

# Cryptanalysis Strikes Back

A Realistic assessment of leakage attacks on Encrypted Search

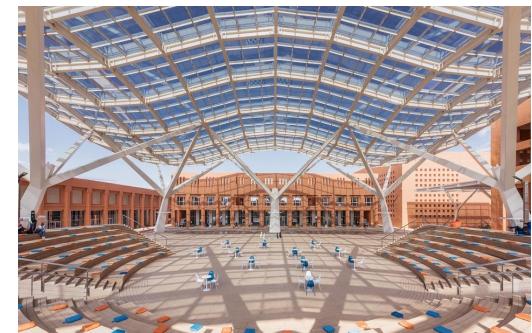
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Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

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January 24, 2023 at Aarhus University.

Some Slides were adapted from A.Trieber RWC'22 Talk.

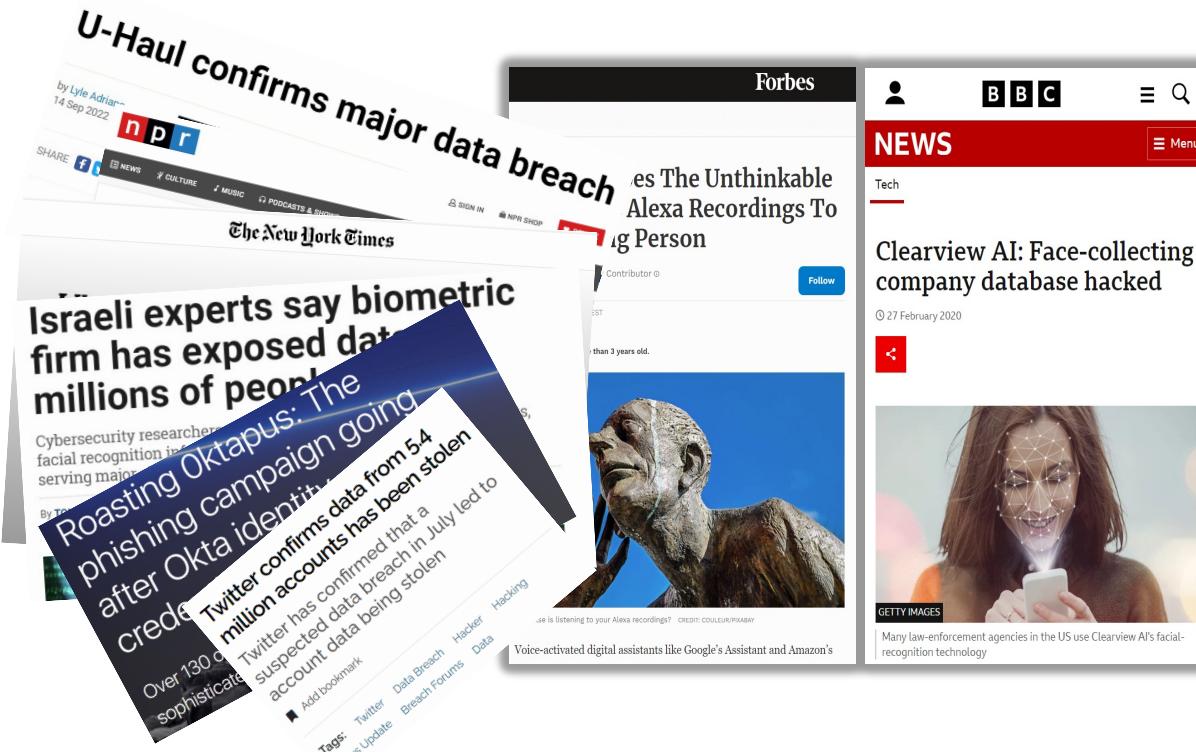


# A Realistic assessment of leakage attacks on Encrypted Search

## Motivation

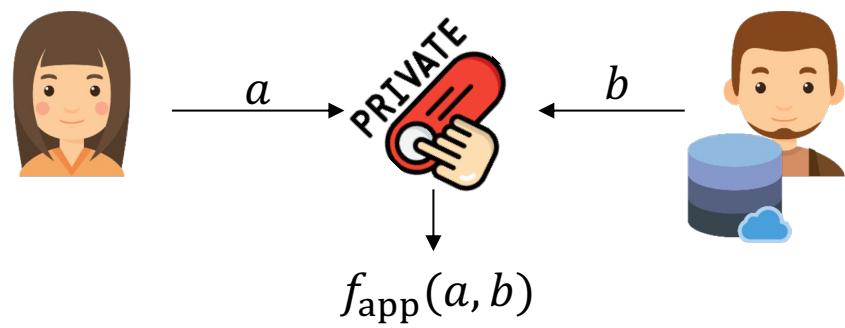


### Real-World Applications



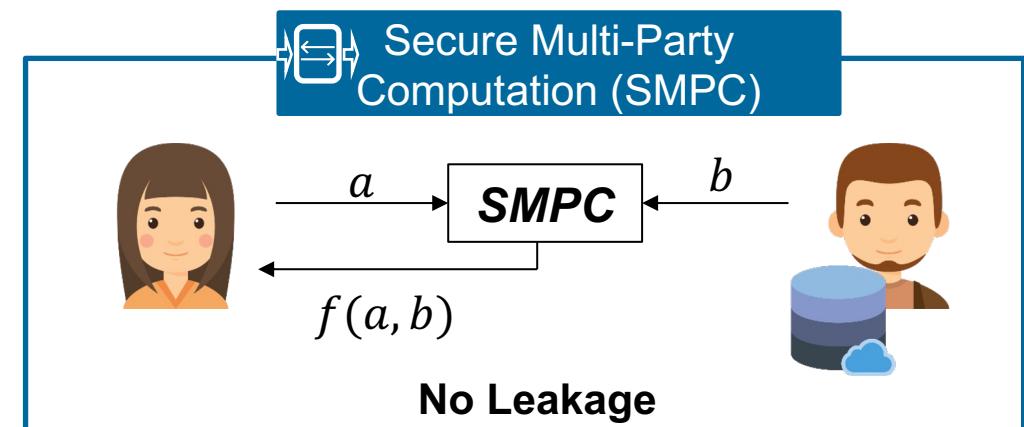
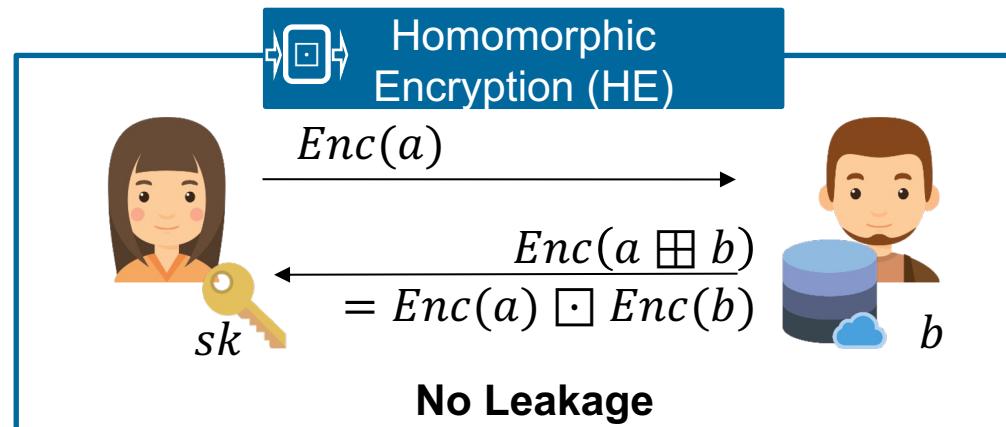
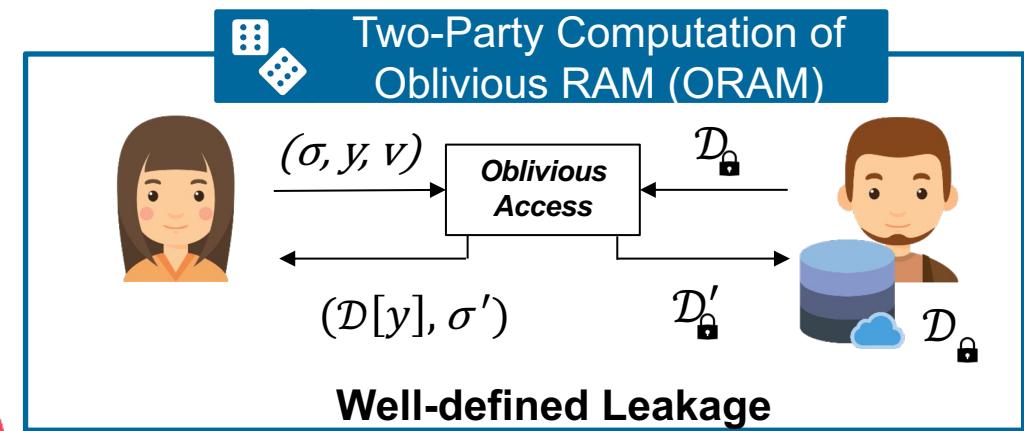
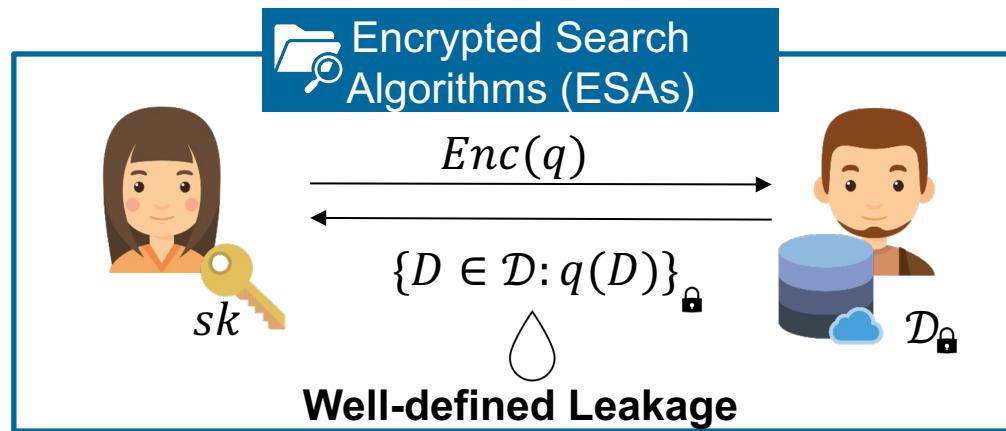
**Leakage = erosion of privacy w.r.t data protection**

### Cryptographic Mechanisms



### Privacy-Enhancing Technologies (PETs)

# A Realistic assessment of leakage attacks on Encrypted Search



## A Realistic assessment of leakage attacks on **Encrypted Search**

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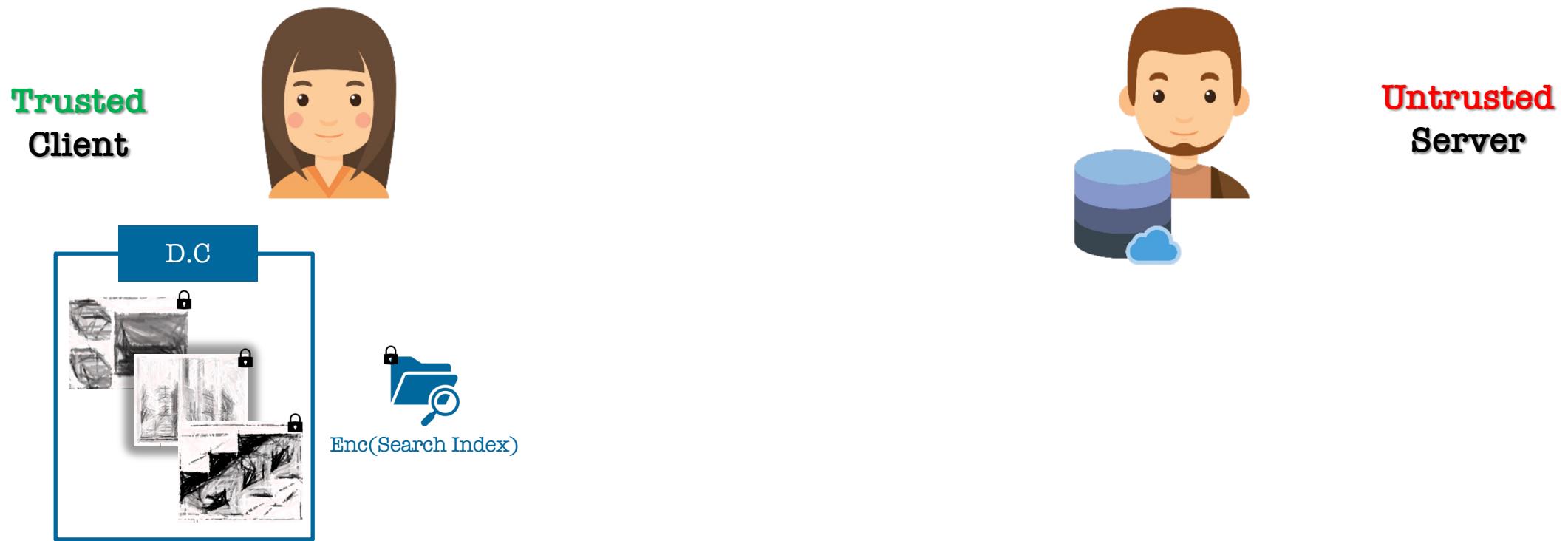
## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)

