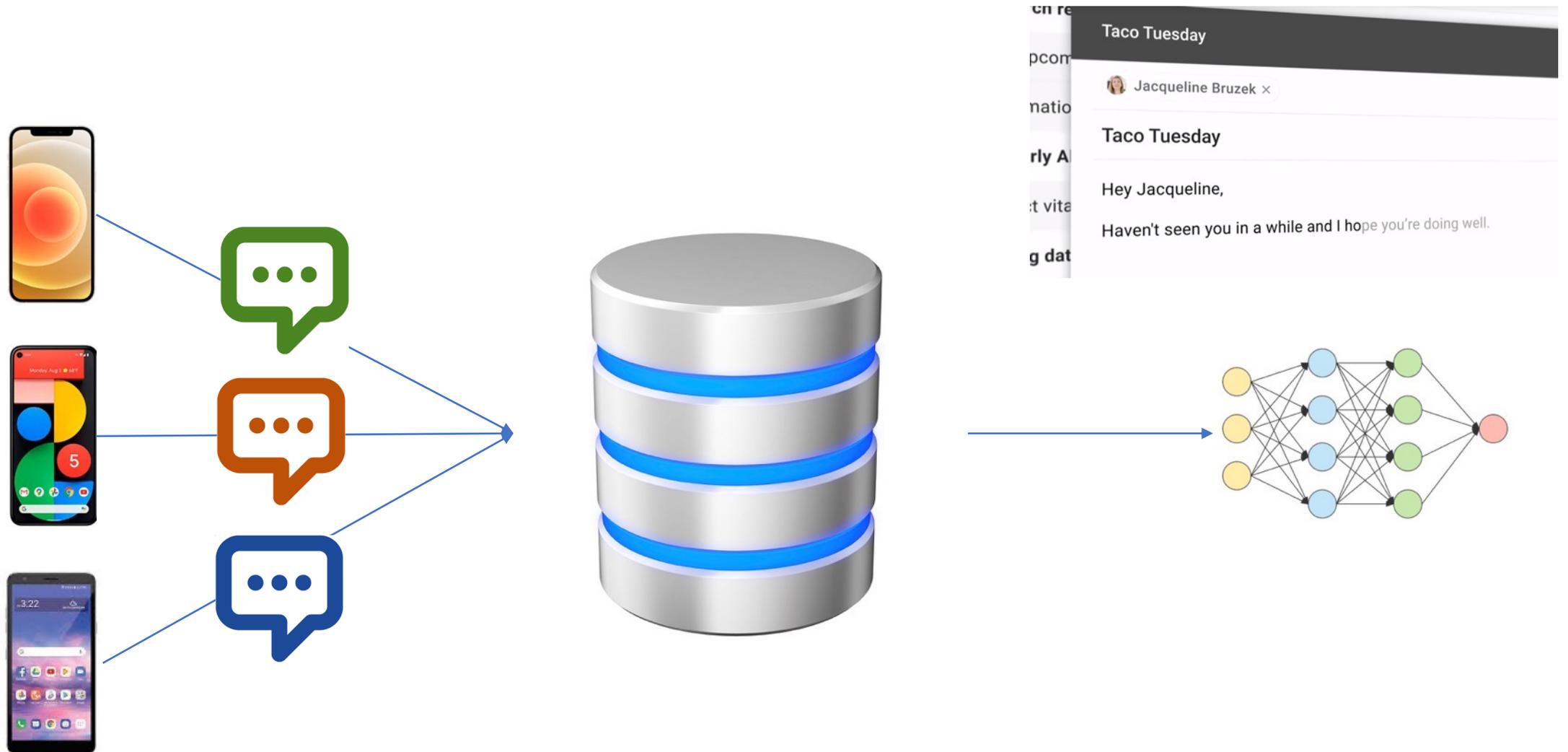


Breaking and safeguarding privacy in machine learning

Florian Tramèr

Google Brain & ETHZ

Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”



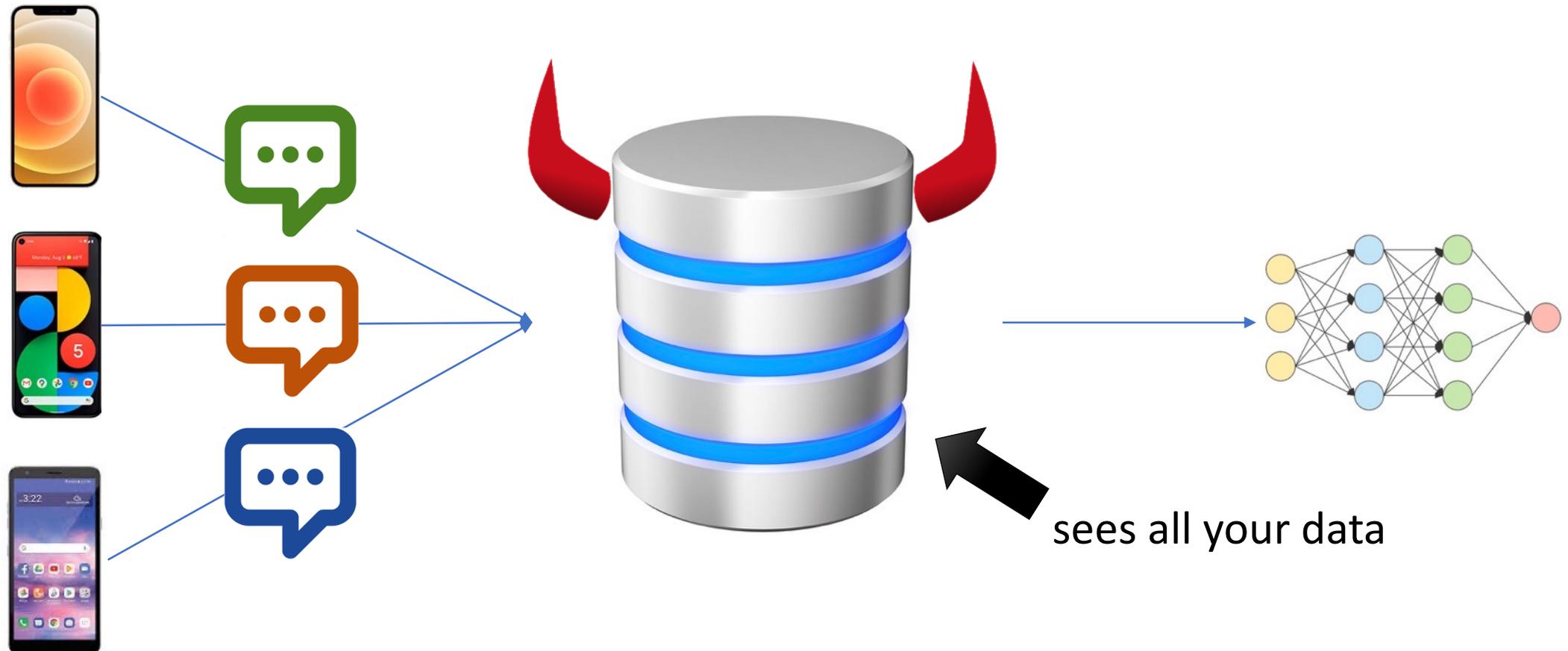
Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”

- what does this mean?
- how can we achieve this?
- do existing defenses work?

Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”

➤ what does this mean?

data secrecy

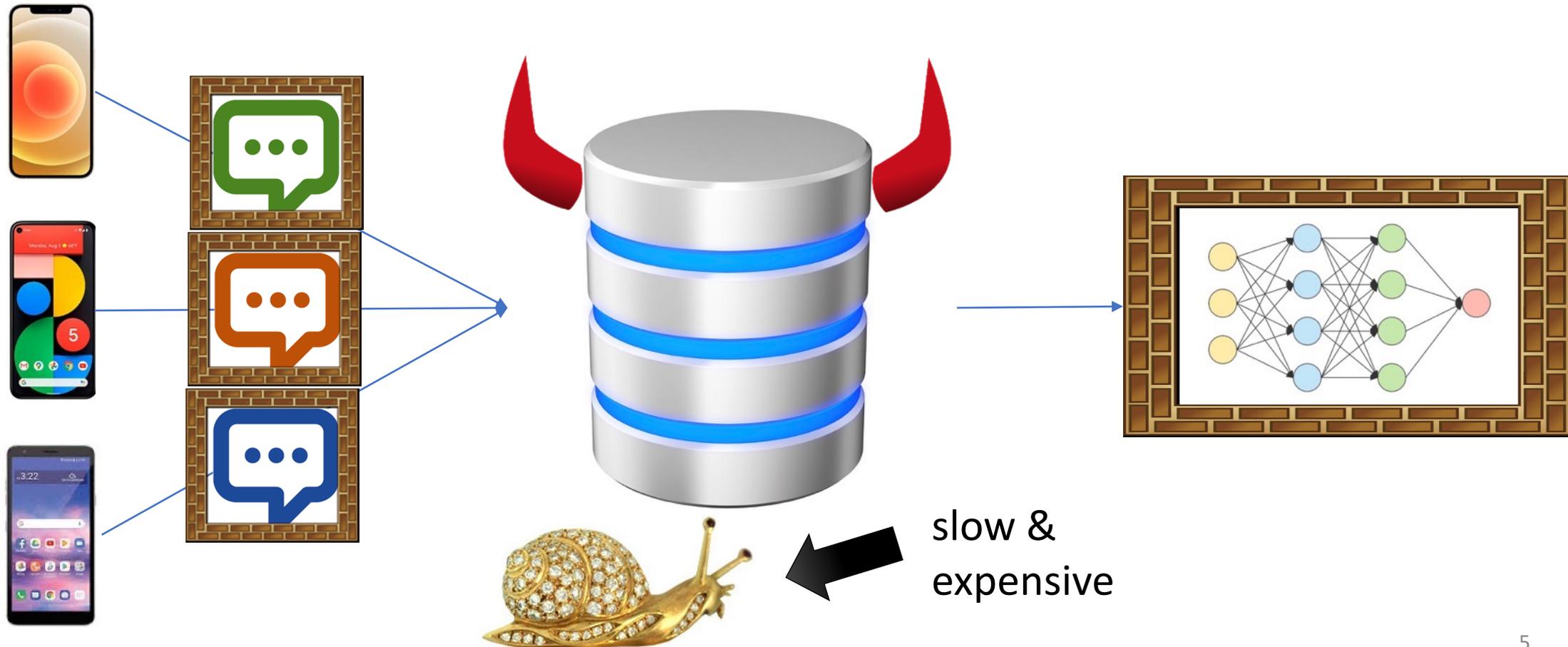


Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”

CS355!

- what does this mean?
- how can we achieve this?

data secrecy
federated ML + MPC, FHE, ...



