

# How to guess an $n$ -digit number

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# This talk is about

The metric dimension of the Hamming graph

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1. The Hamming graph is the Cartesian product of  $n$  complete graphs  $K_q$
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2. The metric dimension of a graph is the minimum cardinality of a subset  $S$  of vertices such that all other vertices are uniquely determined by their distances to the vertices in  $S$

Our contribution: the asymptotic ( $q$  is fixed,  $n$  is large) of  $m(K_q, n)$  is

$$m(K_q, n) \sim 2n / \log_q n$$

# Outline

1. Introduction and related problems
  - Coin-weighing problem, Mastermind game
2. Construction (upper bound)
  - is based on the theory of Mobius functions
3. Lower bound
  - is based on the information-theoretic method
4. A more general problem...
  - The metric dimension of the Cartesian powers of a graph
5. The End

# 1. Introduction and related problems

**Alice**

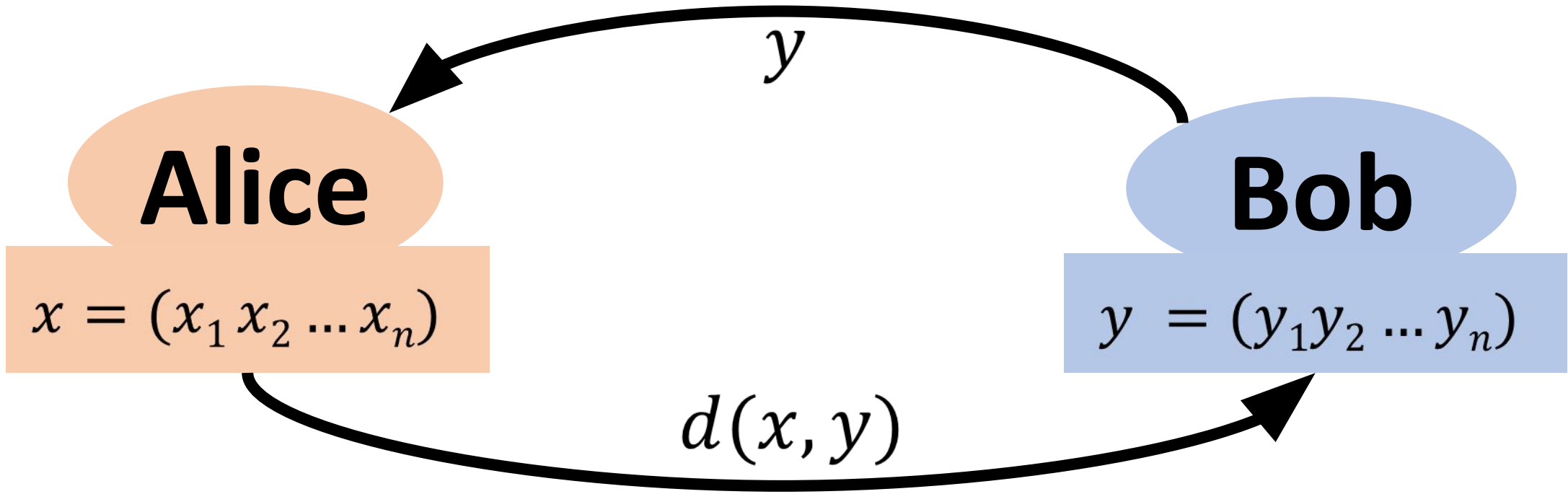
$$x = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_n)$$