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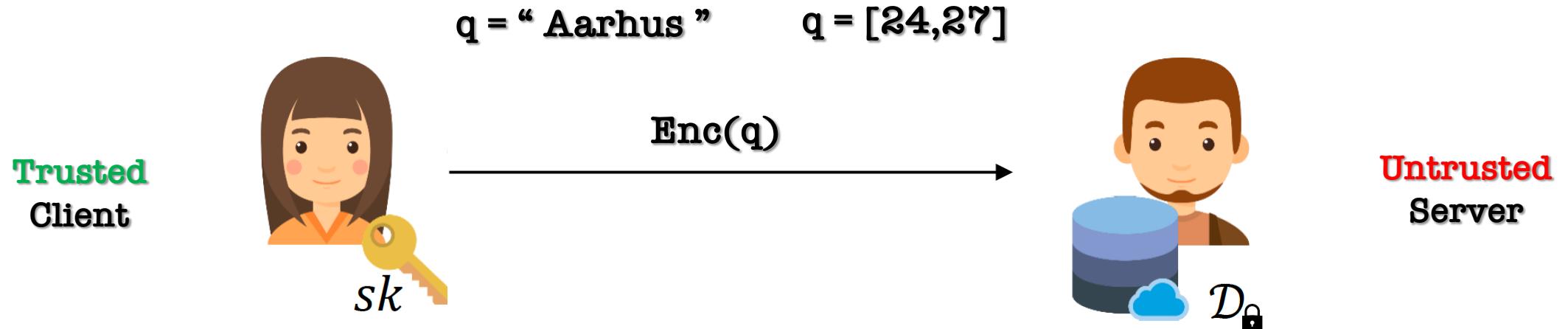


## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)

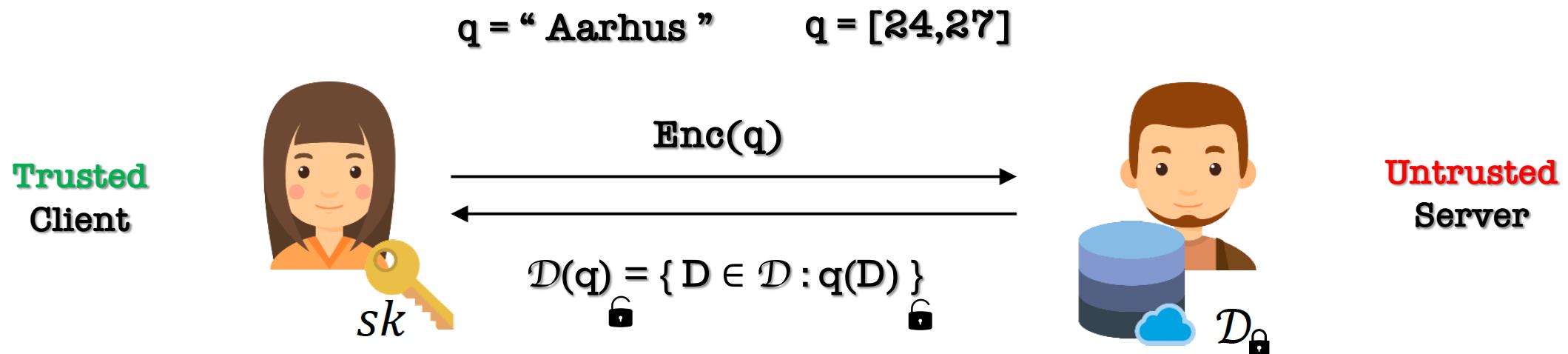
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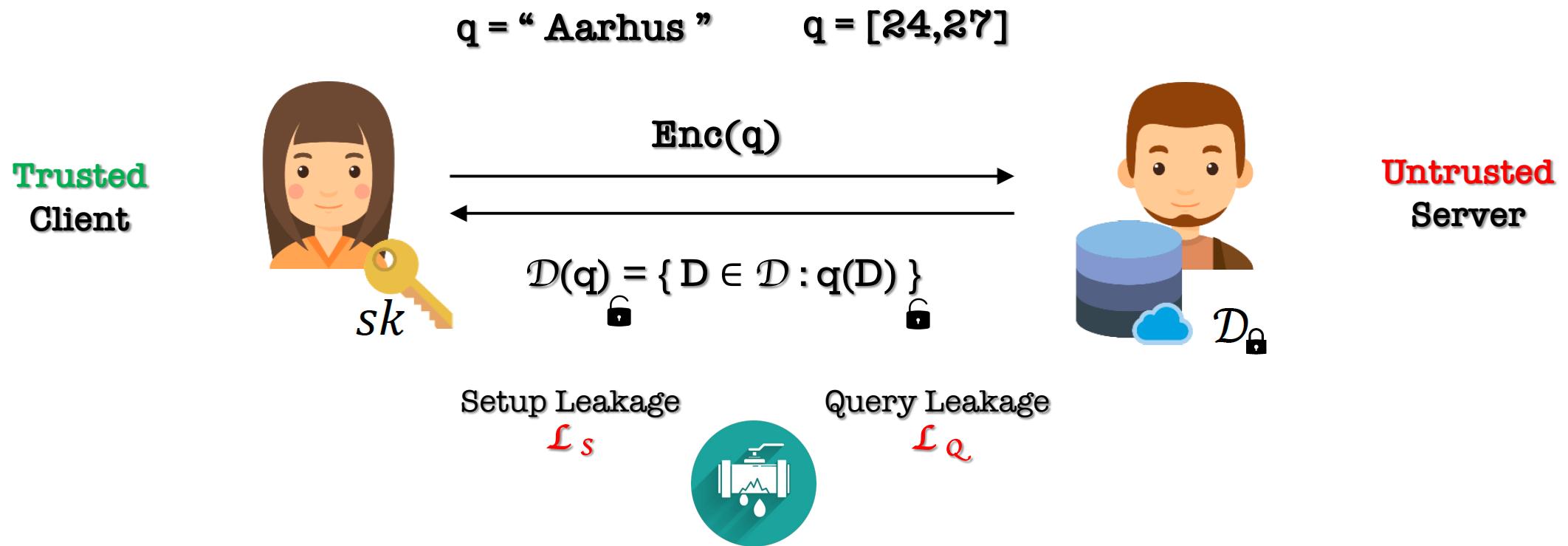
## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



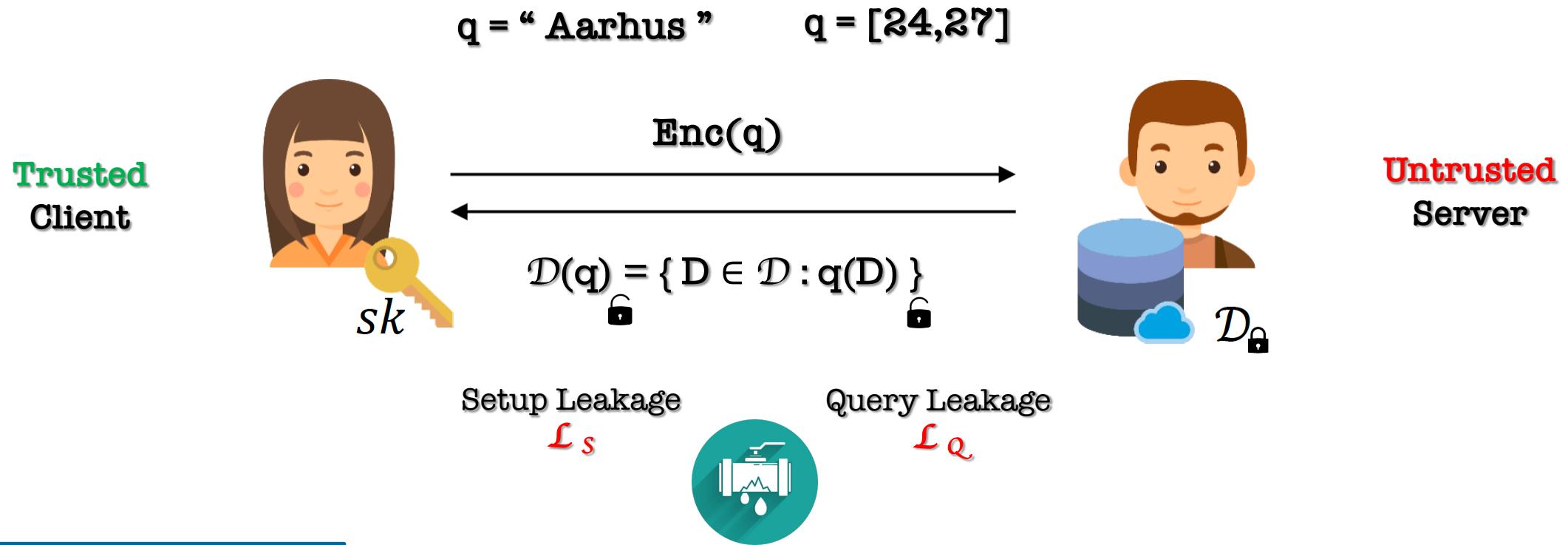
## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



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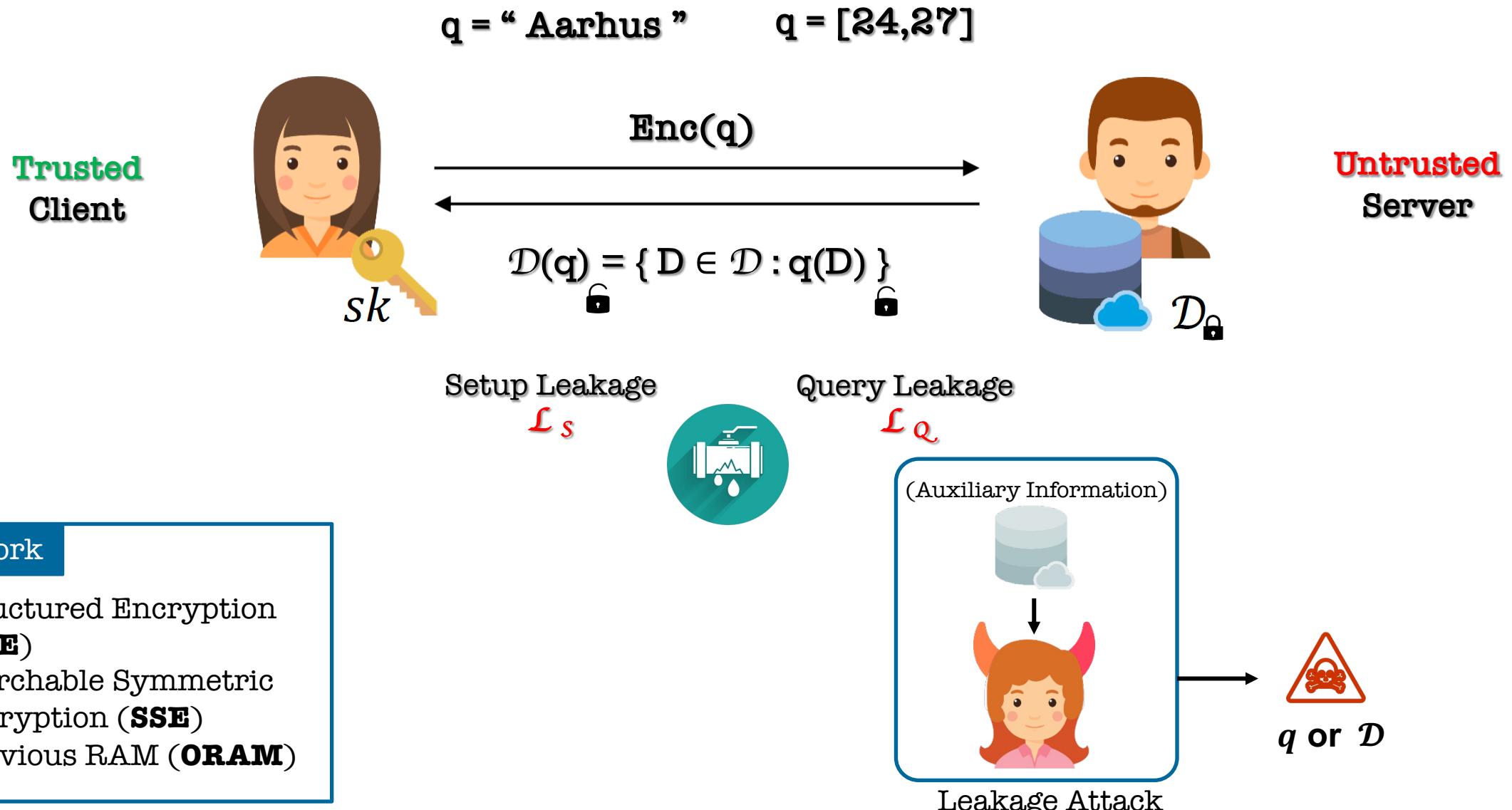
## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



