Building Privacy-Aware Database Systems

CS848 Winter 2021



Logistics

- CS848, Winter 2021
 - Option 1: Tue 10am noon (lecture/paper presentation + discussion)
 - Option 2: Wed 10am 11am (discussion)
 - Students who attend Wed session need to watch recorded lecture/paper presentation from Tue
- More details at the end of this lecture

An Old Problem to US Census



An Old Problem to US Census

Title 13, U.S. Code

By law, no one - neither the census takers nor any other Census

Bureau employee -

is permitted to reveal identifiable information about any person, household, or business

If anyone violates this law, it is a federal crime; they will face severe penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

New Attack on 2010 Decennial Census

"how many people of the age 10-20 live in New York City"

"how many people live in 4 person households"

An internal team was able to

- (a) correctly reconstruct records of address (by census block), age, gender, race and ethnicity for 142 million people (about 46% of the US population),
- (b) correctly match these data to commercial datasets circa 2010 to associate PII like name for 52 million persons (17% of the population).

Fundamental Law of Info Reconstruction [DN03] "overly accurate" estimates of "too many" statistics is blatantly non-private.

Getting Worse ...

Strava's fitness tracker heat map reveals the location of military bases

Geolocation isn't a new problem for the military







Riding with the Stars: Passenger Privacy in the NYC Taxicab Dataset

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 BY ATOCKAR LEAVE A COMMENT

More Real-time Data Collection



The Seven Sins of Personal-Data Processing Systems under GDPR

Supreeth Shastri Computer Science University of Texas at Austin Melissa Wasserman School of Law University of Texas at Austin Vijay Chidambaram Computer Science University of Texas at Austin

Privacy Changes Everything

Jennie Rogers¹, Johes Bater¹, Xi He², Ashwin Machanavajjhala³, Madhav Suresh¹, and Xiao Wang¹

Northwestern University ² University of Waterloo ³ Duke University

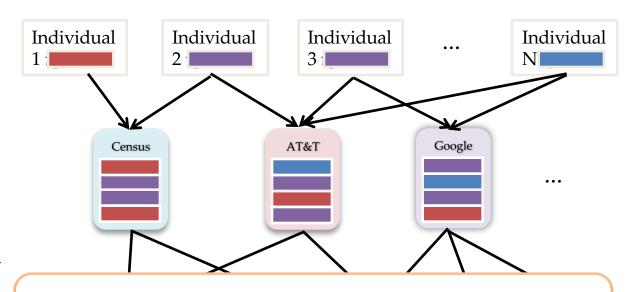
Problem Setting

Individuals with sensitive data

Data Collectors

Data Publication & Analysis





Leaks information about individual records by the output of the computation!!

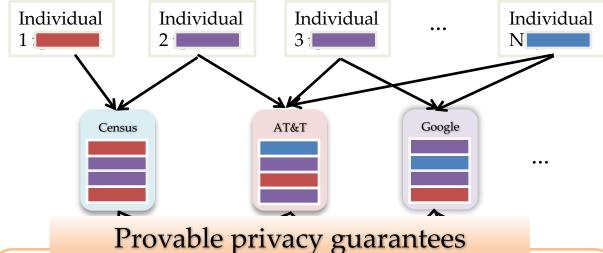
A Strong Privacy Promise

Individuals with sensitive data

Data Collectors

Data Publication & Analysis





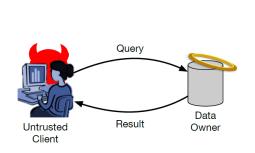
Trovable privacy guarantees

Quantify and bound the amount of information disclosed about individual records by the output of the computation.

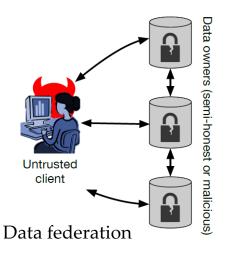
This course will explore ...

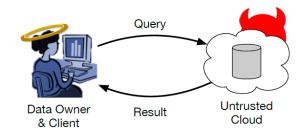
- How to define a good privacy promise?
- How to design a privacy-preserving algorithms?
- How to build a privacy-aware database systems?