**Bob**

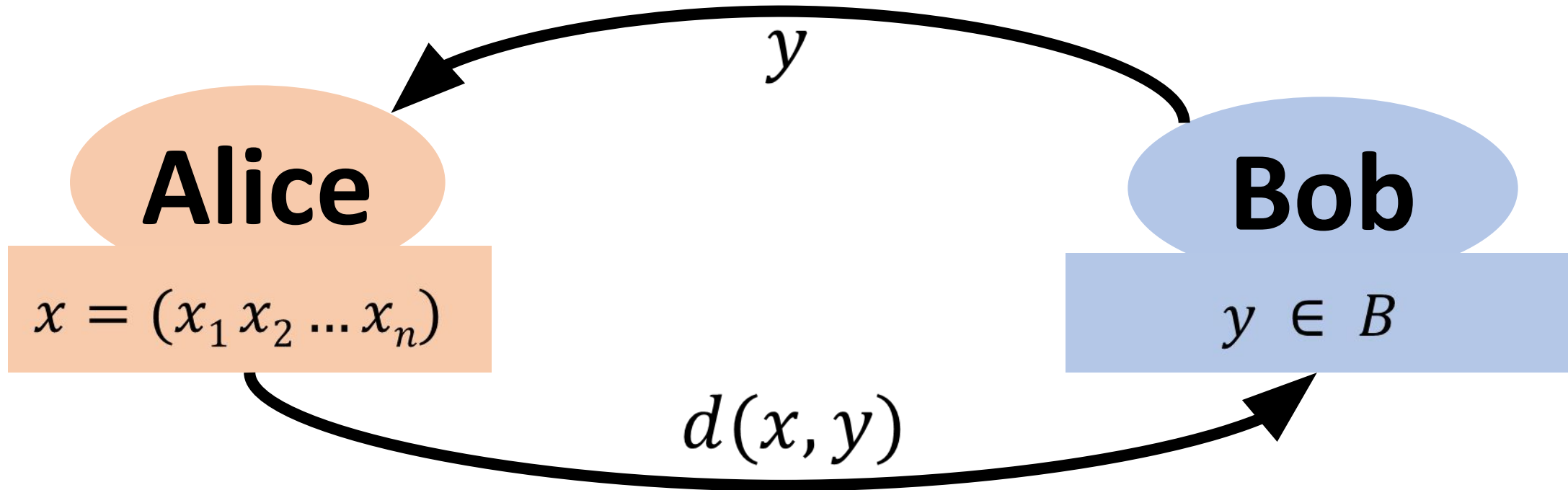
$$y = (y_1 y_2 \dots y_n)$$

$y$

$d(x, y)$



**Goal:** Bob must identify any hidden  $n$ -digit  $x$  based on  $(d(x, y))_{y \in B}$



**Definition:** If so,  $B$  is called a **base** (of the  $q$ -ary  $n$ -dim. Hamming space).



**Definition:** The *metric dimension*  $m(K_q, n)$  of the  $q$ -ary  $n$ -dim. Hamming space (or equivalently the Cartesian  $n$ -th power of  $K_q$ ) is

$$m(K_q, n) := \min_{\text{base } B} |B|.$$

**Problem:** Given  $q \geq 2$ , find the asymptotic behavior  $m(K_q, n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Binary case (coin-weighting problem)



The problem was posed by  
[Söderberg-Shapiro'63](#)

# Binary case (coin-weighing problem)



$$m(K_2, n) \gtrsim 2n / \log_2 n$$

by Erdős-Rényi'63

Moser'70, Pippenger'77

$$m(K_2, n) \lesssim 2n / \log_2 n$$

by Lindström'64

Cantor-Mills'66

Martirosyan-Khachatryan'89

Bshouty'09

# $q$ -ary case (Mastermind game)



- The commercial version was invented by [Meirowitz'70](#) and was solved by [Knuth'76](#)
- The study of **non-adaptive** Mastermind game was initiated by [Chvatal'83](#)



# $q$ -ary case (Mastermind game)



$m(K_q, n) \gtrsim 2n / \log_q n$   
by [Kabatianskii et al'99](#)

for  $q = 3, 4$ ,  $m(K_q, n) \lesssim 2n / \log_q n$   
by [Kabatianskii-Lebedev'18](#)

## 2. Construction (upper bound)

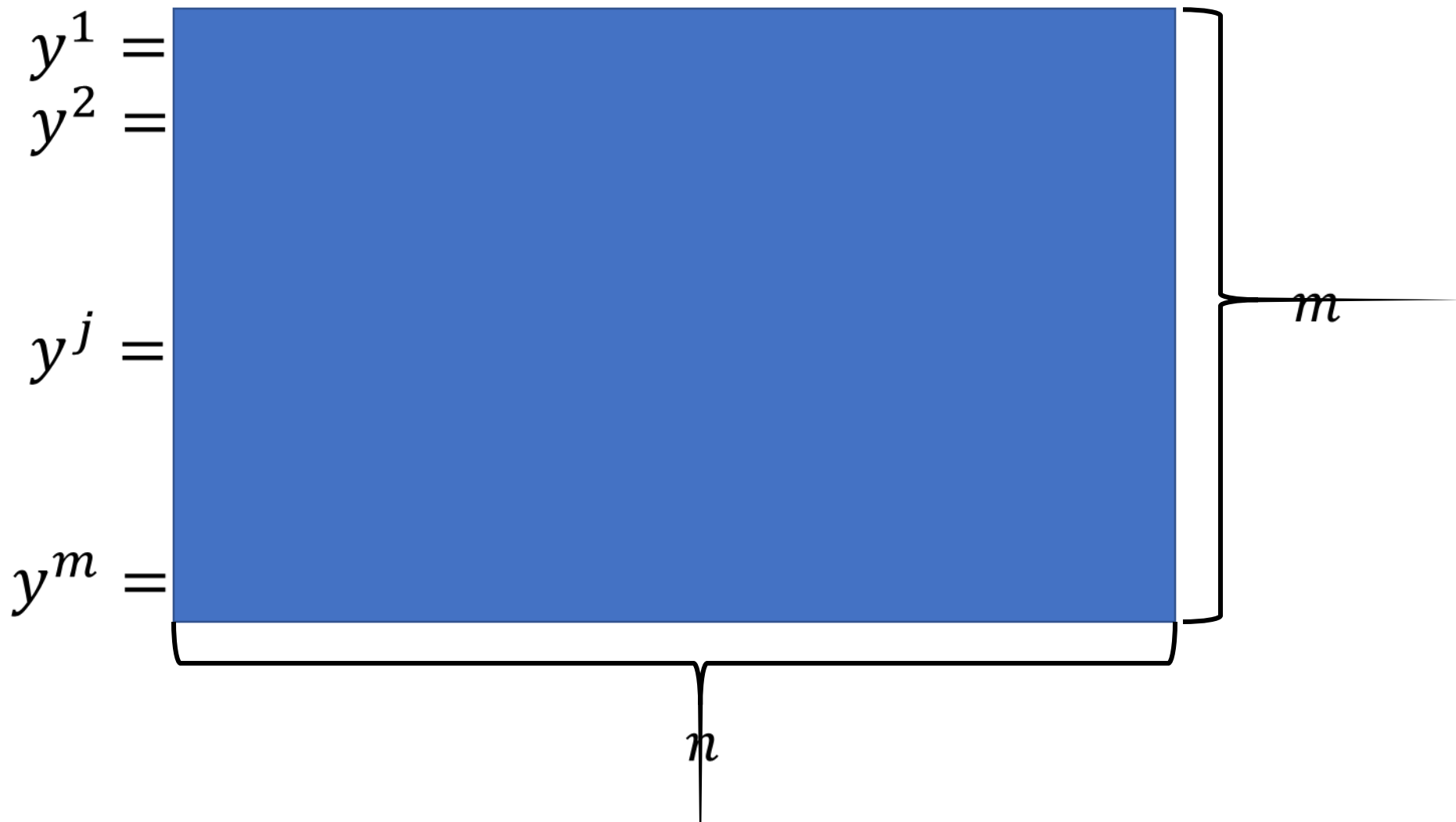
Let  $(\mathbb{N}, <)$  be a *poset*, where  $i \leq j$  iff  $i = i \& j$ .  
BITWISE AND

