

# Private Information Retrieval from MDS Coded Data in Distributed Storage Systems

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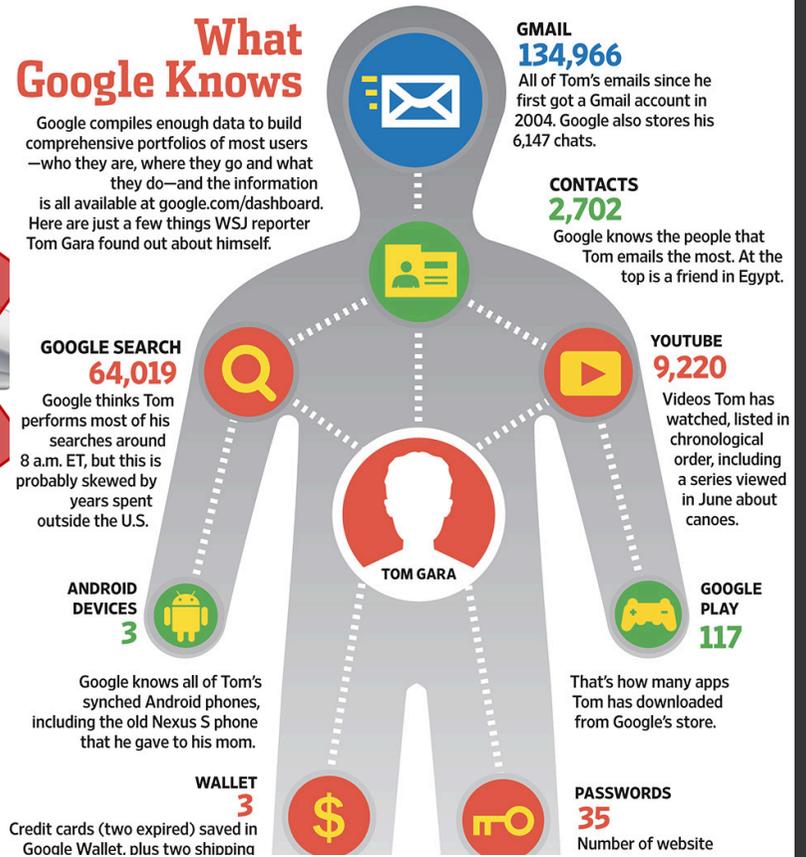
Joint work with Razane Tajeddine

# Motivation



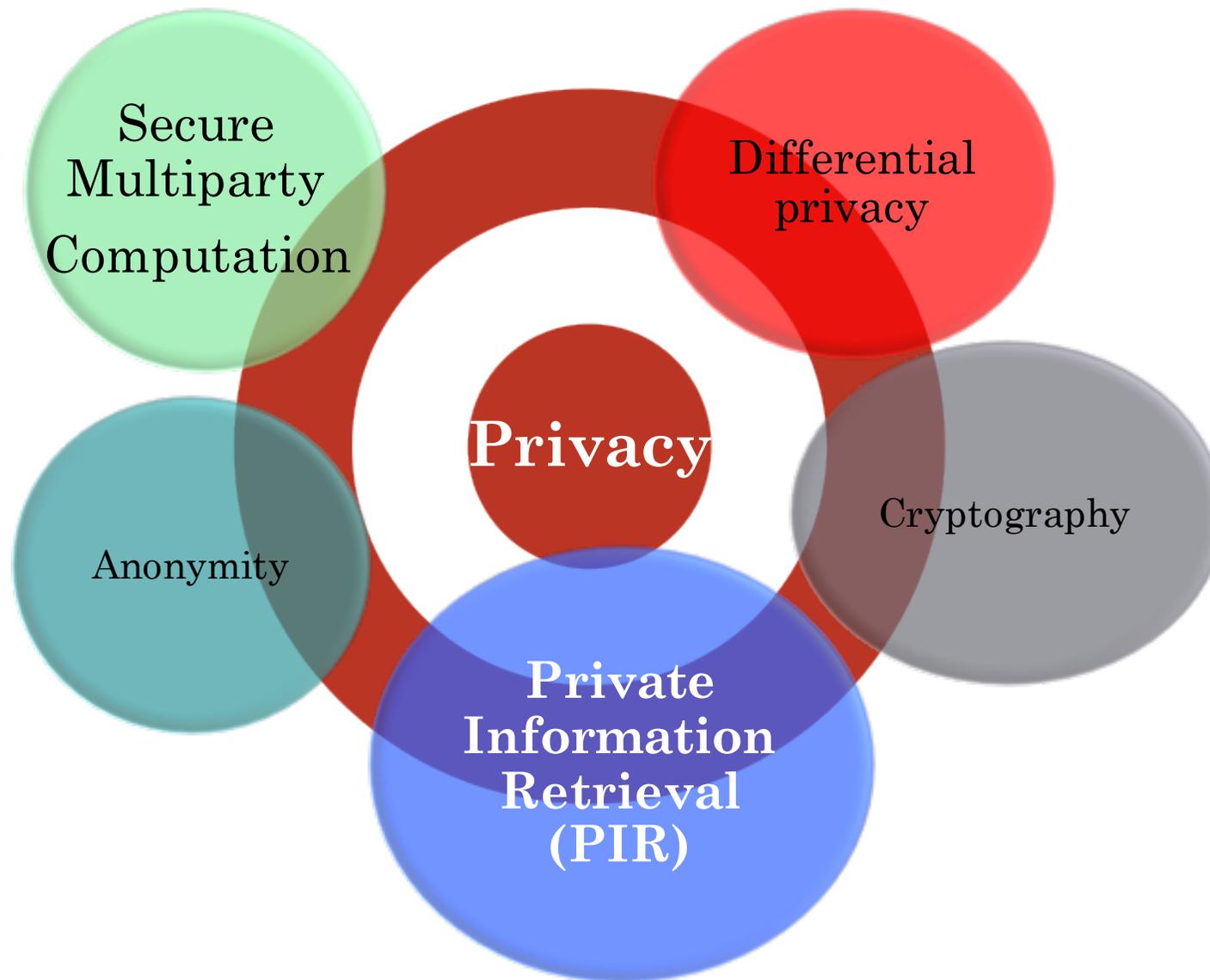
## What Google Knows

Google compiles enough data to build comprehensive portfolios of most users —who they are, where they go and what they do—and the information is all available at [google.com/dashboard](http://google.com/dashboard). Here are just a few things WSJ reporter Tom Gara found out about himself.



