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# Privacy models and disclosure risk: integral privacy

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# Outline

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## Disclosure risk (DR)

- The worst-case scenario
  - DR using ML in reidentification: optimal attacks
  - DR under the transparency principle: transparency attacks
- Integral privacy
  - Privacy from models

# Outline

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## 1. Introduction

## 2. Disclosure risk assessment

- Worst-case scenario
- ML for reidentification

## 3. Transparency

- Definition
- Attacking Rank Swapping
- Avoiding transparency attack

## 4. Updating databases and privacy: Integral privacy

## 5. Summary

# Introduction

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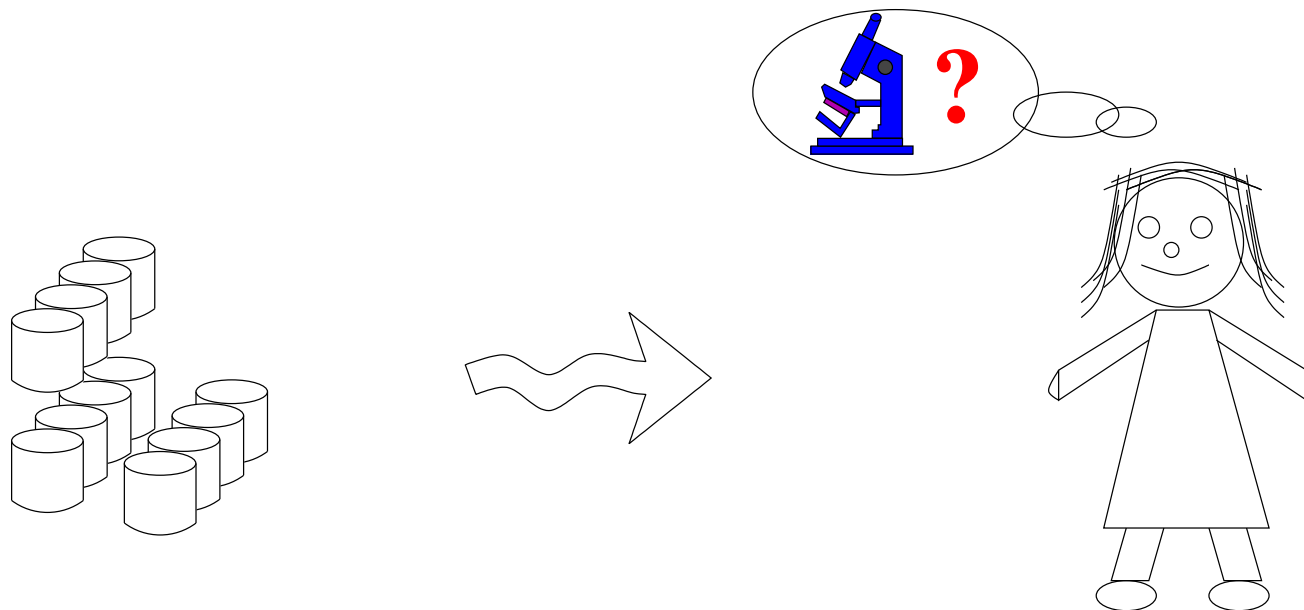
## Introduction Data protection mechanisms

# Data protection mechanisms

**Classification** w.r.t. our knowledge on the computation of a third party

- Data-driven or general purpose (*analysis not known*)  
→ anonymization methods / masking methods
- Computation-driven or specific purpose (*analysis known*)  
→ cryptographic protocols, differential privacy
- Result-driven (*analysis known: protection of its results*)

**Figure.** Basic model (multiple/dynamic databases + multiple people)



# Introduction

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## Introduction Privacy models and disclosure risk assessment

# Disclosure risk assessment

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**Disclosure risk.** Disclosure: leakage of information.

- **Identity disclosure vs. Attribute disclosure**
  - Attribute disclosure: (e.g. learn about Alice's salary)
    - ★ Increase knowledge about an attribute of an individual
  - Identity disclosure: (e.g. find Alice in the database)
    - ★ Find/identify an individual in a database (e.g., masked file)

Within machine learning, some attribute disclosure is expected.



# Disclosure risk assessment

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## Disclosure risk.

- **Boolean** vs. **quantitative** privacy models
  - Boolean: Disclosure either takes place or not. Check whether the definition holds or not. Includes definitions based on a threshold.
  - Quantitative: Disclosure is a matter of degree that can be quantified. Some risk is permitted.
- minimize information loss vs. multiobjective optimization

# Disclosure risk assessment

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## Privacy models.

- **Secure multiparty computation.** Several parties want to compute a function of their databases, but only sharing the result.
- **Reidentification privacy.** Avoid finding a record in a database.
- **k-Anonymity.** A record indistinguishable with  $k - 1$  other records.
- **Differential privacy.** The output of a query to a database should not depend (much) on whether a record is in the database or not.
- **Result privacy.** We want to avoid some results when an algorithm is applied to a database.
- **Interval disclosure.** The value for an attribute is outside an interval computed from the protected value. I.e., original values are different enough.
- **Integral privacy.** Inference on the databases. E.g., changes have been applied to a database.

# Disclosure risk assessment

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## Boolean definitions of risk.

- k-Anonymity (Boolean definition / identity disclosure)
- Secure multiparty computation (Boolean / identity and attribute disclosure)
- Result privacy (Boolean definition / attribute disclosure)
- Differential privacy (Boolean definition / attribute disclosure)

## Quantitative measures of risk. alternative measures.

- Re-identification (for identity disclosure). Different ways to evaluate re-identification by means of record linkage.
- Uniqueness (for identity disclosure).
- Interval disclosure (for attribute disclosure). Several definitions for different types of attributes.

# Disclosure risk assessment

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## Disclosure risk.

- Identity disclosure vs. Attribute disclosure
- Boolean vs. quantitative measures

# Disclosure risk assessment

## Disclosure risk.

- Identity disclosure vs. Attribute disclosure
- Boolean vs. quantitative measures

## Classification of privacy models (and measures)

	Attribute disclosure	Identity disclosure
Boolean	Differential privacy Result privacy Secure multiparty computation	k-Anonymity
Quantitative	Interval disclosure	Re-identification (record linkage) Uniqueness

# Disclosure risk assessment

## Classification of privacy models (and measures)

	Attribute disclosure	Identity disclosure
Boolean	Differential privacy Result privacy Secure multiparty computation	k-Anonymity
Quantitative	Interval disclosure	Re-identification (record linkage) Uniqueness

## Other privacy models

- Other models combining features: l-diversity, secure multiparty computation ensuring differential privacy
- Alternative but related models: k-confusion, k-concealment

# Introduction

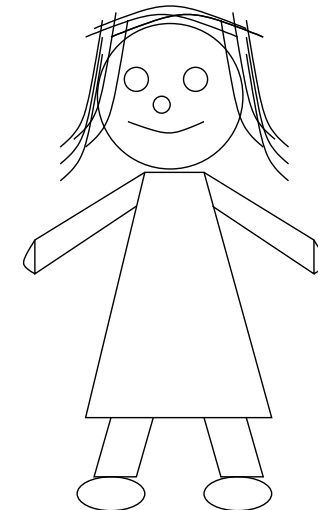
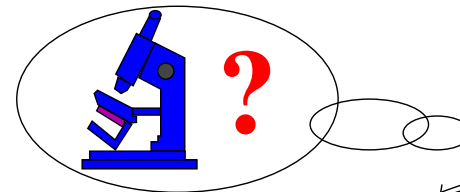
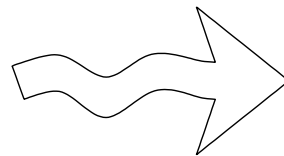
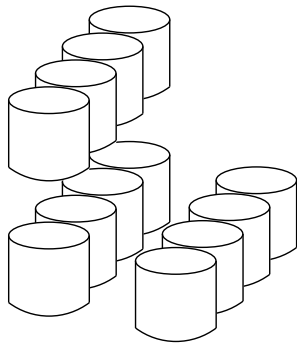
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## Introduction Masking methods and disclosure risk assessment

# Data protection mechanisms

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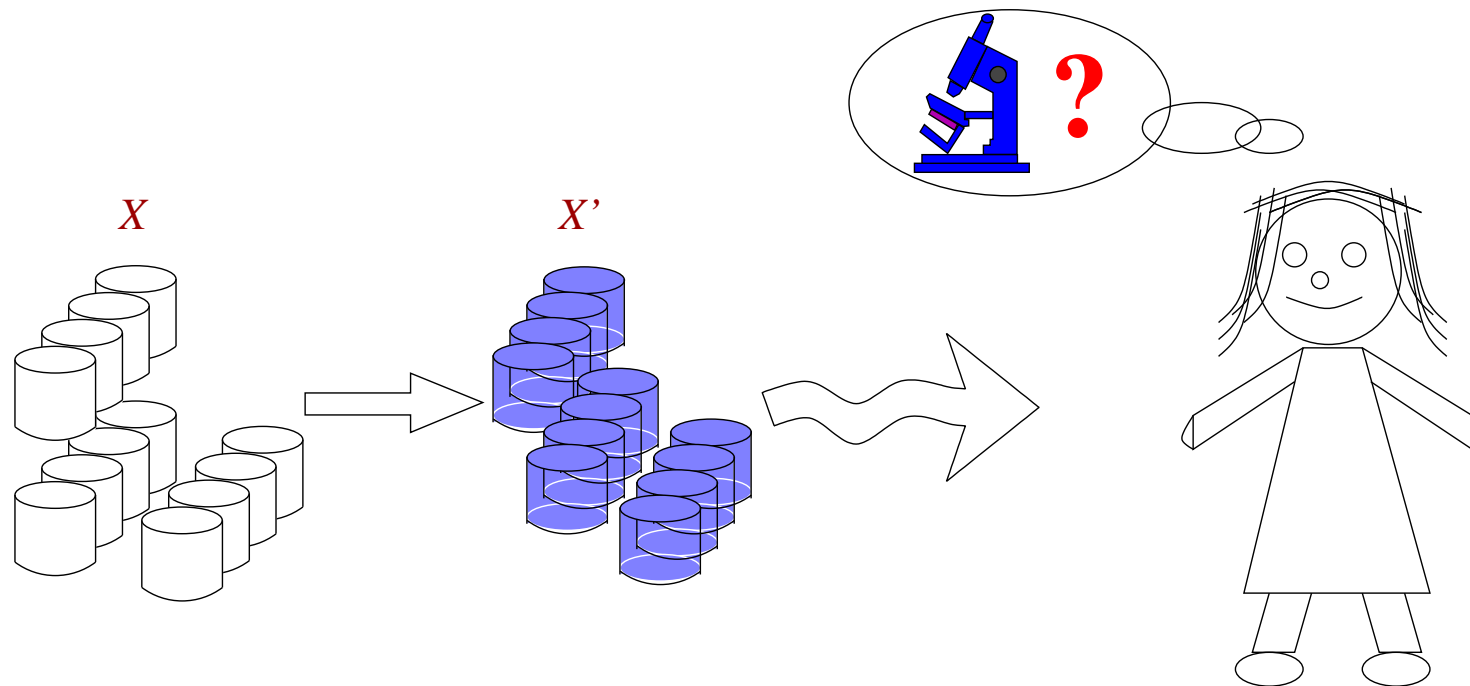
- Data-driven or general purpose (*analysis not known*)  
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- Result-driven (*analysis known: protection of its results*)





