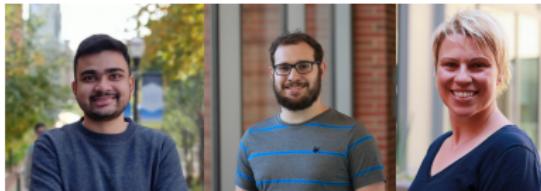


# Communication-Efficient LDPC Code Design for Data Availability Oracle in Side Blockchains

Debarnab Mitra, Lev Tauz, and Lara Dolecek

Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of California, Los Angeles

ITW 2021

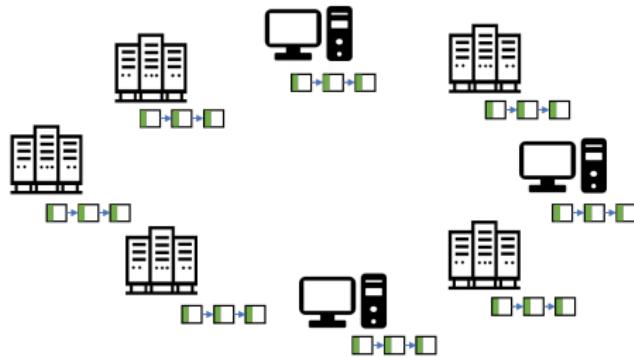


# Blockchain

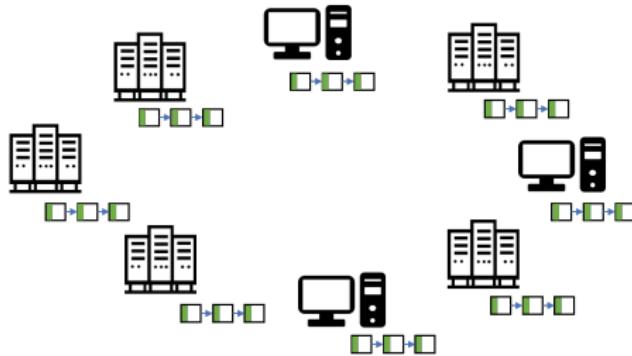


- ▶ Distributed Ledger
- ▶ Decentralized trust platforms
- ▶ Application:
  - Finance and currency
  - Healthcare services
  - Supply chain management
  - Industrial IoT
  - e-voting

# Central Problem: Poor Throughput and Latency

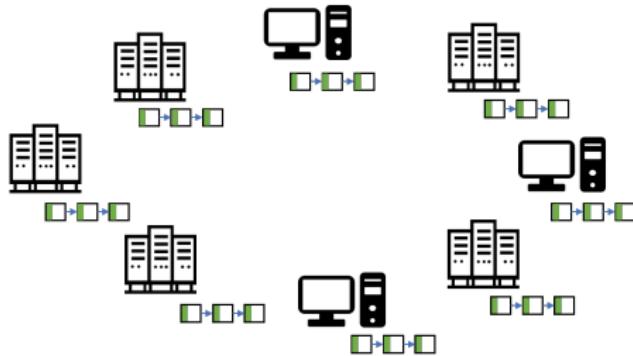


# Central Problem: Poor Throughput and Latency



- ▶ Ledger of transaction blocks maintained by a network of nodes

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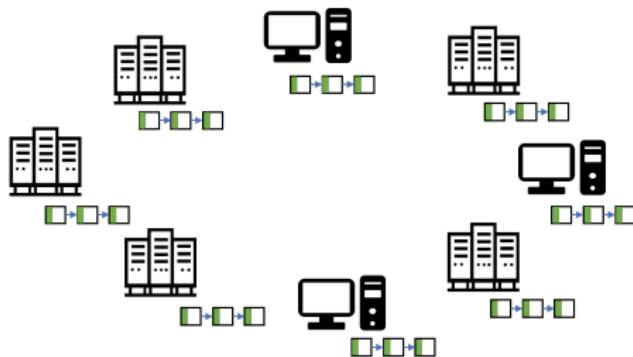


- ▶ Ledger of transaction blocks maintained by a network of nodes

## Metrics:

- ▶ Transaction throughout: number of transactions processed in the system per second

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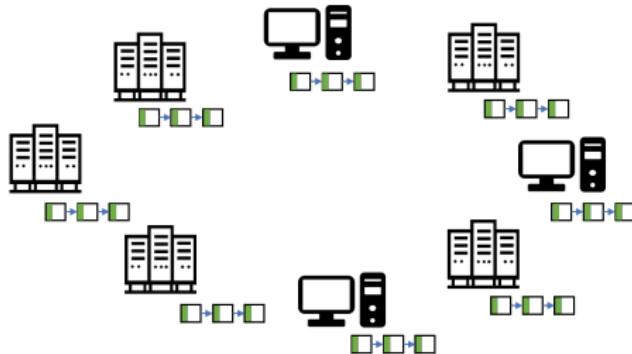


- ▶ Ledger of transaction blocks maintained by a network of nodes

## Metrics:

- ▶ Transaction throughput: number of transactions processed in the system per second
- ▶ Confirmation latency: amount of time required for a transaction to be confirmed and deemed trustworthy

# Central Problem: Poor Throughput and Latency

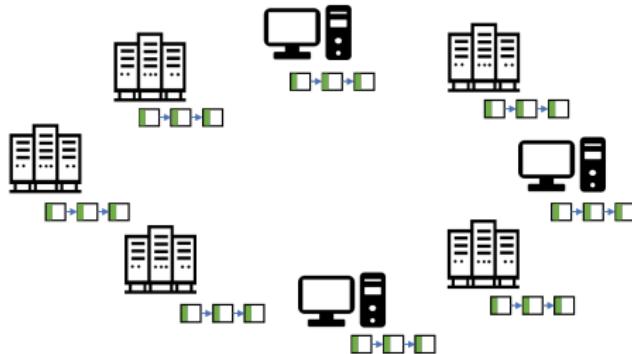


- ▶ Ledger of transaction blocks maintained by a network of nodes

	Transaction throughput	Confirmation Latency
Bitcoin		
Ethereum		

[Li '20]

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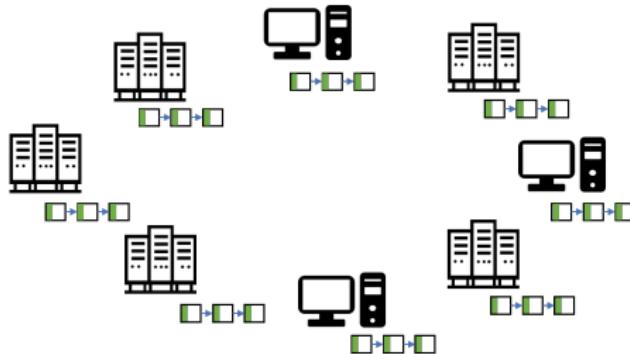


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Bitcoin	5-7 transactions/s	
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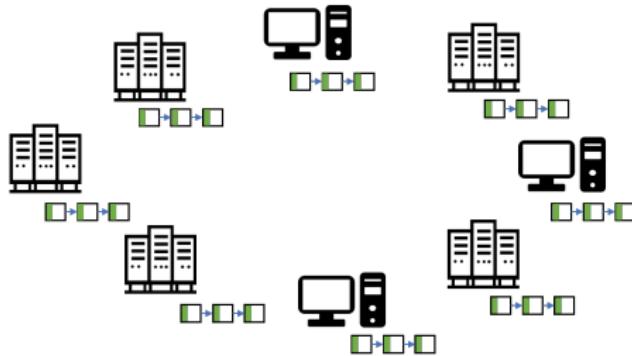


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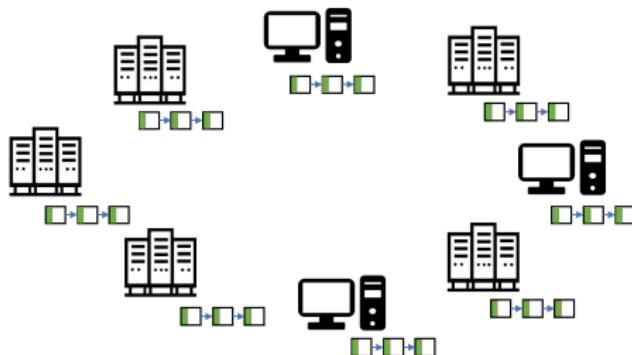


- ▶ Ledger of transaction blocks maintained by a network of nodes

	Transaction throughput	Confirmation Latency
Bitcoin	5-7 transactions/s	hours
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[Li '20]

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► Ledger of transaction blocks maintained by a network of nodes

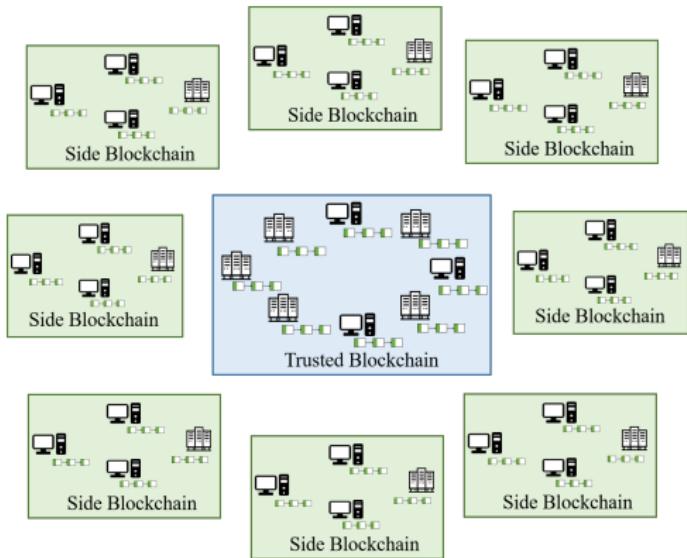
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[Li '20]

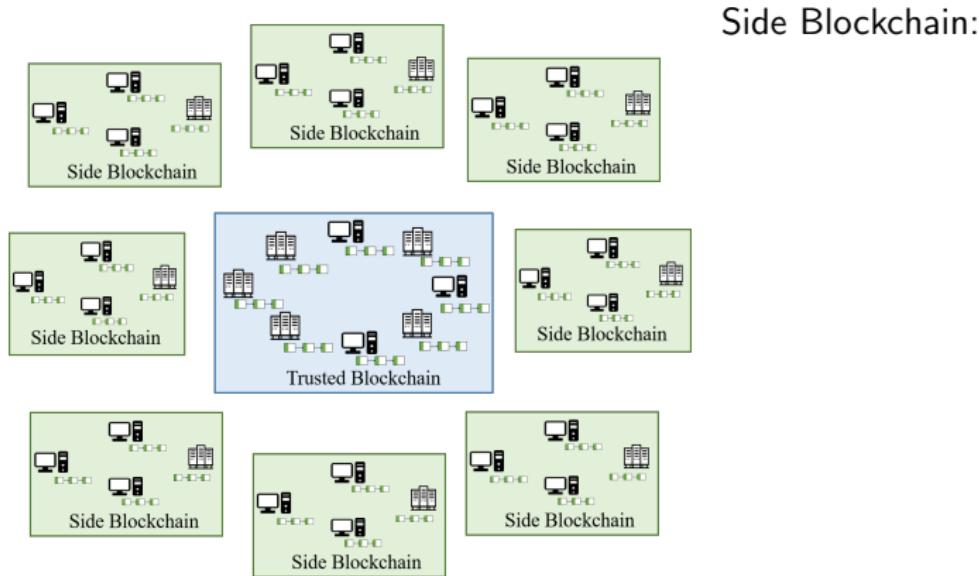
Contrast: Visa processes more than 10,000 transactions/s<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup><https://usa.visa.com>

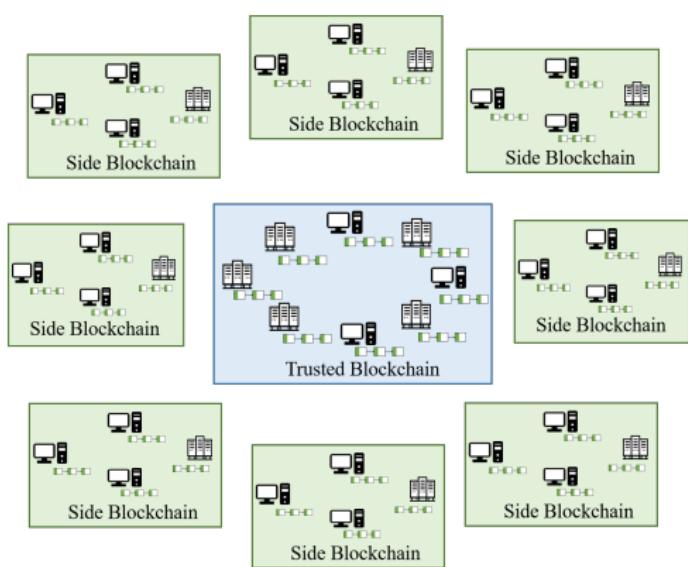
# Solution: Running Side Blockchains



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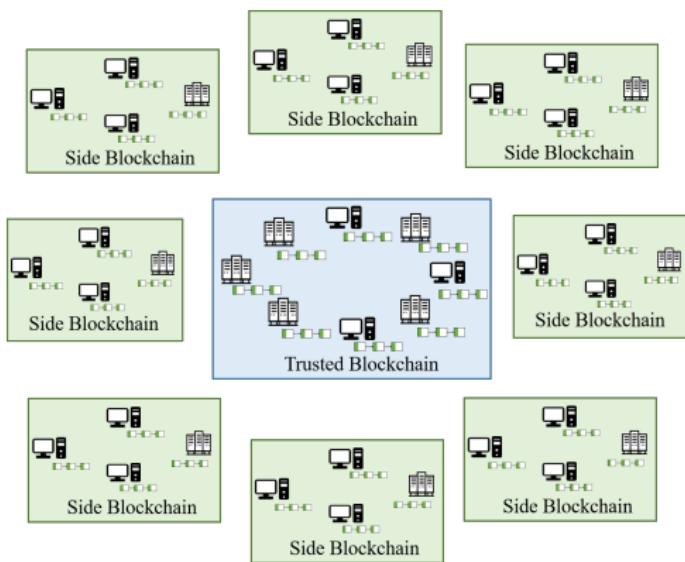


Side Blockchain:

