

# The Fundamental Limits of Statistical Data Privacy

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UIUC



# 30 YEARS AGO

Pre-internet

*Human to  
human*



# THEN CAME THE INTERNET



*Human to  
human*

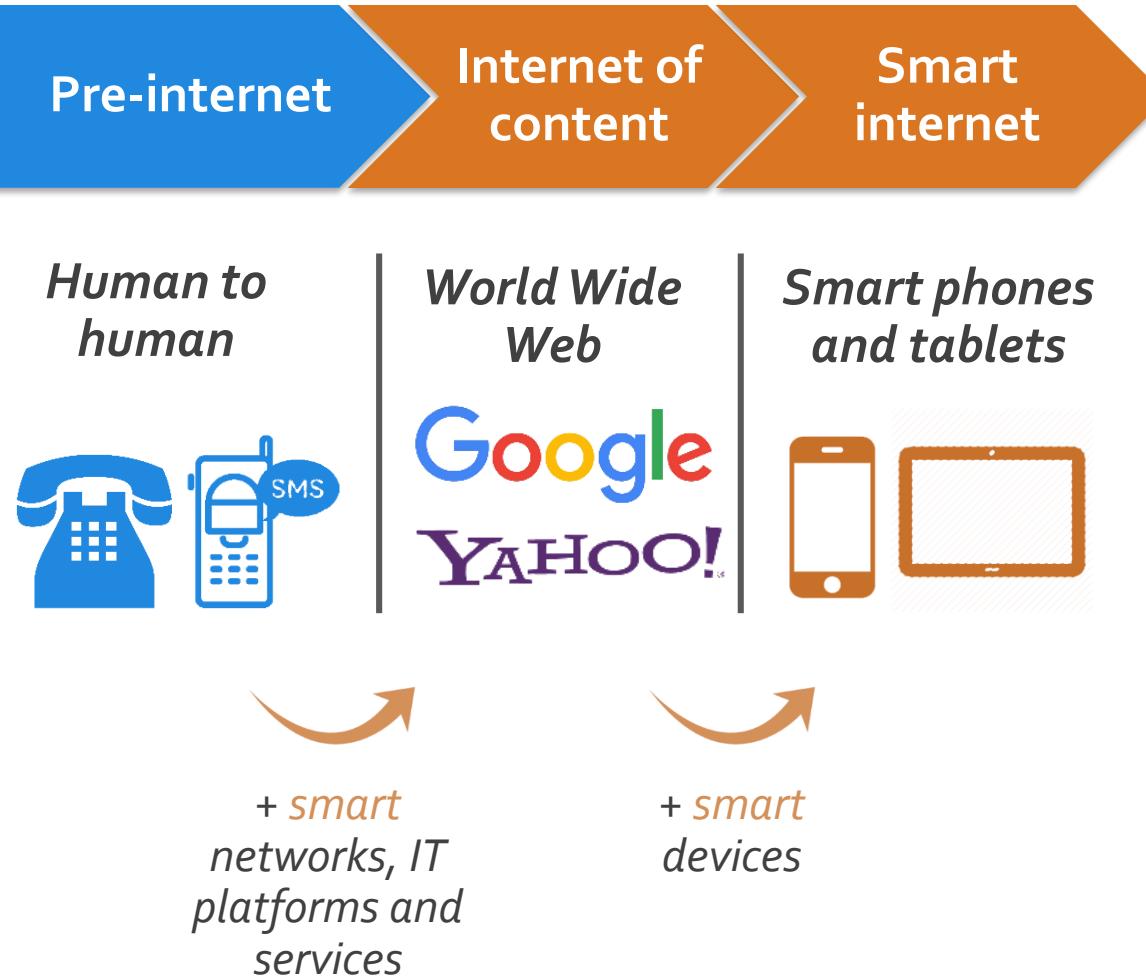


*World Wide  
Web*

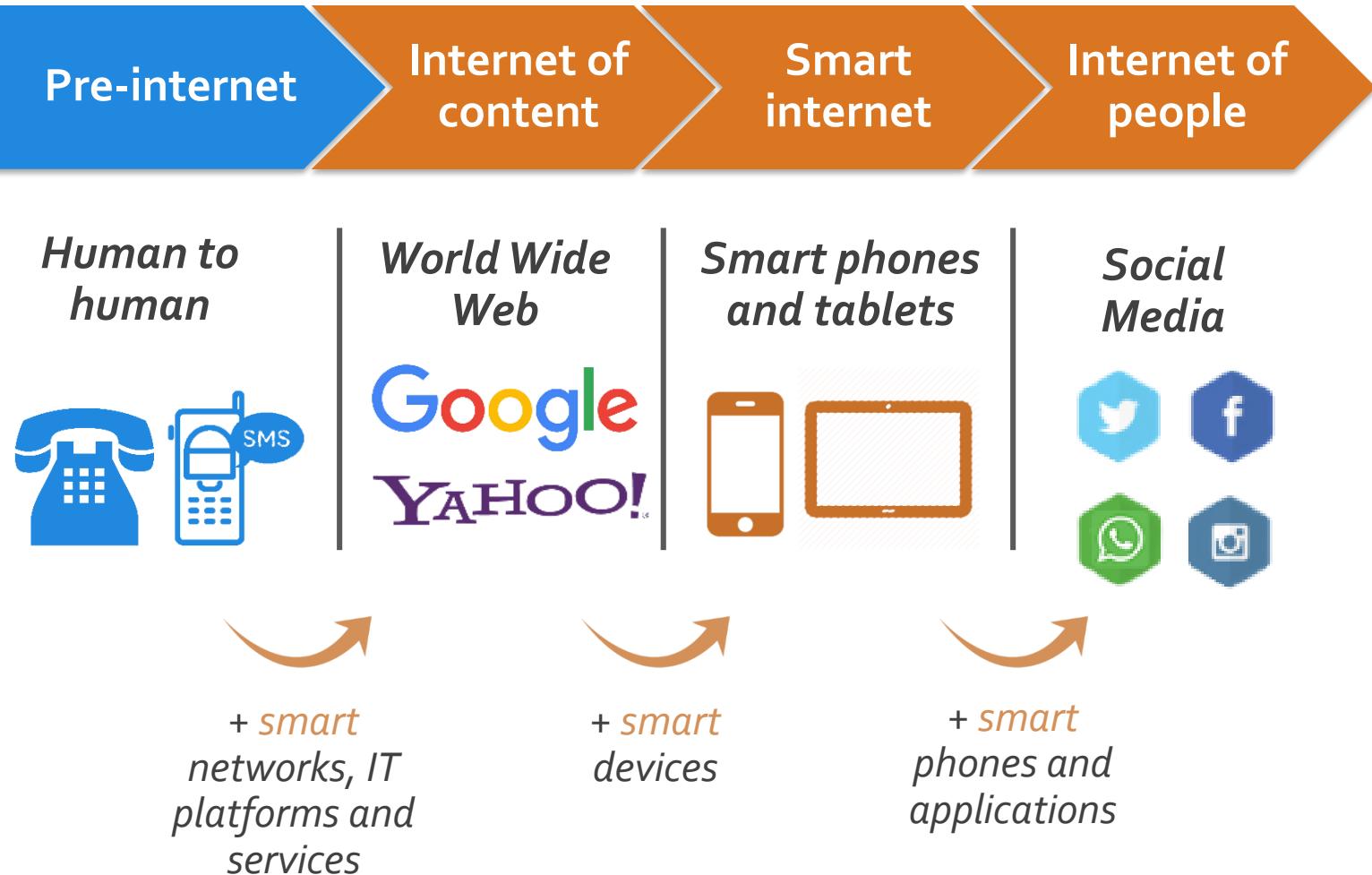
Google  
YAHOO!

