

# Flexible Coding for Distributed Systems

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- 2 Flexible Storage Codes
- 3 Flexible Matrix Multiplication
- 4 Conclusion

# Table of Contents

1 Introduction

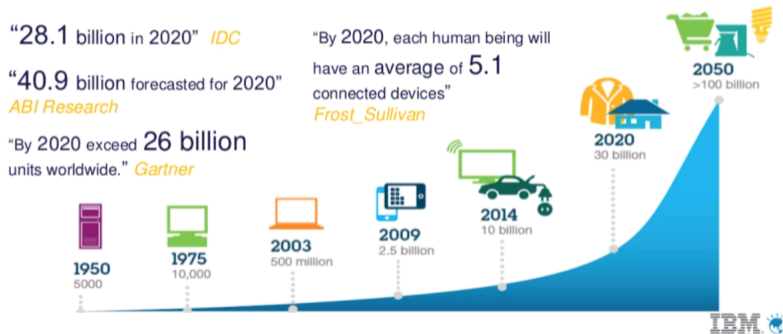
2 Flexible Storage Codes

3 Flexible Matrix Multiplication

4 Conclusion

# Background

- The amount of data and computation growth exponentially.
- Scaling services: How to address growth?



# Background

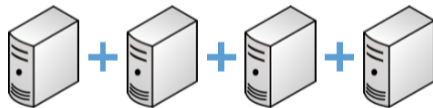
## Vertical “Scale up”

- Add more resources to one device.
- Easier, but limited scale.
- Single point of failure.



## Horizontal “Scale out”

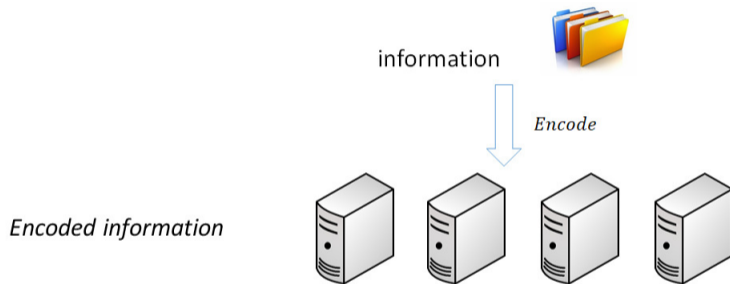
- Run the service over multiple devices.
- Harder, but massive scale.
- Failure tolerance.



R, Appuswamy, C. Gkantsidis, D. Narayanan, O. Hodson, and A. Rowstron, Scale-up vs scale-out for Hadoop: time to rethink?, ACM Symp. Cloud Comput, 2013.

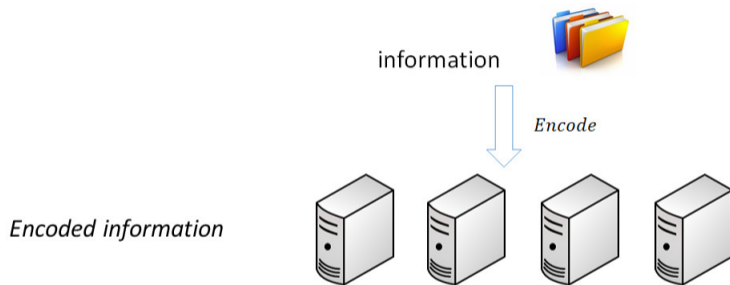
# Background

- Distributed systems are widely used for storage and computation.



# Background

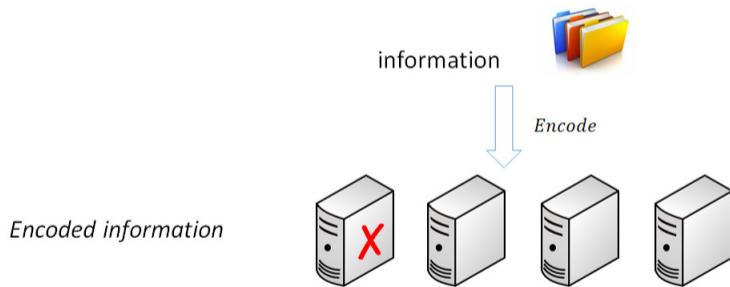
- Distributed systems are widely used for storage and computation.



- Number of nodes:  $n$ .
- Dimension:  $k$ .
- Recovery threshold:  $R$ .

# Background

- Failures are frequent in distributed storage
- This talk: information storage and computing with **unknown failures**



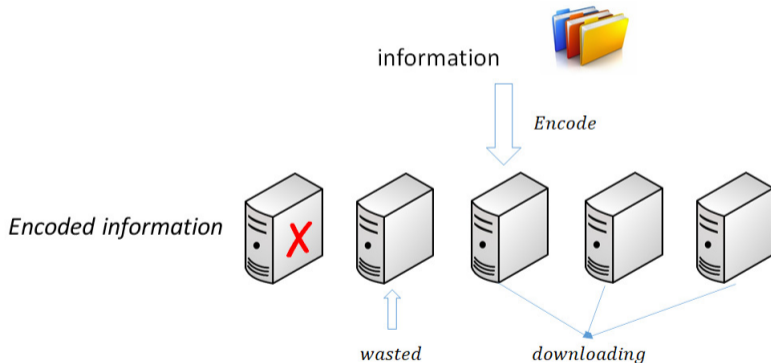


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# Motivation

- Fixed code can only make use of  $R$  nodes.
- The rest nodes are wasted.
- Each node downloading all symbols  $\rightarrow$  large latency.
- **Question:** storage codes with flexible recovery threshold  $R$ ?



