

# FHE for RAM computation from RingLWE

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Northeastern

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**Northeastern**

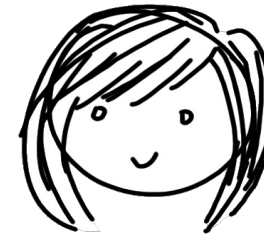
Daniel Wicks  
Northeastern &  
NTT Research



# Motivating Example: Google Search



eye twitch covid symptom?



<https://www.healthline.com/health/eye-health/is-eye-twitching-a-sign-of-covid-19/>

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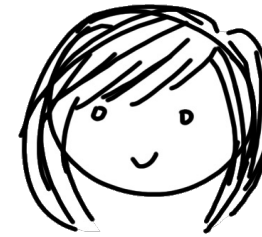
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# Private Google Search



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# Private Google Search



Google

Eval(google\_search, ct)

Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)

- Privately evaluate arbitrary functions

$ct = \text{Enc}_{sk}(\text{query})$

$\text{Enc}_{sk}(\text{response})$



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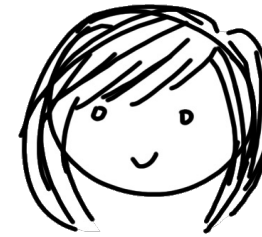
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**Major Caveat:** FHE operates in the circuit model - can't make efficient memory access while preserving security

⇒ Google needs to read the entire content of the internet to answer each encrypted query!



# Private Google Search



**Result:** We build FHE in the RAM model

- Google preprocesses the Internet content into a specialized *data structure*
- Can answer any future encrypted query efficiently by only accessing a few locations!

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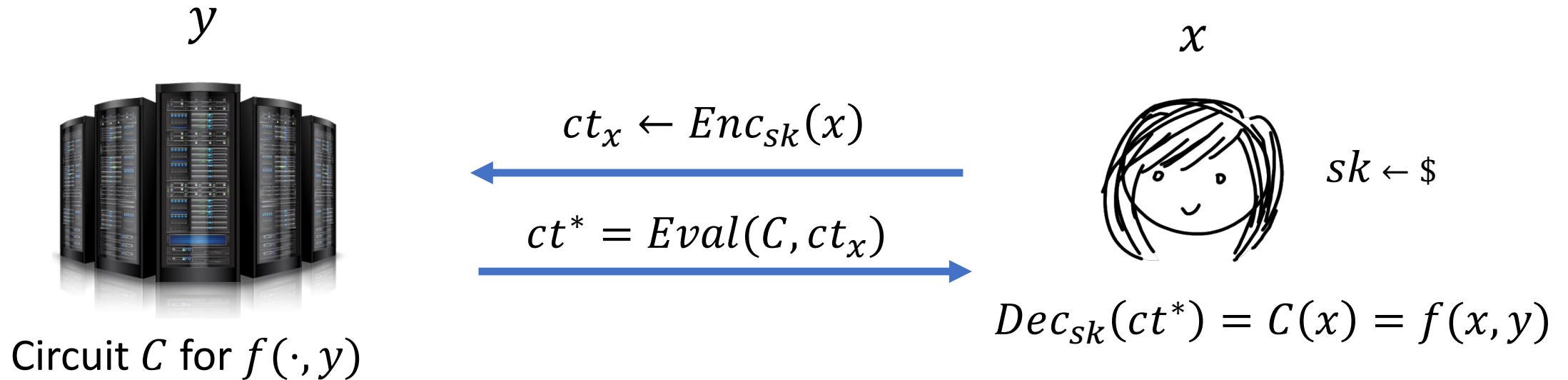
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# Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)

[Rivest-Adleman-Dertouzos'78, Gentry '09, Brakerski-Vaikuntanathan11,...]



Server learns nothing about  $x$



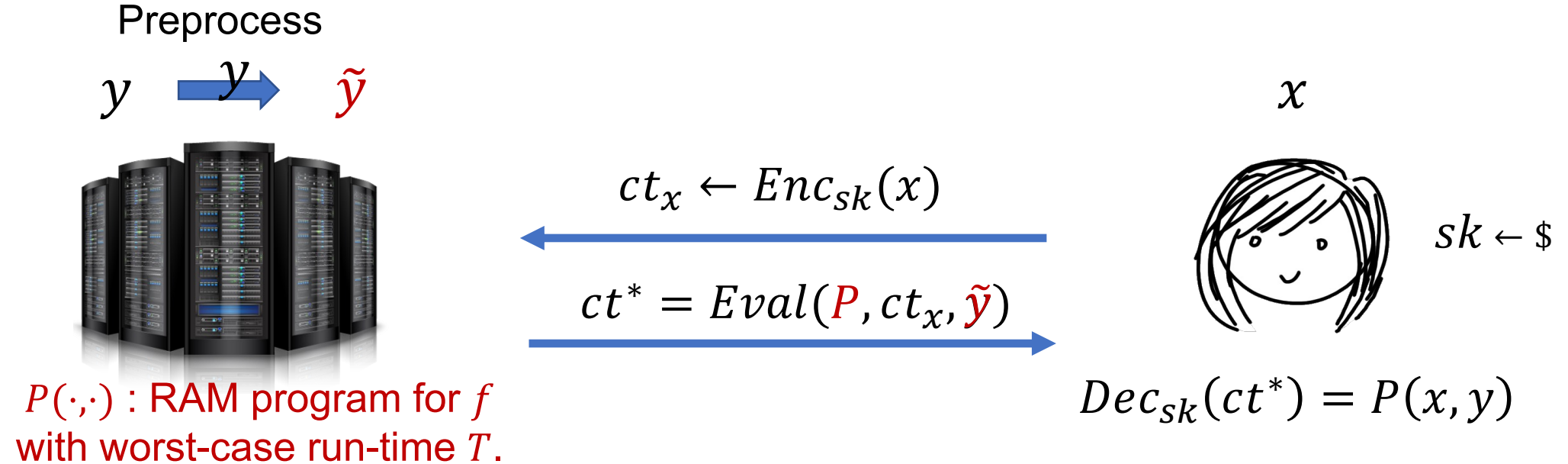
Client time/communication  $O(|x| + |f(x, y)|)$