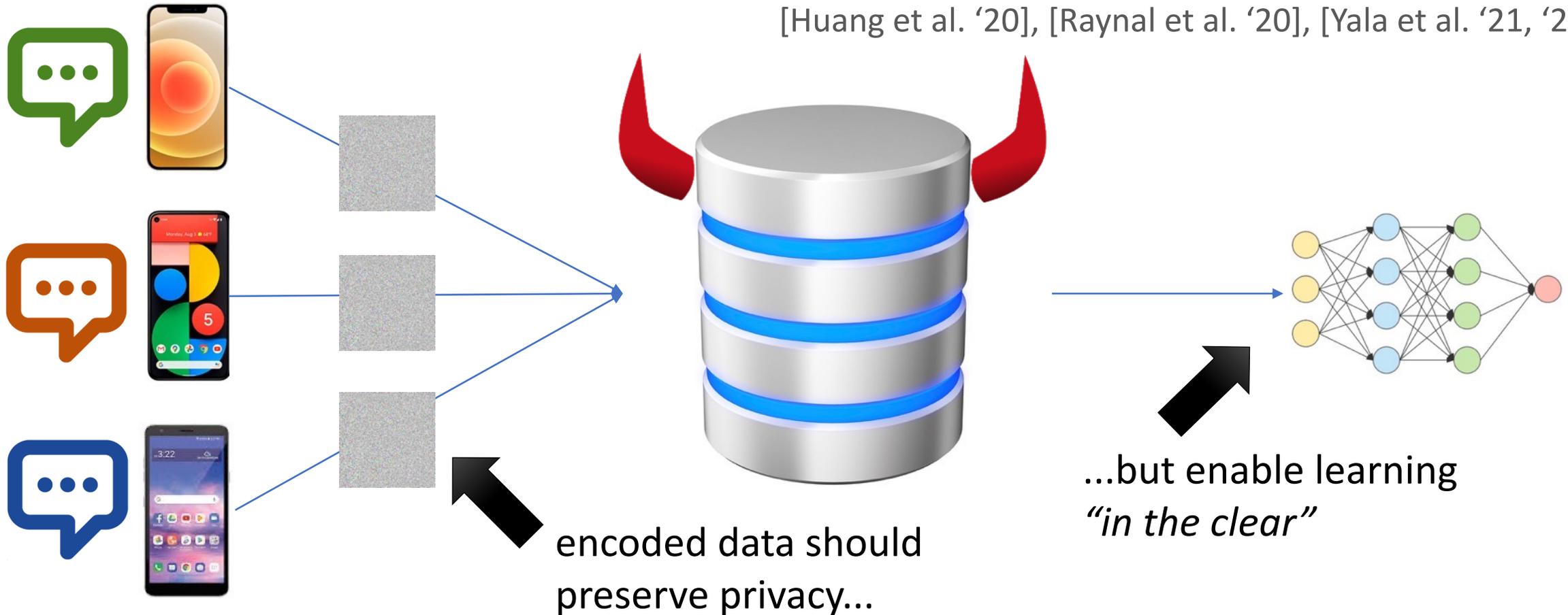
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- what does this mean?
- how (else) could we achieve this?

data secrecy

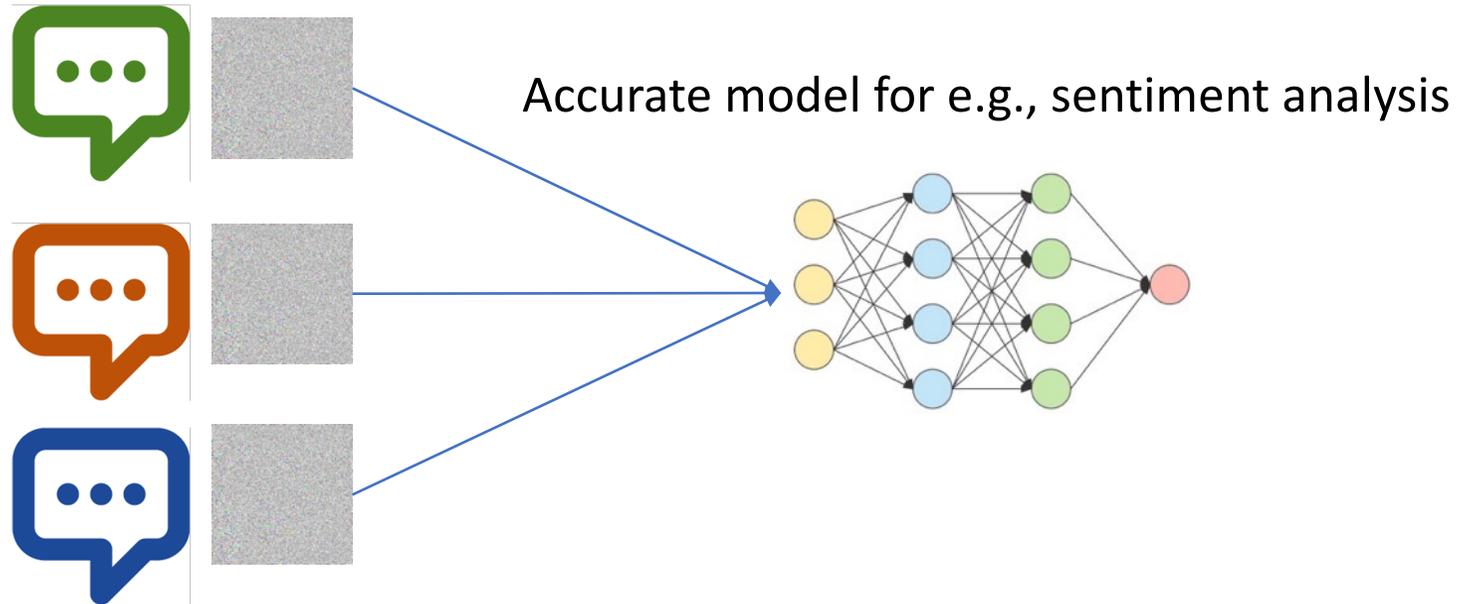
learning on “encoded” data

[Huang et al. '20], [Raynal et al. '20], [Yala et al. '21, '22], ...



If an encoding lets you learn, it cannot be private

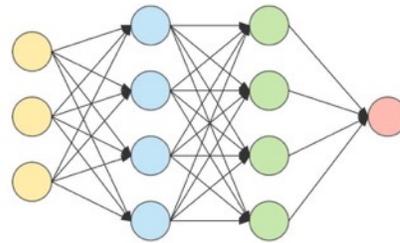
Is Private Learning Possible with Instance Encoding? IEEE Security & Privacy 2021



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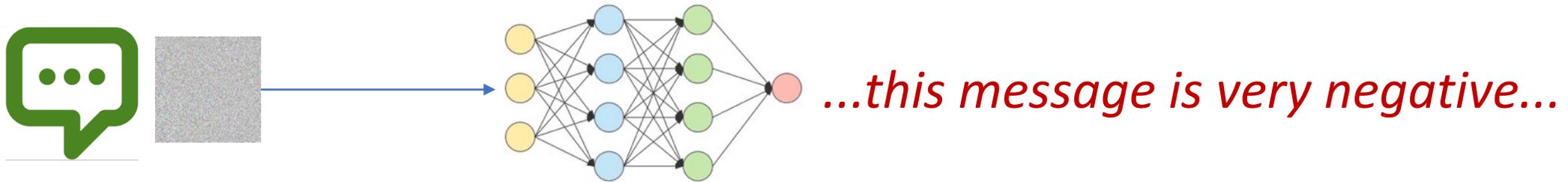
Accurate model for e.g., sentiment analysis



If an encoding lets you learn, it cannot be private

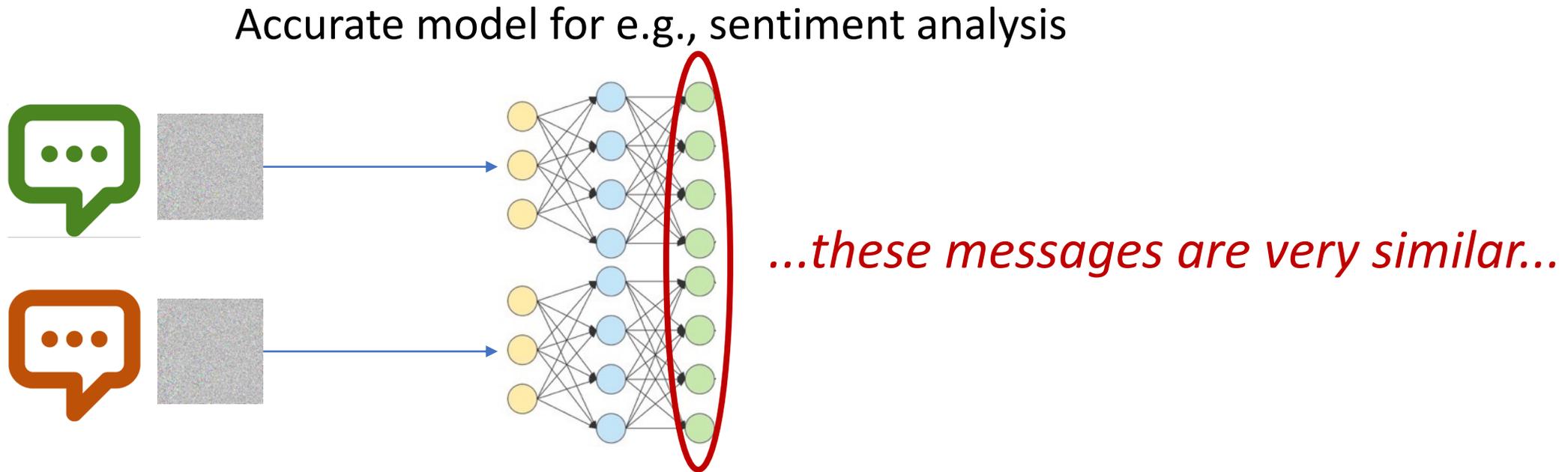
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Clearly the encodings leak *something*

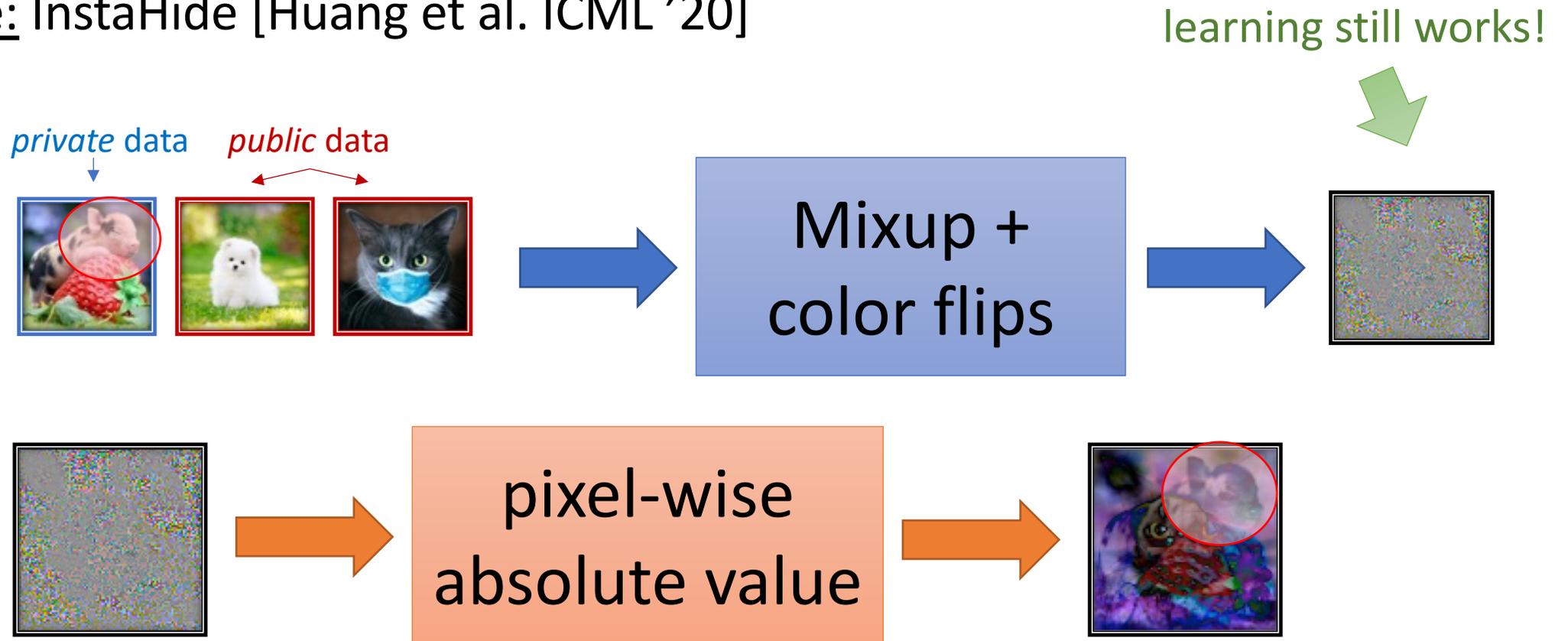
What do existing encodings leak?