# Masking methods

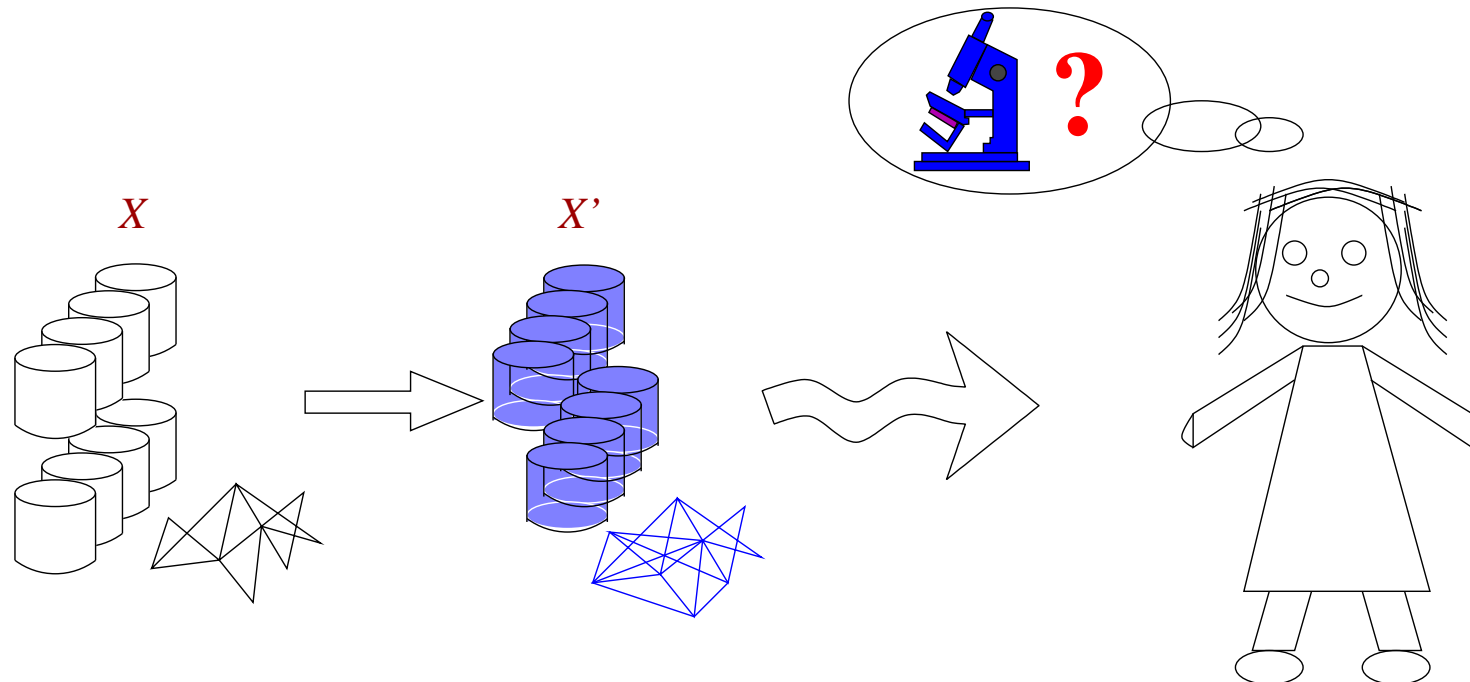
**Anonymization/masking method:** Given a data file  $X$  compute a file  $X'$  with data of *less quality*.



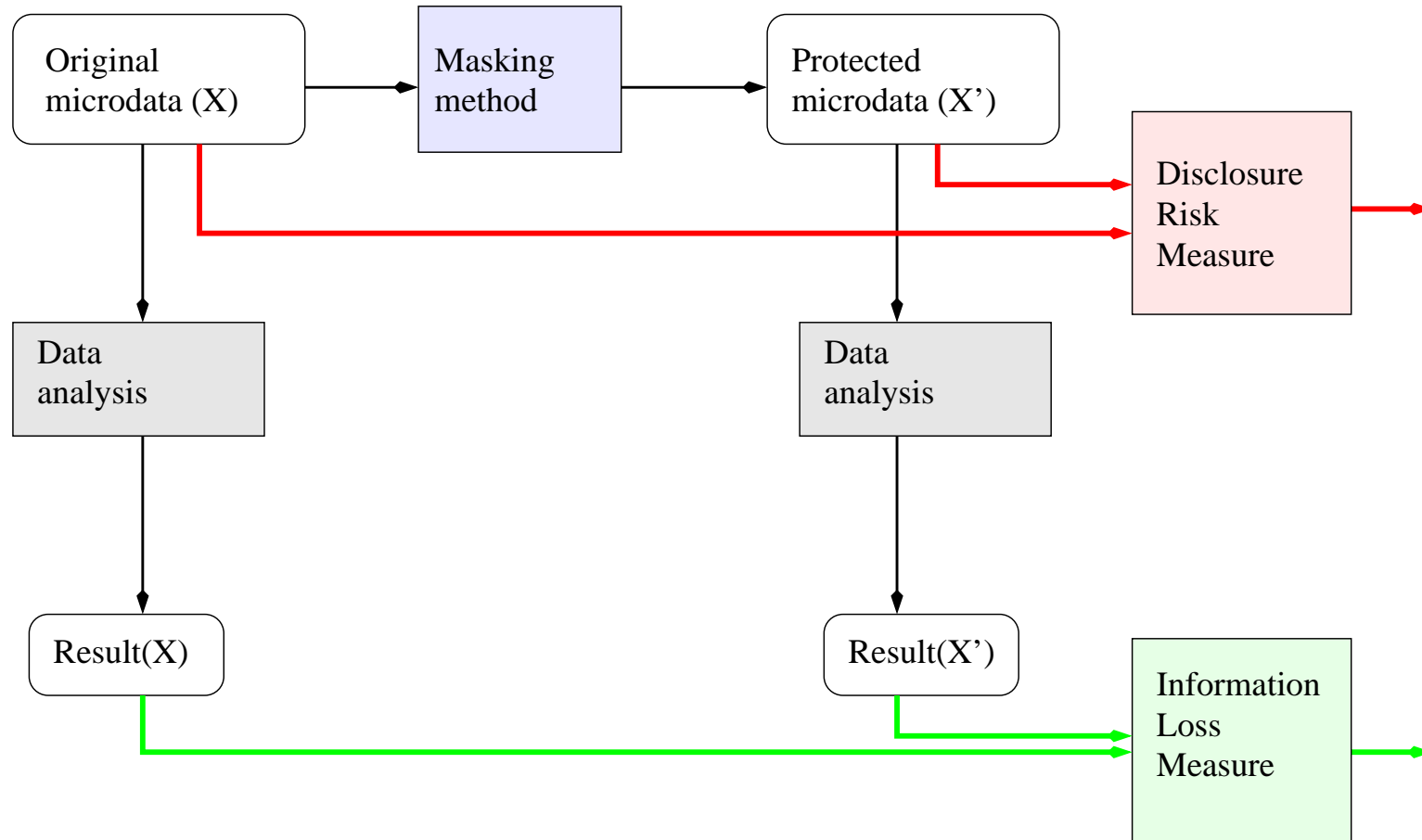
# Masking methods

**Approach** valid for different types of data

- **Databases**, documents, search logs, social networks, . . .  
(also masking taking into account semantics: wordnet, ODP)



# Research questions



# Research questions: Masking methods

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**Masking methods** (anonymization methods). Build  $X'$  from  $X$ .

# Research questions: Masking methods

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- Perturbative. (less quality=erroneous data)  
E.g. **noise addition**/multiplication, microaggregation, rank swapping

# Research questions: Masking methods

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**Masking methods** (anonymization methods). Build  $X'$  from  $X$ .

- Perturbative. (less quality=erroneous data)  
E.g. **noise addition**/multiplication, microaggregation, rank swapping
- Non-perturbative. (less quality=less detail)  
E.g. **generalization**, suppression

# Research questions: Masking methods

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**Masking methods** (anonymization methods). Build  $X'$  from  $X$ .