Greatly depend on the architecture setup and trust assumptions



Client-server with trusted data curator

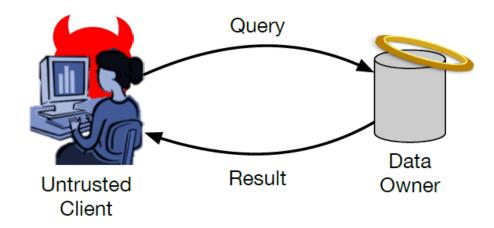




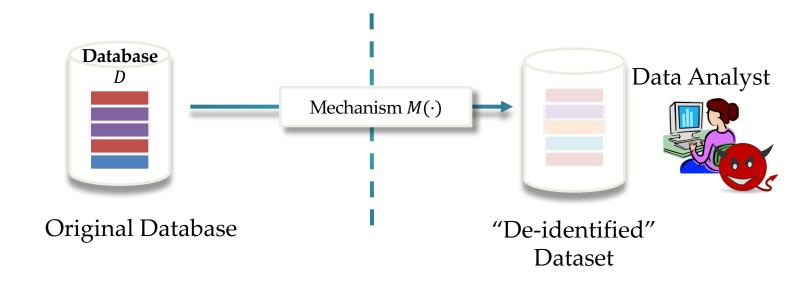
Cloud service provider

Trusted Data Curator

- Centralized setting
 - Data owners trust the data curator and have their true and plaintext data stored on a central server.
 - Client (e.g. data analyst) may infer sensitive information about individuals based on the released data from the trusted data curator



"De-Identification"?



De-identified data ISN'T

A Face Is Exposed for AOL Searcher No. 4417749

By MICHAEL BARBARO and TOM ZELLER Jr Published: August 9, 2006







Why 'Anonymous' Data Sometimes Isn't

Uniqueness of personal data, side information, ...

hallenge using.

The Scientis

"Anonymous" Genomes Identified

The names and addresses of people participating in the Personal Genome Project can be easily tracked down despite such data being left off their online profiles.

By Dan Cossins | May 3, 2013





Riding with the Stars: Passenger Privacy in the NYC Taxicab Dataset

🚞 SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 BY ATOCKAR 📃 LEAVE A COMMENT

The Massachusetts Governor Privacy Breach [Sweeney IJUFKS 2002]

- Name
- SSN
- Zip
- Visit Date
- Diagnosis
- Birth

date

- Procedure
- Medication Sex
- Total Charge

Medical Data

The Massachusetts Governor Privacy Breach [Sweeney IJUFKS 2002]

- Name
- •SSN
- Visit Date
- Diagnosis
- Procedure
- Medication Sex
- Total Charge

- Name
- Address
- DateRegistered
- Party affiliation
- Date last voted

Medical Data Voter List

• Zip

• Birth

date

The Massachusetts Governor Privacy Breach [Sweeney IJUFKS 2002]

- •Name
- •SSN
- Visit Date
- Diagnosis
- Procedure
- Medication Sex
- Total Charge

- Name
- Address
- DateRegistered
- Party affiliation
- Date last voted

Governor of MA
 uniquely identified
 using ZipCode,
 Birth Date, and Sex.

Name linked to Diagnosis

Medical Data Voter List

• Zip

• Birth

date

The Massachusetts Governor Privacy Breach [Sweeney IJUFKS 2002]

- •Name
- •SSN
- Visit Date
- Diagnosis
- Procedure
- Medication
 Sex
- Total Charge

- Name
- Address
- DateRegistered
- Party
 - affiliation
- Date last voted

Medical Data Voter List

• Zip

• Birth

date

Quasi Identifier

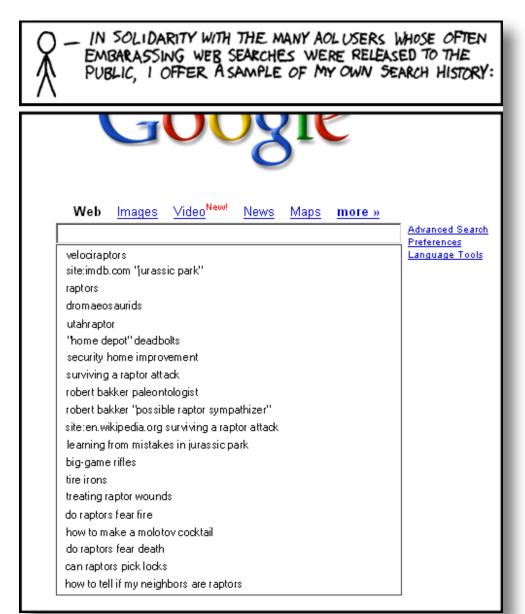
using ZipCode,

87 % of US population

uniquely identified

Birth Date, and Sex.

AOL data publishing fiasco



AOL data publishing fiasco ...

G

Xi222 Uefa cup

Xi222 Uefa champions league

Xi222 Champions league final

Xi222 Champions league final 2013

Abel156 exchangeability

Abel156 Proof of deFinitti's theorem

Jane12345 Zombie games

Jane12345 | Warcraft

Jane12345 Beatles anthology

Jane12345 Ubuntu breeze

Bob222 Python in thought

Bob222 | Enthought Canopy

User IDs replaced with random numbers

$\overline{}$

865712345	Uefa cup
865712345	Uefa champions league
865712345	Champions league final
865712345	Champions league final 2013
236712909	exchangeability
236712909	Proof of deFinitti's theorem
112765410	Zombie games
112765410	Warcraft
112765410	Beatles anthology
112765410	Ubuntu breeze
865712345	Python in thought
865712345	Enthought Canopy

Privacy Breach

[NYTimes 2006]

