



AARHUS UNIVERSITY

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# Hiding the Input Size in Secure Two-Party Computation

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# Privacy on



(or a more privacy sensitive social network)

My friends  
should only see  
our common  
friends



# Secure Computation



- Privacy
- Correctness
- Input Independence
- “The protocol is as secure as the ideal world”

***Or is it?***

# Privacy on



(or a more privacy sensitive social network)



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Friend list



Friend list

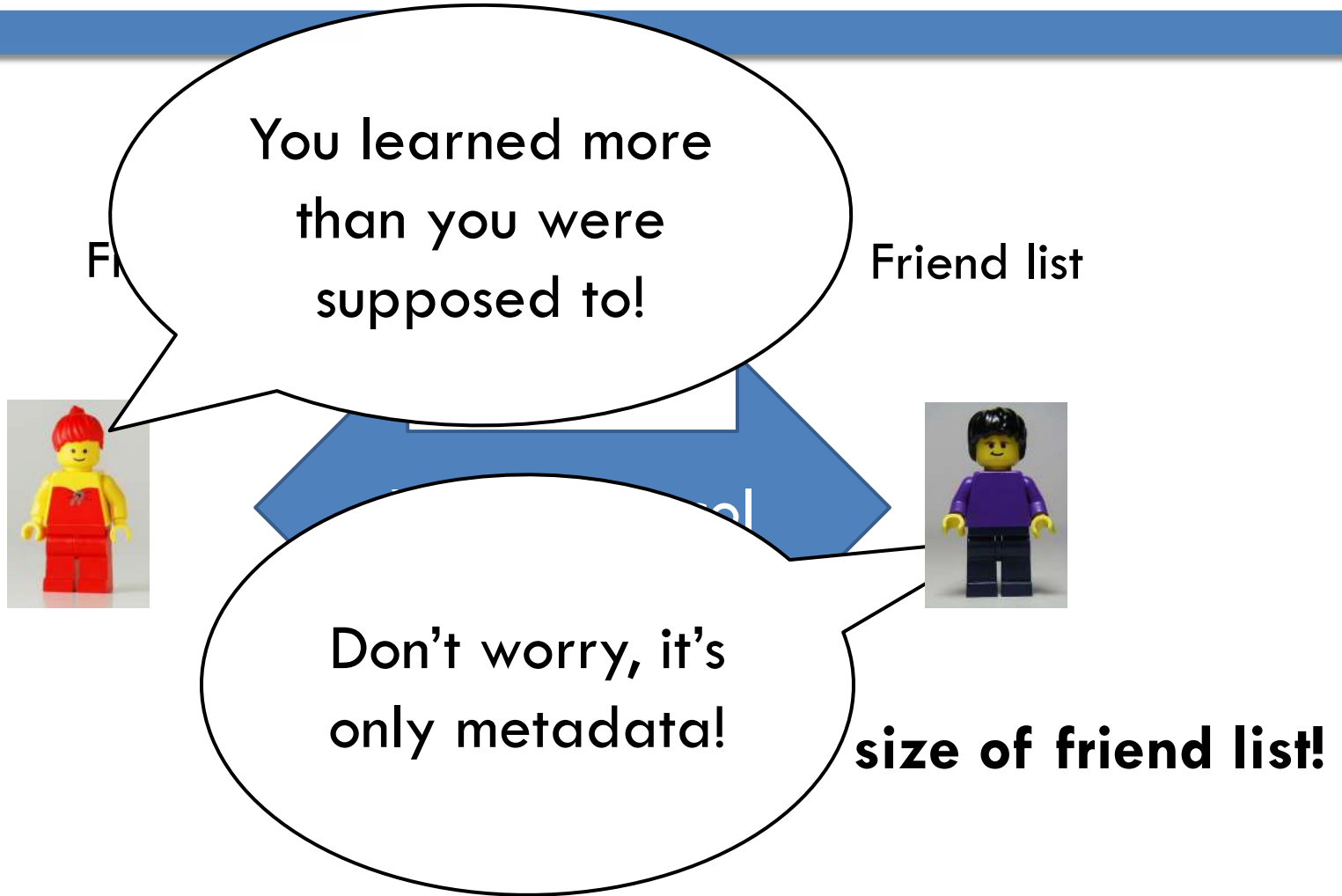


Intersection + size of friend list!

