# Fundamental Limits of Anonymous Statistical Inference : Privacy-Preserving Crowdsourcing



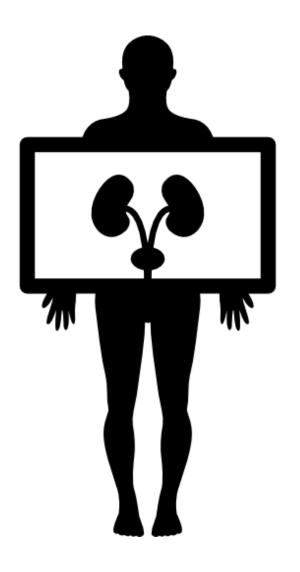
National Taiwan University

- Master Oral Exam
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# Crowdsourcing Framework

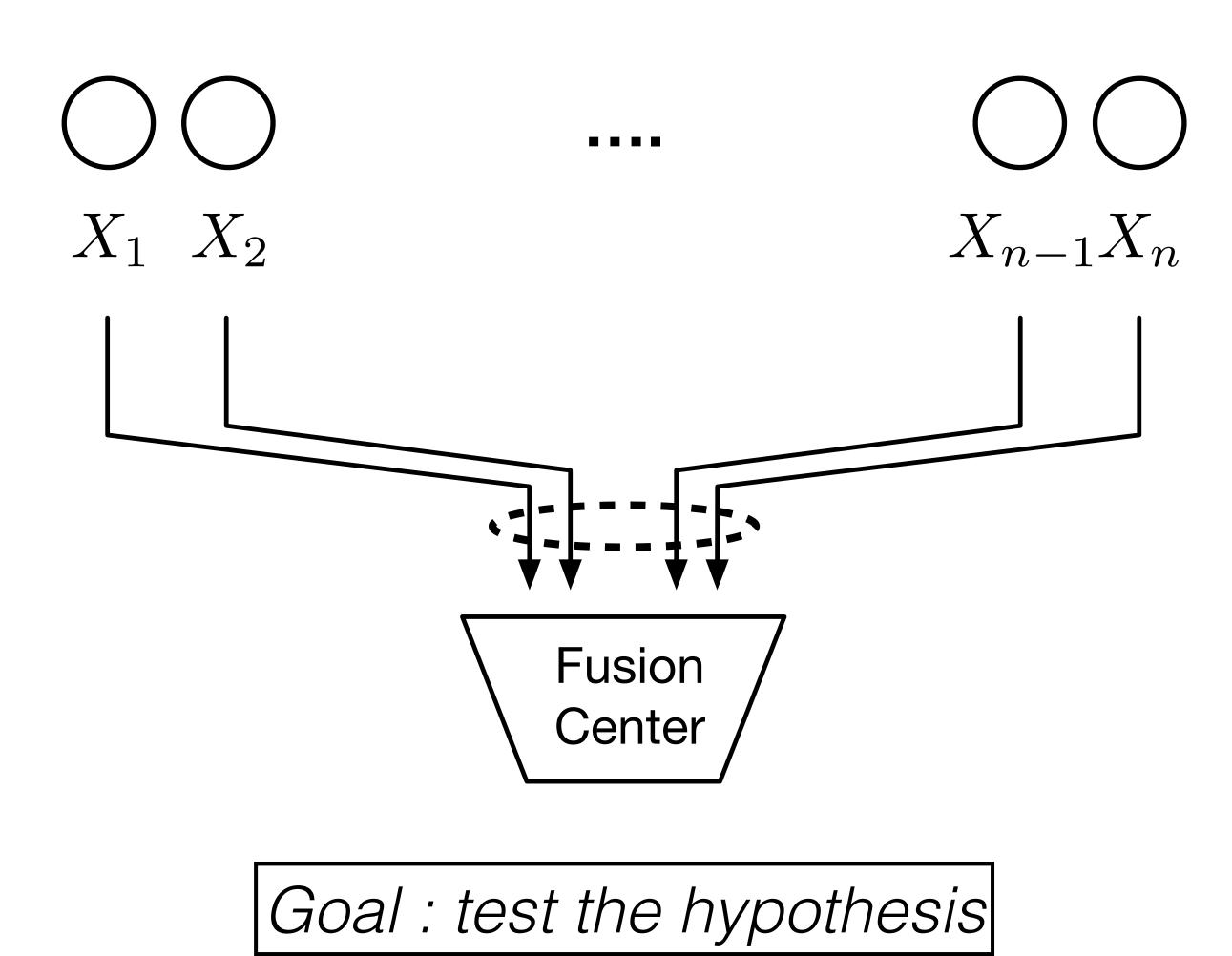
## **Tasks**



# $\mathcal{H}_0: \text{negative} \Rightarrow X_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \operatorname{Ber}(p_0)$ $\mathcal{H}_1: \text{positive} \Rightarrow X_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \operatorname{Ber}(p_1)$

### Introduction

## <u>Workers</u>



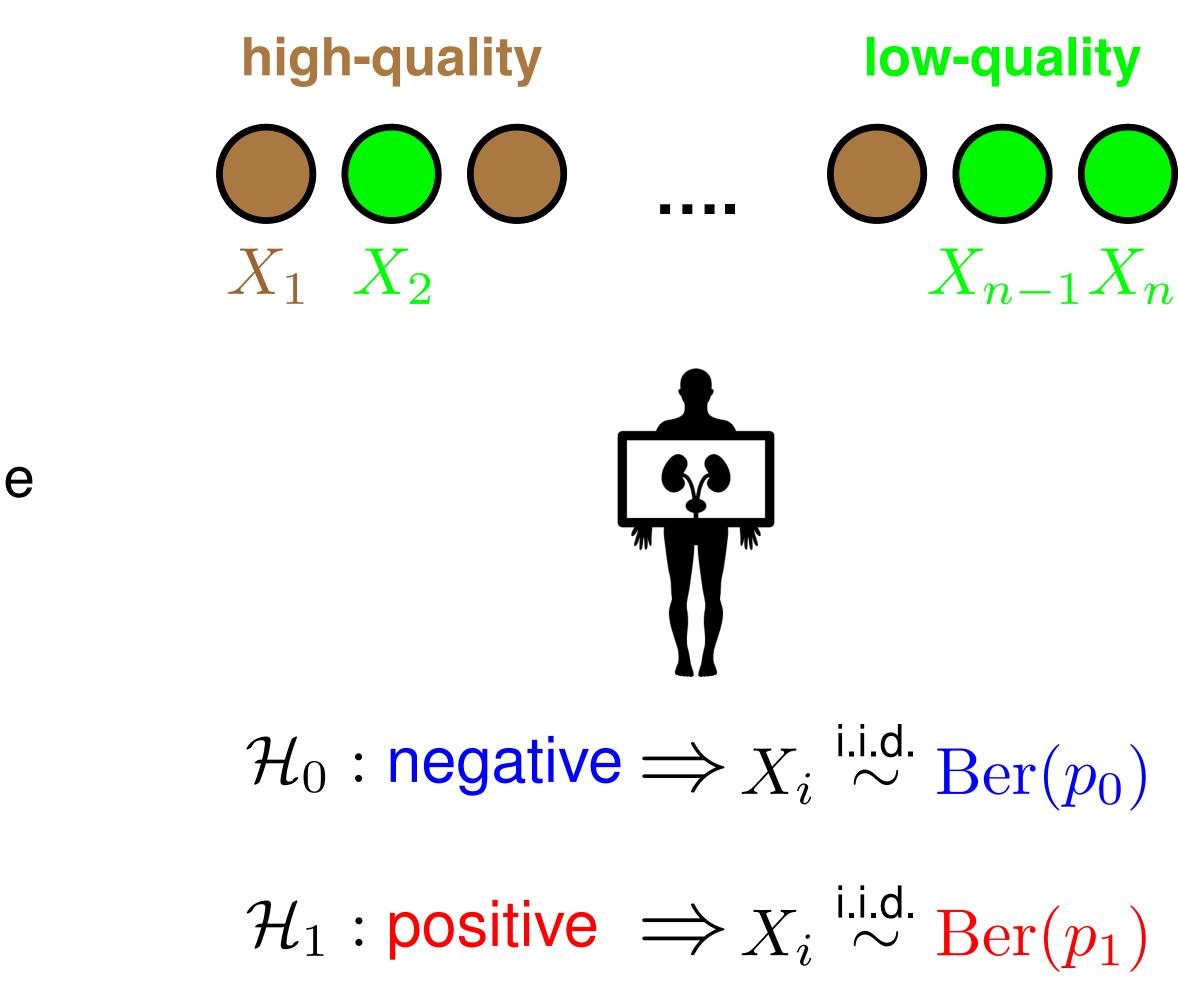
# Heterogeneous Crowdsourcing

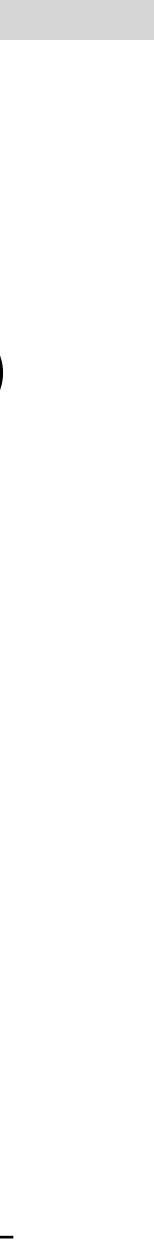
- Each worker has different 'ability/bias'
  - e.g. spammers or malicious workers
  - can be grouped according to prior knowledge
- Answers no longer identically distributed

[1] Panagiotis G. Ipeirotis, et. al "Quality Management on Amazon Mechanical Turk," Proceedings of the ACM SIGKDD Workshop on Human Computation, 2010

Introduction



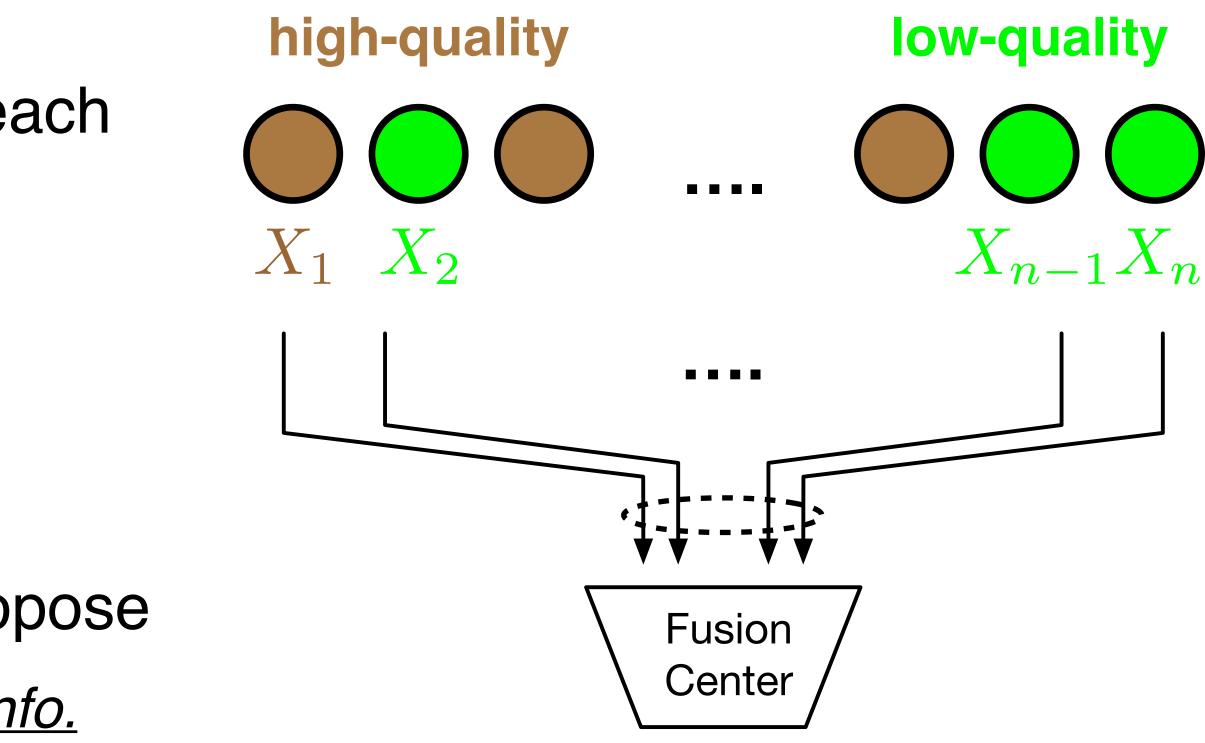




# Hardness : No Group Information

- Fusion center doesn't know the group each worker belongs to, due to
  - Privacy
  - Identification cost
- To address the anonymity issue, we propose
  - Using golden tasks to estimate the group info.
  - Testing the hypothesis anonymously





No group information available !

# Organization

## Part I : Group Recovery with Golden Tasks

- Mathematical Formulation and Previous Works
- Main Results : Converse, Achievability, and Impossibility Results
- Sketch of Proofs

## Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

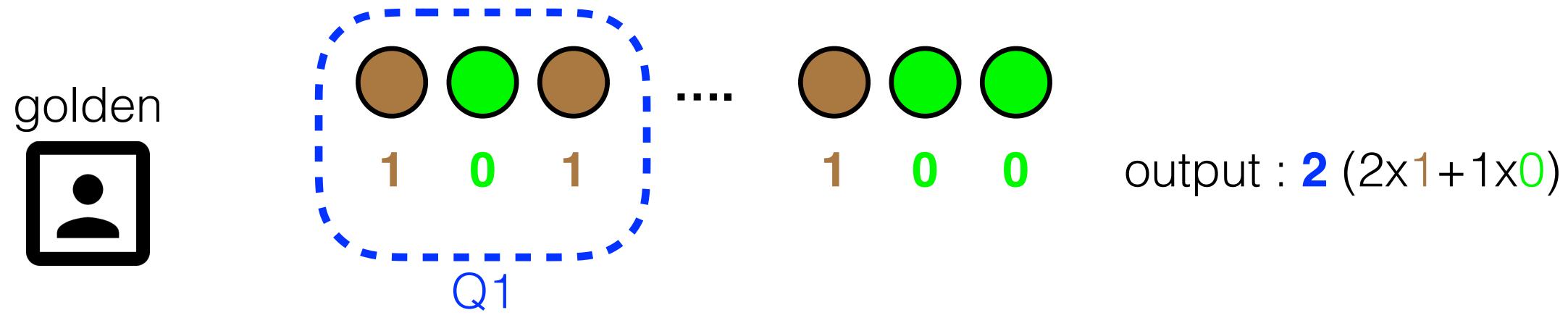
- Formulation
- Main Results : Optimal Decision Rule and Asymptotic Behavior
- Sketch of Proofs
- Extensions

## Part III: Conclusion and Future Directions

# Part I: Group Recovery with Golden Tasks



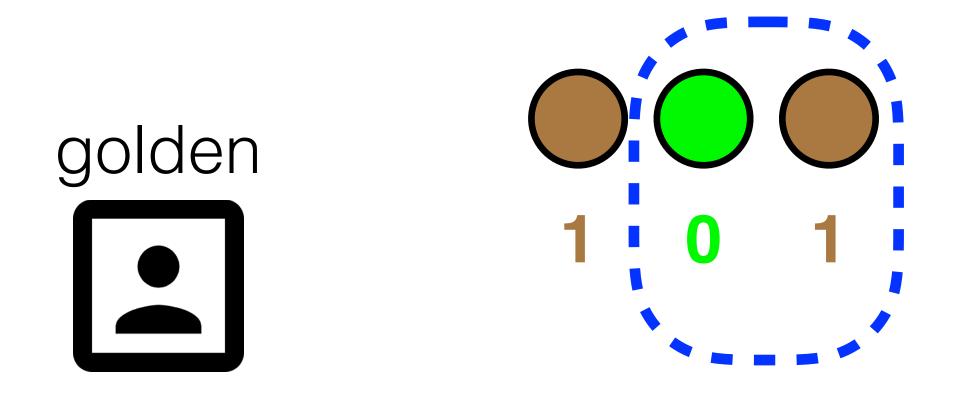
# Golden Questions for Group Recovery



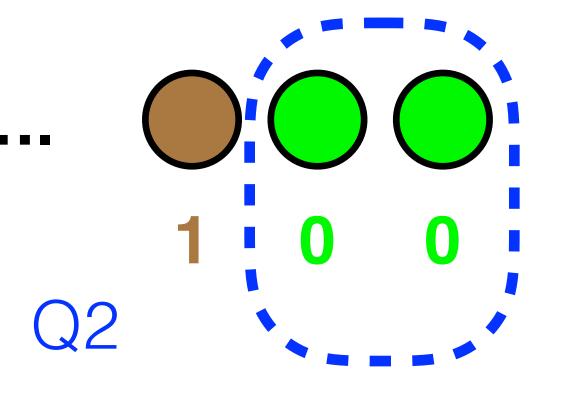
- Assumptions on golden questions
  - Answers are (almost) deterministic
  - Workers from different groups (green/brown) respond different answers (0/1)
- Allowed to query the golden questions to a subset of workers
- Collect the aggregation of answers