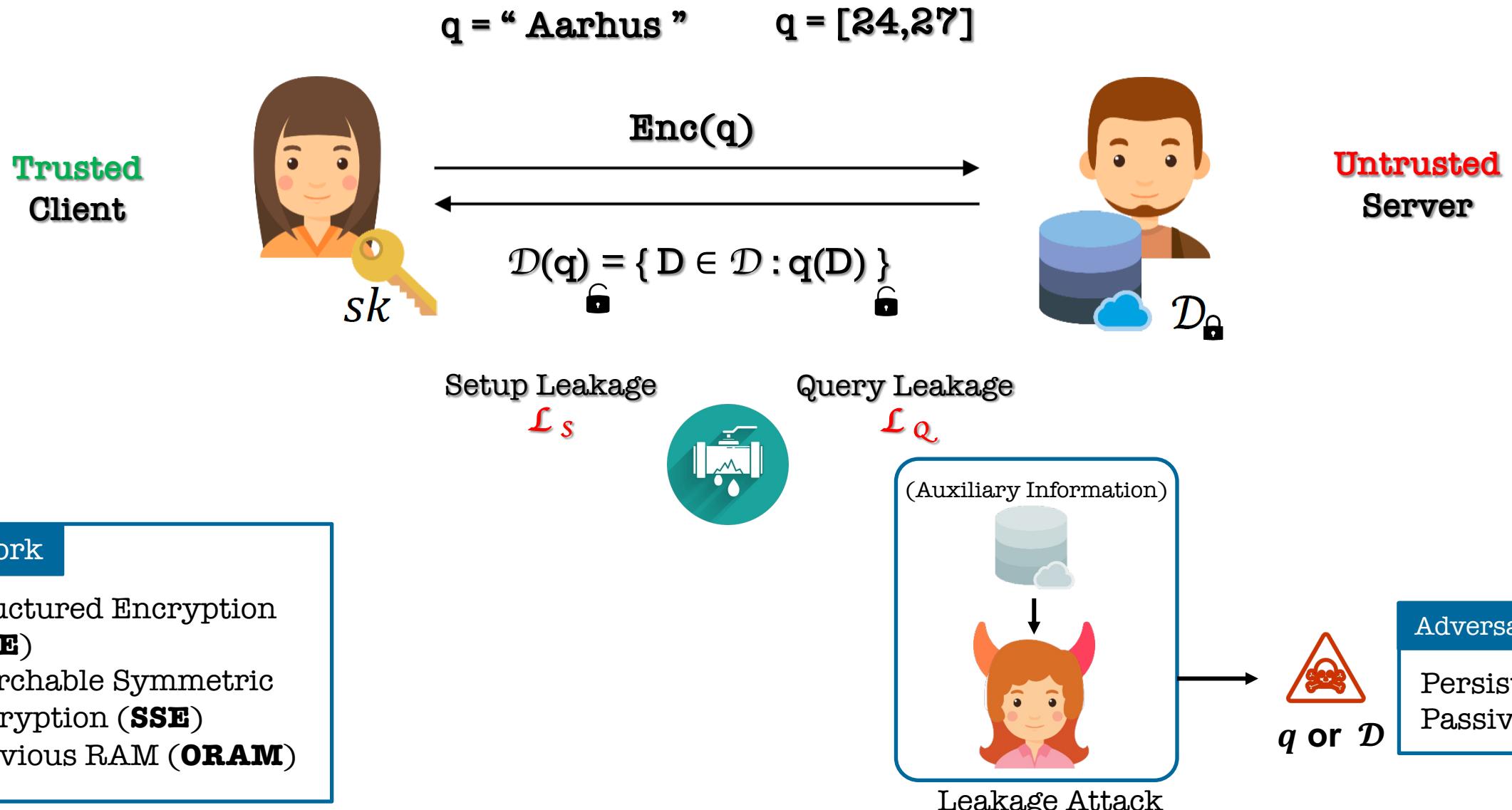
### Our work

- Structured Encryption (**STE**)
- Searchable Symmetric Encryption (**SSE**)
- Oblivious RAM (**ORAM**)

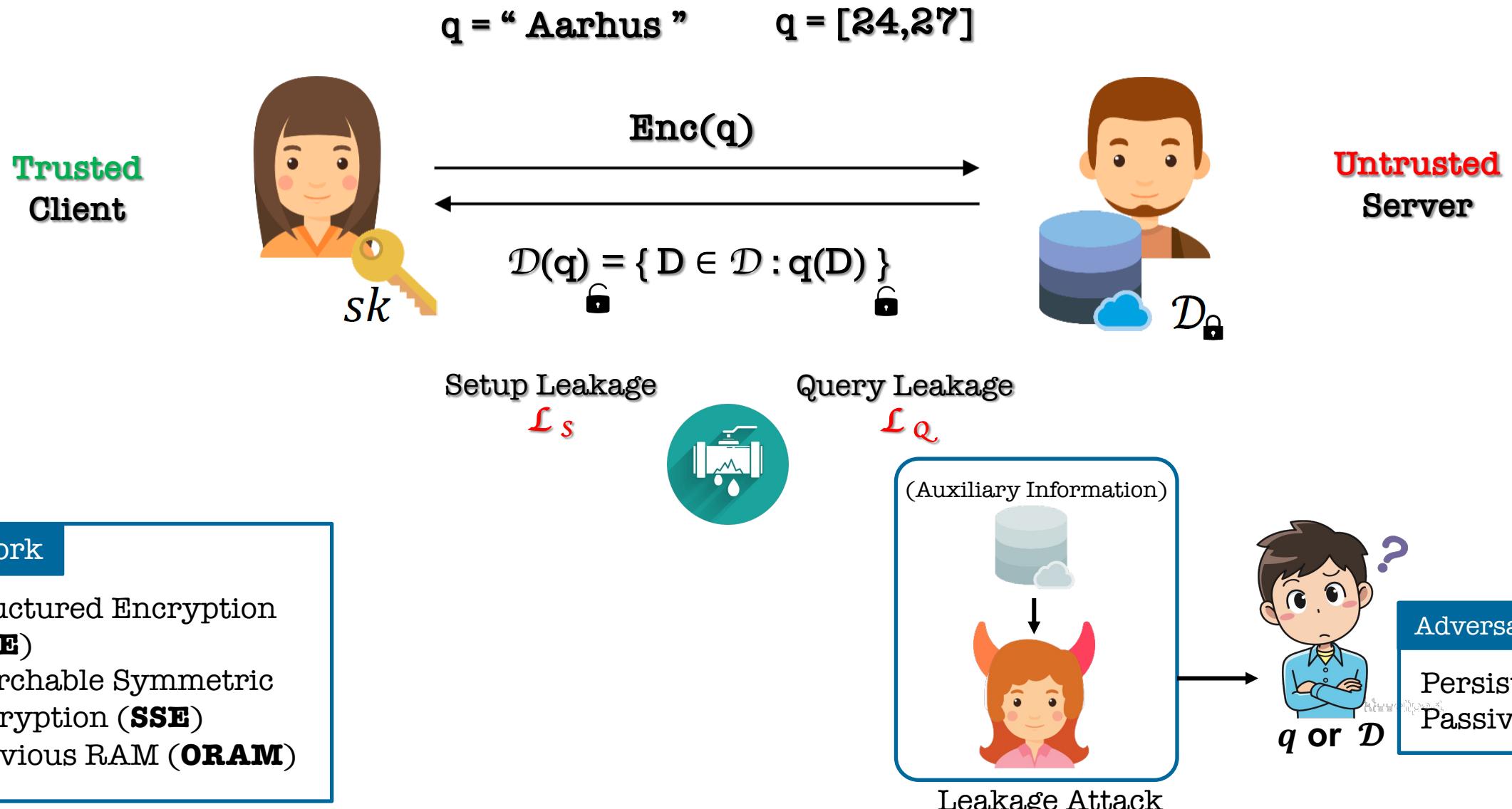
## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



## Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



## A Realistic assessment of **Leakage Attacks** on Encrypted Search

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## How do we model Leakage ?

- The "Baseline" leakage profile for response-revealing EMMs
  - ✓  $(\mathcal{L}_s, \mathcal{L}_Q, \mathcal{L}_u) = (\text{dsize}, (\text{qeq}, \text{rid}), \text{use})$
- The "Baseline" leakage profile for response-hiding EMMs
  - ✓  $(\mathcal{L}_s, \mathcal{L}_Q, \mathcal{L}_u) = (\text{dsize}, \text{qeq}, \text{use})$
- Several new constructions have better leakage profiles
  - ✓ AZL and FZL [[Kamara-Moataz-Ohrimenko'18](#)]
  - ✓ VHL and AVHL [[Kamara-Moataz'19](#)]



Leakage	Information
Response Length	$ D(q) $
Query Equality	$q_i = q_j$
Co-Occurrence	$ D(q_i) \cap D(q_j) $
Response Identity	$\{i: D_i \in q(D)\}$
Response Volumes	$\{ D_i _b: D_i \in q(D)\}$

(Simplified)

## Leakage Attacks Types



**Keyword** (point) queries  
[IKK12, CGPR15, BKM20, RPH21]



**Range** queries

[KKNO16, LMP18, GLMP18,  
GLMP19, GJW19, KPT20, KPT21]

Keyword	Document IDs
'Aarhus'	2,5,11,13,20,31
'systems'	3,5,10,11,13,25
'lab'	5,11,21,27

ID	Age
1	65
2	7
3	27

$$\mathcal{D}(q) = \{D \in \mathcal{D}: q \in D\}$$

$q = 'Aarhus'$

Recover q

$$\mathcal{D}(q) = \{r \in \mathcal{D}: a \leq r \leq b\}$$

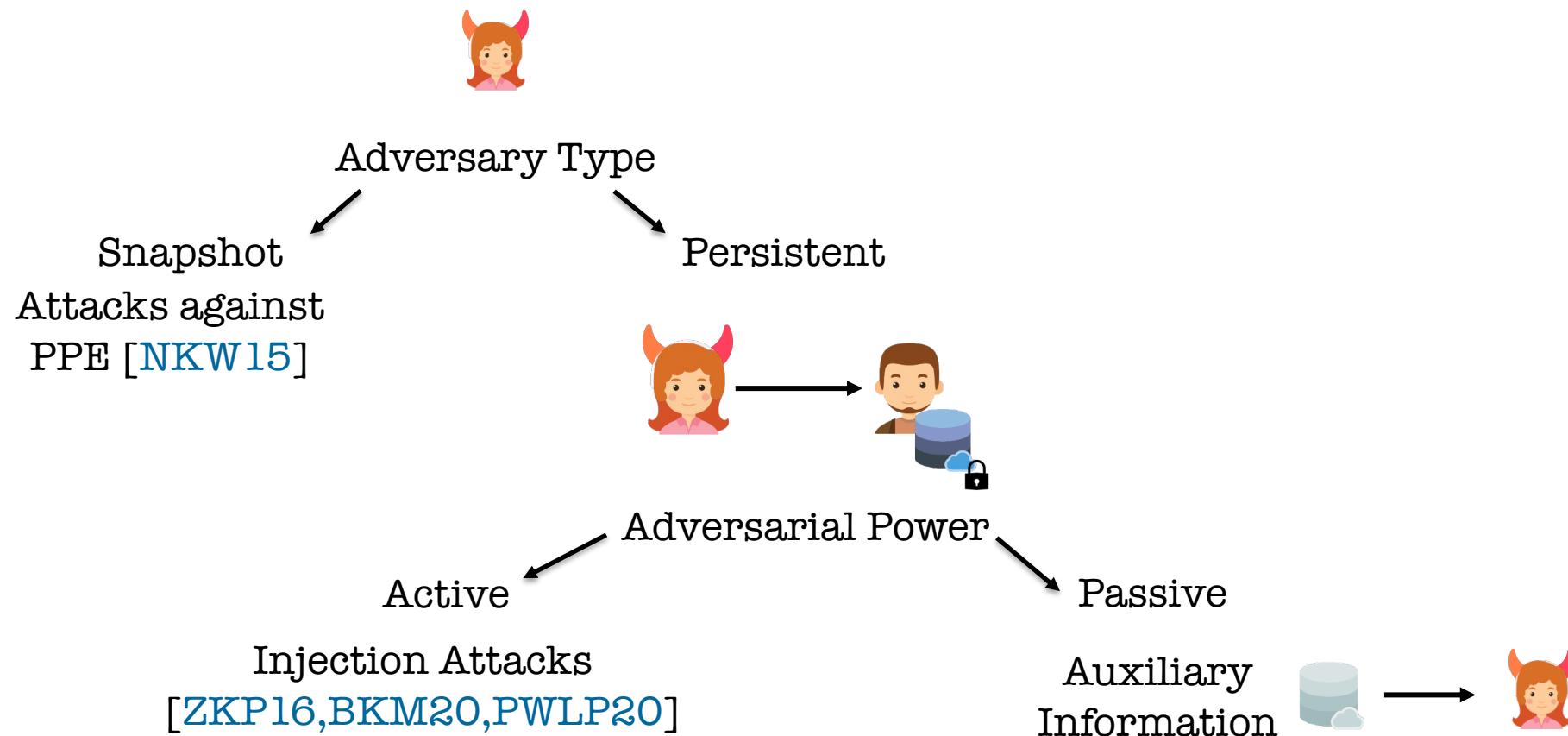
$q = (18,39)$

Recover  $\mathcal{D}$

**Known-data:** Adversary knows subset of  $\mathcal{D}$

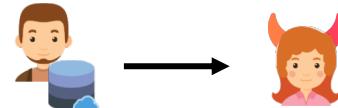
No auxiliary knowledge

## Leakage Attacks against ESAs



Sampled-data or sampled-query  
Keyword & Range attacks  
[LZWT14, LMP18, GLMP18, GJW  
19, OKa21, DHP21, GPP21, OKb21]

## Persistent Passive



Auxiliary Information

Known-data

### Keyword attacks

[IKK12\*, CGPR15, BKM20  
, RPH21]

$q = w$   
 $\mathcal{D}(q) = \{D \in \mathcal{D}: q(D)\}$   
**Recover  $q$**

[KKNO16, LMP18, GLMP18,  
GLMP19, GJW19, KPT20,  
KPT21]

