



# DNA: Differential Privacy Neural Augmentation for Contact Tracing

Learning on Graphs - Amsterdam, 26 Nov

[github.com/RobRomijnders/DNA](https://github.com/RobRomijnders/DNA)

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Review Article

## COVID-19 pandemic and mental health consequences: Systematic review of the current evidence

Nina Vindegaard, Michael Eriksen Benros  

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Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology

Volume 35, Issue 3, October 2021, Pages 293-306



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## Economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare facilities and systems: International perspectives

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# Covid-19: Cities fear 'huge' economic impact of restrictions

 29 September 2020

BBC, Sept 2020

# Covid had negative impact on children's reading - Estyn

 4 May

BBC, May 2023

# This interactive tool tracks covid-19 travel restrictions by country

Skyscanner's detailed travel map is color-coded in stoplight-style green, yellow and red

Washington Post, December 2020

# Privacy is important

“The top reasons against app use were as follows: mistrusting the government, concerns about data security and **privacy**, and doubts about efficacy.” Jones et al. 2021

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“The most cited reasons for not downloading were related to **data (...)** **concerns**” Gao et al. 2022

## Privacy is important

“The top reasons against app use were as follows: mistrusting the government, concerns about data security and **privacy**, and doubts about efficacy.” Jones et al. 2021

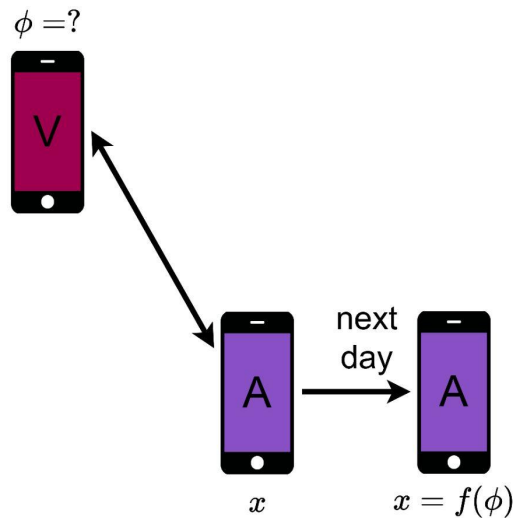
“The most cited reasons for not downloading were related to **data (...)** **concerns**” Gao et al. 2022

“The main reasons for not downloading and using the app were (...) **worries about privacy**” Walrave et al. 2022

