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# Mostree: Malicious Secure Private Decision Tree Evaluation with Sublinear Communication

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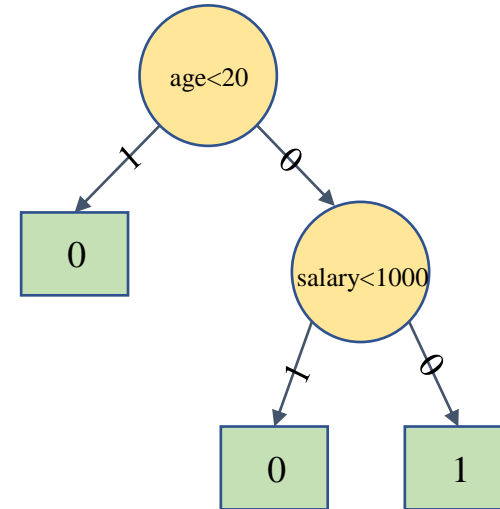
Giovanni Russello (University of Auckland)



**MONASH**  
University

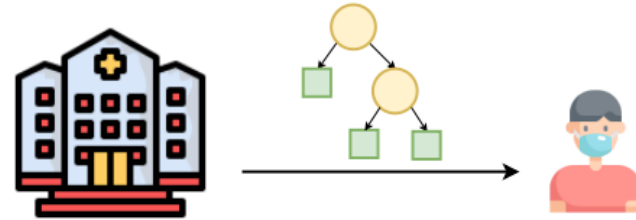
# Decision Trees

- Tree structure model
  - Simple and interpretable
- Applications
  - Healthcare system
  - Spam detection
  - Credit-risk assessment
  - ...

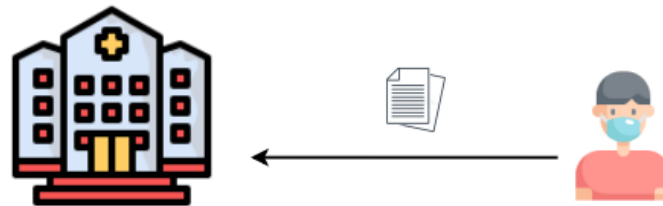


# Privacy Challenges

- The decision tree model is valuable

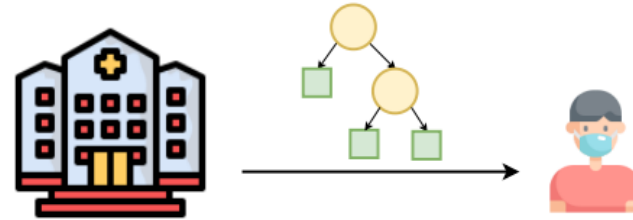


- The feature vector is sensitive



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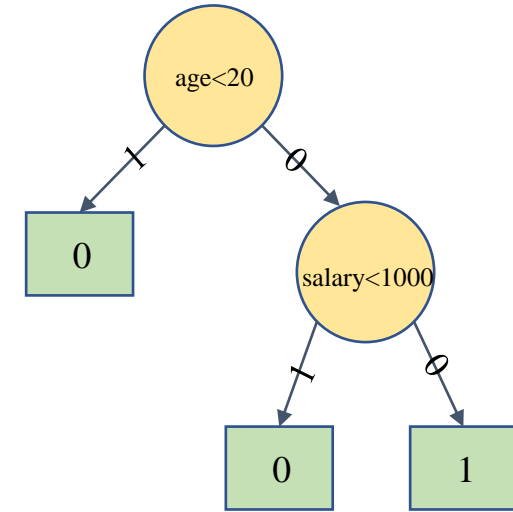
- How to perform private decision tree evaluation (PDTE)?

# Sensitive Feature/Tree Information

- Feature example:

age	gender	salary
35	male	3000

- Tree example:



# Sensitive Feature/Tree Information

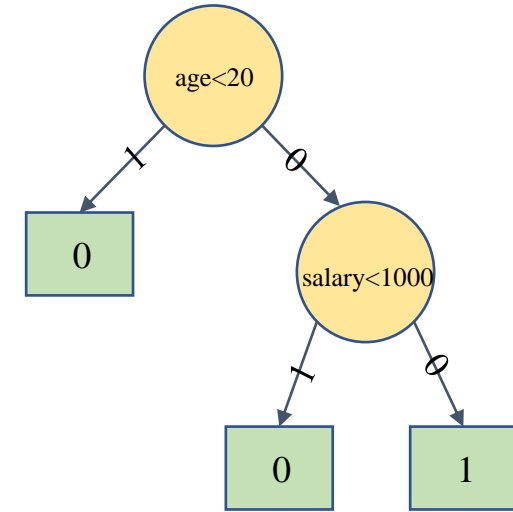
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- Attribute values (e.g., age=35, gender=male,...)

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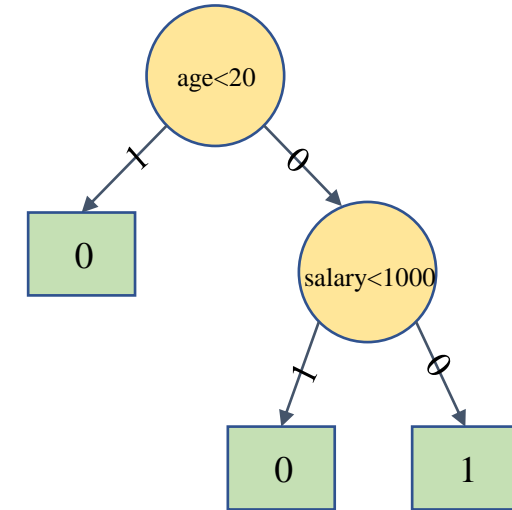
- **Sensitive information**

- Attribute values (e.g., age=35, gender=male,...)

- **Public information**

- Feature dimension (e.g., 3)
- Attribute names and their organization (e.g., age→gender→salary)

- Tree example:



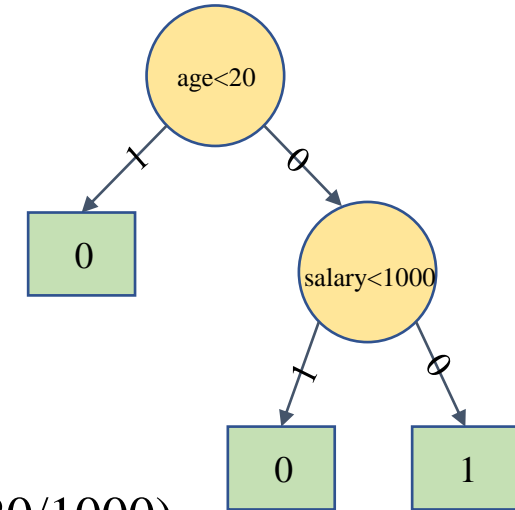
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- **Sensitive information**
  - Threshold (e.g., 20/1000)
  - Attributes of interest (e.g., age/salary)
  - Depth of leaf nodes (e.g., 1/2)



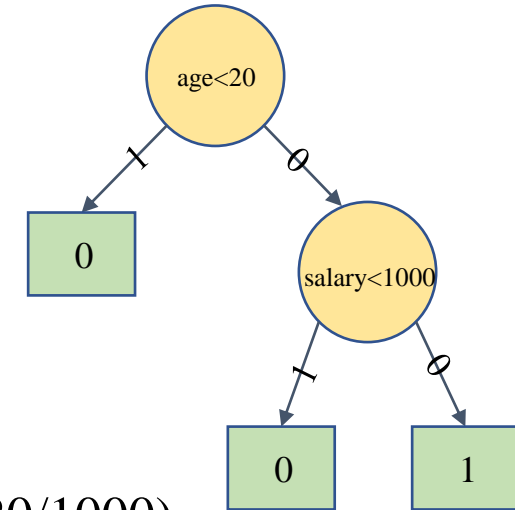
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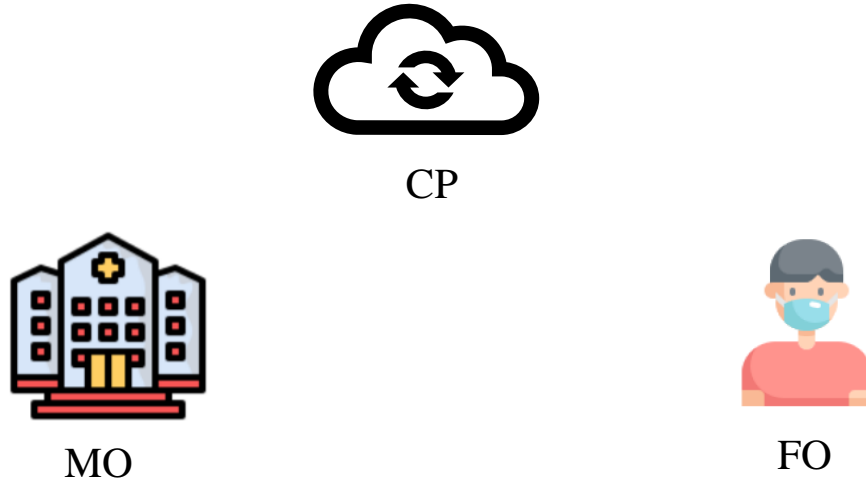
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- Tree example:



- **Sensitive information**
  - Threshold (e.g., 20/1000)
  - Attributes of interest (e.g., age/salary)
  - Depth of leaf nodes (e.g., 1/2)
- **Public information**
  - The number of nodes (e.g., 5)
  - Maximal depth of the tree (e.g., 2)

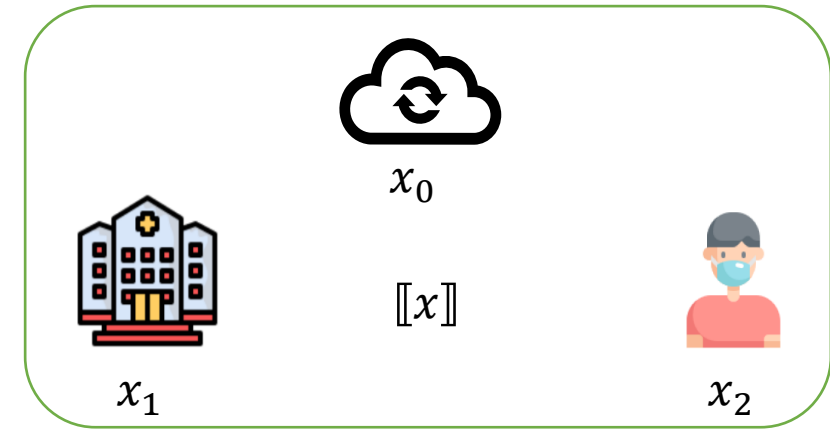
# System Model/Threat Model



- System model:
  - Model owner (MO)
  - Feature owner (FO)
  - Computing party (CP)
- Threat model:
  - **Honest-majority setting:** At most one party can be **malicious**.
  - **Security goals:** Achieve *privacy* in any case, and *correctness* if the protocol completes (i.e., malicious security with abort).

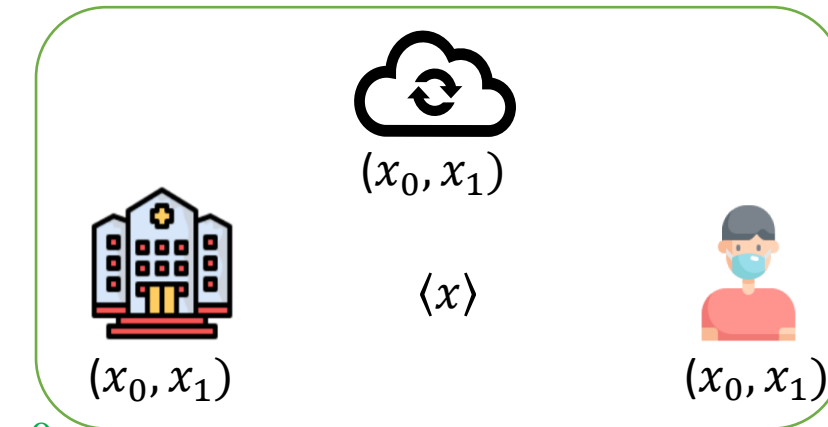
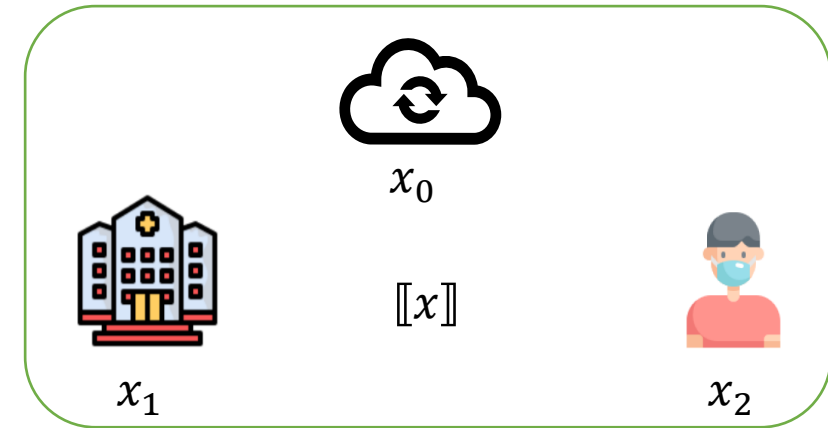
# Cryptographic Primitives

- $\binom{n}{n}$ -secret sharing  $[[x]]$ 
  - $x = x_0 + x_1 + \dots + x_{n-1} \pmod L$
  - $n = 2$  or  $3$  in this talk
  - if  $n = 3$ ,  $P_0$  has  $(x_0)$ ,  $P_1$  has  $(x_1)$ , and  $P_2$  has  $(x_2)$



# Cryptographic Primitives

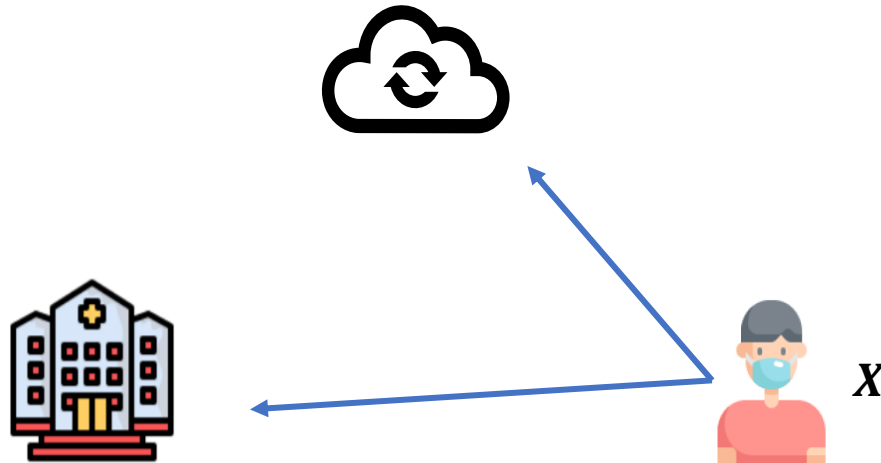
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- $\binom{3}{2}$ -secret sharing  $\langle x \rangle$ 
  - $x = x_0 + x_1 + x_2 \pmod L$
  - $P_0$  has  $(x_0, x_2)$ ,  $P_1$  has  $(x_1, x_0)$ , and  $P_2$  has  $(x_2, x_1)$
  - Also known as replicated secret-sharing (RSS)
  - Multiplication:  $\langle z \rangle \leftarrow \langle x \rangle \cdot \langle y \rangle$ 
    - 1)  $P_i$  computes  $z_i \leftarrow x_i y_i + x_i y_{i-1} + x_{i-1} y_i + r_i$ , where  $r_0 + r_1 + r_2 = 0$ .
    - 2)  $P_i$  sends  $z_i$  to  $P_{i+1}$  and receives  $z_i$  from  $P_i$ .
    - 3)  $P_i$  outputs  $(z_i, z_{i-1})$