# Privacy on



(or a more privacy sensitive social network)



Friend list

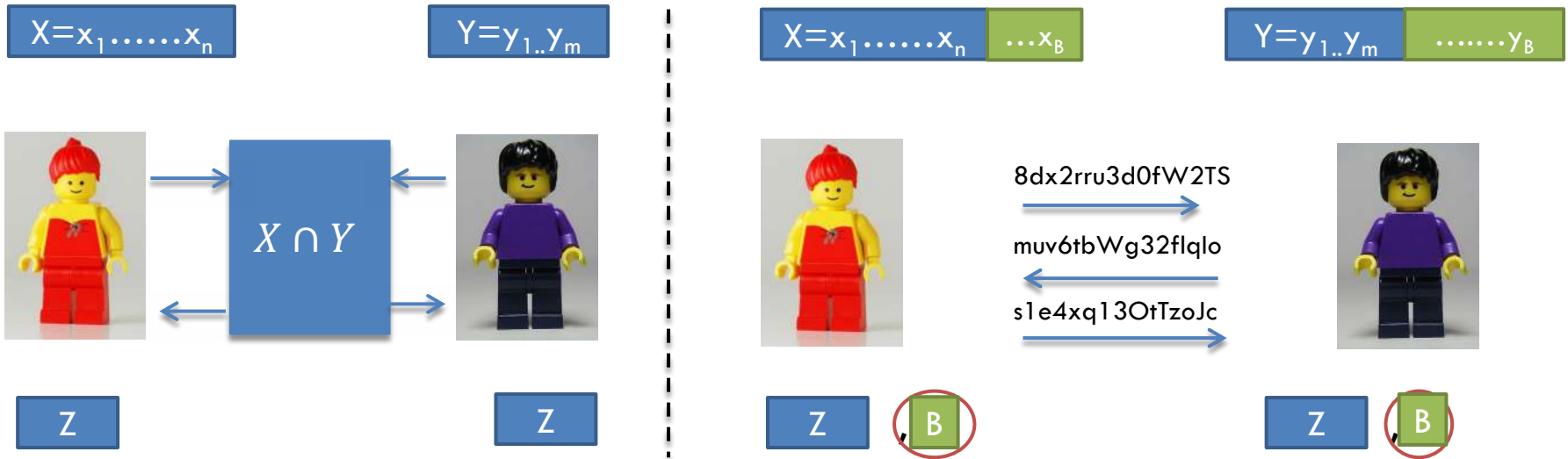
You learned more than you were supposed to!

Friend list

Don't worry, it's only metadata!

**size of friend list!**

# Padding?



- ❑ Just add a lot of “fake entries” to your DB
- ❑ Requires an upper bound ☹️
- ❑ **Inherent** inefficiency ☹️

# Impossibility of Size-Hiding: Proof by Authority

[G04] “...making no restriction on the relationship among the lengths of the two inputs disallows the existence of secure protocols for computing any nondegenerate functionality...”

[IP07] “...hiding the size of both inputs is impossible for interesting functions...”

[HL10] “...We remark that some restriction on the input lengths is unavoidable because, as in the case of encryption, to some extent such information is always leaked...”



# Impossibility of Size-Hiding: Proof by Authority

[G04] “...making no restriction on the relationship among the lengths of the two inputs disallows the existence of secure protocols for computing **any nondegenerate functionality**...”

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# Impossibility

- Is it impossible for
  - ▣ Any nondegenerate functionality?
    - What is nondegenerate?
    - What does no restriction mean?
  - ▣ All interesting functions?
    - What is interesting?
    - What about hiding one party's input?
- Is it really like encryption? Is length information always leaked?

