

Remote Data Checking: Auditing the Preservation Status of Massive Data Sets on Untrusted Storage

Randal Burns

randal@cs.jhu.edu

www.cs.jhu.edu/~randal/



Department of Computer Science, *Johns Hopkins University*

What's Remote Data Checking?

Auditing protocols that verify the correctness of data objects on remote, untrusted stores

- Without transferring data to the client
 - Constant network complexity per audit per object
 - Constant amount of metadata per object
- That do not require the store to access the entire file
 - Constant amount of I/O per audit per object



Service-Oriented Architectures

- Outsourced storage commoditized and ubiquitous
 - Cloud computing
 - Amazon S3/EC
 - SDSC Storage Resource Broker
- And, the associated security problems
 - How much trust must we place in services?
 - For data, auditing services for correctness, availability, preservation



Why Remote Data Checking?

- Verifying integrity/content on retrieval is insufficient
 - Too late, data are already damaged.
 - Identifying damaged data quickly is critical to repair
- Data are too large to retrieve and check
 - I/O burden on servers
 - Lots of network traffic
 - Expensive! Services charge by byte of I/O and byte transferred
- Exposure
 - Data are held for long periods of time
 - Much data are accessed infrequently or never



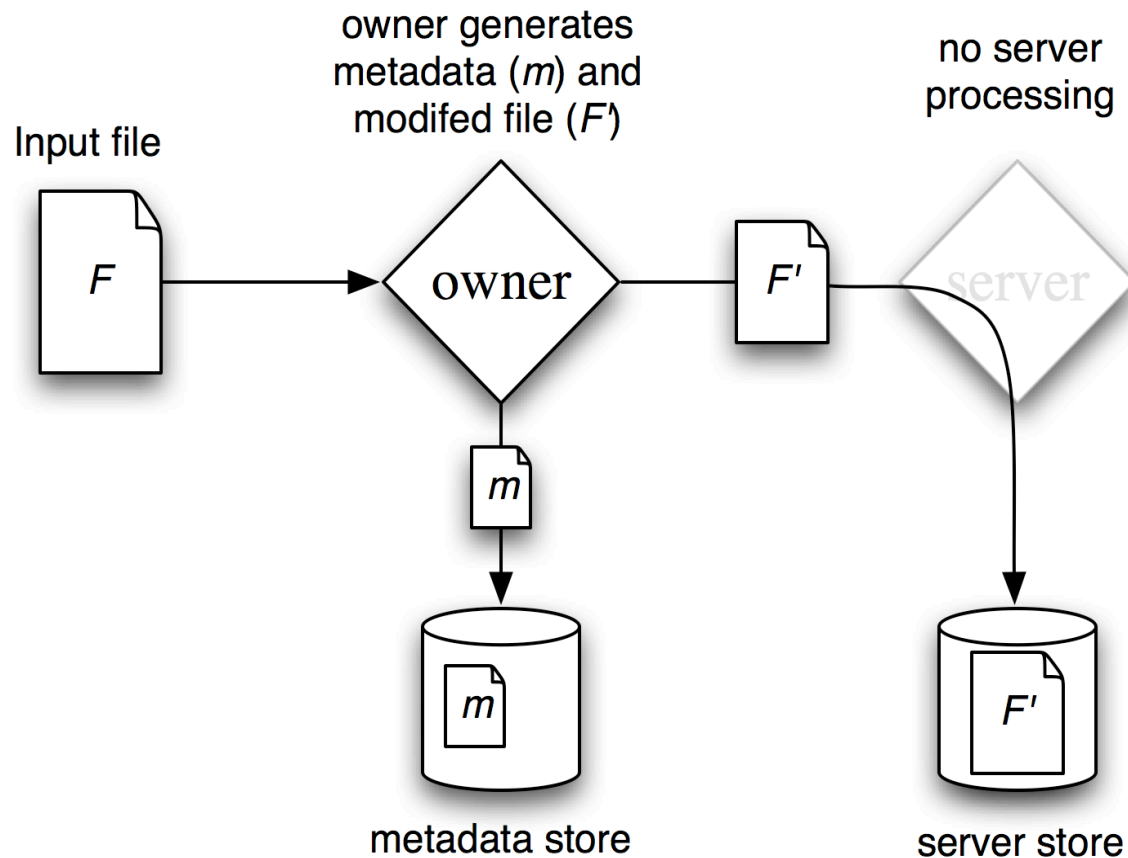
Don't I Trust Service Providers?