# Golden Questions for Group Recovery



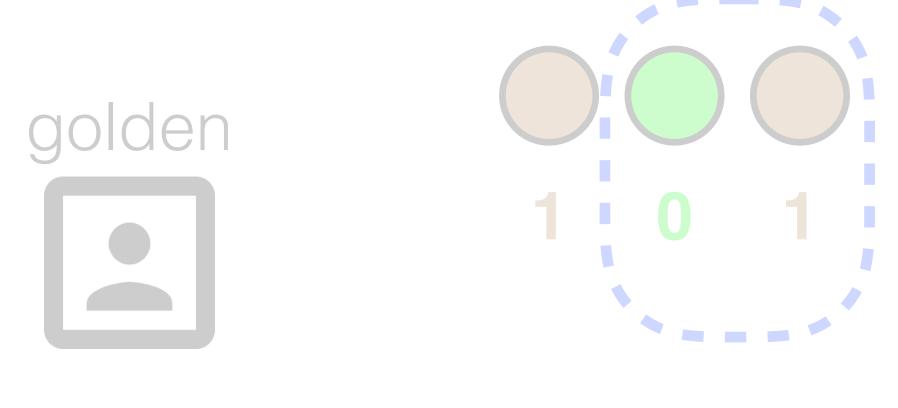
- Assumptions on golden questions
  - Answers are (almost) deterministic
  - Workers from different groups (green/brown) respond different answers (0/1)
- Allowed to query the golden questions to a subset of workers
- Collect the aggregation of answers



output : 1(1x1+3x0)



# Golden Questions for Group Recovery

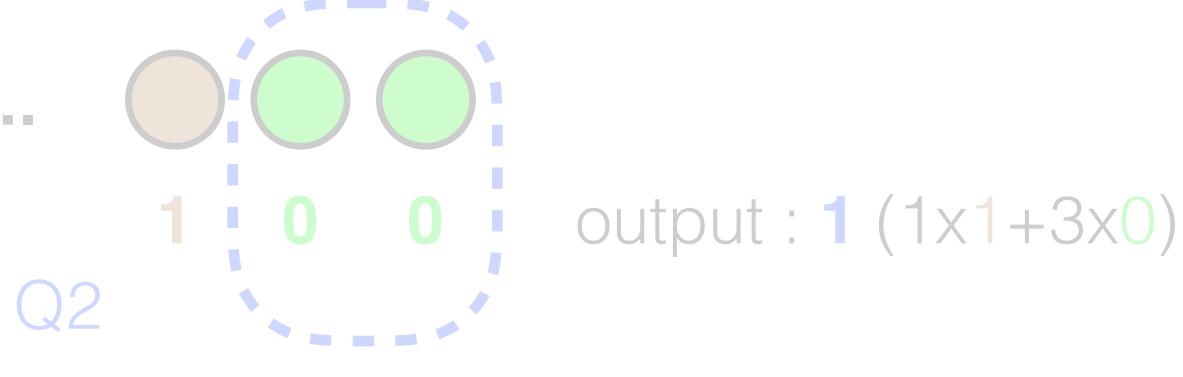


# How many queries required to recover the group info. ?

Workers from different groups respond different answers

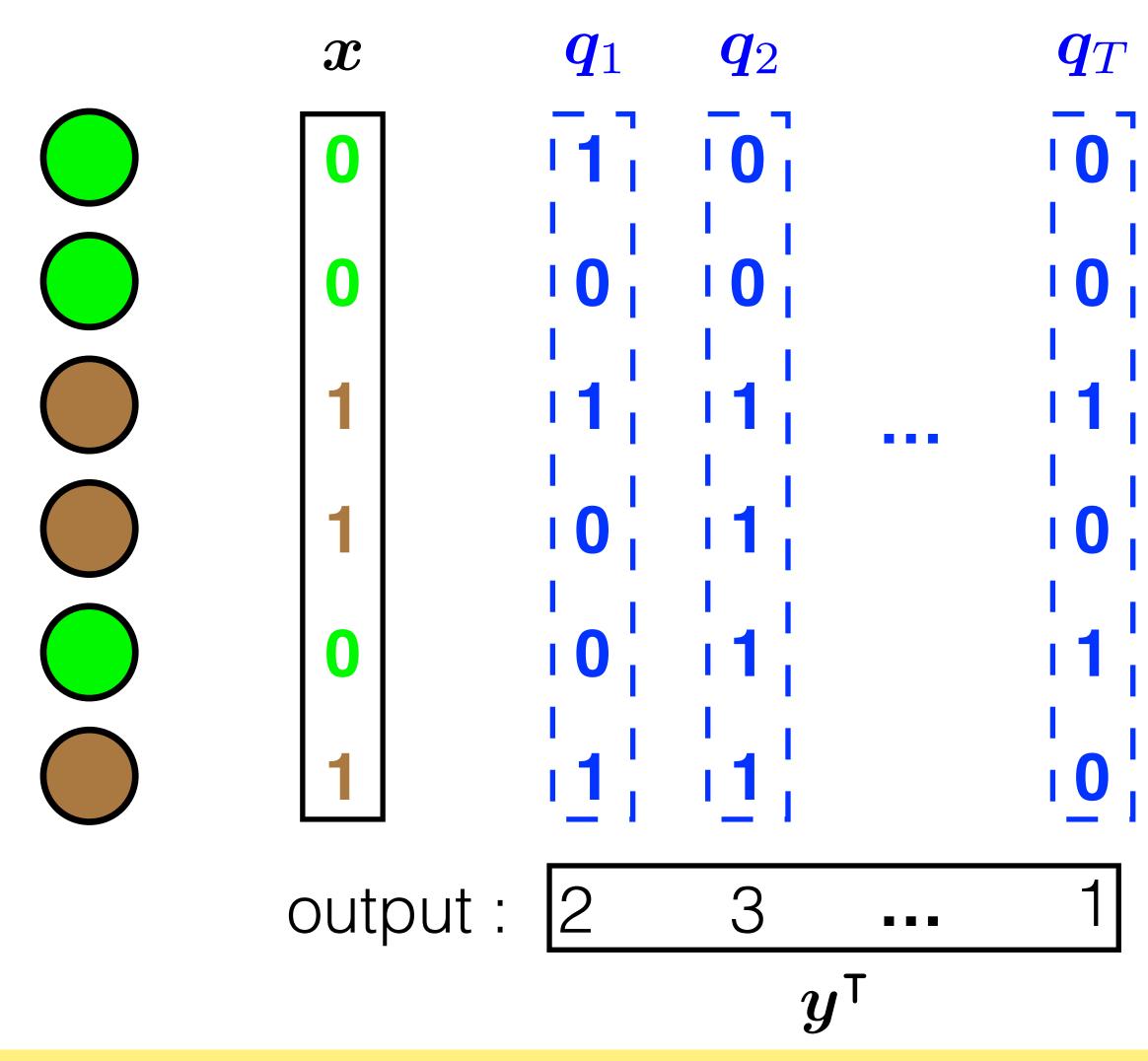
- Allowed to query the golden questions to a subset of workers
- Collect the *aggregation* of answers