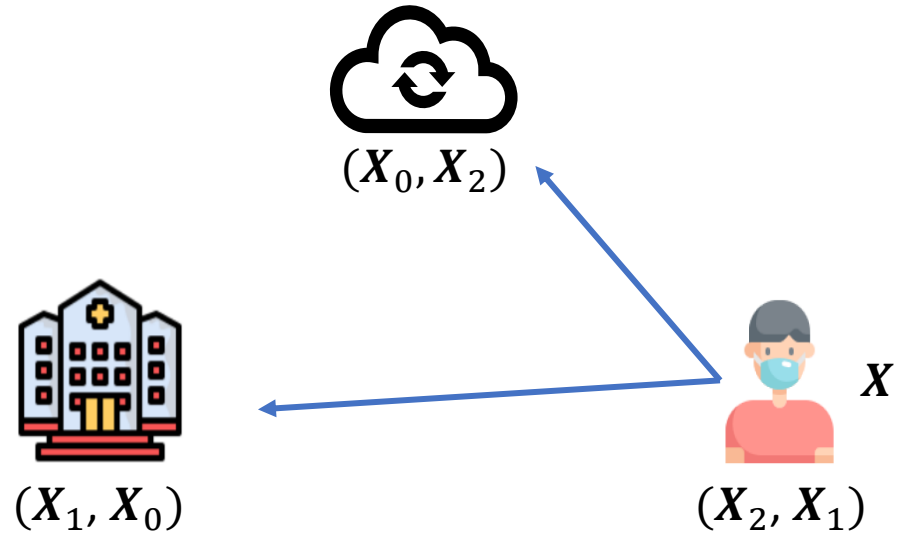
# Mostree: High-level Description



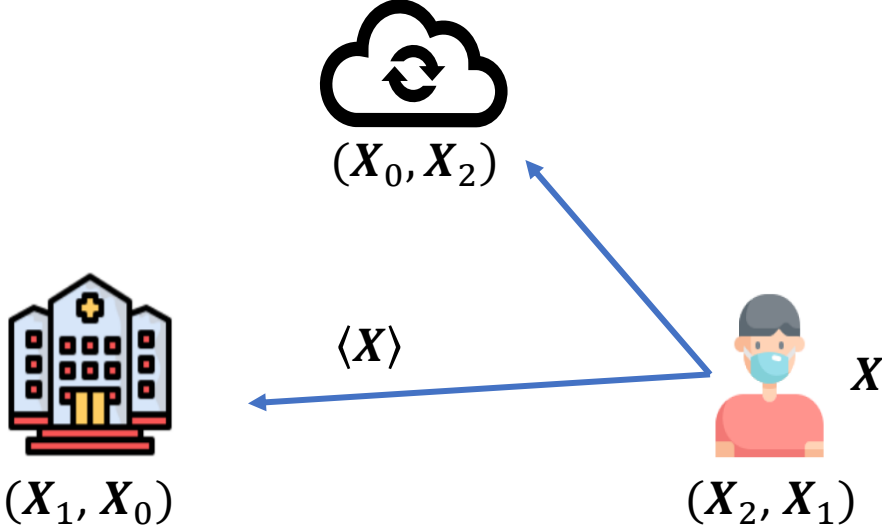
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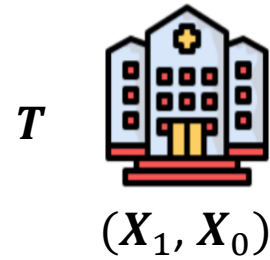
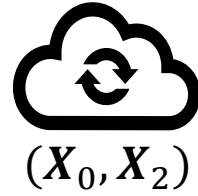


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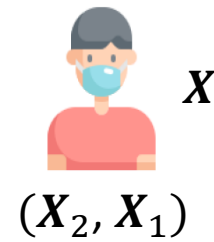




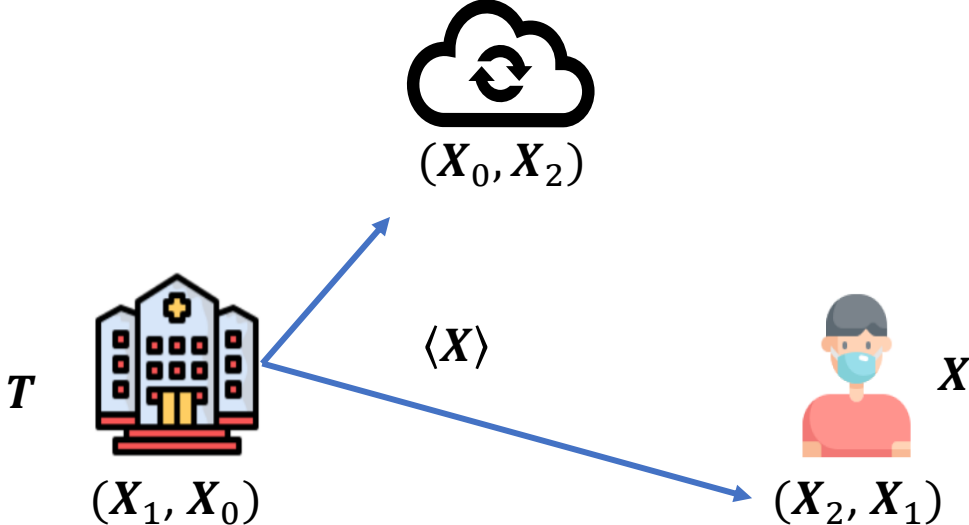
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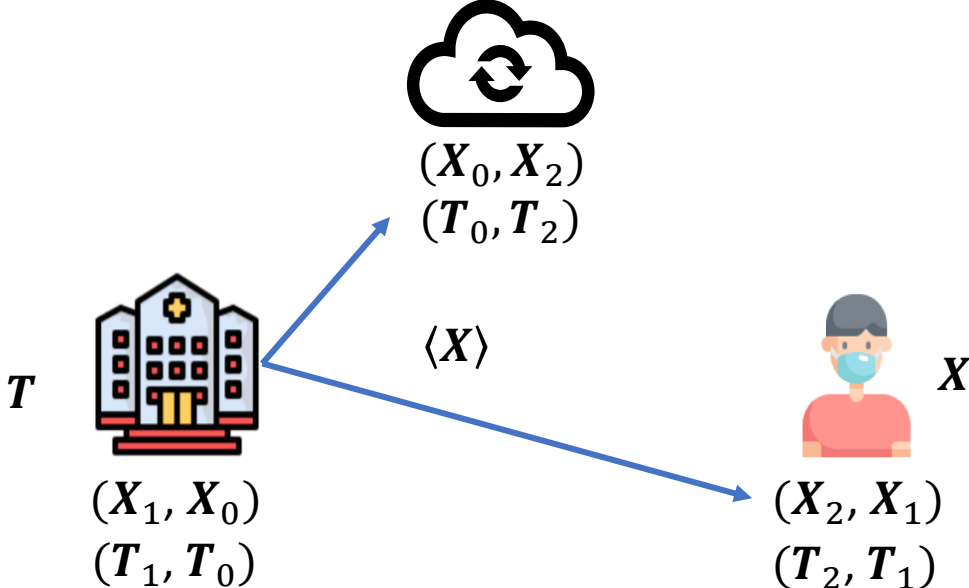
$\langle X \rangle$



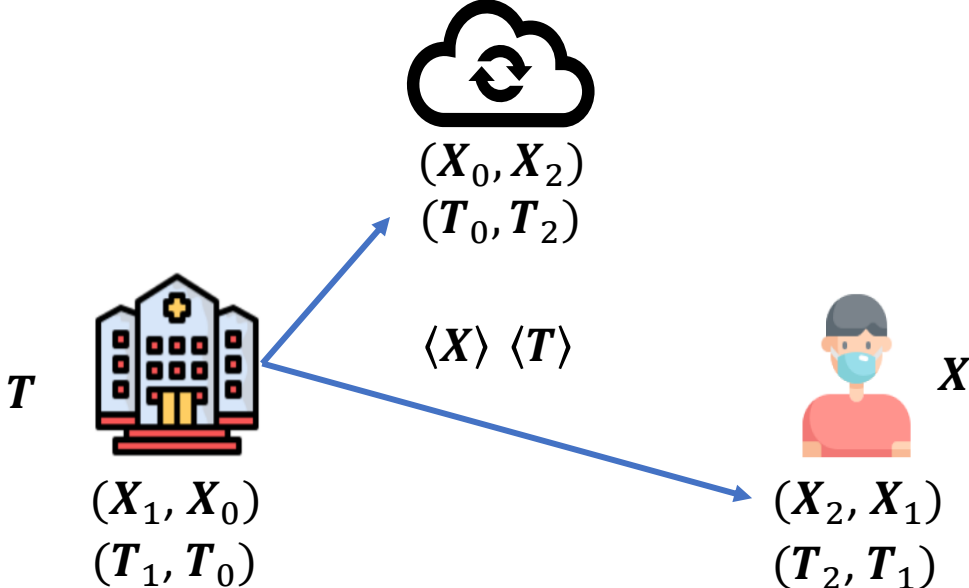
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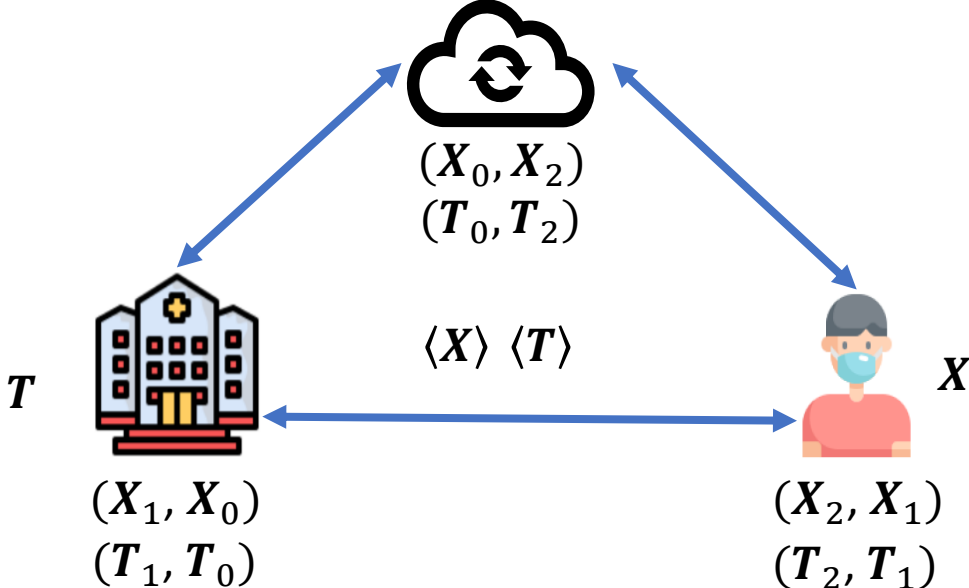
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$(X_0, X_2)$   
 $(T_0, T_2)$

$T$



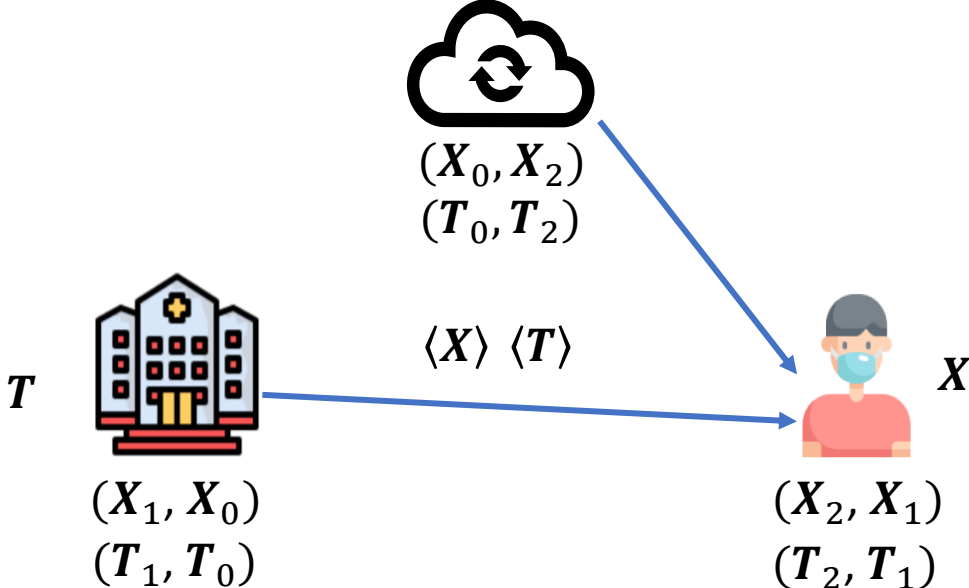
$(X_1, X_0)$   
 $(T_1, T_0)$

$\langle X \rangle \langle T \rangle$

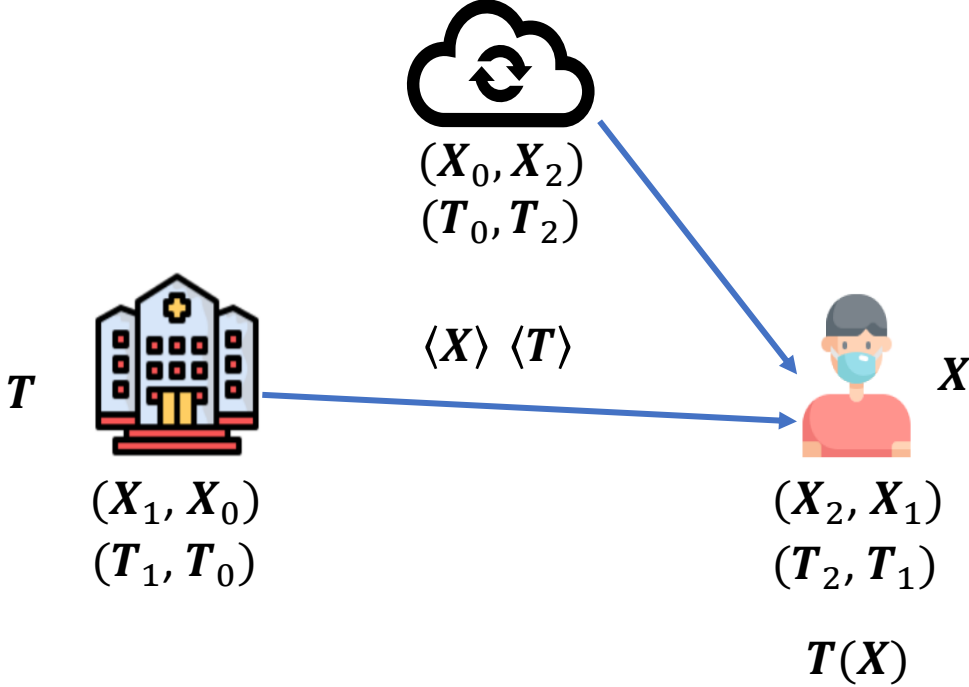


$X$   
 $(X_2, X_1)$   
 $(T_2, T_1)$

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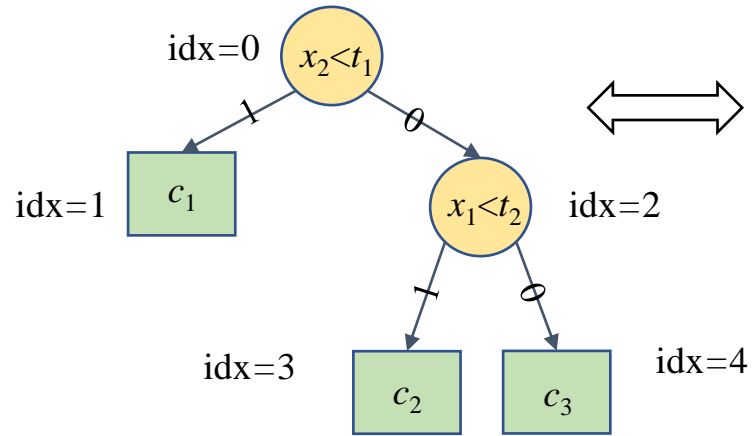