- Financial motivations to cheat
 - Charge for terabytes and store gigabytes
 - Discard unaccessed data (based on statistical analysis)
 - Keep fewer replicas than promised
- Reputation
 - Hide data loss incidents
- Latent errors
 - Of which service providers are unaware
- There's a history of data-loss incidents



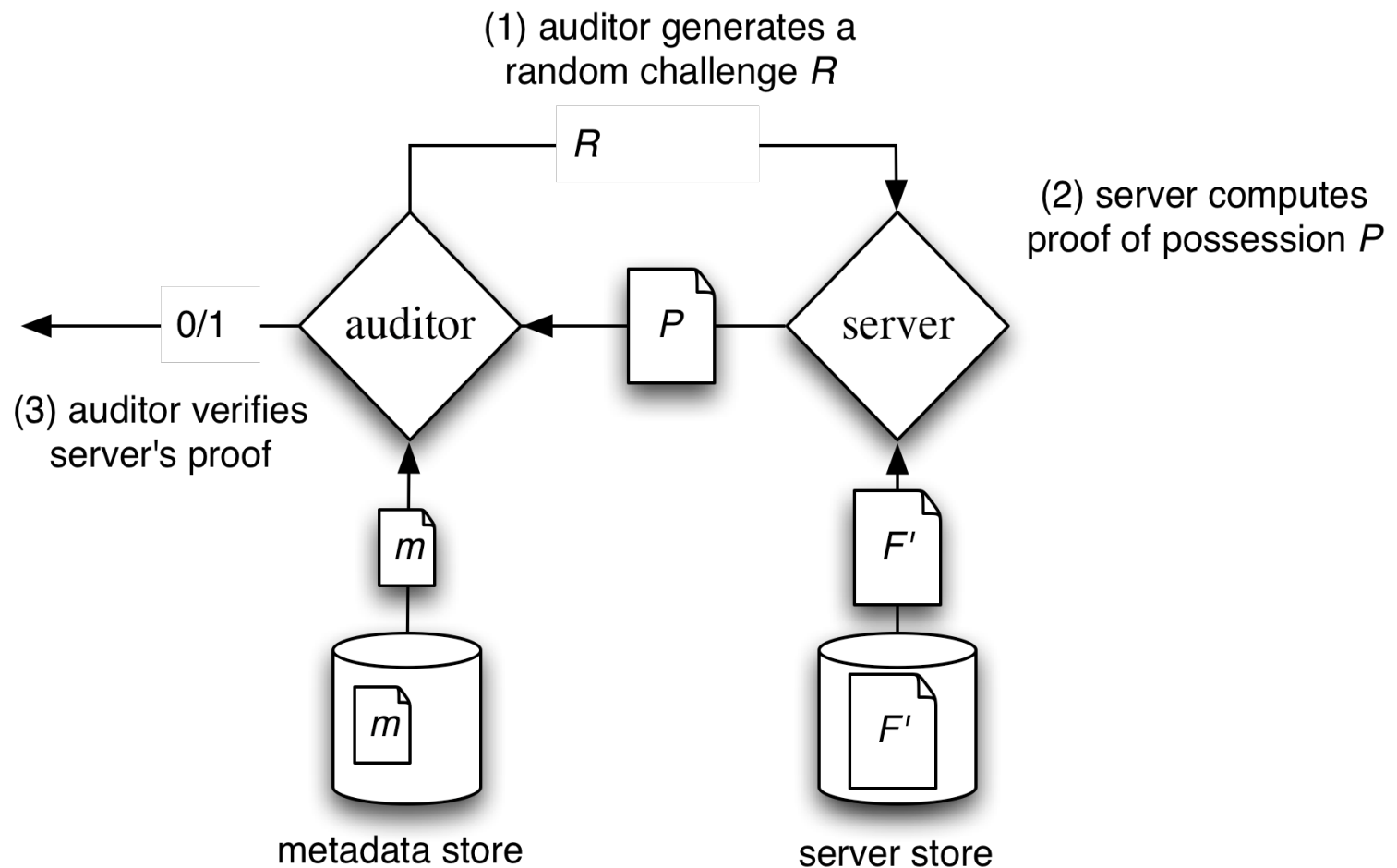
RDC Storage Protocol

- Data owner preprocesses file for RDC protocol
 - May modify file (add bytes, tags, etc.)
 - Generate a constant amount of (public or private) metadata