### Introduction

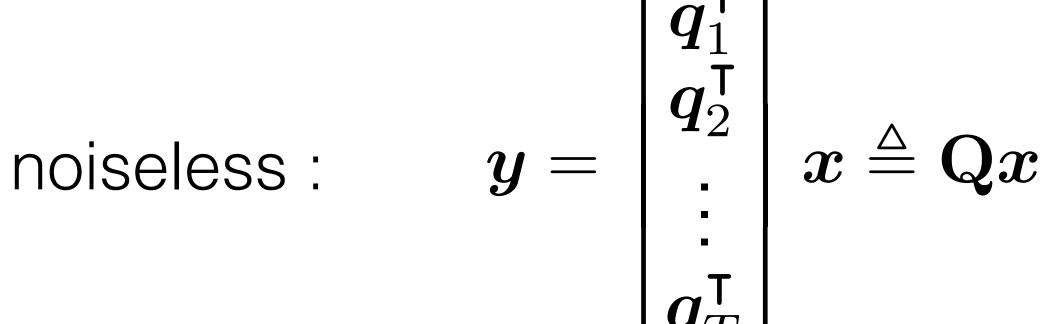




# Golden Tasks for Group Recovery **Equivalent Linear Inverse Problem**

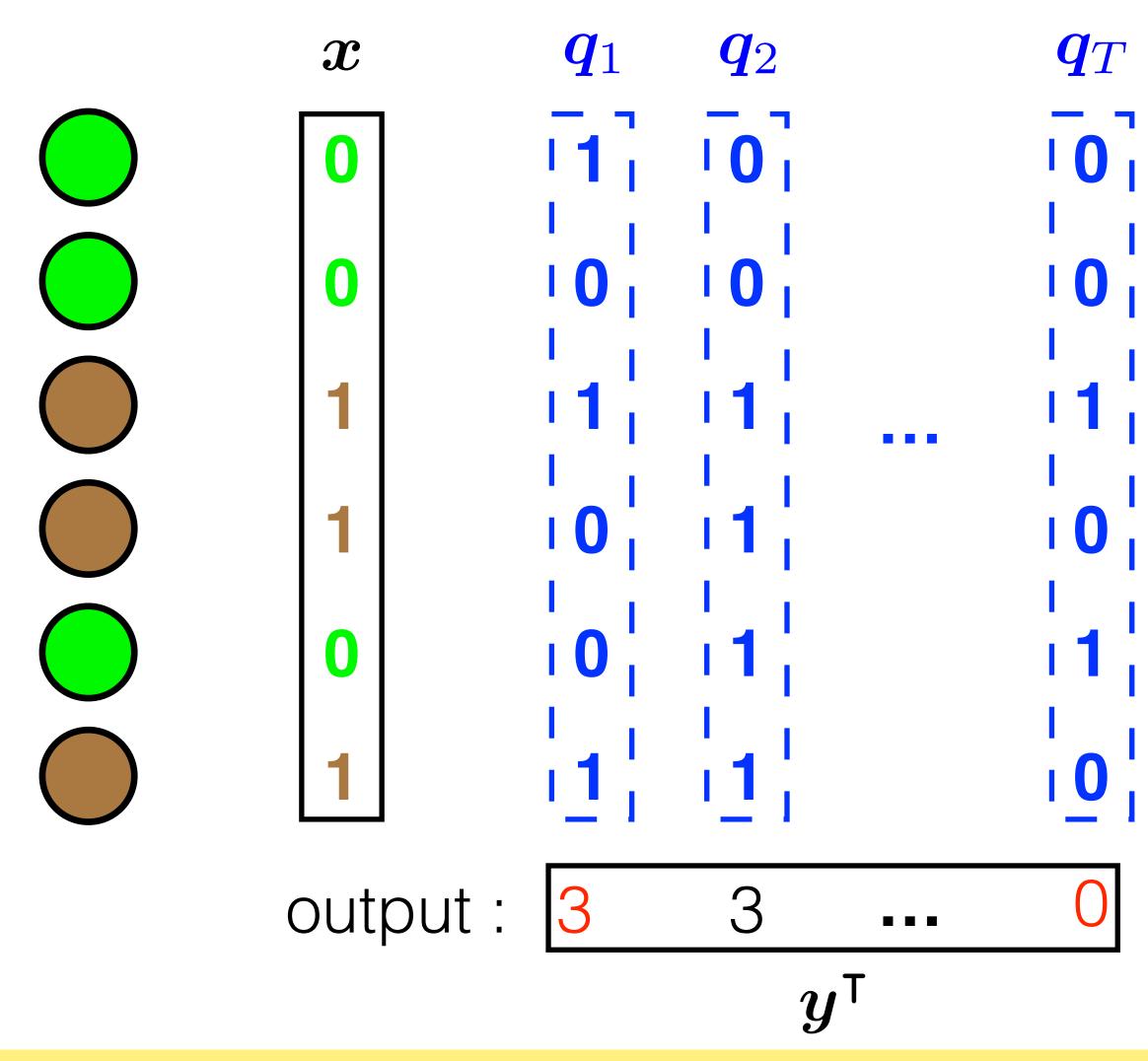


Part I : Group Recovery

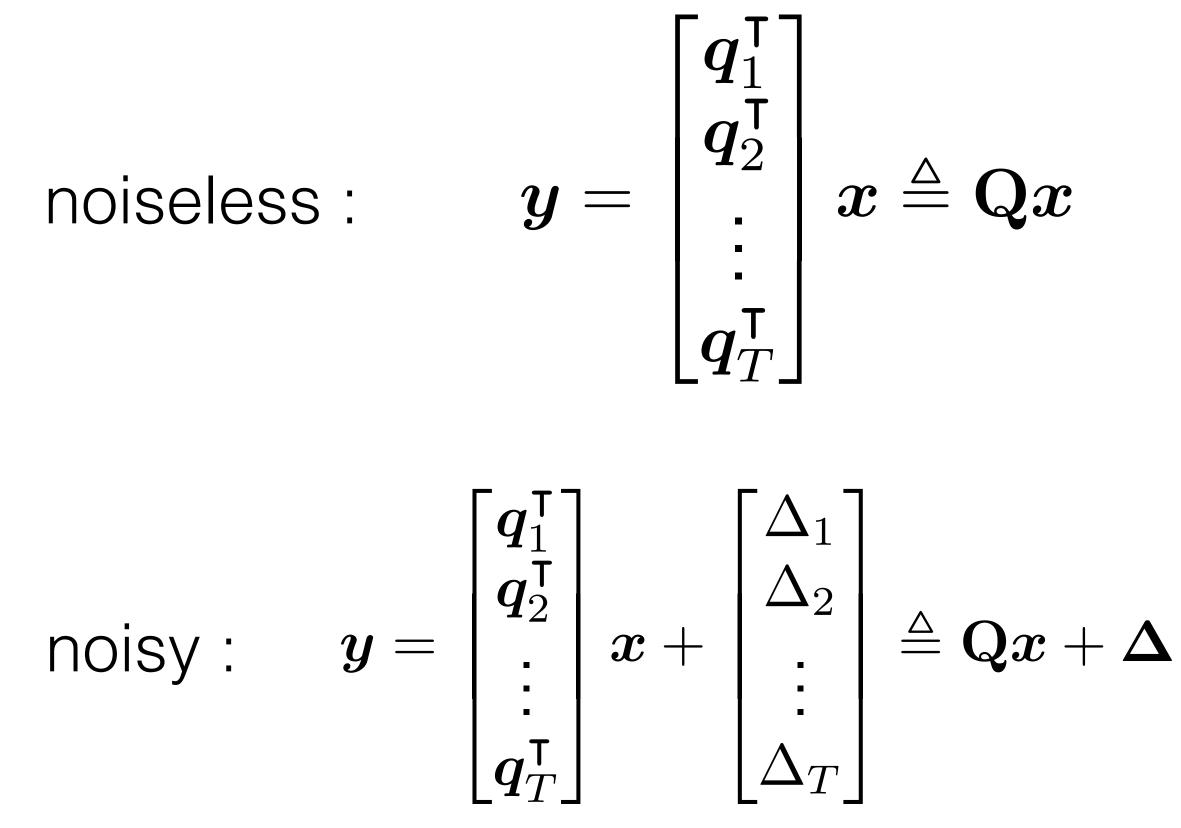




# Golden Tasks for Group Recovery **Equivalent Linear Inverse Problem**



Part I : Group Recovery



assumption :  $|\Delta_i| \leq \delta_n \iff ||\Delta||_{\infty} \leq \delta_n$ 

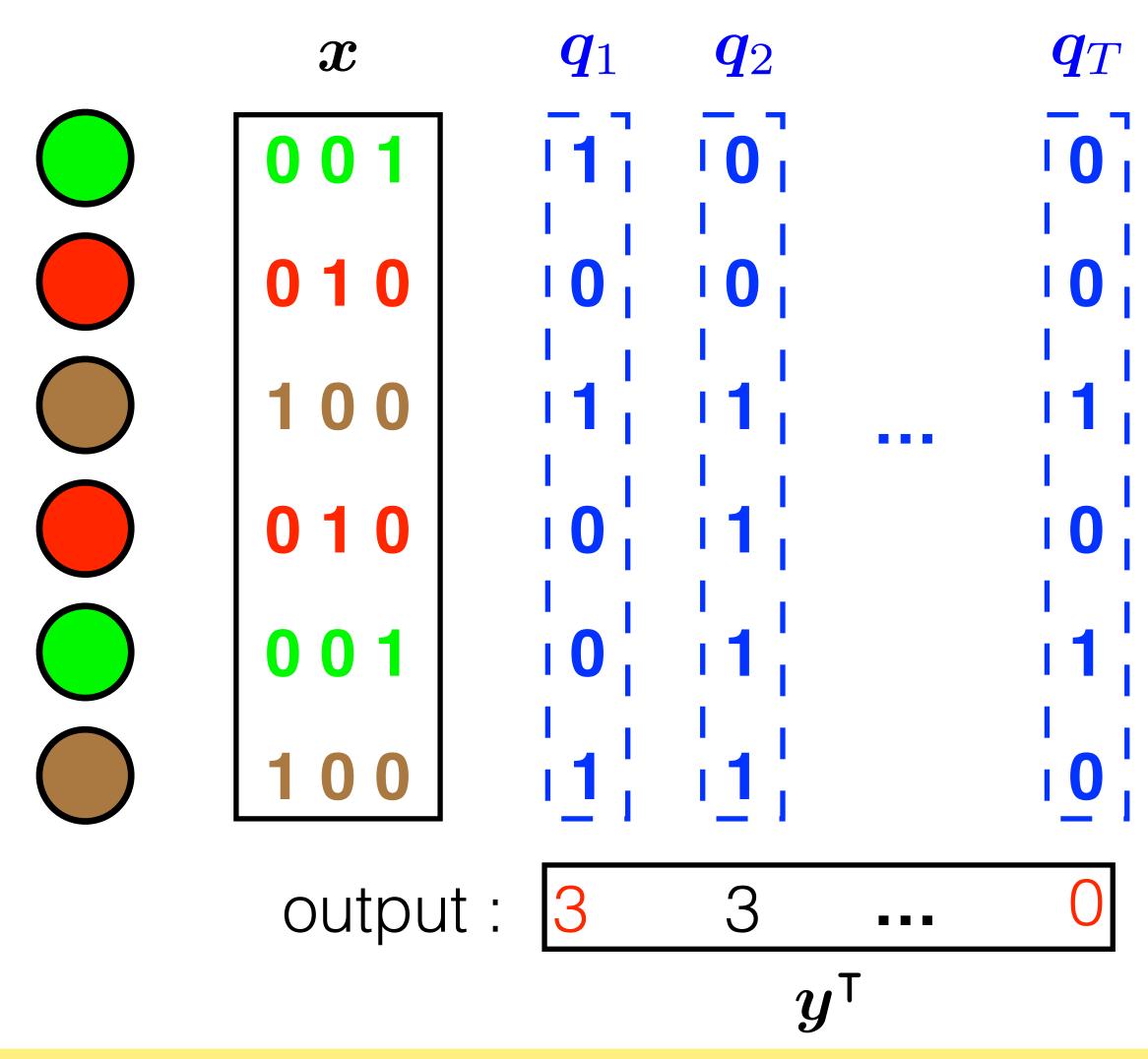




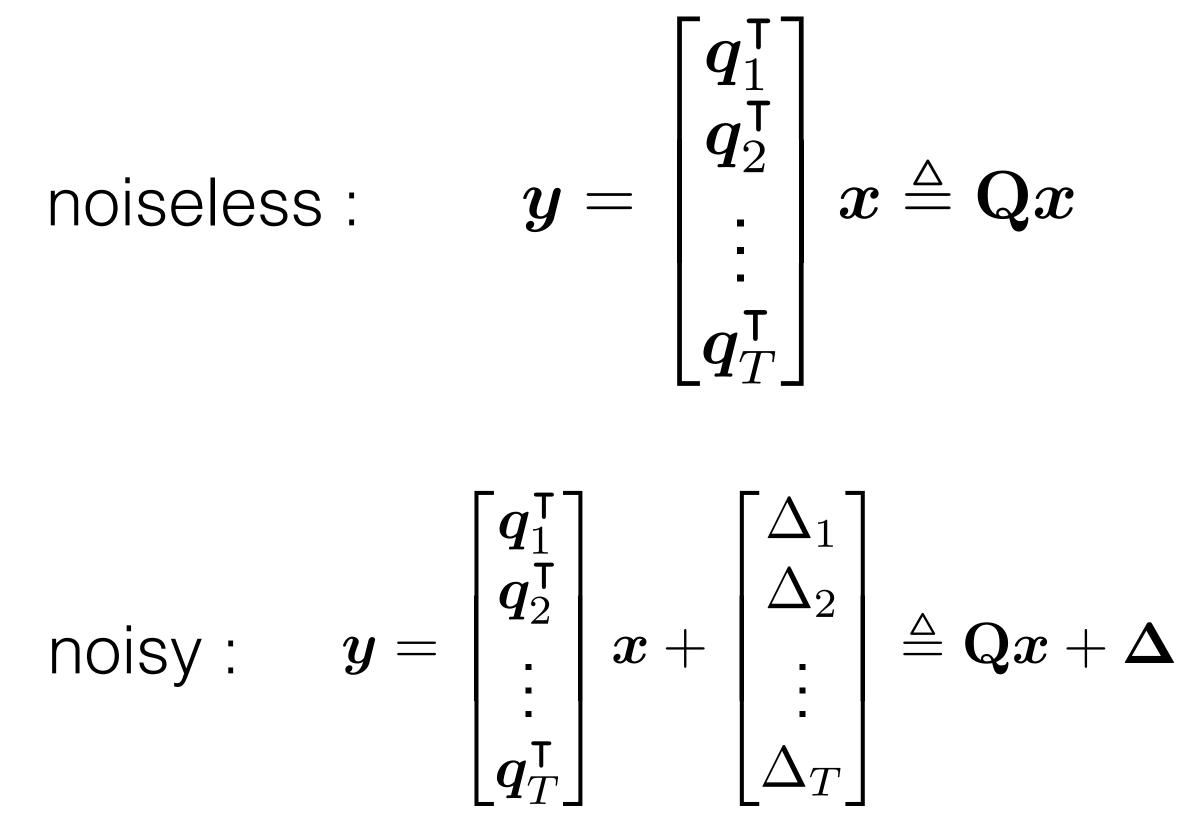


# Golden Tasks for Group Recovery **Equivalent Linear Inverse Problem**

### recover column by column !



Part I : Group Recovery



assumption :  $|\Delta_i| \leq \delta_n \iff ||\Delta||_{\infty} \leq \delta_n$ 







# Query Complexity

- Recovery criterion
  - Lossless recovery :  $\hat{x} = x$
  - Lossy recovery with distortion :  $\|\hat{m{x}} m{x}\|_1 \leq k_n$
- Query complexity  $T^*(k_n, \delta_n)$ : minimum # of queries required to recover
- - [2] specified the query complexity for noiseless query, lossless recovery :  $T^* = \Theta\left(\frac{n}{\log n}\right)$  [3] studied the query complexity for *k*-sparse data :  $T^* = \Theta\left(\frac{k}{\log k}\log\left(\frac{n}{k}\right)\right)$
  - [4,5] studied random noise, and proposed AMP decoding

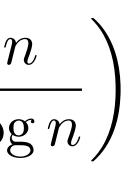
[2] I.-H. Wang, et. al "Data extraction via histogram and arithmetic mean queries: Fundamental limits and algorithms," ISIT, 2016 [3] I.-H. Wang, et. al "Extracting Sparse Data via Histogram Queries," Allerton, 2016 [4] Ahmed El Alaoui, et. al "Decoding from Pooled Data: Phase Transitions of Message Passing," ISIT, 2017 [5] J. Scarlett, et. al "Phase Transitions in the Pooled Data Problem," NIPS, 2017 [6] Nader H. Bshouty, et. al "On the Coin Weighing Problem with the Presence of Noise" [7] Nader H. Bshouty, "Optimal Algorithms for the Coin Weighing Problem with a Spring Scale," COLT, 2009

Part I : Group Recovery

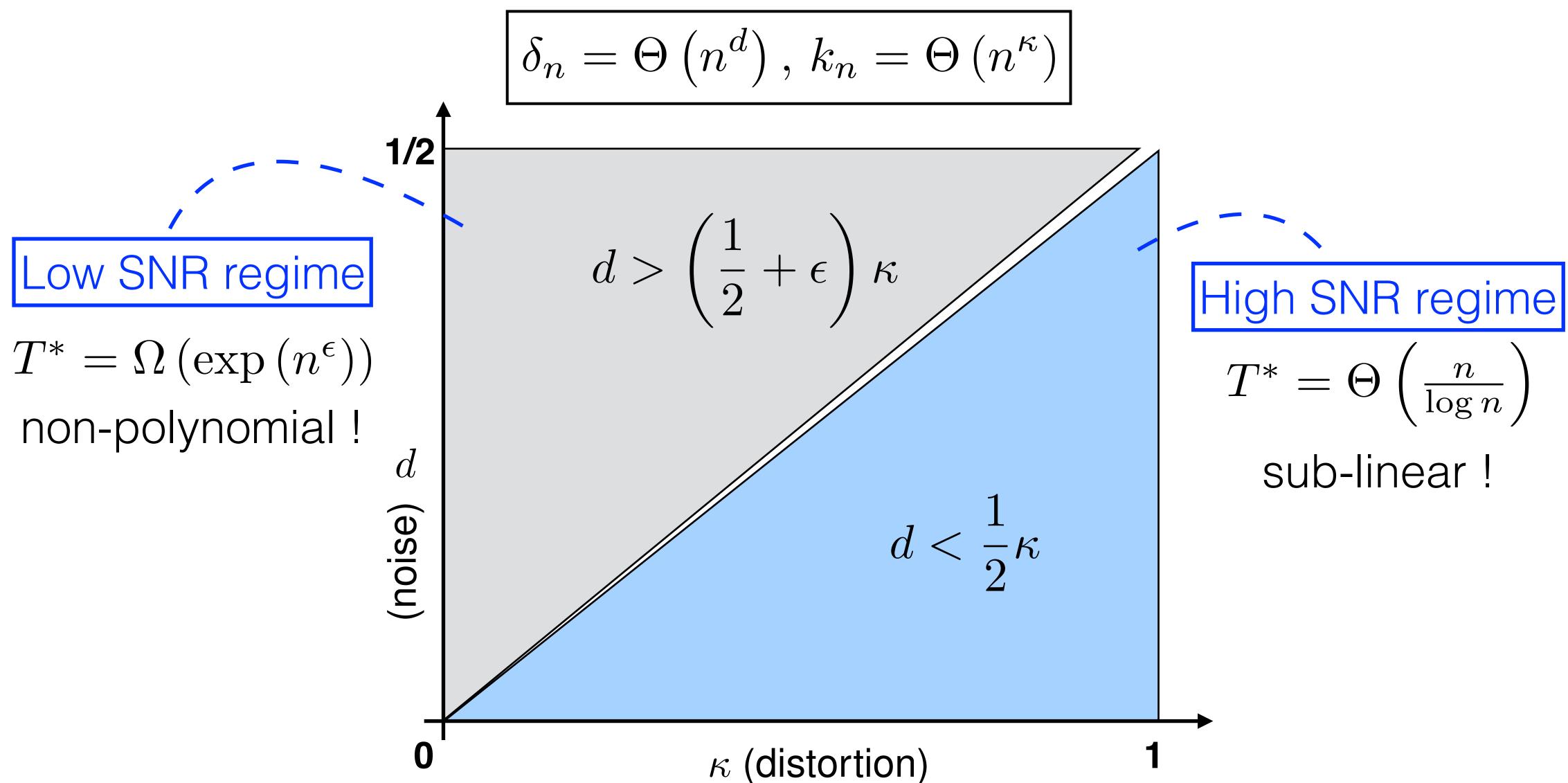
## • Also known as pooled data decoding, histogram query, coin weighing, etc.

### Independently, [6,7] also suggested similar results, and studied erasure errors

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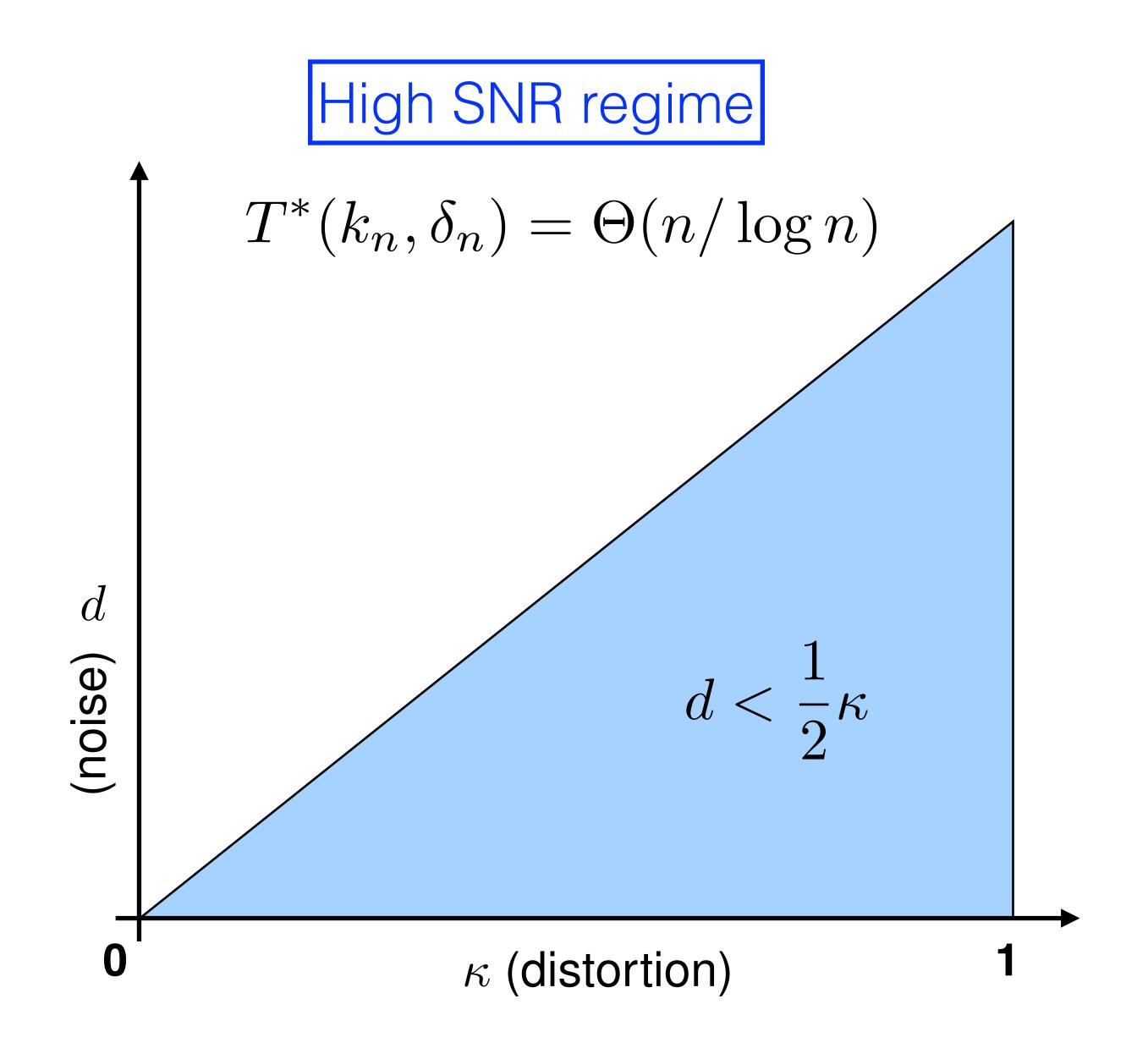