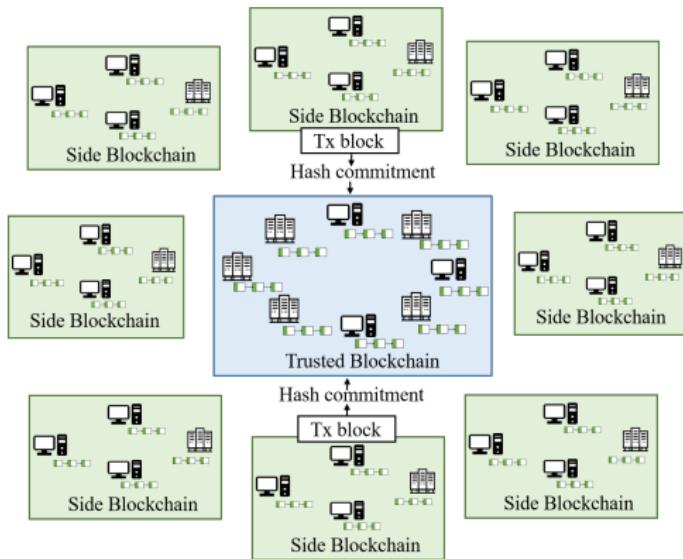
- ▶ Smaller blockchain systems

# Solution: Running Side Blockchains

Side Blockchain nodes:



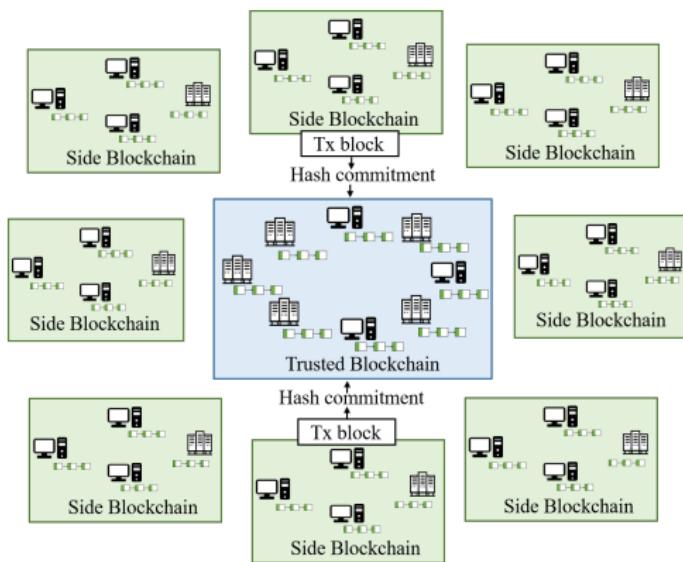
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Side Blockchain nodes:

- ▶ Push hash commitment of their block to the trusted blockchain

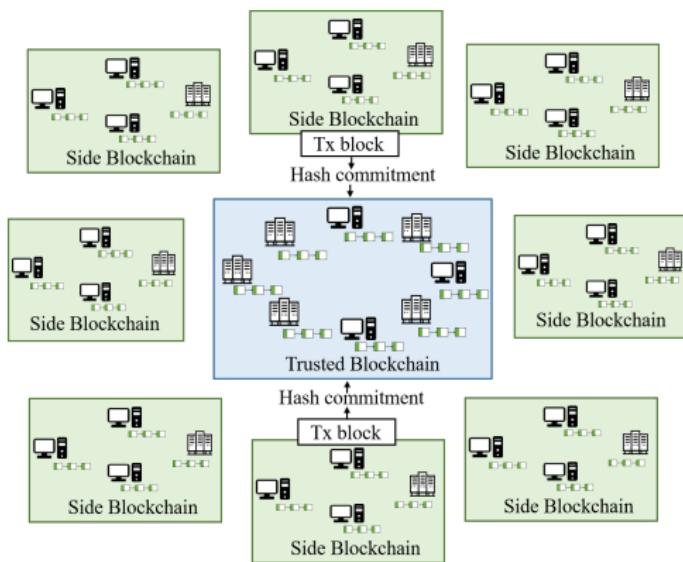
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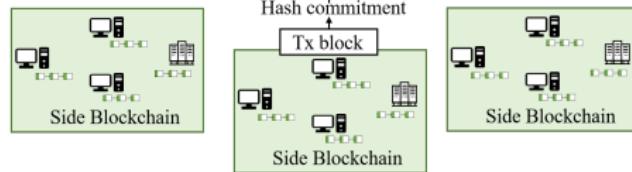
- ▶ Push hash commitment of their block to the trusted blockchain
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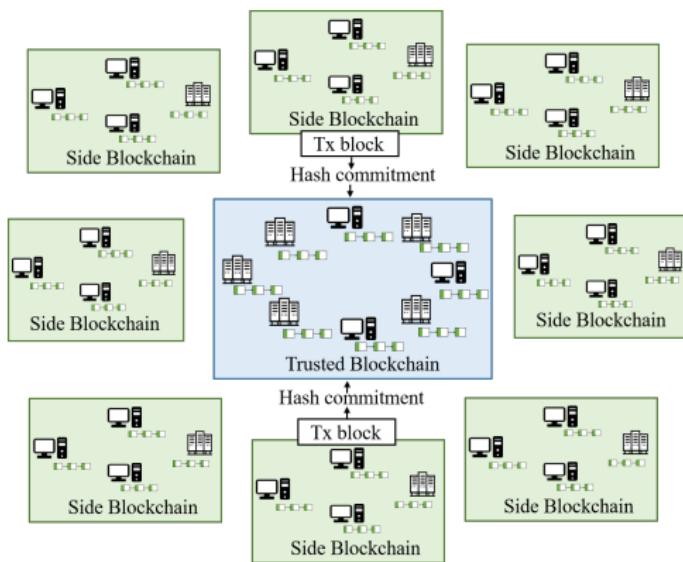


- ▶ Push hash commitment of their block to the trusted blockchain
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Trusted Blockchain:



# Solution: Running Side Blockchains



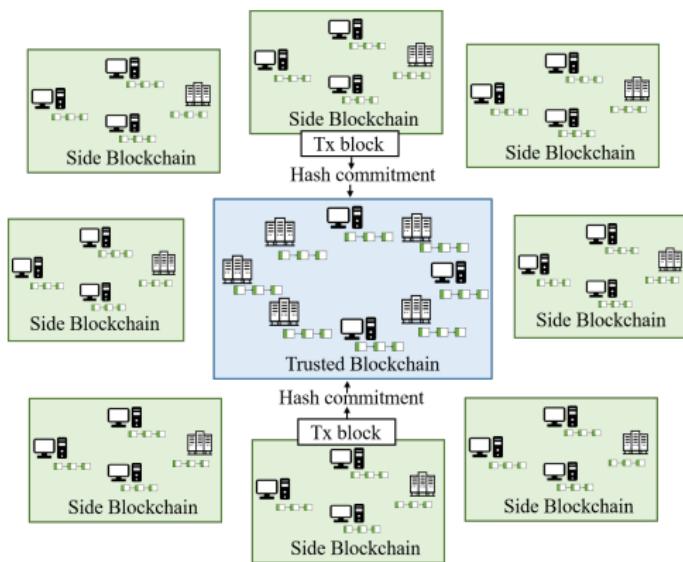
Side Blockchain nodes:

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Trusted Blockchain:

- ▶ Only store the hash of the side blockchain

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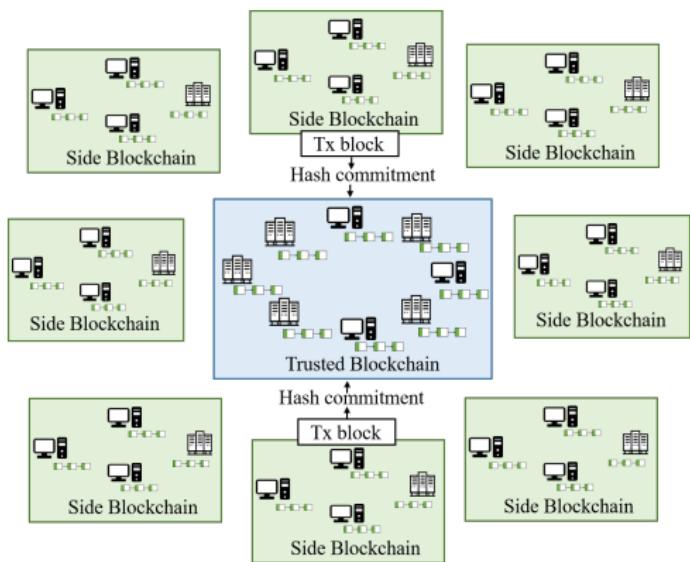
Side Blockchain nodes:

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Trusted Blockchain:

- ▶ Only store the hash of the side blockchain
- ▶ Side blockchains make commitments in parallel

# Solution: Running Side Blockchains



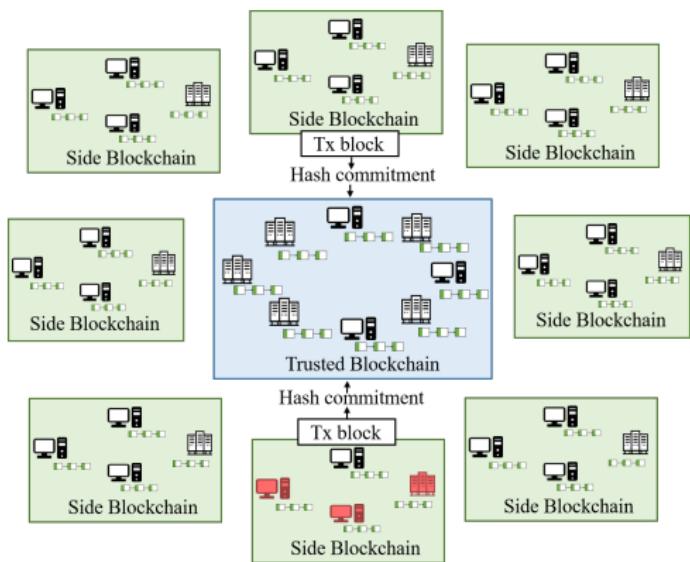
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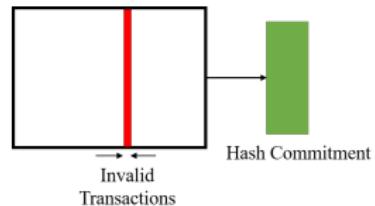
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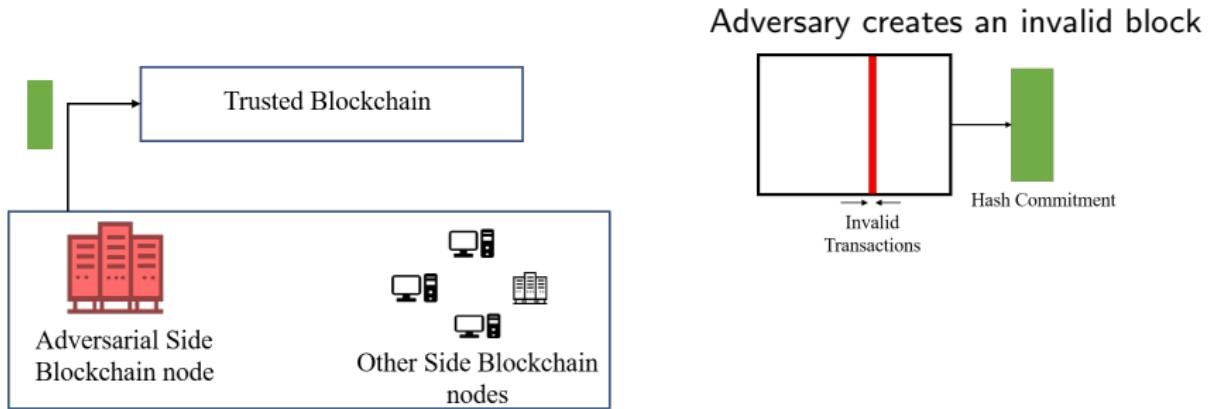
Issue: Side Blockchains with a **majority of dishonest nodes** are vulnerable to data availability attacks [Sheng '20]

# Data Availability (DA) Attack in Side Blockchains

Adversary creates an invalid block



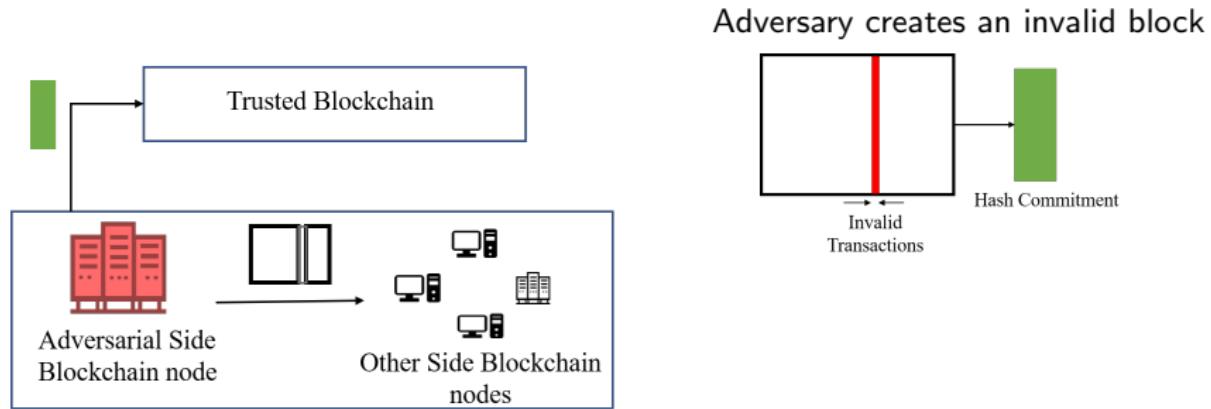
# Data Availability (DA) Attack in Side Blockchains



Adversarial Side Blockchain node:

- ▶ Pushes hash commitment to the trusted blockchain

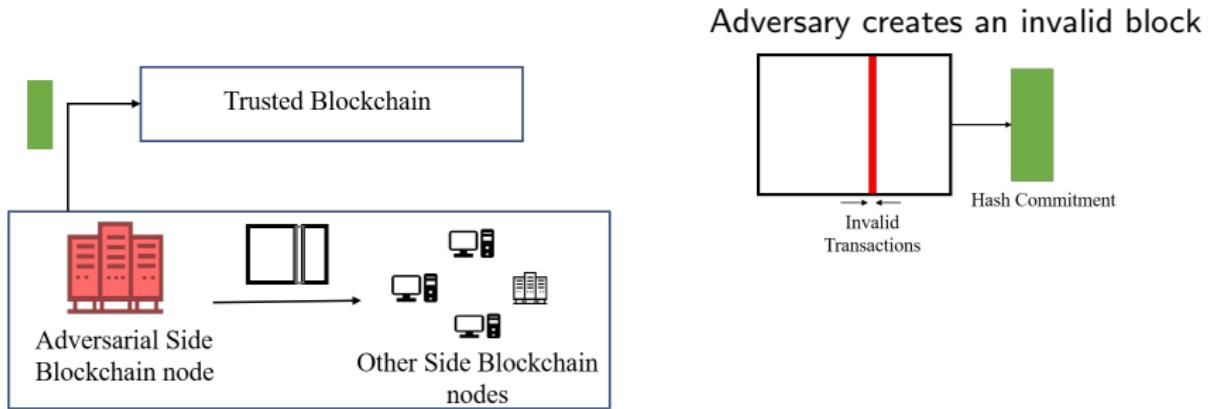
# Data Availability (DA) Attack in Side Blockchains