$q = (a, b)$   
 $\mathcal{D}(q) = \{r \in \mathcal{D}: a \leq r \leq b\}$   
**Recover  $\mathcal{D}$**

This talk

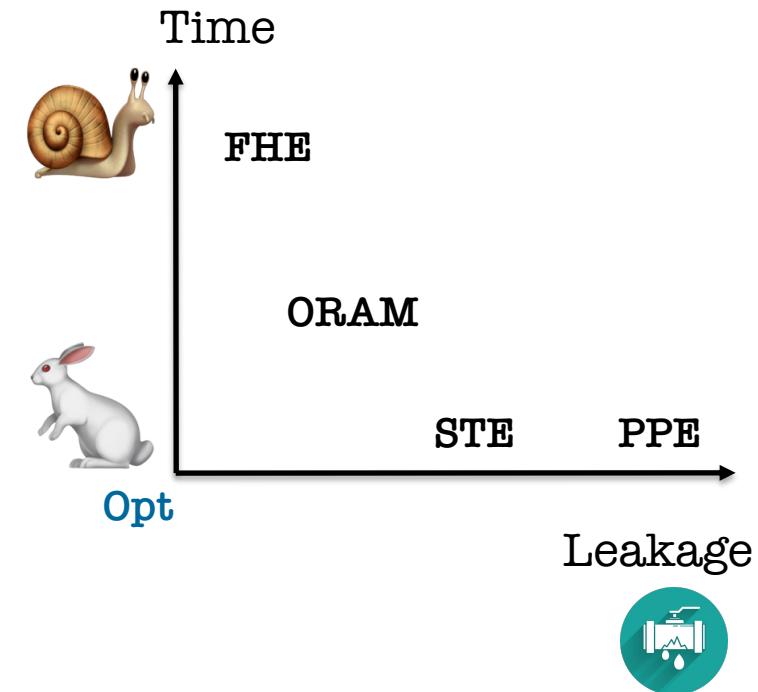
None

### Range attacks



## ESAs Techniques Overview

Technique	Leakage	Query Time	
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	• None	Linear	Considered secure but inefficient
Oblivious RAM (ORAM)	• Response Length + Volume	Sublinear	Our work
Structured Encryption (STE)	• Query Equality • Response Identities + Volumes	Optimal	Considered efficient and ???
Property-Preserving Encryption (PPE)	• Ciphertext Equality • Ciphertext Order	Optimal	Considered efficient but <b>insecure</b> [NKW15]





## Cloud Constructions

“ Benign leakage ”

“ Common leakage ”

“ Standard leakage ”

“ Accepted leakage ”

“ [Attacks] assume extremely strong adversarial models ”

“ Leakages [...] are not exploitable via leakage-abuse attacks in practice ”

## Attacks & Countermeasures

“ Severe threat ”

“ Devastating results ”

“ [ESAs] are extremely vulnerable to [attacks] ”

“ [ESA] schemes should no longer be used without countermeasures ”

“ Our assumptions on background information are weak ”

“ With some prior knowledge [...] an honest-but-curious server can recover the underlying keywords ”





## 💻 Constructions

“ Benign leakage ”

“ Standard leakage ”

“ [Attacks] assume extremely strong models ”

“ Leakages [...] are not exploitable abuse attacks in practice ”

## Attacks & Countermeasures

“ Hmmm.. ”

“ [ESAs] are extremely vulnerable to [attacks] ”

“ Devastating results ”

“ [ESA] schemes should no longer be used without countermeasures ”

“ Your assumptions on background information are weak ”

“ some prior knowledge [...] an honest-but-server can recover the underlying keywords ”



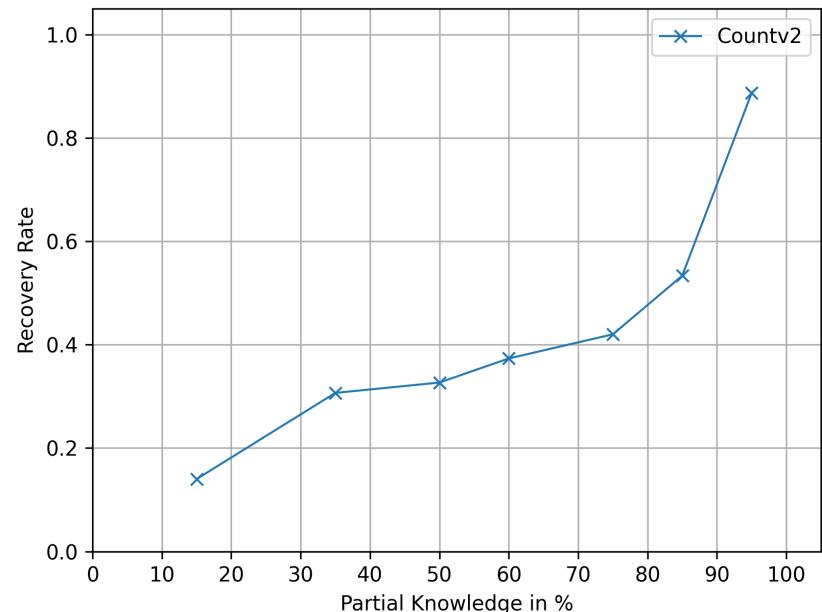
## A **Realistic Assessment** of Leakage Attacks on Encrypted Search

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## Previous Evaluations

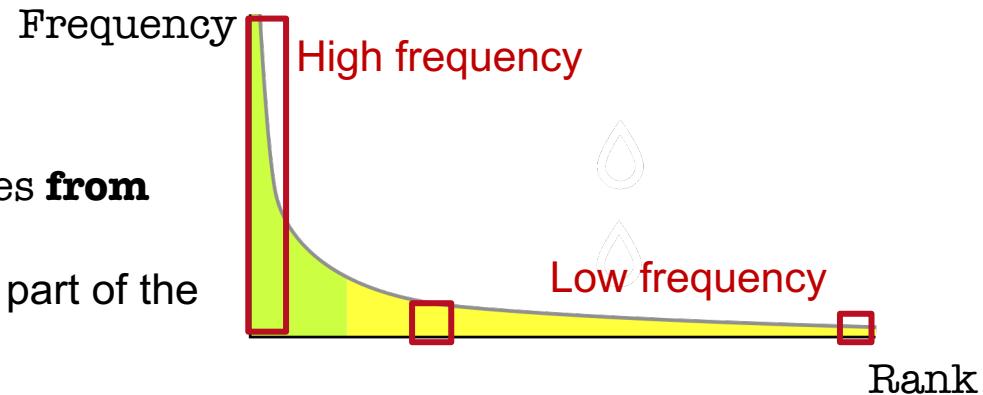
Usual evaluations for **Keyword attacks**:

1. Enron (& Apache) email data collection
2. Restrict data to 500-3000 keywords
4. Evaluate on **partial knowledge**

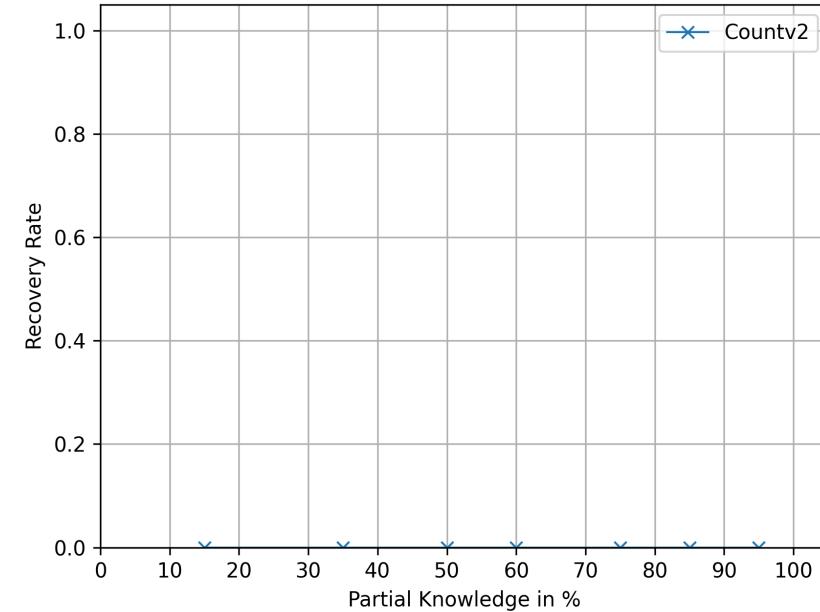


High frequency

3. Draw 150 queries **from data collection**
- ??? From which part of the distribution ?



or



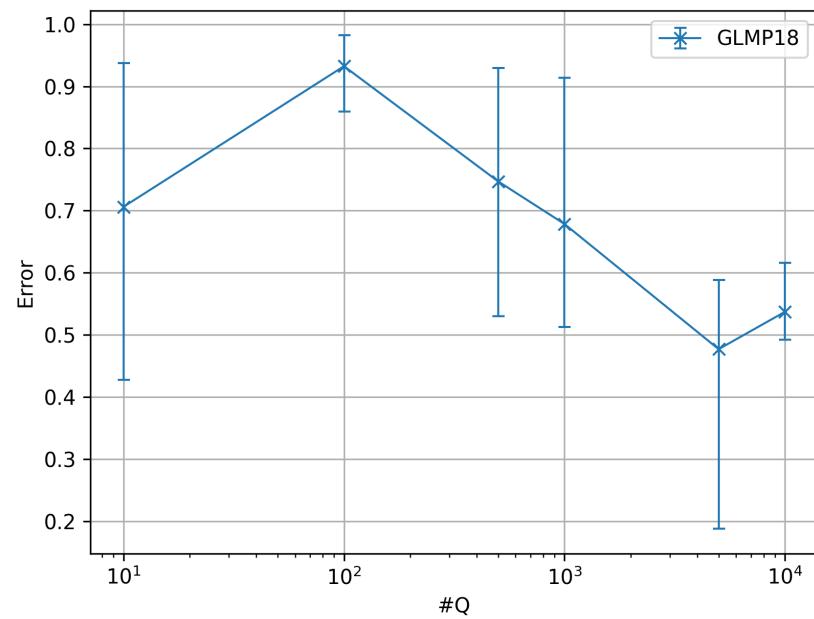
Low frequency

## Previous Evaluations

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Usual evaluations for Range attacks:

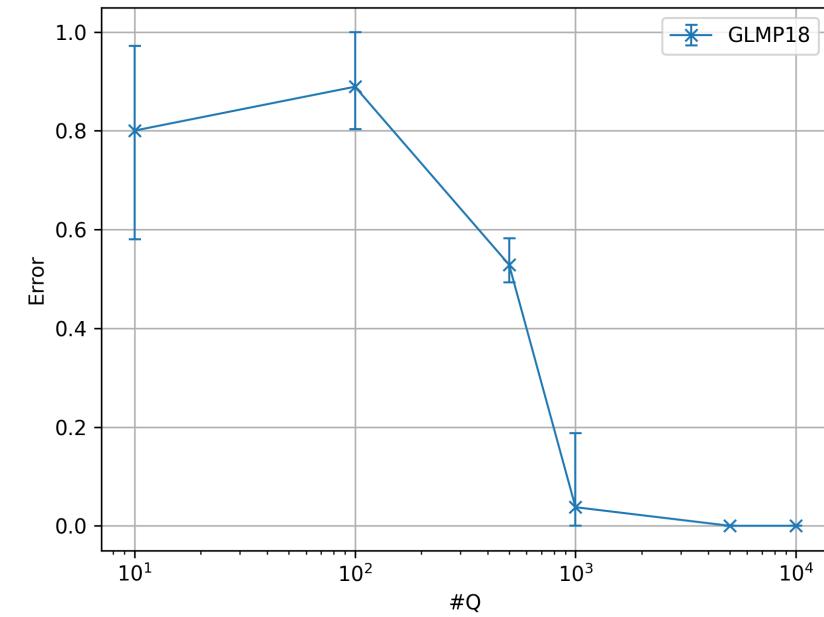
1. Subset of HCUP Data collection



2. Pick Artificial query distribution (Uniform/Zipf/...)

3. Evaluate for different amounts of queries

or



## Limitations & Contributions

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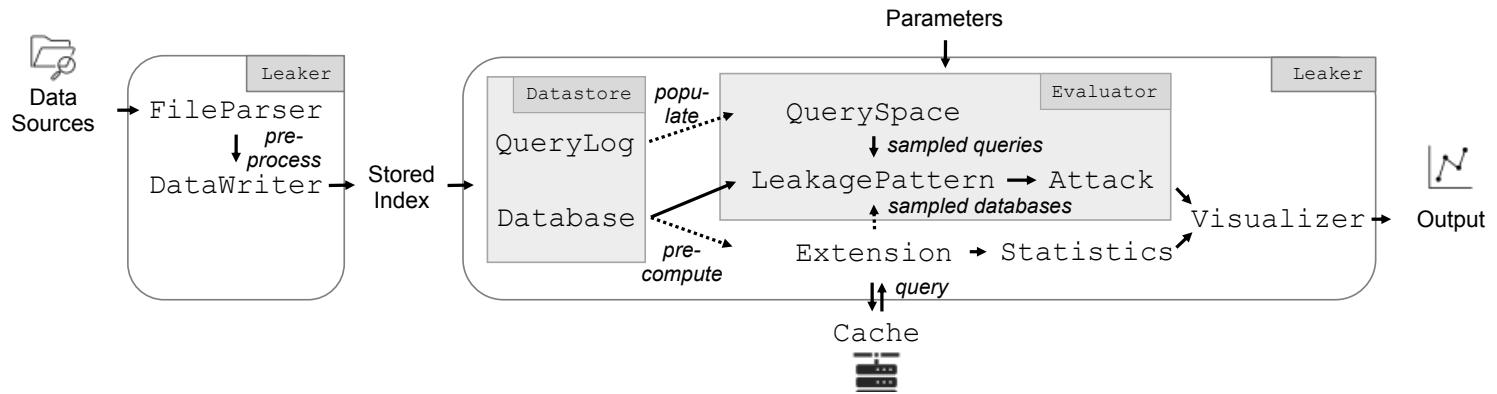
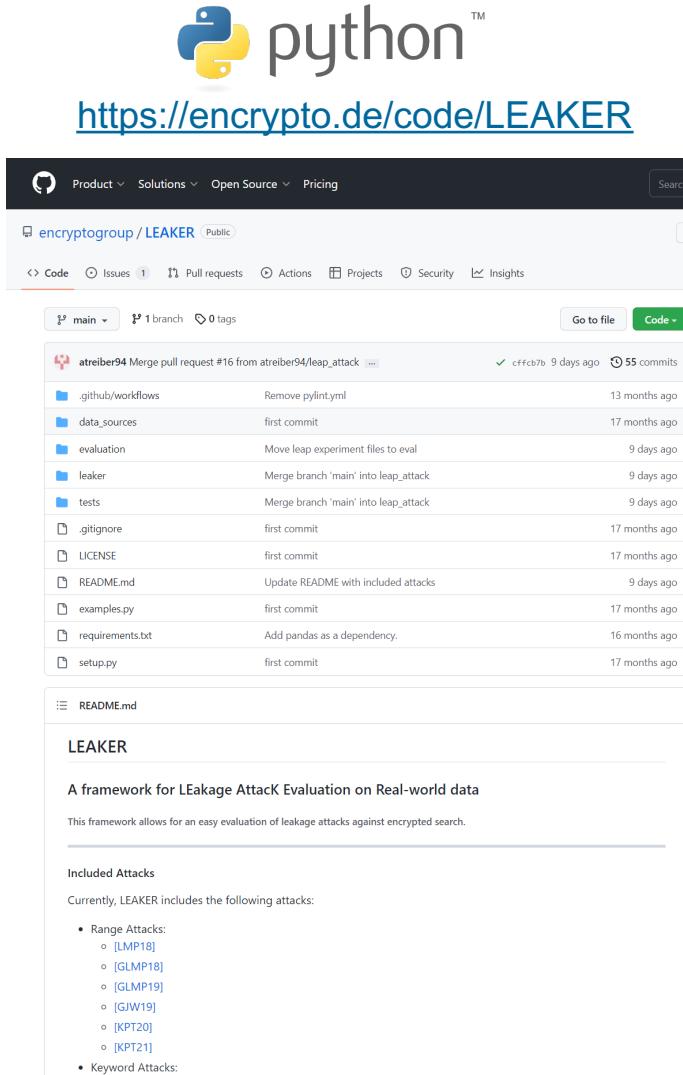
### Limitations

-  Systematization Lacking
-  Single Use Case
-  Few Comparisons
-  Closed-Source Code
-  Artificial Queries

### Our Contributions

-  Survey of ESA Cryptanalysis
-  New Attacks  
New Data
-  Systematic Re-Evaluation
-  Open-Source Framework
-   
`User,Query  
216,'Aarhus'  
216,'University'  
106,'Visit'  
216,'Cryptanalysis'`  
First Real-World Query Logs

# LEAKER Framework



- Re-Implementation of major attacks in open-source Framework
- On Release: [ [IKK12](#), [CGPR15](#), [LMP18](#), [GLMP18](#), [GLMP19](#), [GJW19](#), [BKM20](#), [KPT20](#), [KPT21](#), [RPH21](#) ]

Since then: [ [KPT19](#), [FMA+20](#), [NHP+21](#), [Sie22](#) ]  
In development: [ [OK21](#), [DHP21](#), [OK22](#), ??? ]

- Modular design & supports interoperability
- Easy to implement new attacks & Countermeasures
- Easy to pre-process & use new data types.

## Data Sources

### Keyword Queries



Email/Cloud



Web



Genetic

### Range Queries



Scientific



Medical



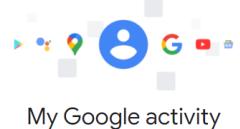
Salaries



Sales



Insurance



My Google activity



7 Query Logs &  
7 Data Collections  
7 Users  
16-100 Queries  
200-47k Documents  
19k-895k Keywords



1 Query Log &  
1 Data Collection  
656k Users  
2.9M Queries  
151k Documents  
268k Keywords



1 Query Log &  
1 Data Collection  
1.3k Users  
54k Queries  
115k Documents  
690k Keywords



3 Query Logs &  
1 Data Collection  
3 Users  
215-8k Queries  
5M Records  
Domain N = 10k  
Density 96%



3 Data  
Collections  
2k-8k Records  
Domain N =  
73 – 10k  
Density 3.3%-  
81%



DATA.GOV.UK Beta  
Opening up Government



Walmart



NYC  
OpenData

## Evaluation Summary

[BKM20]

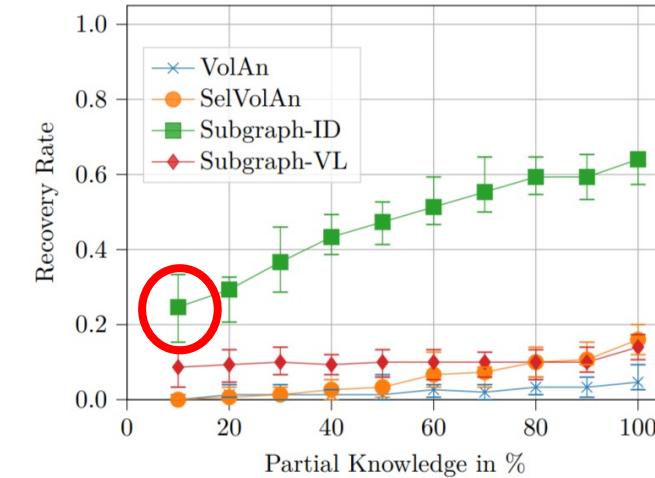
None of the attacks worked against low-[frequency] keywords

[RPH21]

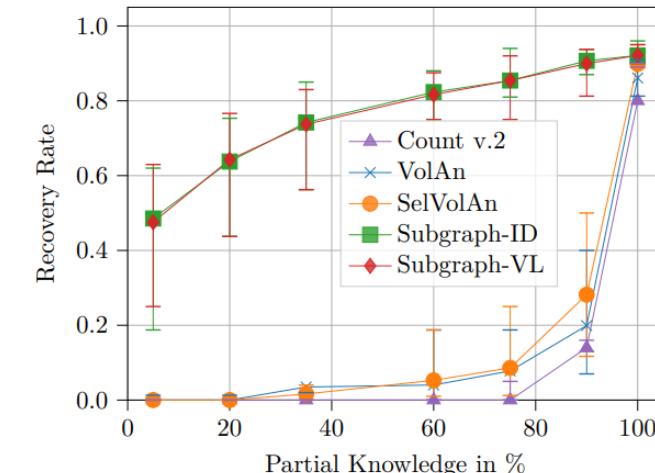
Users are more likely to search for a specific email

[BKM20] L. Blackstone, S. Kamara, T. Moataz. Revisiting leakage abuse attacks. NDSS'20

[RPH21] R.G. Roessink, A. Peter, F. Hahn. Experimental review of the IKK query recovery attack: Assumptions, recovery rate and improvements. ACNS'21



(Lowest) Mean Frequency:  
1.54!  
(On the TAIR Dataset)



Mean Frequency:  
326!  
(On the Gmail Datasets)

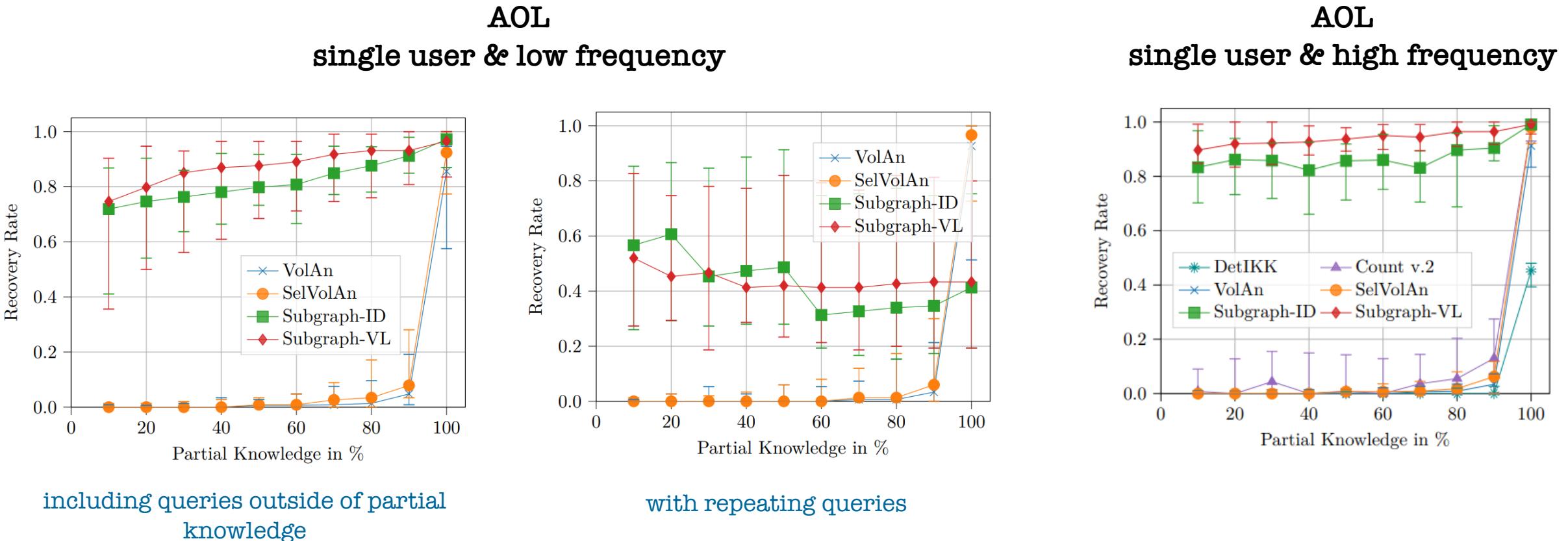
## Evaluation Summary (Keyword Search)

(subjective)

Attacks	Leakage 	Success Cases 	Risk 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VolAn [BKM20]</li><li>• SelVolAn [BKM20]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response length</li><li>• Response volume</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High adversarial knowledge</li></ul>	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [IKK12]</li><li>• Count V.2 [CGPR15]</li><li>• DetIKK [RPH21]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-occurrence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High adversarial knowledge</li></ul>	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SubgraphID [BKM20]</li><li>• SubgraphVL [BKM20]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response identities</li><li>• Response volumes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low adversarial knowledge</li></ul>	High

=> Suppression of identifier and volume leakage of responses necessary!

## Evaluation Summary (Keyword Search)



## Evaluation Summary (Range Search)

(subjective)

Attacks	Leakage	Success Cases	Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [GLMP18]</li><li>• [GJW19]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response length</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>	Very low
• APA [KPT21]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response length</li><li>• Query equality</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evenly distributed data</li></ul>	Medium
• [LMP18]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response identities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dense</li></ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GenKNNO [GLMP19]</li><li>• ApprValue [GLMP19]</li><li>• ARR [KPT20] + ApprOrder [GLMP19]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response identities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large widths</li><li>• Skewed values</li></ul>	Medium
• ARR [KPT20]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response identities</li><li>• Order</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most cases</li></ul>	High

=> Research on order reconstruction + Leakage suppression for range case!