Example: InstaHide [Huang et al. ICML '20]



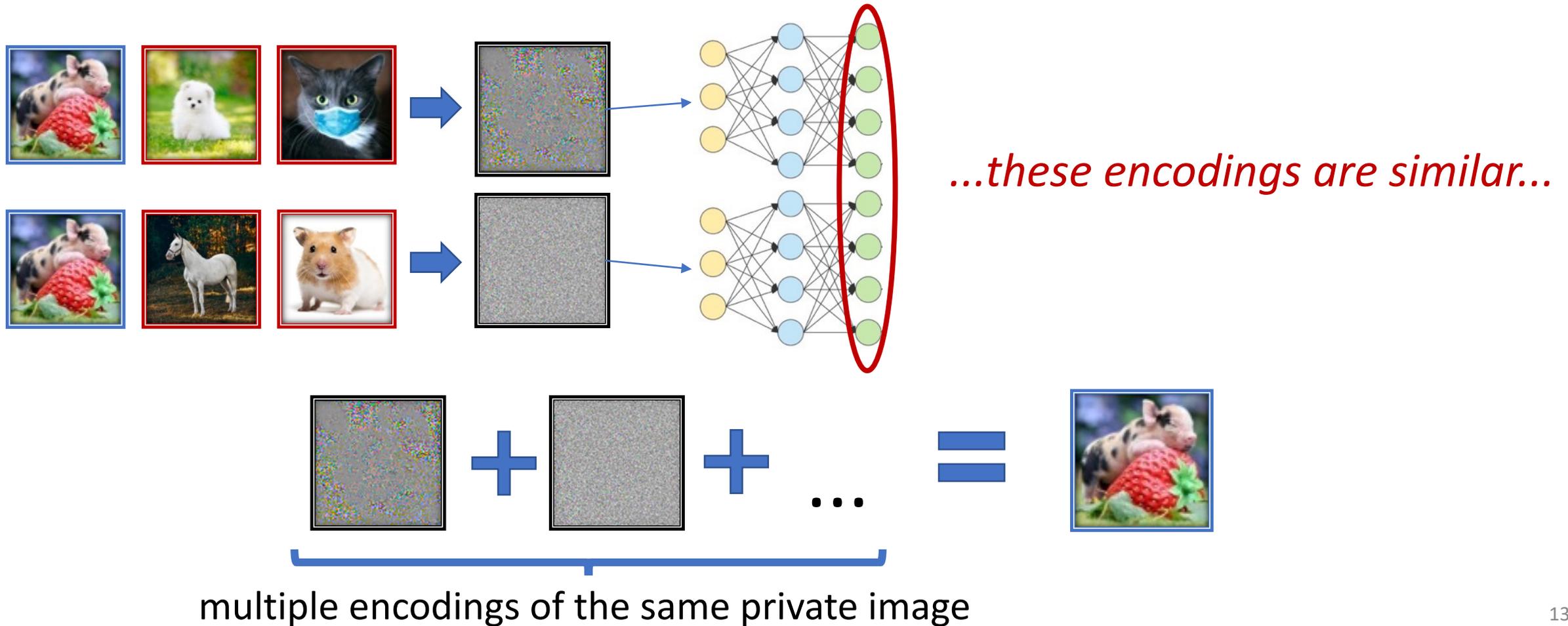
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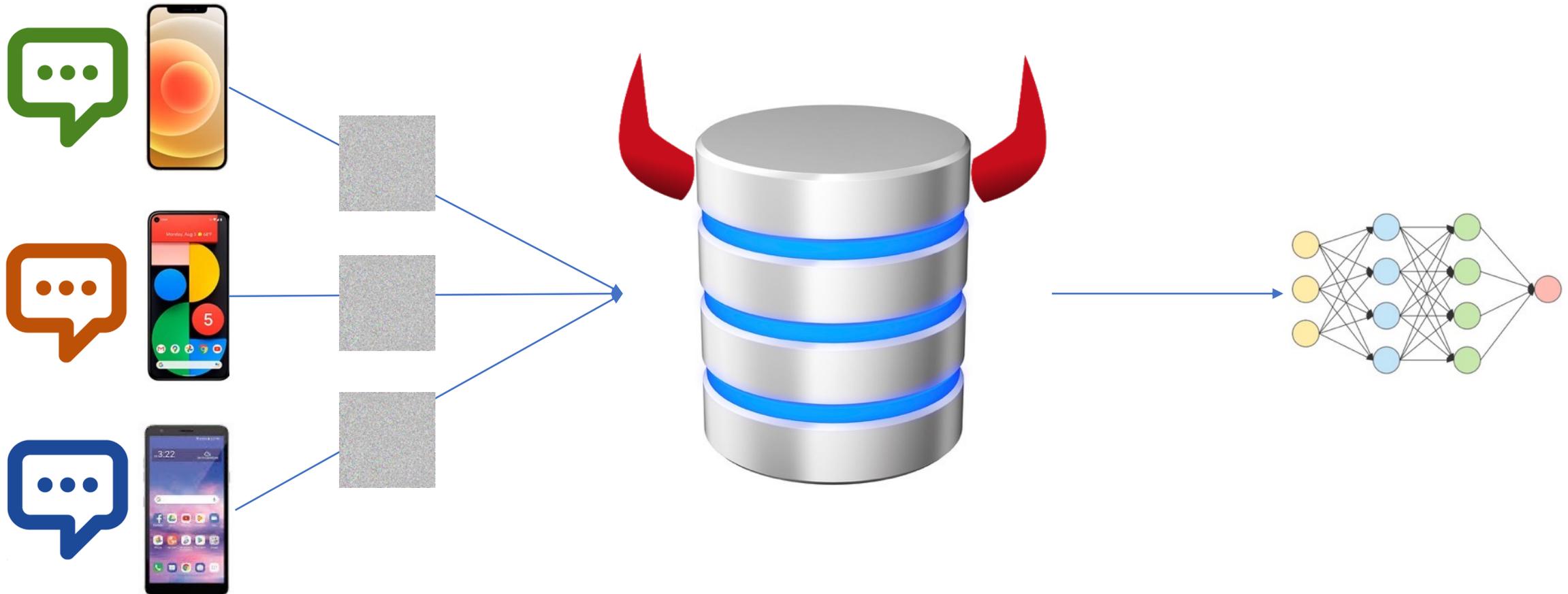
What do existing encodings leak?

Full reconstruction attack:



Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”

- what does this mean? data secrecy
- how (else) could we achieve this? ~~learning on “encoded” data~~

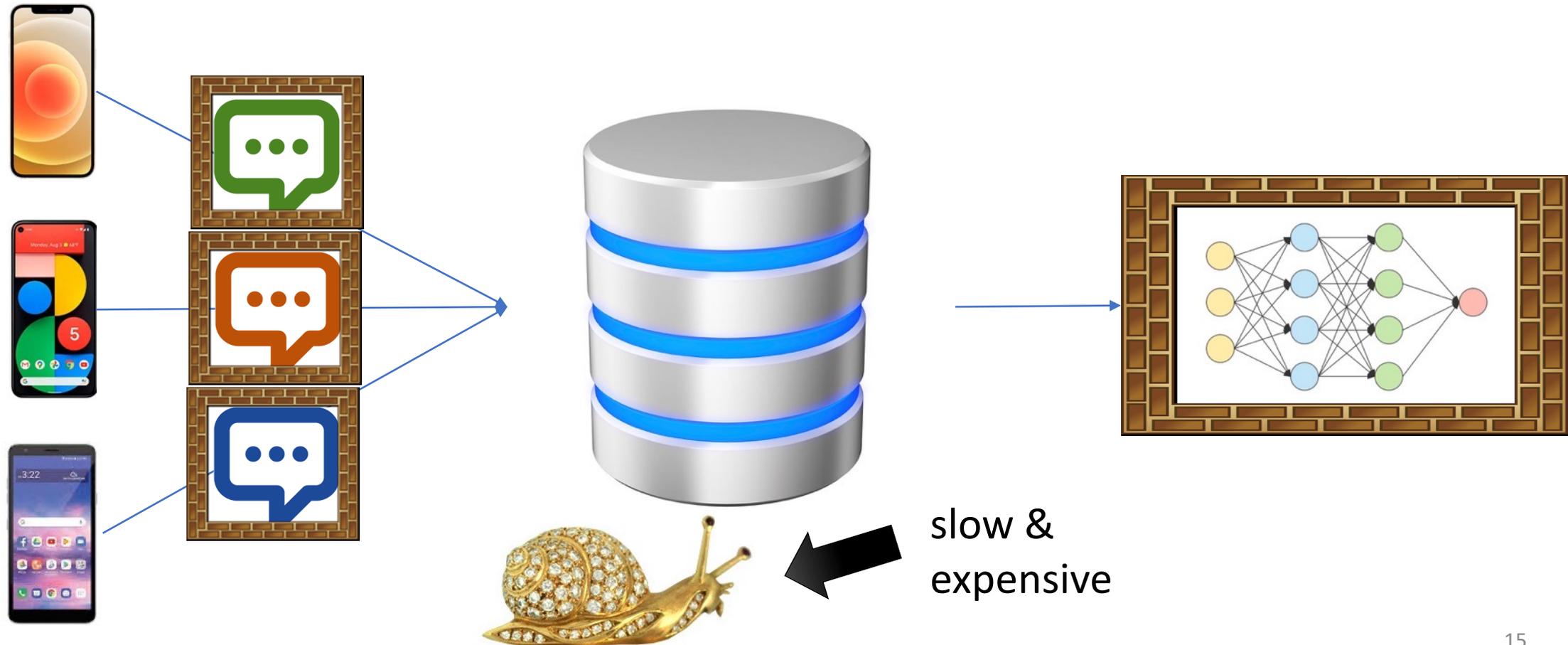


Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”

- what does this mean?
- how can we achieve this?

data secrecy

federated ML + MPC, FHE, ...



Is data secrecy *sufficient*?