## Main Results

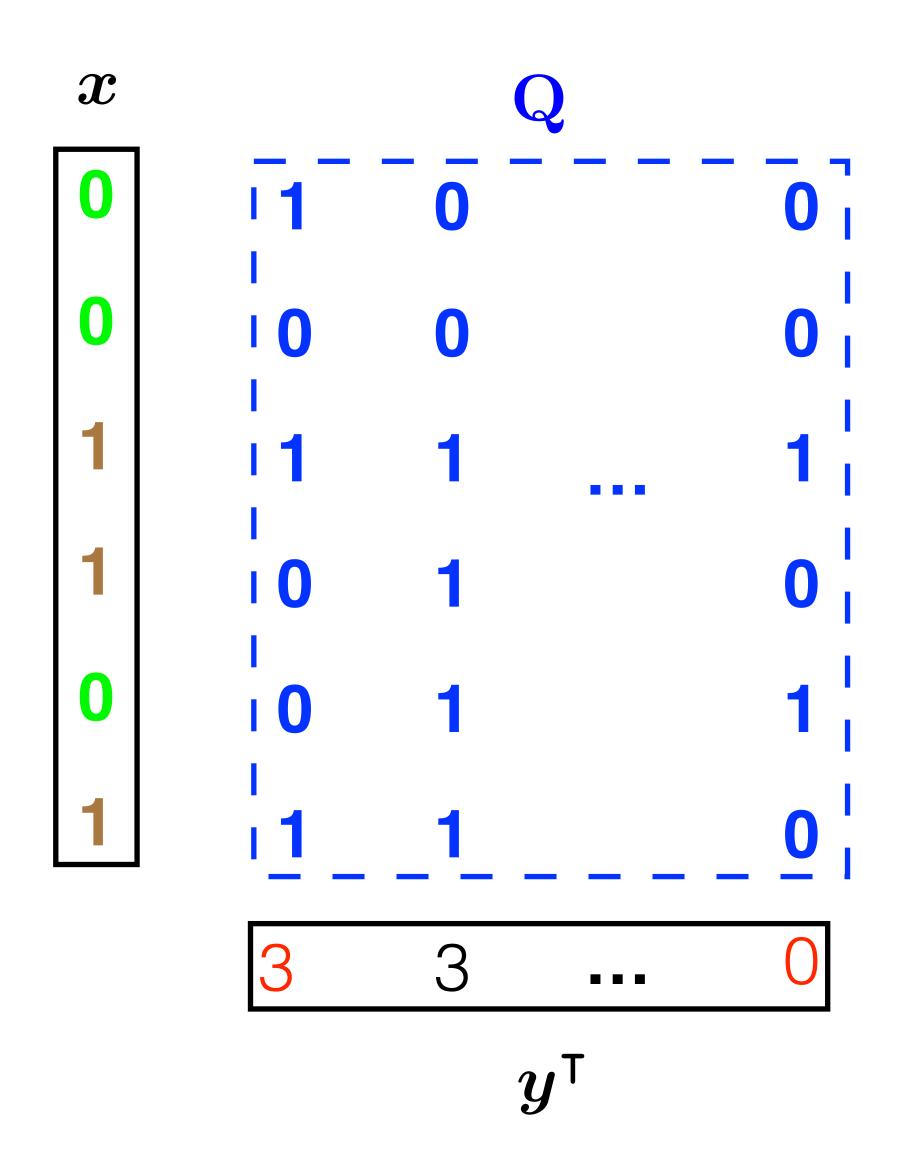


$$^{d}), k_{n} = \Theta(n^{\kappa})$$





Part I : Group Recovery



# Regime I : Achievability

- Random sampling
  - ►  $(\mathbf{Q})_{i,j} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \operatorname{Ber}(1/2)$
- Probability of failure

 $P_f(\boldsymbol{x}; k_n, \delta_n) \triangleq P\{\exists \text{ another consistent } \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}\}$ 

• If # queries is  $\Omega(n/\log n)$ , then

 $P_f(\boldsymbol{x};k_n,\delta_n) \to 0$ 

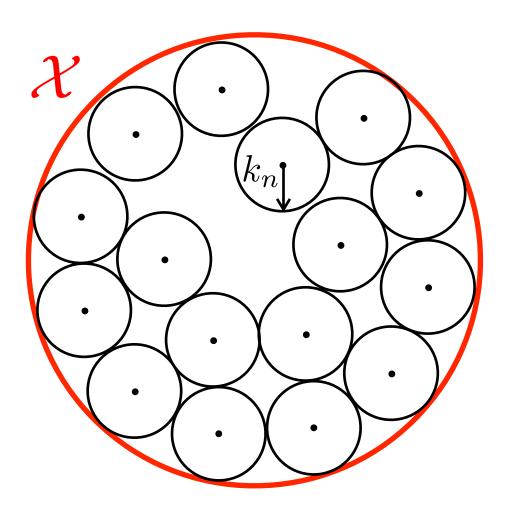
Apply Chernoff's bound for the failure event



• Necessary condition :

$$orall oldsymbol{x}, ilde{oldsymbol{x}} \in \mathcal{X}, \, \|oldsymbol{x} - ilde{oldsymbol{x}}\|_1 >$$

Packing inequality

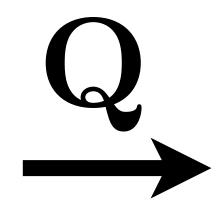


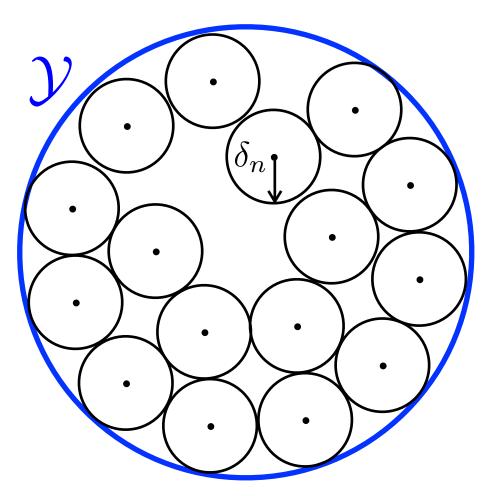
Part I : Group Recovery

# Regime I : Converse

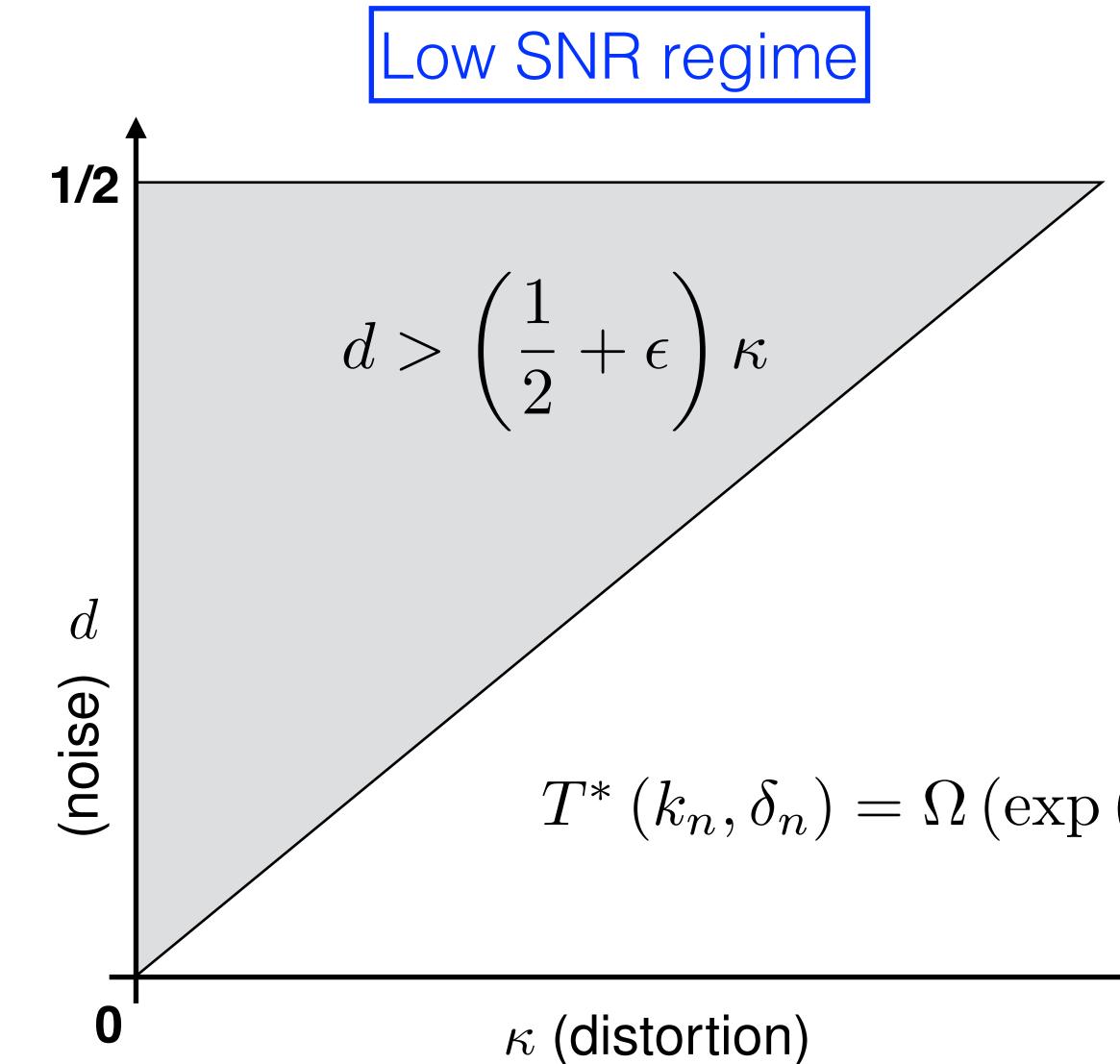
## $k_n \Longrightarrow \|\mathbf{Q}\boldsymbol{x} - \mathbf{Q}\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}\|_{\infty} > 2\delta_n$

## $2\delta_n$ -packing number on $\mathcal{Y} \geq \frac{1}{2}k_n$ -packing number on $\mathcal{X}$





# Regime II : Low SNR



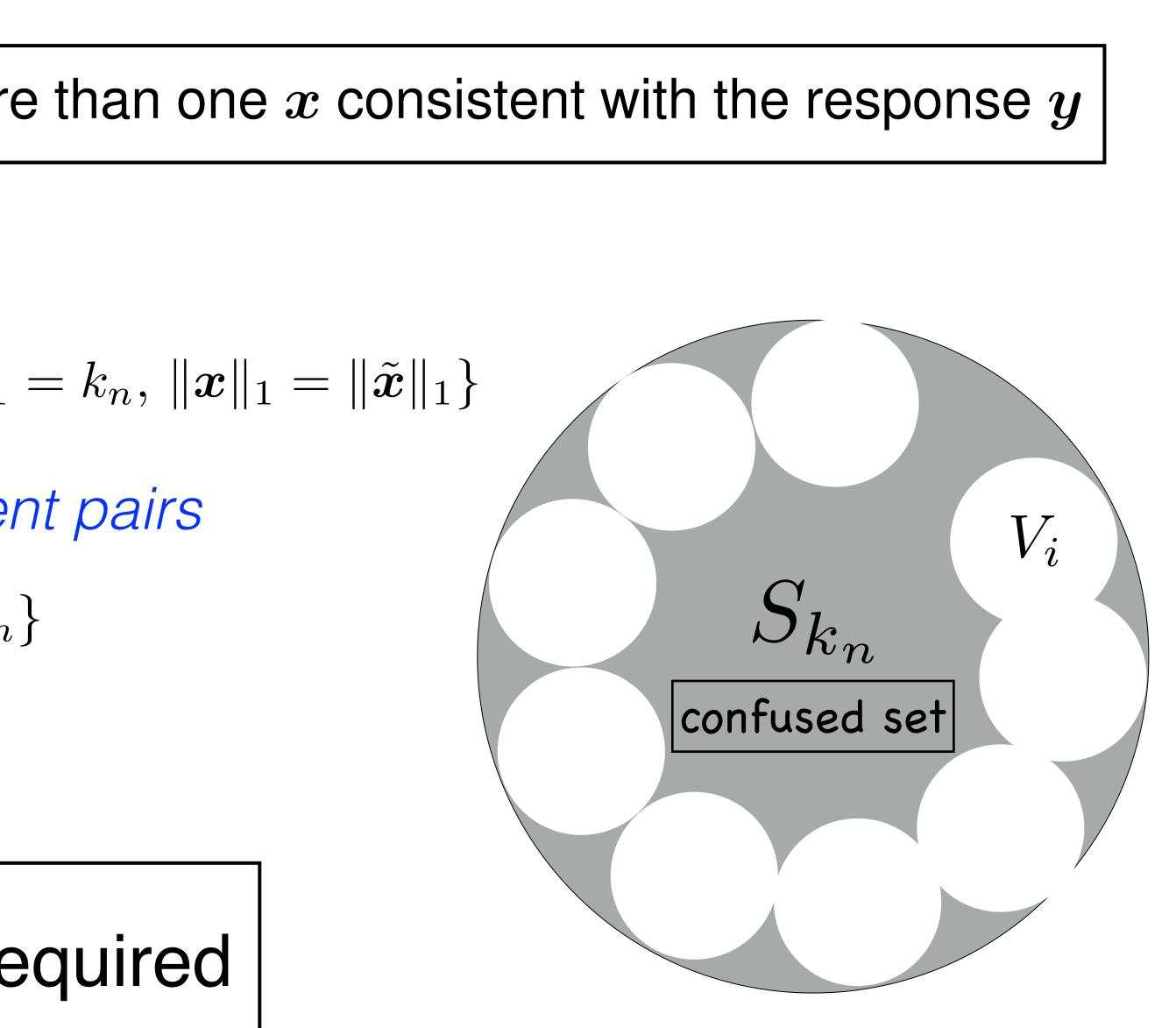
## $T^*(k_n, \delta_n) = \Omega\left(\exp\left(n^{\epsilon}\right)\right)$

# Regime II : Impossibility of Polynomial Queries

Idea : without sufficient queries,  $\exists$  more than one x consistent with the response y

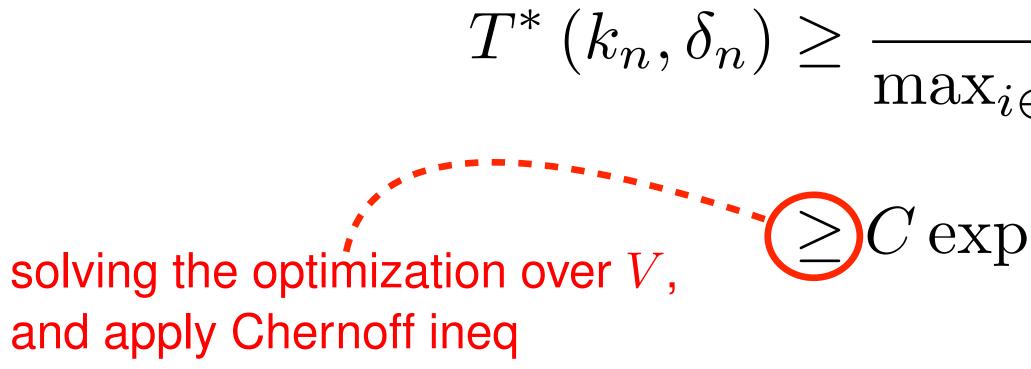
- 1. <u>Initial</u> : consider all possible pairs
  - $S_{k_n} \triangleq \{(\boldsymbol{x}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}) \mid \boldsymbol{x}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}} \in \{0, 1\}^n, \|\boldsymbol{x} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}\|_1 = k_n, \|\boldsymbol{x}\|_1 = \|\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}\|_1\}$
- 2. <u>After each query</u> : remove inconsistent pairs
  - $V_i \triangleq \{ (\boldsymbol{x}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}) \in S_{k_n} \mid |\boldsymbol{q}_i^{\mathsf{T}}(\boldsymbol{x} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}})| > \delta_n \}$
- 3. <u>Until</u> : no more confused pair

at least 
$$\frac{|S_{k_n}|}{\max_i |V_i|}$$
 queries re



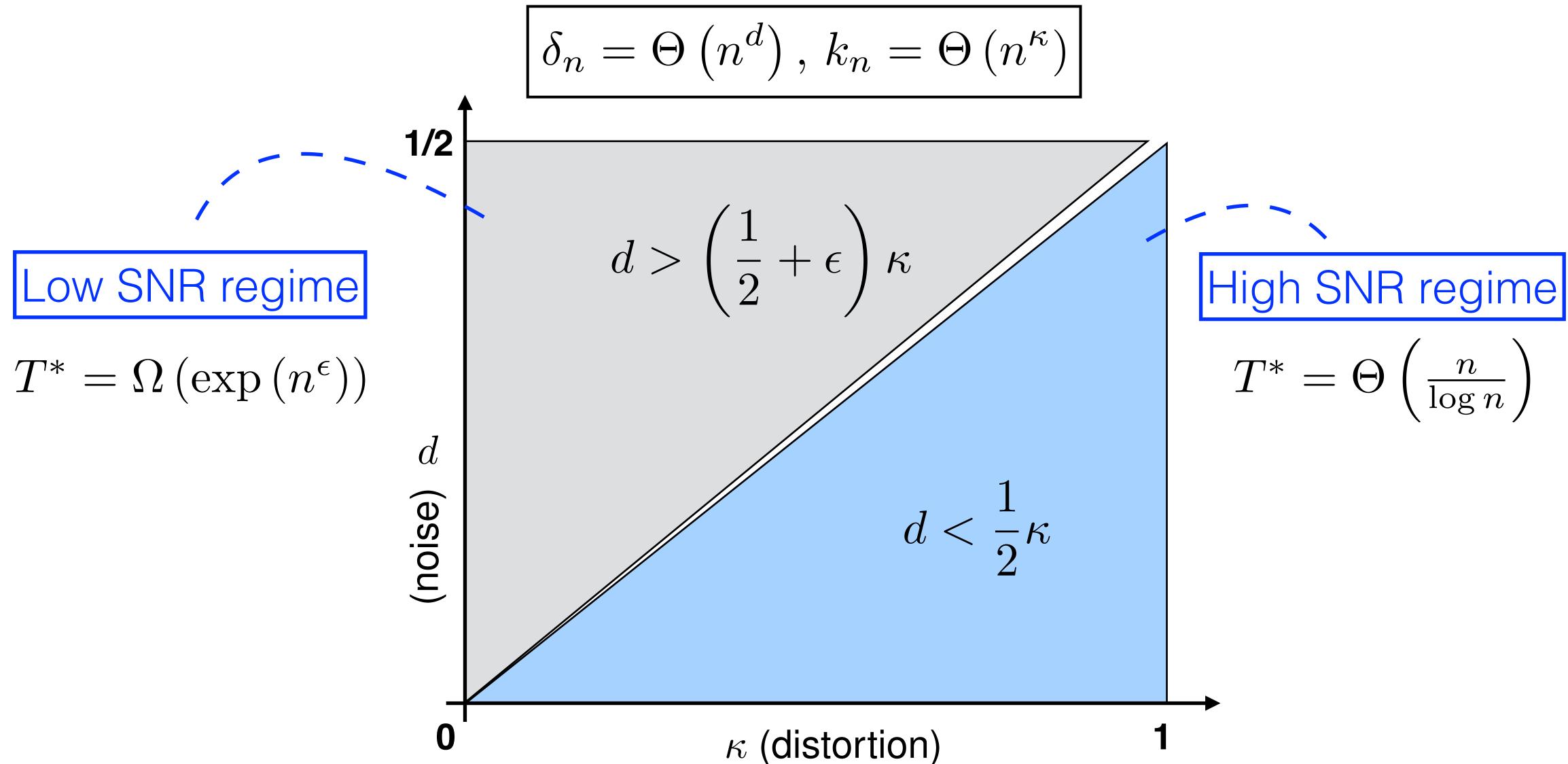
# Regime II : Impossibility of Polynomial Queries