# This Work

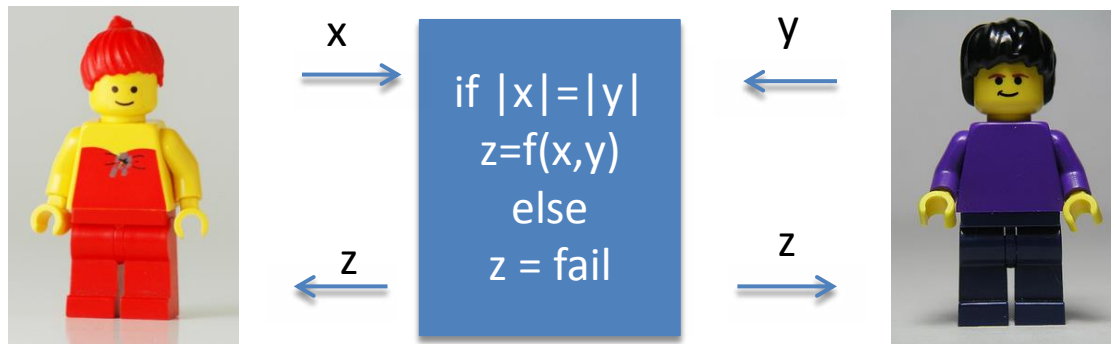
- Part of a general research effort to revisit the foundations of secure computation
- Do we have any proof that it's impossible?
  - ▣ If yes, where and for what functions?
- Is it impossible always or sometimes?
  - ▣ If sometimes, can we characterize when?
- How do we define size hiding?
  
- Compare to recent work on fairness...

# Input Size Can be Hidden Sometimes

- MicaliRabinKilian'03 (and many subsequent work...):  
Zero Knowledge Sets (check membership without revealing the size of the set)
- IshaiPaskin'07:
  - ▣ Branching programs (reveal length of the branching program but nothing else about input size)
    - Implies set intersection, server input size is hidden
- AtenieseDeCristofaroTsudik'11:
  - ▣ Specific protocol for set intersection, client input size is hidden; efficient, in random oracle model
- Note: all these are for **specific problems**/restricted class, and all hide **only one party's input**

# A Test Case: Standard Definition

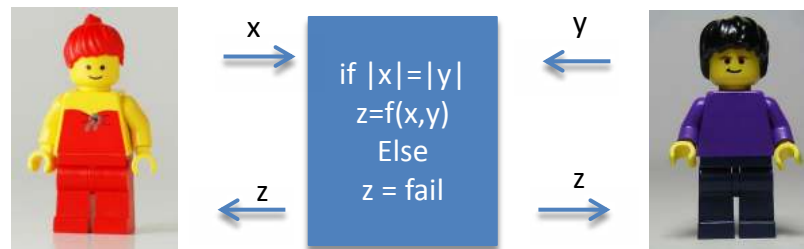
- Standard definition, e.g. [Gol04]



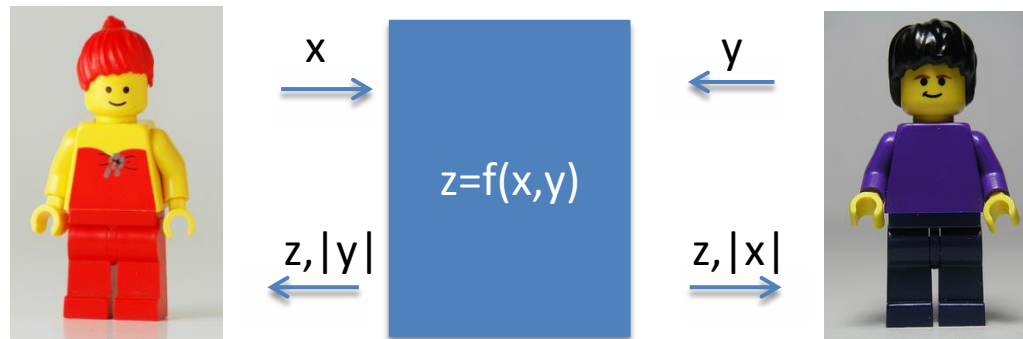
- Need to know other party's size in advance
  - ▣ Introduces problem of input **size** dependence
  - ▣ One party can choose its input after knowing the size of the other party's input (outside the scope of the protocol)