RDC Audit Protocol

- Verify that an untrusted store retains the correct data
 - Without transferring the data to the verifier (homomorphism)

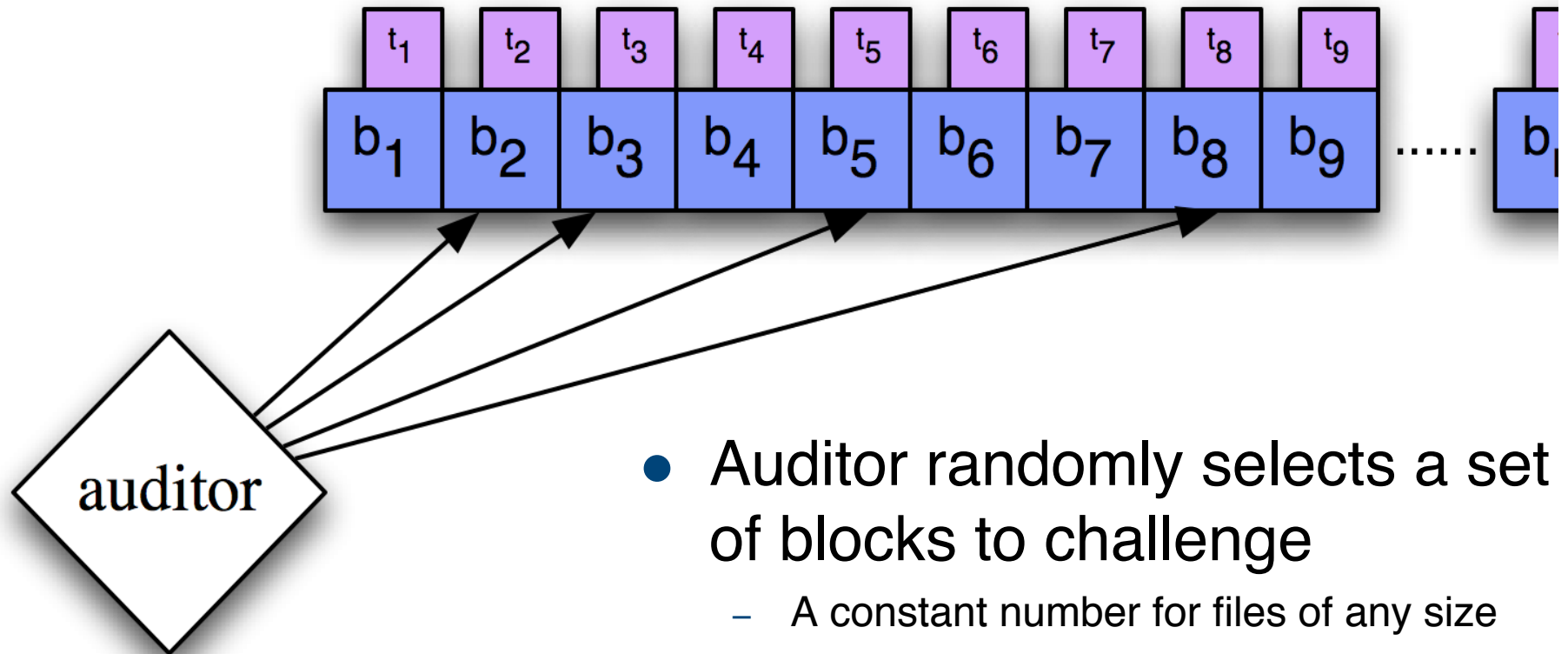


Many RDC Protocols

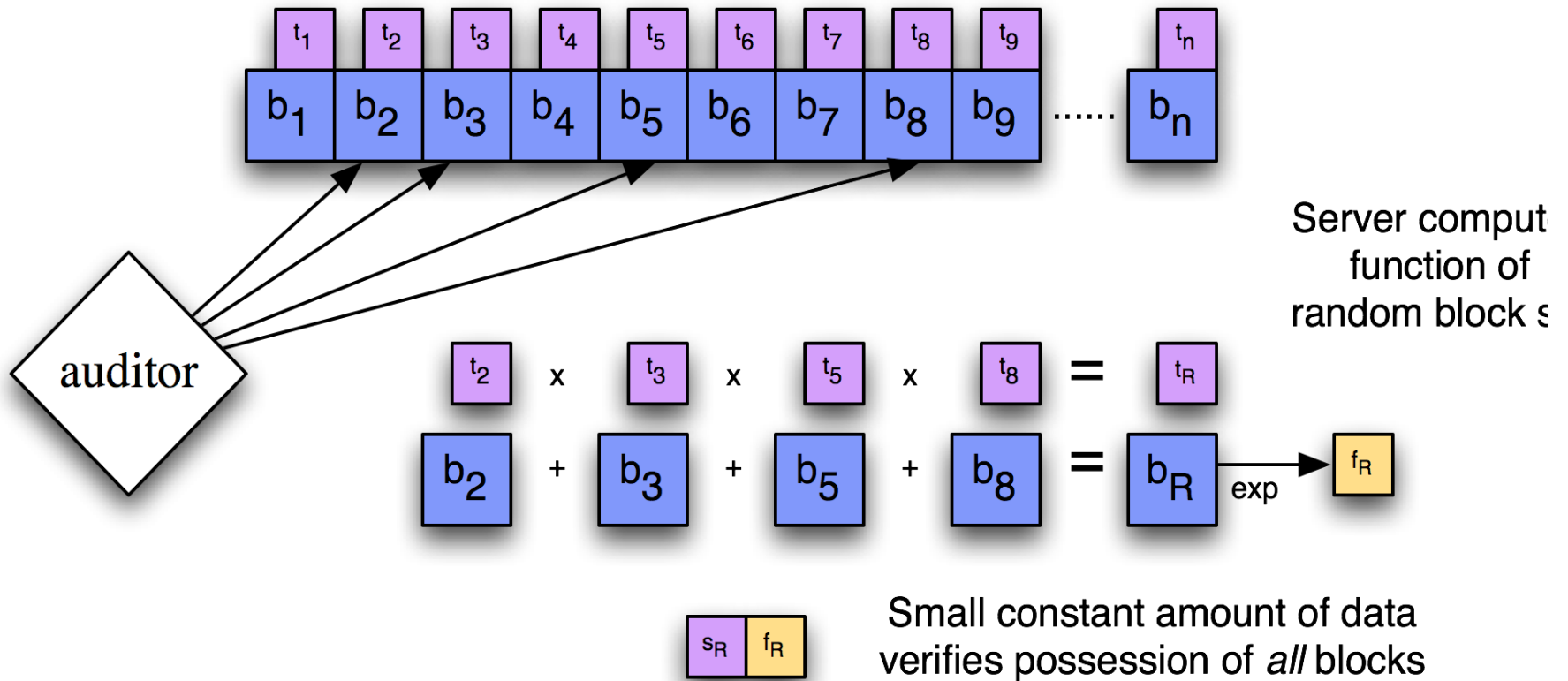
- Hot topic of recent industrial and academic research
 - Security [AB+08, BJO08, SW08]
 - Others that don't quite fit our definition [JK07, KAD07, SM06]
 - Related concepts and extensions [CK+08, CKB08, SS+08]
- Several core principles have emerged
 - Compact signature for multiple blocks: homomorphic tags
 - Probabilistic audits via spot checking
 - Redundancy in storage with forward error correction
- I will explain with Provable Data Possession (PDP)
 - Our system [AB+08, CK+08, CKB08]