# Apple Touts 'Differential Privacy' Data Gathering Technique in iOS 10

Tuesday June 14, 2016 4:02 AM PDT by [Tim Hardwick](#)

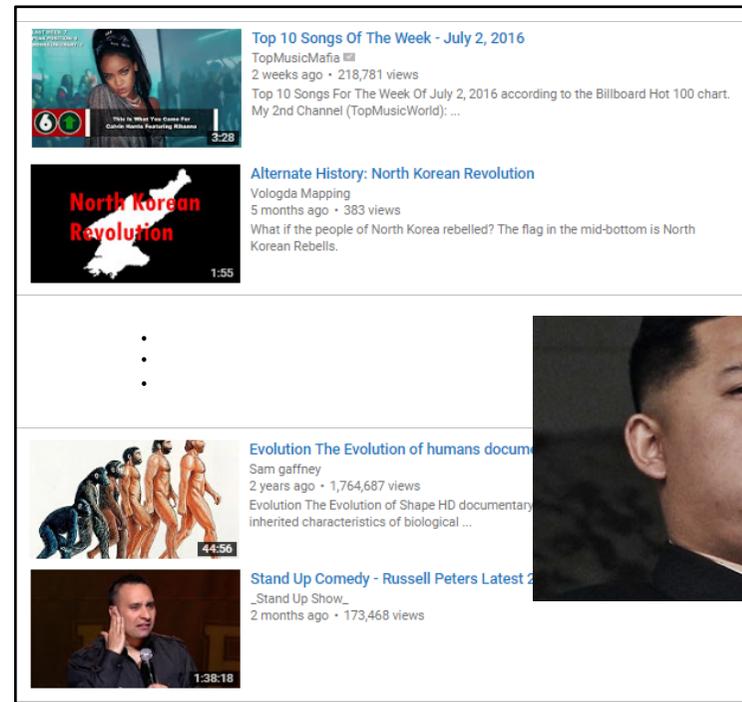


# Private Information Retrieval (PIR)

- User wants to retrieve a file from a database without revealing the identity of this file.
- This problem was first introduced by Chor et. al in 1995. [Chor, Goldreich, Kuchilevitz and Sudan '95].



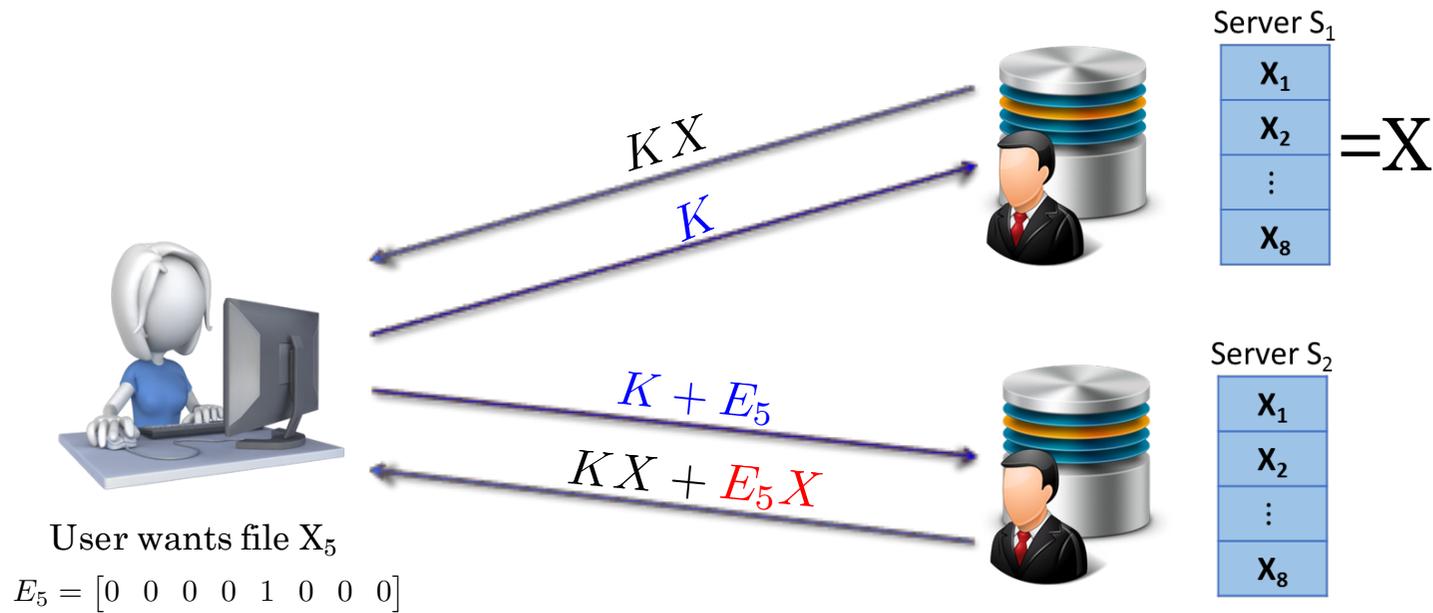
User wants to watch a video on North Korean Revolution



