



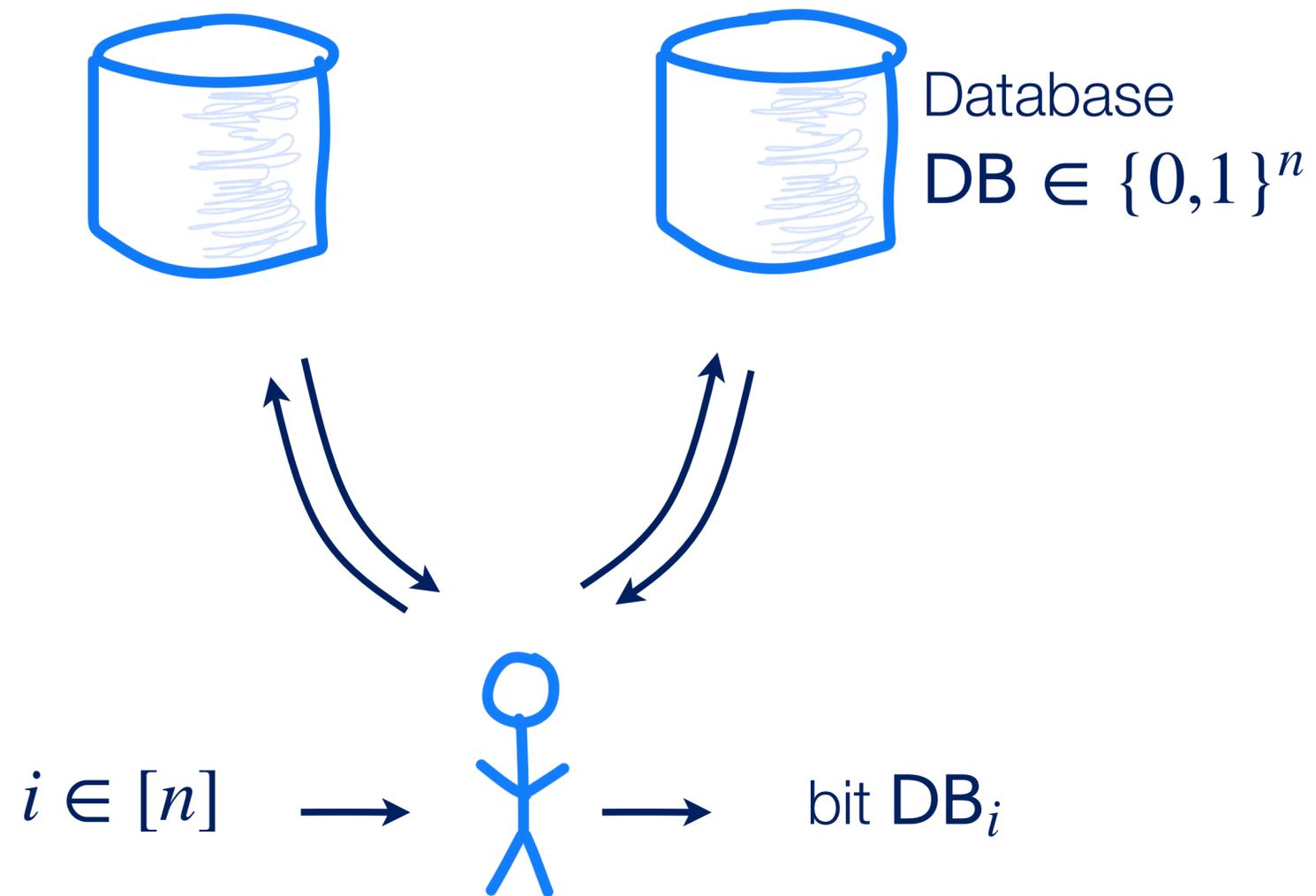
# Two-Server Private Information Retrieval in Sublinear Time and Quasilinear Space

Alexandra Henzinger

Seyoon Ragavan

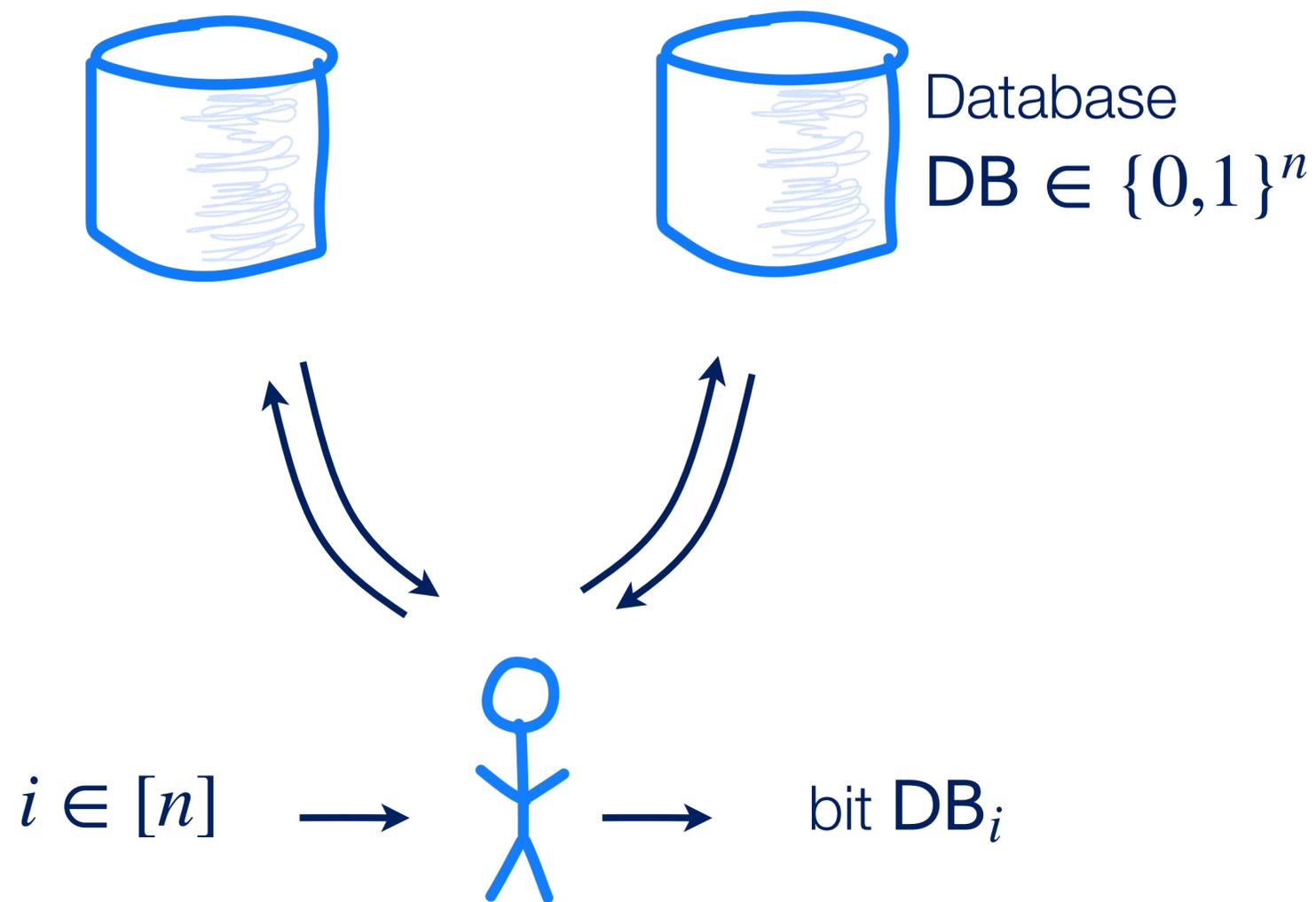
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Goal: privately read an entry from a remote database



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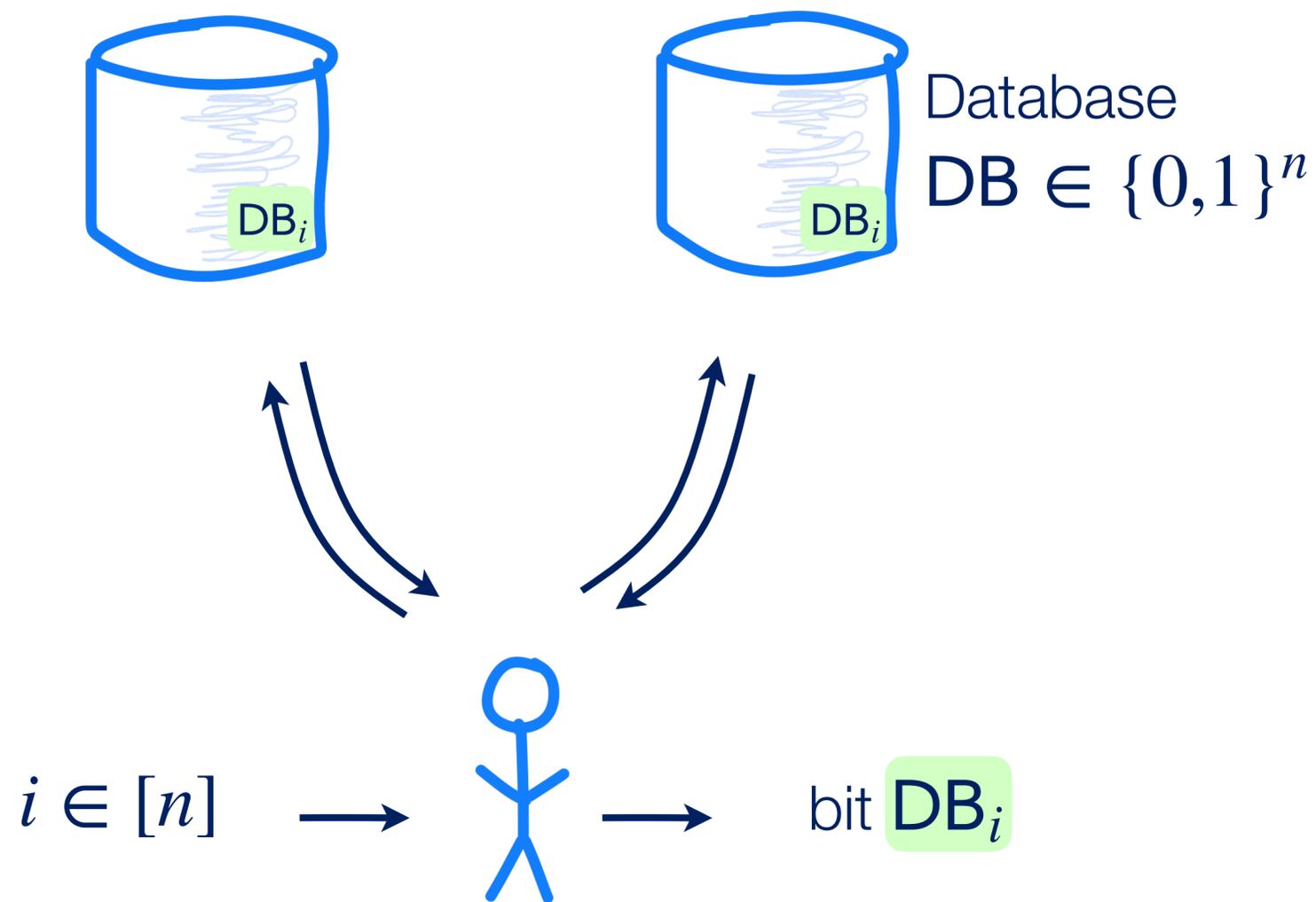
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a user interacting with two **honest**  
servers learns  $DB_i$ .

## Privacy:

an attacker compromising one  
server learns nothing about  $i$ ,  
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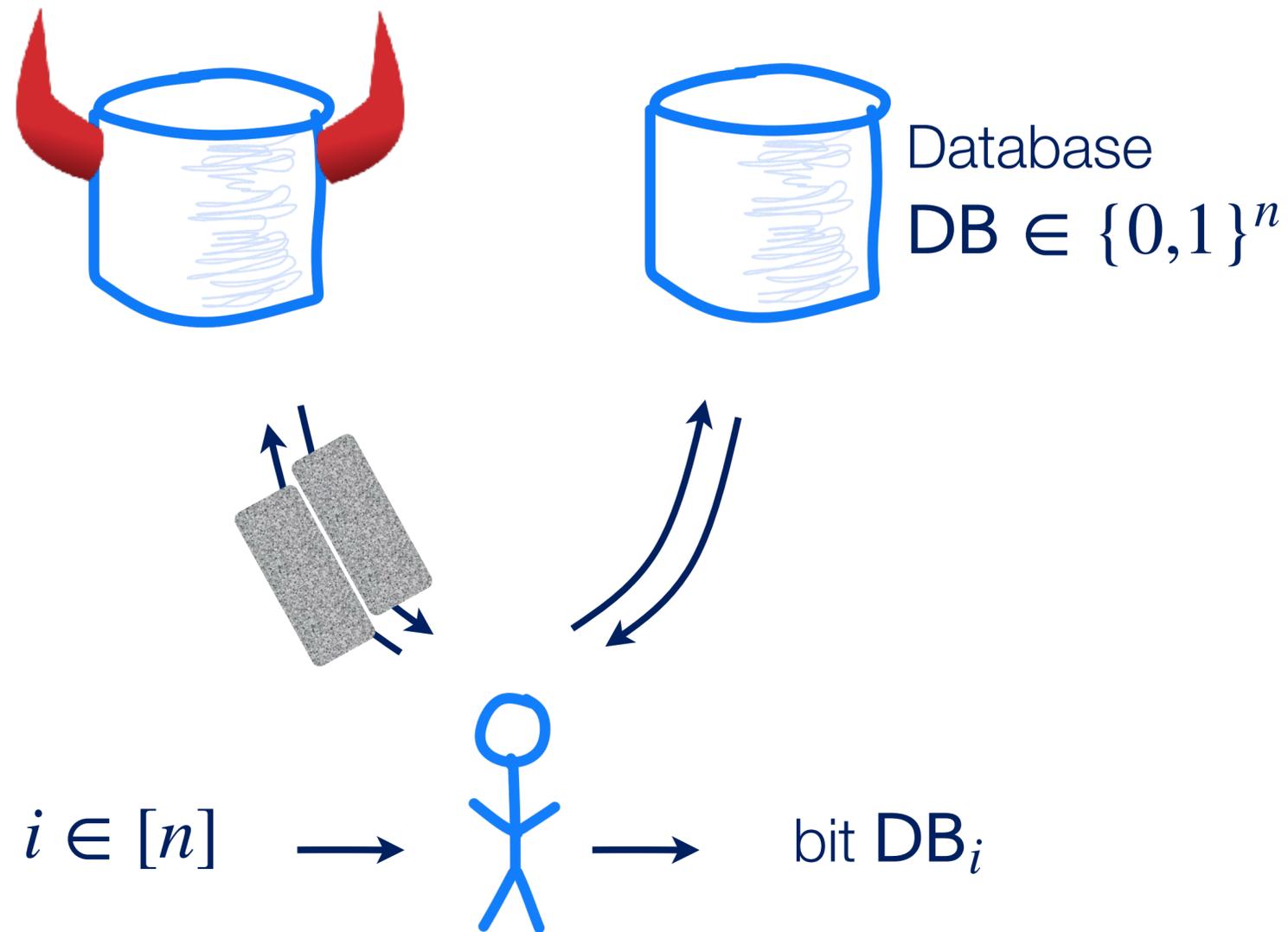
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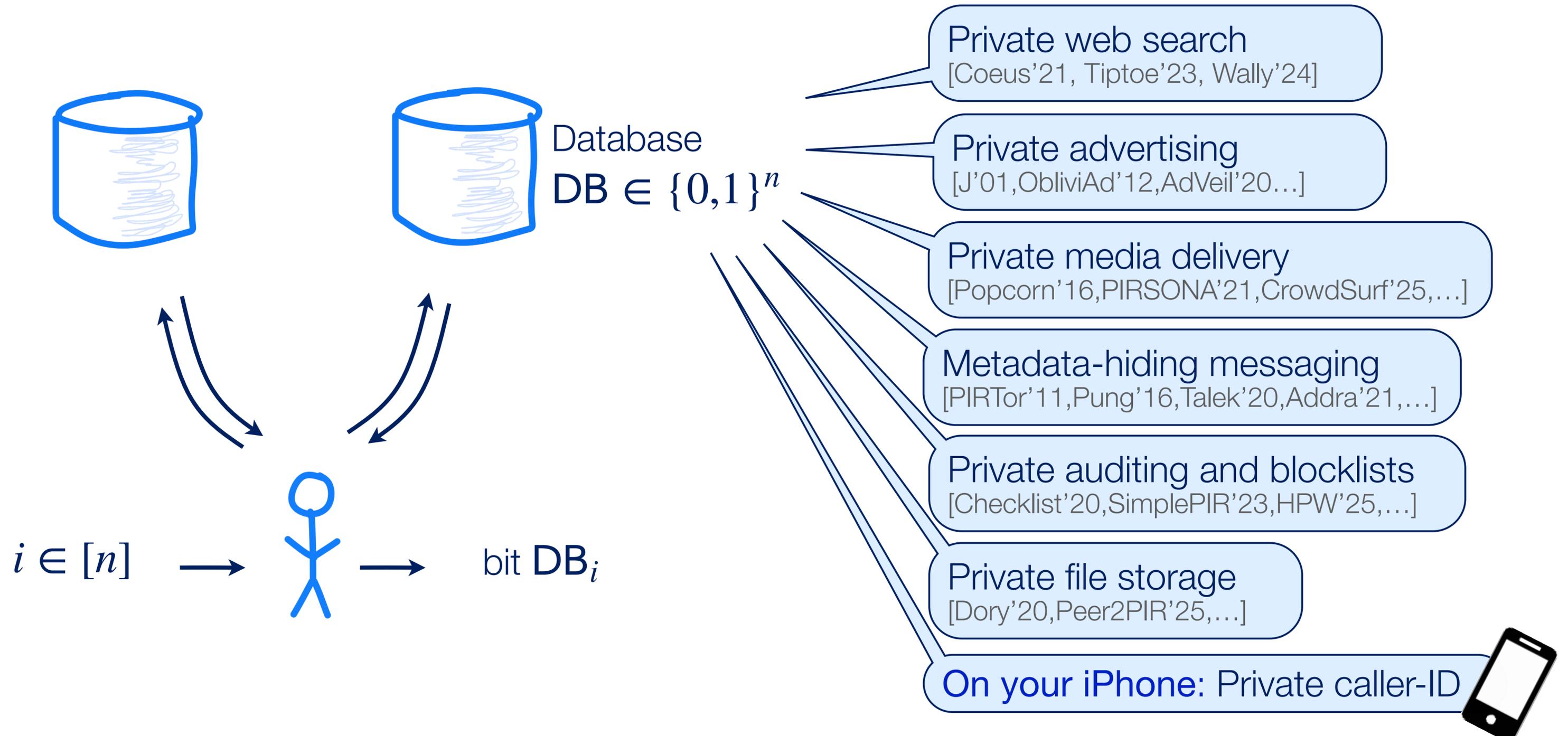
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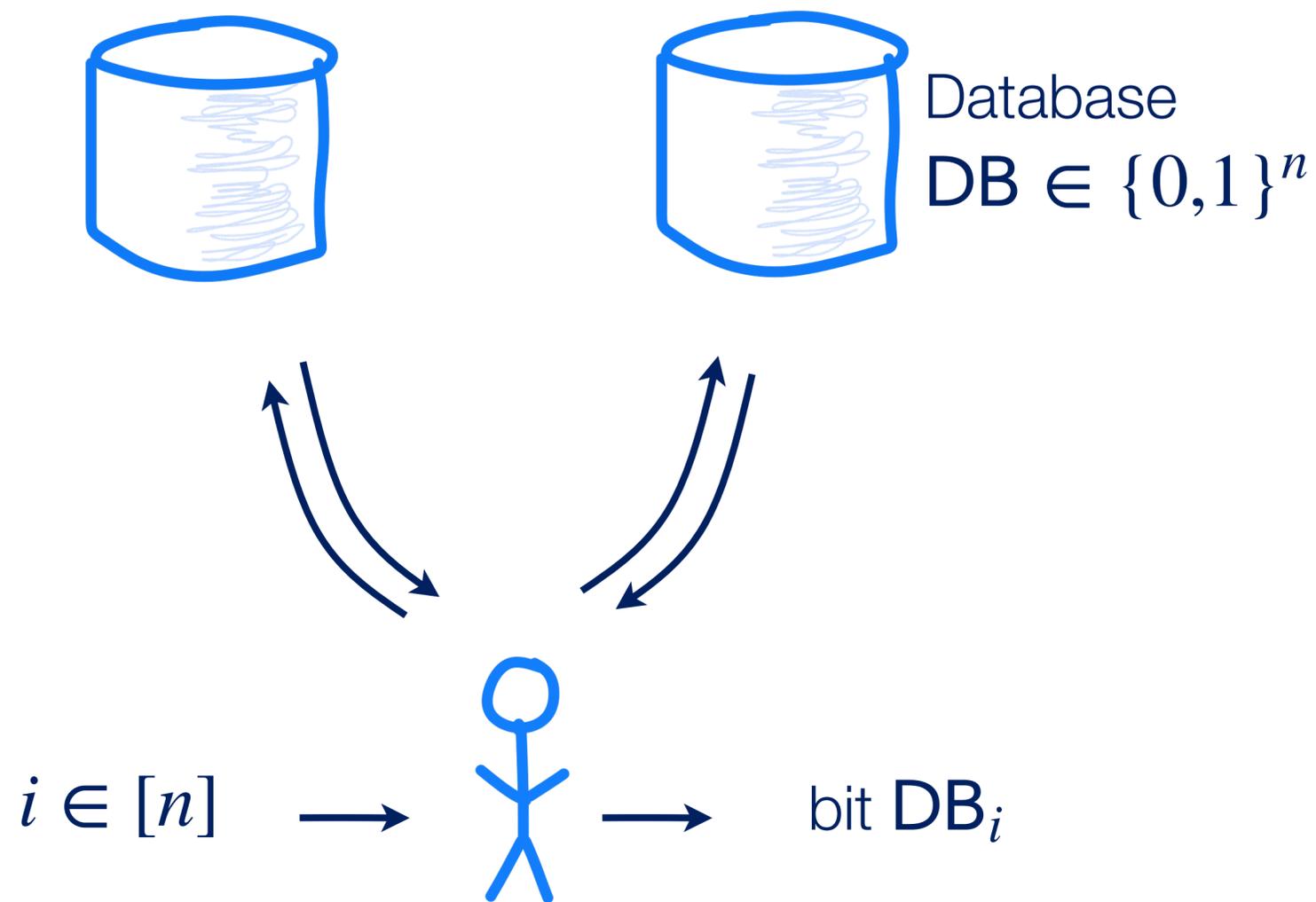
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Modern PIR needs **very little communication**:

- No privacy:  $\log n + 1$
- Info-theoretic privacy:  $n^{o(1)}$
- Comp. privacy:  $O(\lambda \cdot \log n)$

[KO97, CMS99, DG16, BGI16]

...but **lots of server work**:

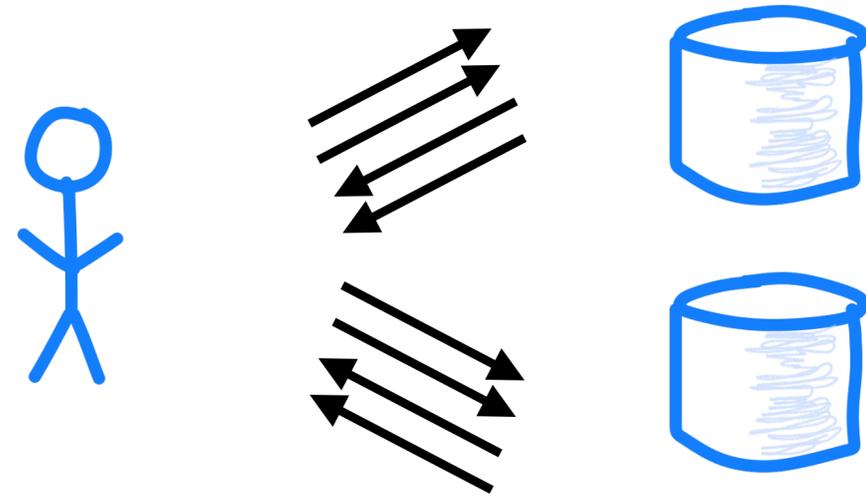
- No privacy:  $O(1)$  time
- With privacy:  $\Omega(n)$  time

[BIM00, PY22]

**Solution:** Change the PIR model to get sublinear time

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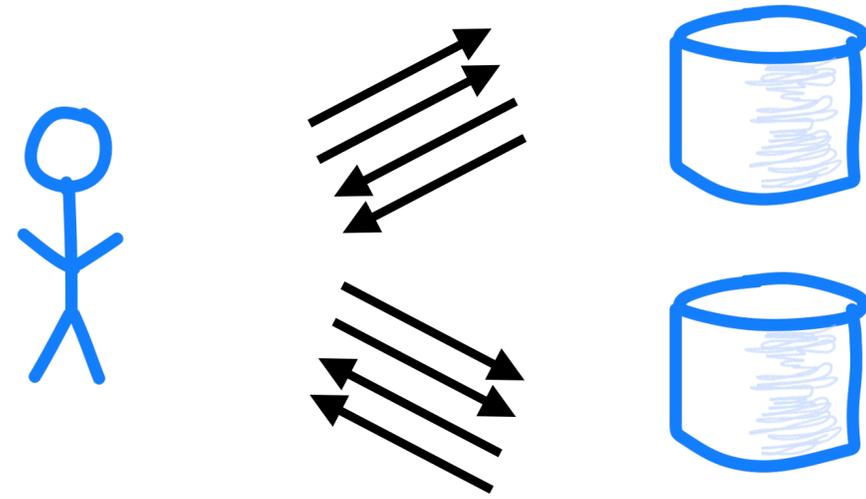
Batch PIR with many, non-adaptive queries



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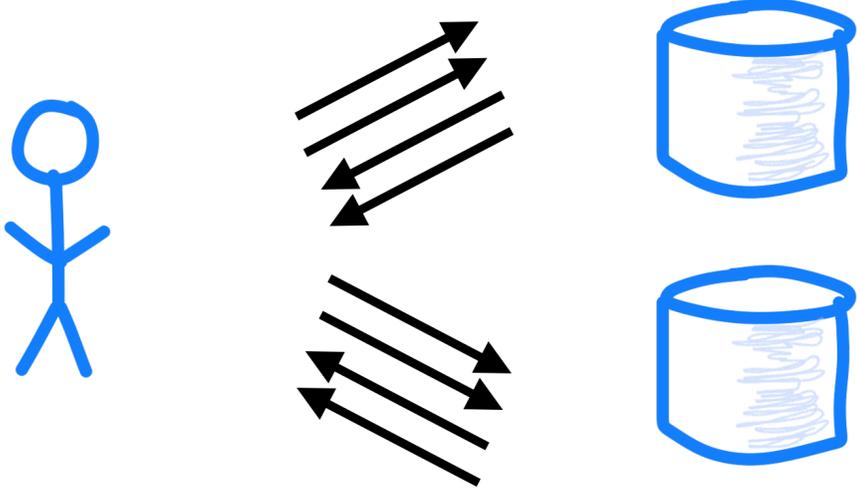
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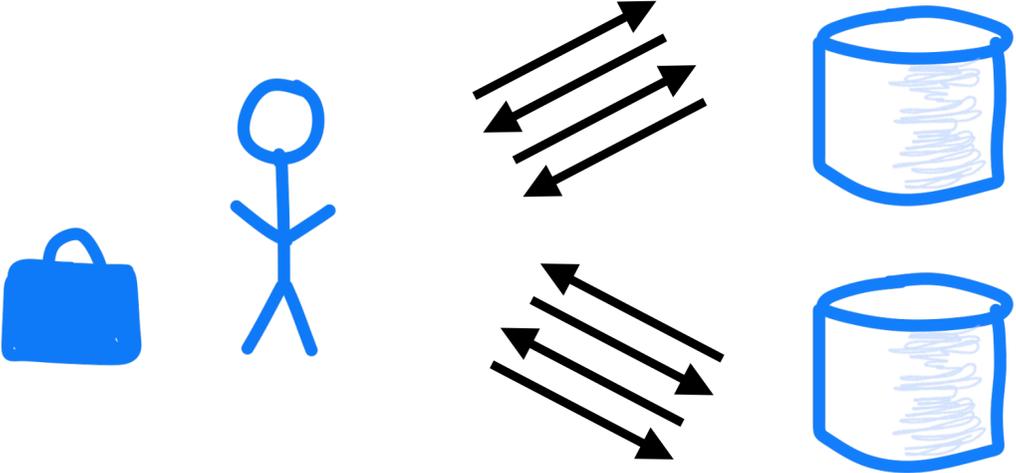
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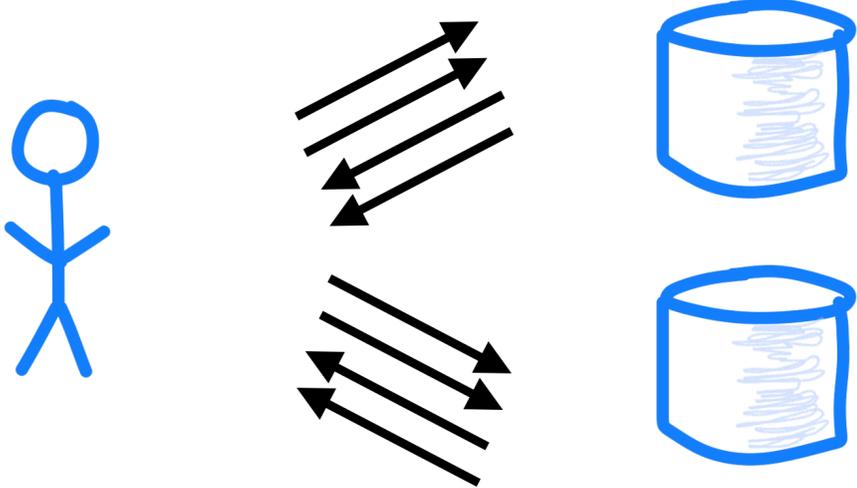
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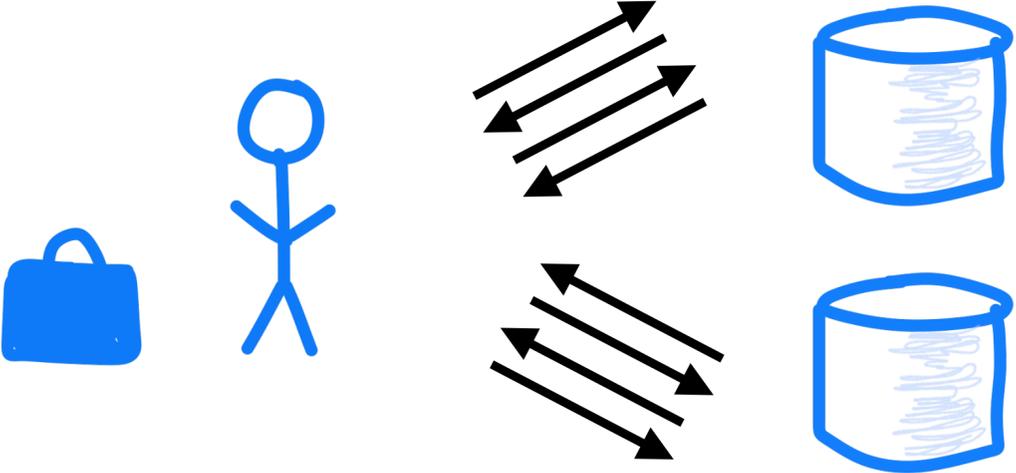
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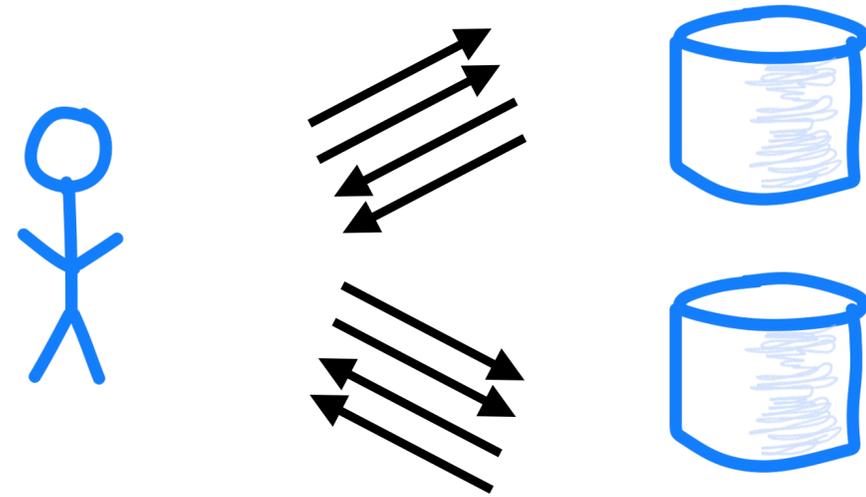
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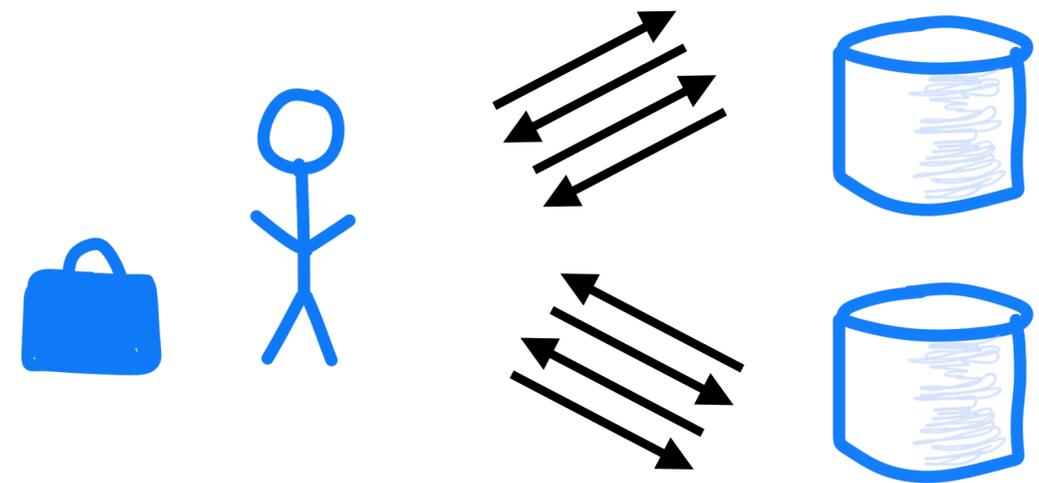
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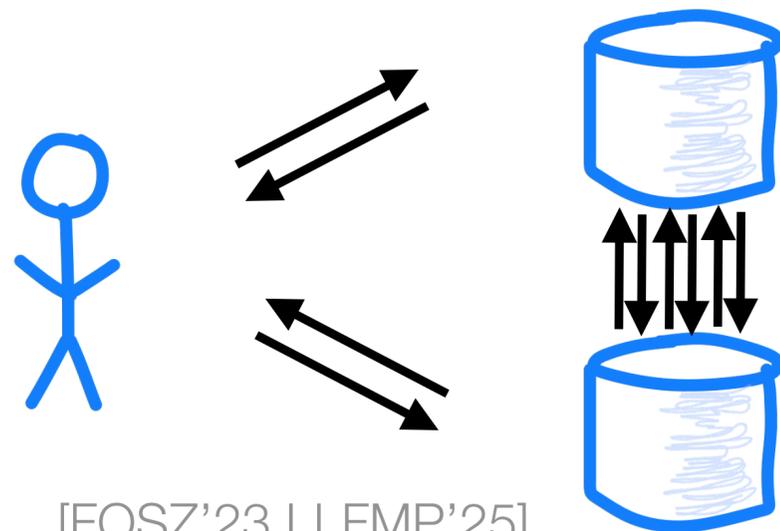
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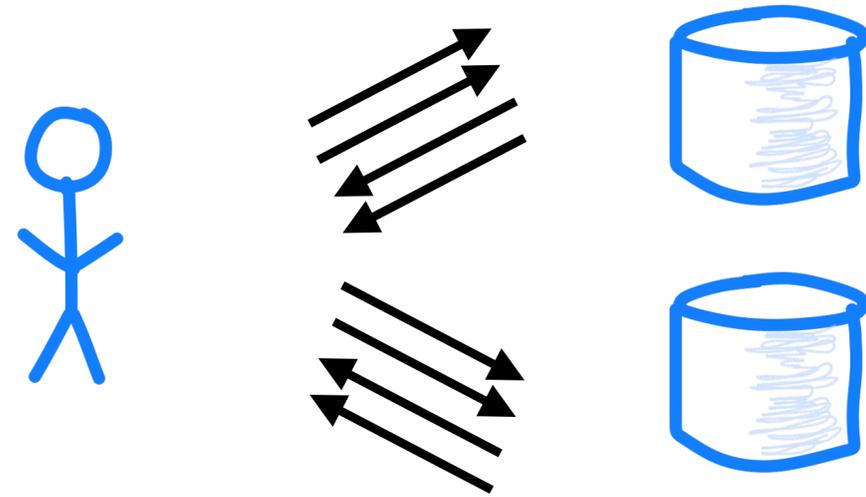
Distributed ORAM with communicating servers



[FOSZ'23,LLFMP'25]

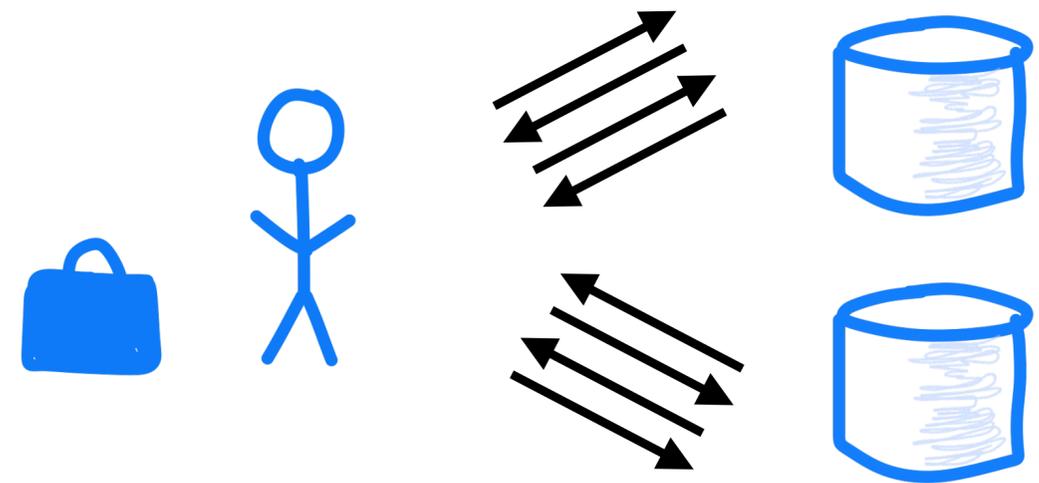
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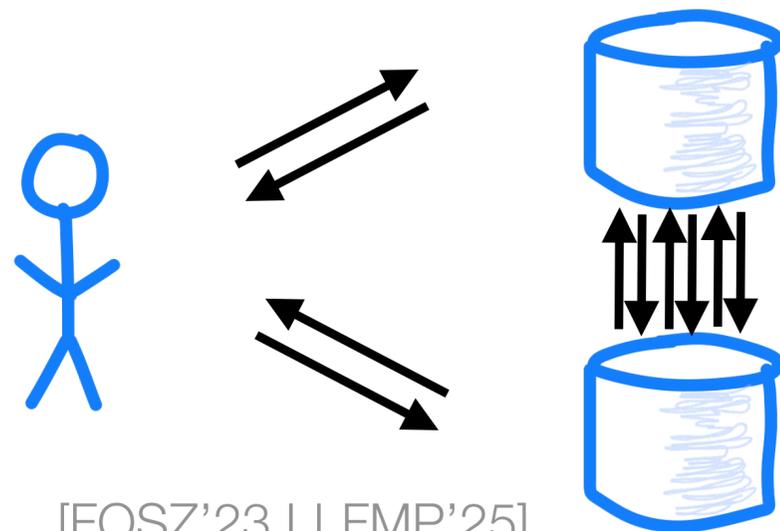
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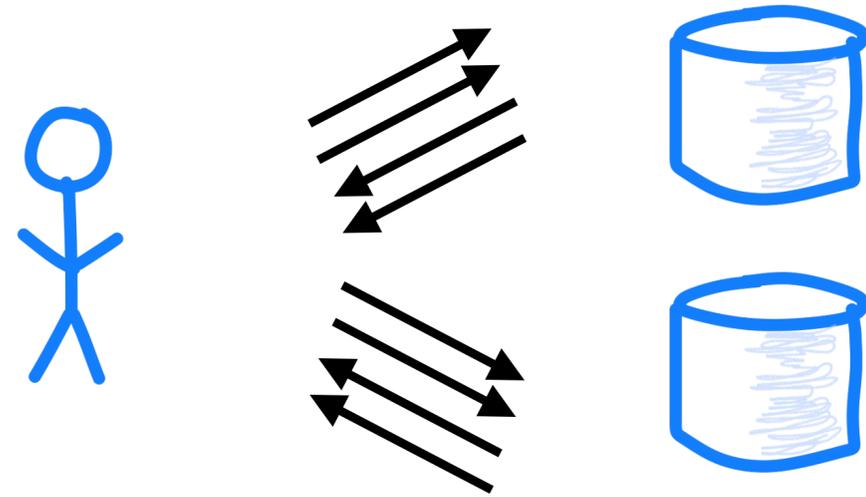
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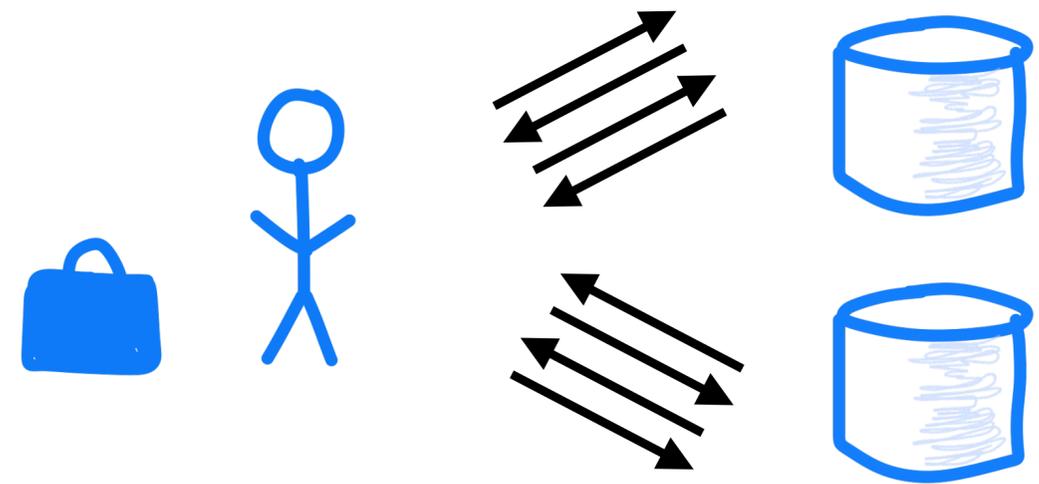
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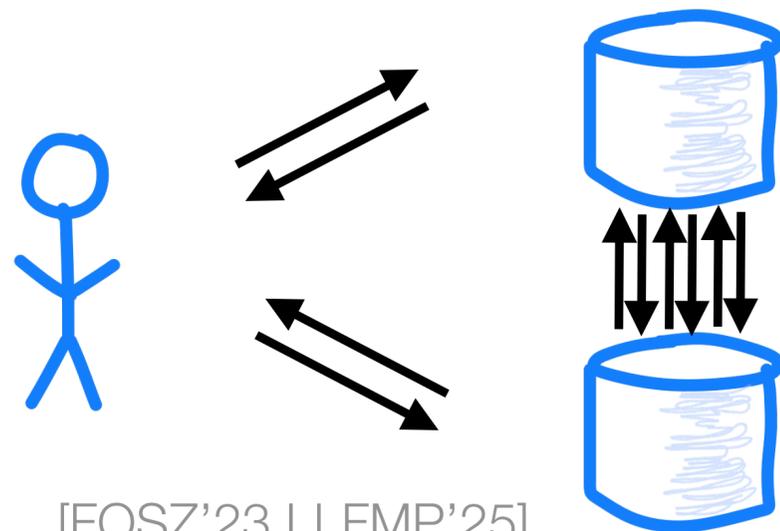
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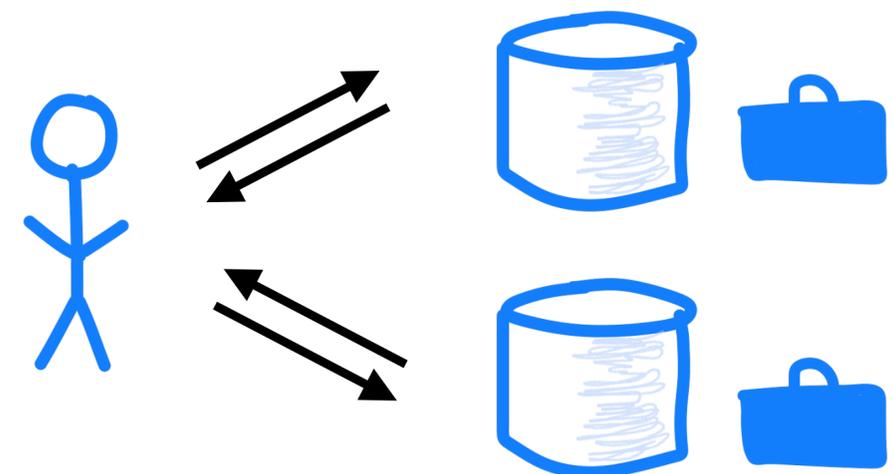
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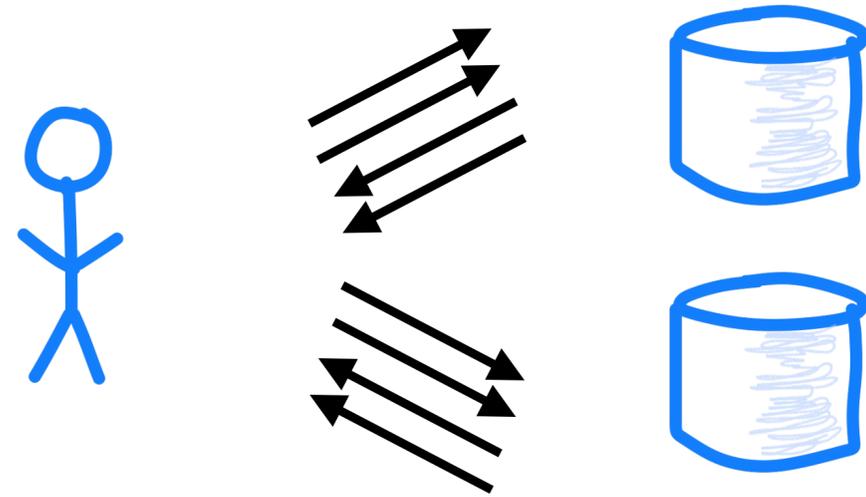
PIR with preprocessing