# Defining Non-Input-Size Hiding

## □ Formulation [G04]:



## □ Our formulation:



## □ Security guarantees incomparable

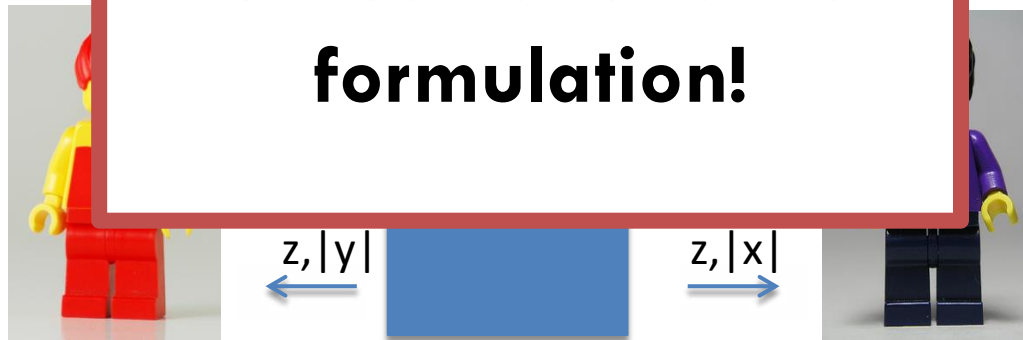
# Defining Non-Input-Size Hiding

- Formulation [G04]:



- Our form

**Standard protocols are not secure for either formulation!**



- Security guarantees incomparable

# Ideal Model - Classes

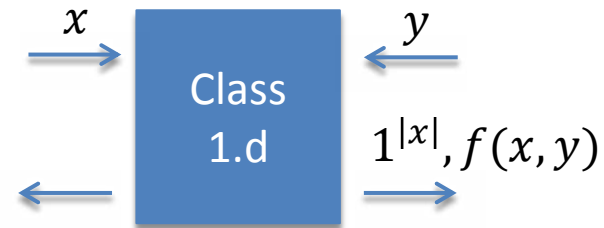
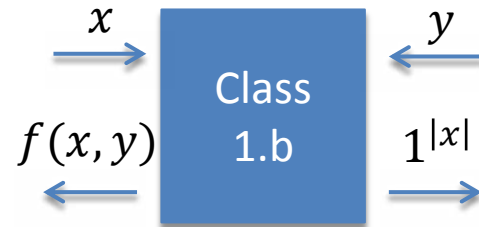
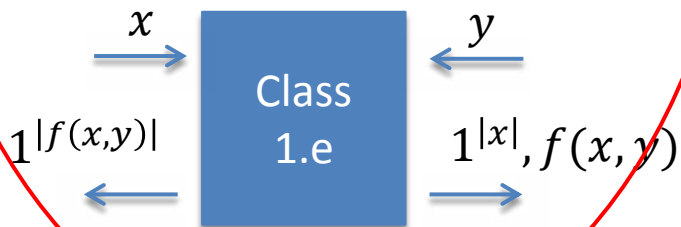
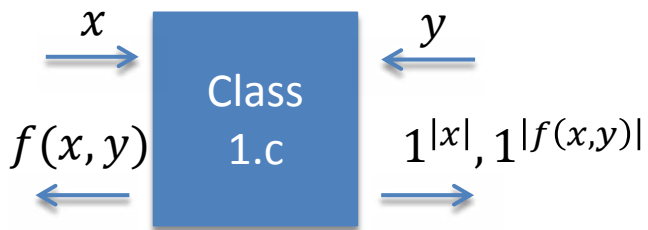
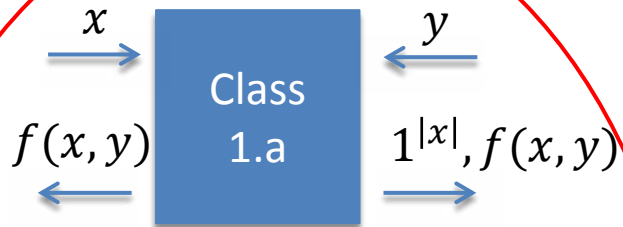
- Classes
  - ▣ 0: both input-sizes are leaked
  - ▣ 1: Bob learns  $|x|$ , Alice does not learn  $|y|$
  - ▣ 2: both input-sizes are not revealed
- Subclasses
  - ▣ Who gets output?
  - ▣ Is the output size leaked?
- Our classification is complete for symmetric functions
$$f(x, y) = f(y, x)$$