A Face Is Exposed for AOL Searcher No. 4417749

By MICHAEL BARBARO and TOM ZELLER Jr. Published: August 9, 2006



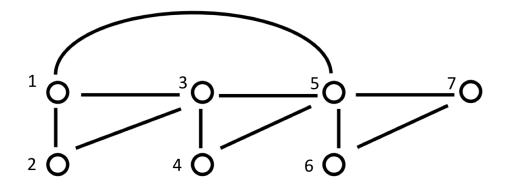


 Social networks: graphs where each node represents a social entity, and each edge represents certain relationship between two entities



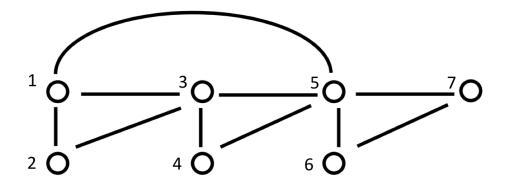
• Example: email communication graphs, social interactions like in Facebook, Yahoo! Messenger, etc.

Anonymized email communication graph

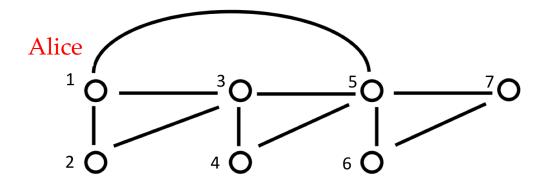


• Unfortunately for the email service providers, investigative journalists Alice and Cathy are part of this graph. What can they deduce?

- Auxiliary knowledge:
 - Alice has sent emails to Bob, Cathy, and Ed
 - Cathy has sent emails to everyone, except Ed

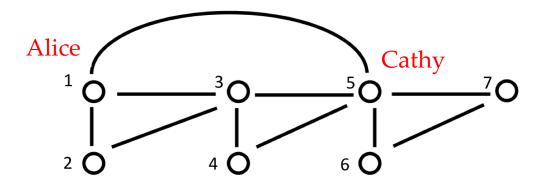


- Auxiliary knowledge:
 - Alice has sent emails to Bob, Cathy, and Ed
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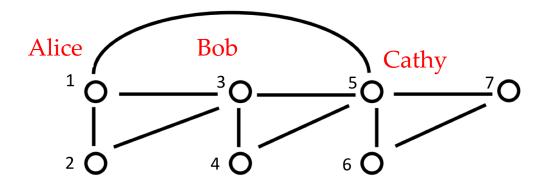
Only one node has a degree 3 → node 1: Alice

- Auxiliary knowledge:
 - Alice has sent emails to Bob, Cathy, and Ed
 - Cathy has sent emails to everyone, except Ed



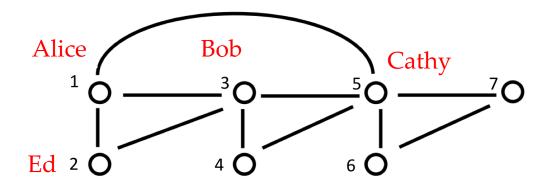
Only one node has a degree 5 → node 5: Cathy

- Auxiliary knowledge:
 - Alice has sent emails to Bob, Cathy, and Ed
 - Cathy has sent emails to everyone, except Ed



 Alice and Cathy know that only Bob has sent emails to both of them → node 3: Bob

- Auxiliary knowledge:
 - Alice has sent emails to Bob, Cathy, and Ed
 - Cathy has sent emails to everyone, except Ed



Alice has sent emails to Bob, Cathy, and Ed only
 → node 2: Ed

Attacks using Background Knowledge

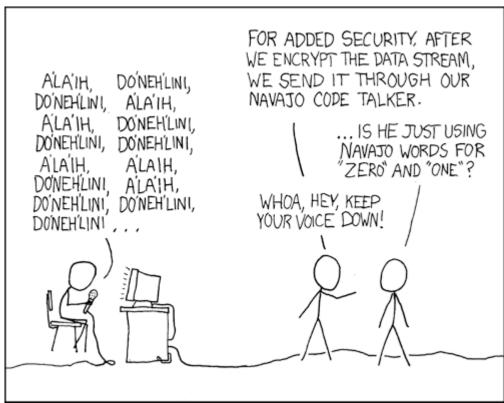
- Degrees of nodes [Liu and Terzi, SIGMOD 2008]
- The network structure, e.g., a subgraph of the network. [Zhou and Pei, ICDE 2008, Hay et al., VLDB 2008]
- Anonymized graph with labeled nodes [Pang et al., SIGCOMM CCR 2006]

Desiderata for a Privacy Definition

1. Resilience to background knowledge

A privacy mechanism must be able to protect individuals'
 privacy from attackers who may possess background knowledge

 Many organization think their data are private because they perturb the data and make the parameters of perturbation secret.



 The email service provider also released perturbed records as per a linear function, but with secret parameters. What can Alice and Cathy deduce now?