Adversarial Side Blockchain node:

- ▶ Pushes hash commitment to the trusted blockchain
- ▶ Full block not available to other side blockchain nodes

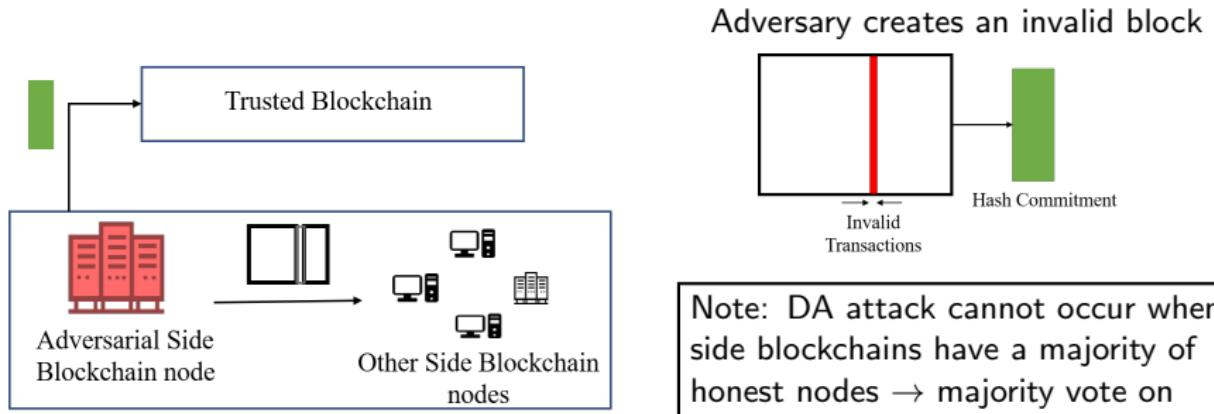
# Data Availability (DA) Attack in Side Blockchains



Adversarial Side Blockchain node:

- ▶ Pushes hash commitment to the trusted blockchain
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# Data Availability (DA) Attack in Side Blockchains



Adversarial Side Blockchain node:

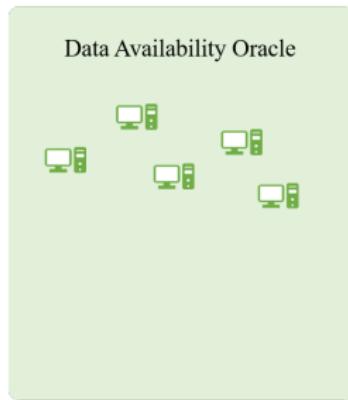
- ▶ Pushes hash commitment to the trusted blockchain
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## Solution using a Data Availability Oracle

An oracle layer was introduced to ensure data availability [Sheng '20]

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Oracle layer goal

Trusted Blockchain

Data Availability Oracle



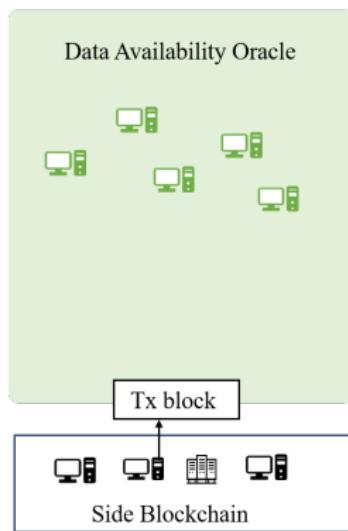
Side Blockchain

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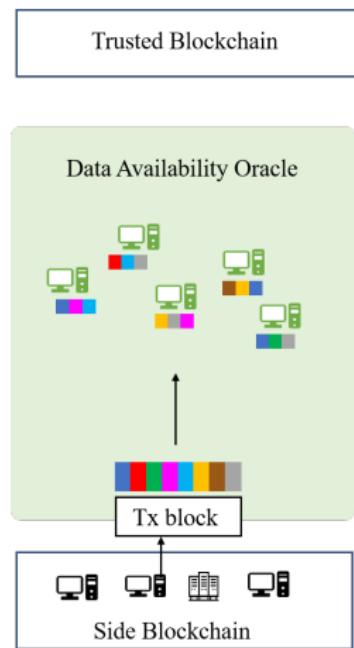
Oracle layer goal

- ▶ Accept a Tx block



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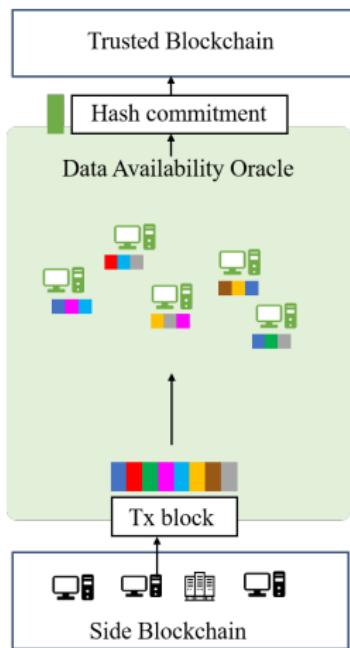


Oracle layer goal

- ▶ Accept a Tx block
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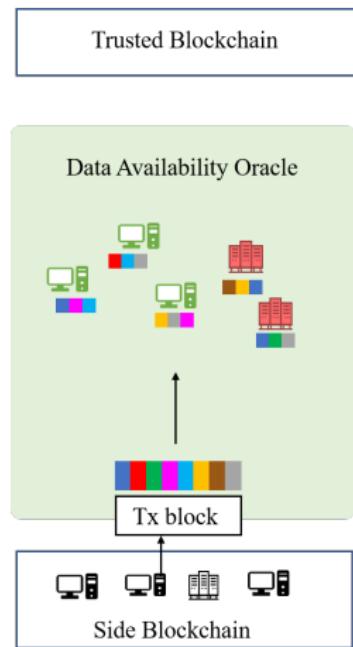


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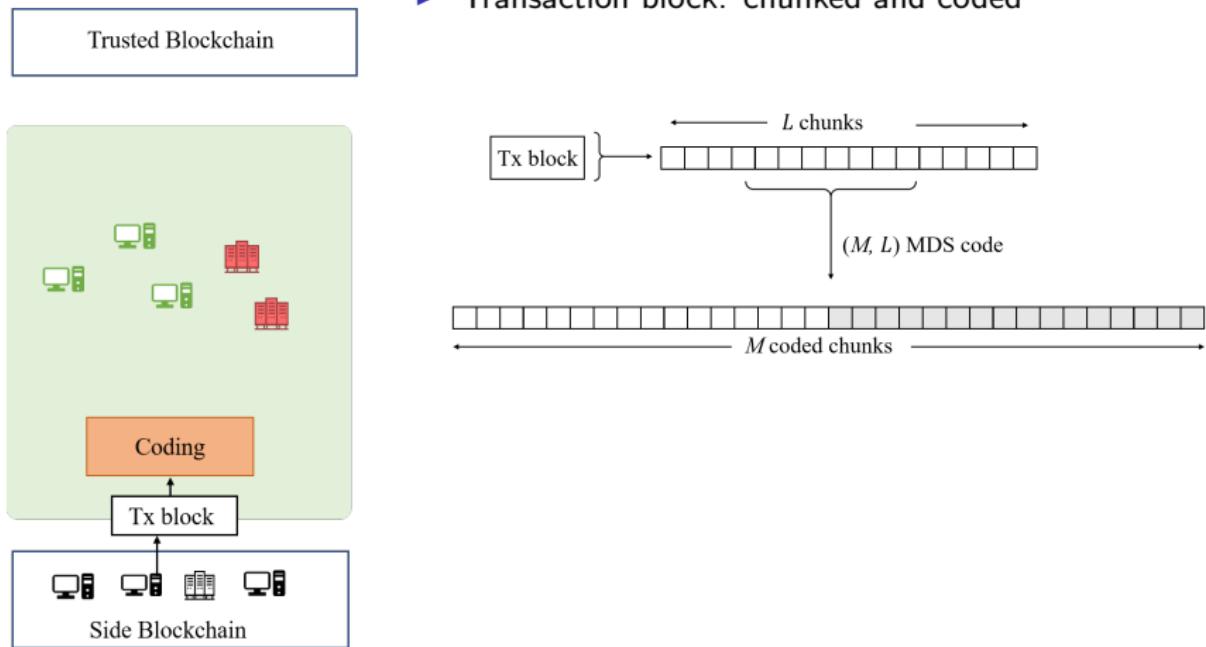
Oracle layer goal

- ▶ Accept a Tx block
- ▶ Collectively and efficiently store chunks of the Tx block (to guarantee availability)
- ▶ Push the Tx block's hash commitment iff the block is available
- ▶ Oracle nodes can be malicious (honest majority)

# Solution using a Data Availability Oracle

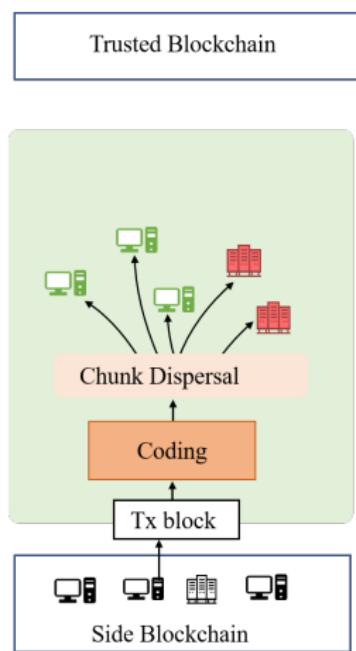
An oracle layer was introduced to ensure data availability [Sheng '20]

- ▶ Transaction block: chunked and coded

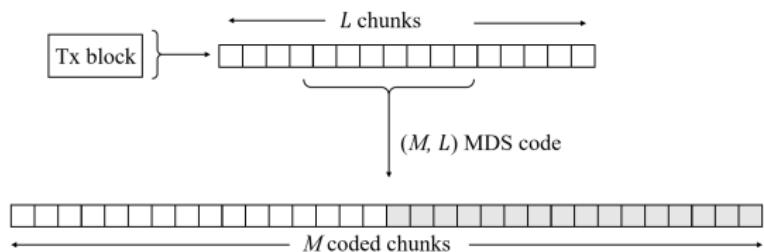


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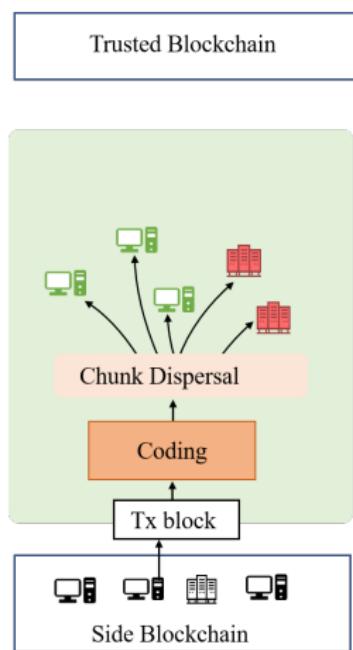


- ▶ Transaction block: chunked and coded
- ▶ Coded chunks dispersed among  $N$  oracle nodes

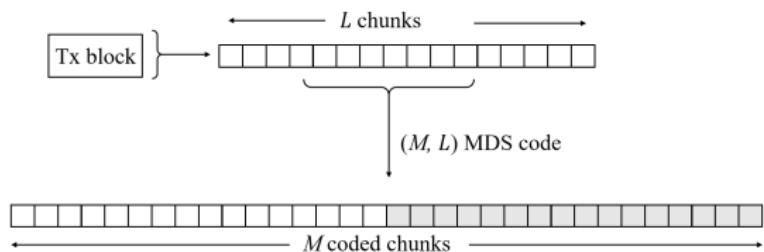


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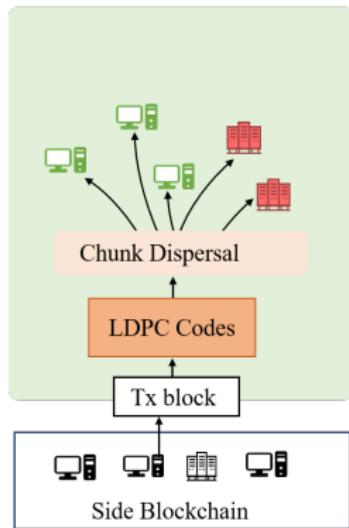
For MDS codes, iff at least  $L$  coded chunks are present among **honest** oracle layer nodes  $\rightarrow$  block availability is guaranteed

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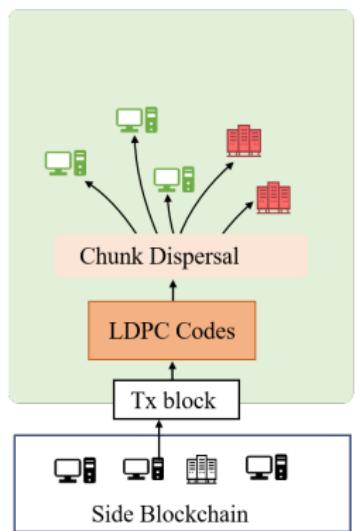


Low-Density Parity Check (LDPC) codes are used to code the Tx block



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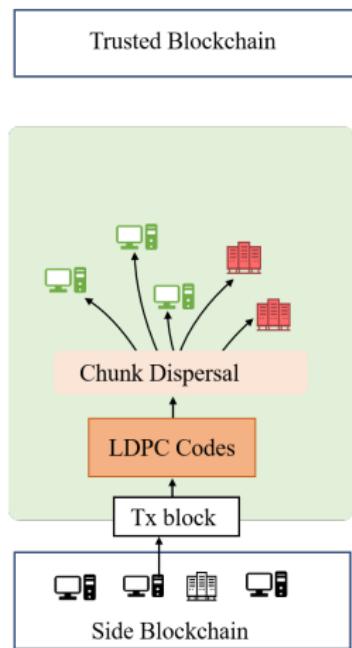


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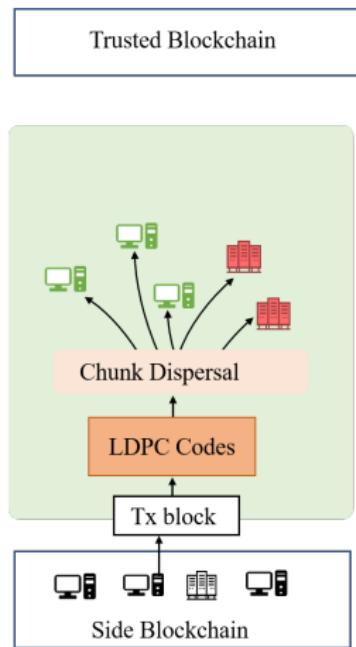