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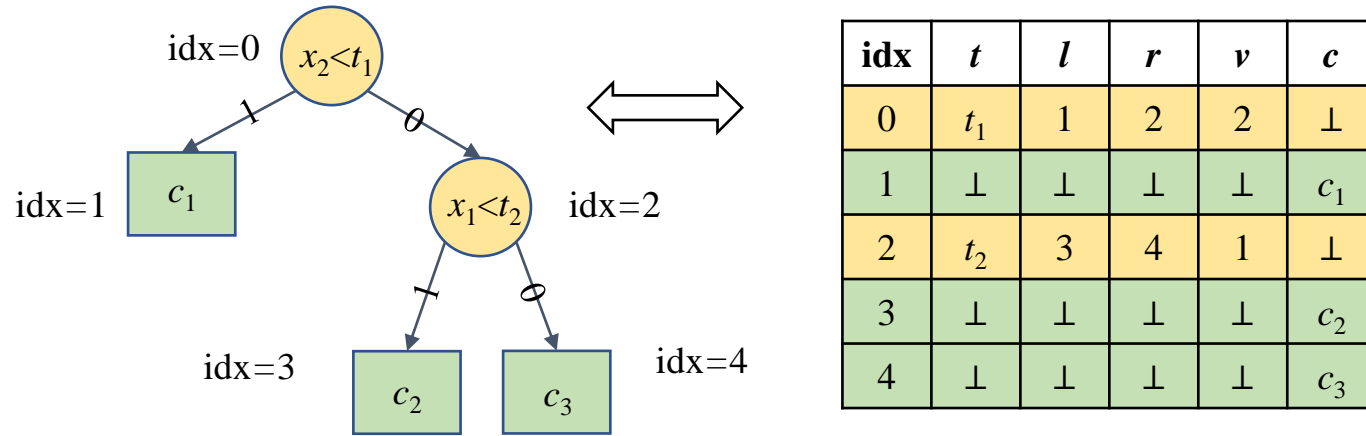


# Decision Tree Evaluation



idx	$t$	$l$	$r$	$v$	$c$
0	$t_1$	1	2	2	$\perp$
1	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$c_1$
2	$t_2$	3	4	1	$\perp$
3	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$c_2$
4	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$c_3$

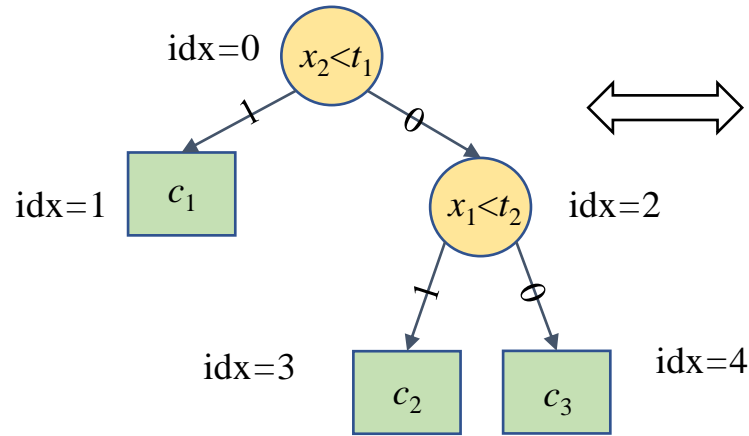
# Decision Tree Evaluation



- Decision tree encoding

- $t$ : threshold value.  $t = \perp$  for decisive nodes.
- $l$ : index of left child.  $l = \perp$  for decisive nodes.
- $r$ : index of right child.  $r = \perp$  for decisive nodes.
- $v$ : index of attribute to be compared with  $t$ .
- $c$ : classification label.  $c = \perp$  for non-leaf nodes.

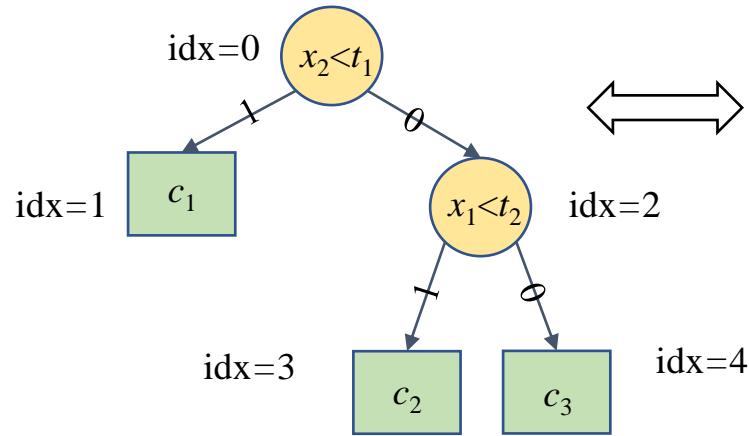
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- $DTE(T, X)$ :
  - $idx \leftarrow 0$
  - For  $i \in [1, d]$ :
    - $(t, l, r, v, c) \leftarrow T[idx]$
    - If  $l = \perp$ , return  $c$
    - $x \leftarrow X[v]$
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# Decision Tree Evaluation

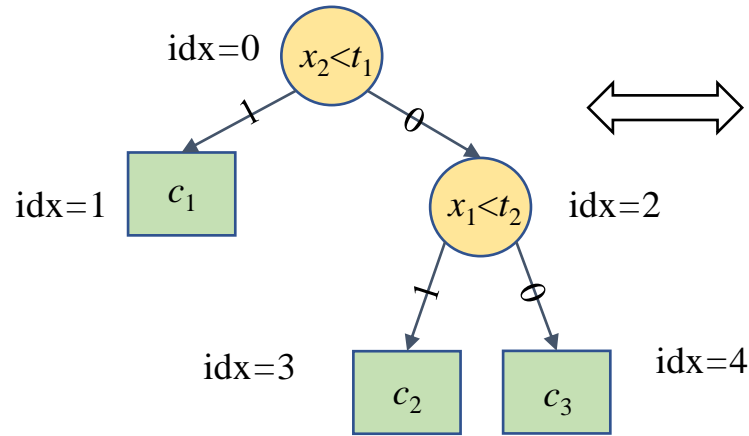


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- Hiding intermediate values
  - Secured by MPC (RSS)

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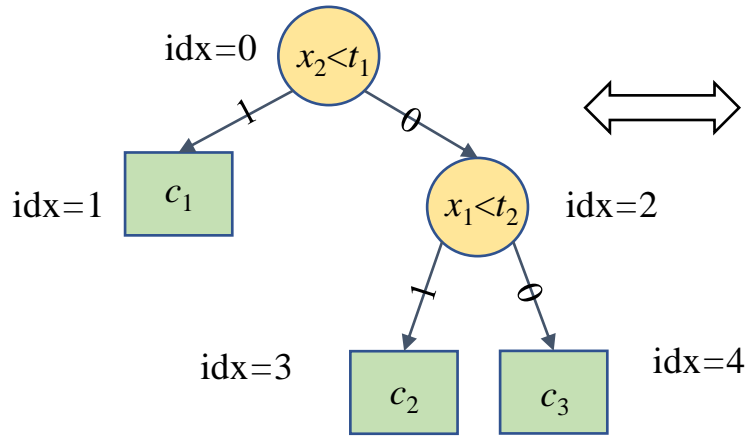
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  - $d$  secure comparison/MUX operations

# Decision Tree Evaluation

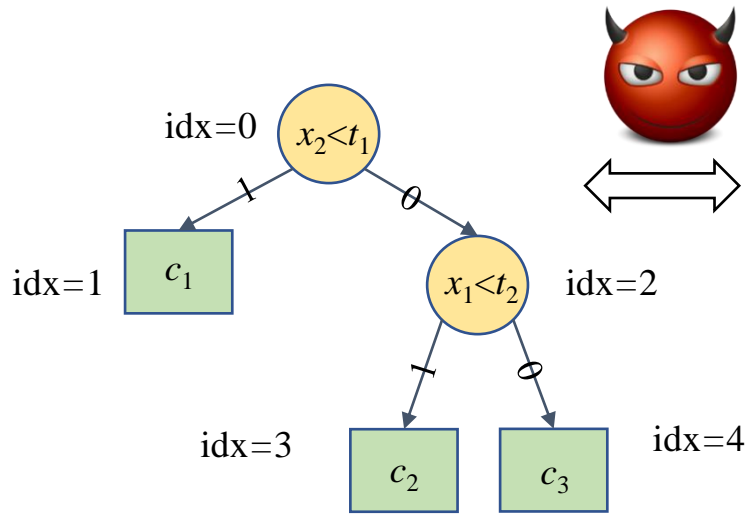


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- Hiding access pattern

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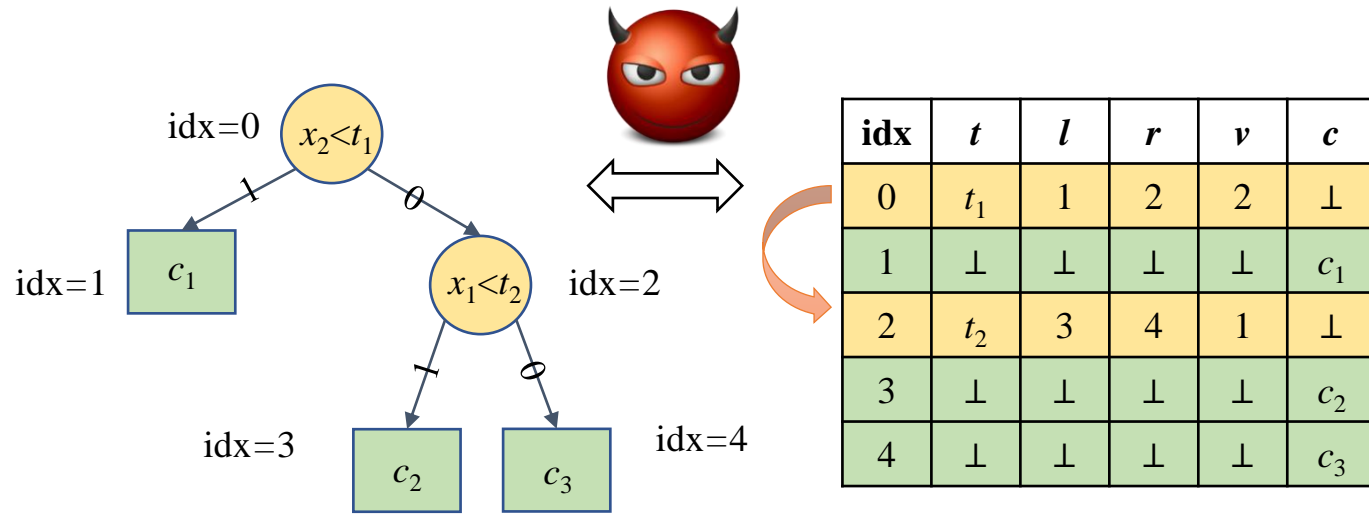


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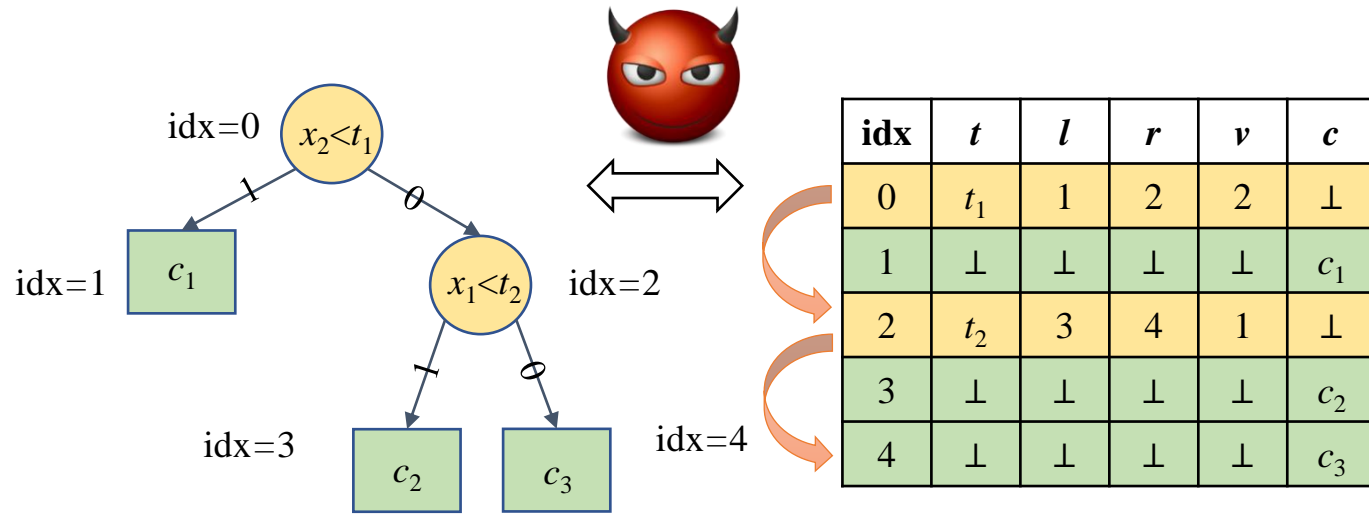


