
Obfuscated Access and Search Patterns in Searchable Encryption

Zhiwei Shang*, Simon Oya*, Andreas Peter*, Florian Kerschbaum*

University of
Waterloo

University of
Twente

NDSS'21



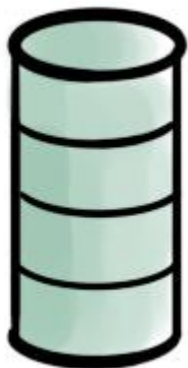
Overview



Encrypt
Search
Index



DOG	CAT	COW
✓		✓
✓	✓	
	✓	
✓		✓



Encrypt
DB



DOG	CAT	COW
✓		✓
✓	✓	
	✓	
✓		✓

Overview



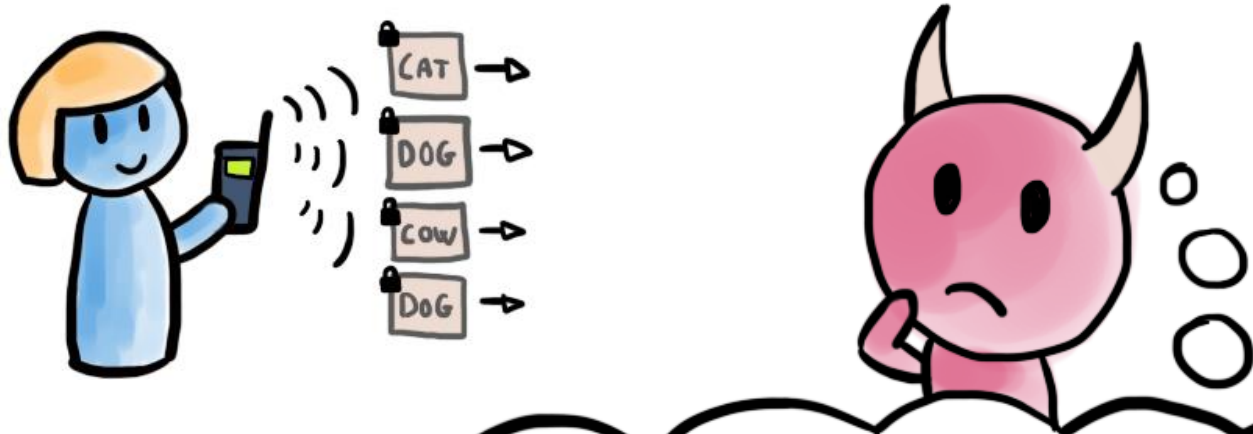
DOG	CAT	COW
✓		✓
✓	🔒	
	✓	
✓		✓



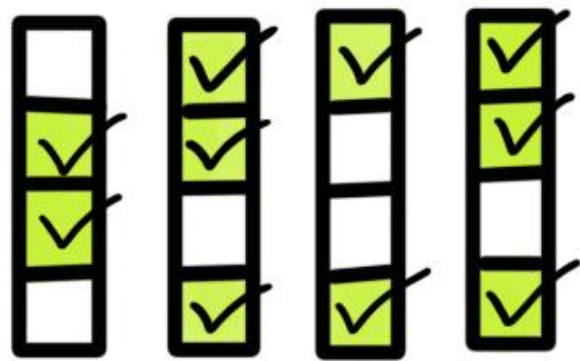
Access pattern