W. Li, Z. Wang, T. Lu and H. Jafarkhani, Storage Codes with Flexible Number of Nodes, ArXiv:2106.11336, 2021.

# Fixed MDS (Maximum Distance Separable) Code

- MDS = minimum redundancy.
- Applied in Google's Colossus, Facebook's f4, Yahoo Object Store, Baidu's Atlas...

## Fixed MDS (Maximum Distance Separable) Code

$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_1 + a_2$	$a_1 + 2a_2$
$b_1$	$b_2$	$b_1 + b_2$	$b_1 + 2b_2$
$c_1$	$c_2$	$c_1 + c_2$	$c_1 + 2c_2$

- Example of an  $(n, k, \ell) = (4, 2, 3)$  fixed code.
- Each node is a column with  $\ell = 3$  symbols.
- $(4, 2)$  MDS code is adopted in each row.

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- Each node is a column with  $\ell = 3$  symbols.
- $(4, 2)$  MDS code is adopted in each row.
- 2 failures: 2 nodes send all their symbols.
- 1 failure: 2 nodes send all their symbols.
- Question: is it possible to use all 3 nodes but each node sends fewer symbols?

## Naive Solution

- Example of an  $(n, k, \ell) = (4, 2, 3)$  naive flexible code.

$C_{1,1}$	$C_{1,2}$	$C_{1,3}$	$W_1$
$C_{2,1}$	$C_{2,2}$	$C_{2,3}$	$W_2$
$W'_1$	$W'_2$	$W'_3$	$W'_4$

Naive solution

- $(12, 6)$  MDS code is adopted.

# Naive Solution

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- 2 failures: 2 nodes send all their symbols.
- 1 failure: 3 nodes each sending 2 symbols.

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$W'_1$	$W'_2$	$W'_3$	$W'_4$

Naive solution

- $(12, 6)$  MDS code is adopted.
- 2 failures: 2 nodes send all their symbols.
- 1 failure: 3 nodes each sending 2 symbols.
- Require a field size of at least  $|\mathbb{F}| = n\ell = 12$ .

## Related work

- [Jafarkhani-Hajiaghayi, 2014], first proposed flexible ideas.
- [Huang-Langberg-Kliewer-Bruck, 2016], flexible secret sharing.
- [Bitar-Rouayheb, 2016], flexible private information retrieval.
- [Tamo-Ye-Barg, 2019], flexible MDS codes, focus on bandwidth instead of access.
- [Ramamoorthy-Tang-Vontobel, 2019], universal decodable matrices for flexible matrix-vector multiplication.

## Proposed Solution: flexible MDS Codes

- Example of an  $(n, k, \ell) = (4, 2, 3)$  flexible MDS code.

$C_{1,1}$	$C_{1,2}$	$C_{1,3}$	$W_1$
$C_{2,1}$	$C_{2,2}$	$C_{2,3}$	$W_2$
$W'_1$	$W'_2$	$W'_3$	$W'_4$

Scenario 1:

2 symbols are accessed in 3 nodes.

$C_{1,1}$	$C_{1,2}$	$C_{1,3}$	$W_1$	$W'_1$
$C_{2,1}$	$C_{2,2}$	$C_{2,3}$	$W_2$	$W'_2$
$W'_1$	$W'_2$	$W'_3$	$W'_4$	

Scenario 2:

3 symbols are accessed in 2 nodes.

- Row 1:  $(5, 3)$  MDS code.  $W_1, W'_1$  are parities.
- Row 2:  $(5, 3)$  MDS code.  $W_2, W'_2$  are parities.
- Row 3:  $(4, 2)$  MDS code.  $W'_1, W'_2$  are information symbols,  $W'_3, W'_4$  are parities.
- Field size  $|\mathbb{F}| = 5$ .
- Achieve **optimal** download of  $k\ell = 6$  symbols for 1 or 2 failures.

# Proposed Solution: flexible MDS Codes

- Example of an  $(n, k, \ell) = (4, 2, 3)$  flexible MDS code.

$C_{1,1}$	$C_{1,2}$	$C_{1,3}$	$W_1$
$C_{2,1}$	$C_{2,2}$	$C_{2,3}$	$W_2$
$W'_1$	$W'_2$	$W'_3$	$W'_4$

Scenario 1:

2 symbols are accessed in 3 nodes.

$C_{1,1}$	$C_{1,2}$	$C_{1,3}$	$W_1$	$W'_1$
$C_{2,1}$	$C_{2,2}$	$C_{2,3}$	$W_2$	$W'_2$
$W'_1$	$W'_2$	$W'_3$	$W'_4$	

Scenario 2:

3 symbols are accessed in 2 nodes.

- General flexible construction: extra parities generated in upper layers and encoded to lower layers.
- Achieve **optimal** download of  $k\ell$  symbols.