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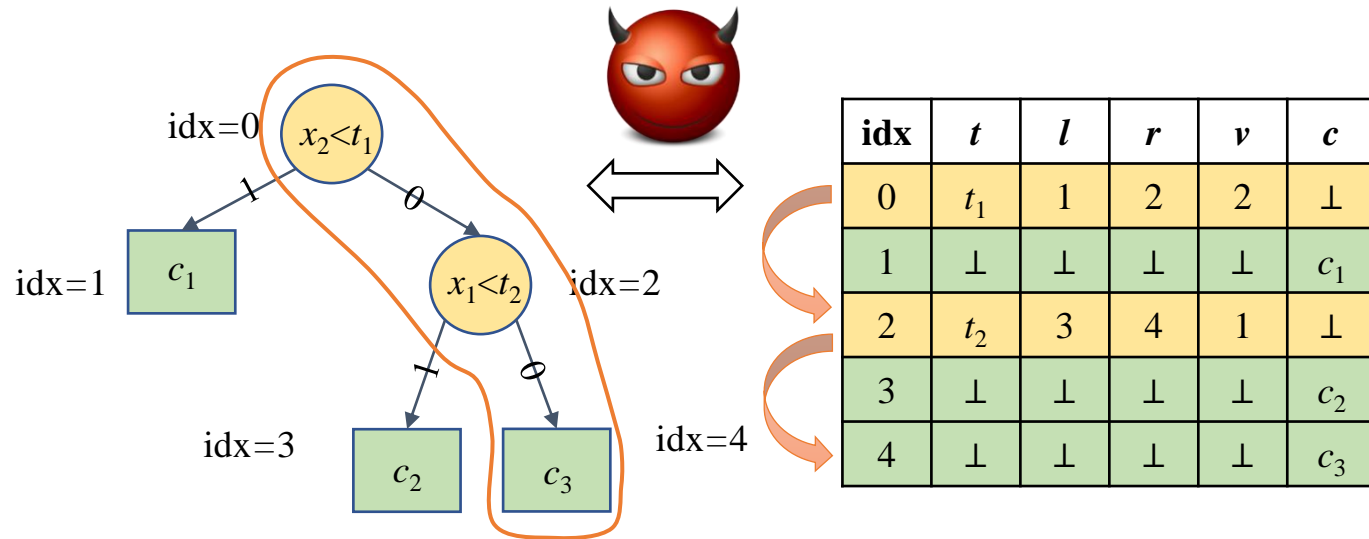
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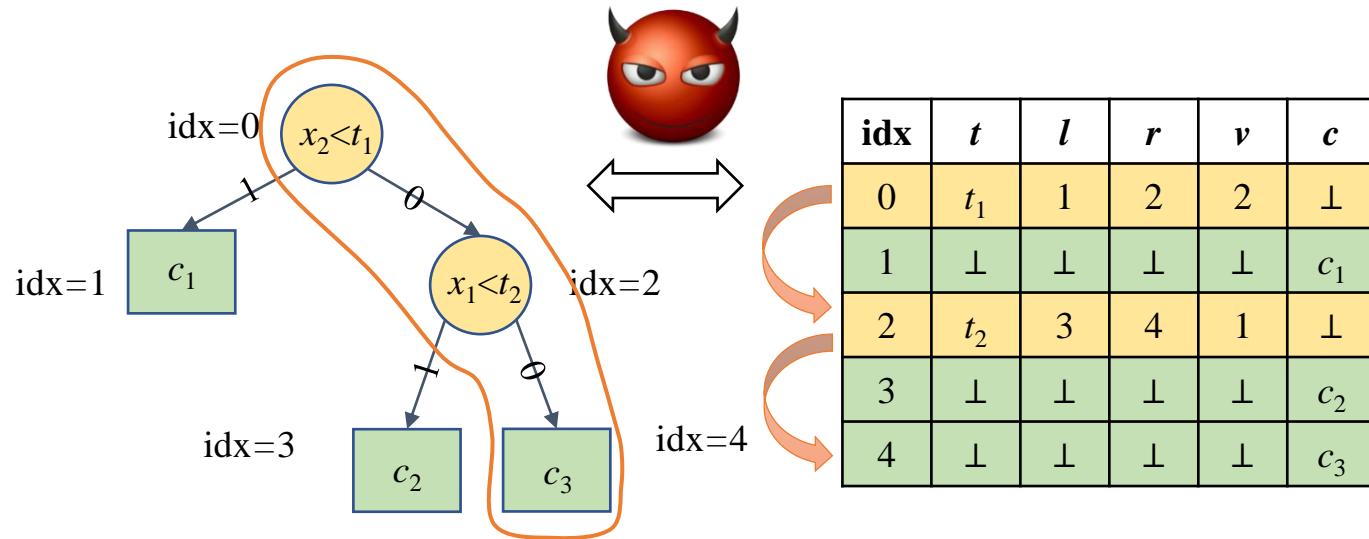
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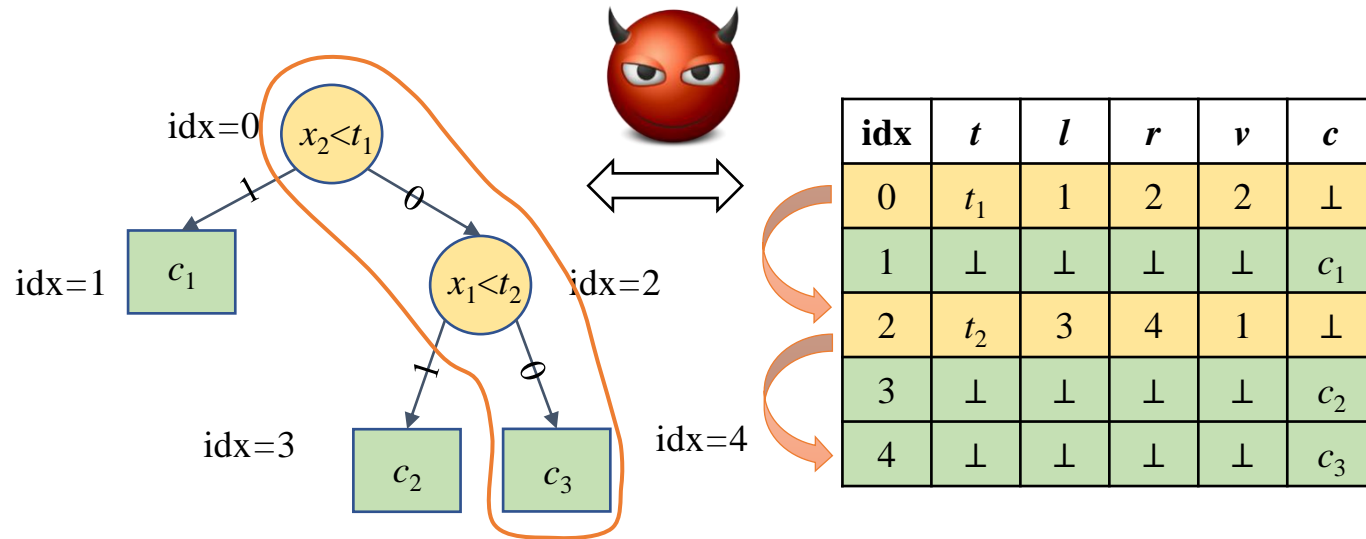
- Linear scan: linear communication [DEFK19]

- Oblivious RAM (ORAM):

- Sublinear communication

- Heavy overhead: evaluating ORAM circuit within MPC

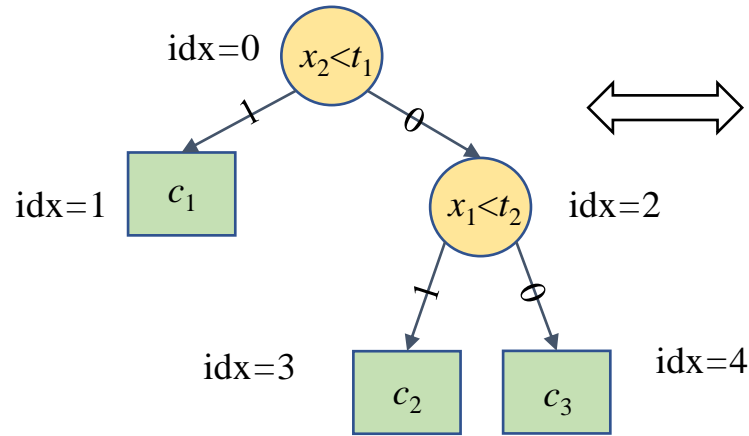
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- Hiding access pattern
  - Linear scan: linear communication [DEFK19]
  - Oblivious RAM (ORAM):
    - Sublinear communication
    - Heavy overhead: evaluating ORAM circuit within MPC
- Observation: DTE only involves read operations, i.e., selection
- Solution: more efficient oblivious selection protocol

# Decision Tree Evaluation

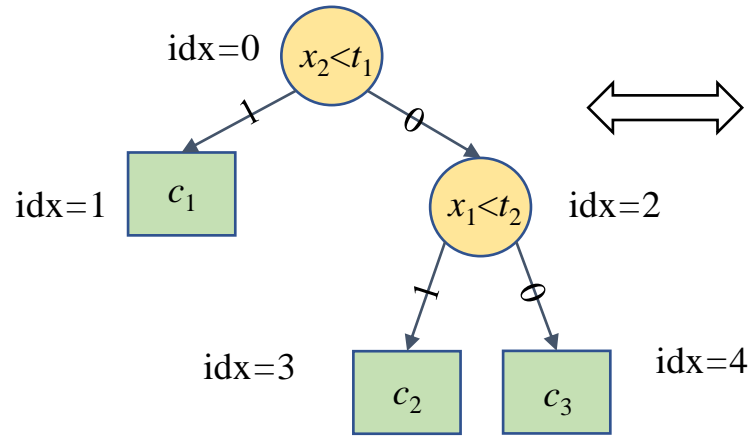


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- Hiding path length
  - e.g., what if the evaluation return at  $i = 2$ ?
- Solution: dummy evaluation
  - For a decision path with length  $d$ , do additional  $d' - d$  iterations of dummy evaluation

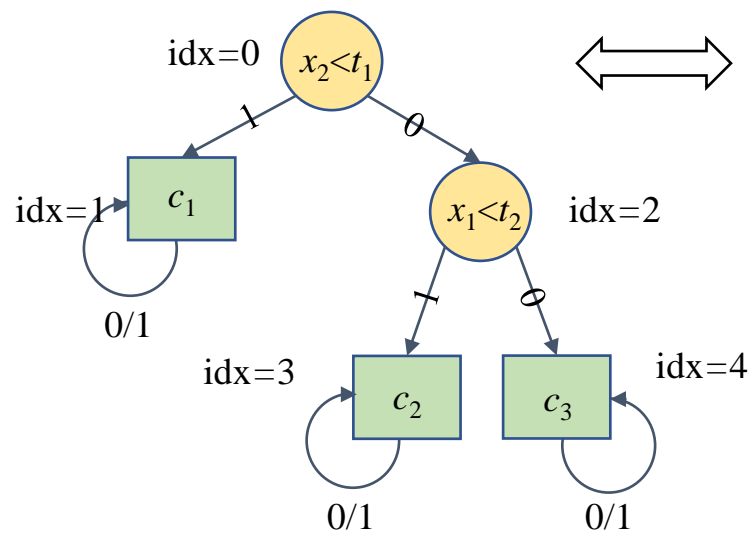
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• DTE( $T, X$ ):

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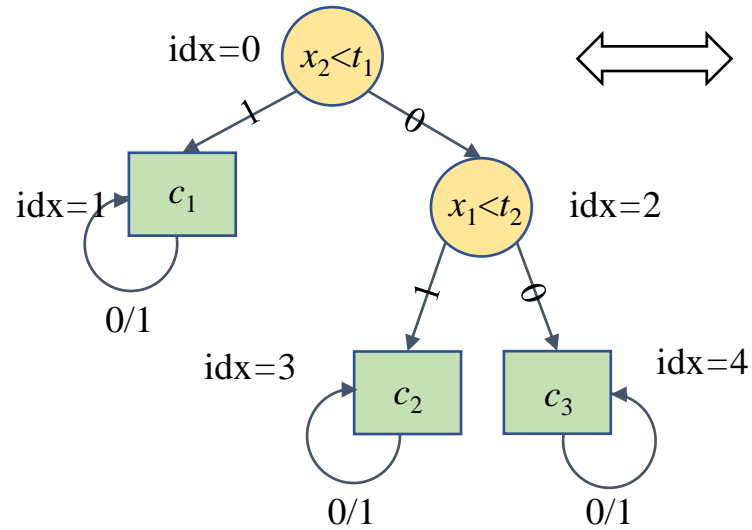


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0	$t_1$	1	2	2	$\perp$
1	$\perp$	1	1	$\perp$	$c_1$
2	$t_2$	3	4	1	$\perp$
3	$\perp$	3	3	$\perp$	$c_2$
4	$\perp$	4	4	$\perp$	$c_3$

• DTE( $T, X$ ):

- $idx \leftarrow 0, result \leftarrow \perp$
- For  $i \in [1, d']$ : //  $d' \geq d$ 
  - $(t, l, r, v, c) \leftarrow T[idx]$
  - $x \leftarrow X[v]$
  - $b \leftarrow x < t$
  - $idx \leftarrow r \oplus b \cdot (r \oplus l)$
  - $result \leftarrow c$
- Return  $result$

# Private Decision Tree Evaluation



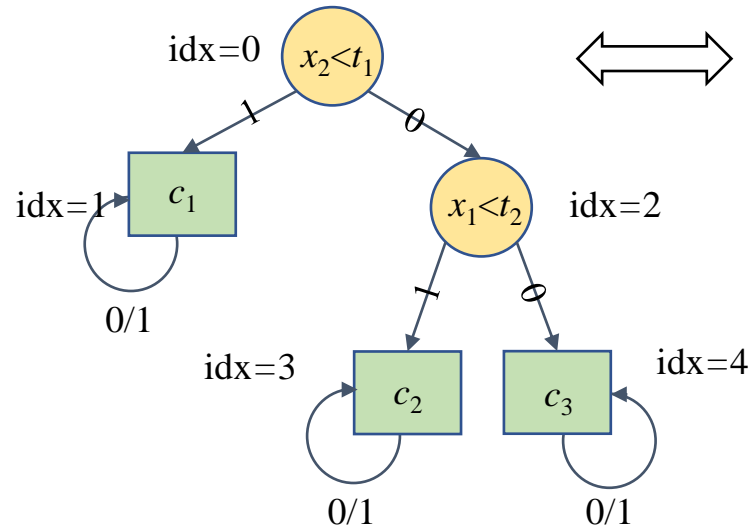
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- Hiding sensitive values of tree/feature
  - via MPC
- Hiding access pattern
  - via oblivious selection protocols
- Hiding length information
  - via dummy evaluation

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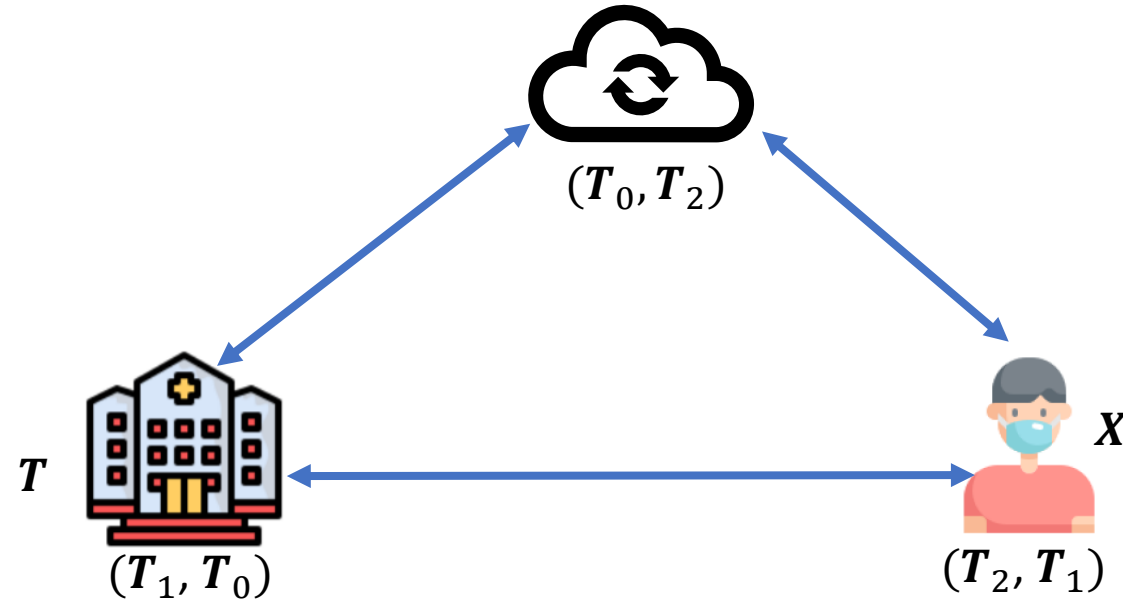
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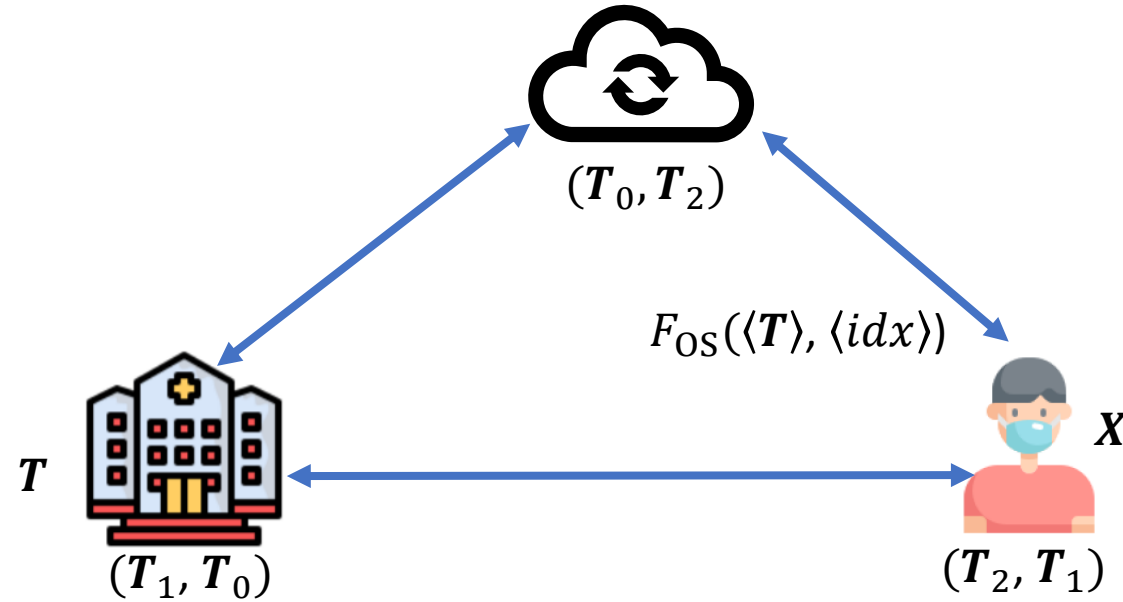