Server eval time is at least  $|C| > |y|$



# RAM-FHE



Server learns nothing about  $x$



Client time/communication  $O(|x| + |f(x, y)|)$  (nearly)

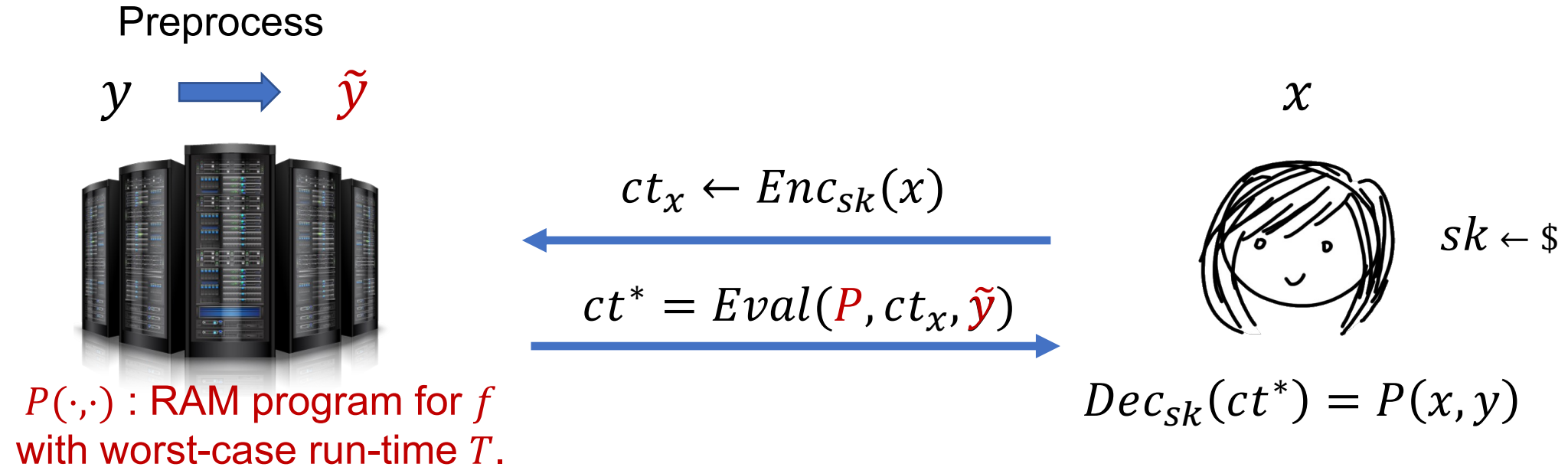


Server eval time is nearly  $O(T)$

Server preprocessing time is nearly  $O(|y|)$



# RAM-FHE



$P$  gets efficient access to **both**  $x$  and  $y$

## Use cases over Circuit-FHE:

- Private query to large public database
- Outsource computation on large private database
- Avoid blowup converting RAM program to circuit

Google search



# RAM-FHE: Prior work and Our Result

**Prior Work:** [Holmgren-Hamlin-Weiss-Wichs '19] build a weaker variant of RAM-FHE based on heuristic use of obfuscation

**Result:** We build RAM-FHE based on the Ring Learning with Errors (RingLWE) assumption (+ circular security)

- RingLWE is a well studied assumption
  - As hard as finding approximate shortest vector in ideal lattices in worst case.
  - Basis of new NIST standard for next generation public-key encryption.
- Alternate constructions: *approximate GCD, NTRU,  $O(1)$ -Rank Module LWE*