Define the *Mobius function*

$$\mu(i, j) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ -\sum_{i \leq k < j} \mu(i, k) & \text{if } i < j \end{cases}$$

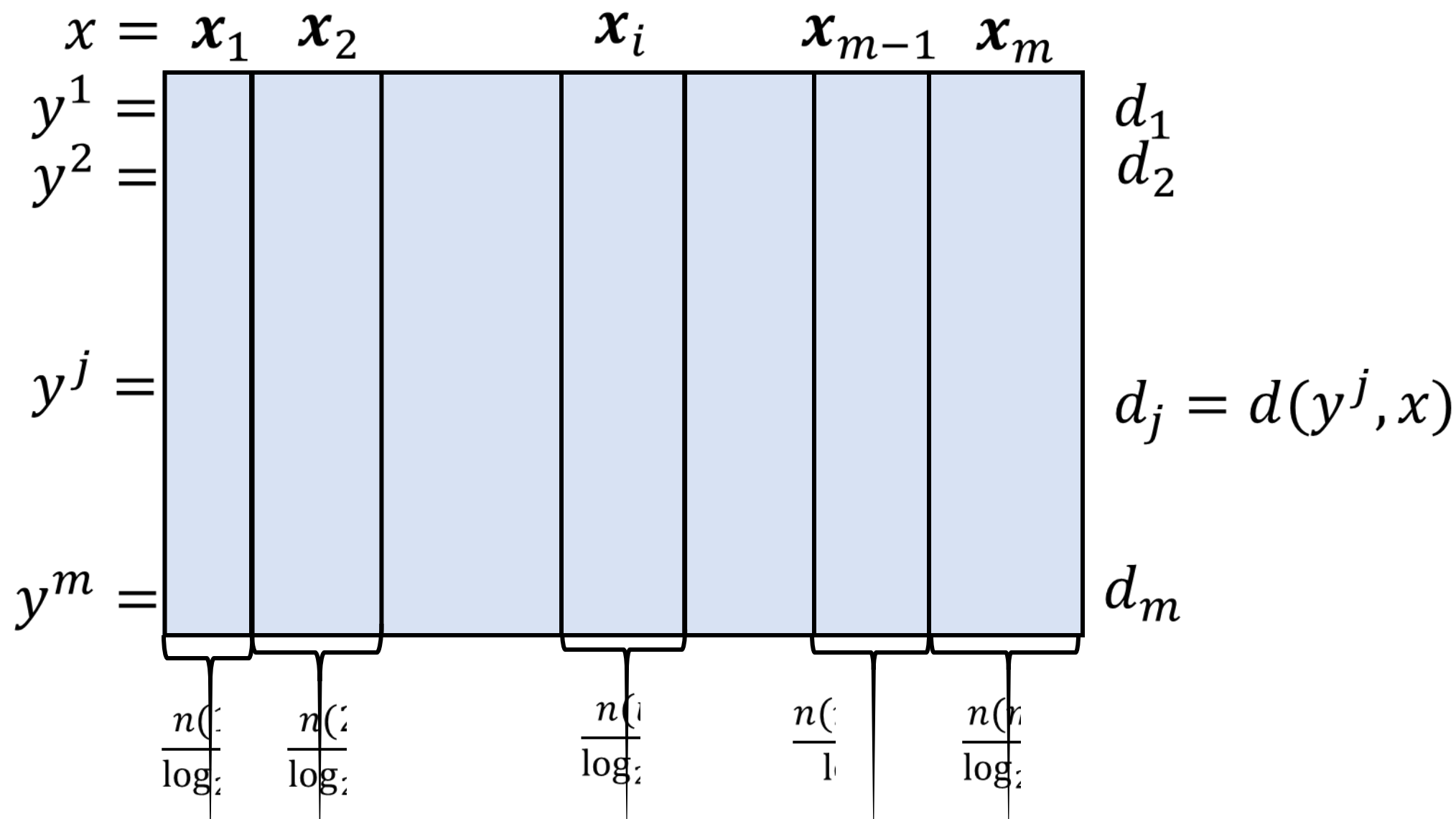
Here,  $\mu(i, j) := (-1)^{n(i) - n(j)}$ , where  $n(u) := \# \text{of } 1\text{'s in the binary representation of } u$ .