# Three-party Oblivious Selection (OS)



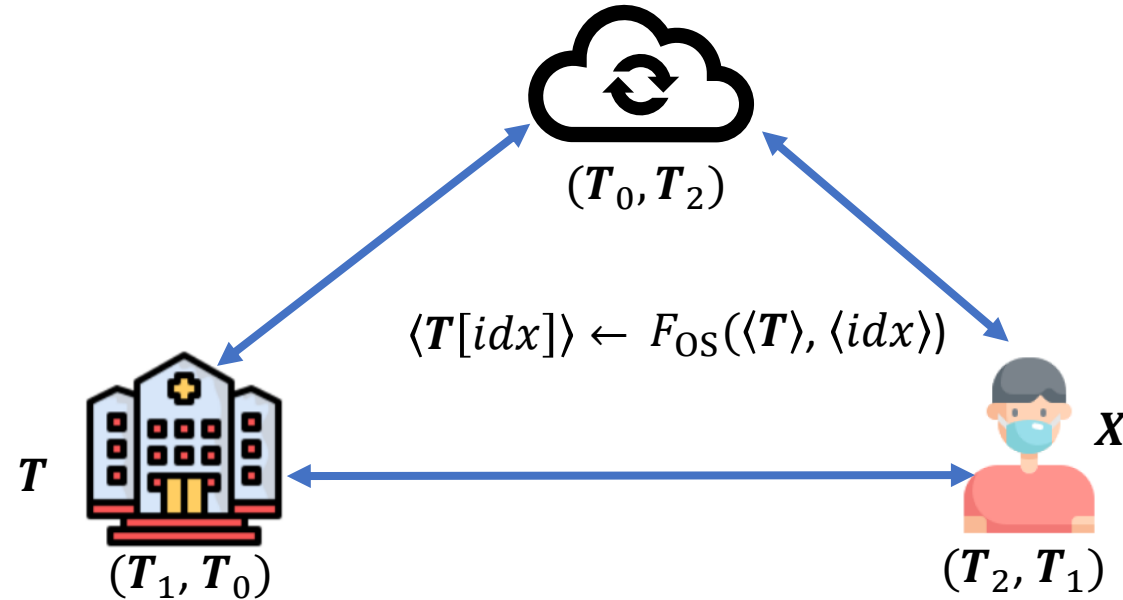
- Security
  - Privacy: No party knows  $idx$  nor  $T[idx]$
  - Correctness: The parties share the correct selection result  $T[idx]$
- Efficiency
  - Sublinear communication (in  $|T|$ )

# Three-party Oblivious Selection (OS)



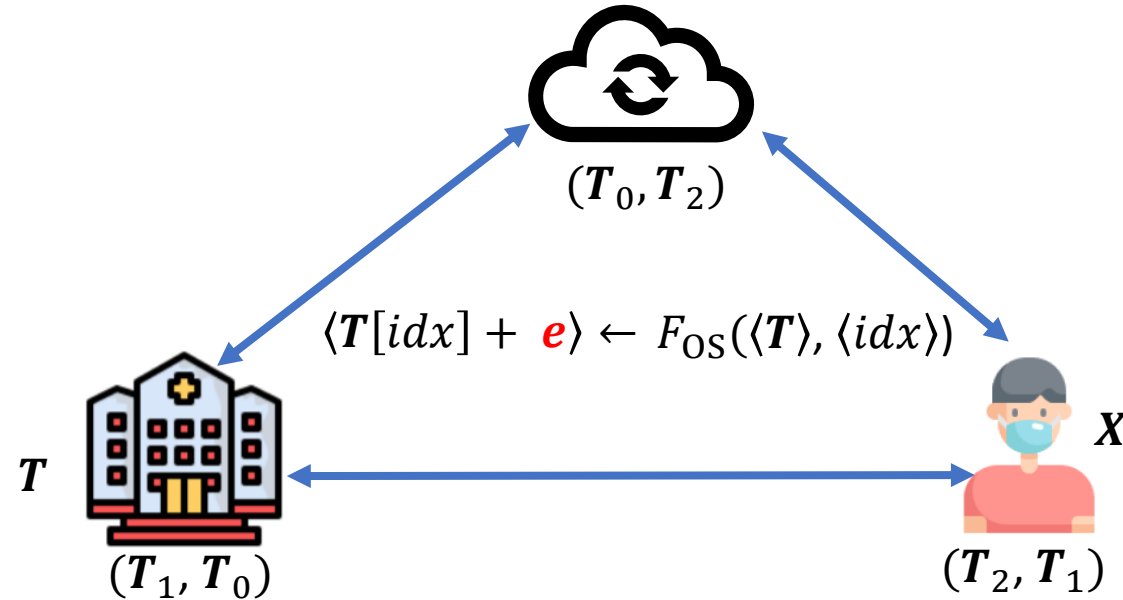
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- Efficiency
  - Sublinear communication (in  $|T|$ )

# Three-party Oblivious Selection (OS)



- Security
  - Privacy: No party knows  $idx$  nor  $T[idx]$  😊
  - Correctness: The adversary can add an error  $e$  to the result 😞
- Efficiency
  - Sublinear communication (in  $|T|$ )

3PC Oblivious Selection using Pure RSS

# Oblivious Selection from Pure RSS

$$v[i] = \begin{cases} 0, & i \neq idx \\ 1, & i = idx \end{cases}$$

- OS from inner-product computation.
  - Input: Vector sharing  $\langle T \rangle$ ; **one-hot** RSS-shared vector ( $\langle v \rangle, \langle idx \rangle$ ).
  - Output:  $\langle T[idx] \rangle$ .
- Security/Efficiency issues:
  1.  $O(n)$  communication for generating  $\langle v \rangle$ .
  2.  $O(n)$  communication from  $n$  secret-shared multiplications.
  3. Additive attacks from a malicious party.

# Derandomization for One-hot Vector

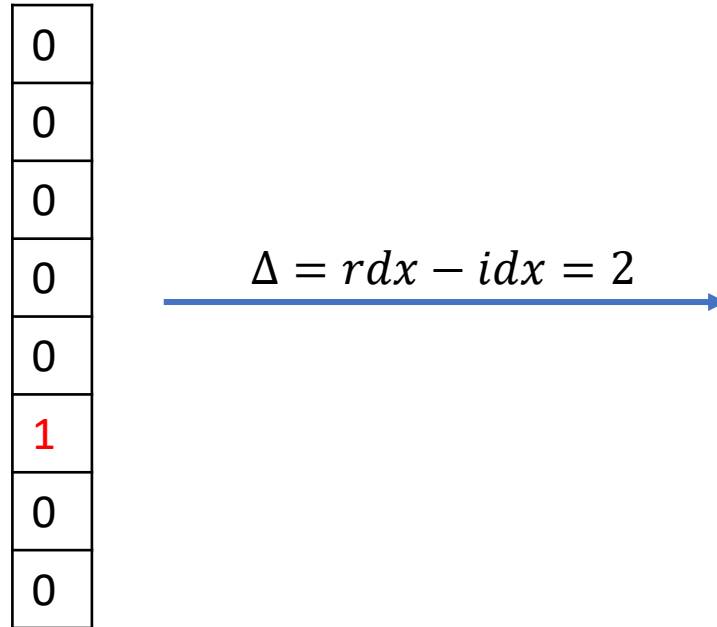
- Suppose the parties already share a one-hot vector  $(\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle, \langle rdx \rangle)$

0
0
0
0
0
1
0
0

$(\mathbf{u}, rdx = 5, idx = 3)$

# Derandomization for One-hot Vector

- Suppose the parties already share a one-hot vector  $(\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle, \langle rdx \rangle)$

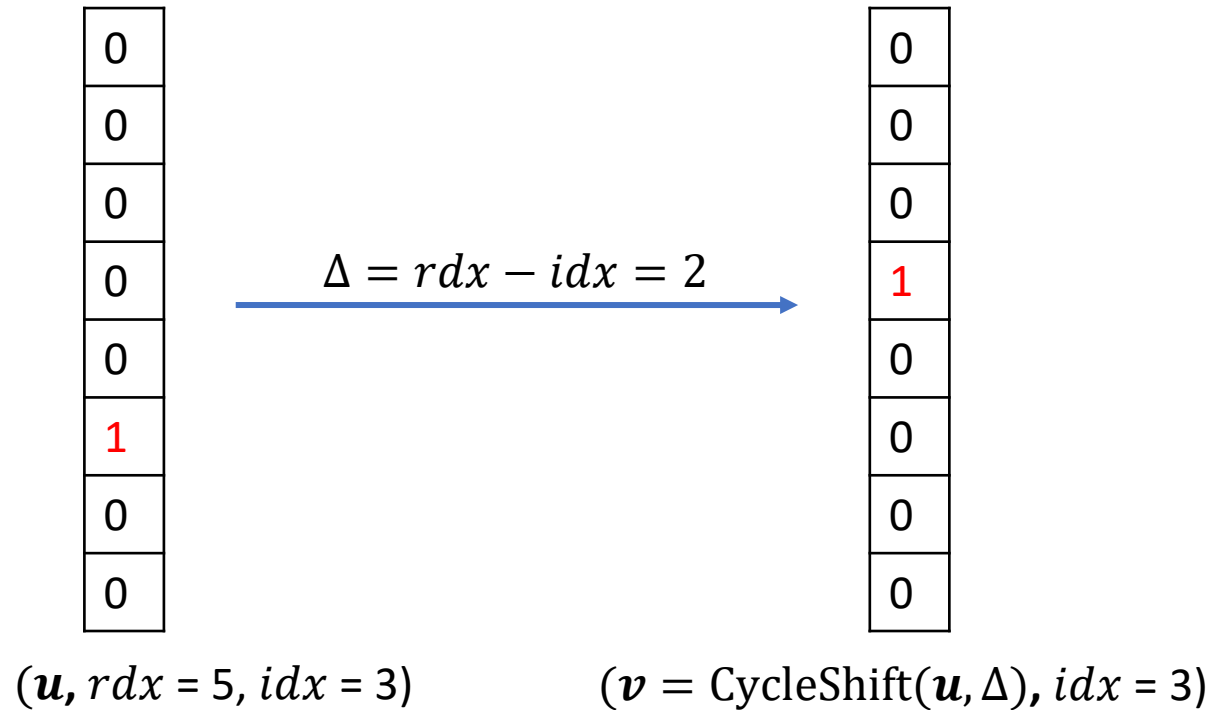


$(\mathbf{u}, rdx = 5, idx = 3)$



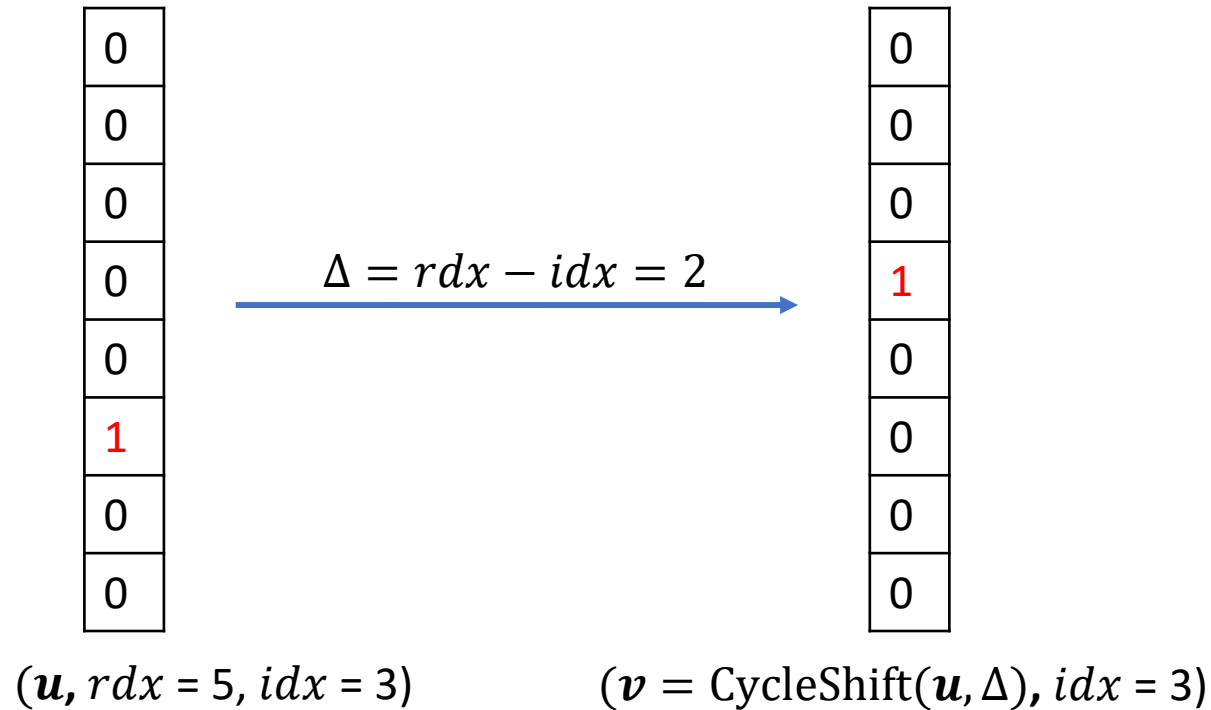
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# Derandomization for One-hot Vector

- Suppose the parties already share a one-hot vector  $(\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle, \langle rdx \rangle)$



$$v[i] = u[i + \Delta] = \begin{cases} 1, & i = idx \\ 0, & i \neq idx \end{cases}$$

# Oblivious Selection with up to Additive Attacks

- Check correctness of multiplication:
  - Previous approach: Using an RSS triple  $(\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle ab \rangle)$  to check correctness
  - $O(n)$  communication in total

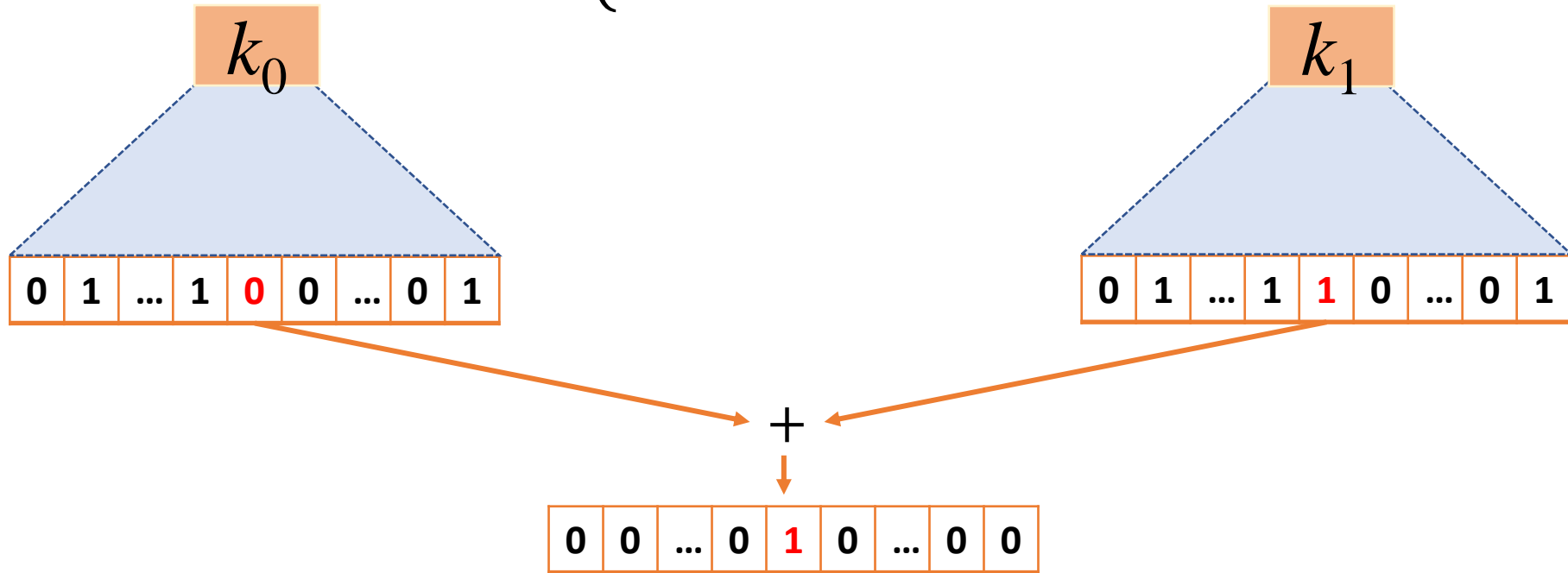
# Oblivious Selection with up to Additive Attacks