# Attack Scenario on contact tracing apps

Privacy with respect to  
released risk score

V is victim, A is attacker

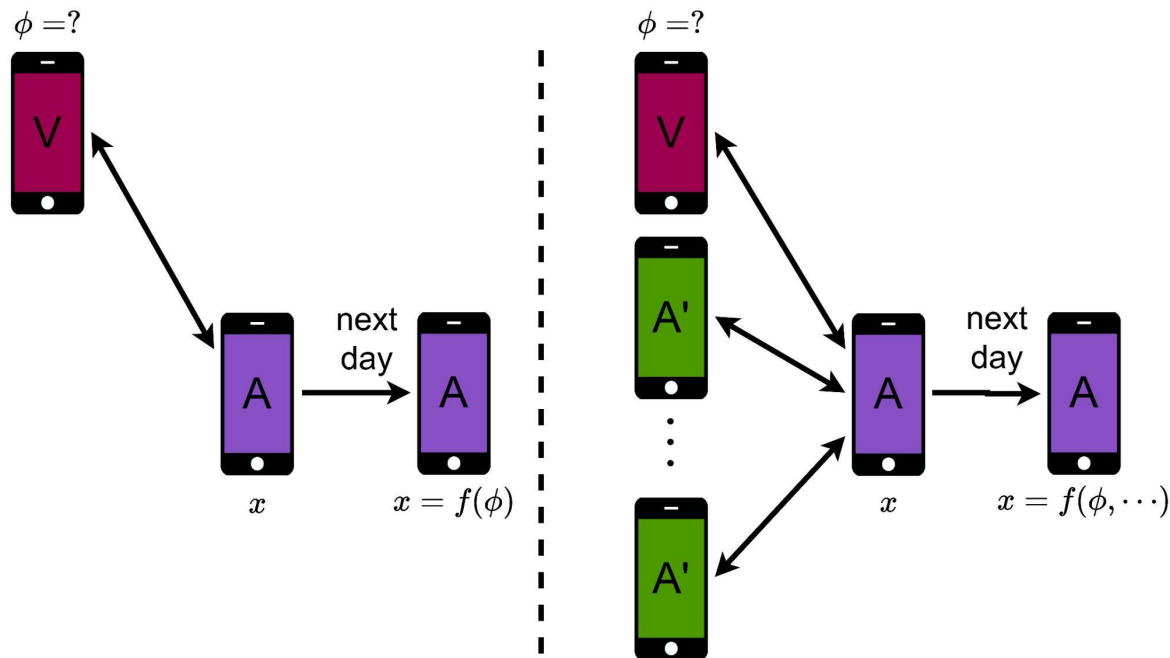


# Attack Scenario

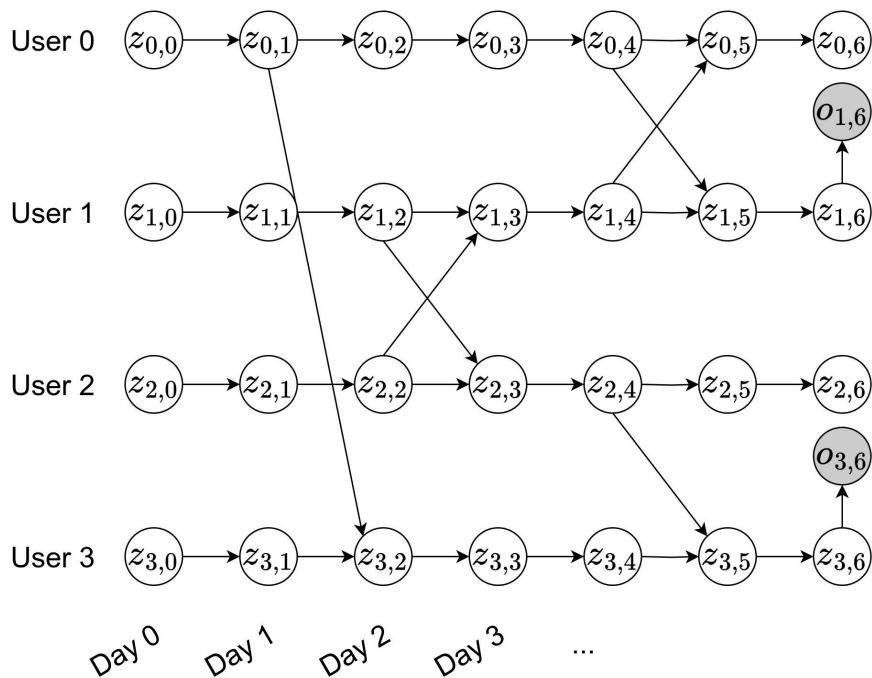
Privacy with respect to  
released covidscore

V is victim, A is attacker

Green phones, A' are  
co-attackers



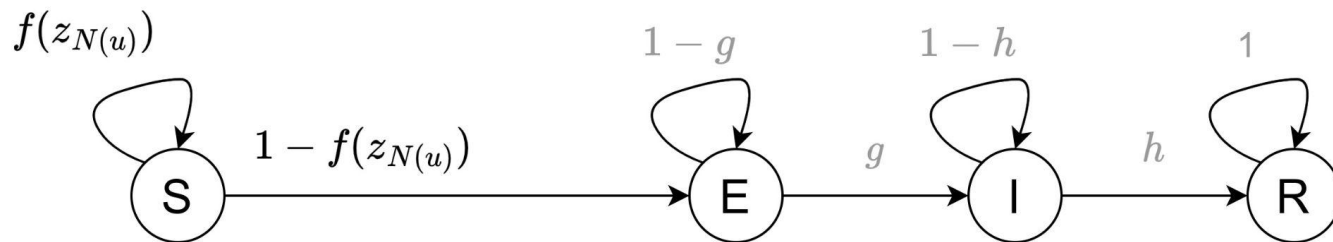
## Example of graphical model of 4 users in 6 days





# Statistical model for contact tracing

Susceptible - Exposed - Infected - Recovered



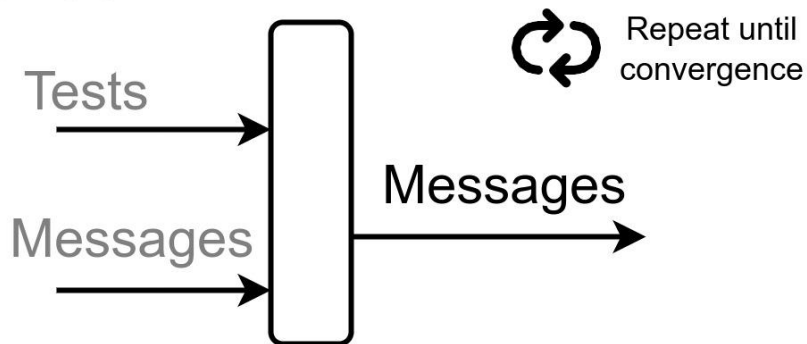
$$f(z_{N(u)}) = (1 - p_0)(1 - p_1)^{|\{z \in z_{N(u)} : z=I\}|}$$

## Modular view

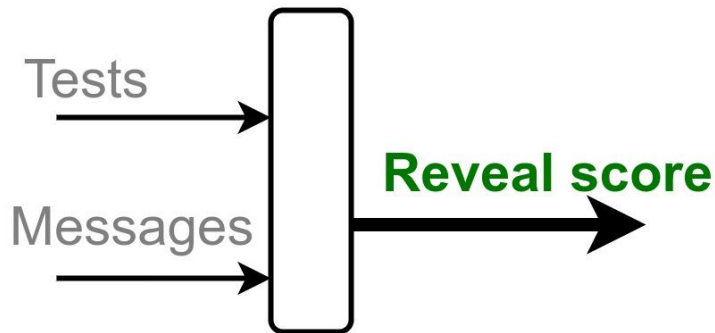
Do approximate inference by  
either Belief Propagation or  
Factorized Neighbors

$$\begin{aligned} b_u(z_u) &= \sum_{z_{N(u)}} P(z_u | z_{N(u)}, \mathcal{O}) B_{N(u)}(z_{N(u)}) \\ &= E_{B_{N(u)}(z_{N(u)})} [P(z_u | z_{N(u)}, \mathcal{O})]. \end{aligned}$$

## Inference



## Predict



# Practical use of Differential Privacy

- Emoji suggestions at **Apple**
- QuickType suggestions at **Apple**
- **US Census** releases data under DP
- Executive order US gov. mentions Differential Privacy multiple times
- **Governments** releasing birth rate data
- **Facebook** releases mobility data of users during covid pandemic
- **Google GBoard** language next word prediction
- **LinkedIn** user analytics
- Telemetry on **Windows**