# Flexible LRC

- LRC (Locally Recoverable Codes): when one node fails, only  $r$  helper nodes are accessed.
- High performance in terms of energy and speed.
- Applied in, e.g., Microsoft Azure.
- Optimal LRC codes [Tamo-Barg, 2014] satisfy  $R = k + \frac{k}{r} - 1$ .
- **Question:** Flexible recovery threshold  $R$  for entire information + locality  $r$  for single node recovery?

# Flexible LRC

	group 1			...	group 4		
Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
	$C_{1,2,1}$	$C_{1,2,2}$	$C_{1,2,3}$	...	$C_{1,2,10}$	$C_{1,2,11}$	$C_{1,2,12}$
Layer 2	$C_{2,1,1}$	$C_{2,1,2}$	$C_{2,1,3}$	...	$C_{2,1,10}$	$C_{2,1,11}$	$C_{2,1,12}$

- $(n = 12, k = 4, \ell = 3)$  code. Locality  $r = 2$ . Recovery threshold  $R = 5$ .

# Flexible LRC

	group 1			...	group 4		
Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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- $(n = 12, k = 4, \ell = 3)$  code. Locality  $r = 2$ . Recovery threshold  $R = 5$ .
- Can recover entire  $k\ell = 12$  information symbols from:
  - $R_2 = R = 5$  nodes, each accessing  $\ell_2 = 3$  symbols
  - $R_1 = 8$  nodes, each accessing  $\ell_1 = 2$  symbols
  - Less failures, lower latency



# Flexible LRC

	group 1			...	group 4		
Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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- Layer 1:  $f_m(x) = (u_{m,0} + u_{m,1}g(x) + u_{m,2}g^2(x)) + x(u_{m,3} + u_{m,4}g(x) + u_{m,5}g^2(x))$ ,  $m = 1, 2$ .

# Flexible LRC

	group 1			...	group 4		
Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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- Layer 2:  $f_3(x) = (f_1(\alpha^4) + f_1(\alpha^9)g(x)) + x(f_2(\alpha^4) + f_2(\alpha^9)g(x))$ .

# Flexible LRC

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- Layer 2:  $f_3(x) = (f_1(\alpha^4) + f_1(\alpha^9)g(x)) + x(f_2(\alpha^4) + f_2(\alpha^9)g(x))$ .
- Code over  $\mathbb{F} = GF(2^4) = \{0, 1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{14}\}$ .  $g(x) = x^3$ .
- Evaluated at:  $x \in A = \{A_1 = \{1, \alpha^5, \alpha^{10}\}, A_2 = \{\alpha, \alpha^6, \alpha^{11}\}, A_3 = \{\alpha^2, \alpha^7, \alpha^{12}\}, A_4 = \{\alpha^3, \alpha^8, \alpha^{13}\}\}$ . Extra group  $A_5 = \{\alpha^4, \alpha^9, \alpha^{14}\}$ .

# Flexible LRC

	group 1			...	group 4		
Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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- Locality: for  $x \in A_j$ :

$$f_m(x) = (u_{m,0} + u_{m,1} + u_{m,2}) + x(u_{m,3} + u_{m,4} + u_{m,5}), m = 1, 2.$$

$$f_3(x) = (f_1(\alpha^4) + f_1(\alpha^9)) + x(f_2(\alpha^4) + f_2(\alpha^9)).$$

- All are linear functions of  $x$ .  $\rightarrow$  Require  $r = 2$  evaluations.
- E.g.,  $A_5 = \{\alpha^4, \alpha^9, \alpha^{14}\}$ ,  $f_1(\alpha^4), f_1(\alpha^9) \rightarrow f_1(\alpha^{14})$

# Flexible LRC

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Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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- Recovery from  $R_1 = 8, \ell_1 = 2$ :

$$f_m(x) = (u_{m,0} + u_{m,1}g(x) + u_{m,2}g^2(x)) + x(u_{m,3} + u_{m,4}g(x) + u_{m,5}g^2(x)), m = 1, 2.$$

- $f_m(x)$  has degree 7. ( $g(x) = x^3$ )

# Flexible LRC

	group 1			...	group 4		
Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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- Recovery from  $R_2 = 5, \ell_2 = 3$ :

$$f_m(x) = (u_{m,0} + u_{m,1}g(x) + u_{m,2}g^2(x)) + x(u_{m,3} + u_{m,4}g(x) + u_{m,5}g^2(x)), m = 1, 2.$$

$$f_3(x) = (f_1(\alpha^4) + f_1(\alpha^9)g(x)) + x(f_2(\alpha^4) + f_2(\alpha^9)g(x)).$$

- $f_3(x)$  has degree 4  $\rightarrow f_1(\alpha^4), f_1(\alpha^9), f_2(\alpha^4), f_2(\alpha^9)$ .