**Main Challenge:** Allow efficient database access under FHE without revealing the access pattern

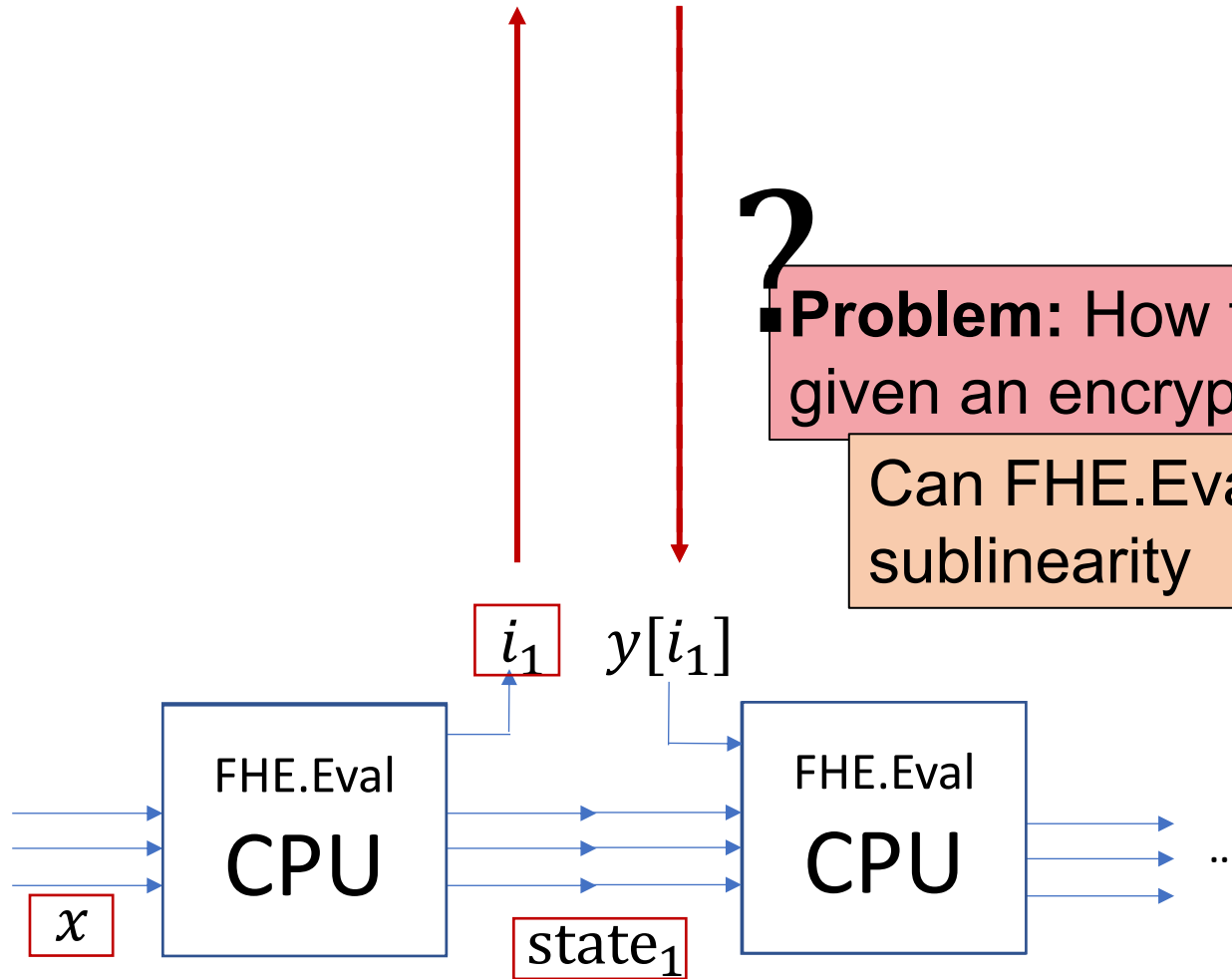


$y$

?

■ **Problem:** How to get an encryption of  $y[i_1]$  given an encryption of  $i_1$ ?

Can FHE.Eval the indexing circuit, but lose sublinearity

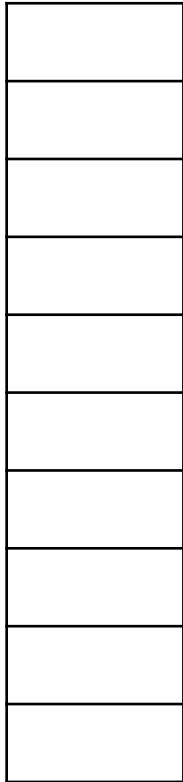




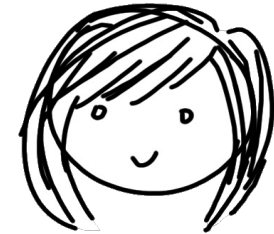
# Private Information Retrieval (PIR)

[CGKS95,KO00]

$$\text{DB} \in \{0,1\}^N$$



$$i \in [N]$$



**Goal:** Retrieve  $\text{DB}[i]$   
without revealing  $i$ .

**Trivial solution:** server sends entire DB.

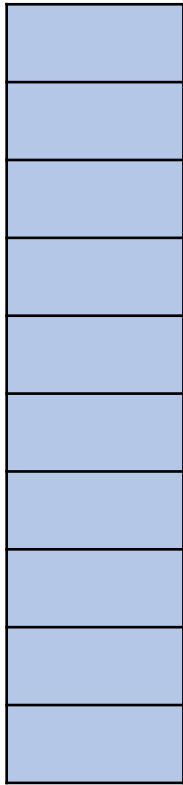
Can think of as special case of FHE  
 $\Rightarrow$  FHE yields polylog **communication**



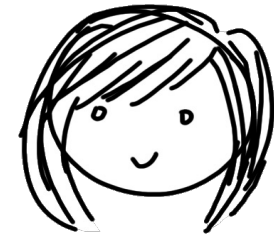
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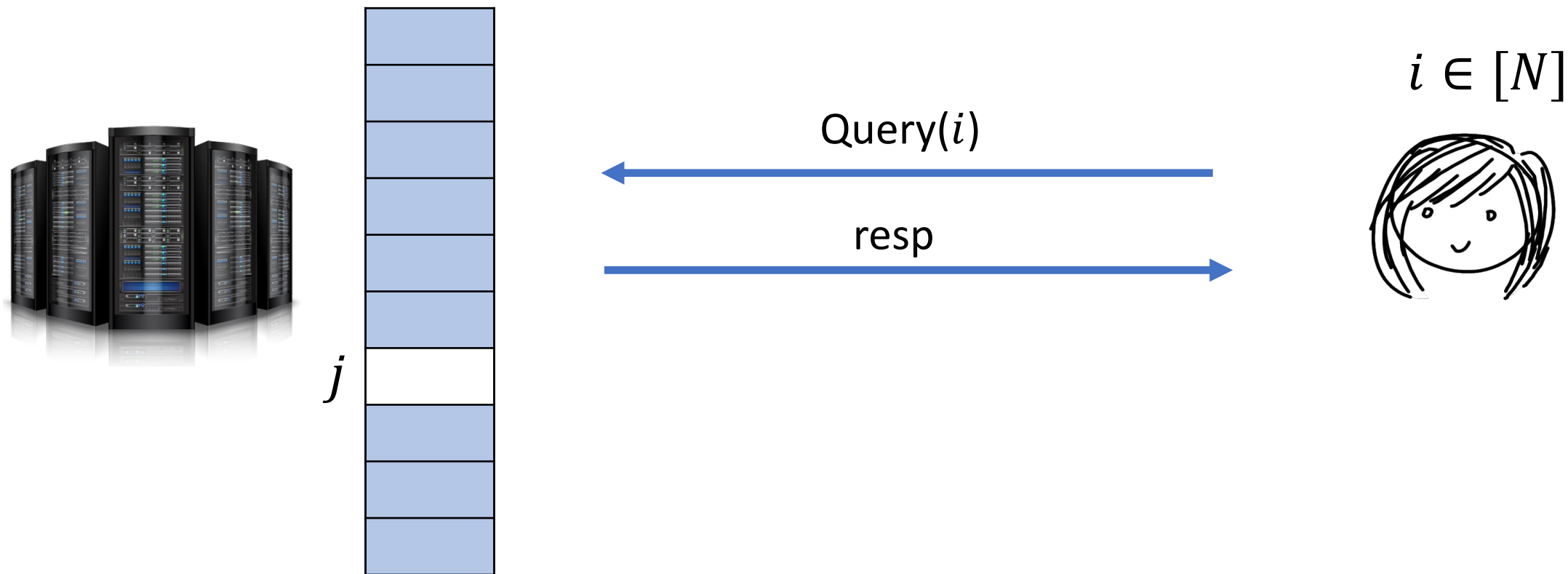
**Goal:** Retrieve  $DB[i]$   
without revealing  $i$ .

**Caveat:** Server reads entire DB during protocol  
 $\Rightarrow$  Server computation is  $\geq N$ .  
This is **inherent** if the server only stores DB.