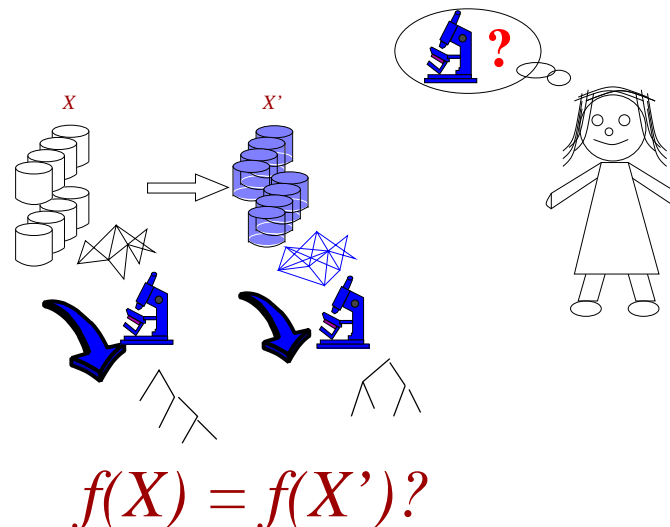
- Perturbative. (less quality=erroneous data)  
E.g. **noise addition**/multiplication, microaggregation, rank swapping
- Non-perturbative. (less quality=less detail)  
E.g. **generalization**, suppression
- Synthetic data generators. (less quality=not real data)  
E.g. **(i) model from the data; (ii) generate data from model**

# Research questions: Information loss

**Information loss measures.** Compare  $X$  and  $X'$  w.r.t. analysis ( $f$ )

$$IL_f(X, X') = \text{divergence}(f(X), f(X'))$$

- $f$ : generic vs. specific (data uses)
  - Statistics
  - Machine learning: **Clustering and classification**  
For example, classification using **decision trees**
  - ... specific measures for graphs

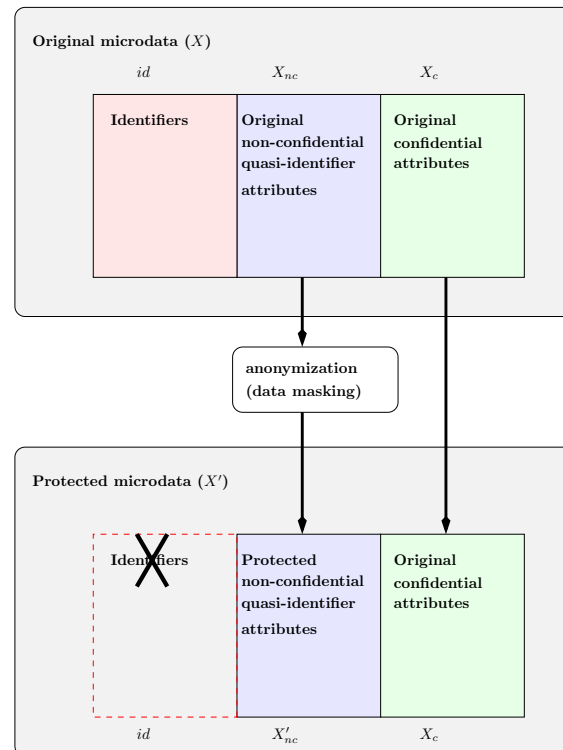




# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

Measuring disclosure risk in terms of # of reidentifications.

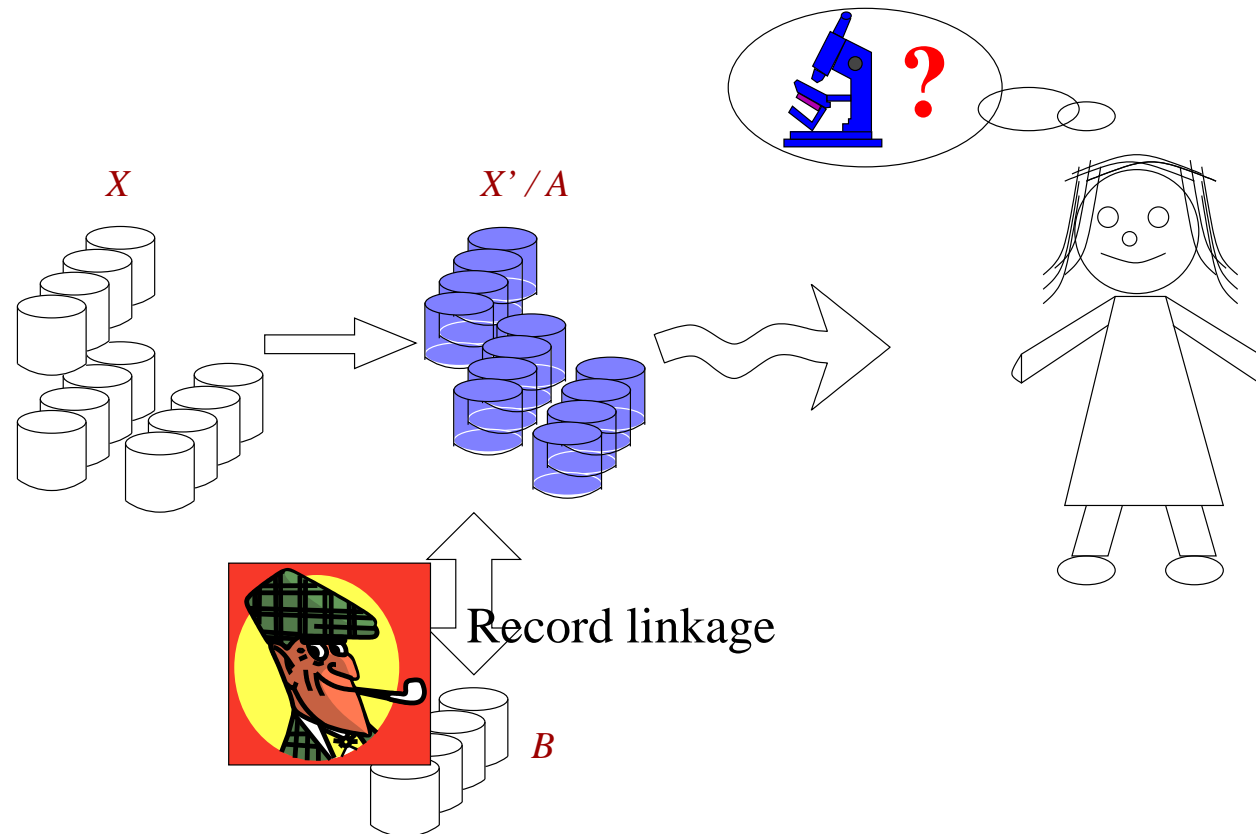
- Scenario:  $X = id || X_{nc} || X_c$ .
- Protection of the attributes
  - **Identifiers.** Usually removed or encrypted.
  - **Confidential.**  $X_c$  are usually not modified.  $X'_c = X_c$ .
  - **Quasi-identifiers.** Apply masking method  $\rho$ .  $X'_{nc} = \rho(X_{nc})$ .



# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

## A scenario for identity disclosure: Reidentification

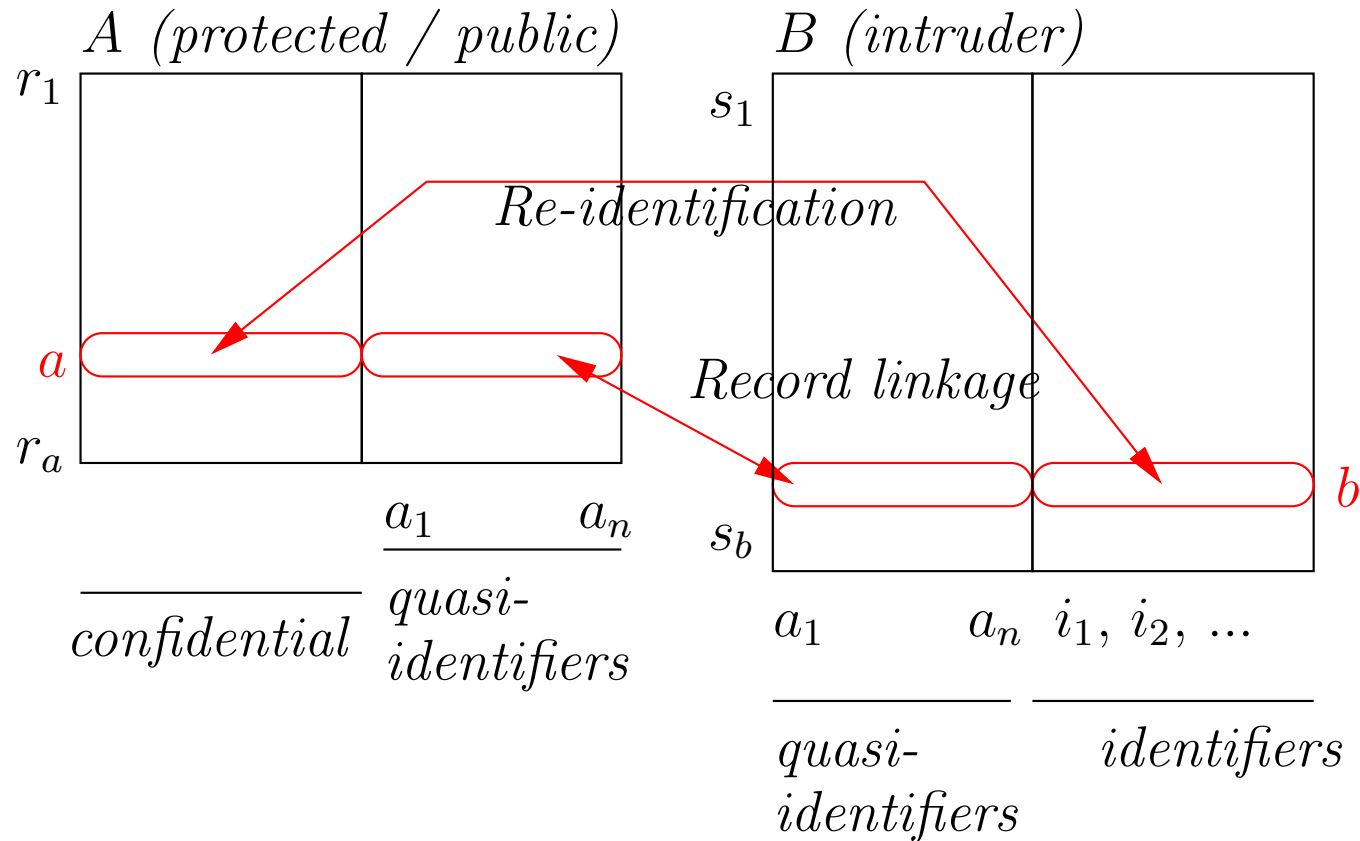
- $A$ : File with the protected data set
- $B$ : File with the **data from the intruder** (subset of original  $X$ )



# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

**A scenario** for identity disclosure:  $X = id || X_{nc} || X_c$

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# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. **Reidentification**

- Reidentification using the common attributes (quasi-identifiers):

# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. **Reidentification**

- Reidentification using the common attributes (quasi-identifiers):  
leads to **identity disclosure**

# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. **Reidentification**

- Reidentification using the common attributes (quasi-identifiers):  
leads to **identity disclosure**
- Attribute disclosure may be possible

# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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## A scenario for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- Reidentification using the common attributes (quasi-identifiers):  
leads to **identity disclosure**
- Attribute disclosure may be possible  
when reidentification permits to link confidential values to identifiers  
(in this case: **identity disclosure implies attribute disclosure**)

# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario** for identity disclosure
  - *A* protected file using a masking method
  - *B* (**intruder's**) is a subset of the original file.



# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario** for identity disclosure
  - *A* protected file using a masking method
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    - intruder with information on only some individuals

# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario** for identity disclosure
  - *A* protected file using a masking method
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    - intruder with information on only some characteristics

# Research questions: Disclosure risk assessment

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario** for identity disclosure
  - *A* protected file using a masking method
  - *B* (**intruder's**) is a subset of the original file.
    - intruder with information on only some individuals
    - intruder with information on only some characteristics
  - But also,
    - ★ *B* with a schema different to the one of *A* (different attributes)
    - ★ Other scenarios. E.g., synthetic data

# Worst-case scenario

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## Disclosure risk assessment: optimal attacks

# Worst-case scenario

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**Worst-case scenario when measuring disclosure risk**

# Worst-case scenario

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario.** Different assumptions on what available  
E.g., only partial information on individuals/characteristics
- Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment  
(upper bound of disclosure risk)

# Worst-case scenario

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario.** Different assumptions on what available  
E.g., only partial information on individuals/characteristics
- Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment  
(upper bound of disclosure risk)
  - Maximum information

# Worst-case scenario

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario.** Different assumptions on what available  
E.g., only partial information on individuals/characteristics
- Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment  
(upper bound of disclosure risk)
  - Maximum information
  - Most effective reidentification method



# Worst-case scenario

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**A scenario** for identity disclosure. Reidentification

- **Flexible scenario.** Different assumptions on what available  
E.g., only partial information on individuals/characteristics
- Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment  
(upper bound of disclosure risk)
  - Maximum information: **Use original file to attack**
  - Most effective reidentification method: **Use ML**  
**Use information on the masking method (transparency)**

# Worst-case scenario

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**ML for reidentification  
(learning distances)**

# Worst-case scenario

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## Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment

- Distance-based record linkage
- Parametric distances with best parameters
  - E.g.,
    - Weighted Euclidean distance

# Worst-case scenario

## Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment

- Distance-based record linkage with Euclidean distance equivalent to:

$$d^2(a, b) = \left\| \frac{1}{n}(a - b) \right\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} (\text{diff}_i(a, b))$$

$$= WM_p(\text{diff}_1(a, b), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a, b))$$

with  $p = (1/n, \dots, 1/n)$  and

$$\text{diff}_i(a, b) = ((a_i - \bar{a}_i)/\sigma(a_i) - (b_i - \bar{b}_i)/\sigma(b_i))^2$$

- $p_i = 1/n$  means equal importance to all attributes
- Appropriate for attributes with equal discriminatory power (e.g., same noise, same distribution)

# Worst-case scenario

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## Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment

- Distance-based record linkage with weighted mean distance  
(weighted Euclidean distance)

$$d^2(a, b) = WM_p(diff_1(a, b), \dots, diff_n(a, b))$$

with arbitrary vector  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$  and

$$diff_i(a, b) = ((a_i - \bar{a}_i)/\sigma(a_i) - (b_i - \bar{b}_i)/\sigma(b_i))^2$$

# Worst-case scenario

## Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment

- Distance-based record linkage with weighted mean distance (weighted Euclidean distance)

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## Worst-case: Optimal selection of the weights. How??

- Supervised machine learning approach
- Using an optimization problem

# Worst-case scenario

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## Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment

- Distance-based record linkage with parametric distances  
(distance/metric learning):  $\mathbb{C}$  a combination/aggregation function

$$d^2(a, b) = \mathbb{C}_p(\text{diff}_1(a, b), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a, b))$$

with parameter  $p$  and

$$\text{diff}_i(a, b) = ((a_i - \bar{a}_i)/\sigma(a_i) - (b_i - \bar{b}_i)/\sigma(b_i))^2$$

# Worst-case scenario

Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk assessment

- Distance-based record linkage with parametric distances  
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**Worst-case:** Optimal selection of the parameter  $p$ . How??

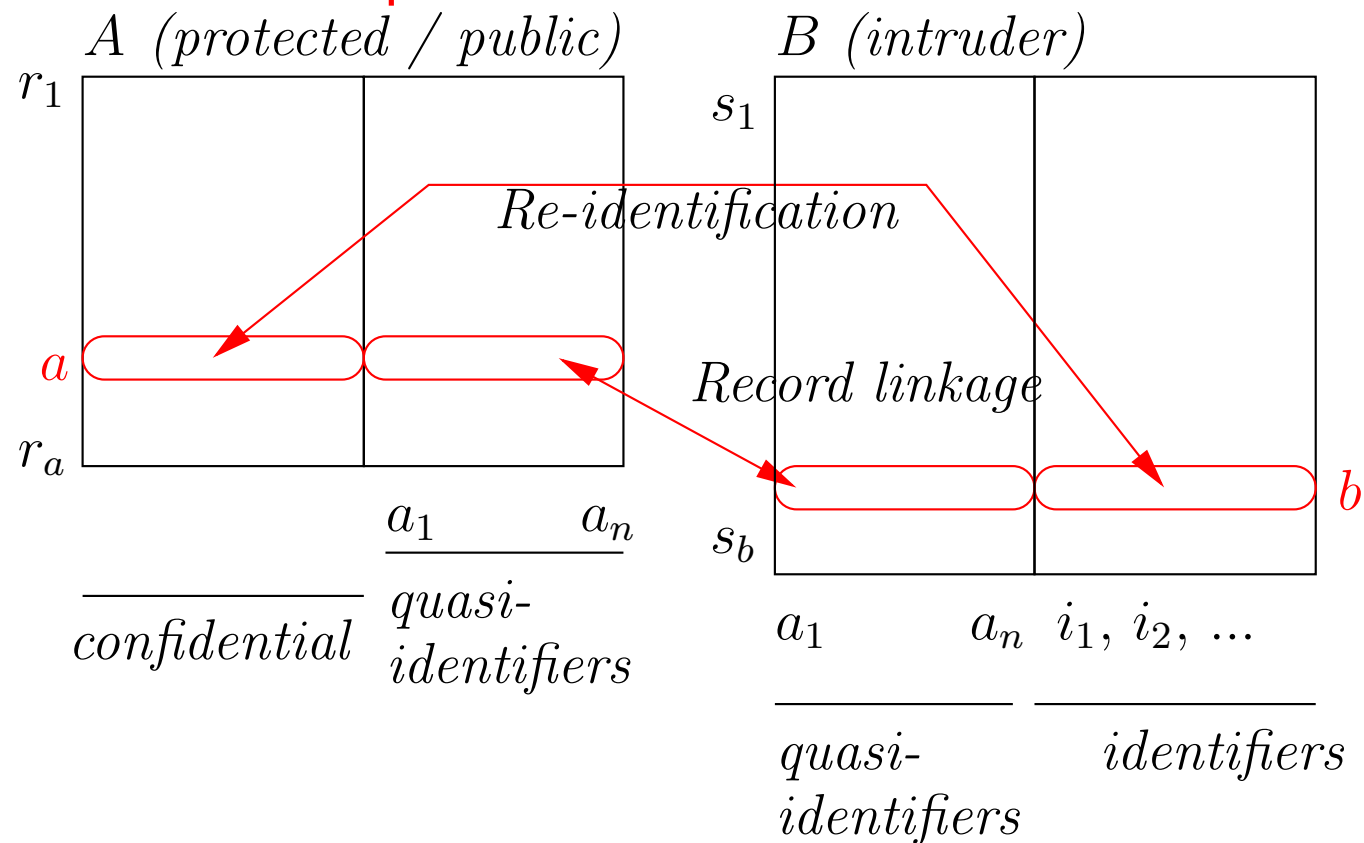
- Supervised machine learning approach
- Using an optimization problem



# Worst-case scenario

## Worst-case scenario for distance-based record linkage

- **Optimal weights** using a supervised machine learning approach
- **We need a set of examples from:**



# Formalization of the problem

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Generic solution, using
  - an arbitrary combination function  $\mathbb{C}$  (aggregation)
  - with parameter  $p$

$$d(a_i, b_j) = \mathbb{C}_p(\text{diff}_1(a, b), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a, b))$$

# Formalization of the problem

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

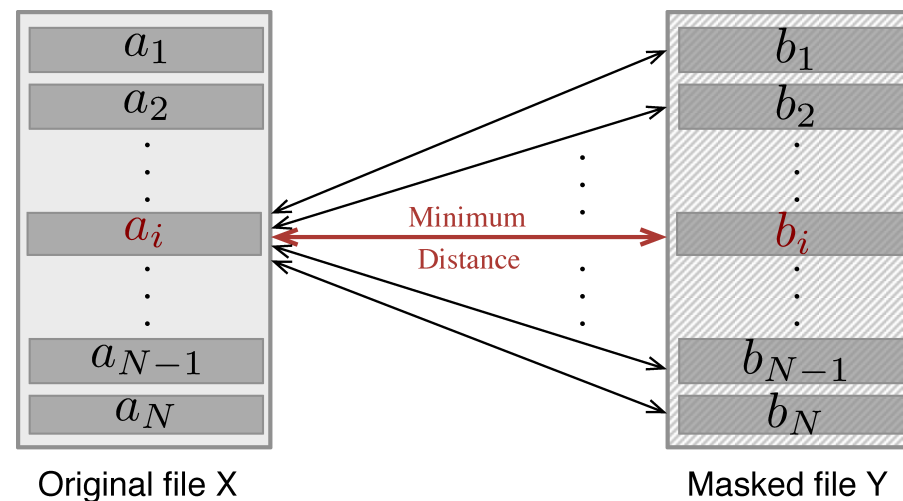
- Generic solution, using  $\mathbb{C}$  with parameter  $p$
- Goal ( $A$  and  $B$  aligned)
  - as much correct reidentifications as possible
  - For record  $i$ :  $d(a_i, b_j) \geq d(a_i, b_i)$  for all  $j$

# Formalization of the problem

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Generic solution, using  $\mathbb{C}$  with parameter  $p$
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    - as much correct reidentifications as possible
    - For record  $i$ :  $d(a_i, b_j) \geq d(a_i, b_i)$  for all  $j$
- That is,

$$\mathbb{C}_p(\text{diff}_1(a_i, b_j), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a_i, b_j)) \geq \mathbb{C}_p(\text{diff}_1(a_i, b_i), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a_i, b_i))$$



# Formalization of the problem

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Goal
  - as much correct reidentifications as possible
  - Maximize the number of records  $a_i$  such that  $d(a_i, b_j) \geq d(a_i, b_i)$  for all  $j$
  - If record  $a_i$  fails for at least one  $b_j$

$$d(a_i, b_j) \not\geq d(a_i, b_i)$$

Then, let  $K_i = 1$  in this case, then for a large enough constant  $C$

$$d(a_i, b_j) + CK_i \geq d(a_i, b_i)$$

# Formalization of the problem

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

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That is,

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# Formalization of the problem