## Nuanced highlights given LEAKER

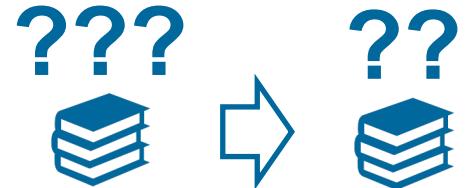
[BKM20] attacks on identifier or volume leakage work much better than previously anticipated

[IKK12,CGPR15] keyword attacks perform much worse than previously anticipated

Range attacks rarely work on our data and success highly depends on query/data distributions

[OK22] attacks recovery rate given a specific leakage profile highly depends on prior assumption over query/data

ESA cryptanalysis is very nuanced



[BKM20] L. Blackstone, S. Kamara, T. Moataz. Revisiting leakage abuse attacks. NDSS'20

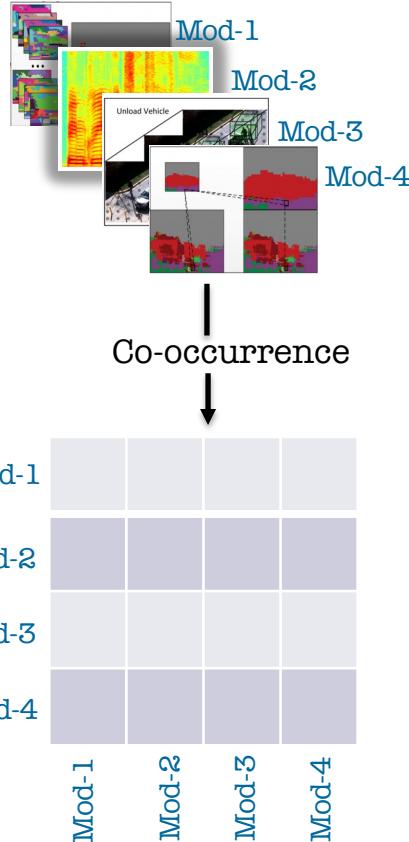
[IKK12] M. S. Islam, M. Kuzu, M. Kantarcioğlu. Access pattern disclosure on searchable encryption: Ramification, attack and mitigation. NDSS'12

[CGPR15] D. Cash, P. Grubbs, J. Perry, T. Ristenpart. Leakage-abuse attacks against searchable encryption. CCS'15

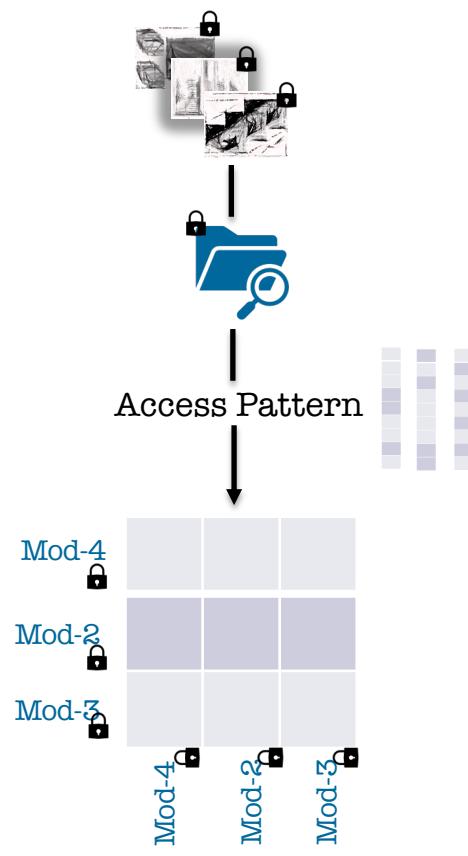
[OK22] S. Oya and F. Kerschbaum. IHOP: Improved Statistical Query Recovery against Searchable Symmetric Encryption through Quadratic Optimization. USENIX'22

## Statistical query recovery attacks

### ↔ Auxiliary Information

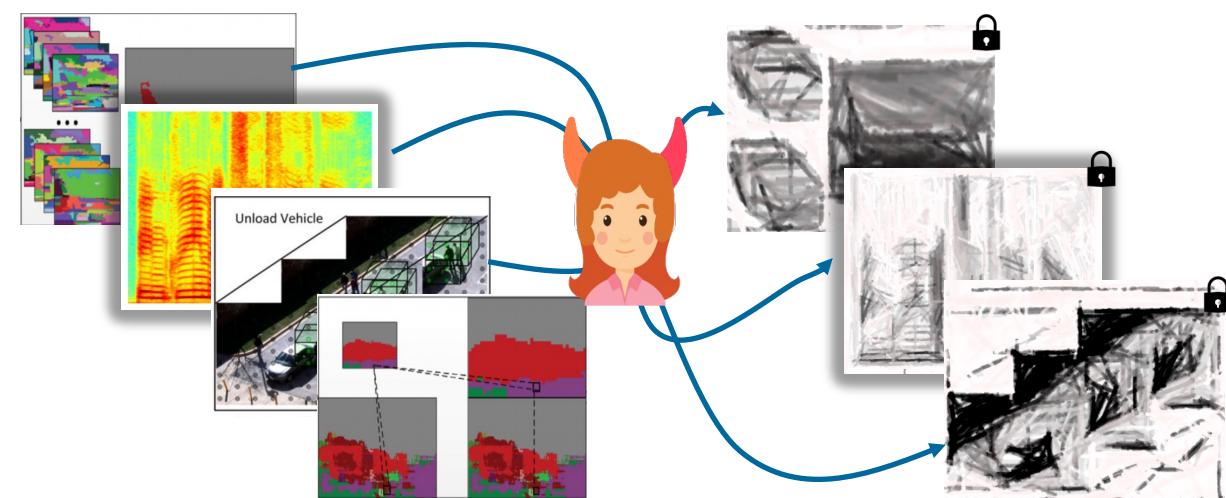


### Observations ↔



Statistical-based query recovery attacks achieve [lower] accuracy and are [not] considered a serious threat.

[OK22]



## Statistical query recovery attacks

$\tilde{V}(n*n)$ Aux			
Mod-1			
Mod-2			
Mod-3			
Mod-4			
	Mod-1	Mod-2	Mod-3

$P(n*m)$  Permutation


The query recovery is formulated as a quadratic assignment problem and iteratively solved via linear assignments.

[OK22]

$$\mathbf{P} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{i, i' \in [n]} \sum_{j, j' \in [m]} c_{i, i', j, j'} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{i, j} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{i', j'}$$

Q.A.P

$\mathbf{P}^T \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \cdot \mathbf{P}$			
Mod-1			
Mod-2			
Mod-3			
Mod-4			
	Mod-1	Mod-2	Mod-3



$\mathbf{V}(m*m)$ Obs			
Mod-4			
Mod-2			
Mod-3			
Mod-4	■	■	■
Mod-2	■	■	■
Mod-3	■	■	■

Examples:

- IKK :  $\mathbf{P} = \arg \min || \tilde{\mathbf{V}} - \mathbf{P}^T \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \cdot \mathbf{P} ||_2$   
--> simulated annealing
- graphM :  $\mathbf{P} = \arg \min || \tilde{\mathbf{V}} - \mathbf{P}^T \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \cdot \mathbf{P} ||_2^2 - \text{tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{P})$   
--> convex-concave rel.

[IKK] Islam et .al. Access pattern disclosure on searchable encryption: ramifications, attacks and mitigation. NDSS12.

[graphM] Pouliot and wright. The shadow nemesis: inference attacks on efficiently deployable, efficiently searchable encryption. CCS16.

## Statistical query recovery attacks

$\tilde{V}(n \times n)$  Aux

Mod-1	
Mod-2	
Mod-3	
Mod-4	

$P(n \times m)$  Permutation


$$P = \arg \min_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{i \in [n]} \sum_{j \in [m]} c_{i,j} \cdot P_{i,j}.$$

L.A.P

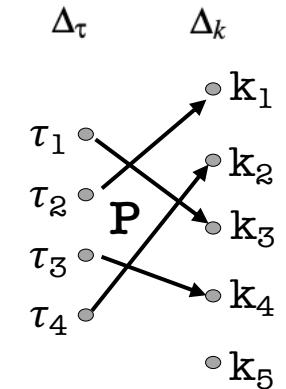
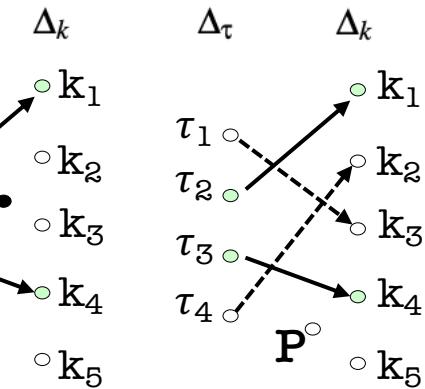
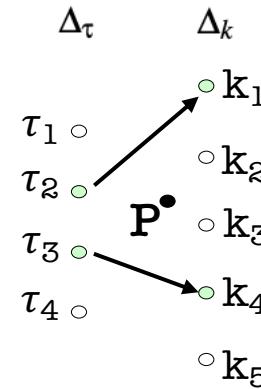
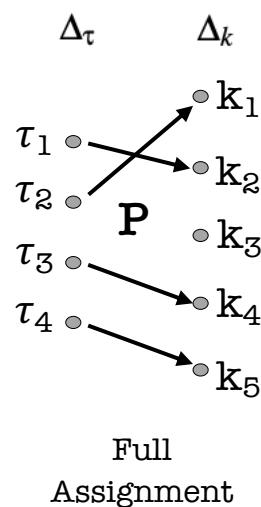
This very efficient, but a lot of information is wasted because of not using the off-diagonal terms.

0,5	0,51	0,18	0,2
0,01	0,02	0,31	0,29
0,01	0	0,33	0,31
0,3	0,31	0,02	0

$V(m \times m)$  Obs

Mod-4	
Mod-2	
Mod-3	

Hungarian algorithm

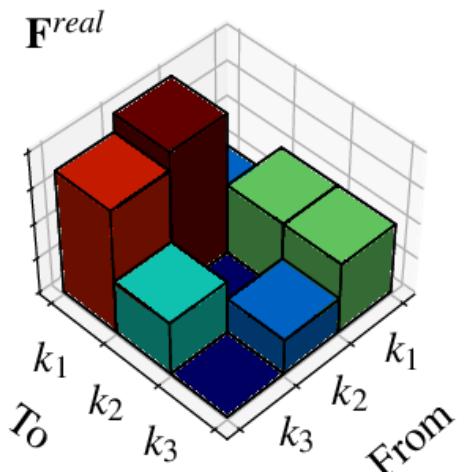
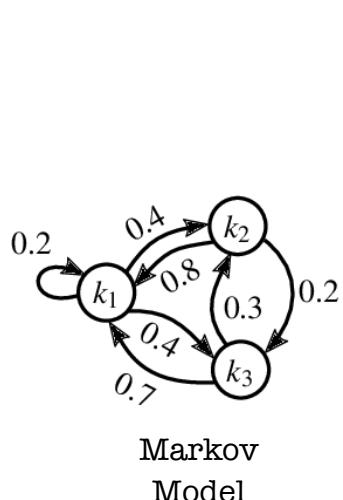


$$\Delta_\tau^\circ = \{\tau_1, \tau_4\} \quad \Delta_\tau^\bullet = \{\tau_2, \tau_3\} \quad \Delta_k^\circ = \{k_2, k_3, k_5\} \quad \Delta_k^\bullet = \{k_1, k_4\}$$

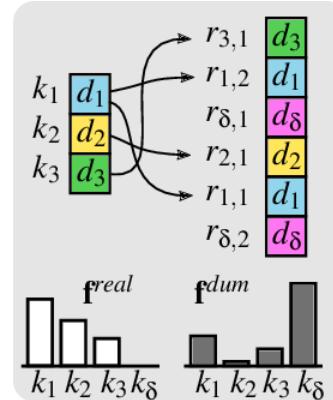
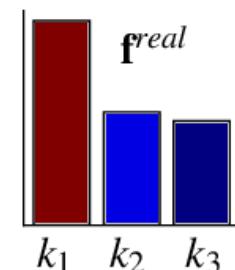
## Statistical query recovery attacks

Adversary can exploit Qeq in the **dependent setting** where the client's queries are correlated, even when access obfuscation defenses are applied.

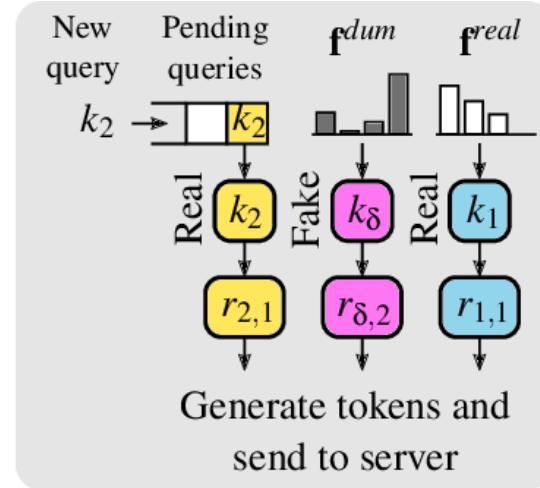
[OK22]



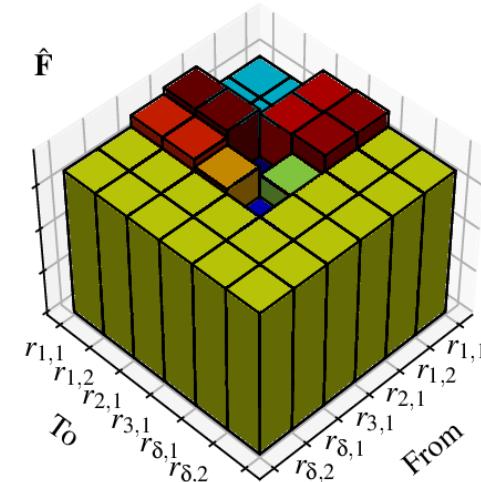
Markov matrix ( $\mathbf{F}^{real}$ ) and its stationary distribution ( $\mathbf{f}^{real}$ ) of the queried keywords.



PANCAKE setup.



PANCAKE query.



Markov matrix ( $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$ ) of the queried replicas by following PANCAKE protocol.

# Statistical query recovery attacks



Step 1 :

- Initializes an empty mapping

Step 2 :

- Computes the stationary distribution  $\pi$ ,

Step 3 :

- Calculate the histogram of the sequence of queries  $v$ .
  - $\approx$  to the average number of visits over the M.C states)

Step 4 :

- Map the closest value in  $\pi$  to  $v_i$ , for all  $i \in [t]$ ;
  - the average number of visits to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  state is approximately equal to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  component of the stationary distribution  $\pi$ .

Step 5:

- output the mapping and the error score
  - Error: the total distance between the avg.# visits and the selected component of the stationary distribution



Step 1 :

- Initializes an empty mapping

Step 2 :

- Computes the observation matrix of HMM  $O = (o_{i,j}) i \in [m], j \in [\#I]$ ,
  - The frequency  $f_j$  of each unique query  $j \in [\#I]$ , is first calculated using query equality leakage.
  - Set  $o_{i,j}$  to  $1 - |f_j - \pi_i|$  if  $|f_j - \pi_i|_1 < \epsilon$ , error parameter.
  - Normalize  $O$ , s.t the sum of each row is equal to 1.