- Check correctness of multiplication:
  - Previous approach: Using an RSS triple ( $\langle a \rangle, \langle b \rangle, \langle ab \rangle$ ) to check correctness
  - $O(n)$  communication in total
- Our method
  - No correctness check for multiplication
  - Up to additive attacks
  - $O(1)$  communication for resharing

# 3PC Oblivious Selection using Distributed Point Functions

# Tool: Distributed Point Function (DPF)

- A point function  $f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = \begin{cases} \beta, & \text{if } x = \alpha, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$



# Oblivious Selection from RSS+DPF



$(T_0, T_2)$



$(T_1, T_0)$



$(T_2, T_1)$

# Oblivious Selection from RSS+DPF



$(T_0, T_2)$



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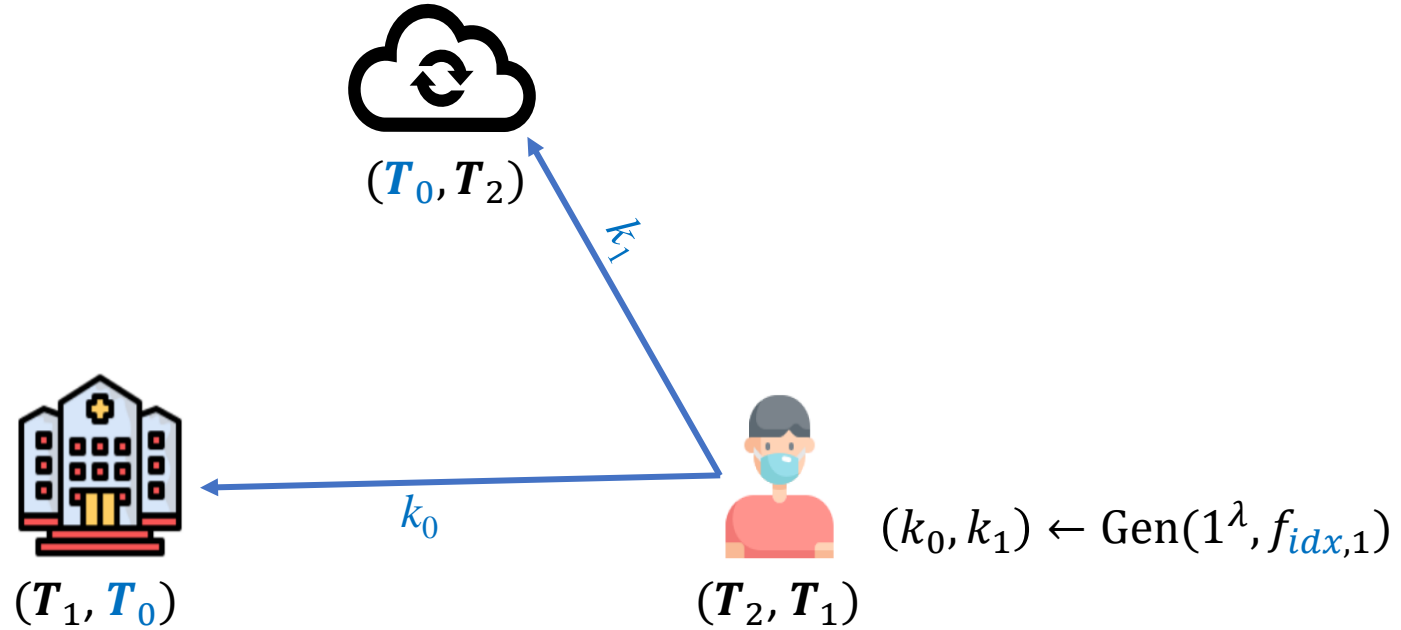


$(T_2, T_1)$

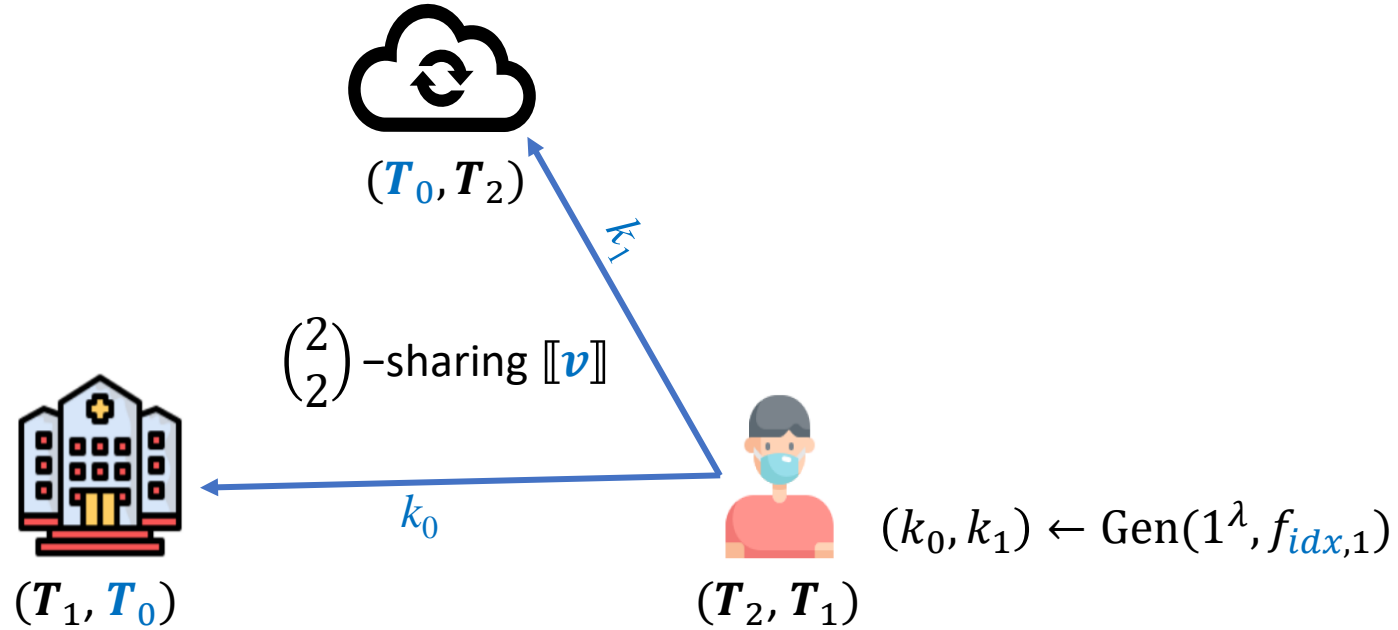
$(k_0, k_1) \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\lambda, f_{idx,1})$



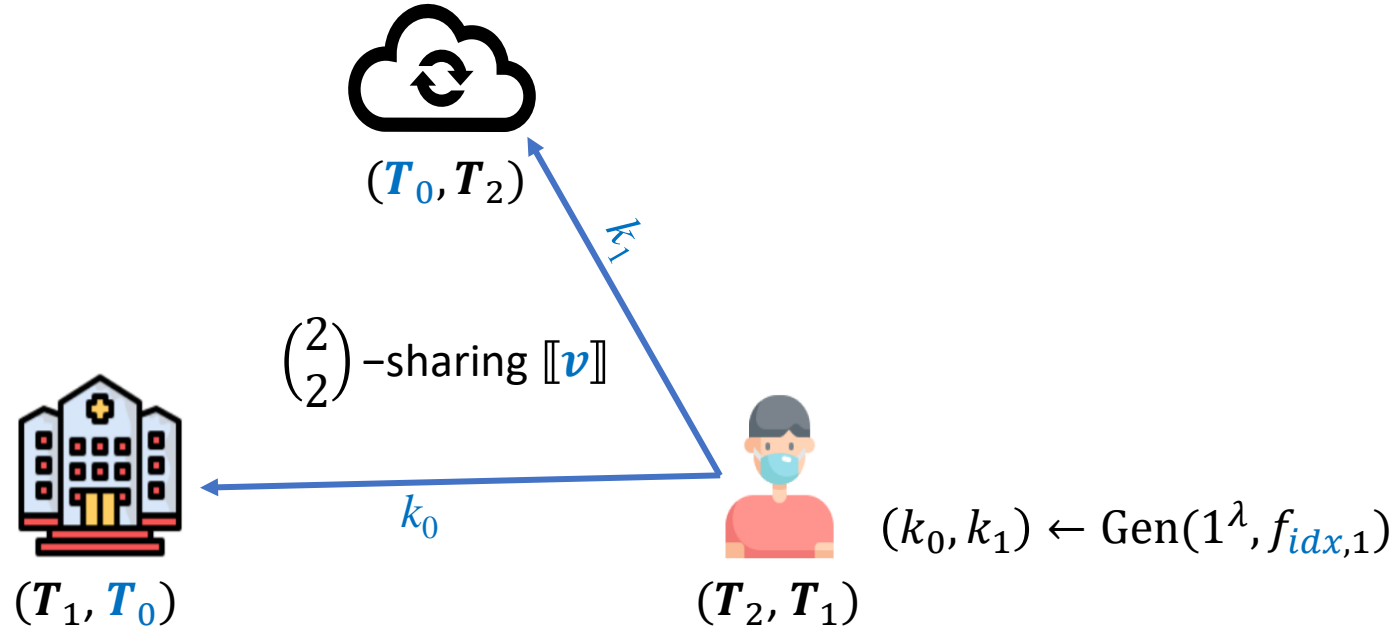
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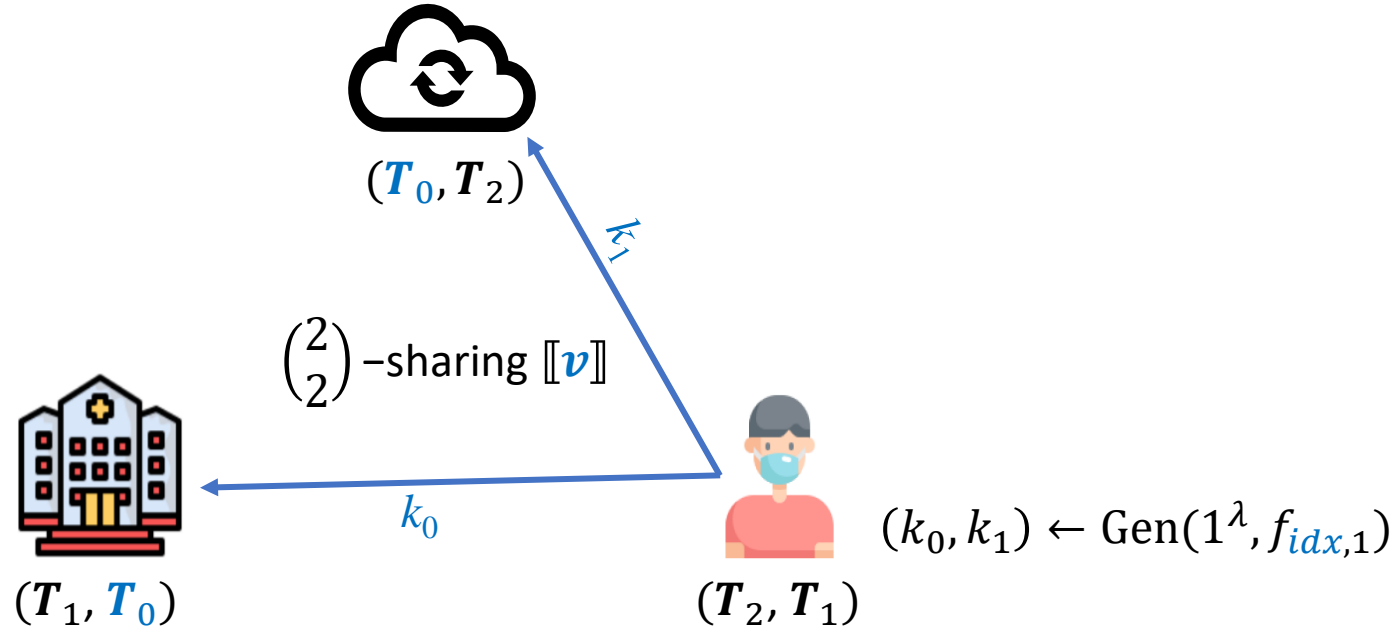


# Oblivious Selection from RSS+DPF



- Two-party inner-product computation
  - Input:  $[[v]]$  and  $T_0$
  - Output:  $\binom{2}{2}$ -sharing  $[[T_0[idx]]]$

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  - Input:  $[[v]]$  and  $T_0$
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- **Caveat:** The dealer learns  $idx$

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$(T_0, T_2)$



$(T_1, T_0)$



$(T_2, T_1)$

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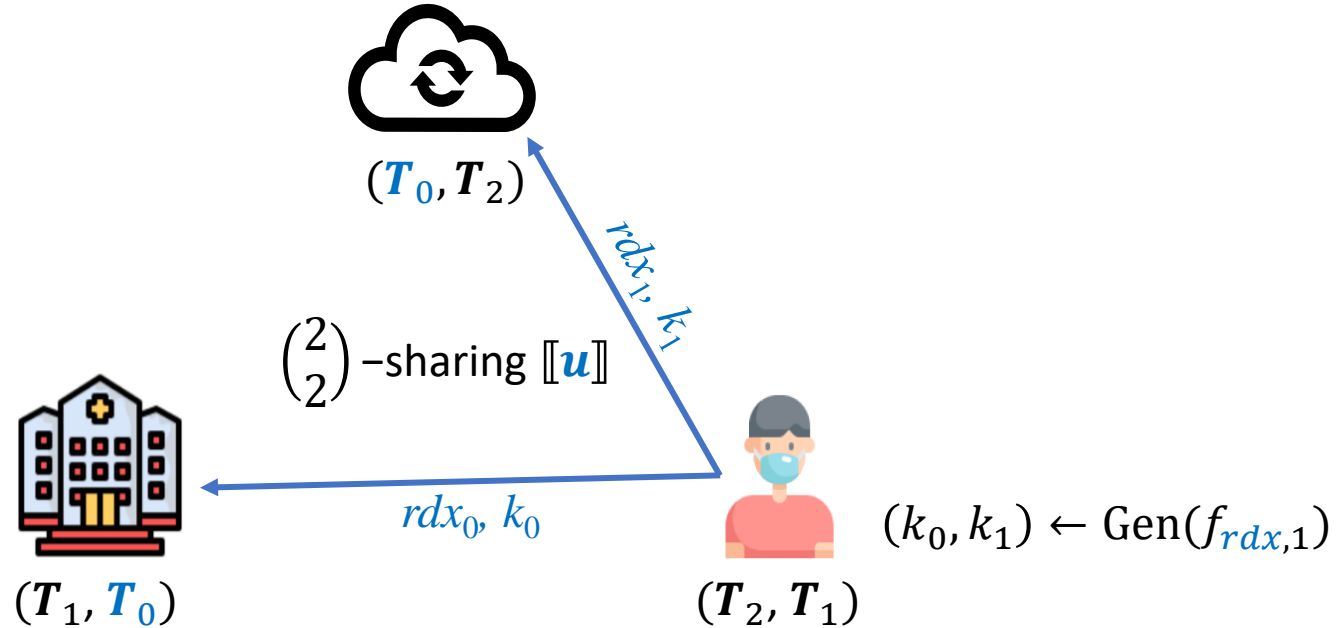