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- ▶ Linear decoding complexity using a peeling decoder
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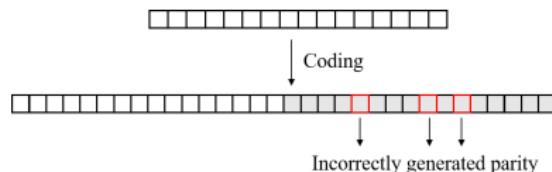
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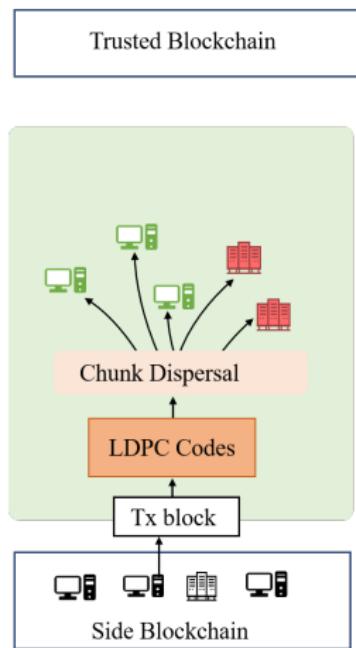
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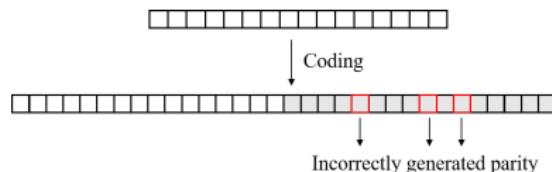
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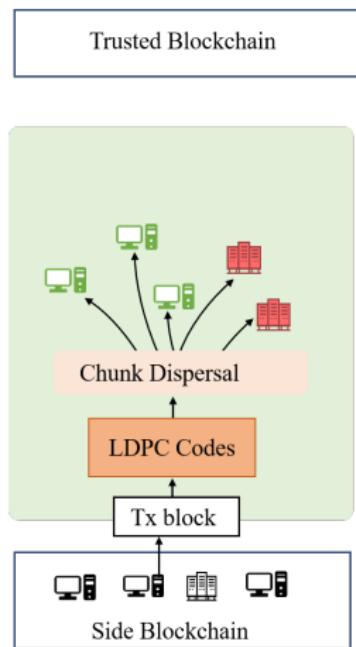
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- Adversary sends incorrectly coded block to oracle nodes

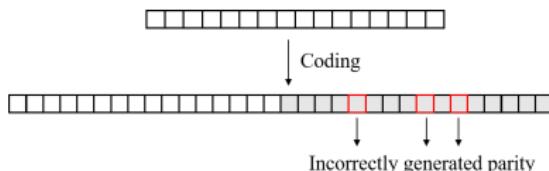
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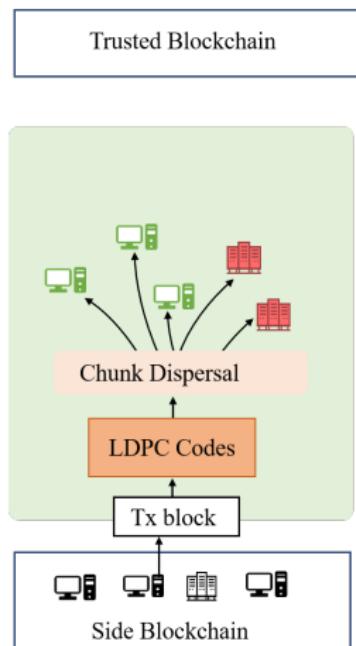
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- Adversary sends incorrectly coded block to oracle nodes
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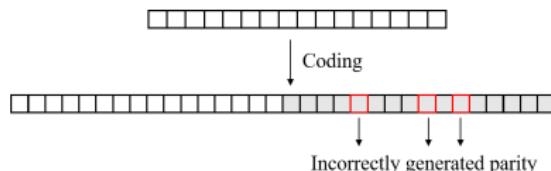
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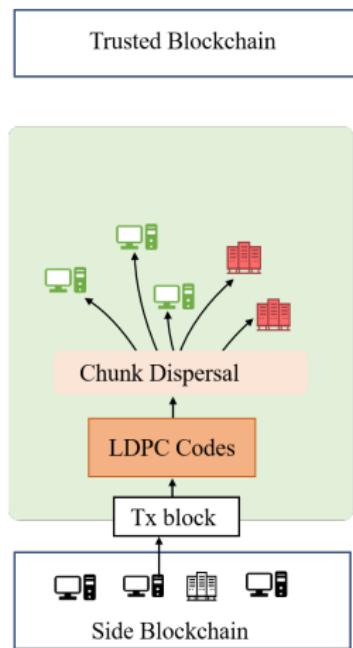
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- LDPC code have small incorrect coding proof size due to sparse parity check matrix

# Solution using a Data Availability Oracle

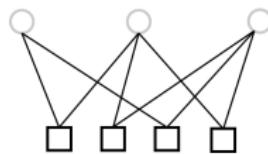
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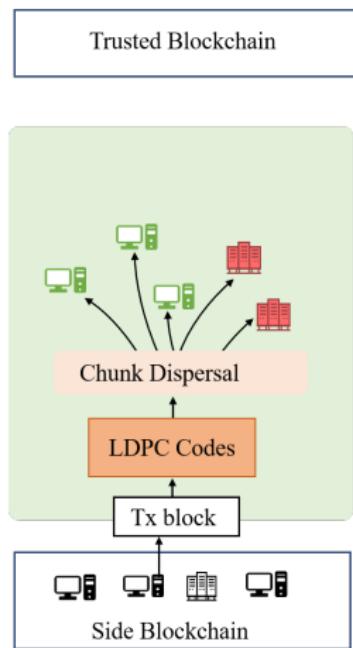
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**Issues with LDPC codes:** small stopping sets



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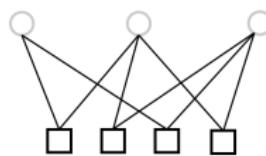
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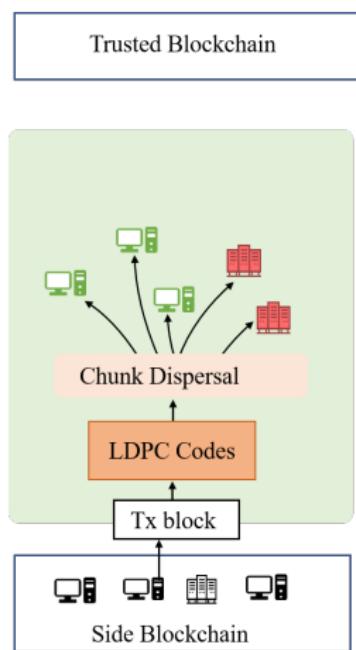
**Issues with LDPC codes:** small stopping sets



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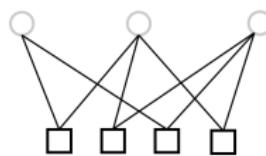
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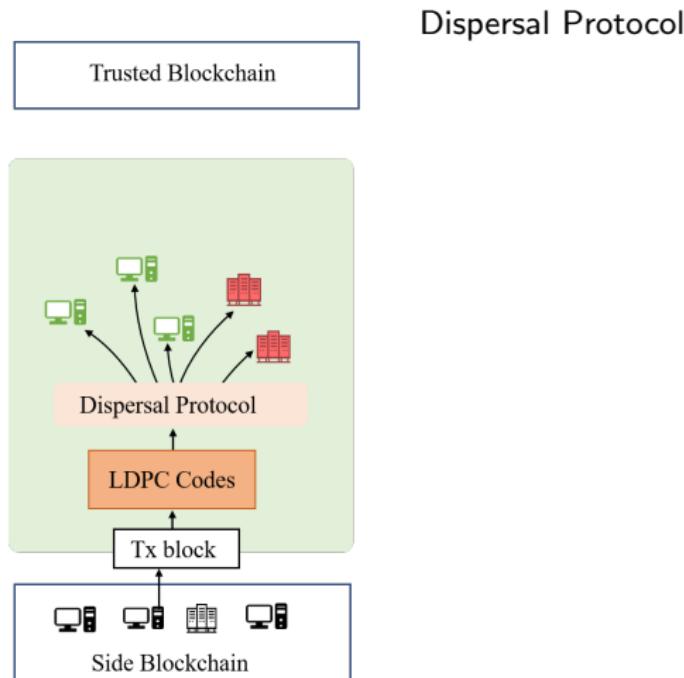
**Issues with LDPC codes:** small stopping sets



- ▶ If VNs corresponding to a small stopping set are hidden from the oracle nodes, original block cannot be decoded back by a peeling decoder
- ▶ In [Sheng '20] randomly constructed LDPC codes were used which provides a guarantee on the minimum stopping set size **w.h.p**

# Solution using a Data Availability Oracle

An oracle layer was introduced to ensure data availability [Sheng '20]



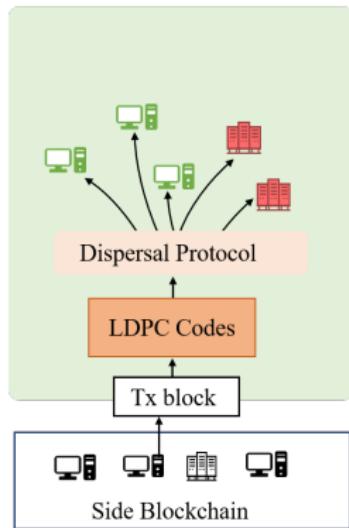
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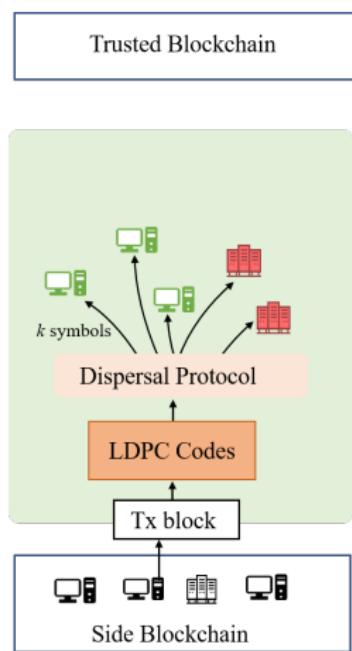
Dispersal Protocol

- Rule about which oracle node stores which coded chunks



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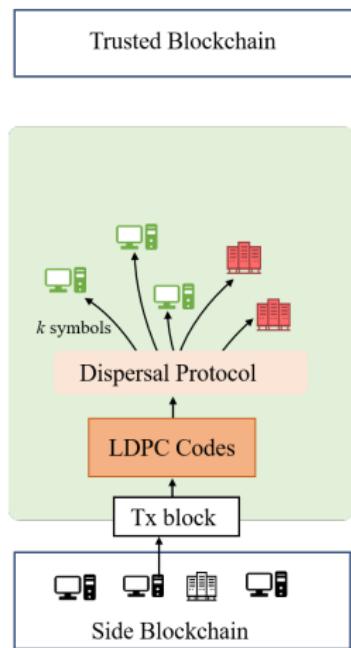


## Dispersal Protocol

- ▶ Rule about which oracle node stores which coded chunks
- ▶ Specifies  $k$  coded symbols that each oracle node should receive

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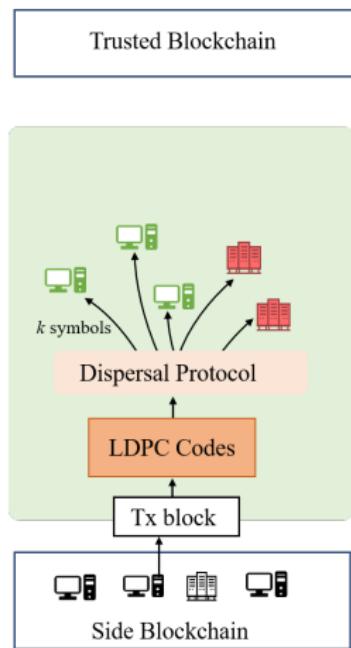


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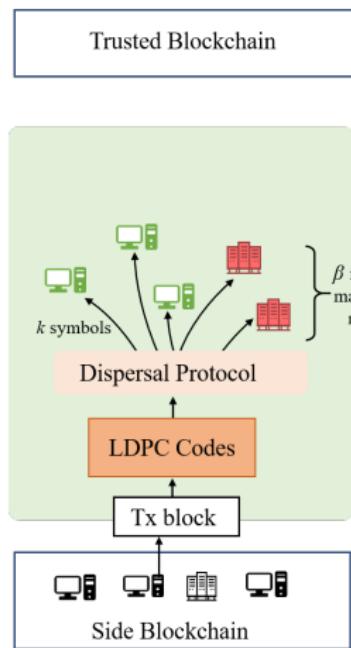


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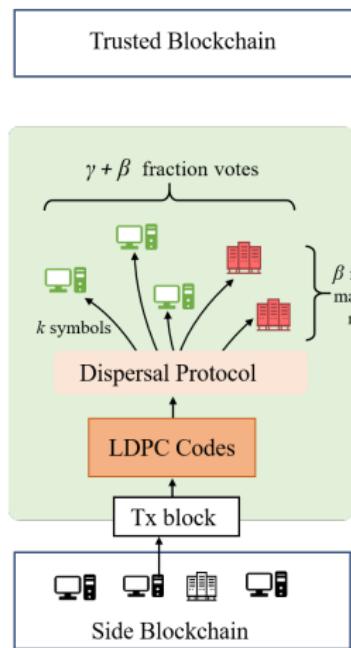