Let us put vectors from a base  $B$  of the  $q$ -ary  $n$ -dim.  
Hamming space in rows of matrix  $Y = (y^1, y^2, \dots, y^m)^T$

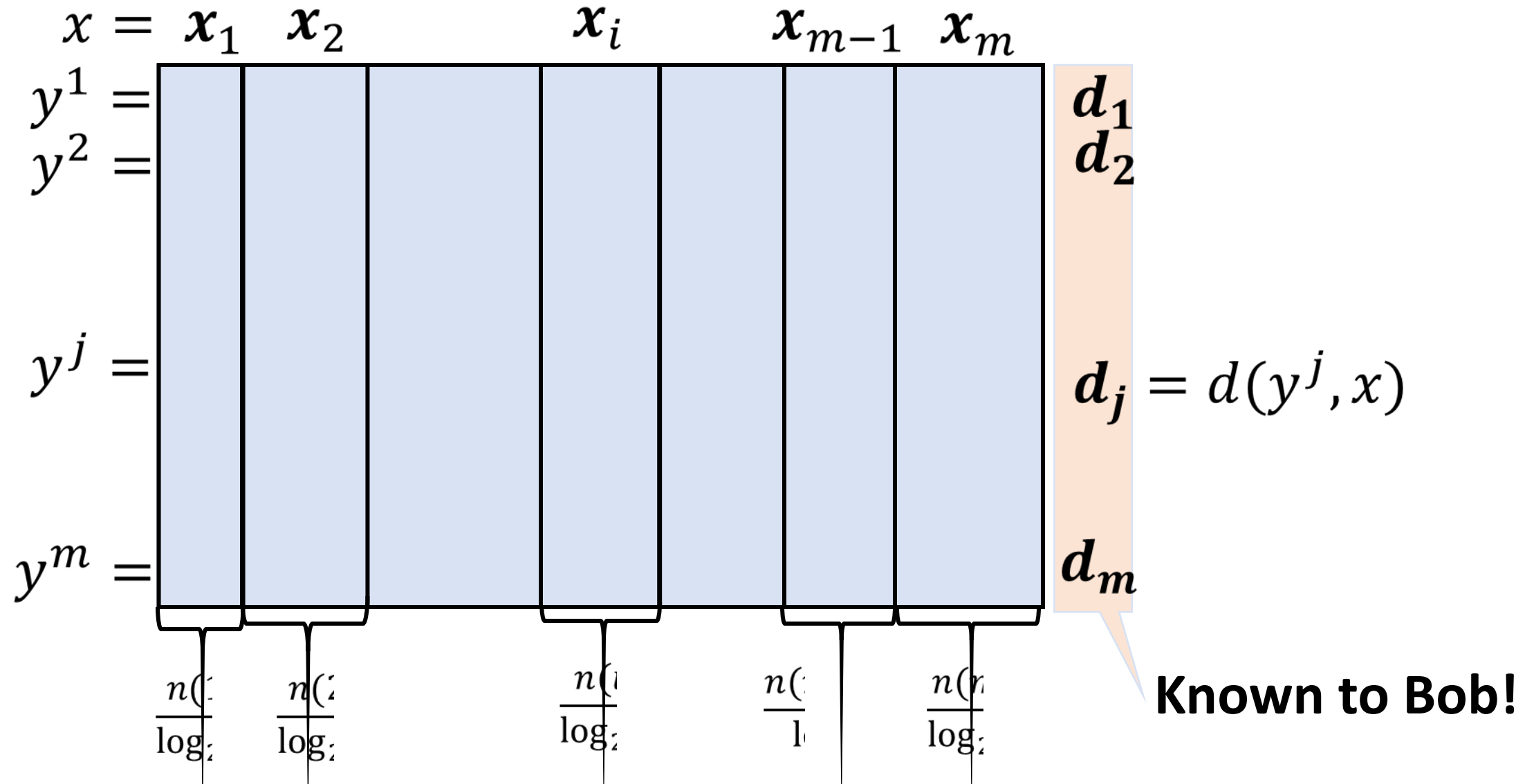




Divide hidden vector  $x = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_n)$  into  $m$  subvectors



Divide hidden vector  $x = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_n)$  into  $m$  subvectors



## Decoding:

1. Consider the value

$$D_m := \sum_{i=1}^m \mu(i, m) d_i = f_m(\mathbf{x}_m),$$

and  $\mathbf{x}_m$  can be extracted ( $\mathbf{x}_m$  is a somewhat  $q$ -ary expansion of  $D_m$ ).

