

# Zero-Knowledge Private Graph Summarization

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Challenge: Evidence of Participation
- Sample Aggregates
- Zero-Knowledge Privacy
- Analysis of Utility of ZKP
- Conclusions

# Privacy of Aggregate Information

- Aggregate query  $q : D \rightarrow R$
- **Background knowledge** can help infer **sensitive information** about **participants** from aggregate query answers.

# Example

- Healthcare data in a hospital:
  - Aggregate query
    - What is the number of patients with cancer diagnosis admitted today?
    - Answer=2.
  - Background knowledge:
    - **Alice** was admitted today.
    - 6 patients in total were admitted today.

**Alice** has cancer with probability  $1/3$ .

# Differential Privacy

- **Randomize the algorithm**, so that it has a probability distribution over outputs such that
  - **if a person removed his/her input**, the relative probabilities of any output don't change by much.
- Can pretend your input does not data about a given person.
  - Can view as model of “**plausible deniability**”.

# Differential Privacy (I)

- **Definition:**

Randomized algorithm *San* satisfies  $\epsilon$ -DP

iff

for any two neighboring databases *D* and *D'*

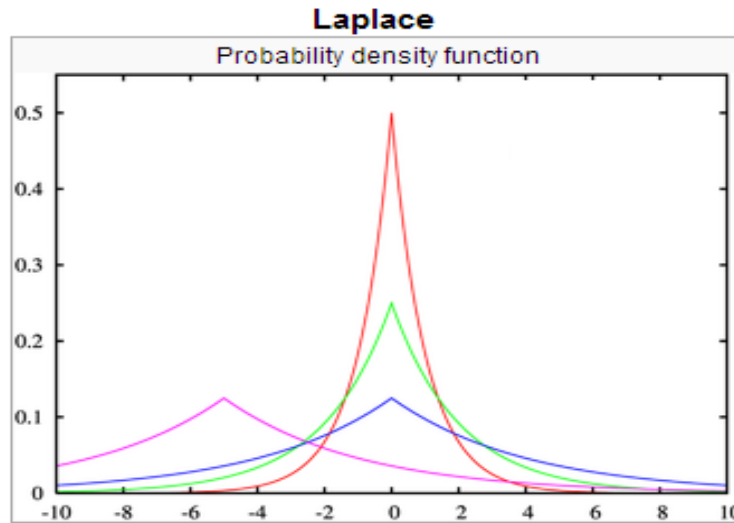
$$\Pr[ San(D) \in W ] \leq e^\epsilon \times \Pr[ San(D') \in W ]$$

# Differential Privacy (II)

Typical way to achieve DP:

- Add **properly calibrated Laplace noise** to query answer.
  - Sanitized output:  $San(D) = q(D) + \text{noise}$ ,
  - PDF of Laplace Noise with mean zero:

$$h(x) = \frac{1}{2\lambda} e^{-\frac{|x|}{\lambda}}$$



Cynthia Dwork, Frank McSherry,  
Kobbi Nissim, and Adam Smith  
(TCC 2006)

# Differential Privacy (III)

- Sensitivity of  $q : D \rightarrow R$

$$\Delta(q) = \max_{D, D'} |q(D) - q(D')|$$

- Calibrate noise scale  $\lambda$  to the sensitivity of the query:

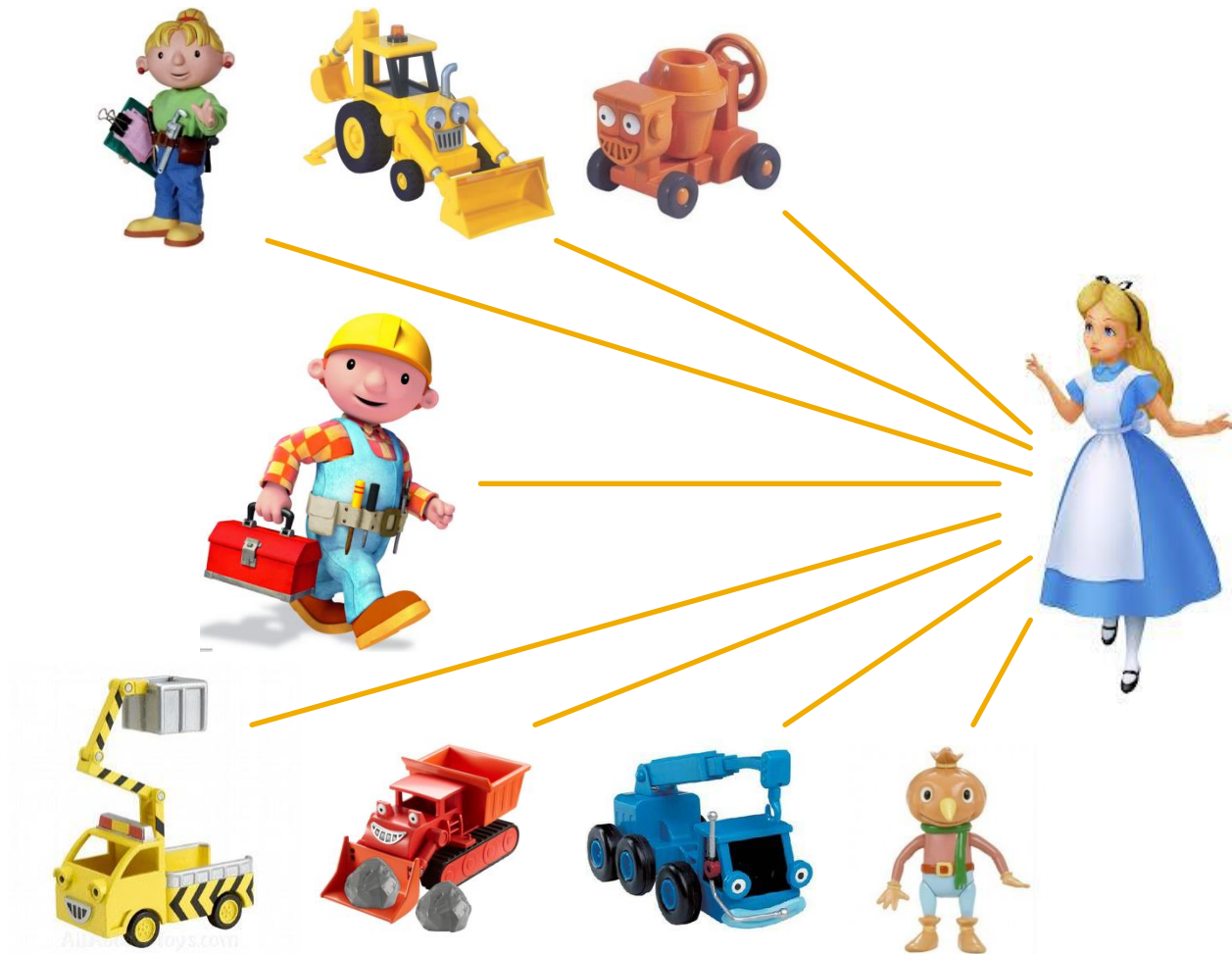
$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta(q)}{\epsilon}$$