Node ID	Age (perturbed)	True Age
1 (Alice)	40	25
2 (Ed)	34	
3 (Bob)	52	
4	28	
5 (Cathy)	48	29
6	22	
7	92	

Node ID	Name	Age $(\alpha x + \beta)$	True Age
1	Alice	40	25
2	Ed	34	
3	Bob	52	
4		28	
5	Cathy	48	29
6		22	
7		92	

$$\alpha = 2, \beta = -10$$

Node ID	Name	Age $(\alpha x + \beta)$	True Age
1	Alice	40	25
2	Ed	34	22
3	Bob	52	31
4		28	19
5	Cathy	48	29
6		22	16
7		92	51

$$\alpha = 2, \beta = -10$$

Desiderata for a Privacy Definition

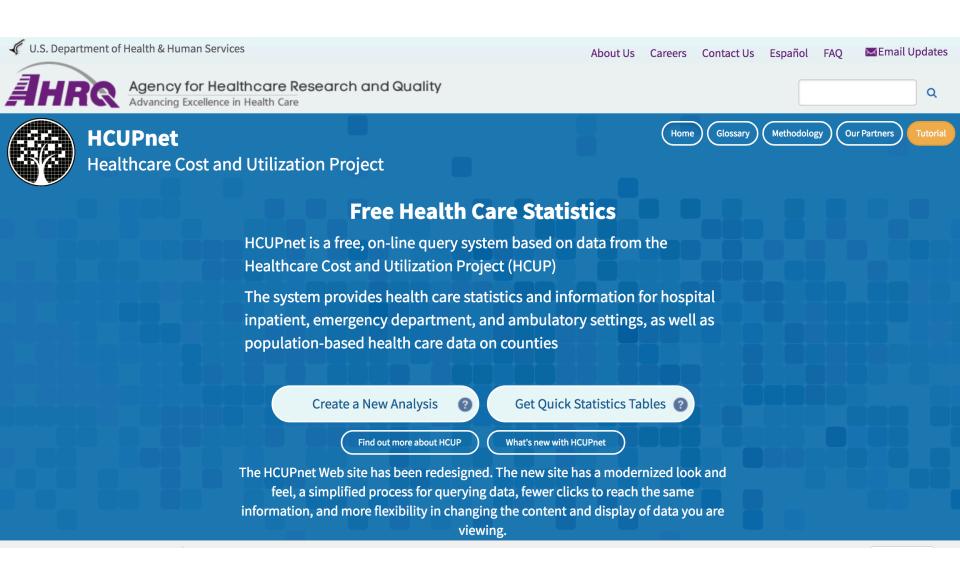
1. Resilience to background knowledge

A privacy mechanism must be able to protect individuals'
 privacy from attackers who may possess background knowledge

2. Privacy without obscurity

 Attacker must be assumed to know the algorithm used as well as all parameters [MK15]

Problem 3: Post-processing



 Publishes tables of counts, for counts that are less than 10, they are suppressed as *

Analysis Type: Descriptive Statistics Setting of Care: Hospital Inpatient Geographic Settings: State Years: 2009

Categorization Type: Diagnoses--Clinical Classification Software (CCS)

Diagnoses--Clinical Classification Software (CCS): Cancer of ovary Principal or All-Listed: Principal

Outcome and Measures: Number

Patient Characteristics: Age groups | Sex | Race/ethnicity | Payer | Location of patient's residence State: New Jersey

Can you tell their values?

Age	#disc harge s	White	Black	Hispani c	Asian/ Pcf Hlnder	Native American	Other	Missing
#dischar ges	735	535	82	58	18	*	19	22
1-17	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
18-44	70	40	13	*	*	*	*	*
45-64	330	236	31	32	*	*	11	*
65-84	298	229	35	13	*	*	*	*
85+	34	29	*	*	*	*	*	*

Age	#disc harge s	White	Black	Hispani c	Asian/ Pcf Hlnder	Native American	Other	Missing
#dischar ges	735	535	82	58	18	1	19	22
1-17	3	1 \	*	*	*	*	*	*
18-44	70	40	13	*		35 – +229+29)		*
45-64	330	236	31	32	10 1200		1	*
65-84	298	229	35	13	*	*	*	*
85+	34	29	*	*	*	*	*	*

Age	#disc harge s	White	Black	Hispani c	Asian/ Pcf Hlnder	Native American	Other	Missing
#dischar ges	735	535	82	58	18	1	19	22
1-17	3	1	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]
18-44	70	40	13	*	*	*	*	*
45-64	330	236	31	32	*	*	11	*
65-84	298	229	35	13	*	*	*	*
85+	34	29	*	*	*	*	*	*

Age	#disc harge s	White	Black	Hispani c	Asian/ Pcf Hlnder	Native American	Other	Missing
#dischar ges	735	535	82	58	18	1	19	22
1-17	3	1	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-2]
18-44	70	40	13	*	*	*	*	*
45-64	330	236	31	32	*	*	11	*
65-84	298	229	35	13	*	*	*	*
85+	34	29	[1-3]	*	*	*	*	*