+ *smart  
networks, IT  
platforms and  
services*

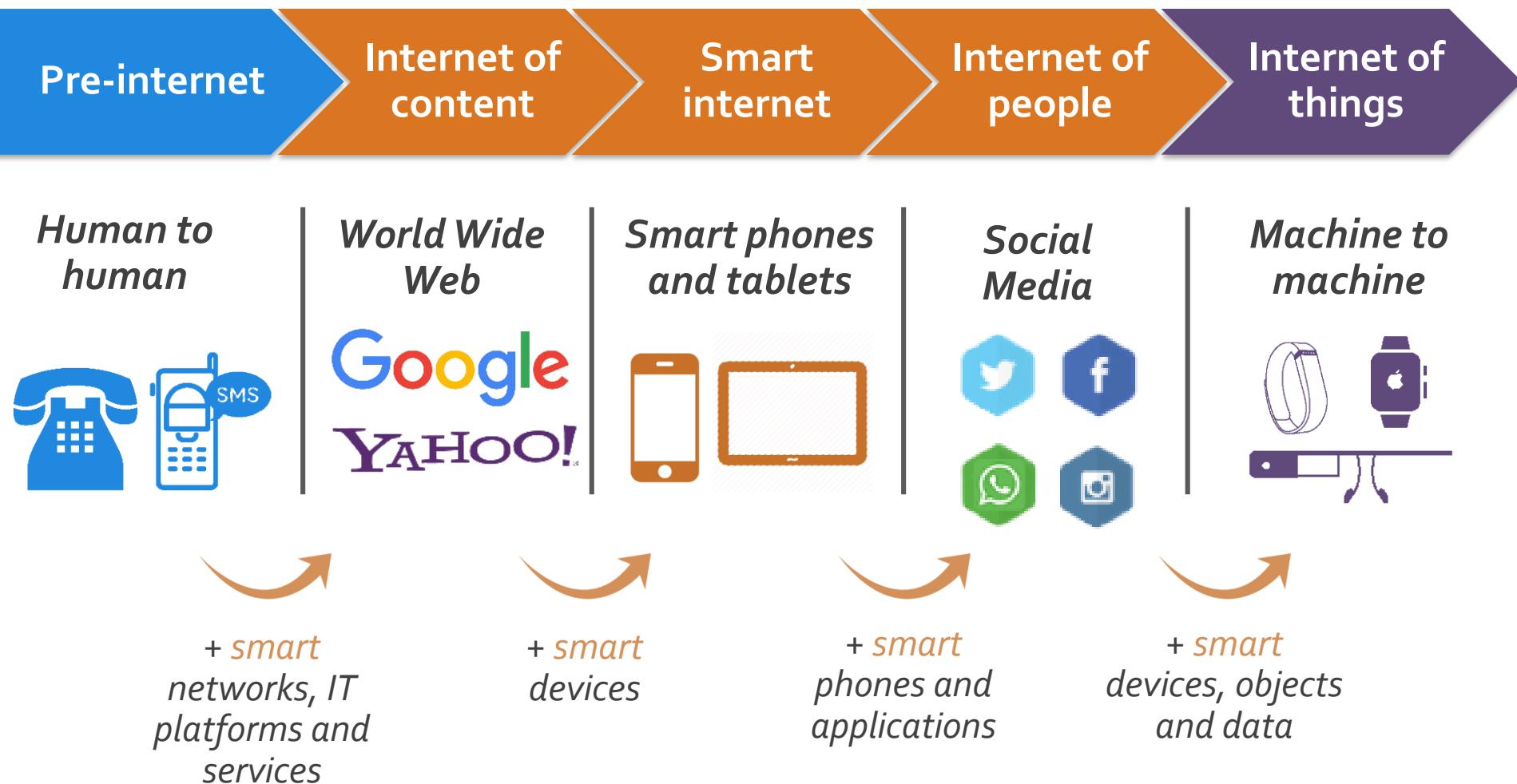
# AND THEN THE INTERNET GOT BETTER



# AND BETTER



# UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF CONNECTIVITY



# WE'RE BEING WATCHED!

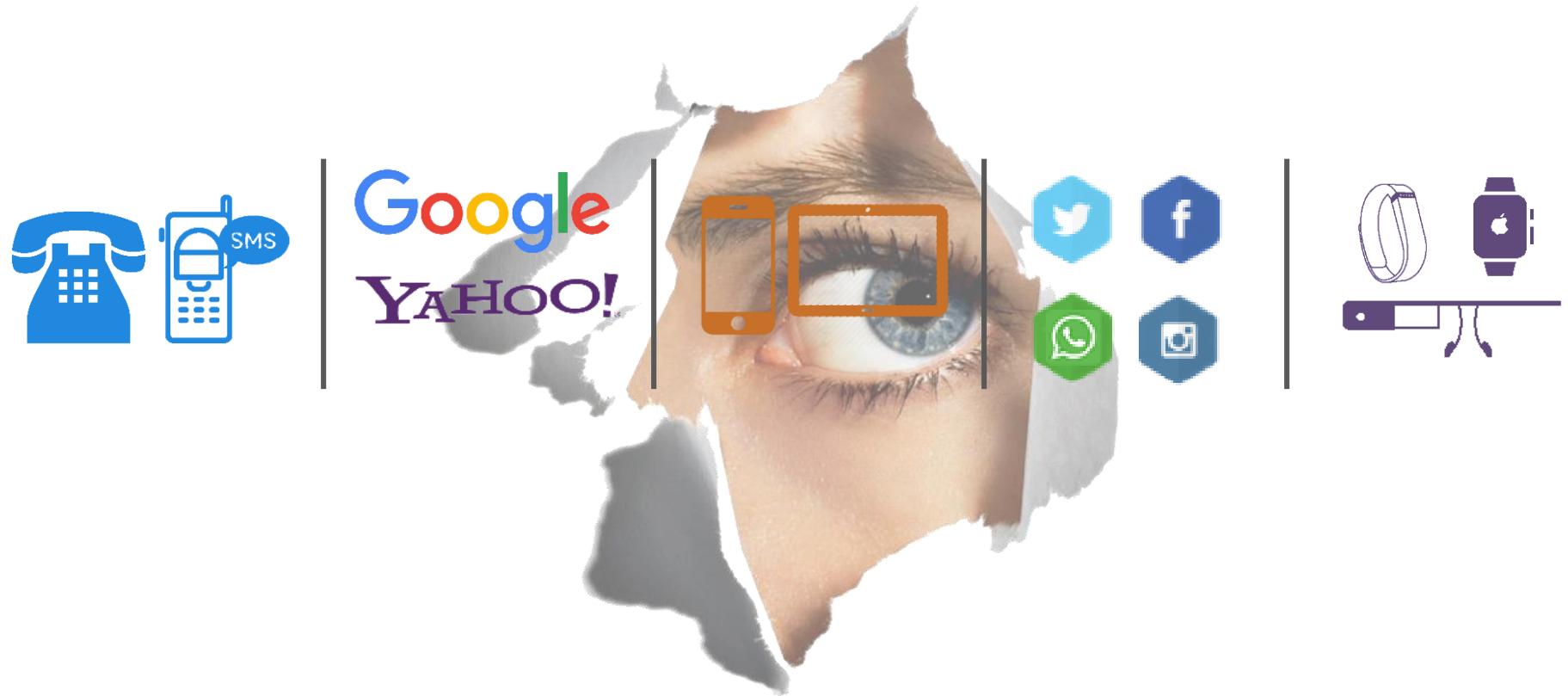
Pre-internet

Internet of  
content

Smart  
internet

Internet of  
people

Internet of  
things





IT'S OKAY, OUR DATA IS ENCRYPTED TARGET



iCloud

ebay

CHASE



DON'T RELY EXCLUSIVELY  
ON ENCRYPTION



de-anonymizing Netflix  
watch histories

EVEN IF YOU'RE CAREFUL,  
from anonymized genomes

identifying surnames and ages

THINGS CAN GO WRONG



+ facebook.® = SSN

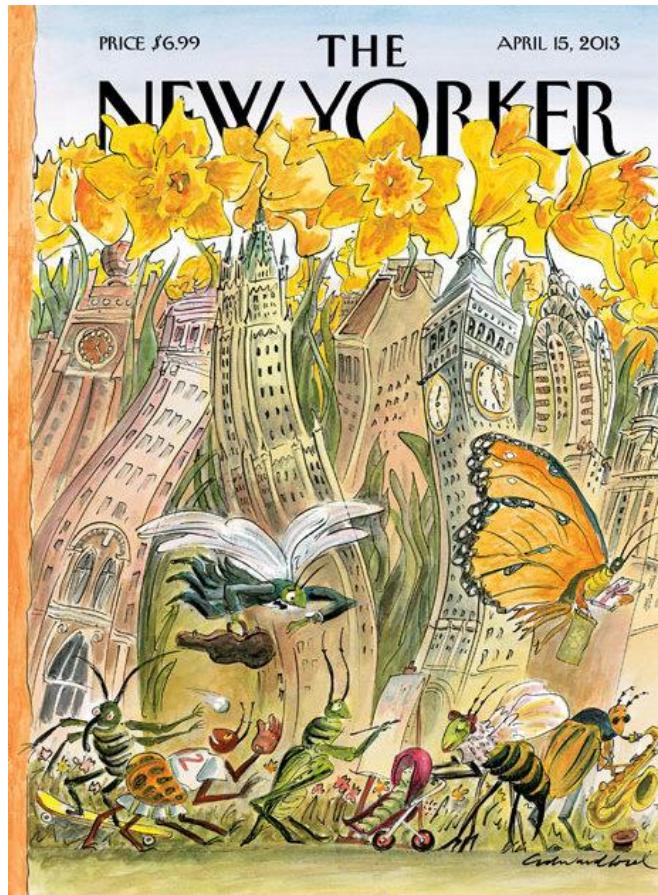
Image Credit: Alessandro Acquisti

from anonymous faces to social security numbers

WE NEED CONTEXT FREE  
PRIVACY GUARANTEES

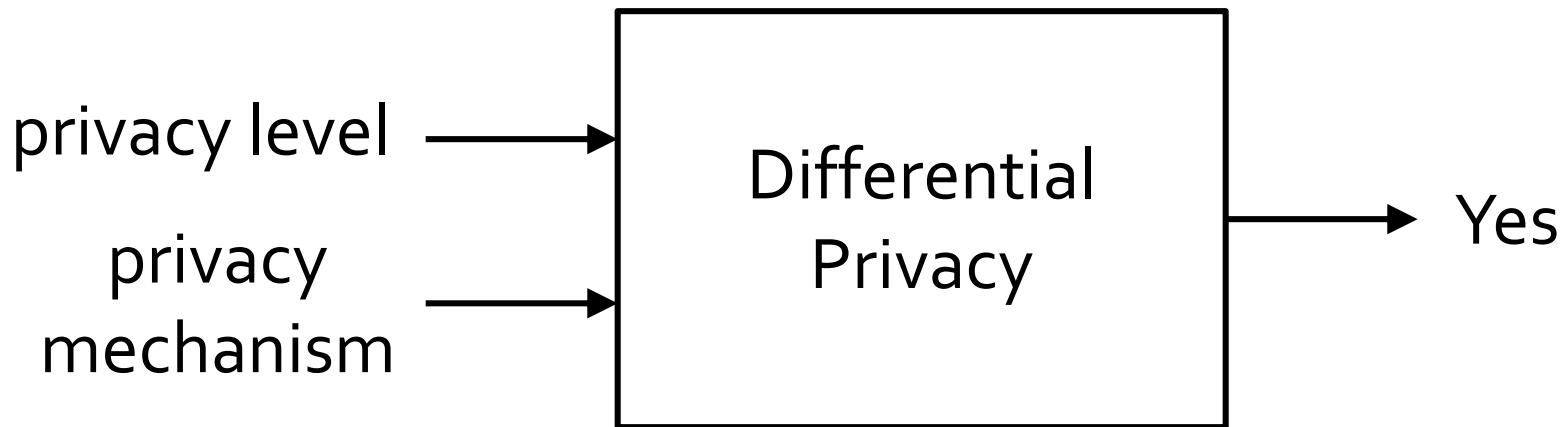
# THE ULTIMATE PROTECTION

“the future of privacy is lying”

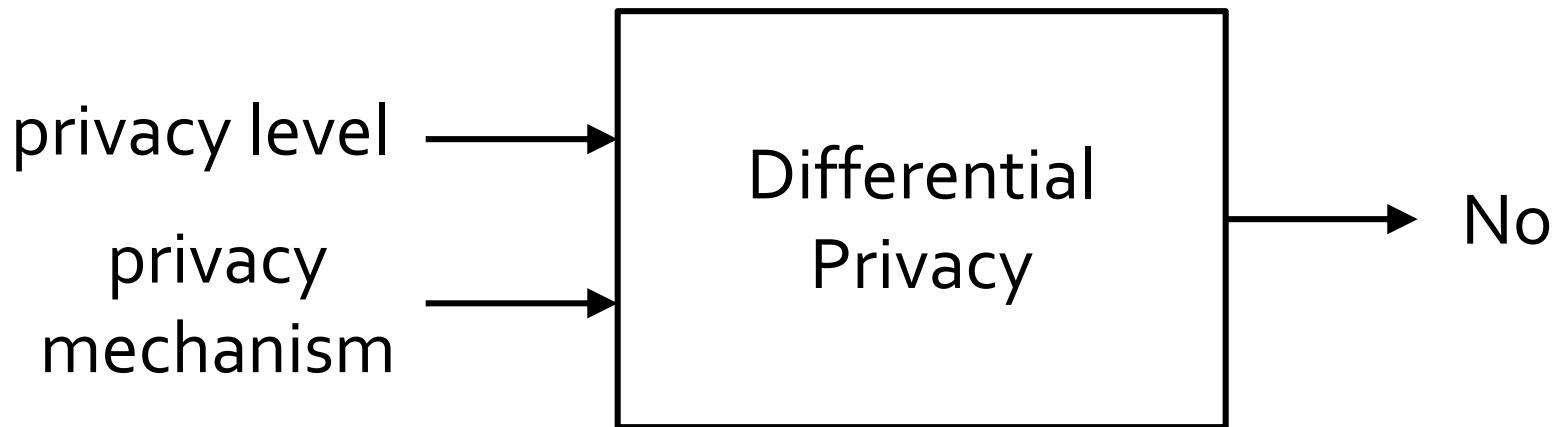


lying = adding noise to data

# DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY

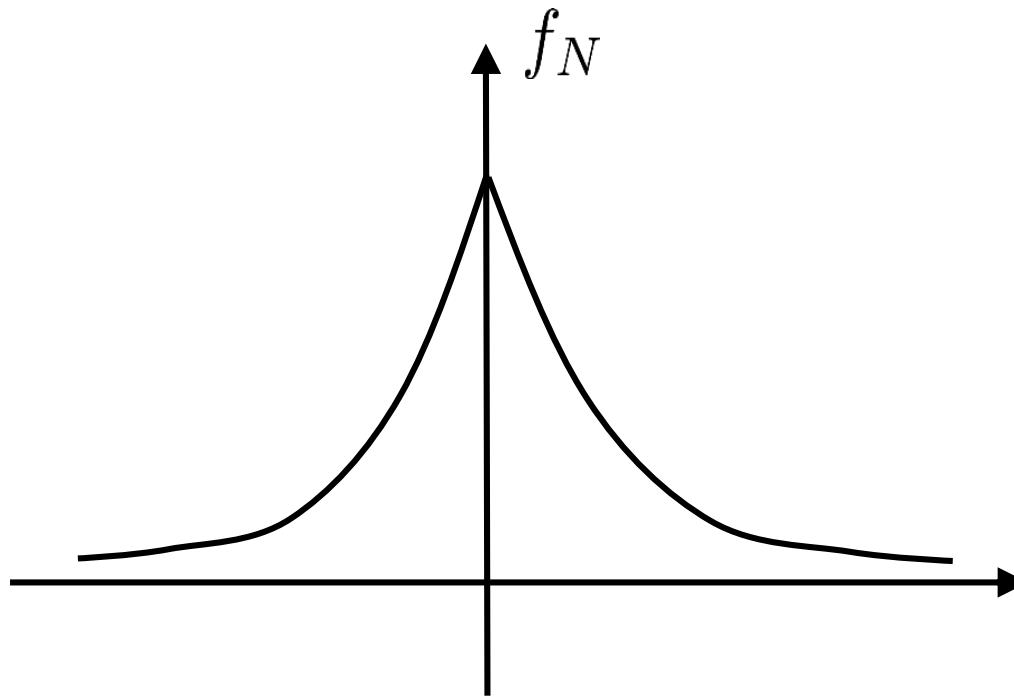


# DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY



# DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY

Laplace Mechanism



standard deviation proportional to privacy level

# PRIVACY VS. UTILITY

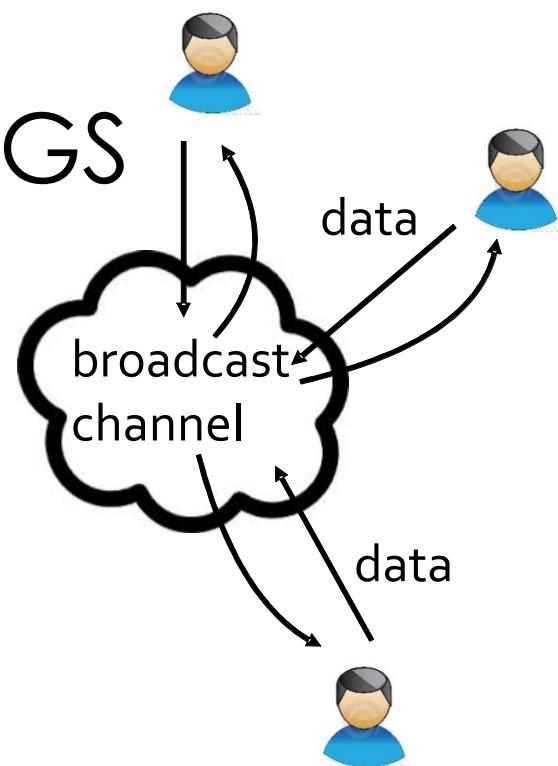
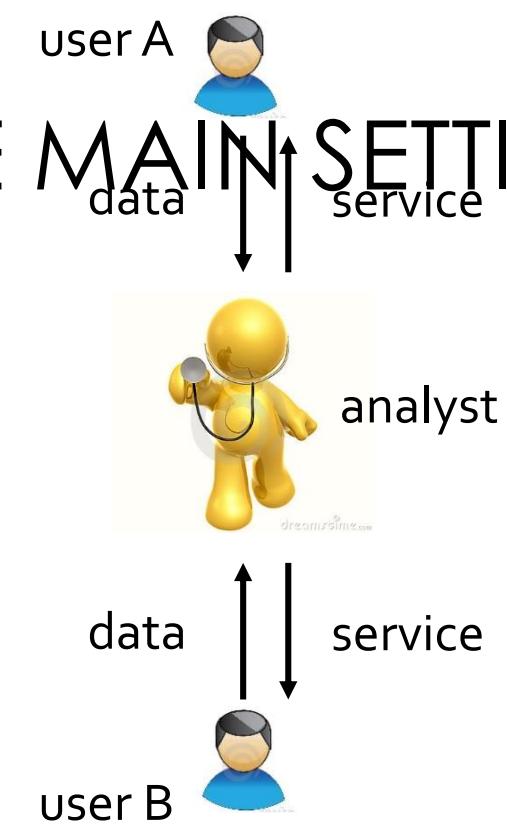
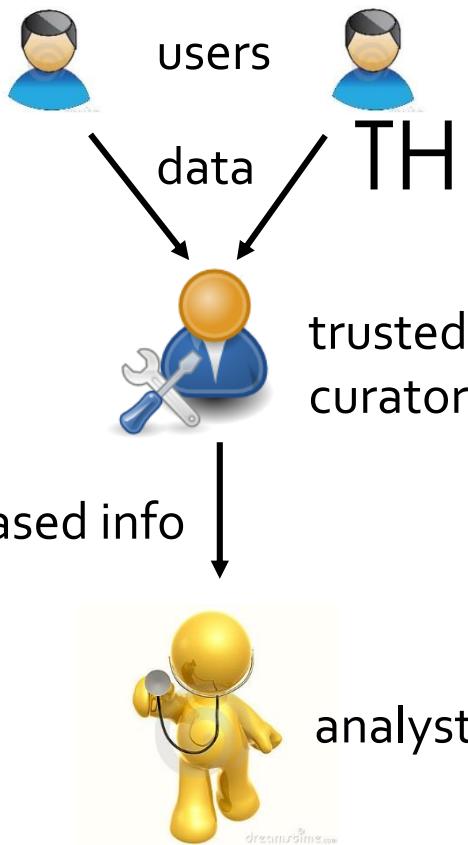
GIVEN A PRIVACY LEVEL

FIND THE “BEST” PRIVACY  
MECHANISM UNDER  
DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY

