

Unconditionally-Secure Robust Secret Sharing with Compact Shares

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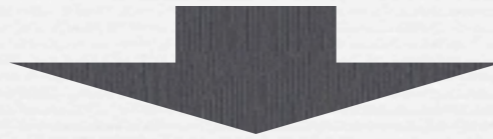
Yuval Rabani

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

$(t\text{-out-of-}n)$ Secret Sharing

secret:

s



shares:

s_1

s_2

\dots

s_n

- 📌 **Privacy:** any t shares give **no information** on s

$s_1 \quad s_2 \quad \dots \quad s_t \quad \longrightarrow \quad ?$

- 📌 **Reconstructability:** any $t+1$ shares **uniquely determine** s

$s_1 \quad s_2 \quad \dots \quad s_{t+1} \quad \longrightarrow \quad s$

Shamir's Secret Sharing Scheme [Sha79]

secret:

$$s \in \mathbb{F}$$



$$f(X) = s + a_1X + \dots + a_tX^t \in \mathbb{F}[X]$$

shares:

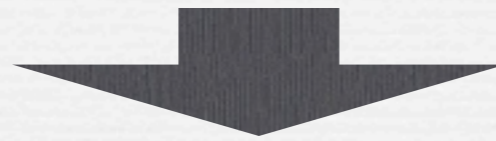
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• Privacy and reconstructability follow from Lagrange interpolation

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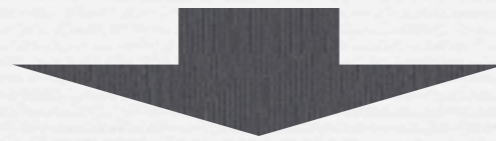
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- Privacy and reconstructability follow from Lagrange interpolation
- Here and in general:
reconstructability requires correct shares

Robust Secret Sharing

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s



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s_1

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$s_1 \dots s_{t+1} \rightarrow s$

Robust Secret Sharing

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s



shares:

s_1

s_2

\dots

s_n

Note:

assume **dealer** to be **honest**

📌 **Privacy:** any t shares give **no information** on s

s_1

\dots

s_t



?

📌 **Robust reconstructability:**

the set of **all** n shares determines s , **even if** t of them are faulty

\hat{s}_1

\dots

\hat{s}_t

s_{t+1}

\dots

s_n



s

Application: Secure Data Storage



user



data



servers

Application: Secure Data Storage



user



s_1

s_2

...