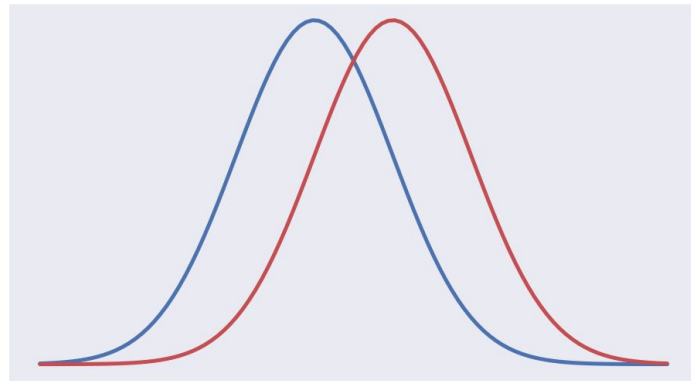
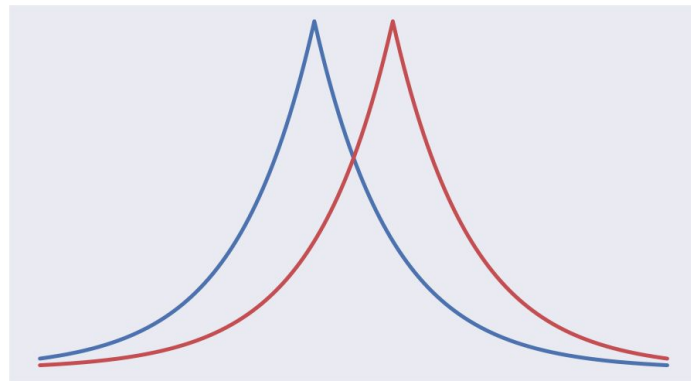
# Differential privacy

Definition of  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$  differential privacy (Dwork and Roth 2014):  
for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\delta \in [0, 1)$ , a mechanism  $f(\cdot)$ , for any outcome  $\Phi$  in the range of  $f(\cdot)$ , and any two adjacent data sets  $D, D'$  that differ in at most one element, satisfies the constraint:

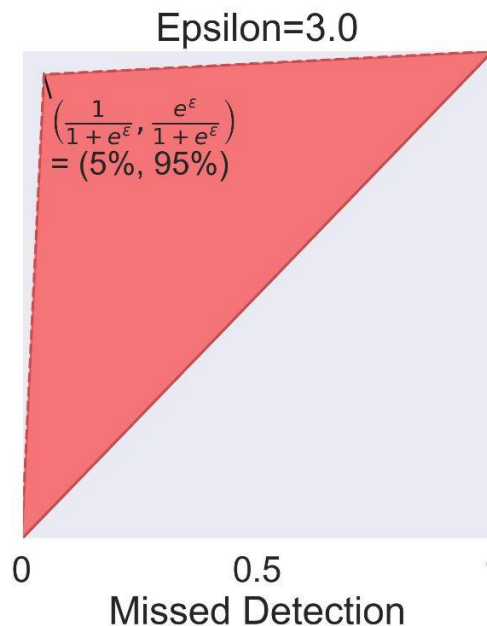
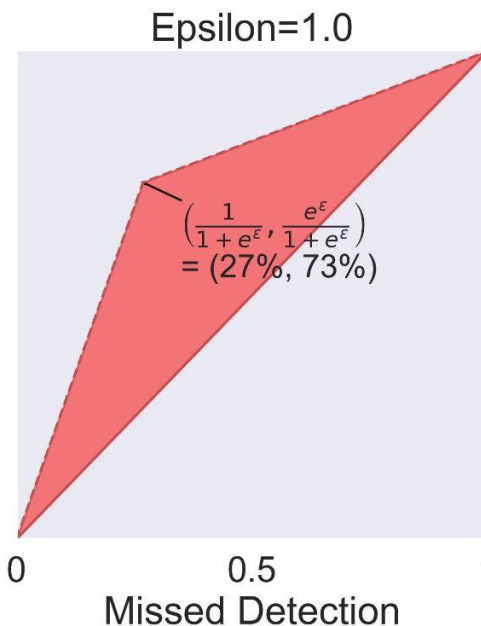
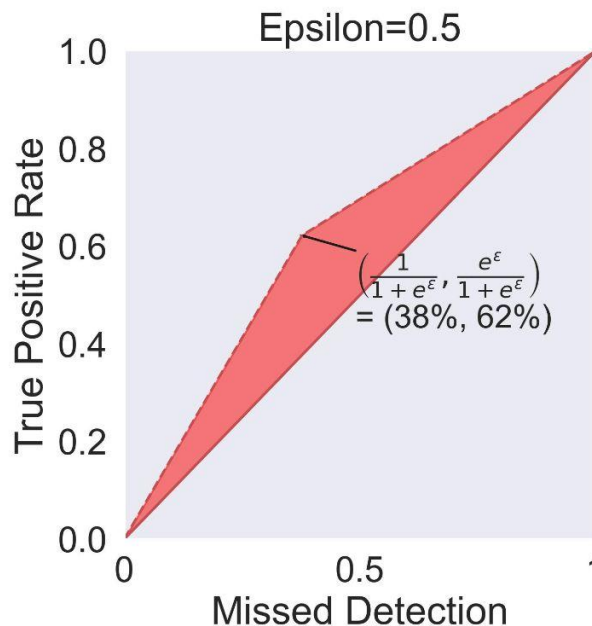
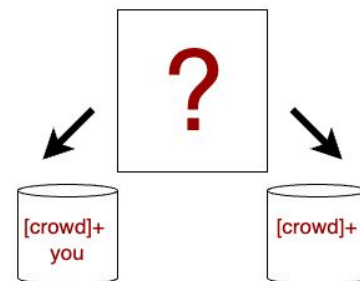
$$p(f(D) \in \Phi) \leq e^\varepsilon p(f(D') \in \Phi) + \delta$$

Gaussian Mechanism:

$$\sigma > \frac{\Delta}{\varepsilon} \left( 2 \log \left( \frac{1.25}{\delta} \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



# What does DP mean?



# Privacy bound, definition of adjacent datasets

Dataset:

$$D = \{(\mu_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^C$$

Sensitivity:

$$\Delta = \max_{\mu_1, \mu'_1 \in [0, \gamma_u]} |F((\mu_1, t_1) \cup D) - F((\mu'_1, t_1) \cup D)| \leq p_1 \gamma_u \quad \forall D.$$