PDP's Spot Checking



PDP's Homomorphic Tags



- Server processing is I/O bound
 - Single exponentiation per challenge



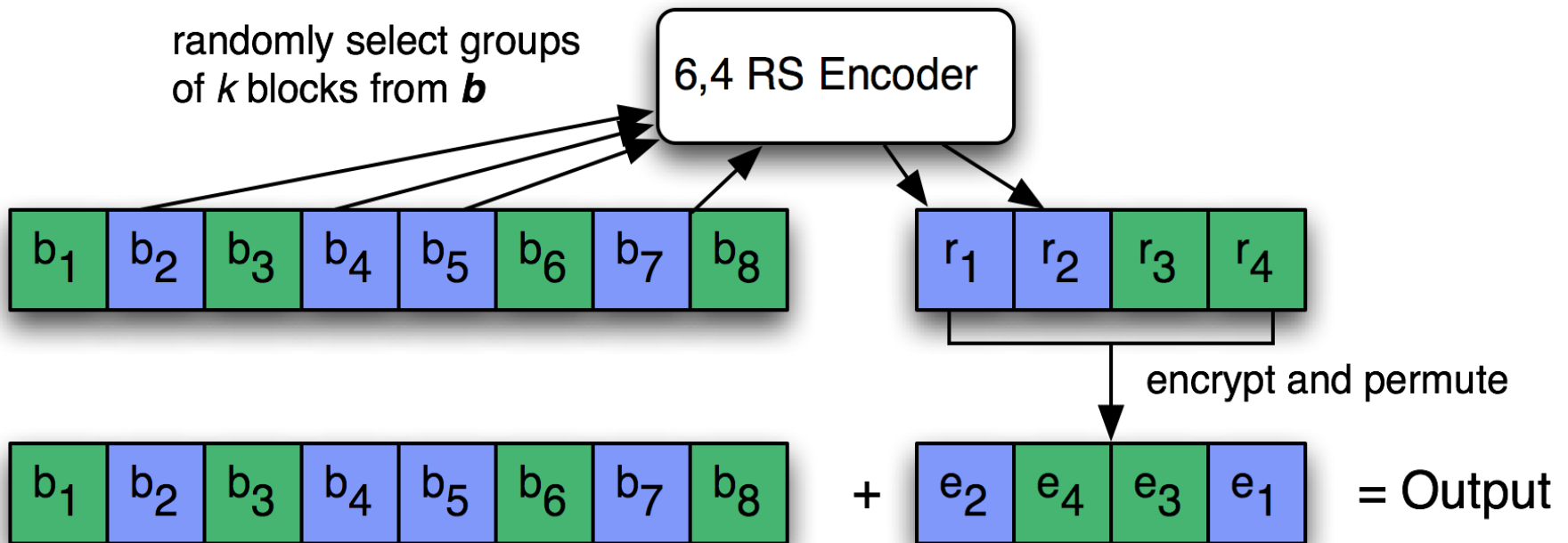
Forward Error Correcting (FEC) Codes

- Integrating data checking with redundancy
 - Improves possession guarantee realized from spot checking
- Attacker cannot effectively delete data
 - Big attacks are easy to detect
 - Small attacks are recoverable
- Use systematic codes [BJO08,CKB08]
 - To preserve sequential file layout for read performance