# Class 0

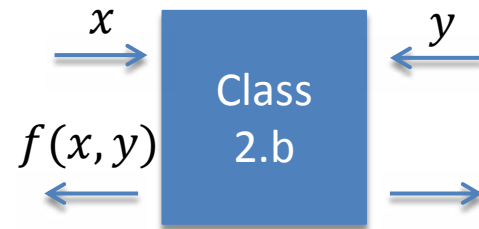


# Class 1

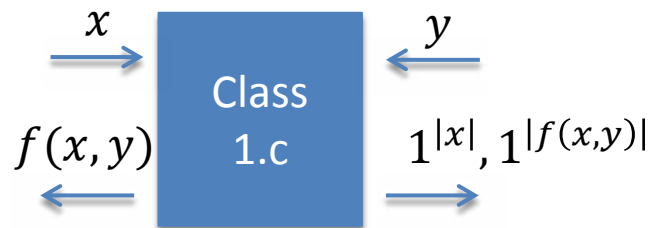
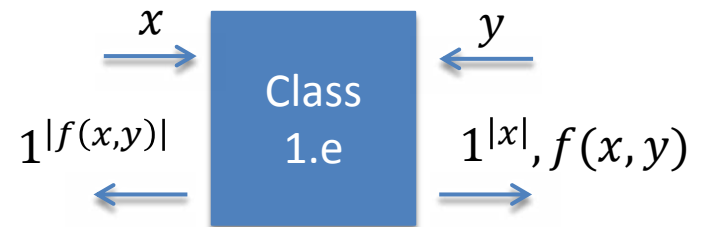
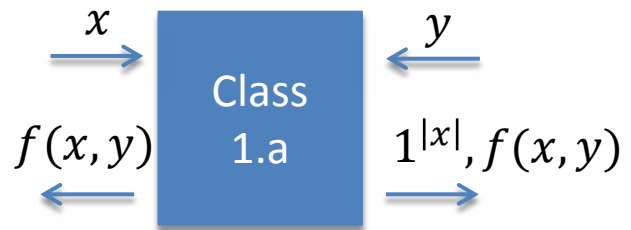


**Essentially equivalent classes  
(outputs have same length)**

# Class 2



# Positive Results



# Tools

- Fully Homomorphic Encryption  
( $G, E, D, Eval$ )

- Correctness:

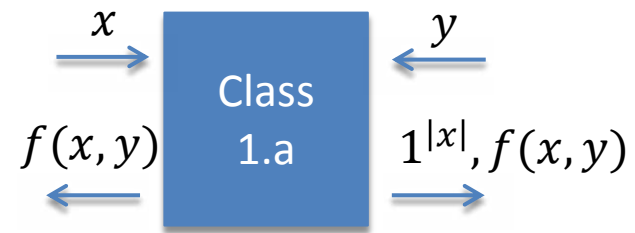
$$D_{sk}(Eval_{pk}(f, E_{pk}(x))) = f(x)$$

- Circuit privacy:

$$Eval_{pk}(f, E_{pk}(x)) \approx E_{pk}(f(x))$$



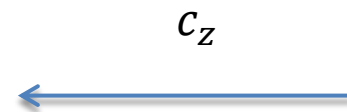
# Class 1.a



$$(pk, sk) \leftarrow Gen(1^k)$$

$$c_x \leftarrow Enc_{pk}(x)$$

$$z = Dec_{sk}(c_z)$$

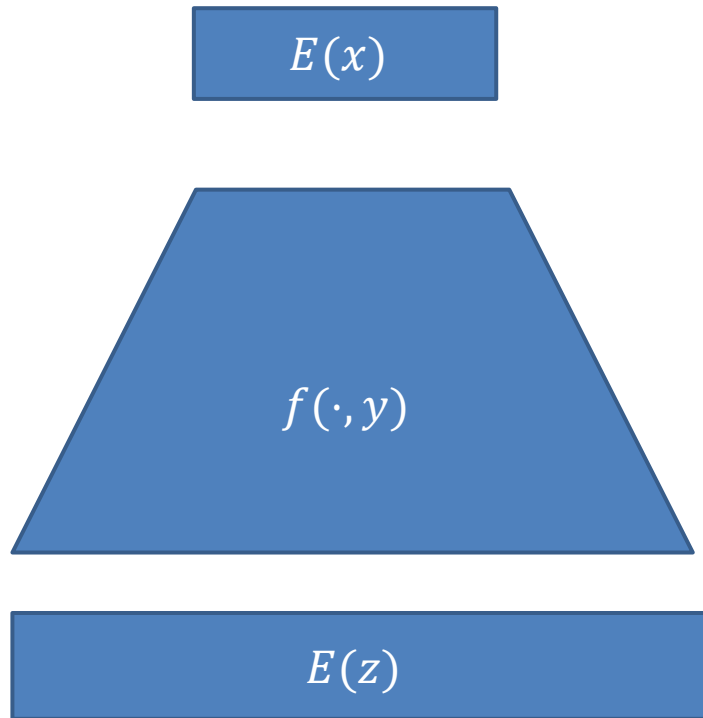


$$c_z = Eval_{pk}(f(\cdot, y), c)$$

# Class 1.a

- The devil is in the details
  - ▣ In order to compute  $c_z$ , a circuit computing  $f(\cdot, y)$  must be known, but this involves knowing the output length
- Solution:  $P_2$  computes an upper bound (it can do this since it knows  $|x|$  and  $y$ )

# Computing an Upper Bound



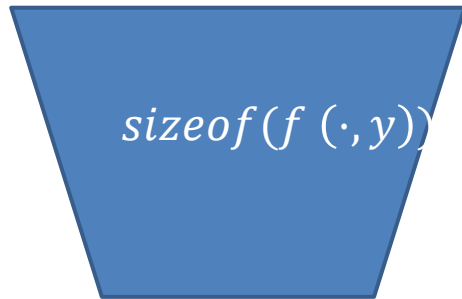
- Example: set union
  - ▣  $z = x \cup y$
- Clear that  $|z| \leq |x| + |y|$
- But how long exactly?  
Any upper bound reveals information about  $|y|$