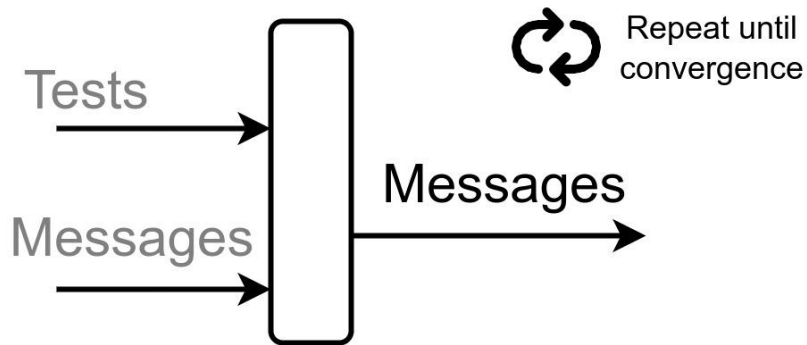
$p_1$  around 0.05, and gamma around 0.7

# Neural Augmentation

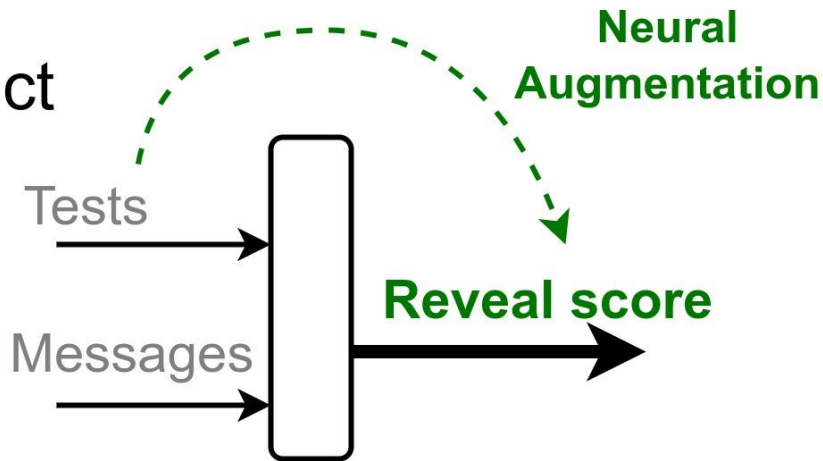
Neural augmentation known from:

- MRI reconstruction  
(Lønning et al. Medical image analysis, 2019)
- Enhanced belief propagation  
(Satorras et al., AISTATS 2021)
- Fast sparse coding  
(Gregor et al. ICML 2010)

## Inference



## Predict



# Lipschitz-bounded Neural Network

$$\phi = G_{\theta}(\{(\mu_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{C_T}) = g_{\theta}^{(2)}\left(\frac{1}{C} \sum_i g_{\theta}^{(1)}([\mu_i, t_i]^T)\right)$$

During training: estimate Lipschitz constant with power iterations  $O(p^2)$

During testing: calculate Spectral norm exactly once  $O(p^3)$



# Make Lipschitz function DP with Gaussian noise

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**Algorithm 1** DNA: Differentially private Neural Augmentation

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**Require:** Dataset  $D = \{(\mu_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{C_T}$ , constants  $p_1, \gamma_u \in (0, 1)$ ;

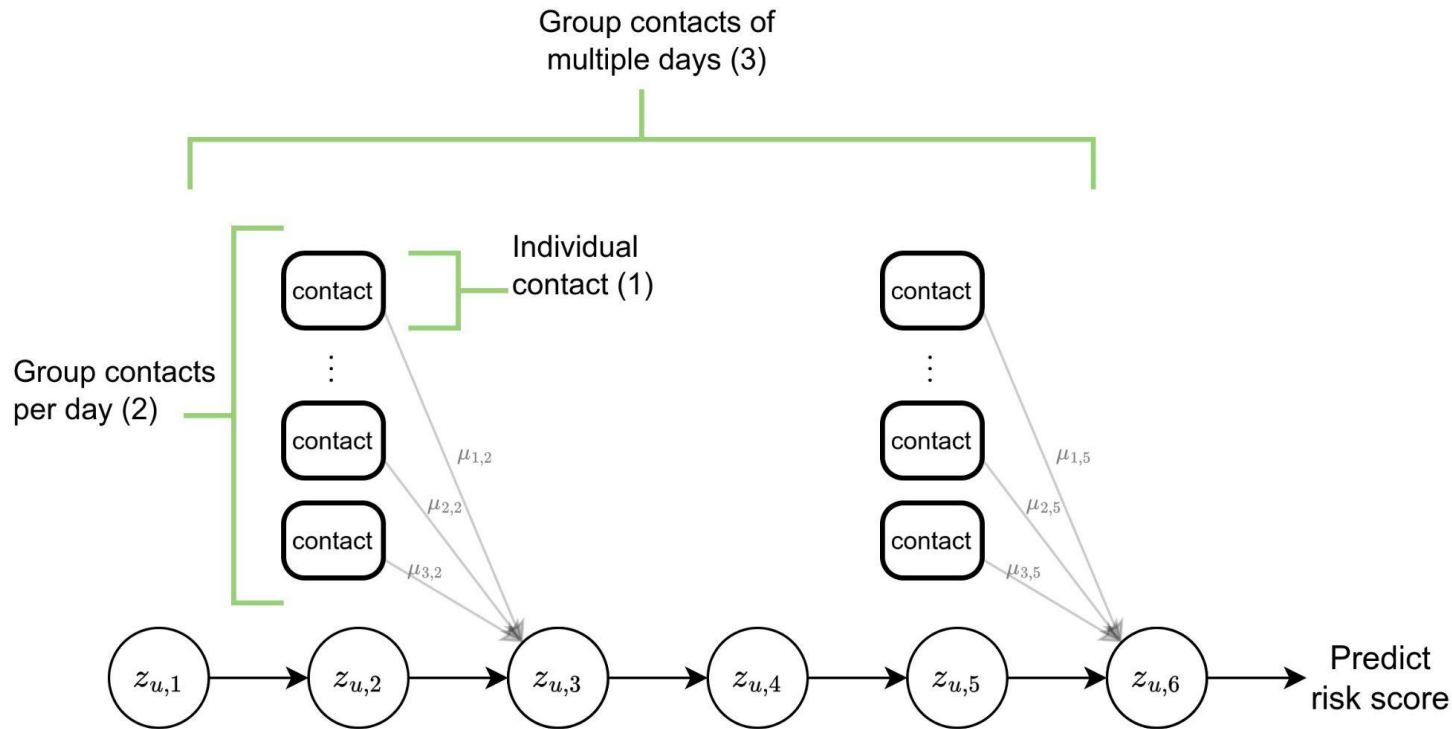
$$\mu_i \leftarrow \min(\mu_i, \gamma_u)$$