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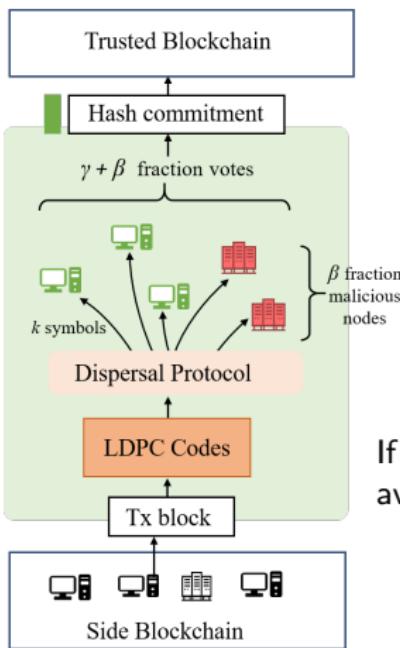
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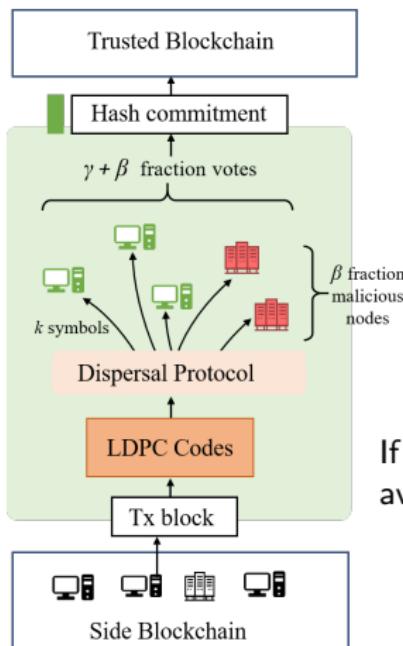
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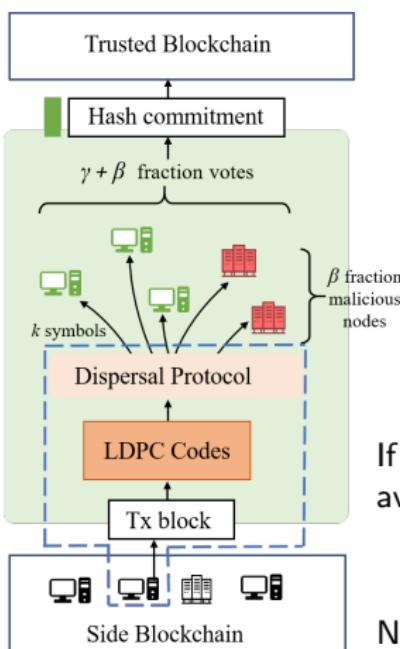
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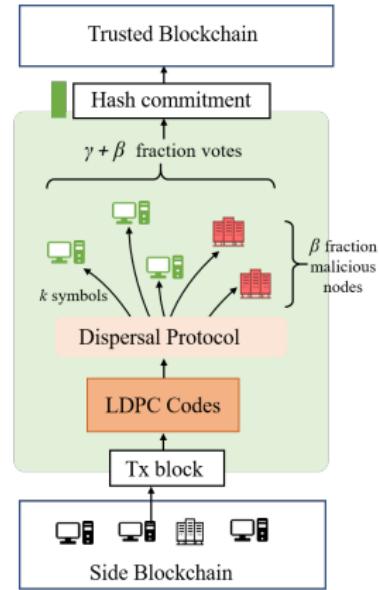
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Note: Side blockchain nodes perform LDPC encoding and dispersal

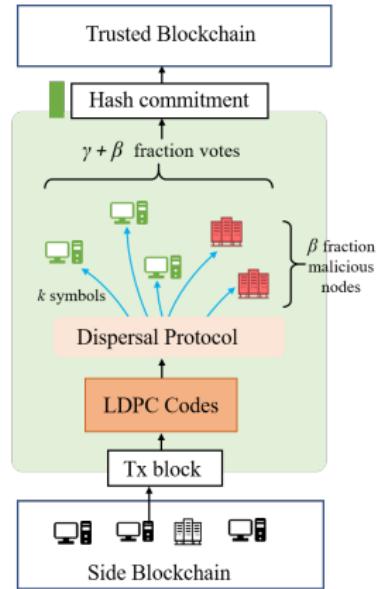
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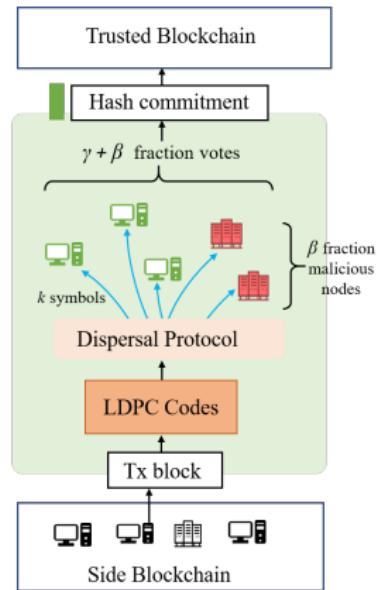
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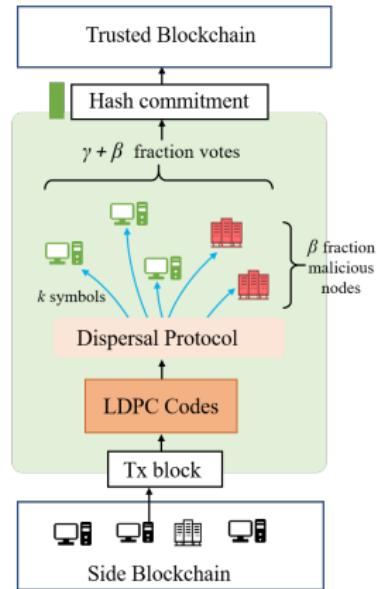


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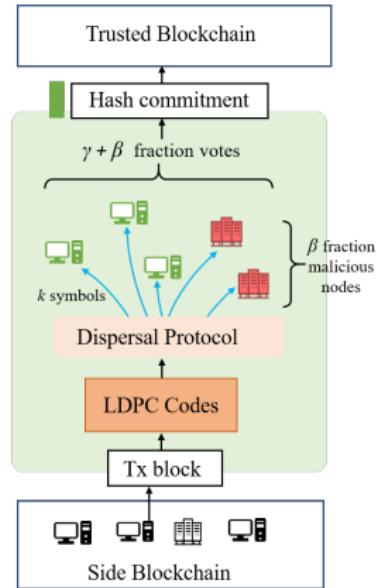


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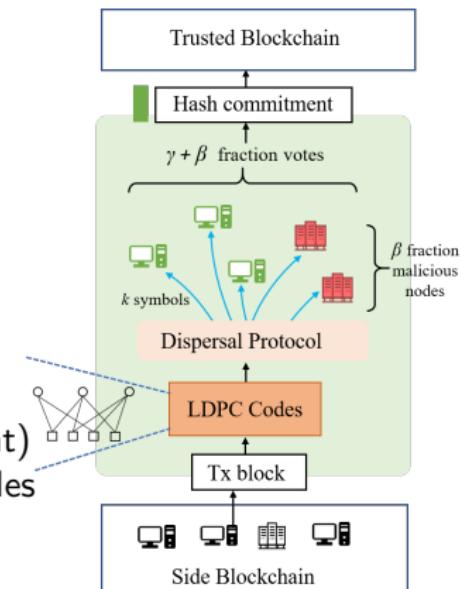


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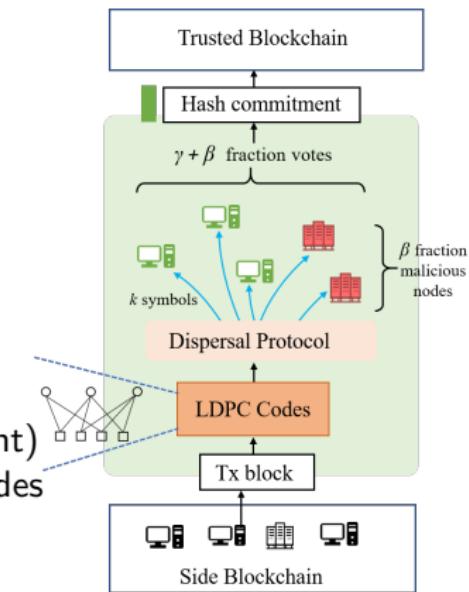


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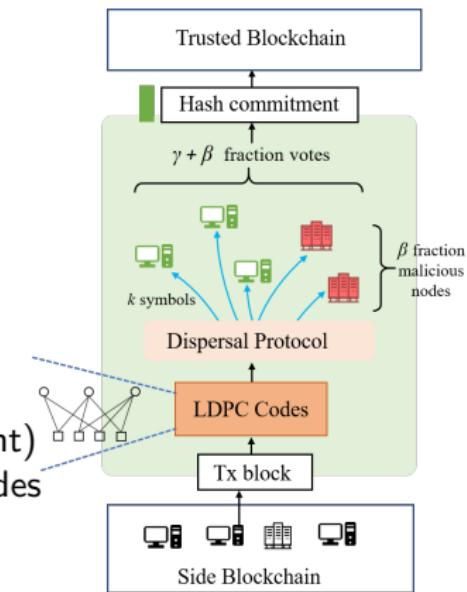
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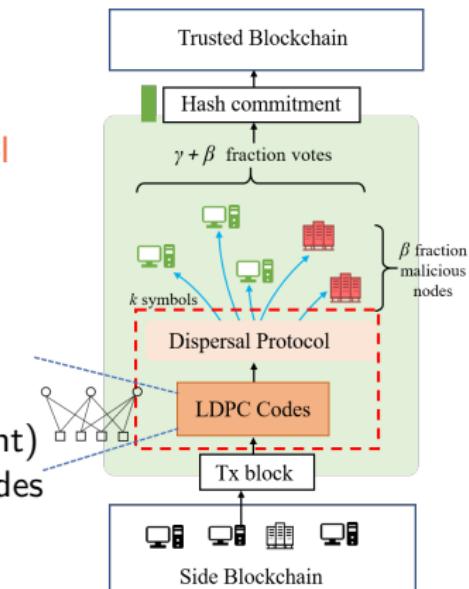
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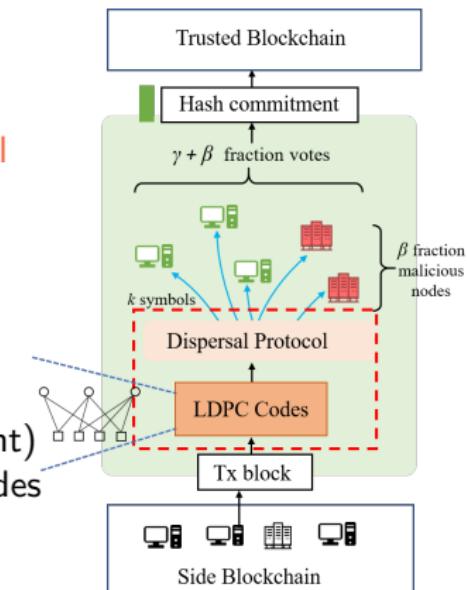
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Our work: Design of specialized LDPC codes and a tailored dispersal protocol to significantly lower the communication cost.

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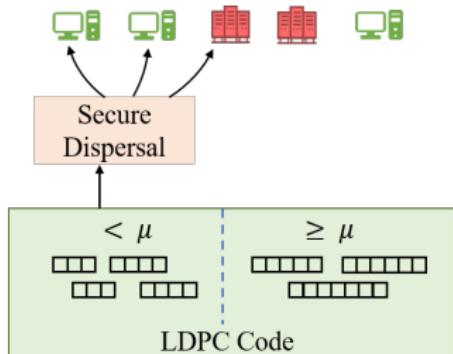
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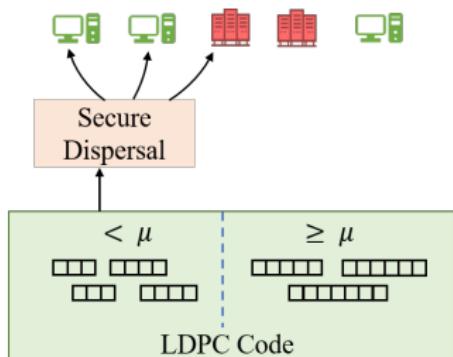
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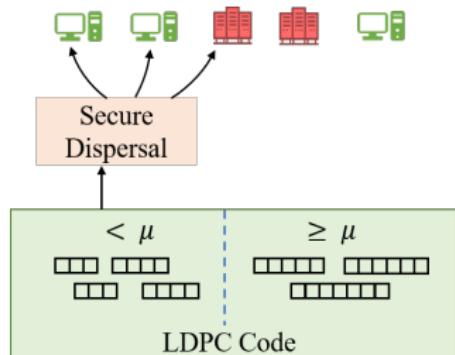
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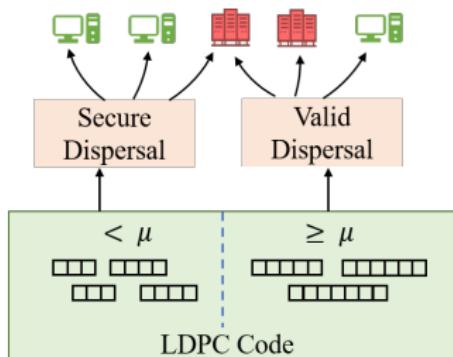
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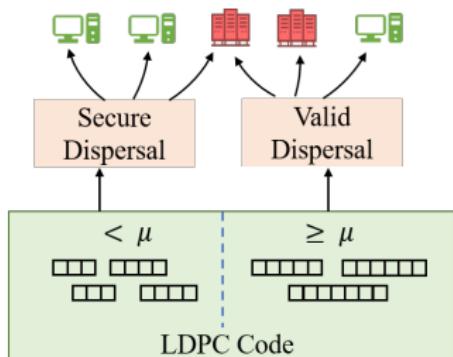
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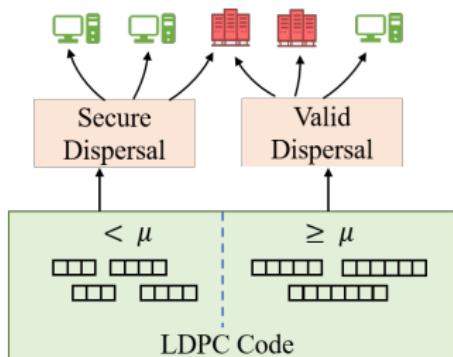
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Code Design Strategy:

Design LDPC codes that reduce communication cost of the secure phase

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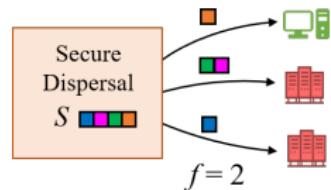
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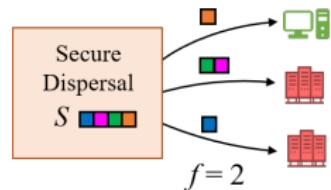
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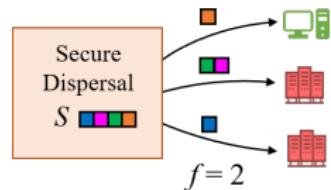
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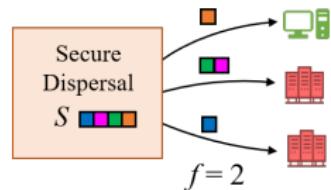
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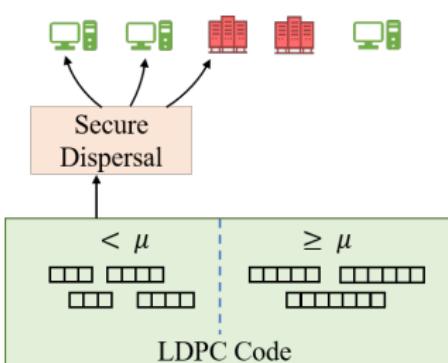
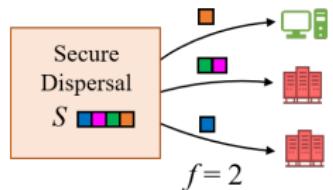
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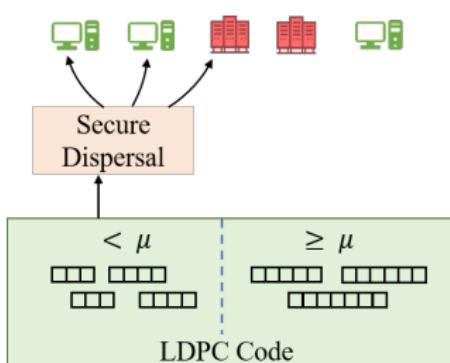
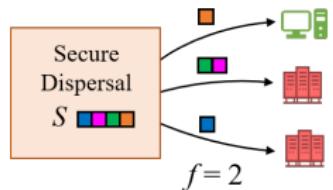
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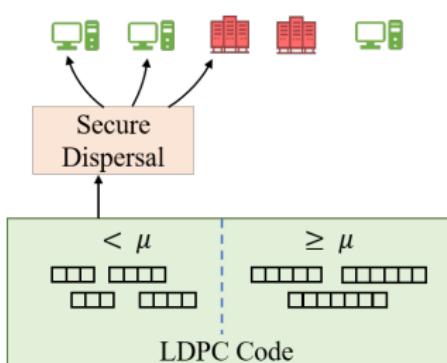
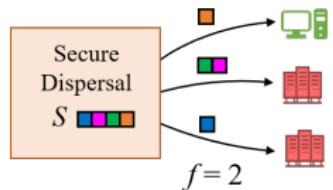
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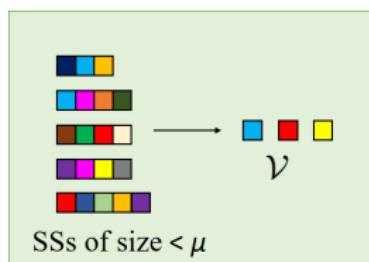
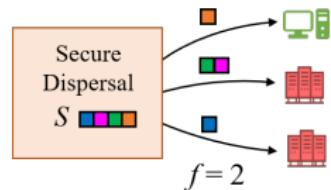
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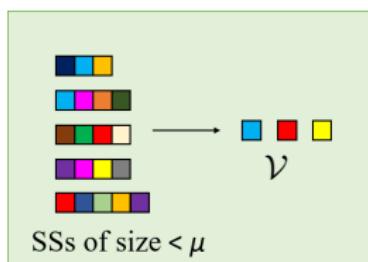
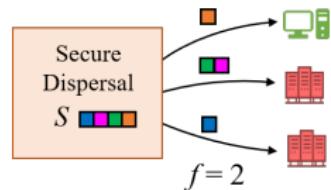
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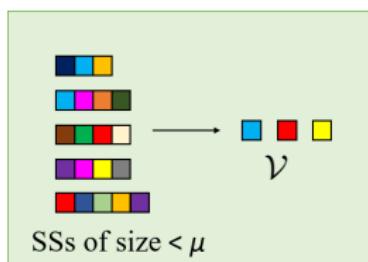
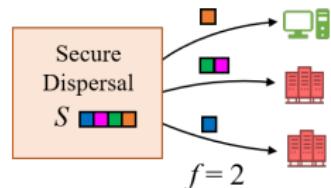
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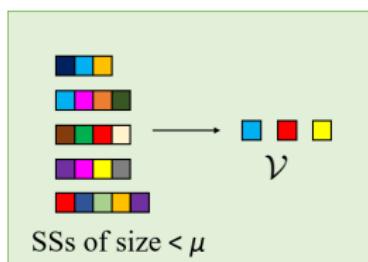
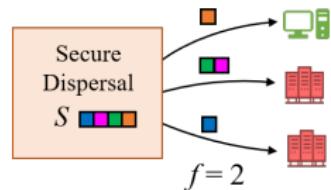
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- ▶  $S$  is *securely dispersed* if  $|\text{Neigh}(S)| \geq f + 1$
- ▶ If a stopping set  $S$  is *securely dispersed*, at least one honest node will have a coded chunk corresponding to  $S$   
→ Failure of stopping set  $S$  cannot occur



- ▶  $\mathcal{S} =$  All SSs of size  $< \mu$   
Secure phase: all SSs in  $\mathcal{S}$  are *securely dispersed*
- $< \mu$  size SSs cannot cause block unavailability
- $\mathcal{V}$ : set of VNs that *cover* all SSs in  $\mathcal{S}$   
→ found greedily: *Greedy-Set*( $\mathcal{S}$ )
- Each VN in  $\mathcal{V}$  is dispersed to  $f + 1$  nodes  
→ ensures all SSs in  $\mathcal{S}$  are securely dispersed

## Valid Phase

Consider the following dispersal protocol

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$\mu$ -SS-Valid dispersal

Every  $\gamma$  fraction of oracle nodes receives  $\geq M - \mu + 1$  coded chunks

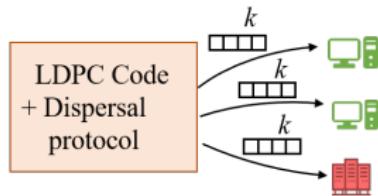
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Every  $\gamma$  fraction of oracle nodes receives  $\geq M - \mu + 1$  coded chunks

- ▶ Each oracle node receives coded chunks corresponding to a uniformly chosen  $k$ -element subset of all the  $k$ -element subsets of the  $M$  coded chunks



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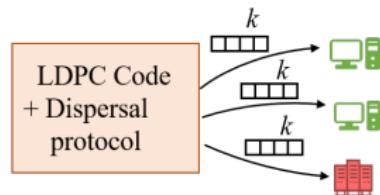
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## Lemma

$\text{Prob}(\text{dispersal is not } \mu\text{-SS-valid}) \leq e^{N H_e(\gamma)} P_f(k, \mu)$

$$P_f(k, \mu) = \sum_{j=0}^{M-\mu} (-1)^{M-\mu-j} \binom{M}{j} \binom{M-j-1}{\mu-1} \left[ \frac{\binom{j}{k}}{\binom{M}{k}} \right]^{\gamma N}$$



↳ Coupon Collector's problem with group drawings [Stadje '90]

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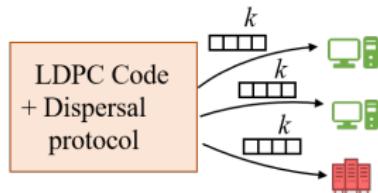
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- $k^*(\mu) := \min k$  such that  $e^{N H_e(\gamma)} P_f(k, \mu) \leq p_{th}$  (some predefined failure probability)

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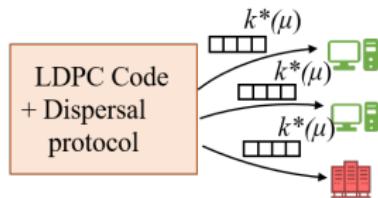
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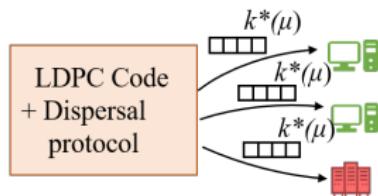
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# Overall Dispersal Strategy and Code Design

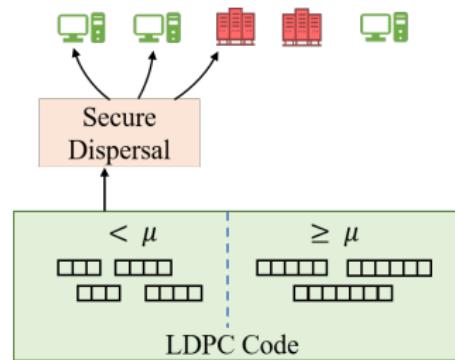
## $k^*$ -secure dispersal protocol

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## 1. Secure Phase

All SSs of size  $< \mu$  are securely dispersed



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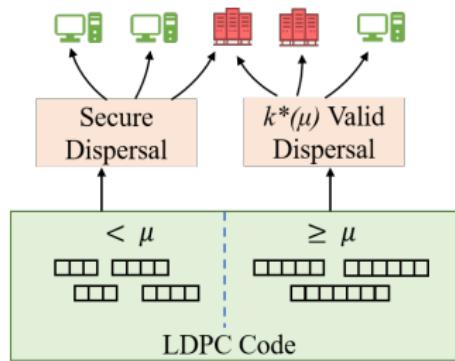
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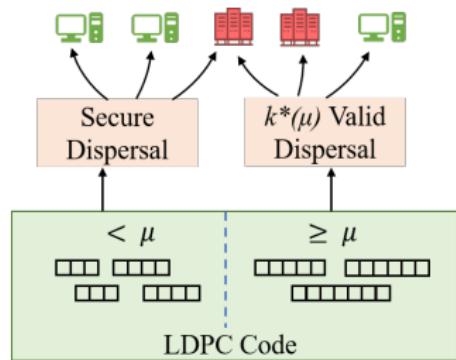
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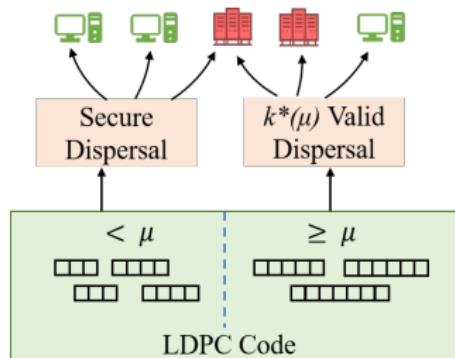
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Guarantees availability w.p.  $\geq 1 - p_{th}$  for SSs of size  $\geq \mu$



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$k^*$ -secure dispersal protocol

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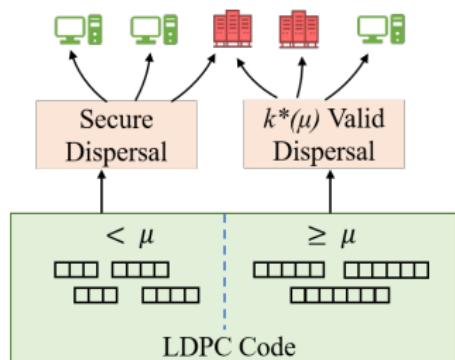
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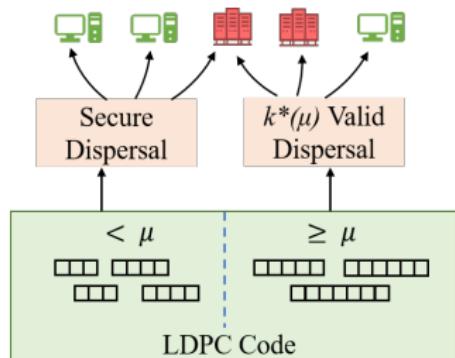
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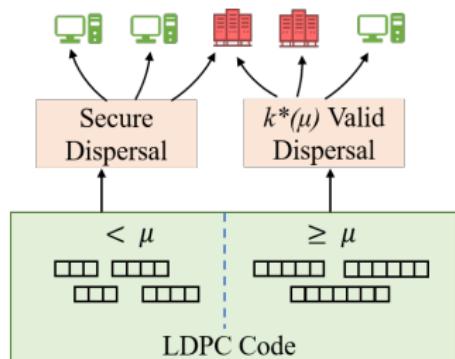
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Code Design Strategy:  
Design LDPC codes that have low  $|\text{Greedy-Set}(\mathcal{S})|$

# Overall Dispersal Strategy and Code Design

$k^*$ -secure dispersal protocol

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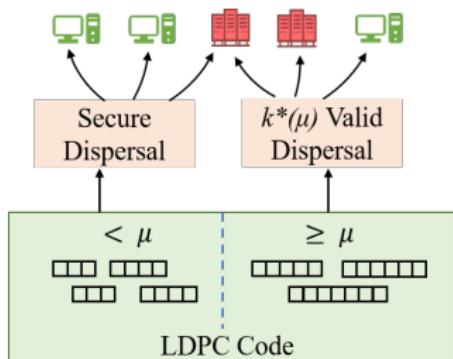
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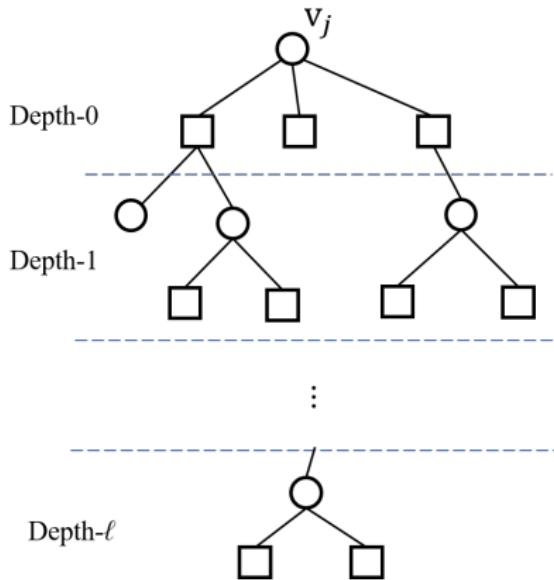
Code Design Strategy:  
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-Modify the PEG algorithm

# PEG Algorithm

- ▶ Constructs a Tanner Graph in an edge by edge manner [Xiao '05]