# Flexible LRC

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Layer 1	$C_{1,1,1}$	$C_{1,1,2}$	$C_{1,1,3}$	...	$C_{1,1,10}$	$C_{1,1,11}$	$C_{1,1,12}$
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$$f_3(x) = (f_1(\alpha^4) + f_1(\alpha^9)g(x)) + x(f_2(\alpha^4) + f_2(\alpha^9)g(x)).$$

- $f_3(x)$  has degree 4  $\rightarrow f_1(\alpha^4), f_1(\alpha^9), f_2(\alpha^4), f_2(\alpha^9)$ .
- Locality  $\rightarrow f_1(\alpha^{14}), f_2(\alpha^{14})$ .

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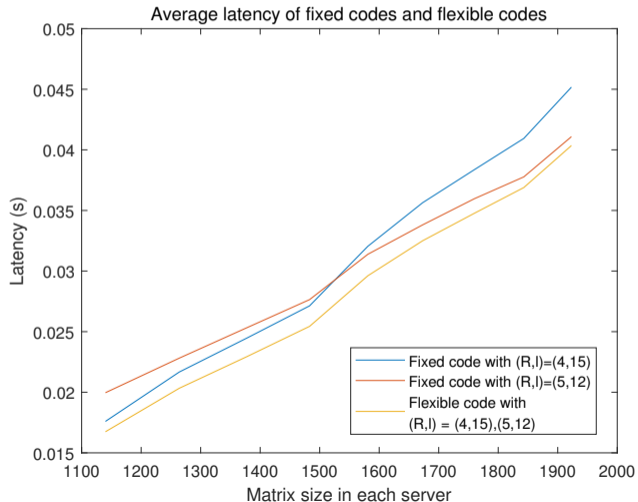
$$f_3(x) = (f_1(\alpha^4) + f_1(\alpha^9)g(x)) + x(f_2(\alpha^4) + f_2(\alpha^9)g(x)).$$

- $f_3(x)$  has degree 4  $\rightarrow f_1(\alpha^4), f_1(\alpha^9), f_2(\alpha^4), f_2(\alpha^9)$ .
- Locality  $\rightarrow f_1(\alpha^{14}), f_2(\alpha^{14})$ .
- Totally 8 evaluations in Layer 1.



# Performance

- Simulation in Amazon Cluster with 8 servers.
- Matrix-vector multiplication is applied.

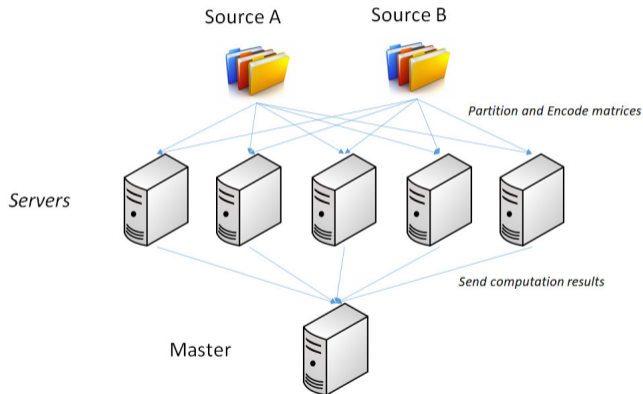


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# Motivation

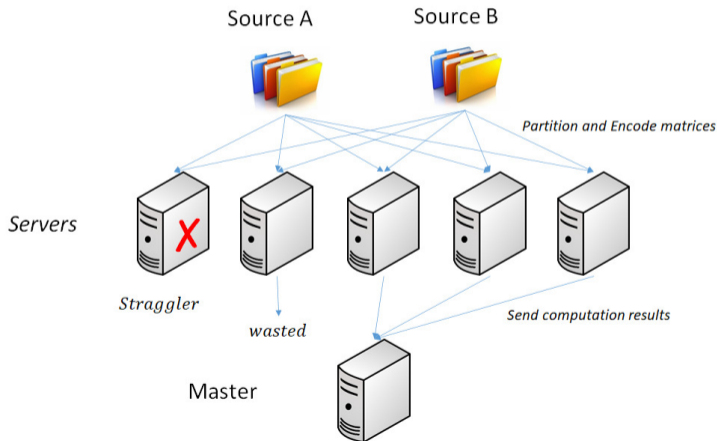
- Matrix multiplication is a central operation of linear algebra.
- Example applications: statistical physics, mathematical finance, machine learning.



- Matrix multiplication:  $A \cdot B$ .

# Motivation

- Fixed code can only make use of  $R$  servers.
- The rest available servers are wasted.
- Each available server computes all tasks  $\rightarrow$  large latency.



# Flexible Matrix Multiplication

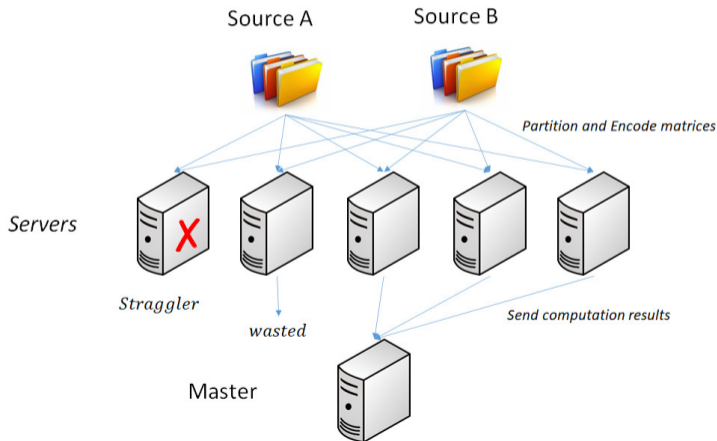
- A flexible construction is provided for distributed matrix multiplication and the parameter optimization is analyzed <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>W Li, Z Chen Z Wang, S.A. Jafar, H Jafarkhani, Flexible Constructions for Distributed Matrix Multiplication, IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT) 2021.