Server

# Toy Example

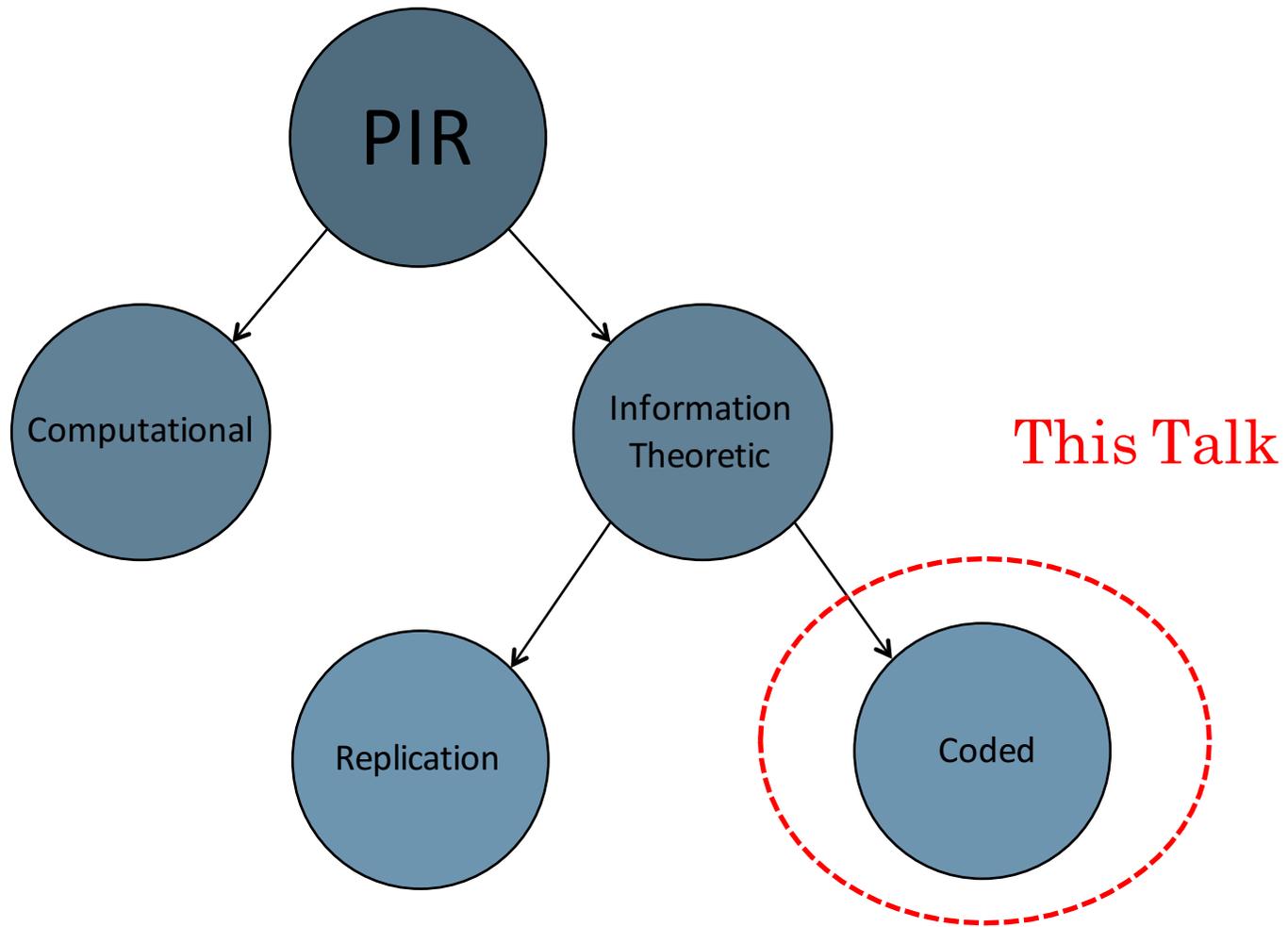
- Database replicated on two non colluding servers.



[Chor et al. '1995]

# Computational vs. Info Theoretic Privacy

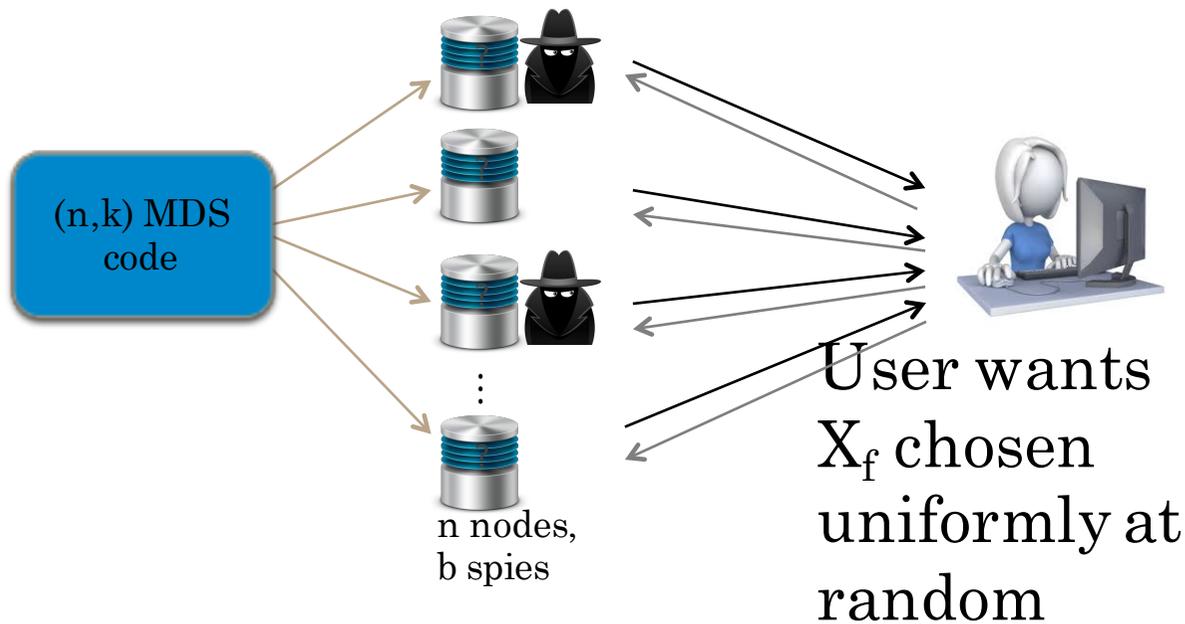
- Relaxation: **Computational PIR**
- Can achieve privacy on one server without downloading whole database. [Kushilevitz and Ostrovsky, '97], [Chor and Gilboa, '97], [Cachin, Micali, and Stadler, '99], ...
- High computational complexity. [Sion and Carbunar, '07]