$$\bar{\phi} \leftarrow F(\{(\mu_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{C_T}) + p_1 \times G_{\theta}(\{(\mu_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{C_T})$$

$$\phi \leftarrow \bar{\phi} + \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{2}{\varepsilon^2}(\gamma_u p_1(1 + \frac{1}{C_T}))^2 \log(\frac{5}{4\delta}))$$

---

# Privacy hierarchy



# Different algorithms to compare on simulator

- Traditional contact tracing (Baker et al. 2021)
- Per-message, level 1 (Romijnders et al. 2023)
- Per-day, DPFN, level 2 (Romijnders et al. 2024)
- Per-window, DPFN-S, level 3 (Ours)
- Per-window, DNA, level 3+ (Ours)

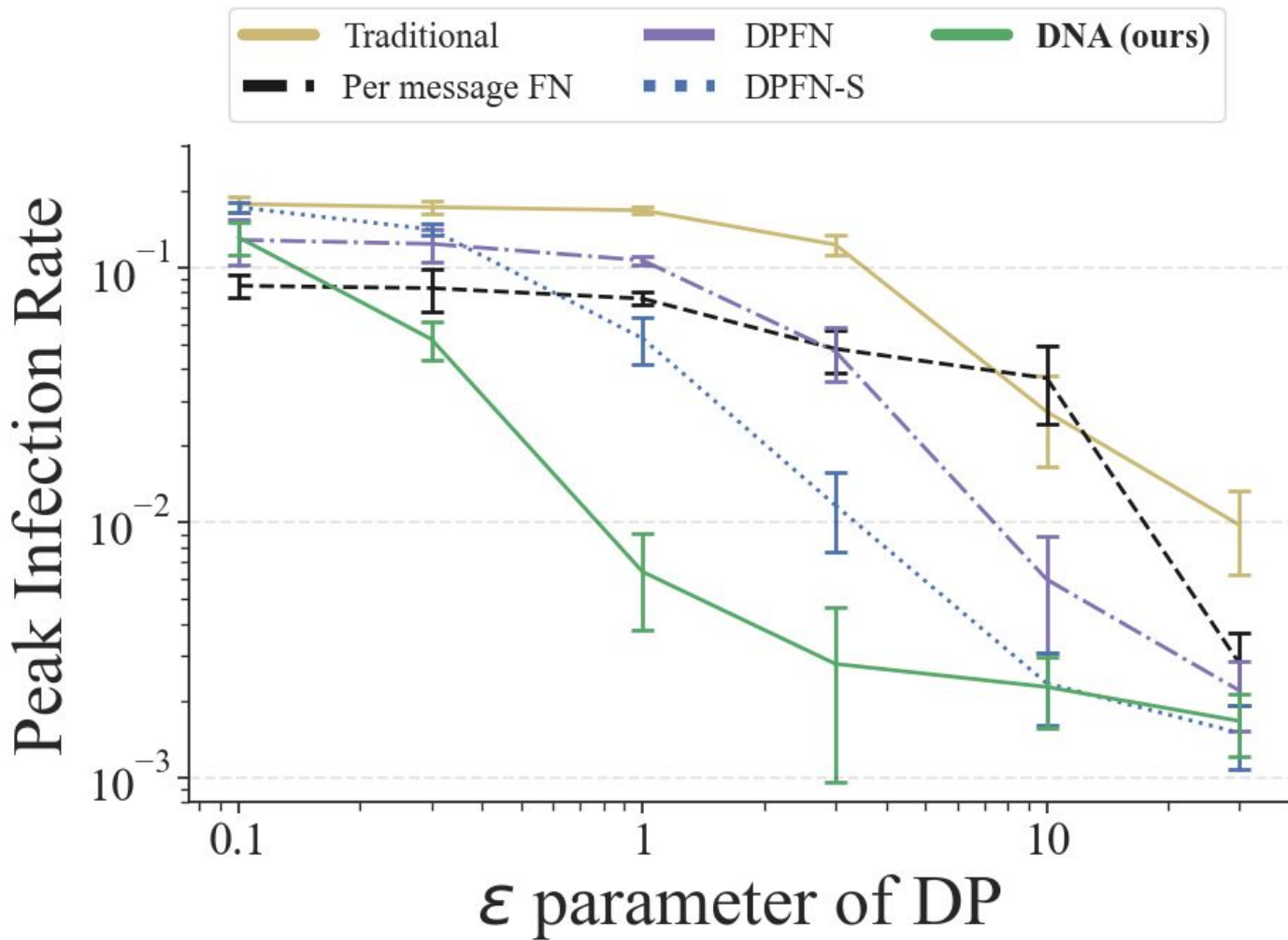
# Simulator for experiments

Need simulator as better predictions interact with agents

OpenABM (Hinch et al. 2021)

- Stratifying for
  - 9 age categories
  - 3 occupations
  - 6 household types
- In total 150 parameters calibrated against a typical city in the UK

# Experimental results



## DNA has better utility under various noise scenarios

Even when up to 50% of the agents don't follow the protocol, or when the tests become more noisy, the DNA method **achieves lower infection rate**, compared to the same method without neural augmentation