# PIR Lower Bound

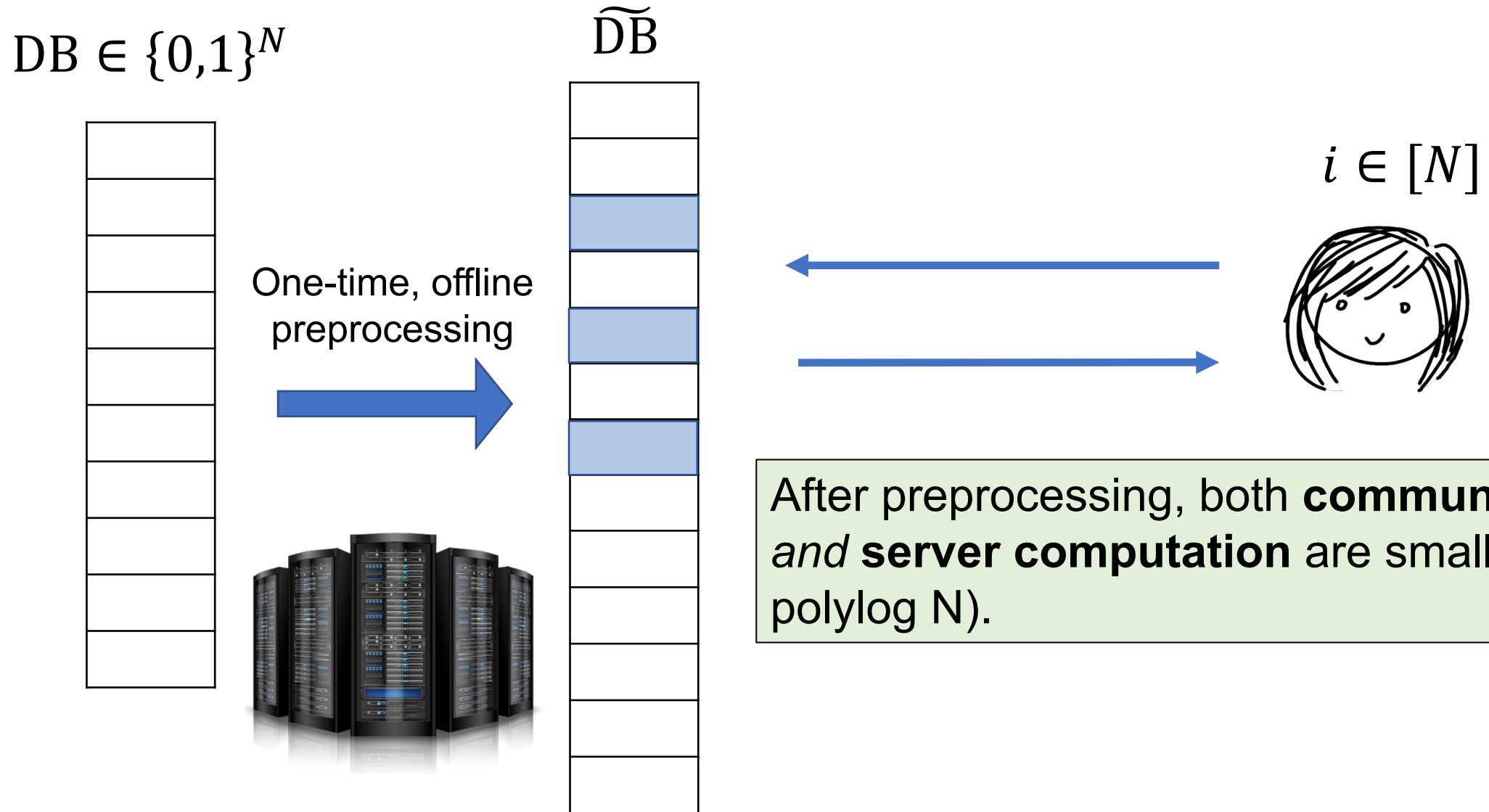
$DB \in \{0,1\}^N$



Server learns  $i \neq j!$

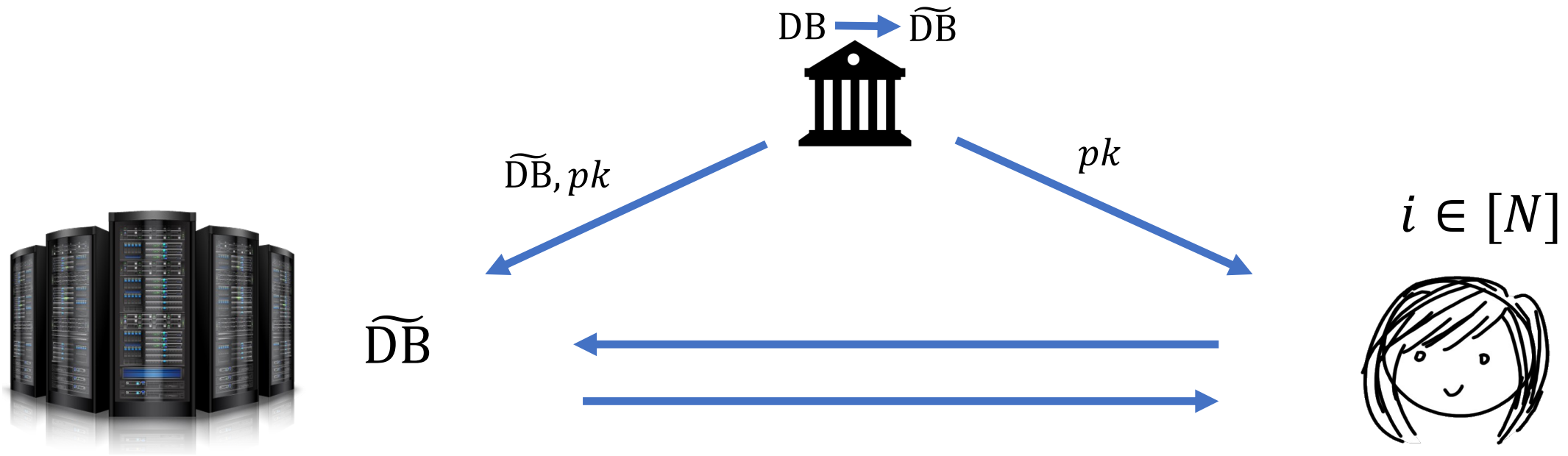


# Doubly Efficient PIR (DEPIR)





# Prior Work on DEPIR

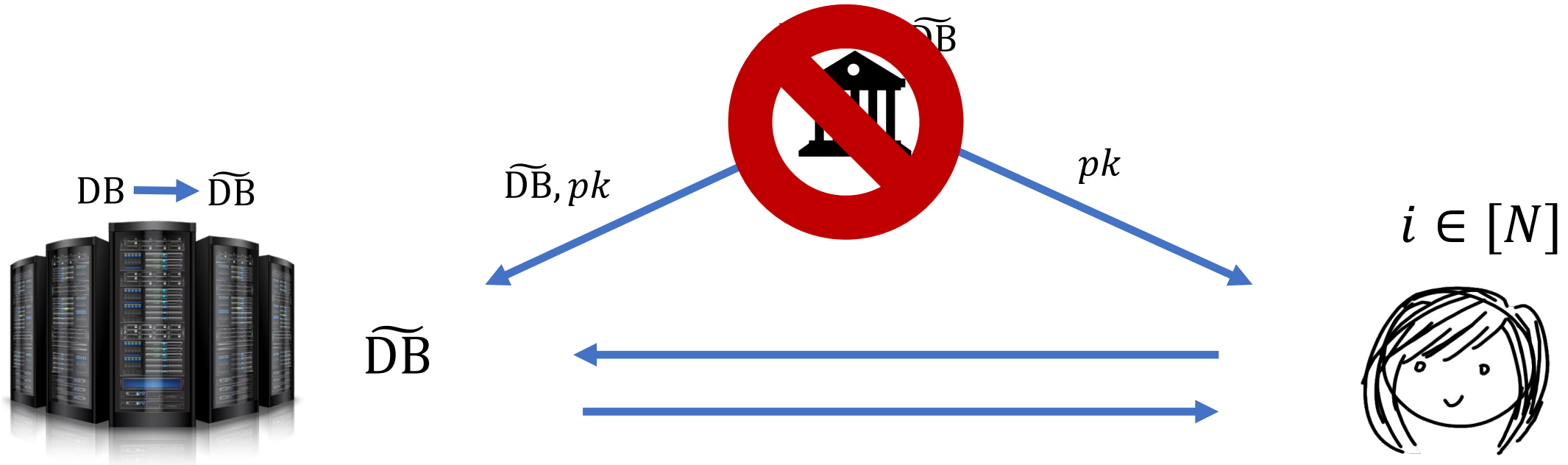


## Prior Work:

- Originally proposed by [Beimel-Ishai-Malkin '00]
- First evidence from [Canetti-Holmgren-Richelson '17] and [Boyle-Ishai-Pass-Wootters '17]: give constructions of **keyed** DEPIR that rely on a new non-standard assumption and heuristic use of obfuscation



# Our Results on DEPIR



**Result:** We construct *unkeyed* DEPIR from the RingLWE assumption

- Server deterministically computes preprocessing on its own
- Later any client can query DB in a 2-Round Protocol



# Our Results on DEPIR

**Result:** We construct *unkeyed* DEPIR from the RingLWE assumption

- Server deterministically computes preprocessing on its own
- Later any client can query DB in a 2-Round Protocol

**Efficiency:** For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , database size  $N$ :

- Preprocessing run-time/size:  $O(N^{1+\epsilon})$
- PIR protocol run-time/communication:  $\text{polylog } N$
- Also: **Updatable** DEPIR – update  $\widetilde{DB}$  in time:  $O(N^\epsilon)$