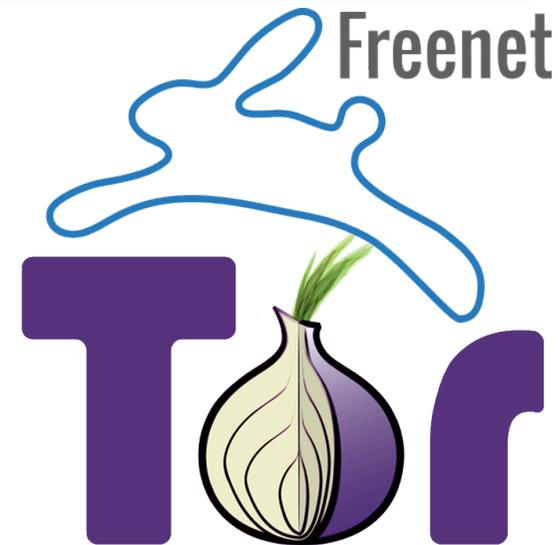
# Model

- A distributed storage system with  $n$  nodes storing files  $X_1, \dots, X_m$
- $(n,k)$  MDS code is given and not design parameter.
- $b$  passive spy nodes

**Goal:** Design PIR scheme with min download cost



Perfect privacy:  
 $H(f | \text{queries to } b \text{ servers}) = H(f)$



# Related work: Replicated Data

- PIR scheme on replicated non-colluding nodes with total, upload and download, communication cost of  $\mathcal{O}((n^2 \log n)m^{1/n})$  and  $\mathcal{O}(m^{1/3})$  for the case when  $n=2$  [Chor, Goldreich, Kuchilevitz and Sudan '95]
- PIR scheme on replicated non-colluding nodes with communication cost  $\mathcal{O}(m^{1/(2n-1)})$  [Ambainis, '97] and  $\mathcal{O}(m^{\frac{c \log \log n}{n \log n}})$  [Beimel et al, '02]
- PIR protocols with total communication cost that is subpolynomial in the size of the database [Yekhanin '08], [Efremenko '12] and [Dvir and Gopi '15]
- Fundamental limits and achievable schemes on **download cost** for replication. [Sun and Jafar '16]

# Related Work on Coded PIR

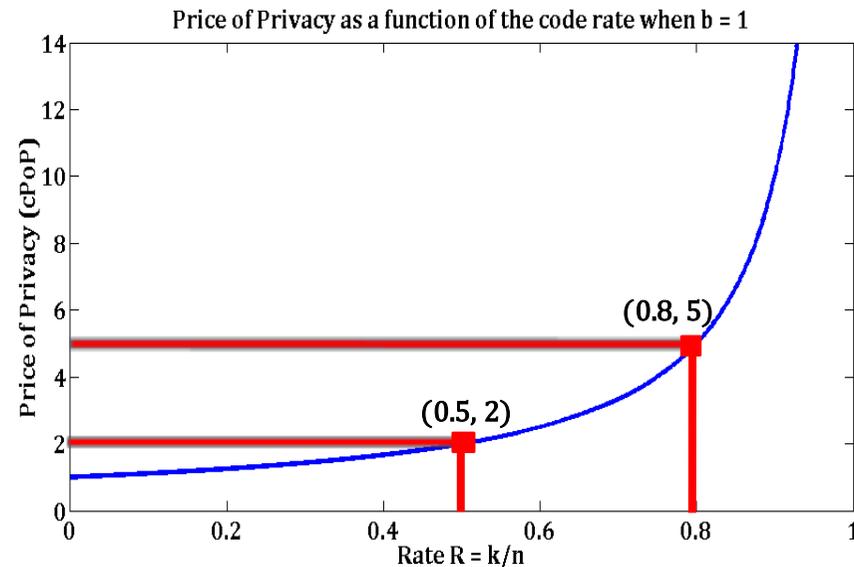
- Batch codes [Ishai et al. '04]
- One extra bit of download is sufficient to achieve PIR. [Shah, Rashmi, and Ramchandran, ISIT '14]
- Methods for transforming a replication-based PIR scheme into a coded-based PIR scheme with the same communication cost [Fazeli, Vardy, and Yaakobi, ISIT '15]
- Bounds on the the tradeoff between storage and download communication cost. [Chan, Ho, and Yamamoto, ISIT '15]
- PIR array codes [Blackburn & Etzion '16]

# Our Results: Single Spy

**Theorem 1:** Consider a DSS using an  $(n, k)$  MDS code over  $GF(q)$ , with  $b = 1$  spy node. Then, there is an explicit linear PIR scheme for *any number of files*  $m$  over  $GF(q)$  with download communication cost (price of privacy):

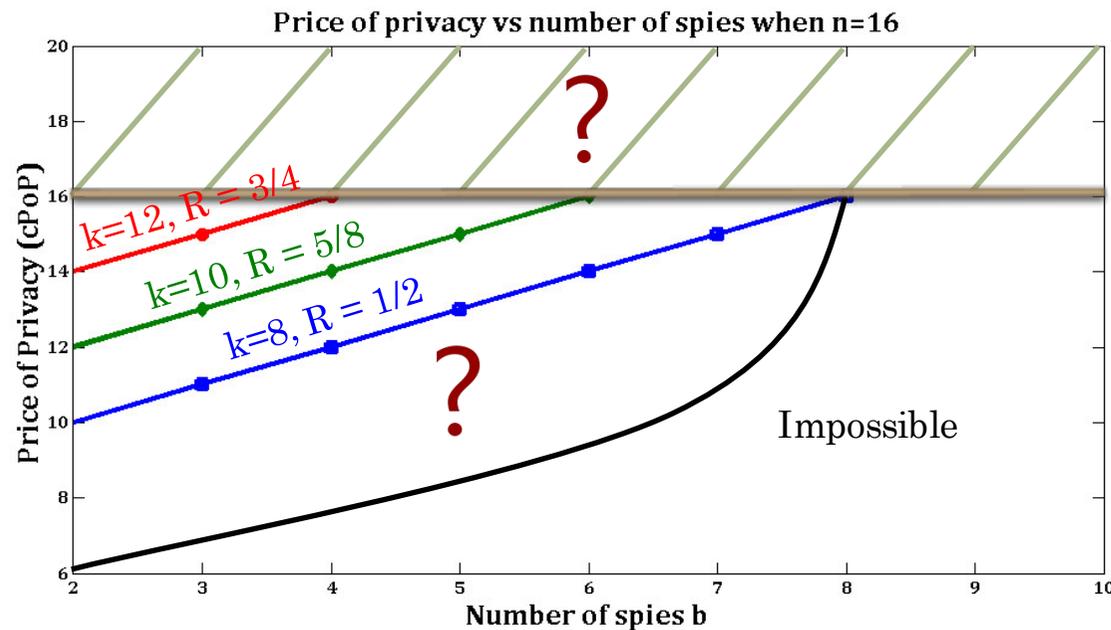
$$PoP = \frac{n}{n - k} = \frac{1}{1 - R}.$$

- Achieves the information theoretic optimum given in [Chan et al, ISIT '15] for linear PIR scheme.
- Achieve the bound given in [Sun et. al, ISIT '16] when applying replication.\*
- The PIR scheme is universal, i.e. does not depend on the MDS code.