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Goal
  - as much correct reidentifications as possible
  - Minimize  $K_i$ : minimize the number of records  $a_i$  that fail  $d(a_i, b_j) \geq d(a_i, b_i)$  for all  $j$
  - $K_i \in \{0, 1\}$ , if  $K_i = 0$  reidentification is correct

$$d(a_i, b_j) + CK_i \geq d(a_i, b_i)$$

# Formalization of the problem

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Goal
  - as much correct reidentifications as possible
  - Minimize  $K_i$ : minimize the number of records  $a_i$  that fail
- Formalization:

$$\text{Minimize } \sum_{i=1}^N K_i$$

*Subject to :*

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{C}_p(\text{diff}_1(a_i, b_j), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a_i, b_j)) - \\ & \quad - \mathbb{C}_p(\text{diff}_1(a_i, b_i), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a_i, b_i)) + CK_i > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$K_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

Additional constraints according to  $\mathbb{C}$



# Formalization of the problem

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Example: the case of the **weighted mean**  $\mathbb{C} = WM$
- Formalization:

$$\text{Minimize } \sum_{i=1}^N K_i$$

*Subject to :*

$$WM_p(\text{diff}_1(a_i, b_j), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a_i, b_j)) - \\ - WM_p(\text{diff}_1(a_i, b_i), \dots, \text{diff}_n(a_i, b_i)) + CK_i > 0$$

$$K_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$$

$$p_i \geq 0$$

# Experiments and distances

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Distances considered through the following  $\mathbb{C}$ 
  - **Weighted mean.**  
Weights: importance to the attributes  
Parameter: weighting vector  $n$  parameters

# Experiments and distances

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Distances considered through the following  $\mathbb{C}$ 
  - **Weighted mean.**  
Weights: importance to the attributes  
Parameter: weighting vector  $n$  parameters
  - **OWA - linear combination of order statistics** (weighted):  
Weights: to discard lower or larger distances  
Parameter: weighting vector  $n$  parameters

# Experiments and distances

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Distances considered through the following  $\mathbb{C}$

- **Choquet integral.**

Weights: interactions of sets of attributes ( $\mu : 2^X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ )

Parameter: non-additive measure:  $2^n - 2$  parameters

# Experiments and distances

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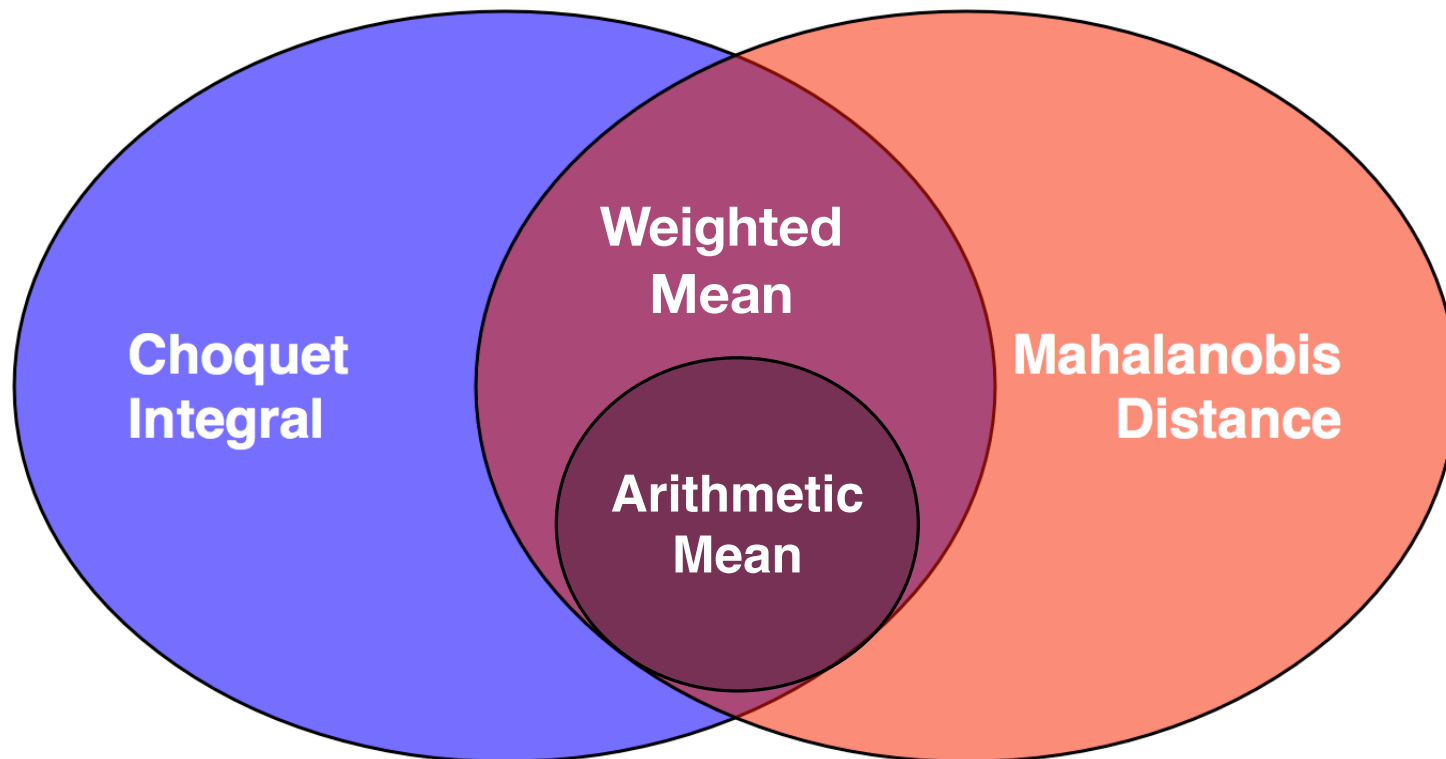
## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Distances considered through the following  $\mathbb{C}$ 
  - **Choquet integral.**  
Weights: interactions of sets of attributes ( $\mu : 2^X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ )  
Parameter: non-additive measure:  $2^n - 2$  parameters
  - **Bilinear form - generalization of Mahalanobis distance**  
Weights: interactions between pairs of attributes  
Parameter: square matrix:  $n \times n$  parameters

# Experiments and distances

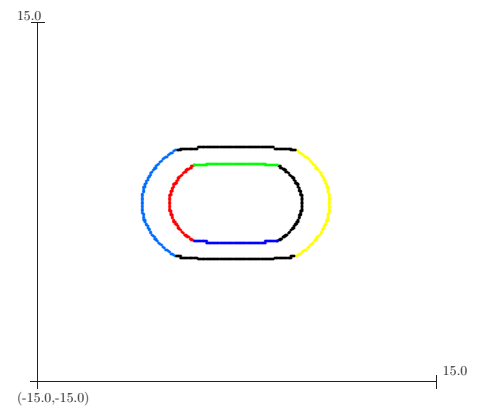
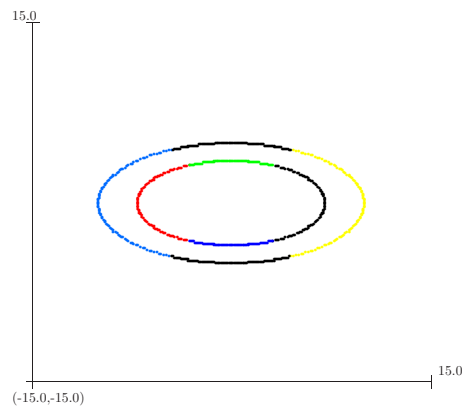
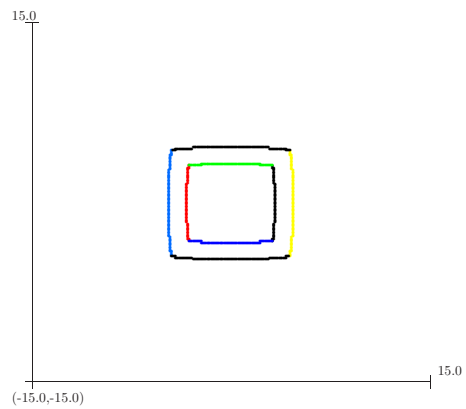
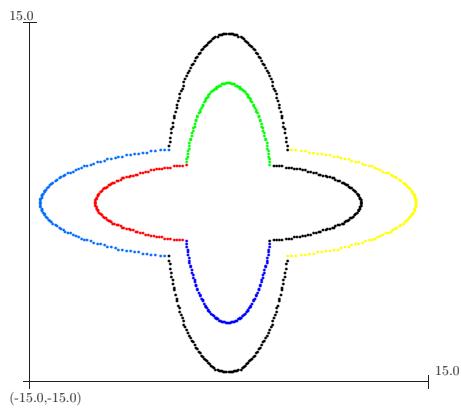
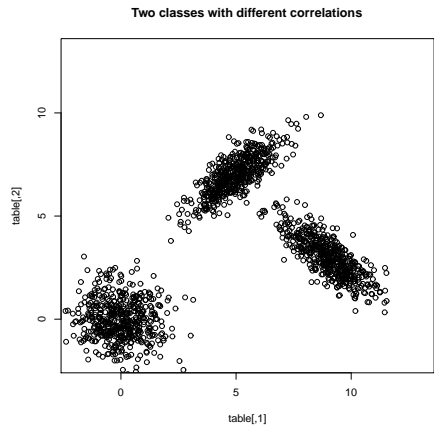
## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Distances considered



Choquet integral. A fuzzy integral w.r.t. a fuzzy measure (non-additive measure). CI generalizes Lebesgue integral. **Interactions.**

# Footnote: Mahalanobis / CI



# Experiments and distances

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## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Data sets considered (from CENSUS dataset)
  - *M4-33*: 4 attributes microaggregated in groups of 2 with  $k = 3$ .
  - *M4-28*: 4 attributes, 2 attributes with  $k = 2$ , and 2 with  $k = 8$ .
  - *M4-82*: 4 attributes, 2 attributes with  $k = 8$ , and 2 with  $k = 2$ .
  - *M5-38*: 5 attributes, 3 attributes with  $k = 3$ , and 2 with  $k = 8$ .
  - *M6-385*: 6 attributes, 2 attributes with  $k = 3$ , 2 attributes with  $k = 8$ , and 2 with  $k = 5$ .
  - *M6-853*: 6 attributes, 2 attributes with  $k = 8$ , 2 attributes with  $k = 5$ , and 2 with  $k = 3$ .



