technique:
  - Run  $\sigma$  copies of the protocol using random inputs
  - Sender challenges Receiver to reveal the pairs it used in  $\sigma/2$  of the executions. Aborts if inconsistency is found.
  - Remaining executions are combined.

# Efficiency

- Basic protocol is extremely efficient
  - Seed of  $k$  OT' s
  - Very few invocations of  $H$  per OT.
- Cut-and-choose procedure multiplies costs by  $\approx \sigma$ 
  - Receiver gets away with cheating w/prob  $\approx 2^{-\sigma/2}$
  - very small  $\sigma$  suffices if some penalty is associated with cheating
- Optimizations
  - Different cut-and-choose approach eliminates factor  $\sigma$  overhead to seed.
  - “Online” version, where the number  $n$  of OT' s is not known in advance.

# Eliminating the Random Oracle

- $h: \{0,1\}^k \rightarrow \{0,1\}^l$  is *correlation robust* if  $f_s(t) := h(s \oplus t)$  is a weak PRF.
  - $(t_1, \dots, t_n, h(s \oplus t_1), \dots, h(s \oplus t_n))$  is *pseudorandom*.



- Correlation robust  $h$  can be used to instantiate  $H$ .
- Is this a reasonable primitive?
  - simple definition
  - satisfied by a random function
  - many efficient candidates (SHA1, MD5, AES, ..)

# Conclusions

- OT' s can be efficiently extended by making an efficient *black-box* use of a “symmetric” primitive.
  - Theoretical significance
    - Advances our understanding of relations between primitives
  - Practical significance
    - Amortized cost of OT can be made much lower than previously thought.
    - Significant even if OT did not exist: Initial seed of OT' s can be implemented by physical means, or using multi-party computation.
    - Big potential impact on efficiency of secure computations



# Further Research

- **Assumptions**
  - Can OT be extended using OWF as a black-box?
  - Study correlation robustness
- **Efficiency**
  - Improve efficiency in malicious case
- **Scope**
  - Obtain similar results for primitives which do not efficiently reduce to OT
- **Practical implications**
  - Has generic secure computation come to term?