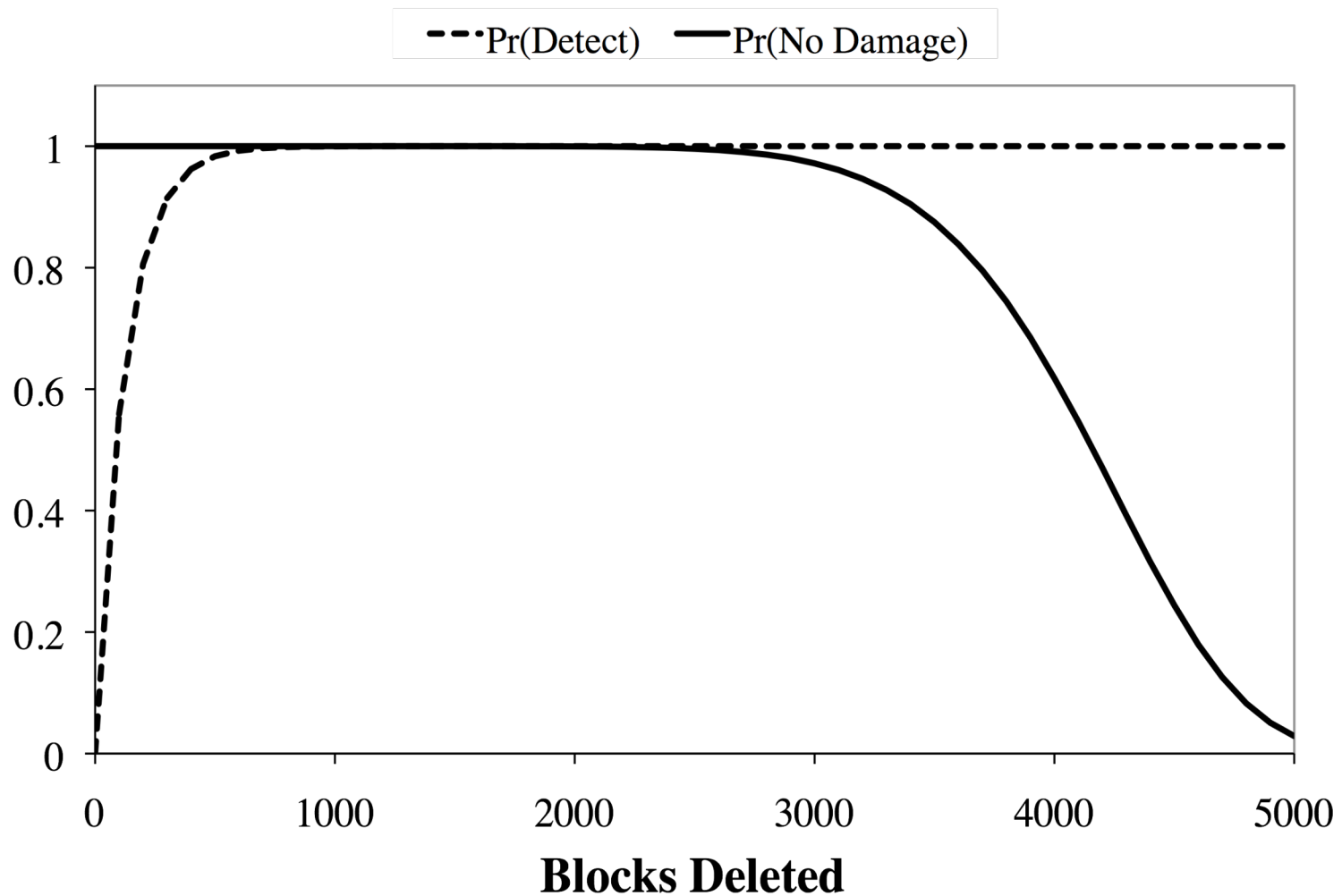
PDP with Reed-Solomon Coding

- Systematic RS code keeps original file sequential
 - Practical RS codes fixed/limited widths
- Layout must conceal coding constraints among bloc
 - Random selection of input blocks
 - Encryption and permutation of redundancy blocks



PDP+FEC: An Attacker's Perspective

- Successful attack probability < 0.00001
 - 10% redundancy, checking 500kb of a 600MB file



Additional Desirable Properties

- Dynamic (or incremental)
 - Can modify file contents without exposure to replay attacks
- Publicly verifiable
 - No secret material needed to conduct audits
- Efficient (for pre-processing files)
 - Auditing is already quite fast (I/O bound)
- Multiple-replica
- Privacy preserving [SS+08]
 - RDC protocol reveals nothing about the content to the verifier
- No single protocol provides all
 - Notably, publicly verifiable conflicts with dynamic and efficient