Step 3:

- Compute transition matrix  $P^A$  and a uniform initial distribution  $\mu$  to form HMM parameters  $\Theta := (P^A, O, \mu)$ .

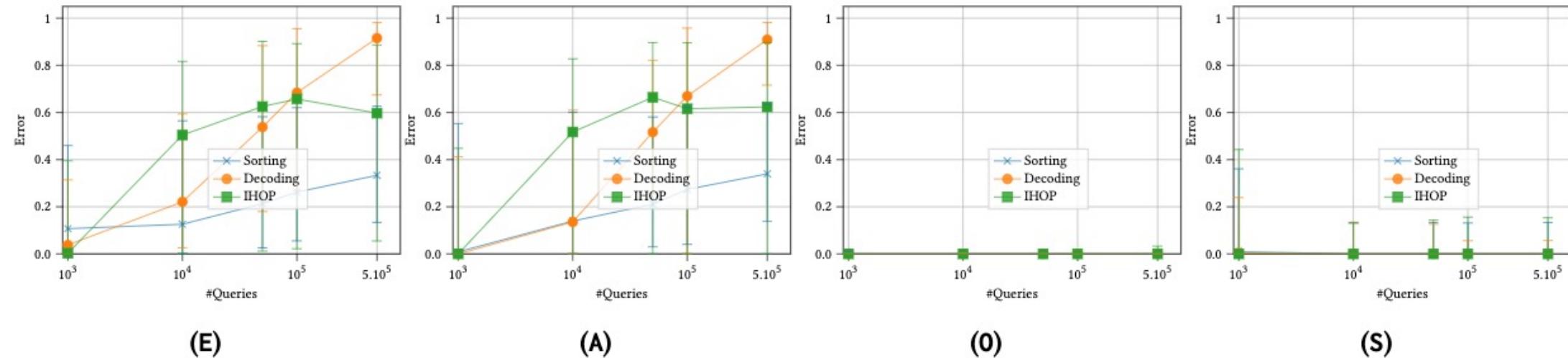
Step 4 :

- (Mapping  $\alpha$  the attacked query sequence to the state identifiers of unique queries via the equality leakage, the likelihood  $s$  of this mapping given the observation)  $\leftarrow$  viterbi .
  - Generate a sequence of observed states that matches the set of observation states of the created HMM parameters

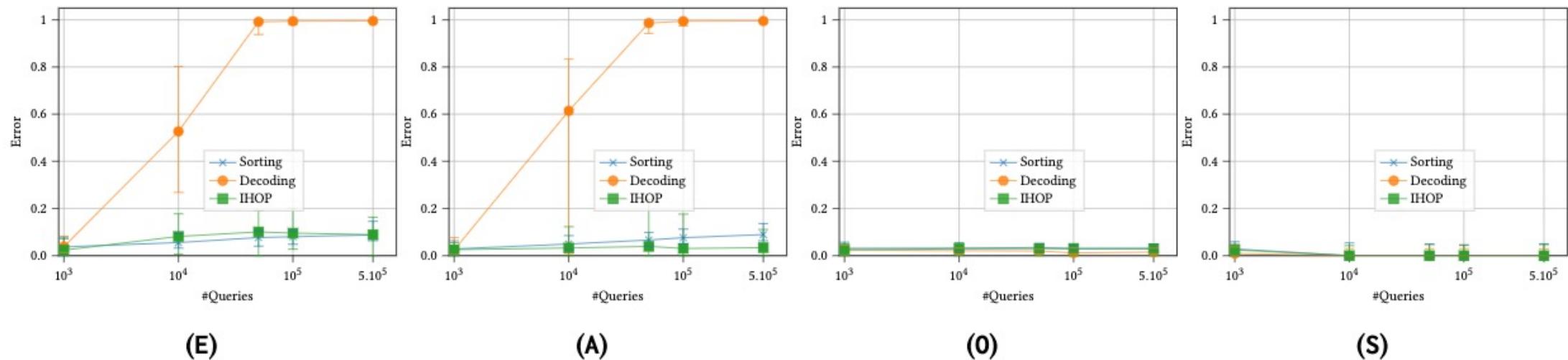
Step 5 :

- A new map  $\alpha'$  translates the states  $\alpha$  maps to actual keywords using the adversary's knowledge.
  - error parameter, we set  $s' = 1 - s$  such that the result with the maximum likelihood will correspond to the lowest score.