Units are number of infections per thousand agents,  $\pm$  standard deviation

FPR/FNR = False Positive/Negative Rate

|                        | DPFN-S (‰)      | DNA (‰)        |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <i>Follow protocol</i> |                 |                |
| 100%                   | $52.7 \pm 10.9$ | $6.4 \pm 2.6$  |
| 80%                    | $60.4 \pm 9.6$  | $6.4 \pm 2.2$  |
| 50%                    | $100.1 \pm 4.4$ | $27.2 \pm 8.6$ |
| <i>Noisy tests</i>     |                 |                |
| FPR 1%, FNR .1%        | $52.7 \pm 10.9$ | $6.4 \pm 2.6$  |
| FPR 10%, FNR 1%        | $81.3 \pm 2.6$  | $19.5 \pm 2.5$ |
| FPR 25%, FNR 3%        | $130.4 \pm 1.5$ | $81.3 \pm 1.8$ |

## Conclusion

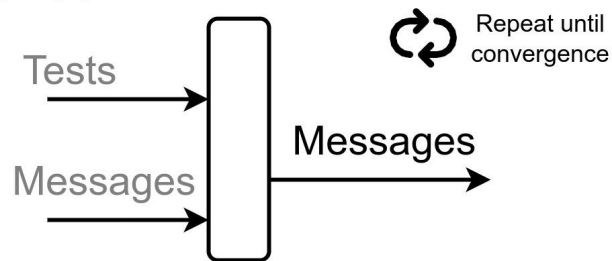
- Novel view of Lipschitz Neural Augmentation as providing Differential Privacy w.r.t. input
- Neural augmentation increases sensitivity, but compares favourably with better predictions
- Future work:
  - Decentralized reinforcement learning, partial adoption

## DNA: DP Neural Augmentation for Contact Tracing

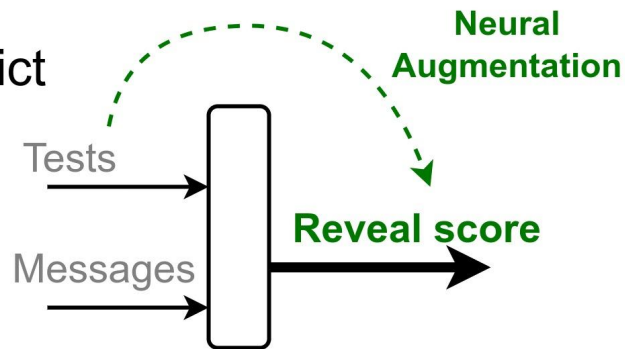
# Questions

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github.com/robromijnders/dna

### Inference



### Predict





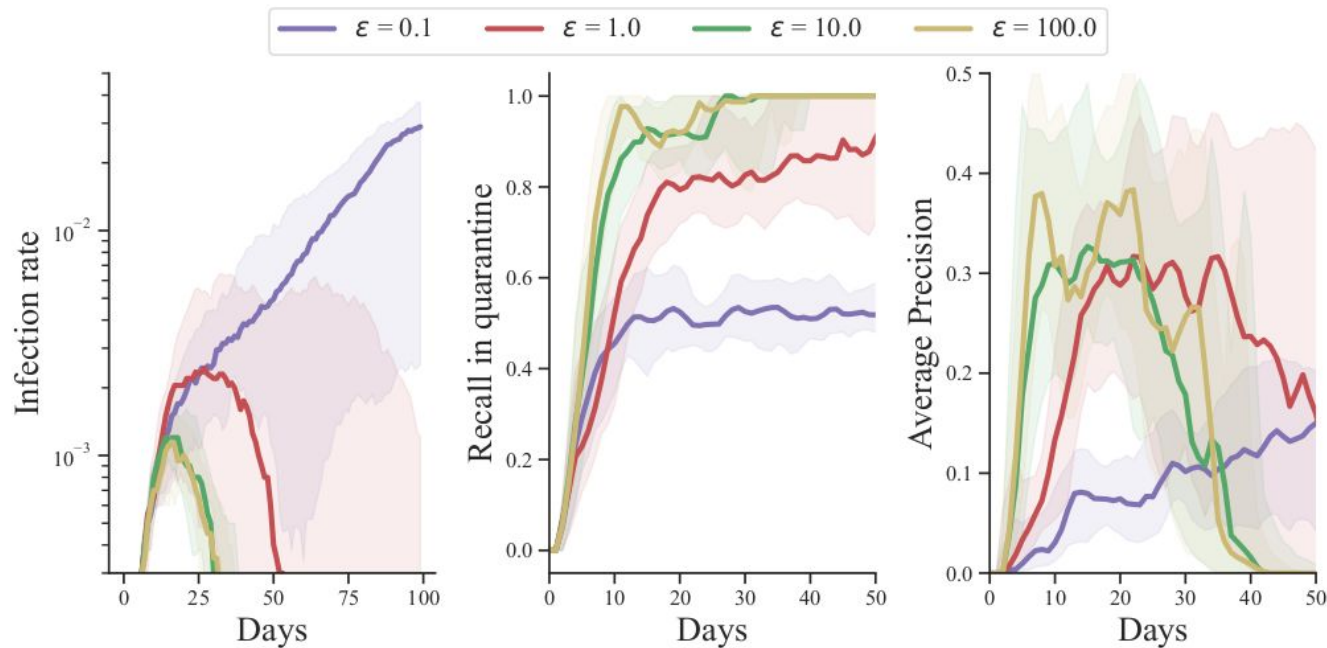


Figure 4: Recall and average precision during a simulation on OpenABM. The shaded regions indicate the 20-80 quantiles of twenty random restarts. The curve  $\epsilon = 1$  achieves a low peak infection rate, which is reflected by a high recall and high average precision in the crucial first month of the epidemic simulation, compared to  $\epsilon = 0.1$ . The recall and average precision diagrams only plot 50 days of simulation, which is the crucial phase for a pandemic (Perra 2021).