Can Construct Tight Bounds on Rest of Data

[VSJO 13]

Age	#disch arges	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pcf Hlnder	Native American	Other	Missing
#dischar ges	735	535	82	58	18	1	19	22
1-17	3	1	[0-2]	[0-2]	[0-1]	[0]	[0-1]	[0-1]
18-44	70	40	13	[9-10]	[0-6]	[0]	[0-6]	[1-8]
45-64	330	236	31	32	[10]	[0]	11	[10]
65-84	298	229	35	13	[2-8]	[1]	[2-8]	[4-10]
85+	34	29	[1-3]	[1-4]	[0-1]	[0]	[0-1]	[0-1]

Desiderata for a Privacy Definition

1. Resilience to background knowledge

 A privacy mechanism must be able to protect individuals' privacy from attackers who may possess background knowledge

2. Privacy without obscurity

 Attacker must be assumed to know the algorithm used as well as all parameters [MK15]

3. Post-processing

 Post-processing the output of a privacy mechanism must not change the privacy guarantee [KL10, MK15]

Problem 4

- Releasing tables that achieve k-anonymity
 - At least k records share the same quasi-identifier
 - E.g. 4-anonymous table by generalization

	No	n-Sens	itive	Sensitive
	Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition
1	130**	<30	*	AIDS
2	130**	<30	*	Heart Disease
3	130**	<30	*	Viral Infection
4	130**	<30	*	Viral Infection
5	130**	≥40	*	Cancer
6	130**	≥40	*	Heart Disease
7	130**	≥40	*	Viral Infection
8	130**	≥40	*	Viral Infection
9	130**	3*	*	Cancer
10	130**	3*	*	Cancer
11	130**	3*	*	Cancer
12	130**	3*	*	Cancer

Problem 4: Multiple Releases

• 2 tables of k-anonymous patient records

No	n-Sens	itive	Sensitive]	No	n-Sens	itive	Sensitive
Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition		Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition
130**	<30	*	AIDS	1	130**	<35	*	AIDS
130**	<30	*	Heart Disease	2	130**	<35	*	Tuberculosis
130**	<30	*	Viral Infection	3	130**	<35	*	Flu
130**	<30	*	Viral Infection	4	130**	<35	*	Tuberculosis
130**	>40	*	Cancer	5	130**	<35	*	Cancer
130**	[−] >40	*	Heart Disease	6	130**	<35	*	Cancer
130**	[−] >40	*	Viral Infection	7	130**	≥35	*	Cancer
130**	≥ 40	*	Viral Infection	8	130**		*	Cancer
130**	3*	*	Cancer	9	130**	≥35	*	Cancer
130**	3*	*	Cancer	10	130**		*	Tuberculosis
130**	3*	*	Cancer	11	130**		*	Viral Infection
130**	3*	*	Cancer	12	130**		*	Viral Infection
	130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130** 130**	Zip code Age 130** <30	Zip code Age Nationality 130** <30	Zip code Age Nationality Condition 130** <30	Zip code Age Nationality Condition 130** <30	Zip code Age Nationality Condition 130** <30	Zip code Age Nationality Condition Zip code Age 130** <30	Zip code Age Nationality Condition 130** <30

Hospital A (4-anonymous)

Hospital B (6-anonymous)

• If Alice visited both hospitals and she is 28, can you deduce Alice's medical condition?

Problem 4: Multiple Releases

• 2 tables of k-anonymous patient records [GKS08]

	No	n-Sens	itive	Sensitive		No	on-Sens	itive	Sensitive
	Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition		Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition
1	130**	<30	*	AIDS	1	130**	<35	*	AIDS
2	130**	<30	*	Heart Disease	2	130**	<35	*	Tuberculosis
3	130**	<30	*	Viral Infection	3	130**	<35	*	Flu
4	130**	<30	*	Viral Infection	4	130**	<35	*	Tuberculosis
5	130**	>40	*	Cancer	5	130**	<35	*	Cancer
6	130**		*	Heart Disease	6	130**	<35	*	Cancer
7	130**	>40	*	Viral Infection	7	130**	>35	*	Cancer
8	130**	_ ≥40	*	Viral Infection	8	130**	≥35	*	Cancer
9	130**	3*	*	Cancer	9	130**	≥35	*	Cancer
10	130**	3*	*	Cancer	10	130**		*	Tuberculosis
11	130**	3*	*	Cancer	11	130**		*	Viral Infection
12	130**	3*	*	Cancer	12	130**		*	Viral Infection

Hospital A (4-anonymous)

Hospital B (6-anonymous)

• Alice is 28 and she visits both hospitals

Problem 4: Multiple Releases

• 2 tables of k-anonymous patient records [GKS08]