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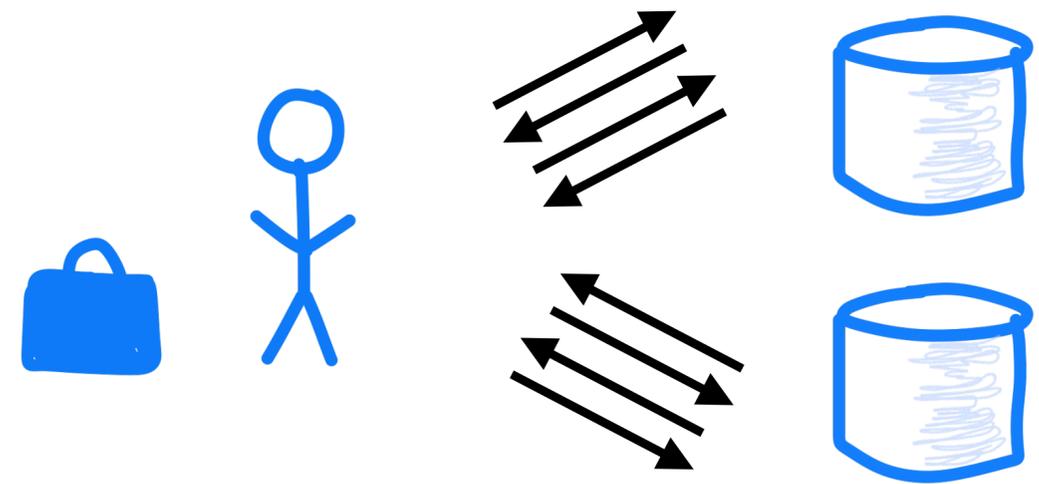
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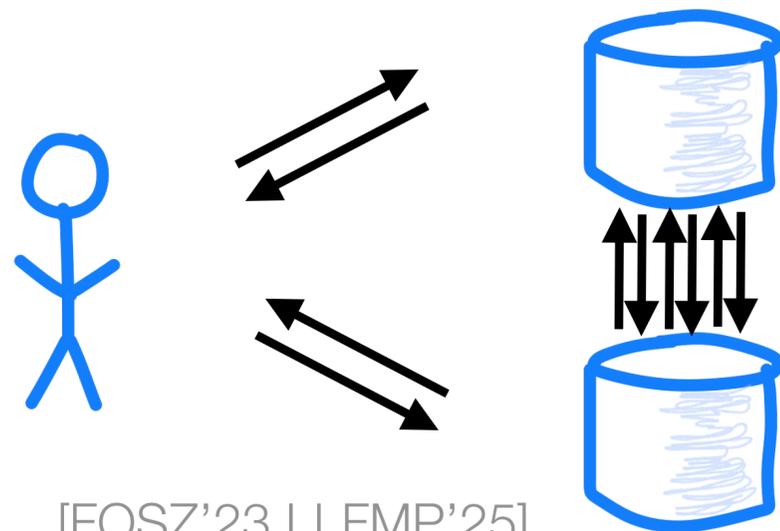
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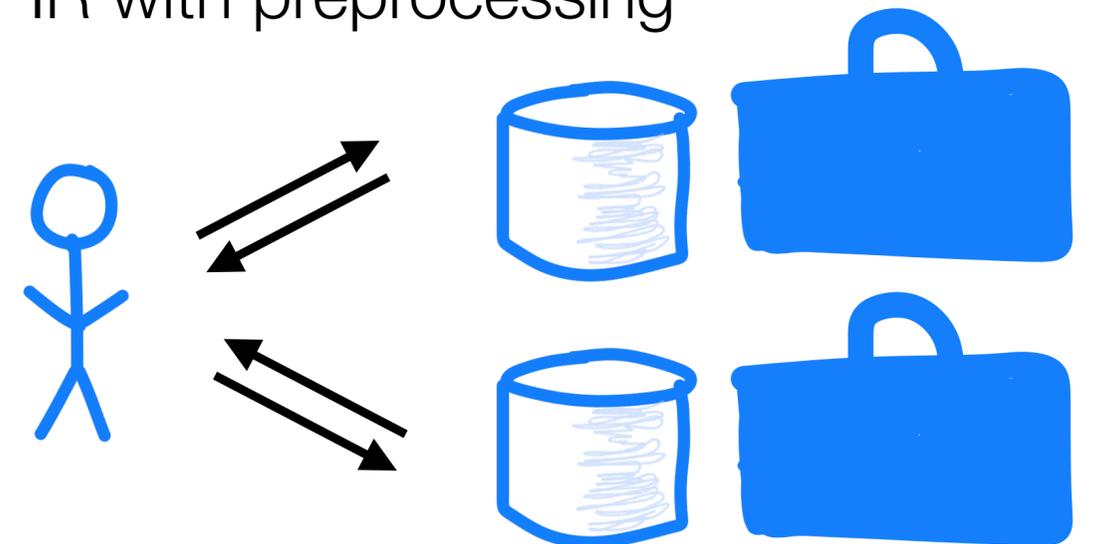
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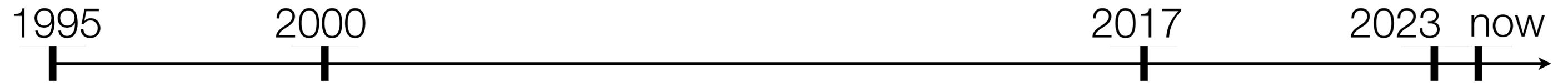
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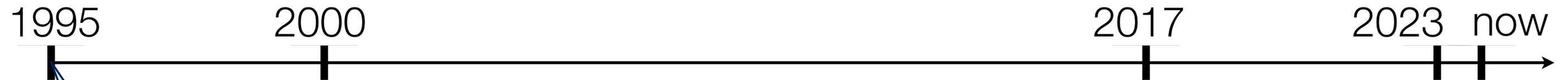
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Computational  
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Concrete storage  
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\*Ignoring polylog savings in time

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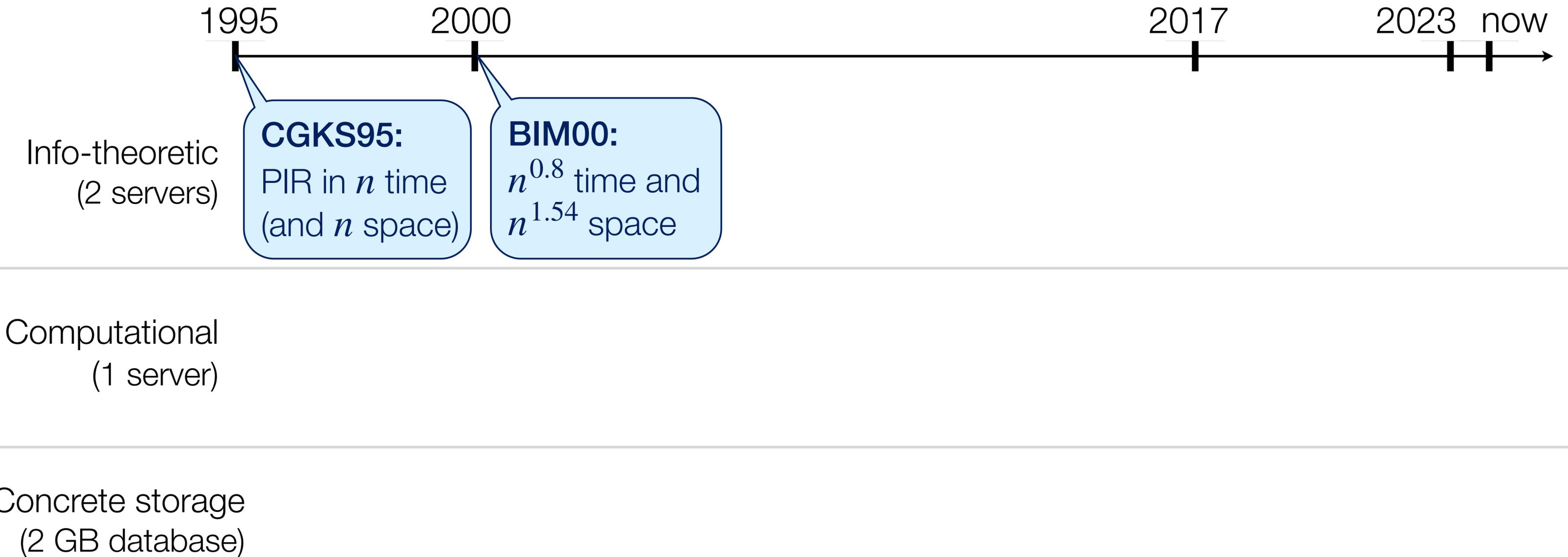
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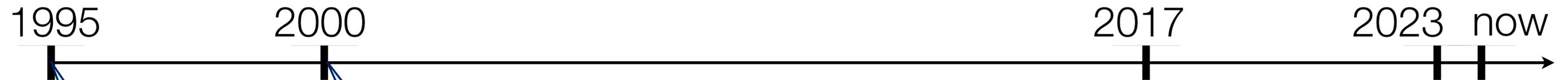
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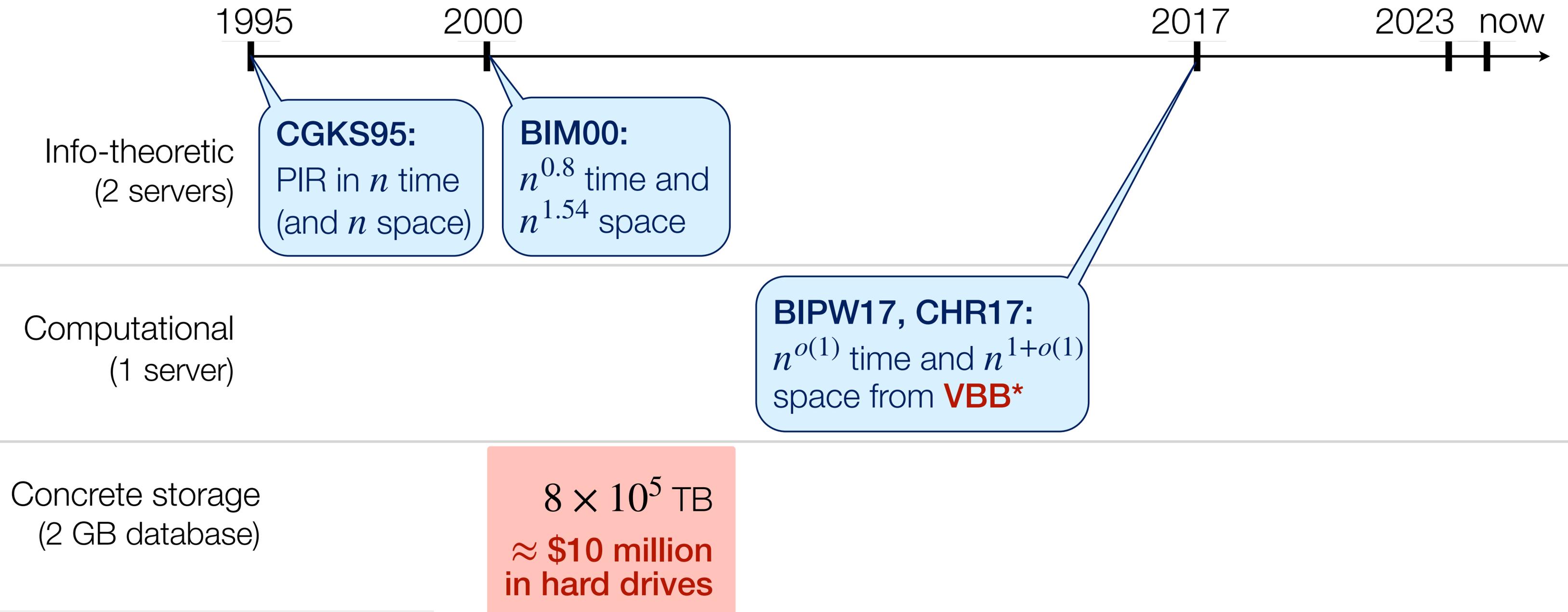
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$8 \times 10^5$  TB  
 **$\approx$  \$10 million  
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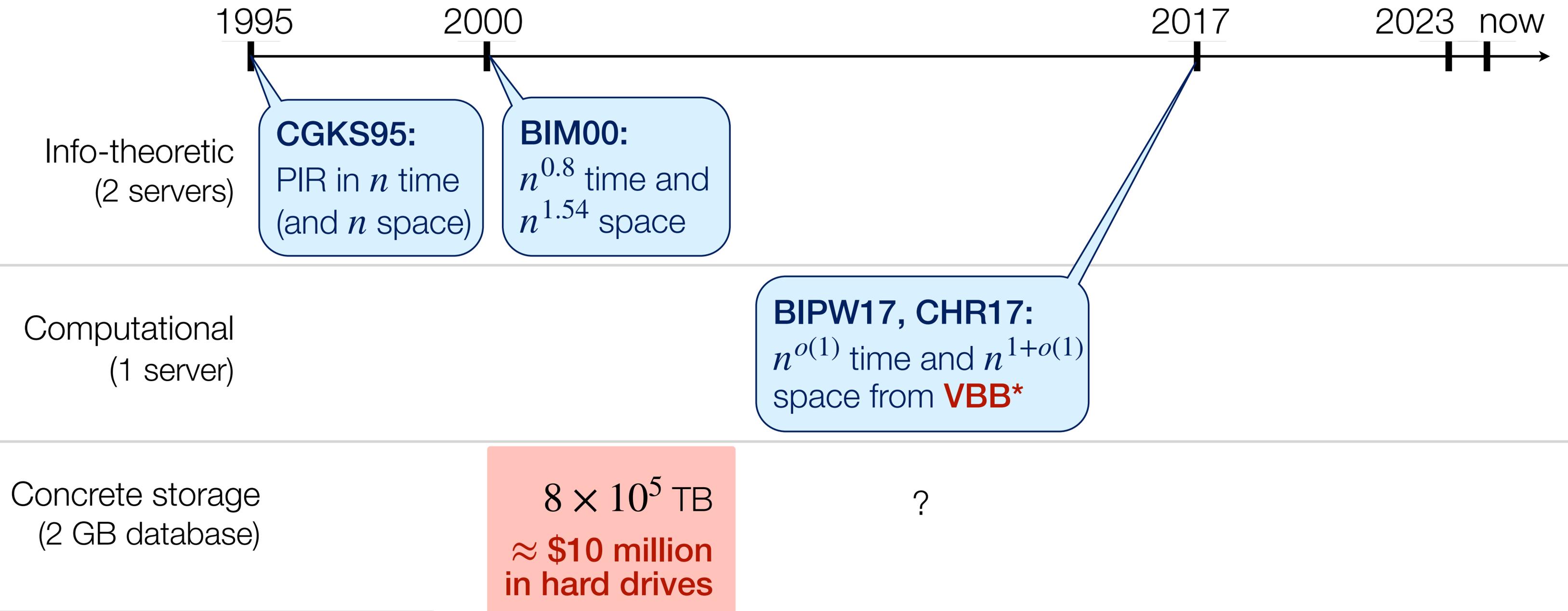
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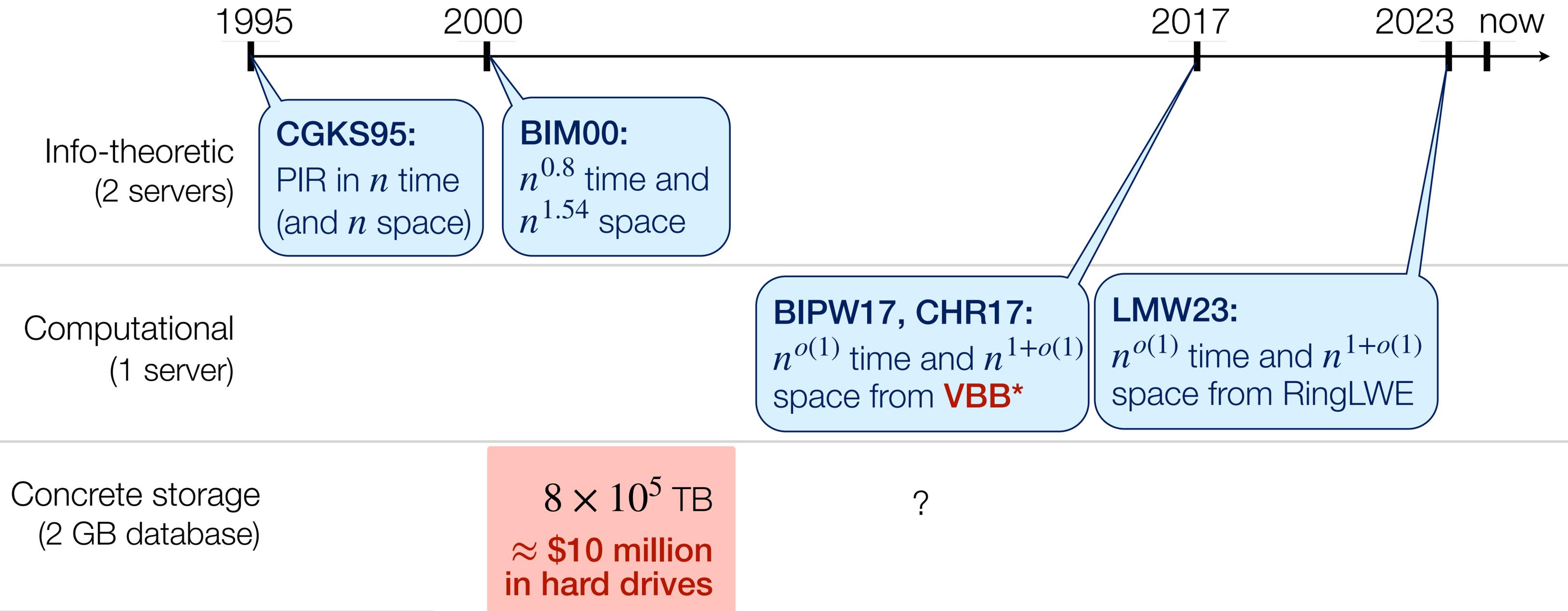
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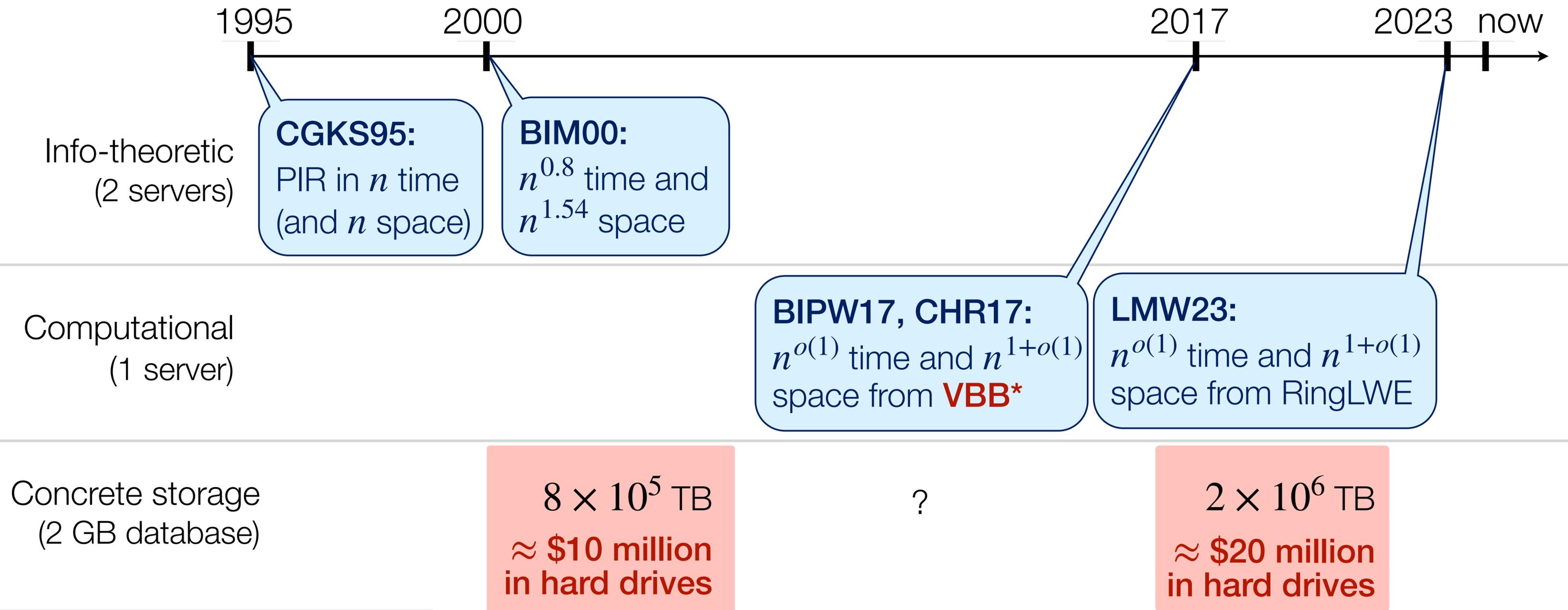
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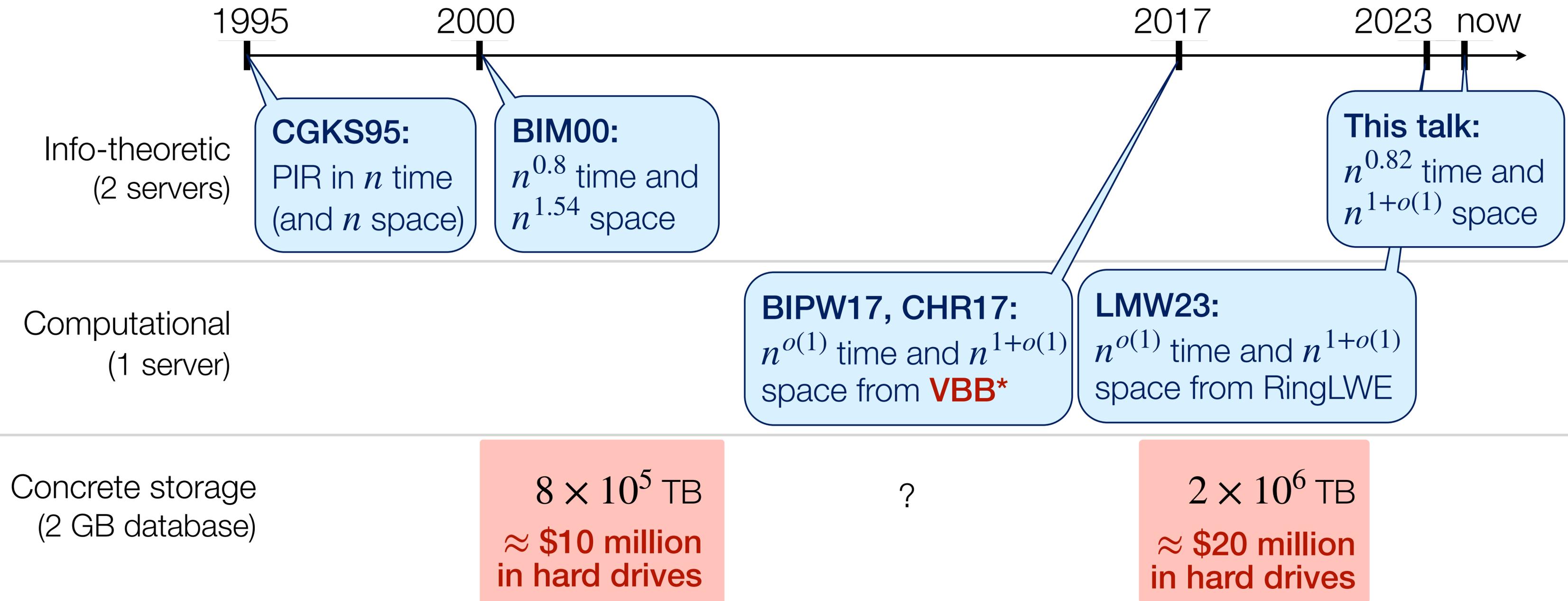
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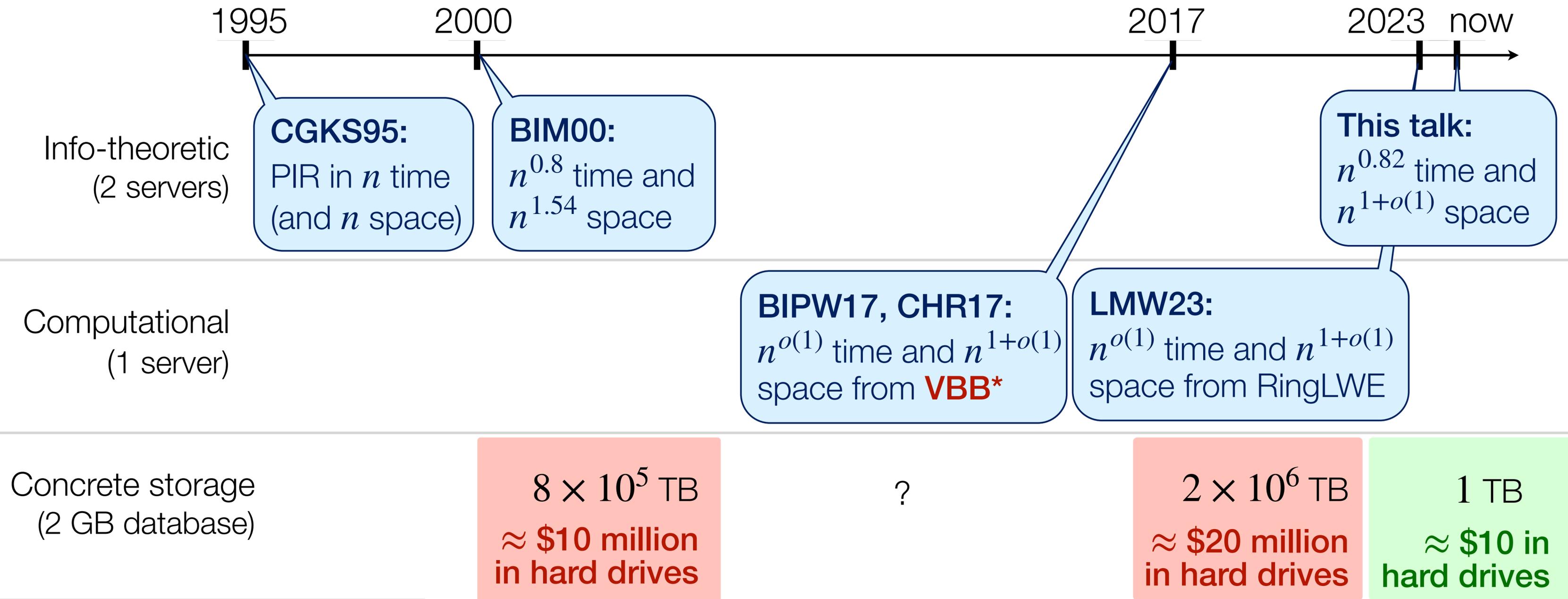
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**Theorem.** For any database of  $n > 10^6$  bits, there exists information-theoretic, two-server PIR with preprocessing with:

- $1.5 \cdot \sqrt{\log n} \cdot n$  bits of storage,
- $12 \cdot n^{0.82}$  server RAM lookups per query,
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**Corollary 1:** with two servers and compact LHE [known from DDH, DCR, QR, LWE], the server time is  $n^{0.82} \cdot \text{poly}(\lambda)$  and the communication is  $n^{0.31} \cdot \text{poly}(\lambda)$ .

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Our schemes support a broader time-space tradeoff, that strictly improves on prior work.

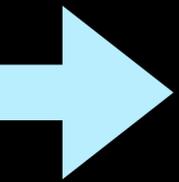
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  - Two servers
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  - Three servers and beyond
3. **Alternate view:** new locally decodable codes
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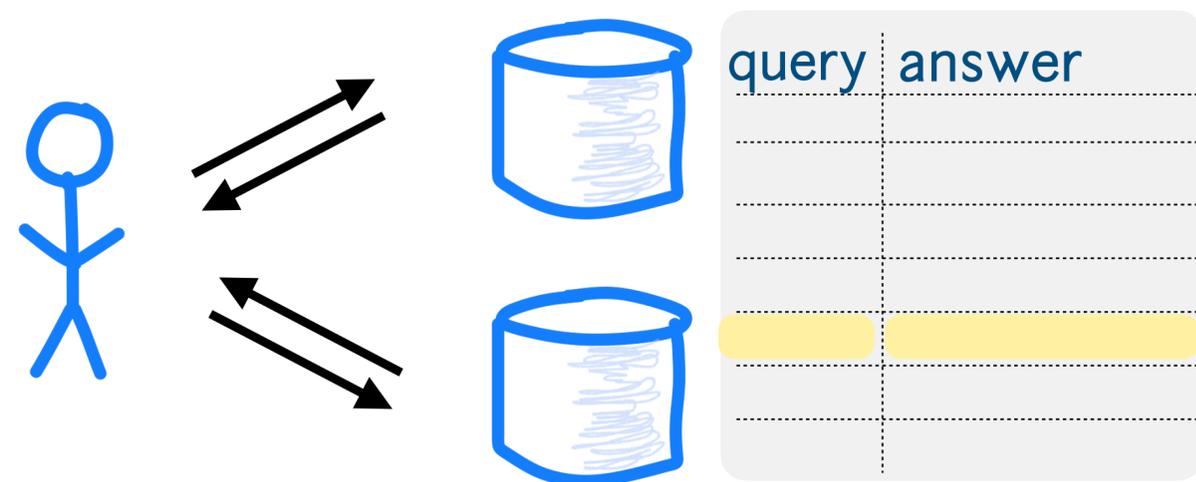
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# Prior information-theoretic PIR

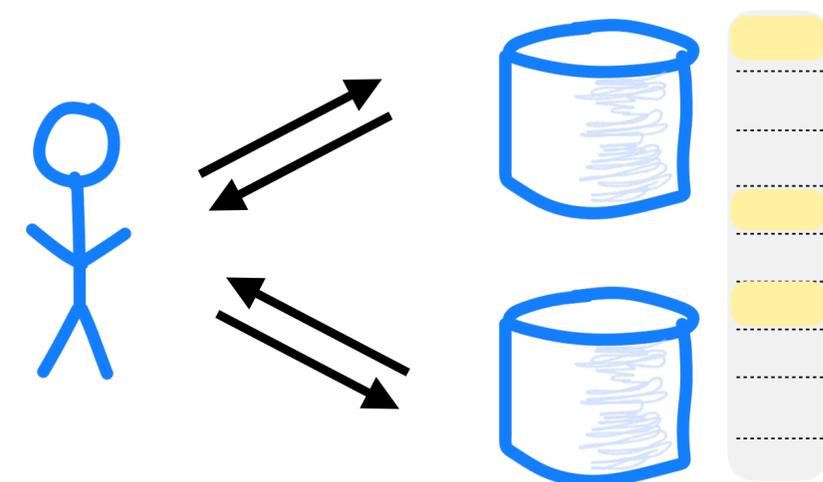
[BIM00, GLMDS25]

1. Build “imbalanced” PIR with tiny queries
    - Query length =  $(1 + o(1)) \cdot \log n$
    - Answer length =  $\ell = O(n^{0.82})$
  2. Precompute the answer to every query
    - To answer a query: read 1 location of length  $\ell$
- ➔ PIR in  $n^{1.82+o(1)}$  space and  $n^{0.82}$  time



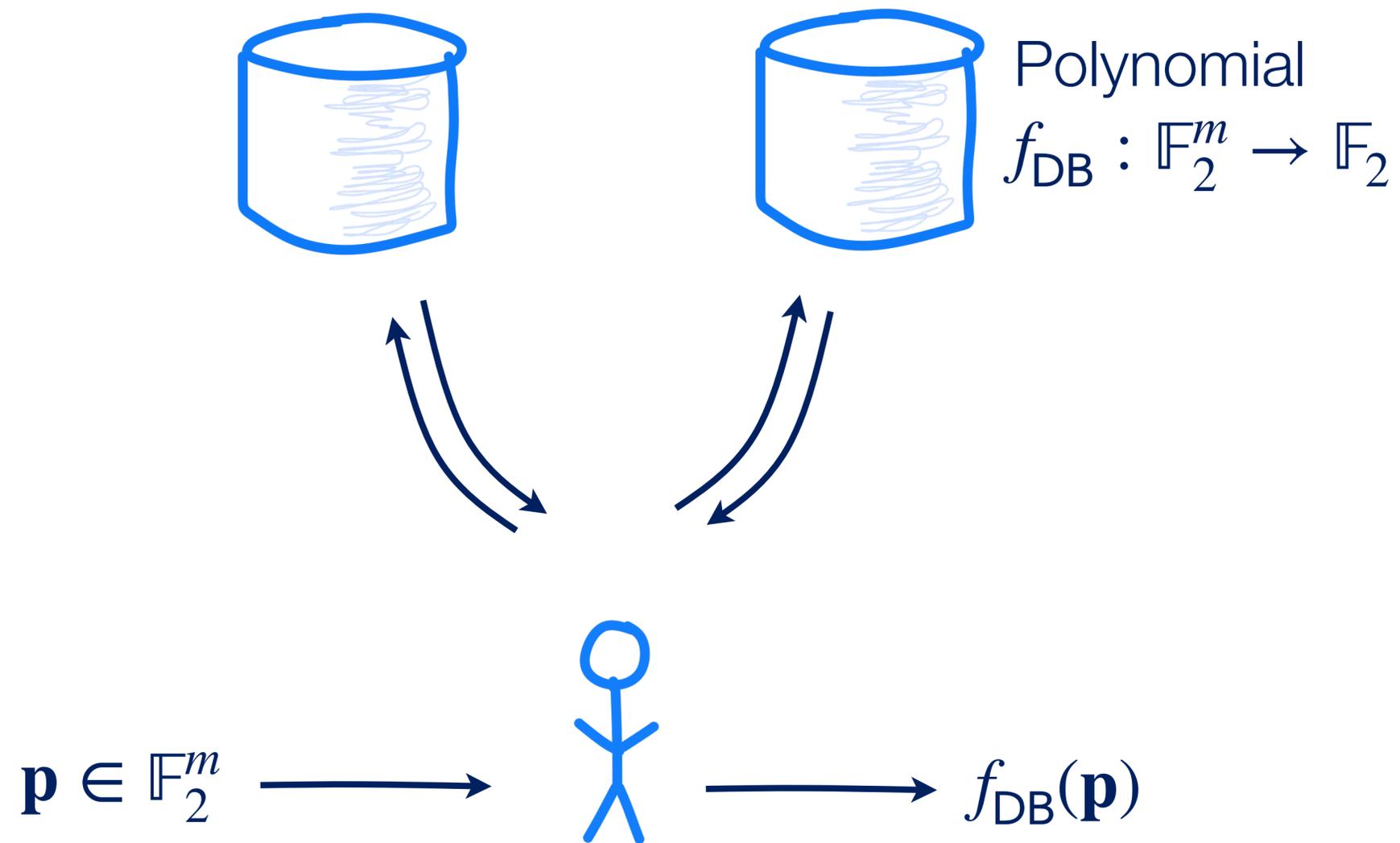
# This work

2. New data structure
    - To answer a query: read  $\ell$  locations of length 1
- ➔ PIR in  $n^{1+o(1)}$  space and  $n^{0.82}$  time



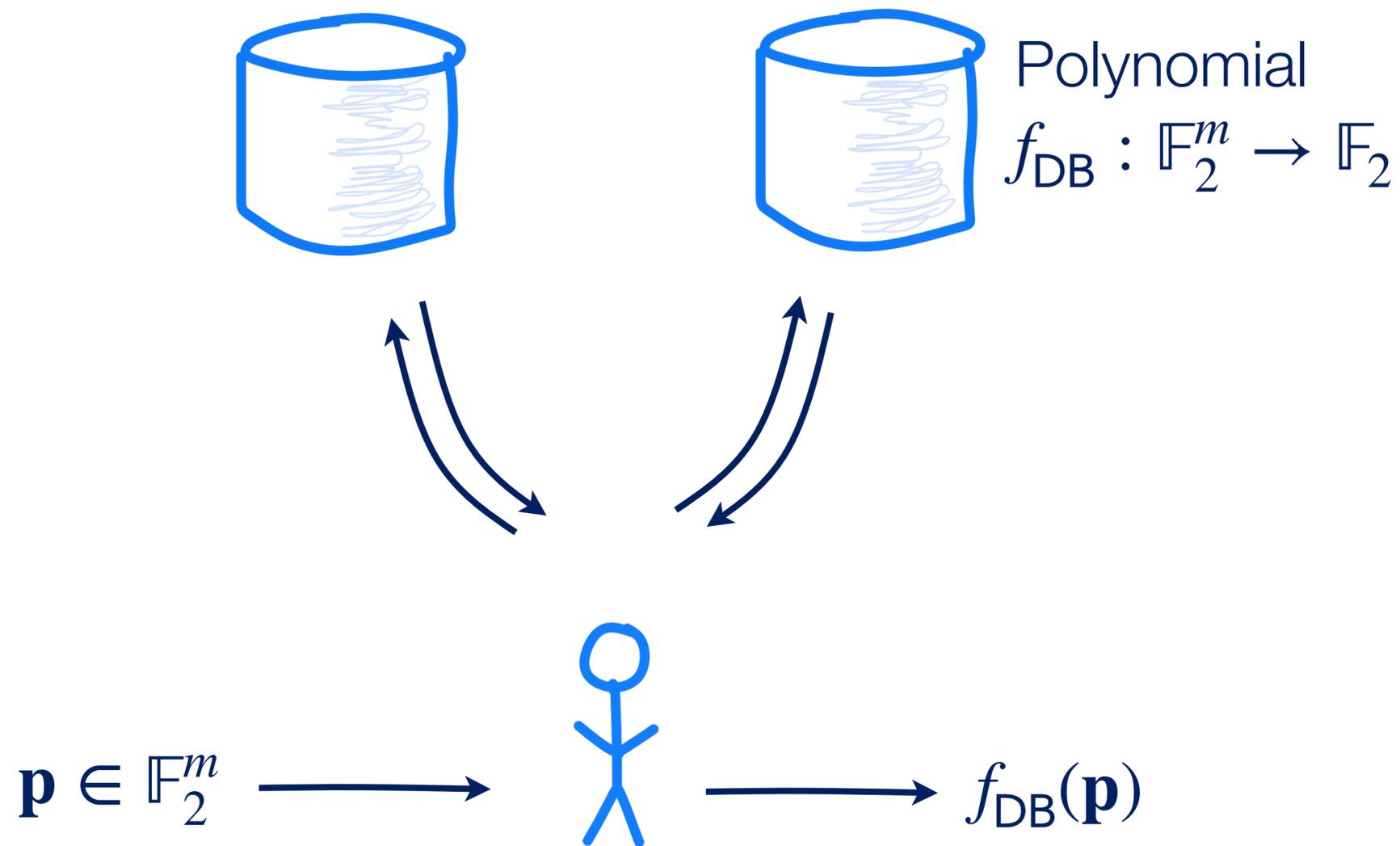
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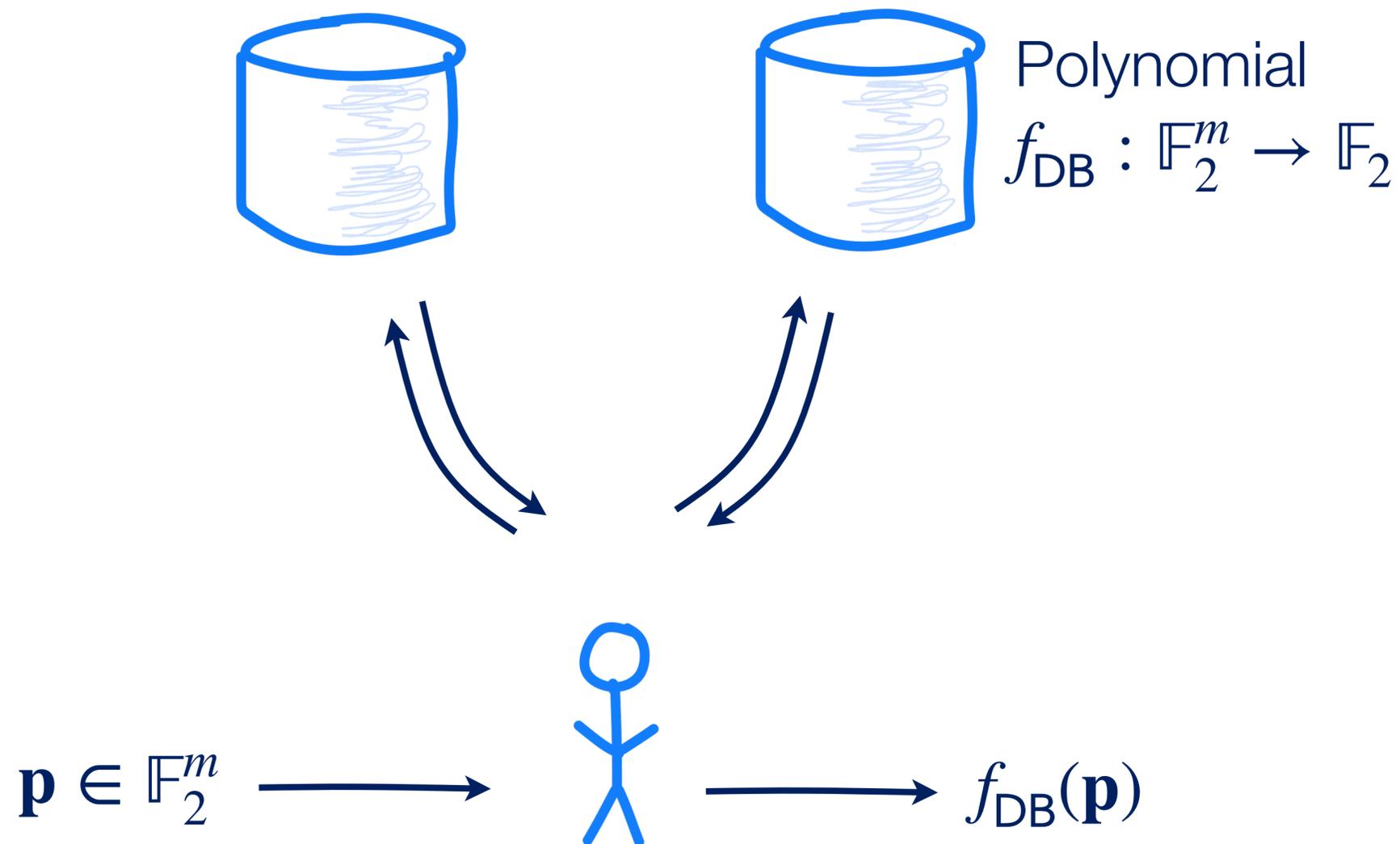


We need:  $f_{DB}$  encodes the database

1.  $f_{DB}$  is homogenous and degree- $D$
2.  $\binom{m}{D} \geq n$
3.  $E(j) = j$ -th point in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  of weight  $D$
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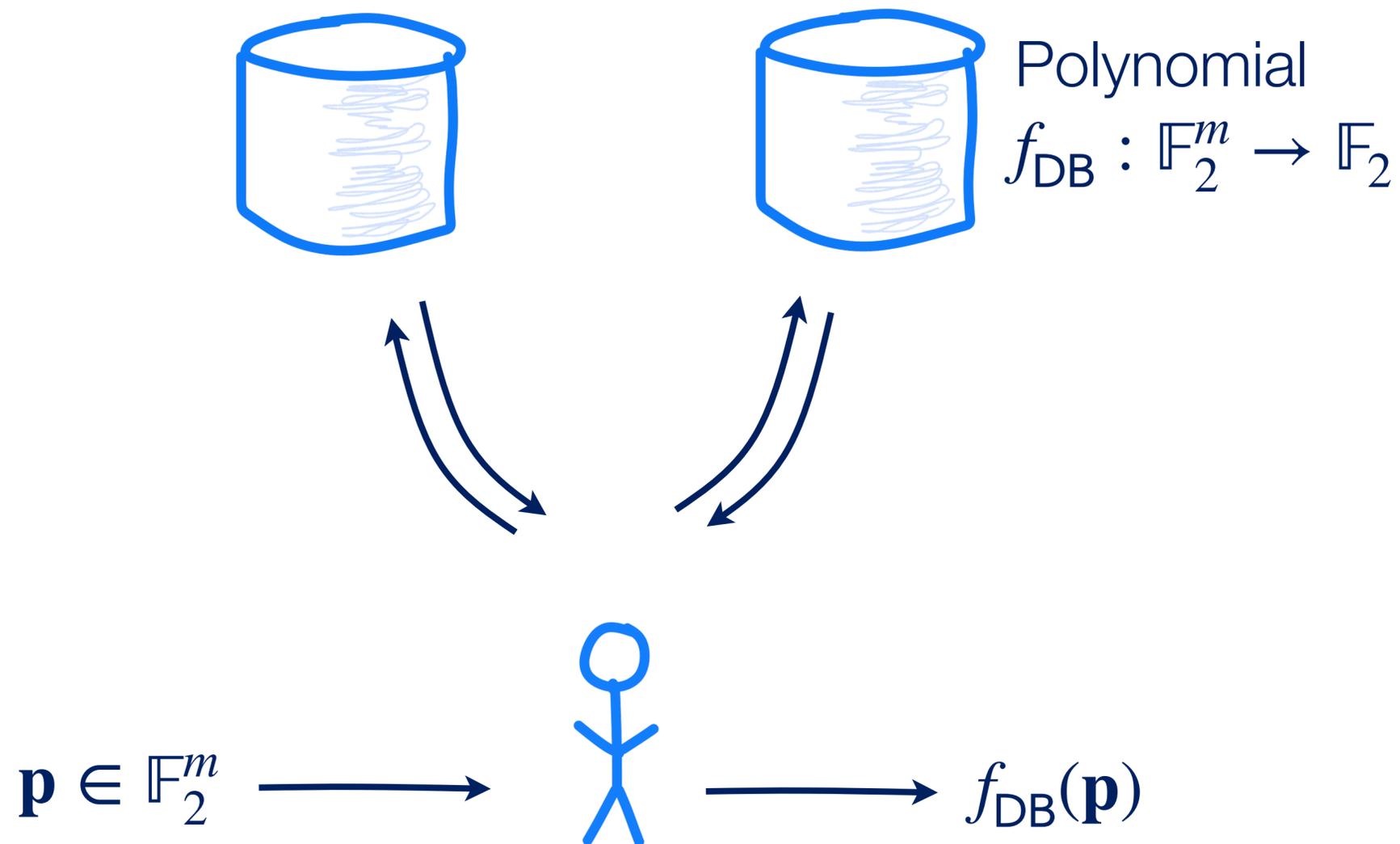
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**Correctness:** for any  $f_{DB}$  and point  $\mathbf{p}$ , a user interacting with two **honest** servers learns  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{p})$ .

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2.  $\binom{m}{D} \geq n$
3.  $E(j) = j$ -th point in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  of weight  $D$
4.  $\forall j \in [n], f_{DB}(E(j)) = DB_j$

**Correctness:** for any  $f_{DB}$  and point  $\mathbf{p}$ , a user interacting with two **honest** servers learns  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{p})$ .

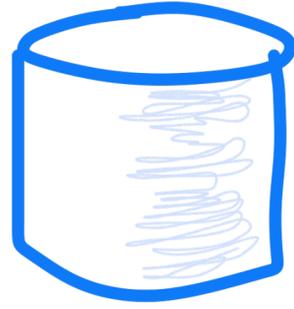
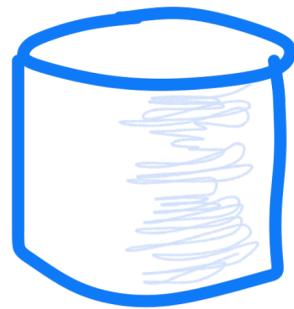
**Privacy:** each server learns nothing about  $\mathbf{p}$ , even if the server is **malicious**.

# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Scheme 1a: from Lagrange Interpolation [Sha79]

# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Scheme 1a: from Lagrange Interpolation [Sha79]



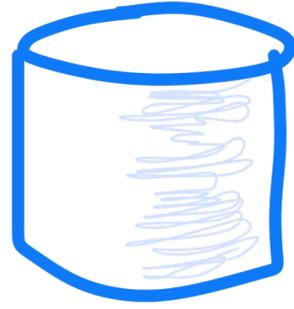
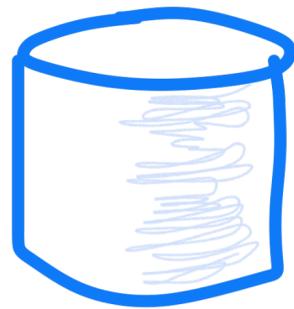
Homogenous degree- $D$

$$f_{\text{DB}} : \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$$



# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Scheme 1a: from Lagrange Interpolation [Sha79]



Homogenous degree- $D$

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Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$

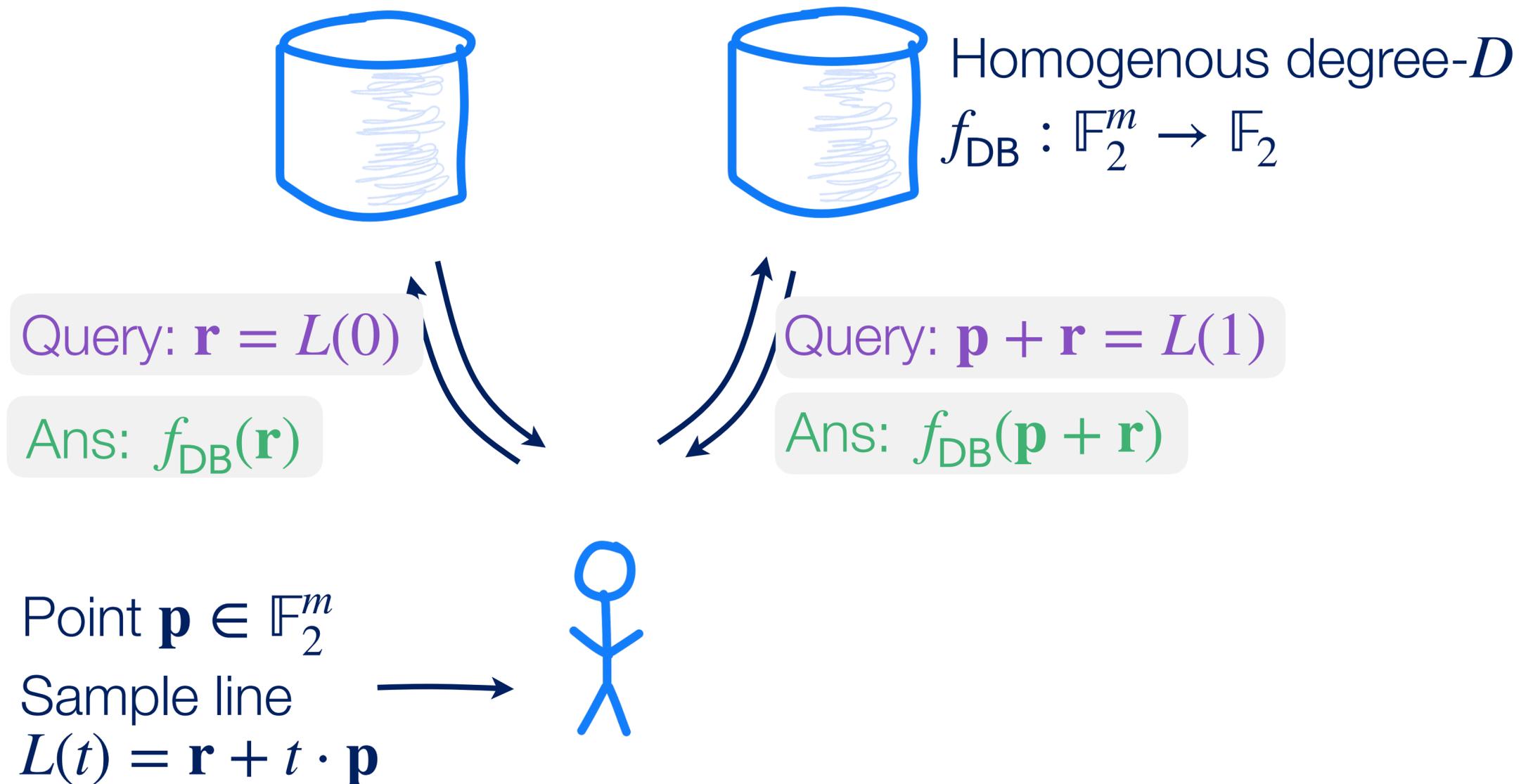
Sample line

$$L(t) = \mathbf{r} + t \cdot \mathbf{p}$$



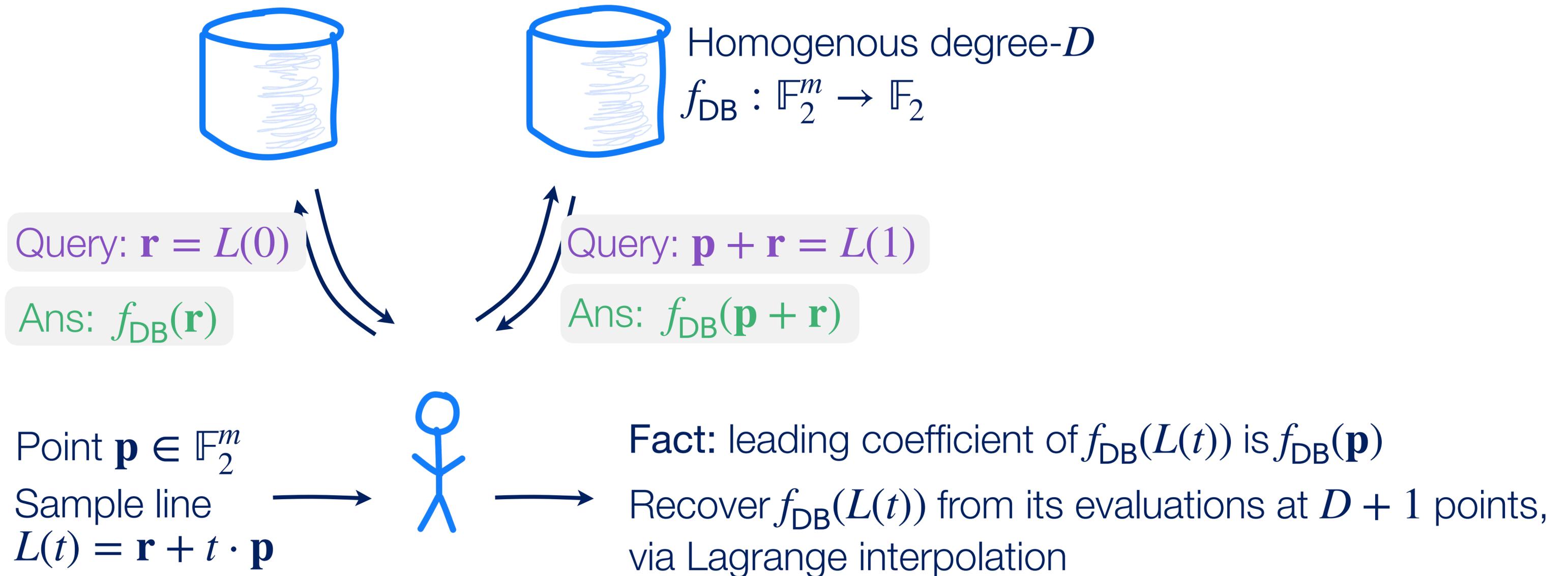
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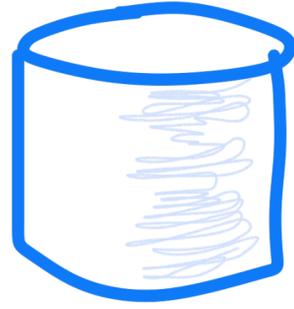
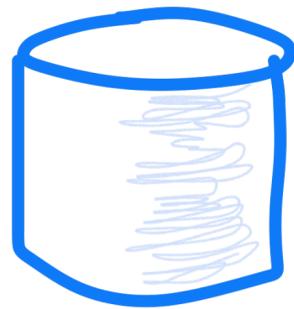
Scheme 1a: from Lagrange Interpolation [Sha79]

With 2 servers, gives  
“trivial” PIR with

→  $D = 1$

→  $\binom{m}{D} \geq n \implies m = n$

→ upload  $n$  and  
download 1



Homogenous degree- $D$   
 $f_{DB} : \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$

Query:  $\mathbf{r} = L(0)$

Ans:  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{r})$

Query:  $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r} = L(1)$

Ans:  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r})$

Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$

Sample line

$$L(t) = \mathbf{r} + t \cdot \mathbf{p}$$



Fact: leading coefficient of  $f_{DB}(L(t))$  is  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{p})$

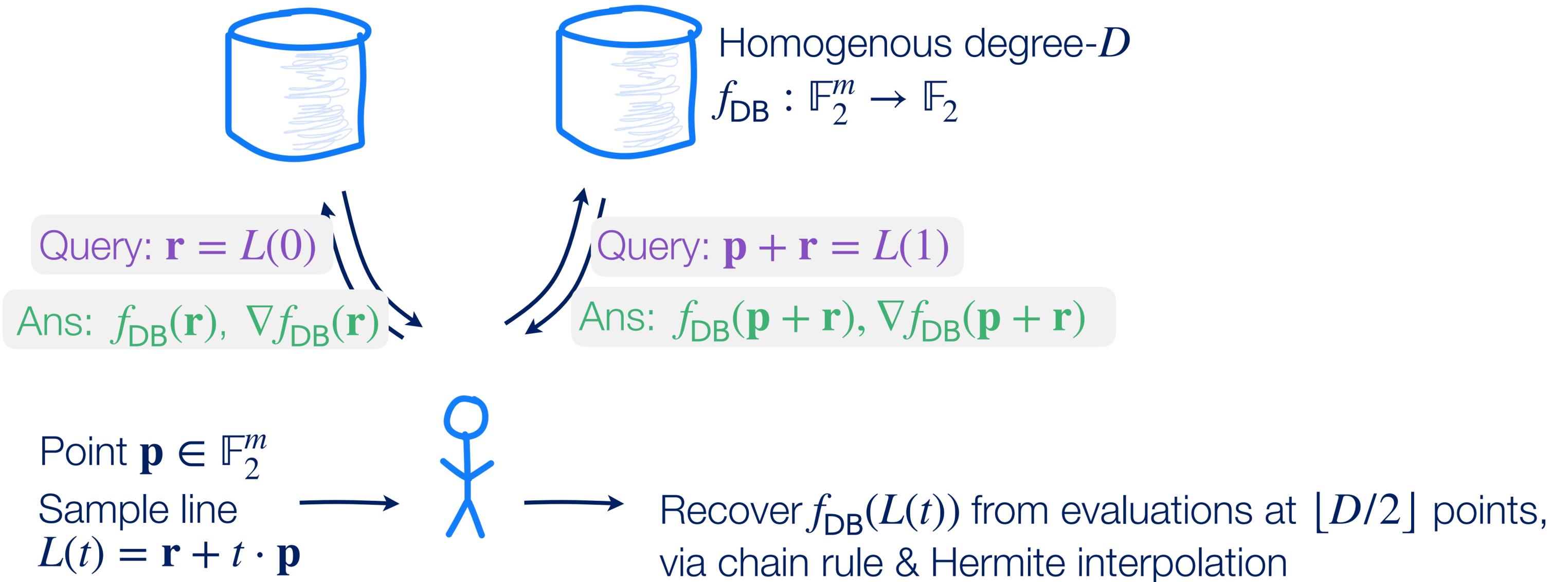
Recover  $f_{DB}(L(t))$  from its evaluations at  $D + 1$  points,  
via Lagrange interpolation

# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Scheme 1b: add derivatives [WY05]

# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Scheme 1b: add derivatives [WY05]

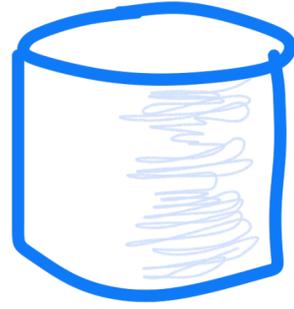
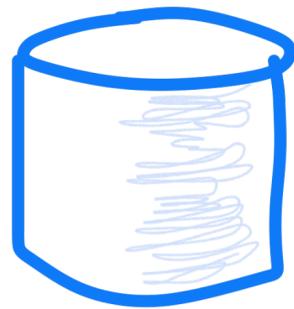


# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Scheme 1b: add derivatives [WY05]

With 2 servers, gives “balanced” PIR with

- ➔  $D = 3$
- ➔  $\binom{m}{D} \geq n \implies m = n^{1/3}$
- ➔ upload  $n^{1/3}$  and download  $n^{1/3}$



Homogenous degree- $D$   
 $f_{DB} : \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$

Query:  $\mathbf{r} = L(0)$

Query:  $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r} = L(1)$

Ans:  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{DB}(\mathbf{r})$

Ans:  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{DB}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r})$

Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$

Sample line

$$L(t) = \mathbf{r} + t \cdot \mathbf{p}$$



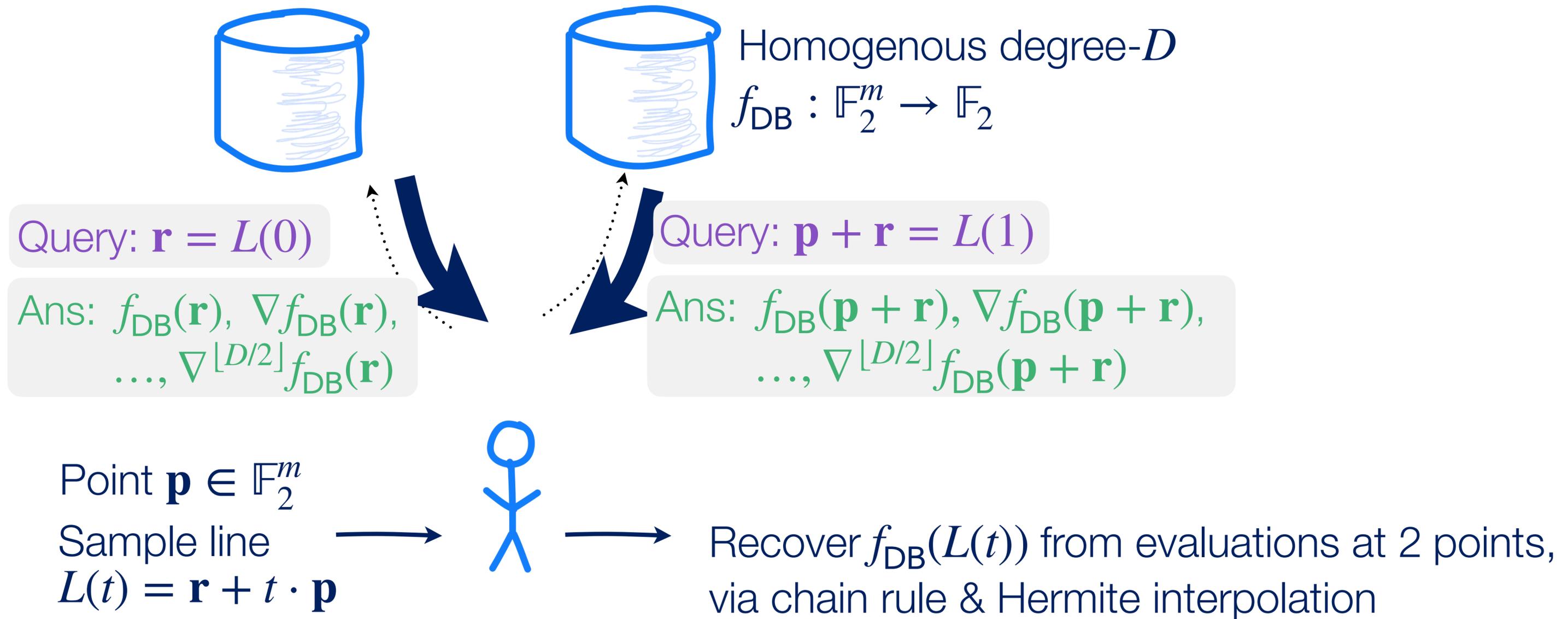
Recover  $f_{DB}(L(t))$  from evaluations at  $\lfloor D/2 \rfloor$  points, via chain rule & Hermite interpolation

# PIR from private polynomial evaluation

Make it “imbalanced”: more derivatives [BIM00, GLM+25]

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Make it “imbalanced”: more derivatives [BIM00, GLM+25]

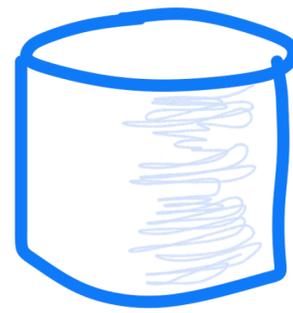
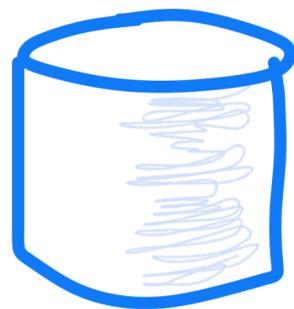
With 2 servers, gives “imbalanced” PIR with

➔  $m = (1 + o(1)) \cdot \log n$

➔  $D = m/2$

➔ upload  $m$  and download

$$\binom{m}{\lfloor D/2 \rfloor} \approx n^{0.82}$$



Homogenous degree- $D$

$$f_{\text{DB}} : \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$$

Query:  $\mathbf{r} = L(0)$

Query:  $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r} = L(1)$

Ans:  $f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r}), \dots, \nabla^{\lfloor D/2 \rfloor} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r})$

Ans:  $f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \dots, \nabla^{\lfloor D/2 \rfloor} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r})$

Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$

Sample line

$$L(t) = \mathbf{r} + t \cdot \mathbf{p}$$



Recover  $f_{\text{DB}}(L(t))$  from evaluations at 2 points, via chain rule & Hermite interpolation

# Prior information-theoretic PIR

[BIM00, GLMDS25]

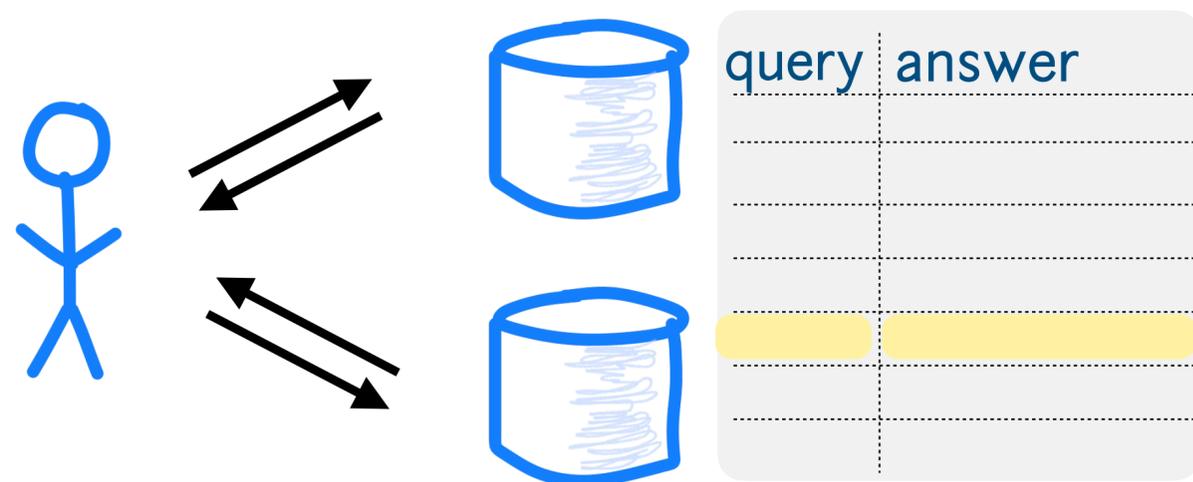
✓ 1. Build “imbalanced” PIR with tiny queries

- Query length =  $(1 + o(1)) \cdot \log n$
- Answer length =  $\ell = O(n^{0.82})$

2. Precompute the answer to every query

- To answer a query: read 1 location of length  $\ell$

➔ PIR in  $n^{1.82+o(1)}$  space and  $n^{0.82}$  time

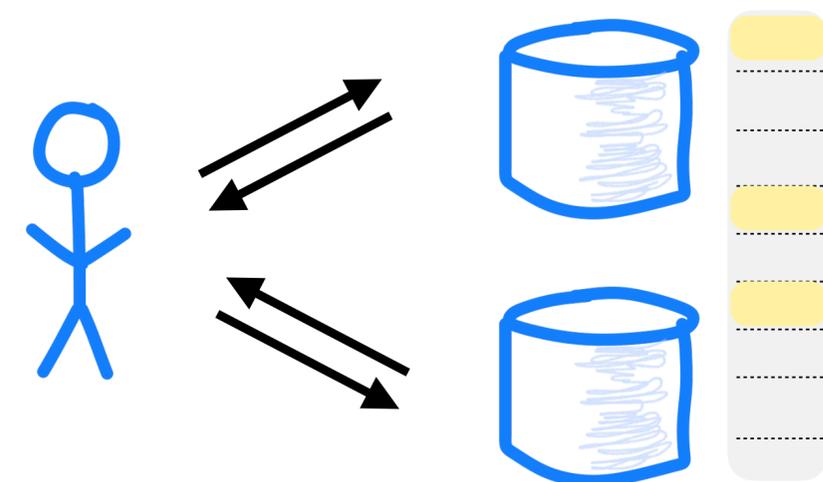


# This work

2. New data structure

- To answer a query: read  $\ell$  locations of length 1

➔ PIR in  $n^{1+o(1)}$  space and  $n^{0.82}$  time

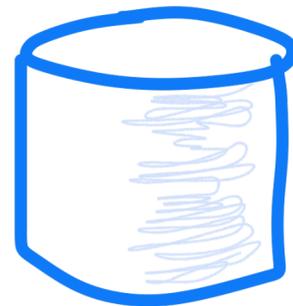
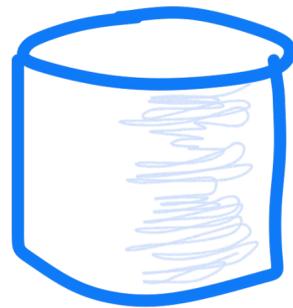


# PIR with Preprocessing

Prior work: Precompute every answer [BIM00, GLM+25]

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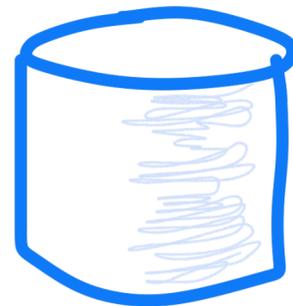
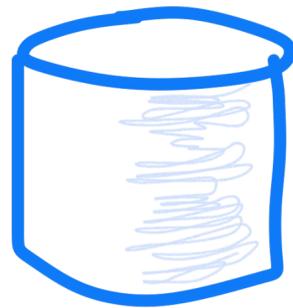
Homogenous deg- $D$

$$f_{\text{DB}} : \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$$



# PIR with Preprocessing

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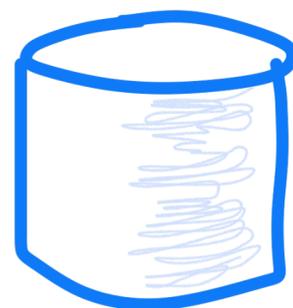
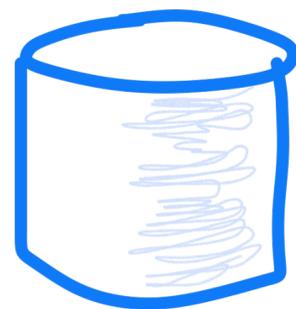


1	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{1}), \dots, \nabla^{\lfloor D/2 \rfloor} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{1})$
2	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}), \dots, \nabla^{\lfloor D/2 \rfloor} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2})$
$2^m$	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}^m), \dots, \nabla^{\lfloor D/2 \rfloor} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}^m)$



# PIR with Preprocessing

Prior work: Precompute every answer [BIM00, GLM+25]



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Query:  $\mathbf{r}$

Ans:  $f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r})$

Query:  $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}$

Ans:  $f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r})$

Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$

Sample line

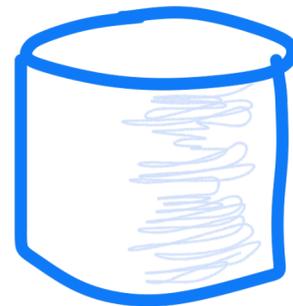
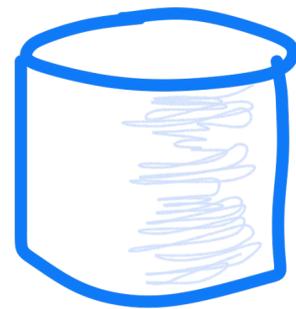
$$L(t) = \mathbf{r} + t \cdot \mathbf{p}$$



Recover  $f_{\text{DB}}(L(t))$  from evaluations at 2 points, via chain rule & Hermite interpolation

# PIR with Preprocessing

Prior work: Precompute every answer [BIM00, GLM+25]



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$2^m$	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}^m), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}^m)$

With 2 servers, gives preprocessing PIR with

- ➔  $O(\log n)$  upload and  $n^{0.82}$  download
- ➔  $2^m \cdot n^{0.82} = n^{1.82+o(1)}$  server storage
- ➔  $n^{0.82}$  server time

Query:  $\mathbf{r}$

Ans:  $f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{r})$

Query:  $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}$

Ans:  $f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r})$

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# Prior information-theoretic PIR

[BIM00, GLMDS25]

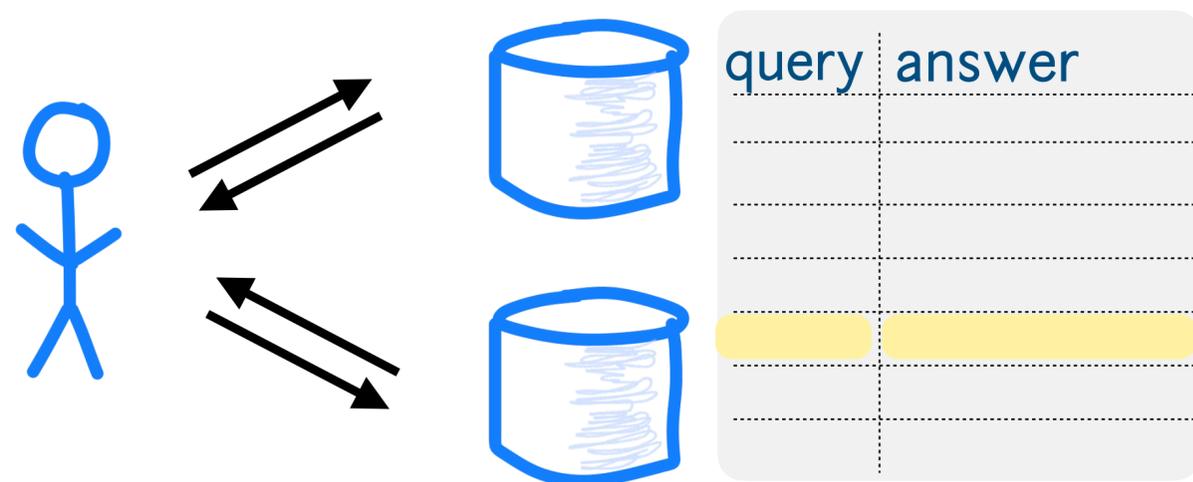
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➔ PIR in  $n^{1.82+o(1)}$  space and  $n^{0.82}$  time

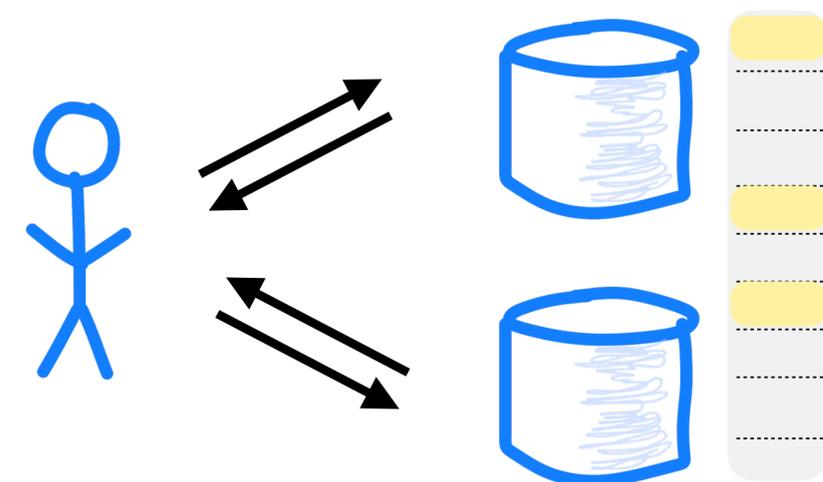


# This work

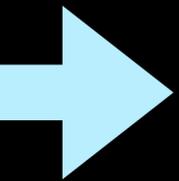
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➔ PIR in  $n^{1+o(1)}$  space and  $n^{0.82}$  time



# This talk



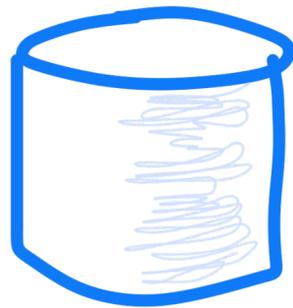
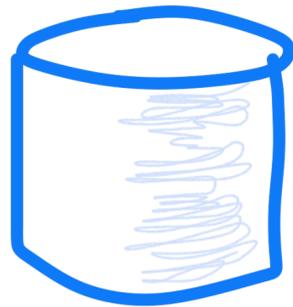
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2. **Our new PIR:** sublinear time + quasilinear space
  - Two servers
  - With crypto
  - Three servers and beyond
3. **Alternate view:** new locally decodable codes
4. **Evaluation:** what does this mean for practice?

# This talk

1. **Background:** PIR with preprocessing
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# Prior work: Precompute every possible PIR answer

[BIM00, GLMDS25]



1	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{1}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{1})$
2	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2})$
$2^m$	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}^m), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{2}^m)$

Query:  $\mathbf{r}$

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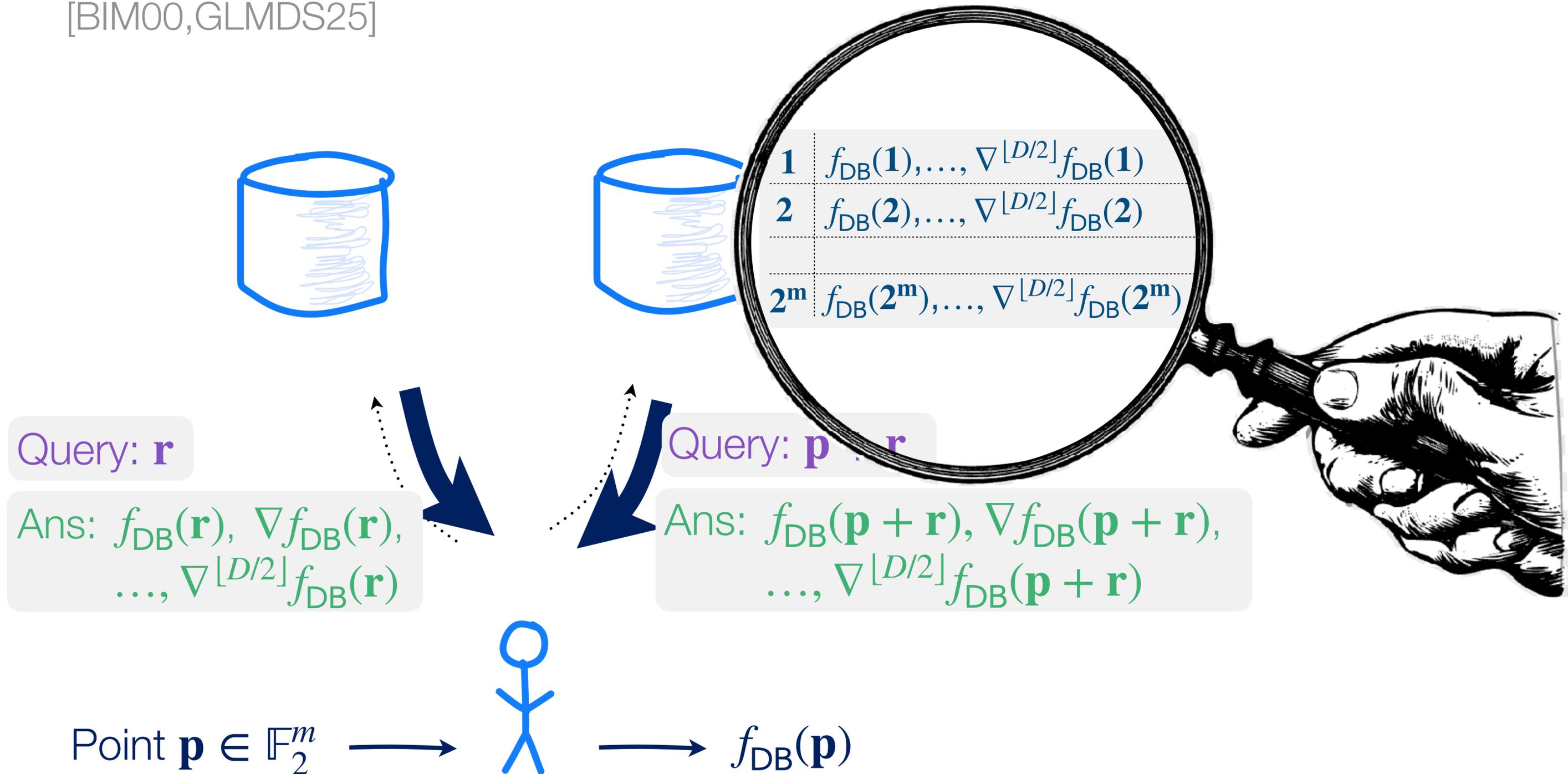
Query:  $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}$

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Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \longrightarrow$    $\longrightarrow f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{p})$