**Alternatively:**

$$\rightarrow N \cdot 2^{O(\sqrt{\log N})} = N^{1+o(1)}$$

$$\rightarrow 2^{O(\sqrt{\log N})} = N^{o(1)}$$

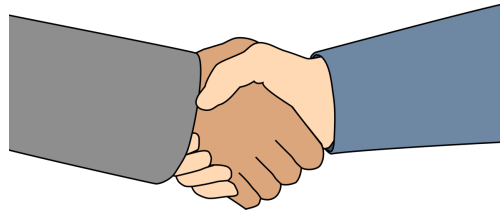
$$\rightarrow 2^{O(\sqrt{\log N})} = N^{o(1)}$$



# DEPIR Template

Simple PIR from Homomorphic Encryption

Cryptography



Algorithms

Preprocessing polynomial evaluation  
[Kedlaya-Umans'08]

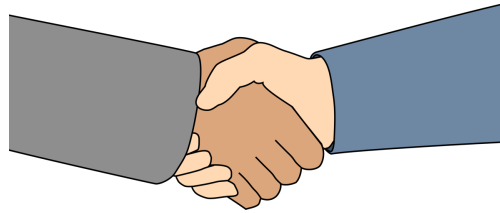


# DEPIR Template

Can only evaluate **low degree** functions

Simple PIR from **Somewhat** Homomorphic Encryption (SHE)

Cryptography



Algorithms

Preprocessing polynomial evaluation  
**[Kedlaya-Umans'08]**



# Basic PIR from SHE

Write  $i$  in base  $d$  (prime),  
note  $m = \log_d N$

$$DB \in \{0,1\}^N$$



$$f_{DB} \in \mathbb{Z}_d[X_1, \dots, X_m]$$

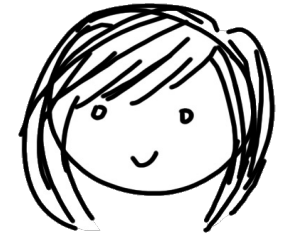
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$$f_{DB}(i_1, \dots, i_m) = DB[i]$$

$$\forall j: \alpha_j \leftarrow Enc_{sk}(i_j)$$

$$i = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m) \in [N]_m \in \mathbb{Z}_d^m$$

$$\beta = Eval(f_{DB}, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$$



$$sk \leftarrow \$$$

$$DB[i] = Dec_{sk}(\beta)$$

$f_{DB}$  has individual degree  $< d$  and total degree at most  $D = dm = d \cdot \log_d N$