No! The ideal functionality itself could be non-private



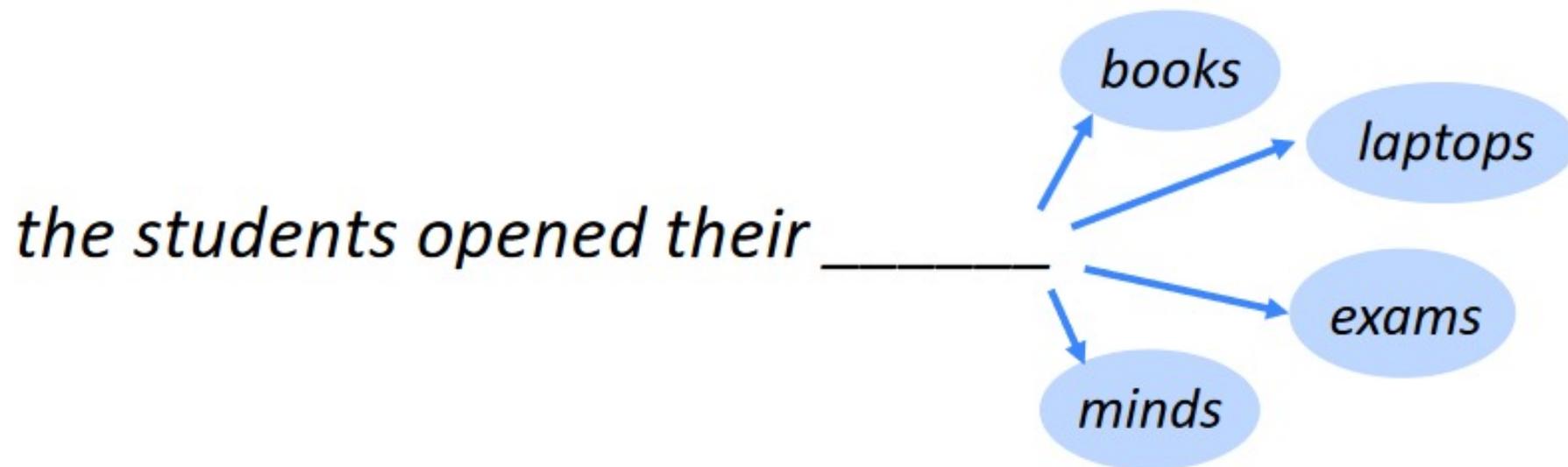
WHEN YOU TRAIN PREDICTIVE MODELS
ON INPUT FROM YOUR USERS, IT CAN
LEAK INFORMATION IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.

Does this actually happen?



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LEAK INFORMATION IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.

What's a language model?



+



+



...



What's a language model?

SYSTEM PROMPT
(HUMAN-WRITTEN)

In a shocking finding, scientist discovered a herd of unicorns living in a remote, previously unexplored valley, in the Andes Mountains. Even more surprising to the researchers was the fact that the unicorns spoke perfect English.

MODEL COMPLETION
(MACHINE-WRITTEN,
10 TRIES)

The scientist named the population, after their distinctive horn, Ovid's Unicorn. These four-horned, silver-white unicorns were previously unknown to science.

Now, after almost two centuries, the mystery of what sparked this odd phenomenon is finally solved.

Dr. Jorge Pérez, an evolutionary biologist from the University of La Paz, and several companions, were exploring the Andes Mountains when they found a small valley, with no other animals or humans. Pérez noticed that the valley had what appeared to be a natural fountain, surrounded by two peaks of rock and silver snow.

Pérez and the others then ventured further into the valley. "By the time we reached the top of one peak, the water looked blue, with some crystals on top," said Pérez.

Pérez and his friends were astonished to see the unicorn herd. These creatures could be seen from the air without having to move too much to see them – they were so close they could touch their horns.

How do we extract memorized text?

1. **Generate lots of text!**
(black-box access to the model is enough!)
2. **Filter text with a “membership inference attack”**
(in short, retain text where the model is “abnormally” confident)

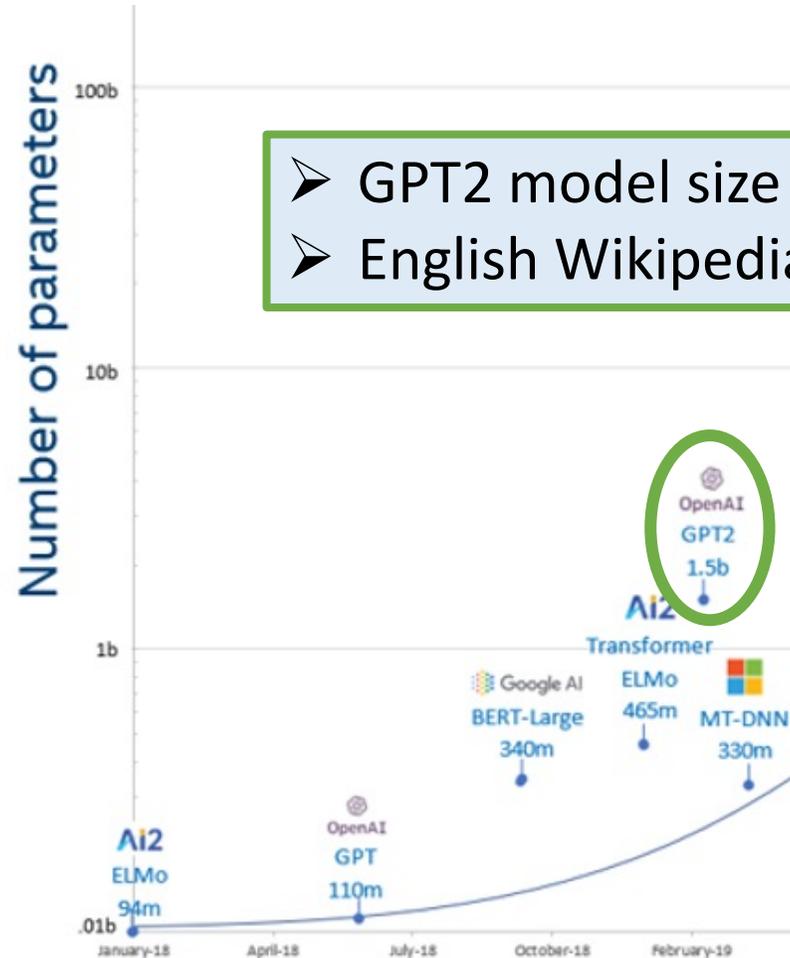
Step 1: Prompt the model on random inputs

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Step 2: Find memorized text

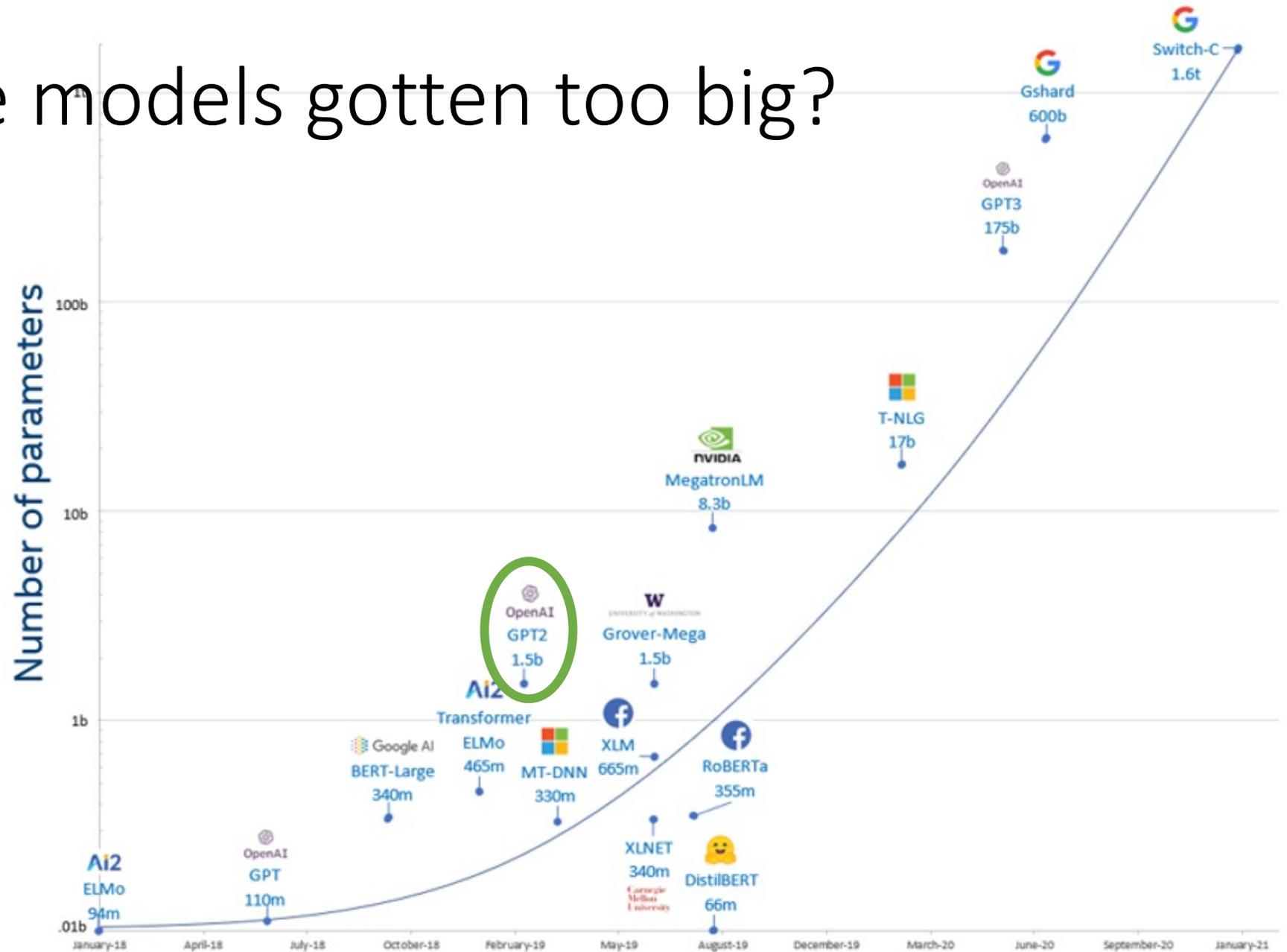
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Have language models gotten too big?

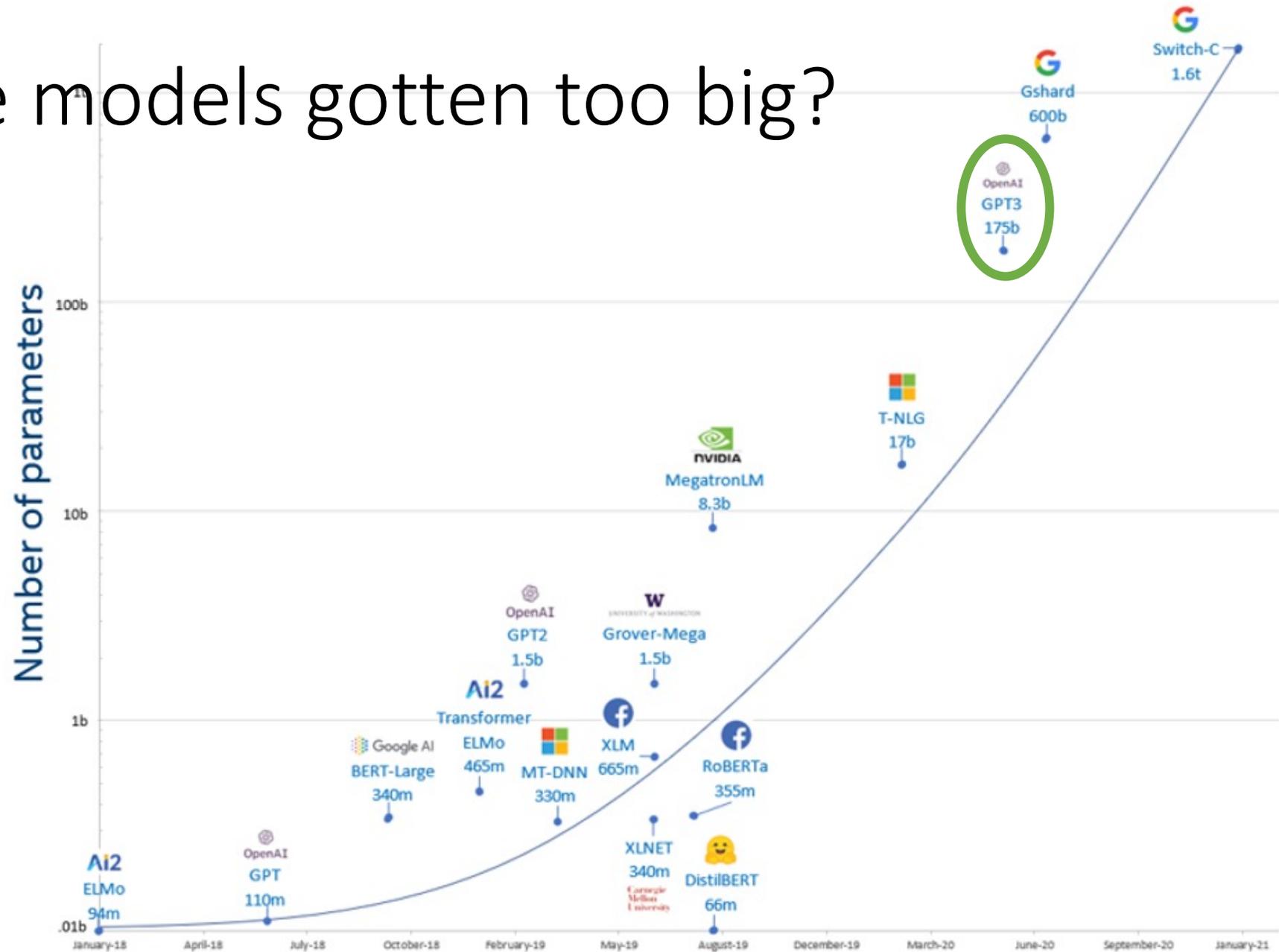


- GPT2 model size = ~6 GB
- English Wikipedia = ~10 GB (compressed)

Have language models gotten too big?