## Global Privacy

## Local Privacy

## Multi-Party Privacy



THREE MAIN SETTINGS

# OUR MAIN RESULT

Global Privacy

Local Privacy

Multi-Party  
Privacy

**privacy mechanisms** that achieve the best privacy-utility tradeoff

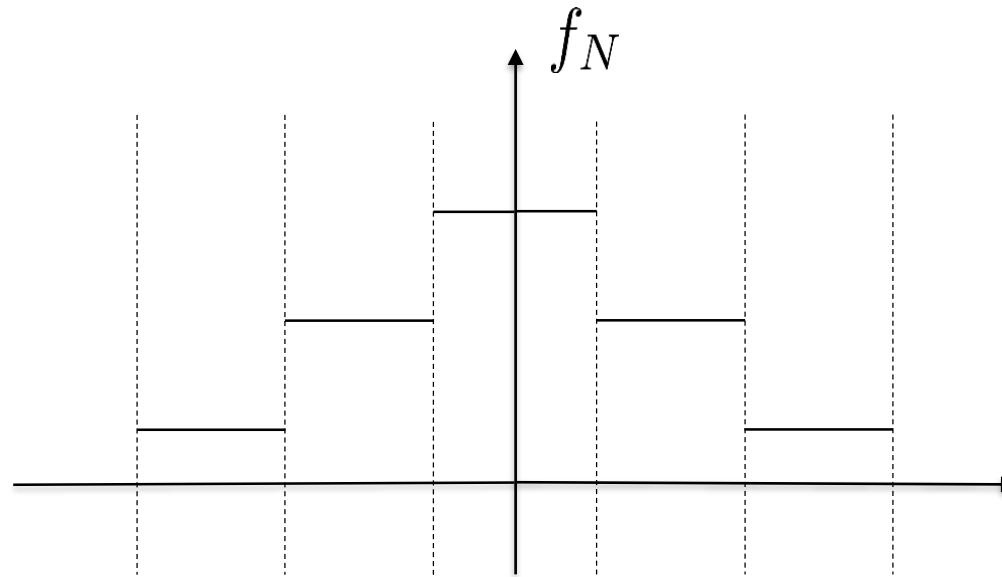
# OUR MAIN RESULT

Global Privacy

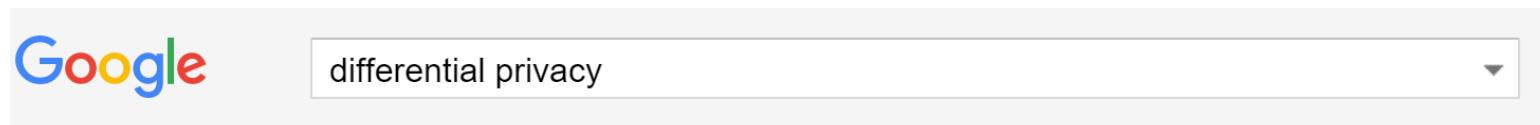
Local Privacy

Multi-Party  
Privacy

the optimal mechanisms in all three settings have a **staircase shape**



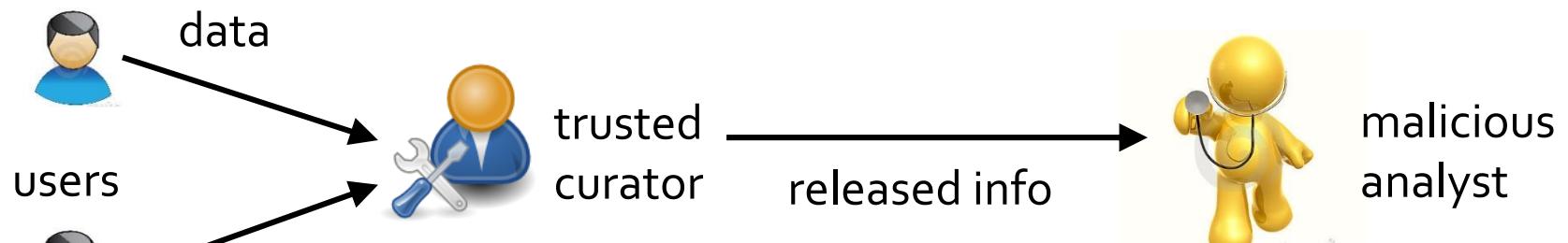
# STAIRCASE MECHANISMS ARE OPTIMAL



Scholar	About 2,560,000 results (0.03 sec)
Articles	<b>Differential privacy</b> <a href="#">C Dwork</a> - Automata, languages and programming, 2006 - Springer Abstract In 1977 Dalenius articulated a desideratum for statistical databases: nothing about an individual should be learnable from the database that cannot be learned without access to the database. We give a general impossibility result showing that a formalization of ... Cited by 1744 Related articles All 22 versions Web of Science: 293 Cite Save
Case law	
My library	
Any time	<b>Differential privacy: A survey of results</b> <a href="#">C Dwork</a> - Theory and applications of models of computation, 2008 - Springer Abstract Over the past five years a new approach to <b>privacy</b> -preserving data analysis has born fruit [13, 18, 7, 19, 5, 37, 35, 8, 32]. This approach differs from much (but not all!) of the related literature in the statistics, databases, theory, and cryptography communities, in that ... Cited by 749 Related articles All 24 versions Cite Save
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Sort by relevance	<b>Mechanism design via differential privacy</b> <a href="#">F McSherry, K Talwar</a> - ... of Computer Science, 2007. FOCS'07. ..., 2007 - ieeexplore.ieee.org Abstract We study the role that <b>privacy</b> -preserving algorithms, which prevent the leakage of specific information about participants, can play in the design of mechanisms for strategic agents, which must encourage players to honestly report information. Specifically, we ... Cited by 573 Related articles All 24 versions Cite Save
Sort by date	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> include patents	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> include citations	
✉ Create alert	<b>Differential privacy via wavelet transforms</b> <a href="#">X Xiao, G Wang, J Gehrke</a> - Knowledge and Data Engineering, ..., 2011 - ieeexplore.ieee.org Abstract— <b>Privacy</b> preserving data publishing has attracted considerable research interest in recent years. Among the existing solutions, e- <b>differential privacy</b> provides the strongest <b>privacy</b> guarantee. Existing data publishing methods that achieve e- <b>differential privacy</b> , ...

PART 1/3:  
GLOBAL PRIVACY

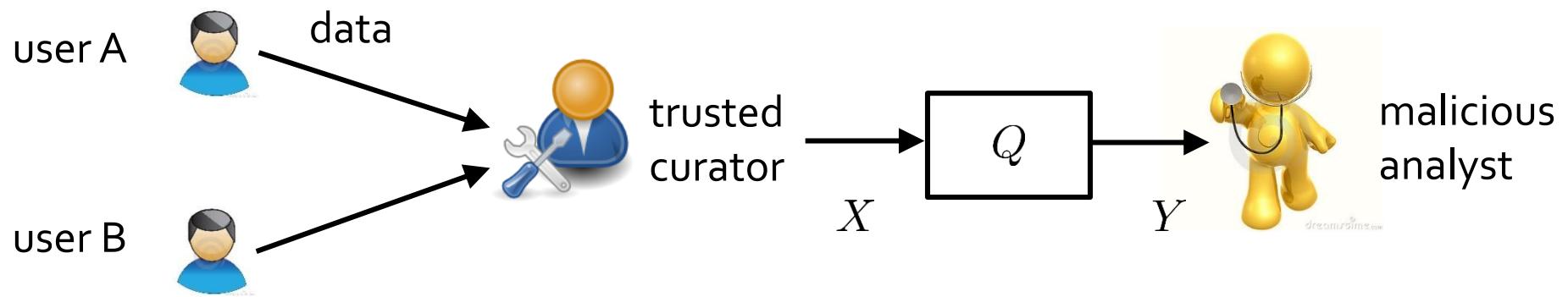
# GLOBAL PRIVACY MODEL



National Institutes  
of Health



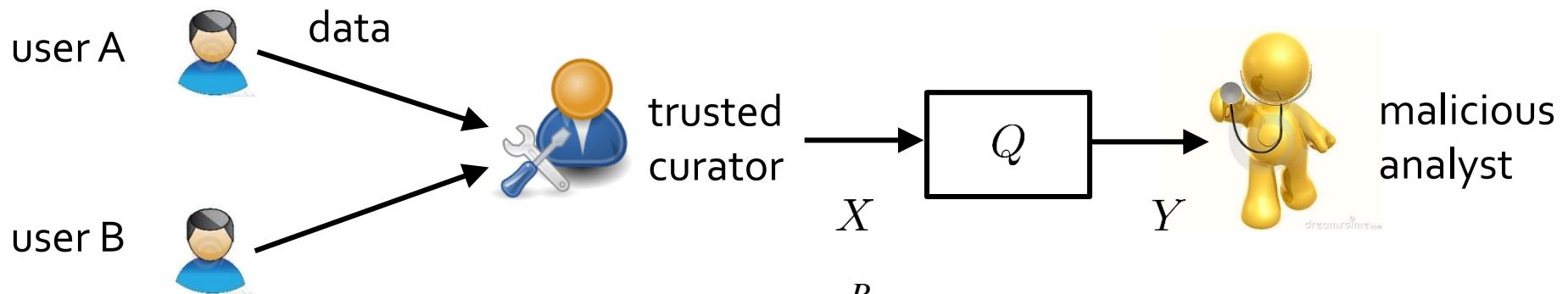
# GLOBAL DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY



$$e^{-\varepsilon} \leq \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y|\text{user A present})}{\mathbb{P}(Y|\text{user A absent})} \leq e^{+\varepsilon}$$

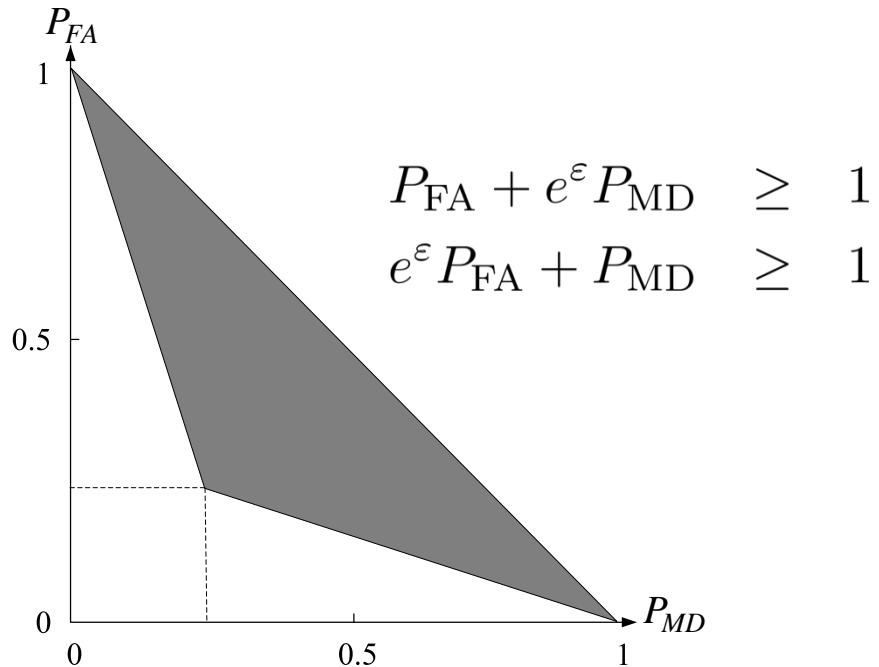
$\varepsilon$  controls the level of privacy  
large  $\varepsilon$ , low privacy  
small  $\varepsilon$ , high privacy

# OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION

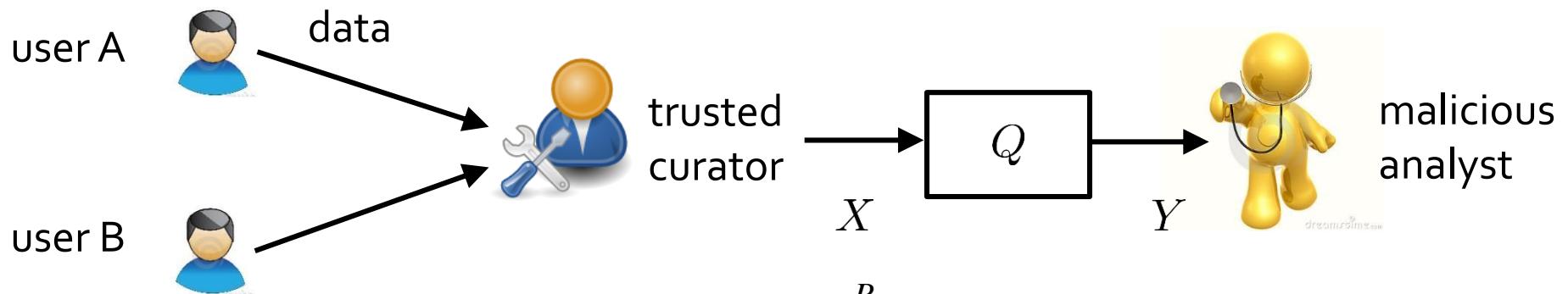


Ho: user A is absent

H1: user A is present

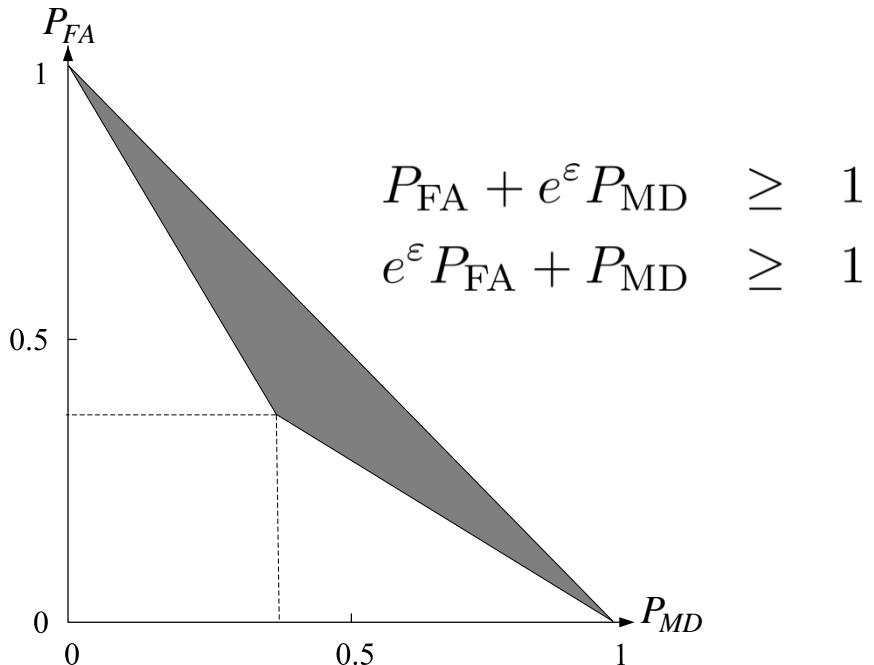


# OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION

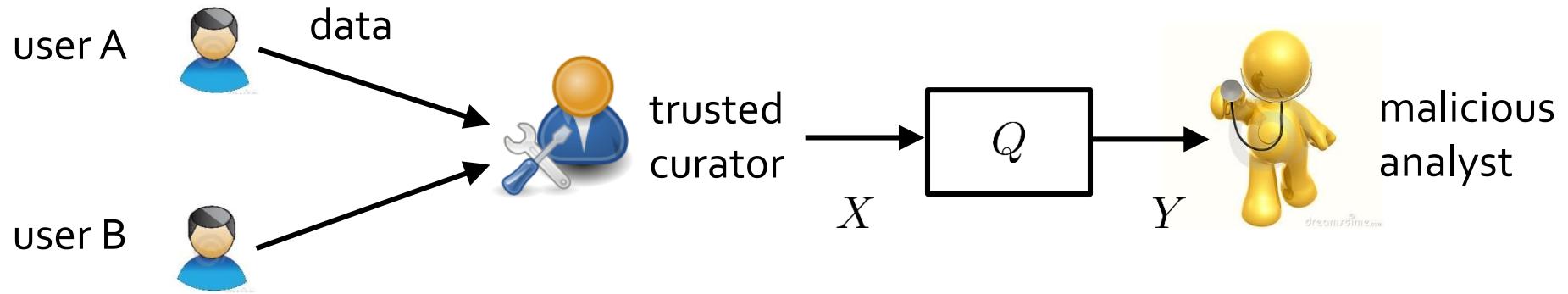


Ho: user A is absent

H1: user A is present



# PRIVACY-UTILITY TRADEOFF

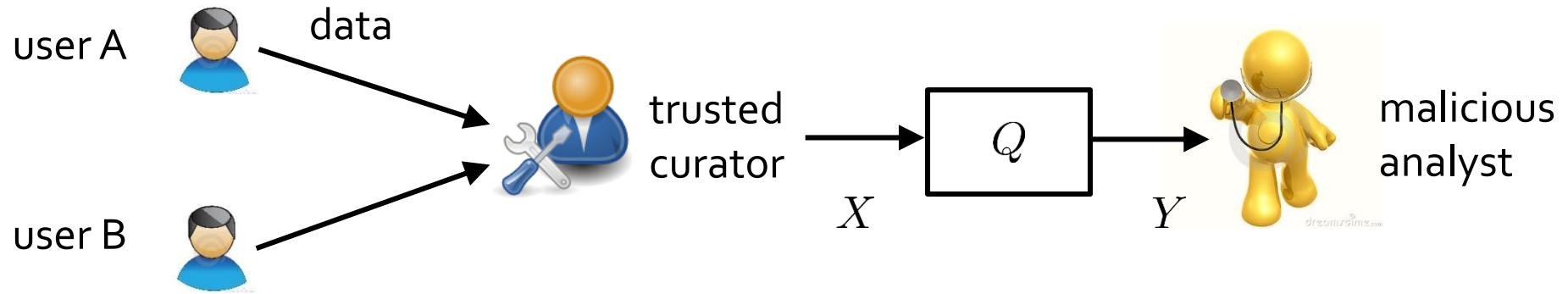


$$\text{loss} = |X - Y|$$

$$\text{average loss} = \mathbb{E}|X - Y|$$

worst case average loss

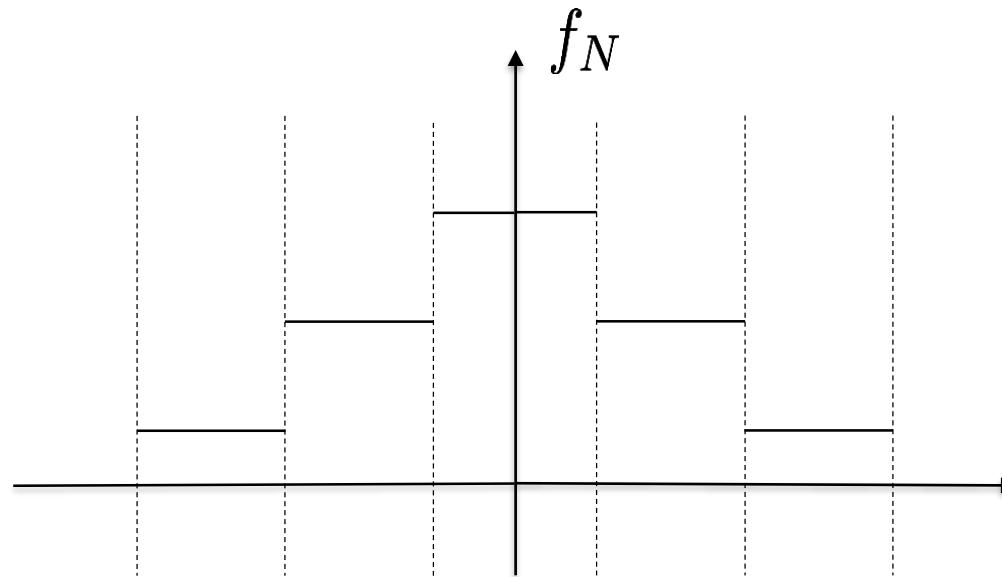
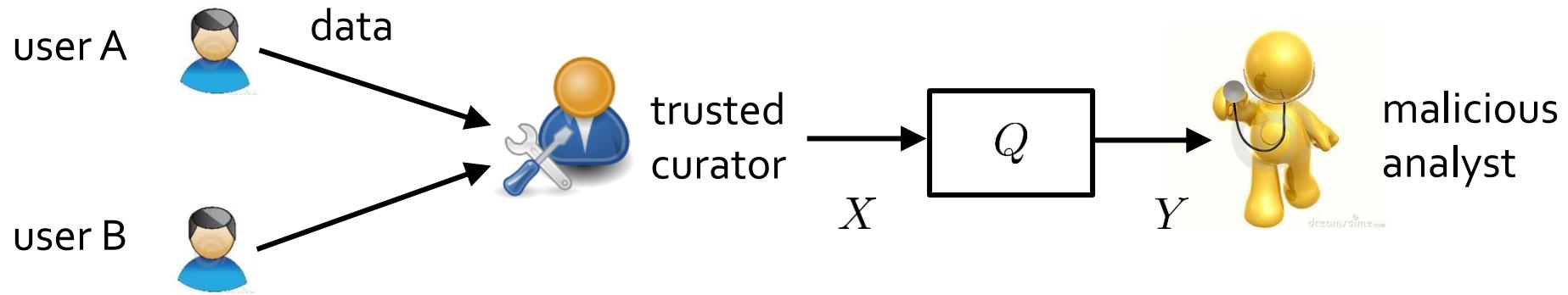
# PRIVACY-UTILITY TRADEOFF



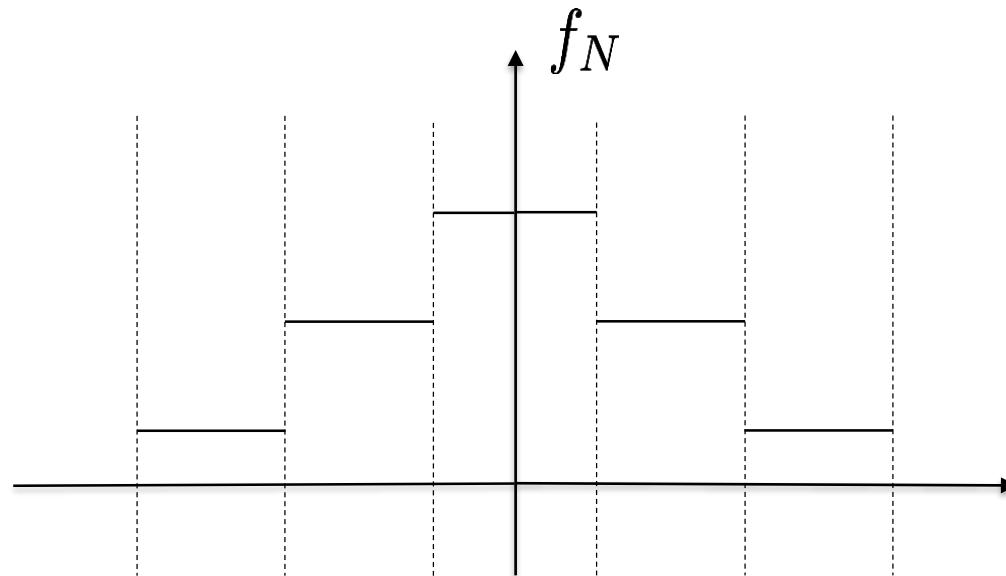
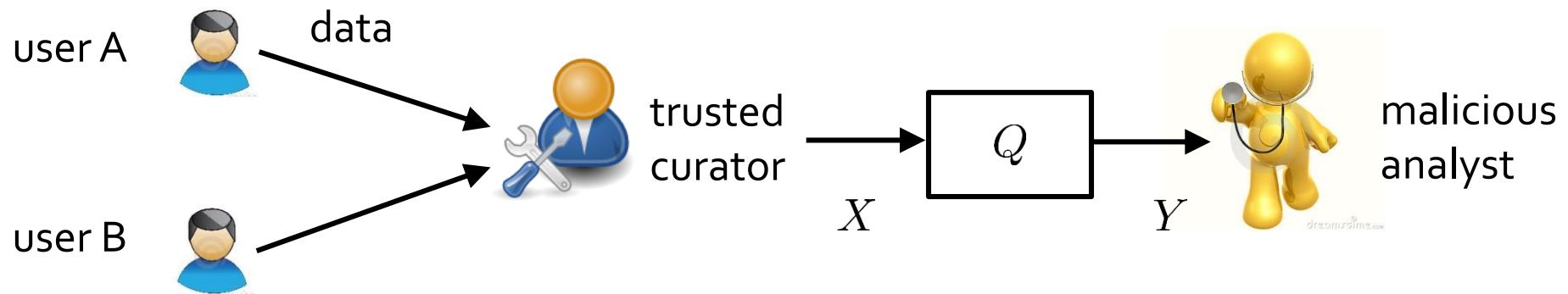
minimize the worst case average loss

subject to differential privacy

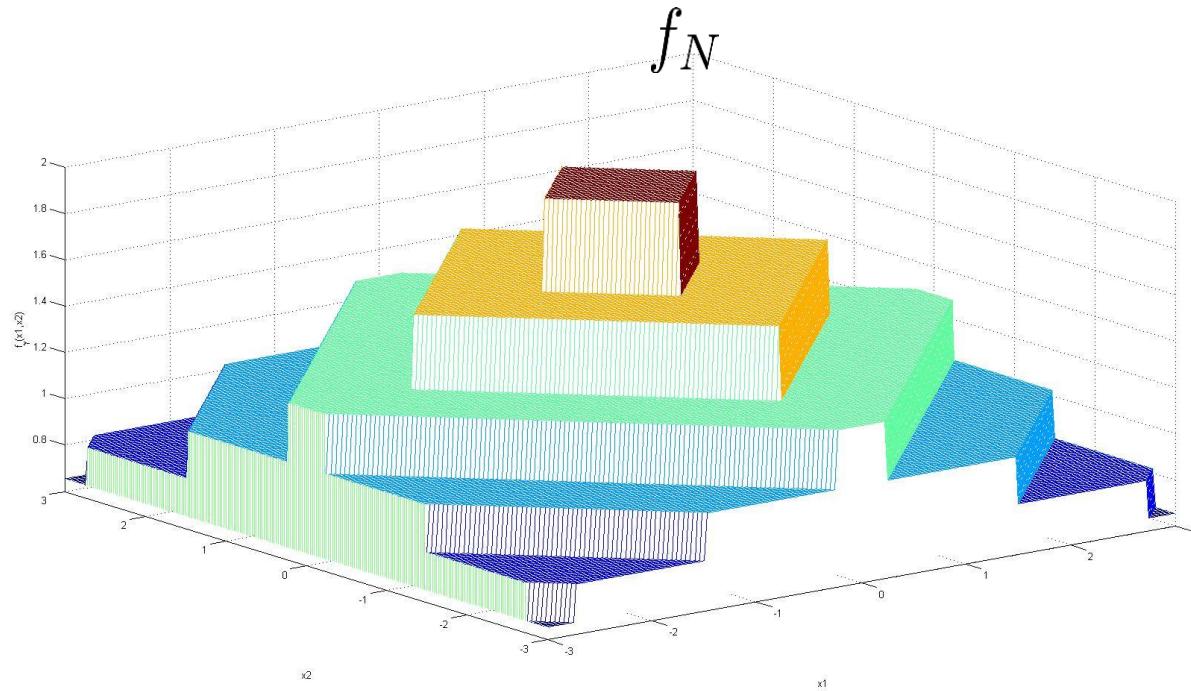
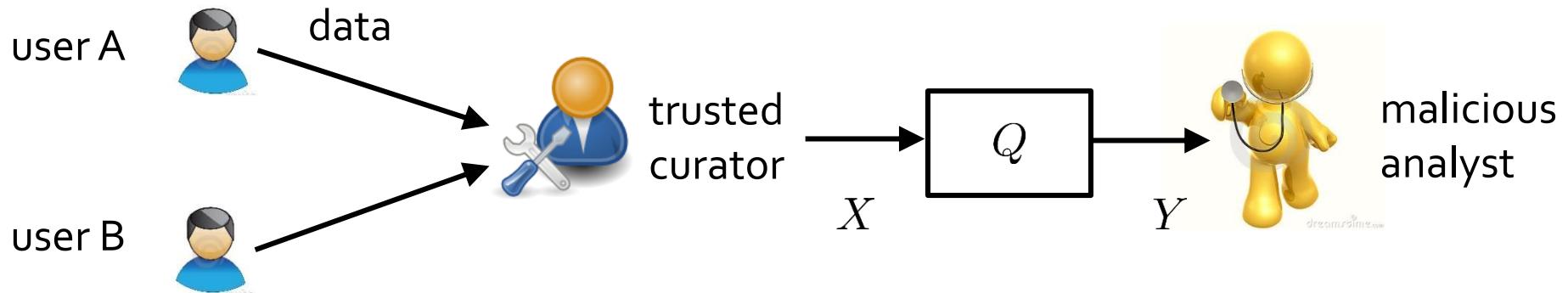
# OPTIMALITY OF STAIRCASE MECHANISM



# WHAT ABOUT OTHER LOSSES

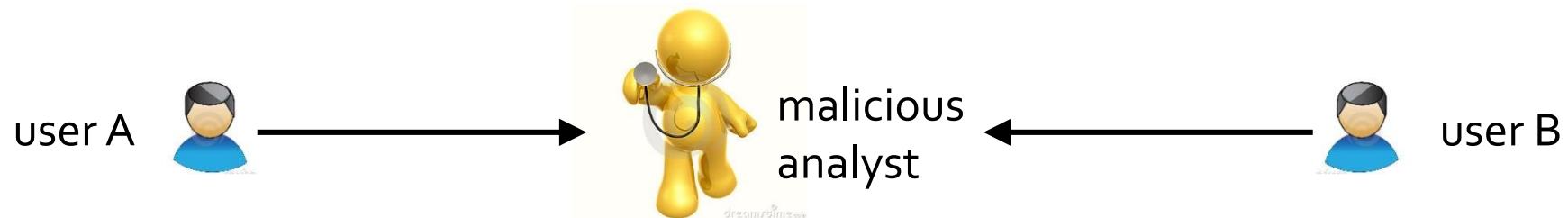


# WHAT ABOUT 2 DIMENSIONAL DATA



# PART 2/3: LOCAL PRIVACY

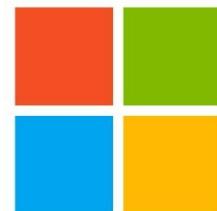
# LOCAL PRIVACY MODEL



Google



facebook.