# Preprocessing Polynomials

[Kedlaya-Umans '08]

$$N = d^m = \# \text{ coeff's in } f$$

**Lemma:** Given polynomial  $f(X_1, \dots, X_m)$  over the ring  $R = \mathbb{Z}_q$  with individual degree  $< d$  into can preprocess  $f$  into a data structure such that:

- Can evaluate  $f(\alpha)$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$  in time  $\text{poly}(d, m, \log |R|)$   $\rightarrow \text{polylog}(N)$
- Preprocessing time/space:  $N \cdot O(m \log N)^m \cdot \text{poly}(d, m, \log |R|)$   $\rightarrow N^{1+\epsilon}$

**Recall:** We want  $d$  small for the SHE scheme

**Choose parameters:**

- $d = \log^c N$
- $m = \log_d N = \frac{\log N}{c \cdot \log \log N}$
- $|R| = 2^{\text{polylog}(N)}$

**Aside:** [KU'08] extends to polys over a larger class of rings including

$$R = \mathbb{Z}_q[Y, Z]/(E_1(Y), E_2(Z))$$



# Apply [KU08] to Basic PIR?

Write  $i$  in base  $d$  (prime)

$$DB \in \{0,1\}^N$$



$$f_{DB} \in \mathbb{Z}_d[X_1, \dots, X_m]$$

/

$$f_{DB}(i_1, \dots, i_m) = DB[i]$$

$$\forall j: \alpha_j \leftarrow Enc_{sk}(i_j)$$

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$$\beta = Eval(f_{DB}, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$$



$$sk \leftarrow \$$$

$$DB[i] = Dec_{sk}(\beta)$$

**Problem:** Server doesn't directly compute  $f_{DB}$  but instead SHE  $Eval$   
 $\Rightarrow$  can't preprocess server computation



# Algebraic Somewhat Homomorphic Encryption (ASHE)

**Plaintext space**

$$\mathbb{Z}_d$$

Messages  $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_d$

**Ciphertext space**

A ring  $R$

Ciphertexts  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R$

$Enc$



$$Dec(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) = \mu_1 + \mu_2$$

$$Dec(\alpha_1 \cdot \alpha_2) = \mu_1 \cdot \mu_2$$

Ring operations in  $R$  –  
No FHE *Eval* necessary





# Algebraic Somewhat Homomorphic Encryption (ASHE)

**Plaintext space**

$\mathbb{Z}_d$

**Ciphertext space**

A ring  $R$

Messages  $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_d$   $\xrightarrow{\text{Enc}}$  Ciphertexts  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R$

- Correspondence extends to polynomial evaluation:  
If  $\alpha_1 \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{sk}(\mu_1), \dots, \alpha_m \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{sk}(\mu_m)$  and  $f$  is a poly over  $\mathbb{Z}_d$  of total degree  $< D$ ,  
then  $f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m) = \text{Enc}_{sk}(f(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m))$  where  $f$  is “lifted” to  $R$ .
- Complexity (bit-size of ring elements, encryption/decryption time) can be  $\text{poly}(D)$ .



# Algebraic Somewhat Homomorphic Encryption (ASHE)

**Plaintext space**

$\mathbb{Z}_d$

**Ciphertext space**

A ring  $R$

Messages  $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_d$   $\xrightarrow{\text{Enc}}$  Ciphertexts  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R$

- Get ASHE from minor modifications of prior SHE schemes
  - From [BV11] based on RingLWE  $\rightarrow$  Main construction
  - From [LTV12] based on security of NTRU
  - From [vGHV10] based on Approximate GCD



# DEPIR Construction

Write  $i$  in base  $d$  (prime)

$$DB \in \{0,1\}^N$$



$$\forall j: \alpha_j \leftarrow Enc_{sk}(i_j)$$

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$$\beta \leftarrow Eval(f_{DB}, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$$



$$sk \leftarrow \$$$

$$f_{DB} \in \mathbb{Z}_d[X_1, \dots, X_m]$$

$$f_{DB} \in R[X_1, \dots, X_m]$$

$$DB[i] = Dec_{sk}(\beta)$$

Preprocess with [KU08]



# From DEPIR to RAM-FHE

**Result:** We use techniques from our DEPIR construction + (circuit) FHE to build RAM-FHE based on the RingLWE assumption

- We use the ASHE structure of our DEPIR to “glue” it together with a suitable circuit FHE

**Efficiency:** For any  $\epsilon > 0$ :

- Preprocessing time:  $O(|y|^{1+\epsilon})$
- Client time/communication:  $O(|x|^{1+\epsilon} + |f(x, y)|) \cdot \text{polylog}(|x| + |y|)$
- Server time:  $O(T^{1+\epsilon}) \cdot \text{polylog}(|x| + |y|)$



$\tilde{y}$

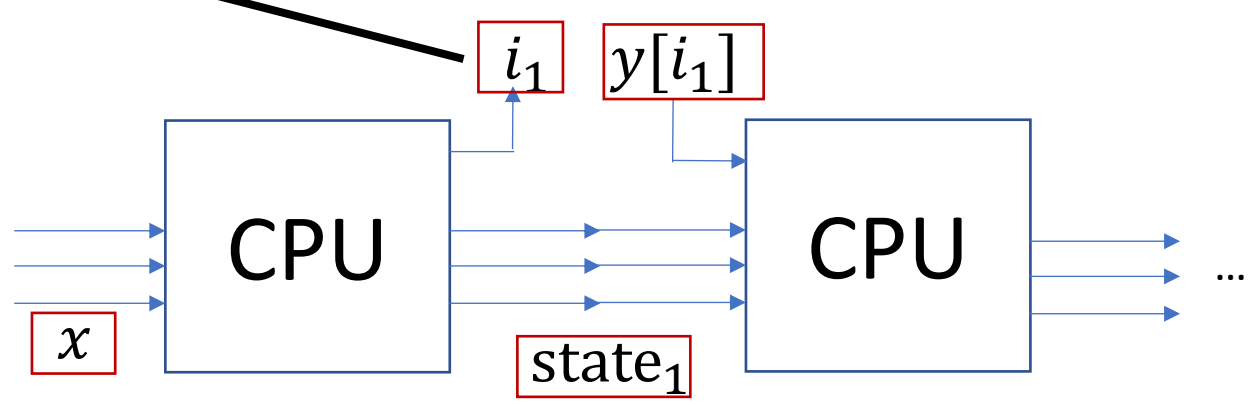
Reinterpret as ASHE  
ciphertext = DEPIR query

Compute DEPIR resp  
under ASHE and convert  
back to FHE

ASHE eval

FHE eval step circuit to get  
encryption of an index

FHE eval





# Conclusions

We construct DEPIR and RAM-FHE from RingLWE.