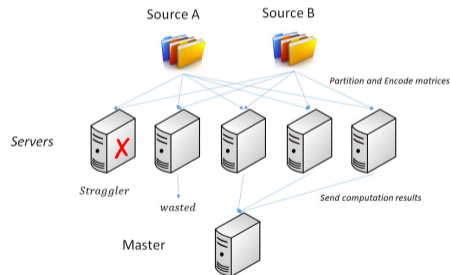
# Problem Statement

- Functions of matrix  $A$  (and  $B$ ) are sent to each server.
- Each server performs computation on the functions.
- The master collects computation results and recovers  $A \cdot B$ .



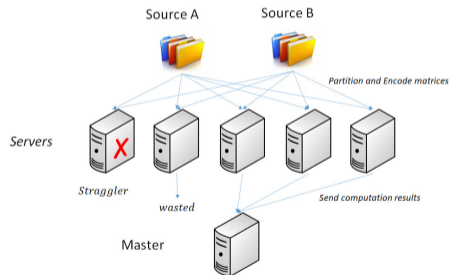
# Problem Statement

- Computation load  $L$ : the number of multiplications normalized by the total number of multiplications required to multiply two matrices.
- **Goal**: flexible algorithms with small computation load for unknown stragglers.



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- Computation load  $L$ : the number of multiplications normalized by the total number of multiplications required to multiply two matrices.
- **Goal**: flexible algorithms with small computation load for unknown stragglers.



- Tolerate up to  $n - R$  stragglers.
- Stragglers are not known a priori.



## Related work

- Coded matrix multiplication with fixed  $R$ .

[Q. Yu, M. A. Maddah-Ali, and A. S. Avestimehr, ArXiv:1705.10464, 2017], [S. Dutta, M. Fahim, F. Haddadpour, H. Jeong, V. Cadambe, and P. Grover, IEEE Trans IT, 2020], [S. Dutta, Z. Bai, H. Jeong, T. Low, and P. Grover, ArXiv:1811.10751, 2018], [Q. Yu, M. A. Maddah-Ali, and A. S. Avestimehr, IEEE Trans IT, 2020], [Q. Yu, S. Li, N. Raviv, S. M. M. Kalan, M. Soltanolkotabi, and S. Avestimehr, PMLR, 2019], [Z. Jia and S.A. Jafar, IEEE Trans IT, 2021] ...

- Flexible matrix-vector multiplication.

[R. Bitar, P. Parag, and S. E. Rouayheb, IEEE Trans Comm, 2020], [R. Bitar, Y. Xing, Y. Keshtkarjahromi, V. Dasari, S. E. Rouayheb, and H. Seferoglu, ArXiv:1909.12611, 2019], [A. Ramamoorthy, L. Tang, and P. O. Vontobel, ISIT, 2019], [A. B. Das, L. Tang, and A. Ramamoorthy, ITW, 2018].

- Flexible matrix multiplication with special partition.

[R. Bitar, M. Xhemrishi, and A. Wachter-Zeh, ArXiv:2101.05681, 2021], [B. Hasircioğlu, J. Gómez-Vilardebó, and D. Gündüz, ArXiv:2001.07227, 2020; Global Comm, 2020], [S. Kiani, N. Ferdinand, and S. C. Draper, ISIT, 2018], [X. Fan, P. Soto, X. Zhong, D. Xi, Y. Wang, and J. Li, IWQoS, 2020], [A. B. Das and A. Ramamoorthy, ArXiv:2012.06065,2020].

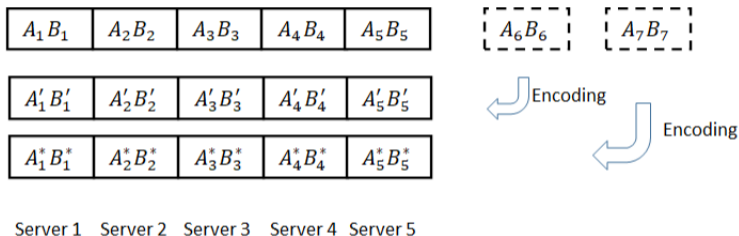
- Flexible matrix multiplication with arbitrary partition remains an open problem.

# Main Idea

- *Recovery Profile*  $\{R_1, \dots, R_a\}$  instead of recovery threshold  $R$ .
- Each server is assigned multiple small subtasks and finishes them sequentially.
- With less stragglers, each server finishes fewer subtasks  $\rightarrow$  low latency

# Main Idea

- Based on Entangled Polynomial codes<sup>[1]</sup>.
- Extra parities generated in upper layers and encoded to lower layers.