# Our Results: Multiple Spies

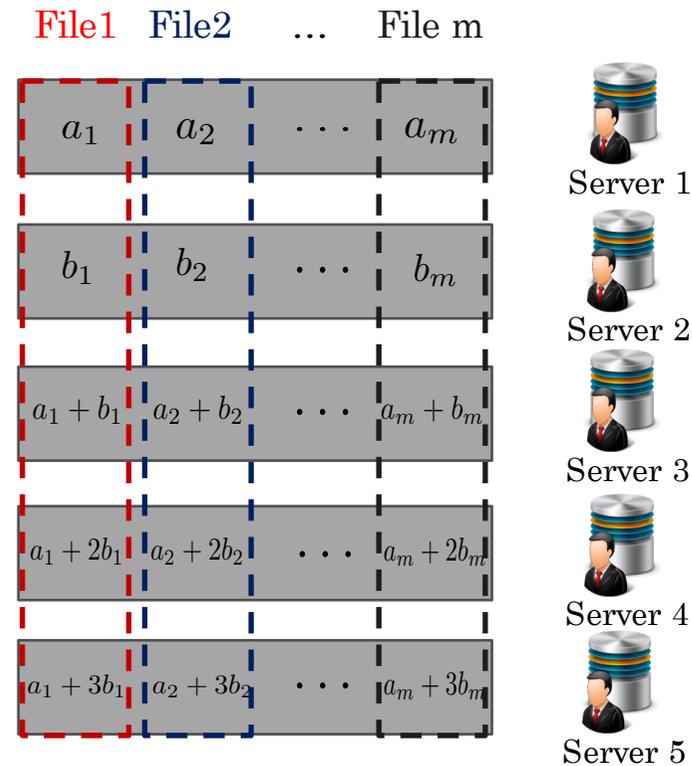
**Theorem 2:** Consider a DSS using an  $(n, k)$  MDS code over  $GF(q)$ , with  $b \leq n - k$  spy nodes. Then, there is an explicit linear PIR scheme over  $GF(q)$  with download communication cost,  $PoP = b + k$ .



# Example on Theorem 1

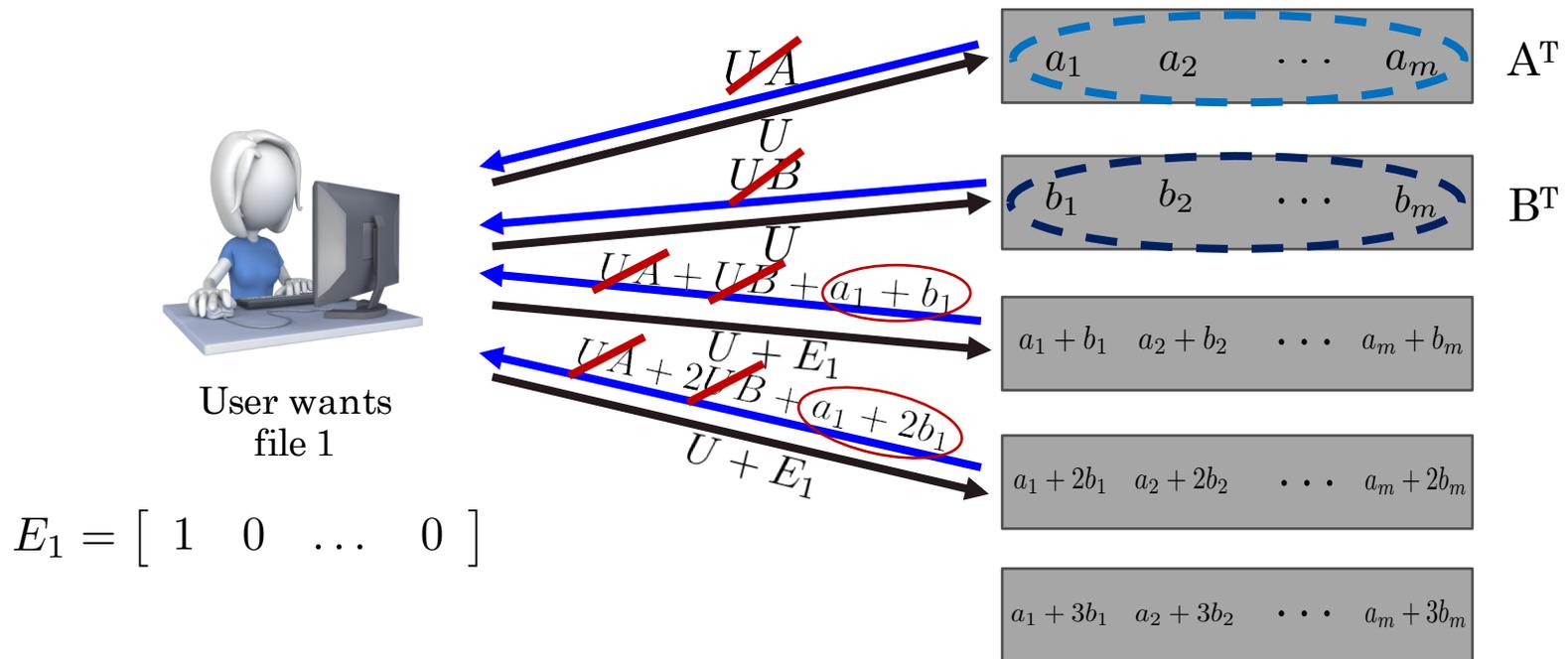
- Consider a (5,2) MDS code with  $b = 1$  spy node.

- Goal is to achieve  $PoP = \frac{n}{n-k} = \frac{5}{3}$ .



# First Attempt

- Generate an iid random vector  $U = [u_1 \ u_2 \ \dots \ u_m]$ .