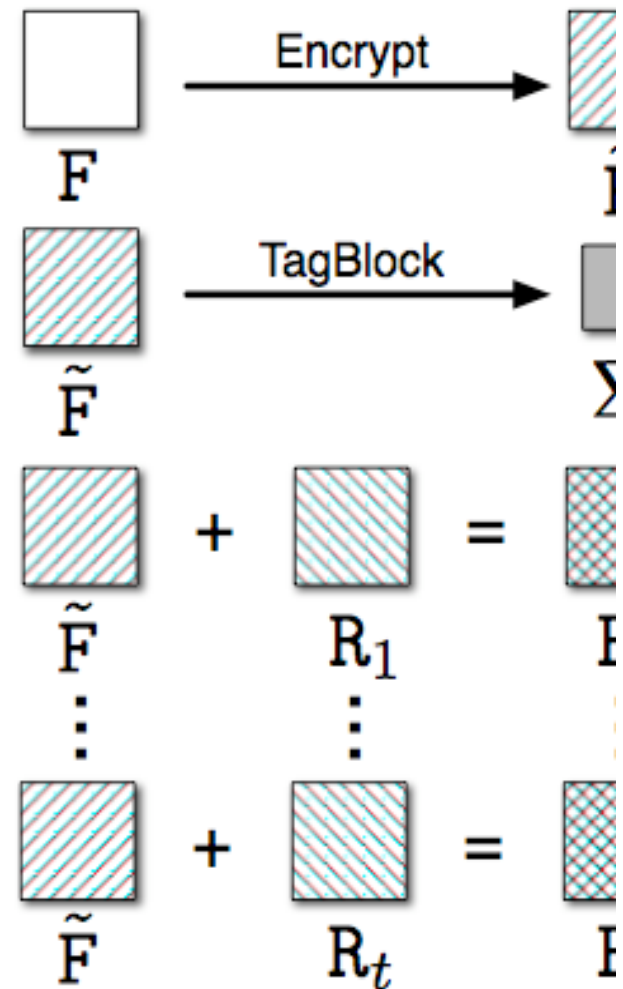
PDP: Observations about RSA

- Provably secure
- Allows for public-verifiability
 - Anyone can check possession (even if they can't access content)
 - Metadata easy to manage. It's not secret and can be replicated widely or published.
- Supports multi-replica protocols
 - Differentiate copies of the same data in network
 - Dynamic creation of new copies
- Performance limitations for storage
 - Must exponentiate every block: to generate the tag
 - Suitable for archival data (store once)
 - Good audit performance



Multiple-Replica PDP [CB+08]

- Multiple copies in untrusted networks to protect data
- For storing/auditing replicas
 - Ensure system stores t unique copies
 - Create new replicas on demand
 - Need efficient techniques to define replicas, i.e. better than PDP t times
- MR-PDP (Multiple-replica)
 - All the above and
 - Verify all replicas with single set of signatures, i.e. $O(1)$ metadata



Other Interesting Ideas

- Commitment schemes (Safestore [KAD07])
 - Have a server provide fresh signatures for many files
 - Check a few files among the fresh signatures
 - Spot checking across files can be used in conjunction with RDC
- Symmetric key homomorphisms [MS06,SW08]
 - Makes pre-processing fast
 - Supports dynamic RDC
 - Not publicly verifiable and metadata must be kept secret
- Hierarchical redundancy encoding
 - Split redundancy across multiple servers and within file [KAD07]
 - Use redundancy in challenge protocol and within file [BJO08]



Conclusions

- Remote data checking supports the outsourced storage model of service-oriented architectures
- PDP and other RDC schemes provide secure and efficient (in both I/O and network) auditing
 - We have yet to get all the desirable features in a single system
- Important systems issues remain
 - File layouts and redundancy
 - Distributed implementations
 - Many usable security schemes



References

- [AB+07] G. Ateniese, R. Burns, R. Curtmola, J. Herring, L. Kissner, Z. Peters and D. Song. “Provable data possession at untrusted stores,” *ACM CCS*, 2007.
- [BJO08] K. Bowers, A. Juels, and A. Oprea, “Proofs of retrievability: Theory and implementation,” *ePrint Archive Report*, 2008/175, 2008.
- [CKB08] R. Curtmola, O. Khan, and R. Burns. “Robust Remote Data Checking,” *Workshop on Storage Security and Survivability*, 2008.
- [CK+08] R. Curtmola, O. Khan, R. Burns, and G. Ateniese, “MR-PDP: Multiple replica provable data possession,” *ICDCS*, 2008.
- [JK07] A. Juels and B. Kaliski. PORs: Proofs of Retrievability for Large Files. *ACM CCS*, 2008.
- [KD07] R. Kotla and M. Dahlin. SafeStore: A Durable and Practical Storage System. *USENIX Annual Technical Conference*, 2007.
- [SM06] T. Schwarz and E. Miller. Store, Forget, and Check: Using Algebraic Signature to Check Remotely Administered Storage. *ICDCS*, 2006.
- [SS+08] M. A. Shah, R. Swaminathan, and M. Baker, “Privacy-preserving audit and extraction of digital contents,” *ePrint Archive Report*, 2008/186, 2008.
- [SW08] H. Shacham and B. Waters, “Compact proofs of retrievability,” *ePrint Archive Report*, 2008/073, 2008.