$(T_2, T_1)$

$(k_0, k_1) \leftarrow \text{Gen}(f_{rdx,1})$

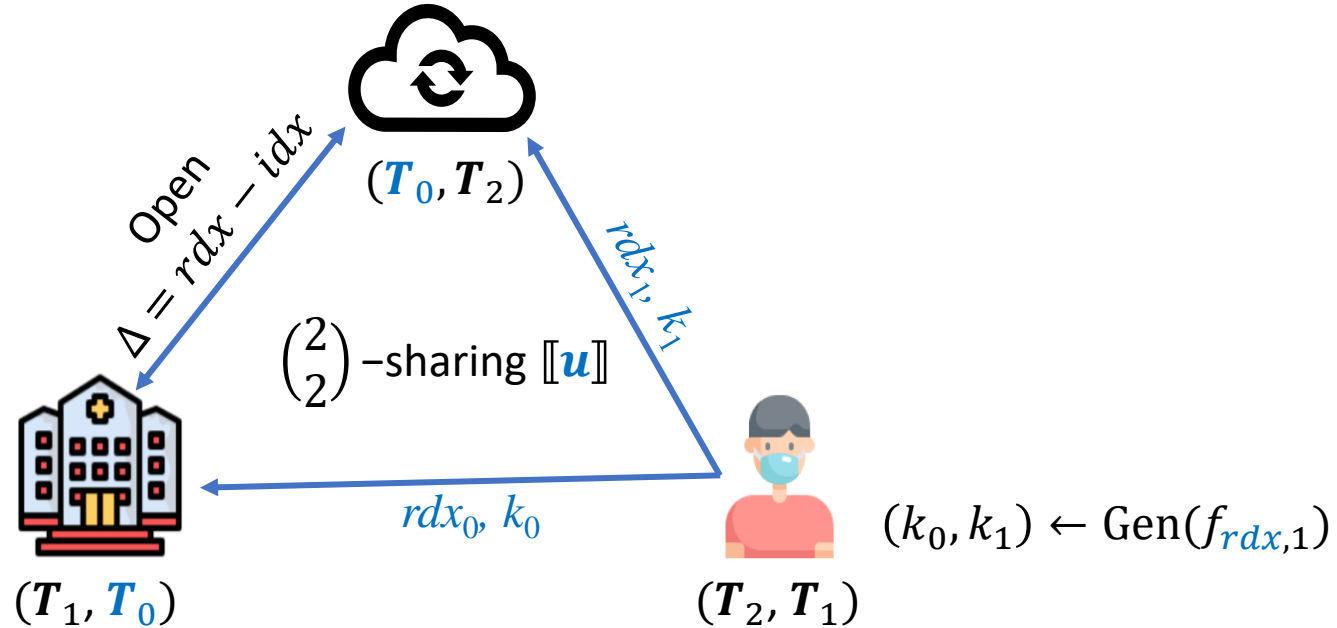
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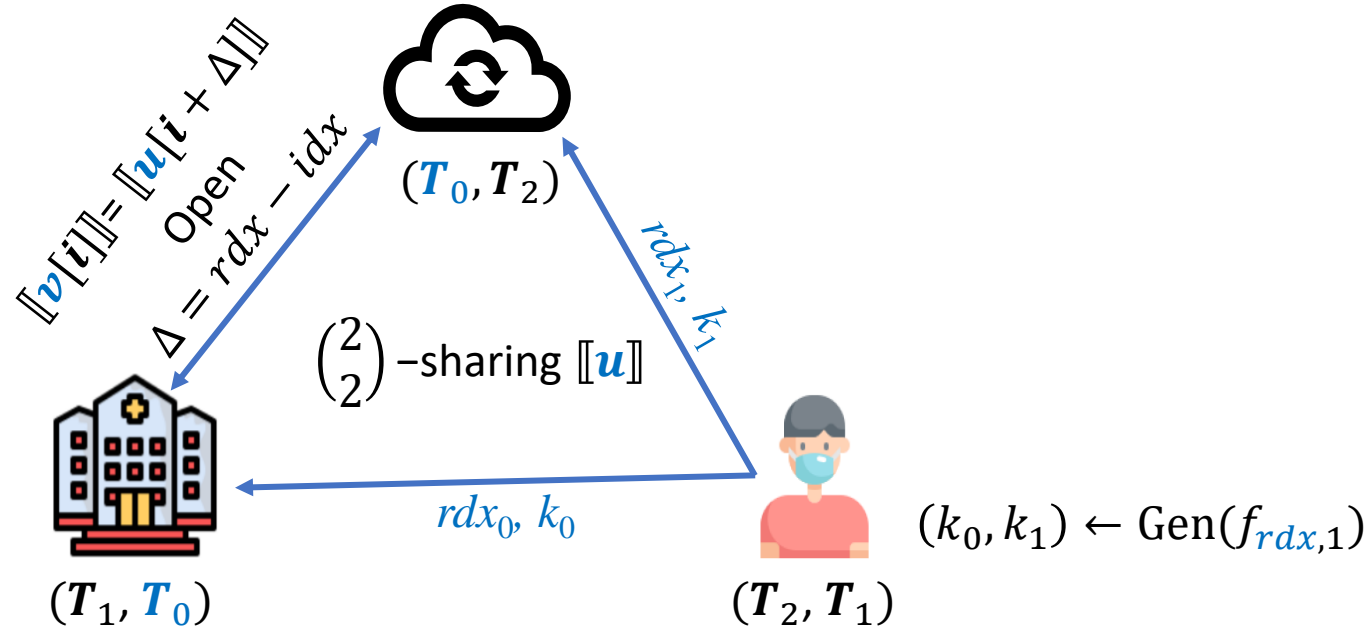
# Oblivious Selection from RSS+DPF



- Two-party inner-product computation
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  - Output:  $\binom{2}{2}$ -sharing  $\llbracket T_0[idx] \rrbracket$
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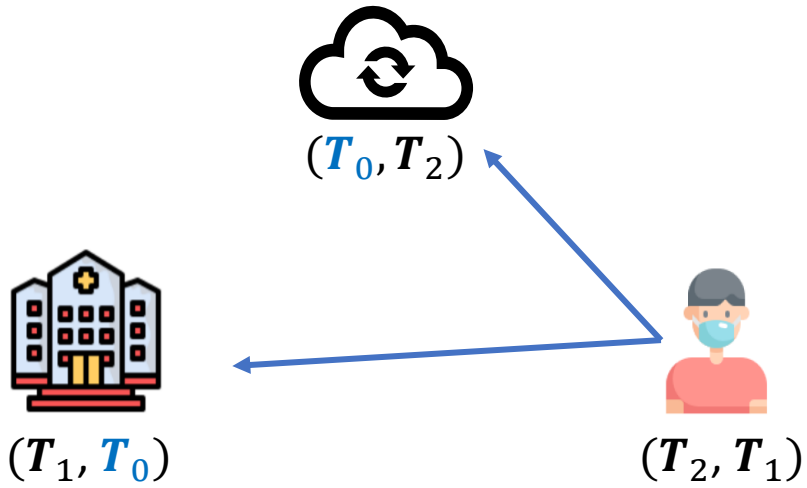
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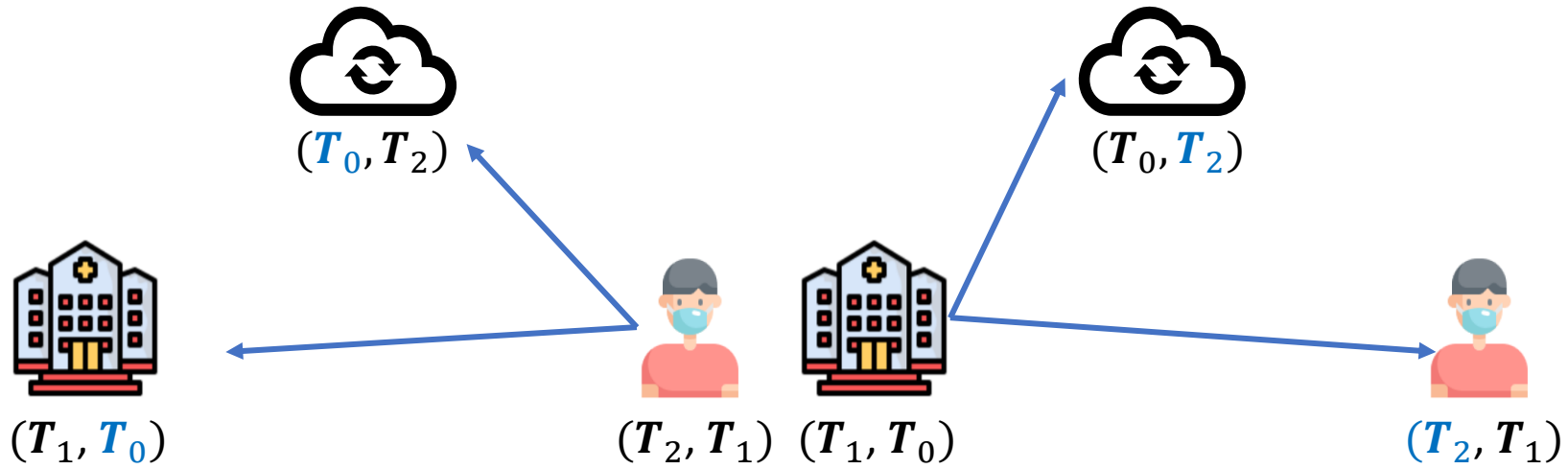
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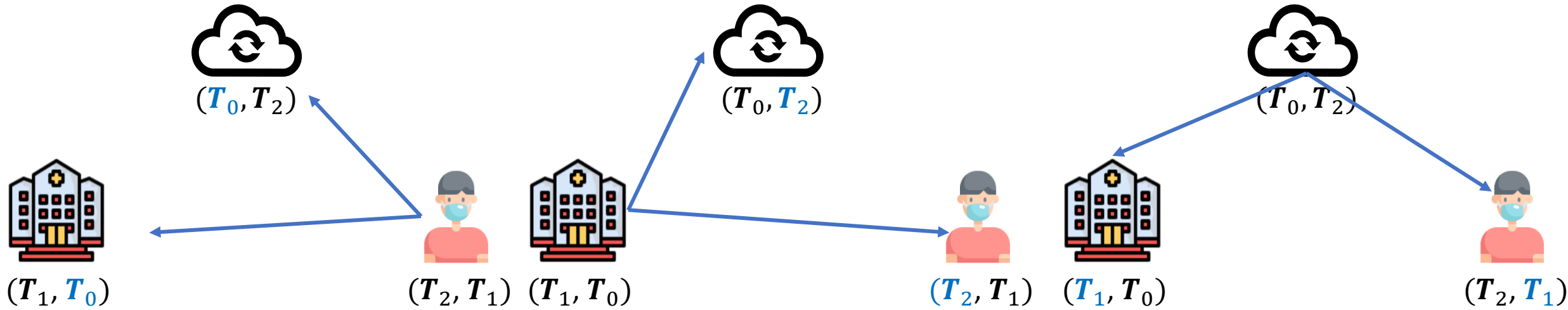
# Oblivious Selection from RSS+DPF



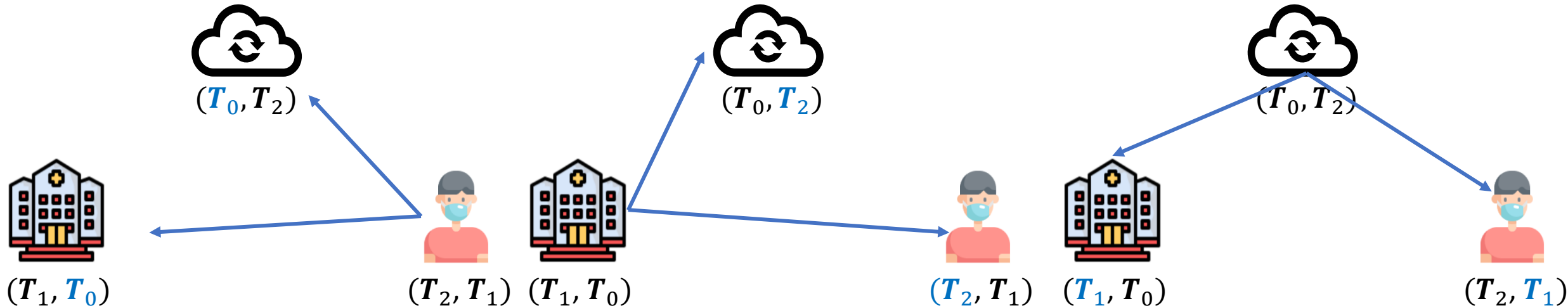
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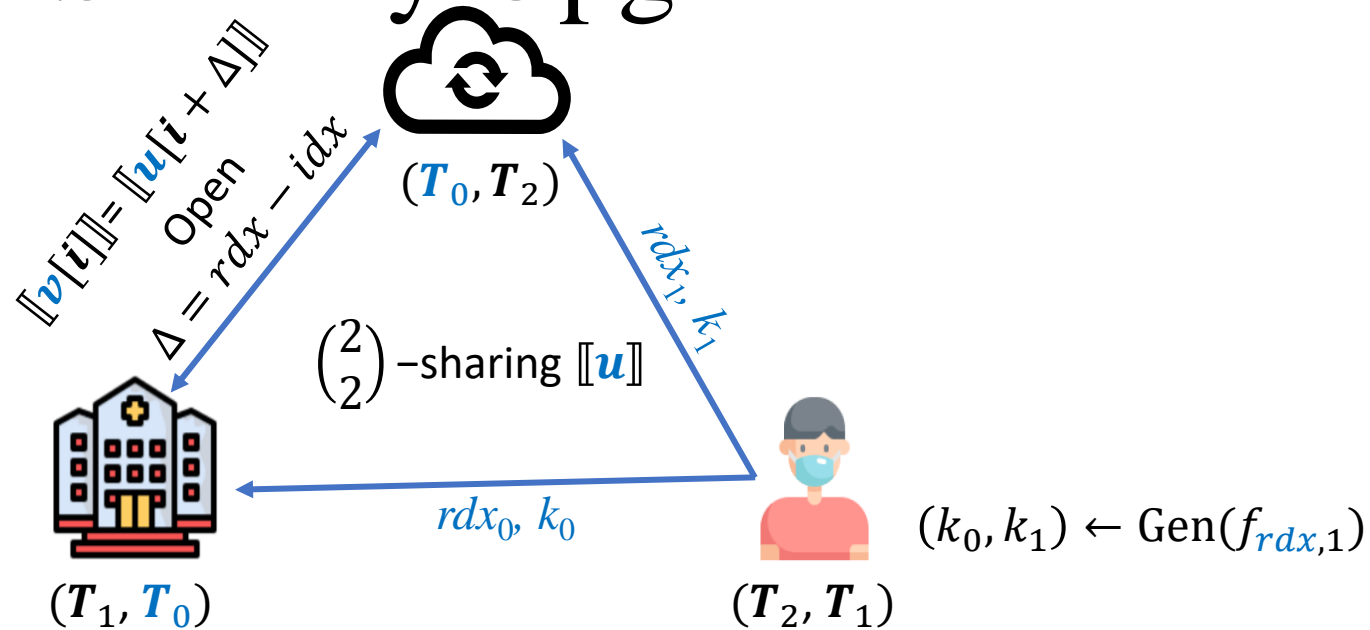