Docs that match the query

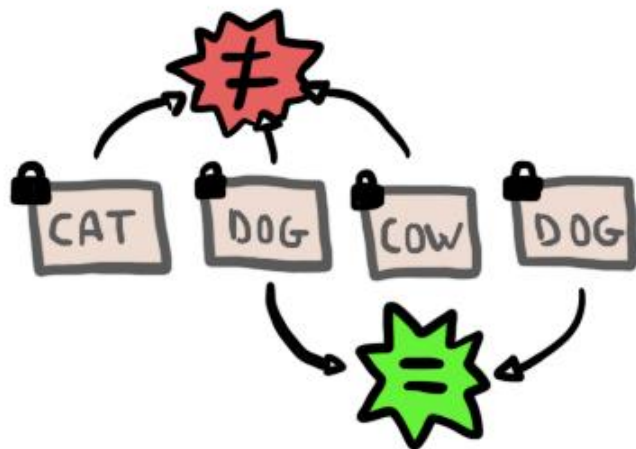
Overview



Access Pattern

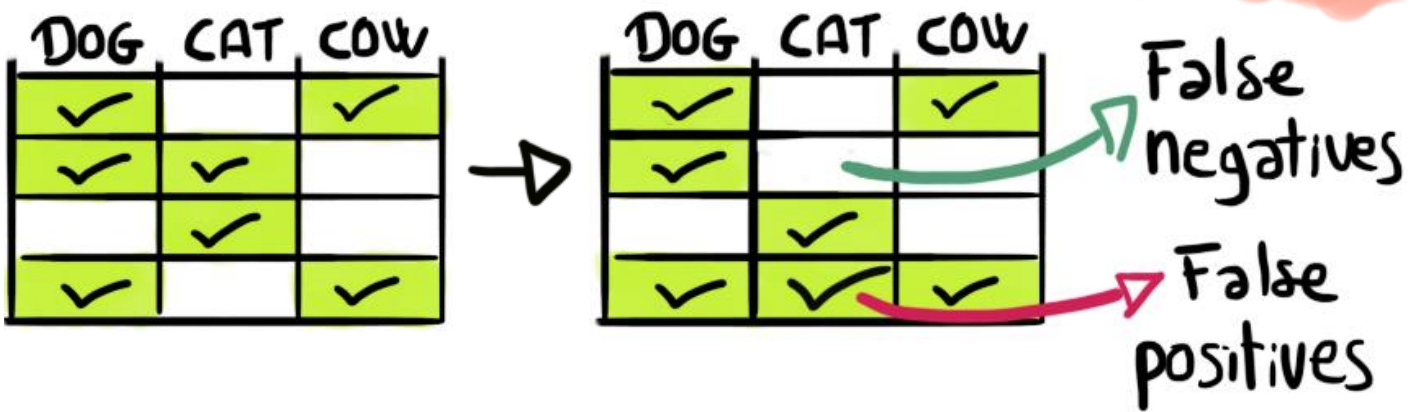


Search Pattern



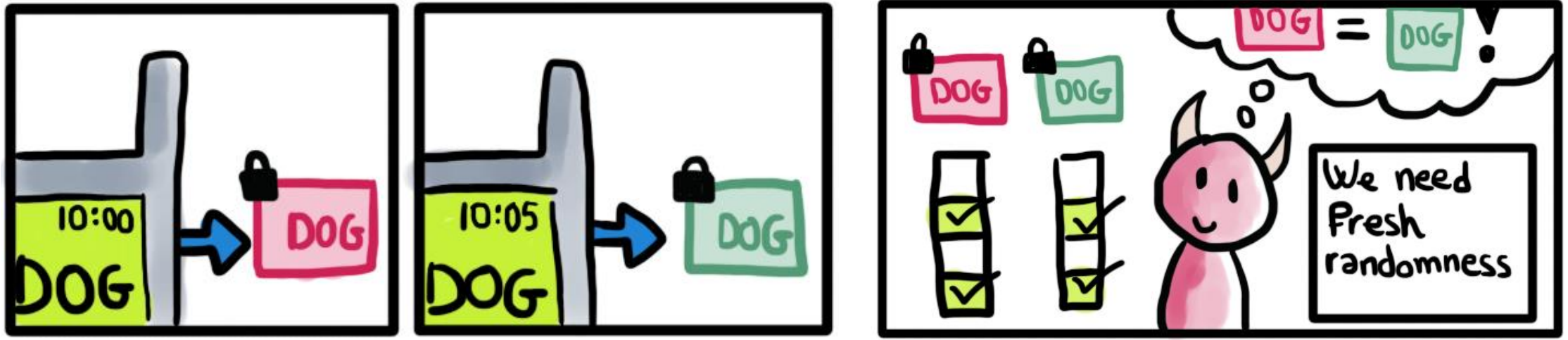
Hiding Access Pattern

CLRZ

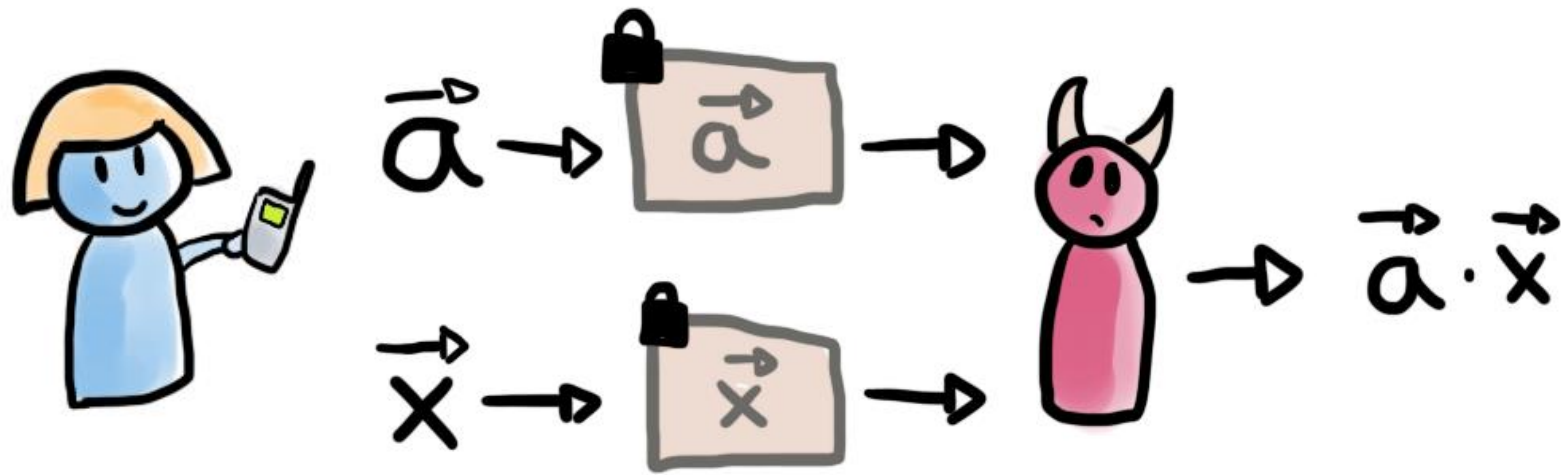


G. Chen, T.-H. Lai, M. K. Reiter, and Y. Zhang, "Differentially private access patterns for searchable symmetric encryption," in *IEEE INFO-COM 2018-IEEE Conference on Computer Communications*. IEEE, 2018, pp. 810–818.

Hiding Search Pattern?