# Experiments and distances

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Percentage of the number of correct re-identifications.

	<i>M4-33</i>	<i>M4-28</i>	<i>M4-82</i>	<i>M5-38</i>	<i>M6-385</i>	<i>M6-853</i>
$d^2 AM$	84.00	68.50	71.00	39.75	78.00	84.75
$d^2 MD$	94.00	90.00	92.75	88.25	98.50	98.00
$d^2 WM$	95.50	93.00	94.25	90.50	99.25	98.75
$d^2 WM_m$	95.50	93.00	94.25	90.50	99.25	98.75
$d^2 CI$	95.75	93.75	94.25	91.25	<b>99.75</b>	99.25
$d^2 CI_m$	95.75	93.75	94.25	90.50	99.50	98.75
$d^2 SB_{NC}$	<b>96.75</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>95.25</b>	<b>92.25</b>	<b>99.75</b>	<b>99.50</b>
$d^2 SB$	<b>96.75</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>95.25</b>	<b>92.25</b>	<b>99.75</b>	<b>99.50</b>
$d^2 SB_{PD}$	—	—	—	—	—	99.25

$d_m$ : distance;  $d_{NC}$ : positive;  $d_{PD}$ : positive-definite matrix

# Experiments and distances

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- Computation time comparison (in seconds).

	<i>M4-33</i>	<i>M4-28</i>	<i>M4-82</i>	<i>M5-38</i>	<i>M6-385</i>	<i>M6-853</i>
$d^2WM$	29.83	41.37	24.33	718.43	11.81	17.77
$d^2WM_m$	3.43	6.26	2.26	190.75	4.34	6.72
$d^2CI$	280.24	427.75	242.86	42,731.22	24.17	87.43
$d^2CI_m$	155.07	441.99	294.98	4,017.16	79.43	829.81
$d^2SB_{NC}$	32.04	2,793.81	150.66	10,592.99	13.65	14.11
$d^2SB$	13.67	3,479.06	139.59	169,049.55	13.93	13.70

1h=3600; 1d = 86400s

- Constraints specific to weighted mean and Choquet integral for distances

$N$ : number of records;  $n$ : number of attributes

	$d^2WM_m$	$d^2CI_m$
Additional Constraints	$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$ $p_i > 0$	$\mu(\emptyset) = 0$ $\mu(V) = 1$ $\mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$ when $A \subseteq B$ $\mu(A) + \mu(B) \geq \mu(A \cup B) + \mu(A \cap B)$
Total Constr.	$N(N-1) + N + 1 + n$	$N(N-1) + N + 2 + (\sum_{k=2}^n \binom{n}{k} k) + \binom{n}{2}$

# Experiments and distances

## Machine Learning for distance-based record linkage

- A summary of the experiments

	AM	MD	WM	OWA	SB	CI
Computation	Very fast	Very fast	Fast	regular	Hard	Hard
Results	Worse	Good	Good	Bad	Very Good	Very Good
Information	No	No	Few	Few	Large	Large

# Transparency

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## Disclosure risk assessment: Transparency attacks

# Transparency

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## Transparency. Definition

# Transparency

---

## Transparency.

- “the release of information about processes and even parameters used to alter data” (Karr, 2009).

## **Transparency principle.** (similar to the Kerckhoffs’s principle in cryptography)

- “Given a privacy model, a masking method should be compliant with this privacy model even if everything about the method is public knowledge” (Torra, 2017, p. 17)

# Transparency

---

## Transparency principle.

- “Given a privacy model, a masking method should be compliant with this privacy model even if everything about the method is public knowledge”

## Effect.

- Information Loss. **Positive effect, less loss/improve inference**  
E.g., noise addition  $\rho(X) = X + \epsilon$  where  $\epsilon$  s.t.  
 $E(\epsilon) = 0$  and  $Var(\epsilon) = kVar(X)$

$$Var(X') = Var(X) + kVar(X) = (1 + k)Var(X).$$

# Transparency

---

## Transparency principle.

- “Given a privacy model, a masking method should be compliant with this privacy model even if everything about the method is public knowledge”

## Effect.

- Disclosure Risk. **Negative effect, larger risk**
  - Attack to single-ranking microaggregation (Winkler, 2002)
  - Formalization of the transparency attack (Nin, Herranz, Torra, 2008)
  - Attacks to microaggregation and rank swapping (Nin, Herranz, Torra, 2008)



# Transparency

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## Attacking Rank Swapping

# Transparency attack

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## Formalization:

- **RS transparency attack** (similar for microaggregation)
  - $X$  and  $X'$  original and masked files,  $\mathbf{V} = (V_1, \dots, V_s)$  attributes
  - $B_j(x)$  set of masked records associated to  $x$  w.r.t.  $j$ th variable.
  - Then, for record  $x$ , the masked record  $x_\ell$  corresponding to  $x$  is in the intersection of  $B_j(x)$ .

$$x_\ell \in \bigcap_j B_j(x).$$

- **Worst case scenario** in record linkage: upper bound of risk

# Transparency attack

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## Rank swapping

- For ordinal/numerical attributes
- Applied attribute-wise

---

**Data:**  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  : original data;  $p$ : percentage of records  
Order  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  in increasing order (i.e.,  $a_i \leq a_{i+1}$ ) ;  
Mark  $a_i$  as unswapped for all  $i$  ;  
**for**  $i = 1$  **to**  $n$  **do**  
    **if**  $a_i$  *is unswapped* **then**  
        Select  $\ell$  randomly and uniformly chosen from the limited  
        range  $[i + 1, \min(n, i + p * |X|/100)]$  ;  
        Swap  $a_i$  with  $a_\ell$  ;  
Undo the sorting step ;

---

# Transparency attack

---

## Rank swapping.

- Marginal distributions not modified.
- Correlations between the attributes are modified
- Good trade-off between information loss and disclosure risk

# Transparency attack

---

**Under the transparency principle** we publish

- $X'$  (protected data set)

# Transparency attack

---

**Under the transparency principle** we publish

- $X'$  (protected data set)
- masking method: rank swapping

# Transparency attack

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- parameter of the method:  $p$  (proportion of  $|X|$ )

# Transparency attack

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Then, the intruder can use *(method, parameter)* to attack



# Transparency attack

---

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- $X'$  (protected data set)
- masking method: rank swapping
- parameter of the method:  $p$  (proportion of  $|X|$ )

Then, the intruder can use  $(method, parameter)$  to attack

→  $(method, parameter) = (rank\ swapping, p)$

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder perspective.

- Intruder data are available

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder perspective.

- Intruder data are available
- All protected values are available.

# Transparency attack

---

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I.e.,  
All data in the original data set are also available

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder perspective.

- Intruder data are available
- All protected values are available.  
I.e.,  
All data in the original data set are also available

## Intruder's attack for a single attribute

- Given a value  $a$ , we can define the set of possible swaps for  $a_i$   
Proceed as rank swapping does:  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  ordered values If  $a_i = a$ ,  
it can only be swapped with  $a_\ell$  in the range

$$\ell \in [i + 1, \min(n, i + p * |X|/100)]$$

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder's attack for a single attribute attribute $V_j$

- Define  $B_j(a)$   
the set of masked records that can be the masked version of  $a$

# Transparency attack

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$$x'_\ell \in B_j(a)$$

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## Intruder's attack for all available attributes

- Define  $B_j(a_j)$  for all available  $V_j$
- Intersection attack:



# Transparency attack

---

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- Define  $B_j(a_j)$  for all available  $V_j$
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$$x'_\ell \in \bigcap_{1 \leq j \leq c} B_j(x_i).$$

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- Define  $B_j(a_j)$  for all available  $V_j$
- Intersection attack:

$$x'_\ell \in \bigcap_{1 \leq j \leq c} B_j(x_i).$$

**No uncertainty!**

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder's attack for all available attributes

- Intersection attack:

$$x'_\ell \in \bigcap_{1 \leq j \leq c} B_j(x_i).$$

- When  $|\bigcap_{1 \leq j \leq c} B_j(x_i)| = 1$ , **we have a true match**
- Otherwise, we can apply record linkage within this set

# Transparency attack

## Intruder's attack. Example.

- Intruder's record:  $x_2 = (6, 7, 10, 2)$ ,  $p = 2$ . First attribute:  $x_{21} = 6$
- $B_1(a = 6) = \{(4, 1, 10, 10), (5, 5, 8, 1), (6, 7, 6, 3), (7, 3, 5, 6), (8, 4, 2, 2)\}$

Original file				Masked file				$B(x_{2j})$
$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$	$a'_1$	$a'_2$	$a'_3$	$a'_4$	$B(x_{21})$
8	9	1	3	10	10	3	5	
6	7	10	2	5	5	8	1	X
10	3	4	1	8	4	2	2	X
7	1	2	6	9	2	4	4	
9	4	6	4	7	3	5	6	X
2	2	8	8	4	1	10	10	X
1	10	3	9	3	9	1	7	
4	8	7	10	2	6	9	8	
5	5	5	5	6	7	6	3	X
3	6	9	7	1	8	7	9	

# Transparency attack

## Intruder's attack. Example.

- Intruder's record:  $x_2 = (6, 7, 10, 2)$ ,  $p = 2$ . Second attribute:  $x_{22} = 7$
- $B_2(a = 7) = \{(5, 5, 8, 1), (2, 6, 9, 8), (6, 7, 6, 3), (1, 8, 7, 9), (3, 9, 1, 7)\}$

Original file				Masked file				$B(x_{2j})$	
$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$	$a'_1$	$a'_2$	$a'_3$	$a'_4$	$B(x_{21})$	$B(x_{22})$
8	9	1	3	10	10	3	5		
6	7	10	2	5	5	8	1	X	X
10	3	4	1	8	4	2	2	X	
7	1	2	6	9	2	4	4		
9	4	6	4	7	3	5	6	X	
2	2	8	8	4	1	10	10	X	
1	10	3	9	3	9	1	7		X
4	8	7	10	2	6	9	8		X
5	5	5	5	6	7	6	3	X	X
3	6	9	7	1	8	7	9		X

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder's attack. Example.