# The Solution

$E(x)$

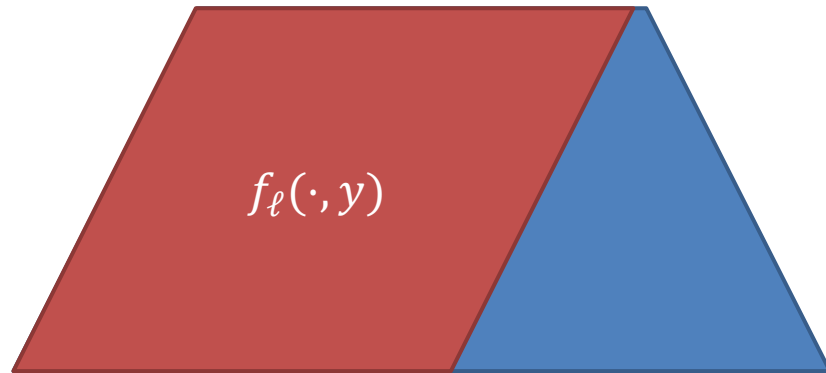


$E(|z|)$

↓  
Send  
to Alice

Alice opens  $\ell = |z|$

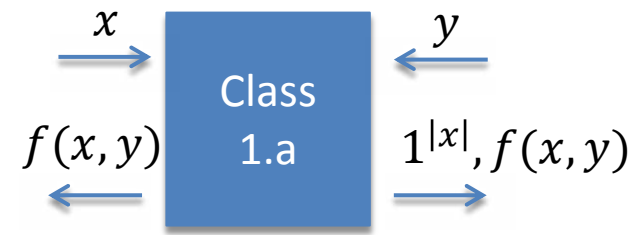
$E(x)$



$\ell$



# Class 1.a





$$(pk, sk) \leftarrow Gen(1^k)$$

$$c_x \leftarrow Enc_{pk}(x)$$

$$pk, c_x$$



$$c_\ell$$



$$c_\ell = Eval_{pk}(sizeof(f(\cdot, y)), c)$$

$$\ell = Dec_{sk}(c_\ell)$$

$$\ell$$



$$c_z$$



$$c_z = Eval_{pk}(f_\ell(\cdot, y), c)$$

$$z = Dec_{sk}(c_z)$$

$$z$$

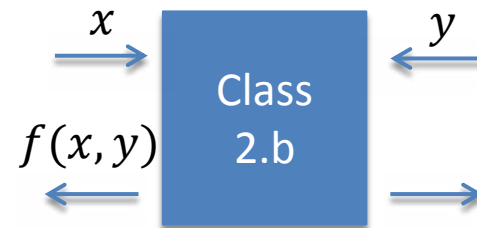


The circuit for output of length exactly  $\ell$

□ Thm: FHE  $\Rightarrow \forall f$  can be securely computed in Classes 1.a/c/e



# Positive Results



# Two-Size Hiding Protocols

- **Theorem:** If FHE exists, then the following functions can be securely computed in class 2 (semi-honest)
  - ▣ Greater than (Millionaire's problem)
  - ▣ And other functions:
    - Equality
    - Mean
    - Variance
    - Median

# Two-Size Hiding Protocols

- **Theorem:** If FHE exists, then the following functions can be securely computed in class 2 (sem)

- Gr

- An

- E

- M

- V

- M

**First example of protocols for interesting functions where the size of the input of both parties is protected**

# Size Independent Protocols

- $\pi$  is size independent for  $f$  if
  - ▣ Correct (except for  $negl(k)$ )
  - ▣ Computation efficient (runtime  $poly(input+k)$ )
  - ▣ Communication efficient (bounded by  $poly(k)$ )
- Construction idea: “compile” these insecure protocols using FHE.
- (Concrete protocol for “greater than” in the paper)

# Negative Results

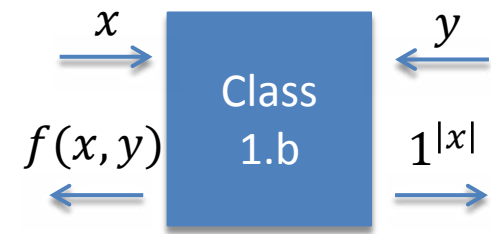
# Lower Bounds



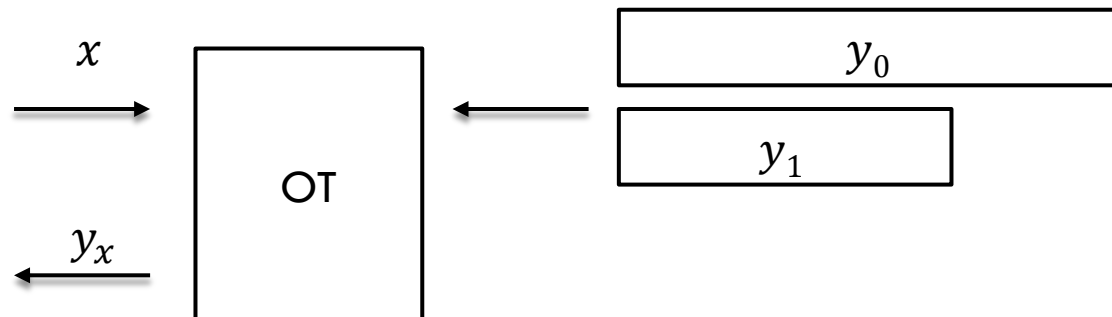
- **Theorem:** There exist functions that cannot be computed while hiding both parties' input size
  - ▣ Not everything can be computed in Class 2
  
- Examples: Inner product, Set Intersection, Hamming distance, etc.
  - ▣ Any protocol with “high” communication complexity



# Class 1.b



- **Theorem:** There exist functions that cannot be securely computed in class 1.b
- **Proof:** size-hiding OT
  - $x$  = selection bit
  - $y = (y_0, y_1)$  two strings of different length
  - $f(x, y) = y_x$



# Conclusions and Open Problems

# Conclusions and Open Problems

- Open Problems
  - ▣ (More) efficient protocols for specific tasks?
  - ▣ Malicious security?
  - ▣ Dealing with side-channel attacks (timing)?
  
- Hiding the input size is (sometimes) possible.
  - ▣ Don't give up!
  
- Landscape of size-hiding 2PC is very rich
  - ▣ Many positive and negative results.

# Summary of Feasibility

	All $f$ (bounded output)	All $f$ (even unbounded output)	GT ( $x > y$ )	vecxor	Intersection	OT	omprf
2.a	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
2.b	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓
2.c	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
1.a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.b	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
1.c	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.d	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
1.e	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