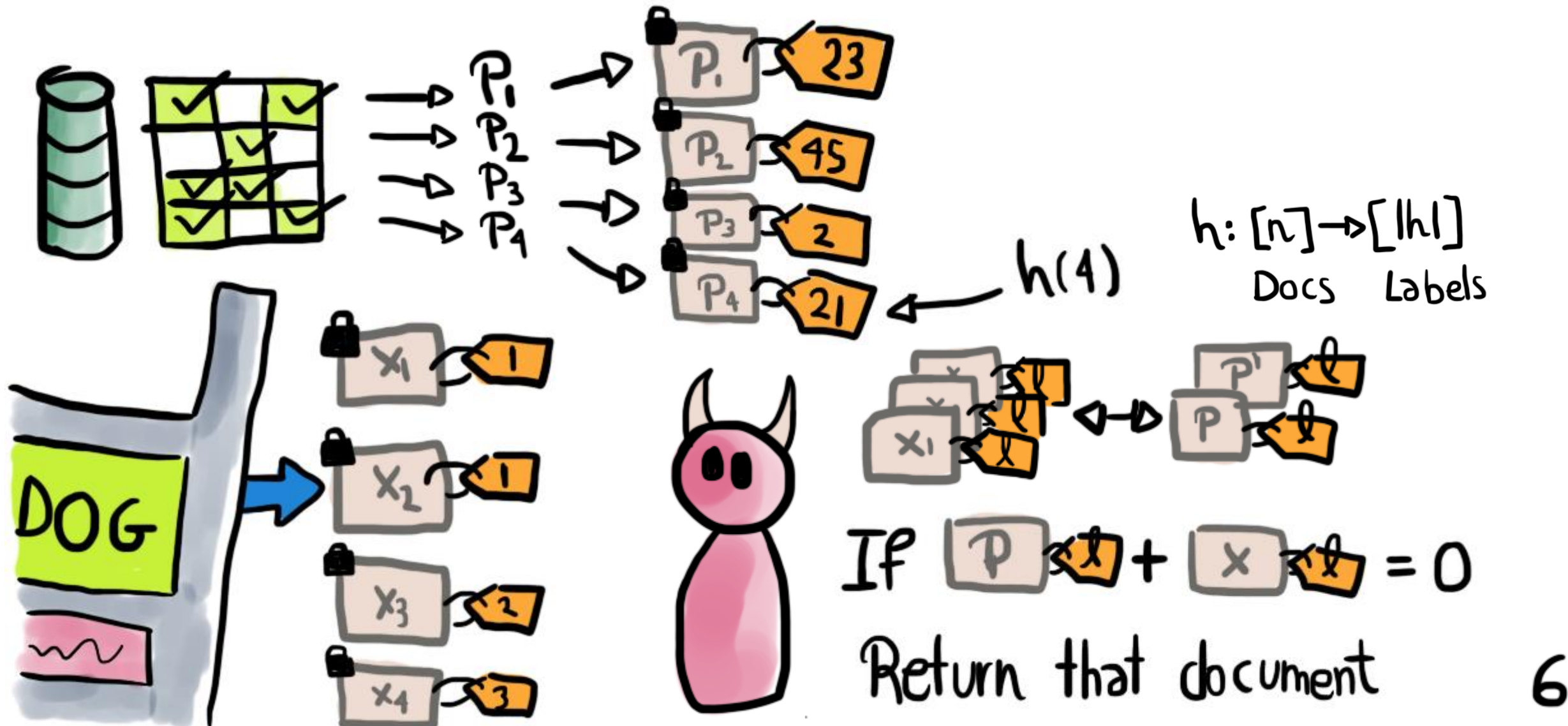


IPPE: Inner Product Predicate Encryption



$$P(x) = (x - r_1)(x - r_2) \cdots (x - r_d) = (x^0, x^1, x^2, \dots)$$
$$a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \cdots + a_d x^d = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x}$$

OSSE: Obscured SSE



Polynomial Generation

$$r_1 = (\text{DOG} \parallel l \parallel 5) \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{There are} \\ 5 \text{ (DOG} \parallel l \parallel \dots) \\ \text{already} \end{array}$$

$$r_2 = (\text{COW} \parallel l \parallel 0)$$

$$r_3 = (\text{RAT} \parallel l \parallel 1)$$

$$r_4 = (\text{AAA} \parallel l \parallel 0)$$

$$r_5 = (\text{AAA} \parallel l \parallel 0)$$

$$r_6 = (30 \parallel 0 \parallel -1)$$

$$D_{30} = \{\text{DOG}, \text{COW}, \text{RAT}\}$$

$$l = h(30)$$

$$S_{\max} = \begin{array}{l} \text{Max keywords} \\ \text{per document} \end{array} = 5$$



Token Generation



► Find Θ with "DOG":

For $l=1 \rightarrow |h|$:

For $c=0 \rightarrow c_{max}$:



► False positives:

For $id=1 \rightarrow n$:



► Non-matches:

For $l=1 \rightarrow |h|$:



$$r_1 = (\text{DOG} || l || 6)$$

$$r_2 = (\text{COW} || l || 0)$$

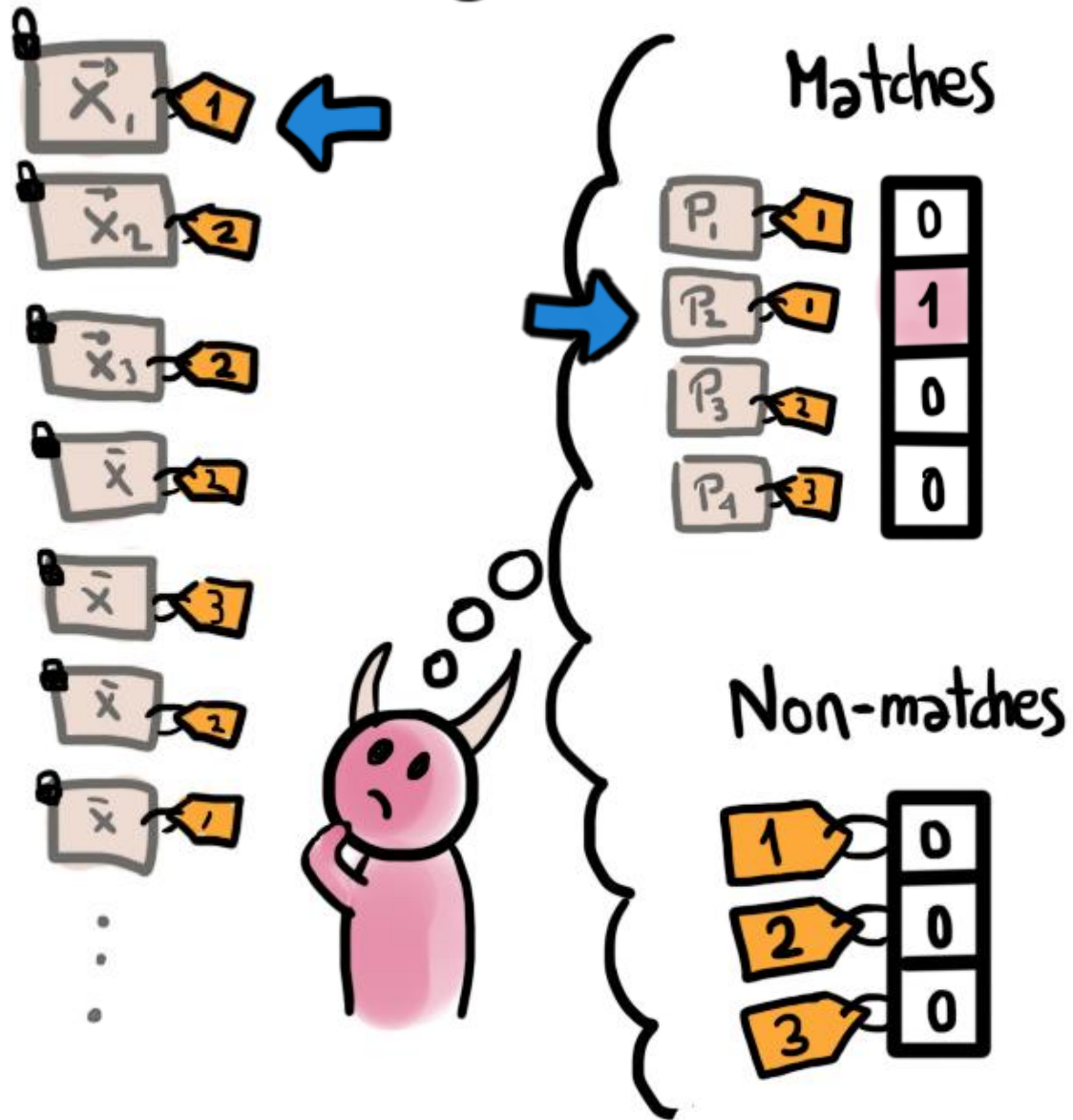
$$r_3 = (\text{RAT} || l || 1)$$

$$r_4 = (\text{AAA} || l || 0)$$

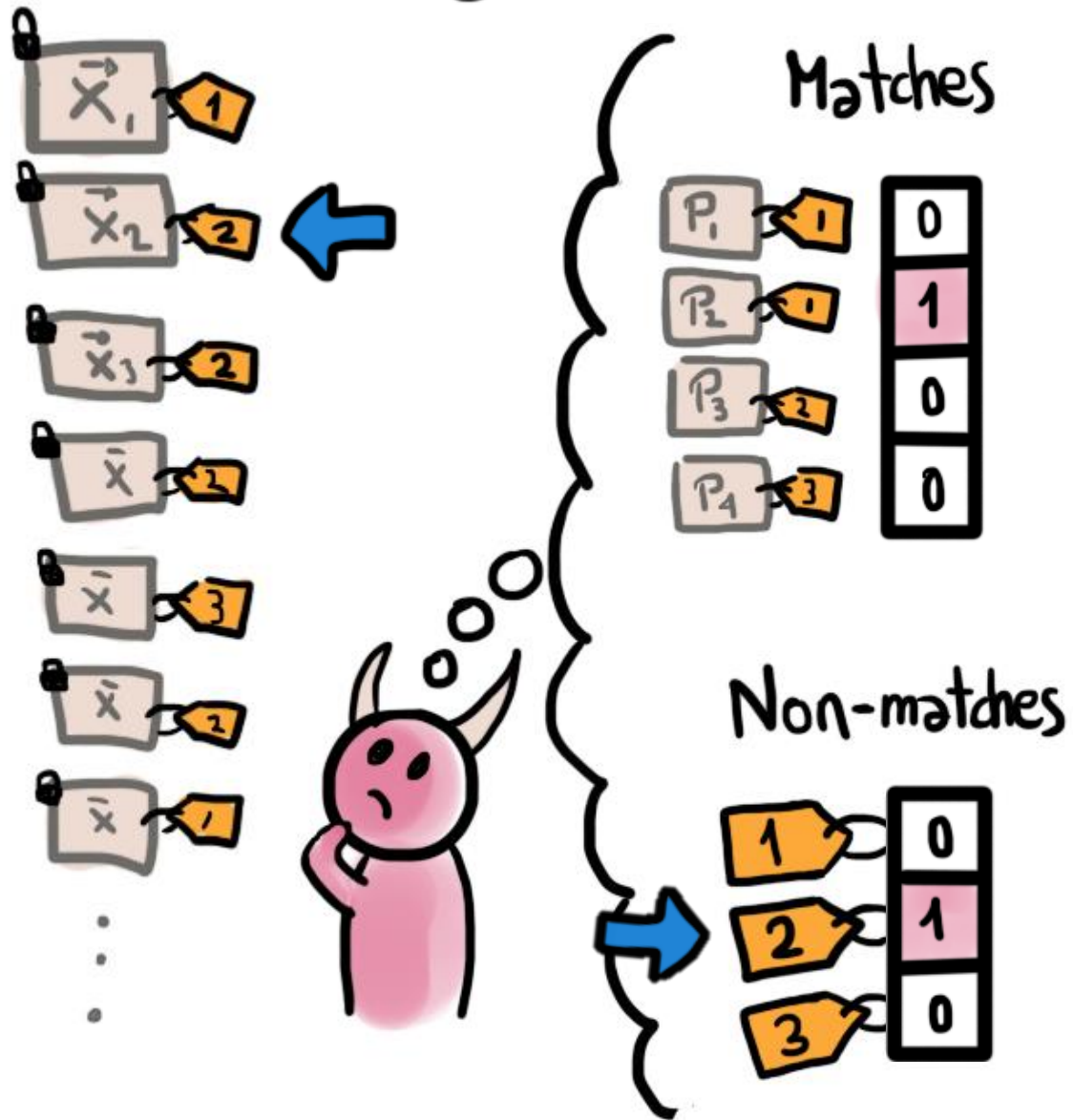
$$r_5 = (\text{AAA} || l || 0)$$

$$r_6 = (30 || 0 || -1)$$

Adversary's View



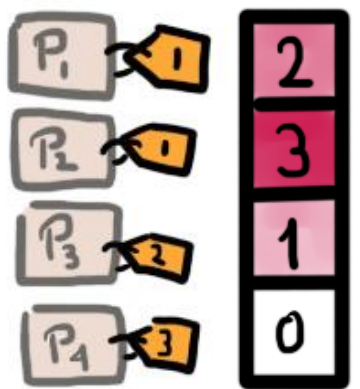
Adversary's View



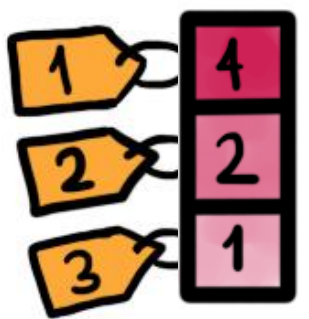
Adversary's View



Matches



Non-matches



$$\begin{cases} \text{Ber}(p) + \text{Geo}(1-q) & \text{DOG} \in D \\ \text{Geo}(1-q) & \text{DOG} \notin D \end{cases}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{Bi}(g, p) + \text{Geo}(1-q)$$