[1] Q. Yu, M.A. Maddah-Ali, A.S. Avestimehr, Straggler Mitigation in Distributed Matrix Multiplication: Fundamental Limits and Optimal Coding, IEEE Trans on IT, 2020.

# Example

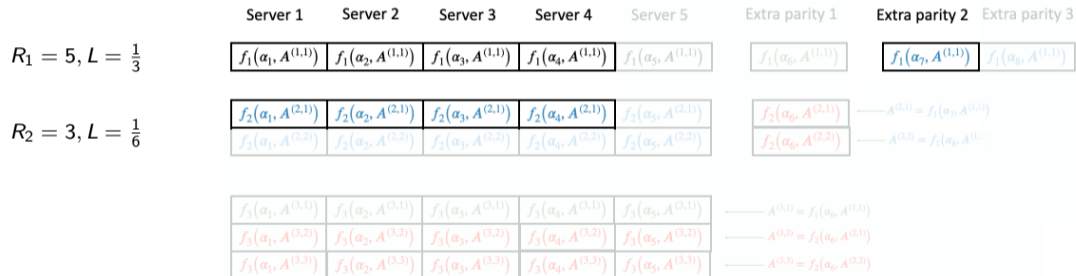
- No stragglers: each server computes 1 task, computation load is  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

$$R_1 = 5, L = \frac{1}{3}$$

Server 1	Server 2	Server 3	Server 4	Server 5	Extra parity 1	Extra parity 2	Extra parity 3
$f_1(\alpha_1, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_2, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_3, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_4, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_5, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_7, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_8, A^{(1,1)})$
$f_2(\alpha_1, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_2, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_3, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_4, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_5, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)})$	$A^{(2,1)} = f_1(\alpha_7, A^{(1,1)})$	
$f_2(\alpha_1, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_2, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_3, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_4, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_5, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$	$A^{(2,2)} = f_1(\alpha_8, A^{(1,1)})$	
$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,1)})$	$A^{(3,1)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$		
$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,2)})$	$A^{(3,2)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)})$		
$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,3)})$	$A^{(3,3)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$		

# Example

- 1 straggler: each server computes 2 tasks, computation load is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .



# Example

- 2 stragglers: each server computes 3 tasks, computation load is  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

	Server 1	Server 2	Server 3	Server 4	Server 5	Extra parity 1	Extra parity 2	Extra parity 3
$R_1 = 5, L = \frac{1}{3}$	$f_1(\alpha_1, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_2, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_3, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_4, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_5, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_7, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_8, A^{(1,1)})$
$R_2 = 3, L = \frac{1}{6}$	$f_2(\alpha_1, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_2, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_3, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_4, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_5, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)})$	$A^{(2,1)} = f_1(\alpha_7, A^{(1,1)})$	
	$f_2(\alpha_1, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_2, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_3, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_4, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_5, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$	$A^{(2,2)} = f_1(\alpha_8, A^{(1,1)})$	
	$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,1)})$	$A^{(3,1)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$		
	$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,2)})$	$A^{(3,2)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)})$		
	$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,3)})$	$A^{(3,3)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$		

# Example

- 3 stragglers: each server computes 6 tasks, computation load is 1.

	Server 1	Server 2	Server 3	Server 4	Server 5	Extra parity 1	Extra parity 2	Extra parity 3
$R_1 = 5, L = \frac{1}{3}$	$f_1(\alpha_1, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_2, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_3, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_4, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_5, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_7, A^{(1,1)})$	$f_1(\alpha_8, A^{(1,1)})$
$R_2 = 3, L = \frac{1}{6}$	$f_2(\alpha_1, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_2, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_3, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_4, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_5, A^{(2,1)})$	$f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)})$	$A^{(2,1)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$	
	$f_2(\alpha_1, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_2, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_3, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_4, A^{(2,2)})$	$f_2(\alpha_5, A^{(2,2)})$		$f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$	$A^{(2,2)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$
$R_3 = 2, L = \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{12}$	$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,1)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,1)})$	$A^{(3,1)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)})$		
	$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,2)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,2)})$	$A^{(3,2)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)})$		
	$f_3(\alpha_1, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_2, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_3, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_4, A^{(3,3)})$	$f_3(\alpha_5, A^{(3,3)})$	$A^{(3,3)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$		

# Performance

- Let  $\hat{R}$  be the number of available servers,  $\hat{R} = 2, 3, 4, 5$ .
- Let  $p(\hat{R})$  be the probability of  $\hat{R}$  available servers.
- Expectation over the realizations of  $\hat{R}$ ,

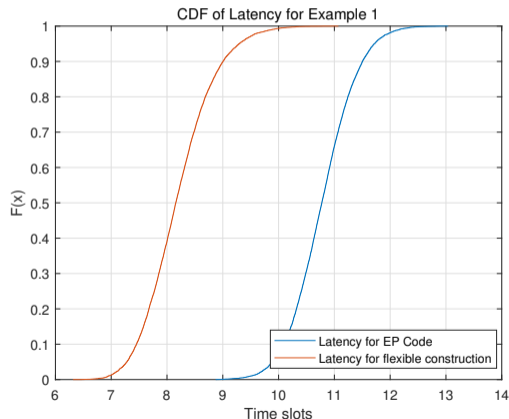
$$E[L_{\text{flex}}] = \sum_{i=2}^5 p(\hat{R} = i) L_{\text{flex}}(\hat{R} = i).$$

- $p(5) = 0.7, p(2) = p(3) = p(4) = 0.1, E[L_{\text{flex}}] = 0.45, E[L_{\text{EP}}] = 0.5$ .