- This achieves  $PoP = 2$  instead of  $PoP = \frac{5}{3}$ .

# Subdivision

- Divide each part into 3,



- 2 subqueries.

- 2 random vectors U and V

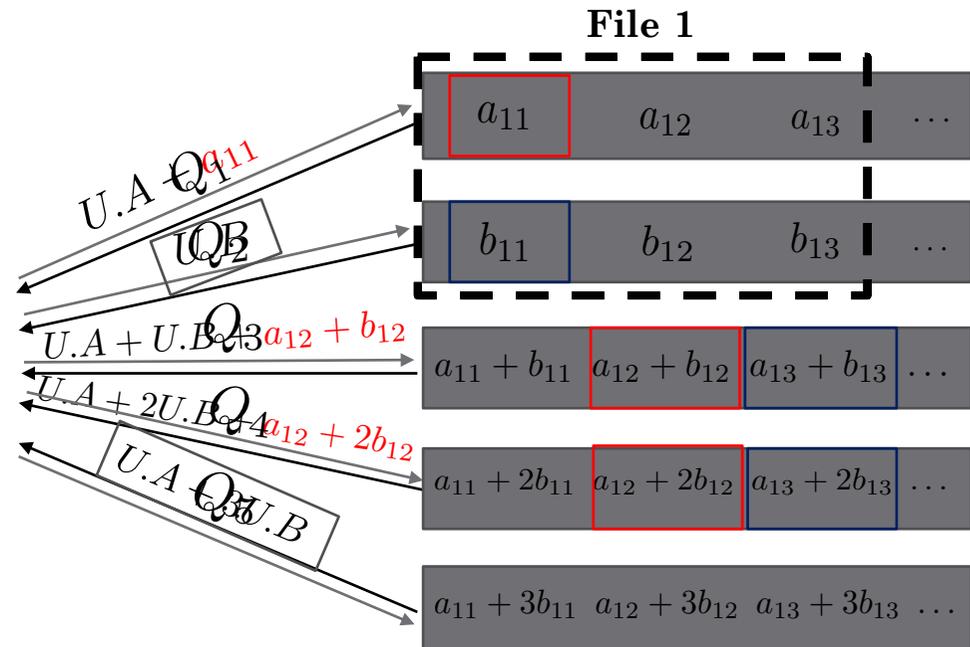


$$Q_1 = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + 1 & u_2 & u_3 & \dots \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 & \dots \\ v_1 + 1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_3 = Q_4 = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 + 1 & u_3 & \dots \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 + 1 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_5 = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 & \dots \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$



# Proof of Theorem 1

- Scheme:

- We divide each file into  $n - k$  stripes.
- $k$  sub-queries are made to each node (dimension of code is  $d$ ).
- We write  $n - k = \beta k + r$ .

- Conditions:

- Decode  $n - k$  parts in each sub-query.
- Parts not on same node.
- Different parts in each sub-query

		Sys. nodes		Parity nodes		
		1	2	3	4	5
Stripes	1	1	2			
	2			1	1	
	3			2	2	

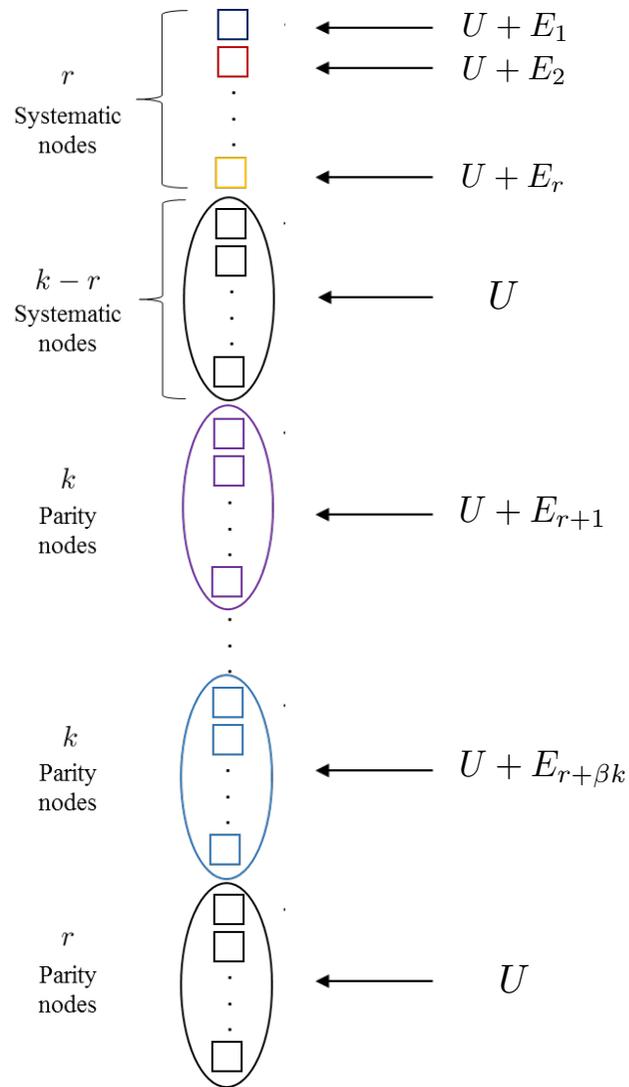
Retrieval pattern

# Retrieval pattern for (15,4) MDS

		Sys. nodes				Parity nodes										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
r	1	1	2	3	4											
	2	2	3	4	1											
	3	3	4	1	2											
k	4					1	1	1	1							
	5					2	2	2	2							
	6					3	3	3	3							
	7					4	4	4	4							
k	8									1	1	1	1			
	9									2	2	2	2			
	10									3	3	3	3			
	11									4	4	4	4			

$k$ 
 $k$

# Querying



Where the  $E_i$ s are matrices with 1s at the positions we want to decode.

- $k$  equations to decode interference.
- $r$  equations from systematic nodes to decode parts of the first  $r$  stripes.
- $\beta k$  equations from parity nodes to decode  $\beta k$  complete stripes.
- In total,  $\beta k + r$  parts decoded.

# Querying

- User creates a  $d \times m\alpha$  random matrix  $U$ .
- Send matrix
  - $Q_l = U + V_l$ , to send to nodes  $l = 1, \dots, n - r$ .
  - $Q_l = U$ , to send to nodes  $l = n - r + 1, \dots, n$ .