Have language models gotten too big?



prompt

The escape of the Brazilian boa constrictor earned Harry his longest-ever punishment. By the time he was allowed out of his cupboard again, the summer holidays had started and Dudley had already broken his new video camera, crashed his remote-control aeroplane, and, first time out on his racing bike, knocked down old Mrs Figg as she crossed Privet Drive on her crutches.

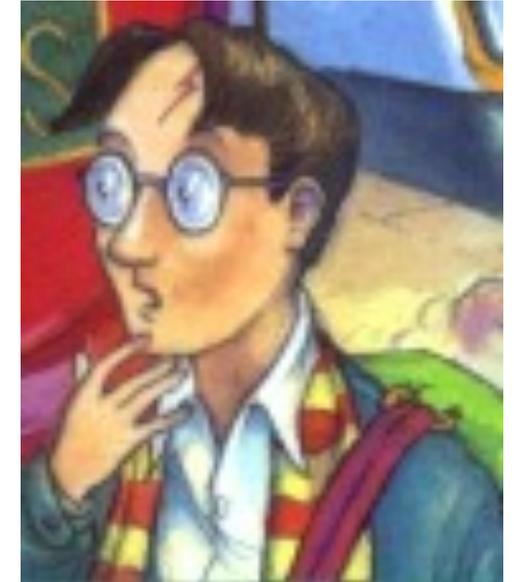
Harry was glad school was over, but there was no escaping Dudley's gang, who visited the house every single day. Piers, Dennis, Malcolm, and Gordon were all big and stupid, but as Dudley was the biggest and stupidest of the lot, he was the leader. The rest of them were all quite happy to join in Dudley's favourite sport: Harry Hunting.

This was why Harry spent as much time as possible out of the house, wandering around and thinking about the end of the holidays, where he could see a tiny ray of hope. When September came he would be going off to secondary school and, for the first time in his life, he wouldn't be with Dudley. Dudley had been accepted at Uncle Vernon's old private school, Smeltings. Piers Polkiss was going there too. Harry, on the other hand, was going to Stonewall High, the local public school. Dudley thought this was very funny.

'They stuff people's heads down the toilet the first day at Stonewall,' he told Harry. 'Want to come upstairs and practise?'

'No, thanks,' said Harry. 'The poor toilet's never had anything as horrible as your head down it — it might be sick.'

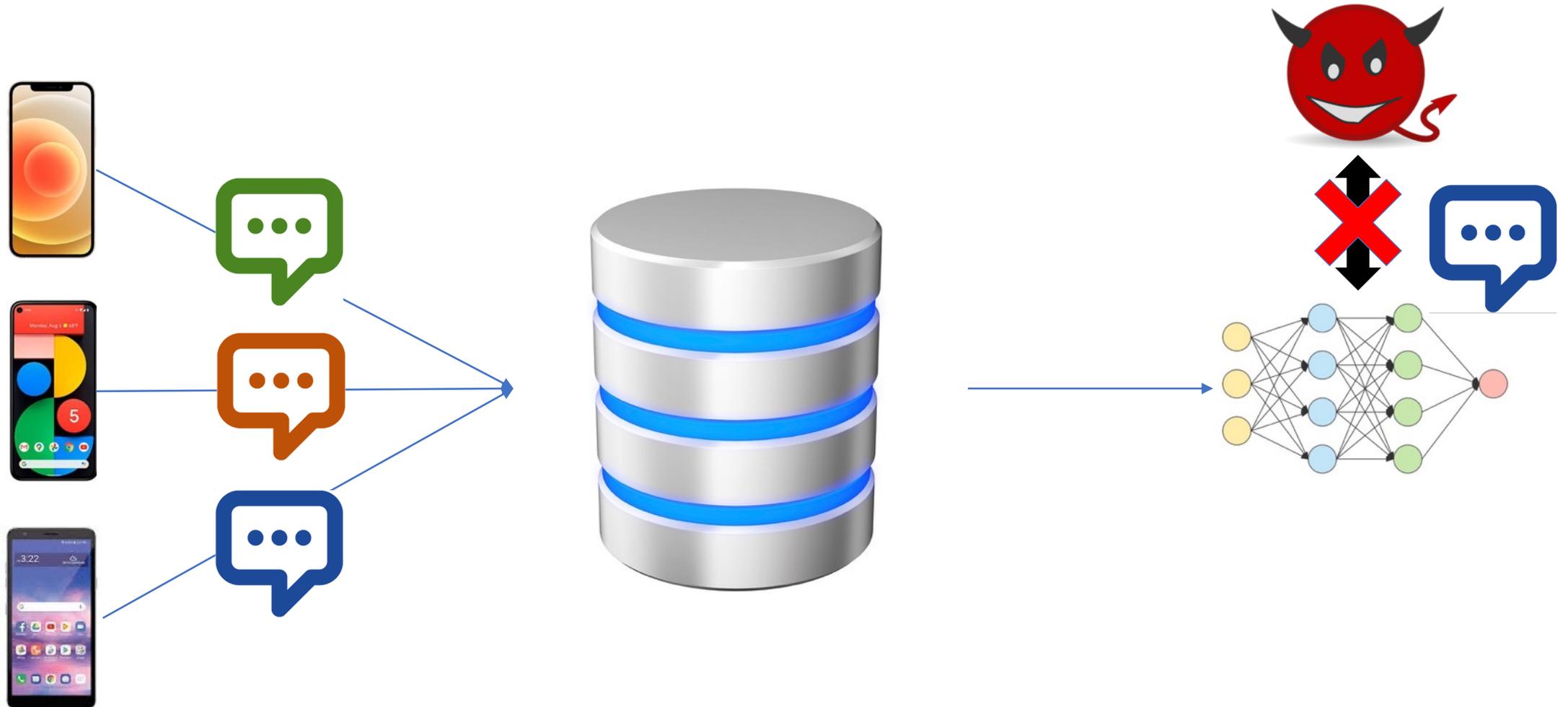
GPT3 output



Goal: train a ML model with “privacy”

➤ what does this mean?

no training data leakage



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➤ how can we achieve this?

differential privacy

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differential privacy

intuition: *randomized* training algorithm is not influenced (too much) by any individual data point

for any two datasets that differ in a single element

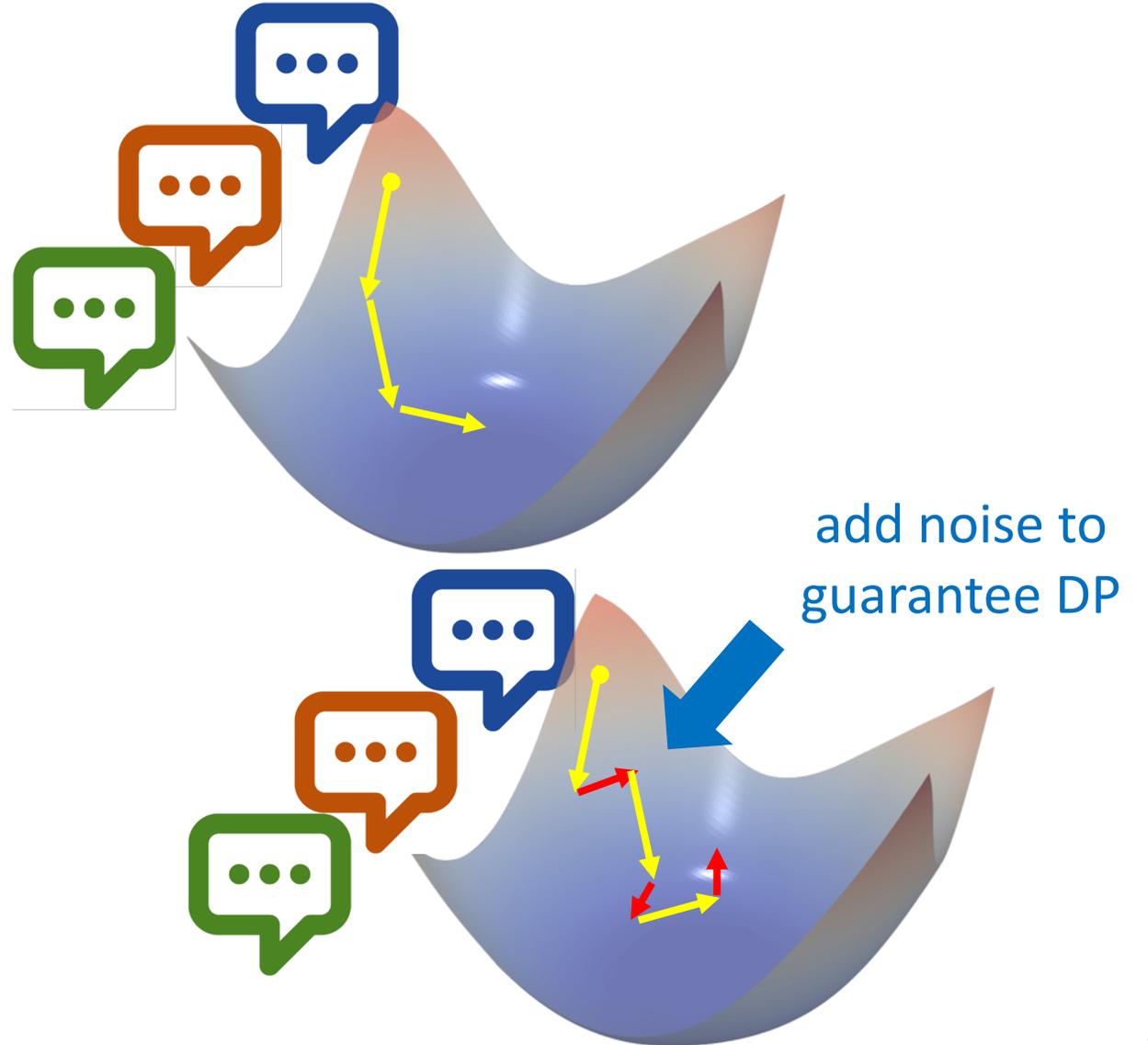
$$\frac{\Pr[A_{\text{train}}(\text{green}, \text{orange}, \text{blue}) = \text{ML Model}]}{\Pr[A_{\text{train}}(\text{yellow}, \text{orange}, \text{blue}) = \text{ML Model}]} \leq e^\epsilon$$