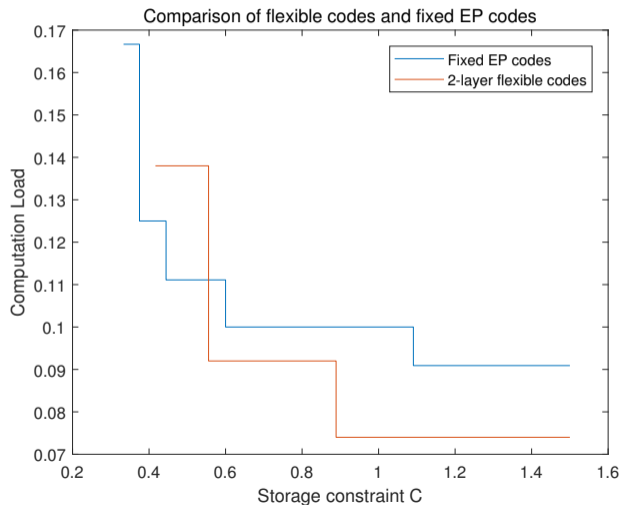
# Performance

- Assume 5 servers. Each unit task in each server satisfies an exponential distribution.



## Performance

- Assume  $n = 16$ ,  $R_1 = 15$ ,  $R_2 = R = 11$ . 10% straggler probability for each server.



## Example

- $n = 5, R = 2, \{R_1, R_2, R_3\} = \{5, 3, 2\}$ .
- Partition:

$$A = [A_1, A_2, A_3], B = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \\ B_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example

- $n = 5, R = 2, \{R_1, R_2, R_3\} = \{5, 3, 2\}$ .
- Partition:

$$A = [A_1, A_2, A_3], B = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \\ B_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Encode:

$$A_1 + \alpha_i A_2 + \alpha_i^2 A_3, \quad \alpha_i^2 B_1 + \alpha_i B_2 + B_3.$$

## Example

- $n = 5, R = 2, \{R_1, R_2, R_3\} = \{5, 3, 2\}$ .
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- Encode:

$$A_1 + \alpha_i A_2 + \alpha_i^2 A_3, \quad \alpha_i^2 B_1 + \alpha_i B_2 + B_3.$$

- Layer 1 calculates:

$$A_1 B_3 + \alpha_i (A_2 B_3 + A_1 B_2) + \alpha_i^2 (A_1 B_1 + A_2 B_2 + A_3 B_3) + \alpha_i^3 (A_2 B_1 + A_3 B_2) + \alpha_i^4 A_3 B_1.$$

## Example

- $n = 5, R = 2, \{R_1, R_2, R_3\} = \{5, 3, 2\}$ .
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- If no stragglers, computation completes.

## Example

- Layer 2: Handle the parities in Layer 1.

$$A_{\alpha_7} = (A_1 + \alpha_7 A_2 + \alpha_7^2 A_3), B_{\alpha_7} = (\alpha_7^2 B_1 + \alpha_7 B_2 + B_3).$$

## Example

- Layer 2: Handle the parities in Layer 1.

$$A_{\alpha_7} = (A_1 + \alpha_7 A_2 + \alpha_7^2 A_3), B_{\alpha_7} = (\alpha_7^2 B_1 + \alpha_7 B_2 + B_3).$$

- Partition:

$$A_{\alpha_7} = [A'_1, A'_2], B_{\alpha_7} = \begin{bmatrix} B'_1 \\ B'_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Encode:

$$A'_1 + \alpha_j A'_2, \quad \alpha_j B'_1 + B'_2.$$



## Example

- Layer 2: Handle the parities in Layer 1.

$$A_{\alpha_7} = (A_1 + \alpha_7 A_2 + \alpha_7^2 A_3), B_{\alpha_7} = (\alpha_7^2 B_1 + \alpha_7 B_2 + B_3).$$

- Partition:

$$A_{\alpha_7} = [A'_1, A'_2], B_{\alpha_7} = \begin{bmatrix} B'_1 \\ B'_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Encode:

$$A'_1 + \alpha_j A'_2, \quad \alpha_j B'_1 + B'_2.$$

- Layer 2 calculates:

$$A'_1 B'_2 + \alpha_i (A'_1 B'_1 + A'_2 B'_2) + \alpha_i^2 A'_2 B'_1.$$

## Example

- Layer 2: Handle the parities in Layer 1.

$$A_{\alpha_7} = (A_1 + \alpha_7 A_2 + \alpha_7^2 A_3), B_{\alpha_7} = (\alpha_7^2 B_1 + \alpha_7 B_2 + B_3).$$

- Partition:

$$A_{\alpha_7} = [A'_1, A'_2], B_{\alpha_7} = \begin{bmatrix} B'_1 \\ B'_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Encode:

$$A'_1 + \alpha_j A'_2, \quad \alpha_j B'_1 + B'_2.$$

- Layer 2 calculates:

$$A'_1 B'_2 + \alpha_i (A'_1 B'_1 + A'_2 B'_2) + \alpha_i^2 A'_2 B'_1.$$

- Same for  $A_{\alpha_8}, B_{\alpha_8}$ .