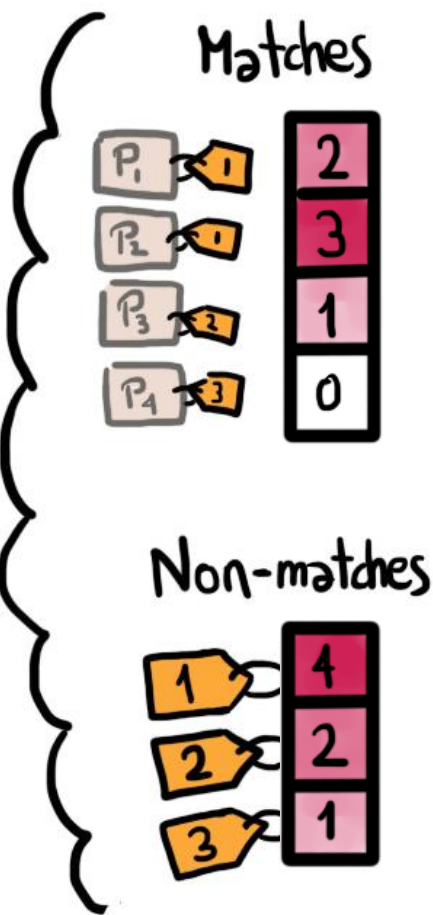
Security

We prove it holds
by IPPE security



Differential Privacy

$$\epsilon = \ln \left(\frac{\text{TPR}}{\text{FPR}} \cdot \frac{1 - \text{FPR}}{1 - \text{TPR}} \right)$$



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{TPR} = 0.9999 \\ \text{FPR} = 0.025 \end{array} \right\} \epsilon = 13$$



Complexity Analysis

- Communication overhead (Zipf)

$$\text{COMM} = O(\log n_{\text{keywords}})$$

1 round

- Computational Complexity

$$\text{COMP} < n \cdot (C_{\text{max}} + 1)$$

- Client Storage:



TWORAM (ORAM)

$$O(\log n \cdot \log \log n)$$

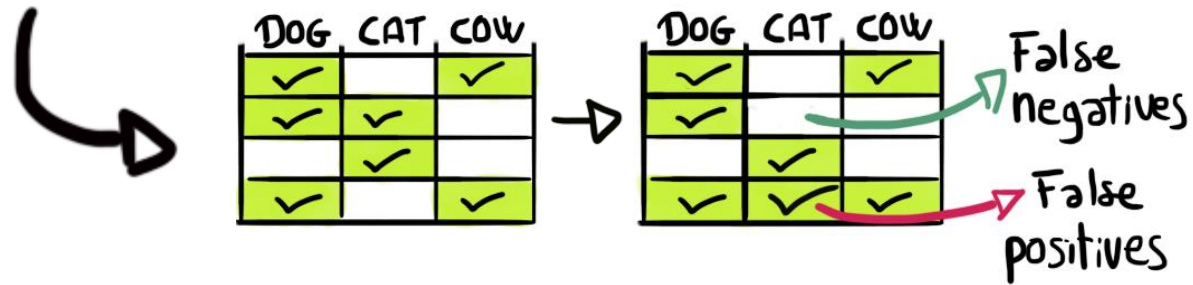
4 rounds at least

$$O(\log^2 n) \text{ storage}$$



Evaluation:

→ CLRZ vs. OSSE



→ Four different query recovery attacks

→ Enron dataset

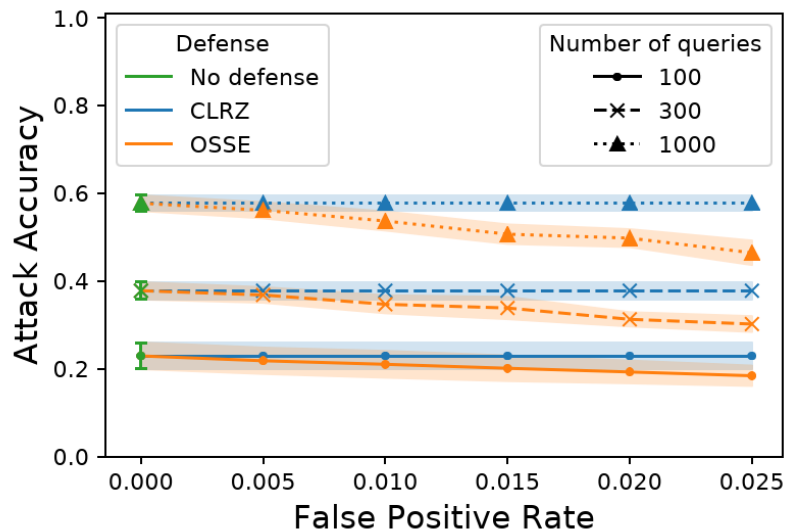
→ We adapt the attacks against the defenses

Results

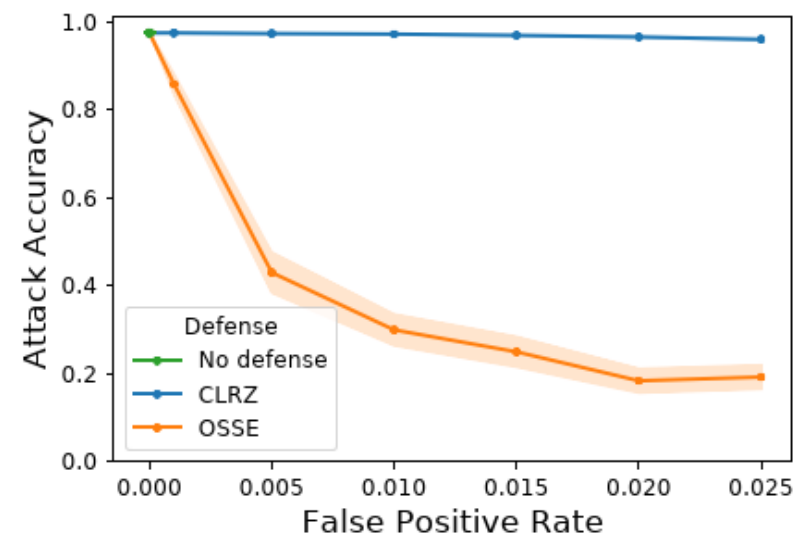
CLRZ

OSSE

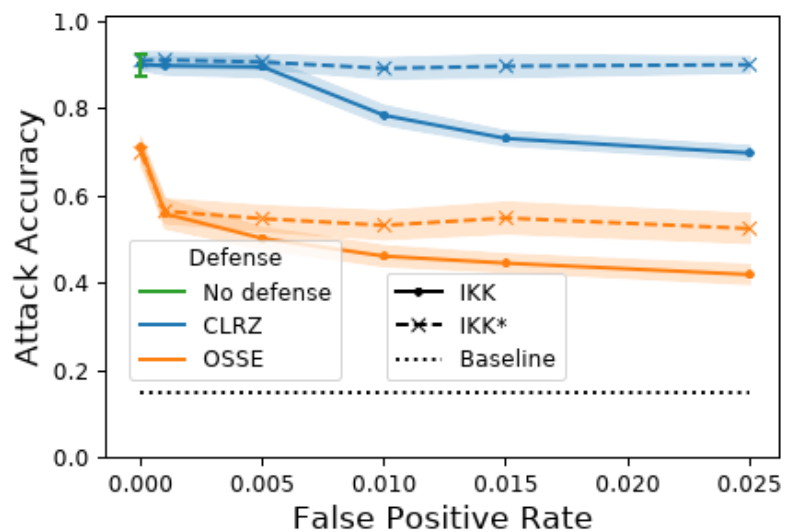
Liu et al.