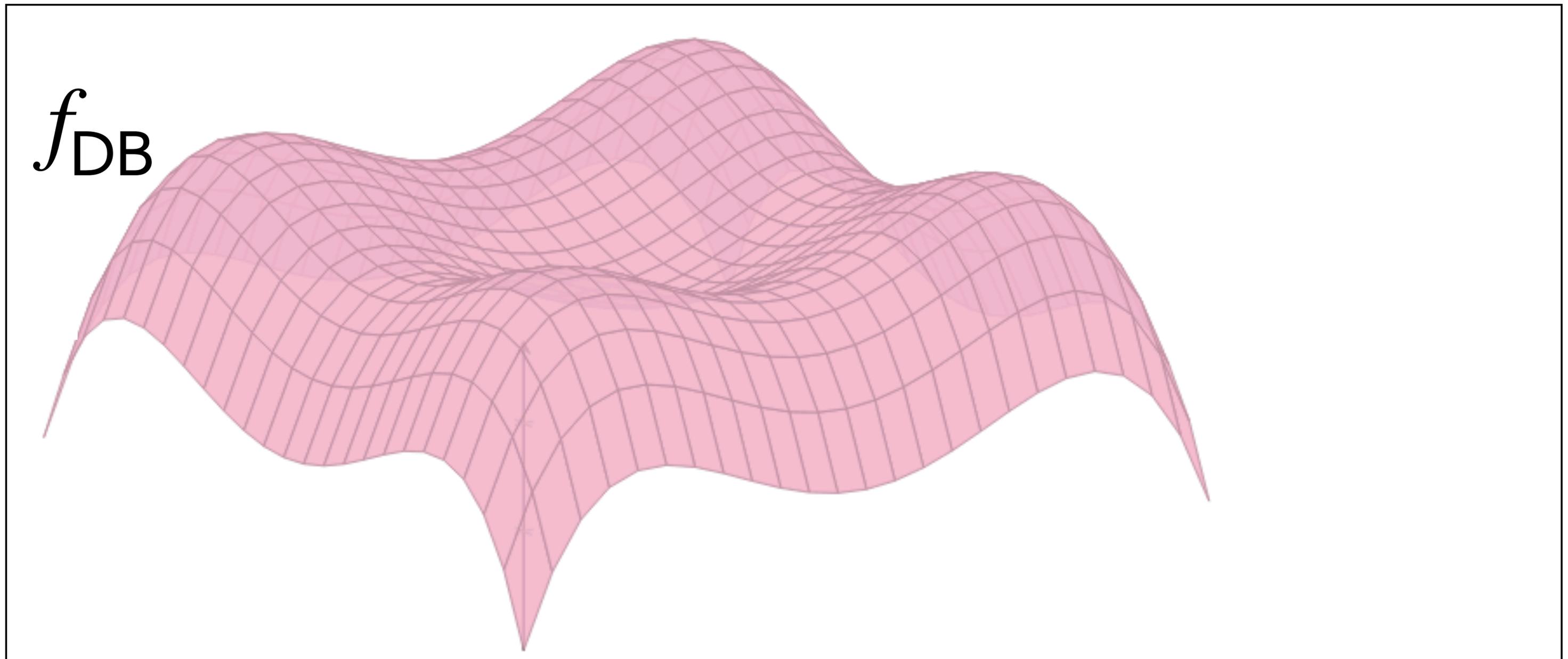
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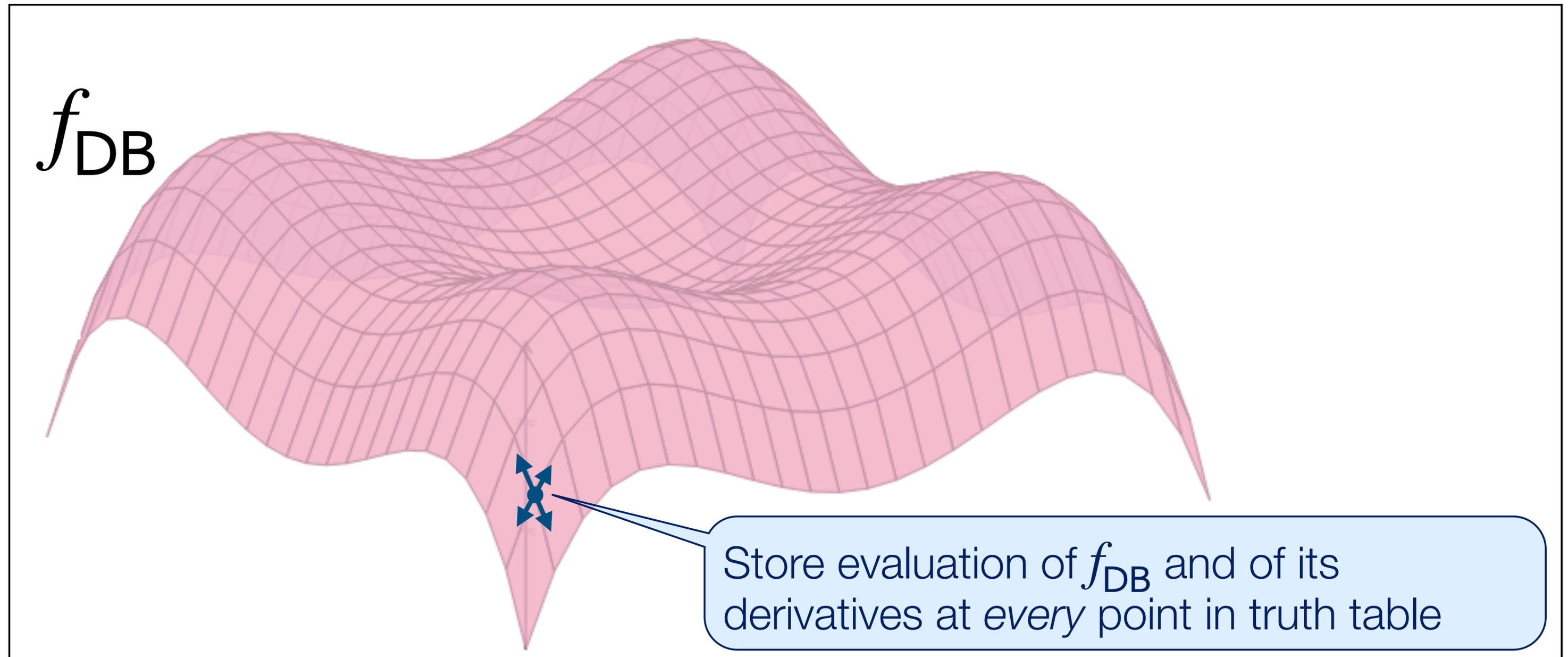
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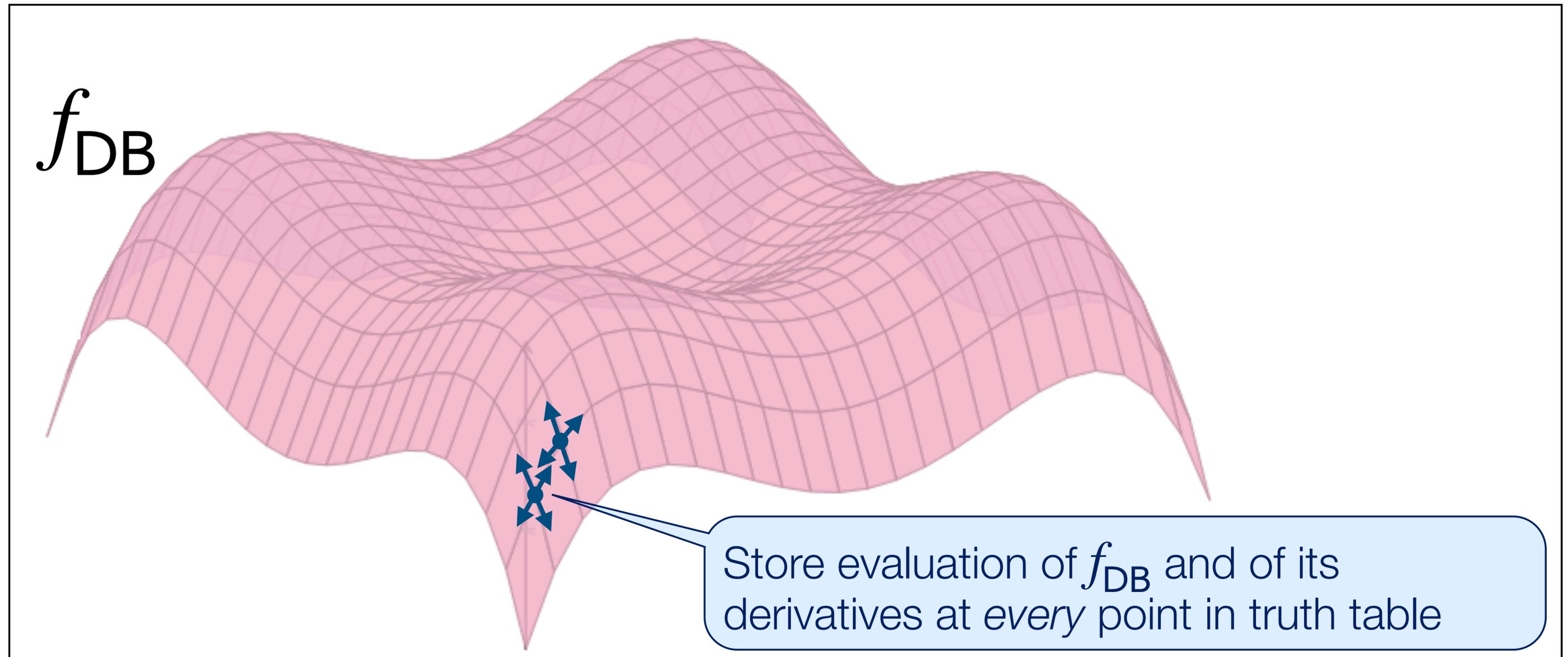
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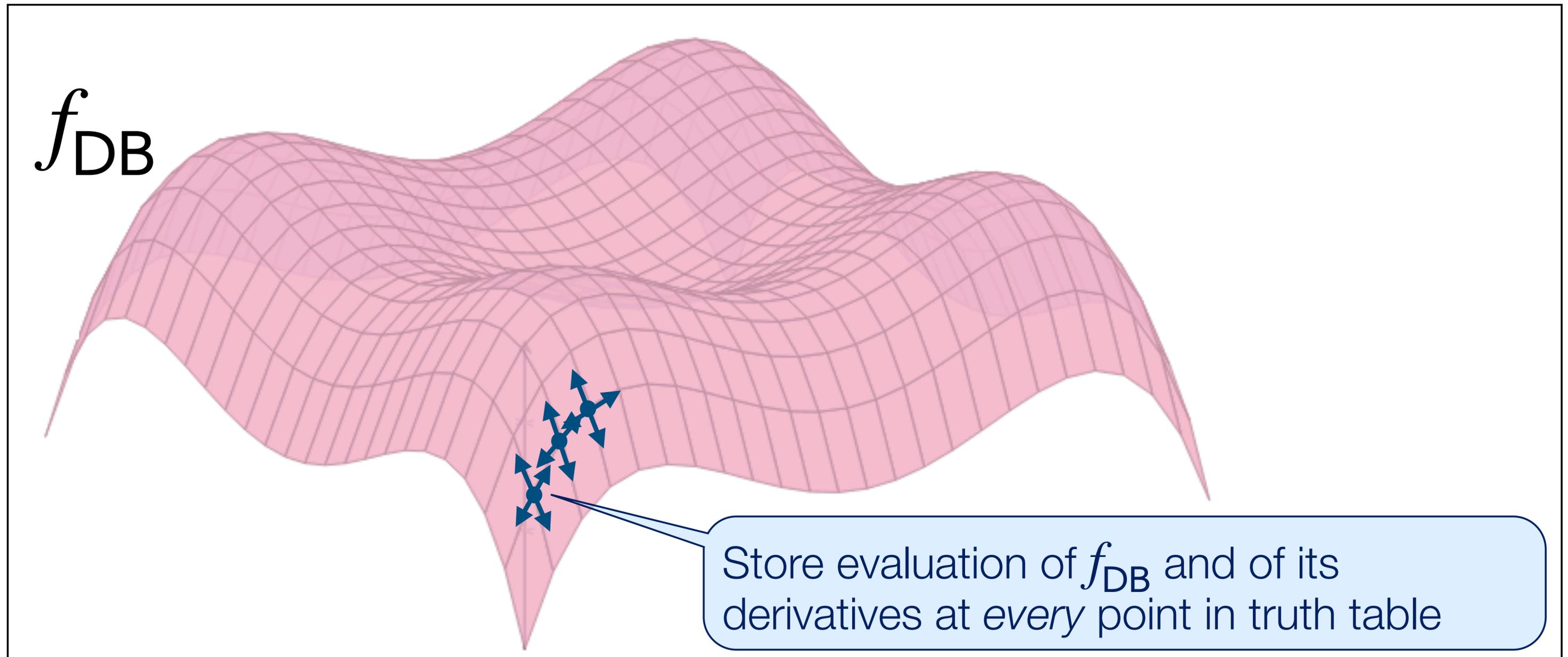
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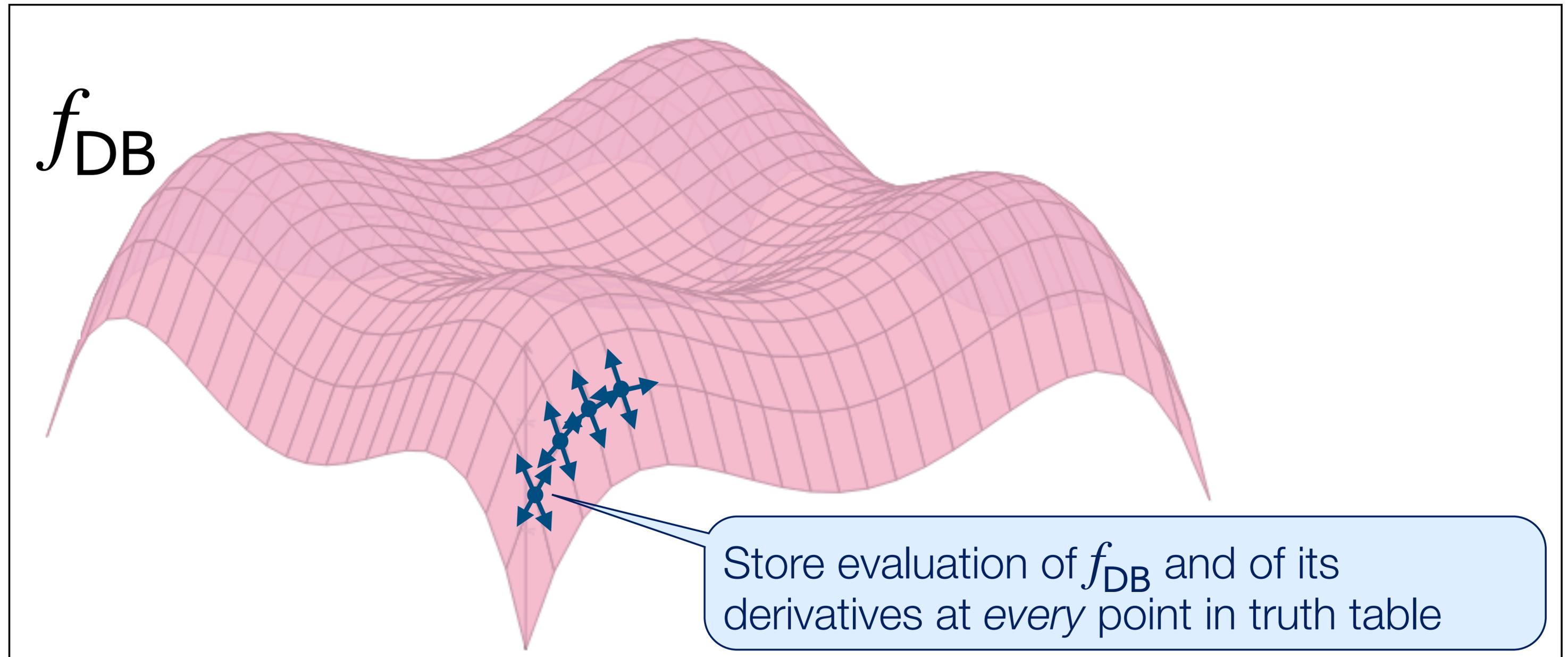
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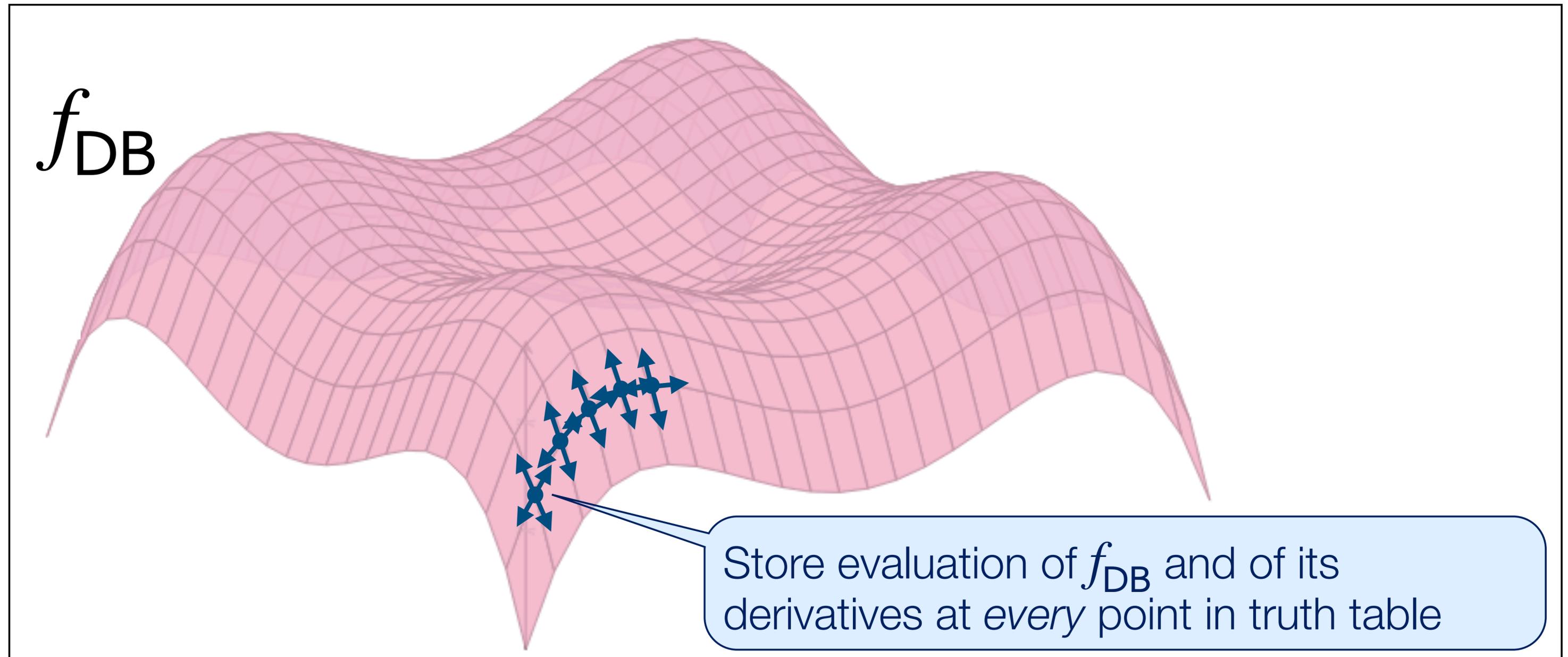
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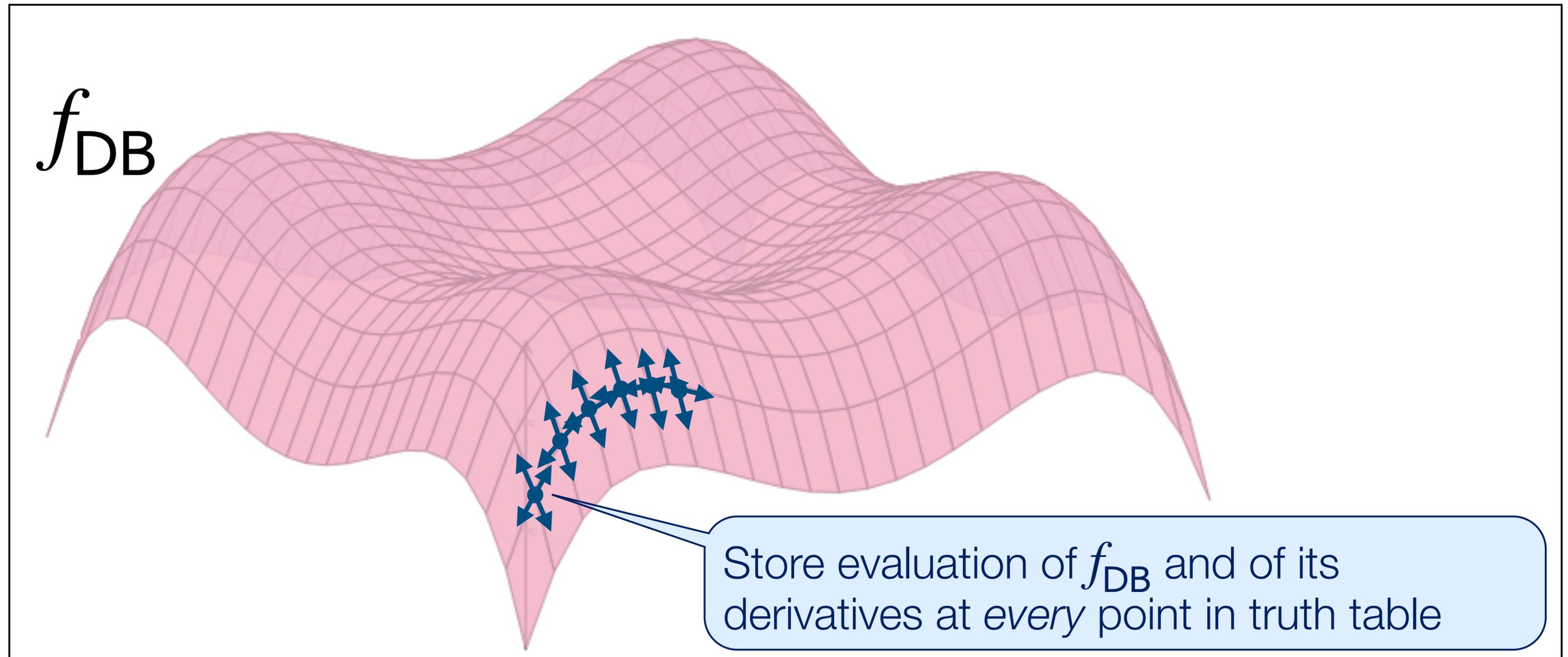
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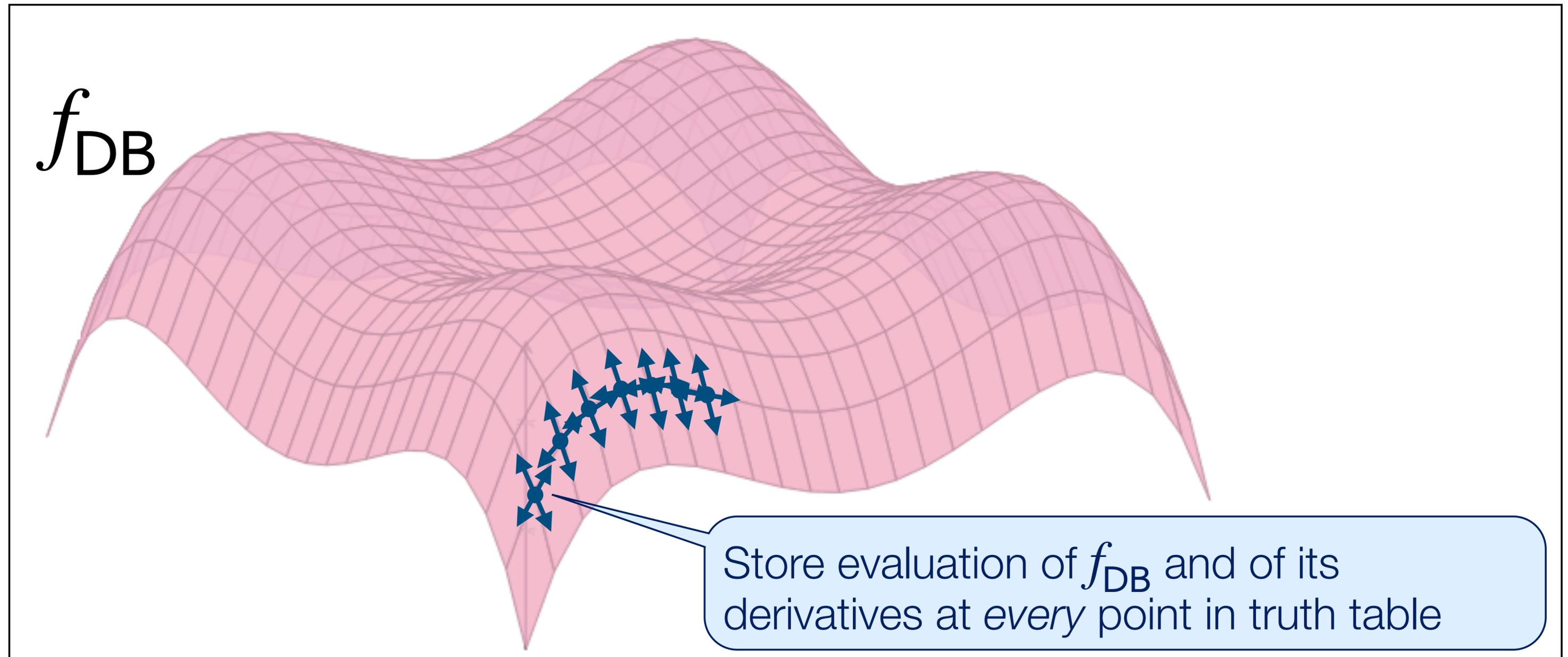
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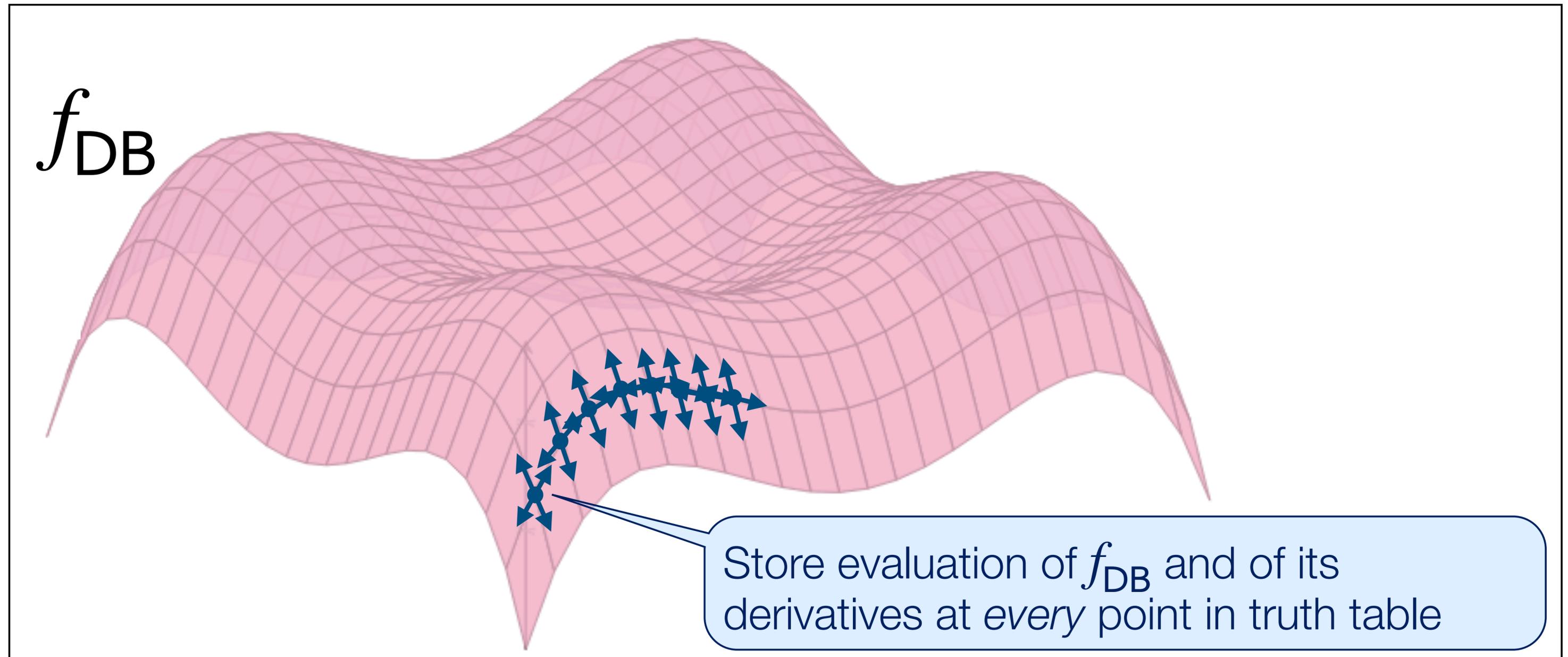
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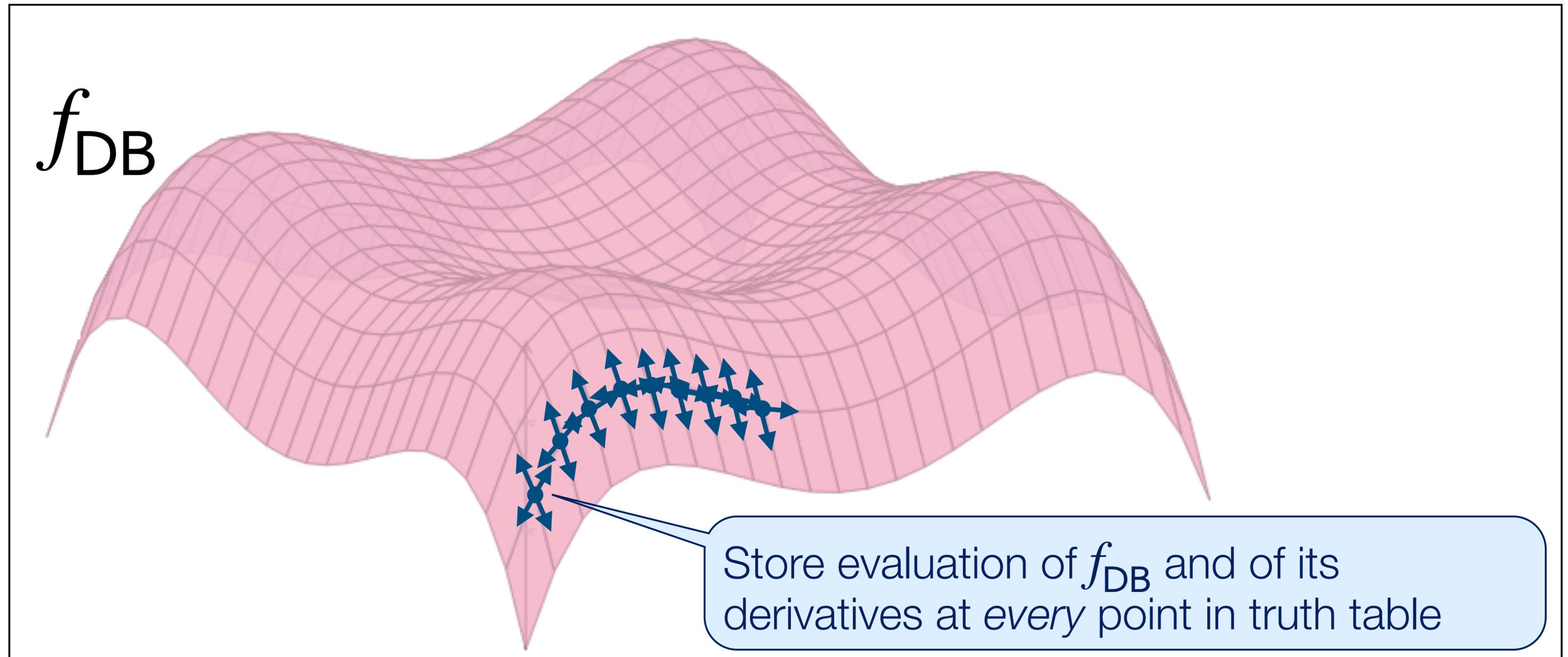
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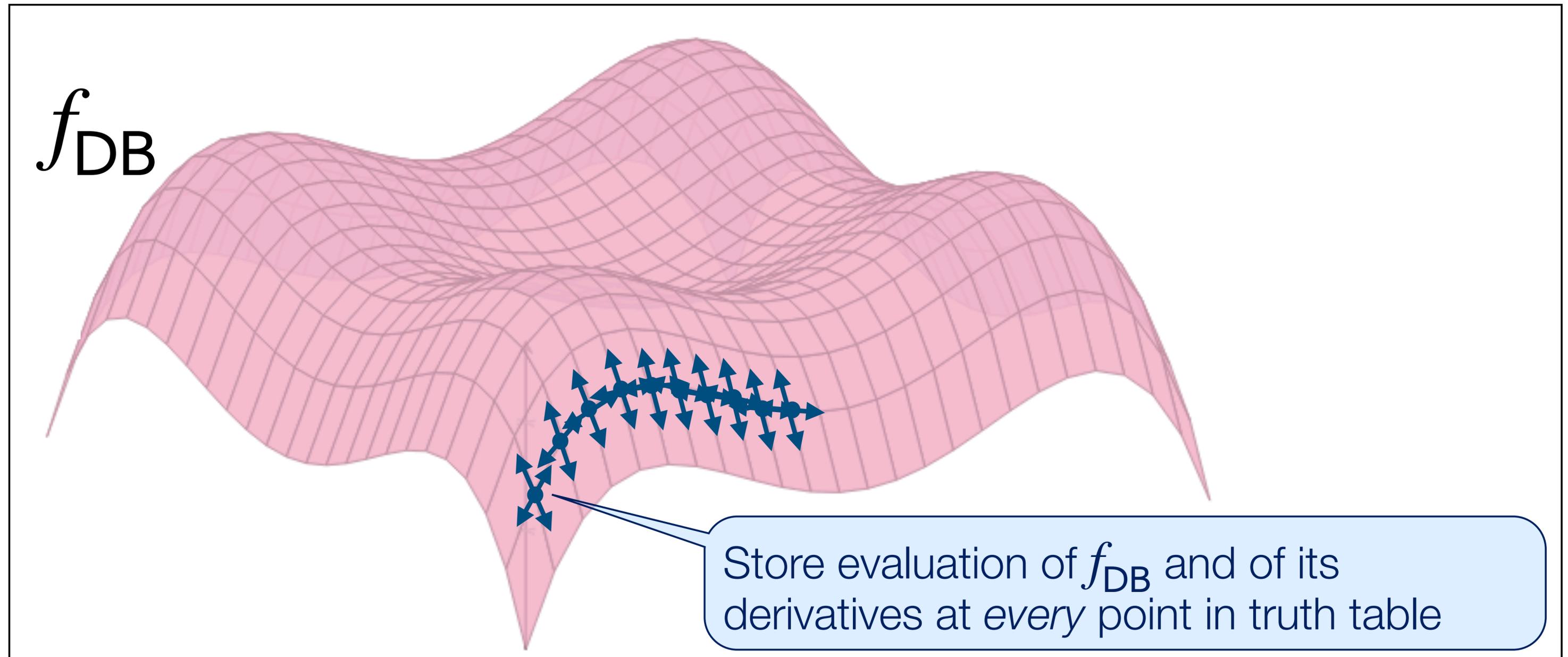
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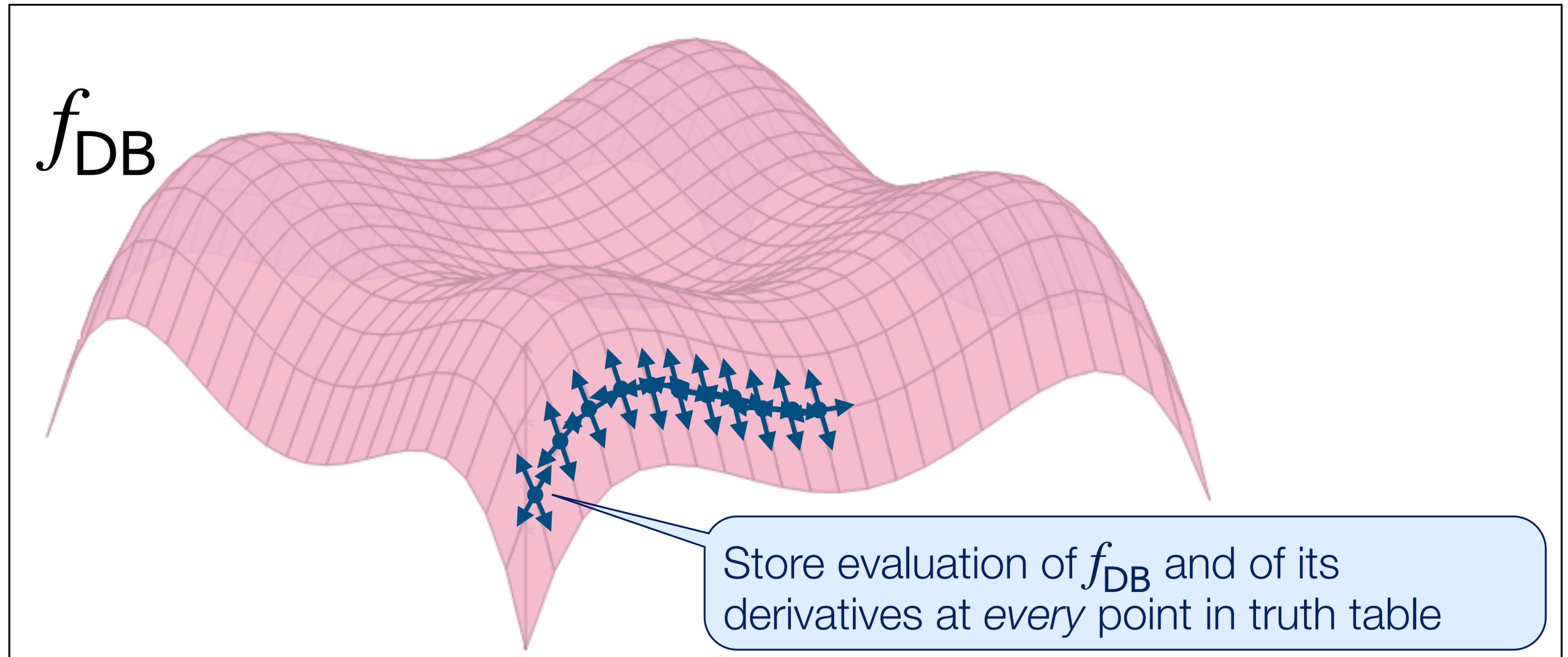
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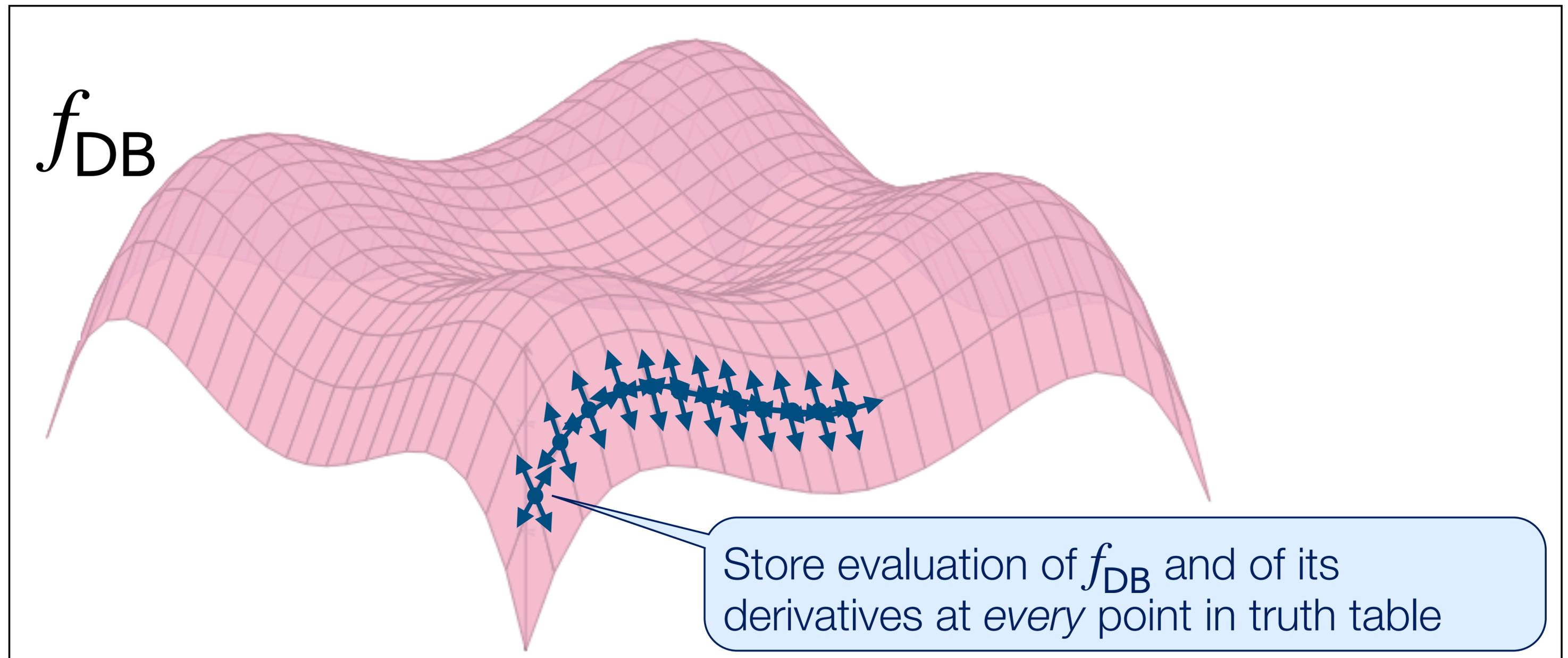
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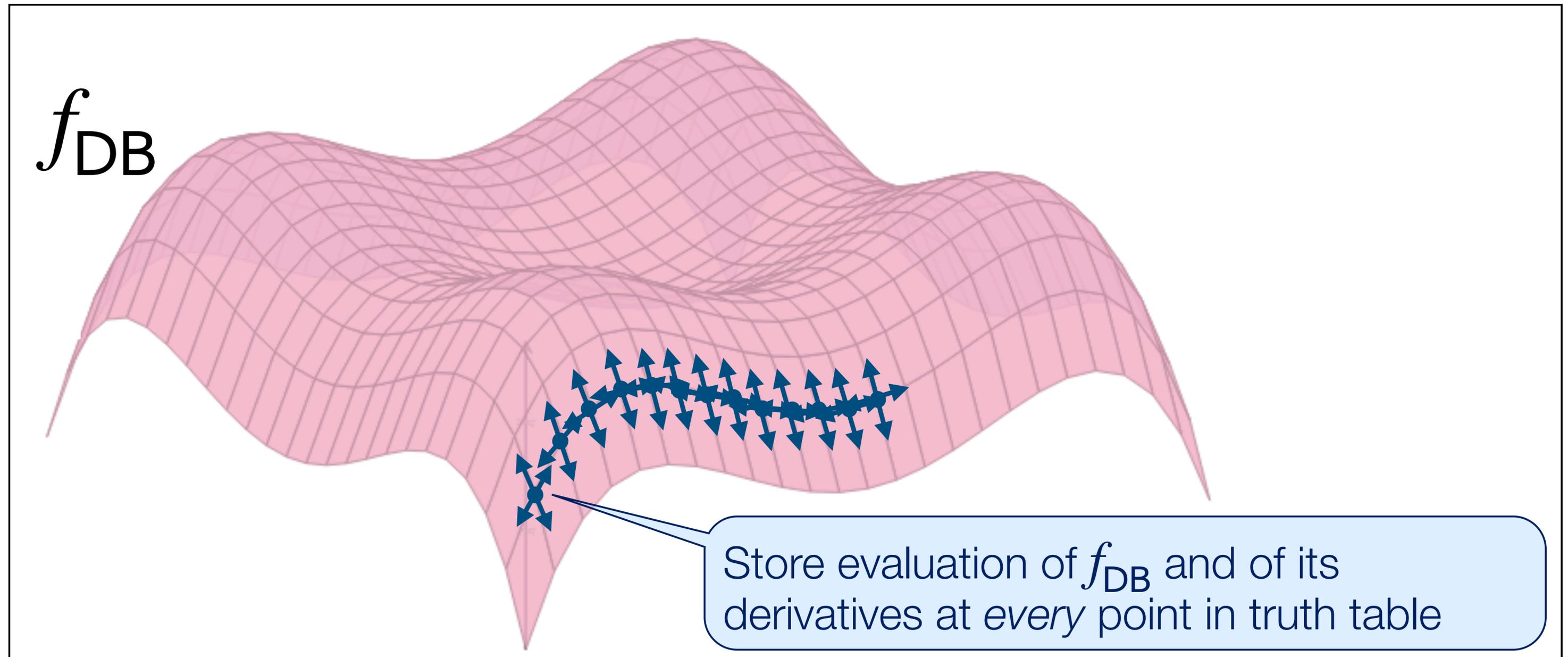
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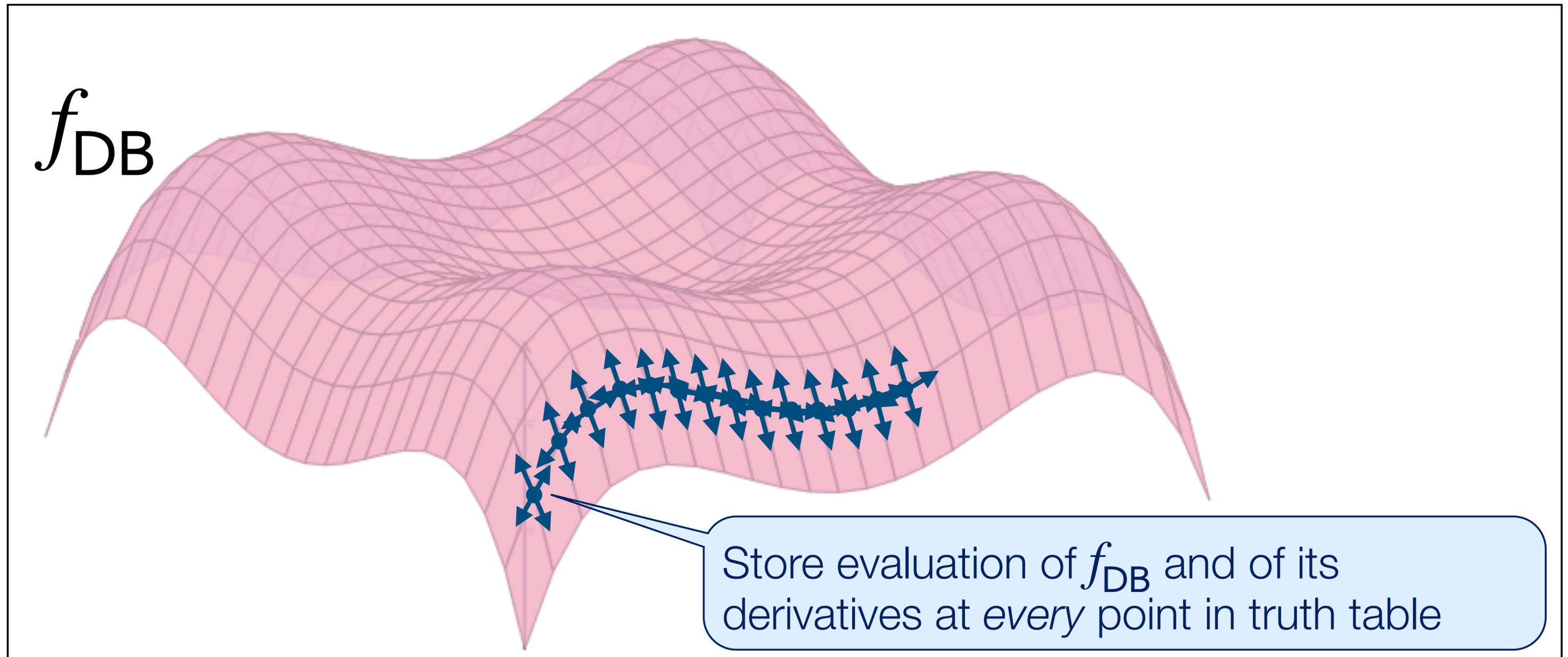
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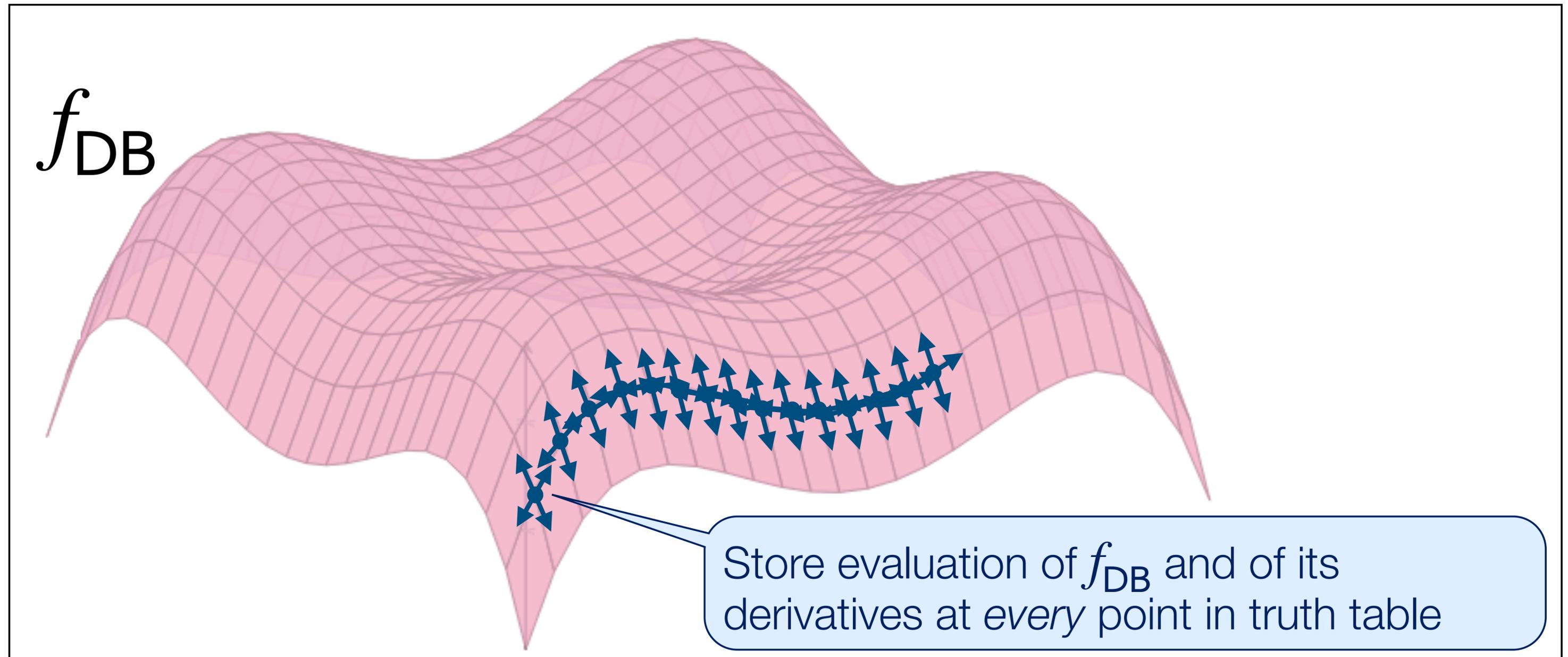
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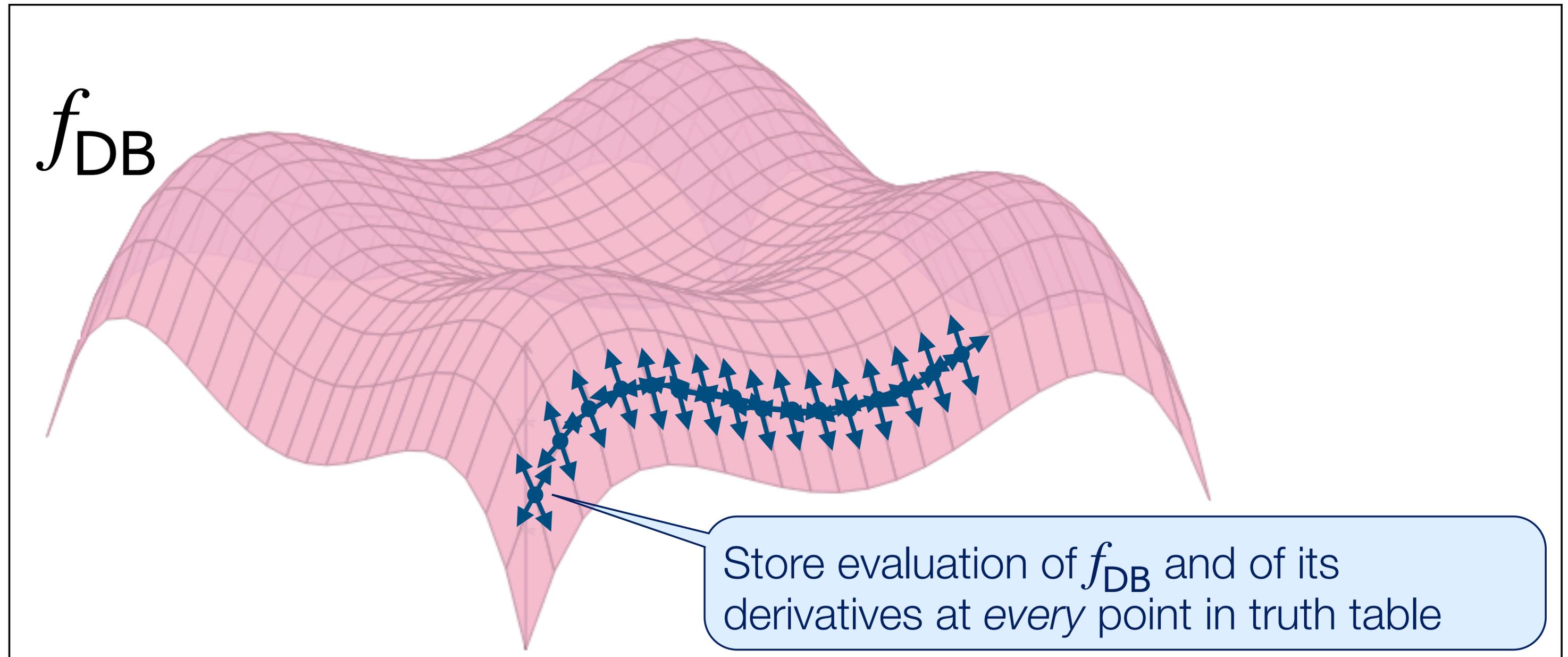
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[BIM00, GLMDS25]