**Applications:** In upcoming work, we use DEPIR/RAM-FHE to build RAM versions of:

Laconic Function Evaluation, Functional Encryption, MPC, Obfuscation

**Open Questions:**

- Can we do it from plain LWE?
- “Practical” efficiency?

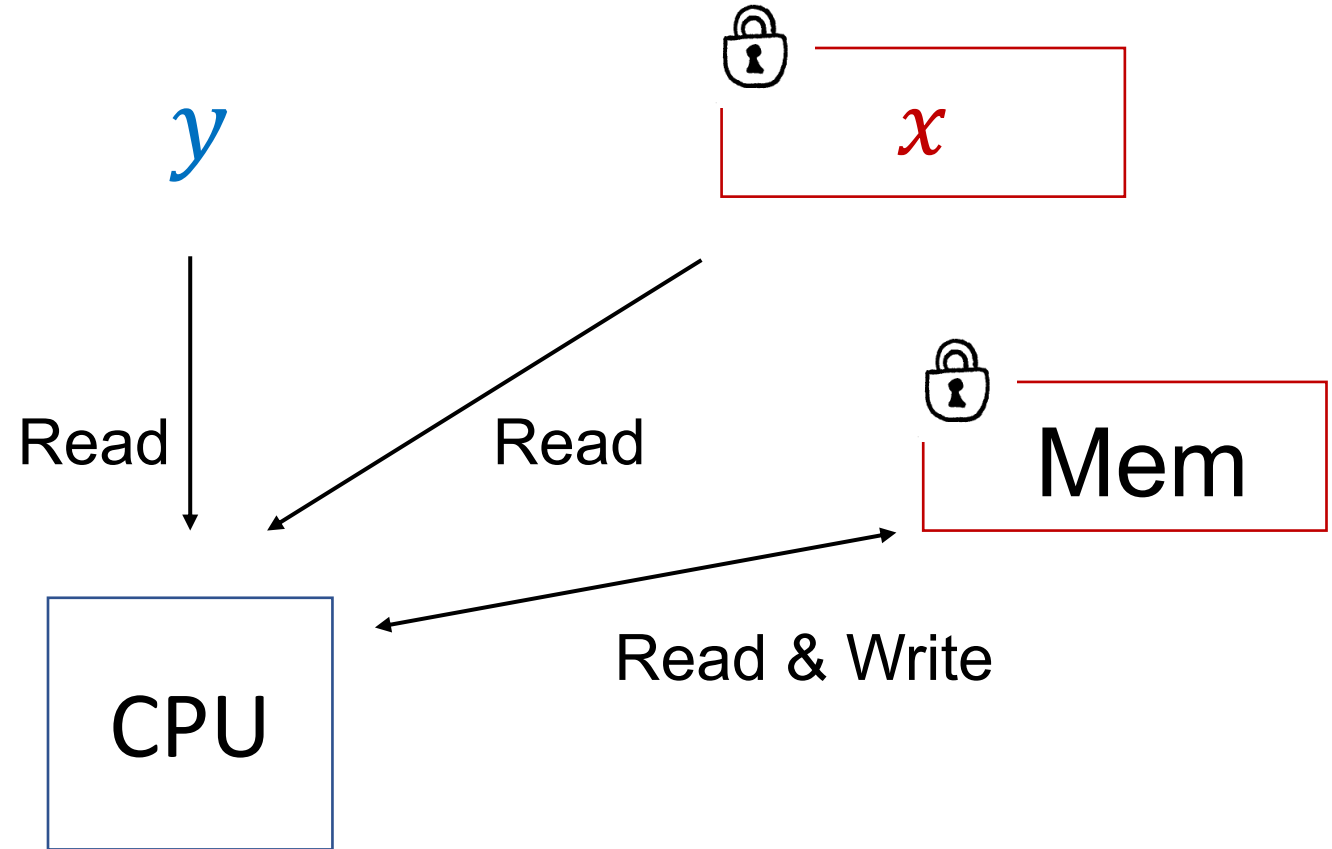
Thank you!



# RAM Model

A RAM program  $P$  consists of a CPU step circuit with

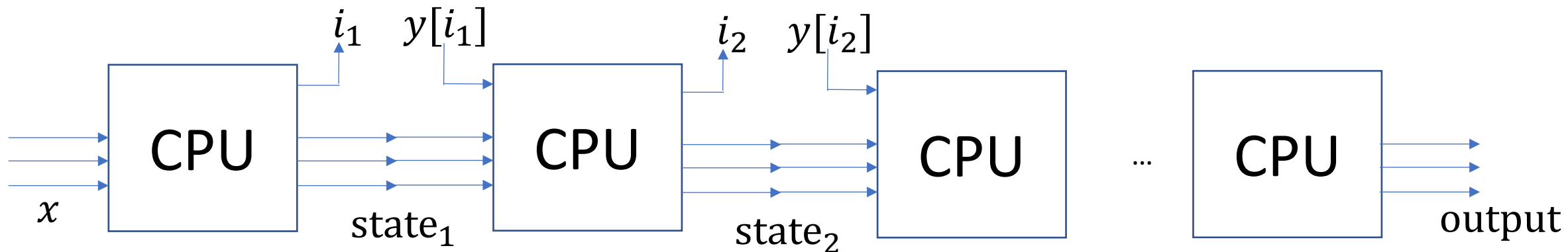
- Random read access to  $y$
- Random read access to  $x$
- Random read/write access to Mem





# Simpler RAM-FHE

- **Simpler Case:** RAM program  $P$  has
  - read-only random-access to  $y$
  - but **no random-access to  $x$  or to read/write memory.**