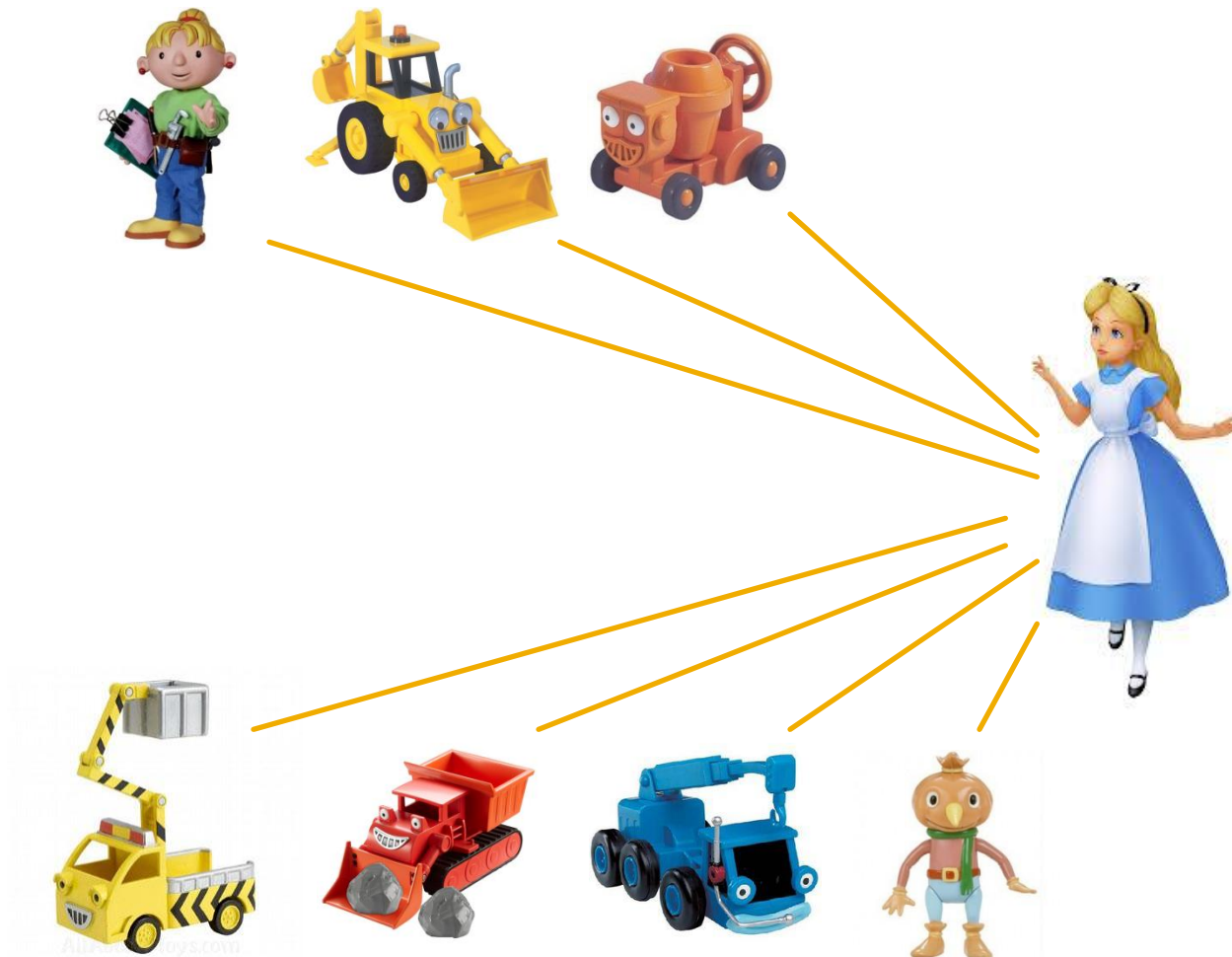
# Problem of DP for Social Networks



# Problem of DP for Social Networks



# Problem of DP for Social Networks



We can still guess that Bob is friend with Alice!

DP doesn't protect against **evidence of participation.**

# Problem of DP for Social Networks

- DP ensures that for any true answer,  $c$  or  $c - 1$ , the **sanitized answer** is pretty much the **same**.
- However, **not strong enough**:
  - Existence of Bob's edge **changes** the true answer **not just by 1**, but by a **bigger number**
    - as it causes more edges to be created

# ZKP Intuition

- ZKP **guarantees** that an attacker **cannot discover**
  - any **personal information**  
**more than**
  - what can be **inferred** from some **aggregate** on a **sample** of a database with the person removed.
- [GLP11] J. Gehrke, E. Lui, R. Pass: **Towards Privacy for Social Networks: A Zero-Knowledge Based Definition of Privacy.**  
*TCC 2011*

# ZKP Intuition

- Suppose the network size is **10,000** and the sample size is  $\sqrt{10,000} = 100$ .
  - **Evidence** provided by the **7 more edges** caused by **Bob's edge** will essentially be **protected**;
  - With a **high probability**, **none** of these 7 edges will be in the **sample**.

# Sample Complexity of a Function

$$\Pr(|T(D) - q(D)| \leq \delta) \geq 1 - \beta$$

- $(\delta, \beta)$ -sample complexity (SC) of  $q$ .
- $\delta$  is the **sample error**

# Recall Sensitivity of a Function

- Sensitivity of  $q : D \rightarrow R$   $\Delta(q) = \max_{D, D'} |q(D) - q(D')|$

- In **DP** we calibrate **Laplace noise** scale  $\lambda$  to the sensitivity of the query:

$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta(q)}{\epsilon}$$

- In **ZKP** we again use **Laplace noise**, but also consider the **sample complexity** of  $q$ .