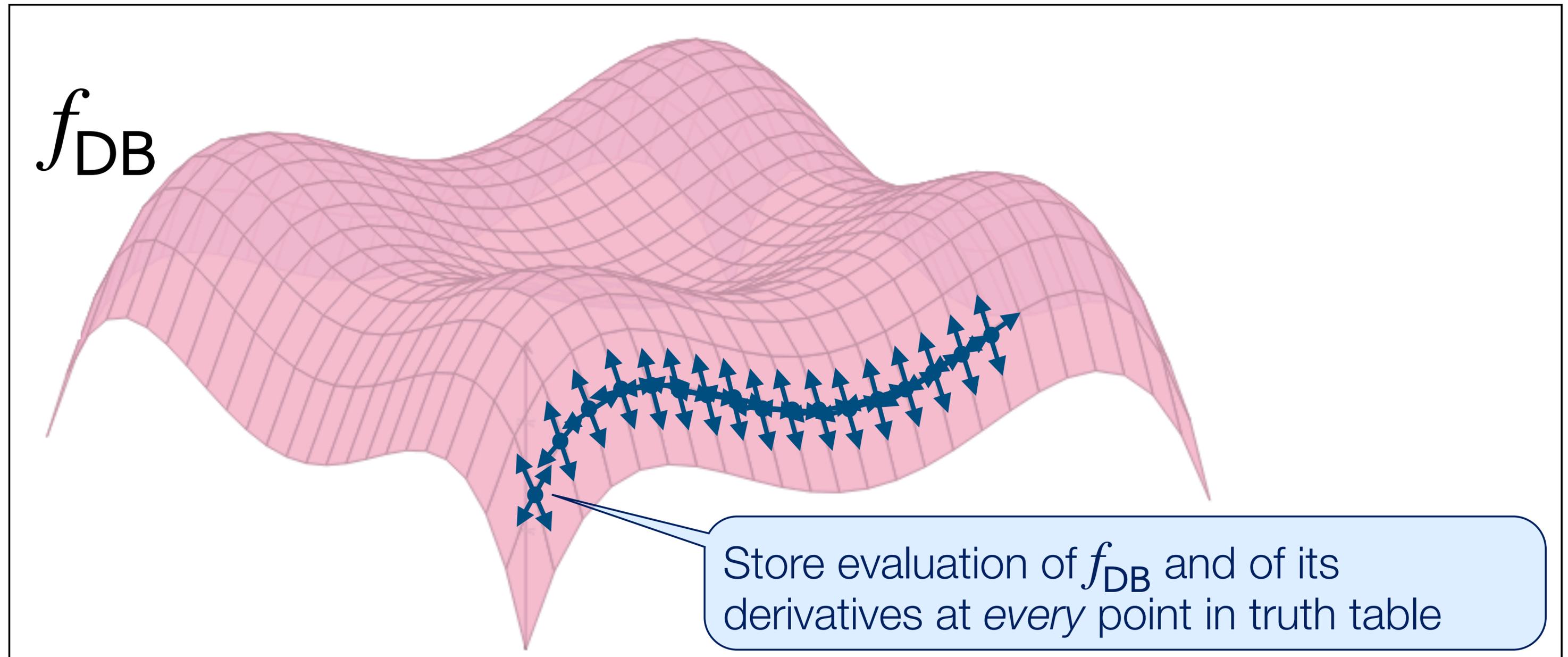
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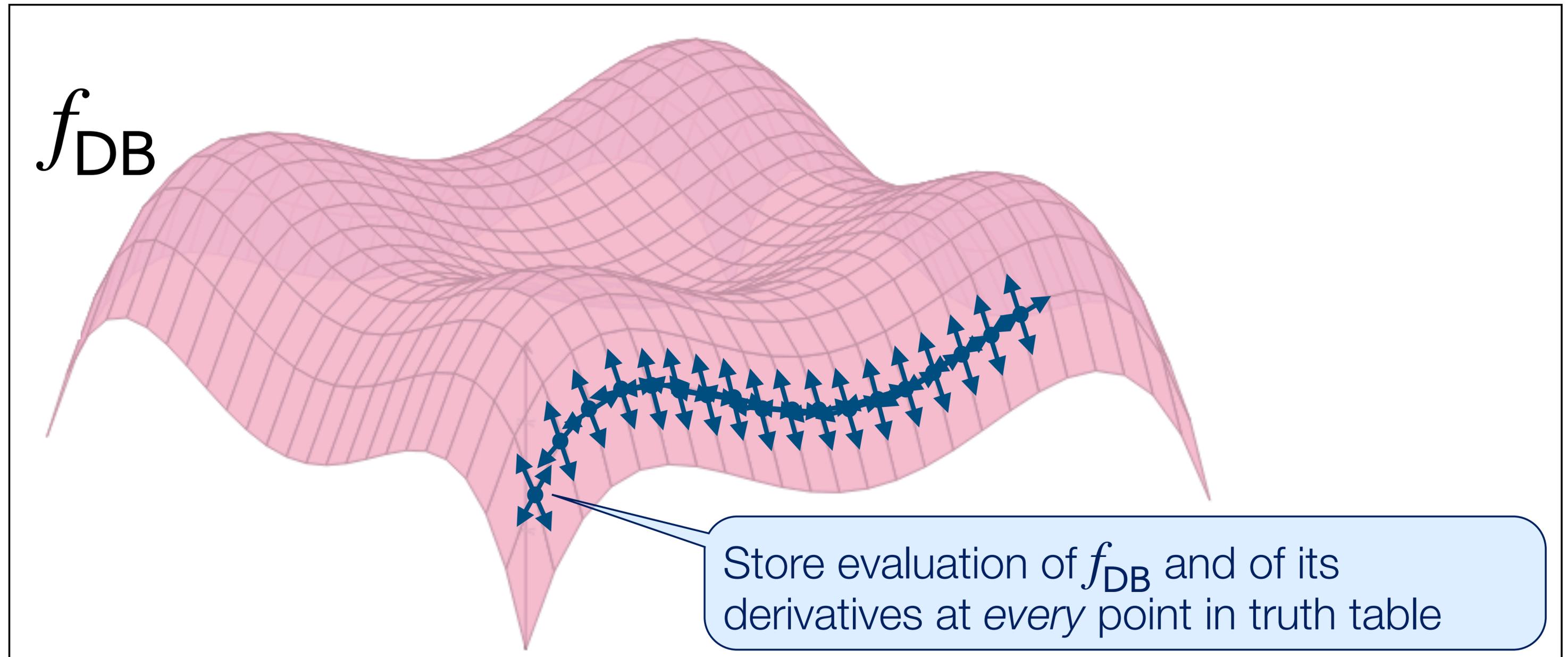
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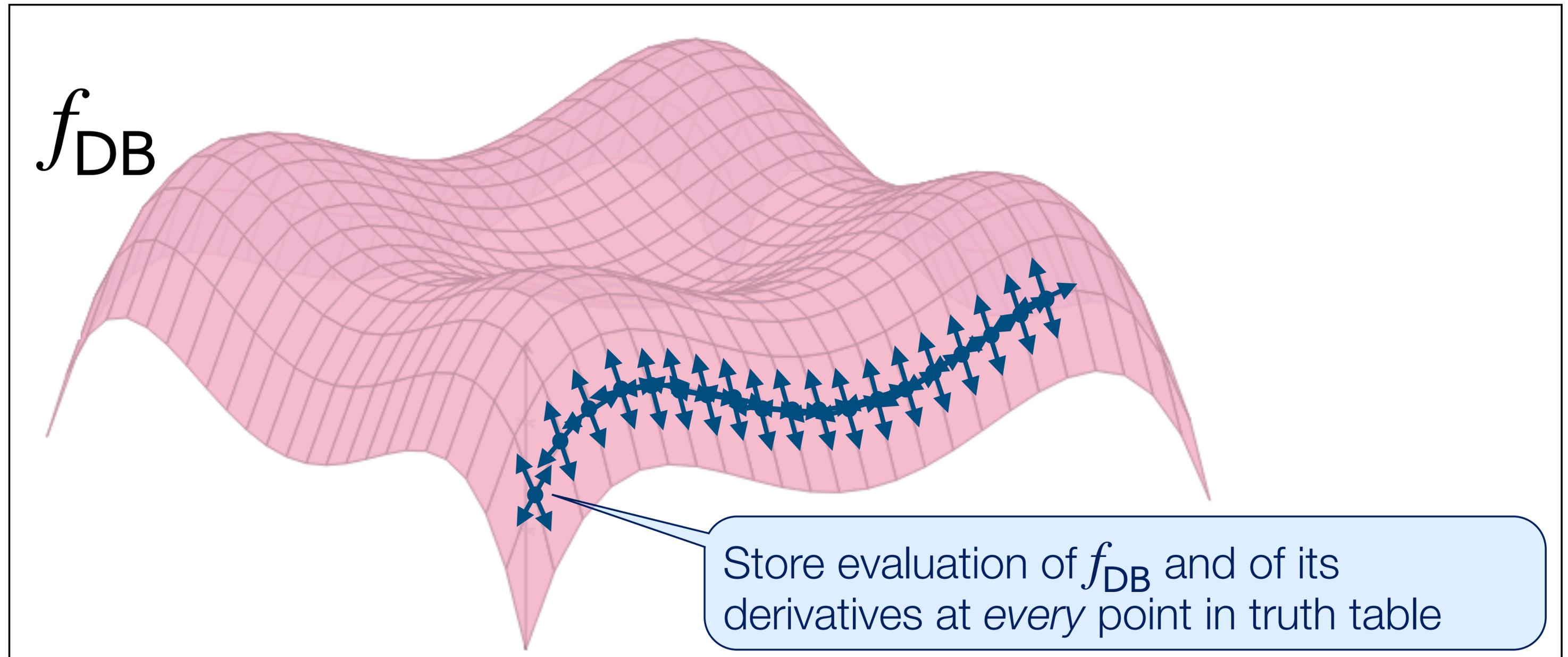
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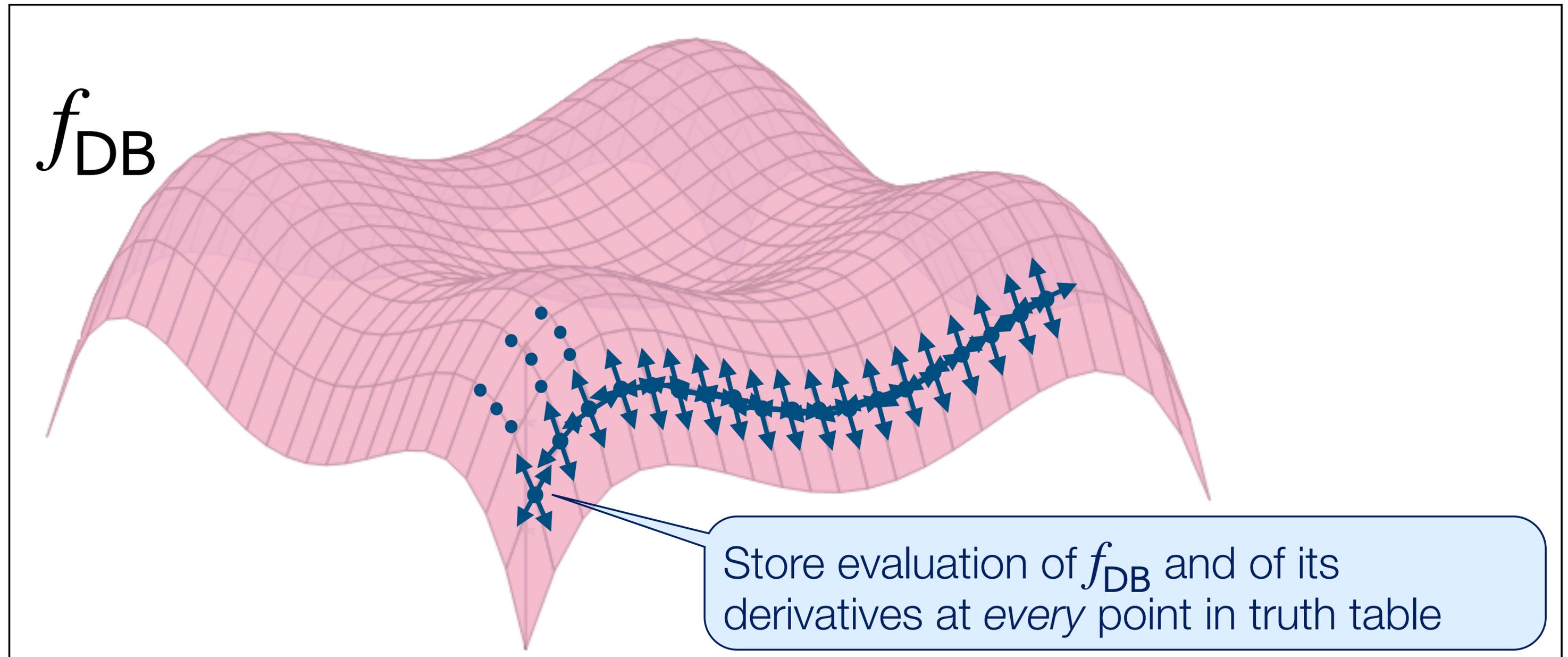
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**Fact 1.** Since  $f_{\text{DB}}$  is multilinear, for any evaluation point  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$ ,

$$\nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}_i) - f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$$

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**In other words:** anyone can deduce  $\nabla f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{x})$  from the evaluations of  $f_{\text{DB}}$  in a Hamming ball of radius 1 around point  $\mathbf{x}$ .

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In other words: anyone can deduce  $\nabla^2 f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{x})$  from the evaluations of  $f_{\text{DB}}$  in a Hamming ball of radius 2 around point  $\mathbf{x}$ .

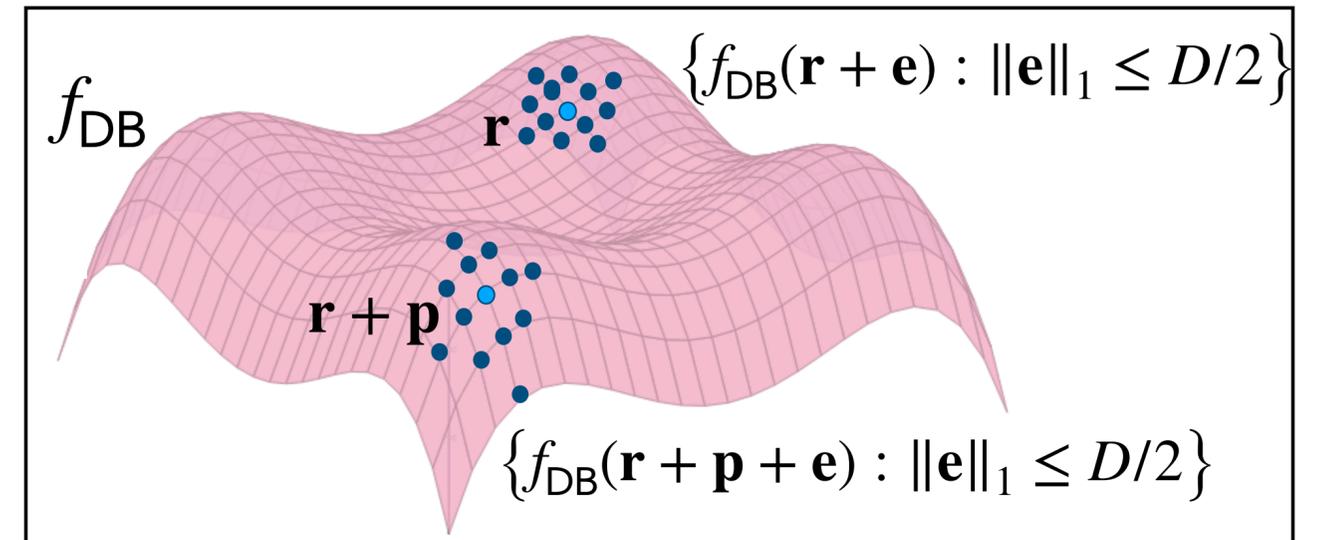
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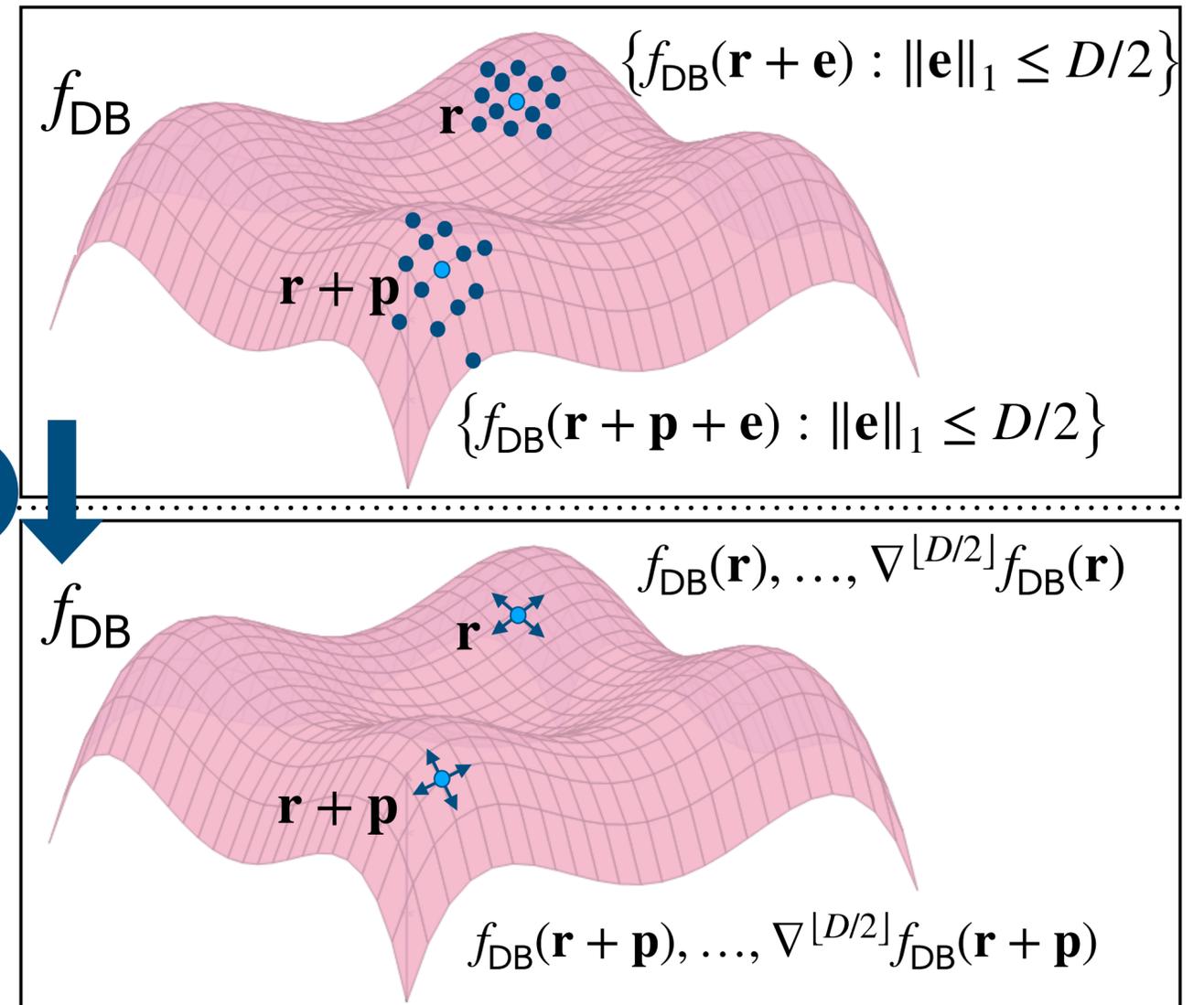


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From these replies, the user computes:

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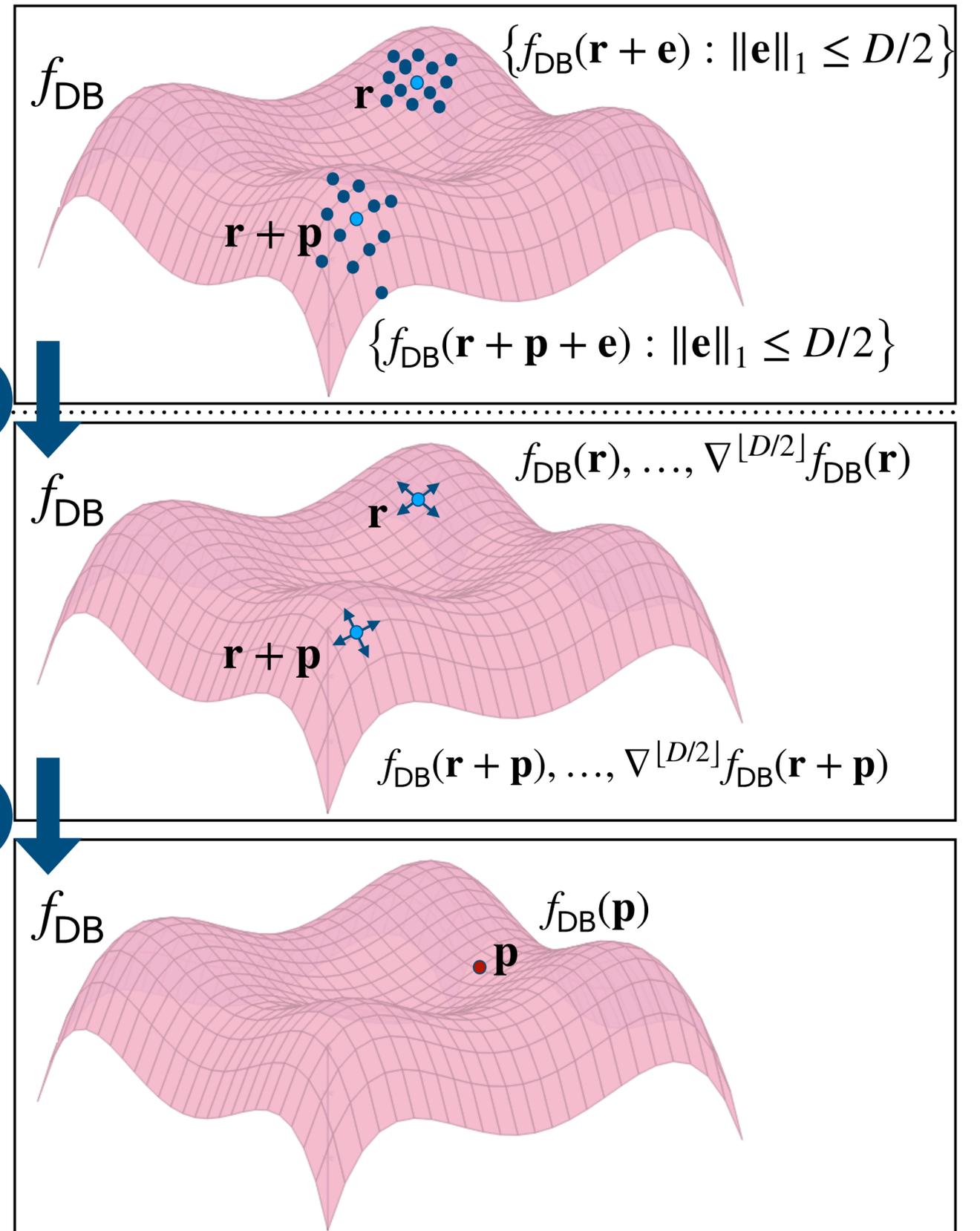
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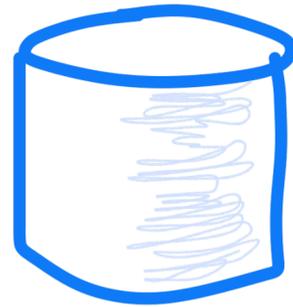
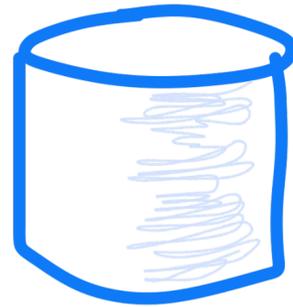
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# New PIR with preprocessing

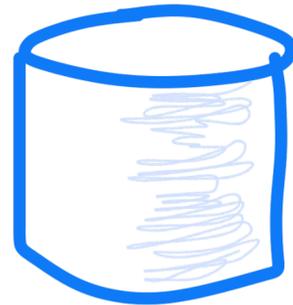
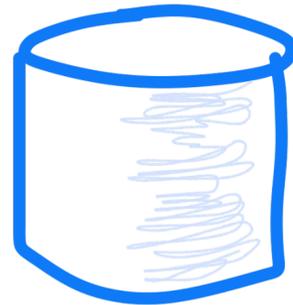
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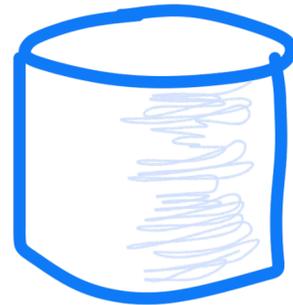
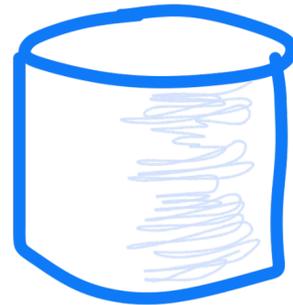
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Point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$   
 Sample line  
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Recover  $f_{DB}(\mathbf{p})$  via finite differences, chain rule, and Hermite interpolation

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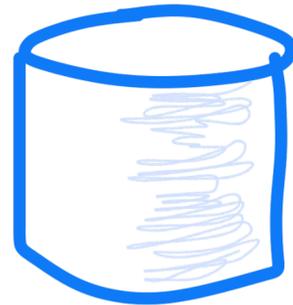
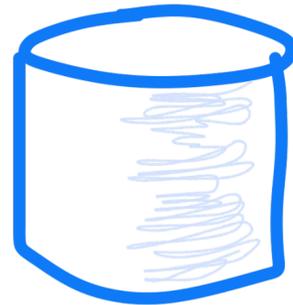


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With 2 servers, gives preprocessing PIR with

- ➔ Same comm. as [BIM00]:
  - $O(\log n)$  upload
  - $n^{0.82}$  download
- ➔ Same time as [BIM00]:
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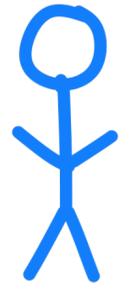
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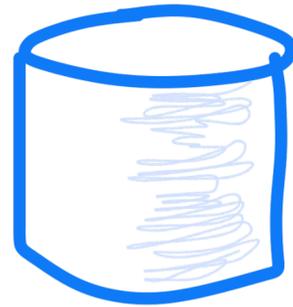
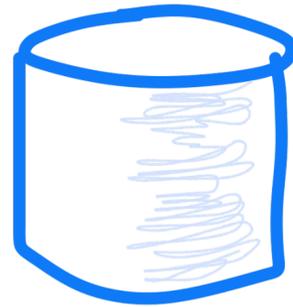
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With odd  $D$ , for any point  $\mathbf{p}$  with  $\|\mathbf{p}\| = D$ :

$$f_{DB}(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{\substack{\|\mathbf{e}\| \leq \lfloor D/2 \rfloor \\ \mathbf{e} \leq \mathbf{p}}} f_{DB}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}) + f_{DB}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e})$$

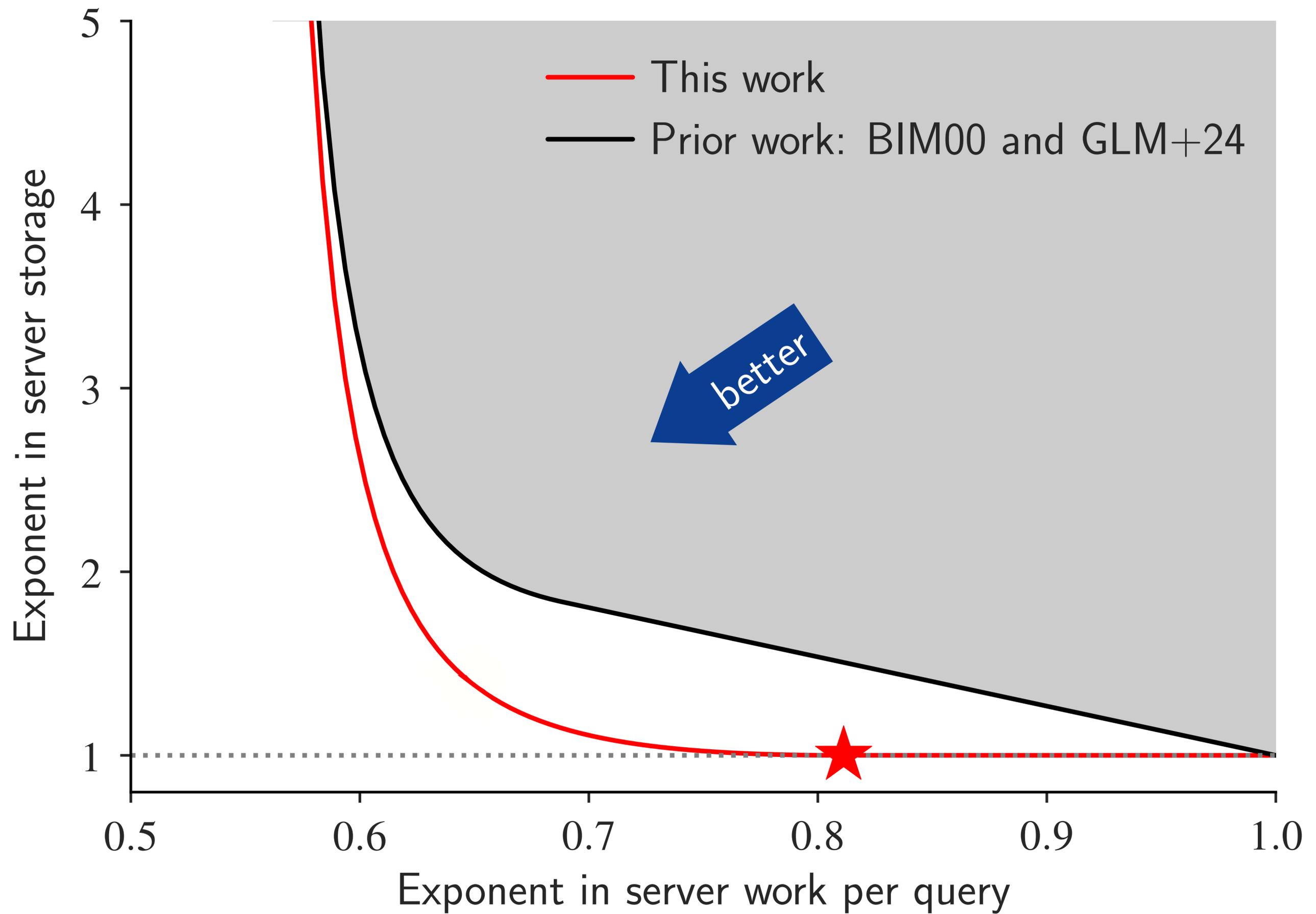
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**Theorem.** On any database of  $n > 10^6$  bits, there exists information-theoretic, two-server PIR with preprocessing with:

- $1.5 \cdot \sqrt{\log n} \cdot n$  bits of server storage,
- $12 \cdot n^{0.82}$  server RAM lookups per query, and
- $12 \cdot n^{0.82}$  bits of communication per query.





# This talk

1. **Background:** PIR with preprocessing
2. **Our new PIR:** sublinear time + quasilinear space
  - ➔ - Two servers
  - With crypto
  - Three servers and beyond
3. **Alternate view:** new locally decodable codes
4. **Evaluation:** what does this mean for practice?

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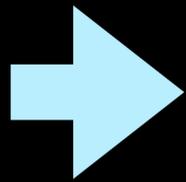
- Q3: Are there interesting connections to other fields?

*Yes: locally decodable codes*

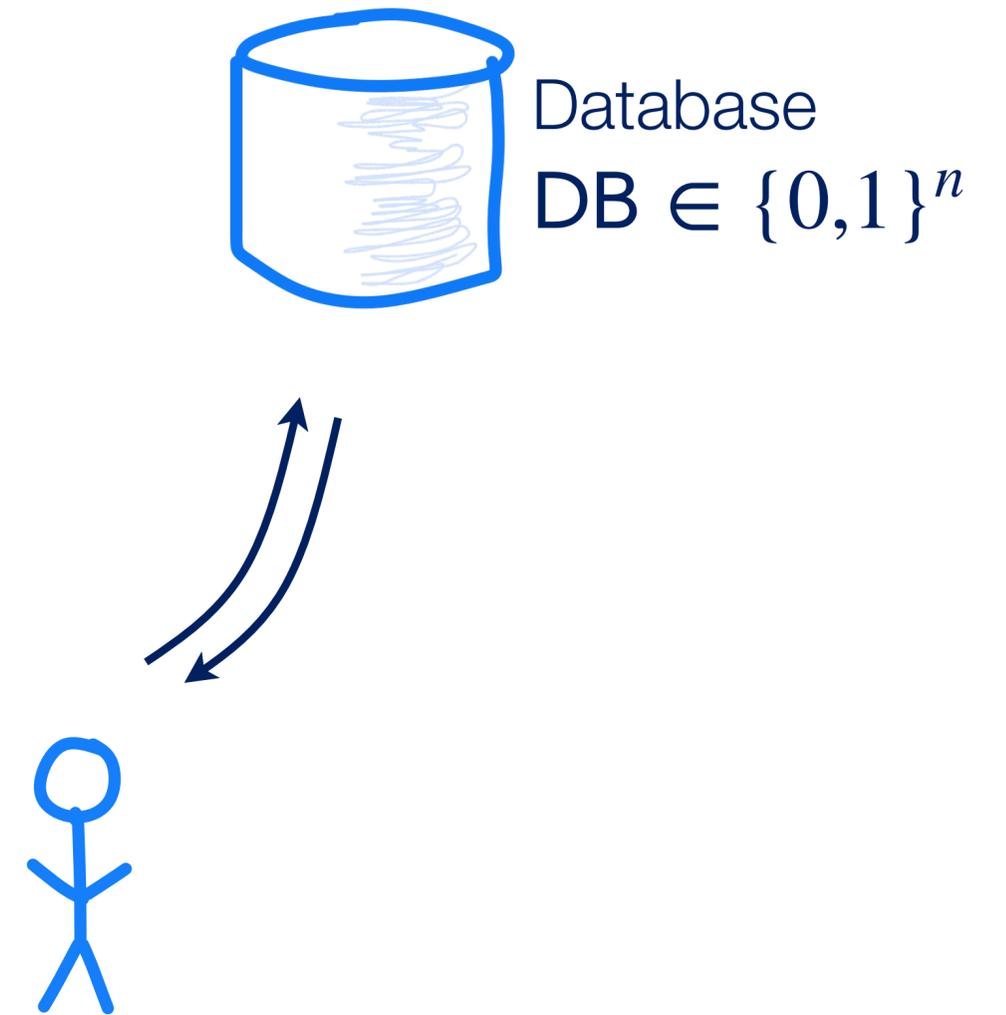


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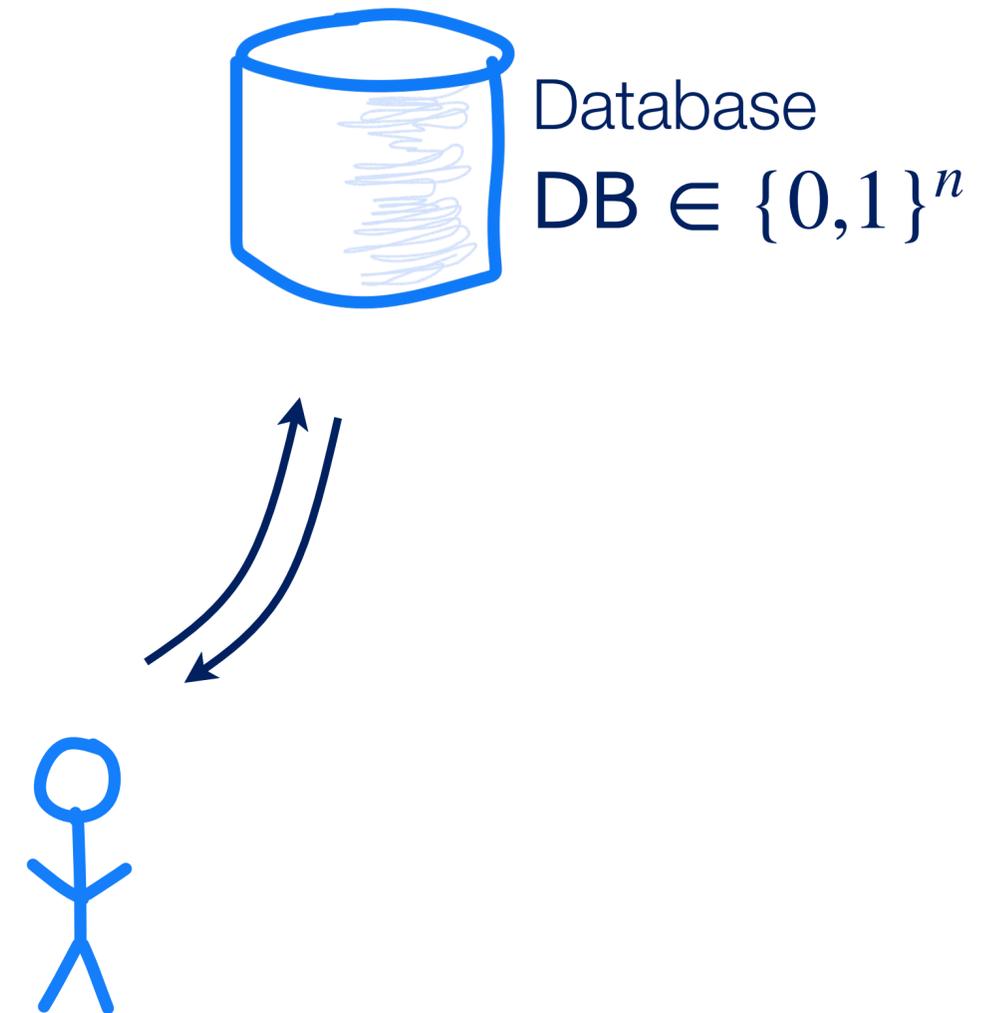


# Homomorphic Encryption for Single-Server PIR



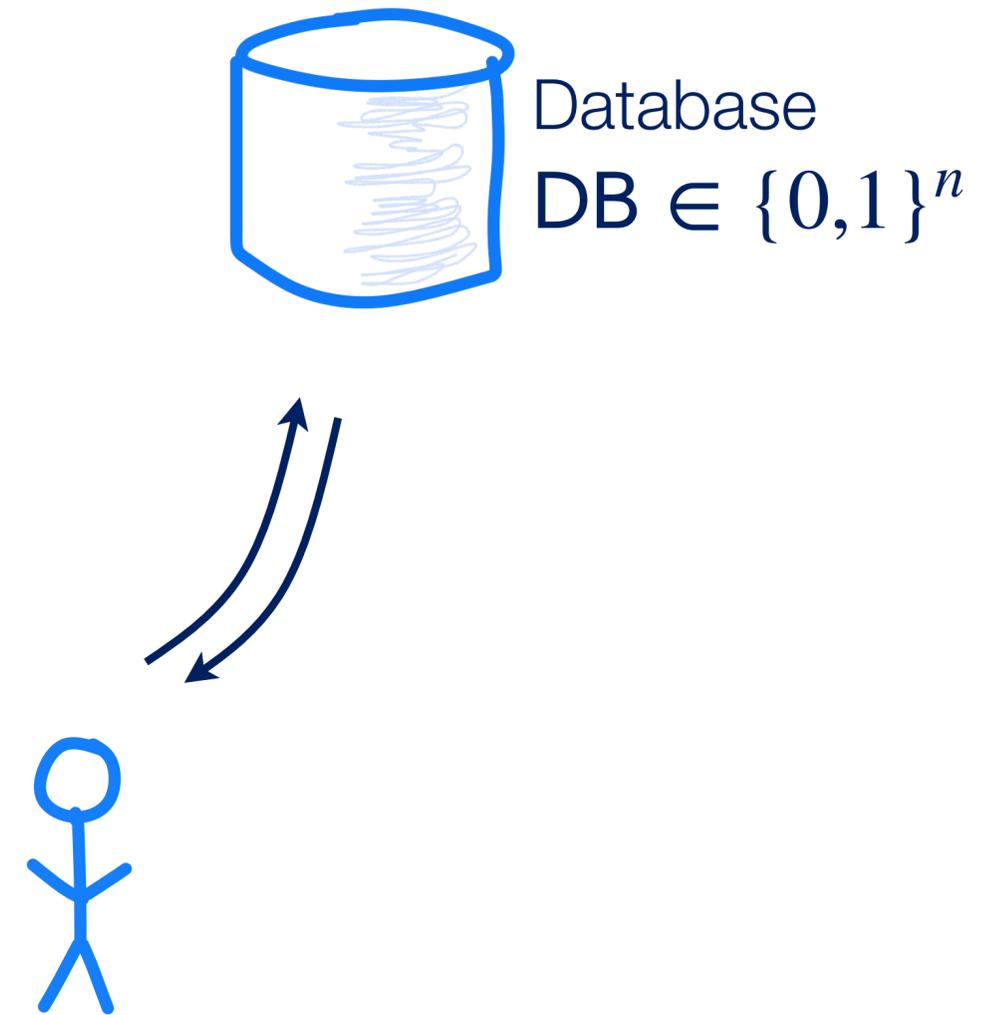
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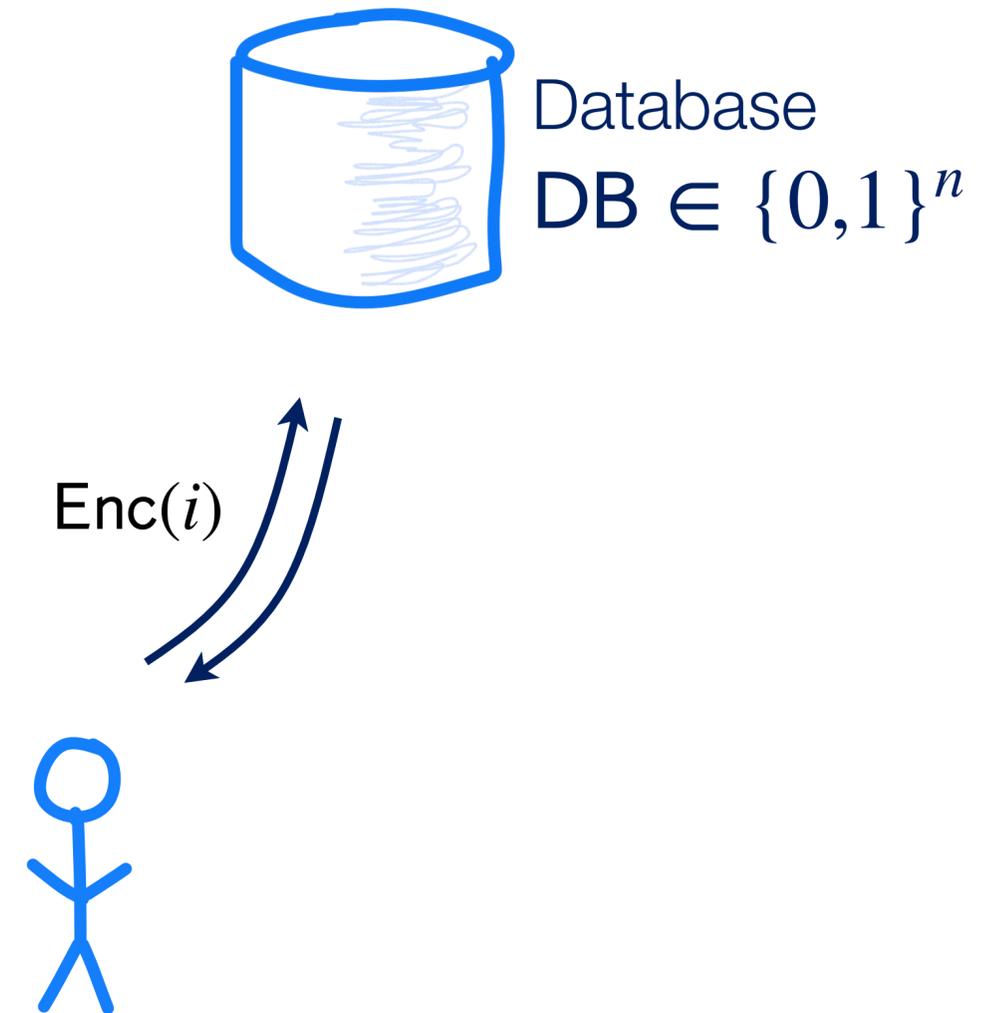
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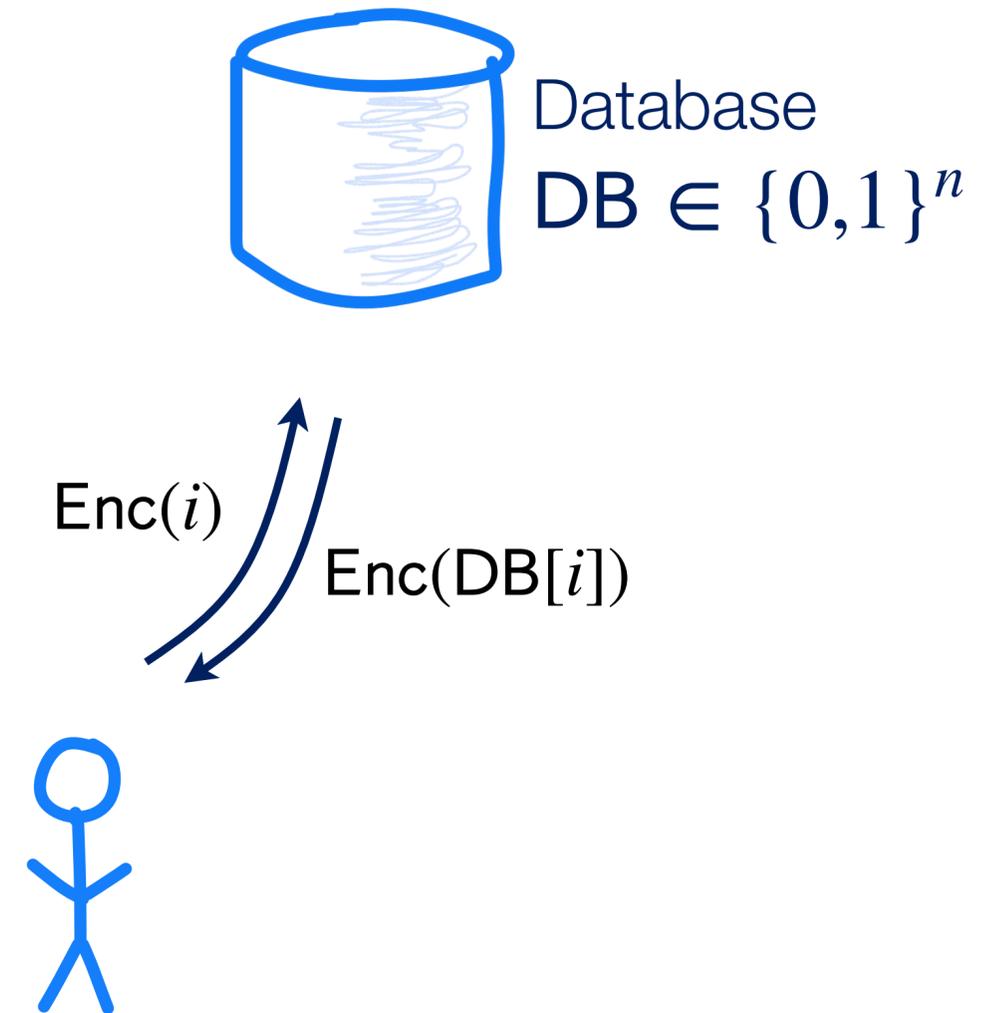
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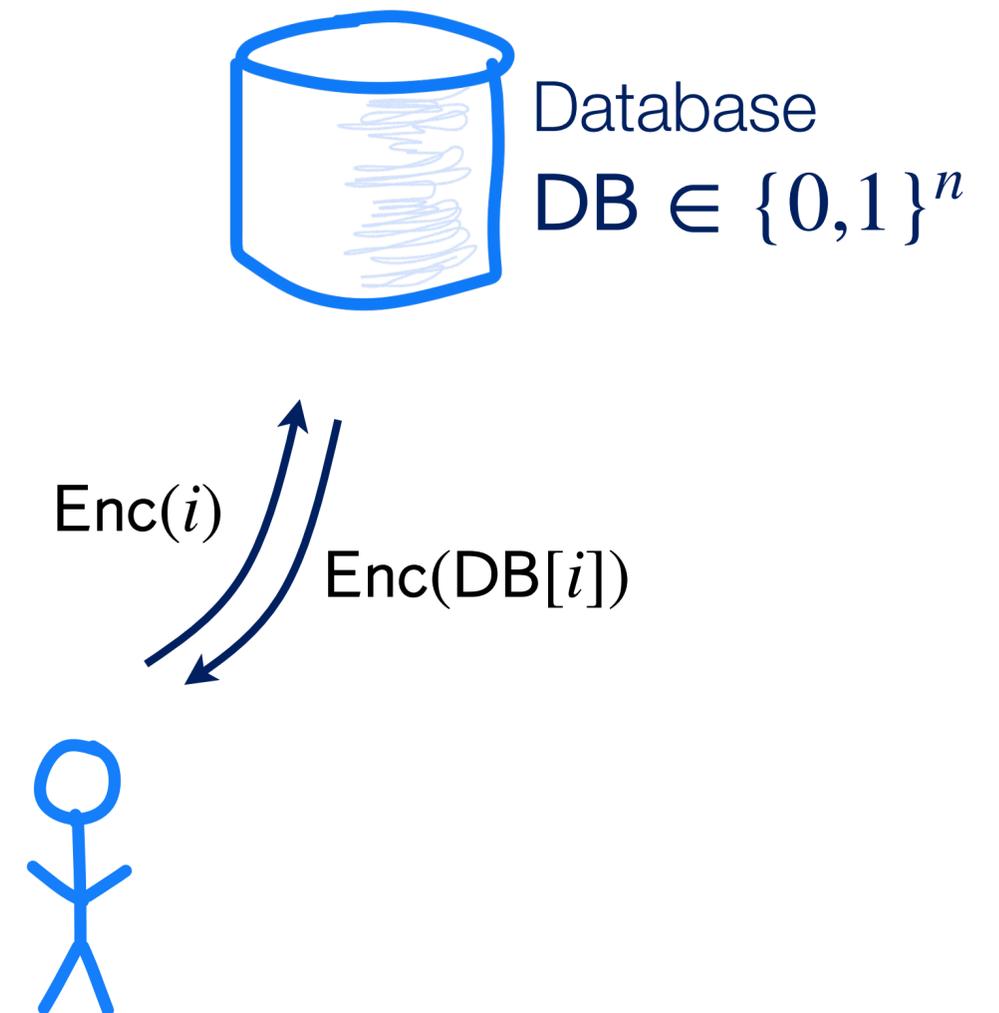
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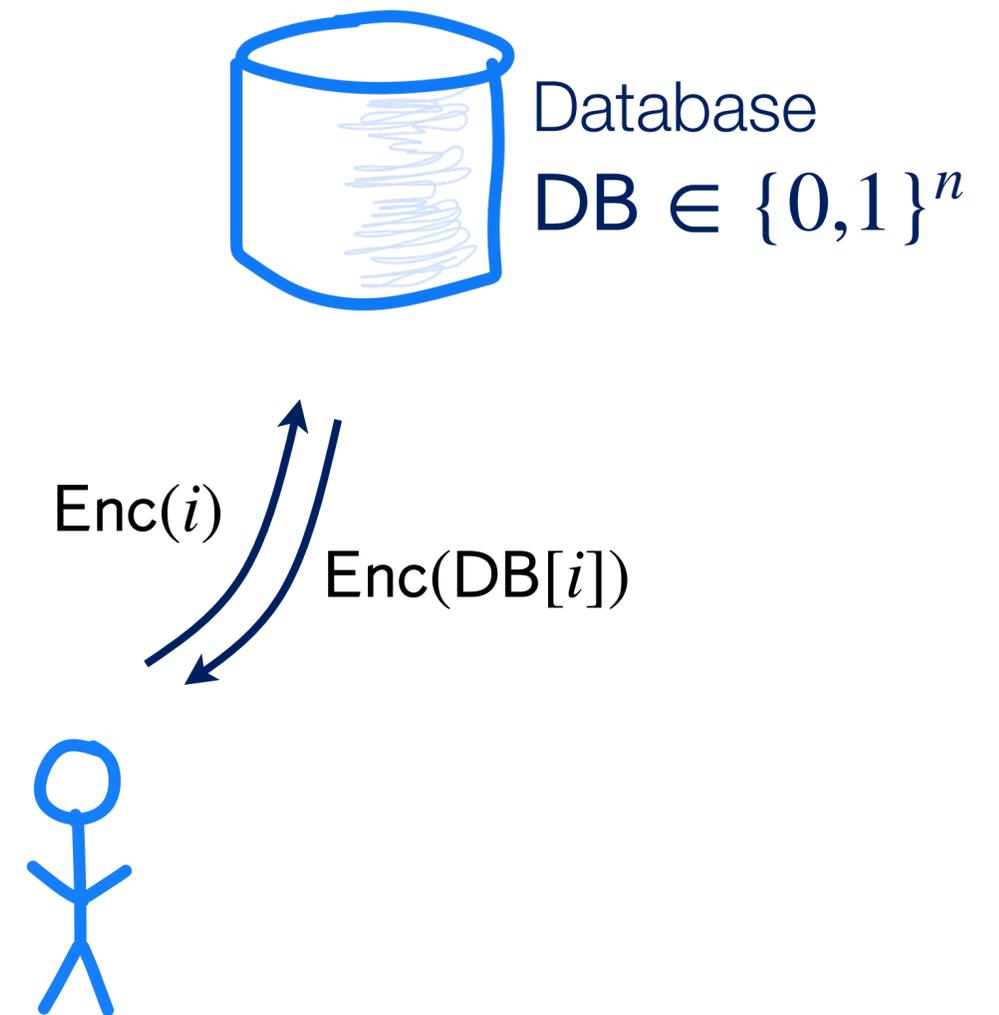
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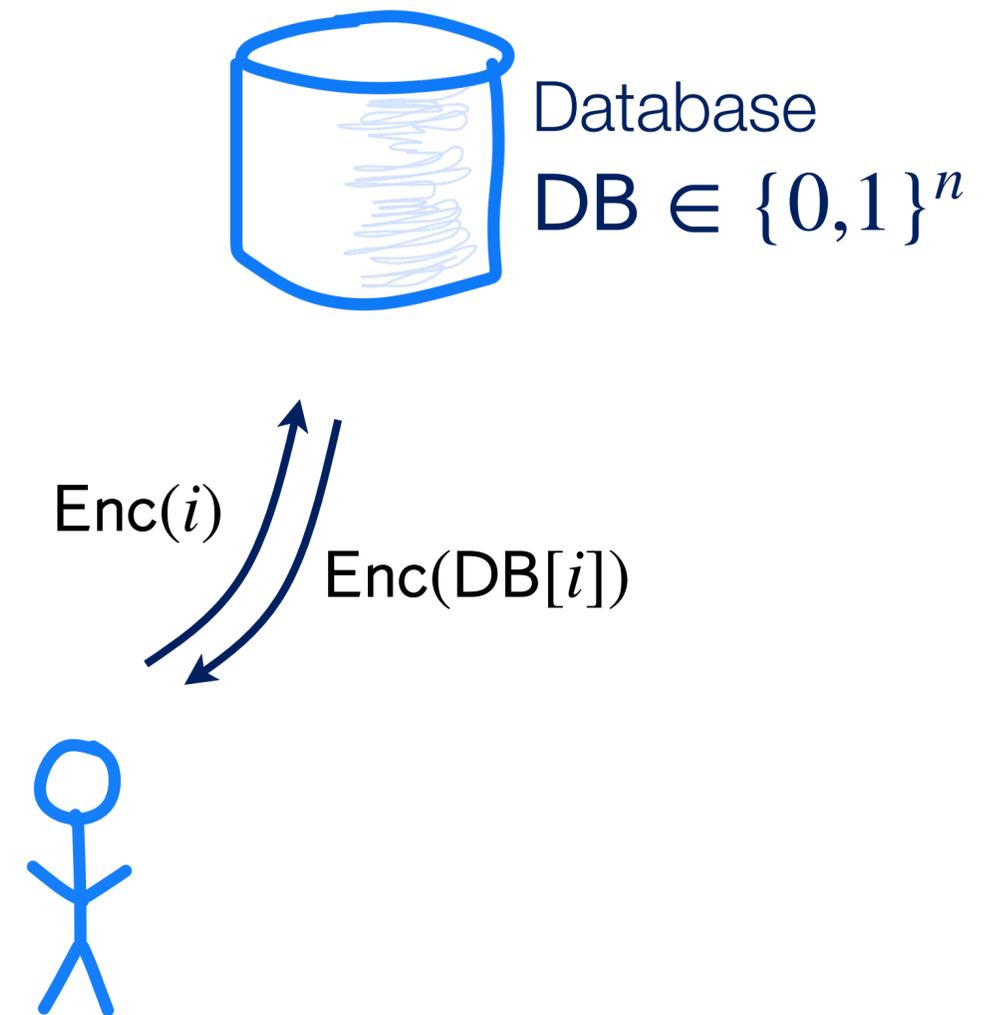
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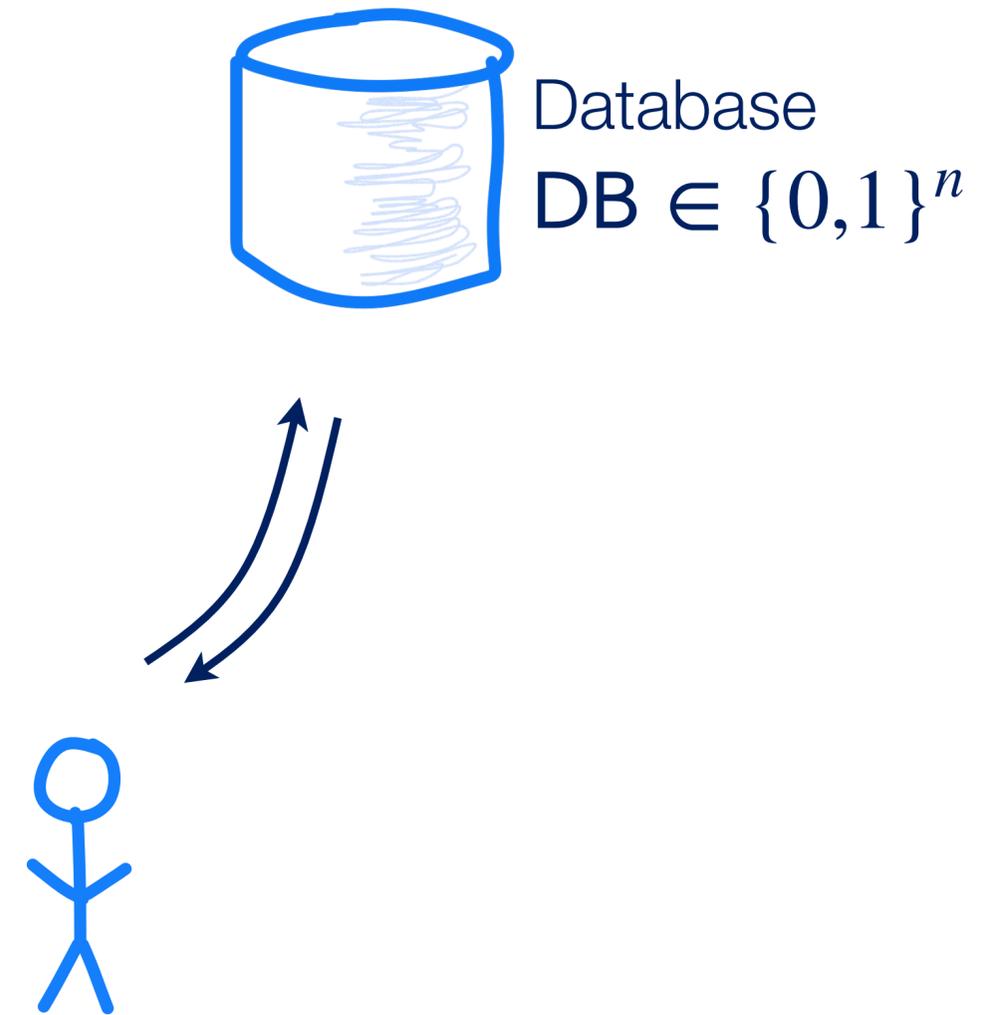