How? Noisy Gradient Descent

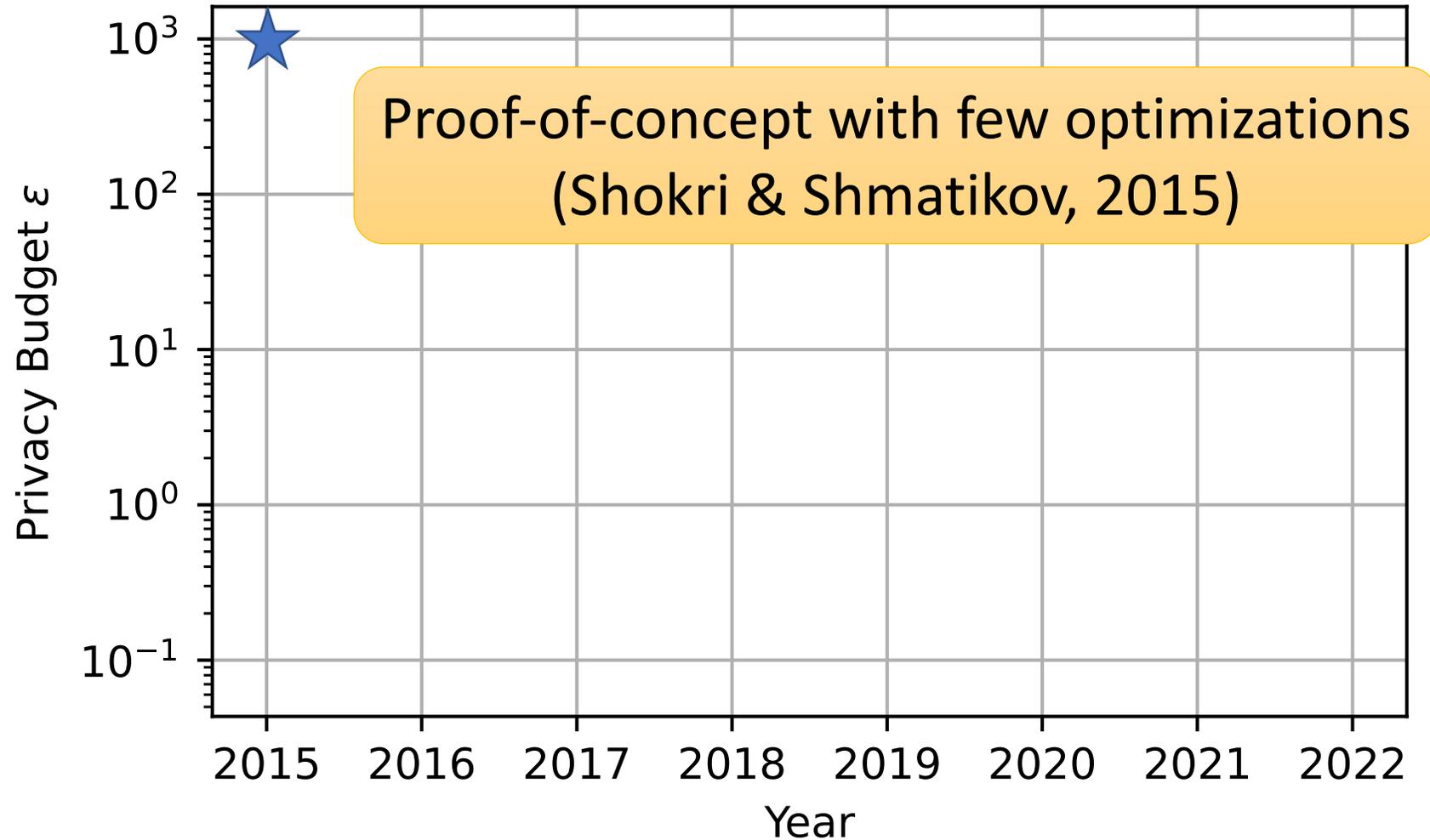
gradient descent
(SGD)

private gradient descent
(DP-SGD)

Chaudhuri et al., '11; Bassily et al. '14;
Shokri & Shmatikov '15; Abadi et al. '16

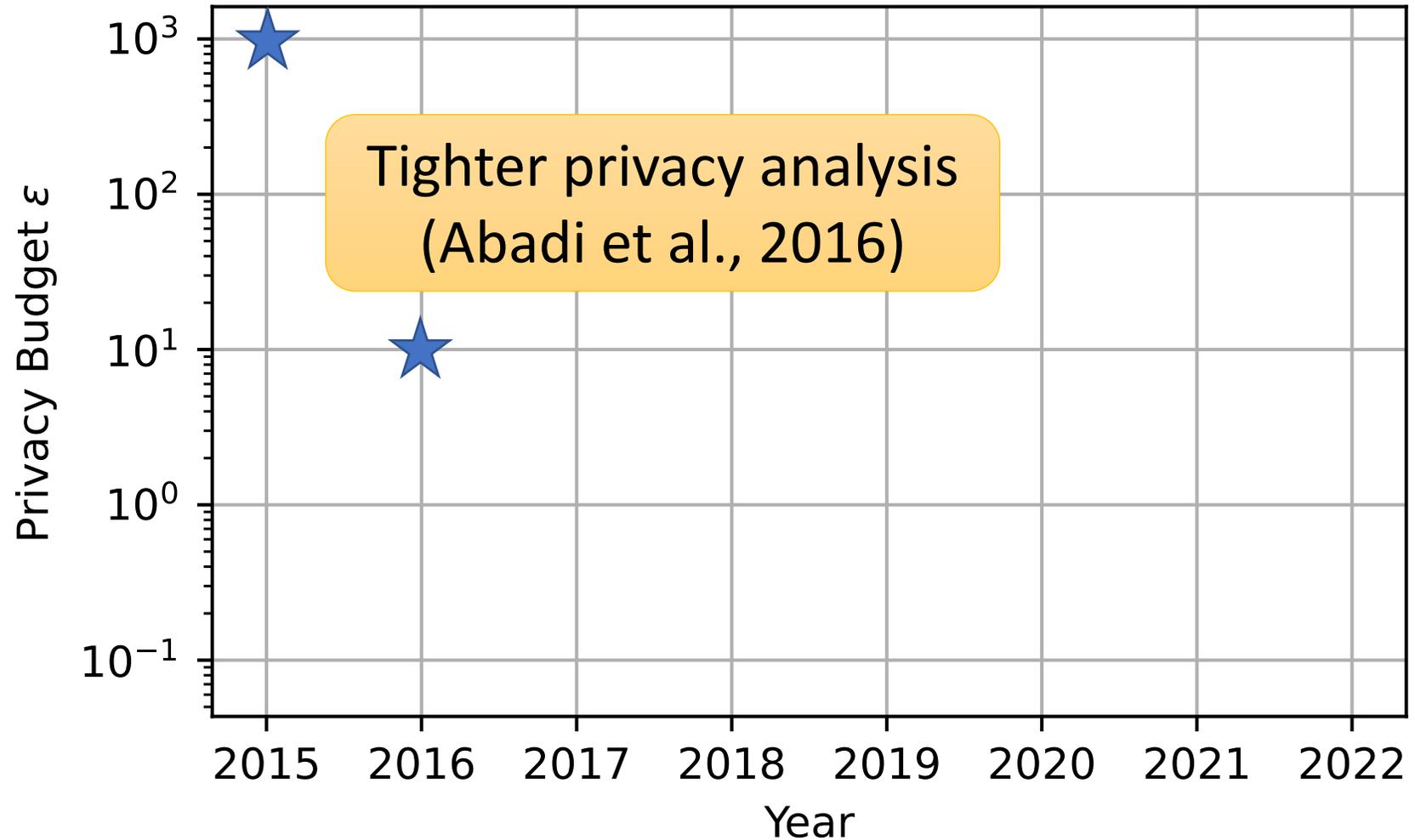


Provable Privacy for 98% accuracy on MNIST

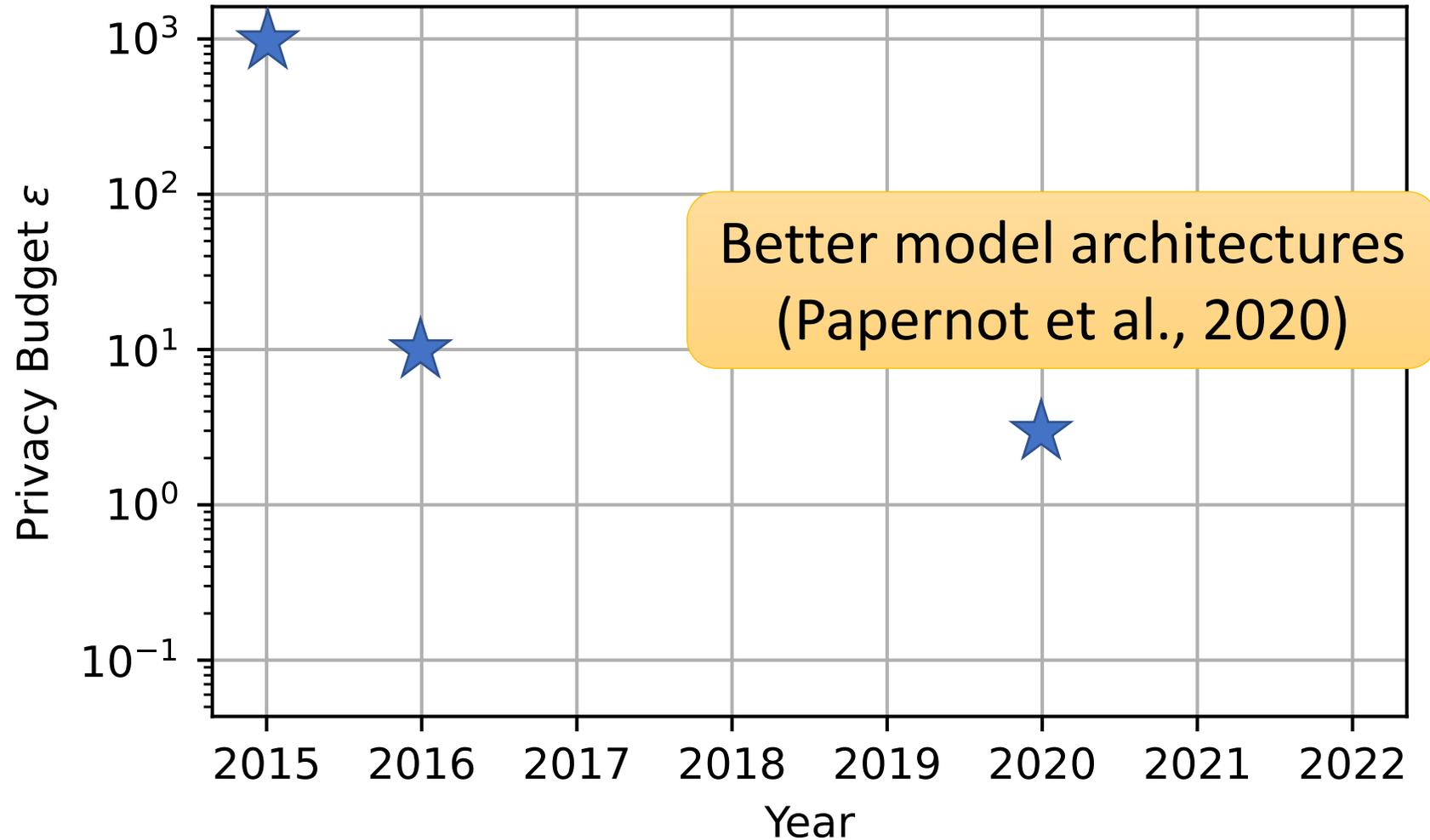


$$\frac{\Pr[A_{\text{train}}(\text{green}, \text{orange}, \text{blue}) = \text{NN}]}{\Pr[A_{\text{train}}(\text{yellow}, \text{orange}, \text{blue}) = \text{NN}]} \geq e^{1000}$$