$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta(q) + \delta}{\epsilon}$$



# ZKP-definition [GLP11]

- **Definition:**

A randomized algorithm *San* satisfies  $\epsilon$ -ZKP w.r.t. sample aggregate *T*

iff

for any two neighboring databases *D* and *D'*

$$Pr[ Adv(San(D), z) \in W ] \leq e^\epsilon \times Pr[ Sim(T(D'), z) \in W ]$$

$$Pr[ Sim(T(D'), z) \in W ] \leq e^\epsilon \times Pr[ Adv(San(D), z) \in W ]$$

# Theorem [GLP11]

$q: \mathbf{G} \rightarrow [a, b]^m$  has  $(\delta, \beta)$ -sample complexity w.r.t.  $T$ .

Then,

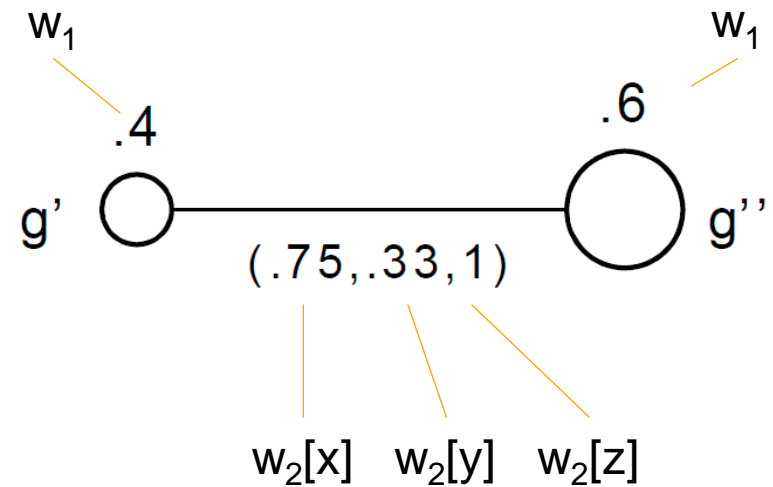
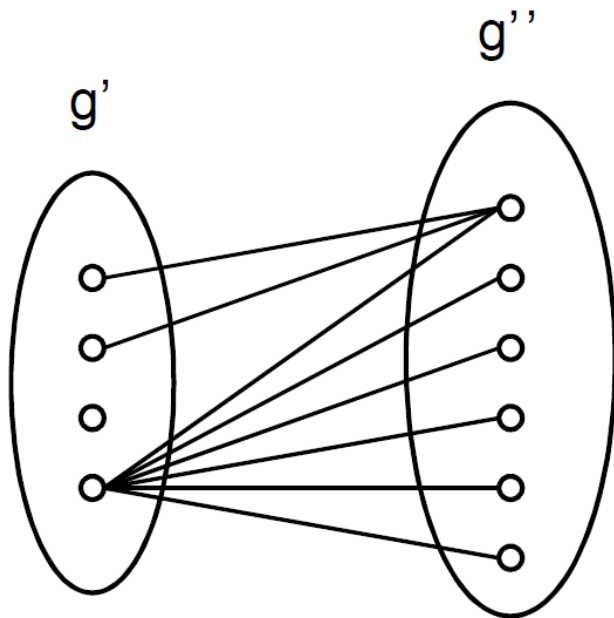
$San(G) = q(G) + (X_1, \dots, X_m)$        $X_i \sim \text{Lap}(\lambda)$

is

$$\ln \left( (1 - \beta) e^{\frac{\Delta(q) + \delta}{\lambda}} + \beta e^{\frac{(b-a)m}{\lambda}} \right) - \text{ZKP}$$

w.r.t.  $T$ .

# Graph Summarization



# Results

$$\Delta(w_1) = 0$$

$$\Delta(w_2[x]) = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$\Delta(w_2[y]) = \frac{1}{r^2}$$

$$\Delta(w_2[z]) = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$w_1 : \left( \delta, 2e^{-2k\delta^2} \right) - \text{SC}$$

$$w_2[x] : \left( \delta, 2e^{-2k_g\delta^2} \right) - \text{SC}$$

$$w_2[z] : \left( \delta, 2e^{-2k_g\delta^2} \right) - \text{SC}$$

$$w_2[y] : \left( \delta, 2e^{-2k_g \times k_g \delta^2} \right) - \text{SC}$$

Smallest  
allowed  
group size

k is the  
sample  
size

$k_g$  is the  
size of g in  
a sample  
of size k

# Results

Considering

$$k = \sqrt[3]{n^2}$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{n^2}}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta(q) + \delta}{\varepsilon}$$

and using the ZKP theorem we get for **w1**:

By adding noise

$$\text{Lap}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon \cdot \sqrt[3]{k}}\right)$$

we have a **San** that is:

$$\ln\left(\varepsilon + 2e^{-\sqrt[3]{k}}\right) - \text{ZKP}$$

# Results

Considering

$$k = \sqrt[3]{n^2}$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{n^2}}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta(q) + \delta}{\varepsilon}$$

and using the ZKP theorem we get for  $w_2[x]$ :

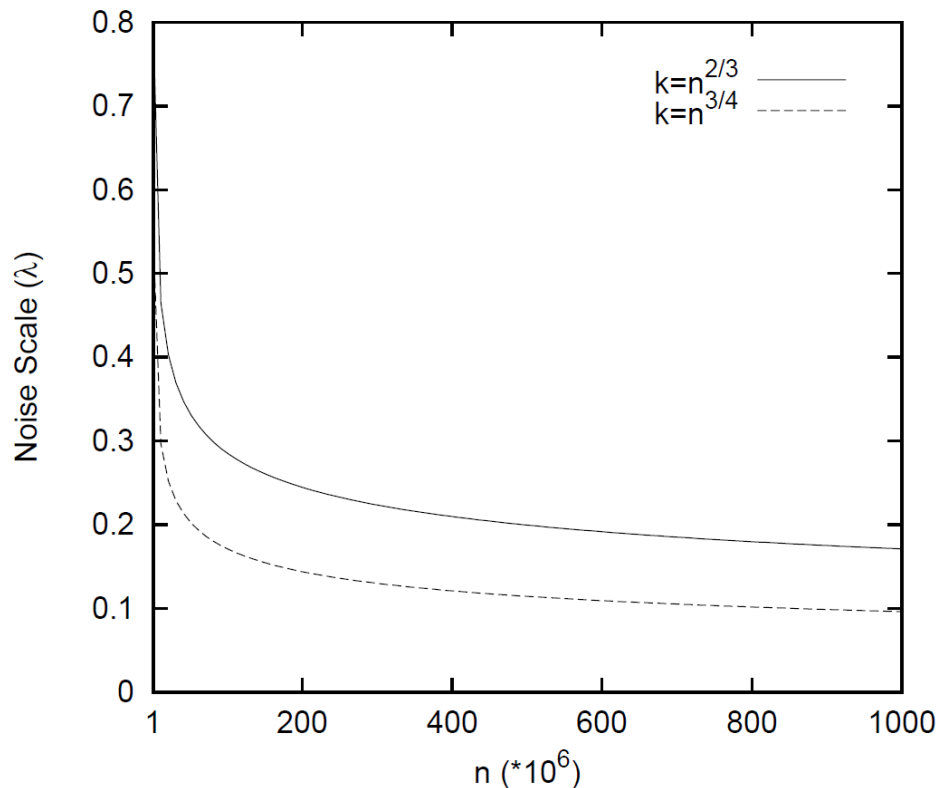
By adding noise

$$\text{Lap}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon \cdot r} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon \cdot \sqrt[3]{k_g}}\right)$$

we have a **San** that is:

$$\ln\left(\varepsilon + 2e^{-\sqrt[3]{k_g}}\right) - \text{ZKP}$$

# Relationship between noise scale and database size



For  $\lambda=0.1$ , the probability that noise is between **-0.15** and **0.15** is about **80%**

For  $\lambda=0.15$ , the probability that noise is between **-0.15** and **0.15** is about **63%**

For  $\lambda=0.2$ , the probability that noise is between **-0.15** and **0.15** is about **52%**

■ For:  $\varepsilon = 0.1$   $\delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{k}}$

# Conclusions

- Showed how to use ZKP for **graph summarization**
- Showed **when it is reasonable** to use ZKP
- **Upshot:**
  - ZKP is quite useful for protecting not only the participation of a connection, but also the **evidence of its participation**.
  - **However, from a utility point of view, ZKP can only be applied meaningfully on big social graphs.**



# Questions

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Thank you!

# References

- Maryam Shoaran, Alex Thomo, Jens H. Weber-Jahnke. Zero-knowledge private graph summarization. BigData Conference 2013: 597-605
- Nasrin Hassanlou, Maryam Shoaran, Alex Thomo. Probabilistic Graph Summarization. WAIM 2013: 545-556
- Maryam Shoaran, Alex Thomo, Jens H. Weber. Differential Privacy in Practice. Secure Data Management 2012: 14-24