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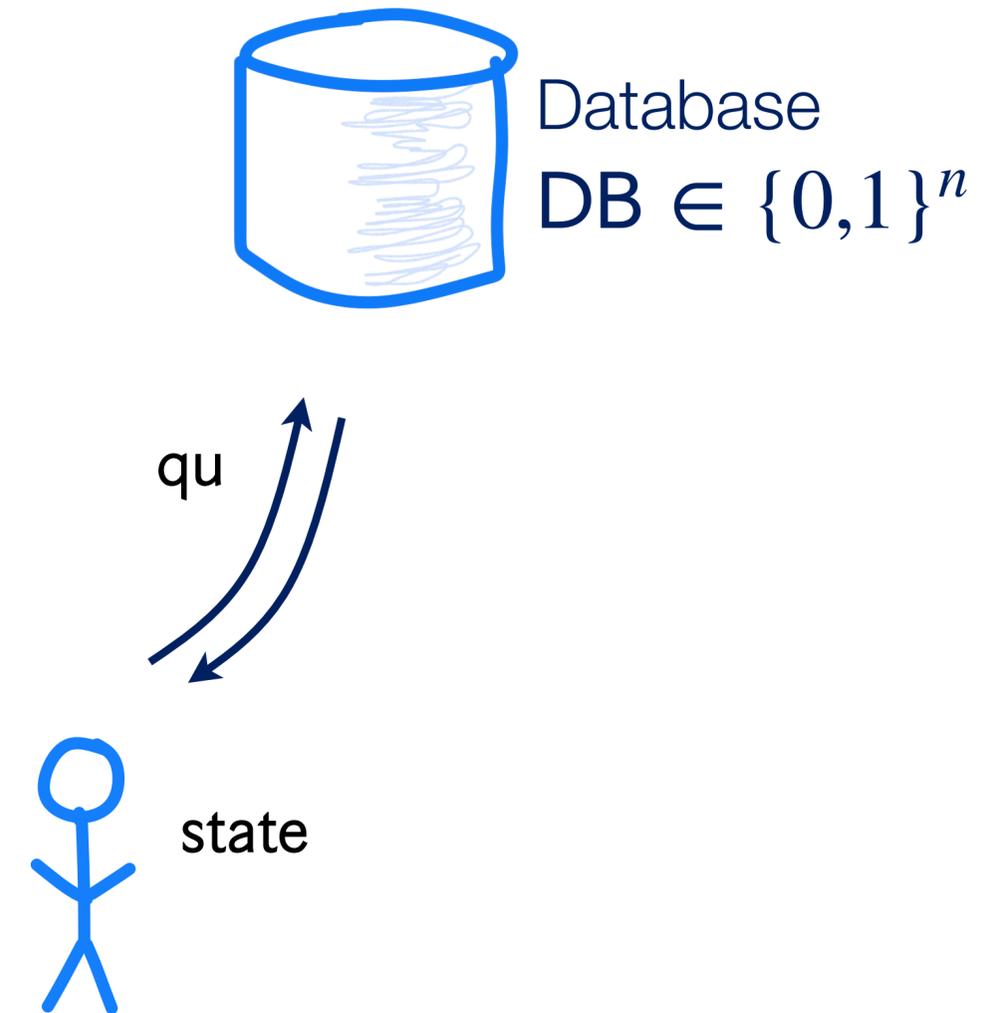


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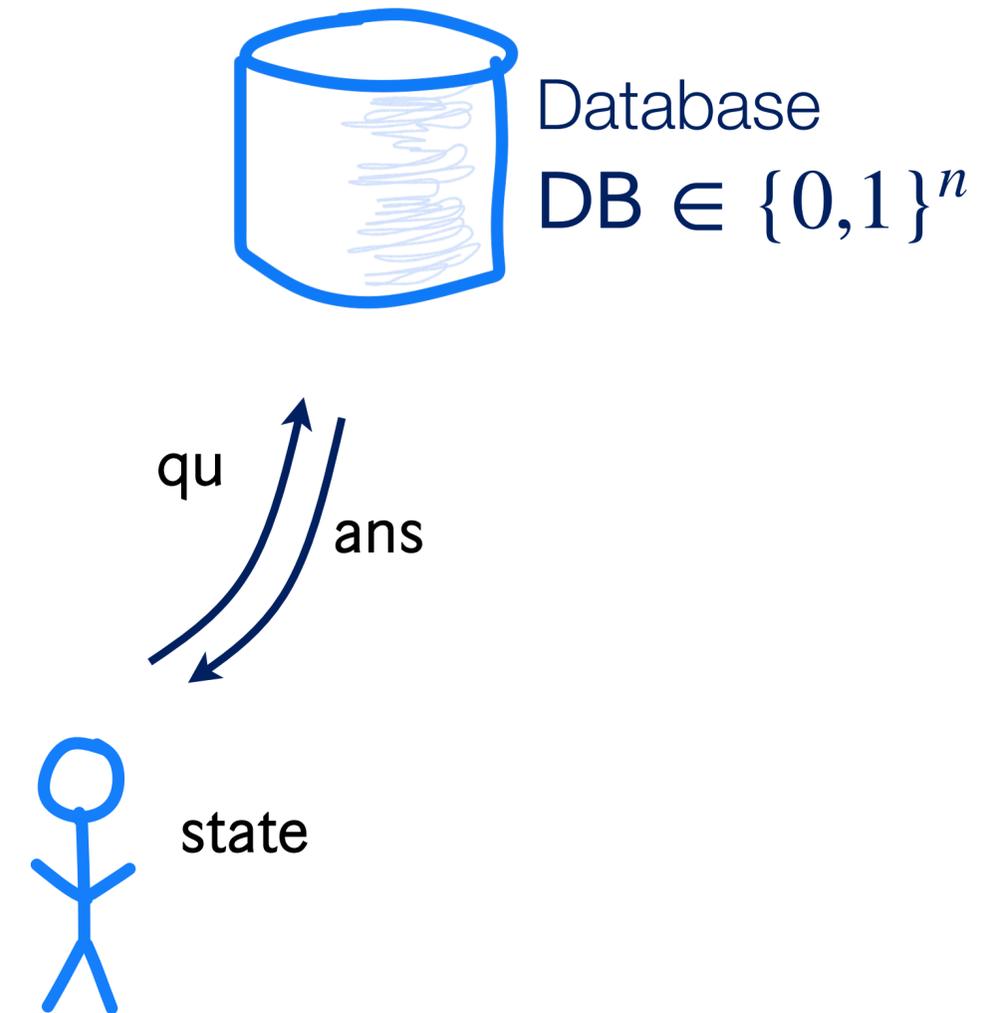
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- Three phases:
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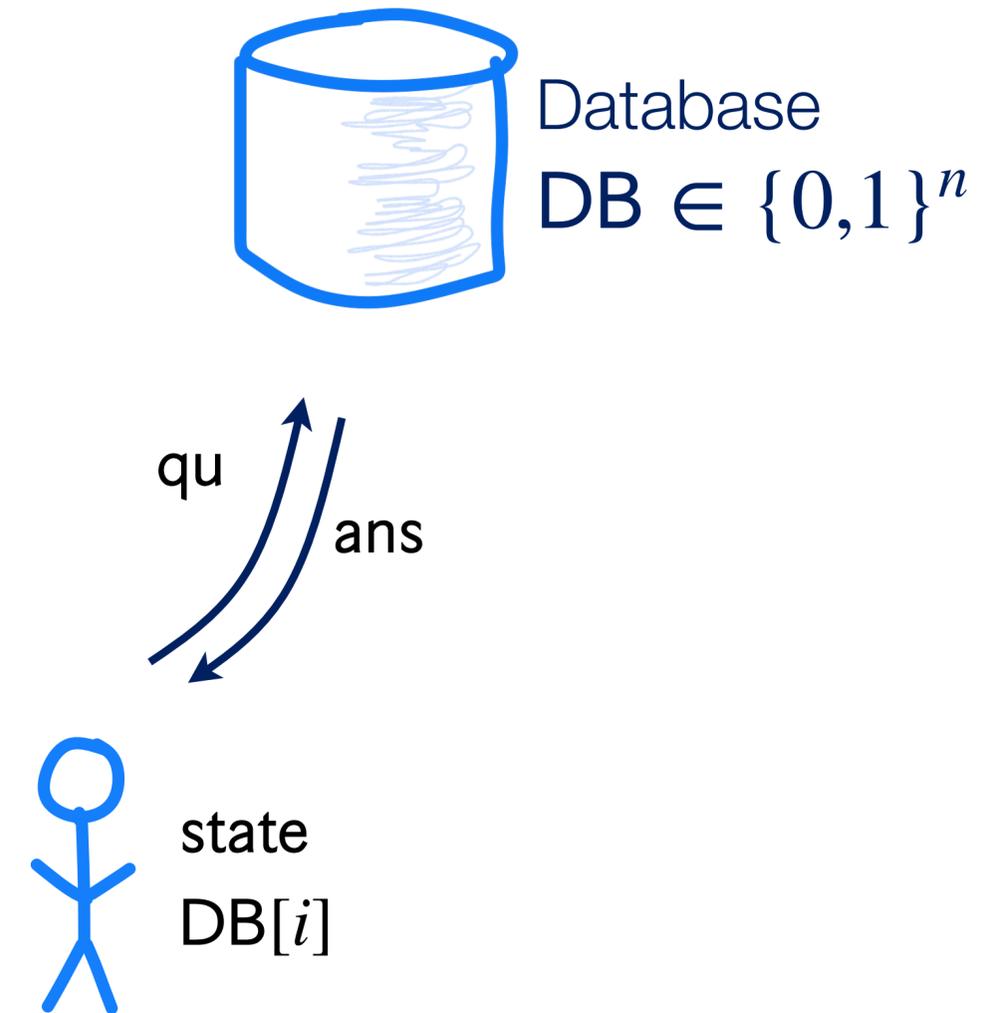
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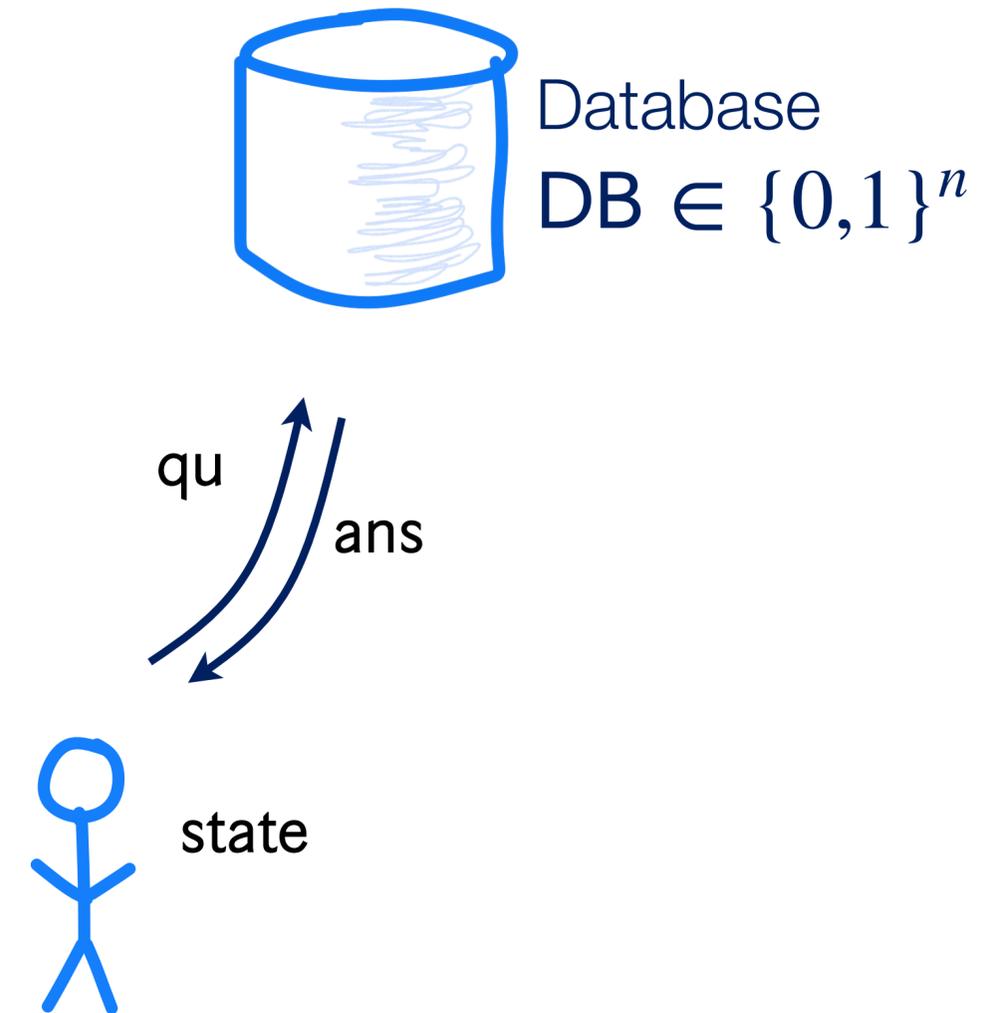
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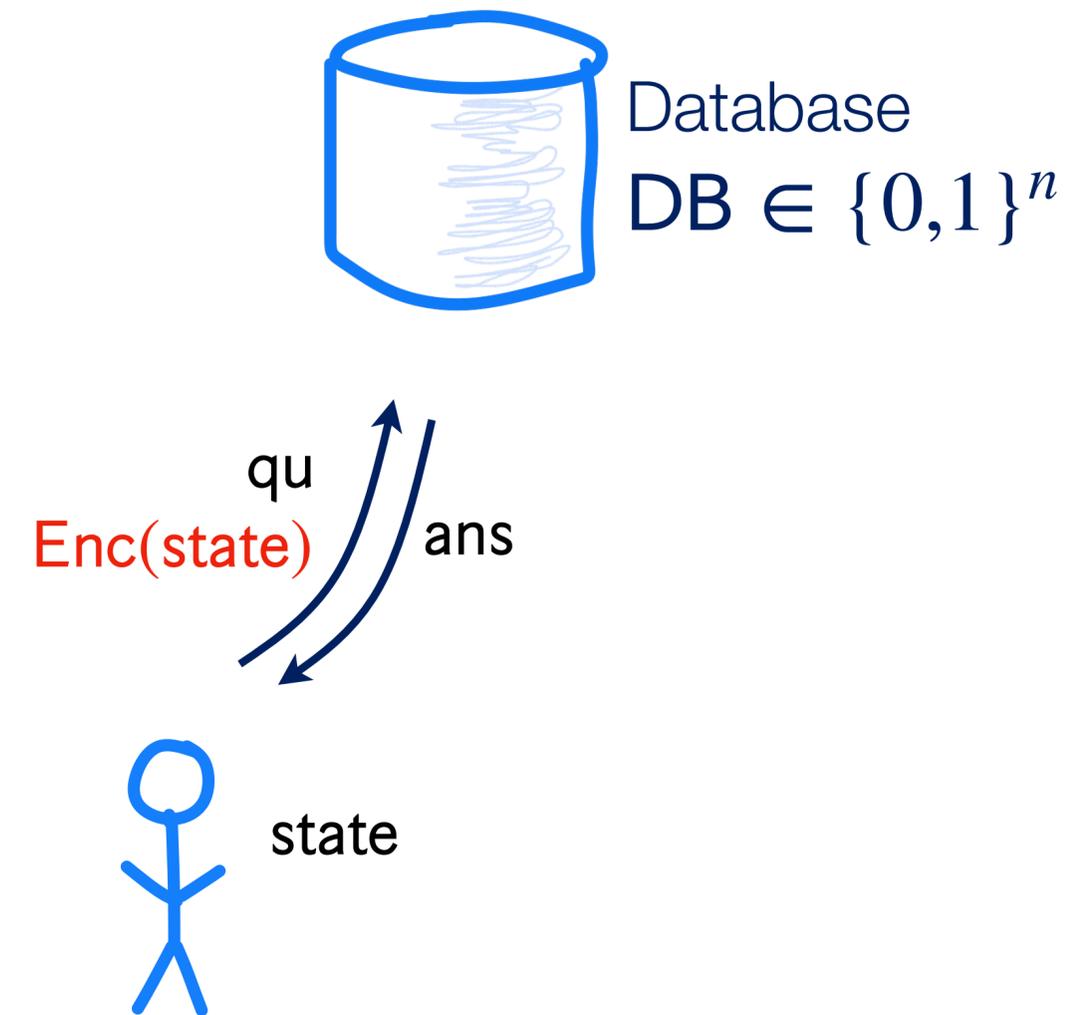
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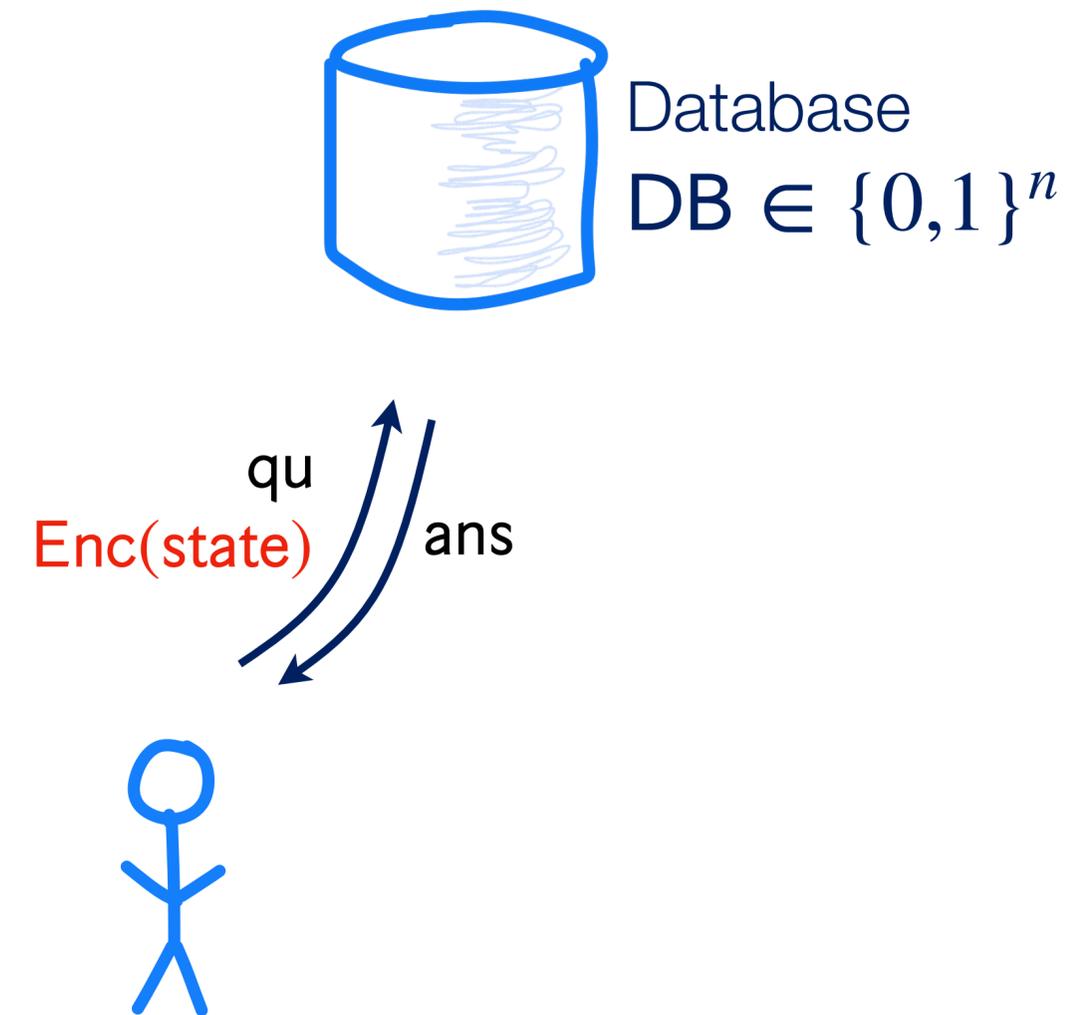
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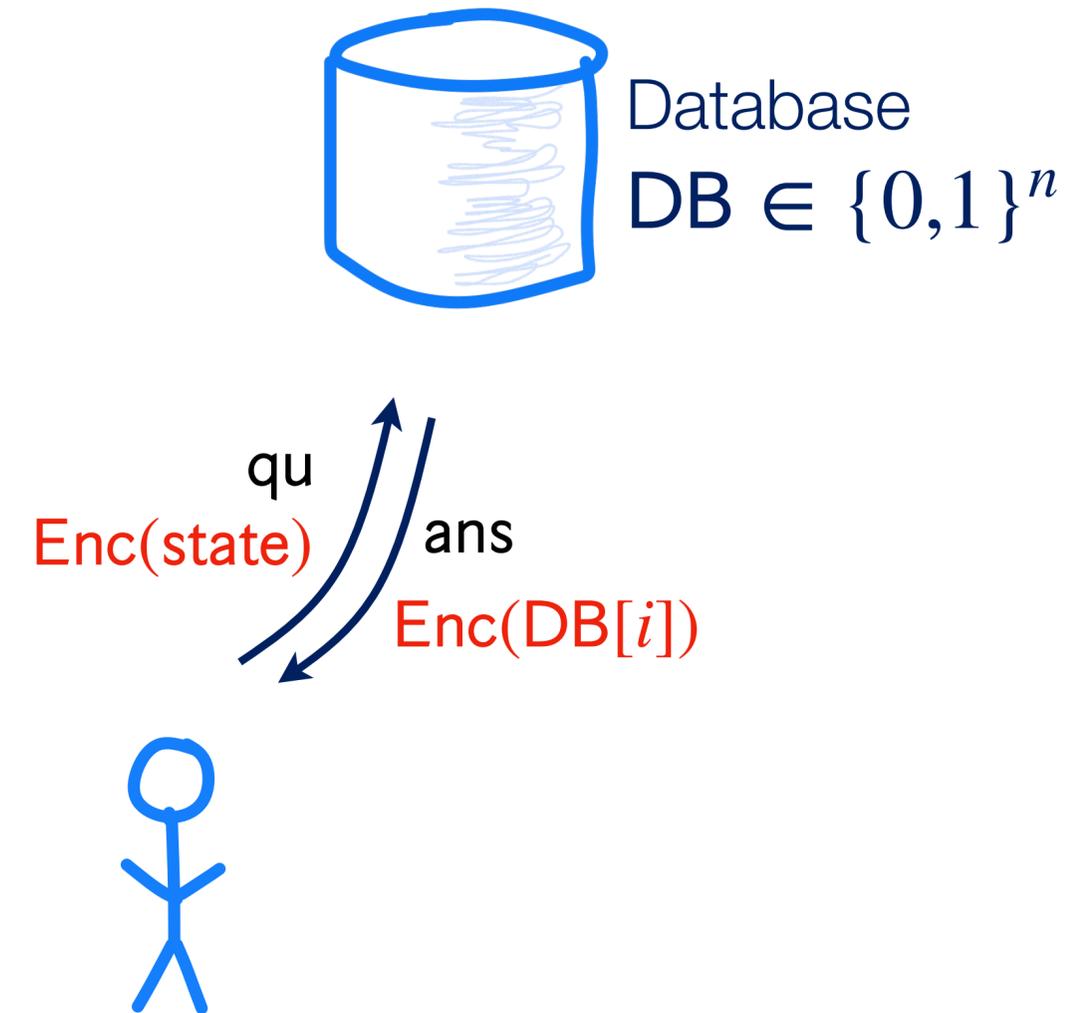
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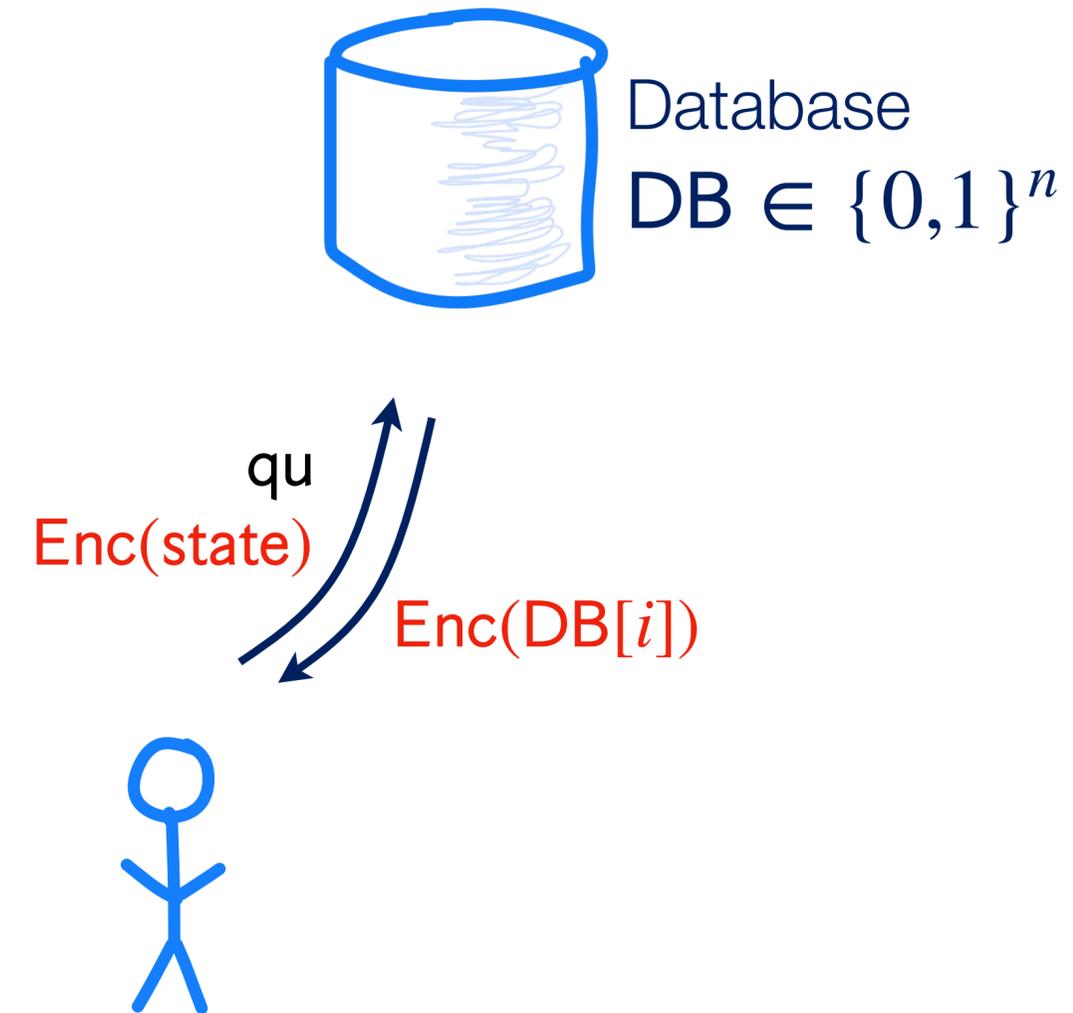
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  - Server computes  $\text{ans}$  then  $\text{FHE} . \text{Eval}(\text{ct}, \text{Reconstruct}(\text{ans}, \cdot))$



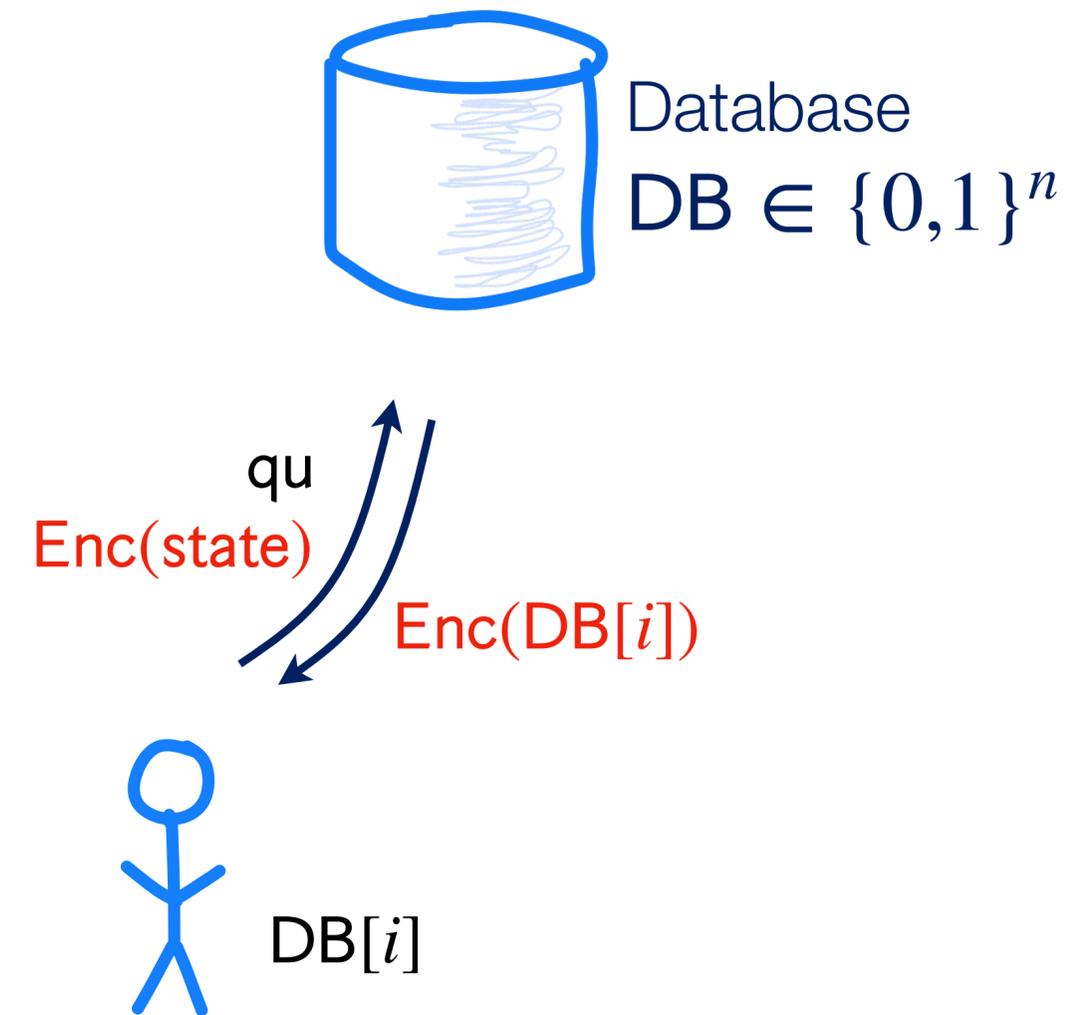
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  - Answer:  $\text{ans} = \text{Answer}(\text{DB}, \text{qu})$
  - Reconstruction:  $\text{DB}[i] = \text{Reconstruct}(\text{state}, \text{ans})$
- Observation (coming up): **Reconstruct** is a small circuit!
  - Include  $\text{ct} \leftarrow \text{FHE} . \text{Enc}(\text{state})$  in query
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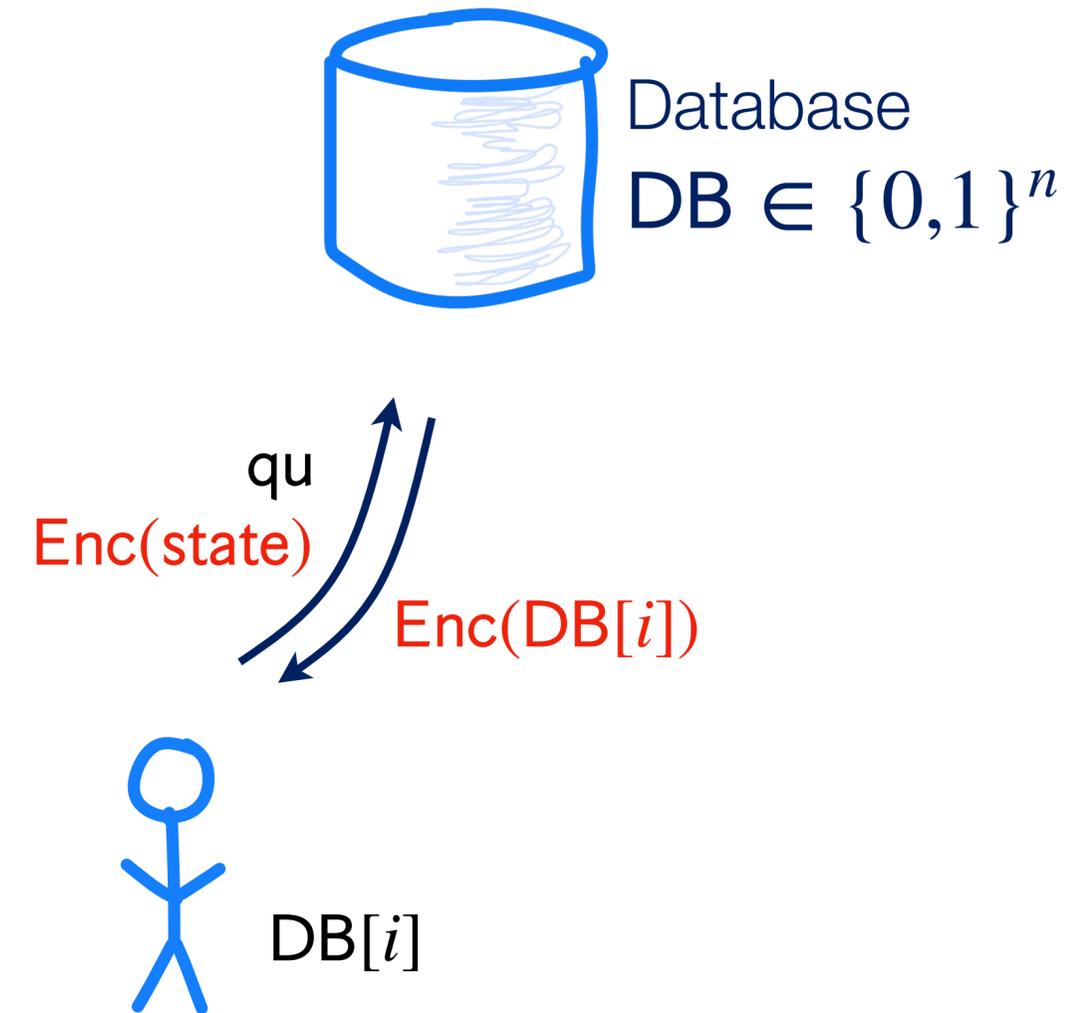
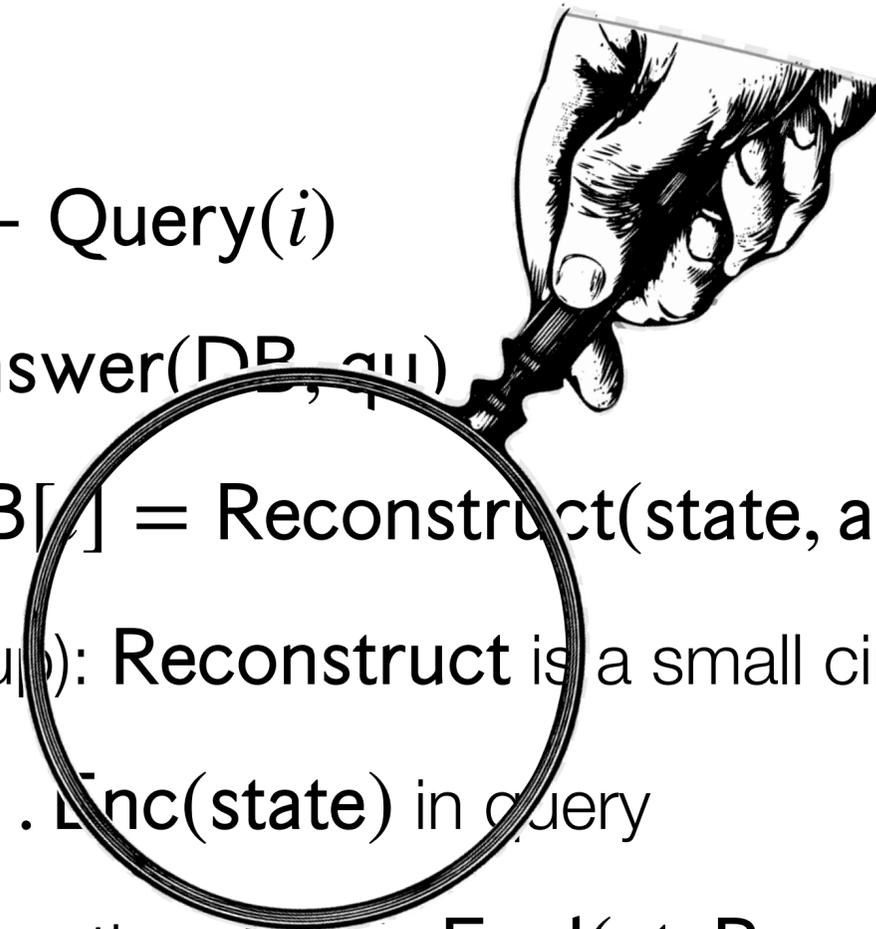
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**Cheatsheet**

$$m \approx \log n$$

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- For each  $\mathbf{e}$ ,  $\mathbf{1}[\mathbf{e} \leq \mathbf{p}] = \mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{e}} = \prod_{i \in [m]} p_i^{e_i}$ , which is degree  $\leq D/2$  in  $\mathbf{p}$

# Abstract Setup

- Two polynomials  $g_1, g_2 : \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$  of degree  $D/2$  for servers 1 and 2 respectively

$$g_1(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\|\mathbf{e}\| \leq \lfloor D/2 \rfloor} \left( \underbrace{f(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e})}_{\text{from server 1's answer}} \right) \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{e}}$$

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- All we need to do is get server 1 to help the user evaluate  $g_1(\mathbf{p})$  and likewise for server 2

# Succinct PIR from FHE

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<b>Cheatsheet</b> $m \approx \log n$ $D \approx m/2$ $\binom{m}{\alpha m} \approx 2^{mH(\alpha)} \approx n^{H(\alpha)}$
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**Theorem:** with compact fully homomorphic encryption\*, we get 2-server PIR with server storage  $n^{1+o(1)}$ , time per query  $O(n^{0.82})$  and communication  $O(\log n)$ .