	No	n-Sens	itive	Sensitive		No	on-Sens	itive	Sensitive
	Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition		Zip code	Age	Nationality	Condition
1	130**	<30	*	AIDS	1	130**	<35	*	AIDS
2	130**	<30	*	Heart Disease	2	130**	<35	*	Tuberculosis
3	130**	<30	*	Viral Infection	3	130**	<35	*	Flu
4	130**	<30	*	Viral Infection	4	130**	<35	*	Tuberculosis
5	130**	>40	*	Cancer	5	130**	<35	*	Cancer
6	130**		*	Heart Disease	6	130**	<35	*	Cancer
7	130**	>40	*	Viral Infection	7	130**	>35	*	Cancer
8	130**	_ ≥40	*	Viral Infection	8	130**	≥35	*	Cancer
9	130**	3*	*	Cancer	9	130**	≥35	*	Cancer
10	130**	3*	*	Cancer	10	130**		*	Tuberculosis
11	130**	3*	*	Cancer	11	130**		*	Viral Infection
12	130**	3*	*	Cancer	12	130**		*	Viral Infection

Hospital A (4-anonymous)

Hospital B (6-anonymous)

• 4-anonymity + 6-anonymity \Rightarrow k-anonymity, for any k

Desiderata for a Privacy Definition

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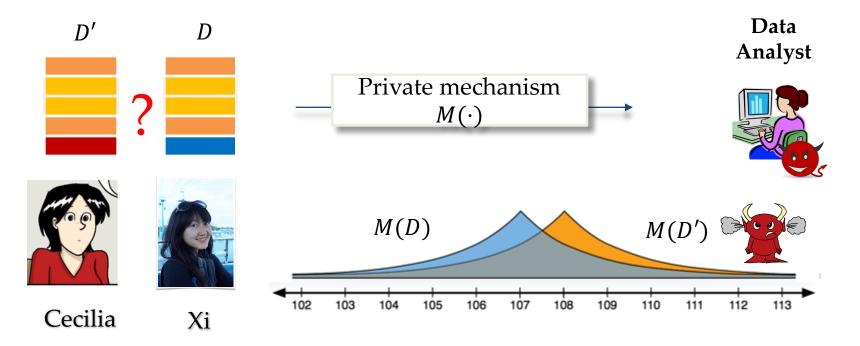
4. Composition over multiple releases

 Allow a graceful degradation of privacy with multiple invocations on the same data [DN03, GKS08]

Differential Privacy

[Dwork06]

• "An algorithm satisfies differential privacy (DP) if its output is insensitive to adding, removing or changing one record in its input database"

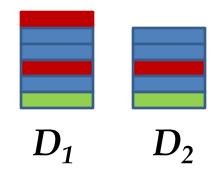


Differential Privacy

For every pair of inputs that differ in one row

[Dwork ICALP 2006]

For every output ...





Adversary should not be able to distinguish between any D₁ and D₂ based on any O

$$\ln\left(\frac{\Pr[A(D_1)=o]}{\Pr[A(D_2)=o]}\right) \le \varepsilon, \qquad \varepsilon > 0$$

Differential Privacy in Practice



What are the challenges in building practical systems that ensure DP?

From Theory to Practice



DP mechanisms for answering linear counting queries on tabular data

"so many mechanisms, which one to pick?" "so many definitions, which one to pick?"



"I have my own application, how to design my own provable privacy guarantee and how to design mechanism for this guarantee?"



	Patient	Table				Diagnosis Ta	ole	
PatientID	Name	Age			PatientID	DoctorID	Timestamp	
			Forei	gn l	Key			
p_4	Alice	60	Ì	_	p_4	d_2	2017.12.31.9am	



	Medication T	able	
PatientID	Medication	Timestamp	
P_4	Aspirin	2017.12.31.10am	

		1 0100	
ID	Sex	Age	 HID
122	М	40	 H6
123	F	12	 H6
124	М	23	 H7
125	М	26	 H8
126	F	30	 H8

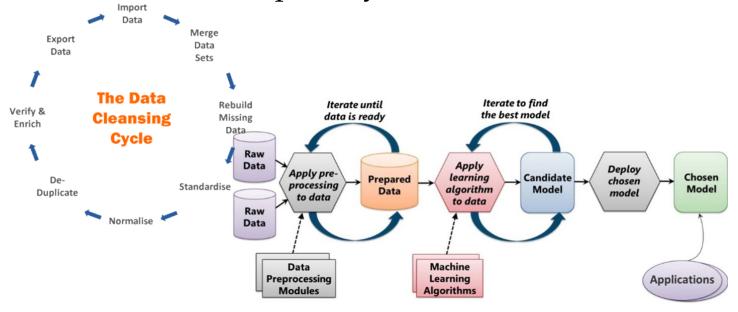
Household					
,	HID		Geo		
	H6		CA		
	H7		FL		
	H8		NC		





From Theory to Practice

- Complex data processing workflow
 - Data transformation, repairing, integration, etc.
 - How to track privacy loss?