### Lower bound on query complexity •



Part I : Group Recovery

$$\frac{|S_{k_n}|}{k \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}} |V_i|$$
  
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\delta_n^2}{k_n}\right) = C \exp\left(n^{2d-\kappa}\right)$$



## Summary

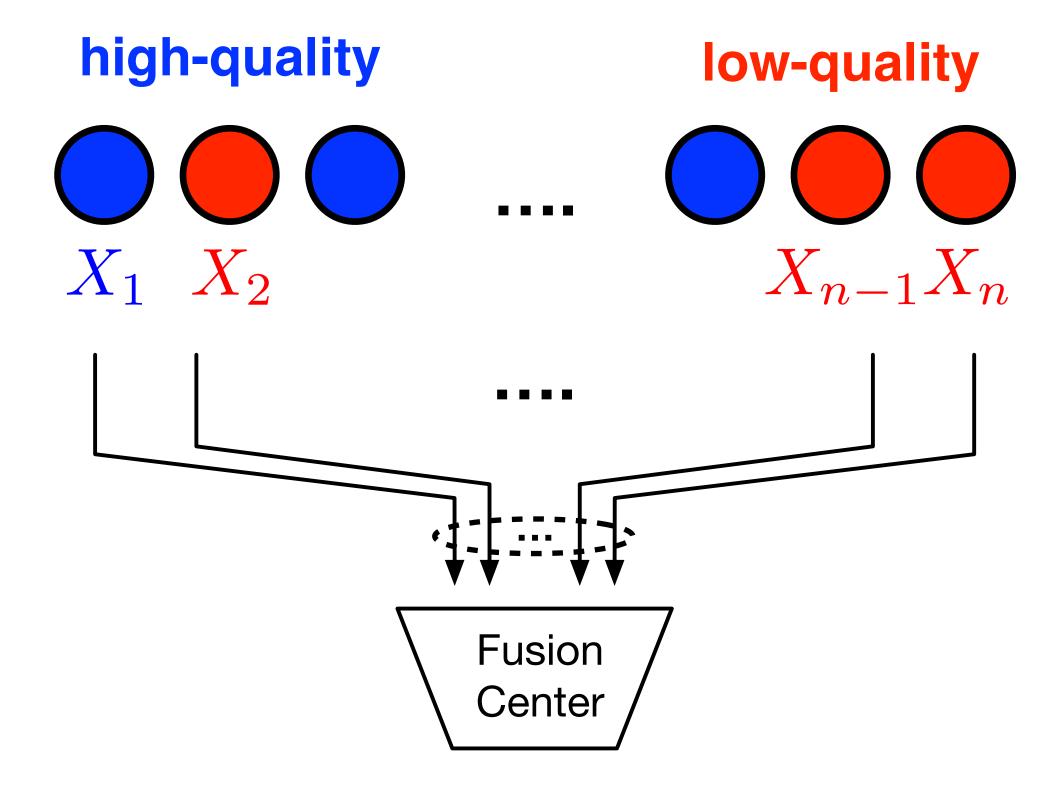
$$^{d}), k_{n} = \Theta(n^{\kappa})$$

# Part II: Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

# Test Hypothesis Anonymously

- Sometimes we don't need the group info. • e.g. the homogeneous setting
- Goal: deign a good decision rule for <u>all</u> possible scenario
- Quantify price of anonymity

## Workers



## No group information available !



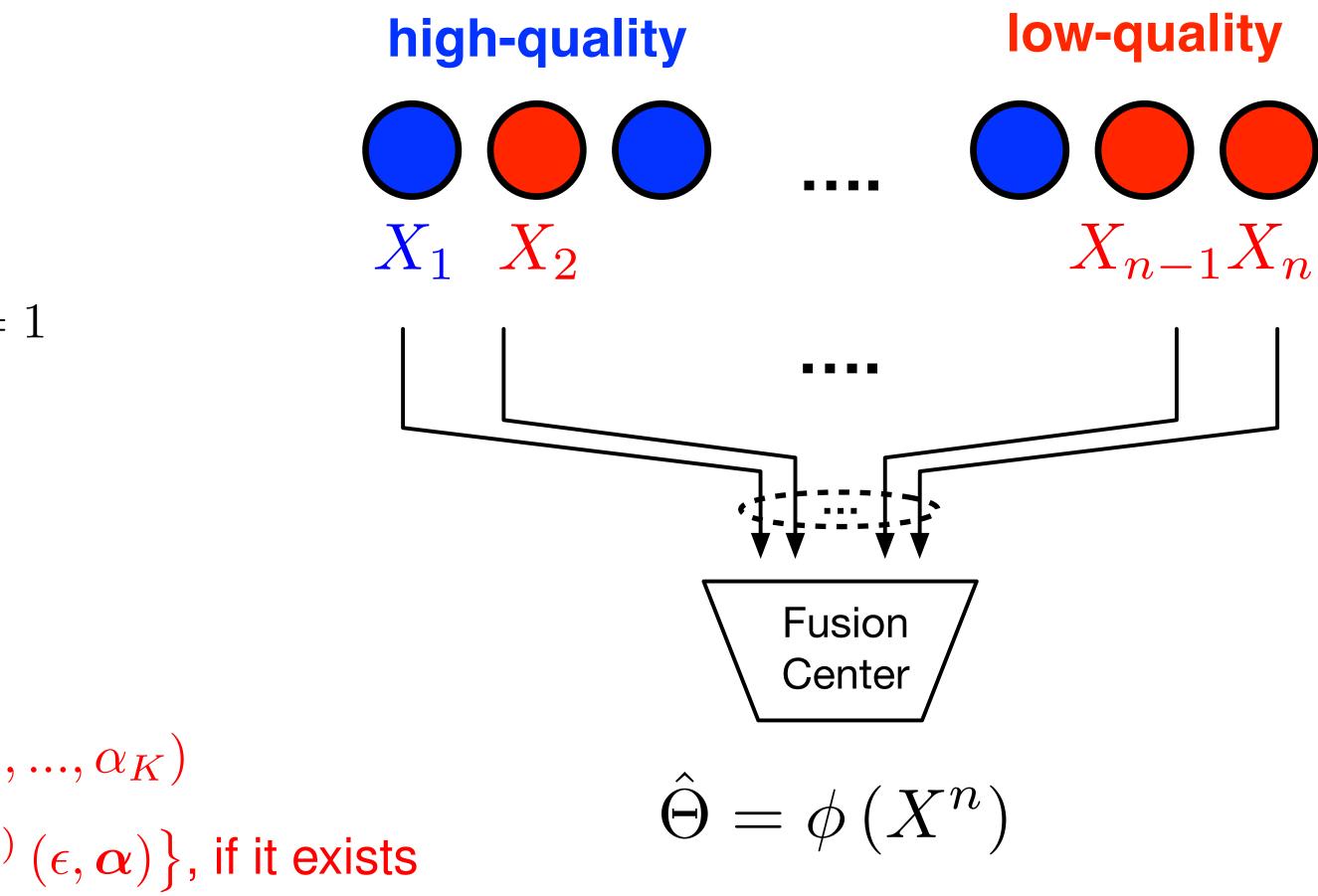
# Heterogeneous Distributed Detection

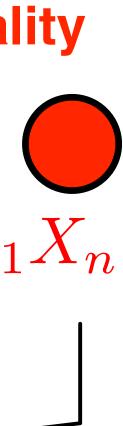
- Heterogeneity: K group of workers
  - Workers in group  $\mathcal{I}_k$  follows distribution  $P_{\theta;k}$

$$X_{i} \overset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P_{ heta;k}, ext{ for } i \in \mathcal{I}_{k}$$

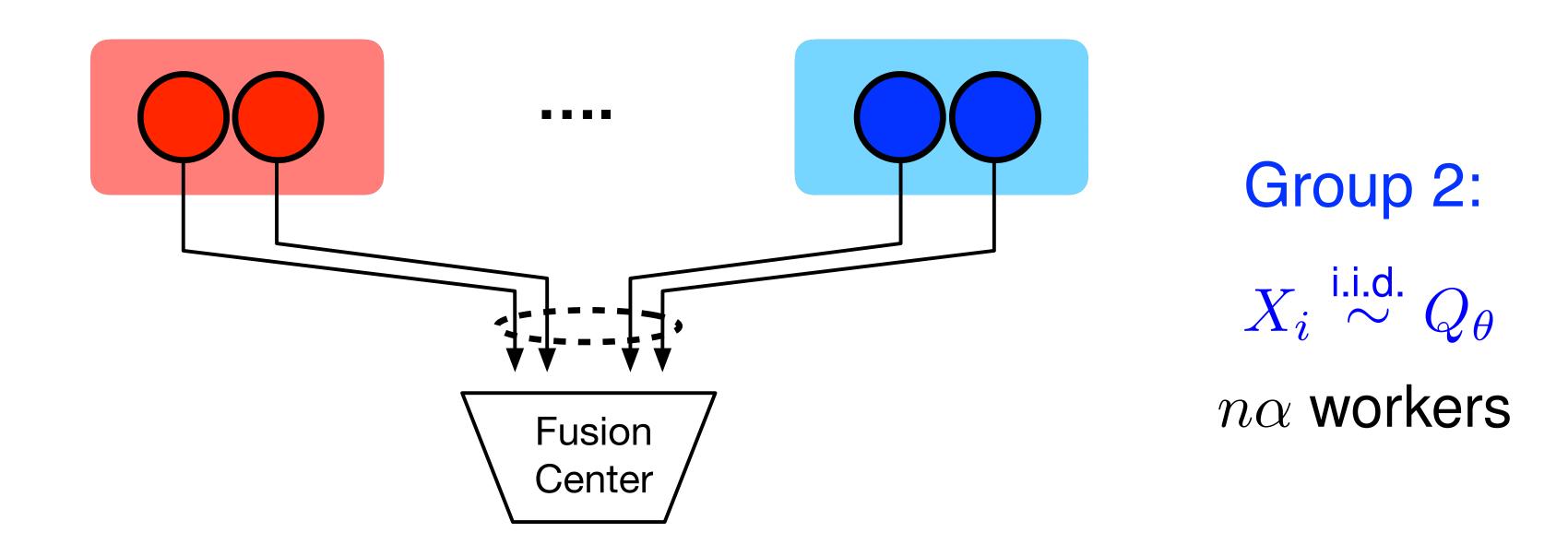
- The *k*-th group has  $n\alpha_k$  workers,  $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_k = 1$
- Neyman-Pearson setting:  $\theta \in \{0, 1\}$ 
  - Minimize Type-II error prob. while keeping type-I error prob. small ( $\leq \epsilon$ )
  - Minimum Type-II error probability:  $\beta^{(n)}(\epsilon, \alpha_1, ..., \alpha_K)$
  - ► Error exponent:  $E(\epsilon, \alpha) \triangleq \lim_{n \to \infty} \left\{ -\frac{1}{n} \log_2 \beta^{(n)}(\epsilon, \alpha) \right\}$ , if it exists







# Effect of Heterogeneity without Anonymity



Group 1:  $X_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P_{\theta}$  $n(1-\alpha)$  workers

# When FC is informed of the group that each worker belongs to: $\Rightarrow E_{\text{informed}}(\epsilon, \alpha) = (1 - \alpha)D(P_0 || P_1) + \alpha D(Q_0 || Q_1)$

## weighted combination of 'resolvability' of different groups!

Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

## Example: Two Group (K=2)

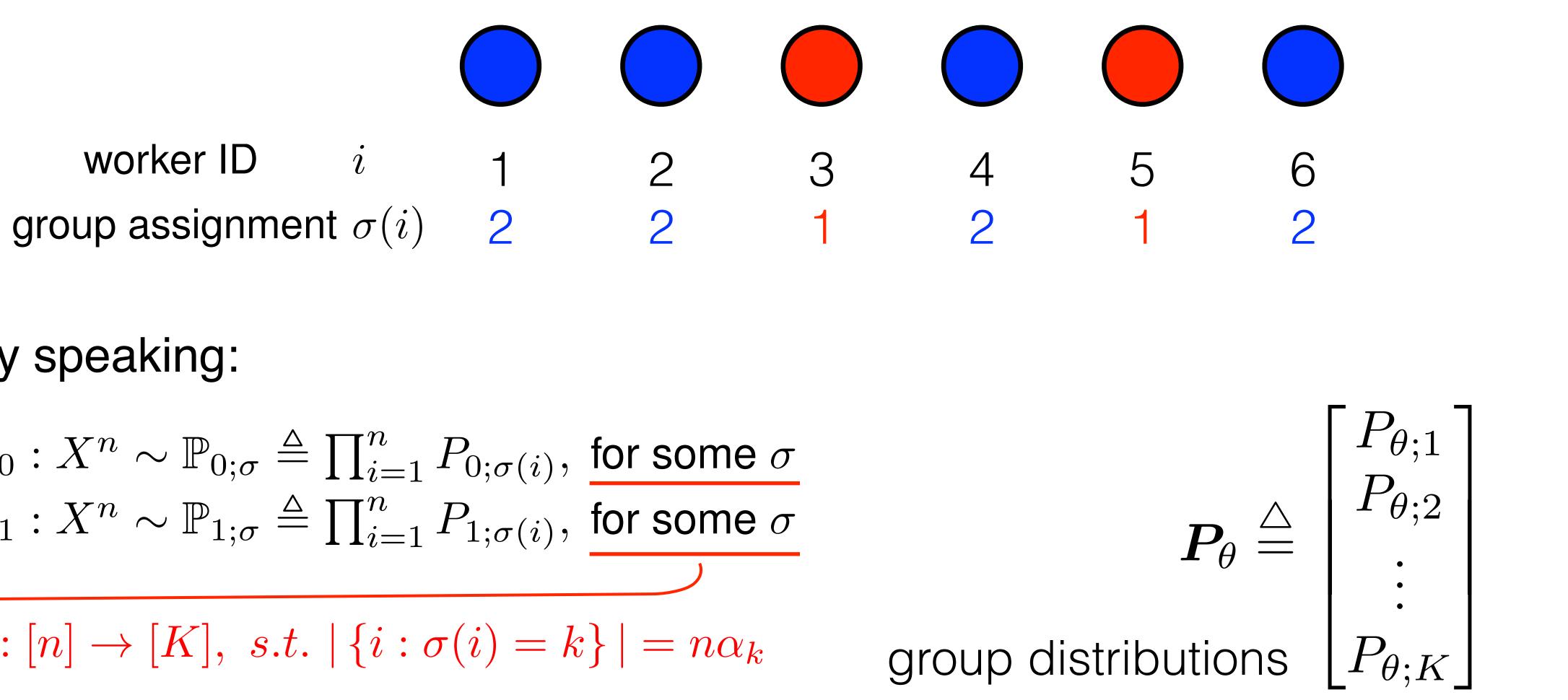
# Composite Hypothesis Testing

 Not sure about which group each worker belongs to?  $\Rightarrow$  design algo. with performance guarantee for all possible scenarios