s_{n-1}

s_n



servers

Application: Secure Data Storage



user

s_1

s_2

s_{n-1}

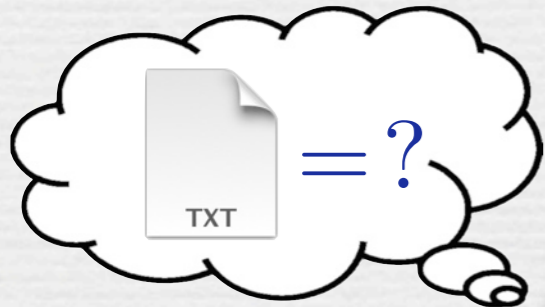
s_n



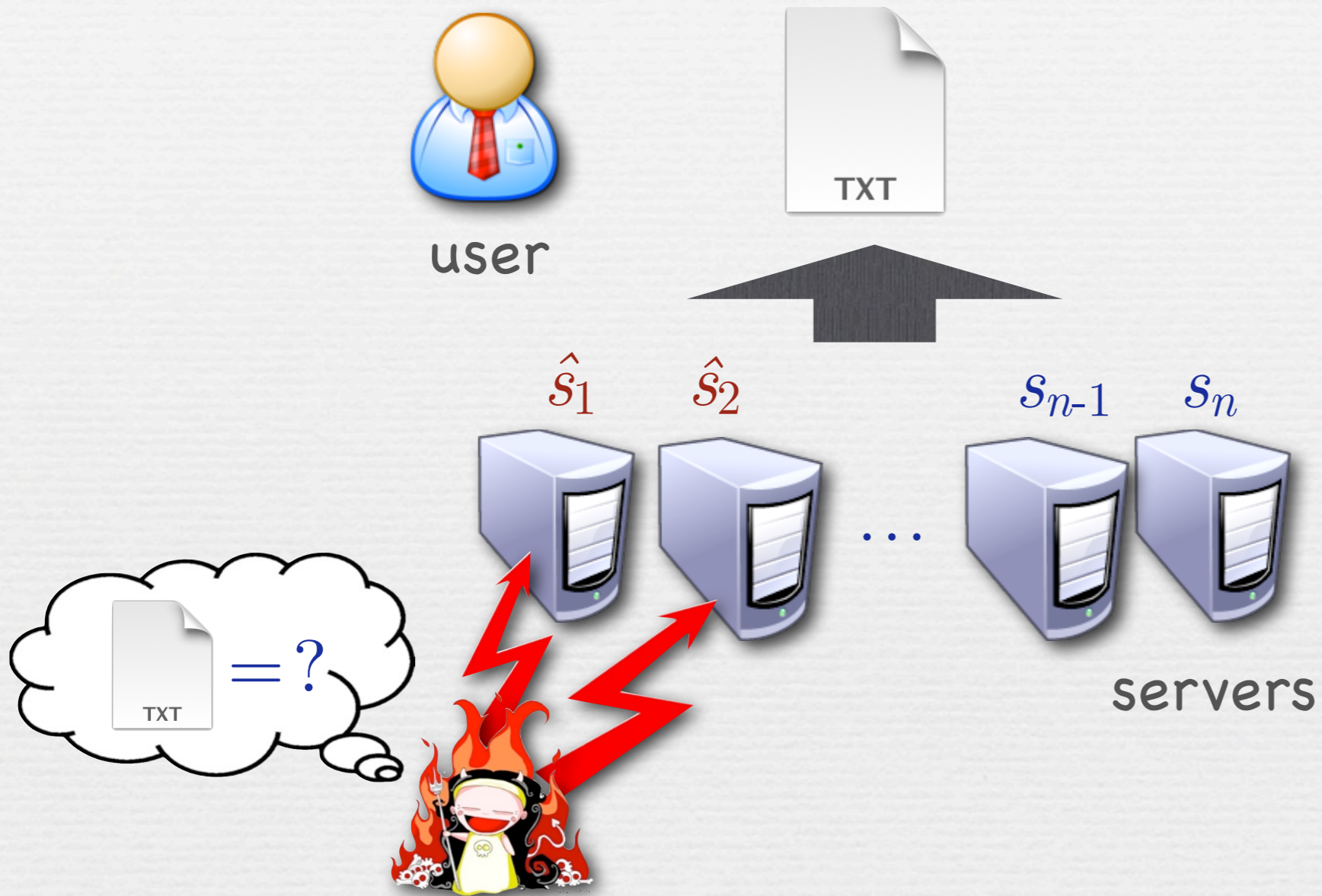
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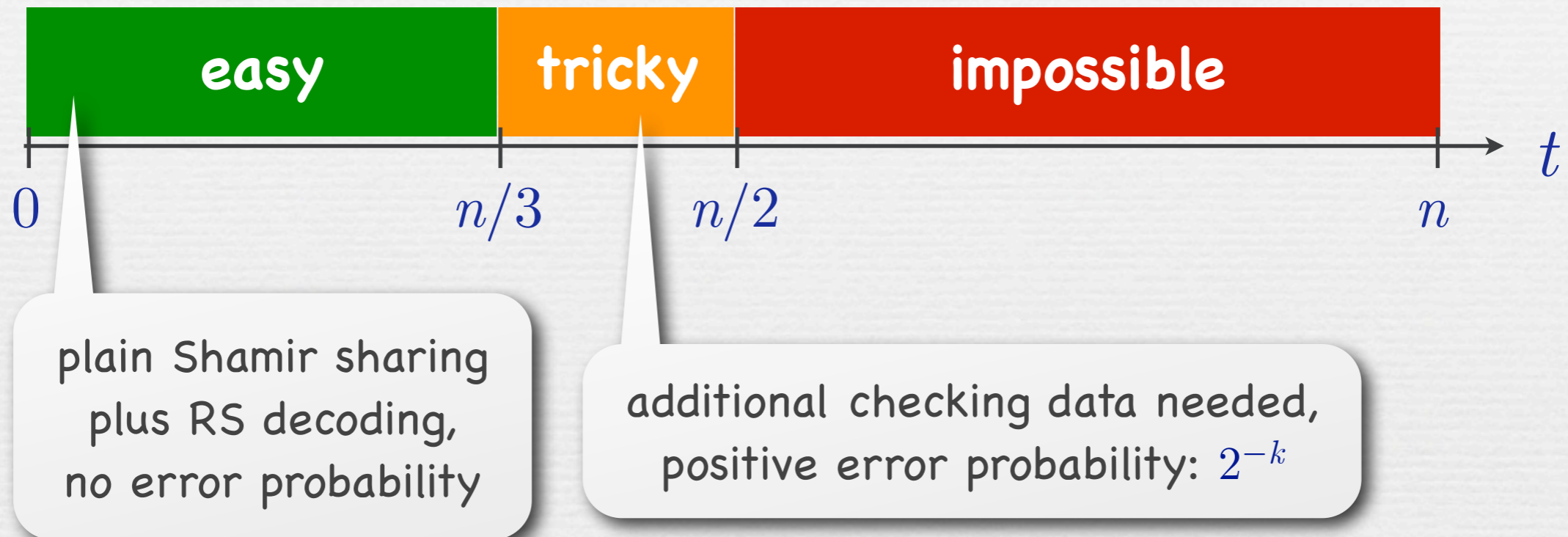
servers