2. Consider the value

$$D_{m-1} := \sum_{i=1}^m \mu(i, m-1) d_i = f_{m-1}(\mathbf{x}_m, \mathbf{x}_{m-1}),$$

and  $\mathbf{x}_{m-1}$  can be extracted.

And so on...

### 3. Lower bound

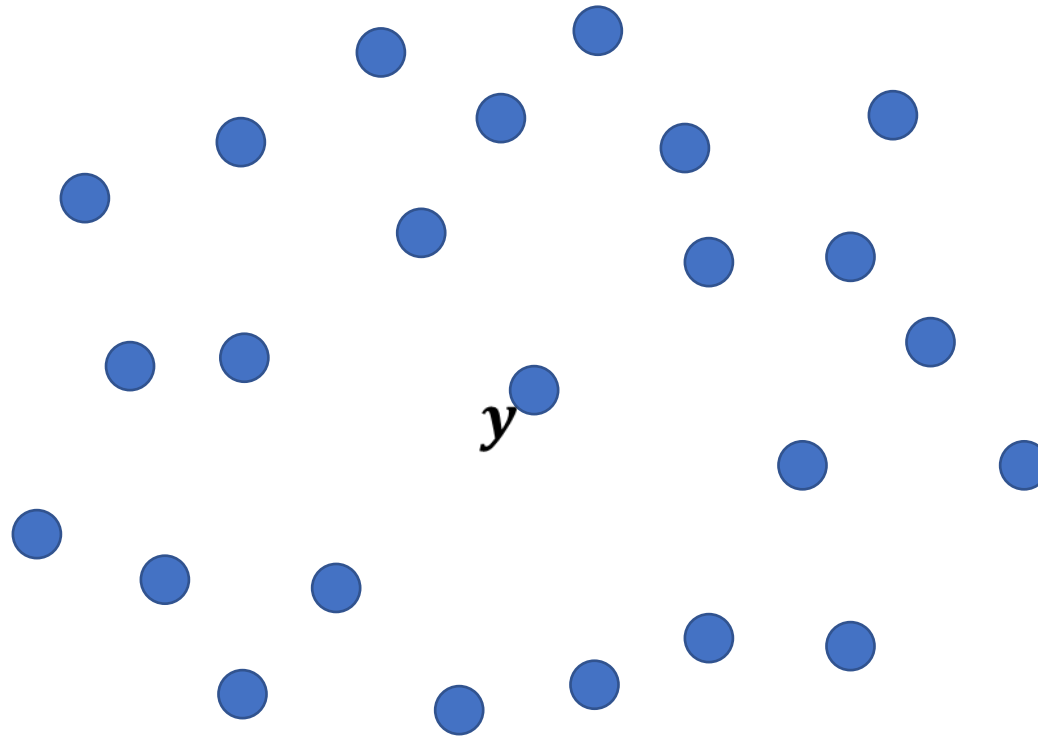
### Claim (informal)

For any base  $B$ , its size  $m$  is at least  $2n / \log_q n$

Proof idea is a modification of the Erdős-Rényi'63 arguments...

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For any base  $B$ , its size  $m$  is at least  $2n / \log_q n$