- Where

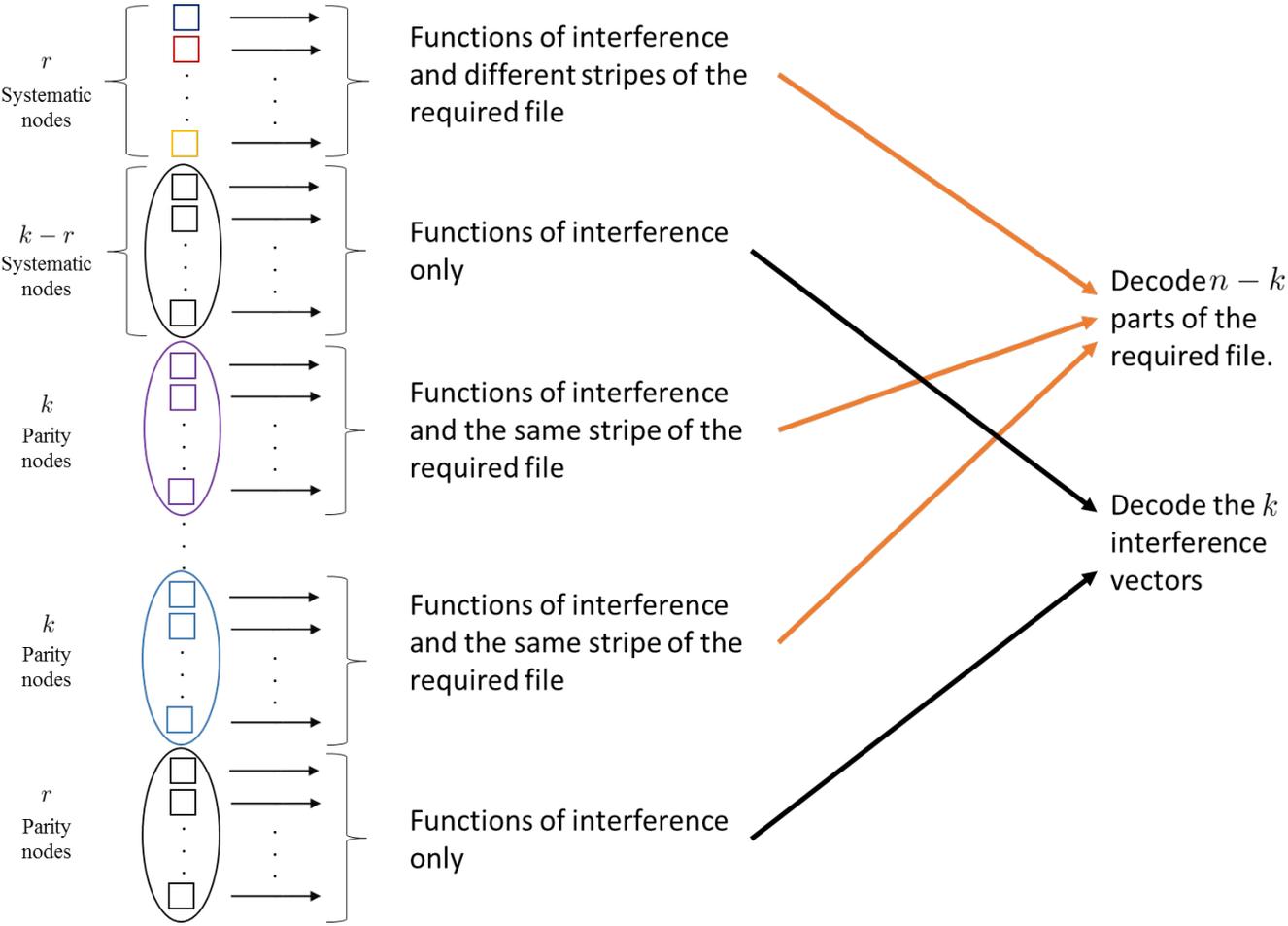
$$- E_1 = \left[ \underbrace{\mathbf{0}_{k \times (f-1)\alpha}}_{\text{files } 1, \dots, f-1} \mid \underbrace{\begin{matrix} I_{r \times r} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times \beta k} \\ \mathbf{0}_{(k-r) \times r} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times \beta k} \end{matrix}}_{\text{wanted file } f} \mid \underbrace{\mathbf{0}_{k \times (m-f)\alpha}}_{\text{files } f+1, \dots, m} \right],$$

- $E_l \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , is obtained from matrix  $E_{l-1}$  by a single downward cyclic shift of its row vectors.

- For parity nodes  $l = sk + 1, \dots, sk + k$  for  $s = 1, \dots, \beta$

$$E_l = \left[ \underbrace{\mathbf{0}_{k \times (f-1)\alpha}}_{\text{files } 1, \dots, f-1} \mid \underbrace{\begin{matrix} \mathbf{0}_{k \times r} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times (s-1)k} & I_{k \times k} \\ \mathbf{0}_{k \times (s-1)k} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times (s-1)k} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times k} \end{matrix}}_{\text{wanted file } f} \mid \underbrace{\mathbf{0}_{k \times (m-f)\alpha}}_{\text{files } f+1, \dots, m} \right].$$

# Response and Decoding



# Decoding

- Decodability:

- From systematic node  $l = 1, \dots, k$  and sub-query  $i$

$$x_{i1}^f + I_l \quad l = i$$

$$I_l \quad l = (i+1)_k, \dots, (i+k-r)_k$$

$$x_{l(i+k+1-l)_k}^f + I_l \quad l = (i+k-r+1)_k, \dots, (i+k-1)_k$$

where  $I_l = U_i^T W_l$

- From parity nodes  $l = n - r + 1, \dots, n$

$$\lambda_{1l} I_1 + \lambda_{2l} I_2 + \dots + \lambda_{kl} I_k$$

- The rest of the parity nodes return:

$$\lambda_{1l} x_{1,r+(s-1)k+i}^f + \dots + \lambda_{kl} x_{k,r+(s-1)k+i}^f + \lambda_{1l} I_1 + \lambda_{2l} I_2 + \dots + \lambda_{kl} I_k$$