Microsoft

# LOCAL PRIVACY MODEL



have you ever used illegal drugs?



answer truthfully



answer wrongly

[Warner 1965]

# LOCAL DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY



$$e^{-\varepsilon} \leq \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y|X)}{\mathbb{P}(Y|X')} \leq e^{+\varepsilon}$$

$\varepsilon$  controls the level of privacy  
large  $\varepsilon$ , low privacy  
small  $\varepsilon$ , high privacy

[Duchi et al. 2012]

# PRIVACY-UTILITY TRADEOFF



maximize utility

subject to differential privacy

# BINARY DATA



answer truthfully

$$\frac{e^\varepsilon}{e^\varepsilon + 1}$$

answer wrongly

$$\frac{1}{e^\varepsilon + 1}$$

# WARNER'S RESPONSE IS OPTIMAL



answer truthfully



answer wrongly

optimal for all privacy levels & all well behaved utilities

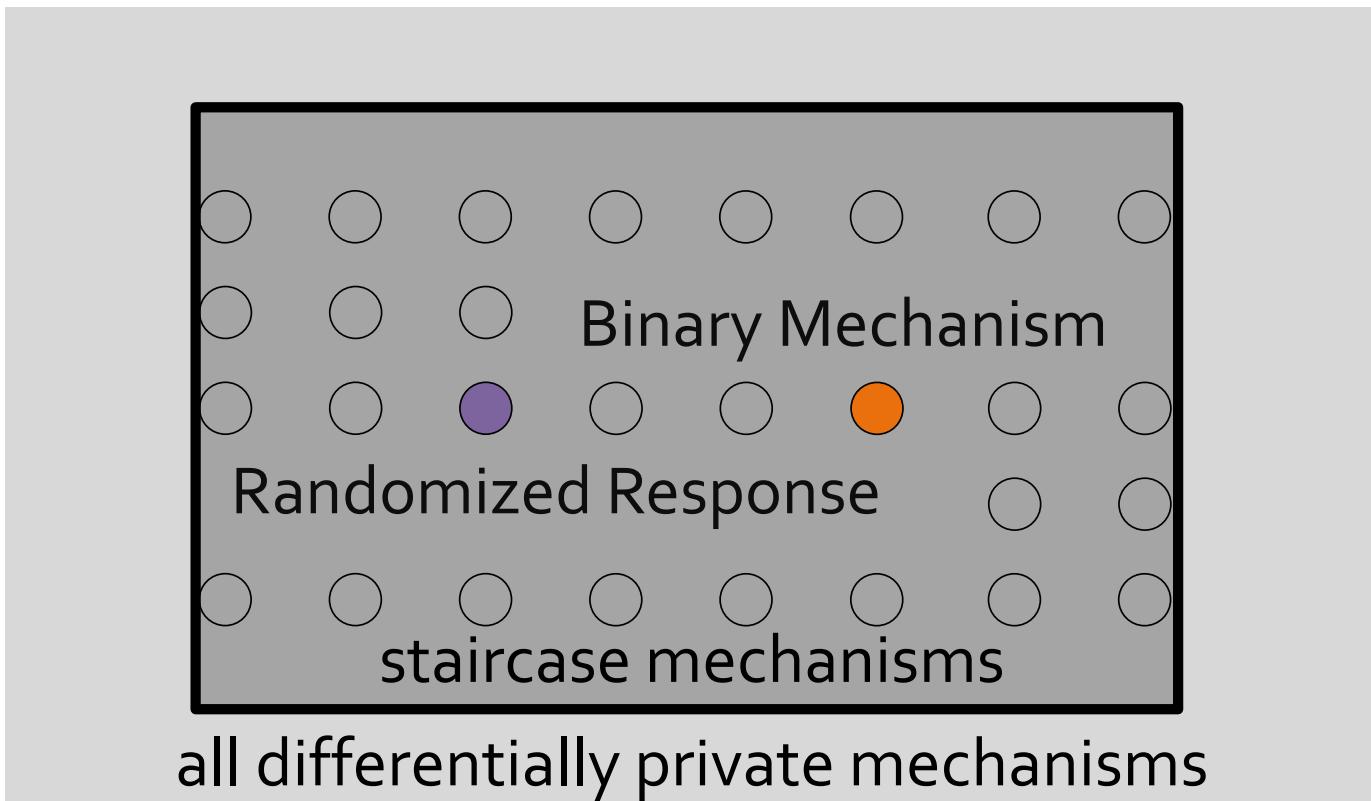
# WHAT ABOUT NON-BINARY DATA



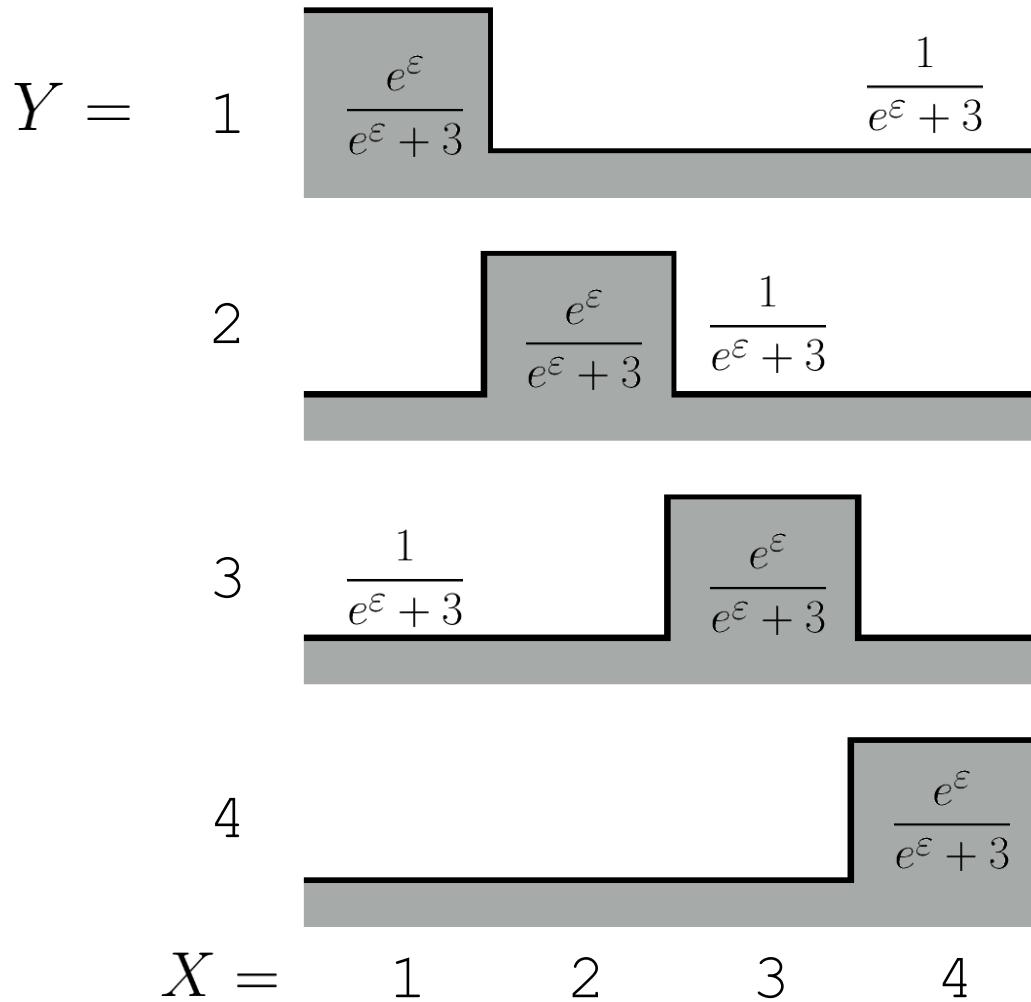
maximize utility

subject to differential privacy

# MAIN RESULTS



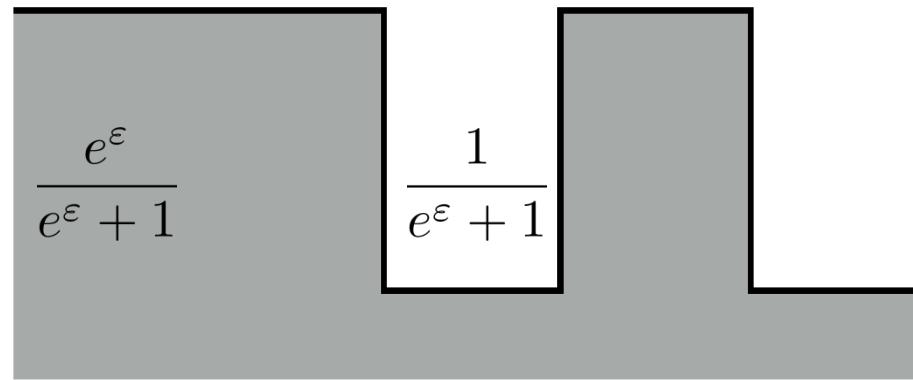
# RANDOMIZED RESPONSE



optimal in the low privacy regime

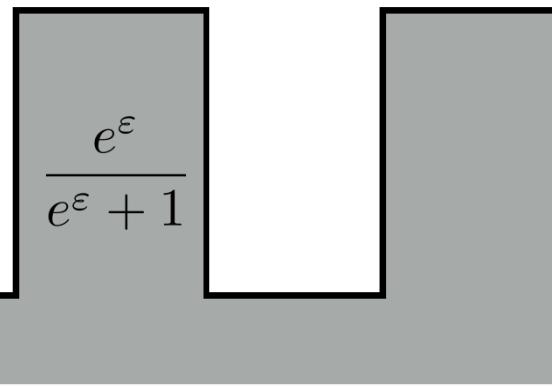
# BINARY MECHANISM

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1 & \end{cases}$$



$$2$$

$$\frac{1}{e^\varepsilon + 1}$$



$$X = \begin{cases} 1 & \end{cases}$$

$$2$$

$$3$$

$$4$$

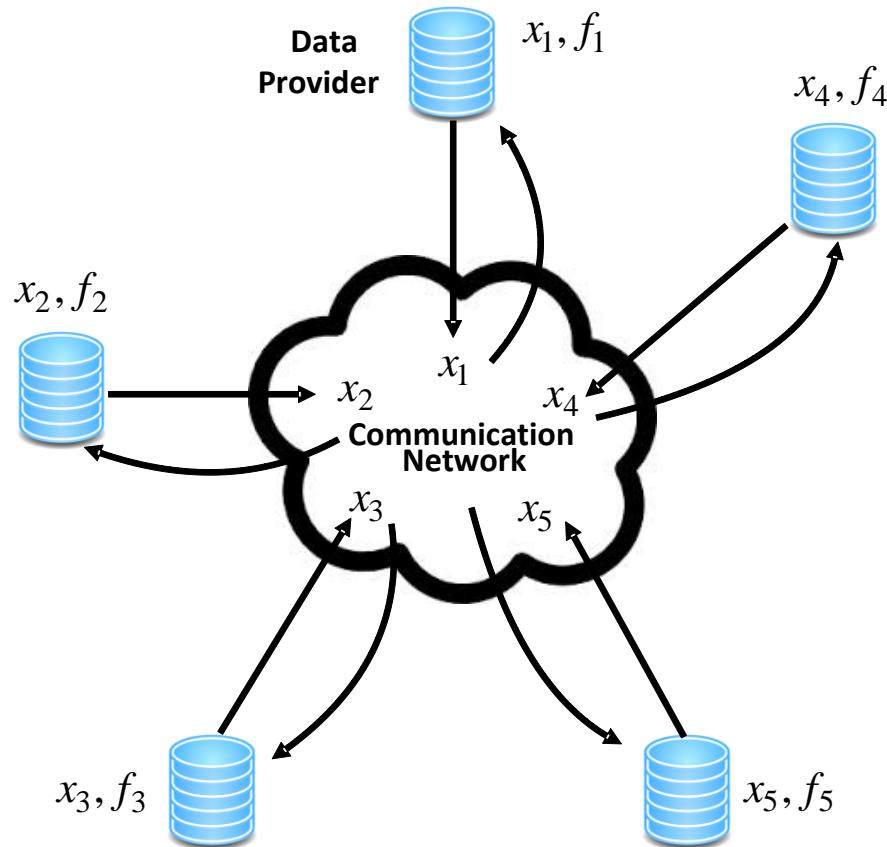
$$5$$

optimal in the high privacy regime

@Google

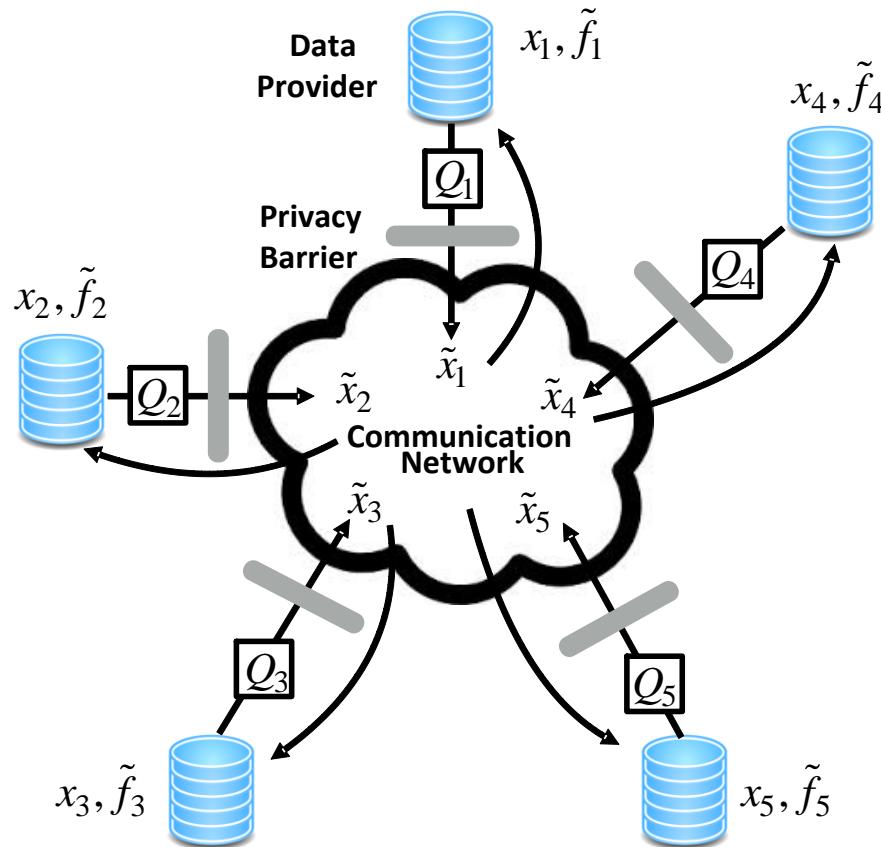
# PART 3/3: MULTI-PARTY PRIVACY

# MULTI-PARTY COMPUTATION



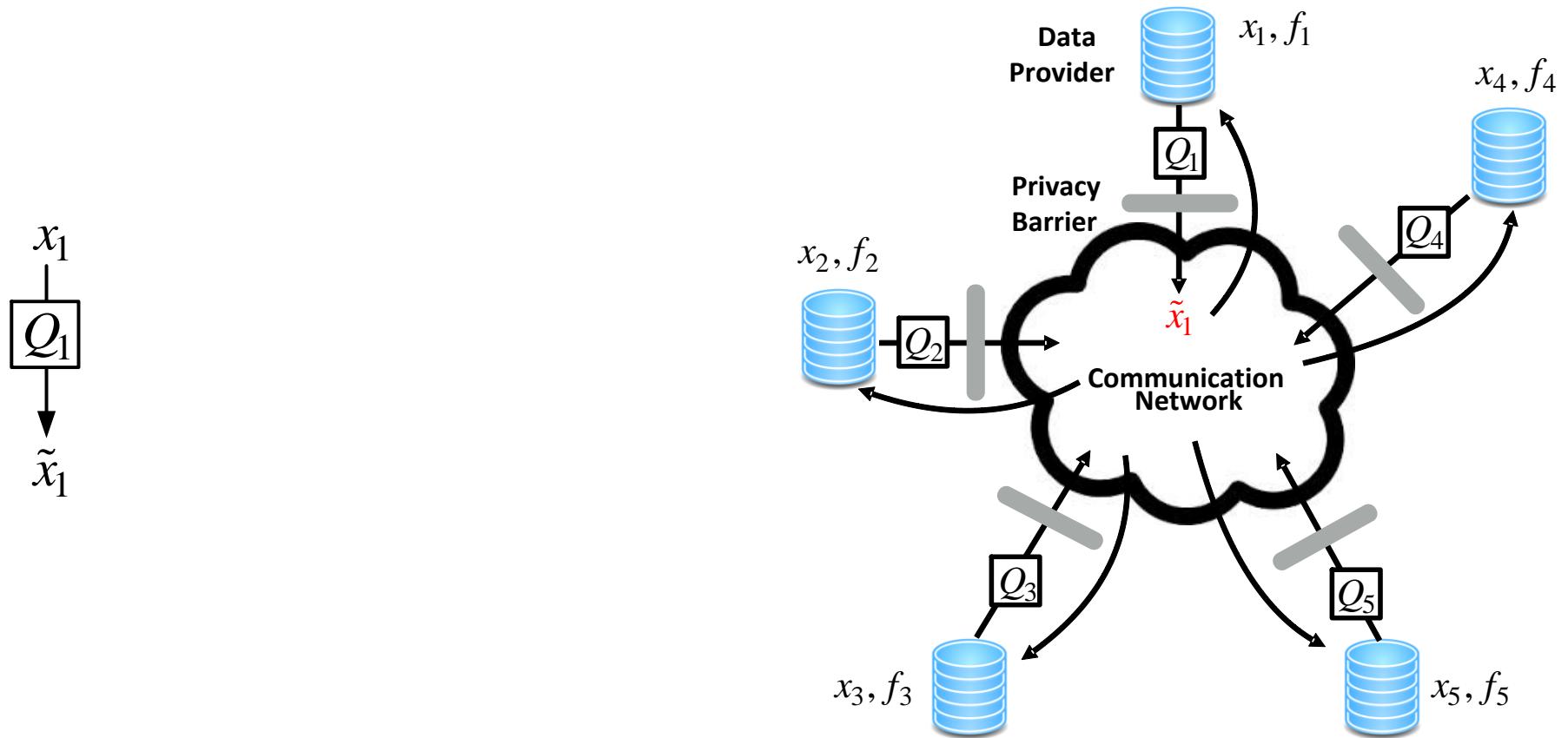
an important setting in distributed systems