point in Base  $B$

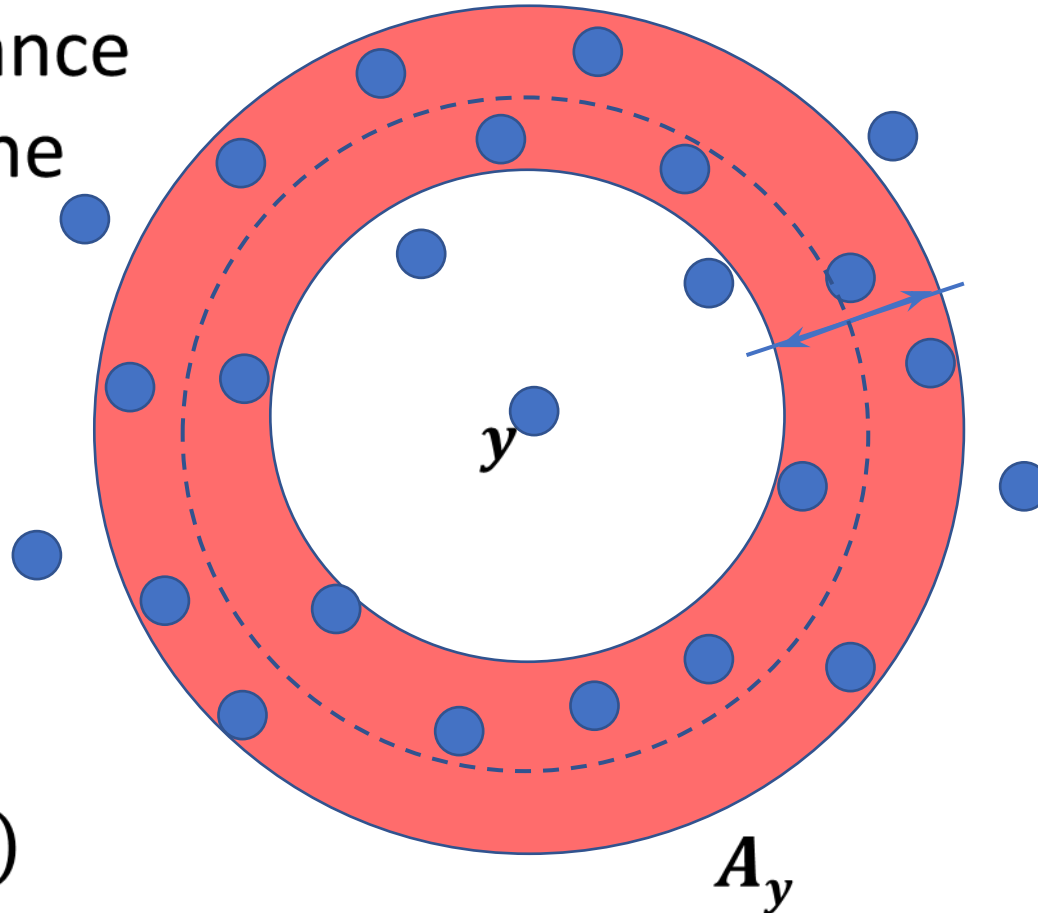
$$y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