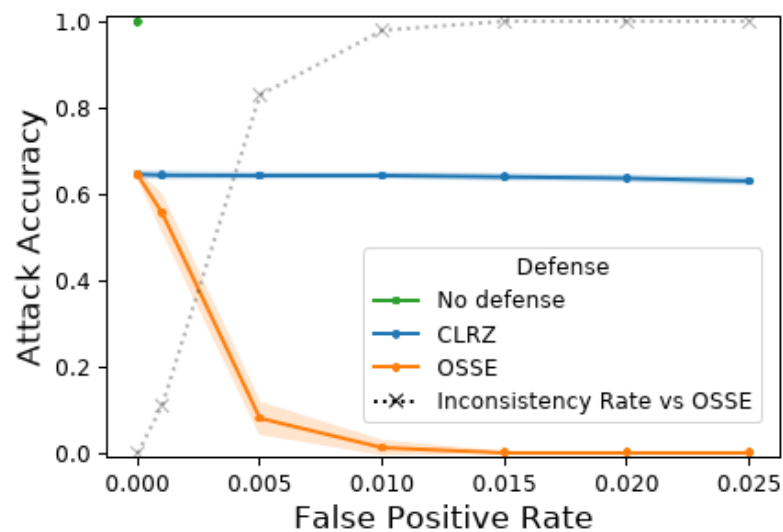
Buliot & Wright



Islam et al.



Cash et al.



Conclusions

- ▶ Hiding search pattern is **challenging** but **very effective** against attacks!

- ▶ OSSE: SSE using IPPE



High computation

# cores	BuildIndex (min)	Trapdoor (s)	Search (min)
4	272.5	580.7	1099.1
8	136.3	290.5	549.6
16	68.2	145.3	274.8
32	34.1	72.8	137.4
64	17.1	36.4	68.7
128	8.5	18.2	34.4
160	6.9	14.7	27.5

TABLE V: Running Times

CLRZ = 200 ms



Conclusions

► Hiding search pattern is **challenging**
but **very effective** against attacks!