Application: Secure Data Storage

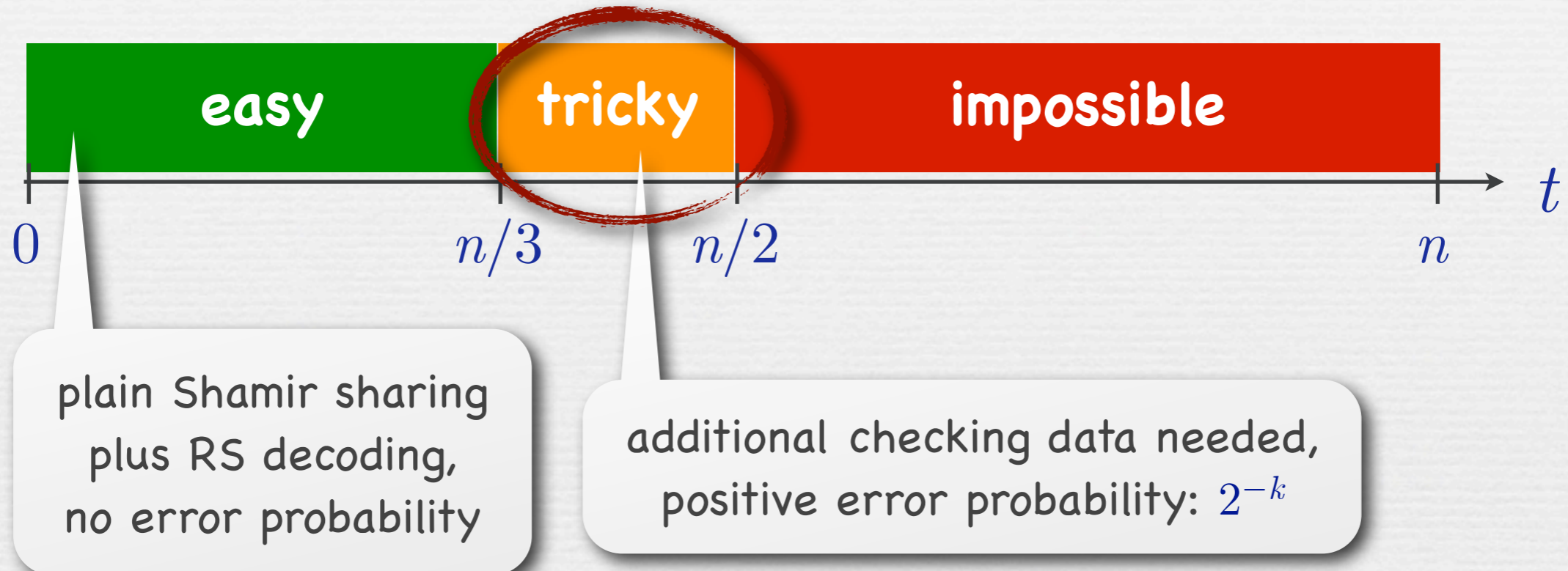


(Im)possibility



(Im)possibility

This work: $n = 2t + 1$, with unconditional security



Known Results vs Our Result

📌 Rabin & Ben-Or (1989):

- Overhead in share size: $O(k \cdot n \cdot \log n)$ ☹️
- Computational complexity: $\text{poly}(k, n)$ 😊

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🎤 Our new scheme:

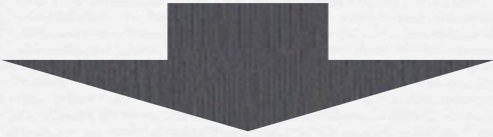
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Further Outline

- Introduction
- The (simple) case $t < n/3$
- The Rabin & Ben-Or scheme
- Our scheme
- Difficulties of the proof
- Conclusion