- More matrices are sent to servers, while the matrices are smaller.

## Example

- Layer 3: Handle the parities in Layer 1 and 2.

$$A^{(3,1)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)}), \quad A^{(3,2)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)}), \quad A^{(3,3)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$$

$$B^{(3,1)} = g_1(\alpha_6, B^{(1,1)}), \quad B^{(3,2)} = g_2(\alpha_6, B^{(2,1)}), \quad B^{(3,3)} = g_2(\alpha_6, B^{(2,2)})$$

- Partition:  $A^{(3,1)} = A_1'', B^{(3,1)} = [B_1'', B_2'']$ .

## Example

- Layer 3: Handle the parities in Layer 1 and 2.

$$A^{(3,1)} = f_1(\alpha_6, A^{(1,1)}), \quad A^{(3,2)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,1)}), \quad A^{(3,3)} = f_2(\alpha_6, A^{(2,2)})$$

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- Partition:  $A^{(3,1)} = A_1'', B^{(3,1)} = [B_1'', B_2'']$ .

- Encode:

$$A_1'', \quad g_3(\alpha_i, \alpha_i B_1'' + B_2'').$$

- Layer 3 calculates:

$$A_1'' B_2'' + \alpha_i A_1'' B_1''.$$

- Same for  $A^{(3,2)}, B^{(3,2)}, A^{(3,3)}, B^{(3,3)}$ .

# Optimization

- How to set the parameters
  - number of layers
  - recovery profile
  - partitioning parameters

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{(1,1)} & \cdots & A_{(1,p)} \\ A_{(2,1)} & \cdots & A_{(2,p)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ A_{(m,1)} & \cdots & A_{(m,p)} \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} B_{(1,1)} & \cdots & B_{(1,n)} \\ B_{(2,1)} & \cdots & B_{(2,n)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ B_{(p,1)} & \cdots & B_{(p,n)} \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Optimization

- Minimize the expectation

$$E[L_{\text{flex}}] = \sum_{i=R}^n p(\hat{R} = i) L_{\text{flex}}(\hat{R} = i),$$

- Over the number of layers  $a$ .
- Over recovery profile  $\{R_1, \dots, R_a\}$ .
- Over the partitioning parameters  $p_j, m_j, n_j, j \in [a]$ .

# Optimization

- **Theorem.** When the probability of no straggler is large enough, the maximum number of layers is **optimal**.
  - $a = n - R + 1$  and recovery profile  $\{R_1, \dots, R_a\} = \{n, n - 1, \dots, R\}$ .

# Optimization

- **Theorem.** When the probability of no straggler is large enough, the maximum number of layers is **optimal**.
  - $a = n - R + 1$  and recovery profile  $\{R_1, \dots, R_a\} = \{n, n - 1, \dots, R\}$ .
  - $p_1$  is an integer around  $\frac{1}{2}(R + 1) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(R + 1)^2 - (16\lambda\kappa^2\mu)/C^2}$ .
  - $p_j = 1, m_j n_j = R_j, j \geq 2$ , matrix-vector multiplication.



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  - $p_j = 1, m_j n_j = R_j, j \geq 2$ , matrix-vector multiplication.
- Key steps:
  - Optimize  $p_j, m_j, n_j$  given recovery profile.
  - Given  $R_1$  and  $R$ , the more layers, the better.
  - Find the sufficient condition to set  $R_1 = n$ .

# Optimization

- **Theorem.** When the probability of no straggler is large enough, the maximum number of layers is **optimal**.
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  - $p_1$  is an integer around  $\frac{1}{2}(R + 1) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(R + 1)^2 - (16\lambda\kappa^2\mu)/C^2}$ .
  - $p_j = 1, m_j n_j = R_j, j \geq 2$ , matrix-vector multiplication.
  
- $n = 50, R = 40$  and assume the number of stragglers follows a truncated binomial distribution with parameter  $\epsilon$ . Then  $a = n - R + 1 = 11$  layers is optimal if  $\epsilon < 7.4\%$ .

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# Conclusion

- Flexible constructions and optimizations for distributed storage and computing.

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# Conclusion

- Flexible constructions and optimizations for distributed storage and computing.
- Our flexible storage codes can be generalized to optimal flexible codes that tolerates mixed types of failures (useful for flash drives and RAID) and minimizes the traffic during single-node repair (useful for networked storage).
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# Conclusion

- Flexible constructions and optimizations for distributed storage and computing.
- Our flexible storage codes can be generalized to optimal flexible codes that tolerates mixed types of failures (useful for flash drives and RAID) and minimizes the traffic during single-node repair (useful for networked storage).
- Our flexible matrix multiplication can be generalized to batch processing and secure distributed matrix multiplication.
- It is worthwhile to explore more applications of flexible constructions, such as federated learning and secure multi-party computation.

*Thank you!*