• Formally speaking:

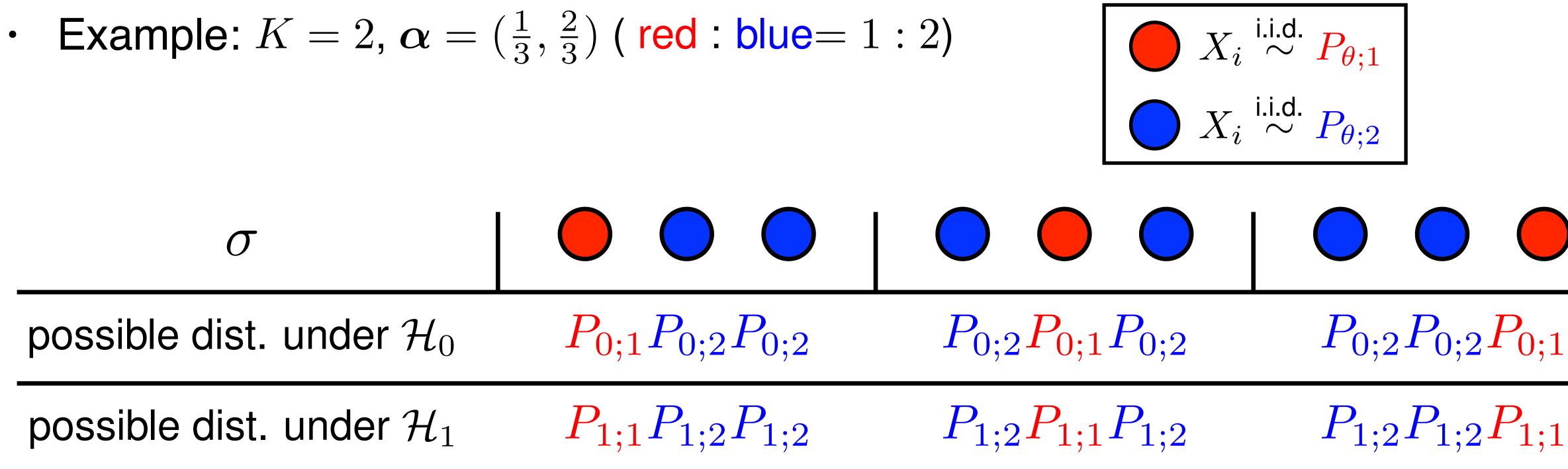
$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{H}_0 : X^n \sim \mathbb{P}_{0;\sigma} \triangleq \prod_{i=1}^n P_{0;\sigma(i)}, \mathbf{f}_{0;\sigma(i)}, \mathbf{f}_{0;\sigma(i)$$

 $\sigma: [n] \to [K], \ s.t. \mid \{i: \sigma(i) = k\} \mid = n\alpha_k$ 



# Composite Hypothesis Testing

 $\begin{cases} \mathcal{H}_0 : X^n \sim \mathbb{P}_{0;\sigma} \triangleq \\ \mathcal{H}_1 : X^n \sim \mathbb{P}_{1;\sigma} \triangleq \end{cases}$ 



$$\prod_{i=1}^{n} P_{0;\sigma(i)}, \text{ for some } \sigma$$
$$\prod_{i=1}^{n} P_{1;\sigma(i)}, \text{ for some } \sigma$$

 $\sigma: [n] \to [k], \text{ s.t. } |\{i|\sigma(i) = k\}| = n\alpha_k$ 

# Minimax Neyman-Pearson Formulation

• Probability of errors:

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{F}}^{(n)}(\phi) \triangleq \max_{\sigma} \mathbb{P}_{0;\sigma} \left\{ \phi(X^n) \right\}$$
$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{M}}^{(n)}(\phi) \triangleq \max_{\sigma} \mathbb{P}_{1;\sigma} \left\{ \phi(X^n) \right\}$$

• Neyman-Pearson Regime :

Huber[1973], Kuznetsov[1982], Veeravalli [1994], etc.

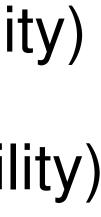
• Type-II error exponent:

$$E(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \triangleq \lim_{n \to \infty} \left\{ -\frac{1}{n} \log_2 \beta^{(n)}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \right\}$$

Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

- = 1 (the worst case Type-I error probability)
- = 0 (the worst case Type-II error probability)

$$\beta^{(n)}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \triangleq \min_{\phi} \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{M}}^{(n)}(\phi)$$
  
s.t.  $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{F}}^{(n)}(\phi) < \epsilon$ 



# Main Contribution : Optimal Test

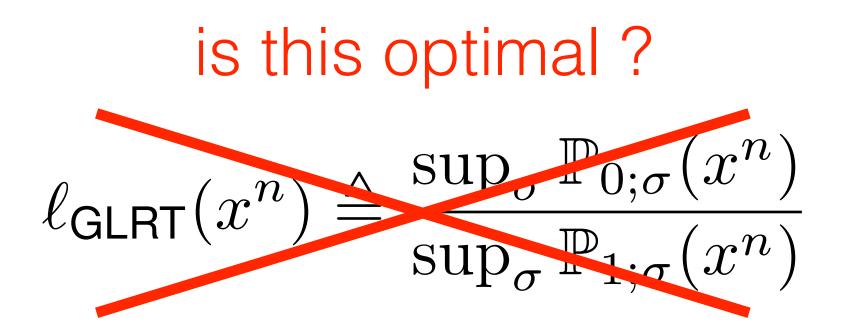
• An intuitive test : first estimate the group assignment  $\sigma$ , then do LRT  $\Rightarrow$  Generalized likelihood ratio test

$$\phi(x^n) = \begin{cases} 1, \text{ if } \ell(x^n) < \tau \\ \gamma, \text{ if } \ell(x^n) = \tau \\ 0, \text{ if } \ell(x^n) > \tau \end{cases}$$

• Optimal Decision Rule :

$$\ell(x^n) \triangleq \frac{\sum_{\sigma} \mathbb{P}_{0;\sigma}(x^n)}{\sum_{\sigma} \mathbb{P}_{1;\sigma}(x^n)}$$

likelihood ratio between uniform mixture under  $\mathcal{H}_0$  to  $\mathcal{H}_1$ 



mixture likelihood ratio test

# Main Contribution : Type-II Error Exponent

• A generalized 'divergence' :  $D_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\left(\boldsymbol{P};\boldsymbol{Q}\right) \triangleq \min_{\boldsymbol{U} \in (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{E}})}$ 

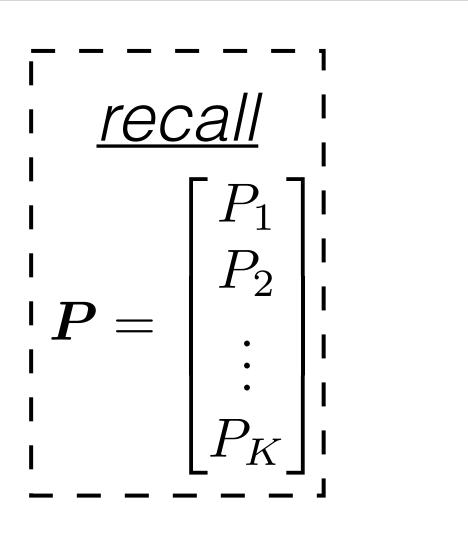
- Plays a similar role as KL divergence in simple hypothesis testing
- Type-II error exponent :

- Independent of  $\epsilon$ , convex in  $\alpha$
- Compared to informed case :

 $E_{\text{informed}}(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) =$ 

$$\underset{\chi}{\text{n}}_{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_{k} D\left(U_{k} \| Q_{k}\right)$$

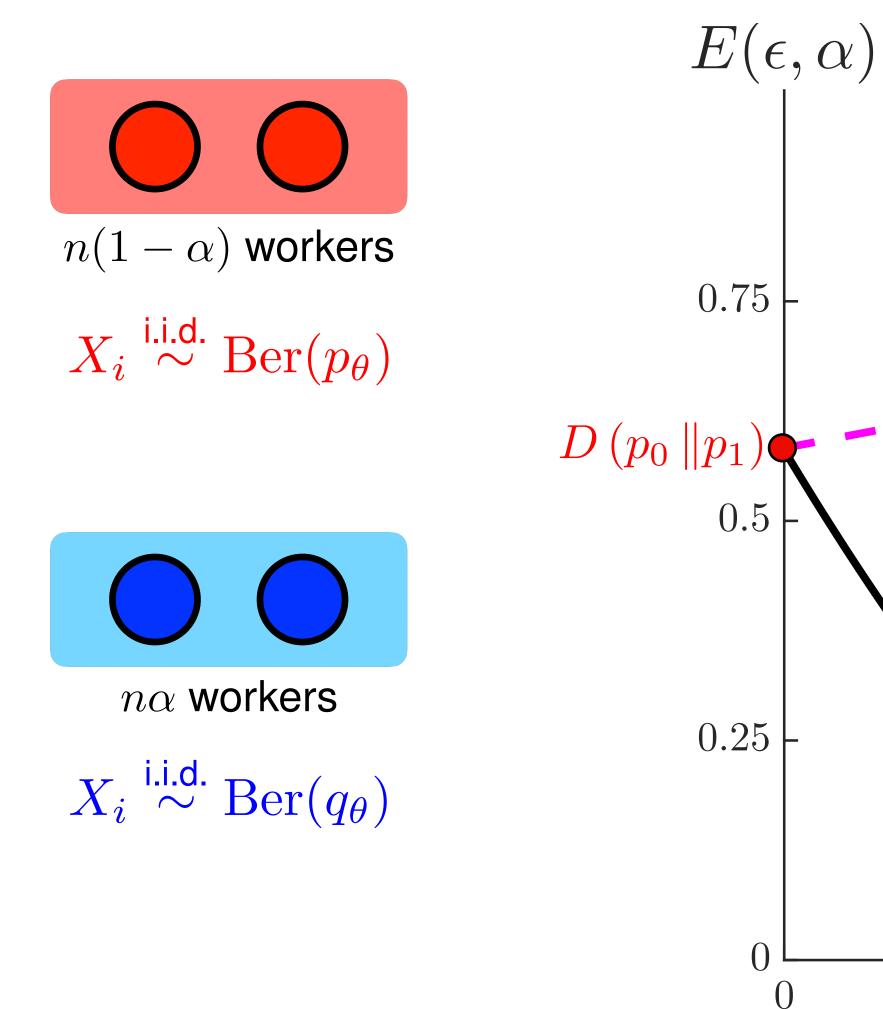
s.t.  $\alpha^{\mathsf{T}}U = \alpha^{\mathsf{T}}P$ 



## $E(\epsilon, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = D_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \left( \boldsymbol{P}; \boldsymbol{Q} \right)$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_k D\left(\frac{P_{0;k}}{k} \| P_{1;k}\right)$$

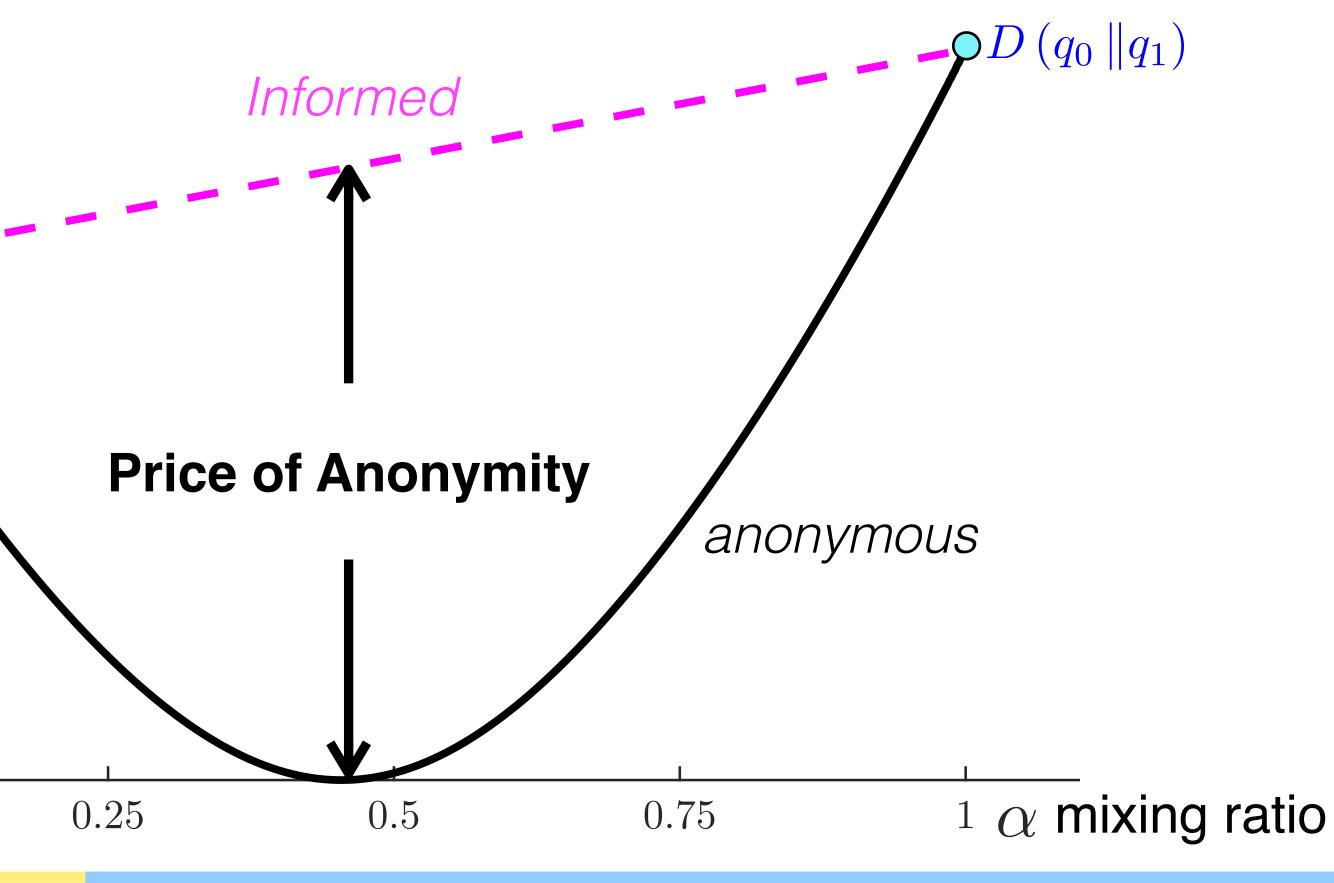
# Main Contribution : Type-II Error Exponent



Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

## Example (K=2)

 $(p_0, p_1) = (0.3, 0.8), (q_0, q_1) = (0.8, 0.2)$ 





# Sketch of Proof : Optimal Test

- Idea :

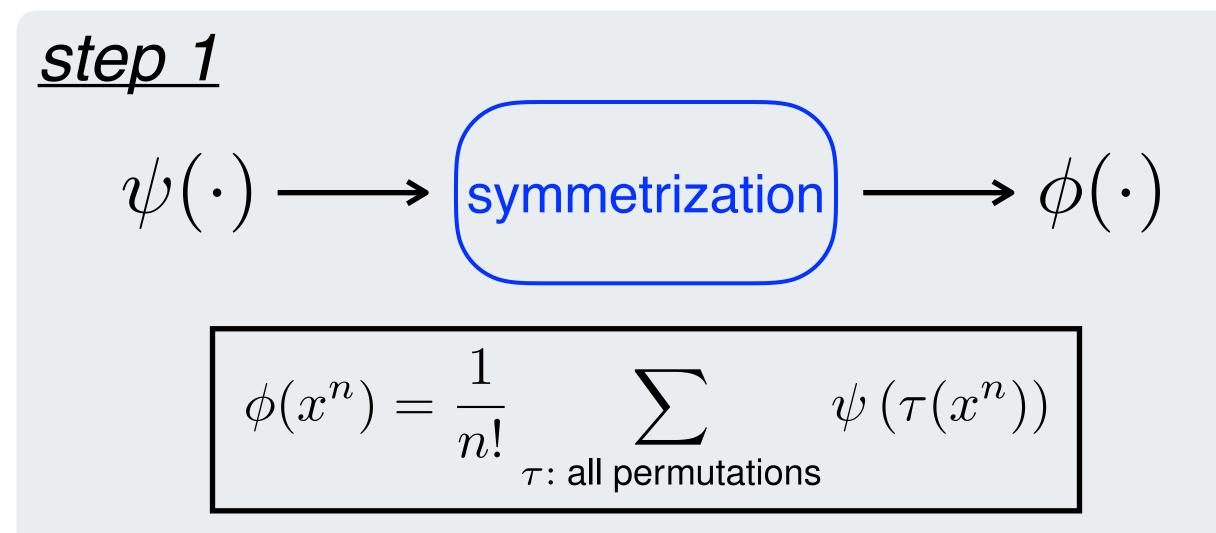
  - 2) Among all symmetric tests, the *mixture likelihood ratio test (MLRT)* is optimal