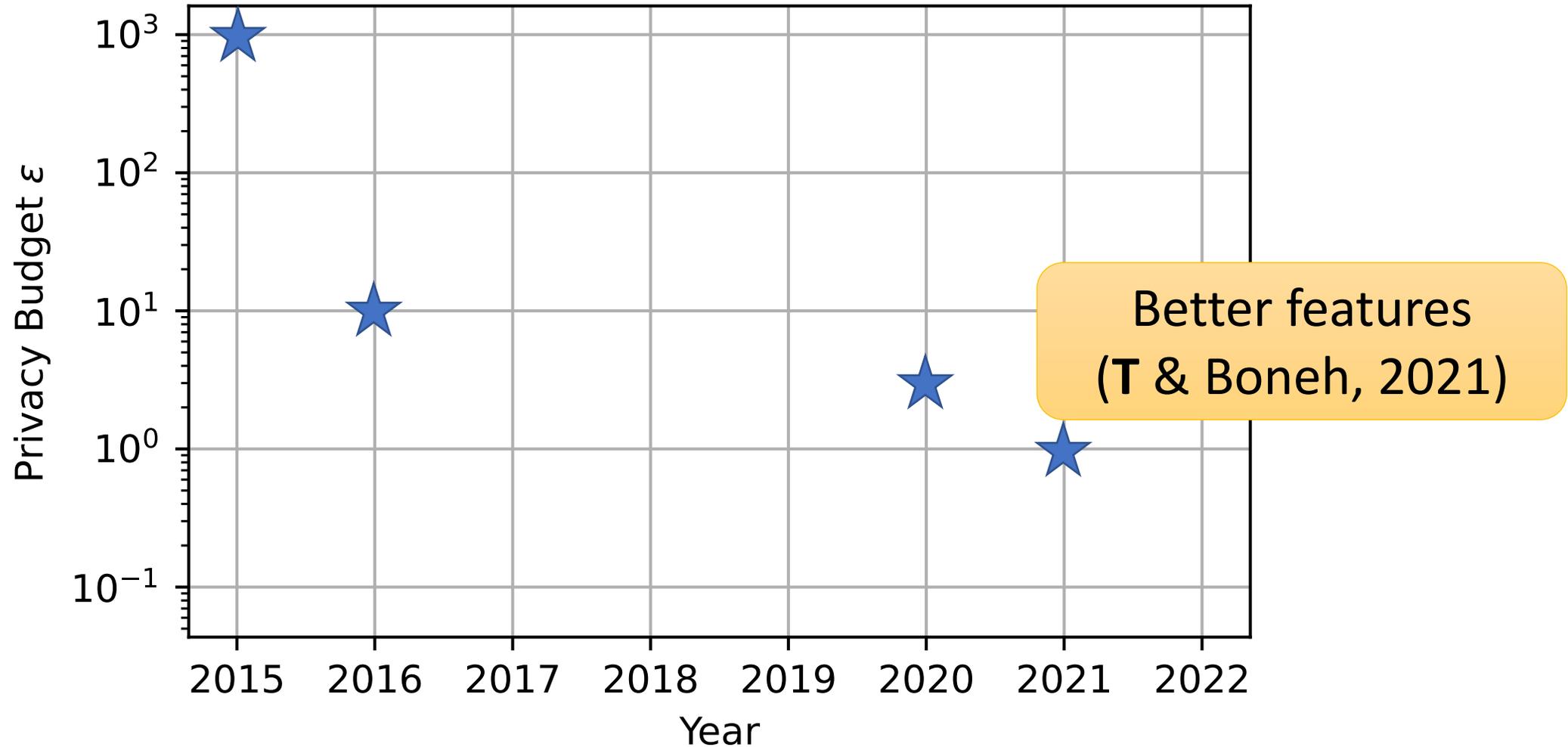
Provable Privacy for $\approx 98\%$ accuracy on MNIST



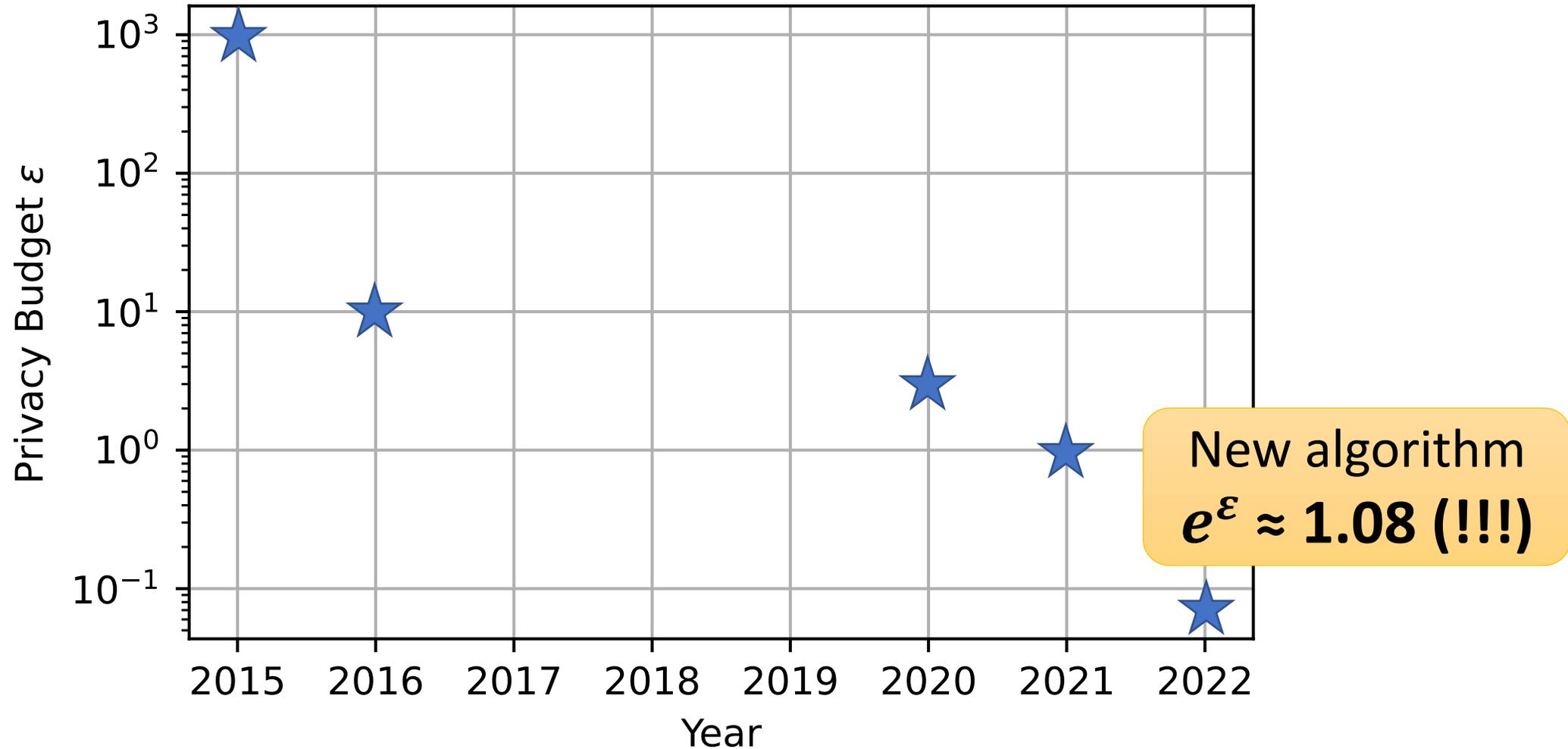
Provable Privacy for $\approx 98\%$ accuracy on MNIST



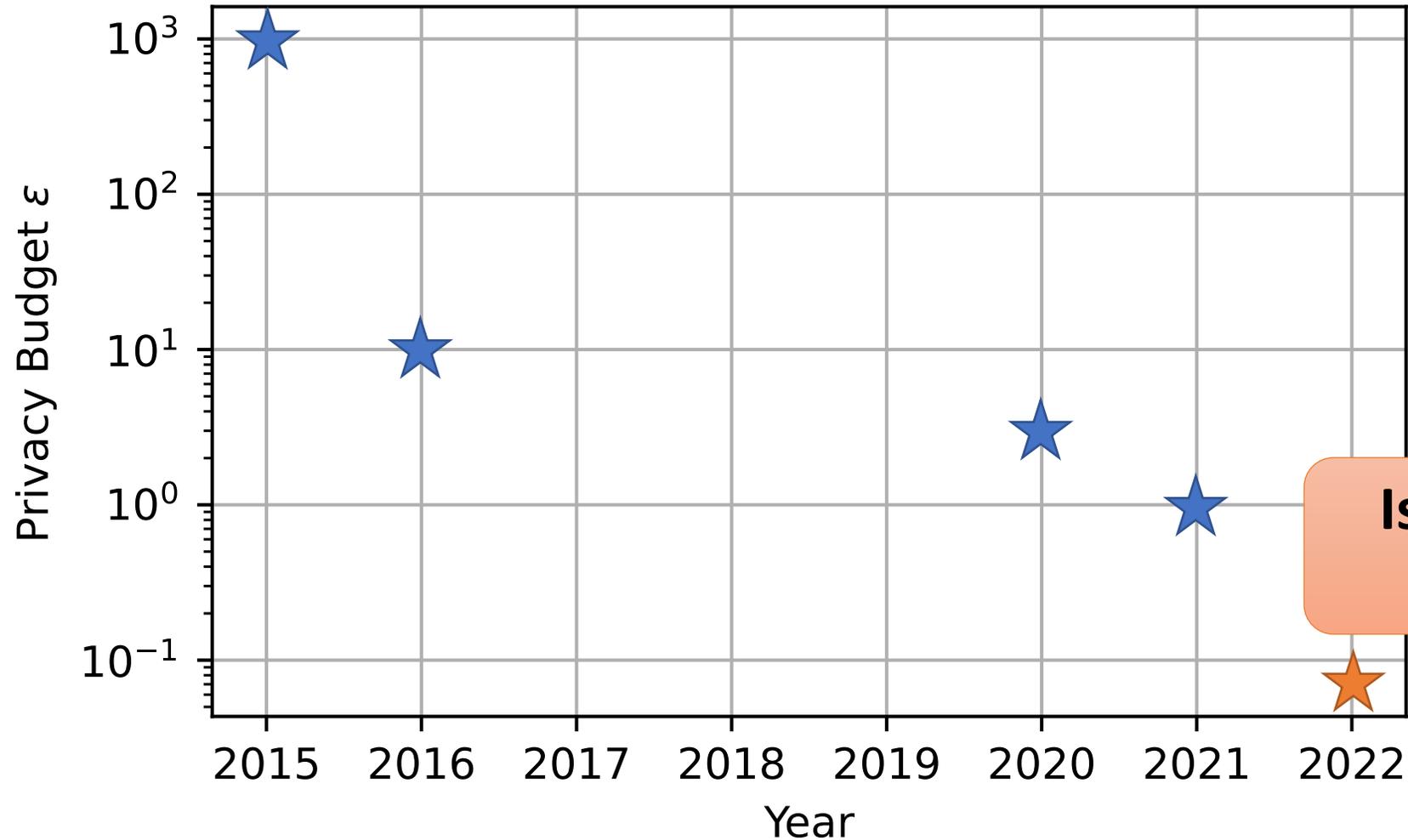
Provable Privacy for $\approx 98\%$ accuracy on MNIST



Provable Privacy for $\approx 98\%$ accuracy on MNIST



Provable Privacy for $\approx 98\%$ accuracy on MNIST



**Is this claim
*correct?***

How to check a privacy claim?