### Claim (informal)

For any base  $B$ , its size  $m$  is at least  $2n / \log_q n$

$A_y$  - set of points at distance  
“close” to expected one

point in Base  $B$   
 $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$

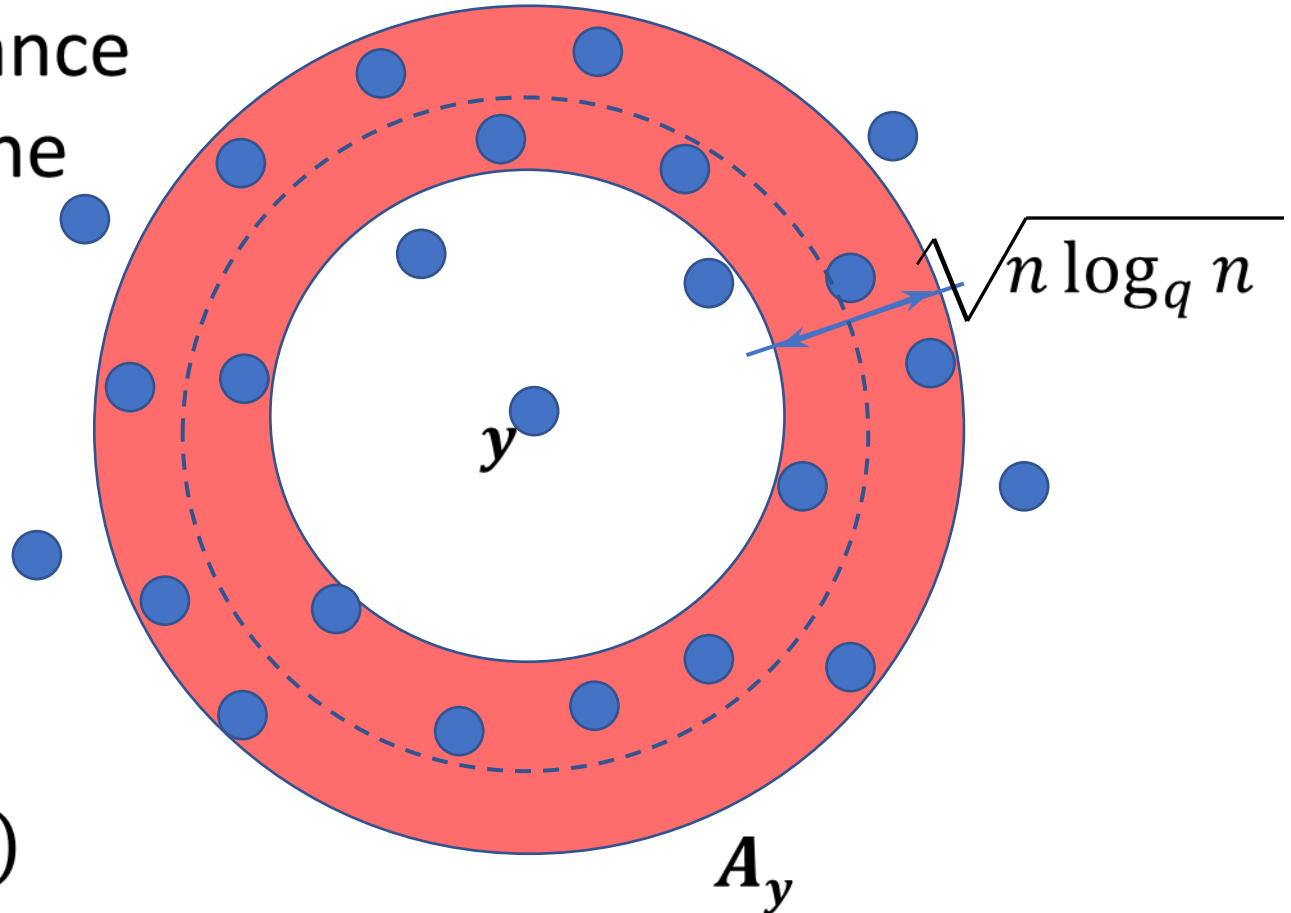


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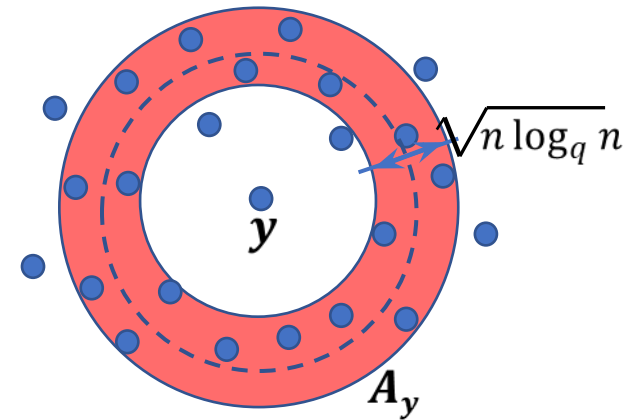
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# Need two things:



1. From Hoeffding's inequality it follows  $A_y$  is large enough. Moreover, the cardinality  $|\bigcap_{y \in B} A_y| > (1 - \varepsilon)q^n$ .

2. Define the map  $d_B: \bigcap_{y \in B} A_y \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^m$  as  $d_B := (d(x, y))_{y \in S}$

This map is **injective**. So the cardinality of the domain is less than or equal to the cardinality of the range

This logic (with some computation) proves the claim!

4. A more general problem...

**Definition:** A subset  $S$  of vertices in a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is called a ***base*** of  $G$ , if the map

$d_S: V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^{|S|}$  defined as  $d_S(x) := (d(x, y))_{y \in S}$  is injective.

**Definition:** Given a connected graph  $G$ , the ***metric dimension***  $m(G, n)$  of the Cartesian  $n$ -th power of  $G$  is

$$m(G, n) := \min_{\text{base } B} |B|.$$

**Problem:** Given  $G$ , find the asymptotic behavior  $m(G, n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem** (Jiang-P.'18)

Given a connected graph  $G$  on  $q$  vertices, let  $M$  be the distance matrix of  $G$ . If the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} M & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1}^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

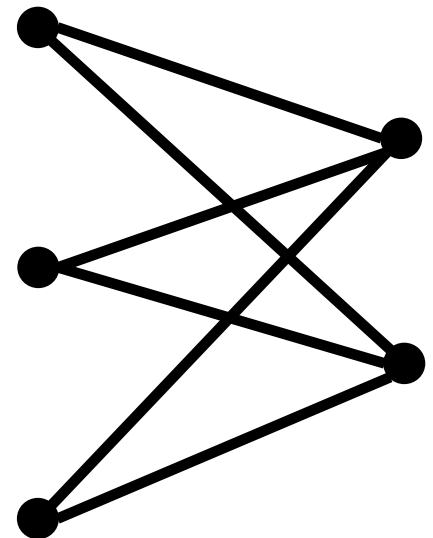
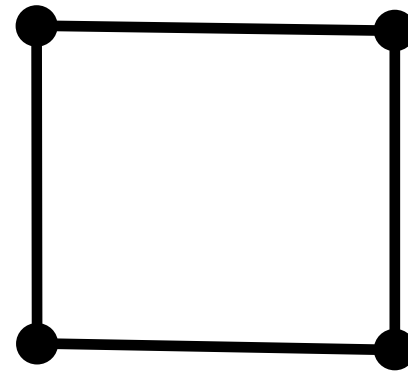
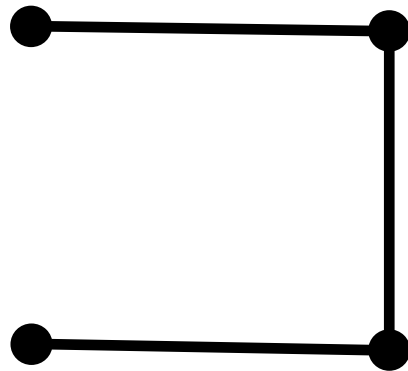
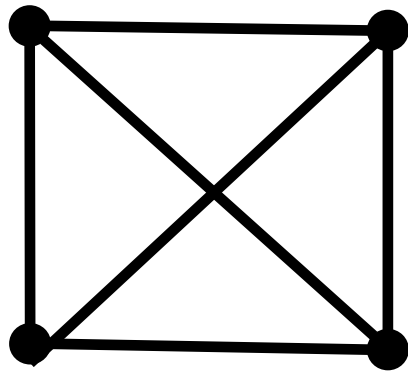
is invertible, then the metric dimension  $m(G, n)$  is