1) 'Symmetric test' (tests depend only on the empirical distribution of  $x^n$ ) is the best

# Sketch of Proof : Optimal Test

- Idea :

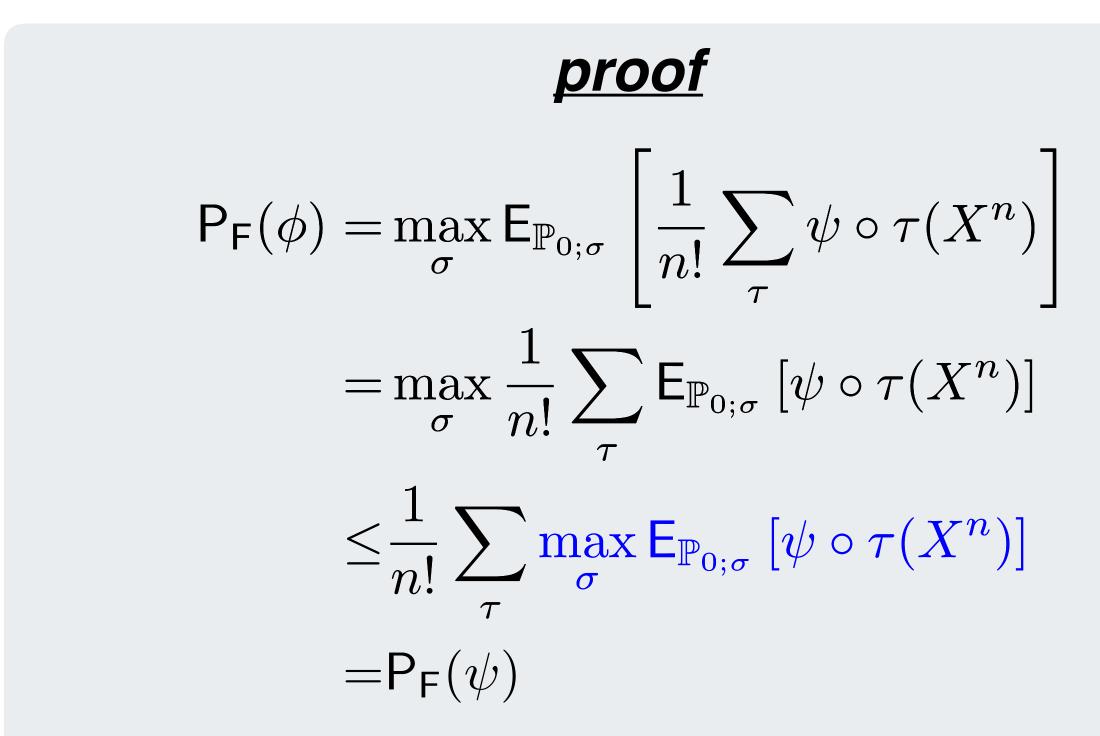
  - 2) Among all symmetric tests, the *mixture likelihood ratio test (MLRT)* is optimal



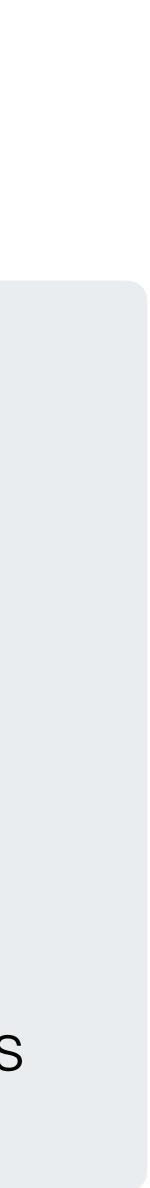
 $\phi$  is better :  $P_F(\phi) \leq P_F(\psi)$ , and  $P_M(\phi) \leq P_M(\psi)$ 

Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

1) 'Symmetric test' (tests depend only on the empirical distribution of  $x^n$ ) is the best



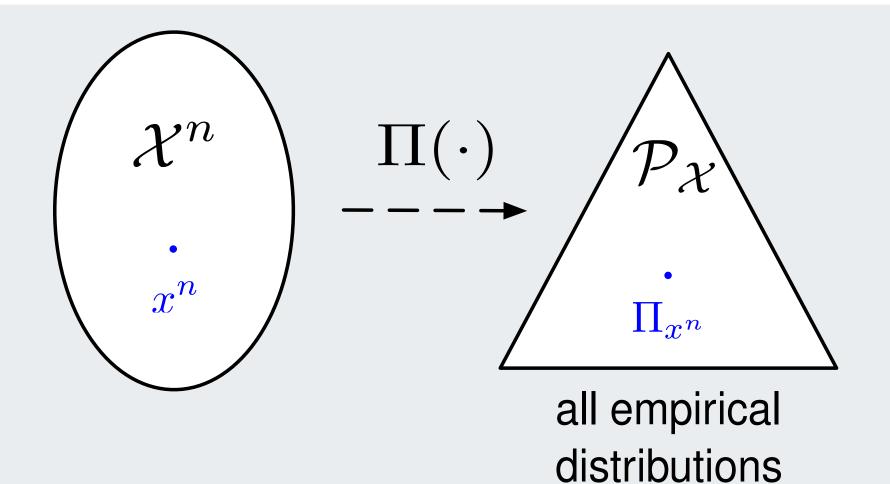
the empirical distribution contains sufficient information !



# Sketch of Proof : Optimal Test

- Idea :

  - 2) Among all symmetric tests, the *mixture likelihood ratio test (MLRT)* is optimal



observation :

independent of  $\sigma$  !

$$\mathbb{P}_{\theta;\sigma}\left(T(\Pi_{x^n})\right) \triangleq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\theta}(\Pi_{x^n})$$

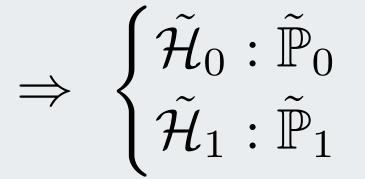
collection of  $x^n$  with all possible orderings

Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

1) 'Symmetric test' (tests depend only on the empirical distribution of  $x^n$ ) is the best

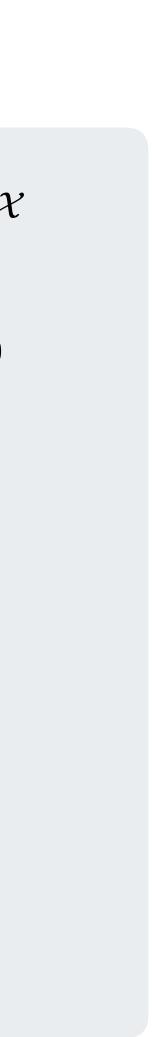
Equivalent simple hypothesis testing on  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{X}}$ 

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{H}_0 : \mathbb{P}_{0;\sigma}, \text{ for some } \sigma \\ \mathcal{H}_1 : \mathbb{P}_{1;\sigma}, \text{ for some } \sigma \end{cases}$$



Neyman-Pearson lemma:

$$\ell(x^n) = \frac{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_0(\Pi_{x^n})}{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_1(\Pi_{x^n})} = \frac{\sum_{\sigma} \mathbb{P}_{0;\sigma}(x^n)}{\sum_{\sigma} \mathbb{P}_{1;\sigma}(x^n)}$$

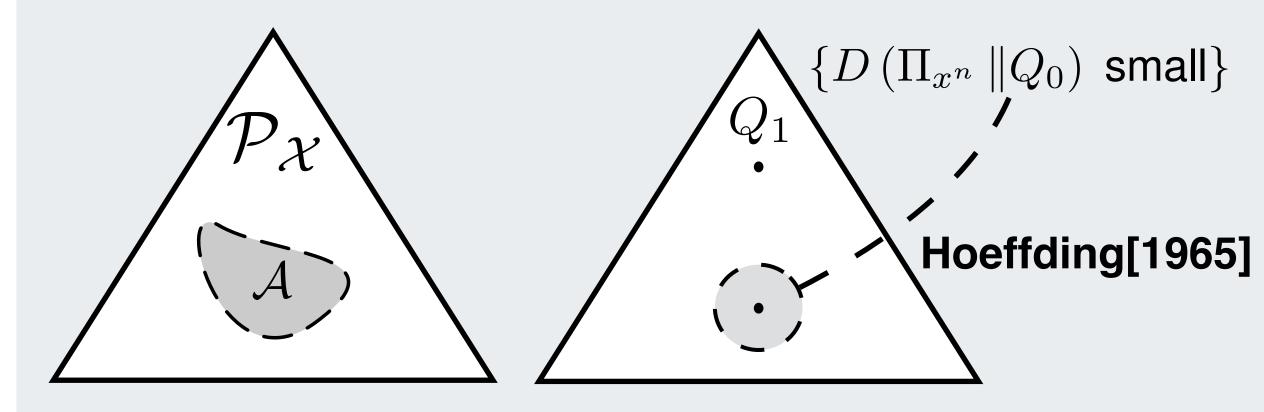


# Asymptotic Regime : Sanov's Theorem

i.i.d simple hypothesis testing

 $\mathcal{H}_{\theta}: X^n \sim (Q_{\theta})^{\otimes n}$ 

# $\frac{Sanov's \ Theorem}{Q_{\theta}^{\otimes n}(x^n: \Pi_{x^n} \in \mathcal{A})} \approx 2^{-n\left(\min_{U \in \mathcal{A}} D(U \| Q_{\theta})\right)}$



 $\implies$  type-II error exponent :  $D(Q_0 || Q_1)$ 

Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

## heterogeneous anonymous testing

 $\mathcal{H}_{\theta}: X^n \sim \mathbb{P}_{\theta;\sigma}$  for some  $\sigma$ 

Find exponents of large deviation events:

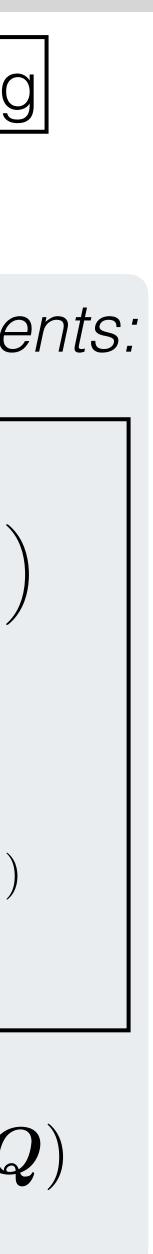
For any  $\sigma$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P}_{\theta;\sigma}\left(\Pi_{x^n} \in \mathcal{A}\right) \approx 2^{-n\left(\min_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\intercal} \boldsymbol{U} \in \mathcal{A}} D_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\left(\boldsymbol{U};\boldsymbol{P}_{\theta}\right)\right)}$$

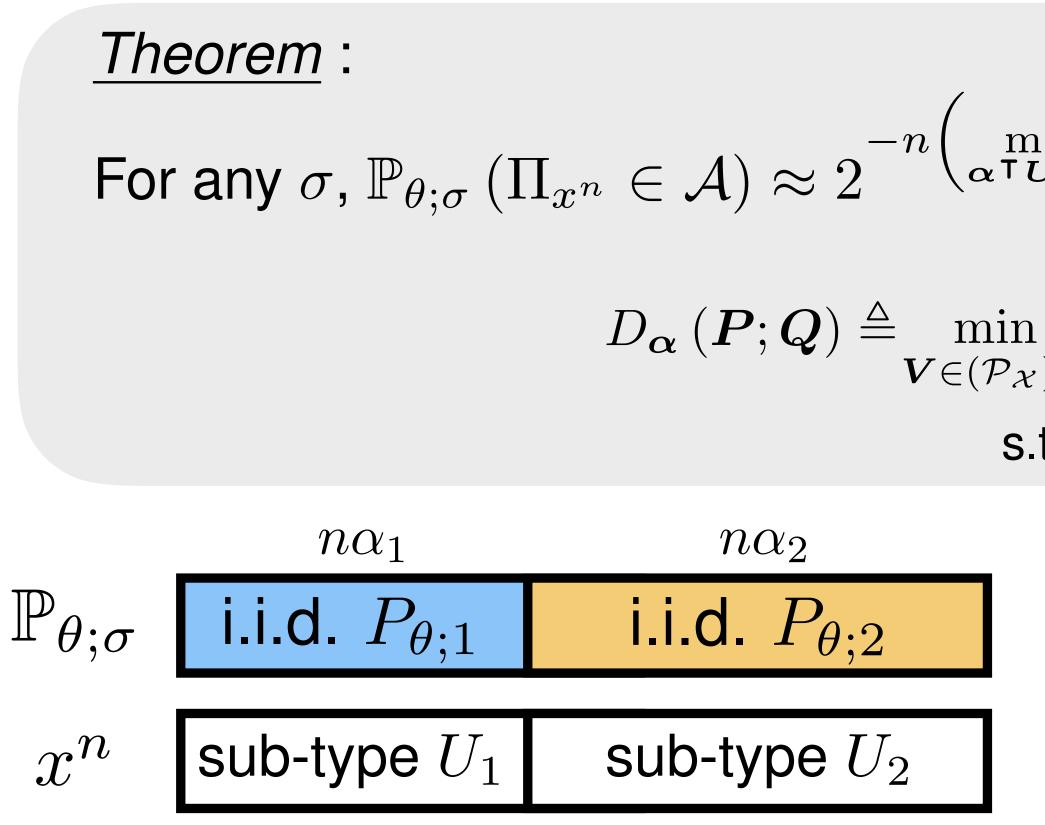
with the rate function being

 $D_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{P};\boldsymbol{Q}) \triangleq \min_{\boldsymbol{V} \in (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{X}})^{K}} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_{k} D(V_{k} \| \boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta};\boldsymbol{k}})$ s.t.  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{V} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{U}$ 

 $\Longrightarrow$  type-II error exponent :  $D_{oldsymbol{lpha}}\left( oldsymbol{P};oldsymbol{Q}
ight)$ 



# Key Step: non-i.i.d. Sanov's Theorem



- minimize over all sub-types :  $\{U_1, U_2 : \alpha_1 U_1 + \alpha_2 U_2 = V\}$
- minimize over all types :  $V \in \mathcal{A}$ ullet

For any  $\sigma$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta;\sigma}(\Pi_{x^n} \in \mathcal{A}) \approx 2^{-n\left(\min_{\alpha^{\intercal} U \in \mathcal{A}} D_{\alpha}(U; P_{\theta})\right)}$ , with the rate function being

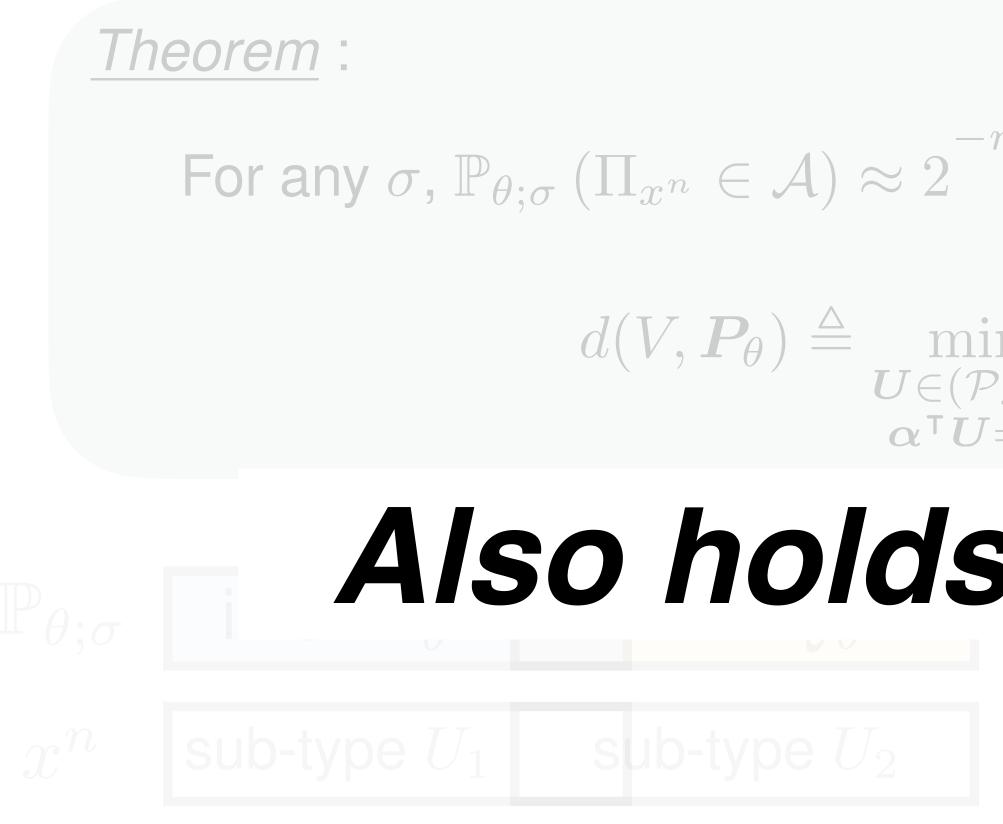
$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_k D\left(V_k \| \boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}; \boldsymbol{k}}\right)$$

s.t.  $\alpha^{\intercal}V = \alpha^{\intercal}U$ 

<u>Recall</u>:  $Q^{\otimes n}(\Pi_{x^n}) \approx 2^{-nD(\Pi_{x^n} \parallel Q)}$  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta:\sigma}(\Pi_{x^n}) \approx 2^{-n(\alpha_1 D(U_1 \parallel P_\theta) + \alpha_2 D(U_2 \parallel Q_\theta))}$ 