- Intruder's record:  $x_2 = (6, 7, 10, 2)$ ,  $p = 2$ .
  - $B_1(x_{21} = 6) = \{(4, 1, 10, 10), (5, 5, 8, 1), (6, 7, 6, 3), (7, 3, 5, 6), (8, 4, 2, 2)\}$
  - $B_2(x_{22} = 7) = \{(5, 5, 8, 1), (2, 6, 9, 8), (6, 7, 6, 3), (1, 8, 7, 9), (3, 9, 1, 7)\}$
  - $B_3(x_{23} = 10) = \{(5, 5, 8, 1), (2, 6, 9, 8), (4, 1, 10, 10)\}$
  - $B_4(x_{24} = 2) = \{(5, 5, 8, 1), (8, 4, 2, 2), (6, 7, 6, 3), (9, 2, 4, 4)\}$
- The intersection is a single record

$(5, 5, 8, 1)$

# Transparency attack

---

## Intruder's attack. Application.

- Data:
  - Census (1080 records, 13 attributes)
  - EIA (4092 records, 10 attributes)
- Rank swapping parameter:
  - $p = 2, \dots, 20$

# Transparency attack

## Intruder's attack. Result

	Census			EIA		
	RSLD	DLD	PLD	RSLD	DLD	PLD
rs 2	77.73	73.52	71.28	43.27	21.71	16.85
rs 4	66.65	58.40	42.92	12.54	10.61	4.79
rs 6	54.65	43.76	22.49	7.69	7.40	2.03
rs 8	41.28	32.13	11.74	6.12	5.98	1.12
rs 10	29.21	23.64	6.03	5.60	5.19	0.69
rs 12	19.87	18.96	3.46	5.39	4.87	0.51
rs 14	16.14	15.63	2.06	5.28	4.55	0.32
rs 16	13.81	13.59	1.29	5.19	4.54	0.23
rs 18	12.21	11.50	0.83	5.20	4.54	0.22
rs 20	10.88	10.87	0.59	5.15	4.36	0.18



# Transparency attack

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## Intruder's attack. Summary

- When  $|\cap B_j| = 1$ , this is a match.  
25% of reidentifications in this way  $\neq$  25% in distance-based or probabilistic record linkage.
- Approach applicable when the intruder knows a single record
- The more attributes the intruder has, the better is the reidentification.  
Intersection never increases when the number of attributes increases.
- When  $p$  is not known, an upper bound can help  
If the upper bound is too high, some  $|\cap B_j|$  can be zero

# Transparency

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## Avoiding Transparency Attack in Rank Swapping

# Transparency aware methods

---

## Avoiding **transparency attack** in rank swapping.

- Enlarge the  $B_j$  set to encompass the whole file.

# Transparency aware methods

---

## Avoiding **transparency attack** in rank swapping.

- Enlarge the  $B_j$  set to encompass the whole file.
- Then,

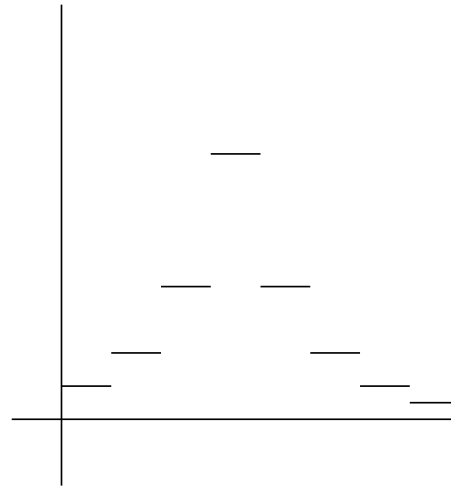
$$\cap B_j = X$$

# Transparency aware methods

## Approaches to avoid transparency attack in rank swapping.

- Rank swapping  $p$ -buckets. Select bucket  $B_s$  using

$$Pr[B_s \text{ is chosen} | B_r] = \frac{1}{K} \frac{1}{2^{s-r+1}}.$$



- Rank swapping  $p$ -distribution. Swap  $a_i$  with  $a_\ell$  where  $\ell = i + r$  and  $r$  according to a  $N(0.5p, 0.5p)$ .

# Updating databases and privacy

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## Transparency, updating databases and privacy

# Updating and privacy

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**Motivation.** Data mining: from databases to models

- Deletion/amendment may require the reconsideration of inferences.

# Updating and privacy

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**Motivation.** Data mining: from databases to models

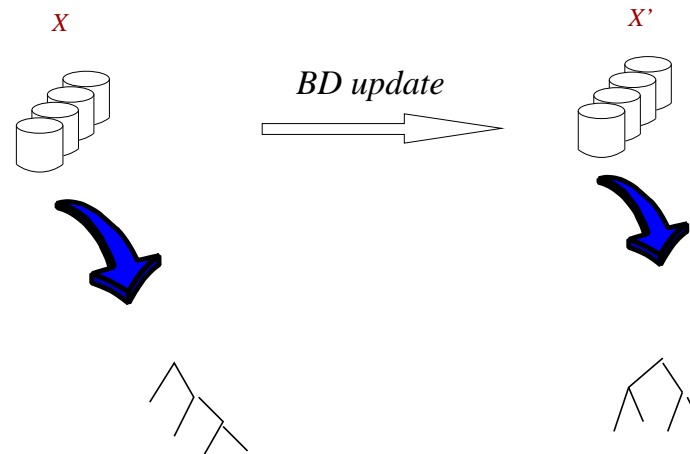
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where, **inferences = machine learning models** (decision trees)



# Updating and privacy

**Motivation.** Data mining: from databases to models

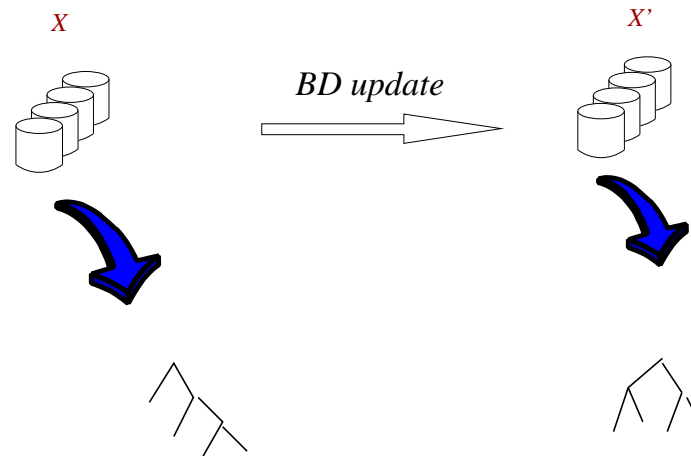
- Deletion/amendment may require the reconsideration of inferences.  
where, **inferences = machine learning models** (decision trees)



- Fairness, accountability and transparency principles in ML (how ?)

# Updating and privacy

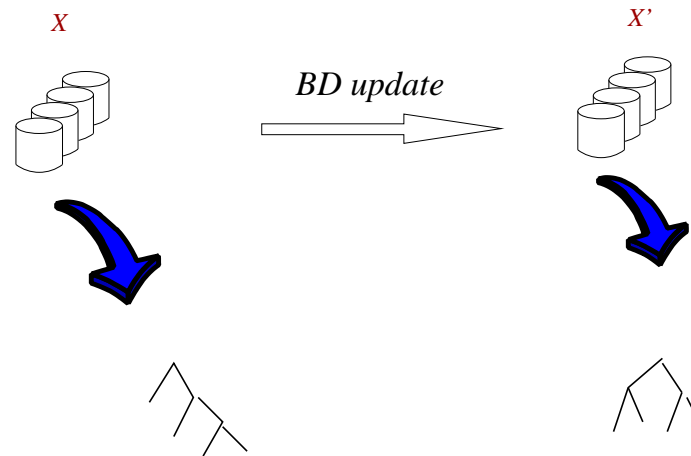
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- Should we annul/nullify a model  $G$  learnt from a dataset when some records are deleted/amended? Decisions should be revoked?

# Updating and privacy

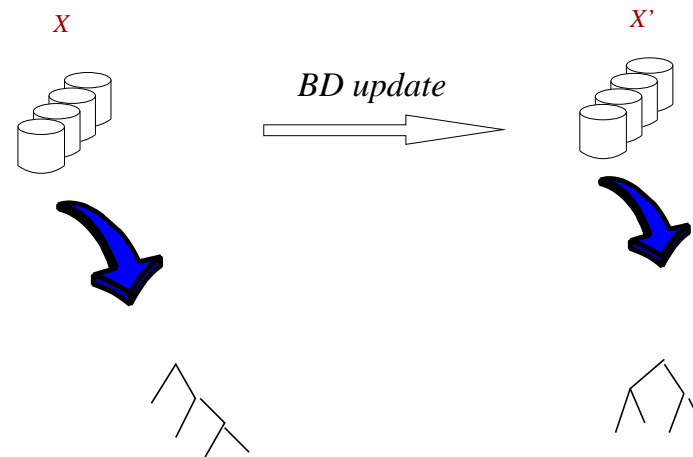
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e.g.  $G$ =decision tree (mortgage denied/accepted)  
 $\mu$ =remove (all) people with salary between [15000,20000] EUR.

# Updating and privacy

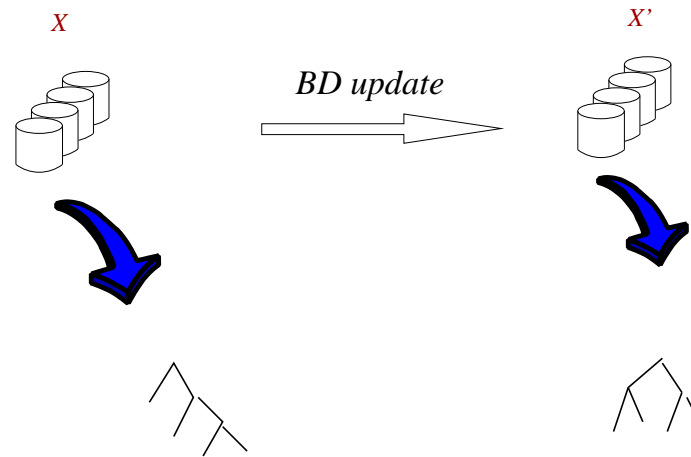
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- Given two (different) models  $G$  and  $G'$  extracted from the files, do they **guarantee privacy on the modifications** ( $\mu$ )?