$$m(G, n) \sim 2n / \log_q n$$

**Corollary (some graph classes)**

If  $G$  is a complete graph, a path, a cycle or a complete bipartite graph on  $q$  vertices, then the asymptotic of  $m(G, n)$  is as follows

$$m(G, n) \sim 2n / \log_q n$$



**Corollary** (*small graphs*)

For any  $q \leq 9$  and any\*  $G$  on  $q$  vertices, the asymptotic of  $m(G, n)$  is as follows

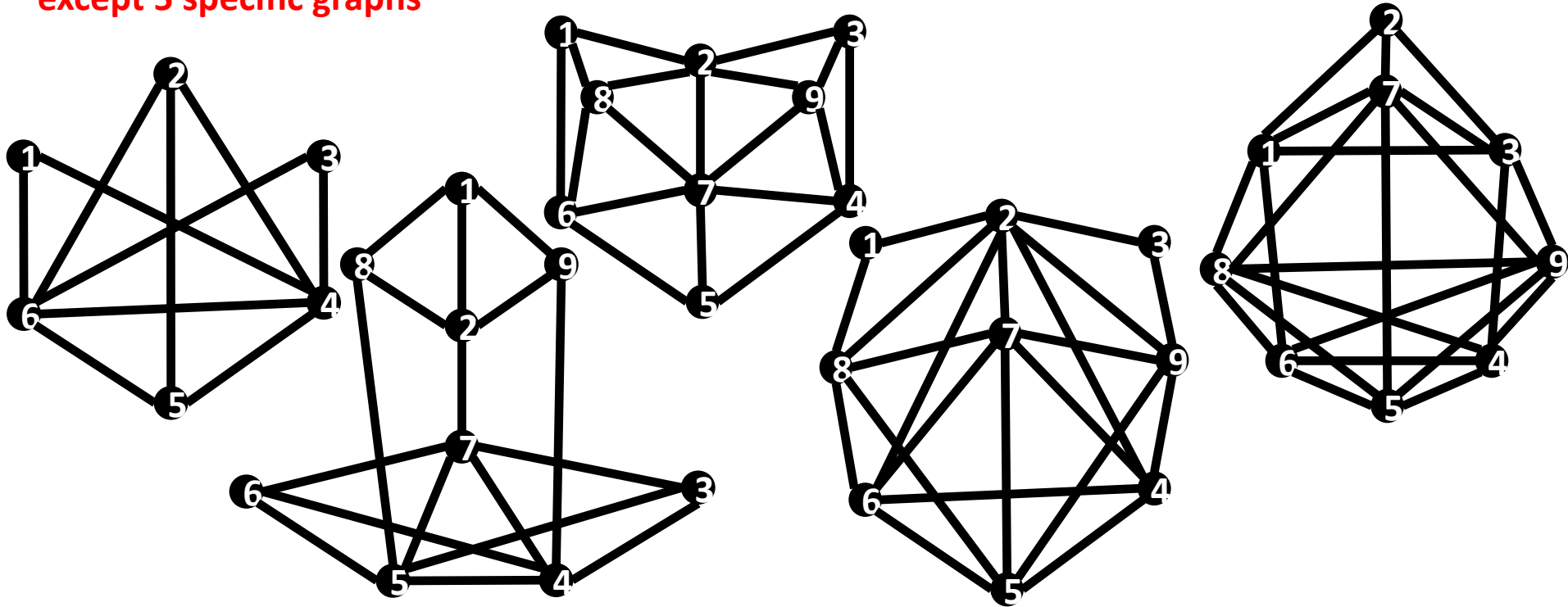
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### Corollary (small graphs)

For any  $q \leq 9$  and any\*  $G$  on  $q$  vertices, the asymptotic of  $m(G, n)$  is as follows

$$m(G, n) \sim 2n / \log_q n$$

\* except 5 specific graphs



# Open questions

- Can we get the same asymptotic of  $m(G, n)$  for any graph  $G$ ?
  - A subproblem: given  $n$  distinct vectors  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , how to minimize  $v \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  so that  $\langle v, u_i \rangle$  are different. Here,  $\min \|v\|$  should be  $O(n)$ .
- What can we say about the metric dimension of other metric spaces?
  - E.g. Johnson and Kneser graphs.



# Thanks!

Questions?