# PRIVATE MULTI-PARTY COMPUTATION

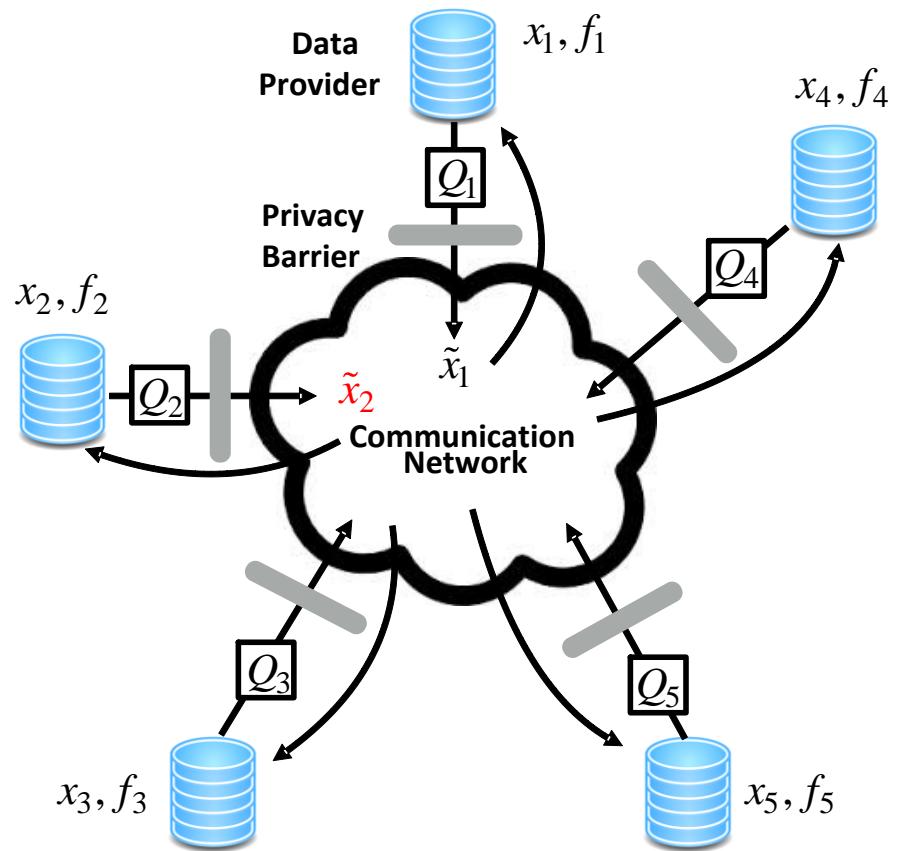
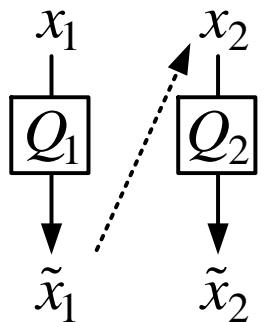


each party shares a noisy version of its data

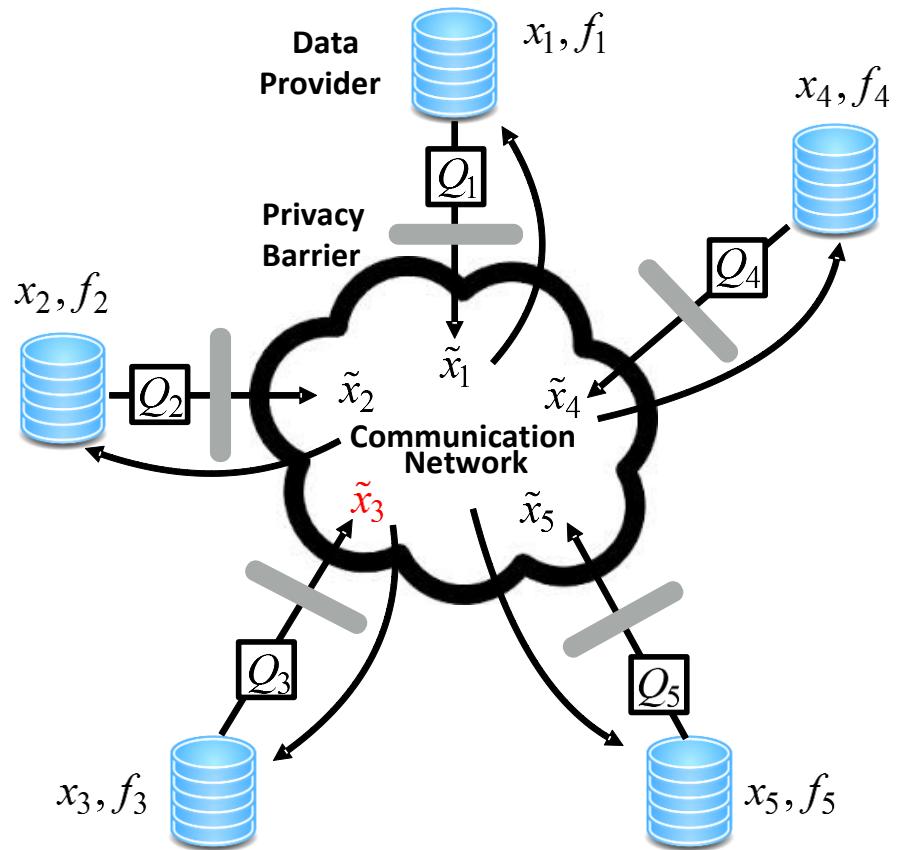
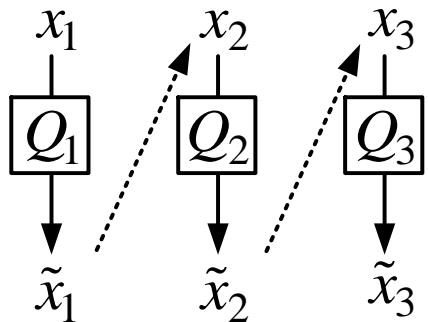
# INTERACTIVE MECHANISMS



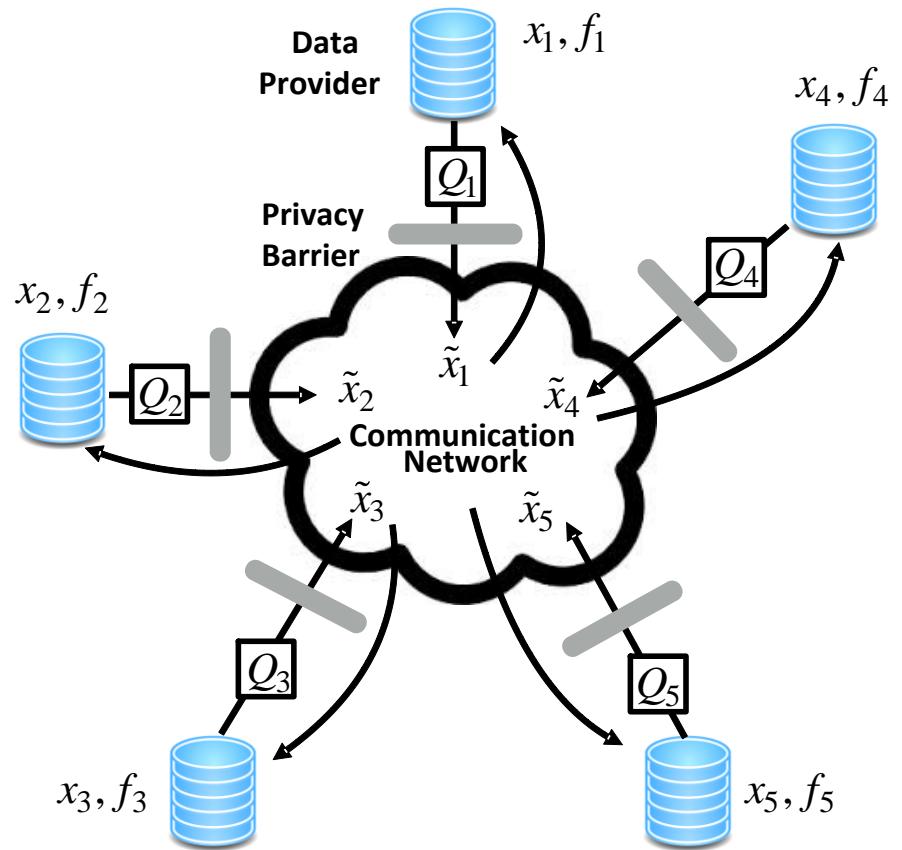
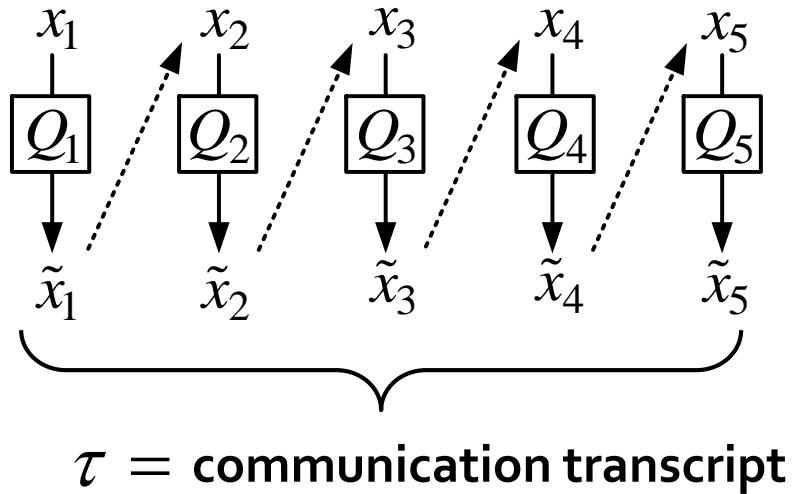
# INTERACTIVE MECHANISMS



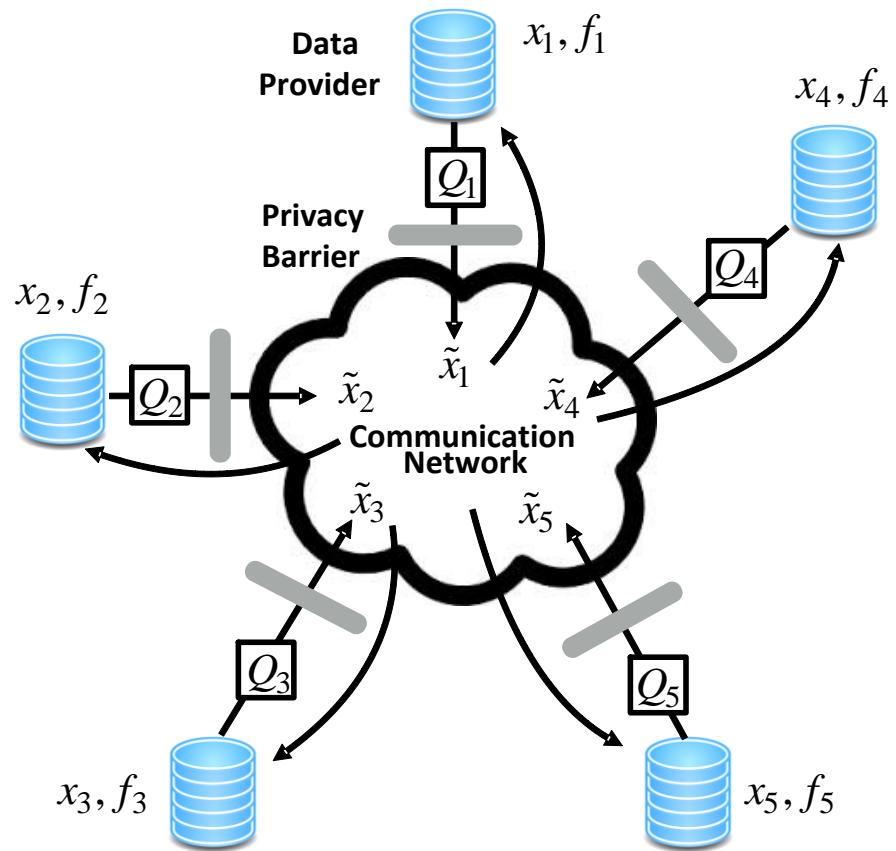
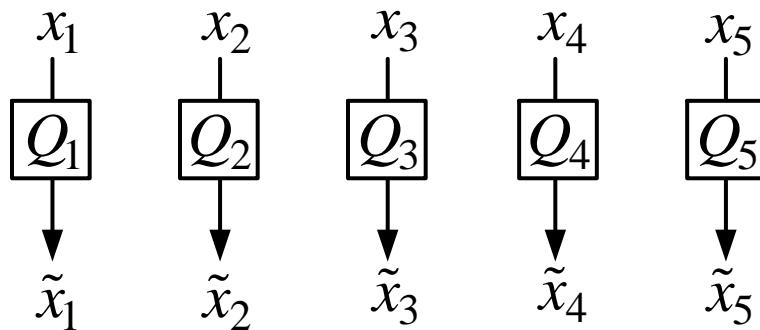
# INTERACTIVE MECHANISMS