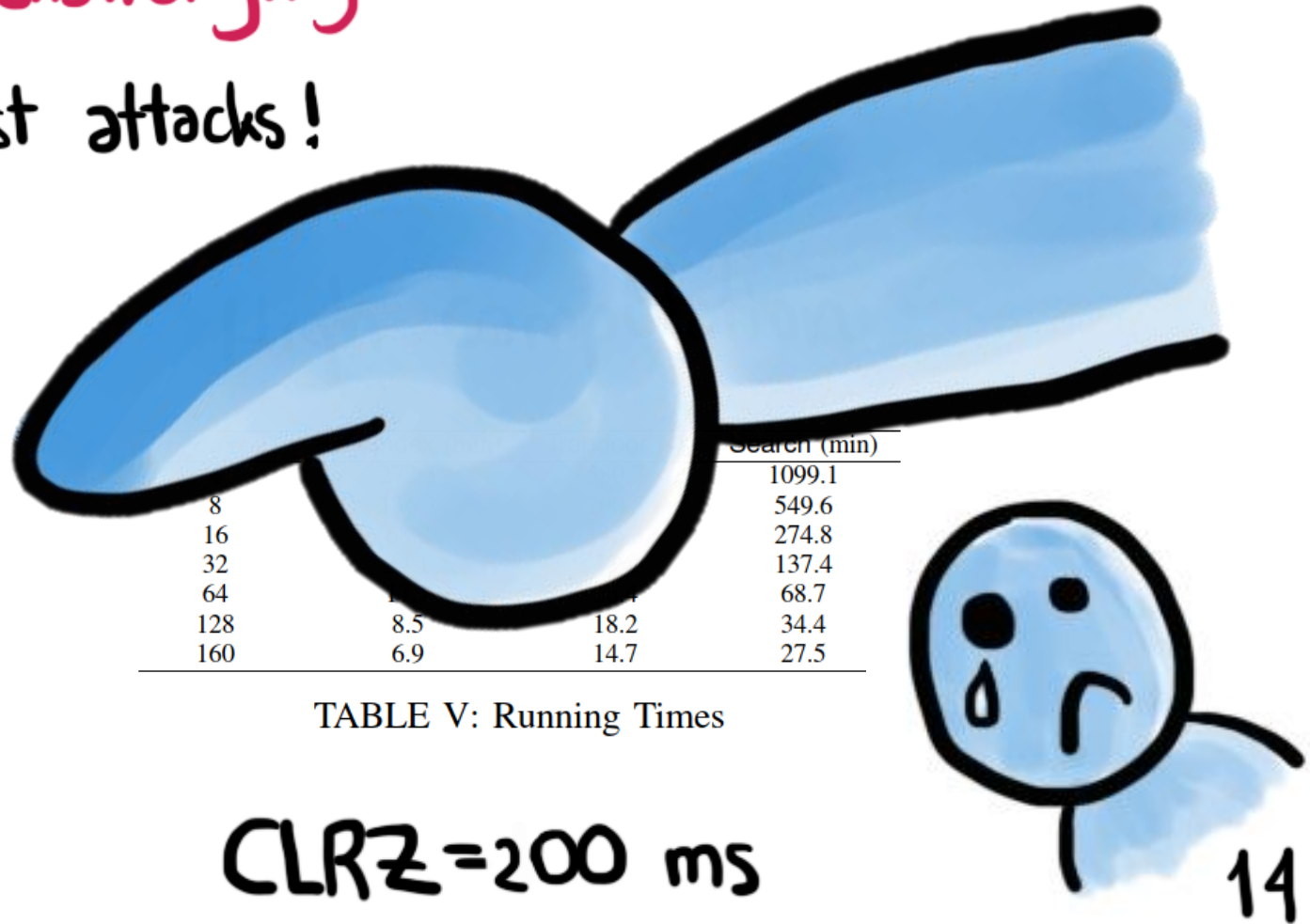
► OSSE: SSE using IPPE

1 comm round!

No client storage!

Hides search pattern!

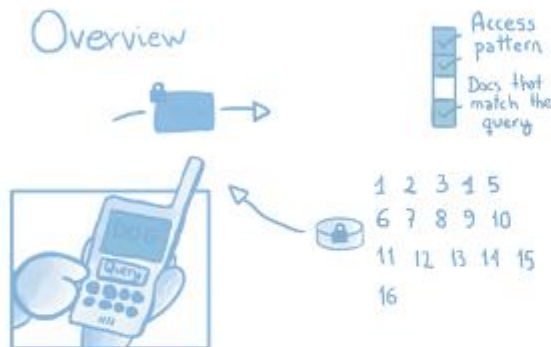
Better asymp. comm than ORAM



Overview

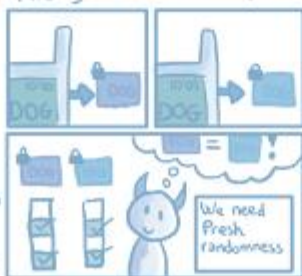


Overview



Hiding Access Pattern Hiding Search Pattern?

CLRZ



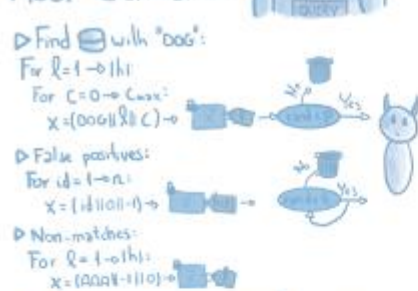
Polynomial

- $r_1 = (DOG || \&l)$
- $r_2 = (cow || \&l)$
- $r_3 = (RAT || \&l || 1)$
- $r_4 = (AAA || \&l || 0)$
- $r_5 = (AAA || \&l || 0)$
- $r_6 = (30 || 0 || -1)$

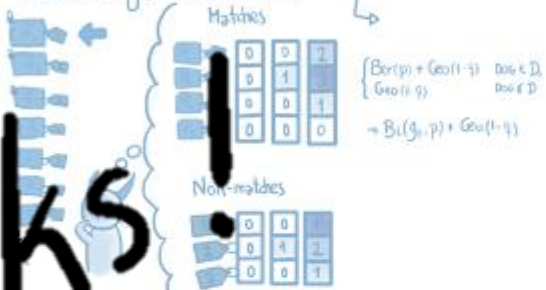
Simon.oya@uwaterloo.ca

$\mathcal{D}_{30} = \{DOG, cow, RAT\}$
 $\&l = h(30)$
 $S_{max} = \text{Max keywords per document} = 5$

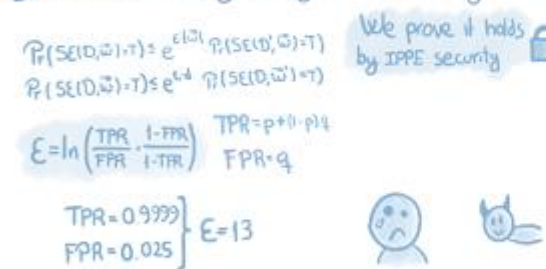
Root Generation



Adversary's View



Differential Privacy Analysis



Obfuscated Access and Search Patterns in Searchable Encryption

Zhiwei Shang*, Simon Oya*, Andreu Peter*, Florian Kerschbaum*

University of Waterloo University of Twente NDS5'21

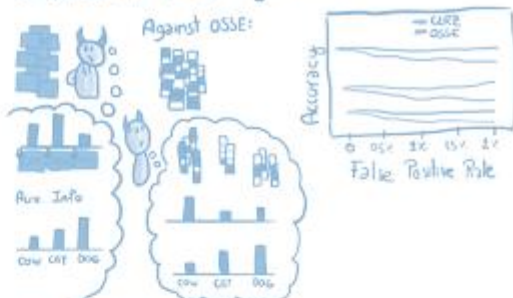
IPPE: Inner Product Predicate Encryption



OSSE: Obfuscated SSE



Evaluation: Frequency Attack



Evaluation: IKK



Evaluation: Count & Graph Matching



Thanks!

simon.oya@uwaterloo.ca

Conclusions

- Hiding search pattern is challenging but very effective against attacks!
- OSSE: SSE using IPPE High computation
- CLRZ = 100 ms

TWORAM (ORAM)
 $O(\log n \cdot \log \log n)$
 4 rounds at least
 $O(\log^2 n)$ storage

1 round
 Computational complexity
 $COMP < n \cdot (C_{max} + 1)$
 Client Storage