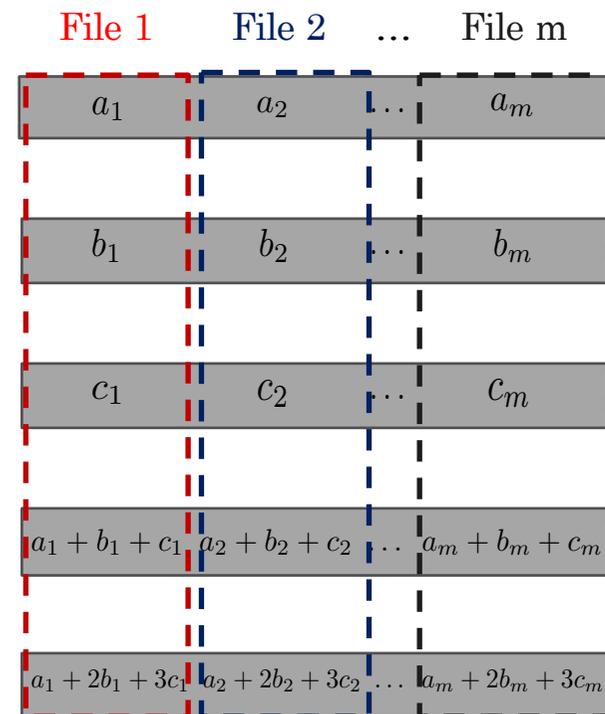
# Part 3 – Privacy

- Privacy:
  - Since  $b = 1$ , the only way a node  $l$  can learn information about  $f$  is from its own query matrix  $Q_i$ . By construction  $Q_i$  is statistically independent of  $f$  and this scheme achieves perfect privacy.
- cPoP:
  - Every node responds with  $d = k$  symbols. Therefore, the total number of symbols downloaded by the user is  $kn$ . Therefore,

$$cPoP = \frac{kn}{k(n - k)} = \frac{1}{1 - R}$$

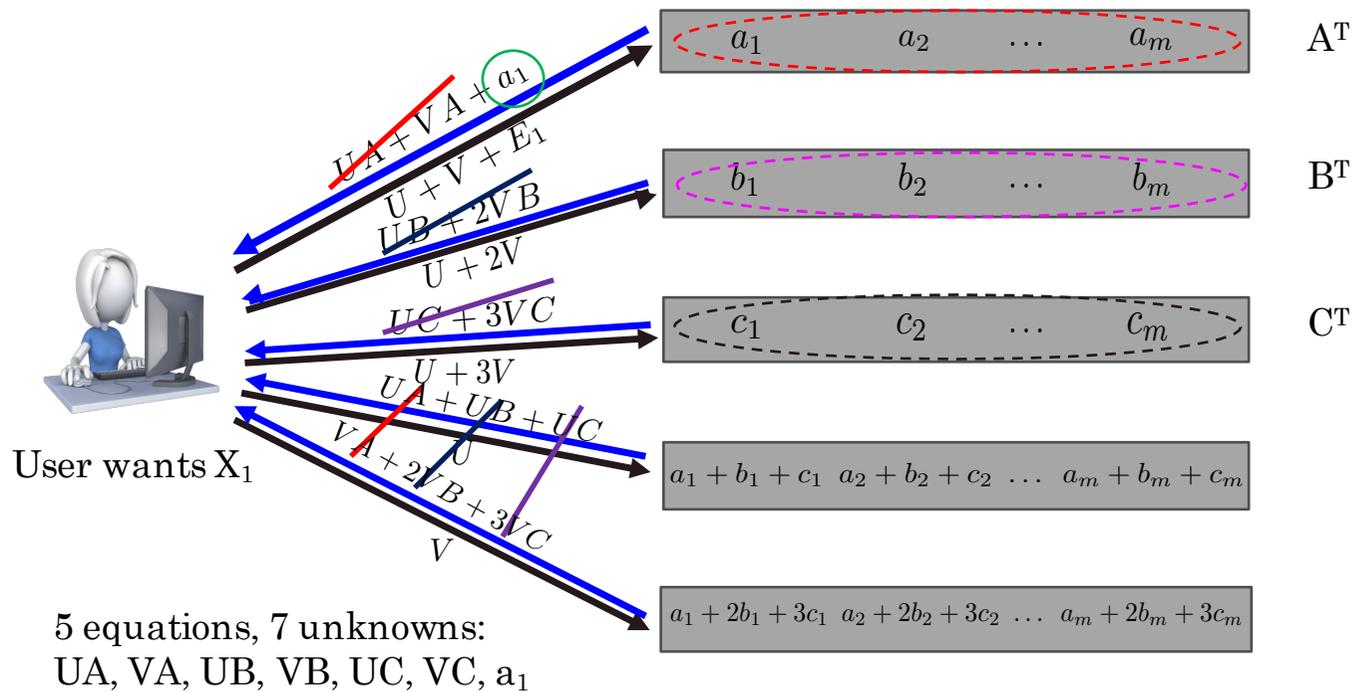
# Example on Theorem 2

- Assume a (5,3) MDS code.
- Consider  $b = 2$  colluding nodes.
- W.L.O.G. user wants file 1.



# Example on Theorem 2

- User generates 2 random vectors  $U$  and  $V$ .



# Proof of Theorem 2

**Theorem 2:** Consider a DSS using an  $(n, k)$  MDS code over  $GF(q)$ , with  $b \leq n - k$  spy nodes. Then, there is an explicit linear PIR scheme over  $GF(q)$  with download communication cost,  $PoP = b + k$ .

- Consider an  $(n, k)$  MDS code with the following generator matrix:

$$\Lambda = \left[ \begin{array}{c|ccc} I_{k \times k} & \lambda_{1,k+1} & \dots & \lambda_{1,n} \\ & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ & \lambda_{k,k+1} & \dots & \lambda_{k,n} \end{array} \right]$$



# Open Problems

- Fundamental information theoretical bounds of the communication cost (cPoP).
- Is joint design of MDS code and PIR scheme necessary to achieve fundamental bounds?
- Partial retrieval of parts of the file.
- Beyond MDS codes, general linear codes, regenerating codes, Locally Recoverable codes, etc.
- General collusion patterns
- Malicious nodes etc...

Thank you!