The (Simple) Case $n = 3t + 1$

$$s \in \mathbb{F}$$


$$f(X) = s + a_1X + \dots + a_tX^t \in \mathbb{F}[X]$$

$$s_1 = f(x_1) \quad \dots \quad s_{t+1} \quad s_{t+2} \quad \dots \quad s_{2t+1} \quad s_{n-t+1} \quad \dots \quad s_n$$

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$t+1$ correct shares
→ determines f

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Reed-Solomon decoding: If $e \leq r$ (satisfied here) then

- f is uniquely determined from s_1, \dots, \hat{s}_n
- f can be efficiently computed (Berlekamp-Welch)

The Rabin & Ben-Or Scheme ($n = 2t+1$)

Sharing phase:

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$$s_1 = f(x_1)$$

...

$$s_i$$

...

$$s_j$$

...

$$s_n$$

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| κ_{11} | y_{11} |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| κ_{1n} | y_{1n} |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| κ_{i1} | y_{i1} |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| κ_{ij} | y_{ij} |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| κ_{in} | y_{in} |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| κ_{j1} | y_{j1} |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| κ_{ji} | y_{ji} |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| κ_{jn} | y_{jn} |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| κ_{n1} | y_{n1} |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| κ_{nn} | y_{nn} |

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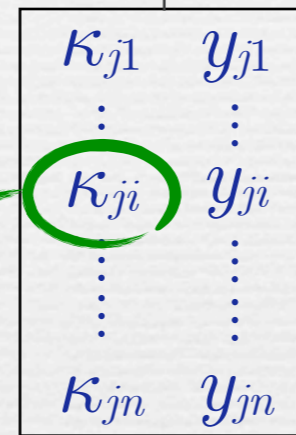
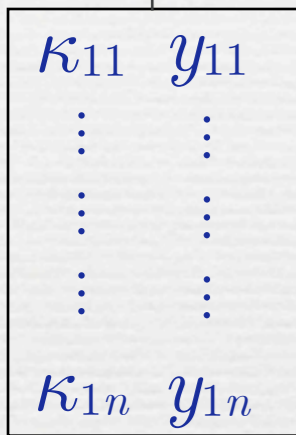
$$s_i$$

...

$$s_j$$

...

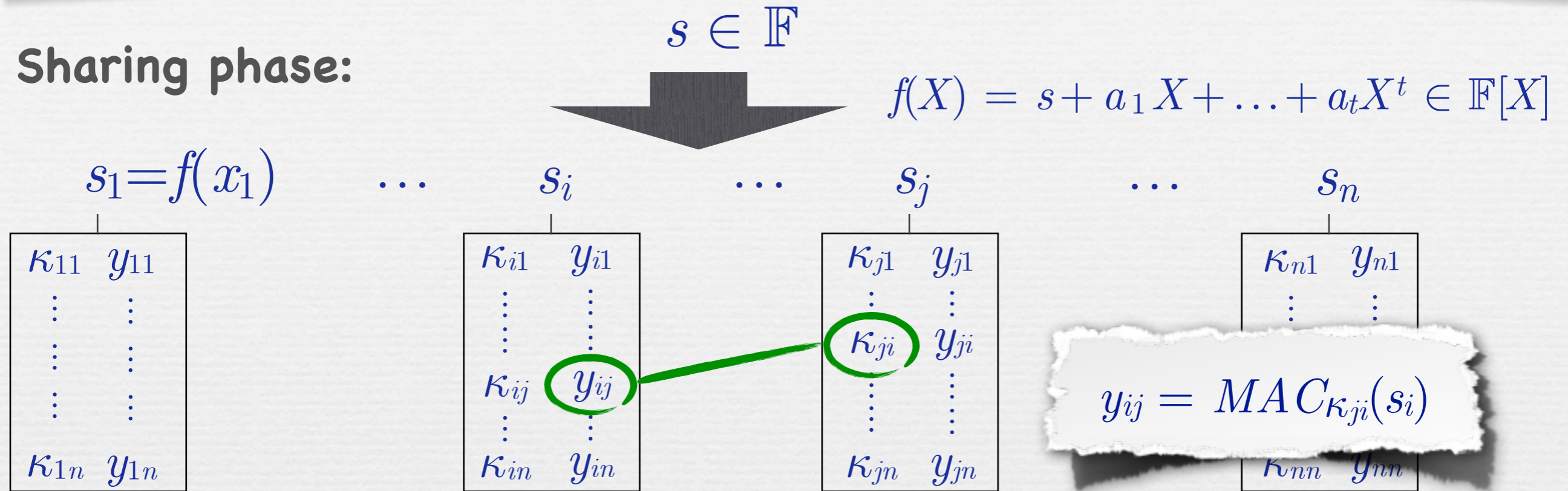
$$s_n$$



$$y_{ij} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{ji}}(s_i)$$

The Rabin & Ben-Or Scheme ($n = 2t + 1$)