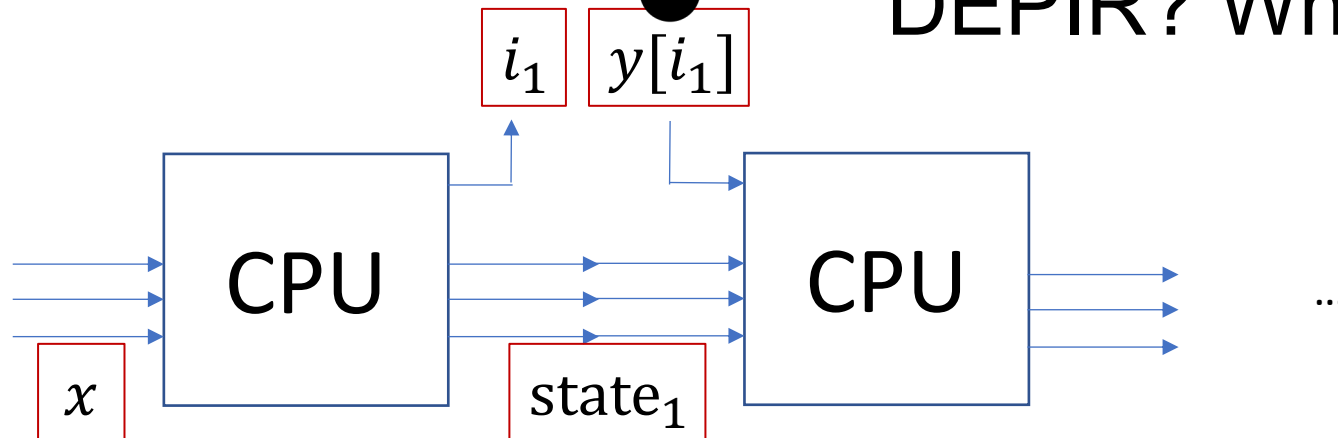
# Use Circuit-FHE to compute the step circuit

$y$

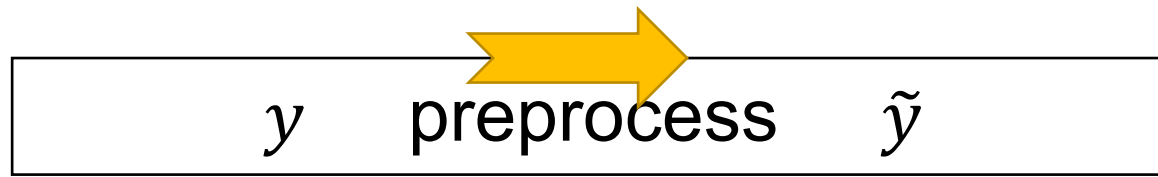


Main challenge: How to access  $y$ ?

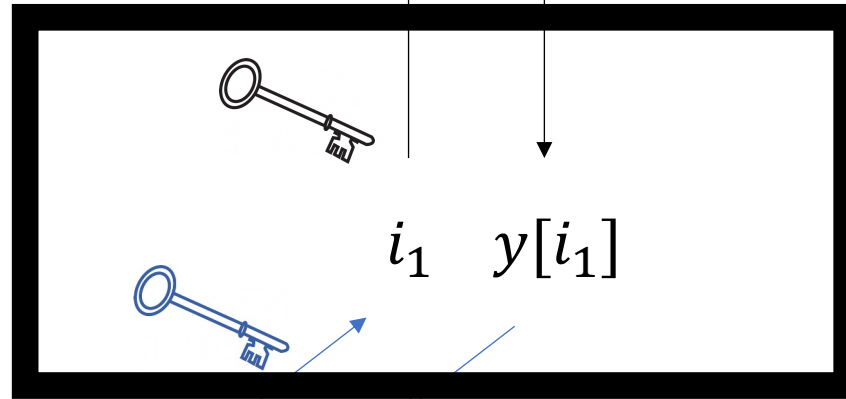
DEPIR? Who makes the query?







DEPIR Query

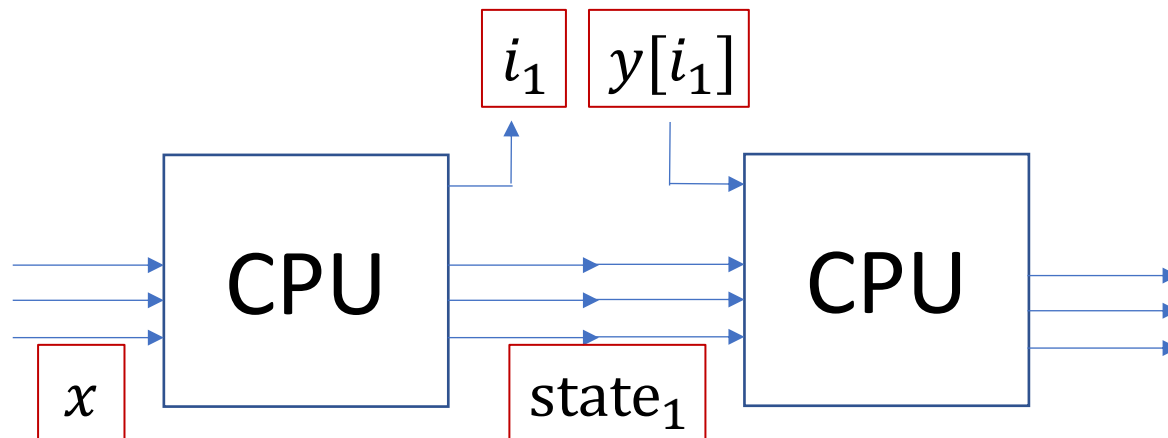


Previous work:

~~DEPIR + obfuscation~~

[Hamlin-Holmgren-Weiss-Wichs '19]

This work: RingLWE





# Key Observation: ASHE-FHE Hybrid

## ASHE:

Evaluate a low-degree polynomial on encrypted data

- Simply evaluates the (lifted) polynomial

## FHE:

Evaluate any circuit over encrypted data

- Uses non-algebraic operations



switch back-and-forth

Based on RingLWE (or NTRU, ApproxGCD) + circular security



# Full RAM-FHE Construction

- Random-access to  $x$  can be handled similarly to  $y$ .
  - Client first encrypts  $x$  and then applies DEPIR preprocessing on it.
- Random-access to read-write memory via updatable DEPIR.
  - Store memory contents encrypted under ASHE-FHE in an updatable DEPIR data structure.