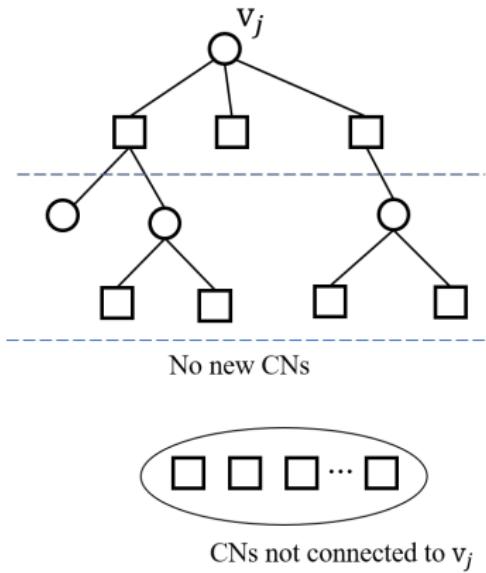
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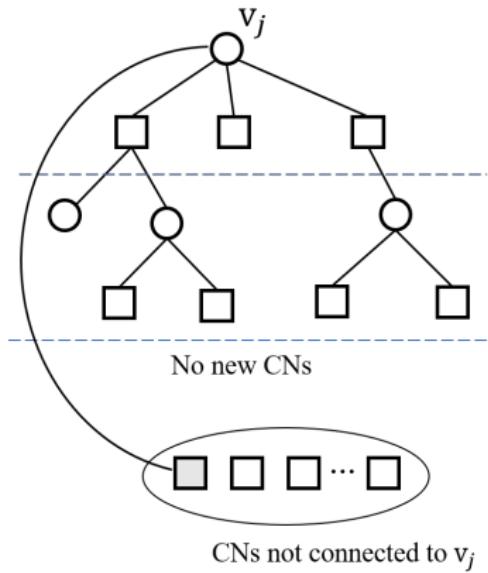
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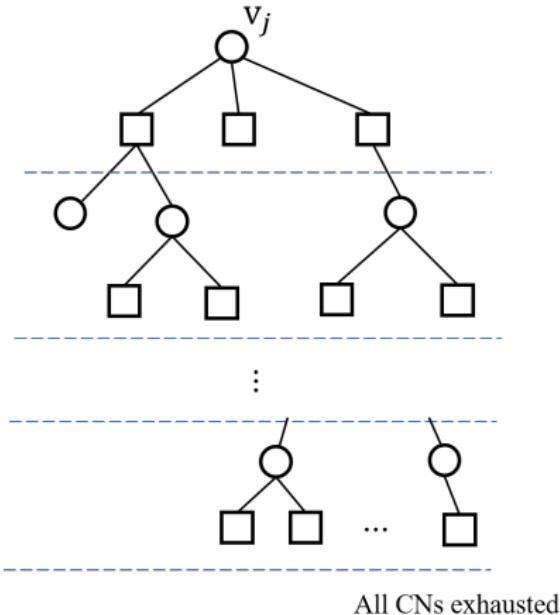
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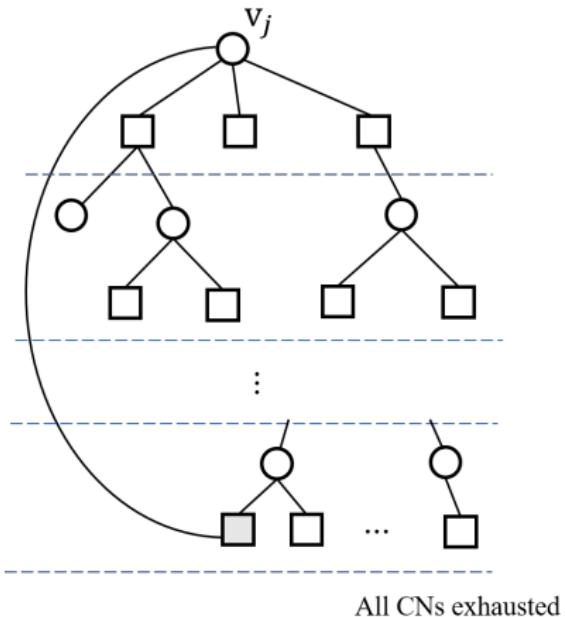
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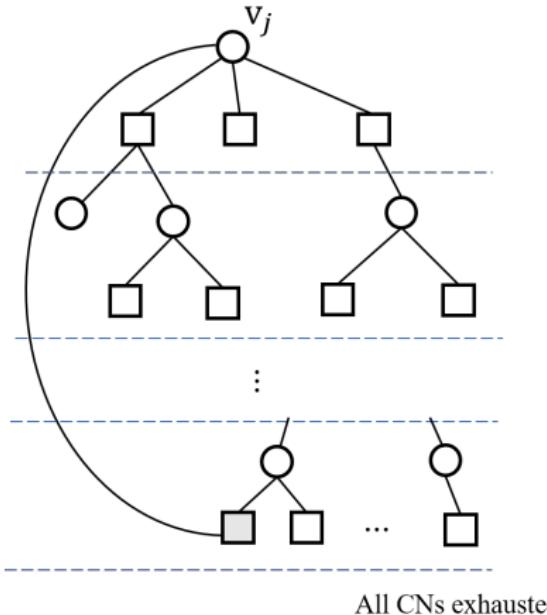
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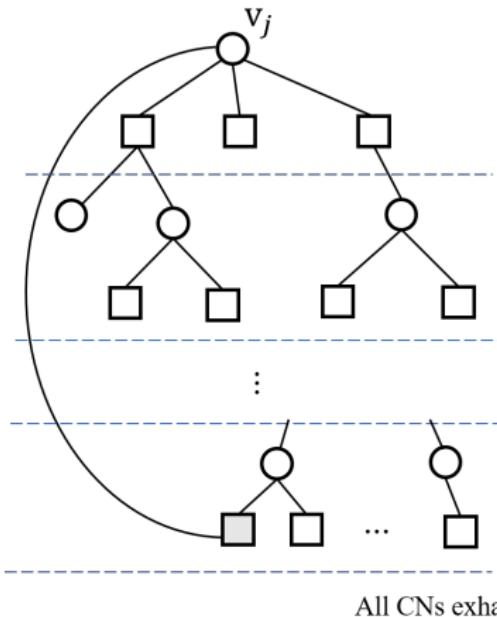
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    New cycles created
```

# PEG Algorithm



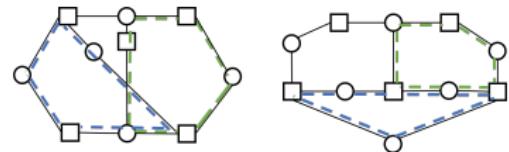
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We modify the CN selection criteria in green to result in a low  $|Greedy-Set(\mathcal{S})|$

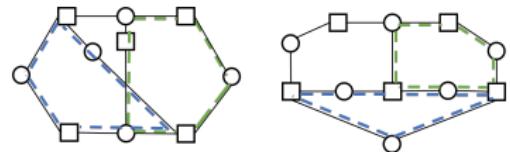
# Dispersal-Efficient (DE)-PEG Algorithm

- SSs are made up of cycles [Tian '03]



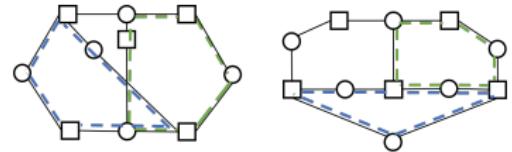
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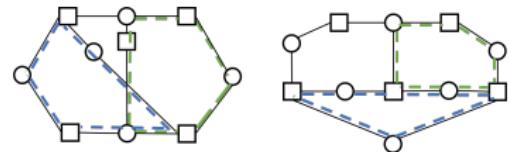
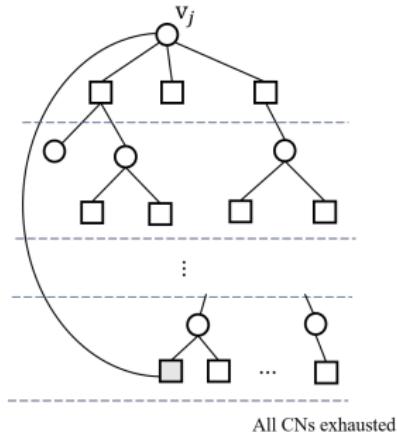
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## DE-PEG Algorithm

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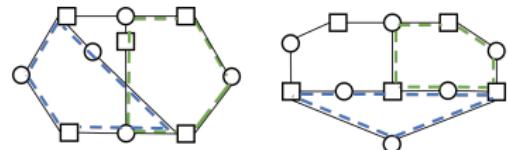
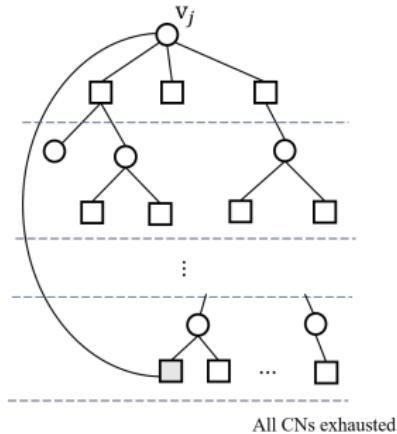
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**Else** (*new cycles created*)

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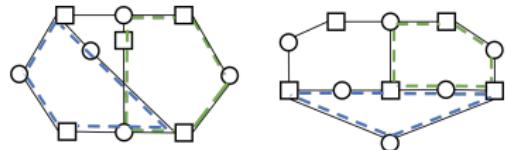
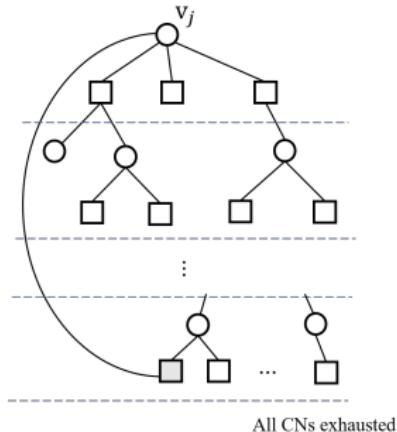
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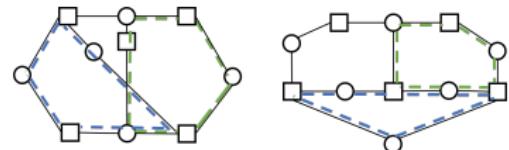
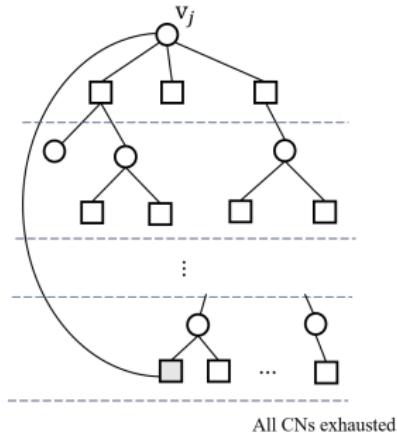
**Else (new cycles created)**

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**Issue:** Using  $\mathcal{L}$  that contains **all** cycles of length  $\leq g$  does not reduce  $|Greedy-Set(\mathcal{S})|$

# Dispersal-Efficient (DE)-PEG Algorithm

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Solution:

Make  $\mathcal{L}$  contain only low Extrinsic Message Degree (EMD) [Tian '04] cycles

## Simulation Results: Communication Cost Reduction

System Parameters:  $N = 9000$ ,  $\beta = 0.49$ ,  $M = 256$ , Block size = 1MB,  
 $p_{th} = 10^{-8}$ , LDPC code rate =  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\gamma = 1 - 2\beta$ . All communication costs are in GB.

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- ▶  $|\mathcal{V}| = |\text{Greedy-Set}(\mathcal{S})|$  for  $M = 256$ ,  $\mathcal{S} = \text{all SS of size } < \mu$

$\mu$	PEG	$ \mathcal{V} $ DE-PEG
17	0	0
18	1	0
19	3	1
20	7	4
21	14	13

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- ▶  $C^s$ : communication cost of secure phase of dispersal

Secure Phase

$\mu$	$ \mathcal{V} $		$C^s$	
	PEG	DE-PEG	PEG	DE-PEG
17	0	0	0	0
18	1	0	0.037	0
19	3	1	0.112	0.037
20	7	4	0.262	0.149
21	14	13	0.524	0.486

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## Simulation Results: Communication Cost Reduction

System Parameters:  $N = 9000$ ,  $\beta = 0.49$ ,  $M = 256$ , Block size = 1MB,  $p_{th} = 10^{-8}$ , LDPC code rate =  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\gamma = 1 - 2\beta$ . All communication costs are in GB.

- ▶  $|\mathcal{V}| = |\text{Greedy-Set}(\mathcal{S})|$  for  $M = 256$ ,  $\mathcal{S} = \text{all SS of size } < \mu$
- ▶  $C^s$ : communication cost of secure phase of dispersal

Secure Phase

$\mu$	$ \mathcal{V} $		$C^s$	
	PEG	DE-PEG	PEG	DE-PEG
17	0	0	0	0
18	1	0	0.037	0
19	3	1	0.112	0.037
20	7	4	0.262	0.149
21	14	13	0.524	0.486

- ▶ DE-PEG always results in lower  $|\mathcal{V}|$  compared to PEG
- ▶ As  $\mu$  is increased,  $C^s$  increases.  $C^s$  for DE-PEG  $< C^s$  for PEG,

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$\mu$	Secure Phase		Valid Phase		$C^v$
	PEG	$ \mathcal{V} $	PEG	$C^s$	