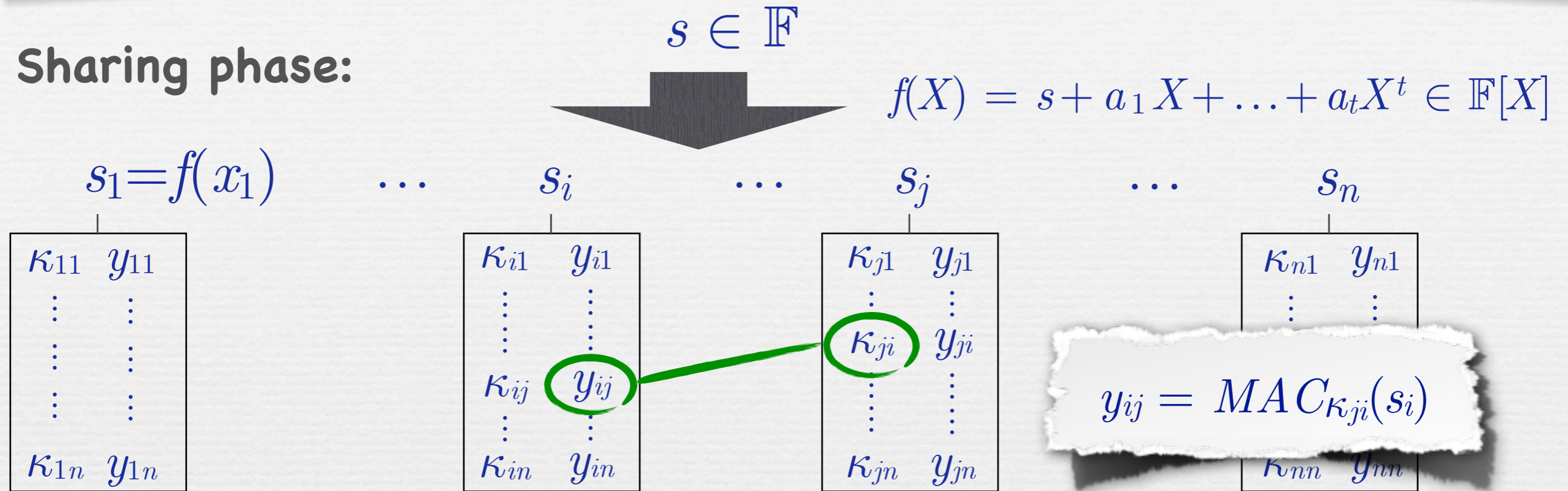
Sharing phase:



- MAC security: for any $\hat{s}_i \neq s_i$ and $\hat{y}_{ij} : P[\hat{y}_{ij} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{ji}}(\hat{s}_i)] \leq \varepsilon$.
- Example: $\kappa_{ij} = (\alpha_{ij}, \beta_{ij}) \in \mathbb{F}^2$ and $y_{ij} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{ji}}(s_i) = \alpha_{ij} \cdot s_i + \beta_{ij}$.
- For error probability $\varepsilon \leq 2^{-k}$:
 - bit size $|\kappa_{ij}|, |y_{ij}| \geq k$
 - **overhead** per share (above Shamir share): $\Omega(k \cdot n)$

The Rabin & Ben-Or Scheme ($n = 2t+1$)

Sharing phase:



Reconstruction phase:

1. For every share s_i : **accept** s_i iff it is **approved** by $\geq t+1$ players,
(meaning $\#\{j \mid y_{ij} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{ji}}(s_i)\} \geq t+1$)
2. Reconstruct s using the accepted shares s_i .

The Rabin & Ben-Or Scheme ($n = 2t + 1$)

Sharing phase:

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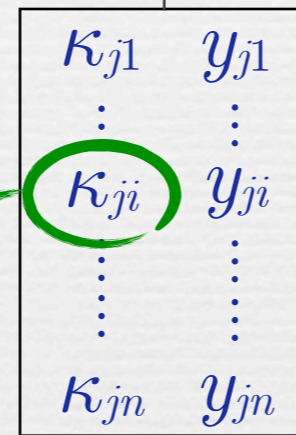
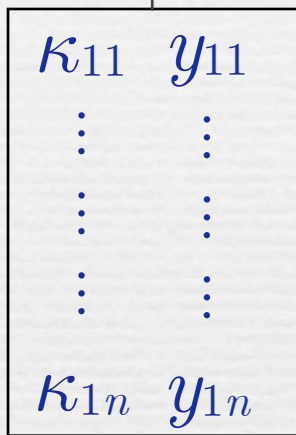
$$s_i$$