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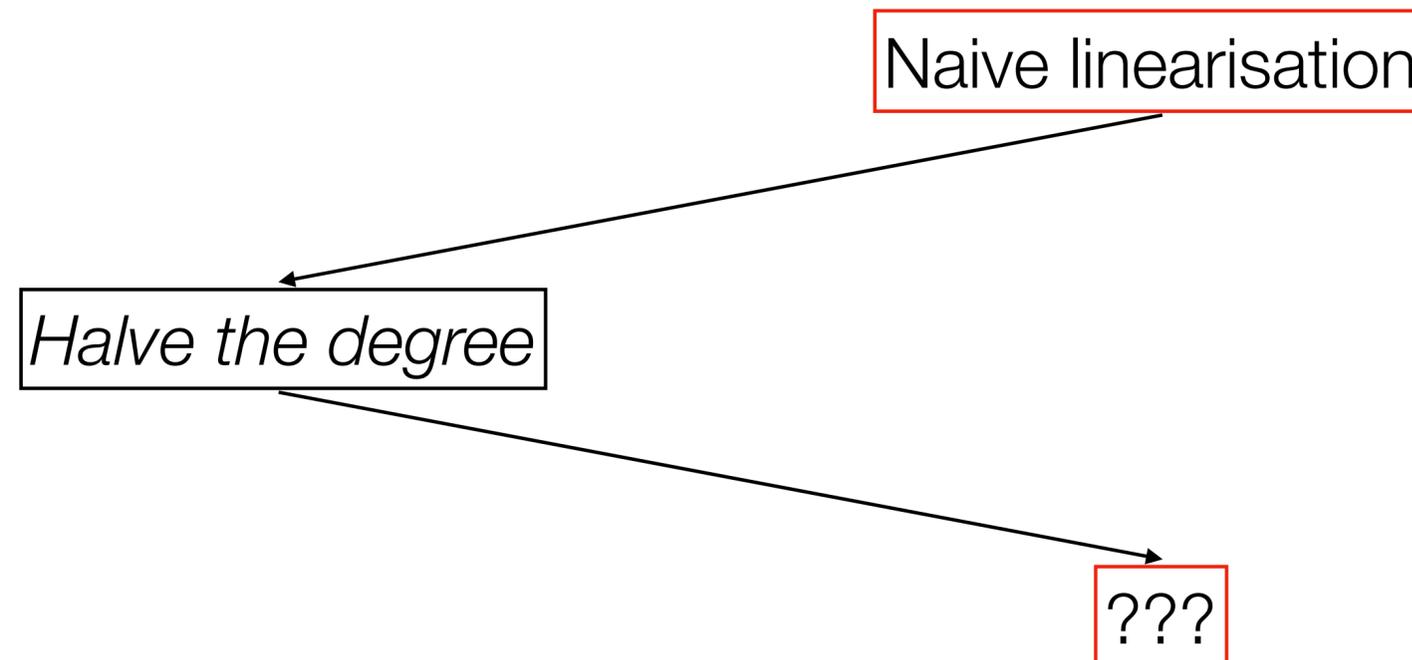
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Naive linearisation

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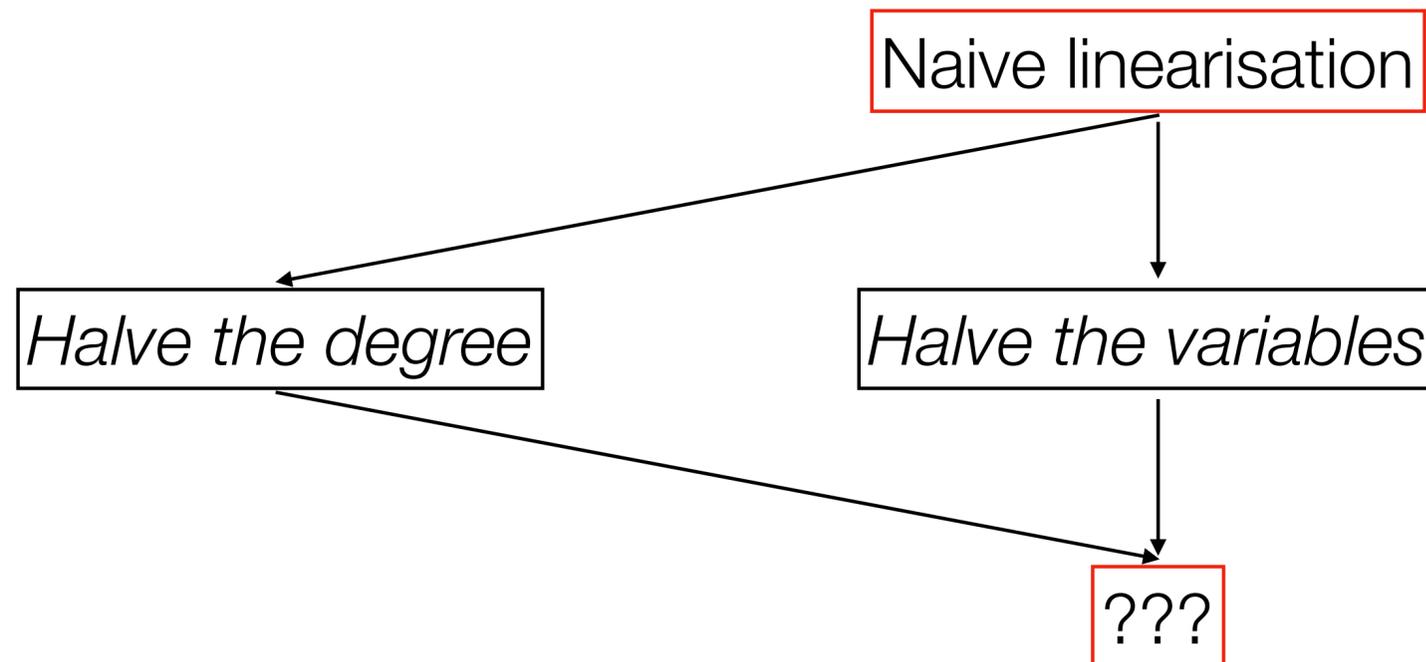
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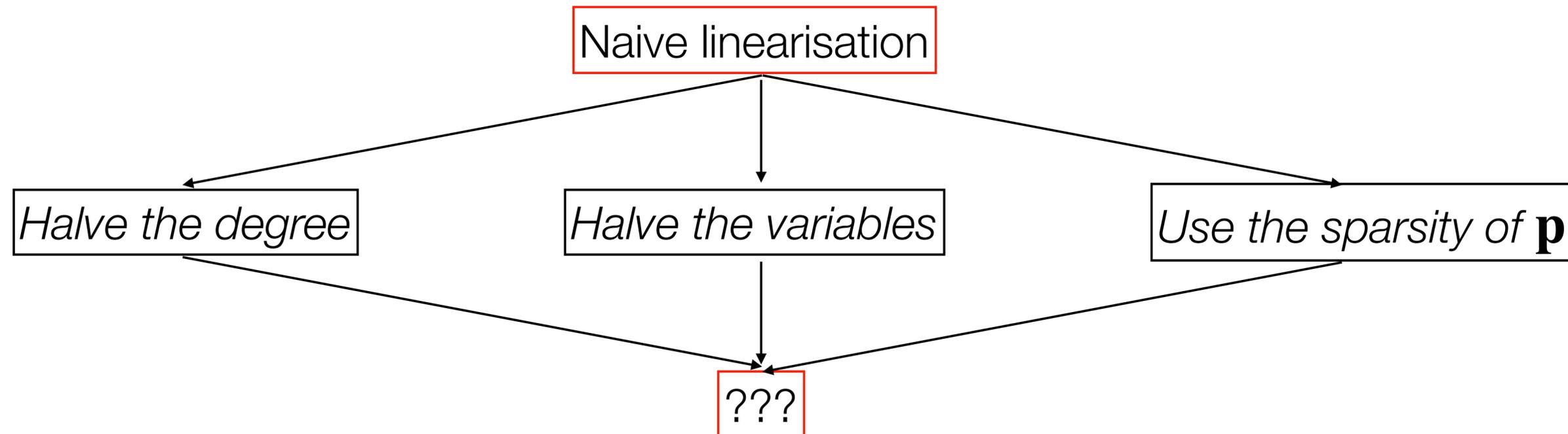
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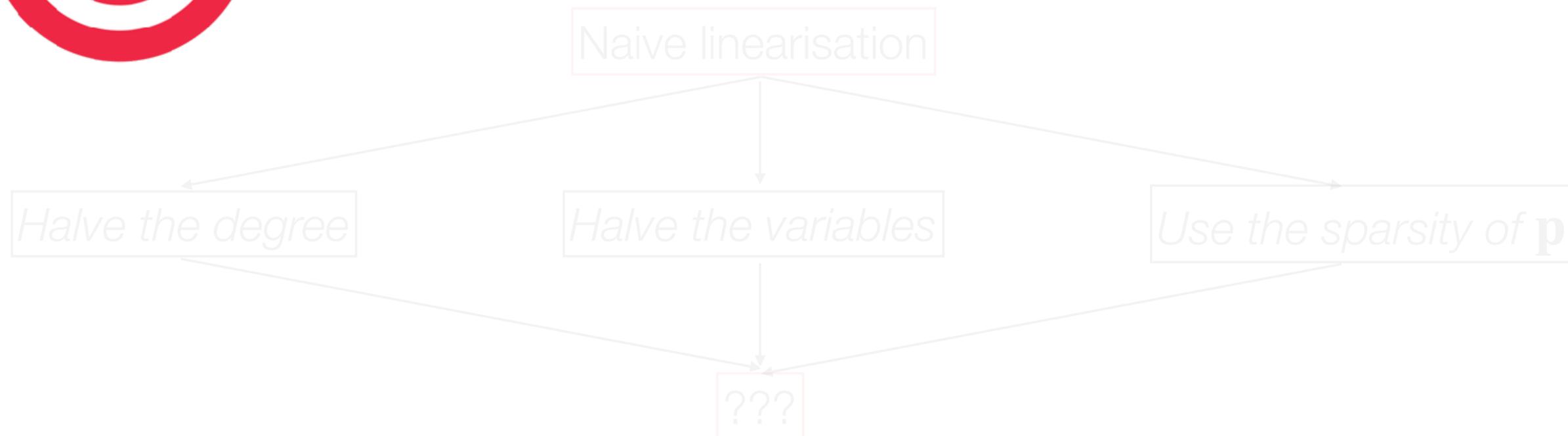
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Natural target: reduce communication from  $n^{0.82}$  to  $\sqrt{n^{0.82}} = n^{0.41}$



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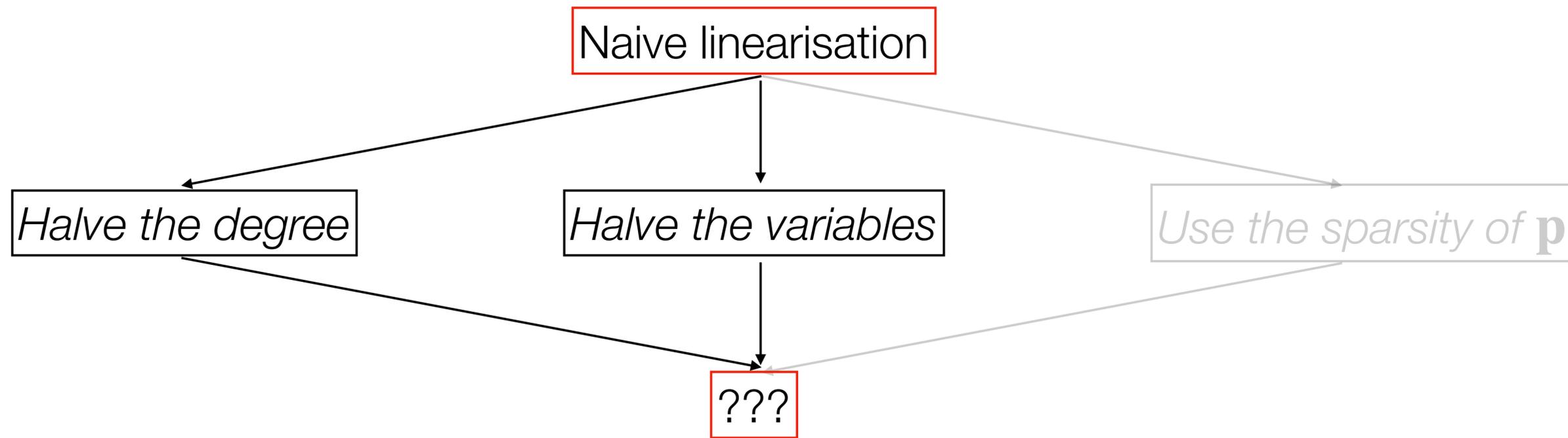
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  - User sends  $\text{LHE} . \text{Enc}(\mathbf{y})$
  - Server replies with  $\text{LHE} . \text{Enc}(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{y})$
  - User decrypts and locally takes the inner product with  $\mathbf{x}$

# Rebalancing



# Halving the Degree/Variables

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$$\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$$

$$D \approx m/2$$

Evaluating  $g(\mathbf{p})$

$$\deg g \leq D/2$$

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- Careful combination of these ideas:  $\approx \binom{m/2}{D/4} \approx 2^{mH(1/4)/2} \approx n^{0.41}$



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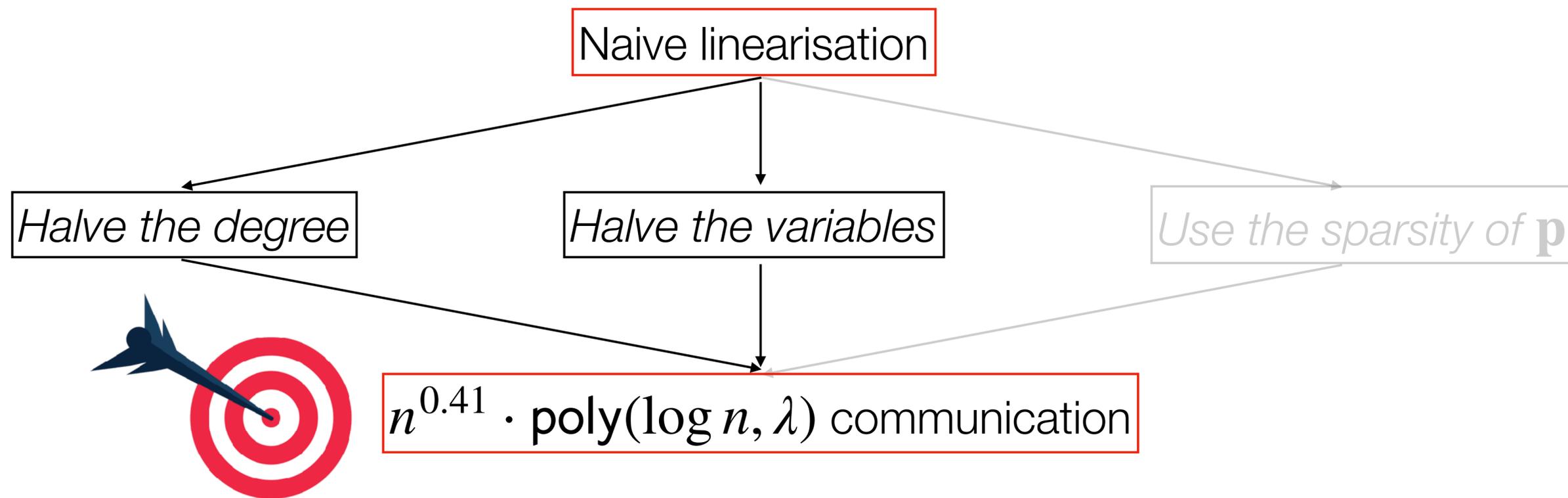
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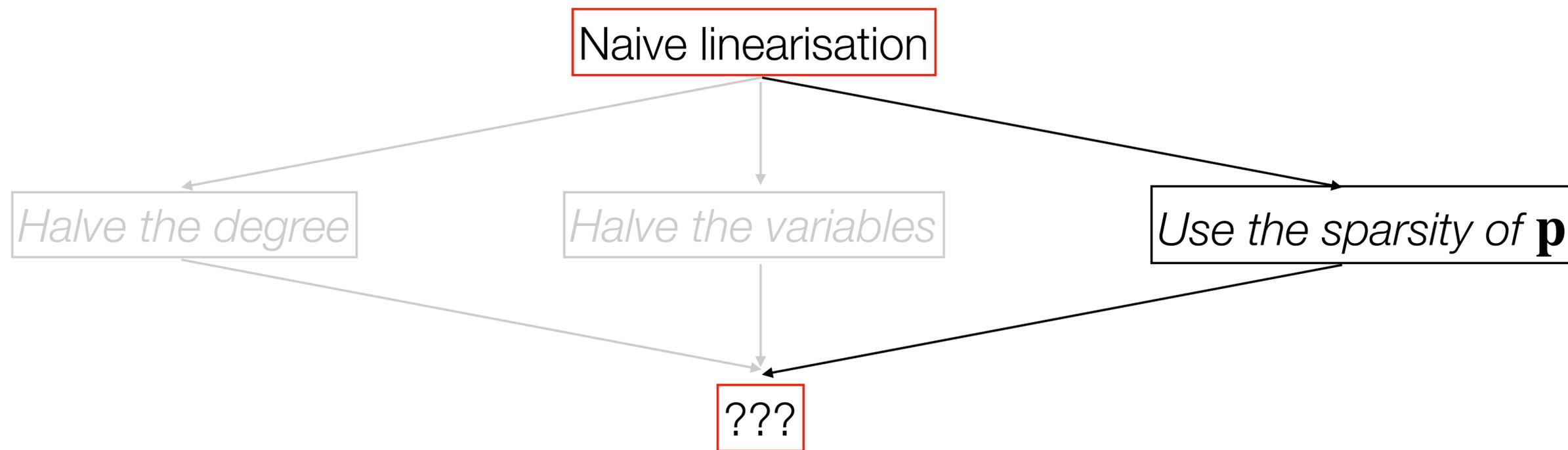
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- Idea: view  $\text{coefs}(g)$  as a “mini-database” and run a single-server “mini-PIR” protocol (KO97, IKOS04) to retrieve  $\text{coefs}(g)$  in just these  $2^D$  positions

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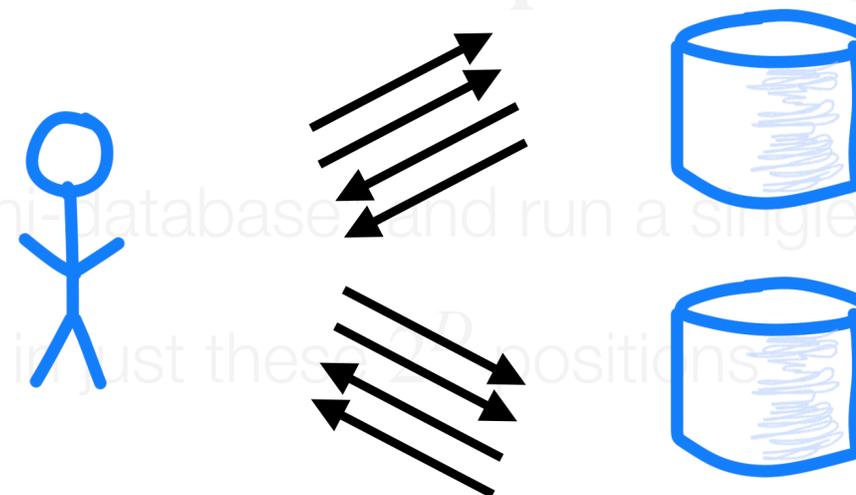
$$\|\mathbf{p}\| = D$$

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## Batch PIR with **many, non-adaptive queries**

- Observation:  $\mathbf{p}$  only has  $D$  nonzero entries  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{p}^{\otimes D/2}$  has  $\leq 2^{\binom{m}{D/2}}$  nonzero entries!

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[IKOS'04,HHG'13,GKL'10,AS'16,H'16,ACLS'18,CHLR'18]

# Leveraging the Sparsity of $\mathbf{p}$ [BIM04]

## Cheatsheet

$$\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$$

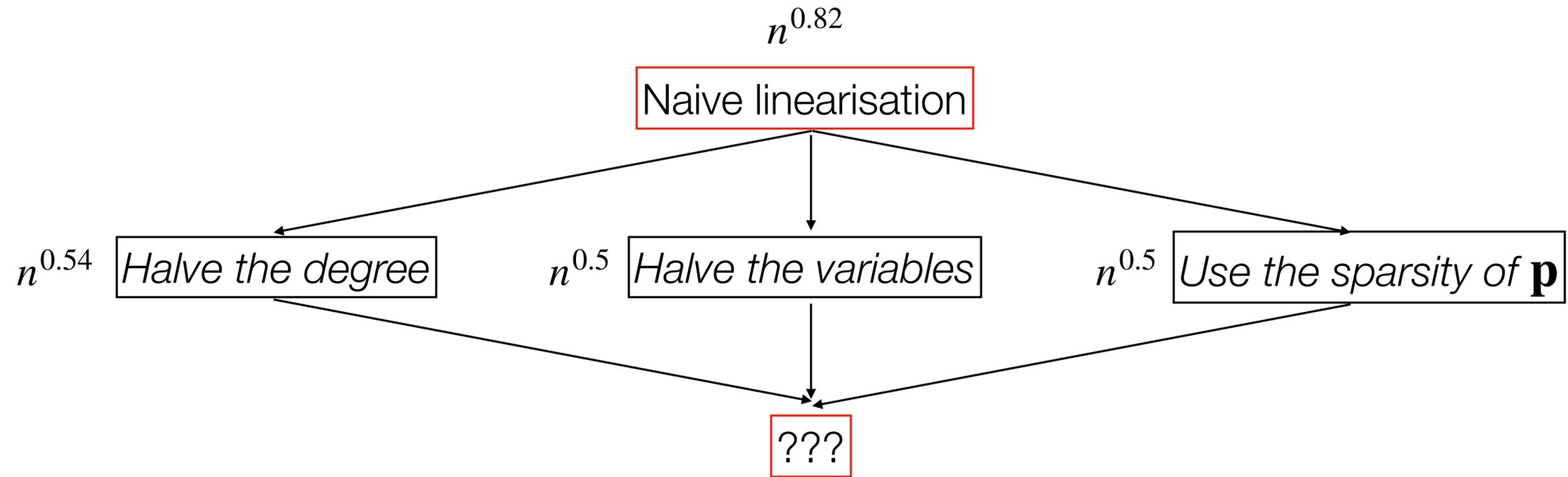
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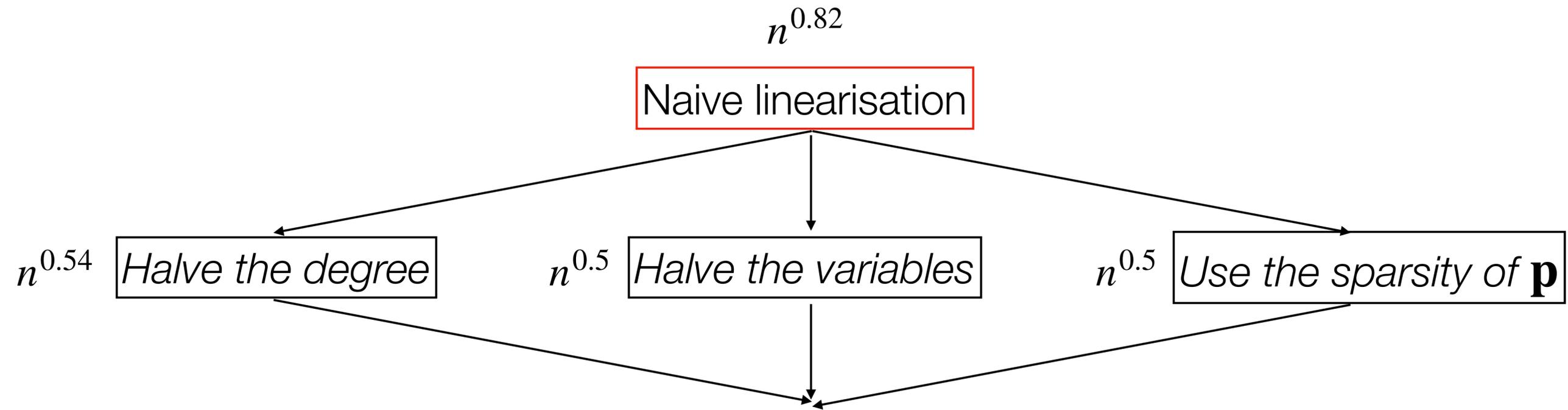
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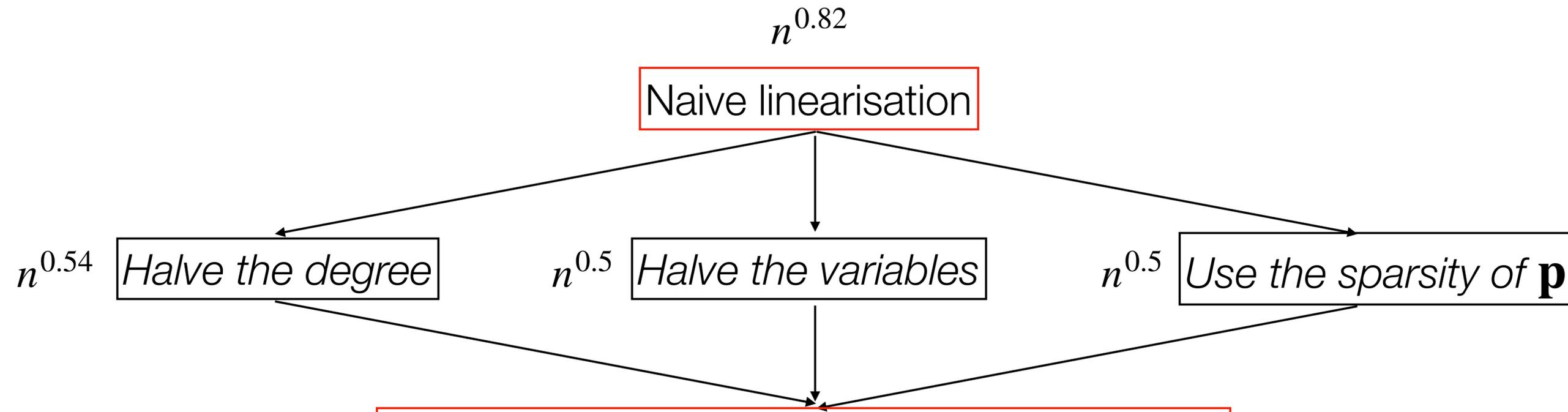
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- Communication:  $\approx 2^D \approx 2^{m/2} \approx n^{0.5}$







$n^{0.31}$  communication!!  
Even better than the  $n^{0.41}$  we were aiming for!



$n^{0.82}$

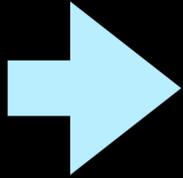
Naive linearisation

**Theorem:** with compact linearly homomorphic encryption [known from DDH, DCR, QR, LWE], we get 2-server PIR with server storage  $n^{1+o(1)}$ , time per query  $O(n^{0.82})$  and communication  $O(n^{0.31})$ .

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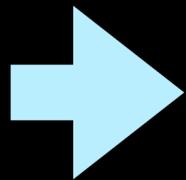


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# $s = 2$ Servers: A Refresher



Query:  $\mathbf{L}(0) = \mathbf{r}$

Query:  $\mathbf{L}(1) = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}$



$\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{F}^m$



## Cheatsheet

Field:  $\mathbb{F}_2$

$f_{\text{DB}}$  multilinear

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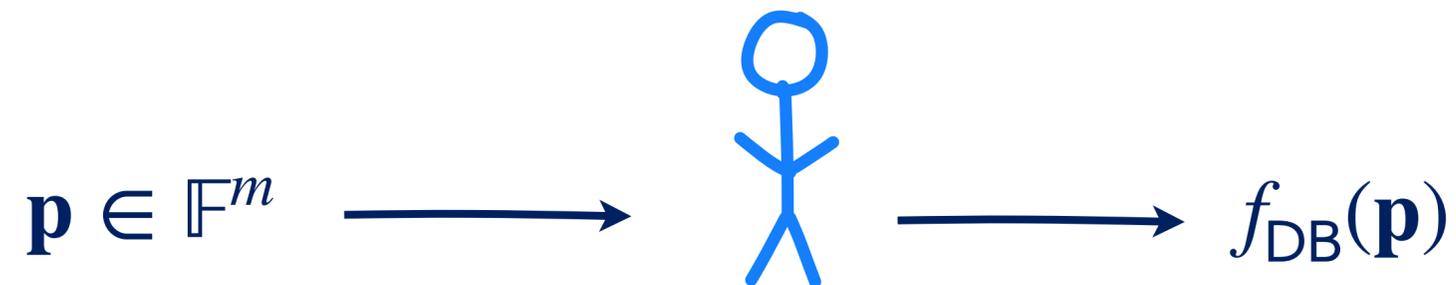
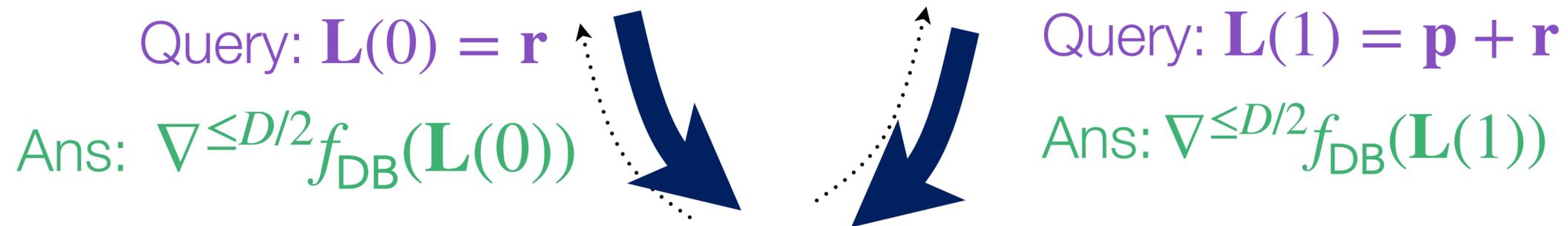
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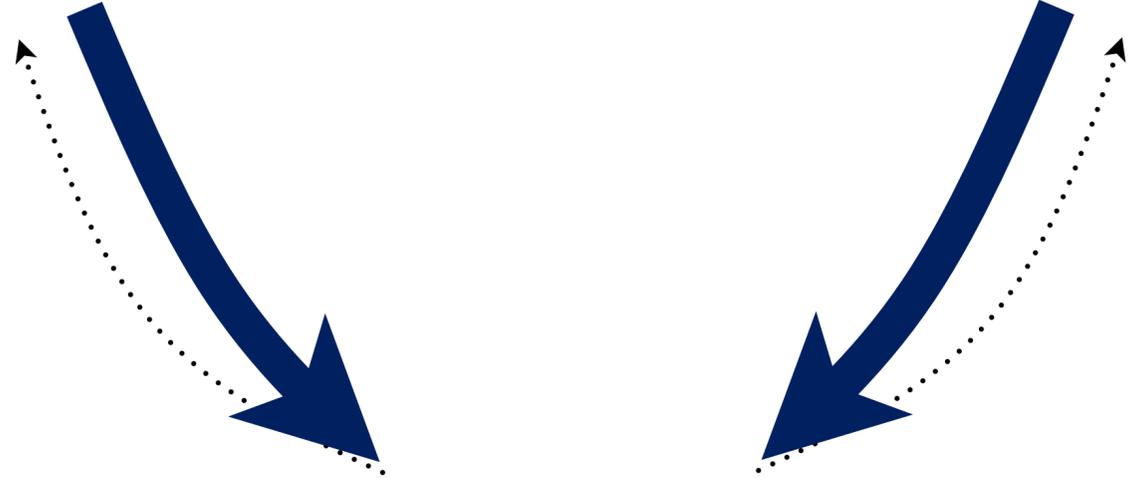
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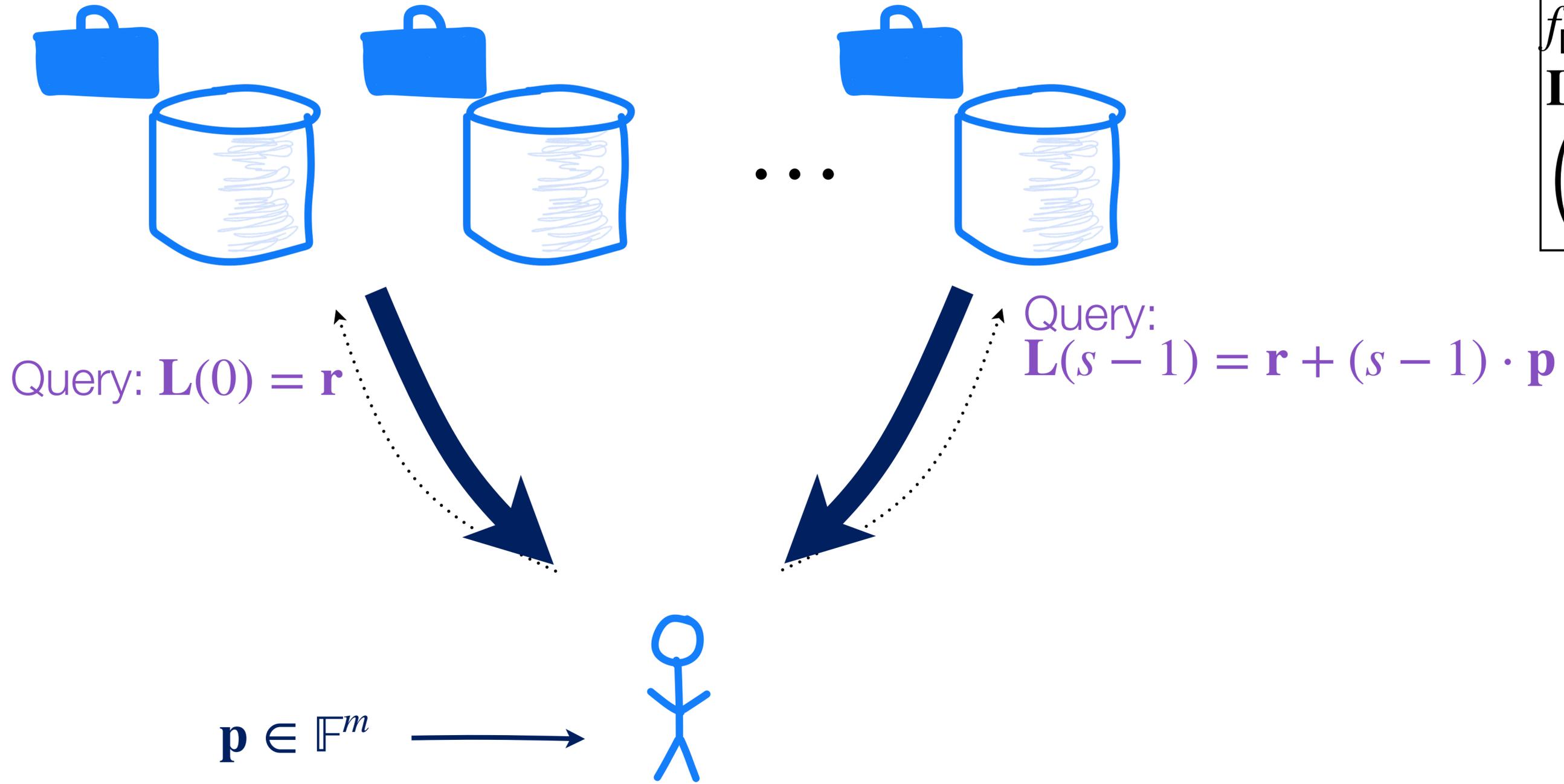
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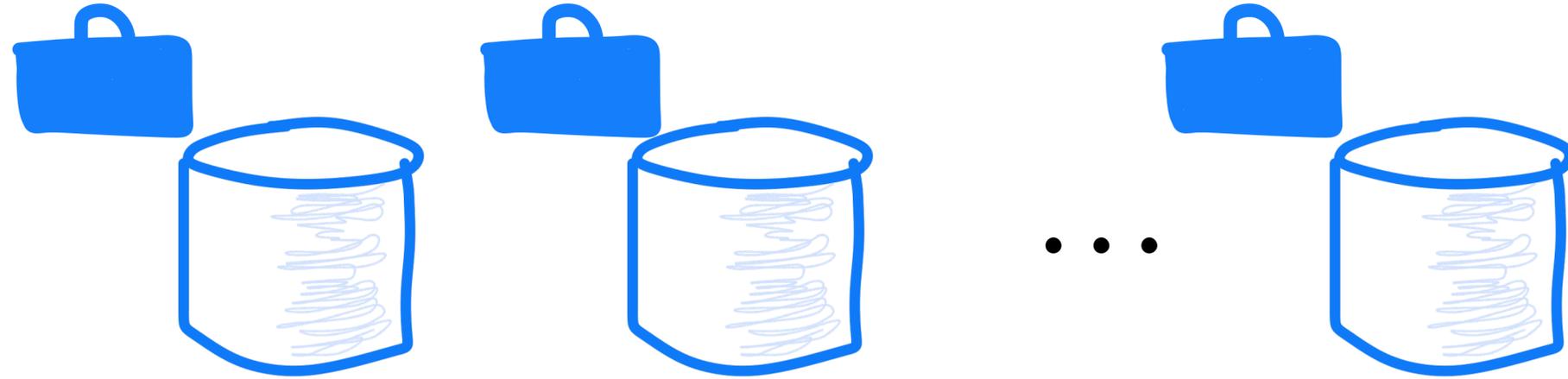
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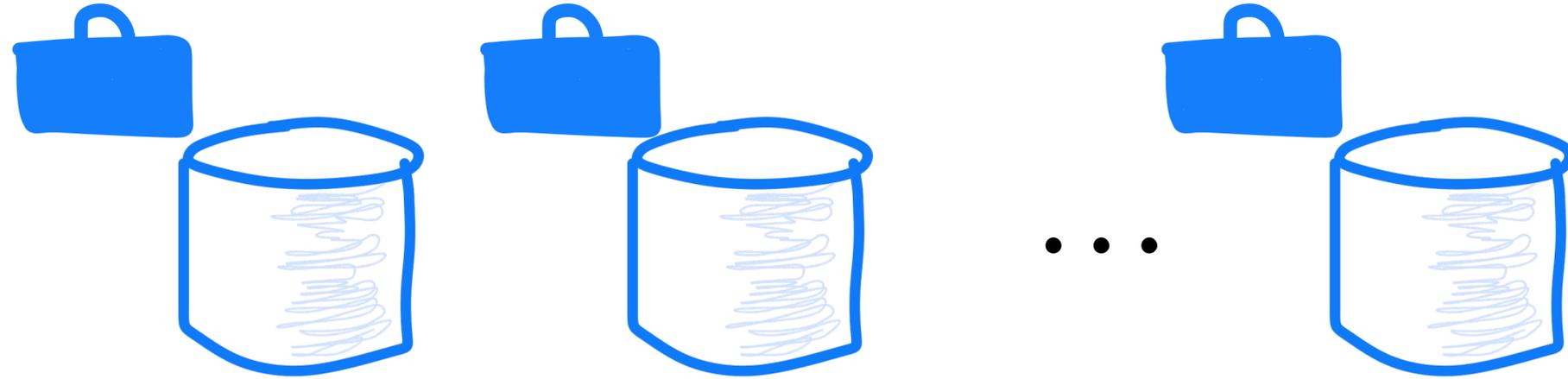
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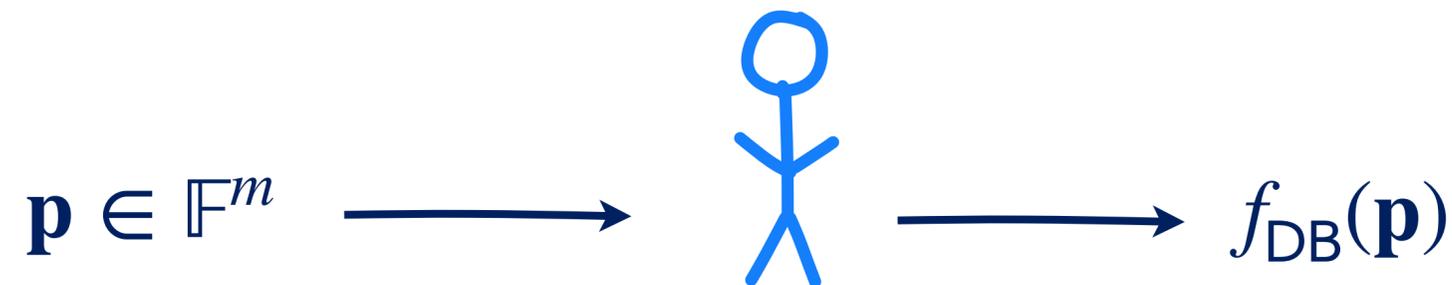
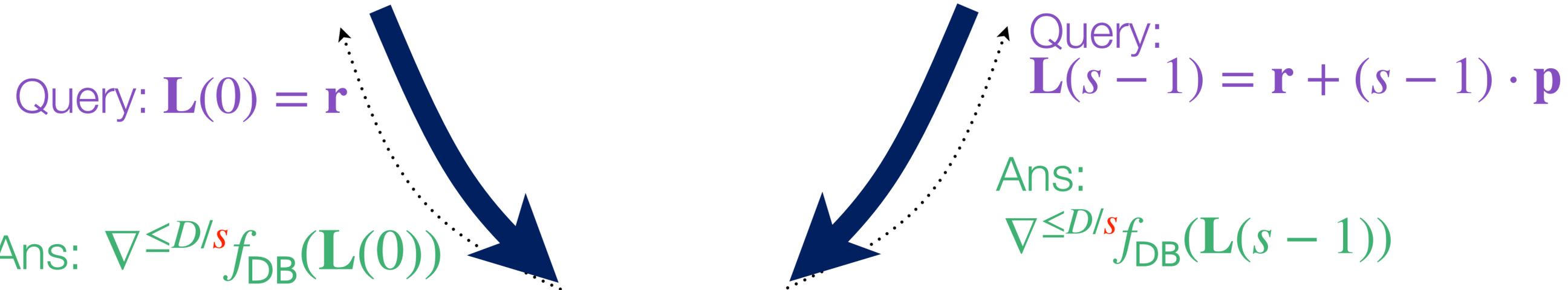
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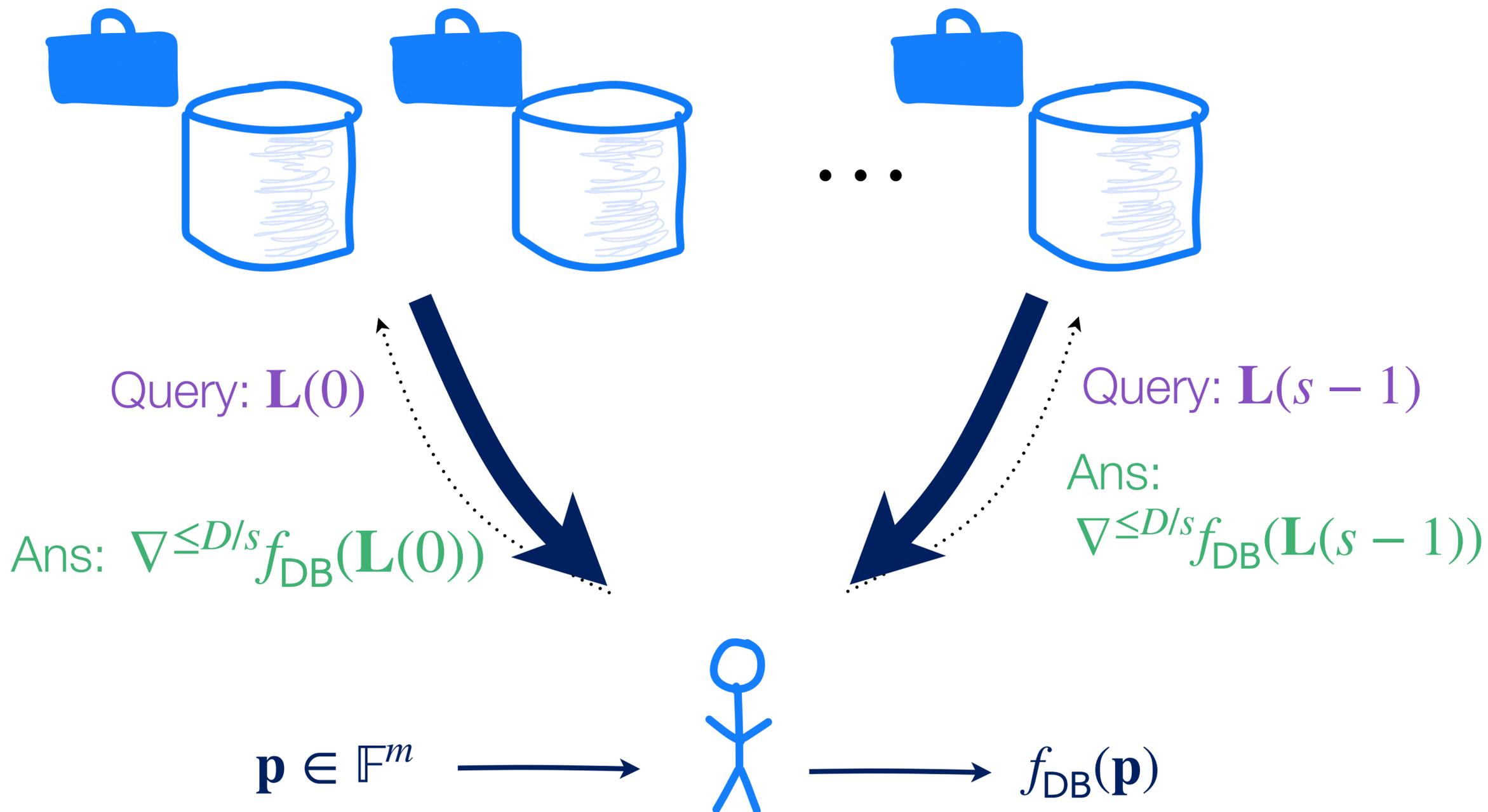
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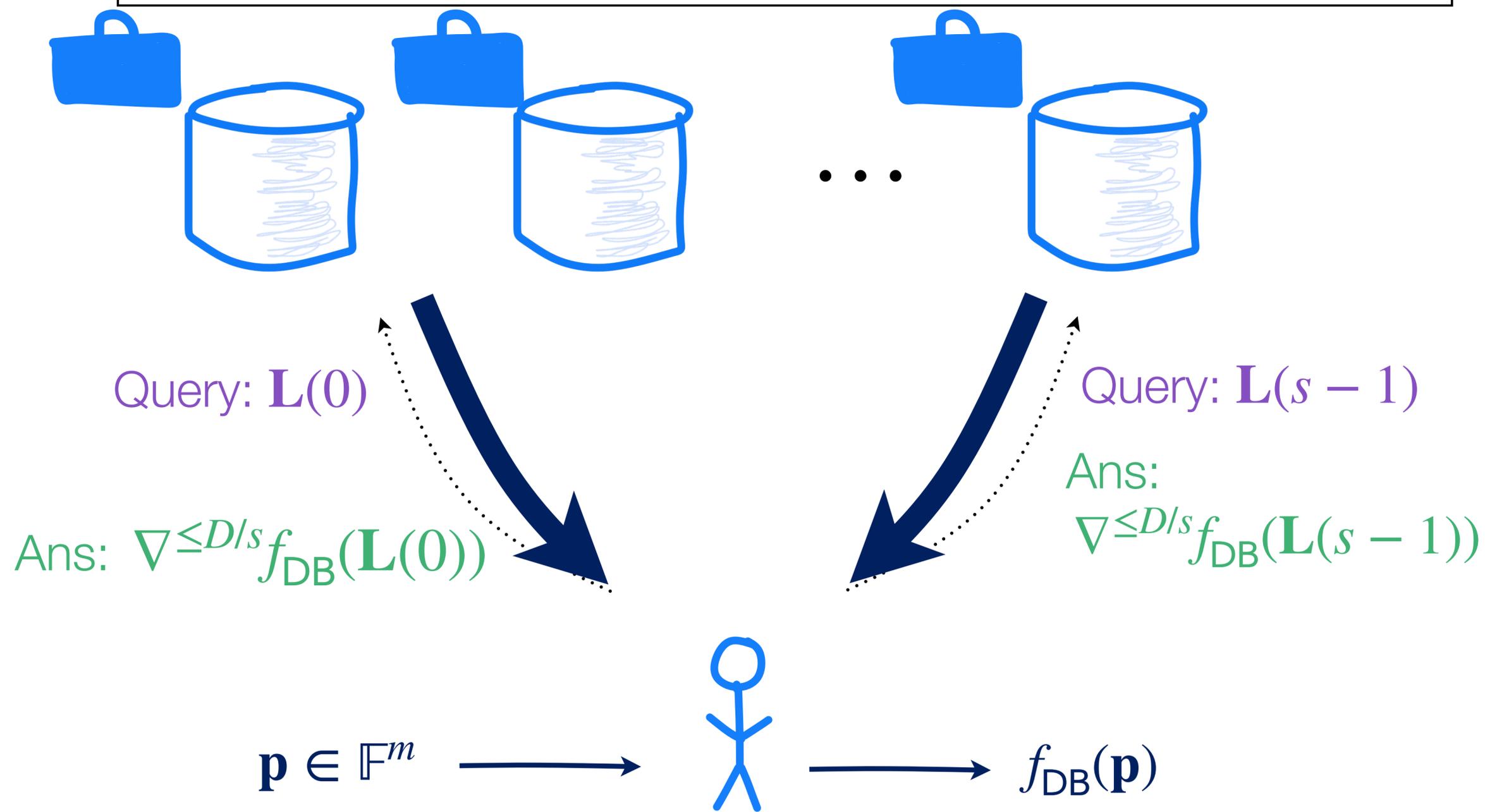
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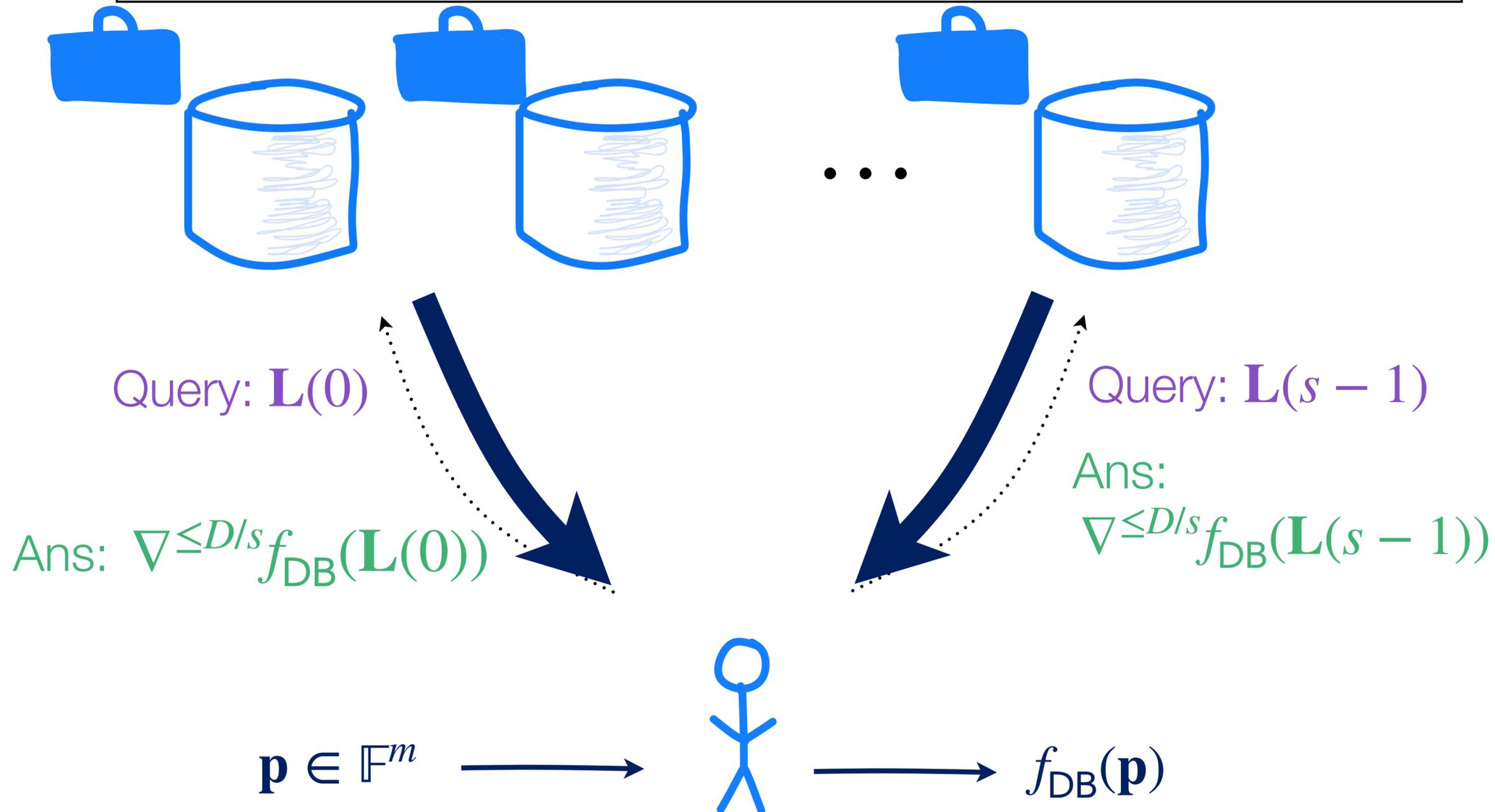
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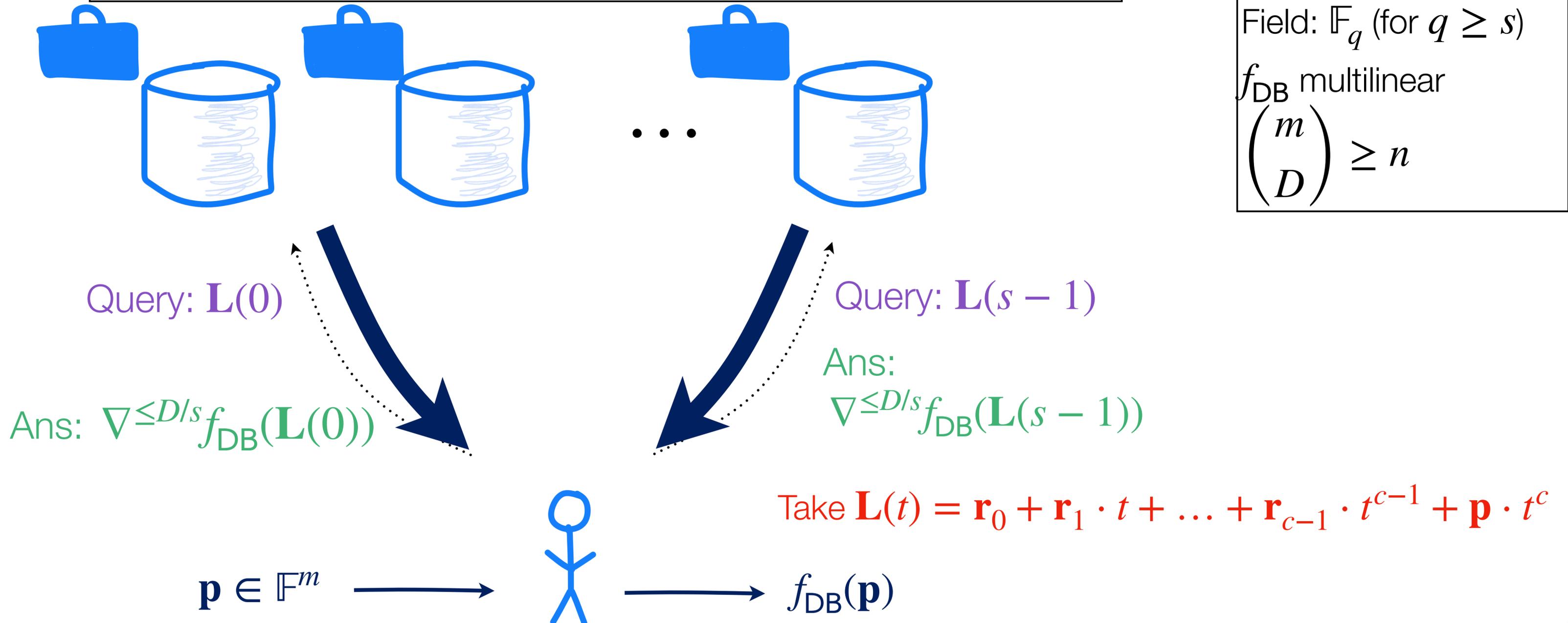
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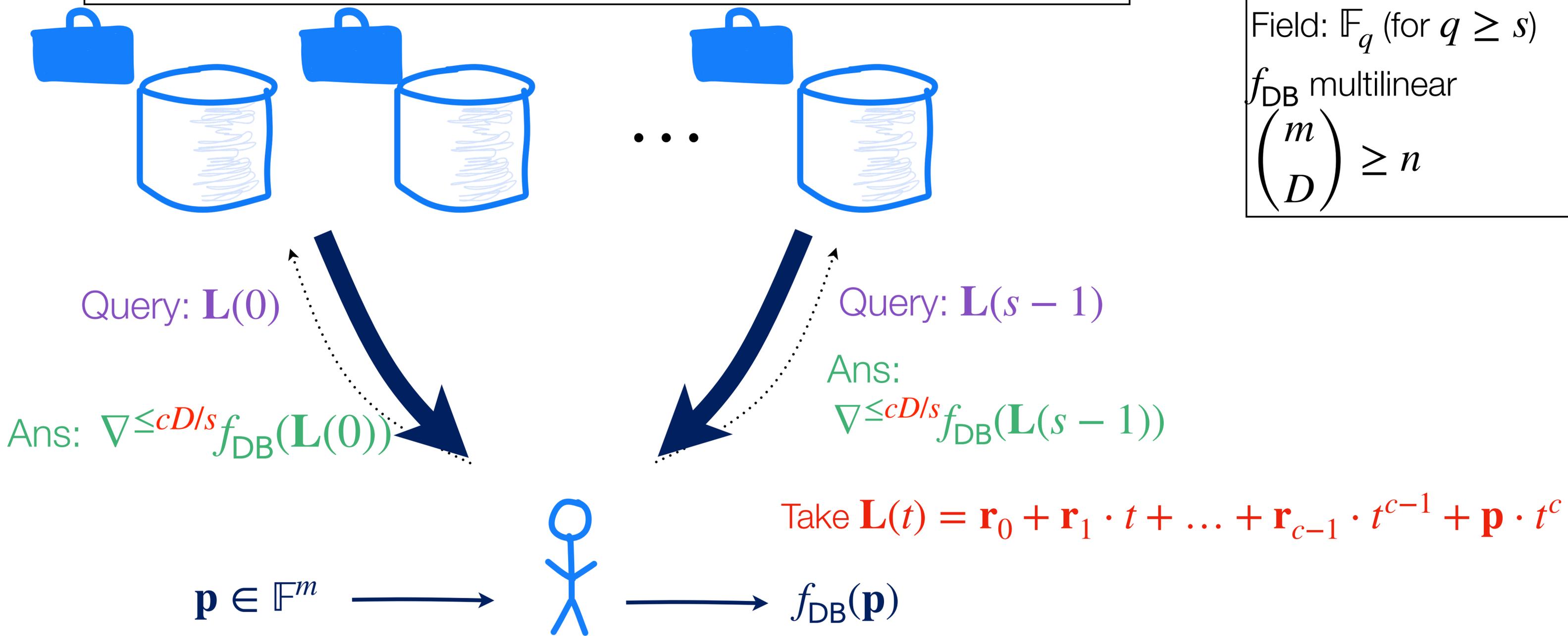