# Updating and privacy

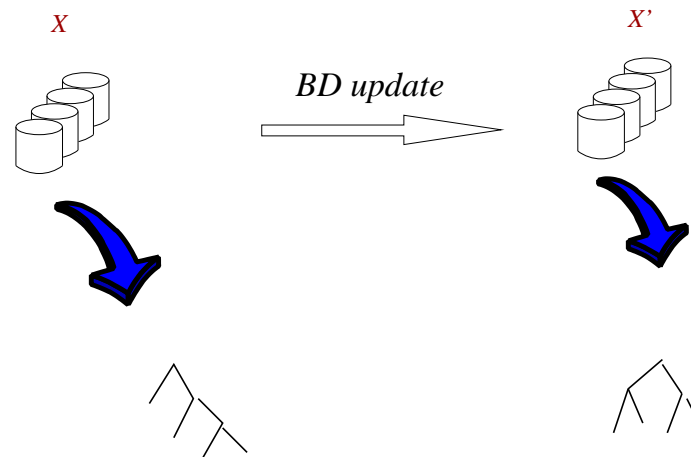
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e.g., intruder has  $G$  and  $G'$ , can infer  $\mu$ ?

# Updating and privacy

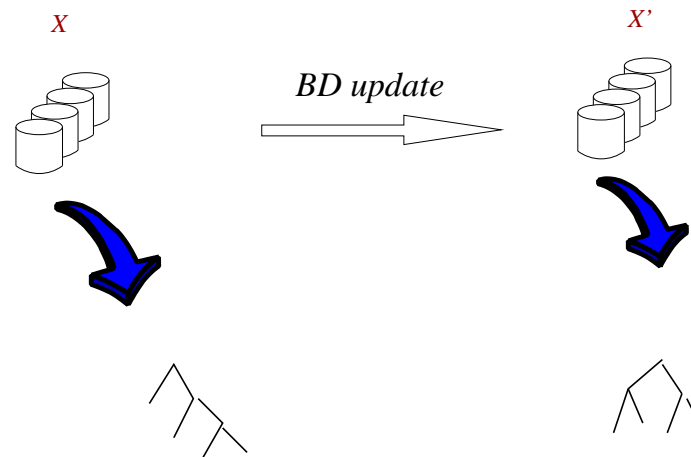
## Problem definition.



- Given two (different) models  $G$  and  $G'$  extracted from the files, do they guarantee privacy on the modifications ( $\mu$ )?

# Updating and privacy

## Problem definition.



- Given two (different) models  $G$  and  $G'$  extracted from the files, do they guarantee privacy on the modifications ( $\mu$ )?  
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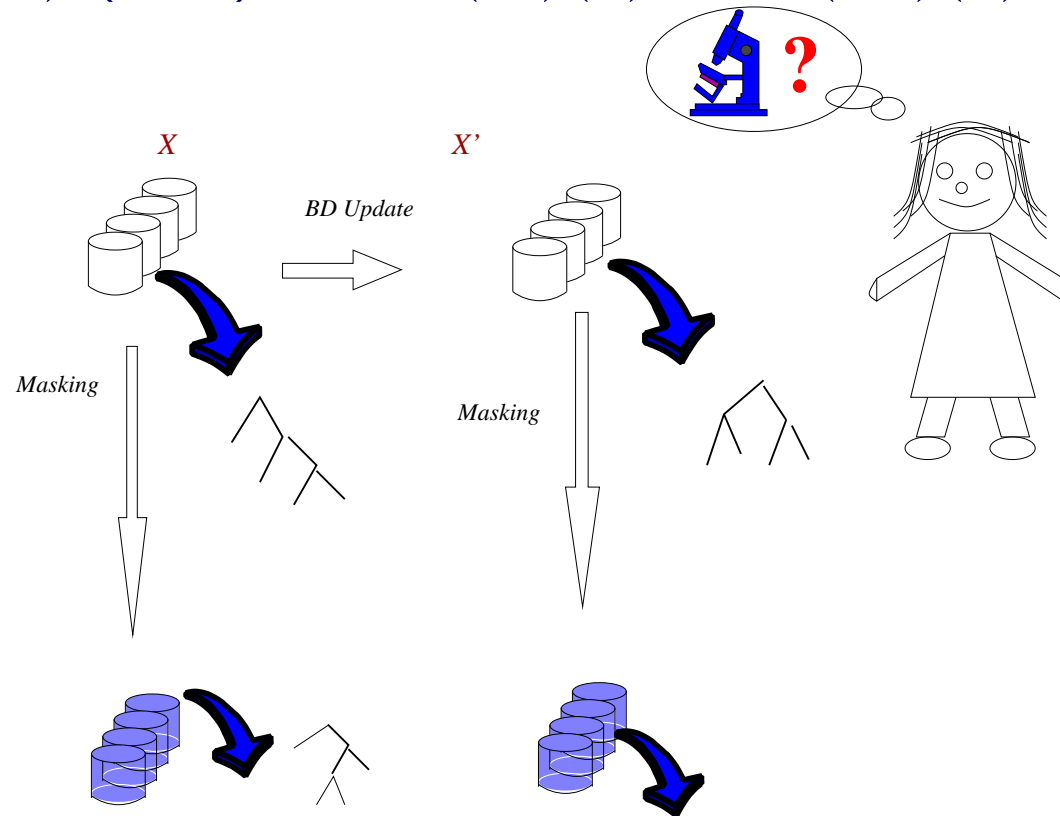
# Integral Privacy



# Integral privacy

**Notation.** Problem different from information loss assessment

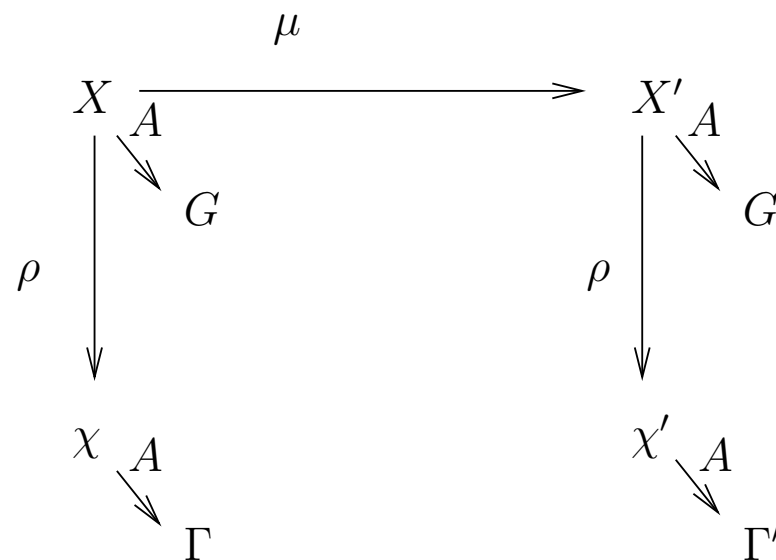
- $M(X) = M(X')$  (here) vs.  $M(X)(y) = M(X')(y)$  (in IL)



# Integral privacy

## Notation.

- Original file  $X$ , protected file  $\chi$
- **Updated** file  $X'$  and protected file  $\chi'$ .  $X' = X + \mu$
- Knowledge/models  $G$  and  $\Gamma$  extracted from  $X$  and  $\chi$
- Knowledge/models  $G'$  and  $\Gamma'$  extracted from  $X'$  and  $\chi'$
- Protection method  $\rho$  and knowledge discovery algorithm  $A$ .



# Integral privacy

---

## Scenario. Intruder's goal

- Given  $S \subset X$ ,  $G$ ,  $G'$ , find the set of possible modifications  $\mu$  that are consistent with data  $S \subseteq X$  and knowledge  $G$  and  $G'$ , and find elements in  $X \setminus S$ .

# Integral privacy

---

## Scenario. Intruder's goal

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Under the transparency principle, we may assume that the intruder knows the algorithm  $A$  used to generate  $G$ .

- Find:

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\mu \mid G = A(X) \text{ and } G' = A(X + \mu)\}.$$

- Find:

elements in  $X \setminus S$ : also known as membership attack.

# Integral privacy

---

## Scenario. Intruder's goal

- For some machine learning algorithms, the set of possible transformations will be **not empty**.

A ML model can be generated from different datasets, so any  $\mu$  to transform from one set to another is a possible modification.

# Integral privacy

---

## Scenario. Privacy problem

- Find algorithms  $A$  that maximize the uncertainty of the intruder (with respect to the set of possible modifications). That is, we are interested in machine learning methods  $A$  such that the set

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\mu | G = A(X) \text{ and } G' = A(X + \mu)\}. \quad (1)$$

is large, and such that

$$\bigcap_{m \in \mathcal{M}} m = \emptyset. \quad (2)$$

# Integral privacy

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## Scenario. Definition

- We define  $i$ -integral privacy when  $\mathcal{M}$  is *large* and such that the intersection is empty.
- We define integral privacy à la  $k$ -anonymity, when the set  $\mathcal{M}$  contains at least  $k$  alternatives.
- We define  **$k$ -anonymous integral privacy** when the set  $\mathcal{M}$  has at least  $k$  minimal elements. (Modifications define a **lattice**)

# Integral privacy

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## Scenario. Using masking

- Solving the privacy problem combining machine learning algorithms with data privacy algorithms:  $\hat{A}(X) = A(\rho(X))$ . Then, given  $X$ ,  $G$ ,  $G'$ , and an algorithm  $A$ , a good masking method  $\rho$  is the one that makes the set

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\mu \mid G = A(\rho(X)) \text{ and } G' = A(\rho(X + \mu))\}$$

large and such that  $\bigcap_{m \in \mathcal{M}} m = \emptyset$ .

- We can consider additional restrictions for the set  $\mathcal{M}$  as above.



# Integral privacy

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**Scenario.** Considering differential privacy

- The case of differential privacy for  $G$

$$\text{Distr}(G(X)) \sim \text{Distr}(G(X + x)).$$

- If  $G(X)$  and  $G(X + x)$  is different, does not satisfy differential privacy, but can be safe if the set of possible elements  $x$  is large.
- If we want both differential + integral: differintegral

# Summary

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# Summary

# Summary

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- Quantitative measures of risk
- Worst-case scenario for disclosure risk
  - Parametric distances
  - Distance/metric learning
- Transparency and disclosure risk
  - Masking method and parameters published
  - Disclosure risk revisited (rank swapping)
  - New masking methods resistant to transparency
- Definition of integral privacy

**Thank you**

# References

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## References.

- Worst-case scenario
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  - Includes sections on masking methods and transparency, and variants for big data. User privacy for communications and information retrieval (PIR).





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