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$$y_{ij} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{ji}}(s_i)$$

Our New Scheme

Sharing phase:

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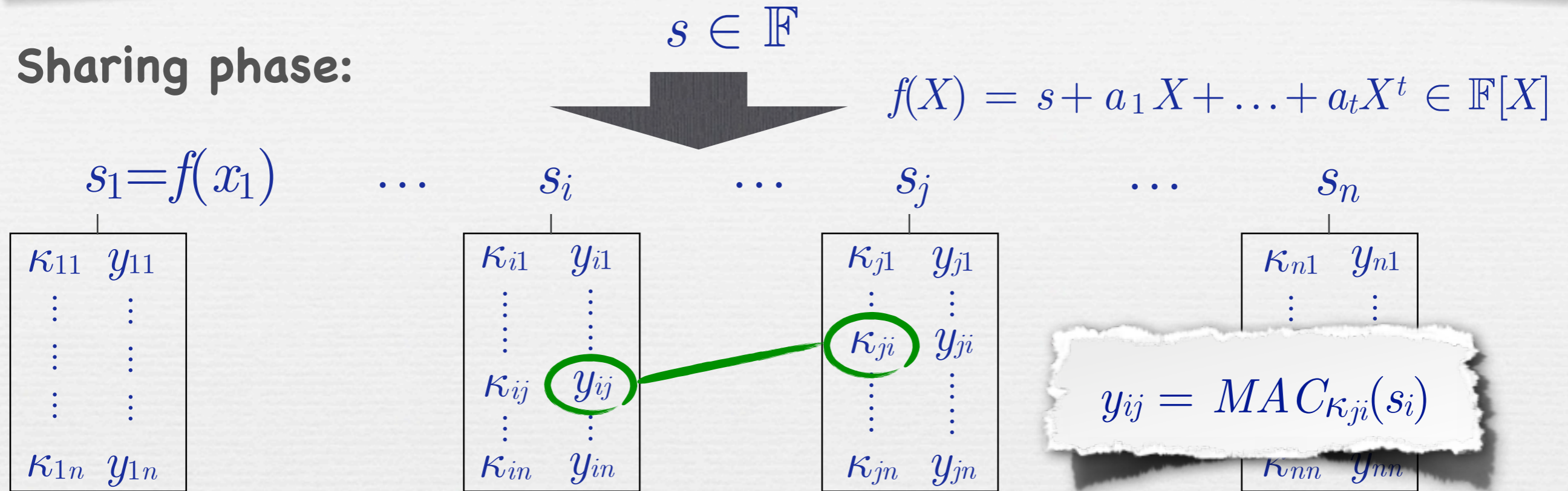
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Our New Scheme

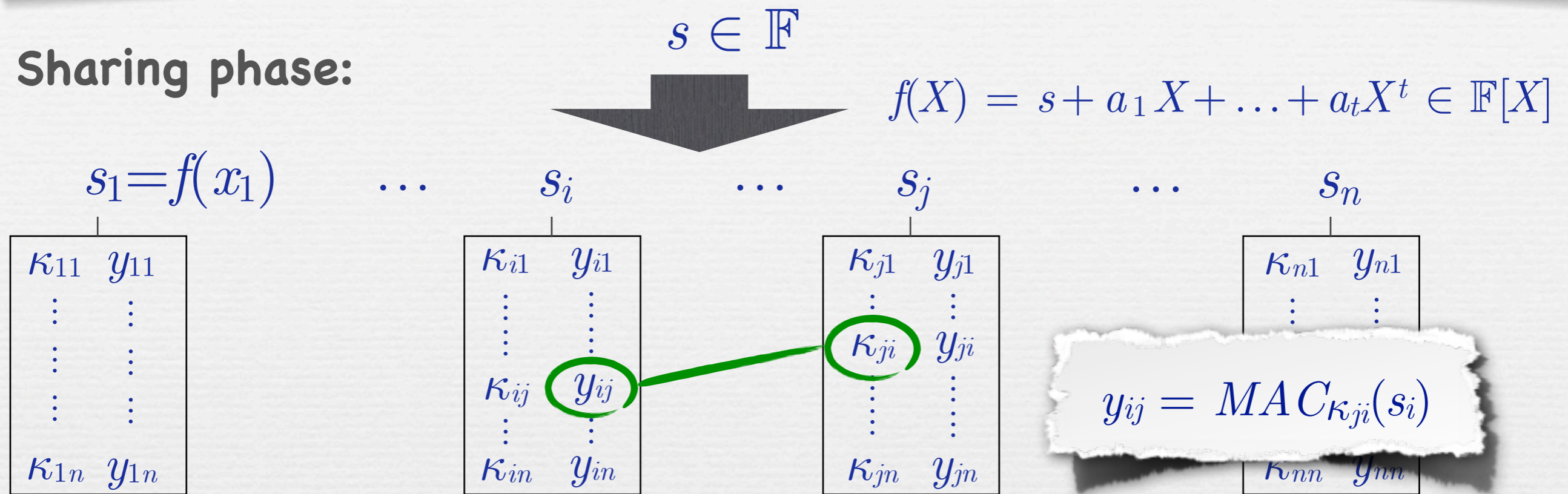
Sharing phase:



- Use **small** tags and keys $|\kappa_{ij}|, |y_{ij}| = \tilde{O}(k/n + 1)$ (instead of $O(k)$)
- Gives: overhead per share: $n \cdot \tilde{O}(k/n + 1) = \tilde{O}(k + n)$

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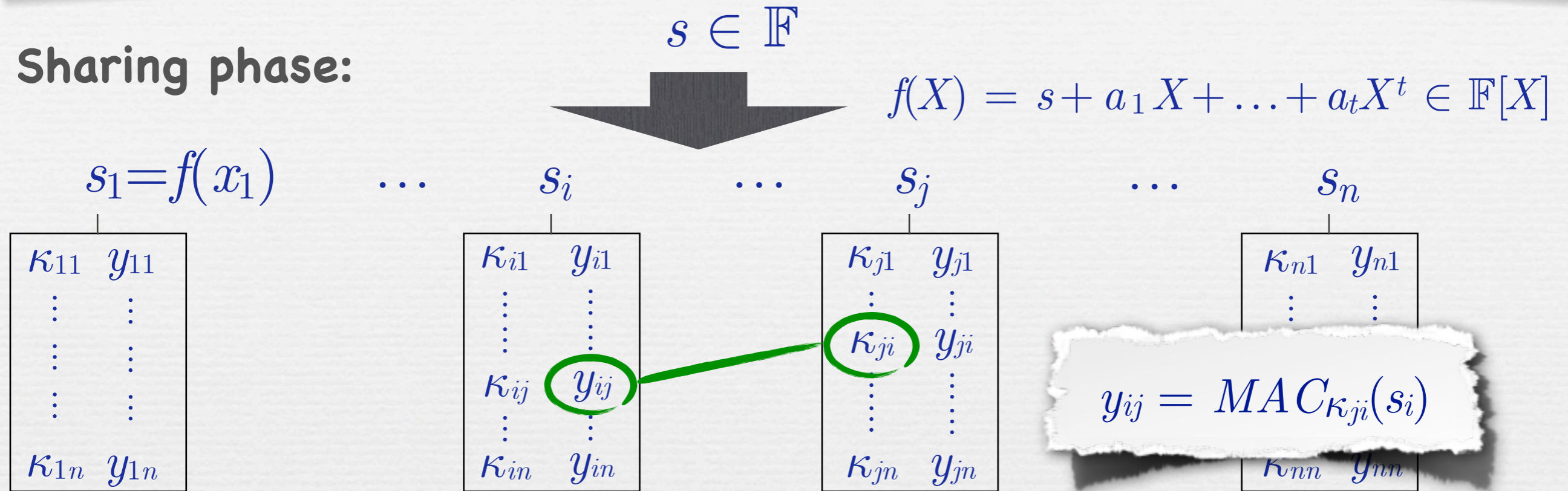
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- Problem:
 - MAC has **weak security**
 - **incorrect shares may be approved** by some honest players
 - Rabin & Ben-Or **reconstruction fails**

Our New Scheme

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• Problem

• MAC **Need: better reconstruction procedure**

• **incorrect shares may be approved** by some honest players

• Rabin & Ben-Or **reconstruction fails**

How to Reconstruct

• Example: Say that

$$\bullet \{j \mid y_{1j} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{j1}}(s_1)\} = \{1, \dots, n\}$$

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📌 s_2 is approved by $\leq t$ **honest** players (as player 3 is dishonest)
⇒ s_2 stems from **dishonest player**

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 $\Rightarrow s_2$ stems from **dishonest player**

📌 Rabin & Ben-Or reconstruction: **accepts** s_2

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Example: Say that

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Rabin & Ben-Or reconstruction: accepts s_2

Our new reconstruction: will rejects s_2

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• $\{j \mid y_{1j} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{j1}}(s_1)\} = \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \text{accept } s_1$

• **Rabin & Ben-Or reconstruction:**

• Accept every share s_i that is approved by $t+1$ players.