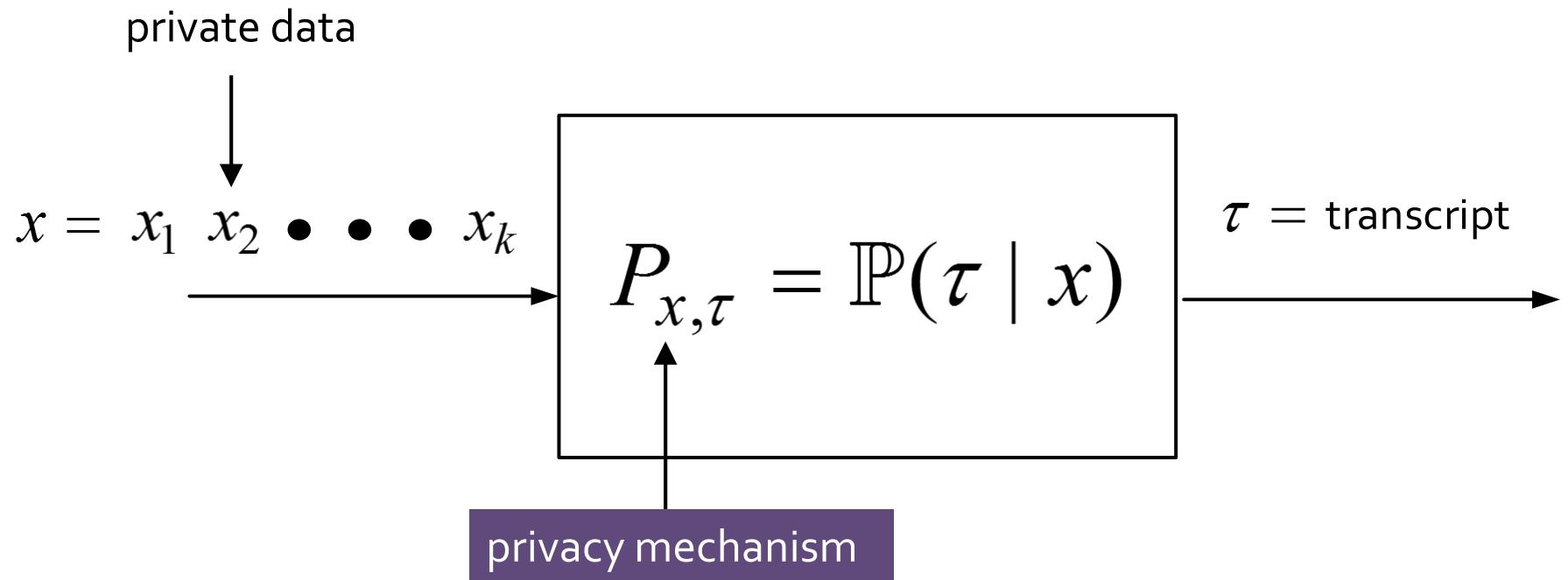
# INTERACTIVE MECHANISMS



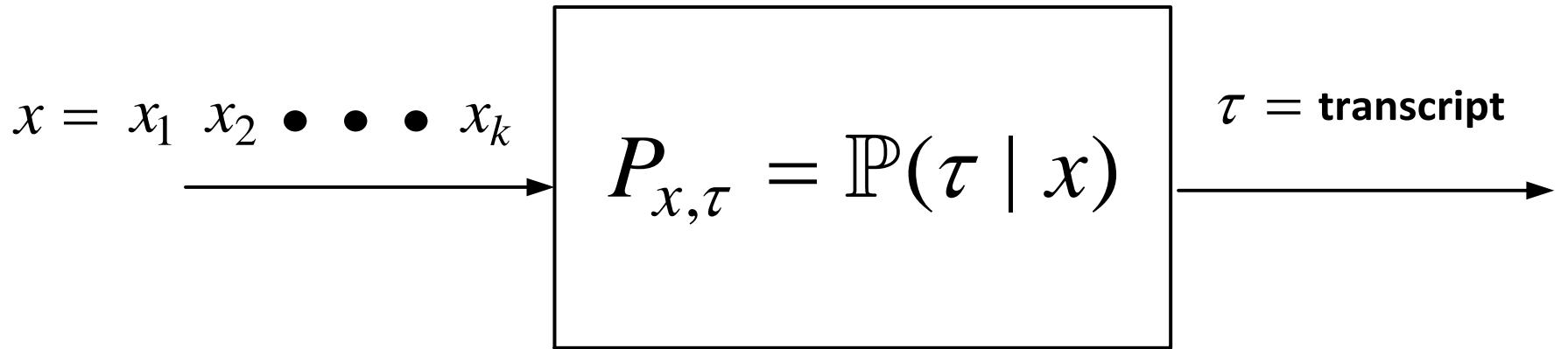
# NON-INTERACTIVE MECHANISMS



# GENERAL REPRESENTATION



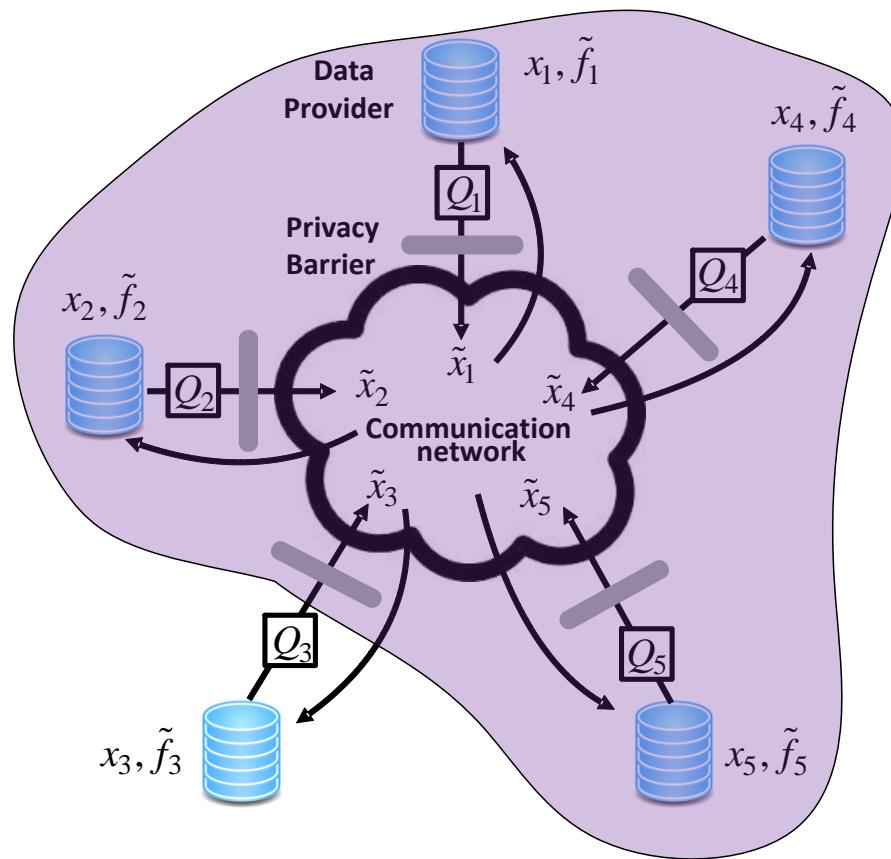
# MULTI-PARTY DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY



$$e^{-\varepsilon_i} \leq \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau | x_i = 0, x_{-i})}{\mathbb{P}(\tau | x_i = 1, x_{-i})} \leq e^{\varepsilon_i}$$

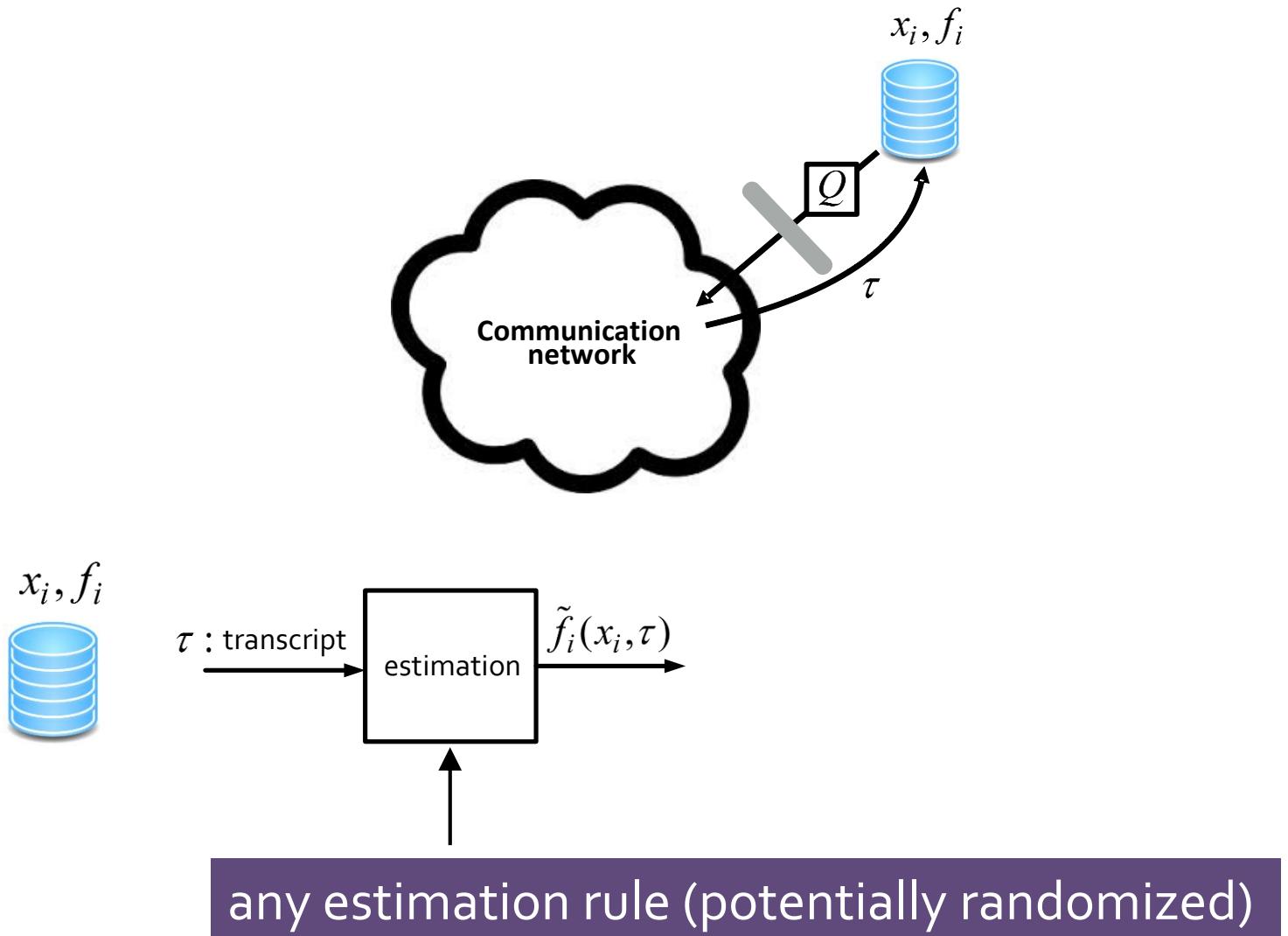
$$x_{-i} = (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_k)$$

# CAN'T SAY MUCH EVEN IF...

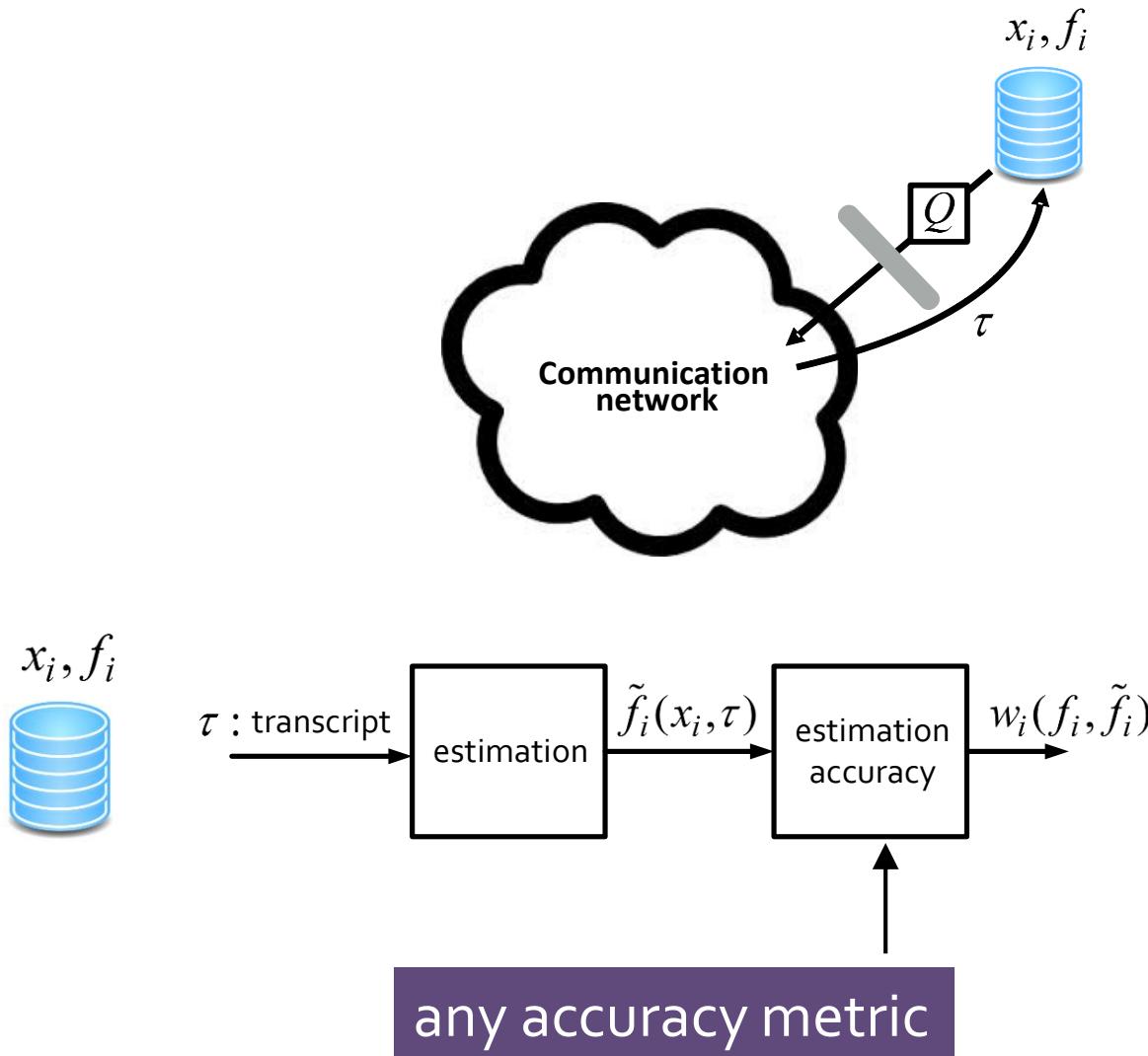


all parties but one collude to figure out a party's bit

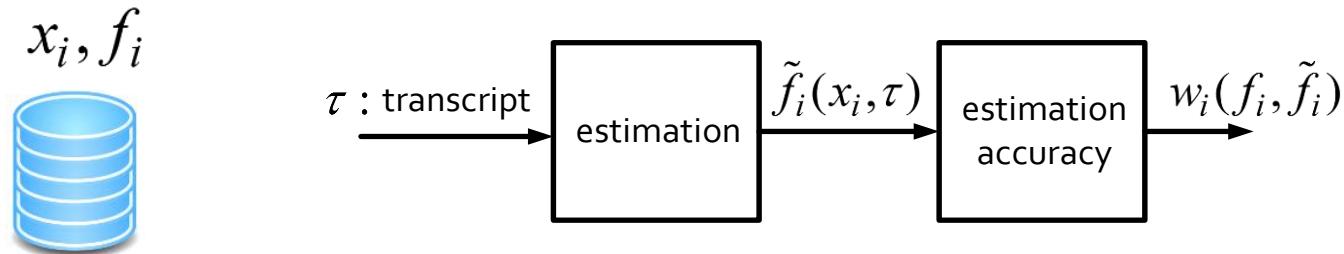
# FUNCTION ESTIMATION



# FUNCTION ESTIMATION



# ACCURACY-PRIVACY TRADEOFF



$$\text{ACC}_{\text{ave}} \equiv \underbrace{\frac{1}{2^k} \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^k} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{f}_i, P_{x,\tau}} [w_i(f_i(x), \tilde{f}_i(\tau, x_i))]}_{\text{average over all possible inputs}}$$