# Key Step: non-i.i.d. Sanov's Theorem



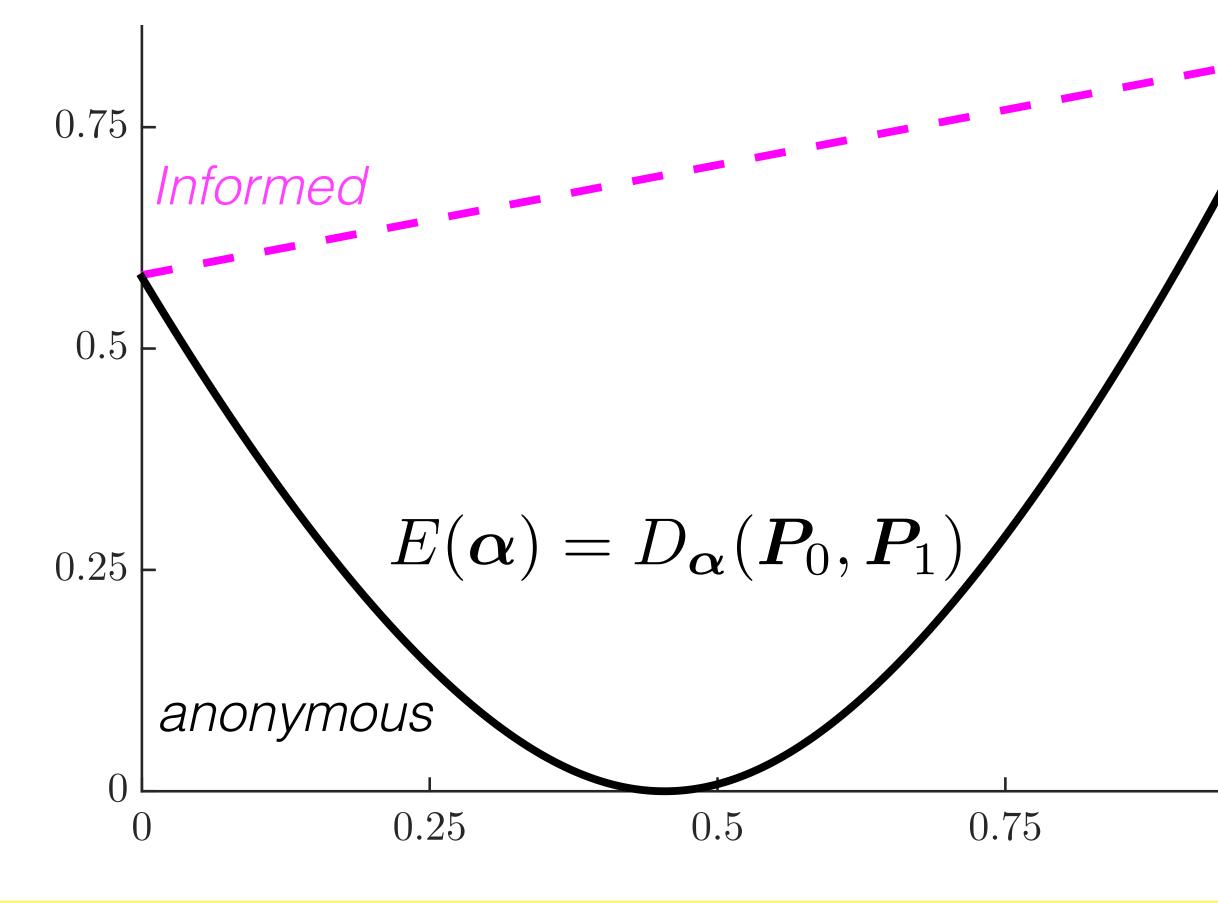
- minimize over all sub-types :  $\{U_1, U_2 : \alpha_1 U_1 + \alpha_2 U_2 = V\}$
- minimize over all types :  $V \in \mathcal{A}$

Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

For any  $\sigma$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta;\sigma}(\Pi_{x^n} \in \mathcal{A}) \approx 2^{-n\left(\min_{V \in \mathcal{A}} d(V, \mathbf{P}_{\theta})\right)}$ , with the rate function being  $d(V, \boldsymbol{P}_{\theta}) \triangleq \min_{\substack{\boldsymbol{U} \in (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{X}})^{n} \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\mathsf{T}}\boldsymbol{U} = V}} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \alpha_{k} D\left(U_{k} \| \boldsymbol{P}_{\theta;k}\right)$ Also holds for Polish X $n \parallel Q$ )  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta;\sigma}(\Pi_{x^n}) \approx 2^{-n(\alpha_1 D(U_1 \parallel P_\theta) + \alpha_2 D(U_2 \parallel Q_\theta))}$ 



- <u>Optimal decision rule : mixture likelihood ratio test (MLRT)</u>
- Asymptotic :



Part II : Anonymous Hypothesis Testing

## Summary

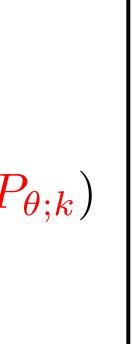
## GLRT

Generalized divergence  

$$D_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{U}, \boldsymbol{P}_{\theta}) \triangleq \min_{\boldsymbol{V} \in (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{X}})^{K}} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \alpha_{k} D(V_{k} \| \boldsymbol{I})$$
  
s.t.  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{V} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{U}$ 

extended to Chernoff regime by solving information projection !

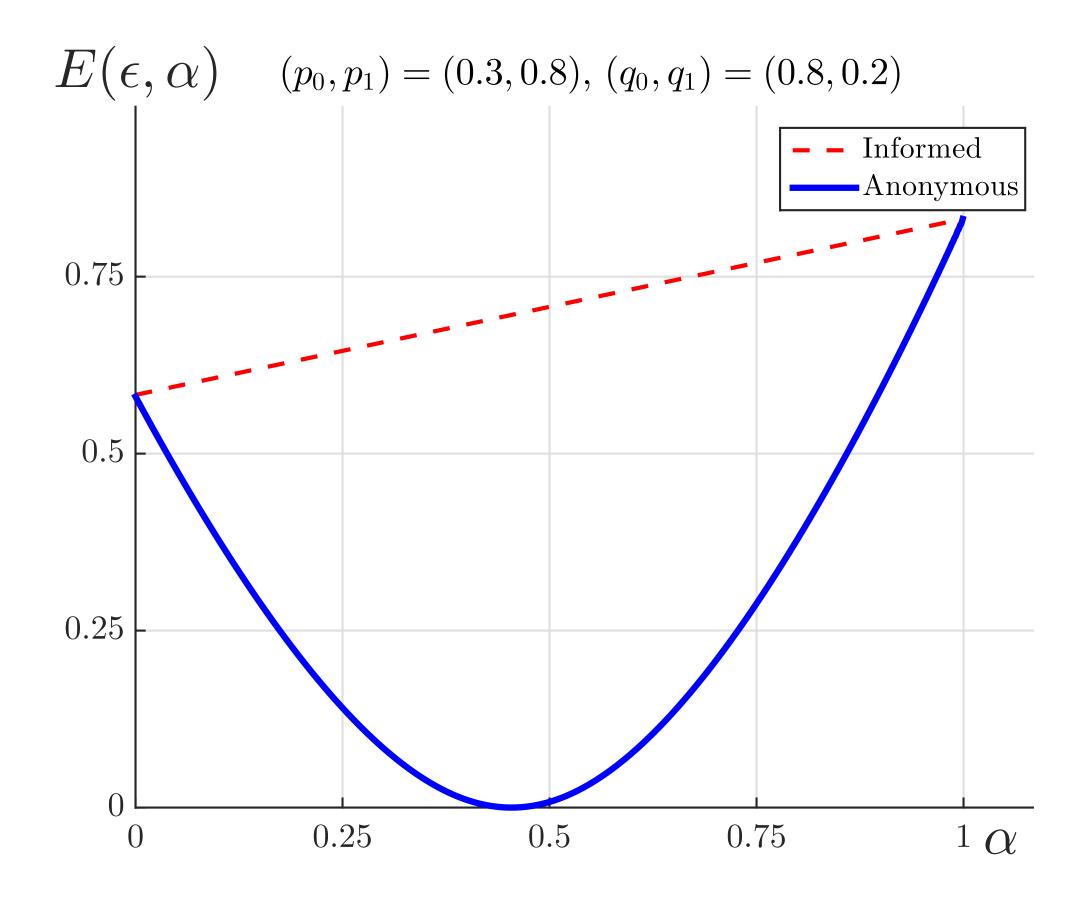
 $1 \alpha$ 



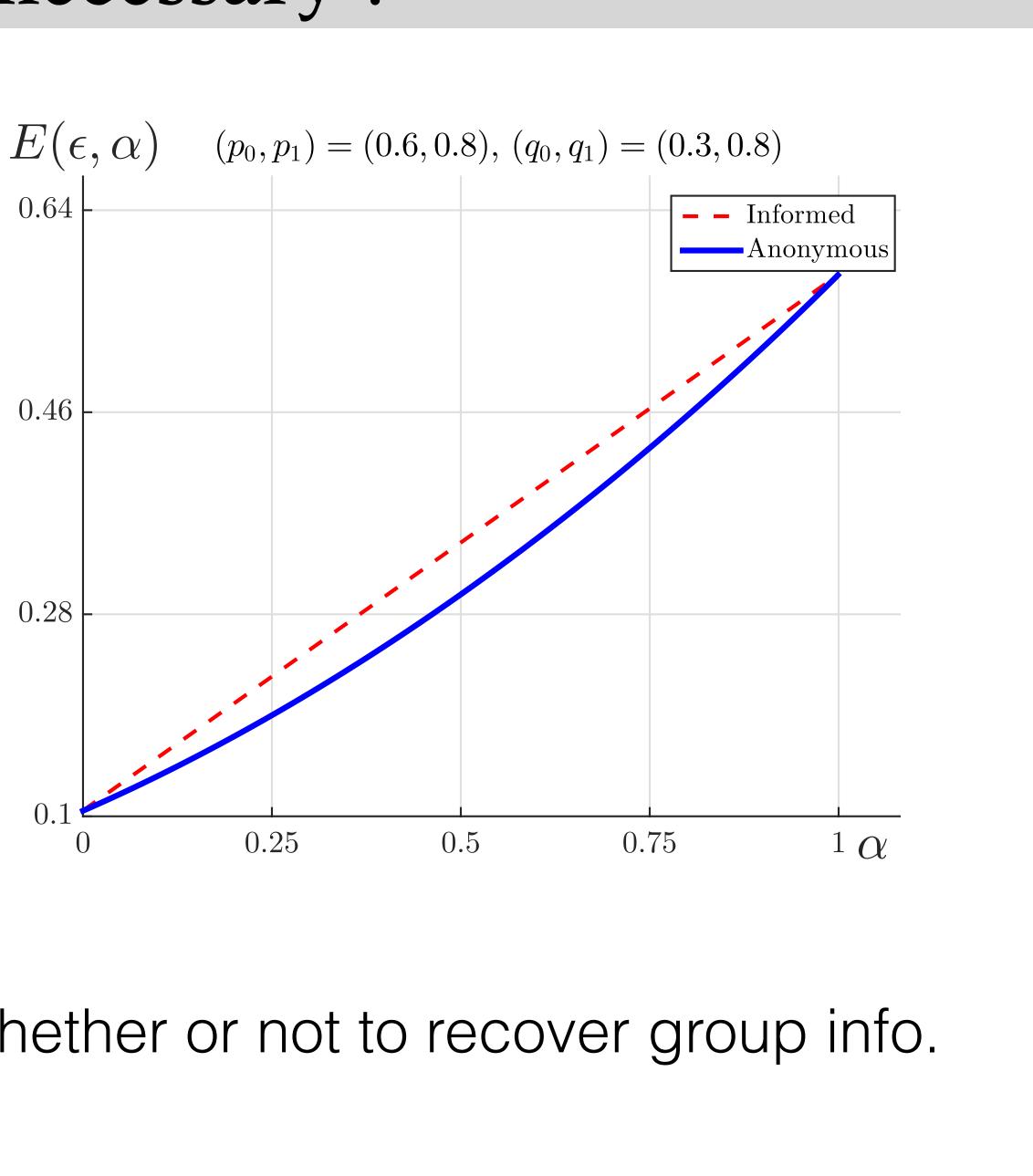
# Part III : Conclusion and Future Directions



## Is group-recovery necessary?

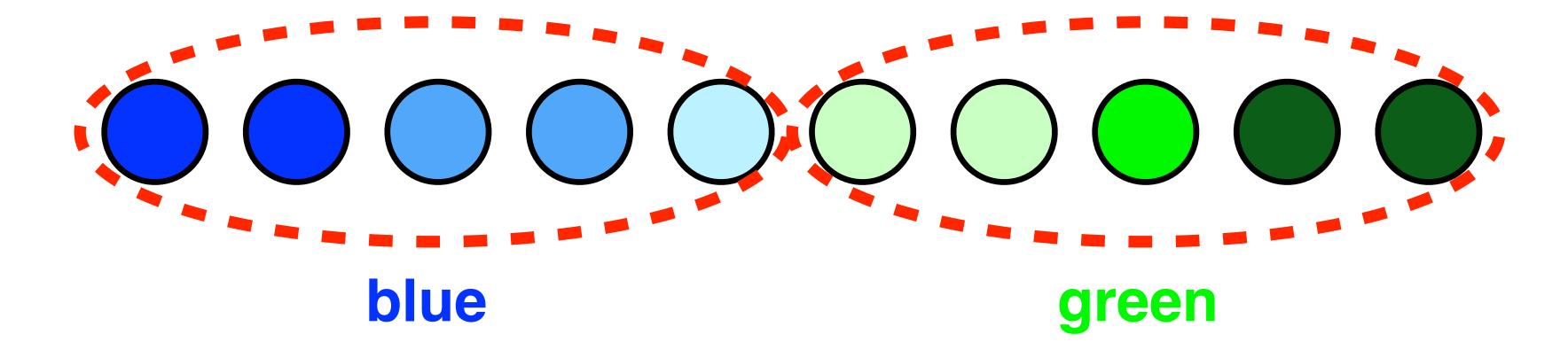


Estimate 'price of anonymity', and decide whether or not to recover group info.



# Future Work : Partially Recovery



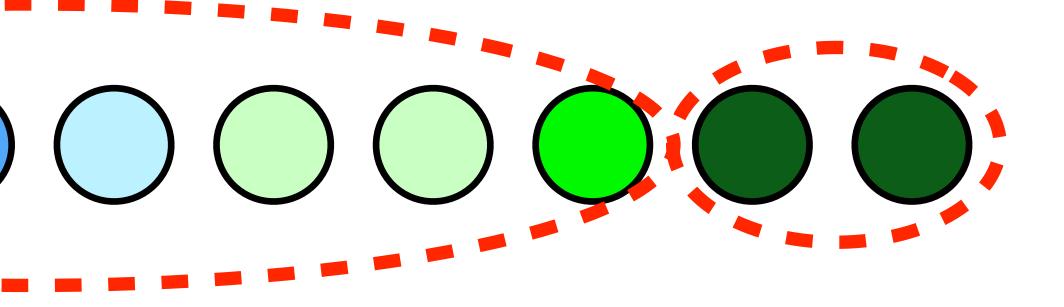


- Partially recover the group
  - Exact recovery is too expensive
  - Clustering different groups
- Difficulties
  - How to optimally cluster groups
  - How to evaluate the optimal type-II exponent
  - How to trade off

# Future Work : Partially Recovery

### **Workers**

- Partially recover the group
  - Exact recovery is too expensive
  - Clustering different groups
- Difficulties
  - How to optimally cluster groups
  - How to evaluate the optimal type-II exponent
  - How to trade off



# NP-hard !

approximation / bounds

# Thanks for your attention !