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- **TLDR: the sweet spot for  $d$  increases as the number of servers increases**

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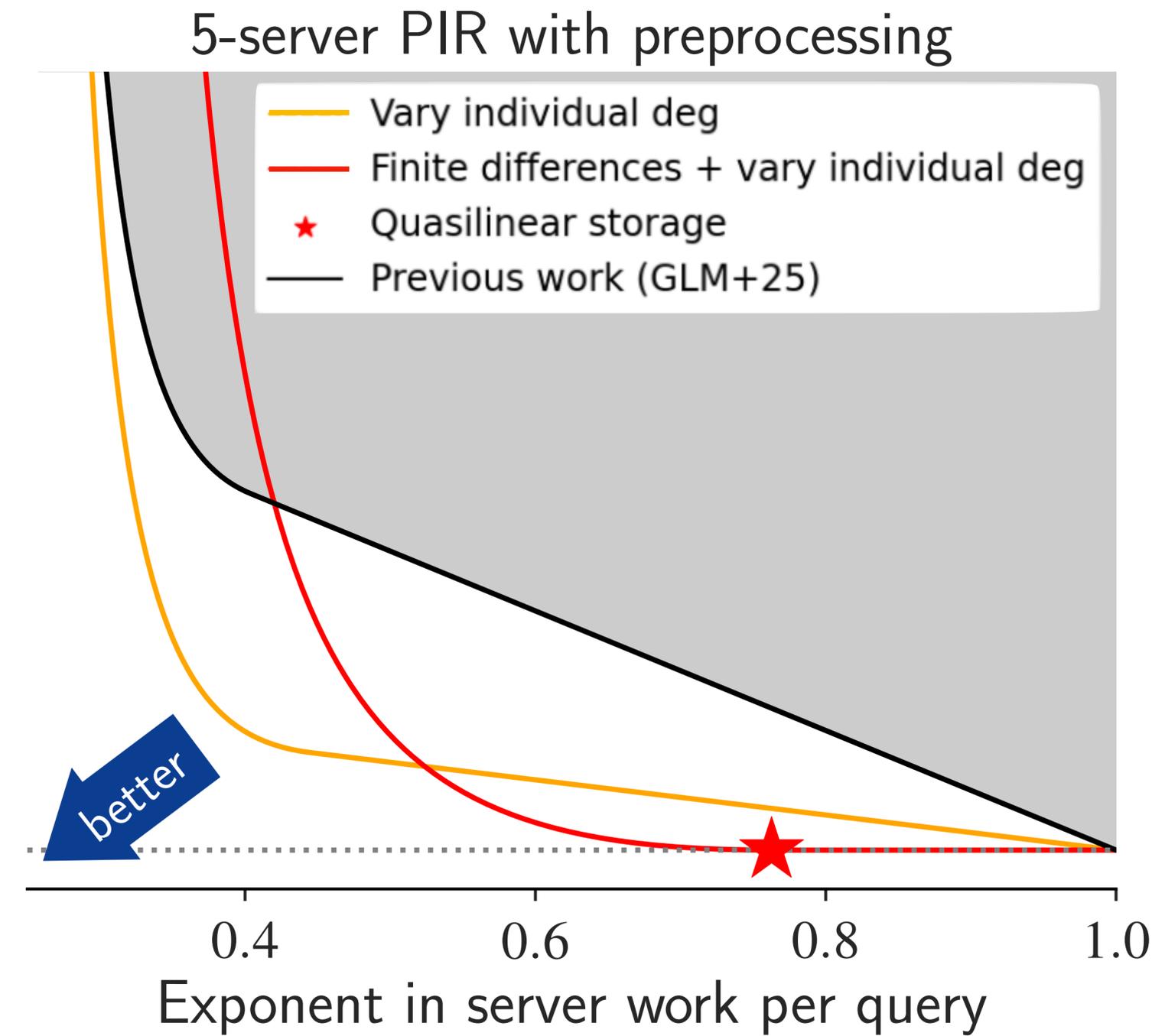
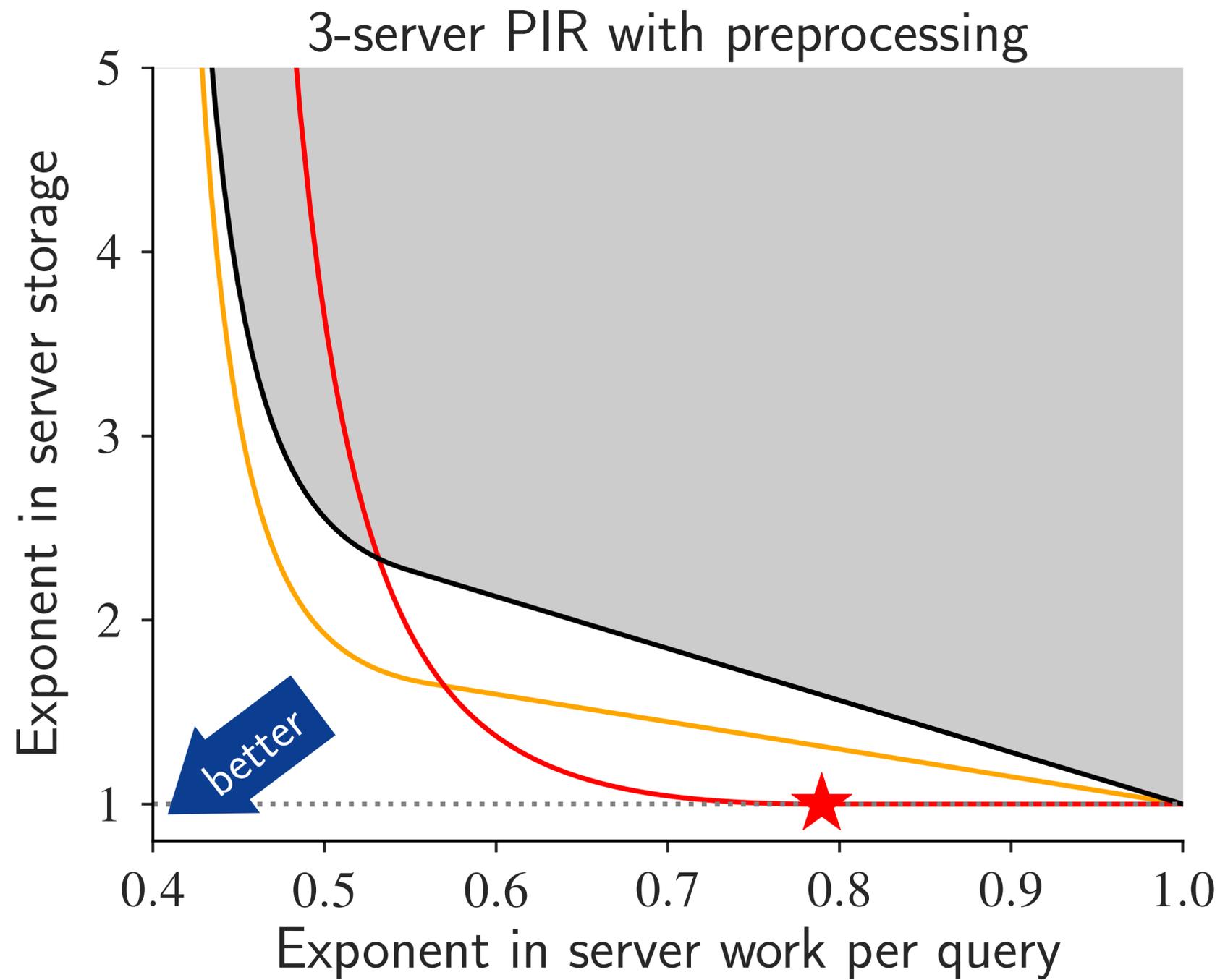
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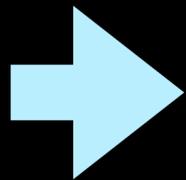
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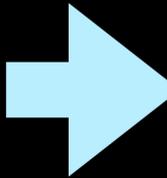


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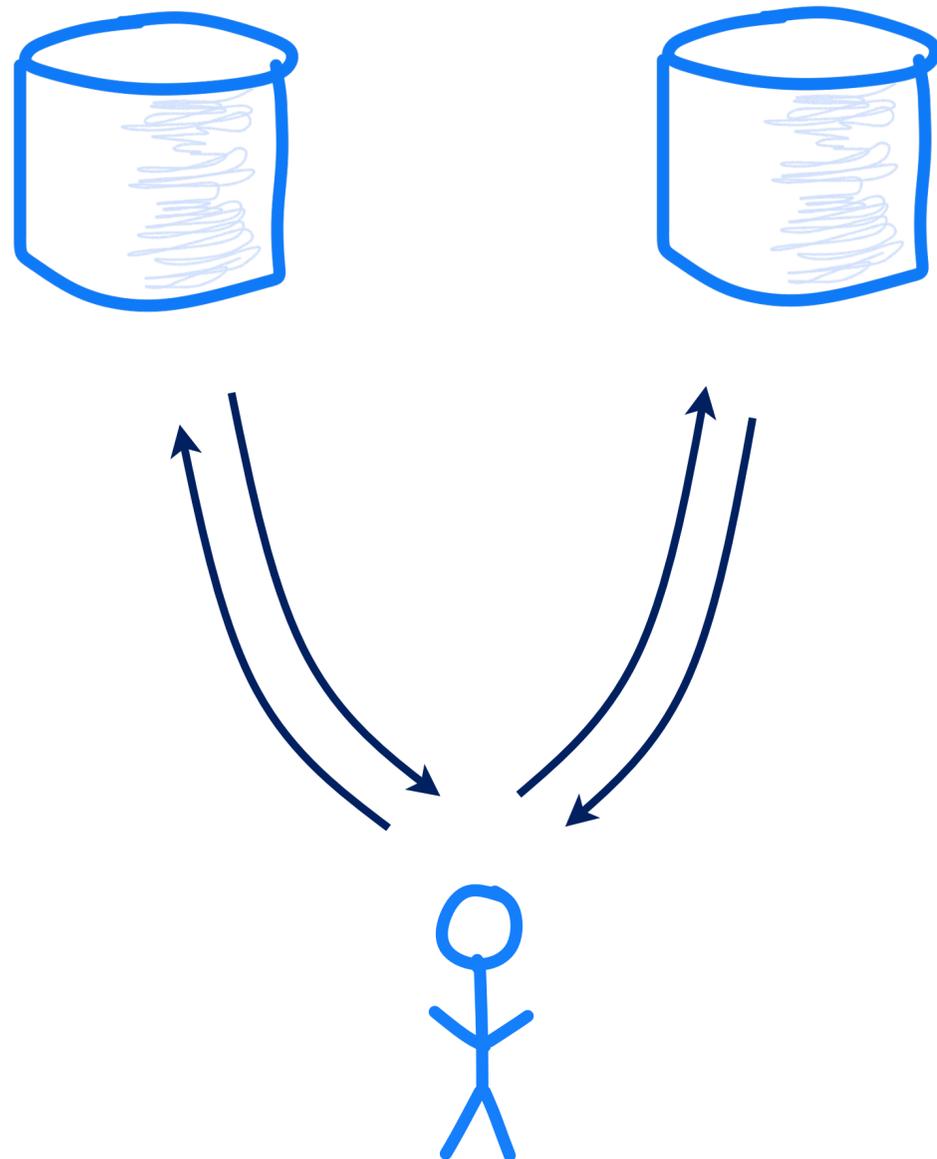
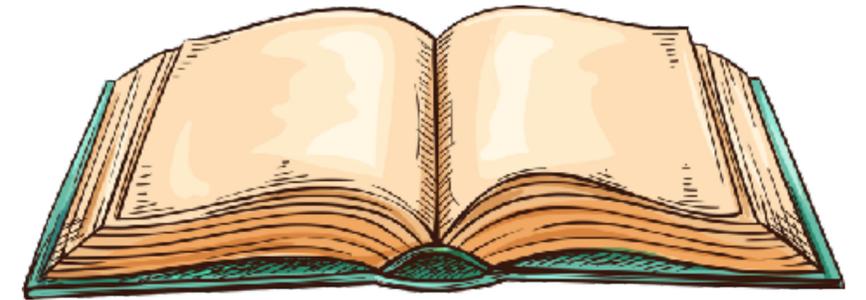
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- **Smoothness:** marginal distribution of  $\text{qu}_j$  is uniform over  $[\ell]$  for all  $j$

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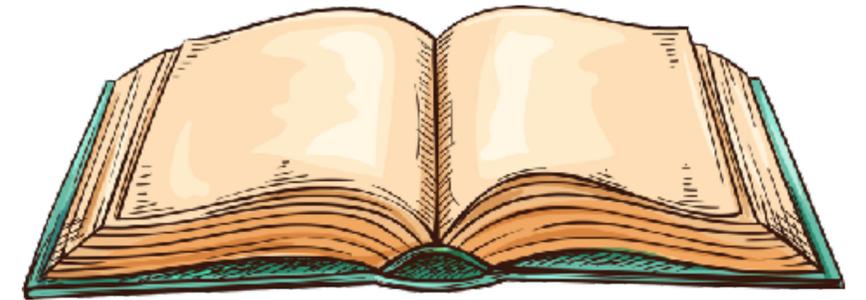
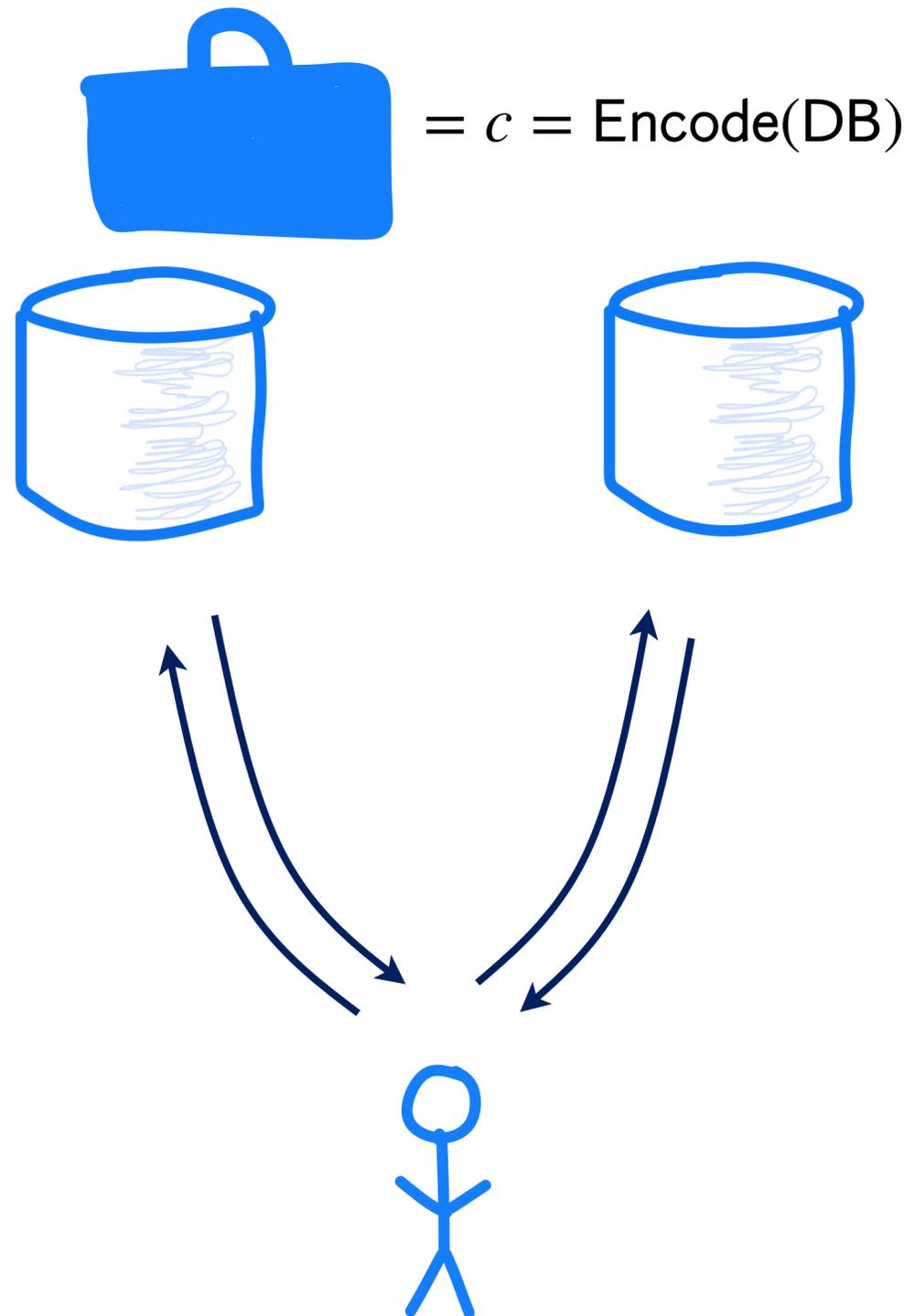
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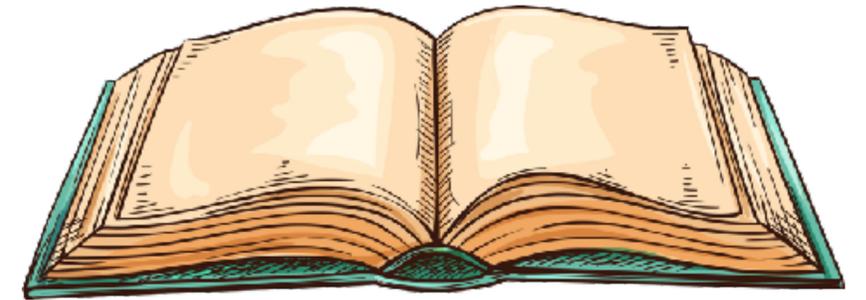
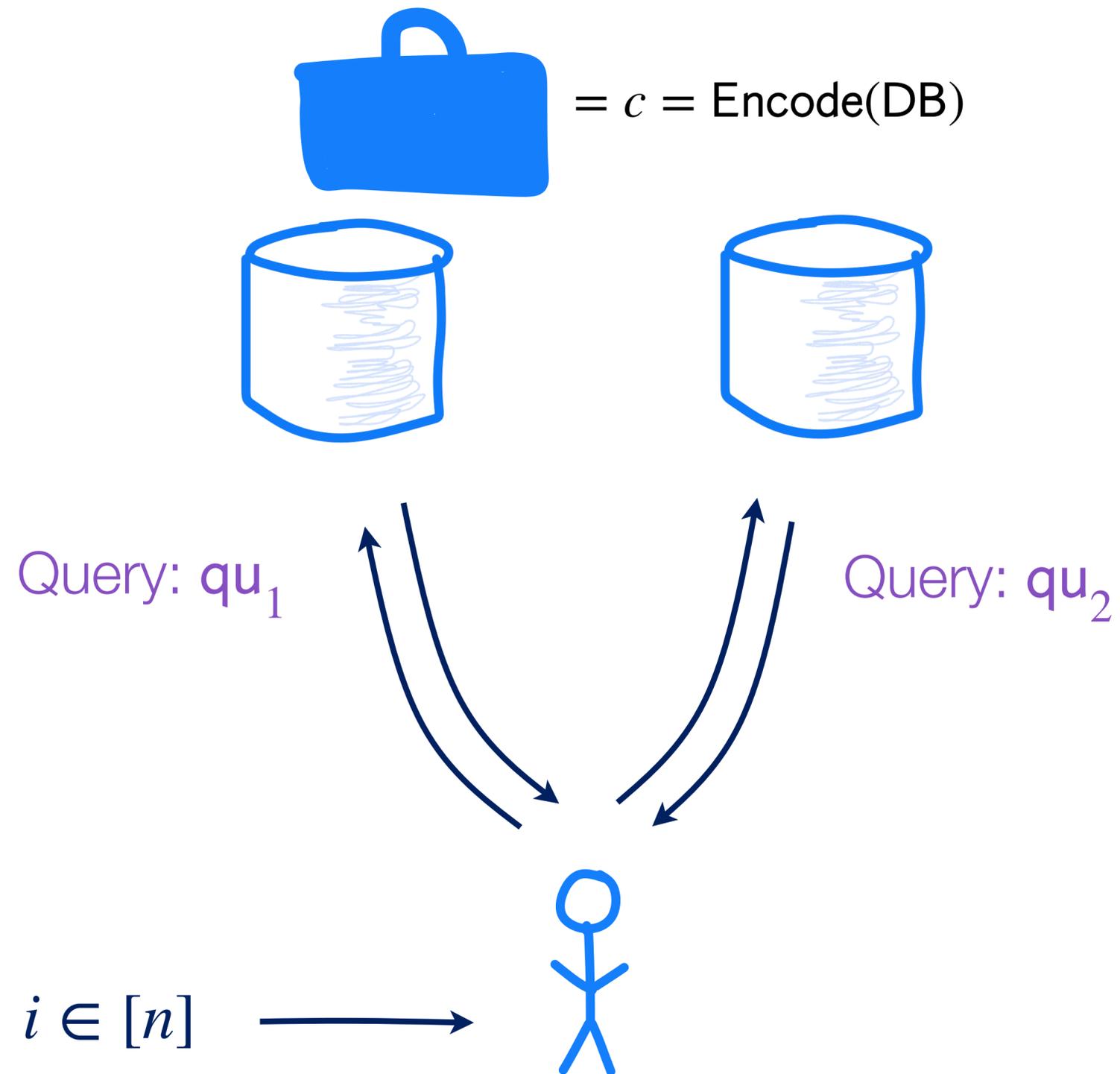
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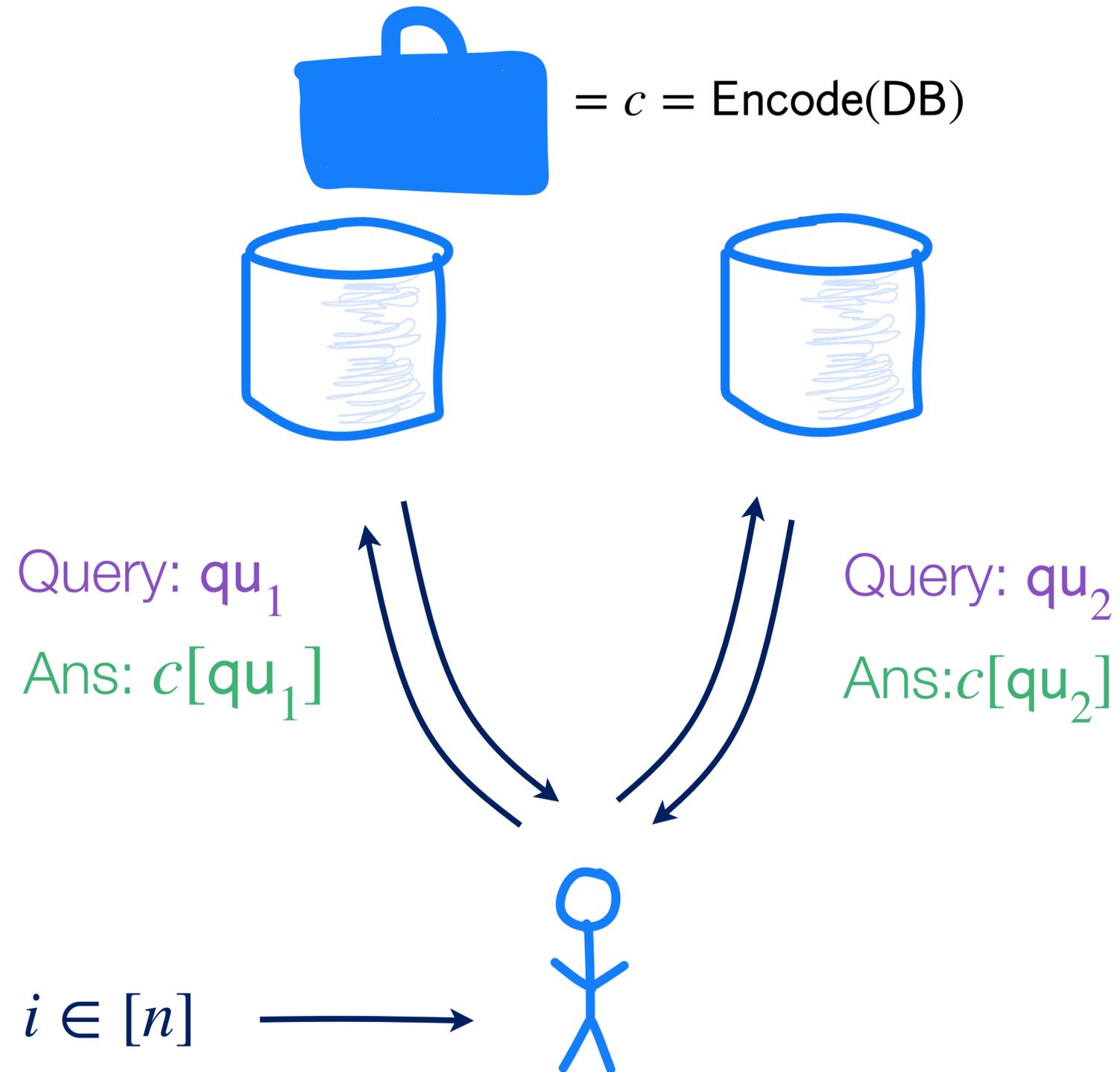
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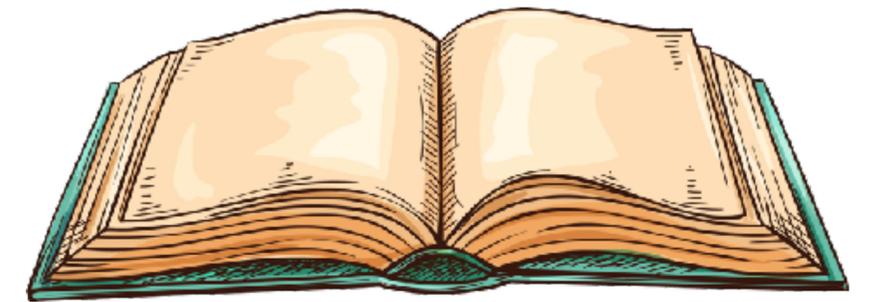
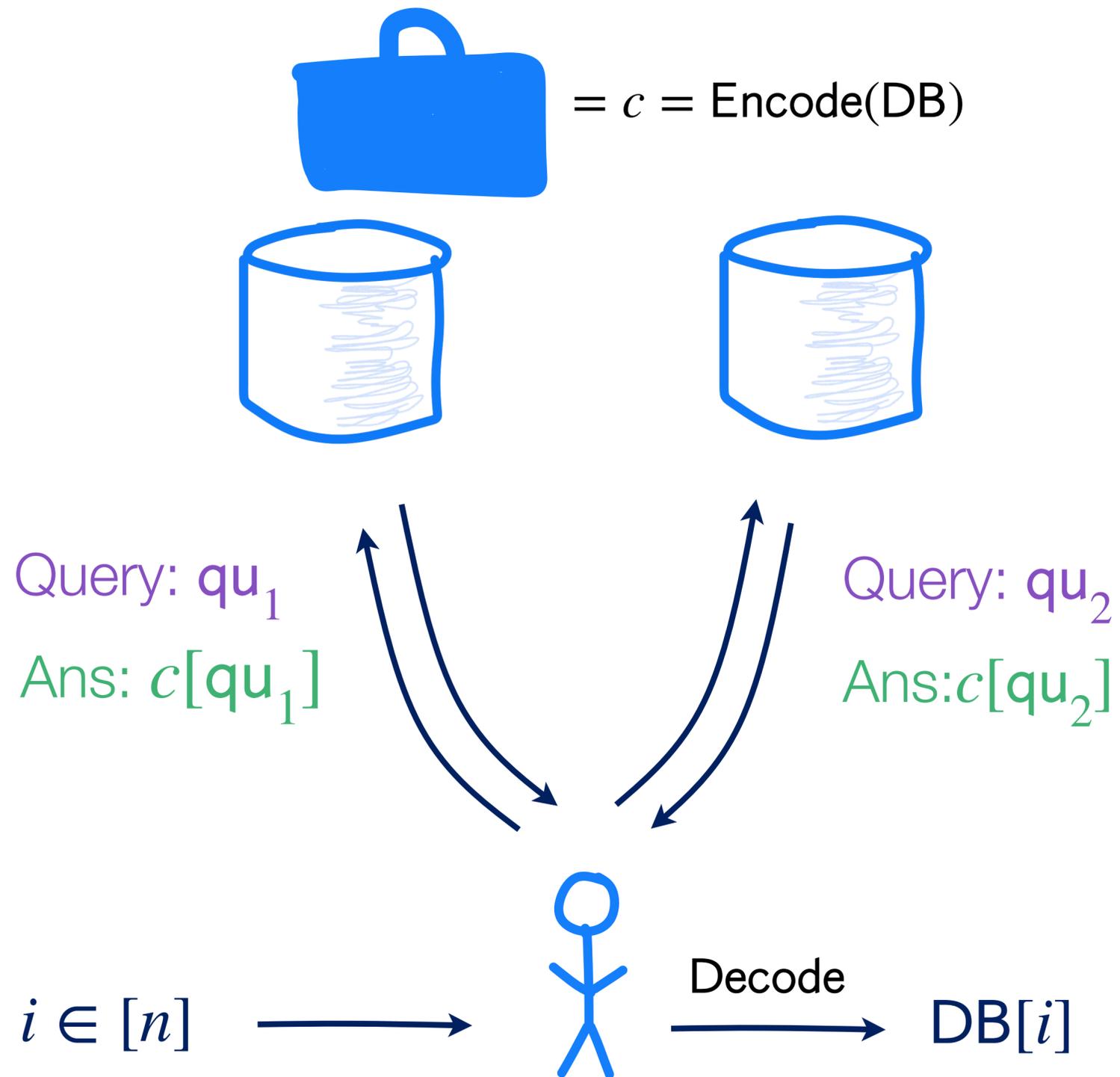
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# Casting BIM00 PIR as an LDC

<b>1</b>	$f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{1}), \dots, \nabla^{[D/2]} f_{\text{DB}}(\mathbf{1})$
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- Encode( $\text{DB} \in \{0,1\}^n$ ):
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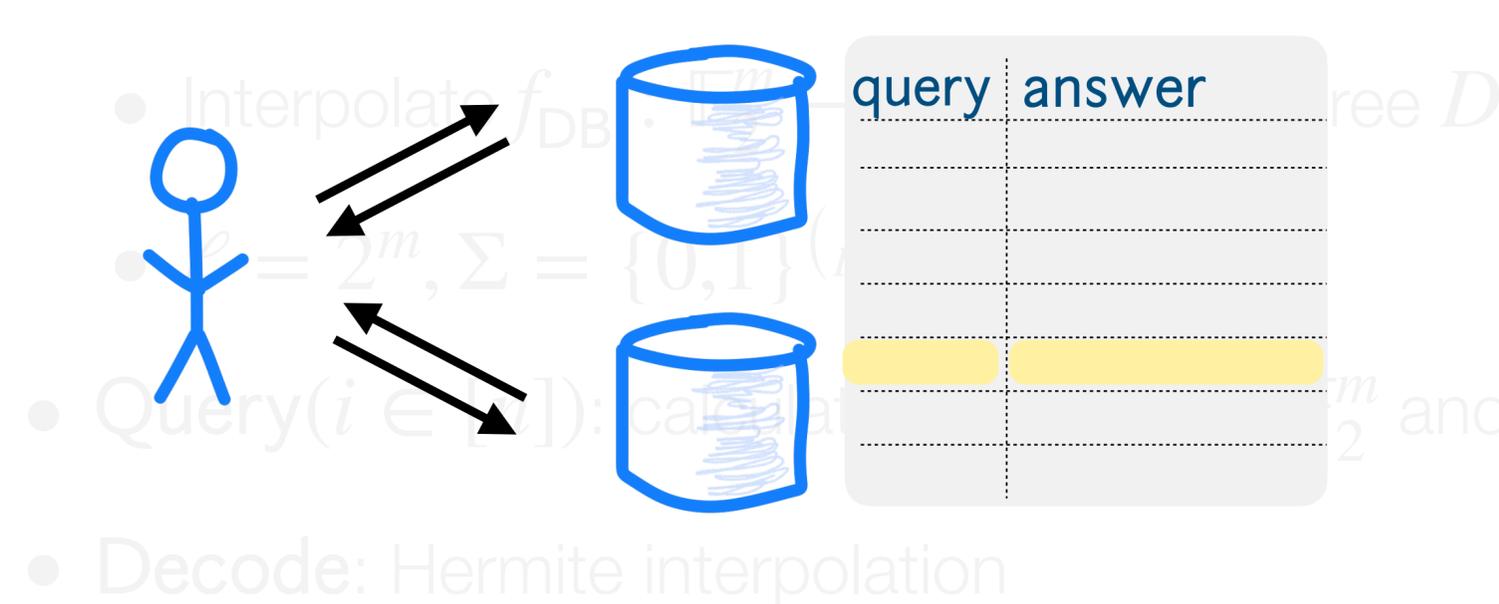
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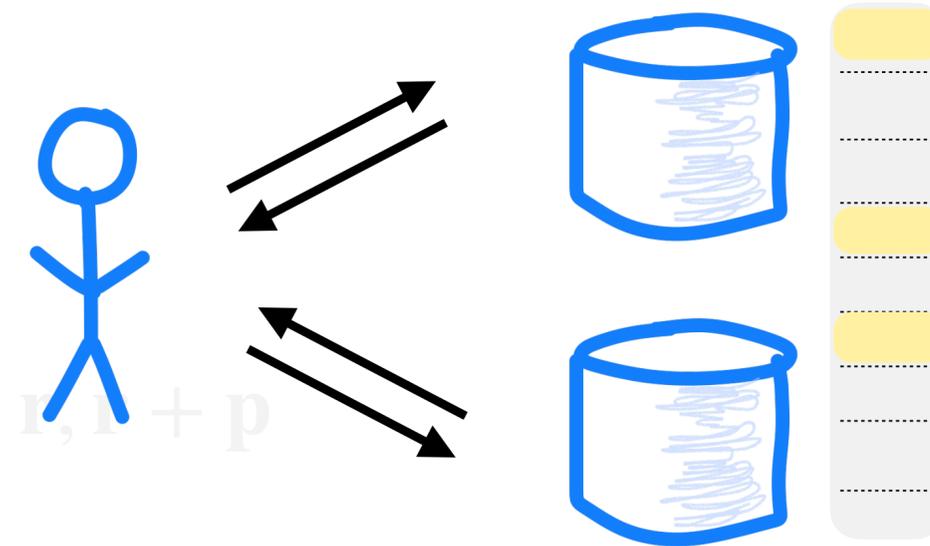
*A: Actually no! LDCs are rigid: they require you to separately write out the answer for every query*

# Casting BIM00 PIR as an LDC

## LDCs and BIM00 PIR



## Our PIR



*Q: Does our finite differences technique imply a new 2-query LDC?*  
*A: Actually no! LDCs are rigid: they require you to separately write out the answer for every query*

# Defining **Batch**-Smooth LDCs

## **Cheatsheet**

$n$ : message length

$\ell$ : codeword length

$\Sigma$ : alphabet

$q$ : locality

$b$ : number of batches

# Defining **Batch**-Smooth LDCs

- Three functions:
  - $\text{Encode}(\text{msg} \in \{0,1\}^n) \rightarrow c \in \Sigma^\ell$
  - $\text{Randomised Query}(i \in [n]) \rightarrow \text{qu} \in [\ell]^q$
  - $\text{Decode}(i \in [n], \text{qu} \in [\ell]^q, c[\text{qu}]) \rightarrow \text{msg}[i]$
- **Smoothness:** marginal distribution of  $\text{qu}_j$  is uniform over  $[\ell]$  for all  $j$

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Then each row's distribution should be independent of the index  $i$  being queried

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# BIM00 PIR as a Batch-Smooth LDC

## Cheatsheet

$n$ : message length

$$\binom{m}{D} \geq n$$

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- Number of batches:  $b = 2$

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# Our PIR as a Batch-Smooth LDC

- Number of batches:  $b = 2$
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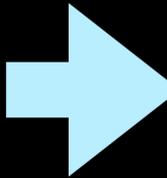
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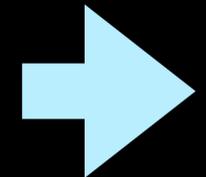
**Consequence:** the first batch-smooth LDC with constant alphabet size, constant number of batches  $b$ , codeword length  $n^{1+o(1)}$ , and polynomially sublinear number of queries  $q = n^{1-\Omega(1)}$

# This talk

1. **Background:** PIR with preprocessing
2. **Our new PIR:** sublinear time + quasilinear space
  - Two servers
  - With crypto (tool: homomorphic encryption)
  - Three servers and beyond (tool: secret sharing)
-  3. **Alternate view:** new locally decodable codes
4. **Evaluation:** what does this mean for practice?

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# Concrete Evaluation: Storage

Compared to prior PIR with preprocessing [BIM00, GLM+25]

<b>DB size (GB) with 1-byte records</b>	<b>Communication (MB)</b>	<b>Our storage (TB)</b>	<b>BIM00 storage (TB)</b>
2	0.7	1	$7.6 \times 10^5$
11	4.4	1	$4.4 \times 10^6$
37	22.2	1	$4.9 \times 10^6$
82	95.5	1	$1.3 \times 10^6$

# Concrete Evaluation: Space-Time Tradeoff

Compared to fastest two-server, linear-time PIR with  $\sqrt{n}$  communication

DB size (GB) with 1-byte records	Storage blowup	Communication blowup	Memory accesses saved	Throughput improvement
2	512x	14x	2,926x	10.2x
11	93x	37x	2,560x	9.0x
37	28x	101x	1,707x	5.5x
82	12x	298x	879x	1.8x

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- Communication not ideal, but can be shrunk with linearly or fully homomorphic encryption
- Seems like it could be the first practically feasible PIR with preprocessing!

# Open Questions: Info-Theoretic PIR with Preprocessing



$O(1)$  servers,  $n^{1+o(1)}$  storage,  $n^{1/2-\Omega(1)}$  server time?

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$O(1)$  servers,  $\text{poly}(n)$  storage,  $n^{1-\Omega(1)}$  server time, communication  $n^{o(1)}$ ?

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