➤ Check the proof

$$\begin{aligned} & c(o_{1:k}; \mathcal{M}_{1:k}, o_{1:(k-1)}, d, d') \\ &= \log \frac{\Pr[\mathcal{M}_{1:k}(d; o_{1:(k-1)}) = o_{1:k}]}{\Pr[\mathcal{M}_{1:k}(d'; o_{1:(k-1)}) = o_{1:k}]} \\ &= \log \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\Pr[\mathcal{M}_i(d) = o_i \mid \mathcal{M}_{1:(i-1)}(d) = o_{1:(i-1)}]}{\Pr[\mathcal{M}_i(d') = o_i \mid \mathcal{M}_{1:(i-1)}(d') = o_{1:(i-1)}]} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \log \frac{\Pr[\mathcal{M}_i(d) = o_i \mid \mathcal{M}_{1:(i-1)}(d) = o_{1:(i-1)}]}{\Pr[\mathcal{M}_i(d') = o_i \mid \mathcal{M}_{1:(i-1)}(d') = o_{1:(i-1)}]} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k c(o_i; \mathcal{M}_i, o_{1:(i-1)}, d, d'). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}_{o'_{1:k} \sim \mathcal{M}_{1:k}(d)} [\exp(\lambda c(o'_{1:k}; \mathcal{M}_{1:k}, d, d')) \mid \forall i < k: o'_i = o_i] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{o'_{1:k} \sim \mathcal{M}_{1:k}(d)} \left[\exp \left(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^k c(o'_i; \mathcal{M}_i, o_{1:(i-1)}, d, d') \right) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{o'_{1:k} \sim \mathcal{M}_{1:k}(d)} \left[\prod_{i=1}^k \exp(\lambda c(o'_i; \mathcal{M}_i, o_{1:(i-1)}, d, d')) \right] \\ & \hspace{15em} \text{(by independence of noise)} \end{aligned}$$

How to check a privacy claim?

➤ Check the proof

➤ Check the code

```
def process_microbatch(i, sample_state):
    """Process one microbatch (record) with privacy helper."""
    microbatch_loss = tf.reduce_mean(
        input_tensor=tf.gather(microbatches_losses, [i]))
    with gradient_tape.stop_recording():
        grads = gradient_tape.gradient(microbatch_loss, var_list)
    sample_state = self._dp_sum_query.accumulate_record(
        sample_params, sample_state, grads)
    return sample_state

for idx in range(self._num_microbatches):
    sample_state = process_microbatch(idx, sample_state)

grad_sums, self._global_state, _ = (
    self._dp_sum_query.get_noised_result(sample_state,
                                         self._global_state))
```

How to check a privacy claim?

- Check the proof
- Check the code
- **Launch an attack!**



Auditing Differential Privacy with Attacks

Jagielski et al. 2020, Nasr et al. 2021, Carlini et al. (forthcoming)

$$\frac{\Pr[A_{\text{train}}(\text{3 4 2}) = \text{NN}]}{\Pr[A_{\text{train}}(\text{3 4 1}) = \text{NN}]} \geq e^\epsilon$$

let's estimate this!

Auditing Differential Privacy with Attacks

Jagielski et al. 2020, Nasr et al. 2021

Challenger

Adversary

$D_0 =$ 

$D_1 =$ 

flip a bit b

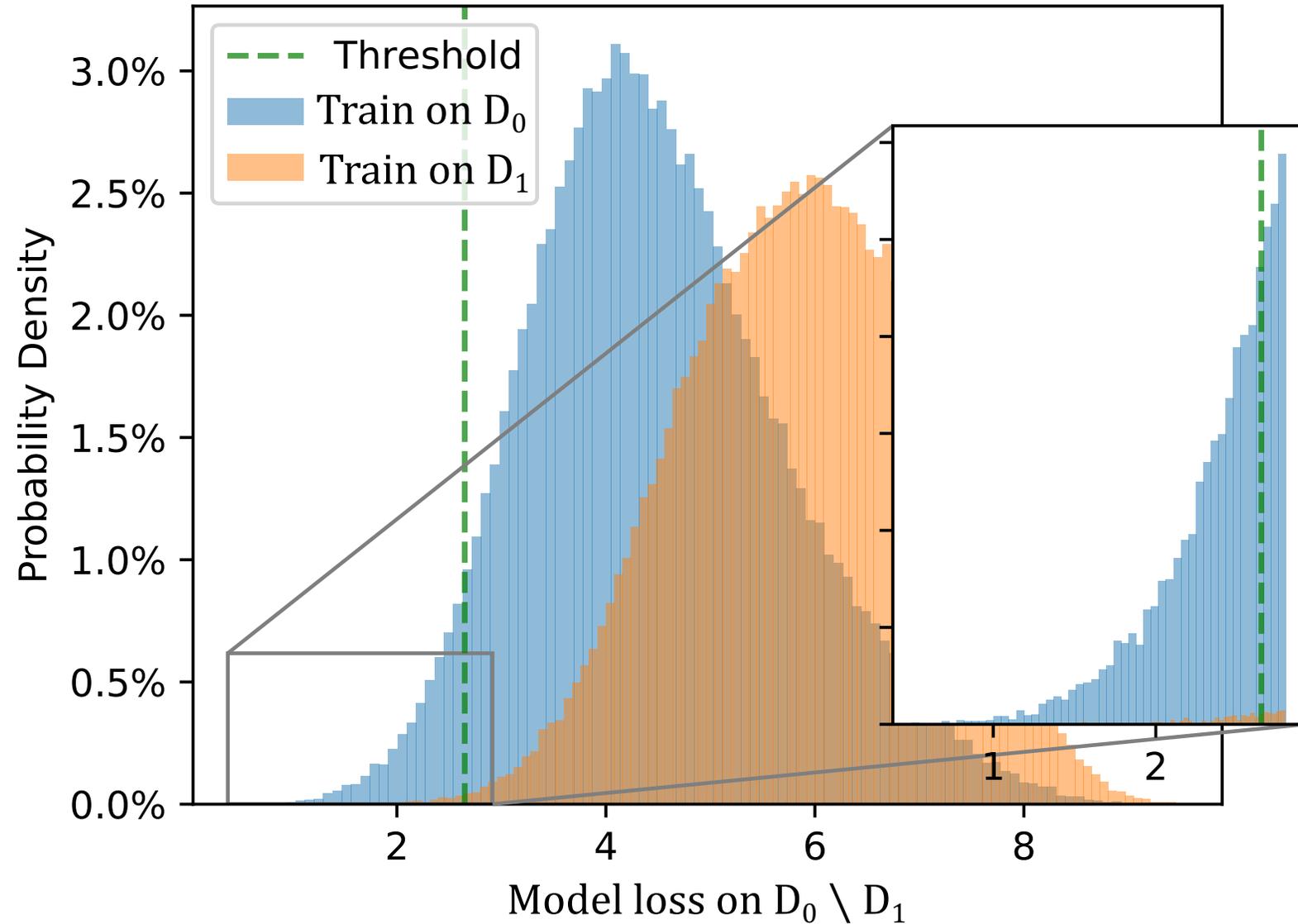
$$f = A_{\text{train}}(D_b)$$

output guess \hat{b}

Adv wins if $\hat{b} = b$

Adversary's success rate \rightarrow lower bound on ϵ

Repeat the game 100'000 times...



$e^\epsilon > 16$
(claim was $e^\epsilon \leq 1.08$)

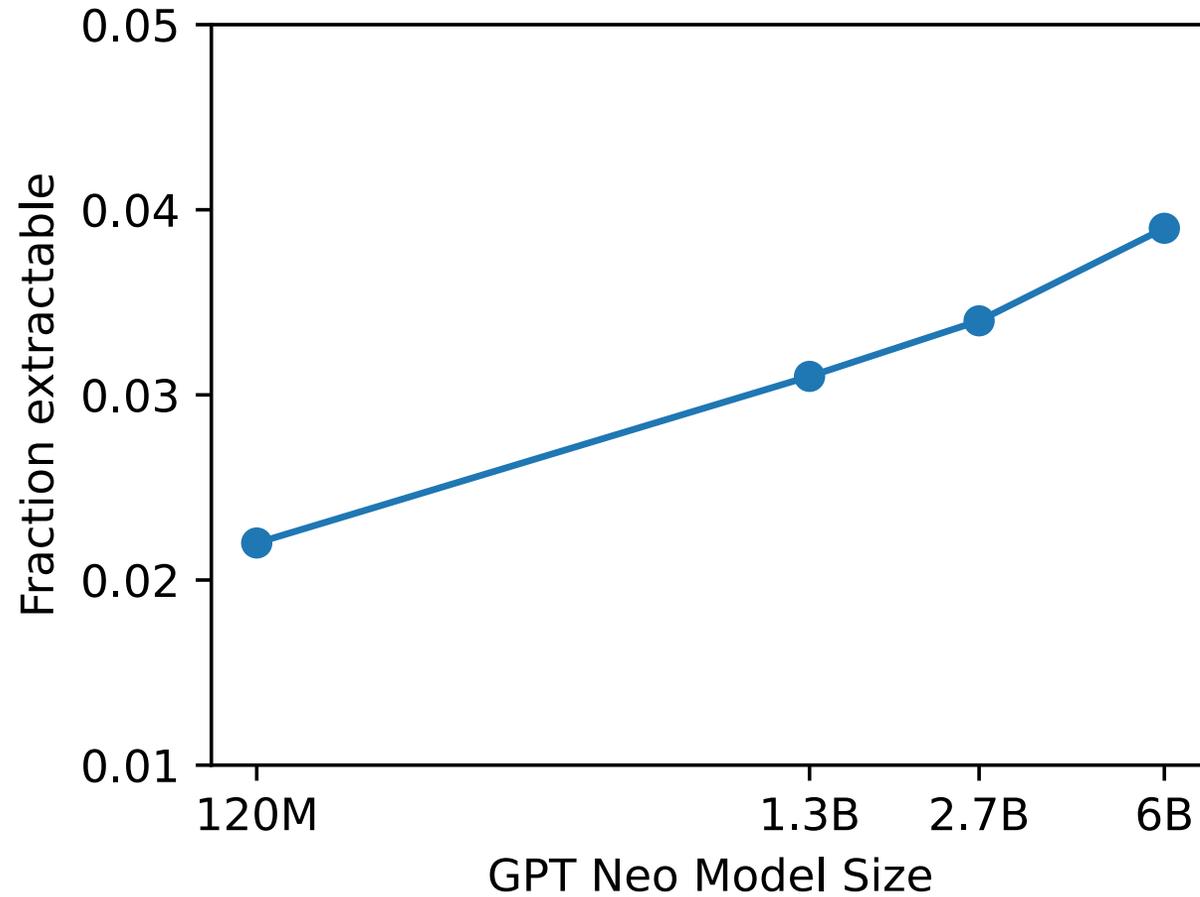
Conclusion

- **Machine learning is not private “by default”!**
 - Without (strong) cryptography, you must **trust someone** with your data
 - Trained models **leak** rare training data
- **Solutions exist but have limitations!**
 - Secure decentralized learning has **high performance overhead**
 - Strong differential privacy **harms model accuracy**
 - *Privacy guarantees must be rigorously defined and audited!*

Thank you!

Scaling laws for memorization

“Quantifying Memorization Across Neural Language Models”. 2022



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