• s_2 is

• **Our new reconstruction:**

• Accept every share s_i that is approved by $t+1$ players **with accepted shares.**

• Our new reconstruction: will **rejects** s_2

(s_2 is dishonest)

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• **Our new reconstruction:**

• s_2 is s_2 (dishonest)

• \Rightarrow

• Rabin

• Accept every share s_i that is approved by $t+1$ players **with accepted shares.**

• Our new

• Plus: Reed-Solomon decoding.

Our New Reconstruction Procedure

(Init) Set $Good := \{1, \dots, n\}$

(Loop) For every $i \in Good$:

 if $\#\{j \in Good \mid y_{ij} = MAC_{\kappa_{ji}}(s_i)\} \leq t$ then

 - set $Good := Good \setminus \{i\}$

 - redo (Loop)

(Dec) Set $s := \text{Reed-Solomon}(\{s_i\}_{i \in Good})$

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Main Theorem. If MAC is ε -secure then our scheme is δ -robust with

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Corollary. Using MAC with $|\kappa_{ij}|, |y_{ij}| = O(k/n + \log n)$ gives

$$\delta \leq 2^{-\Omega(k)} .$$

What Makes the Proof Tricky

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1. Optimal strategy for dishonest players is unclear

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- 🎧 In Rabin & Ben-Or: an **incorrect share** for every **dishonest player**
- 🎧 Here: some **dishonest players** may hand in **correct** shares
- 🎧 Such a **passive** dishonest player:
 - stays in *Good*
 - can support (i.e. vote for) **bad shares**
- 🎧 **The more** such **passive** dishonest players:
 - **the easier it gets** for bad shares to survive
 - **the more** bad shares have to survive to fool RS decoding
(# **bad shares** \geq # **correct shares of dishonest players**)
- 🎧 Optimal trade-off: unclear

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2. Circular dependencies

• Whether \hat{s}_i gets accepted **depends** on whether \hat{s}_j gets accepted ...

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- Whether \hat{s}_i gets accepted **depends** on whether \hat{s}_j gets accepted ...
- ... and vice versa
- Cannot analyze individual bad shares
- If we try, we run into a circularity

The Proof

Notation:

- $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{P}/\mathcal{H}$ = active/passive cheaters, and honest players
where (wlog) $|\mathcal{A}| + |\mathcal{P}| = t$ and $|\mathcal{H}| = t+1$
- \mathcal{S} = players that survive checking phase ($\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{S}$)

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Observations:

- Error probability given by $\delta = P[|\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{S}| > |\mathcal{P}|]$
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$$P[|\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{S}| > |\mathcal{P}|] = \sum_{\ell=|\mathcal{P}|+1}^a P[|\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{S}| = \ell]$$

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$$\begin{aligned} P[|\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{S}| > |\mathcal{P}|] &= \sum_{\ell=|\mathcal{P}|+1}^a P[|\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{S}| = \ell] \\ &\leq \sum_{\ell} P[\exists \mathcal{A}' \in \binom{\mathcal{A}}{\ell} \forall i \in \mathcal{A}' \exists \mathcal{H}' \in \binom{\mathcal{H}}{a-\ell+1} \forall j \in \mathcal{H}': y_{ij} = \text{MAC}_{\kappa_{ji}}(\hat{s}_i)] \end{aligned}$$

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 &\leq \sum_{\ell} \binom{a}{\ell} \cdot \left(\binom{t+1}{a-\ell+1} \cdot \varepsilon^{a-\ell+1} \right)^{\ell} \leq \dots \leq e \cdot ((t+1) \cdot \varepsilon)^{(t+1)/2}
 \end{aligned}$$



Summary

- First robust secret sharing scheme for $n = 2t+1$, with
 - small overhead $O(k+n \cdot \log n)$ in share size
 - efficient sharing and reconstruction procedures
- Scheme is **simple** and **natural** adaptation of Rabin & Ben-Or
- Proof is **non-standard** and **non-trivial**

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- Open problem:
 - Scheme with overhead $O(k)$ (= proven lower bound)
- Note:
 - All known schemes have a $\Omega(n)$ gap (for different reasons)
 - Not known if this is inherent or not.

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- Open problem:
 - Scheme with overhead $O(k)$ (= proven lower bound)
- Note:
 - All known schemes are not optimal (for various reasons)
 - Not known if $O(k)$ is achievable

THANK YOU