17	0	0	0	0	5.116
18	1	0	0.037	0	4.887
19	3	1	0.112	0.037	4.658
20	7	4	0.262	0.149	4.428
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- ▶  $C^T$ : total communication cost =  $C^v + C^s + \Delta$  (small additional overhead)

$\mu$	$ \mathcal{V} $		Secure Phase		Valid Phase		$C^T$	
	PEG	DE-PEG	PEG	DE-PEG	$C^s$	$C^v$	PEG	DE-PEG
17	0	0	0	0	5.116	5.125	5.125	5.125
18	1	0	0.037	0	4.887	4.933	4.896	4.896
19	3	1	0.112	0.037	4.658	4.779	4.704	4.704
20	7	4	0.262	0.149	4.428	4.700	4.587	4.587
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- ▶  $C^T$  is lowest for  $\mu = 20$ , lower for DE-PEG

## Simulation Results: Communication Cost Reduction

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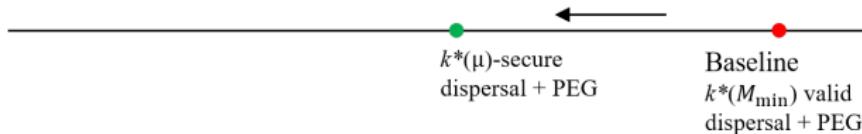
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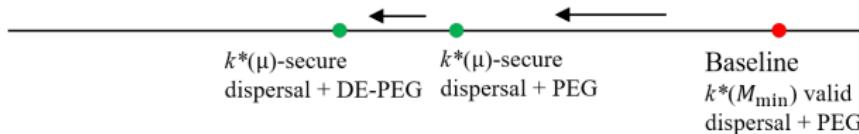
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Reduction for PEG: 0.425GB



# Simulation Results: Communication Cost Reduction

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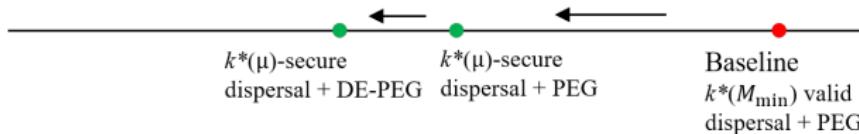
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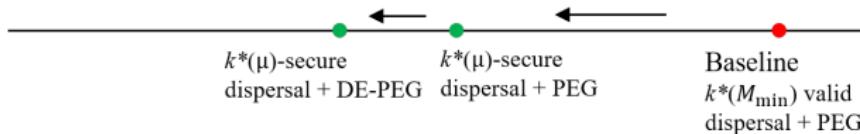
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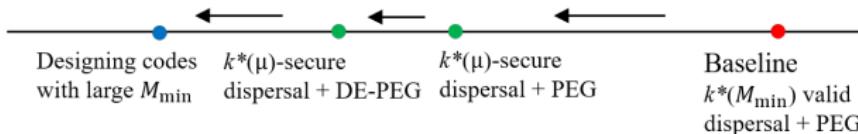
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→ equivalent to designing codes with larger minimum SS size which is hard



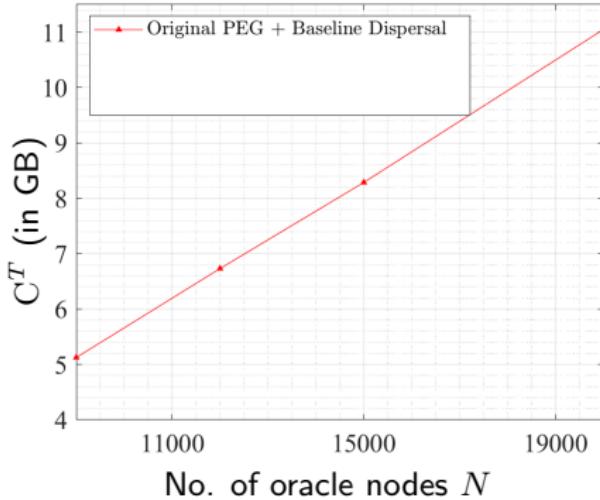
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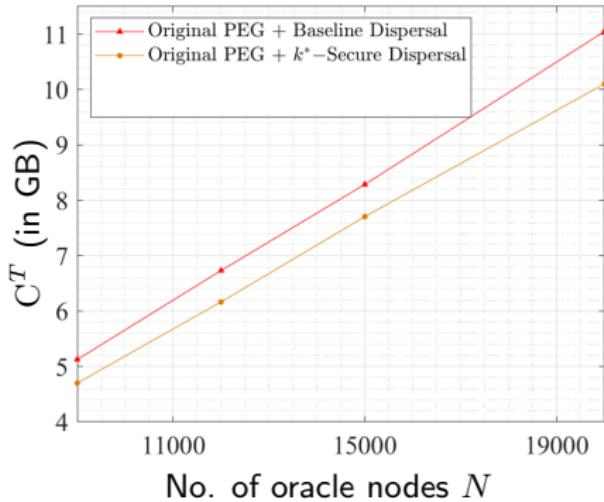
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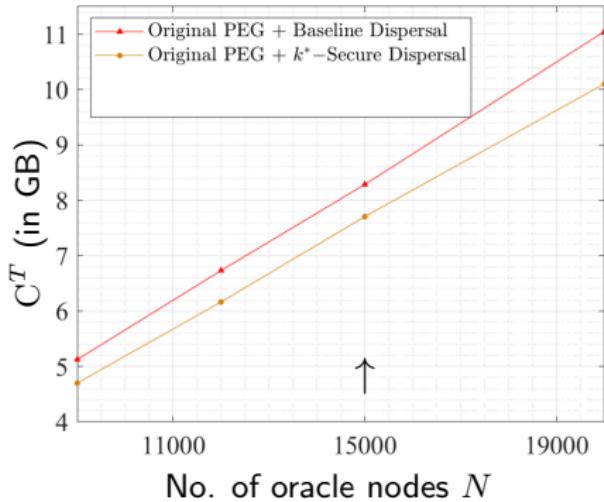
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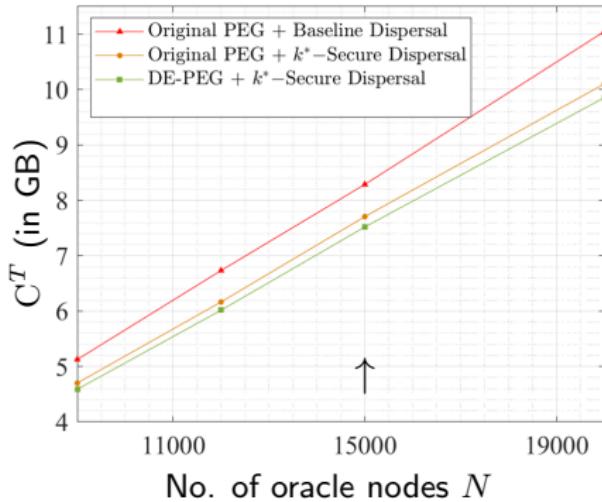
# Simulation Results



At  $N = 15000$

- Baseline  $\xrightarrow{7\% \text{ reduction}}$  PEG +  $k^*$ -secure dispersal protocol with  $\mu = 20$

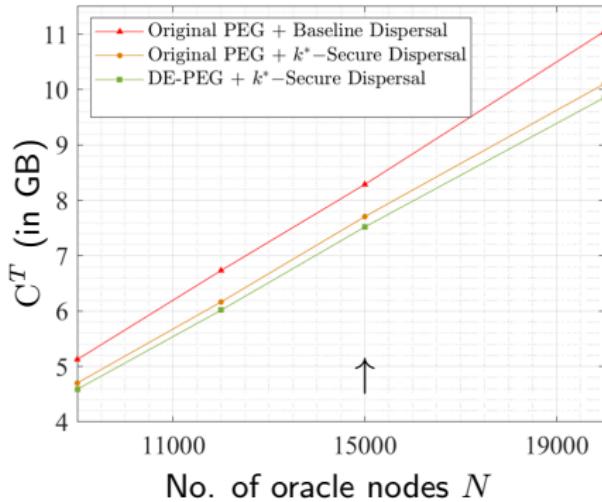
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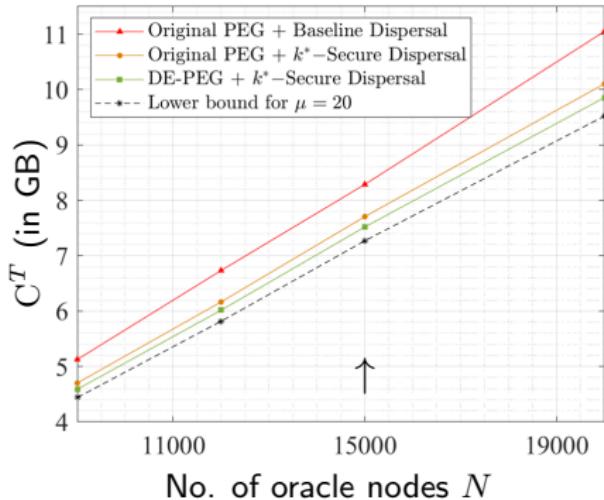
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- Baseline  $\xrightarrow{9.3\% \text{ reduction}}$  DE-PEG +  $k^*$ -secure dispersal protocol with  $\mu = 20$

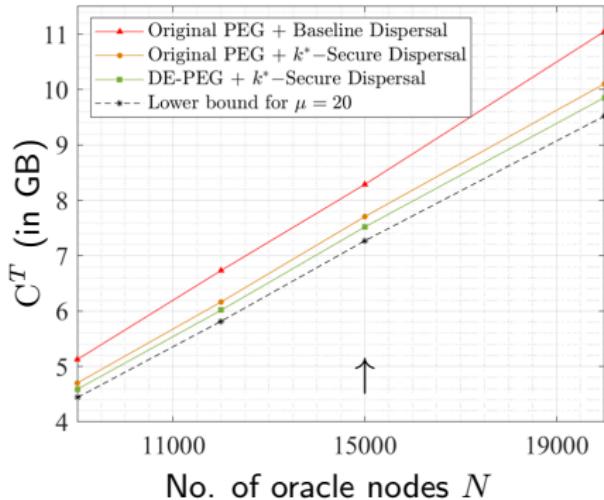
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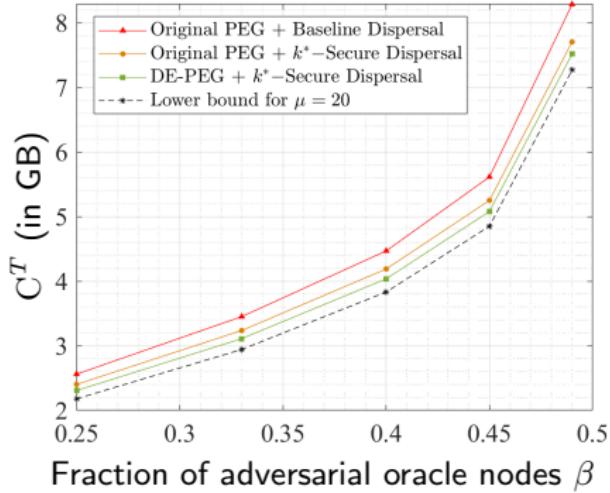
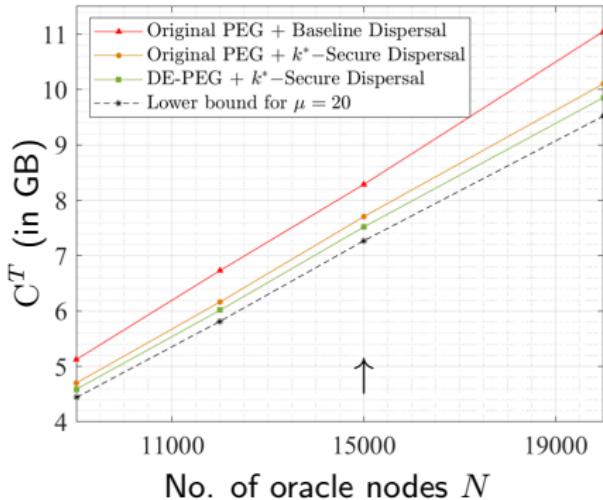
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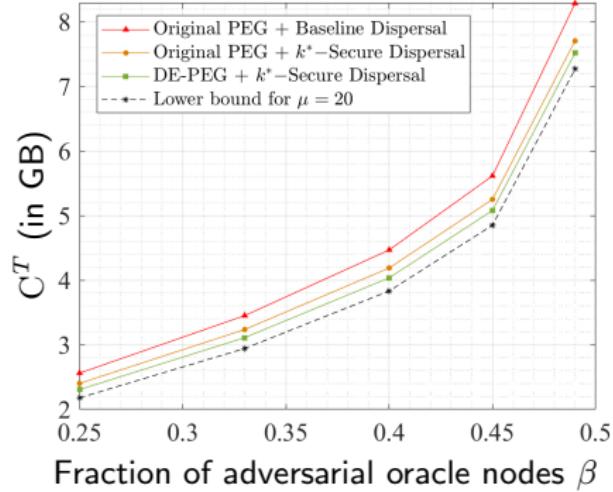
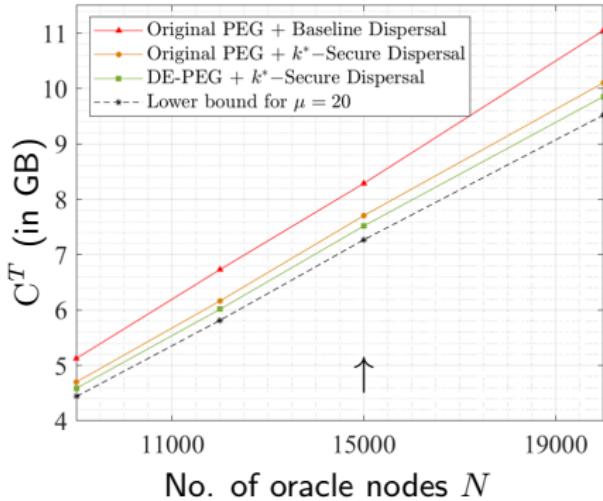
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# Simulation Results



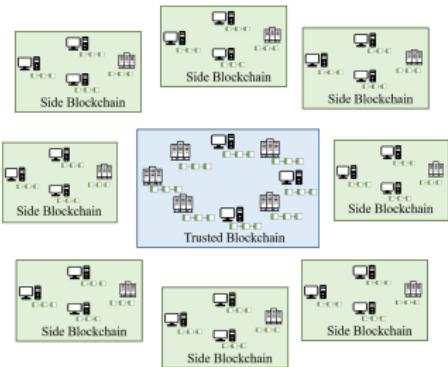
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- Similar trends hold when  $C^T$  is plotted as a function of the adversary fraction  $\beta$

# Conclusion and Ongoing work

## ► Conclusion

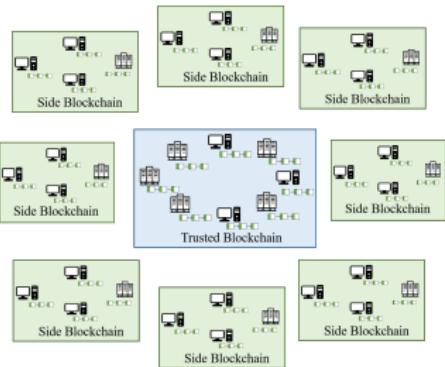
- Off-the-shelf LDPC codes, e.g. those designed for AWGN or BSC channels, may not be optimal for:
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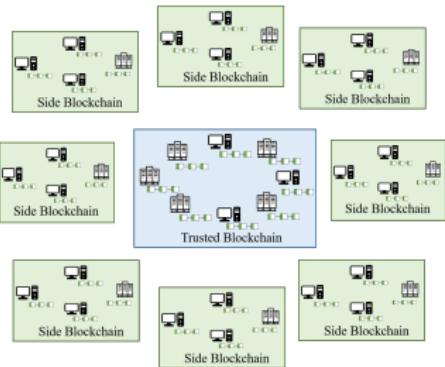
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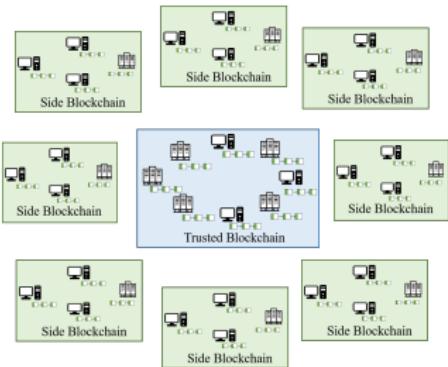
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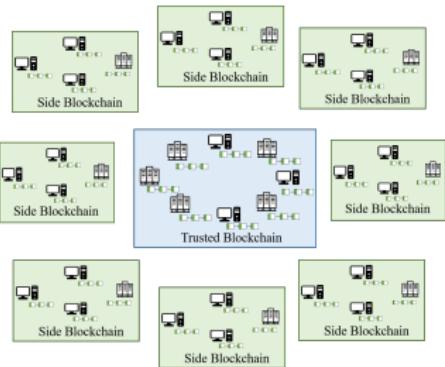


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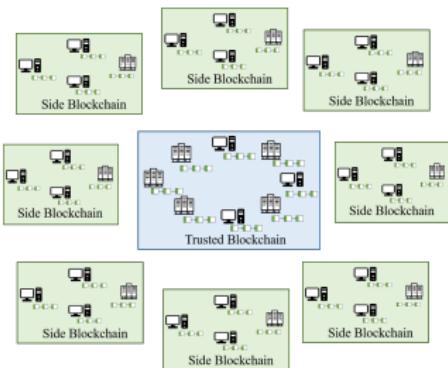
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- Off-the-shelf LDPC codes, e.g. those designed for AWGN or BSC channels, may not be optimal for:
  - ↳ Adversarial erasures with dispersal protocol
- LDPC codes tailor made for these specific channels demonstrate better performance
  - ↳  $k^*$ -secure dispersal protocol
  - ↳ DE-PEG algorithm



## ► Ongoing work

- Considering other code families such as Polar codes for this application.

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