# Practical use of Differential Privacy

- Emoji suggestions at **Apple** (eps=4.)
- QuickType suggestions at **Apple** (eps=8.)
- **US Census** releases data under DP (eps=12.2 per person)
- Executive order US gov. mentions Differential Privacy multiple times
- **Governments** releasing birth rate data (eps=9.98)
- **Facebook** releases mobility data of users during covid pandemic (eps=2.)
- **Google GBoard** language next word prediction (eps=8.9, device level)
- **LinkedIn** user analytics (eps=1.0, record level)
- Telemetry on **Windows** (every six hours, eps=1.0)

# Inference

Gibbs sampling

$$p(z_u | \hat{z}_{\neg u}, \mathcal{O}).$$

Belief Propagation

$$\mu_{f_s \rightarrow z_{u,t}}(z_{u,t}) = \sum_{z_s} f_s(z_s, z_{u,t}) \prod_{k \in \text{Nb}(f_s) \setminus z_{u,t}} \mu_{z_k \rightarrow f_s}$$

$$\mu_{z_{u,t} \rightarrow f_s}(z_{u,t}) = \prod_{k \in \text{Nb}(z_{u,t}) \setminus f_s} \mu_{f_k \rightarrow z_{u,t}}$$

# Belief propagation finds lagrange multipliers of ELBO

*Claim 1:* Let  $\{m_{ij}\}$  be a set of BP messages and let  $\{b_{ij}, b_i\}$  be the beliefs calculated from those messages. Then the beliefs are fixed-points of the BP algorithm if and only if they are zero gradient points of the Bethe free energy,  $F_\beta$ :

$$F_\beta(\{b_{ij}, b_i\}) = \sum_{ij} \sum_{x_i, x_j} b_{ij}(x_i, x_j) [\ln b_{ij}(x_i, x_j) - \ln \phi_{ij}(x_i, x_j)] \\ - \sum_i (q_i - 1) \sum_{x_i} b_i(x_i) [\ln b_i(x_i) - \ln \psi_i(x_i)] \quad (4)$$

subject to the normalization and marginalization constraints:  $\sum_{x_i} b_i(x_i) = 1$ ,  $\sum_{x_i} b_{ij}(x_i, x_j) = b_j(x_j)$ . ( $q_i$  is the number of neighbors of node  $i$ .)

## PGM book, Koller & Friedman

nonnegative, and thus we do not need to enforce these constraints actively. We therefore obtain the following Lagrangian:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{J} = & \tilde{F}[\tilde{P}_\Phi, \mathbf{Q}] \\ & - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}_T} \lambda_i \left( \sum_{\mathbf{c}_i} \beta_i(\mathbf{c}_i) - 1 \right) \\ & - \sum_i \sum_{j \in \text{Nb}_i} \sum_{\mathbf{s}_{i,j}} \lambda_{j \rightarrow i}[\mathbf{s}_{i,j}] \left( \sum_{\mathbf{c}_i \sim \mathbf{s}_{i,j}} \beta_i(\mathbf{c}_i) - \mu_{i,j}[\mathbf{s}_{i,j}] \right),\end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{Nb}_i$  is the neighbors of  $\mathbf{C}_i$  in the clique tree. We introduce Lagrange multipliers  $\lambda_i$  for each beliefs factor  $\beta_i$  to ensure that it sums to 1. We also introduce, for each pair of neighboring cliques  $i$  and  $j$  and assignment to their sepset  $\mathbf{s}_{i,j}$ , a Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda_{j \rightarrow i}[\mathbf{s}_{i,j}]$  to ensure

# PGM, Koller & Fridman

**Definition 11.1**

factored energy  
functional

---

*Given a cluster tree  $\mathcal{T}$  with a set of beliefs  $\mathbf{Q}$  and an assignment  $\alpha$  that maps factors in  $P_\Phi$  to clusters in  $\mathcal{T}$ , we define the factored energy functional:*

$$\tilde{F}[\tilde{P}_\Phi, \mathbf{Q}] = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}_\mathcal{T}} \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{C}_i \sim \beta_i} [\ln \psi_i] + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}_\mathcal{T}} H_{\beta_i}(\mathbf{C}_i) - \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_\mathcal{T}} H_{\mu_{i,j}}(\mathbf{S}_{i,j}), \quad (11.6)$$

# Factorised neighbours

$$\begin{aligned} b_u(z_u) &= \sum_{z_{N(u)}} P(z_u | z_{N(u)}, \mathcal{O}) B_{N(u)}(z_{N(u)}) \\ &= E_{B_{N(u)}(z_{N(u)})} [P(z_u | z_{N(u)}, \mathcal{O})]. \end{aligned}$$

# Factorised neighbours

We obtain an approximation that we refer to as the *factorized neighbors* (FN) algorithm by defining the neighborhood distribution as the factorized expression  $B_{N(i)}(x_{N(i)}) = \prod_{j \in N(i)} b_j(x_j)$ .

Given this definition, the reduced DLR equations are satisfied when:

$$b_i(x_i) = \sum_{x_{N(i)}} P(x_i | x_{N(i)}) B(x_{N(i)}) , \quad (4)$$

where here and elsewhere in the paper we drop the subscript on the  $B$  variables to avoid cluttering the notation. The corresponding iterative update takes the form:

$$\begin{aligned} b_i^{t+1}(x_i) &= \sum_{x_{N(i)}} P(x_i | x_{N(i)}) B^t(x_{N(i)}) \\ &= \sum_{x_{N(i)}} P(x_i | x_{N(i)}) \prod_{j \in N(i)} b_j^t(x_j) . \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