Engineering DP into DB Systems

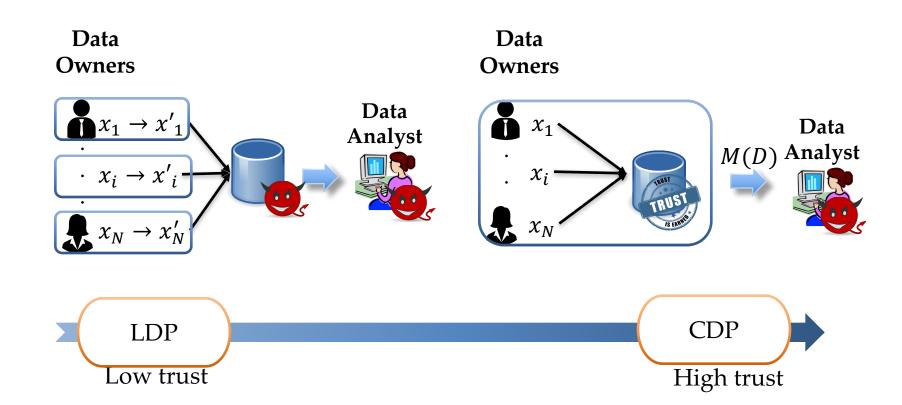
- Existing DP database systems:
 - PINQ, Airavat, Flex(Uber DP), Google DP, PrivateSQL
 - Rule-based sensitivity analysis of a query plan followed by noise addition
 - Handle more types of data and queries
- But face issues:
 - Inflexible and limited privacy semantics
 - Poor utility guarantee for highly sensitive queries (e.g. involving joins)
 - Unbounded privacy loss
 - Inconsistency between answers etc.

More Questions

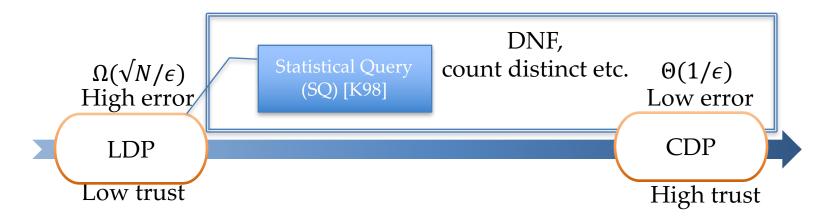
- How to integrate DP into different DB systems?
 - DP program compiler
 - Logical layer vs. physical layer
 - Static vs. dynamic data
- How to verify the correctness of DP implementations?
 - Side channel attacks [HPN11]
 - Floating point issue [Ilvento20,Mironov12]
 - CheckDP [WDKZ20]
- How to support of other privacy requirements?
 - "Rights to be forgotten" by GDPR

- Local DP
 - No trusted data curator

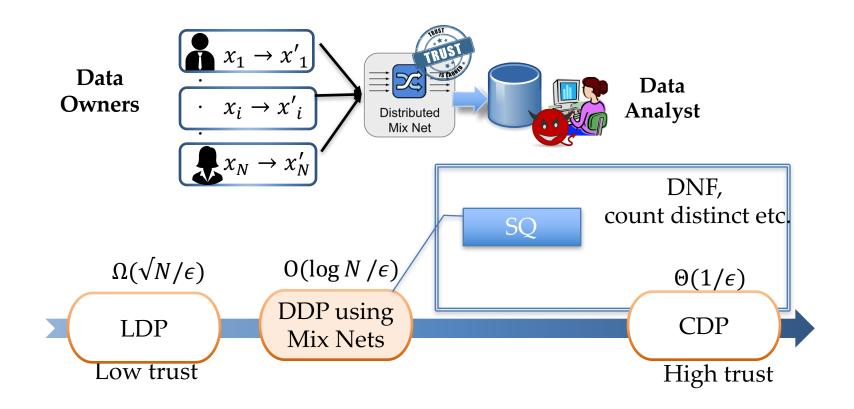
- Centralized DP
 - Trusted data curator



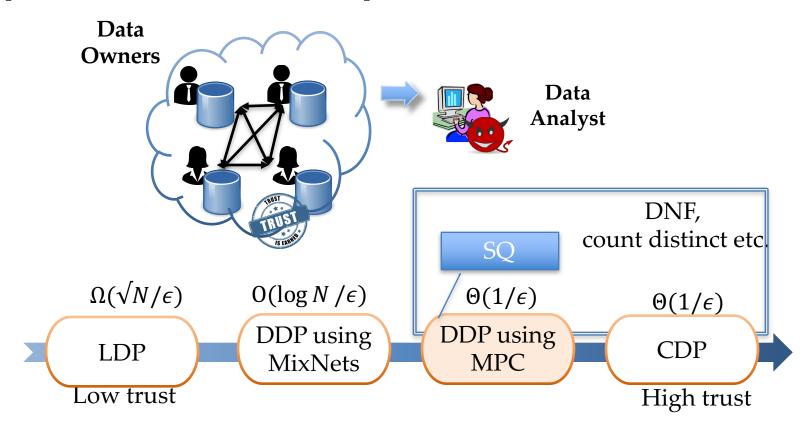
- Local DP: Less accurate/expressive
 - $\Omega(\sqrt{N/\epsilon})$ for statistical counting queries, where *N* is datasize
 - Separation results between the accuracy and sample complexity of LDP and CDP [KLNRS08]
 - E.g. disjunctive normal form (DNF) queries