# Oblivious Selection from RSS+DPF



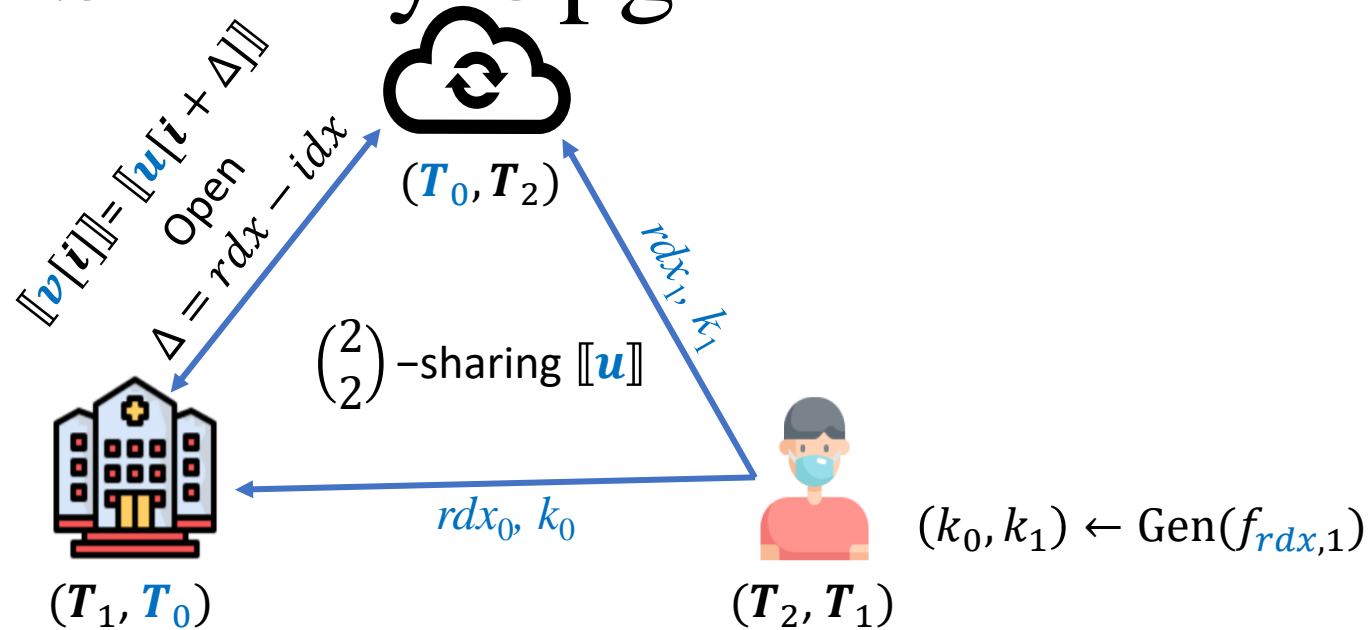
- Pair-wise two-party inner-product computation
  - Input:  $\langle T \rangle$  and  $\langle idx \rangle$
  - Output:  $\binom{3}{3}$ -sharing  $[[T[idx]]]$

# Malicious Security Upgrade



- How to check DPF keys are correctly correlated?
  - Solution: Use Verifiable DPF (VDPF)
- How to check  $\llbracket rdx \rrbracket$  is consistent with DPF keys?
  - Two evaluating parties check the following equations:
    - $rdx - \sum_i i \cdot u[i] = 0$
- How to open  $\Delta$  correctly?
  - Non-interactive conversion from  $\llbracket rdx \rrbracket$  to  $\langle rdx \rangle$
  - $\langle \Delta \rangle \leftarrow \langle rdx \rangle - \langle idx \rangle$

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  - $\langle \Delta \rangle \leftarrow \langle rdx \rangle - \langle idx \rangle$

$P_0: (0, rdx_1)$   
 $P_1: (rdx_0, 0)$   
 $P_2: (rdx_1, rdx_0)$



# Detect Additive Attacks

- Oblivious selection up to additive errors

$$\langle T[idx] + e \rangle \leftarrow F_{OS}(\langle T \rangle, \langle idx \rangle)$$

- $DTE(T, X)$ :
  - $idx \leftarrow 0, result \leftarrow \perp$
  - For  $i \in [1, d']$ : //  $d' \geq d$ 
    - $(t, l, r, v, c) \leftarrow T[idx]$
    - $x \leftarrow X[v]$
    - $b \leftarrow x < t$
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  - Return  $result$

# Detect Additive Attacks

- Oblivious selection up to additive errors

$$\langle T[idx] + \mathbf{e} \rangle \leftarrow F_{OS}(\langle T \rangle, \langle idx \rangle)$$

- Solution: SPDZ-like MAC

- Given a shared value  $x$ , a SPDZ-like MAC is defined as  $m(x) = \alpha \cdot x$  over a finite field  $\mathbf{F}$
- $m(x)$  is shared along with  $x$

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- Our MAC scheme:

- $m(x) = \alpha \cdot x$  over  $\mathbf{F}_{2^l}$ ;  $l$  is the bit-length of elements in  $T$ .

$$\langle T[idx] + \mathbf{e} \rangle \leftarrow F_{OS}(\langle T \rangle, \langle idx \rangle)$$

$$\langle m(T[idx]) + \mathbf{e}' \rangle \leftarrow F_{OS}(\langle m(T) \rangle, \langle idx \rangle)$$

- DTE( $T, X$ ):
  - $idx \leftarrow 0, result \leftarrow \perp$
  - For  $i \in [1, M]$ : //  $M \geq d$ 
    - $(t, l, r, v, c) \leftarrow T[idx]$
    - $x \leftarrow X[v]$
    - $b \leftarrow x < t$
    - $idx \leftarrow r \oplus b \cdot (r \oplus l)$
    - $result \leftarrow c$
  - Return  $result$

# Malicious PDTE with Sublinear Communication

- Sublinear (online) communication
  - Tree encoding with optimizations.
  - Two OS protocols with constant online communication.
  
- Malicious security
  - Three-party honest-majority setting.
  - Lightweight consistency checks.
  - *Privacy*: Only the FO learns the classification result.
  - *Correctness*: Mostree always outputs the correct classification.

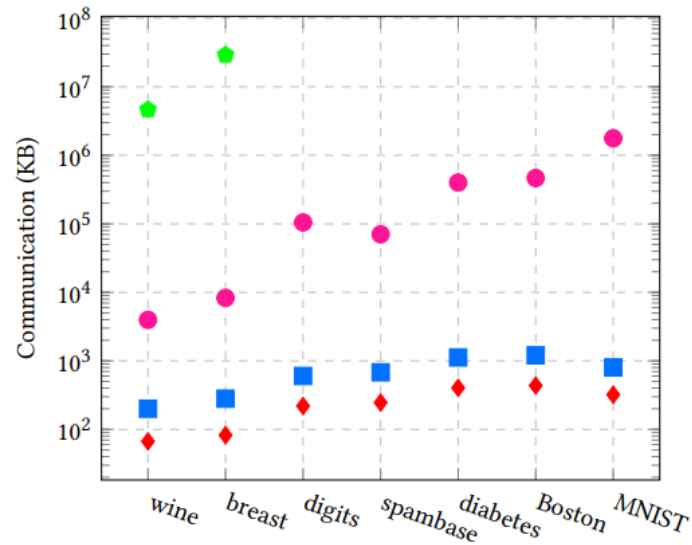
# Experiment Setting

- Machine: Intel(R) Core i9-9900 CPU, 3.10 GHz×16, Ubuntu 20.04 LTS with 32 GB of memory
- Network setting:
  - LAN (RTT: 0.1ms, bandwidth: 1 Gbps)
  - MAN (RTT: 6ms, bandwidth: 100 Mbps)
  - WAN (RTT: 80ms, bandwidth: 40 Mbps)
- Dataset: UCI repository

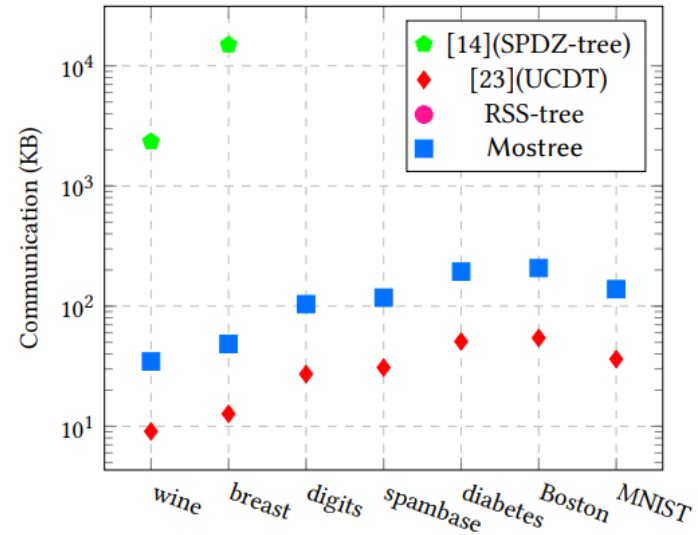
Tree	Feature Dimension	Depth	# of Nodes
Wine	7	5	23
Linnerud	3	6	39
Breast	12	7	43
Digits	47	15	337
Spambase	57	17	171
Diabetes	10	28	787
Boston	13	30	851
MNIST	784	20	4179

# Performance

- Online communication



(a) Offline

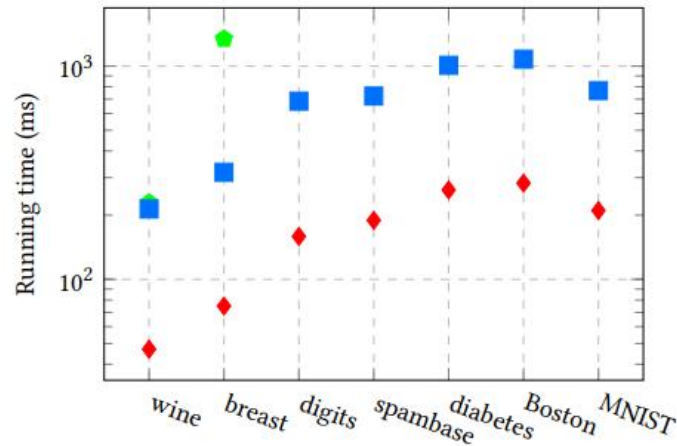


(b) Online

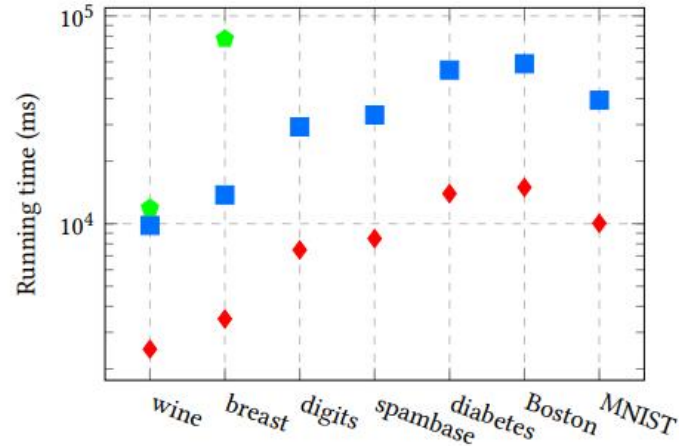
- Mostree requires  $\sim 4x$  online communication than UCDT over MNIST.
- RSS-Tree requires much more offline communication than Mostree.

# Performance

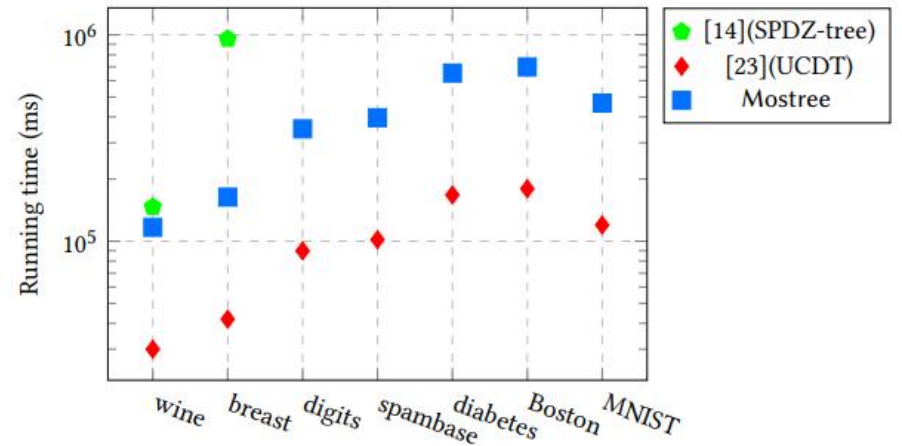
- Online running time



(a) LAN (1Gbps/0.1ms)



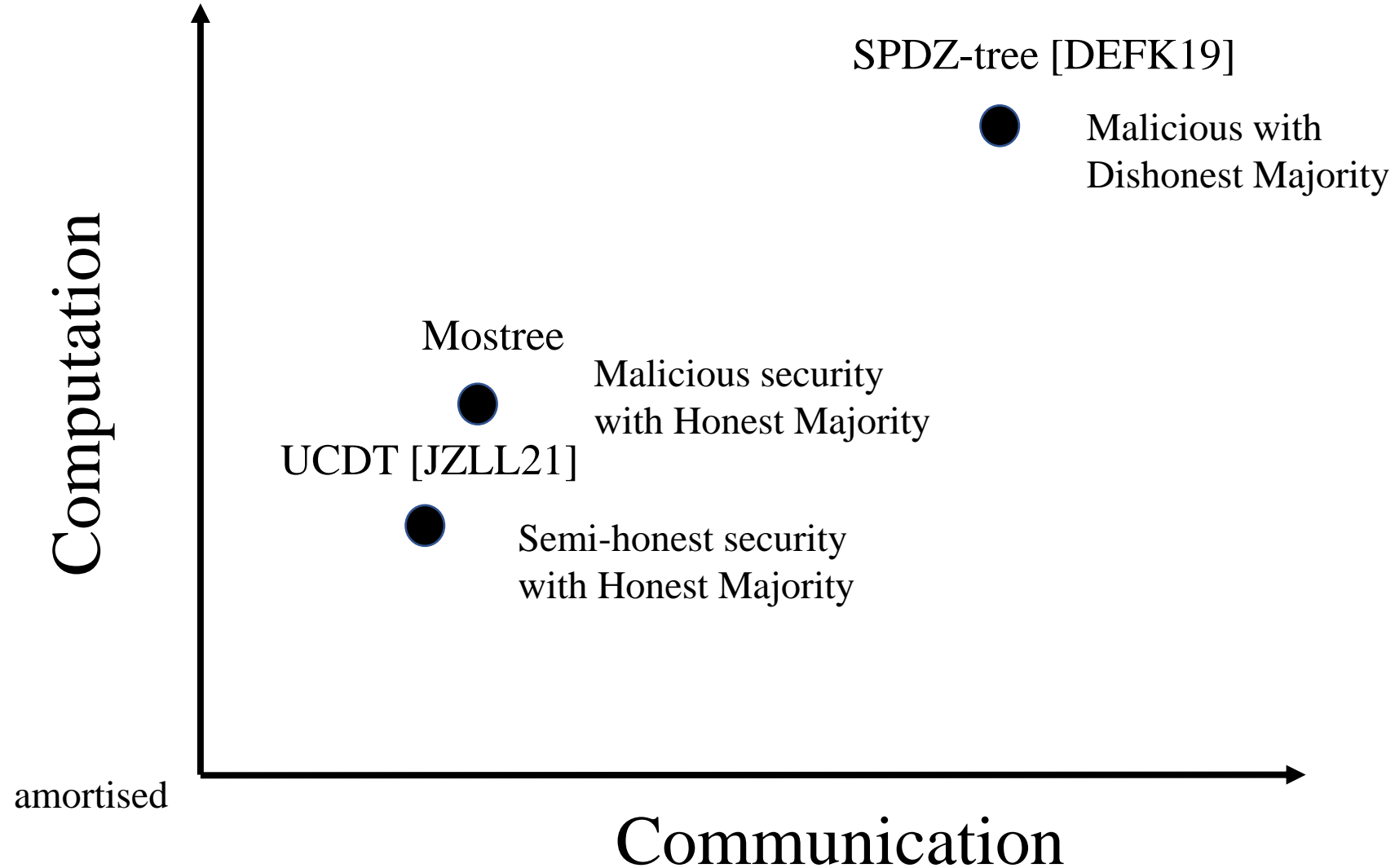
(b) MAN (100Mbps/6ms)



(c) WAN (40Mbps/80ms)

- ~4x overhead than the semi-honest version.
- In the LAN setting, Mostree requires ~0.7s running time over MNIST. 😊
- In the WAN setting, Mostree requires ~467s over MNIST. 😞

# Comparison of Approaches





# Conclusion

- We present a cryptographic solution to private decision tree evaluation problem.
- At the core of our scheme are oblivious selection protocols with sublinear (online) communication.
- Lightweight consistency check to ensure malicious security.
- Future work
  - Improving efficiency in the WAN setting → reducing round complexity.
  - Sublinear computation?
  - Applications to other areas, e.g., private database applications.

Thanks for your attention!