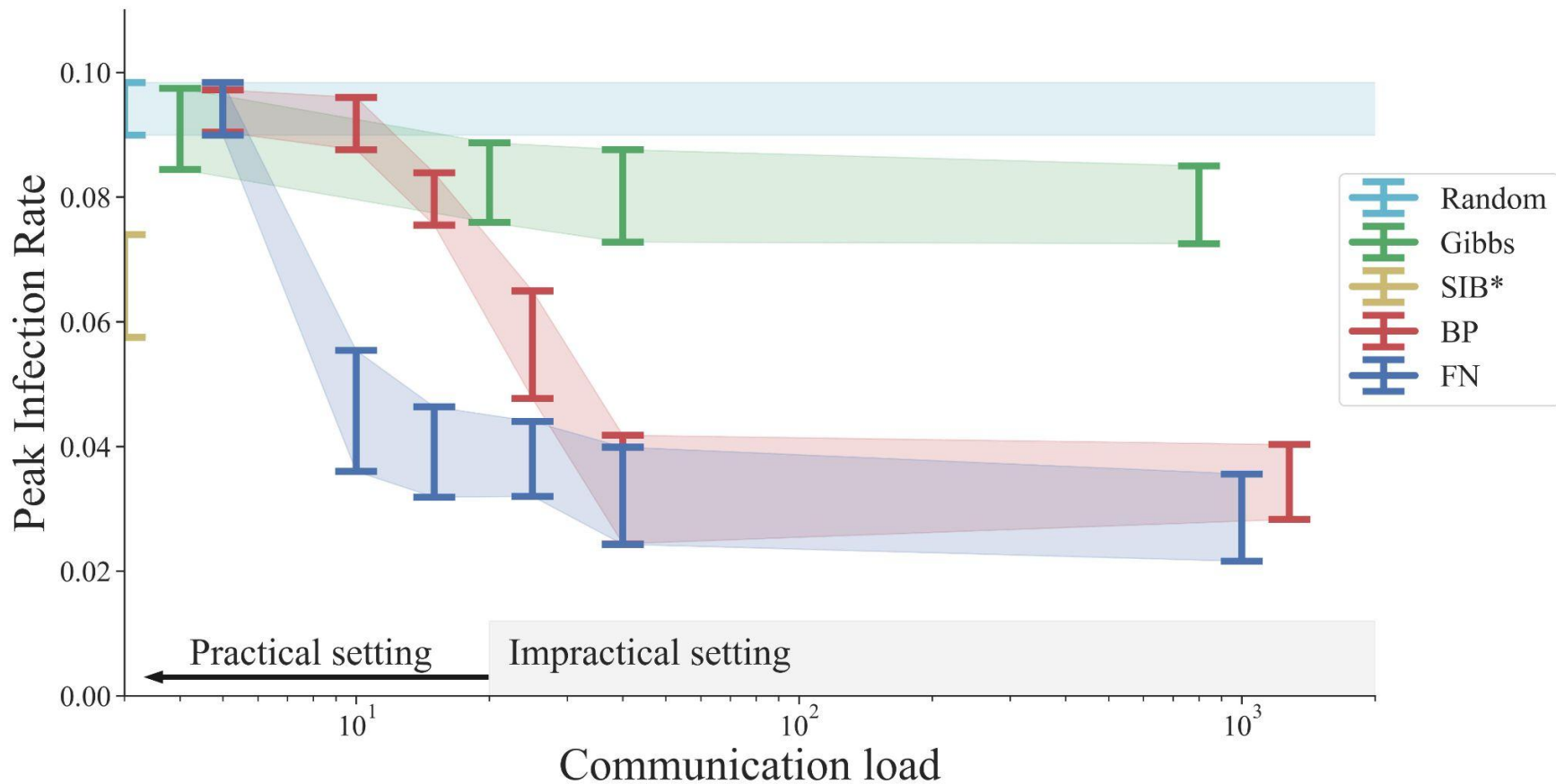
It is clear that fixed points of the update rules (5) are solutions of the reduced DLR equations (4).

Equation (4) has appeared previously in the physics literature as the basis for the so-called “hard spin” mean field equations (see references in Pretti and Pelizzola (2003)).



# Factorised neighbours

$$\begin{aligned}
 & E_{B_{N(u)}(z_{N(u)})} \left[ \right. \\
 & \quad \left. p(z_{v,\tau+1} = S | z_{v,\tau} = S, \{z_{v_c,\tau}\}_{c=0}^{C-1}) \right] \\
 &= E_{B_{N(u)}(z_{N(u)})} \left[ (1 - p_0) \prod_{c=0}^{C-1} (1 - p_1)^{\mathbf{1}[z_{v_c,\tau}]} \right] \\
 &= (1 - p_0) \prod_{c=0}^{C-1} E_{b_c(z_{v_c,\tau})} \left[ (1 - p_1)^{\mathbf{1}[z_{v_c,\tau}]} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$



# Multiple seeds

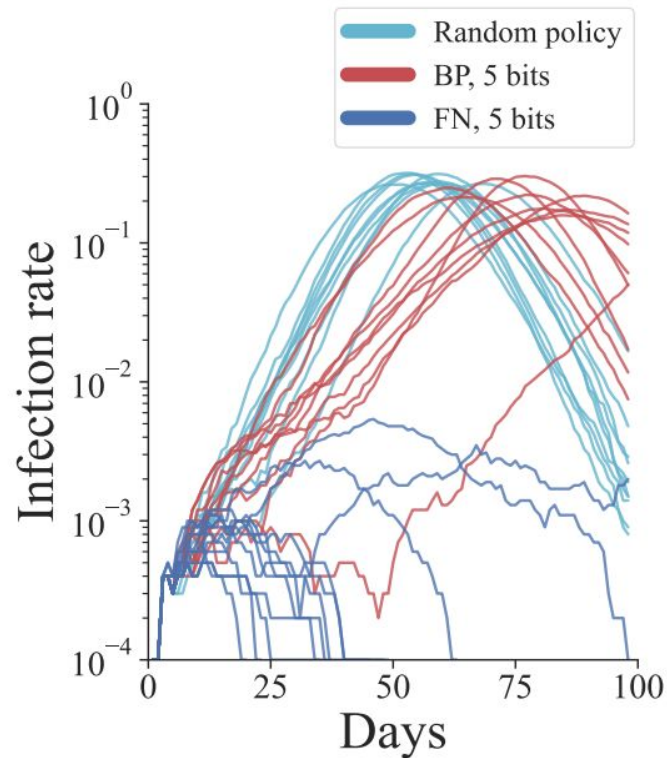


Figure 14: Repeating the experiments on the Open-ABM simulator with 10 random seeds each.