• Trusted anonymous communication channels [BEMMRLRKTS17, CSUZZ18, EFMRTT19, BBGN19]



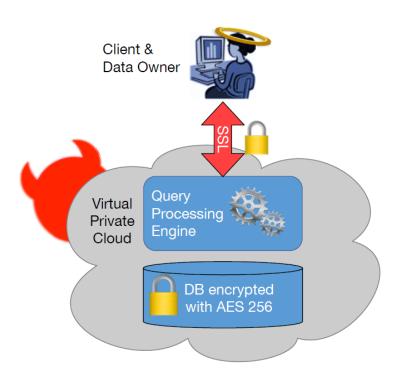
• Trusted multi-party secure computation (MPC) [NH12, BEEGKR17, AHKM18]



- The issues in the centralized setting all remain
- Optimization becomes more complex
 - Privacy, computation and communication cost, query expressiveness and accuracy
 - Hard-coded compiler
- Security/privacy proofs becomes even tricker
 - Even for stand-alone crypto/DP mechanisms [EUROCRYPT 2006, VLDB17]
 - Hybrid approach is vulnerable to faulty proofs [CCS17]
- Additional integrity concerns (storage, query evaluation)
 - Malicious participants who do not follow the protocol

Cloud Service Provider

Simply encrypted data may do?



What could go wrong?

- Storage: National Security Letter compels service provider to decrypt data
- Query processing: insider threat sees data-dependent query traces and result sizes
- Client side: rogue user systematically queries DB to deduce its private contents

Approaches & Issues

- Improve performance:
 - Property-preserving Encryption
 - Use of secure hardware (TEE)

- Be careful ...
 - Improper use of these techniques still leak info [GSBNR16, WCPZWBTG17]
 - How can DP help in this setting?

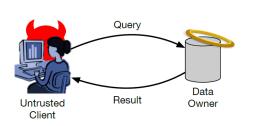
Summary

Privacy Guarantees	Centralized Setting (Client-server)	Federated Setting (Data federation)	Cloud Setting (Cloud service provider)
Input Data	Differential privacy		N/A
Query Evaluation	N/A	Local DP, Secure communication, computation, Encryption, TEE	
Queries	N/A	Private function evaluation	Private information retrieval

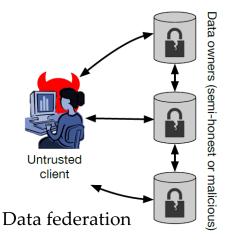
- Existing S&P solutions are piecemeal they addresses specific steps in the DBMS workflow
- Usually require multiple PhD-level experts to deploy them
- When deployed, their apps are almost always hard-coded
- Composing these techniques is non-trivial

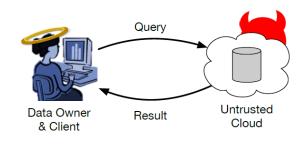
Course Format

3 Modules



Client-server with trusted data curator





Cloud service provider

Each module consists of

- 1 live/video lecture by the instructor on foundations, classic systems, and related work
- 1 mini-assignment based on the content of the lecture (offline)
- 6 paper readings
- 2-3 live sessions for lecture discussion and student paper presentations

Misc. course info

Grading

- 3 mini-assignments (individual) 15%
- 10 paper reviews 10%
- 1 paper presentation 15%
- Class participation 10%
- Project: 50%
- Website: https://cs.uwaterloo.ca/~xihe/cs848
 - Schedule (with links to lecture slides, readings, projects, etc.)
- LEARN for recorded videos, submission and grades
 - https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home/633169
- Piazza for questions and discussion

Announcement

 Paper reading assignment survey will be sent soon, please fill it asap, so that students who are presenting in Week 3 will have sufficient time to prepare

• The first round of paper reviews is due before the first paper presentation (Jan 25th, Monday)

Academic Integrity

- See course website
- Mini-assignments and paper reviews are individual work and submission
- Group discussion okay (and encouraged), but
 - Acknowledge help you receive from others
 - Make sure you "own" your solution
- All suspected cases of violation will be aggressively pursued

Next Lecture: Centralized Setting

- We will focus on
 - PINQ
 - Laplace mechanism
 - Global sensitivity analysis of a query plan
 - Flex
 - Sensitivity analysis of query plans with joins
 - Smooth sensitivity mechanism
 - DP under the fire
 - Timing attacks
 - Other related work

Discussion Time