average over all possible inputs

# ACCURACY-PRIVACY TRADEOFF

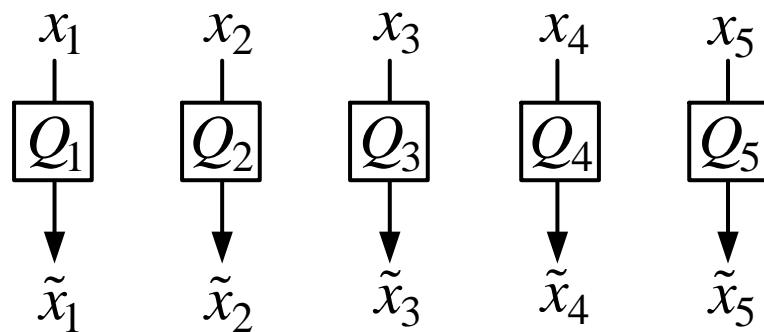
maximize
$$_{P, \tilde{f}_i} \text{ACC}_{\text{ave}}(P, w_i, f_i, \tilde{f}_i),$$

subject to     $P$  and  $\tilde{f}_i$  are row-stochastic matrices  
                   $P$  satisfies the differential privacy constraints  
                  for all parties

- heterogeneous privacy levels across users
- each party possesses a single bit
- the functions can vary from one party to the other
- the accuracy metrics can vary from one party to the other
- interactive & non-interactive mechanisms

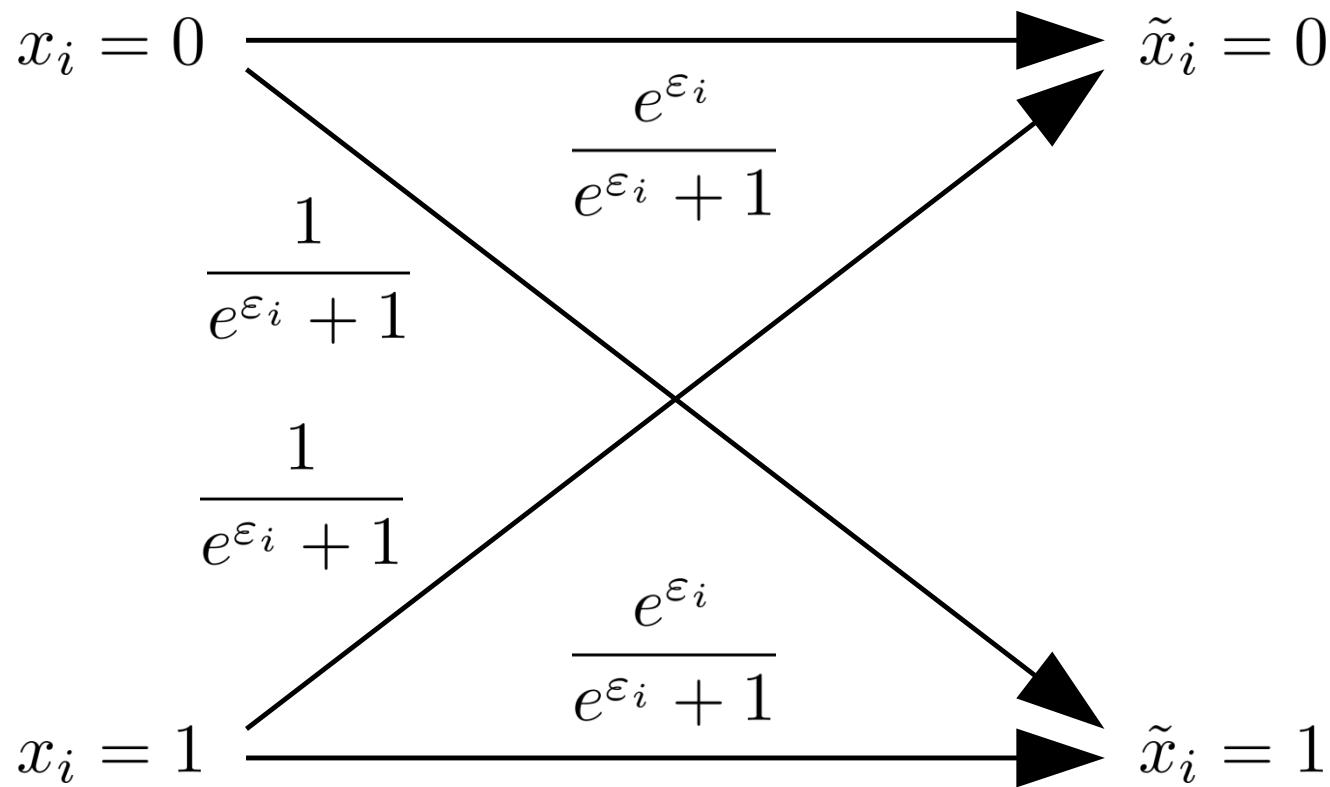
# OUR RESULT

non-interactive mechanisms are optimal



# OUR RESULT

Warner's randomized response is optimal



NON-BINARY DATA



Bob

@bob

Follow

I just learned that I'm HIV positive. I feel devastated and need your support to go through these tough times.

7 Jul 12

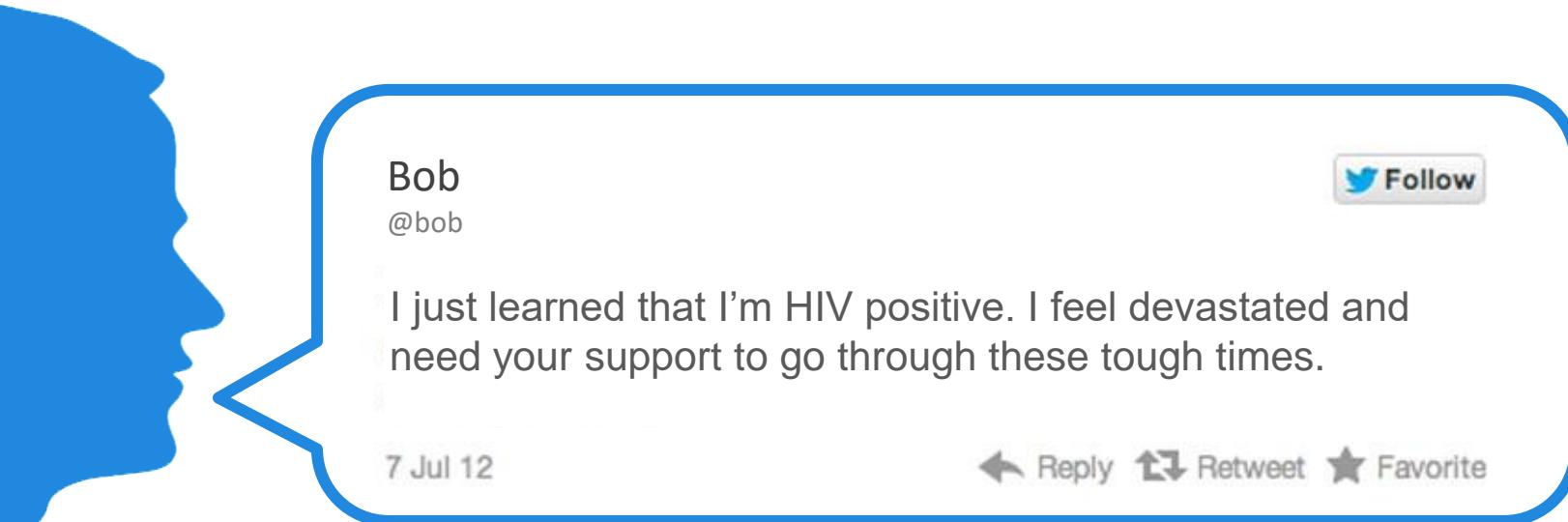
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# METADATA PRIVACY

# METADATA PRIVACY

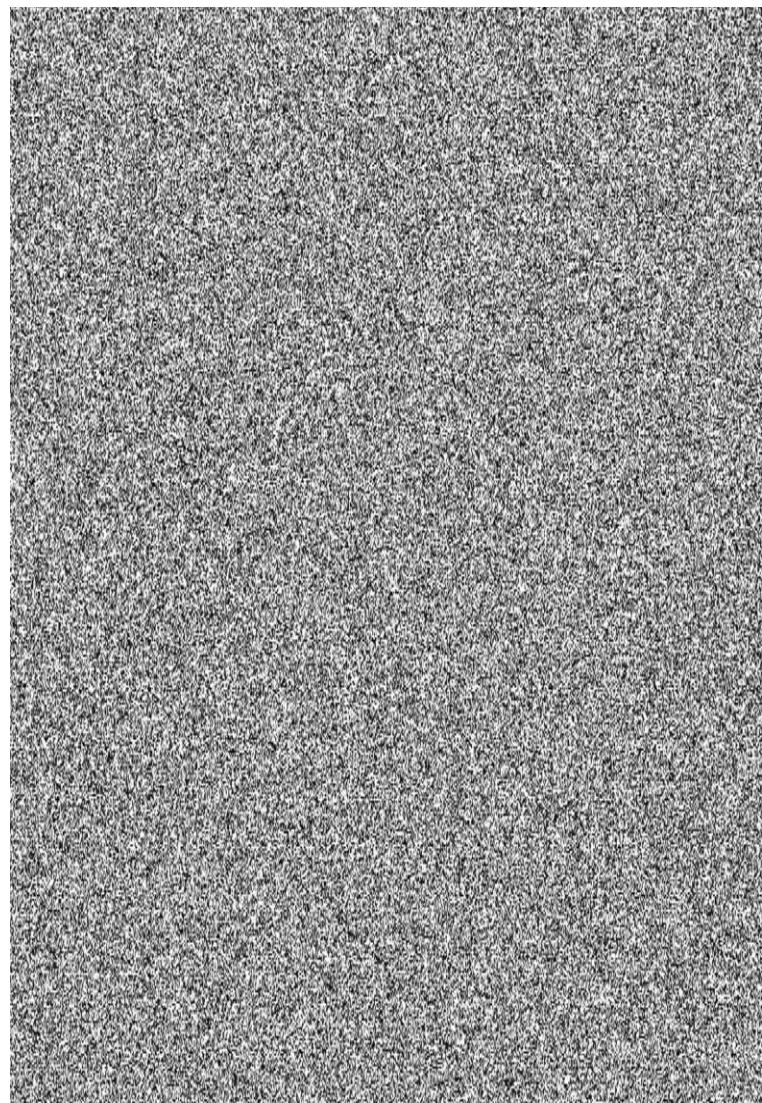
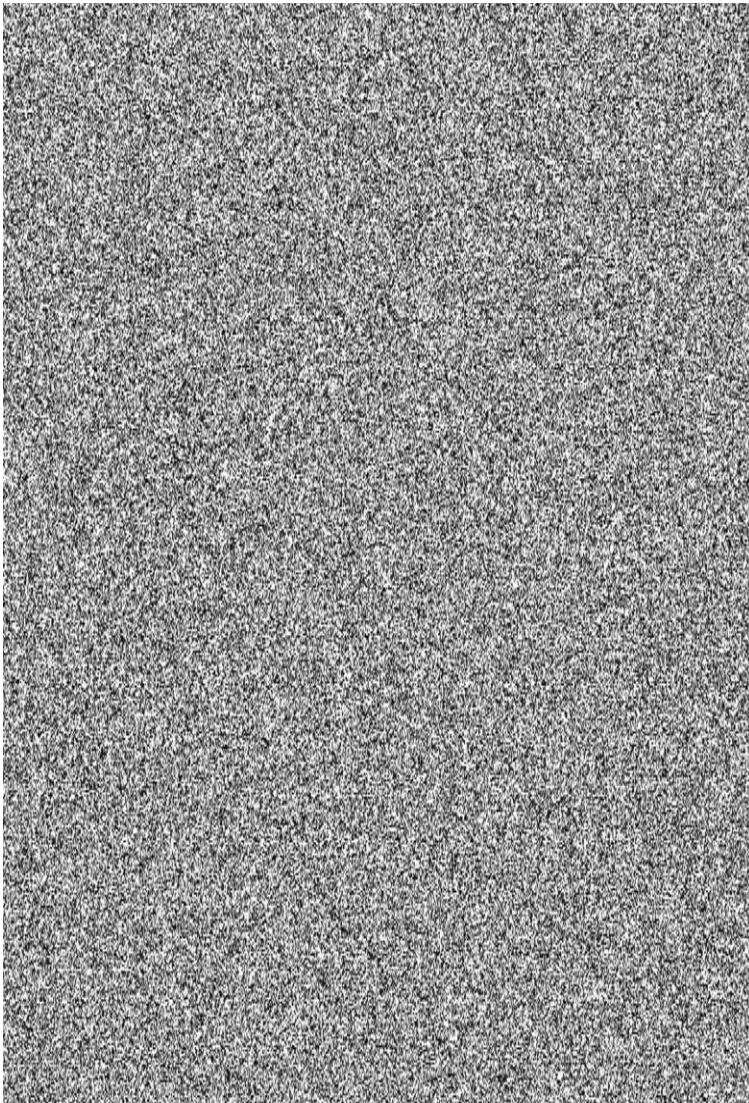


[Best Paper Award at SIGMETRICS 15, SIGMETRICS 16]

first fully distributed, truly **anonymous social network**

**THANK YOU!**

# A VERY BIG THANK YOU!



# A VERY BIG THANK YOU!



Sewoong Oh



Pramod Viswanath

# A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!



# A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!



SELFIE EVERYONE?