## Evaluation results (R.W Q-log )



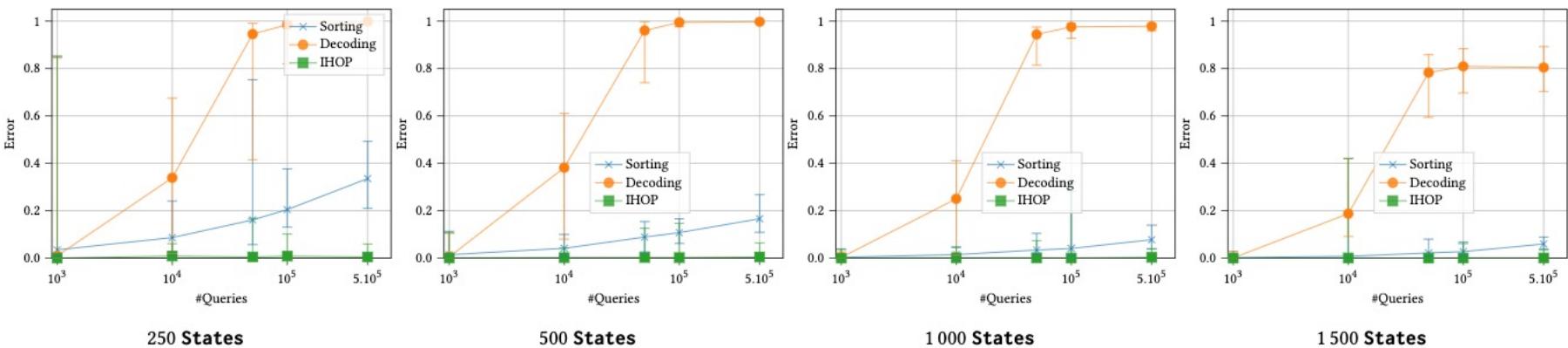
Evaluation for each of 5 users on AOL



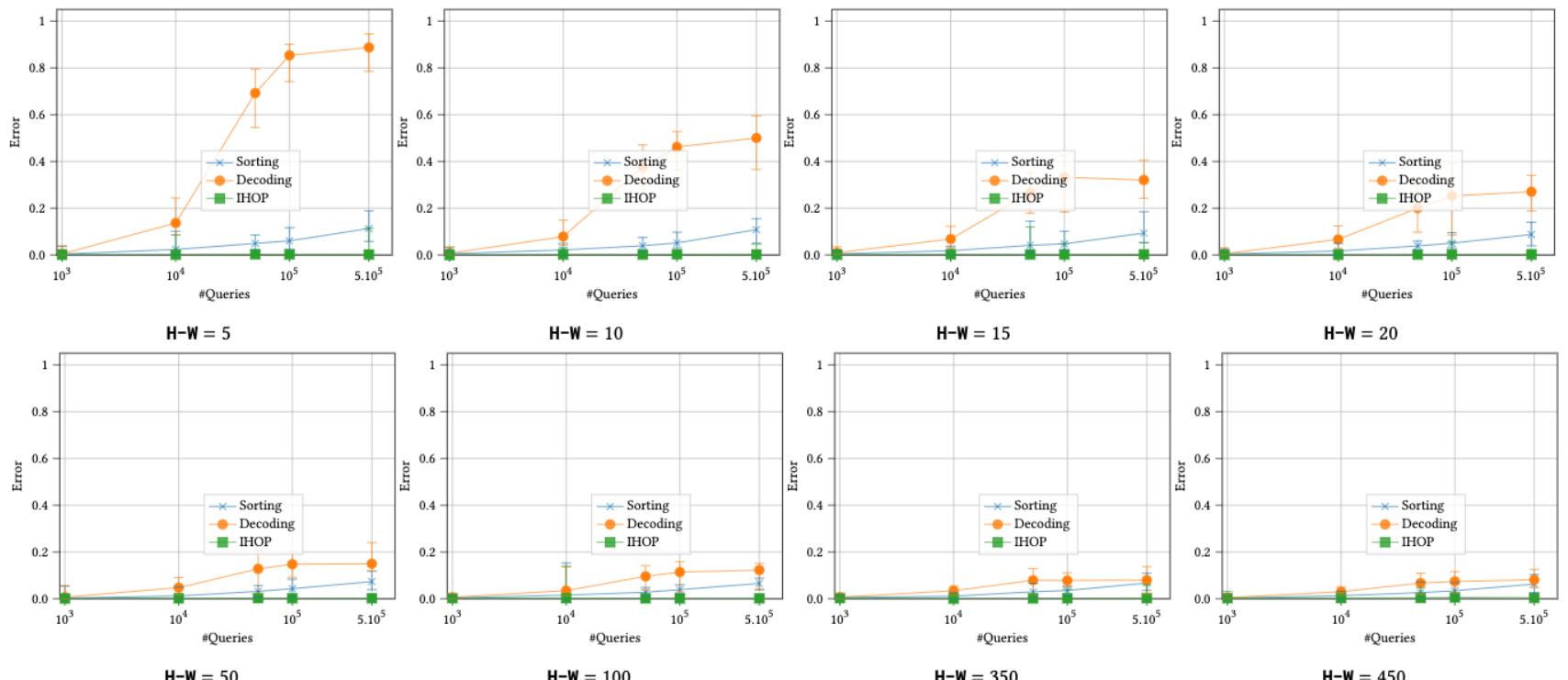
Evaluation for each of 5 users on TAIR

## Evaluation results (Art.Distributions )

Evaluation for Zipf-Zipf Artificial distribution with **fixed H-W**

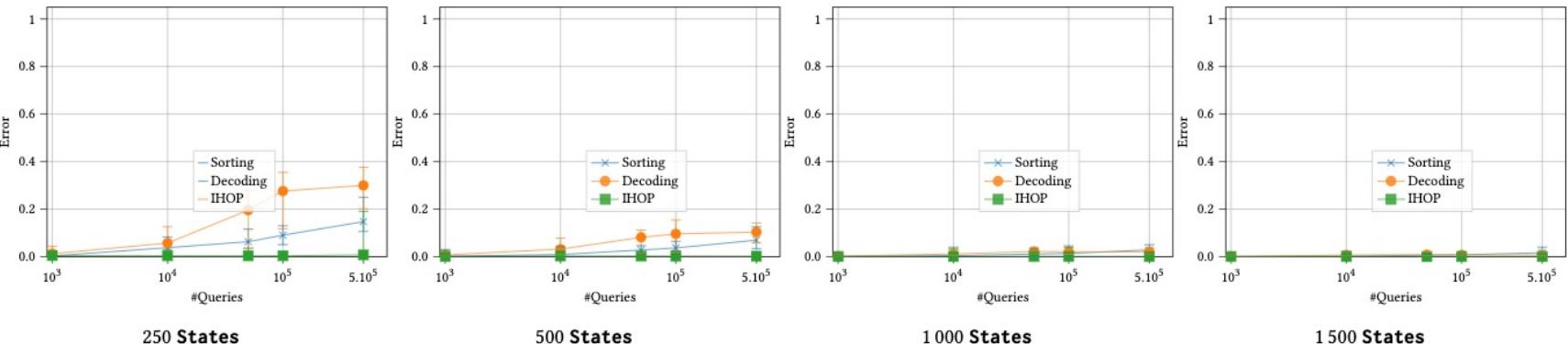


Evaluation for Zipf-Zipf Artificial distribution with **variable H-W**

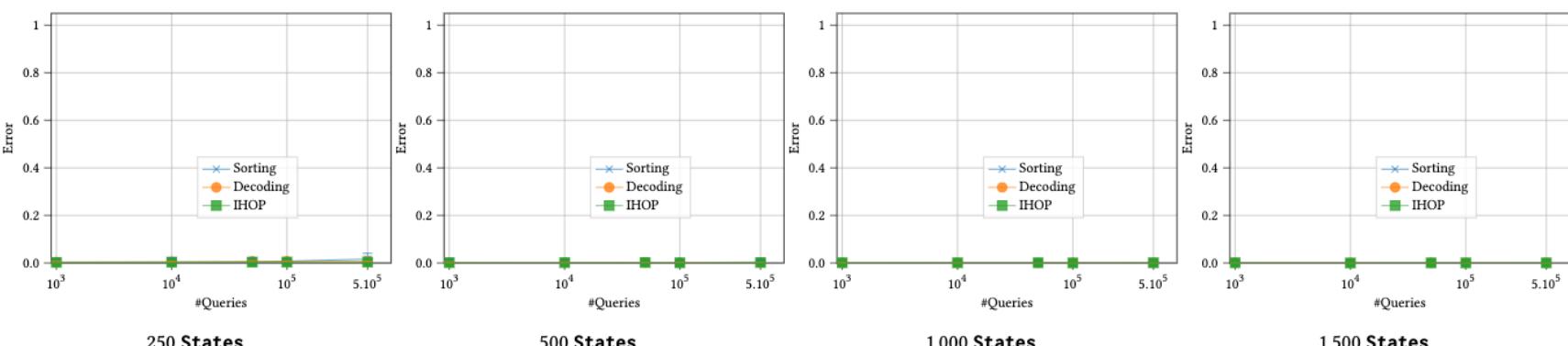


## Evaluation results (Art.Distributions )

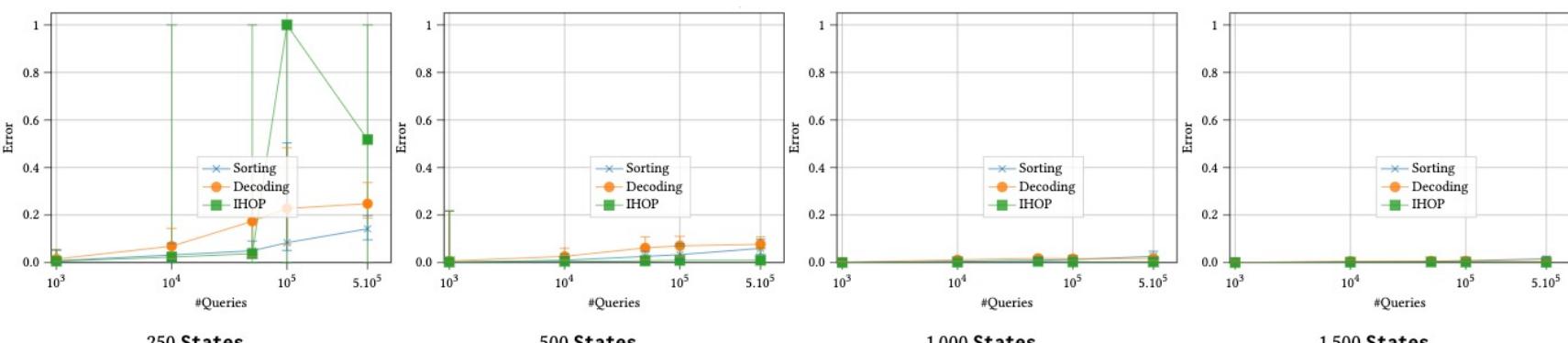
Evaluation for *Erdos* Artificial Distribution.



Evaluation for *Uniform* Artificial distribution.

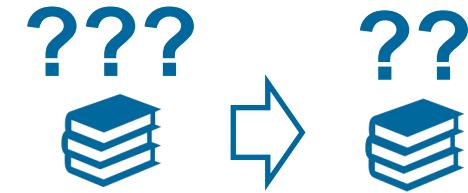


Evaluation for *Zipf* Artificial distribution.





No More  
**BORING**  
Presentations



Thank you  
for your attention

# Cryptanalysis Strikes Back

A Realistic assessment of leakage attacks on Encrypted Search

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**Abdelkarim Kati<sup>†‡</sup>**

together with T. Moataz, S. Kamara and A. Treiber.

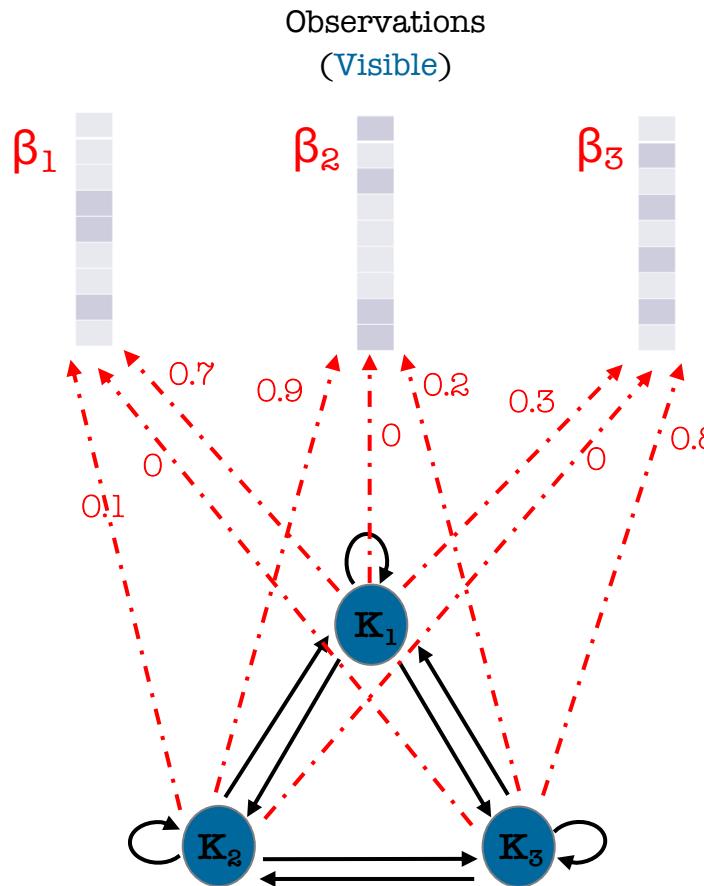
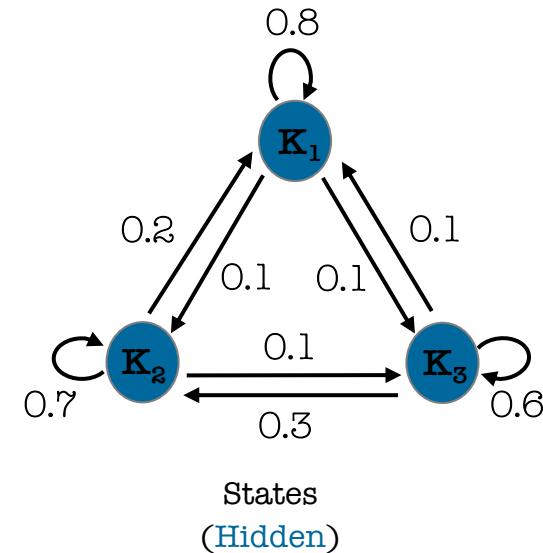
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Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

<sup>‡</sup> Encrypted Systems Lab, Brown University.

January 24, 2023 at Aarhus University.



## Viterbi Algorithm (Uncovering Problem)



	$K_1$	$K_2$	$K_3$
$K_1$	0.8	0.1	0.1
$K_2$	0.2	0.7	0.1
$K_3$	0.1	0.3	0.6

State transition probabilities

	$K_1$	$K_2$	$K_3$
	0.6	0.2	0.2

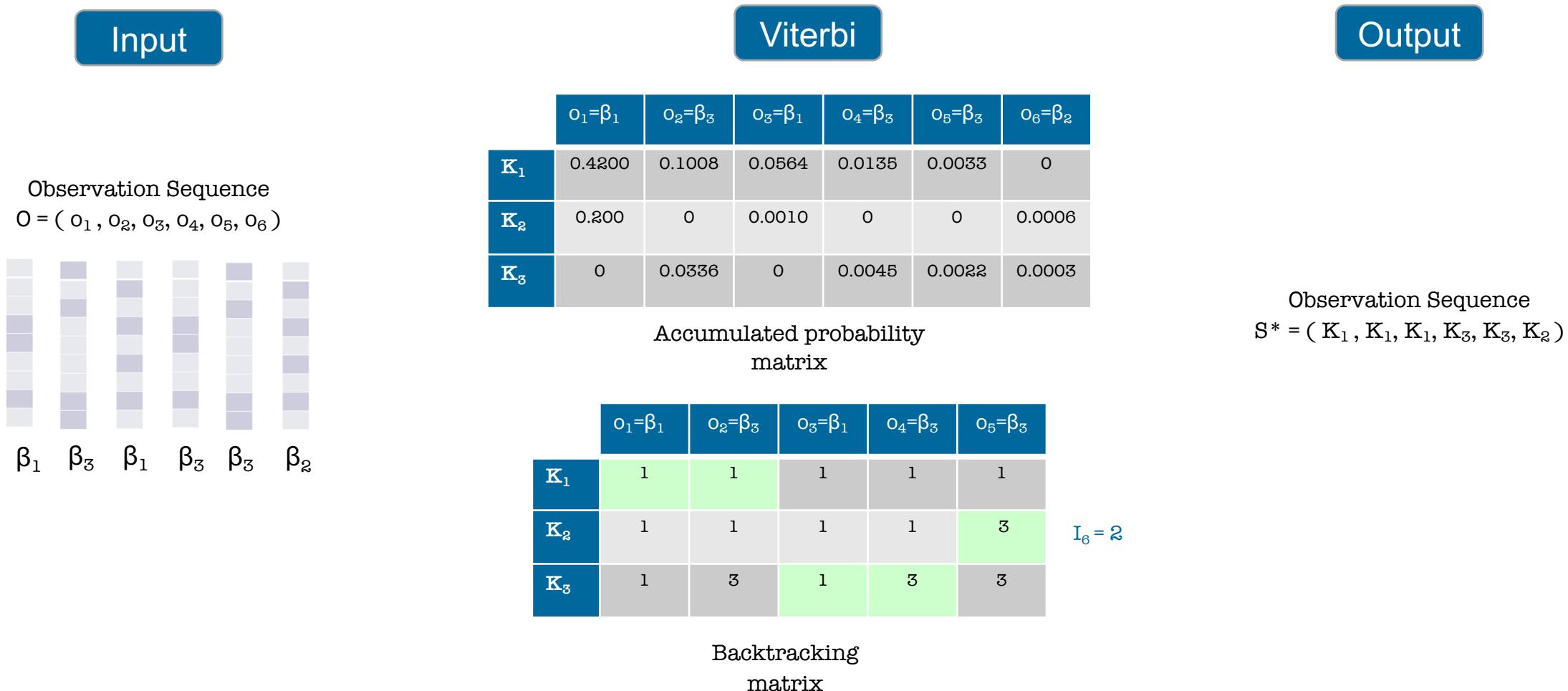
Initial state probabilities

	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$
$K_1$	0.7	0	0.3
$K_2$	0.1	0.9	0
$K_3$	0	0.2	0.8

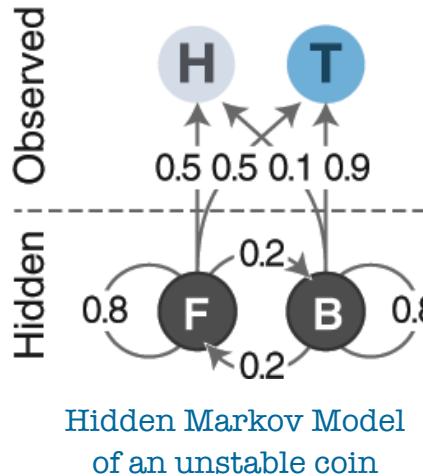
Emission probabilities

\* MAPLE: Markov Process Leakage attacks on Encrypted search ([under submission](#))

## Viterbi Algorithm (Uncovering Problem)

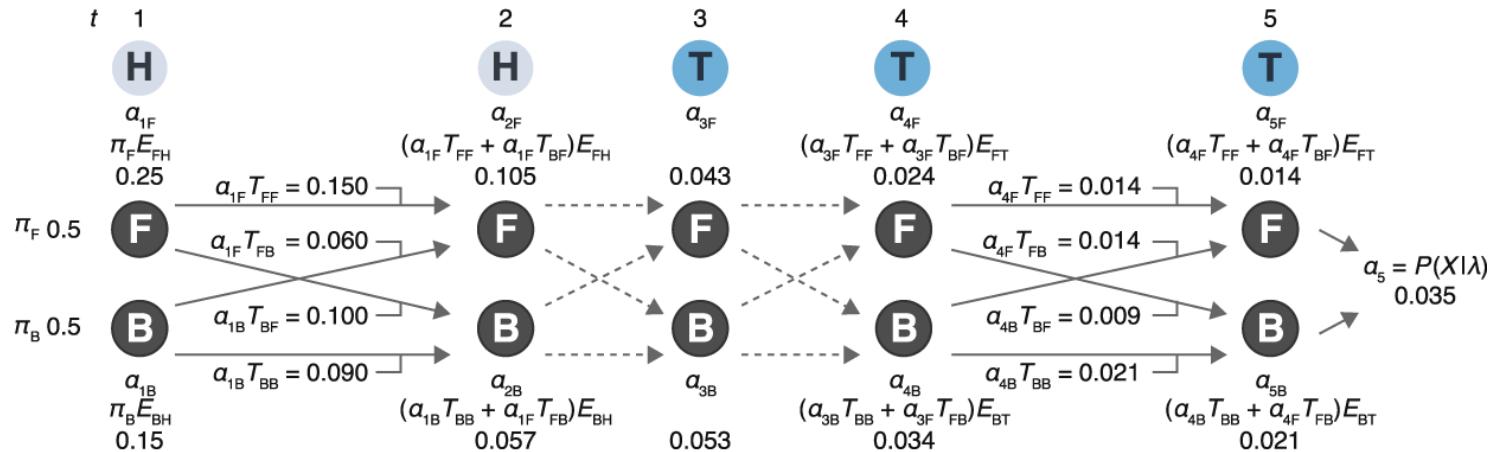


## Baum-Welch Algorithm (Estimation Problem)



Ground truth	Initial estimates
$E = \begin{bmatrix} H & T \\ F & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ B & 0.1 & 0.9 \end{bmatrix}$	$\hat{E}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} H & T \\ F & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ B & 0.3 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix}$
$T = \begin{bmatrix} F & B \\ 0.8 & 0.2 \\ B & 0.2 & 0.8 \end{bmatrix}$	$\hat{T}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} F & B \\ 0.6 & 0.4 \\ B & 0.4 & 0.6 \end{bmatrix}$
HMM true parameters And initial estimations	

Forward probability



Backward probability

